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Scott Wastney after winning the NZ Championship

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When Tragedy Strikes

As this issue was being prepared for publication, a terrible tragedy struck the chess community of our cousins across the

Tasman. A van ferrying six players from the Doeberl tournament back to Melbourne crashed, killing two and seriously injuring two others. Most chess players relish nothing more than a road trip with their chess friends to a big tournament. Life can be so unfair, joy can turn to tragedy in an instant. The whole New Zealand chess community will join me in sending condolences and best wishes to all involved.

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The 120th New Zealand Championship – A Personal View

By FM Scott Wastney

Bill has asked me to “document my achievement in some way”. I asked him for a deadline, he gave me one, I procrastinated on what to write, and this being the day of the deadline I am now writing! I thought it would be more interesting to give my thoughts throughout the event, rather than just annotate a couple of games.

This was my first time playing in congress since Queenstown 2006. My two children were born in 2006 and 2007 and this put a dent in my congress playing for a while. I would like to say that it was a superbly run tournament. It was great to have it in Wellington, the venue was excellent and most of the top active players were there. In Queenstown, while it was nice to get a couple of games against grandmasters, I didn't actually get to play many New Zealanders. Here the contenders all got to face each other. The live games added a lot to the interest in the tournament. Later I heard from all sorts of people who watched the games live: former chess players, chess students and even family members. Before the tournament I thought it was going to be close with no clear favourite and I set my goal for a top three placing.

My first round game was against Peter Stuart. I was very happy to get white for this game and not have to take on his solid

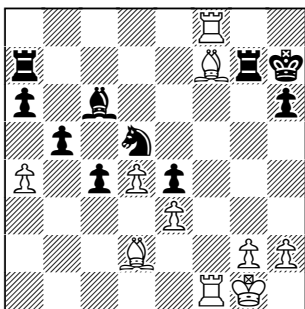
English opening. I managed to win, which is good for settling the nerves to get your first point on the scoreboard.

In round two I was Black against Ewen Green. My pre-tournament plan didn't feature the Berlin Defence as some of the lines can be hard to play for a win with black. But Ewen doesn't have many recent games on the database and I wasn't sure what to expect so resorted to the opening that Magnus Carlsen recently described as “bullet proof” (*at least I think he did, but I can't find the reference now*). Ewen messed up his move order with 6.a4. I feared it was some new prepared line and played a solid move in response. Later Ewen told me he meant to play 6.dxe5 Nxb5 then 7.a4 which is one of the major lines. Ewen offered a draw his 17th move. I asked if there was a move limit before draws could be offered... Ewen went off to check...and when he confirmed there wasn't I accepted his offer.

Round three I had white against Brian Nijman. I played a reversed Queen's Gambit Exchange variation against his Caro-Kann. At the time I thought this was a clever idea, as Brian prefers off-beat openings and so playing a classical Carlsbad structure might not be to his taste. Nothing good came from my “good idea”. It looked drawish until, with little time left, he lashed out with a pawn advance on his 35th move. This didn't work out well for

him, so a lucky win for me.

Round four, Black against Ben Hague. I was expecting a London system or Colle, but we ended up with a Queen's Gambit (Ragozin variation). He had pressure against my Kingside, but after I had planted a knight on d5 with Queens exchanged I believed I was winning. On my 33rd move I became depressed, thinking I'd messed it up. I had intended giving up the exchange with 33...Raxf7 thinking my queen-side pawns would win, but now it didn't seem to quite work. The game continued to a draw, but when I got home Rybka showed me that 33...Raxf7! does indeed work.

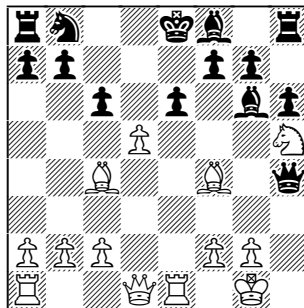


The idea I missed was making a lone run with my b-pawn in the line: 34.R1xf7 b4 35.Rxg7+ Kxg7 36.Rc8 b3 37.Rxc6 b2.

At this point I had 3/4. There were six players leading the tournament, so my pre-tournament prediction was on target – it was going to be close.

Round five was a turning point for me. I had white against Athula Russell, who always seems to play the Caro-Kann with 4...Bf5. After a game with Alan Ansell in 2011 (in the Upper Hutt Rapid) I had

invested some time studying this opening. In the morning I read through my notes from back then. The spectacular move 14.d5!! was in my notes with the assessment +-.



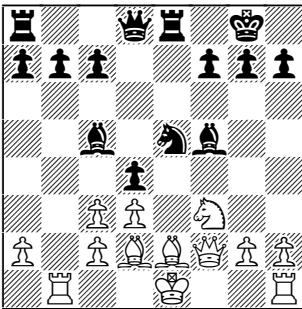
The game continued 14...Bxh5 15.dxe6 Be7 16.exf7+ Bxf7 17.Bd6 Bxc4 18.Rxe7+ Qxe7 19.Bxe7 Kxe7 20.Qd4 Nd7 21.Qxc4 Nb6 22.Re1+ Kd7 23.Qf7+ 1-0

(Ed: Okay I think I am starting to see where I am going wrong with my own not so brilliant chess career. I should have talent. I should be preparing. I should be going over my rapid games afterwards. I should be making notes. I should remember what I played against Alan Ansell at some rapid two years ago, and I should be well organised enough to find the aforementioned notes. As opposed to my current strategy of not preparing and barely remembering who Alan Ansell is [sorry Alan, just joking]).

In round six Mike Steadman surprised me with 1.e4 and going for the Vienna Opening. It was a short game with some tactics and I hope is interesting for readers.

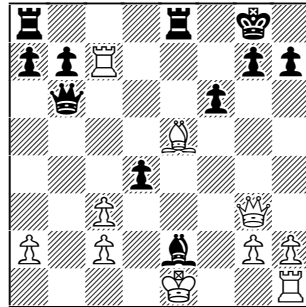
Michael Steadman – Scott Wastney

1.e4 I didn't know that Mike played 1.e4 and was expecting a Queen's Gambit **1...e5**
2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Nf3 I hadn't played this position before, but had at one stage looked at the lines after **5...Bc5**. I didn't trust myself to remember these lines, and thought Mike would be well prepared in any case - so I played something different. **5...Nc6 6.Qe2** As with his previous moves, Mike played this instantly. I was still worried I was walking into his preparation. **6...Bf5**. But now Mike went into a long think. **7.d3** I was happy to see this move. It resembles the 5.d3 line, but with the difference that Qe2 and Bf5 have been played, which I didn't think favoured White. **7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 d4 9.Rb1 Bc5** With the idea of trapping the rook with Bb6 if he takes the b-pawn. **10.Bd2 0-0 11.Qf2 Re8 12.Be2 Nxe5**



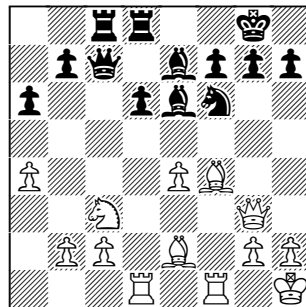
I've won a pawn and he can't castle due to Ng4 followed by dxc3. I was walking around the room while Mike was thinking, hoping that he'd play 13.Rb5 and then I'd reply Nxd3. My final thought was what if he played 13.Kd1? Then I saw him move and quickly returned to the board. I had to hold back from moving straight away.

13.Rb5 Bxd3 After some thought I realised that taking with the Bishop is even better. **14.Rxc5 Nxf3+ 15.Qxf3 Bxe2 16.Qg3 Qf6 17.Bf4 Qb6** With idea of Qxc5 or Qb1+ **18.Be5 f6 19.Rxc7**



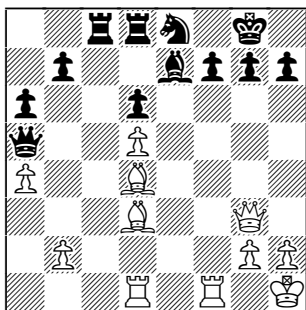
g6 This works, but the moment I played it I noticed I could have played Bg4 which is a much nicer way to win. **20.Bxd4 Qb1+ 21.Kf2 Qxh1 22.Qd6 Qf1+ 23.Kg3 Rad8 0-1**

In round seven I had White against Bob Smith. He played the Scheveningen Sicilian.



During the game I thought his **17...Qb6**

was a mistake. After **18.Be3 Qxb2 19.Bd4** I thought White is winning, but **19...Qxc2!** is equal according to Rybka. Instead Bob played **18...Qa5** and already is in a difficult position and quickly went downhill **19.Bd4 Ne8 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 Rxc2 22.Bd3 Rcc8.**



I could win by **23.Bxh7** (Mike Turner's suggestion) or **23.Qh3** (Michael Nyberg's suggestion). In the end I liked **23.Rde1** as it wins very simply and I don't sacrifice a piece (just in case!). The game finished with **23.Rde1 Qxd5 24.Rxe7 Qxd4 25.Rexf7 Nc7 26.Qh3 1-0**

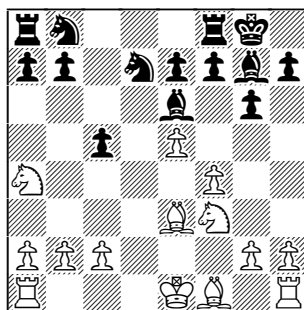
Round nine, and Black against Nathan Goodhue. I think this was my first game against Nathan. I spent the morning preparing against **1.b3** and **1.f4**, but all in vain as he played **1.e4** going into the exchange variation of the Spanish. He offered me an early draw but I played on and won the game.

Round 9 and the big clash against the top seed Anthony Ker. I had a 1 point lead, so a lot rested on this game making me very nervous.

