

# ***New Zealand Chess***

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July 2014

Volume 41 Number 3



**Ben Hague wins the 37<sup>th</sup> Trusts Open**

***Also***

- **Scott Wastney on Openings**
- **Herman van Riemsdijk on Endings**
- ***.... and much more***

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### **Editorial**

Editor: Bill Forster.

Columnists: Scott Wastney, Herman van Riemsdijk.

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## **Fresh Faces**

This issue features a bevy of tournament reports, great new articles from our regular columnists Scott Wastney and Herman van Riemsdijk, and includes some game annotations from players who have never published material in New Zealand Chess Magazine before. Please consider writing a tournament report or annotating an exciting game. Or even contributing a different type of article completely. The magazine thrives when there is a variety of contributions from different sources.

Cover Photo Credit: Simon Lyall

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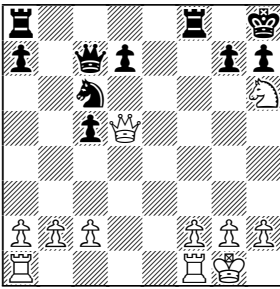
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# Chess Olympiad Tactics – by FM Scott Wastney

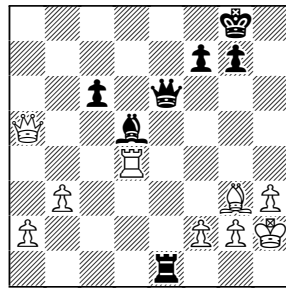
Are you our next Olympian? Test yourself from some games from the Olympiad.. The side to move must force the win of material or checkmate. In some cases it is only winning a pawn, but as we all know, this can be enough to win a game. The star rating system is described on the right:

- ★ A clever idea, but not much to calculate.
- ★★ Requires some calculation, but the calculation is fairly straight forward.
- ★★★ Needs to be carried out in a precise way to take into account defensive resources, or the forced sequence is quite long.

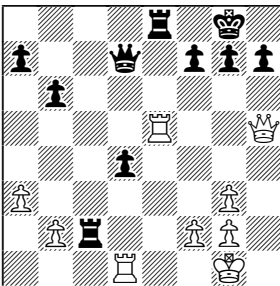
Solutions are on page 24



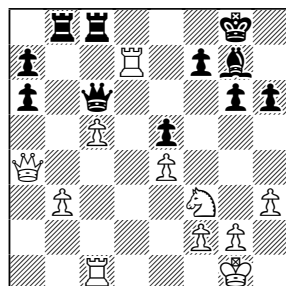
**No. 1** White to move ★  
Hale – Oberholzer (2009)



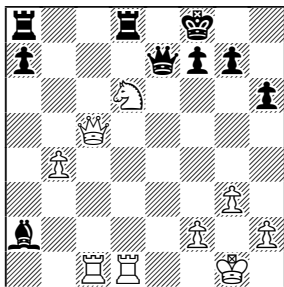
**No. 2** Black to move ★  
Agnelo (2225) - Izijk (2026)



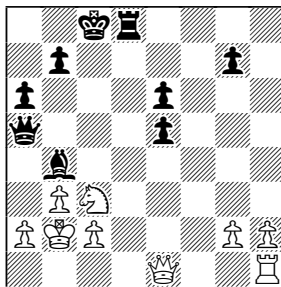
**No. 3** White to move ★  
Oliveira (2031) - Nekrasova (2076)



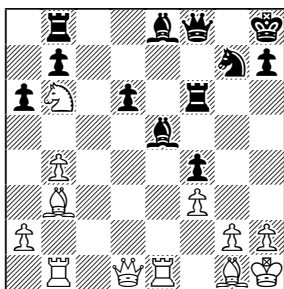
**No. 4** White to move ★  
Vocaturo (2587) – Steel (2399)



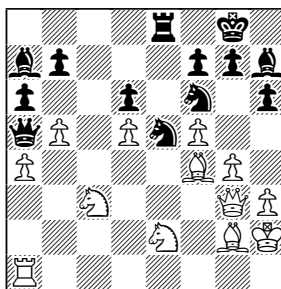
**No. 5** *White to move* ★★  
Coppola (2190) - Shrestha (2137)



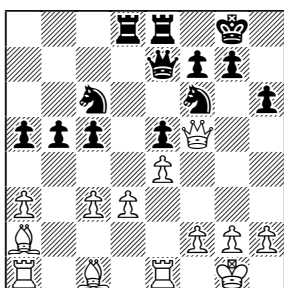
**No. 6** *Black to move* ★★  
Ahmadjan (2031) - Perera (2081)



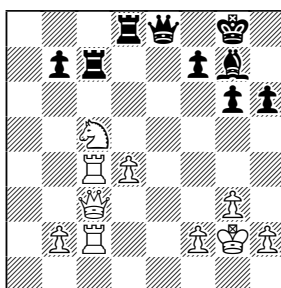
**No. 7** *White to move* ★★  
Ikeda (2402) - Olebile (2144)



**No. 8** *Black to move* ★★  
Karttunen (2437) - Filippov (2615)



**No.9** *White to move* ★★  
Salinas Herrera (2398) - Khouri (2225)



**No. 10** *Black to move* ★★★  
Le Quang Liem (2710) - Adams (2740)

## The 37<sup>th</sup> Trusts Open – by FM Bob Smith

**A**nother strong field gathered in West Auckland over Queens Birthday Weekend for the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the Trusts Chess Open, the country's richest weekender. Top seed was IM Russell Dive, followed by defending champion FM Ben Hague. Others who might threaten included IM Paul Garbett, FM Mike Steadman and tournament organiser, FM Bob Smith. Another one to watch was newcomer Kirill Polishchuk, who had shown good form in some recent rapid events, while Canada's Gordon Morrell could not be discounted.

In all 96 players from as far away as Dunedin competed in four separate

tournaments. This was a little disappointing for the organising club, Waitakere, which had gambled on the usual turnout of over 100. The prize-fund was a generous \$6000 – more than double what most other weekenders offer - despite the West Auckland Trusts withdrawing its funding after more than 30 years. The Trusts did, however, contribute some fine wines, which were raffled over the weekend to slightly reduce the loss on the event.

This year the tournament moved back to the Te Pai Centre, and is already booked in there for Queen's Birthday Weekend next year. Hopefully the Centre will become the new permanent home for the Trusts Open,

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after a couple of uncertain years. That the tournament was again able to be held in a venue befitting its status was due almost entirely to the support of the Trusts Community Foundation, while thanks are also due to the Charnwood Trust for once again contributing to the event.

The strength of the A tournament can be judged by the fact that NZ Major Open Champion Paul MacDonald could manage only one win and a bye from six rounds, while Papua New Guinea Olympiad representative, CM Helmut Marko, fared even worse, with a bye and one draw.

But they weren't the only ones to suffer, as usual in a tournament with such depth the hiccups began as early as round one.

### Round 1

Alphaeus Ang took the first upset prize by beating John Duneas, despite being outrated by over 200 points. Notable draws included Mark Gilmour versus Gino Thornton (317 points difference), WFM Viv Smith against Antonio Krstev (248), and Simon Lyall with Roger Perry (228). Most of the leading players had little trouble – even Bob Smith avoiding the cursed organiser's first round slip.

### Round 2

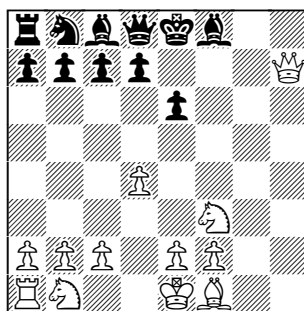
Polishchuk showed his mettle by holding Dive to a draw, while Hague, Garbett, Smith, Steadman, and Morrell all notched up their second wins. Further down the boards Duneas continued his horror start. This time Allen Fan won an upset prize, despite a rating difference of 425.

### Round 3

On Sunday morning even the notorious Vega pairing system didn't stop the leaders fighting it out. They had little choice, as the tournament rules required them to play at least 30 moves each before concluding peace. In any case, Hague seemed to have no thoughts of peace, as he outbooked Steadman to score a steady win. Dive bounced back with a convincing victory over Morrell, while Smith-Garbett was a balanced affair that ended with repetition. This left Hague in the sole lead, with Dive, Garbett, Smith, Polishchuk, Thornton, Perry and Hilton Bennett breathing down his neck. Some of this leading pack had resurfaced after an early "swiss gambit", and were only now raising their heads above the parapet.

### Ben Hague – Mike Steadman

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.h3 Nf6 4.g4!? fxg4  
5.hxg4 Nxg4 6.Qd3 Nh6?! 7.Bg5 Be7  
8.Bxh6 gxh6 9.Rxh6 Bf8 10.Rxh7 Rxh7  
11.Qxh7



11...Qe7 12.Qh5+ Qf7 13.Qxf7+ Kxf7  
14.Nc3 d6 15.e3 Bd7 16.0-0-0 Na6  
17.Bd3 Be7 18.Rg1 Rg8 19.Rxg8 Kxg8  
20.Bxa6 bxa6 21.Kd2 Be8 22.Ne1 Kg7  
23.Nd3 Kf6 24.d5 a5 25.Nf4 e5 26.Ne6 c5

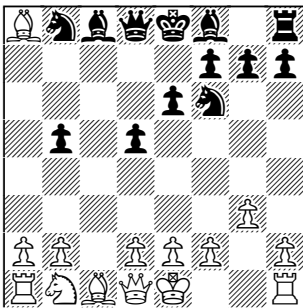
27.Nc7 Bd7 28.N7b5 a6 29.Ne4+ 1-0

### Round 4

The top board clash on Sunday afternoon was Garbett against Hague. Paul unwisely repeated a variation from an earlier inter-club victory and found Ben ready, waiting and salivating. Despite Garbett's best efforts he couldn't quite hold the endgame. Meanwhile Dive dropped another draw, this time to Perry. Smith had a flashy win over Bennett, while Polishchuk and Thornton drew a wild encounter. Going into the final day the leader, with a perfect score, was Hague, followed by Smith half a point behind. Dive, Polishchuk, Steadman, Thornton, Perry and CM David Vincenti were all on 3/4.

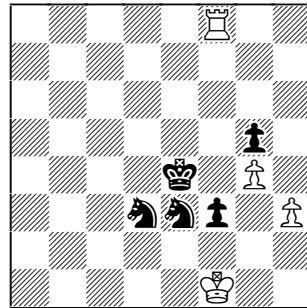
### Paul Garbett - Ben Hague

1.Nf3 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 a6 4.Bg2 b5 5.cxb5 axb5 6.Nd4 c6 7.Nxb5 cxb5 8.Bxa8 d5



This interesting position has occurred before - Black has scored heavily, because although it takes a while to round up the stranded bishop - it inevitably drops off eventually. 9.Qc2 Bd7 10.Bb7 Qb6 11.Bc8 Bc6 12.a4 bxa4 13.Nc3 Bd6 14.Nxa4 Qc7 15.b4 Qxc8 16.b5 Bb7 17.Qxc8+ Bxc8 18.Ba3 Ke7 19.0-0 Bd7 20.Rfb1 Rc8

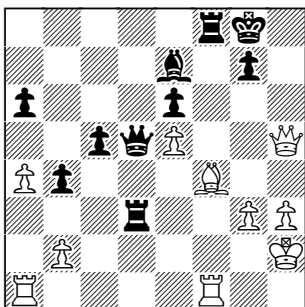
21.Nb6 Rc7 22.d3 Rb7 23.Nxd7 Nbx d7 24.Bxd6+ Kxd6 25.Ra6+ Ke7 26.Rc6 Ne8 27.f3 Nc7 28.Kf2 Rxb5 29.Ra1 Rb7 30.d4 Nb5 31.Rd1 Nd6 32.Rc2 Rb4 33.g4 Nc4 34.Rd3 Rb2 35.Rxb2 Nxb2 36.Rb3 Nc4 37.e3 f6 38.Ke2 e5 39.Kd3 Ke6 40.e4 Ncb6 41.Rb5 dxe4+ 42.Kxe4 Nc8 43.dxe5 Nxe5 44.Kf4 Nd6 45.Rb8 g5+ 46.Kg3 Ng6 47.Ra8 h6 48.Ra7 f5 49.Ra1 f4+ 50.Kf2 Ne5 51.Rh1 Ndc4 52.Ra1 Nd2 53.Ra6+ Kd5 54.Rxh6 Ndx f3 55.h3 Ke4 56.Re6 Nd4 57.Re8 f3 58.Rg8 Nd3+ 59.Kf1 Nc2 60.Rf8 Ne3+



An unusual pair of all-conquering octupi 61.Kg1 f2+ 62.Kh2 Nf4 0-1

### Hilton Bennett - Bob Smith

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 a6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.g3 d5 6.e5 Nh6 7.Bg2 Nf5 8.d3 b5 9.0-0 h5 10.Ne2 Qb6 11.c3 Bb7 12.Qe1 Rd8 13.h3 Be7 14.Kh2 d4 15.cxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 Bxg2 18.Kxg2 Rxd4 19.Qe2 Qd8 20.f5 Qd5+ 21.Kh2 Rxd3 22.fxe6 fxe6 23.a4 b4 24.Bf4 0-0 25.Qxh5



25...Rxf4! 26.gxf4 Rd2+ 0-1

### Round 5

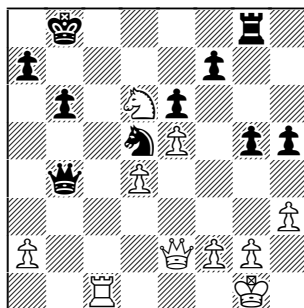
In the crucial round five encounter Hague played solidly with white and eventually taught Smith the lesson he should have learnt decades ago: castling is almost invariably a good move! This result left the organisers slightly nervous; they were already losing money and the \$150 bonus offered for a picket fence was in serious jeopardy. Meanwhile Dive must have slept well across the road at the Quality Hotel Lincoln Green, where a discount was offered to all participants. His win over Vincenti was a model of quality controlled chess. Grandmaster Murray Chandler later chose this game as the best of the whole tournament, netting Russell a special \$100 prize.

