

New Zealand Chess

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Vivian Smith MNZM – Also

- **The Waikato Open**
- **The North Shore Open**
- **Kiwis in Malaysia... and more**

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For Services To Chess

On the cover: WFM Viv Smith receives her MNZM from Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae.

Photo Credit: Photography by Woolf

Contents

- 3 Vivian Smith MNZM**
- 6 Waikato Open**
by Hilton Bennett
- 10 Malaysian Chess Festival**
by Paul Spiller
- 13 Caro Can't**
by Bob Smith
- 15 North Shore Open**
by Peter Stuart
- 24 Miscellaneous Musings**
by Bill Forster
- 27 Stalemate!**
by Herman van Riemsdijk
- 35 Club Directory**

Vivian Smith MNZM

In the previous issue we reported that Viv Smith had been appointed as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to chess, in the Queen's Birthday honours list. Viv formally accepted her honour from Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae at an investiture ceremony in Wellington on the 18th of September. Viv believes that she was honoured in part because there was a "celebrating women" focus to the investitures this year. Former long time NZCF Secretary Bob Mitchell was responsible for nominating Viv and with Paul Spiller completing the onerous administrative work involved.

Viv's long association with chess started when she learned the moves from her brother as a ten year old. She first tasted competitive success at Auckland Girls Grammar. Chess was forgotten for a while but joining the social chess club for Air New Zealand employees in Auckland in the mid seventies reignited her interest. The Fischer boom was on and chess in New Zealand was riding a wave. Viv recalls meeting strong players for the first time, even playing Ortvin Sarapu in Auckland Business House competition ("I don't think I won that one" she writes with a smile).

Viv was encouraged to travel to her first Congress in Wellington in 1977-78. There was a 12 player round robin for the Women's Championship in that year. After a nervous start, Viv found her feet and finished a creditable 4th. Now well and truly hooked Viv joined the Waitemata

(now Waitakere) chess club and sought out more opportunities for serious competition. She was selected for board three for the NZ Women's Olympiad team for the Buenos Aires Olympiad in 1978. Fourteen more Olympiad appearances followed, the most recent as Women's team captain and board 5 player in 2010. An Olympiad highlight was a best ever score of 7/9 and a bronze medal on board three in 1984 in Thessaloniki. FIDE titles were also obtained at Olympiads, WCM (5.5/11 at Calvia in 2004) and WFM (6.5/9 at Dresden 2008).

Her competitive results on the domestic scene saw her collect ten Women's Championships, the first in 1982 and most recent in 2004 plus a tie for first in the NZ Seniors Championship in 2007.

Of course an appointment to the New Zealand Order of Merit is primarily an acknowledgement of community service. Viv's contribution to NZ chess in general and girls and women's chess in particular over a long period of time has been outstanding.

She is a life member of the Waitakere Chess Club having served variously as club captain, secretary and treasurer for many years, as well as organising and coaching the Waitakere junior club in tandem with husband Bob from 1995 to 2010. The connection between Waitakere Chess Club and the Smiths is a remarkable one. Bob (also a life member of course) continues to organise New Zealand's biggest weekend

tournament, hosted by Waitakere even though the Smiths left Auckland for Mt Maunganui in 2010. Together the Smiths are a formidable organising team. They have been organising Primary and Intermediate Interschool tournaments since 1993. Waitakere was the first club in Auckland to run such tournaments before they spread Auckland and NZ-wide in 2001. They also ran South and Central Auckland for several years till the locals picked them up. They still travel back to Auckland to run the West primary and intermediate interschools, and have now also picked up running the Bay of Plenty interschools since moving there. Viv believes the National Interschools has done more than anything else to grow chess in NZ.

Viv joined Bob on the NZCF Council in 2001 and focused particularly on Female Chess. In an effort to attract more girls to the game she came up with the plan of having a 'Girls Chess Week'. The idea was for regions throughout NZ to hold a girls championship, identify talent, and if possible have a coaching follow-up. The response was amazing. The first Auckland Girls Championship in 2001 was a blow-out with 123 entries. It was so popular that it has since become an annual event organised by Viv with Bob as DOP for the last 13 years. The biggest championship to date had 153 players in 2012. It has been the catalyst for unearthing and encouraging our top young female players of today – including WIM Sue Maroroa, WFM's Natasha Fairley, Judy Gao, Nicole Tsoi, WCMs Eachen Chen and Shirley Wu. Schools and girls look forward to it, and it is helping to change the perception that

chess is a male game. The Smiths are now running the Bay of Plenty Girls Championship as well, the largest tournament to date comprising 63 players in 2011.

Viv also played a key part in the NZCF junior badge scheme. She designed all the badges and wrote most of the tests with the help of Felicity Timings and Bob. These have proved to be a useful tool for coaches – providing some tangible achievement for kids which parents and schools can see. The tests are fun and the kids love wearing the badges. This in turn attracts other kids to the game.

There aren't many examples of personal memoirs from New Zealand chess players, but Viv produced a memorable one, published in two parts for the NZ Chess Magazine in 2006. It's very honest and revealing, written with characteristic modesty and a pleasantly light and humorous style. This article has now been scanned and made available on the website - to access it enter the following address into your Web browser's address bar; www.nzchessmag.com/vivprofile.pdf.

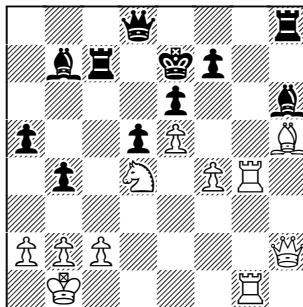
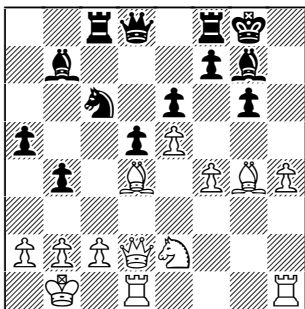
Here is one of the games from that article. This is from Viv's first NZ Women's Championship win and shows her aggressive style in those days.

Vivian Burndred - Winsome Stretch

New Zealand Women's Championship,
29.12.1981

1.e4 c5 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 g6 5.f4 Nge7 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.e5 0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 a6 10.Be3 b5 11.Qd2 Bb7 12.h4

h5 13.0-0-0 d5 14.Bh3 Nxd4 15.Bxd4
Nc6 16.g4 b4 17.Ne2 hgx4 18.Bxg4 Rc8
19.Kb1 a5



White's attack is much faster **20.h5!** gxh5
21.Rxh5 Re8 22.Rg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Kf8
24.Rg1 Rc7 25.Bh5 Bh6 26.R5g4 Ke7
27.Qh2 Rh8

White now has a nice sacrifice to strip
away the final defensive barrier **28.Bxf7!**
Kxf7 29.Qh5+ Forcing mate **29...Ke7**
30.Rg7+ Kf8 31.Nxe6# The ultimate
winning move, a family fork and mate at
the same time! 1-0

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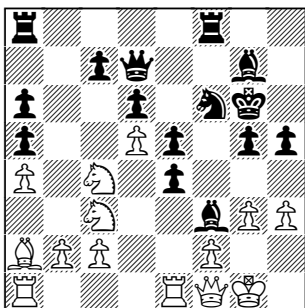
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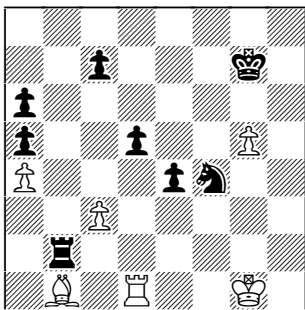
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Lynn,William - Steadman,Michael [B06]
 Waikato Open, 26.07.2013

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 a6 5.a4
 e6 6.0-0 Ne7 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nc3 Nbc6 9.Be3
 h6 10.Qd2 Kh7 11.d5 Na5 12.Ba2 b6
 13.Bd4 e5 14.Be3 f5 15.g3 fxe4 16.Nh4
 Bf5 17.Qe2 Ng8 18.Bd2 Nf6 19.Nd1 Bg4
 20.Qf1 g5 21.Ng2 Qd7 22.Bxa5 bxa5
 23.Nc3 Bf3 24.Ne3 h5 25.h3 Kg6 26.Nc4



26...h4! 27.Nd2 hgx3 28.Nxf3 exf3
 29.Qd3+ Kh6 30.Qxf3 gxf2+ [30...Nh5!
 winning a rook is even better] 31.Qxf2
 Nxd5 32.Qg3 Nf4 33.Re3 Qf5 34.Ne4 d5
 35.Nf2 e4 36.c3 Be5 37.Ng4+ Kg7
 38.Nxe5 Qxe5 39.Qg4 Qf5 40.Qxf5 Rxf5
 41.Rd1 Nd3 42.Rg3 Rb8 43.h4 Rxb2
 44.Bb1 Nf4 45.Rxg5+ Rxg5+ 46.hxg5



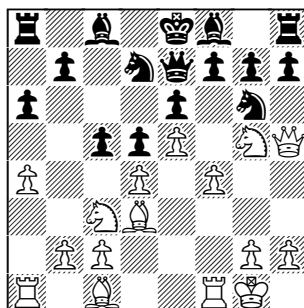
This game has basically been a series of
 ideal positions for Black, who now finally
 ends White's misery with a nice pair of
 simple forks **46...Ne2+ 47.Kf1 Nxc3 0-1**

Round 2 on Saturday morning saw several
 immediate clashes amongst the top players
 because of draws and byes from the
 previous evening. While Mike Steadman
 and Mark Noble drew fairly quickly, Bob
 Smith established an early jump on the
 field as he punished some exotic opening
 ideas from Ralph Hart, although Peter
 Stuart also moved to 2 points with a win as
 black over Scott Yang.

Smith,Robert - Hart,Ralph [C01]

Waikato Open, 27.07.2013

1.e4 e6 2.d4 Nf6 3.e5 Ng8 4.Bd3 d6 5.Nf3
 Nd7 6.0-0 Ne7 7.Nc3 Ng6 8.Qe2 a6 9.a4
 d5 10.Ng5 c6 11.Qh5 Qe7 12.f4 c5



13.Nxe6! Black's game is already beyond
 repair [13.f5!! exf5 14.Nxd5 Qd8 15.Nxf7
 Kxf7 16.Bxf5 is even more destructive]
13...fxe6 14.Bxg6+ Kd8 15.Bd3 Kc7 16.f5
cxd4 17.fxe6 dxc3 18.exd7 Bxd7 19.bxc3
Be6 20.Be3 g6 21.Bxg6 Bg7 22.Bf7 Raf8
23.Bxe6 Qxe6 24.Bd4 h6 25.h3 Kc8
26.Qg4 Qxg4 27.hxg4 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Re8
29.Rf5 Re6 30.Kf2 b5 31.axb5 a5 32.Ke3

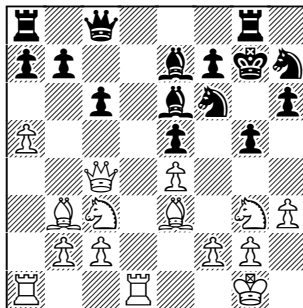
a4 33.Kd3 Rg6 34.Rf4 a3 35.c4 Rg5
 36.cxd5 Bxe5 37.Bxe5 Rxe5 38.Ra4
 Rxd5+ 39.Kc4 Rg5 40.Rxa3 Rxd4+
 41.Kc5 Rg5+ 42.Kb4 Rxd2 43.c4 h5
 44.Ra7 h4 45.Rh7 Rh2 46.Kc5 h3 47.Kc6
 Kd8 48.c5 Rg2 49.Rh8+ Ke7 50.Rxh3
 Rg6+ 51.Kc7 Ke6 52.Rd3 Rg7+ 53.Kb6
 1-0

In round 3 Bob Smith and Peter Stuart drew on top board, while Ben Hague's King's Indian Attack against Mike Steadman's French ended in a draw after a lengthy struggle. Noble and Hart meanwhile both scored wins to stay in the hunt. Elsewhere in the field Craig Blaxall, who was returning to chess after a lengthy break from tournament play, was starting to make his presence felt with a win to go to 2 points.

