

# ***New Zealand Chess***

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

January 2015

Volume 42 Number 1



**New Zealand Championship Pile-Up in Devonport**  
***Also***

- **Scott Wastney on Openings**
  - **The Best (Electronic) Players in the World do Battle**
- .... and more***

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Cover: Seven of the this year's ten NZ Champions with the famous silver rook. Photo credit: Helen Milligan

## **Congress Special**

It should come as no surprise that this issue is dominated by coverage of Congress, the highlight of every New Zealand Chess year. Your editor has played through all 521 games of the main tournament (so you don't have to). The highlights that were uncovered won't fit into just one issue, and coverage will spill over to the April magazine.

We also have more from two of our regular columnists, a peek into history and some insight into the world of computer engine matches. Some people think these games are inherently soulless, mechanical and uninteresting. Others think that Carlsen and Caruana, never mind the Alekhines and Capablanca of yore are hopelessly superceded as the best chess players ever – and these computer clashes are the new classics for the ages. You be the judge.

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## New Zealand Open Championship 2015

The 122<sup>nd</sup> New Zealand Chess Congress will be remembered as one of this country's best ever chess events. Grandmaster Murray Chandler produced a worthy follow up to his previous successful Queenstown tournaments. This time it was New Zealand's largest city's chance to host the Chandler formula of a beautiful setting, meticulously professional organisation, generous sponsorship, civilised playing conditions and the resulting intoxicating influx of strong foreign players.

The tournament was of course held in the new National Chess Centre in Devonport, another unprecedented initiative from GM Chandler.

Like the Queenstown precedents, the main structural difference between this event and a traditional NZ Congress is that rather than multiple tournaments for separate grades, the main event here was a single large Swiss Open tournament (the New Zealand Open Championship). The much coveted title of New Zealand Chess Champion, along with engraved immortality on the famous silver rook trophy, would go to the top placing NZ player.

The dominant and most deserving tournament winner was third seed GM Xue Zhao of China. Conceding only two draws (to top seeded Englishman David Howell and impressive Indonesian Irine Sukandar) she more than fulfilled on the promise indicated by an impressed Murray Chandler before the tournament. "For such

a mild mannered person, she is incredibly aggressive over the board" he said, "She just wants to tear your head off, and she is so incredibly tricky as well".



*Hands off ladies! Xue Zhao (left) and Irine Sukander get cheques instead.... (Photo: Helen Milligan)*

The other GMs shared second place with young Malaysian Eu Wen Aron Teh. Rounding out the prize-winners were IM Sukandar, regular Congress visitor and NZ Chess contributor Brazilian IM Herman van Riemsdijk, and a couple of Australians who had memorable tournaments; young Karl Zelesco and Matt Drummond.

With no single New Zealander managing a truly outstanding result, an unprecedented, unlikely, not to mention slightly freakish scenario emerged as the final round games ended without breaking an incipient logjam. No less than ten players who qualified for the NZ Championship finished on 6 out of 9! Truly an engraver's nightmare!

## New Zealand Open

Place	Player	Rtg	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	GM Zhao, Xue	2514	8.0	+B47	+W61	+B35	=W3	+B11	+W10	+B2	=W6	+W7
2	GM Bischoff, Klaus	2490	7.0	+W84	+B49	+W29	+B6	=B10	+W3	-W1	=B12	+W16
3	GM Howell, David	2670	7.0	+B81	+W106	+B18	=B1	+W7	-B2	+W9	=W4	+B6
4	GM Rasmussen, Allan	2526	7.0	+W63	+B70	=W26	=B19	=W23	+B27	+W24	=B3	+W12
5	CM Teh, Eu Wen Aron	2300	7.0	+W105	+B21	-W14	+B112	=W24	=B16	+W18	+B37	+W11
6	IM Sukandar, Irine	2392	6.5	+B69	+W59	+B20	-W2	+W52	+B15	+W23	=B1	-B3
7	Zelesco, Karl	2210	6.5	+B85	+W39	=B11	+W17	-B3	+W36	+B14	+W10	-B1
8	Drummond, Matthew	2231	6.5	+B58	=W30	+B71	=W9	+B81	=W14	-B10	+W36	+B29
9	IM Van Riemsdijk, H.	2356	6.5	+W50	=B43	+W16	=B8	=W35	+B40	-B3	+W25	+B15
10	IM Dive, Russell	2441	6.0	+W56	+B52	+W15	+B14	=W2	-B1	+W8	-B7	=W21
11	FM Croad, Nicholas	2366	6.0	+W100	+B38	=W7	+B12	-W1	+B35	=W19	+B34	-W5
12	FM Hague, Ben	2462	6.0	+B76	+W44	=B17	+W11	+B83	+W26	+B13	=W2	-B4
13	IM Garbett, Paul	2355	6.0	+W48	+B62	=W23	=B24	+W34	+B18	-W12	-B16	+W43
14	IM Ker, Anthony	2435	6.0	+B51	+W75	+B5	-W10	+W21	=B8	-W7	=B43	+W40
15	Thornton, Gino	2195	6.0	+B82	+W42	-W10	+W47	+B39	=W6	+W52	+B23	-W9
16	CM Schmitz, Andreas	2066	6.0	+B91	=W46	-B9	+W77	+B31	=W5	+B39	+W13	-B2
17	FM Smith, Robert	2367	6.0	+W40	+B55	=W12	-B7	+W41	=B38	=W28	=B19	+W37
18	FM Stojic, Dusan	2123	6.0	+W99	+B53	-W3	+W85	+B25	-W13	-B5	+W69	+B42
19	FM Reilly, Tim	2238	6.0	+B86	=W71	+B31	=W4	-B69	+W33	=B11	=W17	+B27
20	NM McLaren, Leonard	2299	6.0	+W74	+B45	-W6	=B70	+W48	-B24	+W56	=B28	+W34
21	WIM Jule, Alexandra	1939	6.0	+B110	-W5	+B75	+W46	-B14	=W81	+B31	+W26	=B10
22	Morrell, Gordon	2190	6.0	=W98	+B54	-W24	+B99	=W37	=B56	+W46	=B40	+W35
23	Gao, Hans	2293	5.5	+B33	+W72	=B13	+W36	=B4	+W69	-B6	-W15	=B30
24	FM Steadman, Michael	2311	5.5	+B66	=W31	+B22	=W13	=B5	+W20	-B4	-W29	+B44
25	Krstev, Antonio	2071	5.5	+W79	=B34	+W37	=B26	-W18	+B49	+W38	-B9	=W28
26	FM Le Roy, Brice	2290	5.5	+B94	+W73	=B4	=W25	=W38	-B12	+W41	-B21	+B60
27	CM Ang, Alphaeus Wei	2104	5.5	+B107	-W35	+B59	=W30	+B71	-W4	+W48	+B53	-W19
28	Duneas, John	2180	5.5	+B87	=W36	=B46	-W81	+B59	+W30	=B17	=W20	=B25
29	Goodhue, Nathan	2118	5.5	+B83	+W32	-B2	-W69	=B57	+W87	+W70	+B24	-W8
30	CM Milligan, Helen	2098	5.5	+W104	=B8	=W34	=B27	=W45	-B28	+W54	+B41	=W23
31	Li, William Xiang	2167	5.5	+W96	=B24	-W19	+B74	-W16	+B63	-W21	+B84	+W52
32	CM Vincenti, David	2125	5.5	+W60	-B29	+W98	-B52	-W40	+W77	+B73	=B55	+W57
33	Opasiak, Dustin	1729	5.5	-W23	+B79	-W41	+B62	+W105	-B19	+W64	=B46	+W55
34	NM Dowden, Tony	2194	5.0	+B89	=W25	=B30	+W44	-B13	+W82	+B53	-W11	-B20
35	Zulfic, Fedja	2114	5.0	+W68	+B27	-W1	+W86	=B9	-W11	=B42	+W47	-B22
36	McNabb, Matthew	2100	5.0	+W41	=B28	+W43	-B23	+W70	-B7	+W50	-B8	=W48
37	WIM Lauterbach, Ingrid	2089	5.0	=B65	+W67	-B25	+W82	=B22	+W44	+B69	-W5	-B17
38	Rains, Edward	2106	5.0	+B88	-W11	+B57	+W73	=B26	=W17	-B25	-W44	+B79
39	Zhu, Leo Lei	1978	5.0	+W95	-B7	+W105	+B84	-W15	+B45	-W16	-W42	+B72
40	Louie, Jared	1783	5.0	-B17	=W77	+B67	+W60	+B32	-W9	+B72	=W22	-B14
41	Zhu, Karl Kai	1689	5.0	-B36	+W91	+B33	+W42	-B17	+W57	-B26	-W30	+B69
42	Macdonald, Paul	1957	5.0	+W78	-B15	+W63	-B41	=W50	+B60	=W35	+B39	-W18
43	Louie, Ryan	1927	5.0	+B109	=W9	-B36	-W71	+B61	+W86	+B81	=W14	-B13
44	Zhang, Leo	2098	5.0	+W115	-B12	+W55	-B34	+W84	-B37	+W71	+B38	-W24
45	Lim, Benjamin	2109	5.0	+B77	-W20	=B61	+W58	=B30	-W39	+W49	=B52	=B51
46	Lee, Edward	2061	5.0	+W64	=B16	=W28	-B21	+W112	=BYE	-B22	=W33	+B78
47	Gong, Daniel	2044	5.0	-W1	+B80	+W53	-B15	+W55	-B52	+W62	-B35	+W70
48	Rains, Timothy	2050	5.0	-B13	=W88	+B94	+W61	-B20	+W89	-B27	+W82	=B36
49	D'arcy, Michael	1916	5.0	+B111	-W2	-B73	+W75	+B72	-W25	-B45	+W92	+B76
50	Tsagarakis, Angel	1855	5.0	-B9	+W101	-B86	+W66	=B42	+W51	-B36	=W58	+B74
51	Burke, Matthew	1833	5.0	-W14	+B114	-W70	=B63	+W98	-B50	+W100	+B56	=W45
52	WFM Timergazi, Layla	2074	4.5	+B101	-W10	+B76	+W32	-B6	+W47	-B15	=W45	-B31
53	Fuatai, Fuatai	2089	4.5	+B92	-W18	-B47	+W108	+B65	+B54	-W34	-W27	=B67
54	Turner, Justin	1434	4.5	+B57	-W22	=B83	=W65	+B85	-W53	-B30	+W77	=B75
55	Gunawan, Boy	1980	4.5	+B113	-W17	-B44	+W109	-B47	+W88	+B83	=W32	-B33
56	Seabrook, Roy	1886	4.5	-B10	+W110	-B82	+W76	+B73	=W22	-B20	-W51	+W90
57	CM Forster, William	2081	4.5	-W54	+B90	-W38	+B93	=W29	-B41	+W105	+B59	-B32
58	Rossiter, Philip	1935	4.5	-W8	+B95	=W74	-B45	+W90	-B70	+W68	=B50	=W66
59	Aldridge, Alan	1966	4.5	+W80	-B6	-W27	+B95	-W28	=B68	+B90	-W57	+B89
60	Cooper, Nigel	1815	4.5	-B32	=W87	+B107	-B40	+W74	-W42	+B86	+BYE	-W26

## New Zealand Open (continued)

Place	Player	Rtg	Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
61	Watharow, Sean	1876	4.5	+B112	-B1	=W45	-B48	-W43	+W94	=B67	=W85	+B84
62	WFM Schmitz, Manuela	1966	4.5	+B108	-W13	-B69	-W33	+B113	+W85	-B47	=W87	+B88
63	Taylor, Richard	1891	4.5	-B4	+W111	-B42	=W51	+B94	-W31	=B75	=W83	+B85
64	Holdo, Karl	1606	4.5	-B46	=W89	=B87	+W92	-B82	+W65	-B33	=W75	+B83
65	Pakenham, John	1704	4.5	=W37	-B98	+W96	=B54	-W53	-B64	+W101	=BYE	+B82
66	Shaw, Robin A.	1813	4.5	-W24	+B93	-W81	-B50	+B106	=B67	=B76	+W73	=B58
67	Huang, Alex	2114	4.5	=W90	-B37	-W40	=B68	+W103	=B66	=W61	+B99	=W53
68	Brockway, Andrew	1791	4.5	-B35	-W83	=B88	=W67	+B101	=W59	-B58	+W107	+B87
69	Eade, Don	1977	4.0	-W6	+B115	+W62	+B29	+W19	-B23	-W37	-B18	-W41
70	Maris, Robert	1895	4.0	+B103	-W4	+B51	=W20	-B36	+W58	-B29	=W74	-B47
71	Hair, Philip	1912	4.0	+W93	=B19	-W8	+B43	-W27	=W83	-B44	-B79	+W101
72	CM Bennett, Hilton	2130	4.0	+W102	-B23	-W84	+B78	-W49	+B93	-W40	+B98	-W39
73	Jackson, Ross	1977	4.0	+W114	-B26	+W49	-B38	-W56	+B112	-W32	-B66	+W99
74	WFM Smith, Vivian	1836	4.0	-B20	+W92	=B58	-W31	-B60	+W102	+B89	=B70	-W50
75	Power, Wayne	1939	4.0	+W97	-B14	-W21	-B49	+W109	=B91	=W63	=B64	=W54
76	Hielscher, Ursula	1845	4.0	-W12	+B97	-W52	-B56	+W104	=B105	=W66	+B91	-W49
77	Wei, Louie	1423	4.0	-W45	=B40	+W90	-B16	=W91	-B32	+W112	-B54	+W98
78	Wang, Aaron Ziwen	1409	4.0	-B42	-W85	+B103	-W72	+BYE	-B84	+W108	+B105	-W46
79	Maris, Fred A	1519	4.0	-B25	-W33	=B91	-W94	=W96	+B104	+B113	+W71	-W38
80	Chandraveer Singh	0	4.0	-B59	-W47	-B109	+BYE	=W102	=B98	-W99	+B112	+W100

(Players scoring 4 points or more shown, 115 total players)

Seven of the lucky ten appear on our cover (Gino Thornton, Russell Dive, Bob Smith, Paul Garbett, Nic Croad, Ben Hague and Anthony Ker). Missing from the photo are Leonard McLaren, Gordon Morrell, and Alexandra Jule. Gordon is Canadian, but qualifies by residency. Alexandra is Australian, but qualifies by dual citizenship.

