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North Shore Open Celebrates 35 years



***Paul Garbett won the inaugural
in '74 - and does it again in '08!***

In this Issue

- North Shore Open report by Peter Stuart
- The Boys skip Brazil -Herman van Reimsdijk reports
- Paul Spiller and friends head to Malaysia's Chess festival
- Rowan Wood looks at rating winners and losers

Plus – 2008 Club Championships Results Roundup

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The North Shore Open Celebrates 35 Years – In '74 it was Paul Garbett, in 08 it's...Paul Garbett!

***Paul Garbett, Mike
Steadman and Gino
Thornton in tie for first***

By Peter Stuart

This year's event was the 35th edition of the tournament that was held for the first time in 1974. There were 38 players that year and the winner was one Paul Garbett. Up until 2007 Paul had won or shared first place eleven times! Several players have won or shared first place three times but the only ones to win it more often, other than Garbett of course, are Leonard McLaren (6 times) and Ortvin Sarapu (5 times).

The North Shore Open has never gone in for the FIDE time control of game in 90 minutes + 30 seconds per move, what is known as vapidplay in some places. Once your base time has been used you have to play the rest of the game with just that extra 30 seconds per move; no chance to get that cup of coffee, go to the loo, just have a breather. Can't be good for us. And the advice that it is simply a matter of better time management is absurd – nobody knows at the start of the game how many moves will have to be

played; might be 25 but it could be 200. So the North Shore Open time control has for some years been 40 moves in 80 minutes followed by a 20 minute guillotine with 20 seconds per move from move one.

Garbett and McLaren were among the favourites yet again but Stephen Lukey, a 2-time winner and a most welcome visitor from South Island, was the top seed – his NZCF rating was one point higher than Garbett's. Mike Steadman was third seed and Ralph Hart, a rampant winner at the Waikato Open a couple of weeks earlier, were likely to feature while Daniel Han and Gino Thornton were lurking in there too. It was good to see a bunch of players rated in the 1900s as well; this has been an area with few players for many tournaments for some years now. Some of these are new, either coming up through junior ranks or from overseas. The total number of entries over the three grades (77) was right on the average for the previous five years.

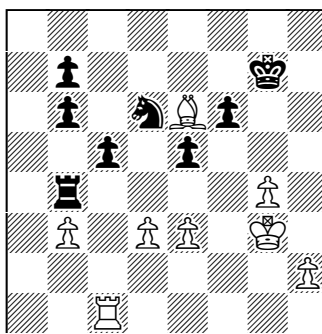
With 21 players in the A-grade and no half-point byes in the first round, there was a bye and ten games, of which the higher rated player failed to win four. Top seed Lukey was held to a draw by Mario Krstev in a vibrant, edgy game that is virtually unannotatable, at least by me!

Mario Krstev – Stephen Lukey, King’s Indian

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0–0
 5.Nge2 d6 6.Ng3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Be2 exd5
 9.cxd5 Nbd7 10.0–0 a6 11.a4 h5 12.f4
 h4 13.Nh1 Rb8 14.Nf2 Qc7 15.Qb3 Re8
 16.Bd2 Nf8 17.Qc2 Bd7 18.Rae1 b5
 19.e5 Bf5 20.Bd3 Bxd3 21.Nxd3 Nh5
 22.axb5 c4 23.Nf2 dxe5 24.f5 axb5
 25.fxg6 Nxg6 26.Nce4 Nh4 27.Ng4
Qd8? [27...Nxd5 defends the fork threat
 and leaves it hard to see White
 addressing his two-pawn material deficit
 any time soon. The move played,
 however, allows White more than a life-
 line . . .] **28.Ne3?** [. . . but he doesn’t grab
 it: 28.Bxf4 Nxf4 (28...exf4 29.Nef6+ is
 even worse) 29.Rxf4! exf4 30.Nef6+
 Qxf6 (The only try but Black does not
 get enough for the queen.) 31.Rxe8+
 Rxe8 32.Nxf6+ Bxf6 33.Qf5 and White
 is well on top] **28...Nd3** [Now Black is
 cruising again.] **29.Ra1 Ngf4 30.Ba5**
Qd7 31.d6 f5 32.Nc3 e4 [Perhaps
 Stephen rejected 32...Qxd6 because of
 33.Nxb5 but Black simply wins two
 minor pieces for a rook after 33...Qc5!
 (33...Rxb5 34.Qxc4+ Rd5 35.Nxd5 Qxd5
 36.Qxd5+ Nxd5) 34.Qxc4+ Qxc4
 35.Nxc4 Rxb5 etc. But the text move is
 fine, too.] **33.Kh1 Rf8 34.Bc7 Rbe8**
35.b3 b4 [35...Bd4!] **36.Ncd5 Bxa1**
37.Rxa1 Qg7 [37...c3!?] **38.Rf1 Nxd5**
39.Qxc4 Kh8 40.Qxd5 f4? [It’s true that
 White has some counterplay for the lost
 exchange but this last move before the
 time control is, sadly for Black, not a
 very good one. Better was 40...Re5
 41.Qd4 (41.Qb7 hamstring the d-pawn)
 41...Rc5 and the queens come off leaving
 a fairly simple win. After the text, White

secures a draw without too much
 trouble.] **41.d7 Ra8** [Or 41...fxe3
 42.dxe8Q Nf2+ 43.Kg1 Nh3+ 44.Kh1=]
42.d8Q Raxd8 43.Bxd8 fxe3 44.Rxf8+
Qxf8 45.Qh5+ Kg7 46.Qg5+ Kf7
47.Qd5+ Ke8 48.Qxe4+ Kxd8
49.Qxd3+ Kc8 50.Qxe3 Qf1+ 51.Qg1
Qd3 52.Qc5+ Kd7 53.Qa7+ Ke6
54.Qb6+ Kd7 55.Qb7+ Ke6 56.Qc8+
Ke7 57.Qc7+ Ke6 58.Qc8+ Ke7 ½–½.

On board 2 the game Garbett-Browne
 reached the following position:

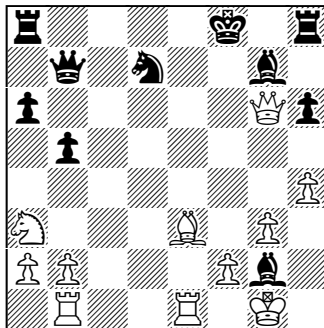


White is a little better thanks to the better
 minor piece and the outside passed pawn
 but Black’s position is quite solid. Play
 continued: **37...Rb5** [Wrong piece; White
 now gets a niggly little initiative. After
 the better 37...Nb5 38.Bd5 Nc7 39.Bxb7
 Rxb3 Black has little to fear.] **38.h4 Ra5**
39.Kf3 Ra3 40.Rc2 Ra1? [The last move
 before the time control. Black hopes to
 generate counterplay with a more active
 rook but White has a startling reply
 which would not have been possible after
 a waiting move such as 40...Kg6 as the
 white d-pawn would come under fire.]
41.b4! e4+ [The position was critical, not
 a nice situation for the first move after

the time control. The obvious 41...cxb4 seems inadequate, e.g. 42.Rc7+ Kh8 43.Rd7 Nb5 44.Rxb7 Nc3 45.Rxb6 Rh1 46.Rxb4 Rxb4 47.Rb3 Nd1 48.d4 and the passed pawn should decide; 41...Rf1+ is more interesting, but also insufficient: 42.Ke2 Rh1 43.bxc5! Rh2+ (43...bxc5 44.Rxc5 Rxb4 45.Rd5 Ne8 46.Rd8 Kf8 47.Rd7 b5 48.Rf7+ Kg8 49.Rxf6+-) 44.Kf3! (44.Kd1 Rxc2 45.Kxc2 bxc5 and White may as well agree the draw) 44...Rxc2 45.cxd6 Rd2 (45...Kf8 46.g5 fxg5 47.hxg5 Rc6 48.d7 Ke7 49.Bf5 Rcl 50.g6+-) 46.d7 Rxd3 47.Ke4 Rd6 48.h5! b5 49.g5 fxg5 50.Kxe5 and Black has to give up his rook for the d-pawn. The best try was undoing his previous move by 41...Ra3! , e.g. 42.bxc5 (42.Ke2 is another try) 42...bxc5 43.Rxc5 (43.Ke2 b6=) 43...Rxd3 44.Rc7+ Kh6 45.Ke2 and Black is not out of the woods yet] **42.dxe4 Ra4 43.e5** [43.Rd2 Nb5 44.Rd7+ Kf8 45.g5 fxg5 46.hxg5 was quicker – the queenside is now irrelevant] **43...fxe5 44.bxc5 bxc5 45.Rxc5 Kf6 46.Bd7 Ra1 47.g5+ Ke7 48.Bh3 e4+ 49.Kf4 b5 50.Rc7+ Kf8 51.Ke5 Ra6 52.Be6 Rb6 53.g6 Ne8 54.Rf7+ Kg8 55.Rb7+ Rxe6+ 56.Kxe6 Kf8 57.Rb8 1–0.**

The game Gunn-Steadman was also interesting, though hardly flawless:

Neil Gunn – Michael Steadman, Pirc
1.e4 d6 2.d3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 b5 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0–0 e6 7.c3 Ne7 8.Na3 a6 9.Rb1 c5 10.Re1 Qc7 11.Bf4 h6 12.h4 Nd7 13.Qd2 f6 14.d4 e5 15.Be3 cxd4 16.cxd4 Bxe4 17.dxe5 fxe5 18.Nxe5 Bxg2 19.Nxg6 Qb7 20.Qxd6 Nxg6 21.Qxg6+ Kf8



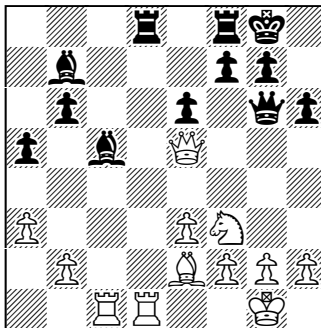
22.Kh2? [White should have taken the draw by 22.Qf5+ Nf6 (22...Kg8 23.Qe6+ Kh7 24.Qf5+ Kg8=) 23.Bc5+ Kg8 24.Qe6+ Kh7 25.Qf5+ Kg8=] **22...Bd5?** [22...Be4 23.Qd6+ Kg8 24.Rbc1 Ne5–+] **23.Bf4?** [23.Rbc1 or 23.Rbd1 were better; Black's chances would probably still be preferable but things are rather murky.] **23...Bf7?** [23...Nf6! might look too dangerous because of 24.Bd6+ Kg8 25.Re7 but after 25...Qxe7! 26.Bxe7 Be4 Black is just winning. After the move played White is back in the game.] **24.Qd6+ Kg8 25.Re7 Rd8 26.Rd1 Qf3 27.Qd2** [27.Rxd7! Rxd7 28.Qxd7 Qxf2+ 29.Kh1 Qxb2 30.Rd6! Qa1+ 31.Kg2 Qxa2+ 32.Kh3 and White has enough threats to maintain the balance; the rook on d6 controls the f6 and g6 squares where Black might otherwise stick bishops to block queen checks] **27...Re8 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Qxd7+ Re7 30.Qf5+ Bf6 31.Rd2?** [31.Qc2 allows 31...Bxb4 winning a pawn, though White still has some compensation for the exchange in his extra pawn and initiative after 32.Rd3 Qh5 33.Kg2 Bf6 34.Rd6] **31...Re1! 32.Qd5+ Qxd5 33.Rxd5 Re2 34.Rd2**

[White has had it after this but reasonable alternatives are hard to find.] 34...Rxd2 35.Bxd2 Bxb2 36.Nc2 Rc8 37.Ne3 Kg6 38.f4 h5 39.Kg2 Bc1 40.f5+ Kf7 41.Bxc1 Rxc1 42.g4 Rc3 43.Nd5 Rc5 44.Ne3 Rc3 45.Nd5 Rc2+ 46.Kg3 hxc4 47.Kxc4 Rxa2 48.h5 b4 49.h6 b3 50.f6 Rh2 51.Kg5 b2 52.Nc3 Rh3 0-1.

