

New Zealand Chess

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The Present



IM Russell Dive

***Together at the North Island
Championship***

And the Future



Alan Ansell

***North Island Report – Junior star Alan Ansell Interview
plus – Pablo Williams' Travelling Show***

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IM Dive Chomps Contenders Like Easter Eggs and Swallows NI Title

The 2009 North Island Championship was moved from its normal place on the calendar to the Easter Weekend, where it was combined with the Wellington Open. IM Russell Dive defeated his main rivals, Bob Smith and Mike Steadman, on the way to a comfortable victory. A major talking point and surprise was the performance of 12 year old Alan Ansell from New Plymouth, who knocked over four plus 2000 players. See the interview with Alan and his father in this edition.

Tournament Director Mark van der Hoorn reports. That is, he reports to the end of Round 1, but Mark being Mark he never quite got around to rounds 2 to 8! But summarising the place getters, 2nd Bob Smith, 3rd Mike Steadman. B Grade 1st equal Martin Hill and Nathan Goodhue, C Grade 1st equal Alan Ansell and Vivian Smith.

They let the Wellington Club host this prestigious event this year. Hopefully it's not a decision that they live to regret. They they they. I'm talking about the NZCF of course. Our firm friends, who are especially proud of the Wellington Club for holding a magnificent tournament. By Wellington standards. But let's not go into that.

So as you'd expect, there was a

reasonably relaxed commencement to proceedings. The start time duly rolled around, and the DOP was nowhere in sight. Barely enough equipment was present to get things underway. Actually, a couple of players were rather helpful in this regard, by failing to turn up. Having said that, this caused some concern for the club treasurer, as he was feverishly attempting to pair the first round manually. The computer which would normally be used for such purposes was currently in the presence of the DOP, which wasn't any place near to hand.



Russell Dive and Bob Smith

Almost half an hour late the club president purposefully announced the arrival of the DOP and invited him to read out the draw. The DOP declined, on the grounds that the treasurer hadn't completed it yet. Then he attempted to bypass the selecting of a disputes committee by declaring that the tournament probably wouldn't require one. The president hastily put a stop to

that sort of carry on, and promptly found himself to be first appointment.

The treasurer appeared with the draw, which he then read out. Coincidentally, the treasurer found himself paired with the weakest player. The DOP shrugged, and wandered off to make himself a cup of coffee, as the players took their seats. The players shook hands, and the games were underway. After all that everything was now running smoothly with no problems whatsoever. A telephone rang in the tournament hall. The DOP nearly spluttered on his coffee! He'd made it all the way back to his seat from the kitchen, without helping himself to a ginger nut or three.

Shortly after this, the random telephone rang again. The DOP was halfway out of his chair anyway, to see if there might be something available in the biscuit range covered with chocolate, so he disconnected the offending device on his way out. It's a refreshing change these days, so see a man well on top of his craft. In fact, a little later on, Michael Steadman approached the DOP with the news that he may well have the qualifications required to become a FIDE arbiter. This should surprise no one.

The DOP himself was surprised, as was more than one of his clubmates. Gavin Marnier was the first to regain his composure at the news, and offered the congratulatory, "You're the worst DOP we've ever seen!" This is the sort of comradeship that keeps our club at the pinnacle of chess clubs throughout the globe. So then, how did it pan out?

Round One

We had the requisite couple of surprises here, the major one being the savaging of Chris Burns by young Alan Ansell. Burns tried the Fantasy Variation against the Caro-Kann, but Ansell didn't take the bait, and instead played the Crusty Defence with 3... e6. And don't start looking up the "Crusty Defence", I just made the name up after Scott Wastney once played it against me. Anyway, nobody crusts up Chris Burns and gets away with it. Except for just this once. I don't know how you'd describe what happened next. It's as if the palace guards all donned blindfolds, and started swinging wild haymakers about the place. Then they collapsed in exhaustion, and left Chris's king to say "Excuse me! Guards? Anyone?? Help!!" You can guess the rest.



Mark directing the Junior Tournament

There was also a near upset in Jackson vs Lyall. You've got to admire Ross's industry. He worked incredibly hard to achieve himself that lost position. In the end, all those anti positional moves coming from the Jackson camp wore

Lyll out, and he was so tired that he had to offer Ross a draw in a won position.

The big guns semi cruised it. Well, kind've. Hill tried the classic Loopy Bananas Attack against Dive. We've all tried it before, and there's no shame in it. Sadly for Martin, Russell demonstrated once again that the Nothing Defence is a more than adequate response. Forgive me for the depth of my analysis.

Hmmm, Loopiness vs Crustiness could be a theme of this tournament. I'll keep an eye on that. Goodhue outdid himself in the crusty stakes this time. He found a way to crust up the London System; surely the crustiest of all crusty openings. The only thing that Nic was able to sacrifice was the time on his clock. Then, just when it seemed that Nathan had discovered that holy grail of draws, the old "thirty three different ways to offer a three fold repetition defence", when the unthinkable happened. He went bananas. His King lunged at Nic's, as if he was a major player Vandaliser practitioner. Now, I essay the opening from time to time, but not against Nic. For various reasons. You can guess the rest.

Bob Smith had a comfortable win. It seemed as if Bob was settling in for a bit of a crust himself, when Matthew started chucking bananas at him like a demented ape on a personal weight loss crusade. After Bob accepted the second exchange Matthew decided that he'd had enough. Ward vs Steadman was another example of curvy yellow aggression. Simon brilliantly won Michael's queen, merely

investing almost all of his remaining pieces to do so. Then he resigned.

A theme was emerging now. In Lukey vs Cruden, Neil appeared to be losing a piece. But was he? He boldly sacrificed it, and followed this up with the offer of an exchange! Probably bewildered, Stephen accepted all, and meekly fell in with Neil's devious plan. Then Neil resigned. A masterstroke.

Young Daniel Baider is showing signs of being a bit of a junior crusty himself. He won his game against Roura without seeming to do anything much. Maybe he did, and I just need to become a better player so I can tell you what's going on in some of these games. Brian Nijman is a bit of an enigma. Sometimes when you play him he goes for a bit of a crust, and then all of a sudden you've slipped and fallen onto a sharp piece of fruit. This is pretty much what he did to Laurence in round one.

I don't want to diminish the other winners at all, but I can't mention everyone every round. Suffice it to say that they all won pretty much as they should've. Except maybe for Quentin who was the only person to win on time (against Vivian). He was a pawn up at the time, so it wasn't wholly undeserved, but there was definitely a touch of the crust about that game. Let's just say he's on notice.

2009 North Island Championship Crosstable

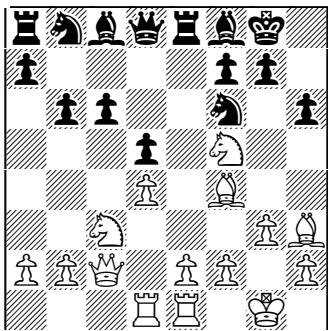
	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
1	Russell Dive	2412	W6	W17	W3	W8	W2	W14	D04	D07	7.0
2	Bob Smith	2323	W15	W22	D10	W9	L1	W05	W03	W08	6.5
3	Michael Steadman	2282	W20	W14	L1	W22	W13	W11	L02	W10	6.0
4	Pengali Zhang	2097	W28	D8	D17	W26	L14	W13	D01	W11	5.5
5	Brian Nijman	2141	W25	L9	L8	W24	W6	L02	W26	W15	5.0
6	Martin Hill	1913	L1	L12	W30	W21	L5	W28	W13	W09	5.0
7	Nathan Goodhue	1897	L8	W19	W31	L14	D22	W17	W16	D01	5.0
8	Nic Croad	2328	W7	D4	W5	L1	W17	W09	D11	L02	5.0
9	Alan Ansell	1568	W13	W5	D11	L2	W10	L08	W22	L06	4.5
10	Daniel Baider	2188	W21	W26	D2	L11	L9	W27	W14	L03	4.5
11	Stephen Lukey	2270	W23	W16	D9	W10	D	L03	D08	L04	4.5
12	Vivian Smith	1595	L17	W6	L16	L15	D30	W	W21	W14	4.5
13	Chris Burns	2099	L9	W18	W20	W16	L3	L04	L06	W22	4.0
14	John McDonald	2077	W30	L3	W15	W7	W4	L01	L10	L12	4.0
15	Matthew King	1885	L2	W28	L14	W12	L26	W25	W18	L05	4.0
16	Michael Nyberg	1966	W27	L11	W12	L13	W20	D	L07	D17	4.0
17	Quentin Johnson	2109	W12	L1	D4	W19	L8	L07	W20	D16	4.0
18	Ross Jackson	1972	D19	L13	L25	W28	D21	W23	L15	W27	4.0
19	Simon Lyall	1274	D18	L7	W27	L17	D25	L20	W	W26	4.0
20	Simon Ward	1717	L3	W30	L13	W25	L16	W19	L17	W28	4.0
21	Federico Roura	1630	L10	W29	L22	L6	D18	W30	L12	W31	3.5
22	Gavin Marner	2004	W24	L2	W21	L3	D7	W26	L09	L13	3.5
23	Neil Cruden	1671	L11	W24	L26	W31	L27	L18	D25	W29	3.5
24	Gary Judkins	1386	L22	L23	W	L5	L28	W29	D27	W30	3.5
25	Lawrence Farrington	1603	L5	D27	W18	L20	D19	L15	D23	W	3.5
26	Bill Forster	1953	W31	L10	W23	L4	W15	L22	L05	L19	3.0
27	Hans Gao	1268	L16	D25	L19	W29	W23	L10	D24	L18	3.0
28	Robert Mitchell	1551	L4	L15	W29	L18	W24	L06	W31	L20	3.0
29	Winston Yao	1215	W	L21	L28	L27	W31	L24	D30	L23	2.5
30	Hamish Shierlaw	1403	L14	L20	L6	W	D12	L21	D29	L24	2.0
31	Ryan Lee		L26	W	L7	L23	L29	D	L28	L21	1.5

Croad, Nicholas - Dive, Russell

North Island Championship 2009 (4.1),
11.04.2009

Annotated by IM Russell Dive

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Qc2 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Bh3 7. Bg2 was the alternative plan, with latent pressure along the h1-a8 diagonal 7...Bd6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nc3 h6 10.Nh4 Re8 ... c5 was more active, but also more committal 11.Nf5 Bf8 12.Bf4 c6 13.Rad1 Bc8 a surprising undeveloping move, which repositions the bishop on to a more useful diagonal, as well as setting up an immediate threat 14.Rfe1?