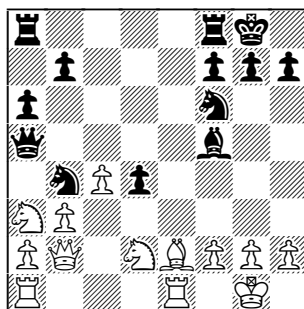
There are bound to be mixed emotions amongst the group of ten (not to mention those who just missed out – some of whom probably never expected to get a chance to be New Zealand champion). Some might feel grabbing a share is a triumph, but possibly a more common emotion – especially amongst those who didn't win in the last round – is that it would have been that much nicer to stand alone (and to grab some prize money of course!).

Enough with the words. Lets look at some chess. My approach here has been to avoid the round by round treadmill and to simply

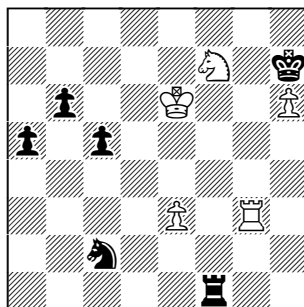
present chess highlights instead. A lot of interesting positions and situations appeared on the lower boards and I haven't hesitated to include those.

In the first round there was only one full point upset, and I will present that first and get my sole participation in the tournament highlights out of the way.

### Forster, Bill (2081) - Turner, Justin (1434)

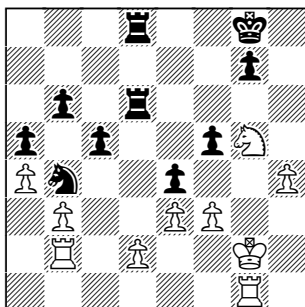


Black has outplayed his opponent completely, he now took his time and found an elegant winning shot. **18...Nc2!** Winning a piece. **19.b4??** Missing an ideal opportunity to resign with dignity either immediately or after allowing Black to demonstrate the logical continuation (19.Nxc2 Qxd2 20.Rac1 d3) Instead I choose the hyper-accelerated-meltdown variation. **19...Qxa3 20.Rab1?? Qxb2** Now I noticed a rook is falling off as well. 0-1



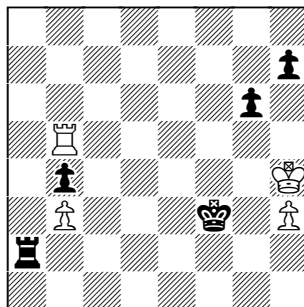
The threat of Rg7# decides. **48...Rxf7 49.Kxf7 Kxh6 50.e4 1-0**

### Le Roy, Brice (2290) - Jackson, Ross (1927)



An interesting conclusion from round 2. Black's position looks more harmonious. Visiting French FM Brice Le Roy reacts by abandoning his queenside and staking everything on a kingside attack. **36.fxe4 Rxd2+ 37.Rxd2 Rxd2+ 38.Kf3 fxe4+ 39.Kxe4 Rb2 40.Ne6 Rxb3 41.Rxg7+ Kh8 42.h5 Nc2 43.Rg3 Ra3 44.Nd8 Rxa4+ 45.Kf5 Ra1 46.Nf7+ Kh7 47.h6 Rf1+ 48.Ke6**

### Schmitz, Manuela (1966) – Garbett, Paul (2264)

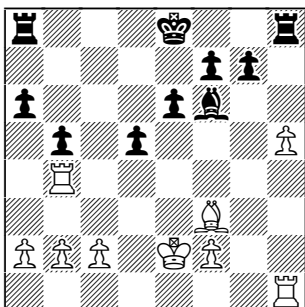


Danger lurks for White **60.Rxb4? Ra5! 0-1**

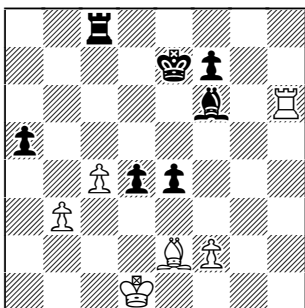
### Lim, Benjamin (1996) – McLaren, Leonard (2210)

A nice game from new co-NZ Champ Leonard McLaren. In my notes I called this game "Capablanca-esque" Perhaps that is a little over the top., but I was struck by the simple way every move seems to flow naturally from the requirements of the position - and I am sure even the humblest

player will be deceived into feeling "Hey - I could play chess like that" after playing through it. 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.g4 h6 7.g5 hxg5 8.Bxg5 Nc6 9.h4 Be7 10.Qd2 a6 11.Be2 Qb6 12.0-0-0 Nxd4 13.Qxd4 Qxd4 14.Rxd4 Bd7 15.h5 Bc6 16.Bf3 Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Bxg5+ 19.Kd1 d5 20.Bf3 Bf6 21.Rb4 b5 22.Ke2



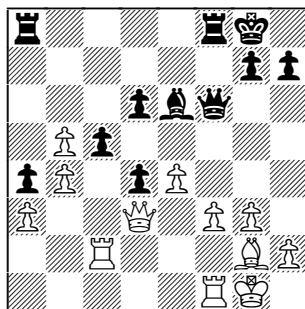
22...Rc8 23.c3 Rc4 24.Rxc4 bxc4 25.Kd2 Ke7 26.Ke2 Kd6 27.Be2 a5 28.b3 cxb3+ 29.axb3 Rc8 30.Rh3 e5 31.h6 gxh6 32.Rxh6 Ke7 33.c4 e4 34.Kd1 d4 One of the fundamental Sicilian ideas is that it makes sense to cultivate your centre pawns.



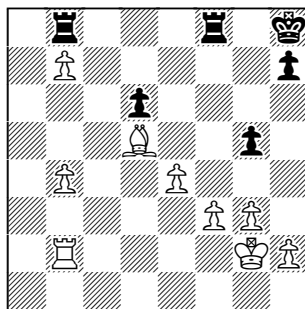
35.Rh5 d3 36.Bg4 Rg8 37.f3 e3 38.Rxa5 e2+ 0-1

## Goodhue, Nathan (2020) – Vincenti, David (2106)

1.c4 e6 2.g3 f5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.e4 fxe4 7.dxe4 e5 8.Be3 Bb4 9.Rc1 d6 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.Rxc3 Ng4 12.f3 Nxe3 13.Rxe3 Be6 14.b3 Nc6 15.Ne2 a5 16.Rc3 Qf6 17.0-0 Nd4 18.Nxd4 exd4 19.Rc2 a4 20.Qd3 c5 21.b4 b5 22.cxb5



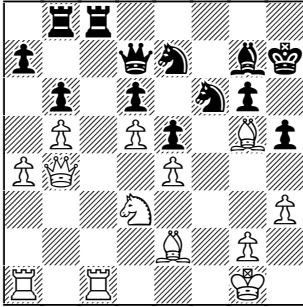
Now Black forces White to make a favourable exchange sacrifice 22...c4?! 23.Rxc4! Bxc4 24.Qxc4+ Kh8 25.Bh3 Qh6 26.Kg2 Qd2+ 27.Rf2 Qe3 28.Bd7 Qxa3 29.Qxd4 Qb3 30.Bc6 Rab8 31.Bd5 Qb1 32.b6 a3 33.b7 Qc1 34.Qd2 Qb1 35.Rf1 Qb2 36.Qxb2 axb2 37.Rb1 g5 38.Rxb2



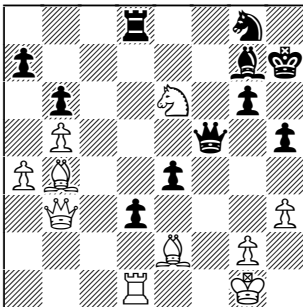
The culmination of White's strategy, Black is quite helpless. 38...Kg7 39.Rc2 Kf6

40.Kf2 Ke5 41.Ke3 h5 42.Rc7 Rbe8  
 43.Bc6 Rb8 44.Bd5 Rbe8 45.h4 gxh4  
 46.f4+ Kf6 47.gxh4 Rd8 48.Kd4 Rfe8  
 49.Rf7+ Kg6 50.f5+ Kh6 51.Be6 Rb8  
 52.Kd5 Red8 53.Rc7 1-0

**Duneas, John (2054) –  
 McNabb, Matthew(2069)**



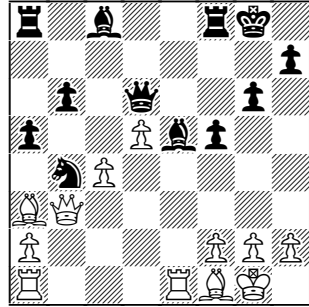
Black tries an interesting but dubious piece sacrifice to obtain a powerful central duo  
 27...Nxd5?! 28.exd5 Nxd5 29.Qb3 Qf5  
 30.Bd2 Ne7 31.Nb4 d5 32.Na6 Rxc1+  
 33.Rxc1 Rd8 34.Bb4 Ng8 35.Nc7 e4  
 36.Rd1 d4 37.Ne6 d3



The pawns are looking scary but White should prevail easily 38.Nxd8? (38.Bxh5! Qxh5 39.Nxd8) 38...dxe2 Black is a rook down but pressure on the d4 and f1 squares

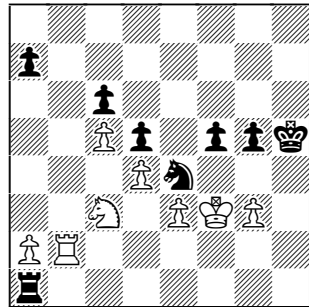
secures a draw 39.Re1 Bd4+ 40.Kh2 Be5+  
 41.Kg1 Bd4+ 42.Kh2 Be5+ ½-½

**Bischoff, Klaus (2490) –  
 Goodhue, Nathan (2020)**

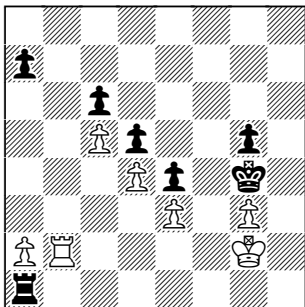


White has a resource sufficient to blow Black away 20.Rxe5! Qxe5 21.Bb2 Qd6  
 22.Qc3 Kf7 23.Qg7+ Ke8 24.Re1+ Kd8  
 25.Be5 Qc5 26.Bc7+! A nice finishing touch, with mate in three 1-0

**Teh, Eu Wen Aron (2300) -  
 Ker, Anthony (2302)**



White is under pressure 48.Nxe4? fxe4+  
 49.Kg2 Kg4

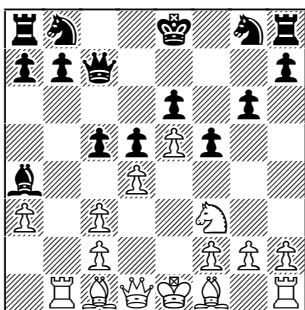


Black now has a winning plan - advance the a pawn to a3 and force a rook exchange with Rb2. White is curiously helpless  
**50.Re2 a5 51.Rb2 a4 52.Re2 a3 53.Rc2 Rb1 54.Re2 Rb2 55.Rf2 Rxf2+ 56.Kxf2 Kh3 57.g4 Kh2 0-1**

**Van Riemsdijk, Herman (2356) – Schmitz, Andreas (2066)**

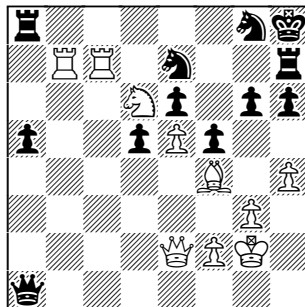
Notes by Herman van Riemsdijk

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Qg4 f5 8.Qh5+ g6 9.Qd1 Bd7 10.Nf3 Ba4 11.Rb1**



An interesting idea trying to stop 11...cxd4  
**11...cxd4 12.Rb4! Qxc3+** Heading into trouble. 12...Bd7 would be more sensible  
**13.Bd2 Qxa3 14.Nxd4 Nc6 15.Bb5! Bxb5 16.Nxb5 Qa2 17.Nd6+ Kf8 18.Rxb7 Nce7**

