

New Zealand Chess

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

January 2013

Volume 40 Number 1



NZ at 2012 Istanbul Women's Olympiad

120th New Zealand Chess Congress

Plus:

- **Some Demanding and Instructive Chess Challenges**

Official publication of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc) Published January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1

All games available electronically at www.nzchessmag.com

Please send all reports, letters and other contributions to the Editor at bill@nzchessmag.com.

Editorial

Editor: Bill Forster
Proofreader: Martin Sims

Annual Subscription Rates

NZ: \$24.00 plus postage \$4.00 total \$28.00
International: NZD 24.00 plus postage NZD 12.00

Advertising Rates

Full page \$50.00
Half Page Horizontal \$30.00
Quarter page Horizontal \$20.00

NZCF Contact Details

New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)
PO Box 216, Shortland Street, Auckland

The NZCF Website is a superb resource for all aspects of competitive chess in NZ including a chess calendar and full results of all significant tournaments. Go to www.newzealandchess.co.nz

Thank You Alan !

After five great years, Alan Aldridge has decided to step down as editor. During those years Alan has not only shouldered

the great majority of the work of putting each issue out, he has also performed all the administrative duties as well. Ross and Lin Jackson are now doing the administrative duties, and Bill Forster comes in off the bench as the new Editor.

Contents

- 3 2012 Istanbul Olympiad Women's Team Report**
by Peter Hulshof
- 15 120th New Zealand Chess Championship**
by Ian Sellen
- 26 Other Congress Tournaments and main crosstables**
- 30 Four Tough Challenges**
supplied by Nigel Cooper
- 31 Better than Counting Sheep**
Improve your feel for the chessboard

2012 Istanbul Olympiad – The New Zealand Women's Team's Tournament

By Peter Hulshof

Writing this a few weeks after the Chess Olympiad everything seems far away into oblivion like an unreal event. As an admirer I had been reading about Olympiads for many years and about the many special historical moments that took place. Since an early age it has been my dream to attend an Olympiad. Any sports fan will feel this when the best athletes in the world come together. Even those who care less about sport are sometimes suddenly a supporter and sympathise with the athletes, whether or not fed by nationalist feelings. One can dream about potential big performances and emotions come into full richness and are boldly expressed.

Which chess player never dreams about getting away from the harsh reality and being 11 rounds immersed in the world chess arena? Chess at the highest level in all its glory, genius moments alternated with ghastly blunders. Emotions run high and players are on top of their potential. Players that are normally only encountered in chess magazines and reports on the internet. But also numerous players who are less famous and surprise with brilliant moments. All situated in a pleasant and inspiring environment and all the ingredients are present for a small chess paradise on earth.

By a strange coincidence, this all became reality when I suddenly had the chance to captain the women's Olympiad team. And it must be said afterwards: it was indeed a great and unforgettable experience. Everything was as I dreamt of, and was further enhanced by the enthusiasm of my players, the multicultural unity and the many old and new friends I was able to meet. A special experience that only occasionally was interrupted by some hardships a captain has to deal with.

I will try to illustrate and summarise this experience to give the reader a good impression. But I have to warn beforehand that my literary qualities undoubtedly are too limited to properly display this experience (Ed: I disagree – the dancing metaphor in the last two rounds was particularly lyrical and impressive!). I will therefore besides the written word illustrate with photos (Ed: sorry no room!) and game fragments to support my story. All games are on the excellent website of the organization:

www.chessolympiadistanbul.com

The New Zealand women's team began preparing for the Olympiad in a cosy atmosphere with a timely team meeting in Auckland. Amongst other things until ten days before the Olympiad everything was sped up by our intended board one player (Sue Maroroa), who reported that she had visa problems and may not arrive on time .

This was totally unexpected and after a few days of deliberations and increasingly negative reports, we decided five days before departure not to wait any longer and asked our reserve player to join (Marany Flack-Meyer, who did us a great favour, thanks again!). It must have been a disappointment for Sue, who would have loved to come to Istanbul, but there was simply no time to wait any longer.

This setback would also alter our assumptions. With Sue we could expect a score of about 50% with possible title chances for Judy (the only player without a title!) on board 3 (a score of 6 out of 9 in the Olympiad automatically means an FM title). Without Sue 50% would be asking too much and Judy on board 2 would also have much more resistance. We tried however not to be discouraged too much, gathered all our positive energy, focussed on the things to come and managed through a pact with our Australian neighbours to solve a possible room problem (too complex to explain).

Some of us had a couple of days to acclimatise and enjoy beautiful Istanbul, and on Monday the 27th August the Olympiad was finally opened with a traditional uninspiring captain's meeting and an equally boring traditional opening ceremony. After these annoyances, the pairing of the first round was announced on a somewhat faltering internet and we could really get started.

To paint a picture of the daily routine at this Olympiad here is a brief interlude:
The night before the round, the team pairings were announced around 10pm.

The next morning before 9am the board order had to be handed over to the organisation. Some captains tried to have a collection of games of their opponents on a USB-stick for the players at breakfast and save them the effort of a sometimes exhaustive search. The final board pairing was then announced around 10am. This often meant night work or early morning work for the Captain, but the players were a bit out of the wind and could start preparing somewhere during the morning. Some players preferred to have a collective look at opening variations and after lunch around 2pm we walked together to the venue. The round itself started daily at 3pm and was usually followed by a collective 8pm meal in the hotel. And then the whole cycle starts again at 10pm when the next pairing is announced. An exhausting schedule, but fortunately there was also time for relaxation; there were two rest days, which most of us used to do some sightseeing in Istanbul, and some time in the mornings could also be used for other activities, which for a women's team apparently has to include a lot of shopping and experiments with clothes, nails and eyebrows (and maybe some other things as suggested by Nigel Short in his column in *New in Chess?*).

Round 1 - USA

So for us it was immediately a promising first round: against the 5th ranked and very famous team USA. We could go for it straight away! Unfortunately we could not deliver a surprise against the USA and we did not manage to steal some half or whole points, but the team spirit was great as evidenced by the fanaticism during our

preparation and the passion behind the board: **0 – 4**. Annoying was the way the organization dealt with the zero-tolerance rule (the rule that the player is required to actually sit behind the board at the start of the game or otherwise will default). Initially this was announced with much fuss during the captain's meeting, but when the first day showed that due to bad organisation (a much too small entrance) it was impossible to have all teams behind the board on time at the eleventh hour the starting time was delayed by 20 minutes (So in this case, the organization would have done well to take disciplinary measures against themselves instead of being so frantic about the zero-tolerance rule). This first round also showed some other flaws from an organisational point of view, which we would have to cope with. The toilets were absolutely a disgrace (which made Ponomariov regularly go to the disabled toilet facilities) and because there was not even any free water, there was frequently a queue for the bar that was manned by two non-English speaking males (for a total of 1500 players and coaches).

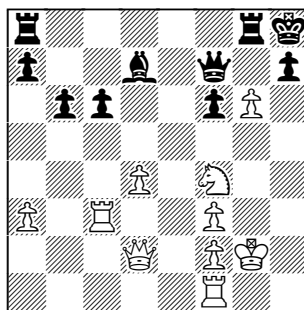
Round 2 – Netherlands Antilles

One of the weaker teams with their stronger players on board 1 and 4. This was an outright walkover. Judy and Natasha were early in the game handed a few presents and the first points for our team. Helen and Marany also had good positions, but encountered more resistance. Marany kept pressuring her opponent, won a pawn and knew how to capitalise this in a nice way (see game). Unfortunately Helen's

position flattened after the opening and at the end she even feared to have a lost endgame. Luckily her opponent allowed a repetition of moves: **3.5 – 0.5**.

Salim-Moussa, Seydi (1806) - Meyer, Marany (2117) [C01]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Be7 6.Bd3 O-O 7.O-O Nc6 8.h3 Nb4 9.a3 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 c6 11.Ne2 Qc7 12.Bf4 Bd6 13.Be5 Ne4 = 14.b3 Re8 15.c4 f6 16.Bh2? Bf5 17.Qd1 Ng5 ! 18.Bxd6 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Qxd6 20.Kg2 dxc4 21.bxc4 Qe6 22.Nf4 Qxc4 23.Rc1 Qf7 24.Rc5 Bd7 25.h4 b6 26.Rc3 Kh8 27.Qd2 g5 28.hxg5 Rg8 29.g6



29...Rxc6+ With checkmate to follow:
30.Nxc6 Qxc6 31.Kh3 Qh5 32.Kg3 Rg8 0-1

So we had our first match points in and we were back in the middle of the field, which meant a tough opponent next.

Round 3 – Estonia

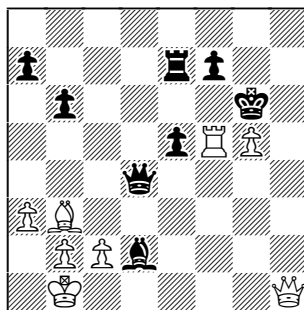
As so often in a Swiss tournament it turned out we were in the usual bouncing-up-and-down-phase in the first 3 laps: losing against much stronger opponents and winning against the weak. This time it was

by no means a hopeless contest. Judy and Nicole played a little timidly and lacked the experience to pose their opponents real difficulties. Marany on four with black had an equal position after the opening, but then opted for a somewhat optimistic, but slow, plan with Nb8-a6-b4-a6 where it was simply taken by the white bishop. She then found out that allowing a white knight on c5 was asking too much. On three Natasha played in great style (as she was our heroine of the first tournament half anyway). She got the prepared variation of the Scandinavian on the board (thanks Harold!), got a winning position against her much higher rated opponent, but at the end didn't see clearly anymore and was satisfied with a draw: **0.5 – 3.5**.

Fairley, Natasha (1788) - Narva, Triin (2028) [B01]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nge2 c6 6.Bf4 All logical and according to our preparation. **6...Qd8 7.g3 Nd5 8.Bg2 Nxf4 9.Nxf4 g5** [9... g6 10. Qd2 Bg7 11. O-O-O O-O +0.44|d13 Rybka4] **10.Nfe2 Bg7 11.Qd2 h6 12.O-O-O Na6 13.d5** [13. h4 g4 14. Nf4 Qa5 15. Rhe1 Nc7 +0.92|d16 Rybka4] **13...Nb4 14.a3 Nxd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Bxd5 Qb6 17.Nc3 Bf5 18.Bb3 O-O 19.Nd5 Qd6 20.Qe2 e5 21.Ne3 Qf6 22.Nd5 Qd8 23.Ne3 Qc8 24.Nxf5** [24. h4 g4 25. Bd5 h5 26. Nxf5 Qxf5 27. Kb1 Rad8 28. Bxb7 Rd4 29. Rxd4 exd4 30. Be4 Qc5 31. Qd3 Rb8 32. Bh7 Kh8 33. Re1 Qb6 +1.07|d14 Rybka4] **24...Qxf5 25.Rd6 Rac8 26.Rhd1 Rc7 27.Rd8 Bf6 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Qd2 Kg7 30.Kb1 Re7 31.Qe3 b6 32.f3 g4 33.fxg4 Qxg4 34.Rf1 Qg5 35.Qe4 Qg6 36.Rf5 Bg5 37.h4 Bd2 38.g4 Qd6 39.g5 hxg5 40.hxg5 Qd4??** [40... Qg6 41. Qg4 b5 42.

