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New Zealand Chess

Official magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)



Vol 32 Number 4

August 2005



St Heliers Intermediate Team - North Island Schools Finals

New Zealand Chess
Official journal of the New Zealand Chess
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STOP PRESS

NZCCA
*72nd Championship 2005-06 progress. ICM
Mark Noble 9/10, IA
Bob Gibbons 8/9 and Hilton Bennett 4.5/7 lead.
Full details next issue.*

Nigel Short Simul
The first of Nigel Short's five match New Zealand tour was held in Wellington on 22nd November, 2005. Short scored +25 =4 and -1 with Scott Wastney winning for the home team on board two.

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Editor: Graeme Trass

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Front Cover: *St Heliers Intermediate, winner of the Intermediate section at the North Island Schools finals with Brian Foster of NZ Chess Supplies who supplied the prizes for the winners*

New Zealand Chess

Volume 32 Number 4

August 2005

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2006 Queenstown Chess Classic

Millennium Hotel - Queenstown

15th - 24th January 2006

TOTAL PRIZEFUND OVER \$35,000

See page 26 for details

World Youth Championship 2005

by Ewen Green

Belfort, France

The eight New Zealand players plus two parents and I as manager/coach had a long flight to Zurich via Singapore, but enjoyed a brief stopover there before travelling across the border into France.

The Swiss train from Zurich to Basel was fabulous. We arrived on the dot. Could one expect anything else? Then a scrape up and down stairways to get to the border control and catch the French train from Basel to Belfort. Somehow this train managed to be delayed, despite constant forward motion. A foretaste of things to come...

Arrival at the venue saw complete pandemonium in the registration area - the team waited outside while I spent hours in a permanent scrum. And I was one of the fortunate delegates...

Certain Eastern European countries showed superb rugby skills in this room - forming tight-five scrum formations and obliterating any attempt at queuing. Having finally convinced the organisers of our genuine right to be there (and our ability to pay), we were allowed our first meal. Consternation as we finally went to our hotel by bus afterwards - we really were staying in another city. Mulhouse - some 45 kilometres away from Belfort.

Our players:

Bobby Cheng - Boys Under-10

Score: 5.5 pts

An excellent effort! Bobby will never lack fighting spirit, and whenever faced with opponents with ELO ratings (!) extending up to 2250-plus put up a huge fight. Bruce Wheeler's coaching paid dividends.

Fernandez, J (COL) - Cheng, Bobby [B24]
(Belfort, Boys U-10, Rnd 10)

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 e6 5.d3 d5 6.exd5 exd5 7.Bg5 d4 8.Ne4 Qa5+ 9.Qd2 Qxd2+ 10.Kxd2 Nxe4+ 11.Bxe4 h6 12.Bf4 g5 13.Bxc6+ bxc6 What follows is a brilliant defensive effort by Bobby. We spectators could only see the board from a distance, and the pawn

structure looked absolutely dire for Black.

14.Be5 Rg8 15.Re1 Be6 16.f3 0-0-0 17.Ne2 Bg7 18.Bxg7 Rxg7 19.f4 g4 20.Rhf1 Bf5 21.Nc1 f6 22.Re2 Rb7! Bobby closes down the knight's access to his weak pawns. **23.b3** [If 23.Nb3 c4! 24.dxc4 d3 and White is suddenly in trouble] **23...Kd7! 24.Rfe1 Kd6 25.Re8 Rxe8 26.Rxe8** Amazingly, the white rook can roam at will behind Black's defensive line, but cannot achieve anything whereas the white knight is locked in behind its own pawns. **26...Bg6 27.Rh8 Rh7 28.Rxh7 Bxh7 29.Ne2 a5 30.a4 Kd5 31.Nc1 Ke6 32.Ne2 h5 33.Nc1 Draw agreed ½-½**

Andy Chen - Boys Under-12

Score 4.5 pts

Andy had perhaps the most reason to be disappointed with his result at this tournament. On 50% with four rounds to go, he looked odds-on to achieve 50% or better overall, but of all our players, Andy was the worst-affected by the playing conditions. Andy's strength is certainly in the middle game. It was no accident that he won outright a strong B-grade competition at the Auckland Chess Centre immediately before leaving for Belfort.

Chen, Andy - Vujer, I [B16]

(Belfort, Boys U-12, Rnd 6)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.Bf4 Bf5 [6...Qb6!? 7.Bc1] **7.Nf3 e6 8.h3** This innocent-looking move is actually a significant commitment by White. **8...Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.Bd3 Bg6** Now both sides play "you castle first, please" for some time. **11.c3 Nd7 12.Nh4 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Ne5 14.Qe2 Ng6 15.Nf5 Qd5 16.Ne3 Qa5 17.Qf3 Ke7 18.Qg3 Rac8 19.0-0 Rcg8!?** Finally both sides have their King committed, and the heavy pieces know where they stand. **20.Qf3** [More aggressive would be 20.b4 Qd8 21.Qf3 f5 22.Rfe1, but then White's knight must go out on a limb after 22...f4 23.Ng4 Qd5 24.Nh6, though it turns out that an attractive-looking exchange sacrifice 24...Nh4 25.Nxg8+ Rxg8 26.Qxd5 cxd5 27.Kf1

Rxg2 28.Ke2 is in White's favour] **20...h5 21.g3 Qg5** Black is by no means worse - and Andy prepares his defensive wall. **22.Rae1 Kd7 23.Kh2 f5 24.Ng2 h4** Contact! White must be very careful. **25.Nxh4** [Another way was 25.g4 fxg4 (25...Ne7 26.Ne3 fxg4 27.Nxg4 Nf5 28.Rg1) 26.Qxf7+ Qe7 27.Qxe7+ Nxe7 28.Nf4 Rh6 29.Nd3 and White is not worse] **25...Rxh4 26.gxh4 Nxh4 27.Qg3 Qd8 28.Qf4** [28.Qd3 offers the draw 28...Qg5 29.Qg3] **28...Ng2 29.Qe5 Nxe1 30.Rxe1 Qh4 31.Qe3 Rg4 32.Rg1 Re4 33.Qg3 Qxg3+ 34.fxg3** Black's rook is more active - but the passed h-pawn keeps White's position intact. **34...Ke7 35.h4 Rg4?!** Now White can both improve his King and nullify Black's active rook - Black has to be very careful from here. **36.Rf1 Re4 37.Kg2 Kf6 38.Rf4 Kg6 39.Rxe4 fxe4 40.Kf2 f5 41.Ke3 a5 42.Kf4 b5 43.g4 Kf6 44.g5+ Kg6 Drawn ½-½**

Sue Maroroa - Girls Under-14

Score: 5.5 pts

Another excellent effort - Sue was +2 and undefeated after 7 rounds, and consistently meeting opponents not just highly-rated but very well prepared. Despite this, there was only one opening calamity. Her second loss was a middle game tactic missed when under pressure. Sue regularly showed extreme resilience in difficult positions, plus a willingness to offer material (which almost none dared to accept).

I think Sue's play was the strongest of anyone in our team. Her strong result has gained her a FIDE ELO of 1934, and I believe she has been awarded the Women's Fide Master Title - congratulations!

Manyoki, A (HUN) ELO 1850 -

Maroroa, Sue [C48]

(Belfort, Girls U-14, Rnd 6)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bc5 Sue does not usually hang out with theory for long... **5.0-0 d6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Nb3 Bb6 9.Bg5 Ne5 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7!?** Completely unexpected by Sue's opponent, who looked over to her compatriot playing on the adjacent board and raised her eyebrows. Her compatriot looked at the position, and smiled. Objectively, White is better

- but to think it was going to be all downhill for Black from here was asking for trouble. **11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nd5 0-0-0!** "Would you like a pawn?" **13.Nxb6+** "No thanks - I will have the whole King" **13...axb6 14.a4 Rhg8** Still under the delusion that she only has to turn up on the queen-side to win, White ignores the warning bells that should have been ringing loud and clear... **15.a5?? Qh3 16.g3 Ng4** No more smiling now. **White resigned 0-1**

Shirley Wu - Girls Under-14

Score 5.5 pts

Yet another excellent effort - Shirley was never worse than -1 and played solidly throughout, losing only 3 games. I have been an admirer of her play for some years, and I was not disappointed. One episode in particular impressed me - under immense pressure on the board and on the clock for many moves, she held her nerve splendidly until her opponent ran out of ideas and offered the draw.

Shirley WU (NZL) -

Gwanaelle Francis (WLS)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 d6

This opening went out of fashion in the 90's - the 1890's!

4.d4 Bd7 5.Nc3 exd4 6.Nxd4 Nxd4 7.Bxd7+ Qxd7

8.Qxd4 Ne7 9.Bf4 Nc6 10.Qe3 Be7 11.Rd1 Qc8(=)

12.0-0 0-0 13.Nd5 f5 14.e5 dxe5 15.Bxe5 Bd8 16.Bf4 Rf7 17.Rfe1 Ne7 18.Qb3 Nxd5 19.Re8+ Black resigns

David Xu - Boys Under-14

Score 4.5 pts

David was the only player in our team with an established ELO rating (1920). But he played with almost no recent practice except for internet chess, and without a particularly well-exercised opening repertoire, plus a tendency to get into time trouble rather early. Despite these handicaps, his tough "keep-going" approach kept him in the game. This result could easily have been better - David dropped at least two half-points through lack of experience in rook-endings.

Xu, David – De Paz, J [C58]
(Belfort, Boys U-14, Rnd 9)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 Be5?! Black deviates from well-known lines. This move is obvious, but hardly ever played before. Usual is 8 ... h6 to kick the Ng5 around with ... e4 if it retreats to f3, or leave it looking rather misplaced if it returns to h3. The latter approach was introduced by Steinitz in the 1800's – and totally mistrusted by everyone else until Bobby Fischer re-introduced it in a famous game in the 1960's. 9.d3 Qd4 10.0–0 Bd6 Now Black must lose time due to the threat of c3 and b4, winning material. 11.Nc3 0–0 12.Rb1 Nd5 13.Bd2 Qb6 14.b4 Nb7 15.Nce4 Be7 16.c4 Nf6 17.b5 Nc5 18.Be3 Nfxe4 19.Nxe4 f5 20.bxc6 Qxc6 21.Nxc5 Bxc5 22.Bxc5 Qxc5 23.Bf3 e4 24.dxe4 Be6 25.exf5 Rad8 26.Bd5 [26.fxc6!?! hardly qualifies as a queen sacrifice – White is decisively better.] 26...Bxd5 27.cxd5 Rxf5 28.Qb3
Two very sound pawns up, David grinds his opponent down, taking no unnecessary chances. **28...Kh8 29.Rbd1 h6 30.d6 Qc6 31.Rd3 Rg5 32.g3 Rb5 33.Qa4 Qb7 34.Qh4 Rd7 35.Qf4 Rf7 36.Qe3 Qd7 37.Re1 Rb8 38.Qe6 Qb7 39.d7 Rff8**

It is rather more straightforward to swap a pair of rooks with Rb3 – but David was enjoying this too much to let his opponent off the hook so painlessly. Black's King is to come under attack too... **40.Qe7 Qb6 41.Qe3 Qb7 42.Red1 Rbd8 43.Qc5 Kh7 44.Qc2 Kh8 45.Rb3 Qa6 46.Rbd3 Qb7 47.Qa4 Qb6 48.Qd4 Qb7 49.Re1 Qc7 50.Re7 Rg8 51.Re6 Kh7 52.Qe4+ Kh8 53.Qe5 Qc1+ 54.Kg2 Kh7 55.Re3 Rxd7 56.Qf5+ g6 57.Rxg6 Rxg6 58.Qxd7+ Rg7 59.Qf5+ Black resigned 1–0**

Cecily Liu - Girls Under-16
Score 4.0 pts

Cecily played solidly, and was well-prepared (*Bruce Watson coaching*). A tendency to underestimate her position, and initially concentrating on not losing, saw her fall to -3, but she did not lose heart and only fought harder as the tournament progressed. I think she learned a great deal from this experience.

Huddleston, H (AUS)– Liu, Cecily [E61]
(Belfort, Girls U-16, Rnd 1)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 d6 5.Bf4 0–0 6.h3 Na6!?! 7.e3 c5 8.Be2 Bd7 9.0–0 Nh5 10.Bh2 f5!?! 11.Qd2 Qc7 12.Rad1 Nf6 13.dxc5 Nxc5 14.b4 Nce4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Qd5+ Kh8 17.e5!?! Rf6!?! [17...Nc3 18.Qd2 Nxd1 19.cxd6 Qb6 20.dxe7 gives White plenty of compensation for the exchange.] 18.Be5? White continues to try her luck with unexpected tactical shots. But this will simply cost a pawn after Black defends accurately. 18...Bc6 19.cxd6 exd6 20.Qc4 dxe5 21.b5 Qa5 22.bxc6 Rxc6 23.Qb3 Qb6 Draw offered by Black – which White should grab! 24.Rd3 Nc5 25.Qxb6 axb6 26.Rd2 Ne4 27.Rd7 Rxa2 28.Rxb7 Rxe2 29.Rb8+ Bf8 30.Rxf8+ Kg7 Here Cecily, under some time pressure and perhaps thinking White was about to restore material equality, offered another **draw** – which was gratefully **accepted** by her opponent. It seems that White is faced with her king being in big trouble or severe material loss after Black plays ...Rcc2/...Nxf2/...e4/etc. ½–½

Michael Zhang - Boys Under-16
Score: 3.5 pts

Despite the appearance of his score (-4), Michael played the tournament of his life (so far). Certainly he had never experienced such intensity during play, and he responded very well. He did not play an un-rated opponent until round 9. He played far above himself throughout, and only lack of experience at this level was his downfall. It is a pleasure to note that Michael now has an international ELO of 1861 - he certainly earned it!

