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NZ Chess

New Zealand Chess

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"GM Darryl Johansen, triumphant in Nelson"

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STOP PRESS

*After many years of sterling work as editor of
the New Zealand Chess Magazine, Graeme
Trass is taking a much earned rest. The New
Zealand Chess Federation, and I am sure the
chess players of New Zealand also, extend their
thanks to Graeme for his dedication in produc-
ing our national magazine.*

*A new team headed by Wellingtonian Alan
Aldridge will shortly be bringing out the first
issue for 2008. All magazine queries and con-
tributions should now be sent to Alan. His
email contact address is:-
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Paul Spiller*

*President
New Zealand Chess Federation*

*Graeme and Sharon would like to thank con-
tributors and subscribers alike for the tremen-
dous support we have received over the years.
We wish Alan and his team every success with
the continuation of New Zealand Chess maga-
zine.*

Front Cover: *Australian Grandmaster Darryl
Johansen, winner of the Nelson International
tournament (incorporating the 2007 South
Island Championship) ahead of GM's Chandler
and Conquest, receives the winners trophy.*

New Zealand Chess

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11 July - NZ Junior Rapid Championship

New Zealand Chess Congress 2008

by Paul Spiller

The 115th National Chess Championship Congress incorporating the New Zealand Chess Championship and Major Open Championship, New Zealand Rapid Championship and New Zealand Lightning Championship was sponsored by New Zealand Chess Supplies and held at the Copthorne Harbourcity Hotel in downtown Auckland between January 15th and 25th. The timing was purposely held later than usual in order not to clash with the Australian Championships. This at least allowed Brazilian International Master Herman Van Riemsdijk to compete in both events although it was hoped that more Australian players would also come. Herman was joined by Australian FM Tim Reilly, a frequent visitor to tournaments in NZ, and Danish FM Ove Hartvig in the Championship.

The venue was ideally located close to all major transport networks and across the road from the vibrant Viaduct Basin, Auckland's new hub of wining, dining and entertainment. The Copthorne Harbourcity Hotel, as part of the Millennium Hotel and Resorts Group, was the perfect location to kick off the 2008 Millennium Hotels NZ Chess Grand Prix. Much interest in the Championship was focused around the form of New Zealand's only Grandmaster, Murray Chandler, who had been in such devastating form in Queenstown 2006 but had not quite been able to repeat this in more recent events in Malaysia and Nelson. Also Brazilian visitor Herman Van Riemsdijk was expected to perform well after his Australian success. Included in the field of 22 were local IM's Russell Dive, Anthony Ker and Paul Garbett as well as FM's Smith, Croad, Watson and Lukey. Also returning was Tony Dowden from Tasmania and several other Championship regulars.

Round 1

Two early upsets! IM Van Riemsdijk did not get the start that he wanted overlooking a tactical threat and losing the exchange in a roughly equal position against FM Ove Hartvig. Simi-

larly Mathew Barlow upset nine times champion, IM Anthony Ker. GM Chandler had to work hard against Steadman's French, finally breaking through on the kingside. Other games went much as expected with a few draws conceded to lower rated players.

Chandler 1 Steadman 0; Hartvig 1; Van Riemsdijk 0; Dive 1 Spain 0; Garbett .5 Hart .5; Smith .5 Dowden .5; Barlow 1 Ker 0; Croad 1 Stuart 0; Watson 1 Thornton 0; Lukey 1 Bennett 0; Reilly 1 Fuatai 0; McLaren 1 Goodhue 0

Chandler, M – Steadman, M

Round 1.1

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Be7 5. e5 Nfd7 6. Bxe7 Qxe7 7. f4 a6 8. Nf3 c5 9. Ne2 cxd4 10. Qd2 Nc5 11. O-O-O d3 12. cxd3 Bd7 13. Kb1 Nc6 14. Rc1 Rc8 15. Ned4 Nd8 16. Be2 b5 17. b4 Na4 18. Rxc8 Bxc8 19. Rc1 Bb7 20. Bd1 Nb6 21. Qc3 Nc8 22. a4 Na7 23. axb5 axb5 24. Qc5 Qxc5 25. Rxc5 Bc6 26. Kb2 Kd7 27. Rc1 Kc7 28. Nb3 Nb7 29. Nfd4 Kb6 30. Bh5 g6 31. Be2 Bd7 32. g4 Rc8 33. Ra1 Nc6 34. Nxc6 Bxc6 35. h4 Rf8 36. Nd4 Bd7 37. g5 h5 38. Bf3 Rc8 39. Nb3 Be8 40. Be2 Bd7 41. d4 Bc6 42. Kc3 Nd8 43. Nc5 Ra8 44. Nd7+ Kb7 45. Nc5+ Kb6 46. Nd7+ Kb7 47. Rxa8 Kxa8 48. Nf6 Kb8 49. Bxh5 1-0

Hartvig, O – Van Riemsdijk, H

Round 1.2

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. Qxd4 Nc6 4. Qe3 Nf6 5. Bd2 Bb4 6. Nc3 O-O 7. O-O-O Re8 8. Qg3 Nxe4 9. Nxe4 Rxe4 10. c3 Bd6 11. f4 Qf6 12. Nh3 Ra4 13. Kb1 Bf8 14. Bd3 d5 15. Qf3 Bf5 16. b3 Bxd3+ 17. Qxd3 Re4 18. Ng5 Rae8 19. Rhe1 Qg6 20. Nxe4 dxe4 21. Qg3 Qe6 22. Bc1 Ne7 23. Qe3 Nd5 24. Qd4 c6 25. c4 Nb6 26. Bb2 Qf5 27. g3 f6 28. Re2 Qh5 29. Qd2 Bc5 30. a3 Qf7 31. Qc2 f5 32. g4 Nd7 33. gxf5 Qxf5 34. Rg2 Bf8 35. Qc3 Re7 36. Rdg1 Qf7 37. Qd4 a6 38. Rg5 e3 39. f5 e2 40. Re1 h6 41. Rg2 Qxf5+ 42. Ka2 Nc5 43. Rf2 Qd3 44.

Qxc5 Qd2 45. Qf5 1-0

Dive, R – Spain, G

Round 1.3

1. c4 c6 2. e4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. cxd5 Nf6 5. Bb5+ Nbd7 6. Nc3 a6 7. Qa4 g6 8. Nf3 Bg7 9. O-O O-O 10. Bxd7 Nxd7 11. d4 b5 12. Qb3 Nb6 13. Bg5 h6 14. Bh4 g5 15. Bg3 Bb7 16. h4 gxh4 17. Nxx4 Bxd5 18. Nxd5 Qxd5 19. Qb4 Qxd4 20. Qxe7 Qxb2 21. Rad1 Nc4 22. Nf5 Qf6 23. Qc5 Kh8 24. Bh4 Qb6 25. Qd5 Qe6 26. Qf3 Rae8 27. Qh3 Qe4 28. Bf6 Bxf6 29. Qxh6+ Kg8 30. Qxf6 Qe5 31. Qg5+ Kh7 32. Rd3 1-0

Round 2

Probably the biggest upset of the tournament with Chandler losing to FM Lukey. Van Riemsdijk bounced back with a win over FM Bob Smith. Several players got off the mark with draws against higher rated opposition. Lukey 1 Chandler 0; Dive 1 Reilly 0; McLaren .5 Croad .5; Watson 1 Hartvig 0; Garbett 1 Barlow 0; Dowden .5 Hart .5; Van Riemsdijk 1 Smith 0; Ker 1 Thornton 0; Steadman .5 Bennett .5; Spain 1 Fuatai 0; Stuart .5 Goodhue .5

Leading scores: Dive, Watson, Lukey 2/2

Lukey, S – Chandler, M

Round 2.1

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 c6 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 dxc4 7. e4 g5 8. Bg3 b5 9. Be2 Bb7 10. h4 g4 11. Ne5 h5 12. f3 Nbd7 13. fxg4 hxg4 14. O-O Nxe5 15. Bxe5 Rh6 16. Qd2 b4 17. Na4 Nxe4 18. Qf4 f5 19. g3 Rg6 20. Qe3 Qd5 21. h5 Rg5 22. Rac1 Rxh5 23. Bxc4 Qd7 24. Bd3 Ng5 25. Kf2 Nf3 26. Rh1 Rxh1 27. Rxh1 Nxe5 28. Qxe5 O-O-O 29. Bc4 Qxd4+ 30. Qxd4 Rxd4 31. Bxe6+ Kd8 32. Rh8 Ke7 33. Nc5 Rd2+ 34. Ke3 Rxb2 35. Bxf5 Bg7 36. Rb8 Bh6+ 37. Kd3 Kd6 38. Kc4 Ba6+ 39. Nxa6 Rxa2 40. Nxb4 Rg2 41. Rc8 Ke5 42. Bxg4 Rxg3 43. Be2 Bd2 44. Nxc6+ Kd6 45. Rd8+ Kxc6 46. Rxd2 Re3 47. Bd3 Re5 48. Rh2 Re6 49. Rh5 a6 50. Rh7 Kb6 51. Kd5 Rf6 52. Rh1 Kc7 53. Be4 Kb6 54. Rb1+ Kc7 55. Kc5 a5 56. Rb7+ Kd8 57. Ra7 a4 58. Rxa4 Kd7 59. Bd5 Ke7 60. Ra7+ Kf8 61. Kd4 Rf2 62.

Ke5 Re2+ 63. Kd6 Re7 64. Ra8+ Re8 65. Ra7 Re7 66. Ra1 1-0

Watson, B – Hartvig, Ove

Round 2.4

1. Nf3 g6 2. g3 Bg7 3. Bg2 e5 4. O-O f5 5. c4 Nc6 6. Nc3 Nf6 7. d3 O-O 8. Rb1 d6 9. b4 h6 10. b5 Ne7 11. a4 g5 12. c5 Be6 13. Ba3 Rc8 14. Rc1 f4 15. cxd6 cxd6 16. Ne4 Rxc1 17. Qxc1 Nf5 18. Qb2 fxg3 19. hxg3 Qd7 20. e3 Rd8 21. Rc1 Qf7 22. b6 a6 23. Rc7 Qh5 24. Rxb7 Bd5 25. Rc7 Ne8 26. Rc1 Bb7 27. Qb3+ Kh7 28. Qe6 g4 29. Nfg5+ 1-0

Round 3

Dive took the outright lead after defeating FM Bruce Watson while Lukey succumbed to newly qualified FM Nic Croad. Chandler, Van Riemsdijk and Ker recorded wins whilst Garbett and McLaren drew to join the bunch on 2 points. Dive 1 Watson 0; Croad 1 Lukey 0; Garbett .5 McLaren .5; Chandler 1 Spain 0; Van Riemsdijk 1 Hart 0; Ker 1 Hartvig 0; Reilly 1 Barlow 0; Dowden 1 Bennett 0; Smith 1 Stuart 0; Steadman 1d Goodhue 0d; Thornton .5 Fuatai .5

Chandler, M – Spain, G

Round 3.4

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Qxd5 3. Nc3 Qa5 4. d4 Nf6 5. Nf3 Ne4 6. Bd2 Nxd2 7. Qxd2 e6 8. Bd3 Bb4 9. O-O Nc6 10. Qf4 Bxc3 11. bxc3 h6 12. Rab1 a6 13. Rfe1 O-O 14. h4 Qxa2 15. c4 Qa5 16. c5 Nb4 17. Qd2 Nc6 18. c3 Qa4 19. Bc2 Qc4 20. Bb3 Qb5 21. Bxe6 Bxe6 22. Rxb5 axb5 23. Qf4 Rfc8 24. Ne5 Nxe5 25. Qxe5 c6 26. Re3 Kh8 27. Rg3 Rg8 28. Qc7 Rab8 29. Kh2 Bd5 30. Re3 Be6 31. Qf4 Ra8 32. Qc7 Rab8 33. Kg3 Rgc8 34. Qd6 Rd8 35. Qe5 Ra8 36. Kh2 Rg8 37. Kg3 Rgd8 38. Qc7 Rab8 39. Kf4 Rdc8 40. Qe5 Ra8 41. g4 Bd5 42. Qe7 Rab8 43. Kg3 Kg8 44. Re5 Rf8 45. Qc7 Rfc8 46. Qb6 Kf8 47. g5 h5 48. g6 fxg6 49. Rxd5 cxd5 50. Qxg6 Rd8 51. Qxh5 Kg8 52. Qe2 Rbc8 53. Qxb5 Rc7 54. Qb6 Rcd7 55. h5 Kh7 56. Qe6 Kh8 57. f4 Rc7 58. h6 gxh6 59. Qxh6+ Rh7 60. Qf6+ Rg7+ 61. Kf3 Rdd7

62. f5 Kg8 63. Qe6+ Rgf7 64. Kf4 Kf8
65. f6 Rh7 66. Kg5 Rh7 67. Kg6 Rh7 68. Qe5
Rc7 69. Qd6+ Ke8 70. Qxd5 Rhf7 71.
Qa2 Rcd7 72. Qa8+ 1-0

Round 4

This round was characterised by a number of quick games. Croad – Dive was an 11 move draw and Watson – Chandler was only 16 moves. Van Riemsdijk inflicted some revenge on FM Stephen Lukey (for his last round loss at Queenstown 2006) with a snappy 17 move win, with Lukey overlooking White's 17th move reply!