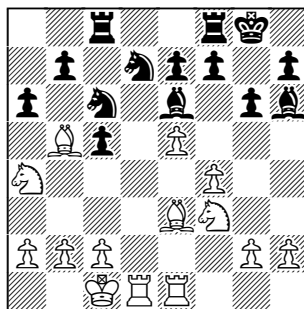
Scott Wastney – Anthony Ker

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 A small surprise! I

thought Anthony would more likely play the Modern (**2...g6**) for the simple reason that he played this way in our last two encounters. I actually believed I had caused Anthony to change his openings, but Anthony can be persistent! **3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Qd4** A common battleground for us - this is the 8th time we've played this position over the past couple of years. **7...dxc5 8.Qc4 0-0 9.e5 Be6 10.Qa4 Qxa4 11.Nxa4 Nfd7 12.Be3**

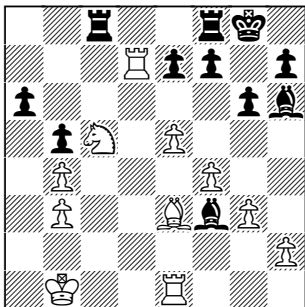


12...Nc6 A new move (for us). Twice before Anthony had played **12...b6 13.Bb5 Rac8 14.0-0-0 Bh6 15.Rhe1 a6** Not the best, but Anthony didn't see my reply.

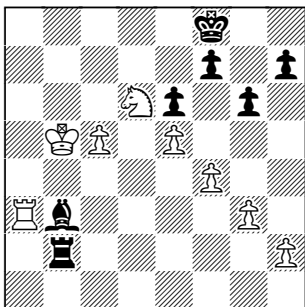


16.Bc4! Bxc4 17.Rxd7 b5 18.Nxc5 Nb4

19.g3 Nxa2+ 20.Kb1 Nb4 21.b3 After this move I was very pleased. It leads to a position that I could play for a win without any risk. 21...Bd5 22.c3 Bxf3 23.cxb4



This is the position I was referring to in my last comment. I thought I should be able to win the a-pawn without Anthony generating any counter play. 23...e6 24.Kb2 Rc6 25.Rf1 Bg2 26.Rfd1 Bd5 27.Ra7 Rfc8 28.Ra1 Bf8 29.R1xa6 Rxa6 30.Rxa6 Be7 31.Ra7 Kf8 32.Nd7+ Ke8 33.Bc5 Rd8 34.Nb6 Bxc5 35.bxc5 Be4 36.Kc3 Rd1 37.Kb4 Rb1 38.Nc8 Bd5 39.Nd6+ Kf8 40.Ra3 Rb2 41.Kxb5 Bxb3



42.Nc4 There might be quicker ways to win, but I liked the idea of simplifying to a

rook and pawn endgame with a passed c-pawn and black's king cut off. Surely not even I could mess this up! 42...Bxc4+ 43.Kxc4 Rxh2 44.c6 Ke7 45.Rd3 h5 46.Kb5 Rb2+ 47.Kc5 Rc2+ 48.Kb6 Rb2+ 49.Kc7 Rb4 50.Rd7+ Ke8 51.Rd8+ Ke7 52.Rb8 Rc4 53.Rb6 Rc3 54.Kb8 Kd8 55.Kb7 Rc1 56.Rb3 Rc2 57.Rd3+ Ke7 58.Ra3 Rb2+ 59.Kc8 Rc2 60.Ra7+ Ke8 61.c7 Rc3 62.Kb8 1-0

Overall I am pleased with how I played in this game.

Round 10 versus Mark van der Hoorn. I needed one point from the remaining two games to clinch the title. Before the game Anthony asked me what my strategy was for the remaining games. Someone who has won twelve championships has time to think out such strategies. My reply was "just to play a normal game". I went on and won this game with it the title of NZ champion!

Round 11 was black against William Li. I played the "Bullet proof defence" again. It seemed like a sensible choice against a young tactician. He offered a draw early on, but I thought I'd regret it if I didn't play this one out. It worked out well, giving me a final win.

London Chess Classic Trip Report

By Bill Forster

When I found out that Gawain Jones had scored an invitation to the 2012 edition of the London Chess Classic, an intriguing idea took root in my subconscious. Previous experiences as a "chess tourist" were rather thin on the ground for me. I have never come close to any kind of Olympiad experience. (Any small Pacific Island reading this and considering recruiting a team of 2000ish triers, call me). I've travelled a fair amount, but nothing has ever coincided with an elite tournament. Basically I've never seen the superstars of chess up close. Surely this was a great opportunity to tick something off the bucket list?

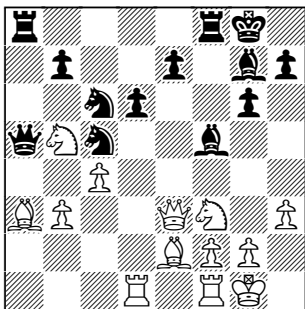
Aided by a kind hearted and understanding wife, and of course the high flying kiwi dollar, I decided to take the plunge and make the bookings.

Thanks to my friendship with Gawain and Sue, I basically joined the Jones entourage and spent the fortnight "hanging" with the team, which also included Gawain's second, accomplished and prolific chess author IM Richard Palliser. Richard is a lovely chap and I was pleased to come away from the event with a great new chess friend. Privately I decided I was Gawain's "third", although fortunately this position carried no responsibilities or expectations, other than paying for my share of the rounds after the game.

One thing that was very clear is that chess at the top level is very, very hard work. I would usually breakfast with Gawain and Sue at the hotel. But then while I would wander off to spend the first half of the day exploring the ancient metropolis, Gawain and Richard would hunker down for a few more hours of final pre-game preparation. As the lowest rated competitor, Gawain clearly had a large target on his back and so come the 2PM kickoff time he could expect up to seven hours of grilling from one of the remorseless, perfectly evolved chess predators that made up the rest of the field. Richard would accompany Gawain on the short walk to the venue. But once battle commenced as he told me "the boss is working hard so I should be too", and he would return to HQ to get a head start on the next day's opponent. Meanwhile I would graze the free snacks and drinks in the VIP room, and listen to the prognostications of the assembled grandmaster commentators. Yes I definitely prefer life as nothing but a keen amateur.

The top predator at the moment, and convincing winner of this tournament (overtaking Kasparov's record rating along the way) is of course Magnus Carlsen. As luck would have it I ended up with a room a few doors down from Magnus in the Hilton Hotel. (As I saw on a Tui Billboard – It's not stalking if you are a secret admirer). Outside game-time one only ever gets to see Magnus' dad, faithfully ferrying snacks and other supplies in to feed the

voracious appetites of the hard working Magnus and second Ian Nepomniachtchi (I suppose you know you've made it to the top of the chess world when your second is rated over 2700). So even for Magnus, it is all about hard work. But the result of all that hard work, combined of course with great natural talent, is something very special to behold at the moment. An example that made a great impression on me occurred when Gawain played Magnus. Magnus played one of his characteristic sidelines against Gawain's Sicilian, and got nagging pressure. Gawain made a brave decision to sacrifice material to seize the initiative. At this point I needed a break from the pronouncements of Messrs Hodgson, Short, Speelman and Nunn etc. so I went to the arena to watch in the flesh and in silence.

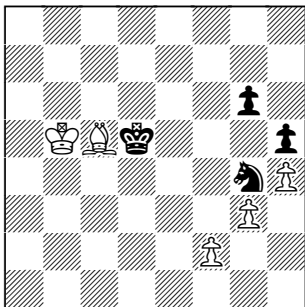


Gawain bravely sacrifices his queen for two pieces and active piece play **18...Qxa3 19.Nxa3 Rxa3 20.Nd2 Bd4 21.Qg3 Be5 22.f4 Bf6 23.Bg4 Nd4 24.Kh1 Bc2 25.Rde1 Kh8 26.Re3 h5 27.b4 h4 [27...Nd3! Was a good attempt to complicate and confuse] 28.Qf2 Nd3 29.Qg1 Nf5 30.Bxf5 gxf5 31.Nf3 Rc3 32.c5 Bb3 33.Ne1 Bd4 34.Nxd3 dxc5 35.Qf2 Rf7 36.Rc1 cxb4 37.Rxc3 bxc3**

38.Qe1 1-0

In cold print this does not look particularly unusual. New In Chess reported that "...slowly but surely White took the sting out of Black's initiative and won without too many problems." But believe me, watching this contest played out mano a mano, with no analysis engine as a crutch, made a dramatic impression. All of Black's pieces were buzzing about, White's queen was very short of squares. Yet instead of using his huge time advantage to carefully tip-toe through the potential minefield Magnus basically blitzed out this entire phase of the game. In elapsed time (as opposed to chess time) it was anything but "slow and sure". In the post-game press conference Magnus revealed he had anticipated the queen sacrifice in advance and realised that 'luckily' he would eventually have the square g1 for his queen. He clearly has absolute faith in his calculating ability. In this public post-mortem one wrinkle Magnus didn't see was revealed and he was quite upset with himself, "that was incredibly sloppy of me".

Interestingly, it was not uncommon for the players to blitz out a sequence of moves like this when in no time trouble. Sometimes both players would do it at the same time, in an obvious attempt at one-upmanship. "I've seen further than you". "No I've seen further than you". Top level chess is no place for shrinking violets, false modesty or an under-developed ego. I am pleased to report that Gawain came out ahead in one of these alpha-male clashes, against an opponent with a giant reputation for lightning play.



Gawain is fighting tenaciously in a bad ending. Unfortunately his king has been forced off-side and knights tend to humiliate bishops when all the pawns are on one side. Again I chose to escape the negativity of the grandmaster commentators and watch au naturel as it were. It's been said that ultimately endgames come down to pure tactics, and here we have two great tacticians dueling. When Nakamura started blitzing out moves with **57...Ke4** I was fearful that he'd worked out a precise finish. But Gawain matched his instantaneous play, clearly he was confident that he'd anticipated and defused all future danger. **58.Kc6 Kf3 59.Kd5 Nxf2 60.Ke6 Ne4 61.Be7** It often happens that the loser of these mini-blitz games within games is the player who deflated, interrupts the pattern and settles down for a big think. And so it was here with Nakamura clearly unhappy that the favourable conclusion he had anticipated had not come to pass.

A few desultory manoeuvres followed but it soon became clear even to me that black couldn't advance his final pawn without Gawain sacrificing his bishop for it. Characteristically, the game ended exactly

in that fashion. Some of the players I suspect prefer taking options like that (draw due to insufficient mating material) simply to avoid the need to concede anything verbally to their opponents!