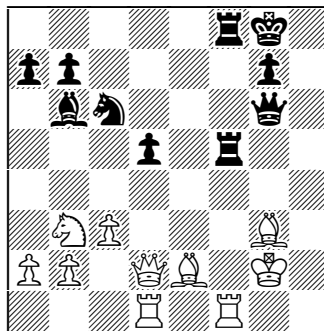
The contrast between the two positions couldn't be more stark. With this move White has completed his development, while Black has only two pieces developed and has all but one of his pieces on his back rank. Who is winning, Black of course! **14...g6!** At first glance this looks like a mistake, losing a pawn. However, black has seen a little bit further than white **15.Nxh6+ Bxh6 16.Bxc8 Qxc8 17.Bxh6 Qh3** This was what White missed on move 14, which

completely overturns the position in Black's favour **18.e4** No better was retreating the bishop, when Ng4 and the half-open e-file leaves White's position in tatters **18...Qxh6 19.exd5 Qf8** This precise move quickly consolidates Black's material advantage **20.Rxe8 Qxe8 21.dxc6 Nxc6 22.d5 Ne5 23.d6 Qc6 0-1**

Burns, Chris - Ansell, Alan

North Island Championship 2009 (1.9),
10.04.2009

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.exd5 exd5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Ne2 Nge7 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Qd2 Bf5 12.g4 Ne5 13.Ned4 Bg6 14.Be2 Qe8 15.0-0 h5 16.h3 Nc4 17.Qc1 Nc6 18.Re1 Qd7 19.Kg2 N4e5 20.Qd1 hxg4 21.hxg4 f5 22.Nxf5 Bxf5 23.gxf5 Rxf5 24.Qd2 Raf8 25.Rf1 Qf7 26.f4 Ng6 27.Rad1 Nxf4+ 28.Bxf4 Qg6+ 29.Bg3



29...Rf2+ 30.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 31.Kh3 Qf5+ 32.Kh4 Bd8+ 0-1

For more games from the North Island Championship go to page 17

Junior Chess in New Zealand

Alan Ansell's Star Rises

By Alan Aldridge

Boisterous and entertaining to watch, the under 12s at this year's North Island Championship junior tournament created merry chaos. They bombarded the amused Director with questions and flashed out moves often with more speed than accuracy. Their tournament, played with 10 minutes each on the clock, was over in one afternoon.

Next door playing in the North Island Championship itself, another 12 year old seemed a complete contrast. At the board Alan Ansell concentrated hard, showing a calm demeanour, unchanging no matter what the state of his game. Unusually for someone only just turned 12 he takes his time and says he likes having time to think. By the end he was a major talking point, stunning everyone with four victories and a draw, all against over 2000 rated opponents.

Alan hasn't quite come from nowhere, he was noticed at the 2008 Kapiti Rapid and

had an outstanding Queenstown Classic. His performance at the North Island Championship, held over Easter in Wellington, was a continuation of some rapid progress- the speed of which has been a surprise to his father, John Ansell, and more than they both expected.

First round and the first surprise. Facing Chris Burns from Palmerston North as black Alan demolished Chris's f3 variation of the Caro Kann, taking advantage of an overly optimistic pawn thrust and a failure to castle. Chris, rated 2099, wilted under a ferocious attack that ended in checkmate.

When asked what he likes most about chess Alan says 'attacking'. His games at the tournament bore that out. He attacked whenever possible. He likes studying tactics and his training has concentrated on that side of the game. Alan says tactics 'give his brain a good workout'. One recent technique John has introduced is to read out a game to Alan that has a tactic about 10 or 15 moves in. Without using a board, Alan visualises the game and tries to spot the two or three move deep tactic.

NPCC's Support

In New Plymouth Alan has been Club Champion for the last two years, and has played at the club for four. The club has been very supportive of Alan as he developed, however it is small and without many very strong players. It's a problem not having top level over the board competition. John is Alan's coach

and he only studied the game to help Alan. The family has to juggle the cost in time and money of taking the four of them to tournaments around the country. But John is keen to give him as much tournament chess as possible, especially before the complications and pressures of secondary school.

Alan started playing chess when he was four. John says he was very difficult to keep occupied and was a challenge behaviourally.

But he noticed Alan liked board games, anything that had strategy. John knew the rules of chess, although not much else about the game. He taught them to Alan who caught on quickly. When Alan was five, John decided to

learn something about the game himself so he could pass the knowledge on. At the library he found a book of puzzles, mates in two. He sat Alan down and asked 'how do you do these'? Alan looked at them and without hesitation solved one after another, instantly finding the answers. The puzzles weren't difficult, but from this session at the local library John realised Alan had potential.

John played Alan on and off, never going easy and getting stronger himself, until when Alan was about seven he

couldn't beat him any longer. About that time a junior chess tournament was held for all of Taranaki, organised by Richard Jennings, an employee of the oil industry and a 2000 rated player. Richard also helped coach Alan and some others, taking NZCF Rook and Bishop badges. To the disappointment of New Plymouth chess supporters Richard was later posted overseas. The tournament was for 12 year olds and under. 60 odd children played. This tournament was the spark

that ignited Alan's interest. He had never played in a tournament before, and aged just 7 took second place, losing only to the winner. John says "Alan thought he was pretty clever!" This was the catalyst to join the local club and start taking chess more seriously.



NI Prize giving: From Left Bill Forster, Alan Aldridge, Alan Ansell and Mark van der Hoorn

Alan now plays once a week at New Plymouth Chess Club. He doesn't play on the Internet or much against the computer. Until about 12 months ago he did play often against the computer but now prefers over the board. 'What he does do', says John. 'Is spend a lot of time studying tactics. The software he likes to use is CT-ART. He spends a lot of time studying tactical puzzles' He also reads chess books. having advanced beyond the point where John can gainfully read chess books and teach him, Alan is

reading and absorbing himself. Queenstown was Alan's first open tournament. John was a little nervous how Alan would perform, he was rated only 1300, and had until then only played in tournaments with a lower rating group. He wonders now if that may have held Alan's progress back. His concern Alan might be outclassed at Queenstown was misplaced. In the first round Alan offered a draw from a favourable position against the 2000 rated Australian Brian Jones. In the end Alan only lost three games, two against 2200 plus rated players, the other just under 2000. John says he was surprised at how well Alan performed and pleased to see him gain in confidence from game to game. "So, I said come here, (North Island Championship) Keep playing"

Alan followed up his first round North Island upset with an even greater shock, beating 2141 rated Brian Nijman. Then what must have been a highlight, a draw with FM and member of the last Olympiad team, Stephen Lukey. The next round he defeated developing junior, Daniel Baider, who is rated over 2100. John says Alan has followed and admired Daniel's progress. When it comes to encouraging junior chess Alan's story shows that having successful peers to follow (as Daniel looked to Puchen) helps and also how important the junior tournaments are for encouraging and introducing young players to competitive chess.

In another display of attacking chess Alan picked apart Gavin Marner, who is

usually found doing the attacking himself. Alan finished the North Island Championship with 4.5/8, losing to FMs Bob Smith and Nic Croad and a last round loss to the 1900 rated player Martin Hill. He shared best junior with Daniel Baider and claimed the best junior trophy on count back. Presently rated only 1568, Alan also shared with Viv Smith the C Grade prize.

For the future Alan has to overcome the difficulties of not having a coach, now having surpassed John's ability, plus the constraints of living in New Plymouth and those of finding time and money to travel. But he has expressed the desire to become a Grandmaster and has the will of all chess players to see just how far he can go. With his entertaining attacking chess he can be sure of many who will say 'I'll watch your future career with interest Young Man!'"