Croad .5 Dive .5; Watson .5 Chandler .5; Van Riemsdijk 1 Lukey 0; Dowden 0 Garbett 1; Ker 1 McLaren 0; Reilly 0 Smith 1; Steadman 1 Hartvig 0; Spain 1 Barlow 0; Stuart .5 Hart .5; Goodhue 0 Thornton 1; Fuatai .5 Bennett .5

Van Riemsdijk, H – Lukey, S

Round 4.3

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3
Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Ne7 7. h4 Nbc6 8. h5
Qa5 9. Bd2 Bd7 10. Rb1 O-O-O 11. Qc1 Qc7
12. Nf3 f6 13. Bf4 fxe5 14. Nxe5 cxd4
15. cxd4 Nxd4 16. Nc4 Nxc2+ 17. Qxc2 1-0

Steadman, M – Hartvig, O

Round 4.7

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 5. bxa6
g6 6. Nc3 Bxa6 7. g3 d6 8. Bg2
Bg7 9. Nf3 Nbd7 10. Rb1 Qa5 11. Bd2 O-O
12. O-O Qc7 13. Re1 Nb6 14. e4 Nc4 15.
Be1 Rfb8 16. Qc2 Nd7 17. Rd1 Qa5 18. Bd2
Ra7 19. Be1 Rab7 20. Na4 Qc7 21. Bf1
Nce5 22. Nxe5 Nxe5 23. Bxa6 Nf3+ 24. Kg2
Nxe1+ 25. Rxe1 1-0

Reilly, T – Smith, R

Round 4.6

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 O-O 5.
Bd3 d5 6. cxd5 exd5 7. Nge2 Re8 8.
O-O c5 9. a3 Bxc3 10. bxc3 Nc6 11. f3 Bd7
12. Qe1 Na5 13. Rb1 Rc8 14. Qh4 Qe7
15. Kh1 h6 16. g4 Nh7 17. Qg3 b6 18. Nf4 Bc6
19. h4 cxd4 20. cxd4 Bb7 21. g5
hxg5 22. hxg5 g6 23. Rg1 Nc4 24. Bxc4 Rxc4
25. Rb2 Rec8 26. Nd3 Rc2 27. Rxc2

Rxc2 28. Qh4 Qc7 29. Qf4 Qc8 30. Rg3 Ba6
31. Qh4 Bxd3 32. Rh3 Rxc1+ 33. Kh2
Qc2+ 34. Kg3 Rg1+ 35. Kf4 Qc7# 0-1

Round 5

A mostly decisive round. Van Riemsdijk won his fourth straight game, this time against IM Russell Dive, to take the lead on 4/5. Chandler carefully converted his advantage against Croad while Steadman continued his resurgence with a good win against his nemesis Bob Smith.

Van Riemsdijk 1 Dive 0; Chandler 1 Croad 0; Garbett .5 Ker .5; Steadman 1 Smith 0; Lukey 1 Watson 0; McLaren 1 Dowden 0; Spain 1 Reilly 0; Hart 1 Thornton 0; Hartvig 1 Stuart 0; Barlow .5 Fuatai .5; Goodhue 1 Bennett 0

Leading scores: Van Riemsdijk 4; Chandler, Dive, Garbett, Ker, Steadman 3.5

Smith, R – Steadman, M

Round 5.4

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 g6 4. O-O Bg7 5.
Bxc6 bxc6 6. Re1 e5 7. b4 cxb4 8.
a3 bxa3 9. Nxa3 d6 10. c3 Ne7 11. d4 exd4 12.
Nxd4 O-O 13. Bg5 Bb7 14. Nc4 Qc7
15. Qb3 Rfb8 16. Qa3 Nc8 17. Rad1 Bf8 18.
Qc1 Nb6 19. Na5 Nd7 20. Qa1 Bg7 21.
f4 h6 22. Bh4 Re8 23. Rb1 Rab8 24. Nf3 Ba8
25. Rbd1 Nc5 26. e5 d5 27. c4 Ne6
28. Bg3 Bf8 29. cxd5 cxd5 30. Re2 Bc5+ 31.
Kh1 Rb5 32. Ra2 Reb8 33. Rc1 Qb6 34.
Ra4 Rb1 35. Rxb1 Qxb1+ 36. Ne1 Qxa1 37.
Rxa1 Rb5 38. Nd3 Bd4 0-1

Round 6

A contrast to the last round with only one decisive game. This was probably in part due to the double round being played in the evening, with most players happy to split the point.

Van Riemsdijk .5 Garbett .5; Ker .5 Chandler .5; Steadman .5 Dive .5; Croad .5 Spain .5; McLaren .5 Lukey .5; Watson .5 Hart .5; Hartvig 0 Smith 1; Reilly .5 Dowden .5; Thornton .5 Barlow .5; Goodhue .5 Fuatai .5; Stuart .5 Bennett .5

Hartvig, O – Smith, R

Round 6.7

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 Bf5 4. Nf3 e6 5. Be2 c5
6. Be3 Qb6 7. Nc3 a6 8. dxc5

Bxc5 9. Nd4 Ne7 10. Na4 Qa5+ 11. c3 Ba7 12.
Nxf5 Nxf5 13. Bb6 Bxb6 14. b4 Bxf2+ 0-1

Round 7

This was another bloodthirsty round with the crucial game between Chandler and Van Riemsdijk ending in a victory for Murray. Dive kept in touch by defeating fellow Wellingtonian, IM Anthony Ker.

Chandler 1 Van Riemsdijk 0; Steadman .5 Garbett .5; Dive 1 Ker 0; McLaren 1 Spain 0; Smith 1 Croad 0; Lukey 1 Hart 0; Reilly 1 Goodhue 0; Dowden 1 Watson 0; Hartvig 1 Fuatai 0; Barlow .5 Stuart .5; Thornton 1 Bennett 0

Leading scores: Chandler, Dive 5; Van Riemsdijk, Steadman, Garbett, McLaren, Smith, Lukey 4.5 points

Chandler, M – Van Riemsdijk, H

Round 7.1

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5.
exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8.
Qf3 Bd7 9. Bd3 Be7 10. Bf5 O-O 11. d3 Be8
12. h4 g6 13. Bh3 c5 14. O-O c4 15.
dxc4 Bc6 16. Qc3 Rb8 17. b3 Bc5 18. Be3 Bd4
19. Bxd4 exd4 20. Qd3 h6 21. Nf3
Be4 22. Qd1 Nh5 23. Nbd2 Ba8 24. g3 Qd6
25. Bg2 f5 26. Re1 Rfe8 27. Nf1 Nc6 28.
Qd3 Qf6 29. Qd2 Kh7 30. Rxe8 Rxe8 31. Re1
Rd8 32. b4 1-0

Dive, R – Ker, A

Round 7.2

1. c4 e5 2. g3 f5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. Rb1
Nc6 6. a3 a5 7. d3 O-O 8. e3 Kh8
9. Nge2 Qe8 10. Nd5 Nxd5 11. Bxd5 Qh5 12.
Bg2 Nd8 13. O-O Ne6 14. b4 g5 15. Bb2
Bf6 16. d4 e4 17. d5 Ng7 18. d6 axb4 19. axb4
Bxb2 20. Rxb2 Rf6 21. c5 cxd6 22.
cxd6 Qg6 23. Rd2 Ne8 24. Qc2 Rxd6 25. Nd4
g4 26. Qb2 Ng7 27. Ra1 Rda6 28. Rc1
Rc6 29. Nxc6 bxc6 30. b5 cxb5 31. Qxb5 Qa6
32. Qxa6 Bxa6 33. Ra2 Ne8 34. Bf1
Rc8 35. Rxc8 Bxc8 36. Ra8 Nd6 37. Ba6 1-0

Smith, R – Croad, N

Round 7.4

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3
Qc7 6. Ne2 Bg4 7. f3 Bd7 8. Bf4

e5 9. dxe5 Nxe5 10. Bc2 Bd6 11. Ba4 O-O-O
12. Bxd7+ Rxd7 13. O-O g5 14. Bxg5
Ng6 15. g3 f6 16. Be3 N8e7 17. Bf2 Rg8 18.
Nd4 Bc5 19. Na3 Nf4 20. Kh1 Nh3 21.
Ne6 Nxf2+ 22. Rxf2 Qb6 23. Nxc5 Qxc5 24.
Re2 Nf5 25. Nc2 Rxc3 26. Re8+ Kc7 27.
Nd4 1-0

Round 8

Murray gained another crucial point with a crushing kingside attack against co-leader Dive, while Steadman kept in touch, a half point behind, by defeating Lukey. Van Riemsdijk – McLaren and Smith – Garbett ended in draws.

Chandler 1 Dive 0; Van Riemsdijk .5 – McLaren .5; Smith .5 – Garbett .5; Steadman 1 Lukey 0; Ker 1 Spain 0; Reilly 1 Croad 0; Thornton .5 Dowden .5; Hart .5 Hartvig .5; Watson 1 Goodhue 0; Bennett 0 – Barlow 1; Stuart .5 Fuatai .5

Leading scores: Chandler 6, Steadman 5.5, Van Riemsdijk, Dive, McLaren, Smith, Garbett & Ker 5 points

Dive, R – Chandler, M

Round 8.1

1. c4 e5 2. g3 d6 3. Bg2 f5 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Rb1
Be7 6. b4 O-O 7. d3 Kh8 8. Nf3 c6
9. O-O Qe8 10. Qc2 Qh5 11. c5 f4 12. cxd6
Bxd6 13. Rd1 fxc3 14. hxg3 Ng4 15.
Ne4 Be7 16. Bg5 Bxg5 17. Nxc5 Bf5 18. Ne4
Nd7 19. Nd6 Be6 20. Nxb7 Bd5 21. Rb2
Rxf3 22. exf3 Nh2 23. g4 Qh4 24. Qe2 Rf8 25.
f4 Rxf4 26. f3 Nxf3+ 27. Bxf3 Bxf3 0-1

Round 9

Another relatively quick win for Murray after Smith could not escape from a fatal pin. Steadman faltered and was horrible crushed when McLaren opened up the position against Michael's uncastled King. Van Riemsdijk and Dive also scored victories against their IM opponents Ker and Garbett respectively. This gave Murray a one point buffer over his nearest opponents.

Chandler 1 Smith 0; Ker 0 Van Riemsdijk 1; Garbett 0 Dive 1; McLaren 1 Steadman 0; Lukey .5 Reilly .5; Barlow .5 Watson .5; Dowden .5 Stuart .5; Croad 0 Thornton 1; Fuatai 0

Hart 1; Hartvig 1 Goodhue 0; Spain 1 Bennett 0
Leading scores: Chandler 7, Van Riemsdijk,
 Dive, McLaren 6 points

Chandler, M – Smith, R

Round 9.1

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. c4 Nf6 5. Nc3
 g6 6. Qb3 Bg7 7. cxd5 O–O 8.
 Be2 Nbd7 9. Bf3 Nb6 10. Nge2 Bg4 11. Bxg4
 Nxc4 12. Bf4 Nf6 13. d6 exd6 14. O–O
 Re8 15. Ng3 Qd7 16. Rfd1 Rad8 17. h3 Qc6
 18. Rac1 Nbd5 19. Bg5 Nxc3 20. Rxc3
 Qd7 21. Rf3 Qe7 22. Qe3 Qd7 23. Qd2 Qe7
 24. Qf4 1–0

McLaren, L – Steadman, M

Round 9.2

1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. f4 d6 4. Nf3 a6 5. Bd3
 Nd7 6. O–O c5 7. c3 e6 8. Nbd2 Qc7
 9. e5 d5 10. g4 h5 11. f5 exf5 12. gxf5 Nf8 13.
 c4 Bxf5 14. Bxf5 gxf5 15. cxd5
 cxd4 16. Nb3 f6 17. e6 Rd8 18. Qxd4 Qd6 19.
 Rd1 Ne7 20. Nc5 Qb6 21. Qa4+ Nc6
 22. Be3 Bh6 23. Bd4 Rg8+ 24. Kh1 Rxd5 25.
 Nd7 Rxd4 26. Nxf6+ 1–0

Spain, G – Bennett, H

Round 9.11

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nc6 4. Ngf3 Nf6 5. e5
 Nd7 6. Bb5 Be7 7. c3 O–O 8. O–O
 f6 9. exf6 Bxf6 10. Re1 Re8 11. Nf1 e5 12.
 Qb3 Ndb8 13. dxe5 Bxe5 14. Bg5 Qd6
 15. Nxe5 Rxe5 16. Bf4 Rxe1 17. Bxd6 Rxa1
 18. Qxd5+ Kh8 19. Qf7 1–0

Round 10

McLaren's advanced knight ended up trapped
 and had to be sacrificed for two pawns that
 ultimately were not enough against the Grand-
 master. Steadman employed his usual French
 Defence which came up trumps when Herman
 probably unwisely took the g7 pawn. Dive also
 kept his momentum going with a win against
 FM Lukey.

