

the beginner

In view of the Interscholar Chess Tournament now on it is perhaps very appropriate to see how strong, and above all, logical children can think. Botvinnik was the world-champion in the period between 1948 and 1963. He used to be the example for my own generation of aspiring chess players. No wonder that I still favour his style and his games.

Capablanca Botvinnik
White Black
Queens Gambit
Declined

1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Nf6
4.Bg5 Nbd7
5.e3 Bb8
6.cxd5 exd5
7.QB3 c5!
Black protects his bishop, disputes the centre and clears the way for Qa5.

8.dxc5 ...
With the intention to isolate black's d-pawn, thereby hoping to be able to attack it in the future.

8. Bxf6 Qa5
10.0-0-0 Nxf6
Castling to opposite sides. 0-0

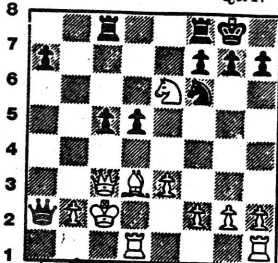
11.Nf3 ...
It is risky to go in for 11.Nxd5, Nxd5
12.Qxd5, Be6 giving black a powerful attack.

11. ... Be6
12.Nd4 Rac8
12.Nd4 Rac8

Black now threatens 13...Rxc6
13.c6 ...
Is stronger than 13.Kb1, Bxc3
14.Qxc3, Qxc3

15.bxc3n, Ne4 and white stands to lose a pawn, if not worse.

13.... Bxc3
14.Qxc3 Qxa2
15.Bd3 bxc6
16.Kc2 c5
17.Nxe6 (see diagram)
17.... Qa4!



Avoiding the obvious 17...fxe6 after which 18.Ra1, d5 19.Qc4, Qxc4 20.Bxc4 saves white.

18.b3 Qa2+
19.Qb2 Qxb2
20.Kxb2 fxe6
21.f3 Rc7
Black now plans to push pawn c5, which will give him a passed pawn.

22.Ra1 c4
23.bxc4 dxc4
24.Bc2 Rb8+
25.Kc1 Nd5
26.Re1 c3!

Every move is functional and efficient.

27.Ra3 Nb4
28.Re2 Rd8
29.e4 ...

A trap: If black tries to win a piece by 29...Rd2 30.Rxd2, cxd2 31.Kxd2, Rxc2+, white does not oblige, but plays 30.Rxc3! instead.

29.... Rc6!
This rook is now protected by the knight, and the above invasion by the rook at d2 is threatened.

30.Re3 Rd2
31.Rexc3 ...
Desperation, but any bishop move would

lose to the pretty reply 31...c2!

31.... Rxc2+
32.Rxc2 Rxc2+
White resigns as he is a full knight behind. Doesn't it appear very simple? Have we not a 12-year-old in our midst who can do this in a similar fashion? If so, we may have another grandmaster.

The Interscholar Team Championship for 1991 was convincingly won by last year's winner Daylesford Secondary College, winning all its six matches and collecting the solid score of 23.5 boardpoints. Second was Midlands College with 4 wins and 17.5 points. Third Mt Clear with 3 wins and 18 points.

After two rounds of the individual Student Chess Championship '91, we see four players sharing the lead with 2 wins each: Mark O'Brien, Simon Bailey, David O'Brien and Nick Roberts. The remaining four rounds will be played during the next two weeks.

In the Ballarat Club championship P. Mittel is currently a clear leader with 6 out of six games, followed jointly by G. Males and P. Cook with 5 points each. K. Perrin with 3 out of 3 games (3 games adjourned), as well as C. Gibbs with 3.5 points (from 4 plus 2 games adjourned) are still very much in the running for the title.

● Challenger solution

				6
1	2	1	2	6
3	3	1	2	9
1	2	4	2	9
1	2	1	1	5
6	9	7	7	9

10/6/1991

David O'Brien of Daylesford College and David Butt of Ballarat East High emerged as the joint winners — each with a score of 5 points from 6 games — of the individual Student Chess Championship '91 concluded this week.

Third price was won by Simon Bailey of Mt Clear College with 4 points, and Thomas Hunt of Ballarat College became fourth with 3.5 points. A total of 18 students contested the title over three weeks.

This annual event was organised by the Ballarat Chessclub.

