
-CHESS CHATTER



BALLARAT CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER



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Sue Ryan Ed.

WELCOME BACK! TWO MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

Hello again to all our wonderful members and welcome to a combined edition of our newsletter for February and March.

Naturally enough, the big news of the past couple of months has been focused on our 51st Begonia Open Tournament which was, I must say, once more an outstanding success! Congratulations and WELL DONE to all who contributed and/or participated in any way, shape or form.

Those of you who subscribe to the ACF newsletter might notice the article about this tournament, supplemented with photos by Sabrina Koetsier. For those who don't subscribe, I have included a version of the article here.

With 115 tournament participants, their friends, family members and support groups packed into the Sewell Pavilion, the room was buzzing with excitement. It was 1.30 pm on Saturday, 11th March and Australia's second longest-running open chess tournament was about to kick off.

Considering the spectacular success of our 50th Anniversary last year – complete with the attendance of GM Nigel Short – there was some concern that this year might be a bit of an anti-climax. There was no need to worry. This year turned out to be just as exciting and fiercely contested as any other year.

A range of competitors, differing widely in both age and ability level clustered eagerly around the sheets showing the pairings for Round One. Among them were Australia's four Grand Masters: Zhao Zong-Yuan; Max Illingworth; Moulthun Ly and Darryl Johanssen – himself an Australian chess dignitary who has won this tournament no less than 13 times!

The star-studded field also boasted six International Masters, including Ari Dale whose fine form early on rapidly propelled him to the forefront of the contenders for first prize in the open division. Confronting him in the nail-biting finale was IM James Morris, while IM's Anton Smirnov, Stephen Solomon, Leonid Sandler and Mirko Rujevic exemplified the sort of formidable talent that is inspiring to chess devotees everywhere.

This year the tournament was both ACF and FIDE rated and used the Vega pairing system. IM Robert Jamieson used his vast experience and expertise to provide a wonderful commentary on the top games, which was appreciated by many of the attendees.



Tension at the top tables: GM's Darryl Johanssen and Zhao Zong-Yuan face off...

Another innovation this year was the introduction of a prize after each round for the greatest ‘upset victory’ of the round. This helped encourage a greater sense of recognition and achievement for many of the less experienced players. It also bolstered the general enthusiasm and level of engagement with the game. The winners of these prizes were as follows:

Special Prizes			
Prizes for the Biggest Upset each round			
Round 1	Lachlan Lee	gift	
Round 2	Michael Green	gift	
Round 3	Sue Ryan	gift	
Round 4	Jack Gunstone	gift	
Round 5	Reza Daneshvar	gift	
Round 6	Ben Gunstone	gift	
Round 7	Nicholas Ilic	gift	

This year’s tournament saw many fascinating and hard-fought games. However, the crucial game determining the winner of the generous prize for the Open Division was between IM’s Ari Dale and James Morris. Ari Dale came into the round needing only a draw with Morris to obtain a tie for first place. A win for Dale would have ensured he alone took the first prize. The game was a sweat-bath of over three hours. Sadly for Dale, a fatal error at move 71 cost him the match and the winning position. Final victory in the Open Division was shared between four of the top competitors: GM Zhao Zong-Yuan; IM James Morris; IM Anton Smirnov and IM Stephen Solomon. It’s only the second time in the tournament’s history that a four way tie has been seen. The last time was back in 1994. Zong-Yuan and Smirnov, enjoyed their first win at this tournament. Morris enjoyed his third win in this event and for Solomon it was an impressive sixth win.

Full results can be found at the following website link: <http://www.begoniaopen.com/>

Among the most notable games played at the tournament, one that attracted a great deal of attention for its highly unusual end game was that between FM Donato Mallari and Harrison Harrison. My attention was attracted to this game by to a comment by Rob Loveband, who was standing nearby. He said, ‘How often do you see two queens against two rooks?’ I went over to the board in question and this was what I saw:

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
8								
7				♔			♔	
6	♖		♖				♙	
5	♔	♙						
4								
3						♙		
2					♔			
1			♔					

70. Ka4	Qd7
71. Ka3	Qee7+
72. b4	Qd3+
73. Ka4	Qed7
74. Ka5	Q3d5+
75. b5	Qxa2+
76. Kb6	Qf2+
77. Ka5	Qdd2+
78. Qxd2	Qxd2+
79. Ka4	Qa2+
80. Kb4	Qb1+
81. Ka5	f2
82. Ra7+	Kh6

White Resigned

Eventually, white resigned and Harrison claimed a well-earned victory over FM Donato Mallari.

