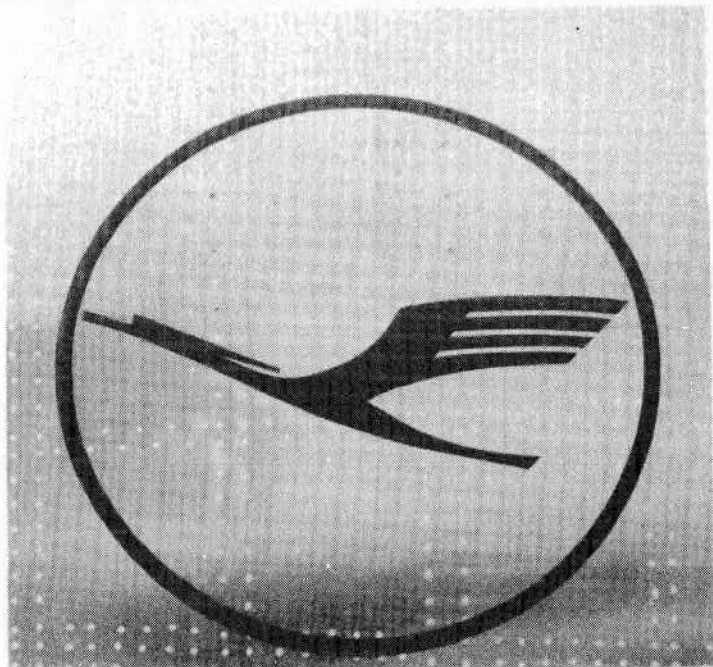


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NEW ZEALAND CHESS

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APRIL 1977

60 CENTS



Jim Cater, NZCA Rating Officer. In this issue Jim explains how the National Rating is compiled.

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NEW ZEALAND CHESS

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EDITORIAL

Well, with this issue we have caught up to the correct publication dates! This has meant producing five issues in the space of a little over three months, so we envisage few problems producing one issue every two months from now on. The next problem to tackle is clearly that of circulation. To put it bluntly "New Zealand Chess" cannot survive for long on the current number of subscribers, around 800 to 850. We need at least 1200, and this is where the reader can help by bringing in new subscribers.

The observant reader may have noticed (in the February issue, inside front cover) that Martin Sims has joined us as South Island Contributing Editor, and will in future cover most South Island activity.

Apologies to Peter Mataga! Marsick's win on page 131 of the December issue was actually against Stonehouse.

Local news is somewhat lacking in this issue - little seems to happen on the chess scene in New Zealand until Easter and the club year is just getting under way. We have never heard a peep from the majority of New Zealand clubs about their activities. We would like to do so - all copy to the Editor please! If you have a club bulletin this will do fine.

Peter Goffin and Philip Clemance, inseparable (tiebreak-wise) winners of the 1976/77 Premier Reserve, will play a four game match in Auckland to determine who gains automatic right of entry into next year's Championship event.

New Zealand is to host the Asian-Pacific (zones 9 and 10) Team Champion-

ship in November, thanks to very generous sponsorship by Philips. More details in the next issue.

From the land of Oz we hear that Trevor Hay won the 1976/77 Australian Open on countback. Second and third, also with 9½ points out of 11, were Stuart Booth and Mike Woodhams. Itinerant Craig Laird scored 7 points to finish equal tenth (with Doug Hamilton and C.J.S. Purdy among others) in the 101 player field, while David Flude (also ex-Wellington) scored 5½.

Robert Smith, currently in Europe, sends news of Wijk-aan-Zee. The twelve player Grandmaster tournament was won jointly by Geller (USSR) and Sosonko (Holland) with 8/11; Timman (Holland) was third on 7½. The Master group was won by Kupreichik (USSR) with 9½/11 and the Ladies' by Aleksandria (USSR), also with 9½/11. Jana Hartston (England) was second with 8½, a Ladies' GM norm.

Robert himself played in the Class 1A event, a ten player round robin just below the Master Reserve - and he tied for first with 6½ points. We present one of his games:

J.H. Delamarre - R.W. Smith, Alekhine's:
1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6 4 c4 Nb6
5 f4 g6 6 Nc3 dxe5 7 fxe5 Bg7 8 Be3
c5 9 dxc5 N6d7 10 e6 fxe6 11 Nf3 Qa5
12 Ng5 Nxc5 13 Qc2 e5 14 Qf2 Rf8 15
Qh4 h6 16 Nge4 Ne6 17 O-O-O Nd4 18
Bxd4 exd4 19 Nd5 Nc6 20 Re1 (20 Qg3
Bf5 21 Nc7+ Kd7 22 Nxa8 Bxe4 -) 20...
g5 21 Qh5+ Kd8 22 Bd3 Ne5 23 Qd1
Qxa2 24 Qc2 Be6 25 b3 Nxd3+ 26 Qxd3
Bxd5 27 cxd5 Rc8+ 28 Kd1 Qb2 29 Nd2
Rf2 30 Re2 Rc1 mate.

LATE NEWS: David Goodhall won the Kapiti Tournament, Lev Aptekar the Howick-Pakuranga Open - full reports in the next issue.

AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, Jan. 1977

by Tony Love

January 17th marked for me the beginning of the Australian Junior Championship, also the end of a great deal of prior organisation. I would like therefore to thank Mr Mitchell of NZCA, the NZ Chess Association and the Otago Chess Club, especially Messrs Haase and Glass. Thanks are due also to my school for a generous financial contribution, and of course to Kai Jensen who, by not going, gave me an extra \$75.

The tournament opened officially at 1 pm on the 17th although there had already been a mayoral reception in the morning. The venue was the 29th floor of a 31 storey building - it had fast lifts. I won my first two games fairly easily but there was quite an upset in round one when top Victorian Daryll Johansen was beaten. In round three I met D.Ferris (NSW), the 15th seed (my own seeding was number 8) and scrambled a draw after having an inferior position from the opening. Murray Smith, nominally the top seed but on very old ratings, was held to a draw by R.Farleigh (NSW).

In round four I played 13-year old Victorian Greg Hjorth; after handling his Alekhine Defence well and gaining a positional advantage I won a pawn. Then I took another pawn and was punished for my excessive greed as he found a perpetual check. The leader at this stage was Dan Fardell with 4/4. It is interesting to note that after four rounds, of the top four seeds, three had 2½ points and the other only 2.

In round five I experienced the taste of defeat and it wasn't pleasant. After putting enormous pressure on my opponent's (Ian Trott, NSW) centre, I won a pawn, gave him the pressure and lost horribly. In this round Fardell was held to a draw by Queenslander David Tree who had already swindled a win off Smith in the previous round. Leaders at this stage: Fardell 4½; Farleigh, Hjorth, Trott and Tasmanian A.Foong 4.

The next day was Saturday, the sixth round and the barbecue. My opponent was Tasmanian Junior champion P.Foong. I played rather aggressively against his English and won easily, although not too convincingly. Fardell won im-

pressively, leaving him the leader on 5½. Then we all went to the barbecue leaving Hjorth and Trott to finish their adjourned game. Trott had the advantage and was expected to win but Hjorth swindled him giving himself second place with 5 points. Sunday was the rest day which enabled me to watch the final of the Gillette Cup (one day cricket - Editor) between Western Australia and Victoria; WA won narrowly in an exciting finish.

In round seven I had my moment of glory against David Tree, demolishing him in a mere 22 moves. Apparently I became the first New Zealander to beat him as he had previously beaten both Jensen and Wansink and drawn with Chandler. I told him that they were some of the weaker NZ players! Fardell drew with Hjorth but this time it was Hjorth who was unlucky as he missed at least one easy win. Meanwhile Johansen had sneaked through the field to be second equal on 5½.

In the eighth round I played my first really interesting game - against young Stuart Byrne (WA). The opening was another Alekhine Defence and the advantage seesawed numerable times. I missed a win just before the adjournment and had to fight very hard after that to draw. A sensation occurred in this round when Fardell resigned in an equal position although it was dependent on his finding a tricky saving move. Leaders after 8 rounds: Johansen 6½; Smith, Farleigh & Fardell 6; Byrne, Love & Hjorth 5½.

In round nine I tackled the mighty Fardell, went in the wrong way and smashed myself to bits. The game started with me Black: 1 e4 e5 2 f4 Qh4+ 3 g3 Qe7. Johansen drew with Smith which left Fardell and Johansen as joint leaders with 7 points.

The penultimate round and they gave me a bunny, G.Katsiou (SA); I played the Exchange Ruy Lopez, had a tremendous attack, swapped off into a won ending and drew it. In the end I had king, rook and 2 RP's against king and rook. Meanwhile Johansen was drawing with Farleigh and Smith was drawing with Fardell, so: Fardell & Johansen 7½;

Farleigh & Smith 7.

The day of reckoning. Johansen and Fardell both won leaving them joint winners on 8½. Smith won to finish second with 8. As for our hero, he was bombing out horribly against J. Stirling (NSW); the opening: 1 e4 e5 2 d4 exd4 3 c3 Qe7 - the only way to play!

Top placings:

1=	D.Fardell & D.Johansen	8½
3	M.Smith	8
4	R.Farleigh	7½

I could say that it doesn't matter because I won the lightning, but I had better not since I did not even qualify for the lightning final. Lightning placings: 1 D.Ferris, 2 M.Smith, 3 M. Segal.

I should also like to thank very much my billets, Mr and Mrs Pope. They deserve special mention because while they came to the airport to pick me up, a burglar was going through their home. Fortunately, not too much of value was taken.



ROTHMAN'S
NORTH ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP
Parkway College, Wainuiomata
16 - 21 May 1977
Entry Fee \$10

This tournament is an 8 round Swiss open to all financial members of affiliated clubs.

Further details & entry forms from the Tournament Secretary, Mr J.N. Phillips, 70 Peel Place, Wainuiomata.

Anticipated first prize of \$250

Have you kept your old score books? Bill Ramsay is collecting all the games from the National Championship and would like to contact all contenders still living with a view to seeing all the games published. Address: c/o N.Z. Pastimes Ltd, Scott Court, Stokes Valley.

LETTERS

Dear Sir,

I must object to NZ Chess Magazine's determined effort to lower circulation by printing on the cover of the October 1976 issue a photograph of Roger Nokes waiting to be fed. I mean, what is this magazine anyway, the Wildlife Review?

Paul Beach
Mt.Wellington

* * *

Dear Sir,

The 22 February 1977 'Your Move' chess column in NZ TRUTH contains a section that expressed certain opinions about chess in New Zealand; it also contains a section on games and results from the Haifa Olympiad. The section on games and results was compiled and written by me, as is most of the material in the chess column. The other section, however, is not mine.

No matter what my opinions about chess in New Zealand, I do not believe that such as appeared in TRUTH can be of any help to whatever problems one may believe there are. As it is common knowledge in chess circles that I write the column (though I doubt if many outside would know) I would like chess players to know that neither I nor the Civic Chess Club were in any way responsible for that particular section of the TRUTH chess column.

I believe chess in NZ can be improved; I have some ideas on how it could be done. None of my ideas involve public name-calling or the style of one sidedness in the above mentioned column.

Should you be able to find room for this note in NZ CHESS (if you think reference to the matter worthwhile), feel free to use this. I am writing a letter to the editor of TRUTH objecting to the content of the particular column.

