

New Zealand Chess

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Volume 37 Number 2

Mark Noble Becomes NZ's first Correspondence Grandmaster



Plus: *Bill Forster's Chess Adventure in Europe*

Mike Steadman leads the Kiwis into Doeberl and the SI Open

GM Gawain Jones closes NZ stint at Wellington Open

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How to win the NZ Chess Championship in 11 not-so-easy Games

By IM Anthony Ker

Anthony has a knack of winning the Silver Rook, with 11 NZ titles to his name. How does he do it? Peer into the abyss of Anthony's mind as he talks us through the first five games from the 2010 Congress. The remaining games will be in the next issue.

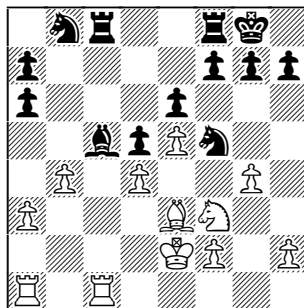
Round 1

Ker,Anthony (2423) - Nijman,Brian (2168) NZ Championship Auckland (1.1), 02.01.2010

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.a3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb5 8.Bxb5+ Qxb5 9.Nc3 Qa6 10.Be3 Nd7 11.Qe2 Rc8 12.Qxa6 bxa6 13.Na4 Nh6 14.Ke2 Be7 15.Rhc1 0-0 16.b4 Nb8 17.Nc5 Nf5 18.g4 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 Ne7 20.Rac1 Rc6 21.Bg5 Rxc5 22.bxc5 f6 23.exf6 gxf6 24.Bf4 Nec6 25.Bd6 Rf7 26.Rb1 Nd7 27.Rb7 Nf8 28.Rb1 Ng6 29.h4 e5 30.h5 e4 31.hxg6 exf3+ 32.Kxf3 hxg6 33.Ke3 Kg7 34.Kd3 Rd7 35.Kc3 Kf7 36.Rh1 Kg7 37.f4 Rb7 38.Re1 Kf7 39.Rh1 Kg7 40.Re1 Kf7 41.g5 f5 42.Rh1 Kg8 43.Rh6 Kg7 44.Be5+ Nxe5 45.dxe5 Rb1 46.Rh2 Kf7 47.Rh7+ Ke6 48.Rxa7 d4+ 49.Kxd4 Rd1+ 50.Ke3 Re1+ 51.Kf3 Rf1+ 52.Kg3 Kd5 53.Rxa6 Rc1 54.Rxg6 Rxc5 55.Rf6 Ke4 56.g6 Rc3+ 57.Kh4 Kxf4 58.g7 Rc1

59.Kh5 Rg1 60.Kh6 Kxe5 61.Rf8 1-0

I have the White pieces against Wellington clubmate Brian Nijman. I meet his French Defence with the Advance variation and Brian plays a side variation involving the early exchange of his QB. This is a very desirable swap from Black's point of view since the QB is hemmed in by pawns and often turns 'bad' in the French. But arranging the swap takes time and I manage to get a small lead in development. On move 11 Brian surprises me by allowing me to double his a-pawns. I now have a target for the middle-game – develop and play on the queenside. We reach a critical position after 18 moves.



I've just kicked Brian's knight and he has exchanged on c5 before moving it. This offers me the chance to capture on f5 instead of c5 and I spend some time analyzing this before deciding to stick with my main plan. I get my b-pawn to c5 and am effectively a pawn up thanks to Black's crippled a-pawns. But Brian battles hard, using his knight to blockade the c-pawn and co-ordinating his defences well. My rook to the seventh turns out to be optically impressive only and I drop back next move, while he launches some kingside

counterplay. We repeat moves to get to move forty, at which point each player receives an extra ½ hour thinking time. Then I make my winning attempt – 41.g5 to try and get the e5 square for my bishop. The threat of my rook getting into his position convinces Brian to exchange on e5 and now I am feeling confident about my chances. A greedy pawn snatch (48.Rg7 is much more effective than the irrelevant 48.Rxa7?) gives Brian some counterplay but my king is able to race down the h-file to shepherd home my passed pawn. A tough first game – I think we were the last to finish – and I am pleased to have come through unscathed.

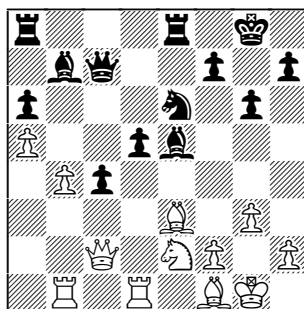
Round 2

Han, Daniel (2200) - Ker, Anthony (2423)
 NZ Championship Auckland (2.1),
 03.01.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.c4 Bb7 5.Qc2
 bxc4 6.e4 e6 7.Nc3 exd5 8.exd5 Nxd5
 9.Bxc4 Nb6 10.Bb5 Be7 11.0-0 0-0
 12.Rd1 d5 13.Ne4 N8d7 14.Ng3 g6 15.Bf4
 a6 16.Bf1 Re8 17.a4 Nf8 18.a5 Ne6
 19.Bd2 Nd7 20.b4 Bf6 21.Rab1 c4 22.Be3
 Qc7 23.Ne2 Ne5 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.g3 d4
 26.Nxd4 Bxd4 27.Bxd4 Ng5 28.f4 Be4
 29.Qc3 Nf3+ 30.Kf2 Nxd4 31.Qxd4 Bxb1
 32.Rxb1 c3 33.Rc1 c2 34.Bg2 Rad8
 35.Qc5 Rd2+ 36.Kf1 Qxc5 37.bxc5 Rd1+
 White resigns 0-1

Black against Daniel Han. The opening transposes into a Benko Gambit but instead of giving up a pawn I grab one. Nothing bad happens and I free my position with 12...d5 and develop the rest of my forces. I have good central control and my pawns are marching down the middle of the board

when we arrive at this position:



25...d4! is a thematic line clearance and the long white diagonal spells big problems for White. Daniel thought I was going for ...Qe6, which he could meet with f3 and Bg2. But then I uncork 27...Ng5! with two big threats – Nf3+ and Be4. I pick up the exchange and converted it to a win a few moves later. My best game of the tournament – Daniel seems to inspire his opponents as he was on the wrong side of a Nic Croad brilliancy also!

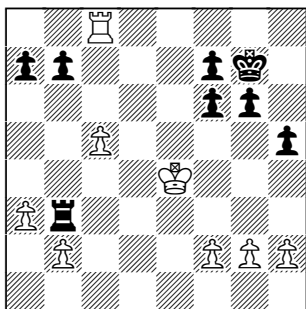
Round 3

Ker, Anthony (2423) - Depasquale, Chris (2274)
 NZ Championship Auckland (3.1),
 04.01.2010

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6
 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Na3 cxd4 7.Bc4 Qe4+ 8.Be3
 Nh6 9.Nb5 0-0 10.Bd3 Qe6 11.cxd4 Na6
 12.0-0 Nf5 13.Bg5 Bf6 14.Re1 Qb6
 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rac1 Be6
 18.a3 Bd5 19.Qf4 Nd6 20.Qxf6 exf6
 21.Nxd6 Rxd6 22.Be4 Rad8 23.Bxd5
 Rxd5 24.Re7 R5d7 25.Rxd7 Rxd7
 26.Rc8+ Kg7 27.Kf1 Nc7 28.Ke2 h5
 29.Nd2 Ne6 30.Nb3 Nf4+ 31.Kf3 Nd3
 32.Nc5 Nxc5 33.dxc5 Rd3+ 34.Ke4 Rb3

35.Rb8 f5+ 36.Kd4 Rxb2 37.c6 Rd2+ 38.Kc3 Rd6 39.cxb7 Rb6 40.a4 a5 41.Kc4 Black resigns 1-0

I have the White pieces against Chris Depasquale. Chris is a top Australian player now living in Auckland. In his only previous NZ Championship he dominated the tournament and took first place ahead of Scott Wastney, though at the time he was not eligible for the silver rook. So I figure this is going to be a critical game and prepare accordingly. To my delight we play into a line of the c3 Sicilain that I have researched. Note that 8...dxe3 costs Black his queen after 9.Bxf7+! – a little trap I had learnt that morning. I am able to bang out the first 11 moves without pause, while Chris consumes over half an hour. But he finds some good replies and my opening advantage slowly ebbs away. In the endgame Chris is starting to take control and he turns down a likely draw (32...Ne1+) in favour of a rook and pawn ending with his rook on b3, winning a pawn.



After 34...Rb3

Casting around for a way to minimize the damage I suddenly spot a devastating move – 35.Rb8!! The point is that c6 is a huge

threat. Black can only play 35...Rb5 to counter it but then 36.b4 threatens a4 next move and 36...a5 is met by 37 c6 bxc6 38 Rxb5 cxb5 39 bxa5 and White wins. Neither Chris nor I had foreseen this possibility but when we got to this position there it was, waiting to be played. This is a one-move knockout and Chris resigns a few moves later, looking a tad shell-shocked. Who says there's no such thing as luck in chess?

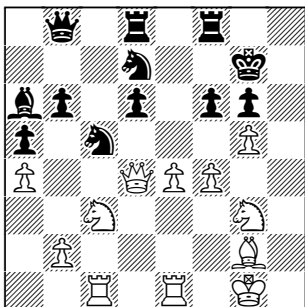
Round 4

Steadman,Michael (2337) - Ker,Anthony (2423) NZ Championship Auckland (4.1), 05.01.2010

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.h3 Nbd7 6.a4 b6 7.f4 Bg7 8.g4 Bb7 9.Bg2 Qc7 10.Nge2 a6 Wh: 1h17m; Bl: 0h59m 11.Ng3 h6 12.Nce2 e5 13.c3 c5 14.0-0 0-0 15.Qd2 cxd4 16.cxd4 exd4 17.Bxd4 Rae8 18.Rac1 Qb8 19.Nc3 Nc5 20.Qd1 a5 21.Re1 Rd8 22.h4 Ba6 23.g5 hxg5 24.hxg5 Nfd7 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Qd4+ f6 27.gxf6+ Nxf6 28.Rcd1 Ne6 29.Qd2 Qc8 30.f5 Qc5+ 31.Qe3 Ng4 32.Qxc5 Nxc5 33.Nd5 Nd3 34.Rxd3 Bxd3 35.Nf4 Bc4 36.Bf1 Bb3 37.Nxg6 Rg8 38.Bh3 Ne5 39.Re3 Bxa4 40.Ne7 Rh8 41.Ne2 Kf7 42.Nd5 Rdg8+ 43.Kf2 Bc6 44.Ndf4 b5 45.Nd4 Bd7 46.Rc3 Rc8 47.Rg3 Rhg8 48.Ra3 a4 49.Bf1 b4 50.Rh3 Rh8 51.Rg3 Rh2+ 52.Bg2 Rg8 53.Rxg8 Kxg8 54.Nd5 b3 55.Kg3 Rh8 56.Bf1 Kf7 57.Nb6 Rb8 58.Nc4 Rb4 59.Nxd6+ Ke7 60.N4b5 Bxb5 61.Nxb5 Rxb5 White resigns 0-1

I am Black against Michael Steadman, who deploys his 'Pircbuster' against my favourite opening. 5.h3 is a quiet start but it's not long before white pawns are hurling

themselves down the board against the Black fortress. Mike achieves some promising attacking chances and I am a worried man as I play 26...f6.



The best thing to do in these positions is increase the pressure and wait for Black to crack as he scurries about covering all the weaknesses. But Mike rushes things with 27. gxf6+ and I am able to get some much-needed counterplay with Qc5+ and Ng4. I didn't expect to win an exchange but Mike miscalculates and sheds material, not realizing he can regain it immediately. The endgame is still tricky but the combination of queens off (my king is safe!), strongly placed knight on e5 (it got there on move 38 and stayed put for the rest of the game), exchange up and pocketing a stray White a-pawn tell in my favour. In the final position 62 Bxb5 is met by 62...a3 and Black queens a pawn. Mike defeated me in the NZ Championships two years ago so this is a very satisfying victory. A picket fence is still possible!

