



CHESS MATE

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Champion **GM Swapnil Dhopade** of Amravati (Mah) receiving the IIFL Wealth Mumbai International Open trophy from D.V. Sundar, Vice President, FIDE. Also in the picture are: (L-R) Surabhi Goel, Project Head - Mount Litera School International at Zee Learn, Rishi Gupta, President, Mumbai Suburban Chess Association, Swapnil Dhopade, D V Sundar, Ronak Sheth, Sr. Vice President, Marketing, IIFL Group, Bharat Singh Chauhan, CEO, AICF. The show was organised by Praful Zaveri. Report and games on page 4.

Pencil the dates of the next edition which has been announced already. It is from **December 1-10, 2016** at Mumbai. The sweet addition to this contest at Basement 3 is that International Master, Grand Master, Woman International Master and Woman Grand Master Norms will be available in the next edition of this event!

Gibraltar Tradewise Masters



Hikaru Nakamura, of the United States of America, top seed won the Tradewise Masters Chess Tournament at Gibraltar on Feb 4, 2016 on tie-break. He beat Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France 3-2 in the tie-break after they tied for first place with 8/10. Pics: John Saunders. Below: **Pentala Harikrishna** (left, seed four) remained undefeated and finished fifth. Here, he plays with team-mate V.R. Aravindh Chithambaram (right). Harikrishna (7.5/10) scored 3.5/4 against Indians. He drew Abhijeet Gupta, beat Aravindh,

Sethuraman and Vidit Gujrathi. Sethuraman (7.5/10) finished fourth. Anand (6.5/10) started as third seed and finished in a tie for the 24th to 48th place. Indians in all gained 83.20 Elo from this event.



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GM M.R. Venkatesh (9/9) of Chennai won the Blitz Tournament held as part of the 68th Birthday Celebrations of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on Feb 14, 2016.

It was held at the Nehru Multipurpose Stadium in Chennai. 554 players took part. Venkatesh (BPCL) took home Rs.68,000. Cash prizes totalling Rs.214,000 were distributed. IM N.R. Vignesh (8.5), C Sai Vishwesh (8) finished ahead of fourth placed national champion Karthikeyan Murali (8). Former AICF President J.C.D. Prabhakar (extreme left in the pic) was the sponsor. In the picture, Venkatesh receives the trophy from Dr S Sundararaj, Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare (TN).

284 Entries At Below Sea Level!

Dhopade, Sadhwani Triumph In IIFL Wealth Group Open

by R.R. Vasudevan

The Vidarbha duo, GM Swapnil Dhopade of Amravati and Raunak Sadhwani of Nagpur emerged champions in the IIFL Wealth International Open & Junior (U-13) tournaments that concluded at Mount Litera School International (MLSI), in Mumbai on 5th February. The nine day events attracted 113 entries in the Open section and 171 entries in the Under-13.

The tournament, a brain child of FIDE Instructor Praful Zaveri, was made possible thanks to the support of IIFL Wealth Group and MLSI at Zee Learn. Further, Karan Bhagat, MD & CEO, IIFL Wealth Group, pledged to support the event for five years. MLSI, with a magnificent playing hall of 45,000 sq ft for indoor sports facilities, has joined hands with IIFL in extending this event for five years.

Swapnil Dhopade, with 8 points from 9 rounds, emerged champion winning Rs. 1,50,000 and the champion's trophy. Second was George Antony Stany (Rs 120,000) while Himlal Gusain took the third prize of Rs 100,000. The total prize fund was Rs 750,000.

Swapnil began the event as an International Master and

finished it as a Grandmaster, as his GM title application got the official nod, at FIDE's 4th quarter Presidential Board Meeting 2015 during this event.

In the final round Dhopade drew with Amardeep Bartakke, to keep himself $\frac{1}{2}$ point ahead of Karnataka's Stany, who took second prize with $7\frac{1}{2}$ points.

This event is likely to be remembered for three things. Firstly, for the world record prize money on offer for a U-13 event and secondly, for IM Shardul Gagare who went on to complete his GM title requirement. Thirdly, the event was played at basement level 3 and the challenge of LIVE broadcast, from such depth, was handled successfully.

Starting as the top seed with 2497, Shardul with his third round victory over B Sekar (TN), touched the GM target of 2500 Elo. The proud father, Dr Annasaheb Gagare, who was present at the moment, was seen wiping his tears of joy. However, after ensuring the GM title, Shardul went through a rough patch, as Stany inflicted a defeat on him!

This defeat slowed down Shardul, who conceded two



(L-R) Karan Bhagat, MD & CEO, IIFL Wealth Group, Rishi Gupta, President, Mumbai Suburban Chess Association, D V Sundar, Vice President, FIDE, Ronak Sheth, Sr.Vice President, Marketing, IIFL Group, Champion Raunak Sadhwani, Bharat Singh Chauhan, CEO, AICF, R.M. Dongre, Treasurer, AICF.

more draws, losing ELOs as well. Generally, seasoned players found the going tough with four IMs going out of the prize list. Gagare will soon become India's 42nd GM.

IIFL Wealth Juniors (U-13)

Ten year old Nagpur boy Raunak Sadhwani, tied for first on $7\frac{1}{2}$ points with Rahman Mohammad Fahad (Ban) and Aditya Mittal. He emerged first on tie and won the IIFL Wealth Junior (Under-13) title. Terming the U-13 as 'Junior' is misleading. The term 'Junior' is commonly indicative of U-20 or U-19, and Sub-junior is indicative of U-16 or Under-15.

Sadhwani got Rs 1,50,000 along with a handsome champion's trophy. The total prize

fund was an unbelievable Rs $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for players who were hardly in their teens!

Sadhwani won the National U-9 championship in 2014. At the 2015 World Youth Chess Championship in Greece he tied for third in the U-10 section and missed the bronze medal on tie-break.

Asked what he planned to do with his big cheque, Sadhwani said, "I missed out qualifying for the World Youth Championships this year. So I will use the prize money to play there."

In the crucial final round, Sadhwani came up with an attractive attacking win against Nimdia Ridit in 30 moves. Joining him in the lead with an equally quick win was Rahman Mohammad Fahad (Ban) who

accounted for Ragav Dhanush. Long after his final round victory, Sadhwani was watching the top board game keenly, as a win for Aditya Mittal would give the Mumbai lad the title, while a draw favored Sadhwani.

Aditya Mittal's last round game against D.Gukesh (TN) was a 5-hour roller-coaster. It was eventually drawn in a queen and bishop ending which resulted in a three way tie for first and Sadhwani was first.

Cash prizes and trophies were distributed to the first 23 finishers in the final list, by Karan Bhagat, MD & CEO, IIFL Wealth Group & Smt Shilpa Bhagat, in the presence of D V Sundar, Vice President, FIDE, Bharat Singh Chauhan, CEO, AICF, Ravindra Dongre, Treasurer, AICF, and Surabhi Goel, Project Head - MLSI at Zee Learn.

Top final placings in the Open: 1 Swapnil Dhopade 8; 2

G.A.Stany 7½; 3 Himal Gusain 7; 4-11 Shardul Gagare, Himanshu Sharma, S.Ravi Teja, Abhishek Das, C. Bharambe Bhavik, M.Chakravarthi Reddy; Amardeep Bartakke, N.Krishna Teja 6½.

Top final placings in the U-13: 1-3 Raunak Sadhwani, Rahman Mohammad Fahad (Ban), Aditya Mittal 7½; 4-9 D.Gukesh, Shuban Saha, Adarsh Tripathi, Adane Narayani, Sankalp Gupta, Alok Sinha 7, 10-17 Sankarsha Shelke, Nimdia Redit, Polakhare Aryan, Om Kharola, Dhanush Ragav, Mullick Raahil, Aditya Savalkar, Vrandesh Parekh 6½, 18-23 Mendonca Leon Luke, Sriram B, Abhinessh S, Aryan Ranjan, Dushyant Sharma, P.Yutesh 6 pts.

The next edition of this event has been confirmed for December 1-10, 2016 and the International Open will offer IM and GM norms.

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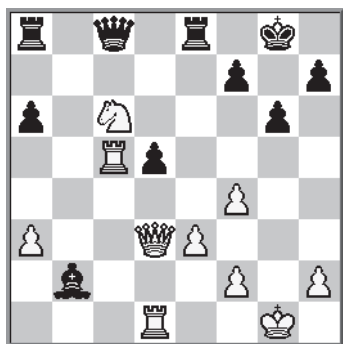
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Swapnil S. Dhopade 2488
George Antony Stany 2421
 Grunfeld D90, 03.02.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5
 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Na4
 Nf6 7.g3 b6 8.Bg2 Bb7 9.0-0
 0-0 10.Bf4 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Rc8
 12.Qb3 e6 13.Rfd1 Re8 14.Nc3
 Nd5 15.Nb5 Nxf4 16.gxf4 Bd5
 17.Qd3 a6 18.Na7 Ra8 19.Nc6
 Bxc6 20.Rxc6 Nf6 21.e3 Nd5
 22.a3 Ne7 23.Rc2 c5 24.Ne5
 Nd5 25.dxc5 bxc5 26.Nc6 Qc8
 27.Rxc5 Bxb2 28.Bxd5 exd5



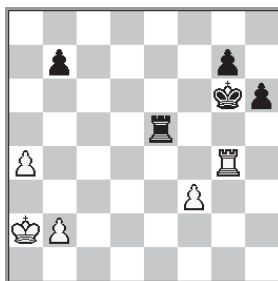
29.Ne7+ Rxe7 30.Rxc8+
 Rxc8 31.Qxa6 Rcc7 32.Rxd5
 Ra7 33.Qc8+ Kg7 34.Rd8 f5 35.
 Rg8+ Kh6 36.Qc6 Rg7 37.Rb8
 Bxa3 38.Qf3 g5 39.Qh3+ 1-0.

