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## ***Australasian Match of the Decade***



**GM David Smerdon vs IM Puchen Wang**

***Plus SI Championship, North Shore Open and George Trundle  
NZ Masters Tournament Reports***

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# Puchen Wang, David Smerdon Square Off In

## *The Australasian Chess Match of the Decade!*

*By Paul Spiller*

Originally the idea for this match came about after I had discussed with Victor Wang the possibility of Puchen playing in the 2009 Oceania Zonal event in Australia. Puchen had some commitments with his University in Texas that clashed with the dates of the Zonal, preventing his participation. It was felt that Puchen could benefit from playing a match against a highly rated opponent and that his six week break from the States would allow an opportunity to do this.

In any event Puchen did manage to arrive in Australia to play in the large Gold Coast Open Rapid event which followed on from the Zonal and in the process took the scalps of both GM's playing (Gawain Jones and David Smerdon), which set up some anticipation for his forthcoming match.

The match was themed as an Australasian tussle, in a way to recreate the great battle of the 1950's between Purdy and Sarapu and more recently the GM battle of the 1980's between Chandler and Rogers. Victor managed to arrange a superb venue at Puchen's former School, Auckland Grammar, the match being



played in the spacious surroundings of the Old Boys' Pavilion. I would like to acknowledge the help of Bob Grover the teacher in charge of chess at Auckland Grammar for providing a huge amount of support during the event and for arranging use of the venue.

The match was sponsored by Chess Enterprises New Zealand in conjunction with supporting sponsorship from the Auckland Chess Centre and another anonymous supporter to provide a total prize pool of \$1,500. Millennium Hotels and Resorts were also very supportive in providing accommodation for David during his stay. Bruce Pollard was also very generous in agreeing to become the official arbiter and also chief IT technician. The excellent IT facilities at

the venue allowed the internet broadcasting of the games and also allowed the game to be screened on a large TV. Something of a first in Auckland I believe.

The match was set at six games played over six days from August 01 – 06, games commencing each day at 4pm. A slightly longer than usual time control of 100 minutes plus 1 minute added per move (the same as the Queenstown Classic events) was used in order to try and encourage good quality chess, and the players did not disappoint.

David rated at 2502 and a newly crowned GM was obviously a favourite going in to the match after his recent successes in Australia while Puchen at 2465 was probably buoyed by his Gold Coast result, but a bit wary of his more experienced and highly resourceful opponent.

The match duly got underway with an exciting game which saw Puchen come out of the opening worse off. David played very energetically and put Puchen under a lot of pressure.. He converted his advantage into a full point after quite a few fireworks ensued. A well played game by the Australian grandmaster.

The next four games played out a fascinating struggle with neither player able to demonstrate any superiority over the other, although Puchen had to play well in several games to achieve the draw. Full scale war broke out in game five of the match after David employed

the Sicilian Dragon which resulted in severe tactical play where both players needed to play with the utmost accuracy. A great game to watch live.

The final game was a do or die affair for Puchen as he tried to gain some advantage as Black in order to try and win and square the match. In the end he played a dangerous but ultimately flawed tactical combination and ended up losing material.

In the end, David was a deserving winner by 4 – 2, but was very praise worthy of Puchen's play and ability and commented that he felt that the standard of play during the match was of a very high level.

Congratulations to both of these talented chess combatants and we look forward to their chess progress over the coming years.

## ***Annotated Game by GM David Smerdon***

**Wang,Puchen - Smerdon,David**

Australasian Match, 05.08.2009

This was definitely the most exciting game of the series. My strategy going into the match was to try and dull Puchen's tactical prowess by steering the games into closed, slow positions. For the most part, this was very successful. However, I myself am a tactical player at heart, and after four games of long, manoeuvring battles, I just couldn't take it any more! I think we were both relieved to see the main-line Dragon,

one of the sharpest variations in chess history, appear on the board - finally, we could both play our natural games and actually have some fun. **1.e4 1.c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.h4** [A few weeks prior to the match, Puchen played 10.0-0-0 against me in the Gold Coast Open, but quickly found himself in trouble after 10...Rc8 (RR *10...Na5* ) 11.Bb3 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5!?! - the so-called Topalov variation. While he went on to win, Puchen had obviously prepared something better.] **10...Rc8 11.Bb3 h5 12.0-0-0 Ne5 13.Bg5** [RR 13.Kb1 ] **13...Rc5 14.g4 hxg4 15.f4** All this has been seen many times before. **15...Nc6!?** I came up with this over the board. Puchen was blitzing his moves, and it would take a brave man to go down the volatile main line against a prepared opponent. [15...Nc4 16.Qe2 Qc8! is the main line, leading to incredibly double-edged complications.] **16.e5** We were both now in unfamiliar territory, but Puchen plays the logical move. [16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.e5 Bg7 is another way to play. RR 18.Qg2] **16...Nh5** A novelty, and probably not a bad one (though I may be biased). [16...Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Bc6! 18.Rhe1 Bf3 is complicated; *16...g3!?* is, naturally, a computer suggestion, but makes a lot of sense. That pawn could be very distracting.] **17.Nd5** [Puchen could have played differently, such as 17.Ne4 Nxd4 18.Qxd4 Bc6 19.Nxc5 Bxh1 20.Rxh1 dxc5 21.Qxc5 b6 22.Qxe7 Qxe7 23.Bxe7 Nxf4! 24.Bxf8 Kxf8 or; *17.exd6 Rvg5!* *18.dxe7 Qxe7 19.Rhe1 Re5!* *20.Nxc6 Bxc6 21.fxe5 Qxh4* , in both cases leading to complicated endgames where black's chances are not worse.] **17...Rxd5** The most principled move. [17...Re8

18.Nxc6 Bxc6 19.Nxe7+! Rxe7 20.exd6 looks highly suspect; but *17...Nf6!?* is a dazzling retreat that may be playable.] **18.Bxd5 dxe5 19.Nb3?** With computers the way they are these days, it's hard to analyse these sort of games without appearing too critical. Hindsight and Fritz make a dangerous combination... Here, Puchen had a number of alternatives that led to a more balanced fight. [19.fxe5 Nxe5 20.Qb4 Qb6 21.Bxe7 Qxb4 22.Bxb4 Re8; *19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.fxe5 Qxd5 21.Qxd5 Bxd5 22.Rxd5 f6 23.Be3 f5* and again, black has sufficient compensation in the endgame.] **19...Qc7! 20.fxe5 Qxe5** [20...Nxe5 21.Bxe7 Rc8 also leads to a strong attack for black. White's attack has completely stalled, and he can only sit and defend as best he can.] **21.c3 Bf5 22.Rhe1 Qc7 23.Bxc6 Qxc6 24.Bxe7 Qa4!** The mass complexity of the position had sent us both into time trouble already, but this move wasn't hard to find. **25.Nd4!** The only defence. **25...Bxd4 26.b3??** [26.Bxf8! was another hard-to-find only move. 26...Nf4! 27.b3 Nd3+ 28.Qxd3 Qxa2! 29.Re2 Qa1+ 30.Kd2 Qb2+ 31.Ke1 Bxc3+ 32.Kf2 Bxd3 33.Rxb2 Bxb2 34.Rxd3 Kxf8 35.Rd7 f5 36.Rxb7 f4 is a forced sequence that leads to a draw.] **26...Bxc3??** [26...Qa5!! wins immediately; for example, 27.Kb2 (*27.cxd4 Rc8+ 28.Bc5 Qa6* and white is helpless.) 27...Bg7 28.Bxf8 Bxf8 29.Re8 Qa3+ 30.Ka1 g3] **27.Qxc3** [27.bxa4 Bxd2+ 28.Kxd2 should be a little better for black.] **27...Qf4+ 28.Kb2 Rc8 29.Rd8+ Rxd8 30.Bxd8** The Russian Roulette of the middlegame is finally over, but the dangers still remain. Black's passed g-pawn is compensated by the opposite coloured bishops and black's weakened king. I knew that if I could survive the dark-squared

attack, I should be better... **30...Be6 31.Rd1 Kh7 32.Bg5!** Puchen plays amazingly accurately in continuous time pressure. White prods and pokes at black's kingside, hoping to provoke a fatal weakness. **32...Qf3 33.Rd3** Of course, I am hoping for a queen swap. **33...Qf2+ 34.Rd2 Qf3 35.Qc5** Puchen, true to form, continues to play for the full point. Uncompromising chess! But also, the match situation dictated an all-out assault. **35...g3 36.Qf8! Bd5 37.Qh6+ Kg8 38.Be3!** Another only-move. **38...Qf5!** [I should have forced the draw with 38...g2 39.Bd4 Nf6 40.Qg5 Qf5! (the move I missed) 41.Rxg2 Bxg2 42.Qxf5 gxf5 43.Bxf6] **39.Bd4 f6 40.Qe3 Qe4 41.Qc3 g2 42.Bxa7 Nf4?** Up until now, black had successfully held white at bay. But this is a silly move. [42...Bc6! keeps black's edge.] **43.Qxf6 Nd3+ 44.Kc3 Nf4** This was my idea. I was banking on the combination of white's exposed king, vulnerable pieces and black's g2-pawn to give me enough tricks. **45.Kb2** [One such trick is 45.Bd4?? Qf3+ 46.Kb4 Nd3+; But 45.Qd8+! gives white an edge: 45...Kh7 46.Bd4 Ne2+! 47.Rxe2 Qxd4+! 48.Kxd4 g1Q+ 49.Kd3 (49.Kxd5?? Qd1+ is the point) 49...Qb1+ and, during the game, I concluded I had enough annoying checks to warrant the line. Of course, the computer has other ideas: 50.Kc3 Qa1+ 51.Rb2 Qe1+ 52.Rd2 Qe5+ 53.Rd4 Qe3+ 54.Rd3 Qe5+ 55.Kc2 Be4 and white will eventually have to try and win a queen endgame with an extra pawn.] **45...Nd3+ 46.Kc3 Nf4 47.Qg5?! Kh7?!** [47...b5 would have been a nice way to force the draw, bringing in black's final 'piece'.] **48.Bd4 Ne6 49.Qe7+ Kh6 50.Qf6** Puchen plays very accurately, and I am forced to liquidate. **50...Qf3+ 51.Qxf3 Bxf3**

**52.Bb6?!** [52.Bf2 was the last winning try, where black has to be very careful: 52...Nf4 53.Kd4 Nh3 54.Ke3 Bc6 looks forced, but after 55.Rd6! black has to bring his king forward. Instead, 55...g1Q?? loses nicely to 56.Bxg1 Nxg1 57.Rxc6! bxc6 58.a4+-] **52...Nf4 53.Rd8 Nd5+ 54.Rxd5 Bxd5 55.Kd2!** White draws easily by placing his king on g1. **55...Kh5 56.Ke1 Kxh4 57.Kf2 Kg4 58.Kg1 Kf3 59.b4 Bxa2 60.Bc5 b5 61.Bf8 Bd5** A fitting end to an exciting contest! ½-½

**Wang,Puchen (2465) - Smerdon,David (2502)**

Australasian Match of the Decade  
Auckland (1), 01.08.2009

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nf3 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 c5 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3 c4 9.Bb1 Nbd7 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Qc2 Ne4 13.Rc1 Qa3 14.Bh4 Nb6 15.Nd2 Bf5 16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qd2 Nd5 18.f3 Rfe8 19.Be1 Bg6 20.f4 b5 21.Bc2 a5 22.Bd1 f5 23.Rab1 Rab8 24.g3 Bf7 25.Kf2 h6 26.Rc2 Rb6 27.Qc1 Qd6 28.Be2 Rc8 29.a3 g5 30.Bd2 Kh7 31.Qf1 Qf6 32.Qh3 Be8 33.Ra2 Rc7 34.Rc2 Bd7 35.Qh5 Qe7 36.fxg5 Kg7 37.Ra2 hxg5 38.h4 Rh6 39.Qxg5+ Qxg5 40.hxg5 Rh2+ 41.Ke1 b4 42.axb4 axb4 43.Ra5 bxc3 44.Bc1 c2 45.Rb8 Nc3 46.Bf1 Nd1 47.Re5 Kf7 48.Ba3 Bc8 49.d5 Nf2 50.Rxc8 Rxc8 51.Rxf5+ Kg6 52.Rxf2 Rxf2 53.Kxf2 Ra8 54.Bc1 Ra1 55.Bg2 Rxc1 56.Bxe4+ Kxg5 0-1**

**Smerdon,David (2502) - Wang,Puchen (2465)**

Australasian Match of the Decade  
Auckland (2), 02.08.2009

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7**

5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.Qe2 c5 8.Nxc5  
Nxc5 9.dxc5 Qa5+ 10.c3 Qxc5 11.Be3  
Qa5 12.Bd4 Bd7 13.Ne5 Be6 14.0-0 0-0  
15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Qe4 Qf5  
18.Qxf5 exf5 19.Bxf5 Rab8 20.Rab1 Rfd8  
21.Rfc1 g6 22.Be4 c5 23.Rc2 h5 24.g3 h4  
25.Kg2 Kg7 26.Bf3 hxg3 27.hxg3 Bg5  
28.b4 cxb4 29.cxb4 Rd2 30.Rxd2 Bxd2  
31.a3 f5 32.Rb2 Bc1 33.Rb3 Rc8 34.a4  
Bd2 35.Rb2 Rd8 36.Kf1 Kf6 37.Ke2 Bc3  
38.Rb3 Re8+ 39.Kf1 Re1+ 40.Kg2 Rc1  
41.a5 Ke5 42.a6 Bd4 43.Be2 ½-½

