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35th Trusts Open – Ben Hague's Run Continues

Plus:

The Wellington Open – Ross Jackson's Surprise 1st =

**History of Chess – Henry Hookham's Story - the first NZ
Champion**

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35th Trusts Open – 'Hypno Hague' Strikes

Ben Hague's run of Tournament Victories Continues

By FM Bob Smith

The 35th Trusts Open attracted arguably one of the strongest fields ever seen in a New Zealand weekender to West Auckland over Queen's Birthday Weekend. Contenders for the A Tournament included Russell Dive, Mike Steadman, Bob Smith, Paul Garbett, Ralph Hart, Leonard McLaren, Luke Li, Noel Pinic and the man who's won just about everything this year – Ben Hague.

The tournament – formerly the Waitakere Licensing Trust Open – was renamed this year at the sponsor's request and also moved to a new venue to satisfy funding requirements.

The venue – the Te Pai Centre - was just across the road from the old one and had been well advertised, so no-one was in danger of getting lost – or so I thought! Somehow some players still turned up at the Lincoln Green Hotel; luckily for them my wife Viv had over-ruled my view that posting a notice of redirection was unnecessary for such an intelligent group. When everyone had gathered in the right place and the usual inexplicable late entries had been processed, the field again topped

a hundred. And after overcoming some early funding worries, Waitakere Chess Club was able to offer the highest prize-fund yet - over \$7000, including \$1000 for the main winner.

There were also plenty of points at stake in the Myer Tan Grand Prix, with the Trusts Open being the only Super Class weekender on the calendar. With two thirds of the players in the A Tournament rated over 2000, tough games and upsets were a certain bet.

The first upset was the still unexplained no-show by Ivan Dordevic, who'd paid his money but apparently declined to take his chances. This created a bye, something the organisers had been trying hard to avoid. The other major upset in round one was the traditional poor start by chief organiser Bob Smith, who fell victim to Roger Perry's favourite c3 Sicilian. Smith stumbled again in round two, only drawing with Alex Huang and thereafter, as they say in cricket, did not trouble the scorers.

Also drawing in round two were Garbett (with Peter Stuart) and new Olympiad team member Luke Li (with Scott Yang).

In round three the men began to be sorted out from the boys. Hague dropped his first half point, grabbing a perpetual a pawn

down against Leonard McLaren, while Garbett struggled to draw with Pinic. Ralph Hart and Mike Steadman were the only players to keep clean sheets. Hart beat Thornton with a sacrifice Fritz has serious doubts about; however his opponent was unable to play like a computer. Steadman was the beneficiary of a “helpmate” blunder by Dive, who was a pawn up at the time.

Round four, and the two leaders played exactly the 30 moves required by the rules before agreeing a draw. Hague caught up with a good win over Garbett. Luke Li also reached three and half, catching McLaren out in the opening and eventually grinding out a win in a queen and pawn ending.

Monday morning saw Hague take the outright lead by dispatching Hart in fine style. Steadman and Li drew, and were caught by Dive, who happily accepted Thornton’s exchange sacrifice. Also on four was Hans Gao, who exploited Pinic’s clumsy pieces.

So the key final round pairings were Dive-Hague, Gao-Steadman and Hart-Li. Dive built up a favourable position, only for what I call the “Hague hypnosis” to strike. According to Fritz any of about nine different moves would have maintained white’s advantage; instead the impetuous 55.e5 led to a complete metamorphosis and a painful loss.

This self-destruction was also painful for Steadman, who beat Gao and was hoping to tie for first. However clear second and \$750 wasn’t bad, as Li never looked like beating Hart but somehow did manage to

survive to take clear third.

The B Tournament (under 1800) ended in a tie on 5/6 between Hilton Jacobs and Alphaeus Ang – who won the C Tournament only last year. This year the C Tournament (under 1500) went to Joy Qin, with six straight wins. She was the only player to take advantage of the “all wins” incentive offered in the three main tournaments. The \$50 bonus took Joy’s pay day to \$425. The Junior Tournament (under 12 and under 1200) and \$225 was won by Eugene Ngoi, who scored 5.5/6. He was a point clear of the runner-up, his brother Jonathan.

The success of this year’s Trusts Open was again largely due to the support of the Trusts Community Foundation and the West Auckland Trusts. Without their backing neither the substantial prize-fund nor a venue befitting the event’s standing would be possible. Waitakere Licensing Trust President Linda Cooper even made time in her busy schedule to attend both the opening of the tournament and the prize-giving.

Thanks to another generous supporter, who wishes to remain anonymous, a best game prize was added this year. GM Murray Chandler was the sole judge. He awarded the prize to Leonard McLaren’s win over Nathan Goodhue; a game that culminated in Leonard leaving a rook to be eaten by Nathan’s Queen and his King exposed to checks and running up the h file knowing at the end Nathan couldn’t prevent being checkmated on the seventh by Leonard’s Queen and rook. See Selected games below.

No	Name	Rtg	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ben Hague	2300	5.5	21:W	17:W	7:D	12:W	4:W	5:W
2	Michael Steadman	2225	5	19:W	34:W	5:W	4:D	3:D	6:W
3	Luke (Zuhao) Li	2191	4.5	22:W	15:D	23:W	7:W	2:D	4:D
4	Ralph Hart	2199	4	24:W	9:W	13:W	2:D	1:L	3:D
5	Russell Dive	2340	4	10:W	18:W	2:L	24:W	13:W	1:L
6	Hans Gao	1951	4	27:W	7:L	11:W	18:W	8:W	2:L
7	Leonard McLaren	2238	4	35:W	6:W	1:D	3:L	16:D	17:W
8	Noel Pinic	2084	4	31:D	26:W	12:D	15:W	6:L	18:W
9	Mark Van Der Hoorn	2154	4	33:W	4:L	19:W	14:L	20:W	13:W
10	Alex Huang	2046	4	5:L	14:D	33:W	23:W	17:D	15:W
11	John Duneas	2089	4	32:W	13:L	6:L	28:W	14:W	16:W
12	Paul Garbett	2292	3.5	20:W	16:D	8:D	1:L	24:W	14:D
13	Gino Thornton	2187	3	30:W	11:W	4:L	20:W	5:L	9:L
14	Robert Smith	2238	3	18:L	10:D	22:W	9:W	11:L	12:D
15	Scott Yang		3	28:W	3:D	16:D	8:L	19:W	10:L
16	Peter Stuart	2013	3	29:W	12:D	15:D	17:D	7:D	11:L
17	Nathan Goodhue	1961	3	25:W	1:L	35:W	16:D	10:D	7:L
18	Roger Perry	2014	3	14:W	5:L	28:W	6:L	25:W	8:L
19	Benji Lim	2043	3	2:L	29:W	9:L	30:W	15:L	26:W
20	Leonides Guico		3	12:L	27:W	25:W	13:L	9:L	30:W
21	William (Xiang Wei) Li	1724	3	1:L	28:L	27:D	35:W	23:W	22:D
22	Wayne Power	1974	3	3:L	33:D	14:L	27:W	34:W	21:D
23	Antonio Krstev	2131	2.5	26:D	31:W	3:L	10:L	21:L	34:W
24	Nicole Tsoi	1753	2.5	4:L	32:W	34:W	5:L	12:L	25:D
25	Brian Liu		2.5	17:L	0:W	20:L	31:W	18:L	24:D
26	Philip Hair	1964	2.5	23:D	8:L	31:D	34:D	35:W	19:L
27	Noel Sarmiento		2	6:L	20:L	21:D	22:L	0:W	31:D
28	James Cater		2	15:L	21:W	18:L	11:L	29:D	32:D
29	Winston (Yow-Jen) Yao	1772	2	16:L	19:L	0:W	0:L	28:D	35:D
30	Roy Seabrook	1866	2	13:L	35:L	32:W	19:L	33:W	20:L
31	Caleb Wright	1952	2	8:D	23:L	26:D	25:L	32:D	27:D
32	William (Jeiwen) Zhang	1821	2	11:L	24:L	30:L	33:W	31:D	28:D
33	Don Eade	1884	1.5	9:L	22:D	10:L	32:L	30:L	0:W
34	Simon Ward	1749	1.5	36:+	2:L	24:L	26:D	22:L	23:L
35	Mark Brimble	2056	1.5	7:L	30:W	17:L	21:L	26:L	29:D

Selected Games:

Hague, Ben - Hart, Ralph

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 cxd5
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Bf5 7.e3 e6 8.Bb5 Nd7
9.Qa4 Qb6 10.Nh4 Bg4 11.h3 Bh5 12.g4
Be7 13.Bg3 Bxh4 14.Bxh4 Bg6 15.f4 h6
16.f5 Bh7 17.Qa3 Nf6 18.0-0 Qc7 19.Kg2
Qe7 20.Qxe7+ Kxe7 21.e4 dxe4 22.Bxc6
bxc6 23.Nxe4 Rhf8 24.Rac1 Rac8 25.Rc5
exf5 26.Re5+ Kd7 27.Nc5+ Kc7 28.Bg3 f4
29.Bxf4 Kd8 30.Bd2 Nd5 31.Ba5+ Nb6
32.Rfe1 Rc7 33.Na6 Rd7 34.Nb8 Rc7
35.Bb4 Rg8 36.Bd6 Rc8 37.Re7 Nd5
38.Rd7# 1-0

Gao, Hans - Steadman, Mike

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6
5.e5 Nd7 6.Be2 f6 7.exf6 Qxf6 8.Nf1 Bd6
9.Bg5 Qf7 10.Ne3 0-0 11.Bh4 Ne7 12.Bg3
Bf4 13.Qd3 c5 14.c3 Ng6 15.0-0 b6
16.Rfe1 Bb7 17.Bxf4 Nxf4 18.Qd2 Rae8
19.Bb5 e5 20.Ng4 Nxe2 21.Nfxe5 Nxe1
22.Rxe1 Nxe5 23.Nxe5 [23.Rxe5 Rc8]
23...Rxe5 24.Rxe5 Qg6+ 25.Rg5 Qb1+
26.Kg2 Qe4+ 27.Kg1 cxd4 28.Qxd4 Qxd4
29.cxd4 Rf4 30.Re5 Kf7 31.Re8 Ba6
32.Be6 Rg4+ 33.Kh1 Rxd4 34.Ra8 Be2
35.Rxa7+ Kf6 36.Ra3 Bf1 37.h3 Ke5
38.Rb3 Kd6 39.Bb5 Bxb5 40.Rxb5 Kc6
41.Rb3 Kc5 42.Kg2 b5 43.Kf3 Ra4 44.a3
Rc4 45.Ke3 Rc2 46.Rb4 g5 47.f4 gxf4+
48.Kxf4 Rc4+ 49.Ke3 Rxb4 50.axb4+
Kc4 51.h4 h5 52.Kf4 Kxb4 0-1

Perry, Roger - Smith, Bob

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4
5.cxd4 Nc6 6.Nf3 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5
dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.Nc3
e6 12.0-0 Be7 13.Qg4 0-0 14.Bxc6 bxc6
15.Bh6 Bf6 16.Rfd1 Kh8 17.Ne4 Qe7
18.Bf4 Rfd8 19.Nxf6 Qxf6 20.Be5 Qg6
21.Qe2 Rd7 22.Rac1 Rc8 23.Rc3 f6