Congratulations go to both Harrison and also to James Watson, who finished the tournament as the highest scoring player for our Club with 4.5 points.

It should also be noted that this tournament could never have been held so successfully without the energy and commitment of the Begonia Committee. Comprising: Patrick Cook; Kevin Perrin; Anna Yates; Rob Loveband and Sue Ryan a great job was done by all.

In addition, the arbiters also did a brilliant job, with Chief Arbiter Peter Tsai, ably assisted by Bjorn Lategan and Nigel Barrow. Thanks also to the tournament sponsors, David Cordover of Tornado and PPT Financial.

Last but certainly not least, the group of canteen volunteers also deserve a huge vote of thanks for the time and energy they contributed to helping make this event a success.

Well done to all and we look forward to holding an equally exciting and successful tournament in 2018. ☺

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
23/03/17– 30/03/17	Rapid Play Weeks 1&2
06/04/17	School Team Games
13/04/17	Mentor Night
20/04/17- 29/06/17	52 nd Club Championship – Rounds 1 - 11
06/07/17	Blitz 2
13/07/17	Chess Variants
20/07/17 – 27/07/17	Rapid Play 2 – Weeks 1& 2
03/08/17 – 14/09/17	Arthur Teters Memorial – Rounds 1-7
21/09/17	Blitz 3
28/09/17	Lecture/Simul
05/10/17	Social chess
12/10/17	AGM
19/10/17 – 30/11/17	Koelle Tournament – Rounds 1-7
07/12/17	Blitz 4
09-10/12/17	Triathlon Weekender
14/12/17	End of Year Function
21/12/17	Christmas/New Year Break

This marvellous game has become known as The James Bond game, after the final combination was used in an early scene from the James Bond film “From Russia With Love”. By the mid-1960’s, Spassky was probably the best chess player in the World, but his first attempt to seize the World title in 1966 failed against the wily Armenian Tigran Petrosian. Undaunted, Spassky was back in 1969, this time defeating Petrosian to become the 10th World Chess Champion.



PRESIDENT PATRICK'S BOARD TALK MY FAVOURITE PLAYER

When I was young (yes, I was young once!), I read some sage advice in a book on how to improve my chess: adopt a famous player and follow his (or her) career. At the time, the World Chess Championship, the Match of the Century, was underway in Reykjavik, Iceland, between Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer. I decided that I would support and follow Boris Spassky. The first chess book I ever bought is a collection of his games. Spassky was born in Leningrad in 1937, and



Spassky was born in Leningrad in 1937, and learned chess at 5 while on an evacuation train during World War 2. He was a talented youngster and attracted the attention of the famous trainer Vladimir Zak (who also trained the young Victor Korchnoi). A child prodigy, he advanced rapidly, winning the World Junior Championship in 1955, and qualifying for the World Championship Candidates tournament the following year, when he also obtained the GM title, making him the youngest Grandmaster in the World at the time.

Over the next few years, he worked with several contrasting trainers, and developed a universal style, equally at home in subtle positional chess and wild tactical battles. In 1960, he played the following game in the USSR Championship held in his home town. His opponent was one of the most imaginative players in chess history, and had drawn a World Championship match in 1951.



1. e4 e5 2. f4 e4 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ed5 ♙d6 5. ♘c3 ♘e7 6. d4 O-O
7. ♙d3 ♘d7 8. O-O h6 9. ♘e4 ♘d5 10. c4 ♘c3 11. ♙e3 fe3
12. c5 ♘e7 13. ♙c2 ♗8 14. ♙d3 e2 15. ♙d6 One of the deepest
sacrifices this side of The Evergreen Game – Soltis 15... ♘f8
16. ♘f7 e1♙ 17. ♗f1 ♙f8 18. ♗f5 ♗f7 19. ♙f4 ♙f6 20. ♘3e5
♗e7 21. ♙h3 ♙e5 22. ♙e5 ♗h7 23. ♗e4

In 1970, in the famous USSR vs The Rest of the World match, Spassky, playing Board 1 for the Soviet Union, unleashed the following spectacular game against Bent Larsen of Denmark :