**Wang,Puchen (2465) - Smerdon,David (2502)**

Australasian Match of the Decade  
Auckland (3), 03.08.2009

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e5 Nc6 5.Nf3  
Nh6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nf5 8.Bxf5 exf5  
9.Nc3 Be6 10.Ne2 h6 11.h4 g6 12.Qb3  
Qd7 13.Bd2 Bg7 14.Nf4 Rc8 15.Rc1 0-0  
16.0-0 Kh7 17.Rfe1 Rfe8 18.Qd3 Rc7  
19.b4 Rec8 20.Qb3 Nd8 21.Nd3 b6 22.a4  
Rc4 23.Nb2 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+  
25.Bxc1 Qb7 26.Nd3 a6 27.Ba3 Bd7  
28.Nf4 Ne6 29.Ne2 Qc6 30.Nc3 Nc7  
31.Bb2 ½-½

**Smerdon,David (2502) - Wang,Puchen (2465)**

Australasian Match of the Decade  
Auckland (4), 04.08.2009

1.e4 c5 2.c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.Be3  
cxd4 6.Bxd4 Nc6 7.Nf3 Nxd4 8.Nxd4 Nf6  
9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Qe2+ Qe7 11.Bxd7+  
Kxd7 12.Qxe7+ Bxe7 13.Nd2 Bc5  
14.N2b3 Rhe8+ 15.Kf1 Bb6 16.g3 Re4  
17.Kg2 Rae8 18.Rhd1 a5 19.a4 g6 20.h3  
h5 21.Rac1 Ke7 22.Rd2 Kf8 23.Kf1 Rd8  
24.Rcd1 Rc8 25.Rd3 Rce8 26.R3d2 Rc8  
27.Ra1 Re7 28.Rd3 Rce8 29.Rdd1 Ne4

30.Rd3 Nf6 31.Rc1 Nd7 32.Rdd1 Nf6  
33.Rc2 Rc8 34.Ra1 ½-½

**Smerdon,David (2502) - Wang,Puchen (2465) [C05]**

Australasian Match of the Decade  
Auckland (6), 06.08.2009

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3  
c5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 Be7 8.0-0 a5 9.Re1  
c4 10.Bc2 b5 11.Nf1 Nb6 12.h4 h6 13.h5  
b4 14.N3h2 a4 15.Qg4 Bf8 16.a3 bxc3  
17.bxc3 Na5 18.f4 Nb3 19.Ra2 Kd7  
20.Qf3 Ra7 21.g4 Be7 22.Nd2 Na8  
23.Nb1 Nc7 24.Be3 Nb5 25.f5 Qa5 26.Bf2  
Bg5 27.Rd1 Nc1 28.Rb2 Nxc3 29.Nxc3  
Nd3 30.Bxd3 Qxc3 31.Rc2 Qb3 32.fxex6+  
Kxe6 33.Rc3 Qb5 34.Rb1 Qa5 35.Be1  
Rb7 36.Rec1 Bd2 37.Bxd2 Qxd2 38.Bf5+  
Ke7 39.Qxd5 Rd8 40.Rxb7+ Bxb7  
41.Qxb7+ Kf8 42.Qb4+ 1-0

**2009 Schools Teams  
Championships – Martin  
Sims Reports**

**T**eams of four players competed in primary, intermediate and secondary divisions for the schools' teams championships finals held in July at Palmerston North Boys High School. The winning schools were:

**Primary Division**

1<sup>st</sup> Milford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blockhouse Bay, 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern Hutt. 15 teams

**Continued Page 39**

# Nic Croad wins South Island Championship - Peter Fraemohs becomes SI Champion

*By Quentin Johnson*

**T**he South Island Championship, was hosted by the Otago Chess Club in July with Wellington's Nic Croad the clear favourite in a field of 24. Most likely contenders for the trophy and title of South Island Champion were Canterbury's Peter Fraemohs, Rik Hothersall and the newly crowned South Island Rapid Champion, veteran Arie Nijman.

The first upsets came in Round 2 when Hilton Bennett conceded a draw to Nijman after rejecting a winning line involving a combination on 'positional grounds'. Then Wellington's Ross Jackson lost to Nelsonian Dan Dolejs' counterattack when he walked into a mate-in-two. Peter Fraemohs only averted disaster an exchange down against fellow Cantabrian Nigel Cooper when the latter's king took a wrong turn – again into mate.

Dan Dolejs backed up in Round 3 with another upset. Playing a powerful attacking game he bamboozled Nic Croad with a myriad of complications. Nic, his head spinning like a top, played with a heavy hand and overstepped the time limit while making, for good measure, a losing move. Adding insult he realised too late that the queen swap he

had just spurned won material.

In Round 4 Dolejs' Bxf7 sac in the opening against Fraemohs should have won a pawn and lead to advantage. However Dolejs passed up two chances to regain the piece and was soon mated himself, his opponent becoming the sole leader at the halfway stage. Croad, recovering composure from the previous day's shock, removed the first obstacle between himself and the leader by defeating Hilton Bennett. Jackson joined the chasing group on 3 with a win over Hamish Gold.

Round 5 saw Dolejs lose a short debacle to Siripornpitak when his Sicilian Taimanov went horribly wrong. Showing more faith than reason, Dan tried holding his d6 pawn by advancing his king to e6 – where it soon perished. Croad invested his queen for two of Hothersall's rooks and a piece to successfully continue his quest to regain Fraemohs' tournament lead. Meanwhile Fraemohs missed two chances to eviscerate Jackson's king with the winning thrust g6! then it was too late – eventually settling for Jackson's draw offer. Bennett survived a lost position a piece down against Ashburton's Roy Keeling to turn the tables and stay in the hunt. Leading scores: Fraemohs 4½/5;



Croad 4; Siripornpitak, Jackson & Bennett 3½.

Finally in Round 6 the favourite Nic Croad got the chance to retake the lead by force – and duly crushed Fraemohs' Chigorin Defence in 24 moves. Bennett stayed in touch when his well-controlled attack on Jackson picked up the exchange. Siripornpitak could only draw with Aimers, but still lead the U1700 grade by a point. He was joined by Helmut Marko on 4 when the latter beat Dolejs. Wellingtonian Andrew Brockway was hotly contesting the U1600 grade with Keeling – both scoring wins over Cooper and Andrew Hamilton (NE) respectively.

In the penultimate round hostilities were called off quickly in Bennett-Fraemohs, relaxing the pressure on board 1, where Croad was demonstrating to Siripornpitak that eight rounds is too many to successfully deploy a Swiss Gambit. Though the latter still lead the U1700 grade and had won the Junior prize with a round to spare. Brockway, sensing blood and bragging rights, aggressively pursued Jackson's king to stake a claim on the U1600 grade, but 'wily' Ross somehow managed to wriggle to a draw an exchange down, as he is wont to do. Keeling kept up his challenge for both the U1600 grade and the Senior prize drawing with Dolejs, though he missed a chance for more. Nijman also moved into contention for the Senior prize with a win over Ashburton stalwart Rex Scarf.

The first game to finish in Round 8 was

Fraemohs-Nijman, securing the title of South Island Champion 2009 for Fraemohs when Nijman fell into a trap. Croad picked up a piece to beat Aimers and win the tournament. Bennett's extra pawn from the opening eventually came to nought against Hothersall, but the draw was enough for sole third place. Keeling capped a fine tournament by beating Gloistein to join Hothersall on 5 and take the Senior prize and first in the U1700 grade. Siripornpitak accepted Jackson's draw offer to win the Junior prize and take second in the U1700 grade. Marko-Brockway also ended in a draw, which gave Brockway the U1600 first prize, and no-one was more surprised than Bruce Gloistein to find that he took second in the U1600 grade.

The tournament was a great deal of fun for all concerned, but commiserations must go to giant-killing Dan Dolejs, whose slingshot ran out of stones after downing the top and third seeds. He only scored another half point in the next five rounds. But Bob Clarkson scored half a point less over the full eight rounds – he deserves sympathy as he played well enough to score several points, but seemed to respond particularly poorly to time pressure.

#### **Croad - Fraemohs (6.1)**

**1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nc6 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. cxd5 Bxf3 5. gxf3 Qxd5 6. e3 e6 7. Nc3 Bb4 8. Rg1!? ---**

The usual move is 8 Bd2 more or less forcing Black to exchange the other bishop. White's move order improves on the game Lasker – Chigorin 1895 (!) in that White prevents the manoeuvre 9 ... Qh5

pressuring his weak kingside.

**8. --- g6 9. f4! Nge7 10. Bd2 Bxc3 11. bxc3 O-O 12. Qe2 Qd6 13. h4! ---**

Although the White position looks undeveloped, the strong central bulwark of pawns combined with the long-term potential two bishops puts White firmly in control, able to attack on the kingside without bothering to castle.

**14. --- Qa3 14. Qb5 a5?!**

White's last move was to immobilise the black knights – stopping 14 ... Nd5 with pressure on c3. Black should have harried the white queen with 14 ...a6, either resulting in a queen exchange or at least allowing him to activate his knights. Instead the White attack develops

unimpeded.

**15. h5 Kg7 16. Qd3 a4?!**

More awkward for White would have been 16...Qb2, with either a queen exchange after 17 Qb1 or counterplay after 17 Rb1 Qxa2 18 Rxb7 Rfb8! White now prevents this possibility.

**17. Bc1! Qd6 18. c4 b6 19. Rb1 Ra5**

Attempting to assist with kingside defence across the vacant fifth rank. Despite appearances it is Black's king that is more seriously exposed of the two monarchs, especially as White now activates both heretofore dormant bishops.

**20. Ba3 Qd8 21. Be2 f5?**

Creating fresh weaknesses along the a2-g8 and a1-h8 diagonals - The black king will

No	Name	Loc	Club	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Croad, N	2328	WE	7	14:W	8:W	17:L	3:W	4:W	2:W	10:W	6:W
2	Fraemohs,P	1853	CA	6	19:W	20:W	9:W	17:W	7:D	1:L	3:D	12:W
3	Bennett, H	1997	HA	5.5	15:W	12:D	6:W	1:L	5:W	7:W	2:D	4:D
4	Hothersall,R	1837	CA	5	18:L	16:W	12:W	6:D	1:L	19:W	9:W	3:D
5	Keeling, R	1453	AS	5	8:L	14:D	23:W	15:W	3:L	13:W	17:D	18:W
6	Aimers, G	1815	OT	4.5	11:W	23:W	3:L	4:D	12:D	10:D	8:W	1:L
7	Jackson,L	1868	WE	4.5	13:W	17:L	18:W	8:W	2:D	3:L	11:D	10:D
8	Gold, H	1772	OT	4.5	5:W	1:L	15:W	7:L	20:D	12:W	6:L	17:W
9	Marko, H	1847	MM	4.5	16:W	18:W	2:L	10:D	13:D	17:W	4:L	11:D
10	Siri-											
	-pornpitak,B	1653	CA	4.5	23:L	11:W	19:W	9:D	17:W	6:D	1:L	7:D
11	Brockway, A	1538	WE	4.5	6:L	10:L	22:W	19:D	23:W	20:W	7:D	9:D
12	Nijman, A	1734	CA	4	24:W	3:D	4:L	20:W	6:D	8:L	15:W	2:L
13	Hamilton, A	1644	NE	4	7:L	21:W	20:L	18:W	9:D	5:L	19:D	24:W
14	Mulligan, A	1653	AS	4	1:L	5:D	16:L	21:W	19:L	24:W	18:D	23:W
15	Scarf, R	1650	AS	4	3:L	24:W	8:L	5:L	21:W	23:W	12:L	22:W
16	Hamilton, P	1606	NE	4	9:L	4:L	14:W	23:L	22:W	18:L	24:W	20:W
17	Dolejs, D	1693	GA	3.5	21:W	7:W	1:W	2:L	10:L	9:L	5:D	8:L
18	Gloistein, B	1583	CA	3.5	4:W	9:L	7:L	13:L	24:W	16:W	14:D	5:L
19	Roura, F	1640	CA	3.5	2:L	22:W	10:L	11:D	14:W	4:L	13:D	21:D
20	Cooper, N	1655	CA	3	22:W	2:L	13:W	12:L	8:D	11:L	21:D	16:D
21	Shierlaw, H	1373	WE	2.5	17:L	13:L	24:W	14:L	15:L	22:D	20:D	19:D
22	Rains, E	1312	CA	2.5	20:L	19:L	11:L	24:W	16:L	21:D	23:W	15:L
23	Rains, T	1292	CA	2	10:W	6:L	5:L	16:W	11:L	15:L	22:L	14:L
24	Clarkson,R	1423	OT	0	12:L	15:L	21:L	22:L	18:L	14:L	16:L	13:L

have nowhere to hide. 21 ... Rh8 unpinning the e7 knight was better.

**22. Qc3 Kg8 23. d5! ---**

Opening both diagonals straight to the

black king. There is no defence. Cont Pg11

**23. --- exd5 24. cxd5 Resigns (cont. P11)**

Substantial material loss cannot be avoided.

E.g. 24...Nb8 25 Bc4! and if Black avoids

the discovered check by 25 ... Rf7 then

White breaks through by 26 Bb2 Kf8 27

Qh8+ Ng8 28 hxg6 hxg6 29 Rxc6 etc.

**1-0**

## ***Arie Claims Another Milestone as 2009 SI Rapid Champion***

**By Quentin Johnson**

A healthy field of 28 contested the 2009 South Island Rapid Championship, held at the Otago Chess Club just before the main event. Top seed Nic Croad of Wellington outrated the field by over 400 points, so the \$200 first prize had something of the look of an appearance fee about it. The first half of the six-round event went pretty much according to this plan, especially as second seed Hilton Bennett was downed in the first round by Rip-van-Winkle-like local Iain Lamont, returning to competitive chess after a 20-year layoff.

