

CENTURY OF CHESS IN DUNEDIN



1875

1975



1875 - 1975

AS THE FLAG is about to fall on the end of the first 100 years for the Otago Chess Club, Inc., members - and our visitors for the 1974-1975 New Zealand Chess Congress, may wish to take stock of the past as they celebrate the present and wind the clock for the next century. It is hoped that this booklet will be a useful record and help in the stock-taking process.

Since the last anniversary occasion was the "75th Anniversary" celebrated in 1959, some readers may question why the centenary should come in 1975.

After a study of club archives and other relevant material the committee of the 1973 Otago Chess Club considered that the link between a Dunedin Chess Club established August 1875 and the Otago Chess Club 1884 was sufficient to warrant an adjustment of the clubs centenary date.

The Committee felt that the setting up of the Otago Chess Club was not the founding of a new club but merely the continuation of the Dunedin Chess Club under new nomenclature. Unfortunately this can not be certified by physical evidence, owing to the loss of a portion of the Dunedin Chess Club minute book relating to after 1879 but the circumstantial evidence is virtually conclusive in backing up the committees decision. Firstly of the four founder members of the Dunedin Chess Club, three were later founders with several others of the Otago Chess Club. Two in fact were later presidents of the Otago Chess Club. Mr E.C. Quick president of the Otago Chess Club 1884-87 was the president of the Dunedin Chess Club when the records terminated.

Further evidence indicates it would be very surprising if the Dunedin Chess Club folded up, for the Annual General Meeting of 1878 states that the membership was sixty-five and growing.

The committee feels this link is strong enough to claim our centenary date is 1975

So give me just a table,
Some chessmen and a friend
To make me comfortable
For hours and hours on end.

FRONT AND BACK COVERS: TOURNAMENT PLAY
IN THE CLUB'S MAITLAND ST ROOMS.

MESSAGE FROM CLUB PRESIDENT

AT THIS important time in the life of the Otago Chess Club let us all spare a few thoughts for its beginnings in the year 1875. We should also remember our life members and all other chess enthusiasts who have enriched the club either as loyal, hard-working administrators or as dedicated players whatever their playing strength.

We owe these people a great debt of gratitude for it is on foundations laid by them that we continue to develop the game of chess in this city in the hope that it can prove more satisfying, exciting and rewarding to players of all ages.

Visits from distinguished overseas players help to remind players and non-players alike of the great following the game enjoys in many other countries. Otago has been fortunate in this regard particularly with the visit in 1972 of Dr. Max Euwe, President of F.I.D.E. and former world chess champion. It is hoped that another great chess figure, Boris Spassky, the most recent Russian world champion will be here later this year. Would that Bobby Fischer could be here at the same time!

I have a special word for younger players and those who feel that their standard of play could and should be rising. If chess looms large in your life, study it regularly and play it seriously. Enter tournaments and be prepared to travel.

Do not defer these things too long for chances do not always come again. Remain flexible in your appraisal of the game but always be ready to benefit from contact with those whose playing experience is greater.

During the 20 or more years I have been associated with this club there have been pleasing increases in the number of players particularly in the younger age groups. Yet I have felt that although there has been a significant improvement in playing standards in some North Island centres, there has been little change here. This situation is a cause for concern but one for which I can see no remedy beyond the talents and dedication of our younger players.

GRAHAM HAASE



FRIDAY NIGHT SCHOOLBOY PLAYERS

A CENTURY OF CHESS

THE HISTORY of chess in Otago dates to the earliest settlers to the province in 1848. The lack of competition from the other entertainments present today must have provided stimulation to the early development of the game in the colony.

Clubs under various names had been formed at several different times up to 1875 but none succeeded in lasting more than a few short years. A Dunedin Chess Club (1865) founded by Sir Robert Stout (later Premier of the Colony) lasted longest, for about three and a half years.

On August 10, 1875 another Dunedin Chess Club was founded by Messrs Quick, Mowat, Lubecki, Day and Proctor at a hall in Liverpool Street, and immediately began playing actively. The club played its first interprovincial match in a series of telegraphic features against Auckland, Hawkes Bay and Canterbury during early 1876. The match against Auckland was a perfect example of the fanatical keenness of chessplayers. The match began at eight o'clock on Saturday evening and play ended at eight the next morning. Twelve hours play at a monotonously slow pace, because the signal had to be repeated at Nelson and Wellington before it reached Auckland. The result of the match bears stating; one finished game out of fifteen. A draw.