24.Bg3 Qf5 25.Re3 Re8 26.h3 Kg8
27.Rc3 Rc8 28.Rc5 Rd5 29.Rdc1 Re8
30.Qa6 Re7 31.Rxc6 Ra5 32.Qe2 Rxa2
33.Bd6 Re8 34.Ba3 Qd5 35.Rc7 Qg5
36.h4 Qxh4 37.Qb5 Rd8 38.Qb3 Rxa3
39.Qxe6+ Kh8 40.bxa3 Qxd4 41.Rxa7 h6
42.Qe3 Qg4 43.Qxb6 Rd1+ 44.Rxd1
Qxd1+ 45.Kh2 Qh5+ 46.Kg3 Qg5+
47.Kf3 Qf5+ 48.Ke3 Qe5+ 49.Kd3 Qd5+
50.Qd4 Qb3+ 51.Ke2 Qc2+ 52.Kf3 Qf5+
53.Kg3 Qg5+ 54.Kh2 1-0

Hague, Ben - Garbett, Paul

1.d4 c5 2.Nf3 cxd4 3.Nxd4 d5 4.g3 e5
5.Nb3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be6 7.0-0 Qd7 8.Nc3
Rd8 9.e4 d4 10.Nd5 Bd6 11.f4 Bg4
12.Qe1 f6 13.fxe5 Bxe5 14.Nc5 Qe8
15.Nd3 Nge7 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Nxe7
Kxe7 18.Qb4+ Kf7 19.Bf4 Rhe8 20.Qb3+
Be6 21.Qa4 Kg8 22.Rad1 Qc5 23.Kh1 b5
24.Qa6 Bc4 25.Rfe1 b4 26.Qa4 Re6 27.c3
bxc3 28.bxc3 Ng4 29.cxd4 Rxd4 30.Rxd4
Qxd4 31.h3 Nf2+ 32.Kh2 Nd3 33.Be3
Qc3 34.Rb1 h5 35.h4 Kh7 36.Qxa7 Ra6
37.Qd7 Be6 38.Qe8 Qc7 39.Qxh5+ Kg8
40.Qe8+ Kh7 41.Rb8 Bg4 42.Qh8+ Kg6
43.Rg8 Rc6 44.Qh6+ Kf7 45.Qxg7+ 1-0

Smith, Bob - Van der Hoorn, Mark

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4
5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Qd2 Qg5 8.f4
Bxc3 9.bxc3 Qd5 10.Nf3 b6 11.Bd3 Bb7
12.0-0 Nd7 13.a4 a5 14.Rae1 f5 15.e4
Qd6 16.Bxf5 0-0-0 17.Be4 Bxe4 18.Rxe4
Qc6 19.Qe2 Qxa4 20.c5 Nf6 21.cxb6
Nxe4 22.bxc7 Rxd4 23.Qa6+ Kd7 24.Qb7
Kd6 25.c8Q Rxc8 26.Qxc8 Ke7 27.Ne5
Rd2 28.Qc7+ Ke8 29.Qxf7+ Kd8 30.Qf8+
Qe8 31.Qa3 Qb5 32.Qf8+ Kc7 33.Qe7+
Kb8 34.Qf8+ Kb7 35.Qf7+ Ka8 36.Qg8+
Ka7 37.Qxh7+ Kb8 38.Qxe4 Qc5+
39.Kh1 Qf2 40.Rb1+ 1-0

Steadman, Mike - Dive, Russell

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4
dxe5 6.fxe5 Nc6 7.Be3 Bf5 8.Nf3 e6 9.Nc3
Be7 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Nb4 12.Nd4 Bd7
13.e6 fxe6 14.dxe6 Bc6 15.Nxc6 bxc6
16.a3 Qxd1+ 17.Kxd1 0-0-0+ 18.Kc1
Nd3+ 19.Kc2 Nc4 20.Bxa7 Ndx2 21.Ne4
Rd5 22.Be2 Kb7 23.Bf2 Rf8 24.Rhf1 Rf4
25.Bf3 Nd3 26.Nc3 Rd6 27.Rfb1+ Ka6
28.Bg1 Nde5 29.Ne4 Rxe6 30.Rb3 g5
31.h3 g4 32.hxg4 Nxc4 33.Nc5+ Bxc5
34.Bxc5 Nge5 35.Rd1 Nxf3 36.gxf3 Re2+
37.Kc1 Ne5?? 38.Rd8 1-0

Dive, Russell - Perry, Roger

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-
0 e5 6.Nc3 Nge7 7.Ne1 0-0 8.Nc2 d6 9.a3
a5 10.Ne3 Rb8 11.Rb1 f5 12.d3 f4
13.Ned5 g5 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Nxb4
16.Nxb4 cxb4 17.Rxb4 Kh8 18.Ba3 b6
19.Qb3 Nf5 20.Rb1 Nd4 21.Qd1 g4
22.Nd5 f3 23.Bf1 b5 24.e3 Ne6 25.Rxb5
Rxb5 26.Rxb5 Nc7 27.Nxc7 Qxc7 28.Qb3
Re8 29.Rb6 Bf8 30.Qb5 Rd8 31.Rc6 Qd7
32.Qb6 d5 33.Bxf8 Rxf8 34.Qc5 Rd8
35.Rc7 Qf5 36.Qe7 Rg8 37.cxd5 Ba6
38.e4 1-0

Hart, Ralph - Van der Hoorn, Mark

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 g6 4.Nd2 Nf6
5.e4 Bg7 6.Be2 d6 7.Ng3 Nbd7 8.0-0 0-0
9.Re1 c5 10.e5 Nh5 11.Bg5 dxe5 12.dxe5
Bh8 13.a4 Ng7 14.Nc4 Ne6 15.Bh4 h6
16.a5 g5 17.Bg3 Re8 18.c3 Ndf8 19.Qc2
Bd7 20.Ne3 Bc6 21.Nf5 Bg7 22.h4 Ng6
23.Nxc7 Kxc7 24.hxc7 hxc7 25.Qf5 Qd5
26.Bd3 Nef4 27.Be4 Qc4 28.Bxf4 gxf4
29.Ng5 Rf8 30.e6 Bxe4 31.Rxe4 Qd3
32.exf7 Nh4 33.Ne6+ 1-0

Best Game Prize

L McLaren - N Goodhue

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 f4 a6 5 Nf3
b5 6 a3 Nd7 7 Be2 Bb7 8 O-O Ngf6 9 e5
Nd5 10 e6 fe 11 Ng5 Nxc3 12 bc Nf8 13
Bg4 Bd5 14 Re1 Qd7 15 a4 ba 16 Qd3
Qc6 17 Bh3 Bf6 18 Ne4 Nd7 19 Nxf6+ ef
20 Bxe6 Bxe6 21 Rxe6+ Kf7 22 d5 Qb6+
23 Be3 Nc5 24 Qe2 Qb2 25 Re7+ Kf8 26
Bxc5 Qxa1+ 27 Kf2 Qxc3 28 Qe6 Qxc5+
29 Kg3 Qe3+ 30 Qxe3 1-0

Wellington Open 2012 – 'The Journeyman's Revenge!'

By Bill Forster



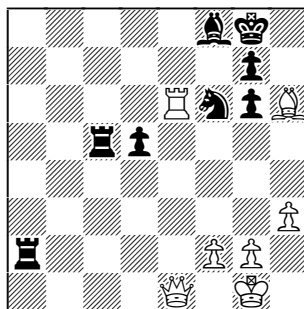
1st = Scott Wastney and Ross Jackson

This year's edition of the Wellington Open featured the traditional format of six rounds of Classical (90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move) chess on the first three days of Easter. A decent field of 28 players competed under the quietly competent supervision of arbiter Craig Hall. The favourites were clearly the four titled players. Top seed was IM Anthony Ker and he had redoubtable competition in the form of FMs Scott Wasney, Mike Steadman and German visitor Paul Zwahr. At the previous Wellington Open, there was a similar gap in class between the top players (Ker, Smith and Garbett that time) and the rest, and on that occasion the top players sorted out the result between themselves, whilst the rest of the field never got a look in. The smart money was no doubt betting on something similar this time, but I am happy to report that for once the smart money

got it wrong.

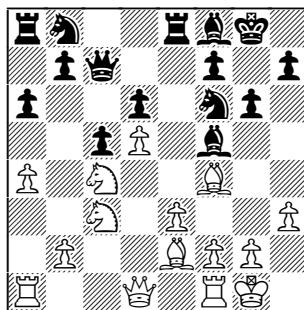
Before we examine the tournament result let's take a look at the highlights reel:

Anthony Ker - Andrew Stone



White concludes with a nice tactic **24.Rxf6!** Black can't prevent white pinning and winning the bishop 1-0

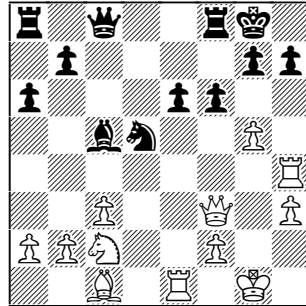
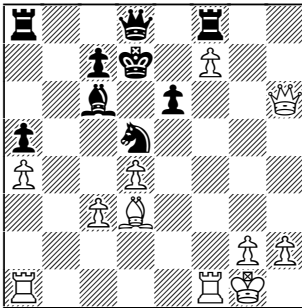
Mike Steadman - Martin Sims



White has set a cunning trap. What is black's only natural move? **14...Nbd7??**
15.g4! Whoops **1-0**

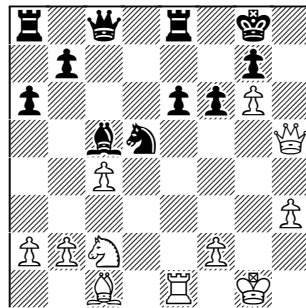
Anthony Ker - Paul Zwahr

Paul Zwahr - Nathan Goodhue

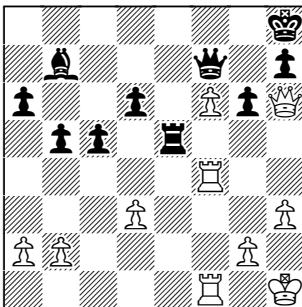


Speculative sacrifices are not really part of Anthony's style, so what follows is most likely a miscalculation **26.Rxh7?! Kxh7**
27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.g6 Re8 29.c4

White has sacrificed a piece but has three pawns and an overwhelming attack, he mops up stylishly **26.Rae1 Qe7 27.Rxe6!**
Qxe6 28.Bf5 Qxf5 29.Rxf5 Rab8 30.Rf1 Rb2 31.Qxf8 1-0



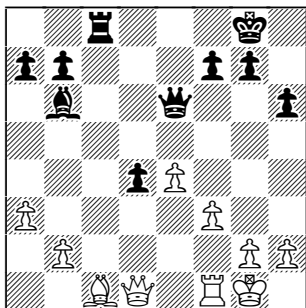
Roger Perry - Alan Ansell



Black now grabs the opportunity to decisively refute the attack **29...Bxf2+!**
30.Kxf2 Qxc4 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qh8+ Ke7
33.Qxg7+ Kd6 34.Ne3 Qh4+ 0-1

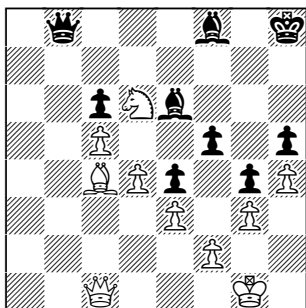
A nice finish to a well conducted attack **31.Qg7+** the bishop is dropping off **1-0**