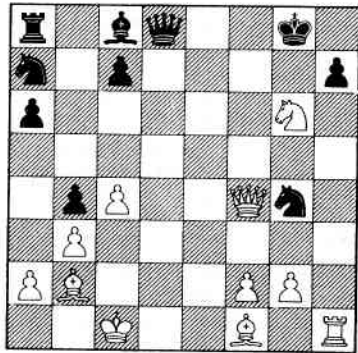
Ted Stallknecht
Wellington

(The article herein referred to included a largely fictional account of happenings before the Olympiad and at the AGM of the NZ Chess Association in January - Editor)

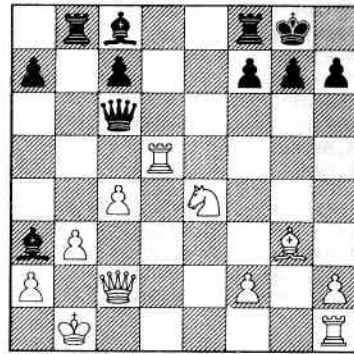


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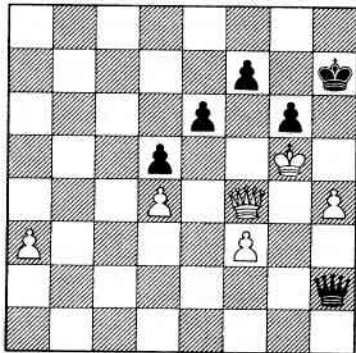
(Solutions on p.48)



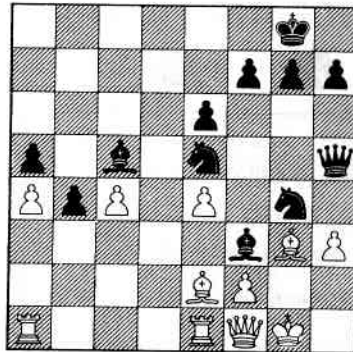
No.1 White to play



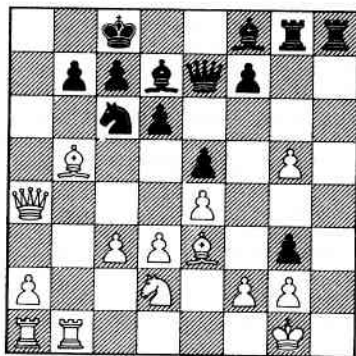
No.2 White to play



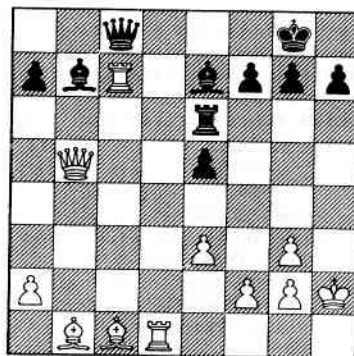
No.3 Black to play



No.4 Black to play



No.5 White to play



No.6 Black to play

MORE HAIFA DEBACLES

Continuing from where we left off in December, some more brevities from the Olympiad.

The Australia v Japan clash in the first round produced two!

M.Fuller (Aust)-T.Sakurai (Japan), Pirc: 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Bg5 Nbd7 5 f4 h6 6 Bh4 Bg7 7 e5 Nh5 8 Nh3 dxe5 9 dxe5 Nb6 (g4 was threatened) 10 Qxd8+ Kxd8 11 0-0-0+ Ke8? 12 Nb5, 1 : 0. The shortest game in the round.

Y.Ozaki (Japan)-M.Woodhams (Aust), Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be2 b5 7 a3 Bb7 8 0-0 Nf6 9 Bxb5? (a totally unsound sacrifice) 9...axb5 10 Ndx5 Qc6 11 Bf4 Nxe4! 12 Nc7+ Kd8 13 Qf3 (if 13 Nxa8 then Nxc3 threatens mate on g2) 13...Nxc3 14 Qxc6 Ne2+ 15 Kh1 Bxc6, 0 : 1. Black has 3 pieces for the rook.

The next catastrophe takes a little longer to occur - and then suddenly: D.Mohrlok (W.Ger)-H.Ree (Holl), Queen's Pawn: 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 b6 3 Bg5 Ne4 4 Bf4 e6 5 Nbd2 Bb7 6 Nxe4 Bxe4 7 e3 Be7 8 Bd3 Bxd3 9 Qxd3 0-0 10 e4 d5 11 0-0 c6 12 c4 Bf6 13 Rac1 dxe4 14 Qxe4 Qc8 15 Ne5 Qb7 16 Rc3 g6 (despite the minor piece exchanges, Black remains cramped) 17 Bh6 Bg7 18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 Rh3 Re8 20 Qh4 h5 21 Rf3 Re7 22 Qf6+ Kg8, 1 : 0. Black had now realised that 23 Nxc6 was decisive, e.g. 23...fxg6 24 Qxg6+ Rg7 25 Qe8+ Kh7 26 Qxh5+ Kg8 27 Qe8+ Kh7 28 Rh3 mate.

Not to be confused with GM David is Argentina's L.Bronstein (2380): L.Bronstein (Arg)-G.Ligterink (Holl), Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Ndb5 d6 7 Bf4 e5 8 Bg5 a6 9 Na3 b5 10 Nd5 Be7 11 Bxf6 Bxf6 12 h4 0-0 13 c3 Be6 14 Nc2 Bxd5 15 exd5 Ne7 16 Ne3 Rc8 17 Bd3 Rc5 18 Qf3 Nc8 19 Ng4 Be7? 20 Nh6+!, 1 : 0 (20...gxh6 21 Qf5 forces mate).

Young Iranian Sharif graduated to board one at Haifa after being second board in previous Olympiads. Here he finishes off his opponent in fine style: M.Sharif (Iran)-K.Hamada (Japan), Ruy Lopez: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 d4 b5 6 dxe5 Nxe4 7 Bb3 Nc5 8 Bd5 Be7 9 0-0 Bb7 10 Nc3 0-0 11 Be3 Rb8 12 Qe2 Re8 13 Rad1 h6?! 14 Qd2 Ne6 15 Ne4 Bf8 16 Bxh6! Nxe5 (hoping

to capture the bishop under more favourable circumstances; 16...gxh6 17 Nf6+ and 18 Qd3 wins) 17 Nxe5 Bxd5 18 Qxd5 gxh6 19 Nxd7 Nf4 20 Nef6+ Kh8 21 Qf5, 1 : 0.

Quick Black wins with the Caro-Kann can't be too numerous, but here's a nice one: J.Feller (Lux)-M.Solmundarsson (Ice), Caro-Kann: 1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Qf3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nf6 (4...Nd7) 5 Nxf6+ gxf6 6 Bc4 Nd7 7 Qh5 Ne5 8 Bb3 Qa5 (threat 9...Nd3+) 9 Qh4 (9 Kf1!?) Rg8 10 f4? (allows a sparkling finish) 10...Rxc2! 11 fxg5 Qxe5+ 12 Kf1 Rg4 13 Qf2 Rf4 14 Nf3 Bh3+, 0 : 1.

Black allows a deadly pin: P.Ramirez (Bol)-R.Martina (N.Ant), Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 c3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 cxd4 Nf6 5 e5 Nd5 6 Nc3 Bb4 7 Bd2 Bxc3 8 bxc3 Nc6 9 Nf3 0-0 10 Bd3 f5 11 0-0 d6 12 c4 Nde7 13 d5 exd5 14 cxd5 Nxd5? (14...Nxe5 leaves Black better) 15 Bc4 Nce7 16 Bg5 Kh8 17 Bxd5 h6 18 Bxe7, 1 : 0.

The last two examples have little to recommend them - other than their lack of length! J.Bademian (Uru)-F.Batrez (Guat), Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 e6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 Nf6 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 e5 Nd5 9 Bd2 Nxc3 10 bxc3 Bc5 11 Bd3 f5?? 12 exf6 Qxf6 13 Qh5+, 1 : 0.

G.Philippe (Lux)-M.Kennefick (Ire), Richter-Veressov: 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 f3 c6 5 e4 dxe4 6 fxe4 e5 7 dxe5 Qa5 8 Bxf6 gxf6 9 exf6 Nxf6 10 Qd4 Bg7 11 0-0-0 0-0 12 Qa4?? Qxa4 13 Nxa4 Nxe4 14 Nh3 Bxh3, 0 : 1.



BACK ISSUES of NEW ZEALAND CHESS are available from NZCA. The first issue, following on from the old cyclostyled bulletins, was no.5, published in Feb. 1975. Numbers 6 and 7 completed the 1975 issues.

Price per issue up to the April 1976 issue is 40c, later issues (up to Feb. 1977) 50c.

* * *

LOCAL NEWS

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLGIRLS' VISIT: The Women's Chess League of Australia is sending a team of four 'under-18' girls to tour New Zealand from 3rd May to 15th May. With manager Mrs Koshnitsky, the team will visit Auckland, Rotorua, Wanganui, Wellington and Christchurch. They will play formal matches in the main centres against teams comprised largely of young players (both sexes). These matches should be of great spectator interest as the girls have been training for months and have a list of personal successes behind them.

The team members are Anne Martin (15), Anne Slavotinek (13) who came first and second respectively in the 1977 Australian Girls' Championship, Kate Marshall (16) and Cathy Depasquale (17). Kate was Victorian Women's champion in 1975 and Australian Girls' champion in 1976. Cathy's name will be familiar to many chess players as she was a member of the Women's team at Haifa where she scored 3/6 (they played in Final A). She was joint Australian Girls' champion 1975 and South Australian Women's champion 1975 and 1976. Young Anne became the 'State Under-14' (boys and girls) champion in 1976.

The girls are looking forward to meeting New Zealanders, particularly chess players, from the cities that they will be visiting. In fact, Mrs Koshnitsky is calling the trip the 'Australian Girls' Goodwill Chess Tour'.

* * *

The **WAITEMATA** Club staged a simul by Jim Cater in February at Henderson Square. Jim took on all comers from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, playing about 40 games and conceding 1 draw and 3 losses (two to club members). The Club's December Speed Tournament was won by G. Martin with 8½/10, followed by N.P. Bridges 7½, M.R.Benbow 7, T.Chaffee and J.E.Cater 6½.

* * *

The **Auckland Chess Centre** once again proved much too strong for Waitemata in a 15 board match played on 3 March. The Centre won 11½:3½.

AUCKLAND

1	T.H.Stonehouse	0 : 1	J.Van Pelt
2	P.Mataga	0 : 1	J.E.Cater
3	R.E.Gibbons	½ : ½	M.T.Brimble
4	P.G.Robinson	1 : 0	M.R.Benbow
5	M.Steadman	½ : ½	G.J.Sell
6	D.J.H.Storey	1 : 0	L.Sheridan
7	K.D.Kinchant	1 : 0	R.Bertasius
8	D.M.Brunton	1 : 0	A.Bent
9	A.N.Hignett	1 : 0	G.Lander
10	J.Fekete	½ : ½	D.Mobley
11	K.Burnet	1 : 0	P.Smith-West
12	R.Mathias	1 : 0	A.Clapson
13	J.Cleary	1 : 0	C.Hoffman
14	B.Burgess	1 : 0	P.James
15	J.Finke	1 : 0	B.Curruccan

* * *

The 1975 **NATIONAL TEAMS TOURNAMENT** was finally wrapped up early this year. Martin Sims reports on the Canterbury v Otago University match:

To save time I foolishly decided to write this report before the match was played, for although I was a member of the Otago University team, I confidently expected us to be thrashed 4:0 by Canterbury - with each of the games being nothing but a technical exercise for our much higher rated opponents.

Now, after the match has been played, I find that the above is both right and wrong; the score was heavily in favour of Canterbury (3½:½) but none of the games were whitewashes (a second session was needed for three games).

First, a little history. After two years of confusion and procrastination, steps were finally taken to finish the 1975 National Teams tournament. Instead of a four team play-off, Council directed that a South Island finalist be found to play the North Island finalist. Canterbury won their place in the South Island play-off by defeating Nelson in a close match, the result looking likely to be a 2:2 draw with Nelson winning on countback, but Cornford managed to draw, three pawns down, so Canterbury won 2½:1½. Otago University had a much easier route to the play-off; they won without play when the Otago club failed to enter a team.

The results: (Canterbury names first) V.A.Small ½, R.Perry ½; B.R.Anderson 1, M.Sims 0; R.Nokes 1, J.Adams 0; J.Jackson 1, M.Wong 0.

WAITEMATA

Enough of history and figures, on to the games!

For a while it looked as though Roger would be the first O.U. player to resign but sloppy technique from Vernon (31 Kd1?) let Roger share the point.