The Dunedin Club flourished both chesswise, with regular matches against Port Chalmers, Lawrence, Beaumont, Gore, and many others, and numerically with the club membership rising to sixty-four in 1878. At this point the physical records of the club have been lost but the thread is picked up again in 1884 with the Otago Chess Club being held in the Crystal Palace. (now the Criterion Hotel)

Over the next sixty years the club has had various changes of address including the Y.M.C.A., South British Buildings, A.M.P. Building, and the Empire Hotel. In 1941 the club began its longest term of residence in the Electric Plumbing Supplies Building in Stuart Street. The club however was on the move again in 1955 when it shifted its centre from the heart of the city to Cargills Corner. The final shift to our present premises in Maitland Street, was made by a far sighted committee in 1965.

The club in three years has the distinction of gaining at least one world first. This was achieved in a radio match between the Sydney Million Chess Club and the Otago Chess Club on October 29, 1930, which proved to be the first ever team chess match played by radio. The result was a three all draw.

Radio's allied medium the telegraph, has had a greater influence on chess in Otago. From the earliest years of the club the telegraph matches proved to often be the highlight of the members chess year as indeed they still remain. In 1922 a national round robin tournament was initiated between Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago. This system continued up until 1957 when increased costs forced the tournament to become North Island finalist versus South Island finalist. In 1934 Lord Bledisloe, then Governor General of New Zealand, donated a cup for the telegraphic championship, which since has been called the Bledisloe Cup.

The club holds another memorable record that of having the oldest continuous feature in the Evening Star. The 'Star' chess column was first run on March 19, 1892 and has continued to this day. The column was started and first edited by R.A. Cleland a well known name in Otago chess: A chess column was also run in the old Otago Witness and later by the Otago Daily Times. Our present editor of the Star column, Mr Malcolm Foord deserves a vote of thanks for the fine service he provides for chess in Otago.

During the hundred years of the club's history it has had the privilege and distinction of numbering many prominent members both nationally and locally among its ranks. Among the many notable figures have been: D. Forsyth inventor of the internationally famous 'Forsyth Notation', Mr J.J. Marlow, City Councillor and Mayor of St. Kilda, renowned Scientist Dr J.W. Mellor, F.R.S., Sir Robert Stout, Premier of the Colony, Sir William Sim, Supreme Court judge and M.P.'s J.A. Millar and A.R. Barclay. Internationally famous British master Robert Wade gained his early grounding in the game as a member of the Otago Chess Club.

The club has also been privileged to host some of the greatest exponents of the game. In August 1924 Yugoslav master Boris Kotich became the first international visitor of note to grace our club, and found time during his visit to partake in several simultaneous displays, with a marked degree of success.

The next notable visitor was the Russian Grandmaster Aaverlach, who in January 1963 graced the club with a display of his ability in a simultaneous display.

One of the volatile young men of chess came next in the form of American (nee-Australian) Grandmaster Walter Shaun Brown. In quick nervous movements, he moved rapidly around forty boards in a simultaneous display that was charged with nervous tension that the man himself emits.

1972 will be recalled fondly in this club as the 'Year of the Champion.' This was the year of the visit of ex-World Champion, and present President of F.I.D.E. (The International Ruling Body of Chess), Dr. Max Euwe. At over seventy years of age he was still the envy of every chessplayer as playing in a forty board simultaneous he succeeded in finishing without a loss. Dr Euwe impressed everyone with his undoubted sincerity and diplomatic handling of all situations, which must have been called upon when he returned to Europe and then Iceland for the Fischer - Spassky World Title Match.

The club would like to congratulate one of its recent champions Mr A.G. (Grant) Kerr who has represented his country and his club admirably over three Olympiads, and played in many tournaments in his three year stay overseas, returning in time for the centenary celebrations.

