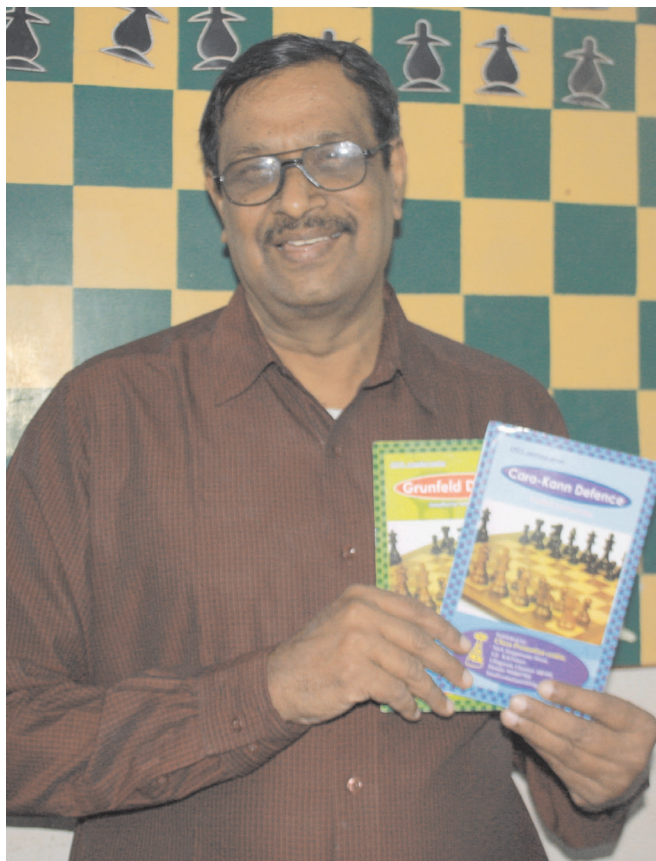




CHESS MATE

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Former National 'A' player **V Subramanian** displays his two new books on the Grunfeld and Caro-Kann priced at Rs.60 each. The 1955-born author of nine books says that he would welcome a ban by authorities on selling of photocopied chess books at chess venues across India. He spoke about his games with V Anand and also on how the Tal Chess Club of Madras had to be shut down.



Russian **GM Ivan Popov** (right) who raced to 6/6 and then went on to win the Parsvnath Open at Delhi with 8/10 is seen receiving the trophy from Bharat Singh Chauhan (centre) and others. Below: **International Master N Srinath** won the Late R.B. Sapre Birth Centenary Memorial Tournament at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra late last year. Srinath receives the trophy from Sapre's wife. Sapre's children are around them.



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Shardul Gagare (right) played at 2706 at Doha to make a GM Norm in the Qatar Masters. Details in the next issue. Pic: Alla Oborina from the Qatar Chess Masters website..

Interview: V Subramanian

Chess Authorities Should Bring A Resolution Against Selling Of Photocopied Books At All Chess Venues

Says The Author Of Nine Chess Books In An Interview

Former National Premier player V Subramanian who recently brought out two opening books, on the Grunfeld and the Caro-Kann has said he would like the chess authorities in India to bring a resolution stopping illegal activity (selling photocopied books) currently at various chess venues across the country.

In this interview he spoke about his games against Viswanathan Anand, and the circumstances under which the once famous Tal Chess Club had to sadly close down.

Q: (Arvind Aaron) You have been an active chess player, administrator, organiser and author over four decades. Recently you have taken up organising children's events in Chennai. How challenging is it?

A: (V Subramanian) Definitely, it is very tough to organise any chess event now. The cost of organising a chess event has increased manifold. Some 30-35 years back we used to get not more than 150 entries and were able to run the show comfortably with just two arbiters. The participation of players in chess tournaments has steadily increased after Anand emerged on the world scene and now any children's tourna-

ment attracts at least 300-400 entries. I organised a children's tournament in September 2015 after a gap of 20 years and felt that conducting a chess event with the current rules and regulations is very challenging. Organisers have to take care of not only the players interests but also their parents who accompany them as they have to wait the whole day. Parents also feel the hardship of accompanying their children to each and every tournament. Every minute detail has to be taken care of as any slip-up can raise the parents' hackles. Parents complain even if they face a slight discomfort. Everything has to be pre-planned well and you need an experienced team to organise the show. In spite of all difficulties, I would like to organise many children's events as it gives me satisfaction.

Q: In your role as administrator, you had been Secretary of the Madras District Chess Association (MDCA). What were the major highlights during your tenure?

A: I was Secretary of the MDCA for two and a half years in the 1980s. During that pe-

riod we decided to field a Sub-junior team from Madras district in the 1983 National Team Championship at Bombay. It was the suggestion of Mr. Manuel Aaron and he named it 'Madras Colts' as it comprised only of teenagers. The team was funded by Dr. Arudra, a Telugu poet laureate and the then President of the MDCA. V.Anand (14) was one of the players selected for this team. He won the board prize at this championship and got a seeding to the National 'B'. That was his first step in the ladder to great achievements and he never turned back.

Q: You had been Secretary of the prestigious Tal Chess Club. In the last two decades people often enquire about this club. What were the main reasons for the closing down of this once most sought after chess facility in Chennai?

A: After MDCA, I took over as Secretary of the Mikhail Tal Chess Club. Apart from V.Anand many top players of Tamil Nadu like GM R.B. Ramesh, IMs Ravi Sekhar, T.N.Parameswaran, T.S.Ravi,

G.B.Prakash, WGMs Vijayalakshmi and Meenakshi regularly practised in this club. It was in the Soviet Cultural Centre on Kasturi Ranga Iyengar Road. With the support of the Soviet Cultural Centre, we were able to conduct many major tournaments, Non-medallist tournaments and week-end tournaments.

It is sad that we had to shut down the club. After the break-up of the USSR in 1991 the authorities of the new Russian Cultural Centre started charging monthly rent for the club. They also demanded fees for each and every activity of the club. The fees ran into thousands of rupees. Chess was not very popular in India at that time and the membership fee for the club was only Rs. 50 per year. We had around 200 members. Still we managed to run the show for nearly one year after the crisis. However, the final blow came when the Russian Cultural Centre decided to construct a Guest House where the Club was functioning. The Club which originally had about 800-900 sq ft of space was reduced to a

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mere 150 sq. ft. and with that the club atmosphere was also gone. The number of players coming to the club dwindled day by day and we were not able to conduct any activity as we could not get sponsors. Mr. Ebenezer Joseph who took over as Secretary from me also could not run the club with the mounting financial needs. He had no other go but to pull down the curtain and convert it into a high class coaching centre. (The Emmanuel Chess Centre is privately run by Ebenezer Joseph at the same premises).

Q: When and how did you come into chess?

A: I used to watch my neighbours play chess in 1973. The game was so fascinating that I used to sit for 3-4 hours just watching them play. Slowly I learned the movements and started playing with them.

Q: You had played actively and won many chess events. Tell us about the top five achievements of your career?

A: I participated in a junior event in Trichy and got selected to represent Trichy district in the 1974 Tamil Nadu State Junior Championship. This State event was held in Ooty and the trip to Ooty encouraged me to devote more time to chess. In my college days I spent more time on chess than on studies. After graduating, I came to Madras with the aim of a chess career. Initially I won tournaments conducted

at Kumbakonam, the Coimbatore LRG Naidu Open, Nanjundaiah Memorial at Mettupalayam in 1983, etc.

I finished second in the TN State championship in 1983. Once I also finished third. I represented Tamil Nadu in many Nationals. I qualified to play in the 1986 National "A" Championship in Bombay.

I was a member of the TN team that won the National Team championship at Bangalore in 1982. The other members of the team were Raja Ravi Sekhar, TN Parameswaran, P Mithrakanth and S Manikandaswamy.

My highest rating was 2310.

Q: We know that you retired from the Thiruvalluvar Transport Corporation, the long distance Bus service of the Tamil Nadu Government. Did they have a good chess team?

A: Though I did not do well in my studies, chess helped me find a job in the State run Transport Corporation. I was recruited under their sports quota (Chess). I participated in many tournaments during the first two years, with the Corporation sanctioning me Special Casual Leave along with some nominal expenses. During this period Inter-Transport tournaments and Public sector tournaments were regularly held. The different Transport Corporations

vied with each other to recruit chess players to win the prestigious Inter-Transport Championships. But after the change in Government, all sports activities suddenly stopped and all sports persons were burdened with heavy duty. The work pressure did not allow us to concentrate on other activities. Now there is no sports activity and no chess teams in the Transport Corporations.

Q: You have produced several chess books like the 600+ Winning Chess Themes. Which have been your favourite books and what are the books that are in the offing?

A: When I could not play active chess I wanted to do something connected with chess. I thought of publishing some chess books as at that time only foreign books were available and they were very costly. I started with 600 plus Winning Chess Themes and Tactics which has tactical ideas of pin, fork, double attack, etc. After completing this book I came up with the idea of writing a book on positional exchange sacrifice as I noticed that in many books only 2 or 3 games have been devoted to this subject. I made my own research and came up with some ideas about when and how a player can make a positional exchange sacrifice which can give him advantage in due course. Though this book is not commercially successful, it remains my favourite book as it

has been appreciated by many top players.

So far I have published nine books including four on the Opening. I wish to cover all the openings in two years time. These opening books cover all variations and come cheap at Rs. 60 per book.

On Viswanathan Anand

Q: You were an active player during the time Viswanathan Anand played in our domestic circuit. What can you tell us about him and your encounters with him?

A: Well, we can learn many things from Anand's career. Though he is said to have started chess at the age of six, he was able to show his playing strength only when he was around 10, 11. This shows that even a very talented player like Anand needed 5-6 years training and practice to bring forth his talent.

The second thing I noticed is his passion for chess. One day when I was working in the State Chess Association I was able to witness Anand's preparation. At that time (in the 1980s) chess books were rare and expensive in India. Tamil Nadu Chess Association had some 25-30 Informators (each Volume cost around Rs.300-Rs.400 which was huge money at that time). One day Anand came to the Chess Association and wanted to see some games from the Informators. He kept

all 25-30 Informators on the table and went through all diagrammed positions, one Volume after the other. This went on till his attendant came to pick him up at around 6 p.m. By that time he had almost finished analysing all the diagrammed positions in the books. At the age of 10, 11 one may not like to sit for a whole day reading books. Anand read through as he always does and did not use a chess board and coins to read the Informator.