Zhang, Michael – Keresztes, B (HUN) [B22]
(Belfort, Boys U-16, Rnd 2)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Be2 Nc6 7.0–0 Be7 8.c4 Qd8 9.Be3 Ng4 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nxe3 12.fxe3 The White pawns in the centre don't look very pretty – but they have plenty of positive aspects too. For example, they keep Black's minor pieces out of the centre. **12...Nb4 13.Nc3 0–0 14.e4 Bg4 15.a3 Na6 16.e5 Qb6 17.d6 Bd8 18.Nd5?! A tempting sacrifice to get two pieces onto the seventh rank but it seems**

Black can swallow the pawn and worm his way out. Some consolidation here with (e.g. Qc2 or Qd2), while Black tries to get almost all his pieces sorted out, would keep White's advantage. **18...Qxb2 19.Rb1 Qxa3 20.Rxb7!?** [Still going for the throat – a draw is there for the taking with 20. Ra1 Qb2 21. Rb1] **20...Nb4 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Qd2 Bb6 23.Bc4** [Right idea, wrong piece: 23.Ng5 keeps the advantage] **23...Bxf3?! 24.gxf3 Qa4 25.Qe2 Nc2 26.Rc1 Nd4 27.Qe4 Qa3 28.Rf1 f5?!** [Black loses patience – or gets over-ambitious. The fact that the Queen is threatened makes it easy for him to overlook White's killing shot. 28 ... Ne6 was required, when the Rb7 can be opposed with Rab8.] **29.Ng6+ hxg6 30.Qh4# 1–0**

Natasha Fairley - Girls Under-18
Score 4.0 pts

Natasha doubled her score from previous years. To outplay 2000-rated opponents (twice) in double-rook endings was excellent stuff. I had seen Natasha playing in Auckland Chess Centre tournaments since my return in April - and I had only seen her giving maximum effort there. So I was not surprised by her improved performance in Belfort.

Pearson, N (RSA, ELO 1998) –

Fairley, Natasha [D00]

(Belfort, Girls U-18, Rnd 5)

1.d4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.f4 The Stonewall Attack – a favourite with coaches who don't trust their player to think for themselves. Natasha comes up with a series of fantastic strategic retreats to stump her opponent. In the background to what follows is the strategic plan of ...b5/...b4 for Black – but first the centre and king-side contest must be dealt with. **6...cxd4 7.exd4 Bd6 8.Nh3 Qc7 9.Nf3 h6!?! 10.0–0 0–0 11.Ne5 Ne8!!** A most interesting way of stopping what is usually an extremely dangerous attack. **12.Bd2 f5! 13.Be2 Nf6 14.Kh1 Bd7 15.Ng1 Be8! 16.Ng3 Bh5 17.Nh4 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Bxe5 19.fxe5 Ne4** What a knight! White is looking at strategic doom unless something "happens" on the king-side. **20.Be3 Ne7 21.Qh5 Kh7 22.Nf3 Qd7 23.Ng5+ Nxg5 24.Bxg5 Qe8 25.Qxe8 Rfxe8 26.Bxe7 Rxe7 27.b3? Desperate to avoid going**

completely passive and having to face Black's advantages on both sides of the board!?! **27...Rc7 28.Rac1 b5 29.g3 Rd8 30.Kg2 Rdc8 31.Rf3 b4 32.c4 dxc4 33.Rxc4 Rxc4 34.bxc4 Rxc4 35.d5 Rc2+ 36.Rf2? Exchanging off her last hope of salvation... 36...Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 exd5 38.Ke3 Kg6 39.Kd4 Kf7 40.Kxd5 Ke7 41.Kc4 g5 42.Kxb4 Ke6 43.a4 Kxe5 44.a5 f4 45.Kb5 f3 46.Ka6 f2 47.Kxa7 f1Q 48.a6 Qb1! Very efficient :-)**
49.Ka8 Qb6 50.a7 Qc7 51.h4 Qc8# 0–1

Organisation:

Regrettably, the tournament organisers were in over their heads. - 1100-odd players and 800-odd managers/coaches/parents/others were simply beyond the capacity or planning of the organisers and the organisation.

The tournament hall was part of a sports complex (tennis/swimming/ice hockey) situated on the outskirts of Belfort, in the middle of a number of working-class tenements. The players were seated in an ice hockey stadium. This was congested for the spectators, but adequate for the players. What was not adequate was the ventilation - temperatures outside reached well over 30 degrees on most days - some days as high as 40. Nor were toilets adequate - especially for the players. For them, about 10 portaloos were provided - with zero hand-washing facilities.

Observations as Coach:

I did not call regular team meetings - only impromptu ones in the hotel foyer on subjects of immediate relevance or interest to the players. The only important meeting was held when I had a captive audience on our way to the first round. This meeting was short but very significant. Two major topics were covered - the first being dear to my heart, and the second being extremely useful to our players throughout the tournament. The first "topic" was my informing the team that EVERY decision they made in the playing hall would be correct. Whether it was offering a draw, accepting or declining a draw, or resigning, or getting into time trouble or moving quickly, they could be assured that whatever they decided to do was correct, and that I would back them 100%.

It seemed that this was a huge load off everybody's

(Continued on page 25)

North Shore Open

by NM Peter Stuart

A bumper crop of late entries (on the Saturday morning) boosted the total to a record 100 players in the 32nd North Shore Open, held over the weekend of 8/9 October. This was a significant increase compared to last year and it is clear that the organisers will need to look at the tournament format again – 72 players in the B-grade was just too many for a five-round Swiss.

Of last year's joint Open victors, Paul Garbett was back but Stephen Lukey was busy trying his luck in the concurrent Asian Championship. There were another dozen players rated over 2000 to keep Paul honest, headed by Peter Green, Mike Steadman, Puchen Wang and Leonard McLaren.

The biggest upset in the first round came on board 2 where Hilton Bennett essayed an unsound (well, it must be, mustn't it?) gambit against Peter Green:

H.P.Bennett – P.R.Green,

King's Pawn [C47]

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♗xe5 [This enterprising move has been played mainly in correspondence games where Black seems to have a field day. White has done better over the board according to the games in my collection, although the opening had no bearing on the result of the present game.] 4...♗xe5 5.d4 ♗g6 6.e5 ♗b4 7.exf6 ♗xf6 8.♗c4 0-0 9.0-0 c6 10.♗e4 ♗e7 11.♗d3 d5 12.♗g3 ♗f6 13.c3 ♗d6 14.f4 ♗h4 15.f5 ♗f4 16.♗c2 ♗e8 17.♗e1 ♗d7 18.♗d2 ♗xe1+ 19.♗xe1 ♗e8 20.♗f3 ♗e7 21.♗d2 ♗e2+ 22.♗f2 ♗h4 23.♗e1 ♗f4 24.♗xe8+ ♗xe8 25.♗g1 f6 26.♗d1 ♗f7 27.♗c2 ♗h5 28.♗f1 g5 29.fxg6 hxg6 30.g3 ♗h3 31.♗e3 ♗f4 32.♗f1 ♗xd2 33.♗xd2 ♗g7 34.♗f1 ♗e6 35.♗e3 ♗f7 36.♗d3 [Just a little waiting move, hmm ...] 36...♗g7?? 37.♗f1 1-0.

I think Antonio Krstev must've left his thinking cap in the car, with disastrous results for him, too, as Jeremy Browne took advantage nicely:

J.A.Browne – A.Krstev

French [C10]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♗d7 5.♗f3 ♗g6 6.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 7.♗g5 h6 8.♗e3 ♗d5 9.♗d3 c5 10.0-0 ♗xe3 11.fxg6 cxd4?? [One suspects that Antonio hadn't really started to think yet ... which way will White recapture?] 12.♗e5! [Oops ... and 12.♗b5+ ♗d7 13.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 14.♗e5 and 15.♗xf7 was also pretty good] 12...♗d6 13.♗xf7 [13.♗b5+ had it's points, too.] 13...♗xh2+ 14.♗xh2 ♗h4+ 15.♗g1 0-0 16.♗f4 ♗g3 17.♗xh6+! [Gee ... it get's even worse.] 17...gxh6 18.♗g4+ ♗xg4 19.♗xg4+ ♗f7 20.♗f1+ 1-0.

Round two saw an incredible blunder from Garbett, walking into a simple mate in one from a slightly better position against Graeme Spain. The only draw in this round (there was only one in the first round, too) was between Rong Wang and Leonard McLaren, and that finished prematurely in an interesting position deserving further effort. Those with a possible two points were Steadman, Puchen Wang, Bruce Watson, Ralph Hart and Spain.

B.R.Watson – H.P.Bennett

King's Indian

1.♗f3 ♗f6 2.g3 d6 3.d4 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 ♗bd7 7.♗c3 e5 8.e4 c6 9.h3 ♗h5 10.♗e3 ♗e8 11.♗d2 f5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.♗fel ♗g6 15.♗h4 ♗f6 [15...♗f7 would've saved an important tempo] 16.♗g5 ♗f7 17.♗b5! f4 [17...♗xc4 18.♗d6 ♗e6 19.♗f3 is also very unpleasant for Black] 18.♗d6 ♗e6 19.g4 h6 20.gxh5 hxg5 21.♗g6 ♗f6 22.♗ad1 f3 23.♗xc8 ♗f8 24.♗c7+ ♗h7 25.♗xe5 ♗f7 26.♗d3 ♗h6 27.♗f5+ ♗h7 28.♗xf3 ♗xg6 29.hxg6+ ♗xg6 30.♗xg7 1-0.

M.Cowen – R.Hart

Queen's Gambit [D32]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♗c6 6.♗d1 exd5 7.e3 ♗f6 8.♗f3 ♗c5 9.♗d3 0-0 10.0-0 ♗g4 11.h3 ♗h5 12.b3 ♗e7 13.♗e1

♗ad8 14.♗b2 a6 15.g4 ♗g6 16.♗e2 ♗e4 17.♗f4 ♗fe8 18.♗c1 ♗d6 19.♗c2 ♗b4 20.♗b1 ♗a7 21.♗xg6 fxg6 22.♗f1 ♗f8 23.♗g2 ♗xf3! 24.♗xf3 ♗d2 25.♗xd5+ ♗xd5 26.♗ed1 ♗xe3! 27.♗a1 [27.fxg3 ♗f3 28.♗a1 ♗xe3+ is hopeless for White] 27...♗xf2+! 28.♗xf2 ♗f3+ 29.♗g1 ♗g3+ 30.♗h1 ♗xh3+ 31.♗g1 ♗xg4+ 32.♗h1 ♗d3 33.♗xd2 ♗h3+ 34.♗h2 ♗f3+ 35.♗g1 ♗g3+ 0-1.

As usual, the Saturday night round had a number of half-point bye takers though Steadman was the only one from the leading bunch to do so. Puchen Wang and Spain both won their third game to share the lead while Green joined Steadman in a share of second place on 2½ points. No fewer than nine players were on 2 points.

R.Hart – P.Wang

Queen's Pawn [D02]

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 d5 3.♗f4 g6 4.e3 ♗g7 5.♗d3 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.c3 b6 8.♗bd2 ♗b7 9.b4 c4 10.♗c2 ♗bd7 11.h3 b5 12.a4 a6 13.♗h2 ♗b6 14.a5 ♗c6 15.♗b1 ♗e4 16.♗b2 f5 17.♗a2 ♗ae8 18.♗b1 h6 [The position is approximately equal. Black is better placed to make pawn breaks but they tend to result in other pawn weaknesses for him ... except that White's g2 proves embarrassingly vulnerable.] 19.♗e5? ♗xe5 20.dxe5? [20.♗xe4 dxe4 21.♗xe5 ♗xe5 22.dxe5 ♗c7 and Black wins a pawn and will surely get control of the d-file; perhaps better was 20.♗xe5 ♗xe5 21.dxe5 ♗xc3 22.♗xc3 d4 23.♗e4 which is similar to the game but without the dark square bishops, a factor which surely favours White] 20...♗xc3! 21.♗xc3 d4 22.♗e4 fxe4 [22...dxc3 23.♗xc6 ♗xc6 24.♗b1 ♗d8 25.♗xc3 ♗d3 is also very good] 23.♗xd4 [of course, not 23.exd4 e3 24.♗f3 ♗xf3 25.gxf3 ♗xf3+] 23...♗d8 24.♗a1 ♗d3 25.♗b1 ♗e6 26.♗d2 ♗b3 27.♗d4 ♗c6 28.♗fd1 ♗d3 29.♗xd3 exd3 30.f3 ♗xf3! 31.e4 ♗f8 32.♗c3 e6 33.♗g3 ♗c7 34.♗d2 ♗d8 35.♗b6 ♗xb6+ 36.axb6 ♗f8 37.♗h4 g5 0-1.

