

# ***New Zealand Chess***

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

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***Leonard McLaren Victor  
at Waitakere 2011***

***Chess Legend Passes  
George Trundle's Story***



**Plus – Bob Smith wins North Island Championship**

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# Bob Smith pips IMs Ker and Garbett for North Island Championship

By Bob Smith

Wellington for the North Island Championships or Sydney for the Sydney International? Viv and I were still weighing up the options when we received a very kind invitation from Ross and Lin Jackson to stay with them during the North Island over Easter.

The invite plus the chance to defend my title and perhaps gain some Grand Prix points swayed us in favour of Wellington – and I was not sorry.

Ross and Lin were wonderful hosts, and the tournament turned out to be one of my better efforts.

On paper it looked to be a three way fight between New Zealand Champion Anthony Ker, International Master Paul Garbett and me, with the next highest rated player nearly 200 rating points behind.

And for once reality followed the script. The top three were ruthless against the rest of the field, with their round robin deciding the outcome of the tournament.

The pivotal game was in round 4, when I played white against (surprise!) Anthony's Pirc. My sacrificial victory gave me the decisive edge, as Paul drew with both Anthony and me, on his way to an impressive 7/8.

Unfortunately for him, I managed a half point more.

As usual the bare crosstable does not reveal any of the twists and turns of the event. All three place-getters experienced their moments of living on the edge, when they could have dropped half a point – or even more. But over eight rounds they proved too steady for the rest.

Of the others, Chris Smith was the big ratings winner, with a haul of 31 points. He lost only to the big three, but had a little help from lady luck in round seven when Ross Jackson fell asleep (although not literally) and lost on time after turning an easily won ending into a draw. Incidentally Ross was not the only one to lose on time; Viv Smith also managed this in round five against Timothy Rains, sadly when she was two pawns up in a winning ending (more on that later).

The tournament ran smoothly throughout, with experienced arbiter Bruce Pollard in charge. And the North Island trophy duly arrived in time for the prize-giving (thank you New Zealand Post) despite defending champion Bob Smith only remembering it an hour into the drive from Mt Maunganui.

**The tournament's decisive game, and other interesting clashes and snippets, follow**

## 2011 North Island Championship Crosstable

Name	Rating	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Robert Smith	2345	7.5	19:W	4:W	2:D	3:W	7:W	9:W	6:W	5:W
2	Paul Garbett	2328	7	9:W	17:W	1:D	5:W	18:W	4:W	3:D	13:W
3	Anthony Ker	2456	6.5	11:W	13:W	5:W	1:L	6:W	10:W	2:D	4:W
4	Chris Smith	1866	5	21:W	1:L	10:W	11:W	12:W	2:L	7:W	3:L
5	Chris Burns	2145	5	12:W	8:W	3:L	2:L	19:W	18:W	14:W	1:L
6	Mathew King	1964	5	14:W	18:D	7:D	8:W	3:L	16:W	1:L	10:W
7	Ross Jackson	1986	5	10:W	25:W	6:D	18:D	1:L	11:W	4:L	17:W
8	Dan Dolejs	1772	5	24:W	5:L	16:W	6:L	10:L	20:W	12:W	11:W
9	Edward Rains	1707	4	2:L	15:W	14:W	12:L	13:W	1:L	11:L	21:W
10	Jack James	1679	4	7:L	23:W	4:L	15:W	8:W	3:L	18:W	6:L
11	Bob Mitchel	1711	4	3:L	20:W	25:W	4:L	21:W	7:L	9:W	8:L
12	Simon Lyall	1697	4	5:L	24:W	17:D	9:W	4:L	14:D	8:L	18:W
13	Mike Roberts	1818	4	15:W	3:L	18:L	23:W	9:L	19:W	21:W	2:L
14	Timothy Rains	1642	4	6:L	22:W	9:L	16:D	17:W	12:D	5:L	19:W
15	Nicholas Moore	1223	4	13:L	9:L	21:W	10:L	20:L	25:W	23:W	22:W
16	Layla Timergazi	947	3.5	20:L	0:W	8:L	14:D	23:W	6:L	17:L	25:W
17	Vivian Smith	1748	3.5	23:W	2:L	12:D	19:L	14:L	24:W	16:W	7:L
18	Don Stracy	1741	3	22:W	6:D	13:W	7:D	2:L	5:L	10:L	12:L
19	L Farrington	1708	3	1:L	21:L	22:W	17:W	5:L	13:L	20:W	14:L
20	David Capper	1723	3	16:W	11:L	0:L	0:L	15:W	8:L	19:L	23:W
21	Robert List	1565	3	4:L	19:W	15:L	25:W	11:L	22:W	13:L	9:L
22	Zhongjin Huang	1003	2.5	18:L	14:L	19:L	24:D	0:W	21:L	25:W	15:L
23	Michael Metham	1041	2	17:L	10:L	24:W	13:L	16:L	0:W	15:L	20:L
24	Phil Sosaya	1200	1.5	8:L	12:L	23:L	22:D	25:W	17:L	0:	0:
25	Daniel Clennell	1	0:W	7:L	11:L	21:L	24:L	15:L	22:L	16:L	

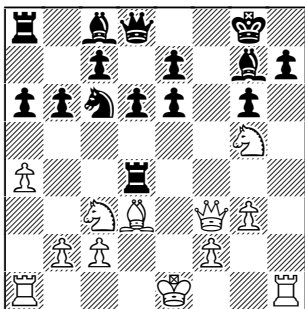
### Bob Smith - Anthony Ker, Round Four

As Bill Forster suggested in "NZ Chess", before this game I was still having nightmares about not finishing off (and even losing) a completely won position against Anthony in the New Zealand Championships – a game that cost me the title. This time I was determined to a/ play actively and b/ follow through if I did reach a winning position. Credit to Bill again for his description

on the tournament website of the return match as "sweet utu".

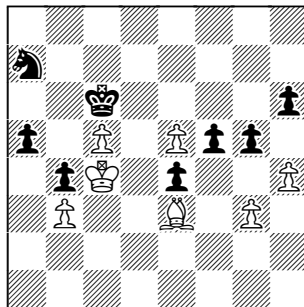
**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 a6 7.a4 b6 8.e5 Nfd7 9.e6 fxe6 10.h4 Nf6 11.h5 Nxh5 12.Bd3** My book ended here, with the view that "white has good attacking chances". Maybe the infernal machine wouldn't agree, but thankfully this was a game between two humans! **12...Nc6?!** Black goes wrong

immediately. The idea was to eliminate the white bishop with ...Nb4, but this is too slow. Better 12...Nf6 or ...Nf4. **13.Ng5!** Attack! Nxh7 and Rxh5 are two threats. **13...Nf4 14.Bxf4 Rxf4 15.g3!** Deflection. **15...Rxd4?** It was necessary to stay on the f-file and give up an exchange by e.g. 15...Rf5. **16.Qf3!**



With virtually unstoppable threats of Qxc6 or Qf7+, followed by Rxh7#. **16...Qe8 17.Rxh7** Black has no real answer to Qh1, followed by Rh8+, Qh7+ and Qxh8#. **17...Rd5 18.Nxd5 exd5 19.Qh1 e6** Unlike our NZ Championship game, I had plenty of time here, and spent 10 or 15 minutes calculating and checking the winning line. **20.Rh8+! Bxh8 21.Qh7+ Kf8 22.Qxh8+ Ke7 23.Qg7+ Kd8 24.Nf7+! Kd7 25.Ne5+ Kd8 26.Bxg6 1-0** Black's 'best' is 26...Nxe5 27.Bxe8 Kxe8 28. 0-0-0! with mate not far away.

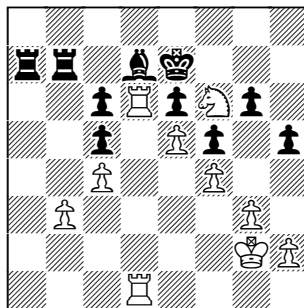
The following interesting position arose after white's 43<sup>rd</sup> move in my first round game against Lawrence Farrington . White looks to be doing well with his bishop and two passed pawns, but perhaps surprisingly black can exploit the piece placement to win immediately.



**Nb5! 44.hxg5 Na3+ 45.Kd4 Nc2+ 46.Kc4 Nxe3+ 47.Kd4 Nc2+ All with tempo. 48.Kc4 hxg5 49.e6 Ne3+ 50.Kd4 Nd5 51.Kc4 f4 52.gxf4 gxf4 53.Kd4 f3 0-1**

**Anthony Ker – Chris Burns**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.b3 g6 10.Bb2 Nf4 11.Qe4 Ne6 12.Be2 Rb8 13.0-0 Bg7 14.f4 f5 15.Qe3 Rb7 16.Bf3 Qc5 17.Qxc5 Nxc5 18.Bd4 Ne6 19.Be3 Bf8 20.Nc3 Be5 21.Bxc5 Nxc5 22.Rad1 Ke7 23.Rd2 Rb4 24.Rfd1 Bc8 25.Ne2 a5 26.Nd4 Rb6 27.Nc2 Ne6 28.g3 c5 29.Bd5 h5 30.Bxe6 dxe6 31.Ne1 a4 32.Rd3 axb3 33.axb3 Re8 34.Nf3 c6 35.Ng5 Rb7 36.Rd6 Bd7 (D) 37.Nh7**



Black is so bound up that white's king can

just walk up the board to force the win.  
 Rc7 40.Kh3 Bc8 41.Rd8 Bd7 42.Rh8 Rab7  
 43.Kh4 Ra7 44.Kg5 Bc8 45.Rh7+ 1-0

An impressive positional win by Anthony Ker. Chris Smith unwisely snatches a pawn against Paul Garbett in round six, and pays a heavy price on his light squares.

### Chris Smith – Paul Garbett

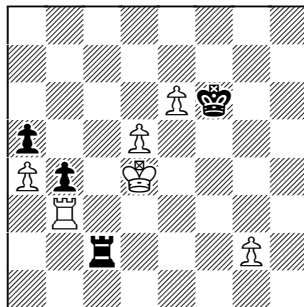
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.g3  
 d6 6.exd6 Bxd6 7.Bg2 Nc6 8.d4 cxd4  
 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Qxd4 0-0 11.Bxd5 exd5  
 12.Qxd5 Qe7+ 13.Be3 Bd7 14.0-0 Bc6  
 15.Qd3 Rad8 16.Qe2 Bc5 17.Re1 Rfe8  
 18.Qf1 Qe4 19.f3 Bxe3+ 20.Rxe3 Qxe3+  
 21.Kg2 Qe2+ 22.Qf2 Bxf3+ 0-1

A real slugfest from the penultimate round between two of the contenders.

