

# Chess Aotearoa

May - July 2024

Volume 2, Number 3

**CHESS AOTEAROA MAGAZINE**

## Olympiad Looming: New and Returning Players



### Foreword

The last few months have been eventful. Players were selected for the upcoming Olympiad in Budapest. FIDE celebrated its 100th anniversary. We witnessed the ascent of new tournament winners and the return of experienced players alike.

In the issue, you'll find detailed reports on all of the above, plus interviews and a Q&A with some successful young players.

Enjoy!  
-Weiyang Yu



### International Tournaments - Those Past and Those To Come!

Keep reading to hear from Kiwi players FM Felix Xie and Alexandre de Maupeou d'Ableiges on their experiences with international tournaments, along with a Q&A with soon-to-be olympian WCM Yolanda Chang!

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Please send best game entries and articles submissions to chessmagnominations@gmail.com.

For any issues or queries regarding the puzzles, please contact Felix Xie at felix2008xie@hotmail.com.

### **Editorial**

Founder: Weiyang Yu

Executive Team: Weiyang Yu, Charlotte Ray, Anya Thurner, Tyne Grant, and Michael Sole

Photos from the International Tournaments article were provided by Helen Milligan and Felix Xie; cover photo and other photos were from the New Zealand Chess News Facebook.

### **On the cover**

Congratulations to WCM Yolanda Chang, recently selected to play in her first Olympiad this September!



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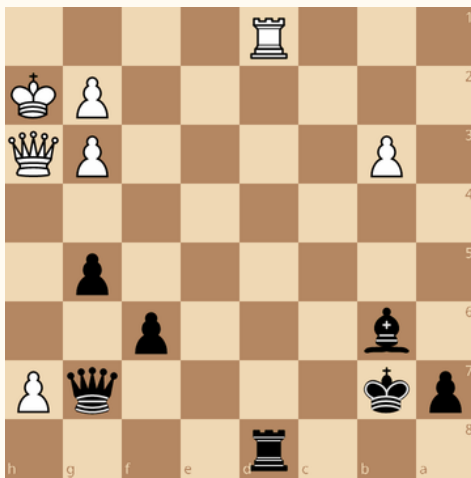
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**28 SICC**

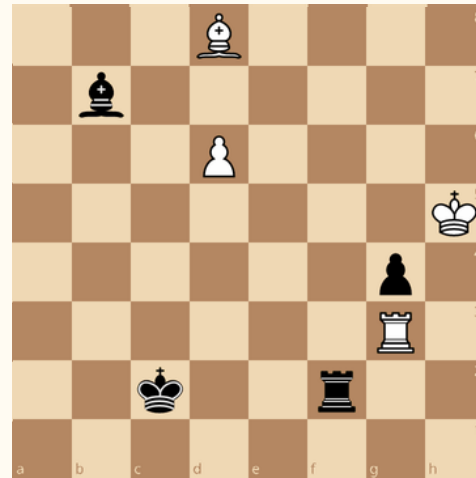
Tyne Grant

**32 Chess Clubs**

Anya Thurner



Black to move and win  
Firman, N- McShane, L



White to move and win  
Study



Black to move and gain an  
advantage  
Engine Game



Black to move and gain an  
advantage  
Engine Game



White to move and win  
Wojtkiewicz, A - Wahls, M



Black to move and win  
Eljanov - Mchedlishvili

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# Recent Tournaments

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Leo Malcolm

## **Arie Nijman Memorial 2024**

17th - 19th May 2024

Crockfords Bridge Club, Christchurch

90+30 6-round Swiss

1st place (5/6): FM Roger Nokes

## **46th Trusts Open**

1st - 3rd June 2024

Te Pai Centre, Henderson, Auckland

90+30 6-round Swiss

1st place (5.5/6): FM Alphaeus Wei Ern Ang

## **Kapiti Rapid**

8th June 2024

Te Raukura ki Kapiti, Paraparaumu

25+5 6 round swiss

1st place (6/6): CM Cohen Young

## **Otago Winter Rapid**

9th June 2024

Otago Chess Club, Dunedin

20+5 Bronstein 6 round swiss

1st place (5.5/6): Olefsandr Nedyhalov, Leo Malcolm

## **Peter Stuart Memorial 2024**

28th - 30th June 2024

Auckland Chess Centre, Mt Eden

90+30 6 round swiss

1st place (5.5/6): John Ray B Batucan

## **2024 South Island Championship**

10th - 13th July 2024

Christchurch Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre

90+30 8 round swiss

1st place (7/8): FM Roger Nokes

## **2024 South Island Rapid Championship**

14th July 2024

Christchurch Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre

25+5 6 round swiss

1st place (5.5/6): Dion Wilson

## **FIDE100 Super Blitz 2024**

20th July 2024

Top of the Park, Alexandra Park

3+2 11 round swiss

1st place (11/11): FM Felix Xie

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# Upcoming Tournaments

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Leo Malcolm

## **NZ Senior Championship 2024**

8th - 11th August 2024

St. George Bowls and Sports Club, Auckland

90+30 6 round swiss

NZCF and FIDE-rated

## **Asian Senior Championships 2024**

9th - 19th August 2024

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

90+30 9 round swiss

FIDE-rated

## **Otago Spring Rapid**

1st September 2024

Otago Chess Club, Dunedin

20+5 6 round swiss

NZCF-rated

## **National Interschool Finals 2024**

28th - 29th September 2024

Alan Gibbs Centre, Wellington College

25+5 7 round team swiss

## **New Zealand Women's Championships 2024**

28th - 30th September 2024

Ellen Melville Centre, Auckland

90+30 6 round swiss

NZCF and FIDE-rated

## **2nd Southern Chess Classic**

4th - 6th October 2024

Invercargill Bridge Club

60+30 6 round swiss

NZCF and FIDE-rated

## **NZ Fischer-Random Championship 2024**

20th October 2024

Takapuna War Memorial Hall, Auckland

25+5 6 round swiss

A and B-Grade

## **Merv Morrison Memorial 2024**

26th - 28th October 2024

Auckland Chess Centre, Mt Eden

90+30 6 round swiss

NZCF and FIDE-rated

Chess Aotearoa would like to congratulate the selected Olympiad representatives for the upcoming 2024 Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary.

Please see our introduction to the players.

## **Open Team**

In the Open team we have:

FM Nicolas Croad

FM Daniel Gong

IM Tom Middelburg

IM Sravan Renjith

FM Felix Xie

Non-travelling reserve: IM Anthony Ker

Nicolas was granted automatic selection after becoming outright NZ Champion earlier in Palmerston North. Two time NZ champion Daniel Gong will be representing again after his impressive board 1 performance last edition, as will Felix Xie after his impressive overseas performances.

As an introduction to Renjith and Middleburg who may be unfamiliar to less active readers, we have provided a brief synopsis.

IM Sravan Renjith was born in New Zealand in 2008 and then moved to Australia in 2016 where he continued to play chess at a high junior level. He recently achieved the International Master title in 2023 after crossing the

minimum rating barrier in combination with a strong result in the Interzonal that allowed his direct title. Sravan, as of the time of writing, is rated an impressive 2291 after a string of good results including wins against Grandmaster opposition.

Described as having a tactical style, this is fully on display in faster time controls with Sravan being an accomplished blitz player and Titled Tuesday regular. Sravan visited New Zealand for the 2024 congress, playing in the classical and blitz. After having a strong classical event, Sravan followed it up with an excellent blitz championship. Sravan went undefeated 8.5/9 to win the title! Included in this run was an incredible draw against UK champion and former Super GM Gawain Jones, who shared first.

