

New Zealand Chess

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

July 2008

Volume 35 Number 2

Sue Mararoa Creates History as First Female National Junior Champion



***Introducing: NZ Chess Mag
Website***

New Feature – Your Anecdotes

New Column – Junior Chess

In this Issue

Waitakere Open Report

***North Island
Championship Report***

***National Junior
Championship Report***

***Gordon Hoskyn Memorial
Report***

Otago Open Report

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Three New Features

NZ Chess Magazine Website

This issue we are pleased to introduce the NZ Chess Magazine website. The site has been created by our Technical Editor, Bill Forster. You can play through games published in the magazine, and play through games that due to space restrictions have not been published.

The site will also have games from previous issues of the magazine, starting from the April 2008 issue.

Go to www.nzchessmag.com

Junior Chess Column

Two new columns start this issue. The Junior Chess column will look at our junior players who are the future of chess and at the coaches and junior chess organisers. If you are involved in junior chess and would like to provide material for this column please contact the Editor.

Your Anecdotes

Our second new column aims to add some humour with your chess stories. This column will rely on our dear readers to think back and recall humorous episodes, being able to write what happened and having a cavalier attitude to libel writs.

Papatoetoe Chess Club 75th anniversary

Papatoetoe chess club will be celebrating their 75th anniversary next year and would like any information that you have on the history of the club. Any stories and old photos welcome (we will cover the cost of copying photos). Also if you would like to be part of the celebrations please send your email address so I can let you know what is happening.

Please send all information to Barry Hooton

barry@nature.co.nz or PO Box 14-160, Panmure, Auckland.

2008 Kapiti Rapid Tournament *Class 2 Grand Prix*

**Sunday 21 September 2008 from 9am at Community Centre 15 Ngahina St
Paraparaumu**

6 round swiss 25 min plus 5 sec per move

Prizefund \$1000 minimum Entry Senior \$35 Junior \$15

Entries to Guy Burns Ph 04 904 2002 kapitirapid@hapu.co.nz

“Did that Really Happen...?”

Anecdotes from our readers

We invite readers to send in their chess anecdotes. The stories in this first column are, quite by chance, about Merv Morrison. To those who don't know, Merv was a genuine chess character who played chess well into his 80s. These stories are just the tip of an iceberg of tales about Merv some of which over time may well be told here. Thanks to Stephen Lukey and Michael Freeman for these recollections.

Michael Freeman writes

Some years ago, I witnessed a game between Merv Morrison (white) and Bill Ramsay (black) at a Wellington Congress. It's important, when picturing this scene, to know that they were playing with large pieces on a slightly undersized board. The time control was approaching and Merv's flag was beginning to "hang". Bill retreated his queen to a (defended) square adjacent to the white queen. Merv faced the horrible dilemma of exchanging queens, allowing Bill to exchange, or retreating his queen to an unmolested square. His hand hovered over the board; then in panic he lunged towards his queen, in the process knocking over several pieces on surrounding squares. As he was

frantically replacing them, Bill looked up and asked casually – he could have been asking for a light – “you're not in time trouble, are you?”

Stephen Lukey writes

I played Merv in my first South Island Island Champs in 1983. In the middle of the game, I said "j'doube" and duly adjusted a piece (at this point, I remind people I am not world famous for my quiet voice). Merv jumped up and said "touch and move!" (at this point, I remind people that being deaf, Merv was even less famous than me for his quiet voice). I didn't know what to say but general laughter ensued and someone from the other end of the room said they heard me say "j'doube" from there. Crisis averted but from then on in, Canterbury juniors renamed the rule "touch and Merv".

And from the Editor

I was an organiser of the 1994 Congress in Wellington. At the prize giving to the surprise of the organisers who had no warning, Merv asked to read out a poem he had written for the occasion. With a little trepidation I agreed. Everyone listened politely as Merv's rhymes in praise of the noble game flowed, and flowed and kept on flowing. Gradually a slight restiveness took hold that intensified the longer Merv continued. Just as the fidgeting and murmuring was reaching embarrassing **Continued on Page 8.**

31st Waitakere Licensing Trust Open

Dive Trips, is Trampled by the Herd in Five Way Finish

Bob Smith Reports

It's probably fair to say not many chess organisers in New Zealand would be unhappy with a turnout of 101 players, but Waitakere Chess Club (formerly Waitemata) was a little disappointed with the numbers this year for the country's premier weekender.

However the field promised to provide a hard fought, uncompromising tournament – and so it proved. Top seed in the A Tournament was IM Russell Dive, while other likely contenders included IM Paul Garbett, defending champion FM Bob Smith, and former winners Mike Steadman and Leonard McLaren.

In all there were 10 players rated over 2000.

The tournament again provided all the facilities commensurate with its standing as a SuperClass event in the nationwide Millennium Hotels and Resorts Grand Prix – a sound proofed playing room, quality matched pieces and an analysis room where players could let off steam without being heard in the tournament room.

The tournament's usual "anti-draw clause" was extended to 30 moves this year; perhaps this deterred a few people who prefer the odd "rest round"?

Nearly \$7000 in prize-money was on offer, including the top prize of \$1000.

But even the winner of the 'C' Tournament could earn \$400, while players in the Junior event (under 14 and under 1400 rating) competed for a \$200 first prize.

For the second year in a row the tournament was held over the three days of Queen's Birthday Weekend, with the hope that six reasonably spaced rounds would enable people to play their best and find outright winners. This year that hope did not become reality – but that was hardly the fault of the format.

Round One The upsets began immediately – the biggest one being Dive's loss to local player Mark Brimble (1894), who was pinching himself afterwards! The other major upset was Daniel Han's loss to Helmut Marko (1830), after he got into trouble early from a seemingly innocuous opening. Smith, Garbett, Steadman and McLaren all won comfortably, with Steadman's "come and get me" system against WFM Helen Milligan proving particularly effective.

Dive, Russell - Brimble, Mark

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7
5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.Bb2 Nc6 8.e3 Bd7
9.Qe2 Rc8 10.Nc3 h6 11.Rfd1 Re8

12.h3 Bf8 13.cxd5 exd5 14.Rac1 Bf5
 15.d4 Ne4 16.dxc5 Qa5 17.a3 Nxc3
 18.Rxc3 Be4 19.b4 Qa4 20.Rcc1 a5
 21.b5 Na7 22.Nd4 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 Rxc5
 24.Kh2 Rec8 25.Rxc5 Rxc5 26.Rd2
 Nxb5 27.Nf5 Nc3 28.Bxc3 Rxc3
 29.Rxd5 Rxa3 30.Rd8 Qe4 31.Nxg7
 Ra1 32.f3 Qb1 33.Qg2 Kxg7 34.Rd2
 Qf1 35.f4 Qxg2+ 36.Kxg2 b5 0-1

This game and games from each round can be played through at the nzchessmag.com website.

Round Two The two upset winners couldn't keep up the pace, Brimble going down to Pengli Zhang without much of a fight and Marko sacrificing a pawn (and later much more) for a lost position against Steadman. Smith outplayed McCrone, McLaren had an easy win over Fijian visitor Asheesh Gautam, Garbett could only draw against Stuart's English Opening, while Dive bounced back with a nice game against Don Eade.

Round Three Smith rejected the equalizing move against McLaren too many times and despite some creative wriggling, couldn't escape a lost ending. Zhang conceded the two bishops early on to Steadman and rued that decision in the endgame. Garbett easily beat Thornton when the latter went wrong as early as move four. Dive's trusty Alekhine's Defence proved too much for NZ Major Open Champion Daniel Shen, while McCrone won an ending against Philip Hair that looked suspiciously drawn. Brimble bounced back by taking all the material Richard Taylor gave him. The "great escape" award for the round went to Stuart, who drew with Hilton Bennett from three pawns down.



Hellen Milligan, Viv Smith and Sue Mararoa celebrate at the after match function.

Round Four The Steadman steamroller continued on, as he beat McLaren in a complex game in which the latter gave up his queen unsuccessfully. Dive

demonstrated the masterly art of manoeuvring and infiltration against Stuart. Smith managed to just about equalise with white against Garbett after an insipid opening. When Garbett later went slightly astray he even had hopes of winning – but a draw was agreed with Smith only optically better. Zhang's suspect opening gave Vivian Smith a clear advantage after 14 moves and a promising attack, but when she quickly went wrong in a complex position Zhang grabbed the whole point. Han-Bennett was a wild game where black eventually forced a perpetual. Thornton beat Marko when the latter created too many king-side weaknesses. Brimble continued his good form with a draw against McCrone – after overlooking a win in the endgame!

Round Five Garbett stopped Steadman's charge with a surprisingly easy win with the dynamic (!?) 1.g3, after the tournament leader perhaps unwisely grabbed an early pawn. Dive won an exchange against Zhang and according to Fritz should have been winning but had to concede the draw. McLaren was also probably winning after Thornton lost/saced the exchange. However Gino did get a lot of play and later won after Leonard blundered. Smith came back into the picture by defusing Bennett's Grand Prix attack.. Leading scores going into the final round: Garbett, Steadman, Thornton 4, Smith, Zhang, McCrone, Dive 3.5, Brimble, McLaren, Richard Taylor, Han 3.