Polishchuk joined Dive in a tie for second by beating Steadman, while in another surprise Perry also kept up with a comprehensive win over Thornton. Garbett's hopes of a prize vanished when he drew with Bennett, while Morrell's second loss – to Krstev – also ended his chances. So going into the final round Hague was assured of at least a tie for first.

A point behind were Dive, Polishchuk and Perry. And on 3.5/5 and also hoping to get into the major prizes were Smith, Krstev and Alex Huang, who had been paired down for a couple of games after a loss in round three.

### Ben Hague – Bob Smith

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 d5 4.e3 Be7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Qb6 7.Qc2 h6 8.Bh4 Nc6 9.Nbd2 cxd4 10.exd4 Bd7 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Qb1 Qd8 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Ng8 15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Nf3 Qb6 17.Re1 Nc6 18.Qc1 g5 19.h3 Rg8 20.Qd2 Qd8 21.Qe2 h5 22.Nh2 Rh8 23.Rad1 Qe7 24.Qe3 b6 25.b4 d4 26.cxd4 Nxb4 27.Be4 Bc6 28.Rc1 Kd7 29.Bxc6+ Rxc6 30.Rxc6 Kxc6 31.Nf3 Rg8 32.Nd2 Nd5 33.Qe2 Qb4 34.Rc1+ Kb7 35.Nc4 Kb8 36.Nd6



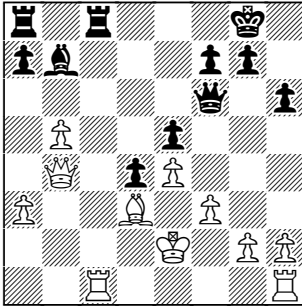
36...Qa4 Best, since otherwise Qc2 wins immediately, but White now wins material. 37.Qxh5 Qd7 38.Qxf7 Qxf7 39.Nxf7 Nf4 40.Kf1 g4 41.hxg4 Rf8 42.Ng5 Rg8 43.Nh3 Rxg4 44.Nxf4 Rxf4 45.Rc6 Rxd4 46.Rxe6 Rd2 47.g4 Rxa2 48.g5 Ra4 49.f3 Rc4 50.g6 Rc7 51.Rf6 b5 52.Rf7 1-0

### David Vincenti – Russell Dive

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.a3 Bxc5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Bg5 h6



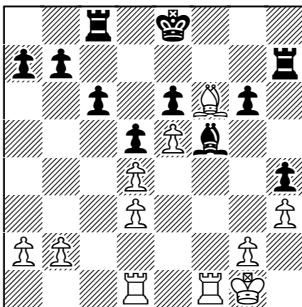
9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.Ne4 Qe7 11.Nxc5 Qxc5  
 12.b4 Qh5 13.e3 d5 14.b5 Ne5 15.Nxe5  
 Qxe5 16.Rd1 b6 17.c5 bxc5 18.Qxc5 Bb7  
 19.Bd3 Rfc8 20.Qb4 Qc3+ 21.Ke2 Qf6  
 22.Rc1 e5 23.f3 d4 24.e4



24...Qg5! 0-1

### Kirill Polishchuk - Mike Steadman

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.exd5 exd5  
 5.h3 Bf5 6.Nf3 Nb4 7.Bd3 Nxd3+ 8.exd3  
 Nf6 9.Ne5 c6 10.Qf3 Be6 11.0-0 Be7  
 12.Ne2 Nd7 13.Qg3 Bf6 14.f4 g6 15.Qe3  
 Qe7 16.Ng3 Bxe5 17.fxe5 h5 18.Qg5  
 Qxg5 19.Bxg5 h4 20.Ne2 Rh5 21.Bf6 Bf5  
 22.Nf4 Rh7 23.Bg5 Nf8 24.Rad1 Rc8  
 25.Bf6 Ne6 26.Nxe6 fxe6

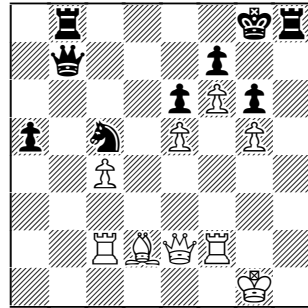


27.Rf4 c5 28.Bxh4 cxd4 29.Rd2 Rhc7

30.g4 Rc1+ 31.Kg2 R8c2 32.Rff2 Rxd2  
 33.Rxd2 g5 34.Bxg5 Bh7 35.Bh4 1-0

### Hilton Bennett- Paul Garbett

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.f4 b5 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2  
 e6 6.Qe2 Nc6 7.Nf3 Rc8 8.d3 Be7 9.0-0  
 Nf6 10.h3 Nd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Nd1 Qc7  
 13.Bd2 h5 14.c3 dxc3 15.bxc3 d5 16.e5  
 Nd7 17.a4 bxa4 18.Rxa4 Nc5 19.Ra2 g6  
 20.Rc2 a5 21.Nf2 Ba6 22.Rb1 0-0 23.g4  
 hxg4 24.hxg4 Bh4 25.c4 dxc4 26.dxc4  
 Rb8 27.Rf1 Kg7 28.f5 Rh8 29.f6+ Kg8  
 30.g5 Bxf2+ 31.Rxf2 Bb7 32.Bxb7 Qxb7

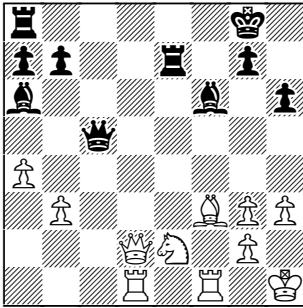


33.Rh2! forcing a draw 33...Rxb2 34.Qxh2  
 Qf3 35.Qh6 Qg4+ 36.Kf1 Qf3+ 37.Kg1  
 Rb1+ 38.Rc1 Rxc1+ 39.Bxc1 Qg4+  
 40.Kf1 Qxc4+ 41.Kg2 Qc2+ 42.Kh3  
 Qd3+ 43.Kg2 Qe2+ 44.Kg1 Qg4+ 45.Kf1  
 Qc4+ 46.Kg2 Qc2+ 47.Kh3 Qd3+ 48.Kg2  
 Qe2+ 49.Kg1 1/2-1/2

### Roger Perry – Gino Thornton

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3  
 Bd7 6.Be2 f6 7.0-0 Qc7 8.Bf4 Nge7 9.Bg3  
 Nf5 10.exf6 Nfg3 11.f7+ Kd8 12.fxg3 Be7  
 13.c4 cxd4 14.cxd5 exd5 15.Kh1 Bf6  
 16.Na3 Rf8 17.Qd2 Qb6 18.Rad1 h6  
 19.Nb5 Rxf7 20.Nbxd4 Re7 21.Nb5 d4  
 22.h3 Ke8 23.Nfxd4 Nxd4 24.Bh5+ Kf8  
 25.Nxd4 Kg8 26.b3 Qc5 27.Bf3 Be8

28.Ne2 Bb5 29.a4 Ba6



30.b4! Winning the Ba6 30...Bg5 31.bxc5 Bxd2 32.Rxd2 Rae8 33.Re1 Re3 34.Kg1 Ra3 35.Rd4 Kh8 36.Kf2 Ra2 37.h4 Rc2 38.Re4 Rc8 39.Rc1 Ra2 40.g4 Rf8 41.Kg3 Bd3 42.Re3 Ba6 43.Nf4 Rd8 44.Ng6+ Kg8 45.Re4 Bd3 46.Rb4 Bxg6 47.Rxb7 Rxa4 48.c6 Bf7 49.c7 Rc8 50.Rb8 Be6 51.Bd5 Rxc4+ 52.Kh2 Bxd5 53.Rxc8+ Kh7 54.Rh8+ Kg6 55.c8Q 1-0

### Round 6

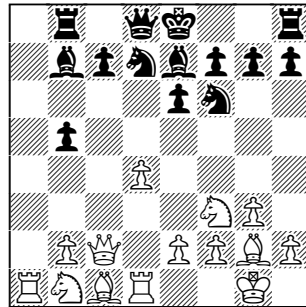
If Dive wanted a share of first only a win over Hague would do. But after five tough rounds Russell decided not to tempt fate, especially against a player seemingly on fire. So after just 16 moves Chief Arbitrator FA Bruce Pollard approved a draw by repetition, despite the tournament rules. (Ed: Presumably a genuine draw by repetition is actually not contrary to tournament rules?). This ensured Hague his third Trusts Open title in as many years.

In another critical game Polishchuk converted an early advantage against Perry, ensuring him clear second. Smith appeared to be in trouble against Huang after wasting an opening advantage. However some inaccuracies by Huang allowed him to

clinch the victory he needed to share third with Dive. Krstev joined them when William Li went badly astray in an equal position. The first grade prize was shared by Bennett and Nathan Goodhue. In the final round Goodhue struck a blow for the older generation by beating improving junior Leo Zhang, while Hilton had one of his best wins, beating Steadman in fine style with black.

### Russell Dive – Ben Hague

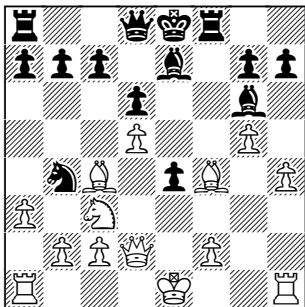
1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 dxc4 4.Qa4+ Nd7 5.Qxc4 a6 6.Qc2 Rb8 7.Nf3 Ngf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.d4 b5 10.a4 Bb7 11.axb5 axb5 12.Rd1



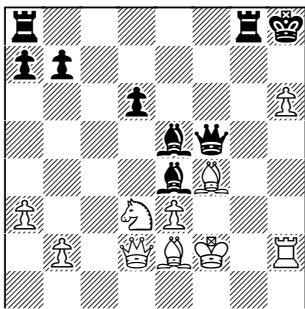
12...Be4 13.Qb3 Bd5 14.Qc2 Be4 15.Qb3 Bd5 16.Qc2 Be4 Three-fold repetition ½-½

### Roger Perry – Kirill Polishchuk

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Nf6 4.d4 d6 5.Nc4 fx4 6.Be2 Bf5 7.Nc3 Be7 8.g4 Bg6 9.g5 Nfd7 10.h4 Nb6 11.Bf4 Rf8 12.Qd2 Nc6 13.d5 Nb4 14.a3 Nxc4 15.Bxc4



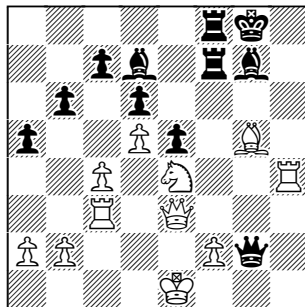
15...e3! 16.fxe3 Nxc2+ 17.Kf2 Nxa1  
18.Bb5+ Kf7 19.Rxa1 Kg8 20.Be2 Qd7  
21.Kg3 c5 22.h5 Bf7 23.Rh1 h6 24.gxh6  
Bf6 25.hxg7 Kxg7 26.h6+ Kh8 27.Ne4  
Rg8+ 28.Kf2 Be5 29.Nxc5 Qf5 30.Nd3  
Bxd5 31.Rh2 Be4



32.Rh5? Rg2+ 33.Kf1 Qxh5 34.Bxh5  
Rxd2 35.Nxe5 dxe5 36.Bxe5+ 0-1

### Mike Steadman – Hilton Bennett

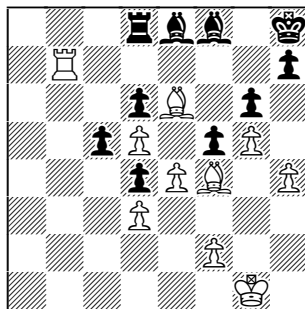
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2  
0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5 Na6 8.g4 Nc5 9.Bf3 a5  
10.h4 Ne8 11.h5 f5 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.gxf5  
gxf5 14.Qe2 Nf6 15.Bg5 Qd7 16.Rh4 fxe4  
17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Nxe4 19.Rxe4  
Qf5 20.Qe3 Bd7 21.Ne2 Qf3 22.Ng3 Bg4  
23.Rc1 b6 24.Qd2 Bd7 25.Rc3 Qg2  
26.Qe3 Rf7 27.Rh4 Raf8 28.Ne4



28...Qg1+! 29.Ke2 Bg4+ 30.Rxg4 Qxg4+  
31.Kd2 Rf3 32.Qe2 Rxf2 33.Nxf2 Qxg5+  
34.Kc2 Qg2 0-1

### Paul Garbett – Peter Stuart

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Nc6 4.Nc3 e5 5.d3  
d6 6.g3 g6 7.Nd5 Bg7 8.Bg2 Nge7 9.0-0  
0-0 10.a3 a5 11.Bg5 f6 12.Bd2 b6 13.b4  
Nxd5 14.cxd5 Nd4 15.Nxd4 exd4 16.bxa5  
bxa5 17.Qc2 Bd7 18.Rab1 Qc7 19.Rb2  
Rfb8 20.Rfb1 a4 21.Bf3 Qa7 22.Bf4 Bf8  
23.h4 Rb3 24.Rxb3 axb3 25.Qxb3 Qxa3  
26.Qxa3 Rxa3 27.Rb7 Be8 28.Bg4 Ra8  
29.Be6+ Kh8 30.g4 Rd8 31.g5 f5



