

# ***New Zealand Chess***

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***Eugenio Torre's Triumphant Return***

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**On the Cover:** Eugenio Torre scored a

picket fence in the Veterans (over 65)

class of the Asian Seniors. He has played in

NZ before – in 1977 and 1978!

**Photo Credit:** Helen Milligan

## Senior Moments

This issue is dominated by coverage of the recently completed 2017 Asian Seniors Championships. Nigel Cooper volunteered to step up and write separate tournament reports on the two sections. Many thanks to him. GM Johansen and IMs van Riemsdijk and Chan have helped with some high class annotations. Make sure you read Paul Spiller's backgrounder. There are some sad stories of players who couldn't make it to the tournament. But at least we have one happy ending as Pakistani IM Mahmood Lohdi (a thoroughly nice competitor) first beat the odds just to get here, then won the tournament to get his final GM Norm and the title!

With a heavy heart I am going to quietly announce here that 2018 will be the final year of *NZ Chess*. A paper publication is increasingly an anachronism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we have reluctantly concluded that the number of engaged readers no longer justifies the effort required to produce it.

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## 44<sup>th</sup> North Shore Open

by Peter Stuart

**A**nother new venue! After the sale of Devonport St Pauls, the tournament's venue for the last three years, early this year the club had to look for another venue. Another church mob had booked our clubrooms for all Sundays this year and the Auckland Chess Centre kindly came to our aid, offering their clubrooms rent-free. We couldn't refuse so the tournament moved over the bridge.

As usual Ben Hague was the top seed with likely challengers being Leonard McLaren, Mike Steadman, Daniel Gong, Alphaeus Ang and Kirill Polishchuk. There were no real upsets in the first round but Polishchuk dropped half a point for a half-point bye. The nicest move of the day was probably in the following B-grade game:

### **Li,Andrew (1376) - Ha,Huy Minh (Timothy) (1702) [B06]**

North Shore Open B (1.6), 26.08.2017

**1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.Bc4 a6 4.a4 d6 5.Nf3 Nd7** The only game I could find reaching

this position was between two apparently unrated players in 2015. **Ed:** A pattern search reveals dozens of instances of the line **1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3. Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nd7???** Including highly rated victims and highly rated White players who missed the chance to play... **6.Bxf7+! Kf8** After **6...Kxf7 7.Ng5+** White either wins the queen or mates in three. **7.Bxg8** Andrew is content with a pawn and still has a winning or near winning position but various other moves maintained a stronger initiative. The bishop still couldn't be taken. **7...Kxg8 8.d3 Ne5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Bh6 Be6 11.f4 Bg7 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.0-0 c6 14.Qd2 Bf7 15.f5 Qd7 16.Qg5 Raf8 17.f6+ exf6 18.Qxf6+ Kg8 19.Rf2 Qc7 20.Ne2 Qd8 21.Raf1 Qc7 22.Nf4 Qd8 23.Ne6 Bxe6 24.Qxe6+ Kg7 25.Rf7+ Kh6 26.Qh3+ Kg5 27.Qe3+ Kh5 28.g4+ Kxg4 29.R1f3 g5 30.Rh3 1-0**

Hague and McLaren won with little trouble but Gong couldn't convert his extra pawn.

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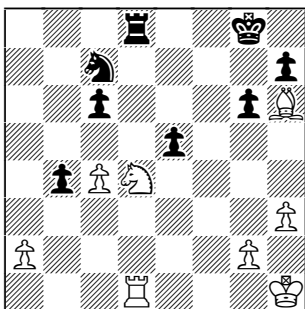
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**Duneas,John (2034) - Gong,Daniel Hanwen (2278) [E77]**

44th North Shore Open (2.2), 26.08.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.f4 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.fxg5 Nfd7 10.e6 fxe6 11.Nf3 Nc5 12.Bg5 Rd7 13.e5 Nc6 14.Be3 Na6 15.0-0 Nxe5 16.Rad1 Ng4 17.Bc1 e5 18.h3 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Bh6 Rxd1 21.Rxd1 Bd4+ 22.Kh1 Bd7 23.Bf3 Bc6 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Ne4 Nc7 26.b4 e5 27.Nxc5 a5 28.Nb3 axb4 29.Nxd4 Rd8



30.Rb1 The surprising 30.Bg7! exd4 31.Rxd4 Ra8 32.Be5 Ne6 33.Rd2 is about equal. 30...exd4 31.Rxb4 d3 32.Rb7 32.Rb1 was safer. 32...Ne6 32...Ne8!/? with the idea ...Nd6 would have been close to winning. 33.Bd2 33.Rb1 is passive but again safer. 33...Nc5 34.Re7 Ra8 34...Rd4! 35.Re5! Nb7 36.Re3 Ra3 After this the winning chances are all gone. Instead, 36...Rd8 maintains a slight advantage. 37.Bb4 Rxa2 38.Rxd3 Ra4 39.Rb3 c5 40.Ba3 Na5 41.Rb8+ Kf7 42.Bxc5 Rxc4 43.Be3 h5 44.Rb5 Nc6 45.Rc5 Rxc5 46.Bxc5 Ke6 47.Kg1 Kd5 48.Bb6 Ke4 49.Kf2 Nb4 50.Bc7 Nd5 51.Bd6 ½-½

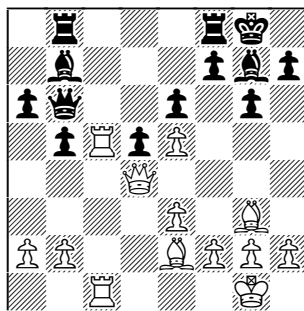
Prashant Mistry got some initiative with a nice bishop offer against Steadman but

subsequently lost the plot. Ang had a nice win versus Antonio Krstev:

**Ang,Alphaeus (2141) - Krstev,Antonio (2034) [D93]**

44th North Shore Open (2.5), 26.08.2017

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e3 0-0 7.Be2 Nbd7 7...dxc4 is the natural continuation, taking the tempo. 8.Ne5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.0-0 gives White a development advantage but whether he can do anything with it is debatable. 8...dxc4 9.Nxc4 Nd5 10.Bg3 b5 11.Nxd5 cxd5 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 e6 What will the light-square bishop do now? 14.0-0 Rb8 15.Qd4 Qb6 16.Rfc1 a6 Better was 16...b4 with ...Ba6 ideas. 17.Rc5 Bb7 18.Rac1



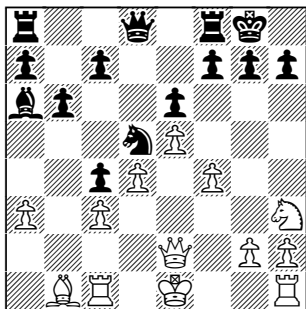
18...h5 After this Black's troubles just gradually get worse. Better was 18...Qa5 19.b4! Qa3 after (19...Qxa2? 20.Bf3 Rfc8 21.Ra1 the queen is trapped) 20.Rc7 a5 and Black is still in the game. 19.b4 Rfe8 20.Bh4 Bf8 21.Bf6 Be7 22.Bxh5 Bxf6 23.exf6 e5 24.Qh4 Rbc8 25.Bg4 Rxc5 26.bxc5 Qd8 27.c6 Bc8 28.Bxc8 d4 29.Bd7 dxe3 30.fxe3 1-0

This left just four players with 100%: Hague, McLaren, Steadman and Ang. On

top board Ben gained complete control after too passive play from Mike. Next door Alphaeus scored a nice win versus Leonard:

**Ang,Alphaeus (2141) - McLaren,Leonard (2208) [E20]**

44th North Shore Open (3.2), 26.08.2017  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 Nc6** Maybe Leonard should have copied Ben who was on the next board! **5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 0-0 7.e4 b6 8.Bd3 Ba6 9.Nh3 Na5 10.Qe2 Nb3 11.Rb1 Nxc1 12.Rxc1 d6 13.f4 d5 14.e5 dxc4?** 14...Ne4 was the only move, e.g. 15.cxd5 (15.Bxe4 Qh4+ 16.Qf2 Qxf2+ 17.Nxf2 dxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxc4 and Black should hold okay.) 15...Bxd3 16.Qxd3 Qxd5 17.0-0 and the black knight is a bit of a problem. **15.Bb1!** Now Black completely lacks any "only move". **15...Nd5**



**16.Bxh7+!** Nice concept - retreating the bishop and then sacrificing it. **16...Kxh7 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Ng5 Qxg5 19.Qxg5 Bb7 20.0-0 Rae8 21.Rf3 f5 22.Rh3 Rf7 23.Rf1 Ne7 24.Re1 Nd5 25.Rh5 Rd7 26.Qh4 Kf7 27.Rh7 Rg8 28.g4 fxc4 29.f5 1-0**

Gong-Polishchuk ended in perpetual check after Kirill sacrificed the exchange:

**Gong,Daniel Hanwen (2278) - Polishchuk,Kiril (2132) [D07]**

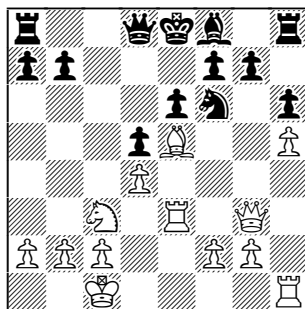
44th North Shore Open (3.3), 26.08.2017  
**1.c4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.cxd5 Bxf3 5.dxc6 Bxc6 6.Nc3 e6 7.e4 Bb4 8.f3 Qh4+ 9.g3 Qf6 10.Bg2 10.Be3! 10...h5 11.h4 0-0 12.Bg5 Qxd4 13.Bxd8 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qe3+ 15.Qe2 Qxc3+ 16.Kf2 Qd4+ 17.Qe3 Qb2+ 18.Qe2 Qd4+ 19.Qe3 Qb2+ 20.Qe2 Qd4+ ½-½**

Duneas gained the initiative versus Allen Fan but the latter took it over and a bad pawn grab by John cost him the game. Leading scores after round three: Hague & Ang 3; Gong, McLaren, Steadman, Polishchuk, Fan, Sherry Li & Mistry 2.

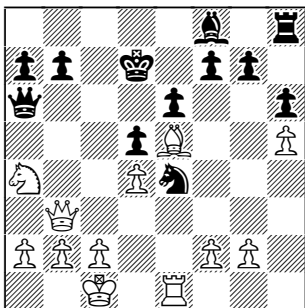
Ang came under pressure for some time but eventually equalised in an interesting battle:

**Hague,Ben (2326) - Ang,Alphaeus (2141) [B01]**

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.h3 Bf5 7.Ne5 Nbd7 8.Nc4 Qc7 9.Qf3 e6 10.Bf4 Qd8 11.0-0-0 Nb6 12.Ne3 Bg6 13.h4 h6 14.h5 Bh7 15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.Rxd3 Bd6 17.Be5 Nbd5 18.Nexd5 cxd5 19.Qg3 Bf8 20.Re3**



20...Kd7 20...Rc8!? with ideas of an exchange sac on c3 was worth considering. Certainly the king's excursion to c6 is an interesting idea. White's best plan is the kingside attacking chances after f2–f4–f5 and the cunning king move perhaps deflects White's thoughts to the other side where there's less danger for Black. **21.Qh3** 21.f4! with the idea f4–f5 was the real test for the wandering king. **21...Kc6 22.Na4** Maybe 22.f4 was still best. It is not easy to develop a real attack on the queenside. **22...Rc8 23.Rc3+ Kd7 24.Rxc8** The further exchange helps Black but the alternative 24.Rb3 b6 25.Nc3 Rc4 doesn't look too fearsome either. **24...Qxc8 25.Qb3 Qc6 26.Rh3 Ne4 27.Re3 Qa6 28.Re1**



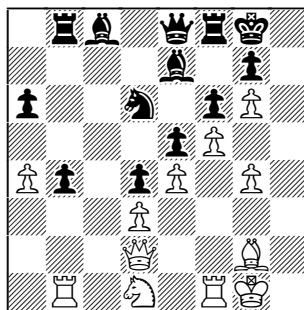
**28...b5?! 28...f6 29.Bf4 b6** or; **28...b6 29.f3 Nd6** are both about equal but the text move weakens the queenside pawns structure and restores a bit of White's advantage. **29.Nc3 Nxc3 30.Qxc3 Bd6 30...Qc6 31.Qg3 (31.Qa5 Qb6) 31...f6 32.Bf4** is nice for White – Black still can't easily complete his development! **31.Bxg7 31.Qf3!?** f6 32.Qg4 Be7 33.Bf4 Rc8 34.Kb1 keeps some kingside initiative. **31...Rg8** Black has equalised again, all his pieces are now active. **32.Be5 Bxe5 33.dxe5 Qxa2 34.Qb4 Rxb3 35.Qxb5+ Ke7 36.Qc5+ Ke8**

**37.Qc8+ Ke7 38.Qc5+ Ke8 39.Qc8+ Ke7 40.Qc5+ ½–½**

Prashant Mistry lost a pawn but then got ominous looking kingside attacking chances after a piece sac.

### Mistry,Prahant (2006) - Gong,Daniel Hanwen (2278) [B23]

44th North Shore Open (4.2), 26.08.2017  
**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.a4 e6 4.d3 d5 5.Qe2 Be7 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 Nf6 8.Nf3 d4 9.Nd1 e5 10.Nd2 Rb8 11.f4 0–0 12.f5 Ne8 13.Nf3 Nd6 14.0–0 b5 15.g4 c4 16.Bd2 b4 17.b3 cxb3 18.cxb3 f6 19.h4 Na5 20.Rb1 Qe8 21.h5 Qf7 22.Nh4 Nxb3 23.Ng6 Nxd2 24.Qxd2 hxg6 25.hxg6 Qe8**



**26.Bf3** Better was **26.Rxb4 Rxb4 27.Qxb4 Qc6 28.Qb3+ Nf7 29.Nb2 Qc3!** and Black's bishop pair ensures him the advantage. **26...Nf7! 27.Qa2 b3 27...Rb6!?** with the idea **28...Be6** giving the piece back to block the a2–g8 diagonal may have been better. **28.Rxb3 Be6 29.fxe6 Ng5 30.Rxb8 Qxb8 31.Qh2 31.Kg2** or; **31.Nb2** both look close to equal. **31...Qb3 32.Be2 Rc8 33.Nf2 Qa2 34.Nh1 Qxe6 35.Ng3 Bb4** The obvious **35...Rc2 36.Qh4** would've been more annoying for White. **36.Kg2** The f2–square

was a better place for the king. **36...Rc2 37.Rh1 Kf8 38.Qh8+ Qg8 39.Kf2 Ne6 40.Qxg8+ Kxg8** Now White is too passive and is bound to lose one or more of his weak pawns. **41.a5 Rb2 42.Rc1 Bc3 43.Nh5 Nf8 44.Kf1 Nxg6 45.g5 fxg5 46.Bg4 Kf7 47.Bc8 Rh2 48.Ng3 Nf4 49.Rb1 Bxa5 50.Rb7+ Kf8 51.Rb8 Ke7 52.Bg4 g6 53.Rb7+ Kd6 54.Ne2 Rh1+ 55.Ng1 Bd2 56.Bf3 Rh2 57.Rb6+ Kc5 58.Rxa6 Nxd3 59.Be2 Rf2# 0-1**

Fan gained the initiative against McLaren and was close to winning until a blunder cost a bishop. Steadman's Mickey Mouse opening worked admirably against Roy Seabrook and Polishchuk's Morra Gambit was too much for Sherry Li. Duneas v Goodhue saw a weird opening and a really unbalanced middlegame:

**Duneas,John (2034) - Goodhue,Nathan (1968) [A44]**

44th North Shore Open (4.6), 26.08.2017  
**1.d4 c5 2.d5 e5 3.dxe6 fxe6 4.e4 d5 5.Nc3 d4 6.Nce2 e5 7.Ng3 Nf6 8.Nf3 Bd6 9.Bc4 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 Qe7 12.0-0 Nbd7 13.a3 0-0-0 14.b4 Nb6 15.Nf5 Qd7 16.Nxd6+ Qxd6 17.bxc5 Qxc5 18.Bb3 Kb8 19.Bd2 Rhe8 20.Qd3 Qc6 21.f3 Nfd7 22.Ba2 Nc5 23.Qe2 Rd7 24.Ba5 Nca4 25.Bxb6 Qxb6 26.Qd3 Nc3 27.Bb3 g5**

**28.a4 h5 29.a5 Qc6 30.Qc4 Qxc4 31.Bxc4 Rc7 32.Bd3 Rc5 33.Ra3 Re7 34.Rfa1 Nb5 35.Rb3** The better **35.Bxb5 Rxb5 36.c3** equalises. **35...Nd6 36.Kf2 Rec7 37.Kg3 Nc4 38.a6** Again White should rid himself of the more or less useless bishop, e.g. **38.Bxc4 Rxc4 39.Rb5** looking for counterplay. **38...b6 39.h4 Rg7 39...gxh4+!** **40.Kxh4 Ne3** now gives Black a clear, though not yet decisive, advantage. **40.Rh1?** The last move before 10 minutes additional time gained at move 40. Instead, **40.Bxc4** was still best: **40...Rxc4 41.Rb5 gxh4+ 42.Kh3 Rxc2 43.Rxe5 Rcxg2 44.Re8+ Kc7 45.Rc1+ Kd6 46.Rd1** and White at least has a bit of counterplay in a weird endgame position. **40...Ne3** Now all hope for White is gone. **41.Rb5 gxh4+ 42.Kxh4 Nxg2+ 0-1**

Scores going into the final round: Hague & Ang 3½; Gong, McLaren, Steadman & Polishchuk 3; Morrell, Goodhue & Runcan 2½.

