

New Zealand Chess

Magazine of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc)

October 2016

Volume 43 Number 4



Baku Olympiad Special

Official publication of the New Zealand Chess Federation (Inc), Published quarterly; January, April, July, October

All games available electronically at www.nzchessmag.com

Please send all reports, letters and other contributions to the Editor at bill@nzchessmag.com. Send subscriptions enquiries to subs@nzchessmag.com.

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Annual Subscription Rates

NZ: \$24.00 plus postage \$4.00 total \$28.00

International: NZD 24.00 plus postage

NZD 12.00. Send cheques to NZCF at the address below or check nzchessmag.com for online payment options.

Advertising Rates

Full page \$50.00

Half Page Horizontal \$30.00

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On the Cover: The Youthful Core of the NZ Women's Team

Photo Credit: Eva Lourenco

No Room For Results

Putting together this issue has been a special challenge. The Olympiad teams delivered so much content, that very little room was left for anything else. A special thanks to all the players involved. Consequently a number of items have been deferred until the next issue, regrettably including the second part of Herman van Riemsdijk's superb Rook and Bishop versus Rook endgame article. It will definitely be included in January! After Congress the Editor is rushing off to Europe to play in the traditional Wijk aan Zee festival, so the January issue is planned for early January this time.

Unfortunately even tabulated results have been omitted for now. Please check online (start at newzealandchess.co.nz) or wait patiently for the January issue.

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The 43rd North Shore Open

By Peter Stuart

The event was held at the National Chess Centre for the third time over the weekend of 20/21 August. The total entry of 58 was a bit disappointing but these days numbers at our tournaments do seem to go up and down for no particular reasons.

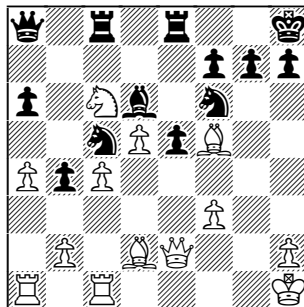
Ben Hague, Evan Capel and Leonard McLaren were the obvious favourites by rating but the likes of juniors such as Alphaeus Ang, Daniel Gong and Allen Fan as well as "oldies" like John Duneas, Gordon Morrell and Kirill Polishchuk were all capable of challenging for the top places.

The big upset in the first round was last year's winner losing to Fan. Evan sacrificed the exchange for adequate compensation but gradually Allen took control.

Fan, Allen Chi Zhou (2053) - Capel, Evan T (2411) [A40]

43rd North Shore Open Devonport (1.2), 20.08.2016

1.Nf3 b5 2.e3 a6 3.a4 b4 4.d4 e6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Bb7 7.Bd3 c5 8.Nb3 d6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qc2 Bxf3 11.gxf3 0-0 12.Kh1 Qb6 13.Rg1 Kh8 14.Qe2 Nbd7 15.f4 Rac8 16.f3 cxd4 17.exd4 Qc6 18.Bd2 Rfe8 19.Rgc1 e5 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.d5 Qa8 22.Na5 Bd6 23.Nc6 Nc5 24.Bf5



42.b6! Qb2 Not enough but there's nothing better now. **43.Qd4+** (Swapping queens to eliminate the mate threat forever had to be tempting but best was 43.Rg1 keeping his own possible mate threats with Qc7 or Qf7, e.g. 43...Nh3 44.Qc1 Qxc1 45.Rxc1 e2 46.Re1 and Black's best, but insufficient, try is 46...g4 47.fxg4 f4 48.Kg2 Rf8 (48...Re3 49.Rf7) 49.Kf3 Re8 50.Rd3 and the b6-pawn will win the game.) **43...Qxd4 44.Rxd4 Rb8 45.Rd6 e2 46.Rc1 Re8** The active white rooks look too strong but the e-pawn is still a nuisance! **47.Re1 Re7** (It was (past) time to get the king into play, so 47...Kg7 was the last chance.) **48.Rc6 Nd5 49.Kg1! Rb7 50.Rc5 Rd7 51.Rxe2 Nxb6 52.Rxf5 h6 53.Re6 Rd1+ 54.Kg2 Nd5 55.Kf2 Kg7 56.Rd6 Nc3 57.Rxd1 Nxd1+ 58.Ke2 Nc3+ 59.Kd3 Nd1 60.Ke2 Nc3+ 61.Kd2 Na4 62.Rb5 Kg6 63.Kc2 Kh5 64.Kb3 Kh4 65.Kxa4 Kh3 66.Rb2 1-0**

Another success for the “youth” brigade was Oliver Picken’s draw in a closely fought game against Morrell.

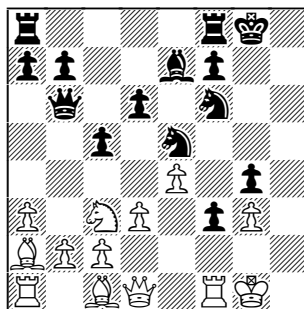
In the second round Ang-Hague was a fairly standard win for Ben while Jeremy Browne showed some rust against McLaren. Game of the round was the following:

Gong, Daniel Hanwen (2264) - Polishchuk, Kirill (2231) [B30]

43rd North Shore Open Devonport (2.3), 20.08.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 d6 5.d3 Be7 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Ng5 0-0 8.f4 Surprisingly, to me anyway, there are more than 500 games in my Mega database reaching this position with White scoring a very impressive 63% despite having little if

any advantage. Not so surprising when you look at the rating differences between white and black players though. **8...Na5 (8...Bg4!?) 9.Bd5?** (9.Nf3 was necessary.) **9...exf4 10.Nf3 g5! 11.a3 h6 12.Ba2 Nc6 13.h4 Bg4 14.Ne2 Bxf3 15.Rxf3 Ne5 16.Rf1 Qb6 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.g3 f3 19.Nc3 g4**



20.Bh6 Rfe8 21.Qd2 Ng6 22.Kf2 d5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Bf6 25.c3 Rad8 26.Be3 Rxd5 27.exd5 Rxe3 28.Rae1 Rxd3 29.Qxd3 c4+ 30.Qe3 Qxb2+ 31.Re2 fxe2 32.Rc1 Ne5 0-1

Fan was responsible for another upset, John Duneas the victim this time, but Picken got his queen trapped against Capel and had to give an exchange away to save it. Four players had 2/2: Hague, McLaren, Polishchuk and Fan.

Hague and McLaren continued on their winning ways. After a closely fought middlegame Ben reached a clearly winning ending but blundered a pawn, reaching an unusual endgame which proved difficult for both players; doubtless, the clock didn't help! Leonard brought Allen's run of upsets to an end with a fine combination. Picken

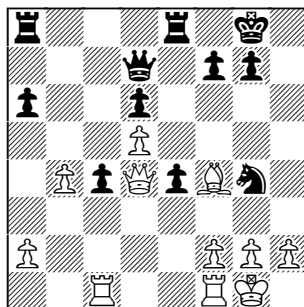
played his best game of the tournament against Duneas.

Hague, Ben (2480) -

Polishchuk, Kirill (2231) [B32]

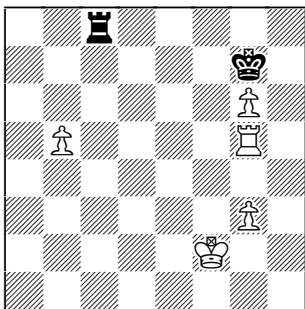
43rd North Shore Open Devonport (3.1),
20.08.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5
5.Nb5 a6 6.Nd6+ Bxd6 7.Qxd6 Qe7
8.Qd1 Nf6 Around 300 games reached this
position in Mega database. Black has a lead
in development but White has the bishop
pair and a target in the backward black d-
pawn. I think I'd rather be Ben. 9.Nc3 d6
10.Bg5 Be6 11.Nd5 Bxd5 12.exd5 Nb8 So
the backward pawn has gone but White has
a space advantage as well as bishop pair
versus knight pair. 13.c4 Nbd7 14.Be2 h6
15.Be3 0-0 16.0-0 Rfe8 17.Rc1 Nh7?! If
Kirill's aim was to play ...f5 then he must
have changed his mind because the knight
soon returns to f6 with the pawn still on f7;
two tempi sacrificed. 18.Bg4 e4 (18...Nhf6
may be best but it's a hard move to make
for a human.) 19.Bxd7 Qxd7 20.b4 Nf6
21.Qd4 b5 (21...Kh7 was the safer move.
Did Kirill overlook White's next move or
did he expect to obtain enough counterplay
on the queenside?) 22.Bxh6 bxc4 (After
22...Re5!? 23.Bf4 Rf5 24.Be3 Rc8 all the
black pieces are active and he probably has
enough play for the pawn.) 23.Bg5 Ng4
24.Bf4



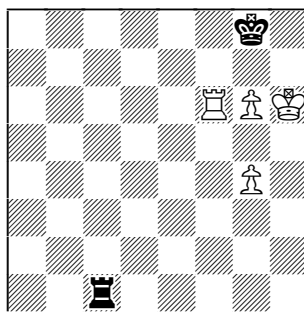
24...Ne5? (24...a5! 25.a3 axb4 26.axb4 Qf5
27.Bxd6 Rad8 28.Bg3 Rxd5 29.Qxc4 and
the active black pieces provide at least
some compensation for the missing pawn.)
25.Bxe5 Rxe5 26.Rxc4 (26.Qxc4 was
better, allowing White to respond to 26...a5
with the strong 27.b5!) 26...Qa4 (26...a5
was again best, e.g. 27.a3 axb4 28.axb4
Qb5 and the white d-pawn is a goner.)
27.Rc6 f6 28.Rxd6 Rb8 (28...a5
attempting to muddy the waters was a
better try but White still has a big
advantage.) 29.Rb6 (29.Qa7 Rxb4 30.Rd7
Rg5 31.h4 Rg4 32.Rd8+ Kh7 33.Qf7 and
the attack wins quickly.) 29...Rxb6
30.Qxb6 Qxa2 31.d6 (31.Rd1!? is also fine
as 31...Rxd5 is met by 32.Qe6+ winning
the rook.) 31...Rd5 32.h3 Qd2 (32...Kh7
avoids some annoying checks and the d-
pawn will not run away.) 33.Qxa6 f5
(33...e3!? 34.fxe3 Qxe3+ 35.Kh1 Qe6 and
White still has work to do. The b-pawn is
obviously critical but the white king is no
longer so invulnerable.) 34.Qc8+ Kh7
35.Qe6 Qd4 36.d7 Rxd7 37.Qxf5+ g6
38.Qc5 Qb2 39.Qc6 Re7 40.b5 Qe5
41.Re1 Re6 42.Qc4 Kh6 43.Qb4 Qb8
44.Rb1 Qb6 45.Qf8+ Kh7 46.Rd1 Qa7
47.Rd8 Qa1+ 48.Kh2 Qe5+ 49.g3 Re7
50.Qg8+ Kh6 51.Qh8+ Qxh8 52.Rxh8+

Kg7 53.Rc8 e3 54.fxe3 Rxe3 55.h4 Rb3 56.Rc5 Kh6 57.Rg5 Kg7 58.h5 Kh6 59.hxg6 Kg7 60.Kg2 Rc3 61.Kf2 Rc8



62.b6?? (Careless! The resulting ending with just the doubled g-pawns and the black king in front of them is drawn. Getting the king into play was the simplest way to win, e.g. 62.Ke3 Re8+ (62...Kf6 63.Rg4 Kf5 64.Rb4+-) 63.Kd4 Kh6 64.Rd5 Rb8 65.Kc5 etc.) **62...Rc2+ 63.Kf3 Rb2 64.Kg4 Rxb6 65.Kh5 Rb3!** The only move, tying down the white rook for a few moves. **66.Kh4** (66.Ra5 Rxc3 67.Ra7+ Kg8 68.Kh6 Rh3+ 69.Kg5 Rf3 with an easy draw .) **66...Rb4+ 67.g4 Rb6** (Okay, but simpler is 67...Rb1 (or Rb2 or Rb3 or Rb8) when White is in zugzwang as 68.Kh5 allows mate, any rook move allows ...Kxg6, and any other king move does nothing.) **68.Kh5 Rb2 69.Ra5** (69.Rf5 Rb1 70.Rf7+ Kg8 and White can make no progress.) **69...Rb7 70.Rf5 Rb6** (70...Ra7?? 71.Rf7+ swapping rooks for a winning pawn ending is White's big hope.) **71.Rf7+ Kg8 72.Ra7 Rb8??** (72...Rb1! is drawing as the white king can do nothing with the black rook able to check on the files.) **73.Kh6** Now the black rook is stuck on its back rank preventing mate. **73...Rc8 74.Rg7+** (74.g5 Rd8 75.Ra6 (75.g7? Rd6+

76.g6 doesn't work because of stalemate after 76..Rxc6+! Kxc6.) 75...Rb8 76.g7 Rc8 77.Rf6 Rb8 78.Rf8+ Rxf8 79.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 80.Kh7 +-) **74...Kh8 75.Rf7 Kg8** (75...Rb8 76.g7+ Kg8 77.Rf8+ Rxf8 78.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 79.Kh7+-) **76.Re7 Rb8 77.Rf7?** (77.Re6! Ra8 78.g7 Rb8 79.Rf6 and the rook swap follows.) **77...Rc8?** (77...Rb1! re-activating the rook is holding as in notes above.) **78.Rf6** (78.Ra7 Rb8 79.Ra6 Rc8 80.g7 Rb8 81.Rf6 and White gets the wanted rook swap.) **78...Rc1**

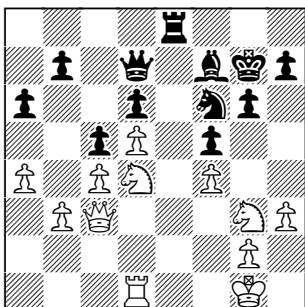


79.Ra6? (79.g7! Rh1+ 80.Kg6 Rh6+! 81.Kg5 (81.Kxh6? stalemate) 81...Rh7 (81...Rh1 82.Ra6 Kxc7 83.Ra7+ Kg8 84.Kg6 Kf8 85.Ra8+ Ke7 86.g5 Rg1 87.Rg8 Rg2 88.Kh7 Rh2+ 89.Kg7 Rg2 90.g6 Rg1 91.Ra8 and White will reach the Lucena position.) 82.Rf8+! Kxc7 83.Ra8 Rh1 84.Ra7+ Kf8 85.Kg6 Rb1 86.Ra8+ Ke7 87.g5 and again White can reach the Lucena position.) **79...Rc8?** (This allows White to engineer the exchange of rooks. Instead, after 79...Rh1+! 80.Kg5 the white king has nowhere to hide around his pawns except g5 where nothing is achieved.) **80.g5 Rb8 81.g7 Kf7** (Or 81...Rc8 82.Rf6 Rb8 83.Rf8+ Rxf8 84.gxf8Q+ Kxf8 85.Kh7 and the pawn queens.) **82.Rf6+ Ke7 83.Kh7 1-0**

**McLaren, Leonard J (2340) -
Fan, Allen Chi Zhou (2053) [B03]**

43rd North Shore Open Devonport (3.2),
20.08.2016

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6
5.exd6 exd6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Bd3
Bf6 9.Nge2 0-0 10.0-0 Nb4 11.b3 Nxd3
12.Qxd3 Re8 13.Rad1 g6 14.Ng3 Bg7
15.Rfe1 f5 16.Qd2 Be6 17.d5 Bf7 18.Bd4
Nd7 19.Nb5 Ne5 20.f4 a6 21.Nc3 Ng4
22.Rxe8+ Bxe8 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.h3 Nf6
25.Nce2 Bf7 26.Nd4 Qd7 27.Qc3 Re8
28.a4 c5? Nothing much had happened up
until now, but the text move allows a very
nice combination.