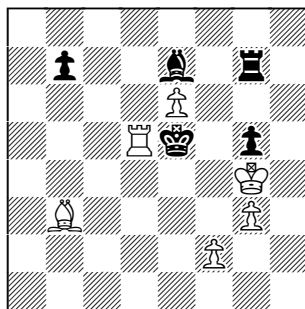
(18...Nge7 19.Bh6+ Kg8 20.0-0±) **19.0-0 h6 20.Qe2** (20.Bc3 is better) **20...Rh7 21.h4 Kg7 22.g3 Kh8 23.Rfb1 Qxc2 24.Rc1 Qa4 25.Rcc7 a5 26.Bf4 Qa1+ 27.Kg2**



(Ed: A Black position only a French addict could love.) **27...g5?!** (27...Qd4 and White has still to do a lot of work) **28.hxg5 hxg5 29.Rc1 Qd4 30.Bxg5 Qg4 31.Qxg4 fxg4 32.Rcc7 a4 33.Bf6+ Nxf6 34.exf6 a3 35.fxg7 a2 36.e8Q+ Rxe8 37.Rxh7+ Kg8 38.Rbg7+ Kf8 39.Rxg4 1-0**

**Drummond, Matthew (2231) - Van Riemsdijk, Herman (2356)**

Notes by Herman van Riemsdijk

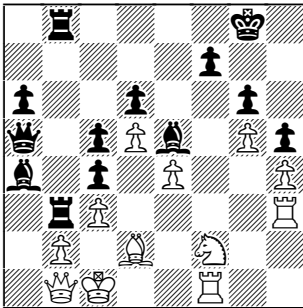


**56...Kxe6! 57.Rxg5+ Kf6 58.Rxg7 Kxg7 59.Kf5 b5** The 'b' pawn makes no

difference at all. Without it, the position is still a draw **60.f4 Bc5 61.Ke5 Bf2 62.g4 Bb6 63.g5 Bc7+ 64.Kf5 Bd6 65.Ke4 Bc7 66.f5 Bd8** Having two accessible squares for the bishop on the h4-d8 diagonal is the essential knowledge needed to play **56...Kxe6 ½-½**

**Li, William Xiang Wei (1935) – Reilly, Tim (2238)**

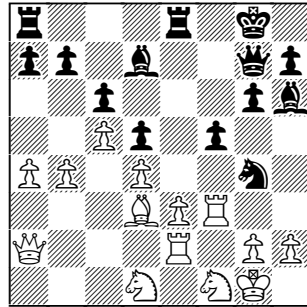
**1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 Nd7 6.h4 h6 7.f3 b5 8.g4 Bb7 9.Nh3 c5 10.d5 Ne5 11.Be2 Nf6 12.Nf2 h5 13.g5 Nfd7 14.f4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 bxc4 16.Rf1 Rb8 17.Ned1 Qc7 18.Nh3 Bc8 19.c3 Ne5 20.fxe5 Bxh3 21.Rh1 Bd7 22.exd6 exd6 23.Nf2 Be5 24.0-0-0 Qa5 25.a3 Rb3 26.Qc2 Ba4 27.Bd2 Rxa3 28.Qb1 Rb3 29.Rh3 0-0 30.Rf1 Rfb8**



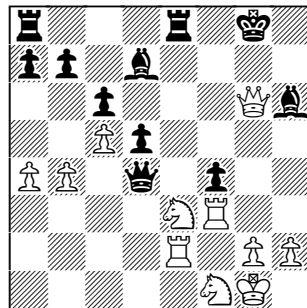
This is close to the ultimate fantasy position for a modern defence player. **31.Nd1 R3b7 32.Qa1 Qb5 33.Rhf3 Qb3 34.Qb1 Qa3 35.Rxf7 Rxf7 36.Rxf7 Kxf7 0-1**

**Krstev, Antonio (2012) – Lauterbach, Ingrid (2089)**

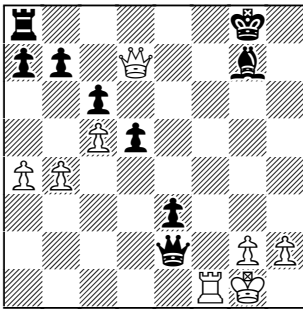
The scene is set for some bewildering complications **22...Nxe3!?** This looks to be decisive as Black gets two pawns immediately and seems to get the piece back as well. **23.Ndxe3 Qxd4 24.Qc2** (The computer keeps the piece cleverly, keeping White in the game **24.Qb2! Qxd3 25.Ng4** winning back a piece since if **25...Qxe2?? 26.Nxh6+ Kf8 27.Qf6#** mate!) **24...f4 25.Bxg6 hxg6 26.Qxg6+**



**26...Bg7?** This lets White back into the game (Again the silicon oracle reveals how to keep material safely via tactical wizardry. After **26...Qg7! 27.Qd3 Qh7** (not **27...fxe3? 28.Rg3**) **28.Nxd5 Qxd3 29.Rxe8+ Bxe8! 30.Nf6+ Kf7 31.Rxd3 Kxf6** Black emerges a safe piece up) **27.Qd6! Rxe3 28.Nxe3 fxe3 29.Qxd7**

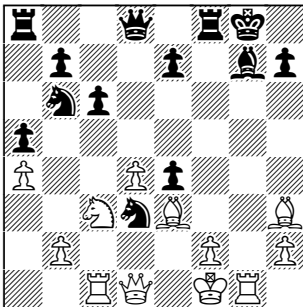


**Qd1+ 30.Rf1 Qxe2**



Surely the dust has settled and Black is a sound piece up? **31.Qe6+** No, White has a perpetual in hand **31...Kh7 32.Qh3+ Bh6?** Which Black unwisely tries to avoid **33.Rf7+! Kg8 34.Qe6!** Now even checks are met by a devastating discovered check **34...Qd3 35.Re7+ 1-0**

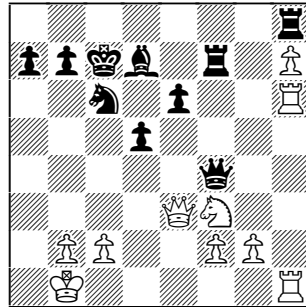
**McNabb, Matthew(2069) – Louie, Ryan (1927)**



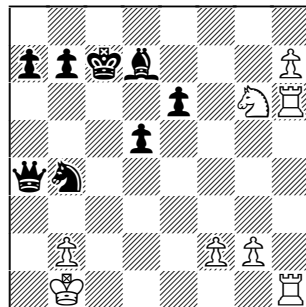
Another complicated position full of interest **17...Nd5?** Allowing White to hit first (Natural and strong is **17...Nxf2 18.Bxf2 e3 18.Be6+ Kh8 19.Nxd5 cxd5 20.Qg4 Rxf2+** Trying to keep active, but this costs too much material **21.Bxf2 Qf8 22.Rc2 Bh6** (if **22...e3 23.Qxg7+! Qxg7**

**24.Rxg7 Kxg7 25.Bxe3** and there is no more excitement, just a piece extra for White in the ending) **23.Qf5 Qe8 24.Rg8+ Qxg8 25.Bxg8 Rxg8 26.Bg3 Rf8** Is this a miracle comeback? **27.Rc8 No 1-0**

**Lee, Edward (2061) - Duneas, John (2054)**



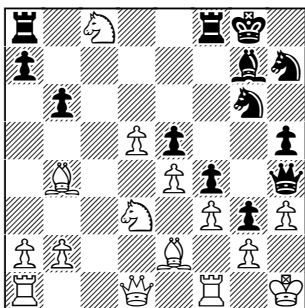
White has played much of the middlegame with a piece deficit but a compelling plan. Promote the 'h' pawn! **37.Ng5?!** This pushes his luck a little far **37...Qxe3 38.Nxf7 Qd2 39.Nxh8 Nb4!** Black gets to fire some shots, just in time **40.Ng6 Qxc2+ 41.Ka1 Qa4+ 42.Kb1**



Is Black happy to draw? **42...e5!** No! This settles matters by blocking any new Queen from defence of b2 **43.Rc1+ Nc6??** Of

course 42...e5 also threatened to add the bishop to the attack and Black doesn't want to give up on that. Nevertheless (43...Bc6! was the right move [it doesn't lose a tempo because moving the Rook to c1 costs White an equivalent tempo since its unfortunate location means White is now threatened by immediate mate] and the Queen and Knight will give mate. eg 44.Rch1 Qc2+ 45.Ka1 Nd3 46.Rb1 Qa4#) **44.Ne7!** Now Black only has the queen left to attack with, just enough to draw. **44...Qe4+ 45.Ka1 Qa4+ 46.Kb1 Qe4+ ½-½**

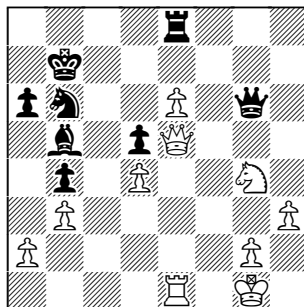
**Aldridge, Alan (1890) -  
Ang, Alphaeus Wei Ern (2009)**



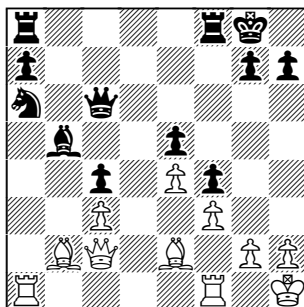
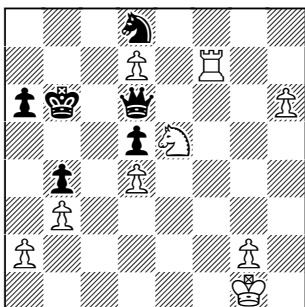
A classic Kings Indian battle is approaching its climax. White has followed the traditional recipe of eliminating Black's light squared bishop. The computer in turn awards White a big plus - initially. However give it a while and it appreciates that Black has other pieces that can make winning sacrificial breakthroughs.... **23... Ng5 24.Ne7+ Nxe7 25.Bxe7 Bf6!** Without this resource Black would be lost, but now White has to give back all his material plus interest in order to avoid Nxh3 followed by mate. **26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Nf2 gxf2 28.Rxf2 Qxf2 29.Rc1 Nf7 30.Rc2 Qg3 31.Bf1 Kh8**

**32.Qc1 Rg8 33.Rc7 Ng5 34.Qc3 Qf2 0-1**

**Zhang, Leo (1908) -  
Gunawan, Boy Reinhard (1980)**



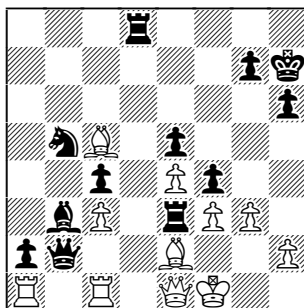
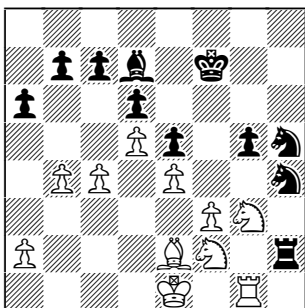
**40...Bd7!?** Seems reasonable - the pawn is pinned, right? **41.exd7?!** Perhaps, but the White decides he doesn't really need his Queen. **41...Rxe5 42.Nxe5 Qd6 43.Rf1 Na8** Initiating a too-slow regrouping. This move illustrates nicely Black's problem - objectively he is okay, but his pieces are stepping on each other's toes while White's smaller force is beautifully co-ordinated and he has an obvious plan. (43...Nc4! is a clever computer resource that would throw something of a spanner in the works) **44.h4! Nc7 45.Rf7** Already Black's position is beyond salvation. **45...Kb6 46.h5 Ne6 47.h6 Nd8**



48.h7! Anyway! 48...Nxf7 49.Nxf7 Qxd7 50.h8Q Qxf7 51.Qb8+ White gets to go first, and together with his extra pawn this is more than sufficient. 51...Ka5 52.Qd6 Qb7 53.Qc5+ Qb5 54.Qxb5+ Kxb5 55.Kf2 Kc6 56.Kf3 Kd6 57.Kf4 1-0

The next phase of this game features an amazingly comprehensive infiltration by Black 25.Ba3 Ba4 26.Qa2 Bb3 27.Qd2 Rfd8 28.Qe1 Nc7 29.Bd1 a5 30.Rb1 a4 31.Qf2 Nb5 32.Bb4 h6 33.Re1 Rd3 34.Be2 Re3 35.Rec1 a3 36.Ra1 Kh7 37.Qf1 a2 38.g3 Rd8 39.Qe1 Qd7 40.Kg1 Qd2 41.Kf1 Qb2 42.Bc5

**Hielscher, Ursula (1845) - Timergazi, Layla (1932)**



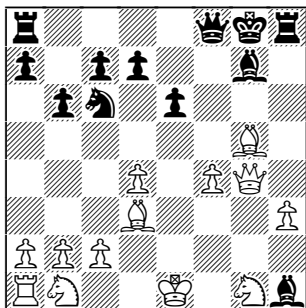
Black wins a piece in an unusual way 30...Rg2 31.Rxg2 Nxd2+ 32.Kf1 Ne3+ 33.Kg1 Nxd3 34.Bd3 and Black won

42...Rxe2! A nice finishing touch 43.Qxe2 Rd2 44.Qe1 Rxe2 45.Bf2 fxe3 0-1

**Burke, Matthew(1833) - Maris, Robert (1895)**

**Picken, Oliver (1505) - Cooper, Nigel M (1714)**  
1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 f5?! Nigel Davies in 'Gambiteer 1': "If 3...e6 was quite a good move, and 3...Nf6 bad, then this one is the ugly". Davies gives 3...f5 a ? and claims essentially a forced win for White.