Himal Gusain 2335

Swapnil S. Dhopade 2488
 Caro-Kann B19, 04.02.2016

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4
 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6
 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3
 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bd2 Ngf6
 12.0-0-0 Be7 13.Kb1 0-0 14.Ne4
 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qe2 Qd5
 17.Be3 Qb5 18.c4 Qf5+ 19.Ka1
 c5 20.Nh4 Qh7 21.g4 cxd4
 22.Bxd4 Qe4 23.Qd2 Rfd8 24.f3
 Qc6 25.Qe2 Rac8 26.Ng2 Qxc4
 27.Qxc4 Rxc4 28.Bxa7 Nd5 29.
 Ne3 Rf4 30.Nxd5 exd5 31.Rd3

f5 32.gxf5 Bf6 33.a3 Rxf5
 34.Bf2 Kf7 35.Ka2 d4 36.Bh4
 Rdd5 37.Bxf6 Kxf6 38.a4
 Rxh5 39.Rxh5 Rxh5 40.Rxd4
 Re5 41.Rf4+ Kg6 42.Rg4+
 Kf6 43.Rf4+ Kg6 44.Rg4+



Black tries for a win and prevails.
 44...Kh7 45.Rb4 Re7 46.Rb6
 h5 47.a5 h4 48.Rb4 g5 49.Rg4
 Kg6 50.f4 Kf5 51.Rxg5+ Kxf4
 52.Rh5 Kg4 53.Rh8 Re5
 54.b4 h3 55.Kb3 Rh5
 56.Rg8+ Kh4 57.Rc8 h2
 58.Rc1 Kg3 59.Kc4 h1Q 60.
 Rxh1 Rxh1 61.b5 Rh6 62.
 Kd4 [62.b6 Rd6 63.Kb5] 0-1.

R Pragganandhaa 2174
George Antony Stany 2421

Sicilian Najdorf B96, 30.01.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.Bg5 e6
 7.f4 Nbd7 8.Qe2 Qc7 9.g4 Be7
 10.0-0-0 b5 11.Bg2 b4 12.Nb1
 Bb7 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5 Nd5 15.
 Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Bxb7 Qxb7
 17.Nd2 0-0 18.Ne4 Ng6 19.Nf3
 Qc7 20. Qd2

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20...Qc4 21.Qd4 Qxa2 22.
Qxd7 Rad8 23.Qxd8 Qa1+ 24.Kd2
Rxd8+ 25.Ke2 Nf4+ 0-1.

B Sekar 2188

Shardul Gagare (See pic) 2497
French C07, 30.01.2016



1.e4 e6
2.d4 d5 3.Nd2
c5 4.Ngf3
cxd4 5.Nxd4
Nf6 6.exd5
Nxd5 7.N2f3
a6 8.c3 Nd7
9.Bd3 Bd6
10.0-0 0-0
11.Qe2 Re8
12. B x h 7 +
Kxh7 13.Ng5+ Kg8 14.Qh5 Ne5
15.Qh7+ Kf8 16. Qh8+ Ke7
17.Qxg7 Rg8 18.Qh7 Nf6
19.Qc2 Nc6 20. Ndf3 Qa5
21.Rd1 Qf5 22.Qe2 Ne5 23.Nd4
Qg4 24.f3 Qh5 25.Nf5+ exf5
26.Rxd6 Kxd6 27. Bf4 Ne4
28.Qc4 Ke7 29.Qb4+ Ke8
30.fxe4 0-1.

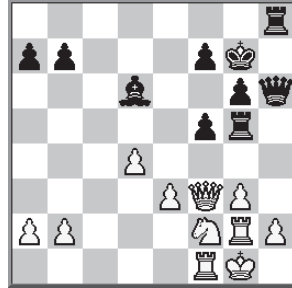
Swapnil S. Dhopade 2488

A Ra Harikrishnan 2172

Queen Pawn D00, 30.01.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 d5 3.Bxf6 exf6
4.e3 Bd6 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c6 7.Nd2
Be6 8.Ne2 Qd7 9.0-0 Na6 10.Rc1
Bh3 11.Bxh3 Qxh3 12.c4 Nc7 13.
Nc3 Rab8 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Qb3

Rfd8 16.Nb5 Nxb5 17.Qxb5 h5
18.Qe2 g6 19.Qf3 Kg7 20.Nb1 h4
21.Nc3 hxg3 22.fxg3 f5 23.Rc2
Re8 24.Nxd5 Re4 25.Nc3 Rg4 26.
Rg2 Rh8 27.Nd1 Qh6 28.Nf2 Rg5



29.Ne4! Rh5 30.Nxd6 Rxb2
31. Kf2 Rd8 32.Qd5 Qh3
33.Rfg1 1-0.

S Abhinessh 1713

Raunak Sadhwani 2104

Sicilian B40, 31.01.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6
4.d3 b6 5.Be2 Bb7 6.0-0 Be7 7.
Re1 0-0 8.Bf1 d6 9.Nbd2 Nc6
10.d4 cxd4 11.cxd4 Rc8 12.a3
Qc7 13.Nb3 Qb8 14.Bd3 Rfd8
15.Bd2 Nd7 16.Bc3 Bf6 17.Qe2
e5 18.Bb5 Nf8 19.d5 Ne7 20.
Bd2 Rc7 21.Rac1 Bc8 22.h3
Bb7 23.Rxc7 Qxc7 24.Rc1 Qb8
25.a4 Rc8 26.a5 Rxc1+ 27.Bxc1
Qc7 28.axb6 axb6 29.Be3 Nc8
30.Nfd2 Nd7 31.Nc4 Nc5 32.
Bxc5 bxc5 33.Nba5 Na7 34.
Nxb7 Nxb5 35.Nba5 Nd4 36.
Qd3 Be7 37.Nb3 Qb8 38.Nxd4
exd4 39.Qa3 h6 40.Na5 Qb5
41.Nc6 Bg5 42.Qa8+ Kh7 43.
Qc8 g6 44.Qd7?? [44.Qf8! Qxb2
(44...Qb7 45.f4 Bh4 (45...Bxf4??
46.Ne7+)) 46.e5 dxe5 47.Nxe5 d3
48.Nxf7 Qxb2 49.Qxh6+ Kg8
50.Qxg6+ => 45.Qxf7+ =>] 44...Kg7
45.Ne5 Qxd7 46.Nxd7 c4 47.e5
c3 48.bxc3 dxc3 49.e6 c2 0-1

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Interview: Karthikeyan Murali

"I Made My Preparation Well"

Says Teenaged National Champion

Karthikeyan Murali's reaction to winning the National Premier is far more than a dream. The 17-year old had achieved a lot in age group titles. He also helped India win the World Youth Chess Olympiad two times. About a year back, in Dec 2014, he became a Grandmaster. He has been among titles and achievements all the time.

In 2010, I had gone with the Indians to the World Youth Chess Championship in Greece as coach. We were analysing games regularly after breakfast around 9 a.m. He was so punctual that I used to leave the room door open for him. We analysed his previous day's game, saw the games of his next round opponent and he did one of the Tactical Exercises I had in my computer.

When one free day came I asked him and the other Indian youngsters whether we should take a walk to the beach or continue with our chess routine. He was clear, "We will see chess!". He is a systematic worker and puts enormous efforts into his chess.

His father is an Engineer with Tangedco, the electricity distribution company of the TN Government in north Chennai. When Karthikeyan

Murali wins a medal, his parents are at the airport to distribute sweets to all the chess fraternity who come to greet the medal winners.

Tall and lanky, the just 17-turned National champion has a long career ahead. Though the National Premier title is more valuable than the World Under-16 title, the new champion talks about the difficulty that went into winning them.

Karthikeyan Murali asserts that G Akash is the youngest National champion and his role model is none other than Vishy Anand. Here is the interview:

Q: (Arvind Aaron) Congrats on winning the National Premier at Tiruvarur. What went in your mind after the two defeats in the first two rounds?

A: (Karthikeyan Murali) I just wanted to concentrate on the games one at a time.

Q: Congrats on becoming the youngest National champion!

A: Actually G Akash is the youngest champ at 16 years. My victory was at 16 years and 10 months.

Q: How important is winning the National Premier?

A: Just playing in the National Premier itself is a dream for most players including me. Getting the title evokes feelings which I can't express in words.

Q: How has your preparation been and did you do anything different this time around?

A: Being my first round robin tournament, I made my preparation well in both physical and mental strength.

Q: Does K Visweswaran travel with you or do you do your work online?

A: Sometimes he accompanies me and sometimes we work online.

Q: Who is supporting you? Have you got a big sponsor?

A: ONGC has awarded scholarship for the past two years. Besides, Velammal International School is supporting my overseas trips and providing me free education. SDAT (Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu) helps me with air tickets.

Q: What is your present ambition?

A: At present, I want to concentrate and do well in my Board Examinations starting March 4.

Q: Which game did you like the most and how was the going at Tiruvarur? You also lost the last round to Arghyadip Das who also performed very well!

A: All the games in this tournament taught me lessons in different situations. I would say that my game with Vedit was one of my best in this tournament. The last round game was exciting with title chances hanging in the balance. I am happy winning the title despite the last round loss.

Q: On the education front, does Velammal still support you and offer free education?

A: Yes, Velammal has been supporting me a lot from the 6th Standard with free education. They have helped me financially for foreign trips and rewarded me for titles won.

Q: Harikrishna has jumped to No.14 in the world? So, after Anand we have some great players in the line up. How far are you?

A: Actually for me, it is still a long way up to the top 10. Anand and Harikrishna had worked a lot to get to their positions.

Q: Have you interacted with Anand, Harikrishna, Sasikiran and Negi?

A: I have interacted with Anand. Our first meeting was in Chennai, 2006, when I was in the 6th Standard. I got a chance to play him in a Simul against 20 players. I have got lots of tips from Anand.

Q: India has more players (rated and unrated together) in the FIDE rating list than Russia. Do you believe, one day India will be ahead in GMs and IMs too? Or is it too far?

A: India has constantly developed with more and more players are shining in chess. So I think India will be in a good position in the future.

Q: Who do you admire in the chess field and also outside of it?

A: My role model is Vishy Anand. I follow his style in chess as well as a normal human. I became his fan mainly due to his simplicity. Out of chess, my role model is Usain Bolt. It seems that he is running fast easily but it is his hard work and training year after year in the past that has

carried him to the pinnacle of athletics.