Hague made sure of at least a share of first place with a typical win against Gong:

**Gong,Daniel Hanwen (2278) - Hague,Ben (2326) [A23]**

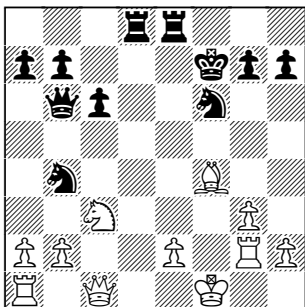
44th North Shore Open (5.1), 27.08.2017  
**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4 d5 6.Bf4** Unusual. The main moves here are **6.Bg2, 6.Bg5** and **6.cxd5**. **6...dxc4** And the two games in my big database both saw **6...Be6** played. **7.Qxc4 Be6 8.Qa4 Qb6 9.Qc2 9.0-0-0 Qxf2** (or **9...Ng4 10.Nh3 Nxf2 11.Nxf2 Qxf2 12.Ne4**) **10.Nh3 Qb6 11.Ng5** both give White enough play for the missing pawn. **9...Na6 10.Bh3 10.a3** was better but still very nice for Black. **10...Nb4 11.Qc1 Bc5 12.Bxc6**

**The 125<sup>th</sup> NZ Congress 2018**

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**www.newzealandchess.co.nz**

**Bxf2+ 13.Kf1 Bxg1 13...fxe6!? 14.Na4 Qb5 15.Nc3 Qc5 with a solid extra pawn. 14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 15.Rxg1 Rhe8 16.Rg2 Rad8 16...Nbd5!?**



**17.a3** Weakening the queenside pawns and chasing the knight to where it needs to go

anyway. After the better 17.Bg5 White is still in the game. **17...Nbd5 18.Nxd5 Rxd5 19.b4 Qd4** Black's activity is much too much now. **20.e3 Qd3+ 21.Re2 g5 22.Bc7 Rc8 23.e4 Nxe4 24.Qe1 Rxc7 25.Kg2 Qxe2+ 26.Qxe2 Rd2 27.Rf1+ Kg7 28.Qxd2 Nxd2 29.Rf5 h6 30.h4 Rf7 31.Ra5 b6 32.Re5 gxh4 33.gxh4 Rc7 34.Kf2 Nc4 35.Re4 Nxa3 36.Kf3 c5 37.bxc5 bxc5 38.Kg4 c4 39.Re5 c3 40.Kh5 c2 41.Re1 Rc5+ 0-1**

Ang won a pawn quite early in the game and it was always very difficult for Polishchuk after that.

## 44<sup>th</sup> North Shore Open A Grade

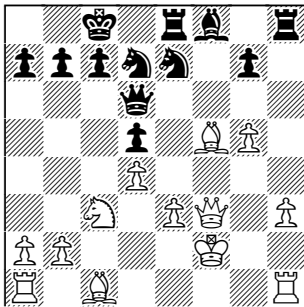
1	FM	Hague, Ben	2326	NZL	AC	4.5	+B12	+W6	+B5	=W2	+B4
2	CM	Ang, Alphaeus Wei	2141	NZL	AC	4.5	+B23	+W13	+W3	=B1	+W7
3	FM	McLaren, Leonard	2208	NZL	HP	4.0	+B10	+W8	-B2	+W6	+B5
4	FM	Gong, Daniel Hanwen	2278	NZL	HP	3.0	+W9	=B16	=W7	+B14	-W1
5	FM	Steadman, Michael	2194	NZL	AC	3.0	+W17	+B14	-W1	+B18	-W3
6	CM	Fan, Allen Chi Zhou	2055	NZL	AC	3.0	+W20	-B1	+W16	-B3	+W17
7		Polishchuk, Kirill	2132	NZL	MM	3.0	=BYE	+W15	=B4	+W8	-B2
8		Li, Shenyue (Sherry)	2038	CHN		3.0	+W19	-B3	+W17	-B7	+W18
9		Runcan, Daniel-Ioan	1936	ROU	AC	3.0	-B4	+W22	=BYE	+B13	=W11
10	CM	Lim, Benjamin U	1927	NZL	HP	3.0	-W3	=B19	=BYE	+W15	+B12
11		Morrell, Gordon	2042	CAN	AC	3.0	-B15	+W21	=B12	+W23	=B9
12		Goodhue, Nathan	1968	NZL	AC	2.5	-W1	+B20	=W11	+B16	-W10
13		Krstev, Antonio	2034	NZL	NS	2.5	+W18	-B2	=BYE	-W9	+B19
14		Mistry, Prashant	2006	NZL	NS	2.5	+B24	-W5	+B15	-W4	=B16
15		Wright, Caleb	1864	NZL	MM	2.0	+W11	-B7	-W14	-B10	+W20
16	CM	Duneas, John	2034	NZL	AC	2.0	+B22	=W4	-B6	-W12	=W14
17		Johns, Daniel	1909	NZL	NS	2.0	-B5	+W24	-B8	+W22	-B6
18		Seabrook, Roy	1814	NZL	AC	2.0	-B13	+W23	+B21	-W5	-B8
19	CM	Nagorski, Alex	1859	NZL	AC	1.5	-B8	=W10	-B23	+W24	-W13
20	CM	Picken, Oliver	1866	NZL	PT	1.5	-B6	-W12	=B24	+W21	-B15
21		Mukkattu, Philip	1674	NZL	AC	1.5	=BYE	-B11	-W18	-B20	+W23
22		Hair, Philip	1847	NZL	NS	1.5	-W16	-B9	=BYE	-B17	+W24
23	WFM	Zhang, Jasmine Haomo	1880	NZL	AC	1.0	-W2	-B18	+W19	-B11	-B21
24	WCM	Qin, Nicole Shu Yu	1551	NZL	AC	0.5	-W14	-B17	=W20	-B19	-B22



**Ang,Alphaeus (2141) -  
Polishchuk,Kiril (2132) [D07]**

44th North Shore Open (5.2), 27.08.2017

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Nc3 e6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.e3 Nf6 7.h3 Bh5 8.Bb5 Qd6 9.g4 Bg6 10.Ne5 Nd7 11.f4 f6 12.Nxg6 hxg6 13.Bd3 0-0-0** Black can't really save the g6-pawn, e.g. **13...Ne7 14.Qc2 Kf7 15.Nb5** is close to winning for White. **14.Bxg6 Rh6 15.Bd3 Re8 16.Kf2 Qe6?** **16...Kb8** first would have avoided the worst of the coming problems. **17.Bf5 17.Qf3!?** **17...Qf7 17...Qd6 18.g5 fxc5 19.fxc5 Rh8 20.Qf3 Ne7** gives Black slightly better survival chances but it would still be a very difficult defence.



**18.Qb3!** **18.Qf3** looks similar but after **18...Ne7 19.Bd3 f5 20.g5 Rh8** White still has plenty of work to do. **18...g6 18...Ne7 19.Bxd7+ Kxd7 20.Qxb7+- 19.Nxd5 gxf5?!** **19...Rh7 20.Bd3 Rd8 21.Bc4 Na5 22.Nb6+!** (the only winning move) **22...Nxb6 23.Bxf7 Nxb3 24.Bxb3+- 20.Nb6+ axb6 21.Qxf7 Re7 22.Qd5 fxc4 23.hxc4 Nb4 24.Qf3 Nd3+ 25.Kg2 f5 26.g5 Rc6 27.Qd1 Nb4 28.Bd2 Nd5 29.Kf2 Rce6 30.Qb3 c6 31.Qd3 Re4 32.Rh8 Kc7 33.Rah1 Bg7 34.Rg8 Nxf4 35.exf4 Bxd4+ 36.Kf1 Nc5 37.Qf3 R4e6 38.Rh6 Re4 39.Rf8 Bg7 40.Rxf5 Bxh6**

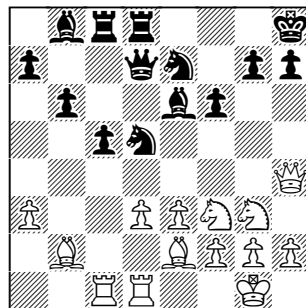
**41.gxh6 R4e6 42.Rxc5 bxc5 43.f5 Rf7 44.Bf4+ 1-0**

Steadman and McLaren were playing for a chance at third place and their game ended suddenly when Mike got his queen trapped:

**Steadman,Mike (2194) -  
McLaren,Leonard (2208) [A00]**

44th North Shore Open (5.3), 27.08.2017

**1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 Bxb4 3.Bxc5 Nf6** There are many hundreds of games in my big database up to here and White has scored almost 47%. Wow! However, Mike seems to be doing okay with his **1.b4. 4.Nf3 0-0 5.e3 d5 6.c4 6.Be2** is the "main" move here (scoring about 47%) but the text move has been reasonably successful recently, though not over a longer period. **6...c5** Now White's percentage in Mega is around 18% from 22 games. White actually won a couple of them. **7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.a3 Ba5 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Bb2 Qe7 11.0-0 Be6 12.Qc2 Rac8 13.d3 Bc7 13...Bf5** is strong, the idea being that **14.e4** can be met with **14...Nf4** with a clear advantage. **14.Nbd2 b6** Black's advantage appears minimal now that White has just about completed his development. **15.Ne4 f6 16.Rac1 Bb8 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.Qa4 Kh8 19.Ng3 Qd7 20.Qh4 Nce7**



**21.d4?** 21.Nd2 was necessary but the fact that the white queen lacks any escape route is not so obvious. **21...Ng6** 21...Ng6 22.Qe4 Bxg3 23.dxc5 (the only try) 23...Bf5 24.Qxd5 (24.c6 Rxc6 25.Qxd5 Qxd5 26.Rxd5 Rxc1+ 27.Bxc1 Bxh2+ 28.Kxh2 Rxd5+) 24...Qxd5 25.Rxd5 Rxd5 26.hxg3 Rxc5 and White is quite lost but could play on for a bit longer. **0-1**

Surprisingly, perhaps, this was Ben's first win in this event while Alphaeus completed a remarkable two months of success with his own first victory here.

The 26-player B-grade was won by Everett Bishop on 4½ with Simon Lyall taking second on 4 points. Don Eade, Timothy Ha, Euan McDougall, Richard Meng and Xintong Weng shared third place on 3½. The C-grade was also clearly won by Anthony Power on 4½ points followed by Abraham Deng on 4. Third equal were Jacob Barry and Philip Te Whata on 3½.

One Auckland CC member suggested we should come back next year but North Shore had already booked our club rooms for next year!

**'Asiel' (for Viktor)**  
by Philip Rossiter

Rachmaninoff  
Played with tear-fatigued fingers  
Her frail-breaded frame  
Becoming siege-wood and glue  
As you left her behind

Winter-bitten children  
Panzas in the snow

Coming for your soul

And behind  
Death  
In the shifting hairs  
Of the Dear Father's moustache

Between them  
Comrades  
Grimly  
Taking back their home  
As grimly  
As you came to take pawns

As you slept in the cold  
Zhukov's Cossacks  
Came out of the tundra  
Into your dreams

And you fought

They all succumbed  
The Old Patriarch  
Smyslov's dulcet tones  
The Latvian magician  
The Armenian tiger  
The baby faced assassin

Even that boy from Brooklyn  
Every now and then

But when your turn came  
They preferred the shadow  
Made by Tolya's sunken cheek

What must have the policeman thought  
When you walked in that night saying  
"Asiel...Asiel..."

I can still see you now  
Holding your extra pawn  
Against the Reaper

# ***The 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Seniors Chess Championships***

## ***Paul Spiller Backgrounds the Tournament***

**A**tending last year's Asian Chess Summit in Al Ain, UAE, where the headquarters of the Asian Chess Federation is domiciled, I was pointedly asked why New Zealand has not taken a more active role in hosting Asian chess events in the past. My response was to accept an invitation from Hisham Al Taher, General Secretary of the Asian Chess Federation, to host the 2017 Asian Seniors Chess Championships. The only previous Asian rather than Oceania Chess tournament that I had been involved with dated back some 40 years prior, to the Asian Teams Chess Championships which was held at Grafton Hall in Auckland in 1977.

In theory some 40 plus countries were eligible to participate in this event so potentially the turnout promised to be reasonably large. Initially a lot of expressions of interest to play were received from federations as far away as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Iran and India. The difficulties, however confronted by many of these players in coming to New Zealand proved insurmountable.

Significantly the NZ Immigration Department requirements for players travelling from central Asian countries is not a trivial matter. Letters of invitation are

mandatory. Health checks, travel history, means of financial support are potentially all investigated. In the case of GM Barsov from Uzbekistan, the NZ Immigration office in Dubai would not accept his credit card for an online NZ Visa application. An unsuccessful application to the Mongolian government for financial support meant the Mongolian players were unable to come. The two Kazakhstan players lost their passports and visas at Almaty airport and were unable to get replacements in time to proceed. At the last minute Maung from Myanmar had to attend an Asean conference and had to cancel. The Indian International Master Wazeer Khan also had some difficulties that were unclear but also had to cancel. Perhaps the most tragic case was the two Iranian families that had planned everything and received their NZ visas well in advance but had not checked the travel requirements for their Air Asia flight. After arriving in Kuala Lumpur from Tehran they were refused entry to their flight to Auckland via the Gold Coast because they did not have Australian transit visas and were stranded in Malaysia. Certainly a most disappointing outcome for both them and a great loss for the tournament.