Ballarat
The club championship has now reached a critical stage, with the favourites now playing each other. Peter Miitel, the winner ~~last~~ year and undefeated until round 8, was beaten by Patrick Cook. If Cook wins his adjourned game against Gordon Males (as is expected), he will share the lead with Miitel, each having scored 7 points from 8 games.

Cameron Gibbs (with 5.5 from 6+1 adjourned games), G Males (6 points from 7+1 adjourned games) and Kevin Perrin (4 from 5+2 adjourned games) also have good chances.

2/7/1991

The results of round 9 of the Ballarat Club Championship are as follows:

P. Mittel-C. Gibbs 1-0, B. Coutts-P. Cook 0-1, G. Males-P. O'Donnell 1-0, J. Baynham-B. van Riel 0.5-0.5; T. Cossens-A. Gibbs 0.5-0.5, J. Abson-M. O'Brien adjourned.

The three main contenders for the title, P. Cook, P. Miitel and G. Males, all won their respective games, P. Miitel especially showing good form by convincingly defeating the highly placed C. Gibbs.

The top positions at present are P. Miitel with 8 points from 9 games; 2 plus 3, P. Cook and G. Males 7 (8 and 1 adj.), C. Gibbs 5.5 (7 and 1 adj.).

16/9/1991

● For the Ballarat Chess Championship the games for the 10th round were played with the following results: G. Males — P. Miitel 0-1; C. Gibbs — W. Coutts 1-0; K. Perrin — J. Baynham 0.5-0.5; J. Males — A. Gibbs 0-1; A. Cossens — B. van Riel 0-1; P. Cook — P. O'Donnell 1-0; D. Butt — M. O'Brien 1-0.

With four rounds to go, and after the pre-tournament favourites have all met each other, the top positions are occupied by 1. P. Miitel 9 points; 2. P. Cook 8 (+1 adjourned game); 3. G. Males 7 (+1 adj. game); 4. C. Gibbs 6.5 (+1 adj. game).

Bit & Courier

30/17/1991

Ballarat Chess Club championship rounds 11 and 12: K. Perrin-J Abson 1-0; G. Males-P. Cook 0-1; J. Baynham-W. Coutts 0-1; D. Butt-M. O'Brien 1-0; P. Miitel-W. Coutts 0-1; G. Gibbs-A. Cossens 1-0; P. O'Donnell-M. O'Brien 1-0; P. Cook-C. Gibbs 0-1; J. Males-P. Miitel 0-1; J. Baynham-G. Males 0-1; B. van Riel-D. Butt 1-0; W. Coutts-J. Abson 1-0; J. Males-K. Perrin 0-1.

With only three rounds to go, and a number of outstanding games to be completed, the race between the two frontrunners P. Miitel and P. Cook appeared to be decided when the latter won their personal duel, followed in the next round by another loss by P. Miitel (against W. Coutts).

However, the competition suddenly became wide open, when C. Gibbs defeated P. Cook in the 12th round.

The situation at the top of A grade is now as follows (showing the points/games lost and the number of games played in between brackets):

1. C. Gibbs -1.5 (10 +1 adjourned game); 2+3. P. Cook and P. Miitel -2 (12); and K. Perrin -2.5 (10+ 2 adj).

In B grade, W. Coutts has now become the clear leader with -3 (9+1 adj), since he won his important game against J. Baynham, who is second with -4 (10).

Ball. Courier

13/8/91

The queen attacks both the white king and the unguarded pawn on e5. **7.Bd2,Qxe5. 8.0-0-0...** Castling queen-side is a quick way to get the king to safety. **8...Nxe4** (see diagram). White forces checkmate in three moves. Try to work it out before you see the answer!

If the queen had captured the knight instead, the white rook would have won it by the pin Re1: the queen cannot move off the file because it is pinned to the king. **9.Qd8ch!!...** A thunderbolt! **9...Kxd8; 10. Bg5ch...** Double check from both the rook and the bishop. Since it is impossible to block or capture both attackers, the king must move. **10...Kc7; 11.Bd8 checkmate.**

You should never allow pawns in the centre of the board to be swapped off (or, technically speaking, the position to become open) when you have moved fewer pieces off the back rank than your opponent and your king is still in the centre of the board.