Q: Any change in your work rhythm after winning the Under-16 World Championship and the National Premier? Which of these is more precious to you?

A: As more and more important tournaments are coming up, I have to work harder to increase my mental toughness, chess strength as well as physical strength. According to me, both the titles are equally precious as I had to go through tense struggles to get them.

Game Of The Month

My Best Game

By GM Karthikeyan Murali

Karthikeyan Murali 2498
Vidit Santhosh Gujrathi 2651
National Premier, 2015
French Tarrasch C07

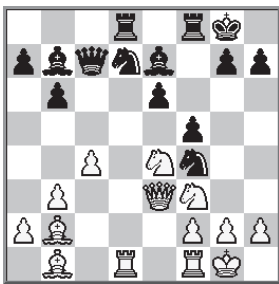
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5
4.dxc5 Nf6 5.exd5 Qxd5
6.Ngf3 Qxc5 7.Bd3 Nbd7!?
8.0-0 Qc7 9.c4 [There are three other possibilities: a) 9.c3 Be7 10.Qe2 Nc5 11.Bc2 (11.Bb5+ Bd7 12.Ne5 Bxb5 13.Qxb5+ Nfd7=) 11...0-0 12.Nb3 b6=; b) 9.Nc4 Be7 10.Bg5 (10.g3 Nc5 11.Bf4 Qd8 12.Be2 0-0) 10...0-0 11.Qd2 Nc5; c) 9.Qe2 Nc5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Ne5 Be7=]

See diagram



9...Be7 10.b3 b6!? [Or 10...0-0 11.Bb2 b6 12.Qe2 transposes.] 11.Bb2 Bb7 12.Qe2 Rd8 13.Rad1 [13.Ne5 will hand over the advantage to black.]

13...Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Qd7 (14...Qc6 15.Nf3 (15.f3 Qc5+ 16.Kh1 Rxd3 17.Qxd3 (17.Bxf6 Rxd2) 17...Qxe5) 15...0-0) 15.Be4 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 f6 (17. Qe5) 13...0-0 14.Ne4 [14.Bc2!? Nh5 15.Be4 Nf4 16.Qe3 Bc5 17.Bd4 Bxd4 18.Nxd4=] 14...Nh5! [After 14...Bxe4 15.Bxe4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Bf6 I thought I can try.... (16...Nc5 17.Qe5 Qxe5 18.Nxe5±; 16...Nf6 17.Qe5) 17.Bc1!]? 15.Qe3? [White should have opted for 15.g3!? to prevent ...Nf4, but in practical play its difficult to decide on giving the long white diagonal to black.; 15.Bc2 Nf4 16.Qe3 transposes; 15.Neg5 Nf4 (15...g6 16.Be4 (16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Qxe6+ Rf7-+) 16.Bxh7+ Kh8 17.Qe3 Bxf3 (17...Bc5 is also coming) 18.Nxf3 Kxh7 19.Ne5 Bd6! (19...Bg5 20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.Be5) 20.Rxd6 Qxd6 21.Qxf4 (17. Nfg5 Nf4 16.Qg4 f5 17.Qg3 fxe4-+; 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.Qxh5 Nxd3-+) 15...Nf4 16.Bb1 f5



17.Nc3 [If 17.Ng3 Bc5 (17...e5 18.Bxf5) 18.Bd4 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Bxd4 20.Rxd4 g5 (17.Neg5 e5! (17...Bxg5 18.Nxg5 Bxg2 19.Nxe6; 17...Nxg2 18.Qxe6+) 18.Nxe5 a) 18.Bxe5

Nxe5 19.Qxf4 (19.Qxe5 Qxe5 20.Nxe5 Bxg5) 19...Nxf3+--+; b) 18.g3 Bc5 19.Qe1 Nh3+ 20.Nxh3 Bxf3 (18...Bxg5!-+) 17...Bc5 18.Nb5 Bxe3? [Better: 18...Qb8 19.Bd4 Nf6 and now we have two sub-variations: a) 19...e5 20.Bxc5 bxc5 (20...Nxc5 21.Qxe5 Qxe5 22.Nxe5 Bxg2 23.Rfe1=) 21.Nd6 (2; b) 19...Bxd4 20.Nbxd4 (20.Rxd4 e5 21.Rdd1 (21.Rxf4 exf4 22.Qe6+ Kh8 23.Nd6 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Ne5) 21...e4! (21...Rf6!?) 22.Nfd4 Ne5=) 20...Rf6 21.Ne2=; 20.Bxc5 (20.h3 Rxd4 21.Nbxd4 e5) 20...Ng4 21.Bxf8 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Bxf3 24.gxf3 Qe5 But this razor sharp variation requires precise calculation.] 19.Nxc7 Bxf3 20.gxf3 [20.fxe3 Bxd1 21.exf4 Nc5] 20...Bc5 21.Bc1 Ne2+ 22.Kg2 The king is better on g2 than on h1. [22.Kh1 Ne5 a) 22...Nc3 23.Nxe6 Nxd1 (23...Nxb1 24.Nxd8 Rxd8 25.Bg5) 24.Rxd1±; b) 22...Nd4 23.Rxd4 (23.b4!? Bd6 24.Nxe6 Nxe6 25.Rxd6) 23...Bxd4 24.Nxe6; c) 22...Kf7 23.Nxe6 Kxe6 24.Rde1±; 23.Rxd8 (23.Nxe6 Rxd1 24.Rxd1 Nc3 25.Re1 Nxf3) 23...Rxd8 24.Nxe6 But I thought Kg2 would be an improvement.] 22...Nxc1 [22...Rf6 23.Bg5 Rg6 24.Nxe6 Re8 (24...Nf4+ 25.Kh1) 25.Bxf5 Rxe6 (25...Nf4+ 26.Nxf4 Rg5+ 27.Bg4) 26.Bxe6+ Rxe6 27.Rxd7 Rg6 28.f4 Nxf4+ (28...h6 29.Kf3 Nd4+ 30.Rxd4 Bxd4 31.Bh4) 29.Kf3+-; Or 22...Nc3 23.Nxe6 Nxb1 (23...Nxd1 24.Rxd1) 24.Nxd8

Rxd8 25.Bg5; or 22...Kf7 23.Rfe1±] **23.Nxe6 Ne2** [23...Rde8? 24.Nxf8 Nxf8 25.Rxc1+-] **24.Rd2** [After 24.Rfe1 Nc3 25.Nxd8 Nxd1 26.Rxd1 Rxd8 27.Bxf5 Kf7 Black has good drawing chances because of opposite colour bishops.; Or if 24.Nxd8 Rxd8 25.Bxf5 Nd4 26.Bxd7 Rxd7±] **24...Nd4** [24...Nf4+!? 25.Nxf4 Nf6 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Ne6±] **25.Nxd8** [25.Nxd4 Ne5 26.Rfd1 Bb4] **25...Rxd8 26.b4! Nxf3?!** [If 26...Ne5 27.bxc5 bxc5 28.Bxf5 Nxc4 29.Rdd1 with some chances to resist; 26...g6 27.bxc5 bxc5 28.Bc2±] **27.Rd5+-** [27.Kxf3 Ne5+ 28.Ke2 Rxd2+ 29.Kxd2 Bxb4+ 30.Ke2 g6 black has more chances for drawing.] **27...Nh4+ 28.Kg3** [28.Kh3 Ng6] **28...Bxb4 29.Kxh4 Be7+ 30.Kh3 Nc5** [Black can defend his f5 pawn only at great peril: 30...g6 31.Rfd1 and black loses a piece.] **31.Rxd8+ Bxd8 32.Rd1 Bf6 33.Bxf5 g6 34.Bc2 Kf7 35.f4 Be7 36.Kg4 Kg7 37.h4 Kf7** [37...h5+ presents white with an undefendable weakness on g6. 38.Kf3 the threat now is Rg1 targeting g6. 38...Ne6 (38...Bxh4 39.Rg1) 39.Rd7 Kf6 40.Bxg6!+-] **38.Rd5 Kg7 39.Rd1 Kf7 40.h5 Kf6** [If 40...Kg7 41.Rg1!+- focuses on the g6 pawn.] **41.Rd2?!** [More direct were 41.Rg1 Ne6 42.Rh1+-; and 41.Rh1 Ne6 42.hxg6 hxg6 43.Rh6 Nf8 44.Bxg6! Kg7

45.Kh5 Bd6 46.Be8 Bxf4 47.Rc6+-] **41...gxh5+** [41...Kf7 42.Rh2! Ne6 43.hxg6+ hxg6 44.Rh7+ Ng7 (44...Kf6 45.Bxg6 Bd6 46.f5) 45.Rh6!+-] **42.Kxh5 Ne6 43.Kg4** [Also good was: 43.Rf2 Bc5 44.Rf1 Be3] **43...h6** [43...h5+ 44.Kf3 h4 45.Be4 **a**) 45.Rh2 Nxf4; **b**) 45.Rd5 h3 46.Rf5+ (46.Bd3 h2 47.Rh5 Bd6) 46...Kg7; 45...h3 46.Bd5 h2 47.Kg4! Bc5 (47...Nc7 48.Rxh2) 48.Re2 Nf8 49.Rxh2+-] **44.Kf3 Bc5 45.Rg2** [45.Rh2 Nxf4! 46.Rxh6+! Ke5 and white should win though the king-side pawns have been exchanged off.] **45...Nd4+ 46.Ke4 a5 47.Rh2** [47.Kd5 Nxc2 48.Rxc2 Kf5 49.Rh2 Kxf4 50.Rxh6 Ke3 than in the position before 20 moves, black has good chances for draw here 51.Rc6 (51.Kc6 Kd3 52.Kb5 Kc3) 51...Bd4 52.Rg6 Bc5] **47...Nf5 48.Bd1** [48.Kd5? Ne7+=] **48...Nd6+ 49.Kd5** [White's task would become harder after: 49.Kd3 Kf5 50.Rxh6 Kxf4] **49...Nf5 50.Kc6 Ne3** [50...Kg7 51.Rb2 white's plan is to give back the exchange on b6, and advance his passed c-pawn to queen.] **51.Be2 Kf5** [51...Nf5 52.Bg4] **52.Rxh6 Kxf4 53.Kb5 Ke5 54.Rxb6! Bxb6 55.Kxb6 Kd4** [55...Nf5 56.c5 Ne7 57.Kxa5+-] **56.Kb5** [Premature would be: 56.c5? Nd5+ 57.Kc6 Nc3!]=] **56...a4 57.c5 Nd5 58.Bf3 Ne7 59.c6 a3 60.c7 Kc3 61.Bg4 Kb2 62.Be6 Kb1 63.Kc5 1-0**

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Chennai Open 2016

Vijayalakshmi Undefeated Third Place

Russian Vladimir Belous Wins Dr N Mahalingam Trophy

India's first Woman Grand Master S Vijayalakshmi finished third in the Chennai Open Chess Tournament that concluded at the Nehru Stadium on January 25, 2016.