CRAIG LEISHMAN

The progress over the last dozen years in fostering chess in schools and among youthful players is due in no small measure to the enthusiasm of Mr Gerald Williams, a school teacher and keen player who began bringing some of his pupils to the clubrooms at Cargill's Corner and found it possible to extend his activities once the new rooms in Maitland Street were moved into Mr Williams and a band of helpers concentrate attention on primary school children, about 60 of whom attend regularly on Friday nights. Secondary school players can become junior members and play in the club tournaments on Saturday and Wednesday nights and take advantage of guidance and advice from the club coach. Inter-school matches are also becoming a happy feature of the local chess scene.

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1875	V. Hay	1929	Dr. E.N. Merrington
1876	D. Nixon	1930	Dr. G. Barnett
1877	E.E.C. Quick	1931	W. Herbert
1878-82		1932	R.S. McDermid
1883	E.E.C. Quick	1933	A.J. McDermott
1884-5-6-7	E.E.C. Quick	1934	D. Harris Hastings
1888-9	C.S. Reeves	1935	E.F. Evans
1890-1-2-3	Dr. W.M. Stenhouse	1936	W. Lang
1894	R.A. Cleland	1937	J.J. Marlow
1865	W. Elder	1938	Dr. E.W. Bennett
1869	H.J. Cleland	1939	J.F. Lang
1897	Cannon B. King	1940	Dr. E.J. Rawnsley
1898	O. Balk	1941	J.C. McAnsh
1899	J. Edwards	1942-3	P.D. Williamson
1900	A.R. Barclay	1944	G.G. Cook
1901	L. Warsaw	1945-6	D. Langley
1902	J.T. Johnstone	1947-8	A.E.B. Ward
1903	J. Crow	1949	A.C. Twose
1904	J. Stone	1950	W.G. Stenhouse
1905	Rev. A.T. Chodowski	1951-2	Dr. R. Gardner
1906	S.S. Myers	1953	H.L. Abbott
1907	J.H.F. Hamel	1954-5	H.E. Hewitt
1908	G.D. Wright	1956	R.B. Hamel
1909	J.J. Marlow	1957	R.J. Glass
1910	A. Ellis	1958	I.D. Hayes
1911	F.J. Mowat	1959	Dr. R. Gardner
1912	H.J. Armstrong	1960	W. Petre
1913	Archdeacon H.G. Could	1961	G. Haase
1914	P. McLaurin	1962	R. Rasa
1915	D. Harris Hastings	1963	R. Cooper
1916	L.D. Coombs	1964	R. Lockhart
1917	W.H. Allen	1965	J. Harraway
1918	R.A. Cleland	1966	G. Williams
1919	H.H. Henderson	1967	R. Glass
1920	Rev. N. Friberg	1968	W. Hunsche
1921-2	T.M. Gillies	1969	G. Kerr
1923	R.J. Penrose	1970	D. Cameron
1924-5	O. Balk	1971	D. Cameron
1926	J.S.M. Lawson	1972	M. Foord
1927	S.S. Myers	1973	G. Adams
1928	L.D. Grigg	1974	G. Haase



"POINT OF ORDER, MR CHAIRMAN"

MEMORIES . . . CHESS PIECES

AT THE TIME of the depression some forty-five years ago both the finances of the club and its membership had reached a fairly low ebb with total funds being about £30. Members of previous committees had never seen the need to accumulate funds and had been quite happy if each year's income had been equal to its expenditure. The Committee concerned about the future then came up with the happy idea of a tournament for all chessplayers in Dunedin whether Club members or not. The city was divided into areas representing Dunedin East, West, North and South and teams from each of these met in a weekly series of matches at the clubrooms. The success was immediate. Chessplayers who previously had confined their activities to restricted circles joined enthusiastically in these matches which continued throughout the winter, and many, including a large number of younger law practitioners become valued members of the Club. The premises had not long before been removed from Princes Street to the Allbell Chambers in Stuart Street, thence to more commodious rooms in the Capitol Buildings, Princes Street. The early war years saw a further removal to the building at the corner of Bath and Stuart Street, and before the present clubrooms were occupied a few years at Cargill's Corner.

The principal members in those days were the late O. Balk, L.D. Coombs, J.J. Marlow, W.G. Stenhouse, Dr. G. Barnett, G.D. Wright and our current patron R.F. McDermid all of whom were pleased to encourage others in their love for chess and to help them to develop some of its skills. It was a privilege to be invited to their Sunday evening chess circle held in each other's homes. These were sociable occasions when selected games were played over and some chess problems examined.