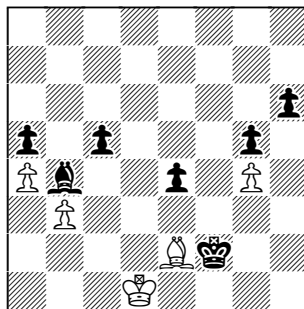
### Paul Garbett - Anthony Ker

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.h3  
 Nbd7 6.f4 b5 7.a3 a6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Qd2 0-  
 0 10.Bd3 Nb6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.f5 Rc8  
 13.Bh6 c5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Qf4 cxd4  
 16.Nxd4 Nbd7 17.Kh1 Qb6 18.Nce2 Nc5  
 19.fxg6 fxg6 20.e5 dxe5 21.Qxe5 Rf7  
 22.Nf4 Nxd3 23.cxd3 Kg8 24.Nfe6 Nd7  
 25.Qg5 Qd6 26.Rxf7 Kxf7 27.Re1 Nf6  
 28.Qe3 Ke8 29.b4 Rc3 30.Nc5 Bd5  
 31.Nxa6 Bxg2+ 32.Kxg2 Nd5 33.Qe5  
 Nf4+ 34.Kh1 Qxe5 35.Rxe5 Rxa3 36.Nc5  
 Nxd3 37.Nxd3 Rxd3 38.Nxb5 Rxh3+  
 39.Kg2 Rb3 40.Re4 Kd7 41.Rc4 e5  
 42.Nc3 Ke6 43.b5 h5 44.Rc6+ Kd7  
 45.Kf3 Rxb5 46.Rxg6 ½-½

And to finish, two fine pieces of tragedy. In the following position Ross Jackson (white) could have won easily against Chris Smith with 56.Rf3+ Ke7 57.Rf7+ Ke8 58.Rb7, followed by pushing the passed pawns.



Instead there came 56.g3 Ke7 57.Rf3 Kd6 58.Re3 Rd2+ 59.Rd3 Rc2 60.g4 Rg2 61.Kc4 Rxg4+ 62.Kb5 Rg8 63.Kxa5 Rb8 and then the coup de grace – Ross became so engrossed in the possibilities he lost on time! 0-1 To be fair, he did have the added burden of looking after several guests during the tournament – myself, Viv and Director of Play Bruce Pollard. And one of those guests provides the other tragi-comic moment of the tournament.



Winning easily is 61...Ke3 62. Bishop moves ... h5 63. gxh5 Bc3. With a 30 second increment, a few non-moves could have even been thrown in along the way. Instead, I watched black's time count down as she pondered. 1-0 on time after 61.

# Leonard at Last - A Crown for McLaren at Waitakere

By **Bob Smith**

Before a pawn was even pushed there was plenty of drama associated with the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of New Zealand's biggest weekend event. Firstly there was fear and tension. A week out from the tournament, the organising club Waitakere was bracing itself for a financial loss, as entries only trickled in.

But then came relief, as the trickle became a flood and the numbers topped a hundred once more. Then there was mystery. Some Sherlock Holmes work was needed when some players made internet payments without identification, while it was only an on-line payment that alerted me to Daniel Shen's entry; his e-mail confirmation had mysteriously vanished into the ether.

And finally there was surprise. I had wondered why I hadn't heard from Russell Dive, who had indicated at the North Island Championships that he'd be playing. It was certainly a surprise when Russell showed up on Saturday morning! Apparently an e-mail sent from his office had joined Daniel's - somewhere out in the virtual world.

## ***The Cast***

But once the lead-up drama had played out an intriguing field assembled at Henderson's Lincoln Green Motor Hotel,

including five of the top ten active players in the country. The tournament looked considerably more even than the two previous years, when English Grandmaster Gawain Jones terrorised the locals.

Dive was top seed, but would not have it easy against the likes of Bob Smith, Paul Garbett, Mike Steadman, Leonard McLaren and Antonio Krstev. Add to the mix all six members of NZCF's elite junior squad and an interesting battle was in store.

## ***The Lead Player***

As I've got older I've appreciated longer tournaments more and more. 6 rounds are about all you can fit into a weekend event like the Waitakere Licensing Trust Open, but it seems kind of short to me these days. It's like a sprint: to win you have to hit the ground running and go full tilt till you reach the tape. That's exactly what Leonard McLaren did this year. He began on Saturday with a combinational win over Ross Jackson, and followed up by outplaying elite junior Hans Gao. On Sunday Leonard kept up the pace with Mike Steadman overlooking a tactic, and Russell Dive suffering from his Alekhine's addiction.

Monday dawned and another stake was added to the picket fence, Gino Thornton being outplayed in a Nimzo-Indian. At this stage the \$150 bonus for six wins was under serious threat.

But to the rescue came Antonio Krstev. With great determination he turned down a draw and went on to victory, leaving McLaren still clear first - but only with a mere five out of six.

## ***The Extras***

As Leonard was stealing the limelight, the bit players were struggling. Bob Smith was hit with the “organiser’s curse” from the start, drawing with Roger Perry and then junior squad member Alex Huang (who incidentally was undefeated, with six draws!).

Antonio Krstev – the hero of the concluding act – began even more ignominiously, losing to the tournament’s upset king, Mark Brimble. In later rounds Mark also beat Helen Milligan and Daniel Shen.

After two rounds Garbett was looking good, especially after Justin Davis demonstrated he had not yet passed NZCF’s Junior Rook Badge test on drawing rook versus rook and bishop pawn. But then Paul was well beaten by Russell and in round five could only draw against Ivan Dordevic.

Meanwhile after his loss to McLaren, Steadman had added a draw with Krstev and a win over William Li to his tally.

## ***The Finale***

All this carnage meant that going into Monday’s final round McLaren led by a point, with only Dive able to catch him. A

half a point further back were Steadman, Krstev, Garbett, Smith, Thornton, Dordevic and Brimble.

So with the major placings – and a lot of cash - on the line, the final pairings were crucial.

The golden swiss lottery ticket went to Garbett, who got white against Brimble – a rating difference of more than 250 points. Mark gave it a shot, but was always on the backfoot against Paul’s technique.

As previously mentioned, Krstev pulled off a surprise victory against the runaway leader. Gino Thornton was overwhelmed by Steadman’s Dutch Defence (or should that be Attack?).

And neither Smith nor Dive were noticeably pleased to be facing each other. In the event, Russell’s Alekhine’s Defence suffered for the second time in the tournament. The only other major contender, Ivan Dordevic, was stopped in his tracks by Alan Ansell’s preparation; Ansell lost only to Dive and was the top junior.

## ***The Winners***

So McLaren held on to first by half a point – collecting \$1000 and 25 Think Big Grand Prix points.

In the log-jam for second were Steadman, Krstev, Garbett and Smith. They all took home \$465 and 14 GP points. For top seed Dive the final round loss was cruel. He finished half a point further back with Ansell and Edward Tanoi and left – as they say on the Weakest Link – “with nothing”



## Waitakere 2011 Crosstable

No	Name	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	L McLaren	5	18:W	24:W	2:W	6:W	9:W	3:L
2	M Steadman	4.5	8:W	16:W	1:L	3:D	15:W	9:W
3	A Krstev	4.5	10:L	23:W	21:W	2:D	16:W	1:W
4	P Garbett	4.5	32:W	20:W	6:L	8:W	11:D	10:W
5	R Smith	4.5	14:D	17:D	24:W	7:D	20:W	6:W
6	R Dive	4	21:W	11:W	4:W	1:L	7:W	5:L
7	A Ansell	4	12:W	15:D	28:W	5:D	6:L	11:W
8	E Tanoi	4	2:L	22:W	13:W	4:L	25:W	19:W
9	G Thornton	3.5	23:W	10:W	19:D	15:W	1:L	2:L
10	M Brimble	3.5	3:W	9:L	35:D	26:W	19:W	4:L
11	I Dordevic	3.5	22:W	6:L	30:W	33:W	4:D	7:L
12	R Seabrook	3.5	7:L	21:L	29:W	13:D	26:W	20:W
13	H Bennett	3.5	30:D	27:D	8:L	12:D	34:W	23:W
14	R Perry	3.5	5:D	19:L	25:D	31:D	35:+	22:W
15	W Li	3	36:+	7:D	33:W	9:L	2:L	17:D
16	L Li	3	25:W	2:L	27:D	17:D	3:L	31:W
17	A Huang	3	19:D	5:D	26:D	16:D	22:D	15:D
18	R Jackson	3	1:L	35:D	23:L	29:D	30:W	32:W
19	D Shen	2.5	17:D	14:W	9:D	20:D	10:L	8:L
20	J Davis	2.5	35:W	4:L	31:W	19:D	5:L	12:L
21	P Stuart	2.5	6:L	12:W	3:L	35:D	27:D	25:D
22	B Rider	2.5	11:L	8:L	0:W	27:W	17:D	14:L
23	J Gao	2.5	9:L	3:L	18:W	30:D	33:W	13:L
24	H Gao	2.5	31:W	1:L	5:L	25:L	29:W	27:D
25	C Smith	2.5	16:L	32:D	14:D	24:W	8:L	21:D
26	H Milligan	2.5	27:D	30:D	17:D	10:L	12:L	34:W
27	W Power	2.5	26:D	13:D	16:D	22:L	21:D	24:D
28	J Browne	2.5	34:D	29:W	7:L	32:W	0:L	0:
29	H Marko	2	33:D	28:L	12:L	18:D	24:L	0:W
30	D Runcan	2	13:D	26:D	11:L	23:D	18:L	33:D
31	W Yao	2	24:L	0:W	20:L	14:D	32:D	16:L
32	R Taylor	2	4:L	25:D	34:W	28:L	31:D	18:L
33	C Burns	2	29:D	34:W	15:L	11:L	23:L	30:D
34	D Eade	1.5	28:D	33:L	32:L	0:W	13:L	26:L
35	P Hair	1.5	20:L	18:D	10:D	21:D	14:-	0:

### Games Selection

#### Dive, Russell – Stuart, Peter

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.e3  
 Be7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 a6 8.d4 cxd4 9.exd4  
 d6 10.b3 Rb8 11.Bb2 Qc7 12.Rc1 Bd7  
 13.Nf4 Rfc8 14.Re1 Qd8 15.d5 exd5  
 16.Ncxd5 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bf8 18.Be4 Ne7

19.Bxg7 Nxd5 20.Bxf8 Qxf8 21.Bxd5 Bc6  
 22.Re4 Bxd5 23.Qxd5 Rc5 24.Qd4 f6  
 25.Re6 Re5 26.Rxd6 Rbe8 27.Kg2 Kg7  
 28.Rc3 R8e7 29.Rf3 R7e6 30.Qg4+ Kf7  
 31.Rd7+ Re7 32.Rfd3 Rxd7 33.Rxd7+ Re7  
 34.Qf5 Kg7 35.Qd5 b5 36.c5 Kg6 37.c6  
 Re5 38.Qd3+ Kh6 1-0

**Taylor, Richard – Garbett, Paul**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6  
 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.0–0 b5 8.a3 Bb7  
 9.Be3 Nf6 10.Qd2 Na5 11.f3 Be7 12.Rad1  
 0–0 13.Bd3 Nc4 14.Bxc4 bxc4 15.Kh1  
 Rfd8 16.Bf4 d6 17.Bg3 Rab8 18.Rfe1 Ba8  
 19.Rb1 Qa5 20.Qe3 g6 21.f4 Rbc8 22.h3  
 d5 23.f5 Nxe4 24.fxe6 f6 25.Nxe4 dxe4  
 26.c3 Kg7 27.Rf1 Qc5 28.Bf4 Rxd4  
 29.Bh6+ Kg8 30.cxd4 Qd5 31.Rf2 Qxe6  
 32.Rbfl Bd5 33.Bf4 Rc6 34.Bg3 Rb6  
 35.Rcl Kg7 36.Rc3 g5 37.h4 h6 38.hxg5  
 hxg5 39.Bh2 Qg4 40.Qe2 Qxe2 41.Rxe2 f5  
 42.Be5+ Bf6 43.Rg3 Kg6 44.Bxf6 Rxf6  
 45.Rge3 Rb6 46.Kgl Re6 47.Rh3 Re8  
 48.g3 e3 49.Reh2 f4 50.g4 Bf7 51.Rh6+  
 Kg7 52.Rh7+ Kf6 53.R2h6+ Bg6 54.Kfl f3  
 55.Ke1 e2 56.Rxg6+ Kxg6 57.Rh2 Kf6  
 58.Rh1 Re4 0–1

**Brimble, Mark - Krstev, Antonio**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5  
 Nfd7 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.Bd3 a6 8.f4 c5 9.Nf3  
 Nc6 10.dxc5 Qxc5 11.Qd2 b5 12.Ne2 Nb6  
 13.b3 Bd7 14.c3 a5 15.Ned4 b4 16.Rc1  
 Na7 17.cxb4 Qxb4 18.0–0 0–0 19.Bxh7+  
 Kxh7 20.Ng5+ Kg8 21.Qd3 Rfe8 22.a3  
 Qxa3 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.f5 [24.Qh8+ Ke7  
 25.Qxg7 Rf8 26.Qf6+ Ke8] 24...exf5  
 25.Qh8+ Ke7 26.Qxg7 Rf8 27.Qf6+ Ke8  
 28.Qxb6 Qb4 29.Qxb4 axb4 30.Nxf5 Nb5  
 31.Nh7 Bxf5 32.Rxf5 Nd4 33.Rf2 Rh8  
 34.Nf6+ Ke7 35.Nxd5+ Ke6 36.Nc7+  
 Kxe5 37.Nxa8 Rxa8 38.Re1+ Kd5 39.Rxf7  
 Nxb3 40.Rb7 Kc4 41.Re4+ Nd4 42.Rd7  
 Ra1+ 43.Kf2 Rd1 44.Ke3 Rd3+ 45.Kf4  
 Kc3 46.Rc7+ Kb3 47.Ke5 Nb5 48.Rcc4  
 Nc3 49.Rxb4+ Ka3 50.Rg4 Rd2 51.Rb6  
 Re2+ rest of the moves illegible 1–0

**Dive, Russell – Garbett, Paul**

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 0–0  
 5.Bg2 d6 6.0–0 a6 7.Rb1 e5 8.d3 h6 9.b4  
 Nh5 10.a4 a5 11.bxa5 Rxa5 12.Nd2 e4  
 13.Bb2 exd3 14.exd3 Nd7 15.Nb3 Ra6  
 16.Qd2 c6 17.Ne4 Ndf6 18.Nxf6+ Nxf6  
 19.a5 Be6 20.Bc3 Qd7 21.Nd4 Qc7  
 22.Nxe6 fxe6 23.d4 Kf7 24.Rfe1 Re8  
 25.Bf1 Ra7 26.Bd3 Rg8 27.Qe3 Bf8 28.d5  
 1–0

**Steadman, Michael – McLaren, Leonard**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 Nc6 5.e4  
 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e5 Ng8 8.Be3 Nge7 9.a3  
 Ba5 10.b4 Bb6 11.Bb5 0–0 12.Bf2 Nf5  
 13.Nge2? (13.Bxc6) Ncxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4  
 15.Bd3 Qg5 16.Bg3 Qe3+ 17.Ne2 Bf5  
 18.Bxf5 Nxf5 19.Qd2 Rfe8 20.f4 Qxd2+  
 21.Kxd2 Ne3 22.Bf2 Nc4+ 23.Ke1 f6  
 24.exf6 gxf6 25.Ra2 d4 26.Kd1 d3 27.Nc3  
 Rad8 28.Re1 Rxe1+ 29.Bxe1 Ne3+ 30.Kc1  
 Nf1 31.Ne4 Be3+ 32.Kd1 Bxf4 33.Nxf6+  
 Kf7 34.Nh5 d2 35.Bf2 Be3 36.Bg3 Bg1  
 37.Bf4 Kg6 38.Ng3 Bxh2 39.Nxf1 Bxf4  
 40.Rc2 Re8 0–1

**McLaren, Leonard - Dive, Russell**

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.exd6  
 exd6 6.Nc3 Be7 7.Be3 a5 8.Bd3 Nc6  
 9.Nge2 a4 10.0–0 Nb4 11.d5 Nd7 12.Nd4  
 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 Ne5 14.Qe2 0–0 15.h3 Re8  
 16.b3 axb3 17.axb3 Rxa1 18.Rxa1 Bf6  
 19.Ra8 Nd7 20.Qa2 h6 21.Ncb5 Nb6  
 22.Rb8 Kh7 23.Qb1+ g6 24.Na7 Bxd4  
 25.Bxd4 Qh4 26.Qa1 Bd7 27.Bh8 f6  
 28.Bxf6 Qe4 29.Rxb7 Na8 30.Nb5 Bxb5  
 31.Rxb5 Nb6 32.Bd4 Nd7 33.Rb7 Rc8  
 34.Qd1 h5 35.Ba1 Nc5 36.Ra7 Nd3 37.Qd2  
 Ne1 38.f3 Qb1 39.Kh2 Nc2 40.Bc3 Qxb3  
 41.c5 dxc5 42.d6 Qb6 43.Rxc7+ Rxc7  
 44.d7 Rxd7 45.Qxd7+ Kh6 46.Qd2+ 1–0

# NZ Chess loses Great Supporter and Benefactor

## *George Trundle - 1918 - 2011*

A great supporter of New Zealand and Auckland chess, George Trundle, passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 aged 93. We reproduce Ewen Green's tribute to George originally published in the Chess Chatter newsletter in 2010.

**T**he ACC is just a week away from hosting the start of New Zealand's only annual IM-norm tournament - the George Trundle IM ( and Qualifier ). For the fifth consecutive year ( the first was in 2006 ). Before the Centre started running this tournament, New Zealand's top non-IM players had only had an opportunity to score an IM-norm about every five years or so, unless they were in the NZ Olympiad team. It is thanks to George ( and organiser Mike Steadman ), that we have this annual visit from an overseas GM and several top Australian players.

We are happy to report that the man for whom the tournament is named, is still going strong at age 92. George Trundle has been a benefactor of the Auckland Chess Centre - and also of New Zealand chess - for many years now.

Although he is not as agile as he once was, and certainly not as agile he'd like to be, George Trundle remains ever faithful to a



lifestyle that has seen him through a long and eventful life. And right in the middle of that is the one of the great pastimes that kept George upbeat in times of great duress and depression, chess. George first learned the game while a prisoner of war ( for four

years! ) during World War Two, taught by a Russian officer. One of the last living survivors of that war, George has been playing chess ever since.

George first started playing at the Chess Centre from the very first day of the Centre's existence. Not many of our present members will be aware that the Centre came into existence in the 1960's as a result of the amalgamation of the two biggest and strongest Auckland clubs - Dominion Rd ( which met right around the corner from the present clubrooms ), and the Auckland Chess Club ( which met in the centre of the city, in His Majesty's Arcade, before it was torn down a turned into...a car park ). The far-sighted actions of Charles Belton, a major force in the Auckland real estate business ( 20-plus offices throughout the city ), saw the Centre move into its own premises, here at 17 Cromwell St.

George has played in untold ( hundreds! ) of New Zealand tournaments since his return from the war in the late 1940's, as well as being a perennial visitor to the Canberra Easter tournament. His very best chess result was a fantastic 2nd= placing in one of the strongest NZ Championships ever held, the Christchurch International Open in 1966/67, finishing behind a Russian GM and the Centre's own Ortvin Sarapu (20-time NZ Champion).

Of our present members, perhaps Ewen Green has the longest memories of George's life - they played in 1962, in Cambridge. A draw, with George playing his beloved Vienna Opening. Ewen was still in Primary School, but remembers the game well.

Chess isn't George's only love in life. He also loves to paint watercolours, and to play tennis. Right up until two years ago, George loved to take a racket and play for an hour or two in the morning at his tennis club. George's paintings have been shown in some art galleries, although George is too modest to talk about them.

Nowadays, George has had to put the tennis on hold, but still loves to paint and enjoys the odd game of chess, while following the Centre's activities with great interest. He is a resident at the Jervois Rest Home, where - no surprise - painting is now a favourite activity of the residents.