Vijayalakshmi, born 1979 remained undefeated in her ten games and had an impressive 2573 rating performance. The six time National women's champion is gaining 30.5 Elo points for her 8/10 score.

Clearly, the Vijayalakshmi had reserved the best for the last. She scored 2.5/3 in the last three rounds against men Grand Masters from Russia. She drew Ivan Popov, beat Anton Demchenko and Mikhail Mozharov.

This performance will be one of the best ten performances by an Indian lady. She scored 4/5 against GMs overall. If she had not drawn two Andhra players, Rahul Srivatshav and Teja S Ravi,

should have finished higher.

Vijayalakshmi thinks a lot over the board and plays with huge determination irrespective of the strength of her opponent. That is her main strength.

Belous picked up Rs.200,000 in the prize pool of Rs.11 lakhs. The prizes were distributed by Dr Rajendra Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Youth Welfare and Sports in the presence of Dr M Manickam, President, Tamil Nadu State Chess Association who also sponsored the event.

Final placings: 1 GM V Belous (Rus) 8.5/10; 2-3. GM B Grachev (Rus), IM S Vijayalakshmi 8 each; 4-7. GM Yuri Solodovnichenko (Ukr), GM A Tukhaev (Ukr), GM Sipke Ernst (Ned), GM A Gabrielian (Rus) 7.5 each...214 players from 11 nations. GMs 20, IMs 23, WGMs 2, WIM 2.

Solutions To Chess Magic on page 23 of January 2016 Issue

1. 21.Bxg6+ Kxg6 22.Rdg1+ Kf7 23.Qxh6 Rxe5 24.Rg7+ Ke8 25.Qg6+ 1-0. Ivan Popov-Subhayan Kundu. 2. 46...Kxh2 47.Kxa5 h5 48.Nxb7 h4 49.Nc5 h3 50.Ne6 Kg3 0-1. Pratik Patil-Ivan Popov. 3. 60.Rxb6! [60.Rxb6 Qxb6 61.f3 f5 62.Bf2 Qa5 63.a7 fxe4 64.Bb5 exf3+ 65.Kxf3 Qxb5 66.a8Q++-] 1-0. Yuri Solodovnichenko-P Shyaam Nikil. 4. 25.Rxc8+! Rxc8 26.Bxe6 1-0. M.R. Lalith Babu-K Praneeth Surya. 5 28.Qxf5! gxf5 29.Rxe7 Qa7 30.c5 Nxc5 31.Rg3+ Kh7 32.Rxf7+ Kh8 33.bxc5 Qxc5+ 34.Kh2 Ra1 35.h4 Re1 36.Nd7 Qg1+ 37.Kh3 Re3 38.Rf8+ 1-0. Attila Czebe-Ravi S Teja. 6. 20.Bg6+! Kxg6 21.Qg5+ Kf7 22.Qxh5+ Kf8 23.Ng5 Qe8 [23...Qe8 24.Nh7#] 1-0. Vaibhav Suri-Himanshu Sharma. All positions from Parsvnath Open, Delhi 2016.

Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival

Nakamura Wins His Third Title

Indians Gained 83.20 Elo Overall

The 13th Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival saw titleholder Hikaru Nakamura of the US defeating Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France 3-2 in a Rapid tie-break match for the title. Both remained undefeated on 8/10. Nakamura played at 2811 while the Frenchman played better at 2838. They did not meet in the 10-round Swiss for 257 players from 51 nations.

Nakamura had won this title earlier in 2008 and 2015. His prize was British Pounds 20,000 which is about Rs 20 lakhs in a prize pool of about Rs 185 lakhs.

At the start of the final round, two Indians were among the 8 leaders and had title chances but they only drew. Harikrishna as white had a pawn on the seventh rank but in the rook and opposite colour bishop ending the Chinese Li Chao was able to pull off a draw. Sethuraman (black) and Bacrot drew a level rook and bishop ending.

Playing in an Open Swiss after many, many years, Anand had a painful tournament losing two games in the middle and was never in contention for the title. He finished on 6½/10 and lost about 21.90 Elo. In the end, Anand tied for the 24th to 48th places.

Harika had a memorable event beating Nigel Short winner of this event in 2003 (jointly), in 2004 and 2012 and scoring 6/10 to gain 15.10 Elo. In the 2008 Gibraltar, she had tied for the Leading Female Performer prize with three other GMs. See her stunning bishop manoeuvre that gave her a brilliant win over Short.

Harika and Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) scored the same six points but Anna went ahead to seven beating Arab pride GM Salem A R Saleh (UAE) in the final round to take the Leading Female prize of about Rs 15 lakhs.

Our National Woman Champion, Padmini Rout, did well to gain 15.40 Elo.

Final placings (points order only): 1-2. M Vachier-Lagrave (Fra), Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 8/10 each; 3-8. E Bacrot (Fra), S.P. Sethuraman, P Harikrishna, Gawain Jones (Eng), Li Chao (Chn), Emil Sutovsky (Isr) 7½ each; 9-23. Markus Ragger (Aut), Abhijeet Gupta, Sebastien Maze (Fra), D Jakovenko (Rus), Anton David (Esp), Lazaro Bruzon (Cub), Grandelius Nils (Swe), Richard Rapport (Hun), Anna Muzychuk (Ukr), Vidit Gujrathi, Zoltan Almasi (Hun), Edouard Romain (Fra), Federico Perez (Arg), Laurent



Fressinet (Fra), Gata Kamsky (USA) 7 each; 24-48. (Onlu Indians names) M.R. Lalith Babu, Sandipan Chanda, V Anand, Surya S Ganguly, V Vishnu Prasanna 6½ each...257 players.

Overall, Indians gained 83.20 Elo from this Masters section which has always been a 10-round Swiss. Our rating losers totalled 54.90 led by Anand 21.90, Ganguly 14.10, etc. Our gainers totalled 137.20 and it was led by Sethuraman 19.40, Padmini Rout 15.40, Harika 15.10, Abhijeet Gupta 15, etc.

This festival also features four five-day tournaments restricted to players below a certain rating. This Festival is well known for giving particular prominence to women's chess. In 2012 Chinese GM Hou Yifan, at the time ranked

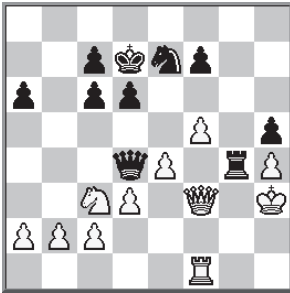
India's best performer was S.P. Sethuraman of Chennai. He tied for the third place and finished fourth. Pic: John Saunders.

No. 2 female chess player in the world, scored 8 points in the Masters, tying for first place with Nigel Short before losing a play-off match for first. During this event Hou Yifan defeated Judit Polgar, No. 1 rated female chess player in the world from 1989 till her retirement in 2014.

The Main event, the Masters, is open to all and was voted the "Best Open Event in the World" by Association of Chess Professionals from 2011.

Viswanathan Anand 2784
Adrien Demuth 2535
 Ruy Lopez C72, 30.01.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
 4.Ba4 d6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 h5
 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.d3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3
 Qf6 10.Qd1 g5 11.Nc3 Ne7 12.g3
 Bg7 13.Kh2 Qg6 14.f4 exf4
 15.gxf4 g4 16.f5 Be5+ 17.Bf4
 Qf6 18.Qd2 Rb8 19.Rab1 Rg8
 20.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 21.Qf4 Qc5
 22.Rg1 Kd7 23.h4 g3+ 24.Rxg3
 Rxg3 25.Kxg3 Rg8+ 26.Kh3
 Rg4 27.Qf3 Qd4 28.Rf1



28...Nd5 29.Ne2 Qf6 30.Qf2
 Ne3 31.Rg1 Nxc2 32.Nf4 Rxg1
 33.Qxg1 Qxb2 34.Qg8 Qxa2
 35.Nxh5 Ne3 36.Nf6+ Ke7
 37.Nh7 Kd7 38.h5 Qe2 39.Kh4
 Qh2+ 40.Kg5 Qg3+ 41.Kh6
 Qxg8 42.Nf6+ Ke7 43.Nxg8+
 Kf8 44.Nf6 a5 45.Kh7 a4 0-1.