“Lightning Kid”

Many of us Chennai players were lucky to have played against the future World champion on a regular basis. I have also played many Blitz games with Anand. In the initial stages I was able to beat him. But after the first two years he was able to beat everyone in Tal Chess Club. He won so many blitz tournaments conducted by the club that Mr

V.Kameswaran nicknamed him ‘Lightning Kid’. I recall one incident. One day Anand played with me and K.V. Shantharam (winner stays). He played around 30–35 games alternatively with us not losing a single game. If I remember correct that was the last day I had seen him in the club playing Blitz. In tournaments, I had the opportunity of meeting him thrice. In the 1980 Madras District Championship he overlooked a queen sacrifice based on the back rank weakness and lost. In the second game played at the Olympic Recreation Club, T. Nagar, Chennai in 1981 I lost to him an attacking game in a Pirc. My third encounter was in the 1986 National ‘A’ Championship at Bombay where I again lost to him.

Q: You have done a lot in chess. So when are you going to start teaching which most people are doing now?

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A: When I was fully loaded with official work I could not play chess or even practice chess at home. After my hectic work, though I wanted to see some games my eyes did not co-operate, they shut. I wanted to stay connected with chess somehow and so I taught chess to some players and wrote books whenever I found time though my interest was to play in tournaments. I actually thought of voluntary retirement to play active chess but desisted as my financial background was not good. Now, after my retirement I enjoy playing. I want to devote full time to prepare and participate in tournaments. Who knows one day I may hold the record for "the oldest player achieving the IM title"!

Q: Your Chess Promotion Centre has brought out many books. How much travel do you do to promote these books? Is photocopying of books killing the publishing industry. Is it time established chess organisations in various States prohibit distribution of photocopied books and the illegal activity inside tournament venues?

A: Our Centre has brought out nine chess books so far covering all phases of the game. We have books on opening, middle game and end game as well. In Chennai I used to sell my books through M/s. Chess Mate, Mr. AL.Muthu. In Trichy and in nearby areas Mr.

P Ismail and Mr. T.V. Subramanian help me in selling books. In tournaments where I participate I go with my books. Last year I sold my books in Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mangalore and Kerala apart from many areas in Tamil Nadu. To publish a book I have to spend at least 3-4 months time working 7-8 hours per day. Photocopying of books no doubt kills the publishing industry. I think in the years to come no one would dare to publish chess books as they have to face fierce competition from the photocopying business. I felt pain when I saw a photo copy of my own book on display on the sales table of a Maharashtra player. I would welcome if chess organisations decide to prohibit these illegal activities at chess venues.

Q: You had played in the mid seventies and continue even now! Our ratings are bound to go down. How does it feel to lose to kids nowadays?

A: In the past, when I wanted to take Chess as my profession there were not enough tournaments! I used to play continuously for three months when there were tournaments and then faced a dull, no-tournament period. I was forced to take odd jobs which, of course was a great obstacle to my chess career.

In those days even great players like Raja Ravi Sekhar

(former national champion) and S.V.Natarajan suffered a lot by making chess their profession.

Nowadays there are lots of tournaments and a player can play in tournaments of his choice. Thanks to V.Anand many who are barely out of school have become professionals. Some parents are emboldened to take chances with their children's academic and chess careers. Availability of vast chess material helps newcomers to a great extent and the experience they gain with it is something which cannot be compared to the past. Though I was connected with chess in

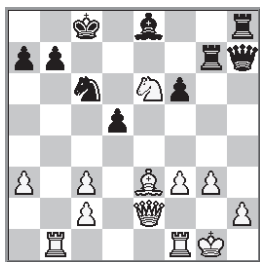
one way or other I was not able to play serious chess for the past 15 years (1998-2013) as I have to work for my livelihood.

I never feel sad when I lose to kids if they played well. But most of the time I lose only because of my silly mistakes which I could avoid with more practice and participation in more tournaments. But one thing I want to say here – whether I win or lose and irrespective of my rating I will continue playing chess as long as I have passion which I am sure will not fade away.

Friends and those who know V Subramanian can reach him on 9444657984

P.M.Thipsay - V.Subramanian, French C19, National 'A' Chp., Bombay 1986: (reprinted from April 1986 Chess Mate, page 113)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.Be2 Bd7 9.0-0 f6!? 10.exf6 gxf6 11.Nh4 Qc7! 12.Bh5+ Ng6 13.g3 [13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Bxg6+ Ke7 with the idea of 15...Rag8; 13.Bxg6+?? 13...hxg6 14.Nxg6 Qxh2#] 13...0-0-0 14.Bxg6 hxg6 15.Nxg6 Rhg8 16.Nf4 Rde8 17.Rb1 Qd6 18.dxc5 Qxc5 19.Nd3 Qe7 20.Be3 Qh7 21.Qe2 Rg7! supporting the 2nd rank and enabling the other rook to join the attack. 22.f3 Rh8 23.Nc5 Be8 24.Nxe6



← See diagram

24...Rxc3+ 25.Kh1 [25.hxg3 Qh1+ 26.Kf2 Rh2+ 27.Ke1 Rxe2+ 28.Kxe2 Qg2+ 29.Bf2 Bh5 30.g4 Bxg4! -/+] 25...Rh3 26.Bg1 Ne5 27.Nd4 Bg6 28.Rf2 Nxf3 29.Nxf3 Be4 30.Rbf1? [30.Rb4!] 30...Qf5 -+ 31.Qe3 Rxf3 32.Rxf3 Rh3 33.Qc5+ Kd7 34.Qb5+ Kd6 [34...Kd8] 35.Bc5+ Kc7 36.Kg2 Qg4+ 37.Kf2 Rxf3+ a slight mistake in mutual time pressure. [37...Qxf3+ 38.Ke1 Qxc3+ 39.Kd1 (39.Ke2 Rxh2+ 40.Rf2 Bf3+) 39...Bxc2+ -+] 38.Ke1 Qh4+ 39.Kd1? (time trouble) [39.Bf2!] 39...Rxf1+ 40.Qxf1 Qxh2 41.Be3? -+ [41.Qxf6 Bxc2+ =/+] 41...Qxc2+ 42.Ke1 Qb1+ 43.Kf2 Qxf1+ 44.Kxf1 a6 45.Ke2 Kc6 46.a4 a5! 47.Kd2 b5 48.axb5+ Kxb5 49.Kc1 Kc4 50.Kb2 a4 51.Bd4 f5 52.Be5 Bf3 53.Bd4 Kd3 54.Ka3 Bd1 55.Kb4 Bb3 0-1. (Notes: V Subramanian)

Harikrishna Is World No. 14



Born on May 10, 1986 Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna with an Elo rating of 2755 is ranked No.14 in the World, his best. There are only 13 players, including Carlsen and Anand, ahead of him.

In his rise to stardom Harikrishna won several National Age Group titles - the Under-8 at Palakkad in 1993, the Under-12 twice at Kozhikode in 1996 and at Ahmedabad in 1998, the U-15 twice in Bikaner 1997 and Aurangabad 1998, and the U-17 in Bikaner 1998. Strangely, he has never won the Indian Championship though he is a super Grandmaster winning tournaments all over the world!

Born into a rural family in Guntur district of Andhra, Harikrishna took the world by

Harikrishna playing Ni Hua of China in the Qatar Masters 2015. Pic: Katerina Savina.

storm winning the World U-10 Championship at Menorca, Spain, in 1996. At that time he was the second Indian after V.Anand to win a World chess title. This victory launched his International Chess Career.

The gold medal in the World Under-10 could easily be dismissed as unimportant but its importance could be gauged from the fact that he won it ahead of the famous Azerbaijan players Vugar Gashimov and Teimour Radjabov who took the silver and bronze medals. Gashimov was ranked 6th in the world in 2009 but tragically died of brain tumour in 2014 at the age of 27. Radjabov is currently ranked World No 28.

Harikrishna was India's youngest IM in 2000 and youngest GM in 2001.

At the International level, he won the World Junior at Kochi in 2004 by a comfortable margin. Some of his best results are winning the Chess960 (Fischer Random) World Junior at Mainz in 2006 beating Arkady Naiditch in the Final and winning a Category 15 Tournament in Taiyuan, China, in 2005. He won the 2001 Commonwealth Championship in London. He has played for several prestigious teams (often on top board) in their League Championships. He has played for Baden Baden in the German Bundesliga when it won three years in a row in 2007, 2008 and 2009. He helped the team Solvay win medals at the Spanish League.

He represented Indian in six Olympiads from 2000 to 2012. When he played in the prestigious World Team Chess championship in Turkey, 2011, India won the Bronze medal. He won the Asian Continental Individual Championship at Iran in 2011.

He is rapidly closing in on the top players in the world.

Most of his recent Elo points (+12.20) have come from the German Bundesliga. (2½/3) where he now represents Solingen which also has Anish Giri and Sandipan Chanda. Among the Elite players in the world, he is the third most active, having played 15 games in one month. Only Magnus

Carlsen and Anish Giri have played more games than him. He has also played in the Hungarian League.

Harikrishna has played in a large number of European Leagues and has also voiced for an Indian Chess League in his interviews to the media. He plays for Bharat Petroleum and Petroleum Sports Promotion Board in domestic events. Harikrishna is a reliable hand in team competitions. He loses few games and that helps in modern day chess.

In 1992, IM Lanka Ravi was Harikrishna's coach. Later IM V.Koshy trained him and also accompanied him to Wijk aan Zee. Harikrishna made his GM norm there. When he was under WIPRO's sponsorship the Russian GMs Evgeny Vladimirov and Maxim Sorokin trained him.

His Sponsors

From 1993 to 1996, Harikrishna was sponsored by Vigyan Educational Trust for Rs 100,000 every year. During those days, that sum was huge and unthinkable for a seven year old chess player.

From 1997 to 1999, Bank of Baroda sponsored Harikrishna. Government awards came in handy for his cash strapped family. WIPRO sponsored him in 2000 without any limits. All that Harikrishna had to do was soar, and soar, he did. WIPRO's sponsorship of Harikrishna and a few other players was a great boon to Indian Chess.

Harikrishna's Grandfather



Harikrishna's talent was spotted by his grandfather Tarigopula Ranga Rao who hailed from an agricultural family in rural Andhra Pradesh. Leading a very hard life to earn a living he laboured with his hands in snake-infested paddy fields.

Born in August 1934, **Ranga Rao** (see pic left) was originally from village Prathipadu when floods inflicted a huge financial loss on him and he moved to Pinnelli. It is a small hamlet, near village Pidigurela in Guntur District of Andhra.

At first Ranga Rao was an excellent Carom player. He learned chess only in 1987.

Observing that children were very noisy while playing chess in the villages he developed a knack for quietening noisy children by making them think while playing chess. This attracted the attention of appreciative parents and his career was launched as a chess coach.