Bd5 Qd6 43. Qh4 +0.83|d13 Rybka4] **41.Qh1! Kg6**



42.Rf6+ Kxg5 43.Rxf7?? Natasha thought here for about ten minutes, while half of the men's team was calculating the most crazy variations, but didn't see clearly anymore and was already satisfied with a draw. Had she looked further she would undoubtedly have seen the winning combination: [43. c3!! Qd3 44. Bc2 Qxc2 45. Kxc2 Kxf6 46. Kxd2 Kg7 47. Qg2 Kf6 48. Ke3 Re6 49. Qf1 Kg7 50. Ke4 a5 51. Qd3 Kf6 52. Qd7 Kg7 53. Qd3 Kf6 54. Qd7 Kg7 55. Qd3 Kf6 56. Qd7 Kg7 57. Qd3 Kf6 58. Qd7 +4.29|d16 Rybka4; 43. Qh6] **43...Rxf7 44.Bxf7 a5 1/2-1/2**

Round 4: Luxembourg

With two match points and four board points we were now about where we belonged and met an opponent of equal level. In hindsight this was one of the most interesting and exciting matches of this Olympiad, which perhaps is reflected by the fact that two players independently chose their game of this contest to analyze for this report. Before going into Helen's and Judy's analysis, however, it has to be said that Nicole and Marany also played

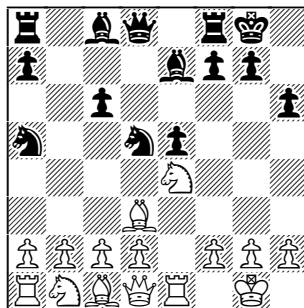
strong games this round; Marany got a huge space advantage with white in a closed Sicilian and won after entering the f-file, winning a piece and then the game. Nicole played very solid with black, won a pawn and probably had a won endgame with unequal bishops, but unfortunately bogged down in a draw: **2-2**.

**Steil Antoni,Fiona (2173) -
Milligan,Helen (1987) [C58]**

Notes by Helen Milligan

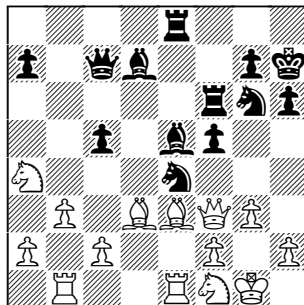
I'm annotating this particular game because I think it set the seal on my Olympiad performance this year. Round one was chaos, with a painfully long wait outside then a confusing delay indoors. Round two was for me a hard struggle to draw. In round three I had the disappointment of being dropped. So this game, in round four, really needed to go well for me to get back on my feet! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4** This should have been a big surprise to me, since in previous games (many previous games!) she had played Bc4 on move 2 with the intention of playing a Vienna-like system, or d4 on move 3 for a Scotch. Sometimes she also essays a King's Gambit. However, there were no games in the database with the Two Knights. Here I suspect a bit of targeted preparation - the Two Knights is not something I have a particularly good score with (OK let's admit it I have a rotten record with it!). In fact, knowing what happens at Olympiads, I had expected she might try this, and had prepared - but not well enough, as we shall see. **3...Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3** Sadly, I hadn't looked at this line (to be fair, I had spent most of my preparation time looking at

Viennas, Scotches and King's Gambits, naturally enough). I vaguely remembered some stuff - but that's not really good enough, especially as I was now aware that she had spent several hours preparing this just for me! Sometimes opening preparation works on two levels - you get a good position and you destroy your opponent's confidence... **8...h6** Although this is an obvious move and often played, it is already a slight error, as the knight is just being pushed where it wants to go. Better to leave it there and get on right away with activating the black pieces. **9.Nc4 Nd5** It's important not to swap anything, at least until we've won back the stray pawn! **10.O-O Be7** Having let the knight take up residence on e4, I might be better advised to play ...g6 and put the bishop on g7, since its natural squares (d6 or c5) are out of bounds. **11.Re1 O-O**



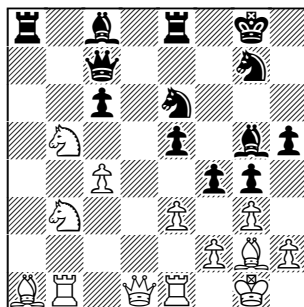
12.Nbc3 We leave theory! Apparently Fressinet-Bacrot 2011 reached the position after move 11 but Fressinet now played 12.Ng3 (and won). **12...Nf4 13.Bf1 Qc7 14.d3 f5 15.Ng3 Nb7** Not a very good move. The knight on f4 is more of a liability than an active piece and should

probably have been retreated. **16.d4!** Exploiting the position of my knight. This is not how the Two Knights is supposed to go - it should be Black who has easy development and active pieces! **16...Bd6 17.dxe5 Bxe5 18.Qf3 Ng6 19.Bc4+ Kh7 20.Bd2 Nd6** I'm trying very hard to get things back into the action, but with so many of my pieces undeveloped or offside, it is not looking healthy for Black. **21.Bd3** It might be better on b3. I think she is looking at winning material rather than winning the game. **21...Rb8 22.Rab1 Bd7 23.b3** Moving the rook and the pawn? That has to be slowing White down... **23...Rbe8 24.Nf1** Another backward move, and this one really is bad. All Black's pieces are in the centre now and all we have to do is forget we're a pawn down and go for the throat. **24...Rf6** ...but this is not the best way to do it! Better is (24...Ne4 25.Bxe4 fxe4 26.Qe3 Bf5 +=) **25.Na4** This doesn't really make sense either. Another tempo to the good guys... **25...Ne4 26.g3** Really not good! Over the last few moves White has just played uncoordinated and random moves, without a plan so far as I can see. Meanwhile I do have a plan, which is to threaten as many things as possible. **26...c5 27.Be3**



27...Bxa4? Unfortunately I was now getting very nervous. This was played with the intention of (effectively) getting my pawn back by wrecking hers. But that is a very unambitious, scaredy-cat plan. Two moves that continue to threaten are (27...Bc6 or 27...c4) **28.bxa4 Bc3 29.Bb5** We're still doing fine here but it takes a bit of positional understanding to appreciate that the rook should stay on the e-file. 29...Re7 would have been good. **29...Rd8 30.Red1 Ne5 31.Qg2 Bd4 32.Re1 Nc3 33.Rb3 Ng4** Not a good idea. Keep up the threats! Better would have been (33...c4 with a possible continuation then being 34.Bxd4 cxb3 35.Bxe5 Qxe5! Yes, I did consider this, but didn't look carefully enough at what my c-pawn was doing! 36.Rxe5 bxc2 37.Qb7 c1=Q 38.Re7 =) **34.Bxd4 cxd4 35.Bd3 Ne5 36.Rb7** If I'd put the rook on e7 then this would not be possible... **36...Qc5** I'm really starting to lose the thread now. Not so much time pressure, but definitely a bit of tiredness compounded by a lack of confidence - with that rook on b7 I was thinking I'd really messed it up. **37.Nd2 Nxd3 38.cxd3 Rb6??** And a blunder. The f-pawn needed to keep its protector. (38...Nd5 +=) **39.Ree7 Rg8 40.Qf3 Ra6??** Black can grovel

onwards with (40...Rxb7 41.Qxb7 +/- but it's not looking good!) **41.Rbc7** Now it's just catastrophic. **41...Qa5 42.Nc4 Qxa4 43.Qxf5+ Kh8 44.Ne5** So, in the end a bad loss, and a thoroughly discouraging start to the event. The pattern of being outmanoeuvred in preparation, and therefore psyched out, and therefore playing insufficiently aggressively, then continued for the rest of the event! **1-0**

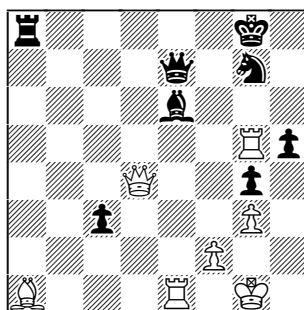


Gao,Judy (1949) - Boyard,Marie (2035)
[A22]

Notes by Judy Gao

1.c4 Surprise, surprise...not the London! :D
1...Nf6 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 e5 4.Bg2 Be7 5.d3 Nbd7 6.Rb1 With the plan of a pawn storm on the queenside. **6...a5 7.a3 O-O 8.Nf3 Ne8 9.O-O c6 10.b4 axb4 11.axb4 f5 12.e3 g5 13.b5 Qc7** I like my position here. It was under control as she couldn't break open in the centre. **14.Re1** The knight manoeuvre Nf3-e1-c2-b4 may have been a better plan. It puts pressure on c6 and if she plays c5, I get the d5 square. **14...Ng7 15.Bb2 g4 16.Nd2 Nc5 17.Qe2 Bf6 18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Ba1?!** I wanted to open the file for my rook but this was too passive and slow. **19.d4** straight away would have been better. **19...Re8 20.Nb3 Nce6 21.Qd2 Bg5 22.Qd1?!** Hmm...my queen went in a triangle. I don't know why I played that. I guess I wanted to encourage Bg5 to get it off the long diagonal. **22...h5?** She gave me the opportunity to open my game up with d4! **23.d4 f4 24.dxe5 dxe5 25.Nb5**

25...cxb5 (25...Qb6 26.Nd6 fxe3 27.fxe3 Bxe3+ 28.Kh1 Rd8 29.Bxe5 +/-) 26.Bxa8 bxc4 27.exf4 exf4 28.Nd4 ffg3 29.hxg3 Rd8 30.Nxe6 Bxe6 31.Qa4 c3 32.Rb7 Qc5? 33.Rb5 Qf8? 34.Rxg5 Rxa8 35.Qd4 35.Qc6 would have been an easier win, forking the rook and bishop. **35...Qe7**



36.Rg6 Qf7 37.Rg5 (37.Rxe6 Rxa1+ 38.Kh2 +/-) 37...Qe7 38.Rg6 Qf7 39.Rg5 Yes, it's three-fold repetition...and no, it was not intended! I was short on time and went into panic mode! Otherwise, **39.Rxe6** would be winning. **1/2-1/2**

Round 5: Sri Lanka

Again we played strong and interesting games. Unfortunately, this was not reflected in the score thanks to inexperience in the final phases. Helen, with black, had to compete against a prepared variation in the Kings Indian four pawns attack. Her opponent was prepared by their coach who himself had played this variation against an American grandmaster. There were several complex continuations, all very dangerous for black, and only one led to a draw. Helen found this narrow path which was an achievement in itself. Nicole had a difficult opening, but then got a dominant position by good play. Instead of consolidating however she chose to win a centre pawn, thus opening the position for the enemy pieces and shortly afterwards found herself checkmated. Again it was the turn of our early heroine (Natasha) to score and bring us back into the match. In a Caro-Kann she slowly outplayed her opponent; won a pawn and later on an endgame with a good knight against bad bishop, which she played perfectly (replay this game at the Olympiad website!). With this win the score was equal with only Judy still playing; she was a pawn up in a good position, but there were still some tactical problems to solve. Unfortunately, she missed a last rank joke and lost a lot of material. After this, with a piece down, it was possibly still a draw, but despite a huge fighting spirit everything slipped through her fingers and at the end she disappointedly had to accept her loss. It would be almost (but not quite!) impossible now to achieve the so much wanted WFM-title: **1.5 – 2.5**.

The rest day that followed was fully

enjoyed in the city, escaping the depressing industrial park where the Olympiad was held, and some of us even enjoying a delicious Burger King meal which by now seemed a meal from heaven compared with the daily lukewarm dishes at the hotel. We still enjoyed being part of the Olympic family, the atmosphere in both the women's and men's team was very positive, working together whenever possible and it was chess all over the place.

Round 6: Yemen

So despite the somewhat low score in match points, the team spirit was still very positive, which was immediately rewarded in the sixth round. We were once again paired against a theoretically weaker opponent, and were able to continue our good play, what ultimately resulted in a chocolate score: **4-0** (see the Olympiad Site for games).