V.Small-R.Perry, Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 Be2 Nc6 8 O-O O-O 9 Qd2 Ng4 10 Bxg4 Bxg4 11 f4 Nxd4 12 Bxd4 e5 13 Be3 exf4 14 Rxf4 Be6 15 Rf2 Be5 16 Rd1 Qa5 17 Bd4 Rac8 18 Nd5 (18 a3 Rc4 =, Unzicker-Geller 1960) 18 ...Qxd2 19 Rdx2 Rc4 (Black should have eliminated White's knight) 20 Bxe5 dxe5 21 b3 Rc5 22 Nf6 Kh8 23 Nd7 Bxd7 24 Rxd7 f5 25 Rxb7 Rd8 26 Re2 fxe4 27 Kf2 a5 28 a4 Rc3 29 Rb5 e3+ 30 Ke1 Rdc8 31 Kd1? (31 Rxe5 +-) Rf8! 32 Ke1 Rf2 33 Rxa5 Rxe2+ 34 Kxe2 Rxc2+ 35 Kxe3 Rxc2 36 Rxe5 Rxc2, drawn in 50.

On board two Black gained the initiative (14...b5!) and White defended accurately until his one and only mistake (23 Re1?).

M.Sims-B.Anderson, Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Nc6 5 Bb5 Bd7 6 Bxc6 Bxc6 7 Nc3 Nf6 8 Bg5 e6 9 O-O O Be7 10 Rhe1 O-O 11 Qd2! (Tal -Byrne, Biel Interzonal 1976, but probably stronger is the 'traditional' 11 e5 dxe5 12 Qh4 when White can gain a sharp kingside attack) 11...Rc8 12 Nd4 Qc7! (Tal's suggested improvement which Bruce found over the board. Byrne played 12...Qa5 and lost a pleasing miniature: 13 Kb1 Kh8 14 f4 h6 15 h4 hxg5 16 hxg5 Nxe4 17 Qd3 Bxg5 18 Nxe4 Bxe4 19 Rxe4 Bh6 20 g4 f5 21 Rxe6 Bxf4 22 Nxf5, 1:0) 13 f4 Rfd8 14 h4 b5! 15 Ndx5 Bxb5 16 Nxb5 Qc4 17 Nc3 h6 18 Re3 (forced) d5! 19 Bxf6 Bxf6 20 e5 Be7 21 Rd3 Bc5 22 Kb1 (22 f5) Rb8 23 Re1? (22 f5 is both imperative and good) 23...Rdc8 24 f5 d4 25 Ne4 Bb4, 0 : 1.

As can be seen from the notes to the board 3 game, Jonathan has been this way before and with as little success then as now. I would thoroughly recommend this game to the reader; it is a great example of fighting chess and Roger's probing brings just reward.

R.Nokes-J.Adams, Sicilian: 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Qxd4 Bd7 5 c4 Nc6 6 Qd2 Nf6 7 Nc3 g6 8 b3 Bg7 9 Bb2 O-O 10 Be2 a6 11 O-O Rb8? (this is Jonathan's 'improvement' on 11...Qb8?)

with which he lost to me a few months ago) 12 Rfe1 Qa5 13 Nd5 Qxd2 14 Nxd2 Nxd5 15 Bxg7 Kxg7 16 exd5 Nb4 17 Bd1 Rfe8 18 Re3 Bf5 19 g4 Bxg4? 20 Bxg4 Nc2 21 Rae1 Nxe1 22 Rxe1 b5 23 cxb5 f5 24 Be2 axb5 25 Bd3 Kf7 26 Nf3 h6 27 Nd4 b4 28 Bb5 Rec8 29 Bd7 Rc7 30 Nc6 Ra8 31 Be6+ Kf8 32 Re2 Rb7 33 h4 h5 34 Kh2 Kg7 35 Kg3 Kf6 36 Kf4 Rh8 37 f3 Rf8 38 Rc2 Ra8 39 Re2 Rh8 40 Rg2 Ra8 41 Re2 Rh8 42 Ke3 Rh7 43 Kd4 g5 44 hxg5+ Kxg5 45 Ke3 f4+ 46 Ke4 h4 47 Rg2+ Kf6 48 Kxf4 Rb6 49 Bf5 Rh5 50 Rg6+ Kf7 51 Nd8+ Kf8 52 Ne6+ Kf7 53 Rg7+ Kf6 54 Rg6+ Kf7 55 Ng5+ Kf8 56 Be6 Rh8 57 Nf7 Rh7 58 Ng5 Rh8 59 Bd7 Ra6 60 Ne6+ Kf7 61 Kg5 Rh7 62 Be8+, 1 : 0.

Finally, a breakthrough! Not one of the players smoked, leading to a refreshing change in the atmosphere of the playing room.

Editor's note: the North Island final was won by default by North Shore after Pencarrow declined to meet them. North Shore had earlier beaten ANZ Bank, North Shore 'B' (both 4:0), Auckland Centre (2½:1½) and Hamilton (3:1). Canterbury and North Shore have since been declared joint 1975 National Team Champions.



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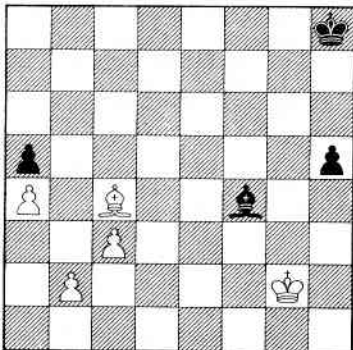
STOKES VALLEY

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES by Peter Stuart

The recent New Zealand Championship saw plenty of fighting chess and, in many instances, a correspondingly low standard of play. Nowhere was this more evident than in the endgame where many opportunities were missed. Naturally these circumstances make for excitement and interesting chess - and perhaps, by analysing the mistakes, we can avoid them next time.

In the following article the moves actually played are underlined to distinguish them from the analysis. The sign '=' indicates a drawn position.

Power-Cornford, after White's 42nd:



After 42...Bc1 43 b3 Bd2 a draw was agreed since Black regains his pawn.

But what interests us is what would have happened after 43 b4! During the game the players thought that 43...Bd2 would still hold the draw due to the presence of opposite coloured bishops. Indeed, after 44 b5? this would be so, e.g. 44...Bxc3 45 Kf3 Kg7 46 Ke4 Kf6 47 Kd5 Ke7 48 Kc6 h4! (the clearest drawing line; the h-pawn is to be used as a decoy) 49 b6 (or 49 Kc7 h3 50 b6 h2 51 Bd5 Be5+ 52 Kc8 Kd6 53 Bg2 Kc5 54 b7 Kb4 55 Bc6 h1Q 56 Bxh1 Kxa4 =) 49...h3 50 b7 (50 Kc7 h2 transposes to the note above) 50...Be5 51 Kb6 h2 52 Bd5 Bb8 53 Kxa5 Kd6 54 Bf3 Kc5 55 Ka6 Kb4 56 a5 Bc7 57 Bc6 Kc5 and White can make no further progress - an interesting blockading idea.

Paradoxically perhaps, the winning method involves 44 bxa5 - not only because this puts the black king one square further away from the queening file, but also because the passed pawn will now have only one black square to cross instead of two. The winning idea is quite simple - force Black to give up his bishop for the front pawn and then promote the rear one. Only two

possible defences need be examined, 44 ...Bxc3 (1) and 44...Kg7 (2):

1) 44...Bxc3 45 a6 Bd4 46 Kf3 Kg7 47 Ke4 (gaining a vital tempo) Bg1 48 Kd5 Kf6 49 Kc6 Ke7 50 Kb7 Kd6 51 a7 Bxa7 52 Kxa7 Kc5 53 a5! winning as White queens first preventing Black from doing the same.

2) 44...Kg7 (aiming to save the tempo used in capturing the c-pawn) 45 a6 Be3 46 Kf3 Bg1 47 Ke4 Kf6 48 Kd5 Ke7 49 Kc6 Kd8 50 Kb7 followed by 51 a7 winning the bishop.

Thus we see that 43...Bd2 was insufficient. Black has two other tries on his 43rd move but these are also inadequate to save the game:

3) 43...Kg7 (saving another tempo over variation 2 above) 44 bxa5 Kf6 45 Kf3 Ba3 (alas, Black has to cede the tempo back, as 45...Ke5? allows the pawn to go through) 46 a6 Bc5 47 Ke4 Ke7 48 Kd5 (regaining the second tempo as well!) Bg1 49 Kc6 Kd8 50 Kb7 and the position is identical to that in variation 2.

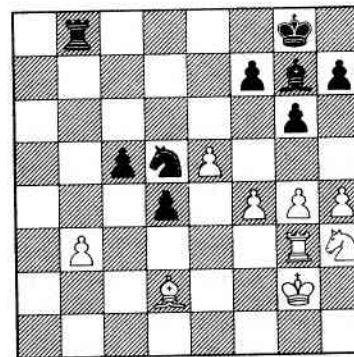
4) 43...axb4 44 cxb4 Bd2 (Black hopes to establish a blockade but has not enough time; also 44...Kg7 45 a5 Bd2 46 a6 Be3 47 Kf3 Bg1 48 Ke4 wins easily) 45 b5 Ba5 46 Kf3 Kg7 47 Ke4 Kf6 48 Kd5 and once again the white king arrives first.

* * * *

When this fifth round game (see diag. next page) was played Sarapu (Black) was flying high, having won his first four games while Lynn, his opponent here, had only one point. The position is certainly better for Black - he has a passed pawn, more active pieces and pressure against the isolated b-pawn. Play continued:

37 Ng5

White aims to centralise his worst



After Black's 36th move

placed piece.

37...f6!

Black solves the problem of White's kingside space advantage in radical fashion - and even wins a pawn. After 37...h6 White solves his own problems by 38 Ne4 Bf8 39 Nf6+!? Nxf6 40 exf6 followed by Rd3 and Kf3-e4.

38 Ne6

Bill Lynn plays all phases of the game with great determination and prefers tactics to strategy. Here, the active text move is not best; Black wins a pawn WITH good winning chances. Instead, the more obvious 38 exf6 was better - Black still wins a pawn but White can then demonstrate a draw: 38...Bxf6 39 Rd3 Bxg5 (the bishops are ineffective here, hence this exchange) 40 hxg5 and Black can win the b-pawn by 40...Nc3 41 Bxc3 Rxb3 when White should draw with either 42 Bxd4!? Rxd3 43 Bxc5 etc, or 42 Kf2 dxc3 43 Ke2.

38...fxe5 39 Nxc5

Of course 39 fxe5 does not save the pawn: 39...Bxe5 40 Rd3 Bd6.

39...Rb5!? 40 Ne4

Not 40 Ne6? e4! and the connected pawns are too strong.

40...exf4 41 Rd3 Be5 42 Kf3 Ne3?!

Now Black will be unable to save his f-pawn; he should aim to establish a protected passed pawn by 42...h6!, e.g. 43 Nf2 (with the idea Nh3 & Nxf4) 43...g5 44 hxg5 hxg5 45 Nh3 Bf6, although the win remains problematical with the

black bishop merely a spectator.

43 Ng5 Nd1

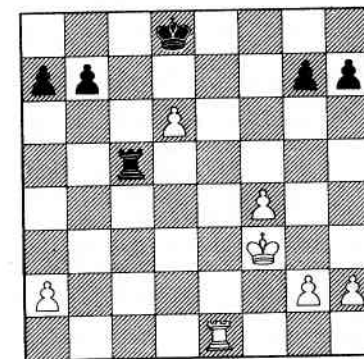
It is too late for 43...h6 since White's intended Ne6 or Nh3 prevents g5. The game is now drawn.

44 Bc1!

But White must be careful; 44 Bxf4 would be a bad mistake because of 44...Nb2! 45 Rd2 Rxb3+ when Black would again have excellent winning chances.

44...Nc3 45 Bxf4 Bxf4 46 Kxf4 Rxb3 47 Ke5, ½ : ½.