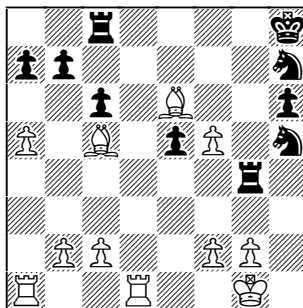
As mentioned previously Saturday evening's round 4 traditionally offers a half point bye which makes for interesting pairings. The presence of the Super 15 rugby final in Hamilton on the same evening provided an added attraction and distraction, although only Ralph Hart of the top five contenders availed himself of the half point option. Mike Steadman and Ben Hague had wins as white against Alphaeus Ang and Scott Yang respectively. Meanwhile on top board Mark Noble played his favourite Philidor Defence set-up against Bob Smith. Mark has refined this to an aggressive and effective tournament weapon which yields him many points, but on this occasion Bob Smith emerged the victor.

Smith, Robert - Noble, Mark [C41]
 Waikato Open, 27.07.2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Nbd7
 5.Bc4 Be7 6.a4 h6 7.h3 c6 8.Bb3 Qc7
 9.Qe2 0-0 10.0-0 g5 11.Be3 Kg7 12.Nd2
 Nh7 13.Rfd1 Ndf6 14.Nf1 Bd7 15.a5 Qc8
 16.Ng3 Rg8 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Qc4 Be6



19.Nf5+! Bxf5 20.Qxf7+ Kh8 21.exf5 Rg7
 22.Qe6 Qc7 23.Qc4 Nh5 24.Nd5 Qc8
 25.Nxe7 Rxe7 26.Bc5 Rg7 27.Qe6 g4
 28.Qxc8+ Rxc8 29.hxg4 Rxd4 30.Be6



30...Nf4 Desperation in a lost position
 31.Bxc8 Rxd2+ 32.Kf1 Ng5 Black hopes
 to play Nf3 and Rg1 mate 33.f6! Not only
 does White have an extra rook, his attack is
 one vital tempo faster 33...h5 34.Rd8+
 Kh7 35.Bf5+ 1-0

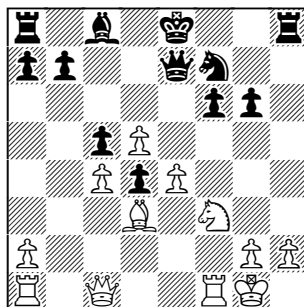
Round 5 on Sunday morning saw Ben Hague charged with the responsibility of

stopping a rampant Bob Smith. It was not to be however as Bob scored a quick win to further extend his lead in the event, as Steadman drew with Stuart, while Blaxall and Wright continued their good form to draw with Hart and Noble respectively. Smith now held an unassailable one point lead going into the last round.

Smith, Robert - Hague, Ben [A40]

Waikato Open, 28.07.2013

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nc6 4.d5 Nd4 5.Ne2 e5 6.Nxd4 exd4 7.Bd3 c5 8.0-0 d6 9.f4 Nh6 10.f5 f6 11.Nd2 Nf7 12.Nf3 Qe7 13.b4 Bh6 14.bxc5 Bxc1 15.Qxc1 dxc5 16.fxg6 hxg6



17.e5! Simple winning chess, this comes just in time to deny Black the chance to blockade with Ne5 **17...Nxe5 18.Nxe5 fxe5 19.Bxg6+ Kd8 20.g3!** Essential to prevent Qh4 **20...Rf8 21.Qh6 1-0**

The final round saw Bob Smith drawing quickly with Steadman to emerge as a clear tournament winner on 5 points, while Steadman moved to 4. Meanwhile Noble

Crosstable

Pos	NAME	Rtg	T	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Smith, Robert W	2323	FM	5.0	+B9	+W8	=B6	+W2	+W5	=B3
2	Noble, Mark F	2305	FM	4.0	+W4	=B3	+W12	-B1	=W7	+B6
3	Steadman, Michael V	2289	FM	4.0	+B19	=W2	=B5	+W9	=W6	=W1
4	Blaxall, Craig S	1934	--	4.0	-B2	+W15	+B16	=BYE	=W8	+B9
5	Hague, Ben	2399	FM	3.5	=W7	+B11	=W3	+W10	-B1	=B8
6	Stuart, Peter W	2108	NM	3.5	+W13	+B10	=W1	=BYE	=B3	-W2
7	Wright, Caleb	1976	--	3.5	=B5	=W16	-B9	+W15	=B2	+W14
8	Hart, Ralph	2279	--	3.5	+W18	-B1	+W13	=BYE	=B4	=W5
9	Ang, Alphaeus WeiErn	1973	--	3.0	-W1	+B18	+W7	-B3	+B12	-W4
10	Yang, Scott	2148	--	3.0	=B16	-W6	+W14	-B5	+B15	=W11
11	Lyall, Simon	1820	--	3.0	=B12	-W5	=B19	=B13	+W16	=B10
12	Tan, Eddie K C (ENG)	1998	--	3.0	=W11	+B14	-B2	=BYE	-W9	+B16
13	Zhang, Leo	1858	--	2.5	-B6	+W19	-B8	=W11	-B14	+W18
14	Cooper, Nigel	1692	--	2.5	=BYE	-W12	-B10	+B18	+W13	-B7
15	James, Jack	1857	--	2.0	-W17	-B4	+W18	-B7	-W10	+B19
16	Dolejs, Dan	1871	--	1.5	=W10	=B7	-W4	=BYE	-B11	-W12
17	Bennett, Hilton P(W)	2100	CM	1.0	+B15	--	--	--	--	--
18	Gautam, Asheesh (FIJ)	1902	--	1.0	-B8	-W9	-B15	-W14	+W19	-B13
19	Lynn, K William	1927	--	1.0	-W3	-B13	=W11	=BYE	-B18	-W15

beat Stuart, Hague drew with Hart, and Blaxall beat Ang to allow Blaxall and Noble to join Steadman in second place. This was a particularly pleasing performance for Bob Smith who beat three of his four main adversaries to take top place decisively. Eddie Tan was the top local Waikato player while the under 1800 event had a clear winner in local player Richard Dare who also won with 5 points. As always Keong Ang was an unobtrusive and highly competent arbiter who helped to make the weekend enjoyable for all concerned.

10th Malaysian Chess Festival 2013 – by Paul Spiller

This year marked a milestone of ten continuous years of Malaysian Chess Festivals. Started back in 2004 as a memorial to the late Dato' Arthur Tan, what began as a one-off event became a five year event which has now stretched into a decade of chess events. This year over 1200 chess players plus additional coaches, supporters and parents were involved in a range of events that catered for a wide spectrum of the chess community. As usual the festival was held in the ballroom of the Cititel Hotel located at the Mid-Valley Megamall in Kuala Lumpur.

Under the guidance of Malaysia's driving force of chess, Dato' Tan Chin Nam, and supported by a host of sponsors, this year's festival incorporated three main Championship events: **IGB Dato' Arthur**

Tan Malaysian Open (contested by NZ's FM Bob Smith – see his report immediately after this article) the **Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Seniors** (contested by myself) and the **Ambank Malaysian Challenge**.

The Dato' Arthur Tan Malaysian open is the main event, featuring many strong GMs and IMs and over the years has given many players the opportunity to score title norms. This year the tournament fielded 46 titled players including 12 GMs, 10 IMs and 4 WGMs. This year top seed was Chinese GM Ma Qun (2600) followed closely by GM Abhijeet Gupta (2594) of India. The Ambank Malaysian Open is restricted to players below FIDE 2200 and is the training ground for younger players aspiring to improve (and in my opinion would be an excellent event for many of our junior talented players to compete in !).

The Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Senior tournament is a relatively new event in memory of the late Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng, the founder of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (KLK), a Malaysian company famous for palm and natural rubber products. This year it was restricted to Seniors above the age of 55 and although a relatively small field it boasted one GM and three IMs. Top seed and winner of all three previous Seniors' events was Uzbekistan GM, Dimitry Kayumov rated 2389.

Supporting events at the festival included two individual blitz events, the Swenson's Open Rapid Age-Group Championship (a one day event attracting over 300 kids) and to finish off the ASTRO Merdeka Rapid

Open Team Championship. Now in its 33rd year (!) it took place on August 17-18 with a record 106 teams involving around 500 players. Brian Jones managed to cobble together a “Commonwealth” team involving himself and Australian IM Max Illingworth, IM Chan Peng Kong, myself and Edwin Lam of Malaysia. We finished in 18th spot (6 wins, 3 losses) just outside the prize-money.

Round 1: I was paired against the unrated Vietnamese player (and their 1980 national champion) Luu Duc Hai who was making a return to chess after many years. I accepted a draw offer although I was about to win a pawn – better to get off the mark than go into an unclear continuation was my logic. Bob won against local Malaysian player Ryan Chan (1693).

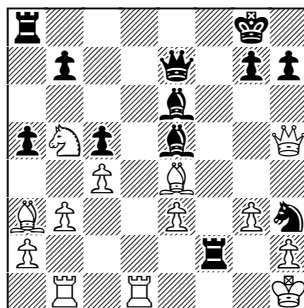
Round 2: A tactical opportunity allowed me to unbalance my position winning rook and two pawns for 2 pieces against Swiss player Gero Kuich (1808). After a tough battle I eventually converted to a win. In the Open, Bob lost to the strong Vietnamese IM Nguyen Duc Hoa (2483).

Round 3: My opponent this round was Singaporean IM Chan Peng Kong (2nd seed at 2269), a recent visitor to New Zealand shores for the annual George Trundle Masters. I achieved a good position after playing a Dutch defence but self-destructed in time pressure and blundered badly. Bob accounted for his Hong Kong opponent Borigas Edgardo (1950).