In round four Croad had to drop down to board 2 to play Canterbury veteran Arie Nijman on 2½, as colours dictated that the other two players on 3 points, Hamish Gold (OT) and Rik Hothersall (CA) met

each other on board 1. This proved to be an ominous portent of the crucial game of the tournament: Croad, a pawn up in a double-edged rook ending appeared to overpress, getting his king and rook tied up on the kingside while underestimating the strength of Nijman's passed c-pawn supported by his rook. Croad had to jettison his extra material and scamper back to blockade. But he failed to adjust to the role of defender under time pressure and Nijman, no stranger to reversals of fortune, displayed excellent technique to notch up a well-deserved victory. This left birthday celebrant Gold, who dispatched Hothersall, leading alone on 4 points half a point ahead of Nijman and Helmut Marko (MM).

The fifth round saw Gold's quest to sew up first place with a win over Marko come to grief when he overlooked a mate after a long battle with many chances for both sides. Nijman drew with Bennett, so Marko took over the lead on 4½ ahead of Gold and Nijman on 4. They were joined by Croad and Invercargill based Moss Wylie, who handed Hothersall his second loss.

Reinstated to board 1, Croad defeated the leader Marko, to claim a share of first place. Wylie was soon a piece down to Canterbury junior Boyd Siripornpitak, so it was up to the battle on board 2 between Gold and Nijman as to who would join Croad and claim the South Island Rapid title. Gold was soon on top and picked up a pawn, but then went hunting more pawns at the cost of allowing Nijman's rook and bishop to get active. In a case of crunch-game paralysis, Gold passed up

many sure winning opportunities to eventually opt to play for three results, pitting his three connected passed pawns against Nijman's rook. The rook prevailed, and Arie Nijman took the title with his unbeaten 5/6 as well as the Senior prize. 3<sup>rd</sup> on 4½ were Bennett, Marko and Siripornpitak, who also won the U1700 grade and Junior prize. 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U1700 was Wylie on 4, while the U1500 grade was won by Hamish Shierlaw of Wellington ahead of Bob Clarkson (OT), Edward Rains (CA) and Jiapeng Li who came all the way from Auckland to compete.

## Book Review

### ***'Play 1. b3! The Nimzo-Larsen Attack: A Friend For Life' By: Ilya Odessky***

Reviewed by Steve Willard

**There are few things as tournamentally satisfying as—and this is just after you've shaken your opponent's hand and wished them well, mind you—essaying the Nimzo-Larsen Attack.**

With one bold move (1. b3) you effectively feed black's defensive repertoire to the chipper/shredder and, moreover, build up a large clock advantage.

True story: the first time I played 1. b3 my opponent (rated 1800ish) went into a very, very deep think. While I patiently enjoyed my carafe of coffee and my blueberry scone (topped with a very nice clotted cream which I whipped up right there at the table!) my opponent sat immobilised, mentally torturing himself for not having prepared adequately for battle. 27 minutes later, my opponent finally responded with a feeble 1... e6 (even today, years after this particular game was played, I still wonder at the internal dialogue that produced such a move after so much thought!)

I tell you, he was sweating, his eyes were red (apparently from not blinking enough), and his hands were beginning to shake. I quickly, and quite violently, slammed my knight to f3 and banged the clock. I then quietly muttered, in a manner suggesting that I was merely clearing my throat, "Qab jiH naghII."\* My opponent received the message as though I had shouted it, and a good half hour passed before he decided to adjust his knights (j'adoube) so that they both faced toward the rear. This seemed like a good omen, indeed, and when he finally did make a move, I snatched up my bishop and slowly twisted it (a good minute, I'd say) into the b2-square! More time passed and after another insipid response, I confidently moved my king's pawn to e3. His hands flew from his side and hung, poised but hesitantly, above the a-pawn. Apparently his queen's knight was

refusing to enter the game until he had prevented my Bb5 manoeuvre. He nervously glanced at me...and I fixed him with my 300-stare (you know: "This...is...SPARTA!!) and he withered back into his chair. He made one further effort to approach the board and, not being able to contain my inner-Maori, I bulged out my eyes and showed him my tongue! There was a sudden flash of movement from the flank and, in an instant, his mother had arrived to knock over black's king and escort her son from the playing hall. VICTORY was mine!

Admittedly that's a pretty big introductory paragraph; especially since I've yet to even mention Odessky's marvelous book. I assure you, though, that there is a method to my madness. You see, first I must convince you to give 1. b3 a try and then you will want to read what I have to say about this particular book. Guaranteed to become a classic!

While we're on the subject, let me assure you that the Nimzo-Larsen is also a potent weapon against even strong players. In fact, I've played it against several masters and have always reaped some reward! Did I win these games? Truthfully, no...no, I did not. But on several occasions, I did emerge successfully from the opening with solid advantages! That I failed to convert them should not, in any way, discourage you from taking up this

fantastic opening. Here's what strong masters recognise: only two types of players start the game with 1. b3—those who know no better and those who know no fear! Will this opening help average weekend warriors defeat titled players? Perhaps not, but I promise that you will enjoy the game, you will probably understand the tactical/positional motifs better than your opponent, and you should enjoy a significant, lasting clock advantage. Count on it: you play 1. b3...and your strong opponent will react by studying you, and not the board...ha ha!, for signs that you are either (a) an idiot or (b) a ninja. After some time has passed, the master will rise and walk (trying to act nonchalantly) to the wall charts to check your rating and overall tournament progress. Now, if they perceive even a hint of respectability then they will, in all likelihood, lift their eyes to the heavens and whisper a silent prayer (or they will glance at the floor and curse) before returning to your table. Either way: Advantage...you!

Okay, now to Odessky! This book is a real labour of love and, unlike the vast majority of opening books published today, which systematically provide line after line against a backdrop of topical games, Odessky's manuscript is refreshingly different. In fact, it's very much like sitting down and having him regale you with the stories behind the ideas. Chapter 20 "The Birth of a Variation" is particularly

enlightening as he shows you how a classic (Karpov-Browne, San Antonio 1972) inspired him to find a new idea in a line he was having some trouble with. Which would you find more helpful: a normal book's 1. b3 Nf6 2. Bb2 g6 3. Bxf6!? (idea, I. Odessky) or Play 1.b3's entire chapter devoted to the creative process which produced this idea? But there's more! Lots more in fact, but I am sadly running out of space.

Okay, you've decided to pick up the gauntlet and give 1. b3 a try: congratulations, welcome to the club, you are in for a real treat! Reminder: Christmas is right around the corner!!

Okay, you really don't want to play 1. b3: fair enough, but I'm still going to say you need this book! I don't care how strong you are...how would you like to end up on the wrong side of this miniature:

**1. b3 d5 2. Bb2 c5 3. e3 Nc6 4. Bb5 Nf6 5. Nf3 e6 6. O-O Be7 7. Bxc6+ bxc6 8. Ne5 Qc7 9. f4 O-O 10. Rf3 Nd7 11. Rh3 g6 12. Qh5!! Nf6 (forced) 13. Ng4!!! gxh5 (forced) and now... white goes on to win!** (see chapter 21) Of course, Odessky then goes on to tell you about an improvement that probably turns the tables to black's advantage. Note to white: not to worry, he then gives you a brand new idea to combat that particular black strategy. And that's the way Odessky rolls!—not just one

recommended line; but rather: a line, the ideas behind that line, instructional games, improvements found for both sides, and then exciting new sidelines to explore. You simply couldn't ask for more: The Nimzo-Larsen Attack MIGHT become your friend for life, Ilya Odessky SHOULD become one of your favourite chess authors, and this book WILL make you a better player! \*footnote: Klingon phrase meaning, "Face me if you dare!"

**Steve Willard is a USA Chessplayer who occasionally visits NZ**

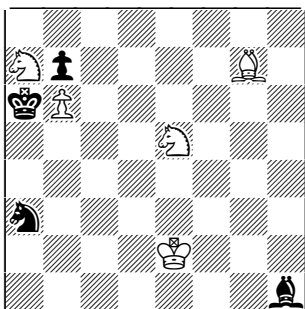
## **Emil Melnichenko – NZ's Chess Study Expert**

*by Bill Forster*

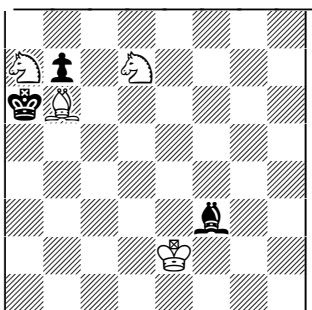
**T**he chess ecosystem supports some interesting niches that the average chess fan doesn't stumble across too often.

It will probably come as a surprise to most readers that a New Zealander is an eminent world class practitioner in one of these esoteric fields – composing chess studies. For over thirty years Emil Melnichenko has been quietly working at his craft in New Zealand. Some two hundred of his studies have been published in the specialist international literature. Many have won prestigious prizes. One of the most prestigious competitions is held in conjunction with the biannual Chess Olympiad. At the Dresden Olympiad last year Emil's entry

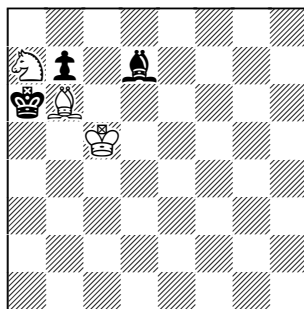
placed 5<sup>th</sup> in a field of sixty one studies. Emil's Dresden Olympiad study is shown in the first diagram. White plays and wins. This is an intricate work, that Emil spent months perfecting. The full solution is posted on our website [nzchessmag.com](http://nzchessmag.com) as an interactive play-through, but the main line and some guidance to the phases of the solution is included here.



The first phase of the solution involves black sacrificing a piece. This is very complex phase, all of the sidelines are presented on our website and these show why the piece sac is black's best chance. The main line is. **1.Nd7 Nc4 2.Bd4 Nxb6 3.Bxb6 Bf3+**



The next phase involves some fancy footwork from the white king to defeat a clever drawing attempt from black. To understand this phase, peek ahead at the next diagram which is a mutual zugzwang. In other words, white is attempting to reach that diagram with black to play. Black is attempting to reach the same diagram with white to play. **4.Kd3** [4.Ke3? Bg4 5.Kd4 Be6 and White is in Zugzwang; 4.Kxf3?= stalemate] **4...Bg4 5.Kc4** [5.Kd4? Be6= Zugzwang] **5...Be6+** [after 5...Bxd7 obviously 6.Kc5+-] **6.Kd4** [6.Kc5? Bxd7=] **6...Bh3 7.Kd5 Bg4 8.Kd6 Bxd7** [8...Bh3 9.Nc8+-] **9.Kc5**



White has achieved his goal. Why? Black

**Continued on page 24**

# 2009 George Trundle NZ Masters Tournament Pocketed by Poaching Pom

*By Mike Steadman*

*English GM Gawain Jones will be living in NZ until July (see page 39) and has been actively swooping down on NZ tournaments, collecting titles in the Waitakere Trust, Waikato Open, the All Canterbury Championships and in his most difficult assignment, the George Trundle NZ Masters tournament. Mike Steadman, the tournament's driving force and organiser, reports.*

**The event started for me a long time before the actual tournament. I needed to get the field organised, pretty much started straight after the 2008 tournament ended.** With the qualifier getting an automatic slot in the main event if their rating was close to 2200, it was a question whether Gino Thornton's rating was high enough to get his slot.

Checking the national rating list, the usual suspects were still the only Kiwis over 2200, however Ralph Hart had made big leaps in 2008, so I earmarked him for the 10<sup>th</sup> slot if Gino did not improve. As it happened, Gino's rating stayed low, so Ralph got in the field. As usual Darryl Johansen and Stephen Solomon were the 2 Australian titled players, the only question was who the 3<sup>rd</sup> federation player would be. As luck would have it, GM Gawain Jones was

planning on returning to NZ about the same time as our event, so he became our 10<sup>th</sup> player.

Round 1 started, I had Reilly, he was on a late flight, so we did not kick off for a few hours after everyone else started. When we did get going I decided to take on his Modern again. I had seen a line where White rolled his h pawn to h5 and then played g3 and f4 against the pawn on g5. The games I had seen had a Black knight on d7, but in our game Tim had his Bishop on b7 instead, thought it still worked so went ahead. Turns out I was right, Tim tried to sac a pawn for the 2 bishops, but there was a way for me to unwind and in time trouble Tim fell for a deadly Knight check – game over. On the other boards the 2 GMs Jones and Johansen were playing off, Gawain played d4 which was a slight surprise and a Queen's Gambit accepted was played, Gawain played the sharp e4 line and the game got messy, Darryl messed up an even position and lost quickly. In Lukey vs Smith, Bob tried a Chech Benoni and got a lifeless position after he swapped off his 2 Bishops, Stephen opened up the f file and tied Black down, the Knight that got to e5 was never stable, a combi finished him off. In Croad vs Solomon a closed d4, Nf3, Bf4 and e3 thing, Solomon ground away and got to an



endgame where he had all the winning chances, Nic missed a drawing combination and lost the rook endgame. In the Hart vs Watson game, a Nf3 Nimzo was played, Hart appeared to be better throughout, but somehow Bruce managed to squirm his way out and in an endgame with a Rook for Knight and 2 pawns, both players short of time a draw was agreed.

