

CHESS

WITH

IAN ROGERS



Last month two teams of Canberra players met up with teams from Albury and Wagga Wagga at Junee jail to compete against each other and inmates.

Junee jail established a chess club two years ago and claims benefits of socialisation and patience for inmates who attend the club. (Schools claim similar benefits when placing disruptive students in their chess club.)

The Junee jail chess club has been helped by regular visits from a Wagga Wagga team, who developed the idea of an annual multi-team competition at the jail. (Inmates can only practise head-to-head; internet games are not possible.)

This year the Check in Mate trophy was won by the Canberra I team – Suptut, Priest, Egan and Keinan – with the inmates scoring respectably (even though some of their stronger players had not been given permission to compete).

It has been two decades since Paul Dozsa almost single-handedly created chess clubs throughout Australian jails. The Hungarian-born Australian international, who claimed to have had a chip placed in his brain which forced him to freeload at restaurants, was locked up in many prisons around the country and in each he would order sets and boards and start a chess club.

However Dozsa was by no means the strongest player to be jailed in Australia. Brazilian mas-

ter Luismar De Brito spent six years in a Sydney jail following a drugs conviction. He bemoaned the lack of serious competition but has since resumed his chess career and represented Brazil at the 2014 American Continental Championships. However the most famous Australian chessplaying prisoner was a club player in Sydney, John Killick, who found the chess competition in Silverwater jail so uninspiring he asked his Russian girlfriend Lucy Dudko to pick him up by helicopter.

The escape was so well planned (though short-lived) that one half-expected Dudko to turn out to be a master player and be vying for the Women's Olympic team on her release. This week's game sees Dozsa, between jail stints in 2000, beat one of Australia's best players.

NSW Championship 2000

White: P.Dozsa

Black: J-P. Wallace

Opening: Sicilian Defence

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.d4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Be7 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0

a6 9.Be3 b6 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.f3 Nbd7 12.a4!?

At the time, a trendy way to counter Black's Hedgehog set-up.

12...Ne5 13.a5 bxa5 14.Nb3 Nc6 15.Rfd1 Qc7 16.Bf1 Rac8 17.Qf2 Rfe8?!

17...Nd7 was necessary.

18.Bb6 Qb8 19.Nxa5 Nxa5 20.Rxa5 Nd7 21.Bd4 Nc5?! 22.b4 Nd7 23.Qg3 Ne5?

The natural move, but losing. The ugly 23...f6 was obligatory.

24.Rxe5! dxe5 25.Bxe5 Qxe5 26.Qxe5 Bf6 27.Qf4 Bxc3 28.Rd7 Bc6 29.Qxf7+

Kh8 30.Rc7 1-0

The ACT Junior Lightning Championship finished in a four-way tie for first place between Thomas Johnston, Shane Arora, Albert Winkelmann and Sankeertan Badrinarayan, with Johnston taking the title on a tiebreaker.

The ACT Championship will be run as an open event from March 4-6 at Campbell High. Details: cammcunningham8@gmail.com