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Alan Linnell Fletcher 1908-1999

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STOP PRESS

Zonal tournaments

The zonal tournament held in Surfers' Paradise from April 13 - 21 was won by FM Vladimir Feldman, with 7/9. Feldman drew 4 games and lost none, and his performance rating of 2499 showed that he played well above his FIDE rating of 2330.

IM Russell Dive finished in a tie for second on 6, with WIM Irina Berezina-Feldman (2230) and David Smerdon (2173). Alexei Kulashko scored 5 to place 5= in the field of 24 players - all from Australia except the two New Zealanders.

Dive's only loss was a surprise defeat by Berezina-Feldman in round 1, and he won 4 and drew 4 of the other games. In round 9 he won from GM Johansen when the GM did not defend against a mate in one - he was reported to be distracted by the game for top place!

Laura Moylan, 7½/10, won the women's zonal from a field of 6 Australians.

Full report and games in next issue.

North Island Championship

The 1999 North Island Championship will be played in Hamilton and experimental changes in the format have been adopted by NZCF at the request of Hamilton CC. Details are given in the preliminary invitation to enter being circulated with this issue of *NZ Chess* and in the NZCF Council report.

Graded teams event

Wanganui CC is holding a graded teams event for players in the southern half of the North Island on Saturday, May 22. To equalise the strength of teams, this experimental format allows only one highly-rated player in each team, and requires at least one low-rated player.

New Zealand Chess

Vol 25 Number 2

April 1999

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THE NEXT ISSUE: Tributes to Ortvin Sarapu plus report and games from the zonal in Surfers' Paradise and usual features.



IM Ortvin Sarapu, New Zealand's Mr Chess, died at his home in Auckland on April 13, at the age of 75. He was the dominant figure on the New Zealand chess scene for more than 40 years after his arrival in 1950, and numerous tributes have been paid to him as a chess player and teacher, as a sportsman and as a family man.

In its next issue *New Zealand Chess* will record a special tribute and acknowledgement of Ortvin Sarapu's enormous contribution to New Zealand chess.

1999 Latvian Gambit Open

By Paul Spiller

The 1999 Latvian Gambit tournament attracted 56 players, a bit down on the previous year or two, but it clashed with Auckland's round-the-bays run, so the entry was still o.k.

The Open had the Chessmaster 6000 programme entered, which was a bit of a wildcard but unlikely to influence the overall result since a lot of the top players (Alexei Kulashko, Leonard McLaren, Ortvin Sarapu, Peter Green, Peter Stuart, Paul Garbett) chose not to be paired against it, even though there was an incentive going.

Graham Banks had to find a suitable time control for the Chessmaster that wouldn't let it play too fast, but also not to let it run short of time. It had clinical wins against Igor Bjelobrk and Antonio Krstev, but Nigel Hopewell forced a perpetual check and Robert Goris seemed to pick the right formula of playing quickly. He pulled off a bit of an upset win in the last round - and picked up a bonus \$100 cheque from the sponsor, Roadshow Entertainment.

Last year's winner, Kulashko, beat Smith and Garbett in successive rounds and after 4 rounds was already a point clear of the field with 4/4. In the last two rounds this allowed him the luxury of quick draws against Sarapu

and McLaren, to claim first place with 5/6.

There was a 7-way tie for second on 4 points (not counting Chessmaster, which finished on 4½ and was not eligible for prize money). The runner-up placing was shared by Garbett, Smith, McLaren, Green, Sarapu, Goris and Bjelobrk.

Bjelobrk showed marked improvement with wins over Sarapu, Hilton Bennett and Krstev, and draws with Green and Stuart. He lost only to Chessmaster.

Vivian Smith finished strongly with 3 wins, after 3 early losses, so can be pleased with a 50% showing in this strong field.

Hopewell was half a point behind the placegetters on 3, and other scores were: Krstev, G Gill, N Latimer, J Davis, W Lynn, V Smith, R Perry, 3; P Stuart, M Burn 2½; S McLeod, A Dunn, C Blaxall, B Giles, R Beesley 2; H Bennett 1; M Geneturk 0.

Under 1700

Under-1700 competition was very hard-fought. The pre-tournament favourites were G Pocock, A Taupaki and F Fuatai (who, with a standard rating close to 2000 was badly under-rated). A lot of interest was taken in 9-year-old prodigy Puchen Wang, who I think was playing in his first event outside junior events.

As expected Fuatai and Taupaki led the at the half-way stage, but were matched by the previously unrated newcomer, D Belsham. Taupaki and Belsham drew in round 4, while Fuatai beat Puchen Wang to take the lead. Fuatai and Taupaki drew in round 5, while Belsham beat M LeBrocq to share the lead with Fuatai.

In the final round Fuatai beat Belsham to win on 5½/6, and as Taupaki drew with Pocock this left Fuatai a full point clear of another multiple tie.

Fuatai Fuatai has been a regular player in both Papatotoe and Howick-Pakuranga

Chess Clubs and has won two Howick-Pakuranga club championships.

Puchen was held to a draw by D Simpson in round 3 and then lost to leader Fuatai in round 4, but finished strongly with two wins to claim a share of second place. Not bad for a 9-year-old! We can expect big things from this talented youngster in years to come.

Joining Puchen in second place on 4½ were Taupaki, Pocock, Simpson and Belsham. Other scores were: C Wilson, M LeBrocq, A Booth 4; M Chilvers, R Smith 3½; J Cater, T Evans, K Williams, C Chilvers, G Judkins, W Alafaapae, M Alafaapae, R Utai 3; H Courtney, A Howard, K Van den Bosch 2½; T Gothorp, B Cooze, A Sullivan, M Oehley 2; C Darch 1½; H Hromic, M Jackson 1.

Bob Gibbons again did a splendid job as tournament director, with all rounds starting on time and the event running smoothly.

Prizes were presented by club patron, 88-year-old Janis Borovkis, whose generosity has made the continuation of this event possible.

Howick-Pakuranga CC is now looking forward to the millennium congress at the Waipuna Conference Centre and will be sending out preliminary details soon!

Goris, R - Chessmaster 6000

[D02]

Latvian Gambit, Auckland

1.d4 e6 2.e3 d5 3.♘f4 c5 4.c3 ♗b6 5.♗b3
 6.e3 c4 7.♗xb6 axb6 8.♖bd2 g6 9.♗e2
 10.0-0 0-0 11.h3 ♘f5 12.♖h4 ♗d7
 13.♖hf3 ♗fc8 14.♗fc1 b5 15.♖e5 ♘f5 16.♗d1
 h6 17.♗h2 ♖xe5 18.♗xe5 ♗a6 19.a3 ♖d7
 20.♗xg7 ♘xg7 21.f3 ♖f6 22.♗e2 g5 23.♗f1
 ♗g6 24.♗e1 ♗e6 25.♖f2 h5 26.g4 ♗h8 27.♗g2
 ♗d3 28.a4 bxa4 29.♗xa4 ♗b6 30.♗a2 e6
 31.♗f1 hxg4 32.hxg4 ♗h2+ 33.♗g2 ♖f8
 34.♖g1 ♗h8 35.♗f1 ♗h7 36.♗e1 ♖e7 37.♗e2
 ♖d7 38.♗d1 ♗c8 39.♗c1 ♖e7 40.♗c2 ♗xc2
 41.♗xc2 ♗h8 42.♖g2 ♖d7 43.♗c1 f5 44.♗h1
 ♗xh1 45.♖xh1 fxg4 46.♖g2 ♖f6 47.♖g3 gxh3
 48.♖xh3 ♖d6 49.♖g3 ♗c6 50.♗a7 ♗c7 51.♗a3
 e5 52.b3 b6 53.♗a6 cxb3 54.♗xb6+ ♖e7
 55.♗xb3 e4 56.♖b1 g4 1-0

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Chess a sport in Britain

Britain's Sports Minister Tony Banks announced in March that chess is to be classified as a sport in Britain - a breakthrough that will be hailed throughout the chess world. This decision will assist FIDE in negotiations with the IOC, and also will help national chess bodies to gain greater recognition in their countries.

NZCF president Peter Stuart and Howick-Pakuranga CC president Paul Spiller have applauded the British decision, and hope that with chess up for selection as a demonstration sport at the Sydney 2000 Olympics further recognition is on the way.

Paul Spiller says chess has just as much legitimacy as a sport as archer or rifle shoot-

NZ Chess

GM Sermek coming to Congress

Paul Spiller reports that GM Drazen Sermek, of Slovenia, winner of the Fencible Masters tournament, has confirmed his entry into this year's New Zealand Championship.

Howick-Pakuranga CC and NZCF are hopeful of attracting several more top overseas players, and with a strong field it is expected that IM norms will be available.

Alternative sponsorship possibilities, following the withdrawal of the Bob Jones support, are being explored.

NZ Chess

† Alan Linnell Fletcher

By Ted Frost

When Alan Fletcher died in Hamilton on March 15, at the age of 90, New Zealand chess lost a stalwart who had been active for more than 60 years as a player (over the board and in correspondence), in administration, and as editor of the country's first successful chess magazine.

Alan's early association with chess was recorded in a 1952 issue of the *New Zealand Chessplayer*, which said that he became acquainted with chess at the age of 27 and joined the Auckland Chess Club. He made steady progress and by 1952 had won the ACC championship once, the Auckland championship twice and in addition collected 5 games prizes and won many lightning tourneys.

Alan had also played a significant part in the club's administration for more than a decade, including three years as treasurer. He was elected a life member of the club.

Winning the Auckland championship and getting high places in the Major Open at Congress opened the way for Alan's selection in the New Zealand Championship. He came 4= in the 56th championship in Wanganui in 1948-49, and his wins over David Lynch (runner-up) and Harold McNabb (3rd) helped A E Nield take the title. Alan Fletcher was 7th in the next championship in Auckland and 4= on 6 points in the 59th championship in Napier, where Ortvin Sarapu took his first New Zealand title.

I do not have details of Alan's playing record in correspondence chess, but there were many successes in his half-century of active play.

Huge administrative contribution

Away from the chess board Alan's contribution was extensive. Both correspondence and over-the-board chess have had periodic administrative problems, and after a boom period around 1950, correspondence chess drifted into a decline and by 1960 playing numbers were back down to where they had been in

1941. Alan Fletcher recalled in an historical look at NZCCA, in *E.P.35*, that the late Frank Tibbitts was instrumental in getting a change in correspondence headquarters from Wanganui to Auckland in that year, and Alan Fletcher took over as secretary. He held this position for 17 years - eventually deciding to retire and handing over to Wellington's Sandy Maxwell, who is still guiding NZCCA affairs 21 years later.

Alan purchased life membership of NZCCA under an old rule, but under new rules in 1978 he and his long-time friend and associate, David Lynch, of Hastings were elected as life members. David served many years as president of NZCCA, but two years ago when he decided the time had come to retire, who should be called back into service as president but Alan Fletcher. Alan accepted this appointment, which he held at the time of his death.

Magazine work

All these activities added up to a major contribution to the game, but they were overshadowed by Alan's role in establishing the country's first successful chess magazine. He worked as a linotype operator for the late Frederick George McSherry, a keen chess player who had taken over a printing works in 1940. In 1946 in informal discussion in the Dominion Road Chess Club - which was founded in 1945 by Mack, as McSherry was known - J W Simmons raised the possibility of starting a New Zealand chess magazine. Mack accepted the challenge. *New Zealand Chessplayer* was born in spring, 1947, as a quarterly publication which was initially the official publication of NZCCA and later became the official publication of the NZ Chess Association.

Mack was the editor and associates included C B Newick (now living in retirement in Whangarei), IM Bob Wade and Alan Fletcher. Eventually Alan took over as editor, and con-

tinued in this role after the death of Mack McSherry in 1953, until a Wellington group took over the publication in 1955.

Swiss system impasse

When I last saw Alan, when he looked in on a tournament in Hamilton a couple of years ago, he recalled an important event of that period in which he and I both had significant roles. In 1950 I moved back to Wellington from Hawke's Bay, where I had been secretary of the Waipukurau and Napier CC's and foundation secretary of the Hawke's Bay-East Coast Chess League. I was appointed Hawke's Bay delegate to NZCA, the predecessor of NZCF, and was welcomed as an uncommitted newcomer who might help the Council resolve a deadlock.

There was an even split in council, and among the clubs, on the introduction of the swiss system. Personalities were involved. I was asked to be chairman of the council, in spite of youth and inexperience, because in the divided council no-one else was acceptable to a majority of members.

Delegates were required to vote on matters of policy on instructions from their associations. Each time a vote was taken on introduction of the swiss system (which was at each meeting, and after acrimonious debate), the losers immediately gave notice that at the next meeting they would move a new motion to reject the previous decision. This went on for meeting after meeting, with all delegates in constant communication with their associations and requiring fresh voting instructions for every meeting. Other business went on the back-burner - everyone became exhausted by this wasteful process.

The situation was impossible and I found that I could do nothing about it. NZCA headquarters had always been in Wellington, and the solution which emerged was to move headquarters. Alan Fletcher took credit for this, because he took up the matter in an editorial in *NZ Chessplayer*, and I also take some credit because I believe I initiated the move as the only way out of the impasse.

So NZCA headquarters moved to Auckland and not long afterwards the swiss system was introduced for use in suitable tournaments.

It is timely to recall this piece of chess history, which to the best of my knowledge has not previously been recorded, because it marked a turning point in New Zealand chess administration, in which Alan Fletcher played a major part. In addition to paying tribute to Alan's contribution to chess in some many ways, I can acknowledge my special debt of gratitude for his part in finding a solution to that extremely difficult and unsatisfying situation.

Alan and his late wife Joan lived in retirement in Hamilton. He is survived by his five children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Alan Fletcher's games

Here are two of Alan Fletcher's games, not necessarily his best, but key games in his over-the-board play. The first was his win over the runner-up which gave Alan the Auckland Chess League title in 1950.

Fletcher,A - Belton,C

[C00]

Auckland CL Championship, 1950

Notes by A E Turner

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 cxd4

The normal line is 5...♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♗e7 after which White has no certain advantage, though 7.♗g4 and h4 are both very difficult to meet.