However another point of view is that this sort of thing is great fun and isn't what the game should be about at amateur level? I think Nigel Cooper deserves credit for playing a variety of interesting openings in this tournament. **4.exf5 Bxg2 5.Qh5+ g6 6.fxg6 Bg7 7.gxh7+** The most common and according to the computer the best move (Davies claims the obscure **7.Qf5** is winning and quotes Jansen-Salil Correspondence 1990) **7...Kf8 8.hxg8Q+** Also the most common move, although now the computer recommends **8.Nf3!** as winning, and this move does indeed score very heavily in the database. **8...Kxg8 9.Qg4 Bxh1 10.h3** The first new move **10...e6 11.Bg5 Qf8 12.f4 Nc6**

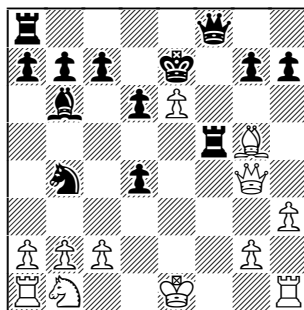


A charmingly chaotic situation **13.f5?** Premature, Black now takes over completely **13...exf5 14.Bc4+? d5 15.Qg3 dxc4 16.Nc3 Re8+ 17.Kd2 Nxd4 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.Rd1 Qd6 20.Bf4 Qb4+ 21.Qc3 Qxc3+ 22.bxc3 Nb5 23.Kc1 Nxc3 24.Rd2 Nxa2+ 25.Kb1 Nc3+ 26.Kc1 Re1+ 27.Kb2 Ne4+ 28.c3 Bxc3+ 0-1** While we are discussing fun filled openings ...

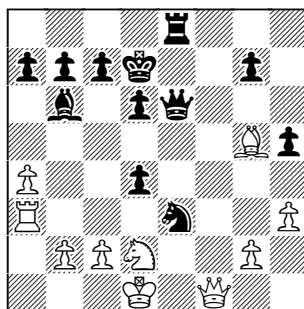
**Turner, Justin (1434) - Fuatai, Fuatai (2004)**

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5!?**

The Wilkes-Barre or Traxler Variation a minefield for the unwary. **5.Bxf7+** Both captures on f7 are possible **Ke7 6.Bd5 d6 7.h3!?** (7.c3! Has scored very well in this position) **7...Rf8 8.f4 Nxd5 9.exd5 Nb4 10.d4 Bb6 11.Ne6 Bxe6 12.dxe6 exd4 13.f5 Rxf5 14.Qg4 Qf8 15.Bg5+**

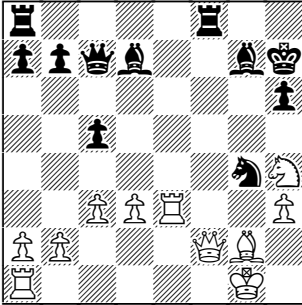


**15...Kxe6!** Black's king is the hero of this game **16.Kd1 h5 17.Re1+ Kd7 18.Re7+ Qxe7 19.Qxf5+ Qe6 20.Qb5+ Nc6 21.Qf1 Re8 22.Nd2 Nb4 23.a4 Nd5 24.Ra3 Ne3+**



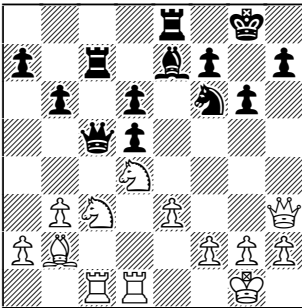
Centralisation wins the day **25.Bxe3 dxe3 26.Ne4 Qxe4 27.Qf7+ Re7 0-1**

**Holdaway, Steven (1387) - Brockway, Andrew (1727)**



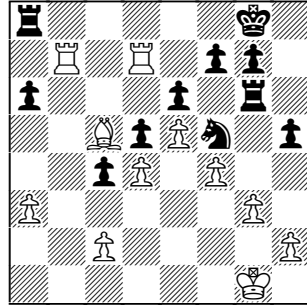
Black should win **27.Be4+ Kg8 28.Bd5+ Kh7?** (There is no need to fear **28...Kh8!** **29.Ng6+ Kh7 30.Nxf8+ Rxf8** and Black is still winning material) **29.Be4+ Kg8** ½–½

**McRae, John (1133) -  
Braganza, Nadia (1334)**



Papatoetoe stalwart John McRae has a field day with his knights **22.Ncb5!** wins a rook **22...Qb4 23.Nxc7 Rf8 24.Nc6** wins a bishop **24...Qe4 25.Rd4 Qf5 26.Nxe7+** wins a queen **26...Kg7 27.Nxf5+ Kg8 28.Nh6+ Kg7 29.Rxd5 Rd8 30.Ng4 Rf8 31.Bxf6+** 1–0

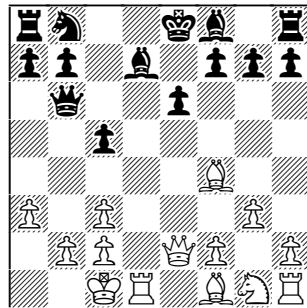
**Hague, Ben (2317) -  
Croad, Nicholas (2254)**



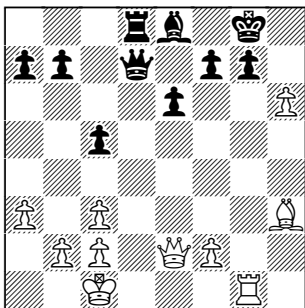
Sometimes blind pigs are not enough. At first sight this position looks promising for White, but in fact the superb Black knight ensures complete security despite the seventh rank rooks **30...h4 31.Rxf7 hgx3 32.h3?** Understandable but completely fatal **32...Nh4!** And White has no good defence to **Nf3+ g2** and **g1=Q** 0–1

**Zelesco, Karl (2210) -  
Smith, Robert (2233)**

The young Australian Karl Zelesco had a great tournament, cutting a swathe through the great and the good of NZ chess. **1.e4 c5 2.a3!?** An early departure from routine **2...Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 Nxc3 5.dxc3 d5 6.exd6 Qxd6 7.Qe2 e6 8.g3 Bd7 9.Bf4 Qb6** 10.0–0–0

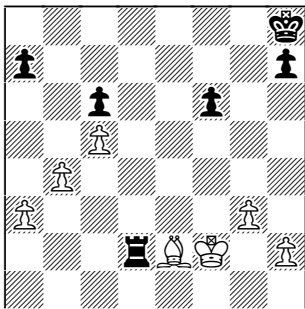


Signalling aggressive intent. Queenside castling usually signals a race, a surprisingly one-sided one on this occasion **10...Bc6 11.Nf3 Be7 12.h4 Nd7 13.Bh3 0-0 14.h5 Rad8 15.Rhe1 Nf6 16.Rxd8 Rxd8 17.Ne5 Be8 18.g4** Having established a firm grip on the centre, White's pawns advance with gain of time - on the other wing Black never gets close to firing a shot **18...h6 19.g5 20.Bxg5 Qd6 21.Rg1 Nd7 22.Bxe7 Qxe7 23.Nxd7 Qxd7 24.h6!**



The decisive breach **24...Qd5** (24...g6? allows 25.Rxg6+! and wins) **25.Rxg7+ Kh8 26.Rg1 Bc6 27.f4 Qe4 28.Qg4 Qh7 29.Qg5 1-0**

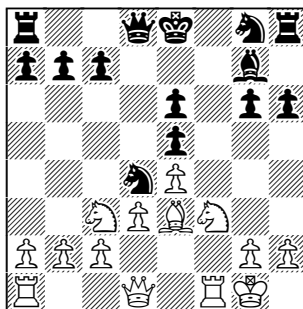
**Timergazi, Layla (1932) -  
Vincenti, David (2106)**



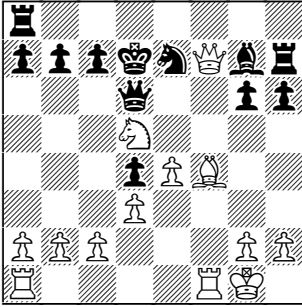
Black has won exchange for pawn and seems to be in fine shape for the ending, but all is not as it seems **34.Ke3 Ra2 35.b5! Rxa3+ 36.Kd4 exb5?** (Black can and should take a draw **36...Ra4+ 37.Ke3 Ra3+** with a repetition) **37.Bxb5** That old familiar sinking feeling - how do I stop this pawn? Sadly you don't **37...Ra2 38.c6 Rd2+ 39.Bd3! Rd1 40.e7 1-0**

**Rains, Edward (1973) -  
Jackson, Ross (1927)**

**1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.f4 d6 4.Nf3 e5 5.fxe5 dxe5 6.Bc4 Be6 7.Bxe6 fxe6 8.d3 h6 9.Be3 Nc6 10.0-0 Nd4**



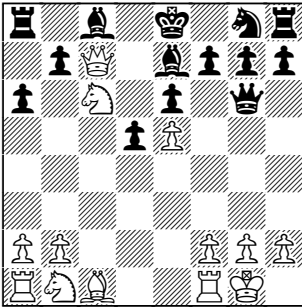
**11.Nxd4!** Black presumably thought this would cost a piece, but... **11...exd4 12.Qg4!** ...squashes that hope - White generates a series of stronger threats that render the fork irrelevant. **12...Ne7 13.Qxe6 Rh7 14.Nd5 Qd6 15.Qf7+ Kd7 16.Bf4!**



A final precise move, for a second time removing a piece from the fork with tempo - Black is now faced with ruinous material losses 1-0

**Williams, Doug (1754) - Yan, Caroline (1557)**

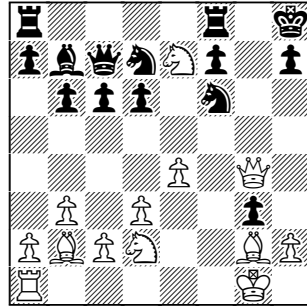
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Qg4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bd3 Qc7 7.Qg3 Nb4 8.0-0 Nxc2 9.Bxc2 Qxc2 10.Nxd4 Qg6 11.Qc3 a6 12.Qc7 Be7 13.Nc6!



An unusual move creating an unusual position. Black is almost paralysed, and White threatens the bizarre follow-up Nb8! winning material 13...Qe4! Meeting the threat 14.Nb8? Unfortunately this is now a fatal error 14...Qc4 And instead it is Black that wins material! 15.Nxa6 Rxa6 and

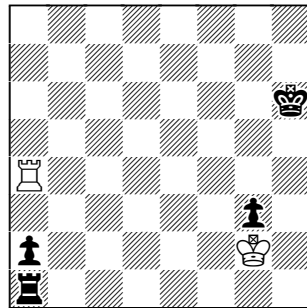
Black won.

**Holdaway, Steven (1387) - Steadman, Mathew (1103)**



16.Qxd7! gxh2+ (of course 16...Qxd7 17. Bxf6 is mate) 17.Kxh2 Kg7 18.Bxf6+ Kxf6 19.Qxc7 Rab8 20.Qxd6+ Kg7 21.Nf5+ Kh8 22.Qf6+ 1-0

**Brockway, Andrew (1727) - Huang, Alex (2035)**

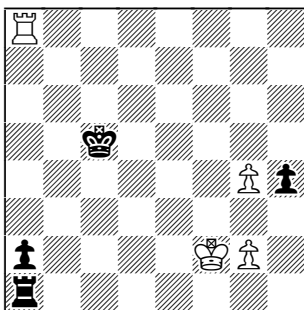
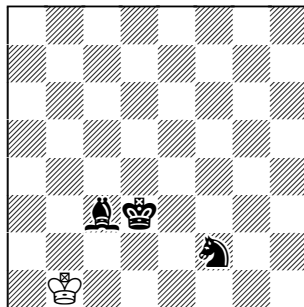


Illustrating one of Dr Tarrasch's dictums "All rook endings are drawn". A slight exaggeration perhaps, but in this case Black keeps both pawns but can make no progress. Andrew insists he had been knowingly heading to this book draw

53.Ra5 Kg6 54.Ra8 Kf5 55.Ra4 Ke5  
56.Ra8 Kd4 ½-½

**Zhu, Karl Kai (1689) -  
Milligan, Helen (1968)**

This position from later in the tournament is a nice counterpoint to the previous position. A key idea in these positions is that g2 and h2 are inherently safe squares for the White king. On other ranks Black gets a rook check giving time to queen. And on f2,e2 or d2 Black has a skewer trick as demonstrated by Helen here.



