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The 40th Trusts Open

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On the Cover: Waitakere Chess Club

President John Francis and Trusts Open

founder and organiser Bob Smith cut the

tournament's 40th anniversary cake.

Photo Credit: Helen Milligan

Embarrassment of Riches

I don't know whether it had anything to do with my appeal for more contributions last time, but there have certainly been no problems filling this issue.

In particular it's very gratifying to see Roger Nokes returning to the fold after a long absence, with another instalment in his much loved "Letter from the Kingside" series.

After never receiving a chess poem before, I actually received two this time (see page 11)! Space constraints mean one of the poems will appear in the next issue and even mean that the chess club directory has been omitted this time. Don't worry, it will be back next time.

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Dive Gatecrashes Hague's Party

by FM Bob Smith, Game Annotations by Bill Forster

It was party time at the Trusts Open this year – complete with cake – as more than 90 players celebrated the tournament's 40th anniversary.

As always, some had more cause to celebrate than others. As the tournament founder and organiser, I was happy that, like the acorn and oak tree, the Trusts Open has grown from humble beginnings to become widely recognised as one of New Zealand's best weekend events.

FM Ben Hague – the hot favourite this year and seemingly every year – celebrated yet another successful outing. And IM Russell Dive – a perennial supporter of the tournament – was able to celebrate his first victory at the Trusts Open in quite some time – albeit tied with Hague.

But to share the spoils the pair first had to see off a strong field. Top seed was New Zealand number one IM Anthony Ker, making his first appearance for some years. Also a leading bridge player, Anthony gave up his usual Queen's Birthday Weekend

competition to play.

Four other contenders were ranked in the top 13 in the country: FMs Bob Smith, Leonard McLaren, Daniel Gong and Mike Steadman.

Hague, Dive, Smith and Gong all started well, with two wins on Saturday. Russell even got a nice afternoon rest, when Nathan Goodhue didn't turn up within half an hour of the starting time. Apparently Nathan was told the wrong round time by somebody, and didn't see the correct information on the noticeboard or the entry form.

But Saturday proved a bit of a struggle for some of the other favourites. Ker started with a draw against Paul Macdonald, before reaching a lost position against Daniel Runcan in round two. But Anthony is not New Zealand's top chess escapologist for nothing. From a pawn down he recovered to a drawn position, and even went on to win, after some endgame errors by Runcan.

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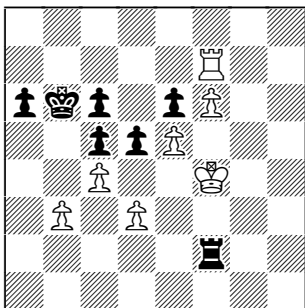
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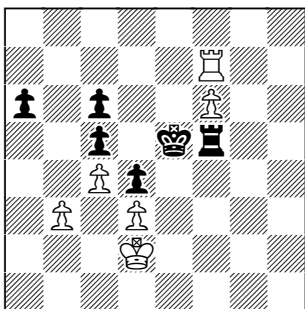
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Runcan, Daniel (1995) - Ker, Anthony (2474)

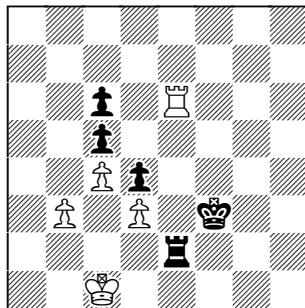


42.Ke3?? Oh no, everything else wins. In particular 42.Kg5 Wins easily, White just queens the 'f' pawn and Black has no time to generate a passed pawn and counterplay, eg 42...Re2 43.Re7 Rxe5+ 44.Kg6 Re3 45.f7 Rg3+ 46.Kf6 Rf3+ 47.Kxe6 Re3+ 48.Kd7 Rf3 49.Ke8 **42...Rf5=** 43.Re7 Rxe5+ 44.Kd2 d4 45.Re8 Rf5 46.Rxe6 Kc7 47.Re7+ Kd6 48.Rf7 Ke5



49.Ra7? Now Black gets winning chances. As the Editor can attest from many painful personal experiences, Ker (and his partner in crime Dive for that matter) enjoys nothing more than mercilessly erasing the drawing fantasies of weaker players in apparently equal endings. 49.Re7+ Puts a

stop to any funny business 49...Kxf6 (49...Kd6 50.Rf7; 49...Kf4? 50.Re6) 50.Rc7 49...Rxf6 50.Rxa6 Rh6 51.Ra8 Rh2+ 52.Kc1 Kf4 53.Re8 Kf3 54.Re6? 54.Kd1 54...Re2



55.Rxc6? The final mistake 55.Rh6! and White draws using side checks 55...Ke3 56.Rxc5 Kxd3 57.Rh5 Kc3 58.Kd1 d3 59.c5 Rb2 60.Ke1 Rb1+ 61.Kf2 d2 0-1

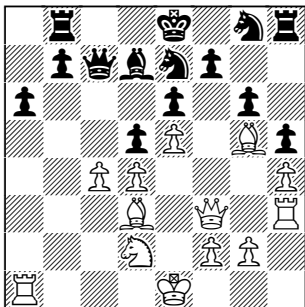
McLaren also had trouble against Daniel, conceding a draw in round one.

The early damage was even worse for Steadman, who had one of his less than memorable tournaments. It probably won't make him feel any better that he was unlucky to meet several lower rated players who suddenly discovered inspired form against him, starting with Oliver Picken in round 2, who was awarded the \$100 best game prize by GM Murray Chandler for the following victory.

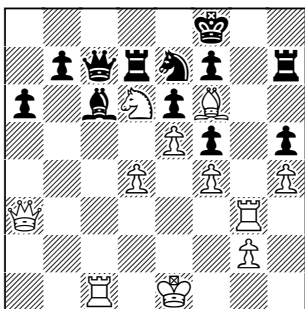
Picken, Oliver (1882) - Steadman, Mike (2309) [C00]

40th Trusts Open Auckland (2), 03.06.2017 **1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e5 c5 4.b4!?** Big bad Mike likes sacrificing material and running over the top of people himself, so this

gambit could well be a shrewd psychological approach. 4...cxb4 5.a3 Nc6 6.axb4 Bxb4 7.c3 Be7 8.d4 a6 9.Bd3 Rb8 10.h4 h5 11.Ng5 g6 12.Qf3 Bxg5 13.Bxg5 Nce7 14.Rh3 Qc7 15.Nd2 Bd7 16.c4



16...dxc4? Mike wants to activate his bishop, but pays too high a price. 17.Nxc4 Bc6 18.Qg3 Nf5 19.Bxf5 gxf5 20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.Qa3! Ne7 22.Rg3 Rh7 23.Bf6 Rd8 24.Rc1 Rd7 25.f4



A picturesque position. The threat of d5 and then Nxf5 if e6xd5 is too strong, so 1-0

Picken (FIDE 1810) had an amazing starting streak, beating Duneas (FIDE 2031) and Steadman (FIDE 2252) and then drawing with Ker (2315) in the first three

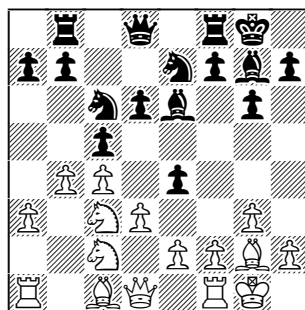
rounds. But that turned out to be his lot. Consecutive beatings by Hague and Smith apparently affected the young teen so much that he missed a simple tactic in the final round. Nevertheless, it was a good tournament for Picken, who earned 68 rating points.

Round three signalled the start of the heavyweight clashes. Smith used the white pieces to draw with Hague, while Dive's Petroff Defence proved too hot for Gong to handle.

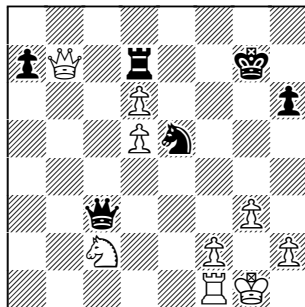
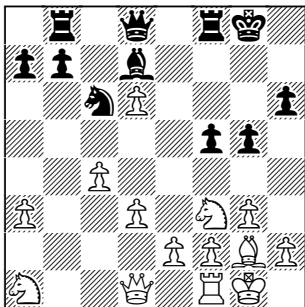
On Sunday afternoon the Dive juggernaut continued, when Smith unwisely dared him to sacrifice an exchange.

Dive, Russell (2426) - Smith, Bob (2348) [A04]

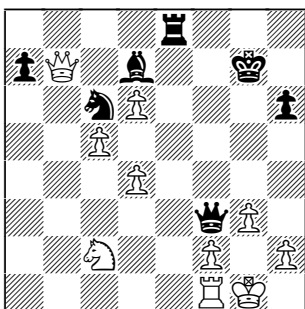
40th Trusts Open Auckland (4), 04.06.2017
1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.0-0 e5 7.Ne1 Be6 8.d3 Nge7 9.Nc2 Rb8 10.a3 0-0 11.b4 e4



12.Nxe4! One pawn for the exchange 12...Bxa1 13.Nxa1 f5 14.Ng5 Bd7 15.Bf4 Nc8 16.bxc5 Two pawns 16...h6 17.Nf3 g5 18.Bxd6 Nxd6 19.cxd6



Three pawns **19...Qa5 20.d4 Qxa3 21.c5 Rbe8 22.Nc2 Qc3 23.e3 f4 24.exf4 gxf4 25.Nh4 Kg7 26.Qb1 f3!** Fighting back **27.Nxf3 Rxf3 28.Bxf3 Qxf3 29.Qxb7**



What a fantastic position. Computers try to take the fun out of chess by somehow evaluating it as 0.00 but for humans it doesn't get any better than fighting out something like this. **29...Ne5 30.d5 Qc3 31.c6 Rd8 32.cxd7 Rxd7**

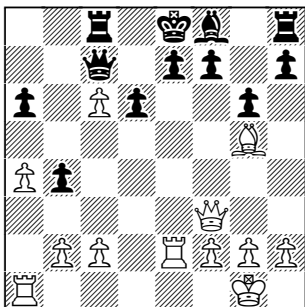
33.Qb4! Winning back his piece and remaining pawns up. Smith fights hard, but the result is no longer in doubt. **33...Qxb4 33...Qxc2 34.Qd4** pins and wins the knight **34.Nxb4 Rxd6 35.Ra1 Rd7 36.Ra6 Nc4 37.Nc6 Rxd5 38.Rxa7+ Kf6 39.Rh7 h5 40.h4 Rc5 41.Nd4 Kg6 42.Rd7 Ne5 43.Rd6+ Kf7 44.Kg2 Ng4 45.f3 Nf6 46.Kf2 Ra5 47.Rc6 Ra4 48.Nc2 Ra7 49.Ne3 Ra4 50.Rc4 Ra2+ 51.Rc2 Ra4 52.Kg2 Ra3 53.Re2 Ra4 54.Kh3 Ra3 55.Kg2 Ra4 56.Nf5 Ra6 57.Nd4 Rd6 58.Nc2 Ra6 59.Kf2 Ra4 60.Ne3 Rd4 61.Ng2 Nd5 62.Re5 Rd2+ 63.Kg1 Nf6 64.Nf4 Ra2 65.Nxh5 Nd7 66.Rb5 Ke6 67.Nf4+ Kd6 68.Rd5+ Kc6 69.h5 Nc5 70.Re5 Nd7 71.Re2 Ra1+ 72.Kg2 Ra4 73.Ng6 Ra5 74.g4 Kd6 75.Kg3 Nf6 76.Ne7 Kd7 77.Kh4 Ra3 78.Ng6 Kd8 79.f4 Ra1 80.Kg5 Ng8 81.f5 Rg1 82.Nh8 1-0**

Hague stayed just half a point behind by neatly exploiting Picken's lack of development.

Hague, Ben (2453) - Picken, Oliver (1882) [B70]

40th Truists Open Auckland (4), 04.06.2017
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

5.Nc3 g6 6.Be2 a6 7.0-0 b5 8.Re1 Bb7
 9.Bf3 Nbd7 10.a4 b4 11.Nd5 Nxd5
 12.exd5 Ne5 13.Nc6 Bxc6 14.dxc6 Nxf3+
 15.Qxf3 Qc7 16.Bg5 Rc8 17.Re2

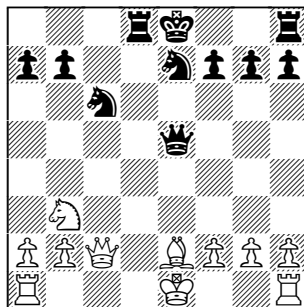


17...Qxc6? 18.Qf6 Rc7 19.Qxh8 Qc4
 20.Rae1 e6 21.Bh6 Rc5 22.Qxf8+ Kd7
 23.Qxf7+ Kc6 24.Qe8+ Kb6 25.Be3 Ka5
 26.Bxc5 dxc5 27.Qd8+ 1-0

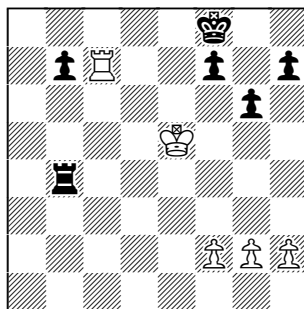
And Ker and Gong moved to 3/4 with good wins over Krstev and McLaren.