6.axb4 dxc3 7.♗g4

The most aggressive move. It is curious that the "natural" 7.bxc3 gives White an unsatisfactory game after 7...♗c7. But by giving up the ♖, White gets a strong initiative and an enduring command of the board. This is why Black seldom plays 5...bxc3.

7...♗f8 8.♗f3 cxb2

Black succumbs to the temptation to hold the ♖ for good. The wiser course was to forget the ♖ and to erect a bastion on the ♗-side by

7...a5, followed by ♖a6, ♜c6-e7 and ♜b6-c5.

9.♙xb2 ♜h6

This should be preceded by ...h5, since now the ♜ can never settle at f5 because the immediate reaction ♗g4. On h6 he intensifies the existing congestion, for neither the h nor ♗ Δ can now move, and the ♜♙ is going to be very hard to develop.

10.♙f4 ♙c7

Looks good, for it attacks the c-Δ and pins the e-Δ.

11.♙d3 ♜g8

Leaving open the dark diagonal on which White's ♙♙ is so often effective against the Winawer. In addition there is now a mild threat of ...f6, which could not be played at once (12.exf6, winning a ♙).

12.♙g5

Not 12.♙g3, as ...♙f5 would upset White's game. Now there is a latent threat of mate at d8, embarrassing to Black.

12...♙c6

A sounder-looking move would be hard to find, and yet this leads directly to worse difficulties for Black. Not improbably he is in a losing position already.

13.b5

The only move to keep the initiative, but very effective.

13...♙b4

13...♙a5 is no improvement and ...♙b8 or ..♙d8 would be abject. 13...♙e7 is smashingly refuted by 14.b6 ♙d8 (14...♙d7 15.♙xa7 ♙b8 16.♙a3 ♙c6 17.♙b5, followed by 18.♙d6) 15.♙xa7 ♙b8 (15...♙xa7 16.bxa7 ♙d7 17.♙a3 ♜f8 18.♙xe7+ ♙xc7 19.a8♙+) 16.♙a3 ♜f8 17.♙d6.

14.0-0 b6

This looks slow, but there seems nothing better. Black cannot keep the hostile ♙♙ out, e.g., 14...a5 15.♙a3 ♙b8? 16.c3 ♙xd3 17.♙d6 and wins.

15.♙a3

23rd move not given below -
possibly 23. h3 Ng7

Finely judged. The open file more than compensates White for parting with his less useful ♙.

15...♙xd3 16.cxd3 a5

Staking everything on a ♙-side superiority in the endgame, if there should be one. But the necessary move was 16...♙f5 17.g4 h6 18.♙d2 ♙e7, followed by ...♙a7 and ...♙e8. Of course, Black should still lose.

17.♙d6

Strong, but there was a stronger move in 17.g4 with the nasty threat of ♙e7-f6 and ♙xg7+. If Black tries 17...♙a7, then 18.♙fc1 ♙d7 19.♙e7 ♙e8 20.♙f6 ♙f8 21.♙xc8. 17...♙d7, aiming at f8, thus permitting White's ♙37-f6, allows White a tremendous advantage also.

17...♙d7 18.♙fc1 ♙f5

At last! Now Black's whole ♜-side can come to life. But White still has a powerful weapon in the c-file.

19.♙c7 ♙e8 20.♙ac1 h6 21.♙d2 ♜h7 22.♙c2 g6

This hardly seems necessary yet. 22...♙d7, followed by ...♙c8, would probably have permitted a longer resistance. 23.g4 ♙g7 The intention behind his last move. The alternative was 23...♙xd6 24.exd6 ♙d7 25.♙e5 ♙d8 (25...♙xb5 26.♙xf7) 26.♙xd7 ♙xd7 27.♙c6 followed, whether Black exchanges ♙s or not, by ♙xb6, and the two separated, advanced passed ♙s must win.

24.♙e7 ♙xb5

If 24...♙g8 25.♙c7 wins.

25.♙xf7 ♙d7

The best chance was 25...♙e8 26.♙c7 ♙g8. But then 27.g5, and White wins after 27...hxg5, ...h5 or a4.

26.♙d4 ♙a4

Otherwise the ♙ goes.

27.♙xa4 ♙xa4 28.♙xe6 ♙hg8 29.♙cc7 d4 30.♙xg7 ♙b3 31.♙e6+ Mate in 3.

White's play was very energetic and mostly accurate as well. 1-0

† L J Kiley

Correspondence chess lost another of its most valued members when Len Kiley died on December 29 last year. Len was one of the team who ran NZCCA when its headquarters moved from Wangauī to Auckland (see the article on Alan Fletcher), and Alan supplied NZCCA secretary Sandy Maxwell with the following details of Len's service.

Len, who was 87, was the original handicap director when the NZCCA headquarters shifted to Auckland in 1960, and spent two seasons knocking the tourney into shape. Then pressure of work in his State Department obliged him to seek a successor. He helped to give the Auckland-based association a very good start in its renewed life.

Len was elected vice-president of NZCCA in the 1960s and became a life member in 1973. His chess continued until about 10 years ago, when failing eyesight became a problem.

He is survived by his wife, Rona, and two sons, Father Peter and John.

When Alan Fletcher won the following game, it deprived David Lynch of the chance of winning the New Zealand title (David finished half a point behind A E Nield, but won the title two years later). Alan finished 4= on 6½, ahead of A W Gyles and T Lepviikman.

Fletcher, A - Lynch, D

[E05]

56th NZ Championship, Wanganui, 1949

Notes by A Pickett

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♙f3 ♙f6 4.g3 dxc4?

Best here is ♙bd2. Why give White control of the long diagonal?

5.♙g2 ♙e7

...c5 at once is more forcible, challenging the centre and making the ♜ work without moving. Castles is not urgent yet.

6.0-0 0-0 7.♙bd2 ♙bd7 8.♙xc4 c5

Too late. This exchange of ♙s actually gives White two moves ahead with a free game. Black is cramped and worried. c6 is better.

9.b3 cxd4 10.♙xd4 a6?

Making another hole for White to plug into. Note how difficult things are for Black - every move he makes leaves White two jumps ahead. ...h6, anticipating White's 17th move, is preferable.

11.♙b2 ♙c5 12.♙c2 ♙c7 13.♙ac1 ♙d7 14.♙f3 ♙c6

...♙d5 or ...h6 is called for. Black does not yet see the force of White's attack.

15.♙e5 ♙d8 16.♙fd1 ♙d5 17.♙g5

From now on Black has only "here's hoping" left.

17...h6 18.♙xf6 hxg5 19.♙xe7 ♙xe7 20.♙b6 ♙d7 21.♙xa8

White is merciful. ♙c7 and Black's game is gone.

21...♙xa8 22.♙xd5 exd5 23.♙xd5 ♙e5 24.♙c5 ♙e8 25.♙xe7 ♙xe7

White won in another 22 moves. 1-0

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† Grant Jeffery Lezard

By Mark Sinclair

In some ways I don't feel qualified enough to write this obituary about a man who displayed many talents and was walking in the prime time of his life when he tragically passed away, saddening many.

Grant Jeffrey Lezard, who was 29, was a born and bred patriotic Wellingtonian who had a fantastic zest for life that I saw in no other. Right from his early days at Rongotai College he displayed a passion for the game of chess. An example of his play in school days is given on page 116 of the October 1987 issue of *NZ Chess*.

Grant qualified for the NZ Schoolpupils final that year and finished a creditable third equal behind Auckland's Jason des Forges and his good friend Todd Stevenson. Later in life Grant and Todd were to holiday in Hawaii which Grant thought was a fantastic trip, and he would usually tell the tales of that trip with the help of photos taken on the beach there.

Apart from his chess, Grant was a cricket and rugby fanatic who was very loyal to his Wellington Lions, supporting them at Athletic park many times, and always having his viewpoint on who should make the All Black squad. Most chess players that I have spoken to were surprised to hear that he had a talent for tennis. Grant was the Miramar club champion during his time at the club and always helped out the up-and-comers. Often the boys would have gathered at his place and he would disappear for a little while during one of those warm summer afternoons, and then he would return for some more of whatever was going down. Where had he gone? Just up to the University courts for a "few hits" with a mate or two.

Grant gained his Bachelor of Computer Science degree from Victoria University and was very keen on most aspects of computing. I remember a few times that he snuck the boys in for a few late night sessions on the internet as that was a real novelty in those days.

NZ Chess

Grant was also into various music groups, notably rock'n'roll, and made a few trips to Auckland to see his favourite bands, during his University breaks. He was very thrilled to see the Rolling Stones live in concert.

Grant was known in his later days as "Grobler" (nothing to do with the goalkeeper Grobbelaar I'm told) and few will forget his witty sense of humour and cackly laugh. There are many a good tale about Grant, too many to note down here, but if you are ever in Wellington, you may meet people from various walks of life that are still raving about the man who had one of the biggest hearts that I ever knew.

After Grant got his degree and saved up enough money from his many office hours working databases and using spreadsheets, he left for a better position in a firm in Australia. On the 27th December 1998, Grant was tragically drowned in the early hours of the day on Coogee beach in Sydney.

Glad to have known you Grobler mate. Will miss the transfer and analysis sessions round at your place, the eventful trips north, the "girlie biscuit" wind-ups and Grobler shakes... the life in you.

Not many of Grant's games are well known, but I consider this to be one of his best achievements. It was played during a fund-raising simultaneous display on July 29, 1995.

Lezard, G - Ker, A

Ker simultaneous, Johnsonville Mall, 1995

Notes by Mark Sinclair

1.e4 d6

As loyal as one ever could be to the Pirc Defence.

2.d4 e6 3.e3 g6 4.0e3

Grobler always had latest lines up his sleeve. This is one of the most popular variations of the decade, endorsed also by Jonathan Sarfati, his club captain.

4...0g7 5.0d2 c6 6.0d3 b5

Only very good players succeed with the Black pieces in this opening, because Black is left to his own devices to formulate a plan of action. Grandmaster Kotov classifies the opening in the "spring" class. Here Anthony uncoils some counterplay on the ♖-side.

7.0f3 0-0

Perhaps this is a bit committal. Now White has a definite plan of action. Better was to continue "uncoiling" the ♖-side.

8.0h6 0bd7 9.0-0-0

9.0xg7 0xg7 10.e5 (The other option, although a bit premature here) 10...dxe5 11.dxe5 0g4 12.0g5 0c5z.

9...b4 10.0e2 a5 11.h4

Sending out the boy! But Black still has a resource -

11...0e8?!

- which is certainly not this waste of time. Now Black is on the back foot.

11...0xh6!? 12.0xh6 0g4

This is the idea, designed to take out one of the ♖s just before the attack reaches full steam.

13.0d2 0xf2 14.h5 0xd1

14...0xh1 15.0xh10.

15.hxg6 fxg6

15...0f2? 16.0xh7 0g4 17.0g5+-.

16.0h6 0f7 17.0g5 0f8!

The sliding defence.

18.0xf7 0xf7 19.0xd1 0f6

And Black is a ♖ up in this unclear position.

12.0xg7 0xg7 13.h5 0g8

Defending h6 is the only move.

14.hxg6 fxg6 15.e5

Splitting Black in two, but missing a knock-out punch.

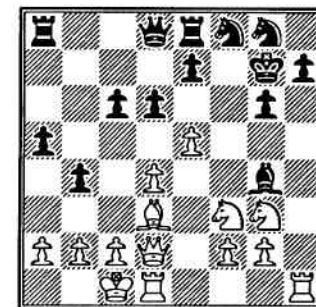
15.0xh7+

Up the sideline!!

15...0xh7 16.0g5+ 0g7 17.0e6+ 0f7 18.0f4+ 0g6 19.0xd8+ (Free Jono- Jonathan Sarfati). 19...0xd8 20.e5 (Jono-ing).

15...0f8 16.0g3 0g4

To eliminate a dangerous attacker.



17.0g5!

The best move of the game. White allows his ♖s to be shattered, but Grobler has his own ideas.

17...0xf3 18.gxf3 e6 19.0g4 0a7

19...d5 More obvious, but Anthony probably saw the flaw to this. 20.0h5+ 0h8 (20...0f7 21.0f4+ 0e7 22.0g7) 21.0f4 (Here we see the benefits of having an open g-file) 21...0e7 22.0xg6 0exg6 23.0xg6+ 0xg6 24.0xh7+!! 0xh7 25.0g1 and Black is paralyzed.

20.0e4 d5 21.0d6 0e7 22.f4

"First Phase" - Grobler.

22...0h6?

The decisive mistake. 22...0h80 23.0g5 0b8 24.0d6 0g7 25.0g3. White is a lot healthier and can meet any ...a4, ...b3 attacks with a3, but at least Black is still alive, thanks to the missed opportunity on move 15.

23.0xh6! 0xh6 24.f5

"Second Phase" - Grobler.

24...0g7

24...exf5 25.0xf5+ gxf5 26.0h1#.

25.f6+ 0g8 26.fxe7 0xe7 27.f4+-

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Third Phase!!

27...c5 28.dxc5 Ec7 29.f5 exf5 30.Qxf5 Eg7
31.Qe6+ Qh8 32.Qf7+ Hxf7 33.Qxf7 We7
34.Wf4 Qd7 35.Hxd5 Qxc5 36.Hxc5 1-0

Another tribute

By Earl N Roberts

The passing of Grant Lezard should be noted with great sadness. I had the pleasure of first meeting Grant when I represented Kapiti CC in an interclub match against Wellington. Grant not only made an impression as a fine chess player but as a fine sportsman as well.

Roberts, E - Lezard, G

[B21]

Interclub match Kapiti CC, 1995

Notes by Earl Roberts

1.e4 c5 2.Qf3 Qc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3
5.Qxc3 d6 6.Qc4 e6 7.0-0 Qe7 8.Qf4 e5 9.Qe3
Qf6 10.We2 0-0 11.Hfd1 a6 12.a3?! b5
13.Qa2 Qe6 14.Qxe6?!+-

Only marginally better is 14.Qd5 Qxd5
15.exd5 Qa7.

14...fxe6 15.Hac1 Ec8 16.Qg5 Wd7 17.f4

Maybe 17.b4!?