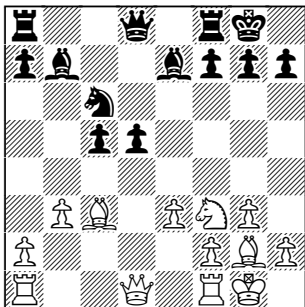
I should mention the one moment when New Zealand exerted a tiny influence on the course of events. I dutifully ferried in a large shipment of Whittaker's chocolate, unobtainable in the UK, for Gawain and Sue. Gawain took a fresh bar of Berry Biscuit flavour into battle one day, but made the mistake of leaving it in the player's retreat during the game. It was never seen again, the mystery remains unsolved. Did one of the players make a critical winning decision with a brain temporarily turbo-charged by Porirua delight ? We shall never know. Unless Magnus somehow ends up reading this and chooses to email in a confession.

Although Magnus left the pundits awestruck with his deeds, it seems to me that you could plausibly make a case that he did it by "winning ugly". Okay, it's amazing that once a few pieces come off he plays as accurately as any computer. He is also extraordinarily patient, determined and adept at extracting blood from stone, and perhaps unsurprisingly opponents tend to eventually crack under the pressure created by all these factors. But is it art ? No such reservations apply in the case of the second place getter "Big Vlad" Kramnik. Look at the manner in which he took care of business against Gawain.

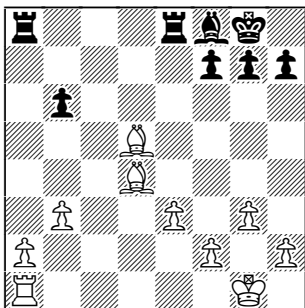
Vladimir Kramnik – Gawain Jones

1.Nf3 c5 2.b3 A transposition device that

leads Gawain out of his repertoire. **2...d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bb2 e6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 b6 9.Nc3 Bb7 10.cxd5 exd5 11.d4 Ne4 12.dxc5 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 bxc5**



In the press conference Kramnik explained that black is fine in comparable normal Reti positions because then he has a knight on f6 (protecting key points) rather than c6 (getting in the way). As a result Black is already in a spot of bother. Subtle! **14.Qe2** In the VIP room an approving Nigel Short told us that Spassky once told him "e2 is always a great square for the queen". Presumably there are exceptions :-) but this is not one of them. **14...Re8 15.Rfd1 Bf8 16.Qb5 Qb6 17.Qxb6 axb6 18.Rxd5 Nd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 cxd4 21.Bxd4**



Magnus was on duty in the VIP room and when this position was anticipated a few moves back by the commentary team he had no interest in looking further - "This position is nothing but endless torture for black". So it transpires. **21...Ra5 22.e4 Bc5 23.Bc3 Ra3 24.Bb2 Ra7 25.a4 Rc7 26.Ra2 h6 27.Kg2 Kh7 28.f4 f6 29.Kf3 Rd7 30.a5 bxa5 31.Rxa5 Rc8 32.Rb5 Rd6 33.Rb7 Rb6 34.Rf7 Rf8 35.Rc7 Bd6 36.Rd7 Ra6 37.Bd4 Bb8 38.Bc5 Re8 39.Kg4 Ra2 40.h4 Rc8 41.b4 Ra3 42.h5 Rc3** The beautiful bishop pair is very aesthetic throughout. **43.Bd4 R3c7 44.Rxc7 Bxc7 45.Kf5 Bd6 46.b5 Rc1 47.b6 Bb8 48.Ke6 Rh1 49.Bc5 1-0**

The chess snippets in this report are all from Gawain's games. Two losses and a draw is actually an unfair reflection of his tournament. It's a shame he didn't manage a win, but I think playing positively rather than trying to park the bus in front of the goal was not only brave and principled, but also ultimately beneficial. Sure he lost a few rating points, but I am sure the experience points gained will more than compensate in the long run.

For me, I've decided not to tick the bucket list, I want to go to at least one more event like this in the future.

The Eighth Bay of Plenty Rapid

By FM Bob Smith

Another year, another record turnout. 52 players took the opportunity to sample the delights of the aptly named Bay of Plenty on February 23, when the Mt Maunganui RSA Chess Club held its annual Rapid tournament at the Papamoa Community Centre. This continued an upward trend – numbers in the last five years being 38, 44, 48, 50 and now 52.

In the event 51 players actually competed, one entrant feeling unwell on the Saturday but still able to report enjoying the brilliant weather, the beach and the cafes. At the tournament venue those attractions did not distract from the fight for \$1400 in prize-money – and some precious Class One Grand Prix points.

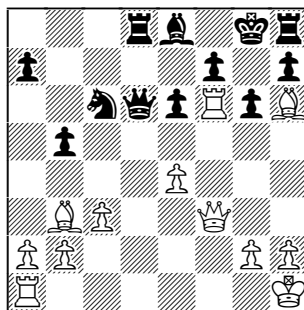
With 12 of the 22 players in the A Tournament rated over 2000, some big guns were loaded and ready to fire. They included defending champion and hot favourite Ben Hague, current Olympian Mike Steadman, locals Bob Smith and Noel Pinic, and top New Zealand junior Hans Gao. Tournament Director Keong Ang would have been well satisfied with the first round.

It was almost a picture perfect swiss, spoilt only by Magnus MacFarlane's draw with Michael Freeman. But as early as round two the top seeds started to drop half and even full points. The biggest shock was

Ivan Dordevic's loss to the tricky Hilton Bennett, while Hague could only draw with Gino Thornton and Peter Hulshof showed he meant business by drawing with Steadman. Smith beat Pinic while Gao defeated Antonio Krstev. When the dust settled only three players were on full points: Smith, Gao and Bennett.

Hilton Bennett - Ivan Dordevic

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bb5 Nd4 6.Bd3 e6 7.Nxd4 cxd4 8.Nb5 d6 9.c3 dxc3 10.dxc3 Ne7 11.Nxd6+ Kf8 12.Bc4 Bd7 13.0-0 b5 14.Bb3 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Rd8 16.f5 Be8 17.f6 Bxf6 18.Rxf6 Qxd6 19.Bh6+ Kg8 20.Qf3 Nc6



21.Rxe6 1-0

In round three Smith reached a better ending against Gao and duly converted, while Hague accounted for Bennett and Steadman took out Thornton.

Leading scores going to lunch: Smith 3,

Hague, Steadman 2.5.

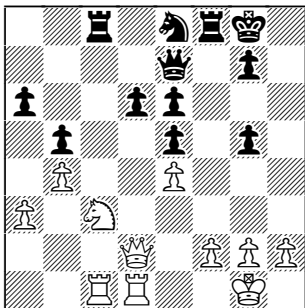
After a stroll in the sunshine and a coffee and snack at the nearby mall, it was all on in round four, with some key clashes. Steadman expressed his disappointment at facing Smith “after he’d had a rest and was still full of energy” rather than in the final round when he might be tired. Michael’s fears were well-founded, as Bob continued his run with a convincing win.

In other significant games Hague outplayed Gao, Pinic beat Bennett, Hulshof defeated Freeman, and Krstev beat Thornton.

Top scores: Smith 4, Hague 3.5, Hulshof, Pinic, Krstev 3.

Ben Hague - Hans Gao

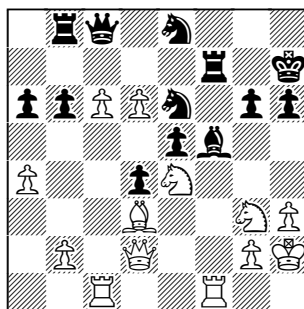
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 d6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1 Bd7 10.Bf4 e5 11.Be3 0-0 12.a3 a6 13.b4 Rc8 14.Rac1 b5 15.Bb3 Be6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Qa2 Qd7 18.Ng5 Nd8 19.Bb6 h6 20.Bxd8 hgx5 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Qd2 Ne8



Has black covered everything? 23.Nd5! No 23...Qb7 24.Rxc8 exd5 25.Qxd5+ 1-0

Bob Smith - Mike Steadman

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.Nf3 c5 6.Be3 Ngf6 7.h3 0-0 8.Be2 Rb8 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 Qc7 11.d5 Ne8 12.Qd2 f5 13.exf5 Rxf5 14.Ng5 Nf8 15.f4 h6 16.Nge4 Kh7 17.Bd3 Rf7 18.Ng3 Bd4 19.Kh2 e5 20.Bxd4 cxd4 21.Nce4 Bf5 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.c5 b6 24.d6 Qc8 25.Rac1 Ne6 26.c6

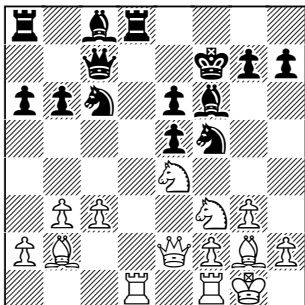


26...N8g7 27.c7 Ra8 28.Nxf5 gxf5 29.Ng3 Qb7 30.Bc4 f4 31.Ne4 Kh8 32.Qe2 Rf5 33.Bxa6 1-0

The penultimate round and Smith played it safe against Hague, reaching a drawish position and splitting the point. Hulshof and Pinic put themselves in a position to challenge for a top placing with wins over Krstev and Dordevic, while Steadman’s challenge ended with a loss to Freeman.

Peter Hulshof - Antonio Krstev

1.e4 e6 2.Qe2 Be7 3.b3 d5 4.Bb2 d4 5.Nf3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.e5 f6 8.Na3 a6 9.g3 dxc3 10.dxc3 fxe5 11.Bg2 Bf6? 12.Rd1 Qc7 13.Nc4 Nge7 14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.0-0 Nf5 16.Ne4 Kf7 17.Nxc5 b6 18.Ne4 Rd8



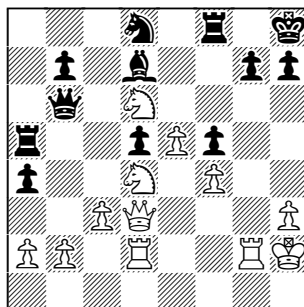
If you ask an engine about this position you will find that White actually has many ways of winning material here **19.g4!** This is just one of them **19...Nh4 20.Nxh4 Bxh4 21.g5 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 Bb7 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Qxh4 Rd8 25.Qg4 Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1 Ne7 27.Qd6 Qxd6 28.Nxd6 Bxg2 29.Kxg2 b5 30.Kf3 h6 31.gxh6 gxh6 32.Ke4 Nc6 33.c4 bxc4 34.bxc4 Kg7 35.Bxe5+ Kg6 36.c5 h5 37.Bg3 Kg5 38.Ne8 h4 39.Bf4+ Kg4 40.Ng7 Nd8 41.Bc7 Nb7 42.Nxe6 Kh3 43.c6 Na5 44.Bxa5 Kxh2 45.Bc7+ 1-0**

Leaders going into the final round: Smith 4.5, Hague, Pinic, Hulshof 4.

