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BALLARAT CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER



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SEASONS GREETINGS

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**WELCOME TO OUR
FIRST NEWSLETTER**



Sue Ryan Ed.

Hello to all our chess club members and welcome to the debut edition of our new monthly newsletter ☺. From local chess news and views to reports on world-wide news and events, we hope this periodical will be both entertaining and informative.

For this inaugural issue we have articles from both our august President and our perspicacious Webmaster, which aim to both intrigue and enlighten our fellow members.

President Patrick, in a column which will be a regular part of the newsletter, has provided a wonderfully insightful round-up of the recent World Championship.

Also, be sure not to miss Rob Loveband's perceptive observations on whether 'to groan or not to groan' during a chess match.

Other regular features will include a helpful club calendar for the year to come and a pictorial page showing some of our club events. This issue focuses on some of the most memorable events of 2016.

We hope you enjoy this first edition and encourage any and all member submissions. Any submissions, questions or comments can be sent to:

ballaratchessclubnewsletter@gmail.com.

Alternatively, simply hand your piece to one of our committee members at our regular weekly meetings.

PRESIDENT PATRICK'S BOARD TALK



The 2016 World Chess Championship ~ Carlsen vs Karjakin ~ New York

World Champion Magnus Carlsen, from Norway, defended his title against challenger Sergei Karjakin, from Russia, in New York from 11 to 30 November, 2016. The match consisted 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. Carlsen was favourite to win the match, but Karjakin, a renowned defender, was expected to put up stiff resistance.

Carlsen was White in game 1, and essayed the Trompovsky Opening. Nothing much happened and the game ended in an innocuous draw.

Game 2 was a Spanish, and after a somewhat more interesting game, it too ended in a draw.

Game 3 was a Spanish, Berlin variation, and Carlsen shifted up a gear, building up a seemingly winning position in his usual style, but Karjakin kept resisting, showing his great defensive prowess to escape with another draw.

Game 4 was another Spanish, and again Carlsen built up a tremendous position, and again he could not find a way to break Karjakin's dogged resistance. Draw.

Watching the games live, it was obvious that Carlsen was becoming frustrated at his inability to win from positions that he would normally put away without too much trouble. The pattern of the match had been established.

Game 5 and Carlsen tried the currently fashionable Italian Opening. He got nothing from the opening and later found himself in some difficulty, but showed that Karjakin is not the only player who can dig deep and defend. Another draw.

Game 6 was another Spanish, this time a Marshall, and was drawn without much drama. So, at the halfway mark, scores were level. The second half began with Karjakin having White in the odd numbered games.

Game 7 was a Slav Defence that quickly transposed to a Queen's Gambit Accepted and another uneventful draw was the result.

Game 8, and Carlsen tried the London System. It was obvious that Magnus wanted a win and he kept pressing, taking big risks in trying to gain an edge. Instead, Karjakin's defence held, and Carlsen found himself in a losing position. Once more, Carlsen dug deep and reached a drawn position, but he would not concede, and one more risky sequence gave Karjakin another winning position. This time he made no mistake and took the lead in the match with just 4 games to go. Magnus looked quite distraught at the end.

Game 9 was another Spanish and Karjakin had the better of it. Carlsen was forced to defend for all he was worth, eventually saving the draw.

Game 10. Another Spanish. Early in the game, Karjakin had an opportunity to force a draw by repetition, but spurned the chance. Carlsen built up a strong position, and this time, finally, made it count and levelled the scores in the match.

Game 11 was yet another Spanish Opening. A lively game ensued that was eventually drawn by perpetual check.

Game 12, the last Classical game of the match. Everyone was expecting Carlsen to go for Karjakin's throat, but in fact Carlsen shut down the game from the start and a short draw was the result.

So the World Championship would be decided in tie break games! This was a smart move by the World Champion. Apart from the fact that he is the reigning Rapid Play World Champion, he pointed out that it was better to play 4 rapid play games rather than risk everything on a single game.

The tie break games followed a simple pattern: Carlsen played quickly and smoothly, building up a big lead on the clock. Karjakin checking everything and falling behind on the clock. This eventually proved fatal.

Game 1 was an uneventful draw.

Game 2 saw Carlsen reach a winning position, but once again he failed to find the win, and Karjakin, to his credit, found a sequence of moves that forced a sublime stalemate.

Game 3 could easily have been similar, but short of time the Challenger collapsed at the end and Carlsen was ahead with one game to play.

Game 4 and Carlsen, as White, sensibly played a rock solid Opening, forcing Karjakin to try to complicate the position. At the end, Magnus Carlsen, on his 26th birthday!, spotted a beautiful combination, culminating with a move for the ages, to convincingly win the tie breaks and retain the title of World Champion.

Final Position – Game 4 Tie Breaks



Magnus Carlsen
Norway

VS

Sergei Karjakin
Russia

A WORD FROM THE WEBMASTER
‘To Groan or Not to Groan’
Rob Loveband



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
22/12/16 - 19/01/17	Christmas/New Year Break
19/01/17	Social Games at the Mechanics Institute
26/01/17- 09/03/17	Spielvogel Memorial – Rounds 1-7
11 – 13/03/17	51 st Begonia Open
16/03/17	Blitz 1
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

Facing weird, unknown openings can be unnerving. When a soldier marches off to battle he generally uses that initial time to consider what may occur and how to deal with it, but with a crazy opening including a pawn storm starting at move 5, there is no gradual transition from the familiar; it's like stepping straight out of your tent into a full pitched battle.

I've had two games like this in the last two weeks, both against a higher rated player, but with completely different outcomes. In the first game I tried to play solidly but blundered in this position, complacent that the battle had not begun and that we were just 'dancing around'.



With black to move here, I did the worst move – ironically thinking 'safety first'! Yep, I castled long, straight into a bishop pin on my queen, no less. It wasn't long before white traded down to a won position. I did groan loud and long, but only after the game, in the car.

In the second game, in the triathlon, same opponent but opposite colours I faced another serious pawn storm on the king side but took my time to pry open the centre, attacking the un-castled king. I was comfortably ahead when I inexplicably moved my rook 'en prise' to d3 and with fingers lingering over the piece I let out a loud groan. My opponent duly took the rook, leaving himself open for mate in two moves.



5. Be2	h5
6. e4	f6
7. Nc3	g5
8. h3	a6
9. e5	dxe5
10. dxe5	Nxe5
11. Nxe5	fxe5
12. Bxh5+	Rxh5
13. Qxh5+	Kd8
14. Bxg5	Nf6
15. Qh8	Qf7
16. Bxf6+	Ke8
17. Rd1	Bd7
18. O-O	Qg6
19. Rd3	(...)

Now, that groan could be construed as interfering with the game; perhaps, had I not groaned he may not have seen the poison rook sitting en prise.

So, to groan or not to groan – I have to say my second groan was an involuntary keening against the unfairness of the universe....

I always know I'm doing well when our club president lets out a dissatisfied 'Hurumphh'. When faced with a groan it's safer to ignore it – just go about your business!

CHRISTMAS COLOURING FUN



A PICTORIAL ROUND-UP OF 2016

(CAN YOU CAPTION THEM YOURSELF?)



