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BALLARAT CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER



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THE PRESIDENT IS BACK!

Cassandra Barnett Ed.

Ruari on the Rise!

For this issue, our very own President, Patrick Cook, is back again with his board talk! Fun and entertaining, his insights are always a welcome contribution to the club newsletter. He has written up an engaging commentary on the World Chess Championship that was held in London during November. We also have a new submission by ten-year-old Sophia, who has put together a chess puzzle that she wanted to share; be sure to check it out.

For some other news, there has been more excitement at our club. The Victorian Country Championships, held over the 13th and 14th of October, saw a great turnout of 33 players - nine of them being from our club. The most surprising part (or not so surprising part) is that our own Ruari Coffey, who

has recently been showing quite a lot of potential in many of our local tournaments, finished outright 3rd- undefeated with three wins and three draws! Being the 19th seed with a rating of 1487, he also took out the reserves title.

As if the sweet taste of victory was not enough for our rising champion, Ruari carried his excellent performance into our club's final Classical tournament for the year, the Koelle. Despite the disadvantage of having to take a half-point bye earlier on in the tournament, Ruari kept close for the rest of the way. After much hard work, he managed to tie for first place heading into the final round. Facing off against Sean Macak, our club's feared up-and-coming junior, he emerged victorious over the surprise contender in a reasonably short game, putting his name on the Koelle's list of champions - his very first major club title! These three excellent achievements clearly show, not only to local players, but chess players throughout Australia, that Ruari is rising to new levels. He now has his eyes on next year's Club Championship title, so watch out local players who are hoping for it too.



Ruari holding the reserves trophy after remaining unbeaten in the Victorian Country Championships



Ruari tied with Bas (right) on 5.5 for the Koelle and bottom seed, Sean (left), came third on 4.5



PRESIDENT PATRICK'S BOARD TALK

The 2018 World Chess Championship ~ Carlsen vs Caruana ~ London

Norwegian World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen, defended his title against challenger, Fabiano Caruana, in London in November. The match was for the best of 12 Classical games, with 4 rapid play games to be played in the event of a tie and blitz games thereafter if still tied. The two players are very close in rating, but the Champion's match experience meant he was favoured to win the match.

Caruana was White in Game 1 and played his usual 1.e4 and Carlsen responded with the Sicilian Defence. Caruana opted for the Rossolimo variation and Carlsen outplayed his challenger in the middle game, building up a probably winning position. He faltered on low time, however, and Caruana managed to stabilize his position. Perhaps in annoyance, Carlsen tortured Caruana for a long time before conceding a draw after 7 hours play and 115 moves!

Game 2 was a Queens Gambit Declined. Carlsen got nothing against good preparation by Black, played it safe, and agreed a draw after 49 moves.

Game 3 was another Sicilian-Rossolimo, but this time Caruana had no problems and a draw was agreed after 49 moves.

In Game 4, Carlsen switched to the English Opening, again got nothing with White and conceded a draw after 34 moves.

Game 5 was another Sicilian-Rossolimo, and this time a rather quiet game ended in a draw in 34 moves.



Magnus Carlsen
Norway

VS

Fabiano Caruana
America

For Game 6, Carlsen tried 1.e4 for the first time in the match and, not surprisingly, faced Caruana's pet Petroff Defence. It was a lively game with Carlsen trying for a win. He sacrificed a piece for 2 pawns late in the middle game, but soon found himself in trouble. The computers suggested a win for Caruana, but he missed his chance and Carlsen held the draw after 80 moves.

At the halfway mark, the pattern of the match had been established. Unusually, Black was pushing for the advantage and Carlsen was struggling to make much of an impression.

Carlsen had White for Game 7 and another Queens Gambit Declined was played. Again, he got nothing against Caruana's excellent preparation and a draw was agreed after 40 moves.

Game 8 was another Sicilian, but this time a sharp Sveshnikov variation. White gained an advantage this time, but Caruana let his edge slip again and Carlsen held the draw after 38 moves. This game also set a new record for the most consecutive draws at the start of a World Championship match.

Game 9 was another English Opening by Carlsen and again, he gained the kind of edge that he often grinds out to a win. But tenacious defence by Caruana meant another draw after 56 moves.

Game 10 was another Sicilian-Sveshnikov and, after a quiet beginning, the game suddenly sprang to life. Carlsen offered a pawn sacrifice which Caruana refused and a wild, chaotic game ensued. Carlsen, still trying to win, was too optimistic in the endgame and found himself a pawn down in a rook and pawn ending, but showed he can defend too and a draw was agreed after 54 moves.

With just 2 games to go, and scores level, the tension was palpable. One mistake could end it all. Game 11 was another Petroff and again, Carlsen could not break Caruana's favourite defence. A draw was agreed after 55 moves.