In 1989 Ranga Rao started teaching 3-year old Harikrishna the nuances of chess. In just two years, in January 1991, Harikrishna won the Under-8 Andhra State Championship which was a 6-player Round Robin.

The then Andhra State Chess Secretary, Kosaraju Sivaprasad (1948-1997) invited Harikrishna to Vijayawada and the family moved to Vijayawada. Thus, from the villages he moved to Guntur and then on to Vijayawada.

There, Ranga Rao teamed with V.R. Bobba, a well-known coach cum organiser of Vijayawada, working day and night to earn a living. He passed away

From 2010 he is employed by Bharat Petroleum. He now lives in Hyderabad. World rank at 14, Asian rank at 3 and Indian rank at 2 behind V. Anand, Harikrishna is bound to move forward as he is 30 and will be at the peak of his powers for many more years.

There is a lot of chess material on Harikrishna in the book **Indian Chess History** by Manuel Aaron and Vijay D Pandit that is available on sale with Chess Mate for Rs.1050 including home delivery charge in India.

Parsvnath Open, Delhi

Popov Wins Title On Tie-Break

Sayantan Das makes GM Norm

Despite losing his final round game, Ivan Popov (25) of Russia won the 14th Parsvnath International Open that concluded in Delhi this January 15. Popov's last round defeat at the hands of 52-year old Valery Neverov (Ukr) brought Neverov and 40-year old Attila Czebe (Hun) into a tie for first place on 8/10 but they finished third and second on tie-break.

The three sections in this festival brought in a record 1855 players. Next year, the festival would have a prize fund of Rs.51 lakhs and prepare to accommodate 2500 players. Delhi Open is surely progressing to be the number one event in the world in terms of number of players.

FIDE norms were available only in the "A" category of this tournament where participants must have a minimum rating of 2000. International Master Sayantan Das defeated Vitaliy Bernadskiy (Ukr) to make a GM norm after the end of the tenth and final round.

There was intense drama in the final round of this Rs. 12 lakh prize money tournament as overnight sole leader Ivan Popov suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Neverov. Yet, Popov received Rs.300,000 as

his tie-break score helped him claim the title.

Among Indians, M R Lalith Babu scored a fine victory in the last round over Yuri Solodovnichenko of Ukraine to tie for the fourth spot and finish sixth overall. Also figuring in this 7 points bracket were Sayantan Das and Vaibhav Suri who finished seventh and ninth.

The day however belonged to Sayantan who made a Grandmaster norm with a commendable show. Vitaliy Bernadskiy was outdone in the middle game where he lost a couple of pawns without much compensation and slowly but surely Sayantan converted his advantage.

An event is remembered by the number of norms it produces. Sayantan Das made his GM norm as well as finish seventh overall. R A Pradeep Kumar, Himlal Gusain and Mehar Chinna Reddy made International Master norms while Srija Seshadri achieved a Women International Master norm.

In the category "C" event for those rated 1599 and below N. Srihari (9/10) emerged victorious to receive Rs.1 lakhs from a prize pool of Rs 11 lakhs. Category "B" for those

rated between 1600 and 1999 had a prize fund of Rs.11.5 lakhs. Rishabh Nishad of Uttar Pradesh took home the first prize of Rs.1.5 lakhs in this category.

Top placings in “A” category: 1 GM Ivan Popov (Rus) 8 2 GM Attila Czebe (Hun) 8 3 GM Valeriy Neverov (Ukr) 8 4 GM Vitaly Sivuk (Ukr) 7 5 GM Anton Demchenko (Rus) 7 6 GM M.R.Lalith Babu 7 7 IM Sayantan Das 7 8 GM Nguyen Duc Hoa (Vie) 7 9 GM Vaibhav Suri 7 10 GM Mikhail Mozharov (Rus) 7.

O.T. Anilkumar 2070

Boris Grachev 2652

Queen Pawn D02, 09.01.2016

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bf4 c5 4.c3 e6 5.e3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.Bg3 0-0 8.Bd3 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Re1 Bxg3 11.hxg3 h6 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Ne4 14. f4 Nxg3 15.Qg4 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Nc4 Ba6 18.Nd6 Bd3 19.Rad1 Qe7 20.Rd2 f6 21.Qg6 fxe5 22.fxe5 Qh4 23.Red1 a6 24.b4 cxb4 25.cxb4 Ra7 26.Qxe6+ Kh7 27. Qd5 Re7 28.Rxd3 Qf2+ 29. Kh2 exd3 30.Qxd3+ Kh8 31. Qe4 Qe2 32.Rd5 Qh5+ 33.Kg1 Rc7 34.Nc4 Qe2 35.Nd2 Rc1+ 36. Kh2 Qh5 37.Kg3 Rh1 38. Nf3



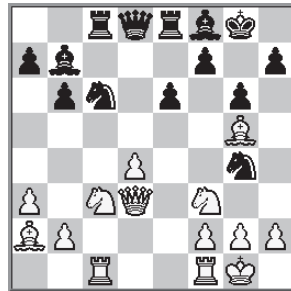
38...Rxf3+! 0-1.

Sankalp Gupta 2068

Alberto David 2597

Queen's Gambit D42, 09.01.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5.d4 Nf6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6 8.Nc3 Qd8 9.0-0 Be7 10.a3 0-0 11.Bg5 b6 12.Rc1 Bb7 13.Bb1 Rc8 14.Qd3 g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16. Ba2 Ng4 17.Be3 Bf8 18.Bg5



18...Nce5 (The complications that black tries to infuse only helps the opponent.) 19.Nxe5 Nxe5 20.Qe3 f6 21. Bf6 Qf6 22.dxe5 Qh4 23. Qg3 Qh5 24.Rcd1 Rc5 25. Rfe1 Bg7 26.f4 Bf8 27.Rd7 Bc6 28. Ra7 Kh8 29.b4 Rd8 30.Bxe6 Rd2 31.Bh3 Rc4 32. e6 Bc5+ 33.bxc5 Qxc5+ 34. Qe3 1-0.

Anton Demchenko 2596

Jitendra Kr Choudhary 2066

Nimzovich Def B00, 09.01.2016

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nbd2 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Re1 h6 10.a3 0-0 11.b4 Re8 12.Bb2 d5 13.e5 Nfd7 14.Nf1 a6 15.N3d2 Nf8 16.Qh5 Nbd7 17.Re3 f5 18.f4 a5 19.Rg3 Bh4 20.Rh3 Be7 21.b5 Nc5 22.dxc5 bxc5 23.Nf3 c4 24.Be2 Qb6+ 25.Bd4 Bc5 26.Rd1 Qxb5 27.g4 Re7

28.Ne3 g6 29.Qh4 Rae8 30.Qf2 Rh7 31.gxf5 gxf5 32.Rg3+ Kh8



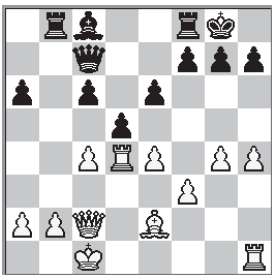
33.Nxf5 Bxd4 34.N3xd4 Qb6 35.Nd6 Ree7 36.f5 Nd7 37.fxe6 Rxe6 38.Nf7+ Rxf7 39.Qxf7 1-0.

Ameya Audi 2061

Yuri Solodovnichenko 2581

Sicilian Scheveningen B80, 09.01.16

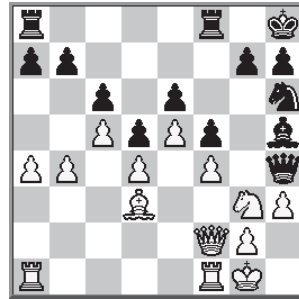
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 a6 6.Be3 Nc6 7.f3 e6 8.Qd2 Be7 9.g4 Nd7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.h4 Nde5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Be2 d5 14.Na4 Rb8 15.Nc5 Nd7 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.c4 Qc7 18.Qc2 Bf6 19.Bd4 Bxd4 20.Rxd4



20...c5 (The experienced players takes the risk, complicates the game and also wins.) 21.cxd5 Rxb2 22.Kxb2 Qb8+ 23.Qb3 Qe5 24.Rhd1 cxd4 25.Qd3 exd5 26.Qxd4 Qh2 27.Rd2 dxe4 28.Bc4 Qb8+ 29.Kc2 exf3 30.Rf2 Be6 31.Rxf3 Bxc4 32.Qxc4 Rc8 0-1.

Vitaly Sivuk 2566
Suvradepta Das 2060
Dutch A84, 09.01.2016

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.Nf3 c6 5.Bf4 d5 6.e3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 Ne4 9.Qc2 Qe7 10.Ne2 Bd7 11.c5 Bxf4 12.exf4 Be8 13.Ne5 Nd7 14.b4 Nef6 15.a4 Nxe5 16.fxe5 Ng4 17.h3 Nh6 18.f4 Bh5 19.Ng3 Qh4 20.Qf2 Kh8



White pushes on the queen side and black responds on the king side. White's pawns prove deadly. 21.b5 g5 22.fxg5 Qxg5 23.Qf4 Rg8 24.Qxg5 Rxg5 25.Nxh5 Rxh5 26.a5 cxb5 27.Bxb5 Rg8 28.Bd7 Rxh3 29.Bxe6 Rg7 30.a6 Rh4 31.axb7 Rxb7 32.Bxd5 Rb8 33.c6 Rxd4 34.Be6 1-0.

In the next game, the top seed uses his passed queen pawn to win an exchange against the National Sub-Junior champion:

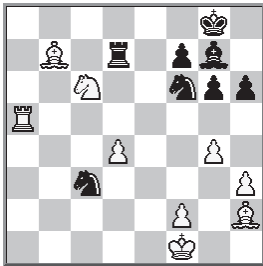
Boris Grachev 2652

P Iniyam 2275

Queen Pawn A48, 10.01.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.h3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Bh2 c5 9.c3 Nbd7 10.a4 Bc6 11.c4 cxd4 12.exd4 d5 13.Nc3 Bb7 14.a5 Ne4 15.Nxd5 Bxd5 16.cxd5 bxa5 17.Bb5 Ndf6 18.Bc6 Rc8

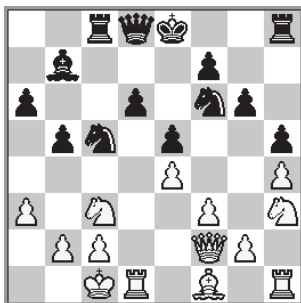
19.Qa4 Qb6 20.Qa5 Qxb2 21.
Qa7 Nc3 22.Qe7 Nfd5 23.Qb7
Qxb7 24.Bxb7 Rcd8 25.Rae1
Rfe8 26.Rxe8+ Rxe8 27.Ra1
Nb4 28.Kf1 h6 29.Ra3 Nbd5
30.Ra5 Rd8 31.Rc5 Bf8 32. Rc4
Ne4 33.g4 Rd7 34.Bc6 Rd8
35.Kg2 Bg7 36.Bb7 Nb6 37. Rc1
Nd5 38.Rc4 Nb6 39.Rc6 Nd5
40.Ra6 Ndc3 41.Ra5 Nf6 42.Kf1
Nfd5 43.Ne5 Nf6 44.Nc6 Rd7



45.Bc8! Rd5 46.Ne7+ Kh7
47.Nxd5 Nfxd5 48.Bb7 Bxd4
49.Rxd5 Nxd5 50.Bxd5 Kg7
51.Ke2 f5 52.gxf5 gxf5 53.Bf4
Kg6 54.Kf3 Bf6 55.Bc6 Bd4
56.Be8+ Kg7 57.Be3 Be5
58.Ke2 1-0.