Despite these difficulties there were some successes and players from 10 overseas countries did compete. The most challenging situation was that posed in arranging a visa for International Master Mahmood Lodhi from Pakistan. His initial visa application was declined and calls to the Immigration office in Dubai were

increasingly frustrating. In the end I sought the help from the Member of Parliament from Botany, Jami-Lee Ross, a familiar figure to those who attended the Opening Ceremony of the Oceania Zonal in January.

With his help and appeal to the Associate Minister of Immigration, the Hon Scott Simpson, a temporary visa was granted although another application process had to be undertaken and Mr Lodhi's visa was only granted the day before his flight. Certainly it was cutting things very fine.

It was, however, very pleasing to welcome a large contingent of players and officials representing the Nepalese Chess Federation. One of their arbiters completed an IA norm and the delegation was headed by Mr Kul Bahadur Thapa, department head of the Nepalese Ministry of Sport.

Of particular significance was the return to New Zealand of Asia's first grandmaster, Eugene Torre from the Philippines who last competed in Wellington in the Burroughs Computers GM tournament in 1978 (and was also part of the Philippines team that competed the previous year in the Asian Teams Championships in Auckland).

Overall a very enjoyable and successful event and hopefully the start of more active participation in the organisation of Asian Chess Federation tournaments in the future.

### ***Nigel Cooper on the Veterans (65+) Section***

**T**he 8th Asian Senior Chess Championships were held in the beautiful Waipuna Hotel and

Conference Centre, Mt. Wellington, Auckland, New Zealand, from 9-15th October, 2017. Fifteen players aged 65 and over made up the Veterans section, with GM Eugenio Torre (2453) top seed. His more than 40 years experience as a grandmaster shone through, with a picket fence score. There were three mini competitions going on around him: who would be the nine lucky players who had the privilege of playing him? Secondly, who would gain the 2 or 3 IM norms at stake? Thirdly, who would manage to avoid the bye, there being an odd number of players.

Paul Spiller, President of Oceania Zone 3.6 and an NZCF Council member, ably organised the tournament, with Brian Jones (Australia) as chief arbiter.

There were no 'rabbits' amongst the 15 players, as shown by the bottom score of 3.5, achieved by 5 players. There were some unexpectedly good showings, especially from Malcolm McFarland of Guam (1750) who did not lose a game until round 7, and 80-year old Pricha Srivatanakul of Thailand (1445), who learnt the game at age 64. His performance rating of 1855 was well earned. Australian David Lovejoy (1838) also performed well (1960) and earned himself fifth place overall.

The IM norms were won by NZ's Ewen Green (2213) and Filipino Edmundo Legaspi (2087). Another strong showing was from Pg Abd Rahman Yussof (1839) of Brunei, with a PR of 1952.

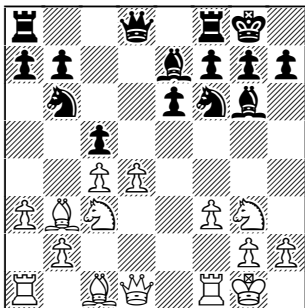
Round 1 saw two upsets, when Tony Booth

(1730) beat Grant Kerr (1940), and Nigel Cooper (1670) beat Richard Taylor (1845). I last played Richard in the NZ Schoolboys Champs in 1961. We play each other regularly, once every 56 years!

### Taylor, Richard (1845) - Cooper, Nigel (1670)

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (1.6), 09.10.2017

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4** The Portuguese gambit. **4.f3** Hits the bishop but weakens the kingside. **4...Bf5 5.Bb5+ Nbd7 6.Ne2** Forgetting to hold on to the d5 pawn? **6...Nxd5 7.Ng3 Bg6 8.0-0 e6 9.a3 Be7 10.Ba4 0-0 11.c4 N5f6 12.Nc3 Nb6 13.Bb3 c5**



Now the weakness of white's f3 move becomes apparent. The king knight is misplaced on g3. f3 was its natural square. **14.dxc5 Bxc5+ 15.Kh1 Bd3 16.Re1 Bf2 17.Bg5 Bxe1 18.Qxe1 h6!** The best chance. **19.Bxh6!? gxh6 20.Rd1 Qd4 21.Qd2?** Bc2 was essential. **21...Nxc4 22.Bxc4 Qxc4 23.Qxh6 Bg6 24.h4 Rad8 25.Rc1 Qd4 26.Nce2 Qd2 27.Nf4** Desperation. **27...Qxc1+ 28.Kh2 Rd4 29.Nge2 Qe3 0-1**

Round 2 saw James Benson (1800) beating Grant Kerr (1940) and in Round 3 David

Ansell (1635) produced a 15-move win over Peter Goffin (1976). Round 4 saw the only two undefeated players, Torre and Legaspi duelling for 59 moves before Torre prevailed.

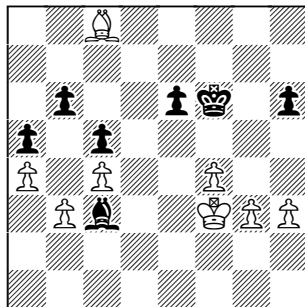
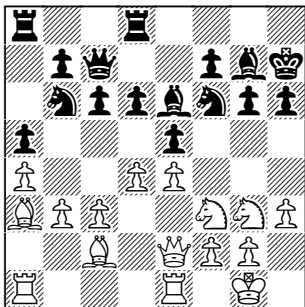
### Torre, Eugenio (2456) - Legaspi, Edmundo (2087)

*[Annotated by Herman van Riemsdijk]*

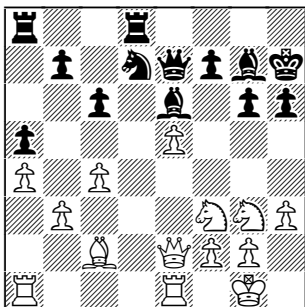
8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (4.1), 11.10.2017

Grandmaster Torre, who had such a brilliant performance in last year's chess Olympiad, was overwhelming in the Asian Veterans. It is worth remembering that he is the clear record holder of participation number in Chess Olympiads with the impressive number of 23. Next is Hungarian Grandmaster Lajos Portisch with 20 participations. Winning with a 100% score is of course always fantastic but the ease with which it happened was quite nice. Only against Ewen Green and in the game below against countryman Legaspi there was some danger of not winning.

**1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 e6 5.Bb3 Nf6** Relevant is **5...Ne7 6.c3 b6 7.Be3 Bb7 8.Nbd2 Nd7 9.h3 h6 10.Qe2** as in Short,N (2698)-Kasparov,G (2812) Leuven 2011 1/2-1/2. A clear Hippopotamus System. **6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 e5 8...b6** is another approach. **9.c3 Qe7 10.Nf1 Nb6 11.Ng3 h6 12.h3 Kh7 13.a4 a5 14.Bc2 c6 15.b3 Qc7 16.Ba3 Rd8 17.Qe2 Be6**



**18.Bxd6!** A nice way to win a pawn and empowering the c2 bishop. **18...Qxd6 19.dxe5 Qe7 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.e5 Bg7 22.c4 Nd7**



**23.Nh5 Bh8 24.Nf4 Nf8 25.Qe3 Bg7 26.Nh5 Bh8 27.Nf4 Bg7 28.Nd4 Rd7 29.Rad1 Rad8 30.Rd3 Kg8 31.Red1 Qg5 32.Ndxe6** Better is **32.Nfxe6 Qxe3 33.fxe3 fxe6 34.Nxe6 Rxd3 35.Nxd8 Rxe3 36.Nxb7 Rxe5 37.Rd6** with a clear superiority. **32...Rxd3 33.Rxd3 Rxd3 34.Qxd3 fxe6 35.Nxg6 Nxg6 36.Qxg6 Qxg6 37.Bxg6 Bxe5** Now Black has reasonable drawing chances in this bishop opposite colours ending. **38.Kf1 Kg7 39.Be8 Kf6 40.Bd7 Ke7 41.Bc8 b6 42.Ke2 c5 43.g3 Kf6 44.f4 Bc3 45.Kf3**

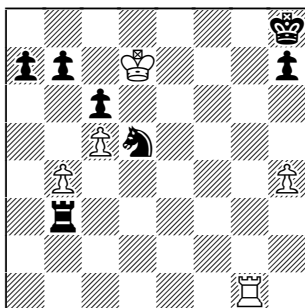
**45...e5?** This is a serious mistake. Losing control over d5, is opening a corridor for the white king. White can force this by playing g4 and f5 but then the exchange of one pawn makes the position very drawish, even if White takes the b6 pawn, as the black bishop blocks on b4. **46.f5! Bd2 47.Ke4 Be1 48.g4 Bh4 49.Bb7 Be1 50.Kd5 h5 51.Kd6 hxg4 52.hxg4 Bd2 53.Be4 Bh6 54.Kc6 Kg5 55.Kxb6 Kxg4 56.Kxa5 Kf4 57.Bc2 e4 58.Kb6 Kxf5 59.a5 1-0**

Round 4 also saw William Lynn snatching a draw from the jaws of defeat by Peter Goffin.

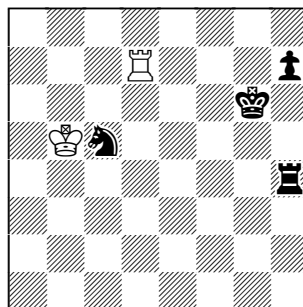
### Lynn, William (1817) - Goffin, Peter (1976)

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017 Auckland, NZL NZL (4.6), 11.10.2017  
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.c5 Nc6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Qd1 d4 12.Ne4 dxe3 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Be2 Qxd1+ 15.Bxd1 Nd3+ 16.Ke2 Nxf2 17.Rf1 Ne4 18.Rf3 Bg5 19.Bxe3 Rae8 20.Bxg5 Nxg5+ 21.Re3 Rxe3+ 22.Kxe3 Re8+ 23.Kd3 Re1 24.Rc1 Rg1 25.h4 Ne6 26.g4 c6 27.b4 Nf4+ 28.Ke4 Nd5 29.a3 Rg3 30.Bf3 f5+ 31.gxf5**

gxf5+ 32.Kxf5 Rxf3+ 33.Ke6 Rxa3  
34.Rg1+ Kh8 35.Kd7 Rb3



At this stage, Black has more than +7 on the computer. Goffs was already planning a celebration drink after the game, perhaps?  
36.h5 Rxb4 37.h6 a5 38.Re1 Nf6+ 39.Kd8 Rh4 40.Kc7 Rxh6 41.Kxb7 Nd5 42.Re8+ Kg7 43.Rd8 a4 44.Rd7+ Kg6 The first mis-step 44...Kf8 45.Rd8+ Kf7 46.Rd7+ Ne7 securing c6 and freeing the rook is one way 45.Kxc6 Nb4+ 46.Kb5 Rh4 47.Kxa4 Nd3+ 48.Kb5 Nxc5



Sometimes it pays to never give up! This is unnecessarily panicky, but the remote White king means the ending is still winning. 49.Kxc5 Rf4? The win is now gone 49...Re4! cuts off the king by one more file, if 50.Rd4 Kf5! 50.Kd5 h5 51.Ke5 Rf1 52.Ke4 h4 53.Rd8 Kh5 54.Rh8+ Kg4 55.Rg8+ Kh3 56.Ke3 Kh2 57.Ke2 Rg1 58.Rh8 h3 59.Kf2 Rg3 60.Rh7 Ra3 61.Rh8 Kh1 62.Re8 Ra2+ 63.Kf1 Ra5 64.Kf2 Rf5+ 65.Kg3 ½-½

Round 5 saw the two players destined to win IM norms meet and battle out a tight draw.

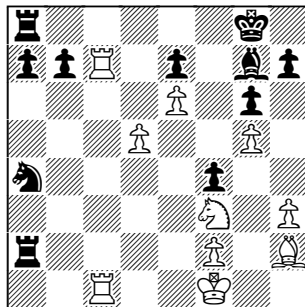
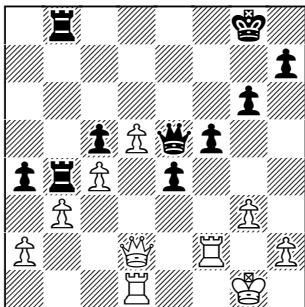
### Legaspi,Edmundo (2087) - Green,Ewen M (2213)

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (5.2), 12.10.2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e5 7.Nf3 Nge7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Nd4 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 Bg4 13.c3 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Qd6 16.c4 f5 17.Qf2 b6 18.Qd2 Rf7 19.Rf2 b5 20.Raf1 a5 21.Rf3 bxc4 22.dxc4 e4 23.R3f2 Rb7 24.Rb1 Rb4 25.b3 Rab8 26.Bf4 Be5 27.Rd1 a4 28.Bxe5 Qxe5

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Instead of defending the b pawn, White chooses to give it up and search for counterplay. 29.d6 axb3 30.axb3 Rxb3 31.Qd5+ Qxd5 32.Rxd5 Rd8 33.Rfd2 e3 34.Re2 Kf7 35.Kg2 Ke6 36.Kf3 Rxd6 37.Rxc5 Rd2 38.h4 Rxe2 39.Kxe2 Rc3 40.Rc7 Ke5 41.Rxh7 Rxc4 42.Re7+ Kf6 43.Rxe3 f4 44.gxf4 Rxf4 45.Rf3 Kf5 46.Ke3 Rxf3+ 47.Kxf3 g5 ½-½

Another interesting draw in this round was that between David Lovejoy (White) and Richard Taylor (Black).

### Lovejoy, David (1838) - Taylor, Richard (1845) B04

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (5.3), 12.10.2017  
1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 g6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 Bg7 7.Qe2 dxe5 8.dxe5 Nc6 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.h3 Bf5 11.g4 Be6 12.c3 Bxb3 13.Nxb3 f5 14.g5 Qd5 15.Bf4 Qe4 16.Bh2 Qxe2+ 17.Kxe2 f4 18.e6 Rf5 19.Rad1 Nc4 20.Rd7 Nxb2 21.Nbd4 Nxd4+ 22.cxd4 Ra5 23.Rxc7 Ra6 24.d5 Rxa2 25.Rhc1 Na4+ 26.Kf1

26...Nc3? Black should defend with Nb6. However, White rejects the opportunity to collect a bishop and knight for a rook. 27.d6? exd6 28.Bxf4 b5? Black should again be defending with Re8. 29.Bxd6 Re8 30.e7? White overlooks the winning move Bb4 kicking the knight and preparing Rc8 30...Kf7 31.Be5? White misses his final chance to win decisive material with R (either) xc3. 31...Bxe5 32.Nxe5+ Ke6 33.Nd3 Ne4 34.R1c6+ Kf5 35.f3 Ng3+ 36.Kg1 Ne2+ 37.Kf1 Ng3+ 38.Kg1 Ne2+ 39.Kf1 Ng3+ 40.Ke1 Ra3? Ed: In the final position White can win simply by 40...Ra3 41.Rf6+ Kxg5 42.Rf8 ½-½

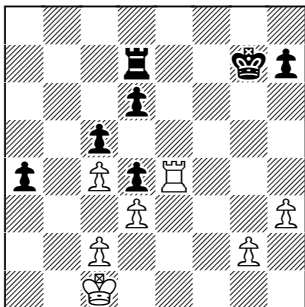
Round 6 also saw William Lynn (Black) produce exceptional endgame skills against Grant Kerr (White).