Round Six Garbett suffered heroically for most of the game against Dive,

eventually losing a pawn but managing to cling on for a draw. Steadman got nowhere against Thornton's French and also had to settle for a draw. Smith saved his worst till last, playing superficially and sacing a pawn for nothing against Zhang, who gratefully accepted the point. Even worse was McLaren's unexpected loss to McCrone, after blundering his queen on move 9.

Brimble completed an exceptional performance by comfortably drawing with Stuart. All this carnage created a very rare multiple tie for first between five players.

Final leading scores: P. Garbett, M. Steadman, P. Zhang, G. Thornton, J. McCrone (4.5/6) 1-5, R. Dive, D. Han (4) 6-7, R. Smith, M. Brimble, H. Bennett, P. Hair, D. Shen, A. Shen (3.5) 8-13 ... 30 players.

B Tournament

At the same time 18 players were competing for \$1600 in prizes in the B Tournament. Top seed was Nazim Khan from Papatoetoe, while joint NZ Women's Champion Judy Gao was also expected to be a strong contender. Khan did indeed set the pace, with three straight wins. Meanwhile Gao had dropped an early draw to Edward Huang and could only draw with Khan in round four. Coming up from behind was fifth seed Jim Cater, who started with an upset loss to Alex Huang. The crucial clash came in round 5, when Cater beat Khan to take over the sole lead, Gao

meanwhile losing to Dean Zhao. Cater duly finished off a run of five straight wins by beating Zhao in the last round to take clear first and \$450. Khan also won to earn \$350 for clear second, while Gao had to settle for a share of third.

Leading B Tournament scores: J. Cater (5/6) 1, N. Khan (4.5/6) 2, A. Huang, E. Huang, J. Gao (4) 3-5, D. Zhao, J. O'Connor (3.5) 6-7 ... 18 players.

C Tournament

Top seed was defending champion Mike Steiner, who scraped inside the rating cut-off by just three points. However after 4 straight wins he was brought back into the pack by a loss to Under 1400 Grand Prix leader Gary Judkins, who had earlier slipped up against Bill Wu. This set the scene for a climatic finish, with 5 players on 4/5.

Emerging as joint winners with 5/6 after the dust settled were Steiner, Judkins and Wu, who lost only to Steiner. It is notable that last year Bill Wu won the Waitakere Trust Junior Tournament, so he has made considerable progress in a year. The three winners earned \$250 each for their efforts. **Leading C Tournament scores:** G. Judkins, B. Wu, M. Steiner (5/6) 1-3, A. Ansell (4.5) 4, B. Liu, S. Lyall, J. Ansell, E. Yang (4) 5-9 ... 30 players.

Junior Tournament

And finally the Junior Tournament for players under 14 and rated Under 1400

went to Hans Gao with 5.5/6, followed by local player Jordan Lewis on 5 and Harry Cui and Jason Li on 4.5. 23 juniors played.

Leading Junior Tournament scores: H. Gao (5.5/6) 1, J. Lewis (5) 2, H. Cui, Jason Li (4.5) 3-4, H. Jiang, D. Rong, W. Zhang (4) 5-8 ...23 players.

“Did that Really Happen...?” Continued from page 4

levels, the poem unexpectedly ended. Breathing a sigh of relief I was about to continue with the formal ceremonies when Merv announced he had written a *second* poem and desired to read that as well. I should have realised one was enough... Merv's second effort quickly exhausted the crowd's patience. Before long cries of 'enough!' and such like were heard. A closing ceremony disaster, or a farce, or both, was unfolding. I couldn't stop Merv in full flight, but some of the more headstrong in his audience were near mutiny. Strangely I can't recall how it all ended, but its a good bet Merv finished his poem.

And from Stephen Lukey on former NZ Chess Editor Zyg Frankle “Of course Alan you are well aware of the famous Zyg defence as black .. 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 d6 5. 0-0 f6 and with his whole army on the second and third ranks Zyg used to drop ash all over those ranks thus camouflaging his pieces ...”

North Island Championships

IM Anthony Ker in Serene Glide to 8th NI Title

By Hilton Bennett

This year's North Island Championship in Tauranga was organised jointly by the Mt Maunganui RSA and Hamilton Chess Clubs and was the first NZCF chess event held in Tauranga for many years. As the tournament drew to a close I found myself thumbing through old copies of NZ Chess to find out exactly when it had last been there. It was in fact May 1980 when the then Otumoetai Club hosted a North Island Champs with 50 players, including at least 5 who at some stage won the NZ Championship. As a matter of interest the 1979 North Island in Hamilton attracted an equally strong field with 52 players.

I mention this because it is in stark contrast to the 21 and 24 players in this year's Champs and Rapid respectively. Unfortunately this has become the trend over the last few years when the event has been held outside of Auckland, and it raises interesting questions for chess organisers. We can look at social change, altered work and leave patterns, cost, online play, and the proliferation of rapid and other events as possible reasons. The



Hilton Bennett presents NI trophy to IM Anthony Ker

answer is probably a complex mix of the above however that is a topic for a different article.

Despite the relatively small numbers the presence of many times NZ and North Island champion Anthony Ker provided a keen challenge for the other competitors in the field including Peter Stuart, Gino Thornton, Fuatai Fuatai, Hilton Bennett, and locals John Duneas and Bert van der Lee. The South Island was represented by Peter Fraemohs and Dan Dolejs, while Don Stracy of Wellington was one of several who had played in the 1980 event. Two members of the 2008 NZ Women's Olympiad team, Helen Milligan and Viv Smith, also took part.

As Anthony Ker had previously scored a North Island 'picket fence' against a stronger field in New Plymouth some years ago, stopping this seemed to be the first challenge. The second would be to catch or pass him. Ker moved steadily to

4/4 including a win over Stuart in round 3, and the first of these challenges was looking increasingly difficult. However successive draws with Thornton and Bennett in rounds 5 and 6 slowed his progress. Lower in the field Auckland Don Eade was causing some early damage with upset wins over Bennett in round 1 and Fuatai in round 3. Under-rated Auckland junior Hans Gao (1179) also caught the eye with an upset draw against Blaxall in round 1 followed by some very solid play against higher rated players for the rest of the tournament. There's a name to watch!

Coming into the final round Ker on 6 points could not be overtaken, with Thornton on 5 to play Stuart (4.5), and the other two players on 4.5, Fuatai and Bennett, due to play Ker and Duneas respectively. Ker and Fuatai drew after Fuatai held firm on the black side of Ker's c3 Sicilian. Meanwhile Stuart beat Thornton with black to secure second place with 5.5, and Duneas defeated Bennett with the Alekhines to move to 5 points. WFM Milligan and Blaxall defeated Eade and van der Lee respectively to also move into a share of third equal with 5 points.

Final placings:

1st Anthony Ker; 2nd Peter Stuart

3rd = Gino Thornton, John Duneas, Fuatai Fuatai, Helen Milligan, Craig Blaxall

Grade 1: 1st = Helen Milligan, Craig Blaxall

Grade 2: 1st = Caleb Wright; 2nd = Vivian Smith, Ron Collingwood, Bob Mitchell

Rapid Championship

Anthony Ker was, along with current Grand Prix leader Mike Steadman, once again favourite for the rapidplay. Results in round 3 however changed the direction of the event with Ker drawing with Milligan and Steadman losing to Bennett. In the key round 5 game Ker defeated Bennett to take a half point lead into his last round game against Steadman. Bennett on 4 was to play Edward Lee of Lower Hutt.

Following a draw between Ker and Steadman, Bennett defeated Lee to join Ker for a share of first place on 5 points with Steadman finishing 3rd on 4.5. Brett Rider put in a notable performance against higher rated opponents to finish on 4 points. Junior Hans Gao was also evident again with an excellent result of 3.5 points. It was also pleasing to see local father and son combination Hans and Paul van Hutten winning first equal in Grade 2 with 3 points.

Final Rapidplay Placings:

1st = Anthony Ker, Hilton Bennett; 3rd Michael Steadman

Grade 1: 1st Brett Rider; 2nd Hans Gao

Grade 2: 1st = Hans van Hutten, Paul van Hutten

Andy Chen, Mario Krstev and Sue Mararoa Joint 2008 Junior Champions

Sue Mararoa becomes First Female National Junior Champion



Andy Chen, Mario Krstev and Sue Mararoa and sponsor John Francis

The 2008 National Junior Championship has created a piece of NZ chess history with joint champion Sue Mararoa becoming the first female to hold the title.

Sue tied with Mario Krstev and Andy Chen , each player scoring 6/7.

The tournament was hosted by Howick Pakuranga with Graham Banks Directing, attracted 64 entries and

resulted in some exciting matches.