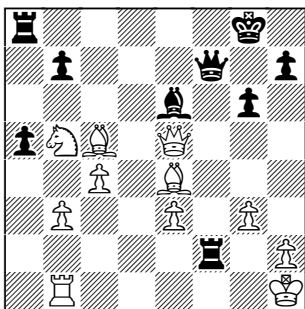
Chan Peng Kong - Paul Spiller

Malaysian Festival 2013, 06.10.2013

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nf3 d6 7.0-0 Ne4 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.Qxc3 Bf6 10.Qc2 e5 Black has achieved the e5 break and equalized **11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Rd1 Qe7 13.Rb1 Nc6 14.e3 a5 15.b3 e4 16.Nd4 Nb4 17.Qe2 Nd3 18.Nb5 Be6 19.Ba3 c5 20.f3 Be5?! better would have been either Bg5 or Ne5 21.fxe4 fxe4 22.Bxe4** This looks strong but better was **22 Rf1 22...Nf2! 23.Qh5 Nh3+** Also ok is [23...Nxe4 24.Qxe5 Nf2] **24.Kh1 Nf2+ 25.Kg1 Nh3+** At this point I thought that my opponent might repeat, but I was very short of time **26.Kg2!? Rf2+ 27.Kh1**



27...g6?? A horrible blunder - Black is doing fine after [27...Ng5 eg 28.Bxh7+ Nxh7 29.Qxe5 Ng5 30.Rf1 Nf3 (Ed 30...Raf8 wins) 31.Qxe6+ Qxe6 32.Rxf2 Qe4; 27...Ng5 or 28.Bxc5 Qf6 29.Bxb7 Rb8 30.h4 Nh3 (Ed 30...Nf3 wins – one of the many details that add up to a won game for Black after 27...Ng5!! according to the computer)] **28.Qxe5 Rxa2 29.Rf1 Nf2+ 30.Rxf2 Rxf2 31.Bxc5 Qf7**



32.Qxe6? Ed: tempting but this jeopardises the win **32...Qxe6 33.Bd5 Rd8 34.Nc7 Qxd5+?** Ed: Paul could have forced an unusual draw with [34...Rxd5! 35.Nxe6 Rdd2 and White cannot avoid the perpetual] **35.Nxd5 1-0**

Round 4: I used my favourite 1. f4 (!) against IM Giam Choo Kwee (2089). The game was agreed drawn after 16 moves although White was a pawn up and definitely doing better. Bob played well to draw with the Indian IM Ramnath (2400).

Round 5: Definitely my worst round when I played too slowly and drifted into a slightly worse and ultimately losing ending against Pricha Vatanakul (1748) of Thailand. Bob lost to talented WGM Irine Sukandar (2370) of Indonesia.

Round 6: I managed to rebound in round six with a win against Malaysian chess globetrotter Lim Kian Hwa (1915) after my opponent misplayed the opening and allowed me to gain a big advantage. Bob also won against Zhang Jiabao (2022) of China.

Round 7: This was perhaps the most

frustrating round for me. I gained a good position but my opponent stopped recording his moves and then got confused about the position of his Queen's bishop! The arbiters were called during the ensuing chaos and he was cautioned (about recording his game) and I was given a four minute time bonus on my clock. [As an interesting aside, during the later Merdeka Teams event, a new system of issuing red cards to players was introduced. Any indiscretion was penalised with an instant red card, a second infringement resulted in an immediate forfeit!]

Unfortunately for me I almost immediately missed a crushing winner and allowed my Indonesian opponent to escape with a perpetual check.

Bob fought out a well deserved draw against the strong Filipino International Master Oliver Dimakiling (2369).

Round 8: My round 8 opponent was Malaysian IM Jimmy Liew (2220) who had earlier beaten the top seed GM Dmitry Kayumov and was currently in second place on 5.5/7. I employed 1. f4 again hoping to at least get a familiar opening set-up. Jimmy played a dubious early d4 which allowed me to gain a slight advantage although I was happy to accept his draw offer a few moves later.

Bob played his best game of the tournament and won convincingly after launching a powerful kingside attack against Filipino Roel Abelgas (2313). (see annotated game in Bob's article).

Round 9: My last round opponent was

Indian player R. Subramaniam (1915) who had not been having a good event. I was hopeful of victory and soon obtained a strong bind on the position. Unfortunately I failed again to capitalise, missing a winning continuation although it was not obvious at the time. So a slightly disappointing finish and 4.5/9 points overall, half a point off the prize money! The event was again won by Grandmaster Kayumov on 7.5/9 followed by IM Jimmy Liew and Efren Bagamasbad on 6.5 points. IM Chan Peng Kong took outright 4th on 6 points.

Bob had booked a mid-afternoon flight to Noumea via Brisbane to compete in the New Caledonia Open and therefore played quickly against his last round Filipino opponent, Mariano Nelson (2292). Undoubtedly this affected his chances and he could not repeat his success of the previous round. Bob finished on 5/9. The Open event was won by Chinese GM Xiu Deshun on 7.5 points. International Master Max Illingworth of Australia had a very strong finish to come 2nd= on 7 points (but 4th on tiebreak) with Chinese GM's Zhou Jianchao and Lu Shanglei.

In conclusion another successful and enjoyable Malaysian Chess Festival, the seventh that I have now competed in since 2006. I would recommend the experience to any avid chess tourist. The organization is excellent, the friendships formed are enduring and the chess is adrenalín pumping.

And as a kind of postscript - here is Bob Smith's Independent account of his own tournament

CARO CAN'T – by FM Bob Smith

It was a tough decision for me: use an AUS\$1000 travel grant to play in the Malaysian Open for the first time – or lose it.

The grant was for being the top Kiwi in the 2012 Oceania Grand Prix, and was only available if I went to Kuala Lumpur.

So, I jumped on Jet Star to Singapore, foolishly transferring there to Asia Airways.

After standing in the immigration arrivals queue at Changi Airport for two hours, I was finally sitting on a plane headed for KL. I was amused at the first music played on board: New Zealand X Factor winner Jackie Thomas' debut single "It's Worth It".

It was my second time in Kuala Lumpur and I had forgotten how far the airport was from the central city. 65 kilometres later we reached the Mid Valley Cititel Hotel. It took nearly an hour at 10 o'clock at night – but later I was warned that in peak traffic it can take an hour and a half.

The hotel was attached to one of the city's biggest shopping malls. An avid shopper could easily spend every spare moment on retail therapy.

For someone like me, however, it was a matter of getting some food, getting lost, and eventually finding my way back.

The hotel was comfortable enough, although the room was rather small. I enjoyed the tournament itself, which had plenty of big guns playing.

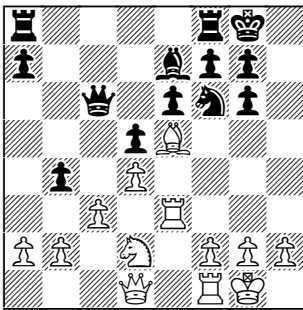
I lost to a couple of them – a 2400+ IM and a 2380 WGM – but acquitted myself reasonably well.

Probably my best effort was in round eight.

Bob Smith - Roel Abegas (2313)

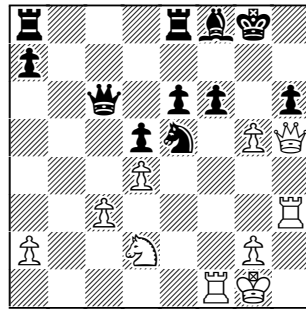
Malaysian Chess Festival, 06.10.2013

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 If it was good enough for Fischer ... 3...cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3 So far, so book. 7...Qc8 [7...Na5 8.Qa4+ Bd7 9.Qc2 was the main alternative] 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ngf3 Be7 10.0-0 Bh5 11.Ne5 0-0 12.Rael Nxe5 13.Bxe5 Qc6 14.Qc2 Bg6 15.Bxg6 hxg6 16.Qd1! b5 17.Re3 b4



18.h4! The idea is Rh3, followed by h5. If then ...Nxb5 Qg4! Poses problems 18...bxc3 19.bxc3 Rfe8 20.Rh3 Nd7?! 21.h5 g5 22.h6 f6? The losing move. Better was 22...Nxe5, though white retains attacking chances. 23.Qh5! Bf8 If [23...fxe5 24.Qg6 wins] 24.f4! gxh6 [24...fxe5 25.fxe5 Re7 26.hxg7 is crushing]

25.fxg5 Nxe5



26.gxf6! Nf7 27.Rg3+ Ng5 28.Rxg5+ hxg5 29.Qg6+ Kh8 30.Kf2 1-0

This set me up for a good finish. But unfortunately I played with one eye on the clock in the final round, worrying about getting to the airport in time for a connecting flight to Singapore and onwards to New Caledonia – my next tournament stop!

The result was some somewhat superficial play, leading to a lost rook and pawn ending.

Still 5/9, eight places higher than my seeding and a rating gain of seven points wasn't so bad.

On then to Noumea, where I drew with one of two grandmasters and picked up some dollars. But that's another story.

40th North Shore Open – by Peter Stuart

The first North Shore Open (known then as the Winstone Tournament) was held in July 1974. It was won (with 5/5) by Paul Garbett who had just returned from a warm-up event at Nice. Well, Paul was the only player from that event to play in this year's 40th version of the tournament.

To help celebrate the occasion the North Shore CC boosted the prize fund to a record \$4000. Unfortunately, perhaps, that did not attract a bigger entry than usual, many absentees being North Shore school-pupils with exams and what-have-you.

On the other hand it was great to welcome IM Puchen Wang back to a New Zealand tournament for the first time in a few years. Puchen had not played for a year or so but was probably joint favourite with Ben Hague. Puchen's FIDE rating is the higher but the event used NZCF ratings and Puchen's has stagnated for a few years so Ben was top seed. Bruce Watson and 1974 winner Paul Garbett were likely to want a say in matters too while Hans Gao and Gino Thornton couldn't be counted out, not to mention the other 8 players rated over 2000.

Round 1: The top 3 seeds all won, but then the upset carnage started with Garbett the first victim, suffering under a prolonged kingside initiative from Alphaeus Ang. So no repeat 1974 picket fence for Paul. Daniel Runcan accounted for an apparently 'not fully awake yet' Hans Gao, Antonio Krstev conceded a draw to Layla

Timergazi, having survived a pawn-down ending for a good many moves, and Leo Zhang beat Jeffrey McCrone.. The most interesting upset game was an exciting clash between the N.Z Interschool champion Westlake Boys High's boards 1 and 3 where Hao Jia eventually prevailed over his top board.

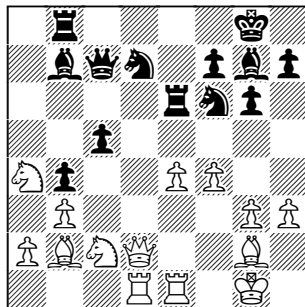
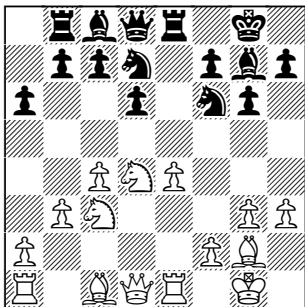
Puchen, Wang - David, Evans [E68]

Annotated by Puchen Wang

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 This move is often associated with a quick e7-e5, fighting for the centre. Black has several playable choices here including: 6...Nc6, 6...c6 and 6...Bg4. **7.Nc3 a6 8.e4 e5 9.h3** The move h2-h3 prevents black from playing Ng4 in certain variations e.g. if 9.Re1 exd4 10.Nxd4 Ng4!? 11.h3 Qf6! 12.Nf3 Nge5,, Black will manage to exchange a pair of knights, which will be beneficial for him since he has less space than White. **9...Re8** 9...exd4 10.Nxd4 will transpose and there is no advantage in delaying exd4. **10.Re1 exd4 11.Nxd4 Rb8** Black is planning to play a quick c5 followed by b5 attacking on the queenside. **12.b3**

Stop Press

Puchen picket fences again !, with 9 from 9 this time, at the South Island Championships in Nelson

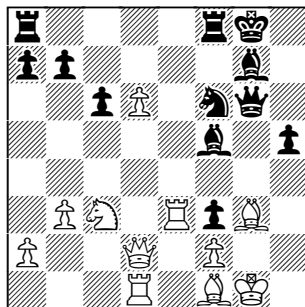


During the game I was quite hesitant to play this move because of the power of the black g7 bishop. 12.Rb1!? is another option for White to get off the potentially deadly a1–h8 diagonal: 12...Nc5 13.b4 Ne6 14.Be3 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Be6 16.Nd5² with a playable position for Black but slightly better for White due to the extra space. 12...c5 13.Nc2 Ne5 This is the best move for black. Tactics against the c3-knight do not work: 13...Ng4? 14.Bb2 and Black will lose the d6-pawn. 14.Bb2 b5? I believe this is a mistake. Black should play 14...Be6 15.f4 Nc6+ and White can focus on the d6-pawn weakness but Black has dynamic counterplay with b7-b5; 14...Nh5 is another move to deter White from playing f4. 15.cxb5 axb5 16.f4 b4 17.Na4 Ned7 17...Nc6 18.e5. 18.Qxd6 Re6 19.Qd2 Bb7 20.Rad1 After this it is hard to recover for Black as all his pieces are tied up and e5 is coming. 20...Qc7

21.e5 Bxg2 22.exf6 Nxf6 23.Rxe6 fxe6 24.Be5 1–0. Overall I think my opponent played very well. If David did not rush 14...b5, then Black can achieve a complex game with chances for both sides.