N Lokesh 2255-Vitaly Sivuk 2566
Modern B06, 10.01.2016

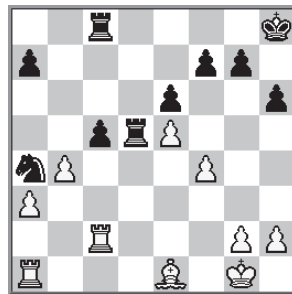
1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6
4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Bb7
7.a3 Nd7 8.h4 h5 9.Nh3 c5 10.
dc5 Nc5 11.Bd4 Bd4 12. Qxd4
e5 13.Qf2 Nf6 14.0-0-0 Rc8



15.Bxb5+?! axb5 16.Nxb5
d5 17.exd5 Qb6 18.Qe3 0-0
19.Qxe5 Ncd7 20.Qe2 Rfe8
21.Qd3 Nc5 22.Qc4 Nxd5
23.Ng5 Ne6 24.Qb3 Nxc5
25.hxc5 Re2 26.c3 Rxc2
27.Rhe1 Rxc5 0-1.

Mikhail Mozharov 2559
Aniruddha Deshpande 2257
Slav Defence D12, 10.01.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6
4.e3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Be2 h6
7.Bd3 Bd3 8.Qd3 Bd6 9.0-0
Nbd7 10.e4 de4 11. Ne4 Ne4
12.Qe4 0-0 13. Rd1 Qe7
14.Bd2 Rab8 15.a3 Nf6
16.Qe2 b5 17.Ne5 Rfc8 18.
Qf3 Be5 19.de5 Nd7 20. Qg3
Kh8 21.cb5 Rb5 22. Bc3 Nb6
23.b4 Rd5 24.Be1 c5 25.Rdc1
Qg5 26.f4 Qf5 27. Qf2 Na4
28.Qc2 Qxc2 29. Rc2



29...g5? [The key mistake.
29...c4 keeps the game with
chances of equality for black.]
30.fg5 hg5 31.Rac1 a6 32.h3
Re5 33.Bf2 Kh7 34.bc5 Rc6
35.Rb1 Rcc5 36.Bc5 Nc5
37.Rb6 Re1+ 38.Kh2 Nd3
39.Ra6 Ra1 40.Rd2 Nf4 41.a4
Nd5 42.g3 Ne3 43.Re2 Ra3
44.Rf2 Kg6 45.Ra8 g4 46.a5
gh3 47. Kh3 Nf5 48.Kh2 Nd6
49.a6 Kg7 50.Rb2 e5 51.a7 e4
52.Rd8 Nc4 53.Rb7 Ne5
54.a8Q 1-0

Dhulipalla Bala Chandra Prasad
 2248 Vladimir Belous 2557
 Queen Pawn A48, 10.01.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7
 4.Nf3 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Be2 c5
 7.c3 b6 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Nbd2
 Nbd7 10.a4 a6 11.Bh2 Qc7
 12.Bd3 Rfe8 13.Qe2 e5
 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.Rfd1 Qc6
 16.e4 Re7 17.Nc4 Qc7 18.Bc2
 Rb8 19.Nd6 Ne8 20.Nxb7
 Qxb7 21.Bb3 Nef6 22.Bc4 b5
 23.axb5 axb5 24.Bd5 Nxd5
 25.Rxd5 f6 26.b4 Nb6 27.Rd6
 Nc4 28.Rd5 Nb6 29.Rd6

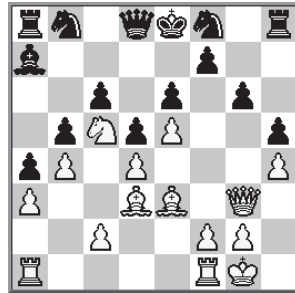


29...Na4 Black turns down a draw by repetition and goes on to lose the game! 30.bxc5 Nxc3 31.Qd3 Na4 32.c6 Qc7 33.Rd1 Rf7 34.Qb3 Kh8 35.Rd7 Rxd7 36.cxd7 Nc5 37.Qf7 Qd8 38.Qd5 Na4 39.Bxe5!! fxe5 40.Ng5 Nc3 41.Nf7+ Kg8 42.Nh6+ Kh8 43.Nf7+ Kg8 44.Nxd8+ Nxd5 45.Nc6 Ra8 46.Rxd5 Bf6 47.d8Q+ Bxd8 48.Rxd8+ Rxd8 49.Nxd8 b4 50.Nc6 b3 51.Ne7+ 1-0.

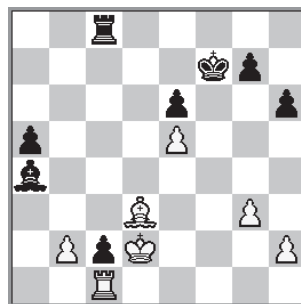
Ivan Popov 2650
Teja S Ravi 2385
 Caro-Kann B11, 10.01.2016

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Bg4
 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 Nf6 6.d3 e6
 7.Bd2 Bb4 8.a3 Ba5 9.e5 Nfd7
 10.Qg3 g6 11.d4 Bb6 12.Be3 a6

13.h4 h5 14.Na4 Ba7 15.b4 a5
 16.Bd3 Nf8 17.0-0 b5 18.Nc5 a4



19.Nb7 White relocates the knight to a better central square, thereby squeezing black further.. 19...Qd7 20.Nd6+ Kd8 21.Bg5+ Kc7 22.Bf6 Rh7 23.c3 Na6 24.Qg5 Kb6 25.Be7 Nc7 26.Rae1 Rg7 27.Qf6 Rh7 28.Bxf8 Rxf8 29.Bxg6 Rhh8 30.Bd3 Bb8 31.Re3 Na8 32.Rg3 Bd6 33.ed6 Qd6 34.Rg7 Qd7 35.Bg6 Nc7 36.Rf7 Rf7 37.Qxh8 Rg7 38.Qxh5 Qd8 39. Bd3 Qg8 40.Qf3 Ne8 41.Re1 Nf6 42.h5 Nxh5 43.Qxh5 Rxd2+ 44. Kf1 e5 45.Qxe5 Qg4 46.Qb8+ 1-0.



Rakesh Kulkarni 2349
Mikhail Mozharov 2559

White found that the obvious recapture was losing and played with remarkable caution to draw with precise play.

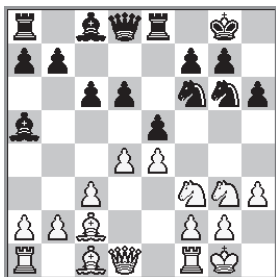
42.Rf1+! [42.Bxc2 Bxc2
43.Rxc2 Rxc2+ 44.Kxc2 Kg6
45.Kb3 Kf5 46.Ka4 Kxe5 47.
Kxa5 Kd4 48.b4 e5 49.b5 e4 50.
b6 e3 51.b7 e2 52.b8Q e1Q+–+]
42...Ke7 43.Kc1 Rc5 44.Re1
Rd5 45.Re3 Rc5 46.Bg6 Be8
47.Bd3 Bh5 48.h3 Bd1 49.
Bg6 Kd7 50.g4 Kc6 51.Be4+
Kd7 52.Bg6 Ke7 53.Re1 Kd8
54.Re3 Kc7 55.Bf7 Kd7 56.
Bg6 Ke7 57.Re1 Rb5 58.Re3
Kd7 59.Rd3+ Ke7 ½–½.

Ivan Popov 2650

Anton Demchenko 2596

Four Knights C49, 12.01.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3
Nf6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.0–0 0–0 6.d3
d6 7.Ne2 Ne7 8.c3 Ba5 9.Ng3
c6 10. Ba4 Ng6 11.d4 Re8
12.Bc2 h6 13.h3



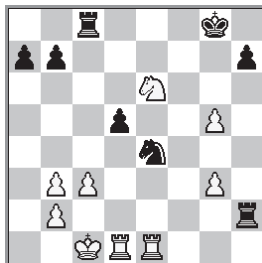
13...d5? 14.Nxe5 Nxe5
15.dxe5 Nxe4 16.Nxe4 dxe4
17.Bf4 Bf5 18.Re1 Bc7 19.Bxe4
Bxe5 20.Bxc6± Qxd1 21.Raxd1
bxc6 22.Bxe5 f6 23.Bd4 a5 24.
Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Be3 a4 26.Rd4
Ra8 27.Rc4 Ra6 28.a3 Bc2 29.f3
Bb3 30.Rc5 Kf7 31.Kf2 Be6 32.
c4 Ke7 33.Bd2 Bf7 34.Ke3 Kd7
35.Bb4 Ra8 36.Kd4 Bg6 37.Kc3
Kc7 38.Ra5 Rxa5 39.Bxa5+ Kd6
40.Bb4+ c5 41.Ba5 h5 42.h4
Bb1 43.Bb6 Ba2 44.b4 cxb4+
45.axb4 a3 46.Bc5+ Kc6 47.Kd4
Bb1 48.b5+ Kb7 49.Bxa3 1–0.

Sayantan Das 2411

Adam Tukhaev 2556

Sicilian B32, 12.01.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Qb6 5.Nb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 e6
7.Qe2 Bb4 8.Bd2 0–0 9.0–0 d5
10.e5 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Ne4 12.Bd4
Nxd4 13.Nxd4 f6 14.exf6 Rxf6
15.f3 Nc5 16.g3 Bd7 17.Bg2 Rc8
18.f4 Be8 19.Qe3 Bg6 20.Rhe1
Be4 21.Bxe4 Nxe4 22.Qb3
Qxb3 23.axb3 g5 24.fxg5 Rf2
25.c3 Rxh2 26.Nxe6



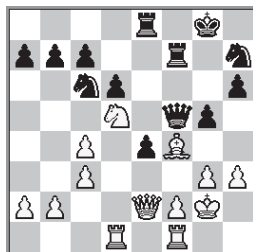
26...Nc3 27.bc3 Rc3+ 28.Kb1
Rxb3 29.Kc1 Rc3 30. Kb1 Rb3+
31.Kc1 Ra3 32.Kb1 Rb3+ ½–½.