**Lukey,Stephen (2233) - Smith,Robert (2298)**

George Trundle NZ Masters 2009 (1.5), 26.09.2009

**1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.e4 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 Be7 6.Nc3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bg5 9.Qg4 Bxc1 10.Rxc1 Kf8 11.Be2 Nd7 12.0-0 Ngf6 13.Qg3 h5 14.f4 exf4 15.Rxf4 Ne5 16.Rcf1 Rc8 17.Nd1 Rc7 18.Ne3 Ng8 19.Rf5 h4 20.Qf4 Qe7 21.Nc4 Nxc4 22.Bxc4 Nf6 23.e5 dxex5 24.Rxe5 Qd6 25.Rh5** Black resigns 1-0

Round 2 and I had White against Jones. I had played him at the Waitakere Open and he had destroyed me with the Benko. I had sorted out a line for this and decided I would try d4 again. He switched and played a King's Indian and I played the Bd3 and Nge2 line. I had a seen a game he had recently played against Sokolov and he played the same line. I tried a line Sokolov had used in a different game, did not give White a lot, but it was a position that was difficult for Black to make anything of. Gawain tried to win when a draw was probably a fair result and then shortly after White was better. I found a nice rook lift manoeuvre that kept all his counter play under

control, won a couple of pawns and managed to win a nice game – my first GM scalp. On the other boards, Watson vs Lukey was another Leningrad Dutch, things got very messy, Lukey was better, missed an opportunity to sac an exchange in Bruce's time trouble, and ended up needing a perpetual check to save the half point. Johansen vs Croad saw a strange kind of Swedish version of the Tarrasch. Darryl went for a slow line that gave him long term pressure, Nic made a horrible mistake and lost again. Reilly vs Smith was a repeat of their e3 Nimzo battle. This time Tim had learned from the last game and got Smith into a cheerless position with little play and bad pawns to defend. An ending was finally reach with Bishop and an extra pawn vs a Knight, a good bounce back win for Tim and Bob's second loss. Solomon vs Hart saw a typical game from Hart, he got a very satisfactory position and looked to have a reasonable game ahead, he then felt the need to sacrifice, which turned out to be unsound and lost – a shame as was looking like an interesting game unfolding.

**Steadman,Mike (2252) - Jones,Gawain (2553)**

George Trundle NZ Masters 2009 (2.5), 27.09.2009

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nge2 Nd7 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Nb5 Nxb5 10.cxb5 0-0** My preparation was Sokolov winning a game from this position, no big plus for White, but a comfortable game plan **11.Ng3 h5 12.Qc2 b6**, Far be it from me to criticise a GM - but this move didn't look right to

me. **13.f3 h4 14.Ne2 Nc5 15.Bc4 f5 16.b4** [Black had the nasty threat now of taking twice on e4 and trapping the Queen with Bf5 - these GMs set traps everywhere. **16.a3 ] 16...Nd7 17.Bd3 Rf7 18.Rc1 Nf8 19.Qc6 Rb8 20.h3 Bf6 21.Qc2 Bg5 22.Qd2 Nh7 23.a4 Ra8 24.a5 Bd7 25.Nc3 Qf6 26.Ra1 Bf4** Not happy with a draw Gawain keeps going for the win - but this was a mistake. **27.Bxf4 exf4 28.Rc1 Re8 29.Kd1 bxa5 30.bxa5 Qd4?** Probably last chance for him, he should have played Qg5 and settled for a drawish position, he missed the Ra1 to a4 lift. **31.Ra1 Ng5 32.Ra4 Qe5 33.exf5 Bxf5 34.Rxf4 Bxd3 35.Rxf7 Kxf7 36.Qxd3 Qf4 37.Qd2 Qb4 38.Kc2 Nh7 39.Ra1 Nf6 40.Ra4 Qc5 41.Rxh4** The Ra4 manoeuvre carried out twice in this game was really pleasing. **41...Re5 42.Rd4 Qa3 43.f4 Re7 44.Ra4 Qc5 45.Kb2 Qg1 46.Rc4 Qf1 47.Kb3 Qa1 48.a6 Qf1 49.Qd4 Qa1 50.g4 Nd7 51.Rxc7 Nc5+ 52.Rxc5 dxc5 53.Qxc5 Qh1 54.d6 Re1 55.Qxa7+ Kf8 56.Qb8+ Kf7 57.Qc7+ Kf8 58.a7 Re3 59.Qb8+ Kg7 60.a8Q Qb1+ 61.Kc4 Qd3+ 62.Kc5 Qxc3+ 63.Kb6 Qd4+ 64.Kc7 Qc4+ 65.Qc6 Qxf4 66.Qd7+ Kh6 67.Qh8+** Black resigns 1-0

Round 3 and I had Black against Croad. I tried a Czech Benoni, got very passive and did not take any chances to get active. He played a nice sac and Black was destroyed. Smith vs Watson saw Bob with the better side of an English, getting to a Queen ending a pawn up, but it was too hard to convert, so Bruce scrambled to another half point. Lukey vs Solomon was an Exchange Slav where the book

says White is slightly better, 2 moves later Solo was almost winning, Stephen had missed a really nasty line and his position blew up. Hart vs Johansen was another example of Ralph going nuts to no apparent reason, Darryl easily defended the threats for a quick win. Jones vs Reilly saw a transposition into a Pirc, the kitchen sink was donated but wasn't enough to win and Tim went on to lose.

**Jones,Gawain (2553) - Reilly,Tim (2288)**

George Trundle NZ Masters 2009 (3.1), 28.09.2009

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f4 Nf6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c5 8.0-0-0 Ng4 9.Bg1 cxd4 10.Nxd4 e5 11.Ndb5 exf4 12.Nxd6 Qa5 13.Nxc8 Raxc8 14.Qxd7 Rxc3 15.bxc3 Bxc3 16.Rd3 Ne5 17.Qd5 Nxd3+ 18.Bxd3 Qa3+ 19.Kd1 Qb2 20.Ke2 Qc1 21.Kf3 h5 22.Bc4 b6 23.Bc5 1-0**

Round 4 and I had White against Hart. I decided to take on his French and played an Advance. He surprised me with an early Ne7 and Nec6 manoeuvre. White didn't get much, but played Qg4 and got a g6 out of Black and some attacking chances. I moved my pieces towards the Kingside, a couple of slips from Ralph and White won. Solomon vs Smith was an Accelerated Dragon, Stephen never really got anything out of the position and Bob was slightly better, but the rook endgame was never enough to win. Johansen vs Lukey was a Bg5 King's Indian that played along Benoni lines once c5 and d5 got played. Stephen decided to attack on the kingside, saw a

opportunity to sacrifice, however Darryl saw further and sacrificed back to defuse the attack and get a winning position. Jones vs Croad was an f3 Nimzo that Nic misplayed, Gawain won a couple of pawns, but Nic got 2 Bishops vs 2 Knights. When the rooks came off, all of a sudden the win was not easy, and good defence by Nic got his draw. Reilly vs Watson saw another e3 Nimzo for Tim, Bruce got better in the murky position and was pressing, but missed a combination and all of a sudden he was a pawn down, but showed good technique and drew again.

**Steadman, Mike (2252) - Hart, Ralph (2256)**

George Trundle NZ Masters 2009 (4.4), 29.09.2009

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Ne7 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 Nec6 6.Bd3 b6 7.Qe2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nxd4 9.cxd4 Nc6 10.Be3 Nb4 11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Bxd7+ Qxd7 13.0-0 Be7 14.a3 Nc6 15.Qg4 g6 16.Nd2 0-0 17.Nf3 Rfc8 18.Rad1 Bf8 19.h4 Ne7 20.h5 Nf5 21.Bg5 Rc4 22.Qh3 Qa4 23.hxg6 fxg6 24.Be3 Be7 25.Bg5 Re8 26.Rd3 Kg7 27.Bxe7 Rxe7 28.b3** Black resigns 1-0

Round 5 I had black against Lukey. I decided to try a Stonewall Dutch, I always play 1... e6 to get into it, stops any Staunton Gambits, Nc3 and Bg5 lines. This seemed to work a treat, Stephen did not come prepared and played the Bf4 line. After Bxf4 and gxf4 we got to a level position with nothing happening, we agreed a quick draw. Hart vs Jones transposed into an endgame very quickly, to us mere wood pushers, it looked pretty drawn, but the GM got the

win – another tough loss for Ralph. Smith vs Johansen was a c3 Sicilian, although Darryl tried to squeeze, Bob managed to hold the draw. Watson vs Solomon was a transposition to a g3 Grunfeld, looked like Stephen was getting something in the rook endgame, but Bruce did the business and managed to hold the draw. Croad vs Reilly was an English and Tim played his usual Leningrad type system. This game also ended in a draw after long manoeuvring.

Round 6 I had White against Smith. I decided to take on his Nimzo again and try the f3 line. Bob and I had played this before and he played the c5, b5 line against me, this time he tried c5 and Bxc3. A completely different game unfolded. Bob missed his chance to play f5 and get active play, after this I sacrificed 2 pieces for a Bishop and Knight. The 2 pawns were big central ones, I missed the best line, but White still had the advantage. Bob has a great defensive manner and really dug deep. I almost muffed the win and let him get a draw, but he had used most of his time and missed his one chance, and I finally scored the point. Jones vs Lukey was a Tarrasch defence and Stephen got a reasonable game, Gawain tried a combination which had a hole and lost a pawn, Stephen was travelling nicely and was winning then the move before the time control he blundered and lost. Croad vs Hart was a Leningrad Nimzo and was a real battle, but Nic slipped up late in the game and allowed Ralph to get his first win. Johansen vs Watson was a continuation of Bruce's drawing run, a

solid English was not enough to break down his defences and the rook and pawn ending was completely drawn. Reilly vs Solomon was an e3 Nimzo and Stephen pulled off a sacrificial attack that finished Tim off nicely.

Round 7 I had black against Watson. We play so often at the club, so we know each other well. I decided to try the Leningrad Dutch, Bruce had done some preparation and came up with a line that caused some minor pieces to get swapped off. The position looked like Black was slightly better, but it turned out that White had the better long term prospects. I let my guard down and allowed Bruce to swap into a Rook and pawn endgame a pawn up, I didn't take my chances to activate my rook and was outplayed, a demoralising loss. Smith vs Jones transposed into Moroczy Bind type position, appears that Bob's plan was to play safe and try for a draw, never going to work against a GM. Gawain slowly improved his position, won a pawn and transferred this to an Exchange and won the endgame easily. Lukey vs Croad was a repeat of the Benoni they played at the North Island, however Stephen had forgotten they played this line before. Stephen had a chance to go into an endgame a pawn up, but even this would have been hard to convert, a draw was agreed at the end. Solomon vs Johansen was a Winawer French with Stephen employing his pet Bd2 line. This seemed to surprise Darryl and he found a defence of this creeping attack over the board. The Knight on d6 looked good, but Darryl just played around it. The position

transposed into a drawn endgame, Darryl tried to push it and almost managed to find a loss, instead the draw was saved. Hart vs Reilly was a murky affair, Ralph played an unusual opening and Tim pushed his pawns up, Ralph made a mistake and Tim managed to get the point.

Round 8 I had White against Solomon and the formula for a norm was 1.5 from the last 2 games. I decided d4 was working for me, so gave it another crack, Stephen was ready and went in the f5 line of the f3 Nimzo. I had forgotten the theory, looked like Stephen was getting the upper hand, but a saving resource had me winning an Exchange, all I had to do was unwind my pieces and I was looking good. I completed the task, then on the last move of the time control lost a piece. I was shell shocked by this and let whatever winning chance I had drift and a draw was the final result. Hart vs Lukey was a French that petered out to a draw. Jones vs Watson was a Caro Kann, all the bits came off and a Knight vs Bishop endgame arrived Bruce had a pawn weakness, he sacrificed his Bishop for 2 pawns and tied the knight to defending the pawns. Surprisingly Bruce then blundered and lost what would have been a good draw – later analysis showed that the final position may still have been drawn. Croad vs Smith was a continuation of their battles, as normal Bob won, he seems to have a psychological edge over Nic. Reilly vs Johansen was a Nimzo that swapped down to Queen and pawn endgame, Darryl missed a chance and then a draw

was the final result.

So the final round had the battle for the spoon between Smith vs Hart, it was a French and Smith prepared better. Ralph went for the gutty attacking line sacrificing his kingside, but once Bob got his King safe, he just wandered the h pawn up the board and won the game. Lukey vs Reilly was their standard Leningrad Dutch, Tim came up with a new try in the line and a very interesting game developed. The battle seemed to lurch both ways and the final position was drawn but in time trouble Tim did not see the perpetual and resigned. Watson vs Croad was a Queens Indian type setup that looked closed and a very manoeuvring type position which always looked even. Bruce won a pawn, however it was not enough to win. Johansen vs Steadman was a GM grind by Darryl, he played a Leningrad Dutch, played a slow positional line and gradually squeezed Black's position. In desperation I tried to break out, but allowed Darryl to swap into an endgame that was winning, which he duly pressed home for the point. The Solomon vs Jones was a Benko Gambit, looked like Stephen had prepared the b6 line against Gawain, a temporary sacrifice made the position very messy, both Kings looked uncomfortable, but in the end Gawain triumphed – great game to watch.

So final scores Jones 7.5, Solomon, Johansen 6, Steadman 5, Watson 4.5, Lukey 4, Reilly, Smith 3.5, Croad 3, Hart 2.