### **One of George's last tournament games and commentary reproduced from 'Chess Chatter April 2011**

**By Edward Tanoi**

**T**he 2006 NZ Seniors Championships were played when George was only a sprightly 88 years old was the last tournament in which George took part. It was not unfair to say he was finding things a little difficult until he came up against an old foe. (but an even better friend) 'Wild Bill' Lynn.

William is a very aggressive player who loves to attack even in defence. In the game William tries to lure George into a prepared gambit. George sidesteps Williams preparations and sensibly adopts a softly softly approach. Sure enough Wild Bill comes out firing on all cylinders and the game tosses to and fro as Bill tries his best

Continued on page 27

# Queenstown Chess Classic

15th–23rd January 2012

Incorporating the official

**119th New Zealand National Championships**

Venue: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown

Timetable: 1 game per day (all rounds start at 3 pm)

## TOTAL PRIZEFUND \$30,000

1st: \$7,000	6th: \$1,400	11th: \$750
2nd: \$5,000	7th: \$1,300	12th: \$700
3rd: \$3,000	8th: \$1,200	13th: \$600
4th: \$2,000	9th: \$1,100	14th: \$550
5th: \$1,500	10th: \$1000	15th: \$500

There will also be grading prizes, senior and junior prizes, and a daily book prize donated by Gambit Publications Ltd.

The highest-placed eligible New Zealand player(s) will become the official **2012 NEW ZEALAND CLOSED CHESS CHAMPION(S)** and will have their name(s) recorded on the coveted Silver Rook trophy. An outright winner will qualify automatically for the **2012 New Zealand Olympiad Team**.

The highest-placed eligible New Zealand player(s) rated under 2000 NZCF will become the official **NEW ZEALAND MAJOR OPEN CHAMPION(S)**.

The highest-placed eligible New Zealand woman player will qualify automatically for the **2012 New Zealand Women's Olympiad Team** subject to winning outright (no ties).

[www.queenstownchess.com](http://www.queenstownchess.com)  
[www.newzealandchess.co.nz](http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz)

# The Kiwis at Doeberl and the SIO 2011

**Mike Steadman 2<sup>nd</sup> = at Sydney International Open**

**By Mike Steadman**

This year Hilton, Helen and I again played the two tournaments, Doeberl Cup in Canberra and the Sydney International Open (SIO) in Parramatta. Alan Ansell, Bill Forster and Luke Li joined us at the SIO, so not a bad Kiwi representation.

The Doeberl this year was a bit down on high rated players, the flow-on effect of this was that it was pretty much impossible for the Australian players to get IM norms due to the requirement to play three federations. It is complicated, but normally if you have enough foreign high rated players, then all you need to do is score the required amount of points. This was not a problem for us Kiwis however, we were always likely to play enough foreign players, our problem was playing good enough chess to qualify with the required points.

The tournament was not that great for Helen with 3 from 9 and Hilton with 3.5 from 9, they lost early and got caught up in the junior trap in this event, you play them round after round and because of their coaching, they really do prepare well for you. They both recovered towards the end

to get reasonable scores, however the damage had been done and more rating points had been donated to the Aussies.

My event started well enough, lost to GM Arutinian in round 2, no big dramas there, you kind of expect the result, had a good position and slowly let it slide by playing planlessly and finally got caught by one of his traps and it was over. Bounced back with a double the next day and was then back into the mix, I was paired with Solomon and this was a game to remember (not too fondly however). He took on my French, I knew it better and played a combination he had missed. Typical of Solomon, he decided to sacrifice his Queen for a Rook, Knight and pawn rather than go down meekly. I started making inroads and he then sacrificed his Rook for my Knight and had two Knights and a pawn for my Queen. The problem for me was his King was right up next to the pawn, there didn't seem to be anything I could do about the pawn advancing under this shield, so I decided to bail and take all his Kingside pawns and then swap Queens when he finally Queened. This left me 2 pawns versus the 2 Knights, an easy draw – so the books say. I was busy wasting moves trying to use up the 50 moves when I found my King could no longer go to the safe corner. To my horror his King and lone Knight

could keep my King boxed in and on the 47<sup>th</sup> move, just as I Queened, he mated me. I became famous after the event for this game, which was annotated on Chessbase for endgame interest. Check out the link: <http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=7192>

I then proceeded to play weakly in the evening round and lost again. This was it for my event, won three more and drew another game I should have won. So 5.5 from 9, best I have scored in this event, and I had stopped losing bundles of rating points to the juniors. Maybe I was learning how to deal with them, we would see at Sydney.

So what can we say about Canberra? The venue for the event cannot be faulted. However the location is very boring, on the Friday night it becomes a ghost town. The format of the event was very tough, two days of 3.00 pm starts and a night round starting at 7.00 pm.. Hilton was staying with friends and he didn't get to see them the whole time he was there. Next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event, so despite the bad bits, we may have to trek over there again.

## ***The SIO***

So onto Sydney we went. I caught the early flight out as I had to sign for Alan at the airport. While I was waiting for his flight, Bill turned up and once Alan arrived, we all trekked back to Domestic to get Helen. We caught a cab to Parramatta, we were unfortunate enough to get a ride with a religious nut who yabbered the whole trip about some religious rubbish. Luckily Helen kept him talking, I had switched off

after the first sentence.

The timetable for this event is much nicer than the Doeberl, all 9.30 starts with a 3.30 afternoon round, allows you to finish at a reasonable hour and then get dinner and relax. For some of the players this was their 3<sup>rd</sup> event as they had also played in Malaysia before the Doeberl, I think it showed in some of their chess, Sune Hansen had a tournament to forget for instance.

Anyway, into the chess. Helen and Hilton were just on the cusp and therefore were paired against the number 1 and 2 seeds, think they enjoyed their time up on the stage and on the internet boards, but there were to be no surprises, they struggled but duly lost. Like Doeberl, they both had difficult events, got caught down in the lower boards and couldn't get out till near the end. Helen recovered to score 4.5 from 9, a good comeback at the end. Hilton was on 3 from 7 looking at the same sort of result but he was unfortunate to get 2 Aussie juniors that played for his time trouble, from winning both games, his clock got the better of him and he lost both games tragically and remained on 3 points. Bill had an up and down event also, he either won well or lost badly, there appeared to be no games that got away from him, he was either in the box seat or getting beaten, he agreed the safe GM draw in the last round and got to 3.5.

Our two juniors Alan and Luke both had good events, they ended on 5 from 9. Luke was up on the stage for the last round and a draw would have seen him win a grade prize, but a loss to Moulton Ly in the last

put paid to that hope. Alan had a tough game with the ex Kiwi Igor Bjelobrk, Igor played the Snake Benoni (great anti junior stuff), Alan was completely flummoxed and played the game poorly, however Alan had shown a remarkable fighting spirit in his chess and just when Igor was coasting, Alan lulled him and then sprung his trap, it was enough to secure a well earned draw.

My tournament was certainly one to remember, I was described in the commentary room as being the luckiest player. I find that with the kind of chess I play, results happen most of the time and I have good and bad luck. This time the Gods seemed to be smiling on me. I played five titled players and four low rated players. These lowly rated caused my average to drop to a level which required a norm score of 7, my score of 6.5 from 9 was too low, however it was enough to get me 2<sup>nd</sup>= and my second GM scalp, so I was happy. My last round game against Greg Canfell was pretty typical of my tournament. I played a calm line against his Kings Indian and had a good position, then out of the blue my pieces became uncoordinated and he played a combination, there were pieces on all over the board. The trouble for Greg was his time had run down getting to the position, at the end of the combination he missed the winning move “e3”, and played what looked like a good move, but was in fact a loser, I then pounced, swapped everything off and won a piece, he resigned with seconds left on his clock. A heart-breaking loss for him as a win would have given him an IM norm. It was kind of justice for me however, the day before I was playing IM Kevin Goh and had a win on the board if I

had played “e3”, I didn’t play it either and then went on to lose, so I like to think the chess Gods returned the favour.

I can’t help but add a few of my games from this event, although not without their mistakes, they certainly kept them all interested up in the commentary room.

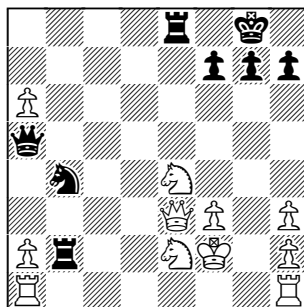
This is my game against the GM Sune Hansen, I was asked afterwards what I would have done had he played Kf8 instead of Nc2, I have to confess I went into the line “knowing” that he would play Nc2, was just one of those hunches – reckless, but my hunch was right – here is the game.

**Steadman, Mike - Hansen, Sune Berg**  
SIO 2011, 29.04.2011

GM Hansen wasn't having the best of tournaments and had a bad Doeberl as well, so was keen to get into him just in case I could get one over him while he wasn't on song. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5** Surprise for me, he had previously played the d5 lines capturing back on d5 with the Knight, guess these are drawish and he wanted to mix it up against the underrated FM - I was OK with that. **5.d5 0-0 6.e4 Re8 7.Nge2 d6 8.Bd2** I didn't think this correct, but couldn't remember the exact lines, I just remembered I had to be careful of sacrifices on the e4 pawn and checks on h4 to follow, this move takes care of that and I may castle Queenside if I get carried away :-). **8...a6 9.Ng3 b5** I was completely on my own, and the amount time he was spending I was sure he was making it up also. This looked very Blumenfeld Gambitish to me, but I had the useful e4 move in and thought that I could stop his



central pawn rollers. I decided I would take anything on offer and get him to prove it if I couldn't see a direct win. **10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.cxb5 d5 12.bxa6 e4 13.exd5** Was getting a bit edgy here, I have 3 pawns, but a couple of them could go back easily and my King is stuck in the centre, but I was down this track now, had to continue eating anything that could mate me. **13...Bh3+?** This move I had seen at move 10 when I entered this pawn grabbing line and I thought it was a mistake because of my reply, I was more worried about just taking back the d pawn and watching my King squirm. [13...Nxd5 14.Be2 Bc5 15.Nce4 Nxa6 16.Bxc4 Qb6 17.Qe2 I have 2 pawns, but my King is a long way from being safe, very tricky to unravel and get to an endgame where the 2 pawns will count.] **14.Nce4 Nxd5 15.Bxb4 Nxb4 16.gxh3 Qa5 17.Kf2 N8c6** OK, so a piece and 2 pawns up, but still the King is not completely comfortable, I decided to whip off the c pawn which nails down d3 for his Knights - maybe getting too greedy now. **18.Bxc4 Ne5 19.Qb3?** This move was played because I had seen the final position, looking at it now the calm retreat of the Bishop was a more certain win. [19.Be2 Rad8 20.Qb3 Ned3+ 21.Kf1 Nf4 22.Bc4 Re7 23.a3 Nxa6 24.Qc3 This is obviously best and easiest line for White, piece and 2 pawns up and Black's pieces have now been pushed back - would be an easy win.] **19...Nxc4 20.Qxc4 Rac8 21.Qb3 Rc2+ 22.Ne2** I was getting a lot of crowd viewing going on here, this line wasn't the most accurate for me, but I had seen the trick that would finish the game off and I just felt certain that he would play into it - not good chess, but worked. **22...Rxb2 23.Qe3 (Diagram) Nc2??**

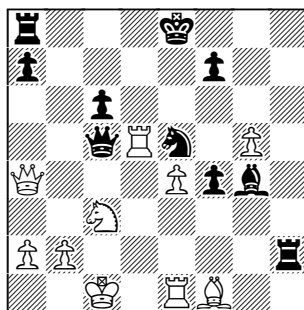


this change of events and when I attacked again and under-promoted a pawn to a Knight with check, he miscalculated and missed the right King move, I may have gotten away with a draw, but would have been lucky as it was, all other squares were mined and lost to various mating patterns with the Queen and Rook.