McLaren 0 Chandler 1; Van Riemsdijk 0 Stead-
 man 1; Dive 1 Lukey 0; Reilly .5 Garbett .5;
 Smith 0 Ker 1; Watson 0 Spain 1; Dowden .5
 Hartvig .5; Thornton .5 Stuart .5; Hart 1 Ben-
 nett 0; Goodhue 0 Barlow 1; Fuatai 0 Croad 1

Leading scores: Chandler 8, Dive 7,
 Steadman 6.5

McLaren, L – Chandler, M

Round 10.1

1. e4 c5 2. c3 g6 3. d4 cxd4 4. cxd4 d5 5. e5
 Nc6 6. Nc3 Bg7 7. g3 Nh6 8. Bg2
 Nf5 9. Nge2 e6 10. O–O O–O 11. Be3 f6 12.
 exf6 Qxf6 13. Nb5 a6 14. Nc7 Ra7 15.
 Nf4 Qe7 16. Ncxd5 exd5 17. Nxd5 Qd8 18.
 Qd2 Nxe3 19. fxe3 Bf5 20. Kh1 Re8 21.
 Nc3 Bh6 22. Rae1 Ra8 23. Qd1 Kh8 24. e4
 Bc8 25. d5 Ne5 26. Qb3 Qd6 27. Ne2 Bd7
 28. Nf4 Bg7 29. Bh3 Bb5 30. Rg1 Bc4 31. Qc2
 Qb4 32. Re3 Bb5 33. Rc1 Nc4 34. Rb3
 Qd2 35. Ne6 Be5 36. Nc5 Qh6 37. Be6 Nd2
 38. Ra3 Be2 39. Re1 Bf3+ 40. Kg1 Bd4+ 0–1

Watson, B – Spain, G

Round 10.6

1. e4 c6 2. Nf3 d5 3. b3 Bg4 4. Ne5 Bh5 5. g4
 f6 6. Nxc6 Nxc6 7. gxh5 d4 8. b4
 Nxb4 9. Qa4+ Nc6 10. Bg2 Qd7 11. Ba3 e6 12.
 d3 Bxa3 13. Nxa3 Nge7 14. Rb1 O–O
 15. Nc2 Rab8 16. Nb4 Qe8 17. Nxc6 Nxc6 18.
 Rxb7 Rxb7 19. Qxc6 Rb1+ 20. Kd2 Rb2+
 21. Kc1 Qb8 0–1

Round 11

Murray continued his strong finish with a win
 against Tony Dowden after the latter was sad-
 dled with doubled Kingside pawns. Dive and
 McLaren battled out to a draw while Steadman
 capped off the tournament of his career with an
 overwhelming Kingside attack against IM An-
 thony Ker. Van Riemsdijk could do no better
 than draw against a determined Mathew Bar-
 low. Ralph Hart and Graeme Spain both fin-
 ished strongly with victories over Nic Croad
 and Gino Thornton respectively.
 Chandler 1 Dowden 0; Dive .5 McLaren .5;
 Steadman 1 Ker 0; Barlow .5 Van Riemsdijk .5;
 Spain 1 Thornton 0; Garbett 0 Watson 1; Croad
 0 Hart 1; Goodhue 0 Smith 1; Lukey 1 Fuatai 0;
 Reilly .5 Stuart .5; Hartvig 1 Bennett 0

Leading Scores:

1st **GM** Murray Chandler 9/11 New Zea-
 land Champion

2nd = **IM** Russell Dive and Michael Steadman
 7.5/11

4th = **IM** Herman Van Riemsdijk, Leonard
 McLaren, Graeme Spain and Ralph Hart 6.5/11

Chandler, M – Dowden, T

Round 11.1

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. Nf3 Nf6 5. Bg5
 Be7 6. Bxf6 Bxf6 7. Bb5 O–O 8.
 O–O dxe4 9. Nxe4 Ne7 10. Nxf6+ gxf6 11.
 Re1 Bd7 12. Bxd7 Qxd7 13. Qd2 Qd5 14.
 c4 Qf5 15. d5 e5 16. Nh4 Qh5 17. g3 Kh8 18.
 Qe2 Qh6 19. Rad1 Rg8 20. Kh1 Rad8
 21. Qf3 Rg5 22. c5 e4 23. Qxe4 Re5 24. Qf3
 Rxe1+ 25. Rxe1 Nxd5 26. Nf5 Qf8 27.
 Qg4 Qg8 28. Qc4 c6 29. Nd6 b6 30. b4 bxc5
 31. bxc5 Rb8 32. a3 h6 33. Kg2 Kh7 34. Re4
 Rb3 35. Rg4 Qf8 36. Nf5 Qd8 37. Rh4 1–0

Steadman, M – Ker, A

Round 11.3

1. e4 d6 2. d4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Be3 c6 5. Qd2
 b5 6. f3 Nbd7 7. g4 h6 8. h4 Nb6
 9. b3 h5 10. g5 Nfd7 11. d5 c5 12. Bxb5 Bg7
 13. a4 Rb8 14. f4 O–O 15. Nf3 Na8
 16. Rd1 Nc7 17. Be2 Ba6 18. Nb1 Rb4 19. e5
 Qc8 20. Na3 dxe5 21. fxe5 Nxe5 22.
 Nxe5 Bxe5 23. Bxa6 Nxa6 24. Nc4 Bg3+ 25.
 Bf2 Qg4 26. Qe2 Bxf2+ 27. Kxf2 Qf5+
 28. Kg3 Nc7 29. Rhf1 Qd7 30. d6 exd6 31.
 Rxd6 Qc8 32. Qe4 Ne6 33. Rf6 Ng7 34.
 Rc6 Qb8+ 35. Kg2 Qb7 36. Qd5 Ne6 37. Kf2
 Kg7 38. Nd6 Qe7 39. Qe5 Kh7 40. Nf5 Qd8
 41. Rd6 Qb8 42. Rfxe6 Rf4+ 43. Qxf4 fxe6 44.
 Rd7+ Kh8 45. Qxb8 Rxb8 46. Ne3 1–0

Spain, G – Thornton, G

Round 11.5

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. Bd3
 c5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ne2 cxd4 8. cxd4
 f6 9. exf6 Nxf6 10. Nf3 Bd6 11. O–O O–O 12.
 Bf4 Ne4 13. Bxd6 13... Nxd6 {(=)}
 14. Ne5 Qb6 15. Nxc6 bxc6 16. Qc2 g6 17.
 Rac1 Bd7 18. Bxg6 hxg6 19. Qxg6+ Kh8
 20. Rc3 1–0

In the end a convincing win for Murray Chan-
 dler who won his third New Zealand Champi-

onship title. Russell Dive and Michael Stead-
 man were the next best, both putting in 2400+
 performance ratings. Michael was very unlucky
 not to pick up an IM norm, missing by half a
 point. Herman Van Riemsdijk after a good start
 (4/5) could not maintain the pace, but was un-
 derstandably a little weary after having just
 come from back to back Championships in
 Brazil and Australia. Leonard, Ralph and
 Graeme would be pleased with their results,
 finishing ahead of most of New Zealand's lead-
 ing IM's and FM's.

New Zealand Rapid Championship

Jan 24th & 25th

The two day, 9 round New Zealand Rapid
 Championship was held on January 24th & 25th.
 Games were played at the rate of 25 minutes
 plus 5 seconds added per move. Top seed was
 IM Puchen Wang previous two time winner of
 the Rapid Championship. Also in contention
 were IM's Herman Van Riemsdijk, Russell
 Dive and Anthony Ker and FM Bob Smith.
 Somewhat surprisingly Puchen, after winning
 his first 4 games lost to Bob Smith and then in
 the penultimate round to Herman. This dropped
 him to 6.5 points after a round 7 draw against
 Anthony Ker.

This allowed IM Van Riemsdijk to win the
 tournament by conceding just three draws to
 finish on 7.5 points. Mike Steadman put in
 another strong performance to tie for second
 place with Bob Smith on 7 points. Bob was
 undefeated but conceded draws in his last 4
 games. IM's Puchen Wang, Russell Dive, An-
 thony Ker (also undefeated) and Gino Thornton
 finished on 6.5 points for fourth equal.

Results:

1st **IM** Herman Van Riemsdijk 7.5/9
 2nd = **FM** Bob Smith & Michael Steadman 7/9
 4th = **IM** Puchen Wang, **IM** Russell Dive, **IM**
 Anthony Ker & Gino Thornton 6.5
 5th players

New Zealand Lightning Championship

Held on the evening of the 25th January the
 Championship was held as a preliminary quali-
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IGB 4th Dato' Arthur Tan Malaysian Chess Open

by Paul Spiller

Kuala Lumpur, August 2007

The 2007 version of the Dato Tan Malaysian Chess Open, the fourth in the current series of Championships, was especially significant as it coincided with visit Malaysia year, the 50th Merdeka celebrations of independence from colonial British rule. Various events and celebrations had been taking place all year and the Malaysian Chess festival coincided with the fireworks festival being held in Putrajaya, to the south of KL as well as the huge shopping carnivals held during July and August. The official celebrations of Merdeka were held a few days after the completion of the event and so, unfortunately, the kiwi contingent just missed out on experiencing the colourful parades planned for central KL.

Last year's kiwi duo Hilton Bennett and Paul Spiller were joined by NZ Grandmaster Murray Chandler and WFM Helen Milligan at the 2007 event. The tournament was once again held in the Cititel Hotel at the Mid-Valley Mega Mall, on the outskirts of KL, a trip of approximately 20 minutes from KL Central. Whilst Murray and Helen decided to stay at the Cititel, Paul and Hilton opted for the more central Federal Hotel, a hotel that we stayed in on a previous visit to Malaysia in 1998 before travelling up to the Genting Highlands for the Asian Teams Championships.

Before the main Malaysian Open took place, Hilton and Paul joined forces with the Australian trio of FM Brian Jones, Max Illingworth and Emma Guo to play in the two day, 9 round rapid Merdeka Teams Championship. Max and Emma had just competed in the very successful World Youth Olympiad in Singapore, whilst Brian had arrived directly from Sydney with IM Gary Lane. The event consisted of around 50 teams with the average rating of the 4 players limited to 2200 FIDE. The purpose of this was to try and even the field as much as possible, even though some very strong unrated players seemed to appear!

Brian Jones, as team captain, had named our

team the "Klang Valley Koalas". The Klang coming from the name of the main river flowing through KL and Koalas since the kiwis were outnumbered! Perhaps in 2008 we can have the "Klang Valley Kiwis"?

Max, as the highest rated FIDE player, played Board 1, Hilton Board 2, Brian Board 3, Paul Board 4 and Emma Board 5. It was an exciting event with hardly any time to regain your thoughts between rounds. The team started out well, reaching the top 10, but eventually faded a little but still finished a credible 14th =, just out of the prize-money. Individual scores were: Max 6.5/8; Hilton 2.5/7; Brian 3.5/7; Paul 5/8 and Emma 2.5/6. A very enjoyable but hectic two days. Overall winners were Quezon City from the Philippines.

The main event began on Monday, August 20th in the large ballroom of the Cititel Hotel. The 2007 Festival also featured an under 2200 event and the Malaysian Women's Championship all held concurrently. International Arbiter and Chief Organiser Hamid Majid and his team of helpers once again did a great job of organizing and controlling this great tournament. Dato Tan, now well into his eighties, made several appearances during the event and it is to be hoped that he will continue with his sponsorship for many years to come.

The field was perhaps not quite as strong as in 2006 but still contained 6 GM's, 11 IM's, 2 WGM's and 8 FM's and numerous other strong untitled players. Top seed was GM Zhang Zhong, formerly representing China but more recently based in Singapore with his wife WGM Li Ruofan.

The kiwi contingent found the going tough over the next 6 days, especially the double rounds and tight playing schedule, but never-the-less enjoyed the event which had its ups and downs. Murray started well with 2 wins but then failed to cope with the time control, losing to WGM Li Ruofan in round 3. Hilton had 2 tough early pairings having to face joint winners from last

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Kapiti Rapid

by Roy Seabrook

The Kapiti Chess Club hosted its annual Rapid tournament on the 2nd of September. This was a six round swiss in three grades. A large field of competitors attended from around the lower North Island, including three young lads from Palmerston North Boys High. Martin Sims at their school has taught and coached them. Despite the event accidentally being scheduled for Father's Day, two father-child duos were present. Alan Ansell travelled down from New Plymouth with his dad and Megan du Plessis came with mum, dad and younger sister from Wellington. Was this a case of the parent persuading the kid or vice-versa?

In round one, there were no upsets with the entire top group winning their games.

Round two saw a couple of upsets with Martin Hill triumphant over Nicholas Croad. Martin has not played rapid chess for a while having come back recently to the Wellington club after a lay off for a number of years. He is a specialist in Bird's opening. Rating difference of 2201 - 1750 (estimated). Another upset was Bill Forster tipping over Chris Burns, a difference of 1965 - 1722. This was an exciting game, the last to finish, with Bill very low on time but a knight up in a king and pawn ending. Chris pushed his passed pawns hard to make Bill blunder, but Bill survived the pressure to take the point.

It was not a good tournament for the two I.M's, Anthony Ker and Russell Dive. Round three saw both these players slipping behind the pace. Anthony (2374) lost his game to Mark van der Hoorn (2104). When it was announced as an upset, Mark commented, "What are you trying to say? I'm no good?" to which a bright spark replied "yes". This evoked some laughter from the crowd. The real success story of the tournament was the performance of young Daniel Baider who is looking stronger and stronger. He defeated Russell in game three, a rating difference of 2313 - 2073. On the lower boards, Stewart Holdaway (1497) managed to hold Alan Aldridge to a draw (1729).

So at the end of round three Stephen Lukey, Scott Wastney, Mark van der Hoorn and Daniel Baider were all tied for the lead.