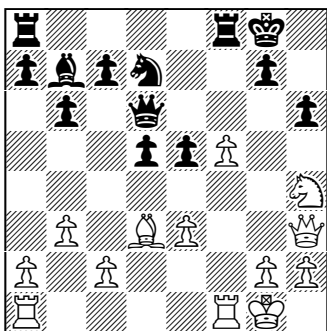
Alan Ansell - Daniel Baider

North Island Championships 2009 (5.5),
12.04.2009

Annotated by Alan Ansell

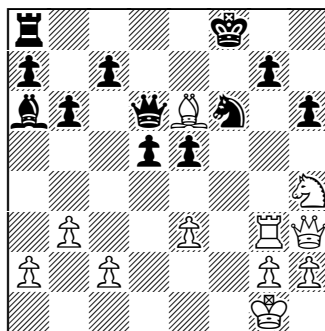
1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 d5 4.Bd3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.b3 b6 8.Bb2 Bb7 9.Ne5 The white Knight pounces on the juicy e5 square. Black gobbles it before it can be backed up with f2-f4.
9...Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nd7 11.f4 f5 Black prevents further advance of the white f-pawn. **12.exf6** White prevents blockage in the kingside and opens up the line of his b2-Bishop. **12...Bxf6 13.Qh5!** White induces weakness in black's pawn structure. Later the g6-square becomes a

weakness. **13...h6 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.Qh3** It's always a good idea to keep the initiative! **15...Qe7** Black could also have considered **15...Bc8**. **16.Nf3** White's other knight eyes up the e5-square, and from there g6. **16...Nd7** Black avoids **17.Ne5**, but the knight has another route to g6. **17.Nh4 Qd6 18.f5 e5**



19.f6!? A risky but exciting option - opening up multiple lines and vacating the f5 square at the expense of a pawn. **19...Nxf6 20.Nf5 Qd7** Black could have considered **20...Bc8** also. **21.Rf3** Planning **22 Rg3**, but also allowing a draw with **21... e4 22.Rg3 exd3 23.Nxh6+ Kh8 24. Nf7+ -** I was content here with the chance of a draw against a much higher rated player. **21...Rf7** Black declines the offer **22.Rg3 Kf8** The black king runs away. **23.Rf1** White patiently develops his attack. **23...Ne8?** Rybka suggests **24. Rxg7**, which wins the queen and some pawns for a rook and the knight. **24.Be2** White manoeuvres his Bishop towards a place where it is participating in the attack. **24...Bc8 25.Bg4 Qd8 26.Nh4!** The white knight

again zeroes in on the weak g6 point. **26...Rxf1+ 27.Kxf1 Nf6** Black sensibly blocks any attacks down the f-file and begins to open an escape route for his king along the eighth rank. **28.Be6** White takes control of the light squares deep in blacks camp. Black can not remove an attacker with **28...Bxe6?? 29.Qxe6** after which **29...g5** is the only sensible way to stop **Ng6#**: **29...g5 30.Rf3 Kg7 (30...gxh4 31.Rxf6+ Kg7 32.Qf7+ Kh8 33.Rxh6#) 31.Nf5+ Kf8 (31...Kg6 32.Ne7+, 31...Kh8 32.Nxh6) 32.Nxh6! Kg7 33.Qf7+!** **28...Ba6+** Black must find a way to generate threats of his own. If after **...Ba6+** he can swing his queen to d6 and then to b4, he might give white something to think about. He fulfils this plan, but misses a tactic in the process. **29.Kg1 Qd6?**



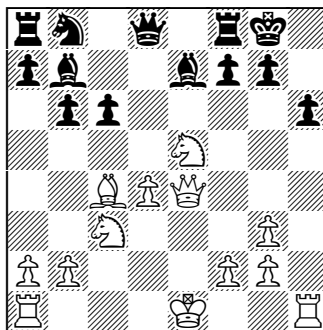
30.Rxg7! White crashes through. Black cannot now play **30...Qb4**: **31.Rg8+! Ke7 (31...Nxg8 32.Qf5+) 32.Nf5+!! Kxe6 33.Nd4+++** with **34.Qe6+** and mate. Nor can he cut his losses with **30...Kxg7** or **30...Qxe6**: **30...Kxg7** is met with **31.Nf5+ Kf8 32.Qxh6+** with mate. If **30... Qxe6**,

31.Qxe6 Kxg7 32. Qxe7 wins the knight.
30...Ke8 31.Qf5! The queen enters the
 fray. **31...Qb4** The black queen threatens
 Qe1, but is too late. **32.Rg8+?** Winning,
 but white can mate quickly with 32.Bd7+
 or 32.Qd6+ **32...Ke7 33.Ng6+ Kd6**
34.Qxe5+ Kc5 Suddenly it seems that
 white has erred: Black is threatening Qe1
 and he is attacking whites g8-rook.
35.Qd4+ ?! 35.Qxc7+ Kb5 36.Bd7+
 Ka5 37.c3 is better. **35...Qxd4 36.exd4+**
Kxd4? Black can limit his losses to an
 exchange and some pawns with 36...Kd6,
 but he will lose the endgame anyway.
37.Rxa8 Kc3 38.Rxa7 and black
 resigned. The theme in this game was
 weaknesses in the black kingside light
 squares. I was able to take advantage of
 this because my light squared bishop was
 active and Daniel's was doing little on the
 a6-c8 diagonal. **1-0**

Bill's Puzzles

By Bill Forster

Identify the winning continuation. Player
 to move is in brackets. Games from
 Queenstown 2009



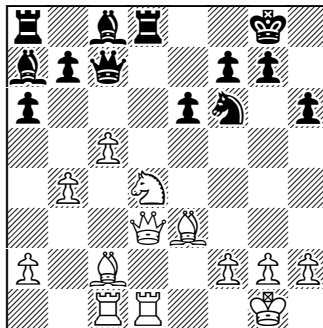
2009 Women's Champs

Judy Gao is the 2009 NZ Women's
 Champion scoring 4.5/6 over Nicole
 Tsoi 4/6. The Reserve was won by
 Kathy Fan with 8.5/10. The
 tournament was held in Auckland on
 21 -25 April

2009 Senior's Champs

NM Peter Stuart has won the 2009
 Senior's Championship with 4.5/5
 over Wayne Power, Vivian Smith and
 Richard Taylor with 3.5/5. The
 tournament was played in Hamilton
 on 8-10 May.

Caron – Charamova (W)



Milligan – Cooper (W)

Continued on page 26

Pablo Williams and his Global Chess Travelling Show

missing years Pablo has traveled to over 40 countries and 140 cities playing chess for money. Most chess players don't

know the story, and among those that do has been unease at the ethics of what looks like a modern day version of the old traveling medicine show. Now Pablo can see ahead to the end of his traveling chess days, he is ready to tell the story from his perspective.



Back in 2003 Pablo was studying pharmacy at Otago University. But he was losing interest in studies and spending more time playing chess. Student allowance money paid for chess tournaments and his debts were mounting. By the beginning of 2004 he was looking for ways to pay them. One night he saw a busker on the street. The following is from notes Pablo had written in preparation for a possible book and an interview with NZ Chess.

By Alan Aldridge

Chess, it seems, throws up plenty of characters. Pablo Williams, of Jamaican descent, is certainly one. Some will remember Pablo from Dunedin where he played a half dozen years ago. His exuberant personality, distinctive dreadlocks and occasionally causing commotion in quiet chess halls with a loud defence of his rights in some dispute, stood him apart from the crowd. Since then he disappeared from sight until resurfacing at the recent Queenstown Classic tournament. In the

How it Began

“I remember that day perfectly. It was late at night and I darted through the deserted streets in search of the last bus home. To my surprise was a young male guitarist playing an amplifier right in front of the bus I needed to take. A gaggle of young ladies, tipsy after a night on the town, fawned on him in such a manner to make me feel I was in the presence of a famous rock star. They sang along and were throwing money at him as if there was no tomorrow. I went

from bewilderment to euphoria in an instant. I missed that bus but my failure to catch it served a useful purpose. My mind became electrified by so much confidence I felt as if I had been struck by lightning. Was there anything I could do to earn money on the street? As quickly as I warmed to the idea logic and rationality kicked in raising a huge cloud of doubt. I was hopeless in every skill the general public expects from a street performer.”

“Fortunately for me impulse and spontaneity refused to back down in the face of rationality and logic.

“I spoke of the plan the next day with my mother. As one can imagine it didn't go down well with her. In summary she told me 'You have lost your mind, don't waste time on this, focus on getting a job so you can pay off your debts'. I didn't expect any different response. My mother is more averse to taking risks. But from an early age I believed in the philosophy that one does not necessarily have to see the whole staircase in order to take the first step. I am of the opinion that the most rewarding and satisfying path in everyone's life are those that involve some degree of risk.

“The day of reckoning finally came to pass, and along with it a long process of trial and error. Queen St, Auckland became centre stage for a rookie street performer. I painfully remember that day the only reception I managed came from a barking dog tied to a leash. And rightly so, my first attempt was a very poor one.

It began with me standing in a shaded corner of the street shouting “ten dollars for a game of chess” at passers by during the lunch time rush hour. After a couple of hours I had a hoarse voice from shouting and one dollar to show, given me by an old lady out of sympathy. The police turned up to thankfully put an end to my misery by informing me that what I was doing was illegal. I couldn't provide a good or service in exchange for money in a public place without a vendor's permit. There was only one way to play chess on the street, allow people to play for free.



Playing a Police Officer in Boston

On the way home I felt some temporary peace about the final surrender. I gave it a shot at least. Yet I didn't want to cave in to the pressure from my mother to give up. I went back to the drawing board. I had been buried by an avalanche of mistakes. One thing I have learned for sure is that the moment you stand to have everything to lose is also the moment you can have everything to gain. Opportunities present themselves not only in favourable circumstances but

unfavourable ones too. Winning the battle requires the ability to turn negative setbacks into positives.”

“From one day to the next rout became redemption as the mistakes I made served as fodder for finding improvements. People had no time for ordinary chess so I ramped things up by introducing speed chess. I couldn't charge for the games so I made them free. Shouting made me hoarse so I wrote a sign to do the shouting for me. I moved from my shady spot into the sun. But success was still not forthcoming, although there was some encouraging results. People played, I gathered a small crowd and at the end of the day from five hours work I earned \$15.00. Better than the day before but still well short of a regular job.”

“After a week I began to lose faith. Words from my mother began to sink in along with grim thoughts of three dollars an hour in the hot sun. Time had come to kick this idea away once and for all. I started looking for regular work, but fate intervened.