For the 1991 championship of the Ballarat Chess Club a number of adjourned games

from previous rounds were played with the following results: J. Abson, M. O'Brien 1-0; P. O'Donnell, A. Gibbs 1-0; J. Males, C. Gibbs 0.5-0.5; J. Baynham, P. Cook 0.5-0.5; A. Gibbs, B. van Riel 0-1; K. Kerrin, P. O'Donnell 1-0, C. Gibbs, K. Perrin 1-0; A. Gibbs, P. Miitel 0-1; W. Coutts, B. van Riel 0-1; C. Gibbs, G. Males 1-0; M. O'Brien, J. Baynham 0-1.

The final top position is not yet decided, because some postponed games still have to be completed. Peter Miitel, who has finished all his games and stands at 12 points from 14 games, can only be caught up by Cameron Gibbs if the latter wins his last two games. In that case a play-off match will decide the title.

Patrick Cook, who has headed the table for many weeks, lost the chance to win the tournament by drawing his last round match against the informal John Baynham, thereby finishing with a total score of 11.5 points from 14 games.

The top placing in the B grade is to be decided between John Baynham and Bill Coutts.

27/8/91

Local game 'one of the best'

Up till now I have shown you games played by famous chess players.

This time however I would like to demonstrate a local and very "down-to-earth" game.

It is one of the best games I have seen being played by a Ballarat chess player.

Gordon Males has developed a strong feeling for complex tactical positions.

The following game is near-perfect, as it is hard to pinpoint where his opponent has made apparent mistakes.

It should be noted that J. Estiot is one of Victoria's stronger players.

G.Males (White), Ballarat — J. Estiot (Black), Melbourne. (Open Victorian Chess Championship '91, round 1.)

1. e4,g6; 2. d4,Bg7; 3. Nf3,d6; 4. Be3,Nf6; 5. Nc3,c6; 6. h3,Qa5; 7. Qd2,Nbd7 8. Bc4,b5; 9. Bd3,O-O; 10. O-O,Qc7; 11. Bh6,b4; 12. Ne2,c5. Putting pressure along the long black diagonal.

13. Bxg7,Kxg7; 14. c3(!)... The best way to stabilise white's centre.

14. ...a5; 15. Rac1,Qb8; Removing the queen off the firing line.

16. Bb1,Bb7; 17. Ng3,bxc3; 18. bxc3,h6; 19. Rfe1... Preparing the attacking move.

20. e5, hence black's reply: *plain*

19. ...e5; 20. Nh4(!)... White threatens:

21. Nhf5+,gxf5; 22. Nxf5+,Kg8; 23. Qxh6,Ne8; 24. Ne7 checkmate. 20. ...Ng8; 21. f4,Ndf6; 22. Nf3,Rd8; 23. Rcd1,exf4; Black is virtually forced to release the tension in the centre.

24. Qxf4,d5(?); A desperate attempt to



complicate matters, but it will restrict black to a waiting game.

Hereafter, white can patiently build up a strong attack.

25. e5,Nd7; 26. Qg4... With the aim to play 27. e6 as well as attacking point g6.

26. ...Nf8; 27. Nh5+... A more immediate win is shown by the following analysis: 27. e6!... A. 27. ... Nxe6; 28. Rxe6!,fxe6; 29. Qxg6+,Kf8; 30. Ne5!,Qc7, 31. Rf1+Ke7; 32. Rf7+,Kd6; 33. Nf5 checkmate. B. 27...fxe6; 28. Ne5!,Ne7; 29. Nxxg6!,Nxxg6; 30. Bxxg6,Nxxg6; 31. Rxe6 and black cannot prevent checkmate in a few more moves.

And finally C. 27... Nf6; 28. Nf5+,Kh7; 29. Qh4,gxf5; 30. Qxf6,fxe6; 31. Bxf5+!,exf5; 32.

Re7+ and 33. Qg7 mate.

Naturally, under the restrictions of matchplay it is hard to calculate such complex combinations behind the board.

27...Kh8; 28. Nf4,Ra6; Increasing black's cover of the critical squares e6 and g6.

29. Qh4,Kg7; 30. Qg3,Qc8; 31. Nh4,Ne7; 32. Nh5+,Kh8; 33. Nf6,g5(?); This move unnecessarily weakens black's king position.

A better fighting chance would have been 33...Ne6,Qe3; 34. Kg7 or 33...Nh7... 34. Qe3!,c4; 35. Rf1,Nfg6; 36. Nf5,Nxf5; 37. Bxf5,Qc6; 38. g3!... A very fine and "silent" move: it denies black's knight access to the squares f4 and h4. and at the same time prepares white's strong next move. 38. ...Bc8;

39. h4!... breaking up black's last defences (see diagram).