Round four saw the front-runners going head to head with Stephen versus Mark and Scott up against Daniel. Mark (2104) edged out Stephen (2243) to record another upset. This time when asked if it should be announced as an upset he replied, "Yes, Stephen was very upset". This brought a chortle of chuckles from those bystanders who had gathered to go over the game. Meanwhile Daniel (2073) drew with Scott (2223). Martin Hill continued his good form by winning over Michael Nyberg, a player rated almost 200 points higher than him. Further down the table, one of the boys from Palmerston Dylan Chen, had recorded two wins in a row to start his charge for the lead of the 'C' grade. The 'B' grade was being lead from the front by Martin Hill but second place was still anyone's to grab. At the end of round four Mark van der Hoorn was looking like he was going to make it a clean sweep streaking out in front to lead with four straight wins.

Round five saw Mark and Daniel draw, while Russell beat Scott. Anthony had a win, as did Stephen and Nic. This meant Mark had a half point lead (4.5) from a bunch of players on four points. The race in the 'B' grade really tightened up following Martin Hill's loss to Anthony. Ross Jackson, David Capper and Martin were all in with a shot at first place. In the 'C' grade, Dylan (1100) continued his winning way by scoring the point from Lawrence Farrington (1642).

Round six pitted Anthony against Daniel, Russell against Stephen and Nic against Mark, with all in for a chance at the prize money. Nic edged out Mark in a rook endgame when Mark was probably looking for a draw. Stephen took the point off Russell to claim a share of first place. Daniel played a strong game to take the point from Anthony. Daniel played his usual French defence, but Anthony seemed unable to form a plan in the middlegame, moving sev-

eral pieces back and forth. This capped off a very successful tournament for Daniel who recorded some good wins and was the only player not to lose a single game. He also took out the junior prize although I have to say this was a foregone conclusion. Martin and Ross both won their games to share equal first in the 'B' grade. Dylan (1100) upset Ian Sellen (1801) to take out the 'C' grade exclusively. A strong performance by young Alan Ansell saw him joint second with Mike O'Rorke and Yamin Intiaz (another lad from Palmerston) in the 'C' grade.

Overall, it was a very good tournament with an excellent turn out of participants. The organisers would like to thank all those who took part, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Anthony Ker (2374) – Daniel Baider (2073)

French Defence

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. a3 c4 7. Be2 Na5 8. Nbd2 Bd7 9. O-O O-O 10. Ng5 Nh6 11. f4 f6 12. Nh3 Be7 13. Kh1 Nf5 14. Rf3 Rdf8 15. Rb1 h6 16. g4 Nh4 17. Rf1 fxe5 18. fxe5 Be8 19. Nf4 Bg5 20. Nh3 Bg6 21. Nxe5 hxe5 22. Ra1 Qd8 23. Kg1 Qe7 24. Rxf8 Rxf8 25. b4 cxb3 26. Nxb3 Qf7 27. Be3 Nxb3 28. Qxb3 Nf3 29. Kg2 Be4 30. Kg3 Nh4 31. Rf1 Qxf1 32. Bxf1 Rf3#

Martin Hill 1750* – Nic Croad 2201

1.f4 Bird's opening, this under rated opening is often frowned upon as being seriously weak. 1.d5 If the Bird's opening is a mistake then surely this isn't the move that refutes it, this is simply a reversed Dutch! Aggressive players often employ the From's gambit. [1...e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3] I have found that the ensuing tactical battles are often won by the more prepared player. 2.Nf3

Nf6 3.b3 g6! White's queenside fianchetto is ambitious and Black's opposing fianchetto provides immediate equality, hence a grandmaster would not dream of giving up equality at move 3. However, as an untitled player I find the

Bird's opening provides refuge from complex and overly analysed Sicilians, French's, Caro-Kans etc. 4.Bb2 Bg7 5.e3 b6 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0

Bb7 8.Ne5 Nfd7 9.d4 If Black's 8th move were Nbd7 this move would have been discouraged as the hole created on e4 could have been more rapidly exploited. We now have a stonewall structure with the addition of queenside fianchetto. 9...a5 A typically thematic way to attack a queenside fianchetto. 10.a4 Ba6?!

11.Nd2 Simple development gives white an edge. There was an invitation to attack e7 but the early sortie would appear to fall short. [11.Bxa6 Nxa6 12.Nc6 Qe8 13.Ba3 Nf6 14.Nxe7+ Oops now the knight has nowhere to go]

11...c5 12.c4 This is a very common way to meet c5 in the Bird. 12...cxd4? This move removes a lot of tension and frees up manoeuvring space for White. Fritz doesn't like this move and now gives White a pawn advantage.

13.exd4 Bb7 Fritz suggests that Black cuts any losses and remove the knight. 14.Bf3 This is a position Henry Bird would have been proud of! White has been allowed to maintain a strong centralised knight, more space, control of the center and none of Black's pieces are developed beyond the second rank. White's formation is typical of the Bird. 14...Nf6 15.Re1 Na6 16.Rc1 Rc8 17.Ba3 Better would have been continuing the build-up with Qe2 but I still had my eyes on e7. 17... Rc7 18.Qe2 Ne4 19.Bxe4 An automatic response to rid the central knight but hindsight revealed that this move is a mistake. 19...dxe4 20.d5 Realising that a pawn is lost after 20 Nxe4 as Black can play 20...Qxd4+ followed by Bxe5. With the text White maintains a slight edge due to the poor coordination of Black's queenside pieces against White's strong centre and well posted pieces. 20...f6? Hindsight suggests that holding the pawn with f5 was much stronger but Black had obviously had enough of the dangerously posted knight. 21.Nxe6! White will get two pawns and positional pressure for the knight. With few rating points on the line I decide to go for it. 21...hxg6 22.Qxe4 Nc5 23.Bxc5 Maintaining pressure with Qxg6 may have been better but as the weaker player I feel the simplification leaves me with one less thing to

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Queenstown Chess Classic

15th–24th January 2009

Incorporating the official

116th New Zealand National Championships

with additional rapidplay/lightning events 25th–26th January
and the **Junior Chess Classic** 18th–21st January

This will be the most prestigious open chess competition ever staged in New Zealand. It is expected to attract players from all levels, from novices to Grandmasters. Everyone is welcome.

Venue: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown

Timetable: 1 game per day (all rounds start at 3 pm)

Entry forms: Available from Paul Spiller, 102 Picton St, Howick, Auckland. Tel: 09 534 7411 - paul@queenstownchess.com

TOTAL PRIZEFUND OVER \$50,000

1st: \$10,000 6th: \$3,000 11th: \$1,600
2nd: \$7,000 7th: \$2,500 12th: \$1,550
3rd: \$5,000 8th: \$2,000 13th: \$1,500
4th: \$4,000 9th: \$1,800 14th: \$1,450
5th: \$3,500 10th: \$1,700 15th: \$1,400

Grading Prizes: Best under 2000: \$500

Best under 1800: \$500

Best under 1600: \$500

Senior Prize (age 55 or over, on 15/1/2009): Trophy
and book prize

Junior Prizes (age at 01/01/2009):

Best junior U-12 \$125 + trophy

Best junior U-15 \$125 + trophy

www.queenstownchess.com

www.newzealandchess.co.nz

New Zealand News

Millennium Hotels New Zealand Chess Grand Prix 2008

As at May 28, 2008.

The latest GP tournament was the 3rd Puchen Rapid (Class 2), held by the Auckland Chess Centre on May 11. 55 players competed, and there was a four way tie in the A section between Mike Steadman, Leonard McLaren, Antonio Krstev and Daniel Han, while Richard Taylor, Neil Cruden and Temu Maroroa shared first in the 'B' section.

Those results have changed little in the GP Open division, although leader Mike Steadman increases his margin over Gino Thornton. Gino still heads the U2000 division, with Daniel Shen jumping two places to 2nd. Devon Smith's shared 4th with Vaughan Collingwood in the B section helps him cling to the lead in both the U1700 and Junior divisions, while Collingwood jumps three places to 2nd in the U1400 division, behind Gary Judkins.

No change in the Senior and Female divisions, but Karl Zhu and Hans Gao both overtake Leo Zhu in the U14 & U1400 division.

Leading results from the 3rd Puchen Rapid:

A – M. Steadman, L. McLaren, A. Krstev, D. Han (4.5/6) 1-4, E. Tanoi, D. Shen, P. Stuart, P. Garbett (3.5) 5-8 ... 20 players
B – R. Taylor, N. Cruden, T. Maroroa (5/6) 1-3, D. Smith, V. Collingwood (4.5) 4-5, M. Steiner, K. Zhu, G. Judkins, B. Wu, P. Zhang, Alan Chen (4) 6-11 ... 35 players.

Complete Grand Prix points and totals can be found at www.newzealandchess.co.nz where Helen Milligan kindly regularly updates them.

Grand Prix leaders (top 10 and ties):

Open – M. Steadman 70.5, G. Thornton 38.25, R. Dive 32.75, R. Smith 31.5, M. Chandler 25, A. Ker 22.25, D. Han 21.5, P. Wang 19.75, L. McLaren 19.5, S. Wastney 17.5.

Under 2000 – G. Thornton 77, D. Shen 47.5, J. Duneas 43.36, M. Krstev 39.08, B. Wheeler 29, F. Fuatai 24.86, R. Taylor 22, A. Krstev 21.5, S. Yee 17.5, R. Jackson 13.36.

Under 1700 – D. Smith 53, N. Cruden 52.5,

N. Fairley 22.5, N. du Plessis 20, V. Collingwood 16.83, A. Ansell 15.33, N. Cooper, R. Collingwood 15, A. Booth, D. Litvinov, Z. Aziz 14.

Under 1400 – G. Judkins 45.17, V. Collingwood 36.75, T. Gothorp 31.33, L. Zhu 29.17, A. Ansell 27.33, K. Zhu 26.42, H. Gao 20, S. Plyler 15.67, A. Alipiev, R. Collingwood, J. Smith, T. Maroroa 15.

Junior – D. Smith 59.1, D. Shen 57.5, M. Krstev 54.5, A. Ansell 24, S. Maroroa 22.5, J. Gao 20.5, D. Baider 20, Andy Chen 17.1, A. Zulkifli 15.67, P. Wang, M. du Plessis 15.

Senior – N. Cruden 73.5, W. Power 43.5, V. Smith 42.5, P. Stuart 28.5, A. Booth 28, W. Lynn 22.5, D. Taylor 21, R. Collingwood 20, N. Cooper 17.

Female – H. Milligan 45.5, N. Fairley 38, E. Chen 35, S. Maroroa 33.5, V. Smith 33, N. Tsoi 28.95, J. Gao 26, C. Liu 22.75, J. Li 22.5, Sharon Wu 19.

Under 14 & Under 1400 – K. Zhu 48, H. Gao 40.2, L. Zhu 37.5, A. Ansell 33.3, C. Guo 18, N. Tsoi 17.2, Alipiev 15, X. Li, E. Yang 13.5, J. Kennedy, Alan Chen, P. Zhang 12.

Grand Prix events coming up:

7 to 10 July – NZ Junior Championship (Class 1), Auckland.

Howick & Pakuranga CC. Sponsored by Eduvac and Quality Student Diaries. 7 round swiss.

80 mins + 20" a move. Minimum prize-fund - \$1850. Eligibility: Under 20 on 01/01/08.

Entry fee: \$40. Winner receives the NZ Junior Championship title and trophy, plus the right to represent NZ in the next World Junior Championship. Open and female titles in 5 age groups. Contact Kees Van Den Bosch kvdbstj@clear.net.nz - (09) 5775285

11 July – NZ Junior Rapid Championship (Class 1), Auckland.

Howick & Pakuranga CC. Sponsored by Eduvac and Quality Student Diaries. 6 round swiss. 25 mins + 5" a move. Minimum prize-fund: \$1450. Eligibility: Under 20 on 01/01/08.

Entry fee: \$30. Winner receives the NZ Junior Rapid title and trophy. Open and female titles in 5 age groups. Contact Kees Van Den Bosch kvdbstj@clear.net.nz - (09) 5775285

Obituary

Arcadii Feneridis New Zealand Champion and Master 1908–2007

On 10 January 2007, New Zealand lost one of its former leading players, Arcadii Feneridis, aka "Fenny", just a few days shy of his 99th birthday. Not only did he win the NZ Championship in 1957 (jointly), he thoroughly dominated Wellington chess for almost two decades. His chess longevity was remarkable: he was already almost 50 when he came to

scored +6-1=3 against Fenny in NZ Championship games, Fenny overwhelmingly won a 10-game correspondence match against him in 1960. And for many years, Fenny also led the Wellington team in telegraphic matches between cities, and scored at least one win over Sarapu there too. Fenny was born in the Russian Crimea, of



NZ, but he and I played blitz when he was 92! Fenny had the misfortune that his career in NZ coincided with that of the unmatched Ortvin Sarapu. However, Fenny inflicted on Sarapu his first ever loss in a NZ champs, and also held a draw in the last round in 1955, when Sarapu was strenuously making his last attempt to score 11/11. And although Sarapu

Greek extraction on 25 December 1908 (Orthodox calendar) or January 1909 (Gregorian). This meant that he saw the rise of Soviet tyranny first-hand, which made him a life-long staunch anti-communist. He had the satisfaction of outliving the Empire. He also saw some of the strong tournaments in the Soviet Union, including seeing the chess leg-

ends Lasker and Capablanca first hand. Fenny also obtained the Soviet Master title. He trained as an accountant, and met another accountant, Galina, who became his wife of over 50 years. They had a son, Leo, and daughter, Anna; by the time of his death, he had four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

After WW2, there was much xenophobia in Eastern Europe leading to massive deportations of people back to 'their own countries', which in most cases they had never seen. Fenny, his wife and children were among the 70,000 Crimean Greeks whom Stalin expelled. In Greece, Fenny's chess was good enough to earn the title of Greek Master retrospectively. After Greece, his family emigrated to NZ in 1951, and became loyal Kiwis. His first job was filling steam trains with water. Then he found work more in his own profession at Ford Motors, then in the Department of Statistics. While he won the NZ Champs only once, he was highly placed in others, e.g. 2nd= with Philips and Sarapu in 1962 when Graham Haase scored an upset half point victory. And in 1965, Fenny and Phillips were 3rd= behind Sarapu and Richard Sutton. In Wellington, his strength was so highly respected that everyone else there measured themselves against him. For example, it was regarded as a tremendous achievement by Ted Frost when he managed to beat him and tie for one All Wellington championship. Other strong players like the late former South African Champion John Erickson never managed that.