Mike Steadman - Scott Wastney



The strong IQP supports a decisive black invasion 24...Rc2 25.Kh1 Qc4 26.b4 Qa2 27.Bf4 Rxc2 28.a4 Rg6 29.Bg3 a6 30.b5 axb5 31.axb5 Qc4 32.Qb1 Qe2 33.Rf2 Qe3 34.Qf1 d3 35.Ra2 d2 36.Ra1 h5 0-1

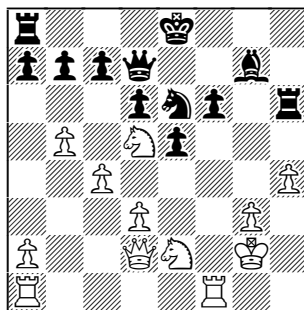
Bill Forster - Mathew King



An exciting time scramble finish, Mat King sets me up nicely and completes a nice turnaround 40...Bxd6! Best. I had assumed this was impossible... 41.Bxe6 Blissfully unaware of black's intentions, I was looking forward to winning a second pawn ... 41...Bxc3! Whoops! I never saw that 42.fxc3? I shouldn't have been tempted by this, now I have to walk a tightrope to

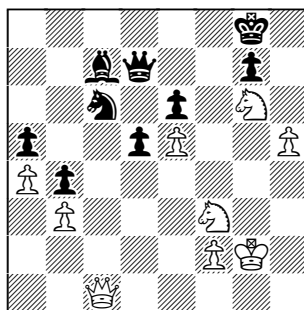
survive, I failed to adjust to a new situation 42...Qxc3+ 43.Kf1 Qf3+ 44.Ke1? g3? (44...Qh1+ followed by a queen swap and the pawn promotes) 45.d5? (45.Qa3! was the right way to activate the queen, White escapes with a perpetual. Now black still has the queen swap idea, and this time he sees it) 45...Qf2+ 46.Kd1 Qf1+ 47.Kd2 Qxc1+ 48.Kxc1 g2 49.dxc6 g1Q+ 50.Kd2 Qh2+ 51.Kc3 Qe5+ 0-1

John McDonald - Martin Sims



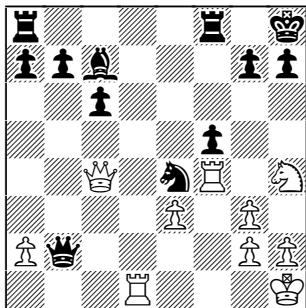
Opportunity knocks 19.Qxh6! 1-0

Nathan Goodhue - Mike Roberts



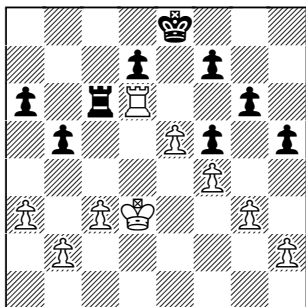
Opportunity knocks, part 2 47.Qxc6 1-0

Michael Metham - Bob Mitchell



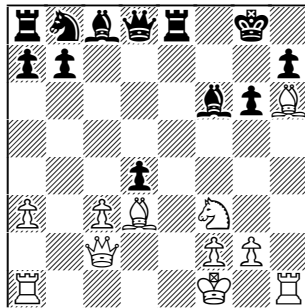
Opportunity knocks, part 3 25.Ng6+ 1-0

Scott Wastney - Paul Zwahr



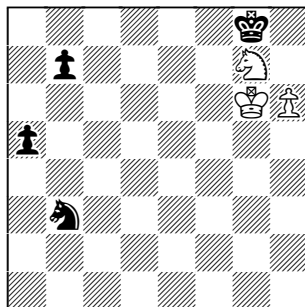
Scott Wastney has been conducting a positional masterclass. Black has avoided material loss, but has run out of moves 30...Rc4 31.Rxa6 Re4 32.Rb6 Re1 33.Rxb5 Rh1 34.a4 Rxh2 35.a5 Rh1 36.Rb8+ Ke7 37.Kc4 1-0

Anthony Ker - Alan Ansell



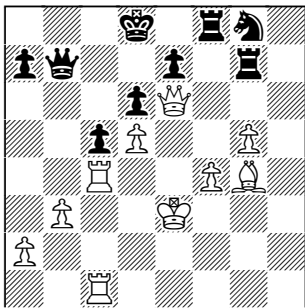
Anthony's attack radar has been serviced and returns to its normal operational efficiency 17.Bxg6 Re7 18.Bg5 Bxg5 19.Bxh7+ Kf8 20.Nxg5 Rg7 21.Nf3 Nc6 22.cxd4 Bg4 23.Be4 Rc8 24.Qb3 Ne7 25.Ne5 Rc7 26.Nxg4 1-0

Edward Rains - Brian Nijman



An upset from round 5. Any knight move (except Na1) allows Black to defend successfully 52...a4? That's not a knight move 53.h7+ Kh8 Now any knight move (except Nh5) is mate in three since Black can't defend f7 in time 54.Nf5 1-0

Paul Zwahr - John McDonald



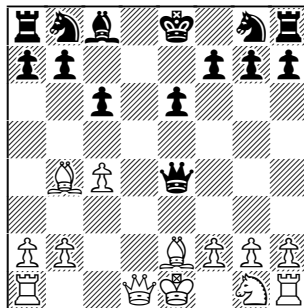
Our German guest played some nice attacking games. Here is another attractive finish, from the final round **45.Rb4!** There are other ways but this is most elegant (45...Qc7 46.Rb8+ Qxb8 47.Qd7#) **1-0**

Going into last round, Scott Wastney was leading, having dropped just half a point to Ross Jackson. A trio of players were on 4 out of 5. Ross, having an outstanding tournament, had also drawn with Brian Nijman, Mike Steadman had lost to Wastney and Anthony Ker had lost to Paul Zwahr. Zwahr was out of the running due to losses to Steadman (a piece losing blunder just out of the opening) and Wastney. Top board was Steadman-Jackson, board two was Wastney-Ker. Scott and Anthony continued their long running debate on the merits of 7.Qd4 in the 5...c5 Austrian Pirc. A high level but rather uninspiring game saw Scott failing to convert a better ending. Let's take a close look at what happened on board 1.

Mike Steadman (2230) – Ross Jackson, (1935)

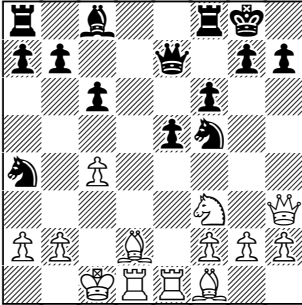
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e4 The Marshall gambit is very much in

Steadman's style. Of course at the Wellington Chess Club Ross has developed a reputation as a dedicated pawn grabber, so he's happy too. An intriguing clash of styles... **4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+ 8.Be2**

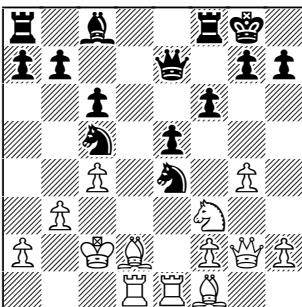


The main position of the Marshall Gambit, White's development advantage, bishop pair and Black's weakened dark squares amount to fair compensation. An article in a recent "Chess" magazine about British Chess in the fifties discusses this position at some length. This fascinating position was one of the favourite battlegrounds of an amusing cast of Machievellian characters who apparently didn't like each other very much. Baruch H. Wood, the prickly founding editor of Chess, was very much annoyed at the praise Taimonov received in 1953 for introducing the innovation 9.Bd6! (after 8...Na6) at elite level. Wood liked to point out that he had discovered and deeply analysed this move himself before successfully revealing it in domestic competition against a certain Mr Swinnerton-Dyer in 1949! **8...Nd7** Taking another pawn with **8...Qxg2** is not for the faint hearted and is generally frowned upon but may be better than its reputation; **8...Na6** is still the main move **9.Qd6 Qh4**

10.Bc3 Qe7 11.Qg3 f6 12.Nf3 Nh6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rhe1 Nc5! Threatening ...Ne4, a rather annoying move 15.Bf1 Na4 16.Bd2 Nf5 17.Qh3 e5

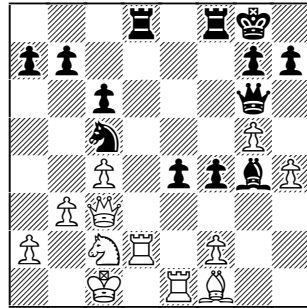


Now Bc8 is making the white queen uncomfortable. Black is pushing White around a little, not really something a gambiteer could be happy about 18.g4 Nd6 19.b3 19...Nc5 The computer immediately suggests the brilliancy 19...Ne4! offering a piece two different ways, but actually leading to a material and positional advantage for black after 20.bxa4 Nxf2 21.Qg3 Nxd1 22.Rxd1 Qa3+ 20.Qg2 Nde4 21.Kc2

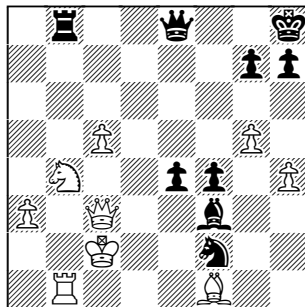
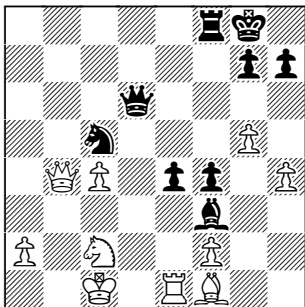


Clearly things have gone wrong for white. As well as a healthy extra pawn, black now has the initiative (so important after

opposite sides castling) and his king is safer too. 21...Nxd2 22.Rxd2 Qf7 22...a5 targetting the "hook" on b3 is natural and strong 23.g5 Qg6+ 24.Kb2 e4 25.Nd4 f5 26.h4 Ne6 27.Qg3 f4 28.Qc3 Nc5 29.Nc2 Bf5 30.Nd4 Bg4 31.Nc2 Rad8 32.Kc1

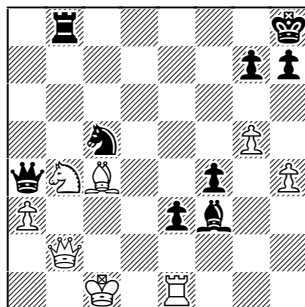


32...Rxd2 The computer can calculate that 32...e3! is a winning breakthrough, but it's a deep calculation. Ross prefers to keep his powerful phalanx intact for now. 33.Qxd2 Qe6 34.b4 Nd7 35.Qd4 Bf3 36.Qxa7 Qe5 Black has lost control of the position in the complications. Ross tried to bail out here with a draw offer but Mike understandably declined. Neutral observers probably expected the rest of the game to complete a familiar scenario; the plucky weaker player gets a good position, but subsequently succumbs in the face of time trouble, critical complications and prolonged resourceful resistance from a skilful and more confident competitor. Will this game follow that familiar path? (Hint: no it won't) 37.Qxb7 Qd6 38.Qa7 c5! Cutting off White's queen from the centre and opening lines. Black starts to take over again, permanently this time 39.Qa3 cxb4 40.Qxb4 Nc5!