46...h3 Worth a crack 47.gxh3? (47.Kg3!  
Heading for the safe squares with a draw)  
47...Rh1! winning 48.Ra5+ Kb6 49.Rxa2  
Rh2+ and Black won

**Strange but true:** *The title of the iconic Kiwi rock song 'April Sun in Cuba' by Dragon was inspired by the 1921 Capablanca-Lasker title match in Havana.*

**Maris, Fred(1519) -  
Fan, Allen Chi Zhou (1816)**

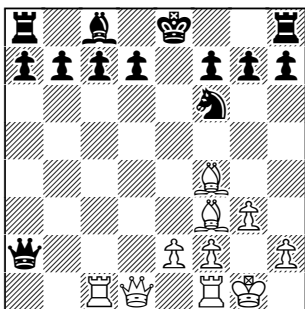
The concluding stages of a great struggle, Black has to mate on his 126th move or earlier to avoid a 50 move rule draw 114...Be5 115.Ka2 Kc4 116.Ka3 Nd3 117.Ka4 Bc3 118.Ka3 Bb4+ 119.Ka2 (Not the tempting 119.Ka4? Nb2#!) 119...Kc3 120.Ka1 Kb3 121.Kb1 Ba3 122.Ka1 Nb4 123.Kb1 Nd5 124.Ka1 Bb2+ 125.Kb1 Nc3# One spare move in reserve! Allen earned GM Chandler's praise for his skill and Fred earned both praise and a book prize for the good sportsmanship he displayed in congratulating his opponent warmly. 0-1. Incidentally the regular upset and novelty book-prizes were a nice feature of the tournament. Most memorable perhaps was Gary Judkins' prize for innovative attempted castling (he used his queen instead of his king) [this was in the rapid] and a joint award to 12 year old sisters Sarah and Caroline Yan for the neatest scoresheets. The person who mocked this latter prize on the internet has probably never suffered through an attempt to decipher a Ross Jackson (to name just one serial offender) scoresheet.

Amazingly enough the fundamental bishop and knight mate came up twice in the tournament. On the second occasion the

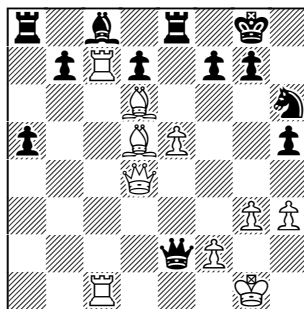
possessor of the pieces did not seem to know that it was necessary to drive the bare king to a corner of the same colour as his bishop. So the game inevitably ended in a draw. According to Wikipedia (so you can definitely take this to the bank) about one in five thousand games ends this way, so twice in five hundred games is rather remarkable.

### Howell, David (2670) - Zelesco, Karl (2210)

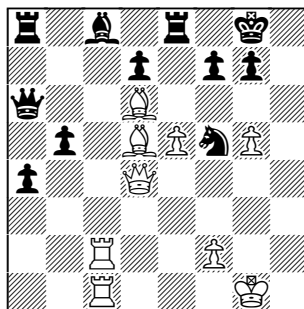
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.g3 Nd4  
5.Bg2 Nxf3+ 6.Bxf3 Bb4 7.d4 A rather  
rare move, Qb3 is much more common.  
7...Qe7 8.dxe5 Qxe5 9.0-0!? Bxc3  
10.bxc3 Qxc3?! The first step down a  
perilous path 11.Bf4 Qxc4 Black fearlessly  
grabs everything on offer but White gets a  
huge development lead 12.Rc1 Qxa2



13.Rxc7 0-0 14.Bd6 Re8 15.Qd4 a5 The  
optimism of youth - Black only needs  
another 5 moves to make a second queen!  
Admittedly it is hard to suggest a better  
plan. 16.e4 h5 17.e5 Ng4 18.h3 Nh6  
19.Bd5 Qe2 20.Rfc1

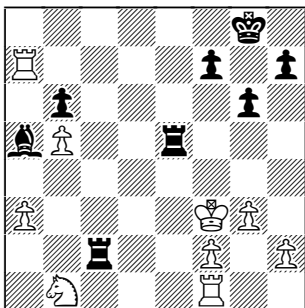


A rather striking picture. Fortunately for  
Black's morale at this stage, he had no way  
of knowing that White has been reeling off  
a string of first choice computer moves  
throughout the middlegame! (amazingly  
this streak continues to the very end of the  
game!) For some time now the computer  
has been signalling a winning advantage  
for White 20...a4 21.R7c2 Qa6 22.g4 hxg4  
23.hxg4 b5 24.g5 Nf5



Another diagram please! 25.g6! The  
concluding phase begins with a Queen  
sacrifice (that can't be accepted) 25...Re6  
26.gxf7+ Kxf7 27.Qf4 Kg6 28.Be4 1-0

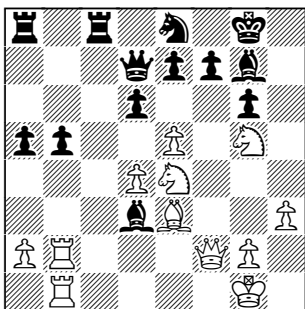
**Croad, Nicholas (2254) -  
Zhao, Xue (2514)**



**30...Be1!** A nice manoeuvre to win material -the knight is surrounded and cut off  
**31.Rd7 Rc1 32.Kf4 Re6 33.Nc3 Rxc3 34.Rd1 Bxf2 0-1**

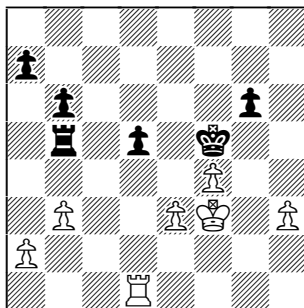
**Eade, Don (1858) -  
Reilly, Tim (2238)**

Giant killer Don Eade claims a nice scalp



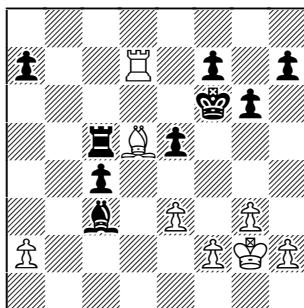
White has sacrificed for the attack  
**27...Qf5? 28.Qh4!** Now the sacrifice is fully justified **28...Bxb1 29.Rxb1 dxe5 30.Rf1** Winning the Queen and eventually the game. **30...Qxf1+ 31.Kxf1 Nf6 32.dxe5 Nxe4 33.Qxe4** and White won

**Power, Wayne (1926) -  
Barry, Jacob (965)**



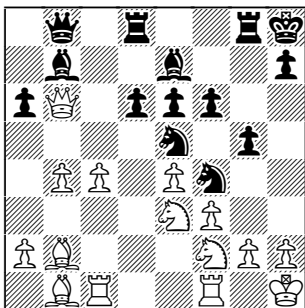
White to play and win **34.Rxd5+! Rxd5 35.e4+ Ke6 36.exd5+ Kxd5** and White won easily

**Bischoff, Klaus (2490) -  
Howell, David (2670)**



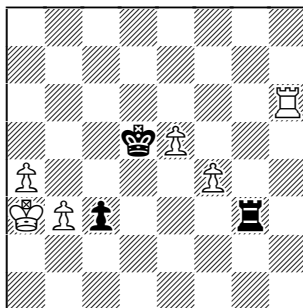
A catastrophic mistake from the tournament favourite **36...Bb2?** (36...e4! =)  
**37.Rxf7+ Kg5 38.h4+ Kh6 39.Be4!** Sealing off any possible escape **39...c3 40.g4 c2** Black sportingly plays on to allow White to demonstrate the logical conclusion **41.g5+ Kh5 42.Rxh7+ Kg4 43.f3# 1-0**

**Dive, Russell (2315) -  
Drummond, Matthew (2231)**

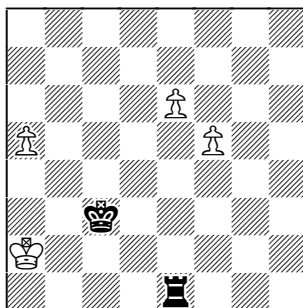


The scene is set for one of the most striking moves of the tournament **23...Nxf3!!** Impressively (or is it disturbingly), Houdini finds this brilliant shot instantaneously. After the game Russell vividly described the unpleasant feeling of being hit by a move like this with less than 3 minutes on the clock! He didn't panic and quickly recognised two key points. 1) The impudent knight is not actually attacking anything. 2) White still has material equality because he was previously a pawn up. **24.c5!** (If 24.gxf3 Bxe4 wins material because eg 25.Qxb8? Bxf3+ 26.Kg1? Ne2# is mate) **24...dxc5** Opening the b8-h2 diagonal means the knight on f3 now is threatening something.... **25.bxc5?** After playing this move Russell noticed he had missed something big and had to practise his poker face (25.Nfg4! Combining defence and attack keeps White afloat) **25...Nd2?** (Relief for Russell, Black misses the simple 25...Nd5! winning the queen cold) **26.Rfd1 Nxb1 27.Rxb1 Qa8 28.Qc7** (28.Qxb7! is a clever computer tactic) **28...Bxe4? 29.Nxe4 1-0**

**Croad, Nicholas (2254) -  
Reilly, Tim (2238)**



White has three extra pawns but Black's ideally placed units provide good practical chances **52...Rg1 53.Rh2 Kc5 54.Ka2 Rd1 55.Rc2?** After this White can only draw (55.Rh8! It's easy if you have a computer to do the heavy lifting) **55...Kb4 56.e6 Rd2 57.Kb1?** Now White is even losing (57.Rxd2 cxd2 58.e7 d1Q 59.e8Q Qc2+ draw) **57...Kxb3 58.Rxc3+ Kxc3 59.f5 Re2** Stopping White achieving two abreast passers on the sixth, which beat a rook. **60.a5 Re1+ 61.Ka2**

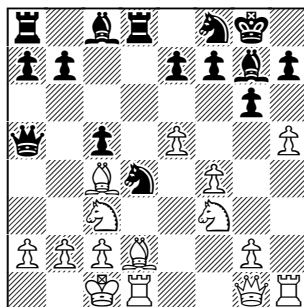


Now Tim sank into thought with about 5 minutes available to find a win. I must admit as I watched this play out I somehow imagined White was still the side with

winning chances. **61...Re2+** (GM Chandler was also watching and of course he very quickly worked out the win for Black. **61...Re5!** Simply capturing the f pawn - the rook can cope with two advanced passers if they are not connected **62.a6 Rxf5 63.e7 Ra5+ 64.Kb1 Rb5+ 65.Ka2 Rb8 66.a7 Ra8) 62.Kb1 Re1+ 63.Ka2 Re2+ ½-½**

### Howell, David(2670) - Van Riemsdijk, Herman (2356)

**1.e4 d6** Herman seeks a sharp battle, on the basis that this approach will give him better practical chances than a long term positional game, especially with the Black pieces. The Pirc defence is Herman's third system, but he plays **1...e5** and **1...c5** much more often so this way he hopes to avoid his opponent's preparation. **2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Qd4 0-0 8.Bd2** In NZ Chess January 2014, Scott Wastney presents an article on this **7.Qd4** variation which he calls 'The Pirc Buster'. Scott considers **8.cxd6** to be the main move here, he does mention **8.Bd2**, and awards it a !? without further analysis. **8...dxc5 9.Qg1!** Interestingly, Herman reveals that he noticed the computer recommending this strong novelty in his preparation. David spent approximately 15 minutes on the move, so presumably it was an over the board inspiration in his case **9...Nc6 10.e5 Nd7 11.h4 Rd8 12.0-0-0 Nf8 13.Bc4 Nd4 14.h5**



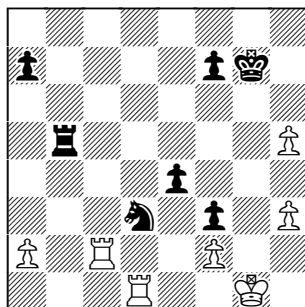
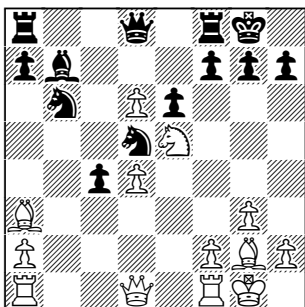
**14...b5?** A blunder (unfortunately Herman talked himself out of **14...Be6!** a much better move. White is better, but with David already down to 1 minute 30 Black would have good practical chances) **15.Nxd4 Rxd4** (Black also loses material after **15...cxd4 16.Nd5 Qa6 17.Nxe7+ Kh8 18.Bxf7) 16.Nxb5 Qa4 17.Nxd4 Qxc4 18.Nc6 Ne6 19.Kb1 Kf8 20.Bc3 Qe4 21.Qxc5** (A nice concluding touch **21.Qxc5 Nxc5 22.Rd8#) 1-0**

### Zhao, Xue (2514) - Sukandar, Irine (2392)

A full blooded battle from the penultimate round.

