

“Mind Your Ps and Qs”

OCCNEWS OCCNEWS

The Otago Chess Club Newsletter

December 2003

From the Guest Editor:

Welcome to the second issue of the regionally famous *OCCNEWS*. The Editor is snowed under, so I've been asked to temporarily hold the reins.

In this December issue we have an avalanche of editor's material but in the future our regular Editor would appreciate contributions from others. Why not give it a go?

This holiday issue includes: our headline news that Michael Freeman – who spent most of his formative Christmases in Dunedin – is NZ's first Senior International Master of correspondence chess, Christmas gift ideas for kids, our next 'immortal' presented by Duncan Watts (it's a cracker of a game), a quick wrap-up of OCC club competitions, open events and title-holders for 2003 and finally – for the chess addicts who need more – some sparkling wins by NZ players from two Christmases past.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas,
Tony Dowden

Michael Freeman gains high international honour by Tony Dowden

Former OCC member, Michael Freeman has recently qualified to become a Senior International Master (SIM) of correspondence chess. Michael was a member of the Club from 1974 until 1978 before moving to Christchurch to study at Canterbury University. He joined the OCC Committee as a fourth former, dependably serving on the Match committee until he transferred.

Michael attended Otago Boys' High School where he was a classmate of the Editor, Duncan Watts. Michael was quickly identified as one of a group of promising juniors which also included Tony Dowden, Tony Love and Roger Perry (now living in Auckland). In perhaps a unique achievement, all four juniors went on to play in the NZ Championship and gain Olympiad honours (Perry played for Papua New Guinea).

Michael played in the 1996 Olympiad and in Asian Team events in 1983, 1993 and 1995. He has also achieved rare distinction in the administrative arena. Michael was the NZ Team Captain for four Olympiads in the 1990s and also served as a member of the FIDE Executive Board from 1998-2002.

Michael started playing correspondence chess as a sixth former in 1977. Freed from the tyranny of his habitual time-trouble in 'over-the-board' (OTB) chess, he quickly rose to the highest echelon within the ranks of NZ correspondence chess. He won the

NZ Championship in 1979/80 and 1983/84. Within only a handful of years he earned the very rare NZ Correspondence Master title.

Soon he looked for tougher challenges in the international arena. In 1995 Michael won the international Abonyi event to gain his second IM norm and the International Master title (equivalent to 2450). Later, this same result (where he had exceeded the IM norm by a full point) also turned out to earn him his first norm towards the newly instituted Senior International Master title (equivalent to 2500).

This year Michael won the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) 50th anniversary IM event with a score of 11½/14. This gave him a second and final SIM norm and title was duly conferred on him at the ICCF meeting in October. Michael has kindly annotated the following game against Peter Toth of Hungary.

IM Michael Freeman (2397) – Peter Toth (2397) QG Slav, Capablanca var. [D47]

This game was played as part of the ICCF's 50th anniversary celebrations. My event boasted four IM's (including myself) along with one lady GM. I needed to score 11/14 to attain my goal of a SIM norm. Play was by email from Nov, 2001 to March, 2002.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nf6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Be2

A favourite move of former World Champion, Jose Capablanca. In OTB chess 8.Bd3 is more popular, usually leading to complex tactical play. In correspondence chess players have an average of six days per move. Players can move the pieces around the board at their leisure instead of having to analyse in their heads within a tight time frame. Accordingly correspondence play is more strategic in nature because the chances of catching one's opponent out are greatly reduced.

8...a6 9.e4 b4 10.e5 bxc3 11.exf6 Bb4 12.0–0 Nxf6 13.bxc3 Bxc3

This is a key position where each side's strengths and weaknesses need to be weighed up carefully. White has a handy lead in development in compensation for the small deficit of a pawn. The weak Black pawn on c6 is a target for attack and – while it remains on c6 – it also stifles Black's light-squared bishop on c8. White's isolated d4 pawn is a potential weakness. Black hopes to castle short and place his bishop on b7, with the idea of giving up his c6 pawn to open the long diagonal and pressuring the d4 pawn. If Black can achieve this, he will be better. White's strategy will be to try and seize the a3-f8 diagonal which will effectively cut across Black's plan and allow him to consolidate his lead in development. For the next few moves the play centres on possible tactics exploiting the loose Black bishop on c3 which will allow White to force Ba3 under favourable conditions.

14.Rb1

In Bondarevsky-Kotov (1948) White sacrificed the exchange with 14.Ba3?! but after 14...Bxa1 15.Qxa1 Nd5 16.Qc1 f6 17.Nd2 Ne7 18.Qc5 Kf7 Black managed to slowly untangle and gain the full point. This type of speculative approach is most unwise in correspondence chess.