The Club at one time had had quite a few members in the Good Companions Chess Problems Society a unique club now defunct devoted to the art of problem composition founded by the American chess philanthropist Alain C. White. Enthusiasm for chess problems at that time was very keen and some like the late L.D. Coombs a city architect had achieved a high degree of skill in this direction while others like "J.J." retained an aptitude for problem solving throughout their lifetimes.

Players at that time were divided into two grades - Senior and Junior, it being necessary to win the Junior Championship before promotion to Senior status could be achieved. This led to very keen competition in the junior section and many able players had to wait for some time before reaching their objective.

The Club's secretary in the thirties was the genial Bill Herbert a well known trade union secretary who did much to popularise the game. His mantle descended upon the late R.H. Simpson a Dunedin Solicitor who experimented in the more abstruse forms of chess such as the four-handed game and the Japanese variety "GO". It was Robert Simpson who introduced a form of tournament play known as the 'Retractor' in which players had the right under some circumstances of recommencing play from an earlier position having later realised that some tactical error or outright blunder had been committed. Its popularity was however shortlived. In examining the conditions under which members of the Club had been admitted it appeared to Bobby Simpson that a technical irregularity existed and a special meeting was called to put this in order. His minutes on that occasion recorded that the Club had found itself in the same juridical position as did England following the abdication from the Throne of James II, a fine analogy of a situation of which the members had been blissfully unaware.

Visitors from overseas chess masters were rare and were always eagerly welcomed. The fine displays of simultaneous chess given by such notable exponents as C.J.S. Purdy, G. Koshnitsky, Lajos Steiner and R. Pikler are all recalled with pleasure. A more light-hearted 'simul' was given by C. Wreford-Brown who was the manager of an English soccer team touring New Zealand in the pre-war years and who played six of the Club's strongest players conceding one draw only with the unusual 'Tin-Pot' opening (PK4, PK4; NKB3, NQB3; NxP etc). At about this time the Club was highly honoured by a visit from the then Governor General Lord Bledisloe whose admission to the club-rooms was by means of a gold key previously presented to him by the Club in appreciation of his gift of the Bledisloe Cup then the symbol of Club supremacy and still eagerly competed for. Amongst other demonstrations of skill which are remembered with pleasure were a six board blindfold exhibition in the clubrooms by R.G. Wade who joined the Club as a schoolboy member later winning the N.Z. Championship on several occasions, the English chess title and creating an impressive record in international chess circles: and the display by Dr. E.W. Bennett of an unusual talent in completing blindfold six entirely different knights' tours of the chessboard.



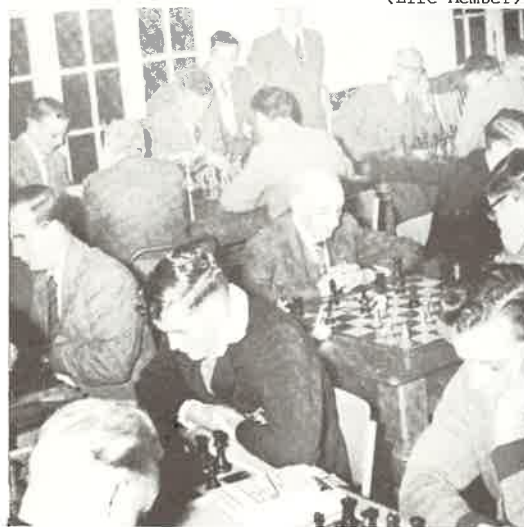
PLAYERS AT THE N.Z. CHESS CONGRESS HELD AT DUNEDIN, 1898-9. FROM LEFT: O.Balk (President, Otago C.C.), R.A. Cleland (Otago C.C.) Champion, J. Mouat (Otago C.C.), H. Lyders (Otago C.C.) 3rd Prize, J. Edwards (Otago C.C.), R.J. Barnes (Wellington W.M.C.C.) 2nd Prize, R.M. Baird (Secretary).

