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GM Zong-Yuan Zhao wins Rotorua Oceania Zonal

***The 118th Congress - IM Anthony Ker's 12th NZ
Championship Title***

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IM Anthony Ker wins his 12th New Zealand Championship at the 118th Congress

By Bill Forster

Anthony Ker put his name of the silver rook for the twelfth time at the 118th Congress held in January at the Alexandra Park raceway in Auckland. Since winning his first NZ Championship in Dunedin in 1989, Ker's record has been remarkable. It is worth comparing his feat to the late, great, Ortvin Sarapu who managed 20 wins in his career. The striking difference is that while Sarapu was by far the strongest player in New Zealand for most of his tenure, Ker has operated in a much more competitive era. Throughout his years at the top he has had to contend with a group of equally capable contemporaries.

It is not easy coming up with an explanation for Ker's streak. It is a statistically unlikely event. For a little bit of mathematical fun I put together a so called Monte-Carlo simulation of the environment Anthony has competed in. Some simplifications were necessary, but I think my model is reasonably realistic. I created a group of 5 equally strong players competing for the NZ Champs every year. The simulated tournaments were filled out by 4 other contenders, capable of scoring 40% against the top players, and 3 tail-enders only capable of scoring 20% against the top players.



IM Anthony Ker with Major Open winner Roy Seabrook

I ran my simulated tournaments for 25 years. How often did a single player come out first or first equal 12 times (or more)? Not often. I would have to repeat the entire 25 year simulation, on average 26 times before such an event occurred.

Psychology might offer an explanation where statistics fails. Anthony's untroubled and serene temperament, legendary concentration and the confidence that comes from repeated success seem likely to be the key factors.

Let's see how the tournament played out, round by round.

Round 1; Dive-Stuart 1-0, Taylor-Ker 0-1,

Smith-Ansell 1-0, Bennett-Steadman 0-1, Watson-Goodhue draw, Fuatai-Shen draw, McLaren-Jackson 1-0, Li-Milligan 1-0, Barlow-Forster 1-0, H Gao-Krstev 1-0, Pinic-J Gao draw, Gold-Gibbons 0-1, Dordevic-Yao draw

The favourites all started convincingly. On board 1, in an apparently quiet English position, Russell surprisingly launched on the kingside with both f4 and h4,h5. It looked risky but delivered decisive penetration quickly. Ker's Pirc got an easy early workout as Richard Taylor was too keen to sacrifice material. Anthony gobbled it all up without making any real concessions. Smith played a nice domination game against Alan Ansell and Steadman defused Bennett's aggressive Grand Prix setup and took over easily. McLaren beat Jackson with a nice central breakthrough, Barlow won a pawn against me near the time control and converted handily. The junior contingent all signalled they were going to be anything but easy beats, Luke Li upset Milligan in a tactical skirmish and Hans Gao turned around a dodgy position to beat Krstev. Judy Gao and Winston Yao both held draws with Pinic and Dordovic respectively.

Round 2; McLaren-Dive 1-0, Ker-Barlow 1-0, (annotated game below) Gibbons-Smith 0-1, Steadman-Li 1-0, Shen-H Gao draw, J Gao-Watson 0-1, Yao-Pinic 0-1, Goodhue-Dordevic 0-1, Milligan-Fuatai draw, Krstev-Bennett 1-0, Stuart-Jackson draw, Forster-Taylor draw, Ansell-Gold 1-0

Board 1 saw the first big upset, McLaren punishing a greedy Dive pawn grab with a nice combo winning an exchange and

ultimately the game. Ker played a nice positional game as white in his favourite c3 Sicilian. Smith and Steadman were also untroubled against Gibbons and Li respectively. The finish of the latter game involved a rook, a knight, both bishops and the h pawn surrounding Luke's hopelessly isolated king. Enjoyable stuff for Mike and the spectators but Luke's fighting spirit was also noted. Watson, Pinic and Ansell won smoothly with nice games, whilst Dordevic and Krstev benefited from blunders.

Round 3; Steadman-Ker 0-1, Smith-McLaren draw, Watson-Dordevic 1-0, Pinic-H Gao draw, Dive-Gibbons 1-0, Li-Shen 1-0, Barlow-Ansell 1-0, Fuatai-Krstev 0-1, Jackson-Milligan draw, Forster-Stuart 1-0, Taylor-J Gao 0-1, Yao-Goodhue 0-1, Bennett-Gold 1-0

The heavyweight clash on board 1 saw Ker emerging triumphant after an absorbing and double edged struggle. At the end Mike lost the thread of the game, letting slip an advantage and allowing decisive penetration of Anthony's major pieces to the back rank. Watson beat Dordevic with a simple but attractive combination. Dive came back into contention using a space advantage and a breakthrough sacrifice to down Gibbons. If there was any doubts about Luke Li's potential, they were dispelled as he made something out of nothing in an ending to beat Daniel Shen. Barlow beat Ansell in a thematic game that demonstrated the power of white's bishop pair in the Nimzo. Krstev won attractively demonstrating another theme, this time black taking over the centre in the French. Judy Gao recorded an exciting sacrificial win. The finish was particularly attractive, with a quiet move that brought up the last

piece leaving Richard helpless despite his extra piece. Goodhue also had a nice win, his hippo thematically roaring into life and trampling Winston's kingside.

Round 4; Ker-Smith 1-0, McLaren-Watson draw, Krstev-Dive 1-0, Pinic-Steadman draw, H Gao-Barlow draw, Dordevic-Li 0-1, Goodhue-Forster 1-0, J Gao-Gibbons draw, Shen-Jackson 1-0, Milligan-Bennett draw, Ansell-Fuatai draw, Stuart-Taylor 1-0, Gold-Yao 0-1

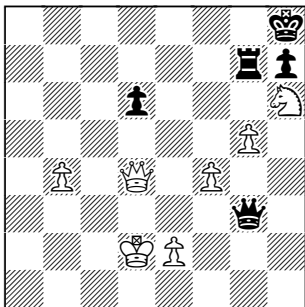
It would be understandable if Bob Smith is still waking in the night screaming after this pivotal top board clash. For once the c3 Sicilian yielded less than nothing for Anthony and Bob smoothly increased his grip on the position, picking up a pawn and doubling rooks on the seventh. With the time control approaching black's powerfully centralised position looked certain to carry the day, as Anthony was reduced to huddling against the ropes. For a weaker spectator, it was a confusing game to follow live. Each move by Bob seemed decisive, but then Anthony would find a way to delay the seeming inevitable. "He's alive. No he's dead. He's alive. No he's dead." went my internal monologue. The truth was he really was dead, but Bob needed to thrust the stake through the heart and he didn't do it, and playing simple, natural moves to get to the time control didn't quite get the job done. Suddenly Ker found counterplay in the form of a fast 'a' pawn, and as so often happens when a good position goes bad, it went very bad very fast.

Board 3 saw a graphic illustration of the contrasting tournaments of Antonio Krstev

and Russell Dive. Krstev, punching well above his weight had a great tournament, and knocked off the top seed in style, sacking a piece then forsaking a perpetual time and again and eventually skilfully regaining the piece to force a won ending. For Russell this would be a tournament to forget unfortunately. Luke Li defended well to beat Dordevic. Goodhue benefited from my errant cellphone which decided that even although I'd turned it off, I'd probably still like it to wake up every now and again to check for texts. I punished it by leaving it in the car for the rest of the tournament. If there'd been a steam roller handy the punishment would have been more severe. Shen defeated Jackson's Alekhine with a nice attack. Stuart nicely refuted Taylor's premature caveman wing attack, with thematic play through the centre.

Round 5; Watson-Ker draw, Li-McLaren 0-1, Steadman-Krstev 0-1, Smith-Pinic draw, Barlow-Goodhue draw, Dive-H Gao draw, J Gao-Shen 0-1, Forster-Milligan draw, Gibbons-Ansell 1-0, Bennett-Dordevic 1-0, Yao-Stuart 0-1, Jackson-Fuatai 0-1, Taylor-Gold 1-0

This was another pivotal round for Ker's successful defence of his title. His clash with Bruce Watson serves as a perfect example of just how resilient Ker can be in bad positions. In this particular case, salvation came in the form of a beautiful and unexpected tactic;



Bruce has been on top for the whole game, and for some time Anthony was doing little more than grimly clinging on. Bruce missed chances to finish the game before the time control. Now the time control has been met, Anthony has managed to partially get back into the game, at last he has an active piece and his material deficit is minimal. But White is still well on top and something special is required to avoid a painful death grind. Ker set a devilish trap with **42 ... Qb3**. Watson fell into it with **43 Qxd6 ?**. The brilliant rejoinder was **43 ... Rd7 !!**. White must take the pinning rook, but then Qd1+ would follow forcing White to take the queen as well, and black is stalemated. Unfortunately perhaps, the players agreed a draw immediately rather than playing out this beautiful tactical line for the crowd.

McLaren exploited the weak pawns white often takes on in the f3 Nimzo. Krstev continued in the role of giant killer, taking down another mighty kauri in the form of Mike Steadman. This was an exciting game that could have gone either way. Mike was in the unfamiliar role of fighting against the French and was typically uncompromising in his approach. Krstev had a material

advantage for much of the game (although he wasn't necessarily always better), and in the end the extra wood counted, as Krstev wrapped up with some nice endgame play. Hans Gao with black demonstrated the fearlessness of youth, Russell Dive's extra 500 or so rating points apparently not impressing him at all. In the end Russell had to force a draw a pawn down in a minor piece ending. Bob Gibbons did manage to demonstrate that experience counts for something, skilfully outplaying Alan Ansell in a rook and pawn ending. Bennett had a nice attacking win versus Dordevic. Taylor similarly attacked Gold's Sveshnikov effectively, and won material with a nice tactic.

Round 6; Ker-McLaren draw, Krstev-Watson draw, H Gao-Smith 1-0, Shen-Barlow draw, Goodhue-Li 0-1, Stuart-Pinic draw, Fuatai-Dive draw, Gibbons-Steadman 0-1, Bennett-Forster 1-0, Milligan-J Gao 1-0, Dordevic-Taylor 1-0, Ansell-Yao 1-0, Gold-Jackson 1-0

Hans Gao made a further mockery of the rating system by defeating Smith. It looked all over when Bob picked up a piece, but white had some activity and a single mistake from Bob allowed a dramatic comeback. Li won a pawn in the opening and smoothly turned it into a win, showing good technique in a rook and pawn ending against Goodhue, normally no slouch in technical positions. These kids can play. Bob Gibbons continued to have a very tough draw, basically taking on a series of legends of NZ chess (Dive, Smith, now Steadman). Mike, in rebound mode, made short work of Bob's stonewall. Bennett got an attractive attacking position from his

Grand Prix Sicilian, and took full advantage against your unfortunate author. Helen Milligan played a nice positional game to beat Judy Gao's Caro. Ansell handled the white side of a King's Indian nicely to beat Winston Yao. Hamish Gold's aggressive play finally bore fruit with a win over Ross Jackson. Hamish's space advantage ultimately yielded a giant pair of advanced connected d and e pawns in a queen ending, guaranteeing an easy win.