Round 5

Ker,Anthony (2423) - Croad,Nicholas (2332) NZ Championship Auckland (5.1), 06.01.2010

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 dxe5 9.d5 Na5 10.Nc3 Nxb3 11.Qxb3 e6 12.Nxe5 a6 13.0-0 Bd6 14.Bf4 0-0 15.Rad1 exd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Qxd5 Bc7 18.Qc5 Bb6 19.Qb4 Qf6 20.Bg3 a5 21.Qb5 a4 22.Nf3 Qc6 23.Qxc6 bxc6 24.Ne5 Ba6 25.Rfe1 Ba5 26.Re4 Rfd8 27.Rxd8+ Rxd8 28.h3 Bb5 29.Nf3 Bb6 30.Be5 Re8 31.Re1 f6 32.Bc3 Rxe1+ 33.Nxe1 Bc4 34.a3 Kf7 35.Nc2 Ke6 36.Nd4+ Kd5 37.Nf5 Bb5 38.g4 g6 39.Ne3+ Ke6 40.Kg2 f5 41.gxf5+ gxf5 42.Kf3 Bd3 43.Kf4 h6 44.Kg3 Bc7+ 45.f4 Bb6 46.Kf3 Kf7 47.Be5 Kg6 48.Nd1 Kh5 49.Bf6 Bc2 50.Nc3 Kg6 51.Be5 Kf7 52.Ke2 Bb3 53.Kd3 Ba5 54.Ne2 Bb6 55.Nd4 Bxd4 Draw agreed 1/2-1/2

I am White against Nic Croad. Nic is also a Wellington clubmate and we are staying with Michael Nyberg and Gavin Marnier during the event. Having other players around to bounce ideas off and show each other games is extremely useful (and entertaining!) and this played an important part in our strong showing in the tournament. Nic and I play frequently at the Wellington club so predicting the opening wasn't difficult. The key question was who would deviate first? I played an exchange sac in a rapid game against Nic earlier in the year, but reviewing the game it looked a bit dodgy. I set Fritz up to analyze the opening position after 12 moves and it came back with 13. O-O. OK, I'll give it a go. Sure enough I get to play my computer-prepared move. There were some interesting chances for White in the next ten moves but my knight couldn't decide between the squares f3 and e5, losing valuable time in the process. Nic got into a

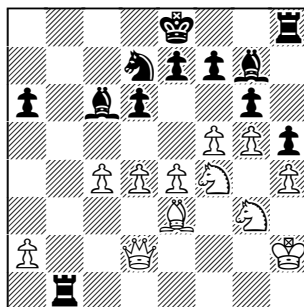
superior two bishops vs bishop and knight endgame. The critical moment arrived after move 39. Ne3+ The Black king can advance into White territory with 39...Ke4 and then head for the queenside. There are some risks involved but this was the move I feared. I was very relieved to see Nic play the more conservative 39...Ke6 and the game petered out into a draw.

Round 6

Thornton, Gino (2214) - Ker, Anthony (2423) NZ Championship Auckland (6.1), 07.01.2010

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.f3 b5 6.g4 h6 7.Qd2 Bg7 8.h4 h5 9.g5 Nfd7 10.Nge2 Nb6 11.Ng3 Qc7 12.Bd3 N8d7 13.Nce2 a6 14.f4 c5 15.c3 Nc4 16.Bxc4 bxc4 17.f5 Qb7 18.0-0 cxd4 19.cxd4 Rb8 20.Nf4 Nf8 21.Rab1 Bd7 22.b3 Bc6 23.bxc4 Qxb1 24.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 25.Kh2 Nd7 (=) 26.fxg6 0-0 27.gxf7+ Rxf7 28.Qc2 Rb4 29.Qe2 Rf8 30.a3 Rb3 31.Ne6 Rfb8 32.Nxg7 Rb2 33.Bd2 Kxg7 34.Nxh5+ Kg8 35.Ng3 Ra2 36.Nf1 Rb1 37.Kg2 Rxa3 38.Qg4 Nf8 39.Kf2 Bd7 40.Qh5 Bh3 41.Nh2 Rh1 42.Bf4 Ra2+ 43.Ke3 Rb1 44.d5 Rb3+ 45.Kd4 e5+
White resigns 0-1

Black against Gino Thornton and once again my Pirc Defence is put to the test. The opening moves are all book but my queenside counterplay is too slow and my king stays in the center far too long. I am squirming with 20...Nf8 and decide to unbalance the position by exchanging my queen for two rooks, hoping this will change the complexion of the game. Fearing the worst I offer a draw after 25...Nd7.



In his younger days Gino might have cravenly accepted but this time he quite correctly turns my offer down, as his position is much better and he knows it. I shed a couple of pawns getting my king to (relative) safety on g8. Gino continues to press the attack. In these types of position it's no use defending grimly – I have to counterattack or I'm dead. So as quickly as possible I mobilise my rooks to invade down the b-file and onto White's first 3 ranks. I succeed in tying Gino's knight and bishop to defence and after 38...Nf8! the game starts to turn in my favour. My knight keeps the White queen at bay and my rooks are creating problems. Eventually Gino's king flees into the middle of the board but after 45..e5+ he loses his entire army: 46 dxe6 Nxe6+ 47 Kd5 Nxf4+ 48 Kxd6 Nxh5 and if that wasn't bad enough the knight is trapped also! This was a narrow escape for me - at one point Fritz assessed my position as minus 3 pawns – but I didn't abandon the situation as hopeless, kept looking to make it difficult for Gino, unbalanced the material situation and sacrificed some pawns for counterplay.. Gino must have been thinking “why haven't I won yet?” and eventually “whatever happened to my great position?”

Mark Noble wins Correspondence Grandmaster Title

Wellington's Mark Noble has achieved a personal milestone and a first for NZ chess by becoming New Zealand's first Correspondence Chess Grandmaster after achieving his third GM norm, defeating a Polish opponent for the North America Pacific Team playing Board 1.

Mark has played correspondence chess since the 1970s and is a five time NZ Champion. He was quoted in the Dominion Post "When you look at chess and what people haven't achieved in this country, it's as good as it gets. This is better than bowls by a long way," Mark has won 12 Wellington and one national bowls titles. Mark is the current Asian Champion, for the second year running. He achieved his three GM norms in tournaments finishing 2009/201

Mark is also known for establishing the Harbour City Chess Club in the 1990s. Before retiring from over the board play to concentrate on bowls and correspondence chess he was a strong 2000 plus player.

This game was from the tournament that Mark achieved his final GM norm. He was particularly pleased with the result as it was a strong event with several GM's and other titled players. Mark finished second.

Tournament BDF/Gold 2008 (Germany)

White: SM Jacot, Laurent (2529) Swiss
Black: Mark Noble

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7
9.Qd2 O-O 10.O-O-O Nbd7 11.g4 b5
12.g5 b4 13.Ne2 Ne8 14.f4 a5 15.f5 Bxb3
16.exb3 a4 17.bxa4 Rxa4 18.Kb1 Rxa2
19.Nc1 Ra8 20.Nb3 Qb8 21.h4 Nc7
22.Rg1 Kh8 23.h5 Rc8 24.g6 fxg6 25.h6
Ne8 26.Qd5 Bf8 27.fxg6

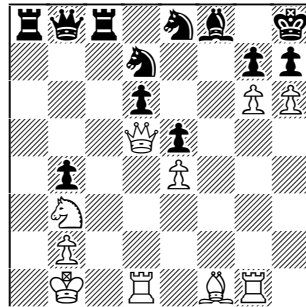


Diagram after White plays 27.fxg6
Every player must dream of this and I can tell you it was very unpleasant for me!

..Rc7 28.Qe6 Qc8 29.Qf7 Nef6 30.hxg7+
Bxg7 31.Bh6 Qf8 32.Qxg7+ Qxg7
33.Bxg7+ Kxg7 34.gxh7+ Kxh7 35.Bh3
Rg8 36.Bf5+ Kh8 37.Rh1+ Kg7 38.Rxd6
Ra8 39.Rhd1 Raa7 40.Nd2 Ra8 41.Nb3
Raa7 42.Nd2 Ra8 43.Nf3 b3 44.Rg1+ Kf8
45.Nd2 Rb8 46.Ra6 Rb6 47.Ra8+ Kf7
48.Nf3 Ke7 49.Rg7+ Kd6 50.Nd2 Kc6
51.Rf7 Kb5 52.Nxb3 Rbc6 53.Re7 Kb4
54.Ka2 Nb6 55.Rxc7 Rxc7 56.Rb8 Kb5
57.Nd2 Nfd7 58.Re8 Rc2 59.Nf3 Nc5
60.Nxe5 Re2 61.Rb8 Ka6 62.Bh3 Rf2
63.Bf5 Re2 64.Bh3 Rf2 65.Re8 Nba4
66.Ka3 Rxb2 67.Bf1+ Ka7 68.Re7+
1/2-1/2

GM Jones and three local IMs make 2010 Wellington Open strongest yet

By Ian Sellen

The Wellington Open shifted from its traditional Easter spot to the weekend of 14th to 16th May, as there were a number of key players and organisers who would have been unable to make the April dates. The disadvantage was an arduous schedule; a Friday night start followed by three games on Saturday, good for maniacal fanatics who are accustomed to chess-induced sleep deprivation. Fortunately, most of our regulars fall very much into this category!

The first round started at 8pm on Friday night, and some of the games did not finish until nearly midnight. Saturday's third game also starting at 8pm. The greatest endurance test was suffered by Russell Dive, who scored a brilliant and instructive victory over Anthony Ker in the Saturday night game, ending at half past midnight, only to be rewarded for his efforts with a pairing against the top seed, Grandmaster Gawain Jones, on Sunday morning.

Apart from the worry players might be dropping in the gutter from sheer exhaustion, the event was a success. There were the usual concerns beforehand that numbers participating would not be sufficient to make the whole thing worthwhile, but there was a flurry of last-minute entrants, and we ended up with 32

players, which is probably the optimal number given the size of the venue. Because of the tiring schedule, it was decided to allow each player to take a half point bye up to and including round 4. So many people took Saturday night off that I have intense suspicions we may have had competition from a televised rugby game!

It was a very strong field, possibly the strongest we have had in Wellington. We are of course lucky to have English GM Gawain Jones living in our midst, and he was joined in this tournament by our regular IM's Russell Dive and NZ champion Anthony Ker. Making a rare visit to Wellington was Auckland IM Paul Garbett, along with FM Michael Steadman, who is in currently engaged in a concerted effort to obtain an IM title. Added to this line-up, we were graced with the presence of Mark Noble, making a rare over-the-board tournament appearance. During the tournament Mark was to learn of the resignation of a Polish opponent, a result that guaranteed his Correspondence Chess Grandmaster title.

Round 1 got underway roughly on schedule, with a few last minute glitches such as Lawrence Farrington being accidentally left off the list of participants, and having to take a point bye.

Jones vs Forster on board 1 started off 1. e4

d6, but then ended up looking like some sort of Philidor's Defence. Gawain castled Queenside, advanced the Kingside pawns, and finally opened the e-file with deadly effect.