Hulshof had white against Smith while Hague also had first move against Pinic. Pinic made the early running but unwisely migrated his pieces to the queen-side. Hague then hit back with a king-side attack and a nice sacrifice to clinch the point. Meanwhile Hulshof had the edge against Smith but never increased his advantage beyond the drawing zone. With just over two minutes left to his opponent's seven Hulshof offered a draw to guarantee himself third. Smith saw no reason to refuse.

Ben Hague - Noel Pinic

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 4.Bxd3 Nc6 5.f4 e6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.h3 d5 8.e5 Nd7 9.Nf3 Bc5 10.Bxc5 Nxc5 11.0-0 Qb6 12.Rf2 Nxd3 13.Qxd3 a5 14.Na3 0-0 15.Nb5 a4 16.Rd1 f5 17.Rdd2 Bd7 18.Nd6 Ra5 19.Kh2 Rb8 20.g4 Rf8 21.gxf5 exf5 22.Rg2 Nd8 23.Nd4 Kh8



24.Rxg7 Kxg7 25.Qg3+ 1-0

So Hague and Smith shared the major spoils with 5/6, followed by Hulshof on 4.5. Pinic was joined in fourth place on 4 points by Bennett, who beat Magnus MacFarlane, and Freeman, who defeated Antonio Krstev.

See the Crosstable on the next page.

Bay of Plenty Rapid

		Rtg	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 Hague, Ben	FM	2366	5.0	+W11	=B9	+W5	+W8	=B2	+W4
2 Smith, Robert W	FM	2257	5.0	+B20	+W4	+B8	+W7	=W1	=B3
3 Hulshof, Peter		2093	4.5	+W22	=W7	=B14	+B6	+W10	=W2
4 Pinic, Noel		2177	4.0	+W12	-B2	+W19	+B5	+W14	-B1
5 Bennett, Hilton		2024	4.0	+B13	+W14	-B1	-W4	+B17	+W16
6 Freeman, Michael		2109	4.0	=B16	=W11	+B17	-W3	+B7	+B10
7 Steadman, Michael	FM	2208	3.5	+W19	=B3	+W9	-B2	-W6	+B14
8 Gao, Hans		2207	3.0	+B17	+W10	-W2	-B1	=W15	=B12
9 Thornton, Giovanni		2180	3.0	+B15	=W1	-B7	-W10	=B13	+W21
10 Krstev, Antonio		2019	3.0	+W21	-B8	+W15	+B9	-B3	-W6
11 Milligan, Helen	WFM	2018	3.0	-B1	=B6	=W12	-B15	+W22	+B18
12 Wright, Caleb		1829	3.0	-B4	=W20	=B11	+B19	=W18	=W8
13 Ang, Alphaeus		1673	3.0	-W5	=B18	+B20	-W14	=W9	+B15
14 Dordevic, Ivan		2199	2.5	+W18	-B5	=W3	+B13	-B4	-W7
15 Runcan, Daniel I		1881	2.5	-W9	+B21	-B10	+W11	=B8	-W13
16 MacFarlane, Magnus		1800	2.5	=W6	-B19	-W18	+W21	+B20	-B5
17 Kumar, Vinod		1925	2.0	-W8	+B22	-W6	+B18	-W5	--
18 Jackson, L Ross		1894	2.0	-B14	=W13	+B16	-W17	=B12	-W11
19 Marko, Helmut S	CM	1925	2.0	-B7	+W16	-B4	-W12	-B21	+W20
20 Spiller, Paul S		1933	1.5	-W2	=B12	-W13	+B22	-W16	-B19
21 Gibbons, John		1354	1.5	-B10	-W15	=W22	-B16	+W19	-B9
22 Hothersall, Rik		1799	1.5	-B3	-W17	=B21	-W20	-B11	+BYE

Auckland Chess Centre Weekender

		Rtg	T	Fed	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Kumar, Vinod		1928	--	NZL	5.5	+B27	+W16	+B9	+W2	-W4	+B5	=B3
2 Steadman, Michael V		2232	FM	NZL	5.5	+W20	+B11	=W6	-B1	+W24	+B12	+W4
3 Runcan, Daniel I		1927	--	ROU	5.5	+W21	+B26	+W12	-B4	+W14	+B6	=W1
4 Hague, Ben		2355	FM	NZL	5.0	+B15	+W10	+B5	+W3	+B1	-W7	-B2
5 Li, William (Xiang W		2040	--	NZL	5.0	+W17	+B14	-W4	+B8	+W6	-W1	+B7
6 Krstev, Antonio		2074	--	NZL	4.5	+B13	+W18	=B2	+W7	-B5	-W3	+B15
7 Wheeler, Bruce		2098	--	NZL	4.5	+BYE	=B12	+W11	-B6	+W18	+B4	-W5
8 Li, Johnson		1518	--	NZL	4.5	-B9	+W22	+B10	-W5	=B15	+W16	+B18
9 Duneas, John		2074	--	NZL	4.5	+W8	+B24	-W1	-B14	+W19	+B18	=W11
10 Eade, Don		1744	--	NZL	4.5	+W19	-B4	-W8	+B21	+W17	+B14	=W12
11 Zhang, Leo		1756	--	NZL	4.5	+B25	-W2	-B7	+W27	+B20	+W13	=B9
12 Ang, Alphaeus Wei Er		1737	--	NZL	4.0	+B22	=W7	-B3	+W20	+B16	-W2	=B10
13 Yan, Caroline		1293	--	NZL	4.0	-W6	+B28	-W24	+B26	+W21	-B11	+W19
14 Gong, Daniel		1589	--	NZL	3.5	+B29	-W5	+B27	+W9	-B3	-W10	=B17
15 Qin, Joy Shu Yan		1555	--	NZL	3.5	-W4	-B19	+W23	+B22	=W8	+B24	-W6
16 Crombie, William R		1617	--	NZL	3.5	+W30	-B1	+W21	=B24	-W12	-B8	+W22
17 Huang, Nicholas		1232	--	NZL	3.5	-B5	+W23	-B18	+W29	-B10	+W25	=W14
18 Power, P Wayne		1694	--	NZL	3.0	+W28	-B6	+W17	+B19	-B7	-W9	-W8
19 Yan, Sarah		1034	--	NZL	3.0	-B10	+W15	+B25	-W18	-B9	+W20	-B13
20 Fan, Allen		1542	--	NZL	3.0	-B2	+W25	+W26	-B12	-W11	-B19	+W24
21 Wang, Aaron		1063	--	NZL	3.0	-B3	+W29	-B16	-W10	-B13	+W30	+B26
22 Zhang, Jasmine		1006	--	NZL	3.0	-W12	-B8	+W30	-W15	+B29	+W27	-B16
23 Li, Leo		632	--	NZL	3.0	-W24	-B17	-B15	-W25	+B30	+W29	+B27
24 Mukkattu, Philip		1673	--	NZL	2.5	+B23	-W9	+B13	=W16	-B2	-W15	-B20
25 Li, Rodney (Xiang Re		1052	--	NZL	2.5	-W11	-B20	-W19	+B23	+W26	-B17	=W28
26 Sivabalan, Brijesh D		0	--	NZL	2.0	+BYE	-W3	-B20	-W13	-B25	+B28	-W21
27 Qin, Nicole Shu Yu		1084	--	NZL	2.0	-W1	+B30	-W14	-B11	+W28	-B22	-W23
28 Salazar, Lucas		813	--	NZL	1.5	-B18	-W13	-B29	+W30	-B27	-W26	=B25
29 Fia, Michael		0	--	NZL	1.0	-W14	-B21	+W28	-B17	-W22	-B23	-B30
30 Xie, Zhuosi		626	--	NZL	1.0	-B16	-W27	-B22	-B28	-W23	-B21	+W29

Auckland Chess Centre Weekender

By FM Mike Steadman

The club members reminded me we needed another weekender, so I dragged out the old entry form from last year. The feedback from people was that they did not like the fact the games were rated as classical games and this was why some weren't playing. They were OK with the 7 rounds, just not happy with the rating. So we worked with Helen and found the longest rapid time we could have and changed over to rapid format. We ended up with 30 players entered, none of them the people who were not happy with the rated classic rated time controls. So much for their opinions. The lesson, as always, don't listen to these mugs, they don't want to play when there are many rounds in two days anyway, no matter what the time control.

Anyway, this left myself and Ben as the only two players in the Open grade, all the rest were in the 2100 grade and below. Oh well, the event still needed to be won.

Round 1 held no surprises, all the top players duly won their games. With 30 players and it being a big Swiss, it would take a couple of "soft" rounds before the top players played.

Round 2 Ben Hague played his Morra Gambit against Don Eade's Sicilian. Don timidly tried to decline the gambit (hint, if you are a weaker player you will get outplayed, better to take the booty and go

down fighting than on your knees). Don got his plans mixed up, lost a piece and then the game. Leo Zhang suffered against Steadman's Two Knight Tango. He rushed up with the pawns, had no clue where to put his pieces, they left the Kingside and that is where Black attacked and smashed through. Ang vs Wheeler was a Dutch where White got in d5 and it wasn't taken, never a good sign. Alphaeus was all over Bruce who was completely tied down, but as with a lot of the juniors I see these days, he had no idea how to attack and win (coaches seem to teach these kids how to play like us old men, they should be going nuts and attacking, learning how to use the advantage). Alphaeus timidly agreed a draw with many winning options still on the table. Mukkattu vs Duneas was a Slav where White did nothing, got slowly outplayed and lost a piece and then the game.

Round 3 started the more interesting (by rating anyway) match-ups. William Li vs Hague however was a very one-sided affair, Black easily outplayed William and the game was over very early. Steadman vs Krstev was our usual mad affair. Started out tamely as an Exchange Slav but Antonio played some inaccurate moves and White got pressure. I then won two pawns, but Antonio got activity and some pieces around the King. During the time scramble a piece sacrifice was not defended precisely and a perpetual was the result. Duneas vs Kumar was a tame Slav where White achieved nothing, the bits kept coming off

and John again displayed his poor endgame feeling (in rapid you need to quickly be able to evaluate endgames). He swapped rooks down to a completely lost King and pawn endgame – with rooks on the draw was assured.