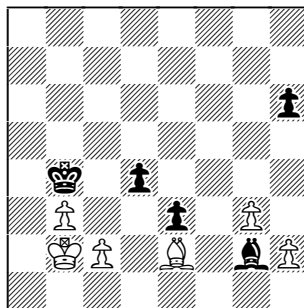
Round 7; Krstev-Ker 0-1, McLaren-H Gao 1-0, Watson-Li draw, Steadman-Shen draw, Pinic-Bennett 0-1, Barlow-Milligan 0-1, Dive-Goodhue 1-0, Smith-Fuatai 1-0, Stuart-Gibbons draw, Dordevic-Ansell 0-1, Forster-Yao draw, J Gao-Gold 0-1, Jackson-Taylor 1-0

After a storming 4/4 start, and with his main competition suffering upset losses, the consummate tournament player Ker consolidated with draws in rounds 5 and 6. However an unexpected threat was developing in the form of Antonio Krstev and in round 7 Ker took full advantage of the opportunity to set him back. Krstev did not seem prepared for Ker's 1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 pet line, playing 3.de which is condemned by theory as handing black instant equality. White nevertheless had chances in the resulting queenless middlegame, but Ker's experience in these positions told as he gradually outplayed his opponent. Leonard McLaren was another having a good tournament, and it only got better in this round with a win in an unusual game against Hans Gao's Alekhine. Bennett won an interesting king and pawn ending from Pinic. Milligan scored a nice positional win from Barlow,

white resigned (just) before losing any material, but the domination of black's pieces in the final position is quite tragicomic for white. Dive attempted to resume normal service with a nice Catalan crush over Goodhue. Ansell outplayed Dordevic in complications, finishing with a nice mate. Gold beat Judy Gao in an exciting Dutch. Jackson refuted another underprepared Taylor kingside attack.

Round 8; Li-Ker draw, McLaren-Krstev 0-1, Bennett-Watson 0-1, Shen-Dive 1-0, Milligan-Smith 0-1, H Gao-Steadman 0-1, Barlow-Stuart draw, Ansell-Pinic draw, Goodhue-Gibbons 0-1, Taylor-Fuatai 0-1, Gold-Dordevic 0-1, Jackson-Forster draw, Yao-J Gao draw

Krstev was immediately back on track with a very interesting endgame win against McLaren.



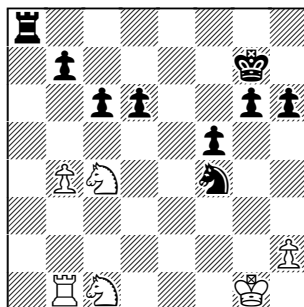
Despite his extra pawn, this is a tricky situation for white. **57.g4?** The wrong pawn, h4 instead allows white to advance his majority. **57... Bh3!** Establishing a zugzwang, something has to give. **58.Kc1** Instead bishop moves allow either Bxg4 or Bf1 and black controls e2 and can advance the e pawn. **58...Kc3 59.Bf3?** White should

try letting the g4 pawn go, instead this loses quickly **Bg2!** Deflecting the bishop, suddenly it is over. **60.Be2 Be4 61.Bd1 Bxc2 62.b4 d3 63.Bxc2 dxc2 64.b5 e2**
White resigns 0-1

Powerful centralisation, this time in a middlegame, was also the theme as Watson overcame another Bennett Grand Prix. Dive's misery resumed as Shen exposed flaws in his Alekhine. Smith got a thematic Sicilian endgame advantage and converted it against Milligan. After beating Li earlier Mike Steadman overcame his wingman Hans Gao as well, from the black side of a crazy, chaotic Dragon. Gibbons found a lovely tactical win in a king and pawn ending versus Goodhue. Taylor sacrificed multiple minor pieces against Fuatai, for not very much.

Round 9; Ker-Shen draw, Watson-Smith 0-1, Steadman-McLaren draw, Krstev-Li 1-0, Dive-Bennett 1-0, Pinic-Milligan 0-1, Fuatai-Barlow draw, Gibbons-H Gao 1-0, Stuart-Ansell draw, Forster-Dordevic 0-1, Gold-Goodhue draw, J Gao-Jackson draw, Taylor-Yao 0-1

Smith overcame the super solid Bruce Watson in a nice game. Bob took risks, sacrificing a piece but getting plenty of material and positional compensation. A simplifying combination yielded a winning ending as follows;



Black temporarily has 4 pawns for the piece, so the following is more or less forced; **32.Nxd6 Rd8 33.Nxb7 Rd1+ 34.Kf2 Rxc1 35.Rxc1 Nd3+ 36.Ke3 Nxc1**

However his active knight and advanced b pawn now give White some counterplay and indeed Watson fought heroically and the crowd was kept waiting as both players queened pawns and Bob struggled to finish off a Q+advanced pawn versus Q and remote king ending. Krstev prevailed over Li in a complex heavy piece battle. Dive's ever reliable English saw off Bennett. Pinic vs Milligan looked to be drifting towards a draw, but then a moment of inattention from Noel allowed a decisive queen penetration. Gibbons converted an attractive kingside attack against Hans Gao. Dordevic demolished my attempted Kings Indian attack with thematic central play. Winston Yao found an original manoeuvre in a well known accelerated Dragon position that set Richard Taylor a difficult "white to play and find the only move that doesn't lose a piece" problem. Richard failed to solve that problem. Thanks Winston I plan to use this one myself.

Round 10; Milligan-Ker 0-1, Smith-Krstev

1-0, Shen-McLaren draw, Watson-Steadman 1-0, Li-Dive 0-1, Gibbons-Barlow draw, Dordevic-Stuart draw, Fuatai-Bennett 0-1, H Gao-Ansell draw, Pinic-Gold 1-0, Yao-Jackson 0-1, Goodhue-Taylor draw, Forster-J Gao draw

Ker ended a short drawing series by beating Milligan. A classical Pirc looked even, but Anthony's huge experience in these kind of positions is hard to overcome, and he found a way into Helen's position. Smith nudged ahead of the other chasers with a nice thematic "white has better minors" French endgame versus Krstev

Watson prevailed over Steadman in the 773rd meeting between these two Auckland Chess Centre stalwarts. Luke Li had drawing chances against Dive, but so have a lot of other people over the years. Bennett tricked Fuatai in the opening. Jackson crashed though the centre nicely against Yao. Round 11; Ker-Dive 1-0, Smith-Shen draw, Gibbons-Watson 0-1, Bennett-McLaren draw, Krstev-Pinic 1-0, Steadman-Dordevic 1-0, Ansell-Milligan draw, Barlow-Li 1-0, J Gao-Stuart 1-0, Yao-Fuatai draw, Taylor-H Gao draw, Jackson-Goodhue draw, Gold-Forster 0-1

With Ker leading Smith by a point, and Dive licking wounds, a casual observer might well have expected a quick draw on board 1. That observer would be naïve. Instead these noble warriors battled to the death, as always. With his Alekhine's circling the drain, Dive switched to his old weapon, the Petroff, and it worked, as he emerged with a microscopic advantage in a late queenless middlegame, early endgame situation. Much manoeuvring ensued. Ker

had some trumps as well and the smallest slip by Russell saw the position turning around and Ker finishing with an emphatic +7 =4 -0 score. Smith pragmatically decided to keep the draw in hand rather than risking falling off the podium altogether, and a draw with Shen ensued.

Bennett pulled off an outrageous trick in a hopeless position against McLaren, the draw leaving Hilton with a very creditable 6 points but unfortunately for Leonard pushing him from 2nd= to 5th.

Watson and Krstev joined Smith at 7.5 points for 2nd=. Watson, the tournament's quiet achiever, outplayed Gibbons, winning material and converting handily. Krstev finished a great tournament by exposing the positional downsides of Pinic's Budapest. Dordevic sacrificed unsoundly against Steadman and paid the price. Barlow prevailed in complications versus Li. Judy Gao won a nice ending from Peter Stuart and I finished with a flourish myself, executing 3 forks in my last 4 moves against Hamish Gold.

In other Congress tournaments, Roy Seabrook took out the Major Open with 9 out of 11, despite forfeiting his first round game. Alex Huang was alone in second place on 8 out of 11. Ker won the rapid ahead of Garbett, Steadman and Smith. Noel Pinic was a convincing winner of the Lightning ahead of Alan Ansell.

Ker-Barlow: Payback

By IM Anthony Ker

Prior to this game Matthew and I last played in the final round of the 2010 NZ Rapid. With 6½ points from eight games I needed a win to secure the title but Matthew put up a solid defense. When I sacrificed unsoundly in an attempt to break through he captured the material, held off the attack and went on to win, relegating me to 3rd.

This time I was determined to be more careful. The longer time control (90 minutes for the game, plus 30 sec/move, plus an extra 30 minutes at move 40) meant there would be no rash moves, or at least not as many. As in the earlier encounter we began with a 2.c3 Sicilian and the game revolves around whether White can exploit his space advantage before Black can tie him down to defending the isolated d-pawn:

2011 NZ Championship Round 2

A Ker – M Barlow

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. exd5 Qxd5 4. d4 e6

The most solid move. Black locks in his light squared bishop and concentrates on getting his kingside mobilized. 4...Nf6 5 Nf3 Bg4 leads to more dynamic positions.

5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Be3 exd4 7. cxd4 Be7 8 Nc3

Qd8 It may seem odd to drop the queen back to her home square, but this is where she is safest. Other moves such as Qd6 or Qa5 are playable but her majesty may become a target for White's pieces. **9. Bd3 0-0 10. 0-0 Nbd7 10...Nc6** is the main move but after 11 a3 it is not so easy

to maneuver the knight to d5. **11. Bc2 Nb6 12. Qd3...** White hopes his queen-bishop battery will force a weakness in Black's kingside. **12 ...Nbd5 13. Nxd5 Qxd5 14. Bg5....**With a small thre14.....g6

Weakness forced! Now to infiltrate...

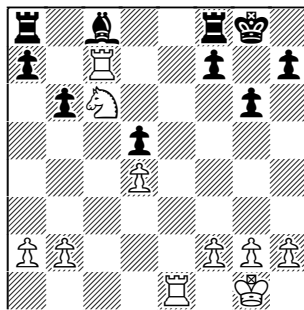
15. Rfe1 Qd8 The queen was in the way. This move frees up d5 for the other knight.