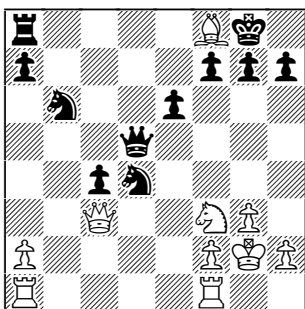
**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 Be7 6.b3 0-0 7.Bb2 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.d4 Nd7 10.e4** (Normally White plays **10.Nbd2** here) **10...N5f6 11.e5 Nd5 12.Nbd2 c5 13.Nc4 b5 14.Nd6 Bxd6 15.exd6 c4 16.bxc4 bxc4 17.Ne5 N7b6 18.Ba3**

**There will be plenty more Congress coverage, hopefully including the Rapid and Blitz, in the April issue of NZ Chess**



Play has become very sharp. **18...Nc3 19.Qe1 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nb5 21.Bc5 Nxd6 22.Qb4 Nf5 23.Bxf8 Qd5+ 24.Nf3 Nxd4 25.Qc3**

Black has never stopped attacking, and the octopus on d3 now ensures full equality **44.Kh2 Rxh5 45.Rxd3 exd3 46.Rd2 Rg5 47.h4 Rg2+ 48.Kh3 Kg6 49.a3 f5 50.Rxd3 Rxf2 51.Kg3 Rg2+ 52.Kxf3 Rg4 53.Rd6+ ½-½**



Black can restore approximate material equality with **...Qxf3+ 25...e5** ...but prefers to keep things complex whilst playing a rook down for the foreseeable future **26.Rfe1 Na4 27.Qa3 c3 28.Re3 Rxf8 29.Qxa4 g5 30.h3 h5 31.Rxc3** Now Black does get a piece back (31.g4! and White should win) **31...g4 32.Qc4 gxf3+ 33.Kh2 Qxc4 34.Rxc4 Rb8 35.Rc7 Rb2 36.Kg1 Ne2+ 37.Kf1 h4 38.gxh4 Nf4 39.Rac1 Nd3 40.R7c2 Rb6 41.Rd1 e4 42.h5 Kg7 43.Kg1 Rb5**

## Chess History – A Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I enclose my game against Dave Lynch of Hastings in the 1958 North Island Chess Championship in my home town of New Plymouth. The game was published in the first issue of Ted Frost's "Chess News".

Chess News introduced the game thus: "First surprise of the tournament came early, when one of the younger brigade, R.B. Hosking, won from the former NZ champion D.I. Lynch, who embarked on a small combination to win a pawn, then suddenly found himself threatened with the loss of Queen or mate."

I couldn't locate the game recently but my friend Frank Hutchings of Sydney was able to help. Frank is married to Diana (C.J.S. Purdy's daughter).

Frank and I became friends when he came (as a boarder) to New Plymouth Boys' High School in 1953. We would have him over on Saturdays for the evening meal after which he and I would go into the sitting room and play chess.

Frank and I were two of the eight competitors in the final of the NZ Schoolboys Chess Championship in Christchurch in September 1953. Frank became the champion with Neil Cruden (Avondale College, Auckland) second and eleven year old Rodney Phillips (Wesley Intermediate, Auckland) third.

I enclose a photo of the competitors:



Back row; Prof. Darwin, R.B. Hosking, F.P. Hutchings, F.N. Bourke, Tom Phillips (Rodney's father)  
 Front row: C.L. Berry, D. Lorking, J.R. Phillips, N.B. Cruden, K.M. Steele

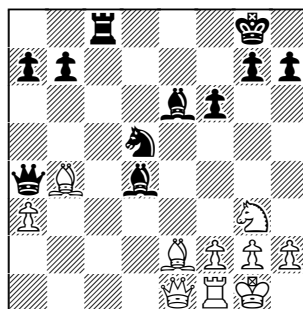
Returning to the subject of the 1958 North Island Championship, Frank also took part – in fact he stayed with us.

So here is the game against Dave Lynch.

### Hosking, RB – Lynch, David

North Island Chp New Plymouth (1),  
 12.05.1958

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0  
 5.Nge2 c5 6.dxc5 Qc7 7.a3 Bxc5 8.Ng3  
 Nc6 9.Be2 Rd8 10.0-0 d5 11.cxd5 exd5  
 12.Bd2 Qe7 13.b4 d4 14.exd4 Bxd4  
 15.Rc1 Be6 16.Qe1 Rac8 17.Na4 Qd7  
 18.Bf4 Nd5 19.Bg5 f6 20.Bd2 Nxb4?  
 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Bxb4 Qxa4



23.Bb5! 1-0

I was pleased with my final move in this game but the real credit belongs to the wonderful game of chess which contains the potential for such positions and moves.

“Chess News” described me then as “one of the younger brigade” but in December 2014 it will be my 78<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Russell Hosking  
 Henderson

# ***The Chekhover Variation against the Sicilian Defence*** *by FM Scott Wastney*

## **Introduction**

**I**t's been a struggle to write this article. I had even hoped that each of the NZ Championship winners would annotate one of their games, thereby filling the magazine and the editor would let me know there was no room for my article this issue (Ed: The Wastney-esque humour went over my head initially – I hope the reader is not so slow). The reason for this struggle is my original idea was to take an opening and provide just the right amount of digestible information to prepare for an opponent. The preparation time available would be no more than an hour. To make this scenario work, the opponent would have to be predictable. And to make this of interest to most readers, it would have to be a very common opening.

I wanted to base the article in some way on my own experience, and I had a game in mind that I thought would be good to use. It was a Wellington Club game, my opponent was Arthur Pomeroy a very experienced player around the 2100 mark. I had the White pieces. For those who know Arthur, it is either going to be a King's Indian if you play 1.d4 or a Sicilian Najdorf if you play 1.e4.

Some background to the game: In the past

three games against Arthur as White I faced the Sicilian Najdorf and in each game I played the same variation. To continue down this path felt like hitting my head against a brick wall - he would, of course, be even better prepared than last time we met. My first thought was to choose another main line - but this would take some work, especially considering my opponent has great experience in this opening.

I don't remember if it was laziness or being too busy, but for whatever reason I decided not to play another main line, but find something uncommon that I could prepare really quickly. I don't even know how I decided on 4.Qxd4, which I now know is called the Chekhover variation. I knew nothing more than it was rarely played. I guess I was just looking at what were the options to deviate early in the opening. A quick database search revealed it has been used recently by elite players such as Carlsen, Karjakin and Nakamura. And the statistics looked good. Repeating a database search now for the years 2000 to 2014 gives the stats as 40% win for White, 29% draw and 31% win for Black. Comparing this with 4.Nxd4, which is played 20 times more often, and has the stats 39% win for White, 28% draw, 33% win for Black. So, purely from a statistical point of view White can have the expectation to score just as well as the main line.

Just having this idea made me enthusiastic about the upcoming game. I spent about an hour preparing for the game, but before I go too far into fooling you into thinking that this was a model example of opening

preparation - I should state straight away that it probably wasn't. In hindsight I don't think I was so well prepared. But I also don't think I could have done better in the time available. My conclusion now is that in order to be more flexible in playing different chess openings it is important to have a wide knowledge of playing against different pawn structures. The Chekhover variation often leads to the Maroczy Bind pawn structure. This is the name given to the pawn structure, where White has pawns on c4 and e4 (and White's d-pawn and Black's c-pawn have been exchanged, as in the Sicilian Defence).

After I had come to this conclusion, I found it interesting to read what Simen Adgestein (Magnus Carlsen's coach at the time) had to say when a young Magnus Carlsen played the Chekhover variation:

*“A varied repertoire is especially important for all ambitious players. One advantage is that it becomes more difficult for future opponents to prepare themselves when meeting you, but learning new things is even more important and a good reason not to linger too long in the same old openings.”*

Here is my game against Arthur.

### **Scott Wastney – Arthur Pomeroy, Wellington Chess Club 2013**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6**

This was very annoying at the time! In my preparation I was engrossed in the variations arising from 4...Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7

6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Nc3 Nf6 8.Bg5 e6 9.0-0-0 leading to a sharp position with opposite side castling. This occupied a good 90% of my preparation time. When it came to 4...a6, I dismissed this very quickly thinking it would be a Maroczy Bind type position leading to a positional style of game that I could work out during the game. My attitude was “she'll be right, and let's get back to the sharper stuff after 4...Nc6”. Was this a mistake? My initial conclusion was that it was. But later I changed my mind and decided that understanding these positional type of games takes more time and it would be best to study a wider range of pawn structures during general chess study, and not leave it to just before the game. If there is limited time available before a game, then it is logical to spend the time concentrating on the sharper variations. I leave this as something for the reader to think about.

**5.h3 Nc6 6.Qe3 g6 7.Be2 Bg7 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Rd1**

A tempting move order, since 9...0-0 can be met by 10.e5!? But in hindsight I would have preferred 9.c4 0-0 10.Nc3 Nd7 11.Rb1 since now 11...Nc5? can now be met with 12.b4 and when White is better. This line (11.Rb1) is the main line, which for example occurred in Magnus Carlsen – Gawain Jones, London International 2012.

**9...0-0 10.c4**

Upon arriving here I wasn't satisfied with my original intention as 10.e5 Ne8 didn't seem to lead to much after all.

**10...Nd7**

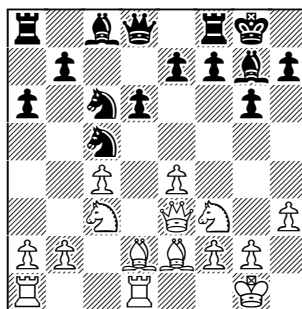
This is the main move in this opening line. I can sum up Black's idea by quoting something from FIDE trainer's syllabus from a course I recently attended. Grandmaster Adrian Mikhalchishin talking about trainer's common mistakes gives a story about poor opening choices: "Recently I've been preparing a girl for the Junior World Championship, who plays the notorious 'Accelerated Dragon'. Remembering my own junior experience (I also misused that opening), I wondered what she would play against the Maroczy Bind. As an answer I heard such nonsense that really shocked me. She had no preparation at all (actually I fought the desire to prohibit her to play that variation forever) so I had to show her the easiest and most comprehensive scheme of counter-play, which deals with the destabilization of the centre after ...f5. The best plan for Black here is to play on the dark squares, but even the pedagogical skill of Pestalozzi wouldn't be able to explain that to a ten-year old girl."

Also during this FIDE Trainers course someone kindly give me a book of Bent Larsen's games. Bent Larsen was a famous grandmaster from the past who liked playing the Maroczy Bind structure, usually arising from the Accelerated Dragon. Not such a coincidence you say? But the book's original owner's name was written on the inside cover - Arthur Pomeroy!

### 11.Nc3 Nc5

And because of my move order (putting my Rook d1 instead of Rook to b1) I am no longer ready to meet 11...Nc5 with 12.b4.

### 12.Bd2



### 12...Rb8

This is the first new move according to my database, and perfectly reasonable. 12...f5 13.exf5 Bxf5 has happened in a couple games, but so have 12...b6, 12...a5, 12...Bd7, 12...Be6 and 12...e5. To illustrate what type of position this is, I ran a chess engine for a while. The result: there are 16 Black moves that Houdini 4 still assesses the position as equal, and even another 11 Black moves when the assessment would only be slightly better for White. Conclusion: this is a position where plans matter more than individual moves.

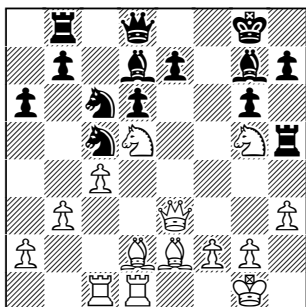
### 13.Rac1 Bd7 14.b3 f5 15.exf5 Rxf5?!

Here I think Black should play 15...Bxf5, but Arthur presumably couldn't bring himself to lose a tempo by moving the bishop again.

### 16.Nd5 Rh5?

In the last couple of moves Arthur has gone a bit a crazy with this rook lift.

### 17.Ng5!



Now White is clearly better. The game continued **17...Bd4 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.Qxe7 Nxe7 20.Bxh5 gxh5 21.Bf4 Bf6 22.Rxd6 Rf8 23.b4 Nf5 24.bxc5 Nxd6 25.cxd6 Bb2 26.Rb1 Rxf4 27.Rxb2 Rd4 28.c5 Bc6 29.Rc2 a5 30.Ne6 Rd5 31.Nd8 Kf8 32.Re2 Bb5 33.Re7 b6 34.Ne6+ Kg8 35.cxb6 Rxd6 36.b7 Rb6 37.Rg7+ Kh8 38.Rc7 Be8 39.Nc5 1-0**

After the game, my thinking was that it would be better to have Rb1 included instead of Rd1 in the position after White's 11<sup>th</sup> move. Then 11...a5 12.Rfd1 Nc5 13.b3!? when 13...Bxc3 14.Qxc3 Nxe4 gives White play on the dark squares for the pawn ie 15.Qe3 Nc5 16.Nd4 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Bf5 18.Rb2 f6 19.Bf3 and Houdini considers this position equal. Instead if Black plays 13...f5 then White is just in time to complete his development with 14.Bb2 when 14...fxe4 can be met with 15.Ng5! with a slight advantage for White.

Actually my move order (including Rd1) is good and played by strong grandmasters. I could even have played 12.Rb1!? not fearing 12...Bxc3 13.bxc3 Nxe4 (Black doesn't need to play this capture, and could

instead play against White's weakened pawn structure, although White has compensation with play on the dark squares) 14.Qxe4 Bf5 15.Qh4 Bxb1 16.Ng5 h5 17.Be3 Bf5 18.g4 and White has a strong attack, and Black's best defence is to give material back with 18...Qc8 19.gxf5 Qxf5. White has two bishops for a rook and two pawns, which is roughly balanced but for now White's minor pieces are very active making it a difficult position for Black to play.