Round 4 and the last round for the day, people were noticeably weary, part of the charm of the event ☺. Hague played Runcan and it was another Morra, again this was declined and Ben just smashed him – weak play. Kumar vs Steadman transposed to a Kings Indian where Vinod knew a bit more. When the light squared Bishops got swapped it reiterated that Black's attacking potential diminishes dramatically without it. I was worse from then on, managed to hold on and finally played a swapping manoeuvre to get to an equal endgame, then immediately played a mistake losing a pawn, swapping rooks and entering a lost knight endgame a pawn down – schoolboy error stuff. Duneas suffered his 2nd brain explosion when playing Daniel Gong he dropped an Exchange cold and later the game.

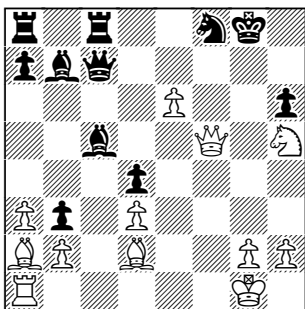
Round 5 had the 2 top seeds playing, Kumar vs Hague transposed to a Two Knights Tango, Vinod tried to play it like a Kings Indian, but that is not the right way. He lost a pawn and soon after the game – looked like Ben was on fire and unstoppable. Runcan trounced Gong with a nice attacking game. Wheeler vs Power was a mainline Sicilian and Bruce made it look easy and moved back into contention.

Round 6 and Hague vs Wheeler was an unbelievable game. Against Bruce's French Ben transposed into a White sided 2 Knight

Tango, Bruce slipped up and Ben was attacking, a piece sacrifice, then a rook sacrifice and Bruce clung on – Ben failed to find the accurate winning lines, then finally Ben had to resign when he had run out of pieces.

Ben Hague – Bruce Wheeler

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 d4 4.Ne2 c5 5.Ng3
Now we have transposed to a reversed Tango. In that opening the Steadman prescription is to keep the e pawn back on e3, Bruce follows this plan in the reverse situation blunting the Bishop that will come to c4 with the e6 pawn. **5...Nc6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.a3 Be7 8.d3 Qc7 9.c3 0-0 10.cxd4 b5 11.Ba2 cxd4 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Ng5 h6 14.Nh3** This idea is similar to Moskalenko's in the Dutch. Try to weaken the Kingside and send the pawns forward. **14...Rfc8 15.f4 b4 16.e5 Nh7 17.Bd2 Qb6 18.f5 Nxe5 19.fxe6 f6** Black has messed up and White is much better here. The e6 pawn is massive. **20.Nf5 Bc5 21.Nf4 Kh8 22.Re1 Nf8 23.Nxh6** Flashy and should win, but now White needs to see the attack through. Investing a lot of material means any slip will likely be fatal. [Simpler was 23.e7 Nfd7 24.axb4 Bxb4 25.Bxb4 Qxb4 26.Qh5 Black has to give up material to stave off mates.] **23...gxf6 24.Qh5 b3 25.Rxe5 fxe5 26.Qxe5+ Kg8 27.Nh5 Qc7 28.Qf5**



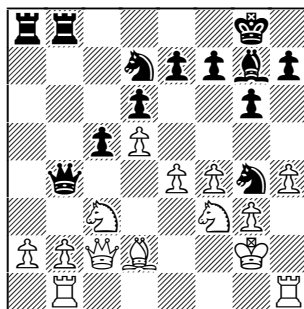
28...bxa2 Black just keeps taking things, he has no choice. Good thing they are the best moves. **29.Bf4?** The fatal slip. [29.Bxh6 Re8 30.Qg5+ Kh8 31.Bg7+ Kh7 32.Qh6+ Kg8 33.Qh8#] **29...Bd6!** **30.Qg4+ Kh8** **31.Bxh6 Be5** **32.Re1 a1Q** **33.Rxa1 Qh7** **34.Bg5 Rc2** **35.Nf4 Ng6** **36.Bf6+ Bxf6** **37.Nxg6+ Kg7** **38.Ne5+ Kf8** **39.Nd7+ Ke7** **40.Nxf6 Kxf6** The game finished shortly after. White has run out of resources. A sad turning point for Ben. **0-1**

So this brought Ben back to everyone and was a huge surprise. William Li vs Kumar was a Sicilian where White went for the attack, Kumar lost/sacrificed the Exchange but had 3 passed Kingside pawns for it, more than enough compensation and soon won. Krstev played a main line Benko as White and took the pawns vs Rudkin, got completely mixed up and lost very quickly – the Benko can be deadly if let loose.

Antonio Krstev – Daniel Runcan

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 Bxa6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bxf1 8.Kxf1 d6 9.g3 Bg7 10.Kg2 0-0 11.h4? The best you can say for this move is it is the kind of move that might frighten a junior - but it is just bad on a lot of levels - in particular g4 is

horribly weakened once f4 is played, which is essential for White to get e5 in. **11...Nbd7 12.f4 Qa5 13.Qc2 Rfb8 14.Nf3 Qb4 15.Rb1 Ng4** And here we see the consequence of the terrible h4. Black is better and has easy compensation for the pawn. **16.Bd2?**



16...Bxc3! The best move and hard to play. It takes a lot for these Benko and Benoni boys to give up their pride and joy. But in this case, the house falls. **17.bxc3 Qc4 18.Rxb8+ Rxb8?** Wrong piece. [18...Nxb8 19.Re1 Rxa2 20.Qc1 Qd3 White is in zugzwang and lost!] **19.Bc1?** Mistakes follow mistakes. [19.Re1 Ra8 20.Qb3 Qa6 21.e5 White has play and is in the game.] **19...Ra8 20.Nd2 Qe2+ 21.Kh3 Ne3 22.Nc4 Nxc2** Time to stop the clocks - a nice Benko demolition. **0-1**

Ang vs Steadman was a 1...Nc6, Alphaeus immediately rushed and grabbed the space, had no idea what to do with it and went down a pawn and swapped into an endgame a pawn down and completely lost.

So Wheeler's win made the cross table a mess. Kumar, Runcan and Hague were on 5, Wheeler and Steadman were on 4.5 with

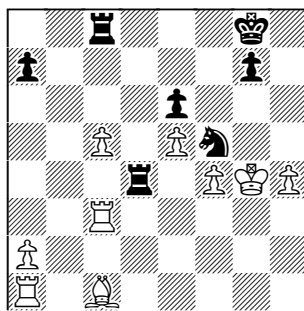
a host of others on 4. The real problem was trying to calculate what to do in the last rounds for the players. In our events you take the highest prize, not the prize with the most money. So people were looking at a grade prize worth \$100 and if they got 4th equal they could share \$75 with however many. Part of the fun of our event I believe. There were some groans, but everybody was told in round 1, so they all knew the rules.

Round 7 had Runcan vs Kumar and a closed Sicilian was a very tame affair and a quick draw was agreed. They were now hoping for Ben not to win – a draw or a loss was the best result they could hope for. Steadman vs Hague saw Ben trying a standard rapid type opening 1...Nc6 to my d4 (think he'd missed me playing it against Alphaeus earlier in the event. This is a good line against juniors, but it does have some drawbacks if White knows what he is doing. Ben found his position was pretty ugly quite early, sacrificed a pawn but got nothing for it, the second sacrificed pawn meant he had to swap queens to get one back and then a combination to get his other pawn back had a hole in it, he lost an exchange and soon the game.

Mike Steadman – Ben Hague

1.d4 Nc6 This is something GM Nunn used to play in his day, I had played it a few times but found it a bit ropey. Ben is going to see why :-). **2.d5 Ne5 3.f4 Ng6 4.e4 e6 5.dxe6 fxe6 6.Nc3 d5 7.e5 Bc5 8.Bd3 Nh6** This is not a normal type of position in this line. The d5 idea has it's advantages and disadvantages. As you can see the knight on h6 is a bit offside and can easily be an extra target of a big kingside pawn push.

White's dark square inconvenience is only temporary. A lot of the time White castles queenside and pawn storms Black's knights and king. **9.Nf3 Bd7 10.Qe2 0-0 11.g3 b5** Ben is starting to see what is before him. White was just going to castle queenside and shove the pawns down the board. He would be much faster than Black. Ben tries to mix it up, a sign of desperation, but maybe OK in rapid. **12.Nxb5 Ne7 13.c3 Rb8 14.Nbd4 Bb6 15.0-0** [Tempting is 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Ng5+ Kg8 17.Ndxe6 Qe8 18.Nxf8 Kxf8 I didn't see enough in this line, and decided to play simple chess instead.] **15...Nef5 16.Kg2 c5 17.Nxf5 Nxf5 18.h3 Bc6 19.Qe1 Qd7 20.g4 Nh6 21.Kg3 c4 22.Bc2 d4 23.Be4** [23.cxd4 Bxf3 24.Rxf3 Bxd4 25.Qe4 g6 26.Rb1 White is a cold pawn up and with the two Bishops, another easy way to win.] **23...Rfd8 24.cxd4 Bxd4 25.Nxd4 Bxe4 26.Qxe4 Qxd4 27.Qxd4 Rxd4 28.Rf3 Nf7 29.h4 h5** [29...Rd1 This move must be better, Black has to pursue activity. 30.g5 Rbd8] **30.Rc3 hxg4 31.b3 Nh6 32.bxc4 Rc8 33.c5 Nf5+ 34.Kxg4**



34...Rxc5? Nearly brilliant **35.Rxc5 Rd3 36.Be3** Now if White didn't have this resource available the combination would

have been superb, but... **36...Nxe3+ 37.Kf3 Nf5+ 38.Ke2** White is a cold exchange ahead and the game did not last much longer. **1-0**

Wheeler went for the attack against the Sicilian with a rare 2.b3 line, but one missed defensive resource for Black cut back all his attacking potential and made his position look sick, he resigned soon after. So the final scoreboard showed some surprises, just what you expect in a rapid.

(See the crosstable immediately before the article).

The lesson from this event was to change the round times. With the shorter playing time, the day could be much more compressed. The other request was for an optional ½ point bye on the Saturday. We'll try this in our next event.