* * * *



This position arose after White's 34th move in Cornford-Jensen. In itself White's extra d-pawn has not much value since it lacks support and is exposed to attack; it does, however, control e7, giving the white rook access to the 7th rank - and this is most important. Note that the d-pawn is safe for the moment: 34...Kd7 is clearly bad due to 35 Re7+ while 34...Rd5 is likewise well met by 35 Re7. This last factor gives us the clue to the strategy for both players. White will go for Black's kingside pawns while Black is winning the a-pawn and then it will be a race between the respective passed pawns, a race which White should win.

34...Rc3+ 35 Kg4!

The king & pawn ending after 35 Re3 Rxe3+ 36 Kxe3 Kd7 would be drawn.

35...Rc2 36 g3 Rxa2 37 Re7 b5

37...Rxb2 38 Rxb7! g6 39 Rxa7 is also +-. Black's only chance is to get his queenside pawns into action.

38 Rxc7 a5 39 f5 Rd2

Suddenly, in conjunction with the f-pawn, the d-pawn had become dangerous, e.g. 39...b4? 40 f6 b3 (or 40...Ke8 41 d7+ Kd8 42 f7 Rf2 43 Rg8+ followed by queening) 41 f7 Rf2 42 Rg8+ Kd7 43 f8Q Rxf8 44 Rxf8 a4 45 Rb8 Kxd6 46 Kf4 Kd5 47 Ke3 and White will soon win the queenside pawns.

40 Rb7?

White chooses to exchange his d-pawn for one of Black's passed pawns; doubtless the safest course, but one which leads only to a draw.

The greedy way is here the correct way. White wins after 40 Rxb7! Rxd6 41 Ra7! a4 42 Ra5! Rb6 43 Kg5 when the black pawns are immobilised, e.g. 43...b4 (the only chance, otherwise the steady advance of the white pawns decides) 44 Rxa4 b3 45 Ra1 b2 46 Rb1 Ke7 47 h4 Kf7 48 h5 Kg7 49 g4 Kh7 50 h6! Rg4 (50...Rxb6 51 Rxb2 makes it easier) 51 Kh5 Rb3! (51...Rb5 52 g5!) 52 g5 Rh3+ 53 Kg4 and now:

1) 53...Rb3 54 Kh4! (zugzwang) Rb5 55 Kh5 Rb3 56 g6+ Kg8 57 h7+ Kg7 58 Kg5 Rg3+ 59 Kf4 Rg2 (59...Rb3 60 f6+ Kh8 61 f7 Rb8 62 Rxb2) 60 Kf3 Rh2 61 Kg3 Rc2 62 f6+ Kh8 63 f7 Rc8 64 Rxb2 +-.

2) 53...Rh2 54 Kf4 Rc2 (or 54...Rg2 55 Rd1!) 55 Rd1! Rc1 (55...Rc7 56 Kg4 followed by Kh5) 56 Rd7+ Kg8 57 g6 Kf8 58 Rf7+ Ke8 59 h7 +-.

40...b4 41 Rb5

Taking the h-pawn now only draws, eg 41 Rxb7 Rxd6 42 Rb7! (but not 42 Ra7? Rd5 threatening Rb5, so 43 Rb7 Kc8! 44 Rb6 Kc7 45 Re6 b3 and Black wins!) 42...Rd4+ 43 Kg5 a4 44 f6 Ke8 45 h3! (to prevent Rg4 after the king moves) 45...Rd3 (else Kg6 wins quickly) 46 g4 b3 47 Kg6 Rf3 48 Rb8+ Kd7 49 f7 Ke7 (49...a3? 50 Rxb3) 50 Re8+ Kd7 and White must acquiesce in a draw by repetition, since 51 f8Q? Rxf8 52 Rxf8 b2 53 Rb8 a3 wins for Black.

41...Rxd6

Interesting too is 41...Rd4+! 42 Kg5 a4 and now, not 43 Kf6? a3 44 Ke6 Re4+ 45 Kd5 a2! 46 Ra5 b3 47 Kc6 Rc4+ winning for Black, but 43 f6! Ke8 (also drawing is 43...Rxd6 44 Rxb4 Ra6) 44 Rb8+ Kf7 (44...Kd7?? 45 f7)

45 Rb7+ Kf8! 46 d7 b3 47 Rb8+ Kf7 48 d8Q Rxd8 49 Rxd8 b2 50 Rb8 a3 51 Rb7+ with a draw by perpetual check since the black king must stay in front of the f-pawn.

42 Rxa5 Rb6 43 Ra2 Ke7 44 Rb2 b3

Naturally Black ties the white rook down as much as possible while increasing the scope of his own.

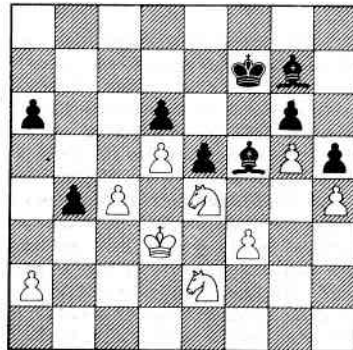
45 Kf3

More natural was 45 Kg5 but this too leads to a draw: 45...Kf7 46 g4 Kg7 47 h4 h6+ 48 Kh5 Rb5 49 g5 Rxf5 50 Rxb3 hxg5 51 hxg5 Ra5! 52 Rb7+ Kg8 53 Kh6 Ra8! - this drawing resource is only available with NP or RP.

45...Kf6 46 g4 h5 47 h3 hxg4 48 hxg4 Rb4 49 Kg3 Kg5, ½ : ½.

* * *

The next position is taken from the fourth round Premier Reserve game Hensman-Cordue, after Black's 32nd move.



This position demonstrates very well the superiority of knights over bishops in a blocked position; Black cannot save his b-pawn against the manoeuvre Kc2-b3. White has a comfortable win.

33 Kc2 Bf8 34 Kb3 Be7 35 Kxb4 Bd7 36 N2c3

Much better was 36 Ka5 Bc8 37 Kb6 when Black's d-pawn soon falls. Instead White goes after the a-pawn.

36...Ke8 37 Na4

Now, after 37 Ka5, White would be kept out by 37...Bc8 38 Kb6 Kd7 but 39

Nf6+! would prove the straw that breaks the camel's back. The text, threatening Nb6 and Ka5 winning the a-pawn, is also good. The bishops are quite hopeless here.

37...Bc8 38 Nb6 Bb7 39 Ka5 Kd8 40

Nf2

This knight will head for b4 when the black a-pawn will become indefensible.

40...Kc7 41 Nd3 Bf8

Insufficient would be 41...Kb8 trying to hold the pawn: 42 Nb4 Ka7 43 Nc6+! Bxc6 44 Nc8+ Kb7 45 Nxe7 Be8 46 Ng8 and 47 Nf6 +-.

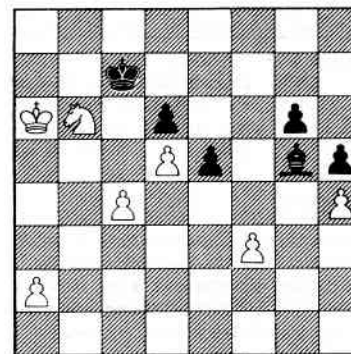
42 Nb4 Be7 43 Nxa6+?

Overlooking Black's coming swindle. White should prepare the capture of the a-pawn by 43 Na4! when Black no longer has Bxg5 available because the Na4 can reach either f2 or g3 in time to stop the h-pawn.

43...Bxa6 44 Kxa6 Bxg5!

It is a refreshing change to see Peter Hensman on the receiving end of a swindle, even if he doesn't stay there long! If now 45 gxh5 then 45...h4 and the pawn cannot be stopped.

Since the character of the position has so dramatically changed (it is now Black who is winning, although it is not at all easy), another diagram is in order:



45 c5!? dxc5 46 Kb5 Bxh4

46...Kd6? would be just too greedy since White could take the bishop and live: 47 hxg5 h4 48 Nc4+ gaining a tempo for the knight to reach a blockade square (h2).

47 a4

Not yet 47 Kxc5 because of Bf2+.

47...Be1!!

Very nice, not only clearing the way for the h-pawn but also preventing 48 a5 (48...Bxa5! 49 Kxa5 h4) for the moment at least.

Other bishop moves seem only to draw, e.g. 47...Bf2 48 a5! h4 49 a6 Kb8 50 Nd7+ Ka7 51 Nxe5 h3 52 Ng4 Bg3 53 Kxc5 h2 54 Nxb2 Bxb2 55 d6 Kxa6 56 Kc6? (threat: 57 d7) Bg1! 57 d7 Bb6 58 f4 Ka5 59 Kd6 Kb5 60 Ke7 Kc5 =.

48 Nc4 h4 49 d6+!

White makes life as difficult as possible for his opponent. After 49 Nxe5 the win is easy to find: 49...Kd6 50 Ng4 Kxd5 51 a5 Bxa5 (White forces Black to play the winning moves in this line) 52 Kxa5 Kd4 53 Ka4 c4 54 Ka3 Kd3 55 Kb2 Kd2.

49...Kd7 50 Kxc5

No better was 50 Nxe5+ Kxd6 51 Nxc6 h3 and queens.

50...Bf2+?

From this move on Black seems to have a (ruinous) compulsion to keep moving the prelate. With this move Black's win disappears and the game should be drawn.

Correct was the direct 50...h3! 51 Nxe5+ Ke6! 52 Ng4! Bg3 53 a5 Bxd6+ 54 Kc6 h2 55 Nxb2 Bxb2 56 a6 Bg1 winning easily.

51 Kd5 Bd4 52 Nd2 Bf2?

After this second bad move with the bishop Black is lost. The passed pawn had to be pushed: 52...h3! 53 Nf1 (or 53 Ne4 h2 54 Ng3 Bc3 55 Nh1 Bb4 56 Kxe5 Bxd6+ 57 Kf6 =) 53...Bc3 54 Ng3 Bb4 =, or 54 Kc4 Be1 =.

53 a5!

Perhaps Cordue had thought to refute this by 53...Be1 but this is met by 54 a6!

53...h3

Now too late; White has been given time to reorganise.

54 Nf1 Bd4 55 a6 Bf2 56 Kxe5 Bc5

57 Kd5 Bb6 58 Nh2

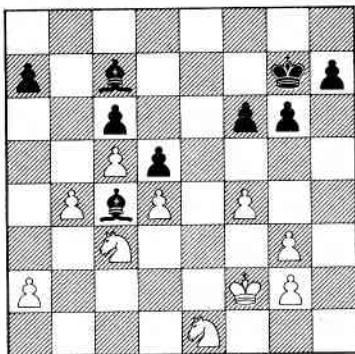
The knight will come to the aid of

his centre pawn, only releasing the blockade of the h-pawn when it is no longer dangerous.

58...Bg1 59 Ng4 Bb6 60 Ne5+ Kd8 61 Ke6 h2 62 Nc6+ Kc8 63 d7+ Kc7 64 d8Q+ Kxc6 65 Qd5+, 1 : 0.

* * *

Another example of knights v bishops:



Jensen-Stonehouse, after Black's 37th. This time White is already a pawn to the good and should be able to win with his queenside majority. Although the bishops are not as useless as in the last example, they are still restricted by the central pawn mass.

38 a4?

Premature; it is debatable whether White can still win after this. The first priority is to place one's pieces on their best squares; thus the manoeuvre Nc2-e3 suggests itself, thus 38 Nc2! Kf7 (after 38...a6 39 Ne3 the bishop has no good square - compare with the game where the bishop is able to remain on the a2-g8 diagonal) 39 Ne3 Ba6 40 a4 with better chances than in the game.

38...a6 39 Nc2 Kf7 40 Ne3 Bb3 41 b5

It is clear that this advance is necessary, now or later, if White is trying to win, and therein lies the rub; the disappearance of so many pawns increases the scope of the bishops.

41...axb5 42 axb5 cxb5 43 Nxb5

After 43 Ncxd5 Ba5 the b-pawn gives Black counterplay.

43...Ba5 44 c6!?