Garbett,Paul A (2332) - Ang,Alphaeus Wei Ern (1973) [E67]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 Nbd7 7.Qc2 e5 8.Rd1 Qe7 9.Nc3 c6 10.b3 Ne8 11.e4 f5 12.Bg5 Ndf6 13.c5 fxe4 14.cxd6 Nxd6 15.dxe5 exf3 16.exd6 Qe5 17.Bf4 Qh5 18.Bf1 Ng4 19.h3 Nf6 20.h4 h6 21.Re1 g5 22.Be5 gxh4 23.Rad1 hxg3 24.Bxg3 Bf5 25.Qd2 Qg6 26.Re3 h5

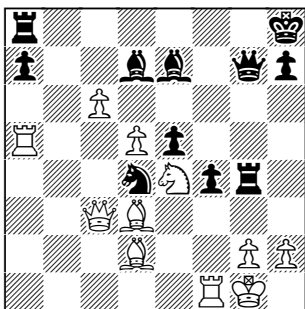


27.Bd3? 27.Rxf3 was a better try, getting rid of the dreadful pawn even at the cost of

an exchange, e.g. 27...Bg4 28.Bc4+ Kh8 29.Bd3 Bh6 30.Bxg6 Bxd2 31.Rxd2 Bxf3 though White's prospects are still rather grim. 27...h4 28.Bxf5 Qxf5 29.Qd3 Qxd3 30.Rdxd3 hxd3 31.Rxf3 gxf2+ 32.Rxf2 Rad8 33.Re2 Rd7 34.Na4 b6 35.Rc2 c5 36.Nc3 Rfd8 37.Nb5 a6 38.Nc7 Rxd6 39.Rxd6 Rxd6 40.Nxa6 Nd5 41.Kf2 Bd4+ 42.Ke1 Rd8 43.Rg2+ Kf7 44.Rg5 Kf6 45.Rh5 Kg6 0-1.

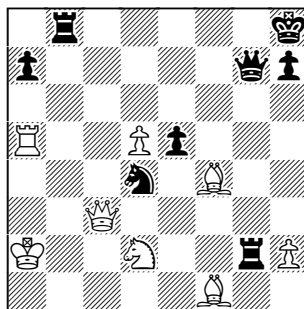
Li, William Xiangwei (2060) - Jia, Hao (1783) [B33]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5 Nxd5 8.exd5 Ne7 9.c4 Ng6 10.Be3 Bd7 11.Nc3 f5 12.Be2 Be7 13.0-0 0-0 14.b4 b6 15.Qb3 Kh8 16.a4 f4 17.Bd2 Nh4 18.f3 Nf5 19.Bd3 g5 20.Ne4 Rg8 21.Qc3 Nd4 22.a5 bxa5 23.Rxa5 Qf8 24.c5 dxc5 25.bxc5 g4 26.fxg4 Rxd4 27.c6 Qg7



28.Rf2? This defence is insufficient and even worse was 28.cxd7? Rxd2+ 29.Kh1 Nf3 and mate in a few.; 28.g3 was the best defence, with the idea 28...fxg3 29.h3 and the attack falters, so Black should continue with 28...Bf5 or 28...Rg8 with a continuing attack. 28...Bh4 29.cxd7 29.Bf1 looks sensible but isn't really any better, e.g. 29...Rg8 (or 29...Bf5) 30.Qh3 Bxf2+

31.Kxf2 Rg3! -+. 29...Bxf2+ 30.Kxf2 Rxd2+ 31.Ke1 Nf3+? This could've thrown away the win – the white king escapes to the queenside where it is surprisingly safe. Correct was 31...Rg1+ 32.Bf1 Qg2 33.Qc8+ (33.Qd3 Rxf1+ 34.Qxf1 Qxe4+) 33...Kg7 34.Qa6 Nf3+ and mate is not too far off. 32.Kd1 Rg1+ 33.Kc2 Nd4+ 34.Kb2 Qxd7 White is okay now that his king has reached relative safety. And now he seizes a chance for some tactics himself ... 35.Bxf4! Rb8+ 36.Ka2 Rg2+ We now go through a bit of thud and blunder approaching the time control at move 40 – not surprising with such complicated play. 37.Nd2 It is easy to understand White avoiding 37.Ka3 Rb3+ but this was the winning way: 38.Qxb3 Nxb3 39.Bxe5+ Rg7 (39...Kg8 40.Nf6+ wins) 40.Kxb3 and White has far too much for the queen. 37...Qg7 37...exf4 leaves the d4-knight to its fate but the white knight would now be vulnerable too: 38.Bf1 (38.Qxd4+? Qg7 wins the knight) 38...Rxd2+ 39.Qxd2 Qg7 and who knows what should happen from here? 38.Bf1



38...Rg6 The only way to keep things under control was 38...Rf2 39.Bg3 but now Black would have to find 39...Rbf8!! 40.Bd3 (40.Bxf2 Rxf2 41.d6 Qh6 with

enough counterplay) 40...Qg5 41.Bxf2 Rxf2 42.Ka3 Rxd2 43.Rxa7 and then he'd need to find 43...Rc2! 44.Ra8+ (44.Bxc2? Nb5+ 45.Kb4 Nxc3 46.Rxh7+ Kg8 47.Kxc3 Qe3+ 48.Kb2 Qd4+ 49.Kc1 e4 and the pawn is very hard to stop) 44...Kg7 45.Ra7+ Kf6 46.Ra6+ Kg7 47.Ra7+ with repetition. **39.Bg3 Rgb6 40.Nc4 Rb3 41.Qxb3?** White miscalculates now and the advantage passes back to Black. The calm 41.Qe1 was best, e.g. 41...Nf3 42.Qe4 Qb7 (the best try) 43.Bd3 Rb2+ 44.Ka1 Rb4 45.Bxe5+ Nxe5 46.Qxe5+ Kg8 47.Ra3 Rb3 48.Rxb3 Qxb3 49.Bc2! winning. **41...Nxb3 42.Bxe5 Qxe5 43.Nxe5 Nxa5** Black's technique makes the win look simple now. **44.d6** Or 44.Nc6 Nxc6 45.dxc6 Rb6 46.Bg2 Rb5 47.Ka3 a5 48.Ka4 Rc5 -+. **44...Kg7 45.Ka3 Rd8 46.d7 Kf6 47.Ng4+ Ke6 48.Bb5 Nb7 49.Kb4 a5+ 50.Ka4 Nc5+ 51.Kxa5 Nxd7 52.Kb4 Ne5 53.Nxe5 Kxe5 54.Kc3 Kf4 55.Bd3 h5 56.Be2 h4 57.h3 Ke3 58.Bg4 Rd6 59.Kc4 Rd4+ 0-1.**

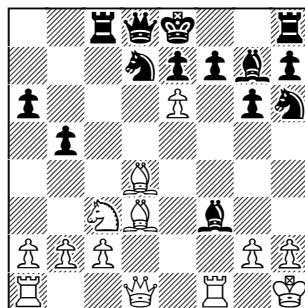
Round 2: Hague sacrificed his queen for a bunch of Hilton Bennett's pieces while Ang-Wang saw Alphaeus playing his second IM, but this time his position collapsed horribly in the middlegame. The game went on almost forever since Alphaeus has the annoying habit of playing on and on in completely hopeless positions until mated.

Generally, the lower rated players, at least on the top 9 boards, behaved much more politely towards their higher rated opponents this time. Daniel Runcan, for instance, won a piece against Watson but kindly didn't actually take it. Just one exception – Hao Jia was the culprit again, defeating Gino Thornton (rating difference

= 426!) with excellent technique after saddling Black with a weakened pawn structure.

Hague,Ben (2399) - Bennett,Hilton P (2100) [B06]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.f4 b5 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 c5 9.Kh1 Rc8 10.e5 cxd4 11.Bxd4 dxe5 12.fxe5 Nh6 13.e6 Bxf3

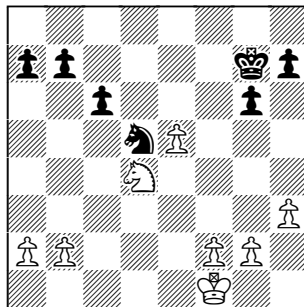
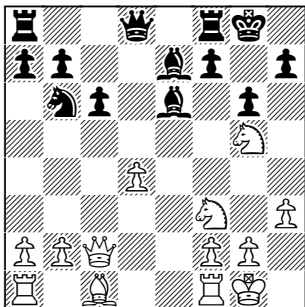


14.Bxg7! Also good is 14.exd7+ which will likely transpose to the game. **14...Bxd1 15.exd7+ Qxd7 16.Raxd1 Rxc3 17.bxc3 Ng4 18.Be2 Qc7?** After this White's has a winning material advantage but the better 18...Qc8 19.Bxg4 Qxg4 20.Bxh8 f6 gives Black chances to hold, thanks to the trapped bishop and weak queenside pawns. Still, I'd rather be White, the only one who can play for a win and without any real losing chances. **19.Bxg4 Rg8 20.Bd4 f5 21.Bf3 e6 22.Rfel Kf7 23.Be5 Qc8 24.Rd6 Re8 25.Red1 Qc5 26.Rd7+ Re7 27.Bd6 1-0.**

Jia,Hao (1783) - Thornton,Giovanni A (2209) [C01]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 The Exchange variation has undergone a bit of a renaissance in recent years. **4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3**

c6 6.h3 Be7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Nbd7 10.0-0 Nb6 11.Bb3 Nfd5 11...Nbd5 is more common. 12.Bc2 Be6 13.Ne4 Nb4 14.Neg5 Nxc2 15.Qxc2 g6



I think 15...Bxg5 was better. After 16.Nxg5 g6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 we have a similar position to the game but with the important difference that White lacks a knight and the black knight might well dominate White's bishop. The black squares around his king can be defended comfortably by Black. Still, not an easy decision to take. 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Re1 Qd5 18.Re5 Qd7 19.Qe2 Bf6 20.Rxe6 Rae8 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.Qd1 Kh8 A bit of a waste of a move. 23.Bf4 Re4 24.Be5 Bxe5 25.dxe5 Qxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Nd5 27.Kf1 Kg7 28.Rd4 Rxd4 29.Nxd4

29...Nb4? Instead, 29...Kf7 keeps the white knight out of e6, and puts a little pressure on the e-pawn. 30.Ne6+! Kf7 31.Nd8+ Ke7 32.Nxb7 Nxa2 32...Ke6 33.f4. 33.Nc5 Now White has an attacking fortress; the black queenside majority is going nowhere and White has plenty of time to bring up his own king and advance his kingside majority. 33...Nb4 34.Ke2 Nd5 35.g3 h5 36.f4 h4 37.Kf3 hxg3 38.Kxg3 Ne3 39.Kh4 Kf7 40.Kg5 Nc4 41.b3 Nd2 42.e6+ Kg7 43.e7 Kf7 44.e8Q+ Kxe8 45.Kxg6 a5 46.f5 Nf3 47.f6 Ne5+ 48.Kg7 1-0.