16. Bb3 ... After ...g6 the b1-h7 diagonal is less exciting. The bishop's new targets are e6/f7 and/or possibly supporting a d5 pawn break. **16 ... Nd5** Blockade! **17. Bh6 ...** White avoids exchanges. His space advantage is more valuable with more pieces on the board. **17...Re8 18. Ne5Bf8**

19. Qf3! ...Hoping for 19...Bxh6? **20. Qxf7+ Kh8 21 Bxd5 exd5 22 Nxc6+ and White wins 19....Qf6!** The best reply. White can no longer avoid the exchanges.

20. Qxf6 Nxf6 21. Bxf8 Rxf8? But here Black errs. **21...Kxf8** was superior, bringing the king closer to the center and keeping the rook active. ...Re7 is an important resource but instead Black "deactivates" his rook. **22. Rac1...**

White has a lead in development and his rook has an open pathway to c7 **22 ... b6 23 Rc7 Nd5 24 Bxd5 exd5 25 Nc6! ...**



Queenstown Chess Classic

15th–23rd January 2012

Incorporating the official

119th New Zealand National Championships

Venue: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown

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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

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A powerful move. From here the knight dominates Black's position, attacking the a-pawn and controlling the back rank. Note that neither rook can oppose on c8 because of Ne7+. I remember losing a game to GM Drazen Sermek in similar fashion when a Black knight landed on c3 and paralyzed my rooks. **25 ...Bf5** Best. Trying to save the a-pawn will only make things worse: 25...a5 **26 Ne7+** and Nxd5 hitting b6. **26. Nxa7 ...** I had to decide whether to capture with the knight or the rook. The knight is better – after **26. Rxa7 Rxa7 27 Nxa7 Ra8 28 Re7 Kf8 29 Rb7 Re8** Black has counter-play. **26 ...Rfe8 27. Re3** Definitely not **27 Kf1?? Bd3+!** From here White blocks the e-file and prevents the Black rooks from becoming active. **27 ...Re4 28. Rxe4 dxe4 29. Kf1 Rd8 30. Nc6 Rd6 31. d5!**... A little tactic to cement White's advantage. The pawn is immune because of Ne7+ **31 ...Kg7 32. Nb4** Another terrific square for the knight. From here the a and d-pawns are protected, Black's b-pawn blockaded and c2 covered. **32...Rd7 33. Rc6...** Black's rook is passive, White's active. Why exchange? **33. ...b5** Yet another black pawn lands on a white square. Black's bishop is bad (blocked by pawns) and he has no control over the black squares. **34. Ke2 ...** The coast is clear. Time for the king to emerge! **34 ... Rb7 35 Ke3 Bd7 36 Rc3 f5 37 Kd4 Kf6 38 Ra3 ...** Black has beaten the rook back down the c-file but there is another way in. **38 ... g5 39 Ra6+ Kf7 40 Ke5 Kg7** Contrast the activity of the two monarchs. White's king is invading while Black's is oscillating. **41 Nc6 Resigns**

The 2011 Zonal Introduction

By NZCF President Paul Spiller

The 2011 Oceania Zonal Chess Championship in Rotorua was successfully organised by the New Zealand Chess Federation at the spacious Millennium Hotel from January 25 - 31st. It was a culmination of over a year's planning and in the end was only financially possible because of the support of the Asian Chess Federation and Millennium Hotels & Resorts group.

I would like to acknowledge the help of the arbiter team IA Bob Gibbons, IA Peter Stuart, IA Charles Zworestine, FA Craig Hall and FA Bruce Pollard. The New Zealand Chess Federation would also like to extend its congratulations to all the prize and title winners and thank them for participating in and supporting the 2011 Oceania Championship.

2011 Oceania Zonal Tournament Report

By Alan Aldridge

Hard on the heels of the New Zealand Championship, NZCF hosted another major event, the 2011 Oceania Zonal, held in Rotorua at the end of January. As the opening round in the World Championship cycle the Zonal is a draw card for the top Australian players and an opportunity for the locals to test themselves against the

latest crop of Australian up and coming younger talent, who filled the upper ranks of this tournament.

The two main contenders, expected to leave the pack behind and vie for Oceania's spot; were Aussie GM's Zong-Yuang Zhao, the top seed, and the last Zonal winner GM David Smerdon. The supporting cast included Australian IMs Gary Lane, James Morris and George Xie plus fast rising talent Max Illingworth and the surprise package, Andrew Brown.

New Zealand was represented by experienced competitors led by Mike Steadman, Stephen Lukey and Bob Smith, all of whom could be expected to push for reasonably high placings. Our wildcard was junior Alan Ansell, who had just completed a solid performance at the New Zealand Championship.

The Open field contained 33 Australian and 19 New Zealand players, while PNG and



GMs Zhao and Smerdon prepare to battle

Fiji were represented with two players each. The women's tournament caused

some headaches as the field of only 11 were too few for a swiss and thus had to be accommodated with a round robin. This meant two extra double round days making for a tough schedule. Top seed was IM Irina Berezina-Feldman from Australia, with compatriot WIM Biljana Dekic her likely rival. For New Zealand Judy Gao was the highest ranked contender followed by Vivian Smith and Nicole Tsoi.

Under the many watchful eyes of no less than five arbiters (one can't be too careful, it was a World Championship event!) led by IA Bob Gibbons, 19 of the top 20 players started with victories, the glaring exception was second seed GM David Smerdon who was held to a draw by Ivan Dordevic. Ivan, who is rated 400 points below David, had the initiative in an exciting tactical game that ended in a drawn rook endgame. Dordevic, formerly from Serbia now living in Auckland, followed up with two more surprises, a win over Mike Steadman and a draw with Bob Smith.

The top finishing Kiwi player was FM Stephen Lukey who placed 8th with 6 points. Stephen played well in round 2 against GM Zhao, with an accurate exchange sacrifice. Unfortunately he failed to find the best continuation and Zhao eventually broke through a blocked position to win. Also in the second round FM Michael Steadman lost to Aussie IM George Xie after Xie in a complicated position queened his d pawn, despite being down a piece for two pawns. Aussie Andrew Brown, who was to have an outstanding tournament, taking outright second place and an IM title, defeated

former NZ player Bobby Cheng after Cheng, who looked to be progressing, overlooked an in-between check that led to a lost rook endgame.

Round 3 results were a pointer to how the rest of the tournament would go. GM David Smerdon who had already dropped a half point was held to a draw by Tristan Stevens. Stevens came back from a bad opening position to fight well in a rook endgame and force a draw. GM Zhao moved to 3/3 when he rebuffed Moulthun Ly's sacrificial attack. Andrew Brown's defeat of IM George Xie, after Xie forgoes winning an exchange only to find himself two pawns down, strongly suggested Brown could have an exceptional tournament. With this upset Andrew Brown joined Zhao on 3/3 along with IM Gary Lane.

Round 4 saw Zhao take the outright lead after IM Gary Lane resigned an inferior rook ending. Andrew Brown suffered the first of his two losses when Max Illingworth swapped Queens and outplayed him in a rook and bishop ending. Eugene Schon caused an upset when against conventional wisdom his queen defeated the rook pair of his much higher rated opponent IM George Xie. Mike Steadman went down to Bobby Chen in unfortunate circumstances when Mike overlooked an in-between check that cost his Queen. GM Smerdon defeated Steven Lukey getting the better of complications. Steven had now lost to both GM s but these would be his only defeats. At this point Zhao lead on 4/4, Max Illingworth has 3.5/4 followed by a chasing horde of 13 players on 3. In round 5 GM Zhao strengthened his lead defeating

Max Illingworth in a Queen ending where Zhao's passed d- pawn was the difference. Andrew Brown resumed his sensational string of upsets by trapping IM Gary Lane's King in the centre of the board. Brown was one of five players moving into second equal from this round with 4/5. Bob Smith was among this group after using two bishops to win a piece against Junta Ikeda. David Smerdon could only draw against IM James Morris, further denting his chances while Ivan Dordevic pulled off another upset with a win over Mike Steadman.

Continuing to brush aside the opposition Zhao won a rook against Bob Smith to post 6 from 6 at the round 6 2/3rd mark. Ly Moulthun showed he was a serious contender for a top placing by outplaying Andrew Brown using some tactics to win his Queen, and reaching outright second with 5/6. At this stage four players were on 4.5/6, Vlad Feldman, Bobby Cheng, David Smerdon and Max Illingworth. Alan Ansell had a good result drawing a rook endgame with IM George Xie. Alan could be reasonably happy with his play in this tournament. His only losses were to the top players and his other results included a draw with Tim Reilly and a win over Ogara-Osir.

The much anticipated clash between GMs Zhao and Smerdon was now upon us. In an exciting game Smerdon went for complications. He needed a result to have any chance of catching Zhao. When the dust settled Zhao was a pawn up in the endgame and after a long struggle went on to win. Meanwhile another marathon was transpiring on board 3. Max Illingworth

played on in a rook and opposite coloured bishop ending against Vladimir Feldman and long after players and spectators had drifted away, finally agreed the draw.

Moulthun Ly until now having only lost to Zhao, lost a piece to Bobby Cheng and went down. Bob Smith could consider himself unlucky losing to George Xie when Xie won back an exchange then won a bishop ending. Alan Ansell fought hard against Andrew Brown but eventually went down in a rook ending.

The tournament winner was clear to all by now and in round 8 Zhao's seemingly inevitable first place was confirmed after he drew with Bobby Cheng. The real interest now was who amongst Andrew Brown, Bobby Cheng, Max Illingworth and Moulthun Ly might win an IM title. That was all to play for in round 9 after Andrew Brown convincingly defeated Junta Ikeda and the other IM contenders all had draws to preserve their title hopes.

We had reached the tournament's final day, and by now used to the faint whiff of rotten eggs, our IM contenders prepared themselves for a do or die effort. Andrew Brown capped off a fantastic tournament by outplaying GM David Smerdon, first winning an extra pawn then infiltrating Smerdon's position with a bishop and rooks. This outstanding pressure result pulled Brown a half point ahead of Max Illingworth who defeated Bobby Cheng when his minor pieces overcame Cheng's rooks. Moulthun Ly also won, defeating Gary Lane, but Brown, with the hardest opponent of all the contenders, had won a worthy clear second place and new IM title.

Meanwhile GM Zhao was cleaning up Vladimir Feldman for a final score of 8.5/9 and a performance rating of 2750 and further down the field Gareth Oliver defeated Ivan Dordevic to earn an FM title.

The Women's tournament field was led by IM Irina Berezina-Feldman with a rating almost 150 points ahead of WIM Biljana Dekic who was 126 points ahead of third seed Emma Guo. The field of 11 included three New Zealand players, Nicole Tsoi, Viv Smith and the highest rated of them Judy Gao. The three top players dominated the field and in the final round Berezina-Feldman secured her top top placing with a safe draw against Judy Gao but was caught on 9.5 by Emma Guo who won her game. These two will play off in Australia for the World Cup spot. Dekic came third on 9 points. Nicole Tsoi enjoyed the best result of the kiwis gaining a WFM title on countback edging out Judy Gao.