All age groups U8, U10, U12,U14, U16 as well as the Open (U20) were well represented.

The New Zealand Junior Rapid Championship was won by Mario Krstev on 5.5/6. Second equal with 5/6 were Daniel Shen, Andy Chen, Judy Gao and Edwin Yip.

Full crosstables and results are available at www.newzealandchess.co.nz

Sue Mararoa Interview

To mark this milestone NZ Chess interviewed Sue about the tournament, women's chess in NZ and the future.

Q Did you have a game plan for this tournament?

A "I don't usually have a game plan during the tournaments, my aim was just to get 50% and over, but I thought I would have a good chance at coming top 10. I think I played normally but I was a bit more reserved then I usually was, being a higher seed."

Q Was there a turning point game for you?

A "I don't think there was a turning point, only the last game which meant that I had won. The problem with this sort of tournament is that there are a few rounds and too many players which could've won the top places. I had a couple of draws against Andy and Mario which meant that I had a good chance if I won my last game."

Q What was your best game?

A "Sorry, don't know what my "best" game was. I can't even remember any of them :)" *None of them! Yeah Right- Ed*

Q It looks like you have created history as the first female NZ Junior Champion, what do you say to that?

A "I don't know? I guess that's a good thing for female chess, to know that you are able to beat the boys?"

Q How has your game progressed/changed in the last year?

A "I'm not sure, I think I've become more of a patient player, but I haven't been studying much or anything. I've attempted to expand my repertoire" *What Sue doesn't say is that her attempt to expand her repertoire consisted of a 10 minute lesson on Benko basics from the Editor at the Auckland Congress. - Ed*

Q Are you happy with your rate of improvement and what do you want to work on?

A Not really, chess is just somewhat of a hobby, I think I could be a better player if

I read a couple of books but I really can't seem to get past the 1st page. But I'd love to know more openings.

Unfortunately the only other opening the Editor knows is the Caro, and only enough for another 10 minute lesson - Ed

Q What do you think of the state of female chess in NZ? Are more juniors coming through? How important has it been for you to have a group roughly the same age as yourself?

A "Female chess has since improved since I started, where only few female players played which can be shown when I was selected for the Bled Olympiad after about a year of playing. So now, there is more competition and more females playing, though unfortunately a few of my friends have stopped due to school commitments or life. Juniors are coming through but as I said that they tend to stop at uni or during last year of school due to exams or other interests. It's been very important *(to have a group about the same age)* I think! If not I may have lost interest earlier, as you meet a lot of cool friends with chess overseas and in NZ.

Q What are your plans for the future and for chess?

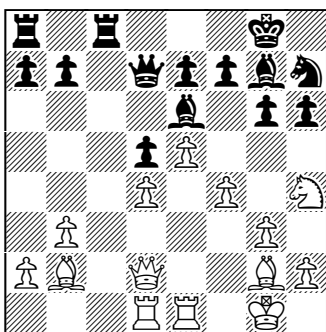
" I'm going to apply to Victoria Uni, and do a course of some sort, that will allow me to get into uni! So hopefully that goes well. My future in chess, I would love to say that I'll be around forever. But I'm not sure what the future will hold. I have

good friends from overseas who are "professionals" and it would be unfortunate not to see them. But I'm not sure if in the immediate future I'll be able to have enough time to get as good as I would need to be to represent NZ with all the little girls coming up!"

Here is one of Sue's games from the tournament. This game and others from the National Junior are on www.nzchessmag.com

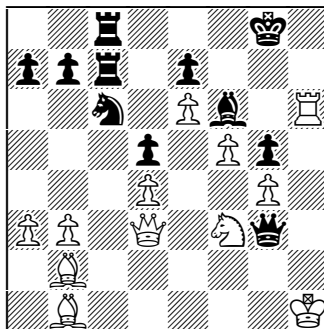
Filip Petreski - Sue Maroroa
 NZ Junior 2008
[Tony Booth and Bill Forster]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0
 5.0-0 d5 6.c4 c6 7.b3 Bf5 8.Bb2 Qc8
 9.Re1 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Ne4 11.Nh4 Ndf6
 12.f3 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Be6 14.Rac1 Qd7
 15.e4 h6 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.e5 Nh7 18.f4
 Rfc8 19.Rcd1

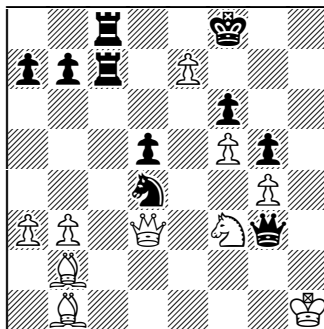


Filip prefers not to swap off one pair of rooks, which he may later live to regret !
 19...Rc7 20.Bf1 Bg4 21.Bd3?! Nf8
 22.Rf1?! White insists on sacrificing the exchange for a King's side launch.

22...Bxd1 23.Qxd1 Rac8 24.g4 Qc6
 25.f5 g5 26.Nf3 Qb6 27.Qd2 Nd7
 28.Kh1 Nb8 29.Bb1 Qa6 30.Rf2 Nc6
 31.h4 f6 32.e6 Qb6 33.Qd3 Nb4 34.Qd1
 Qd6 35.a3 Nc6 36.hxg5 fxg5 37.Qd3
 Bf6 38.Rh2 Qg3 39.Rxh6



39...Nxd4 This is good, but ...Ne5!
 winning the house would have been even better. 40.Rg6+ Kf8 41.Rxf6+ exf6
 42.e7+



42...Ke8 Again, this is winning but Rxe7!
 threatening Rh7+ is even more convincing
 43.Bxd4 Rc1+ 44.Bg1 Qh3+
 45.Nh2 Qxd3 46.Bxd3 R8c3 47.Bb5+
 Kxe7 48.Kg2 Rxb3 49.a4 Rc2+ 50.Kh1
 a6 51.Bf1 Ra3 52.a5 Kd6 53.Bd4 Filip

temporarily stops the King's advance. **53...Ke7 54.Bb6 Ra1 55.Kg1 Rxh2** White's wriggling resistance is now effectively over. **56.Kxh2 Rxf1 57.Kg3 Re1 58.Kf2 Re4 59.Kf3 Kd7 60.Be3 Kc6 61.Bb6 Rb4 62.Bd8** A last chance! **62...Rf4+ 63.Kg3 d4 64.Bxf6 d3 65.Bc3** not Bxg5 d2, Bxf4 d1=Q etc **65...Rc4 66.Be1 Rc2 67.f6 d2 68.Bxd2 Rxd2 69.f7 Rd8 70.Kf3 Rf8 71.Ke4 Rxf7 0-1**

Low Turnout Spells End for Otago Queen's Birthday

Quentin Johnson believes the Otago Queen's Birthday tournament is no longer tenable in its current slot, and may disappear altogether.

The Last Otago Queen's Birthday Weekend Open by *Quentin Johnson*

The outstanding feature of this year's event was the meagre turnout of just twelve players. A far cry from 38 in last year's tribute to Richard Sutton, and only half the usual number before that. As a class 2 Millenium Hotels Grand Prix event, the guaranteed prizemoney of \$1425 was not enough attract players away from the Waitakere Open which has moved to the Queen's Birthday slot. Top seed and favourite this year was Wellington's FM Nicolas Croad, followed by two locals, John Sutherland and the

writer.

All games went according to rating in round 1, except for Aimers – Cooper, where Geoff Aimers inexplicably failed to make his extra piece count and settled for a repetition draw after a couple of mistakes in a still advantageous position.

In round 2 Croad defeated fellow Wellingtonian Mike Nyberg with some style on board one, while Sutherland punished my hasty decision to recapture an unimportant pawn in an interesting bishop ending. Ross Jackson beat the hapless Aimers to share the lead, while bottom ranked Nigel Cooper exploited Hamish Gold's underdeveloped sense of danger on the h5-e8 diagonal after his recent adoption of the Dutch Defence, to record his second upset in a row.

The third round saw Croad defeat Jackson but not without some trouble. Ross played an unambitious QGD exchange with White but still managed to win a pawn and looked on top until he fell into a knight fork losing the exchange and his extra pawns – Croad made sure of the win thereafter. Cooper's run of luck ended against Sutherland who thus stayed level with Croad. An oversight nearly cost me the game versus Ward, but a series of small mistakes by my opponent gradually tipped the balance back in my favour. Nyberg also bounced back with a win over veteran Arie Nijman after the latter dropped the exchange.

The decisive battle between the leaders in

round 4 was a Czech Benoni in which Sutherland looked horribly cramped for much of it but Croad was only able to break through after black went astray having been under pressure throughout. I was unable to win the exchange up against Jackson. Nyberg kept up the pursuit via a win over Aimers while Terry Duffield and Gloistein conspired to produce an awful game – Gloistein being the last player to spurn the win in favour of the other.