Father's Illness the Impetus

Some terrible news came about my father in Jamaica, the country of my birth. He had developed a severe mental illness and was in hospital. I had not heard from him for many months and not seen him for many years. He had abandoned his responsibilities to provide for me as a father and I did not have a strong father

son bond. In fact I had barely any contact since leaving Jamaica with my mother all those years ago. But I still felt pain in my heart upon hearing his plight. I felt obliged to depart immediately for Jamaica.”



“A regular job would still take me months to save the funds required. My mind searched for a solution and intuitively returned to an idea still freshly buried. To hell with it I thought, why don't I just tell the people the reason I was out playing chess in the street. If it worked I could have the cash required in a couple of weeks. There was however a conundrum regarding the show. People who could play chess seemed reluctant to play, so in a spirit of innovation I proclaimed myself the Jamaican number one! The idea being to give the punters an incentive, nobody wants to play a chump.”

“I had made six modifications to my original plan. Five were changes brought about through trial and error, and one from chance arising from a family matter. There is a saying that a single stick is weak but a bundle of sticks is strong. So

it proved for me. All my changes together made a big difference. I netted over two hundred dollars in four hours. I was ecstatic, it worked, I couldn't believe it. For once in my life perseverance paid off.”

“I used that money to go to Sydney. When I arrived I had about \$80 leftover. Enough to pay for accommodation for one night. I tried again at George St with my original sign. But in an hour I made only \$7 or \$8. Much worse than Auckland where the people had been responsive. In this moment I sort of panicked. I was in a foreign country with no money and I didn't know anyone. I was left to myself. I didn't want to be hungry or sleep under a bridge. I had to do what I needed to survive. It was a big thing to leave New Zealand and my security behind. I had to prevail so I thought of everything I could. I thought of the signs and thought maybe I have to find something more, something that reaches the people. I was noticing a lot of people were crowding and watching but weren't giving me money. If you are going to watch a game for three minutes then clap and it does something for you then at the end I feel I've earned a payment, I've provided a service, an entertainment.”

The Controversial Sign

“I was working with a guy I'd met in Sydney and I said to him we have to look at the sign. People were enjoying watching but weren't reaching into their pocket. It came to me that a lot of people

get cancer. It just came to me. I'd studied pharmacy and knew the statistics. I knew a lot of people would connect and identify. That's when that sign was born. (Pablo changed his sign to say his father had cancer, and used a similar sign throughout his travels - Ed) I wrote that sign out of a need to survive, not to be a horrible person, not to rip people off. Just to get money that I'd earned. Its a delicate balance. The balance being if I don't have that sign I don't get the money I need to survive. But when I do write the sign the balance becomes a bit more that I'm



Pablo in Singapore

taking advantage of the people but it's not my intention to do that. The thing is when someone gives money at what point is the money for the show or the sign?”

“What I'm trying to say to all these people who don't like what I do, I'm not just standing there with the signs. It's the chess and the signs combined, that's how it works. People can't attack me by separating it and saying all the money I earned is just from these signs. Its rubbish to say someone gives a dollar

just because of the signs. If he watches me play chess then I earned that dollar. I can't have 50 people watching me on the street then all clapping and walking away. So to get money I have to use their emotions, get their sympathy. Something to provide a tipping point.”

“When I went to Australia I didn't plan to travel the world. My idea was to go to Europe then Jamaica. Immediately after I changed the signs in Australia the new signs worked. For me it meant I could eat and sleep that night, for my money was gone. For me it was exciting. I had to do something at that point. I did something and it worked. I thought maybe it was luck but I went out the next day, and it worked again. My work partner and I were happy, we were making money. I suddenly thought to myself, there are so many cities, in Australia and elsewhere. So I took the show to the big Australian cities. On the way I met many Europeans who said this will never work in Europe. I believed it could and left Australia for Europe. I've done basically every city in Europe with over one million people in it. I average about three weeks per city. Sometime I get moved on by police. Sometimes the city is not busy enough. Because if you're not making money its costing you money. Traveling is very expensive.”

Pablo Tries the USA

In 2005 Pablo traveled from Europe to the southern USA to try his luck there, but with disastrous results. **End of Part One. The story will conclude in the**

next issue of NZ Chess.

2009 North Island Championships: Games of Note

Mike Steadman emerges the victor in this exciting scrap with John McDonald

Steadman,Michael - McDonald,John
North Island Championship 2009 (2.5),
10.04.2009

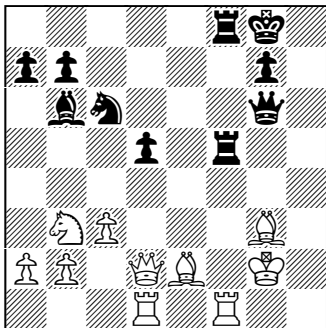
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.f3 0-0 10.Nge2 Qa5 11.Bf4 Ne8 12.Qd2 a6 13.g4 b5 14.h4 b4 15.Nd1 Bb5 16.Bxb5 Qxb5 17.Ne3 Nd7 18.h5 Ne5 19.Bxe5 Bxe5 20.f4 Bg7 21.Ng3 Ra7 22.g5 Re7 23.0-0-0 c4 24.Qh2 Qc5 25.Ng4 f5 26.hxg6 Bxb2+ 27.Qxb2 fxg4 28.gxh7+ Rxh7 29.Rxh7 Qe3+ 30.Kb1 c3 31.Qh2 c2+ 32.Kxc2 Qc3+ 33.Kb1 b3 34.Rb7 bxa2+ 35.Kxa2 Qa5+ 36.Kb2 Nc7 37.Nf5 1-0

The entertaining first round upset that first drew attention to Alan Ansell

Burns,Chris - Ansell,Alan
North Island Championship 2009 (1.9),
10.04.2009

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 e6 4.Nd2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.exd5 exd5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Ne2 Nge7 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Qd2 Bf5 12.g4 Ne5 13.Ned4 Bg6 14.Be2 Qe8 15.0-0 h5 16.h3 Nc4 17.Qc1 Nc6 18.Re1 Qd7 19.Kg2 N4e5 20.Qd1 hxg4 21.hxg4 f5 22.Nxf5 Bxf5 23.gxf5 Rxf5 24.Qd2 Raf8 25.Rf1 Qf7 26.f4 Ng6 27.Rad1 Nxf4+ 28.Bxf4 Qg6+ 29.Bg3

emerges with a hard earned victory



29...Rf2+ 30.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 31.Kh3 Qf5+
32.Kh4 Bd8+ 0-1

The dangers of loosening up your Kingside and the often insurmountable difficulty of having your King in the open are highlighted by Daniel Baider's loss to Stephen Lukey

Baider, Daniel - Lukey, Stephen
North Island Championship 2009 (4.3),
11.04.2009

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 0-0
5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Qc2 e5 8.Rd1
Re8 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.e4 c6 11.h3 Qc7
12.c5 b6 13.b4 bxc5 14.bxc5 Qa5
15.Be3 Ba6 16.Nbd2 Rab8 17.Nb3 Qa4
18.Nfd2 Rb4 19.Bf1 Bxf1 20.Kxf1 Nf8
21.f3 Ne6 22.Rac1 Rd8 23.Ke1 Nh5
24.Nf1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Rc4 26.Qd3
Nd4 27.Nfd2 Nc2+ 28.Kf2 Nxe3
29.Kxe3 Rd4 30.Nxd4 Qxd1 31.Ne2
Bh6+ 32.f4 exf4+ 33.gxf4 Bxf4+
34.Nxf4 Qg1+ 0-1

Bob Smith fends off Brian Nijman and

Smith, Robert - Nijman, Brian
North Island Championship 2009 (6.4),
12.04.2009

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7
5.Bd2 Nf5 6.Nf3 b6 7.Bd3 c5 8.Bxf5
Bxc3 9.Bxc3 exf5 10.Qd2 Nc6 11.h4
Be6 12.h5 h6 13.Qf4 Qd7 14.a3 a5
15.Rh3 Ne7 16.Qd2 Qa4 17.b4 Nc6
18.bxc5 bxc5 19.dxc5 Rb8 20.Rh4 Qb5
21.Qe3 0-0 22.a4 Qa6 23.Nd4 Rfc8
24.Nb5 Rxb5 25.axb5 Qxb5 26.Rha4 f4
27.Rxf4 Rd8 28.Bd4 Rb8 29.Qc3 Bc8
30.Rf3 Ba6 31.Rd3 Nb4 32.Kd2 Nxd3
33.cxd3 a4 34.f4 Qd7 35.Qa5 Qg4
36.Qxa6 Qxg2+ 37.Ke1 Qg3+ 38.Bf2
Qxf4 39.Qxa4 Qxe5+ 40.Kf1 Rb2
41.Re1 Qh2 42.Qh4 Qb8 43.Qd4 Qb7
44.c6 Qb5 45.c7 Rc2 46.Bg3 Qd7
47.Qh4 Qf5+ 48.Kg1 Qf3 49.Qh3 Kh7
50.Rf1 Qe3+ 51.Kh1 Qxd3 52.Qf5+
Qxf5 53.Rxf5 Rc3 54.Rxf7 d4 55.Be5
Rc1+ 56.Kg2 Kg8 57.Rxg7+ Kf8
58.Rd7 Rc2+ 59.Kf3 Rc3+ 60.Ke4 1-0

Gino Jumps

Thornton Sweeps BOP Rapid

By Caleb Wright

Stormy weather couldn't stop the 2009 BOP Rapid from proceeding, despite a few players deciding not to attend due to North Island road conditions. Picture dripping wet players who have journeyed like weary travelers from a distant land, welcomed with nice hot refreshments, before the tournament got under way. In the end 38 players traveled from as far away as Gisborne (thanks to Genesis Potini's Eastern Knight's), Red Beach north of Auckland, and Lower Hutt.