McLaren, Leonard (2348) - Gong, Daniel (2325) [B22]

40th Trusts Open Auckland (4), 04.06.2017
 1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nc6
 5.Be3 Bf5 6.Nf3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bxb1
 8.Qxb1 e5 9.dxe5 Bb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+
 11.Nxd2 Rd8 12.Nb3 Qxe5+ 13.Be2 Nge7
 14.Qc2



14...Nb4! Black wins a pawn, and the remainder of the game is a very impressive conversion 15.Qc4 Nd3+ 16.Kf1 Nxb2 17.Qb5+ Qxb5 18.Bxb5+ Kf8 19.Ke2 Nd5 20.Rhe1 a6 21.Rab1 axb5 22.Rxb2 b4 23.Kf3 Ke7 24.Rd2 Nc3 25.a3 Rxd2 26.Nxd2 Rd8 27.axb4 Rd3+ 28.Kg4 Rxd2 29.Rxc3 Rd4+ 30.Kf5 g6+ 31.Ke5 Rxb4 32.Rc7+ Kf8



The 8th Asian Seniors 2017

This exciting tournament is being held in Auckland from 9th to 15th October inclusive. All the details are (of course) available at;

www.newzealandchess.co.nz

I am not sure whether Black should be expecting to win this, given that White's king is more active and his rook is going to get behind the passed pawn. It's a bit above the Editor's pay grade and chess skill level. Suffice it to say Daniel makes it look routine. 33.g3 Kg7 34.h4 h5 35.Rd7 Rb2 36.f3 b6 37.Rb7 Rb3 38.Kf4 Kf6 39.g4

Rb4+ 40.Kg3 Ke6 41.Rb8 Rb3 42.gxh5 gxh5 43.Rh8 Rb5 44.Rh6+ f6 45.Kf4 Rf5+ 46.Ke4 Rc5 47.Kf4 b5 48.Rh7 b4 49.Rb7 Rc4+ 50.Kg3 f5 51.Rb5 Kf6 52.f4 Rc3+ 53.Kg2 b3 54.Rb6+ Ke7 55.Rb5 Rc2+ 56.Kf3 b2 57.Ke3 Kd6 58.Kd4 Rd2+ 59.Kc3 Rf2 60.Kd3 Kc6 61.Rb8 Kc5 62.Ke3 Rh2 63.Rc8+ Kd5 64.Rd8+ Kc4 65.Rc8+ Kb3 66.Rb8+ Kc2 67.Rc8+ Kd1 68.Rb8 Kc1 69.Kd4 b1Q 70.Rxb1+ Kxb1 71.Ke5 Rxh4 72.Kxf5 Rg4 73.Ke5 h4 74.f5 Rg1 0-1

enough material for his queen. Hague duly chalked up the full point.

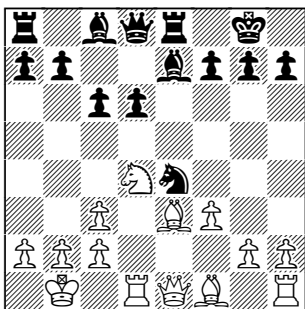
Hague,Ben (2453) - Dive,Russell (2426) [C42]

40th Trusts Open Auckland (5), 05.06.2017
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nd7 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Nc5 10.Kb1 c6 11.Nd4 Ne4 12.Qe1 Re8 13.f3

So to round 5 and the Clash of the Titans. Crucially, Hague had white against Dive (who wants to play against Russell's English when you need to win?). In a complex position Russell made a rare miscalculation, gifting Ben more than

40th Trusts Open A Grade

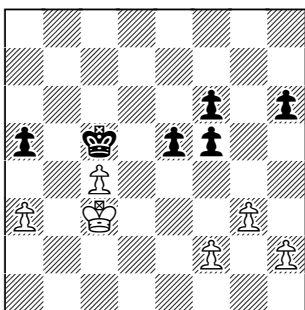
1	FM	Hague, Ben	2453	AC	5.0	+B21	+W10	=B3	+W15	+W2	=B4
2	IM	Dive, Russell J	2426	WE	5.0	+W9	+BYE	+B5	+W3	-B1	+W7
3	FM	Smith, Robert W	2348	MC	4.5	+B18	+W16	=W1	-B2	+B15	+W10
4	IM	Ker, Anthony F	2474	WE	4.5	=W13	+B17	=W15	+B21	+W5	=W1
5	FM	Gong, Daniel Hanwen	2325	HP	4.0	+B23	+W24	-W2	+B7	-B4	+W11
6	CM	Duneas, John	2164	AC	4.0	-B15	=W14	+B23	=W16	+B18	+W12
7	FM	McLaren, Leonard J	2348	HP	3.5	=W17	+B22	+W8	-W5	+B16	-B2
8	CM	Milligan, Helen	2116	NS	3.5	=W22	+B13	-B7	=W11	=B17	+W15
9	CM	Lim, Benjamin U	2044	HP	3.5	-B2	+W20	=B10	-W12	+B25	+W16
10	CM	Fan, Allen Chi Zhou	2174	AC	3.0	+W25	-B1	=W9	=B18	+BYE	-B3
11		Goodhue, Nathan	2093	AC	3.0	+B20	-BYE	=W18	=B8	+W19	-B5
12	FM	Steadman, Michael V	2309	AC	3.0	+W14	-B15	-W21	+B9	+W13	-B6
13		Macdonald, Paul	2059	AC	3.0	=B4	-W8	=B14	+W20	-B12	+W17
14	CM	Nagorski, Alex	1924	AC	3.0	-B12	=B6	=W13	-B19	+W24	+W25
15	CM	Picken, Oliver	1882	PT	2.5	+W6	+W12	=B4	-B1	-W3	-B8
16		Guico, Leonides	2073	WT	2.5	+W26	-B3	+W24	=B6	-W7	-B9
17		Runcan, Daniel-Ioan	1995	AC	2.5	=B7	-W4	=W19	+B22	=W8	-B13
18	WFM	Zhang, Jasmine Haomo	2029	AC	2.5	-W3	+B26	=B11	=W10	-W6	=B19
19		Morrell, Gordon	2178	AC	2.5	-B24	=W23	=B17	+W14	-B11	=W18
20		Mukkattu, Philip	1817	AC	2.5	-W11	-B9	+W26	-B13	=W22	+B24
21		Krstev, Antonio (W)	2056	NS	2.0	-W1	+B25	+B12	-W4	-BYE	
22		Chen, Meng Boon Marc	1863		2.0	=B8	-W7	=B25	-W17	=B20	=W23
23		Wright, Caleb	1942	MM	2.0	-W5	=B19	-W6	=B24	=W26	=B22
24		Sarmiento, Noel	1906	WT	1.5	+W19	-B5	-B16	=W23	-B14	-W20
25		Shen, Terry	1892	HP	1.5	-B10	-W21	=W22	+B26	-W9	-B14
26	WCM	Qin, Nicole Shu Yu	1763	AC	1.5	-B16	-W18	-B20	-W25	=B23	+BYE



13...Bg5?? 14.fxe4 Rxe4 15.Bxg5 Rxe1
16.Rxe1 f6 17.Bf4 d5 18.Bd3 Bd7 19.Ne6
Qa5 20.Nxg7 1-0

Meanwhile Smith beat Picken with a king assault, Ker gave Gong an endgame lesson and McLaren defeated Guico.

Ker,Anthony (2472) - Gong,Daniel (2325)



39...h5? This loses, whereas each of 39...Kc6 ; and 39...Kd6 ; and 39...Kb6 draws. The problem is that White can now sacrifice a pawn to force a distant second passed pawn with h4, f3, then g4, a manoeuvre that is not available with the h pawn further back. Maybe this is a reflection of the endgame principles of not

rushing and not making unnecessary pawn moves. Although I think Bob is a bit harsh in the main report when he suggests Daniel needs to work on the endgame, if that comment is based on this alone (see the McLaren endgame earlier for example). Black doesn't have to worry about White going after the 'a' pawn 39... Kc6 40.Kb3 Kc5 41.Ka4? Kxc4 42.Kxa5 Kd3 43.a4 e4 44.Kb6 Ke2 45.a5 Kxf2 46.a6 e3 and White gains nothing from queening first and is in fact seriously worse. 40.Kd3 Kd6 41.f3 Kc6 42.h4 Kd6 43.g4 e4+ 44.Ke3 f4 45.f4xg4 hxg4 46.h5 f5 47.h6 g3 48.h7 f4+ 49.Ke2 f3+ 50.Kf1 g2+ 51.Kg1 Kc5 52.h8Q Kxc4 53.Qe5 Kd3 54.Qd5+ Ke3 55.Qxa5 Ke2 56.Qb5+ Ke3 57.a4 Kf4 58.a5 Kg3 59.Qg5+ Kh3 60.Kf2 e3+ 61.Kxf3 0-1

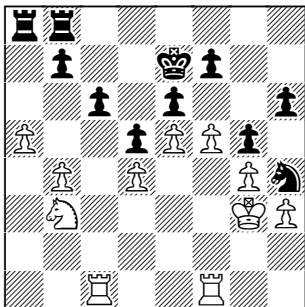
Going into Monday's final round Hague was half a point ahead of Dive and Ker, with Smith and McLaren another half a point further back. The critical pairings were Ker-Hague, Dive-McLaren and Smith-Fan.

Two of those games were over in normal time: Hague was well-prepared against Ker's c3 Sicilian and happy to draw to ensure at least a share of first, while Smith converted a winning endgame to tie for third with Anthony.

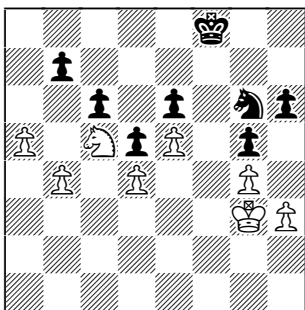
Smith,Bob (2348) - Fan,Allen (2174) [B07]

40th Trusts Open Auckland (6), 05.06.2017
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.a4 a5 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be3 d5 7.e5 Nfd7 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 e6 10.Qg3 Na6 11.Be2 Nb4 12.Rc1 Nb6 13.0-0 Nc8 14.Nb1 Ne7 15.c3 Nf5 16.Qf4 Na6 17.Bd3 g6 18.g4 Bh6 19.Qf3 Nh4

20.Qg3 Bxe3 21.fxe3 Qg5 22.Qf4 Qxf4
 23.exf4 Nc7 24.Nd2 Ke7 25.Kf2 h6
 26.Kg3 g5 27.f5 Rhf8 28.Rce1 Rad8
 29.b4 axb4 30.cxb4 Ra8 31.a5 Rfb8
 32.Rc1 Na6 33.Bxa6 Rxa6 34.Nb3 Raa8



35.fxe6! fxe6 36.Rf6 Rf8 37.Rc1 Ng6
 38.Rxf8 Rxf8 39.Rxf8 Kxf8 40.Nc5!

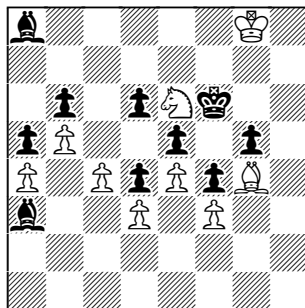


The point, this is simply game over
 40...Nf4 41.Kf3 Ke7 42.Nxb7 Kd7
 43.Nc5+ Kc7 44.h4 Kc8 45.h5 Kc7
 46.Ke3 Ng2+ 47.Kd2 Nf4 48.Nd3 Nxd3
 49.Kxd3 Kb7 50.Kc3 Ka6 51.Kb3 Kb7
 52.Ka4 Ka6 53.b5+ cxb5+ 54.Kb4 Ka7
 55.Kxb5 Kb7 56.Kc5 Ka6 57.Kd6 Kxa5
 58.Kxe6 1-0

But Dive-McLaren went into extra time – and beyond! For a long time the game

looked like a certain draw. But Russell kept probing and, after some tiring defence, Leonard finally cracked. His simplifying sacrifice simply led to a lost ending. Russell wrapped up the win – and shared first – after a mere 111 moves.

Dive,Russell (2426) - McLaren,Leonard (2348) [A05]
 40th Trusts Open Auckland (6), 05.06.2017



96...Bxe4? 97.fxe4 f3 98.Ng7 Sadly for Black, who was probably completely exhausted, the journey Ne6-g7-h5-g3 comes just in time because there's a check along the way. 98...f2 99.Nh5+ Kg6 100.Ng3 Bc1 101.Bf5+ Kf6 102.Kh7 Bd2 103.Kh6 g4+ 104.Kh5 Bf4 105.Nf1 g3 106.Bh3 Kg7 107.Kg4 Kf6 108.Nxg3 Bxg3 109.Kxg3 Kg5 110.Kxf2 Kf4 111.Bd7 1-0

The length of this crucial game meant Russell and Anthony nearly missed their flight back to Wellington and did miss the prize-giving.

In all, well over \$4000 in prizes were handed out at this Super Class grand prix event, with Hague and Dive earning \$600 each.

Six lucky juniors also received books donated by GM Chandler, including Daniel Gong, who appropriately received a tome on endgames.

The B Tournament was won by 12 year-old WCM Vyanla Punsalan with 5.5/6, a full point ahead of runners-up Simon Lyall and Francisco Chung. Sean Myers and Hugh Gao shared first in the C Tournament on 5/6, with Rishit Patel third on 4.5. And the Junior Tournament, for players under 12, was won by Abraham Deng with 5/6, half a point ahead of Matthew Chen.

As always, the support of the Trusts Community Foundation was vital in organising the tournament.

The Foundation was represented at the opening by well-known West Auckland identity Warren Flaunty, who made the symbolic first move for Anthony Ker on board one.

Other sponsors were the Charnwood Trust and the West Auckland Trusts.

The Trusts donated a dozen bottles of wine, which were auctioned off and raised \$165 towards the tournament budget.

Once again the Te Pai Centre in Henderson proved to be an excellent venue, and it has already been booked for the 41st Trusts Chess Open. See you there!

Letters to the Editor

Brian Winsor of the North Shore Chess Club contributes a charming poem.