The big upset occurred on board 4 where McLaren built up a clear advantage against Andy Chen but then blundered a piece.

The second round saw Garbett smoothly converting an extra pawn against John Duneas in a rook and opposite colour bishop ending. Hart came out of the opening with a handy space advantage but Antonio Krstev made things easy for him by prematurely opening up the position. A pairing gaffe saw Steadman join those two winners on 2 points. Daniel Shen had verbally asked for a half-point bye during the pre-players' meeting rush and this was overlooked, resulting in his pairing against Steadman.

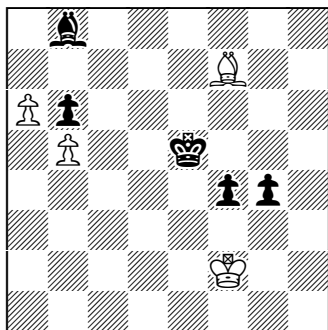
Lukey won a pawn against Chen but allowed the position to become blocked and had to acquiesce in his second draw. Thornton also won a pawn, against Han, but Daniel obtained ample compensation, only to later fall for a Gino con. McLaren happily accepted two of Philip Hair's minor pieces for a rook but had overlooked the sting in the tail, a pawn fork which won a piece. The strangest game was Boy Gunawan – Toleafoa Tanoi which reached the following position after Black's 20th move:



Gunawan now played **22.Rxd8** whereupon Black resigned, obviously thinking that after 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Qc7 he was simply losing a piece. Not so. There is an only move, 23... Rd2! which actually gives Black the advantage, e.g. 24.Qxb7 Rxe2 and the threat of Bxe3 wins Black a pawn.

Garbett took a half-point bye which allowed Steadman to take the lead by himself. The pairing gremlins had struck again and Hart, who (like Shen) had only asked verbally that morning for a round three half-point bye, had got paired versus Mike.

Gunawan misplayed the opening and was soon lost against Thornton. Mario Krstev had an annoying edge versus Shen who ultimately lost the plot, unnecessarily handing over control of the only open file and then giving away a pawn. Chen-Duneas was another opposite coloured bishops endgame:



Black's bishop is rather tied down and one would expect White to be able to hold the position, despite the unfortunate location of his bishop. Play continued **47.Bc4?!** [Of the seven possible bishop moves (leaving aside putting it en pris), six draw easily. Unfortunately, Andy's choice was the seventh but it is still a draw, just not quite so easy. 47.Bh5 is perhaps the simplest way to the draw - White would like the pawn to move to g3 when Kf3 will be dead drawn: 47...Kf5 48.Be8 f3 49.Ke3 (The only move; the black king cannot be allowed on the f4 square.) 49...Kg5 50.Bc6 Kh4 and now there are many drawing moves but the nicest is 51.Bxf3] **47...Ke4** [Now we see why c4 should be avoided by the bishop - the black king cannot be checked away from e4 so that Kf2-f3 will no longer be available after g4-g3+. But as already mentioned, it is not yet the end of the world.] **48.Be6?** [It is after this, though. White could still have survived by giving up his surplus queenside pawn, e.g. 48.a7! g3+ 49.Kg2 f3+ (49...Bxa7 50.Be2=) 50.Kh3! (the only move) 50...Bxa7 51.Kxg3 Ke3 52.Bd5 Bb8+

53.Kg4 f2 54.Bc4 and everything is clear] **48...g3+ 49.Kg2 f3+ 50.Kf1** [50.Kh3 g2+; 50.Kg1 Ke3 51.Bh3 Ke2 52.a7 Bxa7 53.Bf1+ Ke1 54.Bc4 g2 55.Bd3 Bb8 56.Bc4 Bg3 and mate in 3] **50...Ke3 51.Bd5 g2+ 52.Kg1 Bg3 53.Bxf3 Kxf3 54.a7 0-1.**

Lukey steadily built up a winning position but blundered horribly, allowing Richard Taylor to swap his queen for Stephen's king. Scores after round 3: Steadman 3; Garbett, M.Krstev & Thornton 2½; Browne, Duneas, Gunawan, Hart & Taylor 2.

The big clash in round 4 was, of course, Steadman-Garbett. This was a topsy-turvy encounter with Garbett gaining an early advantage with some provocative play met too passively but losing it after going off the boil. He then sacrificed the exchange, unwisely I think, and Steadman in turn got a big advantage before losing the thread and eventually blundering. Seeing is believing:

Michael Steadman – Paul Garbett, Sicilian

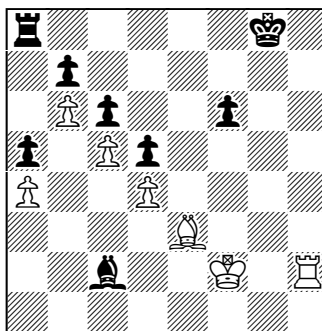
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.h4 h6 7.0-0 d6 8.c3 e5 9.a3 Bg4 10.b4 g5 [Can't get much more provocative than that!] **11.Qa4 Bf6 12.bxc5 gxh4 13.Nh2?** [In this irrational position Fritz comes up with 13.d4 as its first choice.] **13...Be2 14.Re1 hxg3** [14...Bxd3! 15.Rd1 (15.c4 dxc5 16.Rd1 Qd4 17.Ra2 hxg3-+) 15...dxc5 leaves White two pawns down without any obvious way to take advantage of the pin on the d3-bishop] **15.fxg3 Bxd3 16.Be3 Bg5 17.Qd1 dxc5 18.Bxc5 Qa5 19.Bf2 0-0-0 20.Qb3 Qb5 21.Qxf7 Nge7**

[21...Bc4!?] **22.a4 Qa5 23.Qb3 Rhf8 24.Ra2 Rd6 25.Na3 Rdf6 26.Ng4 Rxf2?** [Exasperation, perhaps?! Black's initiative has evaporated but this just seems to give away an exchange for very little. After 26...Rg6 I think the chances are about equal.] **27.Nxf2 Qc5 28.Bh3+ Kb8 29.Kg2 Ba6 30.Nb5 Na5 31.Qb4 Qxb4 32.cxb4 Nac6 33.Rb2 Bxb5 34.axb5 Nd4 35.Nd3 Ng6 36.Rf2 Rd8 37.Nc5 Nxb5 38.Bf5 Nf8 39.Ne6** [39.Bg4! with the threat Rxf8 was pretty much decisive. After 39.Ne6 Black definitely has at least some compensation with practical chances.] **39...Nxe6 40.Bxe6 Nc3 41.Bf5 Bd2 42.Ra1 a6 43.Bg6 Rd6 44.Bh7 Kc7 45.Rf7+ Kc6 46.Re7 Nb5 47.Rxe5 Bxb4 48.Rc1+ Kb6 49.Bg8 Nc7 50.Rb1 a5 51.Kf3 Nb5 52.Kg4??** [There will, of course, be no comebacks from this sad blunder. After something like 52.Bd5 Black still has work to do to achieve the draw - which, I think, would have been a fair result for this chaotic affair.] **52...Rg6+ 53.Kf5 Rxc8 54.Re6+ Ka7 55.Rxh6 Nd6+ 0-1.**

Hart and Thornton swapped their way into a drawn opposite-colour bishop ending while Jeremy Browne was better out of the opening versus Marion Krstev and played confidently to the win. Duneas won quickly against Gunawan and Shen won a pawn from Taylor but took a while to convert it. Chen and Gunn drew a game of mutual destruction. Going into the final round Garbett led with 3½ points with Steadman, Hart, Thornton, Duneas and Brown on 3; next were M.Krstev and Shen on 2½.

For Garbett, 1.g3 seems to be becoming a

habit. His game against Hart started 1.g3 Nc6 2.d4 h5 and was soon drawn! This gave Steadman and Thornton a chance to tie for first place. Steadman was always better with black against Duneas but the R+B ending (opposite-colour bishops again) they reached should probably have been drawn. This is the position at the time control:



Black is a pawn up and the white a-pawn is on the skids but Black's a- and b-pawns are also vulnerable. Black cannot really contemplate a rook swap as both a-pawns will disappear with an obvious draw. After 41.Rg2+ Kf7 42.Rh2 Bg6 43.Bd2 I don't see how Black can make any progress with his weak pawns on a5 and b7. Or White could even play 41.Bd2 straight away since 41...Bxa4 42.Rg2+ Kf7 43.Bh6 more or less forces Black to swap rooks if he wishes to continue playing, e.g. 43...Rg8 (43...Rb8? 44.Rg7+ Ke6 45.Bf4+-) 44.Rxc8 Kxc8 45.Bd2 with an easy draw. Instead, play continued **41.Kf3 Bd1+** [41...Bxa4 42.Rg2+ Kh7 43.Rh2+ Kg6 44.Rg2+ Kf5 45.Rg7 Bd1+ 46.Kg3! (Not 46.Kf2? Rb8 and White does not have Bf4 now)

46...Ke4 (or 46...Re8 47.Bc1 Re4 48.Rxb7 Rxd4 49.Rc7 Rc4 50.Rxc6! Rb4 51.Rc7 d4 52.b7 Ba4 53.Bd2 (the obvious 53.c6 may be okay, too, but it allows Black to enjoy a torture session after 53...Bxc6 54.Rxc6 Rxb7 55.Rc5+ Ke4 56.Rxa5 Rb3+) 53...Rb3+ 54.Kf2 Rb2 and either side should be able to sacrifice his bishop for the two enemy pawns if necessary.) 47.Re7+ Kd3 48.Kf2 and White has sufficient counterplay, e.g. 48...Bg4 (or 48...a4 49.Rxb7 Re8 50.Bf4 Re2+ 51.Kg3 Rb2 52.Ra7 with a fine case of dynamic equilibrium) 49.Rxb7 Bc8 50.Rc7! a4 51.Bc1 (51.b7? Bxb7 52.Rxb7 a3--+) 51...Kxd4 52.Rxc6 (Again 52.b7? Bxb7 53.Rxb7 a3 is hopeless) 52...Ba6 53.Rc7 Kc4 54.c6 Kb5 and simplest now is 55.b7 Bxb7 56.cxb7 Rb8 with an easy draw.] **42.Kf4 Re8** [42...Bxa4 43.Rg2+ (43.Kf5) 43...Kf7 44.Rh2 Ke6 45.Bd2! and White will win either the a-pawn or the b-pawn, but not 45.Rh7 Rb8 46.Bd2 Bc2 47.Rg7 a4 48.Bc1 Bd3 49.Ke3 Ba6 and the black rook will enter the fray decisively.] **43.Rg2+?** [43.Bd2 Re4+ 44.Kf5 Rxd4 45.Kxf6 Rxa4 46.Rg2+ Bg4 47.Kg5 Bf3 48.Rg3 Be2 49.Kf6+ and Black is getting nowhere, other than a draw that is.] **43...Kf7** [And suddenly White has no defence due to the threat to his bishop which costs a tempo.] **44.Bg1 Re4+ 45.Kf5 Rh4 46.Rf2 Rxd4 47.Rg2 Rc4 0-1**

Browne blundered against Thornton in an equal position, allowing Gino to join Garbett and Steadman at the top of the table. Mario Krstev defeated McLaren while Lukey won a tricky queen and knight ending thanks to Shen's exposed

king. **Final scores:** 1-3 P.Garbett, M.Steadman & G.Thornton 4/5; 4-5 R.Hart & M.Krstev 3½; 6-10 J.Browne, A.G.Chen, J.Duneas, S.Lukey & R.Taylor 3; 11-13 N.Gunn, D.Shen & C.Wright 2½; 14-17 B.Gunawan, D.Han, A.Krstev & L.McLaren 2; 18-20 C.Blaxall, P.Hair & T.E.Tanoi 1½; 21 D.Eade 1.

