

Day 9: It's official—Smurf has got his first GM norm!

Australian Juniors

Vincent Sutor has at last exacted his revenge on **Moulthun Ly** for his championship play-off defeat at Mt Buller a year ago and now leads the Juniors along with **Angela Song** on 6.5. She continued her winning form by beating **Gareth Oliver**, while Moulthun has been joined by **Junta Ikeda**, **Michael Morris**, **Ronald Yu** and **Justin Huang** on 6 points.

The upsets continue in the Juniors—winners in this round gaining the ascendancy over lesser-rated players were **Nathanael Bielenberg**, **Alexander Papp**, **Daniel Barrett**, and **James Griggs**. Upset draws were obtained by **Rengan Vijayakumar** against his brother **Rukman**, and **Jason Cohn**, **Nathanael Lim**, **Will Waters**, **Jonas Muller**, **Leoma Lee**, **Michael D'Arcy** and **Shaun McGowan**.

In the girls' under 18, **Alex Jule** is now only half a point ahead of **Sally Yu** after she could only draw with **Susan Sheng**. **Jessica Kinder** lost to **Deborah Ng**, and this displaced her from the second spot. **Sachini Pathirana** achieved a good draw against **Tamzin Oliver**.

The under 12s open leader **Kelvin Finke** is well clear on 7.5, having had a win over **Liam McGarity**. Four players have joined Liam on 6: **Yi Yuan**, **Gene Nakauchi**, **Kevin Zhu** and **Edward Xing**.

Upset wins in this round included **Brandon Leggett**, **James Li**, **Joshua Bishop**, **Bevan Lee**, **Michael Wicks**, **Joshua Petracca**, **Matthew Radford** and **William Williams**.

Veronica Williams and **Danielle Kinder** must surely hold some sort of record, having required 3 score sheets to record their mammoth game of over 120 moves and having moved so fast their times on the clock more than doubled! And it ended in a draw . . .

The Xstrata Australian Championships

The big news is that **IM David Smerdon** has scored the first GM norm by an Australian IM in over 10 years. And he did it with a round to spare with his win over **George Xie** in round 8. (See page 5 of the *Courier Mail* 6 Jan, although the article does have a factual error regarding the norm, not title) This win moved him up to a share of the lead with **GM Ian Rogers** who defeated **GM Roland Schmaltz** in a relatively short game.

In other results, **Vladimir Smirnov** held **GM Darryl Johansen** to a draw, and **Moulthun Ly** and **Raymond Song** are on 4.5 and 4 respectively—a highly respectable score in the company they are keeping.

In the Major, **Kevin Sheldrick** lost his first game of the tournament to **Neil Wright**, and is joined in the lead by **Neil**, **Ilia Zvedeniouk** and **Michael Cashman**. Once again there were a lot of close pairings in this event. Some notable results were achieved by **Barry Cox**, **Brayden Soo**, **Nathanael Bielenberg**, **Blair Slack-Smith**, **Shayne Hunter**, **Jonathan Behne-Smith** and **Devraj Bhattacharya**.

In the Minor, there is a four-way tie for the lead after 6 rounds between **Andrew Fitzpatrick**, **Tony Weller**, **Mark Craven** and **Anthony Lam**. Noteworthy results were achieved by **Richard Stokes**, **Matthew Gilpin**, **David Soul** and **Nick Kospartov**.

Lightning tournaments

Both junior and adult tournaments start at 2pm today. Currently there are 46 adults and 92 juniors taking part.

Pub Trivia night

Get ready for the challenge tonight at 7 for 7.30 pm (finishing by about 9.30 pm) in the **Analysis Room**.

Don't expect chess questions—subjects will be wide-ranging and test your general knowledge. Teams of up to 10 will be in contention, so gather your wits, your friends and relatives and pay \$20 per person to the organizer **Ian Murray** in the Tournament Office this morning. This price will include drinks and plenty of fun prizes.

Polo shirts

We have a **special deal for clubs** wanting to bulk-buy shirts. Only the one size is included in this deal—small adult, which would fit most kids under 10s and 12s. We have limited numbers of other sizes, so these are not included in the deal.

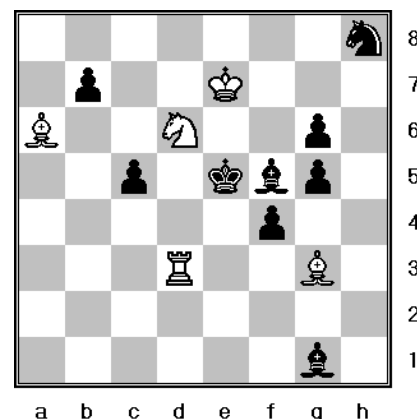
The bulk price will be **5 for \$90** or **10 for \$150**.