Chess Pieces

*The Pawns are minions in the game
Which sometimes rise in rank and fame
Five steps from commoner to Queen
With many hazards in between.*

*The Rook controls the rank and file
For straight lines only are his style
He guards the King throughout the play
But endgames are the Rooks' forte.*

*The Knight he jumps from place to place
For forks illusive he will chase
He gets there in a devious way
His lord and master to obey.*

*The Bishop moves diagonally
His path is plain and true to see
No pacifist this pious one
He slays for vantage not for fun.*

*The Queen a mighty warrior she
Her strength is her mobility
She'll keep the enemy at bay
With powerful and strategic play.*

*The King is slow, it's fair to say
Pedantic in his mode of play
He views the battle from the rear
His life is jeopardy and fear.*

Possibly the first original poem ever published in *NZ Chess*. Look out for another impressive effort, this time from Wellington CC Club Captain Phil Rossiter, in the next issue!

From **Russell Hosking**

As a follow-up to my letter about Boris Kostic, I must mention that I've come across a position (presented as a puzzle – White mates in 3) from a game Kostic-Atwood Coleman, Perth 1924, but it's not stated whether this is the Perth in Australia, the Perth in Canada or the Perth in Scotland. The position is in the book “Sac and mate, 1000 surprising checkmates, 1800-1960” edited by Bill Harvey.

The book also has a position (Black mates in 2) from a game Gaby Beyer – Spencer Crakanthorp, New Zealand 1932. Spencer Crakanthorp (1885-1936) was the father of Cecil John Seddon Purdy's wife Ann and thus the maternal grandfather of John Spencer Purdy and his sister Diana, wife of expatriate chess player Frank Hutchings. Frank is a member of the same Sydney chess club (Norths) as Max Illingworth and Anton Smirnov.

Bill Harvey is the webmaster of wharvey.com (chess puzzles from historic and modern games) which has over 10,000 chess puzzles.

The editor has tracked down both games mentioned, they're both satisfyingly bloodthirsty. Atwood Coleman turns out to be a player right on the brink of absolute obscurity. A player of that name, or at least named “A Coleman” made two

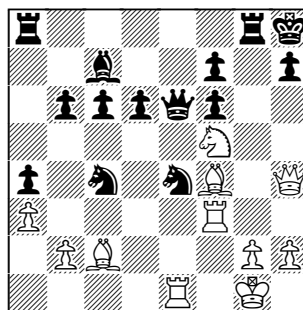
undistinguished appearances in Australian championships in the 1920s, one of which was in Perth, an almost unimaginably remote location at the time and something of a chess backwater to this day. So it seems more than plausible that he was a Perth player, and that Perth, Australia is the location of one of the mates below.

Kostic,Boris - Coleman,Atwood

[A52]

Perth, Australia, 1924

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4 4.e4 Nxe5
5.f4 Ng6 6.a3 a5 7.Be3 b6 8.Nc3 Bb7
9.Bd3 Na6 10.Qd2 Nc5 11.Bc2 a4 12.Qd1
Bd6 13.Nge2 Qe7 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.Qxd5
c6 16.Qd4 0-0 17.Rd1 Bc7 18.0-0 d6
19.Ng3 Rfe8 20.f5 Ne5 21.f6 gxf6 22.Nf5
Qe6 23.Bf4 Nxc4 24.Qf2 Kh8 25.Qh4
Rg8 26.Rf3 Nxe4 27.Re1

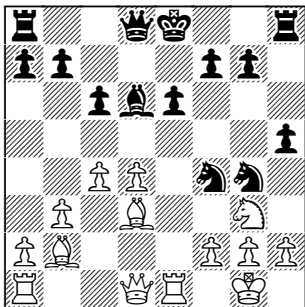


27...Ng5? 28.Bxg5 fvg5 29.Qxh7+! Kxh7
30.Rh3+ Qh6 31.Rxh6# 1-0

Beyer,K - Crakanthorp,S [B18]

New Zealand, 1932

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5
5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Be2 e6 8.0-0 Bd6
9.b3 Ngf6 10.Bb2 h5 11.Nh4 Nf8 12.Nxg6
Nxg6 13.Bd3 Nf4 14.c4 Ng4 15.Re1



15...Qh4 16.h3 Nxh3+ 17.gxh3 Qxh3
 18.Qf3 h4 19.Bf5 hxg3 20.Bxg4 gxf2+
 21.Kxf2 Qh2+ 22.Kf1 Qxb2 23.d5 Bg3
 24.dxe6 Rh1+ 0-1

Letter from the Kingside
“The Best of Times”
by Roger Nokes

It is hard to imagine that there has ever been a better time to be a chess lover. Surely these are “the best of times”. The major advances in digital technology that we have witnessed over the last 30 years has had a dramatic impact on many sports, but has any sport experienced such a profound transformation as chess?

I sometimes reflect on chess as it was before the internet arrived. It was very comfortable and predictable. My access to chess news and the latest games happened in ways that can only be described, by today’s standards, as painfully slow. I remember following the Fischer-Spassky match in 1972. Even the games were played at a snail’s pace – one every three days – and I would dash home from school hoping to find the score of the latest game

in the Christchurch Star newspaper. It is easy to forget how dramatic the impact of that match was on the collective consciousness. Can you imagine a newspaper today actually printing the moves of a chess game? These moves, along with a few column inches in the Star reporting on the latest gossip or controversy from Reykjavik, was my only access to “live” chess news.

Except for this rather extraordinary event the rest of my chess news and views were decidedly not “live”. I would wait a month or so while my British Chess Magazine made its way from the UK, I assume by boat, although it felt more like someone was bringing it by backpack via the Himalayas. When it arrived there were tournament reports, crosstables, the occasional interviews with top players and annotated games! It was like finding water in a desert.

As I matured as a player, and much of that maturing came about through gorging myself on those magazines and the few chess books I could find in the local book shops, I gradually progressed to Informators as my source of the latest wrinkles in opening theory and chess tournament news. While annotated games were part of the fare offered up by these erudite volumes the annotations were cryptic and included no words to help an aspiring player improve their skills. Still at the time they seemed to me to be the pinnacle of chess knowledge and my lifeline to the outside world of chess.

The contrast with the chess world of 2017 is stark. Digital technology, but most

importantly the internet, has opened up opportunities for chess players to engage in the wider chess world, to learn, to compete and indulge themselves like never before. No doubt this is true in many fields, but it would not take much effort to find one's self spending every waking moment connected to the chess world through a laptop, tablet or phone (it still amazes me that if I had read the previous couple of sentences in the days of the Fischer-Spassky match I would not have even understood what the words meant). While this revolution has impacted on other sports as well I believe that chess has reaped more benefits than (nearly) all others.

Access to chess news is no longer a month long wait for the next chess magazine or Informator to arrive. Instead it is instantly accessible through a variety of websites. In fact it is so accessible it is now easy to watch games live from all over the world. Yes I can watch a tennis match or rugby test on the internet (normally after the fact), but I could watch live rugby on TV in my youth. But the opportunities to watch live chess, except when present in person, were extremely rare. Now I can watch multiple tournaments live at the same time! The recent US Championships is a case in point. The time difference was such that the games started around 7 or 8am NZ time. I could catch the first few moves while spooning down my cornflakes and catch up with the middle game once I arrived at work. I must say it is a little embarrassing when someone walks into your office for a chat and there is the soft clunk of chess pieces being moved across the board coming out of the speaker on your computer. It is not enough just to hide the

evidence from view, these live feeds generously provide you with sound effects as well! What is more astounding is that it is possible, typically if you subscribe to a particular chess service, to receive live commentary from world class grandmasters such as Yasser Seirawan.

Complementing these live commentary services are a range of other post-game treats such as post-mortems delivered, at least in part, by the players themselves, and reviews or highlights from the latest games and events. For those of you who have not had the pleasure to view it, get onto the Chessbase website and track down the postmortem of the game between Magnus Carlsen and Lev Aronian from the recent Gasimov Memorial event in Shamkir, Azerbaijan. This quarter of an hour spontaneous exchange between two of the world's strongest players and the commentary team is absolutely absorbing, not least because the game was an absolute cracker, and extraordinarily complex at the critical moments. Hearing players such as Carlsen and Aronian explaining their thinking during the game and giving their audience their insights into the key ideas underlying the various positions that arose, and, yes, showing that they too are human and miss things at the board, is priceless.

Danny King's Powerplay channel on YouTube, often accessible through the Chessbase website, is another must watch for me. Danny, a Grandmaster himself, provides a wonderfully accessible commentary on selected games in a style that I find quite delightful. He is a regular provider of highlight packages from top level tournaments and provides a human

touch you couldn't really get in magazines!

And of course I have just scratched the surface of the opportunities that the internet provides chess players eager to learn and engage. Let me mention just two others before I pause and offer up some actual chess. Unlike tennis or rugby, or any other physical sports for that matter, you can actually play chess on line at any hour of the day against real human opponents (well at least I think they are human). I must admit that I have never done so, but I can only imagine how liberating it must be for chess players, for whom finding flesh and blood opponents is difficult because of geographic location, or any of a myriad of other reasons, to be able to play the game they love wherever and whenever they like.

The second twist is access to online chess coaches. This is interesting not only because it has suddenly allowed chess players from all over the world to access first rate coaches, but it provides strong chess players with revenue generating opportunities that can help support their professional life with a regular income stream. It is perhaps this chance for young chess players of today to have a professional coach, even when living in New Zealand, that I most envy.

Can it get any better than this? I suspect it just might!

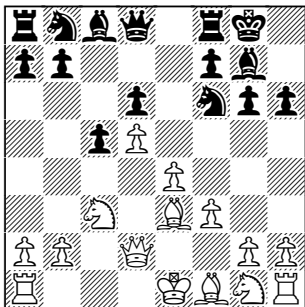
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Evgeniy Najer (2679) - Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (2772) [E81]

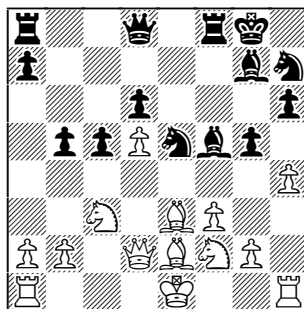
XXIV Rus-ch Teams Premier Sochi 2017

At the time of writing this column Shak Mamedyarov is perhaps the form player of the world's top echelon - threatening to break through the 2800 barrier on the live rating list (Ed: That barrier has subsequently been breached). He has just recently claimed first prize in the strong Gashimov Memorial event in Azerbaijan, ahead of Kramnik and So amongst others, and scored 4/4 for the winning Siberian Team in the Russian Teams Event in Sochi. So it is appropriate that I present one of his games. But to be honest it is no great burden. Mamedyarov is one of the most dynamic and entertaining players in the world and his games are frequently full of energy and tactical mazes. It was also very easy to pick his recent game from the Sochi event against Evgeniy Najer, another no nonsense player. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 c5 4.d5 Bg7 5.e4 d6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Bg5 h6 8.Be3 e6** The opening is a King's Indian Saemisch of course, but Mamedyarov now effectively converts it to a Modern Benoni - an opening for which I have considerable affection. In the past the Benoni featured often in the repertoires of tactical wizards such as Tal, Kasparov and Nunn, but in recent years the Benoni has fallen away as an opening choice of the top players in the world. I am pleased to say it seems to be creeping back into fashion and often with some success. I would have thought the opening would suit Mamedyarov down to the ground. **9.Qd2 exd5 10.cxd5**

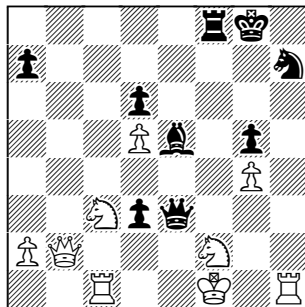
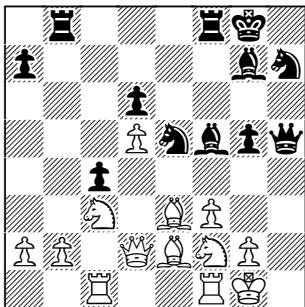


It is interesting to compare the characteristics of the different white structures against the Benoni. The opening has a number of key themes. Black has potential play on both sides of the board, looking to play b5 to mobilise his queenside majority or, amazingly, h5, g5 or f5 to generate activity on the kingside. White on the other hand has one primary goal and that is to break through the centre with the e5 advance. For this reason I find the f3 structures against the Benoni somewhat static for White. **10...Nh7** It is moves like this that make the Benoni such a rich opening. The move has two clear goals, one is to indirectly protect the h6 pawn through the queen check on h4, and the second is to free the 'f' pawn to attack the White strongpoint at e4. But you have to say it probably isn't the first move to come to mind! **11.Bd3 Nd7** Where would you choose to place White's king's knight? There are two options, develop it rapidly to e2 or take an extra tempo and end up with the beast on f2. To be honest I'm not crazy about either of these squares. The knight belongs on f3 to support the e5 break in my book, but that option is lost in this Saemisch structure. **12.Nh3 Ne5 13.Nf2 f5** Black begins his kingside activity. His goal

is to grab black square control if he can by advancing his f pawn to f4, thus consolidating the beautiful outpost on e5. **14.Be2 g5 15.exf5 Bxf5** Now things get exciting. White has lost his strategic plan of breaking in the centre but Black has loosened his kingside and White tries to capitalise on this immediately. **16.h4 b5!?**



And how does Black respond? In an apparently random way, by kicking out on the opposite side of the board. But there is method in his madness. Black is happy to sacrifice a pawn in order to open operations on the 'b' file. White's king is safe enough for now but neither the kingside or queenside look particularly inviting. **17.hxg5 hxg5 18.Nxb5 Rb8 19.Nc3** The engine reckons that White is significantly better here but the point from Black's perspective is that he has dynamic play all over the board and with that comes plenty of opportunity to muddy the waters. **19...Qe8 20.Rc1 c4 21.0-0** The engine is more enthusiastic about grabbing the 'a' pawn as well, but understandably White is more interested in giving his king some security. Strangely it is probably less safe on the kingside than in the centre. **21...Qh5**