GM Gawain Jones (2556 Elo) - Bill Forster (1928 Elo)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.a4 Nbd7 5.f4 e5 6.Nf3 Qc7 7.Bc4 Be7 8.dxe5 dxe5 9. Qe2 O-O 10.f5 Bc5 11.Bg5 a6 12.Bb3 Rb8 13.Nd2 b5 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.g4 b4 16.Nd1 Rd8 17.g5 Ne8 18.Ne3 Qa7 19.Nec4 Bd4 20.a5 Rb7 21.Nf3 Rbd7 22.O-O-O Qb8 23. g6 Nf6 24.gxf7+ Kh8 25.Nxd4 exd4 26.e5 Rxf7 27. exf6 Rxf6 28.Rxd4 1-0

Most of the round 1 games went to the higher rated player, with the notable exception of John McDonald versus David Capper. Capper, only a few days short of his 80th birthday, is still perfectly capable of delivering nasty surprises to higher rated players, as we at the Wellington Chess Club know only too well. John said afterwards that he was surprised by how well his opponent knew the ins and outs of the King's Indian. Unfortunately, neither player recorded the end of the game correctly, but here are the first 38 moves:

John McDonald (2080 Elo) - David Capper (1707 Elo)

1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 O-O 6.Be2 Re8 7.O-O e5 8.d5 Nbd7 9.Re1 Nc5 10.Bf1 a5 11.b3 Bg4 12.Rb1 Qc8 13.h3 Bd7 14.a3 Nh5 15.b4 axb4 16.axb4 Na6 17.Qc2 Nf4 18.Be3 b6 19.Kh2 Rf8 20. Nd2 g5 21. f3 h6 22.g4 f6

23.Recl h5 24.Kg3 hxg4 25.hxg4 Kf7 26.Qb3 Rh8 27.Ra1 Rh4 28. c5 Bxg4 29.cxd6 Bxf3 30.d7 Qxd7 31.d6+ Kg6 32. Nxf3 Rah8 33. Bg1 Rh3+ 34. Kf2 Qg4 35.Qd1 Qg3+ 36. Ke3 cxd6 37. Rxa6 g4 38. Nd5 gxf3 0-1

The main upset of round 2 was Mike Turner losing to an in-form Simon Lyall from Auckland. We also had a couple of upset players who defaulted their games because their mobile phones went off during the games. One of these was the luckless John McDonald, who must have wondered at this stage whether the long drive from Whanganui on Friday evening had been worth it. Leaders were Gawain Jones, Russell Dive, Anthony Ker, Paul Garbett, Mike Steadman, Mark Noble, and Chris Burns.

Simon Lyall - Mike Turner

1.e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 d4 4.Ne2 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.cxd4 cxd4 7.Qa4 d3 8.Nf4 Bd7 9.Qb3 e5 10.Nd5 Nf6 11.Bxd3 Bd6 12.O-O O-O 13. Nxf6+ gxf6 14.a3 Rb8 15.Nh4 Kh8 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Nd4 18.Qd1 Rg8 19.Qh5 Qd7 20. Kh1 Rbc8 21.b4 Bf8 22.Be4 Rc7 23.d3 Nb3 24.Rb1 Nd4 25.Bb2 Rg5 26.Qh3 Ne2 27.Qh4 Be7 28.Bxe5 Rc8 29.Qxg5 fxe5 30.f6 1-0

In round 3 favourite Gawain Jones got to meet, and beat, his first IM of the tournament in the shape of Paul Garbett. One of the crucial results of the tournament was Michael Steadman versus Russell Dive, which ended in a draw. Anthony beat Mark Noble and Chris Burns beat Peter Fraemohs, so going into round 4 there were 3 players still on full points, Gawain, Anthony and Chris.

Gawain Jones -Paul Garbett

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3 d6 5.h3 h5
6.g3 Be7 7.Bg2 Nbd7 8.e3 a6 9.a4 b6 10.
Nge2 g6 11.Qc2 Kf8 12.b3 a5 13. Bb2
Nb8 14.f4 Nfd7 15.Nb5 Ra6 16.O-O-O
Kg7 17.g4 f6 18.gxh5 Rxh5 19. Rdg1 Nf8
20.Be4 Rh6 21.fxe5 fxe5 22.Nf4 g5 23.h4
Kf7 24.hxg5 Bxg5 25. Rxh6 Bxh6 26.Qh2
Bg7 27.Nxd6+ Qxd6 28.Qh5+ 1-0

The pairing for round 4 turned up Burns vs Jones on board 1, with Chris playing an odd passive form of a Closed Sicilian. An early swap of the Queens did not help White's position, as he ended up with his King stuck in the centre, with Black having dominance of the d file and the a6-f1 diagonal.

The game of the round was Dive vs Ker which was, as is usual with these two, a hard-fought struggle. Anthony seemed to have some pressure on the Kingside, but this may have been illusory, and after an exchange of pieces, an endgame was reached which was advantageous for Russell's Knight over Anthony's Bishop. The determination and concentration on Russell's face was extraordinary as the game carried on past midnight, and Anthony's position slowly deteriorated. Despite the late hour, they still tried to carry on post-game analysis after Anthony resigned

Russell Dive - Anthony Ker

1.c4 e5 2.g3 f5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.d3
O-O 6.Rb1 a5 7.a3 Na6 8.Nf3 d6
9.b4 axb4 10.axb4 Kh8 11.O-O Qe8 12.
Ra1 Bd7 13.Ba3 c6 14.Qb3 Nc7 15.e3
Qh5 16.b5 c5 17.Nd2 f4 18.exf4 exf4 19.

Qd1 Bg4 20. f3 fxg3 21.hxg3 Bh3 22.Bb2
Ne6 23.Rxa8 Rxa8 24.Qe2 Ng5 25.Bxh3
Qxh3 26.Qg2 Qh5 27.Re1 Bd8 28.Re3
Ba5 29.Qh2 Qf7 30.Qh4 Ne6 31.Nde4
Nxe4 32.Nxe4 Nd4 33.Ng5 Qg6 34.Bxd4
cxd4 35.Re4 Bd2 36.f4 Be3+ 37.Kg2 h6
38.Ne6 Re8 39.Qh3 Kg8 40.Kf3 Kf7 41.f5
Qf6 42.Qh5+ g6 43.Qxg6+ Qxg6 44.fxg6+
Kxg6 45.Nf4+ Kf7 46.Rxe8 Kxe8 47.Nd5
Bd2 48.Ke4 Be1 49.g4 Bf2 50.Kf5 Kf7 51.
Nf6 Bg3 52.Ne4 Bh2 53.Nd2 Bg154.Nb3
b6 55.Nd2 Be3 56.Ne4 Ke7 57. Nf6 1-0

Mike Roberts, for whom we had not managed to find a rating, but who was doing extremely well, finally met his nemesis in the shape of Mike Steadman.

Leading scores at the end of Saturday were Gawain Jones 4/4, followed by Russell Dive and Mike Steadman on 3.5/4, and Anthony Ker, Mark Noble, Martin Hill, Bill Forster and Chris Burns on 3.0/4.

I was surprised to see everyone turn up more or less on time on Sunday, but this was obviously a very dedicated bunch of players! Russell Dive got the Black pieces against Gawain Jones on board 1. He had plenty of chances in the early middle game, when Gawain over-pressed on the King side. However he seemed to panic in the face of a threatening passed d-pawn and gave away material. In the end Gawain's extra pawn was enough to win the Rook and pawn endgame.

Gawain Jones -Russell Dive

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.d5
Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7 e4 e5 8.Ne2
Nbd7 9.Be3 Nf8 10.Ng3 Ng6 11.h4 h5 12.
Bd3 Ng8 13.Qd2 N8e7 14.Nf5 Bxf5

A European Chess Adventure

by Bill Forster

In recent years Easter has been a time of increased chess activity for me as I've played not only the Wellington Open but the Sydney International as well. Unfortunately (maybe not unfortunately actually) this year my wife and I had a European holiday planned. Not to worry, clearly I should play chess in Europe instead!

An email to GM Hans Joachim Hecht, with whom I shared an apartment during the last Queenstown Classic, produced a list of potential events. Eventually we settled on the Kaiserbrunnen Easter Cup, an annual event held in the pleasant region of Westphalia, in the north west part of Germany.

We stayed at the hotel where the tournament was held, along with many of the other participants. The hotel is situated in a lovely rural environment of rolling hills, forests and lakes. The small, picture perfect town of Brakel is an easy walk away. Talking to some of the players I learned that the hotel regularly hosts tournaments and that they attract players from all over Germany due to the comfortable accomodation, the good food, the good conditions, the convivial atmosphere. The tournaments are most popular with average players, they are not renowned as particularly strong events. The scoresheets aren't collected and so none of the games end up in the databases.

As the players gathered for the first round, it was obvious I was very much an outsider. This is not a big international event with a diverse multinational contingent. There was only one other non-German, and he was from Denmark which is really just up the Autobahn. However there was a certain comfortable familiarity about proceedings. Chess players are chess players everywhere. The group was slightly more unfashionable, more unkempt, more well fed, more shortsighted than the average population. The demographics featured a big range of ages but a dominance of one sex.

I didn't understand a word of the players' meeting but this didn't seem to matter (what does this say about players' meetings?) and right on time (this is Germany, not NZ) the first round commenced. The first deviation from normal experience was the time control. Two hours for 40 moves, then 30 minutes to finish the game, with no increment. I haven't played a serious game with no increment for many years. I suspect that this is a reflection of the German desire to keep to a strict schedule, of course increments make it possible for unruly games to drag on almost forever. The next deviation was more welcome; Formally attired waiters and waitresses coming around taking drink orders. I could get used to that.

The information on the noticeboard

featured each player's title, local and FIDE ratings, chess club and birth year. Top seed was FM Martin Forchert, 46 years old, FIDE 2416 from the Bielefelder Schachklub von 1883. It was surprising how many clubs were represented, 56 players yet 43 different clubs. Perhaps if it had been renamed to the Wellington Schachklub von 1876, my own club wouldn't have looked so out of place.

I was seeded 14th, but I realised this was probably rather optimistic even before being very lucky to escape with a draw in the first round. Seedings were based on local ratings, which I didn't have. My FIDE was used as a proxy for a local rating, so many players with higher FIDEs than me were seeded lower down.

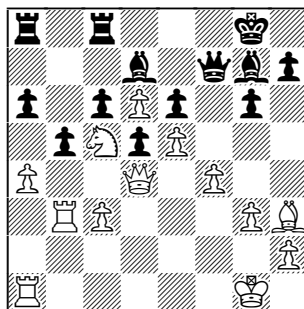
Despite this, I was disappointed in my performance and my ultimate result; 3.5 from 8 (1 win, 2 losses, 5 draws) for 39th place. I am not normally an excuse maker, but the latter part of the tournament was somewhat blighted for me by a nasty dose of gastro. I've never withdrawn from a tournament and after coming this far I was determined not to start here. Nevertheless wearing three pairs of underpants and using 95% of available brain capacity to maintain a rigorous clench was not conducive to good chess!

I observed one local custom that I found particularly charming. If a game's finish attracts some spectators, and if those spectators are impressed by what they see, they tend to offer congratulatory handshakes to one or both players once the game is over. My best game, and my most exciting finish were recorded in rounds 2 and 5 respectively, and I shall present both

games here. On both occasions I scored a handshake or two, although as we will see, in the latter case it was scarcely deserved.