G.A.Spain – B.R.Watson

Sicilian [B22]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 ♗f6 4.e5 ♗d5 5.♗f3 ♗c6 6.♗c4 e6 7.cxd4 d6 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.exd6 ♗xd6 10.♗c3 ♗xc3 11.bxc3 0-0 12.♗e1 b6 13.♗g5 ♗b7? [Missing a trick; better was 13...h6 and, only after the knight retires, 14...♗b7] 14.♗xe6 ♗a5 15.♗xf8 ♗xc4 16.♗d3 [The threat of mate in 2 allows White to swap the knight on f8 instead of simply losing it.] 16...♗xf8 17.♗xc4 ♗c8 18.♗d3 ♗d5 19.f3 ♗d6 20.♗d2 ♗h5 21.f4 ♗d5 22.♗e2 f5 23.♗ael g6 24.♗c1 ♗f7 25.♗h3 h5 26.♗g3 ♗g8 27.♗g5 ♗g7 28.♗e8 ♗xa2 29.♗1e7+ 1-0.

P.Godfrey–P.R.Green

Bishop's Opening [C24]

1.e4 e5 2.♗c4 ♗f6 3.d3 ♗e7 4.♗c3 0-0 5.f4 exf4 6.e5 ♗e8 7.♗xf4 d6 8.♗f3 ♗c6 9.♗d2 dxe5 10.♗xe5 ♗xe5 11.♗xe5 ♗d6 12.♗xd6 ♗xd6 13.0-0-0 ♗f5 14.♗df1 ♗d7 15.♗g5 ♗e6 16.♗e4 ♗e7 17.♗h5 ♗xc4 18.dxc4 ♗d4 19.♗g4 ♗h8 20.♗e2 ♗ae8 21.♗d3 ♗xe4 22.♗xe4 ♗g5+ 23.♗f4 ♗xf4+ 24.♗xf4 ♗e7 25.♗d1 ♗g8 26.♗fd4 f5 27.g3 g6 28.b4 ♗fe8 29.c5 c6 30.♗b2 ♗f7 31.♗c3 ♗e2 32.♗1d2 ♗8e3+ 33.♗4d3? [33.♗2d3 is fine for White, e.g. 33...♗xd3+ 34.cxd3!? ♗xh2 35.♗d7+ with sufficient counterplay to draw] 33...♗xd3+ 34.cxd3 ♗xd2 35.♗xd2 [Maybe Black is already winning; his pawn majority is obviously more mobile than White's. Even without a comprehensive analysis, I think White should have avoided the pawn ending which was always going to be dubious at best. After all, it has been said that all rook endings are drawn! This may be stretching things a bit, but certainly there are usually more PRACTICAL drawing chances in a lost rook ending than in the lost pawn ending. And in the rook ending you may still be able to switch to a pawn ending later but it ain't easy to switch from a pawn ending to a rook ending.] 35...♗e6 36.♗e3 g5 37.♗d4 [37.h4 f4+ 38.♗f3 fxg3 39.hxg5 ♗f5 40.♗xg3 ♗xg5 and the outside passed pawn should win] 37...a6 38.a3 ♗f6 39.a4 ♗e6 40.h3 h6 41.h4 ♗f6 42.♗e3 ♗e5 43.d4+ ♗d5 44.♗d3 f4 45.gxf4 gxh4 46.♗e3 h3 47.♗f3 ♗xd4 0-1.

Puchen Wang punished Spain's experimental opening in the top round four game while Green got the better of Steadman in the end-game. This left Wang a point clear on 4 points with Daniel Han, McLaren and Watson sharing second place on 3. Next were Garbett, Matthew McNabb, Prashant Mistry, Steadman and Rong Wang on 2½ points.

P.Wang – G.A.Spain
Scandinavian [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♗c3 ♖e5+ 4.♗e2 c6 5.♗f3 ♖c7 6.d4 ♗f5 7.♗e5 ♗d7 8.♗f4 ♗xe5 9.♗xe5 ♖b6 10.♗a4 ♖a5+ 11.c3 f6 12.♗g3 e5 13.b4 ♖c7 14.0-0 0-0-0 15.♖b3 ♗d6 16.b5 cxb5 17.♖xb5 ♗e7 18.♗f1 ♗g6 [Black's pieces work together more harmoniously after 18...♗d7!?, e.g. 19.♖b3 ♗f5 20.♗ab1 (20.dxe5 ♗xc3 21.exd6? ♗xe2+ 22.♗f1 ♖c6+) 20...♗xc3 21.hxg3 and I'm not sure who I'd rather be] 19.♗f3 ♗he8 [Black turns out to be in a very bad way after this but it is hard to suggest viable alternatives] 20.dxe5 ♗xe5? [20...♗xe5 was the least bad option but White has a huge advantage after 21.♗c5] 21.♗xd6! +- ♗d7 22.♖b4 ♗xf3+ 23.gxf3 ♗xa4 24.♗xd8+ ♖xd8 25.♖xa4 a6 26.♖c4+ 1-0.

P.R.Green – M.Steadman
Queen's Pawn [A46]

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 ♗c6 5.0-0 ♖b6 6.♗g5 h6 7.♗xf6 ♖xf6 8.c3 ♖g6 9.♗e5 ♗xe5 10.dxe5 ♗d7 11.e4 dxe4 12.♖e2 ♗c6 13.♗d2 ♖g5 14.♗c4! ♗b5 15.♖xe4 ♗xc4 16.♖xc4 ♖xe5 17.♗xb7 ♗d6 18.♗c6+ ♗f8 19.b4 h5 20.♗ae1 ♖f6 21.♗e4 h4 22.♗xh4 ♗xh4 23.♖xh4 ♖xh4 24.gxh4 ♗e7 25.h5 ♗d8 26.♗e1 ♗f4 27.♗e4 e5 [27...♗d1+ 28.♗g2 ♗d6 looks better to me; the move played may be still drawing but it does make Black's future choices a bit more difficult] 28.♗c4 ♗d2 29.a4 ♗c2 30.♗e4 ♗c1+ 31.♗g2 ♗d7 32.♗c5 f6 33.h3 ♗d1 [33...♗c8 34.♗f5+ ♗b7 35.♗d7 a6 36.♗c6+ ♗a7 37.♗e4 ♗b8 38.♗a5 ♗xc3 39.♗xa6 ♗c8 40.♗a8+ ♗d7 and White still has some work to do] 34.♗a5 ♗d6 [34...♗d2!?] 35.♗xa7 ♗d2 36.♗f5+ [36.b5! ♗xc3 37.a5 ♗d4 38.b6 ♗xb6 39.axb6 ♗xb6 40.♗a8+-] 36...♗c6

37.b5+ ♗b6 38.♗a6+ ♗c5 39.♗a7 [39.♗a8] 39...♗b6 40.♗a8 ♗xc3 41.♗g8 ♗d4 [41...♗d2 was more likely to nudge White out of his comfort zone, e.g. 42.♗g3 (42.♗xg7 ♗d4 43.♗g6 ♗xf2+ 44.♗g3 f5) 42...♗d4 43.f3 ♗f2+ 44.♗g4 ♗e3 with some counterplay in both variations] 42.♗xg7 ♗f4 [42...♗xa4 43.h6+-] 43.♗g6 ♗d4 44.f3 ♗c5 45.♗f7 ♗xa4 46.♗xf6+ ♗d6 47.♗e4 1-0.

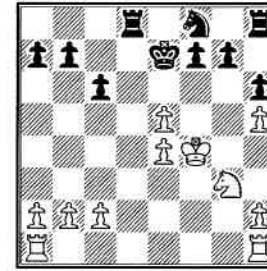
In the final round Puchen Wang acquired an extra pawn against Green but, with two isolated doubletons, he had no more than equality. Green, however, rightly (bearing in mind the tournament standings, as well as the position) refused a draw offer but then soon went astray when first place was well and truly decided.

Spain-McLaren favoured White a little bit for much of the game but it was the blunder of a piece by Leonard on move 40 that decided the game while Watson won a pawn against Han and tortured his opponent to death in a queen ending which should probably have been drawn. So Spain and Watson shared second place.

Any doubts that Garbett was in poor form at this tournament were removed when he blundered a rook in an easily winning position against Steadman who thereby moved to 3½ points. The winner of the game between McNabb and Rong Wang could join Steadman in a share of fourth prize; this turned out to be Wang who trapped his opponent's rook in an otherwise equal position.

P.Wang – P.R.Green
Queen's Pawn [A45]

1.d4 ♗f6 2.♗g5 e6 3.e4 h6 4.♗xf6 ♖xf6 5.♗c3 ♗b4 6.♗d2 d6 7.f4 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.fxe5 ♖h4+ 10.g3 ♗xc3 11.gxh4 ♗xd2+ 12.♗xd2 ♗e7 13.♗b5 ♗g4 14.♗e3 c6 15.♗e2 ♗xe2 16.♗xe2 ♗d7 17.♗f4 ♗f8 18.h5 ♗d8 19.♗g3 [White offered a draw here, with exquisite timing.]



19...g6 [Preventing ♗f5 but perhaps 19...g5+ was better, although after 20.♗e3 ♗d7 21.♗f5+ ♗e6 22.♗g7+ ♗e7 23.♗f5+ it seems that Black must acquiesce in a draw; certainly the position soon turns against Black after the text and it's hard to isolate the reason why unless it is Black's 19th.] 20.♗ad1 ♗e6+ 21.♗e3 ♗xd1 22.♗xd1 ♗d8 23.♗f1 ♗f8 24.h4 ♗d7 25.hxg6 fxg6 26.h5! ♗g8 27.hxg6 ♗xg6 28.♗f5+ ♗e6 29.♗d4+ ♗xe5 30.♗f7 c5? [30...♗d6 31.♗f5+ ♗c7 32.♗h7+] 31.♗f3+ 1-0.

G.A.Spain – L.J.McLaren
Sicilian [B21]

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♗xc3 ♗c6 5.♗f3 d6 6.♗c4 a6 7.♗g5 ♗f6 8.♗xf6 gxf6 9.♗d4 ♖a5 10.♗b3 ♗g8 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♖d3 ♗xg2 13.♖c4 ♖c5 14.♖xf7+ ♗d7 15.0-0-0 ♗h6+ 16.♗b1 ♗g7 17.♗a4 ♖b4 [17...♖xf2!?] 18.♖h5 ♗g6? [18...♗d2! 19.♗xd2 ♖xd2 20.♗b6+ ♗d8 21.♗d1 (Black possibly rejected 18...♗d2 because White is coming out a piece ahead after 21.♗xa8? but, in fact, White is doomed after the further 21...♗g4 22.♖h4 (22.♗d1 ♗xd1 23.♖xd1 ♖xf2+) 22...♗f3+ with the threat of ♗g4 among others) 21...♖b4 22.♖h6 (22.♗xa8 ♗g4 23.♖h6 ♗xd1 24.♖xg7 ♖xe4+ 25.♗a1 ♗xb3 26.axb3 ♖e1+ 27.♗a2 ♖a5+ 28.♗b1=) 22...♖xb6 23.♖xg7=] 19.a3 ♖b5 20.♖xb5 axb5 21.♗b6+ ♗c7 22.♗xa8+ ♗b7 23.♗dg1 ♗xa8 24.♗f7 ♗g4 25.♗xg4 [25.f3!] 25...♗xg4 26.♗c2 ♗f3 27.♗e1 e5 28.♗g8 ♗f4 29.♗xh7 ♗xh2 30.♗e3 ♗g2 31.♗f5 ♗b7 32.♗g4 ♗f4 33.♗e1 d5 34.f3 dxe4 35.fxe4 c5 36.♗f5 ♗b6 37.b3 ♗f3 38.♗g1 ♗g5 39.♗g3 ♗e2 40.♗g2 ♗f1?? [40...♗h5±] 41.♗f2 1-0.

D.Han – B.R.Watson
King's Indian [E65]

1.c4 ♗f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.♗c3 e5 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♗g7 6.g3 0-0 7.♗g2 ♗c6 8.0-0 d6 9.♗xc6 bxc6 10.♗xc6 ♖b8 11.♖b1 ♗f5 12.e4 ♗h3 13.e5? [13.♗e1 ♗g4 14.♗d5 ♗c5 is better for Black but may still have been the best option for White] 13...♗xf1 14.exf6 ♗xf6 15.♗e4 ♗xc4 16.♗xf6+ exf6 17.♗h6 ♗xa2 18.♗a1 ♖xb2 19.♖d4 ♖b1+ 20.♖xb1 ♗xb1 21.♖xa7 ♗f5 22.h4 ♖c8 23.♖e7 ♖d8 24.♗xf8 ♖xf8 25.♖xf6 [White has recovered to some extent but Black retains long term torture rights.] 25...♗e6 26.h5 d5 27.♖e5 ♖g7 28.♖b8+ ♖f8 29.♖e5 ♖d8 30.h6 ♖f8 31.♗xd5 [A tough decision for White - a queen ending or a bishop ending. Keeping the dangerous pawn on h6 looks attractive but 31.♖e3 ♖d6! 32.♖d4 ♗f8! looks good for Black as 33.♖g7+ ♗e7 34.♖xh7 ♖xc6 35.♖g7 ♖c1+ 36.♗g2 d4 37.h7 ♗d5+ 38.f3 ♖e3 is winning and, otherwise, the ♗h6 looks silly but perhaps; 31.♖f4!? may be a better try, e.g. 31...f6 32.g4 d4 33.♖xd4 ♖xh6 34.♖d8+ ♖f8 35.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 36.f3 and I think White should hold; certainly the defence is likely to be less nerve-wracking than with the queens on.] 31...♗xd5 32.♖xd5 ♖xh6 33.♖d8+ ♖f8 34.♖f6 h5 35.♗g2 ♖e8 36.♗g1 ♖e1+ 37.♗g2 ♖e4+ 38.♗g1 ♖e6 39.♖d4 ♖g4 40.♖d6 ♖e4 41.♖f6 ♗f8 42.♗f1 ♖e6 43.♖d8+ ♗g7 44.♖d4+ ♖f6 45.♖e3 ♖f5 46.♗g2 g5 47.♖d4+ ♗h7 48.♗f1 ♖f3 49.♗g1 ♗g6 50.♖h8 ♖f6 51.♖g8+ ♗h6 52.♖f8+ ♖g7 53.♖d6+ ♖g6 54.♖d2 ♗h7 55.♗h2 ♖f6 56.♖e2 ♗h6 57.♖d2 ♖e5 58.♗g2 ♖e4+ 59.f3 ♖e5 60.♖f2 f6 61.♖d2 ♗g6 62.♖d3+ ♖f5 63.♖c4 ♖d7 64.♖g8+ ♖g7 65.♖e8+ ♖f7 66.♖e4+ f5 67.♖c6+ ♗h7 68.♖c1 f4 69.♖c2+ ♗h6 70.♖c6+ ♗g7 71.♖c3+ ♖f6 72.♖d3 ♗h6 73.♖b3 fxg3 74.♗xg3 ♖d6+ 75.♗g2 h4 76.♖f7 ♖g6 77.♖f8+ ♖g7 78.♖xg7+?? [A sad end - presumably Daniel miscalculated the pawn ending.] 78...♗xg7 79.♗h3 ♗f6 80.♗g4 [80.f4 gxh4 81.♗xh4 ♗f5 82.♗h3 ♗e4 83.♗g2 ♗e3-+] 80...♗e5 81.♗xg5 h3 82.f4+ ♗d6 83.♗g6 h2 0-1