The immediate post-war years saw a resurgence of chess activity with the return of former members. A winter tournament was proposed and set up at Queen's Birthday Weekend and this event was continued in succeeding years and abandoned only when replaced by the present South Island Championships. They were often strenuous affairs. On one occasion eight rounds were played three on Saturday, two on Sunday and three on Monday with the final game concluding at 2.30 a.m. on Tuesday morning. This concentrated play had a good effect on the quality of play achieved by participants and the generally high standard throughout the Club enabled it to compete with some effect in the round of telegraphic matches for the Bledisloe Cup which began soon after.

Chess is usually played under conditions of reasonable silence but for a number of years in Stuart Street the clubrooms adjoined those of the Dunedin Ladies Brass Band and many match games took place under far different circumstances. Among the then constant attenders were Mrs Beckwith, a kind-hearted elderly widow who for many years was our only female member and who looked upon the Club as her own particular family who in turn allowed her the privilege, not uncommon in families, of attending to their supper requirements.

In the number of games played by an individual the late Mr A.C. Hall would certainly have exceeded any other, if not indeed a whole group of them. While awaiting the arrival of an opponent it was quite common for him to play half a dozen games in about fifteen minutes. Though unfortunately born both deaf and dumb he had an avidity for chess that lasted throughout his lifetime. With upraised fore-finger he awaited the completion of his opponent's move and then pounced immediately. Though not a top-flight player the rapidity of his actions had an unsettling effect on his opponents. A score sheet in the writer's possession records a win which he secured on the fortieth move. Elapsed time - opponent 1 hour 59 minutes, A.C.H. 2 minutes (spent mostly in punching the clock). Mr J.B. Dunlop, one of New Zealand's most successful players attended occasionally but also allowed himself the luxury of fireside chess played by telephone.

J.F. LANG
(Life Member)



CLUB
MEMBERS
IN 1959

CLUB CHAMPIONS

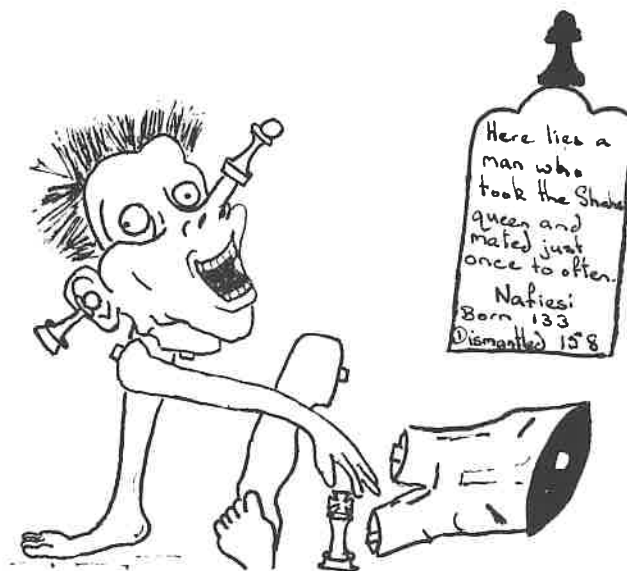


G.G. HAASE

1896-7	R.A. Cleland
1898	H. Lyders
1899	O. Balk
1900	J. Edwards
1901	F.W. Clayton
1902	D. Forsyth
1903	O. Balk
1904-5	D. Forsyth
1906	H. Mellor
1907	D. Forsyth
1908	G.F. Dodds
1909	R.A. Cleland
1910	J. Dunlop
1911	R.A. Cleland
1912	H.J. Armstrong
1913	O. Balk
1914-5-6	H.J. Armstrong
1917	R.A. Cleland
1918-9	L.D. Coombs
1920-1-2	A.W.O. Davies
1923	W.G. Stenhouse
1924	A.W.O. Davies
1925	B.W. Stenhouse
1926	Not awarded
1927	R.S. McDermid
1928	O. Balk
1929	W.G. Stenhouse
1930-1	L.D. Coombs
1932-3	R.S. Watt
1934-5	W. Lang
1936	R.S. McDermid
1937	W. Lang
1938	R.S. Watt
1939-40	J.F. Lang
1941	Dr. E.W. Bennett
1942	R.S. Watt
1943	Not awarded
1944	Dr. E.J. Rawnsley
1945	R.S. Watt
1946	J.F. Lang
1947	R.W. Lungley
1948-9	W. Lang
1950	Dr. S.J. Webb
1951-2-3	R.A. Rasa
1954	J.F. Lang
1955-6-7	R.A. Rasa
1958	T. van Dijk
1959-60	R.A. Rasa
1961	R.A. Rasa and I. Hayes
1962	L.S. Esterman
1963	G.G. Haase
1964	M.N. Robb
1965	G.G. Haase and R.A. Rasa
1966-7-8	G.G. Haase
1969-70	G.G. Haase
1971	A.G. Kerr
1972-3	G.G. Haase

HISTORICAL OR HYSTERICAL?