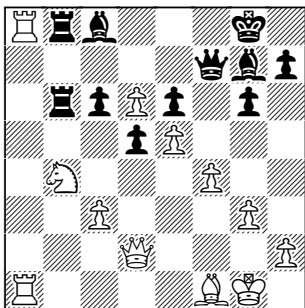
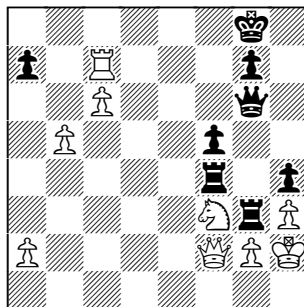
Bill Forster, Bill – Herman Wraga

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 Nc6 6.Nc3 Rb8 The first indication that I am actually playing a tailender. He made a few puzzling moves, but no outright mistakes, so I had to play my best chess to win. **7.d4 e6 8.e4 d5 9.e5 Ne4 10.Qe2 Nxc3 11.bxc3 Ne7 12.Rd1 c6** This move invites my bad bishop into d6, where it is transformed into a source of strength **13.Ba3 Re8 14.Bd6 Ra8 15.c5** Intending to retain a presence on d6 for the rest of the game. The idea is to permanently cramp black **15...Nf5 16.Rab1 Qa5 17.Rb3 Nxd6 18.cxd6 b6 19.Qb2 b5 20.Ne1 f6 21.Nd3 fxe5 22.dxe5 Qb6 23.a4 a6 24.Ra1 Bd7 25.Qa3 Rec8 26.Qc5 Qd8 27.f4 Qf8 28.Qd4 Qf7 29.Nc5 Be8 30.Bh3 Bd7**



proceeds to painlessly (for Russell) dispatch the hapless victim. Can I manage something similar, just for once? **31.Rba3 bxa4 32.Rxa4 Rcb8** I thought I could hear a voice communicating with me on some kind of astral channel. I think it was Russell. "You are in control, don't take the a pawn, it's not going anywhere, don't allow counterplay" **33.Qd2 Rb5 34.Nxa6 Bc8 35.Nb4 Rab8 36.Bf1** "Use all your pieces" said the voice **36...R5b6 37.Ra7 R8b7 38.Ra8 Rb8**

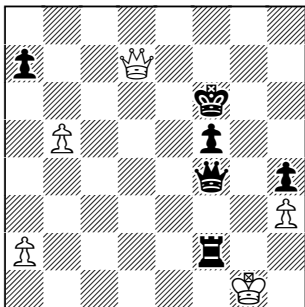
Martin Rischmueller– Bill Forster



"It is okay to take the material if you retain absolute control" said the voice. **39.Rxb8 Rxb8 40.Nxc6** "That actually wins at least an exchange as well as the second pawn. If you still need me there's absolutely no hope for you, so over and out" said the voice. **40...Rb6 40...Rb7 41.Nd8** is only slightly less fatal **41.Ne7+ 1-0**

An exciting and unbalanced struggle is approaching its climax. I have whipped up an attack, but it needs to bear tangible fruit, since all endings are winning for white. There were five moves to make before the time control. An entertaining mistake fest ensues. **35...Qd6?** A natural move creating the potential for a devastating discovery **36.Rd7!** Necessary but sufficient **36...Rxf3** As I waited confidently for **37.gxf3** I realised to my horror that simply **37.Qxf3** forces one of those lost endgames I was talking about. **37.gxf3??** Phew! now black is winning again. Now we can see why **Qd6** was a mistake, I should have reversed my last two moves. **37...Qf4?** This was my idea but it has a big flaw that could have been avoided with **Qe5** instead. I wanted to prevent **f4** but I should have been encouraging it as it leads to a beautiful mate; **37...Qe5 38.f4 Qa1 39.c7 Rxh3+ 40.Kxh3 Qh1+ 41.Qh2 Qf3+ 42.Kxh4 Qg4# 38.c7?** Instead **38.Rd8+ Kh7 39.Rd4** wins for white **38...Rxf3+ 39.Kg1 Rxf2?** I should have played **Qc1+** and taken the queen with check, but luckily I am still winning **40.c8Q+ Kh7 41.Rxg7+ Kxg7 42.Qd7+ Kf6**

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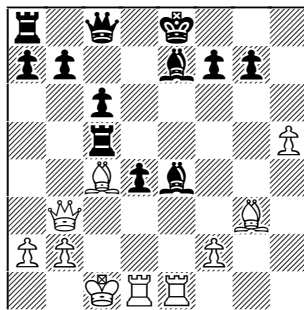
Draw agreed ½–½ For a few moves now I had been anticipating victory. But now with the time control met, I thought for 15 minutes and then played Kf6 and offered a draw in this winning position. I had been assuming there would be no perpetual, since normally an unobstructed king can escape from a corner when attacked by a lone queen. But annoyingly here the escape path takes my king through e5, when White picks up Rf2 with Qc5+. Most of my 15 minutes were spent looking at bad possible K+P endings after that. So I accepted an inevitable perpetual. When I showed this game to Gawain Jones, who is coaching me at the moment, he took no more than 2 seconds to realise that my 15 minutes were a complete waste of time, since White doesn't get to play Qc5+ at all. If now Qc6+ then black plays Kg5!! a move I never considered because it is not normally part of black's plan of escaping from the corner. But in that particular position Kg5 wins on the spot because white has no follow up check. Such is the nature of talent in chess. Two seconds of a grandmaster's time outweighs 15 minutes of a patzer's. If I had simply played on for another move I might have spotted 43...Kg5!! if 43.Qc6+??. Otherwise the

game might have continued 43.Qd8+ Ke5 44.Qe7+ Kd5 45.Qf7+ Ke4 46.Qc4+ Ke3 47.Qc3+ Ke2 48.Qc2+ Ke1 49.Qb1+ Kd2 50.Qb2+ Kd3! White is about to run out of checks so 51.Qxf2 Qg3+ 52.Qxg3+ hxg3 This is a much better K+P ending than the ones I looked at. With the black king now dominant the advanced connected passers outweigh the outside pawns and black wins.

Meanwhile there were people at this tournament who can actually play good chess! In the last round seeds 1 and 5, the joint leaders, met on board 1 and produced a sparkling game to decide the tournament.

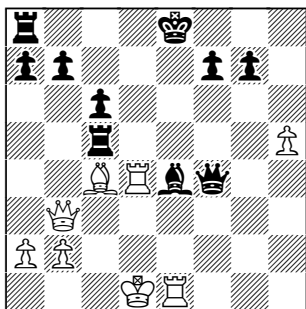
Marcel Juegel – Martin Forchert

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.e3 Bg4 5.Qb3 Qb6 6.Ne5 Bf5 7.c5 In such a well trodden opening we have had a succession of less often played alternatives and are now in virgin territory according to my database. **7...Qc7 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.Nxd7 Nxd7 10.e4** An enterprising pawn sac **10...dxe4 11.Bc4 e6 12.g3 Be7 13.Bf4 Qc8 14.g4 Bg6 15.h4 h5 16.gxh5 Rxh5 17.0–0–0 e5 18.Bg3 exd4 19.Nxe4 Nxc5 20.Nxc5 Rxc5 21.h5 Be4 22.Rhe1**

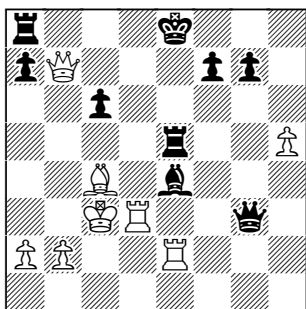


The engines are unimpressed and consider

black's material advantage as more important than white's development advantage and open lines, but for a human it is easier to play white. **22...Qg4 23.Rxd4 Bg5+ 24.f4 Bxf4+ 25.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 26.Kd1**



26...Re5? Black stands on the brink of a precipice. White threatens Rxe4 and Black's position will collapse if he allows Qxb7. If Black were made of silicon he would see that he can avoid both problems, surviving (and indeed prospering) by **26...Qg4+ 27.Kd2 Qg2+ 28.Re2 Qg5+ 29.Kc3 b5** simultaneously securing b7 and winning the Bc4 in exchange for the Be4 **27.Qxb7 Qg4+ 28.Kd2 Qf4+ 29.Re3 Qh2+ 30.Re2 Qf4+ 31.Kc3 Qg3+ 32.Rd3**



1-0. White threatens Qxf7#, Qxa8+ and Rxc3 and black has no more checks.

Clearly 32...Bxd3 is the only chance but it is not hard to see that Black is then cut to pieces. For example **33.Qxa8+ Ke7 34.Qxa7+ Kf6 35.Qxf7+ Kg5 36.Rg2!** prettily winning the queen.



Marcel Juegel and Martin Forchert get ready to rumble before the featured game. Photo © Gerd Densing

Postscript: The photo illustrates well the convivial atmosphere at Brakel. During the final round I noticed a big crowd building around the top board clash and afterwards I asked Marcel if I could photograph his winner's scoresheet, anticipating the possibility of this article. I recently was pleasantly surprised when Marcel contacted me by email. He provides the following interesting links;
 Super GM Boris Avrukh annotates our featured game <http://www.djk-aufwaerts-aachen.de/partien/Partien%20des%20Monats/Juegel%20-%20Forchert/avrukh.htm>
 Chessbase tournament report (in German, use the Google Chrome browser for an automatic translation); <http://www.chessbase.de/nachrichten.asp?newsid=10239>

Obituary- Kevin Tetley

By Chris Benson

Anyone who participated in the 2008 South Island Championships at the Kaikoura Winery will remember Kevin Tetley, the man whose vision and drive were almost totally responsible for the success of that event. Sadly, Kevin recently lost his battle with cancer, and passed away on January 18th. While I might have been lauded as the organiser, Kevin really deserved all the plaudits and praise for his unrelenting work in doing every little thing just as we needed, from the lighting to the carpet, to the signage and the heaters. His passion certainly ignited me, and I was proud to support the tournament as a Laurel to his Hardy ! Plans were in the melting pot already for another event in Kaikoura, and Kevin had started the ball rolling with his trademark enthusiasm. Unfortunately, his illness, which he had been fighting for many years, finally had the last say. Kevin would have been as good a friend to chess as he was to me, a bubbly and charismatic, larger than life character. He will be greatly missed.



DVD Review – The Killer Dutch by Simon Williams

By Bill Forster

Okay hands up who's heard this pitch before;

This opening is easy to play, rather than memorising huge amounts of theory, you can just concentrate on learning the key ideas.

You will bypass all your opponent's theoretical knowledge in his preferred, more mainstream, openings. So you are almost guaranteed to end up on more familiar ground than your opponent.

I am probably a jaded chess consumer. I've bought far too many books, programs and DVDs in a fruitless search for chess nirvana. I am now more or less immune to this particular pitch, I've heard it a thousand times and my eyes start glazing over half way through it.

Time and again I've bought a product with these promised benefits, and almost always I've been disappointed. The normal problem is that the author actually forgets all about the promised "key ideas" and simply presents the different variations he has been contracted to cover, usually illustrated by copious master games. Sure there are important themes, patterns, ideas in those games, but so often they are hidden by humungous dollops of detail that are so characteristic of serious analysis of

our beloved game. Goodness me I once followed up a DVD purchase with a huge investment of personal time to develop some software that would help me memorise the material, in a desperate effort to get some benefit. (Go to my website www.triplehappy.com and search for “Reptor” if you’d like a copy).

I should cut to the chase. The Killer Dutch, by Simon Williams, makes the ubiquitous pitch I’ve been talking about, but then; Surprise! it actually delivers on these promises.

The DVD examines the classical Dutch from black’s perspective. Basically this is the Dutch with neither g6 (the Leningrad) nor d5 (the Stonewall). Black arranges his pawns on f5, e6 and d6, castles quickly and then usually plays for e5 and a possible kingside attack. The opening can be played against any white opening except 1.e4 (or 1.f4). In fact although the DVD concentrates on 1.d4, if your opponent is a 1.Nf3 or 1.c4 merchant and refrains from an early d4, you can not only employ the schemes described on the DVD anyway, you will get the bonus that you will likely be able to play e5 in one move rather than two.

Of course English GM Simon Williams faces the same constraints as anyone else trying to teach students an opening. He has to start by showing you a line of play that delivers an acceptable outcome to your side of the board (black in this case). Then he has to show you what to do if white varies. Then repeat until done.

The first good thing I noticed about

Williams’ approach was that he started with the main lines first. For some reason this obviously superior way of organising chess opening material seems to be out of favour these days. Please Mr Publishers, take note. Tell me the most important things first! If you start off with the sidelines I’m likely to run out of steam before I ever get to the main lines. The next thing I noticed was that Williams introduces some real “key ideas” early, and is not afraid to repeat and reinforce these important messages as they pop up repeatedly in the lines he looks at.

I think it was this willingness to hammer home the key ideas repeatedly that made me feel comfortable with this opening quickly. Sure this approach reduces the territory he can cover, but I am convinced that sacrificing some details, (which let’s be honest, I probably wouldn’t remember anyway) was worth it.

It’s not as if there is not plenty of material packed into the DVD. Potential purchasers should understand that this is a simple old fashioned DVD you can watch on your telly, you don’t need a computer to use it. There’s a full six hours of material available to study. Interestingly for a repertoire DVD, there are no less than four alternative black systems presented from the 1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.c4 Be7 5.Nf3 O-O 6.O-O d6 7.Nc3 mainline Tabiya, meaning you don’t have to cover the whole DVD before you can try out one of the systems.