The 38 players were broken up into two groups in the most practical and logical way where there was a decent rating gap about half way down the player list to form an 'A' group and a 'B' group.

The Rounds – A Group

Gino Thornton was on fire and showed how a six round picket fence is made with wins against Lynn, Marko, Duneas, R. Smith, Steadman and Spiller. On 4½ was R. Smith and Steadman, who drew with each other and each lost against Gino. Paul Spiller was on 4 points. The highest scoring local player was John Duneas on 3½ who took the local club A-

grade trophy on countback after Noel Pinic also landed on 3½. Also on 3½ was Etienne de Beer from Red Beach.

The Rounds – B Group

Bob Mitchell also proved to be in good form collecting six straight wins against Rider, S. Yang, Gothorp, V. Collingwood, V. Smith, and H. Gao. Some interesting games indeed, and great chances for some newer players to NZ chess to show and develop their talent.

Conclusion

Despite terrible weather, the tournament was a good success and players catching up once again. Special thanks to Tournament Director Hilton Bennett for his work. The sharing of grade prizes meant that many players happily went away with a prize of some sort. I'd like to again personally thank the many clubs and players who have helped make the B.O.P. Rapid a success in many ways, the supportive local committee members, and last but not least the players themselves who entered.

Bob Mitchell - Hans Gao

BOP Rapid B Grade (6), 2009

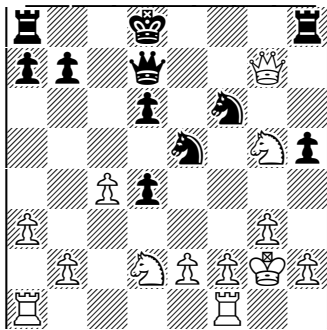
By Bob Mitchell

Scoring a picket fence even in the lower grades requires a fair slice of good luck. My run began several days beforehand when my wife announced

that a fabric shop in Onehunga would demand her attention for at least 15 minutes. I crossed the street to the Hard to Find Book Shop and in the Chess section came across a 1991 monograph by Eric Schiller entitled 'How to Play the Albin Counter Gambit.'

At home I spent a few hours becoming familiar with the ideas for both sides, but did not expect to meet the opening in my very next tournament.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.a3 f6 6.exf6 Nxf6 7.g3 Bf5 8.Bg2 Qd7 9.0-0 Bh3 10.Bg5 The Knight is poised to assist the coming attack on White's castled position and is best swapped off. **10...Bxg2 11.Kxg2 Ne4 12.Bf4 h5?!** This was the time for Black to castle long so as to bring a Rook into the centre and liberate the Queen from support of the d pawn. White needs to develop the remaining back rank pieces, but the Queen has to come out ahead of the Knight. **13.Qd3 Nf6 14.Qg6+ Kd8 15.Nbd2 Bd6 16.Bxd6 cxd6 17.Ng5 Ne5 18.Qxg7!**



Snipping off a second pawn. Hans

thought for nearly 5 minutes over his reply and during this time unworthy thoughts of gamesmanship surfaced in my mind. Needing only a half point for clear first place, I thought that after **18...Qxg7 19.Ne6+** would be an ideal psychological moment to offer a draw. Indeed, after **20.Nxg7 Rag8** White must retreat and Black's pieces are poised to attack. **18...Qe8!?** Hans calculated that retaining his Queen gave better winning prospects and elected to add a whole piece to the sacrificed material. Humbled by this display of courage I could do nothing but accept the sacrifice and play on. **19.Qxf6+ Kc7 20.Qe6 Qf8 21.Qd5 Qh6** Later, **21.c5!** was suggested, but I felt my Queen would be ideally placed on d5, and there was also the new threat on e6. **22.Ne6+ Kd7 23.Nc5+ Ke7 24.Qxb7+ Kf6 25.Nde4+ Kf5 26.Nd3 h4!** Black's attack begins but White still has a tempo to spend. **27.Nxe5!** Eliminating Black's best placed piece, creating 7th rank attack potential and freeing up escape squares for the White King. **27...Raf8?!** Allowing a pretty finish. **28.g4+ Kxe5 29.Qd5+ Kf4 30.e3+ Resigns.** If **30... Kxg4 31. h3#** or **30...de3 31.fxe3+ Kxe3 32.Rae1#** At 11 years old Hans Gao already shows remarkable maturity and objectivity in his chess thinking. He has a bright future.

1-0

Club and Local News

Mt Maunganui Club Celebrates 10 Years

By Caleb Wright

In April the Mt. Maunganui RSA Chess Club celebrated its 10th birthday, being 10 years since Rick McGuinness and Caleb Wright founded the club, replacing the previous defunct one. Personally Rick and Caleb were able to celebrate 21 years as being the longest chess club players in the Bay of Plenty, and of course with no breaks in all those years.

Organiser and host Caleb Wright was pleased at a room filled with past and present members, which certainly made one feel a little old. Plenty of finger food was the order of the evening as members, parents & children and visitors were able to relax and reminisce.

Club members were presented with graded term club trophies, once the 10th birthday cake had its candles blown out.

Highlight of the evening was a comical piece from Genesis Potini, who added a great feeling of wide appreciation of the work keeping the club functioning logically, and Genesis had brought along two of his Eastern Knight's with him all

the way from Gisborne. At the end of the evening some members stayed and played games, taking care not to fall asleep being full of food and drink, moving chess pieces to the correct squares, and not sacrificing too much.

Many thanks to Neil Cruden and Graeme Pocock who were able to travel far for the occasion, and thanks also to the many people (Hilton Bennett in particular) who have supported the MM club as it has long become the centre for chess in the Bay of Plenty.

David Capper Made Life Member of Wellington CC

Wellington Club President Ross Jackson presented longstanding WCC and Civic CC player, administrator and supporter David Capper with Life Membership of WCC and a chessbook signed by WCC club members on the April 26th clubnight. Here is David's acceptance speech, summarised by Ian Sellen

"Before I reply I hope you'll permit me a brief history and a few anecdotes. Some of you will be aware that I tried to promote chess in Intermediate, Secondary and the Correspondence School. What you won't know is that circa 1960 there was inter tramping club chess! Also chess boards and pseudo chess boards (e.g. potato pieces on cardboard) were produced all over the

Tararuas. I even burnt a foul smelling plastic set and we watched spellbound as a tide of red obliterated the white! (I prefer black)

"I joined Civic in 1974 in time to see a slender Murray Chandler leave for England and enjoy playing against an about 12 year old Russell Dive. There were many clubs in Wellington and Inter-Club chess created fun and intense rivalry especially Civic vs Wellington!

"Ab Borren walked out on me in an inter club game after I'd done a nasty swindle with a Knight discovered attack on his Queen and the same Ab Borren produced a milk jug, corn flakes, spoon and began slurping down his breakfast while sitting playing in an Upper Hutt Labour Weekend tournament!

"Many will remember that some would bet on the final destination of Zig Frankel's cigarette ash (c4 or b5) and he was famous for asking 'What your Bishop doing on g4!' And growling 'You have to *study* the opening'

"During an Upper Hutt 40/40 Mark Noble was looking very unhappy with several pieces in severe peril. I asked his opponent Arcadios Fenerides how he'd achieved such a nice position. "I offered him a little Knight" (he was well over 80 at the time).

"My father played in a simul with the lazy, vain, invincible Capablanca in 1924. I gained the initials C.C.C.P. as

Civic Chess Club President and Julian Mazur and I agreed that working for General Motors (initials G.M.) could be helpful. Despite this I've maintained a consistently mediocre standard." (Chess is the winner.)

"I thank you for this generous gesture which I value greatly - however when I read Constitutions I'm not sure if I've earned it. I also thank Hilary, Athena and Julia for their help, patience and support when I was running or being in many tournaments."



Richard Sutton

One of New Zealand chess' longstanding supporters, Richard Sutton, died in Dunedin on 17th April. Richard was a good friend to many throughout the country and played chess at the top level in Auckland Wellington and Dunedin. NZ Chess will run a full obituary in the July issue. Please write to the editor if you wish to contribute.

History of Chess

A Move in Time

By Rowan Wood

20 Years Ago

Anthony Ker had his name engraved on the Silver Rook for the first time when he and Paul Garbett won the Robert Jones Investments 96th New Zealand Championship held in Dunedin with 8/11. This was Paul's fifth time as champion. Martin Dreyer won the Reserve and Bruce Marsick won the Major Open. Bill Ramsay took over as editor of the New Zealand Chess magazine when Bill Cox stepped aside after 25 months in the job.

10 Years Ago

New Zealand chess lost two stalwarts of the game when Alan Fletcher passed away in March aged 90 and then in April, when "Mr Chess" IM Ortvín Sarapu MBE passed away suddenly aged 75. IM Russell Dive almost achieved a perfect score, 10½/11, when he won the 106th New Zealand Championship in Dunedin. He finished two and a half points clear of his nearest rivals, Anthony Ker and Paul Garbett. Anthony did however win the Rapid Championship ahead of local players Richard Sutton and Robert Wansink.

5 Years Ago

IM Anthony Ker won the 111th New Zealand Championship in Wellington, for the third year running with 8/11. He finished just half a point ahead of 13-year old rising star Puchen Wang, and Peter Green. This was Anthony's 25th consecutive NZ Congress and the eighth time he would see his name on the Silver Rook. IM Paul Garbett and Stephen Lukey were joint winners of the Rapid Championship. A long-time member of the Auckland Chess Centre, Merv Morrison passed away in April aged 96. At the time, Merv was most active rated player with more than 1100 standard rated games. In June, 151 girls competed in the fourth annual "Chess for Girls" week, with many of the girls back for the fourth year running.