Round 7: Zambia

Bouyed by round 6, when we were drawn against a not too strong opponent for this round, we were determined to be able to come back to 50%. It was again a one-sided affair. Judy won a piece with a nice combination and without problems the game. Natasha scored her third point in a row after some pushing and pulling in which she showed to be most persistent and Marany benefited from the time trouble of her opponent. Helen was kept busy and seemed to finally bring the 4-0 on the score-board playing her 150th (!) game on an Olympiad. Unfortunately, a seemingly winning rook endgame proved to be more difficult than expected and she had to accept a draw: **3.5 – 0.5**, and the goal of

50% achieved

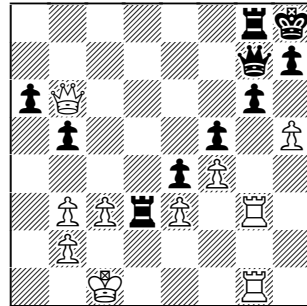
Round 8: Syria

Our good streak was not over yet! In this round we really rose above ourselves: Helen played her best game this Olympiad and in a tactical Sicilian middle game won a pawn and later on the game. Nicole-Can-Someone-Please-Prohibit-Her-From-Playing-Londons had chosen for once to play the opening aggressively, but never saw her sacrificed pawn back. A hideous blunder in time trouble, however, yielded a piece and her disappointed opponent resigned much too early. Judy, still fighting for her theoretically possible WFM title, had meanwhile gotten into trouble, but was able to sacrifice a rook and force a perpetual, thus securing 2 match points for the team. Marany finally had a completely level game, resulting in a totally equal double rook endgame in which any try for a win would be pointless: **3 – 1!**

Algildah, Nibal (1881) - Gao, Judy (1949)
[A80]

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c3 e6 4.Bg5 d5 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bd3 b6 8.Qa4 Bb7 9.Ne5 O-O 10.f4 a6 11.Qc2 Qe8 12.O-O-O Ne4 13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Bh4 c5 15.Rdfl b5 16.g4? Rfc8 [16... cxd4 17. exd4 b4 18. Nxe4 fxe4 19. Be2 bxc3 -1.92|d14 Rybka4] 17.gxf5 exf5 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Nb3 Bd5 20.Rhg1 Kh8 [20... cxd4 21. Nxd4 b4 22. Bf6 g6 23. Nb3 Qf7 24. Rd1 Qxf6 25. Rxd5 bxc3 26. Kb1 Be7 27. Rc1 Rab8 28. Qe2 cxb2 29. Qxb2 -1.84|d18 Rybka4] 21.dxc5 Bxb3 22.axb3 Bxc5 23.Qd2 Qa7 24.Rg3 Be7? [24... b4 25. Kb1 bxc3 26. Qxc3 Bf8 27. Qd4 Qf7 28. Rd1 Rab8 29. Qd5 Qxd5 30. Rxd5 Rxb3 31. Rxf5 Rcb8 32. Kc1 Bb4 33. Rfg5 Rc8 34. Kb1 Bel 35.

Rxg7 Bc3 -1.33|d15 Rybka4] 25.Bxe7 [25. Rxg7 Kxg7 26. Rg1 Kh8 27. c4 Bg5 28. Rxg5 h6 29. Rxf5 bxc4 30. b4 Kh7 31. Re5 Rc7 32. Rxe4 Qb7 33. Qc2 Kg8 34. Rd4 Rf8 35. Bd8 +0.51|d14 Rybka4] 25...Qxe7 =+ 26.Qd5 Qf6 27.Qd4 Qe7 28.Rfg1 Rg8 29.Qd5 g6 = 30.Qd4+ Qg7 31.h4 Rad8 32.Qb6 Rd3 33.h5 Time to force the draw before the captain's nerves break



33...Rxc3+ 34.bxc3 Qxc3+ 35.Kd1 Qxb3+ 36.Ke1 Qb1+ 37.Kf2 Qc2+ 38.Ke1 Qc1+ 39.Ke2 Qc2+ 40.Kf1 Qd1+ 41.Kf2 Qd2+ 42.Kf1 Qd1+ 43.Kf2 Qd2+ 1/2-1/2

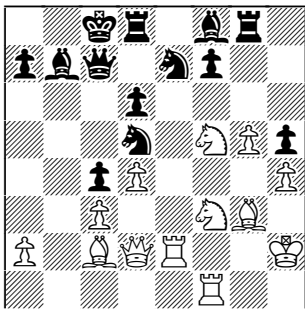
Round 9: Latvia

After Round 8's victory, we were flying high with nine match points from eight matches, leaving for example the much stronger Australia behind us. Nobody mourned of course, these points were already ours and we had nothing to lose against this strong team. Unfortunately on boards 1-3 we were not able to repeat our good play, but on board 4 Marany played great. Against the Pirc she played a variation prepared with Mike, got a strong attack, leaving her opponent (WIM) breaking out cold sweat, but unfortunately missed the final punch to win: **0.5 – 3.5.**

This game can of course not be missing in this report:

Meyer,Marany (2117) - Skinke,Katrina (2226) [B07]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Be3 Nf6 5.f3 Nbd7 6.Qd2 b5 7.g4 Mike's strategy!
7...Nb6 8.h4 h5 9.g5 Nfd7 10.f4 Bb7 11.Nf3 Bg7 12.Bd3 b4 13.Ne2 c5 14.c3 bxc3 15.bxc3 Qc7 16.O-O c4 17.Bc2 e6
 After this inaccuracy white gets a clear advantage. Better would have been: [17... d5 18. exd5 Bxd5 19. f5 gxf5 20. Bxf5 Qc6 21. Kg2 Rd8 22. Qe1 Nc8 23. Bf4 Nd6 24. Ng3 Nf8 25. Bxd6 Rxd6 26. Bh3 Be6 27. Nf5 +0.22|d16 Rybka4] **18.f5! exf5 19.exf5 gxf5 20.Ng3 O-O-O 21.Nxf5 Bf8 22.Bf4 Nd5 23.Bg3 Rg8 24.Rae1 N7b6 25.Re2 Ne7 26.Kh2 Nbd5**



Ng1 [27. Nxd6! Rxd6 28. Ne5 f5 29. Nf7 f4 30. Rxf4 Rb6 31. Rf1 Qd7 32. Bh7 +1.91|d15 Rybka4] 27...Ng6 28.Nh3 Qa5 29.Be4 Rd7 30.Rb1 Nb6 31.Bxb7+ Kxb7 +/- 32.Ne3 [32. Qc2 Rh8 33. Re8 Kc7 34. Nf4 Nxf4 35. Bxf4 Qd5 36. Ne3 Qc6 37. Qf5 Bg7 38. Rxh8 Bxh8 39. Qh7 Qf3 40. Rf1 +1. 67|d13 Rybka4] 32...Qa4? 33.Rb4 Qa6 34.Nxc4 [34. Nd5 Be7 35. Nhf4 Bd8 36. Nxb5 Kc8 37. Ndf6 Rh8 38. Qc2 Qb7 39. Qf5 Ne7 40. Qxd7 Nxd7 41. Rxb7

Kxb7 42. Nxd7 Rxh5 43. Rf2 Kc6 44. Nb8 Kd5 45. Rxf7 Rh8 46. Na6 Ng6 47. Kh3 Ke6 48. Rxa7 Bxg5 49. Nc7 +2.60|d14 Rybka4] 34...d5 35.Nxb6 axb6 36.Rb1 Bd6 37.Bxd6 Rxd6 38.Rf2 Kc6 39.Re1 [39. Rxf7 Nxb4 40. c4 dxc4 41. d5 Rxd5 42. Rf6 Kc5 43. Qb4] 39...Nxb4 40.Qf4? [40. c4 dxc4 41. d5 Kb7 42. Qf4 Rd7 43. Qxb4 b5 44. Qxb5 Qd6 45. Nf4 Qc7 46. Qg4 Rxd5 47. Qf3 Rg5 48. Rd2 +2.02|d13Rybka4] 40...Ng6 41.Qf5 Ra8 42.Nf4 [42. c4 dxc4 43. d5 Rxd5 44. Qxf7+/-] 42...Nxf4 43.Qxf4 Ra7 44. c4 Rad7 (dxc4 45. Qe4 winning) 45. c5 bxc5 46. dxc5 Re6 47. Rxe6 fxe6 48. Qe5 Qc4 49. Qxe6 Kxc5 50. Qxd7 Qh4 51. Kg1 Qxg5 52. Kf1 Qc1 +2.75|d12 Rybka4 1/2-1/2

Two more rounds to go, and we were back to 50%, Judy needing two out of two for her WFM-title: as always in a Swiss system the climax would come in the last rounds. They turned out to be two hot Latin-American dances!

Round 10: Bolivia

This was like a Tango, flirting with the so much desired two match points. Alas, at the end of the dance our heroine of the first part of the Olympiad showed to be a bit out of stamina and we had to return to our hotel in disappointment after being turned down. Helen finished first, a loss without much resistance. Nicole was as solid as ever and moved into a draw. After this prelude Judy showed her teeth and after some insecure opening moves she came back vigorously, led her opponent into the endgame and showed a nice and elegant finish. The dancing floor now entirely belonged to Natasha, who almost until the end danced at the same level as her opponent. Only

during the last few steps did her opponent induce a false move and Natasha fell over. **1.5 – 2.5.**

Round 11: Paraguay

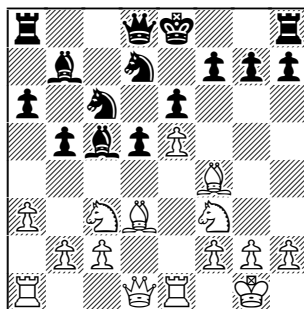
And now a Salsa! It started calmly with a solid draw with black by repetition of moves by Helen (maybe a Salsa is not something Helen would enjoy for too long and she wisely chose to leave the dance floor at an early stage). Not long after this Judy's opponent was moving fiercely, swaying her arms and legs, but forgetting to do this with some elegance and finesse. The same elegance and finesse that seems to be a natural born trait of Judy, who simply sidestepped all this violence (meanwhile leaving her captain to die a thousand deaths) and left her opponent sprawling on the floor. All together a remarkable performance by Judy, who earned her well deserved WFM-title by her perseverance and a score of 4.5 out of the last 5 rounds! With this uplifting result, a score of 1.5 – 0.5 and two good positions left, nothing seemed to be able to stop us on the dance floor.

However the pace was increased strongly and the dances became more and more passionate. Very much to the likes of our Latin-American opponents of course, but our players didn't seem to be able to keep up with this anymore after all the efforts before. Slowly we lost sight of one of our best results ever on an Olympiad. Firstly Natasha made a wrong move, missing an immediate win, and she saw herself getting into an equal endgame. Secondly Nicole spoiled her good position, kept moving too much on one side and to her surprise her opponent also started dancing better after

the 40th move. This went from bad to worse and after some serious mistakes Nicole was removed from the dance floor, once more leaving Natasha behind as our last dancer. Natasha and her opponent both looked to be exhausted. They were a good match, had made some very nice moves, alternated with some clumsy sidesteps and looked to find each other peacefully in each other's arms at the end of a heated battle. At that very moment Natasha's king made a strange move to the side, her opponent taking the middle of the dance floor and some moves later Natasha was left behind, looking jealously to her victorious opponent receiving all attention and glory: **1.5 – 2.5.**

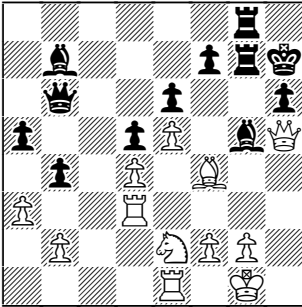
Fairley, Natasha (1788) - Perez, Dalila (1760) [C11]

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bf4 a6 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.a3 b5 10.O-O Bb7 11.Re1



So far all according to preparation (with help from Mike). Now black didn't fall for 11...0-0 allowing a Greek gift on h7. **11...h6 12.h3 Rc8 13.Qe2 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Nd1 Nc5 16.Rb1 Qb6 17.Qg4 Nxd3 18.cxd3 g5 19.Bg3 Bc5 20.Nc3 Be7 21.Rbc1 O-O 22.h4 Kh7 23.d4 Rg8**

24.Qh5 Rg7 25.Ne2 Rcg8 26.hxg5 Bxg5
27.Rcd1 b4 28.Rd3 a5 29.Bf4



29...Ba6? The moment we could have won this match immediately! 30.Rh3 almost ends the game in white's favour. Instead of this Natasha choses a losing continuation. 30.Bxg5? Rxg5 31.Qxf7+ R8g7 32.Qf3 Rxc2+ 33.Kh1 Bxd3 34.Qxd3+ Kg8 35.Qe3 Qd8?? Returning the favour, R2g4 would have won. 36.Ng3 R2xg3 37.fxg3 Qg5 38.Kg2 h5 39.axb4 axb4 40.Qxg5 Rxc2 This rook endgame should be a draw, starting with 41.Rh1 41.Kf3 Rg4 42.Rd1 Re4 43.Rd3 Kf7 44.b3 Kg6 45.Kg2 Kg5 46.Kh3? The final mistake, the white king is now not able to defend the centre anymore 46...Rg4 47.Kh2 Kf5 48.Rf3+ Ke4 49.Rf6 Kxd4 50.Rxe6 Re4 51.Rb6 Kc5 52.Re6 d4 53.Kg2 Kd5 54.Rb6 Kc5 55.Re6 Re3 56.Kf2 Rxb3 57.Rh6 Re3 58.Rxh5 b3 59.g4 b2 60.e6+ Kc4 0-1

And so this last game sealed our fate, leaving us with a somewhat disappointing 9 match points. All together however we certainly can be looking back in satisfaction with our end result; next to the 9 match points we had earned a total of

21.5 board points (almost 50%) and a WFM-title. Also personally probably almost every team member will be satisfied with her result and above all we had a good time and showed ourselves to the world as New Zealand from our best side: sportsmanlike, smart, friendly and at the same time fighting for every point! Not bad for a country being called by some people anti-cerebral!