This was a learning experience for me in the Maroczy Bind structure.

## Theoretical Section

I have given up my original aim of providing all the information in a concise way for you to quickly and confidently be ready to play this opening. Instead the article has evolved into a summary of the Chekhover variation. Rather than overwhelm the reader with a lot of variations, my intention is to introduce the opening through two Tabiya positions. I hope some readers find the opening appeals to them and they go on to research it further. But if not, hopefully my general thoughts on preparing ends up being useful for some of the readership.

White has two general types of positions: One with rapid development and opposite side castling. Alternatively the game could go into a Maroczy Bind structure with White pawns on c4 and e4.

Here are the main variations (and the frequency with which they occur):



**12.h4 Rfc8 13.f4 b5?? 14.e5+**— Opening up lines to h7, meaning Black can never play Bxg5 and therefore will lose material. **14...b4** (14...dxe5 15.fxe5 Nd5 16.Nxc6 Rxc6 17.Nxd5 Bxg5+ 18.hxg5 exd5 19.Qxh7+-) **15.Nxc6** [15.Nb3! Qb6 (15...Qc7 16.exf6 bxc3 17.fxe7 f6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Qxc3+-) 16.exf6 gxf6 (16...bxc3 17.fxe7 f6 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rhe1+-) 17.Bh6 Kh8 18.Ne4+-] **15...Rxc6 16.exf6 gxf6?** [16...bxc3! 17.fxe7 f6±] **17.Ne4?!** [Clearer is 17.Bh6! Qh5 18.Qg3+ Qg6 19.Ne4+-] **17...fxg5?** [17...Kg7 18.Ng3] **18.hxg5+**— White's attack was decisive in Magem Badals,J (2585) - Alonso Rosell,A (2507), 2010

## 2. White plays f4-f5

### Example 4

**12.f4 Rfd8 13.h4 Rac8 14.Kb1 a6 15.f5 e5 16.Nb3 Qc7 17.Bxf6 gxf6** [17...Bxf6 18.g4 Rd7 19.g5 Bd8 20.f6± gxf6? 21.Qh3!] **18.Nd2 Kh8 19.g4 b5 20.g5 Qb7 21.Nd5!** +- **Bxd5** [21...Rg8 22.gxf6 Bf8 (22...Bxd5 23.fxe7 Bc4 24.Qxd6+-) 23.Rhg1] **22.exd5 Rg8 23.Ne4! Rc4** [23...fxg5 24.hxg5 Bxg5 25.f6+-] **24.gxf6 Rd4 25.Qf3 Bd8 26.c3 Rxd5 27.Rdg1 1-0 Sjugirov,S (2545) - Sirin,A (2107), WCh-Junior Gaziantep TUR (12), 14.08.2008**

### Example 5

**12.f4 Rfc8 13.f5** Shirov tried unsuccessfully sacrificing the e6 pawn here with **13...b5? 14.fxe6 fxe6 15.Nxe6 b4 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5±** Polgar,J (2630) - Shirov,A (2705),Las Palmas (5), 1994

## B. 4...a6 (29%) The Maroczy bind

Scene from the movie “Ivory Tower”, a fictional story about two brothers competing in the Canadian Chess Championship:

“While I was away I came up with an idea for my life’s work”

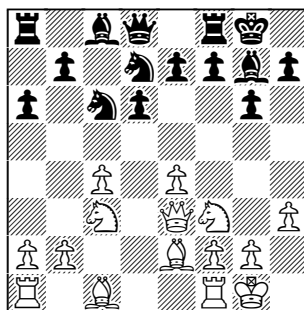
“Did you find a way out of the Maroczy Bind?”

“No...it’s bigger and better than that...”

I’ve selected a couple of illustrated games from the following position.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6 5.c4 Nc6 6.Qe3 Nf6 7.h3 g6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nc3 Nd7**

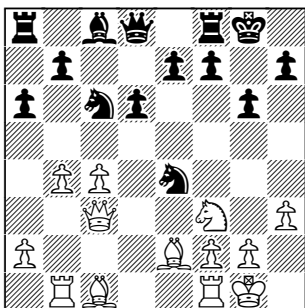
### Tabiya of the Maroczy Bind Structure



White’s queen retreat to e3 is currently popular, but the queen could instead go to other squares. The old main line is 5.c4 Nc6 6.Qd2 with the idea of playing b3 and Bb2. Also 6.Qd1 is the Mariotti Idea (as named by Belikov in an old NIC Survey) with the idea of playing Be3, after playing h3.

**Macieja,B (2616) - Perez Olarte,C (2246)**  
 2nd JAHV McGregor Open Bogota  
 Columbia, 2011

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6  
 5.c4 Nc6 6.Qe3 Nf6 7.h3 g6 8.Be2 Bg7  
 9.0-0 0-0 10.Nc3 Nd7 11.Rb1 Nc5?! This  
 is the move that White's last move was  
 aimed to prevent. 12.b4 Bxc3 13.Qxc3  
 Nxe4



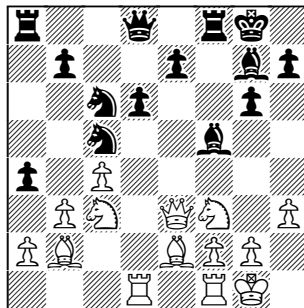
This is a common idea in this opening:  
 Often White is prepared to sacrifice his e-  
 pawn in return for Black exchanging his  
 dark squared bishop for the knight on c3.  
 14.Qe3 Nf6 15.Bb2 Bf5 16.Rbd1 Nxb4  
 17.g4 Bd7 18.g5 Nh5 19.Qc3 Winning  
 material 19...e5 20.Rxd6 Nc6 21.Nxe5  
 Qxg5+ 22.Ng4 f6 23.Bc1 Nf4 24.Bxf4  
 Qxf4 25.Rxd7 h5 26.Qe3

1-0

**Carlsen,M (2848) - Jones,G (2644)**  
 4th London Chess Classic London, 2012

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 a6  
 5.h3 Nc6 6.Qe3 g6 7.c4 Bg7 8.Be2 Nf6  
 9.Nc3 0-0 10.0-0 Nd7 11.Rb1 a5 In the  
 next few moves you'll see how Magnus  
 finishes his development and then

coordinates his pieces at just the moment it  
 looks like Black's activity is becoming  
 dangerous. 12.b3 Nc5 13.Bb2 f5 14.exf5  
 Bxf5 15.Rbd1 White has achieved the  
 development he was after 15...a4



16.Ba3 In particular, this is the move I  
 really like: the knight on c3 is no longer  
 pinned, and White gains a tempo with the  
 threat to the knight on c5. 16...Qa5  
 17.Nb5 axb3 18.axb3 And like magic,  
 Black's entire army pointing at the  
 Queenside is left not doing much at all.  
 But Gawain is a creative player.  
 18...Qxa3!? This sort of Queen sacrifice  
 can be very hard to meet in a practical  
 game. Bill Forster told me an incredible  
 story when he arrived back from spending  
 time with Gawain Jones at this tournament.  
 I hope I recall it correctly - it's a good story,  
 so I hope it is true. (Ed: Yes it's basically  
 true). After the game Magnus commented  
 that at this point in the game he saw that his  
 Queen could drop back to g1 at the right  
 moment and everything would be in order.  
 Feel free to work it out for yourself before  
 reading on. 19.Nxa3 Rxa3 20.Nd2 Bd4  
 21.Qg3 Be5 22.f4 Bf6 23.Bg4 Nd4 24.Kh1  
 Bc2 25.Rde1 Kh8 26.Re3 h5 27.b4 h4  
 28.Qf2 Nd3 29.Qg1 Yes - the queen has  
 the g1 square available! 29...Nf5 30.Bxf5

gxf5 31.Nf3 Rc3 32.c5 Bb3 33.Ne1 Bd4  
 34.Nxd3 dxc5 35.Qf2 Rf7 36.Rc1 exb4  
 37.Rxc3 bxc3 38.Qe1 1-0

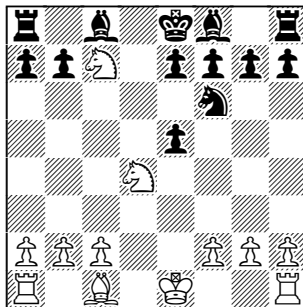
### C. 4...Bd7 (8%) Another way to the Maroczy bind

I would like to point out that White can develop his pieces pretty much the same as in the previous section. The Black bishop on d7 prevents the Nd7-c5 idea immediately, but Black can continue with moves like Rc8 and Qa5. Here is a quick example of just the opening moves between two strong grandmasters.

**Sjugirov,S (2622) - Korobov,A (2660)**  
 European Rapid Playoff 2011 Warsaw  
 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Bd7  
 5.Be2 Nc6 6.Qe3 g6 7.c4 Bg7 8.h3 Nf6  
 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1 Rc8 11.Nc3 Qa5 12.Bd2  
 Qb6 13.Qxb6 axb6 14.b3 with a typical Maroczy Bind structure.

### D. 4...Nf6 (4%) Another way to the main line

It is a striking statistic is why the natural 4...Nf6 is played so infrequently? ECO 1<sup>st</sup> Edition gives this move the doubtful (!) sign. The line given is 5.e5 Nc6 6.Bb5 Qa5+ 7.Nc3 Qxb5 8.Nxb5 Nxd4 9.Nfxd4 dxe5 10.Nc7+



10...Kd8 11.Nxa8 exd4 12.Bf4± Szabo-Toran, Hastings 1957/58. Later it was found that Black has an improvement with the less obvious 10...Kd7! The point being after 11.Nxa8 exd4 12.Bf4 Black can play 12...e5 13.Bf4 Bd6! It seems that 5.Nc3 is a better option and after 5...Nc6 it can transpose to the main line in section D. Black has alternatives such as 6.Bb5 Nfd7!?, but I leave this for the interested reader to research.

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

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

## **Chess Engine Adventures** *by Graham Banks*

(Editor's note: Here at NZ Chess we love nothing more than finding New Zealanders making an impact in one of the chess world's many specialist niches. Auckland educator Graham Banks (email [gbanksnz@gmail.com](mailto:gbanksnz@gmail.com)) is an international authority on the art and science of putting computer chess engines through their paces. We asked Graham to tell us the full story.)

**W**hen I was working part-time in an Electronics store back in the early 80s, I first came across dedicated chess playing micro-computers. At this stage, they played at a level at which most club players could beat them fairly easily most of the time. However, they became steadily stronger and during the next ten years, I ended up owning several of these chess computers.

I especially recall fondly the Novag Super Constellation (which was a breakthrough in the enterprising way in which it played) and the SciScys Turbostar (more solid in its playing style, but around the same strength).

My playing level over the board hovered in the 1700-1850 range, so I would play serious matches against both of these computers in an endeavour to improve myself as a player. My results were mixed, which gives an indication of where

computer chess was in the mid-80s. I would enter chess computers into club tournaments and weekend tournaments, much to the disgust of many who didn't like the idea of playing against a machine.

My good friend, the late Bruce Barnard, shared my interest in computer chess, along with a fellow Papatoetoe club member, Nigel Pattinson.

During the late 80s, Bruce would organise an annual man v machine match, where four of the top players in Auckland would play a weekend match against four different chess computers that were operated by Bruce, myself, Nigel and whoever else we could rope in to help. Bob Smith, Martin Dreyer and other renowned NZ players involved will recall how hard it was becoming to beat these computers over the board as each year went by.

Ortvin Sarapu would visit Bruce's home on a weekly basis to play matches against the Mephisto chess computer. Needless to say, Ortvin found it extremely difficult to win a match.

During the 80s and 90s, there was a group called SSDF whose members played chess software against each other to compile a rating list. I followed this with great interest, along with the "Computer Chess Report" magazine that would come out annually from the US, and the "Selective Search" magazines produced several times a year by Eric Hallsworth in the UK.

With the advent of the internet and the switch of computer chess software into PCs, it became possible to autoplay

software against each other on one's own home computer, rather than having to manually input moves into separate computers.

I joined a computer chess forum called "Talkchess" (also known as CCC) and began running tournaments on my home computer. I would share these results with other enthusiasts.

Eventually, I joined a group called CEGT, which carried out engine v engine testing. This was right up my alley, enabling me to be a more recognised tester whilst indulging in my hobby.

Due to a difference of opinion within the group, myself and a few others eventually left CEGT.

I felt pretty shattered over this, so suggested to my brother Ray, plus the others who'd left, that we start up our own engine v engine testing group.

Thus, the CCRL testing group was formed and has now been running for over 10 years. You can find our website and rating lists at <http://computerchess.org.uk/ccrl/>

Over the past ten years, CCRL has run over a million matches at an adapted 40 moves in 4 minutes repeating time control, plus over half a million games at an adapted 40 moves in 40 minutes repeating time control.

Top engines now play at a higher level than Carlsen and other Super GMs, which is why you rarely see man v machine challenges these days.

As well recognised and trusted testers, my brother Ray and I now get the opportunity to run matches or tournaments involving the latest developmental versions of engines.

In December 2014, Ray ran a 50 game match between the latest developmental versions of the two strongest chess engines currently available - Komodo (commercial) and Stockfish (free), at a time control of 120 minutes + 30 second increments.