Some of the sidelines also covered are very entertaining. Consider the line 1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 h6 3.Bh4 g5??! 4.e4 Rh7?! 5.Qh5+ Rf7. Simon Williams admits you need a

sense of humour to play that particular line.

I do have some quibbles. The production values are, shall we say, uneven. There are three camera angles used; a conventional sensible one (fortunately used about 90% of the time), a rather odd one with Williams peeking over the pieces, and what I would call the train-wreck variation with the camera pointing straight down at the board (fortunately only used about 1% of the time). It doesn't need a degree in rocket surgery to understand that if you look straight down on the pieces they all become circles and we may as well be looking at a draughts/checkers position.

The attempt at artistic licence using graphics and black and white chess atmosphere shots between segments is at best semi-successful in my view. My wife only needed one glance at the screen to point out that the rotating 3D chess graphic had a black square in the right hand corner (yes, really), something I had missed. And I would so love eternal freedom from chess-boxing (one of the atmosphere pieces) which is surely the most ridiculous cliché in the world at the moment.

Simon Williams comes across as an affable fellow. He suffers the occasional audio equivalent of a typo and when he notices there is often a momentary loss of composure. But generally speaking he is well organised and on-message and his screen presence is fine. I don't know whether it's his London accent or a personal quirk but his inability or unwillingness to distinguish between *f* and *th* sounds (so "Knight to f free") is a little grating.

But, as I say, these are quibbles. Visby is not going to use this DVD to prepare for Magnus. Our Olympiad team won't be using it to get ready for Slovenia. But if you are a 2000ish player getting ready for the Wellington Open, it's absolutely ideal. Such a pity none of my opponents played 1.d4 ! I really look forward to more from Simon Williams and his www.gingergm.com publishing outfit, to help freshen up some other stale parts of my repertoire.

Book Review

The Black Lion by J van Rekom and L Jansen

Publisher: New In Chess, 2008

By Ross Jackson

It is an odd fact that a large number of chess openings are named after animals. Wikipedia lists no less than 35, with well known ones being the Dragon, the Orangutan, the Hedgehog, and the Hippopotamus. The most recent animal to enter the chess lexicon is the Black Lion, so-named by amateur Dutch authors Jerry Van Rekom and Leo Jansen. The opening was fashioned into a system and championed by Jansen. He was encouraged by nearly defeating Anatoly Karpov in a simultaneous match in Rotterdam in 1976. Jansen inspired followers through his chess club and there were later three sell-out editions on the system published in Holland and one English edition. Now New in Chess have published a second English

(and Dutch translation edition) entitled “ The Black Lion, The Chess Predators Choice Against Both 1.e4 and 1.d4.”.

Some reviewers have argued that it is a matter of semantics as to whether to call this a new opening system. It is a black repertoire that is a kind of combined non-main line Philidor / Old Indian system, achieved via an irregular move order, and enabling a universal plan against 1e4, 1d4, (or 1c4). Black also has the option in some lines of transposing into the main line Philidor’s although this edition refers readers to other literature should they want that line of play. The opening is not yet common at GM level though GM’s Alexander Beliavsky, Hichem Hamdouchi, and Slim Belkhodja play it with some frequency.

I really liked the format of the book . The book is 249 pages with an analytical component comprising 6 chapters spanning 220 pages. The Chapters are entertainingly given lion theme titles such as “ The Lions Roar”, “The Lions Yawn “etc. Purists may disapprove but it is intended as an aid to memory . There is a good introduction to the history of the opening and explanation of the themes of play and pawn structures . The presentation is clear, enthusiastic, with concise summaries at the end of chapters. The notation is of the style 1e2-e4 d7-d6 which I find less readable than the normal algebraic e4 d6 but here separates the book line from the branch variations. An excellent innovation however is to format the chess positions as viewed from the black side.

If the book has a major weakness it is that some of the assessments of position are not trustworthy. Other reviewers (Arne Moll in

Chess Vibes, NM Bill McGeary in Chessville) have attributed this to the authors not being titled chess players. I showed the book to GM Gawain Jones and he immediately observed that one line, dismissed as untenable for white due to a brief combination, formed part of his opening repertoire. He also spotted a position assessed as advantageous for white, but when reached elsewhere in the book by transposition was assessed as favourable for black. Gawain said this is a problem more likely when you have two authors. However he commented that even some of the great chess books contain errors in analysis in complicated positions. Most opening books become dated by new ideas and analysis so perhaps all in a sense are flawed.

I would certainly recommend purchasing The Black Lion. Because it is universal , the opening system will likely have growing popularity at club level which in itself makes this an important book to understand. Thank-you to Brian Foster of New Zealand Chess Supplies for supplying me this book to review.

Aussie trips for the Kiwis in 2010

By Mike Steadman

This year as usual Easter started with the Doeberl Cup in Canberra and the week after with the Sydney International the week following. These are both great events, well organised and full of extremely strong players and cannot be missed on the calendar.

This year Hilton and I were playing in the Doeberl as usual. Hilton is a regular and I normally play every other year. This year was my turn again. I managed to coax Helen into playing in the event as well, and I guess Gawain counts as a Kiwi now he is settling down with Sue.

The Doeberl is held in a great venue, the Hellenic Club, has all the facilities you could ask for and everything is very handy to the venue. From past experience however, I had learned that the area dies on the weekend. Everyone leaves and it is a bit of a ghost town. So decided that we would try staying in the middle of town and taking the bus to the venue each day. This worked out pretty well, only one day caught us as the public holiday had minimal buses, but we hitched a ride with a local and was all sorted.

As for the chess, Helen and Hilton had great events, both gained rating points and with a little luck Helen had some serious scalps on the table for her. Check out the game below, she had completely outplayed her opponent, very highly rated Aussie

junior, only to lose to a time trouble mistake. Hilton also had some good games, he had a great position against the GM and could have forced a draw if he had sacrificed a 3rd piece, but missed his chance and lost – see this one below.

Barua,D (2479) - Bennett,Hilton P (2001)
Sydney Int Open Parramatta AUS (1),
07.04.2010

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c3 d6 4.f4 Nf6 5.e5 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nd5 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bc4 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 e6 Black is very happy with his position here, the GM has not tried too much as yet, just expecting the lower rated player to collapse as usual. **11.0-0 c5 12.Rd1 Nc6 13.Qe4 Rc8 14.Na3 cxd4 15.cxd4** Black is better now, the knight can never be removed, Hilton must have been delighted by his choice of Modern. **15...a6** [15...f6 16.exf6 Qxf6 17.Nb5 Qf5 18.Qe1 Rcd8 19.Bd3 Qf6 20.Qg3 Nf4 21.Be3 Nxd3 22.Rxd3 Qf5] **16.Bb3 b5 17.Nc2 Na5 18.Ne3 Nc4 19.Ng4 h5 20.Nf2 Na5** [20...f5 21.Qd3] **21.Bc2 Nb4** [21...f5 22.Qe2 Qh4 23.Bb3 Nxb3 24.axb3 Rc6] **22.Bb1 Qc7 23.Bd2 Nd5 24.Nd3 Nc4 25.Bg5 Qa7 26.Rc1?? Nd6??** [26...Nxe5 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.Nxe5 f5 29.Qe1 Qxd4+ And Black is comfortably winning, Hilton knew there was a sac in the air, he just missed the strength of f5 which is a killer.] **27.exd6 Bxd4+ 28.Kh1 Rxc1+ 29.Bxc1 Nf6 30.Qf3 Kg7 31.Bg5 Ng4 32.Be7 Rc8 33.hxg4??** [33.a4 Bxb2 34.Ra2 Bf6 35.axb5 Bxe7 36.dxe7 Nh6 37.bxa6 White is a healthy piece up and in control, the move played lets Hilton have a chance for a draw.] **33...hxg4 34.Qxg4 Rh8+ 35.Bh4 Bf2??** [35...Bxb2! Sacrificing the 3rd piece was the key to the draw, would have been a fine result. 36.Nxb2 Qf2 37.g3 Qf1+

38.Kh2 Qf2+ And the King can't escape the draw.] **36.g3 Qb7+ 37.Kh2 f5 38.Qf4 Bd4 1-0**

Milligan,Helen (2016) - Ikeda,Junta (2302)

Doeberl Cup (2), 01.04.2010

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Bd3 I have a tendency to play Bd3 instead of Nc3. But I shouldn't be worrying about ...Bb4 - if Black takes on c3, his dark squares are inevitably weak - plenty of compensation for the doubled pawns. **6...Qc7 7.Nc3 Bc5 8.Be3 d6 9.Nc2 Nc6 10.0-0 Ne5 11.h3 Bxe3 12.Nxe3 g5!?** This guy has a reputation for playing wild and unusual chess... **13.Rc1** [13.f4 is probably good here or next move - I rejected it because it opened the g-file and I was scared...] **13...Bd7 14.b4 Ng6 15.Re1 h5 16.c5** [16.Qf3!] **16...dxc5 17.bxc5 g4** [17...Ne5² keeps things out of c4] **18.Nc4 gxf3 19.Nd6+ Ke7 20.Qf3** [20.e5!] **20...h2+ 21.Kh1 Ne5 22.Qg3 Nfg4 23.Nd5+** He says he missed this. **23...exd5 24.exd5 f6 25.f4 h4 26.Qf3+- Raf8 27.fxe5** [27.Nxb7 may not be the best move from Fritz's point of view but it simplifies the situation, which is a good thing to do against tricky players like Ikeda. **27...Kf7 28.fxe5 Nxe5 29.d6 Nxf3 30.Re7+ Kg8 31.Bc4+ Rf7 32.dxc7+-] 27...Nxe5 28.Qe3?±** A good move was needed here to finish things off. I considered Nxb7 but couldn't analyse it sufficiently. Fritz suggests [28.Qf4!+-] **28...h3 29.g3 Kd8 30.Rb1 Bc8 31.Bf5 Bxf5 32.Rxb7?** [32.Nxf5±] **32...Bg4?** [32...Qa5!= 33.Nxf5 Qxa2 34.Qe4 Qg2+ 35.Qxg2 hxg2+ 36.Kxg2 Nd3 37.Rh1 Nxc5] **33.Rxc7 Kxc7 34.Rf1 Rb8 35.Ne4??** My brain was

melting down and I simply couldn't think. Put this one down to lack of stamina... [35.Qe4+- Rhf8 36.Nc4; 35.Qe1+-] **35...Bf3+ 36.Rxf3??** [36.Qxf3 grovels onwards, though Black is better 36...Nxf3 37.Rxf3 Rb2 38.Rxf6] **36...Rb1+ 0-1**

Gawain and I had events to forget, Gawain because he was missing Sue (well that's what we reckon, she turned up for Sydney and he won – hard to argue with the logic). This was the first chess I had played since the champs and it showed. I played a couple of IMs and managed to ruin promising positions, but by the end of the event, felt that I was ready for Sydney and was in pretty good shape.

So off to Parramatta we trekked, Helen and I got there a day ahead, so checked in at the venue and got to have a look around. Helen is a shopaholic, so she was on her own very early. I sorted out a present for my son and then wasted the day cruising around looking around the city. That night Hilton, John and Alan Ansell and Daniel Shen joined us at registration. After a late meal Daniel and Hilton did the big walk back to the accommodation with us. Sue and Gawain also joined us, so a bigger Kiwi contingent was present to help support this event.

Parramatta is packed during this week, places to stay are at a premium, but the 15 minute walk each day was a good way to start the day as far as I was concerned. Find a nice coffee shop on the way and have breakfast – doesn't get any better. The venue is not nearly as nice as the Helenic

club, but the location is heaps better and therefore more enjoyable as far as I'm concerned.