In the next issue

- Ross Jackson concludes the remarkable story of New Zealand's bid to host the World Chess Championship
- Scott Wastney tells us how he took care of business in the New Zealand Championship
- Bill Forster reports from “inside the ropes” at the London Chess Classic
- Rapid Reports from Auckland Chess Centre, Mt Maunganui, and Napier.
- Russell “Deep” Dive scores a memorable picket fence at the North Island Championships.

120th New Zealand Championship

Ian Sellen Reports

(In the next issue new NZ Champ Scott Wastney will provide a round by round description of his tournament and will annotate his best games)

It was with some trepidation that the Wellington Chess Club took on the organisation of the 120th New Zealand Chess Congress, including the Championship, the Major Open, and the AGM of the New Zealand Chess Federation. Championships have the reputation for being costly affairs. With only one sponsor, New Zealand Chess Supplies, and with club affairs being in something of a turmoil due to the sudden (but maybe not unexpected) eviction from our home of 60 years for earthquake strengthening, there were some fears voiced that the commitment could turn out to be rather a liability.

We were very lucky to have an energetic and talented group of committee members on the case, in particular Ross Jackson, Bill Forster, Andrew Brockway, Brian Nijman and Alan Aldridge. Bill's exertions continued past the start of round 1, as he continued to wrestle with the temperamental live game transmission hardware. We are grateful to Alan in particular for securing the central Wellington venue, the CQ Hotel in Cuba Street, marvellously comfortable premises

at a reasonable rate. We enjoyed it there so much, the North Island Championship will be held at the same venue.

While I am in the business of writing thanks, I should mention Bruce Pollard's expert and good-natured directorship of the tournament. He was constantly busy making sure everything was running smoothly, inputting the games, and occasionally stepping in to control the raucousness from the adjoining analysis room. It felt like a professionally administered event as well as being an absolute pleasure to be there.

And so to the tournament itself. In the absence of Russell Dive, pre-tournament favourites would have been 12-times winner Anthony Ker, perennial tough competitor Bob Smith, accomplished newcomer to the scene Ben Hague, and Scott Wastney. We also had defending champion Mike Steadman to consider, although his results hadn't been so consistent going into the tournament. If you had been following Wellington Chess Club tournaments you would have been aware of Scott's tremendous form in the run-up to the Championship, winning the final tournament of the year with a score of 7 out of 7, and some very convincing chess indeed. He excels in all aspects of the game, but his determination to win, his preparation and his sheer hard work distinguish him from his peers. Still, nothing really prepared us for his utter domination of championship from round 5

onwards.

There were 18 players in the championship, so with an 11 round Swiss we were setting ourselves up for the familiar problem where towards the end the top players have all been drawn against each other so they have to drop down and play the tail-enders. Still, we had tail-enders capable of upsetting anybody in this tournament!

Round 1

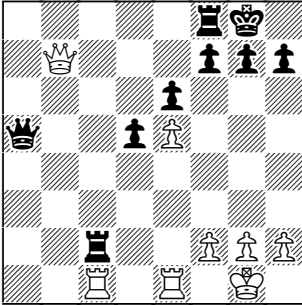
We had the Dominion Post contact us after round 1 as they were planning to run a story on the New Zealand Championship, and they were looking for an angle. Fortunately, after round 1 we were able to provide them with one! The highest rated player, Anthony Ker, was beaten emphatically by fellow Wellingtonian Brian Nijman, thus seriously damaging his chances of gaining his 13th title. Brian can beat anyone on a good day, and Anthony was already struggling when he missed a tactic on his second rank that essentially won the game on the spot. An interesting game from round 1 was Nathan Goodhue vs Ben Hague. Nathan adopted rather a bizarre opening which involved a queen's side fianchetto, and developing his knights on d2 and e2. Pretty soon Ben's Bishops were swarming all over the board, and he, utterly soundly, sacrificed the exchange on f8, and got fabulous play round white's king in exchange. He looked like he was going to win on the spot, but then it somehow went slightly awry, and White had a knight for 4 pawns, with a queen and a rook apiece. Nathan sacrificed his extra knight back in order to drive Ben's king out into the open, and after more adventures

Ben was able to win the queen and pawn ending.

Apart from Ker vs Nijman, two other games failed to follow the script, Bill Forster achieving a drawn bishop vs knight ending against Sri Lankan visitor Athula Russell, and William Li surviving a fierce van der Hoorn onslaught to scrape the draw also.

Anthony Ker - Brian Nijman

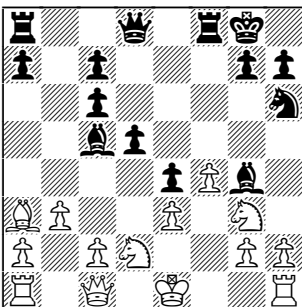
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Qb6 5.Nf3 Bd7 I tried the same thing against Anthony Ker last time I played him. I lost in the end, but for a while I was doing ok. The idea is to exchange the rubbish white squared bishop **6.a3 Ne7 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb5 9.Bxb5+ Qxb5 10.Nc3 Qd7 11.0-0 Nbc6 12.Bb2 Nc8 13.Na4 Nb6 14.Nc5** [14.Nxb6 is better, weakening black's pawns and exchanging off black's potentially powerful knight 14...axb6 15.Qd3 etc] **14...Bxc5 15.dxc5 Nc4 16.Qb3 0-0 17.Rad1 Qc7 18.Rfe1 a5! 19.Nd2** leaves white a pawn down already [19.b5 Ne7 leaves white struggling to defend c5; 19.Bc3 may be better] **19...Nxb2 20.Qxb2 axb4 21.axb4 Ra4! 22.b5 Rb4!** Brian consistently finds the best moves! **23.Qc3 Rxb5 24.Nb3 Na5 25.Nxa5 Rxc5 26.Qb4 Qxa5 27.Qxb7 Rc2 28.Rc1??**



A blunder! Completely missing black's next move [28.g3 keeps white in the game, a pawn down] **28...Qd2! 0-1**

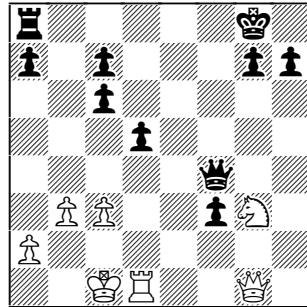
Nathan Goodhue - Ben Hague

1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 d5 4.Ne2?! White gets an uncomfortable position out of this unusual opening play 4...Be6 5.d4 f6 6.Nd2 Nh6 7.Ng3 Bd6 8.Bb5 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.dxe5 fxe5 11.f3 e4 12.f4? black can now exploit white's terrible weaknesses **12...Bg4 13.Qc1 Bc5 14.Ba3?** [14.Ndf1 is grovelling, but better - white didn't see black's excellent next move]



14...Bxc3! bishops to die for! **15.Bxf8 Qxf8 16.Rf1 Qf6** [16...Bxf4 17.Ne2 Bxe2 18.Kxe2 Qf5 is better] **17.c3 Qh4?!**

18.Nf3! good defending by Nathan **18...Bxf3** [18...exf3 19.Qxe3 fxe2 20.Rg1 Nf5 21.Qe6+ Kh8 22.Kd2] **19.Qxe3 Ng4** [19...Bxg2 20.Rg1 Bf3 21.Qd4] **20.Qg1 Nxh2 21.gxf3 Nxf3+ 22.Rxf3 exf3 23.0-0 Qxf4+**



Black has emerged from the complications with four pawns for the knight, but the one on f3 looks particularly strong **24.Kb2 f2 25.Qg2 Re8 26.Rf1 Re3 27.Nh5 Re2+ 28.Ka3 Qd6+ 29.b4 Qe5 30.Qh3 h6** the queen is overworked defending c3 and h5, the knight has to be sacrificed **31.Nxg7** at least white gets a few checks out of this **31...Kxg7 32.Qd7+ Kf6 33.Qxc6+ Kg5 34.Qc5 Kg4** [34...Qe6! 35.Qxc7 (35.Rxf2? Qa6+ 36.Qa5 Qxa5+ 37.bxa5 Rxf2) 35...Qa6+ 36.Qa5 Qxa5+ 37.bxa5 Kg4 wins] **35.Rxf2 Rxf2 36.Qxf2 Qxc3+ 37.Ka4 d4 38.Qg2+ Kf4 39.Qf2+ Ke4 40.Qe2+ Qe3 41.Qg2+ Kd3 42.Kb3 Qe2 43.Qg6+ Kd2 44.Qc2+ Ke1 45.Qxc7 Qe3+ 46.Kb2 d3 47.Qc3+?? Qd2+ 0-1**

Round 2

There were only two players left on 100% after round 2 of the championship, Ben Hague and Bob Smith. Ben scored a

brilliant victory over defending champion Mike Steadman, sacrificing his queen and leaving his opponent in a hopeless position. This could be the best non-Wastney game of the tournament. Bob's steady play against Ben Thomas' French Defence eventually yielded a won pawn endgame. Scott and Ewen Green drew. Scandal of the round was Bill Forster giving his former chess tutor Mark van der Hoorn a lesson in gritty defence. Down at the other end of the draw Michael Nyberg extracted something out of nothing in his 94 move marathon against Helen Milligan.

Leading scores:

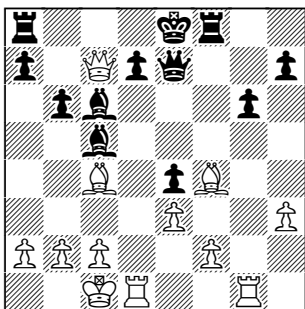
Ben Hague, Bob Smith 2/2

Brian Nijman, Bill Forster, Ewen

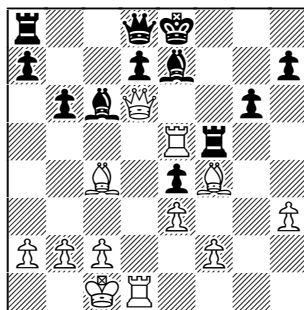
Green, Scott Wastney 1.5/2

Ben Hague - Michael Steadman

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 b6 5.Nbd2 Bb7 6.Bd3 Be7 7.h3 c5 8.g4!? Ne4 [8...fxg4 9.hxg4 Nxg4 10.Bg6+ Kf8 11.Ne4 looks interesting] 9.Rg1 g6 10.gxf5 exf5 11.Ne5 cxd4 12.Nxe4 fxe4 13.Bc4 Rf8 14.Qxd4 Bc5 15.Qc3 Nc6 16.0-0-0 Nxe5 17.Qxe5+ Qe7 18.Qc7 Bc6?



