CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Issue No. 1, 7th November 2000

Chess around the Globe

THE 34th CHESS OLYMPIAD in Istanbul is certainly the main event of the moment, but there are quite a few other important tournaments, just finished or still in progress. In the men's Olympiad yesterday, the leaders - Germany - lost to Ukraine (1½-2½). Russia lost by the same score to Bulgaria, which is becoming a bit of a habit. Russia lost on the top two boards (Topalov-Khalifman 1-0, Svidler-Kiril Georgiev 0-1), but 17-year old Grischuk won on board 4.

After 9 rounds the standing is as follows:

1-2 Armenia and Germany - 25 points
3 Ukraine - 24½ points
4-5 Bulgaria and Russia - 24 points
6-7 Hungary and Romania - 23½ points
8-9 USA and Israel - 22½ points

Today the key matches are Armenia-Germany, Ukraine-Bulgaria, Russia-Romania, Hungary-USA and Israel-Denmark.

In the women's Olympiad the standing is:

1 China - 21 points
2 Georgia - 20½ points
3-4 Russia and Netherlands - 18½ points
5 Ukraine - 18 points

Today Ukraine plays against China, Georgia against Romania and Russia against Netherlands. There are 5 more rounds to play at the event.

You can find Alex Baburin's daily report from Istanbul at www.gmsquare.com, while the official site is at www.istanbulchessolympiad.com

The VIII Chigorin Memorial, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Russian player, is taking place in St. Petersburg now. It is a very strong open - with 50 GMs and 57 IMs among its 235 participants. The Elo favourites are GMs Lastin (2633), Dolmatov (2600), Najer (2590) and Balashov (2590). After five rounds 6 players are sharing the lead on 4½ points: V. Filippov, A. Korotylev, M. Turov, E. Najer, Y. Ulko and R. Scherbakov. This 9-round tournament will finish on the 10th November. For more information please refer to http://www.gmchess.com (site of GM Khalifman) and http://www.totalchess.spb.ru (new site of St. Petersburg Chess Federation).

We have heard that a strong closed tournament might take place in St. Petersburg at the end of the year, as a part of Chigorin's anniversary celebrations.

In Bad Wiessee (Germany, near Munich) the ***4th Bavarian Masters Open*** finished recently. It saw a four-way tie between Alexander Nenashev (UZB), Gerard Hertneck (GER), Konstantin Lerner (UKR) and Roland Ekstroem, who scored 7½ out of 9 each. The title of the Bavarian Champion went on a tiebreak to Nenashev, who now lives in Germany. 20 players finished on 7 points. For more information please refer to http://www.schach-am-tegernsee.de/oib2000

It seems that matches are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. We have seen quite a few in recent months. For example, Oral - Alexandrov and M. Gurevich - Bologan.

A ***match between two young chess stars*** took place in France recently. French player Maxime Vachier-Lagrave beat David Howell of England 5½-2½.

France also staged two strong rapid chess tournaments. In the south of France the

4th Cap d'Agde Festival took place between 28th October and 4th November. This tournament, supported by the

French Chess Federation, has been running since 1994 and regularly attracts a very strong field. This year it clashed with the Chess Olympiad in Turkey, which made the event a bit weaker than usual. 16 players were divided into 2 groups. The four best players from each group continued using a knockout formula. In the final Mikhail Gurevich of Belgium defeated Anatoly Karpov of Russia 2½-1½, despite losing the first game. Please refer to http://www.asmeg.org/echecs/frame.htm. for more information.

Another strong rapid chess tournament was held in ***Bastia***, Corsica. There, 32 players first played 7 rounds and then 8 qualifiers continued in a knockout. In the final Vishy Anand beat Stefan Djuric 2-0. For more information see http://www.echecs.asso.fr

Annotated Game

Stefan Djuric – Vishy Anand
Rapid Chess, Bastia 2000

1 d4 d5 2 ♗g5

Against 1...d5 the Trompovsky is not so dangerous.

2...h6

The point of this move will become clear later. It is usuful to make sure that White's bishop does not come back to the queenside.

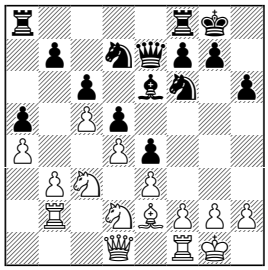
3 ♗h4 c6 4 e3 ♕b6 5 b3 e5!

Now the advantages of including 2...h6 are obvious, as 6 dxe5?? loses to 6...♕b4+.

6 ♘f3 e4 7 ♘fd2 ♗e7

7...♘e7 is also worth considering here.

8 ♗g3 ♗e6 9 ♗e2 ♘f6 10 0–0 0–0 11 c4 ♕d8 12 ♘c3 ♗d6 13 ♗xd6 ♕xd6 14 ♖b1 ♘bd7 15 a4 a5 16 c5 ♕e7 17 ♖b2 *(D)*



The plans of both side have become clear – White will play on the queenside, while Black will try to attack on the opposite wing. But first Anand decides to gain some space on the queenside too:

17...♖fb8 18 ♕b1 b6!?

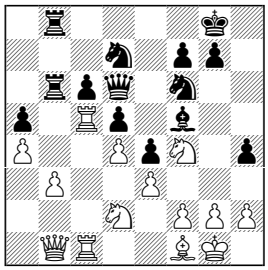
Otherwise Black might be tied down to the weak b7–pawn when White manages b3–b4.

19 cxb6 ♖xb6 20 ♖c1 ♖ab8 21 ♗f1 h5!

Black obviously decided that it was time to get active on 'his' flank.

22 ♘e2 h4 23 ♖bc2 ♕d6 24 ♘f4 ♗f5

25 ♖c5 *(D)*



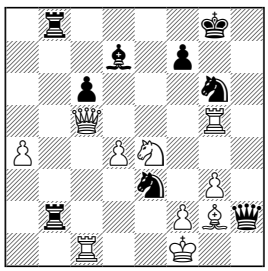
White is after the a5–pawn, but with so many pieces on the queenside his king is a bit lonely.

25...g5! 26 ♘e2 ♘f8 27 ♕c2 ♗d7

28 ♖xa5?

Better was 28 f3, as now Black's attack prevails

28...♘g4 29 g3 ♕f6! 30 ♘xe4 dxe4 31 ♘c3 hxg3 32 hxg3 ♕h6 33 ♗g2 ♖xb3 34 ♘xe4 ♖b2 35 ♖xg5+ ♘g6 36 ♕c5 ♕h2+ 37 ♔f1 ♘xe3+ *(D)*



0–1 Nice play by Anand!

Miscellaneous

As you probably already know, in London Vladimir Kramnik defeated Garry Kasparov 8½-6½.

The match got a lot of attention in the chess world, but how about the general public? *Chess Today* correspondent GM Ruslan Scherbakov decided to visit the match while in London. He knew the name of the tube station nearest to where the match was being played. But when he asked at the station information desk, nobody had heard of the names Kasparov or Kramnik. He asked many passers-by, but to no avail. The situation looked bad, but then Ruslan called his wife in Russia and asked her to find the exact address on the Internet. After the second call he finally made it to the Riverside Studios. So, does the future of chess rest only with the Internet?!

Kramnik's victory was received with enthusiasm by most of his colleagues. But Kasparov enjoyed the same, if not more, popularity 15 years ago. This changed later when he coined some cute phrases to describe his fellow Grandmasters - like, for example, 'tourists'. Congratulating Vladimir with his fine victory, *Chess Today* hopes that the title of World Champion will not change him and that he will remain as open and friendly to all chess players as he is now. Our newspaper will try to arrange an interview with the World Champion - please send in your questions. We will ask Vladimir which question he found the most interesting and we will publish the name of that reader.

Recommended links.
www.gmsquare.com
www.istanbulchessolympiad.com
www.gmchess.com
www.totalchess.spb.ru
www.schach-am-tegernsee.de/oib2000
www.asmeg.org/echecs/frame.htm
www.echecs.asso.fr

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***Chess Today* is published by:**
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: www.chesstoday.net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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Issue No. 12, 18th November 2000

Grandmaster Profile

Today we would like to introduce to you Grandmaster Ruslan Ponomariov from the Ukraine. I first met Ruslan about 5 years ago, when he was only 11. He struck me as a very serious boy, with a burning desire to learn more about chess. I thought that this guy would become really strong very soon. Yet, I was still surprised when just 3 years later he became the youngest GM in the World. Since then he lost that "title" to Chinese GM Bu, but instead made his mark in the top chess events: he played in Elista in 1996 for the Ukraine and competed in the FIDE World Championship in Las Vegas last year. Recently he shared a victory in the Faeroes Islands Open with an incredible 7½ points out of 9 and 2823 rating performance. His co-winner was another young star – GM Alexander Grischuk from Moscow. When the event in Torshavn was over, I interviewed both winners and here I would like to present my interview with Ruslan, conducted on the 14th of October.

What are your impressions of the tournament?

I had a good result and was happy with my play, apart from one game which I played badly - against Grischuk.

What are you nearest plans? I heard that your rating is rising and perhaps you can add even more points soon. So, what's your next tournament?

I will play in the Olympiad and then in the World Championship in India.

How do you evaluate the chances of the Ukrainian team in Istanbul?

We have a good mixture of young and experienced players on the team and will be fighting for the medals.

What do you think of the present situation in chess?

I wish we would have one strong organisation, with which all leading players would co-operate. That could attract sponsors and make chess more professional.

This is a rather idealistic view, but what would you do right now to improve the image of chess, should you have the power?

I would have shortened the time control and arranged live translation of games over the Net, explaining them to the general public. Ideally chess should be on TV too.

So, it sounds that you are not too interested in finding the absolute chess 'truth' - like finding the best move in the Gruenfeld Defence... :-)

Right now I am interested in the sporting aspect of chess. When players grow old, they may get more interested in searching for "chess truth".

At what age do chess players become old, in your opinion?

I think that after 30 your results go down - you must show your best before. The current trend confirms this - players become Grandmasters very young now.

So, do you think that soon we may have an 11-year old GM?

Maybe, particularly as the title gets devalued. We may need a special title. Right now Kasparov is a GM and I am a GM! This is not the same...

:-) Maybe right now this is not the same, but you are too critical of yourself! Who is the World Champion in chess now?

Kasparov, though he is losing to Kramnik now. Khalifman is the FIDE World champion.

Do you think that it's fair that Kasparov did not defend his title for 5 years?

This is not fair and we need a system, which would allow people to challenge the champion. The rating system must be changed too - if somebody does not play for a long time (like Kamsky a few years ago), then he must lose rating points.

Who is your all-time favourite player?

Alekhine - he was most creative!

Whom do you like among modern players?

It's hard to tell - sometimes you can't say where their creativity begins and computer analysis ends!

Some people say that your style resembles that of Karpov. Do you agree?

Both Karpov and I make lots of technical mistakes, letting our opponents to escape - maybe this is why people say that our styles are similar!

:-) Do you think that there is a difference between chess elite and other GMs?

Of course there is a difference – elite GMs are tougher and harder to beat.

Do your parents support your interest in chess?

Yes.

Do you believe that chess could be a good profession?

I hope it will become a good profession - it would be a great pity otherwise.

Do you use computers and the Internet?

Yes, though I got connected to the Net only a few months ago.

Do you play chess online?

So far I played only 5 games on the ICC.

What are your favourite chess sites?

www.kasparovchess.com (Kasparov Chess) and www.ruschess.com (Shahcom).

Is chess still as popular in the Ukraine, as it used to be?

There are far more prestigious professions now, but chess is popular.

What will you do after the World Championships?

I will play a match (8 games) against Victor Korchnoi in Donetsk, beginning in early January.

Who is sponsoring the match?

My sponsors - company *Danko*.

Ruslan, thank you very much for the interview and good luck in Istanbul!

As you may know, in Istanbul the Ukraine finished 3rd. Ponomariov won a gold medal on board 2 with a 2785 rating performance. His current rating is about 2680, so it will be interesting how Ruslan will do in New Delhi. Ponomariov has his own Web site: http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/ruslan.html

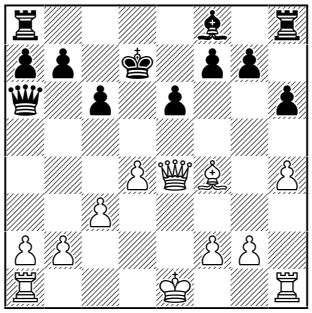
Annotated Game

Ruslan Ponomariov (2630) – Stuart Conquest (2529)
Torshavn 2000
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘c3 dxe4 4 ♘xe4 ♗f5 5 ♘g3 ♗g6 6 h4 h6 7 ♘f3 ♘f6 8 ♘e5 ♗h7 9 ♗d3 ♗xd3 10 ♕xd3 e6 11 ♗f4 ♕a5+ 12 c3 ♕a6 13 ♘e4!?

This looks like a novelty. In the game Topalov–Leko, Tilburg 1998, White played 13 ♕f3 ♘bd7 14 ♘xd7 ♔xd7 15 ♗e5 ♗e7 16 b3. Perhaps, now Black had to play 13...♕xd3 14 ♘xf6+ gxf6 15 ♘xd3 h5, though even then White would be slightly better

13...♘xe4 14 ♕xe4 ♘d7 15 ♘xd7 ♔xd7



White has more space, which gives him some advantage. It is instructive how Ponomariov builds up his position:

16 ♖h3! ♖c8 17 ♗e5! ♕c4 18 ♖f3 f6 19 ♗g3 f5 20 ♕c2 g5?!

I think that better was to play ...♖e8 at some point and then evacuate the king to c8.

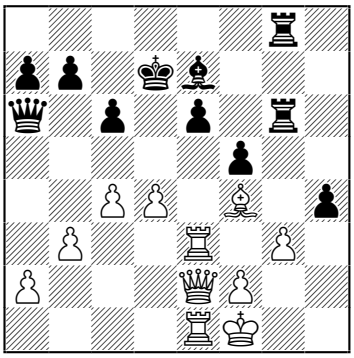
21 ♗e5 ♖g8 22 b3 ♕d5 23 c4 ♕a5+ 24 ♔f1 ♗e7 25 hxg5 ♖xg5

After 25...hxg5 White's rook would come back to the h−file − 26 ♖h3!.

26 ♖d1 h5 27 ♕e2 ♕a6 28 ♗f4!

A very deep move − this bishop only looked good on e5, but it lacked any useful role there. Relocating the bishop, White prepares to put pressure on the e6−pawn.

28...♖g6 29 ♖e3 ♖cg8 30 g3 h4 31 ♖e1



Black's position is cracking, as he cannot hold the e6−pawn. Tactical defence fails:

31...♗b4 32 ♖xe6! ♗xe1 33 ♖e7+ ♔d8 34 ♗c7+ ♔c8 35 ♕e5!

White calmly finishes his attack.

35...b5 36 ♗d8! ♗a5 37 ♖c7+ ♔b8 38 ♖xc6+ 1–0

Recommended links.
http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/ruslan.html
www.kasparovchess.com
www.ruschess.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-101, 15 February 2001

Chess around the Globe

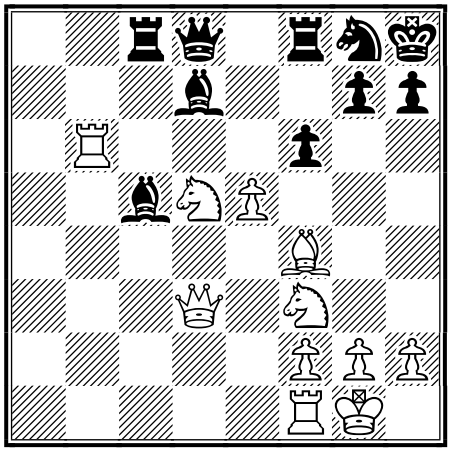
Frequent guest of *CT* the last few issues, **Andrei Kharlov** became sole leader in the **Calcutta** open after his victory with Black over Dutch GM Reinderman. Now the Russian grandmaster has 7,5 points out of 10. Of course Andrei is always welcome to our paper, but this time "for variety" we decided to showcase Evgeny Vladimirov's win over R. Ramesh. By the way Kharlov and Vladimirov will be fighting each other in the last round.

The current top standings follow:
1 Vladimirov 7,5 points
2-6 Sorokin, Sandipan, Rahman, Gallagher, Ghaem – 7 points.
7-13. Barsov, Wajih, Prakash, Villamayor, Mikhalevski, Datu – 6,5 points, etc.

Top boards of the penultimate, 11th round:
Kharlov - Vladimirov
Ghaem – Sorokin
Sandipan - Rahman
Barsov - Gallagher
Prakash – Villamayor
Mikhalevski – Datu
Ramesh - Wajih

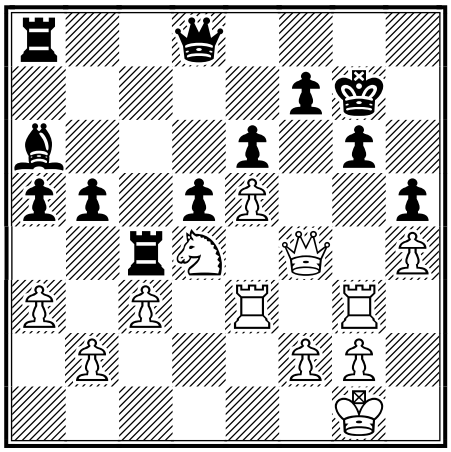
The Championship of **Uruguay** is in progress in the capital city of Uruguay, Montevideo. As I understood from official site there will be two groups in the first stage (35 and 36 players respectively) and then there will be a play-off. After 7 rounds, in "Serie Azul" **R. Muniz** is leading with 6 points, and in "Serie Roja", **F. J. Lopez** and **M. Almada** have 5,5 points each. Maybe our Spanish speaking readers can tell us more about this championship and other chess events in Latin America. Unfortunately all information on this highly informative site is only in Spanish.

Tactical Puzzles
(solutions on page 3)
1. M. Komiagina - L. Kostantini
Halkidiki (Juniors Europe), 2000



White to move

2 Rozic, V. - Lisovskaja, I.
Halkidiki (Juniors Europe), 2000



White to move
♘♘♘

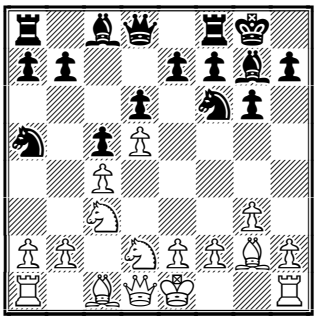
Annotated Game

E. Vladimirov – R. Ramesh
Calcutta (10), 2001 [E66]
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

In the mid 70s Evgeny Vladimirov was one of the brightest young soviet chess players. He was a

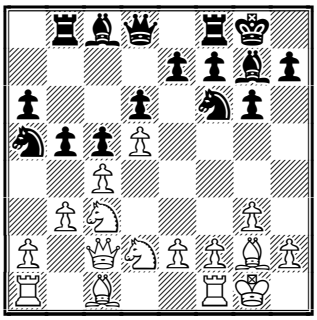
USSR Junior Champion, a very honoured title. In youth events Evgeny successfully competed with Yusupov, Dolmatov, Kasparov and others. In the 80s for some years he was a second for Garry Kasparov in Kasparov's matches vs. Karpov. But later the new world champion accused Vladimirov of spying on him to benefit Karpov. Vladimirov was shocked by these accusations and for a number of years he played very rarely and much below his true level. Recently, however, he has recovered his form and once more has begun to play very strong chess.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 0-0 5.♘c3 d6 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.d5 ♘a5 8.♘d2 c5 (D)



The Yugoslavian variation of the King's Indian defence. Black has a very solid pawn center, good prospects for the Bishop on g7, but his Knight on a5 is badly placed.

9.0-0 a6 10.♕c2 ♖b8 11.b3 b5 (D)



12.♖b1

Vladimirov is a very experienced specialist of this system. He has played it for more than twenty years with both colors. For example, the following two games are from the same event, Riga 1980: 12.♗b2 bxc4 13.bxc4 ♗h6 14.♘cb1 ♗d7 (14...♗g7 15.♗c3 ♗d7 16.h3 ♕c7 17.e4 ♖b4 18.♘b3 ♘h5 19.♘1d2 ♗xc3 20.♕xc3 ♘xb3 21.axb3±) Vladimirov − Chiburdanidze, Riga 1980); 15.♗c3 ♕c7 16.h3 ♗g7 17.♘a3 e5 18.♖ab1 ♖fe8⇄ Kharitonov − Vladimirov, Riga 1980. Evgeny Vladimirov won with White and drew with Black.

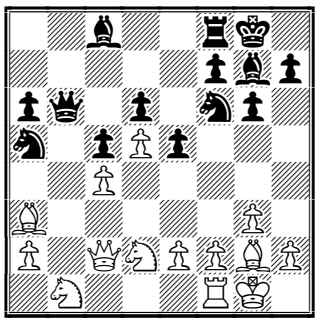
12...bxc4 13.bxc4 ♖xb1 14.♘cxb1 ♕b6

In the following game White exploited the bad position of the Knight on a5 in a rather original way: 14...♘d7 15.f4 ♘b6 16.♖f3! ♗d4+ 17.♔h1 ♗g4 18.♖a3! Hulak − K. Georgiev, Manila 1992

15.♗a3

Look carefully at this classical game: 15.♘c3 ♗f5 16.e4 ♗d7 17.♗a3 ♗h6 18.f4 ♘g4 19.♕d3 ♗g7 20.♘e2 f5 21.h3 ♘h6 22.♖b1 ♕c7 23.♗b2 ♗xb2 24.♖xb2 ♖b8 25.♖xb8+ ♕xb8 26.♕c3± Smyslov − Szabo, Habana 1965. White advanced his pawn center, exchanged many pieces except Black's badly placed Knight and now has a big advantage. It's a very useful rule: exchange the good pieces of one's opponent and leave him the bad ones.

15...e5 (D)



16.♗b2!

After e7−e5 Black can't exchange the dark−squared Bishops and White transfers his own to c3 to attack the Knight on a5.

16...♗d7 17.♗c3 ♖b8 18.♘a3 ♕c7 19.h3!?

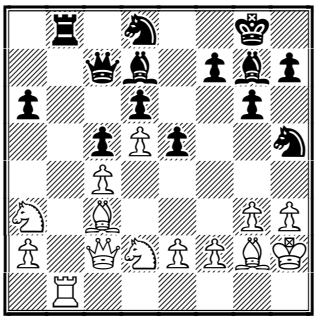
Black hasn't any real counter−play, so White can carefully prepare an offensive in the center and Kingside or maybe on the other wing too. **19...♘b7**

This square isn't much better for the Knight and the same can be said about d8 and even f7 (but now there is a pawn on f7, and it's not so simple to advance the Knight to f5 either).

20.♔h2

(see the note to White's 19th move.)

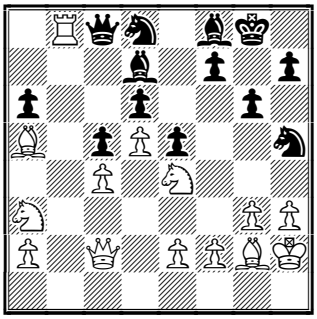
20...♘h5?! 21.♖b1 ♘d8?! (D)



I suspect Black overlooked the next move.

22.♗a5! ♕c8 23.♘e4! ♗f8? (D)

Confusion and as a result, a decisive mistake. 23...♘b7was the only move 24.♕b3!?±



24.♖xb8 ♕xb8 25.g4!

A very unexpected final! All game long Black was slightly worse, then he makes one small mistake, than another − and it's all over. **1-0**

Solutions to tactical puzzles:

1. 25.exf6! ♗xb6 25...gxf6 26.♘g5! fxg5 27.♗e5+; 25...♘xf6 26.♘xf6 ♖xf6 (26...gxf6 27.♖b7 ♖f7 28.♖d1 ♖a8 29.♕d5) 27.♖xf6 gxf6 (27...♕xf6 28.♕xd7 ♖d8 29.♕g4) 28.♖d1 ♖a8 29.♘e5! **26.fxg7+ ♔xg7 27.♗e5+ ♘f6 28.♘g5!** Black resigned because of 28...♔h6 29.♗xf6 ♖xf6 30.♕xh7+! ♔xg5 31.h4+ ♔g4 32.♕g7+ ♔f5 33.♖e1!!+− 1-0

2. 30.♘xe6+! ♔g8 30...fxe6 31.♖xg6+ ♔xg6 32.♖g3+ ♔h7 33.♕f7+ **31.♕h6 fxe6 32.♖xg6+** 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.goodrickechess.8k.com/
http://uruwow.com/secciones/deportes/ajedrez/uruguayo2001/index.html

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-102, 16th February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Joseph Gallagher won with Black against Alexei Barsov and caught **Andrei Kharlov,** who drew his game with Evgeny Vladimirov in the Calcutta Open. Gallagher and Kharlov share 1-2 places with 8 points out of 11. Our congratulations to the winners!

There was only one other decisive game on the top boards – Victor Mikhalevsky beat Idelfonso Datu. All other games were drawn. Unfortunately the organisers haven't put the games on their site yet so we can't judge whether these games were hard fought or peaceful. But in general this situation is quite typical for the last round of an open tournament. Chess professionals don't want to risk too much, because should they lose … all their work for 11 or more days will be unpaid!

Final standing:

1-2. Kharlov, Gallagher – 8 points out of 11
3-8. Vladimirov, Ghaem, Sorokin, Sandipan, Rahman, Mikhalevski – 7½
9-11. Prakash, Villamayor, Wajih – 7 etc.

This week another tournament finished – the championship of Byelorussia (12 participants, round-robin system, VII FIDE category). The strongest GM in the country, Alexei Fedorov, didn't take part in this event.
Final standing:
1. S. Azarov – 8 points out of 11
2-3. I. Ljutsko, V. Dydyshko – 7
4. S. Smetankin – 6½
5. A. Kovalev – 6 etc.

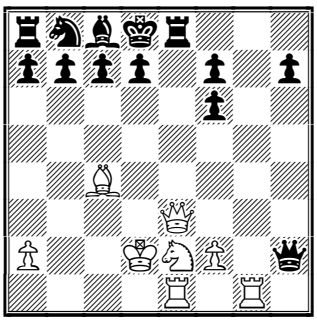
Information from D. Novitsky, site www.kasparovchess.ru

On this day in history … **Vera Menchik** (1906 – 1944) was born in Moscow. She was the first Woman's World Chess Champion and lived during her childhood in Russia and then moved to England. She won 8 World Championships, some of them with a perfect score! She was the first woman who struggled – and not without success! – with the strongest male chessplayers. Amongst her many scalps were Euwe and Reshevsky. In memory of the first women World Champion an Olympic Trophy for women has her name – The Vera Menchik Cup.
See also our annotated game section.

Tactical Puzzles

1) Perlaska – Grassi Komo, 1907

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.♗c4 cxb2 5.♗xb2 ♗b4+ 6.♘c3 ♗xc3+? 7.♗xc3 ♕e7 8.♕b3! 8.♗xg7!? ♕b4+∞ **8...♕xe4+ 9.♔d2! ♕xg2 10.♘e2 ♘f6 11.♗xf6 gxf6 12.♕e3+ ♔d8 13.♖hg1 ♕xh2 14.♖ae1 ♖e8?**

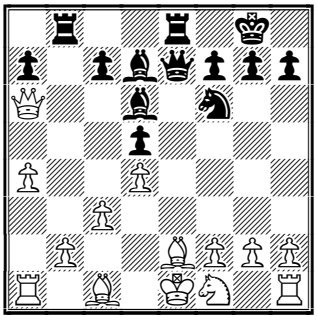


White to play

2) Fink – Alekhin C44
Pasadena, 1932

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 d5 4.♕a4 ♘f6 5.♘xe5 ♗d6 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.e5?! ♗xe5 8.d4 ♗d6 9.♕xc6+?! ♗d7 10.♕a6 0-0

11.♗e2 ♖e8 12.♘d2? ♖b8 13.a4 ♕e7 14.♘f1



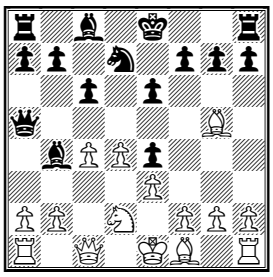
Black to play

Annotated Games

Of course in the first half of 20th century females were much weaker at chess than in the present day. Nowadays you will rarely see such "masterpieces" in the World Women's Championship as the following two games .. from the same event:

B Janeckova − V Menchik
Wch (Women) Buenos Aires, 1939 D52

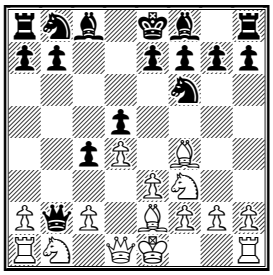
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 ♘bd7 6.e3 ♕a5 7.♘d2 ♗b4 8.♕c1 ♘e4 9.♘cxe4 dxe4



10.a3?? ♗xd2+ 11.♕xd2 ♕xg5 0-1

A Lougheed − V Menchik
Wch (Women) Buenos Aires, 1939 D02

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♗f4 c5 4.e3 ♕b6 5.♗d3? c4 6.♗e2 ♕xb2

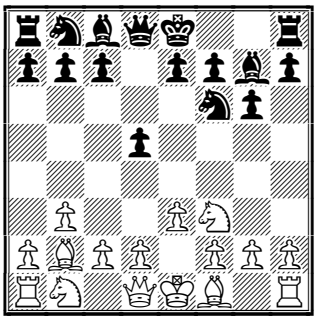


7.0-0?? ♕xa1 8.♘bd2 ♕xd1 9.♖xd1 ♘c6 10.c3 ♗f5 11.♘e5 ♘xe5 12.♗xe5 e6 13.♘f1 ♘e4 14.♖b1 ♘xc3 0-1

A Baratz − V Menchik
Hastings2728 Hastings, 1927 A01
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

This battle shows the brilliant tactical skill of Vera Menchik.

1.b3?! d5 2.♗b2 ♘f6 3.e3 g6 4.♘f3 ♗g7



The Nimtzovich Opening isn't the most dangerous weapon for White but, of course, it's playable. But from now on White started to play as if Black had disappeared from the board.

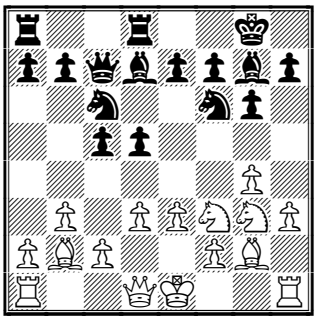
5.h3?!

This mark − not only for this move but also for all White's set up.

5...0-0 6.g4 c5 7.♗g2 ♘c6 8.d3 ♗d7?!

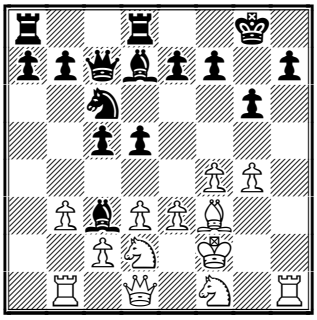
I can't understand this move. Yes, there is a rule for beginners: first of all you have to develop all your pieces (I prefer another form of this rule: if you don't know what to do − develop your pieces!). But the Black bishop was just as good on c8 as on d7. 8...♕c7!?; 8...b6!?

9.♘bd2 ♕c7 10.♘f1 ♖fd8 11.♘g3?

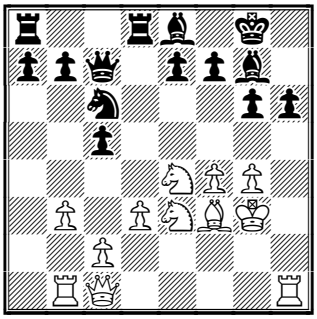


Both players have moved their pieces in their own camps, and White has lost caution.

11...♘xg4!
A very unexpected and strong blow!
12.hxg4
White doesn't want to receive another blow: 12.♗xg7 ♘xe3! 13.fxe3 ♕xg3+-+
12...♗xb2 13.♖b1 ♗c3+ 14.♘d2 ♘e5! 15.♗f3 ♕a5
Many years before the computer era Black plays as Fritz suggests!
16.♘gf1 ♕xa2
If you can take a pawn with impunity why not do it?
17.♗e2 ♕a5 18.f4 ♘c6 19.♔f2 ♕c7
Black prepares a break in the centre.
20.♗f3

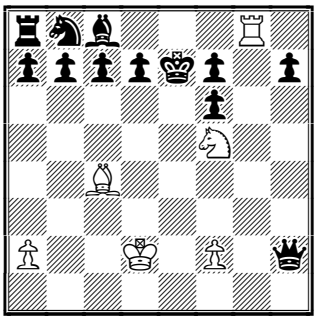


20...d4! 21.♘e4 dxe3+ 22.♔g3 ♗g7 23.♘xe3 ♗e8 24.♕c1 h6



Can you find a purpose to this move?
25.c3
White couldn't...
25...♕xf4+! 26.♔f2
Maybe if White grabbed the Queen this game would have been published in chess text−books and all world would know Mr. Baratz... 26.♔xf4 ♗e5#!
26...♘e5 In any case White resigned.
0-1

Answers
1) **15.♕xe8+!! ♔xe8 16.♘d4+ ♔f8 17.♖e8+! ♔xe8 18.♖g8+ ♔e7 19.♘f5#**



1-0

2) **14...♗b5! 0-1**

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www.kasparovchess.ru

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CT-103 17 February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Today we have more details about the finish a day ago of the Calcutta open. **Joseph Gallagher** was announced the winner due to better tie-break points over Andrei Kharlov . In our annotated game section we would like to show his convincing victory with Black against a very experienced opponent in the last round. In CT-102 we had written about many draws on the top boards in the last round. But only two of them were short:

Kharlov – Vladimirov: 6 moves
Ghaem – Sorokin: 8
Sandipan – Rahman: 60
Prakash – Villamayor: 67
Ramesh – Wajih: 57

We also hope that "dead drawn" doesn't threaten chess in the near future! ☺

In one of our previous issues we had written about a category III round-robin event in Montecatini Terme. After 6 rounds GM **Igor Naumkin** and IM **Vlad Tomescu** have 4,5 points.
3-5. Mukic, Chatalbashev, Mrdja – 4 etc.

Two Chinese chess players grabbed the lead in the Open tournament in France. After 6 rounds Yu Shaoteng has 6 points and Li Shilong has 5,5 points.
3-4. Carrasco, Maze – 5 etc. (104 participants in total).

V. Kramnik

It was announced today, that both World Champions, **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Vishy Anand**, will play in the Dortmund super tournament (12-22 July 2001). The Organizers would like to invite six of the top ten players for a double round-robin category 20 or 21 event.

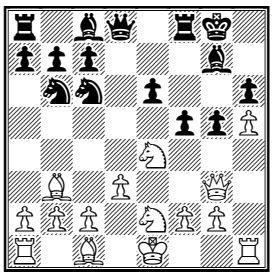
Vishy Anand & his wife Aruna

Tactical puzzles

(Solutions on page 3)

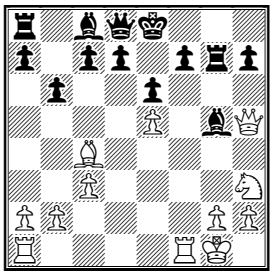
1. Sahakian - Kopinits [B02]
Mureck, 1998

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♘xd5 4.♗c4 ♘b6 5.♗b3 g6 6.♕f3 e6 7.♘ge2 ♗g7 8.d3 0-0 9.h4 h6 10.h5 g5 11.♘e4 ♘c6 12.♕g3 f5?(D) (12...♘a5=)



(2) Kotzem - Van Dalfsen [B02]
corr., 1978

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.c4 ♘b6 4.c5 ♘d5 5.♗c4 e6 6.♘c3 ♘xc3 7.dxc3 ♘c6 8.♗f4 ♗xc5 9.♕g4 g5 10.♗xg5 ♖g8 11.♘h3 ♗e7 12.f4 ♘xe5 13.fxe5 ♗xg5 14.♕h5 ♖g7 15.0-0 b6? (D) (15...h6)



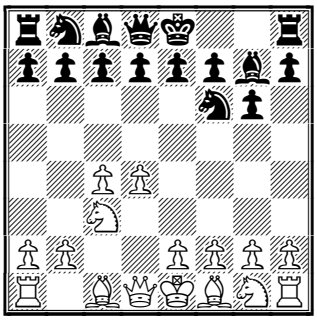
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Barsov − J. Gallagher
12th Goodricke Open Calcutta IND (11), 2001 E90
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

It's always a very difficult task − to win with Black back to back. Only in this case Joseph Gallagher had the chance to catch Andrei Kharlov and share first. But I believe in this game, his opponent Alexei Barsov, also played for a win and as a result allowed a big battle all over the board.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 (D)

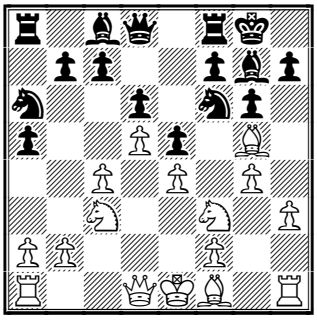


Half year ago one very, very young grandmaster annotated his game for "64−Chess Review". He had written about 3...Bg7: "I can't understand why Black allows his opponent to occupy the center. Much better is 3...d5!" Of course this comment was made before the London match Kramnik − Kasparov. Fashion is a very capricious thing. If you like the King's Indian, play it for years and have acceptable results, don't give up it just to learn in a hurry something that's in "fashion". Maybe in another 5 years another 17−year GM will write: "Why play such opening moves: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6? Of course, the King's Indian − the only way for Black!"

4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3!?

Today the most unpleasant line for Black is 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 etc., but who knows what will be tomorrow?

6...e5 7.d5 a5 8.Bg5 Na6 9.g4!? (D)



According to my database this is David Bronstein's idea − as usual, quite original. First of all White wants to stop Black's counter−play with f7−f5, because after gxf5 gxf5 the King on g8 will be very weak.

9...Nc5

Barsov likes this variation with h3−g4 and recently won a rather complicated game: 9...Qe8 10.Be2 Nd7 11.a3 f6 12.Be3 f5 13.gxf5 gxf5 14.exf5 Ndc5 15.b4 e4 16.Nd4 Nd3+ 17.Bxd3 exd3 18.Rg1 Qe5 19.Kd2 Bxf5 20.Rg5 h6 21.Rh5⇄ Barsov − Kempinski, Istanbul 2000.

10.Nd2 h6

This looks like a novelty. When Bronstein played 9.g4!? for the first time his opponent didn't understand the idea behind the move and lost very fast and nicely: 10...c6 11.Qf3!? a4 12.Be2 Ncd7 13.Nf1 Kh8 14.Ng3 Qb6 15.Rb1 Ng8 16.Be3 Qd8 17.Rd1 Bh6 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.Rxd6 Qc7 20.Rxd7! Qxd7 21.Bxh6 Nxh6 22.Qf6+ Kg8 23.g5 1:0 Bronstein − Sands, London 1989; Two years ago Barsov also exploited this plan with Qf3!? and won very convincingly: 10...Bd7 11.Qf3!? c6 12.Nb3 Nxb3 13.axb3 h6 14.Be3 Ne8 15.c5 f5 16.gxf5 gxf5 17.exf5 Rxf5 18.Qg2 Qh4 19.Bd3 Rf7 20.Qg6 Nf6 21.Bc4 cxd5 22.Nxd5 Be6 23.0-0-0 a4 24.Rhg1 axb3 25.Nxf6+ 1:0 Barsov − Knijft, Haarlem 1999

11.Be3 c6 12.Be2

Why not 12.Qf3. Maybe in view of 12...a4!? and the Knight on c5 is very

strong, and White hasn't any real play either on the King nor on the Queen−side.

12...Bd7 13.0-0 h5!

Of course, after castling White's monarch is weaker than his counter−part.

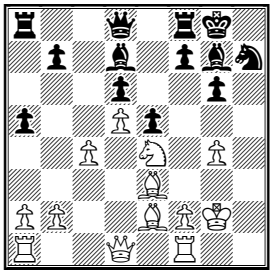
14.Kg2 cxd5 15.exd5!?

After 15.cxd5 White has to forget about any offensive on the Queen's wing.

15...hxg4 16.hxg4 Nh7

Black prepares f7−f5 and Ng5.

17.Nde4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 (D)



18...f5!?

The pawn sac. is a sign of the start of complications. By the way after the "timid" 18...Qe7? 19.c5! White gains a big advantage.

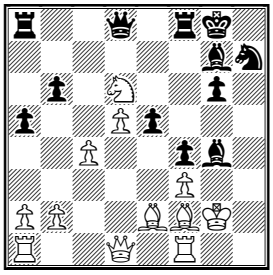
19.Nxd6 b6!

Played with composure! Now White's central pawns are stopped and the Knight on d6 hasn't a good way home.

20.f3

A solid move. White agrees to return the pawn, but wants to fortify his King's camp. Fritz's recommendation 20.Qb3 looks very dubious because of 20...Qf6 : White's Queen goes away from his King while Black one wants to meet him.

20...f4 21.Bf2 Bxg4 (D)



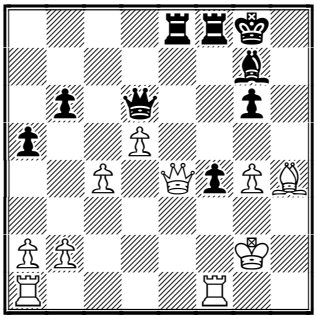
22.fxg4?!

It soon becomes clear that White is unable to create a blockade on squares f3 and e4 after capturing the Bishop on g4. So better was 22.Ne4; or maybe the sharper 22.c5!?

22...Qxd6 23.Bf3 Ng5 24.Bh4 Nxf3 25.Qxf3 e4?!

This is a very enticing move, but maybe it's not as strong as it looks. Black had a strong alternative: 25...Qb4! and White has big problems with defending his f and e pawns. 26.b3?! e4 27.Qxe4 Bxa1 28.Rxa1 f3+∓.

26.Qxe4 Rae8 (D)



27.Qf3?

Maybe this is the decisive mistake: White loses a very important tempo. After 27.Qc2! Re3!? 28.Rae1 Black has a compensation for the pawn, but not much more.

27...Re3 28.Qf2 f3+ 29.Kh3

Or 29.Kh1 Re2 30.Qg3 (30.Bg3 Qd7) 30...Be5-+

29...Re2

Very easy play: forward and forward!

30.Bg3

Also sad is 30.Qg1 Rg2 31.Qh1 Qd7 32.Bg3 Be5-+

30...Be5 31.c5 Qf6 32.Bxe5 Qxe5 33.Rh1

A very hard fought game! **0-1.**

Solutions to tactical puzzles:

1. 13.♘xg5! hxg5 14.♗xg5 ♕e8 15. h816.♗f6+ ♔f7 17.♗xh8 1-0.

2. 16.Rxf7! Be3+ 16...Rxf7 17.Nxg5 Qe7 18.Rf1+- **17.Rf2+ Ke7 18.Qf3! Bxf2+ 19.Nxf2 Qg8 20.Qxa8+-.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.goodrickechess.8k.com/
http://www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01montecinv.htm
http://www.echecsaglo.fr.st/open2001.htm
http://teleschach.de/dortmund-2001/

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CT-104, 18th February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Because tournament chess life is rather quiet today, in our Sunday issue we'll make a trip into the not too distant past. But first of all – some reports.

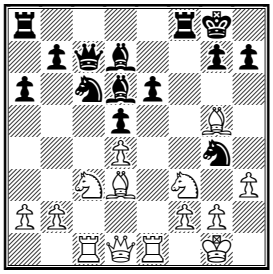
IM **Shaoteng Yu** >> from China won the 7-round Open tournament in d'Agneaux – Saint-Lo. He scored 6½ points. His countryman IM Li Shilong and Sebastien Maze (France) shared 2-3 places with 6 points.
4-6. Berelovich, Regoli, Carmes – 5½ etc.
As you can see, it's not just the Chinese women who can play the game well! ☺

In the III category event in Montecatini Terme after 8 rounds IM **Vlad Tomescu** leads with 6 points.
2-4. Naumkin, Mukic, Mrdja – 5½ etc.

Exactly ten years ago, at the beginning of 1991 in Leningrad there took place two very interesting youth tournaments. They were the "USSR challenger tournaments for boys World championships under 12 and under 14". I was there as a coach of one prodigy, tried to help him before play and he in turn tried not to annoy me too much after play. ☺
The best juniors in these age groups arrived from all over the USSR. It wasn't known yet that it was last such all USSR meeting… among the participants were such young boys as Emil Sutovsky, Rustam Kasymzhanov, Sasha Morozevich and Sasha Galkin, Karen Asrian, Zhenia Najer, Viorel Iordakecku, Volodia Malahov, Serezha Movsesian, Volodia Baklan, Giorgi Kacheishvili and Giorgi Bakhtadze and many others who have now became well known GMs and IMs. The event was very well organised. Participants stayed in a good hotel and played in its spacious conference-hall. Organisers invited Mark Dvoretsky to give some lectures for the young chess players and their coaches. Also there was a friendly match between the youth teams of USSR and Yugoslavia. In our team a 15-year old named Kramnik played on the top board. It was a real chess holiday and no surprise that many of its young guests tried Chess as a life.

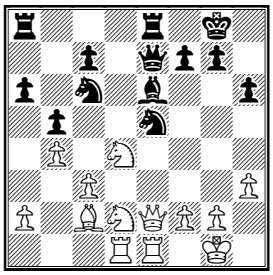
In general, the young master candidates played very bright, creative chess. Of course, technique wasn't their strong feature and as a result advantages were sometimes "walking" from one side to another during the games. Today I would like to show two fragments and one game from this event.

1) Saveljev – Shaplyko
Leningrad, 1991



Black to play

2) Kasymzhanov – Avanesov
Leningrad, 1991



White to play

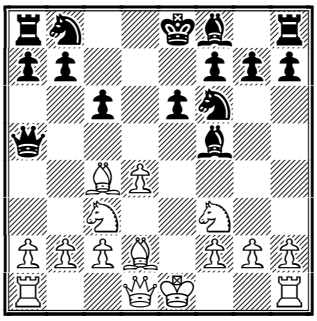
Morozevich − Ovseevich
Leningrad, 1991 B01
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

That year Sergei Ovseevich from Herson (Ukraine) won the competition in the older group. He played in a rather different style to most of his peers − very accurate, careful and was ready to defend slightly worse positions without counterplay. And often his opponents lost vigilance and presented Sergei with extra points. I wasn't impressed by his play, although he was very intelligent, serious and was than in the centre of public attention. 2−3 years later he disappeared from the chess horizon. I heard recently he obtained a GM norm somewhere in the Ukraine, but I don't know if chess is his profession or hobby now.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♕xd5

Scandinavian defence − a solid, but inactive set up. In contrast, 13−year old Sasha Morozevich was fond of complicated play, sometimes even against the nature of his positions. But times change − a couple of years later Morozevich himself started to play the Scandinavian for Black! For example, in CT-100 our editor Graham Brown mentioned the Gurevich − Morozevich game (London 1994).

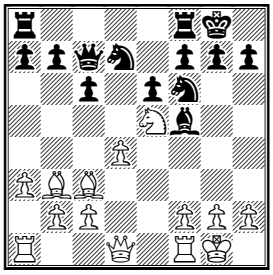
3.♘c3 ♕a5 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 c6 6.♗c4 ♗f5 7.♗d2 e6



White has more space, and has a pawn d4 in the centre. But Black has developed his Bishop on f5 very successfully, and the pawns e6 and c6 create a "saw" for the d4 pawn. Of course White has a small advantage but it's very difficult to realise something real.

8.♗b3 ♗b4 9.0-0 0-0 10.♘e5 ♘bd7

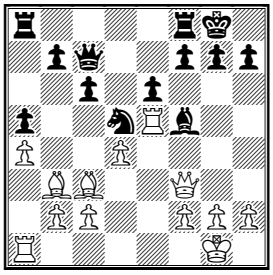
11.a3 ♗xc3 12.♗xc3 ♕c7



13.♘xd7

Morozevich doesn't avoid simplifications. But he invents a rather sharp plan...

13...♘xd7 14.♖e1 ♘b6 15.♕f3 a5 16.a4 ♘d5 17.♖e5!?



It looks like a small provocation. White is tempting his opponent to exchange his very strong knight in exchange for destroying White's pawns.

17...♘xc3

There is a well known chess joke: even the best knight is worse than the worst Bishop. But now Black remains without any counterplay for the immediate future.

18.bxc3 ♔h8 19.g4!

Because Black can't open the centre, White began a pawn offence.

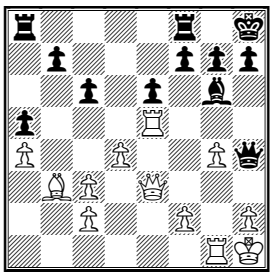
19...♗g6 20.♕e3?!

Better was 20.♕g3!? taking control over the h4−square.

20...♕d8! 21.♔h1

It's always very unpleasant to admit a mistake, but maybe even here better was 21.♕g3!?

21...♕h4 22.♖g1



22...f6!?

Very interesting! Black sacrificed a pawn, but would like to grab the e−file. 22...b5?! 23.f4↑ (23.axb5 cxb5 24.♖xb5 a4 25.♗a2 ♗xc2∓)

23.♖xe6 ♖ae8 24.f4!

White agrees to return the pawn but has closed an open file.

24...♖xe6 25.♗xe6

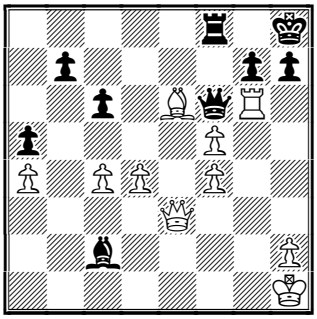
Of course not 25.♕xe6?? ♖e8-+

25...♗xc2 26.c4 f5?!

Black wants to activate his rook but it's impossible, as Morozevich proves. Better was to take another pawn and wait: 26...♖e8! 27.d5 cxd5 28.cxd5 ♗xa4 29.♖a1⇄; or 26...♗xa4!?

27.gxf5 ♕f6

Black overlooked the next move. Maybe 27...♕h5 gave a draw, for example: 28.♖g5 ♕d1+ 29.♖g1 ♕h5=



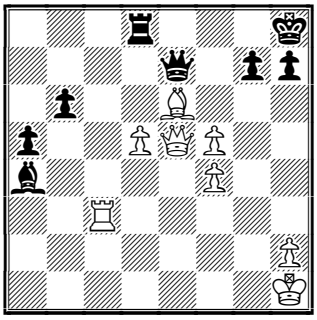
28.♖g6! ♕e7

Not 28...hxg6? 29.♕h3++−

29.♖g3 ♗xa4 30.♕e5 ♖d8

30...b5!?

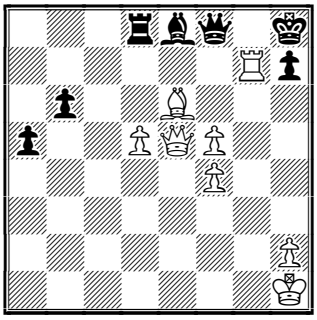
31.d5 cxd5 32.cxd5 b6 33.♖c3



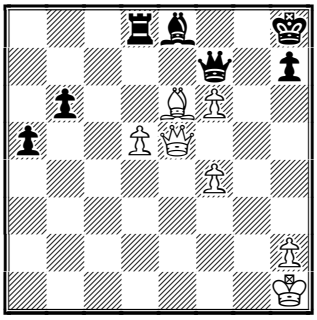
A curious situation! The White Monarch is alone and very weak but the Black pieces have no way to come to see it. In time trouble and in an unpleasant position, Black made a decisive mistake:

33...♗e8? 34.♖c7 ♕f8

34...♕f6 35.♕xf6 (35.d6±) 35...gxf6 36.d6±



35.♖xg7! ♕xg7 36.f6 ♕f7



The Queen has to stop the f6−pawn...

37.♗xf7 ♗xf7 38.♔g1 ♖e8 39.♕c7 ♖g8+ 40.♔f1

1' 54" − 1' 57" A memorable game to me! **1-0**

Answers:

1) **16...♗h2+ 17.♔f1 ♘xf2! 18.♔xf2 ♕g3+ 19.♔f1 ♕xg5 20.♖c2?! ♖xf3+! 21.♕xf3 ♘xd4 22.♗xh7+ ♔h8 23.♕g4 ♕xg4 24.hxg4 ♘xc2 25.♗xc2 d4! 26.♘e2 ♖f8+ 0-1**

2) **20.♘xc6 ♘xc6 21.♕e4! ♕d6 22.♘f1 f5 23.♖xd6 fxe4 24.♖xc6 ♗xa2 25.♖a1 ♗d5 26.♖cxa6 ♖ad8 27.♘e3 ♗b7 28.♖a7 ♖b8 29.♔f1 ♔f7 30.♔e2 ♖e7 31.♗b3+ ♔g6 32.♗d5 c6 33.♗xc6! 1-0**

<u>Recommended Web sites:</u>

http://www.goodrickechess.8k.com/
http://www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01montecinv.htm
http://www.echecsaglo.fr.st/open2001.htm
http://teleschach.de/dortmund-2001/

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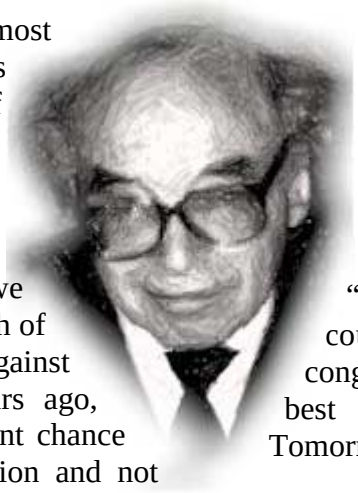
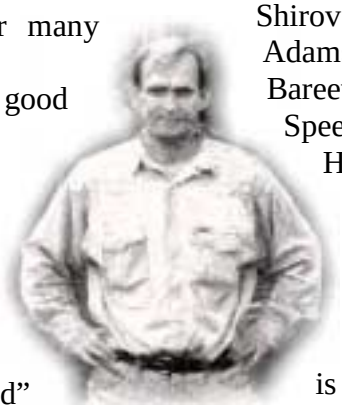


One of the most outstanding players in the whole of chess history, **David Bronstein** celebrates his **77th birthday!**

When we hear his name, we remember not only the finish of his World Title Match against Mikhail Botvinnik 50 years ago, when he missed an excellent chance to became World Champion and not only such great achievements as the victories in Soviet Championships in 1948 and 1949, 4 chess Olympiads, 2 interzonal tournaments and many many other big and small events. Chess lovers from all over the World remember his brilliant style, his original and often paradoxical ideas, his great contribution to chess theory (the King's Indian heroes should thank him a lot!) and excellent chess works – his highly instructive book "Interzonal Tournament, Zurich 1953" was a handbook for many professional players.
David Ionovich, we wish you good health and longevity!



Another famous grandmaster celebrates his **34th birthday** today. His style is quite different from Bronstein's – as he describes it himself, it's something between "very solid" and "extremely boring". Nevertheless he has a lot of scalps of top players in his pocket. You should know him very well – he is **Alexander Baburin**, the master-mind of Chess Today!!! Our inspiration, he seems to be an iron man to carry on so many web-projects… Grandmaster Square, "Coffeebreak Chess" and, of course, Chess Today! We kindly congratulate Alex and wish him all the best in Chess and Life Today and Tomorrow!

Let's take a look at the tournaments.

Some important matches were played in the German **Bundesliga** this weekend.

Solingen has fallen away from the top having lost two important battles – against **Hamburg** and **Luebeck**.

Look at the full statistics of the really tough round.

Luebeck – Solingen 4½-3½

Shirov – Kasymdzhanov **1-0**
Adams – Piket ½-½
Bareev – Yussupow ½-½
Speelman – Nikolic ½-½
Hodgson – Huebner ½-½
Agdestein – Sadler ½-½
De Firmian – Emms **0-1**
Nunn – Chandler **1-0**

In the Bundesliga a soccer system is used: 2 points for the win, 1 – for draw, 0 – for loss so after the 9th Round

Luebecker SV are sole leaders with **18 – 0** score (won all 9 matches!), **SG Koeln Porz** is the only persecutor (**17 – 1**), **Godesberger SK** and **SV Werder Bremen** share third with **12 – 6**.

Oleg Korneev keeps a perfect score after the 5th Round of the **Villa de Coria del Rio** in **Sevilla**. GM Reynaldo Vera and IM Ismael Teran Alvarez share second at half a point behind.

Some results of the 5th Round:
Campora – Korneev **0-1**
Vera – Komljenovich **1-0**
Teran Alvarez – Simonenko **1-0**

Top boards of the 6th Round:
Korneev (5) – Teran Alvarez (4½)
Vera (4½) – Campora (4)

After the 9th Round of the round robin tournament in **Montecatini Terme** IM Vlad Tomescu of Romania is leading with 7 points, GM Igor Naumkin of Russia is clear second, half a point behind, IM Boris Chatalbashev of Bulgaria is clear third with 6 points. There are two more rounds to play.

Bunratty Chess Festival

by Alexander Baburin

Ireland is not the first country which comes to mind when you think about chess - you may know that James Mason came from the Emerald Isle, but that is about it. Yet, things are changing for the better … there are now tournaments in Ireland, which have gained international recognition. I am talking about the Kilkenny and Bunratty Opens. While the former always takes place on the last weekend of November, the latter is usually played in mid February. Last weekend it became the largest tournament ever held in Ireland, with 288 participants competing in different sections. Among them there were a some title players from the UK - GMs Parker, Lalic, Hebden, Levitt, IMs Kelly, Turner and some others, who played in the Bunratty Masters (46 players). Add to that list yours truly, as well as IM Mark Heidenfeld and some of the best Irish players, and you will have a pretty strong field. The time control is 1 hour 45 minutes per game each, which is quite a lot of time. When you consider that on Saturday there are 3 rounds, making it 10½ hours of chess a day, it is not easy to see how some (many!) people manage to stay in the bar till late (or early morning?)! :-) But they do and this is a good thing about tournaments in Ireland - they usually have a nice and relaxed atmosphere.

The tournament saw a 3-way tie between GMs Bogdan Lalic and Mark Hebden and IM Mathew Turner, who scored 4½ out of 6 each (all undefeated). Lalic won the title in a blitz match against Hebden. My tournament started off nicely - 3 out of 3. But then I let a big advantage slip away in the game vs. Hebden and lost to Lalic in round 5, after having a better position in the opening with Black. I hoped to catch up with the leaders in the final round, but got into trouble against Brian Kelly just after the opening and had to defend the whole game. Well, sometimes things just do not work out...

At least I was successful in backgammon, playing against my friend Mark Heidenfeld. Some of my throws were quite spectacular. Mark called it luck, but I have a better name - inspiration! Mark is a keen CT reader, so he can write back to the newspaper if he does not agree with this definition. :-)

The organisers led by Gerry Graham did a very good job. A new venue - the conference centre of the Fitzpatrick Hotel in Bunratty was very nice, with lots of space and good facilities. I only wish the time control was shorter, so we could enjoy the sights - the neighbouring Bunratty Castle and river Shannon. Maybe Gerry Graham (another CT reader!) will take a notice? :-) Personally,

I think that 1 hour 15 minutes per game each would be plenty - 7.5 hours of chess a day is more than enough. Otherwise it becomes hard work … and this is for a tournament where most people are not chess professionals. Nevertheless it was a pleasant weekend (if you believe that there is life after chess!) and I look forward to returning there.

It was good to see that there were many kids at the tournament, so maybe soon you will have to learn some new names in addition to Mr. Mason!

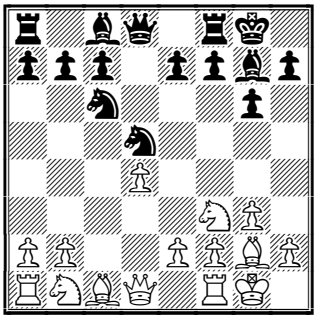
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Bronstein (2455) − Lputian (2580)
Ubeda open, 1996 D76
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

72 year old David Bronstein played like a magician and smashed a very strong and experienced GM. I was one of the spectators at this wonderful game and, like all the others, admired his play very much. Look and enjoy!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♗g2 0-0 7.0-0 ♘c6



A principled reply of Gruenfeld heroes against the fianchetto variation.

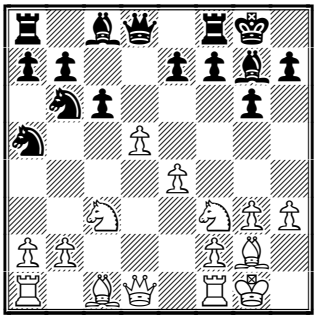
8.e4 ♘b6 9.d5 ♘a5

The knight on the edge of the board is not so bad as it looks. Black intends to exchange or isolate the d5−pawn by c7−c6 so the knight will get some good possibilities to return to the centre via c6 or c4 at the same time producing counterplay on the queenside.

10.♘c3 c6

Notice that Black has rather good development as his light−squared bishop is also ready to get into play. Not being burdened with modern theory, Bronstein comes up with a novelty, which looks rather slow.

11.h3!?



Preventing ....♗g4. One of the main lines is 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗f4 Here Black usually gets counterplay by 12...♗g4 , the game Greenfeld − Kortchnoi, Beer Sheva 1994 continued by 13.♕c1!? cxd5 14.exd5 ♗xf3 15.♗xf3 g5! 16.♗d2 ♘ac4 17.♖d1 ♖c8⇄ and Black obtained an acceptable position although White's chances look slightly preferable.

11...♗xc3

A principled reply − Black accepts the gift but parts with very useful bishop. Fairly speaking, it looks rather dangerous, especially against Bronstein. A typical 11...cxd5 12.exd5 ♘ac4 was also worthy of considering.

12.bxc3 cxd5 13.exd5 ♘xd5 14.♗h6♖e8 15.♘e5 ♗e6 16.c4

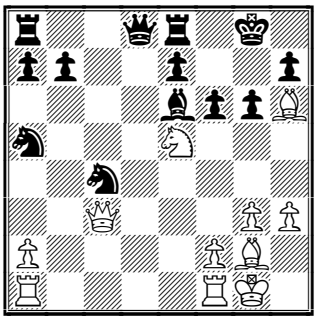
16...♘b6?!

Beginning to play with fire. 16...♘f6!? looked more reliable keeping the long diagonal closed.

17.♕e1! ♘bxc4?!

A serious inaccuracy in defence. 17...♘axc4!? seemed to be stronger, keeping the knight on b6 to have the possibility to counter 18.♕c3 by 18...♘a4

18.♕c3 f6



Black was probably sure the knight should capture on c4 but a big surprise awaited him.

19.♖fe1!?

Unbelievable!!! White is going to clear long diagonal by any cost. The simple 19.♘xc4!? was maybe stronger: 19...♘xc4 (19...♗xc4?! 20.♖fd1 ♕c7 21.♖d5 b6 22.♖xa5 bxa5 23.♗d5+±) 20.♗xb7 with strong initiative.

19...♖c8

19...fxe5?? was losing instantly after 20.♖xe5!; 19...♕c8!? deserved serious attention.

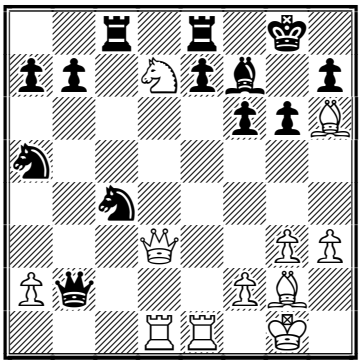
20.♖ad1 ♕b6 21.♘d7! ♕b2

This is what Black was probably hoping for.

22.♕d3

White had no time to take the bishop e6 as after 22.♕xb2 ♘xb2 the rook d1 was hanging: 23.♖d2 ♔f7

22...♗f7

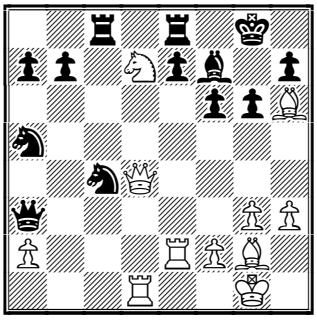


Two extra pawns, no direct threats. Do you believe Black will resign in 8 moves?!

23.♖e2 ♕a3

23...♕b5! was probably the only defence intending to counter 24.♕d4 (24.♖de1 kept the initiative) with 24...♘e5!

24.♕d4!

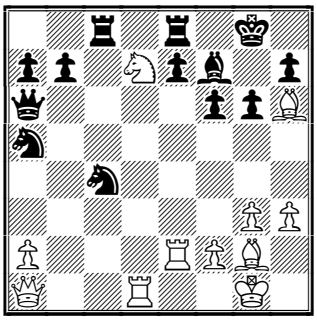


Taking the long diagonal back! It is hard to believe but Black is already defenceless. ♘f6 is threatening...

24...♕d6 25.♕a1

Ambush!

25...♕a6

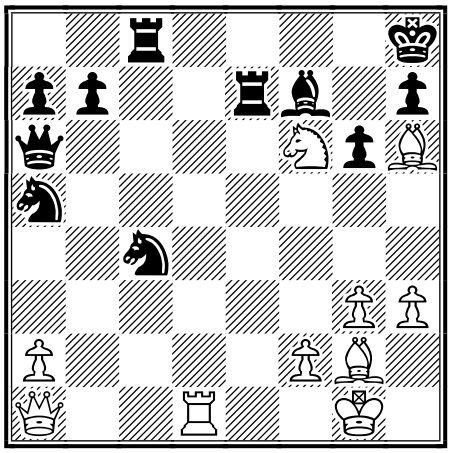


The pawn f6 is protected.

26.♖xe7!!

It's already not!

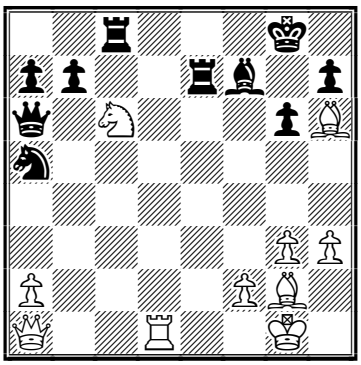
26...♖xe7 27.♘xf6+ ♔h8



28.♘d7+

There was no need to search for direct mate by 28.♗g7+!? ♔xg7 29.♘e8+ ♔h6 (29...♔f8 30.♕g7+ ♔xe8 31.♕h8+) 30.♕g7+ and so on − the text move is good enough.

28...♘e5 29.♘xe5 ♔g8 30.♘c6



There are no more pieces to close the long diagonal. Black resigned. An

excellent game which any player would be proud of. By the way, it seemed that this crashing defeat in the second round gave a great boost to Smbat Lputian − he won almost every remaining game and became winner of the tournament with 8 points out of 10! **1-0**

Recommended sites.

www.schach.com/bundesliga
usuarios.tripod.es/fsajedrez/torneos/coria.html
www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01montecinv.htm
www.chessclub.com
www.clubkasparov.com
www.chesscenter.com

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback! **Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today.** Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-106 20 February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Sergey Dolmatov celebrates his **42nd birthday**. Although he's not managed to joined the elite, and recently does not play in many chess tournaments, his chess ability is beyond question. He became World Junior Champion in 1978; shared second place in the Soviet Championship in 1989, and became a candidate to the World Title in 1990. It's impossible not to mention that Dolmatov at various times was the second of two World Champions – Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik. A pupil of the famous chess trainer Mark Dvoretsky, he is well-known for extraordinary endgame technique – we would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to feature one brilliant example from his practice in the annotated game section.
Our congratulations, Sergey!

Let's take a look at the tournaments.

Oleg Korneev dominates the **Villa de Coria del Rio** tournament in **Sevilla** with perfect score after 6 rounds! Reynaldo Vera, Davor Komljenovic, Carlos Matamoros and Antonio Nuevo Perez are in chase, a full point behind.

Some results of the 6th Round:
Korneev – Teran Alvarez **1-0**
Vera – Campora **½-½**
Komljenovic – Valdes Romero **1-0**
Ortega Valle – Matamoros **0-1**
Nuevo Perez – Martin Vazquez **1-0**

Top boards of the 7th Round:
Komljenovic (5) – Korneev (6)
Matamoros (5) – Vera (5)
Simonenko (4½) - Nuevo Perez (5)
Garcia Martinez (4½) – Campora (4½)

The 5th United Insurance GrandMasters tournament (cat.9) has started in **Dhaka**, **Bangladesh**. The event is headed by Estonian GM Jaan Ehlvest. Among the other participants there are also such GMs as Alexander Volzhin (Russia), Normunds Miezis and Igors Rausis (both of Latvia), Alexey Barsov (Uzbekistan), Nigel Davies (England) and Niaz Murshed (Bangladesh).

After 2 rounds GMs **Alexander Volzhin** and **Alexey Barsov**, IMs **Takhir Vakhidov** (Uzbekistan) and **Ziaur Rahman** (Bangladesh) are leading with 1½ points.

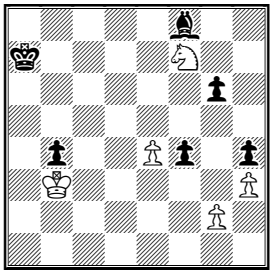
IM **Vlad Tomescu** of Romania has won the round robin tournament (cat.3) in **Montecatini Terme**, he scored 8½ points in 11 games. In the last round IM **Boris Chatalbashev** defeated GM **Igor Naumkin** with the black pieces and took over second place with 7½ points. Naumkin shared third with FM **Josko Mukic** of Croatia, one and a half points behind the winner.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

R. Vaganian (2550) – S. Dolmatov (2590)

Yerevan (zt) (15), 1982
Commentary by GM Ruslan .Scherbakov.
Analysis by S. Dolmatov and M.Dvoretsky.



This game was played in the last round of the Yerevan zonal tournament, 1982. In the previous stages of the game Dolmatov had been successfully defending a worse endgame. Vaganian, trying to win at any cost, chose a rather risky line and found himself without a pawn. Yet, a draw did not look to be an impossible task as Black's pawns are on the dark squares. The passed pawn are well blockaded, while White has his own passed pawn. Starting from this position, Sergey Dolmatov demonstrated unbelievable technique! Many grandmasters, who were spectators of the game at the time, and who studied this endgame afterwards, did not understand what was going on.

63...♔b8!!

One of the most spectacular moves (and, of course, the idea behind it) in the whole chess history. Let's take a look at the alternatives to try understand Dolmatov's idea. First of all Black's task is to consolidate the kingside by ...♗e7 and ...g5 after which a typical breakthrough idea such as...g5−g4 is on the agenda. However the immediate 63...♗e7? failed to 64.♘e5 with ideas such as ♘c6 and ♘g6; So Black should bring up the king. But where? After 63...♔b7? White escapes by 64.♘d8+! ♔c8 65.♘e6 ♗d6 66.e5! ♗xe5 67.♔xb4=; In case of 63...♔b6? 64.♘e5 Black should sacrifice the bishop by 64...g5 but after 65.♘d7+ the king does not have a good square to escape! For example: 65...♔a5 (65...♔b5? 66.♘xf8 g4 67.♘e6; 65...♔b7? 66.♘xf8 g4 67.♘e6 f3 68.gxf3 gxh3 69.♘c5+ followed by ♘d3−f2+−) 66.♘xf8 g4 and now 67.e5!= saves the game as the pawns are promoted simultaneously; finally, after 63...♔a6 64.♘e5 g5 65.♘g6 ♗c5 66.♔c4 ♔b6 (66...♔a5? 67.♔xc5 b3 68.♘e5) 67.♘e5 ♗d6 68.♘f3 ♗e7 69.♘d4 the position from the game could have been reached. However, the point of Dolmatov's godsend was that he discovered it is a position of mutual zugzwang and should be reached on White's move! If it is Black to move than it is a draw: 69...♔a5 (69...♗f6 70.e5! ♗xe5 71.♘f3 ♗d6 72.♘xg5 ♔a5 73.♔b3 ♔b5 74.♘f3 ♗e7 75.♘d4+=) 70.♔b3! (only not 70.♘c6+? ♔a4 71.♘xe7 g4! 72.hxg4 f3 73.gxf3 h3 74.♘f5 h2 75.♘g3 b3-+ promoting the pawn) 70...♗c5 (70...♗f6 71.e5) 71.♘e6 ♗e7 72.♘d4 and Black cannot make progress.

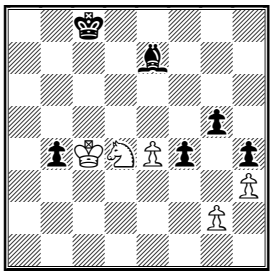
64.♔c4

Another important idea behind 63. ..♔b8!! is that after 64.♘e5 g5! 65.♘d7+ (65.♘g6 ♗c5 66.♔c4 ♔c7! 67.♔xc5 b3 68.♘e7 b2 69.♘d5+ ♔d7 70.♘c3 g4 71.♔d4 g3! followed by ...f3!-+) Black's king finds a perfect square to retreat to − after 65...♔c8! it hides from check and stops the e−pawn! 66.♘xf8 g4!-+ and so on.

64...♔c8!

The only square again! Both 64...♗e7? 65.♘e5; and 64...♔c7? 65.♘g5! ♔d7 (65...♗d6 66.e5) 66.♘f3! with ideas such as ♘h4 and ♘e5 let White to solve his task immediately. Now White cannot prevent Black's consolidation on the kingside by ...♗e7 and ...g5.

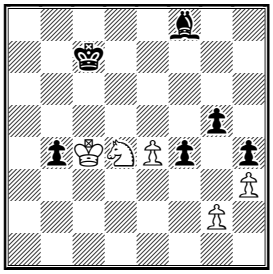
65.♘g5 ♗e7 66.♘e6 g5 67.♘d4 (D)



Black has solved the first task successfully. Now he should penetrate into the opponent's camp. The only way seems to be a5−a4 and the retreat of White's king to b3 opens the way for b5−c5. White could try to get counterplay by using his passed pawn, but it may give

additional possibilities for Black as well.