This tournament was a complete turnaround for the team, Helen and Hilton I think were getting weary, they both were struggling late in their games and lost games they would never normally lose. Daniel Shen had the first year blues, he kept getting monstered by Aussie juniors, and his slow positional style was never going to be enough to keep these little calculating machines under control. It wasn't till the last round that he finally got out of the pack and played a GM and then got seriously outplayed. He enjoyed himself though and I think he is keen to come back. As he said, Aussie 1800 players are closer to Kiwi 2100 players – there is a serious difference in the calibre of players they get week in and week out. Alan Ansell had a great event for his first year, he beat a GM early (had the misfortune of playing an illegal move which neither player spotted, and once the score sheets are signed, it is too late). It was a seriously strong illegal move it must be said though. He is a great player to watch, just a king hunter – to me, that is how all juniors should play.

Gawain had Sue back with him and played like a man possessed, did the business and got 1st equal, he never looked like he was in trouble and was always up near the leaders.

Jones,Gawain C (2556) - Smerdon,D (2530) Sydney Int Open Parramatta AUS (8), 10.04.2010
1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 d5 5.a3 Be7 6.e4 dxe4 7.fxe4 e5 8.d5 Bc5 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 c6 12.g4 0-0

13.Bg5 Nbd7 14.0-0-0 Bd4 15.Ne2 Qb6 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.Qf4 Rfe8 18.Bd3 cxd5 19.exd5 Ne5 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.Qf5 Nxd3+ 22.Qxd3 Rac8 23.Kb1 Qa6 24.Rc1 Qb6 25.Rhd1 Re3 26.Qxd4 Qxd4 27.Rxd4 Rxh3 28.c5 Rf8 29.d6 Rh4 30.Rb4 f5 31.Rxb7 1-0

I had a good event that could have been great, got to play five titled players, managed to beat one, should have beaten another easily and resigned in a winning position in the last game – I know, how could this have been a good event? Well the fact that I had finally learned how to beat these juniors and bounce back up to the titled players is the key. We travel to this event to play them, getting 5 from 9 games was what it was all about. My two best games were both losses, but could so easily have been wins, here they are, save the tears for the end.

Sharma,D – Steadman,M

Sydney Int Open Parramatta AUS

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 I normally play Bb4 and sometimes Nc6, but had seen some lines I wanted to try, and my opponent played the same line each time from what I saw in the database. **4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nf3 a6 8.Qd2 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.h4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5 13.Rh3** This was knew to me, the games I had seen him play, he just went h5 and got on with it, this is a footrace with both sides sending the pawns forward, I decided to follow the plan I had seen against h5 - as looked OK for Black. **13...b4 14.Ne2 Be7 15.Be3 a5 16.Nd4 Qc7 17.Kb1 Ba6 18.h5 Nc5** [18...Bxf1 19.Rxf1 a4 20.h6 g6 21.g4 Nb6 22.Nb5 Qb7 23.Bxb6 Qxb6 24.Nd4 f6 25.exf6 Bxf6]

19.Bd3 a4 20.Bxa6 Rxa6 21.Nb5 Qb6
 22.Bxc5 Bxc5 23.Nd4 Rc8 24.Rd3 Ra7
 25.Nf3 Rac7 [25...h6 26.f5 Bf8 27.f6 Kh8
 28.g4 Rac7 29.Rc1 gxf6 30.exf6 Qa6 31.g5
 b3 32.axb3 axb3 33.Rxb3 Ra8 34.c3 Qc4
 This is the kind of wild stuff that goes on in
 these lines, h6 at the right moment is key,
 White gets in first if Black is not careful.]
 26.f5 Be7? Better was to move straight
 back to f8, this gets white back into it.
 27.Nd4 Rc4 28.f6 Bf8 29.Rg3 g6 30.hxg6
 fxg6 31.f7+?? [31.Qd3 R4c7 32.Rh1 b3
 33.Rxg6+ Kf7 34.Rxh7+ Ke8 35.f7+ Kd7
 36.axb3 axb3 37.c3 And White is winning
 comfortably] 31...Kxf7 32.Qf4+ Ke8??
 [32...Kg8 33.Rf3 R4c7 34.Qg4 Bg7
 35.Qxe6+ Qxe6 36.Nxe6 Rxc2 37.Nxg7
 Kxg7 38.Rf4 Rxg2 39.Rxb4 Re2 40.Rxa4
 h5 41.Ra7+ Kh6 Black is better in this
 endgame, good winning chances, certainly
 wont lose, but on e8 the King is dead.]
 33.Rf3 Be7 34.Qf7+ Kd7 35.Nxe6 Rxc2
 36.Rxd5+ Kc6 37.Nd4+ 1-0

Teichmann,E – Steadman,M
 Sydney Int Open Parramatta AUS

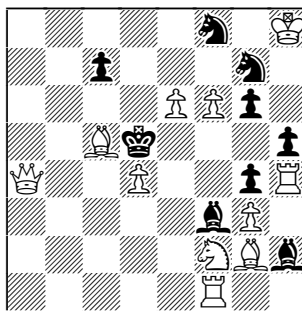
1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxe5 Nf6 4.c4 Nc6
 5.Bb2 0-0 6.e3 Re8 7.Nf3 d5 8.a3 Ba5
 9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Be2 Bf5 [10...Rxe3
 11.fxe3 Nxe3 12.Qb3 Nxg2+ 13.Kd1 Be6
 14.Qa4 Bb6 15.Kc1 A crazy line, not sure
 anything was in this, so moved on to saner
 thoughts.] 11.0-0 Qe7 12.Qa4 a6 13.Nd4
 Nxd4 [13...Qh4 14.Bc4 Nb6 15.Qb3 Bg6
 16.Nxc6 bxc6 Again, didn't like these
 positions and wanted just normal moves.]
 14.Qxd4 Nf6 15.Nc3 c5 16.Qf4 Qd7
 17.Bf3 Bc7 18.Qh4 Qxd2 19.Na4 Ne4
 20.Rac1 Bd8 21.Qf4 Bg6 22.h4 h5
 [22...Qa5 23.h5 Bc7 24.Qh4 Qxa4 25.hxg6
 hxg6 26.Rfd1 Rad8 And Black is 2 safe

pawns up and winning, but I saw the other
 line that looked good to me also.] 23.Rc4
 Qd3 24.Rfc1 Rc8 25.Nxc5 Nxc5 26.Rxc5
 Rxc5 27.Rxc5 Qb1+ 28.Bc1 Be7 29.Rc3
 Bxa3 30.Qa4 Black resigned here,
 unbelievable, I had no time left on my
 clock and didn't think through the variation,
 Black is completely winning here. 30...b5
 31.Qxa3 b4 32.Qa4 bxc3 33.Qxe8+ Kh7
 And of course White can't defend the c1
 Bishop and then the c3 pawn Queens,
 simple combination, but I was flummoxed
 by Qa4, missed the move completely, as it
 turned out, a cool head would have seen
 this single thread easily - disappointing end
 to a good game. 1-0

So, think the troops will be back again next
 year. Extremely enjoyable events, and
 musts in the calendars as far as I am
 concerned.

Chess History

This puzzle, published in the ODT, won
 N.S Traves of Timaru a silver medal at the
 fifth British Correspondence Chess
 Association composing tournament. Date
 unknown but the BCCA dates from 1906.
 Mate in three. First solution received
 published next issue.



Bill Lynn 2010 Senior Champion – Brian Jones takes Oceania Title

By Craig Hall

The 2010 New Zealand and Oceania Seniors Championships saw one of the largest fields turn out in the event's short history. With sponsorship from Affordable Car Rentals and Benson Insurance Brokers, along with round-by-round upset prizes of a bottle of fine wine courtesy of the Canterbury Chess Club patron, Daniel Schuster, there was plenty to play for, as well as a place in the World Senior Championships in Italy in November and points in the Millennium Hotel Grand Prix. The top seed was FM Brian Jones from Australia, but defending champion, Peter Stuart (North Shore), and South Island champion, Peter Fraemohs (Canterbury), promised to be tough competition. Australians David Lovejoy and Frank Hutchings were also potential contenders, and Lindsay Cornford was the possible dark horse of the field, having been inactive for some time, but with a FIDE rating of 2210 still on the books.

The first round largely went to seedings, with only South Island stalwart, Bruce Gloistein, able to break the trend with his win over Hutchings netting him the upset prize. Stuart and Viv Smith castled on opposite wings and Stuart duly converted the Kingside attack.

The second round also largely went to seedings, although William Lynn held Lovejoy to a draw and Nigel Cooper collected the upset prize for his draw with Cornford. The top 3 boards were a lesson in how to use Knights effectively as Stuart ground down Arie Nijman in a Knight ending, Jones' Knights danced around Geoff Davies' King and Tony Booth got caught in the centre by Fraemohs' Knight sacrifice.

Fraemohs, P (1964) – Booth, A (1863)

2010 NZ Senior Championships
Christchurch (2.3), 04.25.2010

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.e3 Be7 8.Bd3 Nb4
9.Bb1 h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.O-O Bd7 12.a3
Nc6 13.Qd3 Qa5 14.Bc2 a6 15.b4 Qd8
16.Rac1 b5 17.e4 Bc8 18.exd5 exd5
19.Rfe1+ Be6 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Bb3 Qd6
22.Qe4 Kd7 23.d5 Ne5 24.dxe6+ Ke7
25.Nxe5 Bxe5 26.exf7 Rhd8 27.Qxe5+
Qxe5 28.Rxe5+ 1-0

Jones, B (2072) – Davies, G

2010 NZ Senior Championships
Christchurch (2.1), 04.25.2010

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Be7
5.Nf3 h6 6.Bh4 c6 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Rc1 O-O
9.Bd3 dxc4 10.Bxc4 b5 11.Bd3 Bb7 12.O-O
Re8 13.Qe2 a6 14.Rfd1 Qb6 15.e4 Rfe8
16.e5 Nh7 17.Bxe7 Rxe7 18.b4 Nhf8
19.Ne4 a5 20.a3 axb4 21.axb4 Ra8
22.Nd6 Ra4 23.Qb2 Qa6 24.Ra1 Nb6
25.Bc2 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 Na4 27.Qa3 Ba8
28.Qd3 Ra7 29.Nd2 Bb7 30.Qf3 Ba8
31.Nb3 c5 32.Qg3 cxb4 33.Ne8 Ng6
34.Bxg6 fxc6 35.Qxg6 Qc6 36.d5 exd5
37.Nf6+ Kf8 38.Nd4 Qc8 39.Nh7+ Kg8

**40.Nf5 Rc7 41.Re1 Bc6 42.e6 Be8
43.Nxh6+ Kh8 44.Nf7+ Bxf7 45.exf7
Rxf7 46.Ng5 1-0**

The third round saw the top two seeds play, opting for the short draw, while Fraemohs took sole lead with a win over Cornford. Lovejoy also remained in contention with a nice win over Cooper and Bruce Dellaca collected the upset prize for his win over Robert Clarkson. (P. Fraemohs 3, B. Jones, P. Stuart, D Lovejoy 2.5...).

Lovejoy, D (1985) – Cooper, N (1770)

2010 NZ Senior Championships
Christchurch (3.3), 04.25.2010

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7
5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.O-O Ngf6 8.Neg5
h6 9.Nxe6 fxe6 10.Bg6+ Ke7 11.Re1 Nb6
12.Qe2 Qd5 13.b3 Bd7 14.c4 Qa5 15.Bd2
Qa3 16.d5 Qd6 17.g3 Nfxd5 18.cxd5
Nxd5 19.Ne5 Be8 20.Rad1 Rg8 21.Qf3
Bxg6 22.Nxg6+ Ke8 23.Bf4 e5 1-0**

The fourth round saw Fraemohs reach a winning position against Stuart, only to take the draw by repetition. Jones beat Lovejoy to join Fraemohs on 3.5, Davies beat Gloistein to join Stuart on 3, and Viv Smith collected the upset prize for her draw with Cornford (P. Fraemohs, B. Jones 3.5, P. Stuart, G. Davies 3...).

The fifth round saw Fraemohs miss another golden opportunity to win, this time against Jones, although Fraemohs still collected the upset prize for the draw. Stuart beat Davies to catch the leaders while Lynn moved to within half a point of the leaders thanks to Cooper dropping his Queen (B. Jones, P. Stuart, P. Fraemohs 4, W Lynn 3.5...).

