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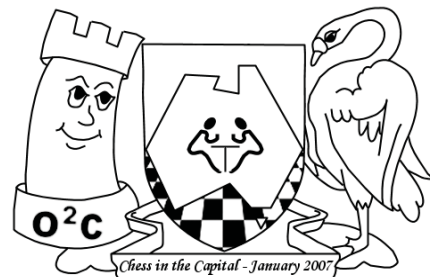
We might even send one of you along too!

Not today of course - we have some great family passes to the AIS to win today (check out the back page for all the details and special offers for everyone) but make sure you are seated in the Playing Hall each day 10 mins before the start of play because you never know who might win and what they might receive!



Podfood is open for breakfast & lunch Wednesday to Sunday. The quaint 1930s cottage overlooks the terraced gardens and the food reflects the setting - fresh and innovative!

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Australian Junior Rapid Play Championship
Tuesday 17 January 2007, 10am start

Entry \$20

Entries CLOSE 1.30pm, January 16

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The First Day of Play

Well, Roland and I are feeling somewhat mawmsey after a longer than usual working day today – getting up at some ungodly hour, admittedly enjoying a nice breakfast but then starving without lunch as we slaved away over several hot chess players... (Some of them, according to Roland, looked increasingly edible as hunger pangs set in – but it's OK, we resisted the temptation...). To be fair, we didn't really mind, as it was great to see so many youngsters – boys and girls alike – make up our record field of 210 players. We may have been all aflunters at the start, but we were thrilled to see the setting up efforts of all the organisers paying off – all the players present and accounted for at the start, seated in their correct places and involved already in intense competition. It was a miracle; the arbiters were blutter-bunged...

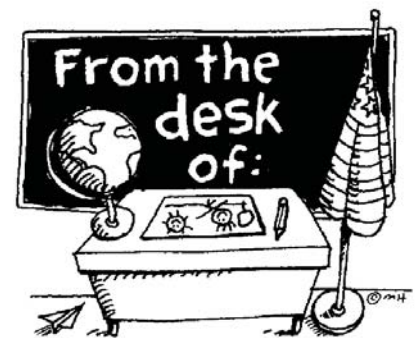
Not that the Under 18 Girls appeared to be straining particularly hard – the higher seeds won every game in that event! The older girls often move slowly, and at 90 minutes each plus 60 seconds per move from the start (Fischer) the players in all four events certainly had the opportunity to do so – but today they did not seem to need it. Top seed Sally Yu and second seed Emma Guo made pretty short work of their opponents, as did fifth seed Sophie Eustace and sixth seed Tamzin Oliver. Third seed Jessica Kinder took a little longer but still won, as did fourth seed Deborah Ng in the last game to finish when her extra piece was decisive in the ending. With all these seeds rated so close together, this event looks likely to be very closely fought – Round 2 may see an upset result or two...

It was a different story in the Under 12 Girls – after third seed Caroline Shan had won her game, her coach was baffounded that she had risen to Board 1 in Round 2! You see, in a stunning early upset, top seed Natasha Bortsova suffered defeat at the hands of Alannah Byrne when her incorrect response to a mate threat resulted in the loss of the exchange and a pawn, and eventually being killed by two central connected passed pawns... Second seed Megan Setiabudi was also unable to win, being forced to settle for a draw against Joanne Mason who cut off her king and got an impenetrable blockade of her advanced passed f2 pawn in their rook and pawn ending. No other real shocks; but now the top two seeds have to play each other in the second round! It's going to be a tough event...

The players in the Under 12 Open really must learn to take their time more: one of them, having started with one and a half hours, ended up with more than two! I only hope he won... The exception there was on Board 2, where Sabin Karibasic really did take his time and pulled off another major shock against second seed Gene Nakauchi. Top seed Yi Yuan was thrilled that his major rival had stumbled so early, as all the other top seeds prevailed in Round 1 of this event. The only upsets lower down were a couple of draws and a couple of wins by unrated players; not really upsets, as we don't know how good they actually are...