Round 5 saw the final result stay in doubt when Croad – Johnson finished in a draw. Mutual errors saw the advantage switch a couple of times before Croad emerged a pawn up in a tricky but winning rook endgame, but a final slip cost his king its check-shelter just as the win was within his grasp. Sutherland's fishy opening gambit was snapped up by Nyberg who proved it gave no compensation whatsoever to move within half a point of the lead, and this win also earned him the upset prize. Jackson finally mated Ward to stay in touch. Scores: Croad 4½, Nyberg 4, Jackson 3½, Sutherland, Johnson & Nijman 3.

The final round saw some diving down the field with only twelve players, so Croad made short work of Nijman to deservedly record his third victory in Otago in four years. I beat Cooper and Sutherland beat Aimers to make a claim for some prizemoney, but it all came down to Nyberg – Jackson on board 2. Nyberg was the aggressor, but missed a chance to retain his spearhead on e5 by tactical means. Eventually his attack

proved to be worth less than the pawn invested, so Jackson came from behind to take clear second place ahead of the three-way tie for third between Nyberg, Sutherland and myself. The grade prize was shared by the indefatigable Nijman and Gold, who inflicted Gloistein sixth loss to reach 3 points. The final game to finish saw Duffield cap off a similarly disappointing event by turning a win into a loss against Ward in a couple of moves after good play until then.

All in all a very enjoyable event, and the small size made it easy to run. Unfortunately the low turnout means that it unlikely that Otago will hold a six-round FIDE rated open on Queen's Birthday again. The alternative could be to hold a five-round event on an ordinary weekend in May, but that is not very attractive to those travelling from further afield. The South Island Championship could soon become the only significant event down this way if the trend continues.

Omission

The December issue of NZ Chess contained an obituary for 'Fenny' A. Feneridis. This wasn't attributed. The author was Jonathan Sarfati

The Gordon Hoskyn Memorial Rapid Tournament

Justin Davis reports on the Gordon Hoskyn Memorial Tournament held in Palmerston North on June 14. This tournament came about thanks to Justin's initiative which was reminiscent of Gordon himself in drive and energy, and as fitting a tribute to the great organiser Gordon was as the tournament itself. - Editor

As most of you know by now, Gordon sadly passed away at the beginning of May. Its well know Gordon was a huge factor in promoting and running chess on a National scale, and well as in the local Wanganui/Palmerston North areas.

There an old saying that goes something like this "You can judge a man's life by the benefit he's been to others." Gordon no doubt ranks very highly on this scale.

He passing left a huge hole in the Wanganui/Palmerston Chess scene. Sadly there are many examples of chess organisers moving away or sadly passing away, and without the hard work of these types of selfless unsung heroes, whole chess clubs/scenes have collapsed in this way.

So what better way to paid tribute to this great man, and keep his hard work going, than to run a tournament in his honour

The hard work putting it together and



Tournament victor IM Russell Dive and John McDonald

running the event was mainly done by the "Big 3", - Martin Sims of the Palmerston North Boys' High Chess Club, Stewart Holdaway, club captain of the Palmerston North Chess Club, and John McDonald club captain of the Wanganui Chess Club. Of course there many other people who kindly lent a hand to this event, but far too many to name.

The event had just under \$1400 in cash prizes as well as kindly sponsored book prizes from Gambit Books, New Zealand Chess Supplies and a free Correspondence membership from the NZ Correspondence Association. Certificates and upset prizes, free entry to GMs, IMs and female fide-titled players also featured.

45 keen chess players turned up. Including some of NZ's big chess stars, former NZ Champions IM Russell Dive and FM Scott Wastney. And in a rare over the board appearance

correspondence legend SIM Michael Freeman (2453 iccf). Also playing were the current Wanganui, Palmerston North and Hawkes Bay Champions, as well as strong local players John McDonald, Chris Burns, and Matthew King.

Round 1

Two surprise upset draws by local juniors, the Yuan brothers, Daniel and Michael, happened when Alan Aldridge and Ross Jackson showed up late for their games, perhaps expecting quick easy wins in the first round(?!), were shocked to find fierce resistance by these tough youngsters, and were both only able to draw.

Round 2

All top seeds continued their destruction of the field, with local players Mat King and Stephen Taylor given the honour of being crushed by stars Dive and Freeman respectively.

Round 3

The big news in this round was local hero Chris Burns putting his pet opening, the Scotch, to good use and beating second seed FM Scott Wastney. Freeman was held to a draw by a player who has no rapid rating, Eddie Lee (standard rating 1931). Club rivals, and the Wanganui and Palmerston North Champions, Ker and Davis, had a quick draw and an early lunch.

Round 4

This round saw yet another local player do well again. McDonald played extremely well to give Dive his only

scare of the tournament, by build up a winning position, but with only about 12 seconds each left, a draw was agreed. Burns continued to do well by holding Freeman to a draw. Davis followed up poorly in a winning position to lose to unrated Eddie Lee

Round 5

Shocks for all the Wangnui, Palmerston North and Hawkes Bay Champions. With Ker going down to club mate and rival Burns, after Burns took 10 minutes to decline a draw offer! Davis's continued with an encore to the last round shocker, losing after his brain shorted out once again in a wining position against club mate Stephen Taylor, rated 400 points below him! Veteran David Capper. beat long-time rival and higher rated Chris Smith.

Round 6

Nyberg blessed with the luck of the swiss draw, had faced only Dive, all the rest of the opponents were at least about 300 points below him. But veteran David Capper gave Nyberg a big shock and built a clearly winning position, and looked all set for an amazing result to finish second equal with FM Wastney ! But tragedy struck, and Nyberg forever sharp looking for any traps, turned it around for the win.

In conclusion, IM Russell Dive won almost smoothly, with the one scare in round 4 against John McDonald. Dive and Freeman showing their class by being the only undefeated players of the event. Veteran David Capper took Best

Senior and 1st= in the B-grade. Perhaps the most notable result was NZ womens Championship player and highest rated junior, 13 year old Megan du Plessis, who finished 1st or 1st= in all 4 grades but the A-grade! As well as taking Best Female and an upset prize for round 6.

In fact the poor over worked Tournament Secretary who was busy writing 20 something cheques and filling out near 40 certificates, was so dumbfounded by Megan's success, that when he wrote out a certificate for her Dad's prize he mistakenly thought Megan had won yet other prize, so as well as Megan getting 5 certificates, her poor Dad also got a certificate with her name on it as well, haha. Sorry about that! Crosstable and links to photos and some games from this exciting event can be found on Helens Milligan's excellent website <http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz/>

Winners List

A-Grade

1st Russell Dive 5.5/6 2nd= 5/6 S

Wastney M Nyberg

B-Grade

1st = 4/6 D Capper M King C Smith

S Taylor M du Plessis B Cooze A Aldridge

C-Grade

1st= B Cooze M du Plessis

Junior Grade

1st M du Plessis 2nd= R Hill D Chen

T Gyu Kim D Yuan

Best Senior

David Capper

Best Female

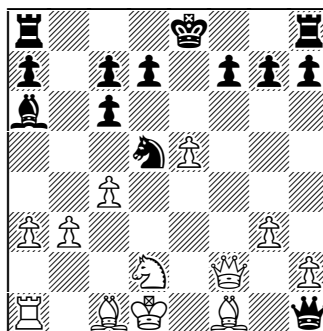
Megan du Plessis

Burns - Wastney

Gordon Hoskyn Memorial, 2008

[Annotated by Chris Burns]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 The Mieses variation of the Scotch game. **8.c4 Ba6 9.b3 Qh4!?** An incredibly sharp idea, introducing the possibility of both ...Bb4+ and ...Qd4, this was very popular in the late 1990's. **10.a3!** White rips up the openings rule book to play an outwardly 'irrelevant' pawn move, but the reality is that it's worth expanding another tempo to rule out any ...Bb4 or ...Nb4 possibilities for Black. **10...Bc5 11.g3 Bxf2+! 12.Qxf2!** Kxf2? Qd4+ is a less attractive way of losing the rook **12...Qe4+ 13.Kd1 Qxh1 14.Nd2**



Black is an exchange and a pawn ahead but his queen is lacking squares and his two minor pieces have seen better days. **14...f5!?** Probably best as 14... Nc3+ 15.Kc2 Ne4+ 16 Nxe4 Qxe4 17.Bd3 leads to a strong attack for White. **Continued on Page 21.**

Junior Chess in New Zealand

Welcome to this new feature on junior chess. The column will look into what is happening with junior chess and who is making it happen. Viv Smith has spent many years promoting junior chess as a volunteer. As her article makes clear, running junior tournaments is a lot of work, but gives a lot of satisfaction.

West Auckland Intermediate Interschools Chess Championship 2008

By Viv Smith

I vaguely dread the start of the interschool chess season, as Bob and I run three of these tournaments plus the Auckland Girls Championships around the same time, and they all involve a huge amount time and energy, which

leave me leave me exhausted for a few days afterwards. We've been running the West Auckland Interschool Championships for 15 years – long before we joined NZCF Council and started the National Interschools. We now have it down to fine art. Even so, this year's Intermediate Championships did have its hiccups.