For the fourth time the knight returns to this square. Each time it has been a good move. Material has rarely been level in this game. Now White has an extra pawn, but throughout the game Black's initiative has been a more important factor than the material balance. In fact the pawns White has recently won have also created open lines leading directly towards the already shaky White king. **41.Qc3 Ra8** Again the computer suggests a deep tactical solution **41...Rd8!** is decisive. Black threatens a queen sac on d1 followed by a knight fork on a4 **42.a3 Rb8 43.Nb4 Na4 44.Qd2 Qb6 45.Bh3 Nc5!** A fifth time, and again, the right move! **46.Kc2 Nd3 47.Rb1 47...Nxf2!** It's not just a pawn, the pawn duo on e4 and f4 are now unrestrained monsters **48.Qd5+ Kh8 49.c5 Qb5 50.Bf1 Qa4+ 51.Qb3 Qe8 52.Qc3**

52...e3!! Finally Ross unleashes the hounds, with decisive effect. The rest of the game is slaughter. **53.Re1 Qa4+ 54.Kc1 Ne4 55.Qb2 Nxc5** A sixth time! **56.Bc4**



56...Bd5! The computer actually disapproves of this move because it allows white to prolong things pointlessly by **Bxd5** giving up the queen to **Nd3+**. I am giving it a human exclaim for the same reason (i.e. since that's the best White can do it's a good simplifying combination). **57.Bf1 Nb3+ 58.Kb1 Nd2+** The only slightly inaccurate move in an otherwise brutal finishing sequence. Throwing in a harmless repetition to gain clock time and taunt the opponent with illusory hopes of a draw was pioneered by the Soviet school. Perhaps Ross was just torturing his opponent old

school Russian style. **59.Ka1 Nb3+ 60.Kb1 60...Rxb4!** A simple but very attractive final blow. (61.axb4 Be4+ 62.Qc2 Qa1#) **0-1**

I think anyone in New Zealand (and likely only a few perfectionists elsewhere) would be proud of this winning effort against Mike Steadman. By winning it Ross joined Scott as joint winner, with Anthony alone in third place, half a point back. I've called this article a Journeyman's Revenge because I think the manner of Ross' win gives hope to all the other second tier players out there who normally accept that they are just there to make up the numbers in New Zealand's top open tournaments.

Book Review

Revolutionize Your Chess

**By Viktor Moskalenko,
published by New In
Chess 2009**

Reviewed by Peter Stuart

Revolutionize Your Chess is ambitiously subtitled *A Brand-new System to Become a Better Player*. I rather doubt that it will work for me since I'm just about past the improving stage these days but I like Moskalenko's emphasis on activity or initiative or, as he puts it, time. Okay, okay,

the reader can scoff at this claim . . . but there are signs.

Moskalenko starts with his five Touchstones: Material, Development, Placement of Pieces & Pawns, King Position, and Time. Nothing really new here, other than perhaps the greater stress on dynamic play. The rest of the book is divided into endgames, middlegames and openings with numerous examples (mostly from Moskalenko's own games in Spain) illustrating the use of the touchstones and dynamic play.

The endgame section mainly deals with positions with more material, i.e. not just the sort of basic positions with just one or two pawns that most endgame books are devoted to. Tactics are perhaps just as important in the endgame as earlier in the game.

Much of the middlegame section is devoted to handling isolated pawns, a difficult task for players over the board as there are both positives and negatives with these pawns. Naturally, Moskalenko is more interested in the dynamic factors for the owner of such pawns and there are many complete games illustrating why the acquisition of an isolated pawn is not necessarily something to dread. For opening theory addicts there is a section on the Botvinnik Slav (1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5) middlegames and then another on early bishop moves (Trompowski/London/Torre systems).

The openings section is the biggest part of the book, covering several variations that are among Moskalenko's favourites. For White against the Nimzoindian there is the Saemisch with either the 4.a3 or 4.f3 move

order and against the King's Indian his usual line is the Four Pawns Attack. The third part is an interesting and quite detailed coverage of the Stonewall Dutch, as played by Moskalenko.

There's much to enjoy in this book and the opening section is particularly good for devotees of those variations covered, or for those who might like to introduce more variety to their opening repertoire. The main niggles are the occasionally awkward English and the annoying (to me) references to the touchstones as T1, T2, etc, for example "-T2+T5". Fortunately, these gradually peter out as the book goes on!

Viktor Moskalenko is a Ukrainian GM (and former Ukraine champion) now living in Spain where he is a leading coach as well as player. As a writer he is probably best known for the very highly regarded *The Flexible French*.

Let Me Entertain You No 3

by Martin Sims

Aaahh, the joy of auction sites, second hand book dealers and private sales when it comes to picking up entertaining books cheaply. Whilst instructional books or biographies might sell for a higher price, books with a high EV rating (entertainment value) can often be bought cheaply as people seem not to think this is as important as, hopefully, improving our

results.

So, how do you know a book is entertaining? The title often gives a clue eg I would buy "Chessboard Magic", "The Joys Of Chess" or "Chess Panorama" instantly. Recently I was at a tournament and a player was selling a big carton of old books for \$2 each (or 3 for \$5!). I bought "The Bright Side Of Chess" (1952) and "Modern Endgame Studies" (1959) without looking at them before someone else snapped them up. I couldn't find a third with any EV potential and I would like to present some gems from my two, timeless purchases.

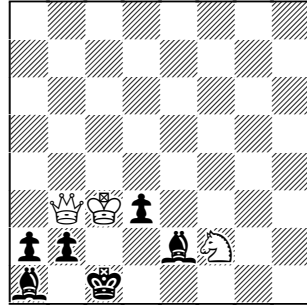
Firstly, from "The Bright Side Of Chess". There are stories such as, whilst waiting for their opponent to move two players are walking around the tournament hall and are chatting. Sir George Thomas asks Koltanowsky "I see you are the exchange down. Did you lose it, or sacrifice it?" Koltanowsky replied "How am I to know? I'll tell you when the game is over. If I win, it was a sacrifice. If I lose, then it was a mistake." Talk about annotation by result! There are games, for example:

Sobernheim,E - Langleben,S, Montcal,
1895

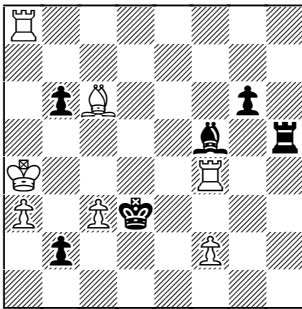
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7
5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.e5 Be7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Bd3 f5
9.Qh3 c5 10.dxc5 Nd7 11.f4 Nxc5 12.0-0
0 b5! 13.Bxb5 Rb8 14.Nf3 [better is
14.Nge2] 14...a6 15.Bd3 Qb6 16.b3 Qb4
17.Kb2 Qa3+!! 18.Kxa3 Nxd3+ 19.b4
Rxb4 20.Rxd3 Rb1+ 21.Ka4 Bd7+
22.Ka5 Bd8+ 23.Kxa6 Bc8+ 24.Ka7
Bb6+ 25.Ka8 Ba6#! Amusing and
picturesque.

Spielmann,R - Reggio,A , Ostend, 1906

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nc3 d6 5.f4 Ng4 6.f5 Qh4+ 7.g3 Qh5 8.h3 Bxg1 9.Qxg4 Qxg4 10.hxg4 Bb6 11.g5 Nc6 12.g6 fxg6 13.fxg6 h6 14.Rxh6! Rxh6 [14...gxh6 15.g7 Rf8 16.Bxh6] 15.Bxh6 Ne7 [15...gxh6 16.g7 Ne7 17.Nd5 Be6 18.Nxb6] 16.Bf7+ Kf8 17.Bg5 Bg4 18.Kd2 Bh5 19.Rf1 c6 20.g4 1-0 [20... Bxg4 21.Be6+]



Of course there are endgame studies and puzzles.

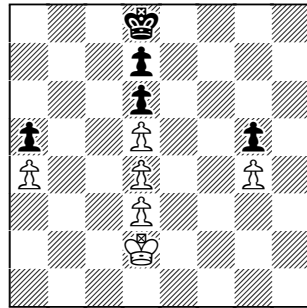


Troitzky and Korolkov, White to play and win

1.Rb4 Rh4 (pins the Rook) 2.c4 Rxc4 (and again) 3.Bb5 (pins the Rook which pins the Rook) 3...Bd7 (pins the Bishop which pins the Rook which pins the Rook) 4.Rd8 (pins the Bishop which pins the Bishop which pins the Rook which pins the Rook). White wins and if 4...b1Q 5.Rxd7+ Ke4 6.Bxc4

Cohn, White to play and win

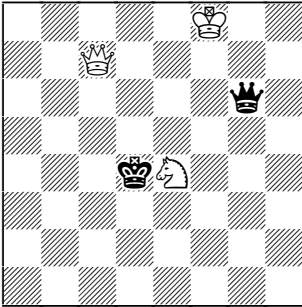
1.Qd1+ Bxd1 2.Nxd3+ Kb1 3.Kd2 Ba4 4.Nf4 (threatening 5.Nd5 and mating on c3) 4...Bc6 5.Ne2 (and now whatever move the Bishop makes) 6.Nc3#



Baker, White to play and win

White cannot win by direct attack either by 1.Kc3 Kc7 2.Kc4 Kb6 or 1.Ke3 Ke7 2.Ke4 Kf6. In either case, White gets nowhere. The winning idea is to bring about the diagrammed position with it being **Black's** turn to move. The solution is 1.Kd1!! – a move backwards which Black cannot imitate. Black must move to the left or the right. If 1...Ke7 2.Kc2 Kd8 3.Kd2 and now we have the initial position with Black to move. The rest is now easy. If Black moves

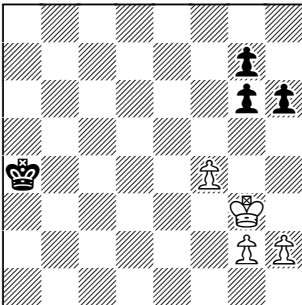
to the left White moves to the right and wins a Pawn and vice versa.



Chekover, White to play and win – the ultimate skewer!

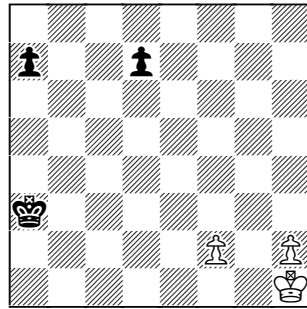
1.Qc5+ Kd3 [1...Kxe4 2.Qc2+] 2.Qc3+ Ke2 3.Qd2+ Kf3 4.Qf2+ Kg4 5.Qg3+ Kf5 [5...Kh5 6.Qh3#] 6.Nd6+ Kf6 7.Ne8+ Kf5 8.Ng7+ Kf6 9.Qf4+ and mate next move.