### Kerr, Grant (1940) - Lynn, William (1817)

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (5.6), 12.10.2017  
1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e3 d5 4.Bb5 Bd6 5.f4 Qe7 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.fxe5 Bxe5 9.Bxe5 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Qxe5 11.Nc3 Nf6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Qf5 Qe7 14.Rae1 Rad8 15.e4 d4 16.Na4 Nd7 17.h3 Ne5 18.d3 Rd6 19.Qf2 Rd7 20.Qg3 f6 21.Nb2 Qa3



22.Nc4 Nxc4 23.bxc4 Qxa2 24.e5 Qa3  
 25.exf6 Qd6 26.Qxd6 cxd6 27.fxg7 Rxf1+  
 28.Kxf1 Kxg7 29.Re4 c5 30.Ke2 a5  
 31.Kd2 a4 32.Kc1



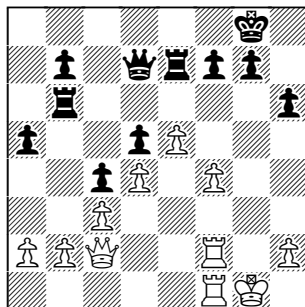
32...Rb7! When I saw William play this, I thought he'd made a mistake. Surely Ra7 was better? 33.Re8 Kf6 34.Ra8 Ke5 35.Rxa4 Rg7 Black doesn't defend the a pawn, but instead goes after White's kingside pawns. 36.Ra8 Rxc2 37.Ra7 h6 38.Re7+ Kf6 39.Re4 Kf5 40.Re8 Rg6 41.Re2 Kf4 42.Re4+ Kg3 43.h4 h5 44.Kd2 Rg4 45.Re6 Kxh4 Black's strategy works! 46.Rxd6 Kg3 47.Rd5 h4 48.Rxc5 h3 49.Rh5 h2 50.c3 dxc3+ 51.Kxc3 Rh4 0-1

Round 6 saw the top two seeds have their long-awaited battle. Torre (White) against Green (Black) was Torre's toughest battle.

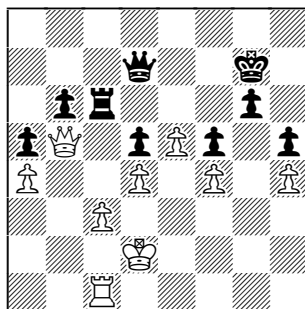
### Torre, Eugenio (2456) - Green, Ewen M (2213)

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
 Auckland, NZL NZL (6.1), 12.10.2017  
 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nd2  
 Qb6 6.Qb3 c4 7.Qc2 Bg4 8.Be2 Bxe2  
 9.Nxe2 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Ng3 0-0 12.e4  
 Rfe8 13.Bg5 Qb5 14.e5 Nd7 15.Bxe7

Nxe7 16.Nf3 a5 17.Ng5 Nf8 18.f4 h6  
 19.Nh3 Ra6 20.f5 Nxf5 21.Nxf5 exf5  
 22.Rxf5 Rb6 23.Rf2 Ng6 24.Raf1 Re7  
 25.g3 Qd7 26.Nf4 Nxf4 27.gxf4



White's advantage according to the computer is less than 0.5. It is instructive to see how White converts that into a win. 27...Rg6+ 28.Kh1 f5 29.Rg2 Rxc2 30.Qxc2 Qe6 31.Rg1 Kh7 32.h4 h5 33.a4 Rd7 34.Qc2 g6 35.Kh2 Qc6 36.Rb1 Rc7 37.b4 cxb3 38.Qxb3 b6 39.Kg2 Kg7 40.Kf2 Qd7 41.Ke2 Rc6 42.Kd2 Qd8 43.Qb5 Qd7 44.Rc1



White prepares the decisive breakthrough c4!. Nothing can prevent this 44...g5 Black hopes to confuse matters, but it's an empty gesture. Black cannot prevent c4, for example after 44...Qe6 45.c4 Rxc4 46.Rxc4

## Asian Veterans (65+)

1	GM Torre, Eugenio	2456	PHI	9.0	+B5	+W11	+B4	+W3	+B8	+W2	+B9	+W6	+B13
2	FM Green, Ewen M	2213	NZL	6.5	+W12	-BYE	+B11	+W4	=B3	-B1	+W10	+W5	+B8
3	Legaspi, Edmundo	2087	PHI	6.5	+B14	+W8	+B10	-B1	=W2	-W5	+B4	+W12	+B9
4	Yussof, Pg Abd Rahma	1839	BRU	5.5	+B15	+BYE	-W1	-B2	=W9	+B7	-W3	+B8	+W5
5	Lovejoy, David	1838	AUS	5.0	-W1	+B12	=W9	+B14	=W7	+B3	+W8	-B2	-B4
6	Goffin, Peter	1976	NZL	4.5	=W9	=B10	-W15	=B12	=W14	=B13	+W11	-B1	+BYE
7	CM Taylor, Richard	1845	NZL	4.5	-W10	=B9	=W13	+B11	=B5	-W4	-B12	+BYE	+W15
8	Srivatanakul, Pricha	1445	THA	4.0	+BYE	-B3	+W14	+B15	-W1	+W10	-B5	-W4	-W2
9	McFarland, Malcolm	1750	GUM	4.0	=B6	=W7	=B5	=W10	=B4	+W12	-W1	=B15	-W3
10	Cooper, Nigel	1670	NZL	4.0	+B7	=W6	-W3	=B9	+W15	-B8	-B2	=W13	=B11
11	Booth, Anthony	1730	NZL	3.5	+W13	-B1	-W2	-W7		+BYE	-B6	+B14	=W10
12	Lynn, William	1817	NZL	3.5	-B2	-W5	+BYE	=W6	+B13	-B9	+W7	-B3	-W14
13	Kerr, Grant	1940	NZL	3.5	-B11	-W14	=B7	+BYE	-W12	=W6	+B15	=B10	-W1
14	Benson, James	1800	NZL	3.5	-W3	+B13	-B8	-W5	=B6	-W15	+BYE	-W11	+B12
15	Ansell, David	1635	NZL	3.5	-W4	+BYE	+B6	-W8	-B10	+B14	-W13	=W9	-B7

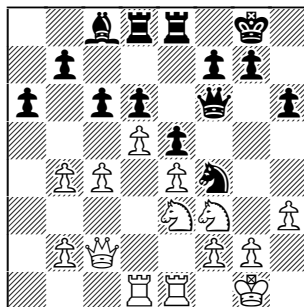
dx4 47.Kc3 White collects the c pawn and the powerful passed central duo will decide 45.hxg5 1-0

David Lovejoy came up with a fine win over Edmundo Legaspi.

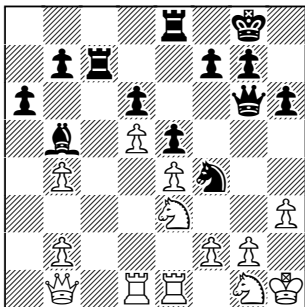
### Legaspi,Edmundo (2087) - Lovejoy,David (1838)

8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (6.2), 12.10.2017

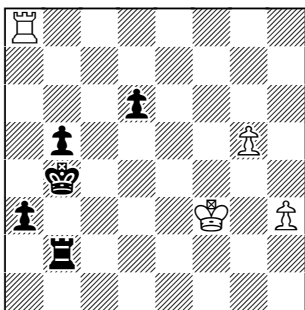
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6  
5.d3 d6 6.Nbd2 a6 7.Nf1 0-0 8.Ne3 Na5  
9.Bb3 Nxb3 10.axb3 Re8 11.b4 Ba7 12.0-0  
h6 13.Nc4 c6 14.h3 Qc7 15.Qc2 Be6  
16.Re1 Rad8 17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Nxe3 Bc8  
19.c4 Nh5 20.d4 Nf4 21.Rad1 Qe7 22.d5  
Qf6



Black's well placed knight and queen give him some tactical chances. 23.Nh2 Qg6  
24.Kh1 cxd5 25.cxd5 Bd7 26.Nf3 Rc8  
27.Qb1 Bb5 28.Ng1 Rc7



29.g3? Nd3! Winning material 30.Kg2 Qxe4+ 31.Kh2 Qg6 32.Re2 Nxb4 33.Qxg6 fxg6 34.Red2 Rec8 35.Ne2 Bxe2 36.Rxe2 Ne2 37.Nxc2 Rxc2 38.Rdd2 Rxd2 39.Rxd2 Rc4 40.Kg2 e4 41.Kf1 Kf7 42.Ke2 Kf6 43.f4 exf3+ 44.Kxf3 Ke5 45.Re2+ Kxd5 46.Re7 Rb4 47.Rxg7 Rb3+ 48.Kg4 Rb4+ 49.Kf3 Rxb2 50.Rxg6 a5 51.Rxh6 a4 52.Rh5+ Kc4 53.Ra5 b5 54.g4 Kb4 55.Ra8 a3 56.g5



56...a2! 57.g6 Rb3+ 58.Kf4 Ra3 59.Rxa3 Kxa3 60.g7 a1Q 61.g8Q Qf1+ 62.Ke3 Qxh3+ 63.Kd2 Qh2+ 64.Kd3 b4 65.Qa8+ Kb2 66.Qc6 Qg3+ 67.Ke2 Qe5+ 68.Kd1 Qd4+ 69.Ke2 d5 70.Qa4 Qc4+ 71.Ke3 Qb3+ Well played David! 0-1

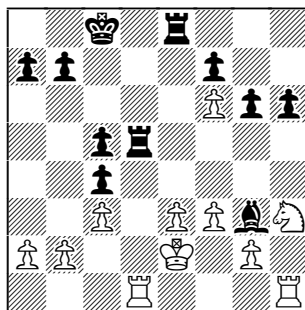
This round also saw the 80-year old Thai

win against me, when I thought I was leading most of the way.

## Srivatanakul,Pricha (1445) - Cooper,Nigel (1670)

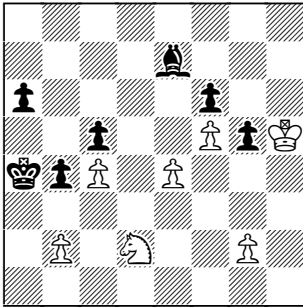
8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL NZL (6.3), 12.10.2017

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e3 Bd6 5.Bg3 Ne4 6.Nd2 Nxc3 7.hxg3 Nd7 8.Bd3 h6 9.g4 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Be2 Be6 12.Nb3 Qd7 13.f3 Nc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.Nd4 Bg3+ 16.Ke2 0-0-0 17.Qc2 e5 18.Nxe6 A critical moment. I overlooked the possibility of Qd3+ forcing the queens off, and giving me a passed pawn. 18...Qxe6 19.Qf5 Qxf5 20.gxf5 Rhe8 21.Nh3 Rd5 22.f6 g6 23.Rad1



Should Black keep the rooks on, or not? 23...Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Re6 25.f4 Bh4 26.Kf3 Bxf6 27.Nf2 Kc7? I should have stopped White's knight reaching g4 by playing h5. 28.e4 Be7 29.Ng4 g5 30.f5 Rd6 31.Rxd6 Bxd6 32.Nxh6 f6 33.Ng4 Be7 34.a4 a6 35.a5 Kc6 36.Ne3 Kb5 37.Kg4 Kxa5 38.Nxc4+ Ka4 I try to push the queenside pawns through, but would have been safer to have played Kb4 and return to the centre to support the bishop. The three queenside pawns against two will ensure the knight is tied up defending, and the game might be

drawn. 39.Nd2 b5 40.Kh5 b4 41.c4

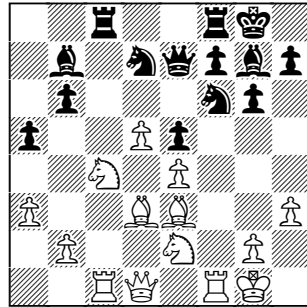


41...b3? Black can draw with Bd6 intending Be5, any other move succumbs to the winning plan demonstrated in the game. 42.Kg6 Kb4 43.Kf7 Bd8 44.Ke6 a5 45.Kd7 a4 46.Kxd8 a3 47.bxa3+ Kc3 48.Nxb3 Well played, Pricha! 1-0

On the home straight now. The main contenders for the IM norms, Green and Legaspi won all their last three games. The lower rated players were vying for the honour of playing the GM, and Malcolm McFarland, Peter Goffin and Grant Kerr won that. I was in contention with a draw against Kerr, when I was a pawn up, but missed my chance to push it forward and press for a win. Kerr's higher rating won him the honour. However, my equal score meant I managed to avoid the bye, which was my other main aim. My last round game with Tony Booth was an interesting affair.

**Booth,Anthony (1730) - Cooper,Nigel (1670)**  
 8th Asian Seniors 65 Championships 2017  
 Auckland, NZL (9.6), 15.10.2017  
**1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.f4 d6 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.h3 Nbd7 7.Be3 c5 8.Nd2 cxd4**

9.cxd4 e5 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.d5 b6 12.Ne2 Bb7 13.0-0 Qe7 14.a3 a5 15.Rc1 Rac8 16.Nc4



It appears White wins the b pawn unless I defend it with the queen. That seemed too passive to me. So 16...Bxd5!? 17.exd5 Nxd5 18.Bf2 e4 19.Bxc4! White returns the piece. 19...Qxe4 20.Nd6 Rxc1 21.Nxc4 Rxd1 22.Rxd1 N5f6 23.Nxf6+ Nxf6 24.Bxb6 White regains equal material, and appears to have more winning chances from here with his extra queenside pawn. But it might be an illusion. 24...Ne4 25.b3 Nc3 26.Nxc3 Bxc3 27.a4 Rb8 28.Rd8+ Rxd8 29.Bxd8 Kf8 30.Kf1 Ke8 31.Bb6 Kd7 32.Ke2 Kc6 33.Be3 Kd5 34.Kd3 ½-½

An honourable draw for both of us to go home with a satisfied heart. In fact, I think all the players felt that way.

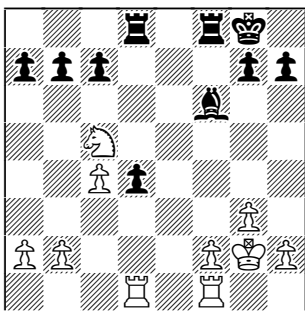
## Nigel Cooper on the Seniors (50+) Section

The opening round saw all top half beating bottom half except Michael Steadman (2196), who was confronted with a well-prepared Hilton Bennett (1996) using the Portuguese gambit, and earning a draw; and Paul Spiller (1933) earning an excellent half point against the ultimate winner, Mahmood Lohdi (2344).