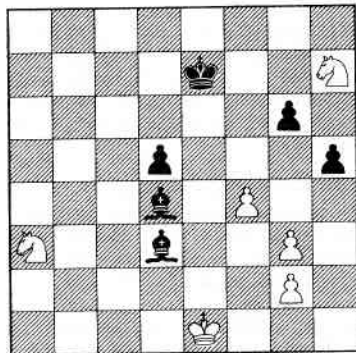
This risky winning attempt completely backfires. Instead White should first bring his king to d3 and then follow up with g4 and possibly f5 before contemplating queenside action.

44...Ke7 45 Ng4 h5 46 c7 Bxc7 47 Nxf6?

Simplest and safest was 47 Nxc7 hxc4 with an easy draw. After the text the white bishops have a field day - their first victim will be the d-pawn.

47...Bb6 48 Nh7 Bc4 49 Na3 Bxd4+ 50 Ke1 Bd3

The metamorphosis of the position since the first diagram merits another:



White's pieces are hardly a picture of health - even Tchigorin would be appalled!

51 Ng5 Bb2 52 Kd2 Bf1 53 Nc2 d4!

This pawn will produce unanswerable threats. White cannot save his g-pawn since 54 Ne1 Bc3+ 55 Kd1 d3 forces 56 Ngf3 and Black wins neatly by 56...Be2+ 57 Kc1 Kf6! - zugzwang - and White must lose a piece.

54 Ne4 Ke6!?

Considerations of material are even more important in the endgame where there is often little material left; simpler was 54...Bxc7 winning the pawn and giving absolutely nothing away.

55 Kd1

It is true that after 55 Ne1 Black could still win the wretched g-pawn, but only at the cost of exchanging one of his bishops. Therefore, Black would instead continue the invasion with his king, e.g. 55...Kf5! 56 Nf2 Bc3+ 57

Kd1 h4! 58 gxh4 Kxf4 59 g4 Ke3 60 Nh1 Be2+ winning both knights in short order.

55...Kf5 56 Nd2

Equally ineffective was 56 Nf2 Bxc7 57 Ke2 Be4 58 Ne1 Bc1 followed by Be3 -+.

56...Bb5!?

Another inaccuracy although Black can still win. Best was 56...Bxc7.

57 Nf3 Ba4 58 Kd2 Bc3+ 59 Kc1 Ke4 60 Nce1 Ke3 61 Nc2+ Kd3 62 Na3 Ke2 63 Nb1

Most of White's moves are more or less forced. Here Nh4 loses a piece to 63...d3.

63...Bb4??

Incredibly Black gives up his passed pawn - in spite of this he still retains an advantage (see final note). There is a clear win after 63...Kf2, e.g. 64 Nxc3 dxc3 65 Ne5 Kxg3! 66 Nxc6 Kg4 67 g3 (what else?) Bb3! 68 Kb1 (or 68 Ne5+ Kxg3 69 f5 Kf4) Kxg3 69 f5 Kg4 70 f6 Kf5 -+.

64 Nxd4+ Kf2 65 f5!? Bc5 66 Ne6 Be3+ 67 Kb2 Bd7

67...gxf5 68 Ng7 has the same effect.

68 Nc3 gxf5 69 Ng7 Kxg3 70 Nxb5+ Kxg2

White could have taken this pawn 16 moves before - in the previous session!

71 Kc2 Bg5 72 Kd3 Be8 73 Ng7, ½ : ½?

Presumably Stonehouse agreed the draw because of 73...Bg6 74 Nxf5 capturing the last pawn, but this ending is certainly worth continuing with; what little theory there is suggests that the two bishops give good winning chances against a lone knight.

* * *

Lest the reader gain the impression that ALL opportunities were missed we conclude with two examples of fine endgame technique.

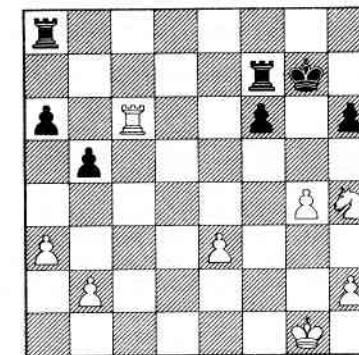
In the next position (see diagram next column) from Stonehouse-Sarapu, Black has the slender advantage of the exchange for a pawn.

30...Rd7 31 Nf5+ Kg6

As we shall see there is an element of danger in this advance but it is clearly necessary.

32 Kg2 h5!

Black exchanges some pawns to open up



avenues of entry for his pieces; also the white g-pawn will be exposed.

33 h3 hxg4 34 hxg4 Kg5 35 Kg3 Rd1

Clearly Black has made progress in activating his pieces and he now threatens to win the g-pawn. White, however finds a neat resource.

36 Kf3! Rf1+ 37 Kg2 Rb1 38 Kf3 Ra7!

If 38...Rxb2?, 39 Rc7! forces a draw: 39...Rg8 (else mate) 40 Rh7! (threatening not just 41 Rh5+ Kg6 42 Ne7+ winning the exchange, but also 41 Ne7! winning a whole rook) 40...Kg6 41 Ra7 Kg5 (forced) 42 Rh7 repeating.

39 Rc8 Kg6 40 Rc2?

Seldom is the passive alternative better in rook endings. Instead, the active 40 Rh8 should have been tried when best seems 40...Rd7 41 Ra8 Rxb2 42 Rxa6 and another pair of pawns has gone and the win is most problematical.

40...Rh7 41 Kg3

41 Rc6 is met by a5 forcing the rook back to c2.

41...Kg5 42 Nh4!

Parrying the threatened Rg1+.

42...Rg1+ 43 Ng2 Re7 44 Kf3 Rf1+ 45 Kg3 Re4 46 Rc5+ f5!

More often it is the defender who wishes to exchange a pair of rooks but here the rooks have been unable to combine effectively while the R+N combination has. The text forces the rook swap since 47 gxf5 Rg4+ 48 Kh2 Rf2 wins the knight.

47 Rxf5+ Rxf5 48 gxf5 Kxf5 49 Kf3

b4!

This involves more than a simple exchange of pawns; Black will also win the remaining white queenside pawn while White's pieces are far away.

50 Ne1 bxa3 51 bxa3 Rc4! 52 Ke2 Rc3
53 Kd2 Rxa3 54 Nc2 Ra2 55 Kc3 Ke4 56
Kb3 Ra5 57 Kc4 Rb5 58 Nb4 Rb6

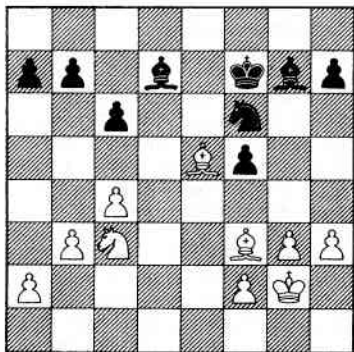
Now the win is clear since the white king cannot approach the a-pawn. Generally a RP allows fewer defensive chances with R v N than other pawns because the knight's mobility is reduced.

59 Kc3 a5 60 Nc2 a4 61 Nb4 a3, 0:1.

It is curtains after either 62 Kb3 Rxb4+ or 62 Na2 Kxe3 or 62 Nc2 a2 63 Na1 Rb1.

* * *

The final position arose after 30 moves of Aptekar-Carpinter.



Aptekar's technique is impeccable:

31 Na4

Aiming to provoke a weakening of the black queenside by means of the threat of Nc5.

31...Bf8 32 Bd4 a6

The best solution since 32...b6 permits the embarrassing 33 Be5.

33 Nc5 Bc8 34 Bd1 Bd6 35 Nd3 Be6 36
Be5 Ke7 37 Bd4 Kf7 38 f3 Nd7 39 Bc2
Nf6 40 Kf2 Nd7 41 Bb1 c5

The last few moves leading up to the time control have not altered the character of the position. Black's 41st turns out to have little effect on future events, although such weakening advances (loosening his pawn structure, ceding

control of d5) should generally be avoided.

42 Bc3 Nf6 43 Be5

In view of the fact that White must aim to penetrate on the kingside where he will eventually get a passed pawn (and where Black is already strong on the light squares), Black's dark square bishop is a very important defensive piece. Hence White seeks to exchange it - and Black, having reduced its scope with his 41st move, submits.

43...Ke7 44 Bxd6+ Kxd6 45 Nf4 Ke5
46 Ke3 h6

Played in view of this pawn's exposure after 47 g4 fxc4 48 hxc4 when White threatens g5. On 46...h5? Black loses a pawn: 47 Ng6+ Kd6 48 Kf4 and 49 Bxf5.

47 g4

There is no win of a pawn on f5 now: 47 Ng6+ Kd6 48 Kf4? Nh5+ and it is Black who wins a pawn.

47...fxg4 48 hxc4! Bd7

Freeing f6 for the king doesn't work, e.g. 48...Ne8 49 Nd3+, or 48...Nd7 49 Nxe6 leading to a won K & P ending.

49 Ng6+ Kd6

Worse is 49...Ke6 50 Nf8+ Ke7 51
Nxd7 Kxd7 52 Kf4 Ke6 53 Bf5+ Kd6 54
Be4 b6 55 Kf5 and the king penetrates.

50 Kf4 b6 51 Ne5 Be6 52 Bf5 Ng8

Or 52...Bg8 53 Bc8 a5 54 Kf5 etc.

53 Ng6!

The knight is headed for f5 - the last nail in Black's coffin.

53...Nf6 54 Bd3 Bc8 55 Nh4 Ng8 56
Nf5+ Kd7

Or 56...Ke6 57 Be4 Kf6 58 Nd6 Be6
59 Bh7 Ne7 60 Ne8+ Kf7 61 Nc7 Bc8 62
Ke5 +-.

57 Ke5 Bb7 58 Be4 Bxe4

Forced, since 58...Bc8 loses the h-pawn after 59 Bd5.

59 fxe4 a5 60 a4

Another zugzwang - a common enough motif in the endgame.

60...Ke8 61 Ke6, 1 : 0.

THE NZCA RATING SYSTEM

This report by Jim Cater, chairman of the NZCA Rating Subcommittee, explains how the system works. In a second article in the next issue Jim will show how you can calculate your own rating - Editor.

Work has recently been completed on a revision of the calculations used in the NZCA Rating system and the time is now opportune to describe the system so that all chess players may have a better understanding of the methods employed. It is interesting to note that, so far as we can ascertain, New Zealand is one of the first, if not the very first, countries to establish a computer system to maintain its national rating list.

Computers are but extremely fast calculating machines with considerable memory capacity. This means that each and every step in a calculation process must first be programmed by a human and results checked and rechecked to eliminate errors and inconsistencies. However, once this programming and testing has been completed, the computer can be relied upon to accurately perform the same set of calculations whenever it is presented with appropriate data. The speed of the computer enables the programmer to design far more complex calculation methods than could be entertained with a manual system, and thus more accurate and consistent calculations can be achieved.

The NZCA Rating System is based on a rating system proposed by Professor Arpad E. Elo of the United States, although the only portion remaining completely unchanged is the probability function devised by Elo - the cornerstone of the system. The system has been evolved over the past three years, taking account of New Zealand conditions and making use of the computer's speed of calculation.

What follows is a description of the methods used in the Rating System. Some of the calculations are complex, but they are in fact the result of considerable investigation and experimentation to achieve a system which will maintain a rating list reflecting the true relative playing strengths of the players, so far as is possible from the information available.

1. Information retained by the computer: for each player in the rating list, the following information is held in a computer file.

- a) A unique numeric code by which the player is identified.
- b) The player's name.
- c) The player's home club (this is not yet complete but we are working on it).
- d) The player's current rating.
- e) The date of the last tournament the player participated in.
- f) For players with fewer than 25 games rated: the number of games rated, the total sum of opponents' ratings, and the score achieved in games so far.

2. Edit phase: Results of a tournament are submitted to the computer on punched cards, prepared directly from the pairing cards used during the tournament. Each player's results are contained on a separate punched card, indicating his opponents in the tournament and his result in each game.