**Smith,Robert (2298) - Hart,Ralph (2256)**

George Trundle NZ Masters 2009 (9.2), 04.10.2009

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Ne4 6.Bxe7 Nxc3 7.Qg4 Qxe7 8.Qxg7 Qb4 9.Qxh8+ Kd7 10.Nf3 Qxb2 11.Kd2 Ne4+ 12.Ke3 Qxc2 13.Be2 Qc3+ 14.Kf4 Nc6 15.Bb5 Nxf2 16.Qxh7 Nxh1 17.Qxf7+ Kd8 18.Qf8+ Kd7 19.Rxh1 b6 20.h4 a6 21.Qf7+ Kd8 22.Bxc6 Qxc6 23.h5** Black resigns 1-0

**Solomon,Stephen (2424) - Jones,Gawain (2553)**

George Trundle NZ Masters 2009 (9.4), 04.10.2009

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 g6 6.Nc3 Qxb6 7.e4 d6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.Nf3 0-0 10.Nd2 Nbd7 11.Nc4 Qb7 12.Bf4 Nb6 13.Ne3 Bd7 14.a4 Nc8 15.Qc2 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Qb4+ 17.Kf1 f5 18.Nxc5 Qxc5 19.Qxc5 dxc5 20.Nc4 Bd4 21.h4 Nd6 22.Nxd6 exd6 23.Bxd6 Rf6 24.Bc7 Ra7 25.Bc4 Rb7 26.Re1 Rxb2 27.d6+ Kf8 28.Re7 Bxa4 29.Rh3 Rb1+ 30.Re1 Rxe1+ 31.Kxe1 Ke8 32.f4 Bb5 33.Bd5 h5 34.Ra3 Kd7 35.Kd2 c4 36.Bb7 c3+ 37.Kd1 Bd3 38.Bxa6 c2+ 39.Kd2 Bb2 40.Kxd3 c1Q 41.Bb5+ Ke6** White resigns 0-1

So, impression of the events. Gawain was in a class of his own. Once he beat Darryl in round 1 he was really cruising. He did not appear convincing in all his games, but seemed to get wins no matter what the position looked like. Darryl did the business after his first round loss, and never really looked in too much trouble after that. Stephen was also very strong,

lost to Gawain, but did what he needed to against the rest of the field. My result was pleasing and disappointing – my score has trended up each year and that was good, beat my first GM, but let another IM norm slip through my fingers by not drawing with Watson and only drawing a won position vs Solomon. The spoon race was another interesting tournament in itself, up to the last 3 rounds there were 4 of the players facing off. In the end Smith and Hart were the bottom 2 players, but Bob made a late spurt and leapfrogged Croad, so Ralph picked up the spoon, he suffered from first year blues, there is nowhere to hide in this event. The reports from the players is that this event is still one of the best going in the country, the visitors all enjoyed themselves (as they won all the money again – no surprise). The event is in it's 4th year now and may need to get moved to earlier next year due to the clash with the Olympiad dates.

## ***The George Trundle Qualifying Tournament***

***By Bill Forster***

**The George Trundle Qualifier has established itself as one of the most enjoyable tournaments in New Zealand both for aspiring top level players and those who are perhaps content to slot in one class below the elite level.**

What makes the tournament special ? The round robin format is one reason. The steady diet of strong (but not too strong) opposition another. Then there's the very civilised one game a day schedule and reasonably slow time control, the dedicated for chess venue, and the inspirational factor of the parallel master strength tournament that you (almost) feel a part of. Finally there is the soothing presence of Ewen Green (Director of Play), the dynamic presence of Mike Steadman (Organiser) and the inspirational presence of George Trundle (Sponsor). In our January issue we reprinted an old NZ Chess article by George on his POW experiences, so most readers will know that George's chess career began in Stalag VIII in 1943. Thanks George for everything. Of course it is the combination of all of these things that gives the tournament its unique feel. I know I would love to play every year.

So how did the tournament play out this year ?

Only one of the players this year belongs to the age group we normally associate with ambition and dreams of a brilliant future in chess. Thirteen year old Daniel Shen was in fact top seed, and he justified that by deservedly winning the tournament. Daniel got a quick start with three wins in a row, from Wheeler, Tanoi and Stuart. He suffered his only loss in round 4 (a nice game by Bob Gibbons), then got back on track with another controlled win, this time against Helen Milligan in round 5. After scoring 80% to

that point, Daniel seemed content to cruise to victory from there, drawing 3 of his last 4 games.

Who else was challenging for honours ? Second prize went to Bruce Wheeler. His tournament was diametrically opposite to Daniel's, he had a slow start, losing to Daniel in round one, drawing with Hilton Bennett in round 2 and then suffering a cataclysmic six move loss as white in round 3, (Ed Tanoi was gifted a piece as he revealed a nasty flaw in Bruce's apparently standard Nxe5 fork trick combination). But Bruce recovered and finished powerfully with three wins. After a crushing quick win over Goodhue in a final round money game, Bruce was left to sweat on the result of Shen-Bennett. If Hilton could win as black, all three players would share first place with 6 out of 9. Unfortunately for Bruce (and Hilton) a draw was the result instead so Daniel came first with 6.5, Bruce came second with 6, Hilton came third with 5.5.

Hilton was the only undefeated player. The last round game with Daniel perhaps represented Hilton's tournament in microcosm. Hilton got a decent, possibly preferable position but having used more time than his opponent he opted for the safety of a draw rather than pushing for more with time trouble approaching.

Helen Milligan was the only other player to achieve a plus score. She was solid as usual, losing only to Daniel, but picking up nice wins against Bob Gibbons and Richard Taylor, in both cases with

convincing kingside attacks with the black pieces. Of the rest of the players, Bob Gibbons and your humble correspondent had reasonable tournaments, scoring 4.5 and 4 respectively. In both cases last round losses were a disappointing factor. Nathan Goodhue and Peter Stuart will both be disappointed with their scores of 4 and 3.5 respectively. Hopefully Peter at least left with a smile on his face after a last round where my desperate attempt to end a string of draws with him was successful, but not in a good way.

Edward Tanoi and Richard Taylor have been left to last since they feature in the accompanying annotated game. Ed's score of 4 was about par for his rating, and Richard was unfortunately the wooden spoon holder this year with 2 points. However both players contributed more to the tournament than these modest results would suggest. The tournament featured more peaceful and timid chess than is really desirable, but rarely if either of these gentlemen were playing. Ed in particular played fearlessly and seemed rather contemptuous of conventional wisdom on issues such as the desirability of retaining material equality for example.

### **Edward Tanoi - Richard Taylor**

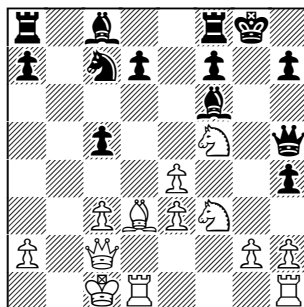
George Trundle Qualifier 2009

*[Annotated by Bill Forster]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bh4 g5 4.f3 gxh4 5.fxe4 c5**

This may look slightly insane but has in fact all been played hundreds of times

before. In fact this position first appears in the databases in a game between those redoubtable pioneer stalwarts of the Soviet school, Bondarevsky-Boleslavsky 1945 (admittedly they used a slightly different move order). In that contest (a very entertaining slugfest well worth tracking down, it features a revenge of the space invaders like denouement that would appeal to anyone who believes in pawn power in chess) Bondarevsky, like almost everyone else here, played the sane 7.e3. But of course sanity is not really where Edward is coming from. **6.d5 Bg7 7.c3 Qb6 8.Qc2 Na6 9.Nd2 Qg6 10.Ngf3 Bf6 11.d6!** A nice move creating squares for white's knight. Some of my engines don't recommend the move, but immediately recognise its strength once played. For some reason that always gives me a warm and fuzzy feeling. **11...0-0 12.0-0 exd6 13.Nc4 b5** If black defends the pawn the knight reroutes to the attractive squares d5 or f5. Nevertheless that would be a better choice. But of course neither of these guys got where they are today by protecting their pawns. **14.Nxd6 b4 15.e3 bxc3 16.bxc3 Nc7 17.Bd3 Qh6?** This mistake is costly. Black should have played more actively with ...Bg5 targeting e3. **18.Nf5 Qh5**



**19.g4!** A nice sacrificial idea. **19...hgx3 20.hgx3!** The point, black cannot take the knight and so is driven back and off the board. **20...Qg6** [if 20...Qxf3 21.Qh2 and black loses his queen after 21...h5 (21...Re8 22.Qxh7+ Kf8 23.Qh8+ Bxh8 24.Rxh8# is the prettiest way to lose) 22.Rdf1 Qg4 23.Nh6+] **21.e5 Kh8 22.Ne7 1-0**

## **Emil Melnichenko**

### **cont from page 15**

to move must release the white knight, because no bishop move can keep control of both b5 and c8 (and of course black only has bishop moves). For the rest of the game, white's stationary king and bishop, plus black's reluctant pawn keep black's king imprisoned, and so only white's knight and black's bishop move. The bishop cannot prevent the knight dancing to one of the mating squares b4 or c5. **9...Be8** [9...Bg4 10.Nb5 Bd7 11.Nc7#] **10.Nc8** and the slower knight outmanoeuvres the fleeter bishop, for example **10...Bc6 11.Nd6 Bd7 12.Nc4 Bc6 13.Ne5 Bb5 14.Nf3 Bd7 15.Nd4 Bf5 16.Nb5 Bd3 17.Nc7# 1-0**



# Ralph Hart Hops Hopefuls to win North Shore Open

By Peter Stuart

**P**Prime favourite for the 36th North Shore Open held in the last weekend of August had to be 12 times winner, defending champion and top seed, IM Paul Garbett, especially considering the other players combined had won the event exactly zero times between them! However, Mike Steadman was seeded second by just two rating points and others such as Ralph Hart, Daniel Shen, Daniel Han and Gino Thornton could hardly be underestimated.

There were a couple of format changes this year. First was the introduction of a Junior (under 14 and under 1400) event instead of a C-grade. In 2008 most of the players in the C-grade were juniors anyway and the majority of them tended to finish their games in half an hour. The prize fund for the new B-grade was bumped up almost 50% and the new junior tournament was played with a rapid time control of 30 minutes plus 5 seconds per move. It had a prize fund in excess of \$400. Not for the first time, the Open was supported by Pub Charity – much appreciated by the organising club and also, I'm sure, by the players.

Ralph Hart led from start to finish with his customary combative style – not

always completely sound, perhaps, but

with high tactical alertness. Well, most of the time. A prime example was the important clash with second seed Mike Steadman in round 3:

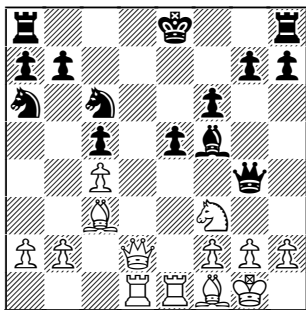
**Hart,Ralph - Steadman, Michael**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.Bb5 Nge7 5.Nf3 a6 6.Bd3 Ng6 7.h4 Be7 8.h5 Nf8 9.h6 g6 10.a3 b6 11.0–0 Bb7 12.Re1 f6 13.Qe2 Qd7 14.Bf4 Nd8 15.a4 Nf7 16.exd5 exd5 17.a5 b5 18.Nxb5 Nd6** [18...axb5 19.Bxb5 c6 20.a6 Bxa6 (20...Bc8 21.Bxc6+-) 21.Bxc6 Bxe2 22.Rxa8+ Nd8 23.Bxd7+ Kxd7 24.Rxe2+-] **19.Nxd6+** [More precise was 19.Qxe7+ Qxe7 20.Bxd6 cxd6 21.Nxd6+ Kd7 22.Rxe7+ Kxe7 23.Nxb7+- . After the text move Black gets the chance to consolidate, leaving White with an extra pawn of course, but without such a strong initiative.] **19...cxd6 20.b4 Kf7 21.b5 Ne6 22.Bg3 Nc7 23.b6 Ne6 24.Qd2 Rhe8 25.Re2 Bf8 26.Rae1 Rac8 27.c4 dxc4 28.d5 Bxd5** And after a snooze for a few moves the alarm must've gone off as Ralph came alive again . . . **29.Bxg6+! hxg6 30.h7** [The immediate 30.Qxd5 was stronger, e.g. 30...Rc5 31.Qd2 c3 32.Qc1+-] **30...Kg7** [30...Bxf3!? 31.h8Q Bg7 32.Qh4 Bxe2 33.Rxe2 d5 is not so clear] **31.Qxd5 Rc5 32.Qd2 Kxh7 33.Qc3 Qf7?!** [Something had to give and maybe the smallest concession was 33...Ng7 34.Rxe8 Nxe8 35.b7 Rb5 36.Qxc4 Rxb7 37.Qxa6 and White's advantage is clear but he still has

work to do.] **34.b7! Re5** [34...Qxb7 35.Rxe6 Rxe6 36.Rxe6+-] **35.Bxe5** [After this the game, doubtless influenced by the clock, degenerated into a blunderfest.] **35...dxe5 36.b8Q?** [36.Rb2 Rb8 37.Qxc4 Nd8 38.Qxf7+ Nxf7 39.Rc1 Nd6 40.Rc7+ Kh6 41.Rb6+-] **36...Rxb8 37.Qxc4 Rb5? 38.Rd1?²** [38.Nxe5! fxe5 39.Rxe5 Rxe5 40.Rxe5 Nd8 41.Qh4+ Kg7 42.Qxd8+-] **38...Qe7 39.Qc6 Nc5 40.Red2 Kh6 41.Rd7 Rb1??** [41...Nxd7 42.Rxd7 Qc5 43.Qxa6 Bg7=] **42.Rxe7 Rxd1+ 43.Kh2 Bxe7 44.Qe8 1-0.**

### Hart, Ralph – Cotty, Richard

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e4 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2 Na6 9.Bc3 f6 10.Qd2 Ne7 11.Nf3 e5 12.0-0 Bf5 13.Rad1 c5 14.Rfe1 Nc6 15.Bf1 Qg4**



**16.Bxe5! 0-0** [16...fxe5 17.Nxe5 Nxe5 18.Rxe5+ Kf7 19.h3 Qg6 20.Qd5+ Be6 21.Qxb7+ is murder] **17.h3 Qh5 18.g4?** [18.Bd6 first is much better] **18...Bxg4 19.Qd5+ Qf7 20.hxg4 fxe5 21.Nxe5 Qxd5 22.cxd5 Nd4 23.Bxa6 bxa6 24.b4 Rad8** [24...Rae8 25.Kg2 Nc2 26.Re4

Nxb4 27.d6 Nxa2 28.Re3 Nb4 29.d7 Rb8 30.Rc3 and White has work to do] **25.bxc5 Rxd5 26.Kg2 Ne2 27.Rxd5 Nf4+ 28.Kg3 Nxd5 29.c6** [White is effectively a pawn up now.] **29...Rc8 30.Rd1 Ne7 31.c7+- g6 32.Rd7 Kf8 33.g5 Ke8 34.f4 Kf8 35.Kf2 Re8 36.Rd8 Nc8 37.Kf3 Nb6 38.Nd7+ Ke7 39.Rxe8+ Kxd7 40.Rh8 1-0.**

That left Hart with 4/4, playing Thornton, who was half a point behind, in the last round. Gino offered a draw with his 24th move but Hart, surprisingly perhaps, declined. However, the draw was agreed a few moves later: in a very unbalanced and unclear position.