### Lodhi, Mahmood (2344) - Spiller, Paul (1933)

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (1.2), 09.10.2017

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.Nc3 Qe8 8.Qc2 Qh5 9.e4 fxe4 10.Nxe4 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.Nxf6+ Bxf6 13.Be3 Nc6 14.Nd2 Nd4 15.Bxd4 exd4 16.Ne4 Bh3 17.Qd1 Qxd1 18.Raxd1 Bxg2 19.Kxg2 Rad8 20.Nc5



White chooses not to swap the knight off for the bishop, probably because the resulting endgame looked to be drawish. 20...Rfe8 21.Nd3 Re2 22.Kf3 Re6 23.Rfe1 Rde8 24.Rxe6 Rxe6 25.Re1 Rxe1 26.Nxe1

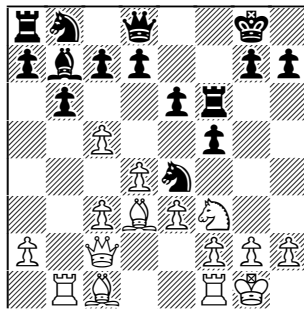
Kf7 27.Nd3 Ke6 28.Ke4 Kd6 29.b4 b6 30.b5 c6 31.bxc6 Kxc6 32.a4 g6 33.f4 Bg7 34.g4 a6 35.f5 gxf5+ 36.gxf5 b5 37.exb5+ axb5 38.a5 Bf6 39.Nb4+ Kb7 40.Nd5 Bg7 41.f6 Bf8 42.f7 b4 43.Kxd4 Ka6 44.Kc4 Kxa5 45.Kb3 Kb5 46.Nf6 h6 47.Nd7 Be7 48.f8Q Bxf8 Black loses his bishop, but knows he has a draw in the bag. 49.Nxf8 Kc5 50.Ng6 Kd5 51.Kxb4 Ke4 52.Kc4 Kf5 53.Ne7+ Kg4 54.Kd3 Kh3 55.Ke2 Kxh2 56.Kf2 Kh3 57.Kf3 Kh4 58.Kf4 Kh5 59.Kf5 Kh4 60.Kf4 Kh5 ½-½

Round 2 saw Helen Milligan (1996) fighting strongly against Bruce Watson (2275), reducing him to a standstill, earning a draw. Another draw was gained by Ngiam Yee Wong (1957) against Robert Smith (2223), while Benjamin Lim (1972) knocked over Peng Kong Chan (2170).

### Chan, Peng Kong (2170) - Lim, Benjamin U (1952)

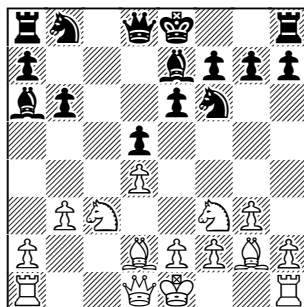
8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (2.5), 10.10.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.e3 Bb7 6.Bd3 Ne4 7.Qc2 f5 8.0-0 Bxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.c5 Rf6 11.Rb1



White fails to anticipate the coming sacrifice. 11...Nxc3! 12.Qxc3 Bxf3 13.g3

The Point. White cannot take the bishop because the rook check followed by Qg5 gives a winning attack. **13...Rg6 14.Re1 Qh4 15.Bf1 Nc6 16.Bg2 Qe4 17.Bxf3 Qxf3 18.Qc4 Qe4 19.Qb5?** White again fails to spot the danger. He needed to move his bishop to link the rooks together for self-preservation. However after 19.Bd2 Ne5 20.Qe2 Nf3+ wins the exchange, at least. **19...Nxd4 20.exd4 Qxe1+ 21.Kg2 Qe4+ 22.Kg1 f4** I bet Benny enjoyed that game! **0-1**



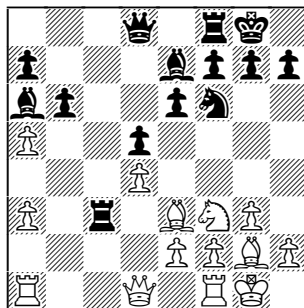
**Round 3** saw Michael Steadman (who won't have fond memories of this tournament) being beaten by Shresta, Sujendra P (1900) of Nepal. Meanwhile, Don Eade (1794) will be happy with his tournament, a win against Nathan Goodhue (1976) here being one of several good results. Peng rebounded from his loss in the second round with a fine win over Leon Kempen (1892), and Ismail Ahmad produced a lovely mate on Paul Spiller after only 22 moves.

**Kempen, Leon (1892) - Chan, Peng Kong (2170) [Annotated by Peng Chan]**

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (3.7), 10.10.2017

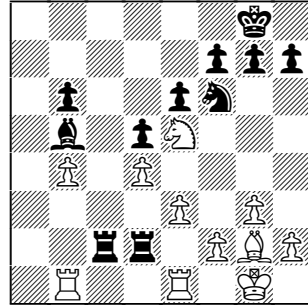
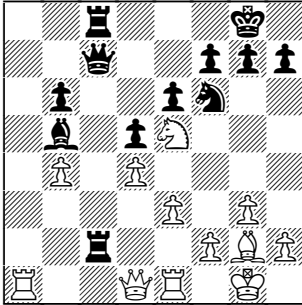
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.b3 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Be7 7.Bg2 c6 8.Nc3 d5 9.cxd5 cxd5!**

Technically speaking, position is equal but it's easier to play as Black especially facing it for the first time. **10.0-0** (10...Nfd7? 11.Nxd5! exd5 12.Nxf7 Kxf7 13.Bxd5+ Ke8 14.Bxa8+/-) 11.Rc1 Nfd7 12.Nxd5? exd5 13.Nxf7 Rxf7 14.Bxd5 Ne5! 15.Bxa8 Nbc6 16.Bxc6 Nxc6 17.Bc3 (17.Rxc6 Qd5-/+ ) 17...Bf6-/+ **10...Nc6 11.Be3?** 11.Rc1 Ba3 (11...Rc8! =) 12.Nxd5!? Bxc1 13.Nxf6+ gxf6 14.Bxc1 0-0 (14...Rc8 15.Ba3) 15.Re1; 11.b4! Bxb4 (11...Nxb4 12.Ne5+/-) 12.Qa4 Bb7 13.Ne5+/- Bxc3 14.Bxc3 0-0 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Qxc6 Rc8 17.Qa4 Rxc3 18.Qxa7 Qd6= **11...Rc8 12.a3 Na5 13.b4** 13.Na2 0-0 14.Ne5 Ne4 15.f3 (15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.b4 Nc4 17.Nxc4 Bxc4-/+ ) 15...Nd6=+ **13...Rxc3 14.bxa5 0-0**



15.Ne5 15.Bd2 Rxa3 16.Rxa3 Bxa3  
 17.Qa4 Bd6 18.axb6 Qxb6 19.Ra1 Bxe2  
 20.Qxa7 Qb2 21.Qa2 Qxa2 22.Rxa2 Bc4  
 23.Ra7 Rb8-/+; 15.axb6 axb6 16.Ne5  
 Qc7=+ (16...Ne4=+) 15...Qc7 15...bxa5  
 16.Bd2 Rc8 17.Qa4 Bxe2 18.Bxa5 Qe8  
 19.Qxe8 Rfxe8 20.Rfe1 Rc2-/+ 16.axb6  
 axb6 17.Bd2 Rc2 18.Re1 Rc8 19.Bb4  
 Bxb4 20.axb4 Bb5 21.e3

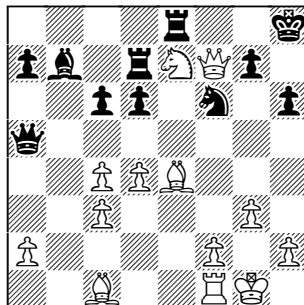
21...Qc3? almost threw away the win  
 21...g6+ 22.Rb1? 22.Ra7? Rc1 23.Qxc1  
 Qxc1 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 25.Bf1 Rxf1+  
 26.Kg2 Rb1-/+; 22.Bf1! Bxf1 23.Rxf1  
 Qxb4 24.Qxc2 Rxc2 25.Ra8+ Qf8  
 26.Rxf8+ Kxf8 27.Rb1 Ne4 28.Rxb6 Rxf2  
 29.Rb8+ Ke7 30.Rb7+= 22...Rd2 23.Qc1  
 23.Qf3 h6 24.h4 Be8-/+ 23...Qc2 24.Qxc2  
 Rxc2



## Asian Seniors (50+)

1	IM Lodhi, Mahmood	2344	PAK	7.0	=W12	+B16	+W5	+B3	=W2	+B10	+W11	-B4	+W7
2	GM Johansen, Darryl K	2380	AUS	6.5	+B20	+W6	+B23	=W7	=B1	=W5	-B4	+B3	+W10
3	FM Watson, Bruce R	2275	NZL	6.5	+B18	=W13	+B4	-W1	+B24	+W7	+B5	-W2	+B15
4	Bagamasbad, Efren	2082	PHI	6.5	+W11	=B21	-W3	+B28	+W14	=B6	+W2	+W1	=B5
5	FM McLaren, Leonard	2221	NZL	6.0	+B9	+W24	-B1	+W23	+W6	=B2	-W3	+B10	=W4
6	FM Ismail, Ahmad	2026	MAS	5.5	+B17	-B2	+W12	+W22	-B5	=W4	=B9	=W8	+W20
7	FM Smith, Robert W	2223	NZL	5.5	+W14	=B8	+W21	=B2	=W10	-B3	+W23	+B6	-B1
8	Wong, Ngiam Yee	1957	SGP	5.5	+B25	=W7	=B13	-B10		+W17	+W19	=B6	+W11
9	CM Kempen, Leon	1892	AUS	5.5	-W5	+B30	-W10	=B19	+W26	+B21	=W6	=B11	+W14
10	IM Chan, Peng Kong	2170	SGP	4.5	+B22	-W23	+B9	+W8	=B7	-W1	+B20	-W5	-B2
11	CM Eade, Don	1794	NZL	4.5	-B4	+W25	+B19	-W24	+B15	+W13	-B1	=W9	-B8
12	CM Spiller, Paul	1933	NZL	4.5	=B1	=W15	-B6	+W17	=B20	=W24	=B13	=W19	=B16
13	CM Milligan, Helen	1996	NZL	4.5	+W26	=B3	=W8	=B14	=W23	-B11	=W12	=B20	=W17
14	FM Shrestha, Sujendra P	1900	NEP	4.5	-B7	+W27	+B15	=W13	-B4	-W20	+B25	+W22	-B9
15	FM Steadman, Michael	2196	NZL	4.5	=W16	=B12	-W14	+B26	-W11	=B18	+W21	+B23	-W3
16	CM Bennett, Hilton	1875	NZL	4.5	=B15	-W1	-B22	+W30	+W28	=B19	+B24	-W7	=W12
17	Lim, Kian Hwa	1779	MAS	4.5	-W6	-W20	+B25	-W12	+W27	-B8	+W29	+W24	=B13
18	CM Yee, Stanley	1904	NZL	4.5	-W3	-B26	+W30	+B27	-W19	=W15	-B22	+B29	+W23
19	Goodhue, Nathan	1976	NZL	4.0	+B27		-W11	=W9	+B18	=W16	-B8	=B12	=W21
20	FM Press, Shaun	1935	PNG	4.0	-W2	+B17	=W28	=B2	+W12	+B14	-W10	=B13	-B6
21	Shakya, Rabindra	1947	NEP	4.0	+B28	=W4	-B7	=W20	=B22	-W9	-B15	+W27	=B19
22	Hair, Philip I	1829	NZL	4.0	-W10	+B29	+W16	-B6	=W21	-B23	+W18	-B14	=B25
23	CM Lim, Benjamin U	1952	NZL	3.5	+W29	+B10	-W2	-B5	=B13	+W22	-B7	-W15	-B18
24	CM Forster, William	1959	NZL	3.5	+W30	-B5	=W26	+B11	-W3	=B12	-W16	-B17	=W29
25	List, Robert	1582	NZL	3.5	-W8	-B11	-W17	-B2	+BYE	+B30	-W14	+B26	=W22
26	Vucak, Mark	1773	AUS	3.5	=B13	+W18	=B24	-W15	-B9	=W27	=B28	+W25	+W30
27	Stark, Ken	1721	AUS	3.5	-W19	-B14	+W29	-W18	-B17	=B26	+W30	-B21	+B28
28	Rajbhai Shakya	0	NEP	2.5	-W21	+BYE	=B20	-W4	-B16	=B29	=W26	-B30	-W27
29	Hooton, Barry R	1540	NZL	2.5	-B23	-W22	-B27	+W25	=B30	=W28	-B17	-W18	=B24
30	Mukkattu, Philip	1676	NZL	1.5	-B24	-W9	-B18	-B16	=W29	-W25	-B27	+W28	-B26

25.Bf1 25.Ra1 Rxf2 26.Bf1 (26.Ra8+ Be8 27.Bf1 g6-/+) 26...g6 27.Ra8+ Kg7 28.Ra7 Be8 29.Rc1 Rg2+! 30.Bxg2 Rxc1+ 31.Bf1 Rb1 32.b5 Ne4 33.Kg2 Nd6 **25...Rxf2 26.Bxb5** 26.Ra1 g5 27.Ra8+ Kg7 28.Ra7 Be8 29.Rc1 Rg2+ 30.Bxg2 Rxc1+ 31.Bf1 Rb1 32.b5 Ne4 33.Kg2 Nd6-+ **26...Rg2+ 27.Kh1 Rxh2+ 28.Kg1 Rcg2+ 29.Kf1 Rf2+ 30.Kg1 Rhg2+ 31.Kh1 Ne4 32.Bf1 Nxc3# 0-1**

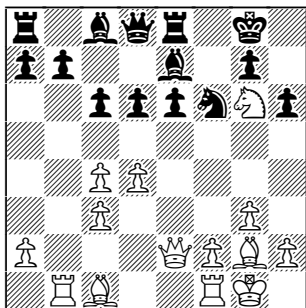


**Ismail,Ahmad (2026) - Spiller,Paul (1933)**

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017 Auckland, NZL (3.8), 10.10.2017  
**1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Qc2 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Nd7 10.e4 fxe4 11.Qxe4 Nf6 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Rb1 h6 14.Nh4 c6 15.Ng6**

**21.Bxh6! Rdxe7 22.Bxg7# 1-0**

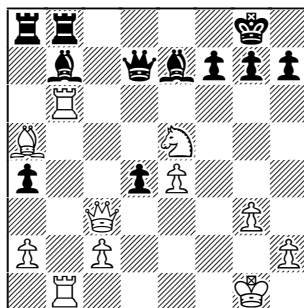
The tournament was coming to life, as Leonard McLaren (2221) made Mahmoud Lodhi (2344) fight for survival also in round 3.