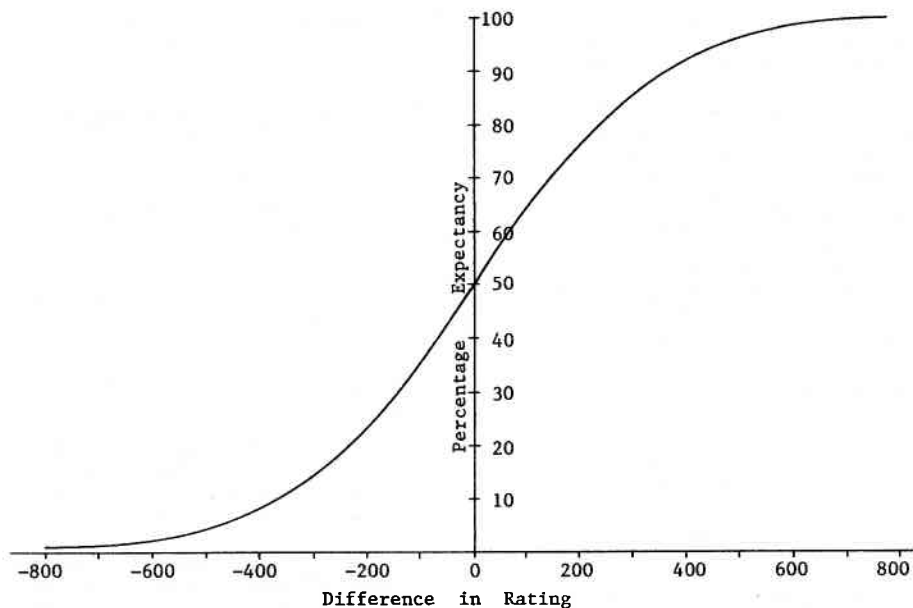
The computer program performs various checks on the validity of the results in order to eliminate errors:

- Each opponent must himself be in the tournament;
- The reverse pairing must be present in the opponent's results;
- The results of the two pairings must be consistent, i.e. a win and a loss or two draws.

3. Calculation phase for provisionally rated players: All players with less than 25 games rated are considered to have provisional ratings, and these are recalculated whenever new results are submitted, until 25 games have been rated.

The rating system as a whole is based on a probability curve which relates, for any two rated players, their difference in rating to the probable, or 'expected', result of an encounter between them. See figure 1.

Figure 1: EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AS A FUNCTION OF RATING DIFFERENCE



Sample readings from this graph indicate that if two players' ratings are equal then the expected result is 50%, i.e. a draw. If the difference in ratings exceeds 700 then the higher rated player is expected to win 99% or more of their encounters. Between these extremes, if the difference in ratings is 200 then the higher rated player is expected to score 75% in any encounters between them.

The purpose of the rating system is in fact to arrange the players on the list so that this relationship is true for any two players on the list. This ideal situation can of course only be achieved after a large number of games has been rated for each player, and with new players entering the list a rating is not considered really meaningful until 25 games have been rated.

In our rating system a special calculation is performed for players with fewer than 25 games rated. Information will have been retained within the system from any previous games which, when combined with latest results, enables the calculation of the average rating of all the player's opponents, and his

percentage result against them. Then from the probability curve a 'performance rating' can be established.

Suppose a player already has had 11 games rated and his score was 6 out of 11. In the next tournament he plays 7 games and scores 4½ out of 7. Then his overall result is 10½ out of 18, or 58%. Suppose that the average rating of his opponents in the 18 games was 1800, then his performance rating would be 1857 since the graph indicates that for two players 57 rating points apart, the expected score is 58% for the higher rated player.

This procedure of recalculating provisional ratings is carried out for all players in the current tournament who have had fewer than 25 games rated previously. In fact the calculation for the group of provisionally rated players in the current tournament is performed seven times. This is to remove anomalies when provisionally rated players have played one another. The ratings in the first cycle are used as a basis for the second cycle and so on for the seven cycles. By this time the ratings are stable and anomalies are removed.

4. Adjustments for all players:

At this point in the calculations provisionally rated players in the tournament have been re-rated and the whole group of players in the tournament are ready for the rating adjustment which is dependent on their performance in the particular tournament.

The calculations are best described by formulae, but for those who do not wish to bend their minds trying to understand equations, I will try to explain the effect of the calculations as well as presenting the bare mathematics.

In simple terms, a player's rating is adjusted up by a certain increment for each point which he gained but was not expected to gain, or down by the same increment for every point he was expected to score but in fact did not. A point in this context is the same as in the tournament itself.

The first step is to determine what the increment is to be for a particular player. It is calculated in two stages, firstly a basic factor which depends on the player's pre-tournament rating, and secondly a factor depending on how the player performed compared with his expected performance.

$$K = K_b \times K_p,$$

where K is the increment, K_b is the basic factor, and K_p is the performance factor.

The basic factor varies inversely with rating. That is to say, the higher the rating the lower the factor:

$$K_b = 77 - \frac{3 \times \text{rating}}{110}$$

The minimum permitted value of K_b is 20. Some sample values of K_b are:

Rating	K_b
500	63.4
1000	49.7
1500	36.1
2000	22.5
2090 & above	20.0

The performance factor varies directly with the difference between the expected percentage result and the actual percentage result. In other words, the larger the difference, the larger the factor. In addition, the factor is different for 'worse than expected' performances than for 'better than expected' performances.

For 'better than expected' performances:

Diff. less than 10%, $K_p = 1$
 Diff. 10% to 30%, $K_p = \%diff + 10$
 Diff. more than 30%, $K_p = 3$

For 'worse than expected' performances:

Diff. less than 20%, $K_p = 1$
 Diff. 20% to 30%, $K_p = \frac{\%diff - 10}{10}$
 Diff. more than 30%, $K_p = 2$

To work out this factor we must first determine the player's expected performance as a percentage. This is done by averaging the expected percentage performance against each of the player's opponents in the tournament.

To obtain the rating adjustment the increment K is now multiplied by the difference between expected and actual performances.

$A = K \times (P - P_e) \times n$, where A is the rating adjustment, P is the actual %, P_e is the expected performance and n is the number of games in the tournament.

Limit applied to adjustment: If the adjustment calculated above is applied, then in some extreme cases the new rating can actually exceed the performance rating in the case of a better than expected performance or be lower in the case of a worse than expected performance. It is necessary then to apply a limit to the rating adjustment. This limit is a certain percentage of the difference between the pre-tournament rating and the performance rating in the current tournament.

To establish the performance rating of a player in a tournament, the computer first approximates by averaging all the player's opponents' ratings and, using the actual percentage result, obtains a performance rating from the probability curve. The expected percentage result at this rating is then calculated as in the main calculations, and this percentage is compared with the actual performance rating. If they are not equal, the rating is adjusted and the process repeated. After several cycles of the process a performance rating is obtained for which the expected performance equals the player's actual performance.

The limit is now calculated as a percentage of the difference between pre-tournament and performance ratings. This percentage depends on the number of rounds in the tournament, and whether the actual adjustment is to be up or

down.

For upward adjustments:
up to 4 rounds, 30%
5 to 17 rounds, (5r + 5)%
18 or more rounds, 90%

For downward adjustments:
up to 4 rounds, 20%
5 to 17 rounds, (5r - 5)%
18 or more rounds, 80%.

The number of rounds (r) is of course those played only, i.e. defaulted games are excluded when establishing the number of rounds.

5. Summary:

The calculations will be seen to permit larger changes in rating in the upward direction than in the downward direction (both the factor K_p and the limit applied to the adjustment have this effect). These tendencies are deliberate as it is desirable that general deflation of the list is avoided when the improving player 'takes' rating points from an opponent whose own ability has not diminished. Also recognised is the need to accelerate

movement up or down the list when a performance is significantly different from that expected. The factor K_p produces the required acceleration, thus enabling rapidly improving players to climb the list at an appropriate rate.

Players lower on the list will undergo a larger adjustment than players higher on the list (factor K_b ensures this). This is to recognise the fact that the improving players in the list will normally have entered at a low rating and would otherwise require a fairly large number of very good performances to climb to their correct rating. On the other hand, a player high on the list (say above 2100) is unlikely to be improving at such a rapid rate and the high increment is unnecessary.

The NZCA Rating Subcommittee believes that the system that has been devised is fair and equitable, but of course reserves the right to make further modifications to the system should they become necessary.

NZCA RATING LIST

This list includes the results of all tournaments submitted, up to and including Congress 1976/77 events. For provisionally rated players, the number of games rated follows the rating. List includes only players active during the last two years.

1 Sarapu, O	2366	23 Schwartz, E	2092	45 Lynch, D I	1997
2 Fairhurst, W A	2319	24 Deben, B	2083	46 Cordue, S	1979
3 Chandler, M	2318	25 Wigbout, M	2081	47 Whitehouse, L E	1975
4 Anderson, B R	2310	26 Leonhardt, W	2080	48 Gibson, D	1969
5 Garbett, P A	2285	27 Goffin, P B	2075	49 Barlow, M J	1968/23
6 Aptekar, L	2259	28 Kerr, A G	2072	50 O'Callahan, R M	1965
7 Sutton, R J	2237	29 Green, P	2063	51 Evans, M	1964
8 Weir, P B	2224	30 Brown, W A R	2061	52 Cordue, P L	1961
9 Green, E M	2215	31 Cornford, L H	2053	53 Hurley, A	1954
10 Day, A R	2178	32 Flude, D A	2047	54 Bates, P	1950
11 Stuart, P W	2174	33 Russell, G K	2041	55 Marshall, C	1946
12 Small, V A	2161	34 Laird, C	2040	56 Hawkes, P	1944
13 Jensen, K	2154	35 Whaley, M G	2036	57 Wilson, W N	1940/18
14 Nokes, R	2142	36 Clemance, P A	2029	58 Jackson, Jon	1940
15 Carpenter, A L	2140	37 Beach, D O	2023	59 Love, A J	1939
16 Wansink, R	2131	38 Lynn, K W	2022	60 Carpenter, B A	1937
17 Evans, C A	2130	39 Turner, G M	2020	61 Frankel, Z	1934
18 Feneridis, A	2117	40 Chiu, G	2020	62 Cater, J E	1927
19 Smith, R W	2116	41 Power, P W	2015	63 Lichter, D	1920
20 Stonehouse, T H	2113	42 Van Dijk, T	2014	64 Haase, G G	1918
21 Pomeroy, A	2110	43 Beach, P K	2012	65 Strevens, R E	1917
22 Paris, P	2109	44 Hensman, P J	2005	66 Cook, N	1916