32.e5! Bg7 33.exd6 Ba4 34.Rc7 1-0

So tournament champion Ben Hague collected yet another big cheque - \$900 -

## Trusts Open - A Grade

Pos	NAME	Rtg	T	Fed	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Hague, Ben	2385	FM	NZL	5.5	+W7	+B17	+W15	+B6	+W4	=B3
2	Polishchuk, Kirill	2200	--	NZL	5.0	+W24	=B3	+W5	=B16	+W15	+B8
3	Dive, Russell J	2451	IM	NZL	4.5	+B20	=W2	+B11	=W8	+B7	=W1
4	Smith, Robert W	2342	FM	NZL	4.5	+W18	+B12	=W6	+B9	-B1	+W13
5	Krstev, Antonio	2103	--	NZL	4.5	=B22	+W30	-B2	+W23	+B11	+W17
6	Garbett, Paul A	2345	IM	NZL	4.0	+B37	+W10	=B4	-W1	=B9	+W19
7	Vincenti, David	2017	CM	MLT	4.0	-B1	+W38	+B22	+W10	-W3	+B16
8	Perry, Roger L	2074	--	NZL	4.0	=W31	+B35	+W17	=B3	+W16	-W2
9	Bennett, Hilton P	2110	CM	NZL	4.0	=B30	+W25	+B23	-W4	=W6	+B15
10	Goodhue, Nathan	2138	--	NZL	4.0	+W36	-B6	+W24	-B7	+W22	+W18
11	Morrell, Gordon	2248	--	CAN	3.5	+W34	+B29	-W3	=B19	-W5	+B28
12	Lim, Benjamin U	2126	--	NZL	3.5	+B33	-W4	-W29	+B21	=W14	+B26
13	Huang, Alex	2103	--	NZL	3.5	=W35	+B31	-W16	+B32	+W26	-B4
14	Duneas, John	2198	--	NZL	3.5	=B29	-W23	+B34	+W30	=B12	+W27
15	Steadman, Michael V	2307	FM	NZL	3.0	+B27	+W19	-B1	+W29	-B2	-W9
16	Thornton, Giovanni A	2207	--	NZL	3.0	=B25	+W32	+B13	=W2	-B8	-W7
17	Li, William Xiang We	2184	--	NZL	3.0	+W38	-W1	-B8	+B36	+W25	-B5
18	Zhang, Leo	1999	--	NZL	3.0	-B4	+W33	=W26	+B28	=W19	-B10
19	Stuart, Peter W	2122	NM	NZL	3.0	+W21	-B15	+W36	=W11	=B18	-B6
20	Milligan, Helen	2049	CM	NZL	3.0	-W3	-B24	=B38	+W31	+B23	=B25
21	Tionko, Efrain	1891	--	AUS	3.0	-B19	=W27	=B30	-W12	+B38	+W33
22	Smith, Vivian J	1855	WFM	NZL	2.5	=W5	=B28	-W7	+B24	-B10	=W32
23	Fan, Allen Chi Zhou	1773	--	NZL	2.5	=W28	+B14	-W9	-B5	-W20	+B36
24	Power, P Wayne	1983	--	NZL	2.5	-B2	+W20	-B10	-W22	=B30	+W35
25	Gong, Daniel Hanwen	1989	--	NZL	2.5	=W16	-B9	=W31	+B33	-B17	=W20
26	Yang, Scott	2165	--	NZL	2.5	-B32	+W34	=B18	+W27	-B13	-W12
27	Guico, Leonides	1994	--	NZL	2.5	-W15	=B21	+W35	-B26	+W32	-B14
28	Gibbons, Robert E	2072	--	NZL	2.5	=B23	=W22	=B32	-W18	+B35	-W11
29	Ang, Alphaeus Wei(W)	1981	--	NZL	2.0	+W14	-W11	+B12	-B15	--	--
30	Gilmour, Mark	1890	--	NZL	2.0	=W9	-B5	=W21	-B14	=W24	=B31
31	Lyall, Simon	1846	--	NZL	2.0	=B8	-W13	=B25	-B20	=W36	=W30
32	Zhang, William Jiewe	1965	--	NZL	2.0	+W26	-B16	=W28	-W13	-B27	=B22
33	Rider, Brett	1942	--	NZL	2.0	-W12	-B18	+B37	-W25	+W34	-B21
34	Macdonald, Paul	1993	--	NZL	2.0	-B11	-B26	-W14	+W37	-B33	+BYE
35	Cooper, Nigel	1885	--	NZL	1.5	=B13	-W8	-B27	+W38	-W28	-B24
36	Hair, Philip I	1944	--	NZL	1.5	-B10	+W37	-B19	-W17	=B31	-W23
37	Marko, Helmut S	2002	CM	PNG	1.5	-W6	-B36	-W33	-B34	+BYE	=B38
38	Sticholls, Leighton	1965	--	NZL	1.0	-B17	-B7	=W20	-B35	-W21	=W37

## NZ Senior Championships (page 13)

Pos	NAME	Rtg	T	Fed	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Steadman, Michael V	2307	FM	NZL	6.0	+B16	+W13	=B4	+W3	+W2	+B9	=W6
2	Garbett, Paul A	2345	IM	NZL	5.5	+B15	+W9	=B3	+W5	-B1	+W4	+B11
3	Smith, Robert W	2342	FM	NZL	5.0	+W19	=B6	=W2	-B1	+W10	+W11	=B4
4	Morrell, Gordon	2248	--	CAN	4.5	=W12	+B18	=W1	+W11	+B7	-B2	=W3
5	Bennett, Hilton P	2110	CM	NZL	4.5	=W18	+B12	=W10	-B2	=B6	+W7	+W9
6	Gibbons, Robert E	2072	--	NZL	4.0	+B14	-W3	=B11	=B18	=W5	+W15	=B1
7	Taylor, Richard	1850	--	NZL	4.0	-W10	+B8	+W12	+B19	-W4	-B5	+W14
8	Booth, Anthony J	1689	--	NZL	4.0	-B11	-W7	+B20	+W13	--	+B18	+W12
9	Cornford, Lindsay	1970	--	NZL	3.5	+W17	-B2	+W15	=B10	+W19	-W1	-B5
10	Stuart, Peter W	2122	NM	NZL	3.5	+B7	=W11	=B5	=W9	-B3	--	+W15
11	Spiller, Paul S	2013	CM	NZL	3.0	+W8	=B10	=W6	-B4	+W18	-B3	-W2
12	Carpinter, Bernard	1852	--	NZL	3.0	=B4	-W5	-B7	+W16	=B15	+W19	-B8
13	Power, P Wayne	1983	--	NZL	3.0	+B20	-B1	-W19	-B8	+W17	-B14	+W18
14	Roberts, Michael H	1759	--	NZL	3.0	-W6	-B19	-W17	+B20	+B16	+W13	-B7
15	Cooper, Nigel	1885	--	NZL	2.5	-W2	+W20	-B9	+B17	=W12	-B6	-B10
16	Smith, Vivian J	1855	WFM	NZL	2.5	-W1	=B17	-W18	-B12	-W14	+BYE	+B20
17	Ansell, David	1231	--	NZL	2.5	-B9	=W16	+B14	-W15	-B13	-W20	+BYE
18	Goffin, Peter B	1819	--	NZL	2.0	=B5	-W4	+B16	=W6	-B11	-W8	-B13
19	Lynn, K William (W)	1863	--	NZL	2.0	-B3	+W14	+B13	-W7	-B9	-B12	--

while runner-up Kirrill Polishchuk took home \$700 (and also a major prize in the wine raffle!).

For their efforts Dive, Smith and Krstev won nearly \$270 each, but that was over \$100 less than the co-winners of the B Tournament, Joy Qin and Johnson Chen. They were both undefeated in scoring 5/6, the same tally posted by joint C Tournament winners Louie Wei and Terry Shen, who shared \$600. Five out of six was also the top score in the Junior Tournament, with Joshua Sheen and Leo Zhang splitting \$350 after Zhang beat his rival in the last round.

## **NZ Senior Champs - by Paul Spiller**

**T**he Howick-Pakuranga Chess Club undertook the organization and sponsorship of this years New Zealand Seniors Chess Championship event which was held at its former clubrooms in the Howick Bridge Club. This venue has previously been host to a number of major tournaments including the New Zealand Junior Championship and the very successful "Chandler Chess Challenge", a homecoming event for Murray Chandler after he achieved his GM title back in the early eighties.

The Howick Bridge Club is located on the main Pakuranga to Howick arterial route, within walking distance of local shops and situated close to a local motel. The venue provided a spacious and quiet environment for four days of intense chess competition.

With the lowering of the age limit threshold by FIDE to 50 years in 2014 for Seniors events the NZ Chess Federation naturally followed suit for this year. It was therefore anticipated that a much larger field would enter for the Howick event. The final entry number of 20 was certainly an improvement on previous years but perhaps a bit disappointing considering the good prize fund on offer (\$1,300) and the introduction of a veterans over 65 prize and trophy. However it was particularly pleasing to welcome many old faces from the past including former NZCF president Peter Goffin, New Zealand representative players Lindsay Cornford and Bernard Carpinter (who travelled up from Napier) and former Seniors Champion William Lynn of Hamilton. Two players, Michael Roberts and Robert List, made the trip up from Wellington.

The tournament was held as a seven round swiss over four days from April 3rd - 7th, with two rounds played per day and the final round held on Monday 7th. It has been suggested that there would have been more entries if the tournament had perhaps been reduced to 6 rounds and restricted to 3 days (one work day involved rather than two) and this is certainly something for future organizers to consider.

### **Round 1**

Everything went pretty much according to ratings although Bernard Carpinter drew with much higher rated Gordon Morrell and Hilton drew against Peter Goffin. Mike Steadman did need to work quite hard against Viv Smith, who appeared to get quite a promising position early on but succumbed later.

## Round 2

The big three (Steadman, Garbett & Smith) won against Power, Cornford and Gibbons respectively but had to work hard for their points. Hilton Bennett built up a strong attack and crashed through against Bernard Carpenter. This left Steadman, Garbett & Smith on 2/2 with Morrell (win against Goffin) Stuart, Spiller and Bennett on 1.5.

## Round 3

Steadman - Morrell, Garbett - Smith, Bennett - Stuart and Spiller - Gibbons all ended in draws. Wayne Power was downed by a resurgent William Lynn after the latter built up a dangerous attack on Wayne's King. Richard Taylor came back into the mix with a win against Bernard.

## Round 4

Mike Steadman and Paul Garbett took the joint lead after their victories over Bob Smith and Hilton Bennett respectively. Gordon Morrell moved to 3/4 with a win against Spiller. Richard Taylor made it 3 wins in a row by beating William Lynn. So leading scores after 4 rounds: Steadman & Garbett 3.5; Morrell & Taylor 3; Bob Smith, Peter Stuart & Lindsay Cornford 2.5

## Round 5

The big clash between Steadman and Garbett resulted in a win for Mike (see annotated games) which now put him in strong contention for the Seniors title. Gordon Morrell defeated Taylor so moved to outright second on 4 points. Lindsay Cornford continued to show good form by defeating William to get to 3.5 points. The Stuart - Smith clash ended unfortunately and dramatically for Peter when he blundered his rook in a balanced ending. So

Steadman 4.5, Morrell 4 and Garbett, Bob Smith and Cornford all 3.5 points.

## Round 6

Mike having already played Garbett, Smith & Morrell was paired against Lindsay and won. Paul Garbett bounced back by defeating Gordon in this round and Bob Smith kept in touch when he defeated Spiller after the latter unnecessarily coughed up a pawn in an even position. Hilton and Bob Gibbons moved into contention for the minor placings by defeating Richard Taylor and Nigel Cooper respectively.

## Round 7

The final round ended a bit anti-climactically when Mike took a quick draw with Bob Gibbons after he realised that he had mistakenly transposed moves in his opening. This did guarantee him outright first and the \$500 prize which was of course richly deserved for defeating the other two 2200+ players in the field. In the other critical games to decide second and third places, Paul Garbett watched Paul Spiller self destruct in a seemingly innocuous opposite colour bishop ending thus finishing in clear second place after Gordon and Bob Smith split the point. Hilton finished strongly by defeating Lindsay Cornford thus tying with Gordon Morrell on 4.5 points to share 4th.

So final placings:

- 1st Mike Steadman: 6 points
- 2nd Paul Garbett: 5.5 points
- 3rd Bob Smith: 5 points
- 4th= Gordon Morrell & Hilton Bennett  
4.5 points
- Veterans Prize (Over 65)

shared between Richard Taylor, Bob Gibbons & Tony Booth 4 points

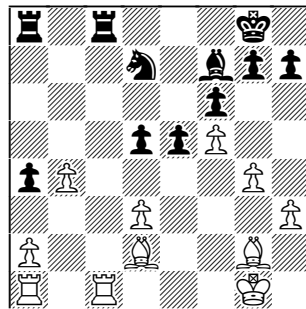
The prize giving was attended by NZCF patron Jim Benson and vice-patron Grant Kerr who distributed the prizes and trophies. The Howick-Pakuranga Chess Club is indebted to IA Keong Ang who efficiently directed the tournament, updated the results and spent hours inputting the games.

The tournament was very hard-fought but at the same time enjoyable and provided an opportunity to renew old friendships and forge some new ones. Thanks to all those who participated, especially those that made the effort to travel from further afield.