Fenny was already in his 70s when I met him as a leading junior in the late 70s and early 80s. Most players retire long before this age, but he was still a formidable A-grade opponent, in the top 5 in Wellington. I found Fenny's style very hard to handle. After one loss, the leading chess journalist Ted Frost told me, "Fenny is very good at attacking down diagonals", and I thought; "Now he tells me!" Later on, strong former Wellington players like Pat Kelly and former NZ champion Craig Laird told me that there was much to learn from him.

Fenny was a difficult opponent for other rising young players. For example, the 1957 Champs is best known for producing the youngest NZ Champion ever, Rodney Phillips. Less well known is that Fenny tied with him and won their individual game convincingly. Fenny also scored 3-0 against the great Murray Chandler.

Fenny always had strong and well-thought-out opinions. For example, on "who was better out of Capablanca and Alekhine", I supported (and still support) Capablanca, but he staunchly defended Alekhine. Interestingly, Roger Court, NZ Champion in 1965, wrote an article on Fenny in Zyg Frankel's chess magazine in the early 60s, and they had the very same argument 20 years before! Court's article also discussed what Fenny called "*Moi koronii variant*" or "my crown variant", a somewhat idiosyncratic White Q-pawn opening which was still hard to handle.

Fenny was also fearless, and when I was about to play in my first NZ championship as a teen, he told me to fear none of these big names. As a result, I finished 4= losing only one game, whereas I was not expecting to score very highly. The training games helped as well. Fenny retired from club and tournament play in the late 1980s, but still took a keen interest in chess. He was an honoured guest at the banquet for the 100th NZ Chess Congress, and we still played blitz from time to time. Other Wellington players said he was more than a match for them even in his 90s.

He loved books - of course lots of chess books, but also Russian writers, particularly Tolstoy and Pushkin poetry. In his 90s he could recite word perfect a 5 minute Pushkin poem that he learnt 80 years previously. With his death, Wellington Chess has lost an important part of its history.

Feneridis, A - Sarapu, O [E46]

Correspondence match, 1960

This game shows Fenny's skill in correspondence chess, against a very strong opponent. 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 (This was one of

Fenny's own favourite defences as Black) 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 d5 6.a3 Be7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Ng3 c5 9.Bd3 Nc6 10.0-0 cxd4 11.exd4 g6 12.b4 Bg4 13.f3 Be6 14.Be3 Nd7 15.Na4 f5 16.Ne2 Bf6 17.Bb5 Re8 18.Nc5 Nxc5 19.Bxc6 Rxc6 20.dxc5! (A very well judged exchange sac, which was far less common at that time) 20...Bxa1 21.Qxa1 Be8 (21...d4 was better, because this pawn was now just dead weight, blocking in the B.) 22.Nd4 Ra6 23.Nb5 Rf7 (23...f4 Making some room for the B) 24.Nd6 Rxd6 (probably forced sooner or later. But Black's dark squares remain very weak) 25.cxd6 Qxd6 26.Bc5 Qc7 27.Rc1 b6 28.Bf2 Qb8 29.Qd4 Bb7 30.Be1 h6 31.Bc3 (Now White has the right arrangement, and Black is tied up) 31... Kh7 32.Re1 Qf8 33.h4 Rc7 34.Bb2 Bc6 35.Re6 Ba4?! 36.Qe5 Rf7 37.Qg3 Qg8 38.h5 (Black resigned because if 38...g5, then 39 Qd6 Qf8 40 Qxf8 Rxf8 41 Re7+) 1-0

Court, R - Feneridis, A [A45]

New Zealand Chp (67th) Dunedin (7), 1960
This was an unusual slugfest, against a player who won the title in 1965 and known for his imagination. But here Fenny gives up a pawn for good compensation, then outplays his opponent, himself a skilled tactician, in a good tactical battle.

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 d5 3.Bd3 c5 4.c3 e6 5.Nd2 Nbd7 6.f4 cxd4?! (best not to make this exchange in the Stonewall without good reason, because it eases White's cramp and allows him to support e5 with a half-open file) 7.exd4 Bd6 8.Ndf3 Ne4!? 9.Bxe4 dxe4 10.Ng5 f5 11.Nxe6 Qe7 12.Ng5 Nf6 13.Ne2 Bd7 14.Qb3 b5 15.Qd1 (Well, that achieved a lot) 15...Ng4 16.0-0? Nxh2 17.Ng3 Ng4 18.N3xe4? (rather desperate, but there are still some tricks left) 18...fxe4 19.Nxe4 0-0 20.Nxd6 Qh4! (the mundane 20...Qxd6 would win as well with the extra piece) 21.Rf3 Qh2+ (21...Rae8 was quicker — often it is best to confine the enemy king before checking. But Fenny had presumably calculated this to a win, so there was no need to look for anything more) 22.Kf1 Qh1+ 23.Ke2 Rae8+! 24.Nxe8 (24.Kd2 Qxg2+ 25.Kd3 Rf6

and if 26.Nxe8 Bf5#; 24.Be3 Qxg2+ 25.Kd3 Rxe3+ 26.Rxe3 Nf2+ winning the Q) 24...Rxe8+ 25.Be3 Qxg2+ 26.Ke1 Rxe3+ 27.Rxe3 Qf2# 0-1

Feneridis, A - Phillips, J [E61]

New Zealand Chp (64th) Wellington, 1957

This is the game between the two winners. This Championship is famous because Rodney Phillips set an age record of 14.5 years, which has still to be beaten. But in this game, he is outclassed by Fenny's constriction strategy. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.Bg5 0-0 [5...h6 put the question to the B] 6.Qd2 c5 7.d5 Re8 [A modern player would probably play 7...b5 8.Nxb5 Ne4]

8.e4 Nf7 9.Be2 Na6 10.h4 h5 11.Bh6 Ne5 [Why play ...Re8 and not follow up with ...Bh8?]

12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.0-0-0 Qb6 [Black must use his b-pawn as a battering ram, not block it.] 14.f3 f5 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 [White's space advantage is more important than good v bad B considerations]

16.g4 fxg4 17.fxg4 Bxg4 18.Bxg4 hxg4 19.Qh2 Rf8 [19...Qd6 20.Nb5 Qb8 21.Rdf1± according to the late J.D. Steele, a strong player and auditor for the Wellington Chess Club for many years, but 21 h5 would finish Black off.] 20.Rdf1! Rf3 [20...Rxf1+ 21.Rxf1 Rf8 22.Qxe5+ Kg8 23.Rxf8+ Kxf8 24.Qh8+ Kf7 25.e5 + -Steele; 20...Qd6 21.Nb5 Qb8 22.h5 with a winning attack]

21.Qxe5+ Kg8 22.h5 Nb4 23.Rxf3 gxf3 24.Kd2 Rf8 25.hxg6 Qf6 26.Qxf6 Rxf6 27.a3 Na6 28.Rf1 Nb8 29.e5! [White's central pawns split Black's forces] 29...Rxg6 30.e6 Rg2+ 31.Kd3 Kf8 [31...Rxb2 32.Rxf3 Rg2 33.d6 exd6 (33...Nc6 34.dxe7 Nxe7 35.Nd5 Rg7 36.Nf6+) 34.e7] 32.Rxf3+ Ke8 33.Rh3 Rg8 34.Ne4 b6 35.Rh7 Kd8 36.b4 cxb4 37.axb4 Na6 38.Kc3 Nc7 39.Kd4 Na6 40.d6 Re8
Now it is a case of pushing Black off the board. 41.b5 Nb8 42.Kd5 a6 43.Ng5 axb5 44.cxb5 Rg8 45.Rh8 Rxh8 46.Nf7+ Ke8 47.Nxh8 exd6 48.Kxd6 Kd8 49.Nf7+ Ke8 50.Ne5 Kd8

51.Nc6+ 1-0

Aptekar, L – Feneridis, A
[A45]*Wellington QB Weekend Open Wellington,*
06.1979

Fenny was black against the top seed and tournament leader in the last round. Lev Aptekar, a respected chess coach from Kiev, had jointly won the NZ champs a few years before, and largely dominated Wellington chess around that time.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 c5 3.Bxf6 exf6 I don't like this recapture, because it weakens control of d5, cf. Karpov vs Browne, 1972

4.e3? [4.c3] 4...Qb6! 5.b3 [Now White will miss his dark-squared B]

5...Nc6 6.Nf3 d5 7.Be2 Be6 8.0-0 g6 [Not sure of the point of this, because the B is more likely to be working on its original diagonal]

9.Nc3 [It is worth noting that when a piece occupies a square, it no longer controls it. So this move makes the dark Q-side squares weak.]

9...cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.exd4 Rc8 12.Na4 Qa5 13.Bf3 b5 14.Nb2 [14.Nc5 gives up a pawn, but Black's extra pawn would be doubled and he would need to give up the unopposed dark-squared B]

14...Qc3 15.Qd3 [White is already reduced to desperate expedients] 15...Qxd3 [15...Qxb2 16.Qxb5+ Kd8 17.Bxd5 Qxc2 should not be enough for White, but Black plays more safely]

16.Nxd3 Bd6 17.a4 [White's best chance was still 17.Nc5 because later on, he has to jettison material without any alleviation of Black's pressure]

17...b4 18.g3 a5 19.Ra2 Kd7 20.Ne1 [passive defence is just waiting for the guillotine blade to fall, and Fenny was very much up to the task of pulling the final lever]

20...Rc3 21.Bd1 Bb8 22.Kg2 Ba7 23.Nf3 Rbc8

24.Ng1 Bf5 25.Ne2 R3c6 26.Nf4 Kd6 27.Bf3 Be6 28.Rc1 g5 29.Nd3 Bxd4 [now the pawn has fallen and Black kept his mighty B besides]

30.Ne1 Bc3 31.Kf1 Bd2 32.Rd1 Bxe1 33.Kxe1

Rxc2 34.Rxc2 Rxc2 35.Rd3 Kc5 36.Bd1 Rb2

37.Rd2 Rb1 38.Ke2 Rc1 39.Rc2+ Rxc2+

40.Bxc2 h6 41.Ke3 g4 [Although there is a rule of thumb in same coloured B endings to put your pawns on the opposite colour to your B, there are times when putting them on the same colour restricts the enemy B. In this position, it also pins down the remaining White pawns, setting up a zugzwang] 42.Bd1 h5 43.Bc2 Bc8 44.Bd3 Bb7 45.Be2 d4+ 46.Kd2 Bd5 47.Bd1 Be4 48.Be2 Kd6 49.Bd1 d3 [see, the White B is out of move] 50.Ke3 Ke5 51.f3 gxf3 52.h3 f5

In this tournament, I, the youngest player, had the privilege of tying with Fenny, the oldest, with 4/5. His achievement was greater, because he beat the top seed to whom I had lost badly earlier. 0-1

Acknowledgements: I wish to thank Ross Jackson, Bill Ramsay and Peter Stuart for help with background information. But any mistakes in this article are my own responsibility.

(Continued from page 9)

fier then a Final and Reserve Section. Overwhelming favourite was IM Puchen Wang who has been so dominant in this form of chess over the last few years.

The final six qualifiers were IM's Dive, Wang, Ker, Garbett joined by Ralph Hart and Chris Thurner. The Final was played as a double round-robin. Puchen dominated the event, conceding only one loss to Ralph Hart for a 9/10 scoreline. The race was really for second spot which looked likely to go to Hart after a strong start. His 2-0 loss to Garbett, however, meant that Paul just pipped him for second spot.

Results:

1 st	IM Puchen Wang	9/10
2 nd	IM Paul Garbett	6.5/10
3 rd	Ralph Hart	6/10
4 th	IM Anthony Ker	4/10
5 th	Chris Thurner	2.5/10
6 th	IM Russell Dive	2/10

Rating News 2007 Period 3*by Rowan Wood*

The final rating lists for 2007 are the first to be produced using three rating periods instead of two. Period one now comprises tournaments completed in November to February, period two March to June and period three July to October. The active rating lists will consist of players who have been active in any of the last six periods. The changes in ranking shown below are calculated as if rating lists had been generated for period two.

There is a new but well known name at the top of the standard rating list. New Zealand's only Grandmaster Murray Chandler has returned to New Zealand and his recent participation in the Nelson Open means he enters the top twenty in first position. Consequently, IM Ben Martin and IM Russell Dive move down one position. Roger Nokes and IM Anthony Ker swap places to complete the top five.

No change in the first two places on the rapid rating list with IM Puchen Wang ahead of IM Anthony Ker. Roger Nokes drops off due to inactivity so IM Russell Dive, IM Paul Garbett and Bob Smith all move up one place to complete the top five. Nic Croad is the biggest mover, up seven places to seventh. There are

two new entries, junior player Daniel Baider in fifteenth and Antonio Krstev in twentieth.