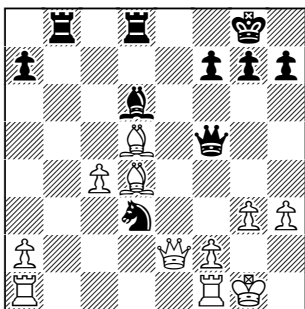
[18...d6 19.Bb5+ Kf7 20.Bxd6 Bxd6 21.Qxd6 Qxd6 22.Rxd6 Rad8] 19.Rg5! Qd8 20.Re5+ Be7 21.Qd6 Rf5



22.Rxf5! A beautiful, absolutely sound queen sacrifice! 22...Bxd6 23.Bxd6 1-0 Black resigns, as to avoid mate on f8 black has to give up a heap of material, or if 23...gxf5 24.Rg1

Bill Forster - Mark Van Der Hoorn

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 c5 3.Bb2? In the next round Ewen Green demonstrated how this is already a mistake, White needs to play 3.e3 first 3...Nc6? 3...f6 is very strong. Bill was trying to follow Kramnik against Gawain Jones from London, but had neglected to refresh his memory by actually playing over the game! 4.e3 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.Be2 Nf6 7.d4 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 cxd4 9.exd4 e6 10.0-0 Bd6 11.c4 0-0 12.Nc3 dxc4 13.d5!? A slightly desperate pawn sac that works out pretty well exd5 14.Nxd5 Ne5 15.Nxf6+ Qxf6 16.Bxb7 Rab8 17.Bd5 Rfd8 18.Qe2 Qf4 19.g3 Qf5 20.bxc4 Nd3 21.Bd4



Nf4? you can see how this would have been tempting, but in actual fact it is not enough. Bill explains that initially he gave Mark the benefit of the doubt, assuming that “obviously” the piece was taboo. But for once Bill was ahead of the clock and this factor saved him. With plenty of time he took a second look at accepting the sacrifice and slowly realised firstly that Rd1 defends the loose Bd4 and prevents immediate mate, and secondly (after more laborious thinking) that the beautiful Kramnik bishop on d5 prevents Qh1 mate. **22.gxf4 Qxf4 23.Rfd1 Qh2+ 24.Kf1 Bc5** [24...Qxh3+ 25.Bg2 leads to nothing] **25.Qf3** [of course not 25.Bxc5? Rxd5!] **25...Bxd4 26.Rxd4 Qe5 27.Rad1** [white can also play 27.Bxf7+ Kh8 28.Rxd8+ Rxd8 29.Re1 Qc7 30.Qd5 etc, although it's a bit scarier] **27...Kh8 28.Re4 Qg5 29.Rg4 Qe5 30.Re1 Qb2 31.Rf4 Qxa2 32.Rxf7 Qc2 33.Qg3** [or, slightly hard to spot, 33.Rxg7! Kxg7 34.Re7+ Kh6 35.Qf4+ Kg6 36.Re6+ Kg7 37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Re8#] **33...Qb2 34.Ree7 Qa1+ 35.Kg2 Rg8 36.Rxa7 Qd4 37.Rfe7 Rbe8 38.Bxg8 Rxe7 39.Rxe7 Qd8** Mark opts for hara kiri **40.Qxg7# 1-0**

Round 3

Bob Smith versus Ben Hague was a fairly interesting Centre Counter game with both players castling queenside. Bob had a bit of pressure but ultimately he was unable to make progress, and the players shook hands without making the 30 move mark. Scott slogged out a win against the hero of round one, Brian Nijman, eventually winning a rook and pawn ending. His reign of terror hadn't yet begun. Bill Forster also had his come-uppance this round, resigning after 19 moves when he realised he was going to lose a minor piece to Ewen Green. Athula Russell scored his first victory of the tournament, against Peter Stuart. Helen Milligan was once again involved in a marathon, and was very unlucky to lose to Brendon Reedy after dominating through the great majority of the 100 moves.

Leading scores:

Ben Hague, Bob Smith, Scott Wastney,
Ewen Green 2.5/3

Anthony Ker, Athula Russell 2/3

Round 4

It was at this point that I wrote on my blog “Nobody has yet managed to stamp their authority on the Championship, and now there are no fewer than six players on 3/4, a third of the field” Boy, was that about to change! Anthony Ker had his second accident, this time against old adversary Michael Steadman. Mike has achieved a lot of winning positions against Anthony's Pirc in recent years. This was no exception and Anthony was left searching futilely for some drawing chances in a lost rook and pawn ending. We started to suspect that

Anthony was not going to regain his championship title this year. Ben Hague and Scott Wastney played an interesting game that ended mysteriously. Scott missed a nice winning tactic (see next issue). Then at the end something strange happened – Ben appeared to miss a tactic that won the exchange, but Scott declined the material and a draw was agreed. Bob Smith and Ewen Green agreed an early draw, and Athula Russell won an entertaining game against Nathan Goodhue to join the leaders

Leading scores:

Ben Hague, Bob Smith, Athula Russell, Scott Wastney, Ewen Green, Michael Steadman 3/4

Round 5

Out of the pack that led in round 4, two players managed wins, Ewen Green and Scott Wastney. Ewen confirmed his excellent form in this tournament, but I still do not understand Ben Hague's decision to resign against him after 19 moves. The final position was unbalanced, and the computer gives only a small advantage to Ewen's white pieces. Athula misplayed his Caro-Kann against Scott Wastney and ended up on the wrong side of a 23 move brilliancy, with pieces flying around all over the place. Bob Smith had pressure against Mike Steadman, but the position became blocked and he couldn't break through (draw). Brian Nijman joined the chasing pack by beating Brendan Reedy. Down at the bottom of the table Mark van der Hoorn, who had been deeply dissatisfied with his play up to this point, turned some kind of corner with superb play against Helen Milligan. From now on,

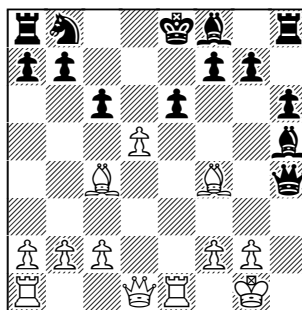
he was a force to be reckoned with!

Leading scores:

Ewen Green, Scott Wastney 4/5
 Bob Smith, Michael Steadman, Brian Nijman 3.5/5
 Anthony Ker, Ben Hague, Athula Russell 3/5

Scott Wastney – Athula Russell

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxex4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nh3 Nf6 8.Nf4 Bh7 9.Bc4 e6 10.0–0 Nd5 11.Re1 Nxf4 12.Bxf4 Qxh4 13.Nh5! Bg6 [13...Nd7 14.d5 Bc5 15.Nxg7+ Kf8 16.Nxe6+ fxe6 17.g3 an interesting line dreamt up by the computer] **14.d5!** Black is going to regret having his king still in the centre **14...Bxh5**

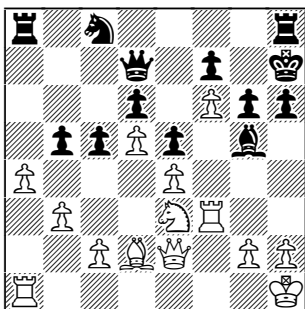


15.dxe6! Brilliant and absolutely sound. **15...Be7** [Taking the queen also loses 15...Bxd1 16.exf7+ Kd7 17.Raxd1+ Bd6 (17...Kc8 18.Re8+) 18.Rxd6+ Kc7 19.Rxh6+! Qxf4 20.Rxh8 Nd7 21.Rxa8 Qxc4 22.Re7! and the pawn queens] **16.exf7+ Bxf7 17.Bd6** [The computer finds 17.g3 Qf6 18.Bd6 Bxc4 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Qg4! threatening Qxc4 and Qc8, and the queen of course] **17...Bxc4 18.Rxe7+ Qxe7**

19.Bxe7 Kxe7 20.Qd4 [Ed. This reminds me of the famous double bishop sacrifice game Lasker-Bauer from the 19th century. Black breaks the attack by giving up the queen for apparently sufficient material, only for a queen fork to reap much more material for White] **20...Nd7 21.Qxc4 Nb6 22.Re1+ Kd7 23.Qf7+ 1-0**

Mark Van Der Hoorn – Helen Milligan

1.e4 e5 2.Ne2?! This has surprise value, if nothing else 2...Nf6 3.f4 d6 4.Nbc3 Nc6 5.d4 Be7 6.d5 Nb8 7.f5 c6 8.Ng3 Nbd7 9.Be2 Nb6 10.0-0 Bd7 11.a4 a5 12.Be3 Rc8 13.Nh5 Nxh5 14.Bxh5 Nc4 15.Be1 Bf6 16.Kh1 c5?! I would have thought it was better to retain the opportunity to break up the pawn chain. White now keeps a firm grip on the centre 17.Qe2 Nb6 18.Bd2 Ra8 19.b3 Nc8 20.Qf2 Na7 21.Be2 h6 22.Bd3 Bg5 23.Be1 Bf6 24.Qe2 Kf8?! Black's cramped position makes it difficult to come up with a good plan, this doesn't seem to be the right answer. 25.Nd1 Qe8 26.Bxa5 Bd8 27.Bc3 Kg8 28.Ne3 Nc8 29.Bb5 Kh7 30.Bd2 Bg5 31.Bxd7 Qxd7 32.f6! g6 33.Rf3 b5



34.Nf5! Flashy and quite good **34...gxf5**

[34...Bxd2? 35.Qxd2 g5 36.Nxh6! Kxh6 37.Rh3+ etc] **35.Bxg5 fxe4?** [35...Kg8 36.Rh3 Kf8 is more resilient] **36.Rg3 Qf5 37.Qh5 Qg6 38.Bh4!** Illustrating the point of White's combination **38...Qxh5?** But black was lost anyway **39.Rg7# 1-0**

Round 6

This round was where Scott had the lead all to himself, and as long as he kept winning his games he wasn't going to lose it! Unusually, we saw a Vienna game from Mike Steadman, maybe he was hoping to take Scott out of his book. Anyway, he missed a superb tactic on move 13 (... Bxd3!) and resigned 10 moves later. Brian Nijman had a bit of pressure against Ewen Green, but the win was not easy to spot, and in a pretty blocked position a draw was agreed. Athula Russell just managed to hold Bob Smith to a draw, and Anthony Ker suffered his third defeat of the tournament, with Ben Hague bouncing back after his previous day's accident.

Leading scores:

Scott Wastney 5/6

Ewen Green 4.5/6

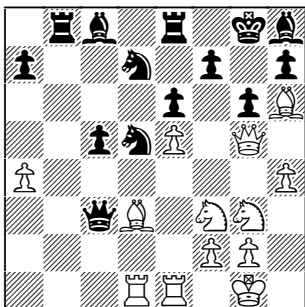
Bob Smith, Brian Nijman, Ben

Hague 4/6

Ben Hague - Anthony Ker

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Be3 c6 6.Qd2 b5 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.h3 0-0 9.a4 b4 10.Ne2 Rb8 11.0-0 Qc7 12.c3 bxc3 13.bxc3 c5 14.Ng3 e6 15.Rfe1 Re8 16.Bh6 Bh8 17.h4 Qa5 18.e5 Nd5 [18...dxe5 19.dxe5 Ng4 20.Bg5 c4! 21.Bxc4 Ngxe5 gets black out of his difficulties] 19.Qg5?! [19.exd6 Qxc3

20.Qxc3 Nxc3 21.Ne5 cxd4 22.Nc6 is rather an interesting position] **19...Qxc3 20.Rad1 dxe5 21.dxe5**



21...c4 [21...Nxe5 22.Nxe5 Bf6! Recovering the piece is an interesting computer resource] **22.Bxg6!?** Not necessarily sound, but very difficult to defend against. Anthony makes a living successfully eating sacrifices in these Pirc positions, but not today. **22...hxxg6** Maybe it is better to take with f pawn [22...fxg6 23.Ne4 Qb4 24.h5 Qe7 25.Qg4 Nf8 unclear] **23.h5 Nf8 24.Ne4 Qb4 25.hxxg6 Nxxg6 26.Rxd5! Qe7** [26...exd5 27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.Qxf6 Qf8 29.Bxf8 white has enough to win] **27.Nf6+ Bxf6 28.exf6 Qb4 29.Rde5 c3** black is utterly lost now **30.R5e4 Qd6 31.Ne5 Kh7 32.Rh4** [faster is 32.Nxxg6 fxg6 33.Bf8 and mate follows shortly] **32...Rb4 33.Nxxg6 fxg6 34.Bf8+ 1-0**