### Mike Steadman (2307) – Bob Smith (2342)

Annotated by Mike Steadman  
**1.c4** This was a key game, I hoped Bob would be a bit tired having played Paul in the morning round, but I had White and needed to get on with it. A draw would be good for him, only a win would set the tournament up for me. **1...e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Nc6** Bob forgoes his Kings Indian, I thought we might try that line again, but the last time did not go well at Congress. I have never found this alternative approach very threatening and White can just do his thing. **4.Nc3 Bb4 5.e3** I had looked at this kind of stuff myself and from what I could see taking and doubling the pawns was the only plan that made sense to me, Bob plays it differently though. **5...0-0 (5...Bxc3 6.bxc3 0-0 7.Ne2 d6 8.0-0 Be6 9.d3 Qd7) 6.Nge2 Re8 7.0-0 Bxc3!?** I just couldn't follow this move, if you were going to do

it, to me it should have at least doubled the pawns. I think White in the long run will make Black pay for no dark squared Bishop. **8.Nxc3 d6 9.d3 Bg4 10.Qb3 Qc8 11.Nd5 Nd7 12.Qc3 a5 13.f4** I think with simple moves, White is just better, I will get space easily and the dark squared Bishop is just waiting to be good. Like the French, when the queens Bishop starts getting good, we are on our way to winning. **13...f6 14.h3 Be6 15.f5 Bf7 16.g4 Ne7 17.e4 Nxd5 18.exd5 c6 19.dxc6 bxc6 20.Bd2 d5** I though Bob would do this and I believed it was bad. From here there can only be 2 results and I didn't think Bob would hold this endgame. **21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Qxc8 Rexc8 23.Rfc1 a4 24.b4**



This is what Bob evaluated badly, White has the outside passed pawn and the 2 Bishops, a nasty one to defend. **24...axb3 25.axb3 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 d4 27.b4 Nb6 28.Ra6 Rb8** A weird computer line, too much for us mortals was Black's best chance: (28...Bd5 29.Rxb6 Bxg2 30.Kxg2 Rc2 31.Kf3 Rxd2 32.Ke4 Re2+ 33.Kd5 Rd2 34.h4 h6 35.g5 hxg5 36.hxg5 fxg5 37.Kxe5 Rxd3 38.Rd6 This will trail out to a draw, now it is over.) **29.b5 Be8 30.Ba5 Bxb5 31.Rxb6 Rxb6 32.Bxb6 Bxd3 33.Bd5+ Kh8 34.Kf2 g5 35.fxg6 hxg6**

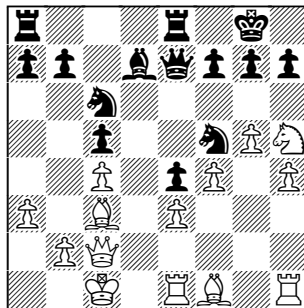
**36.g5 Kg7 37.h4 Bc2 38.Bd8 fxe5 39.hxe5 d3 40.Bf6+ Kf8 41.Ke3 e4 42.Bxe4 Kf7 43.Bxd3 Bb3 44.Kd4** Time to resign, White just marches the King up to f8 and plays Bg8 mate. 1–0

## Michael Steadman (2307) – Paul Garbett (2345)

Annotated by Mike Steadman

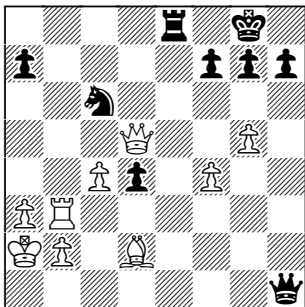
**1.d4** This was the key game now, win this game and the cup was mine. The good thing about my games with Paul, we both always just go for it, so I was confident one of us would win the tournament here today. **1...e6 2.c4 Bb4+** This is a regular with Paul, the Bogó Indian stuff was a favourite of Paul Keres, so can't be too bad. **3.Nd2 Nf6 4.a3 Bxd2+** Not sure about this, unless Black can nail a Knight on e4, this seems to give the dark squared Bishop up and I hoped he would regret this later. **5.Bxd2 d6 6.Qc2 e5 7.e3** I just think White is slightly better here. His game is easy to play and just some unwinding and we should be off. **7...0–0 8.Ne2 Re8 9.0–0–0** The need to win guided this move. Seemed like an all in move, but when I have played Paul in the past he hasn't like to be attacked and this is now a foot race and I thought White would get in first. **9...Qe7 10.f3 c5!?** I just think this is too slow, Black has to start things like a6 and b5 to open up, otherwise White will just roll him over. **11.dxe5 dxe5 12.g4 e4 13.g5 Nfd7 14.f4** I had evaluated this as good for me when Black played c5, hard for Black to put anything on f5, so I went for this, I was right, White is better. **14...Nb6 15.Ng3!?** Maybe I should have stopped the Bishop getting active. (15.h3 Nc6 16.Ng3 Be6 17.Bc3 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Nf5) **15...Bg4 16.Re1 Nc8 17.h3 Bd7!?** He had to get in, even though this

loses control of f5, on d7 his position is lost. (17...Bf3 18.Rh2 Qe6 19.Bc3 Nc6 20.b3 Nd6 21.Qb2 Qg6 22.h4 Who would not want to be White here) **18.Bc3 Nd6 19.Nh5 Nf5 20.h4 Nc6**



**21.Bh3** This is what Paul must have missed on Bd7, g7 falls or he sacs a piece as he did in the game. **21...Nfd4 22.exd4 cxd4 23.Bd2 Bxh3 24.Rxh3 Qe6 25.Rb3 Rad8 26.Kb1** (26.f5 Qxf5 27.Ng3 Qc8 28.Rxe4 Rxe4 29.Qxe4 This was the easy path, but I saw a way to give back the piece and get active again.) **26...Qg4 27.Rxe4 Qxh5 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Rxb7** This is it, I am a pawn up (not for long), but his Knight is undermined and I will get a very active Queen. I was confident I was winning here. **29...Qf3 30.Rb3 Qh5** This was actually Qh1+, but transposes. **31.Ka2 Qxh4 32.Qf5 Qh1 33.Qd5**





The point to note is that all endgames are winning and Black's weak back rank means his Rook is useless. **33...Qe4 34.Rb7 Qe6 35.Rc7 Nd8 36.Qxd4 a6 37.Bc3** And here it is, the bishop so freely given up on move 4 comes home to finish Black off. **37...Qg6 38.Rc8 h5 39.gxh6 Qxh6 40.Rxd8** Game over, rooks and Queens come off the board. A key victory, I was now a point clear and both Bob and Paul needed to still play Gordon. **1-0**

## Wellington Open - by Ian Sellen

**T**he 2014 Wellington Open took place over the Easter weekend at the same venue as last year, the CQ Hotel in the heart of Wellington's semi-Bohemian Cuba Street district. While the venue itself generally lived up to expectations, there was a slight noise problem with a new restaurant that had opened downstairs, where the Sunday morning chefs were preparing for business with loud pounding rap music that boomed its way through the floorboards. It took me a while to locate where the music was coming from, but when I did, they were

polite and turned down the volume promptly.

Unlike in 2013, the Wellington Open was not combined with the North Island Championship, which meant we were able to restrict the length of the tournament to 6 rounds instead of 8, and only play for 3 of the 4 Easter holiday days. We were sort of hoping that this would help to attract more entries, but in the event numbers were actually slightly down on the previous year. What's more, most of the top players stayed away. Of the best Wellington players, Russell Dive was competing in the Doeberl Cup in Sydney, and 2013 champion Scott Wastney is taking time off playing to concentrate on coaching. Our other hope was that Nic Croad would be back from England in time for the tournament but he arrived just a few days too late.

Up until midnight before the tournament was due to start, the top rated was Quentin Johnson on 2153, but on Thursday night outside the chess club, Anthony Ker told me he was planning to participate too. Since his rating is 267 points above Quentin's, there was no doubt about who the favourite to win was.

So, in the end we had 25 entrants – not disastrous, but not especially impressive either. Of the non-locals, it is always good to see Simon Lyall of Auckland, Quentin Johnson and Leyton Nicholls from Dunedin, and Jack James from Palmerston North. In addition, we had one of Malta's strongest players, David Vincenti, although I think he is living in Christchurch at the moment. Roger Perry is registered as an

Auckland player, but he has moved to Wellington, and we are lucky enough to count him as one of our members at the Wellington Chess Club now.

### **Round 1**

All the top seeds squeaked through, some of them more convincingly than others. Philip Rossiter played well on top board against Anthony's Closed Sicilian, and when he exchanged his rooks for Anthony's queen his position was looking quite sound. However, he missed some tactics and Anthony finished nicely. The one upset was down on board 11, where Jack James had a terrible time against under-rated Henry Li. His trademark kingside pawn storm came seriously unstuck, Henry defended calmly, and it was Jack's own king that ended up in the net.

### **Round 2**

The blunder of the tournament was played by me this round – and I wasn't even playing. NZCF rules now dictate that for FIDE rated tournaments Vega software has to be used instead of my old familiar Swiss Perfect. This was my first time using Vega, and somehow I ended up with some sort of accelerated pairing system that pitted the top 2 seeds against each other, instead of putting them on boards 1 and 2 respectively as you would expect. I knew the pairings were wrong, but I couldn't work out how to fix it until round 2 was well underway.

The players were quite understanding, but I Quentin Johnson was understandably upset that he was paired against Anthony so early. As white against Anthony's Pirc, he was doing fine until move 16 where he tried a tactic that didn't work. His king

ended up being hounded from the kingside to the queenside, where he was checkmated after 33 moves. Jack James had another accident, going astray in a dead drawn knight and pawn endgame against an in-form Efrain Tionko.

At the end of the first day there were six players on 2/2, Anthony Ker, Roger Perry, David Vincenti, Leighton Nicholls, Ross Jackson and Efrain Tionko.

### **Round 3**

By Saturday I'd managed to sort out my technical problems, and the pairings started to look much more normal, although I started to compare Vega with Swiss Perfect and noticed that they were still not the same.

This was the round where the most exciting game of the tournament took place, that between Anthony Ker and Efrain Tionko. Another c3 Sicilian, the queens came off early on d1, and Anthony found his king under constant attack in the centre of the board. Fortunes fluctuated, but Efrain missed a clear win towards the end of the game. Anthony returned the favour the very next move, and the game ended in a draw by perpetual. This result kick-started a great tournament for Efrain - he has contributed two annotated games for this article. This result allowed Roger Perry and David Vincenti to go into the lead by beating Ross Jackson and Leighton Nicholls respectively. Roger Perry built up a beautiful advantage based on his rampant bishop pair. Although he missed a most brilliant win, sacrificing a rook and a bishop, he still had Ross in a most terrible bind, soon trapping a knight and winning

## Wellington Open

Pos	NAME	Rtg	T	Fed	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ker, Anthony F	2420	IM	NZL	5.5	+W7	+B2	=W3	+B5	+W4	+W8
2	Johnson, Quentin	2153	--	NZL	5.0	+B9	-W1	+B8	+W20	+B6	+W7
3	Tionko, Efrain	1891	--	AUS	5.0	+B21	+W10	=B1	=W7	+B12	+W4
4	Vincenti, David	2017	CM	MLT	4.0	+W11	+B5	+W15	+W13	-B1	-B3
5	Nyberg, Michael	2030	--	NZL	4.0	+B16	-W4	+B9	-W1	+W21	+B14
6	Jackson, L Ross	2013	--	NZL	4.0	+B22	+W20	-B13	+B14	-W2	+W12
7	Rossiter, Philip E	1831	--	NZL	3.5	-B1	+W22	+W23	=B3	+W15	-B2
8	Timergazi, Layla	1957	--	NZL	3.5	+W24	=B14	-W2	+B16	+W13	-B1
9	Brockway, Andrew	1769	--	NZL	3.5	-W2	=B11	-W5	+B25	+W16	+B18
10	James, Jack	1874	--	NZL	3.5	-W12	-B3	+W19	=B18	+W17	+B13
11	Chen, Wei Kai	1723	--	NZL	3.5	-B4	=W9	-B16	+B19	+W24	+W20
12	Li, Henry	0	--	NZL	3.0	+B10	-W13	+W18	+B15	-W3	-B6
13	Perry, Roger L	2074	--	NZL	3.0	+W18	+B12	+W6	-B4	-B8	-W10
14	Lyall, Simon	1846	--	NZL	3.0	+B23	=W8	=B17	-W6	+B20	-W5
15	Nicholls, Leighton	1965	--	NZL	3.0	+B25	+W17	-B4	-W12	-B7	+W21
16	Farrington, Lawrence	1733	--	NZL	2.5	-W5	=B19	+W11	-W8	-B9	+B24
17	Aldridge, Alan L	1980	--	NZL	2.5	+W19	-B15	=W14	--	-B10	+W23
18	Cunningham, Patrick	1766	--	NZL	2.5	-B13	+W25	-B12	=W10	+B23	-W9
19	List, Robert	1661	--	NZL	2.5	-B17	=W6	-B10	-W11	+B22	+W25
20	Rose, Nathan	0	--	NZL	2.0	+BYE	-B6	+W24	-B2	-W14	-B11
21	Aumeier, Beate	1110	--	NZL	2.0	-W3	-B24	+BYE	+W22	-B5	-B15
22	Capper, David S	1685	--	NZL	2.0	-W6	-B7	+W25	-B21	-W19	+BYE
23	Meravanage, Satwik	0	--	NZL	1.5	-W14	+BYE	-B7	=B24	-W18	-B17
24	Wight, Joshua	1267	--	NZL	1.5	-B8	+W21	-B20	=W23	-B11	-W16
25	Konakanchi, Karthik	1308	--	NZL	1.0	-W15	-B18	-B22	-W9	+BYE	-B19

the game. This was to be Roger's highpoint – he had a disastrous second half to the tournament and lost his last three games. David won a long minor piece and pawn ending to maintain his 100% record. Quentin Johnson came back from his loss to beat Layla Timergazi, and further down the board order Jack James finally got his first win.