IM Tom Middleburg, born in 1980, is a Dutch expat who has recently returned to competitive chess after a long hiatus and switched federations to represent New Zealand where he is currently living. With a peak rating of 2419, Tom is an accomplished player and had little issue on his return to competitive play with a solid performance at the 2024 Congress that had him in the running until the end.

## **Women's Team**

Now moving onto the women's team. Featuring a range of younger players this should be an exciting team to watch and

shows potential for the upcoming years.

WIM Layla Timergazi

CM Isabelle Ning

WIM Jasmine Zhang

WCM Yolanda Chang

WCM Nadia Braganza

Non-travelling reserve: Anya Thurner

Layla, Isabelle, Jasmine, and Nadia are returning olympiad players and have been long established in New Zealand with Layla returning from a patch of relative inactivity. Yolanda Chang will be playing in her first olympiad after a recent rating climb with a string of good results, including a brilliant congress performance gaining +167 points! To give our readers a chance to better know Yolanda, we have provided another introduction coupled with a short Q&A to get her thoughts ahead of the olympiad.

**WCM Yolanda Chang** born 2008, is an Auckland based junior who plays at the Auckland Chess Centre. Yolanda as of the time of writing is rated 1890, rapidly climbing after starting the year at 1594. Yolanda played in the Open division of the 2024 congress and achieved a performance rating of 2075 with highlights including wins against IM Russell Dive, Nunilon Fulo, and draws against Masters Kenny Zhang and Ollie Archer.

We have annotated Yolanda's standout win against Russell below.

## IM Dive, Russell (0-1) WCM Chang, Yolanda

Annotated by Michael Sole

NZ Chess Championship 2024,

Round 2

1. **c4 e6** 2. **g3 Nf6** 3. **Bg2 d5** Russell employing his usual type of Neo-Catalan/English setups that offer a dynamic game at the risk of playing a reversed benoni with reduced space.

4. **b3** A rare sideline that gives Black good chances. By committing to this move so early, Black is able to play the aggressive d5-d4 setups and get a near optimal setup against this structure.



(4. Nf3 Be7 5. O-O O-O 6. b3 d4 7. e3 This is the more standard way of reaching these positions where both sides have good chances.)

4... d4 5. Nf3 c5 6. e3 Nc6 7. exd4 cxd4  
 8. O-O Bd6! One of the key differences with the early b3 version. Yolanda adapts the setup and plays the most testing Bd6 instead of the easy Be7.

9. d3 O-O 10. Na3 e5 Again, accurate play by Yolanda and going for full control of the position. Black already has a strong position and has scored very well from here.

11. Nc2 Re8 12. a3 a5 13. Rb1 Bf5 14. b4 axb4 15. axb4 Rc8 16. b5 Na5 17. Bg5 h6 18. Bxf6 Qxf6 19. Nh4 Bh7 20. Bd5 e4 The good play continues. By opening up the position, Yolanda can make use of her better developed pieces.



21. dxe4 Bxe4 22. Re1 Bh7 23. Rxe8+ Rxe8  
 24. Qd2 g5 25. Ng2 b6 26. Nge1 Rc8  
 27. Rd1 Nxc4 28. Qxd4 Be5 29. Qg4 Bf5  
 30. Qe2 Nd6 31. Ne3 Bd7 32. Ng4 Bxg4  
 33. Qxg4 Rc5 34. Nf3 Nxb5 35. Nxe5 Qxe5  
 Now with both players low on time, we have reached a complex but equal position where Black looks to have winning chances.

36. Bxf7+?? Tempting by Russell but this fails to accurate defense.



36... Kxf7 37. Rd7+? Kf6 One of many winning moves.

38. Qh5? Failing to put up a good fight. This allows Yolanda an easy path to the win.

(38. Qf3+ Qf5 39. Qb7 Would have forced Yolanda to find the difficult 39... Ke6, the only move to maintain the advantage. 40. Re7+ Kd6 41. Re1 Nd4 42. Qxb6+ Nc6 With work still to do.)

38... Rc1+ 39. Kg2 Qe4+ 40. Kh3 Qf5+  
 41. Kg2 Qxd7 Now a rook and a piece up, the work is done.

42. Qxh6+ Kf5 43. g4+ Ke4 44. Qxg5 Qd1  
 45. Qg6+ Kd5 46. Qf5+ Kc4 47. f3 Qc2+  
 48. Qxc2+ Rxc2+ 49. Kg3 Nd4 50. h4 Rc3  
 51. h5 Rxf3+ 52. Kh4 b5



**53. h6 Nf5+ 54. gxf5 Rxf5 55. h7 Rf8 0-1**  
A fantastic win from Yolanda, putting pressure on the much experienced IM Russell Dive right out of the opening and provoking a mistake which was swiftly punished.

## **Q&A with Yolanda**

*Welcome, could you please share how you started playing?*

I started playing chess when I followed my best friend to chess club at lunch one time in primary, and she (I think) taught me the rules. I kept on going with her and eventually started playing tournaments with her and also made the school team - Kaurilands was so strong.

*How would you describe yourself as a chess player?*

As in chess style? I used to be defensive and pretty passive but now I'm more active and I like attacking kings!

*Congratulations on making the Olympiad squad! How are you feeling ahead of the tournament?*

I'm super excited to go to Hungary for chess because it's such a beautiful country and also I get to represent New Zealand and meet other chess players from around the world. I'm of course also nervous because it's the Olympiad but I'll study chess and try to improve as much as I can.

*Can you share some of your interests outside of chess?*

I love this question because I love art. I always sketch or draw random things when I'm stressed about school or chess, and painting is perfect to neutralise all the pressure. I also enjoy reading and walking my dog Charlie (he is so cute).

In London 1851, Howard Staunton made history by organising the first ever international tournament, which was won by Adolf Andersson. Since then, we've had no shortage of international events; from Olympiads to World Cups to a variety of Cadet, Youth, and Junior Championships, we've witnessed major chess tournaments take place all around the world - but how do these events differ from tournaments held here in NZ? Why might some players choose to play overseas over locally and vice versa? To help us in our attempt to answer these questions, Alexandre de Maupeou d'Ableiges and FM Felix Xie have pitched in, sharing their own experiences in the international chess scene.

In case you aren't aware, Alexandre and Felix have both spent plenty of time travelling around the world playing in a variety of tournaments from Asia to Europe and more. Over the past eight months, Alexandre has travelled to Italy for the U18 World Youth Championships (which marked his first over-the-board international tournament, having previously played in the 2021 Online World Youth Cup), Malaysia for the Commonwealth Championships, and India for the World Junior Championships. Though these tournaments came with "mediocre results", these experiences also saw him gain a huge amount of strength and

ability. Felix's first international tournament was the 2018 World Cadet Chess Championships, but he only began taking international tournaments seriously in the 2022 First Saturday IM tournament in Budapest, which he decided to play in as he was in the area taking face-to-face lessons with his coach. His most recent endeavours include his trip to the UAE for the Dubai Chess Open, the Melbourne International Open, where he placed second, and the 21st Bangkok Chess Club Open, where he scored a victory against a 2500-rated GM. In both latter tournaments, he came extremely close to scoring IM norms.