Attila Czebe 2466

Ivan Popov 2650

English Opening A29, 12.01.2016

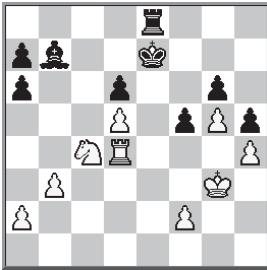
1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nc6
4.g3 Bb4 5.Bg2 0–0 6.0–0 d6
7.Ne1 h6 8.Nc2 Bxc3 9.dxc3
Nh7 10.e4 f5 11.exf5 Bxf5
12.Ne3 Be6 13.Nd5 Qd7 14.Be3
Rf7 15.Qd2 Bh3 16.Rad1 Bxg2
17.Kxg2 e4 18.Qe2 Qf5 19.Bf4
Re8 20.h3 g5



21.g4?? gxf4! 0-1. (22.gxf5 f3 and the pawn wins the white queen.)

Boris Grachev 2652
K Rathnakaran 2457
 Torre A46, 12.01.2016

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 g6
 4.dxc5 Na6 5.Bxa6 bxa6
 6.Nc3 Bb7 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Re1
 Qc7 9.e4 Qxc5 10.Be3 Qc7
 11.Bd4 0-0 12.Nd5 Nxd5
 13.exd5 Bxd4 14.Qxd4 e6
 15.c4 Rac8 16.b3 exd5
 17.cxd5 Qc5 18.Rad1 Qxd4
 19.Rxd4 Rfe8 20.Rxe8+ Rxe8
 21.h4 Kg7 22.g4 h6 23.Kg2 f5
 24.g5 h5 25.Kg3 Kf8 26.Nd2
 d6 27.Nc4 Ke7



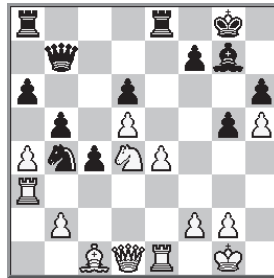
Pawns on two flanks usually offer a bishop a slight edge versus the knight. The top seed, having the knight spots his initiative based on the weak g6 pawn of black and heads his knight towards that f4 square. 28.Ne3! Kd7 29.Ng2 Ke7 30.Nf4 Kf7 31.Rc4 Re7 32.b4 Kg7 33.f3 Kf7 34.a3 Kg7 35.Ne6+ Kg8 36.Nf4 Kg7 37.Kf2 Kf7 38.Rc3 Kg7 39.Rc2 Kf7 40.Rc1 Kg7 41.a4 Kf7 42.Rc2 Kg7 43.Rc3 Kf7 44.Rc1 Kg7 45.b5 axb5 46.axb5 Kf7 47.Rc2 Kg7 48.Rc3 Kf7 49.Rc1 Kg7 50.Rb1 Kf7 51.b6 axb6 52.

Rxb6 Rd7 53.Ke3 Re7+ 54.Kd3 Rd7 55.Kd4 Bc8 56.Rb8 Rc7 57.Ra8 Rc1 58.Ra7+ Ke8 59.Nxg6 Rd1+ 60.Ke3 Rxd5 61.Nf4 Re5+ 62.Kd4 Re7 63.Ra8 Kd7 64.Nd5 Re1 65.Nb6+ Kc7 66.Nxc8 Kb7 67. Ra7+ 1-0.

Adam Tukhaev 2556
Sriram Jha 2416

Ruy Lopez C77 12.01.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6
 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 g6 7.0-0
 Bg7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Re1 b5 10.
 Bb3 Na5 11.Bc2 c5 12.Nf1 Nc6
 13.a4 Bb7 14.Ne3 Re8 15.Bb3
 Qc7 16.Nd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Ne7
 18.Bxb7 Qxb7 19.h4 h6 20.h5
 g5 21.d4 exd4 22.cxd4 Nc6
 23.d5 Nb4 24.Ra3 c4 25.Nd4



25...Bxd4 26.Qxd4 Nc2
 27.Qf6 Qe7 28.Qxh6 Nxa3
 29.bxa3 f6 30.Bb2 Qg7 31.Qxf6
 Qxf6 32.Bxf6 g4 33.a5 Kh7
 34.Kh2 Rf8 35.Bd4 Rac8 36.e5
 dxe5 37.Rxe5 Rfe8 38.Rf5 c3
 39.Kg3 c2 40.Bb2 c1Q 41.Bxc1
 Rxc1 42.Rf6 Rc3+ 43.Kxg4
 Rxa3 44.Rxa6 b4 45.d6 b3
 46.Rb6 Rxa5 47.Rxb3 Rg8+
 48.Kf3 Rxh5 49.Rd3 Kg6 50.g3
 Kf6 51.Rd4 Ke5 52.Re4+ Kxd6
 53.g4 Re5 54.Ra4 Ke6 55.Kg3
 Kf6 56.Kf4 Re6 57.Ra5 Rf8
 58.Kg3 Kg6 59.Ra3 Re1 60.f3
 Rf6 61.Rb3 Rfe6 0-1

Vaibhav Suri 2552
Sayantan Das 2411
 Slav D10, 12.01.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6
 4.e3 a6 5.Nf3 Bf5 6.Ne5 dxc4
 7.Bxc4 e6 8.g4 Be4 9.f3 Bd5
 10.Be2 c5 11.g5 Nfd7 12.Nxd5
 Nxe5 13.Nc3 cxd4 14.exd4 Ng6
 15.d5 Nd7 16.0-0 Bc5+ 17.Kh1
 0-0 18.f4 e5 19.f5 Nf4 20.Ne4
 Nxe2 21.Qxe2 Bd4 22.Be3 Re8
 23.d6 Qb6 24.Rae1 Qc6 25.Qg2
 Rad8 26.g6 fxg6 27.fxg6 h6
 28.Rc1 Qd5 29.Rc7 Qe6

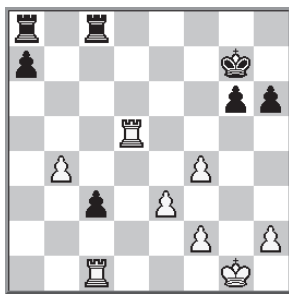


30.Bxh6 [Δ30.Bg5 hxg5
 31.Nxg5 Qxg6 32.Qd5+ Kh8
 33.Qg2 Qd3 34.Rf3 Qd1+ 35.Rf1
 Qh5 36.Nf7+ Kg8 37.Qd5 Kh7
 38.Qe4+ Kg8 39.Qd5=] 30...Rf8
 31.Bg5 Qxg6 32.Re1 Nf6
 33.Nxf6+ gxf6 34.Qd5+ Kh8
 35.Bh4 Rg8 36.Bg3 Qh5 37.Kg2
 Qg6 38.Re4 Qh5 39.Qe6 Rg6
 40.Qe7 [40.Rc8+-] 40...Rdg8
 41.d7 Qg5 42.d8Q?? Vaibhav
 Suri walks to a mating trap and
 Sayantan Das does not miss the
 tough mate in five in a crucial
 game. White had missed a win:
 42.Rxd4! exd4 43.Rc8 Qd2+
 44.Kg1 Qd1+ 45.Kf2 Qd2+ 46.Qe2
 Qa5 47.Qe4 Rg5 48.Bf4 R5g7
 49.Re8 Qxa2 50. Qxd4 Rg2+
 51.Kf3+-] 42...Qd2+ 43.Kf1
 Qd1+ 44.Kg2 Qg1+ 45.Kh3 Qf1+
 46.Kh4 Rh6# 0-1.

Teja S Ravi 2385

Vitaliy Bernadskiy 2546
 Dutch Defence A80, 12.01.2016

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 g6
 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 Ne4
 7.Bb2 c5 8.Nbd2 Nc6 9.e3 d5
 10.c4 e6 11.a3 b6 12.Qc2 Bb7
 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.Bxg7 Kxg7
 15.b4 cxb4 16.axb4 dxc4 17.
 Nxe4 fxe4 18.Qxe4 Qd5
 19.Qxd5 exd5 20.Ng5 Nd8
 21. Rfd1 h6 22.Nh3 Ne6 23.
 Bxd5 Bxd5 24.Rxd5 c3 25.
 Rc1 Rfc8 26.Nf4 Nxf4 27. gf4



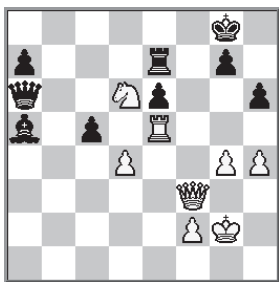
27...Rab8? [27...Rc4! is the
 way to fight for the draw.]
 28.Rc5 Rxc5!+- 29.bxc5 Kf7
 30.c6 Rc8 31.Rxc3 Rc7
 32.Rb3 Ke6 33.Rb7 Rxc6
 34.Rxa7 Kf5 35.Kg2 Kf6
 36.h4 h5 37.e4 Rc4 38.f3
 Rc2+ 39.Kg3 Rc1 40.e5+ Ke6
 41.Rg7 Kd5 42.Rd7+ Ke6
 43.Rd6+ Ke7 44.Rf6 Ra1
 45.Kh3 Rh1+ 46.Kg3 Kd7
 47.f5 gxf5 48.Rxf5 Ke6
 49.Rxh5 Ra1 50.Rg5 Kd5 1-0.