67...♔c7 68.♘f5 ♗f8 69.♘d4 (D)



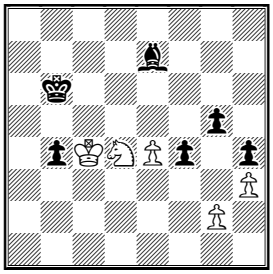
69...♔b7!!

Another brilliant move! We already know the idea − to lose a tempo and to reach already mentioned position of mutual zugzwang with White's turn.

70.♘f3 ♗e7 71.♘d4

GM Grigory Kaidanov found that zugzwang could have been avoided by 71.♘e5! ♔b6 72.♘g6! ♗c5 (72...♔a5? 73.♘xe7 g4 74.♘c6+ ♔a4 75.♘xb4 f3 76.gxf3 g3 77.♘d5 g2 78.♘c3+ and ♘e2+−; 72...♗d6 73.e5 ♗c5 74.e6) 73.♘e5 ♗d6 74.♘f3 ♗e7 75.♘d4 and it is Black's turn, but if Vaganian had found this we would have considered this endgame on his birthday too!

71...♔b6 (D)



So it's White to move.

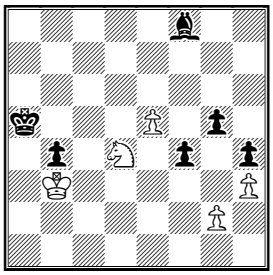
72.♘f5

72.♘f3 ♔a5 73.♔b3 ♔b5 was too bad for White.; As we'll see, White could have played 72.e5!? − this position will be considered later.

72...♗f8 73.♘d4 ♔a5 74.♔b3 ♗g7! 75.e5

In the case of 75.♘c6+ ♔b5 76.♘xb4 ♔c5! (76...g4? 77.♘d3! f3 78.gxf3 gxh3 79.♘f2) 77.♘c2 ♗f6⊙-+ White was forced to open the door for Black's king.

75...♗f8 (D)



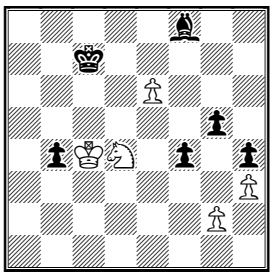
76.e6?

A tempting move which is actually a decisive mistake! The only way was 76.♘e6! ♗e7 77.♘d4 ♔b6 78.♔c4 − this position could have been reached after 72. e5!? − and thorough analysis have not proved Black's win: 78...♔c7 79.♔d3 ♔d7 80.♔e4 ♔e8 81.♘b3 ♔f7 82.♔f5! ♗d8 83.♘a1 ♔e8 84.♘b3 ♔d7 85.♘d4! ♗b6 86.♘b3 ♗e3 87.♘a5 ♔e8! (losing a tempo before the march as it will be more effective with the knight on b3) 88.♘b3 ♔e7 89.♘a5 ♔f7 90.♘b3 g4 91.♔xg4 ♔e6 and now only 92.♘a5! holds the position − Black cannot capture on e5 due to ♘c6−b4. Nevertheless, I think the fact that White could make a draw does not diminish the impact of Black's wonderful play very much.(92.♔xh4? ♔xe5 93.♔g4 ♔d5 94.h4 ♔c4 95.♘a5+ ♔b5 96.♘b3 ♔a4 97.♘a1 ♗d4 98.♘c2 b3-+) Now the very important squares d6 and f6 are available for Black's king − this is enough to win the game − of course, with precise technique.

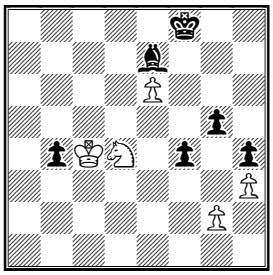
76...♔b6 77.♔c4

If White wins the bishops by 77.♘f5 ♔c5 78.e7 ♗xe7 79.♘xe7 than he is just one tempo late (!): 79...♔d4 80.♘f5+ ♔e4 81.♘d6+ ♔e3 82.♔xb4 ♔f2 83.♘e4+ ♔xg2 84.♘xg5 f3 85.♘xf3 ♔xf3 86.♔c3 ♔g3 87.♔d2 ♔xh3 88.♔e2 ♔g2-+

77...♔c7 (D)



The king goes back to the 8th rank! **78.♘f5 ♔d8 79.♔b3 ♔e8 80.♔c4 ♗e7 81.♘d4 ♔f8 (D)**

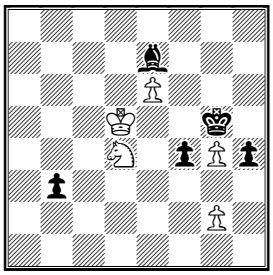


A drawback of the pawn advance e5−e6 becomes clear − Black's king finds a very narrow way to penetrate through the kingside!

82.♘f3

82.♘f5 did not prevent the king's march: 82...g4! 83.hxg4 f3 84.gxf3 h3 85.♘g3 ♔g7 and three pawns cannot stop it!

82...♔g7 83.♘d2 ♔f6 84.♔d5 ♔f5 85.♘b3 g4 86.♘d4+ ♔g5 87.hxg4 b3! (D)



White resigned. How many grandmasters can find something like this in their own practice? I don't remember seeing such miracles in the last few years, but I am afraid we have even less chances to see them in the future − a new rapid time control is coming... **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:
usuarios.tripod.es/fsajedrez/torneos/coria.html
www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01montecinv.htm
www.bdcf.org
www.chessclub.com

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CT-107, 21st February 2001

Chess around the Globe

The Chess World is looking forward to the confrontation between **Garry Kasparov** and **Anatoly Karpov** - the super-tournament in **Linares** opens tomorrow.

Let us remind you of the list of participants:

Garry Kasparov RUS 2849
Peter Leko HUN 2745
Alexey Shirov ESP 2718
Anatoly Karpov RUS 2679
Judit Polgar HUN 2676
Alexander Grischuk RUS 2663

The event promises to be very attractive even without both World Champions – Vladimir Kramnik, who could not agree conditions with the organisers and Viswanathan Anand, who has commitments to his sponsor in India.

Kasparov is clear favourite of the event but I dare say that he will face a serious challenge from Shirov who recently is in very good form and whose aggressive style often helps him to score a lot of victories in top level tournaments.

Peter Leko's style is much more boring although he is beginning to enjoy complications lately. Nevertheless I think he won't be the person to shake Kasparov's leadership in the event.

It is very difficult to give a prognosis for the other participants. Karpov's motivation to prove he was ruled out from the chess elite a little bit prematurely seems to be very high, but a lack of tournament practice and his performances in the last few years make his chances slim.

Both Judit Polgar, who introduces a special charm to the event, and rising star Alexander Grischuk seem to be free from any obligations to achieve a positive score – they can play as they like and it may bring sensational results.

One thing is beyond doubt - it won't be as boring an event as it was last year when six of the best players in the World tried to find out if the Petroff Defence is drawn or not.

Now let's take a look at the other tournaments.

GM **Davor Komljenovic** of Croatia became the hero of the 7th Round of the **Villa de Coria del Rio** in **Sevilla –** he eventually stopped **Oleg Korneev**, who had 6 out of 6 (!) and so joined him in the lead. GM Reynaldo Vera, IMs Carlos Matamoros, Ismael Teran Alvarez and Antonio Nuevo Perez are in chase, half a point behind.

Results of the 7th Round:
Komljenovic – Korneev **1-0**
Matamoros – Vera **½-½**
Simonenko – Nuevo Perez **½-½**
Garcia Martinez – Campora **½-½**
Teran Alvarez – Landero Luna **1-0**

Top boards of the 8th Round:
Korneev (6) – Vera (5½)
Matamoros (5½) – Komljenovic (6)
Nuevo Perez (5½) – Teran Alvarez (5½)

Alexander Volzhin of Russia took the lead in the 5th United Insurance GrandMasters tournament (cat.9) in **Dhaka**, **Bangladesh**. In the 3rd round he beat GM Normunds Miezis and scored 2½ points. Two Bangladesh players became the heroes of the day. GM **Niaz Murshed** outplayed ELO-favourite GM Jaan Ehlvest while his compatriot FM

Enamul Hossain beat GM Alexey Barsov. Their achievement looks even more impressive if we take into account that they were victorious with black

What's New in Chess Today

Dear Readers,
I would like to inform you about new developments in our newspaper. First of all, we have developed a special page exactly for this purpose at www.chesstoday.net - please keep an eye on the **'What's New'** page. On the site we also have a now active **Discussion Board**. I will contribute to it frequently and hope that our readers, as well as our columnists, will visit it as well.

Linares Quiz for CT subscribers.
As you may remember, you have a chance of winning a nice Gambit clock (worth about $60), if you correctly guess the final standing of the Linares 2001 tournament. Please mark your entries 'Linares Quiz' and send them to ababurin@iol.ie before 23rd of February.

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Of course, it is possible and perfectly logical to avail of all three options. If you are interested, feel free to contact me at ababurin@iol.ie - we might be in business soon!

♘♘♘

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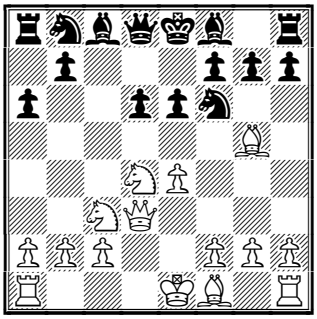
With best regards,
GM Alexander Baburin

Annotated Game

Kasymdzhanov (2690) − Shirov (2745)
Bundesliga, 2001 B95
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

This game between leaders Solingen and Luebeck turned out to be a decisive win in a very important match. Alexey Shirov played in his usual style − aggressive, suspicious−looking set−ups, but actually well grounded and well−calculated play!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♕d3

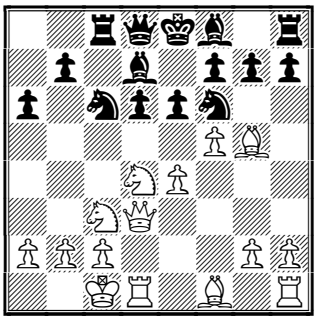


White usually develops the queen to d2 or to f3 but the main and very sharp lines originate from 7.f4

7...♘c6

7...♘bd7 is usually played but the text move is not at all bad − Black transposes to the variation where the queen seems to be better placed on d2.

8.0-0-0 ♗d7 9.f4 ♖c8 10.f5!?

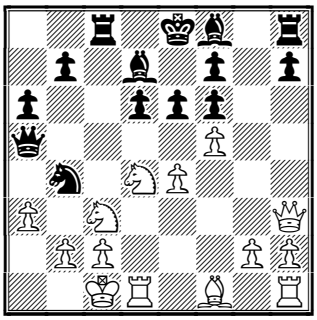


A direct approach, which is new for this position. 10.♔b1 did not promise too much for White: 10...♗e7 11.♗e2 (after 11.♖g1 h6 12.♗h4 g5!? 13.fxg5 ♘g4 14.♘xc6 ♗xc6 15.♕e2 hxg5 16.♗g3 ♕b6↑ Black took the initiative in the game Janosevic − Fischer, Belgrade 1958) 11...0-0 12.♗f3 ♕c7 13.♘xc6 ♗xc6 14.♗xf6 ♗xf6 15.♕xd6 ♗xc3 16.♕xc7 ♖xc7 17.bxc3 f5= and here a draw was agreed in the game Tolnai − Aseev, Kecskemet 1992.

10...♘b4!?

Black accepts the challenge! In fairness this set−up looks very risky. It was still possible to continue the development by 10...♗e7 with acceptable play.

11.♕h3 ♕a5 12.♗xf6 gxf6 13.a3

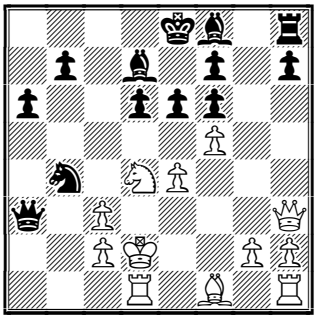


13.fxe6 fxe6 led to the same.

13...♖xc3

This is forced.

14.bxc3 ♕xa3+ 15.♔d2

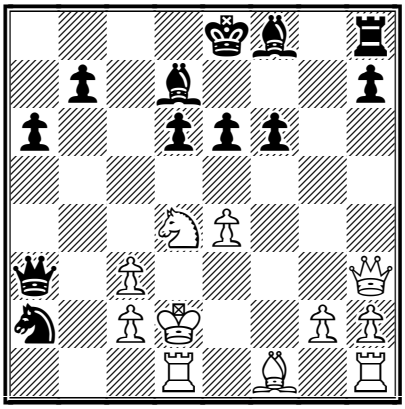


What to do now? The knight is hanging as well as the e6 pawn...

15...♘a2!

Excellent − two Black pieces went deep into the White camp while the rest of his army stayed at home! Strangely enough things are far from clear due to some concrete features of the position which Shirov took into account. The natural 15...♘c6? destroyed Black's previous play: 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.♘xc6 (17.♘xe6!? ♔e7 18.♗c4) 17...bxc6 18.♕h5+ followed by ♖b1 with a big advantage.

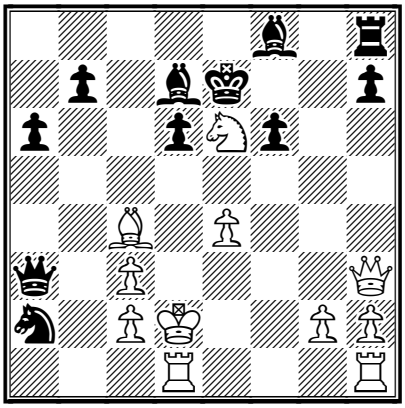
16.fxe6 fxe6



17.♘xe6?

This logical move, which was probably based on miscalculation, is a big mistake. Both 17.♖b1 b5; or 17.♘b3 ♕b2! did not extinguish Black's initiative.; The best way was 17.♗c4! ♗h6+ 18.♔e1 ♕xc3+ 19.♕xc3 ♘xc3 20.♖d3 ♘xe4 21.♘xe6∞ with roughly equal ending.

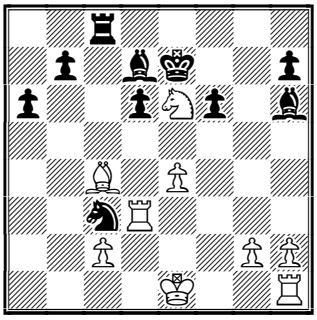
17...♔e7! 18.♗c4



18...♗h6+! 19.♔e1

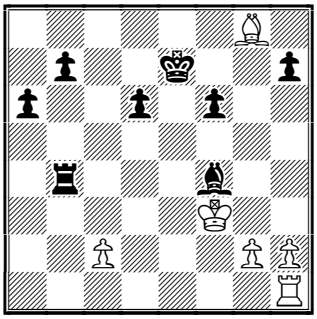
19.♕xh6? ♕xc3+-+

19...♕xc3+ 20.♕xc3 ♘xc3 21.♖d3 ♖c8!



Look how quickly all Black's pieces came into play! Suddenly it turned out that White is losing material.

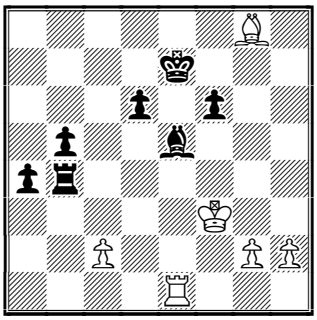
22.♖xc3 ♗xe6 23.♗xe6 ♖xc3 24.♗b3 ♖e3+ 25.♔f2 ♖xe4 26.♗d5 ♖f4+ 27.♔g3 ♖b4 28.♗g8 ♗f4+ 29.♔f3



29...♗e5!

An attempt to keep all the pawns by 29...h6 failed to 30.c3 ♖a4 31.♖b1 and Black should give up the pawn b7 and retreat with the king to the 8/th rank due to the threat ♗b3.

30.♗xh7 a5 31.♗g8 a4 32.♖e1 b5-+



I cannot be sure but suspect that here White lost on time rather than resigned. Anyway, the position should be winning for Black − he plays ♖b2, b5−b4 and so on. **0-1**

♘♘♘

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http://www.ajedrez21.com
usuarios.tripod.es/fsajedrez/torneos/coria.html
www.bdcf.org
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-108, 22 February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Mikhail Gurevich >> celebrates his **42nd birthday today** - a former champion of the former Soviet Union (1985). While living in the Soviet Union he had been under strong pressure under the "communist system". For example, he was not allowed to play in the Interzonal tournament – the reason given was ridiculous – they had "lost" the necessary papers. As a result of this treatment he was practically forced to emigrate to the West.

Under the Belgium flag he won the super-tournament *Reggio-Emilia 1988*, ahead of Anand, Ivanchuk, Ribli, and Andersson. He then subsequently switched to coaching (Anand was one of his students) and writing. Only at the end of 1990's did he resume active play again, and what a great comeback it was! Gurevich won almost every tournament which he took part in – mostly the opens, where players of his level do not normally like to participate in very often – now his ELO is close to the superGM mark – 2694!

Chess Today wishes Mikhail further successes and takes the opportunity to showcase one of his excellent victories! (see the annotated game section below.)

There are a few tournaments underway.

GM **Davor Komljenovic** of Croatia took sole lead of the **Villa de Coria del Rio** tournament which is close to finishing in **Sevilla.** In the 8th Round he beat Carlos Matamoros and scored 7 points. **Oleg Korneev** drew against Reynaldo Vera and is clear second now, a half point behind.

Results of the 8th Round:

Korneev – Vera **½-½**
Matamoros – Komljenovic **0-1**

Nuevo Perez – Teran Alvarez **½-½**
Campora – Martin Vazquez **1-0**
Munoz Martin – Simonenko **0-1**

Top boards of the 9th Round:
Komljenovic (7) – Campora (6)
Simonenko (6) – Korneev (6½)
Vera (6) – Ortega Valle (6)
Garcia Martinez (6) – Nuevo Perez (6)
Teran Alvarez (6) – Matamoros (5½)

Alexander Volzhin of Russia kept the lead in the round robin category 9 tournament in **Dhaka**, **Bangladesh**. The 4th Round was rather peaceful – only one game was decisive – Sandipan Chanda of India scored his first win, having beaten yesterday's hero Niaz Murshed. Thus the situation has not changed – IMs **Takhir Vakhidov** of Uzbekistan, **Ziaur Rahman** and FM **Enamul Hossain** (both of Bangladesh) are in chase, a half point behind

Don't forget, tomorrow starts the 1st round of the super-tournament in **Linares**. The parings for the first round will be:
Leko - Kasparov
Shirov - Karpov
Grischuk - Polgar.

You can enjoy the games on-line not only on the official site, but also on the **Internet Chess Club** (ICC) – the start of the round has been announced to begin at 14-30 GMT, 9-30 EST time.

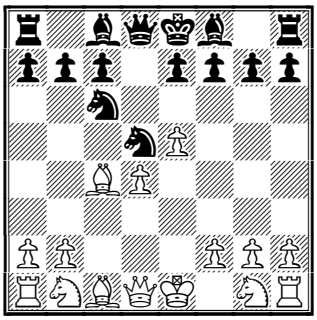
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

M. Gurevich (2690) − M. Sadler (2630)
Bundesliga, 2000
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
D20

Strategically clear and far−sighted play in complex positions is one of the strongest features of Mikhail Gurevich's style. When opponents eventually discover his ideas it is often too late.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.♗xc4 ♘c6 (D)



This move has recently become popular. Black hopes to achieve similar positions avoiding some complicated and dangerous lines. The immediate 5...♘b6 is a common option.

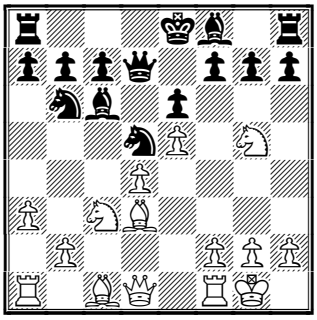
6.♘c3 ♘b6 7.♗b5 ♗d7 8.♘f3 e6 9.0-0

The alternative is 9.a3 ♘e7 10.♗d3 ♗c6 11.0-0. In the game Dreev − Fominykh, Russia T−ch Smolensk 2000, Black introduced an interesting idea and solved the problems by 11...♘f5!? 12.♗xf5 exf5 13.e6 fxe6 14.♖e1 ♗e7 15.♘e5 0-0 16.♘xc6 bxc6 17.♖xe6 ♗d6 18.♕f3 ♕d7 19.♖e1 ♖ae8 20.♗f4 ♖xe1+ 21.♖xe1 ♖e8 22.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 and here a draw was agreed to.

9...♘b4 10.♗e2 ♗c6 11.a3 ♘4d5 12.♗d3

12.♘e4 ♘f4!? 13.♗xf4 ♗xe4∞ was played in Kortchnoi − Sadler, Arnhem 1999.

12...♕d7 13.♘g5!? (D)



A new and interesting idea. Black is going to castle queenside so White takes a close look at the pawn on f7. The knight on g5 wont mind being pushed too much as it might continue its manoeuvre to c5. 13.♘e4 has usually been played, but has not caused Black serious problems: 13...♗b5 (13...0-0-0 14.♗g5 ♗e7 15.♘c5 ♕e8 16.♗xe7 ♘xe7 17.♖e1 ♘a4 18.♘xa4 ♗xa4 19.♕e2 h6 20.♖ac1 ♗c6 with good play, Petursson − Anand, Wijk aan Zee 1990) 14.♖e1 ♗xd3 15.♕xd3 a6 16.♗d2 ♕b5 17.♕c2 ♕c4 18.♖ac1 ♕xc2 and here a draw was agreed in the game Khalifman − Sadler, Germany BL 1998.

13...0-0-0

According to Mikhail Gurevich, after 13...h6!? 14.♕h5 g6 15.♗xg6 hxg5 16.♕xh8 fxg6 17.♗xg5 White takes the initiative. This, however, was disputed in the game Volkov − Fominykh, ch−RUS, Samara 2000: 17...♕f7! 18.♘e4 ♔d7! 19.♕h4 ♖e8 20.f3 ♔c8 21.♖ae1 ♔b8 and Black has achieved very good play.

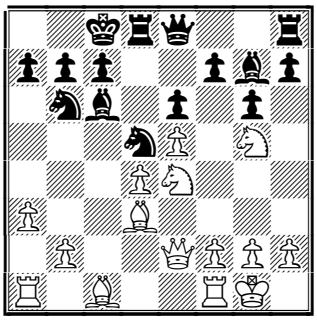
14.♕h5!

Of course the threat can be parried easily, but only by making unfavourable pawn moves.

14...g6

The other possibility − 14...f6 − gave White better chances in the ending after 15.♘xe6 g6 16.♕h3 (16.♘xf8 ♖hxf8⇄) 16...♖e8 17.♘xf8 ♕xh3 18.gxh3 ♖hxf8 19.♗h6± (Gurevich).

15.♕e2 ♗g7 16.♘ce4 ♕e8 (D)



17.♘f3!

Excellent play! Sometimes it looks like White is just moving back and forth but actually his play is well thought−out − everything he is doing is aimed against Black's counter−play. First, he forces Black to change his pawn formation on the kingside and so significantly decreases the possible effect of a standard undermining − eg...f7−f6. Now he retreats with the Knight to defend the pawn on d4 before it can be attacked by ...♘e7−f5. The Knight had really nothing to do on g5 while the Bishop would be developed on g5 to good effect. The routine move 17.♗d2?! was much weaker, since after 17...♘e7!? 18.♘f3 ♘f5 Black could have achieved good counter−play: 19.♗e3 ♘d5 with idea of ...♘f5−e3 followed by ...f7−f6. Initially Black cannot organise counterplay easily mainly because he has only one good square for his two Knights so White should not help him solve this problem.

17...♔b8?

Underestimating the dangers. With the text move Black has perhaps already lost his last chance to gain counterplay. Now his pieces become too passive. It seems that Black has no other move than 17...f6! According to Gurevich, in this case White could have secured the advantage by 18.exf6 (18.♘c5!? also deserves attention, in my opinion) 18...♘xf6 19.♗g5 ♗xe4 (19...♖f8 20.♖ac1 h6 21.♘xf6 ♗xf6 22.♗xf6 ♖xf6 23.♘e5 ♖xd4 24.♕c2!↑) 20.♗xe4 h6 21.♗xf6 ♗xf6 22.♖ac1±

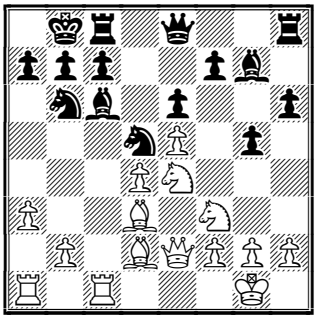
18.♗g5 ♖c8 19.♖fc1

Incidentally threatening ♖xc6.

19...h6

19...♖f8?! 20.♖xc6 bxc6 (20...♕xc6?? 21.♗b5) 21.♗a6± would not be acceptable for Black.

20.♗d2 g5 (D)



20...f5 21.exf6 ♘xf6 22.♘c5±

21.b3!

The advance of the a−pawn will increase White's initiative greatly.

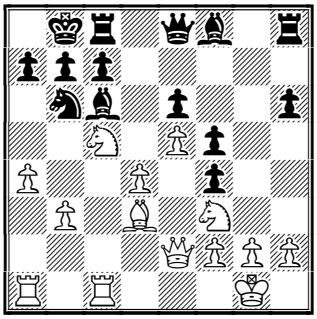
21...f5

Black tries to do something other than waiting for the storm but his actions cannot bring the desired effect.

22.♘c5!?

22.exf6 ♘xf6 23.♘c5± was also in White's favour, but the idea of keeping the center closed and the Bishop on g7 passive, looks stronger.

22...♘f4 23.♗xf4 gxf4 24.a4 ♗f8 (D)



24...♗d5 25.a5 ♘d7 26.♗c4! was also not much fun for Black.; in case of 24...♘d7 White could have proved the advantage by 25.♘a6+! (25.♗b5 ♘xc5 26.♖xc5 ♗d7 27.♕d2 ♗f8 28.♗xd7 ♕xd7 29.♖c4 h5 would have given Black some counter−play) 25...♔a8 (25...bxa6 26.♖xc6 ♘xe5 27.♘xe5 ♗xe5 28.♖ac1 ♗xd4

29.♗xa6+−) 26.b4 ♕h5 27.♖xc6! bxc6 28.♖c1+− and Black is helpless.

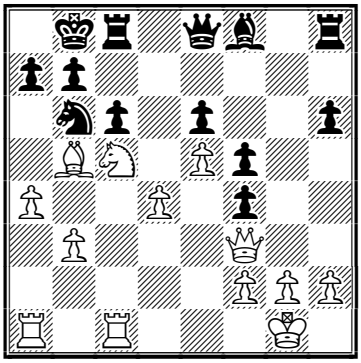
25.♗b5!

Threatening both ♘a6 and ♗c6. A direct advance of the pawn did not bring the desired effect: 25.a5?! ♘d5 26.a6 b6∞ with unclear play (Gurevich).

25...♗xf3

The opening of the a−file by 25...♗xb5 26.axb5 was hardly possible.

26.♕xf3 c6 (D) 27.a5! ♘d7?!



According to Gurevich, more stubborn was 27...♘d5! 28.♗c4 ♗xc5 29.dxc5 a6 30.♗xd5 cxd5 31.♕xf4± with some chances to hold the position.

28.a6!

Completely breaking the king's shield.

28...♘xc5

28...♗xc5 loses quickly: 29.dxc5 ♖c7 30.axb7 cxb5 31.♖xa7! ♔xa7 32.♖a1+ with checkmate on the next move.

29.dxc5 ♖d8

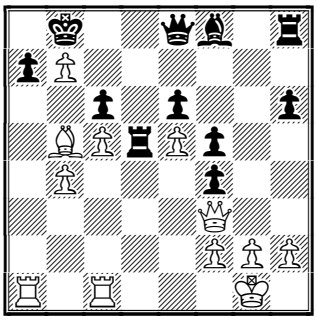
29...♖h7 30.axb7 ♖cc7 31.♗a6+− was absolutely hopeless for Black.]

30.axb7!

Look at the bishop on b5 − it's been hanging for a number of moves but Black has no time even to think about capturing it!

30...♖d5 (D)

30...cxb5? was impossible due to the direct 31.c6 ♖h7 32.♕c3 with ideas of c6−c7 and Qc3−a5.

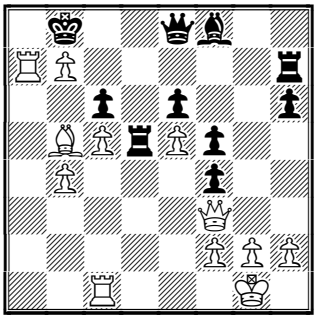


31.b4!

Protecting the important pawn and so not allowing Black's Bishop to participate in the defence.

31...♖h7 (D)

By the way, the Bishop was still untouchable: 31...cxb5 32.♕a3+−



32.♖xa7!

Forcing the issue. Of course 32.♗c4+− was also winning.

32...♔xa7 33.♕a3+ ♔xb7 34.♕a6+ ♔b8

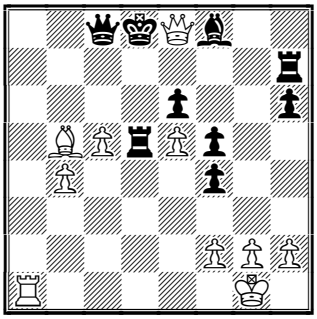
34...♔c7 was similar to the game: 35.♕b6+ ♔c8 36.♖a1+−

35.♖a1 ♕c8

Distracting the rook by 35...♖d1+ could have only postponed inevitable: 36.♖xd1 cxb5 37.♕b6+ ♔c8 (37...♖b7 38.♖d8+) 38.♖a1+−

36.♕a8+ ♔c7 37.♕xc6+ ♔d8

38.♕e8+ (D)



Black resigned. An excellent and instructive win by Mikhail Gurevich. The fact that Black had total control over the strong central d5 square did not help him to extinguish White's initiative − the other features of the position proved to be more important.38.♕e8+ ♔c7 39.♖a7+ ♔b8 40.♖a8+! **1-0.**

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CHESS TODAY
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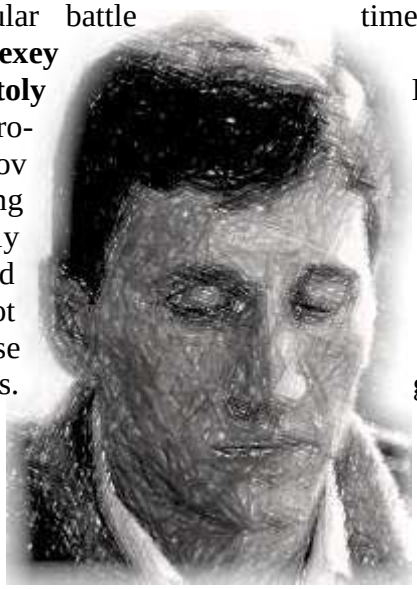
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-109, 23rd February 2001

Chess around the Globe

The 1st Round of the super-tournament in **Linares** lived up to our expectations – there was plenty of action!

Garry Kasparov found himself under pressure in the Naidorf Sicilian and was eventually forced to give up a pawn and his chances to hold the position looked problematic. The last moves in time-trouble changed the situation – **Peter Leko** gave the pawn back and simplified into a slightly worse rook ending which he held without many problems.

Judit Polgar outplayed **Alexander Grischuk** with the black pieces in a Paulsen Sicilian but being under time pressure, allowed him to escape by breaking her king shield with a piece sacrifice.



The most spectacular battle was between **Alexey Shirov** and **Anatoly Karpov** in a Caro-Cann Defence. Shirov played interesting chess but objectively speaking it looked like he had not managed to equalise with the white pieces. Nevertheless Karpov's play was masterful and, no less important, very cool. In time-trouble – he bravely led his king across the centre of the board under the fire of all of Shirov's major pieces and survived with an extra knight and two connected passed pawns into the ending! The fact that he missed a quick win a few times did not seem to be too embarrassing as his position still looked like a fairly easy win. However, Shirov offered fantastic resistance, while Karpov played indecisively and spoiled his advantage little by little! The game ended in draw after a hundred moves! A slightly disappointing evening for Karpov, who missed an excellent chance to take sole lead!

So all the games in the first round ended up as draws. But the spectators were not disappointed!

Pairings for the 2nd Round:
Kasparov - Polgar
Leko – Shirov
Karpov – Grischuk

Don't forget, you can enjoy the games on-line not only on the official site but also on the **Internet Chess Club** (ICC) – the round starts at 14-30 GMT, 9-30 EST time.

Let's take a look at the other tournaments.

The finish of the **Villa de Coria del Rio** in **Sevilla** was dramatic - GM **Davor Komljenovic** of Croatia, who has been playing excellently during the 8 previous rounds, lost his last game with the white pieces to GM Daniel Campora of Argentina while << GM **Oleg Korneev** of Russia outplayed Sergey Simonenko and became sole winner of the tournament with 7½ points!

Results of the 9th Round:
Komljenovic – Campora **0-1**
Simonenko – Korneev **0-1**
Vera – Ortega Valle **1-0**
Garcia Martinez – Nuevo Perez **½-½**
Teran Alvarez – Matamoros **½-½**

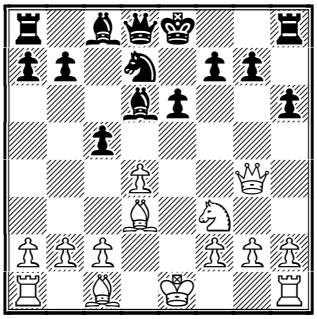
Davor Komljenovic, **Daniel Campora** and GM **Reynaldo Vera** of Cuba shared second place half a point behind. Congratulations to all the winners!

Alexander Volzhin of Russia strengthened his lead in a strong round robin tournament in **Dhaka**, **Bangladesh** – in the 5th Round he outplayed Reefat-bin-Sattar and scored 4 points.
Ziaur Rahman, who was also one of the chasing pack, lost to **Alexey Barsov** of Uzbekistan while **Nigel Davies** of England outplayed Igors Rausis. GMs Barsov, Davies and IM **Takhir Vakhidov** are sharing second place, already a full point behind the leader.

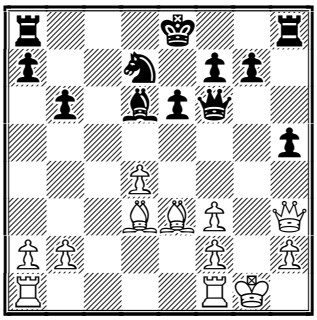
Annotated Game

Shirov – Karpov
Linares (1), 23.02.2001 B17
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c6
The Caro−Cann Defence is Karpov's main weapon.
2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘g5 ♘gf6 6.♗d3 e6 7.♘1f3 ♗d6
7...h6?! is too dangerous due to 8.♘xe6! Look how quickly Garry Kasparov was smashed by a silicon player: 8...♕e7? (8...fxe6 9.♗g6+ ♔e7 is known to be stronger) 9.0-0 fxe6 10.♗g6+ ♔d8 11.♗f4 b5 (11...♘d5 is better) 12.a4 ♗b7 13.♖e1 ♘d5 14.♗g3 ♔c8 15.axb5 cxb5 16.♕d3 ♗c6 17.♗f5! exf5 18.♖xe7 ♗xe7 19.c4 and Black resigned, Deep Blue − Kasparov, New York (m/6) 1997.
8.♕e2 h6 9.♘e4 ♘xe4 10.♕xe4 c5 11.♕g4



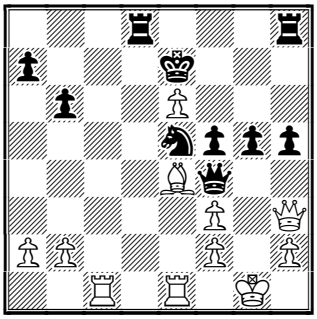
11...♕f6!?
A novelty. Before Black tried only 11...g5 ; and 11...♔f8
12.c3
12.♗e3!? came to mind with the idea of castling on the queenside.
12...cxd4 13.cxd4
Ambitious approach − White isolates his d−pawn.
13...b6
A logical continuation − Black develops the c8 bishop although he should have thought about perspectives for the d7 knight.
14.0-0
In case of 14.♗e4 ♗b4+ 15.♗d2 ♗xd2+ White should take on d2 with the king: 16.♔xd2 which does not look very good.(16.♘xd2 ♕xd4)
14...♗b7
Black has comfortably developed his pieces − it looks like White has not completely equalised in the opening as he has nothing real to compensate for the isolated pawn.
15.♗e3 h5 16.♕h3 ♗xf3
Breaking White's pawn structure should not be a bad decision.
17.gxf3



But now Black has a problem − where to place the king? The kingside does not seem to be a good escape as it is weakened by ...h6−h5 while the queenside is even more vulnerable so ... it should stay in the center!
17...♖d8 18.♖ac1 g5!? 19.♗e4 ♔e7!? 20.♖fe1 ♗f4 21.♗xf4?!
A disputable decision, probably based on some miscalculation − the dark squares became too weak. 21.♕f1!? deserved attention, improving the position of the queen.
21...♕xf4 22.d5
That's what White was hoping for − all his pieces are ready to attack Black's king so the attempt to open the e−file

looks logical. Unfortunately, the defensive potential of Black's pieces is very high. Also you should not forget that Black has an extra piece (and a very good one, which keeps under control all the squares around it!) in defence − of course, this is the king!

22...♘e5! 23.dxe6 f5!



Excellent! Now Black simply wins material so Shirov inventively tries to confuse his opponent who was in severe time−trouble.

24.♖c7+

24.♗b7 ♘d3

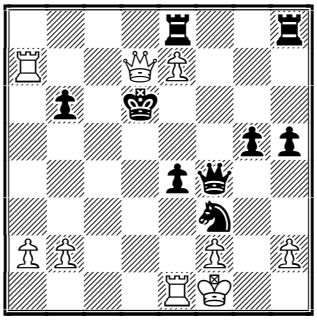
24...♔d6

Of course not 24...♔xe6?? 25.♗xf5+ ♕xf5 26.♖c6++−

25.♖xa7 fxe4!

Very cool!

26.e7 ♘xf3+ 27.♔f1 ♖de8 28.♕d7+



This looks terrible but actually it's just a check.

28...♔e5 29.♖d1 ♔f6-+

The king escapes easily.

30.♕c6+ ♔f7 31.♖d8 ♘xh2+

Immediate 31...e3!? looked quite good.

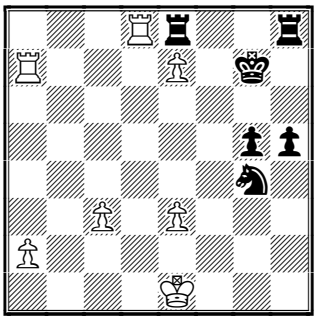
32.♔e1 ♘g4

32...e3!?

33.♕xb6 e3

To promote the h−pawn was also not a bad idea: 33...h4!?

34.♕b3+ ♔g7 35.♕c3+ ♕f6 36.fxe3 ♕xc3+ 37.bxc3



37...♘e5

Why not 37...♘xe3-+

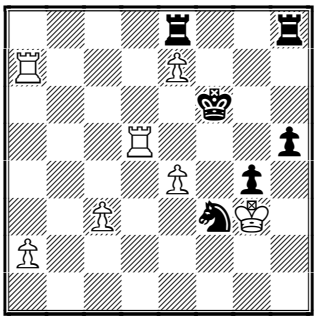
38.♖d5 ♔f6 39.e4!

This pawn advance, played on the very first move, did not bring good results − maybe this attempt will be more lucky?!

39...♘f3+ 40.♔f2 g4

The time−trouble is over, the position looks easily winning for Black. However, White can still offer tough resistance.

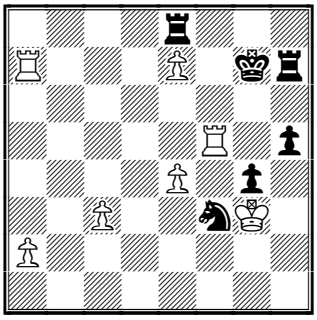
41.♔g3



41...♖h7

Starting to play indecisively. The passed pawn should go forward! It looks like the immediate 41...h4+! could have won the game: 42.♔xg4 h3 43.♖a6+ (43.♔xf3 h2 44.♖a6+ ♔f7 45.♖f5+ ♔xe7 46.♖a7+ ♔d8 47.♖d5+ ♔c8-+) 43...♔g7 44.♖d1 ♘e5+ 45.♔g3 h2 46.♖h1 ♔f7 and so on.

42.♖f5+ ♔g6 43.♖a6+! ♔g7 44.♖a7 ♔g6 45.♖a6+ ♔g7 46.♖a7



46...♖h6

In the case of 46...h4+ 47.♔xg4 h3 48.♖f8! White kept drawish chances: 48...♘e5+ 49.♔f4! (49.♔g3 h2 50.♖xe8 h1♕ 51.♖g8+ ♔f6-+) 49...h2 (49...♖h8 50.♔g3; 49...♘g6+ 50.♔g3) 50.♖xe8 h1♕ 51.♖g8+ ♔f6

A) 52.e8♘+!? ♔e6 53.♘g7+ ♖xg7 (53...♔d6 54.♘f5+ ♔c6?? 55.♖xh7 ♕xh7 56.♔xe5) 54.♖a6+ ♔f7 55.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 56.♔xe5;

B) 52.♖f8+ 52...♖f7 53.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 54.♔xe5 with chances to create a fortress.

47.♖d7 ♖e6

47...h4+ 48.♔xg4 h3 49.♖d1 did not look winning.

48.♖xh5 ♖xe4 49.♖f5

Black has only one pawn left so White's drawing chances increased!

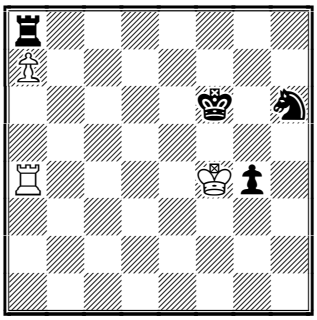
49...♘e5 50.♖c7 ♖e1 51.a4 ♘f7 52.a5

White also has passed pawns!

52...♘h6 53.♖f4 ♖8xe7 54.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 55.a6 ♖e3+ 56.♔g2

Of course not 56.♔h4?? ♔g6 with idea ...♖h3 mate!

56...♖xc3 57.♖a4 ♖c8 58.a7 ♖a8 59.♔g3 ♔f6 60.♔f4

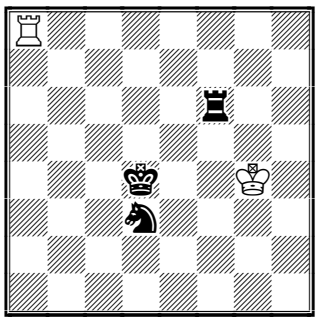


Unbelievable!!! It's a draw!

60...♔e7 61.♖a6 ♘f7 62.♔xg4 ♔d7

As a rule, R+N vs R does not give real winning chances. The method of defence is easy − even if your king is pushed to the back rank − pin the knight from the other side of the board! The rest is not very interesting.

63.♔f5 ♘d6+ 64.♔f4 ♘b5 65.♔e5 ♔c7 66.♔d5 ♔b7 67.♖a1 ♘xa7 68.♖b1+ ♔c7 69.♖c1+ ♔b6 70.♖b1+ ♘b5 71.♔c4 ♖c8+ 72.♔d5 ♖c5+ 73.♔e4 ♔c6 74.♖a1 ♘d6+ 75.♔d4 ♖d5+ 76.♔e3 ♔d7 77.♖a8 ♔e6 78.♖a7 ♔f5 79.♖c7 ♖e5+ 80.♔d3 ♖d5+ 81.♔e3 ♘e4 82.♖c4 ♘c5 83.♖c3 ♔e5 84.♖a3 ♖d4 85.♖c3 ♔d5 86.♖a3 ♖e4+ 87.♔f3 ♖e8 88.♖e3 ♖f8+ 89.♔e2 ♔d4 90.♖e7 ♖f6 91.♖e8 ♘e6 92.♖a8 ♘f4+ 93.♔f3 ♘d3+ 94.♔g4



A draw finally agreed. A tough battle! **½-½**

Recommended sites.

www.chessclub.com
www.ajedrez21.com
www.bdcf.org
usuarios.tripod.es/fsajedrez/torneos/coria.html

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-110, 24 February 2001

Chess around the Globe

The 2nd Round of the super-tournament in **Linares** was rather quiet – all games ended peacefully, without much fighting.

Garry Kasparov challenged **Judit Polgar** in a popular line of the Najdorf Sicilian but his position did not look very promising at any moment during the game. A queen's invasion by White was strongly met by a severe counter strike by Black and Garry accepted a draw to avoid suffering under a strong initiative; A rather disappointing outcome for the Number 1 player and a great achievement for Judit!

Anatoly Karpov looked better against **Alexander Grischuk** but the young player solved the problems with a typical pawn advance at the appropriate moment.

The game between **Peter Leko** and **Alexey Shirov** was very boring. Perhaps Peter thought that Alexey might make some dubious decisions, trying to make things crazy. Anyway, there were no chances to complicate the obviously drawn ending.

Thus, there are still only draws in the tournament table. All the players are sharing first place… and last place, as well.

Pairings for the 3rd Round:
Shirov – Kasparov
Polgar – Karpov
Grischuk – Leko

Alexey Shirov will no doubt try to break his bad habit of losing to Garry Kasparov every time – so far he has already lost 10 times not counting a few draws.

Both Polgar – Karpov and Grischuk – Leko will be interesting games where any result is possible.

Let's hope tomorrow the players will show a lot of enthusiasm and energy they may have accumulated in the first two rounds, and spectators wont be disappointed!

Today the biggest open in the World started in **Capelle-la-Grand**, France – there are 111 GrandMasters among the participants!

Today was a rest day in **Dhaka**, **Bangladesh**. **Alexander Volzhin** dominates the field – after 5 rounds he has 4 points. **Alexey Barsov**, **Takhir Vakhidov** and **Nigel Davies** are sharing second place, a full point behind.

♘♘♘

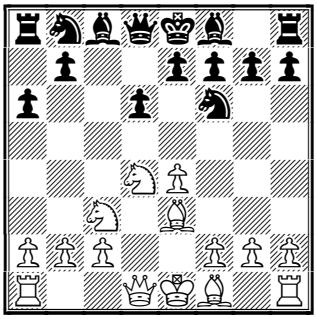
Annotated Game

G .Kasparov (2849) – J. Polgar (2676)

Linares, Spain (2), 24.02.2001 B90
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

A rare case for Kasparov, playing White – he introduces a new idea, but was forced to accept a draw in 7 moves following the introduction of this new move. It looked like he tried to beat Judit without any effort.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 (D)



This is recently a very popular variation at the top level.

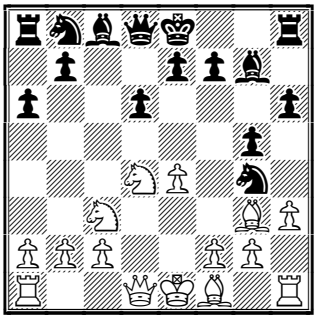
6...♘g4!?

6...e6 is the alternative − Kasparov plays this position with both colours and with great success. The text move is also a well−known method.

7.♗g5

Provoking a weakening of the kingside.

7...h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♗g3 ♗g7 10.h3 (D)

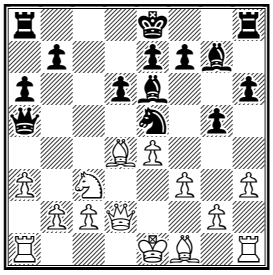


10.♗e2 h5 is known to be good for Black, as Kasparov has proven many times. One example: 11.♗xg4 hxg4 12.0-0 e6 13.♕d2 ♘d7! 14.♗xd6 ♘e5! and White has not managed to cope with the problems, Shirov − Kasparov, Wijk aan Zee 1999.

10...♘e5

In the last battle between these same players Polgar played 10...♘f6 and after 11.♗c4 ♕b6 12.0-0 0-0 13.♘de2 ♕xb2 14.♗b3 ♕a3 15.f4 ♘c6 16.♔h1 ♗e6 17.♕d3 ♖ac8 18.fxg5 hxg5 19.♘d5 ♖fe8 20.♖ad1↑ White gained a strong initiative and won the game in brilliant style, Kasparov − Polgar, Wijk aan Zee 2000.

11.f3 ♘bc6 12.♗f2 ♗e6 13.♕d2 ♘xd4 14.♗xd4 ♕a5 15.a3 (D)

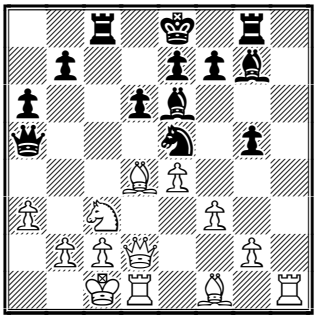


Up till now Black was comfortably developing his pieces but now she faces the problem: where to place the king? As usual, a player castles not only to move the king to a safer place, but also to bring the rook into play. However, any castling here is suspicious ,while the king is quite safe in the center. The question is, can Black manage to find work for his kingside rook?

15...♖g8!

Defending the bishop on g7 and keeping in mind the manoeuvre ♘e5−g6, taking control over the dark squares.

16.h4 ♖c8 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.0-0-0 (D)



Of course, the pawn was poison: 18.♕xg5?? ♘xf3+-+

18...♘c4

Obviously, Black shouldn't wait for ♖h7.

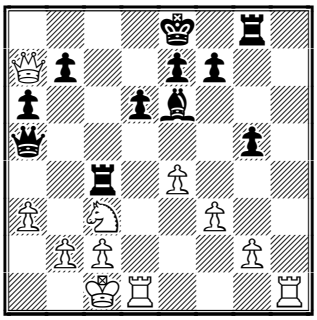
19.♗xc4 ♗xd4

19...♖xc4?! was suspicious, after 20.♗xg7 ♖xg7 21.♖h8+ ♔d7 and Black's pieces look slightly disorganised, especially the rook on g7.

20.♕xd4

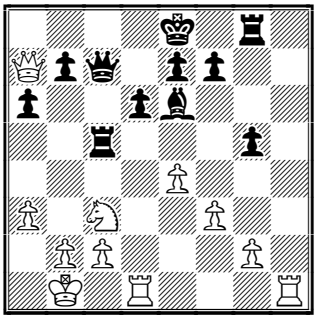
This move is a novelty! The game Bologan − Xu Jun, Beijing 2000 continued: 20.♗b5+ axb5 21.♕xd4 ♖c4 22.♕d2 ♔d7 23.♘a2 ♕xd2+ 24.♖xd2 g4 25.♘b4± and White has achieved a small advantage in the ending.

20...♖xc4 21.♕a7 (D)



This was White's idea − he tries to stretch Black's defence.

21...♕c7 22.♔b1 ♖c5! (D)

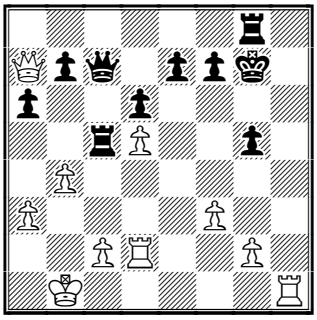


Without any hesitation Black locks up the Queen. Now White's active possibilities are also limited.

23.♘d5 ♗xd5 24.exd5 ♔f8

Of course, not 24...♖xc2?? − the opening of c−file was suicidal: 25.♖c1 ♖c5 26.b4+− and White is winning.

25.♖d2 ♔g7 26.b4! (D)

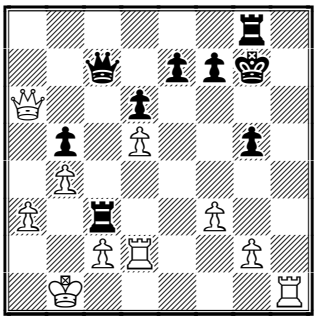


Trying to get out of captivity. After 26.♖e1 ♖c8 Black was fine.

26...b5!

Excellent! Both 26...♖c3 27.♕d4+ ♔f8 28.♔b2 ♖c4 29.♕e3↑; and 26...♖c4 27.♖e2!? let the Queen escape and so gave White good chances to maintain the initiative − Black's king would face troubles.

27.♕xa6 ♖c3 (D)



Here a draw was agreed. The Queen is still out of play and it seems to be White who should play carefully to avoid the worst. For example: 27...♖c3 28.♖e1 (28.♕xb5?! ♖xa3 29.♖d3 ♖a2!) 28...♖c8 29.♖ee2 ♕c4 **A)** 30.♕a7?! ♖c7 31.♕d4+ (31.♕a8? ♖b3+! 32.cxb3 ♕xb3+ 33.♖b2 ♕d1+ 34.♔a2 ♖c1-+) 31...♕xd4 32.♖xd4 ♖xa3∓; **B)** 30.♔b2 and Black, if he wants, can make perpetual check by 30...♖xc2+ 31.♖xc2 ♕d4+ and so on. **½-½**

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www.ajedrez21.com
www.bdcf.org

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CT-111, 25th February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Spectators at the super-tournament in **Linares** are getting angry – in the 3rd Round there were 3 more draws!

Garry Kasparov outplayed **Alexey Shirov** with the black pieces (by the way – there was **no traditional handshake before the game** again, as in Wijk aan Zee) but an extra pawn was not enough to score a full point. Shirov is known as one of the best defenders and he proved it once again. In the ending Kasparov was merciful and did not force him to count 50 moves to claim a draw – we remember Shirov was very close to using this rule in the first round against Karpov.

The other two games were fairly boring – draws were the most likely result at almost any moment.

Look at some impressions of chess lovers heard in the **Internet Chess Club**:

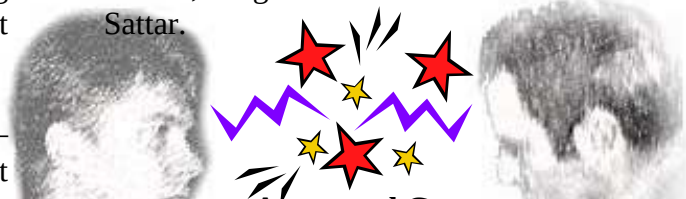
"Where is Morozevich playing next? I'd rather watch his games…"
"I really prefer a lower rated tournament with more decisive games…"
"Leko is contagious…"
"Don't tell me that Leko or Grischuk need a rest day after his shame draws…"
"Rentero should take control of the tournament – no more draws!"
"Who is leading the tournament? – All of them!"

And finally good news: there will be no draws tomorrow… because it is a rest day in Linares.

Now let's take a look at some other events.

It's too early to speak about leaders after the 1st Round of the traditional open in **Cappelle-la-Grande** – there are 702 players in the competition! Some corrections have been made to the starting list – "only" 93GMs and 72 IMs came to France.

It has become clear that yesterday in **Dhaka** was a rest day only for the web-master! – the 6th Round was played without any break. Today was already 7th Round, after which the situation is as follows: **Alexander Volzhin** of Russia has 5½ points, already one and a half point ahead of Alexey Barsov, Normunds Miezis, Nigel Davies and Reefat-bin-Sattar.



Annotated Game

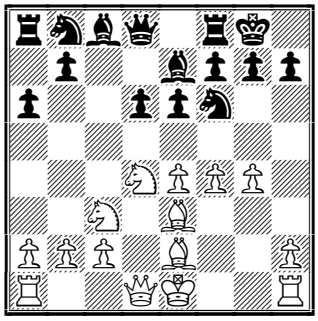
Shirov (2718) – Kasparov (2849)
Linares, Spain (3), 25.02.2001 B84
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

It is not so easy to play against an opponent with whom you have the score minus 10 without a single win – Garry Kasparov is the most uncomfortable opponent for Alexey Shirov.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e2

Yesterday Kasparov played 6.♗e3 himself against Polgar.

6...e6 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♗e3 0-0 9.g4!?

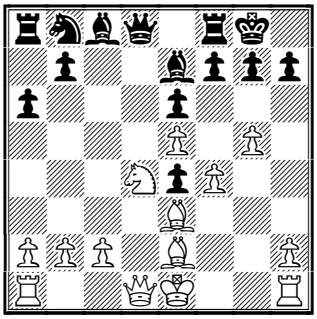


An interesting attempt − instead of the routine 9.0-0 White begins kingside actions immediately.

9...d5!

A counter strike in the centre is a typical reaction to flank operations.

10.e5 ♘e4 11.♘xe4 dxe4 12.g5



12...♕b6!?

A new move which looks rather risky. 12...♕c7 was played before and Black did not have many problems: 13.♕d2 ♖d8 (13...b5 14.0-0-0 ♗b7 15.♔b1 ♘c6 16.♖hg1 ♖fc8 17.h4 ♘xd4 18.♗xd4 ♗d5 19.♖c1 ♖d8 20.♕e3 ♕a5 21.b3 a draw, Ghinda − Sokolov, Luzern 1985) 14.0-0-0 ♘c6 15.♔b1 b5 16.♕c3 ♗b7 17.♘xc6 ♗xc6 and here a draw was agreed, Lanka − Van Wely, Pula 1997.

13.♘f5

A tempting reply.

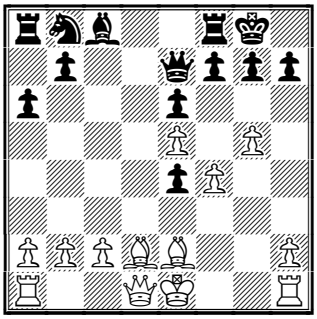
13...♕a5+ 14.♗d2 ♕c5

Instead of 14...♕c7 Kasparov wants to find out how ambitious White is.

15.♘xe7+

But it remains unclear if Kasparov was really amenable to draw at this moment − in case of 15.♗e3 he could return to 15...♕a5+ 16.♗d2 ♕c7 Fairly speaking, this guess it almost pointless as I am sure Shirov was also in fighting mood, as usual.

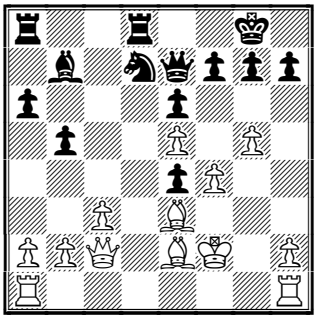
15...♕xe7



16.c3

16.c4 looked more promising but perhaps Shirov was worried about 16...♘c6 17.♕c2 ♘d4 18.♕xe4 ♘xe2 19.♕xe2 (19.♔xe2 ♗d7∞) 19...b5∞ and Black's bishop is definitely better than its counterpart.;

16...b5 17.♗e3 ♖d8 18.♕c2 ♗b7 19.♔f2 ♘d7



It looks like Alexey once again has not equalised with the white pieces − Black is taking the initiative.

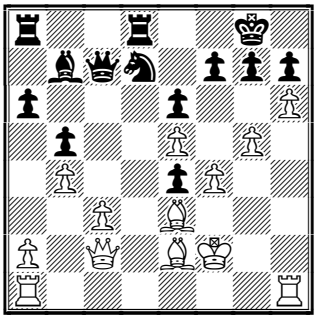
20.b4

The only way to prevent ...♘c5−d3.

20...♘f8 21.h4!

A careful move − otherwise the knight would be transferred to f5 via g6−e7.

21...♕c7 22.h5 ♘d7 23.h6



This is not an attack − White deprives Black from the possibility to open a second front in the future.

23...g6 24.a4

A weakness on the 8th rank would be a real problem for Black, for example, in the ending − if White penetrates with a rook... However, it looks rather unreal − first of all he should be careful about Black's play, connected with ♘b6, ♕c6, ♖d3...

24...♘b6 25.axb5 axb5 26.♔g3

White defends the pawn f4 in order to meet ...♘d5 with ♗c5. 26.♗xb5?! is too suspicious because of 26...♘d5↑

26...♘c4

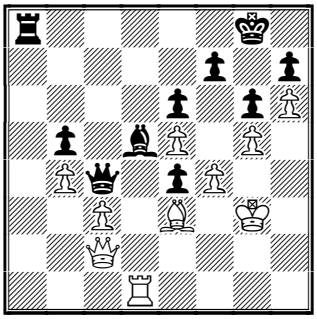
Yet, 26...♘d5!? deserved attention. After 27.♗c5 spectators would thank

Garry very much for 27...f6!? 28.gxf6 g5!? − the position was getting crazy and both players could gave us pleasure to see their fantasy and creativity.

27.♖xa8 ♖xa8 28.♗xc4

The e−pawn should not be allowed to move at any cost.

28...♕xc4 29.♖d1 ♗d5

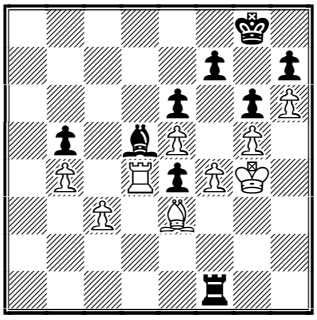


It is clear that White should fight for a draw − Black is ready for invasion.

30.♖d4 ♕f1 31.♕d1

This is forced.

31...♖a1 32.♕xf1 ♖xf1 33.♔g4



33...♖f3

A tempting move − Black wins the c3 pawn. However, it gives White the time for consolidation. Perhaps Black could achieve more by playing 33...♖e1!? , for example: 34.♗d2 (34.♗f2 ♖e2) 34...♖e2 35.♗c1 ♖g2+! 36.♔h4 (36.♔h3 ♖c2 37.♗d2 e3!) 36...♔f8 and White's defence is difficult.

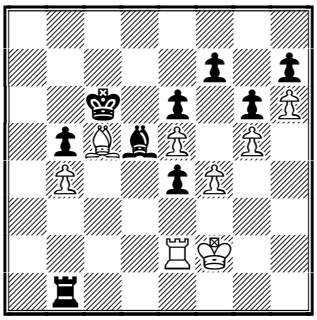
34.♗g1 ♖xc3 35.♖d2 ♔f8

An attempt to win the b−pawn fails because of the 8th rank weakness: 35...e3 36.♖e2 ♖b3 37.♗xe3 ♖xb4 (37...♗e4 38.♔g3) 38.♖c2 ♗c4 (38...♖c4 39.♖xc4 is a dead draw) 39.♖d2=

36.♗c5+ ♔e8 37.♖e2 ♖c1

In case of 37...♔d7 White could activate the rook by 38.♖e3 ♖c2 39.♖a3

38.♔g3 ♔d7 39.♔f2 ♔c6 40.♗e3 ♖b1 41.♗c5



The time−trouble has passed. It looks like Black cannot penetrate into White's camp as the bishop needs to defend the e4 pawn. The only winning attempt is an exchange sacrifice, but it is not so clear. Besides, White can avoid it by moving the bishop from c5.

41...♖c1 42.♗d6 ♖h1 43.♖e3 ♖h2+ 44.♔g3 ♖c2 45.♗f8 ♖a2 46.♗c5 ♖a1 47.♔f2 ♖c1 48.♗d6

A draw was agreed.

½-½

Recommended sites.

www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
www.bdcf.org

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-112, 26 February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Today is a rest day at the **Linares** super tournament. Nine games, nine draws – chess lovers don't like such results! Lets hope six outstanding grandmasters will display more fighting spirit.

The parings for tomorrow's 4th round will be:
Grischuk – Kasparov
Karpov – Leko
Polgar – Shirov

You can also view these games on-line at the **Internet Chess Club** .

Another chess event in Spain – **IV Open international Malaga de Ajedrez** (9 rounds, Swiss system) – is in progress. After 3 rounds of play 13 players have 3 points. The top boards in the 4th round are:
Gleizerov – Felgaer
Arakhamia – Kurajica
Peralta – Cifuentes Parada
Cramling – Garcia Martinez
Diez Gonzalez – Perez
Franco Ocampos – Teran Alvarez
Vera (2,5) – Ripari

After the 2nd round in **Cappelle-la-Grande** , forty-six players have 2 points! The highest player in the field, GM Mikhail Gurevich (2694), has only one point, but he started only today. I don't know why. Perhaps Mikhail decided to give his opponents a small handicap ☺.

It looks like the organizers of **Dhaka** are not in a hurry to update the tournament crosstable. So we can say only that Alexander Volzhin remains sole leader after drawing in the 8th round with Black against Barsov. Now Volzhin has 6 points. We feature one of his game from this event in our annotated game section.

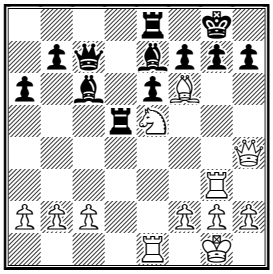
The **Tel Aviv International** chess tournaments - women's and men's closed event (10 participants in each) started on the 20th of February. The standings after 3 rounds are:
Men's group (9th cat., GM norm 6,5 points, IM – 4,5):
1. A. Kovalev – 2,5
2-3. E. Postny, Z. Gyimesi – 2
4-6. I. Botvinnik, Y. Gruenfeld, F. Doettling – 1,5 etc.
Women's group (8th cat., GM norm 7 points, IM – 5):
1-3. B. Pitam, I. Madl, N. Lakos – 2,5
4-5. G. Lagvilava, A. Borsuk – 2 etc.

And last but not least, our editor-in-chief, GM Alex Baburin, travelled to the USA recently to take part in the **Charles Linklater Memorial** – 8 category event (2426 av., 11 participants, GM=7,5, IM=5,5 - 26 February - 8 March 2001) event by the Mechanics' Institute. Among his opponents are GMs Wojtkiewicz, Shulman, and WGM Baginskaite. Good luck, Alex!

By the way, this event will be the first tournament in the Americas to feature the new FIDE time control of 40/75; G/15 with thirty second increment. In all the other mentioned above events the "old" time controls are in effect.

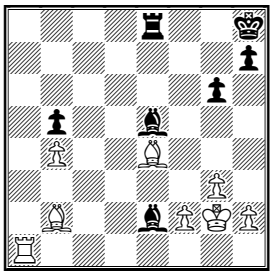
Tactical puzzles

1. Baklan – Bastrakov
Lennigrad, 1991



Black to move

2. Gevorgian − Movsesian
Leningrad, 1991



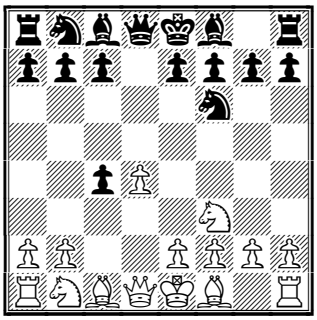
White to move
(Solutions on page 3)
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Z. Rahman (2447) − A. Volzhin (2539)
Dhaka, 2001 D27
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Thirty year old GM Alexander Volzhin is a versatile, talented person. He is a doctor of medicine, former coach of some Russian and Polish (maybe another too, I don't know properly) players; and he has written some interesting articles. By the way he can play chess very well too!

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 (D)

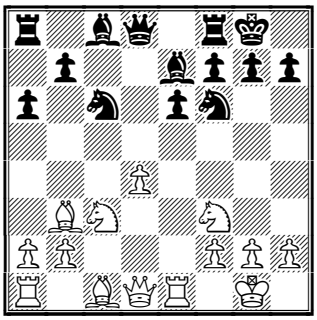


The Queen's Gambit Accepted − a favourite opening of GM Alex Baburin − he can discuss it for hours on end.

4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.♗b3

This is a profolactic move against b7−b5. Kramnik vs Kasparov in London−2000 played 7.a4 ; and even the very modest 7.dxc5

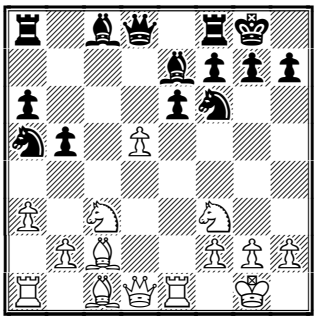
7...cxd4 8.exd4 ♘c6 9.♘c3 ♗e7 10.♖e1 0-0 (D)



11.a3

Recently Alexander Volzhin as White played 11.h4 like in Kramnik vs Huebner: 11...♘a5 12.♗c2 b5 13.♕d3 ♗b7 14.h5 ♗xf3 15.♕xf3 ♕xd4 16.♗f4 h6!? this was a novelty compared to the mentioned above game (16...b4 17.♖ad1 ♕c4 18.♗d3 ♕c6 19.♘e4 ♘d5 20.♗e5 f5 21.♘d2⩲ Kramnik − Huebner, Dortmund 2000.) 17.♖ad1 ♕c5 18.♕g3 ♘xh5 draw, Volzhin − Estrada, Merida 2000.; Another interesting try is − 11.♗f4!? , for example, 11...♘a5 12.d5 ♘xb3 13.♕xb3 ♘xd5 14.♖ad1 ♘xf4!? 15.♖xd8 ♖xd8 16.♖d1 ♘d5 17.♘xd5 exd5 18.h3 b5 19.♖xd5 ♗e6 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.♕c2 draw, Gelfand − Shirov, New Delhi 2000.

11...♘a5 12.♗c2 b5 13.d5 (D)



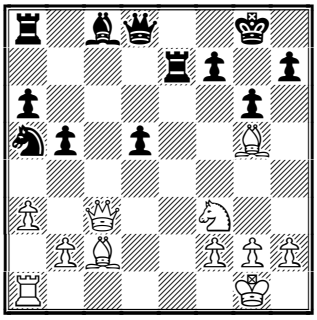
This pawn sacrifice is also well known in theory, but Black is not obliged to accept it.

13...♖e8 14.♕d3 g6 15.♗g5

15.b4 ♘c4 16.dxe6 ♗xe6 17.♘d4 ♗d5 18.♗g5 ♗b7 19.♗b3 ♕d6 20.♗xc4 bxc4 21.♕d2 ♘g4 22.♗f4 ♗g5 23.♗xd6 ♗xd2 24.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25.♘de2 ♘f6 draw, Illescas − Anand, Dos Hermanas 1999.

15...♘xd5 16.♘xd5 exd5 17.♖xe7

♖xe7 18.♕c3!? (D)



According to my database this move is a novelty. White would like to exploit the weakness of the black squares around the Black King. White played much worse in the following game: 18.♗xe7 ♕xe7 19.♕xd5 ♗b7 20.♕d2 ♘c4 21.♕c3 ♗xf3 22.♕xf3 ♖e8 23.h3 ♕e5∓ Gustafsson − Van den Doel, Germany 2000.

18...♖aa7□

Not 18...♘c4 19.♕f6!; 18...♘b7?! looks too ugly.

19.♕f6 ♕f8

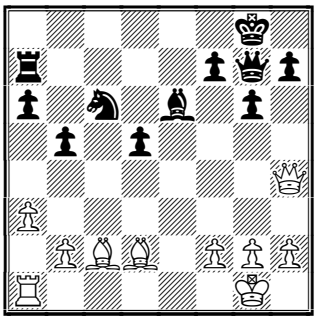
After the tricky 19...h6!? White has 20.♗e3! (of course, not 20.♗xh6? ♖e1+-+) **20.♗d2**

The point − White wants to play Bc3, but...

20...♖e6! 21.♕h4 ♘c6

In case of the "active" 21...♘c4?! 22.♘g5 h5 23.♘xe6 ♗xe6 24.♗c3 and Black has big problems with the long diagonal, a1-h8.

22.♘g5 ♕g7 23.♘xe6 ♗xe6 (D)

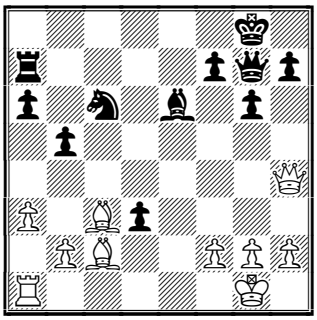


Thanks to accurate defence Black parried all of White's threats and has a clear pawn plus. It is White who has problems with defending his pawns now.

24.♗c3

Of course it's easy to recommend 24.♖b1 , than to play it...

24...d4 25.♗d2 d3! 26.♗c3 (D)



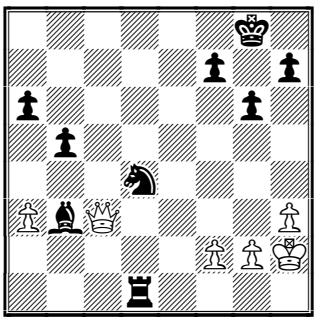
26...dxc2!

A well calculated combination!

27.♗xg7 ♖d7 28.♖f1 ♖d1 29.♗h6 ♗c4 30.h3 ♖xf1+ 31.♔h2 c1♕ 32.♗xc1 ♖xc1

And Black has a decisive material advantage.

33.♕f4 ♖e1 34.b3 ♗xb3 35.♕f3 ♘d4 36.♕c3 ♖d1! (D)



A "frameable" position: 3 Black pieces defending each other!

37.♕c8+ ♔g7 38.♕xa6 ♗a4 39.♕c8 ♘e6 40.♕c3+ ♔g8 41.♕e5 ♖d3 42.♕b8+ ♘f8 43.f4 ♖xa3 44.g4 ♖d3 45.f5 ♖d5 46.♕b7 ♗b3 47.f6 ♗c4 48.h4 h5 49.g5 ♖d4 0-1

Solutions to Tactical Puzzles:

1. 18...♕xe5! 19.♖xg7+ [19.♖xe5?? ♖d1+; 19.♗xe5? ♗xh4 20.♖xg7+ ♔f8 21.♖xh7 f6-+] 19...♔f8 20.♖g8+ ♔xg8 21.♕g4+ ♕g5 22.♗xg5 ♖xg5 23.♕f4 ♖xg2+ 24.♔f1 ♗c5! 25.♖e2 ♖d8 26.♕c1 h6!? 27.b4 ♖xh2! 0-1

2. 38.♖a8! ♗xb2 [38...♖xa8 39.♗xe5+ ♔g8 40.♗xa8+−] 39.♖xe8+ ♔g7 40.♗xg6 ♗c4 41.♗e4 ♗c3 42.♖e7+

♔f6 43.♖xh7 ♗xb4 44.♖b7 ♔e5 45.♗c6 ♔d6 46.♖xb5 ♗xb5 47.♗xb5 ♔e5 48.♗d3 ♔f6 49.h4 ♗d2 50.f4 ♔g7 51.♔f3 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
http://cappelle.free.fr/
http://usuarios.tripod.es/frubiod/open/01open/01open.htm
http://www.bdcf.org/
http://www.slavchess.co.il/academy/taint.html
http://www.chessclub.org/Linklater01.html

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-113, 27th February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Our expectations were fully realised today! There were fierce struggles on all three boards: Garry Kasparov gave a Sicilian endgame lesson to young Alexander Grischuk, Judit Polgar beat Alexei Shirov in very hard fought game, and the single draw, Anatoly Karpov vs Peter Leko, was a result of persistent defence by Leko. In our annotated game section we would like to show a clash of two stars: one of the brightest and one of the newest.