So, what do we need to consider when comparing these two types of tournaments? One important point to consider is the chance to win IM and GM norms, as it can be very difficult to do so if you only stay and play in New Zealand. Another important point is convenience - of course, it is easier (and cheaper!) to take a 15-minute drive to the Auckland Chess Centre rather than to travel halfway across the world. Felix mentions familiarity as an aspect of convenience, as "playing chess in a country that you're familiar with is certainly a lot easier than playing chess in a foreign country." Building on this theme of familiarity, Alexandre tells us about the importance of having a chess community, which can be harder to achieve when you're far

from home. In his experience, “NZ tournaments are more sociable, oftentimes we have many friends participating, it's a community, whereas the international tournaments, unless you have friends going, can be very lonely and I find some players struggle to recover from losses if they don't have friends or someone to have fun with and move past the loss.” On the other hand, however, international tournaments can also be nice to make friends worldwide and connect better with teammates from your home country. Obviously, going overseas also means a completely different pool of opponents, “[opponents] who are here to win,” in Alexandre’s words. “We have 100+ players, all who hate losing, so they'll squeeze out any juice in the position, [there are] definitely no premature resignations here.” These contributors to the psychological aspect of chess are not to be underestimated as mindset can have a huge impact on play, even if one might not actively feel the pressure. Though it appears that international tournaments can make for a tougher environment, Alexandre still prefers these events over local ones. “The chance to represent your nation is truly an amazing feeling,” says Alexandre. “I hope one day to put the flag on the podium.”

Tournaments overseas can also lead to

a variety of memorable experiences, “some because I got good results, others because I met good people, and [some because] I played poorly but gained invaluable experience,” says Felix, naming the 2022 Chennai Olympiad and 2023 World Rapid and Blitz Championships as his most memorable tournaments to date. He also tells us a particularly memorable story from the recent Bangkok Chess Open. Having out-prepared his 2424 IM opponent, he was working on proving his middlegame advantage when, suddenly, every light in the large playing hall flickered and turned off. Some looked confused, while others simply started laughing. Eventually, the power was restored and the lights came on for all of two minutes before cutting out again. Eventually, the lights were fixed for good and the players were able to continue their game without any more technical difficulties! Alexandre also has many stories to share, from friendly matches against an opponent who turned out to have a 2900 online rating to being late to his blitz game, only escaping the flag due to his opponent also arriving late, but his most interesting story occurred at the World Junior Championships. It was around 11pm and he was playing blitz matches with his friend in the lobby when a GM coach came and sat down for a game. However, the game didn't last very long as they ended up entering a discussion about history, politics, and

# International Tournaments

Anya Thurner

the general state of the world. “I was slightly sad to push my two passed pawns to the side for this conversation, but it was truly an enlightening conversation and before I knew it, it was just him and I in the lobby, and the next moment I checked the clock it was 1:30am! Oh well, the conversation was definitely worth it,” says Alexandre.

International tournaments are clearly a different experience to national tournaments; a lack of convenience but the chance to represent your country, not having a community but having the chance to be part of a new one, tough opponents who constantly push for the win but opportunities to learn and improve from games with them. There are certainly many reasons for one to choose to play internationally, and many reasons for one to decide to play locally instead.



# Trusts Open

Karthik Sethuramalingam

With a reputation of being one of the most exciting and prestigious standard open tournaments in New Zealand, Trusts Open is an event on all players' calendars. With upsets, unexpected twists and more; this year's edition did not disappoint.

Held annually over the King's birthday weekend in Henderson, Auckland, Trusts Open is the biggest standard open tournament in New Zealand. This year saw record-breaking numbers of 184 participants across all grades. The event took off on the 1st of June with round one starting at 9:30 am.

This year's A-Grade, with an average rating of 1904, was one of those tournaments where every round brought a tough fight. Round 1 saw a few unexpected upsets, the biggest being Leo Malcom's fiery win against CM Isabelle Ning and WCM Nadia Braganza's 275-point upset over Nunilon Fulo.

Known for being an unorthodox, hyper-aggressive player, Malcolm is an opponent no player wants to face. With the white pieces against rising star CM Isabelle Ning, Malcolm's e4 was met by a rock-solid Kan Sicilian. His reputation for creative opening surprises was shown in this game when he played the move 7.f3. This move has only appeared in the masters' database 3 times out of

2000 games. As expected, chaos spread across the board as both sides castled opposite directions. Malcolm made his intentions clear when he moved his rook to d4 and rerouted it to h4! He sacrificed his rook on h5, blasting open the kingside where a weak Black king stood defenceless!

**Malcolm, Leo (1-0) Ning, Isabelle Yixuan**

**Annotated by Ryan Winter**

Trusts Open 2024,

Round 1

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 a6**

**5. c4** Leo is known for playing gambits and sacrificing pieces if you give him half the chance, so seeing him play the Maroczy seems a bit out of character. But we'll see soon this is all part of his plan.



**5... Nf6 6. Nc3 Qc7 7. f3 Bc5 8. Nc2 O-O**

**9. Be3 Re8** (9... d5 With the weakness of White along the e-file (as White played f3 quite early), Black can

# Trusts Open

Karthik Sethuramalingam

consider this. 10. cxd5 exd5 11. Bxc5 Qxc5 12. exd5 Rd8)

**10. Qd2 Bxe3 11. Nxe3 b6 12. O-O-O** Leo quickly reassures us that his number one priority remains Isabelle's king. It's already slightly uncomfortable for Black here, ...b5 remains Isabelle's most important pawn break to open lines, and she has just used a tempo playing ...b6.

**12... b5 13. Qd6** Black taking on d6 is basically unthinkable, this is just a powerful move.

**13... Qa7 14. Nc2 bxc4 15. e5 Nh5** (15... Nd5 16. Nxd5 exd5 17. Qxd5 Nc6 and Black has sacrificed a pawn for some development; Black's pawns are still very weak but in exchange she gets a lot of activity. ...Nd5 is a hard move to play, but ...Nh5 nearly loses by force so this was a chance for Black. 18. Bxc4 Nxe5)

**16. Rd4** Rook go up, rook go across, rook deliver mate.

**16... Nc6** (16... Bb7 17. Rxc4 g6 18. Be2 Rc8 19. Rxc8+ Bxc8 20. Qd2 Nc6 21. f4 Ng7 22. Bf3)

**17. Rh4 g6 18. g4** (18. Ne4 Bb7 19. g4)

**18... Qf2** Isabelle fights back.

**19. Rxh5** (19. Rh3 Nf4 20. Ne4 Nxh3 21. Nxf2 Nxf2 22. Rg1 Nd3+ 23. Bxd3 cxd3 24. Qxd3 a5 Is some insane line where Black survives in a crazy position after sacrificing her queen for a rook and a piece.)



**19... gxf5** Almost an only move, but not quite; Qxf3 intermezzo was needed. (19... Qxf3 20. Rg1 Qf4+ 21. Kb1 gxf5 And Black's king is surprisingly safe, e5 is hanging, White's pieces are still discombobulated. Black is winning.)

**20. Ne4 Qxf3 21. Nf6+ Kh8 22. Nxe8** Threatening Qf8#

**22... Kg8** White is already up a piece here, and the attack rages on.

**23. Nf6+ Kg7 24. Qd2 Nxe5** The only try, but it only speeds up the end.

**25. Qg5+ Ng6 26. Nxh5+ Kg8 27. Qh6** 1-0

The B-Grade saw 54 participants with many young talents. The first round saw

a flurry of draws happening on the top half of the field. Surprisingly, the games on board one and two ended in draws with rating differences of up to 350 points. Board five saw a clash of some of New Zealand's best young talents; Martin Zhou and Luna Xu. This game also ended in a draw. A notable upset in the B-Grade was Nicole Zhao's victory against Jie Gong.

The second round, held in the afternoon, included some exciting pairings at the top of the order, as some young talents were paired against the veterans. On board one FM Alphaeus Ang was paired against William Liu. The youngster fought valiantly, but as pieces were traded off, the resulting endgame was very much in Ang's favour. Board two saw Wellingtonians Cohen Young and IM Anthony Ker against each other. Both players played a perfect game which ultimately ended in a draw. This was an impressive result for Young. A big upset in round 2 was Dion Wilson's incredible turnaround victory against CM Alex Huang.