And there are pithy statements, eg “Of chess it has been said that life is not long enough for it – but that is the fault of life, not chess.” All this for \$2! And now some endgame studies from “Modern Endgame Studies”:

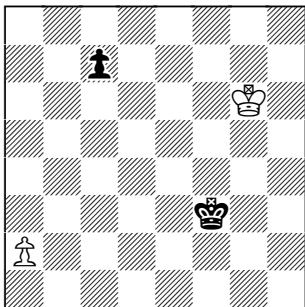


Mattison, White to play and win
1.f5! [and not 1.Kg4? Kb5 2.h4 Kc5 3.h5

gxh5+ 4.Kxh5 Kd5 5.Kg6 Ke4 6.g3 h5! 7.Kxg7 Kf5 8.Kh6 Kg4 9.f5 h4 10.gxh4 Kxf5 and draws] 1...Kb5 other moves lose quickly 2.Kf4 Kc6 3.Ke5 Kd7 4.f6 Ke8 5.fxg7 Kf7 6.g8Q+ Kxg8 7.Kf6 Kh7 8.g4 g5 [if 8...h5 9.g5 h4 10.h3 Black is in zugzwang] 9.Kf7 h5 10.h4! the real point of White's whole plan 10...Kh6 11.Kf6 and White wins eg 11...gxh4 12.g5+ Kh7 13.Kf7



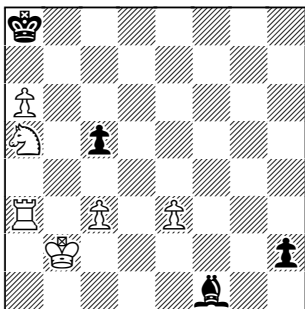
Grigoriev, 1936, White to play and win
1.f4! Kb4 [1...d5? and the White Pawn will Queen with check] 2.h4 [this Pawn cannot be overhauled] 2...d5! [2...a5? and when the White h Pawn Queens it controls the a1 square] 3.f5 Kc5 4.h5 d4 5.f6 Kd6 6.h6 d3 7.f7 Ke7 8.h7 d2 9.f8Q+ Kxf8 10.h8Q+ and White wins.



Grigoriev again, White to play and win

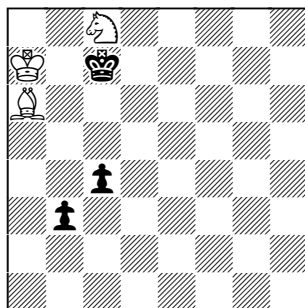
1.Kf5! [barring the Black King's way]
 1...Ke3 [best for if 1...c5 2.Ke5 and White wins]
 2.Ke5 c6! [Black threatens to draw by 3...Kd3.

If 2...c5? 3.Kd5 or 2...Kd3 3.Kd5 Kc3
 4.Kc5 and in both cases White wins] 3.a4
 Kd3 4.a5 c5 [Black has succeeded in forcing through the advance of the c Pawn]
 5.a6 c4 6.a7 c3 7.a8=Q c2 [if the Black King can make it to b1 the position is drawn]
 8.Qd5+ Ke2 [8...Kc3 9.Qd4+ Kb3 10.Qa1 or 8...Ke3 9.Qg2 c1Q 10.Qg5+] 9.Qa2! Kd1 10.Kd4 c1=Q 11.Kd3 with mate or win of the Queen to follow.



Kubbel and this time it is White to play and draw

1.Nc4! Bxc4 [if 1...h1Q 2.Nb6+ Ka7 3.Nc8+ with a perpetual check] 2.Ra1 Bd5 3.e4! [White will draw if he can succeed in capturing the Black Pawn on c5] 3...Bxe4 4.Kb3 Ka7 [4...h1Q 5.Rxh1 Bxh1 6.Kc4 and draws] 5.Kc4 Kb6 [Black has managed to protect everything and it seems all over for White] 6.a7 h1Q 7.a8Q Bxa8 8.Rb1+! Qxb1 stalemate.



Kubbel again with White to play and win

1.Nb6 b2 2.Nd5+ Kd6 3.Nc3 Kc5 [3...Ke5 4.Nb1 Kd4 5.Bc8 c3 6.Bf5 and wins] 4.Nb1! [a mistake would be 4.Na4+? Kb4 5.Nxb2 c3 and Black draws] 4...Kb4 5.Kb6 c3 6.Bd3 Kb3 [the situation looks bad for White - how will he stop the Black Pawns?] 7.Kb5 c2 8.Bc4#

So, what's a book you own with the highest EV rating? Send your comments to martinsims54@gmail.com.

History of Chess - Henry Hookham 1824-1898

By Ross Jackson

On December 31, Wellington Chess Club will host the 120th New Zealand Chess Congress. Most entrants will be competing in the Open category, for the Hookham Trophy. Some may know that the name on the trophy refers to Henry Hookham, the first chess champion of New Zealand. However, as the only publication in chess literature on Hookham is a précis in a rare, out of print book on the 30th & 31st New Zealand Chess Congresses, by Fedor Kuskop Kelling, few will know more about the man, or the contributions he made to the development of chess in New Zealand.

Henry Hookham was born on October 24th 1824 at 15 Old Bond Street, London. The address was the family home, and business – the highly prestigious private circulating library, Hookham’s library. Before 1861 a tax on paper meant books were expensive and private circulating libraries were a major means of access to literature. Hookham’s library was among the oldest in London, begun by Henry’s grandfather in 1764. It would grow to have close to 40,000 books – many priceless. The library had a spacious, elegant assembly room and enjoyed the patronage of many of the most famous people of the day. For example the poet Shelley frequented it and had his



Henry Hookham

allowance mortgaged to Henry’s father, Thomas. Hookham’s library was also involved in publishing, and was known to be supportive of women’s literature. It still gets a mention in the occasional women’s romance.

Henry Hookham was educated at Thomas Stratton’s private school in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. It was the Industrial Revolution - a time of rapid population growth, socio-political change, geographical exploration and scientific and artistic advancement. At school he received a broad education and developed a strong interest on social issues. He learnt chess at

about the age of 10 and by age 12 had improved enough to win a game off his master. A historian in Buckinghamshire, Sandy MacFarlane, has chronicled a 70 year history of the Hookham family through letters between Henry and his brother Thomas. On Hookham's political views and chess, MacFarlane would write "In these the child was father of the man, for in his later years in New Zealand he was greatly concerned about social justice and also became the country's first Chess Champion".

Henry left school in 1839 to work in the library along with his elder brother Thomas, and father, Thomas senior. His chess developed by visiting Starey's Philidorean rooms, Rathbone Place, from 1845 to 1850. At times he played odds games against Falkbeer, Zytogorski and Janssens who were among the prominent players of the day. Material odds games were then regarded with more respect than today - Herr Harrwitz's British Chess Review 1853 included 16 material-odds games. Other notable chess players to attend the Philidorean rooms were Bryan, Campbell, Harrwitz, Horwitz, Boden and Barnes. Hookham became a part-owner of the library in 1850. One of the employees was S. Tinsley – chess editor of the weekly editon of the London Times.

Emigrating to NZ

Henry Hookham married and had 5 children. However work at the family library was not to his liking. He wanted a more active lifestyle and greater opportunity for his family. To his brother's

and father's dismay, in 1863 he persuaded them to turn the business into a limited liability company in order to receive his share and emigrate to farm in New Zealand. He arrived in New Zealand in 1865 and farmed at Kaiapoi Island, a region of land then isolated by braidings of the Waimakariri River, near Christchurch. He did well - Canterbury was the wealthiest province in New Zealand due to its agricultural strength. Hookham's library, which his brother Thomas continued with, fared poorly as a company, ultimately going into liquidation in 1871. Henry Hookham would send small remittances to assist his brother up until his own death.

At Kaiapoi he established the Kaiapoi chess club and became active in interclub fixtures. He won a Canterbury Province championship in 1870, representing Kaiapoi, and as a member of Christchurch Chess Club won the Christchurch championship in 1878. After several years farming he changed career to become a schoolmaster at Kaiapoi Island school. He administered the school library and also contributed to the Kaiapoi community library. He arranged for 2,500 second hand books from Hookham's library to go to the Kaiapoi library. The library does not know if any of these are retained or were chess books. Collation did not begin until 1910 and many books are presently in storage due to the continuing earthquakes. This writer purchased an extremely well maintained copy of Steinitz's "The Modern Chess Instructor", 1889 through Trademe auction; it was not advertised but when received, the book was discovered to be inscribed by Henry Hookham.

The First NZ Championship

In 1879 Christchurch Chess Club organised and sponsored the first New Zealand Chess Congress. It was a double round robin contest of eight players. All entrants were from the South Island. First prize was fifty pounds – equivalent to about \$3800 today. Hookham won after a tie-break with D.R. Hay of Dunedin. There was a falling out within the Christchurch club following the tournament. It resulted in Hookham and the bulk of the club leaving to form the Canterbury Chess Club. The remnant Christchurch Club soon dissolved.

After 10 years school teaching Hookham retired in 1882 to live in Fendalton, Christchurch. On his departure the school gifted him a beautiful inlaid chess table. Retirement led to an increase in, rather than withdrawal from, chess activity. He became editor of the chess column of the Canterbury Times in 1882. In May 1884 he issued a prickly challenge through the Christchurch Star to P.F. Jacobsen, the Congress 3rd place-getter, accusing him of claiming premier spot on behalf of Canterbury in an inter provincial competition against Wellington. The newspaper reply by Jacobsen was temperate, denied the assertion, and disputed Hookham's facts. The match was concluded October 21 1884, with Hookham winning 7, Jacobson 6, drawn 8.

Also in 1884 Hookham was elected President of the Canterbury Chess Club following the death of the former President H.J.Tancred. He would hold the office for the rest of his life. In 1887 he travelled to

Adelaide for the first Australian Intercolonial Congress - so becoming New Zealand's first international chess representative. He was 63. He arrived with a cold which may have contributed to a poor start against weaker opponents and put him out contention for a placing. However he recovered well, later securing draws against the first and second prize winners, Australian state champions F.K. Ealing and H. Charlick, plus a win against the third placed G.H.Gossip.

Henry Hookham established the New Zealand Chess Association. He further assisted the cementing of a national chess structure by, as President of Canterbury Chess Club, hosting another national chess Congress, in 1888 - intended to be the first of ongoing annual national championships. There have been only two brief interruptions, during the World Wars. As explained in an excellent article by Peter Stuart in ChessCafe.com, the New Zealand championship is not the earliest national championship, but it is the most numerously contested of any country. Hookham did not win this inaugural annual tournament (being the second championship and first of the annual tournaments) but regained the title, also after a tie break decider game, the following year at Dunedin. Henry Hookham played every Congress until the year before he died. Age did not appear to diminish his competitiveness - he would secure a second in 1893 and a third in 1895-6.

Hookham was strongly interested in politics and in his latter years became an active member of the Fabian Society and

the Socialist Church. The Socialist Church was the first organisation in New Zealand to use the word "Socialist" in its title. It was not so much a religious organisation as a gathering for discussion of radical socialist ideas. Although it lasted only 9 years it is recognised as being one of a number of fledgling intellectual groupings that promulgated beliefs which would strengthen to ultimately give birth to the Labour Party. During his school days his Aunt had once written him a letter in which, referring to his learning Greek, she expressed sadness that being a woman had denied her the opportunity for education in "the dead languages". Hookham lived to see New Zealand become the first nation in the world to give women the vote, in 1893. Interestingly this was achieved under the leadership of another keen chess player, Premier John Ballance, who had founded the Wanganui Chess Club and been President of Wellington Chess Club.

The burgeoning of chess in the late 19th century was part of a global phenomenon of societies organising into civil groupings – sporting, cultural and political. In 1893 the chess editor of the Otago Witness would report on chess reaching Tibet and Western Australia, "Civilisation is advancing. It has reached even Tibet and Western Australia. *Ferum victorem cepit ert artes, intulit agrestic Latio*" (from Horace in reference to the influence of Greek culture on the Romans – "Greece, defeated, conquered its wild conqueror, and civilised the peasant Latins").