17...h6 18.Qf3 Qg4 19.fxe5 Qcxe5 20.Qxe5
Qxe5 21.Qd4 Qc4 22.Wg4?

This makes Black's position a good winning one.

22...Qg5 23.Hc2 Qe3 24.Qxc3 Qxe3+ 25.Qh1
Wf7 26.h4 d5 27.exd5 exd5 28.Hc2 d4 29.Qd5
Qf2?

At the least, not best. 29...Hfe8 30.Qxc3
dxe3 should win easily for Black.

30.Hc7 h5 31.Hxf7 hxg4 32.Hxf2 Hxf2
33.Qe7+ Qf7 34.Qxc8 g3 35.Qd6+ Qe6 36.Qe4
Hxb2 37.Qxg3 Qe5 38.Qh2 Hb3

38...Ha2 39.Hc1+ Qd5 40.Qg1± looks better.

39.Ha1 Qf4 40.Qh5+ Qe3 41.Qxg7 d3 42.Qf5+
Qf4 43.Qd4 Ec3 44.Qf3 Qe3 45.h5 d2 0-1

Time. Unfortunately, in defending a lost position for most of the game I had fallen into severe time trouble and when my flag fell on

about move 37 or 38, I waited for my then unknown opponent to claim the game, but we carried on. It was not until the Wellington team captain approached the board to claim the game at move 45, that I was treated to something I shall never forget - my opponent tell his own captain to b- off and that he wanted to complete the game whatever the outcome. It should be said in the many off-hand games we had subsequently, many of the company of a close friend, R Andrew Stanton, this was as close as I ever got to winning a game from Grant. A sad loss.

Auckland junior championship

Igor Bjelobrk decisively retained his Auckland junior championship title with an 8/8 picket fence in the annual tournament held on April 7 - 9.

Bjelobrk finished 2½ points clear of three runners-up on 5½ - Paul Godfrey, 9-year-old Puchen Wang and Colm Hartigan. Godfrey lost to Wang as well as to Bjelobrk, and drew with Hartigan. Hartigan lost to Godfrey as well as to Bjelobrk, and drew with Wang.

Wang lost only to Bjelobrk, but in addition to drawing with the other runners-up, also drew with M L Ah-Chee, who finished in a multiple tie for 5= on 5 points. The others on 5 points were P Sweetsur, H Cheng, M Chilvers, D Han and A Ashrafi.

Bjelobrk, I - Wang, P

[A47]

1.d4 e6 2.Qf3 Qf6 3.Qf4 b6 4.e3 Qb7 5.Qbd2
a6 6.Qd3 d5 7.c3 Qbd7 8.h3 Qe7 9.0-0 0-0
10.We2 c5 11.a3 c4 12.Qc2 b5 13.Qe1 a5
14.f3 b4 15.e4 Qe8 16.e5 Qc7 17.Qg3 bxc3
18.bxc3 Qb5 19.Qb1 Wb6 20.Qf2 Hf8 21.f4
g6 22.Qf3 Qc6 23.We1 a4 24.Qh4 Wd8
25.Qxe7 Wxe7 26.Wg3 Qc7 27.Ha2 Qf8 28.Qg5
h5 29.Qh7+ Qg7 30.Qf6 Qe8 31.Qxh5+ Qf8
32.f5 exf5 33.Qf4 Qg7 34.Qd2 Qe8 35.Qxg6
fxg6 36.Wxg6+ Qd8 37.Wxc6 Wg5 38.Qf3
We3+ 39.Qh1 Qh5 40.Wg6 Qf4 41.Wg5+ Qc7
42.Hc1 0-1

Civic Easter

By David Capper

After some years of falling numbers, Civic decided to convert their traditional tournament into a one-day rapid, held in Turnbull House, Wellington. This resulted in a bigger field and an enjoyable day of chess (for some).

President John Gillespie welcomed 24 players. It was good to see Justin Davis, Michael Burn and Brent Cooze from Hawke's Bay, even if they did return empty-handed! Prince Vetharaniam headed the Wanganui contingent and Glenys Mills brought Kapiti players and her usual morale-building presence. The tournament was ably directed by Alan Aldridge.

Stephen Lukey was heading for a picket fence, but this was threatened in round 6 by Nic Croad, who had an extra bishop in a pawn

ending. Stephen converted a looming zero into a half, and won the event with 5½/6.

Prince Vetharaniam was second on 5, followed by Croad on 4½. Then came Justin Davis, Michael Burn, Matthew Kuch and Michael Haw 4; Alan Winfield, Robert Edwards 3½; Barry Williams, Lawrence Farrington, John Gillespie, Brent Southgate, Glenys Mills, Gavin Dash 3.

Alan Winfield and Robert Edwards shared the first grade prize, and unrated Matthew Kuch and Michael Haw shared the second grade prize with 4 points. Mention should be made of Mike O'Rourke, who had to ascend three flights of stairs in a wheelchair (with help!) and smiled all the time.

Top-rated women and junior players

The top-rated registered junior and womplayers at the end of 1998 include juniors eligible in 1998, so were under 20 at 1 January last year. The standard ratings are:

Top 20 Under 20

1	4872	BJELOBRK I	AC	1937	4	4886	MACFARLANE AS	WT	1661
2	4393	DUNN AS	PT	1878	5	4493	HARRIS P	OT	1581
3	5127	TRASS R	GA	1754	6	5138	MILLER C	PK	1558
4	5297	TKATCHENKO S	WE	1744	7	5268	WANG PC	WT	1549
5	4833	SAVAGE P	WE	1724	8	4798	HARTIGAN C	WT	1548
6	3987	MENABB M	CA	1717	9	4865	AH-CHEE ML	AC	1472
7	5083	CROAD N	WE	1683	10	5073	VAN DER WAL T	HP	1437
8	4886	MACFARLANE AWT	1661	11	5305	PEARSON D	CA	1426	
9	4796	GOUDIE D	WT	1644	12	5124	TRASS C	GA	1422
10	4580	BATCHELOR A	OT	1609	13	5349	HAN D		1344
11	4885	GODFREY P	WT	1601	14	5350	BAYER R		1330
12	4493	HARRIS P	WA	1581	15	5347	YANG		1259
13	5138	MILLER C	PK	1558	16	5345	LIN H		1212
14	5268	WANG PC	WT	1549	17	5346	STANKOVIC B		1208
15	4798	HARTIGAN C	WT	1548	18	4736	SHEEHAN SB	HH	1206
16	4497	SHEEHAN R	HH	1543					
17	4500	SHEEHAN T	HH	1524					
18	4966	HALL C	CA	1487					
19	4586	LE BROCC M	NS	1474					
20	4865	AH-CHEE ML	AC	1472					

Top 18 Under 16

1	4872	BJELOBRK I	AC	1937	1	METGE KM	PT	1810
2	5297	TKATCHENKO S	WE	1744	2	SMITH VJ	WT	1600
3	4833	SAVAGE P	WE	1724	3	SHEEHAN R	HH	1543
4	4886	MACFARLANEAS	WT	1661	4	SHEEHAN T	HH	1524
					5	KINGSTON ZH	KP	1523
					6	MIKHAILIK E	WT	1508
					7	OTENE EA	AC	1472
					8	COURTNEY HK	GA	1319
					9	MILLS G	KP	1291
					10	SHEEHAN SB	HH	1206

Selected games

Champion's congress games

The New Zealand champion, IM Russell Dive, annotates two of his Congress games.

Johnson, Q - Dive, RJ

[A58]

106th NZ Champ, Dunedin, R 9

Notes by IM Russell Dive

1.d4 e2f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5

At the time I thought the Benko would be a good choice of opening against Quentin.

4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.e2c3 Qxa6 7.e2f3 d6 8.g3 Qg7 9.Qg2 e2bd7 10.0-0 e2b6 11.Ee1 0-0 12.h3?

An unnecessary move in this position, where time is of the essence.

12...Ea7 13.e2h4 e2e8 14.f4 e2c7 15.e4 P2d7 16.f2h2?!

Better was 16.e2f3, getting the e2 back into position.

16...e2c4 17.P2c2 e2b5

Its now time to open up the P2-side, before White gets his pieces organised.

18.e2xb5 P2xb5 19.e2f3

The alternative 19.Qf1 leads to 19...P2b4 20.Ee2 E2b8 and the pressure on White's P2-side is too much.

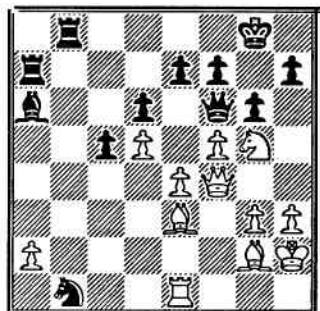
19...Q2xb2 20.E2b1

Better is to simply take on b2, but the future is still not bright. E2b1 loses the exchange, but does provide some potentially dangerous counterplay. 20.a4 P2b7 21.Q2xb2 P2xb2 22.P2xb2 e2xb2.

20...e2a3 21.P2xb2?

21...e2xb1 22.P2f2 E2b8+ 23.f5 P2a4 Black must play carefully here or he will soon find his e2 surrounded by White pieces. From here the P2 eyes a number of key squares.

24.e2g5 P2d4 25.Qe3 P2f6 26.P2f4



26...Qd3!

Once again the precise move, which allows both Black Es access to White's second rank.

27.Qxc5 E2xa2 28.E2d1 E2bb2 29.E2xd3 E2xg2+ 30.f2h1 E2a8 0-1

Dive, R (2335) - Gladkikh, A

[D53]

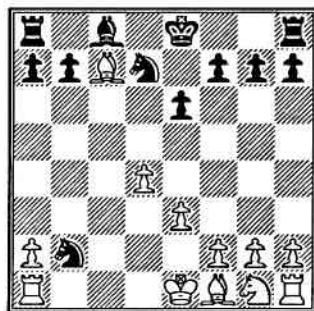
106th NZ Champ, R 10

Notes by IM Russell Dive

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.e2c3 e2f6 4.Qg5 Qe7 5.e3 e2bd7 6.cxd5 e2xd5 7.Qxe7 e2xc3?!

This dubious move leads to a good middle-game for White, because of the twos Qs and the weak black squares.

8.Qxd8 e2xd1 9.Qxc7 e2xb2



10.e2f3!

NZ Chess

Why an exclamation mark for a normal developing move? Because White avoids the extremely tempting 10.a4, which aims to trap Black's e2 on b2, but only succeeds in diluting White's advantage, e.g., 10.a4? e2b6 11.a5 e2a4 12.e2f3 Qd7 13.Qc2 E2c8 14.Qd6 E2c2 and White's pieces are very uncoordinated.

10...e2a4 11.Qd6 a6 12.Qd3 b5 13.0-0 f6 14.E2f1

White is now ready to make trouble, while Black is still untangling his pieces.

14...e2ab6 15.E2c7 e2d5 16.E2c2 f2f7 17.a4!

An opportune moment to create a further weakness.

17...b2xa4 18.E2xa4 e2b6 19.E2a5

Black's position is now full of holes and it is just a matter of time before something falls off.

19...E2d8 20.Qc5 e2d7

White threatened 21.e4, winning a piece.

21.Qa3 f2g8 22.h4

To avoid any future nasty back rank mates.

22...E2a7 23.e2d2 e2b6? 24.Qc5 E2c7?

Loses an exchange. Better was 24...E2b7, dropping the a-Δ, although still with an unpleasant position.

25.e4 E2xc5 26.d2xc5 e2b4 27.E2c3 e2xd3 28.c2xb6

With an exchange up and a strong passed Δ on b6, the game is effectively over.

28...e2e5 29.f3 Q2b7 30.e2f1 e2c6 31.E2a2 f2f7 32.E2d2 e2c7 33.E2xd8 f2xd8 34.e2e3 f2d7 35.e2c4 e5 36.E2d3+ e2d4 37.e2a5 Q2c6 38.f2f2 g5 39.h2xg5 f2xg5 40.E2c3

and Black lost on time. The threat of 41.b7 and taking twice on c6 cannot be stopped. 1-0

North Shore CC championship

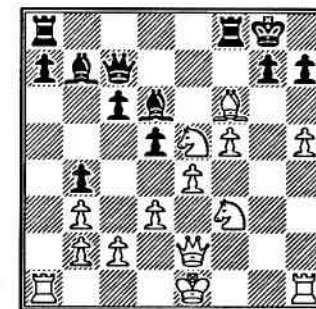
Darryn Elliott has not played much of late and took a while to reach top form, starting with 1/4 but finishing in the top half. He missed a win in the following game.

Elliott, D - Weir, P

[C28]

Notes by NM Peter Stuart

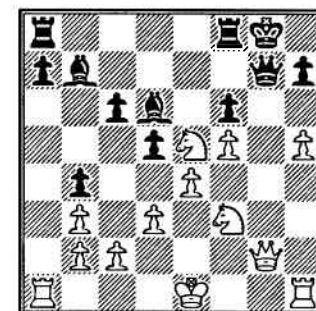
1.e4 e5 2.Qc4 e2f6 3.e2c3 e2c6 4.d3 Qe7 5.f4 0-0 6.e2f3 d6 7.f5 e2a5 8.P2e2 c6 9.g4 b5 10.Q2b3 e2xb3 11.a2xb3 b4 12.e2d1 P2c7 13.g5 e2e8 14.e2e3 Q2b7 15.e2g4 f6 16.h4 d5 17.h5 f2xg5 18.Q2xg5 e2f6 19.e2g5x5 Q2d6 20.Q2xf6



20...g2xf6

20...E2xf6 21.e2g4 Q2g3+ 22.f2f1 E2f7 23.h6 P2f4 24.e2g5! E2e7 25.f2g2 E2xe5 26.e2xe5 P2xe5 27.P2g4 Q2f4 28.E2h4 Q2c3=.

21.P2g2+ P2g7



22.e2g6! h2xg6 23.h2xg6 d2xc4 24.E2h7?