14...Nd5

A new move. After 14...0–0 previous analysis had shown that White could exploit his development advantage by winning a piece: 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bxf6! Qxf6 17.Qc2 Bxd4 18.Qxc6 Ra7 19.Rb8 Bd7 20.Rxf8+ Kxf8 21.Qd6+ Kg8 22.Qxd4

15.Qc2! Qc7 16.Ba3 Rb8?! 17.Rxb8 Qxb8 18.Bc4 Ba5 19.Bxd5 cxd5 20.Ne5

What has each side achieved? White has prevented Black from castling by gaining control of the all-important a3-f8 diagonal and his knight is established on the excellent e5 outpost. Black has rid himself of his weak c6 pawn by recapturing on d5 (preventing any ideas of a Nc4-d6 manoeuvre) but he has significant problems with a

bad bishop on c8 and the other unprotected bishop on a5 vulnerable to tactics. The white rook also has a much better future than its equivalent on h8. Black's king is in a perilous position whereas White's king is ideally placed. White is much better.

20...Bd7

After 20...Qc7? 21.Qa4+ Kd8 White wins with the clever tactic 22.Bd6! eg 22...Qxd6 23.Nxf7+ or 22...Qb6 23.Nxf7checkmate!

21.Rb1 Qc7 22.Qe2 1-0

This apparently premature resignation highlights a key difference between OTB and correspondence chess. While resigning means the full point is irretrievably lost, it is no fun suffering while defending a lost position for several months. When playing up to 14 games at once, most players tend to spend their valuable time concentrating on their better positions and pragmatically decide to quickly shed the lost ones.

After 22.Qe2 White is eyeing the a6 pawn but also hopes to exploit the undefended kingside with Qg4, when after Black plays...g6, White will play Qf4, followed by Qh6. Possible continuations are: 22...Bb5? 23.Rxb5 axb5 24.Qxb5+ Kd8 25.Nc6+ Kc8 26.Nxa5 winning. Or 22...Qc3 23.Qxa6 (A flashy OTB player might be tempted by 23.Rb8+ but this is hard work after 23...Bd8 24.Rxd8+ Kxd8 25.Nxf7+ Ke8 26.Bb2 Qb4 27.Nxh8 Kf8 28.h3 Kg8 29.Qxa6 Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Qxf2 31.Qb7 Qf4+ 32.Kg1 Qd6 when White's knight on h8 is doomed and Black has good chances of obtaining a perpetual check or swapping queens, where White is faced with the prospect of trying to win a very tough opposite colour bishop ending) 23...Qxa3 24.Qa8+ Ke7 25.Qxh8 Qxa2 26.Qxh7 Bc3 27.Nf3 Ba4 28.h3 where White will move his rook then start pressuring the weak black kingside pawns. The h3 pawn will prove to be a winner because the bishops are ill equipped to prevent its advance.

Readers might like to enjoy more of Michael's correspondences games online at the website <http://nzchess.co.nz> which Michael maintains in his spare time (scroll down to 'Online games' and play over the games on the board provided by the Java interface). Anyone who is interested in taking up correspondence chess can write to the Secretary at PO Box 3278, Wellington, or contact Michael via his website.

0-0-0

Chess books for juniors

by Tony Dowden with Ben Dowden

Many introductory books have been written on chess. Too often they lack any appeal for children and Dad has to teach the kids how to play. With the help of my son, Ben (7), I have found four books which offer a Christmas holiday guide for Dads looking for a painless way to teach chess to their kids. Like any book of genuine educational value, the secret to writing chess books for juniors is that kids (and Dad) will enjoy a book they can read and learn from without badgering Dad for help all the time. However my selection assumes Dads like to help every so often (and like to learn sneaky tips). I've even sourced the best prices for busy Dads. Order the first three books via **NZ Chess Supplies** chess.chesssupply@xtra.co.nz or the **University Book Shop** who stock copies of our last book.

The first two books are for ambitious juniors who want to play winning chess. Picking on Dad might be one way but New Zealand's most accomplished player, Grandmaster Murray Chandler who now resides in England, has helpfully written two books which reveal some of the tricks which took him to the top when he was still a teenager. The

other two books (both road-tested by Ben) are my picks for absolute beginners who have been given a lovely chess set from a distant uncle but can't find the instructions.