B-grade

Fourth seed Daniel Johns won his first four games to enjoy a full point lead going into the final round where he was untroubled to draw with North Shore junior Dean Zhao. Top seed Iliya Semerdzhiev came up from Mt Maunganui to share second place with Zhao and Bill Wu. Scores: 1 D.Johns 4½; 2-4 I.Semerdzhiev, B.Wu & D.Zhao 3½; 5-7 M.Arora, R.Collingwood & R.Mitchell 3; 8-11 M.Puepuemai, W.Puepuemai, B.Rider & N.Tsoi 2½; 12 F.Dagnino 2; 13-16 H.Gao, J.Ikitogia, P.Mukkattu & Edison Yang 1½; 17 Judy Zhu 1.

C-grade

Of the 39 players in the C-grade, 30 were juniors and ratings were not much of a guide to prospects. Four players – Benny Chen, Thomas Gothorp, Brian Liu and Karl Zhu – scored 3½ points in their first four games. Chen failed to turn up for his final game, giving Zhu a win by default and a shared first prize with Liu who was successful against Gothorp. Leading scores: 1-2 B.Liu & K.Zhu 4½; 3 S.Lyall 4; 4-10 B.Chen, V.Collingwood, T.Gothorp, Xiangwei Li, M.Nathan, A.Pan & R.Rider 3½ . . . 39 players.

Herman's Kiwi Hermits miss Brazil Birthday Bash!

Brazilian IM Herman van Riemsdijk is a well know visitor to this country, where he has a brother in Wanganui and many chess player friends. To mark his 60th birthday Herman organised a special tournament to run alongside the 2nd Euwe Stimulans in Sao Paulo. Several of Herman's Kiwi friends were invited to play but unfortunately personal circumstances meant none could make it.

IM Herman van Riemsdijk reports on the two tournaments.



Australian top Grandmaster Zong-Yuang Zhao was the winner of the 2nd Euwe Stimulans Tournament, a

category 9 closed held in Brazil from August 22 until 31. Together with Brazilian grandmaster Gilberto Milos, he scored 6,5 out of 9 with five wins, three draws and only one loss. 1) GM Zhao (Australia) and GM Milos (Brazil), 6,5; 3) GM John van der Wiel (Holland), 5,5; 4) IM Everaldo Matsuura (Brazil) and FM Felipe El Debs (Brazil), 5 (for the latter it was his final IM result); 6) IM Nahuel Díaz (Argentina), 4,5; 7) GM Osvaldo Zambrana (Bolivia), 4; 8) WGM

Carolina Lujan (Argentina), 3; 9) IM Bernardo Roselli (Uruguay) and FM Akira Watanabe (Japan), 2.

The idea of the organisation was to have one player of each continent. That was accomplished in 2007 in the first edition, held in Arnhem (Netherlands). But this year African champion Robert Gwaze (Zimbabwe) was late in applying for his visa and could not come. He was replaced by Argentinian IM Nahuel Diaz.

Zhao played a very dynamic and entertaining chess and was very popular among the youngsters who daily visited the tournament. He also showed good preparation in the openings. His only sin was against the experienced Dutch GM John van der Wiel who outplayed him nicely after black castled king side, a rather dubious decision in the position.

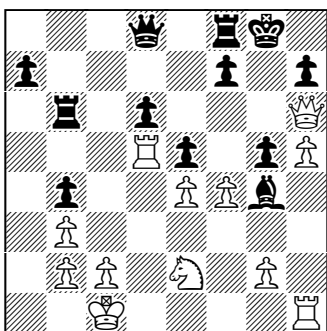
Osvaldo Zambrana - Zong Yuan Zhao

Sao Paulo 2008

[Annotated by Herman van Riemsdijk]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rb8 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bh6 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 e5 14.Nde2 b5 15.h4 b4 16.Nd5 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Nxd5 18.Rxd5 Rb6 19.h5 Because of the bad results, 19. Rhd1 has been tried. 19...g5 Nowadays the chess theory is so far

developed that in this position I still found 18 more games in my database. The result is overwhelming for black: 11 wins for black; 3 draws and only 5 wins for white. The results in 2008, including the present one, are still more astonishing: 5 wins for black and only one draw. Still, the last word is not written. **20.f4** This violent blow is of course a delight for the public! **20...Bg4**



21.Nd4 This attractive and somehow logic move has been played six times: +1; = 3; -2, including the present one. But what about 21. fxe5? This move was played twice, both with wins for white! The first one, in 2005, was a very nice victory of actual African champion Robert Gwaze - yes, the same who couldn't come to our tournament! - over English IM Paul Littlewood. As an organizer and chess kibitzer, I would have loved to see a game Gwaze-Zhao in São Paulo and learn where black could have improved. **21...gxf4 22.g3 ffg3 23.Rg1** 23. Nf5 was tried in the game Shaw-Tan, England 2005, but black had a comfortable win. **23...Qh4 24.Kb1** In

the game K. Haznedaroglu-Filippas, Athens 2007, the Turkish IM managed to escape with a miraculous draw with 24. **Qe3 24...f6 25.Ne6** This is maybe the final mistake. Still 25. **Qe3** offers better chances. **25...Rf7** I don't really see why Zhao couldn't take on e6 directly. Anyhow the remaining moves were just a demonstration of neat technique. **26.Rd3 Qxh5 27.Qd2 Bxe6 28.Rdxg3+ Kf8 29.Rg8+ Ke7 30.Qe1 d5 31.exd5 Bd7 32.Qf2 Kd6 33.Ra8 Qf5 34.Qe2 Bb5 35.Qe1 Qf4 36.Qd1 Rbb7 37.Rag8 a5 38.R8g4 Qf2 39.R4g2 Qa7 40.Rd2 a4 41.Qg4 Bd7 0-1**

Robert Gwaze – Paul Littlewood

Coventry 2005

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rb8 11.Bb3 Na5 12.Bh6 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 b5 14.h4 e5 15.Nde2 b4 16.Nd5 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 Nxd5 18.Rxd5 Rb6 19.h5 g5 20.f4 Bg4 21.fxe5 Bxe2 22.exd6 Rb5 23.Re1 Re8 24.d7 Re5 25.Qc6 Rbx d5 26.exd5 Re7 [After a slightly different move order, in the game Haldane-Snape, England 2007, black tried 26...Bb5 and after 27.Rxe5 Bxc6 28.dxc6 Kf8 29.Kd2 lost the endgame.] **27.Rxe2 Rxd7 28.g4 h6 29.c4 bxc3 30.bxc3 Kg7 31.c4 Rd6 32.Qe8 Qb6 33.Qe3 Qb4 34.Kb2 Rf6 35.Qc3 Qc5 36.b4 Qg1 37.d6 Qxg4 38.Rf2 1-0**

John van der Wiel - Zong Yuan Zhao

Sao Paulo 2008

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.a3 a5

9.Ne2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Be7 11.f5 0-0 This was an overconfident Zhao 12.Nf4 Kh8 13.Be2 a4 14.fxe6 fxe6 15.h4 Na5 16.Qd3 Nb3 17.Ng5 Rf5 18.g4 Nxd4 19.gxf5 Nxe5 20.Qc3 Bf6 21.Be3 Nc2+ 22.Qxc2 Qxe3 23.fxe6 g6 24.Qd2 Qg3+ 25.Kf1 Ng4 26.Bxg4 Qxg4 27.Re1 b6 28.Kf2 Be7 29.Nxg6+ 1-0

At the same time an 87 players Swiss Tournament was played. It was semi-closed and meant to be part of the celebration of my 60th Birthday. Eleven countries were represented and the tournament was easily won by Brazilian top player Giovanni Vescovi (Elo 2631) who dropped only two draws and was a full point ahead of Argentinean IM Leandro Perdomo.

It was a very pleasant tournament and we had a free day on August 26, to celebrate my birthday properly! I was very sorry however that none of the many kiwis I had invited could make the tournament...



Tournament Winner Australian GM Zong-Yuang Zhao with GM Oscar Panno

Clive Wilson

By Stan Yee

Clive Wilson, an active and founding member of our Club (Howick Pakuranga) since 1976 passed away on Friday 21st November 2008 at the South Auckland Hospice after fighting a brave battle with cancer. Clive loved the game of chess and was very sad when he became too sick to play. His name is on a number of chess trophies. He is survived by his wife Patricia Wilson, children Andrew Wilson, Ian Wilson, and Anne Wilkins, and grandchildren. Clive and Patricia married in 1961. In the mid 1970s they and their young children immigrated from England, in answer to New Zealand's need for qualified teachers. Clive was a science teacher with not one, but three degrees, and taught at various schools in Auckland. He is remembered as a teacher that made the subject come alive. He was also a teacher to his children and grandchildren, investing his time in their futures. **He set up a chess club in every school he taught at.** He was an avid collector of rocks, and a regular visitor of Crystal Mountain in Swanson. He was a good swimmer. And he had a great sense of humour. When Anne asked her 4 year old what was the thing he liked about granddad, he said "I liked him when he was alive!" He will be sorely missed by all. **Cont. Page 20**

Klang Valley Kiwis Conquer KL!

2008 Malaysian Chess Festival Kuala Lumpur

With Hilton Bennett as instigator, and Aussie Brian Jones roped in as an honorary Kiwi, a team of Kiwi chess tourists competed in the Malaysian Chess Festival held in August. Playing as the 'Klang Valley Kiwis' in the preliminary rapid teams event that preceded the main tournament, they didn't exactly conquer but did manage 10th place. Paul Spiller reports on proceedings

This year's Chess Festival in Malaysia was once again supported by Dato Tan Chin Nam, the fifth in a series of annual events that began in 2004. This year marked the end of the five year commitment from Dato to support a series of events celebrating chess and honoring his son, Arthur Tan, who died several years ago in Australia.