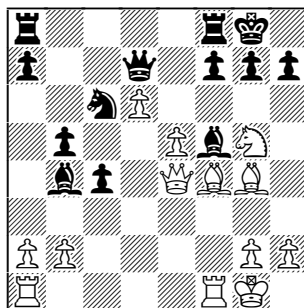
29.dxc6 bxc6 30.Ndx5+! gx5 31.Rxd6!
Qa7+ 32.Kh2 Re6 33.Rxe6 Bxe6 34.Nh5+
Kg8 35.Nxf6+ Kf8 36.Qe5 Qf7 37.Nxh7+
Ke7 38.Ng5 Qg8 39.Qxe6+ Qxe6 40.Nxe6
Kxe6 41.g4 1-0

**Picken, Oliver (1751) -
Duneas, John (2205) [B03]**

43rd North Shore Open Devonport (3.6),
20.08.2016

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.f4
dxe5 6.fxe5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Nc3 exd5 9.cxd5
c4 10.Nf3 Bg4 11.Be2 Bb4 12.d6 Nc6
13.Bf4 0-0 14.0-0 Qd7 15.Nd5 Nxd5

16.Qxd5 Be6 17.Qe4 b5 18.Ng5 Bf5
19.Bg4!



19...Bc5+ (19...Bxe4 20.Bxd7 Rad8
21.Nxe4 Rxd7 22.Kh1 Re8 23.a3 Ba5
24.Nc5 Rdd8 25.e6! fxe6 (25...Rxe6!?
26.Nxe6 fxe6 27.Rad1±) 26.d7 Re7 27.Bd6
Rf7 28.Rxf7 Kxf7 29.Rf1+ Kg6 30.Nxe6+-
is a computer line.) 20.Kh1 Nd4 (20...Bxe4
21.Bxd7 Bd5 22.e6 fxe6 23.Nxe6 Bxe6
24.Bxe6+ Kh8 25.Bd5 Rf6 (25...Rac8
26.d7) 26.Bxc6 Raf8 27.d7+-) 21.Bxf5
Qxf5 22.Qd5 Bb6 23.Be3 Qg6 24.Rxf7!
Rxf7 25.Nxf7 Rf8 26.Rf1 (Even better was
26.Bxd4 Bxd4 27.Nh6+ Kh8 28.e6 Qxh6
29.e7 with an overwhelming advantage.)
26...Ne6 27.Bxb6 axb6 (27...Rxf7 28.Rxf7
Qxf7 29.Be3 was a slightly better try but
Black is still doomed.) 28.d7 Qd3
29.Nh6+! gxh6 30.Qxe6+ Kg7 31.Qe7+
Kg6 32.Qxf8 Qxd7 33.Qf6+ 1-0

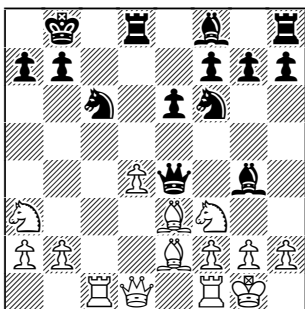
The top two seeds now shared the lead with
a perfect three wins. Gordon Morrell beat
Daniel Gong to lie third on 2½ points.

The McLaren-Hague encounter was
decisive for the tournament. Ben's
comment after the game that it "wasn't one
of my better games" was no exaggeration!

McLaren, Leonard J (2340) - Hague, Ben (2480) [B22]

43rd North Shore Open Auckland NZL (4.1), 21.08.2016

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Bf5 5.Be3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.Na3 0-0-0 8.Bc4 Qe4 9.0-0 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bg4 11.Be2 (The pawn is not poisoned, e.g. 11.Bxf7 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Qxf3 13.gxf3 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 Rxd4 15.Nb5 and White's development advantage is already decisive.) 11...e6 12.Rc1 Kb8



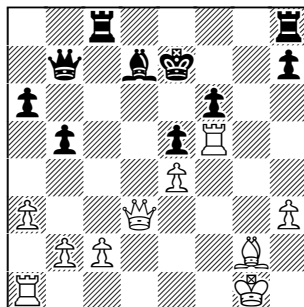
13.Nb5 (13.Rxc6! bxc6 14.Ng5 Qg6 15.Qb3+ Ka8 16.Ba6 gives White a winning attack.) 13...a6 14.Ng5 Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Qf5 16.Nxf7 axb5 17.Rxc6 (17.Nxh8 Nd5 18.Qf3 Qxf3 19.gxf3 Rd7 and the knight remains trapped but White should win a second pawn for it with a roughly equal position.) 17...hxc6? (The natural "no thought" reply but the only move was 17...Rd7! when 18.Nxh8 bxc6 19.Rc1 Kb7 20.a4! gives White enough initiative for the trapped knight but no more.) 18.Nxd8 (18.Nxd8 Kc7 19.Nf7 Rg8 20.Ne5 Nd7 21.Rc1 Nxe5 22.dxe5 Kb7 23.a4!? is hopeless for Black.) 1-0

Also featuring an interesting attack was the following game:

Gong, Daniel Hanwen (2264) - Zhang, Jasmine Haomo (1940) [B80]

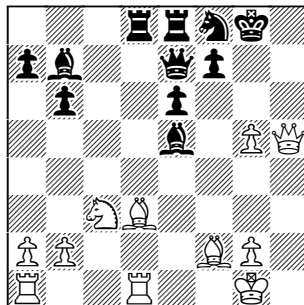
43rd North Shore Open Auckland NZL (4.6), 21.08.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.g3 e6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 Qc7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.f4 Bd7 11.Nb3 Na5 12.Nxa5 Qxa5 13.a3 Rc8 14.h3 Bc6 15.Qd2 b5 16.g4 Qc7 17.f5 Qb7 18.Qd3 exf5 19.Rxf5 Nd7 20.Bd4 f6 21.Nd5 Ne5 22.Bxe5 dxe5 23.g5 Bd7? (23...0-0 24.gxf6 Bxf6 25.Nxf6+ Rxf6 26.Rxe5 Qb6+ 27.Kh1 Qc7) 24.Nxe7 (24.gxf6 Bxf6 25.Nxf6+ gxf6 26.Rxf6±) 24...Kxe7 25.gxf6+ gxf6



26.Rxf6! (The best chance for a full point. After 26.Rf2 Black is a tiny bit better; White has too few pieces to really embarrass the black king.) 26...Be6? (Black had to be brave and capture the rook. Calculating the correct defence with the timer ticking away would not have been at all easy for either player. So 26...Kxf6! 27.Qd6+ (27.Rf1+? Ke7-+) 27...Kf7 28.Rf1+ Kg8 29.Qf6 Bxh3! The only move, and things become clear now. 30.Bxh3 Qg7+ The point - the queens come off. 31.Qxg7+ Kxg7 32.Bxc8 Rxc8 with a drawn ending.) 27.Raf1 Rhg8 28.Qf3 (28.Rh6 Rg7 29.Qf3 was more accurate

and the attack seems clearly winning.)
28...Qb6+ 29.Kh1 (29.Rf2! Rg7 30.Kh2
 and the attack continues.) **29...Rg7?**
 (29...Rxc2! and the only way to play for
 any advantage is 30.Rf7+ Kd8 31.Qd1+
 Ke8 32.Qxc2 Bxf7 33.Rf5 but Black
 should be able to hold.) **30.Rf8** Now the
 win is clear. **30...Rc7 31.Qf6+ Kd6**
32.Rd1+ Kc6 33.Qxe6+ 1-0



Leading scores before the final round:
 McLaren 4; Hague, Polishchuk, Ang &
 Capel 3; Morrell & Picken 2½. Leonard
 needed just half a point in the final round
 to take clear first place but Alphaeus certainly
 didn't make it easy for him:

Ang, Alphaeus Wei Ern (2210) - McLaren, Leonard J (2340) [E54]

43rd North Shore Open Auckland NZL
 (5.1), 21.08.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.0-0 cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4
9.Bxc4 b6 10.Bg5 h6 (10...Bb7 is normal.)
11.Bh4 Bb7 12.Qe2 Re8 13.Rfd1 Nbd7
14.Ne5 g5 15.Bg3 Bf8 16.f4 Qe7 17.fxg5
hxg5 18.h4 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Nh7 20.Bd3
Bg7 (20...gxh4 21.Bxh7+ Kxh7 22.Qh5+
 Kg8 23.Bxh4 Qc5+ 24.Bf2 Qe7 25.Rd4
 gives White a surely winning attack.;
 20...f5 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Rf1 (22.hxg5
 Qc5+) 22...Bg7 leaves White with a strong
 initiative but maybe Black can defend.)
21.Qh5 Nf8 22.hxg5 Bxe5! 23.Bf2
 (Avoiding the exchanges in the hope of
 chances to play on for a win. After 23.Bxe5
 Qc5+ 24.Kh1 Qxe5 Black is surviving.)
23...Rad8

*The tournament table is omitted
 due to space constraints. It will
 appear in the January issue.*

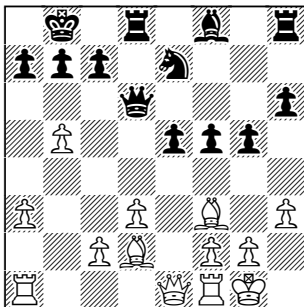
24.Ne2?! (White should probably bail out
 with 24.g6 f5 25.Bb5 Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Rd8
 27.Rxd8 Qxd8 28.Bc4 with equality.)
24...Rd5 (24...Bxb2 also looks better for
 Black.) **25.Bc4?** (25.Bc2 Rc5! 26.Rac1
 Bxb2 27.Bd4 Bxd4+ 28.Rxd4 Rxg5 29.Rg4
 f6 and Black can play for the win if he
 wishes.) **25...Rxd1+** (25...Rc5! 26.Bd3
 Bxb2 27.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 28.Kh1 Bxa1
 29.Rxa1 Qf2 -+.) **26.Rxd1 Rd8 27.Rxd8**
Qxd8 28.Bb3 Qd3 29.Nc3 Ng6 30.Qd1
Qxd1+ 31.Nxd1 Nf4 Black still has a
 considerable advantage and played on for
 the win but Alphaeus eventually exchanged
 down to a dead draw. **32.Ne3 Bxb2 33.Nc4**
Bd4 34.Bxd4 Ne2+ 35.Kf2 Nxd4 36.Nd6
Nxb3 37.axb3 Bd5 38.Nc8 Bxb3 39.Nxa7
Bd5 40.g3 Kg7 41.Ke3 Kg6 42.Kf4 Bc4
43.Nc6 b5 44.Ne5+ Kg7 45.Nc6 Bf1
46.Nb4 Bc4 47.Nc6 Bd5 48.Nb4 f6
49.gxf6+ Kxf6 50.Nd3 Ba8 51.g4 Bd5
52.g5+ Kg6 53.Ne5+ Kh5 54.Nd3 Ba2
55.Nb4 Bb1 56.Ke5 Kxg5 57.Kxe6 Kf4
58.Kd5 Bg6 59.Kc5 Be8 60.Nd5+ Ke5
61.Nc3 Bd7 ½-½

Hague and Polishchuk won their games to
 share second place while Ang was joined
 by Morrell on 3½ points (4th equal).

Hague, Ben (2480) - Capel, Evan T (2411) [B01]

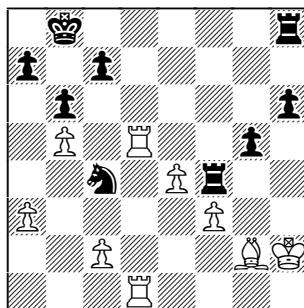
43rd North Shore Open Auckland NZL
(5.2), 21.08.2016

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Be2 Nf6
5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 Bh5 7.Nc3 Qa5 8.a3 0-0
9.d3 e5 10.Bd2 Qc5 11.b4 Qd6 12.b5
Ne7 13.Ng5 Bg6 14.Bf3 h6 15.Nge4 Nxe4
16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Bxe4 f5 18.Bf3 Kb8
(18...e4!?) 19.Qe1 g5



20.g4!? Looking to take complete control of the white squares while maintaining a nice open diagonal for his own light-square bishop. **20...e4?!** (This doesn't quite work, so safer was 20...Qf6) **21.dxe4! Bg7** (Black has lost a pawn. The point is that 21...Qxd2? loses because of 22.Rd1.) **22.Bc3 Bxc3 23.Qxc3 fxg4** (I'd rather leave White with a backward f-pawn than a passed e-pawn, so 23...fxe4 24.Bxe4 Nd5 25.Bxd5 (Else the knight finds a nice post on f4.) 25...Qxd5 and Black has good drawing chances as White will find it difficult to make any use of his extra pawn.) **24.hxg4 Qf4** The awkwardly placed f3-bishop gives Black some compensation for the pawn. **25.Rad1 Ng6 26.Qe3 Rdf8 27.Qxf4** (Another trick was 27.Rd5!/? when 27...Qxf3? would lose to 28.Rd8+.) **27...Rxf4 28.Bg2 Rxg4** Black is certainly

not worse now. **29.f3 Rf4 30.Rd7 b6 31.Kh2 Ne5 32.Rd5 Nc4 33.Rfd1**



33...Nxa3? (33...Rhf8 or 33...Kb7 were about equal.) **34.Bh3?** (34.Rd8+ Rxd8 35.Rxd8+ Kb7 36.e5! and the passer is unstoppable except at too great cost, e.g. 36...Nxb5 (Or 36...Rf7 37.f4+ c6 38.bxc6+ Kc7 39.Ra8 Re7 40.Rxa7+ Kd8 41.Rxa3+-) 37.e6 Rf6 38.e7 Re6 39.e8Q Rxe8 40.Rxe8 +-.) **34...Rff8 35.R1d2 Nc4 36.R2d3 Nd6 37.e5 Nc8 38.Rd7 h5?** (Attacking White's precious passer first was correct, e.g. 38...Re8 39.e6 and now 39...h5 is much more effective.) **39.Rc3 g4 40.Bg2 gxf3 41.Bxf3 Rxf3?!** (41...Rhg8 42.Bd5 Rf2+ 43.Kh3 Rd2 and Black is still alive, if in considerable pain.) **42.Rxf3 Re8 43.Rf5 h4 44.c4 Ne7 45.Rf7 Nc8 46.Kh3 Rxe5 47.Rd8 Kb7 48.Rff8 Rc5 49.Rxc8 c6 50.Rb8+ Kc7 51.Ra8 Rxc4 52.Rxa7+ Kd6 53.Rf6+ Kd5 54.Rd7+ Kc5 55.bxc6 Kb5 56.c7 Ka6 57.Rf8 1-0**

This was Leonard's third outright win, to go with another four first place ties, and it was certainly deserved. Overall, there were many games which could have gone either way as most of the top board games were so closely contested. It was interesting that this event has no minimum number of

moves before agreed draws are allowed, yet there were very few draws with fewer than 30 moves.