For a start, we couldn't get our usual venue, even though I'd tried to book it almost a year in advance. So we had to settle on a smaller venue – the Ceramco Park Function Centre - with not quite enough tables for the expected 120 players. Fortunately we were able to borrow 8 extra trestle tables from another hall, which we delivered to Ceramco the night before the tournament. However the gates at the bottom of the drive were locked overnight, and we had no option but to lug them by hand 100 metres up the hill in the dark and rain. What a task for two little people. It was a nightmare.

2008 SUNRISE BUNGALOW KAIKOURA INTL SOUTH ISLAND CHAMPS

October 8th to 12th – send enquiries to Chris.Benson@xtra.co.nz

Make sure your diary is cleared for the chess event of 2008. Come play in the underground wine cellar at the Kaikoura Winery. This unique but quality venue will be a world event, so make sure you are a part of it.

Entries already from GM Murray Chandler, GM Darryl Johansen, IM Stephen Solomon, IM Andreas Toth (Hungary) - 2 rounds per day with one on Sunday. There will also be social events, a barbeque, and a gala dinner with guest speaker. The chess event of 2008, a great warm up to Queenstown.

We set up all the tables that night. We didn't get home till well after 11pm, tired but happy that we wouldn't have the normal mad morning rush of setting up tables before the kids arrived.

Then we round up all the gear to take – sets, clocks, boards, table numbers, board numbers, badges (ie stickers) for all the players with their team names and board numbers, score cards, pencils, all the canteen snacks and drinks, pricelists, tea, coffee and bickies for the teachers, computer, printer, amplifier, chart, receipts, tea towels, kleensacs, spare toilet paper? The checklist is very long.

The tournament itself is always great fun and makes all the work worthwhile. Seeing the teams arrive – all eager and excited – I get quite envious. We get quickly underway. We have to get through 6 rounds and leave time for a prizegiving and to get the kids back to school before 3pm, so it's a full on day.

This year we had 30 teams from 10 schools – a good turnout.. We run the tournaments as a six-round swiss, with 20 minutes each on the clock. We allow schools to enter as many teams as they like, as we believe that as many kids who want to play, should play. They all love it and it's a great promotion for chess. Blockhouse Bay Intermediate had 10 teams! At some point we may have to limit numbers, but while we can accommodate them all, we will.

The final result was a repeat performance of 2007 with Rangeview Intermediate

carving up the field to take out both first and second placings. In 2007 they had dropped only one draw on the way to first place. This year it was a perfect 24/24.

Rangeview's success illustrates the benefit of having club players in their team. All of their winning team go to our Waitakere Chess Club. Two are in our junior club and two have since moved on to senior club. Plus they practise regularly in a chess club at school. The Rangeview team went on to win the Nationals last year, and they still have two of those team members, Mona Yang and Zachary May. The two newcomers to the team are Mona's brother Edison, and Harry Cui.

I caught up with Zach in the holidays . Here's a kids view of chess and the interschools competition:

Rangeview Intermediate's Zach May on Chess



Zach holding her school's winners cup

Name

Zachary May (Zach)

Age

12 (D.o.b. 11th April 1996)

Why Did You Start Playing Chess?

My Mum taught me the basics when I was 6.

She thought it would be a challenge for me as I was always bored (and still am!) and I have the ability to pick new things up very quickly.

I didn't start playing chess regularly until I was 9 and my primary school entered the West Auckland Primary Schools' Tournament. That's when I got the "bug" and joined the Waitemata Chess Club run by Vivian and Bob Smith. I also started playing chess at lunch-time almost every day at school.

Why Do You Like The Game?

I'm good at it and I enjoy the thrill of winning. It's also fun setting up traps and pulling off strategies successfully. Most of my friends are into chess and we usually always have a game when we get together.

Other Interests

Soccer (Play for Oratia United as a Striker), PS2, Reading, Origami, Eating Lollies!

Thoughts/Feelings about Chess

It can be kind of boring when people take so long to make one move.

The West Auckland Primary and Intermediate Tournaments are easy. The

Auckland Finals are quite challenging and the Nationals are more difficult and nerve racking.

I enjoy going to chess club every Monday night.

I think I'll probably be playing chess for a long time to come.

Areas I need to Improve on

I need to do more study on openings.

I need to learn to slow my play down.

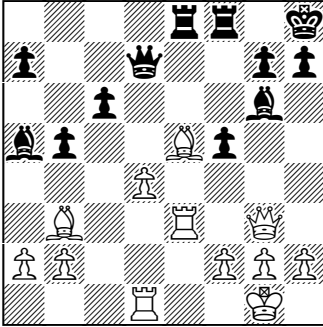
Gordon Hoskyn Tournament Report Continued

15.cxd5 Bxf1 16.Qxf1 Qxd5 17.Bb2 0-0
18.Kc2 Rae8 19.Rd1 Rf7 20.Kb1 h6
21.Ka2 Ref8 22.Nf3 Qc5? A mistake
which lets White win an exchange.
23.e6! Re7 24.Ne5 d5 25.Nd7 Rxd7
26.exd7 Qd6 27.Qa6 To quickly
establish a passed 'a' pawn. At the time I
did not realise how fast it would be.
27...Qxd7 28.Qxa7 f4 29.Qd4 f3 30.Rf1
Qe7 31.a4 Rf7 32.Rf2 Qe4 33.a5 Re7
34.a6 Qe1 35.a7 Qa5+ 36.Qa4 Qxa4+
37.bxa4 Re8 38.Bd4 1-0

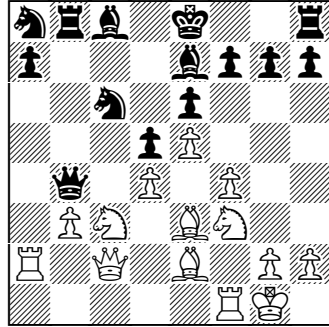
Bill's Puzzle Page

by Bill Forster

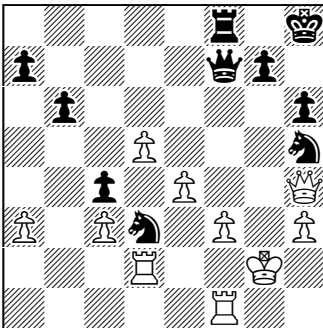
See Page 22. Find the winning continuation for player whose colour is indicated. Games from recent European tournaments. Answers on Page 27.



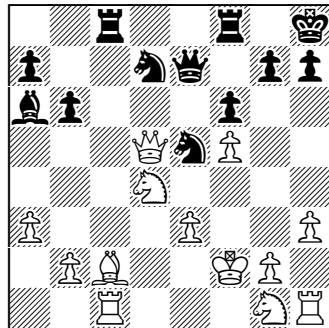
Lindberg – Tikkanen (W)



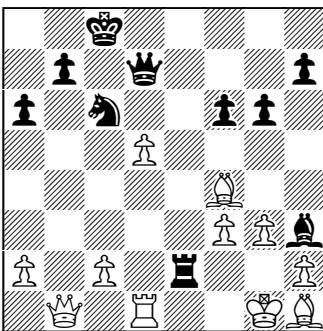
Fedorov – Tokarev (W)



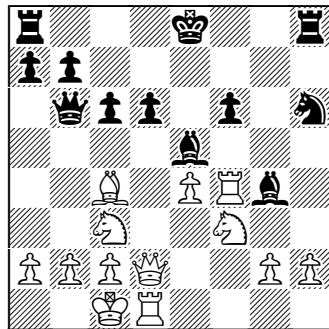
Tikkanen – Agrest (B)



Terentyev – Hamidullin (B)



Heinzl - Tereick (B)



Kharlov – Hojamgulyev (W)

Club and Local News

Michael Freeman earns Correspondence Chess GM norm

To most over the board chess players correspondence chess is akin to their shadow. They know its there, and if they look around, yes, still there. But, otherwise forgotten.

Correspondence Chess in New Zealand has been around for a long time and has its own history and roll call of champions. Now new chapters are being written by Michael Freeman and Mark Noble, on who there will be a feature article in the next issue. Michael has recently gained a grandmaster norm in correspondence chess. He explains how and brings us up to date with correspondence chess in the age of computers.

In mid-2006 a combined NZ and Australian team was put together to compete in the 5th Pacific Area team tournament. This event has fond memories for me as I gained my first IM norm back in the 2nd event.

The team had two NZ players, myself on board 1 and Mark Noble on Board 3, along with four Australians. With only a few games left, the winners will be

Canada with the combined NZ/AUS team in second place ahead of USA, Japan, Hong Kong and Mexico. Mark scored 8/10. On board 1, my event was a category 9 with 7/10 the score required to gain a GM norm, and with two grandmasters in the field. With a little bit of luck, and lots of hard work defending a couple of inferior positions, I managed to share first place with GM Sakae Ohtake from Japan, with the magical 7 points, and my first GM norm.