How to beat your Dad at chess Murray Chandler, GAMBIT (1998), hardback 127pp

Christmas or not, all self-respecting Dads should be immediately advised to hide this book at all costs! On the other hand Dad might learn something. While Ben can't beat this Dad (yet) he just loves playing the side of the 'good guys' and checkmating poor old Dad time after time. In the process of playing through fifty deadly checkmating themes he is effortlessly learning about the power of tactics and the beauty of chess. This book is an ideal introduction to the idea of the double-attack which underpins most other types of tactics. Younger children will do better if Dad gets involved too.

Highly recommended.

\$34.50 + \$1.50pp (NZCS)

Chess tactics for kids

Murray Chandler, GAMBIT (2003), hardback 128pp

This book appeared in this Dad's letterbox in August, still slightly warm after rolling off the press. The sequel to the 'Beat your Dad' book, 'Tactics' keeps to the same successful chapter formula with each new page turn revealing another chapter. Each of the 50 chapters illustrates a theme with six diagrams and four or five carefully graded examples. Ben does best with a chessboard and Dad's help but he can also learn a lot while curled up in his beanbag and looking at all those diagrams. Dads had better look out! This book really will increase the kids' chess strength – and any extra effort would be handsomely rewarded. Dads would do well to try and keep ahead and sneak a look at the 54 test positions (and answers) at the end of the book.

Highly recommended.

\$34.50 + \$1.50pp (at NZCS)

The Usborne complete book of chess

Elizabeth Dalby (2002), hardback 96pp

Far too many books for absolute beginners are done on the cheap. They might teach the moves, the rules and, if Dad is lucky, go through a game or two but that is it. This book costs slightly more than some others but it is definitely worth it. GM Jonathan Rowson has thoroughly earned his fee as expert consultant. The book is beautifully laid out with all sorts of captivating comments, tips and puzzles. It even offers several 'internet links' (they work but Dad might need to help).

Highly recommended.

\$36.00 + \$1.50pp (at NZCS)

Checkmate at Chess City

Piers Harper, WALKER (2000), softback 25pp

Not a chess book as such but a book of mazes using a 'castles and dungeons' theme to teach and reinforce the moves of each chess piece. No need for Dad to lose any more hair trying to teach the kids how the pieces move. This could be an excellent gift for a favourite niece or nephew or for a long distance trip. But Ben made short work of it, so canny Dads might try to find an unmarked copy in a library.

Recommended.

\$16.95 (at the University Book Shop)

0-0-0

Immortal game

by Duncan Watts

This game was played in the B Grade of the Otago Club Championships in 1983. The grade was a toughie – Ben Martin, Kendall Boyd and Andrew McIntosh were Otago's top juniors at the time, and Jacqui Sievey had played in the Women's Olympiad team. The "old man" of the field was me (I was 22 at the time). After a win over Kendall I

felt was in good form and ready to take on Ben. The only problem was a conflicting social engagement – the night I had arranged to play Ben was also Peter Sinton’s stag night! Understandably, I was keen to get the game over and done with and was psychologically well-prepared to see blood on the floor, even if it was mine ...

D. Watts – B. Martin

Queen’s Gambit Declined [D35]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 Nbd7 6.e3 c6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.h3 O-O 9.g4 Re8 10.Bd3 Nf8 11.Qc2 Bd7?!

Better would have been 11...Ng6 12.Bh2 Bd6 to try and swap off some of White’s aggressively placed minor pieces

12.O-O-O a5

12...b5 followed by ...b4 might have offered better prospects of counterplay

13.Rd1 Bb4?

Removing an important defensive piece from the kingside. Instead 13...Be6 14.Kb1 preserves the balance

14.Ne5 Be6 15.h4 N6d7

15...c5!? 16.dxc5 d4!? was worth a try.

16.g5 c5

Over optimistic. 16...f6 was a better defensive try.

17.g6!

White can win a pawn here after 17.Nxd7 Bxd7 (17...Qxd7? 18.Bb5) 18.Nxd5 Rc8 19.dxc5 Rxc5 20.Nc3 Qc8 21.Kd2 but Black gets plenty of play. White therefore decides to get ‘down and dirty’. After 17.g6 there is no going back, and the attack must be pursued with the utmost vigour.

17...fxg6 18.h5 c4

Consistent, but now Black is forced onto the back foot. White is single-mindedly aiming to mate the Black king

19.Bxg6! Nxe5 20.Bxe5

White has to play accurately. 20.dxe5? hxg6 21.hxg6 d4! is winning for Black

20...hxg6 21.h6!

21.hxg6 seems natural but it gives Black chances to defend eg 21...Nd7 22.Qd1 Nxe5 23.dxe5 Bxc3 24.bxc3

21...Bf5?