For Gino, it was all about hanging in there which he did rather well. A couple of crazy moves early on against Caleb Wright in the second round led indirectly to the loss of a pawn but. Gino eventually exchanged off just about everything to reach a drawn ending still a pawn down but with the few remaining pawns all on the kingside. Perhaps his most interesting game was in round 4:

### Steadman, Michael - Thornton, Gino

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.a3 Ba6 5.Qc2 Be7 6.g3 Bb7 7.Bg2 0-0 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.d5 Na5 10.Nd2 exd5 11.cxd5 c5 12.0-0 Rc8 13.e4 c4 14.h3 d6 15.Re1 Nd7 16.Rb1 Nc5 17.Nb5 Nd3 18.Rd1 a6 19.Nd4 Bf6 20.N2f3 Nc5 21.Bf4 Re8 22.Nf5 Be5** [22...Nxe4!? looks dangerous for Black but may be playable] **23.Bg5** [23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.Be3±] **23...Bf6 24.Bf4 Be5 25.Be3** [25.Nxe5] **25...Bf6 26.N3d4 Rc7 27.Bf4** [27.Nc6!? Nxc6 28.dxc6

Rxc6 29.e5 Rxe5 30.Bxc6 Bxc6 31.Nxd6 and even after the loss of his c-pawn Black will have at least some compensation for the lost exchange in his more active pieces and the white-square domination.] **27...Rd7 28.Nc6** [The knight move is not so good now that Black has bolstered the defence of his d-pawn, losing a pawn with little compensation.] **28...Nxc6 29.dxc6 Bxc6 30.Nxd6?** [Presumably White had overlooked the reply and failed to check before taking on d6, else he would presumably have continued 30.Qxc4 Bxe4 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Qd5 Re6 with at least some compensation for the pawn.] **30...Ba4 → 31.Qxc4 Bb3 32.Qb4 Bxd1 33.Nxe8 Qxe8 34.Qxb6 Ne6 35.e5 Nxf4 36.gxf4 Bd8 37.Qxa6 Rd2 38.Qc4 Bb6 39.b4 Qd8 40.e6 fxe6 41.Qxe6+ Kh8 42.Rc1 Bc2 43.a4 Rxf2 44.Kh1 Rxc2! 45.Re1 Rg1+ 46.Rxc1 Bxc1 47.Kxc1 Qd4+ 48.Kg2 Be4+ 49.Kg3 Qg1+ 50.Kh4 Qf2+ 51.Kh5 Qe2+ 52.Kh4 Qe1+ 53.Kg4 h5+ 0-1.**

That result left Gino in clear second place on 3½/4. Only Daniel Shen and Mario Krstev were on 3 points and they agreed to a draw. So the draw against Hart in the last round gave Gino clear second place. Some of Daniel's openings are rather innocuous but in the following game he soon developed a worthwhile initiative which eventually proved decisive.

**Shen, Daniel - Browne, Jeremy**

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.exd5 exd5 5.a3 Ba5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Be3 Nge7 8.Qf3 0-0 9.Nge2 Qd6 10.0-0 a6 11.Na4 b5**

**12.Nc5 Bb6 13.b4 Bxc5 14.bxc5 Qd7 15.Nf4 Rd8 16.h3 Nf5 17.c3 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Ne7 19.Ra2 c6 20.Raf2 Ra7 21.e4 dxe4 22.Bxe4 Nd5 23.Bxd5 cxd5 24.Nd3 f6 25.Re1 Rc7 26.Qg3 Rf8 27.Nf4 Ra7 28.Ne6 Re8 29.Rfe2 Re7 30.Nf4 Rxe2 31.Rxe2 Qf7 32.Qf3 Rd7 33.Qe3 g5 34.Qe8+ Qf8 35.Nh5 Rf7 36.Qc6 Bb7 37.Qe6 f5 38.c6 Bc8 39.Qxd5 h6 40.Nf6+ Kg7 41.Re8 Rxf6 42.Rxf8 Rxf8 43.c7 f4 44.Kf2 Re8 45.Qd8 Kf7 46.d5 g4 47.hxc4 Bxc4 48.d6 Re2+ 49.Kf1 Rd2 50.Qe7+ Kg6 51.Qe4+ Kg5 52.Qe5+ Kh4 53.Qxf4 Rd5 54.c8Q 1-0.**

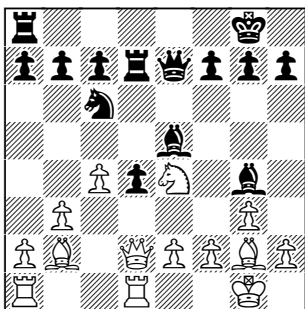
Joining Shen in a tie for third place on 3½ points were Paul Garbett, Daniel Han and Mario Krstev. This was a tournament Paul will likely want to forget pronto. The double Swiss Gambit just doesn't work. In the first round Benji Lim, in one of his rare top level appearances, caused the upset:

**Garbett, Paul – Lim, Benjamin**

**1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 Nf6 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Nc3 g6 7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.Nge2 Nb6 10.Qb3 Bf5 11.0-0 Qd7 [11...Bd3!? 12.Re1 Bc4 is also okay for Black.] 12.Re1 Rad8 13.Qa3 Nfxd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Nc3 [15.Qxa7? Nb4] 15...e6 16.d4 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Rc8 18.Qxa7 Rxc3 19.Be3 Rc7 20.Rac1 Bc2 21.d5 b5 [21...Bb2!? 22.dxe6 (22.Qb6!?) 22...fxe6 23.Bf4 Bxc1 (23...Rxf4 24.gxf4 Bxc1 25.Rxc1=) 24.Rxc1 Rc4 25.Qxb7 Qxb7 26.Bxb7 Bd3 is objectively better for Black but not easy to play.] 22.dxe6 fxe6 23.Qa3 Rfc8 24.h4 [White doesn't have time for this generally desirable move and should probably play something like 24.Bf4 ] 24...Rc4**

**25.Bb6?!** [White is in big trouble after this but it is hard to suggest anything much better, e.g. 25.Bf4 Bc3 26.Re2 Bd3 27.Rd1 Rd4 and I could see Paul licking his lips – if he had the black pieces!] **25...Bc3 26.Rxc2** [After 26.Rf1? Ra4 it's bye-bye queen - so White cannot save the exchange.] **26...Bxe1 27.Re2 Bb4 28.Qe3 Re8 29.h5 Bc3 30.hxg6 hxg6 31.Be4 Kg7 32.Kg2 Qd1 33.Bc2 Qd5+ 34.Be4 Qd1 35.Bd3 Rh8 36.Re1 Qxe1 37.Qxe1 Bxe1 38.Bxc4 bxc4 39.Bd4+ Kh7 40.Bxh8 Kxh8 41.Kf1 Bb4 42.Ke2 Kg7 43.Ke3 Bc5+ 44.Ke2 Kf6 45.f3 Ke5 46.Kd2 Kd4 47.a4 Bb4+ 0–1.**

Things also went wrong in the second round when Henry Vital got well on top. The draw was agreed when Garbett's R+N might've been holding against the Vital queen. Then followed three wins to arrive at a modestly satisfactory, if not really satisfying, score. Han started slowly with 1½/3 but won his last two games. The following position arose after 17 moves of Lim-Han in round 4:



White now erred with **18.f4?** allowing **18...d3 19.exd3** [19.fxe5 dxe2-+] **19...Bxb2 20.Qxb2 Bxd1 21.Rxd1 Rad8 22.Qc3 Nd4 23.Re1?! f5 24.Kh1**

[24.Nf2 Ne2+ 25.Rxe2 Qxe2 is also hopeless] **24...fxe4 25.Rxe4 Qf6 26.Qe1 c6 27.Re8+ Kf7 28.Re4 Re7 0–1.**

### Han, Daniel – Browne, Jeremy

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bd3 Ne4 9.0–0 Nxc5 10.Nxc5 h6? [10...Nf6] 11.Qh5 hxg5 [11...g6 12.Bxg6 hxg5 13.Bxf7+ Ke7 14.Qxh8 Kxf7 15.f4 g4 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Qxg4+ +- was seen in Lukey-J.Watson, Queenstown 2009 (1–0, 47).] 12.Qxh8 Nf6 13.e4?! 13.dxe4 14.Rfe1 Be6 15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 0–0 17.Red1 Qb4 18.Qh5 Be7 19.Qe2 Rxd4 20.Rxd4 Qxd4 21.Rc1 [21.Bf5!?] 21...Bd6 22.g3 Bc7 23.a3 Qe5 24.Bf3 Qxe2 25.Bxe2 Be5 26.Rc2 Bd5 27.b4 Bd6 28.Bc4 Bxc4 29.Rxc4 Kc7 30.Kf1 Kb6 31.Rd4 Kc7 32.Ke2 a5 33.Kd3 axb4 34.axb4 f5 35.Kc4 b6 36.Rd2 b5+ 37.Kb3 Be5 38.f3 Kb6 39.Rd7 Bf6 40.Rf7 c5 41.bxc5+ Kxc5 42.h4 gxh4 43.gxh4 Kd4? [43...Bxh4 44.Rxf5+ Kb6 45.Rf7 Bf6 46.Kb4 Be5 47.Rf5 Bd6+ 48.Kb3 Be7 49.Re5 Bf6 and it is hard to see how White can make progress.] 44.Rxf6! 1–0.**

Mario Krstev played some interesting games, his best in rounds 3 and 4.

### Krstev, Mario - Wright, Caleb

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Nc3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0–0 a6 10.a3 c5 11.Bc2 Be7 12.Qe2 0–0 13.e4 cxd4 14.Nxd4 Ne5 15.Rd1 Qb6 16.Bf4 Nc4 17.Bg5 Qc7 18.Bd3 Ne5 19.Rac1 Qb6 20.Bb1 Rfe8 21.Bf4 Nfd7 22.Bg3 Rad8 23.Kh1 Nc4 24.f4 Bc5 25.Na4 Qa7 26.Nxc5 Nxc5 27.Bf2 Qb8 28.b3 Rxd4 29.Bxd4 Nxb3 30.Rc3**

[30.Rxc4! bxc4 31.Be5 Qc8 32.Qg4 with a dangerous attack] **30...Nxd4 31.Rxd4 Qxf4 32.Rf3 Qe5?** [An unfortunate choice, taking away the e5-square from his knight.] **33.Rd7! Nd6?** [33...Bc6 34.Rdx7 Qd6 35.Rf1 Ne5 and Black is still in the game] **34.Qd1 Bxe4 35.Bxe4 Nxe4 36.Rfx7 Nf6 37.Rxg7+ Kh8 38.Ra7 Rc8 39.Qb1 Qf5 40.Qa1 Rc2?** [40...e5 was more resistant] **41.Rxh7+! Kg8 42.Rag7+ Kf8 43.Rf7+ Kg8 44.Rhg7+ Kh8 45.h3?** [Threatening |xf6 among other things, but overlooking a neat defence. Hard to see everything on an open board with two vulnerable kings and lots of major pieces hunting them. Probably best was 45.Qd1! threatening f8+, e.g. 45...Qd3!? 46.Qg1 (46.Qe1 Qe4 47.Qf1 Qf5 and White can make no progress) 46...Qd2 47.Rc7 and the win is finally clear.] **45...e5?** [Missing 45...Qf4! and the threat of f1+ forces White to give back the exchange, liquidating to a drawn queen ending: 46.Rc7 Rxc7 47.Rxc7 Qxc7 48.Qxf6+ Kh7 . After the text it's all over.] **46.Qd1 Rc8 47.Qe1 Qf4 48.Rc7 Rd8 49.Rg4 Qf5 50.Qh4+ 1-0.**

## B Grade and Junior

Leo Guico won the B-grade tournament with a picket fence while two of the youngest players, Hans Gao and William (Xiang Wei) Li tied for second place. Nigel Cooper (Canterbury) and 16-year old Tama Piwari (Gisborne) were among the group on 3½ points. Genesis Potini organised a group of five Eastern Knights members who travelled up by car. **Leading scores:** 1 L.Guico 5/5; 2-3

H.Gao & W.Li 4; 4-10 N.Cooper, M.Garland, S.Lyall, R.S.Mitchell, T.Piwari, G.W.Pocock & W.Puepuemai 3½; 11-14 V.Jefferson, H.Macleod, G.Potini & J.Wiringi 3 . . . 37 players. The **Junior Rapid** attracted 24 entries and was won by Luke Li with 4½/5. There was a three-way tie for second between Harry Cui, Henry Jiang and Scott Yang while Richard Jiang and David Rong shared 5th place on 3½.

## **Reflections on Rook Endings**

**by IM Herman van Riemsdijk**

**R**ook endings are by far the most common in chess. Probably they are the most difficult ones, keeping in mind however that queen endings are also extremely difficult for us human beings. Unlike machines, we cannot use a mathematical approach. We need 'concepts'. We need 'patterns'.