Four kiwis returned to enjoy the chessboard carnage, the festival atmosphere and to rekindle friendships with players from around the world. Hilton Bennett and Paul Spiller returned for their third event, Helen Milligan for the second time and Bob Gibbons for the first time in this event (but a seasoned Malaysian campaigner having previously competed in Asian Teams and Cities events on at least three occasions).



Prizegiving Time

This was my fourth time competing in Malaysia and I have always found the tournaments well organized and very enjoyable, largely due to the work and enthusiasm of secretary Hamid Majid and his team. If this tournament does indeed continue, I can recommend it as an extremely worthwhile experience for those that are interested in indulging in some chess tourism.

This year Bob, Hilton and Paul teamed up with Australian FM Brian Jones and local chess aficionado and chess reporter Edwin Lam, to form the Klang Valley Kiwis to compete in the two day Astro Merdeka Rapid Open Teams Championship. This was a 9 round, 2 day Teams event held on the two days prior to the main Malaysian Championship

event. The team was so named because of the Klang river running through KL and Kiwis because this year we outnumbered the Australians (see my article from NZ Chess last year). Fifty teams competed in the event held on alternate days at the Cititel Hotel and the Mid-Valley Megamall. complex on the outskirts of KL. The teams ranged from Schools teams up to teams boasting strong IM's and GM's. One provision of the competition is that the average FIDE rating of all members cannot exceed 2250. A highly rated GM on board 1 means that his rating has to be balanced by a relatively low rated player on a lower board.

The progress of the KVK team was as follows:

Round 1: 3 – 1 vs “The Classic Nightmare”; Round 2 2.5 – 1.5 vs WE CITY. This put us up against top seeds “Royal Bengal Tigers” in Round 3. Our 1.5 – 2.5 defeat could have been better when I reached a completely winning piece up ending against my 2177 Bangladeshi opponent but agreed a draw with only seconds remaining.

Through rounds 4 to 6 we scored two draws but were trounced 3.5 - .5 by a team from Johor. The last three rounds saw a concerted effort to improve our placing and we registered 3 wins, two of these by 3 – 1 and the last round by 2.5 – 1.5.

Particularly impressive was Brian Jones' 4/4 during his last four matches. This took us to 20/36 but a crucial 5 match points saw us take out the 10th place prize

of 300 Malaysian Ringgits!, which was spent on a very enjoyable dinner! A good all round effort from all the team members.

Overall winners were the strong Philippines team lead by IM Ronald Bancod.

And in the Main Event

The main championship event attracted around 110 players with an additional 70 in the Challengers event. This year the prize fund was increased to a record \$24,000 US dollars which attracted a strong field of GM's and IM's with top seed being GM Zhang Zhong (Singapore) rated at 2632 followed by last year's winner GM Li Chao (2590) of China.

In the first round Bob and Hilton went down fighting to strong IM's Irwanto Sadikin (2453) and Richard Bitoon (2439) respectively while Helen also had a tough, and ultimately unsuccessful fight defending the Black side of a Ruy Lopez against Yu Lie (2377). In my game I deployed the Bird's Opening against young Chinese WIM Zhang Xiaowen (2382) in the hope that she would be in unfamiliar territory. In an approximately level but double-edged position my opponent unwisely captured an unprotected piece which allowed my Queen and Rook to enter decisively into the attack, so a good start from my perspective.

The next few rounds saw mixed results for the Kiwi players. Bob achieved a

draw against Legaspi Rhobel (2315) while I achieved winning positions against FM's Lim Yee Weng (Malaysia) and Sebastian Simanjuntak (Indonesia) but blundered in both under time pressure. Particularly horrible was my putting a Queen en prise to Simanjuntak when two pawns and exchange ahead! Helen and Hilton were similarly finding things tough going but Helen had wins in rounds 3 and 5, and Hilton defeated Australian WIM Narelle Szuveges in Round 4.

In round six both Hilton and Bob won, Helen lost to a 2200 player while I started on a sequence of 6 consecutive draws determined not to give away points through silly blunders.

The second half of the tournament did not have many highlights for the Kiwi contingent. Paul continued draws against Fairin Zakaria (some may remember Fairin for his participation in two NZ Championship events in the late 90's), FM Brian Jones, Ilija Ilic, Ismail Ahmad and Kamal Abdullah, all players in the 2050 – 2200 range. Hilton, Bob and Helen could not seem to get the right momentum going, Hilton in particular becoming the victim of the clock in his 10th round game against local player and coach S. Balendran.

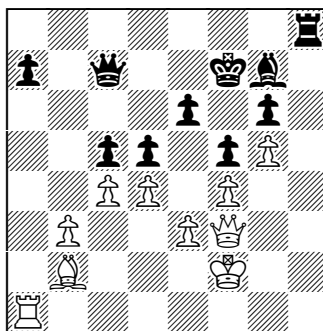
At the end of the event Chinese GM Li Chao, the defending champion, emerged as the outright winner, once again winning his critical individual encounter against top seed and former Chinese number one, GM Zhang Zhong.

In retrospect, the tournament was a very exciting and fun experience. A chance to meet up with old friends and acquaintances and a chance to enjoy the hospitality, charm, cuisine, sightseeing and shopping that characterizes this amazing country. Long may the Dato' Arthur Tan Malaysia Open Chess Championship continue.

Some interesting games:

Paul Spiller (1982) - WIM Xiaowen Zhang Round 1

1.f4 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.Bb2 Bg7
 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Be2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Ne5 h5
 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bf3 0-0 11.d3 Qb6
 12.Nc3 c4 13.d4 Ng4 14.Bxg4 hxg4
 15.h3 gxh3 16.g4 Bd7 17.Na4 Qd8
 18.Nc5 Qc8 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.Qf3 f5
 21.g5 cxb3 22.axb3 Kf7 23.Rf2 Rh8
 24.Rh2 Qe6 25.Ra6 Rh4 26.Kf2 Qc8
 27.Ra1 Qc7 28.Rah1 Qa5 29.Ra1 Qc7
 30.Rxh3 Rxh3 31.Qxh3 c5 32.Qf3 e6
 33.c4 Rh8

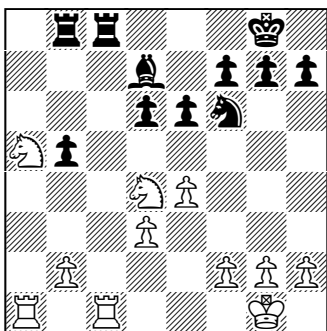


34.cxd5! Rh2+ 35.Kg3 Rxb2 36.dxe6+
 Ke7 37.Qa8 Rxb3 38.Rxa7 Rxe3+
 39.Kf2 1-0

WFM Helen Milligan - Hubert David

Au Round 3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6
5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.Qe2 d6 8.Be3
Bxe3 9.Qxe3 Nf6 10.N1d2 Nc6 11.0-0
b5 12.a4 Rb8 13.axb5 axb5 14.Nf3 0-0
15.Nfd4 Nb4 16.Qd2 Nxd3 17.cxd3
Qb6 18.Rfc1 Bd7 19.Qa5 Qxa5
20.Nxa5 Rfc8



21.Ndc6! Rxc6 22.Nxc6 Rb6 23.Ra8+
Ne8 24.Nb8 1-0

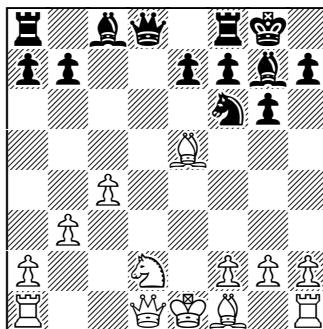
Hilton Bennett (2043) - WIM Narelle
Szuveges (1841) Round 4

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 g6
5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.d3 Bg7 8.Qe1 a6
9.a4 Na5 10.Ba2 Nac6 11.Kh1 h5
12.Qh4 Rb8 13.f5 gxf5 14.Bg5 Qd7
15.Rae1 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Ng6 17.Qg3
Nce7 18.exf5 Nxf5 19.Qh3 Nge7 20.g4
Ng7 21.Bf6 Ng6 22.Bxg7 hxg4 23.Qxg4
Rxh2+ 24.Kxh2 Qc7 25.Ng5 d5+
26.Qg3 Qxg3+ 27.Kxg3 Bd7 28.Bxd5
Bxa4 29.Nxe6 Bxc2 30.Nxc5+ Kd8
31.Rxf7 Nf8 32.Bf6+ 1-0

F.Sayani M Hendrik,- Robert
Gibbons Round 6

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Bg7 4.c4 d6

5.d4 0-0 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.e4 c5 8.e5
dxe5 9.Nxe5 cxd4 10.Bxd4 Nxe5
11.Bxe5



11...Qa5! 12.f4 Rd8 13.a3 Ne4 14.b4
Qb6 15.c5 Qc6 16.Ra2 Bxe5 17.fxg3
Nc3 18.Qc2 Nxa2 19.Qxa2 Be6 20.Qb2
Qd5 21.h4 Rd7 22.Rh2 Rad8 23.g3
Qd4 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.Rf2 a5 26.b5
R4d5 27.c6 Rxe5+ 28.Re2 Rxe2+
29.Bxe2 bxc6 30.bxc6 Bd5 31.Nc4 Bxc6
32.Nxa5 Bd5 33.Bc4 Ra8 0-1

Official tournament website:
<http://datmo.net>

Klang Valley Kiwis in action. From left
to right, Brian Jones, Bob Gibbons and
Edward Lam



Just for Fun

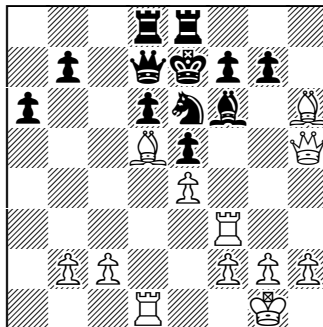
Sometimes the cage is built of steel.....

Shamkovich-Valvo 1987

By Bob Mitchell

Lev Aptekar has published the first two Volumes of 'The Art of Chess' a celebration of beauty in chess and instructive documents in their own right. As often happens in publishing, space constraints limit the final copy. The following material didn't make into the book but deserves to see the light of day. Copies of the 2 Volume set are available from NZ Chess Supplies.

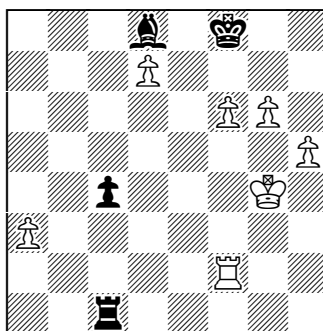
At times players create positions that defy placement in any category known to chess theory. One can only admire the originality and artistry that sparks such imaginative creations. In 1875, Carl Freidrich von Jaenisch created the Iron Cage of Tamerlane, a famous puzzle that has tested and charmed many generations of chess enthusiasts. The diagrams that follow show that his idea of imprisoning the King has taken root in the hearts and minds of many players.