Round 3: The top board game Watson-Hague reached an ending with Q+R+4P each with both sides having a passed pawn. Bruce's king was exposed but his strong passed pawn on d6 gave him dynamic equality – until he blundered the pawn that is. Wang gained the advantage and easily refuted John Duneas's attempts to free his position. Thornton bounced back, defeating Ben Lim. Several players, including Jia, took half-point byes. Scores after 3 rounds: Hague & Wang 3; Jia 2½; Watson, Garbett, Gao, Thornton, Duneas, Lim, McCrone 2.

Wang,Puchen (2379) - Duneas,John

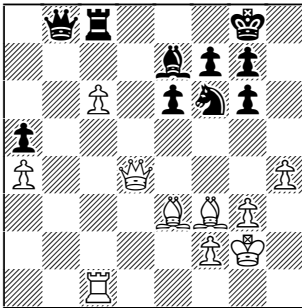
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(2195) [D12]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3
e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.g3 Nbd7
9.Bg2 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2 a6 12.Bd2
b5 13.b3 Qe7 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4
16.Bxe4 Rac8 17.a4 Nf6 18.Bg5 Qd7
19.Bf3 Bb4 20.Rad1 bxa4 21.bxa4 Qc7
22.Rb1 a5 23.Bf4 Qa7 24.Be3 Qa6
25.Rfd1 Rfd8 26.h4 c5 27.dxc5 Rxd1+
28.Qxd1 Qxc4 29.Rc1 Qa6 30.c6 Be7
31.Qd4 Qa8 32.Kg2 Qb8



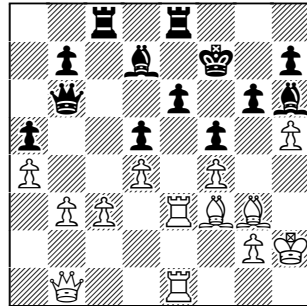
33.Qb6 Nd5 34.Qxb8 Nxe3+ 35.fxe3
Rxb8 36.c7 1-0.

Round 4: The big clash was Hague-Wang,
a tense struggle where Ben waited too long
to strike:

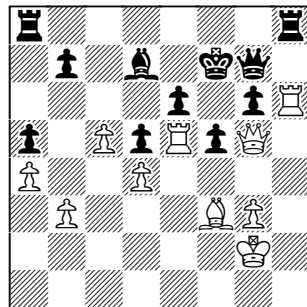
Hague,Ben (2399) - Wang,Puchen (2379)
[B13]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6
5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Qb3 Na5 8.Qa4+
Nc6 9.Qb3 Na5 10.Qa4+ Bd7 11.Qc2 g6
12.Nf3 Bg7 13.0-0 0-0 14.Nbd2 Rc8
15.Rfe1 Nc4 16.h3 Bb5 17.Nf1 Re8 18.a4
Bc6 19.N1d2 e6 20.Ne5 Nxe5 21.Bxe5 a5
22.Nf3 Bh6 23.Bh2 Nd7 24.Ne5 Nxe5
25.Bxe5 f6 26.Bg3 Bg7 27.f4 Qd7 28.b3

Qd6 29.Qf2 Qf8 30.Re3 Bd7 31.Be2 Bh6
32.Bf3 Kg7 33.h4 Qd6 34.Bg4 Qb6
35.Qb2 Re7 36.Rae1 Kf7 37.Kh2 Ree8
38.Qb1 Rc6 39.Bf3 Rcc8 40.h5 f5



41.Qb2 Or 41.Kh1!? Qd6 42.Qc1 Bxf4
43.Bxf4 Qxf4 44.Bxd5! Qg5 (44...exd5?
45.Re7+ Rxe7 46.Rxe7+ Kxe7 47.Qxf4+-)
45.Bf3 Bc6 is about equal. 41...Qc7 42.c4
42.Qc1 doesn't work with the king on h2
but the text move gives White
compensation for the pawn. 42...Bxf4
43.Bxf4 Qxf4+ 44.g3 Qd6 45.c5 Qf8
46.Qd2 Ra8 47.Re5 Qg7 48.Qe3 Qf6
49.Qh6 Kg8 50.Kg2 Rad8 51.Rh1 Qg7
52.Qd2 Ra8 53.hxg6 hxg6 54.Qg5 Kf7
55.Rh6 Rh8

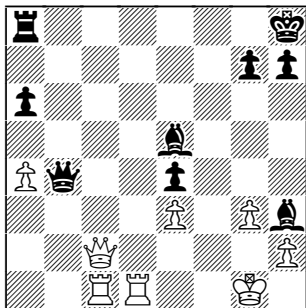


56.Rh4 I imagine the timer was influencing
decisions by now, but White really needed

to "have a go" before Black can simplify too much. There were several ways, e.g. 56.Rxf5+ exf5 (56...gxf5 57.Bh5+) 57.Bxd5+ Ke8 58.Rxh8+ Qxh8 59.Qxg6+ Ke7 60.Qd6+ with perpetual check.; or maybe 56.Rxh8 Rxh8 57.Bxd5 Bc6 (57...Rh5?? 58.Qd8+-) 58.Bxc6 bxc6 59.Kf3 Rb8 60.Qe3 and the position is pretty much balanced. **56...Qf6 57.Qxf6+ Kxf6 58.Rxh8 Rxh8** The simplification has hugely enhanced the value of Black's extra pawn. **59.Re1 Rb8 60.Rc1 Bc6 61.Be2 e5 62.dxe5+ Kxe5 63.Bb5 Kd4 64.Kf3 Re8 0-1.**

Hao Jia was at it again, this round's victim being John Duneas. Jia overlooked the loss of an exchange but his advantage was so great that it didn't really matter. Lim-Watson featured a nice finish:

Lim,Benjamin U (2108) - Watson,Bruce R (2373)



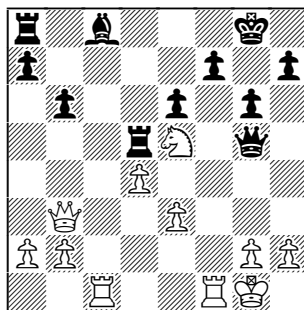
Black has just "obtained" two bishops for a rook but now comes a beautiful finish: **28.Qc8+!! Qf8** Otherwise it's mate in 2 or 3 moves. **29.Qxh3 h6 30.Rf1 Qe8 31.Qf5 Bf6 32.Rc4 Rd8 33.Rxe4 Qc6 34.Re6 1-0.**

Jeff McCrone's gambit never looked like

succeeding until a Garbett mistake led to very messy play with first McCrone and later Garbett in the box seat, Paul eventually winning. Like Garbett, Hans Gao won his third game in a row:

Gao,Hans (2236) - Thornton,Giovanni A (2209) [C05]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Bd3 c5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Ngf3 cxd4 7.cxd4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3 Nb4 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Be4 Nd5 13.Qd3 g6 14.Ne5 Qd6 15.Nc4 Qe7 16.Rac1 Rd8 17.Na5 Bg5 18.Qb3 Bxe3 19.fxe3 Qg5 20.Bxd5 Rxd5 20...exd5 was the only move, giving his bishop a chance to breathe. **21.Nc4 b6 22.Ne5**

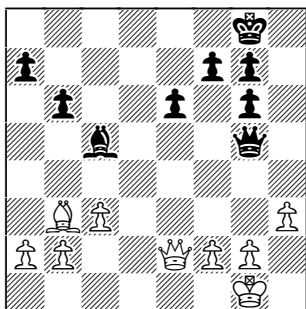


22...Rxe5 Probably Black had no choice about the exchange sac as 22...f6 runs into 23.Qa3 with a winning attack. **23.dxe5 Bb7 24.Rf2 Qxe5 25.Qc3 Qxc3 26.Rxc3 f5 27.Rc7 Be4 28.Rd2 Bd5 29.a3 a5 30.Rdc2 b5 31.Re7 Bc4 32.a4 Bb3 33.Rcc7 Bxa4 34.Rg7+ Kh8 35.Rxh7+ Kg8 36.Rcg7+ Kf8 37.Rxg6 Bb3 38.h4 1-0.**

Leading scores after 4 rounds: Wang 4; Jia 3½; Hague, Garbett, Gao, & Lim 3; Runcan & Leo Zhang 2½.

Final round: The top board saw the second seed and second-bottom seed playing for the major money. Serial nuisance Hao Jia finally came unstuck when he forgot to do a blunder check. Nevertheless, he scored a 2400+ performance rating with his 3 points from 4 played games. Puchen showed a bit of rust but was still a class act, never looking to be in any real danger.

Jia,Hao (1783) – Wang,Puchen (2379)



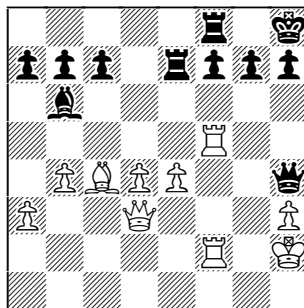
White wants to play g2-g3 but realises the pin on his f-pawn precludes this straight away. So he prepares it with **29.Kh2** and after **29...Qf4+** came, without further thought, the typical human-type error **30.g3??** A pity (for Hao) because the game was completely equal after the forced **30.Kg1. 30...Qxf2+ 31.Qxf2 Bxf2** The opposite colour bishops will not be enough to save White as Black will obtain connected passed pawns without too much trouble. **32.Kg2 Be1 33.Bc2 f5 34.g4 Kf7 35.Kf3 Kf6 36.c4 e5 37.Ke2 Bh4 38.b4 e4 39.c5 bxc5 40.bxc5 Ke5 41.Bb3 f4 42.c6 Bd8 43.Bc2 f3+ 44.Kf2 Kf4 45.Bd1 g5 46.Kg1 Kg3 47.Kf1 Ba5 0-1.**

The next two pairings were fights for at least a share of second place, in the

assumption that Puchen was not going to lose. Garbett didn't have too much trouble dismantling Lim's Najdorf Sicilian but Hague was not quite able to finish off Gao. Thus Paul took clear second place; maybe the Swiss Gambit will become a regular feature in his repertoire in future? Ben and Hans finished on 3½ points to tie with Hao Jia for third place and they were joined by Daniel Runcan who defeated Leo Zhang.