The under-2200 prize was shared by Jeremy Browne, Allen Fan and Nathan Goodhue. The under-2000 prize was won by Oliver Picken whose admission to the Open grade was accepted despite a rating below 1800; we doubt that Oliver will have any trouble entering A-grade events after the next rating list is published with his performance rating here of 2170!

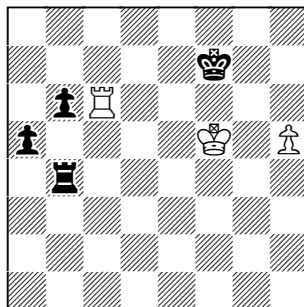
The B-grade saw a three-way tie for first place between Juni Aguilar, Sravan Renjith and Tony Wang on 4 points while Richard Meng and Vyanla Punsalan shared the under-1700 prize.

Barry Hooton won the C-grade (under 1500) with 4½/5 and five players shared second (and various grade prizes) on 3½ points: Andrew Li, Leo Li, James Liu, Richard Schurr and Caspar van den Broek.

The Editor's Mailbox

1999. Life was simpler in an earlier, now half forgotten millenium. Web sites were of interest mainly to small insects keen to avoid being eaten by spiders. Tattoos were properly confined to sailors and criminals. Phones were two part devices, people could be seen talking into one of the parts and indeed seeking other kinds of amusement with a phone was frowned upon in polite society. Garry Kasparov was World Chess Champion, Bill Clinton was President of the United States and Michael Joseph Savage was Prime Minister of New Zealand. I think. In *New Zealand Chess* the February issue featured Puchen Wang's first

appearance on the cover. He was eight years old. That issue also features this diagram and analysis from the game Hair-Bjelobrk, 106th NZ Championship, Dunedin



“Igor, one suspects, thought it was all over when he continued **46...a4** Allowing **47.Rc7+ Kg8 48.h6 Rd4** [Or **48...Rb1 49.h7+ Kh8 50.Kg6 Rg1+ 51.Kh6 Rh1+ 52.Kg6=**] **49.Rg7+ Kh8 50.Ra7 b5 51.Ra5 Rd5+ 52.Kg6 Rd6+ 53.Kg5** And the draw was agreed as Black cannot avoid the checks after **53...Rb6 54.Ra8+ Kh7 55.Ra7+ Kg8 56.Ra8+ Kh7** Instead **46...Rb5+ 47.Kg4 a4 48.h6 a3** wins easily.”

Fast forward to 2016 and Philip Hair has written in to point out that this analysis is flawed and the ending is drawn after all. “Instead of **48.h6?** White can play **48.Rc7+!** After this, Black can escape the checks only by playing **48...Ke6** when **49.h6** draws, e.g. **49...Rb1 50.h7 Rh1 (50...Rg1+ 51.Kh5 Rh1+ 52.Kg6 a3 53.Rc6+ Kd5 54.Rxb6 a2 55.Ra6) 51.Rc6+ Kd5 52.Rxb6 Rxh7 53.Ra6** My apologies for extreme tardiness in writing about this, but that endgame has been bothering me for some time.”. Philip is quite correct. My apologies for having a little fun with his email. Of course receiving it made my day.

NZ at the 2016 Baku Olympiad

Part 1 – The Women's Team *by Helen Milligan*

Here is a tabulated summary of our final result;

Final position 79. New Zealand (NZL / RtgAvg:1709 / TB1: 10 / TB2: 168)

		Rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	TPR	Rtg+/-
1	CM Milligan, Helen	2040	0	1	1	0		1	½	1	½	1	½	6,5/10	2075	12.8
2	WCM Zhang, Jasmine	1721	0	½	1	½	1	1	0	1	0	1	½	6,5/11	1851	70.0
3	Song, Kate	1681	0	0	½	1	1	1	0	½		0	0	4,0/10	1654	-1.2
4	Braganza, Nadia	1392	0	0			1	1	0	½	0	1	½	4,0/9	1524	63.2
5	Lourenco, Eva	1276			0	0	1				0			1,0/4	1291	-2.2

Given that we were seeded 101, this finish looks good and indeed satisfied the criterion I had set in Council to justify employment of a coach, ie a finish 20 places above our seeding. For most of the team (well, everyone except me), working with a coach was a novelty, and it's clear that it worked better for some than for others. Perhaps, with junior players, an earlier introduction to formal preparation methods would lead to even better results in future...

I have been to a very large number of Olympiads, and Baku was in many ways the best. Our hotel, the 5-star Baku Hilton, was wonderful, and the food at least as good as at the legendary Dubai Olympiad. It would have been nice to have rooms all together instead of scattered around the building, but you can't have everything and travelling in the glass-backed lifts with a

view out over the sea was not unpleasant! The playing conditions were very good: the hall was spacious and toilets were plentiful and indoors (unlike Tromso!). The venue (the Crystal Hall) was an inconvenient 5km from the hotel, but even this had its upside as the walk back home along the seafront was delightful – the seafront boulevard included a paved area, grass, trees, cafes, and views of amazing buildings including the Flame Towers with their chess-themed light display. It all felt perfectly safe too – indeed I spent a couple of hours late one evening out on the boulevard with my big camera, resting it on rubbish bins (in lieu of a tripod) to photograph the lights, and had no hassles whatsoever. Even the weather favoured us, with sunshine and warm breezes most of the time. The security was, of course, an annoyance – no cameras being the main irritation. It was best to accept that you could take nothing with you

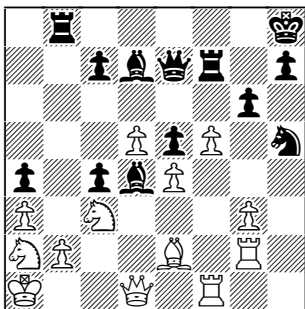
(no pen, no phone, no wristwatch, no electronic gadgets, no books to read, no notepaper...) and just go in with your hotel room key! We were also ejected from the tournament hall once our games were finished – so no chance to go round and watch the top guys, or even to catch up on results – the only way to find out what was happening was to go back to the hotel and check online.

Round 1 Colombia (33), Lose 4-0

Of course our seeding put us in line for a very strong opponent in round 1, and this year no-one managed to get anything at all off them. My game might have been our best hope, as I had an aggressive position, but her king turned out to be a lot safer than mine and I went wrong in all the complications.

Rodriguez Rueda, Paula Andrea (2326) – Milligan, Helen (2040) [E87]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (1.32), 02.09.2016



30...Ng7 31.fxg6 Rxf1 32.Qxf1 hxc6
33.Rh2+ Kg8 34.Bxc4 Qd6 35.Nb4 Nh5

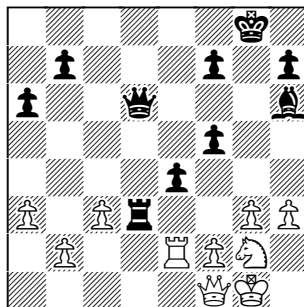
36.Qc1 Qc5 37.Ne2 Rf8 38.Nxd4 Qxd4
39.Rd2 Qxe4 40.d6+ Kg7 41.dxc7 Qg4
42.Qc3 Re8 43.Be2 Qe6 44.Bxh5 gxh5
45.Qe3 Qf5 46.Rf2 Qg4 47.Rf1 Kg6
48.Nd5 Bf5 49.Qb6+ Re6 50.c8Q 1-0

Round 2 Monaco (97), Lose 1½-2½

Although the seeding of our opponents in round 2 was not too far from ours, they were mostly very experienced players. My opponent seemed to be doing everything possible to neutralise me and achieve a half point, but fortunately she blundered with 33.fxe3 and made my life easy.

Lebel-Arias, Julia (1802) – Milligan, Helen (2040) [A48]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (2.38), 03.09.2016



32.Ne3 Bxe3 33.fxe3? Rd1 0-1

Round 3 Netherlands Antilles (119), Win 2½-1½

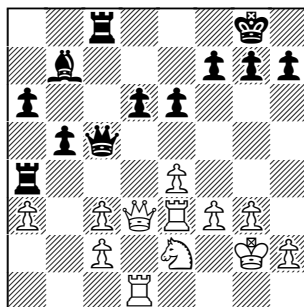
It had become clear by this point that little Nadia was exhausted after a long series of events (Fiji International then the North Shore weekend) and Peter decided she should take a couple of days off. This

didn't stop us beating Netherlands Antilles! Jasmine ruined her opponent's pawn structure and then cleaned up efficiently. I found out just how useful a Coach can be – I noticed that my opponent usually played the Schliemann against the Lopez, and I was uncomfortable with that. On my own, I would have swotted up a whole lot of theory, and played into a position my opponent was almost certainly familiar with. Peter suggested that I play 3.Bc4 instead of 3.Bb5 and approach a Lopez-like position on my terms, not hers. Worked a treat! Worth it just for the expression on her face when I moved the bishop – though I think the same expression might have been found on Hilton's face; he was captain on the ground that day.

Sanchez, Mariana – Zhang, Jasmine Haomo (1721) [B90]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (3.64), 04.09.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.Bxf6 Bxf6 9.Nde2 Qc7 10.Bb3 b5 11.a3 Bb7 12.0–0 Nc6 13.Qd2 0–0 14.Ng3 Ne7 15.Nh5 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Rfd8 17.Rfe1 Rac8 18.Re3 Qc5 19.Nf4 Qe5 20.g3 Nc6 21.Qe2 Na5 22.Qd3 Nc4 23.Ree1 Qf6 24.Bxc4 Rxc4 25.Re3 Qe5 26.f3 Rdc8 27.Ne2 Qc5 28.Kg2 Ra4 29.Rd1



29...d5 30.exd5 Bxd5 31.Nf4 Rxa3 32.Nxd5 exd5 33.Rde1 g6 34.Qe2 Rxc3 35.Re8+ Rxe8 36.Qxe8+ Qf8 37.Qd7 Rxc2+ 38.Kh1 Re8 39.Qxd5 Qc5 40.Qa2 Qc6 41.Qb3 Kg7 42.Qe3 Qc3 43.Qf2 Rd8 44.Re2 Qd4 45.Qf1 Qc4 46.Qa1+ Qd4 47.Qf1 Qa4 48.Re1 Rd2 49.Rc1 Qa2 50.Ra1 Qc2 51.Rc1 Qd3 52.Qxd3 Rxd3 53.Kg2 Ra3 54.Rc6 b4 55.Rb6 a5 56.Kf2 b3 57.Ke1 a4 58.Kd2 Ra2+ 59.Kc1 Rxh2 60.Kb1 Rf2 61.Ra6 Rxf3 62.Rxa4 Rg3 0–1

Round 4 Puerto Rico (78), Lose 1½-2½

A second day off for Nadia, but a rather tougher opponent for us. Jasmine extracted herself from a vicious attack by her (blind) opponent, and Kate outplayed her higher-rated opponent.

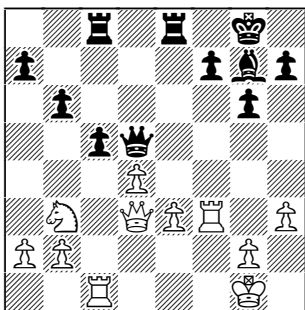
Song, Kate (1681) - Comas Colon, Rinelly(1773) [B06]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (4.42), 05.09.2016

Notes based on comments by Kate Song

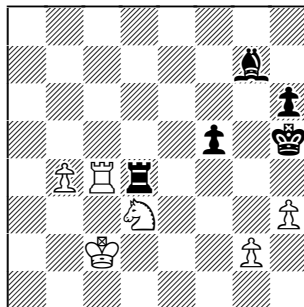
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c3 I decided on a cautious consolidating approach, as I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do 3...d6

4.Bd3 Nf6 5.h3 0-0 6.Ne2 c6 7.Ng3 e5 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Be3 Re8 10.Nd2 d5! Equalizing 11.Qc2 exd4 12.exd4 Nxe4 13.Ndxe4 dxe4 14.Nxe4 Now I prefer 14.Bxe4 Ed: The computer feels quite differently. It's interesting to get a player's notes that are clearly not computer assisted at all, almost a throwback to a different age. Many coaches recommend analysing your games without the computer first, so in a way it's partially best practice! 14...Nb6 15.Qc3? To try to hold the d pawn, however... 15...Nd5! 16.Qd2 Nxe3 (Ed: 16...Bf5! wins 17.Nc3 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Bxd4 19.exd4 Qxd4+ with two healthy extra pawns) 17.fxe3 Bf5 18.Nc5 b6 19.Nb3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 Rc8 21.Rac1 Qd5 22.Rf3 c5



23.Qc4 Qxc4 24.Rxc4 Rcd8 25.Kf2 cxd4 26.exd4 Re7 27.a3 b5 28.Rb4? Locking up my own rook 28...a6 29.a4 Trying to break out 29...Rc7 30.Rc3 Rcd7 31.axb5 Bf8 32.Ra4 axb5 33.Ra5 Rd5 (I didn't mind 33...Bb4 34.Rxb5 Bxc3 35.bxc3 because I liked the two passed pawns) 34.Ra7 Bd6 35.Rf3 f5 36.Rb7 b4 37.Ke2 Bf8 38.Re3 Rc8 39.Kd3 h6? Self weakening 40.Re6! Rd6 41.Rxd6 Bxd6 42.Rb6 Rd8 43.Na5 Threatening Nb7 43...Bc5 44.Rxg6+ Kf7? I didn't

understand this 45.Rc6 (I also don't know why I didn't take the free h pawn! 45.Rxh6) 45...Rxd4+ 46.Kc2 Bf8 47.Rc4 Rd6? Simpler to exchange rooks 48.Nc6 Kg6? Meekly accepting a pawn loss 49.Nxb4 Kh5 50.Nd3 Bg7 51.b4 Rd4??