Book Reviews

The Chess Instructor 2009
Edited by Jeroen Bosch and Steve Giddins, Published by New In Chess.

Reviewed by Bill Forster

This work is intended to be the first annual issue of a new member of the New In Chess family of periodical publications. The book is subtitled "The New in Chess Compendium for Chess Teachers, Coaches and Parents" which

neatly summarises its basic format and purpose. The preface explains that while the health of chess in general is debatable, it is undisputed that the demand for chess coaching has never been greater. I would argue that the book is also very useful to the serious student working alone.

The book comprises sixteen self contained articles by fifteen different authors (Jeroen Bosch fans get an enjoyable double dose). The articles cover a wide spectrum that I would place in four categories;

1) Instructive practical lessons for serious players. 2) Chess thinking from a psychological perspective. 3) Descriptions of methods and frameworks applicable to teaching young children the basics. 4) Profiles of top coaches and coaching organisations.

The first category comprises very high quality technical lessons from distinguished writers including Dvoretsky, Bosch and Giddins. There is only one article exclusively in the second category, which is essentially a piece of academic research that was too dry to be interesting to me. However some of the articles cross over between these first two categories and provide fresh thinking on organising your chess thinking. I am sure there are practical benefits to be had here and I was excited by this material. The third and fourth categories would be of particular interest to people who are working with young people. Finally there is a large article that is essentially a collection of reviews of instructional books. This fits none of my categories

but is a very useful resource. Additionally and in the same spirit, lists of the favourite teaching books of the various authors are sprinkled throughout the book.

I enjoyed the book and I will be interested whether the in-depth quality of the material can be sustained in future annuals.

100 Endgames You Must Know by Jesus de la Villa (New In Chess).

Reviewed by Max Wigbout

The subtitle of this book is ‘Vital lessons for every chess player’. I think this a bit over the top and I would prefer to say that it is another endgame book on the market with many interesting positions. And that the endgames shown are vital lessons is a matter of opinion. I found many other or even more vital endgames to know, when I went through some of my other endgame books. A difference from other endgame books is that each type of ending has a heading followed by various examples and conclusions and rules in square boxes, which are very helpful. The layout is also very clear and most endgames are discussed well. It is still hard work to get through all the 250 odd pages and understand and remember it all. And the author reminds the reader that ‘If I hear – I forget, if I see – I remember, if I do – I understand.’

The chapters cover the most common

situations; for example Queen vs Pawn, Rook vs Pawn and 2 Pawns, Bishop and pawn vs Bishop, Bishop vs Knight and so on. The appendix discusses mainly fortresses with various pieces. A novelty for me is a detailed table with statistical information giving results of different types of endgames. But as a statistician I'm horrified by the layout of the table.

I have seen these topics in other endgame books and it is unclear to me why I should know the 100 endgames shown, although most of them are very interesting indeed. It is certainly not a book for beginners, despite the titles of the first two chapters. I wouldn't call them 'basic', I would say that the reader would need to have at least a rating of about 1600 ELO. In that case it won't matter much that the pawn endings are discussed in one of the last chapters, although some are also discussed in Chapter 1.

It would have been helpful to have a glossary of terms. The author defines various things and then uses them elsewhere, even in abbreviated forms, for example 'T.D.' Sometimes I even missed a definition altogether, such as 'the winning zone' (in the solution of Basic test 2.03). It is good to have solutions given to the tests. It would have been good to have these also with the exercises, which are spread throughout the book. There are also occasions where things are stated without any explanation at all. For example in Ending 74 it is stated between brackets: 'for instance, if the king were on g4 the ending would be

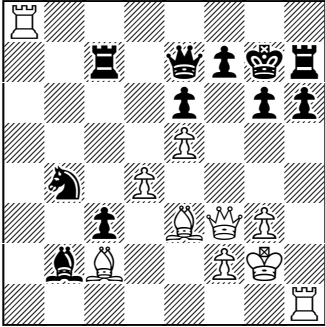
drawn' but there is no explanation as to why.

It would also have been good to have clearer definitions. For example there is no clear definition of the famous Philidor position in rook endings. As a result it is not obviously clear why in the solution of Basic Test 2.04 it is stated that the position in the test is not a Philidor position.

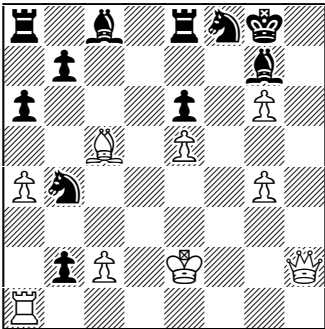
Overall I have very mixed feelings about the book. It has great examples in nearly 250 pages and these are usually well explained, but it doesn't put me in a mind to buy the next book by the author, which will probably be called something like 'The next 99 endgames you must know'! For a more positive review of the book: go to the 'New In Chess' website!

Upper Hutt Rapid

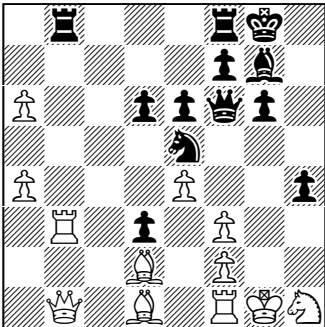
Anton Reid reports that after a year's break the Upper Hutt Rapid will be back on the 27th of June, with a time control of 25 plus 5. The tournament will be held at the Hapai Club, Fergusson Drive and is a Class 3 event with \$500 in prize money. For information and to enter contact Anton Reid, 16 Hildreth St Upper Hutt, ph 04 5288756 or email Anton_Reid@asteron.co.nz



Duneas – Corke (W)



G. Jones – Dragicevic (W)

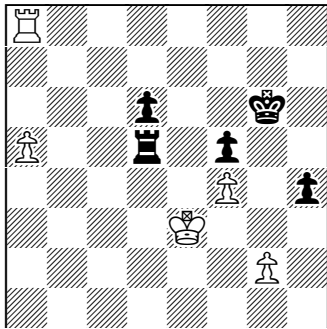


Ansell – Drummond (B)

Rook and Pawn Endings – The Outside Passed Pawn

By IM Herman van Riemsdijk

My article about the game **Gaprindashvili - Hendriks**, Arnhem 2007 (NZC October 2008) featured the 'Six Squares System' in pawn endings. However it became clear how important the position of the defending king is in the Pa7/Ra8 situation (and of course all mirrored positions) with the defending rook on the same column. Black was only lost because in the main analysis line he had to play 62...Kh7, avoiding the 63. Rh8 trick. Here we'll extend this common type of situation. The game **Simutowe - Muhren**, Arnhem 2007) of the same tournament reached the following position after 54. Ra8



The game followed with 54...Kf7 55.a6 Ra5 56.a7 Kg7 Preventing 57. Rh8. 57.Kd4 Kh7 58.Kc4 Kg7 59.Kb4 Ra1

60.Kb5 Kh7 61.Kc6 Kg7 62.Kxd6 Ra6+ 63.Ke5 Ra5+ 64.Ke6 Kh7 65.Rd8?! 65.Kf6 with a zugzwang situation was much easier. 65...Ra6+ 66.Rd6 Ra2 Or 66...Rxa7 67.Rd7+ Rxd7 68.Kxd7 Kh6 69.Ke6 Kg6 70.Ke5, with an easy win. 67.Rd7+ Kg6 68.Kd5 Kh5 69.Kc6 Kg4 70.Kb7 Kxf4 71.a8Q Rxa8 72.Kxa8 Kg3 73.Rg7+ Kh2 74.Rg5 f4 75.Rg4 h3 76.gxh3 f3 77.Rf4 Kg3 78.Rf8 1-0 Anyhow a nice game of the African Champion and winner of that tournament.

In my analysis for the public I criticized Bianca Muhren's 54... Kf7 suggesting that 54... Kg7 would lead to a draw. I was wrong. It would maybe better but it was not enough for a draw: 55.a6 Ra5 56.a7! The first important point. Not enough is 56.Kd4 Ra4+ 57.Kd5 Rxf4 58.Rd8 Ra4 59.Rd7+ Kg6 60.a7 (60.Kc6 Kg5 61.Kb7 Kf4 62.a7 Kg3 63.Rg7+ Kh2 64.a8Q Rxa8 65.Kxa8 d5 66.Kb7 d4 67.Kc6 d3=) 60...Kg5 61.Kxd6 (61.Rg7+ Kf4 62.Kxd6 Ke3 63.Kc6 Kf2 64.Kb7 f4 65.a8Q Rxa8 66.Kxa8 f3 67.gxf3 Kxf3=) 61...Kf4 62.Kc6 Kg3 63.Rg7+ Kh2 64.Kb7 h3 65.gxh3 Kxh3 66.Rg6 Rxa7+ 67.Kxa7 f4 68.Kb6 f3 69.Kc5 f2=; 56...Ra4 57.Kd3 d5 58.Kc3 d4+ 59.Kb3 Ra1 60.Kc4! (60.Kb4? d3!)=) 60...Ra4+ 61.Kb5 Ra1 62.Kb6! Rb1+ 63.Kc5!, winning the black pawn and after the game.