Chess was invented in 156 at half past two, by a Persian slave, Nafiesi, who taught it to the Shah, and then beat him in 1200 consecutive games. As a reward, Nafiesi was allowed to select which of his appendages he would like made into a table lamp. His wife, however, interceded on his behalf with such eloquence that the sentence was retracted; instead he was torn apart by four wild horses, after which to Shah managed to win a few games.



The original game was crude and unsophisticated, consisting of one large square and one piece that could be placed anywhere, providing you were bigger than he. From Persia, chess moved rapidly to Arabia, thence to Italy, France, Russia and England (stopping only long enough to mail a postcard or two). From then on, the pieces, number of squares and rules of play underwent considerable change and experimentation, but nothing seemed to help. Many variants remain: The Japanese play chess with smooth discs; the Croats use a net and two racquets (those Croats!); certain tribesmen in Norway get through the long winter by slowly burning the pieces.

In medieval Russian, chess was not played but eaten (until 1650, when the Czar forbade all eating by anyone except himself and several close friends).

PERSONALITIES

Probably no game can boast as many unique personalities as chess. The incredible pressures exerted on players often find release in eccentricities. Two famous examples:

Alonzo d'Alonzo (1651-1736), the Italian monk and song stylist, devised an opening gambit in which he would distract his opponent with card tricks while a confederate nailed the opponents pieces to the board. d'Alonzo was the first to fully realize the value of psychology in chess. He found that by donning an Indian ape head and capering like a loon, he could reduce his opponents to a series of facial tics and blunders within ten moves. When the Pope heard of d'Alonzo's contribution, he summoned him to the Vatican, where at the age of 85, he was smacked on the back of the head with a knotted towel, the only man to be so honoured in his life-time.

Flieshmann, the celebrated 'Mating Dwarf' of Heidelberg, stood only three inches tall and played with a set of wheeled chessmen, which he pushed around the board, puffing and cursing. His brilliant career ended during a dangerous castling maneuver, when he was crushed beneath a runaway queen.

BLINDFOLD CHESS

The phenomenal concentration required to win at chess is multiplied a hundredfold when the player must memorize the pieces as well. If in addition, he is playing more than one game, the effort is considerable. In 1846, Hugo Diehard-Butoften gave a stunning exhibition of blindfold chess, losing 156 games in two hours 39 minutes.

In 1910, at Ludz, a tournament was held between Smeartin Mims and Graynam Haast, both of whom were so ugly that the audience, all one of them asked to be blindfolded.

Chess mastery is the supreme example of concentrated mental power exercised on insatiable futility.

Definition of a chess organiser: A chessplayer who asks another chessplayer to send a third chessplayer to play chess, somewhere else.

"THE BLACK NIGHT"



MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S

THE CLUB EMBLEM was recently modernised in artistic style but the motto remains the same: "Mind your P's and Q's". This injunction is useful for players at all levels. All that could be added is: and your R's, N's, B's and K's! Centenary time can be one for sermonising, so let's look a little deeper at the meaning of the motto, a curious English idiom meaning to take pains, be careful or precise, and often (when addressed to children) to be on best behaviour, to mind your manners.

Chess is basically a war game, but some chivalry still remains in battles, and there is plenty of room for sportsmanship in games. Minding your P's and Q's surely entails much more than merely adhering to Article 18 of the FIDE Laws of Chess regarding Players' Behaviour. It means keeping some courtesy across the board and sharing in the pleasure of an encounter rather than maintaining hostility at all levels against the opponent. At grandmaster level there are the Walter Brownes who boast of "killer instinct" and the Fischers who get kicks when they see an opponent's ego crunched but too much of this sort of overt attitude or atmosphere within a club is not the one to foster, particularly for the bulk of members who come to chess as a pleasurable relaxation or at a lower level a social pursuit, rather than a grim business of shouting to the world "I am the greatest".