52.Nf4+! (or 52.Rxd4! Bxd4 53.Nf4+) 52...Kh4 53.g3+ Kxg3 54.Ne2+ 1-0

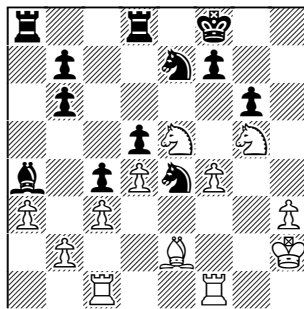
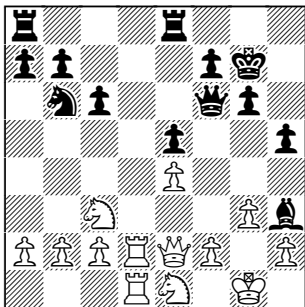
Round 5 Fiji (122), Win 4-0

This was a bit of a gamble! Nadia was duly recovered, but I was looking rather jaded. Peter wanted to rest me but was concerned that Fiji might take advantage of my absence. He need not have worried at all – the team crunched Fiji.

Prasad, Tanvi (1339) – Braganza, Nadia (1392) [B08]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (5.54), 06.09.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Bd2 0-0 6.Qc1 Nbd7 7.Bh6 e5 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 9.Be2 Re8 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.0-0 Nh5 12.Rd1 Nf4 13.Qe3 c6 14.g3 Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2 Qf6 16.Rd2 Nb6 17.Rad1 Bh3 18.Ne1 h5



19.Ng2 Bg4 20.f3 Bxf3 21.Qe1 Bxd1
 22.Rxd1 Rad8 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Nh4
 Qd6 25.Qe3 Qd4 26.Qxd4 exd4 27.Ne2
 d3 28.cxd3 Rxd3 29.Kf2 Rd2 30.Kf3
 Rxb2 31.e5 Nc4 32.Kf4 Rxe2 33.Nf3
 Rxa2 34.g4 b5 35.g5 b4 36.Nd4 Rxh2
 37.e6 fxe6 38.Nxe6+ Kg8 39.Nd4 a5
 40.Nxc6 b3 41.Nd4 b2 42.Kf3 b1Q
 43.Kf4 Rh4+ 44.Kf3 Qe4+ 45.Kf2 Qe3+
 46.Kg2 Rf4 47.Kh2 Qf2+ 48.Kh3 Rh4#
 0-1

Round 6 Qatar (114), Win 4-0

With both Nadia and I nicely rested, we took on a team only slightly below us in the rankings, and wiped them out, to our very great satisfaction!

Zhang,Jasmine Haomo (1721) - Al Khulaifi,Fatima A (1584) [D02]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (6.38), 08.09.2016

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.e3 e5 5.c3
 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Qb6 7.Qb3 c4 8.Qxb6 axb6
 9.Be2 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.h3 h6 12.a3 0-0
 13.Ne5 Rfd8 14.g4 Bc2 15.Rac1 Ba4
 16.g5 hxg5 17.Bxg5 Kf8 18.f4 Nh7
 19.Bxe7+ Nxe7 20.e4 g6 21.Kh2 Nf6
 22.exd5 exd5 23.Ndf3 Ne4 24.Ng5

24...Nxc5? 25.fxc5 Nf5 26.Bg4 Bd7
 27.Nxd7+ Rxd7 28.Bxf5 gxf5 29.Rxf5
 Kg7 30.Re1 Rh8 31.Ree5 Rh4 32.Kg3
 Re4 33.Rxe4 dxe4 34.Re5 Kg6 35.h4 f5
 36.gxf6 Kxf6 37.Rxe4 Rg7+ 38.Rg4 Re7
 39.Rf4+ Kg6 40.Rf2 Re1 41.Rh2 Kh5
 42.Rf2 Rg1+ 43.Kh2 Rg4 44.Rf6 Rxh4+
 45.Kg3 Rg4+ 46.Kf3 Kg5 47.Rxb6 Rf4+
 48.Ke3 Rf7 49.Rb4 Re7+ 50.Kd2 Rc7
 51.Rb5+ Kf4 52.Re5 Rc6 53.Kc2 Rc7
 54.Rc5 Rxc5 55.dxc5 Ke4 56.b3 Kd5
 57.b4 Kc6 58.a4 b6 1-0

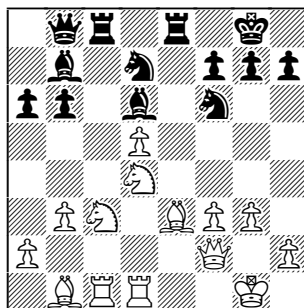
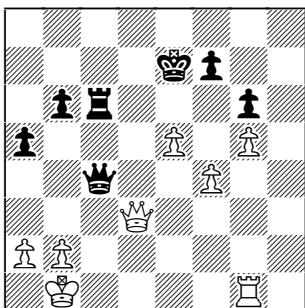
Al Khelaifi,Kholoud (1492) - Song,Kate (1681) [D35]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (6.38), 08.09.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5
 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bxf6 Bxf6
 9.Qc2 Re8 10.0-0-0 b6 11.Nf3 Bb7 12.g4
 c6 13.h4 Nd7 14.Rdg1 g6 15.g5 hxg5
 16.hxg5 (16.h5 looks more dangerous)
 16...Bg7 17.Rh3 Nf8 18.Rgh1 e5 19.Qd1
 exd4 20.exd4 Qd6 21.Kb1 a5 22.R1h2
 Ne6 23.Qh1 Kf8 24.Nb5 Qd8 25.Qc1 Rc8
 26.Qd2 Nc7 27.Be2 Nxb5 28.Bxb5 Bc6
 29.Bd3 Qd6 30.Bc2 Bb5 31.Ng1 Bd7
 32.Rg3 Re6 33.f4 Rce8 34.Nf3 Bb5
 35.Ne5 Bxe5 36.dxe5 Qc5 37.Bd3 Bxd3+

38.Qxd3 Rc8 39.Rh8+ Ke7 40.Rxc8 Qxc8
41.Qxd5 Rc6 42.Rg1 Qe6 43.Qd3 Qc4

16.Qf2 d5 17.cxd5 exd5 18.exd5 Bd6
19.g3



44.Qf3?? Qc2+ 45.Ka1 Qc1+ 0-1

Round 7 Australia (54), Lose 3½-½

Of course, what we earned by winning a couple of matches in succession was a pairing against a team that outranked us quite substantially. However, Australia wasn't really playing to form, and we had a chance to get a good result. Alas, it didn't go too well for us. One amusing note though – before the match Heather and I were interviewed on TV by Susan Polgar. She was remarking on the fact that we had come all the way from Oceania just to play each other – so we pointed out that we'd both emigrated to Oceania, me from Scotland and Heather from England, making the pairing even more bizarre...

**Milligan, Helen (2040) –
Richards, Heather (2199) [B28]**

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (7.36),
09.09.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.c4 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4
Qc7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bd3 b6 8.Qe2 d6 9.0-0
Bb7 10.Be3 Nbd7 11.Rac1 Be7 12.b3 0-0
13.Bb1 Rfe8 14.Rfd1 Rac8 15.f3 Qb8

19...Rxc3 20.Rxc3 Nxd5 21.Qc2 (21.Nc6 is better here but with all the white pieces lined up for the black knight to take, I didn't calculate accurately) 21...N7f6
22.Bf2 Nxc3 23.Qxc3 Be5 24.Qc2 g6
25.Nc6 Qc7 26.Nxe5 Qxe5 27.Re1 Qd5
28.Rxe8+ Nxe8 29.Qd3 b5 30.Qxd5 Bxd5
31.f4 f5 32.Bd4 Kf7 33.Kf2 Ke6 34.Ke3
Nd6 35.Bc2 Nb7 36.Bc3 Nd6 37.Kd4 Nb7
38.a4 Nd6 39.Bb4 Ne4 40.axb5 axb5
41.Bd3 Bc6 42.Be1 Kd6 43.Bb4+ Ke6
44.Be1 Kd6 45.Bb4+ ½-½

Round 8 Botswana (104), Win 3-1

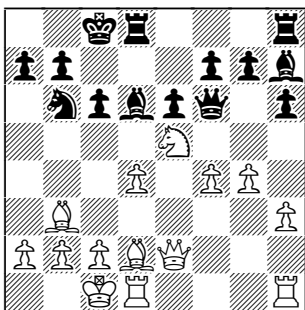
I was (to the irritation of our Coach!) somewhat daunted by this opponent, as she hadn't lost a game and was sitting on a pretty decent TPR. However, her slightly weird choice of 6...Bf5 instead of 6...Bh5 left me feeling fairly confident that she didn't know what she was doing. I should perhaps have thrown in a d5 break, but chose to sit on my space advantage, and was rewarded by the opportunity for a nice tactic. Nadia won a pawn early on and worked hard to benefit from it; in the end Peter told her that she could offer a draw

(as he is entitled to do, as captain). A good result for her, and for the team.

Milligan, Helen (2040) – Francis, Onkemetse (1777) [B01]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (8.44), 10.09.2016

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Bf5 7.Bd2 c6 8.Bc4 e6 9.Nd5 Qd8 10.Nxf6+ Qxf6 11.Qe2 h6 12.0–0–0 Nd7 13.g4 Bh7 14.Ne5 Nb6 15.Bb3 Bd6 16.f4 0–0–0?

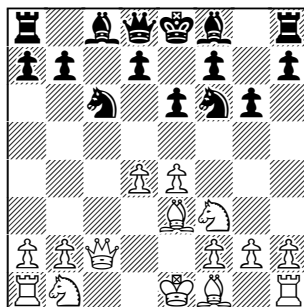


17.Nxf7 Qxd4 18.Qxe6+ Kb8 19.Be3 Qe4 20.Nxd8 Rxd8 21.f5 Qf3 22.Rdf1 Qg2 23.Bxb6 axb6 24.Qe1 Bg3 25.Qc3 Bg8 26.Bxg8 Rxg8 27.Qf3 Qxf3 28.Rxf3 Bd6 29.h4 Kc7 30.c3 Re8 31.Kd2 Re4 32.Rg1 Rf4 33.Rxf4 Bxf4+ 34.Kd3 Kd6 35.Ke4 1–0

Mooketsi, Khumo – Braganza, Nadia (1392) [B30]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (8.44), 10.09.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Qc2 g6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 e6 7.Be3?



7...Nb4! 8.Qc1 Nxe4 9.Nbd2 Nxd2 10.Qxd2 Qa5 11.Kd1 b6 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.Nc4 Qf5 14.Bf4 Qg4+ 15.Ke1 Nc2+ 16.Qxc2 Qxf4 17.Qd2 Qe4+ 18.Qe3 Qc2 19.a3 Qe4 20.Qxe4 Bxe4 21.Rc1 Ke7 22.f3 Bd5 23.Ne3 Bc6 24.Be2 Bh6 25.Kf2 Rac8 26.Rc3 Bxe3+ 27.Kxe3 Bd5 28.Rhc1 Rxc3+ 29.Rxc3 Bc6 30.b4 Rc8 31.b5 Bb7 32.Rxc8 Bxc8 33.g4 h6 34.h4 f5 35.g5 h5 36.f4 Kd6 37.Bc4 Bb7 38.Kd3 ½–½

Round 9 Albania (74), Lose 3½–½

Albania has a very experienced team – indeed I remember the Shabanaj sisters as little girls playing in an Olympiad a long, long time ago! I wasn't expecting a Four Knights and was unduly timid but Eglantina didn't take advantage of it and I escaped with a draw. This was a rather disappointing round for us in several ways. It's always the case in an Olympiad that the last round is all-important, and we wanted to have our best possible team nicely rested for that. This meant that ideally we would have rested Jasmine and Nadia in rounds 9 and 10, in some order, so both were in peak condition for round 11. This would also have given Jasmine an excellent chance of

scoring enough for the WFM title – which was one of our targets for the event. Unfortunately, we were faced with a situation where Kate felt she was unable to play, so both Jasmine and Nadia had to play.

Round 10 International Chess Committee of the Deaf (70), Win 3-1

Again, despite wanting to, we were not able to rest either Jasmine or Nadia. However, we had a most miraculous stroke of luck, in that ICCD rested their board 1 – Tatiana Baklanova is over 2200 and had beaten me twice before, so my chances against her were not rated as good! Without her, their team was substantially weaker. Jasmine and Nadia both fought hard; Nadia's opponent was 400 points higher rated but she still won!

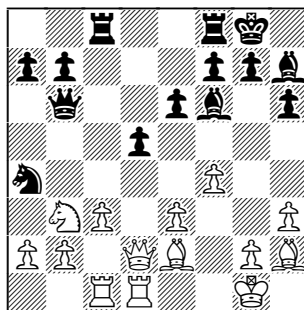
Zhang, Jasmine Haomo (1721) – Myronenko, Natalya (1922) [D02]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (10.44), 12.09.2016

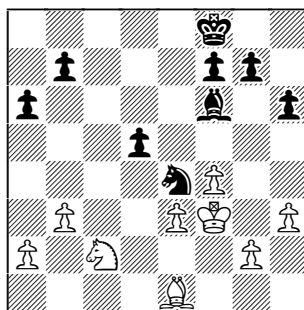
Annotated by Jasmine Zhang

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Qb6 5.Qc1 Definitely not the best move (5.Nc3 is probably what I should have played. If the queen takes with 5...Qxb2 then 6.Nb5 Na6 7.a3 with the threat of Rb1, Qc1 and Ra1 trapping the queen) 5...Nc6 6.c3 Bf5 7.h3 h6 8.Nbd2 e6 9.dxc5 This was a mistake on my part (9.Be2 Be7 (9...Rc8 10.0-0) 10.dxc5 Thus making black lose a tempo 10...Bxc5) 9...Bxc5 10.Nb3 (10.Be2 0-0 11.b4 Be7 12.a3 Rac8) 10...Be7 11.Nbd4 Bh7 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Rac8 14.Ne5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Nd7 16.Bh2 Nc5 17.Rd1 Ne4 18.f3 Nc5 19.Qd2 Na4

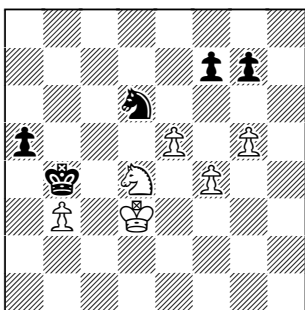
20.Nb3 Bf6 (20...Bg5 straight away was also possible 21.f4 Bf6 22.Kh1 Ed: 22.Kh1 deserves a ?, since the computer points out that now Black can win material by chasing the queen which runs out of squares 22...Nxc3 23.bxc3 Bxc3 24.Qc1 Bb4 25.Qb2 Rc2) 21.Rac1 Bg5 22.f4 Bf6



Now I was stuck in a rather uncomfortable position 23.Kf1 Be4 (23...Rfd8 Was probably better, moving her pieces to better squares) 24.Bg1 Rfd8 25.Bg4 Qc6 26.Qe2 Qb6 27.Rd2 Rc7 28.Nd4 a6 29.Bf3 Nc5 30.Bf2 Rdc8 31.Bxe4 Nxe4 32.Rdc2 Rc4 33.Be1 Qa5 (33...Bxd4 34.exd4 f5) 34.b3 R4c7 35.c4 Qb6 36.Qd3 Qd6 37.exd5 Rxc2 38.Rxc2 Rxc2 39.Nxc2 Qxd5 Pawn takes is likely to be better 40.Qxd5 exd5 41.Ke2 Kf8 42.Kf3