1.Bxg7 1-0

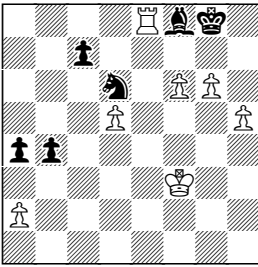
and sometimes of silk.

Al-Modiahki-Ivanov 1997



1.h6

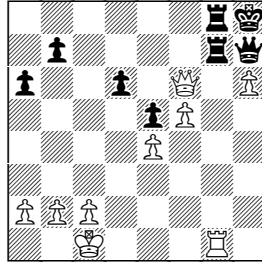
Drasco-Ivanisevic 1998



1.h6

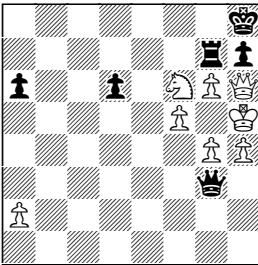
Sometimes the cage protects...

Shirov-Ljubojevic 1999



1.Rg6

Dvoirys-Ikonnikov 1991

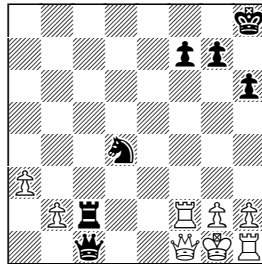


1.Nxh7

but mostly it imprisons.....

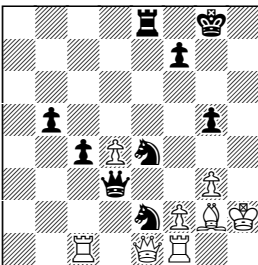
Khazimdzhanov-Kasparov 2001

Vaisser-Ubilava 1982

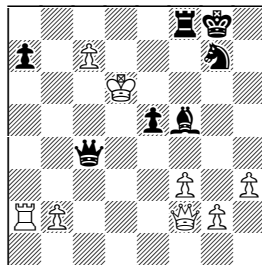


1...Qe3

Miles-Korchnoi 1986

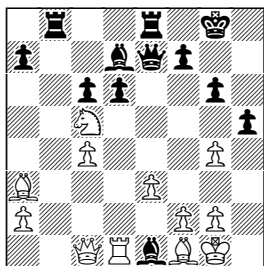


1...Nd2



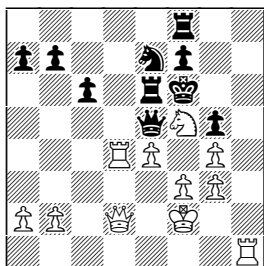
1...Rf6+

Lein-Mikhalevski 2005



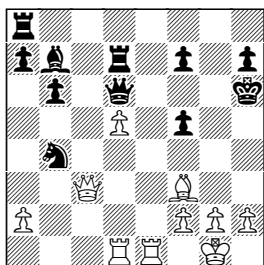
1...Rb1

Bacrot-Peng,Zaoqin 1997



1.f4

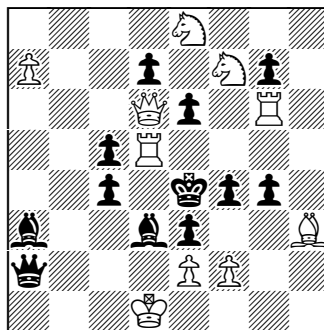
Kosten-Berg 1988



1.Re6+

and finally, the Iron Cage itself.....

Iron Cage of Tamerlane



This problem is named after the legendary iron cage constructed and used by the Mongol Warlord Tamerlane, to imprison the Turkish Sultan Beyazid I who he defeated in the Battle of Istanbul in 1402. The story goes that Beyazid, a man of great pride, was held captive in the cage and paraded before his people for a year before he died.

Judge for yourself whether the name of the puzzle is well chosen. White to effect smothered mate in ten moves.

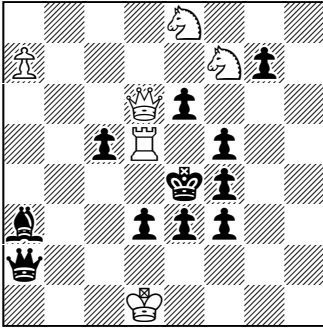
Solution on following page....

Bob Wade 1921 –2008

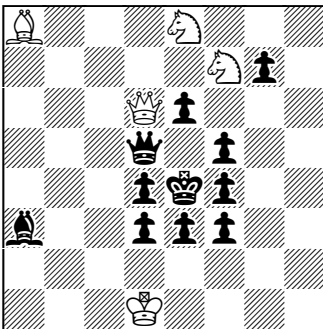
One of New Zealand's greatest chess players passed away on November 29. A full review of his life will appear in 2009. Anyone wanting to contribute memories please contact the editor.

Solution:

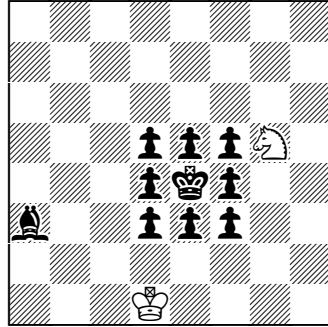
1.f3+ gxf3 2.exd3+ cxd3 3.Bf5+ exf5
4.Re6+ dxe6



5.Rd4+ cxd4 6.a8=B+ Qd5



7.Bxd5+ exd5 8.Nf6+ gxf6 9.Qe5+ fxe5
10.Ng5#



Clive Wilson

Continued from page 12

Tribute to Clive Wilson from Fuatai Fuatai

I briefly first "met" Mr Wilson during my secondary interschool chess competition playing days when he was the chess mentor/teacher for one of the opposing teams.

Almost a decade later our paths were to cross again when I finally decided to join the Papatoetoe Chess Club thereby being introduced to 'real' chess. My opponent for the first round of the Winter Cup that evening was none other than Clive!

I believe the way you play chess to be a true reflection of your personality and as in his life, Clive's chess style was active - never passive, always direct and aggressive but never overly so, always a fighter and fearless. I could never recall him ever making a thoughtless move - disciplined to a fault and a tireless hard worker at the board also. **Cont Page 28**

Ratings Report 2008 Period 2

By Rowan Wood

The first period of 2008 has been skipped due to the changes in the NZ Chess magazine. In this edition of Rating News comparisons are made between period 2 of 2008 and period 3 of 2007.

As expected, New Zealand champion GM Murray Chandler remains top of the standard rating list. There is no change either in the remainder of the top five with IM Ben Martin ahead of IM Russell Dive, Roger Nokes and IM Anthony Ker. After tumbling six places in period 3 of 2007, Mike Steadman has regained five as the biggest mover. There are two new entries with promising junior Daniel Baider and Ralph Hart coming in at eighteen and nineteen respectively. Baider's arrival doubles the number of juniors in the top twenty. IM Puchen Wang is the other, currently in sixth place.

On the rapid rating list, the first three places are also unchanged. IM Puchen Wang occupies the top spot ahead of the Wellington club mates IM Russell Dive and IM Anthony Ker. Nic Croad moves up three places to fourth with joint New Zealand rapid champion Bob Smith unchanged in fifth. Co-champion Mike Steadman is the biggest mover, up nine

places to ninth. There are three new entries, Fuatai Fuatai, Matthew Barlow and Michael Freeman who occupy the last three positions.

IM Puchen Wang and Daniel Baider remain unchanged at the top of both the junior standard and rapid rating lists. Otherwise there are a good number of positional changes. On the standard list, Bobby Cheng moves up three places to third. On the rapid list, Mario Krstev moves up one place to third. 2007's Most Improved Player Daniel Shen continues his climb up the ranks, this time moving up three places to sixth on the standard list. He is a new entry at seventh on the rapid list.

Helen Milligan remains the top rated player on the women's standard rating list. Sue Maroroa and Eachen Chen swap places in second and third respectively. On the rapid list, Sue Maroroa is still number one. Second and third are occupied by new entries, Helen Milligan and Jennya Charamova. Peter Stuart's new senior status means he comes onto the senior rating lists in second behind Richard Sutton. Prince Vetharanim is pushed down one spot to third.

Top 20 Open Standard

1 (unc)	CHANDLER MG	2542
2 (unc)	MARTIN BMS	OT 2409
3 (unc)	DIVE RJ	WE 2382
4 (unc)	NOKES RI	CA 2348
5 (unc)	KER AF	WE 2342
6 (+ 1)	WANG PC	AC 2336
7 (- 1)	SMITH RW	WT 2335
8 (unc)	LUKEY SG	CA 2323
9 (unc)	GARBETT PA	NS 2322
(+ 2)	WASTNEY S	WE 2322

Top 10 Women Standard

1 (unc)	MILLIGAN H	NS 1832
2 (+ 1)	MAROROA SY	HP 1821
3 (- 1)	CHEN E	AC 1820
4 (+ 1)	GAO J	AC 1754
5 (- 1)	SMITH VJ	WT 1749
6 (unc)	FAIRLEY N	NH 1743
7 (unc)	CHARAMOVA E	NS 1686
8 (unc)	WU Shirley	AC 1560
9 (unc)	WU Sharon	AC 1529
10 (new)	DU PLESSIS M	WE 1525

Top 20 Junior Standard

1 (unc)	WANG PC	AC 2336
2 (unc)	BAIDER D	WE 2195
3 (+ 3)	CHENG B	HA 1987
4 (unc)	WATSON J	CA 1986
5 (+ 3)	WU MH	AC 1950
6 (+ 3)	SHEN D	AC 1947
7 (- 2)	KRSTEV M	NS 1928
8 (+ 4)	PETRESKI F	NS 1908
9 (- 2)	CHEN AY	HP 1871
10 (+ 4)	MAROROA SY	HP 1821

Top 20 Open Rapid

1 (unc)	WANG PC	AC 2405
2 (unc)	KER AF	WE 2339
3 (unc)	DIVE RJ	WE 2298
4 (+ 3)	CROAD N	WE 2262
5 (unc)	SMITH RW	WT 2245
6 (+ 2)	LUKEY SG	CA 2241
7 (- 3)	GARBETT PA	NS 2230
8 (+ 1)	GREEN PR	AC 2227
9 (+ 9)	STEADMAN MVR	AC 2225
10 (unc)	WASTNEY S	WE 2219

Top 10 Women Rapid

1 (unc)	MAROROA SY	HP 1809
2 (new)	MILLIGAN H	NS 1776
3 (new)	CHARAMOVA E	NS 1761
4 (- 1)	CHEN E	AC 1743
5 (- 1)	WU Shirley	AC 1604
6 (- 1)	WU Sharon	AC 1603
7 (- 5)	SMITH VJ	WT 1582
8 (+ 1)	GAO J	AC 1550
9 (+ 1)	DU PLESSIS M	WE 1497
10 (- 4)	KINGSTON ZH	KP 1496

Top 20 Junior Rapid

1 (unc)	WANG PC	AC 2405
2 (unc)	BAIDER D	WE 2148
3 (+ 1)	KRSTEV M	NS 2011
4 (+ 1)	PETRESKI F	NS 1933
5 (+ 2)	WU MH	AC 1926
6 (unc)	XU D	AC 1888
7 (new)	SHEN D	AC 1834
8 (+ 2)	MAROROA SY	HP 1809
9 (- 1)	WATSON J	CA 1777
10 (- 1)	CHENG B	HA 1776

These open standard-rated tournaments have been processed in 2008-1: NZ Championship and NZ Major Open. Club tournaments are: North Shore Championships (A, B, C), Waitakere Championships (A, B), Howick-Pakuranga Booth Shield, Wellington Championships (A, B, C) and Julian Mazur Memorial and Canterbury Championships (A, B, C).