Without doubt, an impressive performance by

32 nd North Shore Open										
Player	Club	Rating	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Pts	TB	
1	Wang, P.	AC	2224	W18	W23	W9	W2	W6	5	13½
2	Spain, G.A.	HA	2144	W28	W14	W3	L1	W10	4	15
3	Watson, B.R.	NS	2181	W24	W8	L2	W19	W7	4	13½
4	Wang, R.	NS	2071	W13	D10	L14	W11	W15	3½	13½
5	Steadman, M.V.R.	AC	2225	W17	W7	D0	L6	W14	3½	11
6	Green, P.R.	-	2230	L8	W24	W18	W5	L1	3	15
7	Han, D.	AC	2105	W26	L5	W8	W9	L3	3	14½
8	Bennett, H.P.	HA	1966	W6	L3	L7	W22	W20	3	14
9	Hart, R.	NS	2179	W20	W27	L1	L7	W16	3	13
10	McLaren, L.J.	NS	2204	W21	D4	D0	W12	L2	3	12½
11	Browne, J.A.	-	1747	W12	L15	W23	L4	W21	3	12½
12	Krstev, A.	NS	2072	L11	W20	W27	L10	W19	3	10½
13	Eade, D.	AC	1672	L4	L21	W0	W18	W23	3	9
14	Garbett, P.A.	NS	2330	W16	L2	W4	D15	L5	2½	16
15	McNabb, M.	AC	2126	D19	W11	D0	D14	L4	2½	11
16	Mistry, P.	NS	1978	L14	W28	D0	W17	L9	2½	8½
17	Thornton, G.A.	NS	1956	L5	W26	D0	L16	W25	2½	8½
18	Godfrey, P.	WT	1951	L1	W22	L6	L13	W26	2	13½
19	Blaxall, C.S.	WT	1841	D15	W25	D0	L3	L12	2	11
20	Perry, R.L.	AC	1861	L9	L12	W25	W27	L8	2	11
21	Gunn, N.J.	NS	1894	L10	W13	D0	D23	L11	2	10
22	Evans, D.J.	-	1784	L23	L18	W26	L8	W27	2	8
23	McCrone, J.	NS	2094	W22	L1	L11	D21	L13	1½	14½
24	Gibbons, R.E.	GA	1891	L3	L6	D0	L25	W28	1½	9
25	Marko, H.P.	MM	1654	D0	L19	L20	W24	L17	1½	8
26	Power, P.W.	-	1825	L7	L17	L22	W28	L18	1	10
27	Cowen, M.	AC	1551	W0	L9	L12	L20	L22	1	10
28	Wells, C.A.	NS	1842	L2	L16	D0	L26	L24	½	

Puchen Wang who was never in danger and always looked to be in control while exploiting others' mistakes ruthlessly. Picket fences are not often seen in such tournaments but there have been three in previous North Shore Opens: 1974 (Paul Garbett), 1975 Kai Jensen, and 1995 (Paul Garbett again). There was not much between the pair finishing second.

Graeme Spain is having a very good year but enjoyed some good fortune in this event, though he did beat his fellow second prize winner, Bruce Watson who generally played steady and determined chess throughout. There was a three-way tie for the under-2000 prizes between Hilton Bennett, Jeremy Browne and Don Eade who scored 3 points. Browne achieved a FIDE rating block of four games, as did Rong Wang (who was already assured of a rating via the North Shore Club Championship), Craig Blaxall, and Daniel Han.

A further selection of games follows:

H.P. Bennett - D.Han

Sicilian [B21]

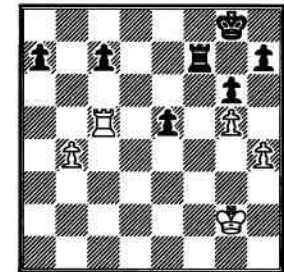
1.e4 c5 2.f4 d5 3.♘c3 d4 4.♘ce2 ♘c6 5.d3 f6 6.♘f3 e5 7.g3 ♙e6 8.♙g2 ♙d6 9.0-0 ♘ge7 10.fxe5 ♘xe5 11.♘f4 ♙f7 12.♙h3 ♘xf3+ 13.♙xf3 ♙xf4 14.♙xf4 0-0 15.g4 ♘g6 16.♙g3 ♙d7 17.♙f5 ♙e6 18.♙xc5 ♙fc8 19.♙d6? [The cunning 19.♙b4 ♙xc2 20.g5! was White's best chance] 19...♙xc2 20.♙xd7 ♙xd7 21.♙f2 ♙ac8 22.♙af1 h5 23.e5 ♙xf2 24.♙xf2 fxe5 25.♙e2 h4 26.♙xe5 ♙e8 27.♙e4 ♘xe5 28.♙g2 h3 29.♙xh3 ♙c6 0-1.

M.McNabb - P.A.Garbett

Dutch [A80]

1.d4 f5 2.♙g5 g6 3.e3 ♙g7 4.c4 ♘h6 5.♙xh6 ♙xh6 6.♘c3 d6 7.h4 ♘c6 8.b4 e5 9.d5 ♘e7 10.e4 ♙d7 11.♘f3 fxe4 12.♘xe4 ♘f5 13.g4 ♘d4 14.♘xd4 exd4 15.g5 ♙g7 16.♙d3 ♙e7 17.0-0 0-0 18.f4 ♙ae8 19.♙f3 ♙f7 20.♙g3 b5 21.♙ae1 bxc4 22.♙xc4 ♙f5 23.♘d2 ♙xe1 24.♙xe1 d3 25.♙xd3 ♙xd3 26.♙xd3 ♙xf4 27.♙e4 ♙f2+ 28.♘h1 ♙e5 29.♙e2 ♙g3 30.♙g2 ♙c3 31.♙e2 ♙a1+? [Up until now Black has played with considerable energy but

this move is a bit wimpish and, of course, entirely out of character for Paul. It wins a pawn or two but gives White a vital breathing space. Instead, after 31...♙h3+! it's all over, e.g. 32.♘g1 ♙g3+ 33.♙g2 (33.♘h1 ♙f2) 33...♙d4+! 34.♘h1 ♙xg2+ 35.♘xg2 ♙f2+ 36.♘g3 ♙xd2-+] 32.♘g2 ♙xa2 33.♘f3 ♙xd5 34.♘xe5 dxe5 [I guess that when you see a line that gives you a two-pawn advantage in the ending, plus the initiative, you tend not to waste much time looking for something even better! But White calmly swaps queens and suddenly Black has great difficulty finding clear-cut winning ideas. Maybe that "all rook endings are drawn" quote was the inspiration for Matt.] 35.♙c4! ♙xc4 36.♙xc4 ♙f7 37.♙c5



37...♙f4 [another try was 37...♙e7!? 38.♙a5 c6 (38...♙f7 39.♘f3 ♘e6 40.♙xa7 (but not 40.♘e4? c6 41.♙xe5+ ♘d6 42.♙xe7 ♘xe7 43.♘e5 a6 44.♘d4 ♘d6 45.♘c4 c5! 46.bxc5+ ♘c6+) 40...♘d5 (40...c6!?!; 40...♘d6 41.♘e4 ♘c6 42.♙a5=) 41.♘e3 ♘c4 42.♙b7 and I doubt Black can achieve anything special here) 39.♙c5 ♙b7 40.♙xc6 ♙xb4 41.♘g3 ♙b3+ 42.♘g2! (42.♘g4? a5 43.♙c5 a4 44.♙xe5 ♘f7 45.♙a5 a3 46.h5 (46.♙a7+ ♘e6 47.♙xh7 ♙b4+ 48.♘g3 ♙a4-+; this variation shows us the reason for playing the king to g2 on move 42) 46...♘e6 47.♙a7 (47.h6 ♘d6 48.♙a7 ♘c6 49.♘f4 (49.♙xh7 ♙b4+ 50.♘f3 ♙a4-+) 49...♘b6 50.♙a8 ♙b4+ 51.♘e5 (51.♘f3 ♙b5-+) 51...♙b5+ 52.♘f6 ♙a5 53.♙xa5 ♘xa5 54.♘g7 a2 55.♘xh7 a1♙ 56.♘g8 ♙e5 57.h7 ♙xg5 58.h8♙ ♙d8+-) 47...gxf5+ 48.♘xh5 ♘f5 49.♙a5+ ♘e4 50.♘h6 ♙h3+ 51.♘g7 ♘d4 52.♙a4+ ♘c5 53.♘g8 ♘b5 54.♙a8 (yes, the black king is close enough to the g-pawn after

54. $\text{E}x\text{a}3$ $\text{E}x\text{a}3$ 55. $\text{c}x\text{h}7$, e.g. 55... $\text{E}h3+$ 56. $\text{c}g7$ $\text{c}c6$ 57. $\text{c}f7$ $\text{c}d7$ 58. $g6$ $\text{E}f3+$ 59. $\text{c}g8$ $\text{c}e7$ 60. $g7$ $\text{E}g3+$ 54... $\text{c}b4$ 55. $\text{c}g7$ $\text{c}b3$ 56. $\text{E}b8+$ $\text{c}c2$ 57. $\text{E}c8+$ $\text{c}b2$ 58. $\text{E}b8+$ $\text{E}b3+$ 42... $a5$ 43. $\text{E}c5$ $a4$ 44. $\text{E}xe5$ $\text{c}f7$ 45. $\text{E}a5$ $a3$ 46. $\text{E}a7+$ $\text{c}e6$ 47. $\text{E}xh7$ $a2$ 48. $\text{E}a7$ $\text{E}b2+$ 49. $\text{c}g3$ and White holds the draw] 38. $\text{E}xc7$ $\text{E}xh4$ 39. $\text{E}xa7$ $\text{E}xb4$ [So Black retains his two pawn advantage but his king remains a spectator.] 40. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{E}f4+$ 41. $\text{c}g3$ $\text{E}f7$ 42. $\text{E}a8+$ $\text{c}g7$ 43. $\text{E}e8$ $\text{E}f5$ 44. $\text{E}e7+$ $\text{c}f8$ [44... $\text{c}g8$ 45. $\text{c}g4$ and Black is in zugzwang!] 45. $\text{E}xh7$ $\text{E}xg5+$ 46. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{E}h5$ 47. $\text{E}a7$ [This is a great example of an active rook compensating for a material deficit. Black cannot liberate his king without losing a pawn with a drawn K+P v K ending.] 47... $\text{E}h4$ 48. $\text{c}e3$ $\text{E}h1$ 49. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{E}f1+$ 50. $\text{c}e4$ $\text{E}e1+$ 51. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}e8$ 52. $\text{c}g4$ $\text{E}f1$ 53. $\text{c}g5$ $\text{E}f7$ 54. $\text{E}a8+$ $\text{c}e7$ 55. $\text{c}xg6$ $\text{E}f1$ 56. $\text{E}a6!$ $\text{c}d7$ 57. $\text{c}g5$ $e4$ 58. $\text{E}a4$ $e3$ 59. $\text{E}e4$ $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$.