**Steadman, Mike - Samar, Raul**  
SIO 2011, 30.04.2011

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Bd6 6.Qc2 Nbd7 7.g4** This was it, I had seen Caleb Wright use this to destroy Antonio Krstev at our weekender and we had looked at it afterwards, was just the kind of thing I would enjoy having lost a winning game the round before, nothing cures depression like getting stuck into your next opponent. **7...h6 8.Rg1 e5** I had absolutely no idea what the theory was here, but felt the spirit of the opening was for White to just get stuck in and ignore pawns etc. **9.h4 e4 10.Nd2 g5 11.hxg5 hxg5 12.f3 exf3 13.Nxf3 dxc4 14.e4** I felt White just needed to get on with it, the c pawn is not of much consequence at the moment, my King plans to go to the Queenside but Black's will take some time to get safe, just what I was looking for in this game. **14...Bf4?** This has to be bad, Black is developing White's Queenside with tempos and ignoring his King's position. [14...e5 15.e5 cxd4 16.exd6 dxc3 17.Qxc3 Qb6 18.Bxc5 Qxd6 19.Qe3+ Qe6 20.Qxe6+ fxe6 21.Bxc4 This would have been a disappointment to lose the attacking chance, but White is much better here, still ahead in development and the 2 Bishops should ensure an endgame win.] **15.Bxf4 gxf4 16.g5 Nh5 17.0-0-0 Ng3 18.d5?** Was

getting carried away now, ruining my good game. [18.Qd2 Qc7 19.d5 Nxf1 20.Rgxf1 Nf8 21.d6 Qd8 22.e5 Be6 23.Ne4 Qb6 24.Nf6+ I missed his response, this Qd2 would have forced the passive Queen and White retains a big plus.] **18...Qb6 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.Bxc4?** Now I was losing the thread, bad moves follow bad moves. [20.Kb1 Nxf1 21.Rgxf1 Nc5 22.Rh1 Rg8 23.e5 Bg4 24.Qh7] **20...Qe3+ 21.Nd2 Ne5 22.Qa4 Bd7 23.Rge1 Qc5** Black is better here and I was pretty annoyed, this was when I had seen the saving resource. The moves he plays look great, but I have a saving trick. **24.Ba6 Rh2 25.Nf1 Nxf1 26.Bxf1 Bg4!?** This move still wins, but allows me to make it look spooky and he had chances to go wrong. [26...Rb8 27.Re2 Rxe2 28.Bxe2 f3 29.Bf1 Qe3+ 30.Rd2 Rxb2 31.Kxb2 Qxd2+ Black is winning.] **27.Rd5**



**Qf2 28.Rxe5+ Kf8 29.Qb4+ Kg8? 30.Ne2 Rh1 31.g6 Rxf1 32.gxf7+ Kh7 33.f8N+ Rxf8??** [33...Kh8 34.Ng6+ Kg7 35.Qe7+ (35.Re7+ Kh6 36.Ngxf4 Rxe1+ 37.Kc2 Rxe2+ 38.Nxe2 Qxe2+ 39.Qd2+ Qxd2+ 40.Kxd2) 35...Kg8 36.Ngxf4 Rxe1+ 37.Kd2 Rxe2+ 38.Nxe2 Qxe2+ 39.Kc3 Black is a piece up, but mate threats loom,

a perpetual seems likely.] **34.Qe7+** Mate cannot be prevented, great start, bad middle, lucky finish - typical Steadman chess :) 1-0

So my last round opponent was Greg Canfell, I got the good draw and finished with a White against him, helpful as I was trying for the full point. I felt with all those players just a half point ahead, they would all close their shoulders and take the quick draws, this meant if I could win and all the others drew I could get to second equal. He played a Kings Indian and I used my normal Bd3 line which prevents a lot of their kingside attack routine. My position was steadily improving and was looking OK for the full point. I then made a mistake and he fired up the board, there were pieces under attack for both sides, but his clock told and he missed the winning move and I got the win.

**Steadman, Mike - Canfell, Greg**  
SIO 2011, 01.05.2011

I knew Greg played the King's Indian, I decided to play the line that worked against Gawain, the database showed he played the Bd3 line the same way. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.Nge2 e5 7.0-0 c6** Greg thought for quite a while over this move, he usually played the main line Nc6. I wasn't too concerned, this type of King's Indian does not have the same kingside attack threats that Black normally gets and White gets good play in the centre and on the Queenside. **8.h3 Na6 9.d5 Nc5 10.Bc2 a5 11.Be3 cxd5 12.cxd5 Nfd7!?** [12...Bd7 13.Rc1 a4 14.Qd2 Qa5 15.a3 Rfc8 16.Ng3 Qb6 17.Rb1] **13.a3 f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.f4** This is the idea, White stops Black's Kingside ambitions and prepares to

operate on the Queenside on the back of the cramping d5 pawn. **15...Qe7 16.Ng3 e4 17.Bd4 Nf6 18.Qd2 Bd7 19.b4 axb4 20.axb4 Na6 21.Na4? Nc7** [21...e3 22.Bxe3 Nxb4 23.Bb3 Nfxd5 24.Bd4 Bxd4+ 25.Qxd4 Bxa4 26.Bxd5+ Nxd5 27.Qxd5+ Qf7 28.Qxd6 b5] **22.Nb6 Rxa1** I was tossing up and was leaning to Bishop takes, but flipped at the last minute, missed his line completely. **23.Rxa1?** [23.Bxa1 Qf7 24.Bb3 Qg6 25.Qe3 Bb5 26.Rc1 Rf7 27.Kh2 This position is pretty even, difficult to assess for us mere FMs.] **23...Nb5 24.Bb2 Nh5 25.Nxd7 Bxb2** [25...Qxd7 26.Nxh5 Bxb2 27.Ra2 Bc3 28.Qd1 Qc7] **26.Nxf8 Bxa1 27.Nxh5?** [27.Nxf5 Qxf8 28.Bxe4 Nf6 29.Bd3 Nd4 Black is going to win here, but White can squirm for a while.] **27...Kxf8?** [27...e3 28.Qc1 e2 29.Ne6 Bc3 30.Bd3 e1Q+ 31.Qxe1 Bxe1 32.Bxb5 Black is winning easily. The Gods were smiling.] **28.Ng3 Qf6 29.Ba4 Nd4?? 30.Qc1 Bc3 31.Kf1 b5 32.Qxc3 bxa4 33.Ne2** Greg resigned here, very tough loss for him, another IM norm got away from him. 1-0

Here are the games from the other Kiwis at the event:

**Kresovic, V - Li, L**  
SIO 2011

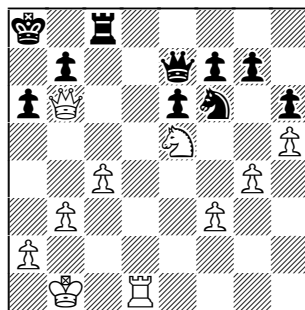
**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7** This is Luke's standard line in the Classical French 5.Bxf6 e5 is the most common move here, this line is a do or die attack line by White. But Luke is naturally greedy, so not sure this was the best choice. **5...Bxf6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Qd2 b6 8.0-0 dxe4 9.Nxe4** This is definitely not the main line, the question is whether Black's compact

position can hold against the attack that is coming. **9...Bb7 10.Bd3 Nd7 11.Qf4** White is making it up here, the "normal plan is to play h4 and Ng5, prepared to sacrifice the knight to open the h file. **11...Be7 12.h4 Nf6 13.Nfg5 h6 14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Be4 Bxg5 17.hxg5 Bxe4 18.gxh6 Bg6 19.hxg7+ Kxg7 20.Rh3?** White miscalculated here and did not appreciate Black's defensive chances, he should have taken the draw. [20.Qh6+ Kf6 21.Qh4+ Kg7 22.Qh6+] **20...Qf6 21.Qh6+ Kg8 22.Rdh1 Rfd8 23.c3 Rac8 24.g4 Qg7 25.Qe3 c5 26.dxc5 Rd3 27.Rh8+ Qxh8 28.Rxh8+ Kxh8 29.Qe5+ Kg8 30.cxb6** The smoke has cleared and Black is easily winning, the 3 pawns don't make up for the pieces. **30...Rcd8 31.Qe1 axb6 32.a4 Kf8 33.b3 Rc8 34.c4 Rxb3 35.Qe5 Rxc4+ 36.Kd1 Rb1+ 37.Kd2 Rc2+** Once White spurned the draw, Luke was ruthless, a good win. 0-1