The under 2000 grade prize was a deserved reward for the consistent Hilton Bennett and the under 1800 won by by Matthew Bennett.



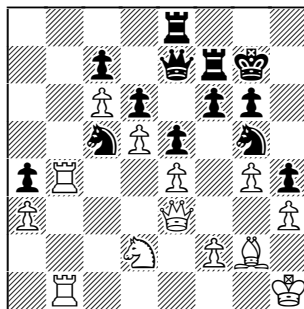
Lukey, Stephen – Zhao, Zong-Yuan

Oceania Zonal Rotorua 2011 Rotorua (2),
26.01.2011

Annotated by GM Zhao

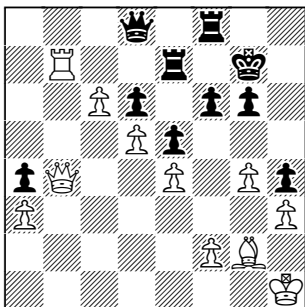
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 [6.Nc3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Ne4 8.Rc1] **6...Bxd2+ 7.Nbx2** [7.Qxd2? Ne4 8.Qc2 Qb4+ 9.Nbd2 Nxd2] **7...d6 8.0-0 a5** [8...e5 9.d5 Nb8 (9...Nb4?? 10.Qa4+) 10.b4] **9.e4** [9.a3?! a4 10.Nb1 0-0 (10...Bd7 11.Nc3 Na5) 11.Nc3 Bd7 12.Nxa4 Na5 13.Rc1 Qe8 14.Nc3 Nxc4+] **9...e5 10.d5 Nb8 11.Ne1 h5!?** [11...0-0 12.Nd3 Na6 13.a3] **12.h3!** [12.h4 0-0 13.Nd3 b6 14.b3 (14.f4 exf4 15.Rxf4 Nbd7) 14...Na6 15.a3 Nc5 16.Nb2 g6 17.b4+; 12.f4?! h4 13.fxe5 Qxe5 14.Nef3 Qxb2 15.e5 dxe5; 12.Nd3 h4 13.f4 hxg3 14.hxg3 Nbd7] **12...h4 13.g4 Nbd7** [13...0-0 14.Nd3 Na6 15.a3 Nc5 16.Nxc5 dxc5 17.Re1 Ne8 18.f4 Nd6 19.Qc2 ; 13...Nh7 14.Nd3 Nf8 15.c5 dxc5 16.f4 exf4 17.e5] **14.Nd3 b6** [14...Nc5 15.Nxc5 dxc5 16.f4 exf4 17.e5 Nd7 18.e6 fxe6 19.dxe6 Nf6 20.Qa4+f] **15.Qc2** [15.f4 exf4! 16.e5 dxe5 17.d6 Qxd6 18.Bxa8 Qxd3µ] **15...Nc5 16.b3** [16.f4! Nxd3 (16...exf4 17.Nxc5 bxc5 18.e5 Nd7 19.exd6 cxd6 20.Rae1 Ne5 21.Nf3 f6 22.Nxe5 fxe5 23.Rxf4 Kd8 24.Rf2±) 17.Qxd3 Nd7! (17...exf4 18.e5 dxe5 19.d6+-) 18.f5 Ba6 19.Qe3 Nc5 20.b3 b5+] **16...0-0** [16...Nh7 17.a3 Nf8 18.Nxc5 bxc5 19.b4] **17.Nb2! Nh7 18.a3 g6 19.b4 Nd7** [19...Nb7 20.Nd3 f5 21.f3 (21.gxf5 gxf5 22.f4 axb4 23.axb4 Rxa1 24.Rxa1 fxe4 25.Nxe4 exf4 26.Rf1 Bxh3!) 21...Ng5+] **20.Nd3 Ng5** [20...f5 21.gxf5 gxf5 22.exf5 (22.f4) 22...Rxf5 23.Rae1] **21.c5?!** [21.Rfe1! axb4 (21...f5? 22.exf5 gxf5 23.f4) 22.axb4 Rxa1 23.Rxa1 f5 24.f3 Nf6

25.Qd1+] **21...bxc5** [21...Ba6 22.c6 Nf6 23.bxa5 Bxd3 24.Qxd3 Rxa5 25.Nc4 Ra4] **22.bxc5 Ba6 23.c6!?** [23.Nc4 dxc5 24.Rab1 Qf6 25.Rfe1 (25.f4 Bxc4 26.Qxc4 exf4 27.Rxf4 Qd6) 25...Rfe8+] **23...Bxd3?** [23...Nc5 24.Nxc5 (24.Nc4 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Nxe4 26.Ndxe5 Ng5 27.Nd7 Nxh3+ 28.Kh2 Nf4 29.Nxf8 Rxf8µ) 24...Bxf1 25.Rxf1 dxc5 26.Nc4! (26.Nb3 c4 27.Nd2 (27.Qxc4 Qxa3) 27...Qxa3 28.Nxc4 Qc5µ) 26...f6 27.Rb1 Nf7 28.Rb7 Nd6 29.Nxd6 Qxd6] **24.Qxd3 Nc5 25.Qe3 a4** [25...Rfb8 26.Rab1 Qd8 (26...Kg7!?) 27.Nc4 Qf6∞] **26.Rab1 f6 27.Rb4 Rae8?!** definitely losing the plot as I abandon the queenside completely. It was not too late to oppose on the b-file [27...Rfb8 28.Rfb1 Qd8=] **28.Rfb1 Kg7** Pretty planless play but I was also running short of time and somehow still felt optimistic! [28...f5 29.gxf5 gxf5 30.exf5 Rxf5 31.Rg4±] **29.Kh1 Rf7**
Diagram



30.Rb7! Obvious but still very nice
30...Qd8 [30...Nxb7? 31.cxb7 Rb8 32.Nc4+- and the knight will land on c6 with devastating effect; 30...f5 31.gxf5 gxf5 32.Rxc7 Qxc7 33.Qxg5+ Kf8 34.exf5+-] **31.R1b5** White has played really well and is on the verge of a decisive

advantage. Now black has to watch out for Rxc5 all the time **31...Ref8?** [31...f5? 32.gxf5 gxf5 33.exf5 Rxf5 34.Rb4±; 31...Rfe7! is relatively best, re-routing the knight to f7 as quickly as possible 32.Nc4 Nf7 33.Ra7] **32.Nc4 Re7 33.Rxc5** And now white is very close to winning **33...dxc5 34.Qxc5 Nf7 35.Qb4! Nd6 36.Nxd6 cxd6** Diagram



In many ways the crux of this topsy-turvy game **37.Rxe7+?** A very serious mistake as now the c-pawn is more or less under control [37.Bf1! White simply prepares to hold the monster pawn on b7 and will eventually march his a-pawn to victory 37...Rxb7 38.cxb7 Qb8 (38...Qc7 39.Ba6 Rb8 40.Qxa4 Kf7 41.Qc6 Qd8 42.Qc8 Ke7 43.a4 Kf7 44.Kg2 Ke7 45.a5 Kf7 46.Qxd8 Rxd8 47.Bd3) 39.Ba6 Rf7 this is relatively the best chance but still white wins quite handily 40.Kg2 "Do not rush in the endgame" - Dvoretzky :) 40...g5 41.Qxa4 (41.Qb6) 41...Rxb7 42.Bxb7 Qxb7 43.Qb4 Qa6 44.a4+-] **37...Qxe7 38.Qb6?** Lukey told me that somewhere around here he had a serious hallucination and thought that the bishop would get to a6. Instead white should have been greedy and chopped off the pawn on a4. Then he is still in the

driver seat although black is probably already not losing. [38.Qxa4 Qc7 39.Bf1 Rb8 40.Kg2 Rb2 41.Qa6 Rb6 42.Qe2 Rb3 43.a4 Qa5] **38...Rf7?!** [38...Ra8 with the same idea is even better and black has completely equalised] **39.Bf1** [39.Kg1!? f5! this is a hard move to see in some ways as now the bishop gets more scope but it's important to activate the black rook (39...Qa7 40.Qb4!) 40.gxf5 gxf5 41.exf5 Rxf5 42.Qe3 (42.c7 Qd7! 43.Be4 Rf8) 42...Rf4] **39...Qa7 40.Qxa7?** Now white gets into a very difficult endgame which is probably lost. Keeping the queens on still maintains equality. [40.Qb2 Qc5 (40...Qd4 is not a good idea as the d4-pawn will fall 41.Qxd4 exd4 42.Kg2) 41.Bg2! and it's still equal(41.Kg2 f5)] **40...Rxa7 41.Kg2** Black first brings his rook to c5 then comes across with the king and prepares f5. If he can open the f-file then at some point white will simply be overstretched **41...Ra5 42.Kf3 Rc5 43.Ke3 Kf7** [43...Rc3+ 44.Kd2 Rxa3?? 45.c7] **44.Kd2 Ke7 45.Bd3 Kd8 46.Bc2 Kc7 47.Bd3 Kb6** [47...f5 was already possible but I felt that it was better just to manoeuvre around with the king first. 48.exf5 gxf5 49.Bxf5 Rxd5+ 50.Ke3 Rc5 51.g5 Kd8] **48.Be2?** Almost certainly the decisive mistake [48.f3! Ka7 (48...f5? Now this is tactically bad as white's g-pawn is too fast 49.exf5 gxf5 50.g5 Rxd5 51.g6 e4 52.g7) 49.Be2 Kb8 50.Bd3 Kc7 51.Bc2 and just maybe white can still draw this] **48...f5! 49.f3** [49.exf5 Rxd5+ 50.Ke3 gxf5 51.g5 (51.gxf5 Rd4+-) 51...f4+ 52.Kf3 (52.Ke4 Rd4+ 53.Kf3 Rd2 54.g6 e4+ 55.Kg2 Rd5+-) 52...Rd2 53.g6 (53.Bc4 d5 54.g6 dxc4 55.g7 Rd8) 53...e4+ 54.Kg2 Rd5+-] **49...fxe4 50.fxe4 g5** to prevent g5 and Bg4 by white. Anyway black no longer needs the g5-square **51.Bd3 Ra5**

52.Ke3 Ra8 53.Be2 Kc5 54.Bd1 Kc4 55.Kd2 Kd4 At this point white overstepped the time limit but I think it's fair to say that he is completely lost as black is threatening to penetrate the f-file with the rook. This was an epic game and it was the basis of my 7/7 run at the beginning of the tournament![55...Kd4 56.Bc2 Rf8 57.Bxa4 (57.Ke2 Kc3 58.Bxa4 Ra8 59.c7 Rc8!) 57...Kxe4 58.c7 Rc8--] 0–1