67 Spiller, P	1915	127 Knightbridge, W	1753	187 Genet, R	1628
68 McIvor, B W	1911	128 Baran, P	1751	188 Whitehouse A	1627
69 Brunton, D M	1904	129 Gloistein, B	1745	189 Kasmara, A H	1627/11
70 Campbell, Murray	1900/21	130 Storey, D J H	1745	190 Vincent, F E	1625
71 Goodhall, D N A	1899	131 Nysse, J	1745	191 Severinsen, B	1624
72 Marsick, B H P	1897	132 Clark, P	1744	192 Hill, S	1624
73 Metge, Nigel	1893	133 Waite, G S	1741	193 Henkel, H	1624
74 Baker, C	1893	134 Malley, N	1740	194 Austin, Ken	1618/8
75 Sinclair, B E	1888	135 Smaill, C	1738	195 Milne, D J O	1614/10
76 Gibbons, R E	1888	136 Fomotor, P	1734	196 Williams, Barry	1613
77 Hoffmann, P E	1884	137 Bloore, Ross G	1732/13	197 Bertram, P	1608
78 Mataga, Peter	1883	138 Waddle, M H	1731	198 Forster, W	1608
79 Palmer, L	1874	139 Mooyman, P	1727	199 Knowles, A	1607
80 Cochrane, G T	1873	140 Henderson, A J	1725	200 Porter, W	1606/15
81 Johnston, J	1870	141 Walker, D R	1719	201 Thompson, S	1604
82 Alp, W	1865	142 Dowden, T	1717	202 Taylor, J	1603
83 Arbuthnott, J	1865	143 Koloszar, P	1715	203 Mathieson, J	1600
84 Perry, R	1860	144 Black, Richard	1715	204 Johnstone, R B	1600
85 Pool, A	1857	145 Adams, J	1711	205 Gibson, W F	1600/8
86 Sidnam, Grant	1855/11	146 Van Dam, Simon	1710	206 Voss, P J	1599
87 Johnstone, D G	1852	147 Earle, S R	1710	207 Pointon, Sandy	1587/8
88 Foord, M	1852	148 Ziskin, Sam	1702/13	208 Fekete, J	1586
89 Kay, J B	1851	149 Skuja, A N	1701	209 Clayton, I	1584
90 Amies, L S	1850	150 Chin, H	1699	210 Van Oeveren, C	1584
91 Lanning, R K N	1847	151 Bridges, N P	1698	211 Shuker, R	1583
92 Whitlock, H P	1840	152 Booth, A J	1698/7	212 Basher, R A	1582/11
93 Shardy, Z	1832	153 Mills, R L	1697	213 Bojtor, Julius	1582/10
94 Johnstone, S	1830	154 Freeman, M	1696	214 Davida, E	1579
95 Gollogly, D A	1827/24	155 Lark, D	1695	215 Campbell, I	1578
96 Preece, Peter	1823/8	156 Lamb, P	1685	216 Mazur, J J	1577
97 Yee, S	1816	157 Boyce, D A L	1683	217 Reid, J	1577
98 Watson, B R	1804	158 Cowan, C	1681	218 O'Connor, T P	1575/12
99 Law, B M	1802	159 Brdjanovic, M	1681	219 Cargo, D	1572
100 Kay, B	1798	160 Haworth, G M R	1680	220 Metsers, P	1570
101 Roundill, R L	1797	161 Colthart, R	1677	221 Price, Anthony	1570/9
102 Livingston, M J	1797	162 Bennett, H	1676	222 Severinsen, S	1568
103 Sims, I M	1796	163 Balme, A	1673	223 Tallen, J	1567
104 Brown, W	1796	164 Steiner, M	1672	224 Winter, William	1567/9
105 Mancewicz, S	1796	165 Hollis, W K	1672	225 Gavin, D	1564
106 Gifford-Moore, D	1796	166 Ng, N	1671	226 Sowerbutts, G	1564
107 Ward, A	1794	167 Usmar, J	1668	227 Capper, Dave	1560
108 Downman, I A	1793	168 Dominik, A	1666/20	228 Fisher, E N	1546
109 Grainer, J	1793	169 Wardrop, J	1665	229 Skipper, J	1539
110 Thomson, O N	1791	170 Turner, N	1663	230 Truell, C	1536
111 Kinchant, K D	1790	171 Roberts, M H	1662	231 Miller, G P	1535
112 Malarski, G	1789	172 Pickering, M	1662	232 Aabryn, Eyvin	1533
113 Whaley, A	1781	173 Nijjer, A	1661	233 Jackson, R	1528/6
114 Simpson, D	1771	174 Cornelissen, R	1659	234 Weir, T	1524
115 Lancaster, Mark	1771	175 Ng, Gordon	1656	235 Flett, A	1523
116 Trundle, G E	1770	176 Green, Wilson F	1654/12	236 Emslie, B	1518
117 Belton, C P	1768	177 Leishman, C	1640	237 Mitchell, Ian R	1515
118 Okey, K M	1766	178 Davies, Robert	1639	238 Clark, D	1515
119 Bremner, Ken	1766/8	179 Brimble, M T	1637	239 Ramsay, W	1513
120 Steadman, M	1762	180 Bell, Chris	1637	240 Aldous, Richard	1512
121 Robinson, P G	1760	181 Sell, Glenn J	1636/11	241 Haapu, Sam	1510
122 Free, Terry J	1759	182 Ion, Gavin J	1636/11	242 Evans, N	1508
123 Carter, Gerald	1758	183 Rawsley, Louis	1635	243 Lowe, D	1508
124 Lichter, J	1755	184 Howard, M I	1635/18	244 Dallow, C	1508
125 Severinsen, Q	1754	185 O'Brien, W	1634	245 Crombie, William	1500/8
126 Wong, M	1754	186 Bennell, D	1629	246 Cockroft, R	1496

247 Severinsen,E	1494	306 Bridger,M	1352	365 Edwards,F	1152	424 Tegg,P	815	432 Williams,Yvonne	717/6	440 Coupland,G	538
248 Alexander,R	1492	307 Cookson,Jane	1344	366 Graham,M	1146	425 Weegenaar,David	807/6	433 Burton,L	690	441 Bevan,M	214
249 Grant,M	1491	308 Caccioppoli,P	1342/7	367 Delaney,C	1144/8	426 Watts,Mark	798	434 Frost,J	675	442 Kilford,Shaun	196
250 Collins,Peter	1487/18	309 Shepherd,R	1334	368 Paul,David	1139/15	427 Watling,R	796/6	435 Glen,Stuart	654	443 Buchanan,R	169/5
251 Brannigan,K	1486	310 Jones,Les	1334/9	369 Anastasiadis,M	1138/7	428 Fernando,Tushan	762/3	436 Gulik,S	623/6	444 Lacey,J	156
252 Keith,D	1483	311 Walker,Mathew	1333/8	370 Menzies,N	1137/7	429 Fussell,Derek	759	437 Campbell,L	581/6	445 McKay,G	100
253 Hignett,A N	1483/15	312 Rogers,Michael	1330/11	371 McCarthy,K M	1130/11	430 MacLeod,J	749	438 Pishieff,N	560	446 McRobie,S	20/5
254 Broadbent,Ross	1482	313 Godtschalk,R A	1318	372 Cox,B	1126	431 Atoa,S	725	439 Webber,C H	550/6		
255 Johnston,A	1480	314 Neele,Rinus	1317/8	373 Davis,R	1121						
256 Flower,Gavin C	1473	315 Wilkes,J	1315	374 Schrijvers,H	1115						
257 Johnston,R	1473/7	316 McLean,T	1315	375 Ah-Kit,Graeme	1115						
258 Bowler,R	1469/7	317 Donselaar,Mrs	1313	376 Boughan,Andrew	1114						
259 Horwell,P	1466	318 Noble,Mark	1306	377 Newman,B	1112						
260 Zyskowski,W	1466	319 Kappeler,A	1305	378 Dalziel,I	1111/6						
261 Frost,Gary M M	1458	320 Cullen,R	1304/7	379 Darwin,B W	1109/7						
262 Beutner,W	1457	321 Tucker,Susan	1302/7	380 King,Peter	1108/11						
263 Grunig,K	1457	322 Hofsteede,J	1301	381 Goodhall,C H	1105						
264 Woodford,R G	1454	323 Zyskowski,Z	1296	382 Harris,Ken	1105/6						
265 Lane,R	1450	324 Adams,P	1295	383 Bailey,A	1091						
266 Drake,A	1449	325 Wilson,A	1295	384 Henderson,A	1073						
267 Pfahlert,D	1448	326 Lester,Wayne	1292/14	385 Carkeek,P	1072/7						
268 Morrison,M K	1444	327 Bowler,Mrs E	1286/14	386 Baran,Michael	1068						
269 Pomeroy,David M	1442/11	328 Purdon,G	1284	387 Cunningham,Glyn	1064						
270 Preston,J	1434	329 Howell,G	1278/7	388 Fernando,R	1057/6						
271 Benbow,M R	1434	330 Scarr,G E	1272/8	389 O'Reilly,C	1053/6						
272 Millman,R	1429	331 Old,M	1263	390 Town,D	1050						
273 Adams,G	1428	332 Chamberlain,M	1262/7	391 Malloy,K J	1048/10						
274 Taylor,D	1428	333 Rundle,David	1261/6	392 Henderson,Neil	1046/7						
275 Clowes,C	1427	334 Sareczky,G	1258	393 Feneridis,C	1046						
276 Rawnsley,Peter	1422/7	335 Allsobrook,A J	1257/14	394 Severinsen,D	1046						
277 Knegt,Koert	1421	336 De Oude,Hugo	1255/8	395 Chin,P	1040/21						
278 Martin,Lynne	1419/17	337 Chang,A	1254	396 Wright,A	1031/6						
279 Freear,Craig	1418/8	338 Sinclair,M (Wn)	1248	397 Hughes,T	1024						
280 Blackburne,Mark	1416/7	339 Martin,S C	1248/11	398 Forrest,Michael	1022/6						
281 Spiller,T	1413	340 Dunningham,M	1246	399 Boyd,Shane G	1012/11						
282 Borrell,J	1410	341 McCallum,A	1244/8	400 Boyd,J Kirkman	1012/11						
283 Wall,Lewis	1410/16	342 Phillips,J	1242	401 Oliver,R	1000						
284 Watson,Michael	1409	343 Carter,Peter	1242/7	402 Jackson,Mark	997/7						
285 Crawford,Bruce	1409	344 Eagle,J	1229	403 Parry,Nigel	975						
286 Barlow,I	1408	345 Nicholls,T	1228/5	404 Borrell,D H	970/8						
287 Sarfati,J	1408	346 Arker,Grant	1225	405 Slingsby,Alan	964/12						
288 Petrie,Bruce	1403/16	347 Saunders,T	1224	406 Hay,Victor	954						
289 White,M	1402	348 Mackie,John	1215	407 Schuitema,R	945						
290 Marnar,Gavin	1402	349 Fitchett,Paul	1213	408 Corbett,P D	938/11						
291 Clay,B	1399	350 Mailen,S B	1212	409 Blaikie,J	937						
292 Powell,L V	1399	351 Benson,C	1203/6	410 Meek,Les L	935/7						
293 Brookie,R	1395	352 Watts,Duncan	1202/6	411 Staples,M	929/8						
294 Adams,David	1392/13	353 Phillips,G	1201/7	412 Borsje,J	926						
295 Schulz,Don	1384	354 Chandler,W	1194	413 Stinson,I P	915						
296 Grevers,L P	1382/11	355 Beyk,Andre	1193/7	414 Schlosmacher G	911						
297 Oldridge,C B W	1378	356 Worthington,S	1193	415 Collins,Paul	908/8						
298 Cameron,M	1376	357 Williams,G	1192	416 Rawnsley,David C	891						
299 Stretch,Winsome	1375	358 Eston,Roderick	1188/8	417 Shuker,S	881						
300 Van Ginkel,J	1374/7	359 Cameron,D	1183	418 St.John,T	879						
301 Carter,Stephen	1362	360 Scott,M W	1181	419 Bowler,Jon	877/15						
302 Bennett,D	1360/6	361 Strickett,R L	1174	420 Sievey,J	877/6						
303 Servies,C	1358	362 Millman,P	1163	421 Erry,K	866/6						
304 Sheridan,L	1357/22	363 King,Bruce	1157	422 Vause,S	827/8						
305 Bell,D	1352	364 Focas,Peter	1157/8	423 Ballantyne,B	826						

ANNOTATED GAMES

For starters Tony Love adds notes to his Australian Junior Championship clash with Greg Hjorth in Perth.

A.J.Love G.Hjorth

Alekhine Defence

1	e4	Nf6
2	e5	Nd5
3	d4	d6
4	Nf3	Bg4
5	Be2	e6
6	O-O	Nc6
7	c4	Nb6
8	exd6	cxd6

After 8...Bxf3 9 Bxf3 Nxc4 10 Qa4, White will emerge with an extra pawn, e.g. 10...Nb6 11 Bxc6+ bxc6 12 Qxc6+ Qd7 13 Qxd7+ Kxd7 14 dxc7 Kxc7.

9 b3

Sharper is 9 d5 exd5 10 cxd5 Bxf3 11 gxf3! Ne5 12 Bb5+ Ned7 13 Qd4 Qf6 14 Re1+ Kd8! with an unclear position.