It's amazing to see how classics like Berger's 'Theorie und Praxis der Endspiel', Rabinowich's 'Endspielj', Fine's 'Basic Chess Endings', Czerniak's 'Finales', Euwe's 'Het Eindspel', among others, are unclear or/and superficial. Don't get me wrong: all these books are fantastic and very useful but still not totally satisfying when it comes to rook endings. I make an exception for the

Löwenfisch/Smyslov book. I have the Spanish version 'Teoría de Finales de Torre' (Barcelona 1960) and think that if you have assimilated the first six chapters (86 diagrams), you are almost there.

Recently, Spanish Grandmaster Jesús de la Villa published '100 Endgames you Must Know'. This kind of approach is quite useful. It started when Portisch published his 'Six Hundred Endings' (original edition is called '600 Végjáték', published by Sport, Budapest 1976).

The idea is to master a carefully selected set of endings in order to develop the insight to solve almost every practical ending. De la Villa dedicates two chapters with 43 diagrams in 38 pages to rook endings. It is insufficient for master level but is very good for an expert level.

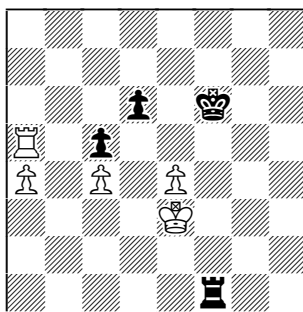
He asserts that rook endings are the most important ones. I disagree with that. For me, the most important are pawn endings because you cannot dominate rook endings – or any other ending – if you don't know pawn endings. The confidence in knowing whether to exchange, or not, heading to a pawn ending, is essential.

In the sense that importance is connected with frequency, he is right. He claims that statistically 8% of all chess games will at some stage become a rook ending.

Correctly, De la Villa starts with the so called Philidor and Lucena positions, which appear or are about to appear so

many times. They are (for me) the two most important positions to remember.

I have called this article "Reflections...". I was most recently reflecting on rook endings when Alex Baburin published a position from the recent game Dganidze-Ju Wenjun from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pearl Spring Tournament, held in Nanjing, China. You can find Barbarin's analysis in 'Chess Today', his daily electronic chess publication, # 3247, September 28, 2009:



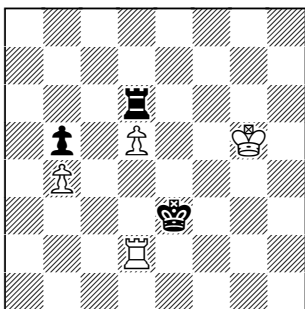
The game continued **66.Ra8 Ra1 67.a5 Ke5** [Clearly the best choice. Baburin points out that after 67...Ke6 68.a6! Kd7 69.a7! (69.Kf4 Rf1+) 69...Kc7 70.Kf4 Kb7 71.Rd8 Kxa7 72.Rxd6 Rcl 73.e5 Kb7 (73...Rxc4+ 74.Kf5+-) black is in great difficulties] **68.Re8+ Kf6 69.e5! dxe5 70.Ke4 Rxa5?** Baburin: Amazingly, Black is now lost, being a pawn up! [She had to play 70...Rd1! keeping the enemy king out. It seems that then Black should be OK: 71.a6 Rd4+ 72.Ke3 Rd7 73.Rf8+ Ke7 74.Rb8 Ke6 75.Rb1 Rh7 76.Ra1 Rh3+ 77.Kf2 Rh8 78.a7 Ra8 79.Ke3 Kd6 80.Ke4 Kc6 81.Kxe5 Re8+ 82.Kf5 Kb7 83.Ra5 Ka8=

(83...Ra8=) ]

As a matter of fact Baburin's analysis has a big flaw as GM Milos pointed out almost immediately after he saw the position: After 72... Rd7, 73.Ra8 is a quite simple win because 74.a7 is too strong a threat. After for example 73... Ke6 74.a7 Kd6 the black king hides from the deadly check but after 75. Ke4 black is in zugzwang. So white was winning anyway.

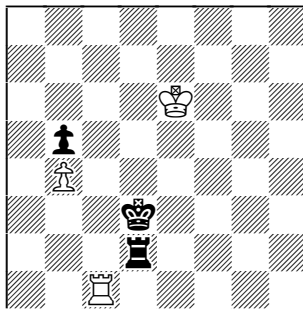
**71.Kd5 Ra7 72.Re6+ Kf7 73.Rxe5 Ra8  
74.Re1 Rc8 75.Kd6 Kf8 76.Kd7 Ra8  
77.Rf1+ Kg7 78.Kc6 Rc8+ 79.Kb7 Rd8  
80.Rf5 Rd4 81.Rxc5 Kf6 82.Rc8 Ke6  
83.c5 Kd5 84.c6 Rb4+ 85.Kc7 Rh4  
86.Rg8 Ke6 87.Rd8 Ra4 88.Kb7 1-0.**

My selective memory (selective in the sense that it brings up only good memories) immediately reminded me of a game I had played against IM Martin Martens in the Ohra tournament, Amsterdam 1990.



In this position the game was adjourned (ah... good times). The main Dutch newspaper the next day said that 'Van

Riemsdijk is a pawn down but has good drawing chances'. As a matter of fact, black is already winning. **66.Rd1** (Sealed move) **66...Ke4 67.Rb1 Rxd5+ 68.Kf6 Rd2 69.Ke6 Kd3 70.Rc1**



This game gave me the daily 100 guilders prize for the best game of round 5 in the 1990 Ohra tournament. It gave me and my wife an excellent dinner that night! I was very happy because it was chosen over games like Anand-Serper, Kuijf-Psachis, Nijboer-Van Wely and Portisch-Azmaiparashvili. The bulletin quoted that my game was chosen because of the 'correct conduct of the endgame'.

**70...Rc2?**

For any player who wants to play over his 'best' games, programs like Fritz, Rybka and Nalimov table bases are a nightmare! They eventually will destroy all of them! The table base points out that 70... Rb2! is the only winning move and humiliates you by saying that's mate in 39 moves. Should I return the 100 guilders to the Ohra organizers? (Tech

Ed: Send the money to me Herman and I will pass it on).

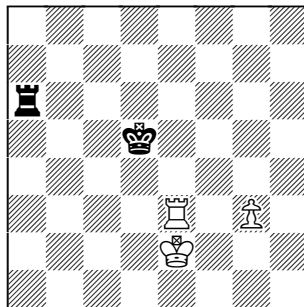
### 71.Rb1?

At the time nobody found the drawing manoeuvre: 71. Rh1 Kc4 72. Rh4+ Rb3 73. Kd5! and now 73... Rc4 fails because of the simple 74. Rxc4 and both pawns promote in the same move. Nobody found this 'simple' line in 1990. Nor did I in the analysis for Informant 50 (game # 395), although I had pointed out that 70... Rb2 was better than 70... Rc2. But this is a clear example how difficult these rook endings are...

**71... Rd2 (71... Rc4!) 72.Rc1 Rb2 (Back on trail) 73.Kd5 Rxb4 74.Rh1 Rg4 75.Kc5 b4 76.Kb5 b3 0-1**

Another endgame that's still imprinted on my memory is Taimanov-Larsen from the 1970 Interzonal. Both would qualify for the Candidates Tournament, Larsen 3.5 and Taimanov 4.5 points behind Fischer. Of course neither of them was dreaming about the dubious record they would share in 1971...

It was the only win of Taimanov against Larsen in his career. After 54... Rxa6 they reached the following position:



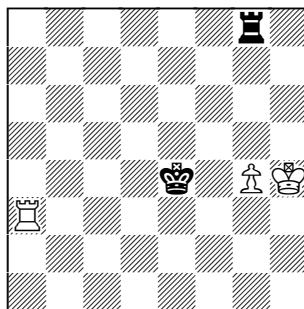
### 55.Kf3 Rf6+ 56.Kg4 Rf8!

Only move. Keeping three rows between king and rook is a well-known strategy and in this case essential for not reaching the Lucena position.

**57.Kh5 Rh8+ 58.Kg6 Kd4 59.Ra3 Ke4 60.g4 Rg8+!**

Only move. Here we can see why distance of the rook from the opposing king is so important.

**61.Kh5 Rh8+! 62.Kg5 Rg8+! 63.Kh4**



**63...Ke5??**



This terrible mistake by a top grandmaster like Bent is still a mystery but shows again how difficult rook endings are. 63... Rh8+ 64. Kg3 Ke5 65. Ra6 (probably still the best chance) Rh1 (or h7) is an easy draw. Another drawing method – less natural but equally effective - would be 63... Kf4 64. Ra4+ Kf3! And now 65. g5 is not possible because of Rh8#.

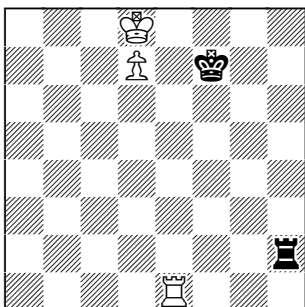
### 64.Ra6! Kf4

Or 64... Rh8+ 65. Kg5 Rg8+ 66. Kh5 Rh8+ 67. Rh6 followed by 68. g5 heading to the Lucena position.

### 65.Rf6+ Ke5 66.g5 1–0

White has reached a Lucena like position.

Finally I would like to show the Lucena and Philidor positions in their purest forms:



This is a Lucena type position. In a matter of fact this kind of position was

analyzed long before Lucena so this name is maybe not so fair.

### 1...Rc2

The only way to prevent Rc1, followed by Kc8.

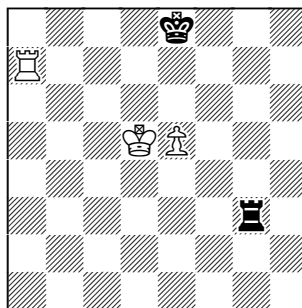
### 2.Rf1+ Kg7 [2...Ke6 3.Ke8+]- 3.Rf4! Rc1 4.Ke7 Re1+ 5.Kd6 Rd1+ 6.Ke6 Re1+ 7.Kd5

This method is called 'The Bridge'. White's rook will now block the checks and promotion is unavoidable.

There is a second method if white has enough columns available as in this case. He maneuvers his rook to c8:

2. Ra1 Rc3 3.Ra8 Rc1 4.Rc8 and the king comes out without black being able to do anything: 4...Ra1 5.Kc7 Rc1+ 6.Kb6 Rb1+ 7.Kc5 Rc1+ 8.Kb4 until reaching the rook. This second method is not possible with the pawn on the **b** or **g** file.

Next is the Philidor type position.



Black makes an easy draw with **1...Rg6** blocking the king's approach and the rook stays on the sixth rank. Only after **2.e6** does the rook go to the first rank (**2...Rg1**) so as to check the king from behind. Black's first move is not essential however it does ensure the draw is achieved without unnecessary suffering.

## History of Chess

*By Alan Aldridge*

In 1956 Rodney Phillip's was the rising star of NZ Chess. At 14½ he became the youngest player to compete in a NZ Championship when at the 64<sup>th</sup> Congress held in Wellington. Phillips tied with A Feneredis for first place. Play-offs had been the norm but difficulties in arranging one meant both players were declared joint winners, and play-offs were subsequently abolished. Phillips has remained to date the youngest NZ Champion. In 1957 he won the title outright. His suicide in Wellington at the age of 26 deprived NZ chess of a rare talent. Arcadios Feneredis went on to become a chess legend in Wellington, playing into his 90s. Reproduced below are two articles written by reporter Val Aldridge for the Dominion newspaper on Rodney Phillips and the 1956 Congress.

## **AUCKLAND BOY IN TIE FOR N.Z. CHESS TITLE**

The New Zealand chess championship ended last night in a tie between A. Feneridis and the 14 year old Auckland player Rodney Phillips.

It is expected that an emergency meeting of the New Zealand Chess Association will be held to decide if there is a play-off.

The final round started with three players, Feneredis, Phillips and A Turner, equal on points.

Each had to win his final game to hold his position.

Games started yesterday afternoon in a tense atmosphere. The three main pairs were surrounded by onlookers. Other players left their games to watch the key matches and returned only when it was necessary to make their moves.

Halfway through the afternoon all three players appeared to have a slight advantage over their opponents and officials began to forecast a triple dead heat. An event which, had it occurred, would have been unprecedented in NZ chess history.

As the afternoon progressed the flow of the games altered. A. Turner surprised by losing to T. van Dijk and Feneredis held his points by beating B Marsick. The T. Young-Phillips game was adjourned.

The balance of the competition rested on this game and players and spectators watched with intense interest when the

follow on was played last night. Experts began to forecast a draw, thus leaving the championship to Feneredis, but young Rodney Phillips, playing a craftsman's game, took the match from Young.

## Big Results From Small Boy's Interest In Chess

Six years ago an eight-year old boy watched earnestly as his father T.H. Phillips of Auckland, became more and more interested in chess.

When Mr Phillips finally agreed to young Rodney's request to learn the game, he little thought that within five years his son would be competing against the country's foremost chessplayers for the New Zealand Championship.

From his introduction to chess it was soon apparent to all following Rodney's progress that his keenness and aptitude to learn were more than just a young boy's passing fancy.

When he was 10 Rodney competed in the under 18 class of the Auckland provincial schoolboys' chess tourney, pitting his ability against youngsters many years older than himself. Though Rodney did not win the tournament he drew the attention of O. Sarapu, a New Zealand Chess Master with many year's overseas experience. Mr Sarapu was impressed with the boy's natural ability and, recognising Rodney as a potential champion, took him in hand.

The rest of the story is of success after

success with many records toppling into Rodney's lap: The only boy to win the national schoolboy tournament two years running – First to become three times Auckland provincial schoolboy champion- His first win in the provincial field when he was only 11 years of age – Youngest person to compete in the New Zealand Championship – and perhaps the youngest winner?