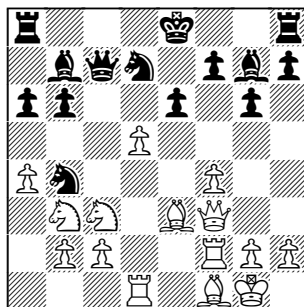
Gao,Hans (2236) – Hague,Ben (2399) [C01]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bg4 9.Be3 Nc6 10.0-0 Qd7 11.h3 Bh5 12.a3 Ba5 13.g4 Nxg4 14.b4 Nxe3 15.fxex3 Bb6 16.Kg2 Rae8 17.Qd3 Qd6 18.Nh4 Qh6 19.Nf5 Qg5+ 20.Kh2 Bg6 21.Nd5 Kh8 22.Ra2 Ne7 23.Ndxe7 Rxe7 24.e4 Bxf5 25.Rxf5 Qh4 26.Raf2



26...Qxe4 The computer comes up with **26...Rxe4! 27.Qg3** (Not **27.Rxf7 Qxf2+!** **28.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 29.Kg3 Rxd4 30.Qb3 Rdd2** and the black pieces have a field day) **27...Qxg3+ 28.Kxg3 Bxd4 29.Rf1 f6** and Black should be able to win from here. **27.Rxf7!** **27.Qxe4 Rxe4 28.Rxf7 Rxf7 29.Rxf7 g6 30.Bd5 Rxd4 31.Bxb7** is also a

draw, but Hans's move gives Ben a chances to go wrong – which he doesn't take!
27...Rxf7 28.Rxf7 Qe8 29.Qe4 Qd8 30.Bd3 Kg8 31.Re7 Qd6+ 32.Kg2 Qg6+ 33.Qxg6 hxg6 34.Bxg6 Rf6 35.Re8+ ½-½.



Garbett,Paul A (2332) - Lim,Benjamin U (2108) [B82]

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f4 e6 7.Qf3 Qb6 8.Nb3 Nc6 9.Bd3 g6 10.Be3 Qc7 11.0-0 Bg7 12.a4 Nd7 13.Rf2 b6 14.Rd1 Bb7 15.Bf1 d5 16.exd5 Nb4

17.Qe2! Bxc3 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.bxc3 Nc6 20.Bd4 0-0 21.Qxe6+ Rf7 22.Bc4 Nd8 23.Qe2 Kf8 24.Bxf7 Nxf7 25.Re1 Bd5 26.f5 Bc4 27.Qe7+ Kg8 28.fxg6 hxg6

Crosstable

Pos	NAME	Rtg	T	Fed	Pts	1	2	3	4	5
1	Wang, Pu Chen	2379	IM	NZL	5.0	+W20	+B7	+W11	+B3	+B5
2	Garbett, Paul A	2332	IM	NZL	4.0	-W7	+B17	+W12	+B18	+W10
3	Hague, Ben	2399	FM	NZL	3.5	+B19	+W15	+B9	-W1	=B4
4	Gao, Hans	2236	--	NZL	3.5	-B6	+W22	+B7	+W8	=W3
5	Jia, Hao	1783	--	NZL	3.5	+B13	+W8	=BYE	+B11	-W1
6	Runcan, Daniel I	1949	--	ROU	3.5	+W4	-B9	=BYE	+B20	+W14
7	Ang, Alphaeus WeiErn	1973	--	NZL	3.0	+B2	-W1	-W4	+B17	+W20
8	Thornton, Giovanni A	2209	--	NZL	3.0	+W16	-B5	+W10	-B4	+W18
9	Watson, Bruce R	2373	FM	NZL	3.0	+B23	+W6	-W3	-B10	+W16
10	Lim, Benjamin U	2108	--	NZL	3.0	+B12	+W24	-B8	+W9	-B2
11	Duneas, John	2195	--	NZL	2.5	+B25	+W14	-B1	-W5	=B15
12	Gong, Daniel	1880	--	NZL	2.5	-W10	+BYE	-B2	=W13	+B21
13	Li, William (Xiang W	2060	--	NZL	2.5	-W5	=B16	=W17	=B12	+W23
14	Zhang, Leo	1858	--	NZL	2.5	+W18	-B11	=W20	+B21	-B6
15	Bennett, Hilton P	2100	CM	NZL	2.5	+W21	-B3	=BYE	=B16	=W11
16	Johns, Daniel P	1930	--	NZL	2.0	-B8	=W13	+B22	=W15	-B9
17	Timergazi, Layla	1889	--	NZL	2.0	=B22	-W2	=B13	-W7	+B24
18	McCrone, Jeffrey	2086	--	NZL	2.0	-B14	+W23	+B24	-W2	-B8
19	Milligan, Helen	2049	WFM	NZL	2.0	-W3	=B21	=BYE	+W24	--
20	Evans, David J	2034	--	NZL	1.5	-B1	+W25	=B14	-W6	-B7
21	Taylor, Richard	1862	--	NZL	1.5	-B15	=W19	+B25	-W14	-W12
22	Krstev, Antonio	2157	--	NZL	1.5	=W17	-B4	-W16	-B23	+W25
23	Gunn, Neil J	1989	--	NZL	1.5	-W9	-B18	=BYE	+W22	-B13
24	Cooper, Nigel	1692	--	NZL	1.0	+BYE	-B10	-W18	-B19	-W17
25	Gilmour, Mark	1922	--	NZL	1.0	-W11	-B20	-W21	+BYE	-B22

29.Rf6 1-0.

Christopher Riding scored a convincing victory in the 18-player B-grade (under 1800) tournament conceding his only half-point to Half-point Bye on Saturday night. Harry Cui took a clear second place, conceding two draws along the way, and Karl Holdo had third place to himself. Leading scores: 1 C.Riding 4½; 2 H.Cui 4; 3 K.Holdo 3½; 4-8 Allen Fan, Hilton Jacobs, Paul Kamberi, Bella Qian & Aaron Wang 3.

The Junior Rapid (30 minutes + 5 sec/move) was a one-day event on the Saturday. This seems a reasonable idea since most of these players usually play something between rapid and blitz however much time they are given. This tournament was limited to players under 12 years with rapid ratings below 1200. There weren't really any surprises in the top placings: 1 Nicole Qin 4½/5; 2-5 Alex Fu, Rodney Li, Brijesh Sivabalan & Jack Sun 4; 6 Jennifer Zhang 3½ . . . 27 players.

Miscellaneous Editorial Musings – by Bill Forster

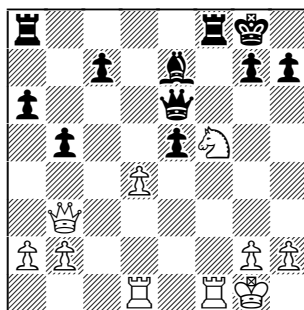
Let's take a look at an attractive win from the glittering career of New Zealand's only Grandmaster (so far...)

Chandler,Murray - Nunn,John

Naestved, 1985

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6

5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6
9.Nbd2 Nc5 10.c3 d4 11.Bxe6 Nxe6
12.cxd4 The present-day Encyclopaedia of
Chess Openings also recommends [12.Nb3
dxc3 13.Qc2 Qd5 14.Qxc3 Bb4 15.Qe3 0-
0 In the game, White plays more naturally.]
12...Ncxd4 13.Ne4 Be7 14.Be3 Nf5
15.Qc2 At the moment Black has no time
for 15...Nxe3 in view of the check on c6
15...0-0 16.Rad1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Qc8
18.Nd4 Nxd4 19.exd4 Qe6 20.Ng3 f6?
White has retained the initiative and
straightened out his pawn structure. At this
point it was imperative for Black to attack
the centre with 20...c5. Instead he does so
'from the other side'. 21.Nf5 fxe5 22.Qb3!



1-0

Suddenly Black's queen and bishop are two attacked and undefended pieces and, according to the famous principle publicised by Dr Nunn himself, LPDO - Loose Pieces Drop Off. Black may well have felt he was an innocent and blameless victim of the sometimes contrary logic of chess here. After all, before 22.Qb3 he didn't actually have any loose pieces. The bishop was protected by the queen, and the queen is immune from normal loose piece logic since defending it tends to be

pointless - because potential attackers are all of lower value. Except of course for the hostile queen, but then you'd expect to be able to always exchange queens. But in this particular case the queen exchange is interrupted by White capturing the bishop with check as an intermezzo. An important point is that the Black king cannot round up the knight and restore material equality because after 22...Qxb3 23.Nxe7+ Kf7 is illegal due to the file opened by Black's 21st move. Of course 22...Kf7 immediately is legal, and is the only move Black has that defends both pieces. But it is singularly unhelpful, again because of the open 'f' file which now offers White a variety of winning discovered checks.

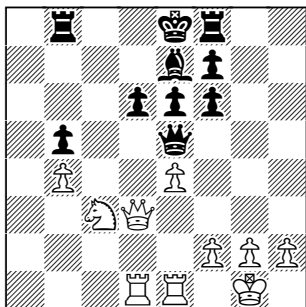
This game with the notes given, (but without my long-winded explanation of Black's resignation – somehow I can't help myself – I find the final position very charming), appears in “The Batsford Book or Chess Records” by Yakov Damsky. Incidentally I haven't noticed this book achieving much of a profile – but it's full of interesting and colourful material - highly recommended. Why is the game a record holder ? According to Damsky it is the longest, serious, not pre-arranged duplicate game on record. Damsky introduces the duplicated games in chronological order. First came Tseshkovsky-Yusupov USSR 1982. Damsky then says “A few years later, [the game] was repeated, move for move, by the no less distinguished English players Murray Chandler and John Nunn in the 1985 Nimzowitsch Memorial. That Nunn didn't know of the game between his fellow Grandmasters from the Soviet Union is obvious; whether Chandler *did* know it, we cannot tell.”

You can no doubt guess what comes next. I planned my introduction carefully so as to give nothing away “So Murray” I said “tell me about Tseshkovsky-Yusopov USSR 1982”. The smile that appeared before any words already basically revealed the answer to Damsky's question: “Ah, the Qb3 game”. Murray recalled with relish how his good friend turned an amusing shade of puce when Qb3 appeared on the board. Apparently the Open Lopez was not a normal part of Dr Nunn's repertoire. Suspicious at this unexpected turn of events, Murray decided to sidestep the possibility of an unpleasant opening surprise by deploying a secondary system he'd been putting some work into. Naturally relatively recent Russian developments had not escaped Murray's attention when he was working on the backup line. Surprised by Murray avoiding his normal line, Dr Nunn found himself on his own in an unfamiliar opening. In a way I suppose he did well to stay on known theoretical paths all the way to move 22 ! Murray concluded his enjoyable recollections by observing that John Nunn's dark mood did not lighten at all when Murray revealed his preparatory notes after the game, including of course Tseshkovsky-Yusupov.

While we are on the subject of New Zealanders playing under the English flag, young Sue Mararoa-Jones produced a notable tournament result recently, with a 2400+ performance rating in an English Open. Her results included an even score against three titled players (GM- IM+ and FM=), but the following game was the one that really grabbed my attention. It features a particularly brutal concluding attack.