Leading scores after 3 rounds: 1-2 David Vincenti, Roger Perry 3/3 3-4 Anthony Ker, Efrain Tionko 2.5/3

### Round 4

The afternoon session had the two leaders battling it out in a rook and pawn ending. It should have been a draw, but Roger went wrong somewhere. Material was still level at the end of the game, but Roger was quite

clearly cornered. Nyberg vs Ker was an exciting tactical affair, where Anthony finally broke through to Michael's queen side castled king and launched a mating attack. Tionko vs Rossiter was a gruelling 77 move draw which ended with Efrain a pawn up but unable to make progress. Henry Li upset Leighton Nicholls to remain in contention on 3 points, along with Ross Jackson and Quentin Johnson who also won their games.

Leading scores: 1. David Vincenti 4/4 2. Anthony Ker 3.5/4 3-6 Ross Jackson, Henri Li, Roger Perry, Quentin Johnson 3/4

### Round 5

This was the crucial round, but also unfortunately the round with the loud rap music booming through the floorboards.

People generally coped well, but it was clear some players were more affected than others.

Ker v Vincenti was another c3 Sicilian, but it rapidly went off in its own direction. The game looked to be heading for a draw, but David failed to swap off the minor pieces into a level rook and pawn ending when he had the chance, leaving Anthony with perfectly placed rook and knight, a powerful passed c pawn and a simultaneous attack on David's king side pawns. So, for the first time in this tournament, Anthony led alone. Jackson v Johnson began peaceably enough, but ended abruptly and violently when Ross failed to find the best defence against Quentin's king side attack. Layla put herself in contention for the first time by defeating early leader Roger Perry. Layla has annotated the game for this article. Efrain Tionko overcame obstinate resistance from Henry Li to stay with the chasing pack. And Philip Rossiter upset Leighton Nicholls, winning in just 20 moves when Leighton forgot about a discovered threat on his rooks from Philip's g2 bishop.

Leading scores 1. Anthony Ker 4.5/5 2-4 Quentin Johnson, Efrain Tionko, David Vincenti 4/5 5-6 Philip Rossiter, Layla Timergazi 3.5/5

## Round 6

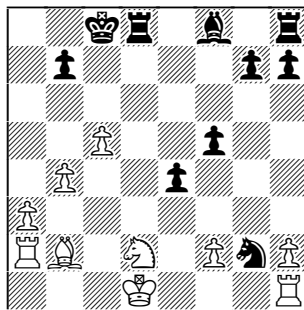
The top place was decided very quickly, as Anthony sacrificed his bishop on h6, leaving Layla's king totally defenceless. Second place was very much up for grabs. Efrain Tionko concluded a great tournament performance by beating David Vincenti with a nice exchange sacrifice. Quentin Johnson had no real problems

beating Philip Rossiter, so it was Efrain and Quentin who ended up tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Finishing strongly were Michael Nyberg (won his last 2 games), Andrew Brockway (won last 3 games), and Jack James (who came back from a disastrous start to score 3.5 out of the last 4 rounds).

## Anthony Ker (2420) - Efrain Tionko (1891)

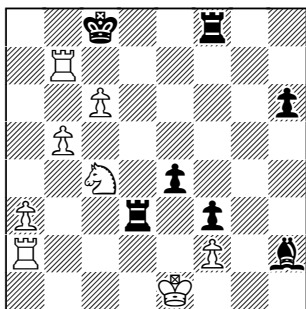
Annotated by Efrain Tionko

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.dxc5** Anthony played this same line and lost against William Li at the NZ Championships in January; suffice to say that I spent some time studying that game and hoped Anthony would repeat! **6...Qxd1+!** This is the principled move, as recapturing on c5 misplaces the queen and gives white a very easy game. **7.Kxd1 e5 8.b4 a5 9.Bb5 Nge7 10.Nbd2 axb4 11.cxb4 0-0-0 12.a3** (12.Bxc6 was played in aforementioned Ker-Li game) **12...Nd4 13.Be2 Bxf3 14.Bxf3 f5** I'd like to claim over-the-board brilliance, but I was actually still in my home preparation here! **15.Ra2 e4 16.Be2 Nd5 17.Bb2 Nxe2 18.Kxe2 Nf4+ 19.Kd1 Nxf2**



I was pretty pleased with the forcing sequence, but I did not expect Anthony's

next move. **20.Bxg7!** just for sheer shock value **20...Bxg7 21.Rg1 Bh6?!** (21...Rd3 immediately might have been better 22.Rxg2 Be5 and white might be in a bit of a pickle down the d-file) **22.Rxg2 Rd3 23.Ke1 Rhd8 24.Nc4 Bf4 25.Ke2 Kb8** Just to get away from a potential check, but I'm not sure if this was necessary. The white knight was probably more required to defend than attack **26.Ne3 Rf8 27.Rg7 h6 28.b5** It was at this point that I started to have some serious doubts about my position, as the queenside pawn storm looked really scary. **28...Bxh2 29.c6 f4** (29...bxc6 would probably have been a good alternative if my king was on c8, but in this position, white can activate his queen's rook with tempo: Ra2-b2+) **30.Rxb7+** yup, the king should have stayed on c8 **30...Kc8 31.Nc4??** Fritz flagged this as a losing move for white, but over the board I thought it was actually black that was in trouble. (31.Rd2 is apparently the only saving attempt, sacrificing the knight 31...fxe3 32.Rxd3 exd3+ 33.Kxe3) **31...f3+ 32.Ke1**



**32...Bc7??** (32...Rg8 as pointed out by virtually everybody else in the post mortem was winning for black 33.Nb6+ Kd8 34.Rd7+ Rxd7 35.cxd7 e3 this is the move

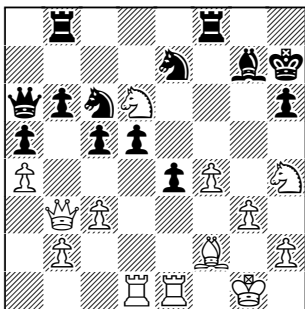
that I didn't see 36.fxe3 Rg1+ 37.Kf2 Rg2+ 38.Kxf3 Rxa2) **33.b6??** Anthony returns the favour (33.Rd2 was winning for white 33...Rxd2 34.Kxd2 Bf4+ 35.Kc3 and black will be mated or will lose material) **33...Rg8 34.Rxc7+ Kb8 35.Rb7+ Kc8 36.Rc7+** Quite a few inaccuracies from both players towards the end, so the result is probably a fair outcome. ½-½

## Efrain Tionko (1891) - David Vincenti (2017)

Annotated by Efrain Tionko

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d3 Nc6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.Re1** This is so far a standard King's Indian Attack position. The KIA is more of a system opening rather than rote memorisation, and is thus ideal for time-poor patzers like me. **7...d6** David was moving quite fast up to this point, which indicated to me that he's quite familiar with this line. (7...d5 is a major alternative, and one that I more commonly play against) **8.Nbd2 0-0 9.c3 e5** So David goes for a Botvinnik setup. I use this same setup as black against the KIA, so was feeling uncomfortable playing against my own opening **10.a3** threatening to play b4, and therefore provoking **10...a5 11.a4!?** By provoking a7-a5, we have created a nice outpost on b5, perhaps for a white knight **11...h6 12.Nc4 Rb8 13.Na3 f5 14.Nb5** Thematic rerouting of the white knight. If black does nothing, the other knight can also move from f3-d2-c4 **14...Be6 15.exf5?!** (In hindsight, I think this was the wrong plan. 15.Nd2 continuing with my planned knight sortie would have been better) **15...gxf5 16.Nh4 d5 17.f4 e4** Now black's marching pawns are cramping white's position. Black is already better. **18.Bh3 Qd7 19.dxe4 fxe4 20.Bxe6+ Qxe6**

**21.Qb3!** I was lucky I had this move, taking advantage of the pin on d5 and giving me time to centralise my pieces **21...Kh7 22.Be3 b6 23.Rad1 Qd7?!** (This slight inaccuracy allowed me to get back into the game. 23...Rbd8 is suggested by Fritz, but it looks like black will lose his b6 pawn in many variations, so it's understandable why David did not go for this line) **24.Bf2 Qb7 25.Nd6 Qa6??**

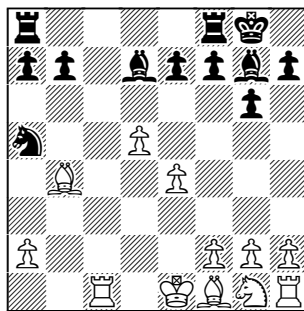


(25...Qc7 and I would have happily repeated positions, as I was not sure I would have enough compensation for the exchange.; 25...Qa8 would probably have forced me to go for the exchange sacrifice, and just hope that I'd be able to convert.) **26.Rxd5** This exchange sacrifice works very easily now because of the misplaced position of black's queen. **26...Nxd5** (26...Rbd8 27.Rdd1+- was perhaps a better try to hold, although white is just a pawn up.) **27.Qxd5 Qa8** (27...Qd3 is suggested by Fritz as black's last attempt to hold 28.Qxc6 Rf6 29.Qxe4+ Qxe4 30.Nxe4 Rf7+-) **28.Qxe4+ Kg8 29.Qe6+ Kh7 30.Qg6+ Kg8 31.Nhf5** David resigns, as he will need to give up too much material to avoid getting mated. An unexpected win for me, giving me a share of second place. **1-0**

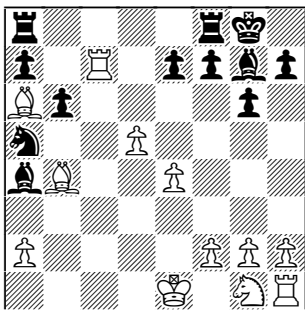
## Layla Timergazi (1957) - Roger Perry (2074)

Annotated by Layla Timergazi

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5** I was surprised by this, I don't see a lot of Grunfelds nowadays. **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Be3** The main book line for this variation is (7.Bg5! c5 8.Rc1 0-0 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.d5 I have studied this, but I prefer the alternative 7.Be3.) **7...c5 8.Rc1 Qa5 9.Qd2** This defends both a2 and d4. **9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qxd2+ 11.Bxd2** I have never ever played Bxd2, I decided to try this because whenever I try 11.Kxd2, after 11...0-0 12.Nf3 I still must develop and black usually moves his rook to d8 and his knight to c6 and he can easily attack me. **11...0-0 12.Be3** Nf3 looked too 'ugly' and I wasn't keen on the fact that Bg4 can slip in at that point. **12...Nc6 13.d5!** I was waiting for him to move Nc6 just so I can push his knight to a square he wouldn't like. If he had played 13...Ne5 my plan was to advance my f pawn so later on I would be able to play e5 with some control of the center. But he played **13...Na5?** I first asked myself-What does that do? I suppose the idea is b6 then Nb7. Here I couldn't decide if I should play Bc5 or Bd2. I ended up playing **14.Bc5 Bd7 15.Bb4**



**15...b6?** I think he rushed a bit, I only spotted that **Rac8** would be good for black during his turn. I thought if (15...**Rac8** 16.**Rxc8** **Rxc8** 17.**Bxa5** **Rc1+!** 18.**Ke2** then 18...**Bb5+!!** I got a bit lucky that he missed it.) **16.Rc7** I was trying to stop him from bringing his rooks out now, so I started this with a threat. **16...Ba4** **17.Ba6!**



The c file is mine! **17...Rfe8** **18.Ne2** **e6** I guess he didn't want to lose the pawn. **19.d6** **Red8** I'm pretty sure his plan was to play **Be5** or **Bf8** grabbing my advanced pawn so I tried to avoid losing it with **20.f4** **e5!** **21.g3** **Bd7** I couldn't quite understand that. **22.Kf2** I am not a fan of castling after the queens have been swapped off in the middle game. **22...Be6** **23.a3** **f5** **24.Rd1** (I'm pretty sure that **24.Bc3** was better allowing **24...fxe4** **25.Bxe5**) **24...fxe4** **25.d7** **Kf7** **26.Nc3** **exf4** **27.Nxe4** **fxg3+** **28.hxg3** **Bg4** I was absolutely stuck here. **29.Rd2** so I just defended. **29...Be5!** His bishops are coming alive **30.Rc8?** This was a bit risky, going into the endgame, his bishops could make me suffer. **30...Rdxc8** **31.dxc8Q** **Rxc8** (If he played **31...Bxc8** I would go **32.Rd8** **Bxa6** **33.Rxa8** **Nc6**) **32.Bxc8** **Bxc8** **33.Ng5+** **Kf6** **34.Nxh7+** **Kf5** **35.Rd8** White has a better ending but now Black lost on time **1-0**

## John Nunn's Chess Course

### *Book Review by Ross Jackson*

GM John Nunn is one of the most respected chess writers. In a contribution to Chess Notes 993, 1985 Nunn commented, "When I started annotating games myself I began to see how difficult it is to write about other players' games. Of course, one can restrict oneself to essentially trivial comments, or fall back on the usual clichés, but really to penetrate the reasoning of another player is very hard." Nunn's latest book "John Nunn's Chess Course", Gambit 2014 - with the cover description, "A complete chess education based on the games of World Champion Lasker" is an outstanding achievement in this regard. Nunn has chosen 100 of Emanuel Lasker's games to illustrate middlegame themes, how strategic and dynamic factors change during the course of a game, and how the resultant endgames are managed. Nunn's writing truly explores Lasker's reasoning, explaining in concise text, why both good moves and errors occur. He explains how Lasker managed and adjusted to circumstances at the board, and how we can learn from such thinking. Lasker was chosen as the subject because, like Magnus Carlsen, he had a universal style, so all types of position appear in his games. Nunn also liked the fact that Lasker's plans were readily understandable. Lasker did not vary his openings much, or (again like Carlsen) especially focus on the critical main lines. So it was possible for Nunn to avoid screeds of opening theory and progress quickly to the middlegame strategies. Lasker was also a fighter. In equal positions

he would manoeuvre such that his opponent would unsuspectingly weaken his position; in inferior positions Lasker would change the character of the game to create complex problems where his opponents might err. This is the reality of chess against human opponents – it is a practical contest, to err is human, and to entice error is one of the skills of the game. The analysis is completely Nunn’s and while there is, of course, coverage of alternative move possibilities, the style is deliberately text oriented. The book reads like a coach verbally expounding ideas as the game, story-like, unfolds; it is not a book of mathematical equations terminating with a plus/equals. Nunn doesn’t aim to provide a comprehensive study of Lasker or his games. The purpose is for the selected games to be a vehicle to improve one’s chess understanding and practical play.