Bent Larsen vs Boris Spassky
 "When Pawns Attack" (game of the day Sep-15-16)
 USSR vs. Rest of the World (1970) • Nimzo-Larsen Attack: Modern Variation (A01) • 0-1



To move: black Last move: 14. ♖g1

1. b3 e5 2. ♖b2 ♗c6 3. c4 ♗f6 4. ♗f3 e4 5. ♗d4 ♗c5 6. ♗c6 d6 7. e3 ♗f5 8. ♗c2 ♗e7 9. ♗e2 O-O-O 10. f4 ♗g4 11. g3 h5 12. h3 h4 13. hg4 hg3 14. ♖g1 ♖h1 15. ♖h1 g2 16. ♖f1 ♗h4 17. ♗d1 ♗f1 ♗

In 1972, Spassky lost his World title to the American Bobby Fischer in the Match of the Century, when chess, believe it or not, was front page news every day for two months! Despite the loss, Spassky is remembered for his gentlemanly conduct throughout the match, and, for me, his brilliant demolition of Fischer in game 11.

After the match, Spassky remained one of the strongest players in the world for several decades. He now lives in Moscow, and at 80 years of age, is the oldest living World Chess Champion.

I followed his career, cheered his successes, and played through his games, deriving much pleasure and some instruction from the process. I would suggest to any young player that they, too, adopt a top ranking player as a role model.



Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer in their legendary 1972 World Championship

HOORAY FOR OUR WINNERS!!



Blitz #1:

(Adapted from Rob Loveband's report on our website: <http://www.ballaratchess.com/events/2017/2017blitz.html>) Ed.

President Patrick proved how much he had learned by following the progress of his hero, Boris Spassky, when he won our first Blitz Grand Priz for 2017, with an impressive score of 8 points. On 7 out of 9, close behind Patrick, were Harrison, Rod and Rob.

Miguel and Caitlin showed they were not to be trifled with, winning the Juniors section with 5 points each. Well done guys!!

Congratulations to you all and to all the other enterprising participants who brought their interest and enthusiasm to their games .

The 2017 Spielvogel Memorial:

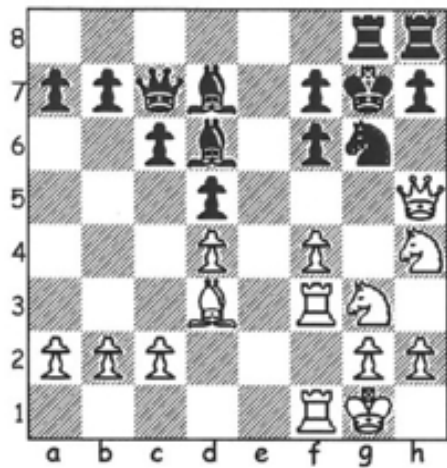
Running from the 26th January, through to the 9th March, this year's Spielvogel Memorial Tournament was a hotly contested series of games which prompted the exhibition of some real talent from the competitors.

Harrison ran away with the win, finishing on an impressive 7 out of 7. Astute observers might note that this was a worthy precursor to his riveting match against FM Donato Mallari in the Begonia Tournament.

Congratulations Harrison and to all the brave souls who lined up to contest this truly testing event.



CHESS PUZZLE OF THE MONTH SOLUTION – MATE IN SIX MOVES



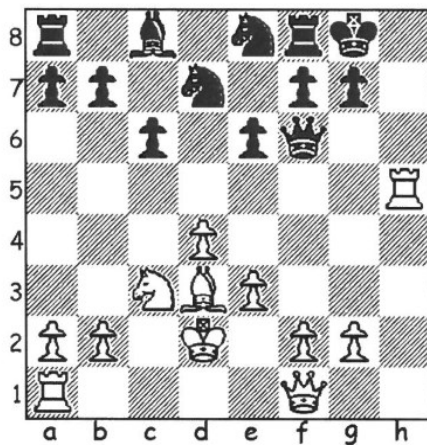
Mate in Six Moves-

White to Move:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="text" value="Kxh6"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Bxf5"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Kh5"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Kxg4"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Kh5"/> |

CHESS PUZZLE OF THIS MONTH– MATE IN SIX MOVES



Mate in Six Moves-

White to Move:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

51ST BEGONIA OPEN TOURNAMENT