Photo from www.chesscenter.com

Grischuk – Kasparov **0:1**
Karpov – Leko **0½:0½**
Polgar – Shirov **1:0**
Standing after 4th round:
1-2. Kasparov, Polgar – 2½ points
3-4. Karpov, Leko - 2
5-6. Grischuk, Shirov – 1½

Tomorrow will be the 5th round:
Kasparov – Karpov
Leko – Polgar
Shirov – Grischuk
It should be a great day for spectators because all the battles have something to recommend them … there will be a clash between two of the strongest players of the last quarter of the 20th century; a Hungary Derby; what about last pair?, lets just remember their meeting in New Delhi!
Official site: http://www.ajedrez21.com you can also see these games on-line on www.chessclub.com

There is another chess event in Linares – 1st International tournament World Champions for the blind (10 participants, round robin system).

Standing after 5th round:
1-2. P. Dukaczewski, S. Smirnov – 4½ points
3-4. V. Berlinski, S. Krylov – 4
etc.
http://www.granajedrez.com/

Bojan Kurajica and **Evgeny Gleizerov** have 4 points after 4 rounds at the IV Open international Malaga de Ajedrez. 11 players have 3½ points. Top boards in 5th round:
Kurajica - Gleizerov
Bellon Lopez – Vera
Cifuentes Parada – Diez Gonzalez
Baron Rodriguez – Cramling
Perez – Peralta
Garcia Martinez – Franco Ocampos
Teran Alvarez – Suba (3 points)

Now we can name the leaders in the Cappelle-la-Grande Open, because there aren't 46, but only 3 players with a perfect result – 4 points out of 4: **P. Jarracz, S. Belhodja** and **M. Saltaev.** 16 players have 3½.

Alexander Volzhin retains a clear lead after drawing against Rakib in the 9th round in Dhaka. Now he has 6½ points. Ehlvest and Sattar have 5½ points. Today Ehlvest beat Barsov with White and Sattar overcame Rausis with Black.

The organisers of The Tel Aviv International chess tournaments have stopped updating their site http://www.slavchess.co.il/academy/taint.html
If you'll visit it you find information only up to the 3rd round now.

In the first round of the Charls Linklater Memorial M. Mular, C. Lakdawala, G. Shahade and M. Vucic won their games. Alex Baburin started with … a free day. He is seeded # 1, so he had to play vs #12, but there are only 11 participants. We hope Alex retains the first row in the crosstable after the last round also!

Today a press release from FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov appears on the FIDE site. It is about the new time control and the Continental Championships. Here is a quotation from it:
"I shall recommend to the Presidential Board to accept the new time control as currently approved for the World Championships and to make it recommendatory for other FIDE events and title tournaments, subject to further review at our next Congress in September."

Also today … the new, #329 issue of TWIC. As usual, you will find there a lot of useful information and tournament reports.

Annotated Game

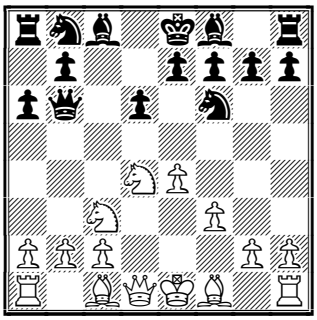
Grischuk (2663) − Kasparov (2849)
Linares ESP (4), 27.02.2001 B90
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

A 13 year old Garry Kasparov won the USSR Junior Championship (under 20) and was talked about as a bright new star, even as a future challenger for Karpov's title (This was in 1976). 13 year old Sasha Grischuk was one of the talented Russian juniors of his age, A couple of years later Alexander began to play very strongly: firstly on ICC (3 minutes for a game), then he won some strong Opens. He grows fast, and I wish him and his very experienced coach Anatoly Bykhovsky many new summits. Alexander has an endless appetite for chess, he likes work, he's very calm and well prepared − I'm sure he has a bright future. But in his first meeting with a "living classic" he has a tough game.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6

Grischuk has won almost all his games as White in the Sicilian with 2...d6, but, of course, Kasparov can't complain about his own performance in the Najdorf System also. By the way, the ex−champion successfully plays this variation for both colours.

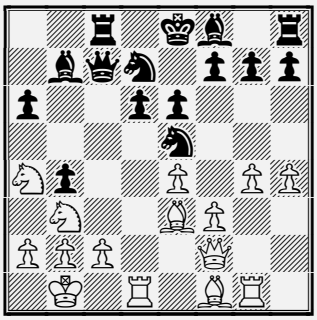
3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3 ♕b6 (D)



Black refuses an English attack 6...e6 7.♗e3 etc. 6...Qb6 is quite a new and fashionable move.

7.♘b3 e6

Take a look at this game (second in the semi−final match in the FIDE championship): 7...♘c6 8.♕e2 e6 9.♗e3 ♕c7 10.g4 b5 11.0-0-0 ♗b7 12.h4 ♖c8 13.♔b1 ♘d7 14.♖g1 ♘ce5 15.♕f2 b4 16.♘a4 (D)



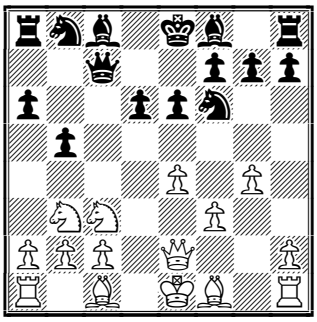
The a4 knight is miserably placed (the d7 knight covers the b6−square), and Black exploits this with a small combination: 16...♘xf3! 17.♕xf3 ♕c6 Grischuk − Shirov, New Delhi 2000. By the way this game was won by... White! In today's game Black repeats some ideas from the above−mentioned game, but more successfully.

8.♕e2 ♕c7

It looks like c6 is the worst place for the b8 knight: 8...♘c6 9.♗e3 ♕c7 10.0-0-0 b5 11.g4 ♘e5 12.g5 ♘fd7 13.f4 ♘c4 14.♗d4 ♘db6 (14...♗b7 15.f5 ♘de5 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.a3∞ Grischuk − Schroer,

Internet 2000.) 15.h4 ♗b7 16.h5 Shirov − Kasparov, Linares 2000

9.g4 b5 (D)



10.♗e3?!

I like Sax's idea more: 10.a3 ♘c6 11.♗g2 ♗e7 12.f4 ♗b7 13.0-0 ♘d7 14.♗e3 ♘b6 15.a4!? Sax − Odeev, Saint Vinsent 2000.

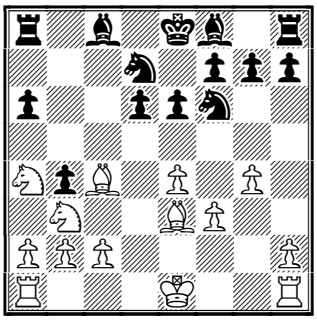
10...b4!(Novelty)

Now the c3 knight has to go to the edge of the board because all other squares are even worse. 10...♘c6 11.g5 ♘d7 12.♕f2 ♘ce5 13.0-0-0 b4 14.♘b1 ♘c4 15.♗xc4 ♕xc4 16.♘1d2 ♕c7 17.♔b1 Prasad − Ruck, Istanbul 2000.

11.♘a4 ♘bd7! 12.♕c4

If White has to exchange Queens in the Sicilian he hasn't any advantage yet. But Black had a very strong threat − 13...Qc6, for example − 12.g5 ♘xe4! 13.fxe4 ♕c6 Do you remember the Grischuk − Shirov game?

12...♕xc4 13.♗xc4 (D)



13...d5! 14.exd5 ♘e5

It's a point. Black opens the centre and now regains the pawn with active play. Maybe White wished the g4 pawn was on g2...

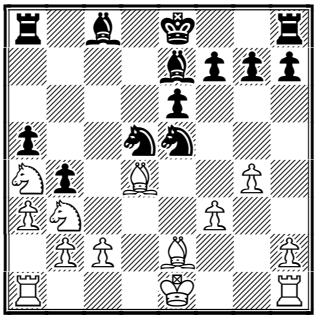
15.♗e2 ♘xd5 16.♗d4 ♗d6 17.♗c5?!

White lost confidence. His main problem − the position of the a4 knight, and it was a good opportunity to exchange it: 17.♘b6!? with approximately equal play. Maybe Black is slightly better but no more.

17...♗e7!

I'm ready to put a "!" mark for almost all Kasparov's moves. Black doesn't want to develop the a4 knight after an exchange on c5.

18.a3 a5 19.♗d4 (D)



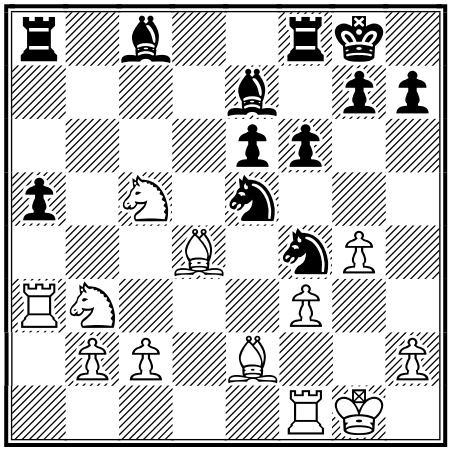
19...f6!

Of course Black isn't afraid of an exchange on e5 −in this case. the black squares in White's camp will be too weak.

20.♘ac5

Now 20.♘b6 is too late: 20...♘xb6 21.♗xb6 bxa3 22.bxa3 a4∓

20...0-0 21.0-0 bxa3 22.♖xa3 ♘f4 (D)



Kasparov begins a concrete plan. The e2 bishop has too few squares now. I hope tomorrow we'll know many deeply calculated variations from Kasparov on his site www.kasparovchess.com Now we can give only the simplest.

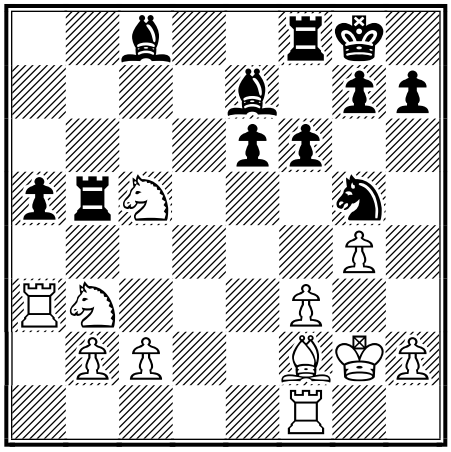
23.♗b5 ♖b8 24.♗xe5

Not 24.♖xa5 ♗d8; or 24.c4?? ♘e2+ 25.♔g2 ♘xd4 26.♘xd4 ♗xc5-+

24...♘h3+!

Not 24...fxe5 in view of 25.c4! and White has good counterplay against the a5−pawn.

25.♔g2 ♖xb5 26.♗g3 ♘g5 27.♗f2 (D)



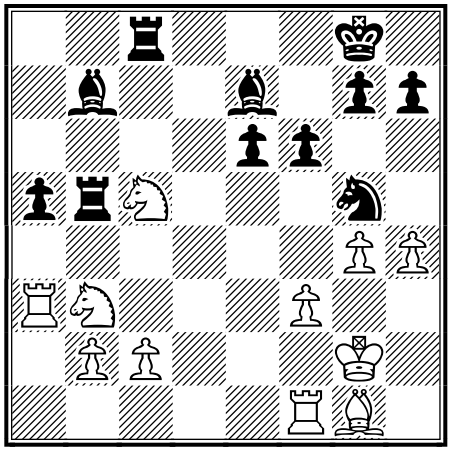
27...♗b7!

The initiative always was one of Kasparov's strongest suits. It became clear that Black had a big advantage at this point.

28.♗g1 ♖c8

The White pieces are attacked in myriad directions.

29.h4 (D)



29...♗xf3+!

Final blow.

30.♖xf3 ♘xf3 31.♔xf3 ♗xc5 32.♘xc5 ♖bxc5 33.♗xc5 ♖xc5 34.c3 h5!

Now Black will have two connected passed pawns.

35.gxh5 ♖xh5 36.b4?!

Desperation.

36...axb4 37.cxb4 ♖xh4 0-1

♘♘♘

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-114, 28th February 2001

Chess around the Globe

Garry Kasparov was at his best today! He was superbly prepared in a rather rare line of the Caro Kann Defence and played extremely energetically against his "historical opponent" Anatoly Karpov. As a result – a very spectacular victory (you can see it in our annotated game section) and a clear first place after the fifth round of Linares.

Alexei Shirov overcame Alexander Grischuk in a Classical Sicilian Defence. Alexander looked a bit out of sorts after yesterday's lost to Kasparov. But I'm sure Grischuk will recover his confidence and finish with dignity.

Hungarian grandmasters Peter Leko and Judit Polgar repeated a variation from the 1st round game Leko – Kasparov (Sicilian Najdorf), but on the 13 move Judit chose another – and a quite rare – continuation. Peter didn't want to tempt fate and took a draw.

Shirov – Grischuk **1:0**
Kasparov – Karpov **1:0**
Leko – Polgar **½:½**
Now the first half of event is over.
1. Kasparov– 3½ points out of 5
2. Polgar – 3
3-4. Leko, Shirov – 2½
5. Karpov – 2
6. Grischuk – 1½

Tomorrow will be the 6th round:
Karpov – Shirov
Kasparov – Leko
Polgar – Grischuk
Today in our cbv-file we have put all 15 games from the first half of the tournament. The Website is http://www.ajedrez21.com and you can also see these games on-line at www.chessclub.com

Bojan Kurajica and **Evgeny Gleizerov** have drawn their game in the 5th round of Malaga and were overtaken by **Rob Cifuentes Parada.** Now the three leaders have 4½ points. 17 players have 4 points. Top boards in 5th round:
Gleizerov – Cifuentes Parada
Vera - Kurajica
Felgaer – Korneev
Peralta - Arencibia Rodriguez
Suba - Garcia Martinez
Cramling – Fernandez Romero
Flores - Perez
Franco Ocampos – Baron Rodriguez
Rubio Doblas – Garcia Illundain
Rivera Kuzawka – Bellon Lopez

P. Jaracz, S. Belhodja, **S. Sulskis, S.Savchenko, E.Gausel** and **M. Saltaev** are leading with 4½ points after the 5th round of Cappelle-la-Grande. 31 players have a half-point less. Among them rating-favorite Mikhail Gurevich who, as you remember, started only on the second day. So Mikhail decreased his handicap by 2! ☺

Alexander Volzhin made a short draw with White vs. Jan Ehlvest in the 9th round in Dhaka and retained a clear first with 7 points.
2-3. Ehlvest, Vakhidov – 6
4-5. Davies, Sattar - 5½

The second round of The Charles Linklater Memorial was very peaceful – only GM Y. Shulman won his game vs. M. Mular. Alex Baburin had better chances against Alex Wojykievich but suddenly overlooked a pawn grab and was forced to fight for a draw.

Fortunately he completed this task. Don't overlook any more pawns, Alex!

Now **C. Lakdawala, G. Shahade, Y. Shulman** and **M. Vucic** have 1½ points.

Also we have received another piece of news from the U.S.A. ***Doug Schwetke*** *reports from Dallas:*

The Ken Smith Memorial is over and the winners are GMs Wojtkiewicz, Kudrin, Annakov, Blehm and Kaminsky with 4 out of 5. Not surprisingly all GM vs GM games were drawn. In the last round Wojtkiewicz beat FM Shtern, Kudrin beat NM Kamberi and Annakov beat Expert Deike to join the other two who drew against each other.

And news from myself from Moscow: Yesterday The Geller Memorial tournament began, a very strong Open (9 rounds, 187 participants, among them 22 GMs and who knows how many masters and rating players). As usual the prize fund is very modest but the Central House of Chessplayer can't accept all requests to play – there isn't enough room, chess sets and clocks. But it's another story, not merry…

Annotated Game

Kasparov (2849) – Karpov (2679)
Linares ESP (5), 28.02.2001 B12
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

As you will remember, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov played 5 matches and they wanted to play a 6th in 1997, but there wasn't money for it. Nowadays the 12th and 13th World Champions play each other very rarely. Their last game in classical chess was 5 years ago in Las Palmas, and after that they played only 4 active games in Frankfurt−99. But in the 80s to the beginning of the 90s they clashed more than 150 times, so they deserved a rest one from one another!.

1.e4 c6

Nowadays the Karo Cann is Karpov's main weapon against 1.e4.

2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘c3 (D)

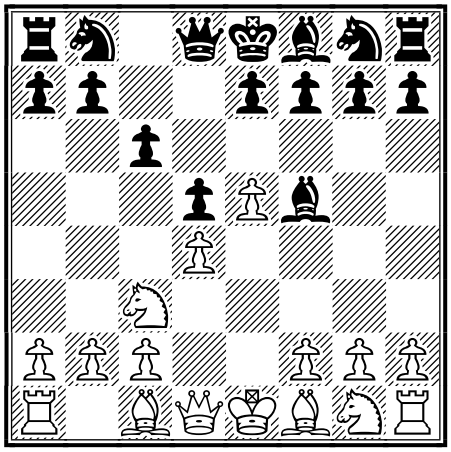
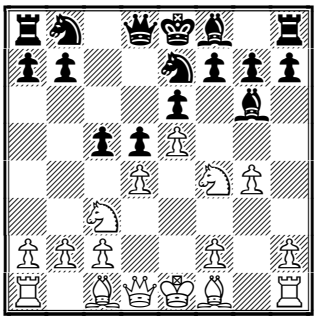


Photo from www.chesscenter.com

4...e6 5.g4 ♗g6 6.♘ge2 ♘e7 7.♘f4 c5 (D)



Now this sharp line is very fashionable. Kaprov has played it about 5 times. This is Kasparov's first attempt.

8.dxc5

Alternative is 8.h4 , for example: 8...cxd4 9.♘b5 ♘ec6 10.h5 ♗e4 11.f3 ♗xf3 12.♕xf3 ♘xe5 13.♕g3 ♘bc6 14.♘d3 ♘xd3+ 15.♗xd3 e5 16.0-0 ♗c5 Lautier − Karpov, Monaco (active) 1997.

8...♘d7!?

It's a very rare move. They say it's

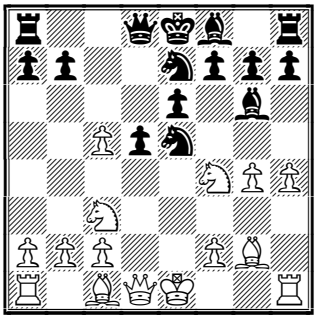
quite popular on ICC − maybe I don't know for sure. Karpov (and others) played 8...♘ec6 before: 9.h4

A) 9...♕c7 10.♗g2 ♕xe5+ 11.♘ce2 (11.♔f1 d4 12.h5 ♗xc2 13.♕xc2 dxc3 14.♘d3 ♕d4 15.♗e3 ♕c4 16.♕xc3 ♕xc3 17.bxc3 ♘a6 18.♖b1 0-0-0 19.♗xc6 bxc6 20.♘e5± Shirov − Bareev, New Delhi 2000.) 11...♗xc5 12.h5 ♗e4 13.f3 f5 14.fxe4 fxe4 15.♘xe6 ♕xe6 16.♘f4 ♕e5 17.♕xd5 ♕xd5 18.♘xd5 0-0 19.♗d2 ♗f2+ 20.♔d1 ♘a6 Svidler − Dreev, Smolensk 2000.;

B) 9...♘xe5 10.♗g2 h5 11.♕e2 ♘bc6 12.♘xg6 ♘xg6 13.♘xd5 ♗xc5 14.♗g5 ♘ge7 15.♕b5 f6 16.♕xc5 ♘xd5 17.0-0-0 ♕e7 18.♕b5 0-0-0 19.♗d2 hxg4 Shirov − Karpov, Monaco (blindfold) 2000.

Of course, Karpov may be afraid of the famous Kasparov preparation, but he can't catch him with an unusual move.

9.h4 ♘xe5 10.♗g2 (D)



It's a novelty, in the only previous game there came 10.Bb5+. The text move is very natural.

10...h5

White was going to do this move himself. GM S. Shipov on www.kasparovchess.com suggested 10...d4!?

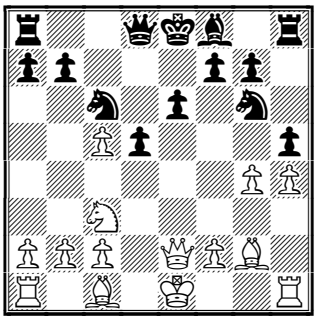
A) maybe White can play 11.♘b1!? ♕a5+ 12.♗d2 (12.♘d2?! ♕xc5 13.♘b3 ♕xc2 14.♕xc2 ♗xc2 15.♘xd4 ♗a4 16.♗xb7) 12...♕xc5 13.♘a3 ♖c8 14.♘xg6 hxg6 15.♗xb7 ♖b8 16.b4∞;

B) 11.♘ce2 11...♘7c6 12.h5? ♗xc2! 13.♕xc2 d3

11.♕e2 ♘7c6?!

It also looks very natural, but maybe very risky 11...♘xg4!? 12.♘b5 ♕d7 13.♘d6+ ♔d8 better suits such an unbalanced position? By the way it was Nimzovitch's advice: in unusual situations try to find unusual decisions.

12.♘xg6 ♘xg6 (D)



13.♗g5!

White defends his h4−pawn and begins to attack the Black Knight. g6 isn't good for a Bishop or a Knight!

13...♗e7

Interesting complications arise after 13...♕a5 14.gxh5 ♘ge5 (14...d4 15.♕b5!±) 15.0-0-0 (15.h6?! d4 16.♗d2 dxc3 17.♗xc3 ♕xc5 18.f4 ♘g6! 19.hxg7 ♗xg7 20.♗xg7 ♘xf4 21.♕f3 ♘xg2+ 22.♕xg2 ♕e3+∓) 15...♗xc5 16.h6!

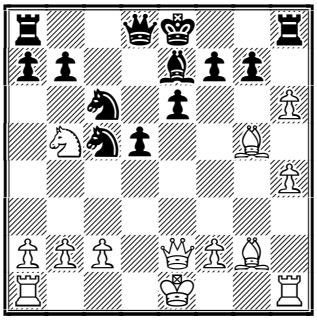
14.gxh5 ♘f8?!

Too pessimistic. Why not 14...♘xh4 15.♗xh4 ♗xh4 16.♘xd5 ♘d4!?; or 14...♘ge5

15.♘b5!

Now, and on the next move White exploits the weakness of the black squares in Black's camp.

15...♘d7 16.h6 ♘xc5! (D)



Only chance. Immediately losing was ... 16...gxh6? 17.♘d6+ ♔f8 18.♕h5+−

17.♗f4!?

After 17.hxg7 ♖g8 18.♗f4 ♖c8!? the position looks like a Sicilian; and Black's King is rather safe in the centre.

17...♔f8?!

I like 17...♖c8 here too.

18.hxg7+ ♔xg7

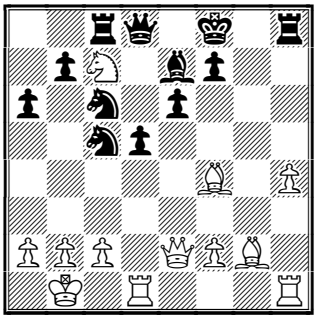
The Black monarch placed much worse here than on e8. Now White has a strong initiative with equal material.

19.0-0-0 ♔f8

Another Shipov recommendation −

19...♕a5 with idea 20.a3 Rag8! and Kf8. But White has the very interesting 20.♘c7 ♖ag8 21.♘xd5!? exd5 22.♗xd5 with a dangerous attack. This move is in Karpov's style: prophylactic in an extremely sharp position!

20.♔b1 a6 21.♘c7 ♖c8 (D)



22.♗xd5! exd5 23.♖xd5

Now the Queen is in trouble.

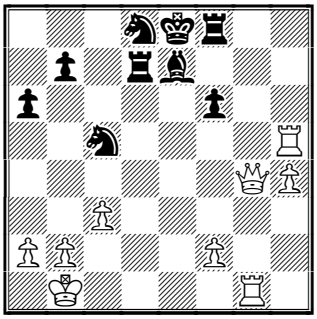
23...♕xc7

Or 23...♘d7 24.♕d2 (24.♖h5!? is Shipov's and Fritz's recommendation. I believe Sergey and I saw the same picture in ours monitors named... Fritz of course! But tomorrow we'll know what Kasparov saw on the board − in his express−analysis.) 24...♖xc7 25.♗xc7 ♕xc7 26.♖xd7

24.♗xc7 ♖xc7 25.♖f5

Black has 3 pieces for Queen and 2 pawns. This isn't too bad but his King is very weak and this plays a decisive role.

25...♖d7 26.c3 f6 27.♖g1 ♘d8 28.♕g4 ♔e8 29.♖h5 ♖f8 (D)



And a final blow:

30.♖xc5 ♗xc5 31.♕h5+ 1-0

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-115, 1 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Hat trick by Garry Kasparov! Today he won his third game in a row; this time vs. Peter Leko- the same as yesterday with White and also in 31 moves, but in another opening, the Ruy Lopez/Anti-Marshall System. Kasparov is our hero of our annotated game section again. Enjoy his play, it's really much more interesting than to read some of his "kind" remarks about his colleagues and FIDE officials!

Anatoly Karpov tried to win without any risk vs. Alexei Shirov in a Queen's Gambit Accepted, but it was too difficult a task. Karpov gained a small advantage, then overlooked the win of a pawn, and Shirov failed to take advantage of this and missed his chance.

There was another Ruy Lopez today (this time the Chigorin System): in Judit Polgar – Alexander Grischuk. Step by step the young Russian outplayed Judit, but even with a 2 pawn deficit in the endgame she was able to find a miracle counterplay against the Black King; as a result, a very interesting draw by perpetual check.

Karpov – Shirov **0,5:0,5**
Kasparov – Leko **1:0**
Polgar – Grischuk **0,5:0,5**

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Kasparov– **4,5 points**
2. Polgar – **3,5**
3. Shirov - **3**

4-5. Leko, Karpov – **2,5**
6. Grischuk – **2**

Tomorrow will be a second rest day.

http://www.ajedrez21.com

You can also view these games live on-line at: www.chessclub.com

In the 6th round of the 1st International tournament World Champions for the blind, Russian **S. Smirnov** beat, with Black, Polish P. Dukaczewski and became the sole lead with 5,5 points.
2. S. Krylov – **5**
3-4. V. Berlinski, P. Dukaczewski **– 4,5**

The official site for this event is at: http://www.granajedrez.com/

Bojan Kurajica lost to Reynaldo Vera in the 6th round of **Malaga**, and two other leaders, Evgeny Gleizerov and Rob Cifuentes Parada have drawn their games, and now 8 players have 5 points**.** Tomorrow four top clashes will take place:
Korneev - Cramling
Franco Ocampos – Gleizerov
Cifuentes Parada - Vera
Bellon Lopez - Suba

S. Sulskis and **E. Gausel** became the leaders of giant Open in **Cappelle-la-Grande**. In the 6th round they won their games and have 5,5 points now,

3-10. Landa, Chuchelov, Jaracz, Goldin, Savchenko, Volokitin, V. Gaprindashvili, Yu – **5** points.

What a peaceful day was round 11th in **Dhaka**! Judge for yourself:
Sandipan – Volzhin: draw, 11 moves
Murshed – Sattar: draw, 5(!) moves

Vakhidov – Barsov: draw, 14 moves
Rausis – Prakash: draw, 14 moves
Davies – Rahman: draw, 8 moves
Ehlvest – Rakib: 48 moves, but also draw!
And only Miezis could win his game vs. Hossai.
Standings after 11th round has changed little:
1. Volzhin – **7,5**
2-3**.** Ehlvest, Vakhidov – **6,5**
4-7**.** Davies, Sattar, Barsov, Murshed – **6**

Alex Baburin overtook M. Mulyar in the 3rd round of **Charles Linklater Memorial** and now has 1,5 points out of 2 (he was free the 1st day). M. Vucic has 2,5 points, C. Lakdawala, G. Shahade and Y. Shulman have 2 points.

After the second round of the **Geller Memorial** in Moscow 22 participants have 2 points; among them are GMs Pavel Kotsur, Evgeny Pigusov, Oleg Nikolenko, Konstantin Chernyshov, Viktor Komliakov and many juniors who, I'm sure, will be GMs in the near future. Remember these names: Sergey Grigoriants, Dmitrij Jakovenko (we had written about him in CT), Vladimir Potkin, Vitaliy Shinkevich…

♘♘♘

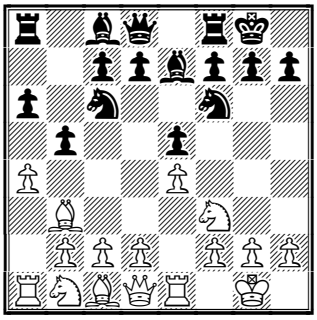
Annotated Game

G. Kasparov (2849) − P. Leko (2745)
Super GM Linares ESP (6), 01.03.2001 C88
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 e5

One of two main weapons Leko deploys against 1.e4. Another is 1...c5, but sometimes he plays 1...c6 and even 1...Nc6?!

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.a4 (D)



It's interesting to note that Garry Kasparov has never played − at least in tournament play − the very sharp Marshall System: 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♖xe5; In addition to the text he normally he chooses 8.h3 ; or 8.d3 It's quite strange because in such forcing lines Kasparov and his second Yury Dokhojan can exploit 100% their famous home analytical preparation. But maybe they analysed the Marshall till the end and found a forcing draw for Black?!By the way Leko isn't a Marshall System lover, but Kasparov didn't teach himself.

8...♗b7

An alternative is 8...b4

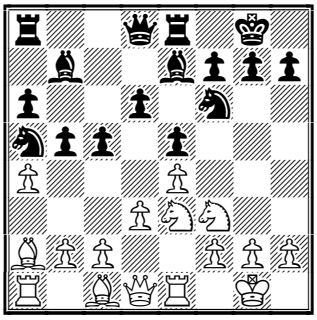
9.d3 d6 10.♘bd2 ♘a5

Kasparov very successfully exploited the line 8.a4 − the so called Anti−Marshall − in his World Champion match vs. Nigel Short (London 1993), when thanks to this variation he won 3 games. Here is the last of them: 10...♘d7 11.c3 ♘c5 12.axb5 axb5 13.♖xa8 ♗xa8 14.♗c2 ♗f6 15.b4 ♘e6 16.♘f1 ♗b7 17.♘e3 g6 18.♗b3 ♗g7 19.h4 ♗c8 20.h5 ♔h8 21.♘d5↑ Kasparov − Short, London (m) 1993.

11.♗a2 c5 12.♘f1 ♖e8

More popular is 12...b4 Here is one of the recent examples: 13.♘e3 ♗c8 14.♘d2 ♖b8 15.♘dc4 ♘c6 16.♗d2 ♗e6 17.a5!? ♖b5!?∞ Milos − Adams, Istanbul 2000.

13.♘e3 (D)

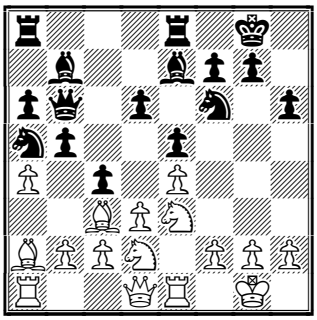


Maybe this a novelty, but in such a quiet position one move doesn't cost too much as in the Sicilian Najdorf or yesterday's Kasparov − Karpov, Caro Kann. Earlier White played 13.♘g3 for example: 13...h6 (13...g6 14.h3 ♗f8 15.♘g5 d5 16.exd5 ♗xd5 17.axb5 axb5 18.♗xd5 ♘xd5 19.♕f3 f6 20.♘5e4 ♘b4 21.♕e2± Chuprikov − Korotonozhkin, Voronezh 1997) 14.♘f5 ♗f8 15.♗d2 b4 16.♘3h4 d5 17.♕f3↑ Balashov − D. Frolov, Moscow 1996.

13...h6 14.♗d2 c4?!

Black tries to block the Bishop on a2, but the pawn on c4 isn't protected enough, and White can easily attack it. Maybe better was 14...b4 − without c2−c3 and d3−d4 White can't gain much, but than Black will have some open files on the queenside for counterplay.

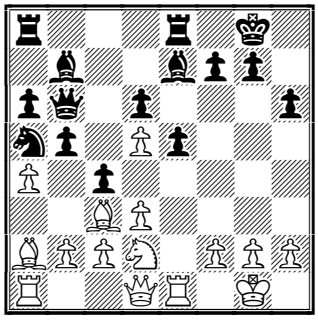
15.♗c3 ♕b6 16.♘d2 (D)



16...♘c6

16...cxd3 17.cxd3 b4 18.♘dc4 and 19.Bd2 − the Bishop on a2 is opened again and White has many good squares for his pieces (c4, d5, f5, even b6 at some point).

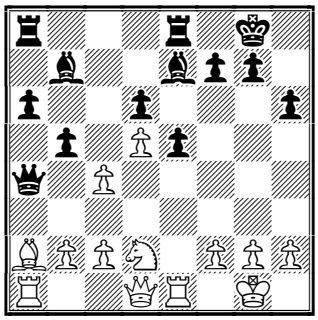
17.♘d5! ♘xd5 18.exd5 ♘a5



19.♗xa5!

Yes, the Bishop usually costs more than a Knight, but an extra pawn costs still more!

19...♕xa5 20.dxc4 ♕xa4?! (D)



A very risky move − here the Queen has too few squares to retreat to, and the Rook on a1 can become very unpleasant. More caution was 20...b4 with some drawing chances.

21.c5! ♕b4

Of course not 21...dxc5?? 22.d6! ♗xd6 23.♗xf7++−

22.♘e4!

Maybe Leko overlooked this move, because after 22.c6 ♗c8 his position is quite good.

22...♕xb2

Once more Black can't take on c5 in view of 22...dxc5 23.c3 ♕xb2 24.♖e2 ♕a3 25.d6 etc.

23.cxd6 ♗f8 24.c3!

The Queen is trapped now!

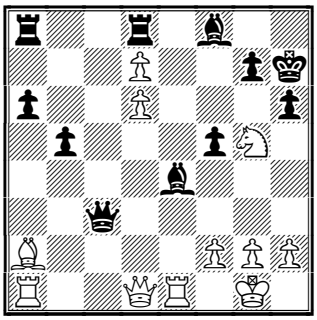
24...f5

Black has no quiet moves: 24...♖ed8 25.♖e2 ♕a3 26.♗b3+−

25.d7 ♖ed8 26.d6+ ♔h8

How bad Black's position is, is illustrated in the following line: 26...♔h7 27.♘g5+! hxg5 28.♕h5#!

27.♘c5 ♗c6 28.♘d3 ♕xc3 29.♘xe5 ♗e4 30.♘f7+ ♔h7 31.♘g5+! (D)



A Very nice win for Kasparov! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
http://www.granajedrez.com/
http://cappelle.free.fr/
http://usuarios.tripod.es/frubiod/open/01open/01open.htm
http://www.bdcf.org/
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-116, 2 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Today is a rest day in Linares, so it's a good opportunity to take a look at the chess world in general. After some very "sleepy" weeks at the end of January , and beginning of February there is something like "Spring activity". In addition to the Linares Super tournament plus the Blind World Champions' event, there are some rather big opens in progress - in Spain, France, Russia, and round-robin events in the USA, and Israel. We also are waiting for Monaco (blind + active) and Rapid World Cup in France at the end of March; and from April until the end of Summer professional chess players always have plenty of opportunities for play (and sometimes to earn some money :-)).

In our annotated game section, Ukrainian GM Mikhail Golubev (an editor of the site: **http://chess-sector.odessa.ua**) annotates a recently finished online-event, the match **Deep Fritz vs Germany,** which ended in a victory for Germany! You can view the game in java replay at:

http://www.computerschach.de/dfritz/
with commentary (in German) by Holger Moeller.

Today we received a new piece of information from **Israel.** Maybe you still remember, there are men and women round-robin events. Standings after the 7th round are:
Men:
1-2. Gyimesi, Kovalev - **4,5**
3. Greenfeld - **4**
4-6. Postny, van Mil, Doettling - **3,5**
Women:
1. Madl -**6**
2. Lacos - **5,5**
3. Borsuk - **4,5**
4. Pitam - **4**

Standings after the 7th round in the

IV Open international Malaga de Ajedrez:
1-3. Vera, Franco, Suba - **6**
4-7. Korneev, Cramling, Arensibia - **5,5**

Top boards in the 8th round are:

Vera - Franco
Suba - Korneev
Cramling - Arensibia
Gleizerov (5) - Perez

And after 7 rounds of the **Cappelle-la-Grande** the standings are:
1-3. Shulskis, Savchenko, Gausel - **6**
with 17 players having 5 points.

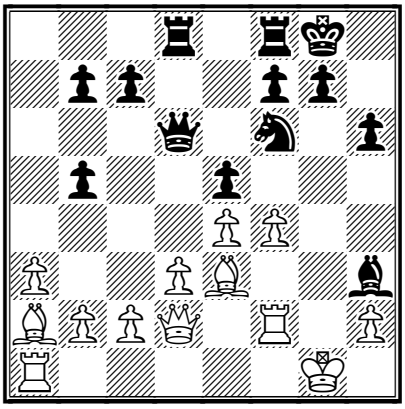
A few of the top the boards going into the 8th round are:
Savchenko - Sulskis
Gurevich - Gausel
Landa - Aronian

♘♘♘

Tactical Puzzles

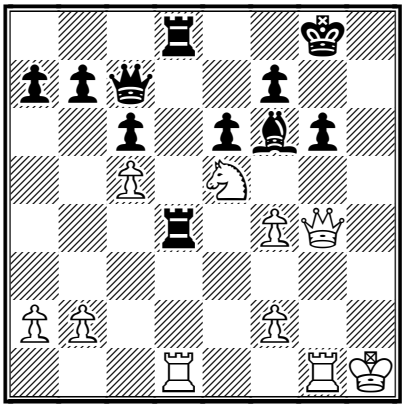
(*solutions on page 5*)

1 V. Mirumian – A. Morozevich
Leningrad, 21.03.1991



Black to move

2. Malahov − Kasymzhanov
Leningrad, 21.03. 1991



White to play

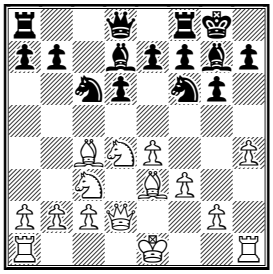
Annotated Game

Deep Fritz − Germany

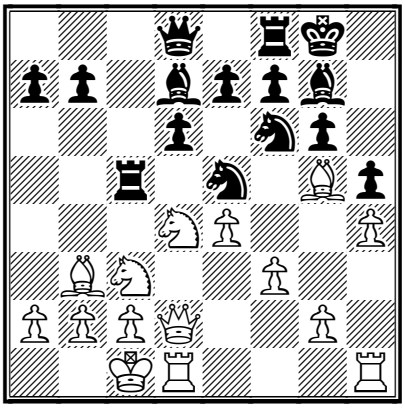
Email Match, 2000−2001 B78
Notes GM Mikhail Golubev, translated from the Russian by IM Vladimir Barsky
(Note that GM Golubev is one of the leading specialists in the Sicilian/Dragon and being a friend of Chess Today *kindly agreed to share his annotations with us.−−− Ralph P. Marconi)*

The match Deep Fritz − Germany started in December 2000 and the moves were posted at the site: www.computerschah.de/dfritz/. *Computer Schach* isn't only a website, it's also a magazine about computer chess. Deep Fritz had 1 hour per move (processor 2x800 MHz), Germany − 23 hours. Team Germany could discuss all moves and share ideas at the site.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♗c4 0-0 9.♕d2 ♗d7 10.h4 (D)



I don't know why Fritz doesn't have the newest theoretical variations in its opening book. Nowadays 10.h4 − isn't the best move. Better is 10.0-0-0! ♖c8 11.♗b3 ♘e5 12.♔b1 !
10...♖c8 11.♗b3 h5 12.0-0-0 ♘e5 13.♗g5 ♖c5 (D)



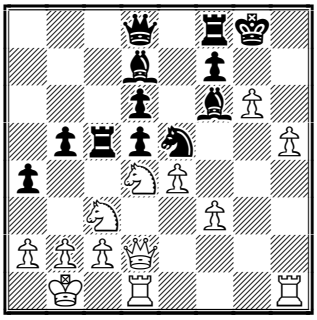
This is one of the better known positions in the Sicilian Dragon. For the Next fourteen moves I'll only note theoretical alternatives for both sides. There will be nothing really new.
14.♔b1 b5
14...♖e8!? is less known, but also a more risky approach 15.♖he1 ♕a5 16.a3 (16.f4 ♘c4 ! 17.♗xc4 ♖xc4 18.♘b3 ♕a6 19.e5 Bologan−Golubev, Romanian Ch 2000 19...♘g4!) 16...b5? (16...♕a6!?) 17.♗xf6± Anand−Kasparov, New Iork PCA Wch (17) 1995
15.g4
One of the main theoretical lines. It's I.Zaitsev's idea − 14.Kb1 and 15.g4. **15...a5**
15...hxg4 16.h5!± (Karpov−Sznapik, Dubai OL 1986)
16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.gxh5

17.a3 hxg4 18.f4 ♘c4 Karpov−Kir.Georgiev, Dubai OL 1986

17...a4 18.♗d5

18.hxg6 axb3 19.♘xb3 ♖xc3 20.gxf7+ ♔xf7 21.♕xc3 ♘c4 22.♘d4 ♕b6∞ Chandler−Petursson, Hastings 1986/87

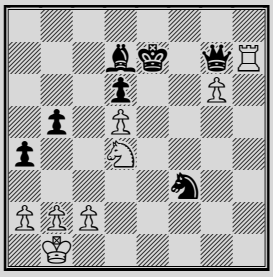
18...e6 19.hxg6 exd5 20.h5 (D)



A crucial position!

20...♗g5

It's difficult to suggest anything else with so many people being involved in this match, but I would suggest two other ways to play: 20...♖xc3 21.bxc3 (21.♕h6 !? 21...fxg6 22.hxg6 ♕e7 23.bxc3 dxe4) 21...♗g5 22.f4∞ Mestel−Kudrin, Hastings 1986/7; 20...fxg6!? this is quite a new move; recently I exploited it in an online−game: 21.hxg6 ♗g7 22.♕h2 ♖e8 23.♘xd5 ♖xd5 24.♕h7+ (24.exd5 ♕f6 Abreu−Y.Gonzalez, Matanzas 1997) 24...♔f8 25.exd5 ♕f6 26.♖de1 ♘xf3 ?! (26...♕xg6 ? 27.f4+−; *26*...♖e7 is better*)* 27.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 28.♕g8+ ♔e7 29.♕xg7+ ! (29.♖h7 ♘d2+ 30.♔c1 ♕f1+ 31.♔xd2 ♕f4+ 32.♔e1 ♕g3+ 33.♔d2 ♕f4+ =) 29...♕xg7 30.♖h7 (**D**)



and Black has a worse endgame, but I could make a draw: 30...♔f6 31.♖xg7 ♔xg7 32.♘xf3 ♔xg6 33.♘d4 ♔f6 34.♘c6 (34.c3*)* 34...♗xc6 35.dxc6 ♔e7 36.♔c1 (36.b4 axb3 37.axb3 b4 !) 36...♔d8 37.♔d2 ♔c7 38.♔c3 ♔xc6 39.♔d4 Naumann−Golubev, blitz, KasparovChess.com 2000.

21.f4

21.♕g2 ♖xc3 22.bxc3 ♘c4 23.♖dg1 ♕a5 ! 24.♕xg5 ♕xc3 25.gxf7+ ♔xf7 26.♕xd5+ ♔e8 27.♕a8+ draw, Vech−Nizynski, Poland 1987

21...♘c4

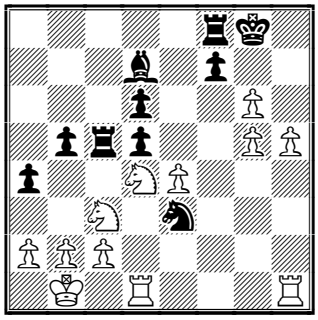
21...♗h6 ?! 22.♘xd5 (22.♕g2*)* ; 21...♖xc3 !? 22.bxc3 with the idea of − 22...♖xc3

22.♕g2

22.♕f2 ♕f6! Sylvan−Macieja, Copenhagen 1996; 22.♕h2 ♗f6 Holmsten−Tiviakov, Rilton Cup 1990 (22...♗h6 23.♘xd5±) 23.♕g2 ♗xd4 24.♖xd4 ♕f6 **22...♘e3 23.♕xg5**

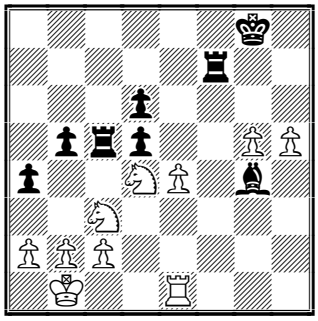
23.♕g3 ♘xd1 24.♖xd1 ♕e7 ! (24...♗h4 25.gxf7+ !) 25.fxg5 dxe4 26.gxf7+ ♖xf7 27.g6 ♖g7 Hund−Rytova, corr. 1991

23...♕xg5 24.fxg5 (D)



Somewhere along here I lost the belief for a victory for the humans, but I was mistaken!

24...♘xd1 25.gxf7+ ♖xf7 26.♖xd1 ♗g4 27.♖e1 (D)



This was the last move from the opening book of Deep Fritz (!). In my book about the Dragon variation I recommended 27.♖g1 and I think it's a better way for White − for example: 27...♖f4 28.♘c6! (28.♘dxb5 dxe4 29.♔c1 e3 Henao−Kudrin, New York 1992; 28.♔c1 b4 ! 29.♘d1 ♗xh5 30.♘e6 ♖xe4 31.♘xc5 dxc5 Malakhov−Soloviov, Minsk 1998) 28...♗xh5 (28...♖xc6 29.♘xd5±) 29.♘xd5 ♖f2 30.♘cb4 ♖h2 31.♘d3 ♖c4 32.b3 ♖d4± Riha−Kopec, corr. Czechian League 1997; Hage−Bergmann, cor. 1999

27...dxe4

Now there can be three results (1:0, 0:1 or a draw). But Germany begins fighting for a win, and step by step outplays the computer in highly impressive style.

28.♘dxb5

28.♘cxb5 d5 29.♘d6 draw, Goloshchapov,A−Tindall, Medellin 1996

28...d5

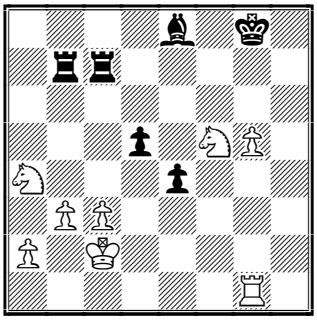
28...e3 29.♘xd6 Henao−Berube, New York 1993 29...♖f4□∓

29.♘d6 ♖g7

29...♖f2 30.♘e8 ♔f7 31.♘f6 ♗e6 32.a3± {Holger Mueller on official site} **30.♖g1**

30.♘cxe4 ? 30...dxe4 31.♘xe4 ♖e7 32.♘f6+ ♔f7 33.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 34.♘xg4 ♖xg5-+

30...♗xh5 31.♘xa4 ♖c6 32.♘f5 ♖b7 33.c3 ♗e8 34.b3 ♖cc7 35.♔c2 (D)

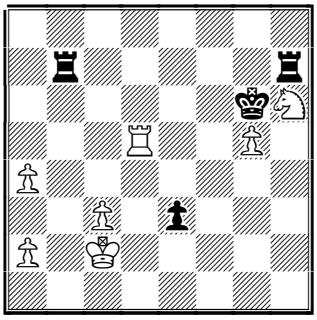


A novelty!!! 35.♘e3?! d4 36.♘d5 ♗xa4 37.♘xc7 ♖xc7 38.cxd4?! ♗b5∓ Fritz 6 −Crafty 17.07, SSDF 2000, and Black won.

35...♗xa4 36.bxa4 ♖h7!

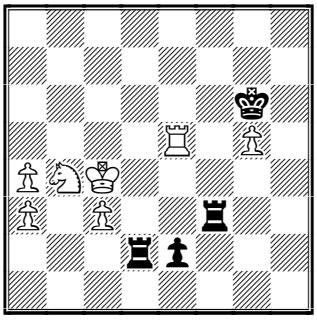
Very interesting and strong.

37.♘h6+ ♔g7 38.♖d1 ♔g6 39.♖xd5 e3 (D)



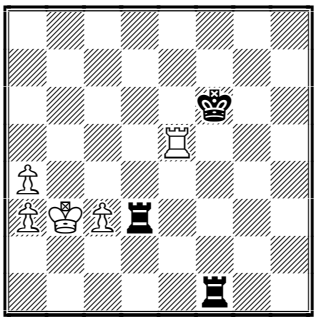
Now it becomes clear that 3 pawns are not enough compensation for the exchange and the ugly placed Knight. Even Fritz could not find a draw − maybe there isn't one now.

40.♘g4 e2 41.♖e5 ♖h4 42.♘f6 ♖h2 43.♔d3 ♖b2 44.♘d5 ♖h3+ 45.♔c4 ♖f3 46.♘b4 ♖d2 47.a3 (D)



This looks very strange. But White's task is difficult now: 47.a5 ♖f4+ 48.♔b3 ♖f1 49.♘d3 ♖xd3 50.♖xe2 ♖c1 51.♖c2 ♖xc2 52.♔xc2 ♖d5 53.♔b3 ♖xa5 54.a4 ♔xg5 55.♔b4 ♖a8 56.a5 ♔f5 57.♔b5 ♔e6 58.♔b6 ♔d6 59.a6 ♖b8+-+

47...♖f4+ 48.♔b3 ♖f1 49.♘d3 ♖xd3 50.♖xe2 ♔xg5 51.♖e5+ ♔f6-+ (D)



It's all over, but Fritz doesn't want to

resign.
52.♖e8 ♖c1 53.♖c8 ♔e6 54.a5 ♔d7 55.♖c5 ♖d6 56.♖g5 ♖c6 57.♖g7+ ♔c8 58.♖g3 ♔b7 59.♖h3 ♔a6 60.♔b2 ♖g1 61.♔b3 ♔xa5 62.♖h5+ ♔a6 63.♖h3 ♖b6+ 64.♔c2 ♖g2+ 65.♔d3 ♖b3 66.♔c4 ♖xa3 67.♔b4 ♖a1 68.♖h6+ ♔b7 69.♖h3 ♖b1+ 70.♔c4 ♖g4+ 71.♔d3 ♖bg1

And Fritz resigned on the 21st of February 2001. Man's brains can do something yet − at least to defeat, with help from a lot of small computers, one big computer!
0-1.

Solutions to Tactical puzzles:
1. 18...♘xe4! 19.fxe5
19.dxe4 ♕g6+ 20.♖g2 ♕xe4
19...♕xe5 20.d4 ♕e7-+ 0-1.

2. 27.♘xg6! fxg6
27...♖xd1?? 28.♘e5+ ♔f8 29.♕g8+ ♔e7 30.♕xf7#
28.♕xe6+ ♕f7
28...♔h7? 29.♕xf6 ♖xd1 30.♕xg6+ ♔h8 31.♕f6+
29.♖xg6+ ♗g7 30.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 31.♖g1+ ♔f8 32.♕h6+ ♔e8 33.♕h8+ ♔d7
33...♔e7 34.♕e5+
34.♕xd4+ ♔c8 35.♕g7 ♕d5+ 36.♔h2 ♕h5+ 37.♔g2 ♕d5+ 38.♔h2 ♕xc5 ½-½

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
http://www.granajedrez.com/
http://cappelle.free.fr/
http://usuarios.tripod.es/frubiod/open/01open/01open.htm
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-117, 3 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

After the rest day the super GMs in **Linares** gave a lot of pleasure for the spectators of the 7th Round – all games were very exciting!

Judit Polgar and **Garry Kasparov** played a wonderful game in the Najdorf Sicilian. Kasparov knows this variation better and he quickly got the better chances with the Black pieces - but then Polgar sacrificed a pawn, soon a bishop and managed to confuse her formidable rival. The first inaccuracy of the Great Garry – another piece sacrifice followed, and it was Judit who obtained a strong attack. Kasparov was then forced to give up a Knight in order to destroy his opponent's shield around her King to force a perpetual check - A fantastic game! (See the annotated game section for this game.)

The battle between **Alexey Shirov** and **Peter Leko** was no less spectacular! Alexey was able to force a perpetual many times but tried to fish in troubled waters without the a full Rook. He was probably losing at some point, but Peter failed to calm the position down. Objectively speaking, it looked absolutely impossible to foresee the unbelievable, magical tactical blows which allowed Alexey to win the Rook back and get the better ending which ended the game in a draw.

Alexander Grischuk celebrated his first win today, and what a remarkable win it was – he beat none other than, **Anatoly Karpov**! The Young Russian star pressured his great adversary during the entire game and forced him to make some mistakes – move 40 became fatal for Anatoly.

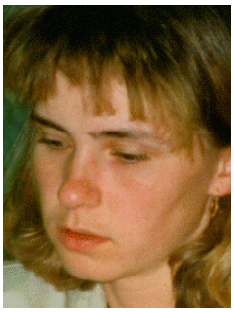
Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Kasparov – 5 points,
2. Polgar – 4
3. Shirov - 3½
4-5. Leko, Grischuk – 3
6. Karpov - 2½

Pairings for the 8th Round:
Kasparov – Shirov
Karpov – Polgar
Leko – Grischuk

Tomorrow promises to be no less interesting…

Let's take a look at the other events.

GM Zoltan Gyimesi


GM Ildiko Madl

There was a triumph of Hungarian players in **Tel Aviv** – GM **Zoltan Gyimesi** won the category 10 round robin tournament, scoring 6 points out of 9, while GM **Ildiko Madl** won the women's event with an excellent score 7 out of 9.

In the penultimate 8th Round of the **Cappelle-la-Grande** GM **Einar Gausel** of Norway beat ELO-favourite Mikhail Gurevich and took over sole lead with 7 points. It's curious that, even though, Gurevich started the tournament from the second round he will be successful - he will be among the leaders!

Top boards for the final 9th Round:
Gausel (7) – P.-H. Nielsen (6½)
Fressinet (6½) – Savchenko (6½)

Shulskis (6½) – Ibragimov (6½)
Goldin (6) – Chuchelov (6½)
20 players have 6 points.

In the 7th Round of the **"Ciudad de Linares"** for blind players Vladimir Berlinsky beat the leader, Sergey Smirnov, and joined him in second place, as his Russian compatriot **Sergey Krylov** won his game against Milenko Cabarcapa and scored 6 points, half a point ahead.

The **Geller Memorial** is underway in **Moscow**. After 4 rounds GMs **Evgeny Pigusov** of Russia and **Victor Komliakov** of Moldavia are leading with perfect scores.

Top boards of the 5th Round:
Komliakov (4) – Pigusov (4)
R.Bagirov (3½) – Kotsur (3½)
Iljushin (3½) – Eliseev (3½)
Guseinov (3½) – Y.Meister (3½)
Kharitonov (3) – Akhmetov (3½)

In the 4th Round of the **Charles Linklater Memorial** **Alex Baburin** has been playing in rather unusual style – he sacrificed a bishop on h7 just for the initiative but his opponent, **IM Cyrus Lakdawala**, lost control of the position and lost. Belorussian GM **Yury Shulman**, who beat Camila Baginskaite, is the leader of the event, but he has played one extra game – there are 11 players in the tournament

The Leaders after the 4th Round:
1. Shulman – 3 points from 4
2-3. A.Baburin and M.Vucic: 2½/3
4. G.Shahade: 2½/4 etc.

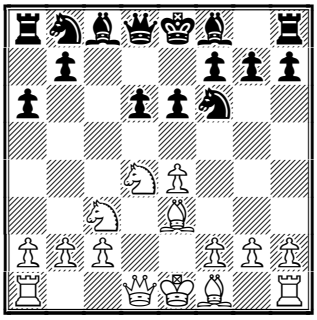
Come on, Alex!

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

J. Polgar (2676) – G. Kasparov (2849)
Linares, Spain (7), 03.03.2001 B80
Notes by GM Ruslam Scherbakov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 (D)



We've already seen this position before in the game between the same opponents a week ago – Judit played 6...♘g4

7.f3 b5 8.♕d2

8.g4 is probably more precise – Black has no time for the ♘bd7–b6 and should give up a tempo for h7–h6.

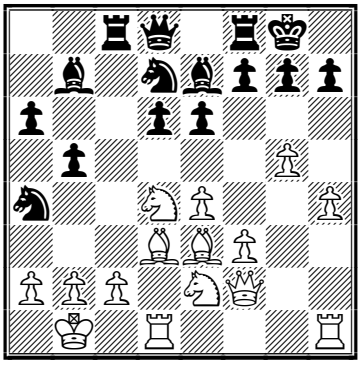
8...♘bd7 9.0-0-0 ♗b7 10.g4 ♘b6 11.♕f2 ♘fd7 12.♗d3 ♖c8

In this kind of position Kasparov likes to capture on c3 very much.

13.♘ce2

No way!

13...♗e7 14.h4 0-0 15.♔b1 ♘a4 16.g5 (D)

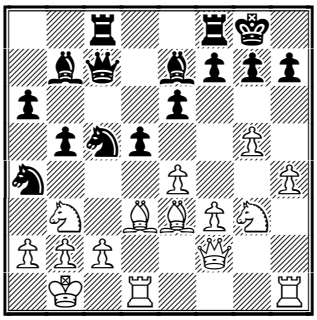


Both sides were playing very logically, preparing the attack against the others' rival King.

16...♘dc5!?

Only this move is a novelty. The game Nevednichy – Badea, Bucharest 1994 continued: 16...d5 17.exd5 ♗xd5 18.♘f4! ♘dc5 19.♘b3 ♘xd3 20.♖xd3 ♕d7 21.♖hd1 ♖fd8 22.h5! and White has taken the initiative.

17.♘g3 ♕c7 18.♘b3 d5! (D)



Only now!

19.e5!?

A typical sacrifice in these kinds of positions. White is trying to keep the center closed to gain some important time for attack.

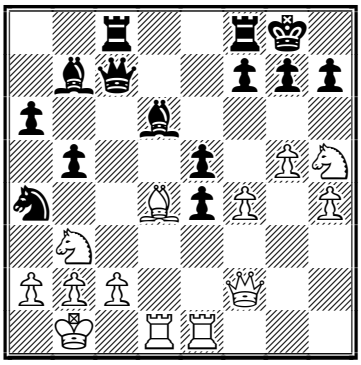
19...♕xe5 20.♗d4 ♕c7 21.f4 ♘e4! 22.♗xe4 dxe4 23.♖he1

The immediate 23.♘h5? failed to 23...e3! and both captures on e3 have serious drawbacks.

23...♗d6!

Not only an attacking move, defending as well − Black is preparing e7−e5 to target the very strong Bishop on d4.

24.♘h5 e5 (D)



Black secures the extra pawn and there is no attack. Now Judit starts to play like a magician.

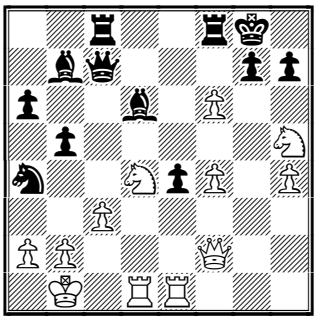
25.c3!?

What's this? Just a prophylactic move − but White had to pay a lot of attention to the pawn on c2.

25...f6!

A very sharp and principled reply − Black is going to capture the Bishop in spite of all the dangers. Of course, not 25...exd4? 26.♕xd4 with ideas like ♕d6 and ♕g7 checkmate.

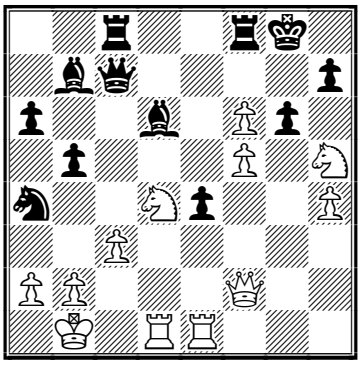
26.gxf6 exd4 27.♘xd4(D)



27...g6?!

27...♘c5!? 28.♖g1 (28.fxg7 ♖f7) 28...g6 29.f5!? looked unclear. ; but the counterattacking 27...♗a3! could have probably proved Black's advantage by a more reliable way: 28.fxg7 (28.♘e6 ♕f7 29.♘xf8 ♗xb2! 30.♖e3□ ♘xc3+ 31.♖xc3 ♗xc3-+) 28...♖f7 29.♖d2 ♘xb2! 30.♖xb2 ♕xc3! (30...♗xb2 31.♕xb2 ♕xc3 32.♕xc3 ♖xc3) 31.♖c2 ♕b4+ 32.♘b3 ♖xc2 33.♔xc2 ♖f5-+ with a decisive attack.

28.f5!! (D)



Excellent! Things are getting crazy and it seems to be good chances for White... **28...gxh5**

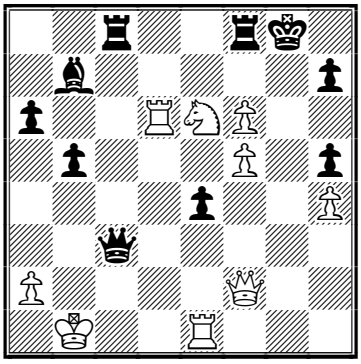
Thorough analysis might prove Black's advantage after 28...♗d5!? ; 28...♗e5!? but Kasparov probably decided to avoid the risk of a possible defeat.

29.♘e6 ♘xc3+!

Otherwise Black would face troubles.

30.bxc3 ♕xc3 31.♖xd6 ♕b4+ 32.♔a1 ♕c3+ 33.♔b1 ♕b4+ 34.♔a1

♕c3+ 35.♔b1 (D)



A draw agreed. A fantastic game! Judit Polgar scored two draws against Kasparov and twice she countered him in a brilliant style forcing Garry to accept a draw avoiding the worst. **½-½**

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www.bdcf.org
www.granajedrez.com
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CT-118, 4 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Garry Kasparov secured a total success in **Linares** – today he outplayed **Alexey Shirov** in a theoretical duel and increased his lead by 2 points with only two games remaining.

Judit Polgar played Black against **Anatoly Karpov** in a very aggressive style. She sacrificed two pawns in the ending but managed penetrate with both Rooks to the second rank. However, Karpov managed to extinguish her initiative by returning a pawn. Judit offered heroic resistance but her great rival was inexorable - Anatoly Karpov's first win of the tournament!

Peter Leko obtained a small advantage against **Alexander Grischuk** but failed to increase it during 50 moves of rather boring play.

Standings after 8th Round:
1. Kasparov – 6 points,
2. Polgar – 4
3-6. Shirov, Karpov, Grischuk, Leko - 3½ points.

It is curious that Kasparov scored his +4 by beating all 4 players who have –1! Polgar has 50% exactly because she managed to hold the balance against the Great Garry.

Pairings for the 9th Round:
Karpov – Kasparov
Grischuk – Shirov
Polgar – Leko

Tomorrow's games promise to be very interesting – all the players have their scores…

Chess life is recently very busy – there are a lot of tournaments underway.

Vladimir Chuchelov (Belgium) became the hero of the last round of the **Cappelle-la-Grande**, France – he outplayed Alexander Goldin with Black in brilliant style and joined **Einar Gausel** (Norway) for the lead. Both winners scored 7½ from 9. All other top games

Vladimir Chuchelov

Einar Gausel

were peaceful so no one else managed to share first prize. Congratulations to the winners!

The strong tournament has finished in **Malaga**, Spain. 5 GMs – **Reynaldo Vera** (Cuba, the winner on tie-break),

Zenon Franco Ocampos (Spain), **Roberto Cifuentes Parada** (Netherlands), **Mihai Suba** (Romania) and **Carlos Matamoros Franco** (Ecuador) – shared first prize. Our congratulations!

After the 8th round of the **"Ciudad de Linares"** for blind players, all Russians – **Vladimir Berlinsky**, **Sergey Krylov** and **Sergey Smirnov** – are dominating the field. They have 6½ points while the others are far behind.

Evgeny Pigusov beat Victor Komliakov in the 5th Round of the **Geller Memorial** in **Moscow** and retained his perfect score! **Alexey Iljushin** and 14 year old

(!) **Kadyr Guseinov** of Azerbajan are sharing second place at half a point behind.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
Pigusov (5) – Guseinov (4½)
Jakovenko (4) – Iljushin (4½)
Kotsur (4) – Kokarev (4)
Komliakov (4) – Kharitonov (4)
Loginov (4) – Egorov (4)
V.L.Ivanov (4) – Ulko (4)
Potkin (4) – Bagirov (4)

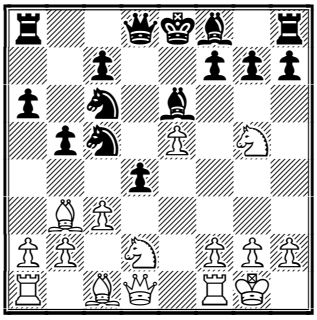
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

G. Kasparov (2849) − A. Shirov(2718)
Linares, Spain (8), 04.03.2001 C80
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Shirov's opening choice was probably unexpected by Kasparov, nevertheless Kasparov's huge opening knowledge helped him to find a weak point in his opponent's preparation.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♗b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♗e6 9.♘bd2 ♘c5 10.c3 d4 11.♘g5! (D)



Igor Zaitsev's variation.

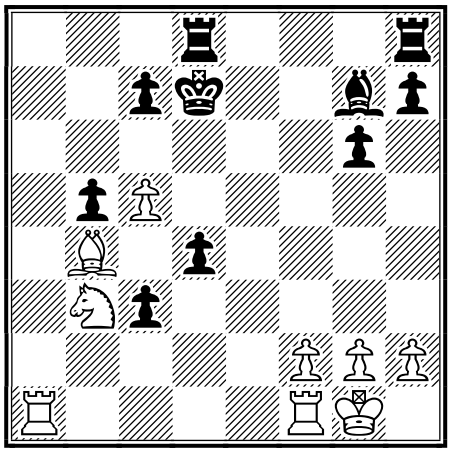
11...♕xg5

Do you remember? − 11...dxc3?! 12.♘xe6 fxe6 13.bxc3 ♕d3 14.♗c2!! (Mikhail Tal's idea) 14...♕xc3 15.♘b3 ♘xb3 16.♗xb3 ♘d4 17.♕g4!! with an almost decisive advantage, Kasparov − Anand, New York 1995 (m/10).

12.♕f3

Winning the piece back.

12...0-0-0 13.♗xe6+ fxe6 14.♕xc6 ♕xe5 15.b4 ♕d5 16.♕xd5 exd5 17.bxc5 dxc3 18.♘b3 d4 19.♗a3 g6 20.♗b4 ♗g7 21.a4 ♔d7 22.axb5 axb5 (D)



Sorry to leave all these moves without any comments − but there is nothing new so far!

23.♖fd1!?

23.♖ad1 was already played by ...Shirov! The game Shirov − Timman, Wijk aan Zee 1996 continued: 23...♔e6 24.♖fe1+ ♔d5 25.♗xc3 ♔c4 26.♗a5! ♔xb3 27.♖b1+ ♔c4 28.♖ec1+ ♔d5 29.c6! ♔d6! 30.♖xb5 ♖b8! 31.♗b4+ ♔e6 32.♖e1+ ♔f6! 33.♗e7+ ♔f7 34.♖d5 and here Black could finally have solved his problems by 34...♖he8! 35.♖d7 ♔g8 36.♔f1 d3 37.♖xd3 ♖b6= with equality, as was pointed out by Shirov.

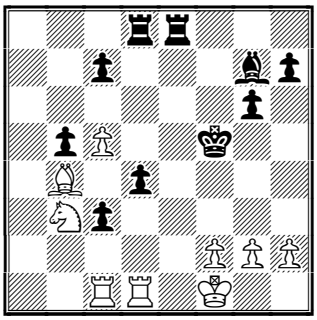
23...♔e6 24.♖ac1

White's idea becomes clear − Black's king is not allowed to go to c4.

24...♖he8

Only this move is a novelty! In the game Van den Doel − Timmermans, Deizisau 1999 after 24...♖d5 25.♗a5 ♖a8 26.♖d3 ♖xa5 27.♘xa5 ♖xc5 Black has a powerful pawn armada but White proved an extra Rook to be more important: 28.♔f1 b4 29.♘b3 ♖d5 30.♖a1 c5 31.♖a6+ and White collects all of Black's pawns little by little.

25.♔f1 ♔f5 (D)



26.c6!?

The immediate 26.♖d3 also comes to mind. Kasparov's approach is sharper though.

26...g5

Black could win the pawn on c6 by 26...♖e6?! but the cost was too high: 27.♗xc3 ♖xc6 28.♗a5+− winning the pawn on c7.

27.♗a5

The immediate 27.♖d3 was tempting.

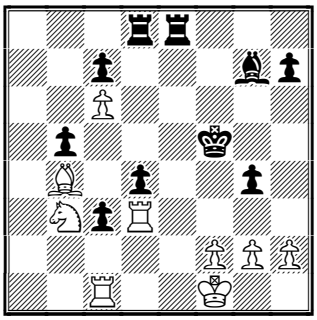
27...♖d6

27...♗e5 28.♖d3 wasn't easier for Black.

28.♗b4 ♖dd8 29.♖d3

Finally!

29...g4 (D)



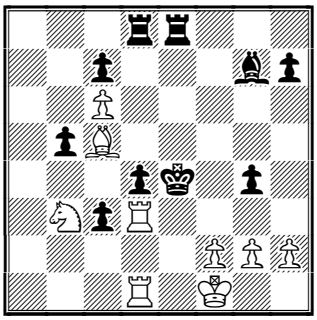
30.♗c5

The position after 30.♖cd1 ♗f6 31.♗c5 ♖e6 32.♗xd4 ♖xc6 33.♗xf6 ♖xd3 34.♖xd3 ♔xf6 35.♔e2 ♔e5 gives Black good drawing chances.

30...♔e4?!

30...♖e6!? looked more to the point − Black's only chance is to eliminate the c6−pawn.

31.♖cd1 (D)



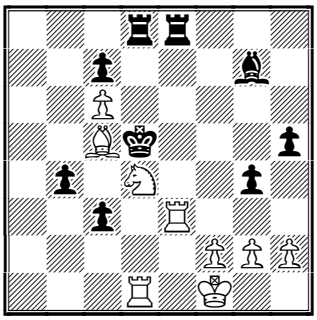
31...h5?!

Again, 31...♖e6!? was probably a more stubborn defense. The position should be winning for White but Black is still fighting, for example: 32.♗xd4 c2 33.♖e3+ (33.♘c5+ ♔f5 34.♖c1 ♖xd4 35.♖xd4 ♗xd4 36.♘xe6 ♔xe6 37.♖xc2 ♔d5⇄) 33...♔f5 34.♖de1 ♗xd4 35.♖xe6 ♗c3 36.♖1e4 ♖d1+ 37.♔e2 c1♕ 38.♘xc1 ♖xc1 with chances to draw. It's quite possible, however, that White had a different way to win the game but it wasn't so obvious. After the text move White wins easily.

32.♘xd4 b4

32...♗xd4 33.♖xd4+ ♖xd4 34.♖xd4+ followed by ♖d3−c3 White doesn't have any problems.

33.♖e3+ ♔d5 (D)



34.♗xb4!

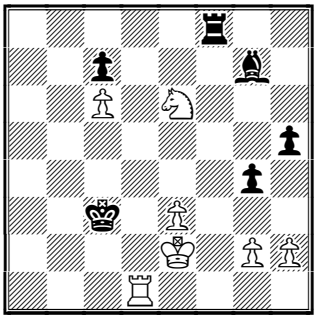
The simplest way. In the line 34.♘e6+ ♔xc6 35.♘xd8+ ♖xd8 36.♖xd8 ♔xc5 things would get crazy, although objectively White is winning, of course.

34...♔c4 35.♗xc3 ♖xe3 36.fxe3 ♖f8+

36...♔xc3?? 37.♘e2+ followed by ♖d8.

37.♔e2 ♔xc3

Black has managed to win a piece back but after
38.♘e6 (D)



he was forced to resign – ♖d7 is coming... The score between Kasparov and Shirov is now 11-0!
1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
www.bdcf.org
www.granajedrez.com
cappelle.free.fr
www.bdcf.org
www.chessclub.org/Linklater01.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-119, 5 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Garry Kasparov has won the super-tournament in **Linares**! Today he pressured **Anatoly Karpov** with the black pieces in the Grunfeld Defence, but a draw wasn't too difficult a task. Kasparov has shown huge superiority over all his opponents in this event – two full points ahead of the field, with one game to play.

Peter Leko gave no chance to **Judit Polgar** to outplay him in the Ruy Lopez. Another draw by the "Equalizer", however, Leko is still the only player who hasn't won a single game yet.

Alexey Shirov introduced a very interesting novelty in the Najdorf Sicilian and convincingly seemed to solve his problems, but in the endgame he went wrong and faced serious difficulties which he couldn't cope with. As a result **Alexander Grischuk** is now sharing second place!