The B-Grade showcased some incredible upsets at the top of the field. Starting on board one, Eden Xu pulled off an extraordinary 268-point upset against Duncan McDonald. Board three saw Nahuel Lino Serron holding the rising Jessie De Guzman to a draw. The other big upset was Tom Nicholson's

upset against Oscar Cui. Nicholson scored 2/2 despite starting at the bottom of the field.

With one third of the tournament over, the fight for the lead was narrowing down, as a new day began. 6 players were on a perfect score and were about to face off. On board one FM Leonard McLaren was paired against FM Alphaeus Ang. White got a small advantage from the opening but was unable to keep this advantage and the game slipped to equality. A late mistake from McLaren however, gave Ang the win.

Board two showed one of the biggest upsets of this tournament as CM Kendrick Zhang took down the favourite by 269-points, IM Paul Garbett. The game began with a Taimanov Sicilian, played by Garbett with the Black pieces. Zhang chose to castle long and get quick development. The game took an unexpected turn early when Black played 9. Na5, a move which has only been played 85 times out of 1800 games in the masters' database. Black decided to capture the White knight on c3 with his dark-squared bishop. After a series of exchanges on c3, White had an unfavourable pawn structure, with doubled isolated c-pawns and an isolated a-pawn. However, in return, White had good activity. The game was in the balance, however a tactical error

by Black let White win an exchange. Now it was a matter of keeping his nerves and converting for Zhang. This was no challenge for the experienced youngster, who navigated the endgame with ease.

This round held even more action as upsets were seen on boards 5 and 6. On board five Braganza got yet another victory, this time against FM John Duneas. This firecracker of a game started with a traditional queen's gambit, played by Duneas with the White pieces. Black decided to go for the queenside fianchetto approach and play for c5. Out of the opening, Black had equalised, but Duneas played the haymaker, h4. The initiative did not pose any immediate danger, but Black made the mistake of allowing the h-pawn to advance further up the board. As hxg6 was played, Black was forced to deal with the attack. While the game was going in the experienced Duneas' favour, Black didn't give up and started lining up all her pieces towards White's kingside, using the newly opened g-file to her advantage. Just as it looked like White was going to consolidate, he made a blunder allowing Black to get a crushing attack and force a resignation.

Other big upsets included Winston Weng's precision victory over WCM Isabelle Ning and Dion Wilson's hard-fought win against Michael Sole.

The B-Grade was mighty chaotic in round three hosting some amazing games. Starting with some action on board one, favourite Ziyu Huang was defeated by Sophia Feng.

On board four, the rising star Eden Xu was in excellent form, holding a draw against the top seed, Henry Vital. Board five saw another upset as Phillip Mukattu defeated second seed Isaac Ceferino. On board seven, a long, hard endgame, lasting almost until the next round, resulted in an impressive win for Francisco Nascimento against Jessie De Guzman. Another notable upset would be Nicole Zhao's victory against Patrick Di Jiang.

At the end of round 3, the players leading the A-Grade were Ang and Zhang with 3/3. Other players to watch out for were Braganza, Wilson and Young, all in excellent form.

In the B-Grade, Feng, Buthsara Hettiarachchi and Xxavier Willoughby-Ansell were leading the pack with 3/3; all three of them seeded outside the top ten.

Round 4 began at 2 pm on the afternoon of the 2nd of June. As the second half of the tournament started, the matches were heating up - every point mattered. On the top board, it was the clash of the two leaders: FM Alphaeus Ang and CM



Kendrick Zhang. The game began with a Queen's Gambit by Ang and was met by a Bogó-Indian by Zhang. White chose a sideline on move four with Nbd2 when Black played Bb4+. Black decided to go for a queenside fianchetto setup and played c5, but unfortunately on move 10, Black made an inaccuracy by playing d5. This let White play c5 followed by b4 which allowed White to get a massive space advantage on the queenside. After the opening White had a healthy advantage and Ang converted with ease - a masterclass on dynamic play. This put Ang into the lead of the tournament.

Board two and three saw the young stars of this tournament, Dion Wilson and Young, paired against IMs Anthony Ker and Russell Dive. Unfortunately, both youngsters were not ready to match the experience of some of New Zealand's top players. On board four Braganza, in excellent form, held FM Bob Smith to a draw with the Black pieces! Matching up that impressive result, WCM Yolanda Chang made a draw against FM Leonard McLaren. Chang seemed to have the upper hand for most of the game but a tough defence by McLaren denied her the win, nonetheless a draw is still a very impressive result.

At the end of the second day, FM Alphaeus Ang was at the top of the standings with a perfect score followed

by IM's Russell Dive and Anthony Ker with 3.5/4. In the B grade, the board one matchup ended in a draw. Matches on boards 2-5 ended decisively, resulting in a six-way tie for the lead.

Round five began on the morning of the 3rd of June. 11/20 games in the A-Grade resulted in draws! On board one, IM Anthony Ker was defeated by FM Alphaeus Ang. Ang played a clean game, putting pressure on White and getting his pieces active. The pressure resulted in a pawn-up advantage, proving decisive. The matchup on board two, three and four ended in draws, while on board five Young displayed a dominant victory over FM Leonard McLaren with the Black pieces! Young gained a beautiful position out of the opening with excellent piece activity. Struggling to gain space, McLaren with the White pieces took a poisoned pawn, blundering a tactic. This allowed Black to capture White's queen in exchange for only a rook. The rest was just a simple conversion.

On board seven Michael Sole was paired against WCM Yolanda Chang and in this game, Sole put on a brilliant display of attacking chess. The game began with an Open Sicilian. Sole, with the White pieces, was in control of the whole opening and got a great position with a huge space advantage. He pushed his queenside pawns up the board breaking

# Trusts Open

Karthik Sethuramalingam

apart Black's queenside and then switching gears to play a brilliant exchange sacrifice on the kingside! Black was forced to give up a piece to stop the immediate attack, but Sole was not finished. The exchange sacrifice had destroyed the black king's defence, so it was game over when the white queen joined the attack.



**Sole, Michael (1-0) Chang, Yolanda**

**Annotated by Ryan Winter**

Trusts Open 2024,

Round 5

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Nd5 Nxd5 8. exd5 Nb8 9. a4 Be7 10. Be2 Bf5 11. O-O Qc8** An interesting move. It does attack c2 for the time being, but the queen is a little uncomfortable on the c-file.

**12. c4 a6 13. Nc3 h5** Black often plays with an eye towards ...f5 in this structure; I'm not sure that pushing the h-pawn achieves much. If it gets to h3 it does force g3, but even in that structure White can play for f4 with easy play.

**14. Be3 h4 15. f4** White points and laughs at Black's useless h-pawn push.

**15... Nd7 16. b4 Bf6 17. Rc1** White has played simply and strongly; he is ready to play c5 at any moment, while Black has no ideas of an attack, and only has a single square on e5 to play with.

**17... O-O 18. fxe5 Nxe5 19. c5 Bg6** What can you even do as Black? Your only asset is your e5 knight, and even that is somewhat sitting pretty and attacking nothing.

**20. Qd2 Qd7 21. c6 bxc6** (21... Qe7 Black manages to hold onto life for a bit longer, and prevents the Rxf6 sac for the time being, but White is still just winning.)

**22. dxc6 Nxc6 23. Rxf6 gxf6 24. Nd5 Qe6 25. Rxc6** This is just crushing; White has two pieces for the rook, Black's kingside is shattered and her rooks useless. The symmetry of White breaking through on the queenside first, only to then break through on the kingside is neat. (D)

**25... Be4 26. Nf4 Qf5 27. Rxd6 Qg5 28. Bd3 Bxd3 29. Rxd3 Rfe8 30. Nd5 Qe5 31. Qe2 f5 32. Qh5 Qa1+ 33. Rd1 Qxa4 34. Qg5+ 1-0**

# Trusts Open

Karthik Sethuramalingam



This round featured the game between Weiyang Yu and Leo Baker, which won the best game of the tournament award. The chess played by Yu in this game truly speaks for itself.