R.A. Pradeep,Kumar 2302
Ernst Sipke 2536
 Slav Defence D11, 12.01.2016

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2
 Bg4 4.c4 e6 5.0-0 Nd7 6.d4
 Ngf6 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 0-0
 9.Nc3 Qb6 10.Nd2 Rad8
 11.Qc2 Bf5 12.e4 dxe4

13.Ncxe4 Bb4 14.c5 Qa6
 15.Nc4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 Bxe4
 17.Qxe4 Nf6 18.Qc2 Nd5 19.
 Bc1 Bc3 20.Bb2 Ba5 21.a4
 Ne7 22.b4 Bxb4 23.a5 Nd5
 24.Rfb1 Bc3 25.Nd6 Bxa5 26.
 Bc1 b6 27.Rb2 Ne7 28.Bg5
 Rd7 29.Bxe7 Rxe7 30.Qe4 f5
 31.Qf3 h6 32.h4 Kh8 33.Re2
 Rf6 34.Re5 Kg8 35.Kg2 Kh8
 36.Ra3 Kg8 37.Qxc6 f4 38.g4
 f3+ 39.Rxf3 Rxf3 40.Qxf3

White attacks and the black
 queen and bishop are
 spectating the destruction.
 40...bxc5



41.Rxe6 [More forceful
 was: 41.Qa8+ Kh7 42.Qe4+
 Kg8 43.Rxe6 Qxd6 44.Rxe7
 cxd4 45.Qa8+ Kh7 46.Re8 Bc7
 47.f4 Qxf4 48.Rh8+ Kg6
 49.Qe8+ Qf7 50.Qc6+ Qf6
 51.Qe4+ Kf7 52.Qe8#]
 41...Rxe6 42.Qf7+ Kh7
 43.Qxe6 cxd4 44.Qe4+ Kg8
 45.Qd5+ Kh8 46.h5 Kh7
 47.Qe4+ Kg8 48.Qa8+ Kh7
 49.Nf7 Bd8 50.Qe4+ 1-0

I Popov 2650-Vitaly Sivuk 2566
 Scotch Game C45, 13.01.2016

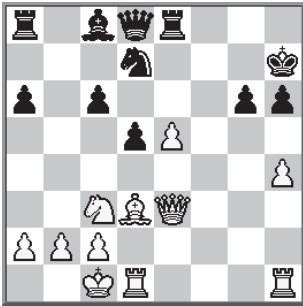
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4
 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3 Bb4+ 6.c3
 Be7 7.Bf4 d6 8.Be2 Bg5 9.Bg3
 Bh4 10.N1d2 Bxg3 11.hxg3 Nf6
 12.f4 Qe7 13.Bf3 g5 14.Qc2 Ng4
 15.Qd3 gxf4 16.gxf4 Bd7

17.Nd4 h5 18.Nxc6 bxc6
 19.0-0-0 Rh6 20.Qe2 Kf8 21.g3
 d5 22.e5 f6 23.Bxg4! Bxg4
 24.Qxg4 hxg4 25.Rxh6 The a8
 rook or the queen falls for the
 rook. 25...fxe5 26.Rh8+ Kg7
 27.Rxa8 exf4 28.gxf4 g3 29.Rg1
 Qe3 30.Rg2 c5 31.Rc8 Qxf4
 32.Re8 1-0

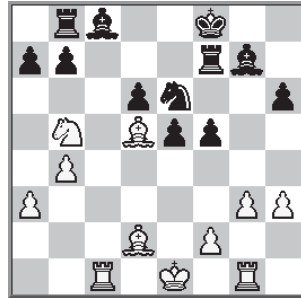
Chennai Rains - Free PDF Copies

Chess Mate would give free
 PDF copies to those who lost
 the magazine copies (recent
 ones) in the monsoon rains and
 floods that ravaged Chennai in
 Nov 16-17 and Dec 1-2. Watson
 Solomon (subscriber at
 Mudichur), vacated his house
 along with wife and FIDE
 rated son Andrew Veda
 (Loyola College student) after
 water rose sharply by 4 ft in
 one hour in the late evening of
 Nov 30. With Chess Mate Nov
 2015 issue in hand, Watson
 watched water completely sub-
 merge his house from his
 neighbour's first floor. The
 first floor also did not look safe
 either since lot of water was be-
 ing released from all small
 lakes and the huge Chemb-
 arambakkam lake and the
 nearby Adyar River. Relief
 came when rains stopped on
 Dec 1 morning and army boats
 took them to East Tambaram.
 D.V. Sundar, FIDE Vice Presi-
 dent, and his family escaped
 from his flooded house in south
 Chennai by boat to Kelam-
 bakkam. Almost everyone
 knew more than one person
 who was affected by this.

Chess Magic



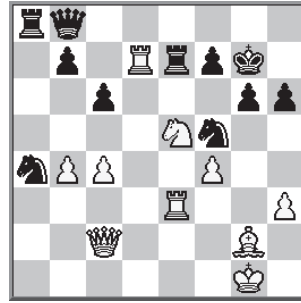
1 **I Popov**-S Kundu



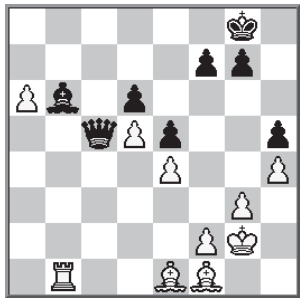
4 **LalithBabu**-PraneethSurya



2 Pratik Patil-**I Popov**



5 **A Czebe**-Teja S Ravi



3 **Yuri Solodovnichenko**- P ShyaamNikil



6. **Vaibhav Suri** -Himanshu Sharma

Player name in **bold** to move.
Source: Parsvnath, Delhi 2016

Selections by Arvind Aaron
Solutions on page 33

National Premier in Tiruvarur, TN

Karthikeyan Murali: New National Champion

By Arvind Aaron

After the 12th and penultimate round of the 53rd National Premier Championship in Tiruvarur, only Karthikeyan Murali (8½ points), Vidit Gujarathai (8 points) and defending champion S.P.Sethuraman (7½ points), had chances of winning the title. A low scoring nervous final round saw the hearts of these three young grandmasters, and their fans across the country, fluttering and pounding.

First, defending champion S.P.Sethuraman (22) of Chennai drew with P.Karthikeyan and dashed his own chances of retaining the title. Unbelievably, Vidit Gujrathi (21) of Nashik drew an apparently slightly better ending against Shyam Sundar. He probably could not imagine

that Karthikeyan Murali who had scored 8½ points in the last 10 games could be beaten by his last round opponent Arghyadip Das. With this unfortunate draw he could, at best, tie for first place. Meanwhile...

Against all expectations, Karthikeyan Murali played a poor middle-game against Arghyadip Das and reached a pawn-down rook ending. With the other two key games already over, Karthikeyan was assured of winning the title even if he lost this game as his tie-break score was excellent as he had beaten Vidit in their individual encounter which was the first tie-break mode. Karthikeyan Murali lost to Arghyadip but won the title.

Karthikeyan Murali received the trophy and the

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Rs.250,000 first prize for his top class performance. He also got more than 20 Elo points. Born 5 January 1999 this player from north Chennai becomes a young achiever of a very high order.

Only one norm was made in this championship when K.Praneeth Surya of Telegana achieved an IM norm. This untitled 18-year old was a surprise qualifier to the Premier when many IMs and GMs had failed. Now he has distinguished himself by finishing 6th among 14 in the Premier.

It is a good sign for Indian chess that youngsters, particularly teenage Grandmasters, are winning National senior championships. Karthikeyan did not have a good start. He lost his first two games in this 14-player all-play-all and his fans and supporters lost hope. Meanwhile the experienced Maharashtra youngster, Vidit Santosh Gujarathi, took the lead and appeared well set to

take the title. Then, in a stupendous effort in the next ten games, Karthikeyan Murali defeated seven opponents, including Vidit Gujarathi, and drew three to take a half point lead with only the last round left. He lost the last round but won the title on better tie-break. The tie-break was simple: individual encounter!

Karthikeyan started his career with the Bloom Chess Academy under M.A.Velayudham. He is presently working with K Visweswaran. Karthikeyan Murali's extraordinary talent has already won two World championships, the Under-12 at Caldas Novas, Brazil in 2011 and the Under-16 at Al-Ain, UAE, in 2013. He is bound to go far, very far.

Karthikeyan Murali was the mainstay of India's Youth Olympiad teams which won gold medals at Chongqing, China, in 2013 and at Gyor, Hungary, in 2014. His father

Our Teenaged Champions

By Manuel Aaron

Dibyendu Barua was the first Indian to win the senior national championship while still in his teens. A child prodigy, he was 17 when he won the National Championship in 1983 at Agartala. Barua's record did not last long. Three others won this title when they were 17, V.Anand at Tumkur in 1987, B Adhiban at Mumbai in 2009 and Parimarjan Negi at Delhi in 2010. In 1999, Krishnan Sasikiran won the National Championship at Nagpur at the age of 18.

However unknown G.Akash of Chennai broke these records when he won at Kolkata in 2012 at the still lower age of 16. Now Karthikeyan Murali has won this title at age 16 too at Tiruvarur. It is quite possible that in the future our players may win this title at still younger ages!

Murali is an Engineer with the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Karthikeyan is a hard working youngster who does not believe in short cuts to success. This is probably the greatest ever achievement by any teenager in the National Premier.

Vidit Gujrathi (21) was pipped at the post. He was in the lead for most of the event. He was a little unlucky to finish second. He held the upper-hand in the last two games of this championship but drew both. Defending champion Sethuraman finished third after running into a lean $1\frac{1}{2}/5$ in the middle of the tournament.

Rating movements were not heavy. P.Karthikeyan (+21.2), Karthikeyan Murali (+20.2), Praneeth Surya (+16.4) and Arghyadip Das (+13.3) were the top four gainers. The losers were: Deep Sengupta (-25.5), M.R. Venkatesh (-13.1) and Sethuraman (-12.2).

Cash prizes totalling INR 10,00,000 were distributed by Rajesh Saxena, Chief Manager (HR), ONGC at the Kasi's Inn, Tiruvarur where this Championship was held. This event was organised by R.K. Balagunashekaran, Secretary, Tiruvarur District Chess Association and Joint Secretary of the TN State Chess Association. Prof R Anantharam, Sivakasi, TN, was the Chief Arbiter and he was assisted by V Hariharan and N.K.Nandakumar.

Final placings (tie-break order): 1-2. GM Karthikeyan

Murali (TN), GM Vidit Gujrathi (PSPB) $8\frac{1}{2}/13$; 3 GM S.P. Sethuraman (PSPB) 8; 4 IM P Karthikeyan (Rly) $7\frac{1}{2}$; 5 IM Arghyadip Das (Rly) 7; 6-8. IM K Rathnakaran (Rly), FM K Praneeth Surya (Tel), GM M Shyam Sundar (AAI) $6\frac{1}{2}$ each; 9-10. GM Abhijit Kunte (PSPB), GM Neelotpal Das (PSPB) 6 each; 11-12. GM Deep Sengupta (PSPB), IM Swapnil Dhopade (Rly) $5\frac{1}{2}$ each; 13-14. IM P Shyaam Nikil (TN), GM M.R. Venkatesh (PSPB) $4\frac{1}{2}$ each.