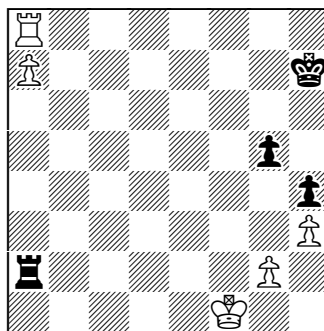
It is paramount to know that the defender reaches his goal even if the attacker – in this case white – has an extra pawn on the h or g column. Even after pushing the pawn and forcing the

black king to stay static on g7 or h7, white has no way to improve his position. If it's an extra f-pawn (or further away) the black king will be forced to f7 and than the Rh8 trick will cash the pot!

Last April I played for the 17th (!) time in Mar del Plata, Argentina, one of my favorite places around this small world. Chatting and analyzing with my friend Gustavo Kanefsck, a local IM, he showed me his misfortune in a game against GM Ariel Sorin.

Sorin – Kanefsck, Pico City Open, 1996

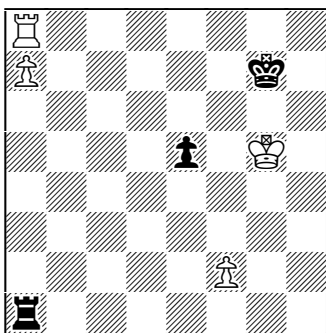
They reached the following position after 48.a7



White won with 48...Kg7 49.Ke1 Kh7 50.Kd1 Kg7 51.Kc1 Kh7 52.Kb1 Ra6 53.Kb2 Kg7 54.Kb3 Ra1 55.Kb4 Rb1+ 56.Kc5 Rc1+ 57.Kd5 Rd1+ Only here the decisive mistake! With 57... Ra1 followed by 58... g4 a draw would be obtained even after losing the h4 pawn. 58.Ke5 Ra1 59.Kf5 Ra5+ 60.Kg4 Kh7 61.Kh5

Kg7 62.Rb8 Rxa7 63.Rb5 Kf6 64.Rxg5 Rh7+ 65.Kg4 Rh8 66.Rh5 Rg8+ 67.Kf3 Rf8 68.Rxh4 1-0. Kanefsck was very regretful of his lack of knowledge. At almost any point until move 57 the g4 move would have secured a draw for black!

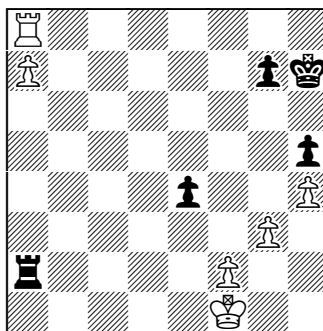
Aleksandrov,A - Milov,V, Spanish Team Championship, Lugo 2007, shows another side of the story after **70.Kxg5**



Here white has a potential winning f-pawn. If he captures black's e-pawn it is an easy win. 70...Ra2 71.Kh4 Kh7 72.Kg3 Ra4 Milov misses 72...e4! with a draw. The white king can never pass the f-file without losing his pawn with a check and if 73.Kg2 Ra1! does not allow him to come to the queenside. If 74.Kg3 Ra2. 73.Kf3! Now black is lost. 73... Kg7 74.Ke3 Kh7 75.Kd3 Kg7 76.Kc3 Ra1 77.Kc4 e4 78.Kd5 Ra4 79.Ke5 Kh7 80.Kf6 Ra6+ 81.Kf7 Ra5 82.Kf8 Kg6 83.Ke7 Kg7 84.Ke6 Ra2 85.Kd6 85.Ke5! Ra4 86.Kd5 Kh7 87.Kc6 reaches the winning position earlier. 85...Ra1 86.Kc5 Ra2 87.Kd4 Ra4+ 88.Kd5 Kh7 89.Kc6

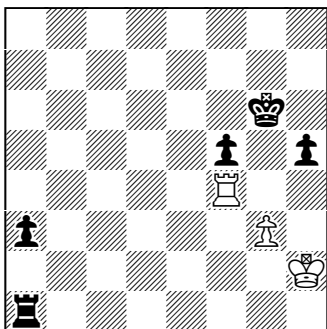
Ra2 90.Rd8!, getting an easy winning pawn ending, 1-0

It's almost unbelievable that in **Aronian – Morozevich**, WCh Mexico City,2007, after 41.a7



white is unable to win because he cannot create a passed f-pawn even after winning the e-pawn. 41...g6 42.Ke1 Kg7 43.Kd1 Ra1+ 44.Kc2 Ra2+ 45.Kb3 Ra1 46.Kc4 Ra2 47.Kd4 Ra1 48.Kxe4 Ra4+ 49.Kf3 Ra3+ 50.Kg2 Ra2 51.Kh3 Ra3 52.f3 Kh7 53.Kg2 53.g4 Rxf3+! 54.Kg2 Ra3! Is a draw but not 53... hxc4+ 54.Kxc4 and black cannot hold h5 creating a passed pawn. 53... Ra2+ 54.Kf1 Ra1+ 55.Ke2 Ra2+ 56.Kd3 Kg7 57.Kc4 Ra1 58.Kc5 Rc1+ 59.Kd6 Rd1+ 60.Ke5 Ra1 61.Kf4 Ra4+ 62.Ke5 Ra1 63.f4 Ra2 64.f5 gxf5 65.Kf4 Ra5 66.Re8 Rxa7 67.Kxf5 Rf7+ 68.Ke4 Rf1 69.Re5 Kg6 ½-½

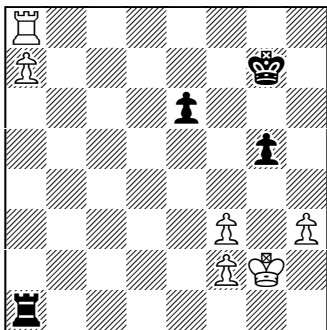
In **Chandler – Haslinger** 4NCL, West Bromwich, 2004, after **51.Rf4**



New Zealand's top star was unable to stop the fatal f-pawn after 51...a2 52.Ra4 h4 53.gxh4 f4 0-1

Van Riemsdijk,H – Markus, São Paulo, 1970

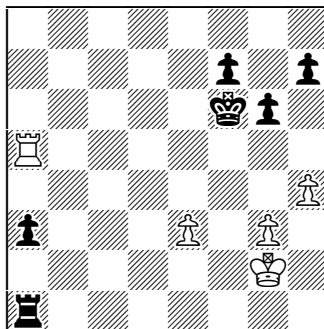
After **53.a7 Kf6-g7**, former Swiss Champion Marcel Markus was also unable to stop the f-pawn



because of 54.f4 gxf4 55.Kf3 e5 56.Ke4

Ra5 57.f3 Kh7 58.h4 1-0. Black will get in zugzwang and lose both pawns.

In **Dantas – Vescovi**, BRA-ch sf Petropolis, 1996 after 52.Kg2



the game followed with **52...Ke6 53.h5 Kf6 54.hxg6 hxg6 55.Kf2 Ke6 56.Kg2 f5 57.Kf3 a2 58.Kg2 Kd6 59.g4 Kc6 60.gxf5 gxf5** and black resigned, 0-1.

Giovanni Vescovi is the actual Brazilian # 1. When the game was played he was only 17, but had already a remarkable endgame technique. The game could have finished with 61.Kh2 Kb6 62.Ra8 Kb5 63.Ra7 Kb4 (Or 64.Kg2 Kb3 65.Rb7+ Kc3 66.Ra7 Kd3 67.Ra3+ Ke4 68.Kh2 Kf3, with a classical zugzwang) 64.Ra8 Kb3 65.Rb8+ Kc3 66.Ra8 Rd1, etc.

Bill's Puzzles Solutions

**Caron – Charamova) 1.Rxh6! gxh6
2.Qg6+ Kh8 3.Qxh6+ Kg8 4.Bd3 f5
5.Bc4+ 1-0**

Milligan – Cooper) 1.Nb5!! Qd7 The best try, if 22...Rxd3 23.Nxc7 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Black loses a whole rook because of the dual threat of Nxa8 and Rd8#. **2.Qxd7 Rxd7 3.Rxd7 Nxd7 4.Nxa7** and black resigned because c6 next move wins a piece

**Duneas – Corke) 1.Bxh6+! Rxh6
2.Rxh6 Kxh6 3.Rh8+ Kg7 4.Qa8 1-0**

Jones – Dragicevic) 1.Bxf8! Forcing off both defending minor pieces is so strong that black can even be allowed to capture a rook and make a new queen in one move. Black resigned because of the threat of Bxg7 followed by mate. If **1...Kxf8 2.Qf4+ Ke7 3.Qxb4+ Kd8 4.Qb6+ Ke7 5.Qd6#**

**Ansell – Drummond) 1...Nxf3+ 2.Bxf3
Qxf3 3.Qxd3** (If 3.Rxd3 Qg4+) **3...Rxb3 4.Qxf3 Rxf3** Black is now an exchange and a pawn up and can almost count the Nh1 as an absent piece as well

Letter from the Kingside Just how good is Magnus Carlsen ?

by Roger Nokes

**You might be thinking that this will
be a very short column!**

The answer to my question, of course, is that he is good - very, very good. The young Norwegian Grandmaster, just eighteen years of age, currently has an ELO rating of 2776 making him the 4th strongest player in the world. But this obvious response is not the answer I am seeking in posing the question. I wish to dig a little deeper and speculate on Carlsen's ultimate potential.

There are more than a few people around the world who hold the view that Carlsen will become the strongest player in chess history, although I suspect that Garry Kasparov may not be one of them. Even Viswanathan Anand, in a recent interview, effectively admitted that it was just a matter of time before Carlsen took his world crown. What is it about this young man that has so many in the chess world singing his praises? I can speculate.