Standings after 9th Round:
1. Kasparov – 6½ points,
2-3. Polgar, Grischuk – 4½
4-5. Karpov, Leko - 4
6. Shirov - 3½

Pairings for the last 10th & final round:
Kasparov – Grischuk
Shirov – Polgar
Leko – Karpov

Tomorrow will be a tough day for both Polgar and Grischuk. As for the game Leko – Karpov, the winner of this game has a chance to come in clear second!

Let's take a look at the other events.

We've finally have news from **Dhaka**, **Bangladesh** where the 5th United Insurance GrandMasters tournament has just ended. **Alexander Volzhin** (Russia) had been leading during the whole event, but in the last round he was caught up to by ELO-favourite **Jaan Ehlvest** (Estonia). Both players scored 8½ points out of 13 and Jaan was proclaimed the winner after tie-breaks. It is curious that Ehlvest started with only 2½ points after 6 rounds while Volzhin had two times more! **Normunds Miezis** (Latvia) finished third at a half point behind, by

Jaan Ehlvest

Alexander Volzhin

winning his last three games. Congratulations to the winners!

Alexey Iljushin joined **Evgeny Pigusov** at the lead after the 6th Round of the **Geller Memorial** in **Moscow** – both players have 5½ points. Four players are sharing third place at half a point behind.

Results of the 6th Round:
Pigusov – Guseinov **½-½**
Jakovenko – Iljushin **0-1**
Kotsur – Kokarev **1-0**
Komliakov – Kharitonov **½-½**
Loginov – Egorov **1-0**
V.L.Ivanov – Ulko **½-½**
Potkin – Bagirov **0-1**

Top boards of the 7th Round:
Iljushin (5½) – Pigusov (5½)
Guseinov (5) – Kotsur (5)
Bagirov (5) – Loginov (5)

Yury Shulman (Belorussia) kept the lead after the 7th Round of the **Charles Linklater Memorial** in **San Francisco**.

Leaders after the 7th Round:
1. Y.Shulman – 5 points from 7
2. G.Shahade - 4½/7
3. A.Baburin and M.Vucic – 4/6 etc

The Victor Ciocaltea Memorial has started in **Bucharest**, Romania. ELO-favourites of the 12 category tournament are: Mihai Marin and Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu. In the 1st Round all games were drawn.

Sergey Krylov (Russia) won the **"Ciudad de Linares"** for blind players with 7½ points from 9. In the last round he was successful, while two other leaders, his compatriots, **Vladimir Berlinsky** and **Sergey Smirnov**, lost their games and so had to settle for a share of second place. Our congratulations!

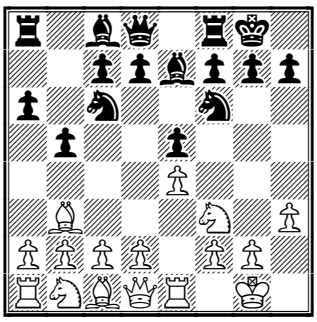
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Shirov (2718) − P. Leko (2745)
Linares, Spain (7), 03.03.2001 C88
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Today's games were not too exciting so we would like to present one of the most spectacular battles of the tournament from the 7/th round − Alexey Shirov's "kamikaze" chess, against Leko.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.h3 (D)

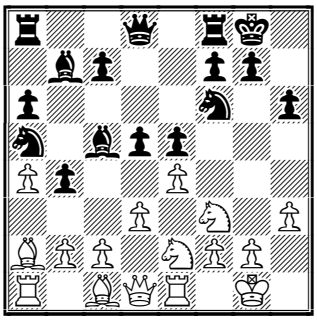


In the previous round Kasparov avoided the Marshall Attack by 8.a4 and smashed Leko in brilliant style.

8...♗b7 9.d3 h6 10.♘c3 ♗c5!?

A new move in this position. Black usually places the bishop more passively: 10...♖e8 11.a3 ♗f8 and did not solve the problems completely: 12.♘d5 ♘a5 (or 12...♘d4 13.♘xd4 exd4 14.♗f4 d6 15.♗g3 ♘xd5 16.exd5 g6 17.♕d2 ♕d7 18.a4 ♖xe1+ 19.♕xe1 ♖e8 20.♕a5± Wang Zili − Xie Jun, Beijing 1995) 13.♗a2 ♗xd5 14.exd5 d6 15.b4 ♘b7 16.c4± with better chances for White, J.Polgar − Adams, Dortmund 1996.

11.a4 b4 12.♘e2 ♘a5 13.♗a2 d5!? (D)



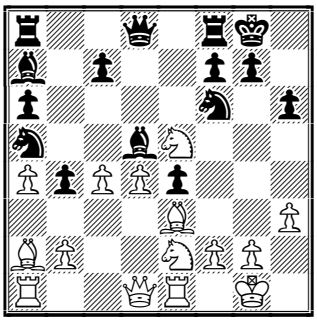
A typical method for these positions − Black tries to get maximum activity for his pieces. It looks like Leko wants to play the Marshall very much.

14.♘xe5

The pawn couldn't be taken for free: 14.exd5?! ♗xd5 15.♘xe5 ♗xa2 16.♖xa2 ♕d5 17.b3!? ♕xe5 18.d4 ♕h5 19.dxc5 ♖ad8↑ followed by ♕c5 with advantage for Black.

14...dxe4 15.d4 ♗a7 16.♗e3 ♗d5 (D)

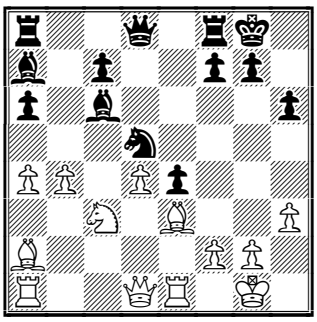
16...♘d5!? deserved attention.



17.c4! bxc3 18.b4!

A strong idea, which looks promising for White.

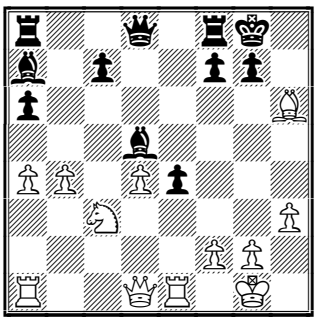
18...♘c6 19.♘xc6 ♗xc6 20.♘xc3 ♘d5 (D)



21.♗xd5

Alexey could not resist giving pleasure for the spectators, but the solid 21.♕b3!? was objectively stronger: 21...♘xe3 22.fxe3 ♖b8 23.♕c4 ♕d6 24.♖ab1 followed by ♖f1 with certain pressure.

21...♗xd5 22.♗xh6 (D)

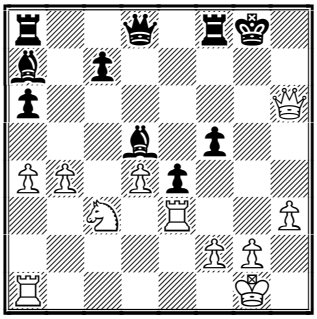


Here it is! Objectively this combination does not promise White more than a draw by perpetual check.

22...gxh6 23.♕g4+ ♔h8 24.♕h5 f5

The only defence.

25.♕xh6+ ♔g8 26.♕g6+ ♔h8 27.♕h6+ ♔g8 28.♖e3!? (D)

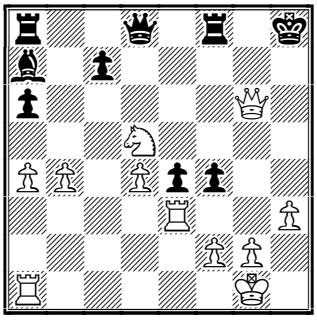


Let's make some moves...

28...f4

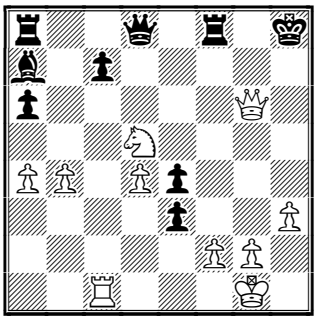
No way for such complications as 28...♗xd4 29.♖d1∞; or 28...♖f6 29.♖g3+ ♔f7 30.♖g7+ ♔e6 31.♕h7∞

29.♕g6+ ♔h8 30.♕h6+ ♔g8 31.♕g6+ ♔h8 32.♘xd5 (D)



Please some more moves...

32...fxe3 33.♕h6+ ♔g8 34.♕g6+ ♔h8 35.♖c1? (D)



What, NO DRAW!!!? An absolutely crazy decision...

35...♕h4?

Shirov's idea clearly came as a shock for Leko and it probably affected his mind. Why not 35...exf2+! 36.♔f1 ♕h4 37.♖xc7 ♗xd4 (or 37...♖g8 38.♘e7!? ♗xd4) and White does not have any other ideas than 38.♘f6!? ♗xf6 39.♖c5 e3 40.♖h5+ ♕xh5 41.♕xh5+ ♔g7 and Black is winning. Objectively speaking, the text move looks quite safe but it was almost impossible to foresee Shirov's magic tricks.

36.fxe3

By the way, the bishop on a7 is out of play now.

36...♖g8

36...c6!? 37.♖xc6 ♖ac8 was tempting but White could already

force a draw by 38.♖xc8! ♖xc8 39.g3! and Black cannot avoid perpetual check.

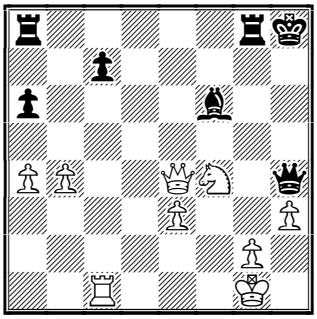
37.♘f4!!

This fantastic move was probably missed by Black. By the way, White is going to take on e4.

37...♗xd4

After 37...♖af8 38.♕xe4 ♕g3 Black was not losing, nor White: 39.♕e5+ ♖g7 40.♖xc7 ♕e1+ 41.♔h2 ♕g3+ with move repetition.

38.♕xe4 ♗f6 (D)



What now?

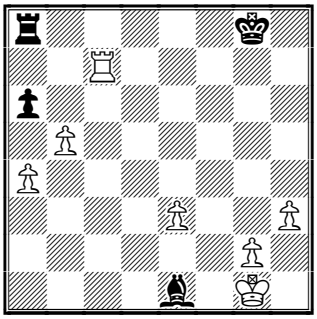
39.♕xa8

Very unexpected!

39...♖xa8 40.♘g6+ ♔g8 41.♘xh4 ♗xh4 42.♖xc7

White has 4 pawns for the Bishop but Black has no problems to hold the balance thanks to the bad position of White's king.

42...♗e1 43.b5 (D)



A draw agreed, but what a spectacular draw! After 43.b5 axb5 44.axb5 ♗g3 45.♖c1 ♖e8 White cannot play for a win. **½-½.**

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www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
www.granajedrez.com
cappelle.free.fr
www.bdcf.org
www.chessclub.org/Linklater01.html
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-120, 6 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Garry Kasparov taught young **Alexander Grischuk** a lesson in the last round of the super-tournament in **Linares** and finished the event with excellent 7½ points out of 10 games. Our congratulations!

Alexey Shirov outplayed **Judit Polgar** in interesting complications and avoided last place. (see the annotated game section.)

Peter Leko had excellent chances to beat **Anatoly Karpov** but spoiled his big advantage little by little by indecisive play. By the way, if he had won this game he would have taken clear second, but I dare say it would be too unfair for chess – thanks Anatoly Evgenievich for heroic defensive play!

Final standings:
1. Kasparov – 7½ points,
2-6. Polgar, Grischuk, Shirov, Karpov Leko – 4½

The results of the tournament are fairly remarkable: **Garry Kasparov** – plus 5, all other 5 players – minus 1! They are probably thinking they shared second, but it's clear that they actually all shared last place! A total triumph of the Great Garry! Perhaps a simultaneous Exhibition: "Kasparov vs others" would be a good idea to include in the schedule of the Linares next year to equalize the chances.

Now let's take a look at the other events.

In the 7th Round of the **Geller Memorial** **Pavel Kotsur** (Kazakhstan) beat 14 year old Kadyr Guseinov and joined the leaders – **Alexey Iljushin** and **Evgeny Pigusov**, who drew their game.

Some results of the 7th Round:

Iljushin – Pigusov **½-½**
Guseinov – Kotsur **0-1**
Bagirov – Loginov **½-½**

Top boards of the 8th Round:
Kotsur (6) – Pigusov (6)
Iljushin (6) – Balashov (5½)
Malaniuk (5½) – Vorobiov (5½)
Loginov (5½) – Ulko (5½)
Kharitonov (5) – Bagirov (5½)

After 8 rounds of the **Charles inklater Memorial** GM **Yury Shulman** (Belorussia, who recently lives in Dallas, Texas) kept the lead with 6 points out of 8. GM **Alex Baburin** (Ireland) won a very important game over previously undefeated IM **Mladen Vucic**.

Leaders after the 8th Round:
1. Shulman 6/8
2. Baburin 5/7
3. Shahade 5/8
4. Wojtkiewicz 4.5/7 etc.

Please visit the site for detailed reviews of each round by IM **John Donaldson.**

Perhaps the participants of the round robin, category 12 **Victor Ciocaltea Memorial** in **Bucharest**, Romania decided to repeat the start of the super-tournament in Linares – all games in the first two rounds were drawn! It's fairly hard to believe – there are 12 players in the event. Let's wait for the next round to speak about the leaders.

A strong round robin tournament has started in **Badalona**, Spain. In the first round IM **Jose Manuel Lopez Martinez** (Spain) beat one of the ELO-favourites GM Arthur Kogan (Israel). GM **Atanas Kolev** (Bulgaria), IM **Mark Narciso Dublan** and MF **Manuel Granados**

(both of Spain) also won their first games.

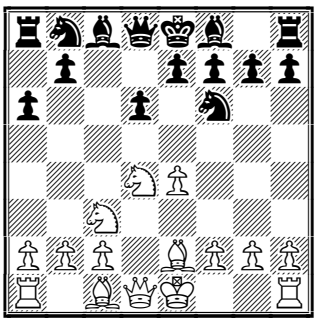
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Shirov(2718) − J. Polgar (2676)
Linares, Spain (9), 06.03.2001 B92
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

This game was very important for Alexey and he probably decided to try to extinguish Judit's activity at the very start, despite limiting his own creative possibilities as well.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e2 (D)

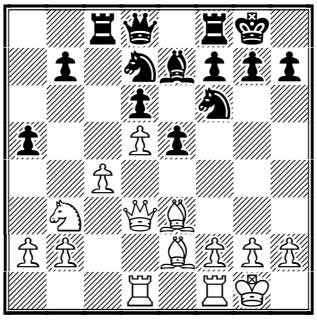


No way for 6.♗e3 this time − Judit showed fantastic play in this variation in two games against Garry Kasparov in this tournament.

6...e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.♗e3 ♗e6 9.♘d5 ♘bd7 10.♕d3 ♗xd5 11.exd5 ♖c8!?

In case of 11...0-0 White was probably going to play 12.g4! − the game Khalifman − Gelfand, Las Vegas (Wch) 1999 continued: 12...♘c5 13.♘xc5 dxc5 14.0-0-0 e4 15.♕d2 ♗d6 16.g5 ♘d7 17.h4 ♘e5 18.h5 and White obtained a clear advantage.

12.c4 0-0 13.0-0 a5 14.♖ad1!? (D)



A new continuation. In such a position both sides should play according to long term plans and the text move is of that kind. In the game Yemelin − Vaulin, St Petersburg 1993 White did not achieve too much after 14.♖ac1 a4 15.♘d2 ♘c5 16.♕a3 ♘fd7 17.b4 axb3 18.axb3 ♖a8 19.♕b2 f5⇄ with good counterplay.

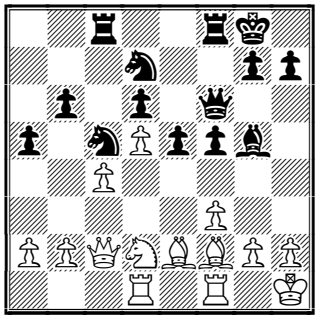
14...b6 15.♘d2 ♘c5 16.♕c2 ♘fd7

In case of the tempting 16...b5 17.cxb5 ♘xd5 18.♘c4 White's Rook was properly placed on d1!

17.f3 ♗g5 18.♗f2 f5 19.♔h1

White's main play should be connected with queenside play: b3, a3, b4 pushing the knight back, etc.− but before Alexey makes some prophylactic moves − Black's play is definitely connected with central and kingside activity.

19...♕f6 (D)



20.♘b1!

A very important manoeuvre − White improves the position of the Knight.

20...♕h6 21.♘c3 ♖ce8 22.a3

By the way, there is no need for b2−b3 as Black cannot play a5−a4.

22...e4

The start of huge complications. An exchange of dark−squared bishops by 22...♗e3!? looked more reliable − possible play was 23.b4 axb4 24.axb4 ♗xf2 25.♖xf2 ♘a6⇄ with counterplay.

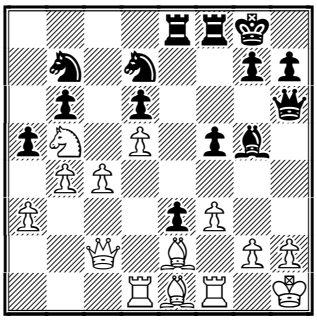
23.b4 e3 24.♗e1

Of course, not 24.bxc5? − the Bishop on f2 is important in defence: 24...exf2 25.c6 ♗f4 26.h3 ♕g5 27.♖d4 ♘f6↑ with a strong initiative.

24...♘b7

24...♘a6 could be met by 25.c5!?

axb4 26.axb4 and there is no 26...♘xb4? due to 27.♕a4



25.♘b5!

Resuming the knight's manoeuvre.

25...f4 26.♘c7 ♖e5?!

A rather strange move − Black is hoping to transfer the Rook to h5?!

27.♗c3?!

27.♘e6!? followed by ♗c3 looked good enough − the idea being if 27...♗f6 28.♘xf8 and ♖h5 did not work due to, for example, 29.♕xh7+! Don't be too critical of these very creative players − this is last round of a very intensive tournament.

27...♖e7 28.♘e6 ♖a8 29.♕f5

White's pieces look powerful but things are still far from clear.

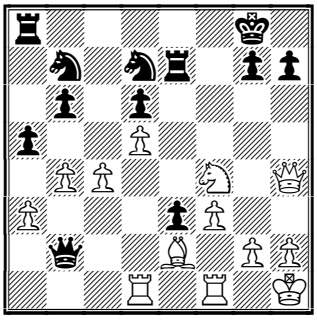
29...♗h4 30.♕g4

Of course, the f4 pawn is untouchable: 30.♕xf4?? ♖xe6!-+; 30.♘xf4?? ♖f8-+

30...♗f6 31.♗xf6 ♕xf6 32.♘xf4 ♕b2!

Having sacrificed a pawn, Black has obtained counterplay − White's queenside is in danger.

33.♕h4!



White's chances lie in a kingside attack and Alexey tries to organize it in the most efficient way.

33...♖f7?!

The immediate 33...♘f6!? looked more to the point.

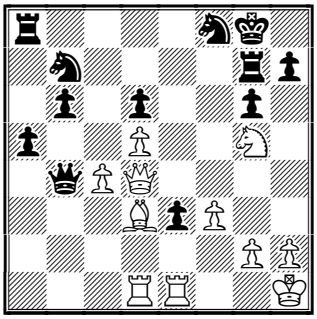
34.♗d3 ♘f8?!

Judit played these moves rather quickly trying to exploit Alexey's time−trouble, but only made things worse. 34...h6!? with the idea of ...♘e5 was a more active defence.

35.♖fe1 ♕xa3 36.♘e6!

It turns out that the move ...Nf8 was not a good idea − Black has to play another move to defend the h7−pawn.

36...g6 37.♘g5!? ♖g7 38.♕d4 ♕xb4 (D)



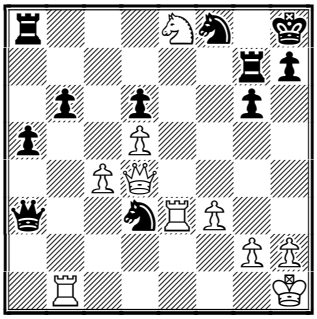
39.♘e4!

A very annoying knight!

39...♘c5 40.♖b1 ♕a3 41.♘f6+ ♔h8 42.♖xe3

The time−trouble has passed, and White's position is overwhelming.

42...♘xd3 43.♘e8! (D)



First White wins the exchange. By the way, do you remember the triumphal march of this knight? ♘f3−d4−b3−d2−b1-c3−b5−c7−e6−g5−e4−f6−e8!!!

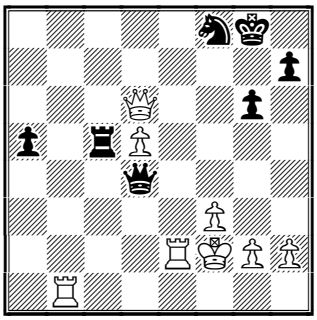
43...♖xe8 44.♖xe8 ♔g8 45.♖e3

Now it's time for the knight.

45...♘f2+ 46.♔g1 ♕a4 47.♖e2!

Of course, not 47.♔xf2?? ♕c2+-+

47...♖c7 48.♔xf2 ♖xc4 49.♕xb6 ♖c5 50.♕xd6 ♕d4+ (D)



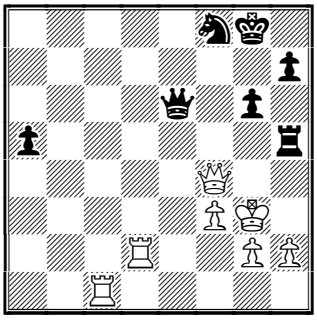
51.♔g3!

51.♔f1 looked safer, but Alexey prefers a more energetic approach.

51...♖xd5 52.♕f4 ♕c5 53.♖c1!

White is not worried about mirages.

53...♖g5+ 54.♔h4 ♖h5+ 55.♔g4! ♕d5 56.♖d2 ♕e6+ 57.♔g3 (D)



Look how the King helped to push Black's pieces away from the center!

57...a4 58.♕c4 ♖a5 59.♖e2

And Black resigned. An interesting and fairly instructive game! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.ajedrez21.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chessclub.org/Linklater01.html
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.ru

Contact information.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-121, 7th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

CHESS life takes a break – the super-tournament in **Linares** is finished and there are only a few events underway.

Yury Shulman keeps the lead after the penultimate 9th Round of the **Charles Linklater Memorial**. He is playing very confidently – alternately making draws with Black and winning with White. **Gregory Shahade** beat Cyrus Lakdawala and is clear second now. **Alex Baburin** suddenly lost to Alex Krechetov and was joined in third place by **Alex Wojtkiewicz**.

Leaders after the 9th Round:
1. Shulman 6½ points from 9
2. Shahade 6/9
3-4. Baburin, Wojtkiewicz 5/8
5-6. Vucic and Altounian 4½/8 etc.

There will be tough fighting for first place in the last round – Yury Shulman plays against Alex Baburin while Gregory Shahade faces Camila Baginskaite.

This tournament is probably the first event in the USA which uses the new FIDE time control. The quality of games suffers but the play often becomes more exciting – today we would like to present an interesting battle by **Alex Baburin** with his excellent comments.

In the penultimate 8th Round of the **"Efim Geller Memorial"** in **Moscow Valery Loginov** beat Jaroslav Ulko and joined three other leaders: **Pavel Kotsur**, **Alexey Iljushin** and **Evgeny Pigusov** – all 4 players have 6½ points.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Kotsur – Pigusov ½-½
Iljushin – Balashov ½-½
Malaniuk – Vorobiov ½-½
Loginov – Ulko **1-0**
Kharitonov – Bagirov ½-½

Top boards of the final 9th Round:
Pigusov (6½) – Loginov (6½)
Balashov (6) – Kotsur (6½)
Vorobiov (6) – Iljushin (6½)
Bagirov (6) – Malaniuk (6)
Zagrebelny (6) – Kuporosov (6)
Kokarev (6) – Beshukov (6)

After a very slow start the 3rd Round of the **"Victor Ciocaltea Memorial"** in **Bucharest**, Romania finally produced leaders. IM **Levente Vajda** (Romania) beat one of the ELO-favourites Viorel Iordachescu while GM **Laurent Fressinet** (France) outplayed Catalin Navrotescu with Black – both leaders have scored 2 points.

FM **Manuel Granados** (Spain) took the lead in the round robin tournament in **Badalona**, Spain – in the 2nd Round he beat Jose Manuel Lopez Martinez with Black and keeps a perfect score. GM Atanas Kolev (Bulgaria), IM Mark Narciso Dublan and Joan Fluvia Poyatos (both of Spain) are in chase, half a point behind.

News from San Francisco
By Alexander Baburin

I like playing in the USA. It is not so much that I am mad about US tournaments, but I like to travel and also have many friends in the USA. At the moment I am playing in the Linklater Memorial at the Mechanic's Institute in San Francisco and here I'd like to tell you about the event and the club, hosting it.

The Mechanic's Institute Chess Club is one of the oldest in the world and is

probably the oldest in the country. The board of trustees of the Mechanic's Institute has quite a few chess players, such as IM Vincent McCambridge and Mark Pinto. Not surprisingly, chess activities are in the ascendancy at the Mechanic's, particularly as it features IM John Donaldson and GM Alex Yermolinsky among its employees. The club organises tournaments and lectures for its members and has an excellent Web site …

at http://www.chessclub.org

and a regular newsletter. It was nice to see a picture taken at the Mechanics on the first page of *San Francisco Chronicle*. I feel things will gradually get even better as chess is rather popular among kids in the Bay Area. I wish the Club and people working there very well!

I first played at the Mechanic's in a round robin tournament in 1997 and was happy to come back to play again this year. This tournament is probably the first event in the USA which uses the new FIDE time control. I can tell you that it is much tougher than the previous one - you sink into deep thought 3-4 times during the game and you are in time-trouble already! My advice: learn your openings, be confident and don't pretend to be a particularly deep player - it's hard to afford with the new time limit. My impression is that the quality of games will ultimately suffer at all levels. The following game could be some kind of confirmation, as it is full of mistakes. But it also had some good moves and interesting tactics - enjoy!

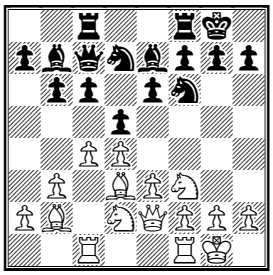
Annotated Game

A Baburin 2598 **– C Lakdawala** 2436
Linklater Memorial, San Francisco (4)
01.03.2001 D30
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘bd2 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 b6 7.0-0 ♗b7 8.b3

Recently I played 8.e4, but after 8...dxe4 9.♘xe4 c5 10.d5?! exd5 11.cxd5 ♘xe4 12.♗xe4 ♗d6 13.♘g5?! ♘f6 14.♕a4+ ♕d7 15.♕xd7+ ♘xd7 16.♗f5 ♘f6 Black stood better in the game Baburin−Kelly, Bunratty 2001. Looking at that game I decided that perhaps delaying e3−e4 would be a good idea.

8...♗e7 9.♗b2 0-0 10.♕e2 ♕c7 11.♖ac1 ♖ac8 (D)



White commands more space and can go for e3−e4 at the appropriate moment. Perhaps here I should have done exactly that: 12.e4 dxe4 13.♘xe4 c5 14.dxc5 and White has a small, but pleasant edge. In case of 13...♘xe4 14.♗xe4 ♘f6 he can choose between 15.♗c2 and 15.c5!?. Instead I decided to keep more tension in the centre:

12.♘e5 c5

This is correct, as after 12...♘xe5?! 13.dxe5 ♘d7 14.f4 White stands better as he has good chances on the kingside and in the centre.

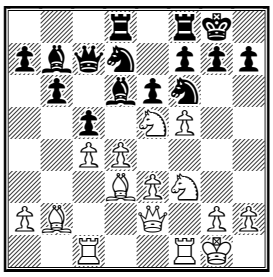
13.f4 dxc4 14.bxc4

It was probably wrong to block the c−file − better was 14.♗xc4 or 14.♘dxc4 ♗e4 15.♘d2 ♗xd3 16.♘xd3, with a small edge in both cases.

14...♖cd8 15.f5??

This is an awful move, which undermines the e5−knight and blocks the d3−bishop. But of course, at that time I did not see what was wrong with it, otherwise I would have not played it.

15...♗d6 16.♘df3 (D)



After 16.fxe6 ♘xe5 17.dxe5 ♗xe5 18.exf7+ ♖xf7 19.♗xe5 ♕xe5 Black would be better, so I played 16.♘df3. But now he could have played 16...♗xf3! 17.♘xf3 e5!, obtaining a strategically winning position − all his pieces are active, while the d3−bishop looks like a bit of an idiot... We both missed that idea.

16...♖fe8? 17.fxe6 ♖xe6?

This is a serious mistake. After 17...fxe6 18.♘xd7 ♘xd7 19.d5 Black can't play 19...exd5? because of 20.♗xh7+! Kxh7 21.♘g5+ Kg8 22.♕h5+−. However after 19...♘f8 White would have problems with his central pawns. Thus, better would be 19.♕c2 ♘f6 20.h3 and White is slightly better.

18.♘xd7

Here I considered 18.♘g5, but did not like that Black would be able to sacrifice on e5: 18...♗xe5 19.dxe5 ♖xe5 20.♗xe5 ♘xe5 or 20...♕xe5 21.♗xh7+ ♘xh7 22.♘xf7 ♕e7 23.♘xd8 ♕xd8.

18...♘xd7 19.d5?

White launches his attack incorrectly. Of course, it is nice to shut down the enemy bishop and to open up your own one, but this move give up control over the e5−square and allows the enemy rook to leave the vulnerable position on e6. White had to play 19.♘g5!, with a winning advantage. For example: 19...♗xh2+ 20.Kh1 ♖h6 21.♗xh7+ Kh8 22.♘xf7+ Kxh7 23.♘xh6 Kxh6 (23...gxh6 24.♖f7+ Kg8 25.♖cf1+−) 24.e4!? cxd4 25.♗xd4 ♘e5 26.♗e3+ Kg6 27.♖f5+−. I considered 19.♘g5!, but I missed that Black could not play 21...Kf8 because of 22.♘xf7+−.

19...♖e7

I expected mainly 19...♖h6 20.h3 ♘e5 and Black is only slightly worse. Here Black offered a draw, but I was under the mistaken impression that I had a chance to launch a winning attack.

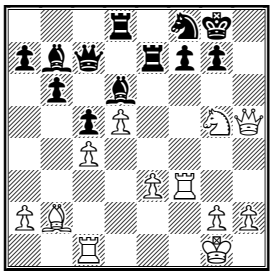
20.♗xh7+?

This looks tempting, but is wrong... Better was 20.♘g5 ♗xh2+ 21.Kh1 g6 22.♘xf7 ♖xf7 23.♖xf7 Kxf7 24.♕g4=.

20...Kxh7 21.♘g5+ Kg8

21...Kg6? loses after 22.♕d3+ Kxg5 23.♕f5+ Kh6 24.♕h3+ Kg6 25.♕g4+ Kh6 26.♕xg7+ Kh5 27.♖f5+ Kh4 28.♕g5#; 21...Kh6 is bad too − 22.♘xf7+ ♖xf7 23.♖xf7 ♗xh2+ 24.Kh1 ♗e5 25.♖cf1+−.

22.♕h5 ♘f8 23.♖f3 (D)



After making this move I had 7½ minutes left (plus the increment), while my opponent had 42 minutes. It is harder to defend than attack, but White's attack should not succeed here, even though during the game I felt the opposite (that's why I played 20 ♗xh7? in the first place!).

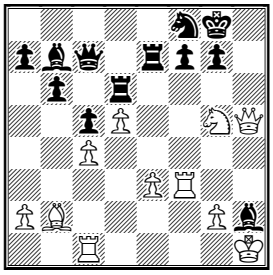
23...♗xh2+?

Black had to use the b7−bishop in defence by playing 23...♗c8! In general it makes sense to employ your idle pieces. Here the bishop, which had been watching the grass grow on b7, could stop White from playing ♖h3. White does not have enough here, as the following lines show: 24.♖cf1 (24.g4? ♕d7; 24.♗xg7?! Kxg7 25.♖cf1 f5 26.♖h3 ♘g6-+) 24...f6. now after both 25.♖xf6 gxf6 26.♗xf6 ♘h7 27.♗xe7 ♕xe7 28.♘xh7 ♗xh2+ 29.♕xh2 ♕xh7 30.♕xh7+ Kxh7 31.♖f7+ Kg6 32.♖xa7 ♗f5 and 25.♗xf6 gxf6 26.♖xf6 ♗xh2+ 27.Kh1 ♗e5 28.d6 ♕xd6 29.♖xd6 ♖xd6 Black should win. In the latter variation Black's pieces are much better than White's queen. If we look back at the position after 23...♗c8!, it looks only logical that Black can withstand White's attack − all his pieces are employed. OK, White has the h and f files, but this is not enough with Black's best defence.

24.Kh1!

24.♕xh2 is not what I sacrificed the bishop for! Objectively, this move is quite strong too, as White's attack is already strong now.

24...♖d6 (D)

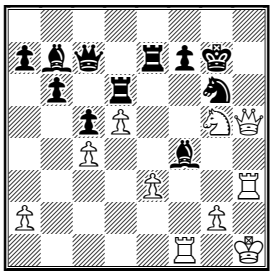


This is what I considered the main line of defence too, but this was not the only move − 24...♗g3 looked equally tempting. There White already has a draw − by playing 25.♖cf1 f6 26.♗xf6 gxf6 27.♖xf6 ♗e5 28.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 29.♕g6+ ♖g7 30.♕e6+ ♖gf7 31.♕g6+ ♖g7 32.♕e6+=. but he can also play for more with 25.♗xg7 Kxg7 26.♖cf1 ♖dd7 27.♕g4 ♘g6 28.♖xg3 (28.♕h5 ♘f8 29.♕g4=) 28...♖d6 29.♕h5 and White wins. Of course, it is hard to tell whether White and Black would have found these variations over the board. This also applies to the lines, which you will see later − don't get the impression that I saw all or even most of them. Indeed, **a man does not know his limitations until he analysed with Fritz!** :−)

25.♗xg7 Kxg7 26.♖cf1 ♗f4?

Better was 26...f5!. The idea is that after 27.♖xf5? ♗f4! already wins: 28.♖5xf4 ♖h6 29.♖f7+ ♖xf7 30.♖xf7+ ♕xf7 31.♕xh6+ Kxh6 32.♘xf7+ Kg6-+. White must play 27.♖h3 ♘g6 and then 28.♖xf5 Kg8 29.♘e6 ♖exe6 30.dxe6 ♖xe6 31.♖g5 ♕g7 32.♕g4!, when things remain unclear.

27.♖h3 ♘g6 (D)



28.♖xf4!

This is better than 28.exf4. Then 28...♗c8 loses after 29.f5! ♗xf5 30.♕h7+ Kf8 31.♖hf3 f6 32.♕h6+ Ke8 33.♖xf5 fxg5 34.♖f8+ ♘xf8 35.♖xf8+ Kd7 36.♕h3+ ♖de6 37.dxe6+, but 28...f5! looks good for Black.

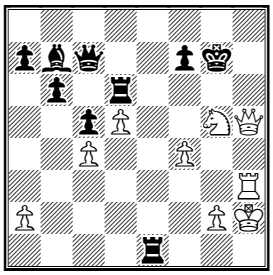
28...♘xf4

After 28...♗c8 29.♕h7+ Kf8 30.♖xf7+! ♖xf7 White has 31.♖f3!, winning.

29.exf4?

This is a serious inaccuracy in time−trouble. Better was 29.♕h8+ Kg6 30.exf4! and Black's king is doomed. Now the king is given a chance to escape, but Black misses the opportunity.

29...♖e1+ 30.Kh2 (D)



30...Kf8?

Black had to play 30...♖e8!. After 31.♕h7+ 32.♕h8+ Ke7 33.♖e3+ ♖e6 34.♖xe6+ fxe6 35.d6+ Kxd6 36.♕xe8 ♕c8 37.♘f7+ Kc7 38.♕xc8+ ♗xc8 39.g4 White is better in the ending, but the fight still goes on.

31.♕h8+ Ke7 32.♕h4!

Now it is over, as White picks at least a rook.

32...♖e2 33.♘e6+ Kd7 34.♘xc7 Kxc7 35.♕h5 ♖e7 36.f5 b5 37.♕h4 ♖ed7 38.♕f2 Kb6 39.♖b3 1-0 Time: 1.31-1.18

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-122, 8 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Pavel Kotsur (Kazakhstan) has won the **Efim Geller Memorial** in **Moscow**.
In the last round he beat experienced GM Yury Balashov with the black pieces and scored an excellent 7½ points while other leaders were too peaceful.

Results of the 9th Round:
Pigusov – Loginov ½-½
Balashov – Kotsur **0-1**
Vorobiov – Iljushin ½-½
Bagirov – Malaniuk **1-0**
Zagrebelny – Kuporosov **0-1**
Kokarev – Beshukov ½-½

Evgeny Pigusov, **Valery Loginov**, **Alexey Iljushin**, **Rufat Bagirov** and **Victor Kuporosov** shared second place. Our congratulations to all the winners!

Efim Geller (*see photo*) would have been 76 today. He was a great player - twice Soviet Champion – in 1955 and in 1979 (by the way, this record would be hardly surpassed – to became Champion after a 44 year break, at 55 years of age!), 7 times Olympic Champion, and 6 times Europe Champion. Geller was a well known theoretician and his contributions to the Sicilian, Ruy Lopez, King's Indian were outstanding. He always tried to get to the point of the position too deeply and often found himself in terrible time trouble. Perhaps that's why he was not very successful in the World Championships. Today we would like to feature some attractive moments from Efim Geller's practice.
(see annotated game section below.)

We are sorry for reporting slightly incorrect information about the **Charles Linklater Memorial**. There are 11 players in the competition and so yesterday it was the penultimate round only for IM Gregory Shahade who finished the tournament today as he is free from play tomorrow. The leader of the event GM **Yury Shulman** was free today but still heads the field. GMs **Alex Baburin** and **Alex Wojtkiewicz** won their games and still keep chances alive for success.

Leaders after the 10th Round:
1. Shulman 6½ points from 9
2. Shahade 6½/10
3-4. Baburin, Wojtkiewicz 6/9
5. Vucic 5/9 etc.

The decisive battles tomorrow will be:
Shulman – Baburin
Altounian – Wojtkiewicz

It seems to be a difficult encounter for Alex Baburin as Yuri Shulman won all 4 of his games as White in the tournament so far, but who knows?! We believe in you, Alex!!!

Both leaders of the **"Victor Ciocaltea Memorial"** in **Bucharest** - GM **Laurent Fressinet** (France) and IM **Levente Vajda** (Romania) were victorious in the 4th Round and still keep the lead with 3 points.

Results of the 4th Round:
Fressinet – Iordachescu **1-0**
Motylev – Vajda **0-1**
Brodsky – Nisipeanu **0-1**
Ionescu – Nevednichy ½-½
Badea – Solak ½-½
Navrotescu – Marin **1-0**

Leaders after the 4th Round:
1-2. Fressinet, Vajda – 3 points

3-4. Nisipeanu, Nevednichy - 2½ etc.

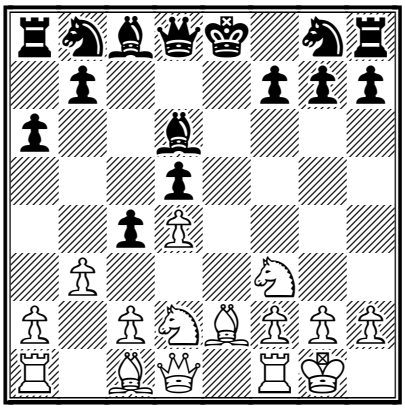
♘♘♘

Annotated Games

E. Geller (2515) − A. Dreev (2605)
New York (open) New York, 1990 C08
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

This is an excellent win over one of the top players in the World.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 a6 4.♘gf3 c5 5.exd5 exd5 6.♗e2 c4 7.0-0 ♗d6 8.b3 (D)



8...b5?!

This approach looks too risky. 8...cxb3 9.axb3 ♘c6 is known to be more reliable.

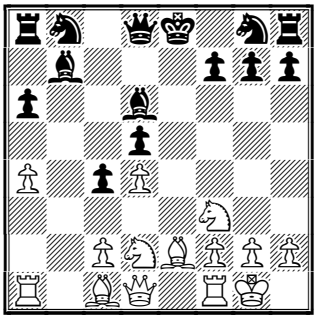
9.a4 ♗b7

After 9...c3 10.axb5 (of course, not 10.♘b1? b4) 10...cxd2 11.♗xd2 ♘e7 12.c4↑ followed by c4−c5 White has obtained more than enough compensation for the piece in the game Geller − Shereshevsky, USSR 1980.

10.bxc4!

This simple capture was an important improvement to the game Ivanchuk − Dolmatov, Irkutsk 1986 where White failed to seize the initiative after the preliminary 10.♖e1?! ♘e7 11.bxc4 bxc4 12.♗xc4?! dxc4 13.♘xc4 and here Black was lucky to find 13...♗b4! 14.c3 ♗d5! 15.cxb4 ♗xc4 and White does not have sufficient compensation for the piece.

10...bxc4 (D)



11.♗xc4!

Excellent! Perhaps Alexey Dreev did not expect this sacrifice from such an elderly player?!

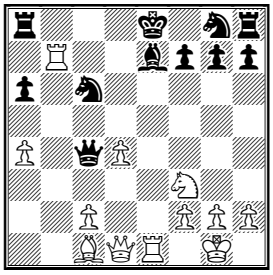
11...dxc4 12.♘xc4 ♗e7

In case of 12...♘e7 13.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 14.♗a3 ♕c7 15.♖e1 ♘bc6 16.d5± Black was in trouble as well.

13.♖e1 ♕c7 14.♖b1!

White's pieces quickly comes into play. By the way, ♖b7 is threatenned.

14...♕xc4 15.♖xb7 ♘c6 (D)



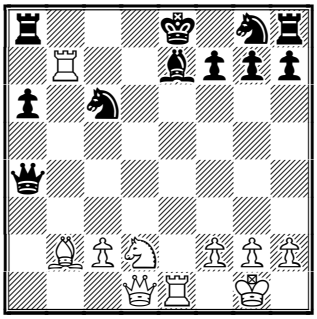
16.♘d2!

Precisely played! The natural 16.♗a3?! allowed Black to escape by 16...0-0-0! 17.♗xe7 ♘gxe7 18.♖bxe7 ♘xe7 19.♖xe7 ♖he8∓

16...♕xd4

Both 16...♕d5 17.♘e4↑; and 16...♕xa4 17.d5↑ could not extinguish White's initiative.

17.♗b2 ♕xa4 (D)



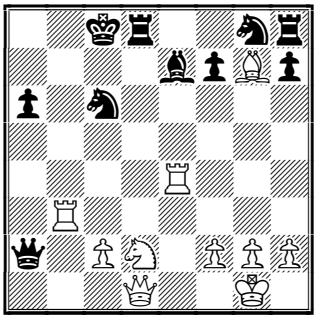
18.♖e4

Perhaps the immediate 18.♗xg7!? was more precise.

18...♕a2?

Missing an excellent chance to get back into the battle by 18...♕a5! 19.♗xg7 0-0-0!

19.♗xg7 0-0-0 20.♖b3+− (D)

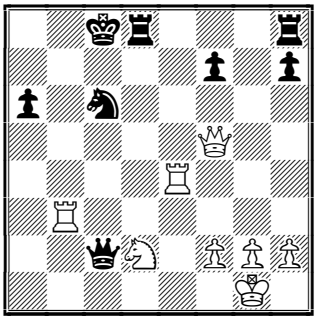


Now it's all over − White wins the material back with a decisive attack.

20...♗f6 21.♕g4+ ♔c7 22.♕f4+ ♔c8

22...♖d6 23.♖d3+−

23.♗xf6 ♘xf6 24.♕xf6 ♕xc2 25.♕f5+! (D)

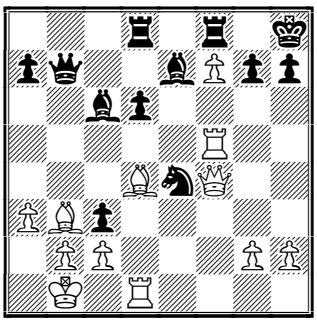


Winning the Queen. Black resigned. **1-0**

R. Fischer − E. Geller

Skopje Skopje (2), 1967

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

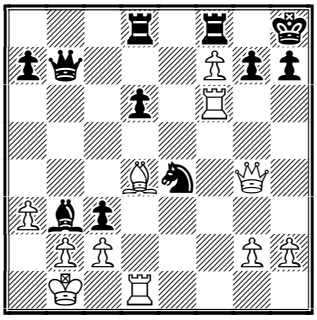


In very sharp complications White failed to find the best continuation. Yet, his position still looks very powerful.

21...♗a4!!

It was not a big task to find this move itself − it was much more difficult to discover the idea behind it!

22.♕g4 ♗f6! 23.♖xf6 ♗xb3!! (D)

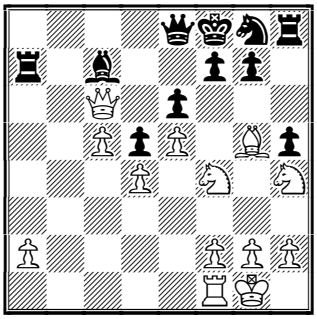


The point. Thanks to the threat of ♗a2 Black is just one tempo quicker to checkmate his rival's king. By the way, there is no other player in the World who scored more wins over the great Bobby Fischer than Efim Geller − 5 times!23...♗xb3!! 24.cxb3 (24.♖f4 ♗a2+!) 24...♘xf6-+ **0-1.**

E. Geller(2620) − A. Karpov (2695)

URS−ch44 Moscow, 1976

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov



Even Former World Champion Anatoly Karpov fell victim to Efim Geller. Black has the exchange and it might seem that the swapping of the queens is unavoidable...

25.♕xe6!!

A bolt from the blue! One of the most spectacular combination I've ever seen.

25...fxe6 26.♘hg6+ ♕xg6

Things were worse in case of 26...♔f7? 27.♘xh8+ ♔f8 28.♘fg6++−

27.♘xg6+ ♔e8 28.♘xh8+−

White has obtained a decisive advantage. The rest is a matter of technique.

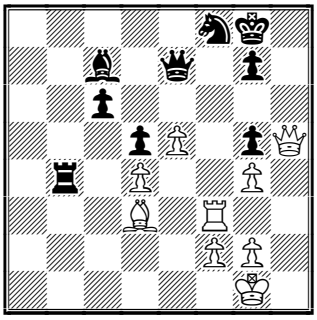
28...♖a4 29.♖d1 ♘e7 30.♗xe7 ♔xe7 31.♘g6+ ♔f7 32.♘f4 ♗xe5 33.dxe5 ♖xf4 34.♖c1! ♔e8 35.c6 ♔d8 36.c7+ ♔c8 37.g3 ♖a4 38.♖c6 ♖xa2 39.♖xe6 g5 40.♖d6 ♖d2 41.e6 ♔xc7 42.e7

42.e7 ♖e2 43.♖xd5 ♖xe7 44.♖xg5+− **1-0**

E. Geller − N. Novotelnov

URS−ch19 Moscow, 1951

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov



Black is a piece up but it is White to move...

40.♖xf8+!

Eliminating the defender of the h7 square.

40...♔xf8

40...♕xf8 41.♗h7++−

41.♕h8+ ♔f7

What now?

42.♗g6+!!

Excellent! Black resigned as he is checkmated.42.♗g6+ ♔xg6 (42...♔e6 43.♕g8+ ♔d7 44.♗f5+) 43.♕h5# **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.notzai.com/notzai/index.shtml
www.chessclub.org/Linklater01.html
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.chessclub.com

Contact information.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-123, 9th March 2001

Bobby **Fischer**

Chess around the Globe

CHESS LEGEND, ex?! World Champion **Robert James Fischer** celebrates his **58th birthday** today. His career was highly impressive but unfortunately very short. We all remember his fantastic results in the Candidates matches of the World Championship cycle of 1970-72: Fischer – Taimanov 6 - 0, Fischer – Larsen 6 - 0, Fischer – Petrosian 6½ - 2½ and finally the Final against Boris Spassky which brought Fischer the World Champion Title: 12½-8½.

Fischer was a rather original person – we remember how he left the Interzonal tournament in Sousse, a clear leader of the event with an excellent 8½ from 10, because the organisers refused to satisfy some his requirements. The World Championship Match against Spassky also started in fairly strange manner – in the 1st game he blundered the bishop in a dead drawn ending and then he refused to play the 2nd game and so was 2-0 down.

Having become World Champion (by the way, it was a really great achievement – he beat all the top Russians, who were dominating chess at that time), Fischer suddenly stopped playing chess. Was he really so worried about possible defeats (as was supposed) or were there other reasons. Whatever … it was a really sad thing for the chess community, which was looking forward to his match against Anatoly Karpov. Anyway, we lost a brilliant player and his friendly match against Boris Spassky in 1992 has not induced Fischer to return to chess - although some of us are still hoping against hope…

Nowadays Fischer lives in Budapest and has not completely broken with chess – it is rumoured that he has revealed some of his secrets to the Polgar sisters and Leko…

It is even less likely that he will ever return to the USA after ignoring a personal notification from the Government about his sanction breaking match with Spassky in Yugoslavia.

Of course, all Fischer's games are well known but we still cannot miss this opportunity to remind you of some examples.

Now let's take a look at the tournaments.

Yury Shulman (Belorussia) and **Alex Wojtkiewicz** (Poland) shared the first place in the **Charles Linklater Memorial** in **San Francisco**. In the last round Shulman drew against Alex Baburin while Wojtkiewicz beat Levon Altounian. Michael Mulyar (USA) scored the IM norm by beating Alex Krechetov.

Final standings:
1-2. Shulman, Wojtkiewicz - 7 points
3-4. Shahade, Baburin - 6½
5-6. Vucic and Mulyar – 5½ etc.

Our congratulations to the winners!

Alex Baburin is surely not satisfied with his play in the tournament and so he will try to do better in the **"2001 National Open"** in **Las Vegas**, **USA** which starts today and where he is the defending Champion. Good luck, Alex!

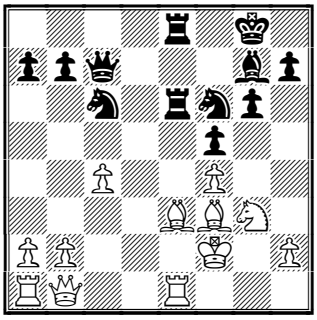
There was a rather unexpected result in the 4th Round of the round robin tournament in **Badalona** – the leader of the event FM **Manuel Granados** (Spain), who had 3 points out of 3 lost to

Antonio Gual Pascual, who had zero before the game! Yet, Granados is still top – he is sharing the lead with GM **Atanas Kolev** (Bulgaria) and in the next (5th) round they will meet each other.

The "**1st Pinamar Masters**" started in **Buenos Aires**, **Argentina**. Among the participants of the 8 category event we see such famous players **Ulf Andersson** (Sweden), **Bent Larsen** (Denmark), **Herman Van Riemsdijk** (Brazil), **Pablo Ricardi**, **Oscar Panno**, **Carlos García Palermo** and **Alejandro Hoffman** (all of Argentina). In the 1st Round Andersson, Panno, García Palermo and Hoffman won their games.

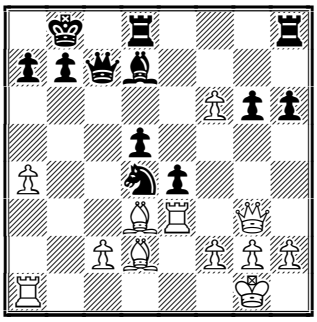
Fischer Puzzles

1. Letelier – Fischer
ol Leipzig (8), 1960



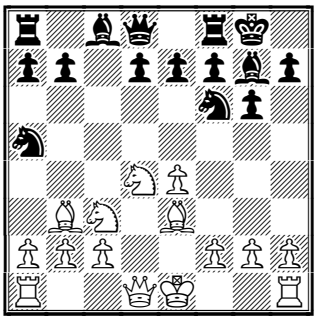
Black to play

2. Fischer – Schweber
Buenos Aires Buenos Aires, 1970



White to play

3. Fischer – Reshevsky
USA–ch New York (6), 1958
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.♘c3 ♗g7 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♗c4 0-0 8.♗b3 ♘a5?

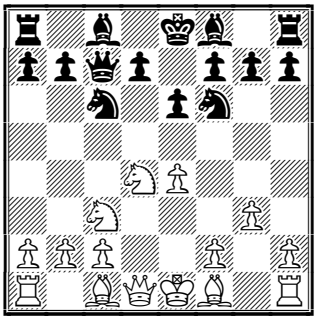


White to play

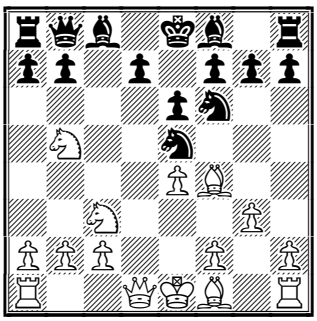
Annotated Game

Fischer – Tal
Bled (2), 1961
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Mikhail Tal was a rather tricky opponent for Fischer. After 4 losses Fischer finally managed to beat him.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.g3 ♘f6? (D)



This natural but careless move is a big mistake which suddenly leads to trouble. 6...a6 7.♗g2 ♘f6 was the normal continuation.
7.♘db5! ♕b8
7...♕a5 8.♗d2 ♕d8 9.♗f4 e5 10.♗g5± was unsatisfactory for Black as it is Sveshnikov's Variation without d7–d6.
8.♗f4 ♘e5!? (D)



A risky but almost forced reply. After

8...e5 9.♗g5 a6 10.♗xf6 axb5 (10...gxf6 11.♘a3 b5 12.♘d5) 11.♗g5± White obtained a huge advantage (Fischer).

9.♗e2!

This cool developing move is very strong. White prepared ♕d1-d4 at the same time not losing control over the b5 square.

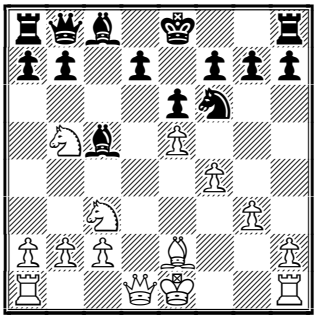
9...♗c5

The alternatives were not better: 9...a6 10.♕d4 d6 11.♖d1 axb5 12.♗xe5+−; or 9...d6 10.♕d4 ♘c6 11.♘xd6+ ♔d7 12.♗b5 ♗xd6 13.0-0-0+−; An ugly−looking suggestion from Tal 9...♘g8!? allowed Black to avoid material losses but of course it couldn't solve the problems: 10.♕d4 f6 11.0-0-0 with a clear advantage.

10.♗xe5!

A concrete approach.

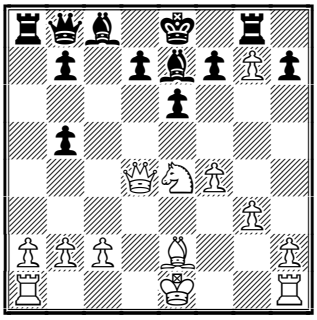
10...♕xe5 11.f4 ♕b8 12.e5 (D)



12...a6

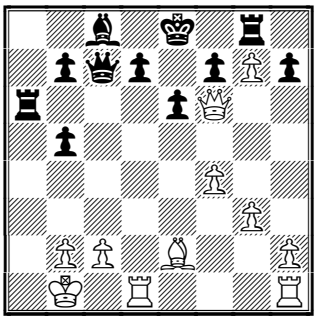
Of course, 12...♘g8 13.♘e4 was too bad for Black.

13.exf6 axb5 14.fxg7 ♖g8 15.♘e4 ♗e7 16.♕d4 (D)



White has achieved a huge, probably decisive advantage. Still, very precise play is required as Tal offers tough resistance.

16...♖a4 17.♘f6+ ♗xf6 18.♕xf6 ♕c7 19.0-0-0 ♖xa2 20.♔b1 ♖a6 (D)

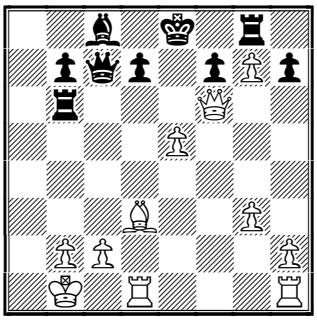


20...♕a5 could have been met by the simple 21.b3! followed by ♗h5.

21.♗xb5?!

As Fischer explained after the game, having a score −4=2 against Tal he wanted to win a pawn very much. Much quicker was 21.♗h5! d6 (21...d5 22.♖xd5!) 22.♖he1 ♕e7 23.♕h6 ♔d7 24.♕xh7+− (Fischer).

21...♖b6 22.♗d3 e5 (D)

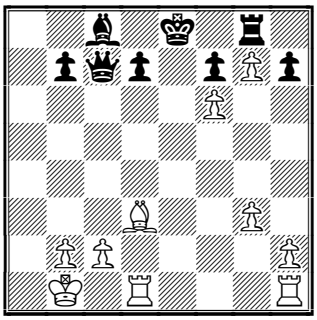


22...♕d8 23.♕h6 f5 24.♕h5+ ♔e7 25.g4

23.fxe5!

Excellent! Black was probably hoping for 23.♕xe5+? ♕xe5 24.fxe5 ♖xg7+− with some drawing chances.

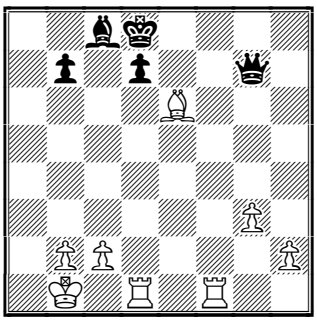
23...♖xf6 24.exf6 (D)



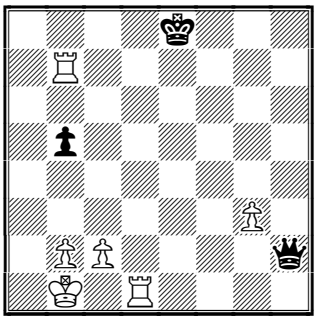
At the moment Black has an extra queen but it is the only developed piece of the whole army − a threat ♗h7 cannot be prevented.

24...♕c5

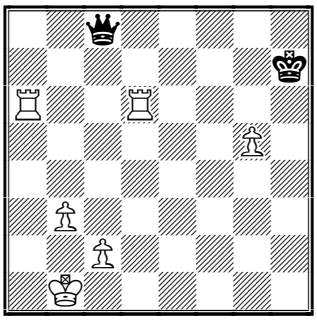
The only way to prolong resistance. 24...♕b6 25.♖hf1+−
25.♗xh7 ♕g5 26.♗xg8 ♕xf6 27.♖hf1 ♕xg7 28.♗xf7+ ♔d8 29.♗e6+− (D)



The rest is easy as Black has just nothing to hope for.
29...♕h6 30.♗xd7! ♗xd7 31.♖f7 ♕xh2 32.♖dxd7+ ♔e8 33.♖de7+ ♔d8 34.♖d7+ ♔c8 35.♖c7+ ♔d8 36.♖fd7+ ♔e8 37.♖d1 b5 38.♖b7

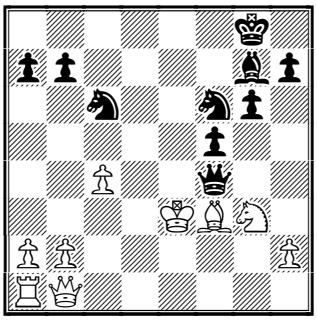


38...♕h5
38...♕xg3 was losing quickly after 39.♖h1 ♕e5 40.♖h8+! ♕xh8 41.♖b8+
39.g4! ♕h3 40.g5 ♕f3 41.♖e1+ ♔f8 42.♖xb5 ♔g7 43.♖b6 ♕g3 44.♖d1 ♕c7 45.♖dd6 ♕c8 46.b3 ♔h7 47.♖a6



Black resigned. **1-0**

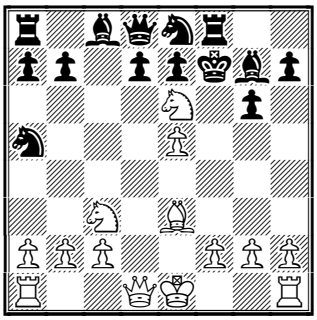
1. Fischer finishes the game with brilliant combination.
21...♖xe3! 22.♖xe3 ♖xe3 23.♔xe3 ♕xf4+!!



White resigned as the queen is untouchable. 23...♕xf4+ 24.♔f2(24.♔xf4 ♗h6#) 24...♘e5-+ followed by ♘eg4 and so on. **0-1**

2. An excellent combination to prove a big advantage.
23.♖xe4!! ♕xg3 24.♖xd4
The queen is suddenly trapped.
24...♕g4
24...♕c7 25.♗f4
25.♖xg4 ♗xg4 26.♗xg6±
and White eventually converted his advantage to a full point. **1-0**

3. This mistake became well−known exactly because of this game. 14 year Robert Fischer quickly played
9.e5! ♘e8 10.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 11.♘e6!!+−



and Black could resign as he loses the queen. Reshevsky was suffering for 30 more moves after
11...dxe6 11...♔xe6? 12.♕d5+ ♔f5 13.g4+ ♔xg4 14.♖g1+ ♔h5 15.♕d1+ **12.♕xd8** etc. **1-0**

<u>Recommended sites.</u>

www.chessclub.org/Linklater01.html
www.notzai.com/notzai/index.shtml
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.ru

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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-124, 10th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

THERE are a lot of players who like to spend their spare time (and money?!) gambling in casinos – that's probably one of the reasons why the traditional open tournament in Las Vegas is very strong every year.
The defending Champion of Las Vegas 2000 GM **Alex Baburin** reports from **National Open Las Vegas 2001**:

"The National Open in Las Vegas is one of America's toughest tournaments as it usually attracts many GMs. This year it is particularly strong, featuring over 30 GMs, a few WGMs and many IMs among its 256 participants. The main reason for this is that next week a match USA – China will be played in Seattle and players on both men's and women's teams from China are warming up in Las Vegas. Of course, it also gives them a chance to have a go at the first prize of $8,000 in this 6-round tournament. Just to give you an idea how strong the even is I can mention that the Women World Champion Xie Jun is No. 25 on the list, while such a strong player as GM Alex Yermolinsky is no. 17! The top seed is GM Ilya Smirin of Israel.

The first two rounds already saw some upsets, for example the highest rated Chinese players GM Xu Jun lost in round 2, while his compatriot GM Ye drew in round 1. Also GM Igor Novikov only drew in round 2. But most other favourites have 2 points after 2 rounds. No doubt the next rounds will produce many interesting results and great games. The tournament ends on Sunday. The rate of play is 40 moves in 2 hours and then 1 hour allegro finish".

Alex modestly made no mention of his good start – he is also one of the leaders with a perfect score after 2 rounds. Keep up the good work Alex!

In the 2nd Round of the "**1st Pinamar Masters**" in **Buenos Aires**, **Argentina** there was only one decisive game – **Bent Larsen** beat Bernardo Rosselli and joined the leaders – **Ulf Andersson**, **Alejandro Hoffman**, **Carlos García Palermo** and **Oscar Panno** – they all have 1½ points.

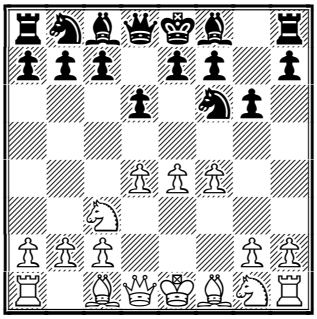
All games were drawn in the 5th Round of the **"Victor Ciocaltea Memorial"** in **Bucharest** so the situation is not changed – GM **Laurent Fressinet** (France) and IM **Levente Vajda** (Romania) keeps the lead with 3½ points. Both leaders of – were victorious in the 4th Round and still keep the lead with 3 points.

Leaders after the 4th Round:
1-2. Fressinet, Vajda – 3½ points
3-4. Nisipeanu, Nevednichy - 3 etc.

Today we would like to present an excellent win by **Levente Vajda** over one of top players of the event – GM Alexander Motylev of Russia.

Annotated Game

A Motylev (2570) – L Vajda (2454)
Victor Ciocaltea Mem Bucharest ROM (4), 07.03.2001 B09
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.f4

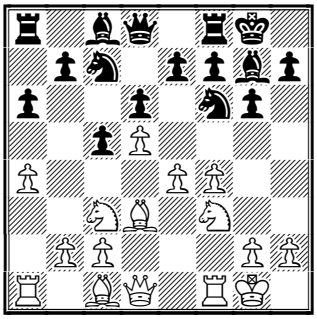


This is one of the most principled lines of the Pirc Defence.

4...♗g7 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗d3 ♘a6 7.0-0 c5 8.d5 ♘c7

Both 8...♖b8 and 8...♗g4 are the alternatives.

9.a4 a6



10.a5

A rare move, and probably not the best. White usually plays 10.♕e1 beginning direct actions on the kingside by ♕h4, f5 etc. The queen move looks really good − White also defends the pawn e4 and avoids the pin ...♗g4. Look how another leader of this tournament realised the pluses of his position: 10...♗d7 11.a5 ♗b5 12.♕h4 ♗xd3 13.cxd3 e6 14.f5 exf5 15.♗g5 ♖b8 16.exf5 b6 17.axb6 ♖xb6 18.♘d2 ♖xb2 19.♘de4 ♘ce8 20.♔h1 ♖b4 21.♖f4± and Black is almost helpless, Fressinet − Marcelin, 1st ch−Europe, Saint Vincent 2000.

10...♘b5 11.♗d2 ♗d7 12.♖e1

White is playing routine moves, hoping that the superiority in the centre will give him better chances.

12...♘xc3 13.bxc3

Played not without reason − the pawn quickly goes to c4 then e4−e5 will come, while the opened b−file can be used to pressurise Black's queenside. However, it soon becomes clear that it is not so easy to carry out White's ideas. The simple 13.♗xc3!? was maybe more to the point.

13...♗g4 14.c4 ♘d7

The advance e4−e5 is prevented.

15.♖b1 ♖b8 16.♖b3 e5!

Beginning the dark−squared strategy.

17.f5

If White knew what awaited him he could think about 17.dxe6 although after 17...fxe6 Black had excellent play.

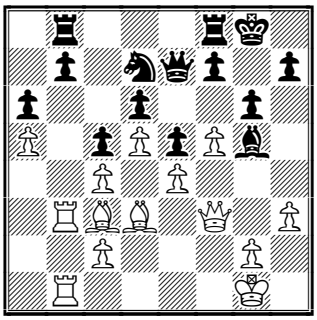
17...♗f6 18.h3 ♗xf3 19.♕xf3 ♗g5!

The exchange of the dark−squared bishops is desirable for Black − the other White bishop on d3 could be considered a "big pawn".

20.♗c3

White prefers to keep the bishop on the board − it is also defending the a5−pawn.

20...♕e7 21.♖eb1



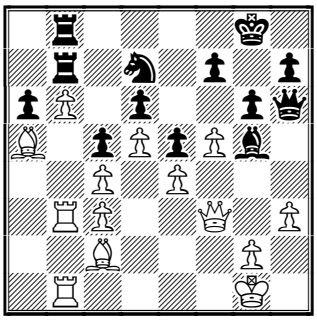
21...b6!

The natural 21...♘f6 could have deprived Black from active play although his position remains rather solid. The text move is very interesting. Black initiates the queenside play − White clearly cannot ignore it and so has to retract his pieces from the kingside...

22.axb6 ♖b7 23.♗a5 ♖fb8 24.c3

White locks up the bishop on a5 but his plan looks dangerous − the bishop is going to c6! Black should hurry up.

24...♕f8! 25.♗c2 ♕h6



Excellent manoeuvre!

26.♕d1?!

Too ambitious an approach − White underestimates the danger. It looked more reliable to get some of the pieces back: 26.fxg6! hxg6 27.♖f1 could have reduced Black's possible activity on the kingside.

26...gxf5!

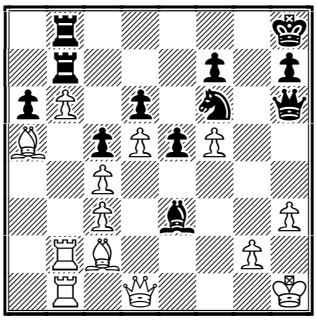
Very good!

27.exf5 ♘f6

Black is not worried about the f−file

anymore and will use the g−file for his own operations. He also keeps in mind a possible advance of the e5−pawn.

28.♖3b2 ♗e3+ 29.♔h1 ♔h8



30.♗a4?

This is too much − the king has no defenders! After something like 30.♕f3!? White's kingside did not look so terrible.

30...♖g8!

The control over the g−file is important. A hasty 30...♘e4? was probably what White was hoping for: 31.♕f3! ♘d2 32.♖xd2! ♗xd2 33.♗c6 and everything is fine.

31.♗c6

31.♕f3 e4 followed by ...♘h5 looked equally annoying for White.

31...♘e4!

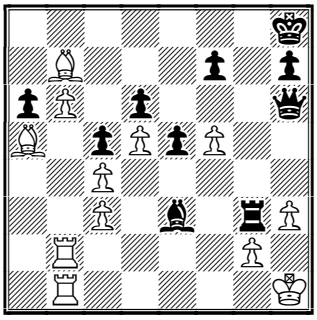
Of course! Black's attack seems to be decisive − look at the White army on the opposite side of the board!

32.♕f3 ♘g3+ 33.♕xg3

33.♔h2 e4-+

33...♖xg3 34.♗xb7

What to do now? ♖h3 gives only perpetual check...



34...♗c1!

Excellent! Black cuts the rook from the kingside with decisive effect! In the variation 34...♖xh3+? 35.gxh3 ♕xh3+ 36.♖h2 Black didn't win as the f1 square was under control. Now ...♖h3 is a real threat.

35.♖e2

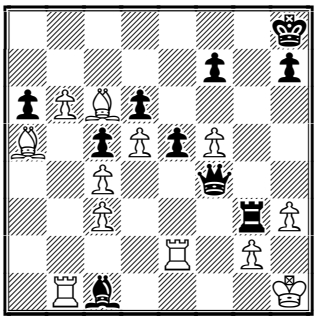
The only defence − the rook takes control over the e3 square. Other moves were losing in the same way, for example: 35.♗c6? ♖xh3+ 36.gxh3 ♕xh3+ 37.♔g1 ♗e3+ 38.♖f2 ♕g3+ 39.♔h1 ♗xf2 and ♕h3 checkmate.

35...♕f4!

The queen finds the way into the rival's camp!

36.♗c6

36.♖xc1 ♕xc1+ 37.♔h2 ♕f4-+ was an easy win for Black.



36...♖xh3+!

White resigned. Excellent game by Levente Vajda! **0-1**

Recommended sites.

www.64.com/natlopen/
www.notzai.com/notzai/index.shtml
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.ru

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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CT-125, 11th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

6 players are leading in the **National Open Las Vegas 2001** after 4 rounds with a perfect score – **Vladimir Akopian** (Armenia), **Ildar Ibragimov** (Russia), **Dmitry Gurevich** (USA), **Yury Shulman** (Belorussia), **Yin Hao** (China) and **Vladimir Kosyrev** (Russia). 10 players have 3½ points, such famous GMs as Alex Yermolinsky and Alexander Ivanov (both of USA), Ye Jangchuan and Peng Xiaomin (bothf China), Alexander Wojtkievicz of Poland are among them.

Top boards of the 5th Round:
V. Akopian (4) – Y. Shulman (4)
I. Ibragimov (4) – V. Kosyrev (4)
Yin Hao (4) – D. Gurevich (4)

There are only two games to play so the defending National Open Champion GM **Alex Baburin** has no chance of catching the leaders – he is a full point behind. Don't give up, Alex, two games could mean two wins!
There are no games available on the Net but we were happy to get one from Alex (thanks a lot!) and would like to present it for you today.

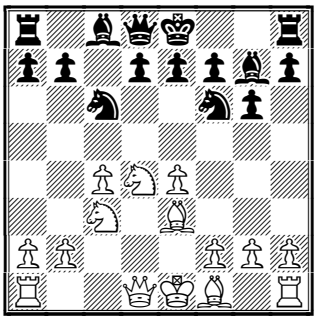
In the central game of the 3rd Round of the "**1st Pinamar Masters**" in Buenos Aires **Alejandro Hoffman** (Argentina) beat Carlos García Palermo with black pieces and became sole leader of the event with 2½ points. GMs Ulf Andersson (Sweden), Bent Larsen (Denmark), Oscar Panno and IM Sergio Giardelli (both of Argentina) are sharing second place, half a point behind.
The next round promises to be interesting: Hoffman plays against Andersson while Panno faces Larsen.

Some corrections were made to the cross-table of the round robin tournament in **Badalona**. GM **Atanas Kolev** (Bulgaria) is sole leader after 5th round with 3½ points. GMs Victor Moskalenko (Ukraine) and Arthur Kogan (Israel), IM Jose Manuel Lopez Martinez, Joan Fluvia Poyatos and Manuel Granados (all of Spain) are in chase, half a point behind.

Annotated Game

D Gurevich 2647 **– M Khachian** 2546
National Open Las Vegas (4), B39 10.03.2001
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.e4 ♗g7 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♘c3 (D)



The game has transposed to the Sicilian Defence, Maroszy System.
7...♘g4
7...0-0 8.♗e2 d6 9.0-0 leads to a small but pleasant advantage for White. The text move is a more active, though more risky, attempt.
8.♕xg4 ♘xd4 9.♕d1 ♘e6
This retreat looks slightly strange but actually the knight is rather useful on e6

− it keeps under control such important squares as c5, d4, f4 and g5. Besides it doesn't close the long diagonal and so the bishop on b7 will be more active.