**Milligan, Helen (2023) - Dale, Ari (1902)**  
Doeberl (3), 22.04.2011

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ngf6 11.Bd2 Qc7 12.0-0-0 0-0-0 13.Kb1 e6 14.Qe2 Bd6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4** This is pretty much all theory, and now I'd expect ...Nf6 and ...c5, in some order. Ari's plan to get the king out of the way and the rooks across to the c-file is also fine. **16...Kb8 17.c4 c5 18.Qc2 Rc8 19.b3 Ka8 20.Bc3 Nf6 21.dxc5** White could also consider [21.d5 exd5 22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Rxd5 intending to play against the weak pawns, but I was a bit dubious about leaving him with that dark-squared bishop, with all the holes around my king.] **21...Qxc5 22.Bd4**

**Qc7 23.Qb2 Qe7 24.Ne5 Ba3 25.Qe2 Bc5 26.g4 a6 27.f3** All standard ideas against this variation of the Caro-Kann, where the black kingside pawns are not healthy in an endgame. **27...Rhd8 28.Bxc5 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 Rxc5 30.Qe3 Rc8 31.Qb6**



White has made good progress. The knight is happy on e5, the pawns are secure, the d-file is under control and the queen is making aggressive noises on b6. Not enough to win, admittedly, but enough to worry my young opponent, who now tried (unwisely) to break out. **31...g6? 32.hxg6 fxg6 33.Rd6** [33.Nxg6? Qh7 is probably what he was hoping for.] **33...g5 34.Rxe6 Qh7+ 35.Kb2 Nd7 36.Nxd7 Qxd7** White is considerably better here but needs to be careful. The result of a major-piece ending often depends on the relative safety of the kings. My king is rather vulnerable to perpetual check. It's necessary to keep the black pieces away from my king, while trying to demonstrate that Black's king is in trouble. Snatching pawns just isn't going to work. **37.Qd6 Qg7+ 38.Qe5 Qd7 39.Rd6 Qf7 40.Qf6 Qe8 41.Qe6 Qh8+ 42.Ka3 Re8 43.Qd5** Now my king looks secure, the weak f-pawn is covered, and there are some serious threats against the black king.

43...Qf8 44.c5 Ka7 45.Rd7 Rb8 46.Rf7 Qh8 47.c6 Qc3 48.exb7 Qc1+ 49.Ka4 Qe3 50.b4 Qb6 51.Qc5 Qxc5 52.bxc5 Rxb7 53.Rxb7+ Kxb7 54.Kb4 Kc6 55.Kc4 1-0

**Ansell, Alan - Brown, Andrew**  
Sydney International 2011 28.04.2011

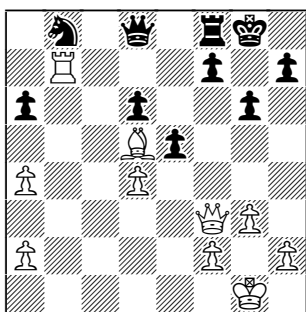
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Rc1 Ng6 14.c5 a6 This is the first parting from conventional theory. The opening is the Kings Indian Defence. Usually white's plan here is to advance his queenside pawns and rip open lines for his pieces there, and hopefully create a passed pawn, while black tries to play a massive attack on the kingside against white's king. Usually white's queenside advance is faster, but it's all very well for him to queen a pawn there, but it's no use to him if he's getting mated on the kingside. 15.c6 ?! 15...Nf6 16.cxb7 Bxb7 17.b4 h5 18.a4 Bc8 19.b5 g4 The battle lines are drawn - white can now create a passed pawn on the queenside, while meanwhile black is forging ahead on the kingside. 20.bxa6 g3 !? Black sacs a pawn on the kingside to hasten his progress. He doesn't want to recapture on a6 and allow white to exchange his bad light squared bishop with black's excellent one and follow up with Nb5, at which point black's position seems to be on the brink of collapse. 21.hxg3 fxc3 22.Bxc3 Bh6 23.Rb1 Be3+ At the time this seemed like a fairly harmless move. But that's because I hadn't seen... 24.Bf2 Ng4 !! A wonderful idea! 25.fxc4 I had to capture the knight, because after 25. Nd3, ...Nxf2 26. Nxf2 Qg5! is crushing. 25...Rxf2 ! The idea behind ...Ng4. In the resulting position,

white is a rook and two pawns to the good, but black's dark squared bishop is an invincible monster and all white's pieces end up defending the pinned f2 rook. 26.Rxf2 Qh4 27.Nd3 Bxa6 28.Qe1 This move was a key decision. Black threatened ...Bxd3, eliminating the defender of the f2 rook. White has four reasonable responses: 28. Nb5, 28. Rb2, 28. Qf1 or the move I chose, 28. Qe1. According to my engine, they all draw except 28. Qf1, which hands black the advantage. 28...Bxd3 29.Bxd3 Qg3 ! 30.Nd1 ?! After this inaccuracy, white is struggling to keep afloat. Probably best is 30. Ne2, which allows black to regain his material after 30...Bxe2+ 31. Qxe2 Qxd3 with a likely draw. 30...Bd4 ?! Black misses his chance to pounce on white's jugular with 30...Bxf2! 31. Nxf2 Nh4 32. Kf1 Rf8 when black has a sizeable advantage with a complementary king hunt. 31.Rb3 ! This makes life a bit trickier for black, who is now threatened with having his queen evicted. 31...Nf4 With the threat of ...Qxg2# 32.Qf1 ? 32. Kf1! is probably the only move for white to survive here, but it is hard finding moves that don't lose time after time. 32...Rf8 ? Black returns the favour. 33.Kh1 ? The losing mistake. 33. Bc4 offers good drawing chances. 33...Qh4+ 34.Kg1 hxg4 Crushing. 35.g3 Qxg3+ 36.Kh1 Rf6 37.Rh2 Nh3 38.Rb8+ Kg7 White is still a rook up, but his position is not to be envied. 39.Rg2 Rxf1+ 40.Bxf1 Qh4 41.Rh2 Qe1 A gruesome end. 0-1

## **Bill Forster at the SIO**

*Bill tells the story of his Sydney experience; My score at Sydney was +3, -5, =1. It was a strong event, but still*

this was a little under par and featured a couple of bad losses against lower rated players. Strangely, in spite of this I left quite satisfied with my chess. The reason was that all three of my wins were very satisfying. Two of them were tough fights that involved me getting a small edge, building it into something substantial and then ultimately converting in an endgame. Any win like that for me is sufficiently unusual to be memorable, two in one tournament is exceptional! And the other win featured a combination that I think any chess player would be proud of. I keep playing chess for the same reason as a golf duffer who keeps coming back because every so often he plays one decent shot. This is the position from Forster-Zulkifli Sydney 2011;



I had been angling for this position for a while, assuming that my pressure on f7 would be completely decisive. But now I found to my horror that things were not so clear. Of course I was winning a pawn, but I wasn't sure it was really such a big pawn. If I captured with the bishop the bishop might be embarrassed by the f file pin. But capturing with the rook and exchanging a powerful rook for a passive one didn't seem right either. The longer I looked the more

my indecision grew, and my perenial enemy (the clock) started taunting me. I think my opponent's time advantage was more than an hour when I finally saw the light. Everything fell into place and I played my move knowing that for once I had seized a challenging "White to play and win" opportunity.

**25.Bxf7+ Kg7** Of course Black would rather play 25...Kh8. The first (and admittedly obvious, though it took me ages) point was realising that he couldn't due to 26.Rxb8. Darryl Johansen happened to walk past at the critical time and after the game he asked how things went. Of course he had seen this deflection at a glance. But I had the satisfaction of pointing out to him the real point of the combination. **26.Be8+!** Inspired by 25.Be8 in Reti-Bogoljubov New York 1924, communication between the black major pieces is disrupted. **26...Kg8** Explaining this to Darryl afterwards saw him initially smiling at Be8+ "Ah the Reti move", but then a frown, "What have you got after Kg8?" **27.Qb3+!** Darryl's smile returned when I answered. "So cute!". Remember that Darryl was operating blindfold after one glance at an irrelevant patzer's board more than an hour earlier. Spotting this non-obvious move ahead of time was my eureka moment. White simply wins the knight. My bishop serves to prevent the rook on f8 defending the knight and when I capture the knight the bishop is protected by the x-ray action of my rook through the queen. The only disappointing aspect is that instead of my beautiful main line Black chose to lose prosaically by 26...Nd7 27.Rxd7+ Qxd7 28.Qxf8+ Kxf8 29.Bxd7 with a trivial endgame win a piece up.

## 'I Get My Kicks Above The Waste-Line Sunshine!' - Hastings 2010.

**By Philip Rossiter**, with occasional contributions from Tim Rice and Bjorn Ulvaeus.

I left my partner behind in Denmark ('I'd let you watch, I would invite you, but the Queens we use would not excite you.'). managed to avoid the delays created by the coldest December in that country for 29 years, and took two flights, eventually landing at Gatwick Airport. Then a train to Brighton, then another train, and at about 3pm I arrived...at Hastings.

Hastings was quiet, and looked a bit run down ('Whaddya mean!...you've seen one crowded, polluted stinking town'). I found the place I would be staying at, a nice place called the Millfont Guest House, which was warm, dry, and clean and had nice people. Then I went to the beach to breathe the sea air...ever since I had begun to play chess, more or less from the time I first picked up a chess book, I had wondered, and dreamt about, this moment...what it would be like to play at Hastings.

I could not stay for the entire 86<sup>th</sup> International Chess Congress so I decided to play in the Christmas Morning and Christmas Afternoon tournaments, two of a series that players can play in if they don't compete in the Masters, the main tournament. The Congress was held at the

Hornbye Sports Complex, in a large room that looks like a basketball court. But now it was covered with chessboards. It was a good 15 minute walk from where I was staying, which suited me fine as I like to make my own way to a tournament and collect my thoughts before the games ahead. In the afternoon rounds, the Masters was also on so you could watch the GM's in action. The top four boards were all up on big screens ('this grips me more than would a muddy old river or reclining Buddha') and the other top boards were plugged in so you could follow them on the internet. It was great to see British players like Bernard Cafferty, Robert Bellin, and Aaron Summerscale in action.

As for my own chess, I had no expectations, as I had not played much over the board chess lately. As it happened, I played quite well, and over the two tournaments scored four wins, two draws and two loses ('not much between despair and ecstasy'), narrowly missing a prize in the Christmas Morning tournament. There were times during my games when I would think of the history here, and wonder 'What would Capablanca, or Botvinnik, or Tal, or Korchnoi do?' 'Not get into a position even remotely like yours!' was the usual response I would give myself.