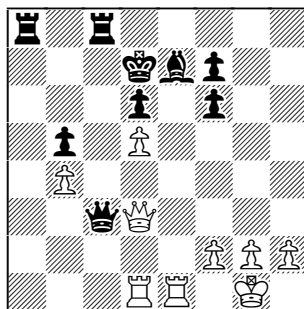
**Maroroa, Sue (2099) -
Fernandez, Michael (1942)**
e2e4.org.uk Bedford Open Park Inn Hotel

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+
Qxd7 5.0-0 Nc6 6.c3 Nf6 7.Re1 Ne5 8.d4
Nxf3+ 9.Qxf3 e6 10.Qg3 Rc8 11.Bg5 Be7
12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Qg7 Rf8 14.Qxh7 cxd4
15.cxd4 Qa4 16.Nc3 Qxd4 17.Rad1 Qe5
18.Qh3 b5 19.Qd3 Rb8 20.a4 a6 21.axb5
axb5 22.b4

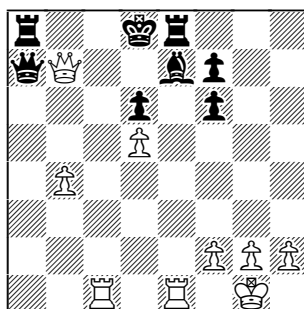


A finely balanced thematic looking Sicilian position. Amongst other questions we could ask, are Black's centre pawns a mass or a mess? **22...Kd7?** Understandably Black wants to connect rooks, but this asks too much of Black's position **23.Ra1** [Missing 23.Nd5!! which wins here, for example 23...exd5 24.exd5 Qf4 25.g3 Rg8 26.Ra1 with unanswerable threats] **23...Rfc8 24.Nd5!** Not quite as strong here, but still a fantastic move to play. This thematic idea, the main point of which is to open the e-file, is one of the classic Sicilian sacrifices. In this setting it is a genuine sacrifice, Black has the option of clinging to an extra piece and White's compensation comes from the attacking opportunities the opened lines create. **24...exd5** Actually a mistake. Grovelling is a viable option in

this position (it wasn't after 23.Nd5!! which is the reason that was stronger than 24.Nd5!). **25.exd5 Ra8!** Black was no doubt relying on this clever back rank resource **26.Rad1!** [26.Qxb5+ is tempting but much weaker] **26...Qc3**



27.Qe2!! This non-obvious move is the only way to win. **27...Re8** [or 27...Bf8 28.Qxb5+ Kd8 29.Rc1!! Qxc1 30.Qe8+ Kc7 31.Rxc1+ Kb7 32.Qd7+] **28.Qxb5+** White has skilfully delayed this capture until now so that Black has to move his king between his rooks, destroying his co-ordination **28...Kd8 29.Rc1 Qd4 30.Qb7 Qa7**



Has Black managed to cover everything? **31.Rc8+!** Almost, but not quite! **1-0**

Stalemate! – by Herman Claudius van Riemsdijk

‘Zero Tolerance’ is clearly the most hated rule among chess players. In the last page section ‘Just Checking’ of New in Chess magazine it is the beloved answer to the question “What is the stupidest rule in chess?” I was really surprised by the answer of world champion Zsuzsa Polgar (New in Chess 2010, issue 7, page 114): “Stalemate!” in a single word with no explanation at all.

Surprised, because it is my favorite rule! I quote Edward Lasker in his preface of *The Adventure of Chess*, one of the most adored chess books written ever: “...A famous Philosopher admitted that his liking of the game involved a paradox. Theoretically a philosopher ought to admire chess because it leaves nothing to chance, because reason and logic triumph. But again and again, after having done his best to find the strongest move, his own reasoning had proved unreliable. His conclusion was that he liked chess for its uncertainties. For him it held the charm of the unforeseen...”

No bigger paradox in chess than stalemate! It’s like life. You do (almost) everything right and then, at the end, something spoils it all: a fatal disease; a world crisis; the girl (guy) you love finds somebody more attractive than you; the reader can go on...

Very often the disaster occurs because of mistakes, even blunders but how common also it is that you induce your opponent to err. It makes our game at the same time divine and so immensely human!

Let’s think about how it would change the whole game if stalemate was a loss rather than a draw. The advantage of a simple pawn would be enough: no ‘key squares’ at all. I would never have written ‘The Final Countdown’. Any stupid rook pawn would give you a win. Two knights would win. Even a sole bishop (Kb6, Ba4 against Kb8: white stalemates in three!) or knight would win in many positions...

It was not always like this. I quote Harold Murray in *History of Chess* (page 60) “... From al-‘Adli we learn that the Indian rules varied in two particulars from those of Baghdad. One of these variations relates to *Stalemate*, a situation without parallel in war, which is a consequence of the limited area of the board, and the method of play by alternative moves. The rules regarding Stalemate have varied all through the history of the game, and this old Indian rule by which the victory is given to the player whose King is stalemated, illogical as it is, reappeared in England from 1600 to 1800...”

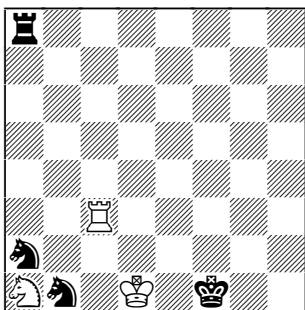
In 15th and 16th Century in Spain, Stalemate (mate ahogado) was an inferior kind of victory. Only later on, in Italy, the so called Lombard Chess ruled stalemate as a draw. But the great breakthrough was under the influence of Englishman Jacob Henry Sarratt. At the beginning of the 19th Century the London Chess Club declared in their code of rules that stalemate is a draw. Later Lewis and George Walker published these rules. This and many other small

differences were universalized at the International Chess Congress of London, in 1851. In many other countries there was still some resistance. In my country Brazil only in 1898 (Arthur Napoleão, in *Caissana Brasileira*, page 246), uniformity was reached.

Let's take a look at this little Aristocratic study from Herbstmann:

Herbstmann, Alexandr

"64", 1933



White to play and draw

1.Rf3+ Kg2 White checks until the black King comes to the second rank. **2.Rb3! Nac3+ 3.Kc1 Rxa1** We know that King and two Knights is not sufficient to win against a bare King but each side having another rook, the win comes with ease. **4.Rb2+ Kf3** (Any) **5.Ra2!! Nxa2+** [Of course 5...Rxa2 is stalemate] **6.Kb2** and the rook is lost. And why two Knights do not win against a bare King? Because of stalemate! I ask the reader: cute or not?

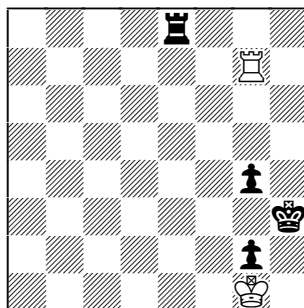
Yes, but I must thank endgame connoisseur Harold van der Heijden who pointed out

that this study was cooked (spoiled as in so many of our games!) recently by the Tablebase of seven pieces. Instead of 3...Rxa1, 3...Rf8 is a win in a very difficult and technical way: a study by its own. I didn't change my article because the essence and elegance of stalemate is so very present. By the way, Van der Weijden's endgame collection contains over 76.000 studies. The reader can find a lot of exciting material in his site: <http://www.hhdbiv.nl/>.

The oldest study I found is from 1634!

Salvio, Alessandro

Study, 1634



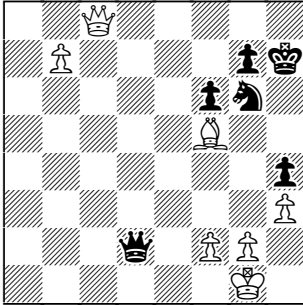
White to play and draw

1.Rh7+ Kg3 2.Re7 The 'Mad Rook', normally it purchases a King but in this case, the target is a Rook **2...Ra8 3.Ra7 Rb8 4.Rb7 ½-½**

We could split stalemate situations in three categories: Getting Stalemate (in most cases blundering into stalemate), Avoiding Stalemate and Missing Stalemate. One of the earliest examples in over the board play

belongs to the second category.

Blackburne, Joseph **Henry** -
Winawer, Szymon
 Berlin 1881

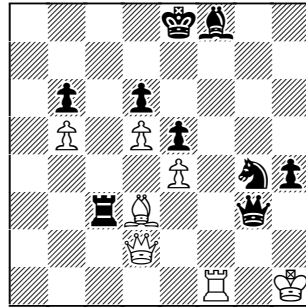


White to play

1.Bxg6+ and black resigned, 1-0. But not **1.b8Q??** (or **1.b8R??**) **Qc1+!** **2.Kh2** (or **2.Qxc1** with stalemate) **2...Qf4+!** **3.Kg1** (or **3.Qxf4**, again with a stalemate) **3...Qc1+** with a very original perpetual check.

A couple of years later on the same players at the board but Winawer wasn't equally alert.

Blackburne, Joseph **Henry** -
Winawer, Szymon
 Dresden 1892

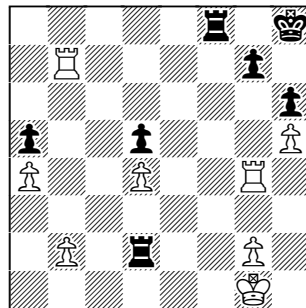


Black to play

1...Rxd3?? **1...Qh3+** **50.Kg1 Bh6** would be an easy win **2.Rxf8+!** **Kxf8** **3.Qh6+** and a draw was agreed, ½-½. Both games were played in the German Congress.

A very nice model from 'avoiding stalemate' happened in the following game:

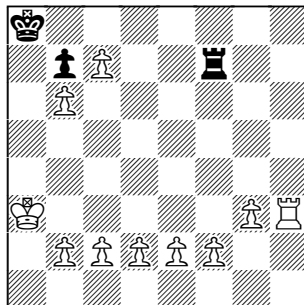
L'Ami, Erwin - **Van Wely, Loek**
 Wolvega, 2010



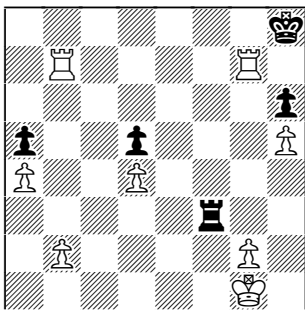
Position after 38...Rg8-f8

39.Rgxg7! **Rf1+** **39...Rxc2+** doesn't work because of **40.Rxc2** **Rf1+** **41.Kh2** **Rh1+**

42.Kg3 Rh3+ 43.Kf4 Rf3+ 44.Ke5 Rf5+ 45.Kd6 Rf6+ 46.Kc5 Rc6+ 47.Kb5 and Black lacks a good check. **40.Kxf1!** Better than 40.Kh2 Rf5 and Black is in the game. **40...Rf2+!** 40...Rd1+ 41.Kf2 Rf1+ 42.Kg3 Rf3+ 43.Kh4 Rh3+ 44.Kg4 Rh4+ 45.Kf5 Rf4+ 46.Ke5 Re4+ 47.Kd6 Re6+ 48.Kc5 Rc6+ 49.Kb5 is the same as above. **41.Ke1!** But not 41.Kg1?? Rxc2+, with a draw. **41...Re2+ 42.Kd1 Rd2+ 43.Kc1 Rc2+ 44.Kb1 Rc1+ 45.Ka2 Ra1+ 46.Kb3 Ra3+ 47.Kc2 Rc3+ 48.Kd2 Rd3+ 49.Ke2 Re3+ 50.Kf2 Rf3+ 51.Kg1**



Black to play; White wins

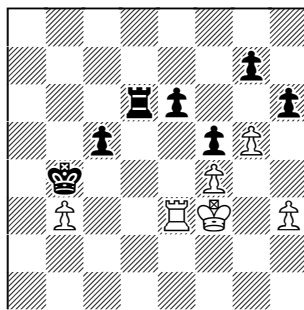


1...Rf3+ 2.e3! The only way to avoid the mad rook is creating the right holes for the King to do his duty! **2...Rxe3+ 3.c3! Rxc3+ 4.Ka2 Ra3+ 5.Kb1 Ra1+ 6.Kc2 Rc1+ 7.Kd3 Rc3+ 8.Ke2 Re3+ 9.Kf1 Re1+ 10.Kg2 Rg1+ 11.Kf3 Rxc3+ White had to get rid of this pawn; now back! 12.Ke2 Re3+ 13.Kd1 Re1+ 14.Kc2 Rc1+ 15.Kb3 Rc3+ 16.Ka2 and yet 16...Ra3+ doesn't work because of 17.Rxa3++.**

Now it becomes clear why 41.Kg1 would have been a bad move: the White King would not be able to escape from the second rank without the Pawn on g2. **51...Rf1+ 52.Kh2 Rh1+ 53.Kg3 Rh3+ 54.Kf4 Rf3+ 55.Ke5 Rf5+ 56.Kd6 Rf6+ 57.Kc5 Rc6+ 58.Kb5, 1-0.** Very clever play by L'Ami! It recalled me immediately a very elegant study from Gallischek.