Round 7

Wastney vs Smith was an exciting Sicilian Najdorf, a lethal attack on the king led to resignation on the 26th move. Scott discusses some of the details in the next issue. Scott increased his lead to 1 point -

Ewen Green never looked to be troubling Nathan Goodhue's defences, and their game ended in draw by repetition. Ben Hague beat Brian Nijman to catch Ewen on second equal

Leading scores:
 Scott Wastney 6/7
 Ewen Green, Ben Hague 5/7
 Mike Steadman 4.5/7

Scott Wastney – Bob Smith

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 e6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 Nc6 9.f4 0-0 10.Be3 Qc7 11.Qe1 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 13.Be3 exf4 14.Bxf4 Be6 15.Qg3 Rfd8 16.Rad1 Rac8 17.Kh1 Qb6 18.Be3 Qa5 [18...Qxb2 19.Bd4 Qxc2 20.Rxf6! Rxc3! looks ok for black] **19.Bd4 Ne8 20.Nd5 Bxd5 21.exd5 Rxc2?!** seems to be a mistake, because of white's next move **22.Bd3 Rcc8?** not easy to spot, but [22...Rc7 better, to keep an eye on f7] **23.Rde1** [23.Bxxh7+! Kxxh7 (23...Kxf8 24.Bxxg7+! Nxxg7 25.Rxf7+!! Kxf7 26.Qg6+ Kf8 27.Rf1+ would have been a spectacular finish!) 24.Rxf7 Bf6 25.Bxf6 Rc7 26.Rxc7 Qxc7 27.Qh4+ Kg8 28.Bxd8] **23...Qxd5 24.Rxe7 Qxd4 25.Rexf7 Nc7 26.Qh3! 1-0**

Round 8

Scott had to drop down the field this round, which you would have thought would make his job easier but in actual fact Nathan put up much stiffer resistance than his previous three victims. Still, Scott got there in the end, and as Ewen dropped another half a point (short draw against Mike Steadman), Ben was left to carry the torch as leader of the opposition. He checkmated Bill Forster after conducting in fine style an attack on

Bill's castled long position. Bob Smith defeated Brian Nijman to keep himself in contention (just), and Mark van der Hoorn won what must be game of the day against Athula Russell

Leading scores:

Scott Wastney 7/8

Ben Hague 6/8

Ewen Green 5.5/8

Mike Steadman, Bob Smith 5/8

Round 9

Scott's drop down the field led him this time to the number one rated player, fellow Wellingtonian Anthony Ker. They resumed their longstanding theoretical debate in a Pirc sideline (Scott has noted that he generally gets white against Anthony) and an early queen exchange led to opposite side castling and complicated queen side play. Scott gained a powerful knight outpost against Anthony's rather ineffectual bishops, and this led in turn to a powerful passed c pawn in a rook ending that Scott converted nicely. Ben only drew against Mark van der Hoorn, so the gap widened to one and a half points. This was realistically the last round anyone was going to catch Scott for the title. Brian Nijman scored in an exciting game over the outgoing NZ champion Mike Steadman

Leading scores:

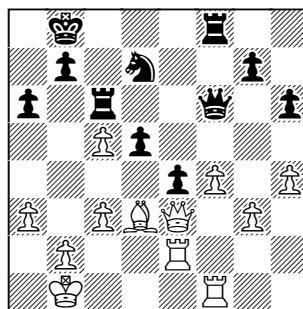
Scott Wastney 8/9

Ewen Green, Ben Hague 6.5/9

Bob Smith 6/9

Brian Nijman - Michael Steadman

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 Nf6
 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e5 Ne4 7.Bxe7 Qxe7 8.a3 f5
 9.exf6 Qxf6 10.Qd3 Nd6 11.0-0-0 Bd7
 12.Qd2 a6 13.Ne5 Nf5 14.Nxc6 Bxc6
 15.g3 0-0-0 16.f4 Kb8 17.Bh3 Nd6
 18.Rhe1 Nc4 19.Qf2 Rd6 20.Bf1 Nb6
 21.Qe3 Be8 22.Bd3 h6 23.h4 Bh5 24.Rd2
 Bg4 25.Rf2 Rf8 26.Ref1 Nd7 27.Ne2 c5
 28.c3 Rc6 29.dxc5 Bxe2 30.Rxe2 e5
 31.Kb1 e4?!



This looks good, but actually leaves weakened pawns as a target **32.Bc2 Nxc5 33.Rd1! Rd8 34.Red2 Qf5 35.b4 Nd3** [35...Ne6 36.Bxe4 Qxe4+ 37.Qxe4 dxe4 38.Rxd8+ Nxd8 39.Rxd8+ Kc7 40.Rg8 slight advantage to white] **36.Bxd3 Rxc3??** A hallucination presumably! **37.Bxe4! 1-0**

Round 10

Wastney vs Van der Hoorn was a Philidor's Defence, Scott built up a steady advantage, then unleashed a fearsome attack, his bishops on c3 and d3 tearing into Mark's position. 6 wins in a row for Scott! He was already guaranteed the title, but could he make it ?? Athula Russell defeated second placed Ben Hague, playing a nice tactic on move 23 that led to instant resignation.

Ewen Green and Bob Smith drew against Anthony Ker and Fuatai Fuatai respectively. Mike Steadman had a nice win from Peter Stuart. Going into the last round Scott was winning easily with the undefeated Ewen Green alone in second.

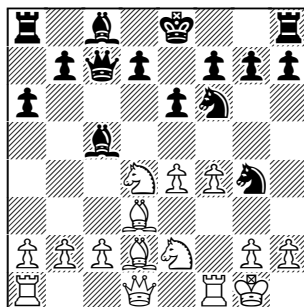
Leading scores:

Scott Wastney 9/10

Ewen Green 7/10

Ben Hague, Bob Smith 6.5/10

Michael Steadman, Brian Nijman 6/10



Athula Russell – Ben Hague

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.a4 b4 6.Nce2 e6 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Ng3 Ba6 9.Bg5 Qa5 10.Rc1 c3 [10...b3+ 11.Bd2 Qxa4 12.Ra1 Qb5 13.Rc1 Qa4 14.Ra1 is a draw by repetition!] **11.Bxa6 Qxa6** White's position looks precarious, but it all holds together **12.bxc3 bxc3 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Ne2 Ba3 15.Rc2 Qxa4 16.0-0** [16.Nxc3 Bb4 17.0-0 Bxc3 18.Rxc3 Qxd1 19.Rxd1 is also playable] **16...Bb4 17.Qc1 a5 18.Nxc3 Qa3** [18...Bxc3 19.Rxc3 Nd7 20.Rxc6 0-0 better for white; 18...Qb3 19.d5!] **19.Qb1! Bxc3 20.Qb7 0-0 21.Qxa8 Qb3 22.Rfc1 Bb2?** [22...Bb4 keeps himself in the game, just] **23.Nd2!** winning the bishop **1-0**

Mike Steadman – Peter Stuart

Notes by Bill Forster

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.Bd3 Nf6 8.0-0 Ne5 9.f4 Neg4 10.Bd2 Bc5 Black's play is logical and thematic, it seems he is getting great pressure down the weakened a7-g1 dark diagonal. However I suspect some Steadman preparation at work because appearances can be deceptive. **11.Nce2**

In my TWIC recent games database, this position has been reached 16 times, and each time Black has played to win a piece with the logical **11...e5 12.fxe5** Fifteen times this was the reply, and Black managed to grovel a draw in only three of those games! **12...Qxe5** Threatening mate as well as the pinned Nd4 **13.Bf4 Bxd4+ 14.Kh1!** White's idea begins to be revealed **14...Qc5 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.e5!** Recovering most of the material in a very advantageous way. **16...Nf2+ 17.Rxf2 Qxf2 18.exf6** Black is nominally an exchange up but his only developed piece is an exposed queen, and his king is caught in the centre by White's well developed and co-ordinated forces. The game is already decided **18...d5** [18...Qxf4 19.fxg7 Rg8 20.Qe1+ Kd8 21.Qa5+ is a very effective illustration of Black's problems] **19.fxg7 Rg8 20.Be5 Qh4 21.Qf3 Be6 22.Qe3 Qh5 23.Re1 Qh4 24.Rf1 Qh5 25.Bf6 d4 26.Qxd4 Qd5 27.Qb4 1-0**

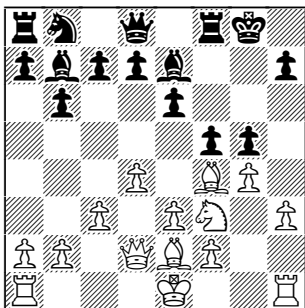
Round 11

William Li as white against Scott played an exchange Ruy Lopez, then unusually played 7 b3 hoping to attack Scott's pawn on e5. But it was white who ended up with

a host of weaknesses, and Scott exploited them to perfection. A fine ending to a brilliant run from Scott! Ewen and Athula had obviously had enough, and agreed a draw after just 8 moves. Bob Smith tried harder, and thrashed out a win against Bill Forster, this being good enough to earn him a joint second place with Ewen. Ben Hague was possibly trying too hard and came to grief with the white pieces against Ben Thomas.

Ben Hague – Ben Thomas

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 b6 5.Be2 Bb7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.h3 0-0 8.c3 Ne4 9.g4 Repeating the anti-Dutch scheme previously employed against Mike Steadman. Ben Hague enjoys his no holds barred king side attacks, but in this position Black has extra tactical resources. 9...Nxd2 10.Qxd2 [10.Kxd2!? Is the computers suggestion, avoiding material losses] 10...g5!



Winning material due to the combination of f file and long diagonal pressure... 11.gxf5!? ..Or at least forcing White to sacrifice something. 11...gxf4 12.0-0-0 Black has to defend for a while but basically he is a piece up for not that much. 12...Kh8 13.Rhg1 exf5 14.Rg2 d6 [A nice

winning simplification is 14...fxe3 15.Qxe3 Bd6 16.Rdg1 Qf6 17.Rg6! f4!-+] 15.Rdg1 Nd7 16.d5 Nc5 17.Qd4+ Bf6 18.Qxf4 Qe7 [Why not 18...Bxd5 ?] 19.Qxf5 Rg8 20.Nd4 Rxe2 21.Rxe2 Rg8 [21...Rf8! 22.Qh5 Bxd4 23.cxd4 Ne4 white's pawns will start dropping] 22.Rxe8+ Kxe8 23.b4 Bxd4 24.cxd4 Ne4 25.Bf3 Ng5 26.Bh5 Ba6 27.a4 Bc4 28.h4 Nf7 29.Qc8+ Nd8 30.Qg4+ Qg7 31.Qc8 Qf6 32.Qg4+ [32.Qxc7 Bxd5 33.Be2 Nc6 34.b5 Qd8! is an amusing line] 32...Kf8 33.Qe4 Nf7 34.f3 Qe7 35.Qf4 Bxd5 finally! 36.e4 Be6 37.Kd2 d5 38.Ke3 Qxb4 39.Qxc7 Qe1+ 40.Kd3 Qxh4 41.Bxf7 Bxf7 42.exd5 Bg6+ 43.Kc4 Qe7 44.Qf4+ Kg7 0-1

Final placings:

- 1st Scott Wastney 10/11
- =2nd Ewen Green, Bob Smith 7.5/11
- =4th Brian Nijman, Michael Steadman 7/11
- 6th Ben Hague 6.5/11

Congratulations to Scott, a very worthy winner of the New Zealand Championship. From round 5 onwards he made the opposition look very ordinary indeed, in general he did not just beat his opponents, he smashed them! Those of us at the Wellington chess club are privileged to witness him continuing his dominance, although as I write his 11 game winning streak has just been ended by Anthony Ker, who drew with him in the club's summer cup. The trophy, unfortunately did not make it to Wellington because of its frailty, but at the least Scott's performance will live on in the memories of everyone who witnessed it. A special mention is also due to the veteran Ewen Green, who made a hugely welcome comeback to the top level

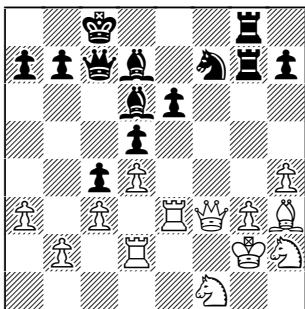
of competitive chess in New Zealand. He was unbeaten and indeed never seriously threatened.