L.J.McLaren - A.Krstev
French [C10]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. $\text{c}c3$ $\text{d}xe4$ 4. $\text{c}c4$ $\text{c}d7$ 5. $g3$ $\text{c}gf6$ 6. $\text{c}xf6+$ $\text{c}xf6$ 7. $\text{c}g2$ $c5$ 8. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}xd4$ 9. $\text{E}xd4$ $\text{E}xd4$ 10. $\text{c}xd4$ $a6$ 11. 0-0 $\text{c}e7$ 12. $\text{c}c6$ $\text{c}d7$ 13. $\text{c}xe7$ $\text{c}xe7$ 14. $b3$ $f6$ 15. $\text{c}a3+$ $\text{c}f7$ 16. $\text{E}ad1$ $\text{E}a7$ 17. $\text{E}d6$ $a5$ 18. $\text{E}fd1$ $b5$ 19. $\text{c}c6$ $b4$ 20. $\text{c}b2$ $\text{c}b8$ 21. $\text{c}b5$ $\text{E}c7$ 22. $\text{E}id2$ $\text{c}e7$ 23. $\text{c}d4$ $\text{c}d7$ 24. $\text{E}c6$ $\text{E}xc6$ 25. $\text{c}xc6$ $h5$ 26. $h4$ $\text{E}d8$ 27. $f4$ $\text{E}g8$ 28. $\text{c}f2$ $e5$ 29. fxe5 fxe5 30. $\text{c}c3$ $\text{E}f8+$ 31. $\text{c}g2$ $\text{c}e6$ 32. $\text{c}g1$ $g6$ 33. $\text{c}d5+$ $\text{c}e7$ 34. $\text{c}c4$ $\text{E}g8$ 35. $\text{c}g5+$ $\text{c}f6$ 36. $\text{E}f2$ $\text{c}f5$ 37. $\text{c}xf5$ gxf5 38. $\text{c}xf5$ $\text{E}g6$ 39. $\text{E}xe5+$ $\text{c}d7$ 40. $\text{E}xa5$ $\text{c}e4$ 41. $\text{E}b5$ $\text{c}c3$ 42. $\text{E}b7+$ $\text{c}e8$ 43. $\text{E}xb4$ $\text{c}xa2$ 44. $\text{E}e4+$ $\text{c}d7$ 45. $\text{c}f2$ $\text{E}c6$ 46. $c4$ $\text{E}b6$ 47. $\text{E}e3$ $\text{c}b4$ 48. $g4$ $\text{h}xg4$ 49. $h5$ $\text{c}c2$ 50. $\text{E}c3$ $\text{c}e6$ 51. $\text{E}xc2$ $\text{c}f5$ 52. $c5$ $\text{E}xb3$ 53. $c6$ $\text{E}h3$ 54. $\text{c}g2$ $\text{E}xh5$ 55. $c7$ $\text{E}h8$ 56. $\text{c}d8$ 1-0.

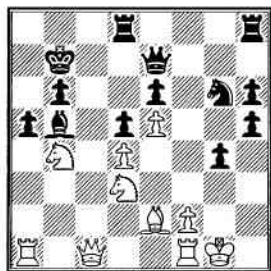
B.R.Watson - C.S.Blaxall
Kings Indian Attack [A07]

1. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}f6$ 2. $g3$ $g6$ 3. $\text{c}g2$ $\text{c}g7$ 4. 0-0 0-0 5. $\text{d}3$ d5 6. $a3$ $\text{c}bd7$ 7. $\text{c}bd2$ $e5$ 8. $e4$ $\text{d}xe4$ 9. $\text{d}xe4$ $\text{E}e7$ 10. $\text{E}c2$ $a5$ 11. $b3$ $b6$ 12. $\text{c}b2$ $\text{c}b7$ 13. $\text{E}fe1$ $\text{E}fd8$ 14. $h3$ $\text{c}e8$ 15. $\text{c}f1$ $\text{c}c5$ 16. $\text{c}d3$ $\text{c}d2$ 17. $\text{E}ad1$ $\text{c}a6$ 18. $\text{E}g4$ $\text{c}d6$ 19. $\text{c}b1$ $\text{E}ad8$ 20. $\text{c}c3$ $c6$ 21. $\text{E}xd6$ $\text{E}xd6$ 22. $\text{E}d1$ $\text{E}d8$ 23. $\text{E}xd6$ $\text{E}xd6$

24. $\text{E}d1$ $\text{E}xd1$ 25. $\text{c}xd1$ $f6$ 26. $f3$ $\text{c}f7$ 27. $\text{c}f6$ $\text{c}d6$ 28. $\text{c}f1$ $\text{c}xf1$ 29. $\text{c}xf1$ $\text{c}e6$ 30. $\text{c}e2$ $f5$ 31. exf5 $\text{g}xf5$ 32. $\text{c}f2$ $a4$ 33. $\text{c}d3$ $\text{c}xd3$ 34. $\text{c}xd3$ axb3 35. $\text{c}xb3$ $\text{c}g5$ 36. $a4$ $\text{c}f6$ 37. $\text{c}a3$ $e4+$ 38. $\text{c}e2$ $c5$ 39. $\text{c}c4$ $\text{c}xc4$ 40. bxc4 $\text{c}d4$ 41. fxe4 fxe4 42. $\text{c}c1$ $\text{c}e5$ 43. $g4$ $\text{c}d4$ 44. $\text{c}f4$ $\text{c}d7$ 45. $h4$ $\text{c}c6$ 46. $g5$ $\text{c}b7$ 47. $h5$ $\text{c}c3$ 48. $\text{c}e3$ $\text{c}a6$ 49. $\text{c}xe4$ $\text{c}a5$ 50. $h6$ $\text{c}xa4$ 51. $\text{c}e5$ $\text{c}d2$ 52. $g6$ 1-0.

R.L.Perry - M.Cowen
French [C02]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.e3 $\text{c}c6$ 5. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}e7$ 6. $\text{c}a3$ $\text{c}f5$ 7. $\text{c}c2$ $\text{E}b6$ 8. $\text{c}e2$ $\text{c}d7$ 9. $g4$ $\text{c}f7$ 10. $\text{c}c3$ $\text{c}g6$ 11. $\text{c}c2$ $\text{c}xd4$ 12. $\text{c}xd4$ $\text{c}e7$ 13. $h4$ 0-0-0 14. $h5$ $\text{c}f8$ 15. 0-0 $h6$ 16. $b4$ $g6$ 17. $\text{c}d2$ $f5$ 18. $a4$ fxg4 19. $a5$ $\text{E}c7$ 20. $\text{c}fe1$ $\text{g}xh5$ 21. $\text{c}d3$ $\text{c}g6$ 22. $b5$ $\text{c}xa5$ 23. $\text{c}xa5$ $b6$ 24. $\text{c}b4$ $\text{c}xb5$ 25. $\text{c}xe7$ $\text{E}xe7$ 26. $\text{c}cb4$ $a5$ 27. $\text{E}c1+$ $\text{c}b7$



28. $\text{E}xa5!$ $\text{E}c8$ [28... bxa5 29. $\text{c}c5+$ $\text{c}b6$ 30. $\text{E}b2!$ $\text{E}e8$ (30... axb4 31. $\text{E}xb4$ $\text{E}e8$ 32. $\text{E}b1+$ -) 31. $\text{E}b1$.] 29. $\text{E}a3$ bxa5 30. $\text{E}xa5$ $\text{c}xd3$ 31. $\text{c}xd3$ $\text{E}a8$ 32. $\text{E}b5+$ $\text{c}c7$ 33. $\text{E}c1+$ $\text{c}d8$ 34. $\text{c}c6+$ $\text{c}d7$ 35. $\text{c}xe7+$ $\text{c}xe7$ 36. $\text{c}xg6$ 1-0.

H.P.Bennett - R.Perry
Sicilian [B23]

1.e4 c5 2. $\text{c}c3$ $\text{c}c6$ 3. $f4$ $g6$ 4. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}g7$ 5. $\text{c}b5$ $\text{c}d4$ 6. $\text{c}d3$ d6 7. $\text{c}xd4$ $\text{c}xd4$ 8. $\text{c}e2$ $\text{c}f6$ 9. 0-0 0-0 10. $\text{E}e1$ $\text{E}b6$ 11. $\text{c}h1$ d5 12. $e5$ $\text{c}e4$ 13. $\text{c}g3$ $f5$ 14. exf6 $\text{c}xg3+$ 15. $\text{E}xg3$ $\text{E}xf6$ 16. $\text{E}f3$ $\text{E}d6$ 17. $b3$ $e5$ 18. fxe5 $\text{E}xe5$ 19. $\text{E}d1$ $\text{E}xf1$ + 20. $\text{E}xf1$ $\text{c}g4$ 21. $\text{c}a3$ $\text{E}e8$ 22. $\text{E}f2$ $a6$ 23. $\text{E}f1$ $\text{c}e6$ 24. $\text{c}c5$ $\text{c}h8$ 25. $a4$ $\text{c}g8$ 26. $\text{E}h4$ $\text{E}e6$ 27. $a5$ $\text{c}f6$ 28. $\text{E}xf6$ [28. $\text{E}xf6$ $\text{E}xf6$ 29. $\text{c}xd4$ $\text{E}e1+$ 30. $\text{E}xe1$ $\text{E}xd4$ 31. $c3$ $\text{E}f6$ and White is probably winning but Black is not without resources] 1-0.

With 72 players, massive ties looked likely

but as it turned out there was but one winner, although another player scored 4½ points. Ideally these two should've met and, of course, there was the usual Swiss downside of results that are unreliable but perhaps applied closer to the top. Changes are likely next year! The great majority of the players were juniors, many of them unrated, so predictions were a no-no, though it must be said that ratings turned out to be a fairly good guide.

Fourth seed Jason Wu (13) won all his five games, four of them quite convincingly. The exception was his penultimate round game against Chris Riding who eschewed a virtually forced draw by repetition in favour of blundering a knight.

Going into the last round Wu was just one of three players with a possible 4 points, the others being experienced campaigners Viv Smith and Richard Taylor.

In the top pairing Wu had the white pieces against Smith while Taylor got a down-float, against second seed Neil Cruden who had dropped half a point and was the only player on 3½. Wu won very quickly after his opponent blundered on move 7 so he had quite a long wait to see whether he'd have to share the first prize. He didn't because Cruden netted the full point after a well played game.

On the day I think both Jason and Neil thoroughly deserved their success but an enormous number of "what ifs" might have affected the rest of the field; I guess that's both the drawback and the delight of the Swiss pairing system.

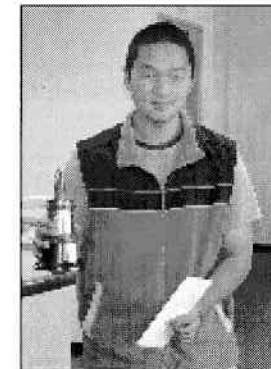
The leading scores were: 1 J. Wu 5; 2 N.B. Cruden 4½; 3-11 A.G. Chen, C. Riding, E. Chen, J. Loo, O. Martin, R. Taylor, S. Seabrook, V.J. Smith & V. Jefferson 4; 12-15 N. Fairley, S. Y. Maroroa, R.S. Mitchell & M.C. Zhang 3½; 16-33 B. Cheng, D. Fairley, J. Gao, V. Garcia Castro, M. Garland, Y. Han, C. Jiang, D.P. Johns, M. Krstev, J. Lei, C. Liu, J.H. McRae, F. Petreski, B. Shingade, D.M. Smith, Sharon Wu, Shirley Wu & L. Yang 3.

J.Wu - V.J.Smith
Pirc [B07]

1.e4 d6 2. $\text{d}4$ $\text{c}f6$ 3. $\text{c}c3$ $g6$ 4. $\text{c}g5$ $\text{c}g7$ 5. $e5$ $\text{d}xe5$ 6. $\text{d}xe5$ $\text{E}xd1+$ 7. $\text{E}xd1$ $\text{c}g4??$ [Bad mistake, but an instructive one; the knight move to $g4$ was okay the previous move - indeed it was likely better than swapping queens which develops White's $\text{E}a1$. Better here, though, was 7... $\text{c}d7$] 8. $h3$ $\text{c}xe5$ 9. $\text{c}d5+$ 0-0 10. $\text{c}xc7$ $\text{c}bc6$ 11. $\text{c}xa8$ $\text{c}f5$ 12. $\text{c}c7$ $\text{c}xc2$ 13. $\text{E}d2$ $\text{c}f5$ 14. $\text{c}e2$ $h6$ 15. $\text{c}e3$ $b6$ 16. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}b4$ 17. 0-0 $\text{c}xf3+$ 18. $\text{c}xf3$ $\text{E}c8$ 19. $\text{c}d5$ $\text{c}xd5$ 20. $\text{c}xd5$ $g5$ 21. $\text{E}fd1$ $e6$ 22. $\text{c}b3$ $\text{c}h7$ 23. $\text{E}d7$ $\text{E}f8$ 24. $\text{E}xa7$ 1-0.