The book is 319 pages long, and has 16 chapters. The first two chapters provide an introduction to the educational object of the book, a brief biography of Lasker (vetted for accuracy by Edward Winter) and give reference and example topopular misconceptions about Lasker’s play. Thirteen chapters cover middle game, end-game and practical chess playing themes, including psychological factors, exemplified in the selection. There are many hints and lessons within each game. The last chapter consists of exercises and solutions. There are indexes of opponents and openings played. The book will be appeal to players with a wide range of strengths. The top chess players understand that learning from the games of the masters is an obligatory foundation for chess education. John Nunn has produced a

superb educational exposition from the games of Emanuel Lasker. This book is special and I give it the highest recommendation. *Look out for an excerpt in the next issue of NZ Chess*

## Olympiad Tactics Solutions

- 1 **1.Qg8+** and black resigned because **1...Rxg8 2.Nf7** mate
- 2 **1...Rh1+** and white resigned because **2.Kxh1 Qxh3** followed by **Qxg2** mate
- 3 White played **1.Rxd4** but after **1...Qc8** black is safe. Instead **1.Qf5!** exploits the overworked black queen and wins at least a rook i.e. **1...Qc8 2.Qxc2**
- 4 The well known “Hook and Ladder” tactic. Imagine the black queen being up a ladder with the rook on c8 holding the bottom of the ladder. White hooks the bottom of the ladder with **1.Rd8+** and black resigns
- 5 **1.Nc8 Raxc8 2.Qxc8** wins the exchange
- 6 **1...Rd1 2.Qxd1 Ba3+** and white resigns
- 7 **1.Rxe5** with the point being **1...dxe5 2.Bc5** and the queen has no squares
- 8 **1...Bf2 2.Qxf2 Nfxg4+ 3.hxg4 Nxg4 4.Kg1 Nxf2 5.Kxf2 Bxf5** and black is winning
- 9 **1.Bxh6 gxh6 2.Qg6+ Kh8 3.Qxh6+ Nh7 (3...Kg8 4.Re3) 4.Qxc6** winning
- 10 **1...b5 2.Rb4 Rxc5 3.Qxc5 Bf8 4.Qxb5 Qe4+ 5.Kg1 Qxc2** winning



## Chess Openings – by FM Scott Wastney

I thought I'd do something different this time around. I did have a request from Anthony Ker for a particular line in the advanced variation of the French defence. I started in earnest to study this line, but without any experience playing the opening with either colour and with 2700+ rated grandmasters playing it, I felt my contribution wouldn't be very useful. Even so it is a work in progress but for this issue I will take a time out to recount some experiences and discuss opening preparation in a more general way. Over time I have collected what I refer to as rules (guidelines). Some are about openings, some to do with combinations and other aspects of chess. Each I have named after a player. I will present a few of them here.

### Sermek's Rule

**'You need two defences against 1.e4, one sharp one solid. And two defences against 1.d4, one sharp one solid'**

This is the advice Drazen Sermek, a Slovenian grandmaster, gave to me when he visited NZ in the 1990's. Good advice I think for back then, but I dismissed this advice and focused on only one opening against 1.d4 and another for 1.e4. It was part of my identity – Scott the player of the Caro-Kann. I guess this is akin to the "job for life" type of mentality that existed for the previous generation. I wrongly assumed that being specialised in one

opening was the right way to go. But all I was doing was making myself a stationary target. Today with strong chess engines and databases, Sermek's advice doesn't go far enough. I recall the top American player Hikiru Nakamura saying he plays five main defences against 1.e4 and five main defences against 1.d4. That's all very well if you are a professional, but Sermek's more modest rule is a good starting point for a young player.

### Rogers' Rule

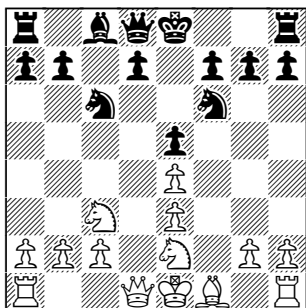
**"Don't be scared of the mainlines, but instead you can use them to your advantage"**

I once worked for a chess coaching business called Chess Kids in Australia. I remember a time when grandmaster Ian Rogers gave a training day for a group of the promising junior players in Melbourne. Ian's advice was not to be scared of mainlines, but to use them to your advantage. He recommended playing the Ruy Lopez as white and presented a game played by Karpov. His advice was to study the games by Karpov to understand the Ruy Lopez. He suggested the method of finding a strong player to model your openings on. Ian suggested Darryl Johansen (the only other Australian grandmaster at that time) as an excellent player to model your black openings on as he plays many games against a whole range of levels and often is expected to win as black. And when playing with white

against the Sicilian he recommended playing the Open variation. He presented the different Sicilian lines. I remember Ian spending time explaining move order subtleties in the Sicilian Dragon. But my ears really pricked up when he moved onto the Sveshnikov variation. Here he showed an off-beat idea:

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Nde2 Bc5 7.Be3 Bxe3 8.fxe3**

This was the very line Ian played against me a few years previously in a rapid game.



White's idea is to play Ng3, develop the bishop, 0-0 and Nf5. He shared some variations with the group which led to a lively and interesting analysis session with the students. I don't think it was a particularly serious idea, as checking the database Ian doesn't seem to have used it in a serious game. Maybe it was just for quick play games or to get a lower rated player (i.e. me) into unfamiliar territory.

Fast forward a year or so to the Wellington Chess Club. I had recently switched to playing 1.e4 with white and was only prepared to meet my opponent's usual

French Defence. But he surprised me with the Sicilian Sveshnikov. Actually a clever choice since he knew that I didn't usually start with 1.e4. I hadn't even considered what to play against the Sicilian at that stage so I played the Open variation and the line Ian Rogers had discussed. My opponent was very unimpressed with the opening and I'm not sure which offended him most - that he ended up losing the game to me, or that I played the opening in an irregular way. To defend myself I explained that this was a move Ian Rogers once played against me, but he retorted with "Just because a GM plays it doesn't mean it is good". In reality, it's not that the opening is great, but I achieved an opening position that was more familiar to me than to him.

This example seems to be a contradiction of Ian's main message which was don't be scared of mainlines – they are mainlines for a reason. Understand why they are considered the strongest lines, but also try to play your own ideas within them. Although the example I give above is a rather off-beat opening I think it was more about Ian encouraging the juniors to explore the Open Sicilians rather than resort to what could be considered a simpler option of choosing 2.c3's and other closed variations. And, although Ian didn't say this directly, I believe he chose the above example as a practical way to start working your way into mainlines without being buried in too much theory. The Dutch grandmaster Ivan Sokolov also advocated a similar approach to the Ruy Lopez. In the introduction of his excellent book "The Ruy Lopez Revisited" he explained that for practical reasons he

started with the Cozio, Smyslov and Classical variations (which are early deviations) and only built up to the Breyer, Zaitsev and Chigorin (which are the absolute mainlines) 15 years later.

### **Kasparov's Rule**

**‘There are no good openings, there are no bad openings, there are no dull openings. If you can find one new idea, it can often be enough to win one game.**

This is something stored in my mind but I am unable to find the reference, so I will only quote this as a rule which I call Kasparov's rule, whether or not the great man actually said these exact words. Of course taken literally it is nonsense, as there are certainly bad openings. Just look at a game from the recent Olympiad which went 1.e4 g5 2.d4 f6 3.Qh5 mate. For those that weren't aware of this game, it did actually happen and caused some controversy whether the game was thrown or the player was really that bad. But obviously Kasparov is not referring to this sort of thing, but rather what serious chess players would reasonably call an opening. My interpretation is that you shouldn't restrict yourself to looking at a narrow repertoire of openings, but treat the full scope of openings as an opportunity to find something you can use. Your idea doesn't need to stand the test of time. I like the analogy of an opening as a choice of weapon for a specific battle. After a battle it will be blunted and it will need to be sharpened, or sometimes even replaced. All you need it to do is win that specific battle.

### **“But it's not it my repertoire”**

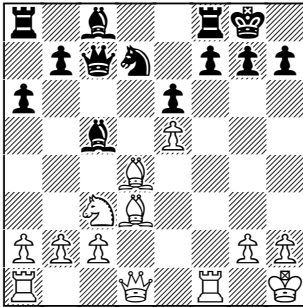
This is the usual response I get when I suggest an opening line to someone. To support Ian Rogers' advice to those who feel 2.c3 should be their only option against the Sicilian, here is a short game which I would like to illustrate the attacking positions you can reach from the Open variation. It was from this year's Championship of Argentina. I can also recommend a book “The Sicilian Labyrinth” by Lyev Polugayevsky which gives many examples of attack and defence in the middle-game. When you are preparing for an opponent it only takes a quick database search to see what they play against the Open variation. You may find they always stick to the same variation, so you can prepare something specific for them. I am not saying abandon the 2.c3 Sicilian, but by expanding your repertoire you can become less predictable (the next section is on the dangers of being predictable) and it will also give you more scope to prepare something dangerous for a specific opponent. It can't hurt to explore the options.

#### **Felgaer,R (2549) - Obregon,A (2502) [B83]**

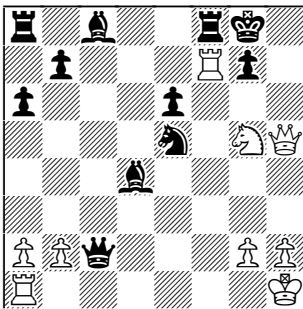
Championship of Argentina, 2014

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.f4 Nc6 9.Kh1 Qc7 10.Be3 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 a6 12.e5** This is one of White's key ideas. Drive the knight away and attack on the Kingside. The tricky part is when you can play it and when you can't. **12...Nd7 13.Bd3 dxe5 14.fxe5 Bc5? 14...Nxe5? 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7**

16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Bxe5 Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6  
 19.Ne4 Qc7 20.Ng5 Qxc2 21.Rxf7 As you  
 will see is the same attacking pattern that  
 happens in the game.



**15.Bxh7+! Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Ne4!**  
 The same attacking pattern as the earlier  
 line, and here white's attack is worth the  
 sacrifice of a second piece **17...Bxd4** If  
**17...Be7 18.Nf6+! 18.Ng5 Qxc2 19.Rxf7**  
**Nxe5**



Does black have everything covered here  
 or not? I would like to introduce you to  
 Tal's rule:

**Tal's rule: a successful attack against a  
 king often requires at least three pieces:**

**one to sacrifice to open (or block) a line  
 or square; at least one to support the  
 checkmate; and finally one to give  
 checkmate.**

I am amazed how often this rule applies.  
 When I have pieces hovering around for  
 the attack I start looking for lines that can  
 be opened for the attack, and ask my  
 pieces: who is going to be the sacrifice?  
 Who are the supporters, and who is going  
 to deliver the checkmate? A little strange I  
 know, but I find it helps me hone in on the  
 mate. The top Scottish player Jonathan  
 Rowson advocates talking to your pieces.  
 But not out loud, obviously. Can you see  
 the roles the three pieces play here?

**20.Qh8+** Yes, Queen it's your turn to  
 sacrifice this time. **Black resigns**

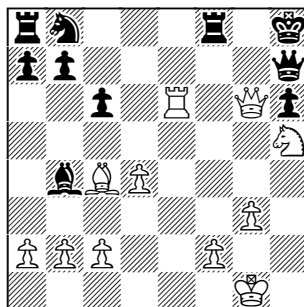
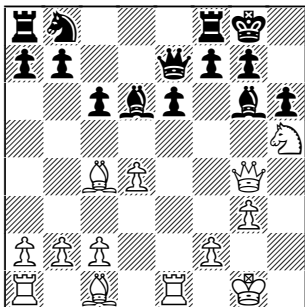
### **The Pitfalls of being Predictable: New Zealand ambushed by the Norwegians at the Olympiad**

I was intrigued by the round 7 match  
 between the New Zealand women and the  
 Norwegian third team. Two of our players  
 both faced the same variation as black in  
 the Caro-Kann and both were completely  
 lost straight out of the opening. It was a  
 variation I had worked on a few years ago.  
 Here is how the games unfolded:

**Elise Sjøttem Jacobsen (1697) – Layla  
 Timergazi (1874)**

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5**  
**5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nh3 Nf6 8.Nf4 Bh7**  
**9.Bc4 e6 10.0-0 Bd6** Last year I played a  
 rapid game against Layla that went

10...Nbd7 11.Re1 Be7 12.Bxe6!± **11.Re1 0-0 12.Ngh5 Nxh5 13.Nxh5 Qxh4 14.g3 Qe7 15.Qg4 Bg6?** This is a losing move. 15...g5! was essential. After my game with Layla I showed her this line with 16.f4 Bf5 17.Qe2 when white has compensation for his pawn, but the position is by no means clear.