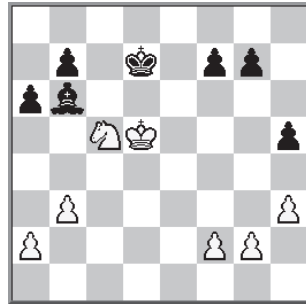
Benjamin Gledura 2515
Viswanathan Anand 2784
 Semi-Slav D45, 01.02.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6
 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2
 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 e5
 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.e4 exd4 11.
 Nxd5 Nxd5 12.exd5 h6 13.
 Nxd4 Qh4 14.Nf3 Qh5

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15.Bh7+ Kh8 16.Qf5 Qxf5 17.
 Bxf5 Nf6 18.Bxc8 Rfxc8
 19.Rd1 Rd8 20.Be3 Be7 21.
 d6 Rxd6 22.Rxd6 Bxd6
 23.Rd1 Bc7 24.Kf1 a6 25.h3
 Kg8 26.b3 Rd8 27.Rxd8+
 Bxd8 28.Ke2 h5 29.Bg5 Kf8
 30.Kd3 Ke8 31.Bxf6 Bxf6 32.
 Ke4 Bd8 33.Ne5 Ke7 34.Kd5

A well placed king is always
 advantageous in any endgame.
 Though pawns on two flanks
 offer bishop more chances than
 the knight, the black bishop is
 not well placed in this situa-
 tion. 34...Bb6 35.Nd3 Kd7
 36.Nc5+

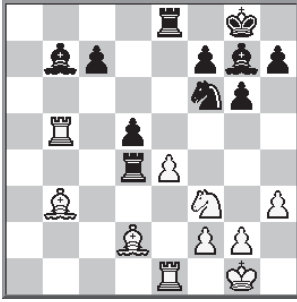


36...Bxc5 [36...Kc7 37.Ne4
 g6 38.Ke5 f5 39.Ng5 Bxf2
 40.Kf6 h4 41.Kxg6 f4 42.Ne6+
 will not be different from the
 game.] 37.Kxc5 Kc7 38.h4
 Kd7 39.Kb6 Kc8 40.b4 Kb8
 41.f3 Kc8 42.g4 hxg4 43.fxg4
 Kb8 44.h5 f6 45.a4 Kc8
 46.Ka7 Kc7 47.b5 a5 48.Ka8
 1-0.

S.P. Sethuraman 2639
Radoslaw Wojtaszek 2727
 Ruy Lopez C92, 03.02.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5
 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1
 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Bb7
 10.d4 Re8 11.Nbd2 Bf8 12.a3
 g6 13.Ba2 Bg7 14.Qc2 Qd7

15.b4 exd4 16.cxd4 a5
 17.bxa5 Nxa5 18.Rb1 Qc6
 19.Qd1 d5 20.Ne5 Qa6 21.a4
 Nc4 22.Rxb5 Nxd2 23.Bxd2
 Qxa4 24.Qxa4 Rxa4 25.Bb3
 Rxd4 26.Nf3!

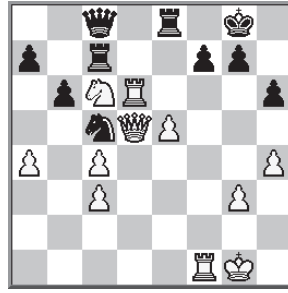


26...Rxd2 27.Nxd2 Ba8
 28. Rc5 c6 29.Ra5 Bh6 30.Nf1
 Bf8 31.Rea1 Bb7 32.exd5
 cxd5 33.Rd1 Ne4 34.Rc1 Bc5
 35.Raxc5 Nxc5 36.Rxc5 Re1
 37.Bxd5 1-0.

Sethuraman turns down a repetition on move 40 and goes down.

S.P. Sethuraman 2639
 Pentala Harikrishna 2755
 English A22, 30.01.2016

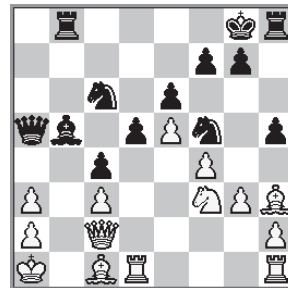
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4
 4.Bg2 0-0 5.e4 Bxc3 6.bxc3
 c6 7.Qb3 Na6 8.Ba3 d6 9.Ne2
 Rb8 10.0-0 Re8 11.Rad1 Bg4
 12.Rfe1 Nc5 13.Qc2 Qa5
 14.Bb4 Qa6 15.f3 Be6 16.d4
 b6 17.f4 Ng4 18.Nc1 Nb7
 19.d5 Bd7 20.dxc6 Bxc6
 21.Qe2 Nf6 22.Bxd6 Nxd6
 23.Rxd6 Qc8 24.fxe5 Rxe5
 25.Nd3 Re7 26.e5 Bxg2
 27.Qxg2 Ne8 28.Rd4 Qb7
 29.Qd2 Nc7 30.Nb4 Rbe8
 31.Rd8 Ne6 32.Rd6 Nf8
 33.Qd5 Qc8 34.Nc6 Rc7 35.a4
 Ne6 36.Rf1 h6 37.h4 Nc5
 38.Nd8 Ne6 39.Nc6 Nc5



40.Kg2 Nxa4 41.Rxf7
 Rxf7 42.e6 Rf6 43.e7+ Kh8
 44.Rd8 Rxc6 45.Rxc8 Rxc8
 46. Qf7 Nxc3 47.g4 Ne4 48.g5
 hxg5 49.Qf5 Nd6 50.Qe6 Rc7
 51.Qxd6 Rcxe7 52.hxg5 Kh7
 53.Qd3 Re4 54.Qd7 R8e5 55.
 Qxa7 Rxc5+ 56.Kf3 Re6 0-1.

Nigel Short 2684
 Dronavalli Harika 2511
 French C03, 28.01.2016

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7
 4.e5 c5 5.Qg4 Kf8 6.dxc5 h5
 7.Qe2 Bxc5 8.Nb3 b6 9.Nh3
 Qc7 10.Bf4 Ne7 11.0-0-0 Ng6
 12.Kb1 Nc6 13.Re1 a5 14.
 Nxc5 bxc5 15.Qe3 c4 16. Qc5
 Kg8 17.Bc1 a4 18.f4 Nge7 19.
 Ng5 Nf5 20.Rd1 Ra5 21.Qf2
 Rb5 22.c3 Qa5 23.Qc2 Rb8
 24.Ka1 Ba6 25.Nf3 Qb5 26.g3
 a3 27.bxa3 Qa5 28.Bh3 Bb5



29.Rxd5 Ba4!! 30.Qd2 Qxd5
 31.Qxd5 Bc2!! 0-1

Tata Steel Masters

Adhiban Wins Challengers

Carlsen Equals Anand's Five Title Record

By Arvind Aaron



Magnus Carlsen receives the trophy from Theo Henrar, Chairman, Tata Steel Nederland.

Baskaran Adhiban played at 2704 to win the Category 13 (Elo 2569) Tata Steel Challengers with 9/13 in the Netherlands on Jan 31. Adhiban picked up Euro 2000 plus the trophy. He was accompanied by his father.

Over the phone from Netherlands, Adhiban told me "Visweswaran is my main trainer since 2007". The individual excellence in coaching skill that Visweswaran Kameswaran has developed over the years by his hard work and acumen, has put his Midas touch on his students and players. He was the official trainer of the Indian Youth team that won the World Youth Chess Olympiad at Singapore in 2007. Currently, he is also the trainer of Grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali, the teen-

aged National Premier Champion.

"We can all be happy that Adhiban qualified to the 2017 Wijk aan Zee Group 'A' by edging out Aleksey Dreev (Rus) and Eltaj Safarli (Aze) on Tie-break. He is the second Indian after Harikrishna to qualify." said Visweswaran. Manuel Aaron in 1962 and V.Anand

in 1988 had participated in Group A on direct invitations, bypassing Group B. Sasikiran, Negi, Humpy, Harika, Abhijeet Gupta have all played in the GM Group B.-Chief Ed.)

Adhiban's victims included joint winners Eltaj Safarli and the experienced Russian Aleksey Dreev. All three finished on 9/13. The venue was the historic beach town of Wijk aan Zee and other cities like Amsterdam which is a 45 minutes drive from Wijk.

Importantly, this title would give Adhiban greater recognition and valuable Elo. He would be playing in the Masters group next year as promotion for winning. Adhiban, who suffered one defeat to J Van Foreest, won six and drew six games.



B Adhiban Pic: Cathy Rogers

Adhiban won the World Under-16 championship in Vietnam in 2008 and was a member of the Indian Youth Teams that sensationally won the World Youth Championships two years in a row in Singapore, 2007, and in Turkey, 2008. He is one of the very few young players to win the prestigious, and very tough, Indian National Premier Championship.

In the Tata Steel Masters, Magnus Carlsen finished with 9/13 to take the title and win his fifth title overall. Carlsen now equals the record set by the legendary five times World Champion Viswanathan Anand.

Analysis by GM Ian Rogers

B Adhiban 2653-A **Dreev** 2644
Semi-Slav D45, 23.01.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 “When preparing for the game I saw that [Dreev] was one of the biggest experts

in the Semi-Slav - I saw that he even managed to out-prepare Kasparov once!” said Adhiban. **5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 b6!? 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 Be7 9.b3**

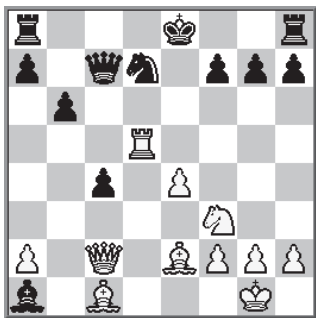


9...dxc4 “He has played this way before,” said Adhiban, “but I saw some commentary saying that Black had some problems in the pawn sacrifice line after **9...dxc4 10.bxc4 c5 11.d5** but he had drawn a game pretty quickly in that line.” **10.bxc4 c5 11.d5! exd5 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Rd1 Bf6**



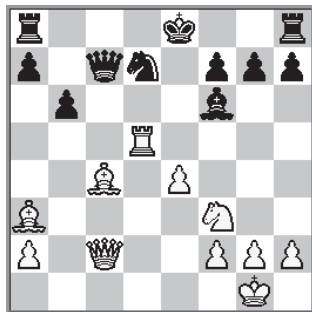
“So far it is all theory, but I thought of the novelty **15.e4** about a year ago and I was so happy that no one else used it until now!” explained Adhiban. **15.e4! c4?!** “It’s not easy facing **15.e4** at the board

and Black has a lot of options,” said Adhiban. “My main lines were [15...Bxa1 when after 16.exd5 Black must forego castling, e.g. 16...Bf6 17.d6 when although White is the exchange and a pawn down he is totally fine, and; 15...Bc6 , when for example there is the crazy variation 16.e5! Bxf3 17.exf6! Bxd1 18.fxc7 Rg8 19.Qxd1 when it is easier to play White’s position.”] **16.Be2** “Immediately after I moved I saw [16.Bxc4! Bxc4 17.e5! which is just crushing,” admitted Adhiban.] **16...Bxa1 17.Rxd5 Qc7** “Here, at first, I thought I might be worse but then I saw that I still had compensation,” said Adhiban.