39. ...Kg7; 40. hxxg5,Bxf5; 41. g5xxh6+,Kh8; 42. Rxf5,Rb6; 43. Rg5(?) ...

Having reached a clearly winning position, white now loses his way somewhat.

43. Nh5,Qd7; 44. Rd f1,Rf8; 45. Qf3,Rb7; 46. Nf6 would have captured another black pawn, making white's task to win much easier.

43. ...Qa4; 44. Rd2,Qa3; 45. Rxxg6!... A correct sacrifice.

45. ...Qc1+; 46. Kf2,Rb1; black now threatens mate on square f1. 47. Kf3,...

White has to play very carefully to avoid traps. 47. ...Qh1+; 48. Kg4,fxg6; 49. e6!...

The pawn cannot be stopped except by giving back the exchange. 49. ...Re1; 50. Re2,Rxe2; 51. Qxe2,Re8; 52. e7,Qb1; A last trap after 53. Nxe8? it will be checkmate via 53. ...Qf5+; 54. Kh4.Qh5. 53. Qe5,Rxe7(?); A mistake in a lost position: the end game after 53. ...Qf5+; 54. Qxf5,gxf5+; 55. Kxf5,Rxe7; 56. Nxd5 will be fairly easily won by white, but would need some concentration to win.

54. Qxe7,Qf5+; 55. Kh4,g5+; 56. Kh5,g4+; 57. Kh4 and black resigns as he has ran out

of further checks, and he cannot prevent to go checkmate himself.

• The Ballarat Chess Club has organised a "Lightning Chess" tournament for Thursday, September 12, starting at 8 pm.

The venue is at the School of Mines Community Building in Lydiard St Sth.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Another major event on the annual chess-calendar is the Victorian Country Chess Championship to be held on the weekend of October 5 and 6 in Maryborough.

An additional attraction will be that this tournament is part of the popular Golden Wattle Festival, so that there will be much to enjoy besides chess.

Every year chess players from as far as Gippsland or Rushworth, beginners and advanced players meet every year for a weekend of chess and other activities.

Prizes can be won in the three junior, reserve and championship sections.

Further inquiries and entries can be directed to K. Perrin, on 39 3302 after hours or 31 3711 during business hours).

FAX US YOUR AD

Save time and effort when you are having trouble getting through on our phone lines or can't get to the office in person. Remember to include your name, address and phone number. Classification and date the ad is to appear. For display advertisers we must receive your ad 2 days prior to publication.

It's fast. It's easy
(053) 33 1651

The
Courier

Ballarat's own
morning daily
newspaper

For personal service
Phone 31 1211

Play-off champion



CHESS

By
Bas
van Riel

The Ballarat Chess Club's 1991 Championship resulted in a tie for first place between title-defender Peter Miitel and Cameron Gibbs.

Gibbs had to win his last three games to catch Miitel.

A play-off will be organised to decide the 1991 champion. Third place went to Patrick Cook.

The following is the game played between the two tournament winners.

Virtually from the opening black was in serious difficulties, but white made a bad mistake, which fortunately for him was overlooked by black.

If he had seen the combination black undoubtedly would have won the game (and the outright championship).

I invite the reader to try to find the above missed opportunity, before viewing the solution shown at the end of the game.