This ‘natural’ move looks as though it holds everything together, but appearances can be deceptive. 21...Re7! was much better, when after 22.Rxg6 Nxg6 23.Qxg6 Qe8 24.Qg5 Qf8 25.hxg7 Rxg7 26.Qh6 Re8 27.Qh8+ Kf7 28.Qh5+ or 22.hxg7 Rxg7 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.f4 Qd7 25.Qh2 White has pressure but no immediate knockout and Black has some long term prospects. White now rips the Black position apart with an unexpected blow

22.Qxf5!!

Even Fritz gives this move two exclamation marks! White unleashes the combined power of the two rooks, bishop on e5 and pawn on h6

22...gxf5

Declining the queen offer is also hopeless. 22...Rxe5 23.Qxe5 Qe7 24.hxg7 Qxg7 25.Qxd5+ Qf7 26.Rh8+ Kg7 27.Rxg6+ Nxg6 28.Rh7+ Kxh7 29.Qxf7+ Kh6 is overwhelming for White

23.Rxg7+ Kh8 24.h7!

The final sting that Black had missed. Mate cannot be prevented

24...Ng6 25.Rg8#

It is double check and mate **1-0**

0-0-0

Local News

NM Richard Sutton and NM Tony Dowden continued to hold sway over the local scene but a sprinkling of newcomers and a membership of 30 in the newly formed Dunedin Junior Chess Academy underlined the fact that they won't dominate forever!

2003 Open events

<u>Anzac Day Rapid</u>	Tony Dowden 4½/5, Richard Sutton 4
<u>M. Foord Memorial (A)</u>	Tony Dowden 5.5/7, Richard Sutton & Ben Giles 5
<u>M. Foord Memorial (B)</u>	Alistair Newbould 6/7, Alan Mulligan (AS) 5½
<u>Spring Rapid</u>	Tony Dowden & Dmitri Lazarev (RUS) 4½/5
<u>Summer Rapid</u>	Pablo Williams 4½/5, Hammond Williamson (CA) 4

2003 Junior champions

<u>Otago Junior champion</u>	Leo Ding (16)
<u>Under 16 champion</u>	David Standfield (14)
<u>Under 13 champion</u>	Elliot Nicholls (12)
<u>Girls' champion</u>	Josie Burrows (12)

2003 OCC results

<u>Senior Championship</u>	1 st Richard Sutton 2 nd Quentin Johnston 3 rd T. Dowden
<u>Intermediate Championship</u>	1 st Geoff Aimers 2 nd Hamish Gold 3 rd Alistair Newbould
<u>Junior Championship</u>	1 st Elliot Nicholls 2 nd David Standfield 3 rd Iain Hewson
<u>Senior Rapid Ch'p</u>	1 st Tony Dowden 2 nd Tony Love 3 rd Hamish Gold
<u>Intermediate Rapid Ch'p</u>	1 st Hamish Gold 2 nd Geoff Aimers 3 rd A. Newbould
<u>Junior Rapid Ch'p</u>	1 st Iain Hewson 2 nd Sean Wilson 3 rd David Standfield
<u>Perpetual Handicap (Std)</u>	1 st Iain Hewson 2 nd Ian Miller 3 rd Anthony Ritchie
<u>Perpetual Handicap (Rapid)</u>	1 st Hamish Gold 2 nd Iain Hewson 3 rd Will Probert
<u>Cleland Trophy</u>	1 st Hamish Gold

0-0-0

Christmas Crackers

by Tony Dowden

For one reason or other some wonderful games from the 109th NZ Championship in Christchurch two years ago weren't published. These games left a lasting impression on me with their common theme: *attack!* I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

Mark van der Hoorn is *always* a dangerous player. Here he simply destroyed our leading IM, Russell Dive who shares the record NZ Championship total of 10½ /11.

Russell Dive - Mark van der Hoorn **109th NZ Championship**
1.g3 Nf6 2.Bg2 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Ne2 O-O 6.O-O Nbd7 7.c4 c6 8.Nbc3 e5 9.h3
Re8 10.Be3 h5 11.Re1 Nh7 12.Qc2 exd4 13.Nxd4 Ne5 14.b3 Ng5 15.Kh2 h4
16.Rad1 c5 17.Bxg5 White decides to go pawn hunting but in the long run he will rue
his dark-square weaknesses 17...Qxg5 18.Ndb5 Rd8 19.Nxd6 19...h3g3+ 20.f3g3
Bxh3 21.Nxb7 Ng4+ 22.Kh1 Rxd1 23.Nxd1 Qh5 24.Bf3 Bg2+ 25.Kxg2 Qh2+
26.Kf1 Qxc2 27.Bxg4 Bd4 28.Bf3 Kg7 29.Nd6 a6 30.e5 Rh8 31.e6 fxe6 32.Rxe6
Rf8 33.Re7+ Kg8 0-1 An awesome effort from van der Hoorn who, on his day, is
simply unstoppable.