Henry Hookham died in 1898, greatly respected and popular, having made a major contribution to the development of

chess in New Zealand. Congratulations to the winner of the Hookham trophy at the 120th New Zealand Chess Congress.

Henry Hookham vs George Hatfield Gossip
Australian Championships 1887 English
Opening, Agincourt Defence

1. c4 e6 2. e3 Nf6 3. Nf3 d5 4. d4 c5 5. b3 cxd4 6. exd4 Bb4+ 7. Bd2 Bxd2+ 8. Qxd2 O-O 9. Be2 Nc6 10. O-O Ne4 11. Qb2 f5 12. Nc3 g5 13. cxd5 Nxc3 14. Qxc3 exd5 15. Rad1 Bd7 16. Qd2 f4 17. Ne5 Bf5 18. Rfe1 Rc8 19. Bd3 Bxd3 20. Nxc6 Rxc6 21. Qxd3 f3 22. g3 Qd7 23. Re3 Rcf6 24. Qf1 Rh6 25. Re5 Rf5 26. Rde1 Rxe5 27. Rxe5 Rg6 28. h3 h6 29. Kh2 g4 30. Qe1 Kf7 31. hxg4 Qxg4 32. Re7+ Kg8 33. Re8+ Kh7 34. Qe5 Rg7 35. Qxd5 Rc7 36. Qe5 Rg7 37. d5 h5 38. Re7 Rxe7 39. Qxe7+ Kh8 40. d6 Qd4 41. Qf8+ Kh7 42. Qxf3 Qxd6 43. Qxh5+ Kg7 44. Qg4+ Kh7 45. Qe4+ Kg8 46. Qxb7 Qd4 47. Qb8+ 1-0

Henry Hookham v H Anderson 1897
Canterbury Chess Club tournament,
Queens Gambit Declined **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e3 O-O 6.Nf3 b6 7.Rc1 Bb7 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.O-O Rc8 11.Qe2 a5 12.Rfd1 Ne4 13.Bxe7 Nxc3 14.Rxc3 Qxe7 15.Qc2 Nf6 16.Bf5 Ne4 17.Rb3 Rb8 18.Ne5 g6 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Rc1 f6 21.Nc6 Bxc6 22.Qxc6 Rbc8 23.Rbc3 f5 24.Qb7 Qb4 25.Qd5+ Kg7 26.Rxc7+ Rxc7 27.Rxc7+ Kh6 28.h3 Qe1+ 29.Kh2 Qxf2 30.Qd6 Rh8 31.Qg3 Qxg3+ 32.Kxg3 Rb8 33.Kf4 b5 34.d5 b4 35.g3 b3 36.a4 Rb4 37.d6 Rb8 38.d7 Rd8 39.Ke5 g5 40.Kxf5 g4 41.hxg4 Rxd7 42.g5+ 1-0**

End Game Workshop – Fortress Rook and Knight vs Queen

By IM Herman van Riemsdijk

The match for the world title is over. A lot has been said and written by people who are disappointed about the outcome and ‘fighting spirit’ of the games. For the first half of the match this was quite true but in the remaining leg of the match entertaining and interesting chess was played. Partly because there were more mistakes and we know they are the spicy ingredient for a good meal!

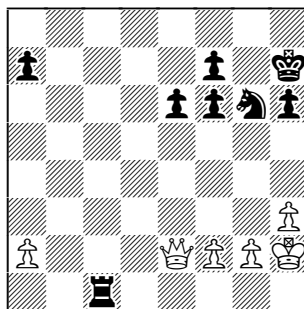
Of course we would like to see Anand being challenged by Carlsen or Aronian. Maybe even better should have been a match between these two, but both are partly responsible for being out of the cycle.

About ‘fighting spirit’ I have to defend Anand because any player who faces a rock-solid player like Gelfand would sense how difficult it is to break a player like that. That Anand is not in his top form is not difficult to see. This is an additional factor for not taking risk and I’m sure Vishy was very happy to take the match to the rapid games.

After both spectacular wins in games 7 and 8, the ninth game drew my special attention:

Gelfand, Boris - Anand, Viswanathan
World Championship 2012 – game 9 –
Moscow, 2012

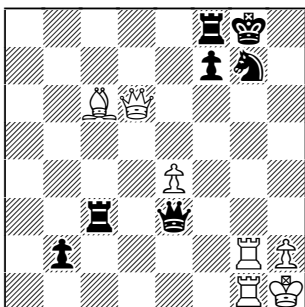
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.0-0 dxc4 8.Bxc4
cxd4 9.exd4 b6 10.Bg5 Bb7 11.Qe2 Nbd7
12.Rac1 Rc8 13.Bd3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qc7
15.c4 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Rfe8 17.Rfd1 h6
18.Bh4 Qd6 19.c5 bxc5 20.dxc5 Rxc5
21.Bh7+ Kxh7 22.Rxd6 Rxc1+ 23.Rd1
Rec8 24.h3 Ne5 25.Qe2 Ng6 26.Bxf6 gxf6
27.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 28.Kh2



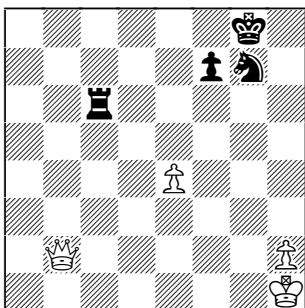
After being outplayed in the opening, the World Champion managed to play for what is technically called a ‘fortress’. He succeeded in great style: **28...Rc7 29.Qb2 Kg7 30.a4 Ne7 31.a5 Nd5 32.a6 Kh7 33.Qd4 f5** Maybe this is not necessary but who am I to challenge his approach... **34.f4 Rd7 35.Kg3 Kg6 36.Qh8 Nf6 37.Qb8 h5**

38.Kh4 Kh6 39.Qb2 Kg6 40.Qc3 Ne4
 41.Qc8 Nf6 42.Qb8 Re7 43.g4 hxg4
 44.hxg4 fxg4 45.Qe5 Ng8 46.Qg5+ Kh7
 47.Qxg4 f6 48.Qg2 Kh8 49.Qe4 Kg7 ½-½

In Nepomniachtchi,Ian v Shirov,Alexei,
 73rd Tata Steel GMA Wijk aan Zee, 2011,
 the following position was reached after
 33.Rbg1



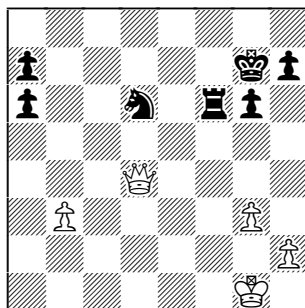
Shirov, one of the most resourceful players
 ever, managed to draw with 33...Qxg1+!
 34.Rxg1 Rc1 35.Qg3 Rxg1+ 36.Qxg1 Rc8
 37.Qb6 Rxc6 38.Qxb2



and build up a perfect fortress.
 Nepomniachtchi was not able to storm it:
 38...Rg6 39.Qb8+ Kh7 40.Qb7 f5
 Probably not necessary but bringing the
 position to a deadlock. 41.e5 Re6 42.Qd5

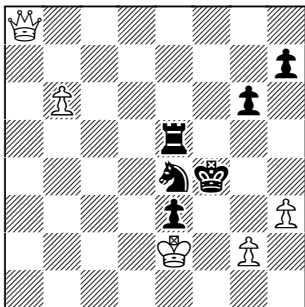
Rg6 43.Qf3 Re6 44.Qf4 Rg6 45.h3 Kg8
 46.Kh2 Kh7 47.Qc4 Re6 48.Qd5 Rg6
 49.Qd4 Kg8 50.Qc4+ Kh7 51.Qc7 Kg8
 52.h4 Kh7 53.Kh3 Kh6 54.Qd7 Kh7
 55.Qf7 Re6 56.Qc7 Rg6 57.Qb8 Nh5
 58.Qa7+ Ng7 59.Qc3 Rh6 60.Kg3 Rg6+
 61.Kh3 Rh6 62.Qd3 Re6 63.Qd5 Rg6
 64.Qb5 Kh6 65.Qb3 Kh7 66.Qd5 Ne6
 67.Kh2 Ng7 68.Qb5 Kh6 69.Qb3 Kh7
 70.Qd5 Rg4 71.h5 Nxh5 72.Qf7+ Ng7
 73.e6 Re4 74.e7 Kh6 75.Kg2 Rg4+ 76.Kf2
 Re4 77.Kf3 Kh7 78.Qf6 Kg8 79.Qf8+ ½-½

Also British big talent David Howell was
 able to get a fortress in his game against
 Nakamura: Nakamura,Hikaru -
 Howell,David (2nd London Chess Classic,
 2010) after 32.Qxd4

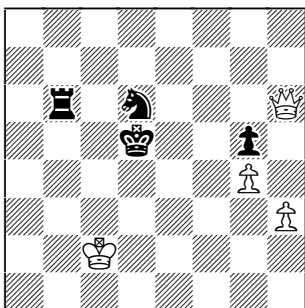


Howell got a fortress with 32...h5
 33.Qxa7+ Nf7 34.h4 Kg8 35.Qe7 Kg7
 36.b4 Rf5 37.Qc7 Rf6 38.Kg2 Kg8
 39.Qc8+ Kg7 40.Qc7 Kg8 41.Qc8+ Kg7
 42.Qc7 and Nakamura was helpless to
 make any progress: ½-½.

In Leko,Peter - Kamsky,Gata (4th Fide
 Grand Prix, Nalchik, 2009), after 55.b6



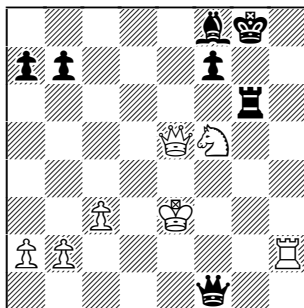
Grandmaster Zagrebelny criticized this move suggesting that 55.Qf8+! was a more correct approach. The game went on with ...Nc3+ 56.Ke1 Rb5 57.Qf3+ Ke5 58.Qxe3+ Ne4 59.Ke2 Rb1 (Here 60.Kf3 – not an easy move to make – was still winning) 60.Qa3 Nd6 61.Qc5+ Ke6 62.Qc6 Rb2+ 63.Kd3 Rb3+ 64.Kc2 Rb4 65.Kc1 Rb3 66.Qc5 h6 67.Qd4 g5 (Placing the pawns on the right squares) 68.Qc5 Kd7 69.Kc2 Rb5 70.Qc7+ Ke6 71.Qc6 Rb4 72.Kc1 Rb3 73.Qc5 Kd7 74.g4 Ke6 75.Qc7 Kd5 76.Qa7 Kc6 77.Qc7+ Kd5 78.Kc2 Rb5 79.Qh7 Rxb6 80.Qxh6



And a definitive fortress is reached: 80...Rc6+ 81.Kd3 Nf7 82.Qh7 Rf6 83.Qg8 Kd6 84.Qe8 Rf3+ 85.Kd4 Rf4+ 86.Kc3