These open standard-rated tournaments have been processed in 2008-2: NZ Women, NZ Senior, Waitakere Trust Open (A, B, C, Junior), Wellington Easter Open and Otago Queen's Birthday. Club tournaments are: Auckland Summer (A,B,C), Howick-Pakuranga Parkinson Cup, Waitakere Summer (A, B) and Arnold Cup, Wellington Summer and Autumn (A-D), Canterbury Colthart Cup, Otago Swiss and Cleland Trophy.

These open rapid-rated tournaments have been processed in 2008-1: NZ Championship, MIT Open (A, B, C, Junior) and Bay of Plenty 25+5 (A, B). Club tournaments are: North Shore Championship (leg 4), Wanganui Championship and Otago Summer.

These open rapid-rated tournaments have been processed in 2008-2: NZ Women's Reserve, Puchen rapids from March, May and June (A, B), Latvian (A, B), St. Pauls Collegiate Open (A, B), Westfield Plaza and Gordon Hoskyn Memorial. Club tournaments are: North Shore Championship (legs 1, 2), Howick-Pakuranga Allegro, Waitakere Half-hour, Otago Swiss and Championship (A1, B1, C1).

Annotated Games

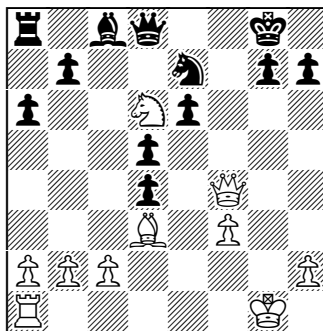
Stephen Solomon – Stephen Lukey

George Trundle IM 2008

[Annotated by Stephen Solomon]

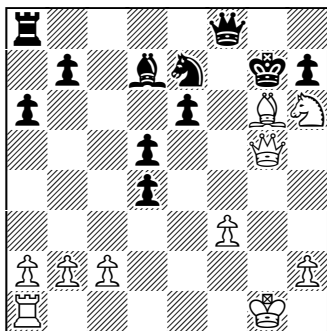
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.Bd2 Stephen nearly always plays the French and a few years ago in an Australian Masters I prepared an a3, Nf3

line against him which went well. I thought he may have prepared that deeply this time and I have been studying the Bd2 line recently so thought I would try it. **5...Ne7** I thought he would play the ...Nh6 line because everyone is recommending it but of course I had something cooked up for that! **6.Nb5 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0 8.f4** I spent 10 minutes trying to remember my theory here and was glad when he played what I recalled after that! **8...a6 9.Nd6 cxd4 10.Nf3 Nbc6 11.Bd3** White sacs a Pawn and goes for a K-side attack **11...f6 12.0-0 fxe5 13.fxe5 Rxf3!?** Theoreticians would say all this is well known theory, well, if you have read a book or an article or two! This used to be considered a refutation of this line, now it is a forced draw ... we shall see! **14.Rxf3 Nxe5 15.Qf4! Nxf3+ 16.gxf3**



16...Bd7?? Played after a 40 minute think. Stephen said after the game that as soon as he played the move he remembered the right line was (16. ... Nc6 17. Qf7+ Kh8 18. Qh5 g6 19. Bxg6 Qg8 20. Nf7+ Kg7 21. Qh6+ Kf6 22.

Qg5+ Kg7) and White has nothing better than perpetual check! This is true, but White has some other tries including 18. Kh1!? 17.Qf7+ Kh8 18.Qh5 g6 19.Bxg6 Qg8 20.Nf7+ Kg7 21.Qh6+ Kf6 22.Qg5+ Kg7 23.Nh6? I saw that after 23. Qxe7 Qe8 wins the piece back but I didn't look far enough. Then after 24. Qg5 hxg6 25. Ne5 Black is under a bind and can't stop Kh1 and Rg1 winning. That is probably the only way to win this very attractive position amazingly! If instead here 24. Qxe8 Bxe8 25. Ng5 Kxg6 26. Nxe6 d3! 27. cxd3 is just a small advantage for White. I thought after the text move I could at least repeat the position anyway after 23... Qd8 24. Nf7, but then he has the option of going to f8: Qf8 25. Qh6+ Kf6 26. Qh4+! Kxg6 27. Ne5+ Kg7 28. Nxd7 Qf7 29. Qxd4+ is again a small edge. If here 27 ... Kf5? 28. Qh5+ wins. 23...Qf8!



The best move, but as he was playing it Stephen uttered in his very surprised voice "Oh! It's not check!!" This was pretty funny, but I didn't know exactly what he was thinking and thought it

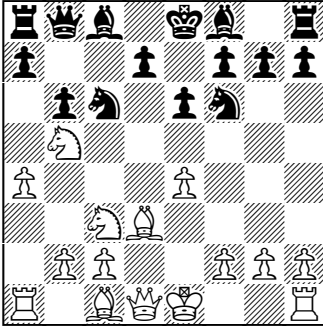
might be one of my possibilities in reply. After the game he said he thought his Queen was his King, and that only when he picked it up did he realize it was his Queen!! He was surprised by my Nh6 and thought it had been check! (Tech Ed: Stephen's mental lapses at the George Trundle give hope to us lesser mortals; Against Steadman he made the classic mistake of playing the second move of a two move sequence first, gifting the surprised Steadman a free queen). 24.Be8+ Ng6 25.Bxd7 Qd8 Winning the piece back, and a nice echo variation of the earlier 23...Qe8 move winning the piece back in the other variation! 26.h4 Qxd7 27.Re1 Qd8? White has lost all his advantage after (27. ... Rf8! 28. h5 Qe7 29. Qxe7+ Nxe7 30. Rxe6 Rxf3 31. Rxe7+ Kxh6 32. Rxb7 d3!) - Johansen 28.Rxe6 Qxg5+ 29.hxg5 Rc8? The final mistake. Again 29 ... Rf8 was best and the position might be tenable. 30.Nf5+ Kf8 31.Rf6+ Ke8 32.Nd6+ Kd7 33.Nxc8 Kxc8 34.f4 1-0

Mike Steadman – Bruce Watson

George Trundle IM 2008

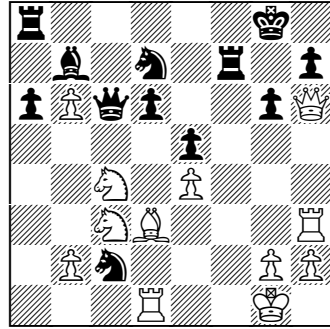
[Annotated by Mike Steadman]

Bruce is an easy opponent to prepare for, you can count on the same Sicilian line. Anyway, I had found a line a while ago, and had waited some time for another white against Bruce. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Ndb5 Solo had played this against Bruce earlier in the event, but we had different ideas on how to play this line. 6...Qb8 7.a4 Nf6 8.Bd3 b6!?

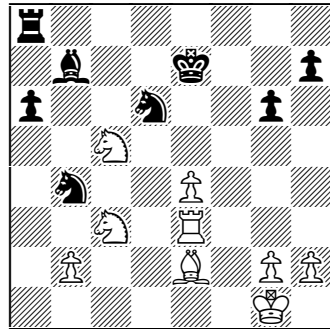


This is not in my database and I think it might have come from his game with Solo. In that game Bruce played a6 and Solo planted a Bishop on b6. Checking this game with the machine, it doesn't like b6 either - Be7 and Bc5 are the normal moves. 9.f4 d6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.Qe2 a6 12.Na3 Be7 13.Be3 Qc7 14.Nc4 Nd7 So the opening is over and I was happy with my position. However I had an idea in my head from my preparation that isn't really appropriate here. I should have got on with f5. **15.Rae1?** [15.f5 0-0 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.Qg4 Nd8 18.Rxf8+ Bxf8 19.Rf1 Ne5 20.Qf4 Ndf7 21.Bxb6 Not forced, but shows you that Black has taken too much time and should have been punished.] Instead Rae1 puts the rook on an unfortunate spot, later ideas of Nxc2 now fork the Bishop and Rook. **15...0-0 16.Rf3 Nb4 17.Rh3 g6?** [17...Nxd3 18.cxd3 d5 19.exd5 exd5 20.Ne5 Rae8 21.Qh5] **18.f5 Rfe8 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.Qg4 Bf6 21.Qf4?** I was starting to lose the thread now, luckily Bruce was off his game, or this one could have got away. **21...e5?** [21...Nxc2 22.Bxc2 Qxc4

23.Qxd6 Rad8 24.Bd3 Qb3 25.Qc7 Qxb2 26.Ne2] **22.Qf2 Rf8 23.Bxb6 Qc6 24.a5 Bd8 25.Qe3 Bxb6 26.axb6 Nxc2 27.Qh6 Rf7 28.Rd1**



28...Nb4? [28...Raf8! Black is now better, how did I let it all go to mush :-)] **29.Be2 Nxb6 30.Rxd6 Qc5+ 31.Qe3 Qxe3+ 32.Rxe3 Nc8 33.Rd8+ Rf8 34.Rxf8+ Kxf8 35.Nxe5 Nd6 36.Nd7+ Ke7 37.Nc5**



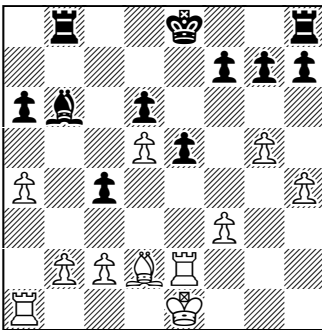
37...a5?? The position was bad, but this is a time trouble error that hastens the end. **38.e5 Nf5 39.Rh3 Bc8 40.Rxh7+ Kf8 41.Bc4 Nc6 42.Nd7+ Ke8 43.Nf6+ Kd8 44.Ncd5** Black resigns, mate in 2 can't be stopped. **1-0**

Michael Steadman – Bob Smith

George Trundle NZ Masters 2008

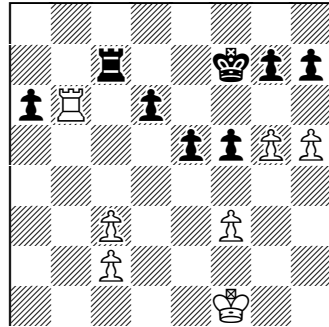
[Annotated by Bob Smith]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 Also possible is 6...e6
7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Nbd7 9.Qd2 9.g4 seems
more accurate, not giving black time to
co-ordinate his knights. 9...b5 10.g4 Nb6
11.g5 Nfd7 12.Nd5 Rc8 13.h4 Nxd5
14.exd5 Bf5 15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qc7
17.Rh2 I was expecting this, but IM Toth
thought simply 17.0-0-0 was better.
White didn't like ...a5, but maybe it's no
big deal. 17...Be7 18.a4 Probably over-
optimistic. Better is 0-0-0. 18...Qc4!
19.Qxc4 bxc4 20.Na5 Heading for the
big square at c6 but the knight can't do
much by itself. 20...Bd8 To activate or
trade off the bad bishop 21.Nc6 Bb6
22.Bd2 Better was 22.Bxb6 Nxb6
23.Rd2 Nxd5 24.Nxe5! unclear 22...Nb8
23.Nxb8 Rxb8 24.Re2