**21.Qxh6?** White misses the easy win, and although she still stands better she fails to convert. Best was 21.Qg4! clearing the path for the Bishop to come to d3 and it is all over. The game did have a happy ending for Layla when she salvaged the draw and later earned the WFM title from the Olympiad.

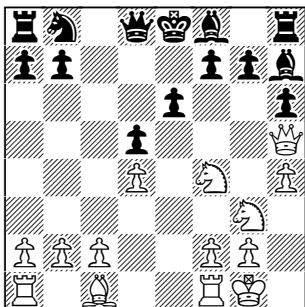
**16.Bxh6 gxf6 17.Rxe6 fxe6 18.Qxg6+ Kh8 19.Re1 Qh7 20.Rxe6** I think 20.Qxe6 is simpler. I once had an online 5-minute game which reached this position. I found a pretty finish after 20...Bc7 keeping cover of the e5 square, but weakening control of the back rank. White has at least three pieces for the attack, so worth considering Tal's rule. I played 21.Qf6+!! So often it is the poor queen's role to be sacrificed, and as in the last game the sacrifice clears the bank rank. I am sure you can find you way to the checkmate from here. Back to the actual game **20...Bb4**

But it does highlight the problem with sticking to one opening, and sticking to the same line within that opening. It is too hard to remember all variations, going in cold and not knowing what line your opponent is going to play against your favourite, and possibly only, defence. If your opponent on the other hand has freshly studied this the morning before the game you may end up in big trouble. Even if you have seen the line previously, a year is a long time. Without falling into this pre-game preparation I am confident Layla would have proven herself the stronger player.

**Hanna Kyrkjebo (1756) – Judy Gao (1947)**

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nh3** I like this -

collaboration on opening preparation. Did the two girls work on this together, or was it a team coach that suggested this line to them? Either way it shows flexibility that they would employ it and not stick rigidly to a repertoire. **7...Nf6 8.Nf4 Bh7 9.Bc4 e6 10.0-0 Nd5 11.Bxd5!?** I played **11.Re1! Nxf4 12.Bxf4 Qxh4 13.Nh5 Bg6 14.d5!! Bxh5 15.dxe6** and white is winning in my game against MK Athula Russell in the 2013 New Zealand Championship. It all looks spectacular, but it was all opening preparation. Just like it is here **11...cxd5 12.Qh5**



I imagine the Norwegian's had this position in their pre-game preparation. **12...Qf6** As ugly as **12...g6** looks, it looks necessary **13.Re1 Kd7?** a king move is the only way to defend both e6 and d5, but putting the king on d8 is better **14.Nxd5!** and white has a decisive advantage and went on to win.

(Ed: For another example of the weaker player successfully mounting an ambush against a narrow opening repertoire, see the game Ker-Tionko on page 20)

Upon reaching the end of this article I realise I have only talked about 1.e4 openings, in this and my previous two articles. I remember when the English grandmaster Gawain Jones was in Wellington for the best part of a year he dedicated his time to studying 1.d4 so he could play both 1.e4 and 1.d4 openings with white. Darryl Johansen was also proud of being "ambidextrous" as he called it. It is an advantage for professional players to have this flexibility. But even for us people lower down the chess ladder we also need flexibility in our opening choices to narrow down the chances of being ambushed and to give us greater scope for catching our opponent out with our own preparation. It could be argued that in the hustle and bustle of the weekend tournament there is little, if any, time to prepare then a narrow opening repertoire is perfectly adequate. But taking a wider view these weekend events could also be the path for preparing you for future Congresses or Olympiads. It all depends on what goals you have in mind. I hope this article which shares my thoughts might at least be thought provoking.

**Scott Wastney is available for email or internet chess coaching. Please contact Scott on [kiwichess@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kiwichess@xtra.co.nz) or visit my homepage to find out more about me <http://kiwichess.ediy.co.nz/>**

**Please also remember to contact me if you have an opening you would like me to discuss in the next issue of NZ Chess.**

New Zealand Chess Federation Inc.



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2014 New Zealand Champion:  
International Master Puchen Wang

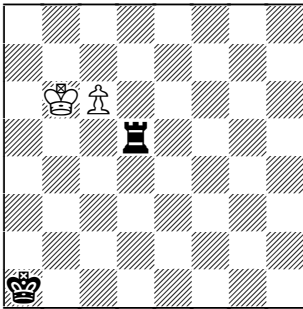


**A POISON PAWN GRAND PRIX EVENT**

# Endings: Rook against a Promoting Pawn

by Herman Claudius van Riemsdijk

This is not a complete answer for all your needs when you end up in a rook against pawn ending. Nevertheless the following examples may be useful to the reader. The most emblematic struggle of a rook against a promoting pawn is the so called Saavedra Position.

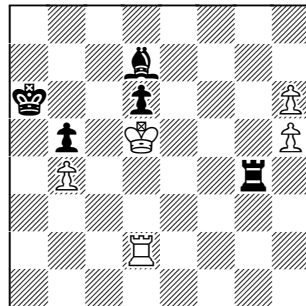


*Saavedra Position*  
G. Barbier and F. Saavedra  
Glasgow Weekly Citizen, 1895  
White to play and win

**1.c7 Rd6+ 2.Kb5** (2.Kb7 is of course insufficient because of 2...Rd7) **2...Rd5+ 3.Kb4 Rd4+ 4.Kb3** (or 4.Kc3 Rd1 5.Kc2 Rd4 as in the main variation) **4...Rd3+ 5.Kc2 Rd4 6.c8=R!** (this spectacular move was found by Saavedra. Against the 'normal' 6.c8=Q Rc4+! 7.Qxc4 leads to stalemate) **6...Ra4** (The only way to prevent mate on a8) **7.Kb3** and the double threat 8.Rc1 and 8.Kxa4 is crushing. A very neat solution! For those who want to know more about the coincidences and mistakes

about this fascinating position, I recommend a 60 page big chapter called "From Saavedra to Yarosh" in Tim Krabbé's "Chess Curiosities" (1985) in which he deals with all kind of underpromotions (Ed: This marvellous book is available at the Wellington Public Library). Of course Google is also enough...

Based on this motif a lot of compositions were produced. My favourite one is the following of Troitzky.

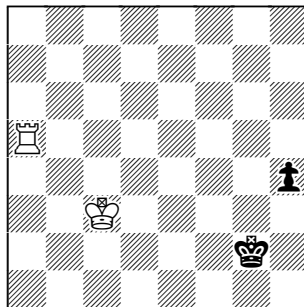


*Alexei Troitzky*  
Ceske Slovo, 1924  
White to play and win

**1.h7 Rg5+ 2.Kxd6 Rxh5 3.Kc7! Be6** (Only good way to stop 4.Ra2++) **4.Kb8!** (Now the terrible threat is 5.Rd6++) **4... Bd5! 5.Rxd5! Rxd5** (5...Rh6 6.Rd8! Rxh7 6.Rd6++, but not 6.Rd6+ Rxd6 7.h8=Q Rd8+!=) **6.h8=R!** (Not 6.h8=Q? Rd8+! 7.Qxd8: stalemate! The threat is now 7.Rh6+) **6...Rd6** (Only move) **7.Kc7!** with the same devastating threat as in the Saavedra position.

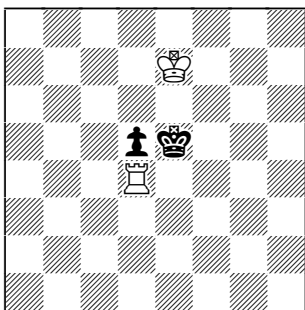


The Saavedra Position is one of the few cases where the pawn is winning. In most cases it's the rook that has the upper hand but there are a lot of situations where the border between win and draw is very narrow. We'll analyse a couple of them. The next study is quite important for understanding the rook positioning against the passed pawn, because one tempo can be decisive.



*Frank James Marshall – Oldrich Duras  
San Sebastian, 1912  
Position after 52...Kxg2*

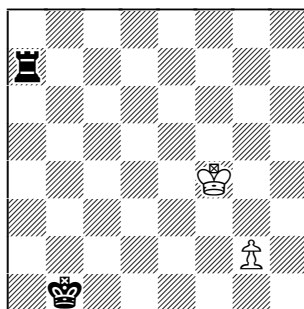
**53.Kd2?** (The only way to win is 53.Rg5+! Kf2 54.Rh5 Kg3 55.Kd2 h3 56.Ke2 Kg2 57.Rg5+ Kh1 58.Kf3) **53...h3 54.Ke2 h2 55.Rg5+ Kh1**, draw, ½–½.



*Richard Réti  
Münchener Neueste Nachrichten, 1928  
White to play and draw*

**1.Rd2** (Also 1.Rd3 d4 – 1...Ke4 2.Rd1 d4 3.Kd6 – 2.Rd1; 1.Rd1 d4 2.Kd7 Kd5 3.Kc7 Kc5 4.Kd7 Kd5 5.Ke7 Ke5 is a win) **1...d4 2.Rd1 Kd5 3.Kd7 Kc4 4.Kd6 d3 5.Ke5 Kc3 6.Ke4 d2 7.Ke3** etc.

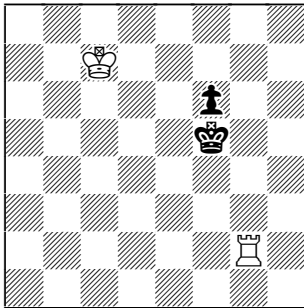
In “Spelen met Einspelen 3” (New in Chess 1997), author Van Perlo explains in a simple and effective way how easy it is to win a tempo or to improve the rook's position. Of course this is not new but it is often surprisingly omitted by experienced players. Here are a couple of his examples:



*Vasily Byvshev – Vladimir Simagin  
USSR, 1951  
Black to play and win*

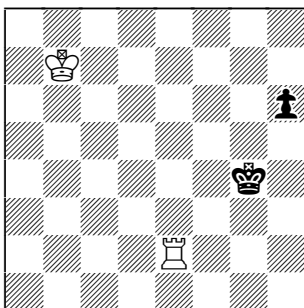
Simagin demonstrates the superior preparation of the Soviet school: **1...Rf7+! (Only winning move) 2.Ke4 Rg7! 3.Kf3 Kc2 4.g4 Kd3 5.Kf4 Kd4 6.Kf5 Kd5 7.g5 Rf7+**, with a winning pattern. White

resigned, 0-1.



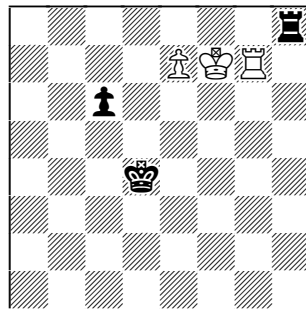
*Díaz – Domínguez  
Pinar del Río, 1981  
Black to play, White wins*

**1...Ke4 2.Kd6?** (2.Re2+! Kd5 – or 2...Kf3 3.Re8 f5 4.Kd6 f4 5.Kd5, winning easily – 3.Rf2 Ke5 4.Kc6 f5 5.Kc5 Ke4 6.Kc4 f4 7.Re2+, with the same pattern) **2...f5 3.Re2+ Kd4**, ½–½. The most likely continuation is 4.Ke6 f4 5.Kf5 f3 6.Ra2 Ke3.



*Jens Ove Fries Nielsen - Jan Plachetka  
Rimavska Sobota, 1991  
Position after 84...Kxg4*

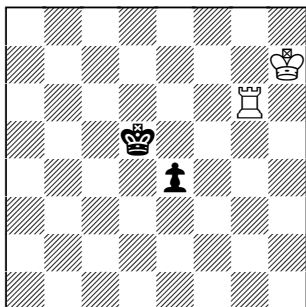
**85.Kc6?** (Again omitting the only winning move: 85.Rg2+! Kf4 – 85...Kh3, in front of the pawn doesn't make life better, 86.Rg8 h5 87.Kc6 h4 88.Kd5 Kh2 89.Ke4 h3 90.Kf3 Kh1 91.Rh8 h2 92.Ra8 – 86.Rh2 Kg5 87.Kc6 h5 88.Kd5 Kg4 89.Ke4 h4 90.Rg2+ Kh3 91.Rg8 Kh2 92.Kf3 h3 93.Rg3) **85...h5 86.Kd5 h4 87.Ke4 h3 88.Ke3** (Or 88.Ra2 Kg3 89.Ra3+ Kg2 90.Kf4 h2 91.Ra2+ Kh3!, with a draw) **88...Kg3 89.Re1 h2 90.Ke2 Kg2 91.Rh1 Kxh1 92.Kf1**, ½–½. Somewhere I saw the following suggestion for a win: 85.Re8 h5 86.Rg8+ Kf3 87.Rh8 Kg4 88.Kc6 h4 89.Kd5 h3 90.Ke4 Kg3 91.Ke3 h2 (?) 92.Rg8+ Kh3 93.Kf2! h1=N+ 94.Kf3 Kh2 95.Rg7, winning. Very nice but it has a flaw. 91...Kg2 instead of 91...h2 is a draw.