S Lukey – E Schon

Oceania Zonal 2011

Annotated by FM S Lukey

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 e6 (black needed a win for an FM title so decides to go for the most complicated option) **5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 dc 7 e4 g5 8 Bg3 b5 9 Be2 Bb7 10 h4 g4 11 Ne5 h5 12 0-0** (after the game Eugene said he expected 12 f3 as in Lukey – Chandler 2009 but that was perhaps optimistic as despite the happy result in that game I was dead lost after 17 or so moves) **Nbd7 13 Qc2 Ne5 14 Be5 Bg7 15 Bg3!?** (the sacrifice of the 2nd pawn is the most aggressive option, and Grischuk and Aronian amongst others have given it a whirl) **15...00 16 e5** (I wasn't familiar with black's last move and didn't want to transpose back to the quieter line with 16 Rad1) **16...Nh7?** (although this keeps the d pawn under attack, the knight is sidelined here which white brutally exploits. I expected 16 ... Nd7 but it turns out after 17 Ne4 the threat of Ng5 forces the slow 17 ... Qe7 when 18 Nd6 is nice for white. A check of the database reveals that black's best is 16 ... Nd5 17 Ne4 Ne7! 18 Nd6 Nf5! when neither winning a piece with 19

Nb7 Qd4 or a pawn with 19 Nf5 ef 20 Qf5 Qd5 seems to lead to any advantage for white.) **17 b3!** (undermining black's whole setup with a second pawn sacrifice) **17...cb 18 ab Qd4** (18 ... f5 19 ef Nf6 20 Be5 is safer but still uninspiring for black) **19 Rfd1 Qb6** (19 ... Qc5 20 Bd3 f5 21 ef Nf6 22 Bd6! Qb6 23 Qe2! is also grim for black) **20 Rd6!** (with an unusual double attack on b5, and the sidelined knight on h7 with Bd3) **f5?!** (20 ... Rfd8 is more tenacious but after say 21 Nb5 Nf8 22 Qc1! black starts to regret having pawns on h5 and g4 rather h7 and g6) **21 ef Nf6 22 Bb5 Ne8** (22 ... Nd5 23 Nd5 ed 24 Qg6! Qd4 25 Ra4 wins) **23 Re6 Qd4 24 Bc4 Kh8 25 Qg6 Qc5 26 Re5 1 – 0**

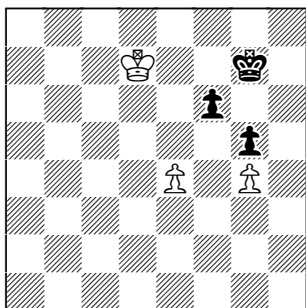
Endgame Workshop -The Six Squares System Revisited

by IM Herman van
Riemsdijk

Herman continues his analysis of the six squares system for King and pawn endings. Bill Forster first summarises the ideas.

In the six square system the defender seeks to protect a six square complex (three ranks, two files, for example f6,g6,f7,g7,f8,g8) against penetration by the opponent's king. First identify the equivalent complex housing the opponent's king: for example b6,c6,b7, c7,b8,c8. The corresponding complex must be on the same ranks with the same colours, in this case a black square in the bottom left. That

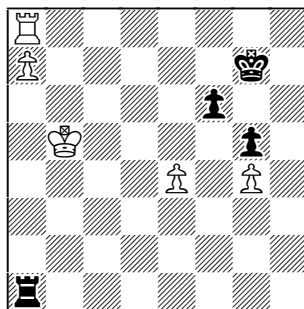
is the complex part done. It is now very easy. With the move, the defender puts his king on the square in his complex that corresponds to the opponent's king location in the opponent's complex. So if the attacker's king is on b6, the defender seeks to put his king on f6. The attacker for his part attempts to disrupt this by putting his king on the corresponding square first, if he has the move



This is an analysis diagram of the game Benkő-Gereben (Budapest 1951) what appeared in my book (written together with Willem Hajenius) **Peões Mágicos**, diagram # 87 (For those who have only the earlier English version **The Final Countdown**, it's the same diagram number). The solution is exactly the same as in the game Gaprindashvili-Hendriks, Arnhem 2007 where I explained how Hendriks could have drawn on move 62, leading the ending to a favorable 'Six Squares System': **1...Kh7!** (1...Kf7? 2.Kd6 and black misses the 6th (f6) square) **2.Ke6 Kg6 3.e5 fxe5 4.Kxe5 Kg7 5.Kf5 Kf7 6.Kxg5 Kg7**. The Gaprindashvili-Hendriks game was also analyzed in my first article for the NZC (October 2008 issue, page24). If we remove the black g5 pawn in the initial position, it is still a draw with the same

solution. This 'more economic' position is in fact a composition from Hermann Neustadl (**Chess Magazine**, 1890) with colours reversed.

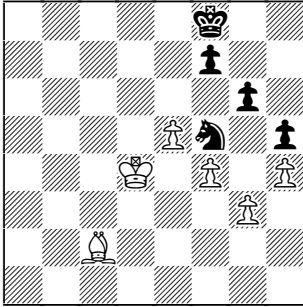
So many times it is interesting to see what happened in a game before the analyzed position.



I found this previous position in Benkő's **Chess Endgame Lessons II** (revised edition of 1990), page 8 under the title 'The Last Trick'. It's about the above mentioned game against Gereben. Benkő explains that the game looks a draw but that he decided to test his opponent's endgame knowledge: **1.Kb6 Rb1+ 2.Kc6 Rc1+ 3.Kd6 Ra1? 4.Rc8 Ra6+ 5.Rc6 Rxa7 6.Rc7+ Rxc7 7.Kxc7** Benkő reached a favorable Six Squares System **7...Kh7 8.Kd7 Kg6 9.Ke6 Kg7 10.Ke7 Kg6 11.Kf8, 1-0**. With **3...Rd1+!** **4.Ke6 Ra1 5.Rd8** (5.Re8 doesn't work because of **5...Ra6+**) **5...Rxa7 6.Rd7+ Rxd7 7.Kxd7** we would have the more published position above. It's amazing how close the solution is to the Gaprindashvili-Hendriks game. Benkő finishes with wise advice: "Indeed, it's good to know basic king and pawn endgame theory since you can never be sure when that knowledge will help you

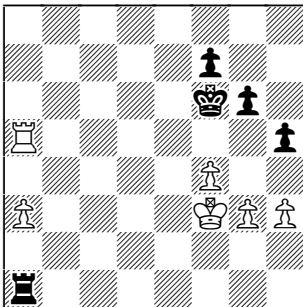
draw a lost game or win a drawn one”.

In *Peões Mágicos* you’ll find many examples of the horizontal Six Squares System on the three last ranks. Recently Panno showed me an interesting one of his own practice.



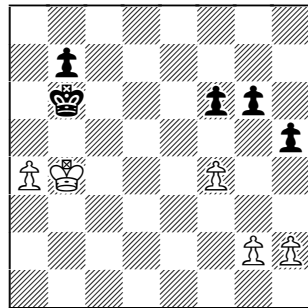
Panno-O’Kelly, Buenos Aires 1970: **1.Bxf5 gxf5 2.Kc5 Ke7 3.Kb6 Ke8 4.Kc6 Ke7 5.Kc7 Ke8 6.Kd6 Kd8 7.e6 f6!? A nice try. 8.e7+ Ke8 9.Kc6! Kxe7 10.Kc7 Kf8 11.Kd6, 1–0.**

Another recent found example is from the game Fabian-Okos, Slovakia 1998:



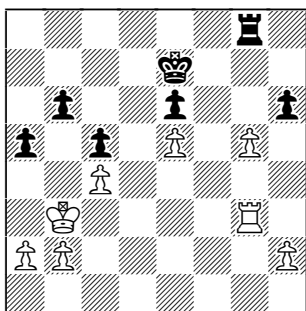
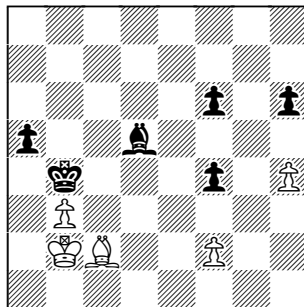
This ending relates not only to the Six Squares System but also with my article **Rook and Pawn Endings – The Outside**

Passed Pawn (NZC April 2009, page 26) **1...a2 2.Kg2 Ke6 3.Ra6+ Kd5 4.Ra5+ Kc4 5.Ra8 h4 6.gxh4 f5 7.Kh2 Kd4 8.Ra4+ Ke3 9.Kg2** Only move. From the above mentioned article you learned that white cannot allow his opponent to have a free **f** pawn. **9...Kd3 10.Kh2** Knowing what is coming up white could have tried **10.Ra8** but after **10...Ke4! 11.Ra4+ Ke3 12.Kh2 Kf3** white is in zugzwang. **10...Kc3!** Surely not **10...Rd1?** **11.Ra3+, 11.Ra8 Rd1! 12.Rxa2 Rd2+ 13.Rxd2 Kxd2 14.Kg2 Ke2 15.Kg3 Ke3 16.Kg2 16.h5 gxf5 17.Kh4 Kxf4 18.Kxh5 Kg3** loses by one tempo. **16...Kxf4 17.Kf2 Ke4 18.Ke2 f4 19.Kf2 f3 20.Ke1 Ke3?! 21.Kf1 Ke4** Back on trail but not **21...f2?? 22.h5 gxh5 23.h4** with a draw. **22.Ke1, 0-1.** I don’t know if white resigned or lost on time but now it’s a question of good timing using the ‘appended squares’ **e5** and **f5**: **22...Ke5** (or **22...Kf5**) **23.Kf1 Kf5 24.Ke1 Ke4 25.Kf1 Ke3 26.Ke1 f2+ 27.Kf1 Kf3 28.h5 gxh5 29.h4 Ke3**, etc.