42... h5? Blunder (42...Bc3 43.Bxc3 Nxc3 This was the variation I was considering. This should be roughly equal, or maybe a bit better for black) 43.Nb4 Bc3 44.Nxd5 Ng5+ 45.Ke2 (45.fxg5 Bxe1 46.Nf4 h4 47.Nd3 Bc3 48.Nc5 wins another pawn. I however didn't see this and played Ke2 instead) 45...Bxe1 46.Kxe1 Ne4 47.g4 hxg4 48.hxg4 Ke8 49.g5 Kd7 50.Nb4 a5 51.Nc2 Nc3 52.a4 b5 53.axb5 Nxb5 54.Kd2 Nd6 55.Kd3 (55.Nd4 might have been a better option 55...Ne4+ 56.Kd3 Nf2+ 57.Kc4 Ng4 58.e4 Nf2 59.Kd5 Nh3 60.f5 Nf4+ (60...Nxc5 61.Nc6 Nh3 62.Nxa5) 61.Kc5) 55...Kc6 56.e4 Kc5 57.Nd4 Kb4 58.e5



58...Ne8 (58...Nb7 With the threat of Nc5 59.f5 Nc5+ 60.Ke3 Is still a win for white though)) 59.f5 a4 60.bxa4 Kxa4 61.Kc4 f6 62.gxf6 gxf6 63.e6 Ka3 64.Nb5+ Kb2 65.e7 Kc2 66.Kd5 Kd3 67.Nd6 Ng7 68.e8Q Nxe8 69.Nxe8 Ke3 70.Nxf6 Kf4 71.Ke6 Kg5 72.Ne4+ Kh6 73.f6 Kh7 74.Ke7 1-0

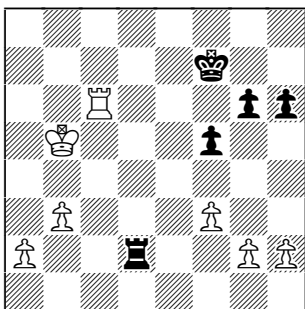
Braganza, Nadia (1392) – Zhukovskaya, Nina (1793) [C10]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (10.44), 12.09.2016

Annotated by Nadia Braganza

1.e4 e6 Playing e4 is always tricky for Black or White as you never know how it can go due to various lines, but I felt I was in control until the 7th move. 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bd3 Well, I think at this stage a better move was c3, c5 and Ne5 but I didn't consider playing it. 7...Be7 As soon my opponent moved her kingside Bishop, I knew she wanted to castle, and so I took the lead at my end. I also thought of moving my Queen to Qe2 but then I settled to castle on the shortside. 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3 At this stage Ne5 could have been a good move but I settled for a quiet move of c3. 9...c5 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nd4?! Maybe I should have developed my Bishop and pinned the Knight with Bg5 but moving to Nd4 did not achieve as much as I hoped. 11...Re8 Was it the best move by the opponent, possibly or moving the Bishop to Be2. Anyway it went on 12.Nb3 Be7 13.Qf3 Still my undeveloped Bishop and my thought to attack or to exchange the Queen after her 13th move 13...Qd5 I soon exchanged the Queen 14.Qxd5 After the exchange my thoughts were heading into the endgame. I'm looking at my clock to see if I have enough time as I'm still on the 14th move. 14...Nxd5 15.Be4 Nf6 16.Bf3 e5 17.Re1 Nd7?! I thought the Nd7 wasn't a good move from my opponent and at this stage I'm looking to take advantage 18.Na5! My mum says a Knight on the rim is dim but I'm heading for the pawn and in the bargain we had a some quick moves

and attacks. 18...Rb8 19.Be3 Bc5 20.Rad1 Bxe3 21.Rxe3 Nf6 22.Nc4 Bg4 23.Bxg4 Nxc4 24.Re4 Nf6? Possibly she could have done something like Rbd8 25.Rxe5 Rxe5 26.Nxe5 h6 27.Nd7 Nxd7 28.Rxd7 After all the pieces were exchanged we headed for a Rook and Pawn end game. 28...Kf8 29.Kf1 Ke8 30.Rc7 g6 31.b3 Kf8 32.c4 a6 33.f3 Kg7 34.Ke2 Kf6 35.Kd3 Ke6 36.Kc3 f5 37.Rg7 I ensured my King was in the middle of the board leading the pawns or protecting them. 37...Kf6 38.Rc7 Ke6 39.Kb4 b6 40.Rc6+ Kf7 41.Ka4 b5+ 42.cxb5 axb5+ 43.Ka5 Rd8 44.Kxb5 Rd2



With her Rook on d2, I planned to move my pawns as she got rid of my pawns on the second rank. I just had to save a pawn to queen and whoohoo I got it as I planned. 45.a4! Rxc2 46.a5 Rxc2 47.a6 Ra2 48.Rc4 Ke6 49.Ra4 Rd2 50.a7 Rd5+ 51.Kc6 Rd6+ 52.Kc7 Rd7+ 53.Kc8 Rxa7 54.Rxa7 She had to decide what she wanted to do with the game but she slowly put her hand up (at one stage I thought does she want a draw ? as I was playing for the first time against a deaf person) but then she smiled and resigned. 1-0

Round 11 Luxembourg (67), Lose 2½-1½

Of course, if you win round 10, you get a strong team in round 11! It would have been very good for us if the event had stopped at round 10 – we were ahead of Australia at that point! But 11 rounds there are and we had to play. In fact, although we lost the match, it remained a triumph for us, with Jasmine and Nadia putting every last effort they could into holding draws. My game finished second after Kate's quick loss; Fiona offered a draw and Peter indicated that I should accept. He later told me that he feared attempts to win it might lead to a loss. Jasmine and Nadia fought on for hours!

Bakalarz, Grazyna (1953) – Zhang, Jasmine Haomo (1721)

[D37]

Olympiad Women 2016 Baku AZE (11.37), 13.09.2016

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 0-0 7.Qc2 Nbd7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bd3 Re8 10.0-0 Nf8 11.Rab1 a5 12.a3 Ng6 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 Ne4 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.b5 Ra3 17.Bxe4 dxe4 18.Nd2 f5 19.Nc4 Ra7 20.bxc6 bxc6 21.Na4 Be6 22.Nc5 Bd5 23.Nb6 Nh4 24.Nxd5 cxd5 25.Kh1 Qg5 26.Rg1 Rf7 27.Qa4 Rc8 28.Qa6 Qd8 29.Qe6 Kf8 30.Qb6 Qe7 31.Ne6+ Kg8 32.Nf4 Rc2 33.Rb2 Rxb2 34.Qxb2 Qd6 35.Qa2 Rd7 36.Rc1 g5 37.Qa8+ Kg7 38.Nh5+ Kf7 39.Rc6 Rd8 40.Qb7+ Rd7 41.Qb6 Qa3 42.Rf6+ Ke7 43.h3 Qc1+ 44.Kh2 Qc7+ 45.Qxc7 Rxc7 46.Rh6 Rc2 47.Rxc7+ Ke6 48.Kg3

Two Big Tournaments Scheduled for January.

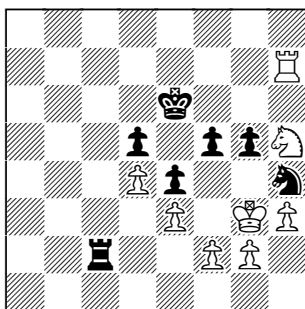
Congress and the Zonal are scheduled at adjacent times in January 2017. This is a rare opportunity to binge on top quality chess here in New Zealand. Start planning now and secure your place at both tournaments.

All the details for both tournaments are available at the official NZCF website;

www.newzealandchess.co.nz

124th New Zealand Congress 1-11 January. The NZ Open Championship runs from 1-9 January. One game per day. Time control 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with the addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one. Top New Zealand player(s) will be crowned 2017 New Zealand Champion(s), and will have name(s) engraved on Silver Rook. Additional tournaments include a 9 round Open Rapid Championship on 10-11 January, a Blitz Championship and a 6 round Junior Open held on the mornings of the 4-9 January (so that Junior Open players can play in the NZ Open as well). A NZ Poison Pawn Grand Prix event. Onsite accommodation available at the venue, CQ Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington.

Oceania Zonal Chess Championships 14-20 January. 9 Rounds in 7 days. Open to Oceania zone players only. Time control 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with the addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one. Open and Women's 9 round Swiss tournaments. A NZ Poison Pawn Grand Prix event. Onsite accommodation available at the venue, Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, Mt Wellington, Auckland.



Rxh3 58.Rxd5 Rf3 59.Kg4 Rf8 60.Re5+
Kd7 61.Rxe4 Kd6 62.Rf4 Rxf4+ 63.Kxf4
Kd5 64.Ke3 Kd6 65.Ke4 Ke6 66.d5+ Kd7
67.Ke5 Ke7 68.d6+ Kd8 69.Kf6 Kd7
70.Ke5 Kd8 71.Ke6 Ke8 72.Kf6 Kd7 ½-
½

48...Rc3 49.Rh6+ Ke7 50.Ng7 f4+ 51.Kg4
fxe3 52.fxe3 Nxc2 53.Nf5+ Kf7 54.Kxc5
Nxe3 55.Rf6+ Ke8 56.Nxe3 Rxe3 57.Rd6

Part 2 – The Open Team

Here is a tabulated summary of the Open team's final result;

Final position 95. New Zealand (NZL / RtgAvg:2328, / TB1: 10 / TB2: 198)

	Rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	TPR	Rtg+/-
1 FM Kulashko, Alexei	2348	+	0	½	1		1	0	0	½	0	½	4.5/10	2323	-3.8
2 FM Wastney, Scott	2312			½	1	0	1	½	1	0	1	1	6.0/9	2447	33.0
3 IM Dive, Russell	2309	+	0	½	½	½		0		1	½	½	4.5/9	2247	-7.3
4 FM Hague, Ben	2341	+	0	0		1	1	½	1	½		1	6.0/9	2320	-2.4
5 FM Lukey, Stephen	2217	+	0			1	0	1		0		0	3.0/7	2042	-27.2

Round 1 Djibouti (179), Win 4-0 (by default)

The Open team were seeded 86th, in the top half of the field (just), setting up a first round clash with 179th (out of 180) ranked Djibouti. Unfortunately this resulted in an anticlimactic default – the Djibouti team eventually overcame their logistical difficulties and joined battle in the 6th round.

Round 2 Kazakhstan (37), Lose 0-4

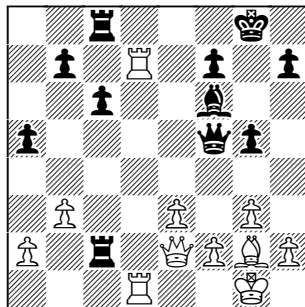
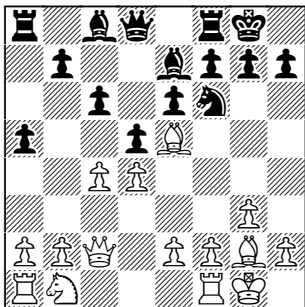
Stephen Lukey came closest to pulling off an upset against very strong opposition.

Lukey, Stephen (2217) – Kostenko, Petr (2476) [E11]

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (2.21),
03.09.2016

Annotated by Stephen Lukey

After Djibouti defaulted in the 1st round, we faced the all-GM Kazakhstan team. It was my turn to rest and so I went to bed early as I'd arranged a mountain adventure in the Caucasus. But at 5.30am my phone went off and I was summonsed to Hilton's room. Scott was feeling sick so I was to play. The mountains had to wait for another day! **1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.g3 d5 6.Qc2** I wasted too much time pondering 6 Bg2 here, as well as other moves in this fairly simple opening. In fact the entire team played too slowly and our coach GM Dejan Bojkov rightly explained how this was showing too much respect to our opponents. We had to try to put pressure on even when facing GMs! It turned out Scott took this lesson to heart with his fine double IM norm **6...0-0 7.Bg2 c6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bf4 Nbd7 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5**



11...g5! Well I didn't consider that in a million years! A very unusual thrust that targets Be5 with Ng4 / Nd7 and f6 to come. I blew more time looking at combinative tries before playing what was really the only move. **12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Rd1 Bg7 14.e3 Qe7 15.Nc3!** A good move that provokes the GM into activity that backfires **15...dxc4 16.Na4 e5 17.Nb6 Ra6?** Black possibly had better options the last couple of moves but this seems a definite mistake **18.Nxc8 Rxc8 19.dxe5** Not bad, but (19.d5! cxd5 20.Rxd5 Bf6 21.Be4 h6 22.Rad1 is very promising - white is a pawn down but black is in a horrible bind) **19...Qxe5 20.Qxc4 Rb6 21.b3!** A very nice concept **21...Rb4** (21...Qxa1 loses after 22.Rxa1 Bxa1 23.Qg4! with Qg5 and Qa5 to follow and black is lost) **22.Qc2 Bf6 23.Rab1 Rb5 24.Rd7 Rc5 25.Qe2 25 Qd3 and 25 Qd2** were also good options - white is clearly better with control of the d file, a better attacking bishop, and the holes created by g5 **25...Qf5 26.Rbd1 Rc2**

I saw that 27 Qf3 was strong (and safe!), then I noticed 27 Bh3 and thought it was better, which it might have been but for black's reply. **27.Bh3??** After (27.Qf3 Qxf3 28.Bxf3 Rxa2 29.Rxb7 Ra1 30.Rxa1 Bxa1 31.Be2 followed by Bc4 I can torture the GM forever with good chances of a win) **27...Qxd7!** Oh shit **28.Bxd7 Rxc2 29.Bxc8 b5 30.Rd6?** With about 4 minutes left blind panic was the order of the day. (30.Bd7 Rxa2 31.Bxc6 a4 32.bxa4 bxa4 33.Rd7 followed by Ra7 and Bd5 looks a clear draw) **30...Be7 31.Rxc6 Rxa2 32.Rb6??** Hopeless play - 32 Ra6 or 32 Bc6 were most probably still drawn, though the GM would've tortured me for many moves **32...a4 33.bxa4 bxa4 34.Bb7 a3 35.Bd5 Rd2 36.Bb3 Rb2 37.Kg2 Kg7 0-1**

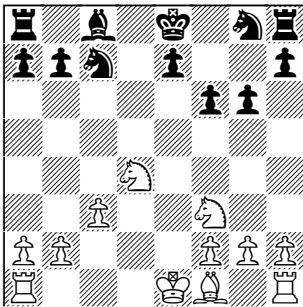
Round 3 Denmark (42) , Lose 1½-2½

This was a real heartbreaker against another all GM team. Wastney and Kulashko had good chances to win, whilst Dive and Hague held firm. We could have, perhaps should have won, but in the end had to settle for the opposite result.