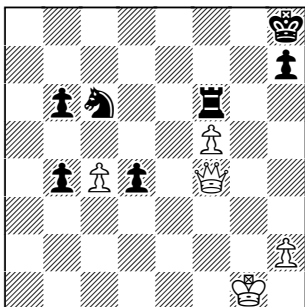
Rf3+ 87.Kb4 Rf6 88.Kb5 Kd5 89.Qa8+ Ke6 90.Kc5 Ke7 91.Qa7+ Kf8 92.Qa3 Kg8 93.Kd5 Kg7 94.Qg3 Kg6 95.h4 gxh4 96.Qxh4 Kg7 97.Qg3 Kg6 98.Qh4 Kg7 99.Ke4 Kg6 100.Qh5+ Kg7 101.Ke3 Re6+ 102.Kf4 Rf6+ 103.Kg3 Rd6 104.Qf5 Rf6 105.Qc5 Rd6 106.Qc3+ Kg6 107.Kh4 Kh7 108.Qc7 Kg7 109.Qe7 Rh6+ 110.Kg3 Rf6 111.Qb4 Rd6 112.Qb2+ Kg6 113.Qb8 Kg7 114.Kf4 Rf6+ 115.Ke4 Re6+ 116.Kf4 Rf6+ 117.Kg3 Rd6 118.Qb5 Kg6 119.Qb7 Kg7 120.Qe7 Rf6 121.Kg2 Rd6 ½–½

In Van Riemsdijk, Herman - Fiorito, Fabián (Mar del Plata XXIII Open, 1992) I got the following difficult position after 40.Ke3

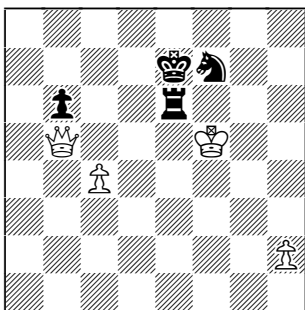


40...Qe1+ 41.Kd4 Rd6+! 42.Nxd6 Bg7 43.Qxg7+ Kxg7 44.Rg2+ Kf8 45.Ne4 45...Ke7 (45...f5! 46.Nd2 Qe6 was the best way to avoid a fortress) 46.c4 (Now I'm almost there) 46... b6 47.Rf2 Qc1 48.b3 Qg1 49.Kd3 Ke6 50.Re2 Qb1+ 51.Kc3 Qc1+ 52.Kd3 Qd1+ 53.Nd2+ Kd6 54.Rf2 Qh5 55.Kc2 f5 56.Rf3 Qg4 57.b4 f4 58.a3 Qf5+ 59.Kc1 Qe5 (Allows the following simplification but I don't see how black could make progress) 60.c5+ Kd5 61.cxb6 axb6 62.Kd1 b5 63.Kc2 Qf5+ ½–½

After 41.Qf4 in Urdy Caceres, Henry - Amura, Claudia (Capablanca Memorial - Matanzas, 1992) Argentinian WGM showed great technique:



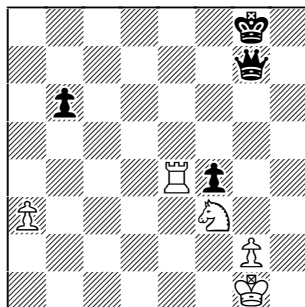
41...Ne7! 42.Qe5 Ng8 43.Qxd4 Kg7 44.Qd7+ Kf8! 45.Qxh7 Ne7 46.Qh4 Kf7 47.Qh5+ Kg7 48.Qg5+ Kf7 49.Qd2 Nxf5 50.Qxb4 Ne7 51.Kg2 Ng6 52.Kg3 Ne5 53.Qb5 Rg6+ 54.Kh4 Re6 55.Kg5 Ke7 56.Kf5 Nf7 Fine maneuvering to get the knight finally to the right spot, f7)



57.Qd5 Rf6+ 58.Kg4 Rg6+ 59.Kf3 Rf6+ 60.Kg2 Rg6+ 61.Kh1 Kf8 62.h3 Ke7 63.Kh2 Kf8 64.h4 Ke7 65.Kh3 Kf8 66.h5 Rd6 67.Qa8+ Ke7 68.Kg4 Rf6 69.Qb7+ Kf8 70.Qc8+ Kg7 71.Qc7 Kf8 72.Kh4 Kg7 73.Qe7 Rf4+ 74.Kg3 Rf6 75.Kg4

Rh6 76.Qc7 Rf6 77.Kg3 Kf8 78.Kh4 Kg7 79.Kg4 ½-½ Nothing to do!

In the match Brazil-Denmark (Van Riemsdijk, Herman-Berg, Klaus - Chess Olympiad - Novi Sad, 1990) I suffered a lot after blundering in the middle-game.



I was very relieved that I could go for 42.Rxf4! Qa1+ 43.Kh2 Qxa3 44.g3! b5 45.Nd4 Qb2+ 46.Kg1 b4 47.Kh1 ½-½ because I knew that the position following 47...b3 48.Nxb3 was a theoretical draw. The battle between queen and rook will be the subject of my next article.

A Revolutionary Idea!

By US Correspondent Steve Willard

As the Anand-Gelfand World Chess Championship Match approaches, I must confess that I have mixed emotions. As a player, I am quite thrilled (both of them are creative fighters and their encounters are often dizzying: see Wijk aan Zee 1996 and Biel 1997 for starters!) but as an organiser-director, I can't see how this contest is going to capture the world's attention and lead to an influx of new players and sponsors.

So we've a bit of a quandary on our hands--how do we appeal to the masses without watering down the magnificence that is chess? Well, I am happy to report that I have decided to tackle this rather thorny issue on your behalf (that IS what you pay me for after all). Now, I believe we can all agree that while chess rarely receives any prominent coverage in the media, it has happened. Therefore, if we examine those rare cases then we're likely to stumble onto some common denominator (that "je ne sais quoi"), which could lift our beloved game to new heights.

It was to this end that I left the safety of my abode, venturing out into the environs armed with just a small notebook, a meager expense account (note to editor: seriously, couldn't we increase the magazine rate?), and my innate inquisitiveness. My methodology was as such: approach a group of strangers, earn their trust, steer the

topic of conversation toward chess, and then capture their impressions. For the record, the following field research was conducted over the course of 18 hours on a single Saturday and at the following venues: a McDonald's, a library, a hardware store, a movie theatre, and six (relatively sure about that) separate pubs.

My exacting scholarship uncovered the following observations-- the only chess matches that ordinary people were at all cognizant of were: Fischer-Spassky, Karpov-Korchnoi (vaguely), Deep Blue-Kasparov, Kramnik-Topalov ("Toiletgate"), Short-Cheparinov ("handshake denied"), and A. Kournikova versus M. Sharapova. Surprisingly (based on my copious notes), that last item generated the greatest amount of interest and it spurred on many a spirited debate throughout the evening hours. That said, I have to admit that I am not personally familiar with that particular contest nor have my painstaking database searches yielded any games. Sadly, we will just have to set that duel momentarily aside; however, if anybody out there knows anything pertinent then please chime in.

Okay, so boiled down we have: Cold War one-upmanship, Loyalist vs Defector, Man versus Machine (read: Fate of Humanity Hangs in the Balance), and Good vs. Evil (or, "Oh there is a God...and He still very much Believes in Smiting!"). Okay, go

ahead and ponder those examples for a good long while and then return here prepared for serious discussion.

Welcome Back! Now that we've collected and analyzed our data, I am certain that we are in a position to propound the following hypothesis: What the masses thirst for is ideological/personal conflict, dramatic confrontation, and the hope for retribution and vindication! Armed with this truism, I think you'll agree that it is entirely within our powers to turn chess into "the true opiate of the people!"

It's time for a thought experiment: okay, the 2015 Queenstown Chess Classic is underway / we (Murray & I) have managed to secure television coverage / you are an average (completely unaware of serious chess) viewer / you are at home clicking through the channels/ you land on our program / we have at most 30 seconds to grab your attention...

Scenario "A": Geoff, our correspondent, provides following rundown of the top board- "Gawain Jones is completely dominating the dark-square complex and when you consider the backward pawn at f3...well (chuckles) I think we can say that he has an edge. White is not entirely without chances though since she has fewer pawn islands than her opponent and, moreover, the king opposition necessary for triangulated maneuvers. Of course, in semi-closed positions the knight often proves superior to the bishop but here we do have to keep in mind the potentiality for zugzwang as both players maneuver around the sole isolani."

Scenario "B": We move Geoff and the

serious commentary to the Internet and gear our television program toward attracting maximum viewership. Let's not delve into the exact nature of our show right now though because I fear my ideas are so hyper-innovative that you may not be ready for them just yet. Instead, I should now like to share the following observation with you.

I have been playing chess tournaments for 30-couple years and in all that time I have collected very few stories capable of dazzling non-players. BUT, and this is hugely important, it has happened and I am convinced that herein lies the secret to our future collective success!

1987 Sunnyvale Open, a weekender with about 60 players, classical time controls: It becomes apparent, right from the opening moves in round 1, that there are two eccentrics in our mix. The first, a guy who incessantly babbles to himself (whispers soon turning into full-blown conversations with the pieces on the board) and the second, an arch-nemesis in the form of a hardcore "shoosher." Now I have to say that while most of us quickly warmed to the first gentleman, he was quirky in a nice way, that second fellow was soon getting on everybody's nerves. Here's the thing, unless you are a librarian, a primary school teacher, or a bomb disposal expert trying to remember which wires need snipped and in precisely what order, then you have no business shooshing anybody.

Well, you can probably guess what happened. Yep, they were both strong players and so as the tournament progressed they began to be pushed

inexorably (board assignments) closer and closer together. This naturally resulted in an exponential increase in tension between them until, finally and gloriously, they met in the final round with the championship on the line! I still get shivers...

It was, in my estimation, the most exciting game ever played in North America and you are in luck because I was actually on board 2, seated right next to them. Sadly, I've reached my "word limit" but you can look forward to a full recounting, replete with all the nuanced details, next time! Oh, and then I have got to tell you about the 2007 Augusta Championship (you aren't going to believe what happened...)

Results Summary

ACC Weekender - Auckland May 19

1st Ben Hague 6/7

2nd= Hans Gao and Luke Li 5.5/7

Manawatu Rapid – Palmerston North
May 26

1st = Ben Hague and Mark Noble 5/6

3rd Chris Burns 4.5/6

St Pauls Rapid – Hamilton May 6

1st Ben Hague 5.5/6

2nd= Hans Gao and Noel Pinic 5/6

ANZAC Rapid – Hamilton April 25

1st Ben Hague 6.5/7

2^{ns} = Stefan Wagner Peter Hulshof 5.5/7

Nic Croad 2nd IM Norm

Nic Croad continues his good form in the UK gaining a second IM norm at the Chess Brighton International tournament in February where he won the round robin ahead of GM and IM competition.

NZ Olympiad Team

Open Team

FM Nic Croad, IM Russell Dive, IM Paul Garbett, Luke Li – Captain and Manager
Hilton Bennett

Women's Team

WIM Sue Mararoa, WFM Helen Milligan,
Judy Gao, WFM Nicole Tsoi, WFM
Natasha Fairley – Manager Peter Hulshof

The Olympiad is in Istanbul in August. Several issues have caused controversy among competing Federations, including questions over the accommodation arrangements and the banning by the Turkish Federation of arbiters from several countries. More information is available on these questions from the Olympiad page of the New Zealand Chess website www.newzealandchess.co.nz

Letter from the Kingside

Chess' Hidden Agenda

By Roger Nokes

Is chess a game? Is it a sport or an art form? Most chess players at one time or another have had this rather fruitless discussion. In my view it is clearly all three and you can probably add some other descriptors as well. To the majority of people it is an absorbing, demanding, challenging, effectively inexhaustible game of 32 pieces on a 64 square board. Across the globe millions upon millions of people play the game for the sheer pleasure they derive from it. Some of us are obsessed by it, others only play occasionally. Countless people know the rules but never touch a piece from one year to the next. On the surface chess is just chess.