9	...	Be7
10	Nc3	Bf6
11	Be3	O-O
12	Rc1	

Stronger was 12 Ne4.

12	...	Re8
13	h3	Bf5
14	Qd2	e5
15	d5	Nb8
16	Nh2!?	

Not very convincing but the only way to try for the win.

16	...	N8d7
17	f4	Nc5?!

Better was 17...exf4 18 Bxf4 Nc5 19 Rce1.

18	fxe5	Rxe5
19	Bf4	

Best was 19 Nf3 bringing the knight

back into play. Also 19 Bxc5? Bg5 20 Qd1 (not 20 Bxb6?? Qxb6+) 20...dxc5 (better 20...Bxc1! winning the exchange after either 21 Bxb6 Qxb6+ 22 Kh1 Be3 or 21 Bd4 Be3+ etc, Editor) 21 Nf3 Re8 22 Nxc5 Qxc5 23 Kh2 Re3.

19	...	Ne4
20	Nxe4	Rxe4
21	Nf3	Qd7
22	Rcd1	

Not 22 Bd3? Rxf4! winning two pieces for a rook.

22	...	Rae8
23	Bd3	R4e7
24	Bxf5	Qxf5
25	Rde1	

25 Bxd6 seems pretty convincing - Editor.

25 ... Bc3!

With bishops off, Black's d-pawn will no longer be under such pressure.

26	Qxc3	Qxf4
27	Rxe7	Rxe7
28	Re1	Rxe1+
29	Qxe1	h6
30	Qa5!?	Qe3+
31	Kh2	Qf4+

31...a6 32 Qb4!

32	Kh1	Qc1+
33	Kh2	Qf4+
34	Kh1	Qc1+
35	Ng1	Qf4
36	Qxa7	Nd7
37	Qxb7?	

This throws away the win. Correct was 37 Nf3 which should win, e.g. 37...Nf6 38 Qa5 Ne4 39 Qe1.

37	...	Nf6
38	Qb8+	Kh7
39	Qb6	Ne4
40	Nf3	Qc1+
41	Kh2	

41 Qg1 would lose: 41...Nf2+ 42 Kh2 Qf4+ 43 g3 Qxf3, while 41 Ng1 Ng3+ 42 Kh2 Nf1+ etc draws by repetition.

½ : ½



In the last issue we published the following game without notes. Here it is again, this time with notes by Philip Clemance.

	P.B.Goffin	P.A.Clemance
	Benoni	Defence
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	g3	c5
4	d5	exd5
5	cxd5	d6
6	Bg2	g6
7	Nf3	Bg7
8	O-O	O-O
9	Nc3	Qe7
10	Re1	

The usual move here is 10 Nd2 but the text is undoubtedly quite playable.

10 ... Bg4?!

While this is a reasonable continuation on move 9, it is out of place here as will be seen.

11 h3?!

Playing into Black's hands. 11 Nd2! is stronger so that if 11...Nbd7, then 12 h3 traps the bishop next move. Black would instead have to change plans and play 11...Qd7 leaving him a tempo behind the variation 9...Bg4 10 Nd2 Qd7 11 Re1.

11	...	Bxf3
12	Bxf3	Nbd7
13	Bg2	a6
14	e4	

The natural 14 a4 deserves attention.

14 ... Rab8

But not 14...b5 15 e5! dxe5 16 d6, or 15...Nxe5 16 f4.

15 Qa4

Preventing ...b5 for the moment, but this move has an artificial look about it. All the same it is not easy to suggest a promising continuation for White - allowing the removal of the Benoni knight has given Black an easy game.

15	...	Nb6
16	Qb3	Qc7
17	Be3	Nbd7
18	Rac1	

After 18 a4, 18...b5! 19 axb5 axb5 20 Nxb5 Qb6 21 Bf1 Nxe4 is one possible continuation.

18 ... b5

With an excellent game for Black.

19	Ne2	Rfe8
20	Qc2	Qa5
21	b3	Rec8
22	Bd2	b4

Preventing 23 Bc3 challenging the black bishop. White hasn't enough time to blockade on c4.

23 a3?!

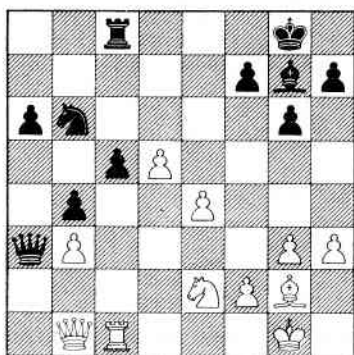
The opening of lines favours Black, but White is hard pressed to stop ...c4 with a similar effect in a few moves.

23	...	Nb6
24	axb4	cxb4
25	Qb1	Nfd7
26	Rxc8+	Rxc8
27	Rc1	Nc5

Threatening 28...Qa3 winning the b-pawn.

28	Be3	Qa3!?
29	Bxc5	dx5

Black's 28th has allowed White counterplay with his centre pawns, but with ...c4 coming Black will also obtain a powerful passed pawn.



30 Rc??

White must strive to block off the black bishop and mobilise his pawns

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

All moves are recorded from White's point of view. Each square is named by a letter-number combination. The files are lettered from 'a' to 'h', starting from White's left; the ranks are numbered 1 to 8, starting on White's side of the board.

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1

WHITE

The sample game in both descriptive and algebraic should clarify the system:

Descriptive		Algebraic	
1	P-QB4	N-KB3	1 c4 Nf6
2	N-QB3	P-K3	2 Nc3 e6
3	P-K4	P-Q3	3 e4 d6
4	P-Q4	P-B4	4 d4 c5
5	PxP	PxP	5 dxc5 dxc5
6	QxQch	KxQ	6 Qxd8+ Kxd8
7	N-B3	N-B3	7 Nf3 Nc6
8	B-N5	B-Q3	8 Bg5 Bd6
9	O-O-O	K-K2	9 O-O-O Ke7
	etc.		etc.

with 30 f4!, e.g. 30...c4 31 e5 (not 31 bxc4? Qe3+ 32 Kf1 Nxc4) and Black has many more problems. The trouble with the text is that the threat of 31 Ra2 can be met by simply continuing the attack.

30	...	c4
31	bxc4	

Better is 31 Nc1 cxb3 32 Qxb3 Rxc2 33 Qxc2, but Black should win after a5-a4.

31	...	b3
32	Rc1	b2
33	Rd1	Rxc4?!

33...Nxc4, threatening Nd2!, is immediately decisive as 34 d6 Nxd6 only delays matters but doesn't help.

34	d6	Qa1
35	f4	Bd4+!

But this still clinches it - keeping the bishop outside the pawn chain.

36	Kf1	a5!
37	e5	a4
38	Bd5	

Desperation.

38	...	Rc1?
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A nervous attempt to simplify into a won ending - a common fault near the time control! Simply 38...Nxd5 wins; if 39 d7 then 39...Bb6, or 39 Nxd4 Rc1.

39	Bxf7+!	Kxf7
40	e6+	

40 Rxc1 immediately produces a much more difficult ending.

40	...	Ke8
41	Rxc1	bxc1Q+
42	Qxc1	Qxc1+
43	Nxc1	Nc4
44	d7+	Ke7
45	Ke2	Bf6
46	Kd3	Nb6
47	d8Q+	Kxd8
48	g4	Ke7
49	f5	Kd6
50	Ke4	Nd5
51	Nd3	a3
52	Nc1	Nc3+
53	Kd3	a2
54	Nb3	Nd5
55	Ke4	a1Q
56	Nxa1	Bxa1
57	g5	gxf5+
58	Kxf5	Ne7+
59	Kg4	Kxe6
60	Kh5	Bg7
61	h4	Kf5
62	g6	hxg6 mate.

Unfortunately the stalemate by 62... Nxc6 is not even tempting.



We do not often hear of consultation games these days; nevertheless they can be very interesting. The following one was played in December at the Waitemata Club.

White: J.E.Cater et al
Black: N.P.Bridges et al

Benko Gambit

1	d4	Nf6
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2 c4 c5
3 d5 b5
4 cxb5 a6
5 Nc3!?

Playable is 5 f3 axb5 6 e4 Qa5+ 7 Bd2 b4. The gambit in full is 5 bxa6 Bxa6.

5 ... axb5
6 e4

6 Nxb5 Ba6 transposes to the full gambit.

6 ... b4
7 Nb5

The main idea of this tactical variation; in the long run, however, the knight is misplaced on b5.

7 ... d6!

But not 7...Nxe4? 8 Qe2 when the knight cannot move because of 9 Nd6 mate, and 8...f5 9 f3 does not help Black at all.

8 Bf4?!

Threatening 9 e5 and maintaining pressure on d6, but a better alternative, suggested by Zaitsev, is 8 Nf3.

8 ... g5!

This seems best. Playable is 8...Nxe4 9 Qe2 g5! or 8...Nxe4 9 Bd3 Ba6 as analysed by Benko.

9 Bxg5

Or 9 e5 gxf4 10 exf6 Nd7 11 Nh3, Benko.

9 ... Nxe4
10 Bf4

Interesting is 10 Nf3 Bg7 11 Qc2 Nxc5 12 Nxc5 h5 13 Ne4.

10 ... Ba6!
11 a4

If 11 f3 Qa5! 12 fxe4 Bxb5 13 Nf3 with advantage to Black.

11 ... Bg7!

Not 11...bxa3 12 Qa4 (threatening Nxd6 mate) Qd7 13 Nc7+ Kd8 14 Qxd7+ Kxd7 15 Nxa8 axb2 16 Rb1 Bg7 17 Nb6+ Kc7 18 Na4 and White remains a rook up.

12 Qe2! Bxb5!

Preventing threats such as 12...Nf6 13 Nxd6+.

13 Qxb5+ Qd7
14 Qe2?

Equally bad was 14 Qxd7+ Nxd7 15 Bc1 Nb6 and Black wins a pawn. The move was 14 Rb1 with equality.

14 ... Nc3!
15 Qc2 Rxa4
16 Rxa4 Nxa4

But not 16...Qxa4 allowing 17 Qxa4 Nxa4 18 Bb5+ picking up the knight.

17 Bxd6?

It is not yet time for desperate measures; 17 b3 may even hold chances of a draw.

17 ... exd6
18 Qe4+ Kd8
19 Be2 Bxb2
20 Nf3 Nc3
21 Qh4+ Kc7



COMBINATION SOLUTIONS

1. Steinmeyer-Bernstein, USA 1944:
1 Rxh7! Kxh7 2 Qf7+ Kh6 3 Bg7+ Kg5 (3...Kh5 4 Ne5+ Kg5 5 Nf3 mate) 4 f4+ Kh5 5 g3! Nh6 6 Ne5+! Nxf7 7 Be2+ Bg4 8 Bxg4 mate.
2. Mannheim-Odle: 1 Bd6!! cxd6 2 Nf6+ gxf6 3 Rg1+ Kh8 4 Qxh7+! Kxh7 5 Rh5 mate.
3. Matochin-Kuzmin, USSR 1970: 1 ...f6+! 2 Kg4 Qg2+ 3 Qg3 f5+ 4 Kf4 e5+! 5 dxe5 Qd2 mate.
4. Molinari-Cabral, Uruguay 1943:
1...Nxf2! 2 Bxf2 (2 Bxf3 Nxf3+ 3 Kg2 Ng5 -) 2...Qg5+ 3 Kh2 Qf4+ 4 Bg3 Bg1+! 5 Qxg1 Ng4+ 6 hxg4 Qh6+ 7 Bh4 Qxh4 mate.
5. Balogh-Gromer, Prague 1931: 1 Qa8+ Nb8 2 Qxb7+! Kxb7 3 Bxd7+ Ka8 4 Rxb8+! Kxb8 5 Rb1+ Ka8 6 Bc6 mate.
6. Brukk-Gandolfi, Milan 1939:
1...Rh6+ 2 Kg1 Rh1+! 3 Kxh1 Qh3+ 4 Kg1 Qxg2 mate.

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