To gain the GM title, a minimum of two norms are required covering a minimum of 24 games. So, at least one GM norm in a 15 player event is now the target.

International correspondence chess is now played via a webserver, where players login and make moves on a board. The server keeps track of the time, and sends emails to players when it is their move, and reminders on time used. The time controls are 50 days for 10 moves, with time accumulated. An average game is now less than 2 years, much quicker than the old postal days!

Other active titled NZ players are SIM Mark Noble, who I would expect to gain the GM title before me based on the number of events Mark plays, and IM's John Barrance and Brian Anderson. The titles are awarded by the International Correspondence Chess Federation and then recognised by FIDE. Whilst computers in correspondence chess are now accepted, though not

encouraged, they have still to make an impact at the top level. They may be monsters at calculating tactics, but that long term strategy still eludes even the best programs. *See our website nzchessmag.com for Michael's games*

The NZ Correspondence Chess Association can be contacted via PO Box 3278, Wellington.

Auckland Chess Centre News

Summer Cup

The ACC season starts with the **Summer Cup**, run in 3 grades over 7 rounds. The **A-Grade** was convincingly won by Michael Steadman on 6/7, followed by Bruce Wheeler and Michael Wu on 4.5. Like Michael Steadman, Bruce Wheeler was carrying on from a successful NZ Championship campaign and was undefeated.

The **B-Grade** was also a round-robin, Richard Stuart smashed through with 6 straight, having victory in the bag despite having to default the final round. Young Sharon Wu finished on 50%, eclipsing her older sister Shirley (then current NZ Women's Champion).

The **C-Grade** was a Swiss event, where 40 players fought it out. Early leader Scott Butland fell back to third equal,

after losing to the co-winners Aaron Cossey and Judy Gao (6/7) in the final rounds. Also third (5/7) were Hugh McLeod and Paul Martin.

Autumn Rapid

Rapid demon Keith Ward showed the way with 6/6, beating Mike Steadman in the final round. Junior players were well to the fore, second equal being shared by 10-yr-old Karl Zhu (ranked 35th) with top seeds Michael Steadman and Paul Beach, on 5/6. Daniel Shen came in a further half-point behind, just ahead of a quality bunch of chasers on 4/6: Edward Tanoi, John Kelly, Bruce Wheeler, Sharon Wu, Judy Gao, Jason Bryan, and Bill Wu. A total of 47 players.

Autumn Cup / Seniors vs Juniors

The **Autumn Cup** is run as a single open grade, and clear favourite Paul Beach went through with a perfect 5/5 score. Keith Ward shared 2nd= with 1400-(under)rated Simon Lyall, in a field with 47 players.

The **Seniors vs Juniors** was instituted a couple of years ago, to ensure the top junior players in the club got to play against A-Grade opponents. The A-Grade team was definitely not intending to allow a repeat of their 2007 debacle when they lost the first three matches in a row, before drawing one and finally winning the last round. Despite this determination, the experienced team could only draw the first round match,

and won each of the three succeeding rounds only by the odd point. The Juniors gained a little sweet revenge in the final round with a 3-1 victory. Junior Daniel Shen top-scored with 4.5/5, and was very close to beating Bruce Watson as well.

Overall Match Score: Seniors 3.5
Juniors 1.5

Canterbury Chess Club News

Craig Hall reports a couple of juniors are starting to make their presence felt in the south

The Canterbury Chess Club programme kicked off with the Summer Rapid, which was won by 2007 Club co-champion, Jeremy Watson (a junior!) with his score of 5.5/6 being half a point clear of the other co-champion, Chao Qi. In the first standard tournament of the year, FM Stephen Lukey showed his class, winning handily with 5.5/6, being a point clear of Chao Qi, Renato Remanes and Andy Machdoem who finished in second equal place. That was followed by the Gambit Tournament, wherein players are subjected to 3 gambits and get to play each one twice, once with White and once with Black. Doug Churton defended his title again, in part aided when the two leaders were unable to make the last week, missing the last two rounds! The Chas L Hart Cup was next, and FM Roger Nokes and Andy Machdoem tied

for first with 5/6 after Roger beat FM Stephen Lukey in the last round to catch Andy.

Hastings & Havelock North Club surprised by own Centenary

A recent discovery in an 1908 newspaper, has unearthed a Hastings Chess Club staring in 1908, earlier than the previously thought start date of 1919. Plans are under way to hold an event to celebrate the club 100th year anniversary.

Palmerston North Club News

by Stewart Holdaway - Club Captain

60/60 Justin Davis was a convincing winner of the Palmerston North 60/60 with a picket fence 5/5. 2nd, on 4/5, was Johan Van Uwren who lost to Justin in round two, after attempting a dodgy rook sacrifice.

10/10 An impressive 16 players took part in the 1st Palmerston North 10/10 tournament. The key encounter took place in round four with Charles Ker defeating Justin Davis on the Black side of an Alekhine's Defence. It was thought Charles would now coast to the title, however a surprising defeat in the last round to Denis Davey meant that the title was shared between Charles and Justin on 5/6. A group of three players (D

Davey, Johan Van Uwren, Stewart Holdaway) shared 3rd= on 4/6.

5/5 Palmerston North Blitz Champion is the current and two time Wanganui Blitz Champion Justin Davis

30/30 - Rapid Championship 16 players

1st Justin Davis (1911) 6/6

2nd Dennis Davey (1304) 5/6

3rd= Mathew King (1676) & Stephen Taylor (1592) 4/6

The Rapid Championship saw the third exciting cash this year between rivals, the Palmerston North (Davis) and Wanganui (Ker) Champions with Justin winning to secure first place. See nzchessmag.com for the game.

JENKINS TROPHY

A Jenkins Trophy interclub challenge match between North Shore (holder) and Howick-Pakuranga was played at the North Shore clubrooms on Wednesday 23rd July. The overall scoreline might look reasonably healthy for the winner but a couple of upsets on the higher boards and some rampant Howick juniors on the lower boards made the score 9½-8½ with two games still going. They went the holder's way to make the final score 11½-8½. The results, North Shore having the white pieces on the odd-numbered boards:

Without doubt, the game of the match was, appropriately enough, played on the top board. Martin Dreyer has been dabbling in a come-back, mainly in

interclub matches where he is probably quite happy with his results. This time, though, Ralph Hart had other ideas, with a fine attacking display:

Ralph Hart – Martin Dreyer

Jenkins trophy 2008

[Annotated by Ralph Hart]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 dxc4 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 Bf5 6.Bg5 Nbd7 [White's fourth and fifth moves are rarely played in combination and the only game I could find reaching the position after 6.Bg5 continued 6...e6 7.e3 Be7 8.Bxc4 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0] **7.e3 c5 8.Bxc4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bg6 10.0-0 Qa5?** [Better was 10...e6 to develop the kingside] **11.Bxf6 gxf6** [11...Nxf6? 12.Qb3 Qc7 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.Bxd5 Rb8 15.Rfc1 is huge for White] **12.f4 Rc8 13.Qe2??** [Correct was 13.Ba2 Bh5 14.Qd3 with similar attacking ideas when 14...Bg6 can now be met with 15.f5] **13...Bh5 14.Qd3 e6?** [Best here was 14...Bg6! 15.e4 (15.f5 allows 15...Ne5 and Black is at least equal) 15...e6 and Black is okay. After the text move, however, punishment is swift.] **15.Nxe6! fxe6 16.Bxe6 Qd8** [16...Rd8 17.Nd5 Nb6 (17...Bf7 18.Qf5 winning; 17...Nc5 18.Nxf6+ Ke7 19.Qf5 and the attack wins) 18.Nc7+ Ke7 19.Qe4 and the threat of b2-b4 is just one of Black's worries] **17.Rad1! Bxd1 18.Rxd1 Rc7 19.Qf5** [It's all over now. Black's extra rook is useless and all the white pieces are swarming onto the attack.] **19...Qe7 20.Nd5 Rc5 21.Bxd7+ Kd8 22.Nxe7 Rxf5 23.Nxf5 1-0.**

AUCKLAND INTERCLUB EVENTS

By Peter Stuart

This year's Auckland A-grade Interclub tournament unfortunately lacked the Auckland Chess Centre's participation and North Shore pretty much had things all their own way, as the scores show:

This was followed by the junior interclub tournament, contested by eight teams playing a rapid time control event in one day. The top two teams from each of two preliminary groups carried forward the result of their mutual encounter to the final. Waitemata A and North Shore qualified from one group (with Waitemata winning their match 2½:1½) while Auckland A, with a 3-1 win over runner-up Waitemata B, qualified from the other. The Howick-Pakuranga A team was perhaps a bit unlucky to miss out in a very close race but easily won the B-final.

