

**Australian Chess  
Championships**



**Australian Junior  
Chess Championships**



**Bulletin No. 9  
Sunday 8 January**

Is this Day 12 already? The days are whizzing by at an alarming rate and the end of the tournament is near. Most competitions are still extremely close, with several players in contention. Interesting stuff!

## Lightning

**IM Zong Yuan Zhao** has convincingly won the Australian Lightning title with a score of 12/13, his only loss being to visiting Norwegian **Geir Sune Tallaksen**. **Igor Bjelobrk** finished second on 10, and Tallaksen came third equal with **Moulthun Ly** on 9.5. Somewhat surprisingly, **IM Stephen Solomon** who has finished at the top, or near the top of this event on several previous occasions finished back on 8 points.

## Junior Lightning

**James Obst** and **Junta Ikeda** came first equal in the Australian Junior Lightning event on 10.5/13. A two game play-off finished 1-1, and Obst then won the decider with the white pieces (white 6 mins, black 5 mins + draw odds).

Gareth Oliver, Rukman Vijayakumar and Dusan Stojic all finished just half a point behind the leaders.

## Australian Juniors

**Angela Song** defeated **Michael Morris** to move to the outright lead in the Australian Juniors with just two rounds to go. There will be a great deal of interest in how she goes against **Junta Ikeda** tomorrow, as no girl has ever won the Australian Junior Championship.

**Junta Ikeda** appeared to be losing his game with **Vincent Suttor**, but made a miraculous comeback to win. This would have been a devastating defeat for Suttor, who lost the play-off with **Moulthun Ly** for the title last year in Mt Buller. Moulthun won on forfeit against **Ronald Yu** who withdrew from the tournament due to sickness.

Noteworthy wins were scored by **Devrim Van Dijk**, **Andrew Brown**, **Samuel Dalton**, **Jonas Muller**, **Nathanael Bielenberg**, **Daniel Posner** and **Allen Setiabudi**.

In the under 18 girls event, **Alex Jule** defeated **Tamzin Oliver** and still leads by just half a point from **Sally Yu** who defeated **Molly McGarity**. **Kayleigh Smith** had a good win over **Jessica Kinder**, and **Deborah Ng** drew with **Miona Ikeda** to slip into third place alongside **Susan Sheng** who defeated **Sarah Behne-Smith**.

In the under 12 open event, **Liam McGarity** was the only winner on the top four boards, but still trails the runaway leader **Kelvin Finke** by a full point. There were an amazing 11 draws in this event today. **Gene Nakauchi's** draw with **Yi Yuan** was particularly noteworthy.

**Emma Guo** continues to lead the girls under 12 by a vital half point from **Charmian Zhang**, and it will be quite a surprise if the final standings do not remain the same in this competition.

## The Xstrata Australian Championships

Although all games were strongly contested, the top seven boards all ended in draws in round 9 of the Xstrata Australian Championships. **GM Ian Rogers** and **IM David Smerdon** hold the lead on 7/9, just half a point ahead of **GM Murray Chandler**. In round 10 Rogers is white against **Darryl Johansen** and Smerdon is black against **IM Alex Wohl**. Youngsters **Moulthun Ly** and **Raymond Song** play each other in round 10, both having scored a more than respectable 5/9.

In the Major, **Neil Wright** moved to the lead on 7.5/9 with a win over **Michael Cashman**, ahead of **Ilia Zvedeniouk** on 7 and **Slobodan Krstic**, **Matthew Sonter**, **Tony Truscott**, **Kevin Sheldrick** and **Cashman** on 6.5. Noteworthy wins were scored by **Matthew Sonter**, **Slobodan Krstic**, **Howard Chuang**, **Russell Horton** and **Jonathan Behne-Smith**. **Barry Cox** and **Blair Slack-Smith** both drew with much higher rated opponents.

In the Minor, **Andrew Fitzpatrick** has taken the outright lead on 7/8, followed by **Eliot Hoving** on 6.5, and **Leo Wilkinson**, **Anthony Lam** and **Tony Weller** on 6. Notable wins in rounds 7 and 8 were scored by **Anthony Lam**, **Richard Stokes**, **Nick Kospartov**, **Eliot Hoving** and **Howard Duggan**.

## Chess Shop Special

The *Australian Chess Magazine*, which normally sells for \$7.50, will be **\$5 for Juniors only** during the championships.

## Polo Shirts

Apart from the bulk-buy special of the small adult sizes (**5 for \$90 or 10 for \$150**), any remaining stock at the finish of the tournament will be available at the Gardiner Chess Centre at the regular price of \$25.