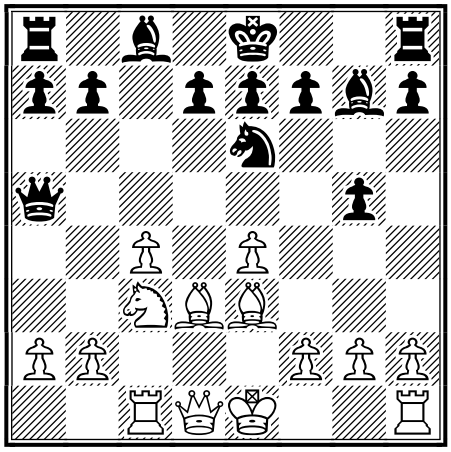
10.♖c1

Black was really threatening to capture on c3.

10...♕a5

In case of 10...0-0 White can immediately obtain some space on the queenside by 11.b4 A possible play is 11...b6 12.♗d3 ♗b7 13.0-0 d6 14.♕d2± with small but stable advantage, Yakovich − Holmsten, Gausdal 2000. Yet, this approach is worthy of consideration as in the game White gains important time as he can play without the move ♕d1-d2.

11.♗d3 g5!? (D)

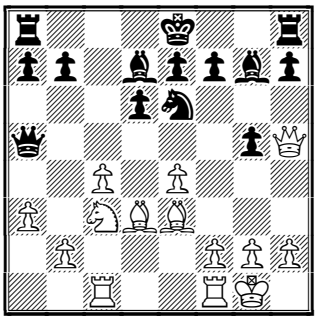


This pawn advance is typical for this kind of position − Black prevents pawn attack f2−f4−f5. Nevertheless I don't think the combination of moves Ne6, ♕a5, g5 can solve the opening problems if White plays precisely. By the way, Black can win a pawn by 11...♗xc3+ 12.♖xc3 ♕xa2 13.♕c1 ♕a5 but it looks dangerous − after 14.0-0 followed by f2−f4−f5 White takes a strong initiative.(14.c5!?)

12.0-0 d6

By playing 12...b6?! Black could try to bring the bishop to the long diagonal quicker but it would be dangerous for the queen: 13.♘d5! ♗b7 14.a4 ♗c6 15.b3± h5?! 16.♗d2! ♕a6 17.♗xg5!+− with decisive advantage, Razuvaev − Ermenkov, Polanica Zdroj 1972.

13.a3 ♗d7 14.♕h5!? (D)



A good idea which is actually a novelty. White takes benefit that he didn't play ♕d1-d2 and also stops h7−h5. In the game Mijailovic − Borge, Budapest 1991 White played rather impulsively: 14.b4 ♕xa3 15.♘d5 ♗c6 16.c5 dxc5 17.bxc5∞ although his compensation for the pawn is sufficient.

14...♕e5

This is also quite a typical manoeuvre (by the way, here it stops a possible e4−e5) but Black must be very careful about his queen.

15.♘d5 b6 16.b4 ♖c8 17.♗d2

Very good − White is moving the bishop to c3.

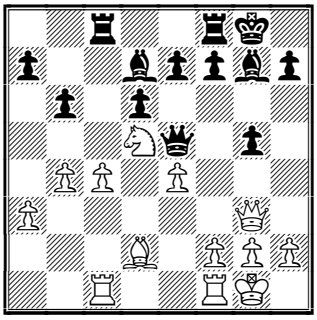
17...♘f4

This knight lunge does not bother White very much. The risky 17...♕b2!? deserved serious attention − at least it may get White more stressed.

18.♕f3 ♘xd3 19.♕xd3 0-0

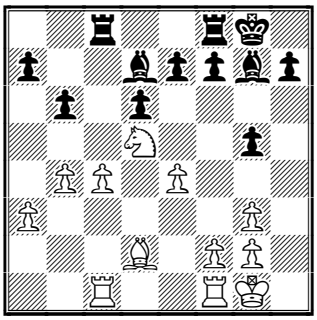
Black has completed development but allowed White to achieve a very pleasant position.

20.♕g3! (D)



Masterful play − White is not carried away by any tempting ideas connected with ♗c3 or f4. Instead he exchanges the queen which seemed to be in trouble on e5 but actually was a very useful defensive piece. 20.♗c3 ♕e6 21.♗xg7 ♔xg7 was less bad for Black.

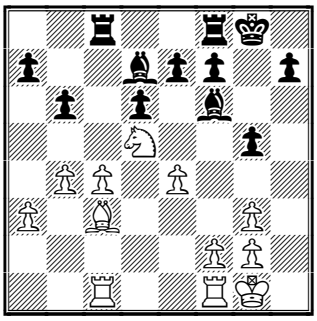
20...♕xg3 21.hxg3 (D)



21...♗f6?

A big mistake which makes White's life much easier. 21...♖fe8! was definitely stronger − the e7−pawn is much more important. After 22.♗xg5 f6!? (22...♔f8!?) 23.♗e3 f5 Black kept drawing chances thanks to the pair of active bishops and the weaknesses of the White queenside.

22.♗c3! (D)

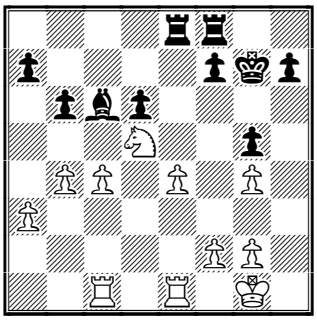


White's strategy is simple − an exchange of defenders!

22...♔g7

The ending after 22...♗e6 23.♗xf6 ♗xd5 24.♗xe7 ♖fe8 25.cxd5 ♖xc1 26.♖xc1 ♖xe7 27.f3+− was losing for Black.

23.♘xe7 ♖ce8 24.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 25.♘d5+ ♔g7 26.♖fe1 ♗c6?! (D)



26...f5! 27.exf5 (27.♘c3!?) 27...♗xf5 should have been preferred without any doubt.

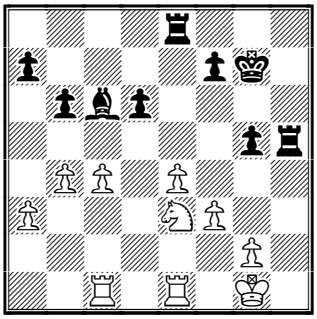
27.g4!+−

The rest is clear.

27...♖h8

Black decides to swap the weak h7−pawn but it gives White the time for comfortable rearrangement.

28.f3 h5 29.gxh5 ♖xh5 30.♘e3! (D)



Black resigned not waiting for White to collect another pawn on d6. **1-0**

Recommended sites.

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www.chesscenter.com/twic
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors:
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CT-126, 12th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Vladimir Akopian (Armenia) and **Zhang Zhong** (China) won the National Open Las Vegas 2001 with 5½ points out of 6. Each of them received $6000 prize money. Our congratulations to the winners!
3-11th place with 5 points ($705,56 each) Jiangchuan Ye, Alexander Baburin, Ildar Ibragimov, Alexander Ivanov, Alex Yermolinsky, Dmitry Gurevich, Hao Yin, Alexander Stripunsky and Hua Ni.
Alexander Baburin won his last two games and, of course, it improved his mood and improved his Elo (his performance was 2676). Not too bad, Alex!

Now we are waiting for another very attractive event in America: in 2 days, the USA-China match starts.

In the 4th round of the 1st Pinamar Masters in Buenos Aires leader **Alejandro Hoffman** drew with White against Ulf Andersson and was caught by **Sergio Giardelli** who won his game with Black against Van Riemsdijk. Now both leaders have 3 points out of 4.
3-7. Ricardi, Panno, Szmetan, Andersson, Larsen – 2½ etc.

The main games of the next round:
Larsen – Hoffman
Giardelli – Panno

The 10th and 11th rounds of the Bundesliga were played over the weekend of March 10th-11th 2001. The leaders Lübecker SV won both their matches, on the second day - a very important one against closest rivals Porz.
SG Köln Porz 3½-4½ Lübecker SV
1 Lutz ½ : ½ Shirov
2 Khalifman ½ : ½ Adams
3 Van Wely ½ : ½ Bareev
4 Timman 0 : 1 Speelman
6 Vaganian ½ : ½ Epishin
8 Hansen 0 : 1 Hodgson
9 Bacrot 1 : 0 Agdestein
10 Graf ½ : ½ Nunn

Standing after 11 rounds:
1. Lübecker SV 59½:28½ 22- 0
2. SG Köln Porz 59½:28½ 19- 3
3. Solinger SG 59½:28½ 15- 7
4. SV Werder Bremen 47½:40½ 15- 7
5. TV Tegernsee 49½:38½ 14- 8
6. Godesberger SK 47½:40½ 13- 9 etc. (16 teams).

Lübecker SV won all their matches, have 22 team points now and good chances to win the champion's title.

http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/2001/bundesliga/herren/rd10_11/rd11einz.html
http://www.schach.com/bundesliga/

Today is the 52nd birthday of the famous Russian grandmaster Yuri Balashov. He won the international tournaments Munich-79, Wijk aan Zee-82, Reykjavik-89, Moscow-2000 etc., was a silver medallist winner in the USSR Championship-76. He has an excellent opening knowledge, is fantastically industrious and has a superb memory. They say he remembers all the chess games he has ever seen! He was Karpov's second for years, he helped Alisa Galliamova recently, and many young players would like to have such a coach as <<Yuri Sergeevich Balashov!

Picture from http://www.kasparovchess.ru

Balshov played in Interzonal tournaments 4 times. Why didn't he become a challenger? Has he too nice a character? It's not for us to judge. By the way, he is very much a family man, he has 5(!) children. Maybe it is worth more than a chess crown!
Our congratulations and good wishes to grandmaster Balashov!

Annotated Game

Y Balashov − G Agzamov
Moscow Moscow, 1983 C35
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

This game was played on the 50th anniversary of the USSR Championship. It was extremely strong. Only Garry Kasparov and Vassily Smyslov didn't take part in it, because they were playing, or were preparing for, candidates matches at the time. Most of the games of this very attractive event I saw, as we would now say, "on−line". Of course there were no electronic chess boards, Internet translations or anything like this at the time. It was much simpler: I was one of demonstrators during this championship! We, young Moscow schoolpupils, were very proud of our job: we were right there in the heart of the battle, close to the great chess masters, and all the spectators watched our long sticks (for moving pieces on the big demoboards) with great concentration. On the day of this game, Yuri Sergeevich looked very happy and received congratulations even before the first move. I was surprised and asked for the reason. And I was told that he had just become a 3−times father! He had two daughters before and now he had a son, Alexey. And for his son − Balashov decided to play the King's Gambit!

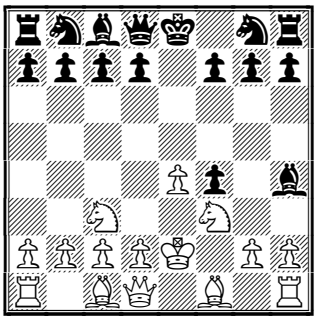
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 ♗e7

More popular are 3...g5 ; or 3...d5

4.♘c3 ♗h4+?!

Black lost two tempos in order to stop White castling. Maybe 2 tempos is too high a price.

5.♔e2!?



Steinitz said: The King is a very strong piece, it can defend itself by itself!

5...♗e7

Very modest. Of course Black doesn't have to retreat his Bishop right now. Other moves are, for example, 5...c6 6.d4 d5 7.♗xf4 ♗g4 8.♕d3 ♘e7 9.♔d2 ♗xf3 10.♕xf3 ♘g6 11.♗e3 dxe4 12.♕xe4+ ♕e7 13.g3 ♕xe4 14.♘xe4 ♗e7 15.♖e1 ♘d7 16.h4± Spassky − Hermann, Germany 1985; or 5...d5!? 6.♘xd5 ♘f6 7.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 8.d4 ♗g4 9.♕d2 ♘c6 10.c3 0-0-0 11.♕xf4 ♕e6 12.♔e3!? g5!? 13.♘xg5 ♗xg5 14.♕xg5 f5∞ Short − Piket, Madrid 1997

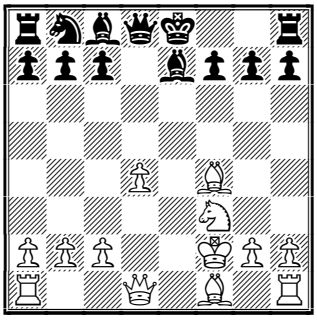
6.d4 ♘f6

Before and after this game Black played here 6...g5!? , for example: 7.♔f2 d6 8.♗c4 ♗e6 9.♗b3 g4 10.♘e1 ♗h4+ 11.♔f1 ♗xe1 12.♕xe1 ♗xb3 13.axb3 ♘c6 14.d5 ♘e5 15.♗xf4 ♕f6 16.♕f2 ♘g6 17.♘b5!? Van Geemen − Swol, Netherlands 1989

7.♗xf4 d5 8.♘xd5 ♘xd5 9.exd5 ♕xd5 10.♔f2

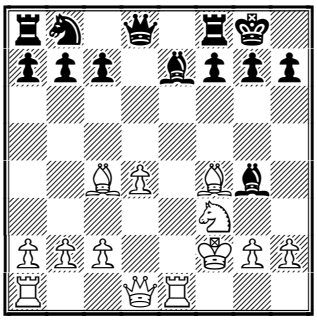
10.♗xc7?? ♕c4+

10...♕d8



A second very slow manoeuvre − Qd8−d5−d8. Now White easily develops his pieces in active positions.

11.♗c4 0-0 12.♖e1 ♗g4



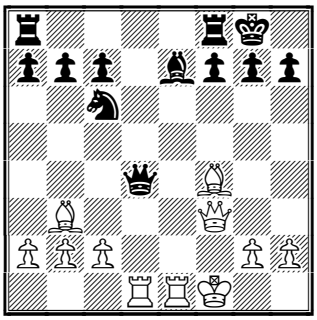
13.♗b3!?

Interesting: White offers his opponent a pawn and hopes to exploit his good development. A quieter alternative was 13.c3!?

13...♗xf3 14.♕xf3

Too pessimistic was 14.gxf3?! ♗h4+ 15.♗g3 A draw in 15 moves isn't a present for a wife and a new baby!

14...♕xd4+ 15.♔f1 ♘c6 16.♖ad1!



Would you like to take a second pawn?

16...♕xb2 17.♖d7 ♕f6

White has a strong initiative but maybe Black could hold the position after 17...♗b4!?

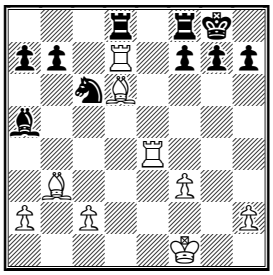
18.♗xc7!?

Even in the endgame, White's initiative is very unpleasant for his opponent. Black has a pawn up but has to struggle for a draw!

18...♕xf3+ 19.gxf3 ♗b4 20.♖e4 ♗a5?!

Maybe Black overlooked the following combination.

21.♗d6 ♖ad8



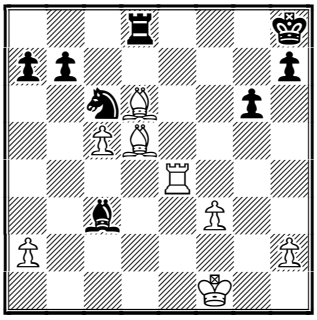
22.♗xf7+! ♔h8

Not 22...♖xf7?? 23.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 24.♖e8+

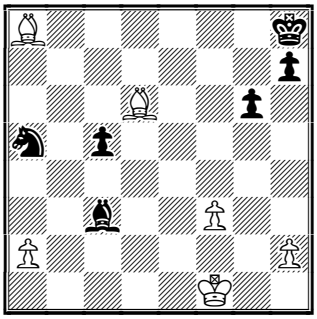
23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 24.c4!

In the open position White Bishops become very strong.

24...♗c3 25.c5 g6 26.♗d5



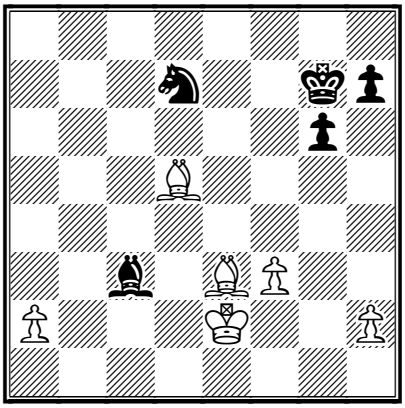
26...♘a5 27.♖e7 b6 28.♖xa7 bxc5 29.♖a8 ♖xa8 30.♗xa8



30...♘c4

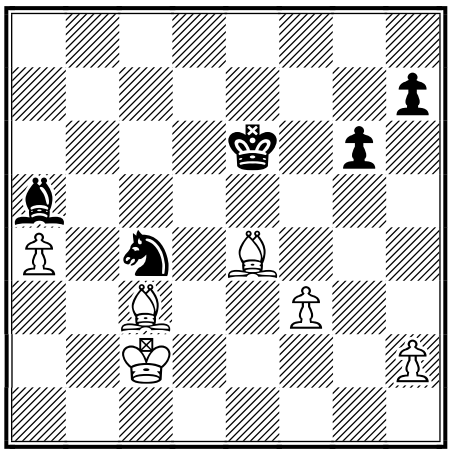
After 30...c4 31.♔e2!; or 30...♗d4 31.♗d5! the a5 knight is offside.

31.♗xc5 ♔g7 32.♗d5 ♘e5 33.♔e2 ♘d7 34.♗e3

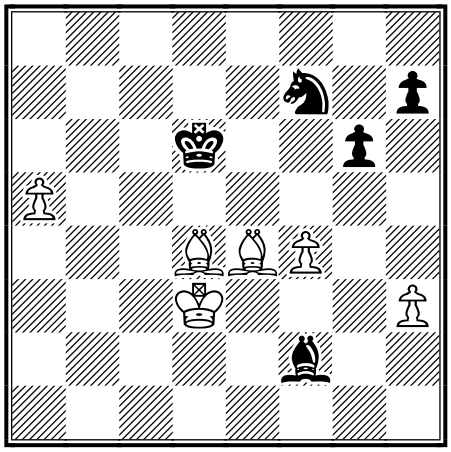


As we know, the outside pawns ("a" and "h") are the most unpleasant for Knights, especially when they are extra!

34...♗a5 35.a4 ♔f6 36.♗c6 ♘e5 37.♗e4 ♘c4 38.♗d4+ ♔e6 39.♔d3 ♘e5+ 40.♔c2 ♘c4 41.♗c3



Of course White would like to exchange Bishops.
41...♗c7 42.♔b3 ♘d6 43.♗c6 ♘f5 44.h3 ♗b6 45.♔c4
Not 45.a5?? ♗xa5 46.♗xa5 ♘d4+
45...♘d6+ 46.♔d3 ♘f7 47.♗b7
Once more not 47.a5?? ♗xa5
47...♘d6 48.♗e4 ♘f7 49.a5 ♗f2 50.f4 ♔d6 51.♗d4



Now Black has to exchange Bishops. The rest is simple.
51...♗xd4 52.♔xd4 ♔c7 53.♗d3 ♘d6 54.♔c5 ♘c8 55.a6 h6 56.h4 h5 57.♗e4 ♔b8 58.♗xg6 ♔a7 59.♗xh5 ♘e7 60.♗e2 ♘g6 61.f5 ♘xh4 62.f6 ♘g6 63.♔d6
A very good and original present! Now we would like to add only, that all of Balashov's 3 daughters and 2 sons enjoy chess and play rather strongly. For example, Alexey is a candidate master.
1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.64.com/natlopen/
http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.kasparovchess.ru
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/2001/bundesliga/herren/rd10_11/rd11einz.html
http://www.schach.com/bundesliga/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-127, 13th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Both the top games of the 5th round of the 1st Pinamar Masters in Buenos Aires were drawn, while Ulf Andersson won with White against Pablo Hobaica and caught the leaders. Now 3 participants have "plus 2" and 3 – "plus 1".
1-3. Hoffman, Giardelli, Andersson – 3½ points of 5
4-6. Panno, Larsen, Szmetan – 3 etc.

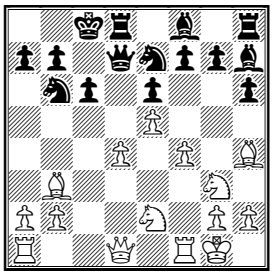
But the hero of our annotated game section today is another player. Bernando Roselli collected his first point in very attractive style: he beat a very experienced GM Pablo Ricardi with Black in the "unsound" Kings Indian!

After a small break, the Magistral Ciutat de Badalona round-robin tournament has resumed. In the 6th round, Bulgarian GM **A. Kolev** won with Black against A. Gual and became sole leader.
1. Kolev – 4½ points out of 6
2. Kogan – 4
3-6. Granados, Lopez, Fluvia, Moskalenko – 3½ etc.

Don't forget to take a look at the new TWIC – issue 331 is available today. Among other interesting material – a report about Kramnik's exhibitions in France and an open letter from St.-Petersburg GMs (Khalifman, Solozhenkin and others) to Mark Crowther about Valery Salov.

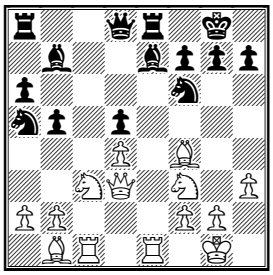
Tactical Puzzles

1.) Fabian – Hort
CSR–ch Prague (10), 1963
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.c4 e6 5.♘c3 dxc4 6.♗xc4 ♘d7 7.♘ge2 ♘e7 8.♘g3 ♘b6 9.♗b3 ♗g6 10.♗g5 h6 11.♗h4 ♕d7 12.0-0 0-0-0 13.♘ce2 ♗h7 14.f4



Black to play

2.) Muhutdinov – Burmakin
Cappelle la Grande (9), 1995
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♗e7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.♗d3 0-0 9.h3 b6 10.0-0 ♗b7 11.♗f4 a6 12.♖e1 b5 13.♖c1 ♘c6 14.♗b1 ♖e8 15.♕d3 ♘a5

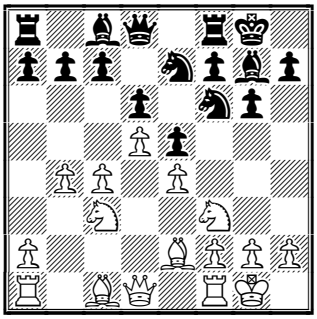


White to play

Annotated Game

P Ricardi (2554) – B Roselli (2400)
Magistral Internacional de Pinamar Viejo Hotel
Ostende (5), 12.03.2001 E97
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4



In the last 2−3 years the Kings Indian has vanished from supertournaments. Even Garry Kasparov gave up his favourite (from childhood) opening. Why? The main reason − White (first of all thanks to Kramnik's efforts) began to receive very easy play in the variation 9.b4!? As I heard from some young GMs, "White has a very simple plan − a pawn offence on the Queen side and, more importantly, the King is absolutely safe

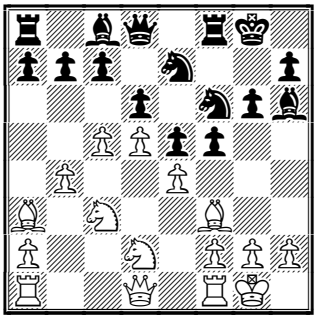
9...♘e8

Last time Kasparov choose the Kings Indian in his blitz−match vs. Kramnik: 9...a5 10.♗a3 axb4 11.♗xb4 ♘d7 12.a4 f5 13.♘g5 ♘c5 14.♗xc5 dxc5 15.♗f3 ♖a6 16.a5 ♔h8 17.♘e6 ♗xe6 18.dxe6 f4 19.♕xd8 ♖xd8 20.♖fd1 ♖b8 21.♘d5 ♘xd5 22.cxd5± Kramnik − Kasparov, Moscow (blitz) 1998. As we know, in London−2000 he didn't dare play this opening. In our game Black decided not to prevent his opponent's activity and immediately started his own play − a traditional attack on the King. But we know now, that it doesn't work, does it?

10.c5 f5 11.♗a3

There wasn't a successful Knight manoeuvre Ng5−e6!? (like Kramnik played vs. Kasparov or Taimanov vs. Fisher in their match-1970): 11.♘g5 ♘f6 12.f3 dxc5 13.bxc5 h6 14.♘e6 ♗xe6 15.dxe6 ♕d4+! 16.♕xd4 exd4 17.e5 dxc3 18.exf6 ♗xf6 19.♗xh6 ♖fd8∓ Kornev − Shabanov, Moscow 2000.; But maybe it's too early for 11.Ba3 because Black didn't play (and doesn't want to!) a7−a5 yet. More solid is 11.♘d2!?

11...♘f6 12.♘d2 ♗h6 13.♗f3!?

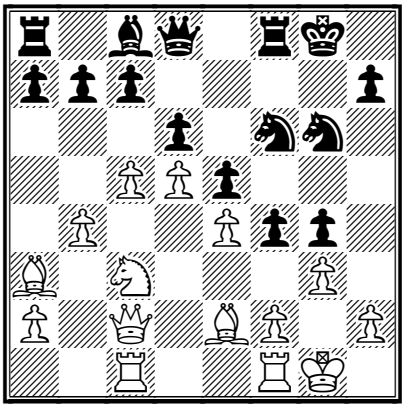


Recently it has become a popular move:− with the Bishop on f3 White has no chances to be mated! But there is a small but important difference concerning the above mentioned Kramnik − Kasparov game. An interesting alternative is 13.f3!? , for example: 13...♗e3+ 14.♔h1 f4 15.♘c4 ♗d4 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.♘b5!? ♗xa1 18.♕xa1 ♘e8 19.♘bxd6 ♘xd6 20.♕xe5⩲ W.Browne − Maloney, USA 1997

13...♗xd2!

After 13...f4?! Black has big difficulties with counterplay on the Kingside: 14.h3 g5 15.♖e1 ♘g6 16.♘f1 and Nh2. But now Black has a nice attack.

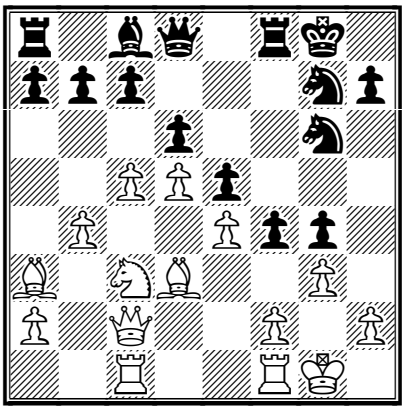
14.♕xd2 f4 15.♖ac1 g5 16.♗e2 g4 17.g3 ♘g6 18.♕c2



18...♘e8!

Last retreat ...

19.♗b5 ♘g7 20.♗d3



20...♘h4!!

I like very the much English expression "a bolt from the blue". But to be honest White's position wasn't "blue" at all, but maybe "dark" or at least "grey".

21.gxh4 f3!

It's a point. After 21...♕xh4? 22.f3! White pieces have a very good communication with the weak Kingside.

22.♔h1

The King can't escape toward the centre: 22.♖fd1 ♕xh4 23.♔f1 ♕xh2 24.♔e1 ♕g1+ 25.♗f1 g3-+

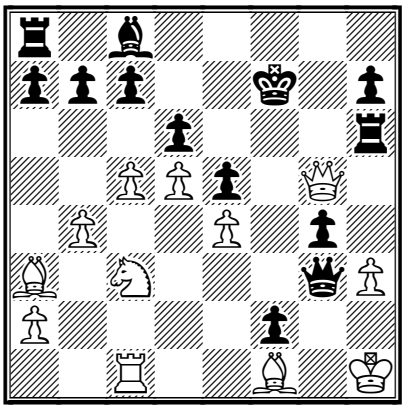
22...♕xh4 23.♖g1

Another try − 23.♖cd1!? ♘h5! (23...♖f6 24.♗c1) 24.♖g1 ♘f4 25.♖g3 ♖f6 and I don't believe that White can save his King.

23...♖f6 24.♖g3 ♖h6 25.h3

Or 25.♔g1 ♕xh2+ 26.♔f1 ♘h5! 27.♖g1 g3-+

25...♘h5 26.♗f1 ♘xg3+ 27.fxg3 ♕xg3 28.♕d2 f2 29.♕g5+ ♔f7



White was checkmated as in "olden (romantic) times". Maybe after 2 or 3 years the Kings Indian will return at the top level, what do you think? **0-1**

♘♘♘

Answers to Puzzles

1). 14...g5! 15.fxg5 ♘g6 16.♖f4 ♘xf4 17.♘xf4 ♗e7 18.g6 ♗xh4 19.gxf7 ♘d5 0-1

2). 16.♗c7!! ♕xc7 17.♘xd5 ♗xd5

17...♕d6 18.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 19.♕xh7+ ♔f8 20.♕h8#

18.♖xc7 ♗c4 19.♕d2 ♗d6 20.♕xa5 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.llefia.org/escacsBDN/magistral/index.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-128, 14th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

What a fighting day in Buenos Aires! Today all 6 games of the 6th round of the 1st Pinamar Masters were "bloody" – White and Black won 3 games each. In view of such an unusual case we'll show all results:

Rodi – Roselli 0:1
Van Riemsdijk – Ricardi 0:1
Panno – Szmetan 1:0
Hoffman – Giardelli 1:0
Hobaica – Larsen 0:1
Garcia Palermo – Andersson 1:0

Today the hero of our annotated game section is Carlos Garcia Palermo who beat the very tough Ulf Andersson in heavy complications.

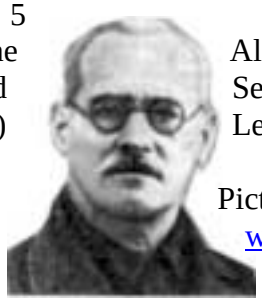
Standing after 6th round:
1. Hoffman – 4½
2-3. Panno, Larsen – 4
4-7. Giardelli, Andersson, Garcia Palermo, Ricardi – 3½ etc.

And in the 7th round of the I Magistral Ciutat de Badalona in 4 games out of 5 one side celebrates a victory! Only the leader Bulgarian GM A. Kolev and second placed GM A.Kogan (Israel) drew their game.
The tournament situation is
1. Kolev – 5 points out of 7
2-5. Kogan, Granados, Lopez, Fluvia – 4½ etc.

As usual on a Wednesday, the very attractive site www.chesscafe.com is worth a visit - it has it's weekly update today. New material - Book Review by Gareth Williams, 400 Points in 400 Days (Part II) by Michael de la Maza, Mark Dvoretsky's article "The value of "elementary" endgame knowledge" and others.

I have heard from Mark Izrailevich Dvoretsky that he has recently finished a new book – a textbook about endgames, a practical course about what each player should know about the last but not the least important phase of the game. It will be available soon in German first and then maybe in English (I hope in Russian too!).

Today is the birthday of the famous Russian-Soviet study composer Alexey Troitzky (1866-1942). He was a founder of the modern artistic study. Also he analyzed very deeply the endgame "2 Knights vs. pawn'. Troitzky has a fantastical fantasy, his studies overtake everybody who see them. But unfortunately he wasn't a very strong player and some (quite many) of them were with "holes". But in any case his influence on the art of the study is hard to overestimate.



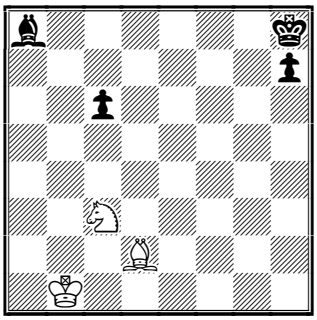
Alexey Troitzky died during the Second World War in blockaded Leningrad.

Picture from www.kasparovchess.ru

Today we would like to show you 2 of his studies. The first of them was commented on by world champion Vasily Smyslov in the excellent Gia Nadareishvili book "Study by grandmaster's eyes".

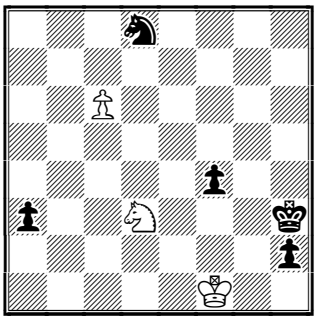
Studies by Troitzky

(1) Troitzky,A
"Shahmatny listok" (Chess paper), 1929



White to play and win

(2) Troitzky,A
1923

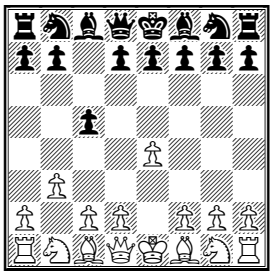


White to play and draw

Annotated Game

C Garcia Palermo 2470 −
U Andersson 2640
Magistral Internacional de Pinamar
Viejo Hotel Ostende (6), 13.03.2001 B50
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.b3!?



What to say about this move? I think it can't claim any opening advantage at least because White reveals his plans too early and Black can prepare in advance for them. But this move is more interesting from a psychological point of view. According to my database Ulf Andersson had never played against it in his long chess life. Of course it's a plus for Garcia Palermo. The minus is that he never played it for White himself too! Garcia Palermo usually prefered 1.d4...

2...e6

Andersson liked the so called "Sceveningen pawn center" (d6−e6) and he doesn't betray it.

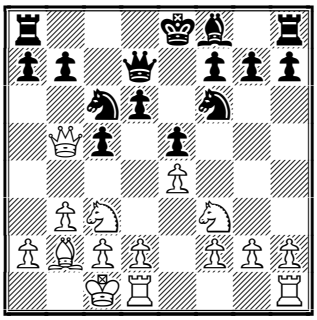
3.♘f3 d6 4.♗b2 ♘f6 5.♗b5+ ♗d7 6.♕e2

All this looks very peaceful...

6...♗xb5 7.♕xb5+ ♕d7 8.♘c3 ♘c6!?

Ulf Andersson is very well known as a great master of endgames. Also he is a very catious player. About 25 years ago world champion Anatoly Karpove wrote about him: "Andersson plays like an old man who knows all and is afraid of all... His typical tournament result is something like 2 wins, 1 loss and the rest draws. "But now as we see Ulf rejected the Queen exchange − maybe he decided to play for a win?!

9.0-0-0 e5



In other cases White will play d2−d4. Of course, the f8 Bishop becomes "bad", but it's opponent on b2 isn't "good" too.

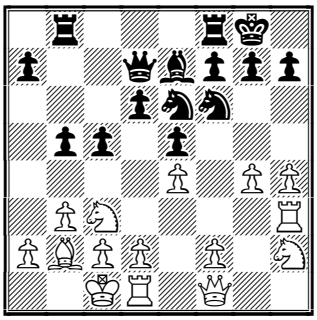
10.h4!?

White hasn't any other active play.

10...♗e7 11.♖h3 ♘d4 12.♕d3

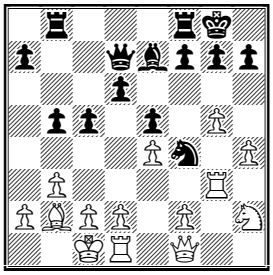
Fighting spirit! White also wants to continue with the Queen now.

12...♘e6 13.♕f1 0-0 14.♘h2 ♖ab8 15.g4 b5



Like in an ordinary Sicilian, both sides begin attacks on opposide wings. Who will be faster?

16.g5 ♘h5 17.♘d5 ♘ef4 18.♘xf4 ♘xf4 19.♖g3



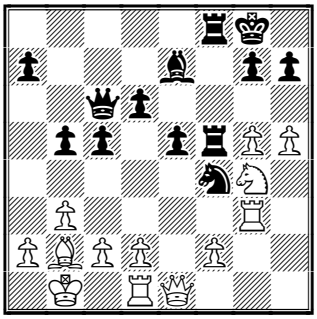
19...f5!

It's also typical for a Sicilian − Black opens the f−file for a Rook and the 7th rank for the Queen to defend her King.

20.exf5 ♖xf5 21.♘g4 ♕c6 22.♔b1 ♖bf8 23.♕e1

I think Black has an advantage in this position. But maybe he thought that White hasn't any real threats at all.

23...♘g6?! 24.h5 ♘f4



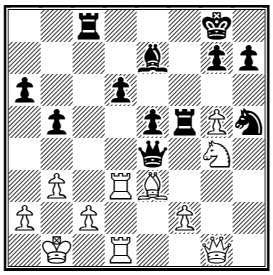
25.d4!

The b2 Bishop re−introduces itself − it's alive yet! There are tactical complications beginning.

25...cxd4 26.♗xd4 ♘xh5 27.♖c3 ♕b7 28.♗e3 a6?!

It's hard to understand such a move. Yes, Andersson is a very good defender, but what reason is there to lose tempo in a rather sharp position?

29.♖cd3 ♕e4 30.♕g1 ♖c8?!



I suspect Black overlooked the following White idea.

31.g6

White begins a storm!

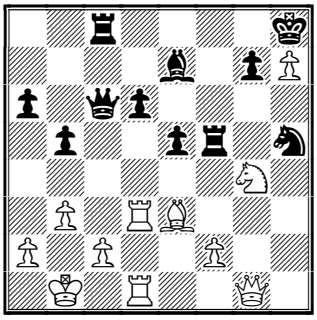
31...♔h8

Black can't take on g6 or play h7−h6: 31...hxg6 32.♘h6+!

A) 32...gxh6? 33.♕xg6+ ♘g7 (33...♔h8 34.♕xh6+ ♔g8 35.♖g1++−) 34.♗xh6 ♗f8 35.♗xg7 ♗xg7 36.♕e6++−;

B) 32...♔h7 33.♘xf5 gxf5 34.♗g5!±; 31...h6 32.♗xh6! gxh6 33.♘xh6+ ♔g7 34.♕h1! ♕xd3 (34...♕xh1 35.♘xf5+ ♔f6 36.♖xh1 ♔xf5 37.♖xh5++−) 35.♖xd3 ♔xh6 36.♕b7±

32.gxh7 ♕c6



33.♘h6!?

A blow after a blow! White doesn't react to his opponent's threats and continues his attack.

33...♕xc2+?!

Fritz says that Black could grab a Bishop: 33...gxh6 34.♕g6 (34.♗xh6 ♕xc2+ 35.♔a1 e4-+) 34...♕xc2+ 35.♔a1 ♖xf2! 36.♗xf2 ♘f4-+ But during the game chessplayers haven't Fritz and much time...

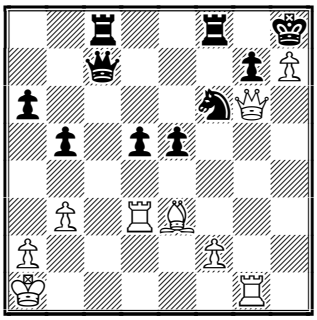
34.♔a1 ♖ff8

Now after 34...gxh6 White has 35.♖c1

35.♘g8

It's a square for a Black Knight, isn't it?!

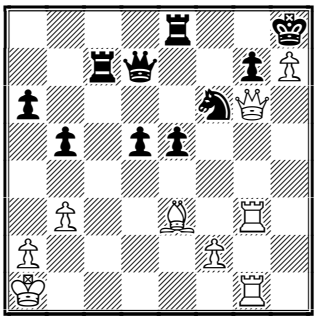
35...♗f6 36.♘xf6 ♘xf6 37.♕g6 d5 38.♖g1 ♕c7



Black let some blows in, but maybe there isn't anything especially bad in it? By the way he has an extra pawn and a strong center. Yes, that's right but White has... a very nosey Bishop!

39.♗c5! ♖fe8 40.♖dg3 ♕d7 If 40...d4 then 41.f4!? The Bishop needs a route to the King side.

41.♗e3 ♖c7



42.♗h6!!

A new (and final) blow, and once more on the same h6−square.

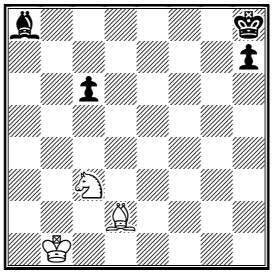
42...♖e6

Or 42...♖e7 43.♗xg7+ ♖xg7 44.♕xf6 ♕c8!? 45.♖c3!+− (45.♔b1!?)

43.♗xg7+ ♕xg7 44.♕xg7+ 1-0

Answers to Studies

(1)



White to play and win

Notes by V Smyslov: At first sight White's win looks impossible. For Black it will be enough to draw if he gets the Bishop into play. But the outer simplicity of the position disguises a very deep plan. The idea − to catch the Black Bishop and also to threaten the opponent's King.

1.♗h6 ♔g8

Black threw his King forward. If he tries to get the Bishop into play after 1...c5 ..then 2.♘b5 ♔g8 3.♘d6 and the King can't come from the corner. After that White's King goes for f6 or e7 and checkmates. 3...♗d5 4.♔c2 c4 5.♔c3 ♗e6 6.♔d4 ♗f7 7.♔e5 c3 8.♔f6 ♗b3 9.♘f5 c2 10.♘e7+ ♔h8 11.♗g7#

2.♘e4 ♔f7

Some variations after 2...c5 : 3.♘d6 ♗d5 4.♔c2 ♗f7 5.♔d2 c4 6.♔c3 ♗d5 7.♔d4 ♗e6 8.♔e5

A) 8...♗h3 9.♔f6 c3 10.♘e4 c2 11.♔e7 c1♕ 12.♘f6+ ♔h8 13.♗xc1 ♔g7 14.♘h5+! ♔g8 (14...♔g6 15.♘f4+) 15.♗h6;

B) 8...♗g4 9.♔f6 c3 10.♘e4 c2 11.♔e7 c1♕ 12.♘f6+ ♔h8 13.♗xc1 h5 14.♔f8

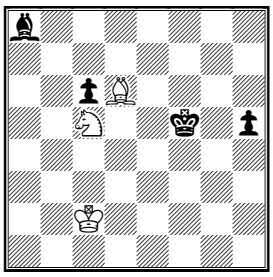
3.♘c5!

Now the a8 Bishop is in a cage and, as will be clear soon, Black can't break the blockading position of c5 Knight.

3...♔g6

It doesn't help 3...♔e7 4.♗f4 ♔d8 (or 4...♔f6 5.♔c2 ♔f5 6.♗d6 ♔g4 7.♔d2 ♔f3 8.♔e1 ♔g2 9.♔e2 h5 10.♗e7 ♔g3 11.♔f1 etc.) 5.♔c2 and Black is helpless.

4.♗f8 h5 5.♔c2 ♔f5 6.♗d6!



A wonderful maneuvre! Now the Black King can't touch the Knight.

6...♔g4 7.♔d2 ♔f3 8.♔e1

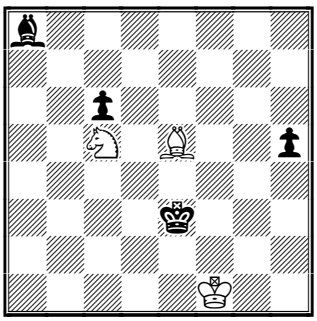
The King is going towards the h pawn. White isn't afraid of 8...Ke3 in view of 9.Be5!, stopping the Black King on it's way to the key square d5.

8...♔g2 9.♗e7! ♔g3 Or 9...♔g1 10.♔e2 ♔g2 11.♔e3 ♔g3 12.♗d6+

10.♔f1 ♔f3

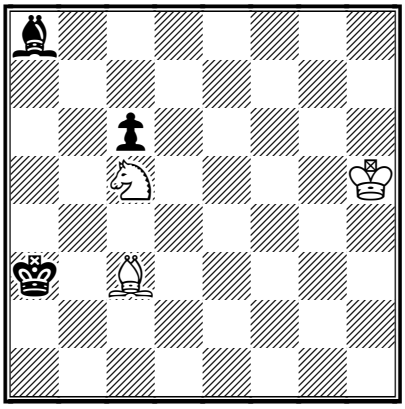
10...h4 11.♔g1 h3 12.♔h1

11.♗d6 ♔e3 12.♗e5



The Knight and Bishop dominate the whole board. Black's last chance is to run to the Queen side. If Black tries to keep his King on the Kingside then sooner or later he will lose the pawn h due to zugzwang.

12...♔d2 13.♔g2 ♔c2 14.♔h3 ♔b1 15.♔h4 ♔a2 16.♔xh5 ♔a3 17.♗c3!



A beautiful study! White's piece domination makes a deep impression.

1-0

(2)

1.♘f2+ ♔g3 2.c7 a2 3.♘e4+ ♔f3 4.♘d2+ ♔e3 5.♘c4+ ♔e4 6.♘d2+ ♔e5 7.♘c4+

Because Black can't allow cxd8 or c8 with check, his King can't escape from the "nosey" Knight. A wonderful idea, especially in view of the lack of material.

½-½

Recommended Web sites:

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www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.llefia.org/escacsBDN/magistral/index.htm
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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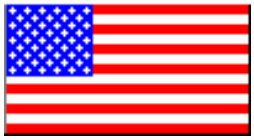
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-129, 15 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

The Seattle Chess Foundation organized the **USA - China** Chess Summit Match (four rounds, 10 participants for each country: 6 top-players, 2 leading women and 2 junior players under 18). Time control: 40 moves in 100 minutes, followed by 20 moves in 50 minutes, followed by all moves in 10 minutes (all moves played get 30 seconds bonus - Fischer method).



Our thanks to **Michael Franett** (mfranett@hotmail.com) for his report specially for ***Chess Today:***

"*The first match game was started by Seattle Chess Foundation President Erik Anderson promptly at 1:30 PM by hitting the gong as to silence the crowd of spectators. The Harbor club at the top floor of the Norton Building in downtown Seattle offers spectacular views besides its beautiful settings. The media found its way to the match as well. News agencies and local newspapers had their photographers and reporters swing by and the local ABC affiliate television station filmed the early stages of the matches.*

"*During the opening ceremony, the evening before at the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the team captains played a game of Jenga to determine which color the first board would have in round 1. In Jenga the players have to take one building block out of a wooden stack and put it back on top. The first one who makes the tower tumble loses. Nick de Firmian was gracious enough to leave the honor to Lin Feng who decided that China would play with the White pieces on board 1 in round 1.*"

Live games and archived games and

additional information at:
http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org

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PRESSROOM: 206-652-9292"

We have to add that on the chess board the American team was not as gracious as its captain had been during the so called Jenga game, and won the first match **5.5 - 4.5**

1. GM Boris Gulko 1/2 GM Ye Jiangchuan
2. GM Joel Benjamin 1-0 GM Xu Jun
3. GM Gregory Kaidanov 1/2 GM Peng Xiaomin
4. GM Alexander Shabalov 0-1 GM Zhang Zhong
5. GM Alexander Ivanov 1-0 GM Xie Jun
6. GM Larry Christiansen 1/2 GM Zhu Chen
7. IM Irina Krush 1/2 Xu Yuhua
8. WIM Camilla Baginskaite 1-0 WGM Qin Kanying
9. IM Vinay Bhat 0-1 GM Bu Xianghzi
10. FM Dmitry Schnieder 1/2 FM Ni Hua

As we see in Chinese play not 2, but 4 women, Xie Jun and Zhu Chen vs. men. Quite unexpectedly they collected only 1

point: ½ against men and (that is even more unexpected) ½ against women. This time Chinese juniors won their micro-match 1.5 : 0.5 and the top six lost "-1".

Today in our annotated game section there is a very attractive victory by GM Joel Benjamin over GM Xu Jun. (*Please note that all games from this first round are included in the .cbv and .pgn files, with one annotated game. ---- RPM*)

The hero of CT-127 **Bernando Roselli** made a hat trick in the **1st Pinamar Masters** in Buenos Aires! In the 7th round he defeated, playing White, Van Riemsdijk. The secret for his success is simple: he played very attractive and important theoretical chess, which was published in ***Chess Today.*** His approach was mature, and nobody can stop him now! ☺ Good luck, Mr. Roselli!

White also won another two games in this round: Andersson over Rodi and Giardelli over Hobaica. Other games were drawn.

Standings after the 7th round:
1. Hoffman – 5
2-5. Panno, Larsen, Giardelli, Andersson – 4,5
6-7. Garcia Palermo, Ricardi – 4 etc.

In the 7th round of the
I Magistral Ciutat de Badalona
as the previous day, in 4 games out of 5 one side celebrates a victory!

The leaders before last round are:
1. Kolev – 6 points out of 8
2-3. Kogan, Granados – 5,5 etc.

It's interesting that in the final day this trio will play with Black:

Moskalenko – Kolev
Fluvia – Kogan
Narciso – Granados

♘♘♘

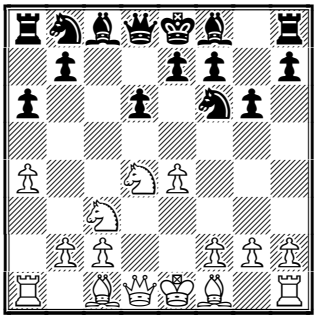
Annotated Game

J. Benjamin(2581) − Xu Jun (2655)
US−China Summit Match, Seattle, USA (1), 14.03.2001 B90
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.a4

White rejects an invitation to play the fashionable lines of the Najdorf (6.♗e3 or 6.♗g5).

6...g6 (D)

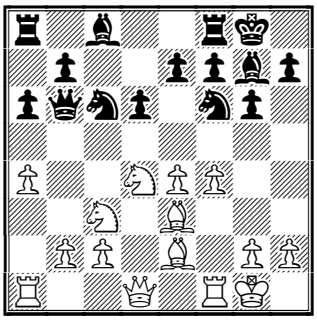


And Black slips to the Dragon now.

7.♗e2

After 6.a4 White has to castle short. In addition, however, the most unpleasant for Black in the Dragon is Rauzer's plan: ♗e3, f3, ♕d2 and 0-0-0 (or ♗c4 and 0-0-0).

7...♗g7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♕b6?! (D)



This is a provoking move. More modest and in the spirit of the position is: 10...♗d7 or; 10...♖b8!? but10...Qb6 was played in one of Benjamin's games, and of course Xu Jun prepared something special.

11.a5!? ♕c7

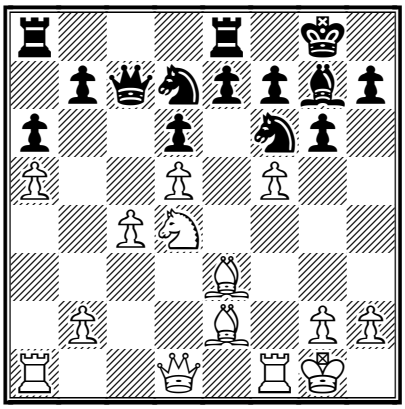
Black can't take the b2 pawn in

view of 11...♕xb2? 12.♘a4 ♕b4 13.c3 ♕xa5 14.♘xc6 bxc6 15.♗b6+−; I believe the move 11...♘xa5 has a forced refutation too, but I could find only a good compensation for the pawn so far: 12.e5!? **A)** 12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♘d7 (13...♘e8 14.♘f5+−) 14.♘d5 ♕d8 15.♗g5±; **B)** 12...♘e8 13.♘f5 (13.♕d2 ♕d8) 13...♕d8 14.♘xg7 ♘xg7 (14...♔xg7 15.♕d2!?) 15.exd6 exd6 but of course both Benjamin and Xu Jun analysed this position much more deeply (and longer).

12.♘b3 ♗e6 13.♘d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♘b8 15.c4!?

Joel deviated from his earlier game first: 15.♗b6 ♕c8 16.♗d4 ♘bd7 17.c4 ♘c5 18.♘xc5 dxc5 19.♗e5 ♘d7 20.♗xg7 ♔xg7 21.♕d2 Benjamin − Chow, Philadelphia 1999.

15...♘bd7 16.♘d4! ♖fe8 17.f5 (D)



White's position looks much more attractive. He has two Bishops, a space advantage, a very strong and defended d5 pawn, and the main reason: Black hasn't any real counterplay.

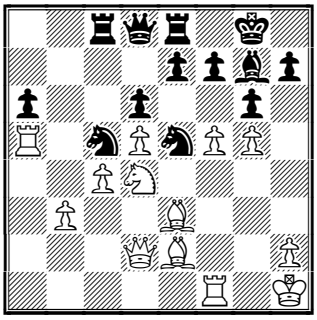
17...♘e5 18.b3 ♖ac8 19.♔h1 ♕d8 20.g4!

Yes, if your position in the center is strong you can start a pawn attack on the flank.

20...♘fd7 21.g5 b6!?

Xu Jun tries to distract some of White's pieces away from his King.

22.♕d2 bxa5 23.♖xa5 ♘c5 (D)



24.b4!

White begins a long, forcing variation.

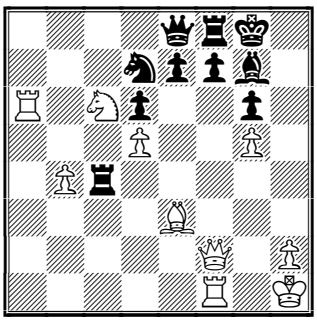
24...♘cd7 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.♖xa6

Very nice, but not as strong as 26.♖xf7!? ♔xf7 27.♘e6 ♕xa5 28.bxa5 ♘xc4 29.♕c1 ♘xe3 30.♕xe3 ♘c5!?

26...♘xc4 27.♗xc4 ♖xc4 28.♕f2 ♖f8

Only move − losing is: 28...♘e5? 29.♘c6 ♘xc6 30.♕xf7++−

29.♘c6 ♕e8 (D)



30.♖a8!

A wonderful Rook sacrifice! Benjamin plays according to Fisher's advise for White in the Dragon: open the h−file, check, check and checkmate! Joel wants to check from e7 first and than the check from the h−file will be decisive.

30...♕xa8 31.♘xe7+ ♔h7 32.♕g3 ♘f6□ 33.♖xf6 ♕a1+ 34.♗g1 ♕d1□ 35.♖f3 ♗h6

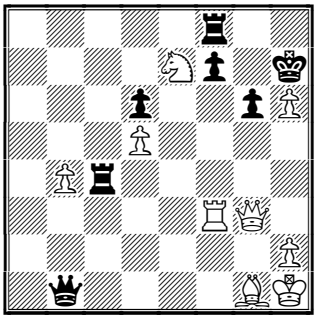
The Chinese GM defends with the only moves.

36.gxh6

Of course, not 36.♕h3? ♖h4!; An alternative was 36.♕f2!? ♕b1 (36...♗xg5 37.♖xf7+ ♔h6 38.♖xf8 ♗xe7 39.♕e3+ ♗g5 40.♕e6+−)

37.gxh6 (37.♖xf7+?! ♗g7! 38.♖xf8 ♕e4+)

36...♕b1 (D)



37.♘f5!

Joel Benjamin was a coach of the super machine Deep Blue and he plays like a machine himself. The Little brother of Deep Blue named Fritz likes all his moves very much.

37...♖xb4 38.♘xd6

Maybe better was 38.♕xd6!? **A)** 38...♕e4 39.♘d4! ♖xd4 40.♕f6 ♕xf3+ (40...♔xh6 41.♗xd4) 41.♕xf3+−; **B)** 38...♕d1 39.♖g3 ♖bb8 40.♕f6 ♕xd5+ 41.♖g2 ♖g8 42.♘e7+− Fritz, you always think about us!

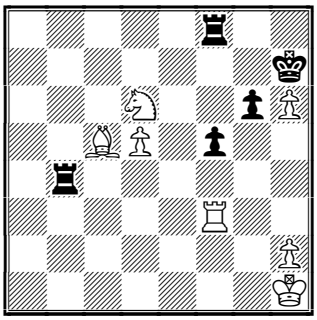
38...♕d1 39.♖d3?!

It looks like White could win by force with: 39.♘xf7!? ♕xd5 40.♘g5+ ♔xh6 (40...♔h8 41.♕e5+!; 40...♔g8 41.♕c7+−) 41.♕h3+ ♔xg5 42.♗e3+ ♖ff4 43.♕g2+ ♔h6 44.♖h3+

39...♕e2 40.♖e3 ♕h5 41.♕f3

After the time control White decided to slip into a winning endgame.

41...♕xf3+ 42.♖xf3 f5 43.♗c5 (D)

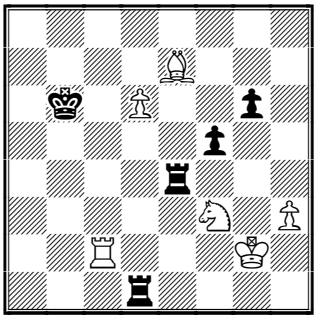


The d5 pawn must play a main role.

43...♖b1+ 44.♔g2 ♖d1 45.♘e4!

Simple but nice

45...♖a8 46.♘f6+ ♔xh6 47.♗e7 ♔g7 48.d6 ♔f7 49.♘h7 ♖a2+ 50.♖f2 ♖aa1 51.♘g5+ ♔e8 52.♘f3 ♖a4 53.h3 ♖e4 54.♖a2 ♔d7 55.♖a7+ ♔c6 56.♖c7+ ♔b6 57.♖c2 (D)



The Black King is blocked from the d−pawn now, so the d−pawn will make it to d7 by force.

57...♔b5 58.♔f2 ♖d5 59.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 60.♘xd2 ♖d4 61.♘f3

Black resigned in view of 61.♘f3 ♖d5 62.♘e5! ♖xe5 63.d7 **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.llefia.org/escacsBDN/magistral/index.htm
http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org

Contact information.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-130, 16 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

On the second day of the USA - China Chess Summit Match the American men and the Chinese women won one game each, while the juniors exchanged blows. As a result – draw 5 : 5.

Gulko - Ye Jiangchuan 1/2
Xu Jun - Seirawan, Yasser 1/2
Kaidanov - Peng Xiaomin 1-0
Zhang Zhong - Shabalov 1/2
Benjamin - Xie Jun 1/2
Zhu Chen - Christiansen M 1/2
Krush - Xu Yuhua 1/2
Wang Lei - Groberman, Elina 1-0
Bhat, Vinay S - Bu Xiangzhi 1-0
Ni Hua - Nakamura, Hikaru 1-0

Our thanks to Michael Franett (mfranett@hotmail.com) for his report specially for "Chess Today":

"*The American team captain Nick de Firmian decided to use his three reserve players in the second duel. Yasser Seirawan replaced a rather tired Alexander Ivanov; US Women's co-champion Elina Groberman took the spot of Camilla Baginskaite and the youngest player of this event, 13 year old Hikaru Nakamura got the opportunity to play Chinese junior Ni Hua. A few hours into the match all looked rosy for the American team and another victory seemed in the air. The Chinese players defended well and after nearly six hours of fighting a 5-5 result was penciled in on the score board. Half way (through) this competition the US team is leading by the smallest margin possible, a half point.*

"*The round started earlier than the previous one as the players and officials were invited for a dinner hosted by Washington State Governor Gary Locke and his wife Mona. Boris Gulko made sure he would be there in time by having a swift draw with China's strongest player Ye Jiangchuan. Irina Krush followed this example and scored her second half point for team USA. A nice achievement considering that Irina's opponent has 120 rating points more.*

"*Hikaru's first experience on team USA was a hard one. The youngster from White Plaines, NY had an exciting game but went down against Chinese Olympiad team member Ni Hua. The youngest American International Master, Vinay Bhat, equalized the score between the juniors by outplaying the youngest GM in the world, Bu Xiangzhi. Larry Christiansen appeared disappointed when he left the playing hall after five hours of play. In the hospitality suite he quickly went through his game showing journalist Lubosh Kavalek and team mate Vinay that his 17th move had been a mistake. "After 17...Qf5 I'm winning" was his optimistic observation. Alexander Shabalov might have had the same feeling. In his game against Zhang Zhong, journalists and computer Fritz thought Black would have a nice advantage after 42...g5.* "

As yesterday we have included all games from the second round of the USA-China Summit Match in the pgn and cbv-files.

Live games and archived games and additional information at: http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org

Two legendary players, Bent Larsen and Ulf Andersson faced each other in the 8th round of the **1st Pinamar Masters** in Buenos Aires. The younger Andersson celebrated a victory with White and became one of the leaders. You can see this game in our annotated game section.

In another main game Garcia Palermo beat (also with White) Giardelli.

Standings after 8th round:

1-2. Hoffman, Andersson – 5,5
3-4. Panno, Garcia Palermo – 5
5-8. Larsen, Ricardi, Giardelli, Szmetan – 4,5 etc.

In the 9th, and last round of the **I Magistral Ciutat de Badalona** all games were drawn. The Bulgarian GM **Atanas Kolev** won the event with 6,5 points. Our congratulations!

The Final standings:
1. A. Kolev – 6,5 points out of 9
2-3. A. Kogan (ISR), M. Granados (ESP) – 6
4-6. J.P. Lopez Martinez (ESP), J. Fluvia (ESP), M. Narciso Dublan (ESP) – 5
8. V. Moskalenko (UKR) – 4
9. R. Jose (ESP) – 3
10. A. Vidarte (PER) - 2

Also the **Victor Ciocaltea Memorial** tournament (Bucharest, Romania) recently finished. The final results were:

1. Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (ROM) – 7,5 points out of 11
2-3. V. Nevednichy (ROM), L. Vajda (ROM) – 6,5
4-6. A. Motylev (RUS), C. Navrotescu (ROM), L. Fressinet (FRA) –6
7. B. Badea (ROM) – 5,5
8-11. C. Ionescu (ROM), M. Marin (ROM), D. Solak (YUG), M. Brodsky (UKR) – 4,5
12. V. Iordachescu (MDA) – 4

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

U. Andersson (2640) – B.Larsen(2500)

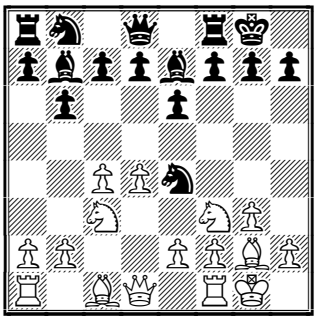
Magistral Internacional de Pinamar Viejo Hotel Ostende (8), 15.03.2001
E19
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

According to my database, Bent Larsen and Ulf Andersson have played each other 32 times; the first time in 1970. This game is quite unusual for Andersson (see CT-128), since most of these games were "bloody": The Swedish GM won 11, lost 10 and 11 were drawn. They even played an 8−game match in Stockholm in 1975, +5 −2 =1(!) in Andersson's favor. I suspect the main reason of such an implacable fight is Larsen's fighting spirit. The last time these old opponents met at the board was in 1985.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.♗g2 ♗b7 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.c4

Andersson didn't play c2−c4 before castling, maybe because checking with Bf8−b4 can lead to more complicated positions.

6...0-0 7.♘c3 ♘e4 (D)

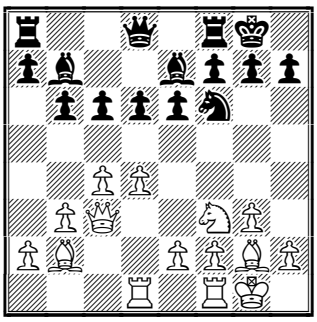


According to Alekhine and Botvinnik, this move gives Black equality.

8.♕c2 ♘xc3 9.♕xc3 d6

Alternatives are 9...f5 ; 9...c5; 9...♗f6!?

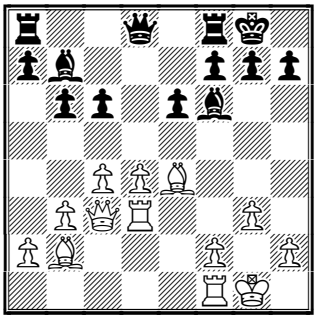
10.b3 ♘d7 11.♗b2 ♘f6 12.♖ad1 c6?! (D)



Bent Larsen, one of the strongest GMs in the World in 60s and 70s (remember in the 1970 match World

vs USSR he played on first board, ahead of Robert Fisher), always goes his own, original way. In this position there were: 12...c5 13.dxc5 (13.d5!? exd5 14.cxd5 b5 15.e4 b4 16.♕d3 ♕b6 17.♘d2 ♗a6 18.♘c4 ♗xc4 19.♕xc4 a5± Eisenmann − Jandke, corr. 1987.) 13...bxc5 14.♘g5 ♗xg2 15.♔xg2 h6 16.♘e4 ♕c7 17.♕f3 ♘xe4 18.♕xe4 ♖fc8 19.f4 ♕c6 20.♕xc6 ♖xc6 21.e4 ♖a6= Pietzsch − Spassky, Habana 1966.; 12...♗e4 13.♘d2 ♗xg2 14.♔xg2 c6 15.e4 d5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.e5 ♘d7 18.♖c1 a5 19.♕d3 a4 20.♖c2 axb3 21.axb3 ♘b8 draw, Andersson − Najdorf, Argentina 1982

13.♘d2! d5 14.e4 dxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♗f6 17.♖d3 (D)

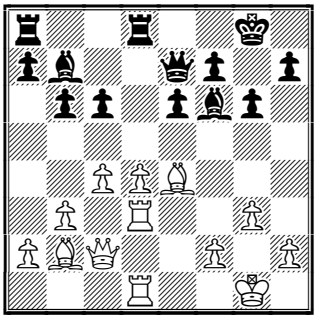


The position is rather simple, with small, but long term advantages for White − because he has more space and his pieces are more active. Ulf Andersson likes such positions very much. It's interesting to see how he increases his advantage step by step.

17...♕e7

with idea c6−c5

18.♕c2 ♖fd8 19.♖fd1 g6 (D)



The 8th rank is weak so Black hasn't 19...c5? 20.♗xb7 ♕xb7 21.dxc5 ♖xd3 22.♕xd3! bxc5 23.♗xf6 gxf6 24.♕e3±

20.c5!

Now the b7 Bishop becomes passive. Black can't exploit the d5 square simply because he hasn't any Knights!

20...bxc5 21.♗a3! ♖d7 22.♗xc5 ♕d8 23.h4 ♗g7 24.♕c3!

White doesn't hurry to take control over the a5 and e5 squares.

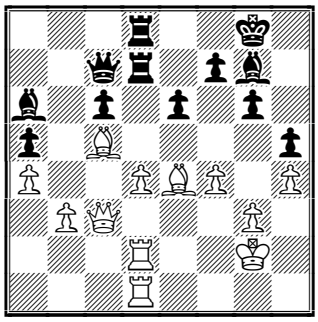
24...♕c7 25.f4!

The same line

25...a5?!

Larsen finds some counterplay but in a few moves White will use this move to create a passed a−pawn. Maybe better was for Black to stay and wait, but this isn't in Larsen's style.

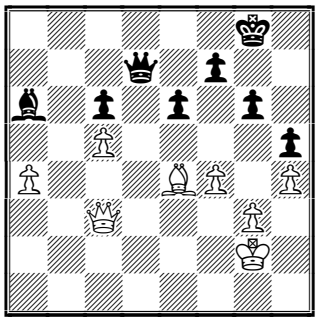
26.a4 ♗a6 27.♖3d2 ♖ad8 28.♔g2 h5 (D)



29.b4! axb4 30.♕xb4 ♖b8 31.♕c3 ♕c8 32.♖b1 ♖xb1 33.♗xb1 ♗f8 34.♗e4 ♗xc5?!

A dubious exchange. All of Black's pawns are on the white squares, so all Bishop endings will be lost for him now.

35.dxc5 ♕d8 36.♖xd7 ♕xd7 (D)



37.♗f3!

Very good! Black has an open−file but can't use it: White controls most of the squares on it, from d1 to d6.

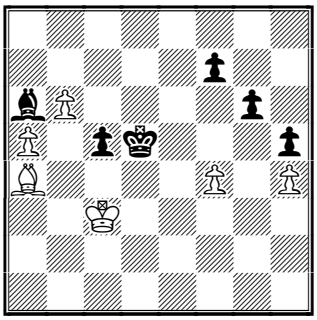
37...♔f8 38.♔f2

Right way − to the Bishop ending!

38...♔e7 39.♔e3 ♕b7 40.♗e4!

The same picture on the b−file: the Queen has no squares except b7 and b8.

40...♕d7 41.♕d4 ♕c7 42.♕b4 e5 43.♕b6! exf4+ 44.gxf4 ♕xb6 45.cxb6 ♔d6 46.♔d4 ♗f1 47.a5 ♗a6 48.♗c2 c5+ 49.♔c3 ♔d5 50.♗a4 (D)



Black resigned because he can't defend his pawns on f7−g6−h5 and at the same time stop white's pawns. All of Andersson's moves looked very simple and natural − it's really high class chess tecnique! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.llefia.org/escacsBDN/magistral/index.htm
http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org
http://www.notzai.com/notzai/index.shtml

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-131, 17 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

The Tenth **Amber** Blindfold and Rapid Chess Tournament started today in Monaco. Every day GMs Vladimir Kramnik, Vishy Anand, Alexey Shirov, Anatoly Karpov, Veselin Topalov, Vasily Ivanchuk, Peter Leko, Boris Gelfand, Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Loek Van Wely, Jeroen Piket and Zoltan Almasi will play one rapid game of about one hour in length, and one blindfold game. Both games will be played with the Fischer Clock.

Blindfold games are played with computers. An empty chessboard appears on the player's screen. The moves are made with a mouse or with the keyboard. Each move will appear on both screens. After confirmation of receipt of the move, the opponent's clock will start and the move will disappear.

Sponsor of this very attractive event is well-known business man and strong CC player J.J. van Oosterom. The total prize fund is US $ 137, 250.

Winners of previous Amber Blindfold Tournaments:

1992 – Ivanchuk
1993 – Ljuboevic
1994 – Anand
1995 – Karpov
1996 – Kramnik
1997 – Anand
1998 – Shirov and Kramnik
1999 – Kramnik
2000 – Shirov

Results of the first day (rapid/blindfold)
Gelfand – Ljuboejevic **1:0 0:1**
Karpov – Anand **½:½ 0:1**
Ivanchuk – Leko **0:1 0:1**
Kramnik – Piket **1:0 ½:½**
Shirov – Van Wely **1:0 1:0**
Almasi – Topalov **0:1 0:1**

Today in our annotated game section we feature the rapid game Shirov – Van Wely. All the games of the first day of the Amber Rapid Tournament as well as from USA – China match) – are included in the cbv and pgn files.

Standings after 1st day:
1-3. Leko, Topalov, Shirov – 2
4-5. Anand, Kramnik – 1,5
6-7. Gelfand, Ljubojevic – 1
8-9. Karpov, Piket – 0,5
10-12. Almasi, Van Wely, Ivanchuk - 0

Our thanks to Michael Franett (mfranett@hotmail.com) for his report from the 3rd round of the US- China Summit Match, specially for ***Chess Today***:
"*In the third encounter in the US-Chinese Summit Match the Chinese finally showed that they are no paper tigers. They deservedly won the third round and with just one round left, the US will have to hit several home runs to keep the beautiful glass match trophy in the Emerald City.*

"*Last night during a wonderful dinner hosted by Washington State governor Gary Locke, Captain Nick de Firmian decided that the American team would play their strongest lineup the next day. A few hours into the third round the prospects for the American team looked very good. Yasser Seirawan was the first to finish with a quick draw against Xu Jun, but quick victories by Gregory Kaidanov and Larry Christiansen gave the US a two points lead. Then the tables*

turned as. Xie Jun took revenge for her first round loss by defeating Alexander Ivanov who got into time trouble in a difficult position. Dmitry Schneider went down for the second time against Ni Hua and on board one, Boris Gulko blundered in a sharp position against Ye Jiangchuan. Things got even worse as Irina Krush lost with Black to the well-rested Wang Lei. This was especially sad as National Geographic Television News was filming her entire game for a special program they are doing on women in sports. Camilla Baginskaite and Vinay Bhat couldn't make up for their teammates and drew their games. Alexander Shabalov was the last US player to finish. In view of the bleak situation, Alex tried desperately to win his game against Zhang Zhong. The Grandmaster from Pittsburgh could have made a draw but for the sake of the team he tried to get just a little bit more out of it. Unfortunately this backfired and Zhang Zhong was quick to add another point to the Chinese total.

"*After three rounds the Chinese now find themselves leading the match by two points. It will be difficult for the American team to come up with a strategy to overcome this deficit. But at least they have a free day before Sunday's game to prepare for the Chinese.*"

For more information: Press room 206-652-9292 or Mike Franett at mfranett@hotmail.com -- on the Internet: http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org/ and http://seattlechessevents.org/

After 3 Rounds/ China – USA 6.5 : 3.5
Ye Jiangchuan - Gulko F **1:0**
Seirawan - Xu Jun **½:½**
Peng Xiaomin - Kaidanov **0:1**
Shabalov - Zhang Zhong **0:1**

Xie Jun - Ivanov **1:0**
Christiansen - Zhu Chen **1:0**
Wang Lei - Krush **1:0**
Baginskaite - Qin Kanying **½:½**
Wang Yue - Bhat, Vinay **½:½**
Schneider - Ni Hua **0:1**

Today is the 66th birthday of well-known

Argentinean GM Oscar Panno.
Picture from www.kasparovchess.ru

In 1953 Panno won the World Junior Chess Championship. He won some international events; played many times in Zonal and Interzonal tournaments, and in 1956 played in the Challengers tournament in Amsterdam. But for years Oscar Panno wasn't a professional chess player and worked as an engineer. He is, nevertheless playing quite successfully in the **1st Pinamar Masters** in Buenos Aires. In the 9th round he drew with Black vs. Van Riemsdijk and shares 3rd place.

Today, with Black, Ulf Andersson won one another game, against Giardelli and became the sole leader.

Standings after the 9th round:
1. Andersson – 6,5 points
2. Hoffman – 6
3-5. Panno, Ricardi, Garcia Palermo – 5,5
6-7. Larsen, Szmetan – 5 etc.

♘♘♘

Editorial

by GM Alexander Baburin

Time passes very quickly and we have already published more than 120 issues of ***Chess Today*** (*CT*), which means that it is time for some of our readers to renew their subscription. If your subscription is due for renewal soon, you will receive an e-mail from us inviting you to do so. Renewing is very

simple; if details of your credit card have not changed since you last paid for *CT*, just drop us a message saying that you wish to continue receiving *CT*. We will then charge your credit card £14 (Irish punts), which will be good for another 4 months. If your credit card has changed, send us the new details using the secure form at: www.chesstoday.net (look under 'Subscribe'). Obviously, there is no need to join the list at yahoo.com again. Those who paid by cheque should send an additional payment once their 4 months period is about to expire. So far the rate of renewals is about 90%, which is very encouraging - it means that most of our readers are happy to receive our publication!