22.g4? We reach the critical position. Najer must have relied on this response to the queen sortie when choosing to castle. A possible alternative **22.f4 Qh4 23.fxe5 Bxe5** also gives Black plenty of play. Not to belabour the point, but the knight on f2 does a particularly poor defensive job. **22...Qh4 23.Kg2 23.gxf5?? Qg3+ 24.Kh1 Rf6** is a disaster for White, but White has a more devious plan - to trap the Black queen. **23...Nxf3!** This is the move that Najer must have missed. It destroys White's kingside defensive screen. **24.Bxf3** There is nothing else both **24.gxf5 Qh2+ 25.Kxf3 Rxf5+-**; and **24.Rh1 Nxd2 25.Rxh4 gxh4+-** are losing for White. **24...Be5 25.Rh1 Qg3+ 26.Kf1 Bd3+!** Not **26...Qxf3 27.gxf5 Rxf5 28.Rg1** when Black's initiative dissipates. **27.Be2 Rxb2!** Excellent! The latent potential along the 'b' file allows Black to break through White's fortress. As these tactics develop it almost looks as if the position has been artificially created so that all Black's pieces (except the knight on h7) are perfectly placed for every tactic. **28.Qxb2 Qxe3 29.Bxd3 29.Ncd1? Rxf2+ 30.Nxf2 Bxb2** is even worse. **29...cxd3**

Black is a rook down and many pieces have been exchanged but his initiative roars on. The threat of d3-d2 is overwhelming **30.Rc2 30.Re1 Qf3 31.Rh6 Bd4 32.Rh2 Bxf2 33.Qxf2 d2** leads to a substantial material advantage for Black even though he is still a rook down! **30...dxc2 31.Qxc2 Rxf2+ 32.Qxf2 Qxc3 33.Kg2 Qc4 0-1**

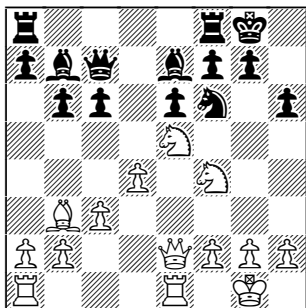
Feilding Rapid
(mini report)
by Ben Hague

The 6th Feilding rapid was a typical Mark Noble tournament, well-run and friendly. It's a shame they're not better attended, as I think they're some of the best I've played in.

I started with a couple of reasonably straightforward wins against juniors Malachi Hill and Ryan Winter. The game against Ryan had quite a nice finish, showing that sometimes the tactics in books do happen in real life

Feilding Rapid

1	FM Hague, Ben	2317	AC	5.5	+B10	+W17	+B6	+W3	+B2	=W4
2	CM James, Jack	2037	MK	5.0	+B16	+W15	+B4	+W18	-W1	+B9
3	Burns, Christopher J	1995	PN	5.0	+B26	+W12	+B9	-B1	+W7	+B5
4	WIM Timergazi, Layla	1928	WE	4.5	+W14	+B13	-W2	+B21	+W19	=B1
5	WCM Punsalan, Vyanla M	1812	NS	4.0	+B27	=W9	=B7	+W13	+B6	-W3
6	CM Notley, David G	2005	NP	4.0	+W22	+B19	-W1	+B12	-W5	+B14
7	Benitez, Edgar		WE	4.0	=W18	+B20	=W5	+B11	-B3	+W13
8	Joseph, Martin	1157	MK	4.0	-B15	-W16	+B25	+W17	+W21	+B12
9	Polishchuk, Kirill	2061	MM	3.5	+W21	=B5	-W3	+B20	+B18	-W2
10	Hill, Malachi	1584	MK	3.5	-W1	+B23	+W14	=B19	-W12	+B18
11	Ong, Weng Yan	1158		3.5	=W20	-B18	+W23	-W7	+B26	+B19
12	Stewart, James	1660	PN	3.0	+W28	-B3	+W22	-W6	+B10	-W8
13	Tagos, Bernardo	1622	WE	3.0	+W25	-W4	+B26	-B5	+W22	-B7
14	Ross, Sol	1310	MK	3.0	-B4	+W25	-B10	+W15	+B16	-W6
15	Kumar, Manish	1713	NP	3.0	+W8	-B2	-W21	-B14	+W20	+B23
16	Reid, Anton	1390	UH	3.0	-W2	+B8	-W19	+B24	-W14	+B21
17	Winter, Ryan	1777	WE	3.0	+W23	-B1	-W18	-B8	+W24	+B22
18	Sinclair, Zephan	1623		2.5	=B7	+W11	+B17	-B2	-W9	-W10
19	List, Robert	1664	UH	2.5	+B24	-W6	+B16	=W10	-B4	-W11
20	Charles, Dion	1748	MK	2.5	=B11	-W7	+B27	-W9	-B15	+W28
21	Burt, James	1457	NP	2.0	-B9	+W27	+B15	-W4	-B8	-W16
22	Mower, Andrew	1359	NSW	2.0	-B6	+W24	-B12	+W26	-B13	-W17
23	Rajput, Nirav	1252	NP	2.0	-B17	-W10	-B11	+W25	+B27	-W15
24	Malton, Isabella	1047	MK	2.0	-W19	-B22	+W28	-W16	-B17	+W26
25	Hancock, Eli		MK	2.0	-B13	-B14	-W8	-B23	+W28	+W27
26	Sharp, Derek	1328	MK	1.0	-W3	+B28	-W13	-B22	-W11	-B24
27	Doozne, Robert	1284	MK	1.0	-W5	-B21	-W20	+B28	-W23	-B25
28	Clayton, Alexander	877	MK	0.0	-B12	-W26	-B24	-W27	-B25	-B20



17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bxe6+ Kh8 19.Ng6+ Kh7 20.Qd3 Rfe8 21.Nf8+ Kh8 22.Qh7+ and he resigned as 22...Nxh7 allows 23.Ng6#.

After this I played typical quickplay chess against David Notley, Chris Burns and Jack James where I played reasonable moves fairly quickly until they made mistakes and blundered something. In the last round against Layla Timergazi she used my tactic against me. It worked for a while and I did blunder a pawn but luckily for me she hasn't quite got the hang of the fairly quickly part and I managed to exploit her time trouble to achieve a drawn knight and pawn ending. This left me half a point clear of Chris and Jack in second. **1-0**

Auckland Chess Centre ANZAC Weekender *by Mike Steadman*

It has been a while since my last article. Basically just a reflection of my activity really, it was a slow year since the last event I documented.

Anyway, 2017 and we needed to change the weekender format due to some challenges at the Centre. We now have about 80 odd members and have outgrown our space. We have had to implement a Friday night session and enforce a 1200 rating threshold before players are invited to Monday nights. Consequently of course our weekenders cannot start on a Friday night as they have in the past. So, for this weekender we used Anzac Day (a Tuesday) as our third day which made the event slightly disjointed, but all the players seemed to be OK with it.

So, with a last-minute rally of email queries we managed to get 41 entrants. Daniel Gong has made huge strides and was the third seed in the event. The top two seeds were Alexei Kulashko and Ben Hague. Our weekenders have turned into a race for second place with Ben winning them all. But with Alexei and Paul Garbett playing, the feeling was Ben would have a tougher time of things.

Round 1 was a clean sweep for all the top players apart from Simon Lyall, he got blown away by a 900 rated player. Obviously, Simon had decided to play a very deep Swiss event to miss the big dogs.

Round 2 and a couple of blips. Daniel Gong could not break through against Jasmine Zhang and managed a draw. Kirill Polishchuk escaped with a draw against Arnold Van den Heuvel. I used to go to school with Arnold and he has been away from chess for ages with work and kids. He has started back at the North Shore club but is still a bit nervous against the big boys. We were having a coffee during the rounds and when I saw he was playing Kirill I remembered he had played the Wing Gambit in the Wellington Easter. Now I don't really believe in this opening (one eyed French player that I am :), so I talked through an approach to this opening with Arnold. He was a bit panicky, but I showed him the basic concepts and then watched the game unfold. Sure enough Kirill (assuming he was a mug and he would blow him away) played the line. Arnold followed the script and before he knew it, was three pawns up with White having little to show for it. But being in a winning position and finishing it off is why the ratings are as they are. Arnold spurned many winning chances and found a way to secure a draw. Still, he was very happy with the result. I think this had the effect of taking this line out of Kirill's repertoire for the rest of the event. (he got to face three Frenches in this weekender). (Ed: I can't help but wonder whether Mike still feels the same way about the Wing Gambit after his loss to Oliver Picken on page 4:).

Day two and everyone has turned up on time. Round 3 saw Gino do some preparation and find a version of the English that gave Black no chances to go mad (or White either), so a timid draw was achieved. Ben started doing what Ben does

and outplayed Paul who tried an aggressive Sicilian that Ben handled better. Paul lost a pawn and once the Queens were off, was always looking lost. Steadman against Krstev was horrible. Antonio tried the Schlechter Slav and got a horribly cramped

position and was always worse, but then he dropped his Queen, all over. Allen Fan took another half point of Daniel Gong, from us old guys' perspective, good to see them slaughtering each other rather than carving through us oldies ☐ ☐

ACC ANZAC Weekender

1	FM	Steadman, Michael V	2237	AC	5.5	+W32	+B21	+W5	=W6	+B8	+B7
2	FM	Gong, Daniel Hanwen	2295	HP	5.0	+B31	=W12	=B3	+W20	+B16	+W6
3	CM	Fan, Allen Chi Zhou	2044	AC	4.5	+W41	+B14	=W2	=B8	=W4	+B13
4	IM	Garbett, Paul A	2218	NS	4.5	+B22	+W29	-B6	+W12	=B3	+W11
5		Krstev, Antonio	2010	NS	4.5	+B30	+W33	-B1	=W14	+B19	+W12
6	FM	Hague, Ben	2305	AC	4.0	+W23	+B13	+W4	=B1	=W7	-B2
7		Polishchuk, Kirill	2122	MM	4.0	+B39	=W17	+B18	+W11	=B6	-W1
8	FM	Kulashko, Alexei	2341	AC	4.0	+B19	+W16	=B11	=W3	-W1	+B17
9		Lyall, Simon	1741	AC	4.0	-B33	+W30	+B34	+W31	-B11	+W16
10	CM	Nagorski, Alex	1788	AC	4.0	+B34	-W11	=B22	=W18	+B31	+W20
11		Thornton, Giovanni A	2144	NS	3.5	+W36	+B10	=W8	-B7	+W9	-B4
12	WFM	Zhang, Jasmine Haomo	1855	AC	3.5	+W35	=B2	+W15	-B4	+W22	-B5
13	CM	Lim, Benjamin U	1931	HP	3.5	+B25	-W6	+B17	=W19	+B14	-W3
14		Dai, Oliver	1666	HP	3.5	+B40	-W3	+B33	=B5	-W13	+W18
15		Holdo, Karl	1640	AC	3.5	=BYE	+W24	-B12	=W29	=B21	+W30
16		Macdonald, Paul	2002	AC	3.0	+W26	-B8	+W23	+B32	-W2	-B9
17		van den Heuvel, Arno	1747	NS	3.0	+W38	=B7	-W13	=BYE	+B25	-W8
18		Cooper, Nigel	1681	CA	3.0	=BYE	+B37	-W7	=B10	+W32	-B14
19		Liu, Xinyang	1583	AC	3.0	-W8	+B26	+W37	=B13	-W5	=B22
20		Ha, Huy Minh (Timoth	1697	AC	3.0	-W37	+B41	+W40	-B2	+W23	-B10
21	CM	Eade, Don	1844	AC	3.0	+B27	-W1	-B31	+W28	=W15	=B26
22	WCM	Braganza, Nadia	1465	NS	3.0	-W4	+B28	=W10	+B38	-B12	=W19
23		Wang, Aaron Ziwen	1579	HP	3.0	-B6	+W25	-B16	+W27	-B20	+W33
24		Taylor, David	1500	PT	3.0	=BYE	-B15	=W38	+W34		+B35
25		Qiu, Daniel	1285	HP	3.0	-W13	-B23	+W36	+B40	-W17	+B32
26	WCM	Lourenco, Eva	1327	NS	3.0	-B16	-W19	=B39	+W33	+B29	=W21
27		Barry, Jacob	1227	AC	3.0	-W21	-B32	+W41	-B23	+W34	+B38
28		Ghadijali, Saasha	1038	AC	3.0	-B29	-W22	+BYE	-B21	+W40	+W31
29		Peak, Stephen	1826	AC	2.5	+W28	-B4	-W32	=B15	-W26	+B37
30	WCM	Ghadijali, Renae	1329	AC	2.5	-W5	-B9	+W35	=B37	+W38	-B15
31		Qin, Oscar Shu Xuan	1495	AC	2.0	-W2	+B35	+W21	-B9	-W10	-B28
32	WCM	Qin, Nicole Shu Yu	1493	AC	2.0	-B1	+W27	+B29	-W16	-B18	-W25
33		Jin, Owen	911		2.0	+W9	-B5	-W14	-B26	+W36	-B23
34		Weng, Xintong (Winst	945	AC	2.0	-W10	+B36	-W9	-B24	-B27	+W41
35		Ning, Isabelle Yixua	1237	AC	2.0	-B12	-W31	-B30	+B41	+W37	-W24
36		Wang, Ying	1411	AC	2.0	-B11	-W34	-B25	+W39	-B33	+W40
37		Jain, Uday	883	AC	1.5	+B20	-W18	-B19	=W30	-B35	-W29
38		Zhang, Kendrick	922	AC	1.5	-B17	+W39	=B24	-W22	-B30	-W27
39		Liu, John	1394	AC	1.5	-W7	-B38	=W26	-B36	-W41	+BYE
40		White, Calvin	622		1.0	-W14	+BYE	-B20	-W25	-B28	-B36
41		Patel, Rishit	1353	AC	1.0	-B3	-W20	-B27	-W35	+B39	-B34

Round 4 and only Steadman and Hague were on full points. I had planned something to try on Ben, but on move three he surprised me and I was making it up. Ok as I normally make it up anyway. Ben got a slightly better position but White played actively and managed to swap down to a heavy piece endgame that was always drawn. This allowed the group on 2.5 points to catch up to us and Kirill did just that. He tried a 2.b3 against Gino's French and did not get anywhere. Gino at one stage was winning, missed it, and then blundered into a 2 move mate. The kind of blunder that keeps you up at night. Alexei could not break down Allan Fan's French and so dropped a half point, but was still in the mix on 3 points.