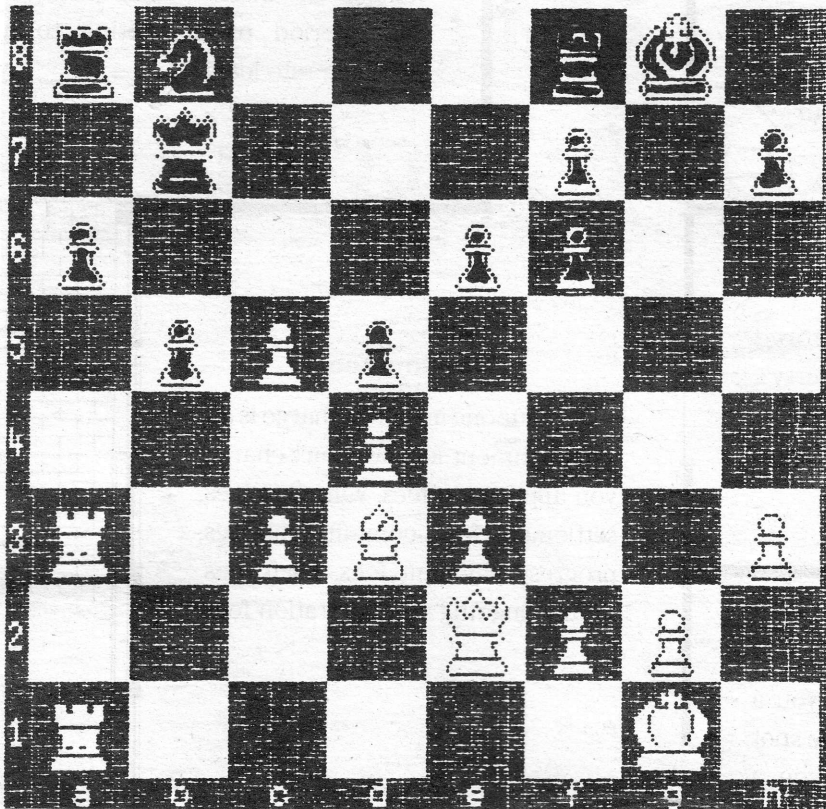
P. Miitel (white) — C. Gibbs (black)
1-0.

1.d4,d5; 2.Nf3,Nf6; 3.B5g5, Bg4(?)
Not A very effective move as white's knight on f3 is now able to attack the bishop. As a consequence it forces black to concede its bishop-pair, which often proves to be a slight disadvantage.

4.Ne5,Nbd7; 5.Nxg4,Nxg4; 6.h3(?) . .
. Much more forceful would have been 6.e4, attacking black's knight and subsequently controlling the centre.

24/9/91

planned after chess club onship finishes in a draw



25. dQxa6, Rb8; 26. Qa7, Rb7;
27. Qa4, Kg7; 28. c4, Kg6.

A mistake, causing a disjointed pawn structure in an already lost position. 29. cxd5, exd5; and black resigned after a few more moves, as his weak pawns and his two pawns down are sufficient for white to win at the end. Black could have won the queen after 26 . . . Rb1!+; 27. Rxb1, Qxa7.

● Reigning Ballarat region school champions, Daylesford Secondary College, participated in the finals of the State School Championship in Melbourne last weekend.

Among 15 other teams the Daylesford team scored six points from 16 games.

Top scorers for Daylesford were David O'Brien (board one) with two points from four games and David Scrutton (board four) with three out of four.

● Last week the Ballarat Chess Club held its first of a series of "lightning" tournaments.

In a lightning chess-game the participants are allotted five minutes each to complete all their moves. The time used is measured by two independent clocks.

Whenever a player has made a move he presses a button, which causes his opponent's clock to tick the time away.

In a lightning game a player wins when he either checkmates his opponent, or when his opponent has used up his five minutes first.

The winner of this year's first tournament was P. Miitel with six points from seven games.

Equal second and third finished P. Cook and A. Gibbs with five points each.

6. . . , Ngf6; 7. e3, a6(?). This is an unnecessary move, wasting time which was necessary to quickly develop its pieces. Moreover, it weakens black's pawn structure.

8. c4, c6; 9. Nc3, e6; 10. Bd3, Bb4; 11. 0-0, Rc8. The plan is to push the pawn to c5, hoping to exert pressure along the c-file.

12. Qb3, Bxc3; 13. bxc3, b5? Black now changes tactics for the worse. Much better would have been: 13. . . dxc4; 14. Bxc4, b5; 15. Bd3, c5(!). 14. c5 . . . preventing black any counterplay on the queenside, as well as severely restricting black's knights. 14. . . 0-0; 15. a4! Creating more weaknesses.

15. . . , Ra8, 16. Ra3, Qc7; 17. Rfa1, Qb7; White threatened to win a pawn

after 18. axb5, cxb5; 19. Bxb5. 18. Qa2 . . . Indirectly attacking black's pawn on a6 again. It is hard to find a satisfactory defence for black. For instance, 18. . . b4 fails after 19. Rb3, a5; 20. axb4, axb4; 21. Rab1, winning the b-pawn. 18 . . . Nb8.

What else could black do? Unfortunately, he now suddenly finds his kingside under attack.