Many of our readers ask whether it is possible to obtain earlier issues of *CT*. It would be very time consuming to send them individually, but we plan to produce a CD with the first 150 issues of *CT* - edited and put into certain order.

Due to my travelling there was a delay in announcing the results of **our February Lottery**. Alfred Azzopardi won the prize - a signed copy of *Winning Pawn Structures* by A. Baburin. Congratulations! The same book will be featured in our March lottery. By the way, I resolved my problems with Batsford and, although, it is very unlikely that I would write another book for them, I no longer ask the chess public to boycott the book. In fact, it is available for purchase in our shop at: http://www.gmsquare.com

Our **Linares Quiz** proved to be very popular, as we received many entries. Almost everyone put Garry Kasparov in the number one spot, but nobody could guess that there would be a 5-way tie for 2nd! So, we still keep the prize - a nice 'Gambit' clock (also available in the shop at: http://www.gmsquare.com) and we offer it now as the prize in our **Cannes Quiz**. Simply name **3 winners** (in exact order) of the forthcoming tournament in Cannes and the clock is yours! All subscribers are invited (not only paid subscribers) - let's see whether GMs (and there are many GMs among *CT* readers!) are better at predicting the outcome of chess tournaments! :-) Please mark your e-mail 'Cannes Quiz' and post it before the 21st of March. Here are the line-ups for the event:

Group A
1 Kasparov Garry RUS 2849
2 Bareev Evgney RUS 2704
3 Svidler Peter RUS 2696
4 Grischuk Alexander RUS 2676
5 Polgar Judith HUN 2675
6 Lautier Joel FRA 2653
7 Gulko Boris USA 2623
8 Bauer Christian FRA 2618

Group B
1 Adams Michael ENG 2745
2 Morozevich Alexander RUS 2742
3 Gurevich Mikhail BEL 2693
4 Kasimdzhanov Rustam UZB 2692
5 Ye Jiangchuan CHN 2672
6 Tkachiev Vladislav FRA 2671
7 Bacrot Etienne FRA 2618
8 Hamdouchi Hichem MAR 2541

Four players from each group will qualify to the quarter-finals, after that it will be a knock-out. The tournament will start on the 21st of March and finish on the 25th.

Our reader Robert Sellers sent us the following note: "The daily report includes a lot of Swiss tournaments. I don't know most of the players mentioned in these reports. Can you give some information?". As many *CT* readers may be in the same position, we are going to introduce a new column - **Player's Profile**, where we will tell you about the modern players, who are featured in our tournament reports. In this column we will offer some biographical information on the player, a few of his/her games and possibly a photo. We will start this column next week, beginning with players who

currently belong to the top 100 on the rating list. Then we will gradually extend our list, so *CT* readers will learn more about the modern chess scene.

We invite you to visit our forum (discussion board) at: www.chesstoday.net, which is not only for our readers, but for everyone interested in chess. As you may know, there are many useful newsgroups devoted to chess, but sometimes there is too much personal fighting going on there. We would like to keep that stuff out and concentrate purely on chess - how to improve in the game, its history, etc. No forum can flourish without visitors, so we welcome you to call in and participate! *CT* journalists IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Ruslan Scherbakov, as well as myself, will also take part there. See you on the Forum!

Finally, could you please **mention *Chess Today* to your friends** and encourage them to join the newspaper? Most people, who see *CT*, like it, but the main problem which we face is how to become known to more players. To make *CT* a sound commercial project, it is essential that as many people as possible hear of *Chess Today*. Here we count on your help - feel free to send sample issue to your friends and post them in your club. We have an **Affiliate Program**, so have a look at it at: For example, your club's website or your personal page can post one issue a month www.chesstoday.net in exchange for displaying our banners.

Enjoy ***Chess Today*** and please send us your feedback. We always listen to you!

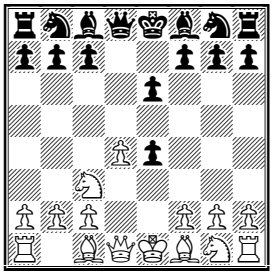
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A.Shirov (2718) − L .Van Wely (2700)
Amber Rapid Play Monaco MNC (1), 17.03.2001 C10
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

As we had written earlier in CT (during the Wijk aan Zee event), Loek Van Wely likes to play very sharp lines. He works hard at home (maybe, especially hard since he plays on the ICC) and very much in keeping to his opening repertoire. The minus of such an attitude is that some of his opponents (of course only few) play sharp positions better than he does, and Alexey Shirov is one of them. Maybe if Loek were a little more flexible his good results would be even better.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 (D)

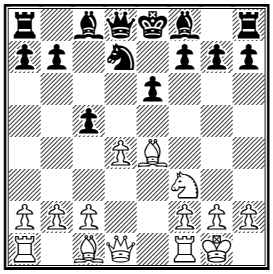


The Exchange, or Rubinstein variation − one of the oldest in the French Defence.

4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘f3

From time to time White catches his opponent (even rather strong ones!) into quite a simple but unexpected trap with: 5.♗d3 ♘gf6 6.♕e2!? ♘xe4 7.♗xe4 ♘f6? 8.♗xb7! ♗xb7 9.♕b5+±

5...♘gf6 6.♗d3 c5 7.0-0 ♘xe4 8.♗xe4 (D)



Of course, there is much theory here.

8...♘f6

Alternatives are: 8...cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♘f6 10.♗g5 ♗c5 11.c3 h6 12.♗xf6 ♕xf6 13.♕a4+ ♗d7 14.♕c4 ♗xd4 15.cxd4 ♖c8 16.♕b4 b6 17.d5 ♕e7 18.d6 ♕g5 19.♕a3↑ Rublevsky − Christiansen, Lucerne 1997; More than 90 years ago Fritz

recommended here 8...♕b6!? Oh, we have to add that Fritz hadn't a number but a name: Alexander Fritz − he played in German championships: 9.c3 ♘f6 10.♗d3 ♗d7 11.♕e2 cxd4 12.♘xd4 ♗e7 13.♘f3 0-0 14.♘e5± Wolf − Fritz, Germany 1908; 8...♗e7 9.♕e2 ♘f6 10.dxc5 ♘xe4 11.♕xe4 ♗xc5 12.♕e5 ♗f8 13.♖e1 ♕d6 14.♕b5+ ♕d7 15.♕h5 ♕c7 16.♘d4 ♗d6 17.♘f5 ♗e5 18.♕g5 ♔f8 19.♗f4 f6 20.♗xe5 fxg5 21.♗xc7 exf5 22.♗d6+ ♔f7 23.♖e7+ ♔f6 24.♖ae1± Tseshkovsky − Doroshkevich, Russia 1997

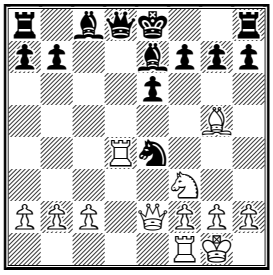
9.♗g5 cxd4 10.♕e2

Once Alexander Morozevich aggressively, but incorrectly sacrificed a piece here: 10.♘xd4 ♗c5 11.♘b3 ♗d6 12.♗xf6 gxf6 13.♕h5 f5 14.♗xf5? exf5 15.♖fe1+ ♗e7 16.♖e3 f4 17.♖e4 0-0 18.♖d1 ♕c7 19.♘d4 ♗f6-+ Morozevich − Zakharevich, Russia 1997

10...♗e7 11.♖ad1 ♘xe4

11...♗d7 12.♖xd4 ♘xe4 13.♕xe4 ♕c7 14.♘e5 ♗c6 15.♕h4 ♗xg5 16.♕xg5 f6 17.♕h5+ g6 18.♘xg6 ♕f7 19.♖g4 0-0-0 20.♘f4 ♕d7 21.♘d3± Maiorov − Doroshkevich, Russia 1997

12.♖xd4 (D)



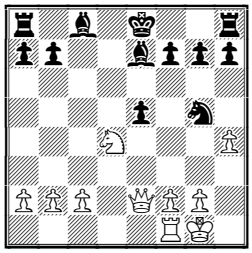
12...♕xd4

Yes, Van Wely went for the sharpest line.

13.♘xd4 ♘xg5 14.h4!?

Shirov didn't want to wait for Black's novelty so made one first. In previous games White (against Novgorod's GM Igor Zakharevich) pushed another pawn: 14.f4 ♘h3+ (14...0-0 15.fxg5 ♗xg5 16.♘f3 ♗d8 17.♕e4 f6 18.c4 ♖b8 19.b4 a5 20.a3 axb4 21.axb4 ♗c7 22.c5 ♗d7 23.♕c4± Rublevsky − Zakharevich, Russia 1998) 15.gxh3 0-0 16.♕e4 ♗f6 17.♖d1 ♖d8 18.♖d3 ♖b8 19.♘f3 ♗d7 20.♘e5 ♗e8 21.♖xd8 ♗xd8 22.♔f1± Morozevich − Zakharevich, Russia 1997

14...e5!? (D)



This move is in Loek's style − even in an unknown situation he made the most logical move. However, more cautious was 14...0-0!?; or 14...♘h3+!?, as in the above mentioned game. But almost certainly both GMs analysed 14.h4!? too.

15.♕xe5 ♘e6 16.♘f5 f6

Worth consideration was 16...♗f6?! 17.♕b5+ ♔f8 (17...♗d7 18.♕xb7) 18.♘d6±]

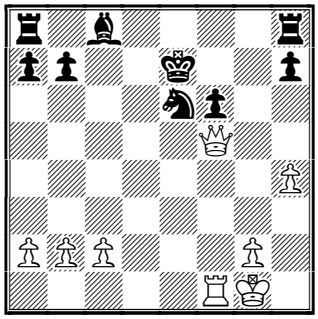
17.♕b5+ ♔f7 18.♘xe7 ♔xe7 19.f4

Black has a material advantage but he must develop his pieces first. This task, however, isn't very easy, even though White has only Queen and Rook, because of Black's weak King.

19...g6?!

Fritz says that f4−f5 isn't so dangerous for Black, for example: 19...♖d8 20.f5 (20.♖e1!?; 20.♕h5!?) 20...♘d4 21.♖e1+ ♔f8 22.♕c5+ ♔g8 23.♕c4+ ♔f8 It's hard to believe, but it's also hard to refuse.

20.f5! gxf5 21.♕xf5 (D)

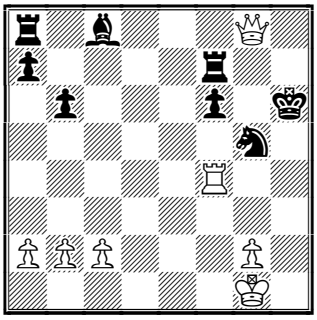


Now Black's monarch can never hide.

21...♖f8 22.♕xh7+ ♖f7 23.♕e4 ♔f8 24.h5 ♘g5 25.♕d4 ♔g7 26.h6+ ♔g6

In case of 26...♔xh6?! 27.♖xf6+ ♖xf6 28.♕xf6+ ♔h5 29.♕h8+ ♔g4 30.♔f2 and Black can't complete his development.

27.♕d8 b6 28.♕g8+ ♔xh6 29.♖f4 (D)



29...♘h3+!

A very nice trick. Black defends quite ingeniously.

30.♔h2

30.gxh3?? ♖g7+

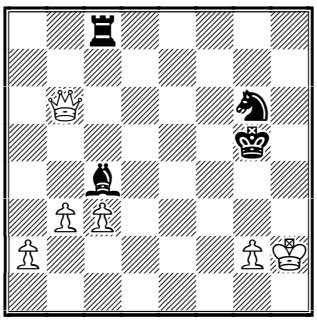
30...♘xf4 31.♕xf7 ♗a6

31...♔g5!?

32.♕xf6+ ♘g6 33.♕f7 ♖c8?!

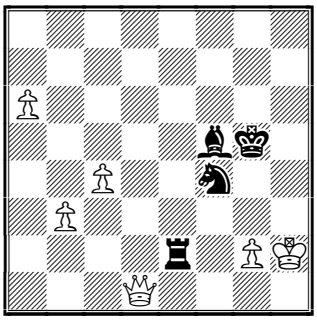
Black hurries to activate his Rook, but now the Queen grabs all the pawns. But in any case, in rapid play White's task was much easier: Black had to watch for 3 pieces White only for one, so White has 3 times less chances to overlook one piece! By the way White hadn't a win by force after 33...♗e2!?

34.♕xa7 ♗e2 35.c3 ♗c4 36.♕xb6 ♔g5 37.b3 (D)



Now the pawn chain will be unstoppable.

37...♗f7 38.♕d4 ♗e6 39.c4 ♗f5 40.a4 ♖e8 41.♕d2+ ♔g4 42.♕d1+ ♔g5 43.a5 ♘f4 44.a6 ♖e2 (D)



Last chance.

45.♕d8+ ♔g4 46.♕g8+ ♗g6 47.a7 ♖xg2+ 48.♔h1 ♔h3 49.a8♕ ♖h2+ 50.♔g1 ♖g2+ 51.♕xg2+ 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org/
http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/
http://www.kasparovchess.ru

Contact information.

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Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-132, 18 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Today is the second day of Tenth **Amber** Blindfold and Rapid Chess Tournamet in Monaco. One of it's participants, Ukrainian born **GM Vassily Ivanchuk>>,** celebrates his 32nd birthday today. Our congratulations to one of the deepest and strongest chessplayers in the World for the last few years! The best present he gave himself was a second round victory over Boris Gelfand, 1.5 - 0.5. Ivanchuk could have won both games, but tournament luck turned against him. I wish Vassily luck in all other rounds here and there!

Picture from www.kasparovchess.ru

Results of the second day (rapid/blindfold)
Topalov - Shirov **1:0 ½:½**
Leko – Karpov **1:0 ½:½**
Gelfand – Ivanchuk **½:½ 0:1**
Van Wely – Kramnik **½:½ 0:1**
Ljuboejevic – Anand **0:1 1:0**
Piket – Almasi **0:1 1:0**

Standings after 2nd round:
1-2. Leko, Topalov – 3.5 points out of 4
3. Kramnik – 3
4-5. Anand, Shirov – 2.5
6. Ljubojevic – 2
7-9. Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Piket – 1.5
10-11. Karpov, Almasi - 1
12. Van Wely – 0.5

Peter Leko "woke up"! In Linares he couldn't win a single game, now he is one of the leaders with three victories and only one draw; and in what style of play! Today Peter Leko is a hero of our annotated game section. As usual we include all games from Monaco in our cbv and pgn files. We didn't include any games from the US – China Summit Match, because today is a rest day in Seattle.

Not far from Monaco there is another famous resort – **Cannes**. Before the World Rapid Cup it's chess federation organised a rapid play match (6 games, 25 min. each) Michael Adams – Vladislav Tkachev. Today three games were played: In the first, Adams with White drew, than Tkachiev won the second, and in the third Adams equalised the score – 1.5 -1.5. Tomorrow will be another 3 games played.

Also in Cannes there will be the ***Girls Stars Trophy*** – a match between 16 year old **Alexandra Kosteniuk** (Russia, below right) and 15 year old **Marie Sebag** (France, below left).

Pictures from http://www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm

What a useful thing to loose a game (sometimes)! For example, **Ulf Andersson** after such an unpleasant accident won almost all his games in the **1st Pinamar Masters** in Buenos Aires. Before the final round he is sole leader with a perfect result – 7,5 points out of 10. Good luck, Mr. Andersson!

Standings after the 10th round:
1. Andersson – 7,5 points
2. Hoffman – 7
3. Panno – 6,5
4-6. Ricardi, Larsen, Garcia Palermo – 6
7. Szmetan – 5 etc.

Pairings for the last round:
Giardelli - Rodi
Szmetan - Larsen
Ricardi - Andersson
Roselli - Garcia Palermo
Van Riemsdijk - Hobaica
Panno - Hoffman

The **58th Polish Chess Championship** taking place in Warsaw, a 14 player round-robin. All the best Polish GMs: Michal Krasenkow (2658), Tomasz Markowski (2595), Bartlomiej Macieja (2583) , Bartosz Socko (2557), Robert Kempinski (2554), Jacek Gdanski (2548) etc. are among the participants.

A big open (over 420 players) is in progress in Bad Worishofen, Germany. After 3 rounds 17 participants have 3 points. Below are the websites where you can follow the progress of the tournament:

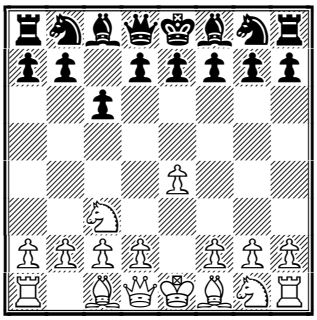
http://www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html and http://www.schach.com/

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

P. Leko (2745) − A. Karpov (2679)
Amber Rapid Play Monaco MNC (2), 18.03.2001 B10
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c6 2.♘c3 (D)



About forty years ago this was Fischer's favorite move. From a journalist point of view it's very attractive to find Fischer's "footprint" here. As we know the great Robert James now lives in Budapest. Perhaps Peter and he sometimes meet each other, and maybe they talk about the Caro−Kann. But to be honest, Leko has played 2.Nc3 at least from 1990 and exploits it rather often.

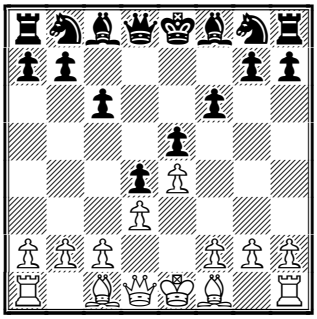
2...d5 3.d3!?

Quite an unusual move. Alternatives are: 3.♘f3, and 3.d4!. But it's not new, of course. For example, two years ago in Sarajevo it was played by N.Short (White) vs. Leko.

3...e5

Leko played 3...g6 against Short.; Another good way is 3...dxe4!?

4.♘f3 d4 5.♘e2 f6



But maybe this position is new yet! At first glance Black has to have good play − he has more space and can easily complete his development.

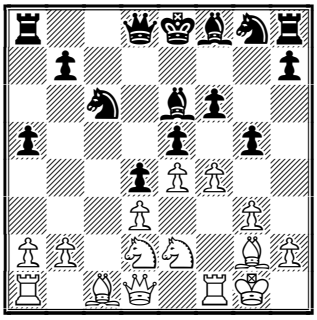
6.g3 c5 7.♗g2 ♘c6 8.0-0 g5!?

Very optimistic, a Korchnoi style move! Black wants to prevent 9.♘h4 and f2−f4.

9.c3 a5

See previous note. Why does Black play only pawns moves?

10.cxd4 cxd4 11.♘d2 ♗e6 12.f4 (D)



Now you can easily recognise a King's Indian Defence with reverse colours and an extra tempo for White.

12...a4 13.♘f3 h6 14.♗d2 ♗d6

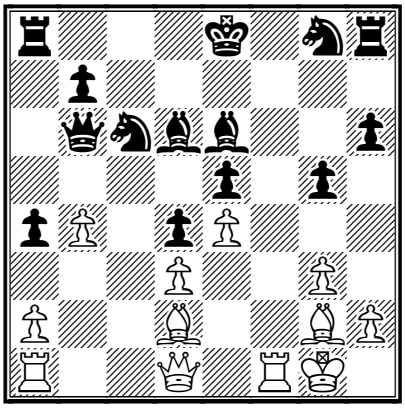
15.b4!?

This move stops Black's play on the queen side.

15...♕b6

After 15...axb3 16.axb3 ♖xa1 17.♕xa1 ♗xb3?! 18.♖b1 (18.♕b2!? Black is too far behind in development.)

16.fxg5 fxg5 (D)



17.♗xg5!?

Pardon me, who is playing with White? Mr. Shirov or Mr. Morozevich? What did you say − Peter Leko?! Oh, such sacrifices aren't very typical for him. More quiet and also good was 17.a3!?

17...hxg5 18.♘xg5 ♘d8 19.♘xe6 ♘xe6 20.h4

White wants to include his white−squared Bishop in the attack, because Black hasn't an opponent for it.

20...♖h6 21.a3

Better late than never − isn't it?

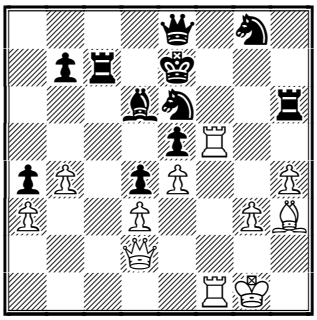
21...♔e7 22.♖f5 ♕c6

First of all Karpov defends the a4 pawn. After 22...♖f8?! 23.♕xa4 White has full material compensation for the piece.

23.♕d2 ♕e8

I thought Black wanted to exchange Rooks − 23...♖f8 but Karpov has other ideas. Maybe they are sound in classical play, but in rapid play it's very risky to play with such a weak King with so many pieces on the board.

24.♖af1 ♖c8 25.♗h3 ♖c7 (D)



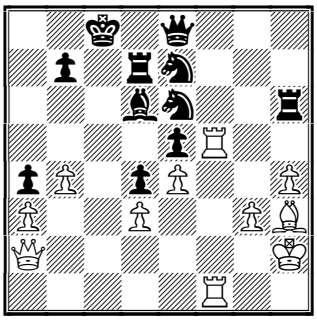
26.♕a2

An interesting alternative was 26.♘xd4!? exd4 (26...♘xd4? 27.♕g5++−) 27.e5 but Peter doesn't hurry.

26...♖d7 27.♔h2! ♔d8

The Black King now never has a safe place.

28.♘g1 ♔c8 29.♘f3 ♘e7 (D)



30.♖xe5!

This is a decisive blow. Look at the Bishop on h3,and the number of targets it has now!

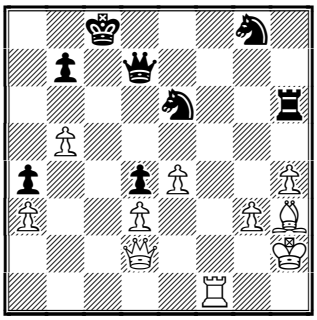
30...♗xe5 31.♘xe5 ♘c6

31...♖d6 32.♘f7+−; 31...♔b8 32.♕d2!+−

32.♘xd7 ♕xd7 33.b5 ♘e7

Or 33...♘cd8 34.♕d5! with idea of Rc1+

34.♕d2 ♘g8 (D)



White has too many threats, for example: 34...♖g6 35.♖f8+ ♔c7 36.♕a5+ ♔d6 37.♗xe6 ♔xe6 38.♖d8 **35.♕a5! ♕d6 36.♗xe6+ ♖xe6 37.♖f8+!**

Black resigned in view of 37.♖f8+ ♕xf8 38.♕a8+ A great game for Peter. He played very energetically on both sides of the board and in the center. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org/
http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/
http://www.kasparovchess.ru
http://www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
http://www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html and http://www.schach.com/

Contact information.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-133, 19 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

ELO-favourite of the recently completed, **Buenos Aires "1st Pinamar Masters",** GM **Ulf Andersson** of Sweden, proved his class – he won the event with 8 points out of 11. The home players **Alejandro Hoffman** and evergreen **Oscar Panno**, who celebrated his 66th birthday just a day before yesterday, came in second and third, respectively.

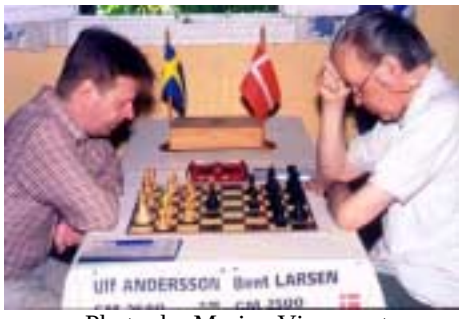


Photo by Marina Vignau at
http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/

Results of the last and final Round:
Giardelli – Rodi **0-1**
Szmetan – Larsen **½:½**
Ricardi – Andersson **½:½**
Roselli – Garcia Palermo **1-0**
Van Riemsdijk – Hobaica **1-0**
Panno – Hoffman **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Andersson – 8 points
2. Hoffman – 7½
3. Panno – 7
4-5. Ricardi, Larsen – 6½
6. Garcia Palermo – 6 etc.

Our congratulations for all the winners!

Veselin Topalov is dominating the field in the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco.** Today he outplayed none other than the World Champion **Vladimir Kramnik** with a score of **1½:½** and strengthened his lead.

Vishy Anand beat **Peter Leko** with the same score and caught him at second place, a full point behind the leader.

Results of the 3rd day (rapid/blindfold)
Ivanchuk – Ljuboejevic **½:½ 0:1**
Anand – Leko **1:0 ½:½**
Karpov – Gelfand **½:½ ½:½**
Van Wely – Piket **½:½ ½:½**
Kramnik – Topalov **½:½ 0:1**
Shirov – Almasi **1:0 0:1**

Rapid standings:
1-2. Topalov, Anand – 2½ out of 3
2-6. Gelfand, Kramnik, Leko, Shirov – 2
7-10. Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov, Van Wely – 1
11-12. Ljubojevic, Piket – ½

Blindfold standings:
1. Ljubojevic – 3 out of 3
2. Topalov– 2½
3-4. Leko, Piket – 2
5-7. Anand, Kramnik, Shirov – 1½
8-10. Almasi, Ivanchuk Karpov – 1
11-12. Gelfand, Van Wely – ½

Overall standings:
1. Topalov – 5 points out of 6
2-3. Anand, Leko – 4
4-6. Kramnik, Shirov, Ljubojevic – 3½
7-8. Gelfand, Piket – 2½
9-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov, Almasi – 2
12. Van Wely – 1½

Today we would like to feature an excellent win by **Veselin Topalov** over **Vladimir Kramnik** – an interesting novelty on move 20 and extraordinary technique in the ending, and this is in blindfold chess!

The rapid **match** between **Michael Adams** and **Vladislav Tkachiev** in **Cannes** ended peacefully – **3:3**. All three games of the second day were drawn

after a fairly intensive struggle. Both players were equal to the task.

Robert Kempinsky took the lead in the **Polish Championship**. He is the only player with a perfect score after 2 rounds.

Four players have perfect scores after the 4th Round in the strong open tournament in **Bad Woerishofen**, Germany – GMs **Alexander Graf** (we knew him as Nenashev) of Germany, **Alexey Aleksandrov** (Belorussia), **Valery Filippov** (Russia) and **Slobodan Martinovic** (Yugoslavia).
21 participants are in chase.

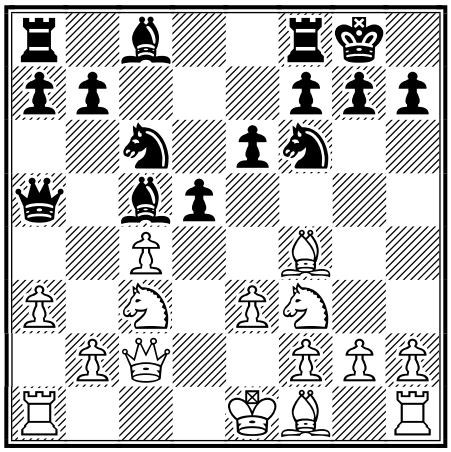
Top boards of the 5th Round:
S. Martinovic – A. Graf (Nenashev)
V. Filippov – A. Aleksandrov

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

V. Topalov (2680) − V. Kramnik (2730)
Amber 2001, Blind Monaco (3), 19.03.2001 D37
Notes GM Ruslan Scherbakov

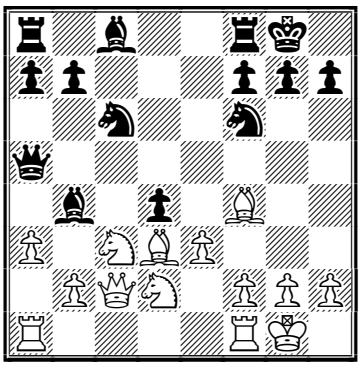
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗f4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 ♗xc5 8.a3 ♘c6 9.♕c2 ♕a5 (D)



10.♘d2
10.0-0-0 leads to very complicated play.

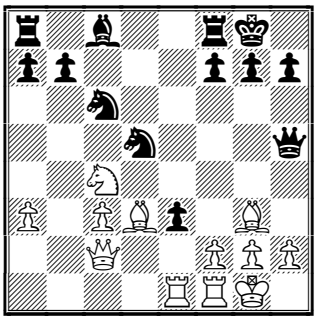
10...♗b4!?
10...♗e7 is the alternative way.

11.cxd5 exd5 12.♗d3 d4 13.0-0 (D)



13...♗xc3
13...dxc3?! is dubious because of 14.axb4 ♕xb4 15.bxc3±

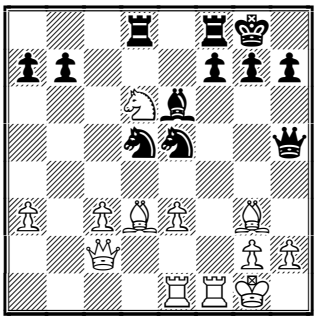
14.♘c4 ♕h5 15.bxc3 ♘d5 16.♗g3 dxe3 17.♖ae1!? (D)



17...♗e6
17...exf2+?! is suspicious, since after 18.♖xf2 White seizes a strong initiative by ♖e4−h4.

18.fxe3 ♖ad8 19.♘d6
19.e4 ♘de7∞ was acceptable for Black.

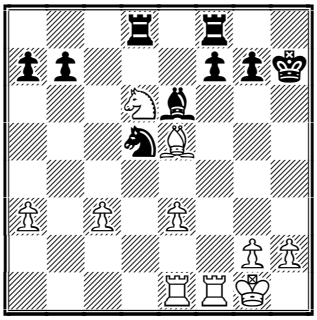
19...♘e5 (D)



20.♗xh7+!?
Strangely enough, this move has never been played before! In the game Tukmakov − Lputian, Tilburg 1994 White got nothing after 20.♗f5 ♖xd6 21.♗xe5 ♖dd8 22.e4 ♘e7∞; 20.♘xb7!? Looks more interesting. In

the game Kortschnoi − Lutz, Zurich 1999 White achieved better chances after 20...♘xd3 21.♕xd3 ♖d7 22.♘d6±

20...♕xh7 21.♕xh7+ ♔xh7 22.♗xe5 (D)



White has gained an extra pawn but his pawn structure is far from perfect and so his task is not so easy.

22...f6

22...♖d7!? deserved attention, with play on the light squares.

23.e4!

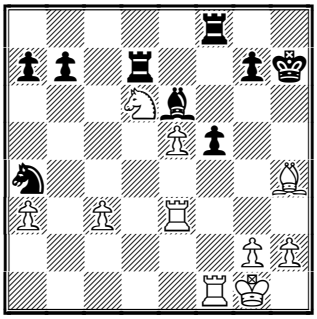
Very good!

23...♘b6

23...fxe5 24.♖xf8 ♖xf8 25.exd5 ♗xd5 26.♖xe5± seemed to be in White's favour. **24.♗g3 ♘a4 25.e5 f5**

In case of 25...fxe5 26.♖xf8 ♖xf8 27.♘xb7 White exchanges all his weak pawns. However, after the text Black's problems do not look easier.

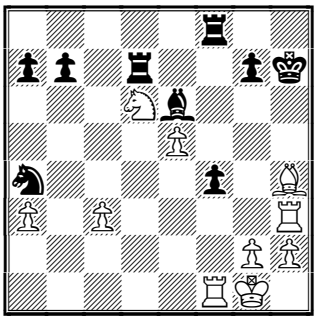
26.♗h4 ♖d7 27.♖e3± (D)



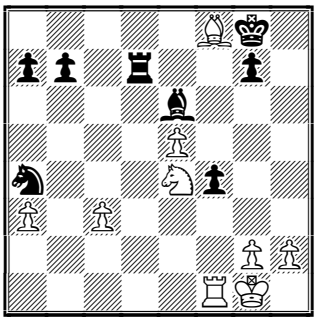
27...f4

Black doesn't want to allow the Rook to go to h3 but this pawn advance forces play in White's favour. Something like 27...♖c7!? deserved attention.

28.♖ef3 ♗d5 29.♖h3 ♗e6 (D)



30.♗e7+! ♗xh3 31.♗xf8 ♗e6 32.♘e4!? ♔g8 (D)



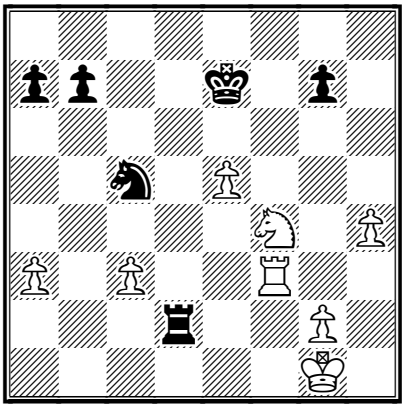
33.♘g5!

Veselin is playing excellently − don't forget this is blindfold play!

33...♔xf8 34.♘xe6+ ♔e7 35.♘xf4 ♖d2

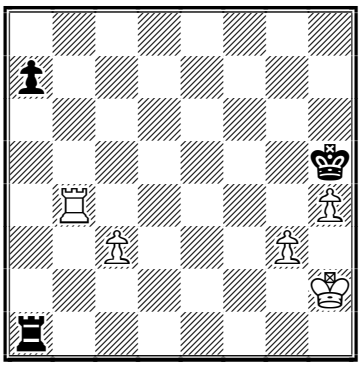
The pawn was untouchable: 35...♘xc3? 36.♘g6+ ♔d8 37.♖f8+ ♔c7 38.e6+−

36.♖f3 ♘c5 37.h4+− (D)



White already has two extra pawns which should be enough for the win.

37...♘e6 38.♔h2 ♖a2 39.♘xe6 ♔xe6 40.♖g3 ♔f7 41.e6+! ♔xe6 42.♖xg7 ♖xa3 43.♖xb7 ♔f5 44.♖b5+ ♔g4 45.♖b4+ ♔h5 46.g3 ♖a1 (D)

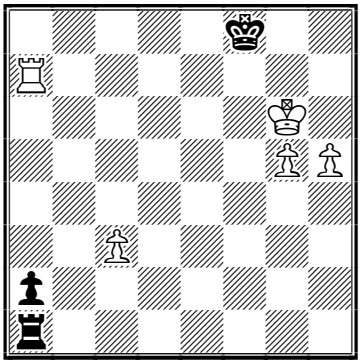


Black tries to use his last trump card − the passed a−pawn − but it is easily refuted. In case of 46...♖xc3 47.♖a4 the a−pawn had no importance.

47.♔h3 a5 48.g4+ ♔h6 49.♖b6+ ♔g7 50.h5 a4 51.♖a6 a3 52.♔h4 a2 53.♔g5

The king hides from checks, the game is over.

53...♔h7 54.♖a7+ ♔g8 55.♔g6 ♔f8 56.g5 (D)



Black resigned. Bravo, Veselin! **1-0.**

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chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CT-134, 20 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Editorial

by Alexander Baburin

I would like to remind our readers that the **Cannes Festival** will start tomorrow and that you still have some time to enter our **Cannes Quiz**, with a chance to win a quality Gambit clock. Simply send us 3 names - two winners and one other player, who will make it (in your opinion) to the semi-final. As some of our readers correctly pointed out, there will be no # 3 in the tournament. Thus, you have better chances of winning now! The deadline for your entries is 13:00 London time on the 21st of March. Please mark your message 'Cannes Quiz' and send it to ababurin@iol.ie.

At the moment we are renewing subscriptions for many of our readers and we are very pleased with the renewal rate. However, it would help us a lot if those readers, who changed their e-mail addresses with which they initially subscribed to CT, inform me about their **old and new addresses**. Otherwise communicating with our readers (even to inform them about their subscription is up for renewal) could be a problem - when we have only the old address, which may be no longer valid in some cases. Please address such e-mails to ababurin@iol.ie. We will appreciate your help! Thank you.

Yesterday's defeat to Veselin Topalov on the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco** gave a great boost to **Vladimir Kramnik** – today he smashed Alexey Shirov twice and caught the leader. On the other hand, after his glorious win over Kramnik, **Veselin Topalov** was not himself today and was beaten by Jeroen Piket.

Vishy Anand and **Peter Leko** beat their opponents, Boris Gelfand and Ljubomir Ljubojevic respectively, and also joined the leaders so 4 players are heading the field with 5½ points.

Results of the 4rd day (rapid/blindfold)
Topalov – Piket **0:1 ½:½**
Gelfand – Anand **½:½ 0:1**
Ljuboejevic – Leko **½:½ 0:1**
Shirov – Kramnik **0:1 0:1**
Ivanchuk – Karpov **½:½ ½:½**
Almasi – Van Wely **½:½ ½:½**

Rapid standings:
1-2. Anand, Kramnik – 3 points
3-5. Topalov, Gelfand, Leko – 2½
6. Shirov – 2
7-11. Piket, Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov, Van Wely – 1½
12. Ljubojevic – 1

Blindfold standings:
1-3. Leko, Topalov, Ljubojevic – 3
4-6. Anand, Kramnik, Piket – 2½
7-10. Shirov Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov – 1½
11. Van Wely – 1
12. Gelfand – ½

Overall standings:
1-4. Topalov, Kramnik, Anand, Leko – 5½ out of 8
5-6. Piket, Ljubojevic – 4
7. Shirov – 3½
8-11. Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Karpov, Almasi – 2½
12. Van Wely – 2½

GM **Robert Kempinski** strengthened his lead in the **Polish Championship** – after 3 rounds he still has a perfect score! IM **Lukasz Cyborowski** is clear second, half a point behind.

Kempinski – Kuczynski **1:0**

Gdanski – Macieja **½:½**
Socko – Cyborowski **0:1**
Krasenkow – Bartel **1:0**
Grabarczyk – Urban 1**:0**
Markowski – Jaracz (unf.)
Blehm – Gajewski **1:0**

There were no decisive games on the top boards in the 5th Round in the **Bad Woerishofen** open tournament. There are already 8 leaders with 4½ points.

Some results of the 5th Round:
Martinovic – Graf-Nenashev **½:½**
Filippov – Aleksandrov **½:½**
Epishin – Farago **½:½**
Krizsany – Sokolov **½:½**
Glek – Naumkin **1:0**
Levin – Senff **1:0**
Sprenger – Naiditsch **1:0**
Rahls – Simutowe **0:1**

Top boards of the 6th Round:
Graf-Nenashev (4½) – Levin (4½)
Simutowe (4½) – Filippov (4½)
Aleksandrov (4½) – Martinovic (4½)
Sprenger (4½) – Glek (4½)

A 8 category round robin tournament is underway in **Evry**, France. After 5 rounds ELO-favourite GM **Andrey Shchekachev** (Russia) and IM **Alexey Chernushevich** (Belorussia) are leading with 4 points.

Tomorrow the **World Cup of Rapid Chess** begins in **Cannes**, France. Let us remind you the list of participants, which are divided into two groups:

Group A:
1.Garry Kasparov RUS
2. Evgney Bareev RUS
3. Peter Svidler RUS
4. Alexander Grischuk RUS
5. Judit Polgar HUN
6. Joel Lautier FRA
7. Boris Gulko USA
8. Christian Bauer FRA

Group B:
1. Michael Adams ENG
2. Alexander Morozevich RUS
3. Mikhail Gurevich BEL
4. Rustam Kasimdzhanov UZB
5. Ye Jiangchuan CHN
6. Vladislav Tkachiev FRA
7. Etienne Bacrot FRA
8. Hichem Hamdouchi MAR

The top four finishers in each group will go on to a second group, an all-play-all phase. Then there will be a semi-final phase and the top two will play in the final. The time control is 50 moves in 25 minutes followed by 10 seconds a move after that.

The pairings for the 1st Round:
Group A:
Kasparov – Bareev
Grischuk – Gulko
Bauer – Svidler
Lautier – Polgar

Group B:
Gurevich – Ye
Bacrot – Adams
Tkachiev – Hamdouchi
Kasymdzhanov – Morozevich

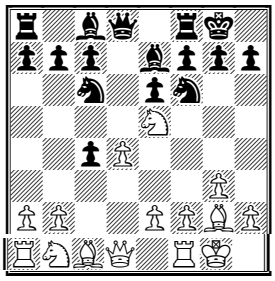
The ***Chess Today*** staff will keep a close eye on this event and provide reports by **GM Alex Baburin** who is in Cannes as Alexander Morozevich's second.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

B. Gelfand (2720) – V. Anand (2830)
Amber 2001 Monaco (4), 20.03.2001
E05
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 ♗e7 5.♘f3 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.♘e5 ♘c6! (D)

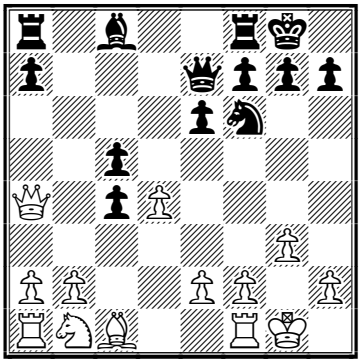


The best reply according to theory. Black is trying to develop all his pieces as quickly as possible, despite the break−up of his pawn structure on the queenside.

8.♗xc6

The alternative 8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.♗xc6 (or 9.♘a3 ♗xa3 10.bxa3 ♘d5) 9...♖b8 10.♘c3 ♗b7 11.♗xb7 ♖xb7 is known to be acceptable for Black.

8...bxc6 9.♘xc6 ♕e8 10.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 11.♕a4 c5 (D)



11...e5 is another way.

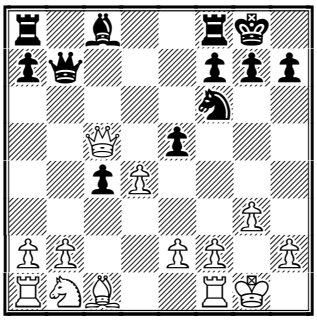
12.♕a3

A rare continuation. After the more common 12.♕xc4 cxd4 13.♕xd4 e5 14.♕h4 White has slight chances to realise his extra pawn because of his lag in development and weakened kingside. Boris Gelfand has already played this position: 14...♕e6!? (14...♖b8 15.b3 ♖d8 16.♗g5± Gelfand − Timoshchenko, Norilsk 1987) 15.♘c3 ♗b7 16.e4 ♖fc8 17.f3 ♕b6+ 18.♖f2 h6!? 19.♔g2 ♖d8∞ and Black obtained excellent compensation for the pawn, Gelfand − Aseev, Klaipeda 1988.

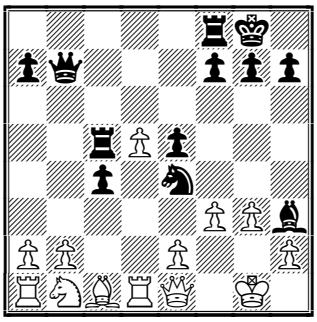
12...♕b7!?

An interesting novelty. In the game J.Horvath − Bauer, Szekszard 1993 Black continued with: 12...e5 13.♕xc5 ♕xc5 14.dxc5 ♗h3 15.♖d1 ♖fc8 and here 16.b4!? deserved attention, for example: (16.♘a3 ♗e6=) 16...a5 (16...cxb3 17.axb3 ♖xc5 18.♖xa7!±) 17.b5 ♖xc5 18.♘c3± with better chances for White.

13.♕xc5 e5! (D)



14.♖d1 ♗h3 15.d5 ♖ac8 16.♕a5 ♘e4 17.f3 ♖c5 18.♕e1 (D)



Very logical play so far.

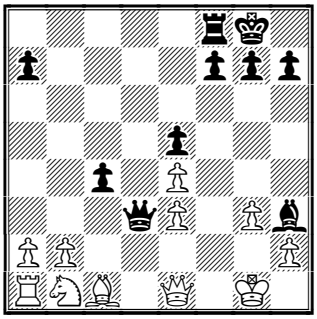
18...♖xd5!?

A creative approach! It is too difficult to conclude if this sacrifice is objectively the best continuation. At least it is very interesting, especially in rapid play. White's play is not so easy now. After the normal 18...♘d6 19.♘c3 (19.e4?! f5↑) 19...f5 20.♗e3 ♖c7 21.♖ab1∞ Black definitely had compensation for the pawn.

19.♖xd5 ♕xd5 20.fxe4 ♕d4+!

Of course, not 20...♕xe4? 21.♕f2 and White has no problems with developing his queenside.

21.e3 ♕d3 (D)

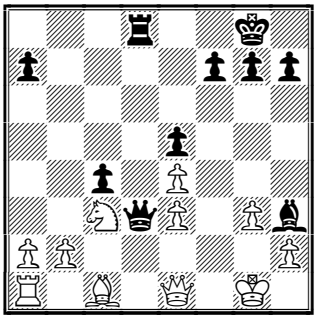


White has a clear extra piece but look at his army! The king is also unsafe.

22.♘c3?

A natural move which actually does not help to develop other queenside pieces. 22.♘d2! looked more to the point, intending to get the Rook into play by a4 and ♖a3. A possible continuation was: 22...♖b8 23.a4 c3 24.bxc3 ♕xc3 25.♗a3 f6!? (or 25...♖d8 26.♘f3 ♕c2 27.♕f2 ♖d1+ 28.♖xd1 ♕xd1+ 29.♘e1 ♕xa4 and it is fairly difficult for White to win this position, especially in rapid chess.)

22...♖d8 (D)

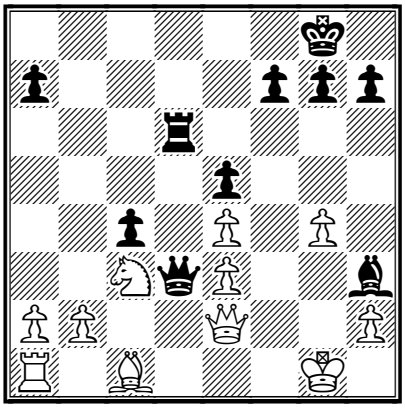


Intending to transfer the Rook to f6. Black already looks overwhelming, but White finds a defence.

23.g4!

The only move to prepare ♕e2! The immediate 23.♕e2?? was impossible as the king is checkmated after the simple 23...♕xe2 24.♘xe2 ♖d1+ 25.♔f2 ♖f1#

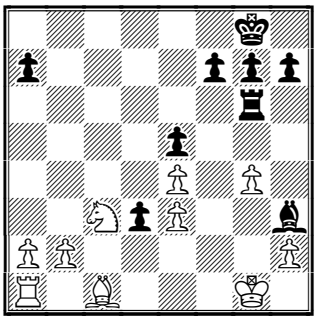
23...♖d6 24.♕e2 (D)



24...♖g6!

Now in the case of 24...♕xe2 25.♘xe2 ♖d1+ 26.♔f2 the king has an escape to g3.

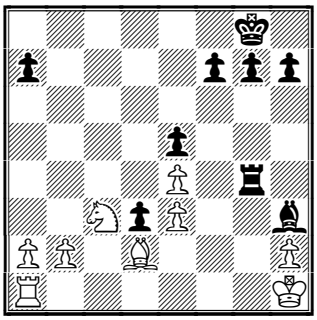
25.♕xd3 cxd3 (D)



26.♗d2

White could have secured an extra piece by 26.♔f2? ♖xg4 27.♔e1 but it is hard to say how he intended to stop Black's kingside pawns after the simple 27...♖g2 28.♖b1 ♖xh2 followed by ..g5 etc.

26...♖xg4+ 27.♔h1 (D)



A draw agreed as Black had nothing more than perpetual check. An interesting game! Of course, not 27.♔f2?? ♖g2+ and White loses a piece. **½-½.**

♘♘♘

American Impressions

by Alexander Baburin

Recently I spent three weeks playing in San Francisco and Las Vegas. Here I would like to share the experience of my short tour, hoping that it will be of interest to ***Chess Today*** (CT) readers, even though both tournaments (Linklater Memorial and US National Open) were already reported in CT.

Nowadays when I go to a chess tournament, I do not hold high expectations. Playing in a strong event is a bit of a lottery and in my opinion there is little point in planning how well you

would do. If things work out fine - great, if not - life will go on anyway. Perhaps this attitude is harder to adapt when playing chess is your main source of income, but fortunately for me, I also do other things - like teaching chess, writing articles, selling chess books and equipment, etc. Thus, I am a mixture of a professional (as far as my training and attitude are concerned) and an amateur, when it comes to the impact which my tournaments results may have on my life.

From the sporting point of view, my results in USA were OK: I tied for 3rd in both the Linklater Memorial and in the US National Open. However, I was deeply dissatisfied with the quality of my play, which lacked freshness and precision. To my horror, I blundered frequently, which has almost never happened to me before. For example, in round 4 of the US National Open I hung a rook, after making the second move (instead of the first!) in the winning line, which I had calculated. Fortunately, my position was so good that I drew anyway. Perhaps my play was affected by the the new FIDE time control, which was used in the Linklater Memorial in San Francisco.

Some CT readers have asked me about my feelings regarding this time control (75 minutes for 40 moves with 30 seconds increments) and I can tell that it is rather tough. If you sink into deep thought a couple of times during the game, you get short of time, which could in turn make you very nervous. I rarely get into time trouble, but I do like to think from time to time and this is something, which one cannot really afford with this time limit. I think that the quality of games will definitely suffer with this new time control and that FIDE should reconsider their decision to impose it. Besides, I don't see how it would attract sponsors - if the game, which lasts 4 hours, is so attractive for media, then sponsors should go just wild over rapid chess! Actually, they don't.

The impact of the new time control on my play was not direct (I did not lose on time), but it made me nervous and after making some mistakes my confidence went down. GMs Yuri Shulman and Alex Wojtkiewicz are very strong players, but in the tournament they played rather dryly, and normally I would have given them a tougher ride. Anyway, the event was enjoyable and produced some interesting games. After IM John Donaldson and GM Alex Yermolinsky moved to San Francisco, the Mechanic's Institute Chess Club became a busy place. Yermo gives weekly lectures (I saw one last year and it was great!), while Donaldson hosts weekly tournaments in the club. During the Linklater Memorial John gave short lectures every day, showing games from the tournament during lunch breaks. That proved to be rather popular. The club has quite an informative Website at: **www.chessclub.org.**

The tournament in Las Vegas was very strong this year, as the entire Chinese team played there, warming up before the USA-China match in Seattle. To do well there, one needs to score 5½ out of 6, which usually means beating at least 2 very strong players. Both winners - Akopian and Zhang Zhong - deserved their success. In particular Akopian, who played a number of good games. There were over 800 participants in Las Vegas. To learn more about the tournament, check out the site at **www.64.com/natlopen.**

Las Vegas is a surreal place - where else you can see pyramids, pirates, Venice, Paris and New York all in the same place? It's also a weird place - where else can you see brides in an 'all you can eat' buffet?! Actually, a lot of people come to Vegas to marry and one of the participants of the National Open - IM Finegold - did just that! He married before round 1 and spent the weekend battling on the chess-board, away from his wife. What does she think of chess

now?! Another curious thing was that in the hall next to our tournament, there was an international table-football championship! I was amused to learn that there were people who played that game professionally. And some of my friends thought that to be a chess pro was strange! :-) Actually, the table-football tournament had many visitors and a close-circuit TV, which was in contrast with the chess event. So, maybe will see yet another sport overtaking chess? I hope not!

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html
www.schach.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.com

Contact information.

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Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-135, 21st March 2001

Chess around the Globe

While the participants of the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco** were having a rest today another super-tournament – the **World Cup of Rapid Chess** – started in **Cannes**, France. Curiously enough, these two big events are taking place a mere 50 kilometres from one another!

Garry Kasparov took the lead in **Group A** with 3½ points out of 4 – only young Alexander Grischuk was lucky to escape. **Judit Polgar** and **Evgeny Bareev** are sharing second place, a full point behind.

Group A standings:
1. Kasparov – 3½ points out of 4
2-3. Polgar, Bareev – 2½
4-5. Grischuk, Lautier – 2
6-7. Svidler, Gulko – 1½
8. Bauer – ½

Mikhail Gurevich became sole leader of the **Group B**.
Michael Adams, **Etienne Bacrot** and **Rustam Kasymdzhanov** are in chase, half a point behind.
The last round was very important – Gurevich beat Kasymdzhanov while Bacrot outplayed Tkachiev.

Group B standings:
1. Gurevich – 3 points out of 4
2-4. Adams, Bacrot, Kasymdzhanov, - 2½
5-6. Morozevich, Tkachiev – 2
7. Hamdouchi – 1
8. Ye Jiangchuan - ½

Tomorrow another 3 rounds will be played. The top four finishers in each group will go on to a second group all-play-all phase. Then there will be a semi-final phase and the top two will play in the final.

There was only one decisive game in the 4th Round of the **Polish Championship** – GM **Mikhail Krasenkow** beat Grzegorz Gajewski and joined IM **Lukasz Cyborowski** at second place with 3 points. The leader is still GM **Robert Kempinski**, half a point ahead.

Urban – Kempinski **½:½**
Cyborowski – Bartel **½:½**
Gajewski – Krasenkow **0:1**
Jaracz – Gdanski **½:½**
Macieja – Grabarczyk **½:½**
Socko – Markowski **½:½**
Kuczynski – Blehm **½:½**

GM **Alexey Aleksandrov** (Belorussia) and **Jan Sprenger** (Germany) took the lead in the **Bad Woerishofen** after the 6th Round – they scored 5½ points. 13 players are in chase.

Some results of the 5th Round:
Graf-Nenashev – Levin **½:½**
Simutowe – Filippov **½:½**
Aleksandrov – Martinovic **1:0**
Sprenger – Glek **1:0**
P.Horvath – Epishin **1:0**

Top boards of the 7th Round:
Aleksandrov (5½) – Sprenger (5½)
Jenni (5) – Graf-Nenashev (5)
Filippov (5) – Roeder (5)
Kupreichik (5) – Sokolov (5)
Simutowe (5) – Pelletier (5)
Levin (5) – Farago (5)
Pirrot (5) – Kekelidze (5)
Glek (4½) – P.Horvath (5)

GM **Andrey Shchekachev** (Russia) became sole leader of the 8 category round robin tournament in **Evry**, France

with 5 points after 6 rounds. IM **Alexey Chernushevich** (Belorussia) is clear second, half a point behind, IM **Cyril Marcelin** (France) is third, a full point behind the leader.

Kings Head Rapidplay

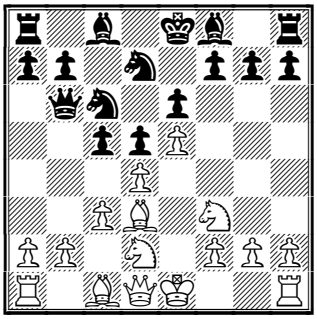
The Kings Head Chess Club is one of the strongest in London and counts CT reader GM Jon Speelman among it's members. On Sunday 1st April at 11.00am the 25th Kings Head Rapidplay tournament takes place in London at the elegant Porchester Hall in W2. Players range from beginners to titled experts. A glance at the previous winners tells the story. **1997** M Adams **1998** K Arkell, M Hebden **1999** D Gormally, B Lalic, A Ledger **2000** B Lalic, J Parker, S Williams. There will be five grading prizes of **£50** each for the best score by players with a grade of **199-175**, **174-150**, **149-125**, **124-100**, and **under 100**. Enter online here. You can also enter on the day from 10.15am.
graham.brown@khcc.org.uk

Annotated Game

Kasparov (2849) − Bareev (2709)

World Cup of Rapid Chess Gp A Cannes FRA (1), 21.03.2001 C05
Notes by GM Ruslan.Scherbakov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3 ♘f6 5.e5 ♘fd7 6.c3 ♘c6 7.♗d3 ♕b6 (D)

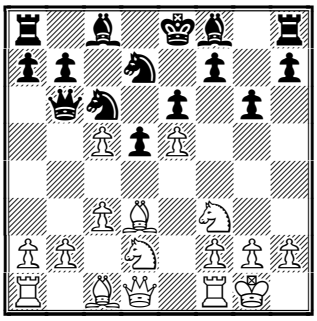


A subtle move order has led to a position where White more often arranges his knights differently: the king's knight goes to e2 while the queen's goes to f3 via d2 − in the variation 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘d2 ♘f6 4. e5 ♘fd7 5. ♗d3 c5 6. c3 ♘c6 7.♘e2 this allows him to fortify the d4 pawn. Here White cannot do this but, as you may notice, he has saved one tempo on the knight manoeuvres and so can continue with quick development.

8.0-0 g6

After 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 ♘xd4 10.♘xd4 ♕xd4 11.♘f3 ♕b6 12.♕a4⩲ White has excellent compensation for the pawn.

9.dxc5



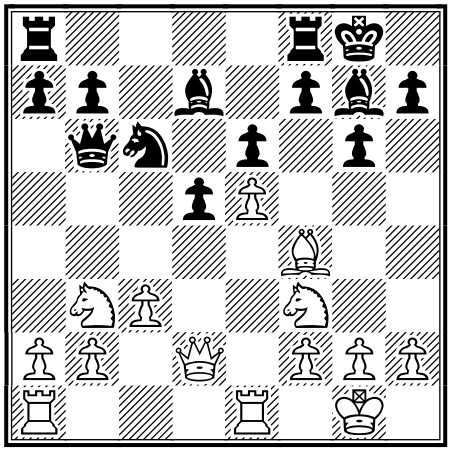
9...♘xc5

9...♕c7!? is played more often and leads to very complicated play.

10.♘b3 ♘xd3 11.♕xd3 ♗g7 12.♗f4 0-0?!

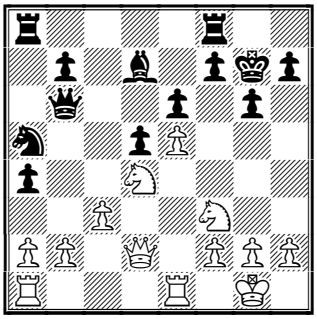
Such routine play allows White to realise his plans without many problems. In the game Tkachiev − Kindermann, Biel 1995 Black treated the position in a rather interesting way: 12...♗d7!? 13.♖fe1 h6 14.h4 0-0-0!? 15.♘bd4 ♘xd4 16.♘xd4 (16.cxd4!?) 16...g5! 17.hxg5 hxg5 18.♗xg5 ♖dg8∞ with mutual chances, here a draw was agreed.

13.♕d2 ♗d7 14.♖fe1 (D)



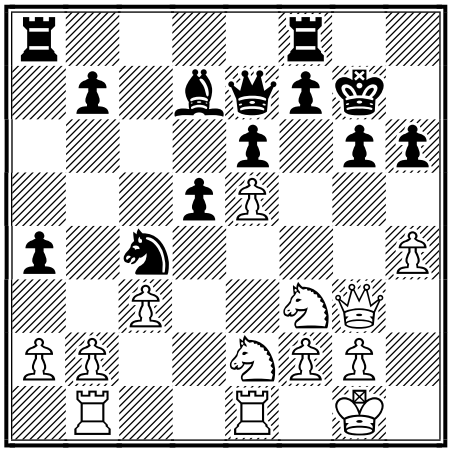
Thanks to the total control over the very important central squares d4 and e5, White can comfortably prepare the kingside attack, not being worried about possible surprises.

14...a5 15.♗h6 a4 16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.♘bd4 ♘a5 (D)



The only area Black can organise counterplay is on the queenside − an undermining move such as ...f7−f6 is pointless as the e5 pawn will be effectively substituted by the knight

18.♖ab1 ♘c4 19.♕f4 ♕d8 20.h4 h6 21.♕g3 ♕e7 22.♘e2! (D)

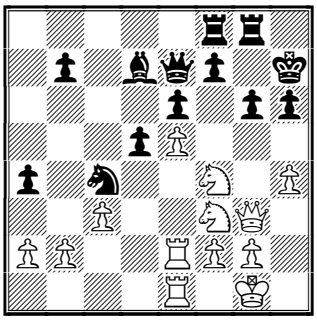


A very strong manoeuvre. The knight was pretty strong on d4 and, of course, you could keep admiring it. The game, however, can be won only by concrete actions. By the way, the blockade cannot be broken now as the other knight keeps an eye on the square d4.

22...♔h7 23.♘f4 ♖g8 24.♖e2! ♖af8?!

A waste of time. Black should have tried to distract White from his main aim by, for example, 24...♗b5!? 25.♘d4 ♗a6 but, of course, it couldn't make his life much easier.

25.♖be1 (D)



The best arrangement for the rooks − White radically prevents a possible ...f7−f6 while his queenside is still under satisfactory protection.

25...♖c8 26.♘h2!

The knight is going to f6.

26...g5 27.♘h5

Okay, we have another one...

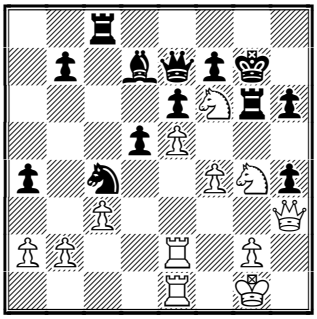
27...gxh4 28.♕h3!

White could have won an exchange instantly by 28.♘f6+?! ♕xf6 29.♕xg8+ ♖xg8 30.exf6 but the ending was much less evil for Black.

28...♖g5 29.♘f6+ ♔g7 30.f4

Again, refusing from 30.♘f3 ♘xe5 (30...♖f5 31.♘xd7 ♕xd7 32.♘xh4+−) 31.♘xe5 ♖xe5 32.♖xe5 ♕xf6±

30...♖g6 31.♘hg4 (D)



31...♖h8?!

Too passive. White's cavalry is incredibly powerful but Black should have probably tried to use the fact it moved away from the center and go for 31...a3!? 32.b3 ♘b2 33.♖e3 ♗c6 34.♕xh4 d4!? 35.cxd4 ♕d8 with some counterplay − at least White should not be too relaxed here.

32.♘h5+! ♔f8 33.♘gf6

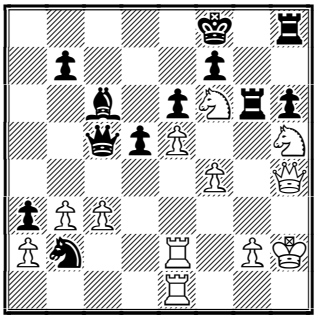
Black's rooks are now completely locked on the kingside.

33...♗c6 34.♕xh4 a3!? 35.b3 ♘b2 36.♔h2!

Kasparov never misses an opportunity to hide the king from possible checks

before the storm.

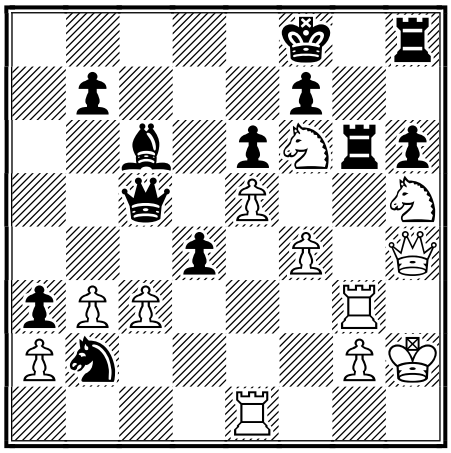
36...♕c5 (D)



37.♖e3?

Tempting but not the best. 37.f5! looked more energetic: 37...♖g5 (37...exf5 38.e6+−) 38.fxe6 fxe6 39.♖f1 (39.♘f4!?) 39...♔e7 40.♘f4+− with numerous threats such as ♘g6 or ♕h3...

37...d4 38.♖g3 (D)



38...dxc3??

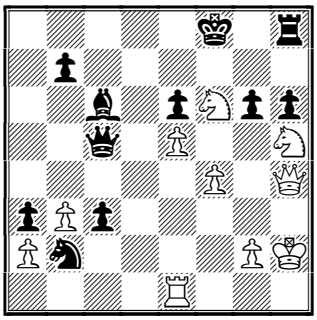
Missing a chance to offer a tougher resistance by 38...♖xg3! 39.♕xg3 ♕xc3! White's task does not seem to be too easy now: 40.♕g7+ ♔e7 41.♖g1 ♖c8

A) there are some alternatives but Black is still fighting, for example: 42.♘h7 ♕b4! (42...d3?? 43.♕f6+ ♔d7 44.♕xf7+ ♔d8 45.♘f8+−) ;

B) or 42.♘g8+ ♖xg8 43.♕xg8 d3 44.♕g7 ♕d4 with a simple idea to promote the d−pawn.;

C) 42.♘g4!? 42...♖f8 (42...♗e8!?) 43.f5!? and White's attack should be winning but anyway it was the chance, especially in rapid play.(43.♘xh6!? d3? 44.♘f5+!! exf5 45.♕f6+ ♔d7 46.e6+) Now White wins instantly.

39.♖xg6 fxg6 (D)



40.♘d7+!

A nice blow.

40...♗xd7 41.♕f6+

Black resigned as he is checkmated on the very next move. A fairly instructive game!

1-0

Recommended sites

chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html
www.schach.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.com
www.khcc.org.uk

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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CT-136, 22nd March 2001

Chess around the Globe

The first qualification stage has just finished in the **World Cup of Rapid Chess** in **Cannes**, France.

Garry Kasparov conclusively won **Group A**. In the last round **Evgeny Bareev** beat Joel Lautier and joined **Alexander Grischuk** in second place. There was a tie-break between Peter Svidler, Judit Polgar and Joel Lautier – **Judit** gave no chance to the guys and took the last qualifing pass!

Group A final standings:
1. Kasparov – 5½ points out of 7
2-3. Bareev, Grischuk – 4
4-6. Svidler, Polgar, Lautier – 3½
7. Gulko – 3
8. Bauer – 1

There was no need for a tie-break in **Group B – Michael Adams** and **Mikhail Gurevich** shared first place, the home players French No.1 **Vladislav Tkachiev** and the French Champion **Etienne Bacrot** shared the other two qualifing places.

Group B final standings:
1-2. Adams, Gurevich – 5 points
3-4. Bacrot, Tkachiev – 4½
5. Kasymdzhanov – 4
6-7. Hamdouchi, Morozevich – 2
8. Ye Jiangchuan – 1

Tomorrow is quarter-finals day.

Viswanathan Anand, **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Veselin Topalov** are heading the field after the 5th day of the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco** – they beat their opponents with the same score 1½:½. Peter Leko lost to Boris Gelfand and fell away from the leaders – he is a full point behind.

Results of the 5th day (rapid/blindfold):
Kramnik – Almasi ½:½ **1:0**
Van Wely – Topalov ½:½ **0:1**
Anand – Ivanchuk **1:0** ½:½
Leko – Gelfand **0:1** ½:½
Karpov – Ljubojevic **1:0** ½:½
Piket – Shirov **1:0 0:1**

Rapid standings:
1. Anand – 4 points out of 5
2-3. Kramnik, Gelfand – 3½
4. Topalov – 3
5-7. Karpov, Leko, Piket – 2½
8-10. Almasi, Shirov, Van Wely – 2
11. Ivanchuk – 1½
12. Ljubojevic – 1

Blindfold standings:
1. Topalov – 4 points out of 5
2-4. Kramnik, Leko, Ljubojevic – 3½
5. Anand – 3
6-7. Piket, Shirov – 2½
8-9. Ivanchuk, Karpov – 2
10. Almasi – 1½
11-12. Gelfand, Van Wely – 1

Overall standings:
1-3. Anand, Kramnik, Topalov – 7
4. Leko – 6
5. Piket – 5
6-9. Gelfand, Karpov, Ljubojevic, Shirov – 4½
10-11. Almasi, Ivanchuk – 3½
12. Van Wely – 3

All the leaders of the **Polish Championship** drew in the 5th Round so the situation is unchanged – GM **Robert Kempinski** is on top with 4 points, half a point ahead of GM **Mihal Krasenkow**

and IM **Lukasz Cyborowski**.

Kempinski – Macieja **½:½**
Krasenkow – Kuczynski **½:½**
Markowski – Cyborowski **½:½**
Gdanski – Socko **½:½**
Grabarczyk – Jaracz **½:½**
Blehm – Urban **1:0**
Bartel – Gajewski **0:1**

Standings after 5th Round:
1. Kempinski – 4
2-3. Krasenkow, Cyborowski – 3½
4-6. Markowski, Gdanski, Blehm – 3 etc.

GM **Victor Kupreichik** (Belorussia) beat Andrey Sokolov in the 7th Round of the strong open tournament in **Bad Woerishofen**, Germany and joined his compatriot GM **Alexey Aleksandrov** and **Jan Sprenger** of Germany, who drew their game – all players now have 6 points. 17 players are in chase.

Some results of the 7th Round:
Aleksandrov – Sprenger **½:½**
Jenni – Graf-Nenashev **½:½**
Filippov – Roeder **½:½**
Kupreichik – Sokolov **1:0**
Simutowe – Pelletier **½:½**
Levin – Farago **½:½**
Glek – P.Horvath **1:0**

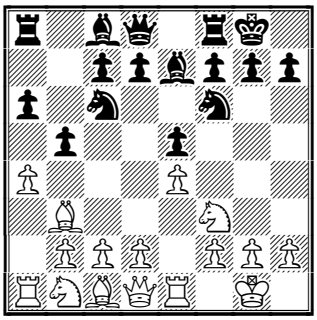
Top boards of the 8th Round:
Kupreichik (6) – Aleksandrov (6)
Graf-Nenashev (5½) – Sprenger (6)
Naiditsch (5½) – Filippov (5½)
Jenni (5½) – Glek (5½)
Pelletier (5½) – Kriszany (5½)
Roeder (5½) – Levin (5½)
Farago (5½) – Gutman (5½)
Naumkin (5½) – Varga (5½)
Kekelidze (5½) – Simutowe (5½)
Pirrot (5½) – Doettling (5½)

GM **Andrey Shchekachev** (Russia) is dominating the round robin tournament in **Evry**, France – after 7 rounds he has 6 points. Yet, IM **Alexey Chernushevich** (Belorussia) is not so far behind with 5½ points. IMs **Cyril Marcelin** and **Emmanuel Bricard** (both of France) are sharing third place, already one and a half point behind the leader.

Annotated Game

Anand,V (283) – Ivanchuk,V (277)
Amber2001 Monaco (5), 22.03.2001
C88
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.a4



This is the so called "Anti−Marshall" − recently the top players do not often allow Black to sacrifice a pawn after 8. c3 d5.

8...b4

As you may remember, in CT−115 we considered the excellent win by Garry Kasparov vs. Peter Leko in the recently finished super−tournament in Linares: 8...♗b7 9.d3 d6 10.♘bd2 ♘a5 11.♗a2 c5 12.♘f1 ♖e8 13.♘e3 h6 14.♗d2 and so on.

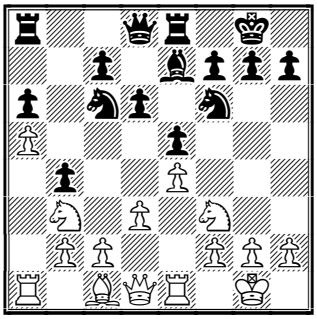
9.d3 d6 10.a5

10.♘bd2 ♘a5 11.♗a2 c5 is another possibility

10...♗e6

Both 10...♗g4 ; and 10...♖b8 are the alternatives.

11.♘bd2 ♗xb3 12.♘xb3 ♖e8



13.h3!?

This modest move is a novelty. After the immediate 13.d4 exd4 14.♘fxd4 ♘xd4 15.♘xd4 ♗f8 Black obtained more or less acceptable play in the games Szabo − Unzicker, Bern 1987 and Short − I.Sokolov, Linares 1995.

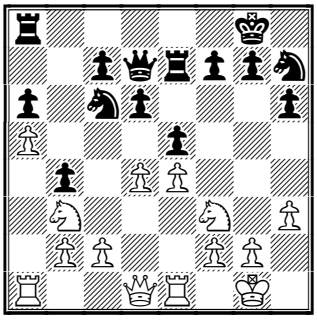
13...♕d7 14.♗g5 h6 15.♗h4

White postponed the advance d3−d4 trying to realise it in more favourable situation.

15...♘h7

Unfortunately it was impossible to play more actively: 15...♘h5? failed to 16.♘xe5!

16.♗xe7 ♖xe7 17.d4

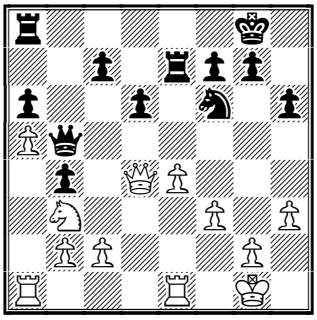


There was no reason to delay this advance anymore.

17...exd4 18.♘fxd4 ♘f6 19.f3 ♘xd4 20.♕xd4

20.♘xd4 could be well met by 20...d5! and in case of 21.e5 Black has 21...♖ae8!∞

20...♕b5

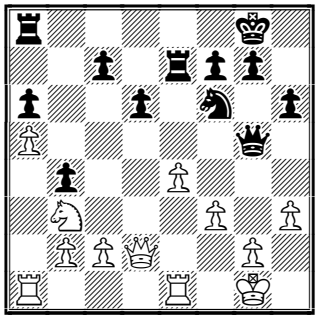


Generally Black's position looks quite acceptable but , as we'll see, his play is not so easy.

21.♕d3! ♕g5

The ending after 21...♕xd3?! 22.cxd3 is difficult. White will create strong pressure on the c−file and if Black puts his pawn on c5 then d3−d4 will be annoying.; 21...♕e5 22.♘d4± was also better for White.

22.♕d2!

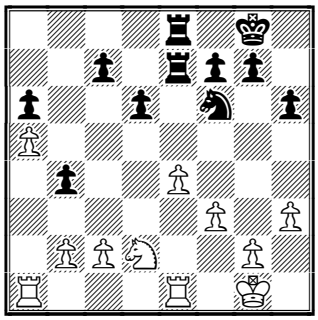


Insisting on the ending.

22...♕xd2

22...♕b5!? deserved attention although after 23.♘d4 ♕c5 24.♔h1± White kept better chances, but Black can reasonably hope for counterplay − ...♘h5 would be one of the ideas.