24.e2d4! c5 (24...E2fe8 25.E2h7 e2xd3+ 26.e2e6+-) 25.e2e6 e2xd3 26.P2g1! (26.E2h7 Q2xg2 27.E2xg7+ f2h8 28.f2f2 Q2d5 29.E2h7+ f2g8=) 26...E2fe8 27.E2h7+-.

24...e2xf3 25.P2h3 E2fe8+ 26.f2f1 E2e7 27.E2xg7+

NZ Chess

Exg7 28.♔f2 ♖c5+ 29.♔g3 ♗d6+ 30.♔xf3 c5+ 31.♔f2 ♖e5 32.♖e1 ♖e8 33.♔f1 ♖ee7 34.♖h4 ♗d5 35.♖e3 ♗xb2 36.♖h3 ♔f8 37.c4 ♗b7 38.♖f4 ½-½

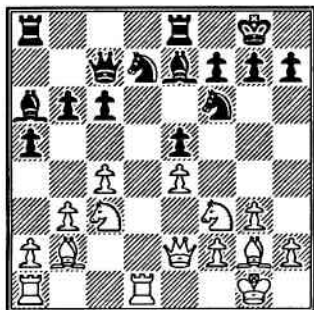
Tactics gain easy points

Garbett's tactical alertness gained him two easy points late in the tournament.

Stuart,P - Garbett,P
[A13]

Notes by NM Peter Stuart

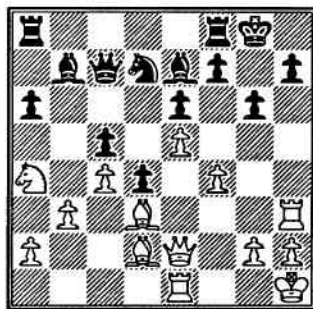
1.♔f3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 ♔f6 4.b3 ♖e7 5.♗g2 0-0 6.♗b2 a5 7.♔c3 c6 8.e3 b6 9.0-0 ♗a6 10.d3 ♔bd7 11.e4 dxc4 12.dxc4 e5 13.♖e2 ♖c7 14.♖fd1 ♖fe8



15.♗d2??
15.♖ac1=
15...a4! 16.♔xa4 b5 17.♔c3
17.cxb5 cxb5 18.♔c3 b4 19.♔b5 ♖a5-+]
17...bxc4 18.bxc4 ♔b6 19.♗f1? [19.♖c2 ♔xc4 20.♖e1 ♖eb8 21.♗c1f.
19...♔xc4 20.♗dd1 ♖eb8-+ 21.♖c1 ♔b2 0-1

Garbett,P - Barlow,M
[B42]
Notes by NM Peter Stuart

1.e4 c5 2.♔f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♔xd4 a6 5.♗d3 ♖c7 6.♖e2 d6 7.0-0 ♔f6 8.c4 ♖e7 9.♔c3 0-0 10.♔h1 ♔c6 11.♔xc6 bxc6 12.f4 d5 13.b3 d4 14.♔a4 ♔d7 15.e5 g6 16.♗d2 c5 17.♖f3 ♗b7 18.♖h3 ♔b8 19.♖e1 ♔d7



20.f5! exf5 21.♗xf5 ♔h8
21...gxf5? 22.♖h5 ♗xg2+ 23.♔xg2 ♖c6+ 24.♔f2+-; 21...♖fe8 22.e6 ♗d6 (22...♔f8 23.exf7+ ♔xf7 24.♖xh7+!+-) 23.♖xh7 (23.exf7+) A) 23...♔xh7 24.♖h5+ ♔g7 25.♖h6+ ♔f6 (25...♔g8 26.exf7+ ♔xf7 27.♖xg6+ ♔f8 28.♗h6#) 26.♗g4 ♔e7 27.cxd7+-; B) 23...♖xe6 24.♗xe6 ♔xh7 25.♗xf7-; 21...♔xe5 22.♖xe5 ♖xe5 23.♖xe5 ♗f6 24.♗e4 ♗xe5 25.♗xb7+-.
22.♗e4 ♗xe4 23.♖xe4 ♖ac8
23...♖fe8 24.♖d5!+-.
24.♖f4 ♖g8
24...h5 25.♖h6+ ♔g8 26.c6-; 24...♖g8 25.♖xh7+! ♔xh7 26.♖h6#. 1-0

NZ rapid championship

Dowden,R - Dive,R
[B02]

NZ Rapid Championship, Dunedin, 1999

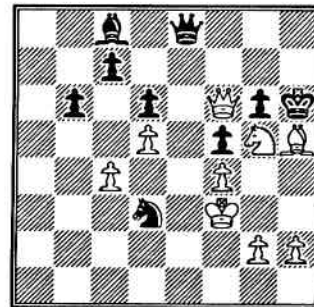
1.e4 ♔f6 2.e5 ♔d5 3.c4 ♔b6 4.d4 d6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.♔c3 g6 7.♗d3 ♗g7 8.♔ge2 0-0 9.0-0 e5 10.♗e3 ♔c6 11.d5 ♔b4 12.b3 a5 13.a3 ♔xd3 14.♖xd3 ♖e8 15.♖ad1 ♗f5 16.♔e4 ♔d7 17.b4 ♗xe4 18.♖xe4 f5 19.♖f3 axb4 20.axb4 ♖a3 21.g3 ♖a8 22.♖g2 ♖a4 23.c5 ♖xb4 24.c6 ♔f6 25.♖b1 ♖b3 26.♗d2 ♖xd2 27.♖xb3 bxc6 28.dxc6 e4
28...♖xe2 29.♖c1 ♖c8 30.c7 d5 31.♖b8 ♖a6 32.♖xc8+ ♖xc8-+.
29.♔f4 ♖c8 30.f3 ♖xg2+ 31.♔xg2 exf3+ 32.♔xf3 ½-½

Auckland CC Championship

Macdonald,P - Latimer,B
[E94]

Notes by Paul Macdonald

1.d4 ♔f6 2.♔f3 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.♔c3 d6 5.e4 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 exd4 8.♔xd4 ♔c6 9.♔c2 ♖e8 10.f3 a5 11.♖e1 ♔d7 12.♗e3 ♔f8 13.♖d2 ♔e6 14.♖ad1 ♖f8 15.♗h6 ♔b4 16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.♗f1 ♔c6 18.♔d5 f6 19.♔ce3 h5 20.f4 ♔c5 21.♔c3 ♖d7 22.♗e2 ♖f7 23.♗f3 ♖e8 24.♔ed5 ♔b4 25.♔b5 ♔xd5 26.exd5 ♖xe1+ 27.♖xe1 ♗f5 28.♔d4 ♗d7 29.b3 f5 30.a3 ♔h6 31.b4 axb4 32.axb4 ♔a6 33.♔e6 ♖e8 34.♖c3 ♗c8 35.♔f2 b6 36.♔g5
36.♗xh5! ♗xc6 (36...gxf5 37.♔g5) 37.♖xe6 ♖xc6 38.dxe6 ♖f8 39.♗f3±.
36...♖g8 37.♖xe8 ♖xe8 38.♖f6
38.♗xh5 ♔xb4 39.♗xg6 ♔xg6 40.♖xb4±.
38...♔xb4 39.♗xh5 ♔d3+ 40.♔f3



40...♔e1+??
40...♔xf4! 41.♔xf4 (41.♔f7+ ♔h7 42.♔xf4 ♖e4+ 43.♔g3 f4+ 44.♖xf4 ♖xf4+ 45.♔xf4 gxf5) 41...♖e5+ 42.♖xe5 dxe5+ 43.♔xe5 ♔xg5 44.♗e2.
41.♔g3 ♔xh5 42.♔e6 1-0
Watson,B - Macdonald,P
[A39]
Notes by Paul Macdonald
1.♔f3 ♔f6 2.g3 c5 3.♗g2 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.c4 0-0 6.♔c3 ♔c6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♔xd4 ♔xd4

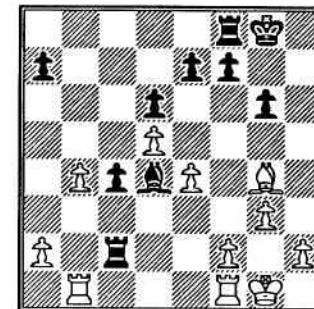
9.♖xd4 d6 10.♖d3 ♗f5 11.e4 ♗e6 12.♔d5 ♖c8 13.♗g5 h6 14.♗xf6 ♗xd5 15.cxd5
15.♗xg7 ♗xc4 16.♖d4 e5 17.♖xa7 ♔xg7.

15...♗xf6 16.♗h3 ♖c5 17.b4 ♖c3 18.♖d2 ♖c4 19.♖ac1 b5!?

19...♖xe4 20.♖c8 ♖b6 21.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 22.♖xb6+ ♗g7 23.♖c1] 20.♖xb6 ♗b2! 21.♖b1 [21.♖xc4 bxc4±.

21...♖c2 22.♖e3
22.♖xb2 ♖xb2 23.♗e6! fxe6 24.♖xg6+ ♔h8.

22...♖c7 23.♗g4 ♖c4 24.♖b3 ♗d4 25.♖xc4 bxc4



26.a4?
26.♖bc1!±
26...♖a2 27.♗d7 c3 28.b5 c2 29.♖bc1 ♗c5 30.a5 ♗a3 31.♖ce1? ♗b4-+ 32.♖c1 ♗xa5 33.b6 axb6 34.♗b5 ♗d2 35.♗c4 ♗xc1 36.♖xc1 ♖b2 37.♔g2 ♖c8 0-1

Beach,P - Macdonald,P
[B01]

Notes by Paul Macdonald

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♔c3 ♖a5 4.d4 ♔f6 5.♔f3 c6 6.♗c4 ♗f5 7.♖e2 e6 8.♗d2 ♗b4 9.0-0-0 ♔bd7 10.a3 ♗xc3 11.♗xc3 ♖c7 12.♔e5 ♔xe5 13.dxe5 ♔d5 14.♗d4 ♖a5 15.g4 ♗g6 16.♗xd5 cxd5 17.♗c3 ♖b6 18.f4 ♗e4 19.♖hf1 ♖c8 20.f5 h5!? 21.f6
21.gxf5? ♗xf5±; 21.fxe6 ♖xe6±.

21...g6
21...gxf6 22.♖xf6 hxf6 23.♖d2 (23.♖xg4? ♖c3+ with the idea of 24...♖xc3!) 23...♖b5.

22.g5 ♠f8

Unbelievably, Black didn't see the simple 22...0-0! with a good game. As a result of not castling for so long, Black didn't even consider it as a possibility.

23.♠d4 ♠g8 24.♠d1?? ♠xc3! 25.bxc3

25.♠b4? ♠e3-+; 25.♠xc4 ♠xb2 26.♠b4 ♠xa3 27.♠xb7 ♠c4-+.

25...♠b1+ 26.♠d2 ♠xc2+ 27.♠e1 ♠xc3+ 28.♠d2

28.♠d2 ♠xa3? (28...♠h7!-+ with weaknesses on a3 and e5) A) 29.♠b5! ♠c1+ (29...a6 30.♠e8+ ♠f8 31.♠xf8+ ♠xf8 32.♠b2 b5 33.♠a2 ♠g8∞) 30.♠e2 ♠c4+ 31.♠xc4 dxc4 32.♠a1 ♠h7!∞ (32...a6? 33.♠d7 ♠c6 34.♠c7-) ; B) 29.♠f4 29...♠h7 (29...♠a1+! 30.♠d1 ♠xe5) 30.♠xc4 dxe4.

28...♠xa3 29.♠f4 ♠h7 30.♠fxe4 dxe4 31.♠d8 ♠xd8 32.♠xd8 ♠e3+ 33.♠d1 ♠d3+ 34.♠xd3 exd3 35.h4 ♠g8 36.♠d2 ♠f8 37.♠xd3 ♠e8 38.♠c4 ♠d7 39.♠b5 b6 40.♠a6 ♠c6 41.♠xa7 b5 42.♠b8 ♠d7 0-1

Jenkins Cup

This game, from the 1998 Jenkins Cup competition in Auckland, was one of the last of his games annotated by Ortvin Sarapu for *New Zealand Chess*.

Sarapu, O - Spiller, P
[B32]

Notes by IM Ortvin Sarapu

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 e5

Paul Spiller has played this Lowenthal variation for years.

5.♠b5 a6 6.♠d6+ ♠xd6 7.♠xd6 ♠f6 8.♠c7

Here 8.♠d1 is the main line. I did not like to play a line he knows well.

8...♠ge7 9.♠c3 0-0 10.♠e3 d6 11.0-0-0 ♠d4

Perhaps too stormy. Black is playing to take over the initiative.

12.h4!

Threatening ♠g5 and forcing weakening of Black's position. Instead, on ...h6 Paul goes on with the adventurous play.

12...♠g4?! 13.f3 ♠fc8 14.♠b6 ♠xf3?!

After using 1 hour 10 minutes and with only 18 minutes left for 26 moves, Black is in a bad way.

15.gxf3 ♠xc3 16.bxc3 ♠xf3 17.♠d3 1-0

All-Canterbury

Two games from the 1998 All-Canterbury Championship.