19. axb5, cxb5; 20. Bxf6, gxf6; 21. Qe2 . . . (see diagram). Threatening a dangerous attack via 22. Qh5, and winning a pawn on b5. 21. . . f5? 21. . . Nc6; 22. Qh, f5; 23. g4, Ne7; 24. gxf5 would have given black slightly better chances to survive with the loss of only one pawn. Now he will lose another one: 22. Bxb5, Qc7; 23. Bxa6, Nxa6; 24. Rxa6, Rxa6;

Four share country championship

The Country Chess Championship 1991 was conducted in Maryborough last weekend as part of the Golden Wattle Festival.

The tournament was again sponsored by the National Bank of Australia, the Golden Wattle Festival Committee and Mr R. McLeod, a fervent chess supporter.

The battle for the title was extremely close this year. After the first three rounds, favourite Dr Stewart Booth (winner of the title three years in a row) and Allistair Anderson were still unbeaten, closely followed by Alex Davis and Bas van Riel with 2½ points each.

These four players drew their games against each other in round four, and consequently the top position was thrown wide open, to be decided in the ultimate (fifth) round between no less than seven players.

After very long and intense fights, the games between S. Booth - G. The and A. Anderson - K. Perrin ended in draws. Perrin's good result is notable, considering that he had to struggle in a inferior position for most of the game.

The other deciding games were won by A. Davis, against L. Healey, both of Bendigo, and G. Males, against B. van Riel, both of Ballarat.

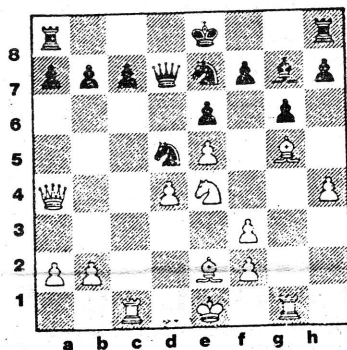
This resulted in the unique situation of a four-way tie for first place between Dr S. Booth (SeaLake), A. Anderson (Geelong), G. Males (Ballarat) and A. Davis (Bendigo) with four points each; followed by G. The (Geelong), K. Perrin and P. Cook (both Ballarat) with 3½ points.

First in the Reserve section was shared by P. Wendrich and



CHESS

By
Bas
van Riel



Being white's move to play, how can it force an immediate win through a clever combination?
N. Barrow (both Bendigo) and P. Miitel (Ballarat), with three points each from five games.

The Junior section was decided in the last game of the tournament between the two clear leaders. Andy Copeland (Geelong) won this game with the perfect score of seven points from seven games, followed by Robert Petrov with six, and Lee Nicholson (both Maryborough) with four points.

Recently, by chance, I happened to come across an interesting article in the old *Ballarat Star*, the precursor of *The Courier*. It was dated 1869.

One Mr Burns claimed to be the strongest chess player of the colony. Apparently some enterprising characters, who

called themselves "admirers of Mr Burns" challenged, through the *Star*, anyone to play a match against Mr Burns in Melbourne. Of course, a substantial sum of money was to be at stake.

Ballarat, which also had its fair share of entrepreneurs, sensed an opportunity to make a tidy profit. "Backers" of the Ballarat chess champion, a Mr Chas Fisher, reacted, again via the *Star*, pronouncing they would accept the challenge on his behalf. It even went so far that a representative for Mr Burns, staying at the Royal George Hotel, negotiated the conditions for such a match with Mr Fisher's "admirers".

The match was partly to be played at the Mechanics Institute in Ballarat and partly at the Melbourne Chess Club. No adjournment of the game was to be allowed unless both players would agree.

The anticlimax of all this "wheeling and dealing" occurred when our Mr Fisher, in a letter to the *Star*, denied that he had ever authorised anybody to act and negotiate on his behalf; that he was quite prepared to enter into a match with Mr Burns, but that it was against his principles to play for money.

This was the last I could find on this matter, and I don't know if a match between the two champions ever took place. It is amazing that in 1869 chess already had an important place in Ballarat, and it certainly was taken very seriously by some.

● Solution of chess problem:
1. Nd6 +!, cxd6; 2. Bb5, Nc6; 3. Rxc6!, 0-0. (3... bxc6; 4. Bxc6 would win the black queen; white was also threatening 4. Rc8). 4. R6c1 and black's queen is trapped.

13724 Courier 8/10/1991