*Gawain Jones – Daniel Alsina  
88th Hastings Masters, 2013  
Position after 81...Kxd4*

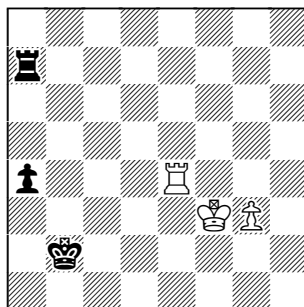
Here we will find out again how important it is to win a tempo or to place the rook in a better position. **82.Rg8 Rh7+ 83.Ke6 Rxe7+ 84.Kxe7 c5 85.Rd8+!** (This intermediate check is crucial for the win. If 85.Kd6 c4 86.Rg4+ Kd3 87.Kc5 c3 88.Rg3+ Kd2 89.Kb4 c2, the result is a

draw) **85...Ke3** (Or 85...Ke5 86.Rc8 Kd5 87.c4 Rc7 88.Kd4 Kc6!) **86.Rc8** (86.Kd6 c4 87.Rc8! – But not 87.Kc5? c3 88.Kb4 c2 89.Rc8 Kd2 – 87...Kd4 88.Kc6 c3 89.Kb5 Kd3 90.Kb4 c2 91.Kb3 is also a win) **86...Kd4** (White achieved the same position with a better placed rook) **87.Kd6 c4 88.Kc6!**, and black resigned, **1–0**.



*Zviad Izoria – Denis Shmeliov  
Chicago Open  
Wheeling, 2013  
Position after 71...e4*

**72.Rg8?** (The only winning move is 72.Kh6! e3 73.Kh5! – again an only move – 73...e2 74.Rg1 Ke4 75.Kg4 Ke3 76.Kg3, and the king arrives in time. When the black king supports its pawn, there is no need for the rook to be that distant. A tempo that makes the difference between win and draw) **72...e3 73.Re8 Kd4 74.Kg6 Kd3**, and a draw was agreed, ½–½.

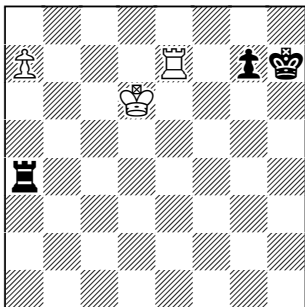


*Andrew Greet – Justin Tan  
4NCL 2013–14  
Hinckley, 2014  
Position after 69...a4*

**70.Rb4+?!** (The easiest way to a draw is 70.g4! a3 71.Kf4 a2 72.Re1) **70...Kc3 71.Rb1 a3 72.g4?** (Only 72.Ke4 will still save the game) **72...a2 73.Ra1 Kb2?** (cutting the white king off with 73...Ra4! will gain a decisive tempo: 74.Kg3 Kb2 75.Rxa2+ Kxa2 76.Kh4 Kb3 77.Kh5 Kc4 78.g5 Kd5 79.g6 Ke6 and so on) **74.Rxa2+ Rxa2 75.Ke4! Kc3 76.Kf5?** (Time for White to return the favour; 76.g5! Ra5 77.Kf4 Kd4 78.g6 Ra8 79.Kf5 Kd5 80.g7 is a draw) **76...Kd4 77.g5 Kd5 78.Kf6 Kd6 79.g6 Rf2+ 80.Kg7 Ke7** White resigns 0–1.

I'm quite sure that next position is the most instructive of this article.

**Stop Press:** Current entries for the 2015 NZ Open (see page 31) include GM Rasmussen (2522, Denmark), GM Zhao Xue (2508, China) and GM Bischoff (2504, Germany).



*John van der Wiel – Manuel Rivas  
Marbella (Zonal Tournament), 1982  
Position after 54.Re7*

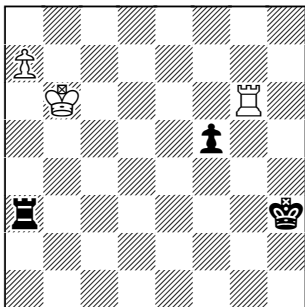
**54...Kh6** This natural looking move is losing. 54...Kg6! crossing the pawn to provide a better blocking of the opponent's king. This (crossing in front of your own pawn) is generally a great feature. 55.Kc6 Kf6 56.Rc7 Ra1 57.Kb7 – 57.Kb6 Rb1+ 58.Ka6 Ra1+ 59.Kb5 Rb1+ 60.Ka6 Ra1+ 61.Kb7, comes to the same – 57...Rb1+ 58.Kc8 Ra1 59.Kb8 g5 60.Rc5 Kg6! (60...Rb1+ 61.Kc7 Ra1 62.Kb6 Rxa7 63.Kxa7 Kg6 64.Kb6 Kh5 65.Rc8 g4 66.Kc5 Kg5 67.Kd4 g3 68.Ke4, is not enough) 61.a8=Q Rxa8+ 62.Kxa8 Kh5 63.Kb7 Kg4! (This second forced crossing is also essential. If 67...Kh4 68.Kc6 g4 69.Kd5 g3 – crossing now is too late: 69...Kg3 70.Ke4 Kf2 71.Rc2+ etc. – 70.Ke4 g2 71.Rc1 Kg3 72.Ke3) 64.Kc6 Kf4 65.Kd5 g4 66.Kd4 g3 67.Rc8 g2 68.Rf8+ Kg3 69.Rg8+ Kf2, with a draw.

There is another way to make a draw but see how subtle a difference can be. 54...Ra2 is a draw but 54...Ra1 loses. Let's compare:

a) 54...Ra1 55.Kc6 Kg6! 56.Kb7 Kf6 57.Re1! Rxa7+ (57...Rxe1 58.a8=Q Kf7, trying to build a fortress is not enough: 59.Qa2+ Ke7 60.Qb2! winning the pawn; neither 57...Ra2 58.a8=Q Rxa8 59.Kxa8 g5 60.Kb7 Kf5 61.Kc6 g4 62.Kd5 Kf4 63.Kd4 Kf3 64.Kd3 Kf2 65.Re2+ Kf3 66.Re3+ Kf2 67.Ke4 g3 68.Rf3+ Kg2 69.Kf4) 58.Kxa7 g5 59.Kb6 g4 60.Kc5 Kf5 61.Kd4 Kf4 62.Rf1+, winning.

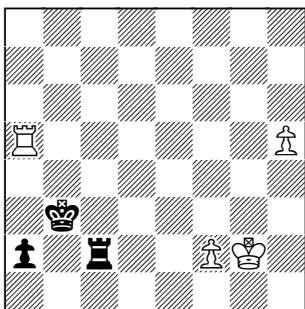
b) 54...Ra2! 55.Kc6 Kg6! 56.Kb7 Kf6 57.Re2! Ra3 58.a8=Q Rxa8 59.Kxa8 g5 60.Kb7 g4 61.Kc6 Kf5 62.Kd5 Kf4 (now the difference appears: if 63.Kd4 Kf3 wins a decisive tempo on the rook) 63.Rf2+ Ke3 with a draw. Another difference of 54...Ra2 is that after 57.Re2, Rxe2! is also a draw, nevertheless not recommendable for normal human beings. Look at this diabolical line: 58.a8=Q Kf7! (only move) 59.Qa3 Rf2! (only move) 60.Kc7 Rf6 61.Qb3+ Kf8 62.Kd7 Rf7+! (only move) 63.Kd8 b6! (only move) and fun goes on.

In the game, after 54...Kh6 Big John won quite convincingly: **55.Kc6 Ra1 56.Kb7 Rb1+ 57.Kc7 Ra1 58.Kb7 Rb1+ 59.Kc8 Ra1 60.Re6+ Kg5** (or 60...Kh5 61.Kb7 Rxa7+ 62.Kxa7 g5 63.Kb6 g4 64.Kc5 g3 65.Kd4 g2 66.Re1 Kg4 67.Ke3 Kg3 68.Rg1) **61.Kb7 Rxa7+ 62.Kxa7 Kf5 63.Re8 g5 64.Kb6 g4 65.Kc5 Kf4 66.Kd4 Kf3 67.Kd3 g3 68.Rf8+ Kg2 69.Ke2 Kg1 70.Kf3 g2 71.Kg3**, Black resigns, 1-0. 71.Rg8 Kh1 72.Kf2, was even more economical.



*David van Kerkhof – Frank Erwich  
Dutch League, 2012  
Position after 46...Kxh3*

**47.Rf6!** (Forcing the king to lose a tempo)  
**47...Kg4 48.Kb7** (Threatening 49.Ra6)  
**48...Rxa7+ 49.Kxa7 Kf4?** (Right plan,  
 wrong move. Correct was 49...f4 50.Kb6  
 Kf3! 51.Kc5 Ke3!) **50.Kb6 Ke4 51.Kc5 f4**  
**52.Kc4 Ke3 53.Kc3 f3 54.Re6+**, black  
 resigned, 1–0.

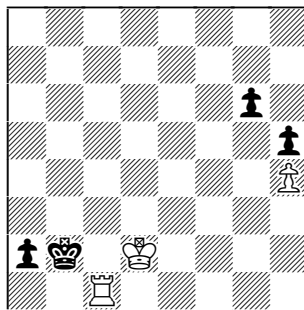


*Kruttika Nadig – Herman van Riemsdijk  
Balaguer Open, 2008  
Position after 50.h5*

**50...Rc5?** I remember having the stupid  
 idea that I could eventually lose the game.

Therefore I went for the safest variation,  
 even knowing that it was a theoretical  
 draw. Winning is 50...Rc1 51.Kf3 a1=Q  
 52.Rxa1 Rxa1 53.Ke4 Kc4 54.f4 Re1+  
 55.Kf5 Kd5 56.h6 Rh1 57.Kg6 Ke6 and  
 now a) 58.h7 Rg1+ 59.Kh6 – 59.Kh5 Kf7 –  
 59...Kf7 60.h8=N+ Kf6 61.Kh7 Rf1  
 62.Kg8 Rxf4 63.Nf7 Rd4 64.Nh6 Ra4 or b)  
 58.f5+ Ke7 59.f6+ Kf8 60.h7 Rh2 **51.Rxc5**  
**a1Q 52.Rg5 Qf6 53.Rg3+ Kc2 54.Rh3**  
**Qh6 55.Kh2 Kd2 56.Re3 Qg5 57.Kh1**  
**Qxh5+ 58.Kg2 Qg4+ 59.Kh2 Qf4+**, draw  
 agreed, ½–½.

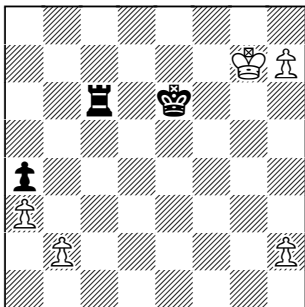
Finally a very simple but nice motif in  
 which the rook has to be sacrificed to  
 obtain a zugzwang.



*Giulio Cesare Polerio, 1585  
White to play and win*

**1.Ra1! Kxa1 2.Kc2 g5 3.hxg5 h4 4.g6 h3**  
**5.g7 h2 6.g8Q h1Q 7.Qg7++.**

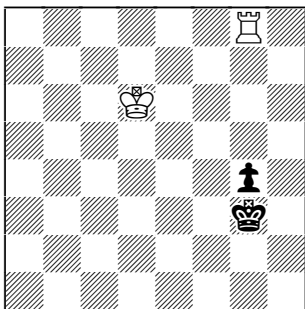
In practice, this happened in the following  
 game:



*Ludek Pachman – Gerard Welling  
England, 1973  
Black to play and win*

**1...Rc7+ 2.Kg8 Rc8+ 3.Kg7 Rh8 4.Kxh8** (Pachman could have prolonged agony with 4.h3 Ke7 5.h4 Ke8 6.h5 Ke7 7.h6 Ke8 8.Kf6 Rxb7 9.Kg6 Rh8 10.Kg7 Rf8 11.h7 Rh8!) **4...Kf7 5.b4 axb3** white resigns, 0-1.

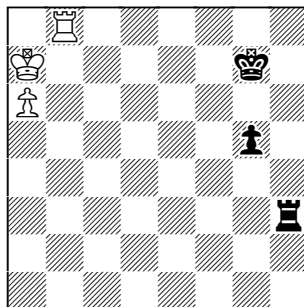
**Postscript:** Two relevant positions came to my attention immediately after finishing this article. The first one is from the latest Sadler book review in New In Chess. In Jacob Aagaard's "Grandmaster Preparation: Endgame Play", he published this diagram, apparently from Aagaard himself, in 2007.



*White to play and win*

The only way to win is **1.Rf8!** (After looking at the examples above it becomes quite obvious how important it is to avoid that the defending king blockades the attacking king. The 'natural' 1.Ke5 Kf3 only leads to equality: 2.Rf8+ Ke3 or 2.Kd4 g3 3.Kd3 and now both 3...g2 and 3...Kf2 are sufficient for a draw) **1...Kh2 2.Ke5 g3 3.Kf4 g2 4.Rh8+ Kg1 5.Kg3 Kf1 6.Rf8+ Kg1 7.Rf7 Kh1 8.Rh7+ Kg1 9.Rh2**, winning.

The second position was from a game in the match Russia v Cuba in round 7 from the Tromso Olympiad.



*Teimour Radjabov – Lázaro Bruzon  
41st Olympiad (7) -Tromso 2014  
Position after 50...Rxb3*

**51.Rb5!** (51.Rb6 Rf3 52.Kb7 Rf7+ 53.Kc6 Kg6 54.Kc5+ Kf5 55.Rb7 Rf8 56.a7 Rc8+ 57.Kb6 Ra8 58.Rb8 Rxa7 59.Kxa7 g4, is insufficient for a win) **51...Kf6** (51...Kg6 is a better try: 52.Kb6 Rh8 53.a7 Kh5 54.Ra5 Kg4 55.a8=Q Rxa8 56.Rxa8 Kf3 and now only 57.Rf8+! Ke4 58.Rg8! Kf4 59.Kc5 g4 60.Kd4 Kf3 61.Kd3 g3 62.Rf8+ is a win as in some examples of this article) **52.Kb6 g4 53.a7 Rh8 54.Kb7 Rh7+ 55.Ka6 Rh8 56.Rb8 Rh1 57.Rb6+**, resigns, 1-0.

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