My partner joined me on the last day, and while I played chess in the morning round, she was having breakfast with the Chairman of the Hastings Chess Club,

gaining vital information such as ‘where is a good place to get an evening meal in Hastings on New Year’s Eve?’ Fortunately for me, she also has considerable skill as a photographer, and so I have pictorial memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. A childhood dream fulfilled. On the last evening we went to a wonderful Italian restaurant, and then watched the fireworks of New Year, with floodlights on the old Castle, before going to a bar for a New Year’s drink, the bar did play music we knew so we danced for a while to bring in 2011.

Friendly people, a sense of wonder and history...and chess, chess, chess...a fantastic way to end 2010. Here is one of my games.

### **86<sup>th</sup> Hastings International Congress Christmas Morning Tournament, Round 2, 29/12/2010.**

**I. Deswarte-P. Rossiter**

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. c3 Nf6 4. d3 Nc6 5. g3 Qc7 6. Bg2 g6 7. a4 Bg7 8. O-O O-O 9. Na3 a6 10. Bd2 Rb8 11. b4 cxb4** I wasn’t overly impressed with White’s opening, which seemed passive. It was here that I hit upon an idea... **12. cxb4 Nxe4** Rybka hates this of course and thinks White is winning. That’s probably true, but White has to play a bit of chess to prove it. **13.dxe4 Bxa1 14. Qxa1 f6 15. Rc1 Qd8 16. Nd4** 16. Qd5+ Kg7 17. Qd5 Bg4 18. Nc4 or 16. b5 axb5 17. Qc4+ Kg7 18. Nxb5 were better according to Rybka. My opponent seemed to want to exchange pieces...surely this is better for the side with the Rook, in this case Black. **16...Nxd4 17. Qxd4 Be6 18. Bf1 Rc8 19. Bc4 Bxc4 20. Rxc4** Rybka still likes White but I was feeling more comfortable. With

the exchange of Rooks White’s checkmating potential goes down considerably. **20...Qd7 21. Kg2** 21. Bh6 Rfd8 22. Qc4+ was surely better. **21...Kg7 22. Rxc8 Rxc8 23. Nc4** White presses but Black has no real weaknesses, I was feeling Ok here. **Qe6 24. Nb6 Rc6 25. Nd5 Kf7 25...Rc2 26. b5 axb5 27. axb5 Rc2 28. Qd3 Rc8 28...Qc8 29. b6 Rc6 30. Bc3 h5** I played this move feeling confident that I couldn’t lose this game, and as a way of telling my opponent that. He seemed to sense this, as now he blunders, losing the e-pawn when, for the first time in the game, Black is the only one playing to win. **31. Qf3 Rc4 32. e5** 32. Qd1 or 32. Nc7 were his last hope. **32...dxe5 33. Qd3** Oh dear, this loses of course. White plays on, out of inertia perhaps. **33...Qc6 34. f3 e6 35. Qxg6+ Kxg6 36. Ne7+ Kf7 37. Nxc6 Rxc6 38. Ba5 Rc5 39. Be1 Rb5 40. Bf2 Rb2 41. h4 Kg6 42. g4 Rb4 43. gxh5 Kxh5 44. Kh3 Rb3 45. Kg2 f5 0-1.**

## **Book Reviews**

### **Dynamic Chess Strategy by Mihai Suba, Published by New in Chess 2010 Edition**

**Reviewed by Bill Forster**

**T**his is the second edition of a book first published twenty years ago. According to Jonathan Rowson in New in Chess, the limited print run and high reputation of the original edition made second hand copies



extremely sought after and valuable. I was consequently excited to get my hands on a review copy, and I had very high expectations.

At its heart this book is a collection of thirty six of Romanian GM Suba's most interesting games. I wouldn't be surprised to find that the original conception was essentially "My 36 Memorable Games", and part way through Suba recognised there was a common theme (i.e. "Dynamic Chess Strategy") running through the material.

Suba assumes his reader is fully conversant with the classically established elements of chess strategy (pawn majorities, central control, open files, outposts, minor piece imbalances inter-alia). He sets out to supplement and in some cases challenge traditional ideas. He also hopes to provide a more realistic picture of real struggles than the recipes so often served up by traditional strategy books (whereby a strong player overwhelms a weaker one using a single strategic theme). Suba uses a memorable phrase to condemn this sort of thing; in modern chess a "one doing the other applauding plan is not available anymore".

Given that a collection of his own games hold the book together, unsurprisingly his preferred territory for exploration are the unbalanced, asymmetrical, dynamic (no getting away from this word) positions that arise from his favourite openings. Lopez and QGD addicts should probably look elsewhere for inspiration. Suba prefers openings where black attempts to unbalance the contest from move one. In particular there are a lot of hedgehogs in this book. Suba is in his element when black holds his pieces back, seeks harmony

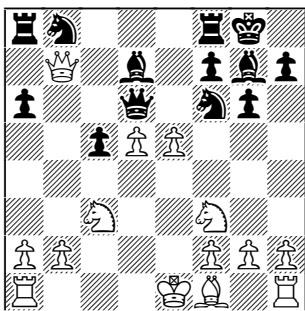
in a constricted space, and strives for a precisely timed thematic pawn break (or breaks) that unleash the coiled spring like 'dynamic potential' of his pieces.

When learning new things (in any field) I prefer working with teachers who meticulously organise material and then deliver it using some simple, systematic and straightforward scheme. Eventually I realised that this is not the way Suba operates, and once I came to accept that, I really started to enjoy the book. Suba meanders. He tells jokes. (Often the theme is the communist era in Eastern Europe; What is the definition of a quartet? The Romanian Symphony Orchestra upon returning from a tour to the West). He weaves in his career highlights, including guidebook like descriptions of attractive tournament venues.

Suba's prose style is a little challenging. It's professorial, intellectual and distinctly European. Sometimes his message threatens to get lost in deep philosophical thickets. But he does have a nice turn of phrase and his deep love for the material shines through. In a new, long introductory section he tantalises the reader with intriguing hints at his main themes. For example, when discussing the appeal of Alekhine's defense "The possibility to move around with one knight, while the opponent plays 'useful' moves is undeniable proof that the other pieces may accumulate potential even without moving".

But ultimately for me this book is successful because of the exceptionally exciting and interesting illustrative games, their thematic interconnection, and the original, insightful, and entertaining

commentary that goes with them. To finish here is just a tiny snippet of the beautiful chess found in the book. Be assured that in the book this example is embedded in a wealth of interesting discussion of the whole game, including the thought processes of both players;



In this position from Korchnoi-Suba Beer-Sheva 1984, Black played the remarkable 13...Bc8!! . Suba describes it as “one of the best moves I have ever found over the board”. The move refuted Korchnoi’s prepared combination, and after spending two minutes to get this far, Korchnoi had to spend 30 minutes seeking a way to stay in the game. There is an unusual NZ connection in that Suba illustrates the hopelessness of Black’s position if he fails to find this resource with the game Martin-Smith Dunedin 1988. I think 13...Bc8!! is probably a 2800 rated move and I don’t think we can blame Bob for playing 13...Re8 instead.

## Sicilian Attacks. Powerful Charges and Typical Tactics by Yuri Yakovich 2010, Published by New in Chess

Reviewed by Ross Jackson

One could not imagine that a book a mere 208 pages long would be able to provide more than a cursory introduction to an opening system as expansive as the Open Sicilian. But Russian chess trainer , Grandmaster Yuri Yakovich, has produced a real gem. His 2010 book “ Sicilian Attacks. Powerful Charges and Typical Tactics” provides a strategic understanding of the critical themes of the Scheveningen, Taimanov,Rauzer, Kalashnikov/Sveshnikov and Dragon structures. He analyses key games that show the evolution of chess theory and often provides his own discoveries which overturn the evaluations of world champions and computer programs. It quickly becomes apparent just how critical dynamic factors are for opening move choice in the Sicilian. At the end of each chapter Yakovich provides summarised recommendations of best play for both colours.

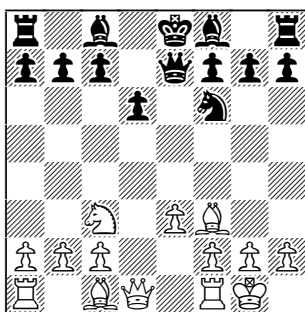
Being a chess coach Yakovich writes with a lucid, engaging style. For example in describing a game where Bent Larsen ,playing Black , began a pawn storm to defeat Bobby Fischer, he writes 24... a4! Let’s go! There are also pearls of wisdom for practical play. He recounts how Tal was prepared to make a positional piece sacrifice based on intuition , yet in the same game not trust to his tactical ability to choose certain complicated lines. In

describing the difficulty faced by the defender he quotes Tal as saying “Years of analysis and minutes of play are far from the same thing!”. This book is both an opening guide and a masterpiece of middlegame exposition. Whether one wants to defeat or defend the Sicilian it is highly recommended reading.

## **George Trundle** **Continued from page 12**

to unnerve our George into submission. A well played game by George, one of which he can be proud and a fitting end for a fine chess player, officer and a gentleman.

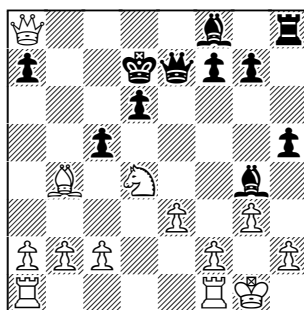
**1. d4 e5** The Englund Gambit. A rather crude if ambitious attempt by Black to blow White out of the water if he is unfamiliar. **2. dxe5 Nc6 3. Nf3 Qe7 4. e3!?** George keeps it safe and now William is on his own. **Nxe5 5. Be2 Nxf3+ 6. Bxf3 d6 7. Nc3 Nf6 8. O-O**



George has kept things relatively simple but he is still better because black is behind in development as a result of Qe7. It will

take a few more moves for William to untangle his pieces after his opening plans went astray. Playing slowly and repositioning pieces is not in William's vocabulary and his impatience to strike out, particularly after Plan A failed, leads to further disaster. **8...Be6? 9. Bxb7 Rb8 10. Bc6+ Kd8 11. Bf3** retreating his piece to a safe square. White is a pawn up for nothing, the Black King is stuck in the centre and Black's pieces are all at sea.