So, with our rest day on the Monday we now had 3 players on 3.5, Hague, Polishchuk and Steadman, closely followed by 6 players on 3, Kulashko, Gong, Fan, Garbett, MacDonald and the deep Swiss man Simon Lyall. Hague seemed to have the better of his Sicilian against Kirill, but Black secured a draw pawn down in the Rook endgame. The game of the round was Kulashko v Steadman. This was a delayed Morra gambit where I had played an early g6, so the usual anti Morra's did not work. While I was manoeuvring my bits behind my pawns on the Kingside ready to attack White, Alexei had been creating and then jumping into holes on the Queenside. When the Kingside exploded, White's pieces weren't on the best squares and the change in game unsettled Alexei and he quickly went wrong, once the Queens came off he was dead lost. Our deep Swiss man Simon had completely outplayed Gino, was preparing to play Qf3 forcing White to

resign when he played Nxf6 first, would have been strong except White could now take the Queen he had just attacked. Gino wins and poor Simon is shell shocked. Gong just outplays MacDonald for an easy point and Fan showed he is improving rapidly and secured a nice draw against Garbett.

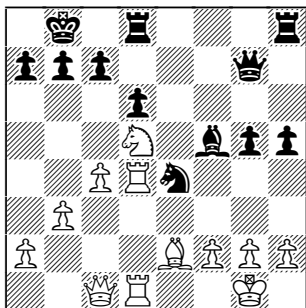
Round 6 had Steadman on 4.5, Kirill, Gong and Hague on 4, the top positions would be decided by these four. I had seen Kirill try the Wing Gambit and the b3 system, both of which I considered no threat to my beloved French, so I had to show him. Sure enough he tried the b3 and I played my b6 line and Black had easy equality and was soon better and then winning – if all games could be this simple. Gong vs Hague was a special game. Gong played this kind of line that he and Ben have played before in the Sicilian that looks to give White a one-track play that seems to fit well with Daniel's style. All the minor pieces came off and Black had to defend. Ben missed a Rook sacrifice and it was all over. He managed to get two Rooks for the Queen, the problem was White also got three extra pawns. Easy win for Daniel and a fine second place result. Now the race for third place, one game remained and Gino kept trying to squeeze Garbett and achieved the advantage only to blunder again and lose, allowing Paul to get third equal with Krstev and Fan.

Here are a few sample games that were worth watching;

**Macdonald,Paul (2002) -
Gong,Daniel (2295) [A41]**

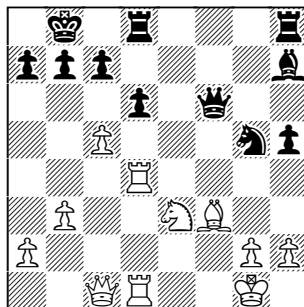
Anzac Weekender Auckland Chess Centre
(5), 25.04.2017

1.d4 d6 2.c4 e5 A la Ker, White must play early Nf3 if he doesn't like these types of setups. **3.e4 exd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd2 f5** Typical aggressive play from Daniel, just get the bits out and attack. The Kings are going to opposite wings and the race is on. **6.Nc3 Nf6 7.exf5 Bxf5 8.Nf3 Qd7 9.Be2 0-0-0 10.0-0 h6 11.b3 g5 12.Bb2 Bg7 13.Rad1 Kb8** I think most of us wood pushers would prefer to be Black here, his position requires less thought, the pawns are going to roll... **14.Nd5** When you play early moves, you should check what weakness it leaves. In this case the Knight was guarding e4. When Black moves his Knight there, his knight on e4 will be more threatening than the White one on d5. **14...Ne4 15.Qc1 h5 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Bxd4 18.Rxd4 Qg7 19.Rfd1**

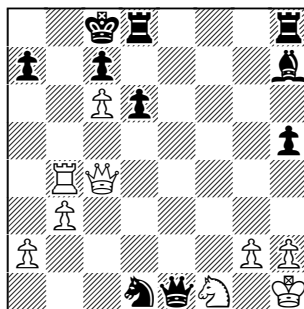


19...g4!? More conservative is 19...Rde8 20.Bf3 g4 21.Bxe4 Bxe4 22.Qf4 Bc2 23.Rc1 Rhf8 24.Qd2 Bh7 Black is slightly better and all these endgames with the Bishop vs the Knight are good for him. **20.Ne3?** 20.Qf4 Qe5 21.Qxe5 dxe5 22.R4d3 This was White's one chance to

get back into the game, it's probably even again. **20...Bh7 21.c5 Qf6** or **21...Rdf8 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.Rb4 Nxf2 24.Rdd4 a5 25.Ra4 g3 22.f3 gxf3 23.Bxf3 Ng5**



24.Bxb7? 24.Bxb5 Be4 25.Ng4 Nf3+ 26.gxf3 Qxf3 27.Rxe4 Qxe4 Even here Black is better and probably just winning. **24...Kxb7 25.Rb4+ Kc8 26.c6 Nh3+ 27.Kh1 Nf2+ 28.Kg1 Nxd1 29.Qc4 Qf2+ 30.Kh1 Qe1+ 31.Nf1**

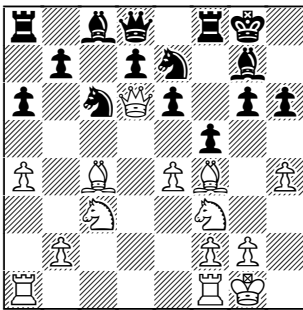


31...Bd3!! Beautiful move that Paul had not seen. A nice game showing just how dangerous Daniel is becoming. **0-1**

**Kulashko,Alexei (2341) -
Steadman,Mike (2237) [B27]**

Anzac Weekender Auckland Chess Centre
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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 Straight out of Bob Smith's playbook. **3.d4 cxd4 4.c3** I was looking to try something against Alexei, I guess he smelled a rat and surprised me first. A Morra and it's not a bad idea with Black already committed to ...g6 (not the usual antidote) **4...dxc3** I had to win, so took the pawn, but I wasn't happy. Maybe declining with d3 is the best option. **5.Nxc3 Bg7** I had no idea what to do in this line, but I was a pawn up, so just needed to knuckle down and absorb some pain. **6.Be4 a6 6...Nc6 7.e5 Nxe5 8.Nxe5 Bxe5 9.Qd5 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 e6 11.Qd6** This has been played before and has scored badly for Black, not a good place to be. I thought I would be better off just trying to get my King safe and give up some squares if I had to. **7.0-0 Nc6 8.Qd5 e6 9.Qd6 Nge7 10.a4 0-0 11.Bf4 h6 12.h4 f5**

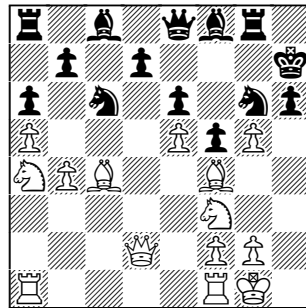


Ugly, but all part of my plan. It seemed to me that if White played e5 and followed up with N-e4-d6 then Black is strangled. By f5 I took this away and helped my dreams of a Kingside attack :-)

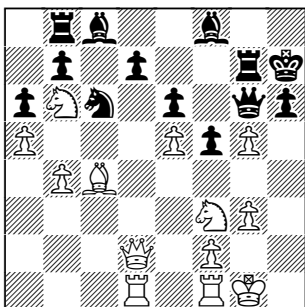
13.e5 Kh7 I saw the b4 plan and could have played to stop it, but I

saw these lines where I just left him to it on the Queenside and just split open the Kingside with g5, and my Bishop on f8 would later target the b4 plan. No real calculation, just ideas... **13...Qa5 14.Rac1 Qb4 15.b3 g5 16.hxg5 hxg5 17.Bxg5 Ng6 18.Rfd1 Qxd6 19.exd6** This kind of position just looked hopeless to me...)

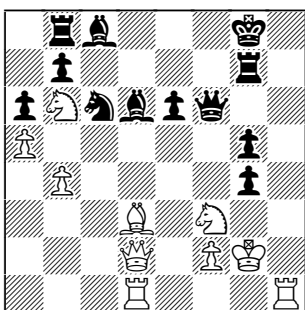
14.b4 Qe8 15.a5 I thought this fell into my line. I was more worried about the other pawn. **15.b5** and bad things can happen, eg **15...Na5 16.Be2 Rg8 17.Rfb1 Qf8 18.Qb6 Qd8 19.Be3 axb5 20.axb5 d6 21.Rd1** and White dominates **15...Rg8 16.Na4 Bf8 17.Qd2 g5 18.hxg5 Ng6**



This is what I had envisaged, the b4 pawn is weak and I have chances down the g file. **19.Rad1 Nxf4?** Just after I get the position I was looking for, a mistake. **19...Bxb4 20.Qe3 Bxa5 21.Be2 Nxf4 22.Qxf4 Qh5 23.Qe3 hxg5 24.Nd4 Qh6 25.Nxc6 dxc6** Black is three pawns up and after a few consolidation moves, should win comfortably. **20.Qxf4 Qg6 21.Nb6 Rb8 22.Qd2?** **22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Rxd7+ Rg7 24.Rxg7+ Kxg7 25.Rd1** Now White is a pawn up and comfortably winning. I guess White took so long to get the Knight to b6 he was reluctant to exchange it for a dead piece. A let-off for me. **22...Rg7 23.g3?**



Never move pawns on the side your opponent is strongest on unless you have to. 23.b5 axb5 24.Bxb5 hxg5 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Nxc8 Rxc8 27.a6 g4 28.Nd4 Black is a pawn up but cramped. Alexei has lost the thread.) 23...hxg5 24.g4? Bad moves follow bad moves. 24...Kg8 25.Bd3 d6 26.exd6 Bxd6 27.Kg2 Qf6 28.Rh1 fxg4

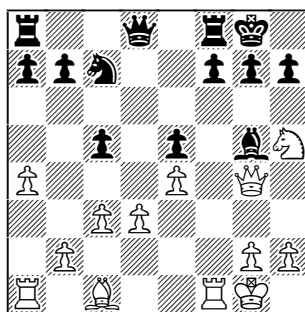


29.Bh7+? Desperation, Black just wraps up the point now. 29...Rxf7 30.Nxg5 Rxf7 31.Rxf7 Bf4 32.Nd5 Bxd2 33.Nxf6+ Kg7 34.Nge4 Bxb4 35.Nh5+ Kg6 36.Kg3 e5 37.f4 gxf3 38.Kxf3 Nd4+ 39.Ke3 Bf5 40.Nef6 Ne6 41.Rg1+ Ng5 42.Rc1 Bxa5 43.Kf2 Bd8 0-1

Gong, Daniel (2295) - Hague, Ben (2305) [B30]

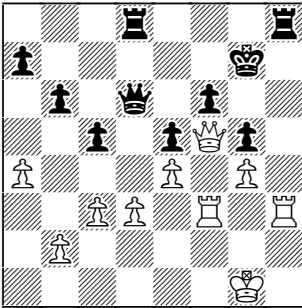
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1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 Be7 5.d3 Nf6 6.Nd2 With the idea of targeting d5 with both knights 6...0-0 6...a6 7.a4 d6 8.Nf1 Bg4 9.f3 Be6 10.Ne3 Nb4 11.Qe2 0-0 12.0-0 Ne8 This type of line seems more promising to me, the key is the Knight on b4 helps defend the d5 square against this one trick pony opening (Ed: Is it a one trick pony or a two pony trick?). Castling as Ben did seems to give White a target. 7.Nf1 d6 8.Ne3 Nd4 9.a4 Be6 10.0-0 Ne8 10...Nd7 11.Ncd5 Nb6 12.Nxb6 axb6 13.c3 Nc6 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Qb3 Rf6 16.Nf5 h6 17.Nxe7+ Nxe7 18.Be3 11.Ncd5 Bg5 12.c3 Nc6 13.f4 exf4 14.Nxf4 Bxc4 Better is 14...Bxf4 15.Rxf4 Nf6 16.b3 Re8 17.Ba3 Ne5 18.Qc2 a6 19.Bxe6 Rxe6= 15.Nxc4 Nc7 16.Qg4 Ne5 17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Nh5

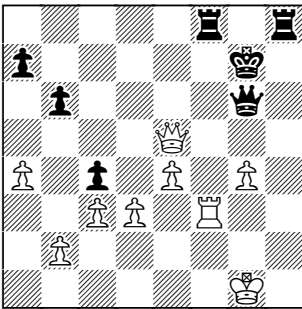


You can't give these juniors a sniff, Ben is in trouble. 18...Ne6 19.Nxg7! Kxg7 20.h4 h6 21.hxg5 Nxg5 22.Bxg5? 22.Be3 b6 23.Rf3 f6 24.Rg3 Qc7 25.Rc1 Qd6 26.Rf1 Rad8 27.Rf5 Qe7 28.Bxg5 fxg5 29.Rxg5+ hxg5 30.Qh5 Rxd3 31.Rxg5+ Qxg5 32.Qxg5+ is similar to the game, but more forcing. 22...hxg5 23.Rf3 f6 24.Raf1 Qd6