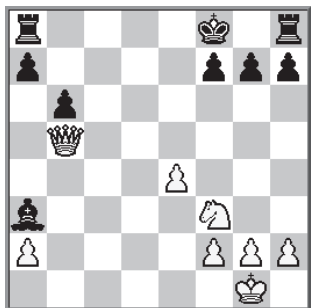
18.Ba3! Bf6 “Now it felt as if White should just be better,” said Adhiban. “He can’t play [18...0-0-0 because of 19.Bd6! Qc6 20.Bxc4 and now 20...b5 leads to the [nice finish] 21.Bxb5! Qxc2 22.Ba6#!” I thought that he had to play; 18...Nc5 when I was intending 19.e5 , trying to trap his bishop.” Adhiban had dismissed (19.Bxc5! bxc5 20.Qa4+ Ke7 “because I have given away my super bishop,” but he

had missed the tactical trick **21.Qxc4! Rac8 22.Qc1!!** winning the bishop on a1.)] **19.Bxc4**



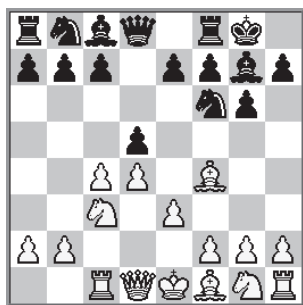
19...Be7 “I am not sure what he missed,” said Adhiban, “perhaps [19...Rc8 20.Bb5!? Qxc2 (20...a6!! holds - IR) 21.Bxd7+ Kd8 22.Ba4+ when he cannot protect the queen. Yet in this line I can also win after 20.Qa4!, so I am really not sure what he missed.”] **20.Qa4!** “My original intention,” said Adhiban, who spent 22 minutes making sure that everything was under control. Adhiban was suspicious of [20.Ne5?! Bxa3 21.Nxd7 , though he could not put his finger on exactly why since the defence he calculated - 21...Bd6 - allows 22.e5 Kxd7 23.exd6! with a winning attack. However Adhiban’s intuition was correct; after 21...b5!!, Black wins.] **20...Bxa3 21.Rxd7! Qxd7 22.Bb5 Qxb5** “At first I was worried by [22...0-0-0 23.Bxd7+ Rxd7 ,” admitted Adhiban, “because after 24.Qc6+ Kd8 followed by 25...Ke7, White has nothing. But then I saw 24.Ne5! when Black has no move, e.g.

24...Rc7 25.Qxc1 covers the c1 square.”] **23.Qxb5+ Kf8**



24.Qb3! “After [24.Qb3 I just mate on the light squares,” said Adhiban, “ e.g. 24...Bd6 (24...Be7 25.Ne5) 25.Ng5 . As they say, a queen and knight are a dangerous combo!”] **1-0.**

Loek Van Wely 2640
Magnus Carlsen 2844
 Grunfeld D83, 21.01.2016
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5
4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Rc1



6...Be6!? 7.cxd5 Nxd5
8.Nxd5 Bxd5!? “The normal line is [8...Qxd5 9.b3 Qa5+ 10.Qd2 when White is slightly better in an endgame,” said Carlsen, “but 8...Bxd5 is more interesting.”] **9.Bxc7 Qd7**
10.Bg3 Bxa2 11.Ne2 “If [11.b3 I can go 11...Qd5 and Black

should be alright,” said Carlsen.] **11...Bd5 12.Nc3** This natural move cost van Wely 32 precious minutes, handing Carlsen a time advantage which was never bridged. **12...Bc6** “ I also considered [12...Rd8!? 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 when in the long run losing the bishop would be a big deal but here I have pressure on g2,” said Carlsen. “I analysed 14.Be2 e5 15.0-0 exd4 16.Bf3 Qb5 when I think Black is OK, but in general it was more interesting to keep the [light-squared] bishop.”] **13.h4!?**



“I didn’t expect to get mated,” admitted Carlsen, “but he is very solid in the centre so he is not burning any bridges.” **13...Rd8!** “In general, changing the structure with h4 and 13...h5 is good for him,” explained Carlsen. **14.Qb3** “Quite clever,” said Carlsen. “ [14.h5 Qe6! would not be easy for him.”] **14...Qf5!?** “Based on a miscalculation,” admitted Carlsen. “Maybe [14...a5 15.h5 a4 was better, since 16.Qb6 seems quite odd.”] **15.h5 e6** “I had missed that after [15...Nd7!?

16.hxg6 hxg6 17.d5 Nc5
 18.Qc4! , the tricks with
 18...Na4!? and (18...Ne4!? don't
 seem to work," explained
 Carlsen.)] 16.hxg6 hxg6



17.Qd1!? Nd7 18.Bd3 Qa5
 "I prefer to keep the tension as
 after [18...Qg5 he has 19.Be4,"
 said Carlsen.] 19.Kf1 "On
 [19.f3 he has to reckon with
 19...e5!? ," said Carlsen. "I
 think the position is balanced;
 he has the h file but after
 ...Rac8 I will be fully mobi-
 lised."] 19...Nf6 "After
 [19...Rac8 20.Qg4 Nf6 21.Qh4 I
 probably have to play 21...Qh5
 which looks very boring," said
 Carlsen.] 20.Be5 Rac8
 21.Qd2 Van Wely's last long
 think, after which time trouble
 was a reality. "21.Qd2 sur-
 prised me a bit because it al-
 lowed 22...Ng4. So long as he
 doesn't get his queen into the
 attack, I am not going to get
 mated," said Carlsen. 21...Ng4
 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.f3

See diagram

23...Qg5! "This is perhaps
 too much, though I had though
 it was quite good" said Carlsen.
 "I thought that even if I miss
 something I will have a couple
 of pawns and the initiative for

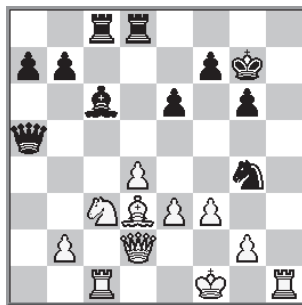
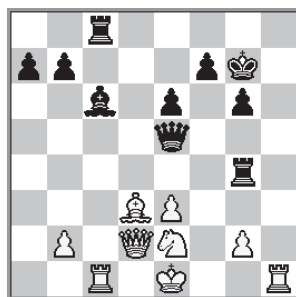
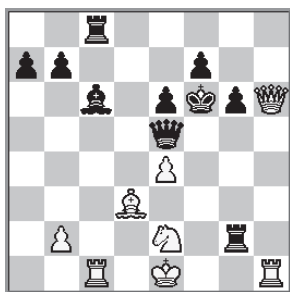


Diagram after 23.f3

the piece - and his time trouble
 makes a huge difference. "Af-
 ter the retreat [23...Nf6 I have
 a very nice position, though
 probably not a real advan-
 tage."] 24.fxg4 Rxd4 25.Ke1!
 "I hadn't seen this from afar,"
 admitted Carlsen. "There are
 many, many ways for him to go
 wrong; the simplest is
 [25.Qe2? Rxd3! 26.Qxd3 Bb5!
 and he will lose both his rooks. ;
 "Also after the most natural
 move 25.Ne2 Rxg4 ,there is no
 way I am worse."] 25...Qe5
 "Here I had missed that after
 [25...Rxg4 26.Ne4! Qe5 he has
 27.Rc5! - that's a pretty bad
 miss," admitted Carlsen. "So I
 had to start hustling! Though I
 think whatever he does I have
 decent compensation."]
 26.Ne2 Rxg4

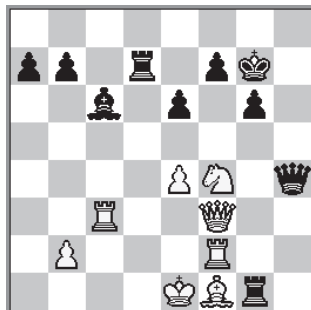


27.e4! “I was expecting him to trade queens with [27.Qc3,” said Carlsen, “but after 27...Qxc3+ 28.Rxc3 Rxc2 I don’t think Black is worse; apart from my being a piece down, my position is very solid.”] **27...Rxc2?! Gambling,** which led to van Wely spending most of his remaining time on his next move. [27...g5 was an objectively better way to keep the game complicated.] **28.Qh6+ Kf6**



29.Rc3? “He could play [29.Qh4+ when after 29...Kg7 I am not sure if he has anything better than a repetition,” said Carlsen. {Wrong - after 30.Qh7+! Kf6 31.Rf1+ White wins.} Carlsen did see that after 29...g5 30.Qh3! “my rook is trapped” but had intended 29...Qg5, completely missing 30.e5+!! Ke7 31.Qb4+ when Black’s king cannot escape.] **29...Rd8 30.Qh3 Qg5 31.Rf1+ Kg7 32.Qf3 Rd7 33.Rf2?! “It’s already not so easy for White but [33.Qf4 was possible, trading queens.”] 33...Rg4!** “Now it feels as if everything is protected, I have equal material plus a strong initiative,” said Carlsen. **34.Nf4?! [34.Nd4 was the last chance.] 34...Qh4!**

“The trap [34...Rg3? 35.Nxe6+! fxe6 36.Qf8+ Kh7 37.Rh2+ is quite transparent,” said Carlsen.] **35.Be2 Rg1+ 36.Bf1**

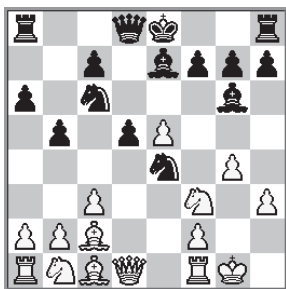


36...Kg8 “Here I was looking for a forced win, but I couldn’t find it,” admitted Carlsen. “[36...e5 37.Nd5 f5 is probably very good, but I really, really wanted him to play 36...Kg8 37.Ne2?.”] **37.Ne2?** “A blunder, but he has lots of ways to go wrong,” said Carlsen, “e.g. [37.Qe3? Rxf1+! 38.Kxf1 Qh1+ 39.Ke2 Qd1# or 37.Rd3 Bb5!. I thought that if I couldn’t see a good move for him, in 30 seconds neither would he!.”] **37...Rxf1+! 38.Kxf1 Rd1+ 39.Kg2 Bxe4 0-1.**