Game 12. Another Sicilian Sveshnikov. Carlsen gained an edge, but surprised everyone by offering a draw, accepted by Caruana, after 31 moves. This was the first time in the 132 year history of the World Chess Championship where all the Classical games have been draws!

Carlsen, as he did 2 years ago against Sergei Karjakin in New York, was pinning his hopes on the rapid play tie-breaks. In retrospect, this was a smart decision by Carlsen. He is the highest rated player in Rapid play chess and it is not Caruana's forte. This fact showed with the tie break proving to be a one-sided 3-0 massacre in favour of Carlsen. So, 2 days before his 28th birthday, Magnus Carlsen retained the title of World Chess Champion and awaits his next Challenger in 2 years time.

SOPHIA'S CHESS PUZZLE

By Sophia Athanasiou



It's white to move. Can you spot the skewer?

Write it here.

The answer will be provided in the next issue.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
06/12/18	Blitz 4
08/12/18	Chess Triathlon Day
13/12/18	End of Year Function
20/12/18	Christmas/New Year Break
27 - 31/12/18	Australian Chess Championships Held in Melbourne
17/01/19	Blitz 1 - Rounds 1-7
24/01/19 - 31/01/19	Rapid Play 1 - Rounds 1-6
07/02/19 -	Spielvogel Memorial - Round 1



THE BALLARAT JUNIORS

By the Editor

Meet Leonard Goodison

At 11 years old, Leonard is the highly competitive older brother of Justin. Since Leonard first came to the club three years ago, he has made his name known by winning the Koelle reserves for both this year and last year. Currently rated at 778, he is looking to climb higher with his good results of late. Leonard's dad, Mike Goodison, taught him to play chess when he was about six years old. Afterwards, chess coach Rob Bailey took charge. Leonard likes it that Rob isn't a really strict coach, "and he beats Justin!" he added with a grin.

Exercise is another thing Leonard enjoys. He plays soccer like his younger brother and enjoys it a lot. Being the competitive type that he is, Leonard likes chess because he finds it satisfying whenever he wins. But when he loses, he is also happy to learn from his mistakes. Naturally, improving his chess means the higher chances of winning his next game. Like his brother, Leonard's favourite chess piece is the knight. He likes its strange moving pattern and that it is the most unpredictable piece on the board. I found the Goodisons very similar in their likes and interests. Mikhail Tal is also Leonard's favourite chess player. Leonard likes how Tal was good at sacrificing pieces and attacking his opponents. Leonard likes the Ballarat Chess Club because of all the nice people and the good competition. It is very important to have fun playing chess, but it is also good to compete well and to do your best. Since many of the tournaments our club host throughout each year have reserve groups for the lower half of our members to compete for, the chances of winning a title and a little prize money are sure to encourage more junior players and beginners to come along and have a try.



Defending Koelle reserves champion, Leonard (left), tied with Dan and Peter Wang for 2018.

Puzzle Of The Month Solution – Mate In Seven



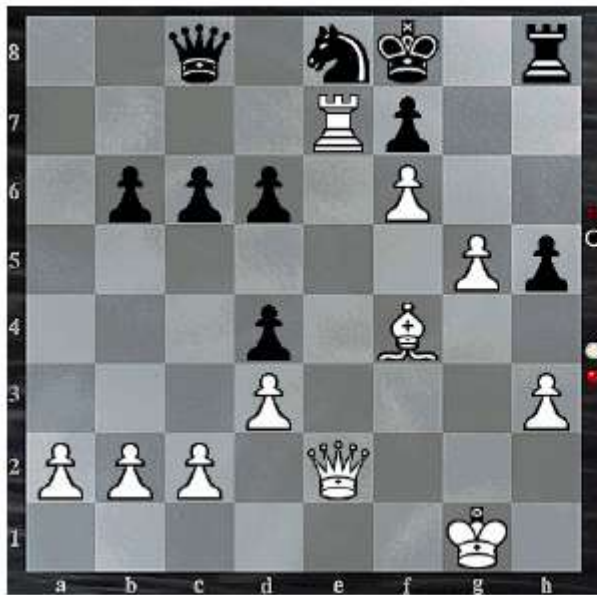
Mate in Seven -

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

White to Move

-
-
-
-
-
-

Puzzle Of This Month – Mate In Five (see next issue for solution)



Mate in Five -

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

White to Move

-
-
-
-

A PICTORIAL ROUND-UP OF OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

13th - 14th OCTOBER: CLUB MEMBERS DO WELL AT THE VICTORIAN COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS



2018 KOELLE: OUR FINAL CLASSICAL EVENT FOR THE YEAR SAW MANY SURPRISE RESULTS