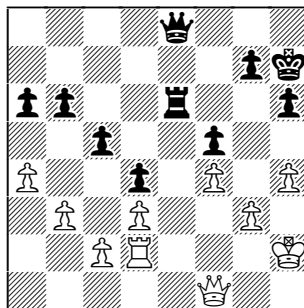
This diagram is from the game Nabaty-Arnaudov, Bansko 2010. As Baburin pointed out in **Chess Today**, Black should be ok here, but some caution is required. **1...f5??** This is a capital sin, giving away **e5** for the white king. **1...h4** killing white’s

tempi would have been proper play. **2.g3!** Creating two tempi: h2-h3 and h3-h4. **2...Ka6 3.a5 b6 3...Ka7 4.Kb5 Kb8 5.Kb6 Kc8 6.a6 bxa6 7.Kxa6 Kc7 8.Kb5 Kd6 9.Kc4 Kc6 10.Kd4 Kd6 11.h3** is a transposition to the game. **4.axb6 Kxb6 5.Kc4 Kc6 6.Kd4 Kd6 7.h3 Kc6 8.Kc5 Ke7 8...Kd7 9.Kd5 Ke7 10.Ke5 Kf7 11.Kd6 h4 12.gxh4 Kf6** is a little trick. **13.Kd5!** (But not **13.h5 g5!**) **13...Ke7 14.Ke5 Kf7 15.h5**, winning. **9.Kc6 Ke6 10.h4 Ke7 11.Kc7 Kf6 12.Kd6, 1-0.**



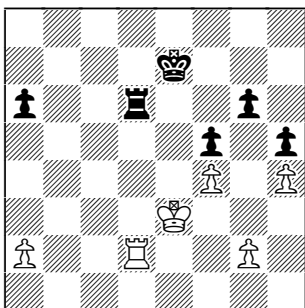
Penetrating into the opponent's backyard as in the example above is a common feature. I had it a couple of times over the board. In the game H. van Riemsdijk-Perez Cameselle, Terrassa 1999, black is already lost but allowing the pawn ending is complete suicide. White has many tempi left to squeeze into black's position. **1...Rxc5 2.Rxc5 hxc5 3.Ka4 Kd7 4.Kb5 Kc7 5.a4 g4 6.Ka6 Kc6 7.Ka7 Kc7 8.b3, 1-0.**

I wasn't always at the right side. In the game H. van Riemsdijk-Limp, 71st Brazilian Championship – São José do Rio Preto 2004 I got into a terrible zugzwang after **1...f3 2.Bd1 Be4 3.Bc2 Bxc2 4.Kxc2 Ka3. 0-1.** Not waiting for **5.Kc3 h5 6.Kc4** (Or **6.Kc2 Ka2 7.Kc3 Kb1 8.b4 a4**) **6... Kb2 7.b4 Kxb4 8.Kc2** winning at the king side.

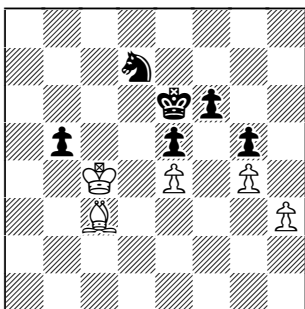


But I was a very happy man in the game H. van Riemsdijk-Facchetti in the 20th World Senior Championship, Arco 2010, after my opponent's mistake **1.Qh3?** This allows a won pawn ending because black has the three tempi he needs: **1...Re2+ 2.Rxe2 Qxe2+ 3.Qg2** The only move. If **3.Kg1 Qd1+ 4.Kf2 Qxc2+** and **5...Qxd3**, winning. **3...Qxg2+ 4.Kxg2 Kg6 5.Kf2 Kh5 6.Kf3**

g6 (tempo 1) 7.Kf2 Kg4 8.Kg2 h5 (tempo 2) 9.Kf2 Kh3 10.Kf3 a5 (tempo 3) 11.Kf2 Kh2 12.Kf3 Kg1 0–1.



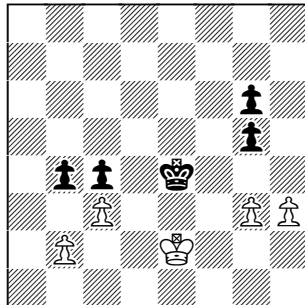
In the game Hajenius-Storkebaun, Freudenstadt 2009, my coauthor had also many tempi left: 1.Rxd6 Kxd6 2.Kd4 a5 3.Kc4 Kc6 4.a4 Kb6 5.Kd5 Kc7 6.Ke6 6.Kc5 is also enough but Willem calculated well his chances on the king side. 6...Kc6 7.Kf6 Kc5 8.Kxg6 Kb4 9.Kxh5 Kxa4 10.Kg5, 1–0. White promotes stopping black from queening on a1.



In the game Anand-Hammer, Kristiansund 2010 the world champion played 1.Kxa6, thinking he would get an easy ending. Better was 1.Kc6 a5 2.Ba3 Nb8+ 3.Kb7 Nd7 4.Kc7 a4 5.Bb4 winning with a nice

zugzwang. 1...Kf7 2.Kb7 f5? 2...Nf8 looks like loosing as in similar positions we have seen but because the pawn is on h3 instead of f3, it would have been Hammer's salvation: 3.Bxf8 Kxf8 4.Kc6 Ke7 5.Kc7 Ke6! (5...Ke8? 6.Kd6 Kf7 7.Kd7 is lost for Black) 6.Kd8 Kd6! 7.Ke8 Kc5 8.Ke7 Kd4 9.Kxf6 Kxe4 10.Kxg5 Kf3 11.h4 e4 12.h5 e3 13.h6 e2 14.h7 e1=Q 15.h8=Q Qc1+ 16.Kf5 Qf4+ with a draw. Now he is lost. 3.exf5 e4 4.Kc6 Ne5+ 5.Kd5 Nd3 6.Bd2 Nf2 7.Bxg5 Nxh3 8.Be3, 1–0.

Finally a sort of domestic affair from the game Vivian Heinrichs-Marius van Riemsdijk – São Paulo 2010. White has just blundered with 1.c3?? 1.g4 or even 1.b3 g4 (Or 1...cxb3 2.cxb3 Kd4 3.Kd2 g4 4.h4!) 2.h4 c3 3.Kf2 is a draw. Now the key squares d3, e3 and f3 are screaming.



1...b3? Son Marius returns the favor. 1...g4! 2.hxg4 (Or 2.cxb4 gxh3 3.Kf2 Kd5 4.Kg1 Kc6 5.Kh2 Kb5, etc) 2...bxc3 3.bxc3 g5, would have been a nice win 2.g4 Kf4 and a draw was agreed. The shoemaker's son always goes barefoot!

Book Review

FORMATION ATTACKS written and published by USCF Life Master **Joel Johnson** -Reviewed By **Leonard McLaren**

Joel Johnson, US Senior Champion in 2007 and currently rated 2223, is a player and coach based in Arizona, USA. His book is an entertaining instruction manual on attacking the king. The first two sections give general advice on how to analyze, how to prepare for an opponent and how to recognise attacking elements such as speed, weak squares, pawn structure etc.

The third, and by far largest section, is divided into parts according to the defensive set-up of the (usually black) king, eg uncastled, castled with fianchettoed bishop, pawn on h6, pawn on h5, pawn on f5, open h-file, open g-file etc. In fact all the usual formations featuring bishop and pawns are discussed and the reader is shown how to attack them.

Some of the examples are quite stunning, eg in the ICC game Smallville - Ildar 2006 after **1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 b6 4 g3 Ba6 5 b3 Bb7 6 Bg2 Bb4+ 7 Nbd2 Bc3 8 Rb1 Bxd4 9 0-0 Bc5 10 b4 Be7 11 Bb2 0-0 12 Qc2 g6 13 Bc3 d6 14 Rfd1 Nbd7 15 Nd4 Bxg2 16 Kxg2 Qc8 17 Nc6 Qb7** can you see white's brilliant next move which won instantly?

The following game is also amazing: C Van de Loo - M Hesseling, Weekend

Tournament, Netherlands 1983. **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 Bc5 5 Nxf7 Bxf2+ 6 Kxf2 Nxe4+ 7 Ke3 Qe7 8 c3 Nd4 9 Kxe4 Qh4+ 10 Ke3 Qf4+ 11 Kd3 d5 12 Bxd5 Bf5+ 13 Kc4 b5+ 14 Kc5 Qh4 15 Nxe5 0-0-0 16 c4 Rxd5+ 17 cd Rd8 18 Nc3 Nc6 19 Qa4!!** (Strangely enough this is the best move!) **19Qe7+ 20 Kxb5 Qxe5 21 Qc4 Nd4+ 22 Ka4 Bd7+ 23 Ka5 Nc6+ 24 Ka6 Nb8+ 25 Kxa7 c6 26 Nb5** (Stopping 26 ...Qc7+) **26Bf5 27 d4 Rd7+ 28 Ka8 Qe7 29 dc Be4 30 d5 Bxd5 31 Qxd5 Rxd5 32 Na7+ Kd8 33 Kxb8?** (33 Bf4 is better) **33Qc7+?** (33.....Qb4+ 34 Ka8 Kc7 35 Bf4+ Qxf4 36 b4 Rd8+ 37 Nc8 Qxb4 38 Ka7 Qa5#) **34 Ka8 Ra5 35 Bg5+! Rxg5 36 Rad1+ Ke8 37 Rhe1+ Kf8 38 Rd7 Qxh2 39 Ree7 Qxg2 40 Rb7 Rc5 41 c7 Qg4 42 Rf7+ Ke8 43 b4 Rc2 44 a4 h5 45 a5 h4 46 b5 h3 47 Nc6 h2 48 Rxg7 1-0** (48Qc8+ 49 Rb8 Kf8 50 Rd7 Re2 51 Rxc8+ Re8 52 Rxe8+ Kxe8 53 c8=Q#).

This is a big book. There are 435 lightly-annotated games, many played by Johnson himself against similarly- or lower-rated opposition. There are also many attacking brilliancies by the world's leading players of the last 180 years. Most games are somewhat one-sided: this is not a book about defence after all! In terms of instructional value, players rated 1000-1700 would benefit most, but the book can be used in other ways too such as in coaching, for sheer entertainment or for boning up on the sharp lines of your repertoire. (The openings index is useful for this.)

The book has high production values. The pages are double-columned and each

typically features two or three diagrams. The type is neat and clear and Johnson writes in a straightforward robust style. The book can be ordered from the publisher at <bigbear12@hotmail.com> Solution to puzzle: Smallville aka Nakamura played 18 Qe4!! Nxe4 (All other moves lose too) 19 Nxe7#.

b2 or Not b2 – That is the Question! - Part 2

By Steve Willard

Before continuing our analysis of my play in the 2008 Golden Knights tournament, I have some thrilling news to share: just 17 days into the 2011 postal chess year and I've already notched my first win! My assignment arrived on January 3rd informing me that I would have the white pieces against (name withheld) but that he was currently on vacation and would not be able to commence battle until the 10th.

A firm believer in a "Carpe diem" mentality, I immediately flew to North Dakota (2000 miles away, I should add) and, since I happened to be in the neighborhood, popped in to visit my new friend's abode. I was somewhat shocked to learn that he was, in fact, not home but seeing as how I had traveled all that way, it seemed only fair that I should avail myself of his "in absentia hospitality." A quick tour and I had gleaned everything that I needed to know: his favourite chess book (based on wear & tear) focused on the Queen's

Fianchetto Defense and he was a kindly soul (per review of charitable donations meticulously recorded on desk calendar). My plan was hatched during the flight home and immediately put into motion upon landing: first stop, Augusta Center for Dangerous Pathogens.