Nigel Cooper at the World Seniors, Greece 2012

One of the nice things about chess is that addicts get to indulge in their competitive passion more or less as long as they want to. Not many of the players Nigel Cooper meets in New Zealand competition these days would realise he was competing against Sarapu et al in the New Zealand Championship back in 1963! At the most recent World Senior Championships held in November in Kamena Vourla, Greece, Nigel took his

place in a large Open field. Nigel battled away toward the bottom of the field, scoring a respectable 4 from 11 with a positive ratings outcome. For the record, IM Jens Kristiansen of Denmark won the tournament, ahead of many GMs including living legends Evgeny Sveshnikov, Yuri Balashov, Mihai Suba, and Vlastimil Jansa. It's always nice when an IM wins this tournament, as a coveted bonus is an automatic GM title. A great friend of New Zealand chess and regular contributor to this magazine, Herman van Riemsdijk of Brazil is a regular participant. Unfortunately the 2012 edition is probably not one he will remember fondly.

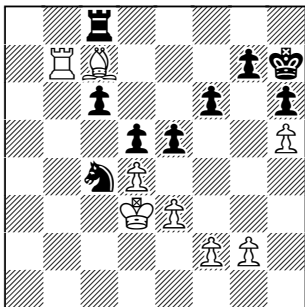
Here is possibly Nigel's best game from the event, against a player from Khazakhstan.

Biket,Zharokov (1934) - Cooper,Nigel (1753) [D03]

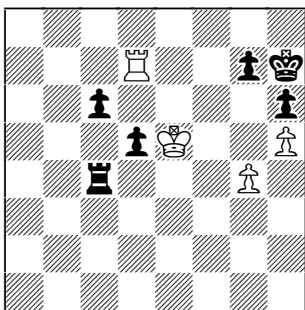
22nd World Senior Chess Championships
Kamena Vourla, Greece (7), 19.11.2012

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bg5 c6 4.c3 Bf5 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 Ne4 8.Bf4 Qb6 9.b4? Creating a nasty weakness 9...a5! Immediately highlighting the problem 10.a3 e6 11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Nxd2 axb4 13.cxb4 Bxb4 14.Rb1? Losing a second pawn 14...Rxa3! 15.Qc2 Bxd2+ 16.Kxd2 Qa5+ 17.Ke2 Ra2 18.Rb2 Rxb2 19.Qxb2 Qa6+ 20.Kf3 0-0 21.Ra1 Qb6 22.Qxb6 Nxb6 23.Rb1 It's annoying when opponents lose pawns and then get compensation due to the resulting open lines! **23...Nc4 24.Rxb7 Rc8 25.Ke2 h6 26.h4 f6 27.Bc7 Kh7 28.h5 e5 29.Kd3**

61.Kxc4 Kxh5 62.Kd3 Kg4 63.Ke4 g5 0-1



29...Ra8! Seizing the opportunity to get active, black takes control again, permanently this time. 30.dxe5 fxe5 31.f4? Ra3+ 32.Ke2 Rxe3+ 33.Kf2 exf4 34.Bxf4 Re6 35.g4 Ne5 36.Kg3 Nd3 37.Rd7 Nxf4 38.Kxf4 Rf6+ 39.Ke5 Rf1 40.Rd6 Rc1 41.Rd7 Rc4



This arrangement of two pawns and rook is ideal for enforcing a slow steady advance 42.Kf5 d4 43.Ke4 d3+? 44.Kf5 Rc3 45.Ke4 Kg8 46.Ke3 c5 47.Rd8+ Kf7 48.Rd7+? Kf8 49.Rd5? c4 50.g5 hxg5 51.Rxg5 Rc2 Back to the ideal setup 52.Rd5 Re2+ 53.Kd4 Rc2 54.Ke3 Ke7 55.Rg5 Kf7 56.Rd5 Rh2 57.Rd4 d2! Forcing an easily winning pawn ending 58.Rxd2 Rxd2 59.Kxd2 Kf6 60.Kc3 Kg5

Hawkes Bay Rapid

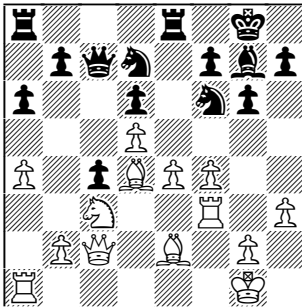
A new tournament made its debut on the New Zealand scene on March 2nd in Napier. Napier/Hastings Chess Club Club Captain Magnus MacFarlane is the driving force behind the Hawkes Bay Rapid. The club aim to promote chess in the Hawkes Bays and eventually develop the tournament as a mustn't miss event for New Zealand's top players. In possibly a first for a New Zealand chess tournament, entrants were invited to dress in Art Deco theme. Fittingly perhaps, Helen Milligan won the prize for best dressup after really getting into the spirit of the occasion. See the picture on the next page. Helen is flanked by Magnus MacFarlane and his wife Jeannie Ayson. The trophy Helen holds is labeled the "Napier Chess Club Championship 1897" it's possible it even predates that. Napier was the first chess club in New Zealand and so this is presumably New Zealand's oldest chess trophy.

Bob Smith won the tournament itself, half a point ahead of Mark Noble and Anthony Carpenter. Andrew Brockway won the B Grade.

Bob also won the best game prize with the following effort.

Ross Jackson - Bob Smith

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 c5 6.d5 0-0 7.Nf3 e6 8.Be2 exd5 9.cxd5 a6
10.a4 Bg4 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Be3 Re8 13.Qc2 Qc7 14.h3 Bxf3 15.Rxf3 c4 16.Bd4



16...Nc5 17.Re3 Ng4 18.Bxg7 Nxe3 19.Qd2 Kxg7 20.Qxe3 Nb3 21.Re1 Rac8 22.Kh1
Qc5 23.Qg3 b5 24.axb5 axb5 25.e5 dxe5 26.fxe5 b4 27.Ne4 Qxd5 28.Nd6 Qxe5
29.Nxe8+ [29.Qxe5+ Rxe5 30.Nxc8 c3-+] 29...Rxe8 1-0



Jeannie Ayson, Helen Milligan and Magnus MacFarlane



Nigel Cooper (3rd from left) and friends at the 2012 World Seniors

A New Zealand bid to host a World Chess Championship – Part 3

By Ross Jackson

At noon on Wednesday 9th August 1989, at the 60th FIDE Congress at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, the General Assembly met to vote on whether Lyon or Wellington would host the 1990 World Chess Championship. Despite the FIDE rule changes legislating for a match to be held with substitutes if World Champion Garry Kasparov, or the Challenger, boycotted the event, it appeared the New Zealand bid, stipulating for Kasparov's participation, could still be put to the vote. This was contrary to the intentions of the FIDE leadership. For

several hours the previous evening FIDE President Florencio Campomanes and FIDE legal expert David Anderton, had pressured the New Zealand delegation of NZCF President Bill Poole, and Michael Fowler Centre General Manager Gillian Houser, to accept the FIDE rule changes into their bid. The FIDE leaders were unsuccessful. However, going into the Assembly, Bill was concerned about another problem he might have to contend with - the essential Government guarantee had not been received. This article will not go into the reasons except to note that FIDE's abrupt rule change had caused considerable alarm in New Zealand. Millions of dollars of sponsorship money

was at stake and extreme caution was required. The New Zealand delegation had been assigned to present a carefully prepared proposal, not to be pressured as negotiators for any alternative. There was an additional consideration recorded in Bill's report to the Hillary Commission. "There were no communication facilities from the conference centre to New Zealand, no private telephone lines, and no fax. Decisions made in the conference hall had to be made on the spot, and without consultation with Wellington."

Chess journalist IM David Goodman was present at the Congress and described the events in an article published in the November 1989 edition of Chess. The Meeting began with a 40 minute address by Botvinnik urging FIDE to share power with the GMA. GMA leader Bessel Kok spoke next and in a conciliatory manner also appealed to FIDE to accept the rights of grandmasters to influence the decisions which affect their profession. Goodman wrote of the reaction, "The speech was greeted with polite applause, but was then rounded upon by delegate after delegate." The debate became angry, and was finally ended when Campomanes recommended that FIDE and the GMA aim to reach an accord by the end of the year. There followed a break for coffee. Finally it was time for the last matter on the agenda, the decision on the hosting venue for the World Chess Championship.

Campomanes opened the debate inviting Bill to speak. Bill worked in a statement from Wellington explaining again the reasons why the substitution rules were unacceptable for the commercial

arrangements of New Zealand's bid . He ended by appealing for the implementation of the new rules to be held off for at least a year enabling the 1990 World Championship to proceed under the rules that existed until the previous day. Grandmaster Kouatly spoke next on behalf of the French bid. Bill described it as "a simple and unspectacular statement for Lyon." Goodman - "Kouatly said he had nothing new to add".

It was now the time for the FIDE leadership to make their move against the New Zealand bid. Campomanes invited Anderton to comment. Anderton said that the bid from Wellington was subject to three matters of "some difficulty". Quoting from Bill's and Goodman's writings the objections were:

1. It had not been accompanied by a bankers draft guaranteeing the money.
2. The bid is conditional on the Champion, Kasparov, playing subject to reasonable allowance for force majeure as he was pleased to hear Mr Poole mention.
3. There were problems (unspecified) with the separate offer to CACDEC, though perhaps this final reservation could be overcome.

In contrast he said the Lyon's bid was "impeccable".

The absence of a Bank guarantee, otherwise a fatal omission, passed without a murmur, because the previous day in presenting the New Zealand bid, Gillian Houser had explained that it was "Government guaranteed". But Bill could

envision the debate returning to the issue and was concerned about how to respond. If it looked to become impossible to succeed with FIDE, then he wanted to keep New Zealand's chances alive with the GMA and Kasparov. Fifteen minutes into debate Canada's Professor Nathan Divinsky was speaking about players' rights and in support of New Zealand exclaimed, "Of course they haven't got a Bank Guarantee, they are Government guaranteed!" (Bill - "and much more").

The ensuing events are quoted from Bill's report to the Hillary Commission.

"Mr Poole at that point was summoned to the dais for a publicly visible but otherwise private conversation with FIDE President Campomanes. This conversation was conducted swiftly by Mr Poole, for Prof. Divinsky must surely have alerted Mr Anderton to the fact that he hadn't seen the Government Guarantee either. Surely he would say so and ask for it to be tabled. Failure to face up to this challenge would be both ignominious for the NZ Delegation, and damage credibility with any other body (such as GMA) with an interest in the World Championship. In Mr Poole's view, it was therefore essential to beat that possibility by withdrawing the bid".