Other Congress Tournaments

Anthony Ker got some consolation for his poor Championship by sharing the Rapid Championship with Paul Garbett. Paul was almost Wastney-eque, typically dominating his opponents and winning smoothly, whilst Anthony's performance was more that of a scrappy streetfighter. Their individual game was very exciting.

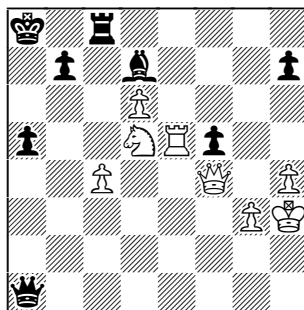
Anthony Ker - Paul Garbett

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 c4 7.Nbd2 Na5 8.g3 Bd7 9.h4 f5 10.exf6 gxf6 11.Bh3 0-0-0 12.0-0 Nh6 13.Qe2 Nf7 14.Re1 Re8 15.Rb1 Bd6 16.Kg2 Rhg8 17.Nf1 Qc7 18.N3h2 f5 19.Qh5 Rg7 20.Bh6 Rg6 21.Bd2 Rg7 22.Re2 f4 23.Qf3 Nb3 24.Rbe1 Nxd2 25.Rxd2 fxd3 26.fxd3 Reg8 27.Re3

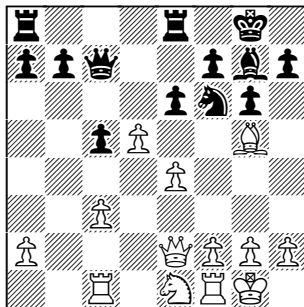
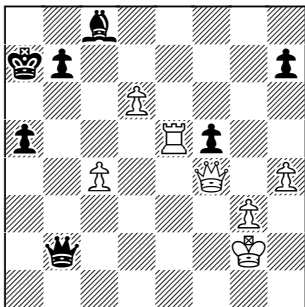


Paul has smoothly built a winning

positional advantage, but Anthony refuses to stay down **27...Bf4** [27...Nh6! Is even stronger, the knight heads to f5, White will have to capture it, leaving all of Black's pieces bearing down on his king, including two unopposed bishops and a new mobile f pawn threatening a devastating advance to f4] **28.Rde2 Bxe3 29.Rxe3 Qd6 30.Ng4 Rxe4?** [30...Rf8! Was a better way to keep the knight out of e5] **31.Bxe4 Nh6 32.Bh3 Nf5 33.Bxf5 exf5** This is much less effective without two supporting bishops and two supporting rooks. White has weathered the storm. **34.Re5 Qb6 35.Kg1 Qxb2 36.Qxd5 Rd8 37.Qxc4+** Now White is taking over **37...Kb8 38.d5 Qxa3 39.Qf4 Ka8 40.c4 Qc5+ 41.Kh2 Re8 42.Ne3 a5 43.d6 Qb4 44.Nd5 Qb2+ 45.Kh3 Qa1**



Excitement plus, both sides are threatening various mates **46.Nb6+ Ka7!** Black is lost, but this is still better than [46...Kb8 47.Nxd7+ Ka8 48.Qc1 elegantly defusing Black's mate threat and reinforcing White's] **47.Nxc8+ Bxc8 48.Kg2 Qb2+**

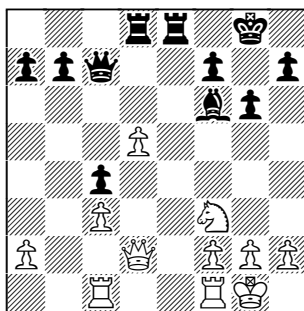


49.Qf2+ A cute finishing touch 49...Qxf2+
 50.Kxf2 Kb6 51.Ke3 Kc6 52.c5 a4
 53.Kd4 Bd7 54.Kc4 b6 55.cxb6 Kxb6
 56.Re7 Kc6 57.Rxh7 Kxd6 58.Kb4 Be6
 59.h5 Ke5 60.Rh6 Bb3 61.Rg6 Bc2 62.h6
 f4 63.h7 Bxg6 64.h8Q+ 1-0

16.Bxf6 [16.d6! And the pawn is immune
 because of the fork e5. In this way White
 gains enough time to play e5 next move.]
 16...Bxf6 17.Qd2 exd5 18.exd5 c4 19.Nf3
 Rad8

Max Chew Lee was an impressive winner
 of the Major Open, half a point clear of
 Timothy Rains.

1st Max Chew Lee 9/11
 2nd Timothy Rains 8.5/11
 3rd Jack Jamesn 7.5/11
 =4th Edward Rains, Layla Timergazi,
 David Paul, Ross Jackson, Simon
 Lyall, Andrew Brockway 7/11



Here is a mature effort from Max against
 another rising star;

Layla Timergazi – Max Chew Lee
 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bg5 c5 8.Rc1 0-0
 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.d5 Nd7 11.Be2 Re8 12.0-0
 Nf6 13.Qc2 Qc7 14.Ne1 Bxe2 15.Qxe2
 e6?

Black takes over the game by hammering
 away at the weakened White centre.
 Thematic Grunfeld play! 20.Rfe1 Rxe1+
 21.Rxe1 Qa5 22.Rd1 Qxc3 23.Rc1 Qxd2
 24.Nxd2 Bg5! More material is dropping
 off. 0-1

Specialist Noel Pinic jointly won the blitz
 with Ben Hague and Athula Russell. For
 full results, go to newzealandchess.co.nz.
 Main tournament crosstables follow;

Championship Crosstable

	Rtg	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Wastney, Scott	2381	10	+W15	=B3	+W5	=B6	+W7	+B4	+W2	+B11	+W8	+W9	+B14
2 Smith, Robert	2321	7.5	+B17	+W13	=W6	=B3	=W4	=B7	-B1	+W5	+W11	=B10	+W12
3 Green, Ewen	2184	7.5	+B18	=W1	+B12	=W2	+W6	=B5	=W11	=B4	+W16	=B8	=W7
4 Steadman, Mike	2271	7.0	+B10	-B6	+W16	+W8	=B2	-W1	+B7	=W3	-B5	+W15	+B11
5 Nijman, Brian	2154	7.0	+B8	=W7	-B1	+W12	+B18	=W3	-W6	-B2	+W4	+B16	+W17
6 Hague, Ben	2430	6.5	+B11	+W4	=B2	=W1	-B3	+W8	+B5	+W12	=B9	-B7	-W13
7 Russell, Athula	2274	6.0	=W12	=B5	+W15	+B11	-B1	=W2	-W4	-B9	+B14	+W6	=B3
8 Ker, Anthony	2452	6.0	-W5	+B14	+W13	-B4	+W15	-B6	=W9	+B16	-B1	=W3	+B18
9 Van Der Hoorn, M	2165	6.0	=W14	-B12	=W10	-B18	+W17	+B13	=B8	+W7	=W6	-B1	+B15
10 Fuatai, Fuatai	2071	5.5	-W4	=W11	=B9	=B13	=W14	+W18	-B12	=W17	=B15	=W2	+B16
11 Goodhue, Nathan	2146	5.0	-W6	=B10	+W14	-W7	+B16	+W12	=B3	-W1	-B2	+B17	-W4
12 Forster, Bill	2078	5.0	=B7	+W9	-W3	-B5	+W13	-B11	+W10	-B6	=W17	+W18	-B2
13 Thomas, Ben	2260	5.0	+W16	-B2	-B8	=W10	-B12	-W9	+B17	=W15	+B18	-W14	+B6
14 Li, William	1970	4.0	=B9	-W8	-B11	-W17	=B10	=W16	=B15	+B18	-W7	+B13	-W1
15 Stuart, Peter	2130	3.5	-B1	+W18	-B7	=W16	-B8	=B17	=W14	=B13	=W10	-B4	-W9
16 Nyberg, Michael	2062	3.0	=B13	+W17	-B4	=B15	-W11	=B14	+W18	-W8	-B3	-W5	-W10
17 Milligan, Helen	2082	2.5	-W2	-B16	-W18	+B14	-B9	=W15	-W13	=B10	=B12	-W11	-B5
18 Reedy, Brendan	2014	2.0	-W3	-B15	+B17	+W9	-W5	-B10	-B16	-W14	-W13	-B12	-W8

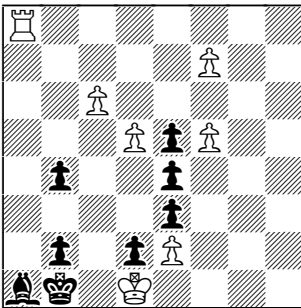
Major Open Crosstable

	Rtg	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1 Chew Lee, Max	1845	9.0	+W23	+B11	+W14	+B3	+W2	+B5	=W6	-B4	=W7	+B8	+W10
2 Rains, Timothy	1756	8.5	+B27	+W13	+B18	+W34	-B1	+W16	-W4	=B7	+B5	+W3	+B6
3 James, Jack	1775	7.5	+B35	+W16	+B15	-W1	-B4	+W28	+B12	+B10	=W8	-B2	+W7
4 Rains, Edward	1884	7.0	-B18	+W25	+B20	=B5	+W3	+W13	+B2	+W1	=B6	-B7	-W8
5 Timergazi, Layla	1828	7.0	+B24	+W20	=B34	=W4	+B15	-W1	+B13	=B6	-W2	=W9	+B12
6 Jackson, Ross	1996	7.0	-W15	+B33	+B10	+W18	=B13	+W17	=B1	=W5	=W4	+B11	-W2
7 Paul, David	1880	7.0	=B10	=W12	-B31	+W24	+B18	+W20	+B16	=W2	=B1	+W4	-B3
8 Lyall, Simon	1795	7.0	+B25	-W18	=B12	=W10	+B31	=W15	+B17	+W16	=B3	-W1	+B4
9 Brockway, Andrew	1792	7.0	+W33	-B15	-W28	=B26	+W32	+B29	-W10	+W12	+B20	=B5	+W17
10 Gong, Daniel	1630	6.5	=W7	+B17	-W6	=B8	=W29	+B19	+B9	-W3	+B21	+W15	-B1
11 Stracy, Don	1764	6.5	+W22	-W1	-B16	+B33	-W17	+B23	+W31	=B15	+W28	-W6	+B19
12 McIntosh, Andrew	0	6.0	=W17	=B7	=W8	=B29	+W19	+B14	-W3	-B9	+W24	+B28	-W5
13 Gold, Hamish	1828	6.0	+W29	-B2	+W26	+B28	=W6	-B4	-W5	-B17	+W22	=B14	+W23
14 Pakenham, John	1749	6.0	+B36	+W21	-B1	+W31	-B16	-W12	-B28	+W27	=B18	=W13	+B15
15 Cooper, Nigel	1662	5.5	+B6	+W9	-W3	+B19	-W5	=B8	=B21	=W11	+W17	-B10	-W14
16 Nijman, Arie	1882	5.5	+W26	-B3	+W11	+B23	+W14	-B2	-W7	-B8	-W19	+B25	=W21
17 Farrington, L	1732	5.5	=B12	-W10	+B27	+W21	+B11	-B6	-W8	+W13	-B15	+W20	-B9
18 Whittle, J	1656	5.5	+W4	+B8	-W2	-B6	-W7	-B31	+W22	+B26	=W14	-B23	+W28
19 Roberts, Michael	1841	5.5	+B31	-W34	+B24	-W15	-B12	-W10	+B23	+W25	+B16	=W21	-W11
20 Gloistein, Bruce	1748	5.5	+W30	-B5	-W4	+B22	+W23	-B7	+W29	=B28	-W9	-B17	+B33
21 Nicholls, L	1797	5.5	+W28	-B14	-W23	-B17	+W33	+B26	=W15	+B31	-W10	=B19	=B16
22 Wang, Aaron	970	5.5	-B11	-B23	+W30	-W20	=B25	+W24	-B18	+W32	-B13	+W33	+B29
23 List, Robert	1626	5.0	-B1	+W22	+B21	-W16	-B20	-W11	-W19	+B36	+B33	+W18	-B13
24 Chew Lee, Alanna	1551	5.0	-W5	+B30	-W19	-B7	=W26	-B22	+W35	+B29	-B12	+W31	=B27
25 Cunningham, Pat	1505	5.0	-W8	-B4	-W29	+B30	=W22	+B32	=W27	-B19	+W26	-W16	+BYE
26 Qin, Joy Shu Yan	1643	5.0	-B16	+W35	-B13	=W9	=B24	-W21	+B33	-W18	-B25	+BYE	+W36
27 Qin, Nicole	960	5.0	-W2	=B29	-W17	-B32	+W30	+W35	=B25	-B14	=W31	+B36	=W24
28 Gillespie, John	1551	4.5	-B21	+W36	+B9	-W13	+B35	-B3	+W14	=W20	-B11	-W12	-B18
29 Veldhuizen, Matt	1578	4.5	-B13	=W27	+B25	=W12	=B10	-W9	-B20	-W24	+W36	+B32	-W22
30 Li, Leo	581	4.5	-B20	-W24	-B22	-W25	-B27	=W36	+BYE	-W33	+BYE	+BYE	+B32
31 Reid, Anton	1607	3.5	-W19	+B32	+W7	-B14	-W8	+W18	-B11	-W21	=B27	-B24	--
32 Li, Rodney	951	3.5	-B34	-W31	=B35	+W27	-B9	-W25	+W36	-B22	+BYE	-W29	-W30
33 Wight, Joshua	1386	3.0	-B9	-W6	+B36	-W11	-B21	+BYE	-W26	+B30	-W23	-B22	-W20
34 Millikan, Erlend	1750	2.5	+W32	+B19	=W5	-B2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 Qian, Bella	1078	2.5	-W3	-B26	=W32	+B36	-W28	-B27	-B24	+BYE	-BYE	-BYE	--
36 Konakanchi, S K	809	1.5	-W14	-B28	-W33	-W35	+BYE	=B30	-B32	-W23	-B29	-W27	-B26