The same three names are at the top of the junior standard and rapid rating lists. IM Puchen Wang is top of both lists followed by Daniel Baider and Gino Thornton. Otherwise, there is a good deal of movement below the top three. Daniel Shen is the biggest mover on the standard list, up ten places to ninth while on the rapid list, Sue Maroroa moves up five places to tenth. It's worth noting that there are now five girls on the standard list with Eachen Chen the highest ranked in ninth place.

Helen Milligan remains at the top of the women's standard list. Eachen Chen moves up two places to second ahead of Sue Maroroa who is unchanged in third. On the rapid list, Maroroa holds a narrow lead over Viv Smith with Chen in third.

Richard Sutton remains top of the senior rating lists. On the standard list, Prince Vetharianiam is a new entry in second, a position he has held before but lost due to inactivity. Wayne Power drops one place to third therefore. No change on the rapid list with Sutton ahead of Don Stracy and Power.

Top 20 Open Standard

1	(new) CHANDLER MG	2541
2	(- 1) MARTIN BMS	OT 2409
3	(- 1) DIVE RJ	WE 2371
4	(+ 1) NOKES RI	CA 2348
5	(- 1) KER AF	WE 2344
6	(+ 1) SMITH RW	WT 2338
7	(- 1) WANG PC	AC 2336
8	(- 5) LUKEY SG	WE 2326
9	(unc) GARBETT PA	NS 2323
10	(- 3) CROAD N	WE 2321
11	(- 1) WASTNEY S	WE 2318
12	(- 1) NOBLE MF	UH 2274
13	(unc) GREEN PR	AC 2240
14	(+ 5) WATSON BR	AC 2231
15	(+ 1) MCLAREN LJ	NS 2230
16	(- 2) SUTTON RJ	OT 2224
17	(- 2) VAN DER HOORN MW	WE 2213
18	(- 6) STEADMAN MVR	AC 2211
19	(- 2) SPAIN GA	GA 2182
20	(unc) HAN D	AC 2144

Top 20 Open Rapid

1	(unc) WANG PC	AC 2397
2	(unc) KER AF	WE 2340
3	(+ 1) DIVE RJ	WE 2314
4	(+ 1) GARBETT PA	NS 2288
5	(+ 1) SMITH RW	WT 2275
6	(+ 1) SMALL VA	WE 2271
7	(+ 7) CROAD N	WE 2262
8	(unc) LUKEY SG	WE 2241
9	(unc) GREEN PR	AC 2227
10	(unc) WASTNEY S	WE 2222
11	(unc) WATSON BR	AC 2210
12	(unc) MCLAREN LJ	NS 2205
13	(- 1) SUTTON RJ	OT 2198
14	(+ 1) GUTHRIE DW	WE 2166
15	(new) BAIDER D	WE 2148
16	(unc) HART R	NS 2145
17	(+ 1) VAN DER HOORN MW	WE 2143
18	(- 1) STEADMAN MVR	AC 2120
19	(+ 1) THORNTON GA	NS 2042
20	(new) KRSTEV A	NS 2028

Top 20 Junior Standard

1 (unc)	WANG PC	AC 2336
2 (unc)	BAIDER D	WE 2079
3 (unc)	THORNTON GA	NS 1992
4 (unc)	WATSON J	CA 1929
5 (+ 4)	KRSTEV M	NS 1927
6 (- 1)	CHENG B	HA 1926
7 (+ 5)	CHEN AY	HP 1889
8 (unc)	WU MH	AC 1882
9 (+ 4)	CHEN E	AC 1844
(+10)	SHEN D	AC 1844
11 (- 5)	XU D	AC 1842
12 (+ 4)	PETRESKI F	NS 1805
13 (- 6)	MCCHESENEY S	CA 1803
14 (- 4)	MAROROA SY	HP 1759
15 (- 4)	WU J	AC 1722
16 (- 2)	YIP E	HP 1713
17 (+ 3)	GAO J	AC 1680
18 (- 3)	FAIRLEY N	NH 1679
19 (- 2)	CHARAMOVA E	NS 1662
20 (- 2)	ZHANG MC	AC 1646

Top 10 Women Standard

1 (unc)	MILLIGAN H	NS 1929
2 (+ 2)	CHEN E	AC 1844
3 (unc)	MAROROA SY	HP 1759
4 (- 2)	SMITH VJ	WT 1728
5 (+ 2)	GAO J	AC 1680
6 (- 1)	FAIRLEY N	NH 1679
7 (- 1)	CHARAMOVA E	NS 1662
8 (unc)	WU Shirley	AC 1598
9 (+ 1)	WU Sharon	AC 1501
10 (new)	LIU C	NS 1408

Top 10 Senior Standard

1 (unc)	SUTTON RJ	OT 2224
2 (new)	VEZHARANIAM PAR	WA 1913
3 (- 1)	POWER PW	NS 1854
4 (+ 3)	LYNN KW	HA 1775
5 (- 2)	NIJMAN AJ	CA 1770
6 (- 1)	STRACY DM	WE 1765
7 (- 3)	HAASE GG	OT 1741
8 (unc)	HOSKYN GA	WA 1728
(- 2)	SMITH VJ	WT 1728
10 (unc)	CATER JE	PT 1627
(new)	MITCHELL RS	NS 1627

The following open standard-rated tournaments have been processed: North Island, Nelson Open (incorporating South Island), NZ Junior, North Shore Open (A, B, C), George Trundle NZ Masters and Qualifiers, Merv Morrison Memorial (A, B), Waikato Open (A, B) and All Canterbury. The club tournaments are: Auckland Championship (A, B, C), Howick-Pakuranga Fairhurst Pawn and Championship, Waitemata Winter and Prelimi-

Top 20 Junior Rapid

1 (unc)	WANG PC	AC 2397
2 (+ 1)	BAIDER D	WE 2148
3 (- 1)	THORNTON GA	NS 2042
4 (+ 2)	KRSTEV M	NS 1993
5 (- 1)	PETRESKI F	NS 1965
6 (- 1)	XU D	AC 1888
7 (unc)	WU MH	AC 1802
8 (unc)	WATSON J	CA 1777
9 (unc)	CHENG B	HA 1776
10 (+ 5)	MAROROA SY	HP 1702
11 (+ 1)	CHEN AY	HP 1699
12 (- 1)	ZHANG MC	AC 1693
13 (- 3)	WU J	AC 1692
14 (+ 3)	CHEN E	AC 1669
15 (- 1)	LIN A	HA 1659
16 (- 1)	SELLARS T	UH 1656
17 (+ 1)	WATSON S	CA 1635
18 (new)	RUAN H	AC 1617
19 (unc)	WU Shirley	AC 1606
20 (new)	MULINDER G	CA 1603

Top 10 Women Rapid

1 (unc)	MAROROA SY	HP 1702
2 (unc)	SMITH VJ	WT 1697
3 (- 1)	CHEN E	AC 1669
4 (unc)	WU Shirley	AC 1606
5 (+ 2)	WU Sharon	AC 1548
6 (new)	KINGSTON ZH	KP 1496
7 (new)	OTENE EA	WT 1466
8 (- 3)	CLOETE DI	NS 1458
9 (- 3)	GAO J	AC 1450
10 (new)	DU PLESSIS M	WE 1441

Top 10 Senior Rapid

1 (unc)	SUTTON RJ	OT 2198
2 (unc)	STRACY DM	WE 1797
3 (unc)	POWER PW	NS 1761
4 (unc)	HAASE GG	OT 1739
5 (+ 1)	LYNN KW	HA 1700
6 (+ 2)	SMITH VJ	WT 1697
7 (- 2)	NIJMAN AJ	CA 1674
8 (- 1)	MITCHELL RS	NS 1652
9 (unc)	CAPPER DS	WE 1631
10 (new)	CRUDEN N	NP 1595

nary, Wanganui Championship, Canterbury Eric Browne Shield and Otago Championship (A1, A2, B1, B2). The following open rapid-rated tournaments have been processed: North and South Island, NZ Junior, Devonport, Howick-Pakuranga Grand Prix, Kapiti and Otago Junior. The club tournaments are: Wellington Championship, Canterbury Arie Nijman Trophy and Otago Championship (A2, B2).

2007 New Zealand Schools Teams Chess Championships

by Martin Sims

In the first weekend of the September school holidays school teams from around New Zealand converged on Palmerston North for the annual schools teams chess championships. I ran the event with help from Viv Smith, representing the NZ Chess Federation, and many experienced teachers who accompanied their team. The event was held in our hall which has a camera in the ceiling so games could be projected on our big screen, along with results. I continued what I started in 2005 in banning non-helping adults from the playing hall. This frustrates many parents/teachers but it optimises the playing conditions for the participants and reduces the problems e.g. accusations of cheating.

Brian and Colleen Foster from New Zealand Chess Supplies were in attendance and pro-

vided prizes.

With an odd number of teams in each of the three divisions the standings were never quite certain until near the end and the bye added to the excitement (four points were given for the bye). Outside I could hear parents working out who had/had not had the bye and whether they or their opponents had played all the hard teams so far. Also, parents and teachers set mini goals for their teams e.g. when it was clear that they weren't going to win they would identify teams who were similar to their strength and worked hard to try and stay ahead of them. Each team was given a nice, coloured booklet with the draw, teams names and details in it. I was also fortunate in being able to call upon a wonderful group of our students who ensured the smooth running of the event.

Primary

Sunnybrae took the sole lead in round 5 and just kept extending their lead every round. Newlands did well to fight back for second place. They oscillated between second and sixth throughout the event but a strong last round helped their result.

Place	Team	Province	Points
1	Sunnybrae	Auckland	39
2	Newlands	Wellington	31.5
3=	Peterhead	Hawkes Bay	31
	Epsom	Auckland	31
5	Patea	Taranaki	29
6	St George's	Wanganui	24
7	Waimairi	Canterbury	21.5
8=	Southwell	Waikato	17.5
	Greenpark	Bay of Plenty	17.5
10=	Carterton	Wairarapa	11
	Kimbolton	Manawatu	11

Intermediate

Rangeview's toughest games were in round 1 when they were held 2-2 by Auckland Normal Intermediate. By round 3 Rangeview had taken the lead and never looked back although they held a big lead but saw it whittled away as the event came to an end.

Place	Team	Province	Points
1	Rangeview	Auckland	36.5
2	Auckland	Auckland	35.5
3=	Palmerston North	Manawatu	29.5
	Peterhead	Hawkes Bay	29.5
	Cobham	Canterbury	29.5
6	Southwell	Waikato	24
7	Rarua	Wellington	19.5
8=	St George's	Wanganui	16
	Greytown	Wairarapa	16
10	Dunedin North	Otago	15.5
11	Tauranga	Bay of Plenty	12.5

Secondary: By round 5 St Kentigern's and St Paul's had established a commanding lead on the field and a 3-1 victory in round 12 all but sealed St Kent's victory although St Paul's were to get 4 points for the bye in round 13. St Kent's did not slip up with a 3-1 victory against Onslow in the last round. The fight was on for 3rd place as Palmerston North Boys' kept swapping places or was tied with Mt Albert Grammar. Palmerston North went into the last round a half point ahead and as both teams dropped a game no change happened.

Place	Team	Province	Points
1	St Kentigern	Auckland	45.5
2	St Paul's	Waikato	43
3	Palmerston North Boys'	Manawatu	38
4	Mt Albert Grammar	Auckland	37.5
5	Wanganui	Wanganui	31.5
6	Onslow	Wellington	28.5
7	Ashburton	Canterbury	27.5
8	Kerikeri	Northland	25
9	Otago Boys'	Otago	22.5
10	Karamu	Hawkes Bay	21.5
11	Rathkeale	Wairarapa	16
12	Mt Maunganui	Bay of Plenty	14
13	Francis Douglas Memorial	Taranaki	13.5

Finally, here is a game from the secondary division which goes to show that the old combinations are still worth studying and is more evidence of Purdy's advice to examine EVERY check and capture. Garry, from Onslow College, was the only player to record his games.

Yan, Garry (Onslow College) – Chen, Dylan (Palmerston North Boys' High School)
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 g5 5.h4 f6 [5...g4]
6.Nc3 [6.hxg5 fxg5 7.Bc4] 6...Bg4 7.Bc4 Nd7??
[7...Qe7; 7...Nc6; 7...c6; 7...Bg7] 8.Nxg5+- (the sound of Legal clapping from the grave could be heard) Bxd1 9.Bf7+ Ke7 10.Nd5# 1-0

The Female Factor 2007

by Viv Smith

Thirty years ago I played in my first NZ Women's Chess Championships. It was an impressive field of twelve players including 2 juniors Fenella Foster and Katrine Metge who finished 1st equal and 3rd respectively. Eight of those players have since represented NZ at Women's Chess Olympiads in various years. But after that bumper year, female numbers went into a steady decline. We gained a few

chess through its national interschools championship and Girls Chess Week – and it's working! Female player numbers have increased, skill levels are improving, and female chess players are becoming a force to be reckoned with.

2007 was a good year with lots happening in the female sector. Sue Maroroa qualified for Women's FM and Shirley Wu for Woman's



NZ's WFM recruit from Scotland, Helen Milligan plays Quentin Johnson at the 2007 South Island Champs in Nelson

new recruits along the way such as the talented Ong and Shechan sisters - only to lose them to other priorities such as studies, careers, and families. By the end of the century there was barely a female player to be seen at any open tournaments, let alone featuring in the prize winners.

