

## **The Fabulous Fourteen**

### **A Report on the 2014 Gold Coast Open**

*by DOP Charles Zworestine*

What's this? Yet another obscure Charles title?? Who on earth are "The Fabulous Fourteen"??? And why are they in Charles' report on the 2014 Gold Coast Open???? Why can't Charles ever write a normal tournament report, where the readers know what on earth he is talking about?????

Well, dear reader, I was going to call this report "The Golden Dozen" – a book I once read by Irving Chernev, where he tried to rank the twelve best chess players of all time. Only problem was, there were actually 14 players FIDE rated over 2000 in the 2014 Gold Coast Open, not a dozen as I first believed! What the heck, I thought, so why not just change the title; and there you have it, that's how "The Fabulous Fourteen" was born...

I was DOP of the first FIDE rated Gold Coast Open event two years ago, also the first at a new venue of Emmanuel College, a huge school in Carrara. In the same beautiful carpeted rooms as the previous two years, the players benefited from the usual fantastic organisation of the good folk at Gardiner Chess. Andrew Fitzpatrick was away in Europe; but we still had Graeme Gardiner and Toby Davies to help me control the milling throngs! A total of 111 players fit neatly into two rooms, although the upcoming Olympiad had less influence than last time – only one player (men's Board 2 Moulthun Ly) as opposed to the seven we had in 2012. Still, there was no question about the strength of the field...

Magic Moulthun was top seed, one of five IMs in the field: second seeded Welshman Richard "Skippy" Jones, third seed and five time previous winner Stephen "Solo" Solomon, fifth seed James "Jimmy" Morris and sixth seed Andrew "Perpie" Brown. In between them was FM Kanan Izzat, actually an IM elect after he recently got his live rating over 2400 (he already has more than enough norms). Even the seventh seed was one of Queensland's top players, the ever dangerous Brodie McClymont likely to prove a real threat to the titled players. The six round Open event attracted 38 players, featured a Friday night round and three tough games on the Saturday; while the overall total of 111 players did not quite reach the heights of the previous two years (137 and 139 respectively), but was still excellent for a two day event. This comprised 29 in the Under 1600 event, and 44 in the Under 1000 event. As always, the Open was played at 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move from the start and the other events at 1 hour plus 10 seconds per move from the start; let's see how everyone fared!

### **Open Event**

With seven players taking half point byes for Friday night's first round, there were only 15 games which took place on the first evening. This already reduced the potential for first round upsets – and so it proved. All games went according to rating except one – but what a game that was! Gene Nakauchi looked like he was the one pressing for much of the game against Charles Tsai; but Charles fought hard in the ending, eventually simplifying to what should have been a drawn king and pawn endgame. It was an equal pawn race until Gene, in time pressure, carelessly lost a move; so Charles queened first, and scored the only first round upset after a decisive staircase manoeuvre with his new queen.

So Gene was the first casualty, while the remaining top seeds all survived Round 1... But things were never going to be quite so easy in Round 2! For starters, the titled players started meeting, with WIM Heather Richards matched up as White with Magic Moulthun on top board. It was a tough game; despite only lasting 33 moves, they played for almost the full session. (See game below). But Magic could make no progress; and in the end, he conceded his first upset draw...

**Richards, H (2147) - Ly, M (2466), Gold Coast Open Round 2, Board 1 28/06/2014**

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 e6 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.a3 Bd7 8.Bd3 Bc6 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Ng5 dxe5 11.Nxe6 Qf6 12.Nxf8 Kxf8 13.Nd2 exd4 14.Ne4 Qe5 15.Re1 Ne3 16.Bxe3 dxe3 17.Rxe3 Qd4 18.Ng5 Nf6 19.Qb3 Bd5 20.Qc2 g6 21.Rd1 Qb6 22.Qc3 Kg7 23.b4 h6 24.Ne4 Bxe4 25.Bxe4 Rac8 26.Qb2 Rhe8 27.Rde1 Kg8 28.Bf3 Rxe3 29.Rxe3 Re8 30.Rxe8+ Nxe8 31.Qe5 Qd8 32.g3 b6 33.Kg2 (=) ½-½

It looked for all the world like there would be another upset on Board 2, as Tristan Stevens (as White) seemed to have outplayed Stephen Solomon when he “won” three minor pieces (and the two bishops) for a queen. This should have become decisive when it became a rook and two minor pieces for the queen; but add Tritty to the long list of those who have been “Soloed”, as Stephen got some counterplay with a passed h-pawn and eventually won on time! The other top seeds had far less trouble, although Brodie McClymont did have to fight hard to beat WIM Alex Jule as Black. In the end, we were left with six players in the lead on 2/2, as the event was about to heat up... Upsets saw an aggressive Alex Stahnke topple Tony Dowden; and Tom Maguire grind down Mike Duffin in a rather long game.

Round 3 is always a critical round, being the middle game of a gruelling three day Saturday; and this time was no exception! The upsets began on top board, where Brodie McClymont made an extra pawn count to defeat Stephen Solomon; he made hard work of it, but he got there in the end... (See game below). Kanan Izzat was too strong for Michael Morris in a miniature; while James Morris had a far tougher battle with Dusan Stojic. It was even for the majority of the game; but in the end Jimmy broke through the centre, and won a pawn and the exchange to prevail. Magic Moulthun beat Alex Stahnke in a long game; while Richard Jones (who took a half point bye in Round 2) could make no progress against Heather Richards, who scored her second upset draw in a row. In the longest game of the whole event, Andrew Brown was pushing for the whole game against Tom Maguire, a pawn up in a rook ending; but Tom defended superbly, and he wound up drawing in over 100 moves in another upset result. Charles Tsai scored his second upset award, drawing with Jonas Muller; while Jared Louie also managed an upset draw, this one with Brock McIntyre.

**Solomon, S (2378) - McClymont, B (2242), Gold Coast Open Round 3, Board 1 28/06/2014**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 Ngf6 5.Nc3 cxd4 6.Qxd4 e5 7.Qd3 h6 8.Be3 Be7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bc4 b5 11.Bd5 Rb8 12.b4 Nb6 13.Bxb6 Rxb6 14.Rfd1 0-0 15.Qe3 Qc7 16.Rd3 Be6 17.Rad1 Bxd5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.Rxd5 Rc6 20.Ne1 Rc4 21.a3 f5 22.exf5 Rxf5 23.g3 Rf6 24.Qe2 Qc6 25.R1d2 Bd8 26.Ng2 Bb6 27.Ne3 Bxe3 28.Qxe3 Rxc2 29.Rxc2 Qxc2 30.Rd3 e4 31.Rc3 Qd1+ 32.Kg2 d5 33.Rc1 Qf3+ 34.Qxf3 Rxf3 35.Rd1 Rf5 36.g4 Re5 37.f4 exf3+ 38.Kxf3 Kf7 39.Rc1 Kf6 40.h4 g5 41.hxg5+ hxg5 42.Rh1 Re6 43.Rh8 Ke5 44.Rg8 Rf6+ 45.Kg3 d4 46.Rxg5+ Ke4 47.Rg8 d3 48.g5 Rf1 49.Re8+ Kd4 50.Rd8+ Kc3 51.Rc8+ Kb3 52.Rd8 Kc2 53.Rc8+ Kd1 54.Rc5 d2 55.Kg2 Rf8 56.g6 Ke2 57.Re5+ Kd3 58.Rd5+ Kc2 59.Rc5+ Kb3 60.Rd5 Rg8 61.Rd6 Rxg6+ 62.Rxg6 d1Q 63.Rxa6 Qd3 64.Kf2 Qe4 65.Ra5 Kc4 66.Kg3 Qd3+ 67.Kh4 Kd4 68.a4 Ke4 69.Kg5 Qd5+ 70.Kg4 Qg8+ 71.Kh5 Kf4 72.Kh6 Qg5+ 73.Kh7 Qe7+ 74.Kg6 Qe8+ 75.Kg7 bxa4 White lost on time 0-1

All of this meant that Kanan Izzat, James Morris and Brodie McClymont shared the lead on 3/3 going into Round 4; and Jimmy and Kanan, good friends at Latrobe University, made my report for this round much easier by drawing in 15 moves! They still shared the lead on 3.5/4 with Brodie McClymont, against whom Magic Moulthun could also only draw despite a 50 move struggle. Richard Jones joined a group of six players on 3/4 when he defeated Tristan Stevens, trapping his queen on move 18... He thus joined Magic, Solo, Perpie, Dusan and Alex Jule, who scored an excellent upset win against Gene Nakauchi in a lengthy battle. Heather Richards continued her successful event with her third solid upset draw in a row, this one with self-professed EMA (elite mental athlete) Michael “Mikey” Morris.

Perhaps the critical game of the event was on top board in Round 5, where James Morris was initially better against Brodie McClymont; but Brodie is nothing if not a fighter! After James declined Brodie's draw offer on move 23, he walked into a tactic on move 30; Brodie decisively won a pawn, the exchange and the game. (See game below). This left Brodie in the outright lead on 4.5/5 after a battling draw on Board 2 between Stephen Solomon and Kanan Izzat. Kanan was joined on 4/5 by Richard Jones, who beat Alex Jule; and Magic Moulthun, who won a marathon battle with Andrew Brown. After a huge fight, they simplified into what may have been a drawn ending; but after dropping a pawn, Perpie walked into a knight fork to lose exchange and game. The EMA drew a longish game with Dusan; Heather Richards finally won a game, beating Alex Stahnke in another long game; and Ross Lam scored an upset win against Mike Duffin.

### **Morris, J (2364) - McClymont, B (2242), Gold Coast Open Round 5, Board 1 29/06/2014**

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6 5.d3 e5 6.Bd2 a5 7.Qc1 c6 8.Bh6 Bxh6 9.Qxh6 Qb6 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.Nf3 0-0 12.0-0 Kg7 13.b3 Re8 14.d4 exd4 15.Nxd4 Nc5 16.Rab1 h5 17.h3 Bd7 18.e3 Nce4 19.Qb2 Kg8 20.Rfd1 Qc7 21.Rbc1 Qc8 22.h4 Bh3 23.Bh1 Re5 (=) 24.Nxe4 Nxe4 25.Nf3 Re8 26.Rd4 c5 27.Rd5 Be6 28.Rd3 Bf5 29.Rdd1 Qe6 30.Nd2 Nxf2 31.Re1 Nd3 32.Qc3 Qe5 33.Qxe5 Rxe5 34.Bxb7 Ra7 35.Bf3 Nxc1 36.Rxc1 Rxe3 37.Kf2 Rae7 38.Nf1 R3e6 39.Bd5 Rf6 40.Ne3 Bg4+ 0-1

With a half point lead over the field, Brodie was content with a draw against Richard Jones on top board in the last round; and try as he might Skippy got nowhere as Black, agreeing to a draw in 49 moves. Since Magic and Kanan drew in under 30 moves on Board 2, this left Brodie as the champion on 5/6: the first untitled player ever to have won the Gold Coast Open! All previous winners have been GMs and IMs... Kanan, Moulthun and Richard had to be content with equal second on 4.5/6, which they shared with James Morris after he finally burst Heather Richards' bubble. Dusan and Solo missed the chance to join them, the last game to finish winding up in a dead drawn bishop ending where neither player could make any headway. Alex Jule finished her outstanding event with an upset win, defeating Jonas Muller to claim the Under 2000 prize.

**Prize List:** 1<sup>st</sup> Brodie McClymont 5/6; = 2<sup>nd</sup> Moulthun Ly, Richard Jones, Kanan Izzat, James Morris 4.5/6; = 6<sup>th</sup> Stephen Solomon, Andrew Brown, Michael Morris, Gene Nakauchi, Dusan Stojic, Tristan Stevens, Alex Jule (1<sup>st</sup> U2000) 4/6; = 2<sup>nd</sup> U2000 Alex Stahnke, Ross Lam 3.5/6.

## **Under 1600 Event**

Top seed in this 29 player event was Daniel Ford (1580), with the other players rated over 1500 being Marcus Porter (1575), George Warta (1570), Matt Gilpin (1526) and Mark Stokes (1518). We knew from the start that this was going to be a highly competitive event, with the usual quota of dangerous underrated youngsters wreaking havoc! This began already in Round 1, when 19 year old Terrence Le stunned Matt Gilpin by originally trapping the Black queen on d6. Max Byrnes had to fight hard, but drew the last game to finish with Peter Bender in a lengthy ending. Proving it was not just the youngsters causing the upsets, Ron Kuypers drew a long game with sixth seed Mark Cervenjak to score himself a chocolate as one of the upset awards for the round.

It was the second seed going down in Round 2, as Marcus Porter jettisoned several pawns and the exchange in a failed attempt to attack Kevin Song; it didn't work... And yes, you guessed it, Kevin is an underrated junior... When 15 year old Tim Harris upset George Warta (recovering from a worse opening to eventually force mate), Daniel Ford (who beat Gonzo Prazeres) was the only one of the top four seeds who had reached 2/2! Mark Stokes was lucky to escape with a draw against Callum Wilson; while Max Byrnes continued his good run with an upset win in a long and tough game against Mark Cervenjak. Striking blows for the adults lower down, Tony Hughes drew with Gladstone junior Aaron Fahey; while upset wins were scored by Nick Kospartov over Alex Au and Henry Boonow against David Randall.

Daniel Ford was the last of the big guns to fall, going down to James Kay on top board in the third round. After being fairly equal for the whole game, Daniel (in his inevitable time pressure) allowed his opponent doubled rooks on the seventh rank, which together with a passed pawn enabled James to force victory. He was joined in the lead on 3/3 by two other juniors forcing upsets: Kevin Song and Tim Harris. While Kevin took care of Axel Stahnke, Tim Harris scored yet another upset against Mark Stokes in a game where the players castled on opposite sides. Tim defended well; Mark's pawn pushes were too slow, while Tim handled his counterattack superbly to get through in the end. Upsets lower down were scored by Jason Chan against Matthew Gilpin and Alex Lo against Gonzo Prazeres; and yes, they are both juniors! But Nick Kospartov struck back for the more mature, defeating Henry Slater-Jones in an upset of his own.

Round 4 saw James Kay lucky to draw with Tim Harris on top board, as the latter was winning convincingly! But James kept fighting; and after Tim allowed some queenside counterplay, three dangerous pawns led to a repetition of position. This enabled Kevin Song to take the outright lead on 4/4 going into Sunday, after an aggressive and reasonably quick attacking win against Steven Cooke. Tim and James were on 3.5/4, half a point behind Kevin but half a point ahead of three players on 3/4: Daniel Ford, Marcus Porter and Michael Ostapenko. Of these, Michael was the one to score an upset victory, his over Callum Wilson. Other upsets saw Alex Lo draw with George Warta and Thomas Le defeat Gonzo Prazeres – those pesky juniors again...

Sunday dawned bright and sunny; and the top board game between Kevin Song and Tim Harris was one worthy of the tournament leaders! With the two bishops as Black, Tim forced an ending with lots of pressure; it was winning, but Kevin defended well, eventually managing to swap off into a drawn king and pawn endgame; then Tim pushed too hard trying to win, and ended up going down in a marathon! (See game below). So Kevin was still outright leader on 5/5, half a point ahead of James Kay after James sacrificed the exchange for a winning mating attack with queen and knight to beat Michael Ostapenko. Half a point further back was Marcus Porter, who won a long game against Daniel Ford after taking advantage of the latter's usual time pressure to force a winning endgame with queen and two advanced connected passed pawns against two rooks. Joining Tim on 3.5 were Mark Stokes, who won a piece to beat Nick Kospartov; and George Warta, who won a wild game against Steven Cooke. Upset wins were scored by Jason Chan over Peter Bender and Callum Wilson against Mark Cervenjak; while the most noteworthy feature of Round 5 was that White lost no games and won every game on the top ten boards!

#### **Song, K (1370) - Harris, T (1325), Gold Coast Under 1600 Round 5, Board 1 29/06/2014**

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2 Bg7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb3 c6 9.Nge2 N8d7 10.0-0 c5 11.Rc1 cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Nce2 Nxb3 14.Qxb3 e5 15.Nf3 Qd5 16.Qxd5 Nxd5 17.h3 Bd7 18.Rfd1 Bc6 19.Ne1 (=) 19...Rac8 20.Nc3 Rfd8 21.a3 Nb6 22.e4 Nc4 23.Rc2 Rd7 24.Nf3 Rcd8 25.Kf1 f5 26.Ke2 fxe4 27.Ng5 Rxd2+ 28.Rdx2 Rxd2+ 29.Rxd2 Nxd2 30.Kxd2 Bh6 31.h4 Bxg5+ 32.hxg5 Kf7 33.Ke3 Ke6 34.Nxe4 Bxe4 35.Kxe4 Kd6 36.b3 Ke6 37.g3 Kd6 38.f3 (=) 38...a6 39.b4 b6 40.f4 exf4 41.gxf4 a5 42.b5 Kc5 43.Ke5 Kxb5 44.Kf6 Ka4 45.Kg7 Kxa3 46.Kxh7 b5 47.f5 Kb3 48.fxc6 a4 49.g7 a3 50.g8Q+ Kb2 51.Qg7+ Kb1 52.Qg6+ Kb2 53.Qf6+ 1-0

A super quick draw on top board between Kevin Song and James Kay saw Kevin maintain his outright lead on 5.5/6, half a point ahead of James and a full point ahead of Tim Harris after the latter defeated Marcus Porter. Things were fairly even after 17 moves; so it was rather startling that the game was over ten moves later, a neat rook sacrifice by Tim soon forcing mate! (See game below). So it was these three who would be fighting for the top places in the last round, against a group of five players on 4/6 including the top three seeds, fifth seed Mark Stokes and Axel Stahnke. Mark Stokes and George Warta drew a random wild game where Mark again thought he was very lucky to draw! The most significant upsets this round were both draws, Michael Ostapenko holding Matt Gilpin while Alex Lo drew with Aaron Fahey.

### **Harris, T (1325) – Porter, M (1575), Gold Coast Under 1600 Round 6, Board 2 29/06/2014**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 0–0 6.Be2 Na6 7.h3 c5 8.d5 Bd7 9.Be3 Rb8 10.0–0 Nc7 11.a4 Na6 12.Ne1 Nb4 13.Nd3 a5 14.f3 Nh5 15.Kh2 Ra8 16.Qd2 Re8 17.f4 Nf6 18.e5 dxe5 19.fxe5 Nh5 20.Bxh5 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Bxe5+ 22.Kh1 gxh5 23.Rxf7 Bg7 24.Bh6 Kxf7 25.Qxh7 Kf6 26.Qxg7+ Kf5 27.Qg5# 1–0

So to the last round, where the top three of Kevin Song, James Kay and Tim Harris were all Black – and all needing to win to maintain their positions! This they duly did, Kevin sacrificing a pawn to force a decisive pin which eventually won him a piece to defeat top seed Daniel Ford. He thus won the event outright on 6.5/7, his first adult tournament victory – great work Kevin! James Kay had to be content with second after he upset George Warta; while Patrick Harris was third having completed a good comeback from his heartbreaking loss to Kevin when he upset Axel Stahnke. An exciting Board 4 game between Marcus Porter and Mark Stokes was the last to finish, resulting in a rather crazy ending where Marcus somehow avoided mate and swapped off everything to wind up with king against king! An upset win by Michael Ostapenko over Steven Cooke won him his rating group; Max Byrnes stunned Aaron Fahey to share a ratings prize; and Callum Wilson's upset draw with Matt Gilpin also got him a share of a ratings prize.

**Prize List:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Song 6.5/7; 2<sup>nd</sup> James Kay 6/7; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tim Harris 5.5/7; 1<sup>st</sup> Rating Group A Michael Ostapenko 4.5/7; = 2<sup>nd</sup> Rating Group A Axel Stahnke, Callum Wilson 4/7; = 1<sup>st</sup> Rating Group B Jason Chan, Max Byrnes 4/7.

### **Under 1000 Event**

My goodness, there are a lot of players rated below 1000 on the Gold Coast, especially juniors... The 2014 version of this event attracted 44 players – the highest number I recall ever having played, and the largest turnout of the whole festival! Ratings do not mean much at this level, and nor does the time control (the same as the Under 1600): the players are mostly kids, so they have yet to learn to really take their time. Mind you, there were a few adults this time; again, more than I recollect from previous events. So it was always likely to be a hard fought event, and so it proved; draws were a rarity, only about half a dozen over the entire tournament!

Round 1 went largely according to rating on the top ten boards, the exceptions being Nina Tchitaev's Board 3 victory over third seed Kevin Nguyen and Daniel's Fraser's upset win against Patrick Harris on Board 10. Second seed Shaun Curtis was held to a draw in Round 2 by Noah Jarrah; while Daniel Fraser kept up his good start with another upset win, this one against Elizabeth Kay. A tigerish Jaden Teow made it a tough beginning for Kevin Nguyen, the victim of a second upset loss in two starts... The third round then saw Jack Luke-Paredi topple top seed Joshua Morris in a Board 1 upset, thus forming part of a group of 4 players equal leading on 3/3; the others were Justin Turner, Sam Brekelmans and Andrew Trinh. Shaun Curtis was held to his second draw in a row by Mackenzie Hope; undefeated, he was still a full point off the lead...

Round 4 left us down to just two joint leaders on 4/4 going into Day 2: Justin Turner and Jack Luke-Paredi. Jack was too good for Andrew Trinh; while Justin played the longest game of the event so far, beating Sam Brekelmans in an ending a pawn ahead. Nina Tchitaev won her second chocolate upset award by defeating Robert Bakon; while Andrew's brother Ian Trinh also scored an upset award by beating Darcy Mendoza. Justin then scored the outright lead on 5/5 on Sunday morning when his rook, minor piece and pawns proved too much for Jack Luke-Paredi's queen. It was a full point lead after Mackenzie Hope drew with Joshua Morris, Mackenzie joining a group of five players on 4/5 including Jack, Shaun Curtis, Andrew Trinh and Daniel Fraser (who upset Sam Brekelmans). Upset awards were won yet again by Nina Tchitaev and Ian Trinh, as well as Bridget Watkins and Lyanna Chan. Jaden Teow rounded off the upsets, described by arbiter Toby Davies as having the "eye of the tiger" in his victory over Darcy Mendoza.

Justin Turner had his luckiest escape of the event against Andrew Trinh in Round 6, as it looked for all the world like he was a beaten man when Andrew emerged a piece ahead after a pin. He then used back rank mating tricks well to simplify; so it was a shame when he overlooked mate in two from the enemy queen and rook... Justin thus maintained the outright lead on 6/6, by a full point from Jack Luke-Paredi and Mackenzie Hope after they defeated Shaun Curtis and Daniel Fraser respectively. Jaden Teow and Lyanna Chan again scored upsets... The last round then saw Justin wrap up the event with a solid win against Mackenzie, nobody really able to argue with a 7/7 tournament victory! Jack Luke-Paredi drew with Thomas Yang on Board 2; he thus had to be content with equal second with Patrick Harris after the latter's upset win against Shaun Curtis. Daniel Fraser's upset draw against Kevin Nguyen was enough to snare him a share of a ratings prize, with Jaden Teow after his third upset win in a row (this one against Jason Li).

**Prize List:** 1<sup>st</sup> Justin Turner 7/7; = 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Luke-Paredi and Patrick Harris 5.5/7; = 1<sup>st</sup> Rating Group A Mackenzie Hope, Allan Menham and Elizabeth Kay 5/7; = 1<sup>st</sup> Rating Group B Daniel Fraser and Jaden Teow 4.5/7.