**Fabiano Caruana 2787
Wei Yi 2706**

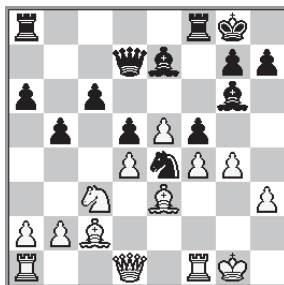
Ruy Lopez C83, 27.01.2016
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4 6.d4 b5 7.Bb3 d5 8.dxe5 Be6 9.c3 Be7 10.Bc2!? Bg4 “The point of 10.Bc2 was that after [10...0-0 11.Nbd2 I get a line that he doesn’t want, avoiding the 10.Nbd2 Nc5 11.Bc2 d4 lines, which I assumed that he wanted to play” explained Caruana.] **11.h3 Bh5** “A good

move. On [11...Bxf3 I would take back with the g pawn," said Caruana, "and after 12.gxf3 Nc5 13.f4 Qd7 14.Qf3 I will follow with 15.Rd1 and then at some point b4 to begin attacking the d pawn [via Bb3]."] **12.g4!?** Wei spent 42 minutes on his previous move and Caruana explained, "He was probably calculating [12.Bb3 Nxe5 which is critical. I can try 13.Qxd5 (If 13.Bxd5 Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Nf6 and he will have good compensation for the exchange.) but after 13...Nxf3+ 14.gxf3 Nf6 15.Qc6+ Kf8 16.Rd1 Bd6 17.Bf4 I felt that he could probably simplify to a decent ending."] **12...Bg6**



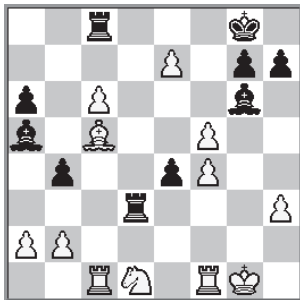
13.Nd4! "This is a new position and 13.Nd4 is completely new," explained Caruana. "[13.Bb3 [which had previously been played with success by Fischer IR] runs into 13...Nc5! 14.Bxd5 Qd7."] **13...Qd7** "Very logical. He can also try [13...Nxd4 14.cxd4 when he has a lot of options - 14...h5, (14...c5 or; 14...0-0, said Caruana. "I looked at this position a couple of weeks ago.")] **14.f4 Nxd4 15.cxd4 f5 16.Be3** "I also considered [16.exf6

Bxf6 17.f5 Bf7 but after he castles the knight on e4 is very hard to get rid of," explained Caruana.] **16...0-0** By now Wei was an hour behind on the clock and it was clear that Caruana was still in his preparation, having played almost instantly until 16.Be3. **17.Nc3 c6?**



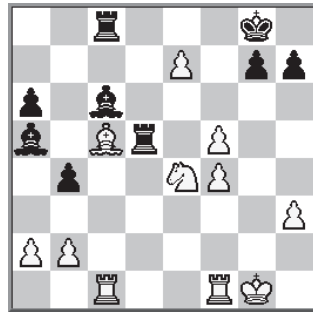
"On [17...Nxc3 18.bxc3 Rac8 I was intending 19.a4 c5 20.axb5 axb5 21.Ra6 when I don't think that Black has fully equalised," said Caruana. "However after 18...c6 in this line, Black would be very solid."] **18.Bxe4! dxe4 19.d5!** "I am not sure what he missed," admitted Caruana. "Perhaps he wanted to avoid being slightly worse in the previous variation but now Black is close to lost." **19...b4** "[19...cxd5 20.Qxd5+ Qxd5 21.Nxd5 Bd8 22.Rfd1 is a disaster for Black," said Caruana. "White has domination and I don't think it would give him many chances to survive."] **20.dxc6 Qxd1 21.Nxd1 Rfd8** "Black's problem is that he just can't get rid of the c pawn, e.g. [21...Rac8 22.Rc1 Be8 23.c7 , later supported by Bb6," ex-

plained Caruana.; “I was expecting 21...h5 but then 22.Rc1!? hxg4 23.hxg4 fxg4 24.Bc5! followed by 25.Ne3 looks very bad for Black.”] **22.Rc1 Rd3 23.Bc5!** “My goal is to trade bishops, put a rook on e1 and a knight on e3, which should be winning,” indicated Caruana. **23...Bd8** “After [23...Bxc5+ 24.Rxc5 Rxh3 I have 25.Nf2 Rg3+ 26.Kh2 Rf3 27.c7 Rc8 28.Rd1! Rxf2+ 29.Kg1 and the d pawn decides,” said Caruana.] **24.e6 Rc8** “If [24...fxg4 25.hxg4 Rg3+ 26.Kh2 Rxg4 27.Ne3 Rh4+ 28.Kg3 and his rook is very bad,” said Caruana. “In general he should keep his rook where it is well placed.” Perhaps; 24...Be8 25.e7 Bc7 26.Ne3 Bxc6 27.Bxb4 Be8! was possible when he could try to hang on; at least it was better than the game.”] **25.e7 Ba5** “After 24...Rc8, [25...Bc7 doesn’t make much sense,” said Caruana.] **26.gxf5**



26...Be8 “He had to try [26...Bxf5,” Caruana, who was originally intending 27.Ne3 Bxh3 28.Rfe1? having overlooked 28...b3! However

Caruana soon realised that(28.Rf2 Be6 29.f5 Bf7 30.f6! Rxc6 31.fxg7 was the way to play, wth the idea 31...Kxg7 32.Rxf7+! Kxf7 33.Rf1+ and White wins.)] **27.Nf2 Rd5** “[27...Rg3+ 28.Kh2 Rf3 29.Nxe4 Rxf1 30.Rxf1 Rxc6 31.Rd1 is the same story,” said Caruana.] **28.Nxe4 Bxc6**



29.Bxb4! “The cleanest,” said Caruana. **29...Bxb4 30.Rxc6 Re8 31.f6 Rd4 32.Re6** “The final [trick] is[32.Re6 gxf6 33.Nxf6+ Kf7 34.Nxe8 Kxe6 35.Ng7+! Kxe7 36.Nf5+ and I pick up his rook,” explained Caruana.] **1-0.**

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Shardul Gagare Reaches 2500 Rating

Maharashtra's promising 18-year old Shardul Gagare reached a personal milestone when he scored 3/3 in the IIFL Wealth International Open at Mumbai on Jan 30, 2016. He had already completed his GM norms and was waiting only for his rating to touch 2500.

When the FIDE Presidential Board ratifies his GM title and that of Swapnil Dhopade, Maharashtra will have six Grandmasters including Pravin Thipsay, Abhijit Kunte, Vidit Gujrathi and Akshayraj Kore.

In this event, 1997-born Gagare required just three Elo to go from 2497 to 2500. Three wins including the last one over B Sekar gave him the rating required to apply for the Grandmaster title.

Last month at Doha, Shardul played at 2706, a stunning performance to make a GM norm. Earlier, he had made his maiden GM norm at the Barbera Open, Spain 2013 and the second at the San Martin Open, 2015.

Shardul comes from Rahuri, a small place between Shirdi and Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. His parents used to travel with him and his sister Woman International Master Shalmali Gagare to tournaments till he became an IM in 2013. His father, Dr

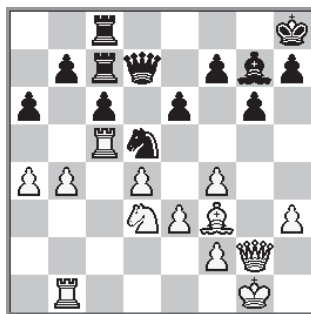
Annasaheb Gagare is a medical doctor but had sacrificed his professional career to further the chess careers of his children.

Shardul Gagare 2497

R Pragganandhaa 2174

Grunfeld D76, Mumbai 4.2.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7
4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3
0-0 7.0-0 Nb6 8.Bf4 Nc6 9.e3
Nd5 10.Nc3 Nxf4 11.gxf4
Nb8 12.b4 c6 13.Rc1 a6 14.a4
Bg4 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nd7
17.Rfd1 e6 18.Ne4 Qe7
19.Rb1 Rab8 20.Rdc1 Rfc8
21.Rc2 Nb6 22.Nc5 Nd5
23.Nd3 Rc7 24.Qg3 Rbc8 25.
Bf3 Kh8 26.Rc5 Qd6 27.Ne5
Kg8 28.Nd3 Kh8 29. Qg2 Qd7



30.b5 axb5 31.axb5 b6
32.bxc6 Qd8 33.Rcc1 Rxc6
34.Rxc6 Rxc6 35.Bxd5 exd5
36.Rb5 Qc8 37.Rxd5 Rc3
38.Ne5 Bxe5 39.fxe5 Rc1+
40.Kh2 Qf5 41.Rd6 b5 42.Rf6
Qd7 43.Qf3 Kg8 44.Rd6 Qe8
45.Rb6 Rc8 46.Qb7 Rc2
47.Kg2 Rb2 48.Rc6 Kg7 49.e6
Rb1 50.e7 b4 51.Rc8 1-0

Siddha Chess, Kolkata

Debarshi Wins On Tie-break

by Bipin Shenoy

For the second year in succession, the Chess For Youth tournament for youth below the age of 25 has been sponsored by Siddha, a real estate firm in Kolkata. This was the 10th edition of the tournament and it happened during the last four days of January.

It was played as a 7-round Swiss in Rapid format (30 minutes each) for age groups U-6, 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16 both in boys and girls. They also had a separate Premier section where anyone Under 25 could play. This is the biggest tournament in Kolkata where entry level students from various schools take part.

Organised by Dibyendu Barua Chess Academy and Allsport Foundation at Khudiram Anushilan Kendra this tournament is not FIDE rated. The organisers want players to enjoy their chess without worrying about ratings. Famous players like Abhijeet Gupta, Mary Ann



L to R: Neelotpal Das, Debarshi Mukherjee, Dibyendu Barua and Ace shooter Joydeep Karmakar who was 4th in 2012 London Olympics.