**Lodhi,Mahmood (2344) - McLaren,Leonard (2221)**

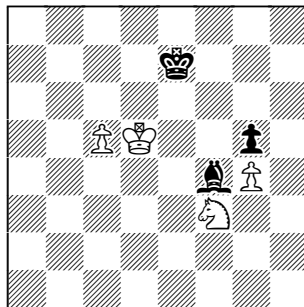
**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 b5 4.e3 a6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 e5 7.b3 d5 8.Bb2 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 c4 10.Ne5 Qc7 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.Nf3 Bd6 13.Ne5 Qc7 14.Qe1 0-0 15.Bc3 a5 16.bxc4 bxc4 17.Rb1 Rfb8 18.Rb5 a4 19.Ba5 Qc8 20.Qc3 Ba6 21.Rbb1 Ne4 22.Bxe4 dxe4 23.f4 exf3 24.Nxf3 Bb7 25.Nd2 Qc6 26.e4 e5 27.Rb6 Qd7 28.Rfb1 Be7 29.Nxc4 exd4 30.Ne5**

With a nasty threat that Black misses. **15...Qa5?** 15...e5! is necessary **16.Rxb7! Bxb7 17.Qxe6+ Kh7 18.Nxe7 Rad8 19.Qf7 Rd7 20.Be4+ Kh8**

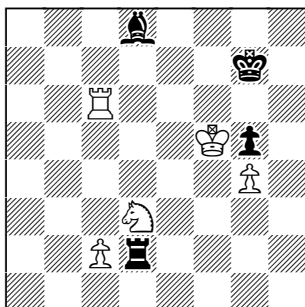




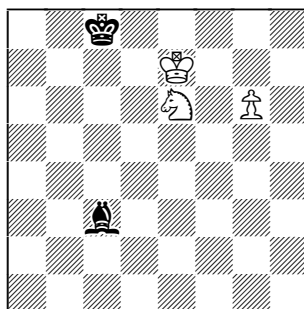
**30...dxc3** Black had a winning move, but sadly he missed it. **30...Qd6!** and White has too many hanging pieces and something drops off **31.Nxd7 Rxa5 32.Rxb7 Rxb7 33.Rxb7 g6 34.Rc7 Rb5 35.Rxc3** Black has full compensation for the pawn, but White manages to steadily squelch it and consolidate. **35...Rb2 36.a3 Kg7 37.Kg2 Ra2 38.Nb6 Bxa3 39.Rc4 Be7 40.Nxa4 Ra3 41.Nc3 Bf6 42.Ne2 h5 43.Nf4 Bd8 44.Nd3 g5 45.e5 Kg6 46.h3 Kf5 47.g4+ hxg4 48.hxg4+ Ke6 49.Kf3 Ra1 50.Ke4 Rg1 51.Nc5+ Ke7 52.Kd5 Rd1+ 53.Nd3 Rd2 54.Ke4 f6 55.exf6+ Kxf6 56.Rc6+ Kg7 57.Kf5**



**69.Nd4?** **69.Kc6!** Heading to b7 wins easily **69...Kd7 70.c6+ Kc8 71.Ne6 Bd2 72.Kd6 Bb4+ 73.Ke5 Bd2 74.Kf5 Bc1 75.Kf6 Bd2 76.Ke5 Bc1 77.Kd6 Ba3+ 78.Kd5 Bc1 79.Kc5 Bd2 80.c7 Be1 81.Kc6 Bg3 82.Nxg5 Bxc7 83.Ne6 Be5 84.g5 Bb2 85.g6 Bf6 86.Kd6 Bc3 87.Ke7**



White now has the compensation as well as the pawn **57...Rd1 58.Ne5 Rf1+ 59.Ke6 Rf6+ 60.Kd7 Ba5 61.Rxf6 Kxf6 62.Nf3 Bc3 63.Kd6 Bb4+ 64.Kd5 Bc3 65.Ng1 Bd2 66.c4 Be3 67.Nf3 Bf4 68.c5 Ke7**

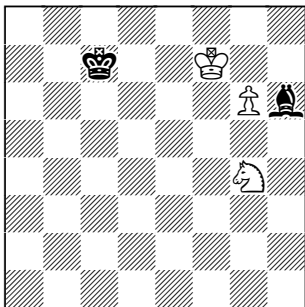


**87...Be5** Ed: Amazingly **87...Kb7!!** stepping away from the centre to get around White's pieces and back towards the centre is the only saving move here (see below), but this is inhuman stuff **88.Nf4 Bg7 89.Nh5 Bh6 89...Bh8 90.Kf7 Kd7 91.Ng7** is a key winning manoeuvre. In the **87...Kb7!!** line above, Black is just in time to get his king around to f6 when White goes **Kg8** to collect the bishop **90.Kf7 Kd8 91.Nf6 Kc7 92.Ng4**

### **Don't Forget**

Online play through for all games from every issue is available at

**[nzchessmag.com](http://nzchessmag.com)**



Oh for the skills of a GM-elect in an endgame! **1-0**

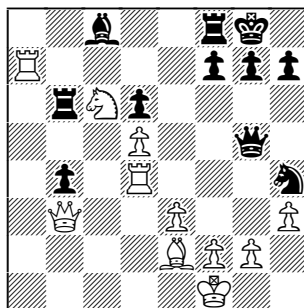
**Round 4** saw Lohdi showing his powers with a victory over Bruce Watson, and Bill Forster accounting for Don Eade, while GM Darryl Johanssen started a run of 3 draws (to Bob Smith, Mahmood Lohdi and Leonard McLaren), and a loss to Filipino Efren Bagamasbad (2082) to lose his accustomed position of playing on Board 1 most rounds. Don Eade (1794), in the best tournament of his life (**Ed**: I don't know about that – there was a North Island Champs a few years back....), was to take that position against Lohdi in round 7! Finally, Nathan Goodhue (1976) and Leon Kempen (1892) fought themselves to an honorable standstill.

### **Watson, Bruce R (2275) - Lodhi, Mahmood (2344)**

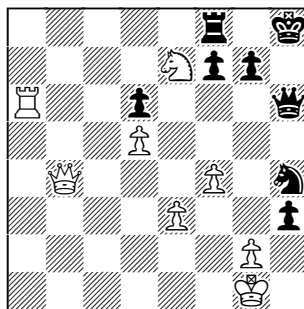
8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (4.2), 11.10.2017

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nf3 d5  
5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bb5 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bd6 8.d4  
exd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.Be2 Ne7  
12.Qb3 Rb8 13.Ba3 b5 14.Bxd6 cxd6  
15.Rfd1 Ng6 16.h3 Bd7 17.d5 a5 18.a3  
Qf6 19.Nd4 b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.Ra7 Bc8**

**22.Nc6 Rb6 23.Rd4 Qg5 24.Kh2 Qf6  
25.Kg1 Qg5** Wanting a draw by repetition?  
**26.Kf1** No thanks. **26...Nh4**



**27.Bg4!** White can win material with **27.Ne7+!? Kh8 28.Nxc8 Qxg2+ 29.Ke1 Rxc8 30.Rxh4** But not surprisingly Bruce avoids this as it looks very scary. After **30...Qg1+ 31.Bf1 Rc1+ 32.Kd2** the weak back rank means White can keep his piece although Black has significant compensation **27...Ba6+** Black insists on confusing matters more, a very practical approach as White's advantage can only be maintained with very precise play **28.Kg1 h5 29.f4 Qh6 30.Ne7+ Kh8 31.Rxb4? 31.Bd1! 31...Rxb4 32.Qxb4 hxg4 33.Rxa6 gxh3**

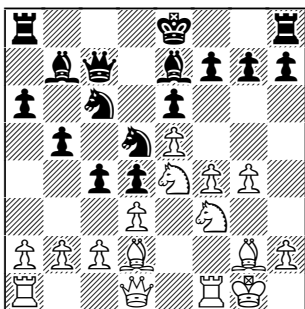


**34.Qxd6? 34.Qa3!** holds the balance

34...Qh5! Winning 35.Ra2 hxc2 36.Rxc2 Nxc2 37.Ng6+ Qxc6 38.Qxf8+ Kh7 39.Kf2 Nh4 0-1

**Eade, Don (1794) - Forster, Bill (1959)**

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (4.7), 11.10.2017  
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.g3 b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.d3 e6 6.f4 Nf6 7.Nf3 d5 8.e5 d4 9.Ne2 Nd5 10.0-0 Be7 11.g4 Nc6 12.Bd2 Qc7 13.Ng3 c4 14.Ne4

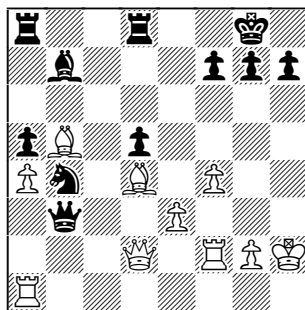


14...c3! The editor is pleased to report that Stockfish likes this small tactic more and more as it looks longer. One bright spot in an otherwise miserable tournament for me. 15.bxc3 dxc3 16.Nxc3 Nxe5 The point, Black is entitled to a positional plus, but not the immediate collapse that ensues 17.Ne4?? Nxg4 18.Nfg5 Nde3 19.Qf3 Nxf1 20.Rxf1 Nh6 21.f5 Nxf5 22.Bf4 Qb6+ 23.Kh1 0-0 24.Qh5 Bxc5 25.Bxc5 h6 26.Nf6+ gxf6 27.Bxf6 Bxc2+ 28.Kxc2 Kh7 29.Rxf5 Rg8+ 30.Rg5 Rg6 31.Qf3 Rag8 32.Qe4 hxc5 0-1

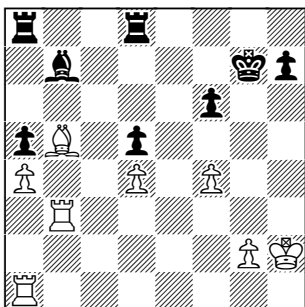
Round 5 saw the top two seeds battling each other.

**Lodhi, Mahmood (2344) - Johansen, Darryl K (2380)**

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (5.1), 12.10.2017  
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Nbd2 b6 5.e3 Bb7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.b3 c5 11.Bb2 Nc6 12.Ndf3 Nb4 13.Be2 a5 14.a3 Na6 15.a4 Ne4 16.Nd2 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 Qe7 18.Bb5 Nb4 Now pieces begin to fly everywhere. 19.Nd7 Rfd8 20.Nxb6 Bxb2+ 21.Kxh2 Qd6+ 22.f4 Qxb6 23.dxc5 Qxc5 24.Bd4 Qc2 25.Rf2 Qxb3



Black has won a pawn but White has more than enough positional compensation, and the computer even finds a clever win, based on the idea of trapping the queen 26.Bxc7!? Mahmood's version of the same idea is even more surprising, but offers Black a way of wriggling out. The computer move is 26.Qe2! with two ideas, then 26...Rd6 defends the king but allows 27.Qf1! and Rb2 will trap the queen. 26...Kxc7 27.Qd4+ f6 28.Rb2 Nc2! 29.Rxb3 Nxd4 30.exd4



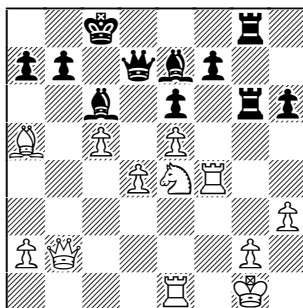
White retains an edge based on his better Bishop, but Darryl never really looks to be in serious danger from here. 30...Ra7 31.Rc1 Bc8 32.Bd3 Bd7 33.Rc5 Bxa4 34.Ra3 Be8 35.Rxa5 Rxa5 36.Rxa5 Bf7 37.Ra7 h6 38.Bf5 Rd6 39.Kg3 Rb6 40.Kh4 Kf8 41.Ra4 Rb2 42.g4 Rh2+ 43.Kg3 Rb2 44.Ra6 Ke7 45.Ra7+ Kf8 46.Ra8+ Kg7 47.Ra4 Rb3+ 48.Kf2 Rb2+ 49.Ke3 Rb3+ ½-½

Round 7 saw Don Eade playing Mahmood Lodhi on board 1! Bruce Watson achieved an impressive win over Leonard McLaren, while Efren Bagamasbad from the Philippines in rounds 7 and 8 raced up the leader board with stunning wins over the top two seeds. He finished 2=, but missed an IM norm on tie-break.

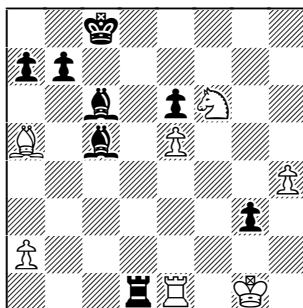
**McLaren, Leonard (2221) - Watson, Bruce R (2275)**

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (7.2), 13.10.2017  
1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 e6 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Qc7 8.Bd2 d6 9.f4 Bd7 10.Nf3 Bc6 11.Bd3 Nd7 12.0-0 g6 13.Qe2 Nb6 14.c4 d5 15.c5 Nc4 16.Bxc4 dxc4 17.Qxc4 0-0-0 18.Bc3 Qd7 19.Qb3 Be7 20.Qb2 h6 21.Ba5 Rdg8

22.Rae1 g5 23.Nd2 gxf4 24.Ne4 Rg4 25.h3 Rg6 26.Rxf4 Rhg8



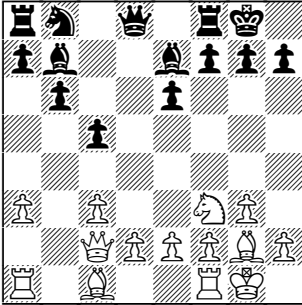
White needs to play simply Re2. Since after 27.g4 h5 Black takes over. 28.Rxf7 hxg4 29.h4 Qe8 30.Qf2 g3 31.Qf3 Rg4 32.Rf4 Qg6 33.Rxg4 Qxg4 34.Qxg4 Rxg4 35.Nf6 Rxd4 36.Re3 Rd1+ 37.Re1 Bxc5+



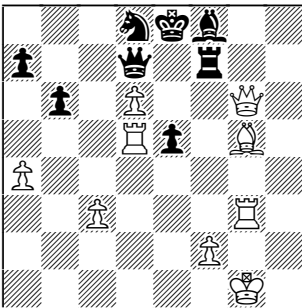
0-1

**Bagamasbad, Efren (2082) - Johansen, Darryl K (2380)**

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (7.3), 13.10.2017  
1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 c5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.a3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.g3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 b6 8.Bg2 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qc2 0-0?



Ed: Did Darryl really miss the standard tactic in this position, or is this some kind of mysterious Grandmasterly exchange sac? Perhaps he will see this in his complementary copy and let us know. The engine isn't impressed and the further course of the game suggests it really was a blunder. 11.Ng5 Bxg5 12.Bxb7 Nd7 13.Bxa8 Qxa8 14.d4 Bf6 15.Be3 Qc6 16.Rac1 Rc8 17.Qb3 h5 18.Rfd1 c4 19.Qc2 Be7 20.a4 g6 21.Rb1 Bf8 22.Bg5 Bg7 23.e4 Qb7 24.Re1 Nb8 25.h4 Nc6 26.Qe2 e5 27.d5 Na5 28.g4 hxg4 29.Qxg4 f5 30.exf5 Qd7 31.Qg2 Qxf5 32.d6 Qd7 33.Rbd1 Rf8 34.Re3 Kh7 35.Rg3 Rf7 36.h5 gxh5 37.Qe4+ Kh8 38.Qg6 Nc6 39.Qxh5+ Kg8 40.Qg4 Kf8 41.Qxc4 Ke8 42.Qe4 Bf8 43.Qg6 Nd8 44.Rd5

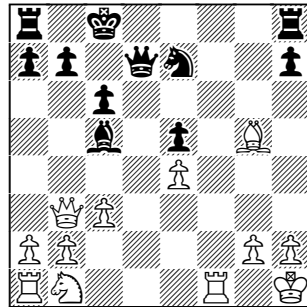


Black is completely tied up in knots 1-0

Lower down the field, Philip Hair (1829) taught Stanley Lee (1904) a lesson on good attacking chess.

### Hair, Philip I (1829) - Yee, Stanley (1904)

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (7.11), 13.10.2017  
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 dxe4 4.fxe4 e5 5.Nf3 exd4 6.Be4 Bb4+ 7.c3 Be7 8.Qb3 Be6 9.Bxe6 fxe6 10.Nxd4 e5 11.Ne6 Qd7 12.Nxg7+ Kd8 13.Ne6+ Kc8 14.0-0 Na6 15.Bg5 Nc5 16.Nxc5 Bxc5+ 17.Kh1 Ne7



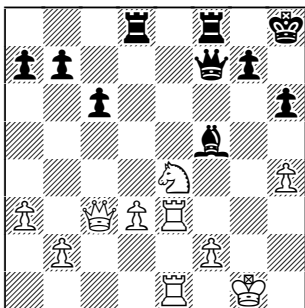
18.Nd2 Ng6 19.Rf7 Be7 20.Nf3 Re8 21.Rd1 Qc7 22.Qe6+ Kb8 23.Rd7 Qc8 24.Bxe7 Nxe7 25.Qd6+ A smashing victory Philip! 1-0

Another nice win was by Shaun Press (1935) over Sujendra Prasad Shrestha (1900).