**Kulashko, Alexei (2348) –
Andersen, Mads (2535) [B22]**

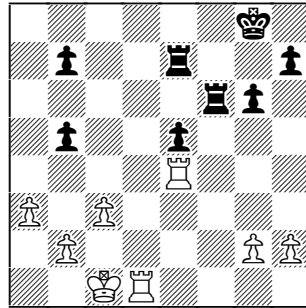
Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (3.25),
04.09.2016

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 g6
5.Na3** A rare move. 5.Nf3 is the most
popular continuation. However, 5.Na3
surprised Andersen. He spent 23 minutes for
his next 3 moves **5...Bg7 6.Nb5 Na6 7.Be3
cxd4 8.Bxd4 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 Qxd4** Played
after some hesitation. Perhaps, the Danish
GM tried to find where he has more
chances to play for a win. After 9...Qxd4
the endgame is almost equal and the
White's play is easier. **10.Nxd4 Nc7
11.Ngf3 f6?!**

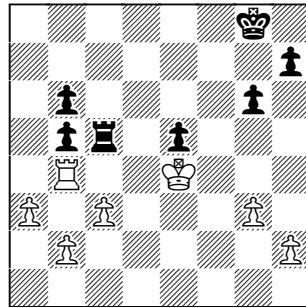


(11...Nf6 was better. Now, the g8-Knight
needs some time to enter the game.)
12.Nb5! White has a small lead in
development and must act quickly.
Otherwise, after Bc8-d7 Black will not
have any problems. **12...Ne6?!** This leads
to an unpleasant endgame for Black.
Instead, (12...Nxb5 13.Bxb5+ Kf8 14.0-0-
0 Nh6 is only slightly better for White)
**13.Bc4 a6 14.Bxe6 axb5 15.Nd4 Bxe6
16.Nxe6 Rc8 17.a3** pinning the weak b-
pawn to the b5-square **17...Rc6 18.Nd4
Rb6 19.f4 e5 20.fxe5 fxe5 21.Nb3 Nf6**

**22.0-0-0 0-0 23.Rhe1 Re8 24.Nc5 Re7
25.Ne4 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 Rf6**



The endgame is clearly better for White.
Black is trying to get some counterplay on
the f-file **27.g3** (Better was 27.Re2 Kf7
(27...e4 28.Kd2 e3+? 29.Rxe3 Rf2+
30.Ke1!)) 28.Rd5 e4 29.Rxb5 e3 30.Kc2 but
I tried to stop Black's activity. Obviously,
my endgame technique could be better.)
**27...Rf2 28.Rd2 Rxd2 29.Kxd2 Rd7+
30.Ke3 Rd5 31.Rb4 Rc5 32.Ke4 b6?**



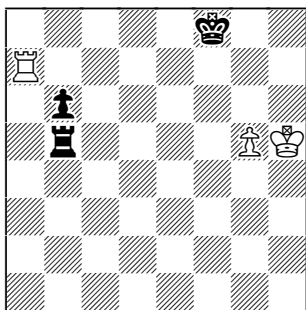
(Black didn't want to allow capture on b7
with check. Although, 32...Kf7 33.a4 bxa4
34.Rxb7+ Kf6 35.Rxh7 a3 36.bxa3 Rxc3 is
most likely drawn.) **33.a4?** (Both players
missed the amazing 33.Rxb5!! winning two
pawns as 33...Rxb5 loses after 34.b4
trapping Black's rook. White wins the pawn

endgame after 34...Kf7 35.a4 Rxb4+ 36.cxb4 Ke6 37.a5+- Perhaps, 33. Rxb5 move would remain unnoticed without a chess engine. It spotted this tactic immediately when we looked at the rook endgame with Dejan. After the game I was quite upset I couldn't convert a better endgame. Needless to say, this shocking discovery didn't help.) 33...bxa4 34.Rxa4 b5 35.Ra8+ Kf7 36.Rb8 Kf6 37.Rb6+ Ke7 38.h3 Kf7 39.Rb7+ Ke6 40.Rb6+ Ke7 41.g4 Kf7 42.Rb7+ Kf6 43.Rxh7 b4 44.Kd3 (44.cxb4 Rc4+ 45.Kd3 Rxb4 46.Kc3 Rb8 is also drawn) 44...bxc3 45.bxc3 Rd5+ 46.Ke4 Rc5 47.Kd3 Rd5+ 48.Ke4 Rc5 49.Kd3 ½-½

Schandorff, Lars (2515) – Hague, Ben (2341) [A33]

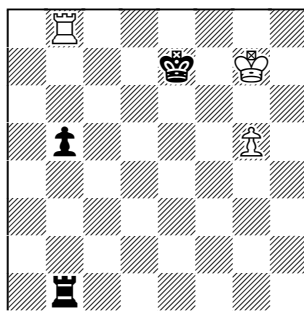
Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (3.25), 04.09.2016

Annotated by Ben Hague



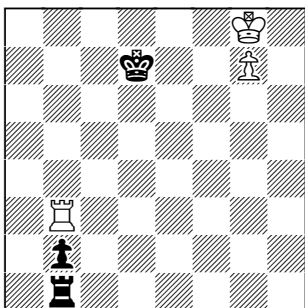
At around this point we were 1.5 each, and I knew that if I could hold this then we'd draw the match. This is the critical position and my best chance of a draw. The standard method for drawing a rook and pawn v rook ending is the Philidor position where I put my rook on my third rank, wait for his pawn to reach my third rank, put my

rook on the back rank and just keep checking. So here if I could take my own b-pawn it's an easy draw. 53...Rb1?! (As that's not possible I started off looking at trying to get to the third rank 53...Rc5 54.Kh6 Rc6+ which is just too slow. (54...Rc8 heads for the second drawing position I was aware of, with the Black king directly in front of either a rook's, or knight's pawn, and the rook on the first rank. E.g. 55.g6 (Of course the problem here is 55.Kh7 Rcl 56.Ra8+ Ke7 57.g6 Rh1+ 58.Kg8 Rg1 59.g7 (although as Black still has the b-pawn Kd6 is just enough to draw.)) 55...Kg8 56.Rg7+ Kh8 57.Rh7+ Kg8= if the pawn is further towards the centre then the rook can move right with an easy win, but here that's obviously not possible.) 55.g6 Rcl 56.g7+ Kg8 57.Ra8+ Kf7 58.g8Q++-; Sadly I missed the immediate draw with 53...Ra5! I suppose I didn't consider it because it's completely the wrong way to get to the third rank, so I didn't consider in the context of getting to the first rank either. 54.Rb7 Ra8 55.Rxb6 Kg8=) 54.Kg6 b5 55.Rf7+ Kg8 56.Rb7 Kf8 57.Rb8+ Ke7 58.Kg7



Here I got the wrong idea. I assumed that pushing the b-pawn would be a certain draw, because if his king went to either

side I'd be able to give check and queen my pawn. I thought bringing the king over to the b-pawn should also draw, but would be trickier. Actually he has a cunning plan to get his rook to the h-file and block the checks. **58...b4?!** (58...Kd6 59.g6 Kc5 60.Kf8 Kc4 61.g7 Rg1 62.g8Q+ Rxc8+ 63.Kxc8 b4 64.Kf7 b3 65.Ke6 Kc3 66.Kd5 b2 67.Ke4 Kc2=) **59.g6 b3 60.Kg8 b2 61.g7 Kd7 62.Rb3**



62...Ke7? This was my last chance to bring the king towards the b-pawn, but I still didn't see his idea. (62...Kc6 63.Rc3+ Kb5 64.Rc2 Kb4 65.Rh2 Kc3 66.Kh7 Rg1 67.Rxb2 Rxc7+ 68.Kxc7 Kxb2=) **63.Re3+ Kd7 64.Re2 Kd6 65.Rh2** Now it's just over. **65...Ke7 66.Kh7 Rg1 67.Rxb2 Rh1+ 68.Kg8 Ra1 69.Rh2 1-0**

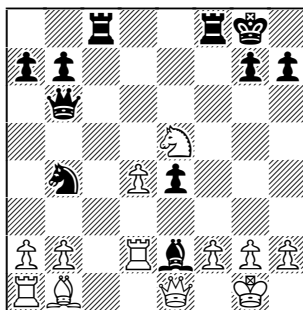
Round 4 El Salvador (106), Win 3½-½

After losses to all GM teams, NZ ventured down the ladder to more modest opposition and a convincing victory. Only Dive was held to a draw.

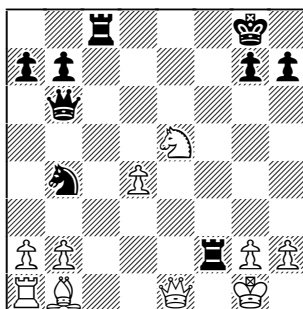
Wastney, Scott (2312) – Giron, Jorge Ernesto (2208) [C06]

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (4.55), 05.09.2016

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.Bd3 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ne2 exd4 8.exd4 f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Nf3 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bf4 Bxf4 13.Nxf4 Ne4 14.Ne2 Qb6 15.Qc1 Nb4 16.Bb1 Bd7 17.Nc3 e5 18.Nxe4 dxe4 19.Nxe5 Bb5 20.Rd1 Be2 21.Rd2 Rac8 22.Qe1



22...e3!? Initiating some fireworks **23.Rxc2 exf2+ 24.Rxf2 Rxf2**



It looks as if Black's enterprise is paying off, either capture on f2 is fine for him **25.Bxh7+!** Turning the tables. This allows Ra1 to protect c1 so that White can capture on f2 with the Queen and remain two pawns up with a safe position and an attack on the weakened Black king **25...Kxh7 26.Qxf2 Nc2 27.Rc1 Kh8 28.Nf7+ Kg8 29.Ng5 Qg6 30.h4 1-0**

Round 5 Nicaragua (102), Lose 1½-2½

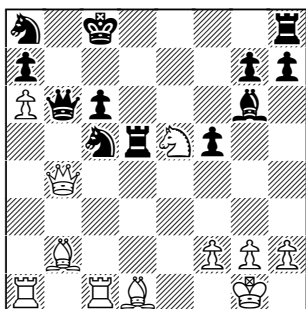
A disappointing match. Ben Hague won a smooth game and Russell Dive was impregnable with Black. But Stephen Lukey's attempts to generate a typical Kings Indian kingside initiative were undone when his opponent managed to get a formidable pair of knights on d6 and e6. Scott Wastney lost an exciting game that could have gone either way.

Round 6 Hong Kong (132), Win 4-0

Once again a setback presaged a favourable pairing and a big win.

Lukey, Stephen (2217) – Borigas, Edgardo (1894) [D18]

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (6.49), 08.09.2016



25.Nxc6! Qxc6 26.Bf3 A pin extravaganza
26...Rhd8 27.Rxc5 Qxc5 28.Qb7# 1-0

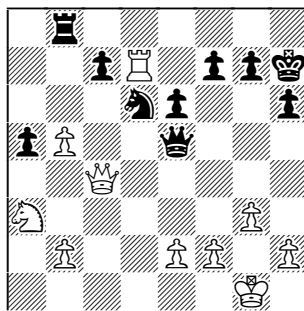
Round 7 South Africa (79), Lose 1-3

A tough loss against closely matched opposition. Kulashko was overwhelmed when GM Kenny Solomon's modest hippo/modern blossomed thematically.

Dive's Reti didn't work as well as it often does in domestic competition and he lost on time in an unpromising but apparently tenable position. Scott Wastney and his opponent apparently both knew 20 odd moves of crazy Two Knights theory, which ended in an ending in which Scott's extra exchange was likely outweighed by his opponent's bishop pair and extra passed pawns (although the judgement required to say for sure is outside the Editor's pay grade). I think a draw was a good result. Ben missed a chance to win.

Klaasen, Calvin Jong (2177) – Hague, Ben (2341) [E11]

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (7.38), 09.09.2016



30.Qd3+ White can safely grab a piece here, although evacuating the King to h3 looks dangerous 30.Qxc7 Rc8 31.Qxd6 Rc1+ 32.Kg2 Qe4+ 33.Kh3 and if 33...Qf5+ 34.g4 vacates the g3 square for the Queen 34...Qxf2 35.Qg3 and White wins 30...f5 31.Rxc7 Nxb5 32.Nxb5 Rxb5 33.Qc3 Qxc3 ½-½

Round 8 Andorra (88), Draw 2-2

The highlight of this round was Scott Wastney's first classical win against a Grandmaster. Scott had a great tournament, collecting a fistful of rating points and a double IM norm.

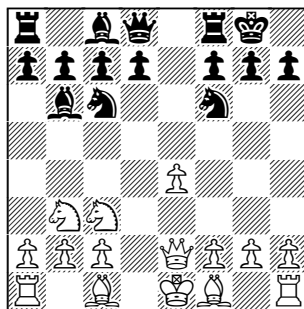
De La Riva, Aguado Oscar (2503) – Wastney, Scott (2312) [C45]

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (8.48),
10.09.2016

Annotated by Scott Wastney

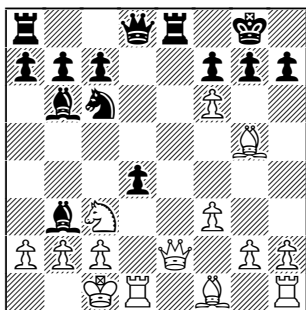
It has been 14 years since my last Olympiad and I wanted to take the opportunity to play one more time while I still had a good chance on making selection. It was a chance to see the world's top players - since my last Olympiad there is a whole crop of new chess stars. For many chess players this is just one event in a continuous stream of events where they will see each other again, but for a player from a remote nation like NZ it is a great experience being part of the global chess community, even if for such a brief moment. As a chess fan, I was hoping to see the US team win with their trio of stars: Caruana, Nakamura and Wesley So. As for the NZ team (my second favourite to win) we were all of the same generation. Whereas this might attract some criticism - where are younger players? - it did have the positive of the players knowing each other for many years and a good team spirit. Looking at the final standings the result can seem somewhat disappointing, 95th place. My take on it is that our individual results were slightly out of sync meaning we were losing by 1.5:2.5 or drawing 2:2 in the close matches. Everyone knows that Swiss events don't rank the mid-table places very accurately, yet when the time comes

everyone judges their success on this. We came close to defeating an all GM team in round 3, Alexei was in contention for an IM norm until his loss in round 10 and picking up an extra match point at certain times would have jumped us up the standings - so there were a few things that didn't quite happen that would have made this a very successful Olympiad. But overall the event was a great education. In particular working with a coach for the first time was very beneficial, this new and more serious approach will help strengthen NZ chess for the future. The game that I would like to annotate is my first win over a grandmaster in a standard time control game. I've had quite a few draws, wins in rapid, blitz and simuls (please don't get agitated Nigel, if you are reading this). Even wins against IMs that would later become GMs. But finally the real thing! **1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3** De la Riva has played different versions of the Scotch, but most recently this was the line he had played. **5...Bb6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Qe2 0-0**