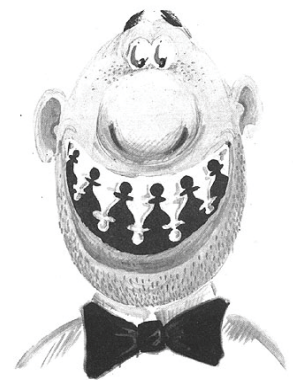
Exigent as these events are, it is the Under 18 Open where the players really seem to take their time and play for keeps; and this year was no exception even in Round 1, as top

seed Junta Ikeda won one of the last games to finish when his bishop and rook on the seventh were more powerful than his opponent's knight and rook on the seventh, winning pawns and their ending. But in typical Junta style, it took a long time; and with seeds 2-5 (Chris Wallis, Michael Wei, Max Illingworth and Zhigen Lin) all rated over 2000 and very close to his rating, he knows this will be a hard event to win... They all won today, without too much trouble. Only eighth seed James Morris failed to win, his upset draw with Lachlan Pedersen-Lee



IA Charles Zuorestine

(perpetual check from two exchanges down) being the only reversal on the top few boards. No doubt there will be more to come; tune in for the next exciting episode tomorrow!





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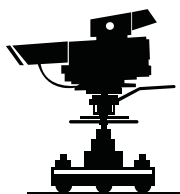
Please see Libby with your expressions of interest so we know where
we stand. Other (non-coaching) adults are welcome to join as well.

A list of "probable" entries will be posted on the office window

- put your name on it!

*If you missed us on ABC news last night
(and we saw lots of you in the story!)
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www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9uRj8qT8h8



ACE
AUSTRALIAN CHESS ENTERPRISES

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Bortsova, Natasha - Byrne, Allannah
Junior Girls U12 (1), 14.01.2007

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 c6 This could arise from the Slav c the Grunfeld so may be good for confusing the opponent, but looks little passive.

5.Bf4 5.cxd5 trying to get an Exchange Slav where Black might not want to play g6 could be an idea. Another alternative is; 5.Qb3 with a later Bg5, now that Black can't play c5 in one move.

5...Bg7 6.Qd2 The intent is obvious but it's all a bit optimistic. Quieter development with cxd5, h3 (to preserve the Bishop), e3, Bd. O-O and play on the c-file is more promising.

6...0-0 7.Bh6 Bf5 8.Bxg7 Kxg7 Having achieved the aim it isn't clear what White has achieved, except perhaps exchanging off a bad Bishop that wasn't bad.

9.e3 h4 somewhere around here would be consistent.

9...Nbd7 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.Be2 Re8 11...Rc8 looks more promising Black has a slight structural disadvantage but a lead in development so should use it to get on the c-file first.; 11...Ne4 is also good. The move played signals a questionable plan.

12.0-0 e5 13.Qd1 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Rxe5 leaves Black with a dodgy d-pawn and possible problems on the long diagonal.

13...e4 14.Nd2 h5 15.Rc1 15.h3 is an idea since Black's last move obviously intended Ng4, and will be needed at some point.

15...Qb6 16.Na4 Qd6 17.Nc5 Nxc5 18.dxc5 Qc7 19.Bb5 Re7 19...Ng4 would now be good. Then 20.g3 Rh8 suddenly looks threatening.

20.c6 White has ignored Black's plan one move too long.

20...Ng4 21.f4 21.g3 Ne5 looks dangerous for White, but probably isn't worth throwing away an Exchange for.

21...Nxe3 22.Qe1 Nxf1 23.cxb7 Qb6+ Black can in fact play 23...Qxb7 24.Bc6 because of 24...Qb6+

24.Kh1 Rb8 25.Qxf1 Rxb7 26.Rc6 An oversight, failing to notice that Black's last move attacked something, The game is now over.

26...Qxb5 27.Qxb5 Rxb5 28.Nb3 Rxb3 29.axb3 Rb7 30.Rc3 d4 31.Rc4 d3 32.Rd4 e3 0-1

Thank you to Ian Rout for
annotating the game between
Natasha and Allannah.

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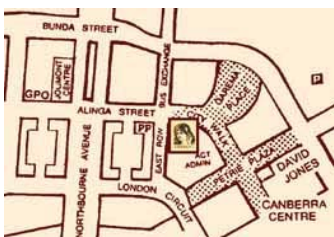
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