### Shrestha, Sujendra Prasad (1900) - Press, Shaun (1935)

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (6.10), 12.10.2017  
1.e4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5

5.d3 c6 6.Nf3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 f5  
 9.Re1 Qc7 10.c4 Nf6 11.c5 Bxc5 12.Nxe5  
 Qb6 13.Qc2 Nbd7 14.Nc3 Nxe5 15.Rxe5  
 Bd6 16.Re2 f4 17.gxf4 Nh5 18.Ne4 Bxf4  
 19.Be3 Bxe3 20.Rxe3 Nf4 21.Ng5 Qb5  
 22.h4 Nxc2 23.Kxc2 Qd5+ 24.Kg1 h6  
 25.Ne4 Bf5 26.a3 Rad8 27.Rae1 Kh8  
 28.Qc3 Qf7



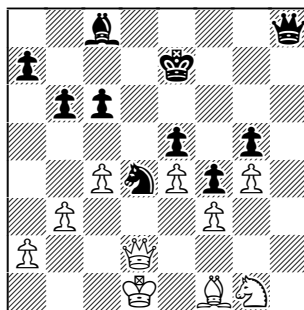
Black prepares a neat attack, netting a pawn and opening up the White King.  
 29.Rf3 Qh5 30.Rf4 Qg6+ 31.Kh2 Bxe4  
 32.Rxe4 Rxf4 33.Rxf4 Rxd3 34.Qe5 Rd1  
 35.Rf8+ Kh7 36.Rf3 Qg1+ 37.Kh3 Qh1+  
 38.Kg4 Qg2+ 39.Kf4 g5+ The attack comes to fruition.  
 40.hxg5 hxg5+ 41.Qxg5 Rd4+ 42.Ke3 Qxg5+ 43.Kxd4 Qd2+  
 44.Ke4 Qxb2 45.Kf5 Qb5+ 46.Kf6 Qd5  
 47.Rf5 Qd4+ 48.Kf7 Qg7+ 49.Ke6 Kg6  
 50.Rf3 Qg8+ 51.Ke7 Qd5 52.Rf6+ Kg5  
 53.f4+ Kg4 54.a4 Qe4+ 55.Kd6 Qxa4  
 56.Rf7 Qxf4+ 0-1

In Round 8, Efren Bagamasbad (2082) outplayed Lohdi (2344), the GM-to-be, in the longest game of the tournament, while Don Eade and Leon Kempen fought an interesting draw out.

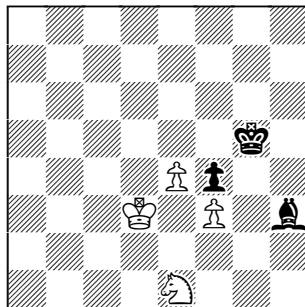
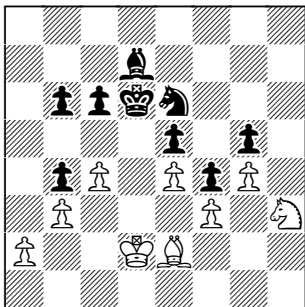
## Bagamasbad, Efren (2082) - Lodhi, Mahmood (2344)

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
 Auckland, NZL (8.1), 14.10.2017

1.c4 e5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Ne7 5.e4  
 0-0 6.Nge2 Nbc6 7.d3 d6 8.Rb1 Be6  
 9.Nd5 Qd7 10.0-0 f5 11.Be3 fxe4 12.dxe4  
 Rf7 13.Qd2 Raf8 14.f3 b6 15.b3 Kh8  
 16.Rbd1 Ng8 17.Rf2 Nd8 18.Rdf1 c6  
 19.Ndc3 Nf6 20.Rd1 Nb7 21.g4 Qc8  
 22.h3 Nd7 23.Rff1 Qe8 24.Ng3 Ndc5  
 25.h4 Bc8 26.h5 Ne6 27.hxg6 hxg6  
 28.Nge2 Nf4 29.Nxf4 exf4 30.Bd4 Be5  
 31.Ne2 Qe7 32.Bh3 Rh7 33.Kg2 g5  
 34.Rh1 Kg7 35.Kf2 Rfh8 36.Bg2 Rxh1  
 37.Rxh1 Rxh1 38.Bxh1 Qf6 39.Bg2 Nc5  
 40.Bf1 Ne6 41.Bc3 Kf7 42.Ke1 Ke7  
 43.Kd1 Qh8 44.Bxe5 dxe5 45.Ng1 Nd4

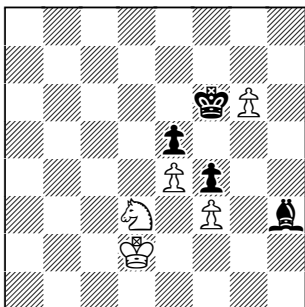


Slowly but surely Black has taken control. It is surprising to see the lower rated player reverse the trend of the game and completely turn things around in the second half 46.Qf2 Qd8 47.Kc1 Qd6 48.Qh2 Qb4 49.Qd2 a5 50.Qxb4+ axb4 51.Kd2 Kd6 52.Be2 Bd7 53.Nh3 Ne6



**54.c5+!?** To free (and possibly exchange) the poor bishop, it's not a sacrifice as White will win the Black g-pawn and get an outside passer **54...bxc5 55.Bc4 Nd4 56.Nxg5 Ke7 57.Be2 Kf6 58.Nh3 Be6 59.Nf2 c4 60.bxc4 Nxe2 61.Kxe2 Bxc4+ 62.Nd3 Bxa2? 63.Nxb4 Bc4+ 64.Nd3 Ke6 65.Kd2 Kd6 66.Kc3 Bb5 67.Kd2 Bc4 68.Nf2 Bf1 69.Nd3 c5 70.Nc1 Bc4 71.Nd3 Bb3 72.Nf2 Bc4 73.g5 Be6 74.g6 Ke7 75.Nd3 Kf6 76.Nxc5 Bh3 77.Nd3**

**82...Kf6? Ed:** This is actually the losing move, Black can hold if he can prevent Kd4-d5 and e4-e5-e6 but now e5 comes with check and his bishop is blocked out so he is not in time. **82...Be6! 83.Kd4 Bf1** or **83...Be6 84.Nd3 Kg5 85.Ke5 84.e5+ Kf5 85.Kd5 Bb5 86.Nc2 Ba4 87.Nd4+ Kg5 88.Ke4 Bd7 89.e6 Be8 90.Ke5 Kg6 91.Ne2 Ba4 92.Nxf4+ Kg7 93.Nd5 Kf8 94.f4 1-0** Well played, Efren!



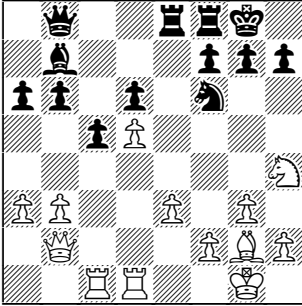
**Ed:** Since the pawn structure is closed and there aren't pawns on both wings, it's not surprising that the knight is outclassing the bishop. **77...Kxg6 78.Nxe5+ Kf6 79.Nd3 Bg2 80.Ke2 Kg5 81.Ne1 Bh3 82.Kd3**

**Watson, Bruce R (2275) - Johansen, Darryl K (2380)**

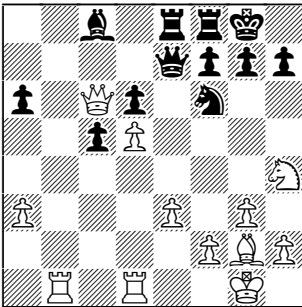
*[Annotated by Darryl Johansen]*

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (8.2), 14.10.2017  
**1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.b3 0-0 8.Bb2 d6 9.e3 Nbd7 10.Qe2 a6 11.Rfd1 Qc7 12.Rac1 Rac8 13.d4 Qb8?! 13...Rfe8** better prepares for d4-d5.; **13...cxd4!?** **14.exd4 Qb8 14.d5 exd5** A novelty in this position. Two games have featured **15....e5** which I had no intention of playing! **15.Nxd5 Nxd5 15...Bxd5** was possible. **16.cxd5 b5 17.b4 Rfe8 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.a4!?** **16.cxd5 Bf6!** The point of taking with the knight. Of course, in a Benoni-like structure, trading off the second pair of minor pieces is important, from a space

point of view. **17.a3** 17.Bh3 Rcd8 18.Bxd7 Bxb2 19.Qxb2 Rxd7 20.b4 Seemed simple enough. 20...Re8 21.bxc5 bxc5 22.Nh4=**17...Bxb2 18.Qxb2 Nf6 18...Rfe8!= 19.Nh4!?** 19.Nd2 Bxd5 20.Bxd5 Nxd5 21.Nc4 Ne7 22.Nxd6 Rcd8=**19...Rce8**

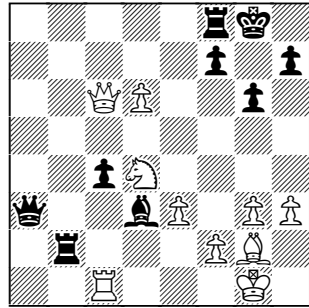


19...b5 Was strategically desirable, but... 20.Nf5 Rce8 21.g4 concerned me. Komodo is unfazed. 21...Qd8 22.Nxg7 Kxg7 23.g5 h6 24.gxf6+ Qxf6 Which I had seen, is equal. I thought the text gave me more. **20.b4! Qc7 21.bxc5 bxc5 22.Rb1 22.Nf5!?** Bc8 23.Nd4 **22...Bc8 23.Qb6 Qe7 24.Qc6?** Ponderous.



**24...g6?!** 24...g5! 25.Nf3 Ne4 26.Rf1 (26.Rb6? Nxf2) 26...Bg4 With threats. 27.Rbd1 Bd7 28.Qxa6 Nc3-/+ **25.Rb6 Nd7 26.Qxd6** He goes for it, and why not?

Bruce had missed ...Nd7, but, as I sat at the board I thought, "He's not likely to move backwards!" 26.Rbb1 Ne5 27.Qa4 Bg4-/+ **26...Nxb6 27.Qxb6 Bg4 28.Rc1 Rb8 29.Qxa6 Rb2! 30.h3 Be2** My judgement was right; Komodo warms to my position. **31.Qc6!?** 31.Qa5 Qf6 32.Qc3 Qxc3 33.Rxc3 c4-/+ **31...c4 32.Nf3?!** 32.d6! Qf6 33.d7 Qxc6 34.Bxc6 Rb6 35.Bd5 Rd8 36.Bxc4-/+ Rc6? 37.Bxf7+! **32...Qxa3 33.Nd4 Bd3 34.d6**



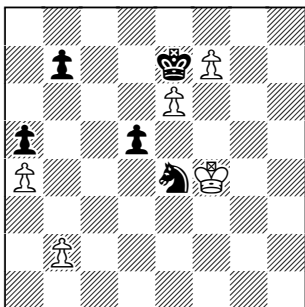
**34...Qb4 34...Rxf2!** 35.Kxf2 Qxc1 36.d7 Qd2+ 37.Kf3 and now the simple 37....Qa5. 37...Qa5; 34...Rd8 35.Bd5 (35.d7! Qe7 36.Bd5 Qxd7 37.Bxc4 Qxc6 38.Nxc6) 35...Rxf2! **35.Ra1?** Losing. 35.Rd1! Rd8 36.Bd5 Qxd6 37.Bxc4 Bxc4 38.Qxc4 Ra8 39.Qc3 (39.Rf1 Raa2 40.Qc8+ Kg7 41.Qg4 Qf6 42.Qf3 Holds.) 39...Raa2 40.Rf1? Qxg3+! **35...Qd2 36.Qf3 c3! 37.Ra8 Rbb8 38.Rxb8 Rxb8 39.Qd5 c2 40.Nxc2 Qd1+** 40...Rb1+! 41.Kh2 Qxf2 42.g4 Bxc2 43.d7 Qg1+ 44.Kg3 Qxe3+--+ **41.Kh2 Bxc2 42.Qc6 Ba4 43.Qc4 Bb5 44.Qc7 Rf8 45.Qe7 Qc2** A rook down and not much happening, white resigned. 0-1



## Eade,Don (1794) - Kempen,Leon (1892)

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (8.6), 14.10.2017

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5  
Nfd7 6.c3 Nc6 7.Bd3 h6 8.0-0 g5 9.Qe2  
g4 10.Ne1 cxd4 11.cxd4 Qh4 12.Nb3 a5  
13.a4 Be7 14.f4 Nf8 15.Be3 Bd7 16.f5  
Nh7 17.f6 Bb4 18.g3 Qh5 19.Rf4 Ng5  
20.Rxg4 Bxe1 21.Rxe1 Nb4 22.Rh4 Qxe2  
23.Bxe2 Nc2 24.Bxg5 Nxe1 25.Rxh6 0-0  
0 26.Nc5 Nc2 27.Bh5 Nxd4 28.Kf2 Rxh6  
29.Bxh6 Rh8 30.Bxf7 Rxh6 31.Ke3 Nf5+  
32.Kf4 Rxh2 33.Bxe6 Rf2+ 34.Kg5 Bxe6  
35.Nxe6 Nxb3 36.Nf4 Ne4+ 37.Kg4  
Rxf4+ 38.Kxf4 Kd7 39.f7 Ke7 40.e6



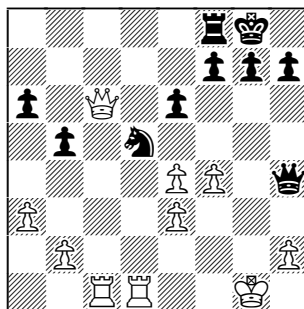
40...Nd2? Black misses Nc5 which wins easily. 41.Ke5 Nc4+ 42.Kf5 Ne3+ 43.Ke5 Nc4+ 44.Kf5 Ne3+ 45.Ke5 ½-½

In the **final round**, Bruce Watson used his knight and two pawns vs a rook with great skill to outfox Michael Steadman, to come away with a win. He didn't realise he was a possibility for the IM norm, but this win secured it. Congratulations, Bruce!