Fraemohs, P (1964) – Jones, B (2072)

2010 NZ Senior Championships
Christchurch (5.1), 04.26.2010

**1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.Nbd2 h6
5.Bh4 g5 6.Bg3 Nh5 7.e4 Nxc3 8.hxc3
Bg7 9.c3 e6 10.Nc4 Qe7 11.Ne3 Nf8
12.Be2 Bd7 13.Qc2 Ng6 14.d5 O-O-O
15.Nd4 Bxd4 16.cxd4 Kb8 17.Rc1 Rc8
18.Qb3 Ka8 19.O-O c6 20.dxc6 bxc6
21.Rc3 Rb8 22.Qc2 Rhc8 23.Ba6 Rc7
24.Rb3 Rxb3 25.Qxb3 d5 26.Qd3 Qb4
27.exd5 cxd5 28.a3 Qb6 29.b4 Ne7 30.b5
f5 31.a4 f4 32.gxf4 gxf4 33.Ng4 Nf5
34.Rd1 Bc8 35.Bxc8 Rxc8 36.Ne5 Nd6
37.Nd7 Qd8 38.Nc5 Qh4 39.b6 Rg8
40.Qf3 Qg4 41.Qxg4 Rxg4 42.Nxe6 f3
43.g3 axb6 44.Nc7+ Kb7 45.Nxd5 Nf5
46.Nf4 h5 47.Nxh5 Nxd4 48.Nf4 Ne2+
49.Nxe2 fxe2 50.Re1 Rxa4 51.Rxe2 Kc6
52.f4 b5 53.f5 Kd5 54.Re8 Ra7 55.Rb8
Ke4 56.Rxb5 Kf3 57.Rb3+ Kg4 58.f6
Ra1+ 59.Kf2 Ra2+ 60.Ke1 1/2-1/2**

The sixth round was very good for Jones, as he beat Nijman, while Lynn collected the upset prize for his win over Fraemohs and Hutchings beat Stuart. Lovejoy also moved back into prize contention with a win over Davies, and Cooper and Gloistein won crucial games against Smith and Clarkson respectively in the battle for the Under 1800 grade prizes (B. Jones 5, W. Lynn 4.5, P. Stuart, P. Fraemohs, D. Lovejoy, F. Hutchings 4...).

Gloistein, B (1799) – Clarkson, R

2010 NZ Senior Championships
Christchurch (6.7), 04.27.2010

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nc6 4.d5 Nb8 5.Be3
Nf6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Bd3 O-O 8.Qd2 c6 9.h4**

**Ng4 10.O-O-O Nxe3 11.Qxe3 Bg4
12.Rdg1 h6 13.Kb1 Nd7 14.Nh2 f5 15.f3
f4 16.Qe2 Bh5 17.g3 fxg3 18.Rxg3 c5
19.Rhg1 Rf7 20.Qd2 Bxh4 21.Rh3 Rf4
22.Ne2 Rf7 23.Qxh6 g6 24.Qxh5 Nf8
25.Rxh4 Rh7 26.Rxg6+ Rg7 27.Qh8+
Kf7 28.Rxg7+ Ke8 29.Qh5+ 1-0**

Jones and Lynn agreed a short draw to win the Oceania and NZ titles respectively. Stuart and Fraemohs could have caught Lynn with wins, but they drew with Lovejoy and Hutchings respectively. Cooper beat Gloistein to win the grade prize, Dellaca collected second in the grade with his win over Keeling and Michael Roberts scored the upset prize with his win over Nijman.

Cooper, N (1770) – Gloistein, B (1799)
2010 NZ Senior Championships
Christchurch (7.4), 04.27.2010

**1.d4 d5 2.Bg5 Nd7 3.e3 Ngf6 4.c4 c6
5.Nc3 g6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.Bd3 O-O 8.O-O
Re8 9.Bf4 Nf8 10.h3 Nh5 11.Bh2 e6 12.c5
Nd7 13.b4 e5 14.Be2 e4 15.Nd2 Nhf6
16.b5 Re6 17.Qa4 Ne8 18.Nb3 f5 19.Na5
Nxc5 20.dxc5 Bxc3 21.Nb3 Bxa1 22.Rxa1
Bd7 23.Nd4 Qf6 24.Rb1 cxb5 25.Bxb5
Ra6 26.Qb3 Bc6 27.Bxa6 bxa6 28.Nxc6
Qxc6 29.Qb7 Rc8 30.Qxa7 Qxc5 31.Qxa6
Rc6 32.Qe2 Qa3 33.g4 Rc1+ 34.Rxc1
Qxc1+ 35.Kg2 Qb1 36.Qa6 Qd1 37.Qe6+
Kf8 38.Bd6+ Nxd6 39.Qxd6+ Ke8 40.Qf4
Kd7 41.gxf5 g5 42.Qg4 1-0**

In all, fine performances from Jones and Lynn to win the titles. Third places, both in the main event and Under 1800 grade, were rather crowded, with Peter Fraemohs, Peter Stuart, David Lovejoy, Nigel Cooper (opted

for grade prize instead), Frank Hutchings and Lindsay Cornford finishing on 4.5/7, while Viv Smith, Bob Mitchell and Bruce Gloistein tied for third in the Under 1800 grade with 3.5/7. The many travellers are to be commended as the event only works if plenty of people travel to it! Many thanks to our sponsors, Affordable Car Rentals and Benson Insurance Brokers, and to the Millennium Hotel for their sponsorship of the Grand Prix. Thanks also to Hilton Bennett for putting together the entry form and really pushing the event in the North Island and in Australia.

Auckland Open Report

by Edward Tanoi

The Easter weekend's Auckland Open was won by friends Gino Thornton and Mario Krstev with a display of consistent, if at times a little lucky, chess. Thornton, the 2nd seed and Mario the 5th seed have played together since juniors competing regularly on the local chess circuit.

Throughout the weekend they were at or near the top and only emerged as clear winners on the final morning when Bruce Wheeler agreed an early draw against Krstev and top seed Leonard McLaren could make no headway against Gino's French.

McLaren also played well and finished in a three way tie for third with Wheeler and

fast finishing Xhevdet Jashari. Rounding off the placings with a tie for sixth, was Daniel Runcan and regulars Edward Tanoi, and Hans Gao. The turnout was good for the first Easter tournament in Auckland for a long time. With 30 players from clubs all over Auckland the signs are promising for a repeat tournament next Easter.

The single Swiss format proved popular as the lower rated players fought it out with their higher rated counterparts. In most rounds there were big upsets with North Shore's young David Rong who with a rating of 1272, proving to be quite a giant-killer. His victims being Don Eade (1883), Evginia Charamova (1762), Ajit Phendarkar (1500) and Adrian Ng (1500). Consequently, Rong collected a whopping 55 rating points. Also popular were the hot cross buns available to the players and Chocolate marshmallow eggs on Easter Monday.

The tournament followed closely on the heels of the Weekender played nearly a month earlier and Congress in January. With the upcoming George Trundle Masters and George Trundle Qualifiers in July, and the traditional Merv Morrison Memorial tournament during Labour Weekend, the Auckland Chess Centre will have run no less than 8 tournaments in a calendar year. Unprecedented for a New Zealand club and highlights the club's support of New Zealand chess.

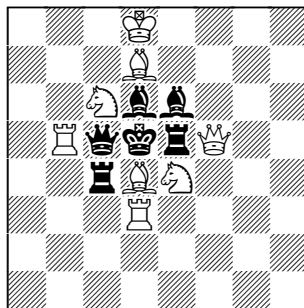
Hans Gao,1916 - Gino Thornton,2230
ACC Easter Open, 16.06.2010

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Bd3 cxd4

9.Ne2 dxc3 10.0-0 Ng6 11.f4 Nc6 12.h4 h5 13.Qg3 Nce7 14.Nd4 Bd7 15.Kh1 a6 16.a4 Rc8 17.a5 Kf8 18.Ba3 Kg8 19.Bd6 Qd8 20.Rab1 Nc6 21.Nf3 Nxa5 22.Bxg6 fxe6 23.Qxg6 Rh6 24.Qg3 Bb5 25.Rfe1 Nc4 26.Nd4 Nd2 27.Rbd1 Ne4 28.Rxe4 dxe4 29.f5 Qe8 30.Nxe6 Rxe6 31.fxe6 Qxe6 32.Qg5 Qg4 33.Qxg4 hxe6 34.Rd4 e3 35.Rxg4 Rc4 [35...e2 36.Re4 Rc4 37.Re3 Rxh4+ 38.Kg1 Rf4] 36.Rxc4 Bxc4 37.Bb4 Bd3 38.Bxc3 Bxc2 39.Kg1 Kf7 40.Kf1 Bd3+ 41.Ke1 Ke6 42.g4 g6 43.h5 gxh5 44.gxh5 Kf5 45.h6 Kg6 46.Bd4 e2 47.e6 Kxh6 48.e7 Bb5 49.e8Q Bxe8 50.Kxe2 a5 51.Bb6 a4 52.Bc5 Kg5 53.Kd3 Kf5 54.Kd4 Kf4 55.Ba3 Kf3 56.Kd3 Bb5+ 57.Kd2 Ke4 58.Kc3 Be8 59.Kb2 Kd3 60.Ka1 Kc3 61.Bf8 b6 62.Be7 Kb3 63.Bf8 a3 64.Be7 b5 65.Bf8 Bf7 66.Be7 ½-½

The Bishop's Fold – A Chess Curiosity

This puzzle comes from the Otago Daily Times chess column. Undated but possibly 1920s. From the family of N.S. Travers, Timaru Chess Club. White to mate in 12. Solution unknown but first solution received published.



Oceania Zonal Tournament 2011

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Bob Smith takes 2nd ACC Weekender

By Edward Tanoi

The ACC Weekender Tournament was aimed at plugging a gap in the Auckland tournament calendar between Congress at New Year's and the next standard tournament, the annual Waitakere Trusts Open now held over Queen's Birthday Weekend.

In its second year, the Weekender produced a good turnout of 36 players with 22 in the Open section, close to a club record. Being the only player over 2300, Bob Smith was a hot favourite although stiff competition was expected from former ACC member Daniel Han and newly transplanted from the BOP to the North Shore, John Duneas. The tournament also featured the return of former top flight player Lindsay Cornford after many years away from the chess scene. Lindsay actually made his 'debut' at the Rapid Champs at Congress in January.

Smith was a convincing winner, finishing with 5.5/6 ahead of Edward Tanoi on 4.5 and John Dunas and Daniel Han on 4/6. Smith played the better chess characterised by strong piece activity and accurate defence. By a curious quirk of the draw and indifferent form, Smith and Tanoi never faced the highly fancied third place-getters Han and Duneas. In fact, they never even faced each other! But it was also a measure of the strength of the rest of the playing field. Tanoi could also expect to be pleased with his start to 2010. He quickly

discovered how distracting organising and running a tournament can be and was fortunate to still be able to play competitive chess. Likewise, Eachen Chen and Andrew Michael had excellent tournaments and should expect a good year ahead. Surprisingly, Duneas and Han had quiet tournaments. Much was expected but perhaps they were surprised by the quality of their opponents' play. The can expect to bounce back in the near future.

In the Under 1700 section, top seed Simon Lyall played the most consistent chess to emerge a deserved winner. Promising Auckland and North Shore junior William Li also played strongly and finishing clear second. Michael Budd from Hamilton came third equal with another North Shore youngster, William Zhang.