23.♘xd2 ♖ae8



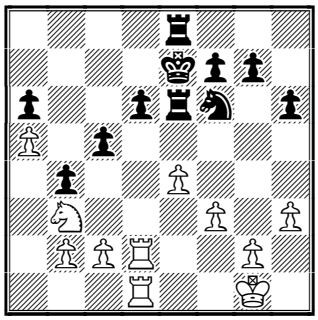
24.♘b3!

A good prophylactic move. Of course, not 24.♘c4? due to 24...d5!

24...c5?!

It was probably better to refrain from this move for a while. 24...d5?! was dubious due to 25.♘c5 and Black cannot give up the a6 pawn.; Something like 24...♖e5!? deserved attention.

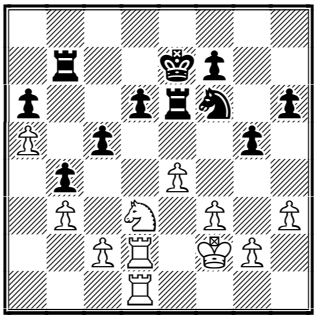
25.♖ed1 ♖e6 26.♖d2 ♔f8 27.♖ad1 ♔e7



28.♘c1!

The advance ...d6−d5 is prevented − it's time to improve the knight.

28...♖d8 29.♘d3 ♖d7 30.b3 g5 31.♔f2 ♖b7



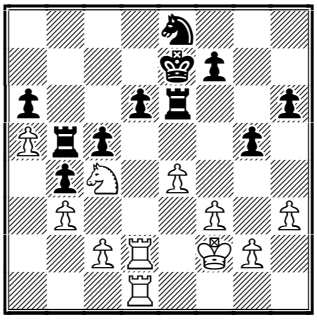
32.♘b2!

Simple, but effective play − Black is already in trouble!

32...♖b5?!

Of course, the rook has nothing to do here but it was already difficult to give Black better advice. Something like 32...h5 33.♘c4 ♖d7 looked more stubborn but after 34.♘e3 the only way to secure the d6−pawn is 34...♘e8 − I think there is no need to say that White has a huge advantage here.

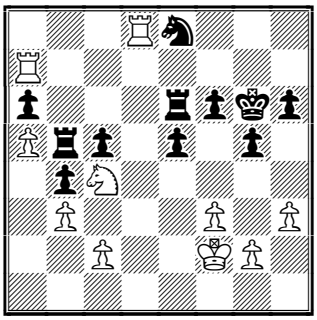
33.♘c4 ♘e8



34.e5!

Securing a decisive penetration.

34...dxe5 35.♖d7+ ♔f6 36.♖a7 ♔g6 37.♖dd7 f6 38.♖d8+−

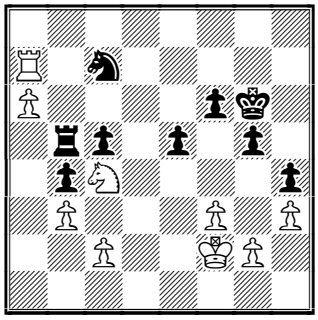


Black is a pawn up but look at his pieces − none of them can move!

38...h5 39.♖da8 h4 40.♖xa6

The a−pawn can hardly be stopped.

40...♘c7 41.♖xe6 ♘xe6 42.a6 ♘c7 43.♖a7



Black resigned Extraordinary technique by Vishy Anand! **1-0**

Recommended sites.

chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-137, 23 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

The 70th birthday of the evergreen **Victor Kortchnoi** is celebrated in his native **St. Petersburg** today. A 4 time Soviet Champion, he was forced to leave his homeland in 1976 after being severely treated by "the system". Today he is Swiss citizen.

photo taken from http://www.clubkasparov.ru

It is hard to believe, but Kortchnoi started playing chess at 14 or so, becoming a grandmaster at the relative late age of 25, and yet during the last 30 years has competed for the World Championship! We remember his highly dramatic World Title battle against Karpov in Baguio, 1978 where Kortchnoi managed to come back from the score of 2:5 to 5:5, only to eventually lose the next game and so the whole event. Having reached the age of 45, he excelled all players of the same age, but a new generation was already coming along. Korchnoi is well-known in the chess community as a man of principles and a highly uncompromising playing style which has yet to diminnish with the years!

Happy birthday to you, Victor Lvovich and the best wishes from ***Chess Today*!**

By the way, yesterday, **Victor Korchnoi** came in second a strong rapid tournament in **St.Petersburg**, which was dedicated to his jubilee! The double round robin event was decisively won by Olympic Champion **Konstantin Sakaev.** He scored 8 points in 10 games. Korchnoi shared second place with invited guest – 3 time Olympic Champion **Sergey Rublevsky** but has managed to beat him twice!

Today was a quarter-final day of the **World Cup of Rapid Chess** in **Cannes**, France.

Tkachiev – Kasparov
½:½ 0:1

The No.1 player in the world, **Garry Kasparov** clearly outplayed the French No.1 player Vladislav Tkachiev in a second game with the white pieces. We would like to feature this example of masterful play in the game section.

Bacrot – Bareev
0:1, ½:½

Evgeny Bareev showed excellent technique in the first game and scored a win with the black pieces. In the second game he found himself under some pressure but achieved the desired draw without much problem.

Polgar – Adams
½:½, 1:0

The decisive game was very dramatic. Michael Adams quickly achieved the position which looked totally winning for him. No one believed Judit would be able to survive, but she has managed to confuse her cool-blooded opponent by some tricky moves. Eventually Michael lost the thread of the game and blundered. **Judit Polgar** advances to the semi-final!

Grischuk – Gurevich
0:1, 1:0, 0:1, 1:0, 0:1, 1:0, 1:0

This was an incredible match! Three times Mikhail Gurevich took the lead and three times young Alexander Grischuk managed to fight back – twice with the

black pieces! Finally Alexander won the first game. But it was a sudden death game – Mikhail was not given a chance to equalise the score. Our congratulations to Alexander on well deserved pass to the semi-final!

Tomorrow will be the semi-finals day.

Vishy Anand took the lead in **Monaco**, in the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament – today he beat Zoltan Almasi with the score of 1½:½. **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Veselin Topalov** drew their matches and now share second place half a point behind.

Results of the 6th day (rapid/blindfold):
Piket – Anand ½:½ **0:1**
Kramnik – Karpov ½:½ ½:½
Topalov – Gelfand ½:½ ½:½
Van Wely – Leko ½:½ ½:½
Shirov – Ivanchuk ½:½ ½:½
Almasi – Ljubojevic **0:1 1:0**

Rapid standings:
1. Anand – 4½ points out of 6
2-3. Gelfand, Kramnik – 4
4. Topalov – 3½
5-7. Karpov, Leko, Piket – 3
8-9. Shirov, Van Wely – 2½
10-12. Almasi, Ivanchuk, Ljubojevic – 2

Blindfold standings:
1. Topalov – 4½ points out of 6
2-4. Anand, Kramnik, Leko – 4
5. Ljubojevic – 3½
6. Shirov – 3
7-10. Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov, Piket – 2½
11-12. Gelfand, Van Wely – 1½

Overall standings:
1. Anand - 8½ points out of 12
2-3. Kramnik, Topalov – 8
4. Leko – 7
5-9. Gelfand, Karpov, Ljubojevic, Piket, Shirov – 5½
10-11. Almasi, Ivanchuk – 4½
12. Van Wely – 4

In the 6th Round of the **58th Polish Championship** GM **Michal Krasenkow** and IM **Lukasz Cyborowski** caught the leader – GM **Robert Kempinski**. All three players are now on top with 4½ points.
Results of the 6th Round:
Jaracz – Kempinski ½:½
Urban – Krasenkow **0:1**
Cyborowski – Gajewski **1:0**
Markowski – Gdanski ½:½

Macieja – Blehm **0:1**
Kuczynski – Bartel ½:½
Socko – Grabarczyk ½:½

Standings after the 6th Round:
1-3. Krasenkow, Kempinski, Cyborowski – 4½
4. Blehm – 4
5-6. Markowski, Gdanski – 3½ etc.

GM **Alexey Aleksandrov** of Byelorussia won the strong open tournament in **Bad Woerishofen**, Germany with the excellent result of 8 points out of 9! It's curious that in the last two rounds he won both games with the black pieces. IM **Amon Simutowe** of Zambia did the same (!) and came clear second with 7½ points – a great success for the young African player! GM **Valery Filippov** of Russia was third on tie-break.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Kupreichik – Aleksandrov **0:1**
Graf-Nenashev – Sprenger ½:½
Naiditsch – Filippov ½:½
Jenni – Glek **0:1**
Farago – Gutman **1:0**
Kekelidze – Simutowe **0:1**
Pirrot – Doettling **0:1**

Some results of the last 9th Round:
Glek (6½) – Aleksandrov (7) **0:1**
Doettling (6½) – Farago (6½) ½:½
Sprenger (6½) – Simutowe (6½) **0:1**
Khurtsidze (6) – Graf-Nenashev (6) **0:1**
Filippov (6) – Kupreichik (6) **1:0**
Epishin (6) – Roeder (6) ½:½
S.Martinovic (6) – A.Sokolov (6) **1:0** etc.

We are lucky to have all the results because the last round started in the morning.

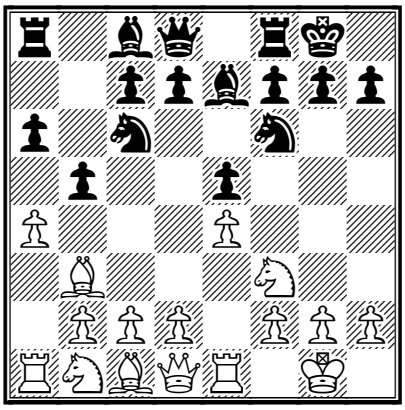
GM **Andrey Shchekachev** (Russia) is continuing to crush all opponents in the round robin tournament in **Evry**, France He has already scored 7 points out of 8 and has almost secured a total victory. IM **Alexey Chernushevich** (Belorussia) is clear second, a full point behind with excellent chances to get a GM-norm – in the last round he needs to make a draw with the white pieces against GM Petar Velikov (Bulgaria). The home IMs – **Cyril Marcelin** and **Emmanuel Bricard** are sharing third place, already two and a half points behind the leader

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

G.Kasparov (2849) −V.Tkachiev (2671)
Cannes, France, 23.03.2001 C88
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.a4 (D)



It looks like the "Anti−Marschall" causes a serious headache for Black these days.

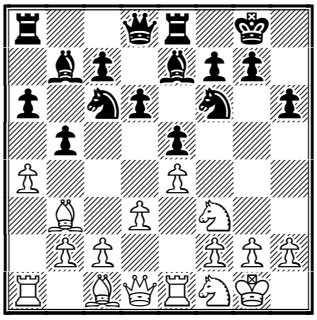
8...♗b7

Just yesterday, in the CT-136, we looked at a confident win by Vishy Anand over Vassily Ivanchuk after 8...b4 9.d3 d6 10.a5 and so on.

9.d3 d6 10.♘bd2 ♖e8

Not so long ago in Linares Peter Leko tried 10...♘a5 against Kasparov but was smashed after 11.♗a2 c5 12.♘f1 ♖e8 13.♘e3 h6 14.♗d2 and so on − please refer to CT-115 for details.

11.♘f1 h6 (D)



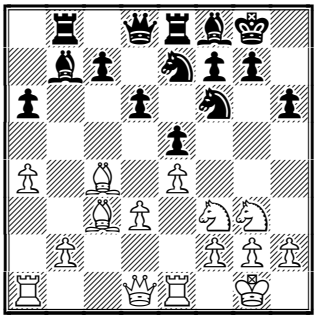
12.♗d2!?

A new continuation which looks fairly promising. White used to play 12.♘e3 here. Let's take a look at the game which Kasparov possibly concentrated on while searching for new ideas: 12...♗f8 13.♗d2 ♘e7 14.c4 c6 15.♕c2 ♘g6 16.♘f5 bxc4 17.♗xc4 d5 18.♗a2 c5 19.♘g3 c4 20.exd5 cxd3 21.♕xd3 ♗xd5 22.♗xd5 ♕xd5 23.♕xd5 ♘xd5 24.♖ad1 and here a draw was agreed in the game Svidler − Adams, Pula EU−chT 1997 − curiously enough both these players are participating in Cannes.

12...♗f8 13.c4

White's idea becomes clear − Black cannot defend the pawn on b5 by ...c7−c6 so he has to react in a different way.

13...bxc4 14.♗xc4 ♖b8 15.♗c3 ♘e7 16.♘g3↑ (D)



So White has achieved a clear advantage compared to the Svidler − Adams game.

16...♘g6

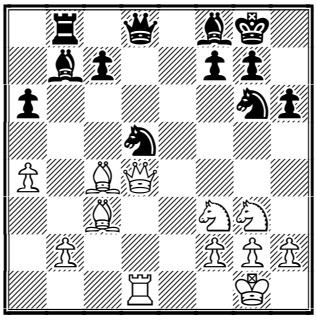
Now 16...c6?! had no effect and could be even met by 17.♗xe5! dxe5

18.♘xe5

17.d4 exd4 18.♕xd4 d5

If Black refrains from this pawn advance by 18...c5 19.♕d3 ♘f4!? 20.♕d2 ♘g6 then White keeps certain advantage after the simple 21.♕c2

19.exd5 ♖xe1+ 20.♖xe1 ♘xd5 21.♖d1 (D)



21...♘gf4!?

Vladislav preferred to play aggressively. In case of the passive 21...c6 White had some possibilities to increase pressure, for example: 22.♘f5 (22.♘h5!?↑ is maybe even stronger) 22...♕c8! 23.♗xd5!? (23.♘d6 c5□ 24.♕d3 ♗xd6 25.♗xd5 ♗xd5 26.♕xd5 is also clearly better for White.) 23...♕xf5 24.♕a7 ♕c8 25.♗c4↑ with a clear advantage.

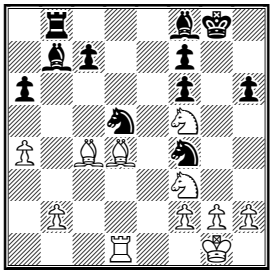
22.♘f5 ♕f6!

The only way − otherwise Black could be smashed quickly. For example, 22...♘e6? was losing instantly due to 23.♘xh6+!

23.♕xf6

23.♕xf4?! ♘xf4 24.♗xf6 gxf6 25.♖d7 was not as strong as it looked due to the simple 25...♗xf3 26.gxf3 ♖xb2⇄ with sufficient counterplay.

23...gxf6 24.♗d4 (D)



Despite the coming end game, White still keeps the initiative − his pieces are very active. Yet, his task is still not so easy.

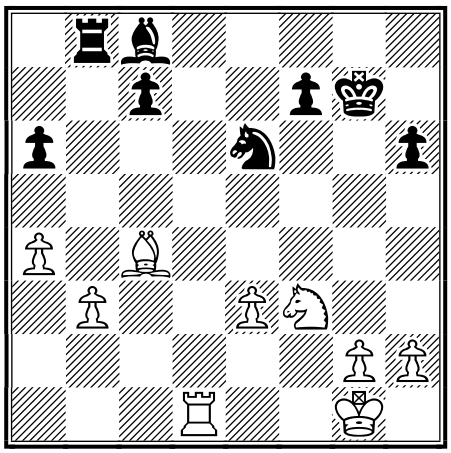
24...♗c8

The knight on f5 is rather annoying, so Black pushes it back. 24...c5!? was worthy of consideration. After 25.♗e3 ♘xe3 26.fxe3 ♘h3+!? (26...♘e6 27.b3±) 27.♔f1!? ♗xf3 28.gxf3 ♖xb2 29.♖d7↑ White had a strong initiative but Black's counterplay should not be underestimated as well.

25.♘e3 ♘xe3?!

25...♘b6!? seemed to be more tenacious. The text move makes White's task easier.

26.fxe3 ♘e6 27.♗xf6 ♗g7 28.♗xg7 ♔xg7 29.b3+− (D)



29...♔f6?

29...♘c5!? was more interesting, intending to play ...♗e6. The Rook's penetration 30.♖d8 was not decisive due to 30...♘b7

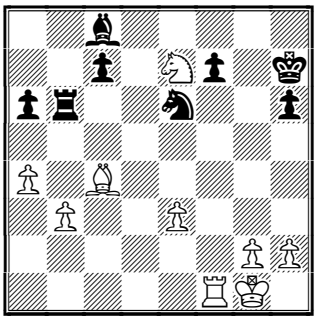
30.♖f1!

Now the game is over.

30...♖b6 31.♘d4+ ♔g7

31...♔g6 wasn't losing so quickly but the outcome was unavoidable anyway. For example, 32.a5 ♖d6 (32...♖b4 33.♘c6) 33.♗d3+ ♔h5 34.♖f5+ ♔g6 (34...♘g5 35.♖c5) 35.♖f2+ ♔h5 36.g4+! ♔g5 (36...♔xg4 37.♖g2+ with a quick checkmate) 37.h4+! etc.

32.♘f5+ ♔h7 33.♘e7 (D)



Black resigned. It is very difficult to play against Garry Kasparov with the black pieces... **1-0**

Photo by Alexander Baburin

Cannes Impressions

by Alexander Baburin

We know that there are different sides to chess - its artistic beauty, its struggle of strategic ideas, sporting fight and so on. Chess can also be an interesting ***show***, combining all these elements, even though at some expense to its depth. I am talking about rapid chess here. There is a common view that chess has been doing rather poorly in the media compared to many other sports and that FIDE's decision to impose a shorter time control has aimed mainly at changing that. In my opinion FIDE should not change the time limit; it could be marketing rapid chess instead, which would be more media-friendly than 4-hour games anyway. Thus, when I heard that there would be a strong rapid chess tournament in Cannes, supported by FIDE, I had little hesitation before booking my tickets. The fact that I would meet with Alexander Morozevich, with whom I've been working with for the past year, was an added bonus.

The organisers - the **French Chess Federation**, headed by Jean-Claude Loubatiere, has done a good job in attracting a very strong field of players and hosting the event at a very prestigious venue - the Palais des Festivals in Cannes. There are two giant screens on the stage. One of them shows one game in close-up view, while the other shows 4 games from one of the two groups, with the actual times on the clocks. The screen with a close-up view usually shows Kasparov's game or a game of one of the French players participating here (Lautier, Bacrot or Bauer). The other screen switches between games from different groups from time to time, though I wish it did it more frequently. Personally, I would prefer to see all 8 games at the same time, as players are clearly visible anyway. This will be different, however, in the quarter-finals, as there will be only 4 games to show. Still, sometimes technology lets us down and there is no movement on the screen, even though the games are obviously developing. I feel that the organisers could have done better here - by testing both software and hardware before the event.

There are usually about 100 people in the audience, which is a bit disappointing, as the hall could easily host a lot more. Spectators can listen to commentary on head-sets, which is a nice feature, also used in Frankfurt, another top rapid chess event.

I have noticed that the event has not attracted much media attention so far, which is, alas, typical even for top-class chess events in the past decade. Well, let's hope that the future will change that somehow!

Now to the tournament itself. Group 'A' seems to be stronger than group 'B'. In

group 'A' Kasparov qualified easily, playing rather impressively again. He beat Bareev and Polgar and could probably win against Svidler as well. The only game, which did not go smoothly for Kasparov, was against Alexander Grischuk, who held him to a draw easily. Grischuk played very solidly and practically, qualifying without much of a problem too. It was harder for Bareev, particularly after he lost to Gulko with White. Yet, Bareev fought well and advanced to the quarter-final by beating Joel Lautier with Black in round 7. Both Bareev and Gulko helped Kramnik in his London match last year and it's curious that Garry went very hard on them: 2-0!
In the evening of day two Polgar, Lautier and Svidler played a 2-round tie-break tournament. Polgar looked much better in blitz and took the last qualifying place. She played blitz very practically, gambling when necessary - this way she won a dubious-looking position against Peter Svidler in round 2.

In group 'B' Alexander Morozevich was out of form and played very poorly. On day 2 he lost all his games. It all started with a crazy game vs. Mikhail Gurevich, where Morozevich was lost (a rook down), being also short of time (about 40 seconds vs. Gurevich's 6 minutes or so). Then Mikhail went astray and Alexander was even winning, but did not handle the position well. First, he should have repeated the position once, gaining 2 moves. Then Rh3 was a horrible blunder (something like Rh6 would have been better), which allowed ...Ra1+!, Kxa1 Kg2+ and ...Rxh3! Mikhail missed that and the position became slightly better for White. When Alexander failed to make his 51st move - he thought that he received 10 additional seconds for making move 50, but it was not the case - he still had to make his 51st move to get extra time. That defeat must have upset him a lot, as in the remaining two games he was unrecognisable.

Gurevich and Adams qualified with ease, while Bacrot and Tkachiev had to work harder to go to the quarter-finals, competing with Rustam Kasimdzhanov.

I understand that FIDE plans to hold a press-conference here, which should be interesting. As I also plan a trip to Monaco to see another great tournament, which is in progress, you should get more news from me soon. And with such great weather we have here, I feel it was certainly a good idea to come to Cannes!

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html
www.schach.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CT-138, 24th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

This week is rich in birthdays – yesterday was the 70th birthday of Victor Korchnoi – today << **Vassily Smyslov** celebrates his **80th birthday**! The **7th World Champion**, 10 times Olympic Champion – there is no need to enumerate all his great victories…

A very versatile person, Smyslov had a difficult choice between chess and music in the early 50's – chess started to play a dominant role but the music was not forgotten – he remained a very good singer and musician. Smyslov is also well known for his love of chess composition – he created more than 50 studies and some of them are excellent. He wrote many books, everybody knows his (jointly with Grigory Levenfish) very instructive "Rook Endings". Smyslov made a great contribution to chess theory – his new systems and ideas in the Ruy Lopez, Slav, Grunfeld Defences are well known.

His playing style was very harmonious, with an important role for intuition; his endgame technique was more than just perfect… This all probably helped him to keep his strength for so many years - we remember his unique achievement – Smyslov managed to qualify to the Final Candidates Match in 1984 at the age of 63! It was a crowning triumph to 40 years on the Chess Olympus. He offered suitable resistance but eventually let 3 times younger (!) Garry Kasparov pass to his historic matches with Anatoly Karpov…

Of course, Smyslov did not stop playing after that – chess just became more fun Happy birthday to you, Vassily Vassilievich, we wish you a good health and longevity!

Let's take a look at the tournaments. Today was semi-finals day at the ***World Cup of Rapid Chess*** in **Cannes**, France.

Grischuk – Kasparov
½:½ ½:½ 0:1 0:1

Alexander Grischuk offered good resistance against Garry Kasparov, he managed to hold on and postpone the duel to a tiebreak in which he was lucky yesterday. However, in blitz the Number One gave no chance to his young opponent. **Garry Kasparov** goes to the Final.

Polgar – Bareev
0:1 ½:½

Evgeny Bareev repeated yesterday's course of events – he easily won the first game with the black pieces and had no problems in the second game. Today Judit had no chance to confuse him with her tricky and sometimes gambling play – the way she was playing through the tournament…

Today we are looking forward to see an interesting Final: **Kasparov - Bareev**

There was another event in Cannes – the ***Girls Stars Trophy*** – a match between 16 year old **Alexandra Kosteniuk** (Russia) and 15 year old **Marie Sebag** (France).

The more experienced Alexandra has won with the score **3½:2½** - her task wasn't easy as she got back from 0:2!

Both World Champions – **Vishy Anand** and **Vladimir Kramnik** are sharing the lead in the 10th ***Amber*** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco**. Veselin Topalov is clear third, half a point behind.

Results of the 7th day (rapid/blindfold):
Anand – Almasi **½:½ ½:½**
Gelfand – Kramnik **½:½ 0:1**
Ivanchuk – Topalov **½:½ ½:½**
Leko – Piket **1:0 0:1**
Karpov – Shirov **½:½ 0:1**
Ljubojevic – Van Wely **0:1 1:0**

Rapid standings:
1. Anand – 5 points out of 7
2-3. Gelfand, Kramnik – 4½
4-5. Leko, Topalov – 4
6-7. Karpov, Van Wely – 3½
8-9. Piket, Shirov – 3
10-11. Almasi, Ivanchuk – 2½
12. Ljubojevic – 2
Blindfold standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 5 out of 7
3-4. Anand, Ljubojevic – 4½
5-6. Leko, Shirov – 4
7. Piket – 3½
8-9. Almasi, Ivanchuk – 3
10. Karpov – 2½
11-12. Gelfand, Van Wely – 1½

Overall standings:
1-2. Anand, Kramnik - 9½ out of 14
3. Topalov – 9
4. Leko – 8
5. Shirov – 7
6-7. Ljubojevic, Piket – 6½
8-9. Gelfand, Karpov – 6
10-11. Almasi, Ivanchuk – 5½
12. Van Wely – 5

The Polish No.1 GM **Michal Krasenkow** took the lead in the ***58th Polish Championship*** - in the 7th Round he beat Bartlomiej Macieja. GM **Robert Kempinski** and IM **Lukasz Cyborowski** drew their games – they are sharing second place half a point behind.

Results of the 7th Round:
Krasenkow – Macieja **1:0**
Kempinski – Socko **½:½**
Gdanski – Cyborowski **½:½**
Blehm – Jaracz **½:½**
Grabarczyk – Markowski **½:½**
Gajewski – Kuczynski **1:0**
Bartel – Urban **0:1**

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Krasenkow - 5½ points
2-3. Kempinski, Cyborowski – 5
4. Blehm – 4½
5-6. Markowski, Gdanski – 3½ etc.

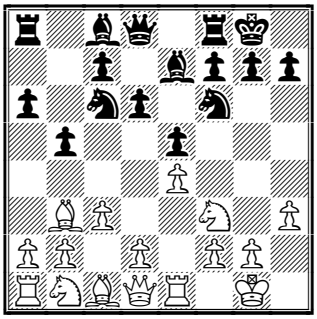
GM **Andrey Shchekachev** of Russia became a winner of the round robin tournament in ***Evry***, France with an outstanding result – 8 points out of 9! IM **Alexey Chernushevich** of Byelorussia came second with 6½ points and scored a GM-norm, IM **Emmanuel Bricard** of France was clear third.
Our congratulations to all the winners!

Annotated Game

Kasparov,G − Grischuk,A
Cannes tiebreak Cannes, France, 24.03.2001 C96
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

5 minutes does not seem a great deal of time. Yet, it is quite enough for great players to create a good game − they are playing on finger tips!

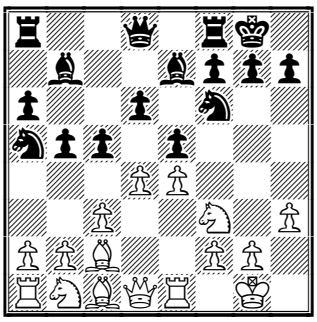
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3



9...♘a5

By the way, here are Vassily Smyslov's inventions: 9...h6 − Smyslov's system; and 9...♘d7 10.d4 ♗f6

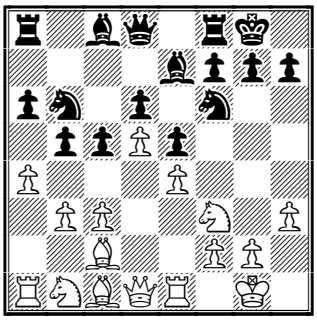
10.♗c2 c5 11.d4 ♗b7



12.d5

Good decision for the moment. The more common 12.♘bd2 makes play more concrete: 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 exd4!? (Grischuk's pet line) 14.♘xd4 ♖e8 15.b3 (15.b4 ♘c6 16.♘xc6 ♗xc6 17.♗b2 ♘d7 18.♗b3 ♗f6 19.♗xf6 ♘xf6 with a good play, Polgar − Grischuk, Linares 2001) 15...♗f8 16.♗b2 g6 17.♕f3 ♗g7 18.♖ad1 ♖c8 19.♗b1 ♘c6 20.♘xc6 ♗xc6 21.♗d4 ♖e6 22.b4 ♕e7 23.♕a3 , here in the game Svidler − Grischuk, Cannes 2001 a draw was agreed. It was the last game of the qualification tournament − Grischuk went to the quarter−final while Svidler left the tournament having beaten Polgar on the tie−break.

12...♘c4 13.a4 ♘b6 14.b3 ♗c8



15.♕e2

A rare move. Alexander Grischuk is familiar with the more common 15.♘bd2 − take a look at the latest example from his practice: 15...g6 16.♘f1 ♘h5 17.♗d3 ♗d7 18.♗h6 ♖e8 19.axb5 axb5 20.♕e2 ♖xa1 21.♖xa1 ♗f8 22.♗g5 ♘f4 23.♗xf4 exf4 24.♗xb5 ♘xd5 25.♗xd7 ♕xd7 26.♕d3 ♘f6 27.♘1d2 ♕b7 28.♖e1 ♘d7 and here a draw was agreed, Luther − Grischuk, Istanbul (ol) 2000.

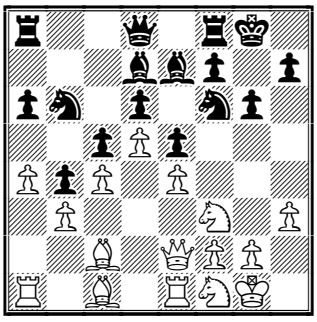
15...♗d7 16.c4!?

A new continuation. After 16.♗e3 Black achieved very good play with the rather tricky 16...bxa4!? 17.bxa4 ♕e8 18.a5 ♗b5! 19.♗d3 ♗xd3 20.♕xd3 ♕b5! 21.♕c2 ♘c4⇄ , Anka − Romanishin, Balatonbereny 1995.

16...b4

16...bxc4?! 17.bxc4 granted White excellent prospects on the queenside − the knight on b6 was misplaced whether Black plays a6−a5 or not.

17.♘bd2 g6 18.♘f1±



A fair amount of the board is closed and White's advantage does not look too great− but Black should be very precise in the kingside defence. The problems seem to be higher in rapid chess − to defend is more difficult than to attack and any inaccuracy may become the last one...

18...♘h5 19.g4!

19.♗h6 ♖e8 20.♕e3 ♗f8 was quite acceptable for Black.

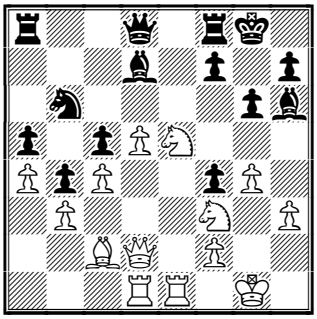
19...♘f4 20.♗xf4 exf4 21.♕d2 21...♗f6

The immediate 21...♗g5!? was interesting.

22.e5 dxe5 23.♘xe5 ♗g5

It was worth thinking about simplifiying the position with 23...♗xe5 24.♖xe5 ♕f6 25.♖ae1 ♖ae8 with chances to hold on.

24.♘h2! a5 25.♘hf3 ♗h6 26.♖ad1

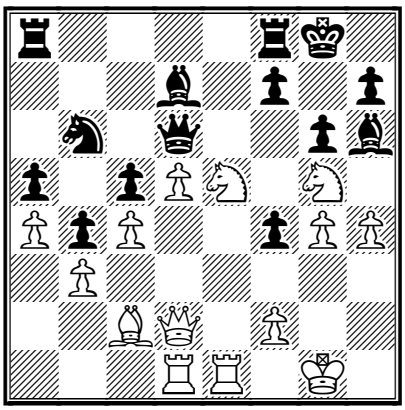


Concentrating all the forces in the main area.

26...♕f6

26...♖e8!? deserved attention.

27.h4! ♕d6 28.♘g5!

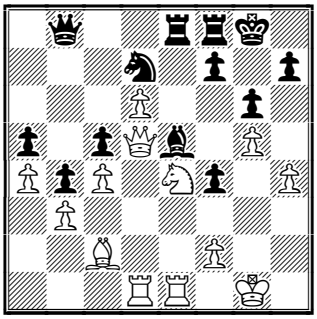


A very strong manoeuvre.

28...♖ae8 29.♘xd7 ♘xd7 30.♘e4 ♕b8 31.g5 ♗g7 32.d6 ♗e5

Black is defending excellently!

33.♕d5



33...♕b6?

33...♗d4! seemed to be stronger, intending to play ...♖e5. It was tempting to sacrifice an exchange by 34.♖xd4 cxd4 35.♕xd4 but things may become complicated.

34.h5!?

Continuing the attack. White could already have won the pawn by 34.♘xc5!? ♕xc5 35.♕xc5 ♘xc5 36.d7 ♘xd7 37.♖xd7

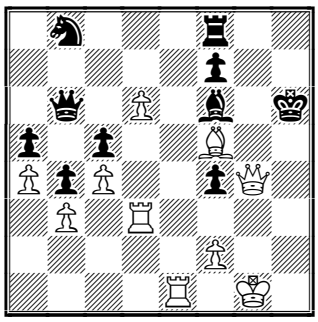
34...♖e6?

34...♕d8 was more tenacious, taking control over f6. However, Black already had no time at this moment.

35.hxg6 hxg6 36.♘f6+! ♖xf6 37.gxf6 ♗xf6 38.♗xg6+−

The game is over.

38...♔g7 39.♗f5 ♘b8 40.♕g2+ ♔h6 41.♕h3+ ♔g5 42.♕g4+ ♔h6 43.♖d3



Black resigned. A very good game, and not just in blitz terms. **1-0**

Cannes Impressions

by Alexander Baburin: - I must admit that I find it very difficult to write about a chess event while it is still in progress. There is so much going on that it is much more tempting to simply enjoy the moment and write about it later. Yet, our daily publication implies up-to-date information, so I feel obliged to let you know about the tournament in Cannes as I see it.

The quarter-finals saw the matches Tkachiev-Kasparov, Grischuk-Gurevich, Bacrot-Bareev and Polgar-Adams (I named the players who played the first game White, first). The match between group 'A' and 'B' ended in a crashing defeat (0-4!) for the latter, which confirmed what I wrote about the relative strength of the groups earlier. However, it was not an easy ride for those who qualified from group 'A' (Kasparov, Grischuk, Bareev and Polgar). Kasparov and Bareev did not have any real problems - Tkachiev lost with Black,

while Bacrot played very poorly vs. Bareev in game one and lost rook ending which looked like an easy draw. But Polgar was very lucky to win her second game vs. Adams, whose position was overwhelming after the opening. Mickey is an exceptionally calm player, but he completely lost the thread in that game.

The match Grischuk-Gurevich was most exiting as it featured a young rising star battling against a very experienced and tough opponent. The match had a distinctive scenario: Mikhail Gurevich won the first game with Black, had the advantage with White, but lost. That pattern later repeated in games 3 & 4 and 5 & 6. The quality of play in blitz was rather lower, but that was clearly because of the pressure - it is one thing to come up with great ideas while sitting in the spectator's chair … but quite another to do it on stage. By the way, during the tournament I often found that I came up with the moves, which the player later played on the stage - only I came with them much faster! Maybe I should give the organisers a hint of who might be a good addition to the tournament next year?! :-) Back to the Grischuk-Gurevich match, Mikhail probably made a mistake when he chose Black and 5 minutes vs. 6 in the sudden-death game. As Alexander Morozevich observed, what is so good about having a draw in your favour, when there have not been any draws in the match?! Good point - Alexander Grischuk certainly made good use of his extra time. I would like to add that there were about 200-300 people watching the semi-finals.

Today the game Grischuk-Kasparov was quickly drawn after Garry showed yet another interesting novelty in his beloved Najdorf. Grischuk decided to be cautious and forced a repetition. Polgar played horribly again, but Bareev was much less forgiving than Adams the previous game - Evgeny scored a quick victory on the Black side of the French Defence. The playing hall is almost full today, with about 400 people attending the event. There are many kids among them, who hunt the top players for signatures outside the Palais des Festivals. Sometime of these kids even confuse me for somebody with 2650+ rating! I eagerly sign their programs and magazines, but what a disappointment awaits them when they grow up!

In game 2 Grischuk was under pressure, but held on. Most GMs here (me included) thought that exchanging the rooks in the ending was very risky and potentially fatal for Grischuk, but later Garry blundered in simple tactics and a draw became inevitable. Now the match will be decided in blitz. I am sure that Kasparov plays blitz better than Grischuk, but the latter has better nerves and this could be decisive. So, it is time to wrap it up - the blitz starts very soon!

Recommended sites.

www.echecs.asso.fr
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.com

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Chess around the Globe

Garry Kasparov has just won the ***World Cup of Rapid Chess***, which finished today in **Cannes**, France. In the Final match he outplayed Evgeny Bareev with the score **1½:½** - our congratulations!

Bareev - Kasparov
½:½ 0:1

In the first game Kasparov quickly equalised in the English Opening. The second game was quiet, Bareev was defending a slightly worse position, exchanging all the pieces little by little and finally a pawn ending arose on the board! It looked drawn but the problems still remained and possibly made Evgeny collapse – he lost on time in a position which probably was not losing at that time!

Once again, Kasparov outshone his opponents, but both semi-finalists – **Judit Polgar** and **Alexander Grischuk**, and, of course, **Evgeny Bareev**, deserve high praise as well.

On the 8th day of the ***Amber*** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco Veselin Topalov** beat Anatoly Karpov twice and joined both World Champions – **Vishy Anand** and **Vladimir Kramnik** – all three leaders are already two points ahead of Peter Leko, who is clear forth.
Alexey Shirov was lucky in the blindfold game against Boris Gelfand – Boris was trying to realise the rook ending with two extra pawns "h" and "f", but suddenly exposed his rook to its counterpart…

Results of the 8th day (rapid/blindfold):
Shirov-Gelfand **½:½ 1:0**
Kramnik-Ivanchuk **1:0 ½:½**
Topalov-Karpov **1:0 1:0**
Van Wely-Anand **½:½ 0:1**
Almasi-Leko **1:0 0:1**
Piket-Ljubojevic **1:0 ½:½**

Rapid standings:
1-2. Anand, Kramnik – 5½ out of 7
3-4. Topalov, Gelfand – 5
5-7. Leko, Piket, Van Wely – 4
8-10. Almasi, Karpov, Shirov, – 3½
11. Ivanchuk – 2½
12. Ljubojevic – 2

Blindfold standings:
1. Topalov – 6 out of 8
2. Anand, Kramnik – 5½
3-5. Leko, Ljubojevic, Shirov – 5
6. Piket – 4
7. Ivanchuk – 3½
8. Almasi – 3
9. Karpov – 2½
11-12. Gelfand, Van Wely – 1½

Overall standings:
1-3. Anand, Kramnik, Topalov - 11 points out of 14
4. Leko – 9
5. Shirov – 8½
6. Piket – 8
7. Ljubojevic – 7
8-9. Almasi, Gelfand – 6½
10-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov – 6
12. Van Wely – 5½

A big chess Festival has just started in ***Bled***, **Slovenia**. The program consists of 6 different tournaments – two opens, two junior and two VIP events but we'll be more focusing more on the main open tournament where 120 players are

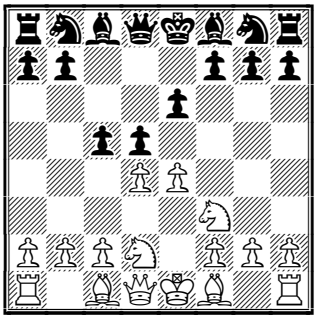
participating – there are 8 GMs – Valery Filippov, Evgeny Sveshnikov, Vladimir Malakhov, Zdenko Kozul, Suat Atalik, Peter Wells, Drazen Sermek, Robert Zelcic and 11 IMs among them.
After the 1st Round 55 players won their games.

Today is a rest day at the ***58th Polish Championship***. After 7 rounds GM **Michal Krasenkow** is sole leader with 5½ points, GM **Robert Kempinski** and IM **Lukasz Cyborowski** are sharing second place half a point behind.

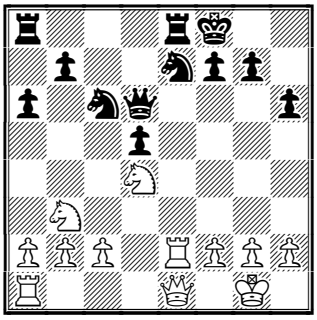
Annotated Game

Kasparov (2849) − Bareev (2709)
World Cup of Rapid Chess Final Cannes FRA (1.2), 25.03.2001 C09
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

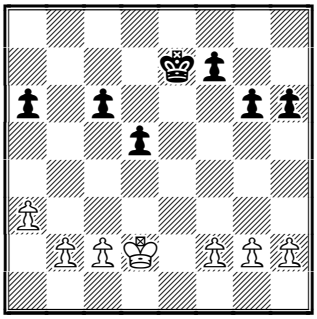
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3



4...♘c6
You may remember, Evgeny was eliminated in the first round of the qualification group after 4...♘f6 5.e5 ♘fd7 6.c3 ♘c6 7.♗d3 ♕b6 8.0-0 and so on − see CT-135 for details.
5.exd5 exd5 6.♗b5 ♗d6 7.dxc5 ♗xc5 8.0-0 ♘ge7 9.♘b3 ♗d6 10.♖e1 0-0
Due to an isolated d5−pawn Black has got a worse but acceptable position − he has no problems with development and the pawn is not in danger.
11.♗g5 h6
Black usually prefers to begin with 11...♗g4
12.♗h4 ♗g4 13.♗g3
An exchange of dark−squared bishops is in White's favour as it reduces Black's possible activity on the kingside and secures total control over the important square in front of the isolated pawn.
13...a6 14.♗e2 ♖e8 15.♘fd4 ♗xe2 16.♖xe2 ♕d7 17.♗xd6 ♕xd6 18.♕e1 ♔f8



The king is always an important defender.
19.♕c3 ♘xd4 20.♘xd4 ♘c6 21.♖ae1
White could have won the d5 pawn by 21.♘f5?! ♕g6 22.♕c5+ ♔g8 23.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 24.♕xd5 but it gave Black the advantage in development which would be effectively used by 24...♕f6 25.♕d7 ♖e2
21...♕b4
Black is consistently carrying out the main strategic course: an accurate simplifying of the position.
22.♕xb4+ ♘xb4 23.♔f1 ♖xe2 24.♔xe2 ♖e8+ 25.♔d2 ♖xe1 26.♔xe1 ♔e7
Of course, the pawn is immune 26...♘xa2?? 27.c3 closing the trap.
27.♔d2 g6 28.a3 ♘c6 29.♘xc6+ bxc6

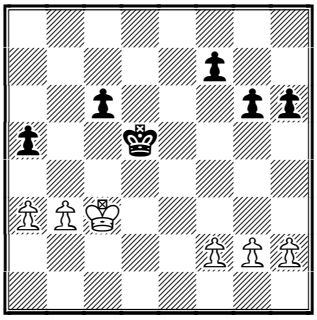


The position cannot be simplified anymore − it is a pawn ending on the board! Still, Black has to play precisely to hold the balance − the queenside pawn structure favours White very much. It should be mentioned that Bareev was under severe time pressure − his task was fairly difficult.
30.c4! ♔d6 31.♔d3 a5 32.b3 ♔c5

33.cxd5 ♔xd5

Of course, not 33...cxd5?? as it allows White to distract Black's king from the kingside − 34.b4+ axb4 35.axb4+ ♔xb4 36.♔d4+− collecting all the pawns soon.

34.♔c3



Waiting moves play an important role in such positions.

34...h5 35.h4 f6 36.♔d3 g5 37.g3

A typical breakthrough − 37.g4?? − did not work here as after 37...gxh4-+ White's king is a little too far away to stop Black's pawn.

37...gxh4 38.gxh4 f5 39.f3

39.f4 ♔c5 40.♔c3 ♔d5 promised nothing for White.

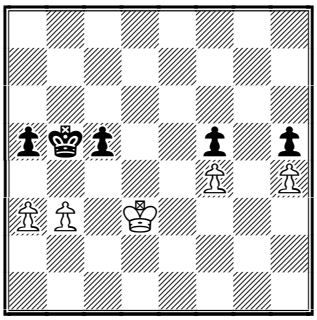
39...♔e5 40.♔e3 40...c5

40...f4+!? deserved serious attention. At first sight this pawn would be in danger but actually White's king cannot press out his Black's counterpart: 41.♔d3 c5! (not 41...♔d5? 42.b4 and Black's king will be forced to step back soon − 42...a4 43.♔c3 c5 44.b5 etc.) 42.♔c4 ♔d6 and after 43.♔b5 (43.a4 ♔c6) the advanced position of the f−pawn saves Black: 43...♔d5 44.♔xa5 ♔d4 45.♔b6 ♔e3 46.a4 ♔xf3 47.a5 ♔g3 48.a6 f3 49.a7 f2 50.a8♕ f1♕ and the ending should be drawn.

41.f4+ ♔d6 42.♔d2!

Of course, 42.♔d3? was met by 42...♔d5

42...♔c6 43.♔c3 ♔b5 44.♔d3



We can only guess but it seemed like the problems made Evgeny collapse at this moment and he lost on time! What a dramatic final! **1-0**

However, the position seemed to be not losing yet:

44.♔d3 ♔c6!

(of course, not 44...♔b6? 45.♔c4 ♔c6 46.a4+−; the ending after 44...♔a6? 45.♔c4 ♔b6 46.♔d5 ♔b5 47.♔d6! c4 48.bxc4+ ♔xc4 49.♔e5 a4 50.♔xf5 ♔b3 51.♔g6 ♔xa3 52.f5 ♔b3 53.f6 a3 54.f7 a2 55.f8♕ a1♕ could be hardly saved)

45.♔c4 ♔d6! 46.♔b5 ♔d5 47.♔xa5 ♔e4 48.♔b6

(in case of 48.♔b5 Black promotes the f−pawn with check)

48...♔xf4 49.a4 ♔g3 50.a5 f4 51.a6 f3 52.a7 f2 53.a8♕ f1♕ and we have reached the same queen ending as arose in the line 40. ..f4!? The most likely result here is surely a draw.

Recommended sites.

www.echecs.asso.fr
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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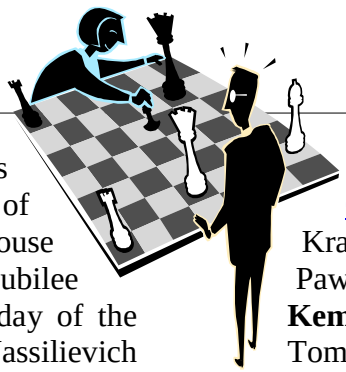
CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

CT-140, 26th March 2001



Chess around the Globe

Today was a big chess day in Moscow. First of all, in the Central House of Chessplayers, there was a jubilee celebration for the 80th birthday of the 7th World Champion Vassily Vassilievich Smyslov. There were many warm words and presents too, of course. Good health and many happy years for you, Vassily Vassilievich and your wife Nadezhda Andreevna!

In the middle of this party Nigel Short and Alexander Khalifman came to congratulate Smyslov. The young (relative to the jubileer!) GMs played for the *FIDE.com Trophy* in Mosfilm – Moscow cinema studio, which made a TV-film about this rapid match (it's a part of FIDE-commerce and Octagon project to promote chess). The first and second games were drawn and Short won the 3rd tiebreaker game. He received a cup from Smyslov and $8000 from the President of FIDE-commerce Artem Tarasov (Khalifman received $7000). Of course Khalifman and Short are very good players. But, for example, the prize-fund of the Women's European Championship - it will be in April in Warsaw - will be 50.000 DM (for about 100 participants). Also there isn't any prize-fund for the junior championships at all. Maybe there is something wrong with FIDE'S financial acumen.

More details about the FIDE.com Trophy on www.fide.com We include these games in our cbv and pgn-files.

Today was a rest day in Monaco. So that you'll not forget about this highly attractive event ☺ we would like to show you a rapid game Kramnik – Ivanchuk from the last, 8th round in our annotated game section.

In the 8th round of 58th Polish Chess Championships Michal Krasenkow lost with Black to Pawel Jaracz. This time **Robert Kempinsky** won with Black against Tomasz Markowski and became sole leader.

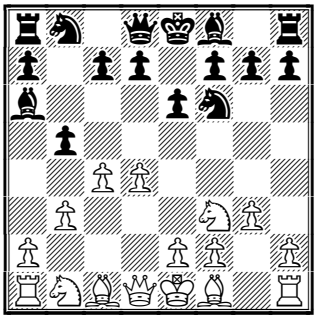
1. Kempinski – 6 points out of 8
2-3. Krasenkow, Cyborowski – 5,5
4. Blehm – 5
5. Gdanski – 4,5
6-7. Markowski, Grabarczyk – 4 etc.

Ten participants have 3 points after the 3rd round of the 22 Bled chess festival. They will play each other in the next round:
Filippov, Valerij - Tratar, Marko
Zelcic, Robert - Kozul, Zdenko
Sveshnikov, Evgeny - Sermek, Drazen
Kos, Toni - Atalik, Suat
Rogulj, Branko - Breder, Dennis

Annotated Game

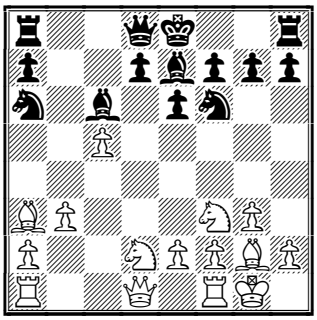
Kramnik (2772) − Ivanchuk (2717)
Amber Rapidplay Monaco MNC (8), 25.03.2001 E15
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3
One of the most solid systems in the very solid by nature Nimzo Indian Defence. It has been played many times in World Chess Championship matches − a sign of quality by itself.
4...♗a6 5.b3 b5!?



Vassily tries to find something less well known. According to my database this move was played for the first time in 1983 by Hungarian GM A. Adorjan. Black wants to exchange his b and c−pawns for White's c and d−pawns and gain a pawn majority in the centre. Of course Black loses out on development after that.

6.cxb5 ♗xb5 7.♗g2 c5 8.0-0 ♗c6 9.♗a3 ♘a6 10.♘bd2 ♗e7 11.dxc5

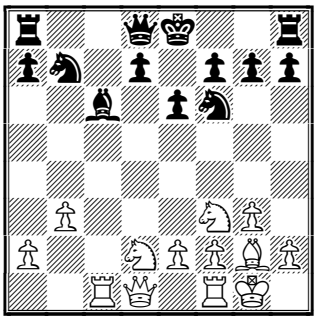


Vladimir plays in a classical manner − he simply develops his pieces and will try to use his extra−tempos.

11...♗xc5

More often Black played 11...♘xc5 and after 12.♖c1 ♘b7 (12...♘a6!?) 13.♗xe7 ♕xe7 its Queen is on e7 instead of d8 (as in this game). But it general it's not so important.

12.♗xc5 ♘xc5 13.♖c1 ♘b7?!



After 13...♘a6 the knight will be placed even more miserably than on b7 − here it protects the weak d6−sqare at least. But interesting was ...; 13...♘ce4!? with the idea 14.♘d4 (14.♘xe4 ♗xe4 15.♕d6 ♕e7) 14...♘xd2!

A) 15.♗xc6 ♘xf1 16.♗xa8 ♕xa8 (16...♘xg3? 17.♗b7+−) 17.♕xf1 0-0

B) 15.♘xc6 15...dxc6 16.♗xc6+ ♔e7 17.♗xa8 ♘xf1

14.e4!

Very interesting pawn sacrifice.

14...0-0

Ivanchuk decided to reject this "gift". In case of 14...♗xe4 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♕d4!? (White can return a pawn with a slight advantage: 16.♘e5 d5 17.♗xe4 dxe4 18.♕g4 0-0 19.♕xe4) 16...♘f6 17.♘e5 d5 18.♕a4+ White has an unpleasant initiative.(18.♕b4!?) ; 14...♘xe4? 15.♖xc6! ♘xd2 16.♘xd2 dxc6 17.♗xc6+ ♔f8 18.♗xb7+−

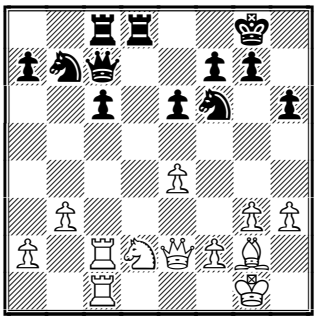
15.♘d4!

As Zigbert Tarrasch said: "One piece placed badly − all the game is bad!". The b7 Knight isn't only bad by itself, it also stops the c6 Bishop retreating. As a result Black will have a weak pawn on the c−file.

15...♖c8

If 15...♘a5!? with idea 16.b4 ♕b6! then White has simply 16.Nxc6! Nxc6 17.e5 etc.

16.♘xc6 dxc6 17.♕e2 ♕c7 18.♖c2 ♖fd8 19.♖fc1 h6 20.h3



Vladimir doesn't hurry. Black hasn't any real counterplay. If Black plays e6−e5 (to restrict the g2 Bishop), than White will play h3−h4 and Bh3, and Black will have problems with protecting the c6−pawn.

20...♘d7 21.♘f3 ♕b6 22.e5!

At the best moment! Now the d7 knight can't go to d5 via f6 or b6.

22...c5 23.♘d2 ♘a5 24.♘c4

White is free of prejudice. The "bad" knight can take the d4−square so it has to be exchanged.

24...♘xc4 25.♖xc4 ♕c7

After 25...♕a6 White also can play 26.b4 , for example: 26...cxb4 27.♖xc8 ♕xe2 28.♖xd8+ ♘f8 29.♖cc8+−; And in case of 25...♕b8 26.f4 Black's position isn't a piece of cake.

26.b4!

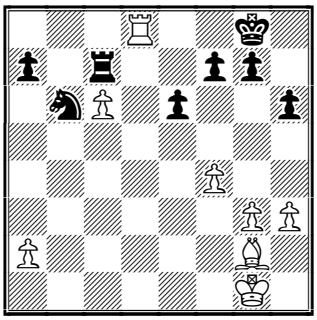
I suspect Black's idea was 26.f4 ♘b6

27.♖xc5 ♕xc5+ 28.♖xc5 ♖xc5 with a defensive position.

26...♕xe5 27.♕xe5 ♘xe5 28.♖xc5 ♖xc5 29.bxc5!

When Kramnik has a passed pawn he is twice as dangerous as usual! Another very important point (apart from the passed pawn.) − in this open position the Bishop is stronger than the Knight.

29...♖c8 30.c6 ♖c7 31.f4 ♘d7 32.♖d1 ♘b6 33.♖d8+!



Very precise play. Now the Black King has to go away from the passed pawn.

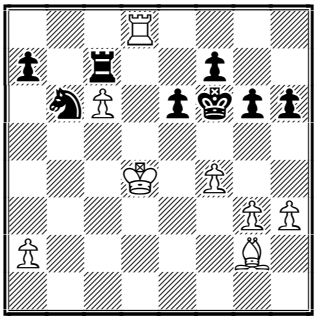
33...♔h7 34.♔f2

First of all White has to activate his King. Too early was 34.♖b8 in view of 34...♘d5!

34...g6

Not 34...♘d5? 35.♗xd5 exd5 36.♖d6 and the King will take the d5−pawn.

35.♔e3 ♔g7 36.♔d4 ♔f6



37.♖e8!

To cut the King off from the passed pawn. Much worse was 37.♖b8 ♔e7 38.♖b7 ♔d6

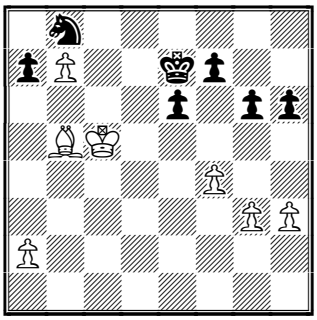
37...♖e7

After 37...♖c8 38.♖xc8 ♘xc8 39.c7!

A) 39...♘d6!? 40.a4! (40.♗b7? ♘b5+!) ;

B) 39...♔e7 40.♗b7 ♔d7 41.♗xc8+ ♔xc8 42.♔e5 ♔xc7 43.♔f6 ♔d6 44.♔xf7 g5 45.♔g6! White is winning.

38.♖b8! ♖c7 39.♖b7 ♖xb7 40.cxb7 ♘d7 41.♗c6 ♘b8 42.♔c5 ♔e7 43.♗b5



Now Black has only pawn moves but they will run out soon.

43...f6 44.h4 g5 45.fxg5 fxg5 46.h5

It's a zugzvang.

46...e5 47.♔d5 ♔d8 48.♔xe5 ♔c7 49.♔f6 ♔xb7 50.♔g6

Very technical play by Vladimir Kramnik.

1-0

Recommended Sites

www.fide.com
http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-141, 27th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Only three drawn games today in Monaco! **Vladimir Kramnik** beat Ljubomir Ljubojevic **2:0** and became sole leader. Bulgarian GM **Veselin Topalov** has also covered himself in glory - he has beaten both World Champions here. Today he beat Vishy Anand 1½:½; he gained the same score a week earlier vs. Kramnik himself.

Results of the 9th round (rapid/blindfold)
Gelfand – Piket **1:0** ½:½
Anand – Topalov **0:1** ½:½
Karpov – Almasi **1:0 0:1**
Leko – Shirov ½:½ **0:1**
Ivanchuk – Van Wely **1:0 0:1**
Ljuboevic – Kramnik **0:1 0:1**

Rapid standings:
1. **Kramnik – 6½ points out of 9**
2-3. Topalov, Gelfand – 6
4. Anand - 5½
5-6. Karpov, Leko - 4½
7-9. Van Wely, Piket, Shirov – 4
10-11. Almasi, Ivanchuk - 3½
12. Ljubojevic – 2

Blindfold standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov - 6½ out of 9
3-4. Anand, Shirov – 6
5-6. Leko, Ljubojevic – 5
7. Piket - 4½
8. Almasi – 4
9. Ivanchuk - 3½
10-11. Karpov, Van Wely - 2½
12. Gelfand - 2

Overall standings:
1. Kramnik - 13
2. Topalov - 12½
3. Anand - 11½
4. Shirov – 10
5. Leko - 9½
6. Piket - 8½
7. Gelfand – 8
8. Almasi - 7½
9-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov, Ljubojevic – 7
12. Van Wely - 6½

We include all the 9th round games in our cbv and pgn-files. In our annotated game section we would like to show a rapid game Karpov – Almasi, it was played by the 12th World Champion as if it were "The good old days".

We are waiting for the very interesting final showdown between GMs Robert Kempinsky and Michal Krasenkow! In the 9th round of 58th Polish Chess Championships both of them won their games while Lukasz Cyborowski drew. Tournament standing:
1. Kempinski – 7 points out of 9
2. Krasenkow – 6½
3. Cyborowski – 6
4-5. Blehm, Markowski – 5
6-8. Macieja, Gdanski, Grabarczyk – 4½
etc.
There are 4 more rounds.

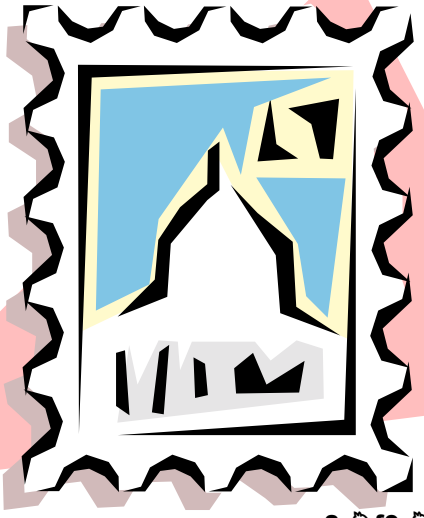
TWIC #333 is available today. Among other news, we learn that Bundesliga leader won the German Team Cup over the weekend 24-25 March (www.chess-online.de). Also Mark Crowther wrote: "Teimour Radjabov is reported to have been awarded the GM title by FIDE. If it was on the basis of his result in the Wijk aan Zee B tournament in January then he will have been 13 years 10 months and 16 days old, a day off the record set by Bu Xiangzhi of China. Further details and confirmation are awaited from FIDE".

There isn't any confirmation on the FIDE official site yet, so we are waiting for it too. In any case Teimour is a very strong player and his GM-title is a matter of months or even weeks. Two or three years ago I played a rapid game vs.

Radjabov in one of the Moscow tournaments, and had a strange feeling that my 10 or 11-year old opponent was favourite, a "professor", in our game! He was so self-confident, like a mature man, and really played very strongly. I had a rather bad position with White but was lucky to over-come him in complications. I suspected it was my last chance to overcome Teimour and I'm happy that I didn't miss it! ☺

ICCF

The ICCF celebrates 50 years of Service to the CC Community!



On the 22nd of March 2001, the **International Correspondence Chess Federation** (ICCF) celebrated its 50th year as the official world governing body for international CC play. To mark this important milestone the ICCF has organised a number of special tournaments. Details of these tournaments can be found in ICCF President Alan Borwell's Special Jubilee Press Release at the ICCF web site

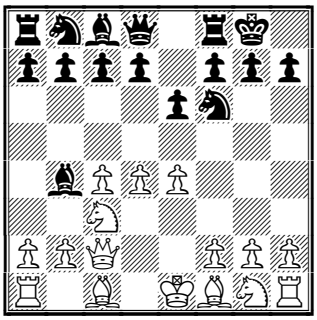
The ICCF would like to reach OTB players as well as CC players for these special events.

Ralph Marconi

Annotated Game

Karpov (2679) – Almasi (2640)
Amber Rapidplay Monaco MNC (9), 27.03.2001 E32
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 0-0 5.e4!?



This indicates that Anatoly Karpov was in a fighting mood today! He played Nimtzovich Defence, system 4.Qc2 0-0 about 50(!) times for White and for Black, but according to my database he never played 5.e4 himself and only once played against it as Black (vs. N.Short, Dortmund 1997; by the way Karpov lost then). More often White chooses 5.a3 or 5.Nf3.

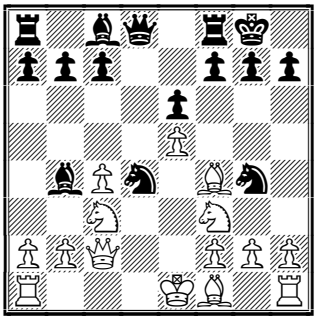
5...d6 6.e5

The same very aggressive approach.

6...dxe5 7.dxe5 ♘g4

Alternative is 7...♘fd7

8.♘f3 ♘c6 9.♗f4 ♘d4



10.♕e4!?

It looks like a novelty. In the only previous game White played 10.Qa4?!

10...c5?!

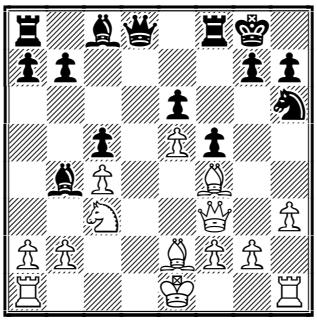
Too slow. White has a space advantage, but has lost out in development. So Black has to hurry. I believe that more in accord with the position would be 10...♗c5!? 11.♖d1!? (11.♗g3 f5 12.exf6 ♘xf6) 11...f5 (11...♘xf3+? 12.♕xf3 ♗xf2+ 13.♔e2+−) 12.exf6 ♕xf6 with very complicated play.

11.h3 f5

But now White mustn't take en

passant.

12.♕d3 ♘xf3+ 13.♕xf3 ♘h6 14.♗e2



Now White has a clear advantage: more space and, more importantly, all 3 Black minor pieces are rather bad. The best option for the b4 Bishop is to exchange for the Knight, while the h6 Knight has very poor perspectives.

14...♘f7 15.h4!

Preventing any counterplay with g7−g5 or Ng5.

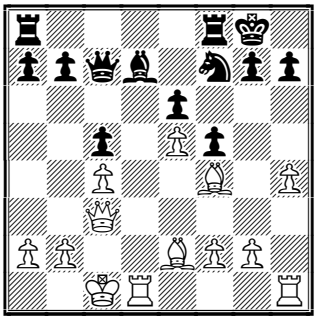
15...♕c7

After 15...♗d7!? White also has the simple move 16.0-0-0 but can maybe accept the pawn sacrifice.

16.0-0-0 ♗xc3

Or after 17.Nb5 the Knight will go to d6. 16...♘xe5? 17.♕g3+−

17.♕xc3 ♗d7



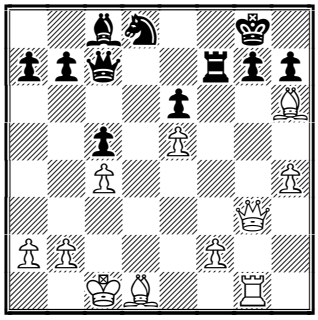
18.g4!

Anatoly Evgenievich plays like in "The good old days", when his opponents had head−aches and time−trouble, trying to defend against his very fast and powerful play...

18...fxg4 19.♗xg4 ♖ad8 20.♖hg1 ♗c8

Black hasn't any counterplay. Zoltan Almasi has to stay and wait to see where checkmate will be. Of course, it will be somewhere along the g−file!

21.♕g3 ♖xd1+ 22.♗xd1 ♘d8 23.♗h6 ♖f7



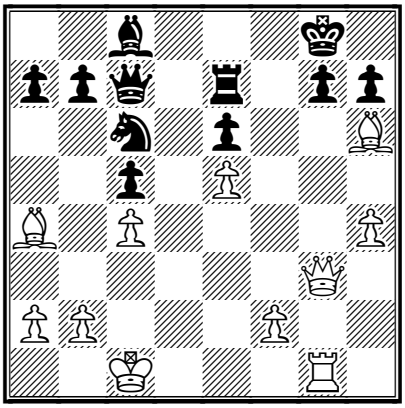
24.♗h5! ♖d7

Only move: 24...♖e7? 25.♗g5 ♖d7 26.♗f6+− (26.♗e8+−) ; 24...g6? 25.♗xg6

25.♗e8 ♖e7 26.♗a4

A very funny Bishop manoeuvre!

26...♘c6



It's hard to say what else Black can do, but now Karpov has his favourite type of position − with opposite−coloured Bishops (remember his famous victory over Kasparov (Moscow 1985, match, game #4, or over Anand, Lausanne 1998, m/4).

27.♗xc6! bxc6 28.h5 ♖f7 29.♗e3 ♕a5 30.♔b1!

It's also in Karpov's style: this repetition of moves undersigned Black's helplessness.

30...♕d8 31.♔c1 ♕a5 32.a3 ♗d7 33.h6!?

Also strong was 33.♗h6!

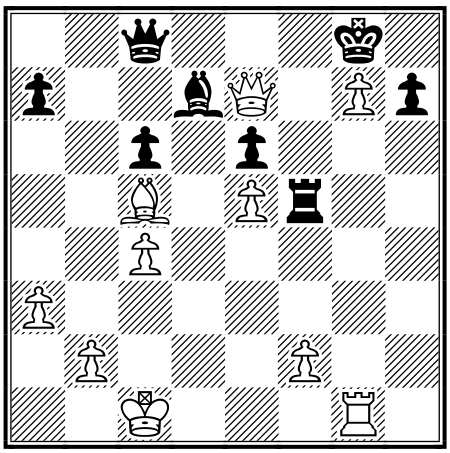
33...♗e8

After 33...g6 the black squares in Black's camp are undefended.

34.♕g4 ♗d7 35.hxg7 ♕c7 36.♕h4 ♕c8 37.♗xc5 ♖f5?

Last mistake

38.♕e7



Black resigned in view of mate in 3. An instructive game by Anatoly Karpov! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.fide.com
http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chess-online.de
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-142, 28th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

What a strange maxim: after a "bloody" day a quiet one invariably follows! Yesterday in Monaco there were only three draws, today – only two decisive results, one in rapid and the other in blindfold.

Two World Champions met each other. In rapid play Kramnik with White had an extra pawn but couldn't realize it. In blindfold there was quite a short draw.

And Veselin Topalov caught Vladimir – thanks to his victory over Peter Leko in blindfold (see this game in our annotated game section). The second hero of the day Ljubomir Ljubojevich beat Alexei Shirov in rapid and said goodbye to his neighbors on the cross-table Anatoly Karpov and Vassily Ivanchuk.

Results of the 10th round (rapid/blindfold)
Piket – Ivanchuk ½:½ ½:½
Topalov – Leko ½:½ **1:0**
Van Wely – Karpov ½:½ ½:½
Shirov – Ljubojevic **0:1** ½:½
Almasi – Gelfand ½:½ ½:½
Kramnik – Anand ½:½ ½:½

Rapid standings:
1. Kramnik – 7 points out of 10
2-3. Topalov, Gelfand – 6½
4. Anand – 6
5-6. Karpov, Leko - 5
7-8. Van Wely, Piket – 4½
9-11. Almasi, Ivanchuk, Shirov – 4
12. Ljubojevic – 3

Blindfold standings:
1. Topalov - 7½ out of 10
2. Kramnik - 7
3-4. Anand, Shirov – 6½
5. Ljubojevic – 5½
6-7. Leko, Piket - 5
8. Almasi – 4½
9. Ivanchuk - 4
10-11. Karpov, Van Wely - 3
12. Gelfand - 2½

Overall standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 14 points out of 20
3. Anand - 12½
4. Shirov – 10½
5. Leko - 10
6. Piket - 9½
7. Gelfand – 9
8-9. Almasi, Ljubojevic - 8½
10-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov – 8
12. Van Wely - 7½

As usual, we include all 10th round games in our cbv and pgn-files.
Tomorrow will be the last round. The schedule for rapid play:

Ljubojevic - Topalov
Karpov - Piket
Anand - Shirov
Gelfand - Van Wely
Leko - Kramnik
Ivanchuk – Almasi

It looks like Veselin Topalov has good chances for final success… but lets wait till tomorrow.

And in the 10th round of 58th Polish Chess Championships all three leaders made a half step ahead. So the tournament situation in the top-half has only small changes – Gdanski beat Blehm and took his place:
1. Kempinski – 7½ points out of 10
2. Krasenkow – 7
3. Cyborowski – 6½
4-5. Gdanski, Markowski – 5½
6-9. Macieja, Blehm, Grabarczyk, Jaracz – 5 etc.

After 4th round of Bled open **Valerij**

Filippov, Robert Zelcic, Drazen Sermek and **Suat Atalik** have a perfect score.

5-10. Breder, Rogulj, Fercec, Wells, Soln, Loncar - 3½ etc.

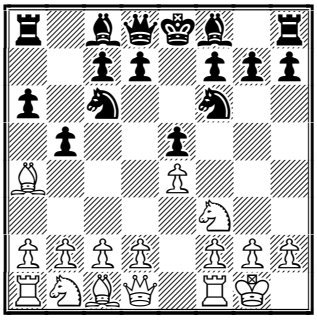
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Leko (266) − Topalov (268)
Amber2001Blind Monaco (10)
28.03.2001 C78

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5



The so called Arkhangelsky or New Arkhangelsky system which is very popular at present. There is a lot of modern theory, and sometimes theoretical articles about it become old news before chess magazines publish them. Of course, variation C78 was played here also. First example: 5...♗c5 6.c3 b5 7.♗c2 d5 8.d4 dxe4 9.dxe5 ♕xd1 10.♖xd1 ♗xf2+ 11.♔f1 exf3 12.exf6 ♗h4 13.fxg7 fxg2+ 14.♔xg2 ♖g8 15.♗h6 ♗g5 16.♖e1+ ♗e6 17.♗xg5 ♖xg7 18.h4 h6 19.♗e4 ♔d7 20.♖d1+ 1:0 Topalov − Shirov, Monaco 2001 (rapid)

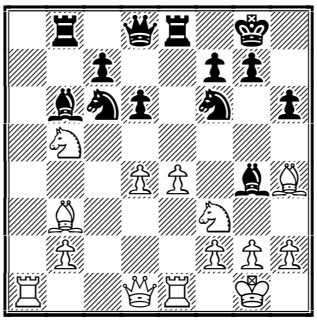
6.♗b3 ♗c5

Some grandmasters say that The Arhangelsky system is a small "revolution" in the Ruy Lopez. The bishop on c5 is much more active than on e7, and Black can think not only about equality but also about counterattack!

7.c3 d6 8.d4 ♗b6 9.a4 ♖b8 10.axb5 axb5 11.♘a3 0-0 12.♘xb5 exd4 13.cxd4 ♗g4 14.♗g5

And now there is a second example from this tournament: 14.♖a4 ♖e8 15.♗g5 h6 16.♗d5 ♗xf3 17.♕xf3 ♘xd4 18.♘xd4 ♗xd4 19.♗c6 hxg5 20.♗xe8 g4 21.♕e2 c5 22.♗c6 ♕b6⩲ Almasi − Piket, Monaco 2001 (blindfold)

14...h6 15.♗h4 ♖e8 16.♖e1?!



Maybe better was 16.♕d3!? ♗xf3 17.gxf3 ♘xd4 18.♘xd4 ♗xd4 19.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 20.♕xd4 g5 21.♗g3± or; 16.♖c1!?

16...g5! 17.♗g3 ♗a5

Black's last two moves are typical. Regaining a pawn with a good position.

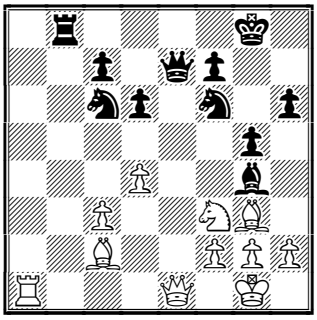
18.♘c3

Or 18.♘a7 ♘xa7 19.♖xa5 ♘c6 20.♖a6 ♘b4=

18...♗xc3 19.bxc3 ♖xe4 20.♗c2

20.♖xe4 Of course, not 20...♘xe4 21.♗d5? ♘xc3-+

20...♖xe1+ 21.♕xe1 ♕e7



Because the Black King is weak Topalov would like to exchange Queens. I think this position is approximately equal: yes, White has two Bishops, but one of them, on g3, is very limited.

22.h4

Maybe from a practical point of view it was better for White to keep Queens. In a blindfold game Black has chances to "overlook" checkmate somewhere on h7!

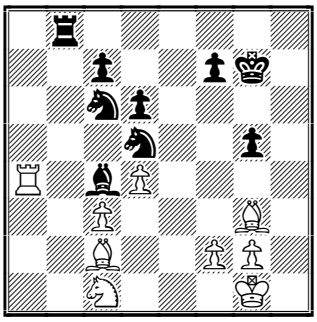
22...♕xe1+ 23.♘xe1 ♘d5!