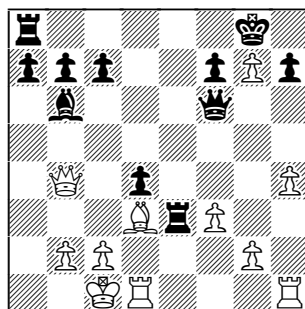
By castling now, Black retains the option of d5 in one move. "When will you play d5?" was Dejan's response when I showed him the line that morning. **8.Be3** (Last year

I had a game in this position that went 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 a5 10.a4 Nd4 and now my opponent fell for a common tactical trick by putting his Queen on the wrong square. 11.Qd2? (11.Qd3) 11...Nxb3 12.cxb3 Nxe4! 13.Bxd8 Nxd2 14.Kxd2 Rxd8⚡ Perry - Wastney, Wellington Club Championship 2015.) **8...d5** This is when d5 is played! **9.0-0-0 d4 10.Bg5 Bg4!** The idea is to get White to play f3 so that his Queen is cut off from the King-side. (I showed the following game to a chess student earlier in the year when I was advocating the 5.Nb3 line to him. At the time I was considered taking up the Scotch myself, but that was mainly because my name is Scott: 10...Be6 11.e5 Re8? this idea doesn't work here 12.exf6 Bxb3 with a discovered attack on white's queen. 13.Qh5! Bxc2 (13...Be6 14.fxg7 is winning for White) 14.Kxc2 Nb4+ 15.Kb3 d3 16.Qh3 (16.Kxb4?? a5+ 17.Kb3 a4+ and it is White that gets mated) 16...Nc6 17.a3 White is a piece up and with his king finding refuge it is the right time for Black to resign. 1-0 (17) Arribas Lopez,A (2549)-Karthik,V (2385) Dubai UAE 2016) **11.f3 Be6 12.e5 Re8 13.exf6 Bxb3**



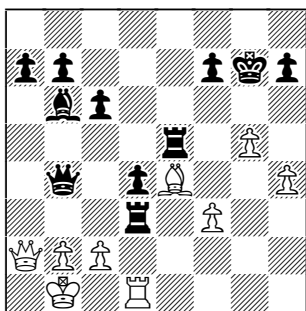
Here is the difference, no Qh5 with the pawn on f3. **14.Qb5** (I had only considered

14.Ne4! here in my preparation. The 5.Nb3 variation hadn't worried me so much in my pre-game preparation, and I spent most of the morning looking at other lines of the Scotch or other things he may play.) **14...Bxa2!** I was pleased to find this idea involving the sacrifice of my Queen in the following note. **15.Nxa2** (15.fxg7 Qxg5+! 16.Qxg5 dxc3 and Black is winning since White has no way to keep the Queen because of the threat of Be3+.) **15...Re5 16.Qb3 Rxg5 17.fxg7** The pawn on g7 can be captured in due course leaving Black a pawn ahead. **17...Qf6** (17...a5! was a move I seriously considered, but opted instead to centralise my pieces.) **18.h4 Re5 19.Bd3 Re3 20.Nb4 Nxb4 21.Qxb4**



It was around here that I was regretting not playing 18...a5. We now have a middle game with Kings castled on opposite sides, opposite coloured Bishops and all the major pieces still on the board. As is well known, the key idea for both sides is attack the King's position, since it will be hard to defend an attack on squares controlled by the other's Bishop. **21...Qxg7 22.Kb1 Rae8 23.Be4 c6 24.g4 Qe5 25.g5 Qc5 26.Qa4 Re5 27.Rh2 Qb5!** A good practical decision. I spent some time deciding between this and 27...Qe7!? (27...Qe7 now

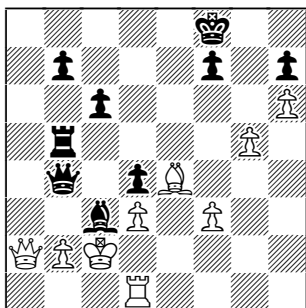
I thought he should play 28.Qc4 (28.Rhd2? Ra5 29.Qc4 Rc3! 30.bxc3 Qa3--+ was the tactical idea I was angling for.) 28...Ra5 29.g6 hxg6 30.Bxg6 Now I see the chess engine gives Black a clear advantage, but this position wasn't at all clear to me during the game - I wasn't happy to see the open lines opening to my King.) **28.Qa2?** This move surprised me - I thought he was obliged to swap off Queen's, which I thought leaves Black still a little better. **28...Kg7 29.Rhd2 Qb4 30.Rd3 Rxd3**



31.cxd3 Forced. (I have a confession to make. I was poised to make a blunder after 31.Bxd3? Qd2?? being too clever (I had also seen 31...Re1! 32.Kc1 Ba5--+)) 32.Qxf7+! completely missed by me during the game, but rather obvious now I've seen it! 32...Kxf7 33.Rxd2 not only does White escape he is even better with his more mobile pawn majority. I hope one move deeper into the variation I would have spotted 32.Qxf7+! but we'll never know.) **31...Rb5 32.Rc1?** I thought he should play 32.f4 before I could get in Bc7 **32...Bc7!** Finally my Bishop finds an active role! **33.Rc4 Qe1+ 34.Rc1 Qd2 35.Rc2** Here I consulted with Dejan whether I should I take a draw by perpetual check. I fully expected him to say "no", but just by doing

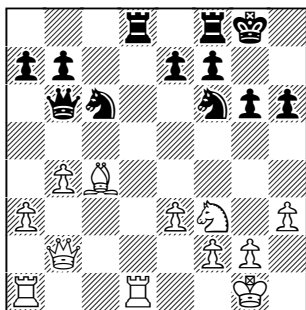
so it gives me a confidence boost! I haven't mentioned Dejan in the introduction to the game, so I should say something here. I found his help very beneficial in several ways. In indentifying weaknesses in my calculation skills and getting me to change my chess study to work on this prior to the Olympiad. Chess preparation and ideas on what to play pregame. Telling me to play something different because there are games in the database in particular openings (I would love to see Anthony's response to this if he was in the team!), Postgame comments and overall confidence. I can't help but feel this would have been even more benefit when I was younger and some good guidance could have paid greater dividends. It sounds like the NZCF are putting plans in place and it may not be too long before Dad's army (Russell's name for our team) are knocked off the top of the NZ rating list. With a combination of new players coming through and coaching for our Olympiad team, NZ chess is making a positive step forward. **35...Qe3** (I wanted to keep White's pieces tied up to the defence (which is good enough). Dejan expected me to round up the h-pawn, and the computer engine agrees with Dejan, of course. 35...Qe1+ 36.Rc1 Qxh4+)) **36.Qxa7 Qe1+ 37.Rc1 Qb4 38.Qa2 Bf4 39.Rd1 Bd2 40.h5 Bc3 41.h6+?** It is important that Black puts the King on the right square, but I am happy to say this wasn't a blunder I was poised to make. I took my time to make the move because the time control had been reached and I wanted to settle my nerves in a position that must be winning for me. It occurred me just before I did actually move that my team mates may have been worried that I

didn't see 42.Qa8 was possible. (The last chance to put up some resistance was 41.g6!♣) 41...Kf8 42.Kc2



42...Bxb2 Dejan thought 42... Rc5 was quicker, but that is splitting hairs. The computer agrees with Dejan, of course. 43.Rb1 Rxc3+ 44.f4 Qc3+ 45.Kd1 Rg1+ 46.Ke2 Qc2+ 47.Kf3 Qg2# I was happy arriving back at the hotel, but even happier when I found out Manchester City beat Manchester United at old Trafford! A good day all round for the good guys! 0-1

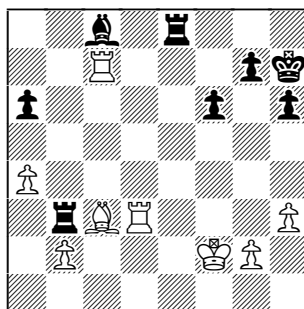
Garcia, Paolicchi Raul (2153) – Lukey, Stephen (2217) [A48]
Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (8.48),



20...Ne4?? 21.Qc2! I suspect Stephen's comment to 27...Qxd7! in his game with

Kostenko in Round 2 arose here too. The errant Knight is attacked, can't be defended and can't move because it is skewered against the unfortunate loose pawn on g6 21...Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Nxb4 23.axb4 Ng5 24.Ne5 Re8 25.Qxg6+ Qxg6 26.Nxg6 Kg7 27.Ne5 f6 28.Nf3 Ne4 29.Rd7 Nd6 30.Be6 Kf8 31.Nh4 Kg7 32.Nf5+ Nxf5 33.Bxf5 1-0

Hague, Ben (2341) - Fernandez Lopez, Joan (2142) [B32]
Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (8.48), 10.09.2016



33.Bxf6! A nice shot to win two pawns 33...Rxd3 34.Rxc7+ Kh8 35.Re7+ Kg8 36.Rxe8+ Kf7 37.Rxc8 And White converted with effortless technique.

Round 9 Luxembourg (85), Draw 2-2

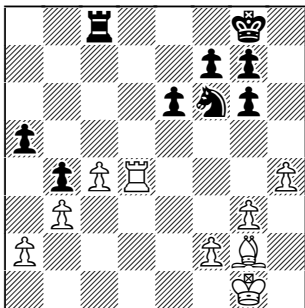
Another drawn match, as the Kiwi team have apparently found their level. Russell Dive was the hero today, rescuing the match with a come from behind win in a long ending.

**Wagener, Claude (2295) – Dive,
Russell John (2309) [B18]**

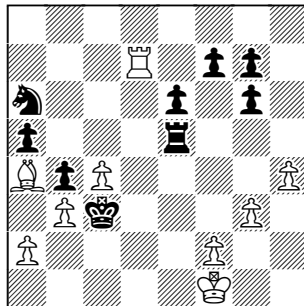
Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (9.51),
11.09.2016

Annotated by Russell Dive

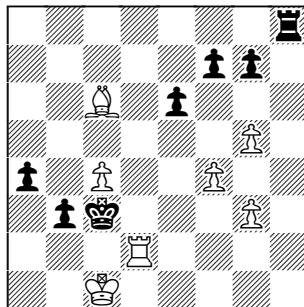
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5
5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nh3 e6 7.Nf4 Bd6 8.h4 Qc7
9.Nxg6 hxg6 10.Ne4 Bf4 11.Bxf4 Qxf4
12.Ng5 Nd7 13.g3 Qc7 14.Bg2 The
opening has followed my preparation.
14...Nh6 15.0-0 Nf6 16.c3 Nf5 17.Qf3 0-0
18.Rfe1 a5 19.Rad1 Rab8 20.Qe2 b5
21.Nf3 c5 (21...Rfd8 22.Ne5 Rd6 23.Bf3±)
22.dxc5 (22.Qe5!? Qxe5 23.dxe5±)
22...Qxc5² 23.Qe5 Qb6 24.Nd4 Nxd4
25.Rxd4 (25.cxd4?! Rfc8=) 25...Rfd8
26.Red1 b4 A double-edged move, it might
be better to leave this pawn on b5. 27.c4
Rxd4 28.Qxd4 Qxd4 29.Rxd4 Rc8 30.b3



White's protected passed pawn gives him a
clear advantage. 30...Kf8 31.Rd6 Rc5
32.Ra6 Ne8 33.Bc6 Nc7 34.Rb6 Ke7
35.Kf1 Kd6 (35...g5 36.hxg5 Rxc5
37.Ke2±) 36.Ba4±± Ke5 37.Ke2 Kd4
38.Rd6+ (38.Rb8 Kc3 39.Rf8 Na6 40.Rxf7
Re5+ 41.Kf1 Nc5+-) 38...Kc3 39.Rd7
Re5+ 40.Kf1 Na6

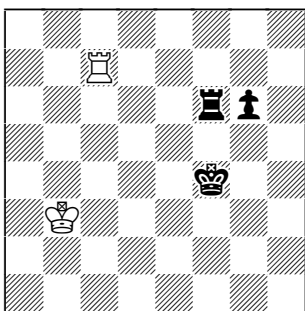


41.Bb5? As so often happens after making the
time control, my opponent's concentration
relaxes and this allows me back into the game.
(41.Rxf7 with a clear advantage to White
41...Nc5 42.Be8± (42.Rxc7?! Nxa4 43.Rxc6
Nc5=)) 41...Nc5= 42.Ra7 Nxb3?! (42...Nd3=
Nxb3 is a good "shock" move, particularly if my
opponent can't find his way through the
complicated choices.) 43.axb3+- Kxb3 44.f4??
(44.Rxf7 would have given White a clear
advantage 44...Kc3 45.Ba4+-) 44...Rc5± 45.Ke2
(Worse is 45.Rxf7 a4 46.Rxc7 a3±) 45...Kc3
46.Rd7 b3 47.Rd3+ (47.Rxf7?? b2+-) 47...Kb4
48.Kd2 g5 (48...e5 49.Rd7 exf4 50.gxf4=)
49.hxg5± Rc8? (49...f6±) 50.Kc1?? There were
better ways to keep up the pressure (50.Rd7 Ka3
51.Kc3+-) 50...Rh8 51.Rd2 Kc3 52.Bc6
(52.Rd1!?)=) 52...a4±



Finally I'm better!!! 53.Bxa4 Ra8 54.Re2
Rxa4 55.Re3+ (55.Kb1!?)±) 55...Kb4+-

56.g6 Ra1+ 57.Kb2 Ra2+ 58.Kb1 fxg6
 59.Rxe6 Rg2 60.c5 (60.Rxg6?? Kc3
 61.Rd6 Rg1+ 62.Rd1 Rxd1#) 60...Rxb3
 61.c6 Ka3?? Allows White a saving
 resource. (61...Rg1+ and Black is winning
 with the rook on g2. 62.Kb2 Rg2+ 63.Kb1
 Ka3+) 62.Re1= Rc3 63.Re7?? White lets
 it slip away (63.Rc1 would keep White
 alive 63...Rxc1+ 64.Kxc1=) 63...Rxc6+
 64.Rxg7? (64.Ra7+ Kb4 65.Kb2-+)
 64...Rf6 65.Ra7+ Kb4 66.Rg7 Kc3
 67.Rc7+ Kd4 68.Kb2 Ke3 69.Kxb3 Kxf4