R.Taylor - N.B.Cruden
Sicilian [B88]

1.e4 c5 2. $\text{c}f3$ $\text{c}c6$ 3. $\text{d}4$ $\text{c}xd4$ $\text{d}6$ 5. $\text{c}c3$ $\text{c}f6$ 6. $\text{c}c4$ $e6$ 7. 0-0 $a6$ 8. $\text{c}b3$ $\text{c}e7$ 9. $a4$ 0-0 10. $f4$ $\text{E}c7$ 11. $\text{c}c3$ $\text{c}xd4$ 12. $\text{c}xd4$ $e5$ 13. $\text{c}e3$ $\text{c}e6$ 14. $\text{c}d5$ $\text{E}ac8$ 15. $a5$ $\text{c}xd5$ 16. exd5 $\text{E}d7$ 17. $f5$ $\text{E}c4$ 18. $\text{E}f3$ $\text{E}fc8$ 19. $\text{E}ad1$ $\text{c}d8$ 20. $\text{E}a1$ $\text{E}b4$ 21. $\text{E}fb1$ $\text{E}cc4$ 22. $h3$ $\text{c}e8$ 23. $g4?$ $h6$ [23... $\text{c}xa5$ wins a pawn as 24. $\text{E}xa5$ is met by 24... $\text{E}xc3$] 24. $\text{c}a2$ [24. $\text{c}d2$ saves the a-pawn but Black still has the better chances] 24... $\text{E}b5$ 25. $c3$ $\text{E}xa5$ 26. $\text{c}b4$ $\text{E}xa1$ 27. $\text{E}xa1$ $\text{E}b5$ 28. $\text{E}g2$ $\text{c}b6$ 29. $\text{c}xb6$ $\text{E}xb6+$ 30. $\text{c}h2$ $\text{E}e3$ 31. $\text{E}f1$ $\text{E}g5$ 32. $\text{c}d3$ $\text{c}f6$ 33. $\text{c}f2$ $h5$ 34. $\text{E}g1$ $\text{h}xg4$ 35. $\text{c}xg4$ $\text{c}xg4+$ 36. $\text{h}xg4$ $\text{E}h4+$ 37. $\text{E}h3$ $\text{E}g5$ 38. $\text{E}g2$ $\text{E}e4$ 39. $\text{E}g3$ $\text{E}e3$ 40. $\text{E}f2$ $\text{E}h6+$ 41. $\text{c}g1$ $\text{E}h3$ 42. $\text{E}h2$ $\text{E}xh2$ 43. $\text{E}xh2$ $\text{E}c1+$ 44. $\text{c}g2$ $\text{E}xb2+$ 45. $\text{c}g1$ $\text{E}xh2+$ 46. $\text{c}xh2$ 0-1.



Puchen Wang - North Island Championships, July

North Shore Club Championship

by NM Peter Stuart

Despite the absence of last year's champion, IM Paul Garbett, the field for the club's 50th championship was rather stronger than in 2004 and a very interesting tournament resulted with the lead changing hands several times. The postponements and rescheduling of games, which is typical of these club events, led to a busy last week with eventual winner Rong Wang playing five games in eight days. The score-table makes his victory look very

clear-cut but with just one week to go, no fewer than seven players still had at least a mathematical chance of the title, or a share of it. Leonard McLaren started with 5½/6 but then a wheel came off as he lost three in a row. Mark Le Brocq then took the lead but he lost his last three games, one of them to Wang who first gained the lead a few days before the last round.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1 Wang R.	..	½	0	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	1
2 Thornton G.A.	½	..	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	7½	2-3
3 McLaren L.J.	1	0	..	1	0	½	1	1	0	1	1	1	7½	2-3
4 McCrone J.	0	1	0	..	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	7	4-5
5 Watson B.R.	0	0	1	0	..	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	7	4-5
6 Stuart P.W.	½	1	½	0	½	..	0	½	½	1	1	1	6½	6-7
7 Le Brocq M.J.	0	0	0	1	0	1	..	1	1	½	1	1	6½	6-7
8 Krstev A.	0	1	0	0	0	½	0	..	1	0	1	1	4½	8
9 Gunn N.J.	0	0	1	0	½	½	0	0	..	0	1	1	4	9
10 Elliott D.B.	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	1	1	..	0	1	3½	10
11 Mistry P.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	..	1	3	11
12 Fuatai F.	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	..	0	12

Wang,R – Krstev,A
[A67]

1.d4 c5 2.d5 d6 3.c4 ♟f6 4.♟c3 e6 5.e4 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.f4 ♟g7 8.♟b5+ ♟fd7 9.a4 0-0 10.♟f3 ♟c8 11.0-0 ♟a6 12.♟d2 ♟c7 13.♟e2 a6 14.♟f3 ♟b8 15.♟c4 ♟d4+ 16.♟h1 ♟f6 17.♟e2 b5 18.♟xd4 cxd4 19.♟a5 ♟d7 20.♟xd4 bxa4 21.e5 ♟b5 22.♟b4 dxe5 23.fxe5 ♟a7 24.♟h4 ♟h5 25.♟xd8 ♟exd8

26.♟xh5 gxh5 [This is not one of Antonio's better pawn structures!] 27.♟a3 ♟b4 28.h3 h4 29.♟g5 ♟db8 30.♟af3 ♟xb2 31.♟xf7 ♟b1 32.e6 ♟e8 33.♟h6 ♟xf1+ 34.♟xf1 ♟g6 35.e7 ♟f7 36.d6 ♟c8 37.e8♟+ 1-0.

McLaren,L – Wang,R
[B22]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 ♟xd5

5.d4 ♟f6 6.♟e3 cxd4 7.cxd4 ♟e7 8.♟c3 ♟d6 9.♟d3 0-0 10.♟e2 ♟c6 11.a3 a6 12.0-0 g6 13.♟ad1 ♟d8 14.♟fe1 ♟d5 15.♟xd5 exd5 16.♟e5 ♟d7 17.f4 ♟ac8 18.♟f2 f5 19.♟g3 ♟f6 20.♟b1 ♟e6 21.♟f2 ♟e8 22.♟a2 ♟f8 23.♟e2 ♟a5 24.♟de1 b5 25.♟f3 ♟c4 26.h3 ♟g7 27.g4 h6 28.♟h1 fxg4 29.hxg4 ♟g8 30.f5 gxf5 31.gxf5 ♟h7 32.♟b1 ♟d6 33.♟g4+ ♟h8 34.♟h4 ♟g7 35.♟xg7+ ♟xg7 36.♟g1+ 1-0.

Le Brocq,M – Wang,R
[B40]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟d2 ♟c6 6.♟xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♟d5 8.c4 ♟f4 9.g3 ♟g6 10.f4 ♟xf4 11.♟e4 [11.gxf4! ♟h4+ 12.♟e2 ♟xf4 13.♟f3 ♟e4+ 14.♟f2 ♟c5+ 15.♟g3 and White's a piece up with the threat of ♟d3. Not so easy to assess over the board though.] 11...♟a5+ 12.♟d2 ♟b4 13.♟c3 ♟xe5+ 14.♟d1 ♟g6 15.♟d3 0-0 16.♟e1 ♟h5+ 17.♟e2 d5 18.a3 ♟xc3 19.♟xc3 e5 20.♟xg6 fxg6 21.♟d2 ♟g4 22.♟xe5 ♟xe2 23.♟xe2 ♟f5 24.♟c3 ♟ae8 25.♟g2 dxc4 26.♟xc4 ♟e4+ 27.♟c3 ♟c5+ 28.♟b3 ♟c4# 0-1.

Watson,B – McLaren,L
[E98]

1.♟f3 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.♟e2 e5 7.0-0 ♟c6 8.d5 ♟e7 9.♟e1 ♟d7 10.♟d3 f5 11.♟b1 a5 12.a3 fxe4 13.♟xe4 ♟f6 14.f3 a4 15.g4 c6 16.♟d2 cxd5 17.cxd5 ♟h8 18.♟xf6 ♟xf6 19.♟e3 ♟a5 20.♟c4 b5 21.♟a2 ♟b7 22.♟d2 ♟a8 23.♟bd1 b4 24.axb4 ♟xd5 25.♟xd5 ♟xd5 26.♟e4 ♟xe4 27.fxe4 ♟xe4 28.♟h6 ♟xg4+ 29.♟g2 ♟xg2+ 30.♟xg2 ♟f7 31.♟xd6! ♟f5 32.♟xf5 gxf5 33.♟a6+ ♟g7+ 34.♟xg7+ ♟xg7 35.b5 ♟d8 36.♟d6 ♟a5 37.b6 ♟b4 38.♟d7+ 1-0.

McLaren,L – Thornton,G
[B90]

1.c4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 a6 6.a4 e5 7.♟b3 ♟e6 8.♟g5 ♟bd7 9.♟e2 ♟e7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♟d2 ♟c8 12.a5 ♟xc3 13.bxc3 ♟xe4 14.♟xe7 ♟xe7 15.♟e3 f5 16.♟d2 ♟ef6 17.c4 f4 18.♟a3 ♟c5 19.♟fe1 e4 20.♟f1 ♟f7 21.♟b3 f3 22.♟xc5 fxg2 23.♟xe6 gxf1♟+ 24.♟xf1 ♟xe6 25.♟ad1 ♟d8 26.♟b3 ♟g4 27.c5 d5 28.♟h1? [28.f3! exf3 (28...e3 29.♟d3∞) 29.♟xf3 ♟e5 (29...♟e2 30.♟xd5! ♟xh2+ 31.♟f1 ♟e3+ 32.♟xe3 ♟h1+ 33.♟f2 ♟xd5 34.♟d3+-) 30.♟h3 ♟e7∞] 28...e3! 29.fxe3 ♟e4+ 30.♟g1 ♟xe3 31.♟d2 ♟g4+ 32.♟f2 ♟f8+ 0-1.

Gunn,N – McLaren,L
[E97]

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 g6 3.♟c3 ♟g7 4.e4 d6 5.♟e2 0-0 6.♟f3 e5 7.0-0 ♟c6 8.d5 ♟e7 9.b4 a5 10.♟a3 ♟d7 11.♟d2 f5 12.♟f3 fxe4 13.♟cxe4 axb4 14.♟xb4 b6 15.a4 ♟f5 16.♟a3 ♟d4 17.a5 ♟a6 18.♟e2 ♟e7 19.axb6 ♟xb6 20.♟xa6 ♟xa6 21.c5 ♟a1 22.♟xa1 ♟xe2+ 23.♟h1 ♟a8? [23...♟xd5∞] 24.cxb6! ♟xa1 25.♟xa1+- cxb6 26.♟a8+ ♟f8 27.♟xd6 ♟b7 28.♟xf8+ ♟g7 29.♟d8 ♟a6 30.♟xe5+ ♟h6 31.g4 ♟a3 32.♟d7 ♟c1+ 33.♟g2 ♟g1+ 34.♟f3 1-0.

McLaren,L – Elliott,D
[C10]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♟c3 dxe4 4.♟xe4 ♟d7 5.g3 ♟g6 6.♟xf6+ ♟xf6 7.♟g2 ♟e7 8.♟f3 0-0 9.0-0 c6 10.♟e2 ♟c7 11.♟f4 ♟d6 12.♟xd6 ♟xd6 13.♟fd1 b6 14.♟e5 ♟b7 15.c4 ♟ac8 16.♟ac1 ♟e7 17.c5 b5 18.a4 a6 19.axb5 axb5 20.♟a1 ♟d5 21.♟a7 ♟c7? [∞21...♟c7 22.♟da1 ♟a8±] 22.♟da1 f6? 23.♟xc6! ♟d7 24.♟a5 ♟a8 25.♟a6 e5 26.c6 ♟xc6 27.♟xc6 ♟xc6 28.♟e4 ♟d8 29.♟xc6 ♟xc6 30.dxe5 fxe5 31.♟d1 1-0.

New Zealand News

North Island Schools Finals

by Martin Sims, organiser

This event was hosted at Palmerston North Boys' High School in the first weekend of the September holidays. There were teams making their debut ie there were more regions represented than last year. It is good to see the event growing.

PRIMARY

This division was a 9 round all play all. The only regions not represented were Northland and Manawatu.

Epsom dominated this division. They won seven of their nine matches 4-0 and did not lose a match. Their closest match was a 2.5-1.5 win against second placed Campbells Bay (also from Auckland).

Results table – scores are out of a possible 36 points

1 st	Epsom	33.5
2 nd	Campbells Bay	27.5
3 rd	Peterhead	19.5
4 th	Khandallah	19
5 th	Te Puna	18
6 th	Southwell	17
7 th	Lepperton	13
8 th	Churton Park	12.5
9 th	St Georges	11.5
10 th	St Patricks	5.5

INTERMEDIATE

This division was also a 9 round all play all and St Heliers won comfortably. They won eight of their nine matches, drawing 2-2 against the other Auckland school, Auckland Normal.

Results table – scores are out of a possible 36

points

1 st	St Heliers	29.5
2 nd	Raroa	22.5
3 rd -4 th	Auckland Normal Southwell	21
5 th	St Brendans	18
6 th	Peterhead	16.5
7 th -8 th	St Georges Otumoetai	14
9 th	Carterton	13
10 th	Palmerston North	10.5

SECONDARY

This event had 11 teams and was run as a 7 round Swiss. Sadly, there was a bye each round as a team did not turn up and gave no notice (Scots 2 – the second Wellington representative).

Of course, Auckland Grammar cruised to victory although not as convincingly as last year. They had four 4-0 victories, drew 2-2 with the second placed team and dropped 1.5 points against third.

Applications Sought

The New Zealand Chess Federation is now calling for applications for the following positions for next year's World Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy from May 20 to June 4, 2006.

Team Captain, NZ Men's (Open) Team
Team Captain, NZ Women's Team
Applicants for either position should apply before January 10, 2006, to NZCF Secretary, Bob Mitchell:

- robertmi@ihug.co.nz
- NZCF, P.O. Box 216
Shortland St, Auckland.

Auckland's second team, Macleans College, came second and Palmerston North Boys' High School were third so the pattern was the same as last year (ie Auckland 1, Auckland 2 and PNBHS).

Results table – scores are out of a possible 28 points

1 st	Auckland Grammar	23.5
2 nd	Macleans	21.5
3 rd	Palmerston North Boys'	20
4 th	St Pauls	16.5
5-7 th	Scots New Plymouth Boys' Wanganui Collegiate	12
8-9 th	Mt Maunganui Rathkeale	10
10 th	Whangarei Boys'	8.5
11 th	Hato Paora	8

On a personal note, I would like to thank: Mark van der Hoorn for coming up from Wellington and running the draw and dealing with disputes
New Zealand Chess Supplies for sponsoring the team prizes.