I would post each game in the various computer chess forums, giving a brief oversight of how things had transpired.

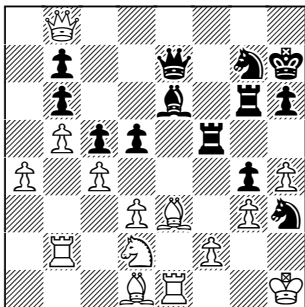
Each game in this match can be found here

- <http://www.talkchess.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=54751&start=0>

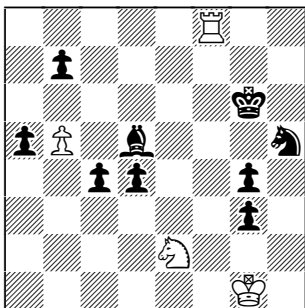
For your viewing pleasure, I will present a win by each engine from this match.

### **Stockfish 221214 - Komodo 1339**

Komodo took aim at the Stockfish kingside and broke through in fine style, winning material in a flurry of action to obtain the win. **1.Nc3 e5 2.e4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Be2 Bd6 5.0-0 0-0 6.Bc4 Bc5 7.d3 h6 8.a3 d6 9.Na4 Bb6 10.b4 Ne7 11.Bb3 Ng6 12.h3 Bd7 13.Nxb6 axb6 14.Re1 Qc8 15.Nd2 Rd8 16.Qf3 Be6 17.c4 c6 18.Bb2 c5 19.b5 Nf4 20.Nf1 g5 21.Kh1 Kg7 22.Qg3 Rg8 23.Bc1 Kh7 24.Bd1 Rg6 25.a4 g4 26.h4 N6h5 27.Qe3 Qd7 28.Ra2 Rf8 29.Rd2 Ng7 30.g3 Nh3 31.Rb2 f5 32.exf5 Nxf5 33.Qe4 Ng7 34.Be3 d5 35.Qxe5 Rf5 36.Qb8 Qe7 37.Nd2**



37...Rxf2 38.Bxf2 Nxf2+ 39.Kg1 Nxd3  
 40.Re2 Nxb2 41.Bc2 d4 42.h5 Nxb5  
 43.Bxg6+ Kxg6 44.Qe5 Ng7 45.Qe4+ Kf7  
 46.Rf2+ Kg8 47.Qc2 Qc7 48.Kh2 Nxc4  
 49.Nxc4 h5 50.Qd3 h4 51.Rf4 Bf5 52.Qb3  
 Kh7 53.Kg1 hxg3 54.Rf1 Qf7 55.Nd2  
 Qxb3 56.Nxb3 Be6 57.Nc1 Kg6 58.a5  
 bxa5 59.Rf8 Nh5 60.Kg2 Bd5+ 61.Kg1 c4  
 62.Ne2

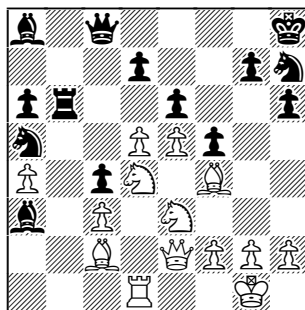


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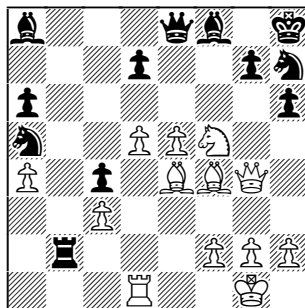
### Stockfish 221214 - Komodo 1339

Stockfish completes the double in this opening line with a truly magnificent win. Firstly, it sacs a piece for two pawns to begin a decisive kingside attack, then follows up with a second piece sac to drive the dagger home. 1.e4 c5 2.Bc4 e6 3.Qe2

a6 4.d3 b5 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.c3 Bb7 7.Nf3 Nf6  
 8.0-0 h6 9.e5 Nh7 10.Be3 Qc7 11.d4 Be7  
 12.a4 b4 13.Nbd2 0-0 14.Rfc1 bxc3  
 15.bxc3 Na5 16.Bc2 c4 17.Bf4 Bd5  
 18.Rab1 Rab8 19.Ne1 Ba3 20.Rxb8 Rxb8  
 21.Rd1 f5 22.Nf1 Ba8 23.Ne3 Qc8 24.d5  
 Kh8 25.Nf3 Rb2 26.Nd4 Rb6



27.Ndx5 exf5 28.Nxf5 Rb2 29.Qg4 Bf8  
 30.Be4 Qe8



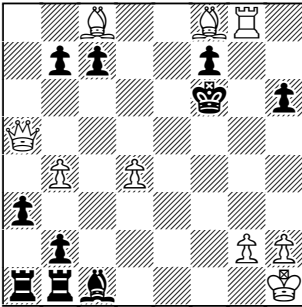
31.Nxh6 gxh6 32.Qf5 Qe7 33.d6 Bxe4  
 34.dxe7 Bxf5 35.e8Q Nc6 36.Bxh6 Rb8  
 37.Qh5 Be6 38.Bg5 Bg7 39.f4 Kg8 40.f5  
 Bf7 41.Qh4 Nxe5 42.Qg3 Rb6 43.Be3  
 Rc6 44.Rb1 Ng6 45.fxg6 Rxg6 46.Rb8+  
 Nf8 47.Qf4 Re6 48.Bd4 Re1+ 49.Kf2 Re6  
 50.Qg4 Rg6 51.Qxd7 Bh6 1-0

# Problem Kingdom

by Linden Lyons

- Submissions and comments to: [problem.kingdom@gmail.com](mailto:problem.kingdom@gmail.com)
- Twitter: @ProblemKingdom
- Judge for 2014-2015: Geoff Foster

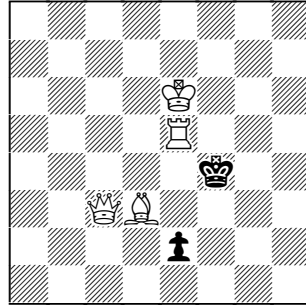
In **Problem 6** S#3 from the previous issue



White seeks to extract the c1-bishop. In two tries, 1 Bc5? (threat 2 Qxc7 then 3 Qf4+ Bxf4) b6! and 1 Rg4? (threat 2 Qh5 then 3 Qxh6+ Bxh6) b5!, White prepares to cut off the queen from the 1st rank, thereby permitting the threat. There are another two tries: 1 Rh8? (threat 2 Rxh6+ Bxh6) b5! (not 1 ... c5 2 Qd8+ Kg6 3 Rxh6+ Bxh6) and 1 Qd5? (threat 2 Rh8 then 3 Rxh6+ Bxh6) c6! The key is **1 Bxh6!** (threat 2 Qg5+/Bg5+ Bxg5) Ke7 2 Qc5+ Kf6 3 Qg5+ (3 Bg5+? Bxg5+ 4 Qc1) Bxg5.

**Problem 7** is a threemover by Alberto Armeni.

**Problem 7**  
Alberto Armeni (Italy)  
Original

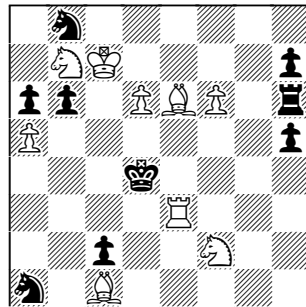


#3

1 Bxe2?? is stalemate, so White can try 1 Bb5?/Ba6? (zugzwang): 1 ... Kg4 2 Bxe2+ Kh4/Kf4 3 Rh5/Qe3(Qf3); but 1 ... e1! with promotion to anything. Another try is 1 Bg6? (threat 2 Bh5 and 3 Qe3/Qf3, or 2 Qe3+ Kg4 3 Re4): 1 ... Kg4 2 Qe3 ~ 3 Re4; 1 ... e1B/e1N 2 Qe3+ Kg4 3 Re4; 1 ... e1R 2 Bh5 (threat 3 Qf3) Rf1/Re3/Rxe5+ 3 Qe3/Qxe3/Qxe5; but 1 ... e1Q! The key is **1 Be4!** (threat 2 Qf3#): 1 ... Kg4 2 Qf3+ Kh4 3 Rh5; 1 ... e1N 2 Qh3 (zugzwang) N~ 3 Qf3.

Leonid Makaronez presents two original compositions.

**Problem 8** Leonid Makaronez (Israel)



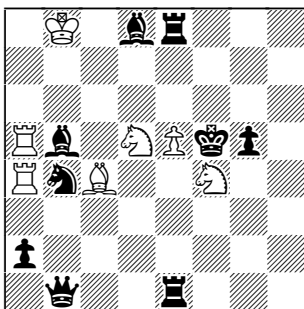
#3



moves. Notation for helpmate in two moves follows this sequence: 1 B W 2 B W#. Modern two-move helpmates tend to have multiple solutions that are thematically related. The solutions here are 1 c1R Bc2 2 Re1 Rf2 and 1 c1B Rf1 2 Bd2 Bb5. Black promotes to a rook (bishop), White guards a flight square, Black blocks another flight square, and then White mates with a rook (bishop).

### Problem 12

Abdelaziz Onkoud (Morocco)  
Original



H#2 2 solutions

1 Nxd5 Rxb5 2 Ne7 Be6 and 1 Bxc4 Rxb4 2 Be2 Ne3. Black's knight (b5-bishop) partially opens up the line of the a4-rook (a5-rook), White's a5-rook (a4-rook) captures on b5 (b4), Black's knight (bishop) opens up the line of the b5-rook (b4-rook) whilst closing that of the e8-rook (e1-rook), and then White's bishop (e5-knight) delivers mate by opening up the line of the a4-rook (a5-rook).

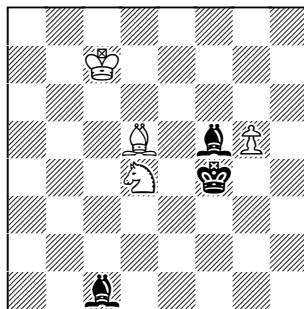
**Problem 13** is a **duplex** helpmate. In one solution, Black moves first and is mated by White. In a second solution, White moves

first and is mated by Black. Rauf Aliovsadzade adds: 'This original is dedicated to a long-standing friend of mine, Jahangir Alekperov, a professor at the Kokkola Conservatory, Finland.'

### Problem 13

Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA)  
Original

Dedicated to Jahangir Alekperov



H#2 Duplex

Solutions: (a) 1 Ke5 Kc6 2 Bf4 Nf3; (b) 1 Kd6 Kxg5 2 Ke5 Bf4. Both solutions demonstrate an **ideal mate**, i.e. all pieces participate in the mate, either by guarding or blocking the squares around the mated king. An additional feature of this problem is that both kings are mated on the same square. Rauf presents a duplex H#4 with the same idea at <http://popovgl.narod.ru/Stat/Stat43.html>.

**Don't forget to enter the Wellington Open, on again this Easter. All the details can be found at**

**[www.newzealandchess.co.nz](http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz)**

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- Canterbury, contact Secretary Craig Hall, Ph. 021-1289-543, email [canterbury@chess.org.nz](mailto:canterbury@chess.org.nz)
- Chess for Miracle (Auckland), contact Victor Wang, email [chesswangnz@gmail.com](mailto:chesswangnz@gmail.com).
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- Gisborne Eastern Knights, contact Al Hutchinson, email [alhutchinson216@gmail.com](mailto:alhutchinson216@gmail.com); also contact Noble Keelan, phone 022 326 9840
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- Karamea, contact Secretary David Roberts, (03) 7826 979, email [davidatarapito@gmail.com](mailto:davidatarapito@gmail.com)
- Manawatu Knights, contact Mark Noble, 027-338-2040 or (06) 3237003, email [xn7223@paradise.net.nz](mailto:xn7223@paradise.net.nz)
- Mount Maunganui RSA, Contact: Caleb Wright, email [first25plus5@gmail.com](mailto:first25plus5@gmail.com)
- Nelson, contact Dan Dolejs, 027-687-1447 or 538 0707
- New Plymouth, contact Errol Tuffery (06) 758 2626
- North Canterbury, contact Secretary Mark Williams, email [brannie@clear.net.nz](mailto:brannie@clear.net.nz)
- North Shore, contact Club Captain Peter Stuart, (09) 449 1812, email [pstuart@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pstuart@xtra.co.nz)
- Otago (Dunedin), contact [otagochess@clear.net.nz](mailto:otagochess@clear.net.nz)
- Papatoetoe, contact John McRae, (09) 278 4520
- Remuera Junior, contact Angela Cook, 021 1385635.
- Upper Hutt, contact Club Captain Roger Smith, (04) 971 6528, email [roger.smith.uh@gmail.com](mailto:roger.smith.uh@gmail.com)
- Waitakere, contact President John Francis, (09) 626 2213, email [diaries@ihug.co.nz](mailto:diaries@ihug.co.nz).
- Wanaka, contact John Garrett, [johngarrett@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johngarrett@xtra.co.nz).
- Wanganui, contact Bill Maddren, (06) 344 3298
- Wellington, contact President Ross Jackson, (04) 499 1769, (04) 902 1707, email [Lrjackson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Lrjackson@xtra.co.nz)

## NEW ZEALAND CHESS SUPPLIES

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