New century - new scene. Since 2001 NZCF has specifically promoted junior and female

Candidate Master at the Oceania Zonal in Fiji. Plus we gained another WFM with Helen Milligan emigrating to NZ – welcome Helen! Add those to Natasha Fairley's WFM and Eachen Chen's WCM gained at the 2006 Olympiad, plus my own WCM at a 2004 Olympiad – and hey - we can now boast 6 titled players!

Female players made a showing at all the

regular NZCF tournaments except the South Island Rapid in North Canterbury. At the start of the year only 2 females made the trek to Wanganui for the Nationals playing in a field of 34 in the Major Open. Best we could do was my own 6th placing. There was only me in a field of 37 in the NZ Rapid with a best forgotten placing of 22nd. At the North Island Championship in Auckland, 6 out of 56 players were female, with Eachen Chen getting the best result of 5th. At the North Island Rapid 12 of the 71 players were female with Helen Milligan doing best at 7th. At the South Island Champs in Nelson 5 females played in a field of 46, with Helen Milligan and Sue Maroroa gaining our best result of 12th. Obviously we're still a relatively small percentage of the chess playing population, but these signs are encouraging for a previously endangered species.

I'd like to think the 2007 NZ Junior Championship is the best indicator of how things have improved, as there lies the future of chess in NZ. 16 of the 58 players were female. While that's only about 28%, the results were excellent. Sue came 3rd equal overall, and Eachen, Judy Gao, Nicole Tsoi and Shirley Wu all tied for 5th. That's 5 females in the top 10 placings. Not only that, Judy was 1st in the under 14 age group, and Nicole was clear first in the under 12 age group. This shows that females can play just as well as males when they put in the effort.

Here is a game from the NZ Juniors. Sue Maroroa played Eachen Chen in a crucial last round match. Always watch out for tactics when playing Sue.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c3 Bd6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.h3 Nge7 7.Qc2 h6 8.Nf3 Be6 9.Be3 Qd7 10.Qd2 Bf5 11.Be2 Ng6 12.Na3 a6 13.Nc2 0-0-0 14.b4 Qe6 15.a4 Nb8 16.Na3 Rde8 17.c4 dxc4 (Nf4 and Black would be looking good. Instead White starts to get the upper hand) 18.Nxc4 Bf4 19.Rc1 Kd8 20.Nfe5 Bxe3 21.Nxe3 Re7 22.Kf1 Nxe5 23.dxe5+ Rd7 24.Qc3 h5 25.Bf3 c6 26.Be2 Re8 27.Bxh5 Bd3+ (Qxe5 first then Bd3+ after QxQ would have equalised. Now

Black drops a crucial pawn) 28.Kg1 Qxe5 29.Bxf7 Qxc3 30.Rxc3 Rxf7 31.Rxd3+ Kc7 32.g3 Re4 33.Rb3 Nd7 34.Kg2 Nb6 35.Ra1 Rd4 36.Ra2 36...Nd7 37.Rc2 Kd6 38.Rd2 Rxd2 39.Nc4+ Kd5 40.Nxd2 Kd4 41.Re3 Nb6 42.Nf3+ Kd5 43.Rd3+ Ke4 44.Rd4+ Kf5 45.Rf4+ and Black resigns as she is about to drop a rook with an unavoidable knight fork.

In the NZ Junior Rapid, 22 of the 70 players were girls, with the best results being the 6th performance of Sharon Wu, Shirley and Eachen, making 3 of the top 9 female. 12 players tied for 10th and 6 of those were also female – Sue, Judy, Megan du Plessis, Mona Yang, Wan-Xin Chen and Mary Jiang. The all-female tournaments were well contested. The 2007 NZ Women's Champs was an interesting scrap, an 8 player round robin won by Shirley Wu, with Eachen, Helen Milligan and Judy 2nd. If I had managed more than just a draw against Shirley in the last round, it would have been a 5-way tie for first. The Women's Reserve Championship was a 7 player double round robin won by Joey Wong and Jiapeng Li, both talented up-and-coming players to watch out for.

The Auckland Girls Championship saw the usual battle of top players with Sue winning the 34 player Over 12 years section and Shirley and Judy 2nd. Nicole Tsoi took out the 14-player under 12 Girls section with Mona Yang runner up. Jiapeng Li took out the 25-player under 10 section with Carolyn Zou runner-up.

Christchurch had at least 180 girls come out to play in Girls Chess Week events organised by the tireless Jacinta Buist. 180 girls played in a Christchurch girls' interschool championship, and 45 competed in an individual Championship. The overall winner was 12 year old Rosie Brown beating off much older teenagers – clearly someone to watch out for. Girls won prizes in all age groups from 5 years to 16 years, but none are names I recognise from tournaments other than the Girls Week ones. In the regular open tournaments females have been out there making their mark.

Latvian B Grade Rapid – Shirley Wu was 1st and Eachen 3rd (87 players)
NZ Senior Champs - Viv was 1st (5 of the 14 players were female)

Waitakere Licensing Trust B grade – won by Viv with Natasha Fairley 2nd (24 players)

Waitakere Licensing Trust C Grade – Sharon Wu was 3rd (37 players)

Merv Morrison B grade – Viv was 1st (33 players)

MIT B Grade Rapid - won by Eachen with Sue Maroroa 2nd (24 players)

Female names featured in most divisions of the Grand Prix winners:

Under 1700 division - Viv was 2nd, and Eachen 4th

Under 1400 division - Sharon was 4th

Junior division - Sue was 3rd

Senior division - Viv was 2nd

Under 1400 and Under 14 years - Nicole was 2nd

Female division - Viv 1st, Eachen 2nd, Sue 3rd and Nicole 4th

No females featured in the Open or Under 2000 division winners.

So it's clear that female chess players are alive and well in New Zealand and making steady progress in numbers and strength.

There are however a couple of areas that we're missing out on.

First is the top end. There is still a noticeable absence of females in the A grades of tournaments – especially the NZ Championship where to my knowledge no female has ever made the grade. Hopefully this looks ready to change as we do have a few young ladies storming up the rating charts. The most impressive of these look to be Eachen Chen who has leapt from a 1640 rating in 2006 to 1844 in 2007, and Judy Gao, jumping from 1407 to 1681. If they keep up that level of commitment and progress, they'll be in that champion-

ship field very soon. In the last rating period, Judy has played more games than any other player in NZ (51!). She plays at both Waitemata Chess Club and the Auckland Centre, competes in every open tournament going, and has just played for NZ in the 2007 World Youth Festival in Turkey in November where she recovered from a slow start to score 5/11 in the Girls Under 12 division (80th out of 114). Keep up the good work, Judy.

The biggest problem with female chess in this country is the fact that it's virtually a non-event outside Auckland. While many play in the Girls Chess Week events every year in

Christchurch, they seem to disappear for the rest of the year. I think I've seen only one active female player in Wellington – I hope Megan Du Plessis keeps playing. It can get a bit lonely if there are no other girls around to talk to. Still, I saw a smattering of females at the National Interschool finals in Palmerston North in September. A number of females had made it into the top school teams from other regions outside Auckland. Hopefully those numbers will grow. But the problem is the same for juniors generally – not just girls. Auckland is practically the only place with

several junior chess clubs outside of schools. Most of our best juniors have cut their teeth at these clubs. Kids need somewhere to go to play serious and fun chess, to get some tuition, improve and gain confidence before migrating to the senior clubs and open tournaments. The solution is to grow more junior chess clubs throughout the country – certainly no easy task!

But all in all, 2007 was a very good year for female chess – and 2008's going to be even better! Let's go girls!



Sue Maroroa, NZ's latest WFM

Bay of Plenty 25' + 5" Rapid

by Caleb Wright

Pilgrimage

One player came from as far away as Canterbury, others as wide away as New Plymouth. For some it has now become an annual pilgrimage, for many players they simply journeyed to New Zealand's first and longest running Fischer time control - the Bay of Plenty 25' + 5" Rapid.

Thirty-Eight players took part this year in the Rapid which was held again at Mt. Maunganui on Saturday 23 February 2008 and comprised of two groups and six rounds in each group.

The field

The thirty-eight players were broken up into two logical groups where there was a decent rating gap about half way down the list of players. The A group contained 18 players, of which seven players were rated over Rapid 2000, a record for the tournament. This group also contained the local club's clear four players able to try to make the winner a local one. The B group contained 20 players and consisted of an 8 year old, an 80 year old, three father-son combinations, as well as a husband and wife mix.

The rounds - A group

Players were taking half points and full points off each other and knocking each other out during the first four rounds. Two leaders were produced by the end of round four: Mike Steadman and Gino Thornton.

Round five saw Mike Steadman become the 'new Mike' to steadily win against Gino Thornton (both were on 3½/4), while 'Super' Mario Krstev (3) lost to Ralph Hart (2½), Bob Smith (2½) won against Caleb Wright (2½) and Peter Stuart (2½) lost to John Duneas (2½).

Round six saw Mike Steadman (4½/5) win against Bob Smith (3½). Bob had no choice but to go for a win, and avoid a draw like the plague, in an attempt to share first prize. Gino Thornton (3½) won against Ralph Hart

(3½), John Duneas (3½) won against Mario Krstev (3) and Helmut Marko (3) won against Bert van der Lee (3).

Final scores: 1st Mike Steadman (5½/6), 2nd - 3rd Gino Thornton, John Duneas (4½/6), 4th Helmut Marko (4/6), 5th-6th Ralph Hart, Bob Smith (3½/6).....18 players

The best result from a local club member was from the current local club champion John Duneas.

The rounds - B group

The semi-climatic games also came in round five, which saw Devon Smith (3½/4) win against Vaughan Collingwood (3), Neil Cruden (3) win against Thomas Gothorp (3) and David Taylor (3) lose against Ron Collingwood (3).

Round six meant that the spot for first place was going to be decided on more than one game. Devon Smith (4½/5) lost to Ron Collingwood (4), Neil Cruden (4) draw against Alan Ansell (4).

Final scores: 1st Ron Collingwood (5/6), 2nd-3rd Neil Cruden, Devon Smith (4½/6), 4th-6th David Taylor, Vaughan Collingwood, Alan Ansell (4/6).....The B group contained 20 players.

Conclusion

The tournament was yet another success. Excellent time control. Surely for some players the beach was only 25 seconds drive plus 5 seconds a km away.

Thanks to Arbiter Hilton Bennett for his work (albeit light work with this time control).

Much thanks must be given to all the clubs and players who helped once again.

I've personally very much appreciated all the great feedback I've received from many players, the BOP Rapid just gets better every year. I intend to organise next years B.O.P. 25' + 5" Rapid tournament for February 2009.

Hope to see you there! - Caleb Wright.

Letter from the Kingside

by Roger Nokes

Bobby Fischer - a personal tribute

A chess legend has passed from the world. Bobby Fischer died quietly in his newly adopted homeland, Iceland, on 17 January 2008 leaving the chess world surprised, shocked and more than a little saddened. I wonder how many words have been written about the 11th world champion in the past few weeks. I imagine this is only one of hundreds, thousands, of articles, columns, news releases, and obituaries that have attempted to describe Bobby Fischer the legend, and somehow place his contribution to chess in perspective. Like this article, I suspect most of them have failed. *Rewind* - The year is 1971 and I am a young lad in his second year of intermediate school in Christchurch New Zealand. Like most of my friends I am a keen sportsman who loves to toss around a rugby ball, or drive a tennis ball from the baseline. But I'm not at all enthusiastic about prancing around the gymnasium vaulting over large wooden things and rolling myself around on ugly mattresses haphazardly laid out on the floor. The only palatable way out, it appears, is to join the chess club. I've played the game a little bit at home and wouldn't mind sitting around battling other young minds. So I sign up.

What an auspicious time to accidentally stumble into the world of chess! On the opposite side of the world four key chess matches are underway to decide on the challenger for the world chess title, held at that time by Soviet Grandmaster Boris Spassky. Our chess teacher brings to the chess club snippets from the papers and chess magazines describing the progress in these matches. For the first time I encounter the magical names of Geller, Korchnoi and Petrosian. Don't those names affect you just a little? Don't they convey images of exotic geniuses? To me they are absolutely thrilling. I also encounter the name Bobby Fischer; a young American grandmaster who is rumoured to possess phenomenal abilities and a driving desire to usher in a new

order in the world chess. I don't remember even seeing any of the games from those matches - I probably wouldn't have understood them if I had - but the images those names conjured up in my mind still remains with me nearly 40 years later. I am enthralled, and suddenly the action on a tennis court is a little less attractive than the action on a 64 square board with 32 plastic pieces.

The results of the Candidate Matches of 1971 have now entered chess folklore and the following year the "match of the century" took place in, appropriately, Reykjavik, Iceland. Were you a chess follower at the time? I remember hurrying home from school in the hope that the evening paper would have news of the latest game and, even better, the moves themselves. And of course, like newspapers around the world, the Christchurch Star did carry the news and games. Such coverage was unprecedented, and certainly within my experience, has never been repeated. Bobby Fischer had transformed the chess world and the rest of the world's perception of chess.