Edith Otene and Scott Wastney for acting as helpers; answering questions and solving numerous chaotic situations.
Felicity Timings for her advice and assistance before the event.

My students at Palmerston North Boys' High for fund raising and their help over the weekend and the following for lending gear: Rathkeale College, Wellington and Wanganui Chess Clubs.

Coming Events

MIT Open

Sunday, December 4.

At least Class 2, probably Class 1. 3 separate 5 round swiss rapid events (30 minutes each). Organised by Papatoetoe CC. Minimum prize-fund \$1050.

Enquiries – John McRae

(09) 2784520 brabham@xtra.co.nz

2006 Queenstown Chess Classic-

15 to 24 January, 2006.

A one-off Super Class Event, incorporating the NZ Championship.

The NZ Rapid Championship (Class One) is at the same venue, January 25-26. 9 round swiss. 30 minutes each.

Enquiries for both events: Paul Spiller
paul@queenstownchess.com

R.I.P. Julian Jan Mazur

The Wellington chess world was stunned by the news of the sudden, sad passing of longtime over-the-board and correspondence chess player Julian Mazur on the 11th September, 2005.

Julian had been a competition player since at least the early 1970,s and had belonged to the Polonia, Civic and Wellington Chess Clubs.

He played in many tournaments both within and outside of the Wellington area, and attended many North Island Championships and Congresses. An above average player, his rating was usually in the 1600 to 1700,s.

Julian studied and employed the Polish Opening (1b4)and he scorned draws preferring to play on regardless of the outcome.

Just a few weeks before he departed to the giant chessboard in the sky, Julian represented Wellington on board 4 against Wanganui in a Burnham Cup match at Levin and halved his match with John Wilson 1-1.

An obituary in the Dominion Post said it all. Mazur, Julian Jan.- the King of Poland, the Mayor of Miramar. A man always ready with a big smile and a bad joke. You left us all too soon, but left us all with so much. Julian is survived by wife Patricia and six children.

Correspondence Chess

by Gordon Hoskyn

Profile Bob Gibbons

Bob writes:

I was taught to play chess by my father and grandfather and dominated the local school clubs from an early age since the opposition was relatively weak. I went to primary school in London before moving to Tawa at the age of twelve and have spent most of my adult life in Auckland, mostly lecturing at the various tertiary institutions in Auckland but with a brief interlude in the commercial world. Currently I am lecturing in Maths and Engineering Computing at the Engineering School at Manukau Institute of Technology.

I didn't really "discover" chess until the third year at Victoria University where it proved to be a devastating distracter to academic studies. Learning that there were books, moves other than 1.e4 and more importantly quite a few players stronger than I, proved a strong incentive to learn and there were lots of opportunities to put that into practice. As well as the inter-University events there was the Phillips tournament, Wellington Dunhill, Interclub and I stumbled across a new novelty, the Bledisloe Cup played by morse code.

I played in the Nelson congress in 1970 before transferring up to Auckland and joining the Auckland Chess Centre. I was still studying at University and Teachers Training College but playing a lot of OTB chess. Alan Hignett and Alan Fletcher were both members of my club and it was from them I learned about Correspondence Chess.

First year teaching at a secondary school and getting married do not go well with endless hours of chess so I wasn't able to incorporate postal chess into my repertoire for another year or so when I left secondary school teaching for the tertiary sector. I made a cautious start with eight handicap games at grade six only to find that I could not be promoted to grade five since I had won 7/7 and one needed 6/8! Stung, I asked for sixty handicap games and joined the TT-events only to discover I had been promoted two grades and now had (a lot

of) serious competition of my hands. I was first equal in TT3 that year with (Gordon Hoskyn and Don Gannon) and from there worked up to playing in the reserve. The sharp rise in postal charges and a prolonged overseas trip lead to a decline in my postal play although I was still playing a lot of OTB chess including playing in the New Zealand team to the "Asian Teams" of 1974 and captaining the Auckland team to the Asian Cities events of 1984 and 1985.

At the end of 1985 I 'retired' from chess. Twenty years of student life, while supporting myself and family handsomely on a contract lecturing basis, was entirely enough. Time to get serious and work for a bank. So I had eight years as a commercial programmer before going to work for the tertiary sector again at Manukau Institute of Technology.

-Since my 'retirement' from chess I have played in two closed International Master Tournaments and several open ones, become an International Arbiter and led the teams to the Asian Cities event in Malaysia in 1998 and the Asian Teams and the World Cities events in China in 1999. After that I played in the Swedish 'Royal Open' International e-mail Tournament, qualified into the Semi-finals and then had the unique experience of seeing the tournament organizers vanish! That lead into playing in the Australian Interstate Teams competition where the North Island team finished second behind the South Island team. As chance would have it Peter Goffin also worked in the same department at MIT so I was lured back to NZCCA. It's just as hard as I remembered, takes as many hours but is still just as much fun and it has been great catching up with old friends and meeting a lot of new ones.

Gibbons, R - Levi, E

Qantas Challenge, 28.01.1999

This Game was from the Sydney Qantas Challenge event. My penchant for grabbing pawns and suffering the resul-

tant developmental indignities is well known.

1.e4 e5 2.ϣf3 ϣc6 3.ϣc4 ϣf6 4.ϣg5 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

This position has a pedigree stretching back to Anderssen and Zukertort in the 1860's - they played it better than I do.

15.♘c4 ♣e7 16.♘xb6
Developing a piece eg Qa4 is probably better
16...axb6 17.♘f2 ♙f5 18.d4 e3+

18...exd3 is better but Black wanted his pawn back.

19.♘g1 ♙xb1 20.♙xb1 ♙xa2 21.♙f3

Springing the trap. The white pieces uncoil with deadly speed and black is caught with his pieces unco-ordinated and his King in the centre.

21...♘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.♙b3 ♣b1+ 32.♘g2 ♣e4+ 33.♙f3 1-0

Gibbons, R - Vicoli, G

Royal Open 2/26, 1999

This game was played in first qualifying round of the Swedish Royal Open email tournament. Giordano Vicoli was the top seed for this group and rated at 2400.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.ϣf3 ϣf6 4.ϣc3 dxc4 5.a4
♙f5 6.♘h4 e6 7.♘xf5 exf5 8.e3 ♙b4 9.♙xc4 0-0 10.0-0 ♣e7

This is a surprise. Usual is ...Nbd7

11.♣c2 g6 12.b3 ♘bd7 13.♙b2 a5 14.d5

Black is threatening to get a good position if white develops quietly. Here ..Bxc3 does not win the pawn because of the weakness on the black diagonal when White recaptures with the queen.

14...♙ac8 15.♙fd1 ♘b6 16.dxc6 ♙xc6
[16...♘xc4 17.cxb7 ♘xb2 18.bxc8 ♣ ♙xc8
19.♣xb2 ♙xc3 20.♣c2 ♣c7 is not good for white. Fortunately bxc4 is Ok] 17.♙b5 ♙c5
18.♣d3 ♣c7

18...♘g4 19.♣d4 ♣h4 20.♘e4 ♣xh2+ 21.♘f1
♙e5 22.♘f6+ is good for White.
19.♣d4 ♙xc3 20.♙xc3 ♙xc3 21.♣xf6 ♙c5

22.♣d6 ♙c8 23.♙d4 ♘g7 24.♙ad1 ♙cl 25.♘f1
♣xd6 26.♙xd6 ♙xd1+ 27.♙xd1 ♙c7

White's advantage is minimal and I was happy to accept the draw in this position. ½-½

Gibbons, R - Ebenezar, J

Asian Cities Chp, Genting Highlands

And now a typically scrappy game

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Bd6

5.Nc3 I knew that Joseph had drawn the black side of a French against the GM Zagrebelyn in round 2. I elected to go for an obscure line recommended by Sokolsky which has the idea of playing Nge2 and Bf4. 5.Δc6 6.Nge2 Qh4! Sokolsky didnt mention this! 7.Be3 Nf6

8.Qd2 Ng4 9.g3 Qf6 10.Bf4 Nxf2 11.Kxf2 Better is 11.Qe3 11Δg5 12.Kg2 gxf4 13.Nxf4 Qxd4 14.Rae1+?! If 14.Nb5!? Bxf4 15.Qe1+ Qe3 16.Nc7+ Kd8 17.Nxa8 But will the knight ever get out? 14ΔKd8 15.Rhf1 Nd7 Having dug myself into a hole I have to find an escape plan. I spent a lot of time on sacrificing on d5 but couldn't see a clear enough line.

16.Re6 Be5 17.Nfe2 Qg4 18.Bf5 Qg7 19.Rh6 Nf6 20.Rxf6!? Objectively not best but I still wanted to get the sac on d5 to work. 20ΔBxf6 Not 20ΔQxf6 as 21.Bxc8 when white is back on top. 21.Nxd5 cxd5

22.Qxd5+ Ke8 23.Nf4 Be7? I had expected 23ΔBxf5 intending 24.Nh5 Qg6 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6 26.Rxf5, but we had both missed the killer reply 26ΔQc6! 24.Nh5? Counterblunder. 24.Qb5+ and black is in dire trouble.

24ΔQg5?! Black should snatch the pawn! 24ΔQxb2 25.Bxc8 Rxc8 26.Qxf7+ Kd8 27.Rd1+ Kc7 28.Qxe7+ Kb8 25.h4 Qxh5 Surely, he thought, two bishops and a rook had to be more than a match for the queen, especially as whites minor pieces have now all gone! 26.Bd7+ Bxd7 27.Qxh5 Be6 28.Qb5+ Kf8 29.Qe5 Whoops. The king is now safe but the bishop and rook are loose. 29ΔKg8

30.Qc7 Bd8 31.Qxb7 Rc8 32.Rxf7 Objectively 32.c3 is better but I couldnt resist the urge to sacrifice again and expose the King. 32.c3 Rc7 33.Qb8 Rd7 32ΔRxc2+ 33.Rf2 Rxf2+ 34.Kxf2 Bb6+ 35.Kf3 Bxa2 36.Qb8+ Kg7 37.Qe5+ Draw. The king has to protect

the trapped rook. If 37ΔKg8 38.Qe8+ etc.

Gibbons,R – Ebenezar,J

Asian Cities Chp, Genting Highlands

And now a typically scrappy game

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.♗d3 ♗d6 5.♗c3

I knew that Joseph had drawn the black side of a french against GM Zagrebelny in round 1 elected to go for an obscure line recommended by Sokolsky which has the idea of playing Nge2 and

5...♗f4 c6

6.♗ge2 ♖h4

Sokolsky didn't mention this!

7.♗e3 ♗f6 8.♖d2 ♗g4 9.g3 ♖f6 10.♗xf4 ♗xf2

11.♗xf2

If 11.♗b5 Bxf4 Qe1+.

11...g5 12.♗g2 gxf4 13.♗xf4 ♖xd4

14.♗ae1+?!

If 14.♖b5 Bxf4 Qe1+ ♗e3 15.♖xc7+ ♗d8

16.♖xa8 but will the knight ever get out?

14...♗d8 15.♗hf1 ♗d7

Having dug myself into a hole I have to find an escape plan. I spent a lot of time on sacrificing on d5 but couldn't see a clear enough line

16.♗e6 Be5 Nfe2 Qg4 Bf5

16...♖g7 17.♗h6 ♗f6 18.♗xf6 !?

Objectively not best but I still wanted to get the sac on d5 to work Bxf6 Nf4 Be7 ? I had expected [] Not Qxf6 Bxc8 when white is back on top

18...♗f5

Intending 19.♗h5 ♖g6

Nxf6+ Qxf6 Rxf5 but we had both missed the killer reply Qc6! Nh5 ? Counterblunder Qb5+! and black is in dire trouble

20.♖g5 ?!

Black should snatch the pawn! Qxb2

20...♗c8 Rxc8 Qxf7+ Kd8

21.♗d1

Kc7 Qxe7+ Kb8 h4

21...♖xh5

Surely, he thought, two bishops and a rook had to be more than a match for the queen especially as whites minor pieces have now all gone! Bd7+ Bxd7

22.♖xh5 ♗e6 Qb5+ Kf8

23.♖e5

Whoops.. the king is now safe but the bishop and rook are loose Kg8 Qc7 Bd8 Qxb7

23...♗c8 24.♗xf7

Objectively c3 is better but I couldn't resist the urge to sacrifice again and to expose the King

24.Rxc2+ Rf2 Rxf2+ Kxf2 Bb6+ Kf3 Bxa2 Qb8+ Kg7 Qe5+ draw The King has to protect the trapped rook 1/2-1/2

Objectively c3 is better but I couldn't resist the urge to sacrifice again and to expose the King

24.Rxc2+ Rf2 Rxf2+ Kxf2 Bb6+ Kf3

Bxa2 Qb8+ Kg7 Qe5+ draw

The King has to protect the trapped rook. 1/2-1/2

2005-2006 Trophy Tourney progress as at 20 October, 2005.