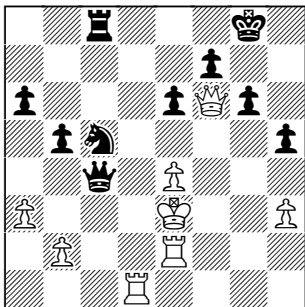
## Steadman,Michael (2196) - Watson,Bruce R (2275)

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (9.4), 15.10.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7  
5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.a3 dxc4  
9.Bxc4 a6 10.Qc2 b5 11.Bd3 Nbd7 12.Ne4  
Qb6 13.Rc1 Be7 14.Bc7 Qa7 15.Bd6  
Bxd6 16.Nxd6 Bb7 17.0-0 Bxf3 18.gxf3  
Ne5 19.Be4 Rad8 20.Rfd1 Qb8 21.Qc5  
Nd5 22.f4 Nd7 23.Qc6 N7f6 24.Nb7 Nxe4  
25.Nxd8 Qxd8 26.f3 Qh4 27.fxe4



Black has given up the exchange for an attacking position using his queen and knight. 27...Nxe3 28.Rd2 Qg4+ 29.Kh1 Qxf4 30.Re1 h5 31.Rde2 Ng4 32.Qc5 g6 33.Kg1 Rd8 34.Rf1 Qb8 35.Qe7 Rf8 36.Qg5 Qb6+ 37.Kg2 Qd4 38.h3 Ne5 39.Qf6 Qc4 40.Re3 Qd4 41.Re2 Qd3 42.Rff2 Qd4 43.Rf1 Qc4 44.Re3 Qc5 45.Re2 Rc8 46.Rd1 Qc4 47.Kf2 Nd3+ 48.Ke3 Nc5



49.Kf3?? 49.Red2! and White's counterplay holds the game 49...Qb3+ 0-1

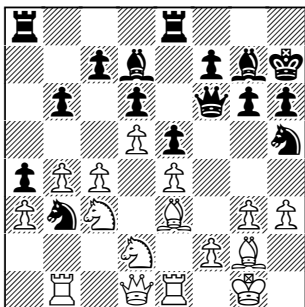
Other last round games of note were Stanley Yee's win over Benjamin Lim, and Darryl Johanssen's win over Peng Kong Chan.

### Yee, Stanley (1904) -

### Lim, Benjamin U (1952) E68

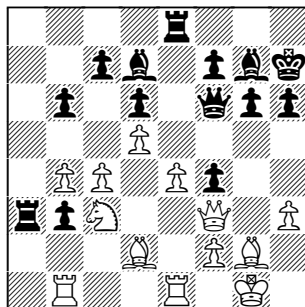
8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017  
Auckland, NZL (9.11), 15.10.2017

1.d4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.c4 0-0  
5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Nc3 Re8 8.e4 e5  
9.d5 Nc5 10.Re1 a5 11.b3 h6 12.h3 Kh7  
13.Rb1 Nh5 14.Be3 b6 15.Qd2 Bd7 16.a3  
a4 17.b4 Nb3 18.Qd1 Qf6 19.Nd2

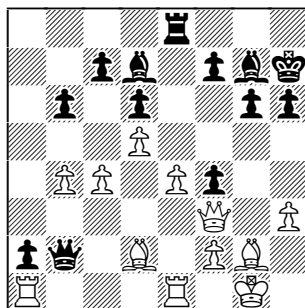


19...Nf4! A clever defensive idea 20.Nxb3

axb3? But now that the bishop has a retreat path, Nxc2 was necessary first. Now Black loses a piece. 21.gxf4 exf4 22.Bd2 Rxa3 23.Qf3



The advanced pawn provides Black with some chances 23...Ra2!? 23...b2! 24.Nxa2 bxa2 25.Ra1 Qb2



26.Qxf4? Black is actually now better despite White's extra rook 26.Bxf4! 26...Qxa1? White is tied up and Black should prepare this with 26...Kg8! then ...Ra8. The 'a' pawn will then promote recouping all material with interest 27.Rxa1 Bxa1 28.Qxf7+ Bg7 29.Bc3 Rg8 30.Qxd7 1-0

Johansen, Darryl K (2380) -

Chan, Peng Kong (2170)

[Annotated by Darryl Johansen]

8th Asian Seniors 50 Championships 2017

Auckland, NZL (9.3), 15.10.2017

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 g6

5.e4 Bg7 6.Nc2 Nf6 7.Nc3 d6 8.Be2 0-0

9.0-0 Bd7 10.Be3 Qa5 11.f3 Rfc8 12.Rc1

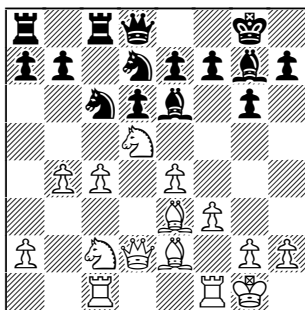
12.Qd2 I've played before, but the

ending after... 12...Ne5 13.Na3 Be6 14.Nd5

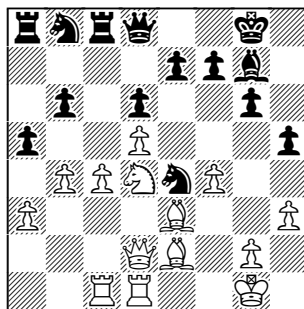
Qxd2 15.Bxd2 Is tough to win. 12...Be6

13.Qd2 Nd7 14.b4 14.Na3 Nc5= 14...Qd8

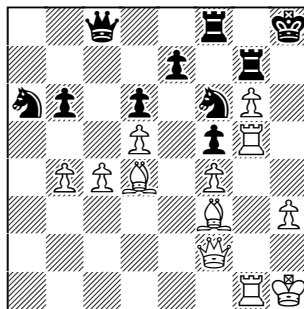
15.Nd5



15...Nf6? 15...a5! Is what concerned me. It has been played with good equalising prospects (6 draws 1 loss on Chessbase!) 16.b5 (16.a3 axb4 17.axb4 Nce5 18.Nd4 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nb6) 16...Nce5 17.Nd4 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Nc5= 16.Rfd1 Now I'm cruising, finally. 16...Ne5 17.Nd4 Bxd5 18.exd5! a5 19.a3 h5?! 19...axb4 20.axb4 Ra3 Creates an annoying rook! 20.Nb5 Stopping the annoying rook! 20...b6?! 21.h3 Ned7 Black sends his army back to barracks. 22.Nd4 Nb8 23.f4!? 23.Qd3; 23.Bd3; 23.Re1 23...Ne4



PK takes a chance. 24.Qd3 Bxd4?! 24...Ng3! 25.Bf3 Bxd4 26.Bxd4 h4 A better version of the game. 25.Bxd4! f5 25...Nf6 26.f5+- 26.Bf3 Nf6 27.g4!? axb4 28.axb4 Qd7 28...Na6 then I'll play... 29.g5 Ne8 30.Qd2 29.gxh5 Na6 30.Qd2 Kh8 31.Kh1 Rg8 32.Rg1 Rg7 32...gxh5 33.Rg5 Kh7 34.Rcg1 Rcg5 35.fxg5 Ne4 36.g6+ Kg8 37.Qh6 33.Rg5 Rag8 34.Rcg1 Qc8 34...gxh5 35.Qg2 Rcg5 36.fxg5 Kh7 37.Qe2+- 35.hxg6 Rf8 36.Qf2!

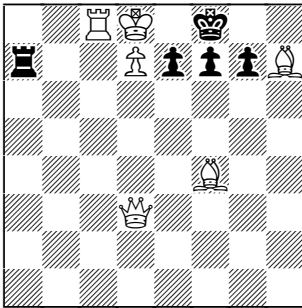


The attack will crash through. 36...Nxb4 36...Qxc4 37.Bxf6 Rxf6 38.Qh4+ Kg8 39.Rh5 Rfxg6 40.Rxg6 Qc1+ (40...Rxg6 41.Rh8+ Kf7 42.Qh7+ Rg7 43.Qxf5#) 41.Kh2 Qb2+ 42.Rg2 37.Qh4+ Kg8 38.Bxf6 1-0

## Problem Kingdom by Linden Lyons

- Submissions and comments to: [problem.kingdom@gmail.com](mailto:problem.kingdom@gmail.com)
- Judge for 2016-2017: TBA

### Problem 85 Daniele Gatti (Italy) Original

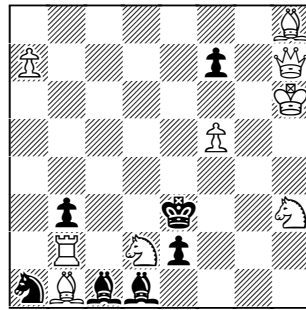


#2

White's plan in **Problem 85** is to play checkmate on the e7-square. There are two tries, the first being 1 Bg5? (threat 2 Bxe7) with the variations 1 ... Rxd7+ 2 Kxd7, 1 ... f5 2 Qxf5, and 1 ... g6 2 Bh6, but 1 ... f6! defends successfully. The second try is 1 Qa3? (thr. 2 Qxe7) with 1 ... Rxd7+ 2 Kxd7, 1 ... Rxa3 2 Kc7, and 1 ... g6 2 Bh6, but 1 ... g5! The key is the sacrificial **1 Qd6!** (thr. 2 Qxe7) with 1 ... Rxd7+ 2 Kxd7, 1 ... exd6 2 Bxd6, 1 ... g6 2 Bh6, and 1 ... g5 2 Qh6.

### Problem 86 J. L. Monteiro da Silveira 4th Prize, Fleck Theme Tourney

*Magyar Sakkvilág 1936*

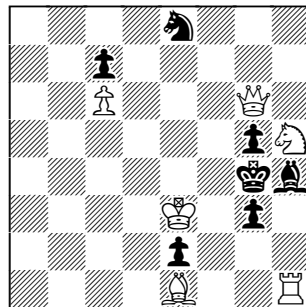


#2

The key of this 1936 problem is **1 Qg7!**, threatening checkmate on the second move in six ways: 2 Qc3, 2 Qd4, 2 Qe5, 2 Qg5, 2 Qg3, and 2 Qg1. Black's defences separate these threats (the **Fleck theme**): 1 ... Nc2 2 Qc3, 1 ... Bc2 2 Qd4, 1 ... e1Q/e1N 2 Qe5, 1 ... Bxb2 2 Qg5, 1 ... Bxd2 2 Qg3, and 1 ... f6 2 Qg1.

### Problem 87

Ottavio Stocchi  
2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention, Theme Tourney  
*Magyar Sakkvilág 1949*

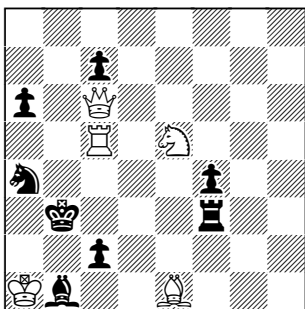


#2

Stocchi's 1949 problem elegantly demonstrates a **block-Fleck**. The initial position is a **complete block** (every black move has a set mate) and the solution shows the Fleck theme. Set: 1 ... N~ 2 N(x)f6 and 1 ... g2 2 Rxh4. The try 1 Qh7? (zugzwang) is thwarted by 1 ... g2! 2 Rxh4 gxh4! The key is **1 Nxb3!** (thr. 2 Qh5, 2 Qf5, 2 Qe4, and 2 Qe6) with 1 ... Nd6 2 Qh5, 1 ... Nf6 2 Qf5, 1 ... Ng7 2 Qe4, and 1 ... Bxg3 2 Qe6.

### Problem 88

Yuri Nikolaevich Vakhlov  
Honourable Mention  
64 1974

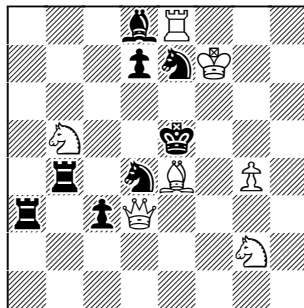


#2

In the **secondary Fleck theme**, lifting a black piece from the board after the key introduces multiple secondary threats, each of which is forced separately when this black piece makes its move. The key of Vakhlov's problem is **1 Ra5!** (thr. 2 Qxa4). Lifting the black knight reveals the secondary threats: 2 Qb7, 2 Qxf3, 2 Qc4, and 2 Qd5. The queen's destination square is determined by where the black knight lands: 1 ... Nb2 2 Qb7, 1 ... Nb6 2 Qxf3, 1 ... Nc3 2 Qc4, and 1 ... Nc5 2 Qd5.

### Problem 89

Jens Künzelmann  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Problem Tourney  
*Sächsische Zeitung* 1982/83

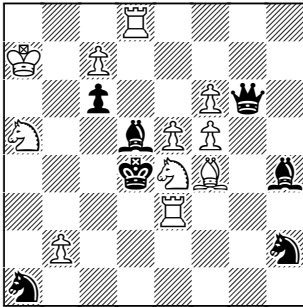


#2

**Problem 89** achieves the rare feat of combining the primary and secondary Fleck themes. The key is **1 Bb7!** (thr. 2 Qe4, 2 Qe3, and 2 Qg3) with the primary Fleck variations 1 ... c2 2 Qe4, 1 ... d5 2 Qe3, and 1 ... Rxb5 2 Qg3. A random move by the d4-knight would allow 2 Qd5, 2 Qf5, and 2 Qd6, with the secondary Fleck variations being 1 ... Nxb5 2 Qd5, 1 ... Nc6 2 Qf5, and 1 ... Ne6 2 Qd6. One pleasing feature of this problem is the full exploitation of the power of the white queen; another is the similarity of strategy in both sets of variations. A black piece is activated after 1 ... c2 and 1 ... Ne6 (the a3-rook and the e7-knight respectively), the queen is compelled to guard d6 after 1 ... Rxb5 and 1 ... Nxb5, and the line of the white bishop is cut after 1 ... d5 and 1 ... Nc6 (thereby requiring the queen to guard e4).

### Problem 90

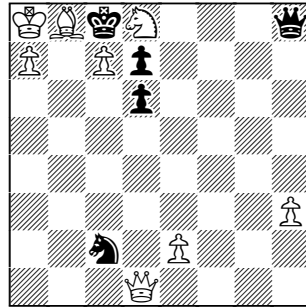
Leonid Makaronez (Israel)  
Original



#3

### Problem 91

Daniele Gatti (Italy)  
Original



#3

The point of the key in **Problem 90, 1 b4!**, is to relieve the e4-knight from guarding the c5-square. The threat is 2 Nxc6+ Kc4 3 Nd6. Black's defences guard c6: 1 ... Qe8 2 Nc5! ~ 3 Rd3 (not 2 Nc3? Qh5! 3 Ne2? Qxe2) and 1 ... Qxf6 2 Nc3! ~ 3 Ne2 (not 2 Nc5? Qxf5! 3 Rd3? Qxd3). This problem is a good example of **dual avoidance** – of two plausible white moves (2 Nc5 and 2 Nc3), only one works.

There are two tries in **Problem 91**: 1 Nf7? (thr. 2 Nxd6#) Qe5! (1 ... Qf6? 2 Qd5! with mate next move) and 1 Qd5? (thr. 2 Qb7#) Qb2! The key is **1 Qd3!** (thr. 2 Qa6#) with the following variations:

- 1 ... Qb2 2 Qa6+ Qb7+ 3 Qxb7
- 1 ... Qa1 2 Nc6 (thr. 3 Ne7)
  - 2 ... dxc6 3 Qf5
  - 2 ... Qxa7+ 2 Nxa7
  - 2 ... Qh1/Qe5/Qf6/Qg7 3 Qa6
- 1 ... Nb4 2 Qb5 ~ 3 Qb7

As mentioned at the beginning of this issue, 2018 is going to be the last year of *NZ Chess*. It would be nice to go out with a bang and not a whimper. If you've ever had any aspirations to see your chess writing in print, now would be a good time to give it a go. Write up your favourite game, submit a tournament report, write up your own chess biography. Or your club's. Write a poem (Phil Rossiter has set a pretty high bar with an astonishing effort in this issue). Or try something completely different. Any format is fine, your editor has expertise in chess software and document formats. Who knows, it's possible you might be preparing for fresh creative opportunities in a bright new digital era.

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