25.Qf5 Rad8 26.Rh3 Rh8 27.Rff3 b6
28.g4



28...c4? Just after he has recovered, Ben relaxes and misses the danger, he needed to swap the Rooks and accept a draw. 28...Rhxh3 29.Rhxh3 Rh8 30.Rhxh8 Kxh8 31.Qg6 c4 32.dxc4 Qd1+ 33.Kh2 Qd2+ 34.Kh3 Qe3+ White can't escape the checks, draw... 29.Rh5 Rdf8 30.Rxg5+! fxg5 31.Qxg5+ Qg6 32.Qxe5+

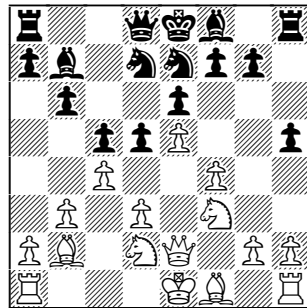


32...Kh7 32...Rf6 33.g5 Re8 34.Qxf6+ Qxf6 35.gxf6+ Kf7 36.Kf2 cxd3 37.Rxd3 White wins the endgame comfortably. 33.Rh3+ Qh6 34.Rxh6+ Kxh6 35.d4 Kg6 36.Kg2 Rh7 37.d5 Rhf7 38.Qh5+ Kg7 39.Qg5+ Kh7 40.Qh4+ Kg6 41.e5 Rf3 42.e6 Rd3 43.Qh5+ Kg7 44.Qg5+ Kh7 45.e7 1-0

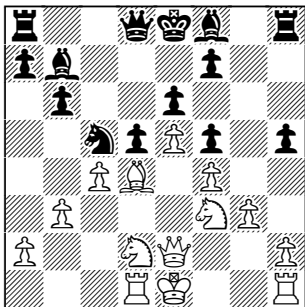
Polishchuk, Kirill (2122) - Steadman, Mike (2237) [C00]

Anzac Weekender Auckland Chess Centre
(6), 25.04.2017

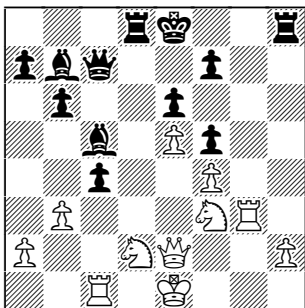
1.e4 e6 2.b3 I have tried this as White myself in my day, but decided that it is basically not challenging and so I shelved it. I was happy to see it in a must win game. 2...b6 3.Bb2 Bb7 4.d3 d5 5.Nd2 c5 6.f4 Nf6 7.e5 Nfd7 8.Ngf3 Nc6 This is just a good French, the bishop does not want to be on b2, but Black is OK with his on b7, it has chances of getting a life. 9.c4 Ne7 10.Qe2 h5



Securing f5 for the knight. White correctly decides he can't allow this in conjunction with d4 and then Ne3 but giving up the bishop is a concession. 11.g3 Nf5 12.Bh3 g6 13.Bxf5 gxf5 14.d4 14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.Nc4 Be7 16.Nd6+ Bxd6 17.exd6 f6 18.d4 h4 The computer is slightly trending to Black and I agree. A good rule of thumb in the French is that when the white squared bishop gets good, Black is doing well. 14...cxd4 15.Bxd4 Nc5 16.Rd1?



White does not see the danger. Although close to equal, Black's game is easier to play. **16...h4 17.Rg1 17.Nxh4 Rxh4!** I had an annoying loss to Jack James in Wellington (Ed: See the April issue for the grisly details) when I chickened out of sacking the change, I was determined to try to do it as often as I could after that. **17...hgx3 18.Rxg3 Qc7 19.Rc1 Rd8** Or **19...Ne4 20.Nxe4 dxe4 21.Ng5 0-0-0 22.Bc3 Rh4 23.Nh3 Bc5** Black's position is just winning, the Rooks will get doubled and White is slaughtered down the h file. **20.Be3 dxc4 21.Bxc5 Bxc5**



The two Bishops are just massive, White's King in the middle, this is horrible. **22.Nxc4 Qd7 23.Qg2? Bb4+ 24.Kf1 Qd3+ 25.Qe2 25.Kg1 b5 26.Nb2 Qe3+**

27.Kh1 Qxc1+ 25...Bxf3 26.Rxf3 Qxe2+ 27.Kxe2 Rxh2+ 28.Rf2 Rxf2+ 29.Kxf2 b5 30.Nd6+ Bxd6 31.exd6 Rxd6 It's over, two pawns up, just get the King into the game and mop up. **32.Rc7 Rd2+ 33.Ke3 Rxa2 34.Kd4 Kf8 35.Rb7 a6 36.Rb6 Kg7 37.Kc5 Kg6 38.Kd6 Rb2 39.Rxa6 Rxb3 40.Ke7 Rc3 41.Rb6 Rc7+ 42.Kd6 Rc4 43.Rxb5 Rxf4 44.Ke7 Ra4 45.Rb8 Ra7+ 46.Kd6 Kf6 47.Rb6 Ra5 48.Kd7 f4 49.Ke8 Rf5 0-1**

The Prague Chess Festival *by Paul Macdonald*

From the time when I was a young adult I have always had a dream of playing chess all over the world. I couldn't think of anything more rewarding because I get to play a game I love so dearly, make friends with people in different places, see and understand different cultures and enjoy a smorgasbord of world history. Oh, did I mention the food!

Of course life is all about reality and the reality struck me when I was about 25 years old and saw Grandmaster Lambert Oll turn up at the Auckland Chess Centre. I was in awe in getting to see a real Grandmaster of Chess in real life! I remember I was so nervous. But I didn't see this man dressed in a suit as I expected. And I started to think, jees if a GM can't make a decent living out of playing Chess, how the heck am I going to? So I quit Chess for good for 10 years. I got a great job in IT, got married, had children and got financially stable.

Once I was stable I started to think about

my first love – chess that is ;-) And I wondered if I could somehow give chess to kids. Chess helped me a great deal in succeeding in professional life and surely it can help kids. Bob Mitchell once told me “If you have knowledge it is your civic duty to share it with children. Children are our future”. I was so struck by Bob's words that I decided to show as many kids the game of chess as possible and help them learn from it. And that is how Chess Power was born.

As I found out teaching chess is not easy to make a living from - just ask chess coaches - but it is easier than playing the game. So 8 years later with a lot of growing pains I finally was ready to start my dream.

At 46 years old, I travelled to Prague to play in my first International tournament in Europe! The tournament was part of the Prague Chess Festival. I was placed in the Golden Prague Open but I wanted consistently stronger opponents. So I asked to play in one of the stronger round robin events. Fortunately a place became vacant and I took my entry into the Karla Pruchy Memorial.

The festival has an interesting format. There are three 10-player round robin tournaments A (K. Opocenského Memorial), B (F. Zity Memorial) and C (K. Pruchy Memorial) and then the Golden Prague Open tournament. All classical tournaments with a time control of 1:30 + 30 minutes from move 40. What is interesting is players can choose which tournament they play in as long as they are in the rating bracket. So there were some players rated 2100+ in the Open with

higher ratings than the round robin events! This didn't make a lot of sense to me but it did allow me to get into the C tournament which would have been impossible if players were in strict rating order top to bottom. Of course there are the standard Rapid and Blitz tournaments too.

My group had two International Masters. Most of the players are from the Czech Republic but we had a Russian, a German, a Hungarian and of course one little Kiwi. The group ratings ranged from 1953 up to 2278. The IM's were past their heyday but dangerous nonetheless. I was the 2nd lowest rated player in the group. So my first thought of course was how am I going to win the tournament! This almost foolish and brazen attitude has allowed me to achieve way above my punching weight when everything else would say it was impossible. But at the end of the day, I have travelled across the world to win, not to lose.

My initial impressions of the tournament was they were struggling to get organised. There were 160 competitors in all and the tournament started close to an hour late. But the interesting thing is no-one seemed to expect the event to start on time. Half the players didn't show until an hour late anyway. So I thought hey this must be how it is done in Europe. If Chess Power events start 1 minute late I am not happy! I think the European way is certainly more relaxing.

The round robin events were in separate rooms and the open was in a big hall. The playing venue, the Karlínské Spektrum was a traditional old Czech building. But it was

situated right next to a nice park containing the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius – one of the most beautiful churches I have seen.

All of my games in the tournament are online at nzchessmag.com. Here is a round by round summary including two of the most interesting games.

Round 1 I am White against Josef Nováček rated 2159. I decide to sacrifice a pawn temporarily, but it turns out that it is permanent. I fight and fight in the rook endgame and turn a lost game into a draw. Yay – half a point on the board when by all accounts I should have lost!

Round 2. Black against Jirí Salac rated 2084. My opponent makes a poor decision letting me win a pawn. He plays the rook endgame poorly in my opinion and ends up lost. 1.5 points.

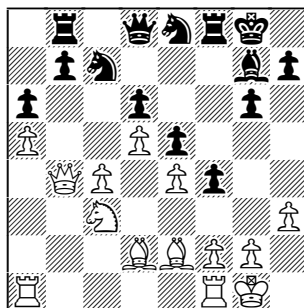
Round 3. White against Pavel Ptak 2120. I get a surprise in the opening. 1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Bg4!? I had not encountered this before so I was already on my own – just the way I like it! I come out on top via a very weird position, Pavel ends up sacrificing his queen to deal with pressure on the e-file with insufficient compensation. I clean up and take another win.

Round 4 Black against IM Pál Kiss 2278 from Hungary. My first extremely difficult challenge. We end up in a King's Indian type position where I closed the kingside too early looking for an attack. The problem is I am about 5 tempi down on a normal King's Indian. Desperate defence is called for.

Kiss, Pal (2278) - Macdonald, Paul (1986) [A00]

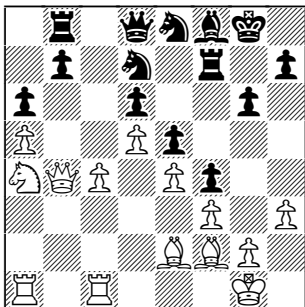
Karel Prucha Memorial Prague (4),
04.07.2017

1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 Bg4 5.e3 c5 6.d5 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Na6 9.e4 Nc7 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Rb8 12.Be2 a6 13.a4 e5 14.a5 Nfe8 15.Bd2 f5 16.Qb1 f4 17.b4 cxb4 18.Qxb4



White has a strong queenside initiative and is ready to hit me with c4-c5. I am already desperate. What to do? 18...Rf7 18...f3 is hopeless as Black cannot get his pieces across to the kingside 19.Bxf3 Rxf3 20.gxf3 Qh4 21.Kg2 Bh6 22.Bxh6 Qxh6 23.Ne2-+ 19.Na4 The immediate 19.c5 gives me a little much-needed breathing room 19...dxc5 20.Qxc5 Bf8 19...Bf8 The standard defensive setup in a King's Indian. 20.Rfc1 Now if I can just get a knight to d7 I might be able to hold up c4-c5 20...Nf6 21.f3 21.c5 has a surprising comeback 21...Nb5! 22.Bxb5 axb5 23.Nc3 (23.Qxb5 Nxe4) 23...f3! 24.gxf3 (24.Qxb5 fxe2 with compensation) 24...Ne8 and miraculously Black has some counterplay on White's king. 21...Nd7 IM's tend to feel the right things to do. With the e4-pawn secured the Nb5 idea just doesn't work any more. 22.Be1 This is the true intent of f3 - the

bishop can come to f2 and then Ba7 is always in the air embarrassing the b8-rook. So how to defend this new threat? Well the b7-pawn will be in danger so how about use my rook on f7 to at least get some counterplay? **22...Ne8! 23.Bf2**

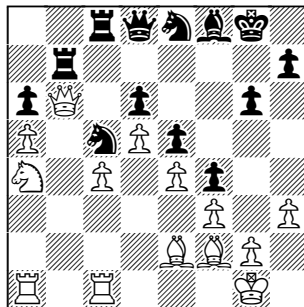


23...Rc8 I have no idea what happened but I found myself putting the rook on c8 a move earlier than I intended. I remember Karpov recounting such an incident in a game against Kasparov playing the 2nd move of a variation. But looking at it I started thinking hey this isn't so bad after all! Instead of ...Rc8, I had analysed something like **23...Ng7 24.Ba7 Rc8 25.Qxb7 Nc5 26.Qb6 Nxa4 27.Rxa4 Qd7** and black is better! **24.Qxb7** Anything else and black stops the c5-break and managed to hold for a while. **24...Nc5 25.Qb6 Rb7**

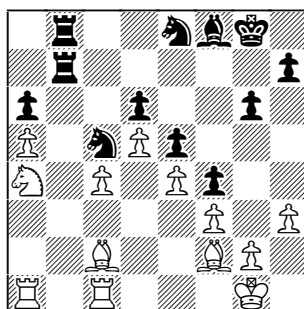
Don't Forget

Two big weekenders in August. The Waikato Open 11th-13th and the North Shore Open 26th-27th All the details are (of course) available at;

www.newzealandchess.co.nz



I thought if I can control the b-file at least I have compensation for the pawn lost. **26.Qxd8** Surprisingly my esteemed opponent misses a golden opportunity! **26.Bxc5! Rxb6 27.Bxb6** is a picturesque sight - all of black's pieces are on the back rank. Fischer Random anyone? With a rook, bishop and pawn for the queen and total domination of the position white is winning here. **26...Rxd8 27.Bd1** White would love to neutralise the b-file with **27.Nb6** but then **Nb3** wins the change **27...Rdb8** I was much happier now - this was the position I was aiming for when "accidentally" playing **Rc8. 28.Bc2**



A clever move preventing **Nd3** and preparing to challenge the b file at the same time. Some time ago when preparing for a

game with Daniel Runcan I reached an endgame position from the Benko where black was a pawn down but White had no way to win. The structure was very similar to this position. All I had to do was control c5 and swap the pieces off. **28...Nf6** Heading to d7 and my desired drawn position. **29.Nb6** Kiss misses his last real opportunity to avoid the drawish position **29.Nxc5 dxc5** is good for White **29...Nfd7** **30.Nxd7 Rxd7** **31.Rcb1** **31.Bxc5** doesn't work now due to the opposite coloured bishop ending **31...Rdb7** Not seeing any way to break through my opponent took off the knight and offered a draw which I accepted gratefully and delightedly. The question remains, is this really a draw? IM Kiss was of the view that his light squared bishop remains a hopeless bystander against the powerfully placed knight on c5. **32.Bxc5** Draw offered and accepted. White's attempt to activate the bishop **32.Rxb7 Rxb7** **33.Ba4** is met with **33...Nxa4** **34.Rxa4 Rb1+** and it is difficult to see how White makes progress. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Round 5 White against Josef Krátký 2075. We ended up with essentially an e4-e5 game where I had played b3. It is an interesting line with chances for White to press, in my experience. I failed to, so I sacrificed a pawn hoping for pressure. My opponent defended well but I found a resource and managed to draw the endgame. So after 5 rounds I had not lost a single game and was in 2nd place! I really couldn't believe it and this thought got to me. It was too good to be true.