Johnson, Q - McNabb, M
[E99]

All-Canterbury Championship, 1998

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 g6 3.♠c3 ♠g7 4.e4 d6 5.♠f3 0-0 6.♠e2 e5 7.0-0 ♠c6 8.d5 ♠e7 9.♠e1 ♠d7 10.♠e3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.♠f2 g5 13.♠b5 a6 14.♠a7 ♠xa7 15.♠xa7 b6 16.b4 ♠b7 17.♠d3 c5 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.♠b3 ♠c8 20.♠xb6 ♠dxb6 21.♠xc5 ♠e7 22.♠xb7 ♠xb7 23.c5 ♠a7 24.cxb6 ♠xb6 25.♠ab1 ♠c4+ 26.♠f2 ♠e3 27.♠b6 ♠f7 28.♠b8+ ♠f8 29.♠xa7 ♠xa7 30.♠c1 ♠a3 31.♠c8+ ♠g7 32.♠c4 ♠xc4 33.♠xc4 ♠b7 34.♠fc2 ♠d6 35.♠c6 ♠b8 36.♠xa6 ♠a7+ 37.♠f1 ♠e3 38.♠e2 1-0

Benson, C - Donaldson, B
[B30]

All-Canterbury Championship, 1998

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.♠c3 d6 4.♠c4 e6 5.d3 ♠f6 6.♠g5 ♠e7 7.♠d2 ♠d7 8.a3 a6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♠a2 ♠c7 11.♠ae1 ♠fe8 12.d4 cxd4 13.♠xd4 ♠xd4 14.♠xd4 ♠ad8 15.♠e3 d5 16.e5 ♠c5 17.♠h4 ♠xc3 18.♠xf6 ♠h6 19.♠xd8 ♠xd8 20.♠xd8 ♠xd8 21.f4 g6 22.g4 ♠c8 23.♠b3 ♠f8 24.g5 ♠g7 25.♠c1 h5 26.♠e2 ♠e8 27.♠a2 a5 28.c3 a4 29.c4 dxc4 30.♠xc4 ♠xc4 31.♠xc4 ♠f8 32.♠g2 ♠c5 33.♠g3 ♠d8 34.♠d3 ♠c7 35.♠c3 ♠b6 36.♠c2 ♠a5 37.♠e4 ♠e7 38.b4+ axb3 39.♠xb3 ♠xa3 40.♠f6 ♠c6 41.f5 gxf5 42.♠xe6 ♠c1 43.♠xf7 f4+ 44.♠f2 ♠c3+ 45.♠e1 f3 46.♠xh5 ♠xg5 47.♠g4 b5 48.e6 b4 49.♠e5 ♠h4+ 50.♠f1 ♠b5+ 0-1

Queensland game

Roberts, L - Sarfati, JD

Gold Coast Open Queensland, 1998

1.♠f3 ♠f6 2.d4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.c4 b5 5.cxb5 a6 6.♠c3 axb5 7.e4 b4 8.♠b5

By transposition, we have reached the sharp Zaitsev variation. Black must be careful, but material is equal and the ♠ on b5 could become misplaced.

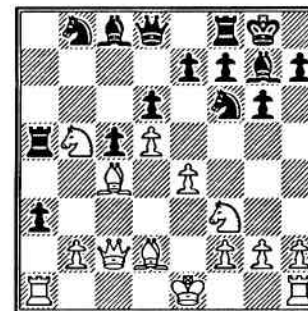
8...g6

8...♠xe4 is too greedy. White has too large a lead in development after 9.♠c4 g6 10.♠e2 ♠f6 11.♠f4.

9.♠f4 ♠g7 10.♠c4 0-0 11.♠c2?!

White should aim for e5, and removing support from d5 hinders this. Also, White cannot do without castling.

11...♠a5 12.a4 bxa3 13.♠d2?



Presumably White wants to challenge the long diagonal. But a second move with the ♠ with the ♠ in the centre meets a startling reply.

13...♠xc4! 14.♠xa5

14.♠xe4 ♠f5 15.♠e2 axb2-+.

14...♠xa5+ 15.♠f1

15.♠e2 would connect the ♠s so prevent material loss. But then the exposed ♠, plus weak ♠s on d5 and b2, Black's unopposed ♠g7, ♠ plus and single ♠ island mean Black has more than enough for the exchange.

15...♠xb2 16.♠xc4 ♠xa1 17.♠xe7 a2 18.♠a7 ♠a6 19.♠e2 ♠g7 20.♠g5 a1♠ 21.♠xa1 ♠xa1 0-1

NZ Masters

From the NZ Masters tournament in Wanganui, February 1999.

Dowden, A - Jackson, L
[B23]

Notes by Tony Dowden

1.e4 c5 2.♠c3 d6 3.f4 ♠c6 4.♠f3 g6 5.♠b5 ♠g7 6.♠xc6+ bxc6 7.d3 ♠g4?!

Black should aim for ...♠a6 and ...c4 at some stage.

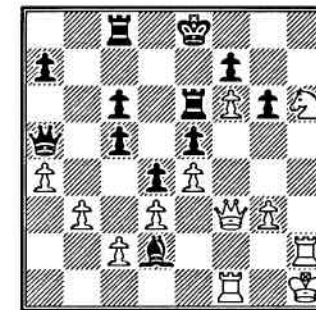
8.0-0 ♠f6 9.h3 ♠xf3 10.♠xf3 0-0 11.♠e3 ♠b8 12.♠ab1 ♠d7 13.♠d2 ♠b6 14.b3 d5 15.a4 d4

A serious positional concession.

16.♠d1 ♠d7 17.♠f2 ♠c8 18.♠h1 e5 19.f5 ♠f6?! 20.♠g5 ♠d6 21.♠xf6!

A white ♠ on f6 will dominate the position, as soon as the Black ♠ is forced into exile.

21...♠xf6 22.♠g4 ♠g5 23.f6 ♠h6 24.♠g3 ♠fe8 25.h4 ♠d2 26.♠f2 ♠f4 27.♠f3 ♠a5 28.g3 ♠d2 29.♠d1 ♠c3 30.♠h6+ ♠f8 31.h5 ♠c6 32.hxg6 hxg6 33.♠h2 ♠e8 34.♠f1 ♠d2



35.♠xf7! ♠xf7 36.♠h7+ ♠g8 37.f7+ ♠xh7 38.f8♠ ♠xf8 39.♠xf8

Black is helpless.

39...♠f4 40.♠f7+ ♠h6 41.♠xe6 ♠g5 42.♠xe5 ♠d8 43.♠f7 ♠g8 44.♠f2 1-0

New chess books

While more chess information, including coaching material, becomes available every day through the internet, this does not seem to have stemmed the growth of traditional chess literature. The flow of new books being published seems never-ending, and although the market is highly competitive, the demand must be there to make publishing economic. Some recently-released titles are mentioned below, with the prices at which the books are available from NZ Chess Supplies.

While many titles follow familiar paths, such as books on particular openings which are directed to specific markets, the occasional imaginative touch stands out. For instance, Murray Chandler's Gambit Publications has issued *How to beat your dad at chess* (written by Murray Chandler himself, \$38.50), which includes 50 deadly checkmates and will be found useful by club players of all ages. The same publishers have also issued *101 Opening Traps* (by Steve Giddens, \$42.00) which includes new as well as old deadly traps to catch the unwary.

In a more specialised pattern, Gambit's range of opening books include *Guide to the Benko Gambit* and *Guide to the Bogoy-Indian* (both by Steffen Pedersen, \$52.00), while Cadogan - recently renamed Everyman Chess - have issued *Easy guide to the Queen's Gambit Accepted* (by Graeme Buckley) and *Easy guide to the Panov-Botvinnik Attack* (by Jacob Aagaard, both \$48.00). The inclusion of games played in 1998 shows that these publications are right up-to-date.

The Middle Game

Books on openings and endings are referred to by players at all levels, but the complexities of the middle game calls for greater care by players in the selection of reference works which match their standard of play and understanding of the game. Cadogan-Everyman's *Practical middlegame tips* (by Edmar Mednis, \$56.00) offers examples and analysis which

can be particularly useful to the average club player, and while it gives many games it is presented in a format which could appeal to those who like to browse as well as those who prefer to study in depth.

Gambit's *Secrets of modern chess strategy* (by John Watson, \$68.00) is, as its sub-title *Advances since Nimzowitsch* suggests, is a much more ambitious work. It discusses the evolution of theory on the centre, pawn minorities and majorities, pawns in chains and doubled up, the IQP and use of the pieces in a modern context. Like *My System*, Watson's *Secrets* could become a standard reference.

Less original is Cadogan-Everyman's republication of Vladimir Vukovic's *Art of attack in chess* (\$64.00), which was reprinted at least 8 times after its first publication in 1965, but now has been translated into algebraic notation and revised by John Nunn. This means there is much fresh material in the new edition, and as Nunn points out renewed analysis can unearth unexpected surprises even in classic games which have already been subject to intensive study at the highest level.

Biography

Biographies of top chess players have always found a ready market, as much for the colourful personalities which can be revealed as for the games. A Gambit venture into this realm is *Chess champion from China* (\$52.00), the autobiography of world women's champion Xie Jun. She was reluctant to write about herself - she says her understanding of the game is modest compared with the top male players, and also doubted her ability to express herself in English.

When these reservations were set at rest, Xie Jun produced a story which gives fascinating insights into chess in China, as well as games and analysis which suggest that the gap between top levels of men's and women's chess is not all that wide.

New Zealand news

Civic CC

Russell Dive and Stephen Lukey shared honours in the 1998 Civic CC Championship, which was a double-rounder with six players and a tight finish at the top. They each scored 6/9, half a point ahead of Anthony Ker, with Arthur Pomeroy on 5½, Justin Phillips 2½ and Alan Winfield 1½.

Dive lost one game to Pomeroy, had a draw and a loss against Lukey and a draw with Ker. Lukey also had a loss to Pomeroy, plus four draws, and Ker had four draws in addition to losses to Dive and Lukey.

The 10-player B grade was won by B Mullen with 7/9, having four draws and no losses. He was half a point ahead of Don Stracy 6½, followed by Ross Jackson 6; Peter King 5; David Capper 4½; Julian Mazur and Robert Edwards 3½; Alan Aldridge, Philip Coghini and John Gilmartin 3.

Peter Himona narrowly won the C grade, another double-rounder with 6 players, scoring 7½/10. He finished just half a point ahead of John Gillespie, with Bruce Kay on 6½.

Anthony Ker won the club's Summer Cup, a Swiss, with 5½/6. He drew with Russell Dive, who was second on 5 after drawing with Justin Phillips as well as Ker. Phillips lost to David Capper in the first round, but recovered to finish 3= on 4½ with Julian Mazur, ahead of Brett Mullen, John Gilmartin, Alan Winfield and Arthur Pomeroy 3½.

Correspondence chess

By Gordon Hoskyn

The 66th New Zealand correspondence chess championship, which has just begun, had drawn a field of 11 players from seven different parts of the country. Here is the field in descending order of ratings - all the ratings are current, except for that of Peter Goffin, which dates back to 1994, when he last played:

R J Dive 2340, T J Doyle 2220, P B Goffin 2165, M L Dunwoody 2125, P A R Vetharaniam 2080, D J Cooper 2065, H P Bennett 2025, G A Hoskyn 1960, B W Millar 1920, L B Frost 1825, P J Voss 1790.

With some players opting to play by phone, fax or email, all well as the customary postal mail, a number of games are expected to be over well before the 13-month period is up. In fact, within the first month two games have already been decided: Doyle 0, Hoskyn 1; Cooper ½, Hoskyn ½.

There are four satellite grades; Reserve championship, 9 players; grade 2, 7 players (double round); grade 3, 11 players; grade 4, 5 players (double round).

The director of play for all grades is Peter Voss, of Blenheim.

Open tournaments scheduled for 1999

Details of each event are available from the organising club

Canterbury weekend rapid, Sat, May 15.

Wanganui graded teams tournament, Sat, May 22.

South Island Rapid Championship, Gambit CC, Blenheim, September 19.

South Island Championship, Gambit CC, Blenheim, September 20-24.

26th North Shore Open, October 2-3.

All-Canterbury Championship, Christchurch, December 11-12.

NZ Championship & Major Open, Howick-Pakuranga CC, Auckland, Dec 28 - Sat, Jan 9.

NZ Rapid Championship, Howick-Pakuranga CC, Auckland, Sun-Mon, Jan 10-11, 2000.

Clubs are asked to supply details of 1999 events as soon as dates are finalised

Qantas International Master Challenge

By Bob Gibbons

While we were playing in the Australian Open in January, Hilton Bennett and I were asked to compete in the Sydney Qantas IM Challenge, largely I suspect to make up the quota of foreign players required.

The format was a six-round swiss system with twelve players. The top three players would then play a three-round round-robin event with IM's Ben Martin, Robert Jamieson and Radek Kalod from Czechoslovakia. For us the event was likely to be a formidable challenge in its own right as the average strength was 2270 and the only bunnies to be seen were in the mirror.

The event was part of the Queen Victoria Building chess festival which included a concurrent Grandmaster event and so there were lots of spectators. Some of these were playing blitz chess in the tournament room which is not only unusual but provided some unwelcome distraction for the main players. Other than that, however, the event was generally well organised and a pleasure to play.

Although Andrew Allen dominated the early rounds scoring 3½/4 he crumbled on the last day with two losses and the eventual qualifiers were Vladimir Feldman, Igor Bellin and Irina Berezina (Tim Reilly having been knocked out in a playoff).

Outgunned, but interesting

Meanwhile, further down the field Hilton and I had been having an interesting time. Despite being heavily outgunned we had decided to give our opponents a further advantage by catching the overnight train from Melbourne and so turned up to the first round looking like a couple of short-sighted racoons. This took its toll as Hilton blundered into a mate in an easily won position against Brett Tindall (Brett's only stroke of luck in the event) and I threw away an endgame draw.

Hilton continued to strike misfortune and, despite a valiant try to win the last-round rock

ending, finished up with two draws and four losses. I was luckier and despite some uncomfortable positions (including losing the exchange to top-seeded Belin) had three successive draws and two wins to finish 5=.

In the round robin playoff both Belin and Feldman failed to qualify for their IM norms but Berezina qualified for a women's GM norm beating Jamieson and drawing with Martin and Kalod. That was Ben's only draw and he finished with 2½/3.

An interesting event. Thanks to our hosts for making our stay in Sydney so enjoyable.