Now it's 1973, and my family take their annual beach pilgrimage to the gorgeous Kaiteriteri Beach in the Nelson region of New Zealand. Inexplicable to everyone but me I spend many of the beautiful sunny days hiding in our caravan instead of sailing our boat or swimming in the crystal clear water. What has possessed me? On our first visit to the local town I had discovered and purchased my first real chess book, entitled "My 60 Memorable Games". That book was my constant companion during that summer holiday. It exposed me to chess openings, ideas like binds and minority attacks, and the thrill and heartbreak of chess competition. It introduced me to many of the giants and characters of world chess. It showed me the enormous pleasure that can be gained from playing beautiful moves on a chess board. By the end of that vacation I was totally captivated by chess. Within 12 months I was no longer joining my family at the beach for

NZ Junior Championship - 7 to 10 July

the summer. Instead I was playing chess. Two other chess books absorbed my attention at that time - Svetozar Gligoric's "Fischer v Spassky - The Match of the Century" and Wade and O'Connell's "The Games of Robert James Fischer". The first of these brought the details and drama of the Spassky match back to life and provided superb explanations of the games themselves. Gligoric had a way of describing the dignity of the two combatants and giving the match a grandeur that placed it above a mere chess contest. Owning the second book was, for me, like being a child in a lolly shop. Hundreds and hundreds of Fischer games, articles that I reread I don't know how many times, and tournament cross-tables over which I pored for hour after hour to extract every last statistic. To me, at that time, chess was Bobby Fischer and Bobby Fischer was chess. But unbeknown to me, and everyone else, Bobby Fischer had effectively played his last public game of competitive chess (if you ignore his return match with Spassky in the early 1990s). However, Fischer cast a shadow over the chess world that was hard for someone like me to ignore. Poor Anatoly Karpov could never be admired for his own colossal ability simply because he had never defeated Fischer. For me there was always a hole in the chess world that couldn't be filled. I remember when the second Fischer-Spassky match was announced how unrealistically excited I was. I seriously hoped that this would signal the re-emergence of Bobby Fischer into competitive chess. Of course those hopes were dashed as Fischer once again withdrew into his isolated world and became more and more paranoid. The last years of Fischer's life are not ones that most of us wish to remember or honour. They appear to be quite uncorrelated with his years of chess brilliance. Many have attempted to describe the influence that Fischer has had on the chess world. For me his influence is primarily personal. He brought me to chess and sparked within me a passion that remains to this day. Fischer is the author of numerous brilliant games, many of which have been extensively analysed over the years. It seems wise not to try

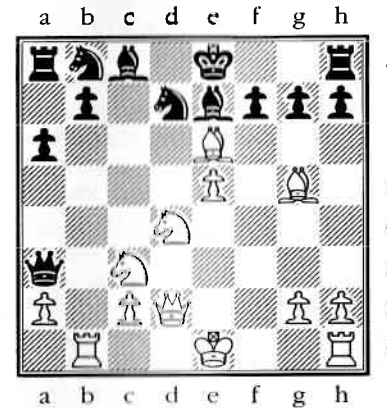
to provide another set of annotations to one of these well-known games. Instead I offer the following tribute to Bobby Fischer the chess player.

Istvan Bilek – Robert Fischer
[B97]

Stockholm Interzonal Stockholm (5),
03.02.1962

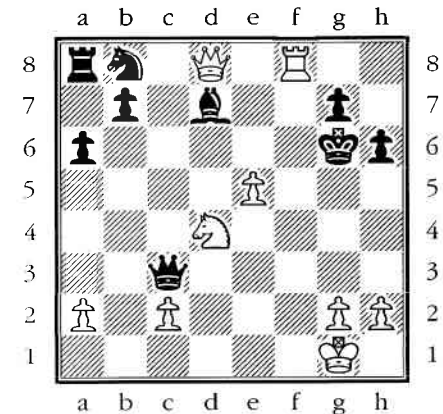
1.e4 c5 How do you choose a Fischer game that will somehow encapsulate the Fischer character? If I had to describe Fischer's style in one word it would probably be "uncompromising". Almost never the quiet draw or the non-event that is so controversial in the modern professional game. He chose openings that would unbalance the position and force the game in unnerving and complex directions. Perhaps this is best illustrated in his favourite response to 1.e4, the Najdorf Sicilian and his championing of the ultra sharp poison pawn variation. So I have selected a little known game from the Stockholm Interzonal held in 1962. Fischer was 18 years old and facing a strong Hungarian Grandmaster, Istvan Bilek. **2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2** There is little subtlety in Black's goal in the poison pawn variation. Capture a pawn early at the cost of development and coordination, and hang onto it if you possibly can. Normally Black is prepared to suffer numerous indignities in order to survive the very strong initiative that White generates through the sacrificed pawn. However, Black too has counter-punching possibilities and this variation has survived the test of time and generated extensive theory. **9.Rb1** [It is perhaps ironic that I should choose a poison pawn game as it was in this variation that Spassky scored his most emphatic victory over Fischer in their 1972 world championship match. That game proceeded 9.Nb3 Qa3 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Be2 h5 12.0-0 Nc6 13.Kh1 Bd7 14.Nb1 Qb4 15.Qe3 d5 16.exd5 Ne7 17.c4 Nf5 18.Qd3 h4 19.Bg4 Nd6 20.N1d2 f5 21.a3 Qb6 22.c5 Qb5 23.Qc3 fxg4 24.a4 h3 25.axb5 hxg2+ 26.Kxg2 Rh3 27.Qf6 Nf5 28.c6 Bc8 29.dxe6 fxe6 30.Rfe1 Be7 31.Rxe6 1-0. Has Fischer ever suffered such a defeat?]

9...Qa3 10.e5 dxe5 11.fxe5 Nfd7 12.Be4 The White position is, at least superficially, highly attractive. With one more move he will have castled, bringing his king's rook into play along the semi-open f file, while at the same time being aggressively placed for a possible sacrifice on e6. The d8 point is also weak and Black must be cautious about removing his knight from d7 too early. So what does Black have in compensation? First and foremost he has a winning ending if he can make it that far. Not only is he a pawn to the good but his pawn structure is vastly superior. In addition White is not without his own weaknesses. The most obvious two are the pawn on e5 and the knight on c3, the latter tying down the White queen for the moment. In addition the g1-a7 diagonal is weak and once White has castled Black may have a free tempo checking on c5. **12...Be7** [Three years later Fischer played the stronger 12...Bb4 against Tringov in the Capablanca Memorial Tournament in Havana. That game continued 13.Rb3 Qa5 14.0-0 0-0 15.Nxc6 fxe6 16.Bxe6+ Kh8 17.Rxf8+ Bxf8 18.Qf4 Nc6 19.Qf7 Qc5+ the crucial tempo 20.Kh1 Nf6 21.Bxc8 Nxe5 22.Qe6 Neg4 0-1 A classic example of Black's resilience in the poison pawn variation. Within 22 moves White's sacrificial attack has founded.] **13.Bxc6!**?



[White wastes no time and banks on his superior development to break through the Black [21...Qc1+ 22.Rf1 Qxe5 23.Qxc8 Qxd4+

defences. Another possibility is 13.Rb3 Qc5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Qf4 although Black is reasonably comfortable and still retains his extra material.] **13...0-0** [13...Bxg5 is another option which might lead to 14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 (14...Kf8?? 15.0-0 Bxd2 16.Ne6+ Ke7 17.Nd5# is a nice finish!) 15.0-0+ Bf6 16.exf6 Nxf6 17.Ne4 although White retains certain pressure despite the material imbalance and the slight simplification of the position.] **14.0-0** [Neither 14.Nd5 Bxg5 15.Qxg5 h6; nor 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bd5 Qxe5+ 16.Nde2 provide White with tangible compensation for his material deficit.] **14...Bxg5** [14...fxe6?! 15.Nxe6 Rxf1+ 16.Rxf1 Nc6 17.Nd5 Bc5+ 18.Kh1 leaves White with a strong initiative.] **15.Qxg5 h6** [Black has to be very careful here and it takes some courage to be prepared to walk the tightrope through these complications. An example on how things can go wrong are 15...Qxc3 16.Nf5 g6 (16...Qxe5 17.Nh6+ Kh8 18.Nxf7+ Rxf7 19.Qd8+ and its all over. Look at Black's queenside!) 17.Nh6+ Kg7 18.Nxf7 and Black is lost.] **16.Qh4** [16.Qg3?! fxe6 17.Nxe6 Rxf1+ 18.Rxf1 Qe7 and Black will soon unravel his queenside with a winning position.] **16...Qxc3 17.Rxf7 Rxf7 18.Qd8+** [Unfortunately 18.Bxf7+ Kxf7 19.e6+ Kg8 20.e7 Nf6 21.Qxf6 Qe3+ 22.Qf2 Qxe7 doesn't work.] **18...Nf8 19.Bxf7+ Kxf7 20.Rf1+ Kg6 21.Rxf8 Bd7**



24.Rf2 Qe4 is more accurate according Hiarc.] 22.Nf3 Qe3+ 23.Kh1 Qc1+ 24.Ng1 Qxc2 Despite the apparently vulnerable position of Black's king White doesn't appear to have any way to take advantage of it. The Black queen has been a tremendous defensive piece holding the Black position together almost single-handedly. 25.Rg8 Qf2 26.Rf8 Qxa2 27.Rf3 Kh7 Black has survived the storm and the completion of his development is only a couple of moves away. With Bc6 to come it is Black that will have a strong kingside initiative not to mention an extra piece and pawn. A classic Fischer victory in the poison pawn variation. 0-1

(Continued from page 12)

be concerned about. 23...bxc5 24.Qxg6 f5 This not only restricts the knight but allows for a defensive rook lift to f6. 25.Qe6+ [25.Nf3 would have been stronger and faster.] 25...Rf7 26.Nf3 Bc8 The position is once again equal! 27.Qg6 Rf6 28.Qg3 ([Qg5 would have maintained equality, Black now has an edge for the first time in the game] 28...e6 29.Rcd1 exd5 30.cxd5 Rd7 31.Re5 Rfd6 This move, whilst not losing, was made under time pressure and allows White to safely remove the troubled rook from the d file. The e5 rook is untouchable as Bishop is pinned. 32.Rde1 Kf7 [32...Kf8 was the only move to hold the balance. As is often the case in a rapid game, the player with the initiative is provided with more opportunities to win, I made sure not to miss mine!] 33.Ng5+ Kf6 34.Re6+ Rxe6 35.Rxe6#

(Continued from page 10)

year IM Oliver Dimakiling and GM Dao Thien Hai but acquitted himself well. The middle rounds did not go well for New Zealand's top player with Murray falling victim to IM Gary Lane in Round 6 and then Wang Li in round 7. Paul had bounced back to 3 points after winning 2 games with Helen and Hilton half a point behind on 2.5 after 7 rounds.

The next two rounds saw 2 wins for Murray, a win and a draw for Hilton, 2 draws for Helen and a draw and loss for Paul. At the top of the table little known 18 year old Chinese player Li Chao had taken a one point lead with 7.5/9 followed by 9 players on 6.5

Round 10 saw Murray defeat Khairul Anam to move to 6.5 points with his third consecutive win. Hilton went down to the strong unrated Indonesian player Junaid Pamungkas who earlier defeated me and several other highly rated players. Helen had another win while Paul drew. On the top board Li Chao continued his winning form by beating GM Zhang Zhong virtually assuring himself of first place. In the final round Murray lost, Helen drew while Hilton and Paul, who were paired against each other, had a fairly peaceable draw. This left the final results for the Nzers as Murray 6.5/11, Helen 5 points with Hilton and Paul each on 4.5.

Overall winner was Li Chao (CHN) 9.0 points followed by 2nd place Wan Yunguo (CHN) on 8.5 points with GM Ziaur Rahman (BAN), IM Wang Rui (CHN) and GM Nguyen Anh Dung (VIE) 3rd= on 8 points.

A critical encounter in Round 10 on top board between top seed GM Zhang Zhong (2634) and Li Chao (2529)

Li Chao (2529) – GM Zhang Zhong (2634)

2007 Malaysian Open

Kuala Lumpur (10), 25.08.2007

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. Ng5 d5 5. exd5 Na5 6. Bb5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. Qf3 h6 9. Ne4 Nd5 10. Ba4 Be7 11. 0-0 0-0 12. d3 Qc7 13. Bd2 Be6 14. c4 f5 15. Ng3 Nf4 16. b4 Nb7 17. Bxf4 exf4 18. Ne2 Nd8 19. a3 g5 20. Nd2 Rc8 21. d4 Bf7 22. Qd3 Bh5 23. Nc3 Bf6 24. Rael a5 25. b5 Qd7 26. Nb3 f3 27. bxc6 Nxc6 28. d5 fxd2 29. Kxg2 Qd8 30. Bxc6 Rxc6 31. Nd4 Bxd4 32. dxc6 Qd6 33. Nd5 1-0

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, Chris Benson Ph (0274) 318-951 Sec, Craig Hall (021) 128-9543

Gambit Sec, Ted Frost, 7 Tregenna Street, Castlecliff, 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), Haseler Hall, underneath All Saints Church, Selwyn Road, Howick. 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 Mondays, 6pm-10pm. 18 Rangataua St, Tauranga.

Contact Vaughan Collingwood (07) 544-1329, grandmaster@kol.co.nz

New Plymouth 11 Gilbert St, New Plymouth. Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Pres C Bell (06) 769-9419

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. otagochess@clear.net.nz Alistair Newbould (President) (03) 472-8819 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; Caissa@xtra.co.nz

Wanganui Mondays 7pm, Blind Centre, 102 Peat Street. Sec Kevin 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, alan_aldrige@paradise.net.nz

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 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.