By the time (name withheld) returned from holiday, my first move was awaiting him, on official institutional stationary I should mention. After introducing myself, I gave him the grave news: there was a fair chance that I would not survive a protracted contest (Ebola Virus), and therefore: "if you can find it in your heart, please make use of "conditional moves" to speed our game along." I then wrote 1. e4 and thanked him for his understanding during this most difficult and trying stage of my life. A post-it note was also neatly tucked inside the envelope: "In the name of all that is holy, I beseech you to do what you can to bring some measure of comfort to this frail soul" –signed, Sister Theresa.

He responded with alacrity (even spending \$25.00 for next-day delivery) and immediately fell into my trap! His move(s): 1. e4 b6 / 2. If "any" then I will play Bb7 – With kindest personal regards. I could hardly contain my excitement as I dashed off my next postcard: 1 e4 b6 2 Ba6 Bb7 3 Bxb7 if "any" then 4 Bxa8. His resignation and a brief note soon followed. I won't be going into the details here, suffice it to say he packed a wobbly and threatened to have my guts for garters! Come to think of it, that is the perfect segue back to my Golden Knights tale, as you shall soon see.

Okay, so brief recap of my last article: I've

expertly dispatched the two beginners, won a smashingly nice miniature but then stumbled, dropping a game due to an oversight. So, two games left and I need to score at least 1.5 in order to advance to the semi-finals. The problem: both remaining opponents were what I'd call "wildcards." The first was behind bars and the second lived out in the middle of remote Canada (which means, among other things, that my usual skullduggery would have to take a back seat).

The first letter I received from 'El Diablo' (not his real name) also included a pamphlet about California's "Pelican Bay Prison" and a brief greeting from the warden. "Pelican Bay" had the ring of a country-club style facility for white collar misdemeanours, so this unnecessary info I tossed in the bin. My New Zealand readers may be surprised to learn that in the US prisoners playing correspondence chess is not uncommon. My opponent was at worst some white-collar criminal or minor ne'er-do-well.

We became fast friends—the match for the World Championship was underway and we immediately began to trade analysis and light-hearted barbs (he liked Kramnik's chances while I was convinced that Anand would easily prevail) and, moreover, our personal game was incredibly exciting to boot! Against my KID he had opted to play the Samisch and then he even allowed me to play my favorite Bronstein Attack! 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 O-O 6 Be3 e5 7 d5 Nh5 8 Qd2 Qh4+ 9 g3 Nxc3 10 Qf2 Nxf1 11 Qxh4 Nxe3 12 Ke2 Nxc4 -- always leads to a fascinating struggle. You should know that I have had a crush on

this particular variation since Jeroen Piket adopted it in the 80s and so I was quite thrilled to be given this opportunity. It was a titanic struggle, full of sharp tactics and positional nuance but by channeling Bronstein (Ouija board: NOT against the rules) I gradually began to seize the initiative and then with pinpoint accuracy I uncorked a combination swapping off most of the pieces and winning me the exchange in the process.

He was now down to just queen and rook while my rooks dominated the open f-file and my bishop lived large on the white squares. (Moreover, I had all the makings for a passed pawn on the kingside!) Yes, this was a battle for the ages and it would no doubt be referenced in every serious KID tome published hereafter. His back clearly to the wall, my opponent claimed a 30-day timeout. Oh, but I felt so alive!

And then, three days later, it happened. I was flipping through the TV channels when I heard one of those deep gravelly announcer voices say, "Up next on 'America's Toughest Prisons' (pause for effect) a rare look inside California's notorious Maximum Security *Pelican Bay*! I froze in my chair...in describing Pelican Bay, did I just hear the adjective "notorious?"

Well, I couldn't have been more mistaken in my earlier assessment— turns out that Pelican Bay is the "Supermax" prison where California houses its most dangerous inmates! (The Joker—not the lovable character, rather "as played by Heath Ledger"—Freddy Krueger, and those of a similar ilk.)

After a commercial break, an intrepid reporter and his cameraman (accompanied by a whole posse of machinegun-toting guards) soon introduced me to the facility and the citizenry. Although kept in near total isolation for 22.5 hours a day, the rest of the time they were allowed access to an exercise yard, radio, television, and—chess! Oh it was fascinating stuff: each scar, every tattoo had a riveting story to go with. And then...and then our brave film crew was led to a special isolation unit, used to house the ULTRA-ESPECIALLY-DANGEROUS criminals.

A very, very large man stood in the shadows motionless and quiet until the crew drew closer. Suddenly, and without warning, he flung himself against the bars—I initially thought it was a gorilla but then he started ranting and raving like a lunatic! The guards immediately built a protective phalanx and they and the reporters carefully retreated. Outside, it was explained that he (no name given) had recently stabbed another inmate to death (apparently with his finger) and so they had taken away all of his personal effects, to include his prized chess set! A month passed and then, finally, I received a letter from 'El Diablo.' He had regrettably come into difficulty accessing his chess set, no reason given, was having some trouble visualizing our position, but as he was pretty sure the game was about even, he had decided to offer me a draw!

I didn't sleep the rest of the week! I truly felt that my position was winnable but, on the other hand, I couldn't shake the thought that 'El Diablo' and the gorilla were one and the same. How badly did I want to

reach the semi-finals? To make my dilemma worse, my game against the Canadian wasn't going well, a draw looked likely. I needed this win!

I responded with a timeout of my own (plausible story involving the need to travel to Japan in order to test for my 7th degree black belt). A week later I received a mysterious package (anonymous sender) in the mail, inside: a book (Hannibal: Enemy of Rome by Leonard Cottrell), a bottle of wine (Italian Chianti) and a bag of coffee beans. Insomnia became my constant companion...what could it all mean?

And then, following 72 hours of acute sleep deprivation, I managed to doze off for long enough to experience a most lucid dream. I walked up to those bars and looked inside the cell. The gorilla was playing chess with...with Anthony Hopkins. They were laughing maniacally and I heard the gorilla ask, "And then what did you do, Dr. Lecter?" to which Mr. Hopkins replied, "Well, I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti, of course!" I awoke in a cold sweat, their crazed merriment continuing to echo all around me-- Oh... Em...Gee! This was most definitely NOT a good omen!! To be continued...

Letter from the Kingside

How Many Titles?

By Roger Nokes

The summer season sees sensible people like me enjoying the outstanding beauty of the New Zealand “great outdoors”. Lazing on the beach, tramping in our wilderness areas or perhaps boating in one of our many coastal paradises. But there are some amongst us who get their pleasure from playing chess! The new year period is the traditional time for the national chess championships of both Australia and New Zealand, and while not participating I followed each event keenly through that wonderful invention, the internet.

The Australian Championship was an interesting affair. A somewhat weaker event than usual with some of the country's strongest players absent, it provided some unexpected twists and turns with top seeds GM Zong-Yuan Zhao and IM George Xie only taking control of the event in the last few rounds. Zhao suffered a shock defeat to Junta Ikeda in round 5 and Xie lost to Zhao a few rounds later. In the end the event ended in a three way tie for first between Zhao, Xie and Moulthun Ly with 8.5/11.

On the other side of the Tasman the New Zealand Championship was taking place. Unlike the Australian event the final result in Auckland never seemed to be in doubt.

IM Anthony Ker proved victorious with 9/11, a point and a half ahead of his nearest rivals Bob Smith, Bruce Watson and Antonio Krstev.

Anthony is rapidly establishing a record of New Zealand Championships that many of us in New Zealand never expected to see again after Ortvin Sarapu's extraordinary sequence of 20 titles. As Ortvin's dominance of NZ chess gradually waned in the early 1980s a string of potential successors established themselves. Vernon Small and Paul Garbett had a number of NZ titles already under their belts, the Wellington invasion, comprising Russell Dive, Anthony Ker, Mark Noble and Jonathon Sarfati, were making their presence felt, and of course there were other strong players such as Ben Martin, Leonard McLaren, Bob Smith and, more recently, Puchen Wang. It was clear to any wise and knowledgeable observer that the sort of hegemony that Ortvin had established would not be repeated, at least in the near future. All of the new contenders for the throne seemed to be of similar strength and one couldn't imagine any one of these younger players dominating their peers.

So what on earth is going on? Anthony Ker has just picked up his 12th(!) New Zealand title - his 7th in the last 10 years - and Ortvin's seemingly insurmountable feat seems rather vulnerable. There is no doubt that some of Anthony's victories have benefited by the absence of some of his main rivals. In particular with Murray Chandler's return to active chess in New Zealand, and Puchen Wang's rapid climb in the chess ratings, Anthony has two strong

rival who have not been present in some recent events. But the same could be said of some of Ortvin's victories.

Take nothing away from Anthony's successes. He is the dominant figure in New Zealand chess and his list of NZ titles, dating back to the first in 1988/89, is an outstanding achievement.

So how is it that Anthony has been able to rise above his peers? I have played Anthony a number of times over the board, have observed him in numerous chess events around New Zealand, and have been a fellow team member with him in the New Zealand Olympiad team. I enjoy observing fellow chess players and trying to divine the characteristics that make up their chess "personality". For what they are worth, here are some of my thoughts on Anthony Ker the chess player.

In Anthony's chess makeup I see many strengths and very few weaknesses (other than the ones that all of us in New Zealand tend to suffer from - having an ELO rating about 300 points lower than we would like). One of the things that I very much admire about Anthony is his genuine love for chess. I'm not talking about the love of winning, or the love of titles. I'm talking about the enjoyment of sitting down at a chess board and playing a game or analysing a fascinating position. For this reason I am not sure I have ever seen another top NZ player who is less affected by the result of the game. Of course he thoroughly enjoys his successes, although this enjoyment seems to be most pronounced when the game itself was a good one, but he appears to take reversals

very much in his stride. I have not ever witnessed Anthony "down" after a defeat - a characteristic which I think is rare amongst strong chess players. He retains his good humour and invariably is happy to analyse the game in a post-mortem. This might seem like just a nice character trait, but in practice it is a powerful weapon. A reversal doesn't knock his confidence or motivation and he is as dangerous in the next game as he was in the one before.

Perhaps the other characteristic that immediately comes to mind when I think of Anthony is his tremendous determination at the board. Is there anyone else in New Zealand chess who works so hard at the board, working to extract every last opportunity from the position? Not in my book. There is no doubt that Anthony has a bit of a knack of getting some quite wretched positions but often that is when he is at his most dangerous. Witness his game against Bruce Watson in this year's championship. Anthony's position had collapsed out of the opening and Bruce carried a significant advantage into the middle game. But Anthony eeked out as much counterplay as possible. Even so Bruce nurtured his advantage into what looked like a winning endgame only to find Anthony laying a lovely stalemate trap which garnered him the important half point.

What are the characteristics of Anthony's style you might ask? I don't believe that there is a simple answer to this question. While his games might contain complex tactical themes at times he has skill in endgames and in quiet positions as well. I find it easy to contrast his games with those

of his friend and sparring partner Russell Dive. To me Russell's games endeavour to be graceful, logical and elegant, while Anthony's are almost the exact opposite. They are furiously complex, inventive and often plain chaotic. While I can greatly admire Russell's skills I have a natural affinity with Anthony's games.