Curtain Raiser

The Cholamandalam Tournament: One week before the National Premier began, the Tiruvarur District Chess Association organised the Cholamandalam Chess tournaments for local children on November 7 as a kind of a curtain raiser for the National Premier. That was the precise day on which the North East monsoon launched its deadly assault on coastal Tamil Nadu causing untold misery and made headlines all over the world. We know from previous instances that no amount of rain could turn chess players away from a tournament. Sure enough, despite torrential rains, 110 children turned up for the tournament! (Cholamandalam is the region where the Chola dynasty ruled during the 9th to 13th centuries. It encompasses the current Tamil Nadu districts of Trichy, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Cuddalore, Perambalur, Nagapattinam and Ariyalur.)

All India FIDE-Rated Open

The first FIDE Rated Open was held over five days from 16th



R.K. Balagunashekar was the man behind the entire festival at Tiruvarur.

November. This Tournament attracted 132 entries from 5 States including 73 rated players and top seed IM R Balasubramanian.

The Chairman of the Tiruvarur Municipality, V. Ravichandran, inaugurated the event on 16th November in the presence of V.Hariharan, Gen. Secretary, AICF & TNSCA. The function was presided over by Arun Natarajan, of Arun Hotels, Tiruvarur.

Surprisingly in the 3rd round, the top two seeds IM Ramanathan Balasubramanian and Ram S Krishnan were defeated by low rated opponents. At the end of the 6th round Tamil Nadu's S.Prasanna and P Bala Kannamma took the lead scoring 6 out of 6. In the 7th round Bala Kannamma beat Prasanna to take sole lead, and thereafter there was no stopping her! She won in style scoring 9 points out of 9 rounds. Females winning 'Open' tournaments is a rarity. But this is the

second time that Bala Kannamma is winning an Open! She had won the SPIC FIDE-Rated (below 2000) Open in Tuticorin in 2013.

The top final standings: 1 P.Bala Kannamma 9; 2-3 O.T.Anil Kumar (K1), Ram S Krishnan 7½; 4-5 S.Kumar, M.S.Dharani Kumar 7; 6-8 M.Barath Kalyan, S.Abhinneesh, T.Aravindaswami 6½....

Former two-time National Champion IM T.N.Parameswari gave away the prizes in the presence of V Ravichandran, Chairman, Tiruvarur Municipality and the office bearers of Tiruvarur District Chess Association. There were 90 prizes in a pool of Rs 2,00,000. The Chief Arbiter was P.Palaniappan.

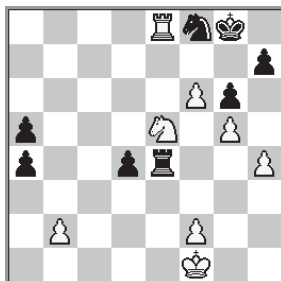
Karthikeyan Murali 2498
K Rathnakaran 2447

French Defence C04, Tiruvarur

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nc6 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.e5 Nd7 6.Nb3 f6?! 7.Bb5 a5 8.a4 Be7 9.exf6 Bxf6 10.0-0 0-0 [10...Qe7 defending e6 in advance was better.] 11.Re1 Qe7 12.Bf4 Ndb8 13.Qd2 b6 14.Qc3 Bb7 15.Re2 Rc8 White has a tremendous advantage with all of his pieces aggressively deployed. **16.Rae1± Nd8 17.Qe3 Nd7 18.g4** [The exuberance of youth! White goes all out for the attack. More cautious would be: 18.Ng5! or 18 c3 would have been stronger.] **18...g6 19.h4?!** [19.Bg5 exchanging off the dark square bishops would make the attack against the castled king even stronger.] **19...Nf8 20.g5 Bg7 21.Nh2?!** [This lets go his advantage and allows black a lot of counter-play. 21.Be5! removing the Bg7 was strategically good.] **21...c6! 22.Bd3 c5! 23.Bb5 Nf7=** [Black misses a good chance to

gain the advantage: 23...Bc6 24.Bxc6 Nxc6 25.dxc5 bxc5 26.Qxc5 (26.Nxc5 Nd4!-+) 26...Qxc5 27.Nxc5 Nd4 black has a clear advantage.] 24.Ng4 Ba6 25.Bxa6 Rxa6 26.Be5 Nxe5 27.dxe5 Qe8= 28.Qf4 b5 29.Nf6+ Bxf6 30.exf6 bxa4 31.Nd2 Rb6 32.Nf3 Nd7 33.Rd2 Rb4 [or 33...Qf7 34.Qxa4 Rxb2 35.Rde2 Rb6=] 34.Qg3 Qf7 35.c3 Rc4 [If 35...Rb6 36.Qg4 a3 37.bxa3 Re8 38.Qa4 c4 39.Qxa5± Reb8 40.Rxd5 exd5 41.Re7+~] 36.Qd6 Re8 37.Rde2! White has a winning advantage. 37...Rg4+ 38.Kf1 d4 39.cxd4 cxd4

40.Rxe6 Rxe6 41.Qxe6 Qxe6 42.Rxe6 Rf4 43.Re8+ Nf8 44. Ne5! Re4



45.Re7 The threat is 46 Rg7+ Kh8 47 Nf7# 1-0.

Magnus Carlsen Wins Qatar Masters

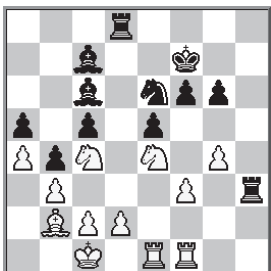


World champion Magnus Carlsen won the Qatar Masters Open beating Aravindh Chithambaram in the second round. Picture is by Katerina Savina from the Qatar Masters Chess website. (Complete report in the next issue) Here is the game:

Vr Aravindh Chithambaram 2486 - Magnus Carlsen

2834, Sicilian B20, Doha, 21.12.2015:

1.e4 c5 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.e6 f6 6.exd7+ Qxd7 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Nc7 9.Bxc6 Qxc6 10.Qf3 Bd7 11.0-0-0 e5 12.Qxc6 Bxc6 13.f3 Ne6 14.Nge2 Be7 15.Rhf1 b5 16.Rde1 Kf7 17.Nd1 a5 18.Ne3 Bd6 19.Nc3 h5 20.a4 b4 21.Ne4 Bc7 22.Nc4 h4 23.g4 hxg3 24.hxg3 Rh3 25.g4 Rd8



← See diagram

26.g5 Bxe4 27.fxg4 Nf4 28.gxf6 Ke6 29.Ne3 g5 30.Nd5 Bd6 31.Rg1 Rg8 32.Rg4 Rh4 33.Rgg1 g4 34.Ne3 g3 35.Nf5 Rhh8 36.f7 Rg6 37.Kd1 g2 0-1.

National Schools, Nagpur

Mah, TN Maintain Dominance

Maharashtra won most of the medals at the 5th National Schools Chess Championship that took place at Naivedhyam Eastoria in Nagpur. The hosts, Maharashtra, won five gold, seven silver and three bronze. Tamil Nadu won four gold, two silver and two bronze. Andhra and Karnataka were next in the number of the medals tally.

At Ponda, Goa last year, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu had won the same number of gold medals at five and four. Being hosts, did not help Maharashtra this time. However, the entries rose from 662 in 2015 to 731 in 2016.

Medals	G S B
Maharashtra	5 7 3
Tamil Nadu	4 2 2
Andhra	1 1 2
Karnataka	1 1 2
Tripura	1 0 0
Telangana	0 1 0
Gujarat	0 0 2
Delhi	0 0 1

G= Gold, S=Silver, B=Bronze.

This 731-player contest was organised by the Nagpur Chess Academy from Jan 5-7, in the central Indian city of Nagpur. The top finishers will represent India in the World Schools Championship from April 30-May 8, 2016. The venue is yet to be announced by FIDE.

Open sections:

U-17: 1-2. Souradip Deb (Tri), Bhaven Jay Shah (Mah) 5½/7; 3-4. Sharang Sanjeev Kapoor (Guj), Ojas Kulkarni (Kar) 5 each...24 players.

U-15: 1 P Shet Prajwal (Kar) 7½/9; 2-4. Yash Dhoke (Mah), SN Jatin (Kar), Om Vinay Vitalkar (Mah) 7 each...74 players.

U-13: 1 Sankalp Gupta (Mah) 8½/9; 2 Erigaisi Arjun (Tel) 8; 3 Akshit Kumar K (AP) 7...108 players.

U-11: 1 D Gukesh (TN) 8/9; 2 Aditya S Samant (Mah) 7½; 3 R Sadhwani (Mah), Aditya Savalkar (Mah), V Pranav (TN), Pranav Anand (Kar) 7 each...110 players

U-9: 1 Dev Shah (Mah) 8/9; 2-3. Thrish Karthik (TN), Mullaick Raahil (Mah) 7½ each...92 players.

U-7: 1 AR Ilamparthi (TN) 8/9; 2 Aarav Lakhani (Mah) 7½; 3-5. Aarav Dengla (Mah), Lakshyesh Mohan Gupta (MP), Wasule Dhruv (Mah) 7 each...71 players.

Girls sections:

U-17: 1 WFM Potluri Supreetha (AP) 5½/7; 2-3 WCM Isha Sharma (Kar), Nutakki Priyanka (AP) 5 each ... 16 players.

U-15: 1 A Harshini (TN) 8/9; 2 Srishti Pandey (Mah) 7½; 3 Rutvi Shah (Guj) 6½ each...36 players

U-13: 1 WCM Mrudul Dehankar (Mah) 7½/9; 2-4. D Jishitha (AP), V Rindhiya (TN), Ananya Rishi Gupta (Mah) 7 each...51 players

U-11: 1 WFM Divya Deshmukh (Mah) 8/9; 2 Bhagyashree Patil (Mah) 7½; 3 S Vijayasubhasri (TN) and others 6½...57 players.

U-9: 1 B Savitha Shri (TN) 8½/9; 2 K Ratnapriya (TN) 8; 3 Prathivya Gupta (Del) 7....55 players

U-7: 1 Sani Deshpande (Mah) 8/9; 2-3. Suhaani Lohia (Mah), AN Shefali (Kar) 7 each...37 players

Obituaries

Former Kerala Secretary Is No More

Lancelot Thomas (1934-2015)

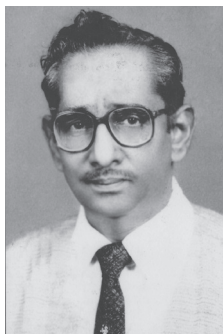
By Manuel Aaron

Prof Lancelot Thomas, born 15 Aug 1934, passed away after a heart attack on 29 Dec 2015 at Palayamkotai.

An associate of K.V.Balaskrishna Menon (1923-2008) Lancelot Thomas was the founder Secretary of the Calicut Chess Association in 1961. From 1962 to 1975 he served as Secretary of the All Kerala Chess Association (AKCA). During 1964 he revised the Constitution of the AKCA and got it registered. He got chess recognised as a 'sport' by the Kerala Government which led to quotas for chess players in school and college admissions and other concessions. He also succeeded in obtaining Government grants-in-aid for sending teams to National Chess Championships. In 1972 he got the AKCA affiliated to the Kerala Sports Council.