Bill does not believe that Campomanes had yet realised that the Government guarantee was an issue – but was likely still thinking to use the Kasparov factor to try to reject the New Zealand bid. However the bid would be destroyed if Anderton alerted him to the possibility of the more vulnerable target. The conversation was therefore short

and to the point.

Campomanes "What are you going to do now?"

Poole "Are you going to reject it?"

Campomanes "I don't want to do that."

Poole "In that case we cannot waste the time of this Assembly in futile debate."

In a later taped interview Bill explained the purpose of Campomanes calling him to the stage and the substance of the exchange. "He was implying very strongly withdraw with grace or be thrown out."

Bill - "Divinsky was still holding the floor as Poole got back to his seat, but was running down fast. As he finished Poole was called to the microphone. In a few words designed as much to keep Anderton quiet, for he hadn't dared advance the actual points of the previous evening to have them argued, Mr Poole said that he had been listening carefully, and in all circumstances thought that the time had come to congratulate the French delegation that theirs was inevitably the winning bid. He shook hands with Spassky and Kouatly, the delegation leaders who were seated nearby. Mr Campomanes intervened to ask whether the NZ bid was withdrawn. Mr Poole said that it was."

The Assembly was initially stunned and then there was uproar. Almost all the criticism was hostile to FIDE. Gillian Houser had not been informed of Bill's thinking and was astonished and furious. She had arduously prepared and presented the New Zealand bid an undertaking which

cost her organisation thousands of dollars for travel and time. She stated that as far as she was concerned it still stood. However Campomanes swiftly closed the door on the matter. Goodman -“Kok urged Campomanes more than once to postpone the decision, and discuss the venue with Kasparov and the four candidates at the GMA meeting on September 6th in Brussels. Campomanes said there was nothing to discuss. New Zealand had withdrawn the bid. The decision stood.”

Afterword

The French delegation were as surprised as anyone by New Zealand's dramatic withdrawal. Rather than considering it a victory, they became increasingly uneasy the more they reflected that they had no idea what sort of match they had committed to. Goodman -“ I caught up with Kouatly a few days later in Skelleftea. He said Lyons was the victim of its own success and Poole's poor judgement.” Kasparov announced at Skelleftea that he considered both bids still open. New Zealand already knew from its preparation that Kasparov had a favourable view of its venue. Sir Ron Scott had visited Garry in his home in Russia. With typical Russian hospitality the contents of the drinks cabinet had been displayed on the table for Sir Ron's selection. Lev Aptekar also acted as translator for Sir Ron in Russia and knew Kasparov personally since Garry's youth. Lev spoke to Kasparov by telephone several times in the course of New Zealand's bid preparation and attested to this writer of his genuine keenness for New Zealand.

When the GMA met on September 6th in Brussels. Hillary Commission CEO Greg Aim and Gillian Houser attended. David Goodman wrote that the bids from Lyons and Wellington were re-presented to the five candidates. A document was signed by all the candidates that they would only play in a World Championship final where Kasparov was one of the players. FIDE's challenge was well and truly called. After the Brussels conference Gillian Houser and Greg Aim met with Kasparov, Kok and other GMA members in a private boardroom meeting in Paris. It was a final attempt to see if anything could be achieved from the effort and expense New Zealand had committed to the project. Unfortunately there were now new developments and they did not include New Zealand. The 1990 World Chess Championship was shared by New York and Lyon with a combined prize fund much greater than either individual bid at the FIDE Meeting at Mayaguez.

At the start of the project New Zealand had hoped to emulate Iceland in offering a distinctive, exciting chess event and boost the game in our part of the world. Today in Iceland chess is held in such esteem that grandmasters receive a stipend from the state and they have the highest per capita number of grandmasters in the World. It is unfortunate that bickering amongst the leaders of world chess destroyed the bid process. New Zealand chess players should acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of Sir Ron Scott, Bill Poole, Gillian Houser and the other planning contributors, who tried so valiantly to bring a World Chess Championship to New Zealand.

North Island Championships 2012

By **Bill Forster**

Russell Dive returned to form in dramatic style at this year's North Island Championships, which this year was incorporated into an extended traditional Wellington Easter.

The tournament was held at the same inner city venue deemed very successful by most competitors at the recent NZ Congress. Possibly this was a factor in a decent turnout, when some had feared there had been something of a surfeit of chess in Wellington recently.

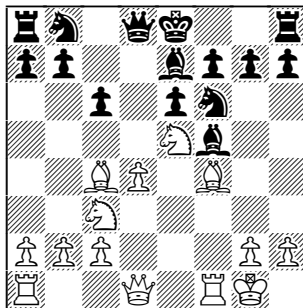
Looking at the lineup before the tournament, Russell was clearly a big favourite, being the only titled player and enjoying a large ratings gap over second seed Brian Nijman.

The third seed was Norwegian visitor Joachim Berg-Jensen (inserting an obligatory Magnus Carlsen story – when Magnus was a small child Jo played him and actually ceded Magnus a time handicap in a blitz game). As it happens Russell and Jo turned the tournament into a two horse race, Russell picket fencing and Jo winning all his games apart from their personal clash.

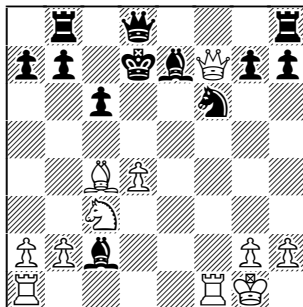
That personal clash came quite early in round 4, and it was a fittingly well played and exciting contest.

Jo Berg-Jensen - Russell Dive
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6

5.e4 dxe4 6.Nc3 exf3 7.Nxf3 c6 8.Bc4 Bf5
9.Ne5 e6 10.0-0 Be7

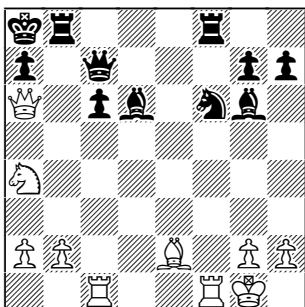


11.Nxf7! Not a piece sacrifice but a nice trick 11...Kxf7 12.Bxb8 Bxc2! [12...Rxb8 13.Rxf5 is the basic idea] 13.Qg4? Now it really is a piece sacrifice, and it's not quite sound [13.Qe2! Qxd4+ 14.Kh1 Raxb8 15.Bxe6+ Kf8 16.Qxc2 and white has more than enough compensation for a pawn] 13...Rxb8 14.Qxe6+ Ke8 15.Qf7+ Kd7



16.d5!/? This certainly looks logical opening lines but Black's control of the d1

square is an important factor, and he consolidates **16...Qf8 17.dxc6+ bxc6 18.Qe6+ Kc7 19.Rac1 Bg6 20.Qe5+ Kb7 21.Na4 Bd6 22.Qa5 Ka8** Black's king finally castles manually and it's now looking very much as if Black is simply a piece up. **23.Qa6 Qc8 24.Qa5 Qc7 25.Qa6 Rhf8 26.Be2**

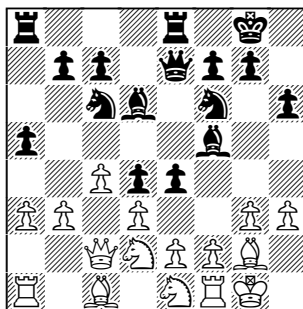


Russell wraps up with an attractive combination **26...Bxh2+ 27.Kh1 Ne4 28.Bf3 Ng3+! 29.Kxh2 Nxf1+ 30.Kg1 Qh2+** [Russell's intended finish was **30...Qh2+ 31.Kxf1 Rxf3+ 32.gxf3 Qh1+ 33.Kf2 Qxc1**] **0-1**

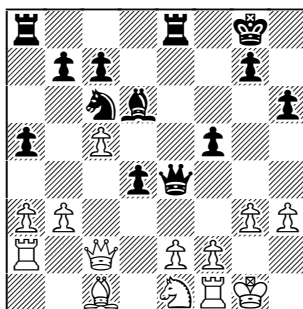
Another game where Russell really had to earn his keep came in this round 3 clash. Most of Russell's black opponents in this tournament allowed him to launch one of his favoured queenside expansion based opening schemes in comfort. In contrast Quentin came out fighting with an aggressive scheme based on powerful centralisation. However just as spectators might have been thinking about a possible upset, a dramatic turnaround changed everything.

Russell Dive – Quentin Johnson

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 e5 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.h3 Re8 9.a3 a5 10.b3 h6 11.Ne1 Bf5 12.Rb1 Bd6 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Ra1 e4!

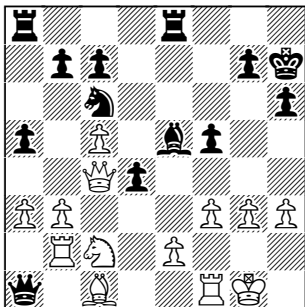


Black's position is blossoming nicely, at this stage he already has established a clear advantage **15.dxc4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 Bxc4 17.Bxe4 Qxe4 18.Ra2!** An important resource **18...f5?** Understandable, but a mistake nevertheless [18...Qxc2 19.Rxc2 d3 20.Nxd3 Nd4 winning back either the a,b or e pawn retains an advantage] **19.c5**



19...Be5?? I feel a grinch for giving this two question marks, really all this means is that although superficially the move looks no worse than the alternatives, it is rather

remarkable that it actually loses outright from what was so recently a really promising situation **20.Qc4+ Kh7 21.f3! Qb1 22.Rb2 Qa1 23.Nc2**

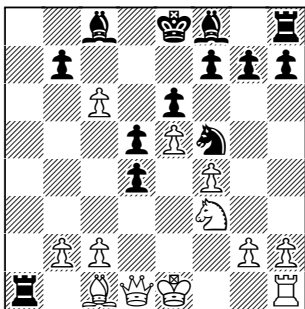


A really remarkable concluding sequence and an unlikely final position. **1-0**

Is there such a thing as a spectacular positional game ? I think so;

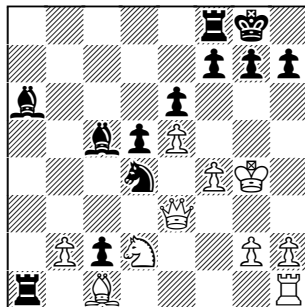
Hamish Gold - Jo Berg-Jensen

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.f4 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Nf6 6.Ne5 Qc7 7.Nxc6 Qxc6 8.e5 Ng8 9.Nf3 Ne7 10.d4 Nf5 11.a4 a6!? 12.Bb5 axb5 13.axb5 Rxa1 14.bxc6 cxd4



Black has sacrificed queen for rook and bishop and an unusual positional bind.