Round 6 Black against IM Alexander Chudinovskih 2238 from Russia. Don't you love it when you are Black against all

the strongest players! I played the Pirc badly and somehow ended up in an equal position which I then ended up playing even more badly and lost in 26 moves! I don't know what happened, but my thinking processes just weren't firing. I wasn't careful and didn't calculate key variations and alternatives. Back to reality.

Round 7 White against Andre Jaeger 1999 from Germany. I expected to win this game and achieved a dominant and close to winning position. The only problem was my clock - less than two minutes and counting! I managed to play four bad moves in a row and ended up with a hopeless position that I couldn't hold.

I was devastated. I had done from being one of the leaders of my group to middle of the pack. What was really crushing was that I had the game on the tip of my fingers.

After some deep soul searching I decided the only way to recover was to win my last two games. The problem was the last round where I was paired against a surprise youngster who was leading the tournament along with the IMs. But first I had to deal with a 12-year old with a famous name!

Round 8 White against Viktor Pribyl 1953. I suspect this is IM Josef Pribyl's son so I knew the game would be tough. Viktor wasn't having a great tournament but our game was complex and difficult. Viktor played a Hanham Philidor defence against my 1.b3. He didn't castle and went in for ...h6, ...Nf8, ...g5, ...Ng6 and ...Rg8 trying to jump in to f4. His threats were dangerous so I decided to sacrifice a pawn to open the game creating a lot of

complications - if you have played against the Philidor you will know pawn exchanges do nothing and if anything are bad for White generally - it is like a brick wall! I managed to gain some initiative and Viktor just couldn't manage his time and then he blundered before the 40 move bonus. My goal was half achieved!

Round 9 Black against Říha Vojtěch 2032. This young player - I think he would be close to 16 years old - was having a great tournament. He was in clear 3rd place behind the two IM's. The last round of the tournament. I am placed 4th. If I draw or lose this game I don't get anywhere. If I win, I get 3rd place on tie-break. Well I can tell you now I didn't travel half way across the world to come away with nothing!

In preparing for this game I had a big problem. I couldn't find a single game from my opponent in Chessbase or on ChessGames.com. I don't know why but I suspect it was a typo in his name or something. He has a high FIDE rating so he must have played in FIDE events. So what to do? Well all I could do was revise my opening repertoire.

I knew there was another player with the name Vojtech playing in the Opocenského Memorial. His rating was 2531! His brother? - if so I am going to play out of my skin just to survive.

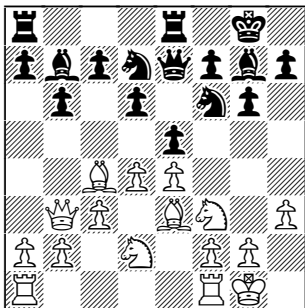
Vojtech,Riha (2032) - Macdonald,Paul (1986) [B07]

Karel Prucha Memorial Prague (9),
09.07.2017

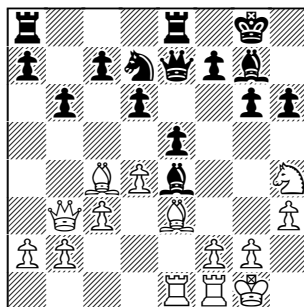
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 This system is fairly innocuous. Fortunately I had studied

the system just a few days ago in preparation for my game with IM Alexander Chudinovskikh. **3...e5 4.c3 g6** I knew 4...d5 was possible too but my analysis in the past didn't convince me to play this way. It is important to know this idea however as it is a possibility of great importance as it was in this game. 5.dxe5 Nxe4 is possible (or even 5...dxe4) **5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.0-0 Bg7 7.h3 0-0 8.Be3 Re8** I was reluctant to play this move because if White plays d4-d5, Black's rook is really better on f8 looking for f7-f5. I figured that the loss of one tempo to encourage White to close the position was not too much to lose. I don't think I would play this way again as a tempo is a tempo and everything counts. For a long time I considered the move 8...d5. See my notes at the beginning of this game. I chose Re8 in the end, but soon after playing Re8 I realised with ...d6-d5 was indeed the best way to continue. The reason I decided not to play the move was because after 9.Nxe5 (9.exd5 e4-+; or 9.dxe5 Nxe4 10.e6!? fxe6 11.Bxe4 dxe4 12.Ng5 Ne5 unclear) 9...Nxe5 10.dxe5 Nxe4 11.f4 I thought f6 would be great with my rook on e8 hitting the e3-bishop. The truth is ...f7-f6 is fine for Black here and secures an equal game. **9.Nbd2 b6** 9...d5 now isn't quite as good as it was before 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nxe4 (11...Rxe5 12.f4 Re8 13.e5 is bad for Black) 12.f4 f6 The difference here is White can take the knight on e4 and then quickly clear the d-file with Bc4+. The opening of lines favours White because he has the better development. 13.Nxe4 dxe4 14.Bc4+ Kh8 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Rad1 Bd7 17.f5! gxf5 18.e6 Ba4 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rxf5 with advantage for White. **10.Qb3** I was surprised by this move. It essentially means

White is not going to play d4-d5 as the knight can come into c5 with tempo. Riha's idea is to force the rook to f8 with Bc4 and Ng5 and I don't really mind as my position isn't any worse after this because of the pressure on the e4-pawn. **10...Bb7 11.Bc4 Qe7**

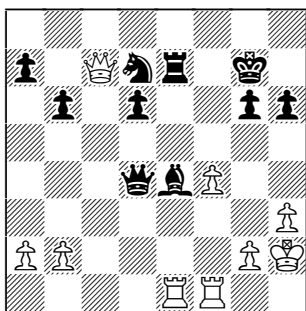


12.Rae1 12.Ng5 Rf8 13.f4 The only way to justify White's play 13...h6 14.Ngf3 Nxe4 and Black is better **12...h6** Ok, finally I am ready to play d6-d5 again **13.Nh4** Riha shows his aggression. The immediate threat is Nxe4 which looks difficult to counter. The idea I found over the board was quite surprising - how about we just ignore the threat! **13...Nxe4!** The sharpest response. Another option I considered was 13... Kf8 which looks strange but is fine for Black. 13... Nf8 is OK too, I actually didn't even consider this move over the board. Petrosian must be turning in his grave! **14.Nxe4** The point is that 14.Nxe4? is met by 14...Qf6! trapping the knight; 14.Nhf3 Nxd2 15.Nxd2 just leaves White a pawn down with no compensation **14...Bxe4**



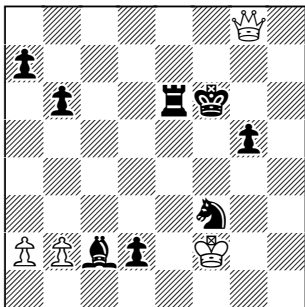
This is already the critical position of the game. If you were White what would you choose? You will need to analyse deep and hard to find the answers. **15.f4** A poor choice that just loses material. The only way to continue is 15.f3! And there is only one move for Black that keeps an edge. 15...Bc6! (15...Bb7 fails to 16.Nxe4 Qf6 17.Qc2 and now 17...d5 doesn't work here 18.Nxe5 dxc4 19.Nxd7) 16.Nxe4 Qf6 17.Bd3 (17.Qc2 d5) 17...exd4 (17...d5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Rxe5 20.Bd4 Qf4 21.Bxe5 Bxe5) 18.cxd4 (18.Bxd4 Qg5) 18...d5 19.Ne5 Nxe5 20.dxe5 Rxe5 and Black is clearly better. This is complex stuff that I have to admit I didn't see over the board.; Another option is 15.Bxh6 d5 16.Bxg7 (16.Rxe4 dxc4! 17.Qxc4 Bxh6 18.Nxe4 Qe6 and black is in the drivers seat) 16...dxc4 17.Qxc4 Qxh4 18.dxe5 (18.Bxe5 Bxg2!!-+) 18...Kxg7 19.Rxe4 Qh5 and Black is clearly better again **15...exd4! 16.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 17.cxd4** The whole point of 13...Nxe4 was to win two pieces for a rook and a pawn. I felt this would give me a clear advantage in the endgame and as we soon find out, it turns out I was correct. Another key reason why Black is better is the bishop on e4 is a monster piece with no equal. White almost

would be wise to sacrifice his rook for it but never gets the chance to do so under good circumstances. **17...Qxh4 18.Bxf7+ Kg7** An opportunity for greater discipline on my part. I didn't consider all the alternatives and if they differed in value. **18... Kf8** was better keeping the king less exposed **19.Bxe8 Rxe8 20.Qc3** The best move in the circumstances but insufficient for equality all the same **20...Qf6 21.Qxc7 Qxd4+** The tempting **21...Re7** fails to **22.Rxe4= 22.Kh2 Re7**

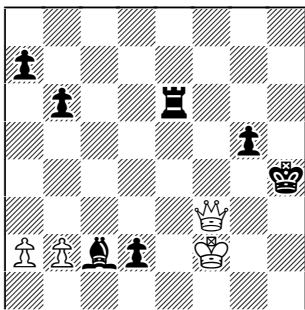


23.Qd8 I don't know why Riha didn't take the a7-pawn here. **23.Qxa7** Black should still be better but it wouldn't be easy to win this game. I intended to continue with **d5** securing the monster bishop. White is under pressure here because the b2-pawn is hanging and **Qd2** is threatened with an attack on **g2** and **f4**. **23...Kf7 23...Rf7** was also good. **24.f5** This line forces the win of Black's queen but white has to give up both rooks - the price is too high. **24...Qe5+ 25.Kg1 gxf5 26.Rxf5+ Qxf5 27.Rf1 Qxf1+ 28.Kxf1** White does his best now to harass the black king but in reality once Black coordinates his minor pieces the game is already decided. Actually Black's strength lies in the passed d-pawn that cannot be stopped from advancing all the

way to queen. **28...d5** Starting the pawn push. **29.Qh8** Attacking the h-pawn but also preventing the d-pawn from advancing **29...Re6** White tries desperately to seek counterplay by pushing his own pawns. **30.g4 Ne5** After waiting patiently for 25 moves, the knight finally comes into the game with decisive effect. Its purpose is not to attack the king but rather to support the passed d-pawn advancing further **31.Qd8** Riha desperately tries to prevent the d-pawn pushing forward but it is a hopeless task **31...Nf3!** Supporting the d4 and d2 squares so the pawn can be pushed. Laser focus logic - I felt this is what a GM must think like. **32.h4 d4!** I knew **32...Nh2+** won a pawn but I decided that queening my d-pawn whilst not allowing my opponent to improve his king was strategically best **33.g5 hxg5 34.h5 d3 35.h6 d2** The pawn marches forward relentlessly! What a wonderful piece the knight on **f3** is! **36.h7** More desperation. Riha sacrifices his h-pawn to try and expose my king **36...Bxh7 37.Qd7+** A key juncture. White is absolutely lost but Black still needs to be very careful as a piece can easily be dropped or perpetual check is in the air. **37...Kf6** Not taking any chances. **37...Re7** was also good enough but difficult to calculate when you have less than 3 minutes on the clock! **38.Kf2?** **38.Qd8+** was a better practical try. **38...Bc2** The power move to leave no doubt on the outcome of the game. **39.Qd8+ Kg6** Getting myself closer to the 40 move mark when a 30 minutes bonus is given to both players. **40.Qg8+ Kf6**



Ok. I made 40 moves! - now I can relax and find the path to victory! **41.Qf8+** I found a solution to get out of all the checks. Can you find it? **41...Kg6** **41...Ke5** was very tempting but a move that has to be played on intuition more than anything because of the myriad of checking possibilities. It is hard to believe the purpose of **Ke5** is to bring the king to the safe square **g7!** **42.Qb8+ Kf5** **43.Qf8+ Rf6** **44.Qc8+ Ke5** **45.Qc7+ Ke6** **46.Qc4+ Ke7** **47.Qc7+ Kf8** **48.Qd8+ Kg7** **49.Qd7+ Rf7** and finally the checks run out. I suspect most humans would struggle to see all of this. **42.Qg8+ Kh5** **42...Kf5** **43.Qh7+ Rg6** **44.Qd7+ Ke4** is another crazy line that defies human intelligence **43.Qf7+ Kh4** the only move that wins. **44.Qxf3**



What would you play here? Can you secure an easy victory? **44...Rf6!** A nice move to play but surprisingly it wasn't the most creative move. The point is Black's rook will be lost anyway so why not do so under favourable circumstances. **44...d1Q** **45.Qg3+** allows more counterplay. The stunning move was; **44...Re3!!** It would have been a wonderful find but I already found **Rf6** and it was good enough. Still I wished I had found this move - it is quite beautiful. **45.Qh1+** (**45.Kxe3 d1Q**; **45.Qxe3 d1N+**) **45...Rh3** **45.Qxf6 d1Q** I had calculated the checks will run out **46.Qh8+ Kg4** **47.Qc8+ Bf5** **48.Qc4+ Kh3** **49.Qc3+ Qd3** **50.Qh8+ Kg4** And this is the point - with no more checks available, White finally decided to resign. **0-1**

As a result I came 3rd overall and picked up 1000 czech koruna for my efforts. It sounds impressive but it isn't - roughly NZD\$60. My entry fee was 900 czech koruna so I made \$6 profit for 9 days of hard work. But the thing is I am happy! It was a wonderful start to my international chess ventures. I made three new friends - two Czechs and one Hungarian. And I look forward to more success and more learning in more interesting places around the world! Now I am off to Denmark and will hopefully make it up to Norway to find my friend Magnus ;-)

A closing note: If the chess community wants to not lose further ground compared to other sports, we seriously need to improve prize money for success in chess the world over!