Lancelot was married to Victoria who became Principal of the Malabar Christian College where he also worked and retired from at the age of 55. She predeceased him. They had no children. Lancelot spent the last many years of his life in his native place, Palayamkotai (TN).

When he was a Professor in Malabar Christian College there was labour unrest. During those days, workers resorted to 'gherao' their bosses to coerce them into conceding their demands. They will confine them to their rooms,



t a u n t
them, and
not let
them go for
hours to-
gether.
Once Lan-
celot was a
subject of a
gherao.
Unper-
turbed,
Lancelot

calmly took out his pocket chess set from the drawer of his office desk and started analysing a position. Some of the striking men knew chess and joined Lancelot in analysing. After a pleasant time they left him in peace and a friendly good-bye!

His Love Was Not Chess

But Lancelot's love was not Chess, it was music. A childhood music prodigy he became an outstanding concert pianist. His home was like a music studio with many musical gadgets. He founded the Calicut Musical Association.

Lancelot was the younger brother of G.Livingston who was the founder secretary of the Madras District Chess Association (MDCA) and took the trouble to Register it. Lancelot had dreamed of sponsoring a big tournament in memory of Livingston, but it was not to be. We have lost a great man.

V.Srinivasan (1932-2015)

The only time the famous Kasturi Cup tournament was not played in Madras was in 1980. That year it was



held in Pudukkotai thanks to the zeal of chess lover Varadarajan Srinivasan (born 28 March 1932 in Bangalore, died 25 Oct 2015 in Bengaluru).

Srinivasan started his career with the T.V.S. (T.V. Sundram Iyengar & Sons) Company in Madras. He was transferred to Madurai and then on to Pudukkotai and Trichy (Vralimalai).

While at Madurai he and his wife regularly played in the famous Sri Mappillai Vinayagar Chess Tournaments organised by M.A. Kandasamy (1926-1997). He also played in all Madurai District Chess Championships. He was such a chess addict that he played in each and every tournament that was held in Madurai!

His wife Radha Srinivasan is a very good chess player. She won the Tamil Nadu State Women's Championship four times: in 1975 at Madurai, 1978 at Thanjavur, 1979 at Pudukkotai and 1983 at Sivakasi. She finished 5th in the 5th National Women Championship held in 1979 at ICF, Chennai and won by

Rohini Khadilkar. Radha achieved these successes because Srinivasan encouraged her. He stood behind her completely and wholeheartedly.

The Kasturi Cup, was established in 1940 in honour of Kasturi Ranga Iyengar of The Hindu. Unfortunately this event was not regularly held except during the stretch 1958 to 1965. After 1973, it was not held for a number of years. In 1980 Srinivasan was Manager of the TVS Body Building unit in Pudukkotai. He used his connections with The Hindu to take up and very successfully revive the Kasturi Cup at Pudukkotai.

A good organiser, he built relationships to further the development of chess. He founded the Pudukkotai District Chess Association around 1977. He struck up a friendship with A.Senthiappa Nadar, a great philanthropist and proprietor of Gemini Match Industry. Srinivasan was also well acquainted with the Royal family of Pudukkotai, Prince Radha-krishna Tondaiman and his wife Rani Rama Devi, both of whom were active sports persons. When Srinivasan organised the TN State Women and Men Championships in 1979 and the Kasturi Cup in 1980 at Pudukkotai, the royal couple supported him magnanimously by not only providing the venue but also lodging many outstation players in their palace itself.

Both Srinivasan and his wife Radha played in the 1979 State Championships. While Radha Srinivasan won the Women's title, Srinivasan held the winner of the State Championship, S.V.Natarajan, to a draw by perpetual check.

Srinivasan had a magic touch about him in chess organisation, whatever he did, prospered. The Kasturi Cup which he organised in July 1980 was the best ever, it was better than the ones that went before and those that followed. By some strange chance, many of the best players of the country had assembled in Pudukkottai. For example, the three famous Khadilkar sisters who were dominating women's chess were present. So also were the Thipsay brothers, Pravin who later became a grandmaster and his elder brother Abhay who is now a celebrated High Court Judge in Mumbai. Sharad Tilak and other Bombay players were there in full strength. The Indian champion, R.Ravi Sekhar won the event with a score of 8½ in a 9-round Swiss for 66 players. The solitary draw that he conceded was to Hyderabad's Nasiruddin Ghalib (1945-2012) who was AICF Secretary during 1981-85. The second and third places went to Ravi Hegde of Bombay and M.Ramesh of Madras. The present AICF Secretary, V.Hariharan finished ninth!

Later, when Srinivasan moved to Trichy, he became the President of the Trichy Dis-

trict Chess Association and organised quite a few tournaments there. He invited D.V.Venkatraman (father of IM D.V.Prasad) and me to participate in two of them. We enjoyed the hospitality of Srinivasan, playing and winning tournaments in a relaxed atmosphere, watching movies (one day we watched one movie before the game and another movie after the game!) and having a memorable time.

After retirement Srinivasan and his wife lived in Mylapore, Chennai. Here he started playing in Tal Chess Club. P.S.K.Chari, the Whole Time Director of George Oakes Ltd., and one Abbas from Tal Chess Club used to regularly meet at Srinivasan's flat to play chess for about three hours every day. Chari passed away in 2003. Srinivasan's passion for the game was so strong that he was playing chess with Abbas just six days before his death at the age of 83.

Srinivasan leaves behind his wife, daughter, son-in-law, two grandchildren and a rich chess legacy. We have lost a great man who did his best to develop chess wherever he lived.

Rentero Has Passed Away

By Arvind Aaron

Luis Suarez Rentero (83) who founded the famous Linares Tournament in 1978 passed away on Dec 23, 2015. The Linares Tournament was called the Wimbledon of Chess

with the best players competing and the sky high categories reached. Rentero who organised the Shirov v



Kramnik match in 1998 at Cazorla suffered an accident and his activity was reduced.

When Kasparov was promoting Ivanchuk as a future opponent in place of Karpov, it was Rentero who broke that by organising a match between Anand and Ivanchuk which the Indian won at Linares.

In 1998, Rentero believed somebody worthwhile should challenge Kasparov. When the Linares Tournament ended, it became clear that the winner Anand and Kramnik should play a match with the winner to challenge Kasparov. He formed the World Chess Council (WCC) and was ready to host a match. Anand turned down this offer. Rentero replaced Anand with Shirov. At the opening ceremony of this match at Cazorla (a small town, about 40-minute drive from Linares) 1998 as I entered Rentero asked me who would win. I said Shirov. He was very unhappy. He wanted me to say Kramnik. Later, he said, he wanted Kramnik so that Kasparov gets beaten! As it turned out, Shirov won and nobody sponsored the Kasparov v

Shirov Match. Finally, Kramnik played Kasparov in London 2000 and unseated him. So, Kramnik lost to Shirov and qualified to play Kasparov!

No chess player in the post Fischer era who has been in the top can say he had not been or played in Linares. Rentero also added Ubeda as a second venue for open tournaments. Linares is about three and a half hours (train) south of Madrid in the arid Andalusian Region. Yugoslav GM Ljubomir Ljubojevic who played in Linares many years fell in love with a girl from the mining town of Linares and is settled there.

Rentero was the first chess organiser to include the “no draw” clause in player contracts. Players were forbidden from offering draws. In 1994 when I had gone first time to Linares, I saw that the fighting spirit was very high comparing say Wijk aan Zee. Rentero was a FIDE Honorary Member. He was an organiser who set high traditions in organising of elite contests.

Joke: Breakfast attendant asked Kasparov “Habitation?” (Room number?) Kasparov replied, “World Champion.” She replied, “Sorry Karpov I did not recognise you. Angry Kasparov gets her transferred. Rentero transfers her to the Press Room and the story gets bigger!

Rentero’s Hotel Anibal has seen some of the greatest games played in the last four decades.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

FIDE/World/Asian Events www.fide.com

Feb 10-24 Feb FIDE Women's Grand Prix, Tehran, Iran

Mar 10-30 Mar Candidates Tournament, Moscow

Mar 27-08 Apr Asian Team (Men/Women), Abu Dhabi, UAE

Apr 05-15 Apr Asian U-8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Apr 18-28 Apr World Amateur, Halkidiki, Greece

Apr 30-08 May World Schools Chp., (venue not finalised)

May 02-11 May Asian Junior B/G, Delhi

Jul 09-18 Jul Asian Schools, Tehran, Iran

Aug 07-21 Aug World Junior, Bhubaneswar

Sep 01-15 Sep World Youth U-14, 16, 18, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

Sep 17-30 Sep Chess Olympiad, Baku, Azerbaijan

Oct 18-31 Oct World Youth U-8, 10, 12 Batumi, Georgia

Nov 16-25 Nov Asian Amateur, Kuwait City

Nov 18-01 Dec World Senior Chp., Marianske Lazne, Czech Rep

AICF/National/Regional Championships www.aicf.in

Feb 08-14 Feb National Team Chp., M/W, KIIT, Bhubaneswar

Jun 17-25 Jun National Women's Challenger, Tamil Nadu

Jun 28-06 Jul National U-11 B/G, Chattisgarh

Jul 09-19 Jul National Challenger, Uttar Pradesh

Jul 22-30 Jul National U-13 B/G, Gujarat

Aug 22-30 Aug National U-9 B/G, Punjab

Sep 04-10 Sep National U-25, Assam

Sep 18-26 Sep National U-17 B/G, Bengal

Sep 18-26 Sep National U-7 B/G, Puducherry

Oct 08-16 Oct National U-19 B/G, Andhra Pradesh

OPEN/Rating Tournaments

Feb 04-08 Feb Teekay FIDE Rated Open, Tuticorin 9487049284

Mar 16-20 Mar ADRA Rating, Adra, WB. Prizes: 6 Lakh

9933964874. Mr.Narendra Prasad, Chess Secretary, South Eastern Railway Sports Association, ADRA, Purulia, WB

Mar 27-31 Mar Delhi FIDE Rated, Delhi Prizes: 10L; 9891468906

Apr 02-06 Apr 2nd Triple C Rated, Puri PF Rs.505050. 7381090920

May 17-22 May Panna Rating, Aligarh, UP PF: Rs.4 Lakhs. Sadani Bhawan, Madar Gate, Aligarh Tel: 9927978698 / 9358251780

ONE LINE HEADLINES

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Nagpur: Mah (5 gold) TN (4 gold) Dominate National Schools

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