### Letter From the Kingside – Nostalgia

By Roger Nokes

**K**asparov and Karpov have just played a match in Seville, Spain. Did you do a double-take? No, this column was not written 20 odd years ago after one of the great world championship matches. Here we are in 2009 witnessing a rematch, 22 years on from the original. The world seems to be increasing enthusiastic about reliving the past. Is it the uncertainty of the future that generates such nostalgia in human beings, or is our desire to re-experience past events more about attempting to recapture the pleasure and feelings we had in a previous time?

We see evidence of this everywhere, but perhaps nowhere more so than in music. How many radio stations are now dedicated to the music of the past? There

are Greatest Hits and Solid Gold radio stations on my local airwaves - each committed to music from a well-defined earlier time, such as the 50s, 60s and 70s. People in their late middle-age are attending rock concerts where rock stars of the 60s, who are in their 60s, are performing. When I was a youngster I would have been horrified if my parents had left me at home in order to attend a raucous concert more suited to me and my peers.

But nostalgia and the reliving of past experiences is an interesting phenomenon. The second time around things are never the same of course. In many ways it is the fact that our memories are being stirred and that we have the chance to reclaim something of our past that are important. Is the chess in the current Kasparov-Karpov match as intense and of the same standard as that on 1989? For a start the current match is a rapid/blitz compendium of games - without the standard time controls or, unbelievably, the adjournments of the original. And also none of the antagonism. Kasparov and Karpov have left us a legacy of one of the most intense rivalries in chess history. In three years they played 120 championship games and the score in Kasparov's favour was as slim as could be. They came from different parts of the Soviet system and had different pressures placed upon them. Today, the two are on rather better terms and we get to witness an event that does more, perhaps, to stir our chess memories than to stir our chess interest.

Seventeen years ago we witnessed a similar, although more substantial, event when 20 years after their historic match, Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky sat down for a rematch in Yugoslavia. Again, the atmosphere was less electric, the chess was not as absorbing as the original, but the interest world-wide was enormous. It is a great thing to pay our respects to past chess champions, and perhaps it is particularly respectful to do so by asking that they play chess for us once again.

This talk of past champions does bring images of gray-haired gentlemen and gentlewomen sitting in wicker chairs on the porch struggling over the chess board with a cup of tea in their hand. Nothing could be further from the truth in the case of Kasparov and Karpov. One can speculate all one wants, but the fact is that Kasparov today is a mighty strong chess player and Karpov is still ranked well above the 2600 level. I don't imagine Vishy Anand, or Veselin Topalov would be very keen on Kasparov announcing that he is coming out of retirement. You may have missed it but Garry Kasparov has another project underway at the moment, and I'm not talking about his political activity in Russia. It has recently been announced that Kasparov is Magnus Carlsen's new coach. Now there is a potent combination! The outcome of the collaboration has been very clearly articulated to the chess world - Magnus will be number 1 and very soon.

Chess, like everything in life, changes,

but the changes occur relatively slowly and it is only by taking stock occasionally and looking back, not on the recent past, but to a more distant horizon, that we can see the magnitude of that change. As an interesting exercise for this article I plucked from my bookshelf the two Informators for 1979. The chess scene was rather different 30 years ago. Not surprisingly the leading players were largely different from today. The names of that era were Petrosian, Andersson, Larsen, Tal, Portisch, Hort, Timman, Polugaevsky, and Hubner, but of course there were also Korchnoi and Karpov. The ratings were lower. Few players were above 2600 and only Karpov and Korchnoi were around 2700. What a contrast with today where well over 100 players exceed the 2600 mark and a significant number exceed 2700. Is a Topalov today 100 points better than a Karpov of 1979? The openings of choice were rather different back then. Around a quarter of all games in those Informators were Sicilians and the number of Slavs and Slav-variants could be counted on a couple of hands.

What about the big tournaments of the day? The Super tournament in Montreal, won by Karpov (who lost to Larsen) and Tal was held in 1979 together with Linares, Wijk aan Zee and Tilburg. But skimming through these magazines the event that stands out is Banja Luka in Yugoslavia. This event didn't boast all the big names of the day, although Petrosian, Andersson, Smejkal and Adorjian were present. What makes this event special was the participation of a new chess

sensation. Having never been outside the Soviet Union to compete, the young Garry Kasparov had an ELO rating of 2200. He dismissed the star-studded opposition by scoring an undefeated 11.5/15, 2 points clear of his rivals, and 1.5 points in excess of a GM norm. Now that event in Yugoslavia is worth a little nostalgia. It heralded the emergence of perhaps the world's greatest player.

But let us return to the 24 game Kasparov-Karpov match of 1987. This was an incredibly tense match, with neither player able to break his opponent's spirit until the very end. Karpov took the initiative early in the match winning the second game, and when Kasparov recovered to win the 4th, Karpov immediately replied with a win in the very next game. By game 11 Kasparov had finally crept into the lead with wins in games 8 and 11. And so followed a war of attrition that was so characteristic of the matches between these two. Karpov finally managed to draw level in game 16, and then on almost the eve of the end of the match he won again in game 23 to take a one-game lead into the final game. A draw with black would have secured him the title that he had won by default from Fischer in 1975 and lost to the young Kasparov in 1985. You can imagine the pressure each faced in that final game. Here it is with light annotations.

### **Kasparov G - Karpov A**

World Championship Seville 1987

Game 24

**1.c4** You have the white pieces in a must

win game. What is your choice of opening? Kasparov had employed both e4 and d4 during the match without making much impression on Karpov's defences. Two of Kasparov's wins had come from the English opening, so it is perhaps not surprising that he places faith in that system for this crucial game. **1...e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.b3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 b6 7.Bb2 Bb7 8.e3 Nbd7 9.Nc3 Ne4** With this quiet system White obtains little from the opening except the opportunity to manoeuvre and retain the tension in the position. **10.Ne2 a5 11.d3 Bf6 12.Qc2 Bxb2 13.Qxb2 Nd6 14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.d4 c5 16.Rfd1 Rc8** [16...c4 17.Ne5 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 b5 is an alternative but the game is still balanced. Karpov, too of course, is suffering. While the onus is on Kasparov to score a full point, Karpov must find a path that doesn't compromise his position to the extent that Kasparov has the chance to add complexity to the position.] **17.Nf4 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Qe7 19.Rac1 Rfd8 20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.b4 axb4 22.Qxb4 Qa7** The opening of the position on the queenside appears to be slightly to White's advantage because of his long ranging bishop. Both players have pawn weaknesses on the a and b files and the question is which of these will be more important. Black's knights don't possess any stable points in the centre except for c5 while the bishop on f3 exerts considerable influence over Black's ability to reorganise his forces on the queenside. **23.a3 Nf5 24.Rb1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qc7 26.Nd3 h6 27.Rc1 Ne7 28.Qb5 Nf5 29.a4 Nd6 30.Qb1 Qa7** Kasparov has tried to apply pressure on

the queenside without any noticeable success. He retains a slight edge through his slightly greater ability to redeploy his pieces. Perhaps frustrated by the lack of progress he offers his a pawn in an attempt to disrupt the coordination of the Black pieces. Such a decision becomes more understandable when one is told that Karpov had only 3 minutes remaining to reach move 40. Kasparov was always a master psychologist as well as master chess player. **31.Ne5 Nxa4?**

[Taking the pawn is a mistake. Instead 31...Rf8 32.Rd1 Qc7 33.Qb4 Rc8 retains a slight edge for White] **32.Rxc8+ Nxc8 33.Qd1?**

[Incredibly Kasparov reciprocates. As this is effectively the first move after the pawn sacrifice one would think that he would have established the right continuation which provides his queen access to the important e8 square instead of d8. So correct is 33.Qb5! Kh7 (33...Nc5 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Nxf7 Qa1+ 36.Kg2 Qf6 37.Qh8+ Kg6 38.Qg8 Ne7 39.Nh8+ Kf5 40.Qe8 is a tactical labyrinth that Hyarc assures me is winning for White. Certainly the exposed position of the Black king would attract me to such a position!) 34.Qe8 Nd6 35.Qd8 Nf5 36.Nc6 Qb7 37.g4 and the instability of the Black knights becomes apparent, with one of the beasts being lost.] **33...Ne7?** [The pressure is telling on Karpov. Recentralising the knight with 33...Nc5 is correct due to the tactical resource associated with the queen check on a1.] **34.Qd8+** [34.Bh5! Nc5 35.Bxf7+ Kh7 is even stronger.] **34...Kh7 35.Nxf7 Ng6 36.Qe8 Qe7 37.Qxa4 Qxf7 38.Be4 Kg8 39.Qb5 Nf8 40.Qxb6** Finally White has

been able to achieve a sizable advantage. Despite the pawns being on the same side of the board the additional weakness of the e pawn provides White with excellent winning chances. It's at times like this you don't want your technique to let you down! 40...Qf6 41.Qb5 Qe7 42.Kg2 g6 43.Qa5 Qg7 44.Qc5 Qf7 45.h4 h5 46.Qc6 Qe7 47.Bd3 Qf7 48.Qd6 Kg7 49.e4 Kg8 50.Bc4 Kg7 51.Qe5+ Kg8 52.Qd6 Kg7 53.Bb5 Kg8 54.Bc6 Qa7 55.Qb4 Qc7 56.Qb7 Qd8 57.e5 Qa5 58.Be8 Qc5 59.Qf7+ Kh8 60.Ba4 Qd5+ 61.Kh2 Qc5 62.Bb3 Qc8 63.Bd1 Qc5 64.Kg2 1-0

## **GM Gawain Jones in Wellington**

English Grandmaster Gawain Jones will be living in Wellington until July 2010 while fiancé Sue Maroroa takes a training course. He is available for coaching for players in the Wellington region. Gawain has co authored several books and is ranked in the top five players in the U.K.

Contact:  
gawainjones@hotmail.com

## **2009 Schools Teams Championships Results**

### **From page 7**

#### **Intermediate Division**

1<sup>st</sup> Somerville 2<sup>nd</sup> Remuera, 3<sup>rd</sup> Rangeview. 15 teams

#### **Secondary Division**

1<sup>st</sup> Auckland Grammar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Palmerston North Boys High B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Palmerston North Boys High A. 13 teams

A team effort by local players and PNBH pupils worked to make the tournament an enjoyable success for the participants. My thanks goes to all who provided help on the day with assistance and loaning equipment.

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No 298	Plastic Felt Base 'London Set'	98mm King	\$ 22.50
No 402	Solid Plastic - Felt Base Extra Weighted with 2 Queens	95mm King	\$ 24.50
	Plastic Container with Clip Tight Lid for Above Sets		\$ 7.50
	Draw String Vinyl Bag for Above Sets		\$ 5.00
No 5198	Solid Plastic - Felt Base Plus Vinyl Mat 510mm <sup>2</sup> In Printed Carry Tube	98mm King	\$ 27.50

### **Chessboards**

510mm <sup>2</sup>	Soft Vinyl Roll-Up Mat Type (Green & White Squares)	\$ 7.50
510mm <sup>2</sup>	Soft Vinyl Roll-Up Mat Type (Dark Brown & White Squares)	\$ 9.00
450mm <sup>2</sup>	Soft Vinyl Roll-Up Mat Type (Dark Brown & White Squares)	\$ 10.00
450mm <sup>2</sup>	Hard Vinyl Semi Flexible Non Folding (Very Dark Brown and Off White Squares)	\$ 11.00
450mm <sup>2</sup>	Folding Vinyl (Dark Brown & Off White Squares)	\$ 19.50
480mm <sup>2</sup>	Folding Thick Cardboard (Green & Lemon Squares)	\$ 7.50
500mm <sup>2</sup>	Folding Hard Vinyl (Dark Brown & Cream Squares)	\$ 13.50

### ***Chess Move Timers (Clocks)***

'Turnier' German Made Popular Club Clock - Light Brown Vinyl Case	\$ 87.50
'Exclusiv' German Made as Above in Wood Case	\$ 96.00
'Saitek' Competition Pro Game Clock	\$ 92.00
DGT Easy Game Timer	\$ 75.00
DGT Easy Plus Game Timer - Black	\$ 85.00
DGT 2010 Chess Clock & Game Timer	\$ 145.00
DGT XL Chess Clock & Game Timer (FIDE)	\$ 165.00
DGT Pocket Timer 960	\$ 94.00

### ***Club and Tournament Stationery***

Cross Table/Result Wall Chart 430mm x 630mm 11 Rounds for 20 Players or 6 Rounds for 30 Players	\$ 3.00
Score Sheets - Bundle of 200 - 80 Moves & Diagram	\$ 7.00
Score Sheets - Bundle of 500 - 80 Moves & Diagram	\$ 15.00
Scoresheets NZCF Carbonised - 84 Moves	\$ 0.12
Score Pad - Spiral Bound Room for 50 Games of Scoresheets	\$ 3.50
Score book - Spiral Bound - Lies Flat at Any Page 50 Games of 80 Moves with Index and Diagram for Permanent Record	\$ 7.00

### ***Magnetic Chess and Demonstration Boards***

Magnetic Chess & Checkers (Draughts) 65mmK - 325mm <sup>2</sup> Folding Vinyl Board	\$ 14.50
Magnetic Chess & Backgammon 65mmK - 325mm <sup>2</sup> Folding Vinyl Board	\$ 16.50
Engel 190mm x 150mm (15mm Green & Yellow Squares) Flat Disc Pieces	\$ 36.00
660mm x 760mm Roll-Up Vinyl - Slot in Pieces (Green & White Squares)	\$ 52.00
660mm x 760mm Roll-Up Vinyl - Slot in Pieces (Green & White Squares)	\$ 89.00
915mm x 940mm Magnetic Roll-Up Vinyl (Dark & Light Green Squares)	\$ 265.00

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