(=) 24...f5 Black rightly rejects the draw
offer, as white's pawns will come under
pressure 25.Bc3 Kf7 26.a5 Ba7 27.Ra4
Rhc8 28.Bb4 Bc5 29.Bc3 Rb5 30.Kf1
Not Rxc4?? Bf2+ 30...Ba7 31.Rb4 Rxb4

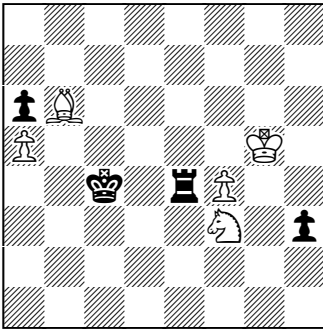
Simple chess; white's weaknesses are not
going away. 32.Bxb4 Bc5 33.Bc3 Rb8
34.Re1 Bb4 35.Ra1 Bxc3 36.bxc3 Rb5
37.Ra4 Rxd5 38.Rxc4 Rxa5 39.h5
Trying for counterplay against the black
king 39...Rc5 40.Rb4 Rc7 41.Rb6



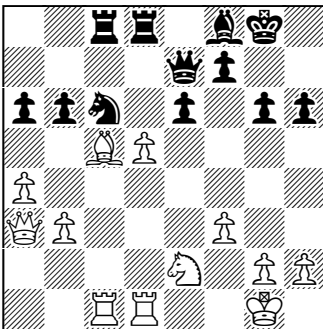
41...Ke6 Black gives up the a-pawn to
reach an easily winning ending 42.Rxa6
f4 43.Ke1 Rxc3 44.Ra7 Rxf3 45.Rxg7
Rg3 46.c4 Kf5 47.Rxh7 Kxg5 48.Rd7
Rd3 49.c5 Re3+ 50.Kf2 dxc5 51.Rc7
Kxh5 52.Rxc5 Kg4 53.Rc8 Ra3 White
resigns 0-1

Bill's Puzzles Page

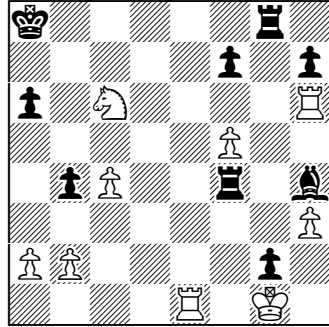
More puzzles from European tournament chess in 2008. In each case the player to move (*indicated in italics*) has a convincing winning continuation. Solutions on page 32.



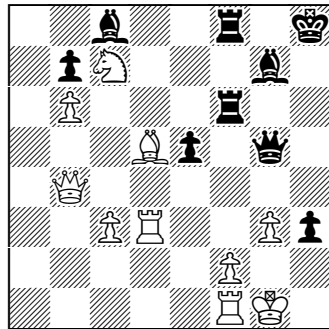
Gashimov – Onischuk (*W*)



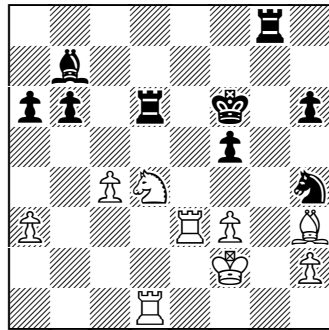
Amin – Grigoryan (*B*)



Hector – Berg (*W*)



Rabeyrin – Maisuradze (*B*)



Dimitrijevic – Asik (*B*)

Clive Wilson Tribute

Continued from page 20

A funny incident with Clive many many years ago occurred when he was giving me (one of many) rides into the city for the Auckland Interclub match, that in those days was held on Friday evenings. Our conversation naturally turns towards chess matters. This one particular evening Clive enquires about a game I played the previous Wednesday night and asks how it went? I then start reciting the moves eg 1.d4 Nf6, 2.c4 e6 etc. I arrive to about the twentieth move whilst Clive is nodding all the way through with intermittent murmur sounds of approval. It dawns on me that I wasn't aware Clive could play 'blindfold' chess and so impressed I turn and look at him. There he is driving 100kms per hour along infamous Auckland Southern Motorway on a Friday night with BOTH eyes closed trying to visualise the position!! Needless to say I immediately changed the subject...

I will miss Clive greatly, rest in peace.



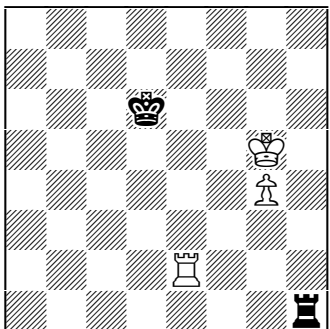
The Secret to Improvement

Those who pay close attention to NZCF ratings will have noticed a new entrant in the 2000 plus club in the latest list. Justin Davis has been moving up steadily from the lower reaches of the table in recent years. This defies conventional wisdom which insists that huge improvement is not a realistic possibility for an adult. In this article Justin lets us into his secret improvement lab...

Having seen players play chess for decades with no improvement, I thought I'd reveal a little secret to help keen players out there improve their chess. Writing down our games and reviewing them with a stronger player or computer program (like Fritz or Rybka) is the most important secret in improving our play, and this method is used by all serious players. Even a draw or a loss can make us a stronger player if we review our game carefully and learn something from it. Whereas certain books may or may not be helpful in improving our chess (and there thousands and thousands of books on chess, in fact there are more books written on chess than all other sports and indoor games combined!), our games give us the most practical and important lessons, on our weaknesses and where to

improve our play.

Today we look at the game **Stewart Holdaway vs Mathew King**, from the Palmerston North Club championship , 13th November 2008.



Here we reach the position with white about to make his **51st move**. Let's look closely at the position and find out what is really happening here. Rook endgames happen in about 8% to 10% of all games, so it's important to have some basic knowledge of them, and this will gain us many points in future games.

To evaluate the position we first look at the **Material**

White has a King, Rook and a pawn

Black has a King and Rook

So we now know white has a clear advantage being a pawn up.

The next question is; Is white's advantage winning ? To work this out we can see that in order for white to win, as with most endgames, he must queen his pawn.

The next step is we have to **evaluate the position of all the pieces and see what their role and function is in the current position**. Our goal is to come up with a plan to queen white's pawn.

White Pieces:-

King – White's King is near his pawn on g5. If white's pawn was left all alone, Black's psychopathic rook would eat it for breakfast. So we now know, White's King is well placed and doing an important job.

Rook – White's rook on e2, is keeping black's King well away for the important white pawn. If Black were to close his eyes the white pawn would happily run to his queening square on g8. So Black must use his remaining pieces to prevent this. With the white rook keeping black's king out of play, black has lost the chance to use his king to help the defence, and only has at this time his rook to stop the advance of the white pawn. This is an important point, so we now know white's rook is very well placed and doing an important job.

Pawn - White's pawn on g4 is 4 squares away from becoming a queen. The white pawn also has his king keeping it protected. The Black King is kept out of action by the white rook. So the only danger to the white pawn is from the black rook.

Black's Pieces :-

King - Black's king is kept out of action

and away from the white pawn by the white rook on e2. Even if black's king were to chase white's rook, say by black king to d3, then white could simply move the rook while staying on the e-file keeping the black king well away from the important white pawn. The fact black's king is out of play is a very important factor and this gives white a very big advantage.

Rook – Black's rook is the only chance black has to stop white's pawn from becoming a queen. The black rook on h1 is very well placed, and as rooks are long range pieces, black must keep his rook at a distance and attack White's King and pawn.

The Plan

Now we know white's plan is to queen his pawn. We also know all of white's pieces are very well placed, and the black king is very badly placed and cut off from the action. Only black's rook is well placed.

So the first step in the plan, is to see how much progress (how far we can advance the pawn) we can make using only the white king and pawn vs black's rook. Remember white's rook is doing an important job keeping black's king out of action, and we don't want to move this rook until we absolutely have to.

Back to the game:

51 Kg6 excellent move. White must use his king to help the pawn advance.

51...Rg1 the best move. Black must make it hard as possible for white to advance his pawn. **52 g5** White's pawn advances and is protected by the White king. Clearly White is making good progress to his goal of queening his pawn. **52...Kd7** not a good move, but sadly Black has no good moves here. Black Rook is already in its best possible position on g1

Now here in the game White went wrong with 53 Rf2 ? This is a bad move as there is no reason to move this rook until you absolutely have to, i.e. no more progress can be made with just the White King and pawn. White went on to play a series of random moves with no plan and not surprisingly was unable to win this position. A draw was agreed on move 73. Let's see how white should proceed. Remember the **Plan** – queening the pawn! Also remember we don't want to move the White Rook until we have to, as we want the Black King kept away from the action. To see how White should play to win, we'll take over the White pieces and let the strongest computer program Rybka play the black pieces. We use a computer program to play the Black pieces to test that our ideas are correct and that we are not talking rubbish.

53 Kh6 White moves his king to allow the white pawn to advance. **53...Rh1+ 54 Kg7** White's king moves in front of the pawn to get away from the the rook's check, while leaving an extra square on the g6 square for the pawn to advance again. **54...Rh3** if black had played 54...Rg1 then White simply advances the

pawn with 55 g6 as in the game. Black is trying to keep White's king off the h-file **55 g6** Whites plan is going very well and his pawn is now only two squares away from the queening square g8. **55...Rg3 56 Kf7** making room from the white pawn to advance to g7 **56...Rf3+ 57 Kg8** the same idea as we saw before, moving the White king in front of the white pawn and leaving an extra square for the pawn's advance. **57...Rg3 58 g7** again we see white's plan has been so far been very successful and now the white pawn is only one square away from queening **58...Rh3**

Now we have completed the first part of the plan – making as much progress with the White King and pawn vs Black Rook as was possible. Now White can not get his pawn any further with just by using his King as Kh8 runs into Rh3+ and Kf8 runs into Rf3+ forcing the King back to g8. No further progress using just White's king and pawn is possible. Now is the time to use the White Rook !

In fact we have now reached a very famous rook endgame position – the Lucena position. This is the most tricky part of winning this game. Study of this position and these notes will pay high rewards for any players keen to improve.