Bennett, H - Tindall, B

1.b4 e5 2.♖b2 d6 3.c4 ♠f6 4.e3 g6 5.♠f3 ♙g7 6.♙c2 0-0 7.0-0 ♠c6 8.b5 ♠e7 9.d3 ♠d7 10.♠c3 f5 11.♖c2 f4 12.d4 ♠xe3 13.♠xe3 ♠f5 14.♠d1 ♖e7 15.♙d3 ♠h4 16.♠xh4 ♠xf1+ 17.♙xf1 ♖xh4 18.♖f2 ♖e7 19.♠c3 ♠f6 20.h3 ♙e6 21.♖f3 ♠f8 22.♖xb7 ♙h6 23.♠e1 ♠h5 24.♠e4 ♖h4 25.♙c3 ♙f5 26.♖d5+ ♠h8 27.♙d3 ♙xe4 28.♖xe4 ♖f2+ 29.♠h2 ♠g3 30.♖g4 ♙xe3 31.dxe5 ♠f5 32.exd6+ ♠g8 33.♙xf5 ♠xf5 34.dxc7 ♙f4+ 35.♠h1 ♙xc7 36.♖e4 ♖f1+ 0-1

Gibbons, R - Levi, E

1.e4 e5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.♙c4 ♠f6 4.♠g5 d5 5.exd5 ♠a5 6.♙b5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.♙e2 h6 9.♠f3 e4 10.♠e5 ♖d4 11.f4 ♙c5 12.♠f1 ♙b6 13.c3 ♖d6 14.b4 ♠b7 15.♠c4 ♖e7 16.♠xb6 axb6 17.♠f2 ♙f5 18.d4 e3+ 19.♠g1 ♙xb1 20.♠xb1 ♠xa2 21.♠f3 ♠d5 22.♙c4 ♠xc3 23.♖e1 0-0 24.♠xe3 ♖d6 25.♖xc3 ♠xg2+ 26.♠xg2 ♖g6+ 27.♠g3 ♖xb1 28.d5 g6 29.dxc6 ♖e4+ 30.♠g1 ♠d6 31.♙b2 ♖b1+ 32.♠g2 ♖e4+ 33.♠f3 1-0

Tindall, B - Gibbons, R

1.e4 e5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.♙b5 ♙c5 4.0-0 ♠ge7 5.c3 a6 6.♙a4 0-0 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 ♙a7 9.♠c3 d6 10.h3 h6 11.♙c3 b5 12.♙c2 ♠b4 13.♙b1 d5 14.a3 dxe4 15.♠xe4 ♠bd5 16.♖d3 ♙f5 17.♠e5 c5 18.dxc5 ♖c7 19.♠f3 ♠ad8 20.♠d4 ♙g6 21.b4 ♖e5 22.♠f3 ♖xa1 23.♙d4 ♠f4 24.♖e3 ♠xd4 25.♠f6+ gxf6 26.♙xg6 ♠d1 0-1

NZ Chess

Overseas news

By NM Peter Stuart

Wijk Aan Zee

After almost a year of inactivity, tournament-wise Gary Kasparov had something to prove. His last major event was Linares 1998 where he finished third equal behind Anand and Shirov. And Vishy Anand, ranked number two in the world, went on to have a marvellous year - four first places in category 17 or stronger events. This year's Wijk aan Zee event was the 61st in the series and was again of category 17.

Kasparov started quietly with a 22-move draw with the white pieces in an Exchange Queen's Gambit against Vassily Ivanchuk while Anand started with two wins. Kasparov, however, had started a winning streak in round 2 so the two favourites shared the lead with 3½/4. Anand reached 6/8, a very good score indeed, but he was now 1½ points behind Kasparov whose winning streak now extended to seven games, giving him a performance rating of way over 3000.

Quite unexpectedly he lost in round 9 to the previously winless Ivan Sokolov and after this he eased off somewhat, winning only once more on the way to first place with 10/13. Mind you, both Anand and Kramnik were among Kasparov's final four opponents. This allowed Anand to narrow the gap to just half a point but there was no doubt at all that Kasparov was "boss" in this tournament.

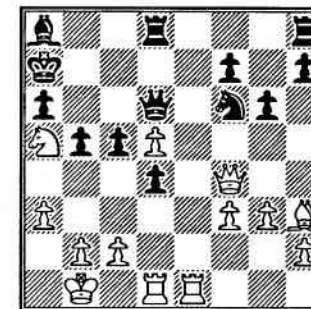
Vladimir Kramnik shared with Anand the distinction of being undefeated but scored too few wins to ever be a threat for second place.

The most talked about game in the tournament was that between Kasparov and Veselin Topalov in round 4, destined to become one of the game's classics.

Kasparov - Topalov Pirc [B07]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♠f6 3.♠c3 g6 4.♙e3 ♙g7 5.♖d2 c6 6.f3 b5 7.♠ge2 ♠bd7 8.♙h6 ♙xh6 9.♖xh6 ♙b7 10.a3 e5 11.0-0-0 ♖e7 12.♠b1 a6

13.♠c1 0-0-0 14.♠b3 exd4 15.♠xd4 c5 16.♠d1 ♠b6 17.g3 ♠b8 18.♠a5 ♙a8 19.♙h3 d5 20.♖f4+ ♠a7 21.♠he1 d4 22.♠d5 ♠bxd5 23.exd5 ♖d6



24.♠xd4! cxd4?

Topalov decides to go for broke. Instead 24...♠b6 would be about equal.

25.♠e7+! ♠b6

Best. If 25...♖xe7? 26.♖xd4+ ♠b8 27.♖b6+ ♙b7 28.♠c6+ and mate next move while after 25...♠b8 26.♖xd4 ♠d7 27.♙xd7 ♙xd5 28.c4! ♖xe7 29.♖b6+ ♠a8 30.♖xa6+ ♠b8 31.♖b6+ ♠a8 32.♙c6+! ♙xc6 33.♠xc6 Black must give up his queen to avoid being mated when White will emerge with three extra pawns.

26.♖xd4+ ♠xa5

26...♖c5? 27.♖xf6+ ♖d6 28.♙e6! ♙xd5 (28...♠xc6 29.♠xe6; 28...♠xa5 29.b4+ ♠a4 30.♖c3 ♙xd5 31.♠b2! and Black is soon mated) 29.b4 ♙c6 (29...♠xc6 30.♖d4+) 30.♖xf7 +-.

27.b4+ ♠a4 28.♖c3! ♖xd5 28...♙xd5 29.♠b2 Δ ♖b3+.

29.♠a7!

But not 29.♠b2? ♖d4 nor 29.♖c7 ♖d1+ 30.♠b2 ♖d4+ with perpetual check.

29...♙b7

29...♠d6? now allows 30.♠b2! winning, as

NZ Chess

			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
1	Kasparov G.	RUS	g	2812	●	½	½	0	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	10	1		
2	Anand V.	IND	g	2784	½	●	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	9½	2	
3	Kramnik V.	RUS	g	2751	½	½	●	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	1	½	8	3	
4	Sokolov I.	BIH	g	2610	1	½	½	●	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	1	½	7	4-7	
5	Piket J.	NED	g	2609	0	0	½	½	●	½	1	1	½	1	½	½	1	½	7	4-7
6	Shirov A.	ESP	g	2726	0	½	0	1	½	●	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	7	4-7
7	Timman J.	NED	g	2649	½	0	0	½	0	½	●	1	½	0	1	1	1	1	7	4-7
8	Ivanchuk V.	UKR	g	2714	½	½	½	1	0	½	0	●	½	½	½	½	½	1	6½	8-9
9	Svidler P.	RUS	g	2713	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6½	8-9	
10	Topalov V.	BUL	g	2700	0	0	½	½	0	½	1	½	½	●	½	1	0	1	6	10
11	Kasimdzhanov R.	UZB	g	2595	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	0	½	●	1	½	½	5	11
12	van Wely L.	NED	g	2636	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	●	1	1	1	4½	12
13	Yermolinsky A.	USA	g	2597	0	½	0	0	½	0	0	½	1	½	0	●	1	½	4	13
14	Reinderman D.	NED	g	2542	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	●	3	14	

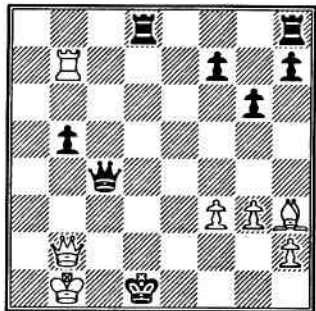
the rook cannot defend both d4 and a6.

30. ♠xb7! ♖c4 31. ♗xf6 ♕xa3

31...♠d1+ 32.♔b2 ♠a8 33.♗b6 ♗d4+ 34.♗xd4 ♠xd4 35.♠xf7 ♠d6 36.♠d7 ♠f6 37.f4 a5 38.c3 ♠a6 39.♗g2 ♠fe6 40.♗f3 ♠ad6 41.♠xd6 ♠xd6 42.♗e4 and White wins the exchange and the game.

32. ♗xa6+ ♔xb4 33.c3+! ♔xc3 34. ♗a1+ ♔d2 35. ♗b2+ ♔d1

35...♔e3 36.♠e7+ ♔xf3 37.♗g2#.



36. ♗f1!

A lovely finish – the only move to win.

36...♠d2!

36...♗xf1 37.♗c2+ ♔e1 38.♠e7+.

37.♠d7! ♠xd7 38.♗xc4 ♠xc4 39.♗xh8 ♠d3 40.♗a8 c3 41.♗a4+ ♔e1 42.f4 f5 43.♔c1 ♠d2 44.♗a7 1-0.

Reinderman, D - Anand, V [B87]

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♠xd4 ♠f6 5.♠c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 b4 9.♠a4 ♠d7 10.f4 ♠c6 11.f5 e5 12.♠f3 ♠b6 13.♗e1 ♠e7 14.♗g3 ♠f8 15.♗e1 ♠b8 16.♠d2 ♗e8 17.a3 a5 18.♔h1 ♔g8 19.♠g1 ♠xa3 20.♠xa3 ♠d4 21.♠xd4 exd4 22.♠a1 ♠c6 23.♗xa5 ♠xe4 24.♠f1 h5 25.♠b6 h4 26.♠d5 ♗g5! 27.♠f3 h3! 28.♗xc6 ♗xc6 29.♗e2 ♠f4! 30.♔g1

30.♠xf4 ♠g3+ 31.hxg3 hxg2+ 32.♔g1 ♠h1+ 33.♔f2 ♠xa1 +.

30...♗e3+ 31.♔h1 ♠e8

31...♠xb6? 32.♗xb6 ♗xb6 33.♠xe3 dxc3 34.♠a8+ and mates.

32.♗c4 ♠f2+ 33.♠xf2 ♗xc4 34.♠xc4 ♗xf2 35.♠xd6 ♠e2 36.b4 ♗g3! 37.gxh3 ♗xd6 0-1.

Sokolov, I - Shirov, A [D93]

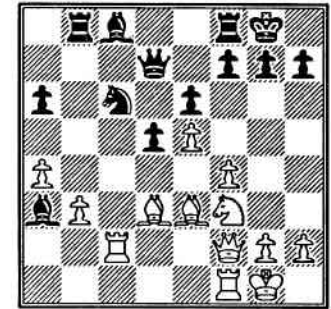
1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 g6 3.♠c3 d5 4.♗f4 ♗g7 5.e3 c5 6.dxc5 ♗a5 7.♠c1 dxc4 8.♗xc4 0-0 9.♠f3 ♗xc5 10.♠b3 ♠c6 11.0-0 ♗a5 12.h3 ♠f5 13.♗e2 ♠e4 14.♠d5 e5 15.♠xc6

A sacrifice introduced by Karpov in the 1986 World Championship match against Kasparov.

15...♠xc6 16.♠e7+ ♔h8 17.♠xe5 ♗xe5 18.♠xc6 ♗d2 19.♗xd2 ♠xd2 20.♗xe5+ ♠6 21.♗c3?

During the post mortem 21.♗d6 was found to be best.

21...♠xf1 22.♔xf1 ♗d3+ 23.♔g1 ♠ac8 24.♠e7 ♠xc3 25.♠xc3 ♗e4 26.c4 ♔g7 27.♠d5 ♠b8 28.♠c7 a5 29.♠e6+ ♔f7 30.♠d4 ♔e7 31.f3 ♗b7 32.♗a4 ♔d6 33.♗b5 ♔c5 34.a4 ♗c8 35.♔f2 ♠b6 36.♠b3+ ♔b4 37.♠d4 ♗a6 38.♠c6+ ♠xc6! [The fourth exchange sacrifice!] 39.♗xc6 ♗xc4 40.e4 ♗b3 41.f4 ♗xa4 42.♗d5 [42.♗xa4 ♔xa4 43.e5 fxe5 44.fxe5 ♔b5 wins easily] 42...♗c2 43.e5 fxe5 44.fxe5 ♔c5 45.♗g8 h6 46.♔e3 a4 47.e6 ♔d6 48.♔d4 ♗b3 49.♔c3 ♗xe6 50.♗h7 ♗f7 51.♔b4 ♔e5 52.h4 h5 0-1.



Sokolov - Kasparov Nimzoindian [E59]

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 e6 3.♠c3 ♗b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♗d3 d5 6.♠f3 c5 7.0-0 ♠c6 8.a3 ♗xc3 9.♠xc3 ♗c7 10.♗c2 dxc4 11.♗xc4 e5 12.♗d3 ♠e8 13.e4 exd4 14.cxd4 ♗g4 15.e5 ♗xf3 16.exf6 ♠xd4 17.♗xh7+ ♔h8 18.fxg7+ ♔xg7 19.♠b2 ♠ad8 20.gxf3 ♠h8 21.♔h1 ♠xh7 22.♠g1+ ♔h8 23.♠g3 ♗e5 24.♠ag1 ♠h4?

A novelty, if a simply bad move can be so defined. The game Porath-Stahlberg, Amsterdam 1954, continued 24...♗h5 25.♠g2 f6 26.♗c4 ♗f7 27.♗xf7 ♠xf7 ½-½. Sokolov was familiar with this game and Kasparov obviously wasn't.

25. ♗c1! ♔h7??

25...♗h5 26.♠g2 f6 27.♗c4! ♗h7 28.♗xc5 wins a pawn but this is better than what follows in the game.

26. ♗b1+ ♔h8 27. ♗f1! ♗e6 28. ♗g2 1-0

28...♗f6 29.♠g8+ ♔h7 30.♗g7+ ♗xg7 31.♠xg7+ ♔h6 32.♗c1+ ♔h5 33.♠h7 mate.

Shirov - Reinderman Sicilian [B46]

1.e4 c5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.♠c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♠xd4 a6 6.♗e2 ♠ge7 7.f4 ♠xd4 8.♗xd4 b5 9.0-0 ♗c7 10.♗f2 ♠c6 11.♗e3 ♗e7 12.a4 b4 13.♠b1 ♠b8 14.♠d2 0-0 15.♗d3 d6 16.♠ad1 b3 17.cxb3 ♗f6 18.♠c1 ♗xb2 19.♠c2 ♗a3 20.e5 d5 21.♠f3 ♗d7

22.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 23.♗h4+ ♔g8 23...♔g6 24.g4 and Black cannot prevent mate.

24. ♠g5 ♠e8 25. ♠f3! ♠e7

25...♗b7? 26.♠h3 ♔f8 27.♠h7+ ♔g8 28.♠f6+! and mate in 2.

26. ♗h7+ ♔f8 27. ♗h8+ ♠g8 28. f5! exf5 29. e6! fxe6

29...♠xe6 30.♠h7+ ♔e7 31.♗g5+ ♠f6 (31...♠f6 32.♗f8 mate; 31...♔d6 32.♗f4+ ♔e7 33.♗xg8 +) 32.♗xg8 and the threat of ♗f8 mate gives White an enduring attack.

30. ♠g3 g6 31. ♠h7+ ♔f7 32. ♗h6 ♔e7

32...♠xh6 33.♗f6+ ♔g8 34.♠xg6+ ♔xh7 35.♠xh6+ ♔g8 36.♠h8 mate.

33. ♗g5+ ♔f7

33...♔d6 34.♗f4+ e5 (34...♔e7 35.♗g7+ ♔d8 36.♗c7+ ♗xc7 37.♗xc7 mate) 35.♠xg6+ ♠e6 36.♗xc5+ ♔e7 37.♠g7+.

34. ♗f6 ♠f8 35. ♠c7! ♠xf6

35...♗xc7 36.♗g7+ ♔e8 37.♗xc7

36.♗xf6+ ♔e8 37.♗xg6+ ♔d8 38.♠xd7+ ♗xd7 39.♠xf8 ♗xf8 40.♗f6+ ♗e7 41.♠g8+ ♔c7 42.♗c3+ ♔b7 43.♠xb8+ ♔xb8 44.h4 1-0.

Kasparov is recorded as saying that he preferred this game to his earlier one against Topalov. I doubt that many will agree with this but the following game was played in round 12 when Anand was only half a point behind and Gary had the black pieces against Kramnik in the last round.

Kasparov - Svidler
Grünfeld [D97]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 g6 3.e3 d5 4.f3 g7 5.♖b3 dxc4 6.♗xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8.e5 b5 9.♗b3 e7 10.e6 fxe6 11.♙c3 e6 12.h4 e6 13.h5 ♔xf3 14.gxf3 e7 15.♗d1 c5 16.♙xd4 cxd4 17.hxg6 h6 18.♗h5 ♗e8 19.e2 ♗xg6 20.♗h1 e8 21.♗g1 ♗f7 22.e7 23.♗d3 ♙d7 24.♗e4 ♗c8 25.♙d3 e6 26.♗h4 ♗c5? 26...e7.

27.e2 e5 28.♗g6 ♗f8 29.♗e4 ♗f7 30.♙d2 e6 31.♗e3 1-0.

Adams v Seirawan

A ten-game match at Bermuda's Mermaid Beach club was drawn five-all with Adams winning games 1 and 8 while Seirawan won games 4 and 6. The quality of play in a relaxed atmosphere was variable. Seirawan was actually winning the first game until two time trouble blunders turned it into a loss while Adams had a big advantage in the fourth game, first throwing away his advantage and later blundering into a lost position.

Calcutta

The 10th Goodricke International Open was won by Belarus GM Alexei Fedorov with 9/11. No less than 1½ points back were GMs Dolmatov (RUS), Ehlvest (EST) and Sorokin (ARG) while a group of nine players including GM Speelman (ENG) shared fifth place on 7 points. There were 15 grandmasters in the field of 67.

Nova Gorica

Another February event, in Slovenia, was won by GM Zdenko Kozul with 7/9. The following group, on 6½, comprised GMs Atalik (TUR), Belyavsky (SLO), Mikhailchishin (SLO), Miles (ENG), Oil (EST) and Gennady Timoshenko (SVK) together with IM Pavasovic (SLO).

Cappelle la Grande

No fewer than 104 grandmasters competed in a field of 615 over 9 rounds in this French Open tournament. Norwegian GM Simen

Agdestein took first place on tie break from GMs Mikhail Gurevich (BEL) and Pavel Tregubov (RUS), all scoring 7½ points.

Karpov v Piket

Anatoly Karpov had slightly the better of the games in an eight-game match played in Monaco in February-March. Despite this all of the games were drawn for a 4-4 scoreline.

Enghein-les-Bains

This category 15 all-GM tournament was won by Joel Lautier with 6½/9 with Moldovan GM Viktor Bologan taking second prize with 6½ points. A surprising fact was that Lautier defeated the runner-up in just ten moves!

Lautier - Bologan
Caro-Kann [B10]

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 e6 5.e3 e7 6.f3 a6 7.d4 e6 8.e5 e6 9.♗a4+ ♙d7 10.e7 1-0. 10...♗d7 11.♙b5 +.

The other scores were: 3-5 Bacrot (FRA), Ponomarev (UKR) and Tkachiev (FRA) 5; 6 Salov (RUS) 4; 7-9 Belyavsky (SLO), Rausis (LAT) and Sadler (ENG) 3½; 10 Bauer (FRA) 3.

Linares

It may be a bit early to claim that the Linares tournament in February-March was the strongest tournament of 1999 but there is a fair chance that, at category 20 with an average rating of 2735, it will be. The only statistically stronger events were Las Palmas 1996 and Linares 1998, both of which reached category 21 with average ratings over 2750.

Gary Kasparov's performance at Linares was perhaps slightly better than that at Wijk aan Zee but here he was far more dominant as nobody was able to run him close. After four rounds Michael Adams, the lowest-rated player, led with 3 points but Kasparov scored 5½ in the next six rounds to lead Vladimir Kramnik by a massive two points. By the end of the tournament the margin had grown to 2½ points.

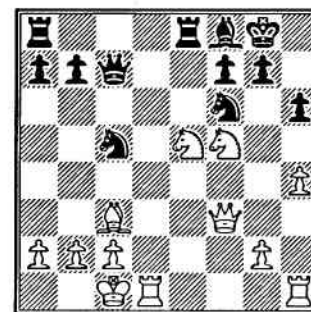
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Kasparov G. RUS g 2812	● ●	½ ½	½ 1	½ ½	1 ½	1 1	½ 1	1 1 10½ 1
2 Kramnik V. RUS g 2751	½ ½	● ●	½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	½ 1	1 ½ 8 2-3
3 Anand V. IND g 2781	½ 0	½ ½	● ●	½ ½	½ 1	½ ½	1 ½	½ 1 8 2-3
4 Leko P. HUN g 2694	½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	● ●	½ ½	1 ½	0 ½	0 ½ 6½ 4
5 Topalov V. BUL g 2700	0 ½	½ ½	½ 0	½ ½	● ●	½ 0	½ 1	½ ½ 6 5-6
6 Ivanchuk V. UKR g 2714	0 0	½ ½	½ ½	0 ½	½ 1	● ●	1 ½	0 ½ 6 5-6
7 Svidler P. RUS g 2713	½ 0	½ 0	0 ½	1 ½	½ 0	0 ½	● ●	½ 1 5½ 7-8
8 Adams M. ENG g 2716	0 0	0 ½	½ 0	1 ½	½ ½	½ 0	● ●	5½ 7-8

Ratings would have been a good guide to betting odds as Vishy Anand and Kramnik were comfortably ranked 2 and 3 here and finished joint second. Kramnik was again undefeated, but this time Anand could only win three games to go with his single loss.

The other five players, with a mere 22-point rating spread, finished tightly bunched at the foot of the table – a fair way of describing it as none of them managed to score 50%.

Adams - Leko
Caro-Kann [B19]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e2d2 dxe4 4.e4xe4 ♙f5 5.♙g3 ♙g6 6.h4 h6 7.e3 e6 8.e5 ♙h7 9.♙d3 ♙xd3 10.♗xd3 e6 11.♙d2 e7 12.f4 ♙e7 13.0-0-0 0-0 14.♗e2 c5 15.dxc5 e6 16.♙c3 ♗c7 17.f5 exf5 18.e7xf5 ♗fe8 19.♗f3 ♙f8



20.e7h6+! gxh6 21.e7g4 e7g4 21...e7f6 22.e7f6+ e7xf6 23.♗xf6 and White wins one move sooner. 22.♗xg4+ ♙h7 23.♗f5+ ♙g8 24.♗f6 ♙h7 25.♗h8+ ♙g6 26.h5+ 1-0.

Ivan [Kasparov]
Svian [B90]

1.e4 c5 2.e3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.e7xd4 e6 5.e3 a6 6.♙c3 e7 7.♙g5 h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 ♙g7 10.♗d2 e6 11.e3 e7 12.f3 b5 13.♙f2 ♗b8 14.e7d4 b4 15.e7d1 e7xd4 16.♙xd4 d5! 17.exd5

17.♙xc5 ♙xe5 18.♗xd5 ♗xd5 19.exd5 ♙b7 20.♙c4 ♗c8 21.♙b3 ♗c5 and Black's active pieces compensate for the pawn.

17...♗xd5 18.c3 0-0 19.♙e2 e7d8 20.♗e3 ♙b7 21.e2f2 bxc3 22.♙xc3 ♗e6 23.♙f1 23.0-0? e7xf3+.

23...♙d5 24.b3 ♗bc8 25.e7d1 ♗xc3! 26.♗xc3 e7g4 27.♗a5 e3e3+ 28.♙g1 ♗c8 29.♗xa6?

29.♗b1 ♙d4 30.♗d2 ♗b6 gives Black ample pressure for the exchange but was nevertheless White's best chance.

29...e7xd1 30.♗xe6 ♙xe6 31.♙xd1 ♗c1 0-1.

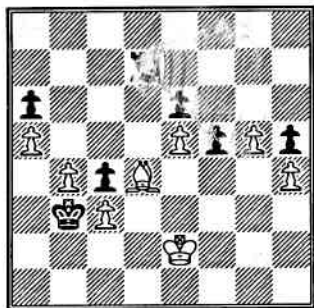
Anand - Svidler
Grünfeld [D97]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 g6 3.e3 d5 4.f3 g7 5.♗b3 dxc4 6.♗xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8.e5 b5 9.♗b3 e7 10.h4 c5 11.e6 c4 12.♗d1 e6 13.exf7+ ♗xf7 14.h5 e6 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.♙e3 ♙f5 17.e7g5 ♗f6 18.g4 ♙e6 19.e7ce4 ♙d5 20.♗d2 e7d6 21.f3 ♙xe4 22.fxe4 e7d7 23.♗h2 e7f8 24.e5 e7d7 25.e6! ♗a5+

25...e7xe6 26.♙xc4! ♗a5+ (26...bxc4 27.♗h7+ ♙f8 28.0-0+) 27.♙d2 ♗xd2+ 28.♙xd2 e7xd4+ 29.♙e3 ♗xc4 and Black has three pieces for his queen but must give back one of them to save his king after 30.♗h7+ ♙f7 31.♗h1+.

26. Qd2 e5 27. Qe2 c3 28. Qxc3 b4 29. e1xg7
bxc3 30. ♖h8+ ♔f7 31. 0-0+ 1-0.

The game Topalov-Kasparov reached the following position where White seems to be holding his own.



50... ♖xd4! 51. cxd4 c3 52. g6 c2 53. g7 c1 ♖
54. g8 ♖c4+

In queen endings it is usually not the number of pawns on each side that is decisive but whether any are passed and how far advanced they are. Here, however, Kasparov relies on a much more basic concept – a mating attack – helped by the fact that the white ♖ has very few checking possibilities.

55. ♕e3 ♕c3! 56. ♖d8 ♖d3+ 57. ♕f4 ♖d2+
58. ♕f3 ♖d1+ 59. ♕e3

White is lost whatever he plays.

59... ♖g1+ 60. ♕e2 ♖g2+ 61. ♕e3 f4+! 0-1
62. ♕xf4 ♕d3 63. ♖g5 ♖f2 mate.

Svidler - Kasparov Sicilian [B53]

1. e4 c5 2. e3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 e6 5. ♖b5
Qd7 6. Qxc6 Qxc6 7. e3 f6 8. Qg5 e6 9. 0-0-
0 Qe7 10. ♖h1 0-0 11. ♕b1 h6 12. ♖h4 ♖e8
13. Qg3 d5 14. e5 e4!

Black sacrifices a pawn in order to open up lines for his two bishops.

15. e1xe4 dxe4 16. ♖xd8 ♖exd8 17. e4d4 Qe8
18. c3

18. ♖xe4 is strongly met by 18... Qc6 and the

same applies on the following move.

18... ♖ac8 19. ♕c2 b5 20. ♖xe4 b4 21. ♖e3 a5
22. e2?

22. ♖ed3 is better. After the text Black's initiative is worth more than just one pawn.

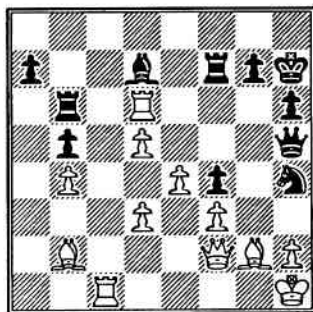
22... Qc6 23. f3 ♖xd1 24. ♕xd1 Qc5 25. ♖d3 Qb5
26. ♖d2 Qe3 27. ♖d6 bxc3 28. e1xc3

28. bxc3 Qc4 is no improvement.

28... Qf1 29. Qh4 g5 30. Qe1 Qxg2 31. ♕e2 Qf4
32. Qg3 Qc1 33. e1a4 h5 34. ♖d1 h4 35. Qe1 Qf4
36. Qc3 ♕g7 37. e1b6 ♖h8 38. ♕f2 h3 39. Qd2
Qxh2 40. e1d7 ♕g6 41. Qe3 g4 42. fxg4 Qc6
0-1.