Firstly, there is Carlsen's incredible rise through the chess ranks. Take a look at Carlsen's rating history, on the FIDE

website, sometime. He was taught the game in 1999, at the age of 8. At the end of 2001 he had a rating of around 2050. Within 30 months his rating had risen to 2550! Imagine improving at that speed. A year of consolidation followed but in two years, from mid-2005, his rating leaped another 200 ELO points putting him, at the age of 16, amongst the world's elite.

Carlsen's Style

Secondly, there are his chess games. Ever since I started following his career I have been fascinated by his style. So often young players burst onto the scene as sharp, calculating machines. But not Carlsen. In some ways his play defies description. To me it is unorthodox. It is simple. He relishes queenless middlegames where he apparently possesses little or no advantage, and yet he can squeeze his opponent (frequently a super grandmaster) mercilessly until he ultimately garners the full point. His play exhibits amazing maturity and his endgame technique, often the province of the most experienced campaigner, is outstanding. There are few other prodigies in recent chess history against which Carlsen can be compared. Perhaps only Fischer and Kasparov have demonstrated such talent.

I have had the pleasure of being able to witness some of Carlsen's games first hand at the chess olympiads in Calvia, Torino, and Dresden. My memories of him at Calvia are particularly vivid. He was 13 years old and being quite small,

tended to kneel on his chair while playing. Each day he brought with him what looked to be a plastic container holding his "playlunch". He seemed like just a little boy... until you saw how he played chess! In Calvia he was just starting to compete with the world's strong grandmasters. Four years later, in Dresden, he was a superstar and the major drawcard for the spectators.

So, how much stronger can Magnus get? Extrapolate his rating rise for the period from 2005 to 2007 and you would have expected that he was heading for a rating well in excess of 2800. A rating that only Kasparov has been close to achieving and maintaining since the era of ELO ratings began. But in the last year or so Carlsen's rating and performances have stagnated. He has been in the high 2700s for over a year and his tournament performances in this period have been solid (for a player in the world's top 4 or 5!) rather than spectacular. Of course it is possible that he is once more going through a consolidation phase and in due course his rating will leap again, making him the world's dominant player. On the other hand perhaps his ultimate chess strength will be determined not solely by his own ability, but also by the ability of those players against which he is competing.

Nature versus Nurture

This is an interesting idea. Consider players in the New Zealand chess environment. Many talented players have

appeared in the last 30 or 40 years. Paul Garbett, Murray Chandler, Vernon Small, Russell Dive, Anthony Ker, Ben Martin and Puchen Wang stand out. Those players who have primarily remained within New Zealand to play their chess have risen rapidly only to hit what might be called a “glass ceiling” - an ELO of around 2300-2350. Murray Chandler, Russell Dive, Ben Martin and Puchen Wang who went overseas to expand their chess horizons broke through the glass ceiling. In Russell Dive's case a return to New Zealand has seen a steady decline in his strength until it once again more or less matches those of his New Zealand based opponents.

It does appear that the environment within which we play the majority of our chess in some way determines how far we can develop our talents. Are we subconsciously tuning our abilities to those of our strongest opponents? Is it some human trait that prevents us from pushing ourselves beyond the minimum required to perform well? Certainly in the case of New Zealanders it is not because we have exceeded the limit of chess knowledge. But in the case of the world's top players perhaps this is also a factor. Bobby Fischer qualified for his first Candidates tournament at the age of 15. He had come from nowhere to the pinnacle of world chess in a very short time, and yet it was more than a decade before he could take the next step and challenge for the chess world title. His early disappearance from the chess scene prevented us from witnessing his ultimate potential. His “live rating”

having won 13 games in a row in the candidates matches in 1971 was over 3000. Was this a hint that he had the ability to leave his nearest rivals far behind or was it just an aberration that would not have been repeated?

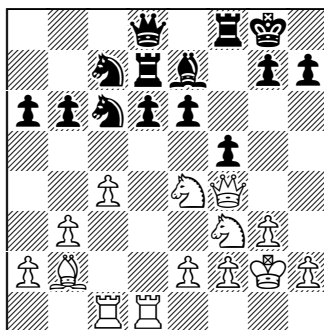
Not surprisingly we have no way of knowing the ultimate level at which Magnus Carlsen can perform. He may well be able to refine his abundant skills further and move beyond the abilities of Anand, Topalov and Kramnik. Alternatively perhaps these very same opponents will restrain his potential and keep him pegged at their level. Perhaps chess skill and chess knowledge edge forward slowly and communally, and not through the dramatic rise of a single star who draws the rest of the world in their wake. If this is the case it would be fascinating to know what would happen if a player such as Carlsen removed themselves from the world of human chess and played exclusively against chess engines with ratings in excess of 2900. In any case watching the Carlsen phenomenon over the next few years will be fascinating for any chess lover.

It was an easy matter selecting the Carlsen game for this column. I couldn't believe this game when I first saw it.

Vladimir Kramnik (2799) - Magnus Carlsen (2733) [A30]
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (12),
26.01.2008

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.g3 b6
5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Kramnik plays these English positions with great flair. They offer him positions in which he obtains a small edge with few associated risks. They suit his style perfectly. **6...Be7 7.d4 cxd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.Rd1 a6 10.Ng5?!** This manoeuvre does seem somewhat artificial. White could have continued in standard fashion with 10. b3, 10. Bg5 or 10. Be3. It would be interesting to know what prompted Kramnik to force the early exchange of the white squared bishops and remove some of the tension from the position. Did he think that his superior experience would bring him a greater advantage in simple positions? **10...Bxg2 11.Kxg2 Nc6 12.Qf4 0-0 13.Nce4 Ne8** [13...Ne5 is the move suggested by the computer. It immediately starts counterpunching by attacking c4 while blocking the attack on d6. But Carlsen is not unhappy about retaining the tension with the knight retreat.] **14.b3 Ra7 15.Bb2 Rd7 16.Rac1 Nc7** This position impressed me when I first encountered the game. Black's piece development is very efficient and compact. The d6 square is adequately secured and for now the other

weakness on b6 is not under pressure. But the question is whether Black is limited to this defensive setup or has some active plan himself. Carlsen's subsequent moves stunned me. How could you play such moves against a technician like Kramnik. **17.Nf3 f5!?**



18.Nc3 g5 19.Qd2 g4 20.Ne1 Bg5 21.e3 Black has broken out of his defensive shell but has left himself with a number of vulnerable points. The pawns on e6 and d6 together with the long black diagonal. In compensation Black has been able to claim significant space in the centre and on the kingside and has weak points on f3 and h3 to probe. It requires fine judgement to determine not only the relative importance of these various

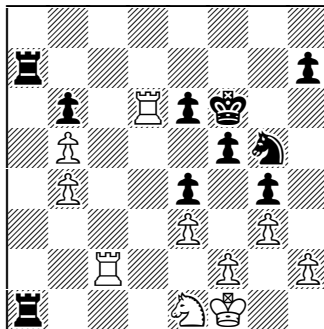


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weaknesses and targets, but to judge how easy it will be to play the resulting positions. Carlsen shows impressive self-belief in choosing to play such a position against Kramnik. **21...Rff7** I love this move! Black's position becomes more obscure with each move. In contrast to White's classic piece deployment Black has his rooks doubled on the second rank and a knight on the normally awkward square of c7. **22.Kg1 Ne8 23.Ne2 Nf6 24.Nf4 Qe8 25.Qc3** White has achieved a strong redeployment of his forces. The knight on f4 targets the e6 pawn and will go to d5 if the pawn advances. It also has the ability to support the queen and bishop battery on the long diagonal by moving to h5. **25...Rg7 26.b4 Ne4 27.Qb3** [27.Qa3 Rgf7 28.Qxa6 Ra7 29.Qb5 Bxf4 30.exf4 Rxa2 31.Nd3 leaves a position which is dynamically balanced.] **27...Rge7 28.Qa4 Ne5** with this move Black takes control of the position. The weaknesses on the Black queenside are illusory due to Black's light-footed rooks connected on the second rank and the fabulous knight on e4. White must tread carefully! **29.Qxa6 Ra7 30.Qb5** [30.Qxb6? Reb7 31.Qd4 Bf6 is curtains for White.] **30...Qxb5 31.cxb5 Rxa2 32.Rc8+ Kf7 33.Nfd3 Bf6 34.Nxe5+ dxe5 35.Rc2 Rea7** Carlsen has the type of position in which he excels. He has the more mobile pawn formations, a commanding knight on e4 and activity for his rooks on the a file. Watch how he proceeds to dominate one of the world's best players. **36.Kg2 Ng5 37.Rd6 e4 38.Bxf6 Kxf6 39.Kf1** [White's position is already lost. The constrained position of the White king

and the poor position of the white knight are amply illustrated in the variation **39.Rxb6? Ra1 40.Re2 Rb1 41.Ra6 Rd7 42.h3 gxh3+ 43.Kh2 Rdd1] 39...Ra1**



40.Ke2 Rb1 41.Rd1 Rxb4 42.Ng2 Rxb5 43.Nf4 Rc5 44.Rb2 b5 45.Kf1 Rac7 46.Rbb1 Rb7 47.Rb4 Rc4 48.Rb2 b4 49.Rdb1 Nf3 50.Kg2 Rd7 51.h3 e5 52.Ne2 Rd2 53.hxg4 fxg4 54.Rxd2 Nxd2 55.Rb2 Nf3 56.Kf1 b3 57.Kg2 Rc2 0-1. One cannot help but come away impressed by Carlsen's play in this game. Innovative in the opening, dynamic in the middle game and technically exact in the ending.

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