The g3 Bishop is off−side, and the Bulgarian GM starts to play on the Queen side.

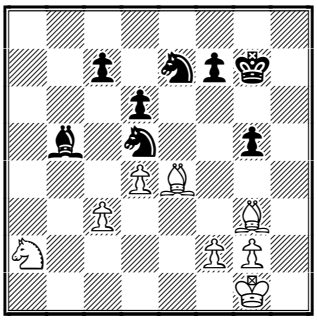
24.♖a3 ♗e2!

Rather unexpected and unpleasant. First of all Black tries to blockade his opponent's central pawns. (White's

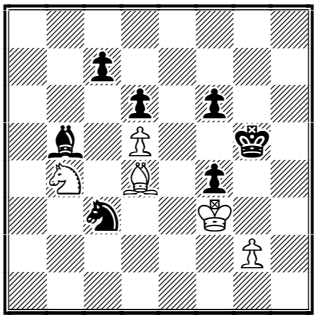
threat was Be4 and after that c4 and d5).
25.hxg5 hxg5 26.♘d3 ♔g7 27.♘c1 ♗c4 28.♖a4



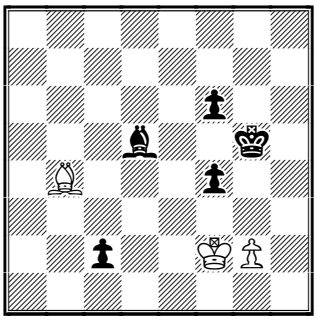
White hopes to ruin the blockade. Now very concrete play begins.
28...♖b2! 29.♗e4
29.♖xc4 ♖xc2 30.♘a2 (30.♖xc6 ♖xc1+ 31.♔h2 ♖xc3∓) 30...♘ce7 31.♘b4 ♖xc3∓
29...♗b5 30.♖a2 ♖xa2 31.♘xa2 ♘ce7!



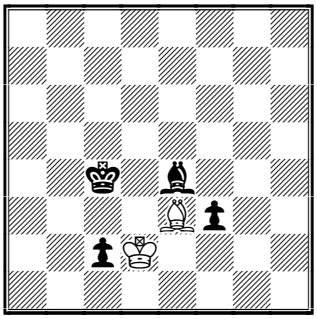
Bishop g3, wake up! Your colleges can't defend the c3 pawn!
32.f4 ♗c4 33.♗xd5 ♘xd5 34.♘b4 ♘xc3 35.♔f2
After 35.fxg5 ♘e2+ 36.♔f2 ♘xd4 two passed pawns will be unstoppable.
35...♘e2 36.d5 gxf4 37.♗h4 f6 38.♔f3 ♔g6 39.♔e4 ♗b5 40.♗f2 ♔g5 41.♔f3 ♘c3 42.♗d4



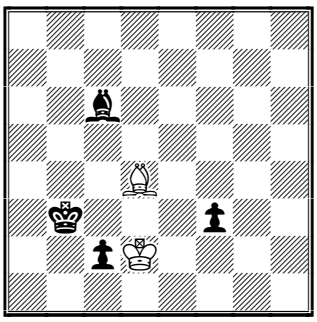
White's last hope − opposite−coloured Bishops. But Veselin Topalov evaluated this endgame very precisely.
42...♘xd5! 43.♘xd5 ♗c6 44.♗a7 ♗xd5+ 45.♔f2 c5 46.♗b8 c4 47.♗xd6 c3 48.♗b4 c2



In the near future Black will exchange the f4 pawn for the g2 one, and the position with pawns c and f will be winning. But with pawns b and e it will be a draw! If you don't believe me please read the brilliant M. Dvoretsky article "The Value of "Elementary" Endgame Knowledge" on www.chesscafe.com updated this Wednesday as usual
49.♗d2 ♔g4 50.♗c1 f5 51.♗d2 f3 52.gxf3+ ♗xf3 53.♗c1 f4 54.♗d2 ♗e4 55.♗c1 ♔f5 56.♔e2 ♔e5 57.♔e1 f3 58.♗e3 ♔d5 59.♔d2 ♔c4



The Black King is going to b2 or b1, so the White King has to go to c1 (in the case of the Bishop on c1 the Black monarch has the route b3−a2−b1; it's the main difference from the pawns b and e: then Black King hasn't such a manoeuvre). And after that the King from b3 through c3 will go to d3 and e2.
60.♗f2 ♔b3 61.♗d4 ♗c6



It's a zugzvang.
62.♔c1 ♔c4 63.♗b6 ♔d3 64.♗c5 ♗e4 0-1

♘♘♘

Cannes Report
By GM Alex Baburin

The tournament in Cannes was covered extensively in our newspaper, so I will be brief. In my opinion Kasparov played much better than any one else there. He could not outplay Grischuk in any of their 25-minute games, but to the surprise of many, Garry easily defeated one of the ICC idols in blitz. I think that Grischuk should have deviated from known theory when playing blitz against Kasparov, as the latter gained a lot of time on the clock in both their games. Perhaps Bareev would be a trickier opponent to Kasparov in blitz, but with Black Evgeny always loses to Garry and it was obvious that the pressure was too much for him in game 2. Bareev lost the ending which he should have held easily. The last day of the festival attracted may spectators and the playing hall was finally full. I reckon that there were over 700 spectators there. The event received good coverage in the media, but perhaps FIDE could draw even more attention to such a tournament, as they seem to be ideally suited to the media - they are short, exiting and spectator friendly.
It's time to draw results of our Cannes Quiz. Most people named Kasparov, Adams and Morozevich as the eventual winners. Alas, Alexander complicated the issue (he was clearly out of form) and thus the clock remains property of Chess Today! But we will introduce another quiz soon, so you can have another go at this prize.

♘♘♘

Recommended Web sites:

http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber
http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/
http://www.chesscafe.com

♘♘♘

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CT-143, 29 March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Caution is better than pie in the sky! According to the schedule in Monaco, in the last round, leaders, Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov had to play first, rapid games with Black. Both of them chose very solid openings: Topalov (vs. Ljubojevic) – a Queen's Gambit, Kramnik (vs. Leko) – a Petroff's Defense. Veselin quickly equalized the position and a draw was agreed. Vladimir even outplayed his opponent, who is well-known to him (do you remember the Leko – Kramnik

Veselin Topalov

(Pictures from http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/)

January match?), but couldn't realize his advantage. The story repeated in their blindfold game. As a result – two draws. Veselin in their blindfold encounter sacrificed (or overlooked?!) an exchange but very soon Ljubomir began to repeat moves. Soon after the winners names became known: **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Veselin Topalov**. Our congratulations!

Results of the 11th round (rapid/blindfold)

Ljubojevic - Topalov ½:½ ½:½
Karpov - Piket ½:½ ½:½
Anand - Shirov ½:½ ½:½
Gelfand - Van Wely **1:0 1:0**
Leko - Kramnik ½:½ ½:½
Ivanchuk – Almasi **1:0 0:**

Final rapid standings:
1-2. Gelfand, Kramnik – 7½ points out of 11
3. Topalov – 7
4. Anand – 6½
5-6. Karpov, Leko - 5½
7-8. Ivanshuk, Piket – 5
9-10. Van Wely, Shirov – 4½
11. Almasi – 4
12. Ljubojevic – 3½

Final blindfold standings:
1. Topalov – 8 points out of 11
2. Kramnik - 7½

Vladimir Kramnik

3-4. Anand, Shirov – 7
5. Ljubojevic – 6
6-8. Almasi, Leko, Piket - 5½
9. Ivanchuk - 4
10-11. Gelfand, Karpov – 3½
12. Van Wely - 3

Overall standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 15 points out of 22
3. Anand - 13½
4. Shirov – 11½
5-6. Gelfand, Leko - 11
7. Piket - 10½
8-9. Almasi, Ljubojevic - 9½
10-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov – 9
12. Van Wely - 7½

The hero of the last day is Boris Gelfand. He won both games over Loek Van Vely and shared first place in rapid and left last place in blindfold. Boris was unhappy with his play in blindfold in this

event; remember, for example, that he overlooked a Rook(!) in winning position vs. Shirov. In this part of the program Veselin Topalov was the strongest. Also he beat both World Champs – very good "doping" for next the tournament successes, isn't it, Veselin?! All participants played more or less as was expected. Obviously Anand and Shirov were not in the best form, but they were among the leaders, except for Vassily Ivanchuk, one of the favourites, who shared 10-11 places with Anatoly Kaprov (frankly I thought Ivanchuk would be in the top 3 and Karpov in the top half). Both these outstanding players have to forget about this unlucky event as soon as possible!

As usual, we include all 11-round games in our cbv and pgn-files. In our annotated game section today we feature the blindfold draw Shirov vs. Anand. Good bye, Monaco!

In the **Bled Open**, the standings after 5 rounds:
1-5. Filippov, Zelcic, Sermek Wells, Atalik — 4½
6-16. Kozul, Sveshnikov, Breder, Rogulj, Fercec, Soln, Jovanic, Nakamura, Tratar, Podlesnik, Malakhov – 4 etc.

In the 11th round of the **58th Polish Chess Championship** Lukasz Cyborowski won with Black over Robert Kempinski and has caught up to him. The same for Michail Krasenkov after his draw vs. Jacek Gdanski. Before the final two rounds the leading trio has 1.5 points more than the 4-5th places.
1-3. Kempinski, Krasenkow, Cyborowski – 7½ points out of 11
4-5. Gdanski, Markowski – 6
6-9. Socko, Blehm, Grabarczyk, Jaracz – 5½ etc.

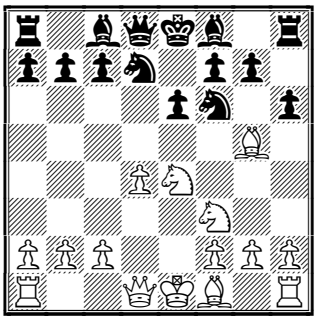
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

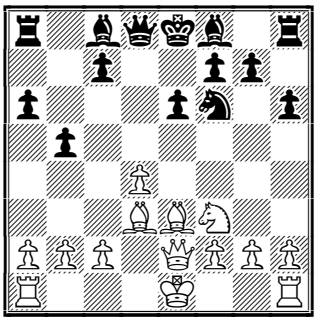
A. Shirov (275) – V. Anand (283)
Amber2001Blind Monaco (11), 29.03.2001 C11

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

At the end of last year in Tehran, Vishy Anand "distressed" Alexei Shirov badly. In January−2001 in Wijk−aan−Zee Alexei had good chances for a small revenge, but Anand escaped with Black in a French Defense. And now here is a new meeting and a new French.
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♘bd7 6.♘f3 h6!? (D)



Black has begun to exploit this rare move more frequently in the last 10 years, mainly thanks to Evgeny Bareev. It is sometimes played by other strong grandmasters, such as Ivanchuk and M.Gurevich. Anand also tried it in Leon−2000 vs. J.Polgar.
7.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 8.♗e3
40-50 years ago White usually exchanged on f6, but nowadays he prefers to maintain more pieces on the board. 8.♗xf6 ; In the above mentioned game Polgar played 8.♗d2!?
8...a6
Black's main problem is to how to develop his Bishop on c8. Anand prepared a big fianchetto.
9.♗d3!? b5 10.♕e2 (D)



This looks like a new and quite unpleasant setup for Black. Black can't play 10...♗b7 now in view of 11.♗xb5+! Do you remember we wrote about this very likely line in one of our previous issues?

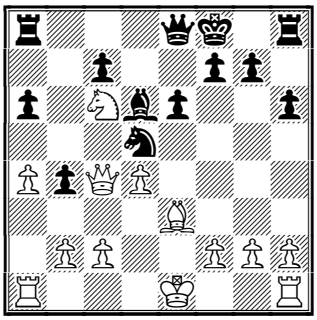
10...♗d6 11.a4 b4 12.♘e5

Shirov always develops his initiative well.

12...♗b7

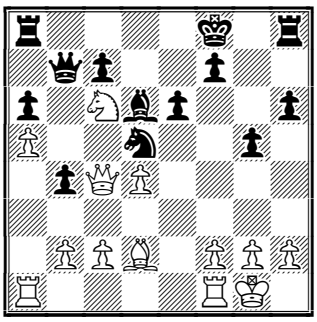
Maybe Anand decided that 12...0-0 against Shirov was too risky because White could castle on the Queen side and start a direct attack.

13.♗b5+! ♔f8 14.♗c6 ♗xc6 15.♘xc6 ♕e8 16.♕c4 ♘d5 (D)



I think White has a clear advantage here mainly because the pawns a6, b4 and c7 are unconnected, blockaded and weak. Also to develop the Rook on h8 will cost 3 or more tempi. Anand's plus is that there aren't any attacks against his King at the moment − positional play is beginning.

17.a5 ♕c8 18.0-0 ♕b7 19.♗d2 g5?! (D)



Another big fiancetto. But the Queens are still on the board.

20.♖a4?!

It was time to think about Black's King. Interesting was 20.♘e5!? with the idea of f2−f4.

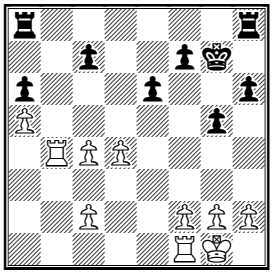
20...♕b5!

Now Anand forces his opponent to enter the endgame. Maybe the worst for Black is over.

21.b3 ♔g7!

Black can even wait with a Queen exchange − White couldn't reject it.

22.♘xb4 ♗xb4 23.♗xb4 ♕xc4 24.bxc4 ♘xb4 25.♖xb4 (D)



25...c5!

Did Shirov overlook this?

26.dxc5

And Anand has escaped once again. ½-½

Recommended Web sites:

http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/
http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/
http://www.chesscafe.com

Contact information.

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Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-144, 30th March 2001

Chess around the Globe

Caution is better than the pie in the sky! According to schedule in Monaco, in the last round leaders, Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov had to play the first rapid game with Black. And both of them chose very solid openings: Topalov (vs. Ljubojevic) – Queens Gambit, Kramnik (vs. Leko) – Petroff's Defense. Veselin quickly equalized the position and a draw was agreed. Vladimir even outplayed his opponent who is well known to him (do you remember the Leko – Kramnik January match?), but couldn't realize his advantage. The story repeated in their blindfold game. As a result – two draws. Veselin in blindfold sacrificed (or overlooked?!) an exchange but very soon Ljubomir began to repeat moves. After that the winner's emerged: **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Veselin Topalov**. Our congratulations!

Results of the 11th round (rapid/blindfold)

Ljubojevic - Topalov ½:½ ½:½
Karpov - Piket ½:½ ½:½
Anand - Shirov ½:½ ½:½
Gelfand - Van Wely **1:0 1:0**
Leko - Kramnik ½:½ ½:½
Ivanchuk – Almasi **1:0 0:1**

Final rapid standings:
1-2. Gelfand, Kramnik – 7½ points out of 11
3. Topalov – 7
4. Anand – 6½
5-6. Karpov, Leko - 5½
7-8. Ivanchuk, Piket – 5
9-10. Van Wely, Shirov – 4½
11. Almasi – 4
12. Ljubojevic – 3½

Final blindfold standings:
1. Topalov – 8 points out of 11
2. Kramnik - 7½
3-4. Anand, Shirov – 7
5. Ljubojevic – 6
6-8. Almasi, Leko, Piket - 5½
9. Ivanchuk - 4
10-11. Gelfand, Karpov – 3½
12. Van Wely - 3

Overall standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 15 points out of 22
3. Anand - 13½
4. Shirov – 11½
5-6. Gelfand, Leko - 11
7. Piket - 10½
8-9. Almasi, Ljubojevic - 9½
10-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov – 9
12. Van Wely - 7½

The hero of the final day is Boris Gelfand. He won 2:0 against Loek Van Vely and shared first place in rapid and… avoided last place in blindfold. Boris was unhappy in blindfold here; remember, for example, that he overlooked a Rook(!) in a winning position vs. Shirov. In this part of the program Veselin Topalov was the strongest. Also he beat both World Champs – a very good sign for future tournament successes, isn't it, Veselin?!
All participants played more or less as expected (obviously Anand and Shirov were not in the best form but anyway they were among the leaders) except for Vassily Ivanchuk. One of the favourites shared 10-11 places with Anatoly Kaprov (frankly I thought Ivanchuk would be in the first 3 and Karpov in the top half). Both outstanding players have to forget about this unlucky event as soon as possible!

As usual, we include all the 11th round games in our cbv and pgn-files. Good bye, Monaco!

Bled open, standing after 5th round:
1-5. Filippov, Zelcic, Sermek Wells, Atalik — 4½
6-16. Kozul, Sveshnikov, Breder, Rogulj, Fercec, Soln, Jovanic, Nakamura, Tratar, Podlesnik, Malakhov – 4 etc.

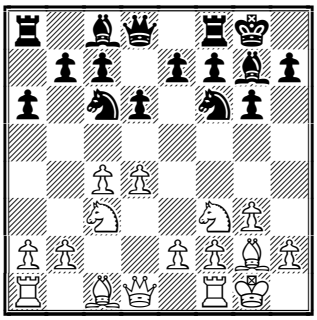
♘♘♘

Annotated Game
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

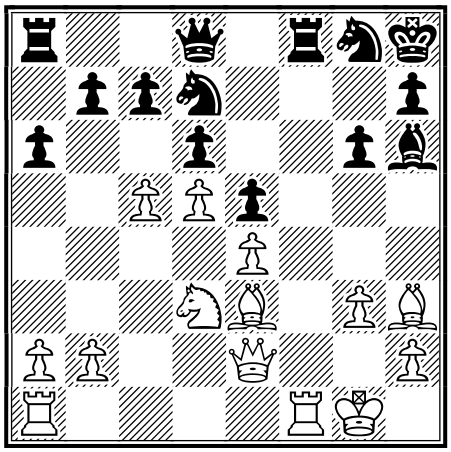
M Krasenkow (2658) − B Socko (2557)
58th ch−POL Warsaw POL (9), 27.03.2001 E63

Mikhail Krasenkov is a well−known GM, one of the strongest in the world. So I would like to say a few words about his young opponent. In 1993 I played in Warsaw, and Russian coach Mikhail Kislov, who was working in Poland, introduced me his pupil Bartos. This boy was very energetic, sociable, curious and very fond of chess. We played some blitz−games and analysed a little. Last summer I met him once more in Polianitza Zdroi and even did an interview with him and his wife GM Monika Bobrovska−Socko for "64". Bartos has changed little. Of course, he isn't a boy, but a young man now and has a daughter, but he is the same ... merry, cheerful and fond of chess. He and his wife (and Mikhail Krasenkov too) are members of the strongest Warsaw chess club Polonia GSM − so they are professional chess players. His chess assets: he is very energetic in attack and persistent in defence and sees tactical opportunities well. But he is weaker in positional play without clear plans. Bartos is quite young and industrious though, so I'm sure he will become stronger and stronger, and I wish him that!

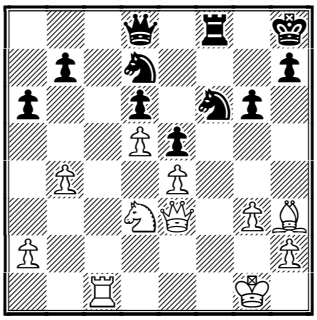
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.g3 d6 5.♗g2 0-0 6.♘c3 ♘c6 7.0-0 a6



Mikhail Krasenkov chooses a rather quiet system with fianchetto.
8.e4 ♗g4 9.♗e3 ♘d7 10.♘e2 e5!?
The last three moves are typical for Bartosh as I know him: he tries to define the structure of the position as soon as possible.
11.d5 ♘e7 12.♘e1!
White prepares for f7−f5.
12...♗xe2
Black has to change Bishops: moves like Nd7−b8 look too ugly.
13.♕xe2 f5?!
Socko doesn't want to change his plan, but now his white−squares, especially e6, become very weak.
14.f3 ♔h8 15.♘d3 ♘g8 16.c5 fxe4 17.fxe4 ♗h6 18.♗h3!



Of course, the Bishop goes to e6. However, at first sight, it's not too dangerous for Black...
18...♕e7 19.♖xf8
It's useful to change one Rook − White wants to play on the Queenside as there will be less chance to receive a checkmate!
19...♖xf8 20.b4 ♗xe3+ 21.♕xe3 ♘gf6 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.♖c1 ♕d8



Now we can see White's clear advantage. The Black Queen has to defend the c7 square, also there is an unpleasant attack from the Bishop from h3 to c8. White has more space while the Black Knights don't have good squares in the centre.

24.♘f2 a5 25.a3 axb4 26.axb4 ♕b8 27.♗e6 ♖c8 28.♖f1!

Now, White needs one Rook! Black pieces went to the Queenside so it's time to start a direct attack.

28...♖f8 29.♘h3 ♔g7 30.♘g5 h6?! 31.♗xd7 hxg5

31...♘xd7 32.♘e6++−

32.♗e6 ♔h6 33.b5?!

Mikhail doesn't hurry: he would like to occupy the c7−square with his Rook, but overlooked Black's counterplay. Better was the simple 33.h4! ♘h7 34.♖c1

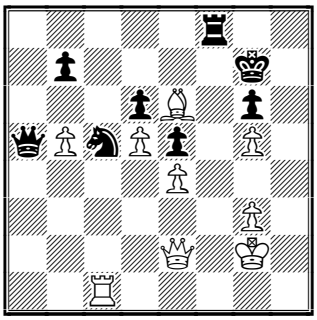
33...♕d8 34.♔g2

Anatoly Karpov likes such moves when his opponent has time−trouble. But according to the next move, Mikhail was short (or very short) of time too, so a simpler way was better: 34.b6!? ♘d7 35.♖xf8 ♘xf8 36.♕f2!?

34...♘d7 35.♖c1 ♘c5 36.h4 ♔g7! 37.hxg5 ♕a5!

Very unpleasant in zeitnot (especially because Black had no counterplay earlier) − Black gave up a pawn but has activated all his pieces.

38.♕e2?



It looks like a zeitnot overlook.

38...♘xe4! 39.b6!?

Not 39.♕xe4? ♕d2+-+

39...♕xb6?

Too hazardous. Black could force a draw: 39...♖f2+ 40.♕xf2 ♘xf2 41.♖c7+ ♔f8 42.♖c8+ ♔e7 43.♖c7+ ♔d8 44.♖c8+ with perpetual check.; I believe 39...♘xg5?! is too risky for zeitnot.

40.♕xe4 ♕f2+ 41.♔h3 ♖h8+ 42.♔g4

And there is no checkmate.

42...♖h2 43.♖c7+ ♔h8 44.♖c8+ ♔h7

As you saw Bartos Socko was outplayed in positional play, then defended very persistently, found strong tactics and... was unhappy in zeitnot.

1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/
http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/
http://www.chesscafe.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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Chess around the Globe

Robert Kempinski has won the **58th Polish Chess Championship**. Today his game vs. Mikhail Krasenkov, who had the same score at the start of the game, and playing with the White pieces, lasted only 9 moves. Maybe the main reason for such a short draw was because the last round began at 10:00 rather than the usual 15:00. Many grandmasters like to sleep late in the morning and find it difficult to play at such an early hour. After the game both GMs had to wait till the end of the round to calculate the tie-break. It's interesting that the Berger coefficient was equal too, so Kempinski became the new champion according to the next index (it's hard to understand which one). In any case our congratulations to the winner - all indexes will be forgotten, his victory will not!

Final standings:
1-2. Kempinski, Krasenkov – 8½ points out of 13
3. Cyborowski – 8
4-6. Gdanski, Markowski, Socko – 7½
7-9. Blehm, Jaracz, Macieja – 6½
10. Grabarczyk – 6
11. Kuczynski – 5½
12. Urban – 5
13. Bartel – 4
14. Gajewski - 3½

IM Lukasz Cyborowski had a great tournament but unfortunately lost one of his last games and finished a half-point shy of the GM-norm. In contrast GM Bartosz Socko had a pure start and a bright finish and shared 4-6 place.

Valerij Filippov remains the sole lead with a perfect score 6½ points after the 7th round in the **Bled** open. Two players are a half-point behind, while five other players are one and half points behind.

2-3. Sveshnikov, Malakhov – 6
4-8. Sermek, Atalik, Soln, Rogulj, Loncar — 5 etc.

Top boards of the next round:

Filippov – Malakhov
Rogulj – Sveshnikov
Loncar – Sermek
Soln - Atalik

The young Russian GM **Vladimir Malakhov** lost his first game and has won 6 games in a row! Also the very experienced GM Evgeny Sveshnikov hasn't made a single draw yet. Today E. Sveshnikov is our hero of our annotated game section.

Today was the 10th round of **Wotulo Memorial** in Jakarta, Indonesia. Some games are adjourned still:
1. Juswanto — 7½ points
2. Hulak (+1) — 7
3. Zaw – 6
4. Johansen – 5½
5-6. Djuric (+1), Liu (+1) – 5 etc.

Mark Crowther informs us on his site: **http://www.chesscenter.com/twic** that the Oakham school is the venue for a cat. VII (2407) GM tournament March 29 – April 6 2001.

Round 2 Standings:
1. Krush, Irina (wm USA 2380) – **2 points**
2-4. McDonald, Neil R (g ENG 2439), Pert, Nicholas (f ENG 2455), McNab, Colin A (g SCO 2403) – 1½
5-6. Tyomkin, Dimitri (m ISR 2496), Gormally, Daniel (m ENG 2505) – 1
7-9. Levitt, Jonathan (g ENG 2438), Estrada Nieto, Julian (m MEX 2372), Koneru, Humpy (wm IND 2299) - ½
10. Bluvshtein, Mark (CAN 2287) – 0

We received an interesting letter from **Ed Schroder**:

"Since the Kasparov vs. The World challenge, playing games over the Internet and against the Internet has become very popular. Rebel Company has been challenged to compete in this area too and we happily have accepted to take up the gauntlet. Rebel and Chess Tiger are currently involved in 3 internet matches, people can win prizes each week in total over $1000. Part of the prize fund is the beautiful wooden DGT external chess board (value $400) easy to connect to your PC and suited to play with or against various number of available chess programs…"

The website address is:
http://www.rebel.nl/rebweb.htm

Here's another idea that would be worth repeating by other GMs - the 13th World Champion, G. Kasparov always analyzes his most interesting games on the Internet. Two days ago on his **site** there appeared an endgame from Kasparov – Bareev (Cannes 2001) with his comments and analysis. The information is very attractive – a really wonderful lesson about pawn endgames.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E. Sveshnikov (2560) − D. Breder (2385)

Bled op, 2001 B22

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

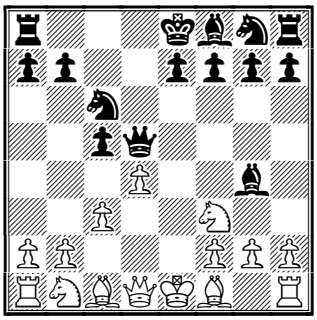
1.e4 c5 2.c3

Evgeny Sveshnikov set the tone in this system for decades.

2...d5

According to Sveshnikov, 2...♘f6! leads to equality. In any event it's not a simple line.

3.exd5 ♕xd5 4.d4 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♗g4?! (D)



This is a very ambitious move. Black pretends to take the initiative no later than on the 5th move. But White hasn't made any mistake and his position can't be worse. Of course 2.c3 isn't the strongest move, but it's very solid and quite good.

6.dxc5!?

Sveshnikov has made this move fashionable of late. A good alternative is 6.♗e2.

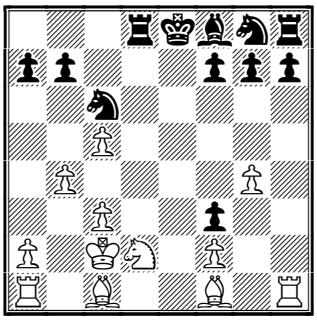
6...♕xd1+

After 6...♕xc5 7.♗e3 Black has to loose tempi. Now White gains an extra pawn and more importantly the better pawn structure for the endgame. As compensation Black has an initiative.

7.♔xd1 ♖d8+ 8.♘bd2 e5 9.b4! e4 10.h3 ♗h5 11.g4 ♗xg4!?

Or 11...exf3!? 12.gxh5 ♘f6⇄

12.hxg4 exf3 13.♔c2 (D)



If White can complete his development without losing anything, his position will be great.

13...♘f6 14.g5

14.♗h3!? h5 (14...♘e5? 15.♖e1; 14...♗e7!?) 15.g5 ♘d5 16.♘xf3 ♘dxb4+!? Fritz

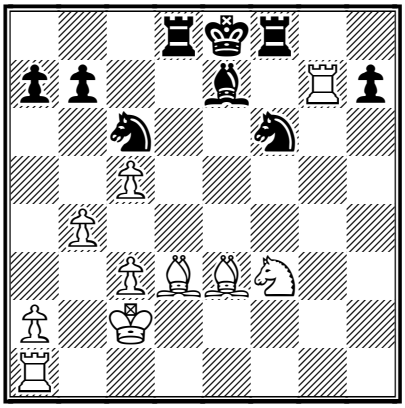
14...♘g4 15.♘xf3 ♗e7

Too risky was 15...♘xf2 16.♖h4!

16.♖g1!

Sveshnikov continues to calculate well! The positional alternative 16.♗e3?! would leave fewer chances for winning.

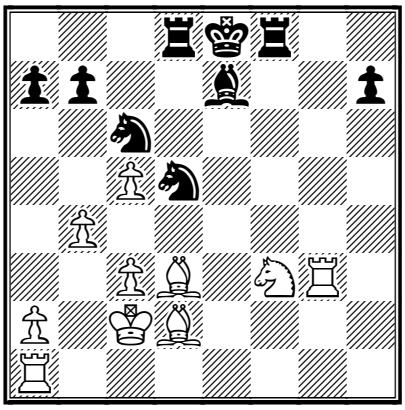
16...♘xf2 17.♗e3 ♘e4 18.♗d3 f5 19.gxf6 ♘xf6 20.♖xg7 ♖f8 (D)



21.♖g3?!

An inconsistent retreat. More logical was to complete development and begin to "harass" the Black King. Lets check 21.♖e1!? ♘d5 (21...♘h5 22.♖xh7+−) 22.♗e4! ♘xe3+ (22...♘xc3? 23.♗xc6+ bxc6 24.♗g5+−) 23.♖xe3±; Fritz recommends 21.♘d4 but I like the "human" 21.♖e1 more.

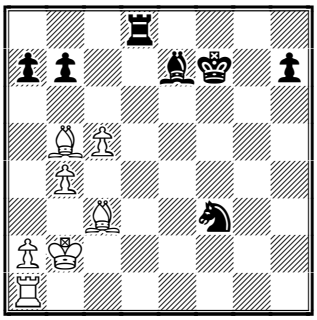
21...♘d5 22.♗d2 (D)



22...♖xf3!

What a heavy blow!

23.♖xf3 ♘dxb4+ 24.cxb4 ♘d4+ 25.♔b2 ♘xf3 26.♗b5+ ♔f7 27.♗c3 (D)



White's advantage has decreased substantially, but White is still better − thanks to the two Bishops in an open position, and the unco−ordinated Black pieces. Also don't forget about the better pawn structure − it saves from the opening!

27...♔g6?!

It's not a simple task to improve the co−ordination of Black's pieces and to avoid the loss of the h−pawn. For example: 27...♘d4 28.♗c4+ ♔g6 (28...♔e8 29.♖h1± though it was a possible way − give up a pawn, and gather all pieces on the Queen side for defence.) 29.♗d3+ ♘f5 30.♗e4!±; or 27...a6!? 28.♗a4!? h5? 29.♖f1 But on g6 the Black King will be suffer under an attack.

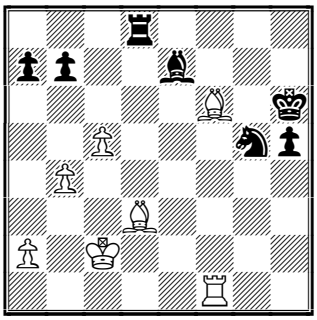
28.♖f1 ♘g5 29.♔c2!

Very good! The White King began to feel himself not quite well!

29...h5

Not 29...h6?! 30.♗d3+ ♔h5 31.♗f5! ♘f7 32.♖g1 with a strong attack.

30.♗d3+ ♔h6 31.♗f6! (D)

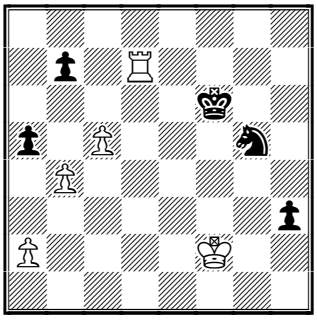


Now Black has to loose material.

31...♖xd3

An unpleasant alternative was 31...♖e8 32.♗xe7 ♖xe7 33.♖f6+ ♔g7 34.♖g6++−

32.♔xd3 ♗xf6 33.♖xf6+ ♔g7 34.♖d6 h4 35.♔e3 h3 36.♖d7+ ♔f6 37.♔f2 a5 (D)



38.c6! bxc6 39.bxa5 ♔e6 40.♖d4 ♔e5 41.♖g4 ♘e4+ 42.♖xe4+ 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/
http://www.ututadianto.com/krisreport
http://www.rebel.nl/rebweb.htm
http://kasparovchess.ru
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic

Contact information.

Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning *Chess Today?* E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors: Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT- 146, 1 April 2001

Chess around the Globe

Evgeny Sveshnikov won the rather strong **Bled Open** with 7½ points out of 9. As usual, the last round started in the morning so we can tell you now about last two rounds. In the penultimate round Filippov drew vs. Malakhov and Rogulj drew vs. Sveshnikov. And today Sveshikov beat, with White, Valerij Filippov, who up until the final day was leading, and became sole winner.

*Photo **Zurko-Sveshnikov, Bled** from:*
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/

Slovenia appears to be a "lucky" country for Sveshnikov, but it's not necessarily by chance. The organisers and the Chess Federation of Slovenia have great respect for him. For example, they often invite him to teach Slovenian juniors; his books are very popular there; and they create good playing conditions for him. This is very important for his artistic nature, which allows him to concentrate on chess and show his outstanding understanding of the game. Our congratulations, Evgeny Ellinovich!

Final standing:
1. Sveshnikov – 7½ points out of 9
2-7. Filippov, Sermek, Atalik, Rogulj, Malakhov, Loncar – 7
8-11. Wells, Fercec, Soln, Jeric – 6½ etc.

The **Wotulo Memorial** in Jakarta, Indonesia, is continuing.
Standings after the 11th round:
1. Juswanto — 8 points
2. Hulak — 7½
3-6. Zaw, Johansen, Liu, Kosasih – 6½
7. Sasikiran – 6
8-9. Djuric, Miezis – 5½ etc.

The standings of the Oakham GM tournament after 3 rounds are:

1. Krush – 3 **points**
2. Pert – 2
3-7. Tyomkin, McDonald, Koneru, McNab, Gormally – 1½ etc.

Today there appeared an announcement on Mark Crowther's TWIC website:
There will be a Category XVII tournament in Enghien-les-Bains, France from April 10th-20th 2001. This ten player event has these players: Evgeny Bareev 2709, Loek Van Wely 2700, Viktor. Bologan 2684, Vladislav Tkatchiev 2672, Alexander Grischuk 2663, Joel Lautier 2658, Vladimir Akopian 2656, Etienne Bacrot 2618, Christian Bauer 2618 and Laurent Fressinet 2581.

For further details go to
:**http://enghien.free.fr**

The 12th and 13th rounds of **Bundesliga** were played this weekend. The club **Lubecker SV** won both matches against Wattenscheid SV and Castrop Rauxel (as all previous ones!) and has ensured first place. Standings after the 13th round:

1. Lubecker SV 26 – 0
2. SG Kuln Porz 23 – 3
3. Solingen SG 19 – 7
4. SV Werder Bremen 19 – 7
5. USC Magdeburg 16 – 10
6. Hamburger SK 16 – 10

7. TV Tegernsee 16 – 10 etc.

ATTENTION, SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMNT!

GM Alex Baburin is preparing a new chess software, which promises to be much better than ***Chess Base*** , ***Chess Assistant,*** and ***Tasc Base*** combined with over 10 million games at a very attractive price! It will be called ***Chess Today Base*** **(CTB). The first 10** readers who inquiry about this new software package will receive a special prize!

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

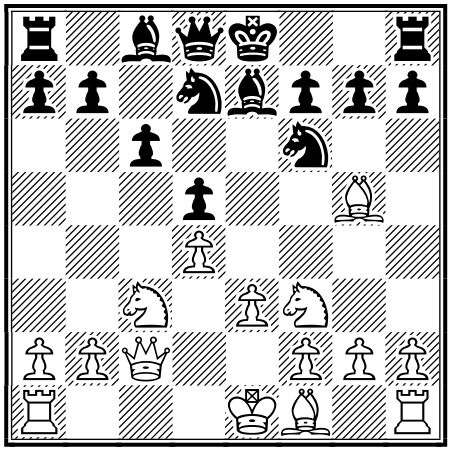
R. Kasimdzhanov − G. Hertneck
Bundesliga, 31.03.2001 D36
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

This game was played in the 12th round of Bundesliga on second board of the match Solingen – Tegernsee. The winner − the young Uzbekistanian GM Rustam Kasimzhanov always plays in Bundesliga and is often successful. Suffice to say that his Elo on 01.01.2000 was 2614, and on the 01.01.2001 − 2693 (!), and except for Bundesliga he played quite rarely last year. Rustam was a student of the well−known Soviet coach Sergei Pinchuk, who told me about his extraordinary memory and chess abilities. Some years ago Pinchuk left Uzbekistan (maybe because he wasn't an Uzbekistan citizen. I don't know, because he doesn't like to talk about it). Two or three years ago Rustam in his homeland was awarded a decoration. So he isn't an ordinary grandmaster!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6

By this move order Black tries to "frighten" his opponent into avoiding the Nimzo Indian Defence, but Kasimzhanov wasn't afraid of it.

3.♘c3 d5 4.♗g5 ♘bd7 5.♘f3 ♗e7 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 c6 8.♕c2 (D)



This is the Classical Karlsbad System.

8...♘h5

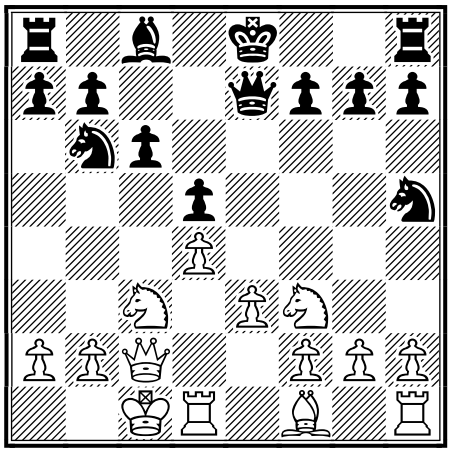
In my opinion this manoeuvre is better for Black when White develops his Knight to e2 instead of f3. ♘f6−h5 is loses time, and it's more dangerous now, because White's pieces are placed more actively and he can easily complete his development.

9.♗xe7 ♕xe7 10.0-0-0

Of course, White tries to play more aggressively.

10...♘b6 (D)

Usually in the Karlsbad this Knight goes to f8 (after ...0-0 and ...♖f8−e8) then to g6 or e6. But Black is now afraid of opposite castling (...0-0) and tries to prepare for castling long.



11.♘e5!?

White begins to annoy his opponent.

11...g6?!

Here or later Black had to drive away this Knight by 11...f6

12.g4!

This pawn limits not only the Knight, but the Bishop on c8 too.

12...♘g7

Or 12...♘f6 13.h3

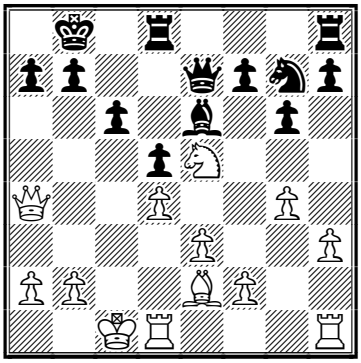
13.h3 ♗e6 14.♗e2 0-0-0 15.♘a4!

Leave your opponent with badly placed pieces and exchange all others!

15...♘xa4

Or else the Knight on a4 will go to c5.

16.♕xa4 ♔b8 (D)



17.♖d3!

Why not? Yes, it's not the Sicilian, but if you can attack why not to do it? White has 4 (and later all 5) pieces for attack, Black only has Queen and one Rook for defence. And now he hasn't time to drive away the Knight on e5.

17...♖d6

The other Rook will go to c8. 17...f6? 18.♘xc6+! bxc6 19.♖b3+ ♔c8 (19...♔c7 20.♕xa7+ ♔d6 21.♕c5+) 20.♕xc6+ ♕c7 21.♗a6#

18.♖a3 b6

Only move: 18...a6? 19.♗xa6! bxa6 20.♕xa6 with a decisive attack.

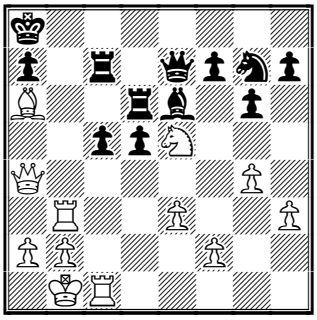
19.♔b1!

The most dangerous piece for the Black King here is the Rook on h1 – it waits its time!

19...♖c8 20.♖c1 c5

20...♗d7? 21.♕xa7#; 20...b5!? 21.♕b4± (21.♕a6!?±)

21.dxc5 bxc5 22.♗a6 ♖c7 23.♖b3+ ...♔a8 (D)



24.♖xc5!

Yes, as we foretold it! Black resigns in view of 24.♖xc5 ♖xc5 25.♗b7+ ♕xb7 (25...♔b8 26.♗c6+ ♔c8 27.♕a6+) 26.♖xb7 ♔xb7 27.♕b4+ ♖b6 28.♕xc5 Please take a parting look at the Knight on g7 – good by, your King is checkmated! A very convincing and easy (at first sight) victory by Rustam Kasimzhanov. By the way his opponent was quite a strong and experienced grandmaster.

1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://enghien.free.fr
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.sah-zveza.si/bled/
http://www.ututadianto.com/krisreport
http://www.schach.com/bundesliga/

Contact information.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-147, 3rd April 2001

Chess around the Globe

The beginning of April is rather quiet – there are only a few tournaments underway.

17 year old WIM **Irina Krush** of the USA is dominating the ***Oakham Masters*** 7 category tournament – in the 4th Round she outplayed experienced GM Jonathan Levitt with the black pieces and still keeps a perfect score! Another hero of the round was 12 year old Canadian prodigy **Mark Bluvshtein**, who beat GM Dimitri Tyomkin of Israel. FM **Nicholas Pert** of England outplayed top-seeded GM Neil McDonald and keeps clear second, a full point behind the leader. The tournament is rather disappointing for the GMs so far…

By the way, Irina is not the only girl in the event – **Humpy Koneru** of India, who just yesterday celebrated her 14th birthday, is also doing well – in the last round she held on against IM Daniel Gormally and is sharing third place.

Results of the 4th Round:
Levitt – Krush **0:1**
McDonald – Pert **0:1**
McNab – Estrada Nieto **½:½**
Koneru – Gormally **½:½**
Tyomkin – Bluvshtein **0:1**

Standings after 4 Rounds:
1. Krush – 4 points
2. Pert – 3
3-5. McNab, Koneru, Gormally – 2
6-9. Tyomkin, Estrada Nieto, McDonald, Bluvshtein – 1½
10. Levitt – 1

The ***Wotulo Memorial*** just finished in **Jakarta**, Indonesia. The home IM **Denny Juswanto** became a winner with excellent 9½ points which he scored in 13 rounds. GM **Krunoslav Hulak** of Croatia came second, GM **Darryl Johansen** of Australia was third.

Final standings:
1. Juswanto – 9½ points
2. Hulak – 9
3. Johansen – 8
4-6. Liu, Zaw, Kosasih – 7½
7. Sasikiran – 7
8-9. Djuric, Majella – 6½
10. Miezis – 6
11. Sharavdorj – 5½
12. Wahono – 4
13-14. Prayitno, Supriyono – 3

Our congratulations to all the winners!

Nowadays you can participate in strong tournaments (and have a chance to get a prize!) without having to leave home – take a look at this interesting information from the ***Internet Chess Club***….
The ICC is hosting the second annual **Dos Hermanas Tournament** with over $4,300 in cash prizes and many membership prizes. Entry is free and everyone can play in the event. Even non-members may enter and receive a free month of ICC if they complete the tournament. To enter, you should register at www.doshermanas.net/festival-2001/internet_tournament2001.htm
There are twelve qualifying tournaments March 30 to April 4, prior to the beginning of the knockout phase. Each qualifier is a 7-round Swiss event with a **time control of 8 2**. The twelve winners of the qualifying events and the top 20 scorers who do not win will qualify for the 32-player knockout events. You may play in as many or as few qualifying events as you like.

There are only 4 qualifying tournaments left (dates and times are according to the ICC time which is minus 4 hours from

GMT): April 3 (2PM), April 3 (8PM), April 4 (2PM), April 4 (8PM).
First 2 knockout rounds of 32 and 16: April 6 3PM.
Quarterfinals, Semi-finals, Final start: April 7 Noon.

Prizes:
1st – 1,500 Euros (appr. $1,350)
2nd – 750 Euros (appr. $675)
3-4 – 500 Euros (appr. $450)
5-8 – 200 Euros (appr. $180)
9-16 – 100 Euros (appr. $90)

The first three non GM-IM members of ICC will receive a free one year subscription to ICC. The first three non-members of ICC will receive a free one year subscription to ICC.

Don't miss a chance to play with GM – a lot of famous players are participating!

♘♘♘

Editorial note
by Alexander Baburin

Perhaps I should start by saying that I am very much an e-mail person - I receive about 30 e-mails a day on average and I like it! Every morning I turn my PC on and check my e-mail (usually I get about 10 new messages then) before breakfast. After that I check the latest issue of Chess Today, print it out and read it over my morning coffee. This routine was somehow interrupted this morning, when I received many more messages than usual. About 20 of them were enquiries about my software - people expressed interest, wanted to learn more, to buy it, etc. All fine - except I did not have a clue what they were talking about! Then I saw yesterday's CT and burst out laughing! Obviously many of our readers fell for this April 1st joke, though they should be alarmed by the incredible figure of 10 million (!!) games available in "my database". Anyway, it was good to know that people read our paper, even if we have to play a little joke to find that out! :-)

This story reminds me of the time when I lived in Nizhniy Novgorod (then Gorky). It was in late 80s, when there was a bit more freedom in the Soviet society, but very few consumer goods. Then it was very cool among teenagers to own a pair of Adidas runners, which were hard to get. So, one day our local newspaper wrote that in the popular sports shop people could exchange 10 pairs of old shoes for the right to buy one pair of Adidas runners. The offer would be limited to the first 2,000 entries. Needless to say that the shop was packed with visitors, all bringing old shoes and (sometimes aggressively) demanding Adidas! The shop had to close down for the day... Later it tried to sue the paper, but the latter defended itself by saying that the shop management should have better sense of humour and that readers should take the 1st of April announcements with a pinch of salt.

In **our March Lottery** the prize - *'Winning Pawn Structures'* went to Art J. Coldrick. Our congratulations to the lucky winner! We are very keen to promote our paper and thus our lotteries will continue. In April a different book will be on offer - *'The Human Comedy of Chess'* by GM Hans Ree. So far those people who saw CT, liked it and we also receive very positive feedback from our readers. But spreading the word seems to be a problem. This is where we hope to get your help - please feel free to forward 1-2 issues of Chess Today to your chess friends, encouraging them to subscribe. We would really appreciate that. You can also post one issue of CT at your Web site in exchange for CT banners - please check www.chesstoday.net for details. This could add some nice content to your site. If would like to do this, please e-mail me, so I can add you to the list of **CT hosts**.

Finally I would like to report the tournament, which took place in **Belfast** last weekend. It was sponsored by Target Recruitment and attracted about 100 people competing in 3 sections. In the Masters tournament GMs Bogdan Lalic and yours truly shared the first place (and £350 each) with 5 points out of 6. Two visitors from Netherlands - IMs H. Jonkman and Y. Visser tied for 3rd with 4½ points. Five more players, including IM Mark Orr finished on 4 points. The organisers, led by Tony Beckett, did a very good job. They hope to make it an annual event and I would very much recommend it.

This week we will start our **Player's Profile** section and also have some interesting interviews - stay tuned!

♘♘♘

New Date for Chess Today

By Tec Ed - Graham Brown

Please note that we are redating CT -147 to April 3rd. This is to avoid confusion with our readers in many time zones. There is no CT for April 2nd but you haven't missed an edition!

By the way … I notice that Alex got an equal first. Nice to see that running Chess Today hasn't spoilt his chess. I myself (although only an 1800 player!) haven't lost a game since I started editing the very first trial issue of Chess Today quite a few months ago including a win against a 2100 player! Do any of our readers have proof that Chess Today is helping, or hindering! their chess!? Do let us know about it.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

E Sveshnikov (2560) − V Filippov (2620)

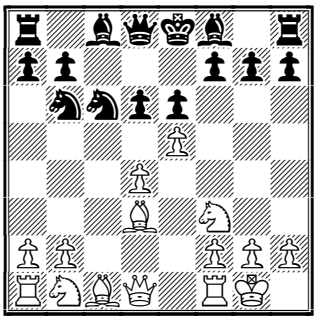
Bled op (9), 2001 B22

The situation before the final round was clear − Valery Filippov was leading with 7 points out of 8 while a group of players, including Evgeny Sveshnikov, were in chase half a point behind.

1.e4 c5 2.c3

This system is known to be not the most promising one for White against the Sicilian. However, Sveshnikov's huge experience lets him quite often outplay his opponents, playing "by finger−tips".

2...♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.♘f3 e6 5.♗c4 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 ♘b6 8.♗d3 ♘c6 9.0-0



9...dxe5

9...♘b4 is probably the most promising alternative. One example from my practice: 10.♗b5+ (some alternatives are 10.♗e2 ♗e7 11.a3 ♘4d5 12.♗d3 ♗d7 13.♕e2 ♗c6 14.♘c3 ♘xc3 15.bxc3 0-0 with complicated play, Smirnov − Vaulin, RUS−chT, Smolensk 2000; 10.♗g5 ♗e7 11.♗xe7 ♕xe7 12.♗e4 d5 13.♗d3 ♘xd3 14.♕xd3 ♗d7 15.♘c3 0-0 16.♖fc1 ♖fc8 with excellent play for Black, Smagin − Rublevsky, RUS−chT Kazan 1995) 10...♗d7 11.♘c3 ♗e7 12.♕b3 ♗xb5 13.♘xb5 ♘c6 14.a4 0-0! 15.a5 ♘d5 16.exd6 ♗xd6 17.♘xd6 ♕xd6 18.♕xb7 a6! 19.♕b3 ♖ab8 20.♕c4 ♘ce7 21.♖a3 ♖fc8 22.♕e2 ♕c6 with excellent compensation for the pawn, Daniliuk − R. Scherbakov, Krasnodar 1997.

10.dxe5 ♘b4 11.♗e4

In the game Szabadi − Szabo, HUN−ch 1951 White achieved nothing after 11.♗b5+ ♗d7 12.♘c3 ♗xb5 13.♘xb5 a6 14.♘bd4 ♗e7= with equality.

11...♕xd1 12.♖xd1 ♗d7

12...♘4d5 does not solve the problems: 13.a4 a5 14.♘c3! ♘xc3 15.bxc3 ♗c5 16.♘d4 ♗xd4 17.♖xd4 0-0 18.♗a3 ♖e8 19.♖ad1± with a big advantage, Godena − Sherwin, SWZ−chT 1997.

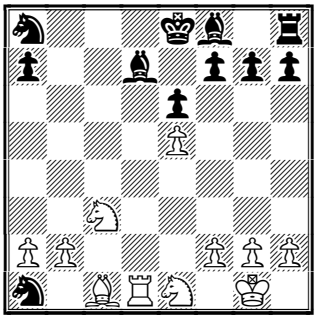
13.♗xb7!

This capture is actually a novelty! In the game Lematschko − Kapetanovic, Belgrade 1988 White was not so brave

and preferred 13.♘d4!? which also looks not so bad. The text move is more straightforward and it was clearly prepared by Sveshnikov at home.

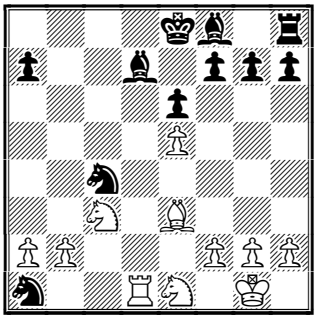
13...♘c2 14.♗xa8 ♘xa8 White won the exchange but now he is losing a whole rook.

15.♘c3 ♘xa1 16.♘e1



The point − White traps the knight and hopes to gain an extra pawn after all.

16...♘b6 17.♗e3 ♘c4



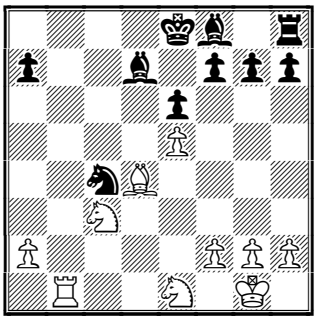
18.♗d4!

Black's idea was to capture the rather important central e5−pawn after the hasty 18.♗xa7 ♘b3! 19.axb3 ♘xe5 which was much less evil for him.

18...♘xb2 19.♖xa1 ♘c4

How many moves has Black spent to secure material equality?

20.♖b1



Sveshnikov's idea becomes clear − he forced the opponent to forget about kingside development and now faces no opposition to his rook's penetration.

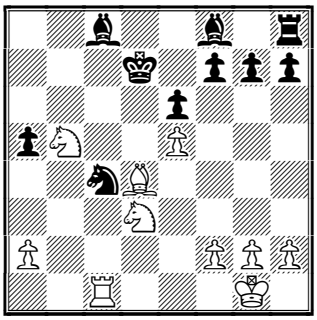
20...♗c8

20...♗c6!? deserved attention. After 21.♖b8+ ♔d7 22.♘d3 g5 23.♗xa7 ♗g7 24.♖xh8 ♗xh8 25.♗d4 White had reasonable winning chances but his task was still not so easy.

21.♘d3!

White could win a pawn by 21.♖b8 ♔d7 22.♖a8 a5 23.♖a7+ ♔c6 24.♖xf7 but he preferred to keep the initiative − here after 24...g5 Black keeps drawing chances as his pieces can get in play.

21...a5 22.♘b5 ♔d7 23.♖c1!

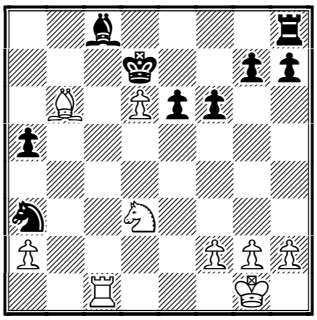


23...♘a3

In the case of 23...♗a6 24.a4 ♗xb5 25.axb5 ♘a3 26.b6 ♘b5 27.♗c5! White's passed pawn was very strong.

24.♘d6! ♗xd6 25.exd6 f6 Unfortunately Black had no time for 25...♘b5 due to 26.♘e5+!

26.♗b6!

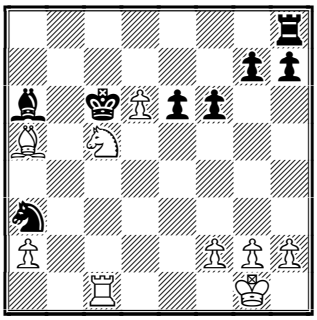


Very energetic play − Sveshnikov does not want to give his opponent a minute's respite! Again, he could have won a pawn instantly by 26.♖c7+!? ♔xd6 27.♖xg7 but probably didn't want to allow Black to develop his pieces by 27...♗a6 Yet, it was also good for White as after 28.♗xf6 ♗xd3 he took the bishop by 29.♖g3! and after 29...♖b8 30.♖xd3+ ♔c6 31.g4 Black had little chance of escaping.

26...♗a6?!

A desperate attempt to complete development. 26...♘b5?! was impossible due to 27.a4! , forcing Black to capture the pawn! After 27...♘xd6 28.♖c7+ ♔d8 (28...♔e8 29.♗c5) 29.♗xa5+− Black had nothing to hope for; 26...a4 27.♗c7 followed by ♘c5 was not very fun for Black but it let him at least continue fighting.

27.♘c5+ ♔c6 28.♗xa5+−

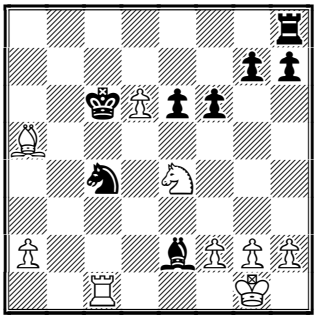


Finally White has won a pawn but it is not so important − Black's pieces are in terrible danger while d6−d7 is coming...

28...♗e2 29.♘e4+!

The simplest − White wants to promote the d−pawn.

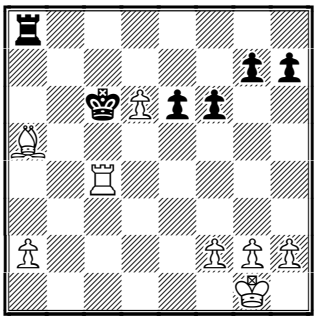
29...♘c4



30.♘d2! ♖a8

Black wanted dearly to use his rook ...

31.♘xc4 ♗xc4 32.♖xc4+



The last move in this excellent and very instructive game. Such masterful play brought Evgeny Sveshnikov a clear win in the tournament, our congratulations once again!

1-0

♘♘♘

Recommended sites.

www.bcmchess.co.uk
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.chessclub.com
www.ututadianto.com/krisreport

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-148, 4 April 2001

Chess around the Globe

The new top 100 FIDE Rating list has been released for April 2001.

Garry Kasparov is still the Number One rated player, but both World Champions are not too far behind. **Vladimir Kramnik** became the second player in history to go over the 2800 mark and **Vishy Anand** is also very close. It is interesting to note that attaining a 2700 rating is no longer a guarantee for making it into the top ten – look at the top of the list:

1. Garry Kasparov	**RUS**	**2822**
2. Vladimir Kramnik	**RUS**	**2802**
3. Viswanathan Anand	**IND**	**2794**
4. Michael Adams	ENG	2750
5. Alexander Morozevich	RUS	2749
6. Peter Leko	HUN	2739
7. Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	2731
8. Alexei Shirov	ESP	2727
9. Boris Gelfand	ISR	2712
10. Evgeny Bareev	RUS	2709
11. Veselin Topalov	BUL	2707

Veselin Topalov, a recent co-winner of the rapid and blindfold tournament in Monaco will no doubt work harder to get into the top ten.

The top women players over 2500 are:

1. Judit Polgar	**HUN**	**2676**
2. Xie Jun	**CHN**	**2557**
3. Alisa Galliamova	**RUS**	**2554**
4. Zhu Chen	CHN	2538
5. Maia Chiburdanidze	GEO	2525
6. Wang Pin	CHN	2504
7. Xu Yuhua	CHN	2501

It is not a surprising that the Chinese players are widely represented at the top of the list – China has recently won almost every major tournament and Xie Jun retains the World Title.

Let's take a look at the tournaments.

All games were drawn in the 5th Round of the ***Oakham Masters***, so the situation is unchanged. **Irina Krush** (USA) is a full point ahead of the field. By the way, it was her first loss in the tournament after four brilliant wins at the start.

Results of the 5th Round:
Krush – Tyomkin **½:½**
Pert – Koneru **½:½**
Gormally – McNab **½:½**
Estrada Nieto – Levitt **½:½**
Bluvshtein – McDonald **½:½**

Standings after 5 rounds:
1. Krush – 4½ points
2. Pert – 3½
3-5. McNab, Koneru, Gormally – 2½
6-9. Tyomkin, Estrada Nieto, McDonald, Bluvshtein – 1
10. Levitt – 1½

WGM **Maria Velcheva** won the ***49th Bulgarian Women's Championships*** with 8,5 points out of 11. She lost only one game to the most surprising player of the event – 17 year old **Ljubka Georgieva**, who shared second place with WGM **Margarita Voiska** and WIM **Ruzhka Genova**.

We received some interesting information about the ***ODYSSEY 2001*** tournament – it is a giant 15 round Swiss computer chess tournament between 26 of the strongest chess programs in the world played with an official tournament time control to ensure maximum playing strength and game quality.

All games are analyzed by GM's and IM's - members of the ***Baltijos Lyga Chess Club*** known from the Internet matches against ***REBEL***.

After 3 rounds there are 5 leaders with 2½ points: **Junior6**, **Shredder5, Rebel-Century3, Zchess2.2 and Gromit 3.8.1.**

Many thanks to **Ed Schroder** for this report.

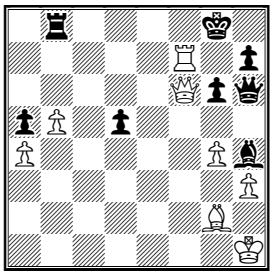
There is sad news to report from Brazil – **Herman van Riemsdijk** reports:

IM **Eugênio German** died on April 1 at the age of 70. He was Brazil's first IM, and had won the Brazilian Championship twice in 1951 and 1972). He played in the Stockholm Interzonal in 1962 and represented Brazil in three Olympiads in 1952, 1968 and 1972. You can find additional information about his chess career and 191 games for downloading at: **HiperChess** (in Portuguese).

Tactical Puzzles

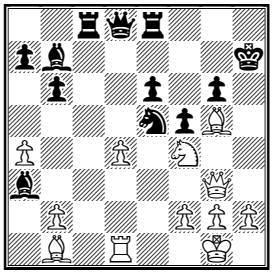
(Solutions on page 4)

1. I. Krush(2380) – C. McNab(2403)
Oakham Masters (3), 31.03.2001



White to move and win

3. D.Gormally(2505) – I. Krush (2380)
Oakham Masters (2), 30.03.2001



Black to move and win

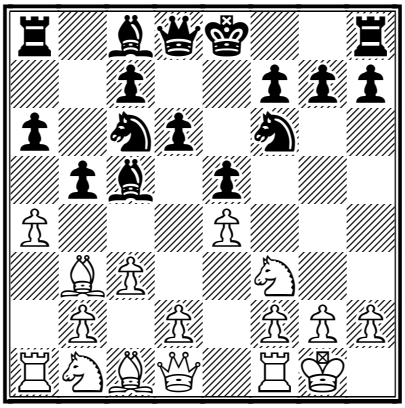
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

I. Krush (2380) – J. Estrada Nieto (2372)
Oakham Masters (1), 29.03.2001
C78

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5 6.♗b3 ♗c5 7.c3 d6 8.a4 (D)



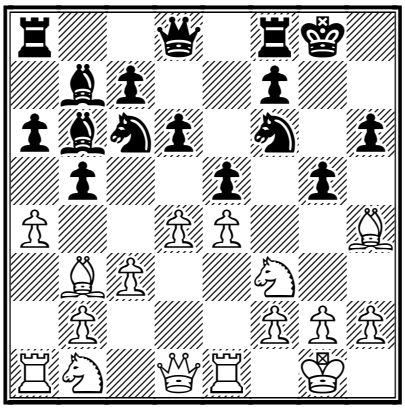
8...♗b7

Recently 8...♗g4 is popular – take a look at an example at the highest level of play: 9.h3 ♗xf3 10.♕xf3 0-0 11.a5 ♖b8 12.d3 ♘d7 13.♗e3 ♔h8 14.♘d2± Kasparov – Anand, Wijk aan Zee Corus 2001.

9.d4 ♗b6 10.♖e1 0-0

10...h6 is the alternative which prevents the pin of the knight on f6.

11.♗g5 h6 12.♗h4 g5 (D)



A direct approach − Black unpins the Knight and is going to apply pressure on White's pawn center by all his minor pieces and a rook on e8. However, the question is if White can sacrifice the knight on g5. There are some other possibilities: 12...♖e8; 12...♕e7; and 12...exd4 followed by ...♖e8.

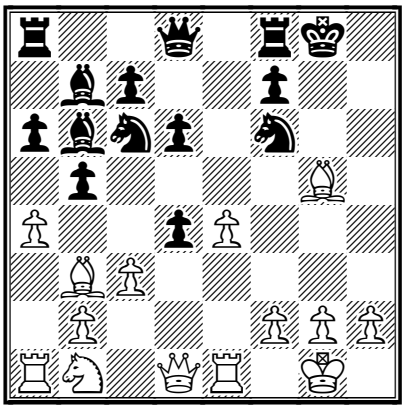
13.♘xg5!?

White usually prefers to keep the Bishop by 13.♗g3 However, since the game Mestel − Beliavsky, Mexico 1978 Black is supposed to achieve quite acceptable play after 13...♖e8⇄ Alexander Beliavsky had played this position a few times before and was probably not too worried about this sacrifice. Maybe in vain, though?!

13...hxg5 14.♗xg5

The pin looks rather annoying but Black is not without defensive resources. Yet, his play is not easy here.

14...exd4 (D)



The immediate 14...♔g7!? was worthy of consideration.

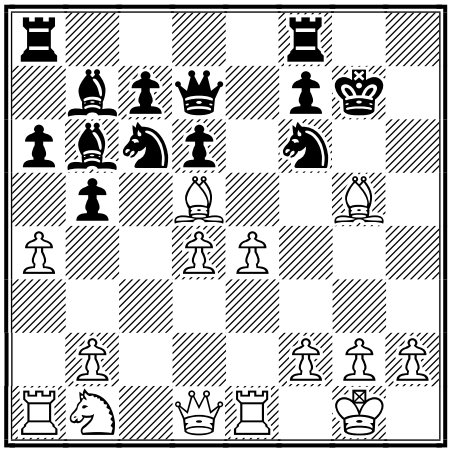
15.♗d5!?

A new, and very interesting move. The game Diaz − A.Rodriguez, Cienfuegos 1983 continued with: 15.♕f3 ♔g7 and here White should have played 16.♕g3⩲ with enough compensation for the piece.

15...♔g7

A logical continuation, but it doesn't solve the problems. 15...dxc3 16.♘xc3 b4 comes to mind but it looked no less dangerous as White had 17.e5! (17.♘e2? ♗xf2+!) 17...dxe5 18.♘e4↑ after which Black should give up the Queen for three minor piece by 18...♘xd5 (18...♗xf2+ 19.♔h1!) 19.♗xd8 ♖fxd8 but the opened position of his King would promise White better chances.

16.cxd4 ♕d7 (D)



16...♖e8 17.♖a3 looked more dangerous for Black.

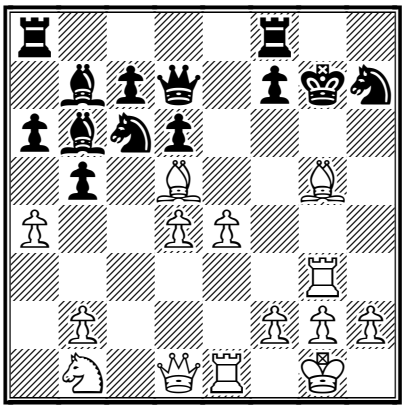
17.♖a3!

The rook quickly joins the attack.

17...♘h7

17...♘xd5? did not help due to 18.♖g3! and Black has no defence against the direct attack: 18...f6 (18...♖h8 19.♗e7+!) 19.♕h5!! fxg5 20.♖xg5+ ♔f6 21.exd5+− with a quick checkmate.

18.♖g3 (D)

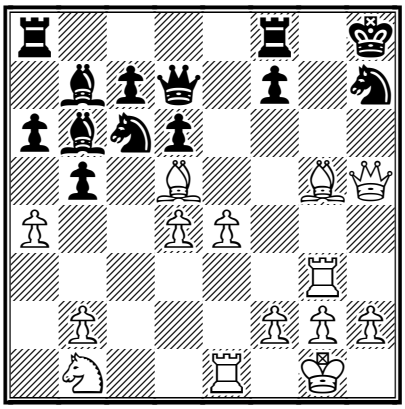


18.♕h5!? deserved attention − however, after 18...f6 19.♗h6+ ♔h8 20.♗xf8 ♖xf8 White still retains better chances, although her attack was not as strong.

18...♔h8

18...♘xg5!? 19.♖xg5+ ♔f6 was worthy of consideration − at least White did not have a direct way to checkmate the Black King.

19.♕h5 (D)



19...♗xd4?

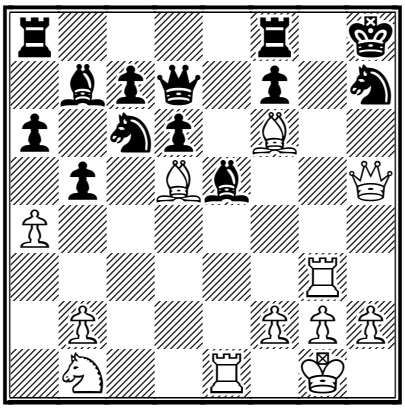
A natural move which actually loses instantly. 19...f5! seemed to be the only defence. A possible line was 20.♗h6 ♗xd4 21.e5! ♗xe5 (21...dxe5 22.♕g6!+−) 22.♖xe5! ♘xe5 (22...dxe5 23.♕g6!+−) 23.♗xb7 ♘g4!? 24.♗xa8 ♖xa8 25.♗d2! and White keeps the initiative!

20.e5!!

Excellent!

20...♗xe5? (D)

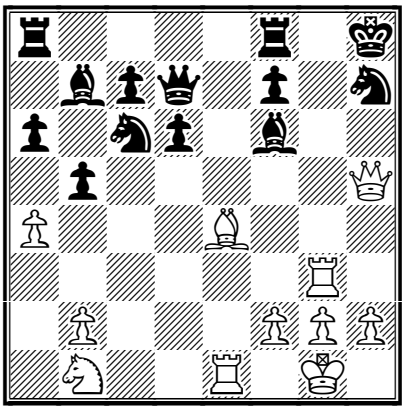
This allows White to demonstrate the main idea. 20...f5 was probably the only way, but it did not help either: 21.♗f6+ (21.e6 ♕e8 22.♕h4 ♗e5 23.♖h3 ♕g6 24.e7 ♖g8∞) 21...♖xf6 22.exf6 ♗xf6 23.♕g6 ♗g5 (23...♗g7 24.♗f7) 24.♖xg5 ♘xg5 25.♕xg5+− and Black cannot defend this position.



21.♗f6+!!

A thematic blow − White prevents the f−pawn from moving!

♗xf6 22.♗e4 (D)



Black resigned since checkmate cannot be prevented. An excellent attack by Irina Krush! **1-0.**

Solutions to tactical Puzzles:

1. 46.♖f8+! A nice finish − ♗d5 comes next so Black resigned. **1-0**

2. Irina Krush showed very powerful play at the start of the Oakham Masters GM tournament − look how she has crushed her opponents. Daniel Gormally sacrificed a Rook trying to initiate an attack against the

Black king. In addition some of Black's pieces are threatenned. However, Irina finds a simple way to clarify the situation in her favour. **24...♕xd4!** 24...♗e7 25.♗xe7 ♖xe7 26.♖e1 ♘g4 27.h3∞ was far from clear. **25.♖f1 ♗xb2** White is simply a rook down so he resigned. **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:
www.fide.com
www.bcmchess.co.uk
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.chessclub.com
www.chessbg.com
www.rebel.nl

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-149, 5th April 2001

Chess around the Globe

The great Hungarian player, **Lajos Portisch** celebrates his **64th birthday** today. >>

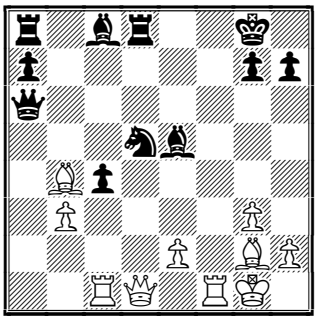
There is no need to write a special essay on him, let's just remind you of some of his achievements. 9 times Champion of Hungary, he participated in all the chess Olympiads starting from 1956, including Istanbul 2000! It sounds rather unbelievable as we all know how many top players are in his country.

For almost 30 years Portisch was at the top-level – he took part in 11 interzonal tournaments and played 8 Candidates matches. His style was not so bright, it was rather universal – but his well thought out play and huge knowledge was impressive. As the legendary Mikhail Tal said: "Portisch is not satisfied with a good move, he is always looking for the best one!"

Congratulations and best wishes from Chess Today!

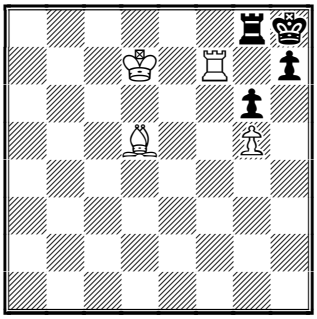
You can find some examples of Lajos Portisch's brilliant play below.

(1) Portisch (2585) − Gulko (2635)
Biel Interzonal Biel (9), 1993



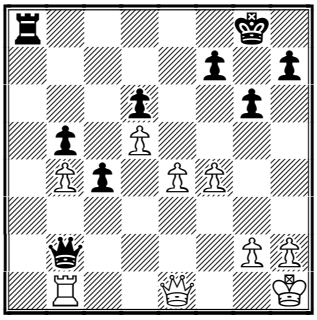
White to Play

(2) Portisch (2605) − Dlugy (2525)
Hoogovens Wijk aan Zee (4), 1990



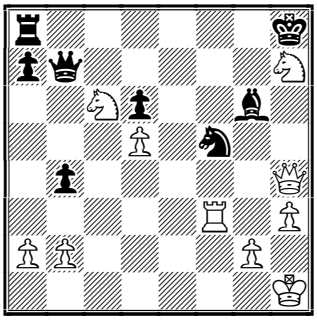
White to Play

(3) Beliavsky (2630) − