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NZ Chess

New Zealand Chess

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Australian Masters win in Auckland

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CORRESPONDENCE

Subscriptions,
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inquiries should be sent to

New Zealand Chess
P O Box 1627
Taupo, 2730
triangle@world-net.co.nz

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EDITORIAL

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NZ Chess

STOP PRESS

Invitation

*Puchen Wang has accepted an invitation to
play in the Victorian Masters event at
Melbourne in April.*

Council

*Introducing the 2004 Council
The following Councillors were elected at the
NZCF Annual General Meeting:
President - Bob Smith Vice-President - Hilton
Bennett Secretary - Bob Mitchell Treasurer -
Anthony Whitehouse
Councillors - Viv Smith, Felicity Timings, Paul
Spiller, Michael Steadman
Wellington Regional Councillors - Cedric
Backhouse. Michael Freeman has been co-
opted as the 2nd Wellington Councillor.
Council has yet to receive nominations for
Canterbury and Otago Regional Councillors.
Council committees are still being finalized.*

2004 Subscriptions

*Subscriptions for 2004 are now due and in-
voices are included with this magazine. To
those who have already paid thank you. Sub-
scription renewals are now uniform and run
from February to December.*

Front Cover: *Winners of the Howick & Pa-
kuranga Times Auckland Open, GM Darryl
Johansen and IM Guy West with organiser
Paul Spiller and Times editor Nick Krause.*

New Zealand Chess

Volume 30 Number 6

December 2003

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NZ Chess

World Youth Championships

by FM Bob Smith

The clock ticked on at Auckland Airport on October 19, well past the scheduled meeting time. But still several of the juniors I was taking to the World Youth Championships in Greece had not arrived. The first dilemma of what was to be a challenging trip arose. Should we check in anyway? Or should we wait? In the end the consensus was that we'd better get some seats. Fortunately the latecomers did arrive in time, but by then getting seats together for the group was another story. Our party numbered eleven in all – six children, one coach and four parents. Natasha Fairley (under 16 girls) and her father had gone ahead to Egypt and other exotic locations and were joining us at Thessaloniki Airport in time to catch the coach to our destination, the coastal resort of Kallithea. Otherwise, the rest of the group were travelling together – Jesse Wilson (under 18 boys), Gino Thornton (under 16 boys), Evgenia Charamova (under 14 girls), Blair Robertson (under 14 boys), Serra Tang (under 12 girls) and Bob Smith (coach and manager). Also accompanying the team were Blair's parents Peter and Jacqui, and Serra's mother, Shelly.

It was the biggest contingent New Zealand had ever sent to the World Youth Championships. And remarkably, the NZ Chess Federation was able to pay the entire fare from Auckland to Athens for all the players and the coach. This was due to a great effort by Councillor Felicity Timings in applying for funding from community groups such as the Southern Trust, New Zealand Community Trust, and Scottwood Group, all of which provided some funding towards the trip. NZCF was even able to buy jackets emblazoned with silver ferns for all seven representatives.

So began a long journey into what was the unknown for most of the children. Only Evgenia had been to the World Youth Championships before, so she had some idea of what to expect. The other players had been told to come prepared for a tough competition, while believing in themselves.

The first leg of the journey to Athens took more than a day. Twenty-five hours of sitting, watching movies, eating and waiting in airports. For several of the children it was their first overseas trip, but they all seemed to take it in their stride.

Once in Athens, we discovered there was no real way around the traditional "rip-off" taxi fare from the airport. After such a long trip, it is often better to "bite the bullet" and get weary travellers to their hotel. The hotel I had booked through the internet was a middle of the road one, in order not to strain people's wallets. But it was clean, comfortable and close to the tourist centre. We were resting in Athens for two days before heading on to the tournament. The Greek capital was in the grip of a heatwave, and we began to wonder if we'd packed the right clothes. But for the moment it was a new experience for most of the group to wander the streets of one of the world's oldest cities.

The first official tourist stop was, of course, the Acropolis, the famed hill that became a city of temples more than two thousand years ago. Its centrepiece is the Parthenon, the largest Doric temple ever built in Greece. Although weakened by age, industrial pollution and traffic fumes it was still an impressive sight. A major renovation project is continuing to save the Parthenon and other monuments on the Acropolis.

During this expedition I quickly learnt another lesson about travelling with teenagers: if they can get lost, they will. There would seem to be few places to disappear on a hillside covered with ancient ruins. But some can manage it anyway.

Fortunately the "missing person" turned up, having decided to leave the hill without telling anyone, while I made several searching circuits in the blazing sun.

On day two most of the group set out to visit some of Athens' museums and other historical attractions, including the Temple of Zeus, the largest temple in Greece, which took over 700 years to build. The temple (completed AD 131)

was certainly worth the walk, but we were out of luck with the museums. They were closed for renovations, with the Olympic Games coming up this year. As tour leader, I felt a certain sense of failure – but I guess there wasn't much I could do about it.

We certainly did enjoy trying out the new Athens underground – very fast and efficient – and much time was spent shopping, with a spirited debate arising over Jesse's choice of sunglasses. Dining "el fresco" at Athens' sidewalk cafes was also a pleasure – though some less adventurous members of the group opted for a nearby "el McDonalds" for one meal.

After two days it was on to the ultimate destination – Kallithea and the World Youth Championships. After another "rip-off" taxi fare to the airport, it was a short plane flight to the northern port of Thessaloniki. Thankfully Natasha and her father had arrived. However Natasha's New Zealand jacket hadn't – left on the first plane she got on. The coach trip to the hotel was uneventful – and then the real fun began. Somehow the organisers still had at least three of our players' names mis-spelt, despite numerous e-mails. This was finally fixed after some effort. However my own i.d. card ended up with my names round the wrong way; I just left it, as it would have been far too difficult to change. But the biggest hurdle was registering the players. A long queue formed outside the single office handling this. Tired players and parents waited in the hotel lobby while I joined the line. The tournament officials insisted on up-front payment for additional players and accompanying people before rooms were allocated. With China registering scores of players and their officials scratching around to find the cash to pay for them all, this meant a long wait for the queue outside. Fortunately for us, the organisers decided to process countries according to the size of their delegations. With 10 people, New Zealand for once leaped to near the front of the line. After what seemed like a lifetime, everyone was finally registered and we lugged our bags to our hotel. Just under 1000 players and hundreds of officials and parents were being accommodated in two huge hotels, part of a single resort. We

were staying in the Pallini Beach Hotel, a few hundred metres away from the equally impressive Athos Hotel. I had chosen the Pallini as I was told that was where the games would be played. But if I'd known meals were at the Athos, I might have made a different decision! As it was, all our players except Blair did play at the Pallini, with Blair making the trek across to the Under 14 Boys competition each day. After settling in and exploring, we made our plans for the competition. At an initial team meeting I stressed a practical, realistic approach. I also stressed the importance of supporting and encouraging each other, proper preparation and a reasonable bed-time (10.30pm was set as the deadline, with games at 3.30pm each day). Individual coaching sessions were set up for each player in the mornings, with group post-mortems in the evening.

Next day, the big moment finally arrived.

Round One: Sensation! Blair began with a huge upset, beating his Singapore opponent (2202) with a terrific flurry of tactics. Evgenia also began well with a steady win over a Norwegian player. Jesse let a probably winning position slip against a player rated 2291 and eventually lost in the ending. Gino, Natasha and Serra all lost, though Serra was in with a chance until overlooking a tactic late in the game.

Round Two: Evgenia was the only one to salvage half a point, in an interesting tactical battle against a well-prepared Chinese opponent.

Round Three: A round of missed opportunities. Jesse missed a forced win and eventually drew with his Irish opponent (2088). Gino also reached a probably winning position, but a passive continuation eventually led to another loss. Blair should also have been winning after his opponent's unsound combination, but his analysis let him down. Evgenia responded wrongly to a dubious combination and was on the backfoot afterwards. Natasha played better than the first two rounds, but it still wasn't good enough.

Only Serra gained a whole point with a steady game, finishing off with a good combination.

Round Four: Not a bad round for New Zealand. Blair drew but probably should have won. Gino scored his first point after converting the

pawn his opponent gave him. Evginia played a good positional game against an isolated queen's pawn. Serra played her second nice game in a row. Jesse and Natasha still seemed out of sorts. Jesse reached a probably drawn ending, but put his pieces in the wrong places. Natasha seemed to have forgotten her opening preparation and was soon in trouble.

Round Five: Jesse's best game so far – consistently played win after an aggressive opening against the French Defence. But that was the only bright spot for the Kiwis. Evginia strangely swapped to a lost endgame. Gino's opening weaknesses were exposed as he made some bad central decisions. Serra fought hard in an unfamiliar opening, but later created serious weaknesses. Natasha appeared to have forgotten her coaching but escaped unpunished, only to fatally weaken her position later.

Round Six: Jesse won a pawn, but then lost it again to turn a win into a draw. Gino had an easy win against a much weaker opponent. Blair was outbooked in his favourite opening. Evginia somehow managed to draw after weakening a good position. Natasha scored her first win after her opponent gave her a rook. Serra missed a winning tactic and then lost after giving her opponent a pawn for nothing.

Round Seven: Jesse agreed a draw after swapping off a key attacking piece. Blair went wrong in the opening but fought back to draw. Gino recovered from a dreadful opening to win a pawn and the game. Natasha also had a poor opening, but won after her opponent was overly generous with her pieces. Evginia reached a winning position but went horribly wrong and lost. Serra was worse out of the opening but capitalised on a mistake to finish with a nice mating attack.

Round Eight: Jesse played his worst game so far. Blair got another bad opening but fought hard for a draw. Evginia played 16 book moves and then worked herself into dreadful time trouble in the next few moves, miscalculating and getting mated. Time trouble was also the main problem for Serra, who missed a tactic in a good position. Natasha had her most tragic game, winning an exchange but not finishing off her

opponent and eventually losing a drawn position on time. Gino wisely offered a draw in an inferior position, which was accepted.

Round Nine: Jesse gathered another half point without much of a fight. Gino's comeback continued, with a good win over an opponent rated 2119. Evginia drew from an inferior position against a much lower-rated opponent. Blair, Natasha and Serra all lost.

Round Ten: Serra's good win was the only bright spot for New Zealand. Jesse continued to play below his level, while Evginia's crisis of confidence continued.

Gino's opening deficiencies were exposed again, admittedly by a player rated 2224. Blair was outplayed in the late middlegame, while Natasha's mind didn't seem to be on the game.

Round Eleven: Jesse and Evginia salvaged some pride with wins against lowly-ranked opponents. Gino's ten minutes of preparation proved inadequate against a player rated 2252. Blair, Natasha and Serra were also unable to add to their tally.

So the final individual scores were: Jesse 4/11 (88th/104), Gino 4.5/11 (83rd/108), Blair 2.5/11 (125th/128), Evginia 4.5/11 (68th/91), Natasha 2/11 (67th/69), Serra 4/11 (73rd/85).

It is almost impossible to compare the individual scores, as the players were competing in very different divisions, and met very different fields. But in general I would say most players performed roughly as expected. Evginia was perhaps New Zealand's best hope of a stand-out performance, but after a good start she seemed to lose confidence. While in a tough group, Jesse was clearly playing below par for much of the event; I am not sure why. Gino had his moments, but suffered from a lack of opening preparation. In contrast, Blair was probably the best prepared theoretically. But his positional understanding clearly needed some work. Serra showed promise in many of her games and had a fighting attitude. Her final score was good for someone who had little opening knowledge before the tournament.

Natasha's two points reflected her lack of preparation for the event, and her non-existent openings. Despite considerable coaching efforts, she

seemed unable to remember lines, and this proved a problem. She would need to take the game more seriously to make further progress.

Conclusion:

The World Youth Championships were undoubtedly a great learning experience for the six players. I suspect the competition opened some eyes to the fact that slapdash preparation (or none at all) is not good enough at this level. Many of the players from other countries were clearly very well-prepared in this age of computers and databases. Another major problem for many of our players was their reliance on a very limited opening repertoire. Opponents seized on this, finding weaknesses or eroding their confidence by avoiding these openings and forcing them into unfamiliar lines. Several of our players had no opening repertoires to speak of, which meant a lot of work for the coach. I found a ratio of six players to one manager/coach fairly tiring; the British delegation were complaining about a ratio of one to four. While most members of the New Zealand squad caused no behavioural problems, there were inevitably difficulties caused by the immaturity of some players.

This made the trip more stressful for me than it needed to be. Fortunately I had 100 percent backing from the accompanying parents. Blair's parents Peter and Jacqui were especially supportive in helping to deal with the odd problem. It is a big undertaking to take such a large group to the World Youth Championships. However I feel it was worthwhile, with the children involved gaining valuable experience at a competition that is becoming tougher each year.

Wilson, Jesse - Gallisot, Alexandre (Monaco)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Qb6 7.Ngf3 So far it's been pretty mainline, but now I go for a pretty well known gambit line. I have never played it before, but saw it in Kulashko -Lukey in NZ Chess Mag. It looked pretty good then, and I figured that I could reach a playable position for only a pawn! Believe me, the way my openings were in this tourney, this would be a major step forward. 7...cxd4 8.cxd4 Nc6 9.0-0 Nxd4 10.Nxd4

Qxd4 11.Nf3 Qb6 Now I started to think the deep thoughts of a North Island Champion. They went something like, now why the heck did I do that? I have played a gambit I don't know and have never played. Now how am I supposed to get my pawn back? I couldn't find the answer to that one, and was starting to think up excuses to give to Bob, when I realized I hadn't actually lost yet; in fact I wasn't even losing! In which case, he could easily make a mistake and I could palm this off as a brilliant masterpiece of a budding Tal! So now 12.Qa5 Obviously tying down those Black pieces. 12...Qb4 What a nasty boy I'm playing. No sense of fun at all. Can't he see how funny it would be if my Q tied down his pieces for the rest of the game? 13.Qc2 Qc5 Not perhaps the best move. In aiming for the Q swap, Black puts his Q on a square where it is very vulnerable, and blocks up c5. 14. Qb1 I could have now taken on h7, restoring the material balance, but it doesn't look very inspiring, does it? This move is good because it prepares a Q-side push of pawns, which will hinder Blacks development even more. I actually played this because Kulashko played it in his game with a similar plan. Well I hope it was with a similar plan. 14...Qc7 15.Bf4 f5. It is easy to see that Black has severe difficulties with his development. I cannot see how f5 helps his development. Do you? 16.b4 White pushed the pawn which holds up the N and B coming to c5. 16...Qb6? This is shocking. It does less than nothing. Be7 or maybe even Nb6 is better. 17.a3 a5

I think Black is now lost. Open lines can only favour me. 18.Be3 Qc7 19.Rc1 Qb8 Man Black is busted! 20.Bb5 Pin the N 20...axb5 21.axb4. I had seen all...well most of what has happened. I still found it hard to believe I was actually winning though. 21...Rxa1 22.Qxa1 Kf7 23.Qa4 Watcha gonna do? 23...Nxe5 Not much. 24.Bg8 + Kg8 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Rxc8 h6 27.Bg6 Qf6 28.Qe8 Resigns. I like this game because it just flows forward and Black seems so helpless.

Smith and Williamson British Chess Championships 2003

by David Guthrie

The 90th annual Championships of the British Chess Federation were held from 20 July to 2 August at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh. As well as the British Championship itself, there were a variety of other tournaments held at the same time. These included the British Senior Championship, a Major Open, rapid plays and weekenders, and also junior championships in various age categories. The organisers declared the event a success, with a record combined entry of 1009. The field for the Championship occasioned a fair amount of comment, due to the large number of players from Commonwealth countries. India sent a large contingent, and there were also several players from Bangladesh and various other Commonwealth countries. The top seed was Vassilios Kotronias, from Cyprus. As a result of the large Commonwealth entry, many of the top English players stayed away. The British Chess Federation's reaction was predictable, and it announced during the Championships that from next year only British citizens or residents would be eligible. On the board, the tournament was also very interesting. The lead changed hands several times in the early rounds, but going into the last round Indian GM Abhijit Kunte had established a half-point lead. A hard-fought draw with Swiss GM Joe Gallagher secured him the title with an impressive 8.5/11. For his efforts, Kunte won £10,000. Half a point back in a tie for second place were GMs Pentala Harikrishna (India), Kotronias, and Paul Motwani (Scotland). Another player to impress was Georgian WGM Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant. Her score of 7.5/11 secured the British Women's Championship title, and was half a point short of a (men's) GM norm. Ameet Ghazi, Swati Ghate, and twelve year-old David Howell all made IM norms, and Ghate also made a WGM norm. In the Major Open, Russian GM Prokopchuk was untroubled on his way to 11/11. My score in the Championship was a rubbish 3.5/11. My tournament got off to a bad start when I contrived to lose four of my first five games. By the time the second week of the

tournament arrived, I was overlooking things left, right and centre, and 3.5 was probably more than I deserved. Overall, I lost 18 Elo points and had various shortcomings in my play ruthlessly exposed. But I've always heard that defeats are the best learning experience!

Rowson, J 2536 – Kunte, A 2515

Round 7

1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6
8. O-O Bb4 9. f3 Ne5 10. Nb3 b5 11. Bd4 Be7 12. Qg5 d6 13. Qxg7 Rg8 14. Qh6 b4 15. Ne2 Bd7 16. Kb1 a5 17. Ng3 a4 18. Nd2 Rc8 19. Rc1 b3 20. axb3 axb3 21. Nxb3 Nc6 22. Bxf6 Rg6 23. Qxh7 Bxf6 24. Nh5 Qa7 25. c3 Ra8 26. Nxf6+ Rxf6 27. Nd2 Ne5 28. Nc4 Qa2+ 29. Kc2 Ke7 30. Nxe5 Ba4+ 31. Kd3 Qxb2 32. Nc6+ Bxc6 33. Rc2 Qb1 34. e5 dxe5 35. Ke3 e4 0-1

Rahman, Zia 2521 – Kunte, A 2515

Round 8

Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. d4 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 Be7 6. Bg2 c6 7. Qc2 O-O 8. O-O Nbd7 9. Rd1 b6 10. Bf4 Ba6 11. Ne5 Qc8 12. cxd5 cxd5 13. Nc3 Bb4 14. Rac1 Bxc3 15. bxc3 Nh5 16. e4 Bb7 17. c4 Nxf4 18. gxf4 dxe4 19. c5 Bd5 20. Bxe4 Nf6 21. Bxd5 Nxd5 22. Qe4 Qd8 23. Kh1 Qh4 24. Nd3 Rfd8 25. Rg1 Qf6 26. Rg4 Rac8 27. Rg5 g6 28. Kg2 Ne7 29. Ne5 Rd5 30. c6 Nf5 31. Rc3 h6 32. Rg4 Rxd4 33. Nd7 Qg7 34. Qe1 h5 35. Rg5 Rxf4 36. Kh1 Qd4 37. f3 Ne7 38. Ne5 Qd6 39. Rd3 Rd4 40. Rxd4 Qxd4 41. Rg2 Qf4 42. Qc3 Qf5 43. Qa3 f6 0-1

Conquest, S 2560 – Arakhamia, K 2408

Round 3

1.d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d5 4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. Bd2 Bg7 6. e4 Nb6 7. Be3 O-O 8. Bb5 Be6 9. Nf3 Nc4 10. Bxc4 Bxc4 11.

(Continued on page 10)

NZ Chess

North Shore Club Championship

by NM Peter Stuart

Joint defending champions Leonard McLaren and Bruce Watson fought out a close race in this year's championship, played August-November and FIDE-rated for the first time. The draw had them playing in the final round which they both entered with scores of 8½/10. Bruce essayed an Alekhine Defence and won two pawns with a middle-game combination, after which Leonard missed his best line which would have given him probably adequate compensation. Watson then wrapped things up quickly to take the title for the second time. Clint Wells and Mark Le Brocq both put in strong performances to achieve FIDE ratings over 2100.

Scores: 1 B.R.Watson 9½; 2 L.J.McLaren 8½; 3-4 P.W.Stuart & C.A.Wells 7; 5 M.J.Le Brocq 6½; 6 J.McCrone 6; 7 A.Krstev 5; 8-10 N.J.Gunn, P.I.Hair & E.Tan 4; 11 G.A.Thornton 2½; 12 D.J.W.Simpson 2.

Hair – McLaren,

Sicilian [B26]

1.e4 c5 2. d3 c6 3. g3 g6 4. d2 g7 5. d3 d6 6. d3 d4 7. d2 Bb8 8. d1 b5 9. c3 d6 10. d2 a5 11. 0-0 d5 12. f4 d4 13. h3 dxe3 14. dxe3 f5 15. exf5 gxf5 16. d6 d7 17. dxf5 [17. dxd7+ dxd7 18. d4±] 17... dxc6? [17... dxf6!? 18. dxd7+ dxd7 19. g4 h5"] 18. d3 g7+ d7 19. d5± d6 20. dxf6 exf6 21. f5 g8 22. Bae1 d7 23. Bb6 g7 24. g4 d8 25. d4+ Bb7 26. d2 c4 27. d4 e8 28. e6 [28. Bb5+! and mate in a few moves] 28... dxe6 29. fxe6+ d8 30. Bxf6 b4?! 31. d5 [31. Bf8+!! dxf8 32. d6+ and 33. Bf8 mate] 31... bxc3 32. Bxc3 [32. Bf8+!!] 32... Bc7 33. d5 g8 34. d6+ d8 35. d3 h7+ d8 36. d6+ d8 37. d3 g8+ d8 38. Bf7 [38. Bf8+ is flashier, winning the queen or mating] 38... Bxf7 39. exf7+ d7 40. Bxc4 1-0.

McLaren – Stuart,

Sicilian [B22]

1.e4 c5 2. d3 e6 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 dxd5 5. d4 d6 6. d3 cxd4 7. cxd4 d6 8. d3 d6

9. d3 e7 10. a3 0-0 11. Bc2 h6 12. Bc1 d7 13. 0-0 Bc8 14. d2 e5?! [14... d5? 15. d3 h6! gxh6 16. Bxh6 d6 17. d5+; 14... d5!?!] 15. dxe5 dxe5 16. dxe5 Bxe5 17. Bfe1 [17. d3+?] 17... d6 18. g3 d6? [better 18... d5?! 19. d3 h6 (19. d3 h6 20. d4 e4 d7=) 19... Bb5 20. d3 d4 21. h4 (21. d3 d4? Bxh2+ 22. d3 f1 Bxc5f) 21... dxe3 22. fxe3 d6±] 19. d4± [19. d4? Bb5 20. d2 (20. d3 d6 Bf3 21. d4 dxe4 22. dxe4 dxe4 23. Bxe4 Bxe4=) 20... Bb3 21. d3 Bg4f] 19... Bb5 [19... Bg5 20. Bxg5 hxg5 21. d3 a7±] 20. d3 f6 gxf6 [20... Bf3 21. d4! Bxf6 22. d3 d6 Bxc6 23. d4+] 21. d4 e5 22. d3 d6 Bxc6 23. d5 Bxc1 24. Bxc1 d7 25. d3 Bb3?! [better 25... Bg6±] 26. Bc4 Bc8 [26... Bb6 27. Bb4 Bb8 (27... f5 28. Bb3+) 28. Bc2 h5 29. d5+ d8 30. Bc4+] 27. Bb4 Bb6 28. d5+ d8 29. Bb6+ 1-0.

Wells – Stuart,

Queen's Pawn [E00]

1. d4 d6 2. c4 e6 3. a3 c5 4. d3 d6 5. d3 c6 0-0 6. d3 e7 7. e4 d6 8. d2 b6 9. d4 b7 10. d3 d7 11. b4 a5 12. 0-0 axb4 13. axb4 d5 14. cxd5 exd5 15. d3 d5 16. exd5 d3 17. Bxa8 Bxa8 18. d5? d6 19. d6 h6 20. d3 Bb8 [20... d5!] 21. Bd1 d6? [21... d5!+] 22. d7? [22. d3! d5 23. d6 Bxd6 24. d3 f6 25. d3 d5+ Bxd5 26. Bxd5+ d3 27. Bxd5 fxe5 28. d3 d7+] 22... Bb7 [22... d3 d7! 23. d6 (23. Bxd7 Bxd7 24. d3 d7 d3+) 23... Bb4 24. d3 d6 25. d3 d6 26. d3 d6] 23. d6 d4 24. Bb6 d3



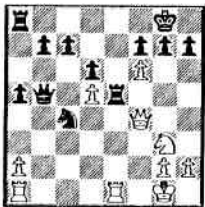
25. Bb1 d3+ 26. d3 d3+ 27. d3 d3+ 28. d3 d3+ 29. d3 d3+ 30. d3 d3+ 31. d3 d3+ 32. d3 d3+ 33. d3 d3+ 34. d3 d3+ 35. d3 d3+ 36. d3 d3+ 37. d3 d3+ 38. d3 d3+ 39. d3 d3+ 40. d3 d3+ 41. d3 d3+ 42. d3 d3+ 43. d3 d3+ 44. d3 d3+ 45. d3 d3+ 46. d3 d3+ 47. d3 d3+ 48. d3 d3+ 49. d3 d3+ 50. d3 d3+ 51. d3 d3+ 52. d3 d3+ 53. d3 d3+ 54. d3 d3+ 55. d3 d3+ 56. d3 d3+ 57. d3 d3+ 58. d3 d3+ 59. d3 d3+ 60. d3 d3+ 61. d3 d3+ 62. d3 d3+ 63. d3 d3+ 64. d3 d3+ 65. d3 d3+ 66. d3 d3+ 67. d3 d3+ 68. d3 d3+ 69. d3 d3+ 70. d3 d3+ 71. d3 d3+ 72. d3 d3+ 73. d3 d3+ 74. d3 d3+ 75. d3 d3+ 76. d3 d3+ 77. d3 d3+ 78. d3 d3+ 79. d3 d3+ 80. d3 d3+ 81. d3 d3+ 82. d3 d3+ 83. d3 d3+ 84. d3 d3+ 85. d3 d3+ 86. d3 d3+ 87. d3 d3+ 88. d3 d3+ 89. d3 d3+ 90. d3 d3+ 91. d3 d3+ 92. d3 d3+ 93. d3 d3+ 94. d3 d3+ 95. d3 d3+ 96. d3 d3+ 97. d3 d3+ 98. d3 d3+ 99. d3 d3+ 100. d3 d3+ 1-0.

NZ Chess

♞xa8+ 30.♞xu8+ ♘h7±] 28...♞xd7 29.♞xd8+? [29.♞a8! ♞xc8 30.♞xc8+ ♘h7 (30...♞f8 31.♞xe5 ♞e7 32.♞d6 ♞xe2+ 33.♞f3 ♞e6 34.♞xf8+ ♘h7 35.♞c7 ♞f6+ 36.♞e4±) 31.♞xe5 ♞d2 (31...♞e7?? 32.♞d3+-; both players had overlooked this check) 32.♞f1±] 29...♞xd8 30.♞xe5 ♞e8+ 31.♞c4 ♞xe5 32.♞a8+ ♞f8 33.♞b8 ♞g5+ 34.♞h3 ♞g6 35.♞h4 ♞f6 36.♞g4 ♞g6 37.h4 h5+ 38.♞g3 ♞g7 39.♞b7 ♞c5 40.♞g2 ♞f2 0-1.

McLaren – Watson,
Alekhine [B03]

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.c4 ♘b6 4.d4 d6 5.exd6 exd6 6.♘c3 ♞e7 7.♞d3 ♘c6 8.♞e3 0-0 9.b3 ♞e8 10.♘g2 ♞g5 11.♞xg5 ♞xg5 12.0-0 ♞f5 13.♞xf5 ♞xf5 14.♞d2 a5 15.♘b5 ♞e7 16.♘g3 ♞d7 17.d5 ♘e5 18.f4 ♘g4 19.f5 ♘e3 20.f6 ♞e5 21.♞fe1 ♘bxc4 22.bxc4 ♘xc4 23.♞f4 ♞xb5



24.♞g4? [24.♘f5! ♞b4 (24...♞xd5 25.♘e7+ ♞xe7 26.♞xe7=) 25.♞f1 (25.♘e7+ ♘f8 26.♞eb1 ♞c5+ 27.♘h1 g5!) 25...♘e3 26.♘xe3 ♞xf4 27.♞xf4 ♞xe3 28.♞b1 and White has compensation] 24...g6 25.♞ec1 ♘e3 26.♞h3 ♘xd5 27.♞ab1 ♞d3 28.♞d7 ♘xf6 29.♞xc7 ♘g4 30.h3 ♞e3+ 31.♘h1 ♞xg3 32.hxg4 ♞xg4 33.♞xb7 ♞h5+ 34.♞g1 ♞d4+ 35.♞f1 ♞f5+ 36.♞e1 ♞e8+ 0-1.

Michael Howard won the B-grade Championship with 7/8, followed by Daniel Johns and Johann Vosloo on 4½ while Ryan Whitehouse took the C-grade title with 8/9 followed by Dina Cloete on 7 points. In the final leg of the club's Rapid Championship Leonard McLaren and Peter Stuart tied for first place with 5/6, the former taking the title with an aggregate score of 15½/18. Stuart was second with 13½ and Jeff McCrone third with

12½. Mark Le Brocq won the Handicap competition by a narrow margin from Graham Wagstaff and Daniel Johns.

Paul Garbett regained his Lightning Championship title in December, scoring 8½/9. Mark Le Brocq and Peter Stuart shared second place on 6 points and then came Jeff McCrone 5½, Matthew Barlow 5 ...

(Continued from page 8)

h4 Nd7 12. h5 c5 13. d5 f5 14. hxg6 hxg6 15. Bh6 Bxc3+ 16. bxc3 fxe4 17. Bxf8 exf3 18. Qxf3 Nxf8 19. Rd1 Qd6 20. Qe4 b5 21. f4 Rd8 22. Kf2 Bxd5 23. Qe3 Qe6 24. Qg3 Rd6 25. Rhe1 Qf6 26. Kg1 Bxa2 27. f5 Bc4 28. fxg6 Nxc6 29. Qe3 Rxd1 30. Rxd1 Nf4 31. Rd8+ Kf7 32. Rd2 Nd5 33. Qxc5 Qf1+ 34. Kh2 Qf4+ 0-1

Arakhamia, K 2408 - Reefat, S 2475
Round 10

1.e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 dxe4 5. Nxe4 Be7 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 7. Ne3 Nd7 8. Bd3 O-O 9. Qd2 b6 10. O-O Bb7 11. Qf4 Be7 12. h4 Nf6 13. Neg5 Qd6 14. Ne5 a5 15. Rh3 Ba6 16. Bxh7+ Nhx7 17. Ngxf7 Qxe5 18. Nh6+ gxh6 19. Qxe5 Bd6 20. Rg3+ 1-0

Guthrie, D 2183 – Coleman, J 2211
Round 10

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. a4 Bf5 6. Ne5 e6 7. f3 Bb4 8. e4 Bxe4 9. fxe4 Nxe4 10. Bd2 Qxd4 11. Nxe4 Qxe4+ 12. Qe2 Bxd2+ 13. Kxd2 Qd5+ 14. Ke2 Na6 15. Nxe4 O-O 16. Qe5 Rab8 17. Be2 f6 18. Qxd5 cxd5 19. Ne3 Rbc8+ 20. Kb3 Nc5+ 21. Kb4 d4 22. Nc4 Rfd8 23. Rad1 e5 24. Bg4 Rc7 25. Rhe1 g6 26. Bf3 Nxa4 27. Nxe5 Nxb2 28. Rd2 fxe5 29. Rxb2 d3 30. Rxe5 Rd4+ 31. Ka3 d2 32. Bd1 b6 33. Re2 Rd3+ 34. Rb3 Rd5 35. Rf3 Re1 36. Rf1 Ra5+ 37. Kb4 Raal 38. Rxd2 Rab1+ 39. Ka4 Ra1+ 40. Kb3 Rab1+ 41. Rb2 Ra1 42. Rd2 a5 43. Rd7 Rab1+ 44. Ka2 Ra1+ 45. Kb2 Rab1+ 46. Ka2 1/2-1/2

2003 Fiji Invitational Chess Championship

by Paul Spiller

Following on from the very successful 2002 Oceania Zonal Championship held on the Coral Coast of Viti Levu, the Fiji Chess Federation under the leadership of president Dr Virgilio De Asa decided to undertake an Invitational Chess Championship in December following on from their own National Championship. The main idea behind the event was to give local players an opportunity to gain FIDE ratings by playing in a round robin event with some invited overseas rated players.

Originally the event was planned for December 2002, but finally took place between December 8 to 13, 2003. Early invitations were accepted by Paul Spiller and Hilton Bennett from New Zealand and Oceania president Gary Bekker and woman FM Catherine Lip from Australia. A late withdrawal by Catherine opened up the

Of special note during this tournament was the amount of excellent publicity given by the national press and Fiji TV. Every day there appeared photos and updates of the previous round results and evening TV news updates. Hilton and myself even gave short interviews on national TV after giving a simul on the rest day at the Homecentres flagship store in downtown Suva. James Datta, CEO of the Homecentres Stores who sponsored the event, is to be congratulated on his continuing support for Fiji Chess.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by Mr Datta, Dr De Asa, and Life Member Justice Sir Moti Tikaram who drew the lots for the players.

Round by Round highlights:

Round 1: Asheesh Gautam and Paul Spiller had hard fought wins against Artilla Devi and Calvin Prasad respectively. Edith was held to a draw by Alvis Chand. Some first round excitement occurred on the other two boards with Hilton surviving some early tactics against Fiji Champion Manoj Kumar and agreeing to a draw, while Gary Bekker played a classic Bxh7 sac, only to miss a forced mating sequence. (see game)

Round 2: Paul Spiller took an early lead after quickly accounting for Artilla Devi.



Gary Bekker

Damian was also untroubled in his round 2 win over Alvis Chand. In a top local matchup, Manoj proved too strong for Asheesh and moved into second equal place. Edith notched up her second draw, this time against Calvin Prasad. Hilton's game against Gary was unclear until both players faced time-pressure with Gary dropping a pawn and the game.

After Round 2:
P.Spiller 2 points; H.Bennett, D.Norris, M.Kumar 1.5 points; E.Otene, A.Gautam 1 point; G.Bekker, C.Prasad, A.Chand .5; A.Devi 0.

Round 3: Hilton and Damian notched quick wins over Alvis and Edith respectively. Calvin managed to score his first win after a long struggle over Artila. Gary and Asheesh drew, with Asheesh perhaps having the opportunity to try for more in the position. Manoj seemed too well prepared against my Caro Kahn, reaching a position that has not been too successful for me in the past. A relatively quick draw ensued.

Round 4: Damian Norris won quickly after Calvin Prasad unwisely took a poisoned pawn which led to loss of his queen. Hilton won a piece in a middle-game melee with Edith.

Asheesh Gautam kept in the running with a victory over Alvis Chand. Gary Bekker equalised easily enough against Paul Spiller, resulting in another draw which saw Spiller lose his grip on the lead. Manoj put in a determined effort to overcome countrywoman Artila Devi to stay in the running for a good FIDE rating. After Round 4: H.Bennett, D.Norris 3.5 points; P.Spiller, M.Kumar 3 points; A.Gautam 2.5 points; G.Bekker, C.Prasad 1.5 points; E.Otene 1 point; A.Chand .5 point; A.Devi 0 points.

Round 5: Manoj Kumar defeated Calvin Prasad as did Gary Bekker over Artila Devi and Paul Spiller against Alvis Chand. Edith Otene looked likely to cause an early upset after having Asheesh Gautam on the ropes after an early indiscretion by Asheesh allowed 4 Qh5+ and loss of a pawn. He fought back however to an even position and offered a draw. Edith unfortunately declined and blundered a piece. Unlucky for Edith and a letoff for Asheesh. The big game of the round saw the clash between Bennett and Norris. After an ex-

change of queens, both players seemed happy to split the point.

Round 6: A pinned bishop led to the demise of Calvin Prasad against Hilton in round six. A bad miscalculation by Asheesh left him a queen down in his game against Damian. Paul managed to join the leaders with a win against Edith after a lapse of concentration on Edith's part allowed mate in two. Artila got off the mark with a draw against Alvis. Manoj slipped back half a point after a draw with Gary. Scores after round 6: H.Bennett, D.Norris, & P.Spiller 5 points; M.Kumar 4.5 points; A.Gautam 3.5 points; G.Bekker 3 points; C.Prasad 1.5 points; E.Otene, A.Chand 1 point; A.Devi .5 points.

A rest day ensued on Thursday 11th. Paul and Hilton were invited to play simultaneous exhibition games at the Homecentres flagship store in downtown Suva. About 20 or so players and additional spectators turned out on what was a very warm morning. Local players were pleased to chalk up a win and two draws against the New Zealanders. A bonus was the arrival of local Fiji TV news who proceeded to film some of the action and interview the Kiwis and local players for the 6 o'clock news later that afternoon. Both Hilton and myself were presented with small gifts by the store manager. Many thanks to Homecentres

for supporting this and to Dr De Asa for organising this successful promotion.

Round 7: A crucial round for the frontrunners which saw the top of the table clash between Spiller and Norris. Norris held a slight middle-game advantage and declined two draw offers, skilfully converting a small plus into a winning position as both players headed into time trouble. Fortunately Spiller kept his cool and Norris failed to capitalise and drifted into a slightly



Paul Spiller

worse position. Unfortunately for Damian, his time ran out as did any realistic chance for a top placing. Hilton maintained his grip on the lead with a vital win over Asheesh Gautam. Manoj kept in contention with a win over Alvis. Gary was held to a draw with Calvin Prasad, which kept some chances alive for a FIDE rating for Prasad. Edith and Artila had a mammoth match which ended in a draw giving Artila her second half point.

Round 8: Hilton and Paul ended hostilities early, a draw giving both a share of the lead going into the last round. Manoj was determined to take the full point and fought hard, declining a draw offer, to eventually defeat Edith in a long battle. Damian put Artila to the sword very quickly as did Asheesh against Calvin after the latter dropped a piece. Gary, determined to improve his placing also won well against Alvis. Points after Round 8: H.Bennett, P.Spiller, M.Kumar 6.5 points; D.Norris 6 points; G.Bekker, A.Gautam 4.5 points; C.Prasad 2 points; E.Otene 1.5 points; A.Chand, A.Devi 1 point.

Round 9: Of the top three, it looked as though Manoj Kumar would have the hardest task in his battle for the Championship title, being paired against rival and top seed Damian Norris in the last round. Hilton continued his winning form with a convincing 19 move win over Artila. In the other top clash, Paul Spiller

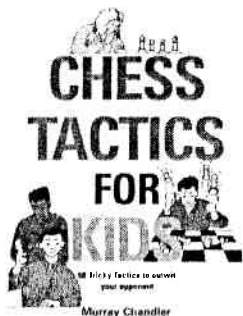
reached a probably winning position but used a lot of time and agreed to his opponents draw offer. In the other matchups, Gary finished with a win over Edith while Calvin and Alvis split the point. While these games were finishing the clash between Norris and Kumar was heating up with an early advantage to Norris being overturned. As the game progressed Manoj gained a decisive advantage and caused possibly the biggest upset of the tournament. This victory cemented Manoj as overall championship winner, having a slightly better tiebreak than Hilton.

Conclusion: A very successful event that has given three local players FIDE ratings. Manoj at 2033, Asheesh at 1970, and Calvin at 1808 will appear on the next FIDE list. A tremendous boost was given to Fiji Chess thanks to Dr De Asa and his support team. The amount of publicity was fantastic and has helped lift the profile of chess in Fiji. Out of this other opportunities will flow. The Fiji Chess Federation now has the Olympiad in Spain firmly fixed in its sights and hopefully will be able to send both a mens and womens team. Thanks to all the players, Justice Sir Moti Tikaram, Dr De Asa and his family, Artila and her family, Asheesh, Manoj, Alvis, Calvin, Roncel and Jashint Maharaj, who ably directed the tournament, for a most enjoyable experience. Final leading scores:

7.5 Kumar (FIJ), 7.5 Bennett (NZL) 7.0 Spiller (NZL) 6.0 Norris (FIJ) 5.5 Bekker (AUS) 5.0 Gautam (FIJ) *A full crosstable is given below:*

Rk	Player	Fed	FIDE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	Tot
1	Kumar, Manoj	FIJ	-	*	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	7.5
2	Bennett Hilton	NZL	2065	½	*	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	7.5
3	Spiller, Paul	NZL	2065	½	½	*	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	7
4	Norris, Damian	FIJ	2195	0	½	0	*	½	1	1	1	1	1	6
5	Bekker, Gary	AUS	1863	½	0	½	½	*	½	½	1	1	1	5.5
6	Gautam, Asheesh	FIJ	-	0	0	½	0	½	*	1	1	1	1	5
7	Prasad, Calvin	FIJ	-	0	0	0	0	½	0	*	½	½	1	2.5
8	Chand, Alvis	FIJ	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	*	½	½	1.5
9	Otene, Edith	NZL	1975	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	*	½	1.5
10	Devi, Artila	FIJ	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	*	1

Two great books to teach and improve chess tactics



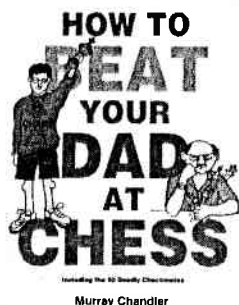
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Junior Chess

by Felicity Timings

Report from Devon Smith about the South Island Chess Championship

Hi, my name is Devon Smith. I am 13 years old and for a while I was the only one in the family who had never seen real snow. My parents had been promising to take me to snow for ages but had never got round to it. Then, in the September school holidays they arranged for us to play in the South Island Chess Championship. It was at Ashburton, very close to the Mt Hutt ski fields which are supposed to have the best snow in New Zealand. Here is one of my games. It was against a university student called Pablo Williams who had an estimated rating of 1500. I had the white pieces:

Devon Smith (954) vs Pablo Williams (1463)

I played 1 e4 c5 I didn't know anything about this opening, but like my Dad says, don't worry about not knowing the opening, just try your best.

2 Bc4 Nf6

3 Nc3 trying to develop quickly 3...e6

4 e5 so that if he plays d5 against my bishop I don't have to run away 4...d5

5 exd6 e.p. Bxd6

6 Nf3 0-0 7 0-0 Nc6

8 b3 I was a bit worried my white bishop wouldn't have many squares if hit, but I wanted the long diagonal for my black bishop.

8....a6 (preparing b5)

9 Bb2 Qc7 looking at my kingside

10 h3 I didn't want his knight coming in to g4 10....Bd7

11 d4 b5 attacking my bishop, but I didn't have to retreat yet.

12 dxc5 attacking back 12... Bxc5

13 Bd3 Rfe8

14 Ne4 clearing the diagonal for my bishop

14...Nxe4

15 Bxe4 f5 very aggressive

16 Bd3 e5? I double checked this a few times. Yes I could win one of 2 pawns here - f or b. The b pawn looked safer.

17 Bxb5! Axb5 18 Qd5+ Kh8 19 Qxc5 Qb7

20 Nxe5 winning a second pawn 20...Nxe5

21 Bxe5 Rac8 attacking my exposed queen.

22 Qd4 attacking g7 22...Bc6

23 f3 I was trying hard not to give anything back 23...Rcd8 24 Qf4 Qb6+

25 Kh1 Qc5 forking my c2 pawn and bishop

26 Rfe1 Qxc2 getting a pawn back

27 Rac1 winning a bishop? Not quite 27...Qf2

28 Bxg7+! I could see I could get my piece back if he took it.

28...Kxg7

29 Rxe8 Bxe8? This loses a rook. He should have taken with the bishop (then 30 Qc7+ gets my piece back.)

30 Qg5+ My opponent slammed 2 chairs over and stomped out!

I think he took me too lightly because I was by far the lowest rated player in the



field.

In the end I managed to score 4.5 out of 8 coming 5th equal with my mum. (My dad came 1st equal but that was no surprise as he's pretty good.) I got the \$50 upset prize for this game, plus \$125 for coming first in grade 2.

After the tournament we spent 2 days snowboarding which was wicked! It was the best holiday I'd had for quite a while.

Recent Junior results from two Auckland Junior club championships:

The Waitemata Junior Club Championship for 2003 was won by Shirley Wu with 6/7, followed by her sister Sharon Wu (5). Third equal were Benny Jones and Ian Kirkpatrick (4.5)

The Most Improved Player was Shirley Wu, who increased her rating by 90 points over the season. Highly commended were Ian Kirkpatrick (+68) and the previous winner of this award, Sharon Wu (+52)

The Sportsmanship Award went to Ian Kirkpatrick, while the joint Lightning Champions are Sharon Wu and Leroy Hooke.

The North Harbour Junior Club Championship was won by Lion Yang with 6/6, followed by James Danaher (5). Third equal were Brendan Dalton, Yuntian Liu and Ryan Whitehouse (4.5). Most Improved Player was Jireh Tan, Most Promising Girl was Jennifer Timmins, Most Promising Junior was Henry Glenn, Most Promising Senior was Yuntian Liu and the Coach's Award went to Frances Clark. The Player of the Year was Serra Tang and the Sportsmanship Award went to James Danaher.

If any other clubs have junior results from club championships we would love to hear from you.

Here's a little piece from an article I came across in a May 1931 edition of National Geographic.

The article is about Strobeck, a Medieval Village in the Harz Mountains of Germany, where chess had been taught in school and has been widely played within the entire community for many years. Strobeck is referred to as the 'home of chess': in the village's historical chess tower contests have been held since 1011, and during the First World War (referred to as The War in this magazine!) paper money was gaily illustrated with chessboards and coloured chessmen.

"While a village merchant waits for customers, he entertains himself with the exciting problems of chess, and when business knocks he lays his chessboard aside only while the purchaser is served. So his father has done before him. So his son will do after he is gone.

"Wherever people go in Strobeck for entertainment and refreshment, they find chessboards and chessmen provided for their amusement. The game is part and parcel not only of the town's educational and recreational hours, but of its business hours. The entire village breathes

chess morning, noon and night, generation after generation.

"When a Strobeck maiden marries a man from the outside world, she must play a game of chess with the chief magistrate of the village before she leaves her native heath, in order to prove that she carries with her the knowledge of the traditions of the community."

(Continued from page 17)

pick up 3rd prize and Garbett and Ker improved on their first half scores to finish 4th and 5th respectively.

Final results were: Alexei Kulashko 15 (14 wins), Puchen Wang 13 (12 wins), Martin Dreyer 11.5(10 wins), Paul Garbett 10 (9 wins), Anthony Ker 9 (9 wins), Peter Green 8 (8 wins), Ewen Green and Mark Van Der Hoorn 7 (both 7 wins), Bruce Watson 6 (6 wins), and Michael Steadman 3.5 (2 wins).

Alexei walked away with \$320 plus a really nice framed pottery plaque commemorating the day. The prizes over-ran the \$1000 budget we'd been given by \$170. Bob had been a bit optimistic about the number of draws. Everyone had gone hammer and tongs when there was the incentive of \$5 per win, plus we were playing to a nasty rule where it was difficult to claim a draw by repetition. However the Onehunga Business Association was happy to foot the extra cost. The girls had been kept busy with their games against the public and were also generously rewarded for their efforts.

Here are a couple of cute games from the tournament as recalled by Ewen Green.

Ewen Green – Martin Dreyer.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.b4 Qxb4
5.Rb1 Qd6 6.Bc4 c6 7.Nf3 Be6 8.Ne4 Qc7
9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.d4 Nd7 11.0-0 Ngf6 12.Re1
Nxe4 13.Rxe4 Nf6 14.Bf4 Qd7 15.Re1 0-0
16.c4 h6 17.Qa4 a6? 18.Qxa6! (ouch) 1-0

Ewen Green – Peter Green

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0
Be7 6.d4 exd4 7.Re1 d6 8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Bxc6
bxc6 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Qf3 c5 12.Nf5 Re8 13.Bg5
Bc6 14.Re3 Bf8? 15.Nh6+ ! gxh6 16.Bxf6 1-0

Onehunga Lightning Chess Spectacular 2003

by Viv Smith

Our lightning chess exhibition had been very popular with the players and spectators in 2001, so we were delighted when the Onehunga Business Association once again invited us to take part in their 2003 Onehunga Ancient Games Festival on Saturday, 1 November.

Once every two years, the main street of Onehunga gets roped off from traffic and a variety of ancient games are on display for the public to watch and/or participate in. It's a great day for kids and adults alike with activities such as sumo wrestling (in large padded suits), pirate shows, sword battles, treasure hunts, costume competitions, and it would not be complete without that most ancient of all board games - chess.

We opted for the double round-robin blitz format again. In 2001 the twelve player format had proved a little long for our time slot of 11 am – 3 pm, so we narrowed the field to ten. Hubby Bob was mortified that he could not play as he was going off to the World Youth Champs in Greece as coach/manager of our NZ junior contingent. I was mortified too as I'd be left to organise and direct the tournament on my little lonesome. Still, I'd been DOP the last time and the players were a charming bunch of lads with barely a dispute to bite my nails over.

Thankfully Bob had organised the tournament field and prize fund before he left. It was a star-studded line up with FM Alexei Kulashko heading the field followed by IM Anthony Ker, previous winner FM Paul Garbett, FM Martin Dreyer, FM Bruce Watson, FM Ewen Green, Mark Van Der Hoorn, Michael Steadman, FM Peter Green, and last but by no means least - our current NZ Lightning Champion - that very dangerous 13 year old Puchen Wang.

We also had three very sweet young girls for the public to try out their chess skills against - NZ under 12 Girls' joint champions Sue Maroroa and Shirley Wu, plus the under 10 Auckland Girls' Champion - the petit (but very savage) Sharon Wu. The public were in for a bit of a surprise there if they expected an easy game. The idea was to show that females can

play this game too.

The prize fund for the tournament was \$250 for 1st, \$200 for 2nd, \$150 for 3rd, \$100 for 4th, and \$50 for 5th, plus so that hopefully no-one would go home empty handed, \$5 for every win.

Fortunately for players and public it was a fine day. The Business Association had organised all the table and chairs which were set up on the pavement of Onehunga Mall under a couple of large marquees which also gave good shelter from the sun. Amazingly all players arrived on time and we were soon under way. I tactfully advised that there were to be no complaints about noise, as there were 200 kids playing in a Yu-Gi-Oh tournament in the middle of the street close by, and lively music from Latin American band Kantuta accompanying us further up. Obviously focus was going to be important.

In this field no-one was going to have any easy games, but one player was hot! After only 3 rounds Kulashko had leapt into the lead a point clear of the field. Ker had been slow warming up losing to both Kulashko and Ewen Green, while Garbett had dropped a point to the ever so wily Van Der Hoorn. By the time they reached the midway mark Kulashko had increased his lead to 2 points with 8/9, dropping only 2 draws to Steadman and Garbett. Peter Green was running 2nd on 6/9 and Wang 3rd with 5.5. Behind them came Dreyer on 5 and Garbett on 4.5. We stopped for a lunch break before launching into the next nine gruelling rounds.

In the second half of the tournament Kulashko maintained his 2 point lead to finish 1st with 15/18. He lost only 2 games out of 18 to Wang and Garbett. Wang came 2nd with 13/18 - having lost his first game after lunch to Dreyer, he then fought back strongly to score 7.5 out of 8, dropping just one draw to Steadman.

The effort of the first half of the tournament told on Peter Green, who faded to 6th on 8 points, while some others started to pick up the pace. Dreyer showed good form throughout to

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 7)

Zamarbide (Spain - 2119) - G,Thornton
 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5
 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.Qg4 g6 8.f4 a6 9.Nf3 c5
 10.h4 h5 11.Qh3 Nc6 12.0-0 exd4 13.Nxd4
 Nxd4 14.Rxd4 Qc5 15.Qe3 Nb6 16.Be2
 [16.Ne4 Qa5 17.Nd6+] 16...Bd7 17.Kb1 Bb5
 18.Re4 Qxe3 19.Rxe3 Bxe2 [19...d4 20.Nxb5
 dxe3 21.Nc7+ Ke7 22.Nxa8 Rxa8 23.Bf3]
 20.Nxe2 Nc4 21.Rc3 Ke7 22.Rhh3 Rac8
 23.b3 Nb6 24.Rxc8 Rxe8 25.Rc3 Rxc3
 26.Nxc3 f6 27.Kc1 [27.exf6+ Kxf6 28.Ne2]
 27...fxe5 28.fxe5 Nd7 29.Kd2 Nxe5 30.Ke3
 Kd6 31.Ne2 Nc6 32.Kd3 e5 33.g3 b5 34.c3
 Ke6 35.Ke3 Kf5 36.Kf3 b4 37.e4 d4 38.Kf2
 Kg4 39.Kg2 d3 40.Ng1 d2 41.Nh3 d1N 0-1

**Min-Yang,Evan Yeo (Singapore- 2202) -
 Robertson,Blair (1367)**
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6
 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Be4 Bd7 10.0-
 0-0 Re8 11.Bb3 Ne5 12.Kb1 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4
 14.g4 Bxg4?! 15.fxg4 Nxg4 16.Bg1 Qc8
 17.Nd5 Qd7 18.c3?! e6 19.Ne3 Nxe3 20.Bxe3
 Rf8 21.Rhel b5 22.Bh6 Bh8 23.Nc2 b4
 24.Nxb4 a5 25.Nc2 Rxc3 26.Nd4 [26.Qxc3

Rxc3; 26.bxc3 Bxc3] 26...R3c4 27.Be3 Qb7
 28.Bg1 a4 29.Qd3 Rc3 [29...Rb4!? 30.Rd2
 Rcc4?] 30.Qb5± Qxb5 31.Nxb5 Re2 32.Nc3
 Rxb2+ 33.Kxb2 Bxc3+ 34.Ka3 Bxe1 35.Rxe1
 Rc4 36.Bf2 [36.e5 dxe5 37.Rxe5 Re2?] 36...Kg7
 37.e5 d5 38.Bh4?? [?38.Rb1?] 38...Rxb4+
 39.Re2 d4 [39...f6!? 40.exf6+ Kxf6 41.Kb2-+]
 40.Rd2 d3 41.Rf2 [41.Rxd3 Rxb2 42.Re3 h5-+]
 41...Rd4 42.Rd2 g5 43.Kb2 h5 [43...Kg6 44.Kc3
 Rd7 45.Rd1-+]
 44.Kc3 [44.Kc1 Kg6 45.Rf2
 Rf4-+]
 44...Rd5 45.a3 g4 [45...Kg6 46.Rd1-+]
 46.Kb4 Rxe5 [46...Kg6 47.Kxa4 Kf5 48.Kb4
 Kxe5 49.Kc3-+]
 47.Kxa4 [47.Rxd3 Re4+
 48.Kb5 h4-+]
 47...Rd5 48.Kb4 e5 [48...e5
 49.Kc4 Rd4+ 50.Kc3 f5-+]
 0-1

An,Z (China) - Charomova,E
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6
 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Nxd4
 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Kb1 Qc7 12.g4 Rf8 13.h4 Qa5
 14.a3 Rab8 15.h5 b5 16.h6 Bh8 17.g5 Nd7
 18.Bxb8 Kxh8 19.Qd4+ f6 20.Nd5 Bxd5
 21.Qxd5 Rf8 22.Qe6 Qd8 23.Bh3 Nc5 24.Qd5
 b4 25.axb4 Rxb4 26.gxf6 Na4 27.fxe7 Qxe7
 28.Qxd6 Nc3+ 29.Kc1 Na2+ 30.Kb1 Nc3+
 31.Kc1 Na2+ 1/2-1/2

(Continued from page 19)

KARA beat Hendry, Atkinson (2). HENDRY
 beat Atkinson. ATKINSON beat Chowdhury.
 The following two games feature three players,
 Ken Reed, John Atkinson and Glenys Mills, all
 of whom have been featured in N Z Chess in
 recent times.

Mills,G - Reed,K
 [A87]

NZCCA Reserve Champ 2003-04
 1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.0-0-0
 6.c4 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.b3 Nc6 9.Ba3 Ne4 10.Qd3

Nxc3 11.Qxc3 e5 12.Bb2 exd4 13.Qd2 f4
 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Bxd4 16.Qxd4 Qxe2
 17.Rfe1 Qh5 18.Bd5+ Rf7 19.Re8# 1-0

Reed,K - Atkinson,J
 [B76]

NZCCA Handicap Tourney 2002
 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6
 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.Kb1
 dxe4 11.Nxc6 Qxd2 12.Nxe7+ Kh8 13.Rxd2 Be6
 14.fxe4 Rf8 15.Ned5 Nxd5 16.exd5 Bf5 17.Bd4
 Re1+ 18.Nd1 Bg4 19.Bxg7+ Kxg7 20.Kc1 Rd8
 21.c4 Kf8 22.h3 Bf5 23.Re2 Rxe2 24.Bxe2 1-0

New Zealand News—Wanganui C.C.

Chris Burns has been the top Wanganui player for the past
 two years, during which time he has won both the standard
 and rapid championships twice. Results of the club's 2003
 rapid championships: A grade, President's Shield: Chris
 Burns 6/6, Martin Post 3/6, David Bell 2/6, Gordon
 Hoskyn 1/6. A Reserve, Club Captain's Shield: Ivan de

Farias 7.5/10, Ted Frost 7/10, Waata Hipango 6/10, James
 Stewart 5/9, Ahmed Al-Hindawi 2/10, Kelly Forrest 1.5/9.
 B Grade, Life Member's Shield: Yong Nguyen 7/8, Ross
 Maxwell 5/6, Graham Kane 4/8, Michael Campbell 2/6,
 Joe Ryland 0/8. C Grade, Committee Members' Shield:
 Dan Hurley 8/8. D Grade, Patron's Shield: George Hurley
 and Thomas Stratton 1/2, 1=.

Correspondence Chess

by Gordon Hoskyn

The New Zealand Correspondence Chess Association is currently taking entries for its 2004-05 competitions. Entries close mid-February 2004, so get your entries in pronto. The main tournaments are the Trophy Tourneys which begin on 1 March, 2004. Play takes place in graded round-robins. The D.O.P. is Peter Voss of Kaiteriteri. The Handicap Tourneys and Certificate Tourneys begin at various stages of the year. Players may nominate the number of opponents they wish to play. There is no play at odds. The D.O.P. is Barry Williams of Wanganui. The D.O.P. for overseas play is Michael Freeman of Stratford. There are a number of overseas tournaments from which to choose. For entry forms or further information, contact Sandy Maxwell, P O Box 3278, Wellington, or phone Sandy (04) 237 4753.

Now for something a little novel!

During the last Congress in Ostrava, the ICCF decided to start a new series of tournaments called Fischer Random under the organization of the Thematic Tournament Office. Fischer Random Chess changes the initial position of the pieces at the start of a game. This chess variant was created by GM Bobby Fischer. It was originally announced in 1996 in Buenos Aires. Fischer's goal was to create a chess variant in which chess creativity and talent would be more important than memorization and analysis of opening moves. His approach was to create a randomized initial chess position, which would thus make memorizing chess opening move sequence far less helpful. The starting position for Fischer random chess must meet the following rules:

- White pawns are placed on their orthodox home squares.
- All remaining white pieces are placed on the first rank.
- The white king is placed somewhere between the two white rooks (never on "a1" or "h1").
- The white bishops are placed on opposite-coloured squares.
- The black pieces are placed equal-and-

opposite to the white pieces. For example, if white's king is placed on b1, then black's king is placed on b8. There are 960 initial positions of Fischer Random Chess with an equal chance. Note that one of these initial positions is the standard chess position but not played in this case. Once the starting position is set up, the rules for play are the same as standard chess. In particular, pieces and pawns have their normal moves, and each player's objective is to checkmate their opponent's king. Enquiries to Michael Freeman, P O Box 330, Stratford, or michaelfreeman@xtra.co.nz.

Trophy Tourney progress

As at 6 January, 2004.

70th Championship: P B Goffin and W R Smillie 7.5/9, G A Hoskyn 6.5/10, J C Rapp 6/10, M L Dunwoody 5.5/6, B G Walsh 4.5/8, E G A Frost 3.5/9, B W Millar 2.5/10, P J Voss 2/9, R J Weston 1.5/7, P A R Vetharanim 1/3, H P Bennett 0/6.

Latest results: GOFFIN beat Smillie, Rapp, Voss; drew Walsh. SMILLIE beat Walsh, Frost, Weston, Bennett. HOSKYN beat Voss; drew Rapp. RAPP beat Frost, Vetharanim, Bennett; drew Voss. DUNWOODY beat Rapp, Frost, Miller. WALSH beat Millar, Weston; drew Frost. FROST beat Voss, Weston, Millar. MILLAR beat Voss, Bennett.

Reserve Championship: G D Putt 4.5/7, D R Whitlock 4/4, P E Rossiter 2.5/6, G E Lovelock and B M Williams 2/4, G H Mills 2/8, K G Reed 0/1.

Latest results: PUTT beat Rossiter, Lovelock, Mills; drew Rossiter, Mills, Williams. WHITLOCK beat Rossiter (2), Williams, Mills. ROSSITER beat Lovelock, Mills. LOVELOCK beat Mills (2). WILLIAMS beat Putt, drew Mills. MILLS beat Reed. TT2: D I Bell 6/7, W Anderson 5.5/7, T D S Kara 5/7, A W Hendry 3.5/7, D E Dolejs 3/5, J W H Atkinson 2/9, S R Chowdhury 2/12. Latest results: BELL beat Anderson, Hendry. ANDERSON beat Atkinson, drew Hendry.

(Continued on page 18)

Chess Book Reviews

by Michael Stevenson

New Year greetings to all the readers of 'New Zealand Chess' - I wish every reader a pleasant 'chess' year. Please feel free to share any of your thoughts with me, whatever they are, suggestions, criticisms etc. Drop me a line at chessbooksnz@hotmail.com

Lessons in Chess Strategy

by Valeri Beim (Gambit)

Ex-world champion Euwe wrote "Strategy is the case of thinking, tactics one of seeing" and with this thought in mind we'll move to the first of three books by Gambit on strategy. Valeri Beim wrote three books for Gambit; his very readable 'Understanding the Leningrad Dutch' which is a 'must read' for players of the Leningrad Dutch; his new book 'Lessons in Chess Strategy' which is his follow up to, I feel, the much underrated 'Chess Recipes from the Grandmaster Kitchen'. Through a study of Beim's well written text in 'Lessons in Chess Strategy' and playing through the games and solving the well set out tests in which he reveals the answers, Valeri shows what you need to know and what you must be able to do, in order to play chess more successfully.

Chess Strategy in Action

by John Watson (Gambit)

John Watson's probable 'classic' book is a follow on from his best seller 'Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy'. John is one of the most respected chess writers around today with groundbreaking books on the English opening and also a book on the Modern Benoni. In the first part of this new book John covers topics, through many complete games such as the surrender of the centre, doubled pawns in action and Her Majesty as a Subject. The second part of his book is entitled 'Modern Games and their Interpretation' and is worth the price of the book alone! Through 35 exceptionally well annotated games in this second portion, John has enlightened us on the important ideas of modern chess. A well-written book that should sit nicely alongside a copy of 'Secrets of

Modern Chess Strategy' - but don't worry if you don't have SoMCS as 'Chess Strategy in Action' is very much a first-class read by itself.

Creative Chess Strategy

by Alfonso Romero (Gambit)

Gambit has a knack of finding new and exciting writers and has done it again in discovering Alfonso Romero. Alfonso's new book 'Creative Chess Strategy' is aimed more at intermediate and high-ranking players. His intention is to show the reader that the game of chess is not only what you know (which of course is important), but also how to sense how your game is progressing. More detailed in the variations than Beim and Watson, Alfonso's new book is more of a service to the intermediate player and up - however lower rated players may still benefit too. This book would prove to be an excellent addition to anyone's chess library - and here's hoping that Alfonso will be writing more books in the near future.

Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual (cd)

by Mark Dvoretsky (Chessbase)

Chessbase has recently bought out some high-quality training cds. If you are thinking of buying an endgame chess program on cd this year I do believe you won't go past 'Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual' by Mark Dvoretsky. Mark is well known around the world as an author and chess instructor and he's shown through his books and more significantly through the results of his pupils, that the serious study of the endgame not only helps this part of a player's game but also the opening and middle. Dvoretsky's cd has sixteen chapters commencing with the pawn endgames which need to be known how to calculate accurately. He then moves up to the Queen endgames. Dvoretsky has certainly written an Endgame cd that should be in every chess-player's library. More information on Dvoretsky's new book 'School of Chess Excellence 4 - Opening developments' in the next review.

English 1. c4 e5 (cd)

by Mihail Marin (Chessbase)

Mihail starts off his cd with a fascinating introduction called the 'English opening from Staunton to Kasparov' and then moves on to over 55 texts/chapters that are an introduction to the games on this cd. There are 69,000 games in total of which Mihail has annotated over 350 games himself and other strong players have annotated 1,800. Players like Grandmasters Gelfand, Svidler and Kramnik. To give you an example here's one taken off the cd by Grandmaster Tony Kosten who plays and has written an excellent book on the English:

Kosten, A (2502) - Mischustov, M (2380)

[A20]

BL2-O 9899 Germany (5.1), 31.01.1999

[Kosten]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d4 Bb4+ 5.Bd2 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 d6 This was lucky; at the time of playing this game I was in the middle of writing a book on the English Opening ('The Dynamic English'), and had written the section on this position just days before. It was still fresh in my memory! 7.Nc3 Actually, in my book I suggest that [7.e3 first, is more accurate, but I wanted to try something else.] 7...0-0 8.e3 Qe7 9.Nge2 Na6 10.h3! I had first seen this plan in a game of Dorfman's, the idea is to play g4, and then Ng3. From here, the knight controls the two critical squares e4, and f5. 10...Rb8 11.g4 b5 12.cxb5 cxb5 13.Ng3 b4 14.Nce2 g6 This weakens the kingside, but Black wanted to play ...Bb7, without allowing the reply Nf5. 15.0-0 Bb7 16.e4 White turns his attention to Black's kingside. 16...Kh8 17.f4 Ng8 18.f5 f6 19.a3! A nasty surprise for my opponent, who was getting short of time, White attacks on both wings. 19...exd4 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.axb4 d5 22.Nf4 Kh7 23.exd5 Nxb4 24.Rae1 Suddenly it seems that Black is lost, without having done anything terribly wrong. The move played was too tempting, but [24.Be4 was also strong, as it is impossible to defend g6.] 24...Qd6 25.Re6 Qc5 26.Ne4 Qc2?! This gives White a choice of wins, but if [26...Qa5 then 27.Nxg6! Kxg6? 28.Qg5+ leads to a quick mate, anyway.]

27.Nxg6! This is pretty, but my first thought was to play [27.Qxb4 as 27...Bxd5 28.Qxd4 Bxc6 29.Nxe6 is devastating, but I wish I had seen the line; 27.Rc1! as 27...Qxd2 allows mate: 28.Rc7+ Kh6 29.g5+ fxg5 30.Rxg6# and this would certainly have been the most aesthetic finish!] 27...Kxg6 This allows mate, but although [27...Qxd2 28.Nxf8+ Rxf8 29.Nxd2 would have allowed Black to continue a bit, it is quite hopeless, of course.] 28.Qg5+ Kh7 29.Rxf6! Rxf6 30.Re7+! Nxe7 31.Nxf6+ Kh8 32.Qh6+ 1-0

1.Nc3 The Van Geet Opening (cd)

by D.D. van Geet (New in Chess)

This cd is "the best of times, the worst of times" (apologies to Dickens). The 'best of times' is the well written text in which IM and Correspondence GM Dick van Geet and others have "paid attention only to those variations which have relatively independent significance", so there is no moving into the opening like the Vienna eg, if black plays 1...e5 then the recommendation on the cd is 2.d4 or Nf3. After the introduction you move on to the basic ideas and main variations of the Nc3 opening, whichmost of the annotated games and, and lastly there is the bigwhere most of the games are not annotated. The 'worst of times' of this cd is the chessviewer; unlike ChessBase readers which are easy to use, the New in Chess viewers are hard to navigate.

Chess (Monthly)

by Chess & Bridge Ltd

In the December 2003 and January 2004 issues of Chess (Monthly) there is the usually high number of articles and well-annotated games from players like King, Martin and a first rate annotated game by Svidler on his game against Alexei Shirov in the Russian Championships. Nevertheless the articles that catch your attention are the ones that are often overlooked in some chess magazines. In the December issue there is the article called 'Could you be an Arbiter' where the readers are asked 20 multi-choice questions, with answers, and proves that its not

(Continued on page 26)

Auckland International Open

by Gary Bekker

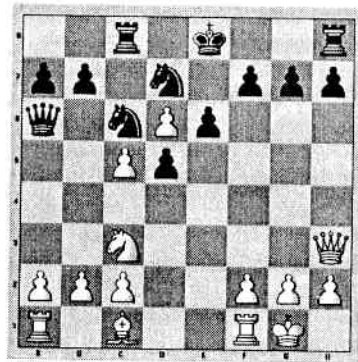


Puchen Wang – Finishing one point behind joint tournament winners, GM Darryl Johansen and IM Guy West, Puchen Wang is clearly developing as one of NZ's strongest players.

Although the final standings might indicate that the 2004 Auckland Open was dominated by foreign competitors, the truth is that the top seeds from overseas didn't have it all their own way. As early as round one, visiting GM Darryl Johansen was lucky to escape from a losing position against New Zealand player Alistair Compton. Alistair went on to have an excellent tournament, drawing with foreign FMs Tim Reilly and Oliver Koeller to finish just outside the top places. Here is Alistair's final round victory over Mark van der Hoorn.

Compton, AI (2052) - Van der Hoorn, M (2143)
[B12]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Bd3 Bxd3 5.Qxd3 e6 6.Ne2 Qb6 7.Nbc3 Qa6 8.Qh3 Ne7 9.0-0 c5?! (9...Nd7 is probably best) 10.dxc5 Nd7 11.Nd4 Nc6 12.Ndb5 Rc8 13.Nd6+ Bxd6 14.exd6
14...0-0? (White now wins a second pawn;



The obvious capture 14...Nxe5?! also allows 15.Nxd5 and White is still ahead because the e6 pawn is pinned; 14...Qc4 15.Qg3 leaves White with a lasting edge.) 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Qxd7 Nd4 17.Be3 Nxc2 18.Ra1 Qe2 19.Qxb7 d4 (Attempting to win the c5 pawn. Marginally better was 19...Nxe3 20.fxe3 (20.Rfe1? Rxc5! gives Black chances to hold on) 20...Rxc5 (Threatening 21...Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Qxd3+ winning) but after 21.Qe7 White is still winning.) 20.Rxc2?! (Exchanging to eliminate Black's counter-play; Better was 20.d7! since 20...Rxc5?? allows 21.Bxd4 winning, and other moves allow the white bishop to move without the loss of the c-pawn.) 20...Qxc2 21.Bxd4 Qc4 22.Be3 Rb8 23.Qxa7 Rxb2 24.Rc1 Qd3 25.h3 h6 26.d7 (Black is powerless to stop the white pawns from promoting.) 26...Qd5 27.c6 Rd2 28.Bxd2 Qxd2 29.Qc5 Kh7 (Setting one final trap. If 30.Qxf8?? Qxc1+ 31.Kh2 Qf4+ and Black draws.) 30.Qc2+ 1-0

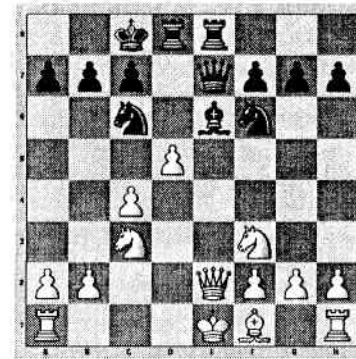
Darryl Johansen's efforts to claw his way back to join the lead with Guy West and Oliver Koeller, were hampered by New Zealand's other star performers in the tournament, Puchen Wang and FM Bruce Watson, who also both held the visiting GM to a draw.

In this brilliant game, Puchen Wang demonstrates the depth of his opening knowledge and

demolishes FM Leonard McLaren in convincing style.

McLaren, Leonard (2275) - Wang, Puchen (2181)
[B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6 (The Icelandic Gambit) 4.dxe6 Bxe6 5.d4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 Qe7 8.Qe2 (8.Qe3 is considered to be slightly better, after 8...Nc6 then 9.Be2 or 9.Nf3 should be roughly equal, but not 9.d5?! Ng4 10.Qc3 (10.Qe4 is probably better) 10...Bxd5+ 11.Ne2 Be6 12.Qxg7? 0-0-0 and Black's lead in development will give him a strong attack.) 8...Nc6 9.Nf3 0-0-0 10.d5 Rhe8 11.Nc3 (11.dxc6?? Bxc4 and 11.dxe6 Qb4+ followed by 12...Rxe6 both win on the spot for Black.)



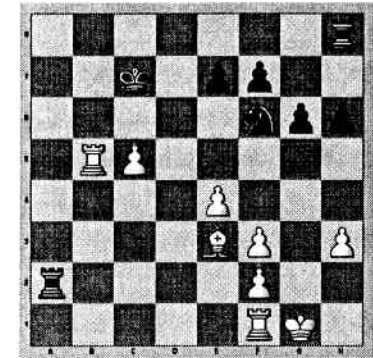
11...Bxd5! 12.cxd5 Qb4 13.dxc6 Qxb2! (This line is known to opening theory and the position is now totally hopeless for White.) 14.cxb7+ Kb8 15.Rd1 Qxc3+ 16.Nd2 Rxe2+ 17.Bxe2 Rxd2 18.Rxd2 Ne4 19.0-0 Qxd2 20.Bf3 f5 0-1

Puchen Wang's result in this event showed that he is clearly one of New Zealand's best players. In his round 8 game, Puchen quickly defeated FM Bob Smith, the highest ranked New Zealand player in the tournament.

Smith, Robert (2294) - Wang, Puchen (2181)
[A37]

1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.d3 e5 6.c4 Nge7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Bd2 d6 9.a3 b6

10.Rb1 Bb7 11.Ne1 Qd7 12.Nc2 Nd4 13.Bxb7 Qxb7 14.Ne3 f5 15.Ned5 Rae8 16.e3 Ndc6 17.b4 e4 18.dxe4 Ne5 19.exf5 Rxf5 20.e4 Nxd5 21.cxd5 (21.exf5?? Nxc3 22.Bxc3 Nf3+ 23.Kh1 Nd2+ and 24...Bxc3 wins for Black.) 21...Nf3+ 22.Kg2 Bxc3 23.Bxc3 Rxe4 24.Qd3 Ng5 25.Rbd1 c4 26.Qd2 Qe7 27.Qc2? (Although Black already has an advantage, White may have been able to hang on if he had



played an alternative move which enabled him to meet 27...Re2 with 28.Qd4.) 27...Re2 28.Rd2 Qe3 0-1

As mentioned earlier, FM Bruce Watson also had a very solid performance. Here is his win over FM Leonard McLaren.

Watson, Bruce (2276) - McLaren, Leonard (2275)
[A42]

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3 Bg4?! (This appears a little over-ambitious.) 6.dxc5 dxc5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Be3 Nd7 9.Ng5 Ne5 10.h3 Bd7 11.Bxc5 h6 12.Nf3 Nxf3+ 13.gxf3 b6 14.Be3 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 Ba4 16.c5 b5 17.Rb1 a6 18.c4 Kc7 (Black is hoping to regain material by rounding up White's queen-side pawns, but his king is heading into danger.) 19.exb5 axb5 20.Bxb5 Bxb5 21.Rxb5 Rxa2 22.0-0 (White is now clearly winning.) 22...Nf6 23.Bf4+ Kc6 (No better is 23...Kd7 24.Rb7+ Kc6 25.Rc7+ Kb5 26.Rxe7 Kxc5? 27.Rc7+ Kb5 28.Rb1+ Ka6 when White has a variety of ways to win.) 24.Rb6+ Kxc5 (24...Kd7? 25.Rd1+ leads to mate.) 25.Be3+

Kc4 26.Rc1+ Kd3 27.Kf1 Ra3 (More resistance would have been offered by 27...Rc2 28.Rd1+ Kc4 29.Rc6+ Kb3 30.Rd3+ Kb2 31.Rb6+ Ka2 32.Bd4 winning for White because of the threat of 33.Ra6+ Kb1 34.Ra1#) **28.Rbc6** (with 29.Rd1# to follow.) 1-0

GM Darryl Johansen had to endure long, difficult games, including a tough win over fellow Australian IM Guy West, to join the lead. IM West, on the other hand, was able to produce several quick wins on his way to joint tournament victory.

West, Guy (2352) - Reedy, Brendan (2094)
[B53]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Qa5+ (5...Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bg5 e6 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.Rhe1 0-0 is the main line.) 6.Nc3 Bd7 7.Bxc6 Bxc6 8.Bd2 Qb6 9.Qd3 e6 (9...Qxb2?! 10.Rb1 Qa3 11.Rxb7! gives White the advantage since if 11...Bxb7? then 12.Qb5+ Kd8 13.Nb1 and 14.Ba5+ wins for White.) 10.0-0-0 0-0-0 11.Be3 Qa5 12.Nd4 d5?! (Creating open lines for White's better developed pieces to attack the Black king.) 13.exd5 Bxd5 14.Ndb5 a6 15.Nxd5 (Threatening 16.Nb6+) 15...exd5 16.Qf5+ Rd7 (16...Kb8 17.Qe5+ Ka8

More NZ News

Next Congress in Wanganui

The recent NZCF AGM confirmed that the Wanganui Chess Club will host the 112th National Championship Congress. It will be held from 2 - 12 January, 2005.

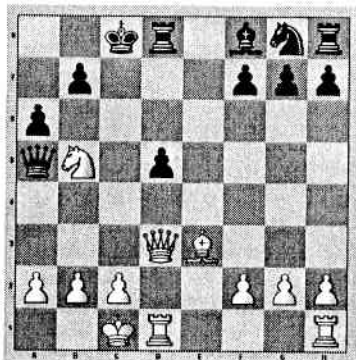
Congress will be similar to the 110th Congress held in Wanganui just over a year ago. The Collegiate Hotel and Motor Inn will again provide the playing venues and accommodation. Free food and drinks, spot prizes and lucky accommodation draws will feature again.

The only major change will be the time controls, which will incorporate new FIDE time controls, a first for a New Zealand Congress.

Personal updates

NZCCA Championship correspondence player Peter Voss (Kaiteriteri) has recently been

18.Nc7+ Kb8 19.Nxa6+ Kc8 (16...Ka8 17.Rxd5! wins for White.) 20.Qb8+ Kd7 21.Qxb7+ and 22.Bb6 also



wins for White.) 17.Rxd5 Nf6 18.Na7+ 1-0

Thanks must go to Paul Spiller for organizing yet another successful international chess event in New Zealand. Paul's next project is to host the 2005 Oceania Zonal Championship in Auckland early next year.

Final leading scores:

7.0 GM D.Johansen (AUS), IM G.West (AUS)
6.0 P.Wang (NZL), FM T.Reilly (AUS),
FM O.Koeller (GER)
5.5 FM B.Watson (NZL), A.Compton (NZL)

hospitalised, and undergone surgery. All chess players in New Zealand will wish Peter a speedy return to full health and a place in the C.C. Championship field in 2004-05.

Allan Short, who last year took a headmaster's position in Cumbria, England, sends his best wishes to all his chess friends in New Zealand. During his five years with the Wanganui Chess Club he served as club captain, won both the A Reserve Championship and Rapid Club Championship, and became the 67th Correspondence Chess Champion of New Zealand in 2000-2001.

Allan and Kendra have had a recent addition to their family. Evie Rebecca Short was born on December 19, 2003, weighing 8lb 14oz.

Rating News 2003 Period 2

by Rowan Wood

There is a new number one at the top of the latest standard rating list. Alexei Kulashko has moved up two places, taking the top spot from Ben Martin, who drops off the list due to inactivity. Russell Dive retains second position ahead of Anthony Ker, Bob Smith and Roger Nokes. It is fairly close at the top with just 34 points covering these five. Of the new entries, Michael Steadman is the highest one at number eight, with Peter Green and Michael Freeman entering the list at positions seventeen and eighteen respectively.

In the latest rapid rating list, Russell Dive has surrendered top spot to Vernon Small. Anthony Ker has also swapped places with Paul Garbett with Alexei Kulashko unchanged in fifth position. As with the standard list, it is fairly close at the top with 35 points covering the first five. Michael Freeman is the one and only new entrant in the rapid list, coming in at position 20. Wang Pu Chen remains the leading junior player on both the standard and rapid lists.

Daniel Han has moved up one place to occupy second position on both lists. Further down the lists, Gino Thornton continues his upward climb. On the standard list, he has moved up three places to fifth, a position he goes one better on the rapid list, after also moving up three places.

There is no change at the top in the women's rating lists. Viv Smith heads the standard list, ahead of Evgenia Charomova and Edith Otene, while on the rapid, it is Charomova ahead of Smith and Otene.

For the first time, top ten senior standard and rapid lists are shown. Richard Sutton is the inaugural number one player on both lists ahead of Roger Perry and Prince Vetharianiam, who share the second and third places. The list of senior players is by no means complete. If you are a senior player, that is, 60 or over at 1st January, then please send your details to us at NZCF.

Top 10 Women Standard

1 (unc)	SMITH VJ	WT	1695
2 (unc)	CHARAMOVA E	NS	1621
3 (unc)	OTENE EA	AC	1450
4 (+ 2)	COURTNEY HK	GA	1423
5 (new)	MAROROYA SY	AC	1321
6 (new)	FAIRLEY N	NH	1289
7 (- 2)	MILLS G	KP	1252
8 (- 1)	JONES GM	NS	1240
9 (new)	TANG S	NS	1233
10 (unc)	LIN J	AC	1231

Top 10 Women Rapid

1 (unc)	CHARAMOVA E	NS	1763
2 (unc)	SMITH VJ	WT	1667
3 (unc)	OTENE EA	AC	1510
4 (unc)	MAROROYA SY	AC	1445
5 (unc)	MILLS G	KP	1416
6 (unc)	JONES GM	NS	1343
7 (+ 3)	COURTNEY HK	GA	1284
8 (+ 1)	CLOETE DI	NS	1244
9 (- 2)	TANG S	NS	1225
10 (new)	PRINSLOO D	HA	1216*

Top 10 Senior Standard

1	SUTTON RJ	OT	2236
2	PERRY RL	AC	1891
3	VETHARIANIAM P	WA	1823
4	HAASE GG	OT	1796
5	BOOTH AJ	HP	1757
6	NIJMAN AJ	CA	1720
	PORTOUGAL V	WT	1720
8	FROST EGA	WA	1621
9	SHEAD DB	MS	1584
10	GLOISTEIN BN	CA	1569

Top 10 Senior Rapid

1	SUTTON RJ	OT	2207
2	VETHARIANIAM P	WA	1899
3	PERRY RL	AC	1835
4	NIJMAN AJ	CA	1776
5	HAASE GG	OT	1752
6	PORTOUGAL V	WT	1734*
7	GLOISTEIN BN	CA	1616
8	BOOTH AJ	HP	1560
9	WILSON C	PT	1522
10	KAY JB	WE	1508

Top 20 Open Standard

1 (+ 2) KULASHKO A	AC 2364
2 (unc) DIVE RJ	WE 2345
3 (+ 1) KER AF	WE 2336
4 (+ 2) SMITH RW	WT 2334
5 (unc) NOKES RI	CA 2330
6 (+ 1) GARBETT PA	NS 2285
7 (+ 2) LUKEY SG	WE 2281
8 (new) STEADMAN MVR	AC 2247
9 (+ 2) GUTHRIE DW	WE 2240
(+ 1) WASTNEY SC	GA 2240
11 (+ 1) DREYER MP	NS 2238
12 (- 4) SUTTON RJ	OT 2236
13 (unc) MCLAREN LJ	NS 2228
14 (unc) WATSON BR	AC 2227
15 (unc) CROAD N	WE 2215
16 (+ 1) ZAKARIA F	WE 2199
17 (new) GREEN PR	AC 2183
18 (new) FREEMAN MR	WA 2174
19 (- 2) SPAIN GA	GA 2173
20 (- 1) DOWDEN RA	OT 2168

Top 20 Junior Standard

1 (unc) WANG PC	AC 2133
2 (+ 1) HAN D	AC 2116
3 (- 1) WANG R	NS 2073
4 (unc) WILLSON J	WE 1970
5 (+ 3) THORNTON G	NS 1775
6 (+ 6) XU D	HP 1685
7 (- 2) TKATCHENKO S	WE 1676*
8 (- 2) KHYTKO A	WE 1668
9 (+ 1) GAO W	NS 1635*
10 (- 3) STONE A	NS 1632*
11 (- 2) BOOK JE	WT 1621
(+ 2) CHARAMOVA E	NS 1621
13 (- 2) SHATALIN S	NS 1573
14 (new) HEREMAIA J	UH 1569
15 (- 1) COSSEY A	PT 1531
16 (- 1) ZHANG MC	AC 1482
17 (new) LEI J	HP 1477*
18 (- 2) LIN J	WT 1438
19 (unc) ROBERTSON BMA	HA 1437
20 (new) WU J	AC 1405

Top 20 Open Rapid

1 (+ 1) SMALL VA	CA 2368
2 (- 1) DIVE RJ	WE 2363
3 (+ 1) KER AF	WE 2358
4 (- 1) GARBETT PA	NS 2351
5 (unc) KULASHKO A	AC 2331
6 (unc) NOKES RI	CA 2309
7 (unc) SMITH RW	WT 2287
8 (+ 3) WATSON BR	AC 2250
9 (+ 1) DOWDEN RA	OT 2246
10 (- 2) GREEN PR	AC 2244
11 (+ 1) MCLAREN LJ	NS 2224
12 (+ 4) WANG PC	AC 2223
13 (- 1) LOVE AJ	OT 2212
14 (+ 1) SUTTON RJ	OT 2207
15 (- 1) LUKEY SG	WE 2205
16 (+ 2) GUTHRIE DW	WE 2200
17 (unc) WASTNEY SC	GA 2170
18 (+ 1) HART R	NS 2164
19 (+ 1) CUMMINGS NV	CA 2119
20 (new) FREEMAN MR	WA 2087

Top 20 Junior Rapid

1 (unc) WANG PC	AC 2223
2 (+ 1) HAN D	AC 1924
3 (+ 1) GAO W	NS 1812
4 (+ 3) THORNTON G	NS 1770
5 (+ 7) CHARAMOVA E	NS 1763
6 (+ 2) STONE A	NS 1720
7 (+ 2) COSSEY A	PT 1702
8 (- 3) WILSON J	WE 1696
9 (+ 1) TAN F	OT 1679
10 (+ 3) XU D	HP 1667
11 (unc) SHATALIN S	NS 1648
12 (new) MCCHESENEY S	OT 1597
13 (+ 1) ZHANG MC	AC 1554
14 (new) LEI J	HP 1508*
15 (+ 1) KHYTKO A	WE 1492*
16 (+ 3) JONES B	WT 1464*
17 (unc) MAROROA SY	AC 1445
18 (unc) HIPANGO W	WA 1444*
19 (new) ROBERTSON BMA	HA 1443
20 (unc) WHITEHOUSE RJ	NS 1422

(Continued from page 21)

as easy as it seems to be an arbiter! And likewise in the January issue there are some fitting tributes to Ken Whyld, the noted chess historian.

For all your chess books, magazines etc contact Brian Foster of NEW ZEALAND CHESS SUPPLIES (chess.chessupply@xtra.co.nz).

Brian is more than happy to post or email out any lists of new or second-hand books and has emailed with the exciting news that he is now stocking all the bad bishop DVDs for \$54 plus post eg, The Scheming Scandinavian 2... Qxd5 that was reviewed in a past column; more information in future columns.

Affiliated clubs

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

Ashburton PO Box 204, Ashburton. Meets Monday 7.15pm (Feb-Oct), Admin Building, Ashburton Hospital, Elizabeth St. Contact, Ken Pow (03) 308-3655.

Auckland Chess Centre Meets Monday 7.30 & Thursday (Social) 7.30pm, 17 Cromwell St, Mt Eden, Auckland 1003. (09) 630-2042 Clubroom. Contact, Bruce Wheeler (09) 623-0109.

Canterbury, PO Box 19-997, Christchurch. Meets Wednesday, 7.30pm., 227 Bealey Avenue; Tel (03) 366-3935 Clubroom.

Pres, Craig Hall (021) 1289-543, Sec Mark Sadler (03) 942 5560

Eastern Knights, Gisborne, meet Tuesday evenings. Contact, Genesis Potini (06) 868-1280.

Gambit Sec, Ted Frost, 103 Koromiko Rd, Gonville, Wanganui. (06) 348-4266

Hamilton Wed, 7.30pm, St Pauls Collegiate School. Inquiries Gary Judkins (07) 855-5392.

Hastings-Havelock North, P.O. Box 184, Hastings, Wed, 7.30 pm, Library, Havelock N High School, Te Mata Rd. Sec, Chris Smith (06) 877-4583.

Howick-Pakuranga Tuesday 7.45pm (juniors 6.30-7.30), St John Ambulance Hall, Howick-Pakuranga Highway, Highland Park. Sec, Kees van den Bosch (09) 577-5285, 021 2627079

Invercargill Wednesday, 8pm, staff room, South School, Ness St. Contact, John Preston (03) 216-4920.

Kapiti Wednesday, 7.30pm, Salvation Army Hall, Bluegum Road, Paraparamu Beach. c/- 51 Ames Street, Paekakariki Contact, Guy Burns Tel (04) 904-2002.

Masterton meets 7.15pm Tuesdays. Contact David Shead 49 Chester Rd RD1 Carterton, ph (06) 379-9209. bookloft@xtra.co.nz

Mount Maunganui RSA, 10 Maranui St, Mt Maunganui, (07) 5756835, rick-m@wxc.net.nz

New Plymouth 11 Gilbert St, New Plymouth. Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Pres C Bell. Contact B Bowler, (06) 753-6282.

North Shore P.O. Box 33-587, Takapuna, Auckland 9. Wednesday 7.30pm, Northcote Community Centre, College Rd/Ernie Mays St.

Club Captain, Peter Stuart (09) 445-6377. **Otago** 7 Maitland St, Dunedin.

Wednesday 7.30pm. (03) 477-6919 Tony Dowden (President) (03) 4730664, Duncan Watts (Secretary) (03) 477-5226.

Papatoetoe Wednesday 7.30pm Papatoetoe RSA Bowling Club, Cambridge Tce, Papatoetoe. Postal address: c/- Katrine Metge, 21 Cambridge Tce, Papatoetoe. Contact John McRae 278-4520, Katrine Metge 278-7173.

Upper Hutt Monday 7.30pm, Hapai Club, 879 Fergusson Drive. Sec Gerard Denton (04) 5289297 influence@xtra.co.nz

Club Captain Roger Smith (04) 971-6528

Waitemata Thursday 7.45pm, Kelston Comm Centre, cnr Great North Rd and Awaroa Rd, Kelston; jun 6.15-7.15, Mondays, school days.

Postal address: PO Box 21478, Henderson, Auckland 1008. Contact Bob or Viv Smith (09) 817-2664; bobviv@actrix.gen.nz

Wanganui Mondays 7pm, 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 Tuesday 7.30pm, Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington 1. Pres, Ross Jackson, 86B The Esplanade, Raumati South, (04) 902-1707, rosslin@paradise.net.nz

Sec, Alan Aldridge, (04) 971-4874,

Associate members

Gisborne, 4/26 Harris St, Gisborne. M.P. Grieve (06) 863-0101.

NZ Correspondence Chess Assn, P.O. Box 3278, Wellington. Sec, J W (Sandy) Maxwell, (04) 237-4753.

North Harbour Junior Chess Thursday 6pm-7.30pm Northcote Community Centre, College Rd/Ernie Mays St, c/- Felicity Timings, 13 Macky Ave Devonport, (09) 4453729

ftimings@clear.net.nz

District Associations

Auckland Chess Assn, Sec, Kees van den Bosch, 37 Centre Court, Pakuranga, Manukau City, (09) 577-5285, 021 2627079.

Remuera Junior Chess, Meets Auckland Bridge Club, Cnr Remuera & Armadale Rds. Contact Christine Chan 09 524739, yanchan@actrix.co.nz