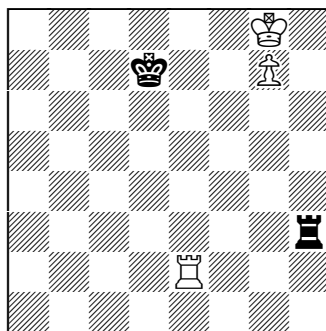
The Lucena Postion

“The Lucena position is one of the most famous and important positions in chess endgame theory, where one side has a rook and a pawn and the defender has a

rook. It is fundamental in the rook and pawn versus rook endgame. If the side with the pawn can reach this type of position, he can forcibly win the game. Most rook and pawn versus rook endgames reach either the Lucena Position or the Philidor Position if played accurately” - (Wikipedia)

“The so-called Lucena position is named after the Spaniard Luis Ramirez de Lucena, although is something of a misnomer, because the position does not in fact appear in his book on chess, *Repetición de Amores e Arte de Axedrez* (1497). It does appear, however, in Alessandro Salvio's *Il Puttino* (1634), a romance on the career of the chess player Leonard da Cutri” - (Wikipedia)

The technique is also referred to as **“building a bridge”** – to allow the White King to step beside his pawn without being chased of by an unwelcome check from the Black Rook.



On with us having the white pieces vs Rybka the world's strongest computer

program having the black pieces.

59 Re4 the first step in building a bridge to protect the White King from the checks of the Black Rook. **59...Kd6** if Black tries **59...Rf3** then White achieves his bridge by **60 Rh4 !** And black can't stop white playing **61 Kh8** and **62 g8=Q .**
60 Kf7 Rf3+ 61 Kg6 Rg3+ 62 Kf6 Rf3+ 63 Kg5 ! This is the key idea ! **63...Rg3+ 64 Rg4 !** Black has now run out of checks and can't stop the white pawn queening. **1-0**

Just a quick summary of some of the things we learned in this article.

- 1) To make serious improvement with must write down our games, and review them with a stronger player or computer program (like Fritz or Rybka).
- 2) Even a draw or a loss can make us a stronger player if we review our game carefully and learn something from it.
- 3) To evaluate the position we first look at the **Material**
- 4) The next step to evaluate the position is to **evaluate the position of all the pieces and see what their role and function is.**
- 5) To find good moves it is helpful to have a clear plan/goal and a way to achieve this plan/goal. eg in this example it was to Queen the pawn on the g8 square.
- 6) Knowing some basic theoretical position such as the Lucena and Philidor endgame positions can

make a big difference in our results.

Editorial note: On his website triplehappy.com our technical editor provides a free training tool called "Reptor" (short for repertoire training by repetition). Although Reptor is primarily a tool to assist memorisation of opening lines, some ending training material comes with the package, including the Lucena position that Justin has discussed here, and the Philidor position. (The other ending covered is mate with bishop and knight versus bare king – just in case you lay awake worrying about the day you'll need to pull that off to win your club championship). Watch triplehappy.com for more free chess training tools coming soon.

Bill's Puzzles Solutions

From page 27

Gashimov – Onischuk) 1.Nd2+! No credit for playing this obvious move unless you have calculated the precise follow up! **1...Kd3 2.Nxe4 Kxe4 3.Bg1** Obviously forced **3...Kf3 4.f5 Kg2 5.Kg4!** (or **Kh4!**) This elegant move spoils Black's hopes of fighting on in a queen and pawn ending. Now White queens and Black doesn't.

Amin – Grigoryan) 1...Qxc5+! 2.Rxc5 Bxc5+ 3.Qxc5 bxc5 The pin on the d file means Black keeps a whole rook.

Hector – Berg) 1.Rxh4! Black has been enjoying a winning position due to his

threats of ...Bxe1 and ...Bf2+. Unfortunately he needed to escape an attempted perpetual check first, and he has chosen an unfortunate square for his king (c7 was the right refuge) **1...Rxb4 2.Re7** With mate next move.

Rabeyrin – Maisuradze) 1...Rxf2! This breaches white's defences decisively. White cannot play 2.Rxf2 as 2...Qc1+ leads to mate. So he must move the Rf1 for example **2.Re1 Bg4!** The most convincing follow-up, denying White Qh4+. White's threats of h2+ and Rf1+ are also strengthened decisively since Kxh2 will now fatally allow ...Qh5+.

Dimitrijevic – Asik) 1...Nxf3! In the game black played 1...Rgd8 instead. This gave white the chance to escape the pin and stay in the game with 2.Rb1! threatening a counter fork 3.Rxb6. White missed this chance and soon resigned. 1...Nxf3! is a clean kill, winning material as follows **2.Rxf3 Bxf3 3.Kxf3 Ke5**

Club and Local News

This issue's local news is focused on a roundup of club championship results from around the country.

Auckland Chess Centre

By Ewen Green

A-Grade (FIDE -rated): **Bruce Watson** (7.5/9), **Mike Steadman**(7) and **Daniel**

Shen(6.5) finished in that order, all achieving 2300-plus ELO performances. After clearing out from the field, the final round game Shen - Watson saw Bruce Watson squirm home to the safety of an opposite-coloured bishops draw despite being two pawns down, avoiding a three-way tie.

B-Grade: Joint winners were **Judy Gao and Richard Stuart** (6/9), closely followed by Richard Taylor and Dmitri Litvinov (5.5).

C-Grade: Senior (and strongman) **Mike Steiner** (8/9) pipped Paul Martin (7.5), despite losing in their individual game. Third equal were young Karl Zhu and senior Pat Young on 5.5.

Open Grade: 34 players, but a clear winner on 7/9 in young **Jiapeng Li** (NZ Womens Reserve co-champ for the past two years). Followed by a gaggle of other juniors on 6/9: Leon Zhang, Wiliam Li, Arena Walker, Gavin Holm, and Harrison Zhang.

Howick Pakuranga

By Stan Yee

The Howick-Pakuranga Club Championship has been held since 1976, when the Club was started by Richard Sutton, who is still actively playing at the Otago Chess Club in Dunedin.

2008 Club Championship Results

1st **Benji Lim** 6/7, 2nd Craig Blaxhall

5.5/7 3rd Edwin Yip 5/7

Ben Lim is the mystery man of our Club, with the second highest rating after NM Leonard McLaren. Ben's current rating is 1968. He works in the Information Technology industry, and his biggest fan is his young son who is a regular junior at the Club. But Ben is not able to play regularly, so only plays in a few tournaments a year, which he often wins! In 2007 Ben and Craig Blaxall took the Cup from Stan Yee, the 2006 champion. He managed to hold off challenges from Craig Blaxall and Stan Yee, drawing against both, to record an undefeated score of 6/7 to retain the Cup by himself for 2008.

Otago Chess Club

By Quentin Johnson

John Sutherland successfully defended his title in the recently completed 2008 Otago Chess Club championship. The event was played as two consecutive 5-round tournaments with most participants facing each other twice. Sutherland was top seed in the A-grade ahead of Quentin Johnson, with a significant rating gap to the next highest ranked player. The top two duly won all their games against the rest of the field and exchanged close-fought wins against each other to finish equal first on 9/10 and share the title of 2008 Otago Club Champion. Third was Hamish Gold on 4 points followed by Brent Southgate (3), Terry Duffield (2½), Chris Lydiate (2) and John Armstrong (1½).

John Armstrong won the Intermediate Championship with a combined total of 7/10 ahead of Patrick Dawson and David Reid on 5 points. Dawson actually beat both his main rivals but missed too many games due to illness to take first.

J Sutherland – Q Johnson

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 Bb4+ 4. Nbd2 c5 5. e3 cxd4 6. exd4 b6 7. a3 Be7 8. Bd3 Bb7 9. O-O O-O 10. Qe2 d5 11. Rd1 Nbd7 12. Ne5 dxc4!?

Although White has passed on two opportunities to support the c4 pawn with b3, this move makes sure the d-pawn becomes isolated and secures the d5 square for a Black knight. In return White's pieces get extra space on the kingside.

13. Ndx c4 Nd5 14. Nxd7 Qxd7 15. Ne5 Qd6 16. Qe4 g6!?

More aggressive than 16 ... f5 which is safer but creates a pawn weakness on e6 to offset the White d-pawn in the event of an endgame. White now develops a dangerous-looking attack.

17. Bh6 Rfd8 18. Qf3 Bf6!

Precise defence was called for – 18...f6? loses to 19 Bxg6!! hxg6 20 Qg4! and all roads lead to mate (e.g. 20 ... g5 21 Qh5 etc) except 20 ... Nf4 21 Nxg6 Ne2+ 22 Qxe2 with a winning position.

19. Ng4! Bg7

Instead 19 ... Bxd4?! 20 Bxg6 hxg6 21 Rxd4 leaves too many holes in the Black kingside.

20. Qh3?

White finally errs trying for too much in a complicated position – 20 Bxg7 Kxg7 21 Be4 held the balance with pawn weaknesses on each side.

20. --- Nf4 21. Qg3 Nxd3

Seeking a safe small advantage by forcing an endgame rather than grab a pawn with

the daring 21 ... Bxh6!? 22 Nxh6+ Kg7 23 Ng4 Nxg2 (but not 23 ... Bxg2? when White has 24 Qh4! winning material after either 24 ... Qxd4 25 Bf1! Qxb2 26 Bxg2 or 24 ... Kg8 25 Qf6! Rd7 26 Ne5!)

22. Qxd6 Rxd6 23. Bxg7 Kxg7 24. Rxd3 Rad8 25. Rad1 Ba6 26. R3d2 Bc4

Winning the d-pawn by force.

27. f3 Bb3 28. Re1?!

Better defensive chances were held by 28 Rc1 trying to activate the rook after 28 ... Rxd4 29 Rxd4 Rxd4 30 Rc7. White was now in time-trouble.

24. --- Rxd4 29. Rxd4 Rxd4 30. Re2 f6 31. Kf2 e5 32. Ke3 h5 33. Nf2 f5! 34. g3 g5 35. Re1? ---

White had been trying to avoid the exchange of rooks but 35 Rd2 Rxd2 36 Kxd2 Kf6 was forced with a winning minor piece endgame for Black.

35. --- f4+

After 36 gxf4 gxf4+ 37 Ke2 Bc4+ wins a piece, so White resigns.

0-1

North Shore Chess Club

By Peter Stuart

Club Championships 2008

**A Grade P Garbett B Grade D Evans,
C Grade W Yao**

This wasn't a vintage performance by Garbett who could easily have lost two of his drawn games. But he still won by a whole point! Gunn and Mario Krstev both lost in the last round while Garbett drew vs McCrone. Two recent champions tied for last place so I guess it was a fairly even field. In the C-grade

Winston Yao turned 8 during the tournament and Jia is 9; Rudkins and Winsor are, of course, veterans.

Wellington Chess Club

By Alan Aldridge

IM Russell Dive has been in good form recently in local club and open tournaments and he blitzed the field in the 2008 Wellington A grade club championship, scoring a picket fence 9 from 9. Russell finished 2 ½ points clear of Nic Croad and 3 points ahead of Anthony Ker. Last year's surprise champion Brian Nijman finished on 5, followed by rising junior Daniel Baider and Mark van der Hoorn on 4, Ross Jackson 3½, Gavin Marner 2½ Ian Sellen 2 and Michael Nyberg 1 ½

The B Grade was won by **Martin Hill** with 8½ from 9. Martin drew with second place getter Bill Forster who finished on 7, a half point ahead of last year's champion Alan Aldridge.

The C grade was a three way tie for first. Newcomer **Blaise Drinkwater** achieved a club championship title in his first year of play. Alongside Blaise in first place were **Paul Bowden** and **Edmund Salem**.

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