15.Kf2 There is no obvious way of unwinding. [for example **15.0-0? Ne3!**] **15...Be5 16.Nd2?** Hoping to be able to play **Nb3 16...d3+! 17.Kf3 Nd4+ 18.Kg4 dxc2 19.Qe1 0-0 20.cxb7 Bxb7 21.Qe3 Ba6!**

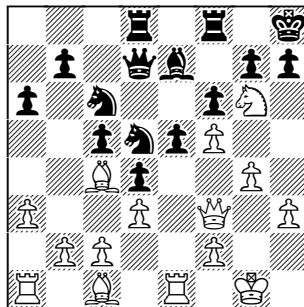


With the winning plan of **Be2+** and **Bd1** winning the c1 bishop, White is curiously helpless **22.Nb3 Nxb3 23.Qxb3 Be2+ 24.Kh3 Bd1 25.f5 Rxc1 26.f6 g6 27.Kh4 Ra1 28.Qxc2 Bxc2 29.Rxa1 d4 0-1**

Edward Rains was third on his own, beating seasoned performers Nijman, Turner, Johnson and Forster along the way. Edward and his brother Timothy have been knocking on the door for a while now, and seem set to take their place at the elite level of New Zealand chess sooner rather than later. Other juniors competing creditably in this tournament included Alphaeus Ang, Jack James and Layla Timergazi.

Finally here is an interesting final round game. The opponents in this clash had contrasting tournaments. Hamish had been punching above his weight, playing higher rated players, and picking up an upset prize against John McDonald along the way. Brian's result was a little below par, he was unable to justify his second seeding. But

Brian did have the satisfaction of possibly playing the move of the tournament in this game. His 17.Ng6+ sacrifice is a bolt from the blue. The champion computer program Houdini thinks for several minutes, considering the position to be quite equal before it suddenly rediscovers Brian's idea and declares the position to be winning for White. Basically Black's problem is that although it takes several quiet moves for White to get his queen to the mating square h7, Black's congestion makes it difficult to prevent without making other serious concessions.



Unfortunately after a deep think Hamish was convinced by the sacrifice and didn't make Brian demonstrate its correctness, regrettable since declining and giving up the exchange for nothing is tantamount to resignation.

Brian's notes comprise mainly a series of deep variations. This is probably a good time to remind readers that they can play over games and analysis from the magazine on our website www.nzchessmag.com.

Brian Nijman - Hamish Gold

(Notes by Brian Nijman)

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 d4 4.Ne2 c5 5.Ng3 [5.c3] 5...Nc6 6.a3 e5 [6...h5!?] 7.Bc4 Be7 8.d3 Nf6 9.h3 0-0 10.0-0 a6 11.Nf5 Bxf5 12.exf5 Qd7 13.g4 Nd5 14.Re1 f6 15.Nh4 Kh8 16.Qf3 Rad8? [16...Rfd8 avoids White's Ng6 tactic, as in the game] 17.Ng6+!!

17...Kg8 a shame [17...hxg6 18.fxg6 Qe6 19.g5 Rfe8 20.Qh5+ Kg8 21.f4 ! 21...f5 (21...Kf8 22.fxe5 Rd7 (22...b5 23.Bd2 bxc4 24.exf6 Nxf6 25.gxf6 Bxf6 26.Rxe6 Rxe6 27.Qxc5+ Rdd6 28.Qxc4 Ke7 29.Qxa6+-; 22...Nxe5 23.Rxe5 fxe5 24.Bd2 Bf6 25.gxf6 Qxf6 26.Bg5 Qxg5+ 27.Qxg5+-; 22...Qg8 23.Bd2 b6 24.gxf6 Bxf6 25.exf6 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 Nxf6 27.Rf1 Qf7 28.Qh8+ Ke7 29.Re1+ Kd7 30.Qxd8+ Nxd8 31.gxf7+-) 23.Bd2 (23.Qh8+ Qg8 24.Qxg8+ Kxg8 25.exf6 Kf8 26.fxe7+ Rxe7 27.Rf1+ Ke8 28.Bxd5 Rxd5 29.h4 Rd8 30.Bf4 b5 31.Bg3 Rd5 32.Rae1 +5.50; 23.gxf6? Bxf6 24.Bf4 Nxf4 25.Qh8+ Ke7 26.Bxe6 Rxh8 27.exf6+ Kd6 28.Bxd7 Kxd7 29.fxc7 Rg8 30.Rf1 Nxc6 31.Rf7+ Nge7 32.Re1 Ke8=) 23...f5 24.Rf1 Bd8 25.Qh8+ Qg8 26.Rxf5+ Ke7 27.Qxg8 Rxc8 28.Rf7+ Ke6 29.Rxd7 Kxd7 30.Bxd5+-) 22.Qh7+ Kf8 23.fxe5 Qg8 (23...Bd6 24.Qh8+ Qg8 25.Qxg8+ Kxg8 26.Bxd5+ Kf8 27.Bxc6 bxc6 28.Bf4 Bc7 29.h4+-; 23...Rd7 24.Rf1 Bd8 25.Qh8+ Qg8 26.Rxf5+ Ke7 27.Qxg8 Rxc8 28.Rf7+ Ke6 29.Rxd7 Kxd7 30.Bxd5 Rf8 31.Bd2 Nxe5 32.Rf1 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Nxc6 34.Bxb7 a5 35.Ke2+-) 24.e6 Bd6 25.Bxd5 Ke7 26.Kg2 Rc8 27.Re2 Qxh7 28.gxh7 g6 29.h4 Rh8 30.h5 Rxh7 31.h6 Rc7 32.Bf3 Rh8 33.Bd2 Ne5 34.Bf4 Nxf3 35.Bxd6+

Kxd6 36.Kxf3+] 18.Nxf8 Kxf8 19.Qxd5
 Qxd5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5 21.f4 Rd7 22.Kf2 b5
 23.fxe5 fxe5 24.g5 Bd6 25.Rf1 Rf7
 26.Kg2 b4 27.Bd2 a5 28.g6 hgx6 29.fgx6
 Rxf1 30.Rxf1+ Kg8 31.Bg5 bxa3 32.bxa3
 c4 33.Rb1 Bxa3 34.Rb6 1-0

Russell Dive looking every inch a
 champion, with the North Island trophy.



North Island Championship 2012

	Rtg	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Dive, Russell J	2423	8.0	+W13	+B11	+W4	+B2	+W3	+B5	+W8	+B7
2 Berg-Jensen, Joachim	2183	7.0	+W19	+B15	+W8	-W1	+B10	+W4	+B3	+W12
3 Rains, Edward	1945	5.5	+W24	+B5	=W11	+W9	-B1	+B6	-W2	+W4
4 Johnson, Quentin	2132	5.0	+W16	+B7	-B1	+W14	+W6	-B2	+W5	-B3
5 Turner, Michael G	2139	5.0	+B10	-W3	+B20	+W12	+B9	-W1	-B4	+W14
6 Nijman, Brian	2218	5.0	+B25	+W12	-B9	+W7	-B4	-W3	+B19	+W10
7 Ang, Alphaeus WeiErn	1878	5.0	+B27	-W4	+B28	-B6	+W16	+W10	+B9	-W1
8 McDonald, John A	2098	4.5	+B18	+W28	-B2	-W10	+B19	+W14	-B1	=W9
9 Forster, William	2088	4.5	+W21	+B23	+W6	-B3	-W5	+B11	-W7	=B8
10 Gold, Hamish R	1809	4.0	-W5	+B26	+W15	+B8	-W2	-B7	+W13	-B6
11 Nyberg, Michael	2044	4.0	+B17	-W1	=B3	+W23	+B12	-W9	-B14	=W15
12 Rains, Timothy	2038	4.0	+W22	-B6	+W13	-B5	-W11	+B21	+W16	-B2
13 James, Jack	1857	4.0	-B1	+W17	-B12	+W20	-B14	+W18	-B10	+W22
14 Timergazi, Layla	1862	4.0	-W23	+B21	+W16	-B4	+W13	-B8	+W11	-B5
15 Jackson, L Ross	1959	4.0	+B20	-W2	=B10	=W18	-B17	+W25	+W26	=B11
16 Roberts, Michael H	1788	4.0	-B4	+W27	-B14	+W17	-B7	+W20	-B12	+W24
17 Stracy, Don M	1729	4.0	-W11	-B13	+W26	-B16	+W15	+B22	=W18	=W19
18 Nicholls, Leighton	1753	4.0	-W8	=B24	=W22	=B15	+W21	-B13	=B17	+W20
19 Nijman, Arie J	1818	3.5	-B2	-W20	+W24	+B22	-W8	+B23	-W6	=B17
20 Capper, David S	1657	3.0	-W15	+B19	-W5	-B13	+W27	-B16	+W21	-B18
21 Cooper, Nigel	1752	3.0	-B9	-W14	+B27	+W25	-B18	-W12	-B20	+W26
22 Gloistein, Bruce H	1715	3.0	-B12	=W25	=B18	-W19	+B28	-W17	+W23	-B13
23 Chen, Wei Kai	0	3.0	+B14	-W9	=B25	-B11	=W24	-W19	-B22	+B28
24 Shierlaw, Hamish	1618	2.5	-B3	=W18	-B19	+W28	=B23	--	=W25	-B16
25 Brockway, Andrew	1836	2.5	-W6	=B22	=W23	-B21	=W26	-B15	=B24	=W27
26 List, Robert	1665	2.5	--	-W10	-B17	+W27	=B25	+W28	-B15	-B21
27 Cunningham, Patrick	1431	2.5	-W7	-B16	-W21	-B26	-B20	+BYE	+W28	=B25
28 Stanton, Lynn	0	1.0	+BYE	-B8	-W7	-B24	-W22	-B26	-B27	-W23

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