72nd NZCCA Championship: M.F.Noble 9/10,

R.E.Gibbons 6/7, G.A.Hoskyn 4/12, M.G.Whaley

3/3, H.P.Bennett 2.5/3, M.L.Dunwoody and

J.A.McDonald 2.5/6, E.G.A.Frost 2.5/7, P.B.Goffin

and M.Wigbout 2/5, P.A.R.Vetharianiam 1.5/4,

B.W.Millar 1.5/8, R.S.Mitchell 1/3. Latest results:

NOBLE beat Hoskyn,Dunwoody, McDonald, Frost,

Wigbout,Vetharianiam, Millar,Mitchell. Drew Gib-

bons, Bennett. GIBBONS beat Hoskyn, Dunwoody,

McDonald, Wigbout,Millar. Drew Goffin. HOSKYN

beat Dunwoody, Goffin. Drew McDonald, Frost,

Wigbout,Mitchell.WHALEY beat Hoskyn, Goffin,

Millar.BENNETT beat Hoskyn, Frost. DUNWOODY

beat Frost, Millar. DREW WIGBOUT. McDONALD beat

Frost.Drew Vetharianiam, Millar.FROST beat Vetha-

rianiam,Millar.GOFFIN beat Millar.Drew

Mitchell.WIGBOUT beat Millar.VETHARIANIAM

beat Hoskyn.MILLAR beat Hoskyn.

Reserve Championship: P.J.Voss 6/6, C.Welsh

3/4,B.J.Edwards 1.5/2, G.D.Putt 1.5/4, D.E.Dolejs

1/2, S.A.Holdaway 1/3, D.I.Bell and G.H.Mills .5/3,

W.Anderson 0/3. Latest Results: VOSS beat Welsh,

Putt, Dolejs, Holdaway, Bell, Anderson. WELSH

beat Putt, Holdaway, Anderson. EDWARDS beat

Mills. Drew Putt. PUTT beat Anderson. DOLEJS

beat Mills. HOLDAWAY beat Bell. BELL drew

Mills.

TT 2: Double Round. J.Stewart 3.5/4, T.Coady 2.5/4,

J.W.H. Atkinson 1/1, S.R. Chowdhury 0/2, C.Bastion

0/3. Latest Results: STEWART beat Coady, Chowd-

hury, Bastion.Drew Coady.COADY beat Bastion (2).

ATKINSON beat Chowdhury.

Chess Book Reviews

by Michael Stevenson

Reviewing chess products brings at times the difficulty of having to look not only at really first-rate products and books but also at those, sadly, that don't quite come up to the mark. Also at times it's hard to decide just what to include and what to leave out. In this column I'll be placing the products under the publisher's name. Also I have to hold off the reviews on chess computers that I alluded to in the last column until there is more room to do them justice. If anyone is thinking of buying chess computers, programs etc feel free to email me at chessbooksnz@hotmail.com for more information and/or help.

ChessBase

Regular readers of this column will undoubtedly have noticed that in the last few columns I've concentrated on ChessBase DVDs. This is mainly because they're an exciting learning tool that's really changing the way many people study chess. Definitely one of the main reasons that CB's DVDs are making waves is the excellent choice of IM Andrew Martin to present many of them.

'The Trompowsky - the easy way' and 'The Scandinavian - the easy way' are Andrew's newest offerings which will soon be out, but until they're released, here's what Andrew had to say in an email about one of his upcoming DVDs on the Scandinavian: "An all-new product focusing on 3 ...Qd6 and the various options for White in place of 2 exd5 and 3 Nc3. I try to show how versatile the Centre Counter is."

As well as these DVDs there's also coming out shortly an upgrade of Fritz which is one of most important chess programs around, i.e. 'FRITZ 9 - The Ultimate Chess Game'. I know a lot of players have been waiting for this upgrade as it's used by world champions, club players and everyone in between. The Nimzo-Indian defence has a fine reputation, and there's good reason for this as it's one of the soundest defences against 1 d4. The challenge the player who opens with 1 d4 finds

himself with is what is the best way to attack this defence.

Knut Neven's new training CD Classical Nimzo-Indian - 4.Qc2 may be just what 1 d4 players are looking for as Knut covers the theory and themes in a straightforward and easy to read format. However it's when the reader gets to the annotated games that things get exciting and interesting, as there are a high number of games that have been annotated by two, three or more players. It's great to see many different ideas in the same game on show. If you're looking for a sound and reliable way to play against the NID then Knut's CD on 4 Qc2 is a good investment.

Gambit Books

A little information before moving onto the books: Gambit's website, www.gambitbooks.com, has just been updated. There you'll find listed all their previously published books as well as upcoming books to be published in the near future. Some of the great titles to be released are 'Chess for Zebras' by Jonathan Rowson, Garry Kasparov's 'Greatest Chess Games' (Volume 2) by Igor Stohl, and 'Chess Explained: The Queen's Indian Defence' by Peter Wells. Make sure to check out the website for yourself. 'How to beat 1 d4' by James Rizzitano: this book is split into two main sections. In the first half James deals with the game when white starts off with the Queen's gambit (1.d4 d5 2.c4). He recommends answering with the QG accepted 2...dxc4. I found James' recommended variations in this first section to be safe and very helpful to the busy club player with limited time to study. The second half of his book features what to do when white moves away from the QG and uses one of the many 'side' openings, e.g. Blackmar Diemer gambit, Torre Attack and Colle System. James shows systems that work and fit really well together. In fact players who use some of these openings with white could discover some gold nuggets to be found in this book.

'Win with the London System' by Sverre Johnsen & Vlatko Kovacevic: First up I'd like to comment on move orders. I've always been led to believe that the London system opens with the moves 1.d4 2.Nf3 and then 3.Bf4, but in this book the authors have made a strong case for white opening the game 1.d4 2.Bf4. Consequently, white has a ready-to-use system against whatever defence players of the black pieces use. The first part of their book contains over 30 well annotated games where one gets the feel of playing this system against moves like 1...d5, King's Indian defence, Dutch and others. The second component is the analytical section which is well set out and has enough detail for anyone just starting out to build an opening, right up to experienced players looking for a system to use at tournaments. This is a first-class book, extremely well written, about a system that for too long has had its light hidden under a bushel.

Batsford

Players and readers of Batsford's chess books may have noticed their books weren't quite 'up to par' over the past few years, but lately they've made great strides largely by employing some well known authors, eg. McDonald and Ward. In addition they've found some new blood, eg. Palliser. This means that they're once more up with the big boys again. 'Chess for Tigers' by Simon Webb: while players disagree which books are 'classics', this one is invariably at the top of most people's list. This edition, the third, was updated by Webb shortly before his tragic death earlier this year and as with all his other editions they contain good advice, funny one-liners, plus witty illustrations. This book should be on all chess players' bookshelves as it's a grand read. 'The Bishop's Opening Explained' by Gary Lane: in 1993 Gary wrote a book called 'Winning with the Bishop's Opening'. Sadly it 'flew under a lot of people's radar screens'! This new book by Gary is not just an expanded edition of his 1993 book. As well as updating all the Bishop's Opening theory, Gary shows players of the white pieces ways to transpose their openings into some other e4 e5 openings if

they want to, eg. Evans Gambit and Vienna Gambit. Over all, Gary's book is best suited for lesser to middle-rated players who are looking for an easily read book, and it's one of the best books to come out on the Bishop's opening in the last few years.

'French Defence Steinitz, Classical and Other Systems' by Lev Psakhis: this is the fourth book in a series and three have, so far, been reviewed, i.e. French Defence 3 Nd2, Advance and other Anti-French variations and French Defence 3 Nc3 Bb4. In his fourth book, Lev has done a first-class job of updating two variations which have proven extremely popular, even at the highest level. The variations are the Rubinstein (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7) and Burns (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4). Any one of Lev's books will be a great help to players of the French defence or to players looking for a system in which to fight this popular and sound defence.

Everyman

Everyman books haven't featured much in these columns in the past, but all things being equal, they should from now on. As mentioned previously, along with Gambit and Batsford, I rate Everyman as one of the world's leading chess book publishers.

'Breaking Through, How the Polgar Sisters Changed the Game of Chess' by Susan Polgar with Paul Truong. No doubt a lot of readers and players will have been anticipating a book published by one of the Polgar sisters personally, as up until now anything that's been written about them has only been by onlookers. Susan has gone into great detail about the three sisters' chess games, their history and their outlook on life. It's delightfully presented with appealing photos, combined with well annotated games and combinations. In her final chapter Susan expands on family life as a whole and addresses the subject of successful women in chess in the form of questions, comments and answers. This hardcover book will certainly be of interest to chess players in general and could well appeal to anyone interested in women at the top of their field.

'Russians versus Fischer' by Dmitry Plisetsky

and Sergey Voronkov: you may well be thinking 'not yet another book on Bobby!' but as his shadow hangs large over the entire chess world he'll invariably hit the headlines from time to time. This updated hardcover book on the battles that Bobby had with the Russians is a fascinating and informative read. The authors have done their research well on all the documents, letters and papers that until now have not largely been published in the 'west' and some that are not even known in Russia. This book is an excellent read as it demonstrates what the Soviet chess machine did to try to bring Fischer down, showing too just how well chess was intertwined in the life of the old USSR.

Convekta

Chess Combinations Encyclopaedia: This is arguably the best computer program for teaching and training chess tactics that I have ever seen. With more than 4000 exercises this program understandably starts off with the basics and, as you move on through them, they get much harder to solve, so it's impossible not to improve every part of a game. Most masters agree that practising Chess tactics is by far the best way to improve at playing chess, so don't go past this CD.

Endgame Training: As the name implies, this program gives sound training in all different types of endings that are likely to be encountered when playing chess. It includes more than 2450 exercises taken from actual GMs and IMs games as well as training examples taken from many different sources.

Mate Studies will be of more interest to players and/or solvers of chess problems and follows the same format as the above CDs.

As a postscript: a reminder to readers, here's what I wrote in the last column: "One helpful feature that Convekta has over similar Chess-base programs is that the questions are marked off as they are answered. This way you'll always be sure of just where you are, even when coming back to the program".

In conclusion chess magazines New in Chess, Chess (Monthly) and Australian Chess are excellent magazines, and will be covered as usual in the next column.

(Continued from page 7)

mind - there were real groans of relief. I think it is important to understand there is an almost-always unspoken concern among players - especially juniors - that they do the "right thing", whether to do the right thing, or to avoid criticism for doing the wrong thing.

The second "topic" was more mundane - how and when to offer a draw, especially to someone who doesn't understand your language. Several of the players were completely in the dark as to the appropriate technique - whether or not the opponent understood English - and I happily and deliberately bounced the details off our experienced international players - Sue, Shirley, and Natasha. A number of people and organisations contributed significantly to this trip.

Firstly, I would like to thank Lion Foundation for their contribution to the travel costs of the players and myself, and also the Borovskis Trust whose contribution to my travel made the whole trip possible for me.

Also, a very special thanks to parents Frank Cheng and Jimmy Chen for their total and unstinting support. The team was truly fortunate to have them along. My only regret is their disappointment with French "culture". - I had at least had some warning/experience from the Nice 1974 Olympiad.

All of NZCF council deserves my thanks for taking a risk and sending me. I trust the players' results have been reward enough. Paul Spiller deserves a special thanks and mention - it was he who initially suggested I might be in the team. I would like to thank Bob Mitchell and his firm eForenzix Ltd for contribution of a laptop and some walking around money, and most of all for his terrific support before and during the tournament. Last but not least, Chris Graham of Imagetext Ltd. (a parent of one of the Auckland Chess Centre's juniors), who lent me a laptop at very short notice. In the event, Bob Mitchell's laptop accompanied the team, but I think this shows the depth of support chess has "out there". I think all our players enjoyed their chess experience, and I think it has probably made several of them life-members of the chess-playing community.

They all performed with great credit.

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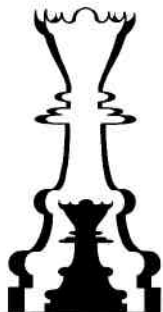
1st: \$7,000	6th: \$1,400	11th: \$800
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Auckland Chess Centre Meets Monday 7.30 & Thursday (Social) 7.30pm, 17 Cromwell St, Mt Eden, Auckland 1003. (09) 630-2042 Clubroom. Contact, Bruce Wheeler (09) 623-0109.

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

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

Hamilton Thur, 7.00pm, St Pauls Collegiate School. Inquiries Gary Judkins (07) 855-5392. Judkins4@actrix.co.nz

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, Garry Putt (03) 216-7368.

Kapiti Wednesday, 7.30pm, Salvation Army Hall, Bluegum Road, Paraparaumu Beach. c/- 51 Ames Street, Paekakariki

Contact, Rosemary Kingston (04) 292-8157
Mount Maunganui RSA, 10 Maranui St, Mt Maunganui, Contact Vaughan Collingwood (07) 570-3121, vaughan.lisa@xtra.co.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) 449-1812

Otago 7 Maitland St, Dunedin. Wednesday 7.30pm. (03) 477-6919

Tony Dowden (President) (03) 4730524,
Duncan Watts (Secretary) (03) 477-5226.

Papatoetoe Wednesday 7.30pm Papatoetoe RSA Bowling Club, Cambridge Tce, Papatoetoe. Contacts: John McRae (09) 278-4520,
Manhal Yaikoob (09) 277-9605

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, schooldays. 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, 42 St Hill St. Pres, Gordon Hoskyn, 7 Pehi St (06) 343-6101; Sec Kevin Yorston, 5 Mitchell St (06) 343-7166.

Wellington Tuesday 7.30pm, Turnbull House, Bowen Street, Wellington 1. Pres Mike Turner, 125 Makara Rd, Karori (04) 977-0285.

Sec Alan Aldridge, (04) 971-4874,
Alan_Aldridge@paradise.net.nz

Associate members

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NZ Correspondence Chess Assn, P.O. Box 3278, Wellington.

Sec, J W (Sandy) Maxwell, (04) 237-4753.

North Harbour Junior 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

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