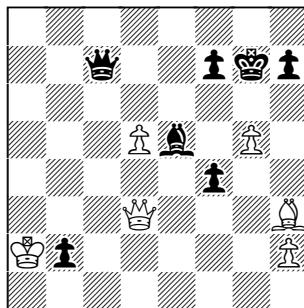


70.Kc4 (70.Rc4+ does not solve anything
 70...Kg3 71.Rc1 Rb6+ 72.Ka4 g5 73.Rg1+
 Kf4 74.Rf1+ Ke4+) 70...g5 (Ed: I had a
 play with 70...Rd6 to maximise the King
 cut-off and head to the Lucena position. It
 does win of course, but the Rook can
 harass the king and make it hard to advance
 the pawn 71.Rf7+ Kg4 72.Rf1 g5 73.Rg1+
 Kf4 74.Rf1+ and Black has to reorganise)
 71.Kd5 g4 72.Rc4+ Kf3 73.Ke5 Rf8
 74.Rc3+ Kg2 75.Ke4 g3 76.Rc2+ Kg1
 77.Ke3 g2 78.Rc7 Rf1 79.Rg7 Ra1
 80.Ke2 Ra2+ 81.Ke1 Ra5 82.Ke2 Ra2+
 83.Ke1 Ra8 84.Ke2 Re8+ 85.Kf3 (85.Kd3
 doesn't do any good 85...Rh8+) 85...Kf1
 A game of ups and downs that could have
 had any result. 0-1

Hague, Ben (2341) - Mertens, Marc (2181) [B94]

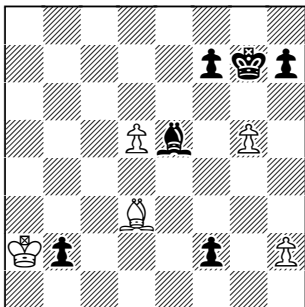
Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (9.51),
 11.09.2016

Annotated by Ben Hague

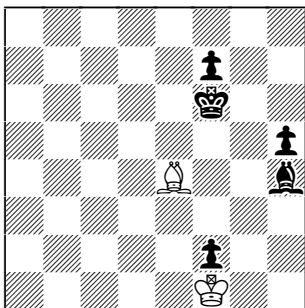


This is the position after move 40. My
 position is terrible, but as it'd been close to
 resignable for the last twenty moves or so I
 wasn't too unhappy with terrible. I could
 tell that my opponent had been expecting
 the game to be over by now, and he wasn't
 too pleased to still have some work to do. I
 don't remember the exact match situation at
 this point, but I think all the games were
 still in progress and it looked like it was
 going to be a close match. 41.Bf5 Qa5+
 42.Kb3 Qb6+ (42...f3 is the easiest win
 43.Qxf3 Qb5+ 44.Ka2 b1Q+ 45.Bxb1
 Qb2#) 43.Ka2 Qb4 44.Qa3 Here I saw that
 I could get mated in all sorts of different
 ways so I felt I had to try to get the queens
 off. (44.Qb1 Qa4#; 44.Qe4 b1Q+ 45.Qxb1
 Qa4#; 44.Qa6 b1Q+ 45.Bxb1 Qb2#)
 44...Qxa3+ (44...Qc4+ 45.Qb3 Qa6+
 46.Qa3 b1Q+ 47.Bxb1 Qe2+ 48.Kb3 Qd1+
 49.Ka2 Qxd5+ 50.Qb3 Qa5+ 51.Qa3 Qd2+
 52.Kb3 Qd1+ 53.Ka2 Qe2+ 54.Kb3 f3 is a
 long, but forced line which reaches a
 completely winning position as the f pawn
 is unstoppable. Can't criticise him too much

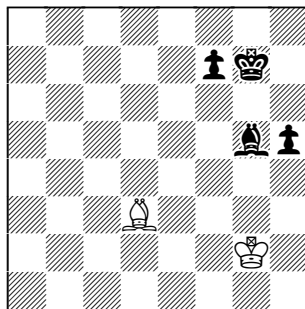
for missing this one.) **45.Kxa3** Now I had some real hope, with opposite coloured bishops and the wrong rooks pawn as drawing motifs. **45...f3 46.Ka2 f2 47.Bd3**



My only drawing plan is to give the d-pawn up for the b-pawn and hope my king makes it across in time, so my moves are fairly easy to play. He has several plausible moves but I believe that only one of them actually works. Luckily for me that wasn't the one he played. **47...Kf8** (47...f6! 48.d6 fxc5 49.d7 Bf6 50.d8Q Bxd8 51.Kxb2 g4 52.Kc2 Bc7 53.Kd2 Bxh2 54.Ke2 Bg1 and three connected pawns must be too many.; 47...h6!? 48.h4 (48.gxh6+ Kxh6 49.d6 Bxd6 50.Kxb2 Kg5 51.Kc2 Kg4 52.Kd2 Kh3 53.Bf1+ Kxh2 54.Ke2+) 48...h5 49.d6 Bxd6 50.Kxb2 Bg3 51.Kc2 Bxh4 52.Kd2 Bxg5+ 53.Ke2 Bh4 54.Kf1 Kf6 55.Be4



Despite what the computer thinks I believe this position is drawn. My king stays on the f1 square and the bishop on the h1-a8 diagonal and I don't think Black can make progress. If he pushes the pawn to f3 then I take it with stalemate and otherwise what can he do? Chess can be unfair sometimes.) **48.d6 Bxd6** (His last chance was 48...Ke8 49.Bb5+ Kd8 50.h4 It appears that I must get my pawn to h5, so that he can't win it while keeping my king away from f1. (50.d7? f6 51.gxf6 Bxf6 52.Kb1 Ke7 53.h4 h5 54.Kc2 Ke6 55.d8Q Bxd8 56.Kxb2 Ke5 57.Kc2 Kf4 58.Kd2 Kg3 59.Bf1 Bxh4+) 50...f6 51.gxf6 Bxf6 52.h5 Kc8 53.d7+ Kd8 54.Kb1 Ke7 55.Kc2 Ke6 56.d8Q Bxd8 57.Kxb2 Kf5 58.Kc2 Kg4 59.Kd1 Kg3 60.Bf1 Kh2 61.Ke2 Kg1 62.Bh3=) **49.Kxb2 Bxh2 50.Kc2 Bf4 51.Kd1 Bxg5 52.Ke2 Kg7 53.Kxf2 h5 54.Kg2**



With an easy draw. At worst I can put the king on h1 and sacrifice bishop for f-pawn. 1/2-1/2

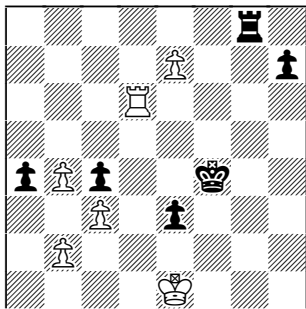
Round 10 Dominican Republic (80), Lose 1 1/2-2 1/2

Chess was the winner today as all four games involved massive buildups and frenzied attacking play from both players.

Perhaps with the end of the tournament looming there was a “let’s have fun” mood. Unfortunately the good guys (that’s New Zealand for those who aren’t paying attention) only won one of these contests – the comparatively calmest one and the only one NOT to feature opposite side castling. As Black against a Kings Indian Attack, Scott Wastney’s queenside attack broke through before his opponent could get to Scott’s king. Russell broke out his 1.f4 Bird (just play 1.e4 Russell, I’m begging you) and a “slugfest” as our American cousins might say erupted as his opponent reacted with From’s Gambit and queenside castling. In the end Russell couldn’t quite escape a perpetual and his extra material didn’t count.

**Guzman, Christopher (2259) –
Lukey, Stephen (2217) [D02]**

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (10.49),
12.09.2016



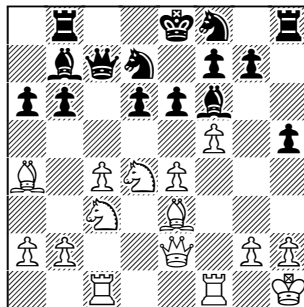
50...Rg1+?? This is an exception to the rule that in Rook endings you need to avoid passive defence with your Rook. (50...Re8! was essential) **51.Ke2 Rg2+ 52.Kf1 e2+ 53.Ke1 Rg8** too late **54.Rd8 Rg1+ 55.Kxe2 Rg2+ 56.Kf1 1-0**

Round 11 Uganda (112) Win 3-1

The narrow loss in Round 10 meant that New Zealand, perhaps a little unluckily, got to finish the tournament on a lowly board against a weak team. On the bright side this did mean the team finished with a convincing victory. The highlight was Scott confirming his double IM Norm with a stylish attacking win.

**Wastney, Scott (2312) –
Wanyama, Harold (2251) [B42]**

Olympiad Open 2016 Baku AZE (11.55),
13.09.2016



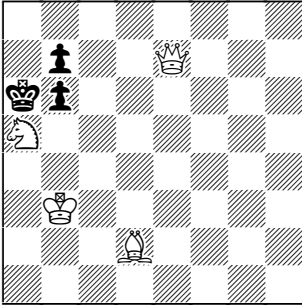
17.Nd5!! A temporary sac, White gets everything back with a winning dose of interest **17...exd5 18.cxd5 Qd8 19.Nc6 Bxc6 20.dxc6 Ra8 21.c7 Qc8 22.Bc6 Ra7 23.Bxb6 Rxc7 24.Bxd7+ Nxd7 25.Bxc7 Qb7 26.Bxd6 Be5 27.Rc7 Qa8 28.Rxd7 1-0**

Problem Kingdom by Linden Lyons

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

Problem 59

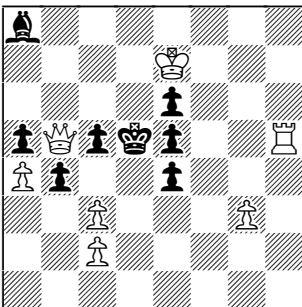
Mykola Chernyavskyy (Ukraine)
Original #2



In **Problem 59**, the refutations to the tries reoccur as defences in the post-key variations. Tries: 1 Qe6?, but 1 ... **Ka7!**; 1 Bb4? with 1 ... Kb5 2 Qe2, but 1 ... **bxa5!**; and 1 Qa3? with 1 ... Ka7 2 Ne6 and 1 ... b5 2 Nc4, but 1 ... **Kb5!** Solution: **1 Qc7!** with 1 ... **Ka7** 2 Qxb7, 1 ... **bxa5** 2 Qxa5, and 1 ... **Kb5** 2 Qc4.

Problem 60

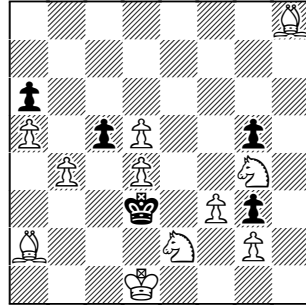
Leonid Makaronez (Israel)
Original #3



The key of **Problem 60**, which features some fantastic effects along the d-file and the fourth rank, is **1 Rh4!** (threat 2 Qd7+ Kc4 3 Qd3). There are then the variations 1 ... Bc6 (a **self-block**) 2 Qd3+ exd3 3 c4 (an **open-gate mate**) and 1 ... bxc3 2 Rxe4! Kxe4 3 Qd3.

Problem 61

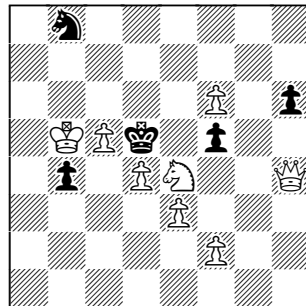
Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA)
Original #3



Throughout **Problem 61**, White must take care to avoid putting Black in stalemate. Tries: 1 Bf6? (zugzwang) cxb4 2 Bxg5 ~ 3 Ne5, but 1 ... cxd4!, and 1 d6? (zugzwang) cxb4 2 Nc1+ Kc3 3 d5, but 1 ... cxd4! The key is **1 b5!** (zugzwang) with the variations 1 ... axb5 2 dxc5 ~ 3 Nc1 and 1 ... cxd4 2 Bxd4 ~ 3 Ne5.

Problem 62

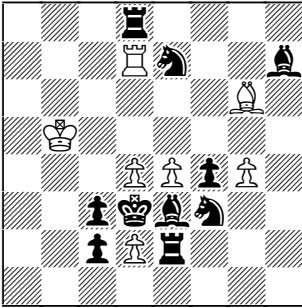
Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA)
Original #3



The white queen dances around the board in **Problem 62**. Try: 1 Qh1? (threat 2 Ng5#) with 1 ... fx4 2 Qh3 ~ 3 Qf5 (or 2 ... Nc6 3 Qd7) and 1 ... f4 2 Ng5+ f3 3 Qxf3, but 1 ... Ke6! Solution: 1 Qh5! (threat 2 Qxf5#) with 1 ... Kxe4 2 Kc4 ~ 3 Qh1 (or 2 ... f4 3 Qd5) and 1 ... Ke6 2 Qe8+ Kd5 3 Qe5.

Problem 63

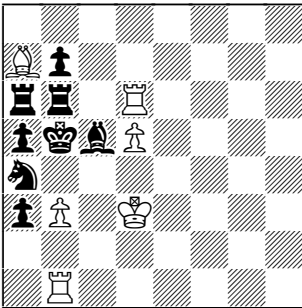
Abdelaziz Onkoud (Morocco)
Original H#2 4 solutions



There are 4 solutions to **Problem 63**. In the 1st pair of solutions, White removes a black piece from a crucial line (a black R from the d-file in the 1st solution and a black B from the d3-h7 diagonal in the 2nd): 1 Nd5 Rxd8 2 Kxd4 Rxd5 and 1 Nf5 Bxh7 2 Kxe4 Bxf5. In the 2nd pair of solutions, White opens up these lines for black: 1 cxd2 Ra7 2 Rxd4 Ra3 and 1 Rxd2 Bf7 2 Bxe4 Bc4.

Problem 64 Abdelaziz Onkoud (Morocco)

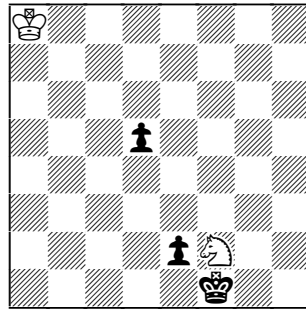
Original H#2 2 solutions



Problem 64 demonstrates the **Onkoud theme**. A black piece (here, the b6-rook) is pinned in two variations. The white piece which pins in one variation is captured in the other, and vice versa (the a7-bishop and d6-rook). Solutions: 1 Bxd6 bxa4+ 2 Kc5 Rb5 and 1 Rxa7 b4 2 Ka6 b5.

Problem 65

Mykola Chernyavskyy (Ukraine) & Yuri Bilokin (Ukraine)
Original H#7



It is fun to try to solve a composition like **Problem 65** before looking at the solution. In particular, with so few pieces in the diagram, it is possible to imagine what the mating position might involve. The knight would have to deliver mate, and the white king would have to guard some squares in the black king's field. The black pawns must therefore be needed to block any unguarded squares in the black king's field.

The solution is as follows: 1 d4 Kb7 2 d3 Kc6 3 d2 Kd5 4 d1Q+ Ke4 5 Qd4+ Kf3 6 e1R Ne4 7 Qg1 Nd2. Note that on the sixth move it is only a promotion to a rook that works. A knight would place the white king in check, whilst a queen or a bishop would allow 8 Qxd2 or 8 Bxd2.

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