Some might suggest that one of Anthony's weaknesses is his fairly limited opening repertoire. Does anyone know how he responds to 1 e4? Everyone does. For how many years I don't know he has played the Pirc or some close relative. That knowledge is useful in your preparation but you need to remember that you might have played ten games on the white side of the Pirc while Anthony has played hundreds on the Black side. A not altogether heartening prospect. Similarly his 2 c3 Sicilian comes as no surprise. This tight opening repertoire is a double edged sword but it clearly serves Anthony well.

Instead of annotating a game from the recent New Zealand Championships I can't resist revisiting one of Anthony's most memorable games, for me anyway - his tense struggle against a strong Grandmaster in the first round of the 2006 Olympiad in Torino.

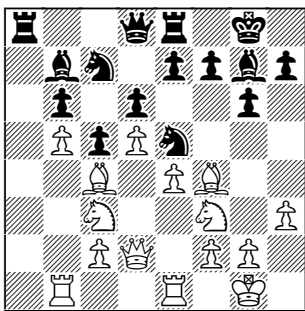
(22) Onischuk, Alexander (2650) - Ker, Anthony (2337)

37.Chess Olympiad 2006 Turin, Italia (1), 21.05.2006

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.d5 g6 4.Nc3 Everyone in this part of the world knows that Anthony loves to play the black side of the Benko Gambit. Perhaps Onischuk had the chance to check out Anthony's games

before this encounter and purposely avoided the gambit. **4...d6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Be2 0-0 7.0-0** Personally I'm not sure how to evaluate these types of position compared to their close relatives that arise from the Modern Benoni. A number of key differences exist. White has a c pawn still on a second rank so the position is somewhat different to a King's Indian and he still has ready access to the c4 square for his pieces, as in the Modern Benoni. Black on the other hand has not exchanged his e pawn for the White c pawn and therefore lacks the half open e file along which he can pressure the White centre. In compensation, as the base of his central pawn chain remains at e7, White is more restricted in his ability to pressure the Black centre. These features tend to suggest the struggle will be somewhat less tactical than a Modern Benoni - no doubt something a strong Grandmaster finds attractive against weaker opposition. **7...Na6 8.Bf4 Nc7 9.a4 b6 10.h3 a6 11.Re1 Nd7** White's position, due to the greater space he enjoys, has a slightly easier game. His pieces have developed to natural squares as he prepares the natural e5 break. Black's piece arrangement is somewhat more awkward, but the two knights on c7 and d7 serve to both restrain the e5 break and help support Black's b5 riposte. I prefer White. **12.Qd2 Re8 13.Rab1 Rb8 14.b4** This break occurs frequently in the Modern Benoni as well where it tends to take the sting from Black's queenside break. Of course in the Modern Benoni Black has a queenside pawn majority and mobilising these pawns is an important strategic theme. Here no majority exists because of the presence of the White c pawn. **14...Bb7 15.b5?!** [This seems to be

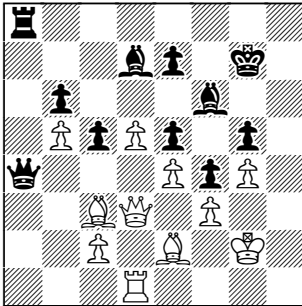
a rather committal move, resolving the pawn structure on the queenside perhaps a little prematurely. White could begin operations on the kingside instead. 15.Bh6 Bf6 16.Nh2 e6 17.Ng4 exd5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.exd5 is an alternative with complex play that appears to favour White somewhat.] **15...Ra8 16.Bc4 axb5 17.axb5** Because of Black's a file pressure White is obliged to recapture on b5 with the pawn. Strategically he would much prefer to retain a half open b file along which he can pressure the backward b pawn. Now while he retains a bind on the queenside Black's forces are no longer constrained and can redeploy. **17...Ne5**



[My silicon friend is more enthusiastic about penetrating on the a file immediately using the power of the black-squared bishop. After 17...Ra3 18.Rb3 Qa8 19.Rxa3 Qxa3 20.Ne2 Ra8 it believes that White's edge is non-existent. However Anthony's idea is not without merit. He intends to completely eliminate the e5 break and to use the blockading square on d6 to give him some space. A Modern Benoni exponent would normally avoid this arrangement but of course in that case, with no e pawn, the exchange on e5 would leave White with a strong passed pawn on d5.]

18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Bg5 Qd6 just in time, otherwise the d6 break would leave his position in tatters. **20.Ra1 Red8 21.Reb1 Ne8 22.Nd1 Qc7 23.f3 Nd6** this type of quiet manoeuvring holds no fears for Anthony. He takes the time in a stagnant position to relocate the knight to its ideal blockading square. Hiarc believes that the position is now equal. **24.Be2 f6 25.Be3 f5 26.Nc3 f4 27.Bf2 g5 28.g4 Rdb8 29.h4 h6 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.Kg2 Bf6 32.Nd1** [32.Rh1 Rxa1 33.Rxa1 Kf7 34.Rh1 Ke8 35.Rh7 Ra8 36.Qc1 Ra5 37.Qh1 Kd8 is an alternative that would enable White to seek opportunities to invade along the h file. Black remains at a slight disadvantage due to his lack of space within which to manoeuvre.] **32...Kf7 33.Nb2 Bc8 34.Qd3 Bd7 35.Qb3 Ra7 36.Ra6 Bc8 37.Rxa7 Qxa7 38.Nc4 Ra8 39.Be1 Kg7 40.Rd1** [40.Bc3 Nxc4 41.Bxc4 Qc7 42.Rh1 Qd6 43.Qb1 Bd7 seems a more logical way to increase the pressure. The knight on d6 has been removed which means Black must always be on the alert for the sacrificial d6 break and penetration on the h file. Surely this would be a position a strong GM could milk for the full point. But Onischuk was under some pressure. The rest of the match was not going according to plan. The other three boards, had yielded the USA only two draws and a victory and so it was crucial that Onischuk didn't lose.] **40...Bd7 41.Bc3 Nxc4 42.Qxc4 Qa4 43.Qd3?** [The alternatives don't seem to hold much hope for a White victory. Black is on a knife edge but holds after 43.d6 Qxc4 44.Bxc4 Kf8; and the alternative, while preferred by the computer doesn't seem to offer White anything substantial. How is he to make headway? 43.Qxa4 Rxa4 44.Ra1 Rxa1 45.Bxa1 e6 46.c4 Kf7. But the move

chosen is a mistake. In trying to retain winning chances Onischuk has now given himself some serious losing chances!]



43...c4 44.Qd2 Qxb5 45.Qe1 Ra2 46.Rb1 Qa4 47.Bd1 b5 Anthony has consolidated his extra pawn but a winning plan isn't that easy to find. White has the b4 square thoroughly defended and without that advance Black has limited options for applying pressure to the White position. Unfortunately the two bishops, while having done a sterling job defending, have little prospect for active engagement. **48.Bb4 Qa7 49.Bc3 Ra3 50.Qd2 Qa6 51.Be2 Ra2 52.Rh1 Qb6 53.Bd1 Be8 54.Kf1 Bg6 55.Rh2 Ra4 56.Bb4 Ra1 57.c3 Qa6 58.Re2 Qa4 59.Re1 Qa2 60.Bc2 Rxe1+ 61.Kxe1 Qa1+ 62.Bd1** The exchange of rooks hasn't enhanced the Black position and while still better due to his extra pawn he must be constantly alert to the d6 break. **62...Qa7 63.Kf1 Qa6 64.Qf2 Be8 65.Qc5 Qa1 66.Ke1 Qb2 67.Qa7 Bf7 68.Qb6 Be8 69.Qd8 Bf7 70.Qb6 Be8 71.Qb8 Kf7 72.Qc8 Qc1 73.Qe6+ Kg7 74.Bxe7** Finally the position comes alive. Black would have faced less risk by retaining his queen in the defence. A draw would have naturally followed.

Now he must be very careful as White crashes through in the centre. One can't help but admire Anthony for wanting to go toe to toe with a 2650 GM no matter what the risk. **74...Qxc3+** [All alternatives lose. For example **74...Qe3+?** **75.Kf1 Bxe7 76.Qxe7+ Bf7 77.Qxg5+ Kf8 78.Qxe5] 75.Kf1 Bxe7 76.Qxe7+ Bf7 77.d6 Qd4 78.Be2** White would like to retain his bishop on c2 to block the advance of the c pawn but the vulnerability of the bishop and the White king ensure Black has a draw. **78...c3 79.Qxg5+ Bg6 80.Qe7+ Bf7 81.Qc7 b4 82.d7?!** [White is playing a dangerous game in an attempt to win this position. The safe route is **82.Qe7 c2 83.Qg5+ Bg6 84.Qe7+**] **82...c2 83.Qxc2 Qxd7 84.Qc5 Qd4 85.Qe7** Back to the same theme. **85...b3 86.Qg5+ Kf8 87.Qh6+ Kg8** [Anthony takes the safe path to the draw. The engine believes that Black has a serious advantage if he risks the king march with **87...Ke7 88.Qg5+ Kd6 89.Qf6+ Be6 90.Qd8+ Kc5 91.Qa5+ Kc6** but you can understand not wanting to have to analyse this position after 90 moves. This game, to me, shows Anthony at his gritty, fighting best.] **88.Qg5+ Kf8 89.Qh6+ ½–½**

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	Plastic Container with Clip Tight Lid for Above Sets		\$ 7.50
	Draw String Vinyl Bag for Above Sets		\$ 5.00
No 5198	Solid Plastic – Felt Base Plus Vinyl Mat 510 x 510mm	98mm King	\$ 27.50
	In Printed Carry Tube		

Chessboards

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

Chess Move Timers (Clocks)

'Turnier' European Made Popular Club Clock - Light Brown Vinyl Case	\$ 84.00
'Exclusiv' European Made as Above in Wood Case	\$ 96.00
SAITEK Competition Pro Game Clock	\$ 92.00
DGT Easy Game Timer	\$ 59.00
DGT Easy Plus Game Timer – Black	\$ 79.00
DGT 2010 Chess Clock & Game Timer	\$124.00

Club and Tournament Stationery

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

Magnetic Chess

Magnetic Chess & Checkers (Draughts) 65mmK – 325 x 325mm Folding Vinyl Board	\$ 14.50
Magnetic Chess & Backgammon 65mmK – 325 x 325mm Folding Vinyl Board	\$ 16.50

Demonstration Board

640 x 720mm Roll-Up Vinyl – Magnetic Pieces (Green & White Squares)	\$ 76.00
660 x 760mm Roll-Up Vinyl - Slot in Pieces (Green & White Squares)	\$ 52.00
915 x 940mm Magnetic Roll-Up Vinyl (Dark & Light Green Squares)	\$265.00

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