Problem Corner

Solution to Problem 7

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1.Bd5.Bf5 | 2.Nc1.Nxd4 |
| 3.Ne2.b4 | 4.Nxd4.bxa3+ |
| 5.Kc3.a2 | 6.Bb3+.Ka3 |
| 7.Nb5# | |

Arthur Willmott's Problem No. 8 White to play and mate in 16



Tournament Contacts

Organising Committee

Graeme Gardiner
[0438 305797]
Ian Murray [0412 717053]
John Humphrey
Lionel Smerdon

Arbiters

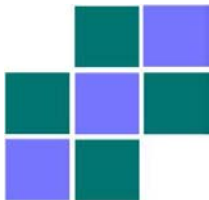
Gary Bekker
Roland Eime
Jason Lyons
Charles Zworestine

Media Liaison

Cathy Rogers

Bulletins

Wendy Gardiner



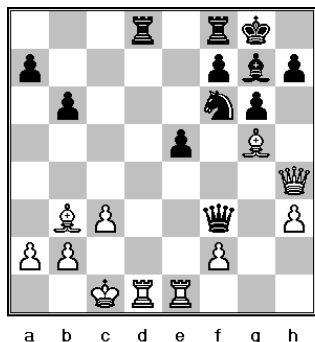
Alex Davidovic's annotated games from round 7

David Smerdon – Gary Lane



David Smerdon made another giant stride towards the grandmaster's norm by winning against Gary Lane, not without difficulty, in a thrilling fighting game.

d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bg5 Nbd7 4. Qd3?! (The Veresov System is a rare guest at this level. The last white's move does not inspire confidence. White prepares the e2-e4 advance, which is necessary to justify 2.Nc3, but the more common way of doing it is 4. f3.) **4...c6 5. e4 dxe4 6. Nxe4 Nxe4 7. Qxe4 Qb6! 8. Bc1** (Played after 40 minutes. White does not have a good way to protect Pb2 as 8.0-0-0 fails to 8...Qa5!) **8...Nf6 9. Qe5 Ng4 10. Qe4 g6 11. c3 Bg7** (11...Bh6 is more consistent with targeting Pb2. White has a choice between sacrificing a pawn with 12. Bc4 Bc1 13. Rc1 Qb2 14. Ne2 and playing 12. Qe2 Bg7, which disrupts the development of the kingside pieces.) **12. Bc4 O-O 13. h3 Nf6 14. Qh4 c5 15. dxc5 Qxc5 16. Be3 Qc7 17. Nf3 b6 18. Bb3 Bb7 19. Bf4 e5 20. Bg5 Bxf3 21. gxf3 Qc6 22. O-O-O** (White decides to remain



active and not defend 8 Pf3.) **22...Qxf3 23. Rhe1 Rad8?** (White's next move is hard to see so it is not surprising that black committed this error. **23...Rfd8** was the right move.) (diagram)

24. Bxf7+!! (This heavy tactical blow reverses the situation and places the initiative in white's

hands. Black has to take the bishop because **24...Kh8 25. Bg6** is not a viable option.) **24...Kxf7 25. Qc4+ Nd5 26. Re3 Qg2 27. Bxd8 Rxd8 28. Rg3 b5 29. Qg4 (29. Qh4!?) 29...Bh6+ 30. Kb1 Nxc3+ 31. bxc3 Rxd1+ 32. Qxd1 Qe4+ 33. Kb2** (The tactical melee has ended, leaving white with a clear advantage. Black's chances for a draw are in exploiting the relative lack of shelter around the white king.) **33...Bf4 34. Rd3 b4 35. cxb4 Kg7 36. a3 Kh6 37. Kb3 Qf5 38. h4 Qf7+ 39. Ka4 Qc4 40. Rd7 a6 (40...a5 is a more stubborn defence.) 41. Qd5 Qc2+ 42. Ka5 Qxf2 43. Qg8 Kh5 44. Rxh7+ Bh6 45. Rxh6+**

1-0

Murray Chandler – Ian Rogers

Ian Rogers had never won against Murray Chandler before, so his game was filled with determination, also reflected through the choice of opening: the sharp and uncompromising Pelican/Sweshnikov Sicilian.



e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e5 6. Ndb5 d6 7. Nd5 Nxd5 8. exd5 Nb8 9. Be3 a6 10. Na3 Nd7 11. Qd2 Be7 12. Nc4 O-O 13. a4 f5 14. g3 b6 (The opening has worked well for black: pawns on e5 and f5 promise sufficient counter-play and the potentially weak Pb6 and Pd6 are well-covered. Unhappy with this outcome, Chandler sank into deep thought, but could not find a way to unsettle black's position.) **15. Bg2 Rb8 16. O-O Qc7 17. b3 a5 18. f4 Ba6 19. fxe5 Nxe5 20. Nxe5 dxe5 21. c4 Bc5** (White's plan of playing f2-f4 and liquidating on e5 has not turned out well, and is the cause of more grief to follow. White's queenside pawn majority is completely immobile and he is reduced to passive defence against Ian's strong initiative on the kingside, not a joyous prospect.) **22. Bxc5 Qxc5+ 23. Kh1 Rbe8 24. Rae1 Bc8 25. Qc3 e4 26. Re3 Bd7 27. Rfe1 Rf6 28. R3e2 Rh6** (In order to make the f5-f4 advance harder white focuses on Pe4, so Ian manoeuvres to ensure that every piece is in its optimal position before pawn-storming his opponent's king.) **29. Re3 Re7 30. Rf1 Rg6 31. Re2 h5 32. Rf4 Rd6 33. Re3 g5 34. Rf1 Rg6 35. Ree1 Rh6 36. Qc1 Rg7 37. Qc3 Qd6 38. Rf2 Re7 39. Qe3 Rg6 40. Qd4 Qc5 41. Qb2 Rh7 42. Ref1 h4!** (A computer might have been able to put up a more determined defence, but for humans it is hard to sustain prolonged passivity without the possibility of counter-play. The preparation is over, and Ian moves to the final, decisive phase of the attack, crunching down any obstacles in his way.) **43. g4 h3 44. gxf5 hxg2+ 45. Rxc2 Rf7! 46. Qe5 Qe3 47. Rg3 Qe2 48. Rgg1 g4 49. Qb8+ Rf8 50. Qg3 Rxf5 51. Qb8+ Kh7 52. Qd8 Rxf1**

0-1