Anand - Adams English [A17]

1. e3 f6 2. c4 e6 3. e3 Qb4 4. ♖b3 c5 5. g3
e6 6. a3 Qa5 7. Qg2 0-0 8. 0-0 d6 9. e3 e5
10. d3 ♖b8 11. e2d2 Qf5 12. e1d5 e1xd5 13. cxd5
e7 14. e4 b5 15. e1xa5 ♖xa5 16. e4 Qd7
17. ♖d1 f5 18. b4 cxb4 19. Qg5 e8 20. ♖d2 f4
21. gxf4 h6 22. Qh4 exf4 23. f3 ♖b6+ 24. Qf2
♖d8 25. axb4 ♖g5 26. ♕h1 ♖h5 27. ♖g1 ♖b7
28. Qd4 ♖f7 29. ♖f2 ♕h7 30. ♖g1 e7 31. ♖a6
e6 32. ♖xd6 e1h4 33. Qb2 ♖b6



34. ♖xd7! ♖xd7 35. Qh3 ♖f7 36. Qg4 ♖g5
37. Qe6 ♖fb7 38. ♖g1 ♖d8 39. ♖f1 ♖a6 40. ♖h3
♖a2 41. Qe5 ♖d2 42. d4 ♖d3 43. Qf5+ ♕g8

43... e1xf5 44. ♖xf5+ ♕h8 45. ♖xf4 ♕h7
46. ♖f5+ ♕h8 47. ♖g6 and the threat of ♖xh6+
is decisive.

44. Qc8! e1xf3 45. ♖e6+ 1-0.

Anand - Kasparov Sicilian [B80]

1. e4 c5 2. e3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. e1xd4 e6 5. e3c3
a6 6. f3 e6 7. Qe3 b5 8. g4 h6 9. ♖d2 e1bd7
10. 0-0-0 Qb7 11. h4 b4 12. e1b1 d5 13. Qh3 g5
14. hxg5 hxg5 15. exd5 e1xd5 16. Qxg5 ♖b6!

An improvement on 16... ♖a5 as played in the round 3 game Leko-Topalov.

17. Qg2 ♖xh1 18. Qxh1

The point of 16... ♖b6 is seen after 18. ♖xh1 when 18... Qg7 gains time with the attack on the e1d4.

18... ♖c8 19. ♖e1 ♖a5 20. f4 ♖xa2 21. f5 e1c5
22. fxe6 Qg7!

22... fxe6 23. ♖h2 e1d3+ 24. ♕d2 e1xe1
25. ♖h5+ ♕d7 26. ♖f7+ ♕d6 27. ♖xc6+ ♕c7
28. Qf4+ ♕d8 29. Qg5+ draws.

23. exf7+ ♕xf7 24. Qxd5+? ♖xd5 25. ♖e7+ ♕g8
26. ♖xg7+

Forced, as the e1d4 is otherwise lost.

26... Qxg7 27. e3c3!

For Kasparov, the game started here – he had had this position on the board in pre-game preparation!

27... bxc3 28. e1f5+ ♕f7

28... ♖xf5?? 29. ♖xc3+ ♕g6 30. gxf5+ ♕xg5
31. ♖g7+ ♕xf5 32. b4 and Black's position collapses.

29. ♖xd5+ Qxd5 30. e1d6+ ♕g6 31. e1xc8 ♕xg5
32. e1b6 Qe6 33. bxc3 ♕xg4

So Black has an extra piece and White's drawing chances lie in either eliminating the a-pawn or exchanging knights.

34. ♕b2 ♕f4 35. ♕a3 a5 36. e1a4 e4?

After this the game should be drawn according to computer analysis. Correct was 36... e1d7! 37. e1b2 e1b6 38. c4 Qxc4 39. e1xc4 e1xc4+ 40. ♕b3 e1e5 41. ♕a4 e1c6 42. ♕b5 ♕e5+.

37. e1b2 e1xc3 38. e1d3+ ♕e3 39. e1c5 Qf5
40. ♕b2 e1d5 41. e1b7 a4 42. c4 e1b6 43. e1d6
Qd3 44. c5 e1d5 45. ♕a3 Qc2

The position after 45... ♕d4 46. ♕xa4 ♕xc5 can be won by Black but as it takes more than 50 moves the correct result would be a draw!

46. e1b5 e1e7 47. e1a7??

47. e1c3 followed by 48. e1xa4 draws. In playing the text Anand overlooked a very nasty 50th move.

47... ♕d4 48. c6 e1d5 49. e1b5+ ♕c5 50. c7 Qf5!
0-1

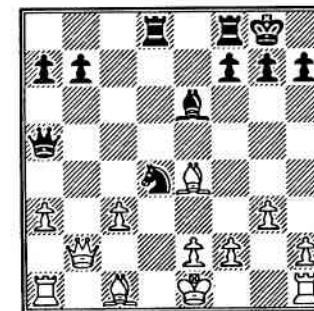
50... Qf5 51. ♕xa4 (51. e1a7 e1xc7 52. ♕xa4 ♕b6 wins the knight) 51... e1b6+ 52. ♕a5 e1c4+ 53. ♕a6 (53. ♕a4 Qc2 mate) 53... Qc8+ 54. ♕a7 ♕xb5 55. ♕b8 e1d6 and mate follows quickly.

Topalov - Ivanchuk English [A35]

1. e3 c5 2. c4 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. e1xd4 e6 5. g3
Qb4+ 6. e3c3 ♖a5 7. e1db5 d5 8. a3 Qxc3+
9. bxc3 e1f6 10. Qg2 0-0 11. ♖b3 dxc4 12. ♖xc4
e5 13. e1d6 Qe6 14. ♖d3 e4!

14... ♖ad8? fails because of 15. e1xb7 but the text takes over the initiative for a pawn.

15. e1xe4 e1xe4 16. Qxe4 ♖ad8 17. ♖c2 e1d4
18. ♖b2



18... e1xe2! 19. ♕xe2 ♖fe8 20. ♖b4

20. Qe3 is no improvement: 20... Qg4+ 21. f3 ♖xc4 22. fxg4 ♖c5 23. ♖c1 ♖de8.

20... ♖h5+! 21. f3 f5 22. g4 ♖h3 23. gxf5 Qxf5
24. ♖c4+ ♕h8 25. ♖e1 ♖xe4+! 0-1

25... ♖xe4+ 26. fxe4 Qg4+ 27. ♕f2 ♖xh2+
28. ♕e3 ♖g3mate.

NZCF Council report

By NZCF President Peter Stuart

Council Vacancies

Paul Macdonald advised that, because of work pressure he was unable take up his position as an Auckland Councillor. The Council has co-opted Ted Frost as one Wellington Councillor but there are still vacancies for one Wellington and one Canterbury Councillor.

Special General Meeting

Affiliates will have received notice of a special general meeting to be held in Auckland on 29th April for the purpose of discussing a one-off change in format for this year's North Island Championship. The Hamilton club, which has been awarded the event by the Council, is keen to make it a FIDE-rated tournament and therefore sought leave to have two grades, a Championship grade and a Reserve Championship. The proposed minimum ratings for the Championship are 1900 (NZCF standard) or 2000 (FIDE). Hamilton has arranged sponsorship which is conditional upon the event being FIDE-rated so that a more attractive prize fund will be possible if they get the go-ahead from the SGM.

While these proposals came from the Hamilton club, the remit came from the Council as, in the relatively short time remaining, it was thought impractical to expect Hamilton to arrange for the required level of club support for calling a special general meeting. They note that the 1990 North Island Championship, also in Hamilton, adopted the two-grade format. The further trial of this idea, with the added concept of FIDE rating, will give us another chance to assess the merits of the format before contemplating a permanent change.

Zonals

The Australian Chess Federation newsletter for 23 March gives the following confirmed entries for the Zonals, being held at the Surfers Paradise Parkroyal from 13-21 April.

Men (all Australia unless otherwise indicated): Darryl Johansen (2490), Aleks Wohl (2440), Stephen Solomon (2435), Russell Dive (NZ, 2440), Alexei Kulashko (NZ, 2396), Rajnesh Parmeshwar (Fiji, 2000), Kerry Corker (2000), Eddi Levi (2245), Chris Depasquale (2302), Vladimir Feldman (2330), Elija Ilic (2115), Andrew Allen (2261), David Smerdon (2173), Brett Tindall (2250), John Paul Wallace (2360), Zong-Yuan Zhao (2000) and Daniel Dwyer (2186).

Women: Ngan Phan-Koshnitsky (2155), Irina Berezina (2230), Veronica Klimenko (2100) and Narelle Szuveges (2000).

A few other players have indicated their intention to enter though none of these, as far as we know, is from New Zealand.

In the absence of GM Ian Rogers the field for the Men's Zonal is relatively open and we wish Russell and Alexei a successful tournament. The Council has not been able to attract an official entry for the Women's Zonal so it seems unlikely that New Zealand will be represented there.

N.Z. Junior and Women's Championships

Venues and organisers are still sought for these events. The Council hopes that the junior event can be played in the first week of the midyear holidays, instead of October as in the last couple of years since the change to the four-term year, to give more time for selection and preparation of representatives for international junior and youth championships which are usually held late in the year.

It has been suggested that the Women's championship could be held at Queen's Birthday weekend now that the usual Easter is behind us.

Editor to retire

Ted Frost, editor of *NZ Chess*, has advised NZCF Council that he will retire this year. Anyone interested in taking over is invited to contact the editor or Council.

NZ Chess

Affiliated Clubs

Clubs are requested to advise *NZ Chess* of any changes in details given below

Ashburton PO Box 204, Ashburton. Meets Monday 7.30pm (Feb-Oct), Room 1 (upstairs), Public Library, cnr Havelock and West Streets. Contact, Roy Keeling (03)308-6936.

Auckland Chess Centre Meets Monday & Thursday 7.15pm, 17 Cromwell St, Mt Eden, Auckland 1003. Tel (09)630-2042 clubroom; contacts club captain Paul MacDonald (09)419-2015; secretary Tony Kessler (09)412-8184.

Canterbury, PO Box 25-242, Christchurch. Meets Wednesday, 7.30pm., 227 Bealey Avenue; tel (03)366-3935 clubroom. Pres, Gavin Dawes (03)352-4851; Sec, Quentin Johnson (03)355-7166.

Civic Tuesday 7.30pm, Museum Room, Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington 1. Pres, John Gillespie (04)476-3729; Sec, Brent Southgate (04)475-7604.

Gambit Sec, Ted Frost, 103 Koromiko Road, Gonville, Wanganui. Tel (06)347-6098.

Hamilton: Thurs, 7.15, Methodist Centre, 56 Landon Street. Inquiries Pres, Hilton Bennett, 65 Te Aroha St (07)839-6406 or (025)964-773.

Hastings-Havelock North P.O. Box 184, Hastings. Wednesday 7pm, Library, Havelock N High School, Te Mata Rd. Sec, Chris Smith (06)877-4583.

Howick-Pakuranga Tuesday 7.30pm, St John Ambulance Hall, Howick-Pakuranga Highway, Highland Park. Pres, Paul Spiller (09)535-4962; sec, Kees van den Bosch (09)521-5828.

Invercargill Wednesday 8pm, staff room, South School, Ness St. Sec, Robert Mackway Jones, 5 Pine Cres, Invercargill (03)217-1154.

Kapiti Wednesday, 7.30pm, Salvation Army Hall, Bluegum Rd. Paraparaumu Beach. Sec, Rosemary Kingston, 51 Ames St, Paekakariki (04)292-8157.

New Plymouth 11 Gilbert St, New Plymouth. Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Pres, R P Bowler, 17a Hori St (06)753-6282. Contact, Bob Bowler.

North Shore P.O. Box 33-587, Takapuna, Auckland 9. Meets Wednesday 7.30pm, Northcote Community Centre, cnr College Rd/Ernie Mays St, Northcote. Club capt, Peter Stuart, 24 Seacliffe Ave, Belmont (09)445-6377.

Otago 7 Maitland St, Dunedin. Wednesday and Saturday, 7.30pm. Tel (03)477-6919 clubroom. Pres, Trevor Rowell, (03)455-1441.

Upper Hutt Monday 7.30pm, Hapai Club, 879 Fergusson Drive. Sec, Glen Sullivan, 14a Crystal Grove, Birchville, U Hutt (04)526-5085.

Waitemata Thursday 7.30pm, Kelston Comm Centre, cnr Great North Rd and Awaroa Rd, Kelston; jun 6-7.30pm Thursdays, schooldays. Pres, Bob Smith, 2 Autumn Ave, Glen Eden (09)818-4113 or contact Bruce Pollard (09)818-2342.

Wanganui Monday, 1st floor, Commercial Club, St Hill St. Pres, Gordon Hoskyn, 7 Pehi St (06)343-6101; sec, K Yorston, 5 Mitchell St (06)343-7166.

Wellington Friday 7.30pm, Lighthouse Centre, 235 Karori Road, Karori. 6pm, juniors. Pres, Julian Mazur. Sec, Ross Jackson (04)563- 8013.

Associate members

Huntly, Tuesdays 7.30pm 14 Ralph Street.. Club capt, John Smeed, 140 Great South Road, Huntly. (07)828-7481.

Napier Sec , Napier.

NZ Correspondence Chess Assn, P.O. Box 3278, Wellington. Sec, J W (Sandy) Maxwell, (04)237-475 3.

Palmerston North Tuesday, 7.30pm, Palm Nth Intermediate School, Ferguson St. Tournament Director, Tony Dowden (06)353-1354.

Papatoetoe Wednesday 7.30pm, St George's Anglican Church Hall, Landscape Rd, Papatoetoe. Contacts, John McRae (09)278-4520 or Katrine Metge (sec) 278-7173.

Petone Gambit Thursday 7.30pm Central Bowling Club, Roxburgh St, Petone. Pres, Mark Noble, 97 Seddon St, Naenae, Lower Hutt (04)567-0467.

Whangarei Gambit Thursday 7pm, Whangarei YWCA. Contact, Geoffrey Gill (09)438-3035.

District Associations

Auckland Chess Assn, Sec, Kees van den Bosch, 61a St Johns Road, Auckland 1005 (09)521-5828.

Wellington District Chess Assn Inc,