In the final a couple of the Auckland players seemed to get their noughts and ones mixed up because they seemed to go for the former when they could so easily have collected the latter. Their 0:4 loss to Waitemata was the decisive result here, leading to a comfortable tournament win for the much more experienced Waitemata team. Scores: 1 Waitemata A 10½, 2 Auckland A 5½, 3 North Shore 5, 4 Waitemata B 3.

Bill's Puzzles Solutions

Lindberg – Tikkanen) 1.Qxg6! Rxe5 Hoping for 2.dxe5 Qxe1+ 3.Bxd1 fxc6 and Black can limp on. **2.Rh3!** There will be no limping today **2...h6 3.Rxh6+** White can take the extra rook, or force mate like this. **3...gxh6 4.Qxh6+ Qh7 5.Qxf8+ Qg8 6.Qxg8#**

Tikkanen – Agrest) 1...g5! Embarrassing White's queen. **2.Qg4 Ne5 3.Qf5** If 3.Qe6 Nf4+ **3...Qg7!** Trapping White's queen in the middle of the board. **3...Qe8!** works just as well.

Heinzel – Tereick) 1...b5! Opening a path to a7 for the queen and winning on the spot. In the game Black played 1...Qe7 with the same idea but White then had 2.d6! which defends.

Fedorov – Tokarev) 1.Nb5! Simultaneously threatening 2.Qxc6+ and 2.Bd2 trapping the queen.

Terentyev – Hamidullin) 1...Nc5! Threatening 2...Nd3+ winning the exchange and 2...Bc4 trapping the queen **2.Ne6** In the game White tried 2.Rd1 which lost immediately to 2...Bc4. This move is a better attempt at causing confusion but White's position is so loose all the tactics favour his opponent. **2...Ncd3+ 3.Kg3 Nxc1 4.Nxf8 Rxc2**

Kharlov – Hojamgulyev) 1.Nxe5 fxe5 If 1...Bxd1 2.Qxd6 will be overwhelming. 1...dxe5 is met in the same way as the game. **2.Rxg4!** For a modest material investment Black's king is denuded of defenders. **2...Nxg4 3.Qxd6 Qe3+ 4.Kb1 Qf4** Black has apparently avoided disaster, but... **5.Qg6+** He resigned because White's rook to d7 with devastating results.

History of Chess

Lasker Schlechter 1910 – The Great Controversy

By Bill Forster

The history of the world chess championship can perhaps be thought of in terms of three phases. The most recent phase is also the most chaotic, and began when Kasparov decided to split from FIDE and run his own world championship, starting with a match with Short in 1993.

The second phase from 1948-1993 saw FIDE running the system. Despite faults that system did produce regular and exciting matches featuring worthy challengers, and a series of great undisputed champions. The first phase started with Steinitz, the first player to be universally recognised as world champion. This phase lasted eight decades, but only featured five world champions. This is a reflection of the main weakness of the system used during this time; no governing body controlled the world championship, it was the personal property of the current world champion who was free to accept or reject challenges to his crown, and generally dictate terms. This informal system was potentially a breeding ground for injustice and controversy. Certainly there were injustices – Rubinstein was widely thought to be the strongest player

in the world for an extended period but was never granted a challenge – Capablanca deserved a rematch after his unexpected loss, but Alekhine found it more convenient to play Bogolyubov – twice.

Surprisingly though, controversies were rare. I know of only one case of a world championship match where chess historians do not agree on the basic terms of the match and the nature of the ultimate result. This match was Lasker-Schlechter 1910, a short match of only ten games which was tied with one win each and eight draws. In all other cases tied matches have either been ruled out by the terms of the match (eg Capablanca-Alekhine 1927, match ends when one player achieves 6 wins), or the convention that the world champion retains his crown in the event of a tied match has applied. For Lasker-Schlechter there are no less than four theories;

- 1) Conventional theory – in the event of a tie Lasker retains his crown.
- 2) Conspiracy theory – in the event of a tie or Schlechter winning the match by a score of only +1 Lasker retains his crown, Schlechter needs to win by +2 or better to be world champion.
- 3) Hybrid theory – In the event of a tie Lasker retains his crown. If Schlechter wins by +2 or better Schlechter wins world championship. If Schlechter wins by +1 then the match is void and a rematch must ensue.
- 4) Exhibition theory – The world

championship was not at stake.

My original idea when planning this article was to find the truth. I was aware of the controversy only to the extent that over the years I had seen several accounts of the match that presented only theory 1) or 2) without acknowledgement of any dispute. I recognised a conflict, and thought a planned trip to the Anderson Chess Collection at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne would be sufficient to sort the matter out. It turns out I was naïve, the terms of the match have apparently been lost forever. Modern authorities report a controversy and conclude the ultimate truth is not known and given the passage of nearly one hundred years will likely never be known.

Early reports of the match invariably report theory 1) as the simple uncomplicated truth. Examples include the definitive Lasker biography by Dr Hannak, and “Chess Secrets I Learned from the Masters” the much loved autobiography by Edward Lasker, a distant relative and good friend of the world champion. No doubt theory 1) would never have been challenged except for the extraordinary nature of the 10th and final game of the match. This was Lasker's sole win, whereby he levelled the match. The mysterious aspect of this is that Schlechter, a renowned drawing master, did not play this game in the manner that one would expect of a player one draw away from the world championship. Instead it seemed he was intent on a win himself. Schlechter was

quoted in the press as saying he definitely wanted to win the last game and his play was explained in the contemporary accounts as heroic good sportsmanship. He did not wish to become world champion based on one lucky win earlier in the match.

It's hard to express just how bizarre most competitive chess players find this explanation. I can remember a major open a few years ago in which I needed a last round draw to guarantee a share of the title. Needless to say I had a sleepless night trying to think of some foolproof way to convert the advantage of the white pieces into a draw. If the devil had visited Wanganui that night, my soul would have been bargained away for sure and my grandmother would have had good cause for nervousness. I don't recall any guilt from being in the lead due to the vagaries of good fortune. I am only guessing, but it seems to me that the slightly more prestigious nature of the world championship (compared to the NZ major open) would greatly enhance the already intense desire for a last round draw in such circumstances.

The unsatisfactory nature of the good sportsmanship explanation meant there was clearly a gap in the market for an alternative explanation. It is a matter of public record that early in the match negotiations Dr Lasker had requested a “+2” clause. At the time a thirty game match was envisaged, but financial pressures resulted in a very short ten game match. The contemporary assumption was that no more was heard

of the +2 clause, presumably since it was clearly unfair for such a short match. Theory 2) is essentially a conspiracy theory, it posits that the +2 clause was secretly retained from the earlier negotiations and hence Schlechter needed to win the last game.

While theory 1) was accepted by contemporary accounts, in later decades theory 2) supplanted it and became conventional wisdom. For example the book "Classical Chess Matches 1907-1913" Edited by Fred Wilson, Dover 1975 manages to promote both theories independently. The book recycles contemporary reports, and so theory 1) is offered in the main text. But theory 2) instead is promoted in the 1974 introduction ("today we know that Schlechter actually needed to win").

Today it is more common to acknowledge both main theories and report the fact that the truth is in doubt. Andrew Soltis does this clearly in his recent biography "Why Lasker Matters", as does eminent chess historian Edward Winter in his ongoing "Chess Notes". Kasparov in "My Great Predecessors" hints at the controversy in a rather unclear way unfortunately. He manages to introduce theory 3) as well (I labelled this the "hybrid theory" earlier) by way of suggesting an explanation for why both players seemed desperate to avoid a draw.

The most impressive source I was able to track down in Melbourne was an article in the British Chess Magazine (February

1990); "The Lasker-Schlechter Match: A New Look at the Published Evidence", by Louis Blair. Blair is a firm advocate of theory 1). He has collected a large number of first hand reports of the match. For example he presents a report from the *Lokal Anzeiger* newspaper; The match conditions [WF: remember these are now lost] were prominently displayed on a wall "so that visitors and non chess-club members shall be fully conversant with the conditions to win both the match and the world chess title". So it seems the terms of the match were clear to attendees at the time, and attendees who produced match reports seem invariably to have been theory 1) proponents. Blair mentions that Edward Lasker, whose account was mentioned earlier here, was in attendance. I will reproduce some telling quotes marshalled by Blair;

Gunsberg (another prominent attendee) after 6 games (current score Schlechter +1). "Schlechter has only to draw the remaining four games to win the match" and "If Schlechter is the winner of the match he automatically gets the title".

Schlechter after 7 games (current score Schlechter +1). "If I am to become the chess champion at least I desire to be worthy of that honour and I do not intend to sit back content with my rather dubious win in the 5th game"

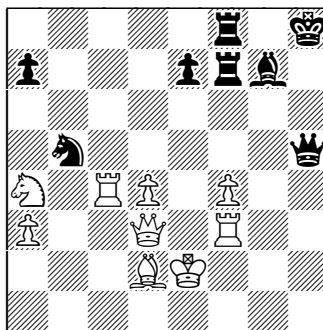
Lasker after 8 games (current score Schlechter +1). "The match with Schlechter is nearing its end, and it appears to be probable that for the first time in my life I shall be loser. If that

should happen a good man will have won the world's championship.”