What this boils down to is that there is a manners of chess-playing as well as a manner (or style) of play. The style can be as hard-boiled as you like, ruthless and vicious by all means but if you mind your P's and Q's the manners will still be impeccable. The desperate offer of a draw as the net tightens will be declined with politeness rather than a hiss and a sneer, and the final goup de grace will be executed with consideration for the corpse rather than a slamming-down of the piece on the board, a triumphant shout or crackle of diabolical laughter. With the age level of membership of the club much younger than a decade or two back it is however only to be expected that some players will find it hard to suppress excitement on occasions. When I joined the Club as a schoolboy player the sepulchral quiet of the rooms in Lower Stuart Street was set off by the harmonious ticking of chess clocks and stroked beards (well, stubble). True, there was the occasional curse of "Oh, what a fool I am!" or the pangs of "Oh death where is thy sting?" declaimed with vigour by an erstwhile treasurer. But there was not the same running commentary of wisecracks, super-confident sarcasm, or blood-thirsty threats - - - "Kill! Kill! Munch!" which some young players like to provide for a game today. This can still pass the P's and Q's test providing it is done in a good humoured way, and (most important) in a way which does not distract either opponents or the players in other games. When serious match play is in progress silence is indeed golden.

Well, that is my gambit as far as the club motto goes, and of course you are free to take it or leave it. But some of the "book knowledge" behind "minding your P's and Q's" could be placed on record. According to the American lexicographer Charles Earle Funk (of Funk and Wagnall dictionaries fame) in his book "A Hog On Ice and other Curious Expressions", more conjectures have been advanced to explain the original meaning of the phrase than any other equally obscure. The

simplest explanation was that it derived from teachers admonishing children learning to write that the left-handed tail on the "p" and the right-handed one the "q" went on different sides. (But why not a similar warning to mind you b's and d's?) Another suggestion is that it started in printing houses where young apprentices could be confused in picking out type which is the reverse of the printed characters. (This may be weak because the reverse of p is d, not q, observes Dr Funk).

The most charming explanation dates back to the courtly etiquette of the 17th and 18th centuries when men wore queues (pigtailed). French dancing masters teaching young gentlemen in the stately steps and deep courtesies of the minuets might well have asked them to mind their peds (feet) and queues. After all, today we still ask people to keep their hair on! Another suggestion is that the "p" is associated with the old word "pee" a type of coat worn by men in the 15th to the 17th centuries. In that case to mind you p's and q's could have been a wife's advice to avoid soiling the jacket from the grease or flour of the queue or pigtail? I have a vision of some of our senior members pirowetting round in peejackets and periwigs!

Some will undoubtedly prefer the solution I have kept till last (and could well bear it in mind during the club's centennial celebrations!) Customers in the old English Inns or Alehouses having convivial evening might have their accounts chalked up for payment at the end of the proceedings - so many pints (p's) so many quarts (q's). Metrication may eventually bury this explanation, but it is a nice one.

Mind your p's and q's!

GEOFF ADAMS



LONG LIVE THE KING!

OTAGO CHESS CLUB, INC.

1875-1975

Club Officers During 1974

Vice-patron:	Messrs R.A. RASA, R. McDERMID
President:	Mr G.G. HAASE
Vice-presidents:	Mr C. LEISHMAN (Senior), Mr D. LIGHTER (Junior)
Hon. Secretary:	Mr G.T. ADAMS
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr R.J. GLASS
Hon. Auditor:	Mr J.F. LANG
Hon. Solicitor:	Mr W. LANG
Committee:	Miss B. POWELL, Messrs D. CAMERON, A. KNOWLES, J. LIGHTER, D. McKENZIE, P. PARIS, M. SIMS.
Club Coach:	Mr G. HAASE
Director of Friday Night Children's classes:	Mr G.M. WILLIAMS
Convener of Centennial and Congress Committee:	Mr C. LEISHMAN

'Tis all a chequer-board of nights and days,
Where destiny with men for pieces plays:
Hither and thither moves, and mates and slays,
And one by one back in the closet lays.'

("Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.")