Four Tough Challenges

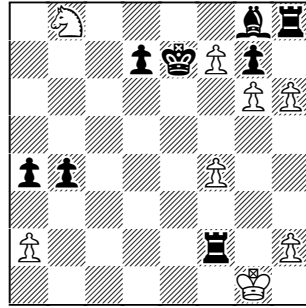
Senior competitor Nigel Cooper is an increasingly regular player on the national and even international (see his game from the World Seniors in the next issue) scene. He has collected these interesting positions. Any reader who can identify the authors of any of the problems and studies, please email the editor so they can be properly attributed. Nigel is not one to make life easy for the editor, so he sent in the positions without solutions! My library (position 3) and computer (positions 1 and 4) almost got me over the line, but position 2 is really challenging!

Position 1



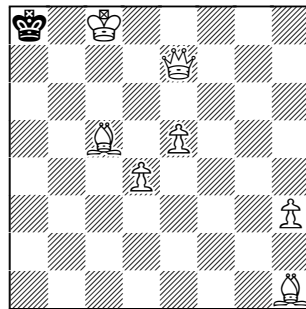
There are several ways to mate in 9, but the problem is to mate in 8. Supplied by Antti Pihlajamaki of Finland at the World Seniors in Greece 2012.

Position 2



White to play and win. Study supplied by Thorben Koop, a very strong German junior studying in NZ and playing at Otago Chess Club.

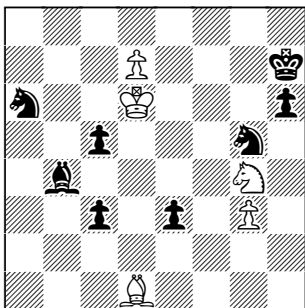
Position 3



This is a problem in retrograde analysis from the classic “Chess Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes” by Raymond Smullyan. Holmes and Watson discover this position on an abandoned board at a gentlemen's club (a phrase which meant something different back in the day). Clearly white is checkmated, but which side is which? (i.e.

we don't know whether the bottom left corner of the diagram is a1 or h8). And what were the last two moves ?

Position 4



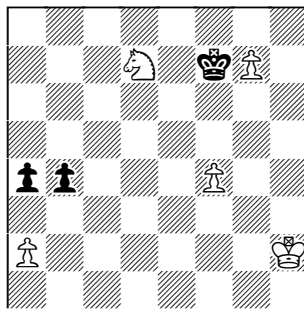
Nigel can't remember where he got this one from. White to play and win. It's the hardest problem he's tackled and it defeated his computer engines (Hiarc and Houdini).

Solutions

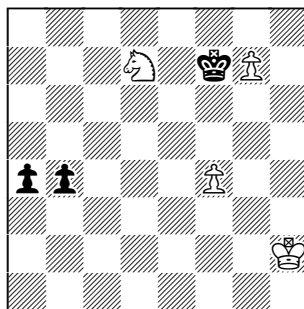
Position 1) Amazingly Houdini 1.5 solves this one in only a couple of seconds **1.f8=B b3 2.Ba3 Ka2 3.Bb4+ Kb1 4.Bxd2 exd2 5.c7 e3 6.c8=B e4 7.Ba6 Ka2 8.Bd3#** This problem would be the ultimate nightmare for the computer program Rybka which famously does not consider bishop underpromotions.

Position 2) This one completely defeated Houdini on the editor's machine, even when run overnight. Nigel was shown the solution by Thorben Koop; **1.hxg7 Rg2+! 2.Kf1!** (Not 2.Kxg2? Rxh2+! 3.Kxh2 Bxf7 4.gxf7? (4.Nxd7! draws, just) 4...Kxf7

5.Nxd7 Position A



5...b3! And Black wins.) **2...Rf2+ 3.Ke1!** White has an amazing plan – to reach position A *without* his 'a' pawn **3...Re2+ 4.Kd1 Rd2+ 5.Kc1 Rc2+ 6.Kb1 Rb2+ 7.Ka1!! Rxa2+ 8.Kb1 Rb2+ 9.Kc1 Rc2+ 10.Kd1 Rd2+ 11.Ke1 Re2+ 12.Kf1 Rf2+ 13.Kg1 Rg2+ 14.Kxg2 Rxh2+ 15.Kxh2 Bxf7 16.gxf7 Kxf7 17.Nxd7** reaching Position B



Clearly Position B is the same as Position A except now Black has a pair of connected pawns rather than a much less impressive two-to-one majority. How can this possibly turn a win for Black into a win for White ???!!! There is logic in this madness, and an important practical lesson. I remember losing a won ending against

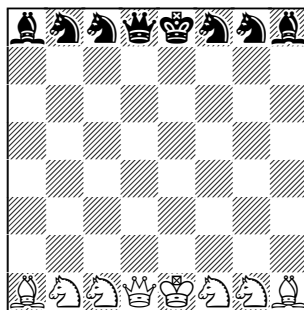
Anthony Ker in a Wellington club game by wasting time rounding up an 'a' pawn like this. In this situation the absolute number of pawns doesn't matter, the two-to-one majority generates a new queen just as quickly as the passed duo. Crucially a white pawn on a2 allows the advancing pawns an additional option; they can either 'change direction' as they (re)capture OR advance straight ahead. It turns out that denying the change of direction option is sufficient to allow the defending knight to (just) hold both pawns. **17...b3 18.Ne5+ Kxg7 19.Nc4** securely holding both pawns, eg **19...b2 20.Na3** and wins.

Position 3) White is playing down the board (the opposite of the normal diagram convention). Continuing our underpromotion theme, the last two (admittedly bizarre, probably too many gin and tonics) moves were **1...R(or N or Q) [x]a8 2.bxa8=B#**.

Position 4) Kudos to Nigel for solving this without machine assistance. **1.Nf6+ Kg7 2.Nh5+** If the king can be driven to f8 or f6, white queens with check, if the king can be driven to f7 there is no saving knight fork after white queens **2...Kg6 3.Bc2+!! Kxh5 4.d8=Q!!** Strange, white allows the fork **4...Nf7+ 5.Ke6 Nxd8+ 6.Kf5!** Closing a remarkable minimalist mating net around black's king. Black can wriggle but cannot escape. Amusingly the best wriggling attempt involves two knight underpromotions, a nice counterpoint to the bishop underpromotions from Position 1. **6...e2 7.Be4 e1=N 8.Bd5 c2 9.Bc4 c1=N 10.Bb5 Nc6 11.Bxc6 Nc7 12.Ba4** and black has run out of tricks, Bd1 and mate cannot be prevented.

Better than Counting Sheep

What is the colour of square g3 ? If you know, instantaneously and instinctively that g3 is a black square, congratulations you are probably already a good player. If not, try building up your knowledge of the chessboard with this simple mental exercise;



Whenever you have a spare moment construct this modified start position in your head. Divide the board into four quarters and for each quarter mentally traverse all the squares as follows; Bishops and Kings/Queens on the mini long diagonals, eg Bh1-g2-f3-e4 and then Ke1-f2-g3-h4. The knights fill in the gaps with four square mini-tours of their own, eg Nf1-e3-g4-h2 then Ng1-e2-f4-h3. In this way you reach every square on the board with a natural move. Remember to (internally) call out the colour of each square along the way! Of course the colour alternates on the knight tours.

NEW ZEALAND CHESS SUPPLIES

P.O. Box 122 Greytown 5742

Phone: (06) 304 8484 Fax: (06) 304 8485

email: chess.chesssupply@xtra.co.nz

website: www.chess.co.nz

100% New Zealand Owned & Operated

*See our website for new and second hand book lists,
wood sets and boards, electronic chess and software*

Plastic Chessmen 'Staunton' Style - Club/Tournament Standard

No 280 Solid Plastic - Felt Base Pieces with 2 Extra Queens	95mm King	\$ 16.50
No 298 Plastic Felt Base 'London Set'	98mm King	\$ 22.50
No 402 Solid Plastic - Felt Base Extra Weighted with 2 extra Queens	95mm King	\$ 24.50
Plastic Container with Clip Tight Lid for Above Sets		\$ 7.50
Draw String Vinyl Bag for Above Sets		\$ 5.00

Chessboards

510 x 510mm Soft Vinyl Roll-Up Mat Type (Green & White Squares)		\$ 7.50
510 x 510mm Soft Vinyl Roll-Up Mat Type (Dark Brown & White Squares)		\$ 9.00
450 x 450mm Soft Vinyl Roll-Up Mat Type (Dark Brown & White Squares)		\$ 10.00
450 x 450mm Hard Vinyl Semi Flexible Non Folding (Very Dark Brown and Off White Squares)		\$ 11.00
450 x 450mm Delux Folding Vinyl (Dark Brown & Off White Squares)		\$ 27.50
480 x 480mm Folding Thick Cardboard (Green & Lemon Squares)		\$ 7.50
500 x 500mm Folding Hard Vinyl (Dark Brown & Cream Squares)		\$ 13.50

Chess Move Timers (Clocks)

'Turnier' European Made Popular Club Clock - Light Brown Brown Vinyl Case		\$ 84.00
'Exclusiv' European Made as Above in Wood Case		\$ 96.00
SAITEK Competition Pro Game Clock		\$ 89.00
DGT Easy Game Timer		\$ 64.00
DGT Easy Plus Game Timer – Black		\$ 79.00
DGT 2010 Chess Clock & Game Timer		\$124.00

Club and Tournament Stationery

Cross Table/Result Wall Chart 430mm x 630mm		\$ 4.00
11 Rounds for 20 Players or 6 Rounds for 30 Players		
Scoresheets NZCF Duplicate Carbonised - 84 Moves		\$ 0.12
Score Pad - Spiral Bound Room for 50 Games of Scoresheets		\$ 3.50
Score book - Spiral Bound - Lies Flat at Any Page		\$ 7.00
50 Games of 80 Moves with Index and Diagram for Permanent Record		

Magnetic Chess

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

Demonstration Board

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

WE ARE BUYING CHESS LITERATURE OF ANY AGE AND CONDITION

TOP PRICES PAID

EVERYTHING FOR CHESS AT N.Z.C.S.