## Yu, Weiyang (1-0) Baker, Leo Annotated by Ryan Winter

Trusts Open 2024,  
Round 5

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. c4 unfortunately, this move is not as interesting as it is against the Caro Kann. We'll see how the players make it interesting

4... Nf6 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. cxd5 The early capture is a little interesting; it forces White to spend another move defending the c3 knight after ...Nxd5. (6. Bd3)

6... Nxd5 7. Qc2 O-O (7... Nc6 This is already a little awkward for White 8. a3 (8. Nf3 O-O 9. Be2 Nxc3 10. bxc3 Nxd4) 8... Nxd4)

8. Bd3 Nf6 9. Ne2 Nc6 10. O-O Sacrificing a pawn is definitely one way to add a little flavour into the game



10... Nxd4 11. Nxd4 Qxd4 12. Bg5 White confirms she is making this a sacrifice. (12. Nb5 This is the copout move, just nabbing back a pawn and achieving material equality. 12... Qe5 (12... Qh4 13. Nxc7) 13. Qxc7)

12... h6 13. Rad1 Bxc3 14. bxc3 Qe5 15. Bh4 Ng4 16. Bg3 Qc5 17. Rfe1 White has fully developed all her pieces, let's see what she can do with the initiative.

17... Be6 18. h3 Nf6 19. Be5 Nd5 20. Qd2 It doesn't feel particularly pleasant to line the queen up on the d-file, but it does open up some c4 ideas and bringing the queen out to f4 later on. (20. Bd4 is an elegant move, trying to deflect the queen away and mess with the coordination of White's pieces a little bit. 20... Qa5 (20... Qe7 21. Bh7+ Kh8 22. Bxg7+ Kxg7 23. Rxd5) 21. Rxe6 fxe6 22. Bh7+ Kh8 23. Bxg7+ Kxg7 24. Qg6+ Kh8 25. Bg8

# Trusts Open

Karthik Sethuramalingam

Would be a funny way for the game to end)

**20... Rad8 21. Bb1 Rfe8 22. Qd3**

Threatening a nasty check on h7.

**22... g6** (22... f6 And Black is safe; now that there is a Black pawn on f6, the check on h7 is just a minor nuisance and Black can bring his bishop back to defend if needed. 23. Qh7+ Kf8 24. Bg6 Bg8)

**23. c4!** Suddenly the knight is stuck in a pin, as Black cannot allow White to take on d8 with the queen because of the backrank ideas 23... Bf5 (23... Nf6 This removes the back rank idea, but unfortunately it walks into an eternal pin: 24. Qxd8 Rxd8 25. Rxd8+ Kg7 26. Rd3 And the pin on the f6 knight is crushing; Rf3 is coming next.) (23... Nb6 24. Qxd8 Rxd8 25. Rxd8+ Kh7 (25... Qf8 26. Rxf8+ Kxf8 8) 26. Rh8#)



**24. Qd2** Attacking h6, and maintaining the pin along the d-file.

**24... Bxb1 25. Qxh6** This ends all resistance.

**25... Rxe5 26. Rxe5 Qxc4 27. Rxb1 Qxa2 28. Rbe1 Qa4 29. Qg5 Qd7 30. Rxd5 1-0**

On top of the standings before the last round: in the A-Grade FM Alphaeus Ang was first with 5/5, with only IM Russell Dive able to catch him, if he managed to beat Ang in the last round. In the B-Grade the two leaders Francisco Nascimento and Xxavier Willoughby-Ansell were paired together in the final round in a winner-takes-all match; if they drew, the three players in second place had a chance to catch up if they won their games.

On board one, a tense game between FM Alphaeus Ang and IM Russell Dive resulted in a draw. Russell was pressing hard for the win but Ang held it together, and this finish meant that he had now won the tournament with a score of 5.5/6! Dive had also secured himself a second-place finish, but all of the players on 3.5 had a chance to catch him if they won their games. On boards 2 and 3 IMs Anthony Ker and Garbett beat CM Kendrick Zhang and Braganza respectively, joining Dive in second place. On board five Young beat FM John Duneas. Young played a violent attacking game, blowing his opponent off the board. This victory put him in second place and boosted his rating

above 2000: now he could claim the CM title!

The U2100 grade was won by Young but his second-place overall finish meant that Zachary Yu took the prize home. The U2000 grade was won by Winston Weng on 3.5/6 and the U1900 grade was won by Braganza, Justin Wang, Yanbo Jin and Karthik Sethuramalingam, all tied in first place with 3.5 points.

In the B-Grade, the faceoff between the two leaders resulted in a victory for Xxavier Willoughby-Ansell which sealed his first-place finish. Both Ziyi Huang and Hettirachchi won their games, securing them a second-place finish. The U2000 grade was won by Richard Liu, the U1700 by Xxavier Willoughby-Ansell, the U1600 by Ziyi Huang, and the U1500 by Tom Nicholson, Elena Moshakova, Jeremy Xi Xu and Thomas Beier all on 3.5/6. The C-Grade was won by Brillion Lau and the Junior Grade by Kirby Shao.

The 2024 edition of the Peter Stuart Memorial Open occurred over the Matariki holidays at the end of June. The event was held in the familiar territory of Auckland Chess Centre next to Dominion Road in Mt Eden. Thanks in part to a large anonymous donation some of Auckland's strongest players turned up as bounty hunters for the attractive \$1500 first-place prize. Spearheading the field was the young FM Felix Xie, fresh from his successful exploits overseas and making his first New Zealand tournament appearance in some time, followed closely by tournament regular FM Alphaeus Ang. The remainder of the field, including the three and four-seeded international players, were far behind the two leading contenders by FIDE rating.

Apart from a collection of draws, rounds one to three went the way of the higher seeds, with three players tied on full points. This included the pre-tournament favourite, Xie, along with FM Leonard McLaren and Filipino player John Ray B Batucan, with the notable exception of Ang who drew against the rising WCM Yolanda Chang in round 3. Round 4 saw the first clash of the top seeds with two exciting pairings. On board one we saw Wang and Xie face off, while board two had Batucan against McLaren. Batucan smoothly dispatched McLaren after a positional blunder in a Sveshnikov that

permanently surrendered control of d5 while Wang managed the upset and defeated Xie in an exciting Qc2 Nimzo-Indian that is annotated below.

## Wang, Daniel (1-0) FM Xie, Felix Annotated by Michael Sole

Peter Stuart Memorial Open 2024,  
Round 4

**1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3** First surprise is Daniel not playing his Catalan which he has become known for. Playing into the Nimzo Indian, a likely sign of a combative game ahead.

**3... Bb4 4. Qc2 d6!?** Felix as the higher-rated player, goes for a dynamic sideline that provides unclear play, perfect for creating winning chances.



**5. e4?! Perhaps taken by surprise, Daniel plays the natural but premature e4. This allows the strong counter of...**

(5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. Qxc3 Nbd7 This is one of the mainlines where White gets a range

# Peter Stuart Memorial

Michael Sole

of choices and gets to be the first one to control the centre.)

5... c5! Where White's centre is put under great pressure. Black has scored excellently from here and looks to already have the easier game.

6. dxc5 Bxc5 7. Bg5 Nc6 8. Nf3 h6 9. Bh4 g5 10. Bg3 e5 Black has setup a good blockade on the dark squares and has a pleasant position but White still has the safer king and more develop so it remains roughly equal in this dynamic position.