**11... Rb4** Falling back to Plan C, make something up in the hope it leads somewhere, William tries to generate a Kingside attack. **12. Bd2 h5** Naturally. **13. Ne2 Ng4** William tries to offer his knight in a last ditch attempt to open the h file. **14. g3?** Perhaps George felt his position was safer if his light squared bishop was fianchettoed. The move nearly throws away his advantage as now Black can play h4 with a chance to open some attacking lines. **Ne5 15. Nd4! Nxf3+ 16. Qxf3** The queen enters the game without loss of time. Black's rook's premature advance is about to be punished. **16... Bg4 17. Qa8+! Kd7 18. Bxb4 c5??**



**19. Qc6+ Kd8 20. Ba5+ 1-0** George can force mate with **20...Qc7 21 Qxc7+ Ke8 22Qd8#** A fine game.

## Letter from the Kingside

### How I Almost Changed the Face of Chess!

By Roger Nokes

**T**True story. The mid 1980s marked the coming of age of the personal computer. Sure there had been the Commodore 64, the Sinclair Spectrum and the like in the previous few years but in 1984 Apple launched its industry defining Macintosh computer and IBM its PC AT. In 1985 I was finishing my PhD at the University of Canterbury (having my thesis typed on a typewriter I might add, as I certainly didn't have the cash to buy a personal computer!) and in 1986 I found myself in the Australian capital on a two year post-doctoral fellowship at the Australian National University. My long-standing fascination with computer programming led me to invest in another of the iconic computers of the era, the Commodore Amiga - a machine renowned for its graphics capability. After work I taught myself C programming and embarked on a personal project that I felt had both personal, and perhaps commercial, opportunities - the development of a database for storing, retrieving and sorting chess games. The name of my creation - Chessbase!

I can still remember the hours of time invested in this project. Designing graphical images for each of the chess pieces. Labouring over the most efficient storage mechanism for archiving the moves - worrying about every extraneous bit. For those of you too young to remember these early computers I should mention that my computer had half a megabyte of RAM (although I did expand this by one megabyte for the princely sum of A\$699!), no hard disk, and a floppy drive that could store 1.2 Mbytes of data if my memory serves me correctly. I lovingly invested many, many hours in this enterprise.

You all know the end of this story. Not surprisingly this idea was not mine alone and in January of the following year science journalist Frederic Freidel and physics student Matthias Wullenweber, who had established a company together, released the first version of their chess database running on the Atari ST. It too was called Chessbase. On hearing of the release of the European version of my program I lost interest in my project and it remains incomplete.

What has brought this to my mind recently is the fact that May 2011 is Chessbase's 25th anniversary. Why May 2011 and not January 2012? Because 19 May is the anniversary of the day the program's developers showed the program to one of its very first adopters, a young, and yet to be world champion, Garry Kasparov. A recent article on the Chessbase website recounts the early history of the software and quotes directly from Kasparov's book "Child of Change" where he explains the impact, on him, of seeing the technology

for the first time. Within a year he had enthusiastically embraced the new paradigm and was using it in preparation for his chess games.

If we looked back at that achievement today we would barely give it a second glance, but at the time it had huge ramifications for the chess world. In the quarter of a century since that time technology has developed beyond what we could imagine in 1986 and the capabilities of Chessbase today surpass those of its predecessor by orders of magnitude. Kasparov recounts the fact that in 1986 a floppy disk could only store 6000 games. Today the Chessbase database includes millions of games.

You'll be pleased to know that my resentment at having my idea "stolen" by others has long since dissipated and like nearly all enthusiastic chess players today my laptop has a version of Chessbase firmly installed, and heavily used when I prepare for, and attend, chess events. But the technology doesn't stand still and the latest offering from the Chessbase crew is an app for the Apple iPad and iPhone that gives users on-line access to the Chessbase database. The implications of this technology for unethical behaviour at chess events are substantial and we will soon require a ban on all electronic devices at chess tournaments and players will need to be frisked at the door!

Perhaps the 25th anniversary of Chessbase is a good time to reflect on its impact on the chess world. The world appears to have an insatiable appetite for information of all forms and the chess database is just another

manifestation of this appetite. Chess players want everything at their fingertips - the latest wrinkle in the Najdorf Sicilian, the latest games by their next opponent, and the latest results of their favourite chess star. Once one chess player has this capability all serious chess players require it - hence the burgeoning demand for chess databases.

I have mixed feelings about the ready accessibility of this overwhelming amount of chess information. I can't deny that I am an avid user. In many ways it is addictive. There is always one more game to be found and explored just in case it has the silver bullet for some tricky opening line. When preparing for an opponent this wealth of information about their past games is strangely soothing and reassuring.

On the other hand this information overload evokes feelings of comprehension that are deceptive. Like an academic subject the mere fact that you have access to textbooks, articles and lecture material doesn't guarantee any internalisation of the information gathered together in these sources. In some ways I miss the "old days" when my injection of new opening ideas occurred every six months with the arrival of the latest edition of Informator. These hardcopy sources provided only a few games but these were often annotated and the simple fact that the information available was so sparse meant that you needed to put in the work to analyse and explore the ideas yourself. In the end the benefit to me was probably greater.

The clock cannot be turned back and it is up to each individual to make the new

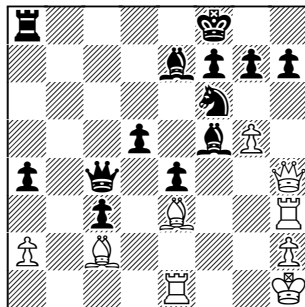
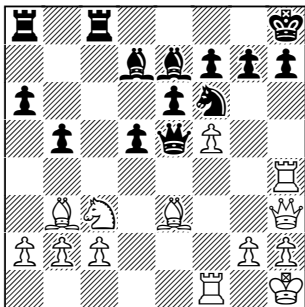
technology work for them and not vice versa.

### Shakhriyar Mamedyarov - Boris Gelfand

World Championship Candidates  
07.05.2011

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4** To be honest the Candidates Tournament quarter and semi-final matches were fairly lacklustre from a spectator point of view. For example the 15 Queen's Gambits yielded just two decisive games and the other openings were not much better. However in this, the third game of the Gelfand-Mamedyarov match, the Azeri was keen for a sharp confrontation and chose the Sozin, a favourite of Fischer amongst others. **6...e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.Qg3 0-0 11.Bh6 Ne8** On purely developmental grounds one would have to say that White has already left the opening and entered the middlegame while Black lags far behind in the placement of his pieces. But these considerations can be deceptive. While White has mobilised his pieces rapidly he is still some way from executing his natural f4-f5 break, attempting to weaken the a2-g8 diagonal, and Black retains considerable flexibility in how he wishes to deploy his forces. **12.Rad1 Bd7 13.f4 Nc6 14.f5?!** [This advance seems premature. The exchange on d4 not only relieves the pressure on e6 but leaves White's rook awkwardly placed on d4. A more cautious approach would be 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.a3 (the active 15.f5 Kh8 16.Be3 b4 17.Na4 doesn't seem to lead anywhere) 15...Bf6 16.f5 Qe7 17.Bd2 Be5 18.Qh3 seems to leave White with some initiative but Black's control of the key f6 and e5

squares keeps any disadvantage to a minimum.] **14...Nxd4 15.Rxd4 Kh8?** [Black doesn't sense the danger brewing on f6. He needs to take control of this square immediately with 15...Bf6 16.Rd3 b4 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.Nd1 where there are chances for both sides.] **16.Be3** [Another strong possibility is 16.f6!? Bxf6 17.Rxf6 Qc5 18.Ne2 e5 19.Rfxd6 exd4 20.Rxd7 gxh6 21.Rd5 Qb6 22.Nxd4 where White has good compensation for the exchange and an edge.] **16...Nf6 17.Qh3?!** [This move seems to encourage Black's natural break in the centre and leaves the queen off duty. 17.a3 a5 18.Rfd1 e5 19.R4d3 Bc6 is a better alternative.] **17...d5 18.e5** [White fuels the fire in an attempt to keep his withering kingside initiative alive. Not much better is 18.exd5 exf5 when Black's position suddenly springs to life. His bishops have good prospects and his knight has access to both the g4 and e4 squares. While White's passed d pawn is a long term asset in this position it only serves to obstruct his own pieces that yearn for access to d5.] **18...Qxe5 19.Rh4 Rfc8** [19...Rac8!? 20.g4 Rxc3 21.bxc3 exf5 22.gxf5 (22.g5? f4 23.Bxf4 Bc5+) 22...Qxc3 leads to a position somewhat similar to the actual game. In both cases Black is on top.] **20.Kh1?!**



[Perhaps White wasn't interested in a half point but it was his best option. He should continue 20.Bg5! h6 21.Rxh6+ gxh6 22.Qxh6+ Kg8 23.fxe6 fxe6 24.Qg6+ Kh8 25.Bxf6+ Bxf6 26.Qh6+ Kg8 27.Rxf6 Rf8 28.Qg6+ is a perpetual check.]

**20...Rxc3!** As is so often the case in the Sicilian, if Black can execute this sacrifice with immunity and gather up another pawn into the bargain, White's initiative dissipates and his attacking forces on the kingside suddenly looked misplaced.

**21.bxc3 Qxc3 22.Rd4?** [White's initiative has gone but White doesn't recognise it. A more pragmatic solution was 22.Bd4 Qxh3 23.Rxh3 where Black is clearly better but by no means winning. But now Black overwhelms White on the queenside and there really is no counterplay to speak of.]

**22...a5 23.Rd3 Qc6 24.c3 a4 25.Bc2 e5 26.Bg5 b4 27.Qh4 bxc3 28.Rh3 Kg8 29.Re1 e4 30.g4** [What else? The thematic 30.Bxf6 Bxf6 31.Qxh7+ Kf8 32.Rhe3 Re8 33.Qh8+ Ke7 34.Qh5 Rb8 35.Qd1 Rb2 really leads nowhere for White.] **30...Kf8 31.Be3 Qc4 32.g5 Bxf5!**

A wonderful move that completely snuffs out White's chances. Black is a full rook down for 5 pawns, but look at the pawns! **33.gxf6 Bxf6 34.Qh5 Bg6 35.Qg4 Qxa2** Six pawns! **36.Bb1 Qc4 37.Qg2 a3 38.Ba2 Qc6 39.Rg3 Rb8** A great tussle and one in which Gelfand always seemed to have a better understanding of the position than his opponent. **0-1**

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