But chess has what I might call a hidden agenda, and it is an agenda being pushed by, amongst others, one of the greatest names in chess, Garry Kasparov. The Kasparov Chess Foundation, established in the USA a decade ago with a mission to establish chess programmes in schools, has recently created a European base with the not insignificant goal of introducing chess as part of the school curriculum in Europe. In recent months Kasparov and his collaborators have been actively lobbying members of the European Parliament to support a de-

claration for the Chess in Schools Program so that it can go to the European Commission for consideration, and hopefully ratification.

Why should Kasparov, and others such as Susan Polgar through her own Foundation, wish to push chess into schools? It is important to recognise that Kasparov is not aiming at the rather trivial goal of each school having a chess club - something probably most schools already have. He is proposing something much more radical, that chess should form part of the curriculum along with mathematics, science, music and physical education. If you are a reader of this magazine and have school age children I suspect that you might be an advocate for the idea Kasparov is proposing. But it would be interesting to ask a neighbour, a friend or a workmate who has no chess interest or knowledge if they would see a benefit in such a development. Would they differentiate between the introduction of chess in schools and the introduction of tiddlywinks for example? They're both just silly games after all aren't they?

As a chess player and an educationalist I think that there is a big, big difference between chess and tiddlywinks and chess is a very worthy addition to the school curriculum. Here are some of my arguments.

Success in education, and perhaps in life, depends on the development of two interrelated sets of skills and knowledge. The first I would call discipline specific. You need to know how to add and subtract, you need to know how to spell, read and write, you

need to know how to keep your business' accounts. The list goes on. School is full of subjects that address the needs of these discipline specific skills - mathematics, reading, writing, science, social studies, accounting and the like. The second set of skills are generic, non-discipline specific and generally not overtly taught. It includes abstract reasoning, creativity, memorisation, pattern matching, discipline, concentration and many others. Which of these two sets is ultimately the most important? Which of these two sets is primarily taught in schools? My answers to these two questions would be different. It is the second set of generic skills which are primary in an education. With these the other set are easily acquired. Alas developing the discipline-specific skills does not guarantee the acquisition of the generic.

Of course our teachers try to ensure that the generic skills are developed alongside the discipline specific ones as they teach mathematics, science or accounting. But perhaps there are other mechanisms for enabling children to acquire these generic skills more effectively and Kasparov's argument no doubt would be that chess provides the perfect vehicle for this acquisition. I would agree.

I am involved in tertiary education teaching, amongst other things, mathematics to engineering students. My passion for mathematics approaches my passion for chess and I see mathematics as providing many of the same opportunities to teach these generic skills that are so valuable for our graduates. So why support the idea that chess has the potential to make a difference to our education system? The answer is

two-fold. Firstly we spend nearly all our time teaching students mathematical facts and techniques. We do not allow them to explore the underlying beauty of mathematics, a process that would impinge on the generic areas of pattern matching, creativity, abstract thinking and the like. Secondly mathematics, to the majority of students, is plain tedious. Their motivation is low and they lose the opportunities that the subject provides.

Now take chess. Let me speculate on the thoughts passing through the mind of school child when they hear that chess is now part of their curriculum. "It's just a game isn't it? I can't believe my school actually allows me to spend four periods a week playing chess. How cool! They will even allow me to play in competitions." The beauty of utilizing chess as an educational tool is that it's a game - it's not spelling or mathematics. And yet it includes so many of the generic skills we all need - creativity, memorisation, pattern matching, abstract thinking, and concentration - and it does so in a way that engages the young mind. It's competitive side is also a powerful motivator for some.

Chess is not the only mechanism that schools could use to provide this sort of skills development. Music certainly offers similar opportunities. However, from a practical perspective teaching every student at school a musical instrument is considerably more challenging than providing them with a chess set. Having learned both in my youth I also believe that independent discovery is considerably easier in chess than music, although that might simply reflect my lack of musical talent.

When chess is viewed as something more than a game the difference between chess and tiddlywinks is clear. Tiddlywinks, while offering the opportunity to develop some physical dexterity, provides none of the sophisticated skills that chess encapsulates. Let's look at them. Endgame technique and opening theory offer opportunities to develop memory; pattern matching comes from tactical themes, positional concepts and endgame theory; creativity abounds in the middlegame, in tactical combinations, in positional planning, in developing new ideas in the opening and in solving chess puzzles; the game itself encourages concentration and focus; and various aspects of chess analysis and positional evaluation involve abstract thinking. What a treasure trove for the educationalist! The student even learns to count backwards as they watch their time disappear on their clock!

I don't know of any research that links chess involvement with general educational achievement but I suspect that the link is there and not insignificant, just as I believe it is there for music. I wonder how we achieve Kasparov's goal in Australia and New Zealand where our culture, in my opinion, is quite strongly anti-intellectual, or perhaps I should say anti-cerebral? Europe probably offers rather more fertile ground for Kasparov's initiative.

The recent European Individual Championship was a mighty strong tournament with over 100 players ranked over 2600 competing. A frequent visitor to our shores, British grandmaster Gawain Jones, had a breakthrough performance scoring 7½ /11. He led for the much of the tournament and

only a loss in the penultimate round kept him off the podium. Even so he can be well pleased with his final result. Here is one of his typically combative games.

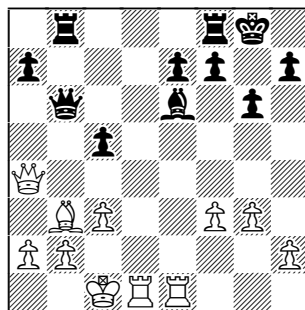
Boris Savchenko - Gawain Jones

13th European Individual Championship
Plovdiv BUL 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 Gawain has quite a broad range of openings but the Dragon Sicilian is one of his favourites. It suits his combative style as I can confirm after suffering badly on the white side in a Canterbury Open a couple of years ago. **6.Be3** Of all the white responses to the Dragon the Yugoslav Attack stands head and shoulders above the rest in terms of the depth of theory. The variation is ultra sharp, extensively analysed, and particularly dangerous for Black. It used to be said that a 2300 player could beat a grandmaster with the Yugoslav because it took only one mistake or lost tempo by Black and the end could come very quickly. Despite the Yugoslav's fearsome reputation the Dragon has made something of a comeback in recent years. Gawain is one of the grandmasters responsible for this revival although the fact that the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen, also successfully employs it will have added to the opening's revived fortunes. Who is going to argue with the world number one if he says the opening is playable? **6...Bg7 7.f3 Nc6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0** [9.Bc4 is perhaps the most critical line and certainly the most analysed. The chosen variation seems to offer an edge to White without having the same dynamic attacking chances.] **9...d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4** [12.Nxd5 cxd5

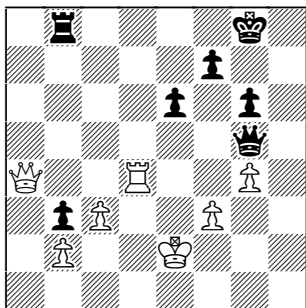
13.Qxd5 is rather more forcing, but it does not tend to be the preferred option. The move played is intended to blunt the power of the Dragon bishop, either by exchanging it or inviting Black to block it through the e5 advance, thus leaving White with a persistent edge due to Black's weaker pawn structure on the queenside.] **12...Bxd4 13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Na4** [14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Qxd5 Be6 16.Qe5 Rfc8 leaves Black with good compensation for the pawn deficit with his open lines on the queenside.] **14...Qc7 15.Bc4** Taking stock, the position feels very comfortable for White. Black lags in development, and he has to be continually concerned about dropping a pawn in less favourable circumstances than in the last note. White has firm control of the c5 square and without the Dragon bishop Black's queenside chances seem somewhat diminished. White still has the standard h4-h5xg6 plan available to prise open the Black king which stands without its traditional defender on g7. Even so Black is not without chances. Once he can stabilise the centre he has a half open b file on which to start operations. **15...Rb8 16.g3** [White cannot win a pawn because of 16.Bxd5?! cxd5 17.Qxd5? Qf4+ so Black immediately takes control of the b file.] **16...Nb6 17.Bb3 Nxa4 18.Qxa4 c5** the c pawn takes a big step. For a few moves this pawn has been a weakness but with this advance the pawn becomes an important attacking weapon. If both the black a and c pawns could be restrained the white bishop on b3 would nullify any attacking attempts on the b file, but the c pawn will threaten to advance to c4 destabilising the bishop and activating the heavy pieces on the b file. **19.c3 Qb6 20.Rhe1?!** [20.Rd2 is rather

more circumspect as it relieves the bishop from its duties of protecting b2, and after 20...Be6 21.Bc4 Bxc4 22.Qxc4 Rfd8 23.Rhd1 White still seems to be a little better because of his superior pawn structure.] **20...Be6!**



21.Re2 Bxb3 22.axb3 Rb7 23.Qc4 e6 24.Re5 Rc7 25.h4 the balance is delicate. White has activated his major pieces. blocked the c pawn, albeit with his queen, and taken control of the open d file. Logically he now begins his own active operations against the opponent's king with the h4 thrust, although with the minor pieces gone this is less effective than is normally the case. **25...Rb8 26.Kc2 a5 27.h5 a4** Black is prepared to sacrifice material to break open the route to b2. First the a pawn advances to deflect the queen and then the c pawn moves forward. White is now under some pressure and the dynamic equilibrium has swung in Black's favour. **28.Qxa4 c4 29.Rd4?!** [not quite accurate. 29.b4 Qf2+ 30.Rd2 Qxf3 31.Qa6 Rcc8 leaves Black with a very small edge according to the hardware by my side.] **29...cxb3+ 30.Kd2** Look at this position for a while. It feels like one of those critical points in a game where there are a number

of tempting continuations for Black. But which one is correct? Try analysing 30..Ra7, 30.. Rxc3 and 30..Rc5 and see which you think is best for Black. **30...Rc5?!** [Instead 30...Ra7! 31.Qc4 Ra2 32.Kc1 Ra1+ 33.Kd2 Rb1 seems very strong for Black.] **31.Rxc5 Qxc5 32.hxg6 hxg6 33.Ke2 Qg5 34.g4**



Despite the reduced material this position is very tricky to play. Both sides have weaknesses, but the exposed white king and pawns are the prime features of the position, and Black actively exploits them. **34...Qe5+ 35.Kd3 Qh2 36.Qa7 Rf8 37.Qa3 e5 38.Rd5 Qf4 39.Qxb3 Qxf3+ 40.Kc2 Qe2+ 41.Kb1 Qe4+ 42.Kc1 Ra8** Finally the rook re-enters the fray with devastating effect. **43.Qb7 Ra1+ 44.Kd2 Qg2+ 45.Kd3 Qf1+ 46.Kc2 Qb1+ 47.Kd2 Qd1+ 48.Ke3 Qxg4 49.Kd3 Qf3+ 50.Kc4 Qf4+ 51.Kb5 e4 52.b4 e3 53.Rd8+ Kg7 54.Qe7 Qf5+ 55.Kc4 Qe6+** A nice finish, blocking the e file with an extra pawn that prevents White's rook from getting behind the passed pawn. A powerful middlegame display by Gawain. **0-1**

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