11. h3 Nh5 12. Bh2 Be6 13. a3 a6 14. Be2 Ng7 15. Rd1 f6 16. b4 Nd4 17. Qb1 Ba7 18. Nxd4 Bxd4 19. Nd5 O-O 20. g4 Ba7 21. Bg3 Bd7 22. Nc3? Likely played to target d6 but pays too great of a price to do so with retreating White's best piece. (D)

(22. h4! This attacking move would have given Black great trouble as the h-file opens up and provides White with the lingering threat of doubling on the h-file

with moves like Qb3-Qh3. 22... Ne6 23. c5 dxc5 24. hxg5 hxg5 25. f4 gxf4 26. Bxf4 Ba4 27. Rd2 c4)



22... Qe7?! Giving White a tempo to correct his mistake.

23. Nd5 Qd8 24. Nc3 First repetition of the position. A smart strategy by the lower-rated Daniel who can provoke Felix into risking more to fight for the win.

24... Qe7 25. Nd5 Qf7 26. Ne3? Allowing the trade of his best piece. As before, h4 was strong.

26... Bb8 27. h4 Finally played and now Black is in trouble. (D)

27... b5 28. hxg5 hxg5 29. Kf1 Ba7 30. Nd5 Bc6 31. Rh6 White quickly starts to crash into Felix's position with the knight on d5 combined with the open h-file.



31... Bxd5 32. cxd5

(32. exd5! Would have been strong with the queen now getting involved faster. f5 was the likely reason behind this getting rejected but the engine is unfazed. 32... f5 33. Kg2! Bxc4 34. Bxc4 Rac8 35. Rdh1!)

32... Rac8 33. Kg2 Qc7 34. a4 Qb6? Missing one of the last chances to stay in the game with the solid Qc2!

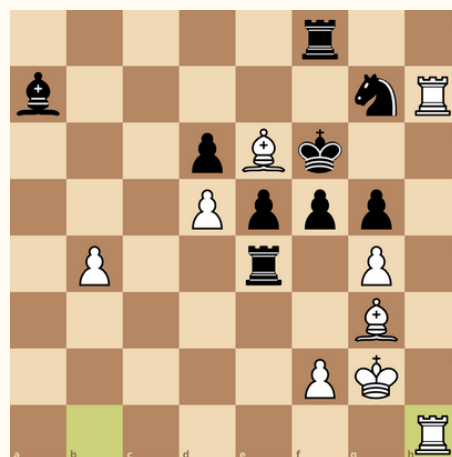


(34... Qc2 35. Qxc2 Rxc2 36. Bd3 Where Black now has good chances again.)

35. axb5 axb5 36. Qd3 Rc4 37. Rb1 Qd4

38. Qxd4 Rxd4 39. Bxb5 Rxe4 40. Bd7 Now White is breaking through with too many threats for Black to handle.

40... Kf7 41. Rh7! f5 42. Be6+ Kf6 43. Rbh1! Forcing Black to concede material.



43... Rf7 44. R1h6+ Ke7 45. Bxf7 Kxf7 46. gxf5 Kg8 47. f6 Nf5 48. Rh8+ Kf7 49. R6h7+ Kxf6 50. Rf8+ Kg6 51. Rxa7 Rxb4 52. Re8 Ng7 53. Rg8 1-0 A great win for Daniel as he takes out the top seed FM Felix Xie and scores a big rating upset to join Batucan on a perfect 4/4.

This led us onto round 5 with two players on a perfect 4/4. Instead of the expected Xie - Ang matchup on board 1 we had Wang - Batucan, with Ang on 3.5/4 and Xie a point off the leaders on 3/4. After a tactical firestorm in a King's Indian Defence, Batucan pulls away with the win and sole lead on 5/5.

Coming into the final round we had Batucan leading by a full point against



the following pack of Wang, Gupta, Ang, Xie, McLaren, and Braganza. With the potential of a five-way tie for first, if Batucan loses, all eyes were focused on board 1. The final pairings came as a surprise to many with the top pairing being Batucan against Gupta, dodging the higher-rated Xie and Ang, while Wang continued his tough path at the top with a game against Ang as Black. After securing a pleasant endgame, Gupta repeated, awarding the title to Batucan with an excellent 5.5/6! As a bonus, the latter shot to second place in the New Zealand ratings list, with an NZCF of 2464.

The Arie Nijman Memorial is a 6-round 90+30 Swiss hosted by the Canterbury Chess Club in May each year. The tournament is held to commemorate the late Canterbury Chess Club and NZCF life member, and its 4th edition attracted 32 players ranging from Auckland to Invercargill. The top seed was 2413-rated FM Roger Nokes, playing in his first FIDE-rated event in 15 years.

Round one progressed largely as expected, and the first decisive upset of the tournament came in round two with Luna Lu beating CM Kendrick Zhang. In round three Lu's form continued with a huge upset over FM Stephen Lukey, leaving her in shared first with Nokes and CM Edward Rains at the halfway mark.

The tournament's infamous 3-round Saturday claimed many byes in round 4, resulting in only 10 games being played. Nokes took the sole lead on 4/4 with a win over Rains, and Matthew McNabb joined Lu (1/2 point bye) on 3.5/4 putting him in joint 2nd place.

Lu scored yet another upset in round 5, stealing a draw from Nokes after defending a losing knight vs two pawns ending.

At this stage Lu's live rating had crossed 1800, meaning she had reached all requirements to claim her conditional title earned at the 2023 Oceania Zonals, and is now officially titled WCM.

Another exciting round 5 upset saw Zachary Yu beat Lukey, see below for the full annotated game.

## FM Lukey, Stephen (0-1) Yu, Zachary Annotated by Leo Malcolm

Arie Nijman Memorial 2024,  
Round 5

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. Nc3 dxc4 5. e4 Bb4 6. Bxc4 Nxe4 7. O-O Nf6 is a realistic attempt to hold on to the extra pawn.

(7... Nxc3 8. bxc3 Bxc3 9. Rb1 White would have a healthy advantage due to his active pieces, while Black has one developed piece.)

8. Bg5 O-O 9. Qe2 Be7 10. Rad1 c6 11. Ne5 Nd5 12. Bc1 Nd7 13. Rd3 f5 14. Ng6!?



14... hxg6 15. Qxe6+ Kh7?? (15...Rf7 works out fine for Black: 16. Nxd5 cxd5 17. Bxd5 Qe8 18. Qxg6 Nf8 19. Bxf7+ Qxf7 20. Qxf7+ Kxf7 and Black is slightly better with the favourable material imbalance.)

16. Rh3+ Bh4 17. Nxd5 cxd5 18. Qxd5 Qf6 19. g3?! (19. Bg5 is best because after Qxg5 20. g3 Nb6 now does not win a

tempo as the rook is undefended so White wins the tempo right back 21. Qc5 Rf6 22. Bb3 now Black is struggling to find a move Be6 and White capitalises with 23. Rxh4+ Kg8 24. f4)

19... g5?? 20. Bb3?? (20. Bxg5 Qxg5 21. Rxh4+ Kg6 22. Qe6+ Nf6 23. Qd6 Bd7 24. f4 and White wins.)

20... Nb6 21. Bxg5??



(21. Qg2 White needs to keep queens on, and will have chances against Black's king.)

21... Nxd5 22. Rxh4+ Kg6 23. Bxf6 Nxf6 Black is safely up a knight, with White's only hope of compensation being the passed d-pawn.