Chess Opening Names

by Nathan Rose

(Two excerpts from Nathan's Book)

Most chess players treat chess opening names as arbitrary labels. But former Wellington club player Nathan Rose is made of sterner stuff and set out to not only track down the stories behind the names, but to write a book about them! The result of Nathan's effort, subtitled "The Fascinating and Entertaining History Behind The First Few Moves", is now available from amazon.com, complete with a foreword by GM Simon Williams.

Nathan has kindly given permission to publish two excerpts here. The book is divided into three main sections, "The People", "The Places" and "The Stories".

The first excerpt comes from "The People" and concerns the Albin Counter Gambit, 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5

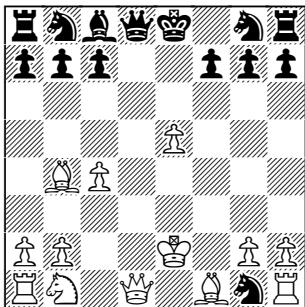
Adolf Albin was born into a wealthy family of German descent in Romania. He moved to Vienna to study, and there learned chess at the advanced age of 20. These days, it would be impossible for a player to come to chess for the first time so late in life and still rise to the highest level. Modern players with serious aspirations of becoming a super-grandmaster need to be studying for hours a day before they even reach their teenage years. Yes, it robs them of a more "normal" childhood, but to succeed at the top level, this is what it takes. A youth with a more balanced upbringing simply will not have a chance

against their more single-minded peers.

It took Albin until his 40s to become good enough to be invited to international tournaments. Although he would win a game here and there against the genuine greats, Albin was never close to reaching the zenith of chess.

The Albin Countergambit gained its name through a game of Albin's at an 1893 tournament in New York against Emanuel Lasker, who would win the world championship one year later. 2. ...e5 in reply to the Queen's Gambit was not totally unknown, but this was the first time it had been tried at such a high level. Playing White, Lasker still won the game, but 2. ... e5 gained the interest of analysts. Albin ended the tournament in second (behind Lasker), his best ever tournament result.

After the usual 3. dxe5 d4, Black has a central outpost with his pawn on d4. A notable trap exists in this position, named after Albin's opponent in the same game – the "Lasker Trap". If it plays out, Black's d-pawn can march all the way down to promote on g1... but crucially, not promoting to a queen but to a knight! 4. e3 Bb4+ 5. Bd2 dxe3 6. Bxb4 exf2+ 7. Ke2 fxe1 = N+



Position after 7...fxg1=N+

Black has a huge advantage in this position. The knight cannot be captured due to the threat of 8. ... Bg4+. The White king cannot move too far out of the way (say to e3 or f2), lest 8. ... Qxd1, resulting in Black being a queen up. The best move for White is **8. Ke1**, but even this is met by the crushing **8. ... Qh4+**. Underpromoting to a knight (except as a joke in an already-won game) is the sort of move you might only get to make once in your lifetime, so make sure you are ready if and when the opportunity arises.

Albin's life took several fascinating twists. His family suffered political persecution. He ran a printing house, wrote the first ever chess book in Romanian, and worked as a translator for a railroad tycoon. He lost his entire fortune in stock market speculation and lived in America for a time. Given both his unconventional life and unconventional opening, perhaps it was Albin himself who summarized both most satisfactorily: "I chose to follow my own path into a variation which was regarded as wrong by the theory."

The second excerpt comes from "The Places" and concerns the Indian family of defences after 1.d4 Nf6

The term "Indian Defence" was first used when referring to a game between an Indian and a Scot. The two players were Moheschunder Bannerjee and John Cochrane. From their names alone, you can probably tell which man came from where.

Cochrane was a barrister by profession. He came to be stationed in Calcutta, which in the 19th century was one of the British Empire's far-flung outposts. The trouble was, Cochrane was one of the best chess players in the entire United Kingdom. Howard Staunton regarded him as something of a father figure, and found Cochrane to be a testing adversary when they had occasion to play. But in India, far from the strongest European masters, Cochrane could find no rivals worthy of him.

That all changed in 1848 when a member of the Calcutta chess club heard tell of a local who had never been beaten. The club member asked around, tracked down this mysterious Indian and arranged a game with him. Sure enough, the club member was defeated handily. Bannerjee was more familiar with traditional Indian chess (Chaturanga), but also showed an uncanny aptitude for the type of chess that the British played.

Bannerjee was convinced to come back to Calcutta to play the waiting John Cochrane. Thus, it came to pass that a prominent colonial barrister and a native Bengali sat down to a game that transcended their two

very different cultures. Although Cochrane won, he was mightily impressed by Bannerjee's play, and was overjoyed to finally find someone in India who could properly challenge him at the game he loved. Over the next few years, the two played hundreds of times, with Bannerjee winning enough to keep things interesting. The games were faithfully recorded by Cochrane, and the particularly notable ones were published in the London chess magazines that Cochrane wrote for.

Though the Indian Defence proper is just one move from each player, many "Indian" openings see Black fianchetto, where the bishop moves from its starting square to the long diagonal. For example, the "King's Indian Defence" setup sees the dark-squared Black bishop sit on g7, while the "Queen's Indian Defence" has the light-squared Black bishop move to b7.

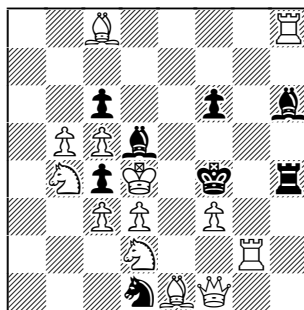
Chaturanga is similar in many regards to the chess we play, but one of the critical differences is pawns cannot move forward two squares on their first move. This makes filling the center with pawns far more time-consuming than in regular chess. Therefore, in *Chaturanga*, placing pieces on the side of the board is a very natural way to gain control of the center without occupying it. Bannerjee applied this knowledge to the chess the British had brought with them, and regularly fianchettoed before it was fashionable to do so. He was playing flank attack setups over half a century before the hypermodern players of the early 20th century popularized them. When Cochrane's games reached Europe, Bannerjee's style came to be known as the "Indian Defence".

Problem Kingdom by Linden Lyons

- Submissions and comments to: problem.kingdom@gmail.com
- Judge for 2016-2017: TBA

Problem 79

Alberto Armeni (Italy)
Original

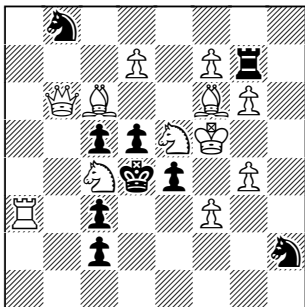


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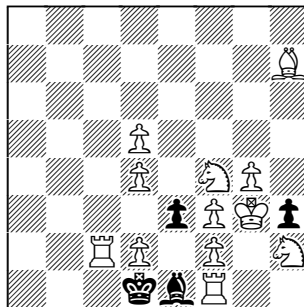
The key of **Problem 79** is **1 Qe2!**, putting Black in zugzwang. Nine different mates follow: 1 ... cxb5 2 Nxd5, 1 ... f5 2 Qe5, 1 ... Bg5 2 Bg3, 1 ... Bg7/Bf8 2 Rxh4, 1 ... Be4/Be6/Bf7/Bg8 2 Qe4, 1 ... Bxf3 2 Qxf3, 1 ... cxd3 2 Nxd3, 1 ... R~ 2 R(x)g4, and 1 ... N~ 2 Q(x)e3.

Problem 80

Alberto Armeni (Italy)
Original



#2



#3

(a) diagram, (b) Pd4 to b2

Problem 80 features a **white knight wheel**. In the course of the solution, the e5-knight visits all of its eight possible destination squares. The key is **1 Rxc3!** with the threat of **2 Nd3**, discovered mate with the knight landing on one of its destination squares. The strategic effects that bring the knight to the other squares are worth close examination. Four variations involve a black knight jumping within range of e5, where it could block the check by the f6-bishop, but in so doing it is exposed to capture: **1 ... Nxc6** **2 Nxc6**, **1 ... Nxd7** **2 Nxd7**, **1 ... Nxf3** **2 Nxf3**, and **1 ... Nxc4** **2 Nxc4**. In another two variations, the black rook intends to capture the f6-bishop, but it too becomes exposed to capture: **1 ... Rxf7** **2 Nxf7** and **1 ... Rxc6** **2 Nxc6**. Finally, **1 ... dxc4** must be answered with **2 Nxc4**, for **2 Nd3?** permits **2 ... Ke3!** Also noteworthy is the **by-play** (non-thematic) variation **1 ... Kxc3** **2 Qb2**.

Problem 81

Leonid Makaronez (Israel)

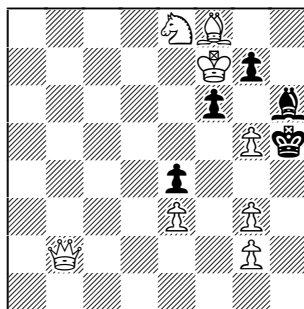
Original

There are two parts in **Problem 81**. First solve the diagram, then move the d4-pawn to b2 for a new problem. Solution: (a) **1 Rh1!** (zz) **2 Ra2** **Kc1** **3 Rxe1**, **1 ... exd2** **2 Rb2** **Kc1** **3 Rb1**, and **1 ... exf2** **2 Nf1** **h2/Bxe2** **3 Ne3**; (b) **1 d4!** (thr. **2 Ne2** **exf2** **3 Nc3**) **e2** **2 Rxe2** **Kc1** **3 Rfxe1** and **1 ... exf2** **2 Rcx2** **Kc1** **3 Rxe1**.

Problem 82

Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA)

Original



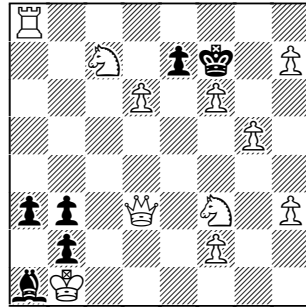
#3

The black king has two flights in the initial position of **Problem 82**: **g4** and **g5**. The key is **1 Qf2!** (zz), and Black now has three

defences on the same square:

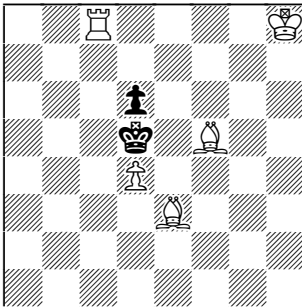
- 1 ... Bxg5 2 Qf5 g6 3 Nxf6 (or 2 ... Kh6 3 Qg6),
- 1 ... Kxg5 (or 1 ... Kg4) 2 Qf4+ Kh5 3 Qh4, and
- 1 ... fxg5 2 Qf5 g6 3 Qh3.

There are also two by-play variations: 1 ... g6 2 Nxf6+ Kxg5 3 Qf4 and 1 ... f5 2 Qe2+ Kxg5 3 Be7.



Problem 83

Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA)
Original



#6

In this rather elegant sixmover (**Problem 83**), White must ensure that his first move does not stalemate Black. The black king must be given a flight square: **1 Bh7!** (zz) Ke6 2 Kg7 Kd5 (2 ... Kd7 3 Bf5+ Ke7 4 Bg5# or 2 ... Ke7 3 d5 Kd7 4 Bf5+ Ke7 5 Bg5#) 3 Rc7 Ke6 4 Kg6, and then either 4 ... d5 5 Bg8+ Kd6 6 Bf4 or 4 ... Kd5 5 Kg5 Ke6 6 Bg8.

Helmut Zajic
Prize
Schach-Echo 1973

S#2 (a) diagram, (b) Kf7 to f4, (c) Kf7 to h5

In the above prize-winning problem from 1973, White aims for selfmate in two moves, i.e. he must force Black, against his will, to deliver mate on the second move. In each of the three parts, White would simply like to remove or immobilise the e7-pawn so that Black would have to play ... a2. For this move to be mate, White must first move his rook away from the a-file, but the destination square must be chosen carefully.

- 1 Rg8!** (zz) guards g6, thereby giving the white queen freedom of action: 1 ... e5 2 Qe4 a2, 1 ... e6 2 Qc4 a2, 1 ... exd6 2 Qxd6 a2, and 1 ... exf6 2 Qf5 a2.
- 1 Re8!** (zz) ensures that the e7-pawn can be captured when it moves to e5 or e6: 1 ... e5 2 Rxe5 a2, 1 ... e6 2 Rxe6 a2, 1 ... exd6 2 Qd5 a2, and 1 ... exf6 2 gxf6 a2.
- 1 Rf8!** (zz) covers f6, for the g5-pawn is required to guard h6: 1 ... e5 2 Qe4 a2, 1 ... e6 2 Nxe6 a2, 1 ... exd6 2 Nd5 a2, and 1 ... exf6 2 Rxf6 a2.