Here FM Paul Garbett combined a sneaky ‘anti-book’ system with precise positional
play to confound Candidate NZ Master Graeme Spain.

Paul Garbett - Graeme Spain **109th NZ Championship**
1.g3 d5 2.Bg2 c6 3.d3 Nf6 4.Nd2 Bg4 5.h3 Bh5 6.g4 Bg6 7.f4 e6 8.e4 Where did that
wall of White pawns come from? 8...h5 9.f5 Bh7 10.fxe6 fxe6 11.g5 Nfd7 12.Qxh5+
g6 13.Qg4 Qe7 14.Ngf3 Na6 15.a3 O-O-O 16.d4 Opening up the centre and sealing
Black’s fate. The conversion to the full point is both impressive and instructive.
16...dxe4 17.Nxe4 c5 18.Bf4 Nb6 19.Be5 Bg7 20.Bxg7 Qxg7 21.Qxe6+ Kb8
22.Qe5+ Qxe5 23.dxe5 Nc4 24.O-O Nxb2 25.Nd6 Rd7 26.Rab1 Na4 27.Nd2 Nb6
28.a4 Nb4 29.c3 Nd3 30.a5 Nxe5 31.axb6 a6 32.N2e4 Rhd8 33.Nxb7 Rxb7
34.Nxc5 1-0 A powerful display - Black just didn’t get a look in.

Popular campaigner, Hilton Bennett’s ‘anti-Sicilian’ attacks were relentless at the
109th. First, highly rated Aucklander, Leonard McLaren received a drubbing ...

Hilton Bennett - Leonard McLaren **109th NZ Championship**
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 d5 4.Nf3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 The infamous “Toilet Variation” – no
prizes for guessing where GM Mark Hebden was at the time. Needless to say the line
isn’t thought to offer White very much 5...Qc7 6.g3 b6 7.Bg2 Bb7 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Ne5
Nh6 Maybe this is wrong. Challenging the knight on e4 with ...Nf6 looks safer.
10.b3 O-O 11.Bb2 Nc6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.O-O Nf5 14.Qh5 White’s attack seems
rather hopeful but Black (utterly) fails to an appropriate defensive set-up 14...Rad8
15.Rae1 Nd4 16.g4 Rd5 17.g5 Rfd8 18.Re3 g6 19.Qh6 f5 19...Bf8 must be tried
20.Rh3 Kf7 21.Qxh7+ Ke8 22.Nf6+ Bxf6 23.Qxc7 R8d7 24.Qxd7+ Kxd7 25.gxf6
Ne2+ 26.Kh1 Rxd2 27.Bxc6+ Kxc6 28.f7 Rd8 29.Rh8 Rxh8 30.Bxh8 1-0

And then multiple Olympian, Bob Smith succumbed as well. Although *Fritz* might
have refuted this seemingly speculative attack, I can’t see where. Maybe readers
might like to try and find a defence for Black.

Hilton Bennett - Bob Smith **109th NZ Championship**
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 a6 4.Nf3 d6 Not so flexible. I prefer 4...Nc6 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2
Nf6 7.d3 Be7 8.O-O O-O 9.h3 Rb8 10.g4 White is almost two tempi ahead in his
attack but in closed positions this isn’t meant to matter that much 10...b5 11.Bd2
Nd7 12.Ne2 b4 13.Ng3 Re8 But this manoeuvre looks too slow 14.g5 Bf8 15.h4 g6
16.h5 White is conducting the attack nicely. 16...Bg7 17.h3g6 h3g6 18.Rb1 d5 19.f5
Qc7 20.f3g6 f3g6 21.exd5 exd5 22.Ne2 Bb7 23.Nh4 Nce5 24.Nf4 Qd6 25.Nfxg6!?
N3g6 26.Qh5 Ndf8 27.Nf5 Qc7 28.Nh6+ Bxh6 29.gxh6 Qe5 30.h7+ Kh8 31.Bg5
Qd4+ 32.Kh1 Re6 33.Rf7 Rbe8 34.Rbf1 1-0 I’m unsure if Black resigned or lost on
time. If 34...Bc8 then 35.Qh6 threatens Bf6+ and Qg7mate (so perhaps he resigned)

[If you like, send your thoughts on this game to me dnjrchess@yahoo.co.nz – Ed.]