24. d5 b6 25. Rd1 Bb7 26. Rf4 Rfd8 27. Bc2 Rxd5 28. Rxd5 Bxd5 29. Bxf5+ Kf7 30. a3 Re8 31. f3? Re2! (D)

32. g4 g5 33. Ra4 a5 34. f4 Nxg4 35. Rd4 0-1



A draw in the final round against McNabb gave Nokes clear first place, with Rains and Yu joining McNabb on 4.5/6 after winning as well. WCM Lu remained on 4 points due to her withdrawal after round 5, and was joined by Justin Wang to win the U2000 grade.

Between the 10th and the 13th of July, fifty-seven players made their way to Hagley Park for the annual South Island Chess Championship, with some returning the following day to make up the seventy that came for the rapid section. With about 876 games played over five days, there were bound to be some special ones.

Over the course of this article, we will look at the three objectively (in my opinion) best moments of the two tournaments. From an intense match that absolutely went down to the wire, to a battle over the board between two brothers, to another cool game I need to choose - these games go to show that the most memorable moments aren't necessarily the tournament-deciding matchups. Every game is significant, nothing is inconsequential.

### **Baker, Leo (1-0) FM Smith, Robert**

#### **Annotated by Tyne Grant**

South Island Chess Championship 2024,  
Round 3

The first game of this list occurred in round three, between Leo Baker and FM Robert Smith. It was a tense game, lasting well into the morning. Its length, however, wasn't what made it special. Rather, the relatively rare nature of the way the game was decided made it stick out from the rest.

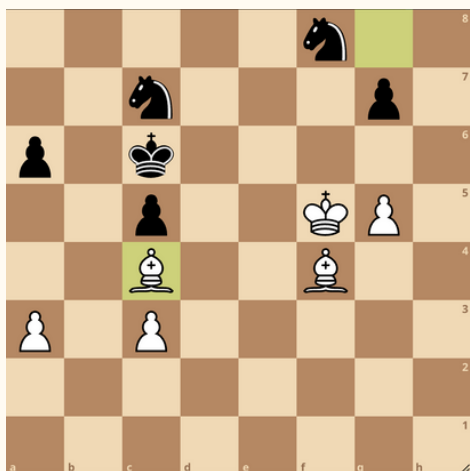
**1. e4 c6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. h3 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 e6 6. d4 Nf6** All known theory so far.

**7. Qe3 Be7 8. Bd2 O-O 9. Bd3 Nbd7 10. O-O dxe4 11. Nxe4 Qb6 12. c4 Bb4 13. Nc3 e5 14. Na4 Qa5** By move fifteen, both players have spent a large chunk of their time, particularly Baker, who had spent forty minutes on the last few moves - perhaps an indication of how the game will pan out.

**15. Nc3 exd4 16. Qxd4 Ne5 17. Rfe1 Rfe8 18. Bf1 Rad8 19. Qf4 Ng6 20. Rxe8+ Nxe8 21. Qe3 Qe5 22. a3 Bd6 23. Qxe5 Bxe5 24. Be3 Bxc3 25. bxc3 a6 26. Rb1 Rd7 27. Re1** By now, both players are below ten minutes, with an equal endgame ahead of them.

**27... Nc7 28. Be2 Ne6 29. Rd1 Rxd1+ 30. Bxd1 Ne5 31. Be2 Nd7 32. f4 Nec5 33. Bg4 Kf8 34. Kf2 Ke7 35. Bd4 f6 36. Bf5 h6 37. g4 Ne6 38. Kf3 c5 39. Be3 Kd6 40. h4 Nef8 41. Be4 b6 42. Bd5 Ne6 43. Ke4 Nc7 44. Bg8 b5** A series of mistakes bounce the evaluation bar around, but in the end, it is Baker who has the advantage.

**45. Kf5 Nf8 46. g5 hxg5 47. fxg5 fxg5 48. hxg5 bxc4 49. Bf4+ Kc6 50. Bxc4** 1-0 Although already in a losing position, the time pressure got to Smith, and by the time he played 50... a5, his time was up.



One of the most entertaining matches was found on the round four pairings list. Two brothers, Charles and Henry Prebble, had been neck and neck right from the start, being separated by a mere three places on the initial seedings. So when they were paired at the end of the second day, there was a considerable amount of interest in the outcome. In the following game, we will see the result of this brotherly battle.

### Prebble, Charles (1/2 -1/2) Prebble, Henry

Annotated by Leo Malcolm

South Island Chess Championship 2024,  
Round 4

1. d4 Nf6 2. f3 g6 3. e4 d6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5. Bc4 e6 6. Bg5 Qd7 7. Nge2 O-O 8. Qd2 Re8 9. O-O-O b6 10. h4 Bb7 11. g4 a good move and in line with White's play, but not quite as direct as

(11. h5 Nxf5 12. Bh6 d5 13. Rxf5 gxf5 14. Bxf6 Kxf6 15. Qg5+ Kh8 16. Qf6+ Kg8

17. Nf4 Qe7 18. Nxf5 Qxf6 19. Nxf6+ Kf8 20. Nxe8 Kxe8 21. exd5 exd5 22. Nxd5 where White is winning.)

11... d5 12. Bd3 Nc6?? 13. Bxf6

(13. e5 traps the knight as a result of Black's misplaced pieces.)

13... Bxf6 14. Qh6

(14. e5 Bg7 15. h5 White's bishop is open and playing a part in the attack. This may prove useful soon, for example 15... Nb4 16. Bxg6 hxg6 17. hxg6 fxg6 18. Qg5 Qf7 19. Nf4 c5 20. Nxc6 cxd4 21. Qh5)

14... Bg7! 15. Qf4 dxe4 16. Bxe4 Rab8 17. Qe3 Ne7 18. Bxb7 Rxb7 19. h5 f5 20. Nf4 Bh6?? 21. hxg6 Bxf4 22. Qxf4??

(22. gxh7+ with this inclusion Black's king will never find real safety 22... Kh8 23. Qxf4)

22... Nxc6! 23. Ne4?? this only works if Black takes the queen, which luckily for White he does.

23... Nxf4 24. Nf6+ Kg7 25. Nxd7 c6 26. Rxf7+ Kxf7 27. Nf6+ Kg6 28. Nxe8 fxe8 29. fxe8 Rd7 30. c3 Kf7 31. Rf1 Kxe8 32. Rxf4 Kd8 33. g5 Rg7 34. Rg4 Ke7 35. g6?? now Black collects the pawn easily

(35. Kc2 Kf7 36. Kd3 Kg6 37. Ke4 Kh5 38. Rg1 would have been enough to win for White.)

**35... Kf6 36. b4 Kf5 37. Rh4** and the game was soon a draw.

Of course, the classical was only one of two tournaments in the South Island Champs. The South Island Rapid contained 420 games across six rounds, and Chess Aotearoa's Josh Langford chose his favourite from the lot - his round six match against Cohen Young. A must-win to place highly in the tournament, it would give Josh a chance to share a piece of the South Island Rapid Champion title.

**CM Young, Cohen (0-1) Langford, Josh**

**Annotated by Josh Langford**

South Island Rapid Championship 2024,  
Round 6

**1. e4 c6** This was the final game for me in the tournament. Having screwed up a probably winning attack against Ed Lee prior I had one more shot to place highly in this tournament.

**2. Nc3 d5 3. Nf3 Bg4 4. h3 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 e6 6. Be2 Nf6** I feel pretty comfortable already with a solid pawn structure and easy development. A more testing setup for Black is 6.d3 7.Bd2 and 8.0-0-0.

**7. O-O Nbd7 8. d4 dxe4 9. Nxe4 Nxe4 10. Qxe4 Nf6 11. Qd3 Be7 12. Be3 O-O 13. c4 Qc7** Finished development and now want to apply pressure to d4 to stop

Cohen from playing d5 himself.

**14. Rac1 Rfd8 15. Bf3 Rd7 16. Rfd1 Rad8** Achieved pretty much my optimal setup now I want to push e5 or c5 depending on what the vibes are like.