Lindsay Cornford - Bob Smith ACC Weekender 2010

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Ne4 4.Bf4 c6
5.c3 Bf5 6.Nbd2 Qb6 7.Qb3 Nd7 8.Nxe4
Bxe4 9.Nd2 Bg6 10.e3 e6 11.Be2 Be7
12.0-0 0-0 13.Qxb6 Nxb6 14.a4 a5 15.b3
Rfc8 16.Rfc1 Nd7 17.Nf3 Bf6 18.Be5 Bh5
19.Bxf6 Nxf6 20.Bd3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 c5
22.Kf1 Rc7 23.Ke1 Rac8 24.Kd2 Nd7
25.Rab1 Kf8 26.Bb5 Ke7 27.dxc5 Nxc5
28.b4 axb4 29.Rxb4 e5 30.Rcb1 g5
31.Be2 Ra8 32.Bd1 Ra6 33.h4 h6 34.hxg5
hxg5 35.Bc2 Rf6 36.Ke2 Rfc6 37.Kf1
Rh6 38.Kg2 Rcc6 39.Rh1 Rxh1 40.Kxh1
b6 41.Kg2 Nd7 42.Bf5 Nf6 43.Kg3 Kd6
44.Rb3 Kc7 45.Bd3 Rd6 46.Kg2 Nd7
47.Bc2 d4 48.cxd4 exd4 49.exd4 Rxd4
50.Rd3 Rxd3 51.Bxd3 Nc5 52.Bc2 Kd6
53.Kg3 Ke5 54.Kg4 f6 55.Kg3 f5 56.f4+
gxf4+ 57.Kf3 Ne6 58.Bd1 Nd4+ 59.Kg2
Ke4 60.Kf1 f3 Res 0-1

Letter From the Kingside

Getting Help

By Roger Nokes

As a writer it is always rather interesting when you are about to embark on a topic of which you are largely ignorant. But of course that is the privilege of being a columnist.

Two events of the last week have prompted me to pick up the theme of how chess players find help in learning and playing the game. The first was my first formal coaching session. Yes, in over 40 years of playing chess I cannot remember a single time when I have received formal coaching - at least I can't remember paying for it! The second event was the conclusion of the World Championship match between Vishwanathan Anand and Veselin Topalov and the revelations regarding the support each of these players received from other sources.

Let us begin with the appropriately termed second of these. Seconds are a fascinating aspect of chess at the top level. The vast majority of chess enthusiasts are on their own. They study, maybe they hire a coach, but once they head for a tournament the training wheels are off. But at the top level, the world championship certainly but even in events below this level, grandmasters arrive with their seconds - typically strong players who are not participating in the

same event and who are paid to provide a variety of support for their principal. And here is where things get tricky because I don't have any direct experience of how seconds are actually used. What is clear is that seconds play a very important role in the principal's overall tournament or match strategy.

Let's focus on the world championship. Vishwanathan Anand has been quite frank about his team of seconds, Kasimdzhanov, Nielsen, Wojtaszek and Ganguly. This is essentially the team that helped bring him victory against Vladimir Kramnik in Bonn a couple of years ago. Each member of the team has a slightly different role to play, and these days most of that work, which begins well before the big event, is probably focussed on bolstering Anand's opening repertoire. One can only assume that the overall opening selection strategy is Anand's, with his seconds working on embellishing this repertoire with new ideas in standard positions and searching for hints in the chess literature of how Topalov might react to the chosen opening lines. In both of his matches with Kramnik and Topalov Anand made major changes to his opening repertoire, particularly with white where first against Kramnik he abandoned his beloved 1 e4 in favour of 1 d4, and then against Topalov turned to the Catalan as his principal weapon, having never played it before, at least at top level. There can be little doubt that the risk involved in such significant deviations from past preferences is mitigated by the presence of a team of seconds. One might remember that Anand's opening strategy was foreshadowed by Bobby Fischer in 1972 when he opened primarily with 1 d4 against Boris Spassky

having never opened with that move in his life. The role of seconds in some ways has diminished in recent times. The reason being the lack of adjournments in modern chess. Fischer was one who complained that he was at a disadvantage in this area as his Soviet opponents could engage a veritable legion of strong grandmasters to pore over adjourned positions, while he was often on his own, or at least without support of similar strength. One of the more bizarre examples of the duties allocated to seconds was seen during Botvinnik's preparations for his match with Tal, when he instructed a training partner to blow smoke in his direction during training games in order to mimic the conditions he would face against the chain-smoking Latvian.

So what of Topalov's seconds. As far I can tell Cheparinov, Topalov's countryman, was Topalov's sole human helper, but as you may have seen in the chess media Topalov also paid a significant sum of money for access to a 8000 odd core Blue Gene supercomputer. A comparison between the virtues of employing an unbeatable chess engine and employing a team of dedicated analysts and, perhaps more importantly, friends, would make fascinating reading.

What has also appeared in the press has been the announcement of some unexpected seconds in the Anand camp. Much to the surprise of the chess public he has revealed that first Carlsen approached him and agreed to join him in some training games in preparation for the match, and later Kramnik and Kasparov contacted him with advice and support. Topalov has cast scorn on Anand for accepting support from

past adversaries, but one must wonder whether his reaction is more one of frustration that the chess world seems to genuinely like, admire and support the Indian World Champion.

The rules of engagement in chess tournaments and matches have changed substantially in the last few decades. Witness the change in time controls, the lack of adjournments, the requirement for being seated at the board when the game begins and the precautions being taken to prevent illicit help being provided through electronic devices. A number of these changes have been specifically aimed at removing external influences on the outcome of a game, ensuring it is one player against another. How does the use of seconds fit with this changing philosophy? Perhaps there will be new rules in this area of chess as well in the future.

So, what of my recent experience of coaching? New Zealand has been very fortunate over the past year in having English grandmaster Gawain Jones residing in Wellington. When Stephen Lukey suggested we invite Gawain south to Christchurch for a serious weekend of coaching it was impossible to decline. Poor Gawain had nine hours with his two eager and not so youthful pupils. For me the opportunity to listen to the inner thoughts of a grandmaster's mind and to be able to obtain answers to a range of questions about various aspects of the game was both thrilling and somewhat sad. Sad because I wished I had had such an opportunity in my chess youth. Being self-taught it is only when you receive guidance and advice from a very strong player that you realise

what you have missed, and, to be honest, how little you really know about the game. My advice to anyone wishing to improve their game - get some coaching from someone like Ian Rogers or Gawain Jones. It will pay dividends.

It was a simple matter to pick the game for this column. World championship matches are rare events, and World Championship matches whose outcome rests on the result of the final game is even more unusual. But so it was between Anand and Topalov. The first eleven games were hard fought, and except for a terrible mistake by Anand in the very first game he seemed to hold the advantage for most of the remainder of the match. However as the final games approached the initiative seemed to swing in Topalov's favour and he was in the enviable position of having white in the final game with the match score balanced at 5.5 each. So here is the final game.

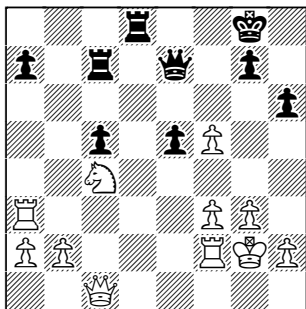
Veselin Topalov (2805) - Viswanathan Anand (2787)

Anand-Topalov World Chess Championship (12), 13.01.2010

1.d4 The world title has come down to this single game. It is a difficult psychological situation for both players. Topalov has White, and hence a small advantage, but Anand has the reputation for being the best rapid player in the world, and if this game ended in a draw the championship would be decided by a series of rapid tiebreak games. **1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0-0 7.e3** The two players have chosen a well-trodden path in a Queen's Gambit Declined. Anish Giri, the young Dutch Grandmaster who was

annotating the games for Chessbase, and who also provided some help to Anand predicted that Anand would employ this defence in the final game. **7...Ne4 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Rc1 c6 10.Be2 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Nd7 13.0-0 b6 14.Bd3** One would think that Topalov would be fairly pleased with the result of the opening phase. He has that nagging edge that comes with the White pieces. Anand has not tried to unbalance the position particularly and has sought a solid position rather than a dynamic one. He lags a little in development and it is now a question of whether he can gradually equalise. **14...c5 15.Be4 Rb8 16.Qc2 Nf6 17.dxc5** [White would like to retain his bishop but after 17.Bd3 Bb7 18.dxc5 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Nd5 White's rook is rather awkwardly placed and his broken kingside pawn structure leaves Black comfortably equal.] **17...Nxe4 18.Qxe4 bxc5 19.Qc2 Bb7 20.Nd2 Rfd8 21.f3** [Technically White would appear to better here as the black c pawn is decidedly weak and not easily defended. However Black possesses the better minor piece and his rooks are very active on the b and d files. I wonder what was going through the minds of the two opponents at this stage. One senses that this game should not now be heading towards a peaceful half point. An alternative to the move played White might try 21.Nb3 Ba6 22.Rc1 c4 23.Nd4 when I would be a shade more interested in playing Black's position.] **21...Ba6** [Black has a number of plausible moves in this position. The most active seems to be 21...Qg5 dynamically defending the c5 pawn, but Anand's idea of reactivating his bishop on the f1-a6 diagonal and reserving the option of playing c4 at some stage seems perfectly reasonable.] **22.Rf2?!**

[This move seems rather awkward. While the rook defends both the knight on d2 and the unthreatened pawn on g2, it is awfully passive on f2 and one can imagine a back rank accident becoming a recurring tactical motif. More natural would be 22.Rc1 Qd7 23.Ne4 c4 24.Nc5 Qc6 25.Nxa6 Qxa6 when the position is more or less equal.] **22...Rd7 23.g3** The bank rank motif seems to be having an effect already. Black threatens to rapidly double rooks on the d file leaving White's knight almost pinned on d2. The c5 pawn remains poorly defended but it continues to survive! **23...Rbd8 24.Kg2 Bd3 25.Qc1 Ba6 26.Ra3 Bb7 27.Nb3** [White senses no danger on the kingside and works to reorganise his pieces on the queenside. It would have been interesting to see how Anand would have responded to the immediate e4, threatening the a7 pawn and not allowing his pieces to drift from the vicinity of his king. 27.e4] **27...Rc7 28.Na5 Ba8 29.Nc4 e5 30.e4 f5** Black strikes at the White centre immediately. The redeployment of the knight to c4 seems a waste of time and it is surely needed in the defence of e4. **31.exf5?**



Now White is in trouble. Strong pointing e4 was essential with Nd2. Now the white squared bishop is unleashed and Black's heavy pieces find a way through to the White king. Interestingly on first impressions Hiarc is convinced that the move played by White is correct as is his next. However after some "thought" it decides that White is now rather worse. **31...e4 32.fxe4? Qxe4+ 33.Kh3 Rd4 34.Ne3 Qe8!** [Anand finds the very best way to continue the attack. Another possibility is 34...g5 35.fgx6 Qxg6 36.Rf5 Be4 when White is still in serious danger] **35.g4 h5 36.Kh4 g5+ [36...Qd8+ 37.f6 (37.Kg3 Qd6+ 38.Kh3 Qh6+) 37...hgx4 is a strong alternative] 37.fgx6 Qxg6 38.Qf1 Rxg4+ 39.Kh3 Re7 40.Rf8+ Diagram 40...Kg7** [Anand, in his post game commentary, said that he suddenly thought he was in trouble if he put is king on h7 but our silicon friend assures us Black is still winning after 40...Kh7 41.Rh8+ Kxh8 42.Qf8+ Qg8 43.Qxe7 Bg2+ 44.Nxg2 Qc8 45.Nf4 Rg6+ 46.Qe6 Rxe6+] **41.Nf5+ Kh7 42.Rg3 Rxg3+ 43.hxg3 Qg4+ 44.Kh2 Re2+ 45.Kg1 Rg2+ 46.Qxg2 Bxg2 47.Kxg2** [Alas for White after 47.Rf7+ Kg6 48.Rg7+ Kxf5 49.Rxg4 hxg4 50.Kxg2 Ke4 the king and pawn ending is dead lost.] **47...Qe2+ 48.Kh3 c4 49.a4 a5 50.Rf6 Kg8 51.Nh6+ Kg7 52.Rb6 Qe4 53.Kh2 Kh7 54.Rd6 Qe5 55.Nf7 Qxb2+ 56.Kh3 Qg7** Anand has played the last 20 odd moves to perfection and Topalov resigns, leaving Anand as World Champion. 0-1

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