Gallischek, Otto
Study, 1960

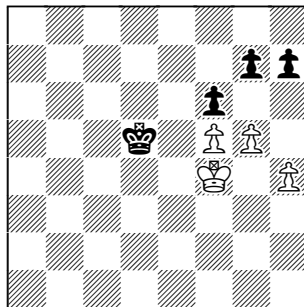
García Toledo, Pedro -
Mecking, Henrique
Mar del Plata, 1969 - Zonal
Tournament



Position after 46...Kb4

Sometimes one must prepare his own way into stalemate:

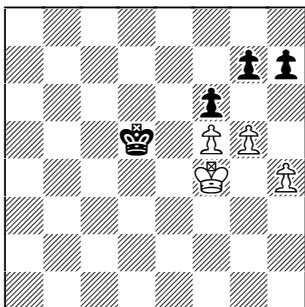
47.g6! Ka3 48.Kg3! Rb6 49.Kh4! Rxb3 50.Rxe6 Rb7 51.Kh5! Kb4 52.h4! c4 53.Rb6+, with a self-arranged stalemate, ½-½. I cannot see a real improvement for Black. Anyhow, García Toledo followed a very well-known pattern. The first time that it occurred at a high level, Chigorin didn't see it!



Position after 53...Kd5

Chigorin, Mikhail - Tarrasch, Siegbert
Ostende (6), 1905

Does it look familiar? **54.Kg4! Ke5 55.g6!**
½-½.

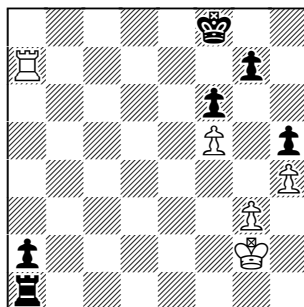


Anand, Vishwanathan
Kramnik, Vladimir
WCh Mexico City MEX (3), 2007

Position after 49...Kd5

50.gxf6?? The correct way was **50.Kg4!**
Ke5 51.g6 h6 52.Kh5 Kxf5: stalemate.
50...gxf6 51.Kg4 Ke4 52.Kh3 Kf4, 0-1.

Graf, Rena - Hasanova, Elmira
Warsaw, 2001



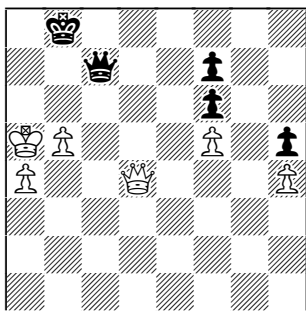
Position after 43...a2

44.Kh2 From here it's not hard to see the final position (stalemate) - several GMs, including yours truly, pointed this out on ICC. This comment is not mine but that from Alexander Baburin in Chess Today. Probably a lot of other players saw it also,

including yours truly. 44...Ke8 45.Kg2 2011
 Kd8 46.Kh2 Kc8 47.Kg2 Kb8 48.Ra3
 Kb7 49.Ra4 Kb6 50.Ra8 Kc5 51.Ra7
 Kd5 52.Ra4 Ke5 53.Ra5+ Ke4 54.Kh2
 Kf3 55.Ra3+ Kf2 56.Ra4 Kf1 57.Kh1
 Ke1 58.Kg2 Kd1 59.Ra7 Rc1 60.Rxa2
 Rc2+ 61.Rxc2 Kxc2 62.Kf3 Kd3 63.g4
 hxg4+ 64.Kxg4 Ke4 65.Kh5! Kxf5 ½-½.

In the same tournament that Chigorin missed a stalemate against Tarrasch he didn't smell danger in the game against Schlechter:

Chigorin, Mikhail - Schlechter, Carl
 Ostende (22), 1905

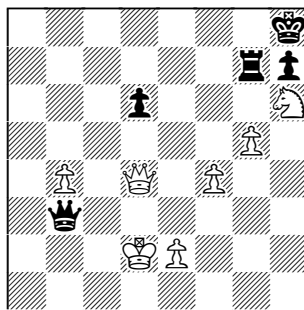


Position after 44...Qc7+

Two pawns up: let's exchange Queens!
 45.Qb6+?? Ka8!, oops..., ½-½

In New Zealand I spotted two interesting positions. The first one brings a lesson: be very careful if you take your opponent's last mobile pawn. In a winning position, Bruce did just that!

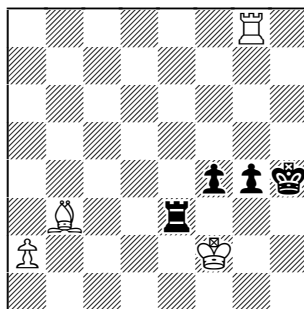
Watson, Bruce - Ker, Anthony
 118th NZ Championship - Auckland,



Position after 42...Qb3

43.Qxd6?? Rd7! and draw was agreed, ½-½. If 44.Qxd7 Qd1+ 45.Kxd1 is stalemate. A nice drawing alternative to 43...Rd7, was 43...Qb2+ 44.Ke1 Qa1+ 45.Kf2 (45.Qd1 Qc3+ 46.Kf1 (46.Kf2 Qd4+) 46...Qh3+ 47.Kf2 Qh2+ 48.Kf3 Qh3+ 49.Kf2 Qh2+) 45...Qd4+! 46.Qxd4 with another stalemate. This nice saving of a lost position was important for Anthony to collect another of his countless NZ titles.

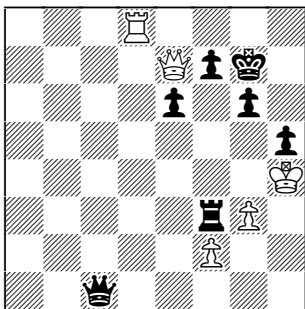
Saidy, Anthony - Nokes, Rogers
 London Lloyds Bank Masters, 1981



White to play

Nokes published this cute stalemate in the July of 2008 magazine (page 34) of **NZC**:
1.Bd1 g3+! 2.Kg2 f3+! 3.Bxf3 Re2+!, ½–½.
2. Kf1 f3 also leads to a draw.

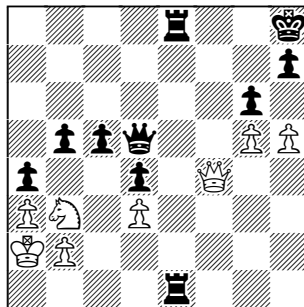
Lazdins,Eriks - Zemitris
Riga, 1936



White to play and draw

This nice example I found in Illescas' chess column in *La Vanguardia* (2009/6/29)
1.Qf8+ Kf6 2.Qh8+ Kf5 3.g4+! hxg4 4.Rd5+! exd5 5.Qc8+ Qxc8, ½–½. Or 5...Ke4 6.Qxc1 Rxf2 7.Kxg4 Rf5, also with a draw.

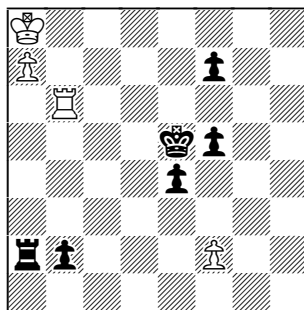
Bartolitsch - Atkins, Henry Ernest
Saint Petersburg, 1902



White to play and draw

Even if you opponent has a mobile pawn, be careful! **1.Qf6+ Kg8 2.Qg7+ Kxg7 3.h6+**: stalemate!, ½–½. Timman knew this!

Matsenko,Sergei - Timman,Jan
Budva, 2009



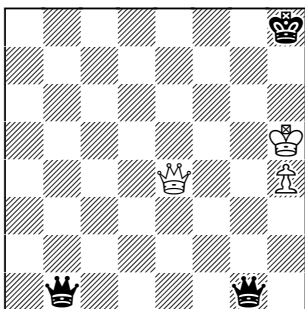
Position after 43...Kf6-Ke5

44.Rxb2!!, ½–½. Baburin points out in *Chess Today* that White can't fight the enemy pawn after 44.Kb7? Kd4 45.a8Q Rxa8 46.Kxa8 Kc3 47.Rc6+ Kb3 48.Rb6+ Ka2 49.Ra6+ Kb1 50.Kb7 f4 and Black

wins. Now it's a draw after 44...Rxb2 45.f4+! winning 92...Qf4+.

Dikarev, BI. - Pelts, Roman

UKR-ch Kiev, 1964



Position after 105...b1=Q

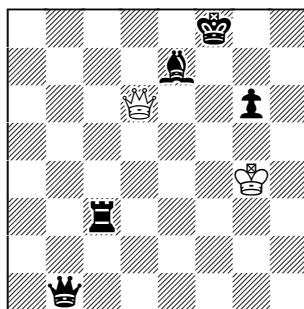
Black just queened erroneously on b1. **106.Qa8+? Qg8** and white resigned, 0-1. The missed draw was 106.Qe5+! Qg7 (Or 106...Kg8 107.Qg7+; 106...Kh7 107.Qg7+) 107.Qb8+ Qxb8; but not 106.Qe8+? Qg8! 107.Qe5+ Kh7! 108.Qe4+ (108.Qe7+ Qg7 109.Qe4+ Qg6+ 110.Qxg6+ Qxg6++) 108...Qg6+ 109.Qxg6+ Qxg6++.

The Queen sacrifice reminds me of an unbelievable example in my own practice which was played while the Fischer-Spassky match was going on. During the third session we reached the following position (see top of next column):

Van Riemsdijk, Herman - Fischman, Michel

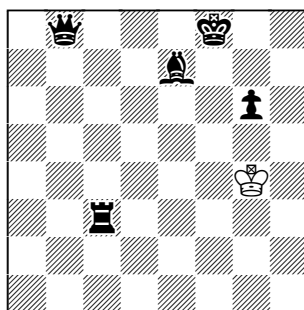
São Paulo State Championship 1972

My opponent had only considered 92.Qf4+ which should be answered with the



Position after 91...Bf6-e7?

The other checks were totally covered by his pieces. The easiest way to win would have been 91...Kg7 92.Qd7+ Kh8 93.Qe8+ Kh7 94.Qd7+ Bg7, winning. Also winning was 94...Kh6 but there are some tricks: 95.Qd2+ g5 (95...Re3 96.Qxe3+ g5 97.Qh3+ Kg6?? - 97...Kg7! - 98.Qd3+! Qxd3 =) 96.Qh2+ Kg7? (96...Rh3! 95.Qxh3+ Kg7) 95.Qh6+ Kf7 96.Qg6+ Qxg6 =), but **92.Qb8+! Qxb8**: stalemate!, ½-½. My opponent was fighting for first place with Segal, a draw was a bitter blow.



Maybe the most amazing position I've ever reached in my chess career.

The End: long live Stalemate!

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