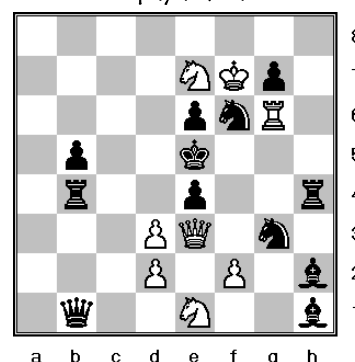
## Problem Corner

### Solution to Problem 8

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Nc4+.Ke4   | 2. Nd2+.Ke5  |
| 3. Nf3+.Ke4   | 4. Nxc5+.Ke5 |
| 5. Nf3+.Ke4   | 6. Nd2+.Ke5  |
| 7. Nc4+.Ke4   | 8. Nd6+.Ke5  |
| 9. Bh4.g5     | 10. Nc4+.Ke4 |
| 11. Nd2+.Ke5  | 12. Nf3+.Ke4 |
| 13. Nxc5+.Ke5 | 14. Nf3+.Ke4 |
| 15. Nd2+.Ke5  | 16. Bf6#     |

### Arthur Willmott's Problem No. 9

White to play and mate in 2



## Tournament Contacts

### Organising Committee

Graeme Gardiner  
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### Arbiters

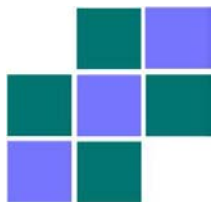
Gary Bekker  
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Jason Lyons  
Charles Zworestine

### Media Liaison

Cathy Rogers

### Bulletins

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## Alex Davidovic's annotated games from round 8

### David Smerdon – George Xie



With the grandmaster's norm now in his pocket, **David Smerdon** was all smiles after the round 8 game against **George Xie**. The unambitious c3 Sicilian usually leads to a good game for black, but David has been playing it masterfully and getting the most out of it.

**1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. d4 e6 6. Be3 cxd4** (This move clears the c3 square for Nb1, giving white a slight edge. An alternative is 6...Nf6 7. dc5 Qd1 8. Kd1 Ng4.) **7. cxd4 Nf6 8. Nc3 Qd6 9. a3 Be7 10. Bd3 O-O 11. O-O b6 12. Qe2 Bb7 13. Rad1 Rad8 14. Bg5** (The isolated Pd4 gives white more space, control over the e5 square, and the possibility of harmonious development of his forces. Black's aim is to exchange light pieces to neutralise white's initiative and make it possible to lay siege against Pd4 in the endgame.) **14...Qb8?!** (This move looks rather passive: the queen moves away from the potential danger, but also away from where the action is.) **15. Bb1 g6 16. Ba2!** (After causing the weakening of black's pawn structure, the bishop moves to a better diagonal.) **16...Rfe8 17. Rfe1 Nh5 18. Qe3 Bxg5 19. Nxb5 Qf4 20. d5!** (Black took his eye off the d5 square in order to exchange few pieces and simplify the position, allowing white's actively positioned pieces to shine.) **20...exd5 21. Qxe8+ Rxe8 22. Rxe8+ Kg7 23. Nf3 d4 24. Re4 Qf6 25. Nxd4 Ne7 26. Re3 Nf4** (Two rooks are stronger than the queen, so black tries to confuse the matters by attacking the white king.) **27. Ne4 Qh4 28. Ng3 Kf8 29. Nf3 Bxf3 30. Rxf3 Qg4 31. h4 Nf5 32. Rd8+ Kg7 33. Rd7** (After securing the safety of his king, David goes in for the kill.) **33...Nxb3 34. Rxf7+ Kh6 35. fxb3 Ne2+ 36. Kh2 Qd4 37. Re7 Qg1+ 38. Kh3 Qe1 39. Kg4 Qd1 40. Bg8 Qd4+ 41. Rf4**

1-0

### Raymond Song – Alex Wohl



**1. e4 g6 2. d4 Bg7 3. Nc3 a6 4. f4 d5 5. e5 Nh6 6. Be3 O-O 7. Nf3 f6** (Alex Wohl has opted for an original opening setup, putting his young opponent's strategic skills to a test.) **8. Qd2 Bg4 9. O-O-O!?** (White voluntarily weakens the pawn structure in exchange for the rapid development.) **9...Bxf3 10. gxf3 Nf5 11. Bd3** (Immediate 11.h4 places black under lots of pressure.) **11...fxe5 12. fxe5 e6 13. Bxf5 Rxf5 14. h4!** (White is in a hurry to cause some damage on the kingside before black has had a chance to bring his pieces over.) **14...Nd7 15. h5 Rxh5 16. Rxh5 gxh5 17. Ne2?** (Bringing the knight into attack seems like a good idea, but takes too many moves, just what Alex needs to organise his defence. Raymond misses on the opportunity to play 17.Bh6! and unsettle the main defender of the king.) **17...Qf8 18. Nf4 Qf7 19. Rh1 c5 20. Rxh5?** (Black's persistent defence has paid off and this move turns the chances around. After 20.Nh5 white keeps good attacking chances.) **20...cxd4 21. Qxd4** (If 21. Bd4, 21...Rf8 is strong.) **21...Rc8 22. b3 Nxe5** (The fall of this central pawn puts an end to white's attack.) **23. Qb6 Nc6 24. Rg5 Kh8 25. Nh5 Rg8 26. Bd2??** (Black has the advantage, but this blunder decides the game instantly. 26. Ng7 Rg7 27. Rg7 Qg7 28. Qc5 allows white to fight on.) **26...Bd4**

0-1