Gomes, Tania Sachdev, Soumya Swaminathan have played here in the past. The Tournament was held in two sessions to accommodate the large number of entrants.

Top seed, GM Debashis Das (2571), IM Swayams Mishra (2539) both of Odisha and IM Diptayan Ghosh (2495) of Bengal sailed through Round One with ease.

The upsets began in Round 2 when GM Debashis Das suffered a 26-move shock defeat against 16-year old Sankalan

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Bharati (1689) who played the Sicilian Dragon. (Game is given below). Meanwhile Diptayan Ghosh had a facile victory against Dipanjan Chowdhury.

On an eventful second day, Arpan Das provided the excitement by defeating Diptayan Ghosh in an interesting struggle. Debashis Das came back into reckoning after his 2nd round defeat with 3 straight wins to take his points tally to four.

Swayams Mishra won all three rounds on Day 2 comfortably to take sole lead with 5/5. In the 3rd round he beat Sukanya Dutta, in the 4th the eventual tournament winner Debarshi Mukherjee (20, Rating 2192) and, in Round 5, Mitrabha Guha.

However, Swayams lost his 6th round game to Diptayan Ghosh who went on to win his final round and tie for first.

Surprisingly, unheralded 20-year old Debarshi Mukherjee (Elo 2192) and Diptayan Ghosh tied on 6 points, but Debarshi was winner on Buchholz tie-break. Debarshi received a glittering trophy and Rs. 25,000. Diptayan's 2nd prize was Rs18,000. Swayams Mishra and GM Debashis Das took the 3rd and 4th places with 5½ points each.

To inaugurate this event popular Bengali actor Prosenjit Chatterjee cut a cake in the form of a chess board with chess pieces in chocolate in the presence of GM Neelotpal Das,

Siddha Group MD Sanjay Jain and others.

Since last year, Siddha is also sponsoring two students of Dibyendu Barua Chess Academy-Arпита Mukherjee and Basant Kumar Das. Basant is a student of Future Hope, school for under-privileged children and has also been presented with a lap-top by Siddha.

Sport Minister Arup Biswas gave away the prizes in the presence of eminent shooter Joydeep Karmakar, GM Neelotpal Das, IM Atanu Lahiri, et al.

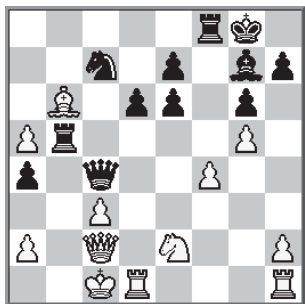
Main Prize winners

Premier: Debarshi Mukherjee 6; U-16: Rounak Pathak 6; U-16 Girls: Asmita Das 5; U-14: Ambrish Sharma 6½; U-14 Girls: Ananya Bothra 6½; U-12: Soumma Chakraborty 6½; U-12 Girls: Annyatoma Das 6; U-10: Soham Saha 6½; U-10 Girls: Sinthia Sarkar 7; U-8: Rwitik Chakraborty 7; U-8 Girls: Anjitha Basak 6½; U-6: Shreeyash Kejriwal 7; U-6 Girls: Shivani Agarwal 4½.

Debashis Das 2571
Sonkalan Bharati 1717
Sicilian Dragon B76

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3
Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.g4
Be6 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.0-0-0
Ne5 12.Be2 Qa5 13.g5 Ne8
14.f4 Nc6 15.Be4 Nc7 16.Ne2
Qa4= 17.Bb3 Qxe4 18.Ng3
Qb4 19.c3 Qb5 20.Qc2 Na5
21.Ba4 Qc4 22.b4? b5-+

23.bxa5 bxa4 24.Ne2 Rab8
25.Bxa7 Rb5 26.Bb6

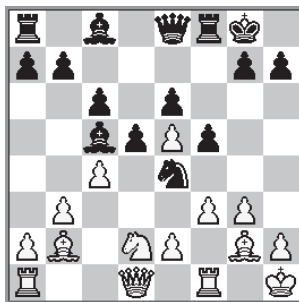


26...a3! The crushing threat is 27...Rb2. 0-1.

Kaustuv Kundu 1994
Bidita Shenoy 1428
Catalan/Stonewall E01

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2
Bd6 4.0-0 Nd7 5.d4 f5 6.c4 c6

7.b3 Ngf6 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Nbd2
Ne4 10.Ne5 Qe8 11.f3? Nxe5!
12.dxe5?? [This leads to a
forced mate. Better was:
12.Nxe4 Nxc4 13.bxc4 fxe4 14.
fxe4 dxc4 15.Qc2 e5 16.Qxc4+
Be6=] 12...Bc5+ 13.Kh1



13...Nxc3+!! [13...Nxc3+
14.hxc3 Qh5+ 15.Bh3 Qxh3#]
0-1.

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Standard Chess Set from Chess Mate is readily available for Rs.400. Made from high quality rexine, the boards are rollable and moulded plastic pieces is set to International Standards. Pouch with three zips, one to accommodate white and another for black and a longer one for the board to be rolled and placed, costs Rs.125.

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Opening Theory

New Ideas In The London System

By GM Ian Rogers

Magnus Carlsen 2844
Evgeny Tomashevsky 2728
Queen Pawn A46 22.01.2016
Wijk aan Zee Tata A (6)

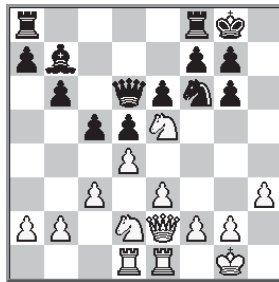
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4

"The London System is a little better after Black has committed to ...e6," said Carlsen. **3...b6 4.e3 Bb7 5.h3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.c3**

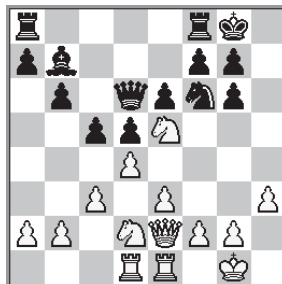


8...Nc6 "He has many decent ways to play," said Carlsen, hinting at [8...cxd4 9.exd4 d6 followed by 10...Nbd7.] **9.Nbd2 d5 10.Qe2 Bd6** "He spent a lot of time here," said Carlsen - half an hour on his previous three moves. **11.Rfe1** "I had many options here: [11.Bg5 or; 11.Ne5, though then he plays 11...Qc7 and I didn't see anything," said Carlsen.] **11...Ne7!?** Played after another 20 minutes thought. "He can try [11...Bxf4 12.exf4 cxd4 13.Nxd4 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Qd6 but he is passive and will be suffering," explained Carlsen.] **12.Rad1 Ng6** "A little bit dubi-

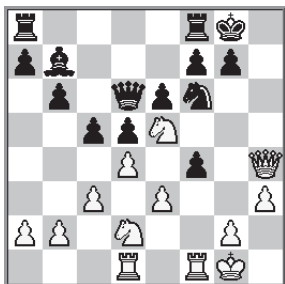
ous," said Carlsen. "12...Ng6 is a normal plan but after he [acquires the doubled pawns] it becomes that much harder to dislodge the knight from e5." **13.Bxg6! hxg6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6 15.Ne5**



15...g5 "Black's problem is that I just want to play f4, then put a queen on h4 and a knight on g5 and mate him," said Carlsen. "If [15...Ne4 I simply reply 16.f4 when it is still very hard to dislodge my e5 knight.]" **16.f4!?** "Here I became very excited about the possibility of starting an attack and I just went for it," said Carlsen. **16...gxf4 17.Rf1!**



17...Nd7? "In lines such as [17...fxe3! 18.Rxf6! there isn't really that much to calculate," admitted Carlsen," since White will always have a draw and it feels like there should be more. Maybe he has a way to save himself, but I wasn't so sure." It took only seven minutes before Tomashevsky decided to decline the offer and trust Carlsen, although 18...exd2! 19.Qh5 gxf6 is critical and White's rook seems just too slow to enter the attack with decisive effect, meaning that White will sooner or later have to take the perpetual check.] **18.Qh5 Nf6** "After [18...g6 19.Qh6! (19.Nxg6 fxc6 20.Qxg6+ is not enough because of my stupid pawn on h3.) 19...Nxe5 20.Rxf4! and I can't see what he can do," said Carlsen. During the post-mortem, Carlsen realised that he had overlooked the defence 20...g5!/? but soon realised that 21.dxe5 Qxe5 22.Rg4 would be good for White, e.g. 22...f6 23.Nf3 Qxe3+ 24.Kh1 Rf7 25.Re1 Qf2 26.Rxe6 and White crashes through.] **19.Qh4**



19...Qd8 "Now I believe that the position is just lost," suggested Carlsen. [19...fxe3

20.Rxf6 exd2 21.Rxd2 now leads to a winning attack for White but "I thought he should play; 19...Nh7 when after 20.Rxf4 g5 21.Qg3 f6 I don't see anything for White," explained Carlsen. "So I would play 20.exf4 when White is clearly better. At some point he will need to play ...f6 when my knight comes to g6, but it is still a game."] **20.Rxf4 Ne4?** A move passed over without comment by Carlsen, but he may have underestimated [20...cxd4! 21.exd4 and only now 21...Ne4! . Since the exchanges in the game would now lead to nothing for White, Carlsen would be forced to keep queens on the board and keep playing for an attack, which in Tomashevsky's time trouble would have been hard to handle even if objectively Black should survive.] **21.Nxe4 Qxh4 22.Rxh4 dxe4 23.dxc5 bxc5 24.Rd7** "Now White has complete domination," said Carlsen. **24...Rab8 25.b3 a5** Most of Tomashevsky's time disappeared with this move as he realised that his queenside pawns cannot be held. **26.Rc7 a4 27.bxa4 Ba8 28.a5 Rb7 29.Rxc5 Ra7 30.Nc4** A surprising moment to resign, but with 10 moves to go before the time control and White soon to redeploy his h4 rook, Tomashevsky did not see why he should prolong his suffering. **1-0.**

The author is an Australian Grand Master based in Europe at Amsterdam.

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