**17. g3 Qa5 18. a3 e5?** Mistimed due to a strong follow-up from White.

**19. b4?**

(19.Qf5! Utilising the poor placement of my queen. Now I will likely lose a pawn.)

**19... Qa6 20. Qc3 exd4 21. Bxd4 Qa4** Now my double rooks are very happy and there is a lot of pressure on the d-file.

**22. Rd2 c5** Opening things up even more and giving Cohen quite a few tricky decisions to make.

**23. bxc5 Bxc5 24. Bxf6 Rxd2 25. Bxd8 Rxf2!** Chess is not checkers - no forced recapture.

**26. Kh1 Qd7!** Very nice geometry, bringing the queen into the game threatening to win back the bishop or to checkmate. (D)

**27. Bg4??** Cohen overlooked the importance of keeping the bishop on the diagonal to protect the king.

**27... Qc6+ 28. Bf3 Rxf3** 0-1 Cohen resigns.

Ed loses to Dion so miraculously I become Joint South Island Rapid Champ with 3 others!!



Of course, although every game can be important, there are some players who consistently make sure their games turn into wins. We want to give a huge congratulations to those who placed in the two tournaments. In the classical, third place was shared by Anthony Carpinter, Nick Cummings, Baker, and FM Stephen Lukey, second went to Edward Rains, and Roger Nokes took home the trophy, unbeaten on 7/8. In the rapid, second place was shared generously between Lee, FM Robert Smith, Cummings, Langford, and Carpinter (with the South Island title shared between Lee and the latter three), with first place going to Dion Wilson on 5.5/6.

Joining a chess club can be a great way to meet new people and learn new things, but a lot of people don't know how to go about joining one. Below is some information you might need to join your first chess club, taken and summarised from the NZCF Website ([www.newzealandchess.co.nz/clubs](http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz/clubs)) - more information on NZCF affiliated clubs and information regarding NZCF associated and other clubs can be found in the 'Chess Clubs' section of the NZCF website.

## **NZCF AFFILIATED CLUBS**

Auckland Chess Centre - [www.aucklandchess.nz](http://www.aucklandchess.nz)

Canterbury Chess Club - [www.chess.org.nz](http://www.chess.org.nz)

Counties Chess Club - [pukekohechess.co.nz](http://pukekohechess.co.nz)

Hamilton Chess Club - [hamiltonchess.net](http://hamiltonchess.net)

Hawkes Bay Chess Club - [www.hawkesbaychess.org.nz](http://www.hawkesbaychess.org.nz)

Howick-Pakuranga Chess Club - [www.hpchessclub.org.nz](http://www.hpchessclub.org.nz)

Invercargill-Southland Chess Club - [ISCC.nz](http://ISCC.nz)

Manurewa Chess - [info@manurewachess.org](mailto:info@manurewachess.org)

Mount Maunganui RSA Chess Club - [www.westernbopchess.weebly.com](http://www.westernbopchess.weebly.com)

New Plymouth Chess Club - [chessclubnp@gmail.com](mailto:chessclubnp@gmail.com)

North Shore Chess Club - [www.northshorechess.org.nz](http://www.northshorechess.org.nz)

Otago Chess Club - [otagochess.org](http://otagochess.org)

Papatoetoe Chess Club - [papatoetochessclub.org.nz](http://papatoetochessclub.org.nz)

Summit Chess Club - [ywang@outlook.co.nz](mailto:ywang@outlook.co.nz)

Upper Hutt Chess Club - [arh4108@gmail.com](mailto:arh4108@gmail.com)

Waitakere Chess Club - <https://waitakerechess.co.nz>

Wellington Chess Club - [www.nzchessmag.com/wellingtonchessclub](http://www.nzchessmag.com/wellingtonchessclub)



## Puzzles

From left to right

1.) **1... Rxd1** (1... Bg1+! is similar but you still have to find the Qc7! idea 2. Kh1 (2. Rxc1 Rh8 wins queen by force ) 2... Rxd1 3. h8=Q Bf2+ 4. Kh2 Qc7!) **2. h8=Q Bg1+** **3. Kh1 Bf2+** **4. Kh2 Qc7!** Bxc3 is threatened **5. Q8h7 Bxc3+** **6. Qxc3 Qxh7+**

2.) **1. d7 Rd2** (1... Rf7 2. Be7 ) **2. Rc3+! Kd1** (2... Kb2 3. Bf6 Rxd7 4. Rd3+) (2... Kxc3 3. Ba5+) **3. Rc1+! Ke2** (3... Kxc1 4. Bg5) **4. Re1+! Kf3** (4... Kxe1 5. Ba5 ) (4... Kf2 5. Bb6+! Kxe1 6. Ba5 ) **5. Re3+! Kg2** (5... Kxe3 6. Bg5+ ) (5... Kf2 6. Bb6 Rxd7 7. Re7+) **6. Re2+! Rxe2** **7. Bg5!**

3.) **1... Bc6!!** (1... Rxh3? 2. gxh3 Qg5+ 3. Kh1 Qf4 4. Qb8+ Kg7 5. Qc7+! Kg8 (5... Kh6?? 6. Qc1!) 6. Qd8+ Kg7 7. Qc7+) (1... Qf4? 2. g3 Rxc3+ 3. fxc3 Qxc3+ 4. Bg2 Qh2+ 5. Kf2 Qg3+ (5... Qh4+ 6. Ke2 Qg4+ 7. Bf3 exf3+ 8. Rxf3 Bxd5 9. Rxd5 Qe4+ 10. Qe3 Qxd5) 6. Kgl (6. Ke2 Qxc2+ 7. Rf2 Qg4+ 8. Kel) 6... Qh2+) (1... Qg5? 2. Rfe1 Rxh3 3. Rc1!! (3. Qb8+? Kg7 4. Qxb7+ Kh6 5. Qc8 Rh2 6. g3 Qh5 7. Qf8+ Bg7) 3... Rh2 (3... Qf4 4. gxh3 Qh2+ 5. Kf1 Qxh3+ 6. Kgl Bh2+ 7. Kh1 Bg3+ 8. Kgl Bh2+) 4. Qb8+ Kg7 5. Rc7+ Kh6 6. Qf8+ Kh5 7. Rh7+) **2. bxc6** (2. f4 exf3 3. Qf2 Qf4 4. g3 Qg5 5. dxc6 Bxc3 6. Qxf3 Rxf3 7. Rxf3 Be1+ 8. Kh2 Ba5) **2... Rxh3** **3. gxh3 Qg5+** **4. Kh1 Qf4** **5. Qb8+ Kg7** **6. Qc7+ Kh6** Queen can no longer access c1!

4.) **1... Rxf3!!** **2. Qxc7** (2. gxf3 Qe5) (2. Kxf3 Qf7+ 3. Kg3 (3. Ke2 Ba6+) 3... Bc7+) **3... Rxe3+** **4. Kxe3 Bxc7** **5. Rc1 Bd8!** Evaluation is key in this exercise. Black is surprisingly much better due to the active bishops and centre!

5.) **1. Qb1! Bxc4** (1... Qxb1 2. Rxb1 f5 (2... Bxc4 3. Rxa1) 3. Ng5!) **2. Qxa1 Qxa1** **3. Rxa1 Bf7** **4. Bxa7**

6.) **1... Bf4+!** **2. Kh1** (2. Nxf4 Qxf4+ 3. Kh1 Qxf1+ 4. Kh2 Qg1#) **2... Bd2!** Winning the queen, because **3. Qxd2** (3. Rxd2 Qxf1+ 4. Kh2 Qg1#) **3... Qxf1+** **4. Kh2 Qg1#**