Blair presents plenty of other evidence to support his viewpoint including reporting of the leading international newspapers at the time. He takes a look at the key game (concluding Schlechter's renounced drawing opportunities were not as clear as often supposed). He also looks at the origins of theory 2) and even of theory 4) (which I termed above the “exhibition theory”). After reading Blair's treatment, it seems clear that the “exhibition theory” at least arose from confusion with another match and can be confidently discarded.

I for one find Blair's article rather convincing. All that is necessary to consider his case overwhelming is to accept that Schlechter simply had an unusual worldview and did not think about the match or the world championship in a conventional way.

To save space only one of the crucial 10th game's many crises is presented here. The full score of the game can be found with annotations online in this month's games section of nzchessmag.com. Here is the position after 35.Rc4.



In this wild position black has many ways to test white but no clear win. Tarrasch's 35...Nd6! and Capablanca's 35...e5! have their points. For decades Schlechter's own post-mortem suggestion of 35...Rd8 was thought to win outright. Blair indicates this was the point Schlechter threw away the win and Edward Lasker gives the move Schlechter played instead no less than three question marks. In retrospect that's a little harsh given that 35...Rd8 turns out to be ineffective due to Mineev's brilliant 36.Ke1!! (the two exclaims are from Kasparov). Amusingly Rybka takes less than a second to realise that 35...Rd8 forces 36.Ke1. Schlechter played **35...Rxf4 36.Bxf4 Rxf4 37.Rc8+ Bf8 38.Kf2** and now he intended 38...Qh4+ but realised too late that 39.Kg2 Qg4+ 40.Rg3 Qxc8 41. Qg6!! wins for white. So he played **38... Qh2+** instead but he now definitely has no more than a draw.

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Letter From the Kingside - Looking Back

By Roger Nokes

One of my current projects is gathering together the paper records of my chess past and translating them into digital form.

I'm surprised that it has taken me so long to finally make the effort, although the fact that I had resisted the move to an electronic database for so long, only succumbing before the last Chess Olympiad in Turin, 2006, is probably one pretty good reason. The motivation is interesting. From a purely pragmatic perspective it is logical to have a second copy of my games, but it is more than this. I think the ability to readily access the games, the satisfaction of seeing them "together" in one place, and the ability to analyse them years later with the help of a chess engine are more important factors.

In some ways it feels a little like beginning my own autobiography – chess autobiography at least. If I were to slip away tomorrow, my wife, my son, a friend or anyone with the inclination, could open the database and relive my artistic and competitive chess legacy for what it is worth.

The exercise has proved to be both frustrating and enthralling. Frustrating for the obvious reasons – why didn't I

write down the result of that game; where on earth is the score to round five; those moves don't appear to make sense and I want a correct record of what actually happened – and enthralling for the reasons that every chess player knows. Within my little chess score-books, and the looseleaf score sheets, from tournaments around the globe, I have a pure record of my chess history, my development from novice to master, my euphoric highs and my agonising lows.

This preservation of one's efforts is typical in the arts. Painters, sculptors, musicians and writers all have the satisfaction of knowing that, with care, their artistic creations are preserved for others of this and future generations to enjoy and explore. But sadly, in sport, and I view chess as a tightly bound merging of art and sport, this is almost invariably not the case. Unless you perform at the highest levels of competitive sport a video record of your performance is not available, and even then it often doesn't capture "your" performance if it is a team sport such as soccer.

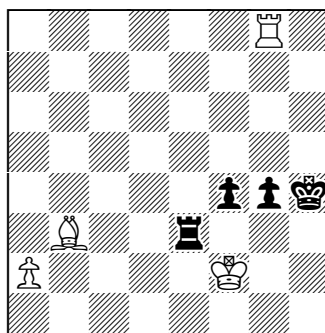
So what benefit do I derive from being able to look back at my chess games? Perhaps I am unique in this, although I suspect not, but each game I play possesses some creative element, no

matter how small, that can still provide me with pleasure years after it is played. If chess were purely a competitive exercise I would probably have given it up long ago. No, chess has the creative element, so that even when the result is “wrong” considerable satisfaction can still be gained from the battle itself.

For the competitive chess player this nostalgic look back on past work is only one aspect to the reviewing of old games. Primary is the ability to learn from one's previous play. During my current project I have occasionally taken time out during the process of entering the games into the database to switch on an analysis engine and let it give me an objective judgement of my play. In most of my games played during my 18 months of full-time chess in Europe in the early 1980s I made minimalist evaluations of critical positions and recorded them on my score-sheets. These, of course, were based on post-mortem analysis and human judgement without the benefit of a very strong electronic kibitzer. It is embarrassing, and not a little disconcerting, to find how many of my evaluations were inaccurate. This is evidence of not only limited chess knowledge but superficial analysis at the time.

In the last few months I have relived games from the mid 1970s through to the current day. It is amazing how playing through a game I had all but forgotten can still take me back to a smoky school classroom in Liverpool, or an ornate hall in Edinburgh, and many of the emotions,

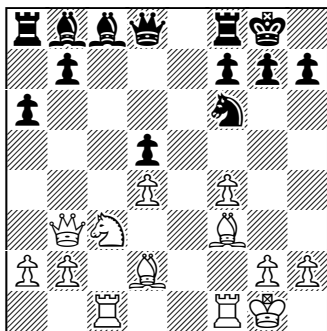
excitement, disappointment and joy, that were bound up with a particular game. Amongst these games there are the ones that stand out in my mind. The reasons for this vary considerably. Maybe it was a brilliant tactical finish from which I derive so much pleasure, a cunning save when all seemed lost, or, perhaps the most memorable of all for some reason, when a catastrophic blunder ruins a proud game and tournament result. For a change, instead of a complete annotated game for this column, I will beg the reader's indulgence and provide a few snippets from my games that evoke strong memories.



Anthony Saily – Roger Nokes (Lloyds Bank Masters 1981)

This game was played in my first international tournament, the Lloyds Bank Masters in London 1981. In round five I had black against IM Anthony Saily from the USA. In rather cavalier fashion I sacrificed a piece for a couple of pawns and some initiative but ultimately insufficient compensation, and faced a long and difficult defence. Some

adjournment analysis with Glenn Flear suggested that Black still had a few tricks up his sleeve. We arrived at the diagrammed position. White, justifiably concerned with the advance of the Black kingside pawns, apparently finds a way to blockade them. **47.Bd1?** So tempting. If the g pawn advances then Black appears in real trouble with the future check on g4 and the blockading square on f3 available for the bishop. And of course the f pawn cannot advance because the rook is en prise. But... **47...g3+!** **48.Kg2 f3+!** **49.Bxf3 Re2+!** There's nothing left. Even if the king retreats to the first rank, black either checks on f2 or e1 to force the draw. During the post-mortem Saidy was understandably disgruntled and accused me of playing "coffeehouse chess". For me that might have been a compliment! ½-½



Peter Green – Roger Nokes (Auckland Interclub 1991)

Here is a miniature from an Auckland Interclub match between the Auckland Chess Centre and the North Shore Chess Club in the early 1990s. A tense position

from a Queen's Gambit Tarrasch Defence has arisen where both players are facing intense pressure on their vulnerable isolated d pawns. It seems that White has been able to mount his attack on d5 more quickly than his opponent and is ready to capture it. However, during the early stages of the struggle white has played f4, significantly weakening his king's position. This allows the setting of a nasty trap. **15...Ba7** **16.Be3** An immediate capture on d5 with 16 Nd5 allows the strong reply 16...Be6, so White first shores up the weak point on d4. **16...Re8** **17.Bf2 Ne4!?** The !? is for bravery. I couldn't resist this idea despite the fact that Black should probably play something like 17...Bg4 to release some of the pressure on d5 or, if white captures on d5 with the bishop, to gain the two bishops and some initiative. **18.Rcd1 Nxf2** **19.Rxf2 Qf6** Now things get tricky. White has d5 at his mercy but needs to be very careful about the vulnerability of the d4 and f4 squares and the weakness on the g1-a7 diagonal. **20.Nxd5?** The trap is sprung! White retains a slight edge with a range of alternative moves. 20 Rfd2, 20 Ne2 and 20 Qa4, but the capture on d5 looks too tempting with the attack on the queen and the vulnerable c7 square. Alas, Black has a killed response. **20...Qxd4!!** **21.Qc2** [White has no way of avoiding substantial material loss. The obvious line 21.Rxd4 Re1+ 22.Rf1 Bxd4+ 23.Ne3 Bxe3+ 24.Qxe3 Rxe3 leaves Black a rook to the good] **21...Bf5** White will remain an exchange down at best. Eg 22 Kf1 Qxf2+ 23 Qxf2 Bxf2 24 Kxf2 Be4 and Black is winning. **0-1**

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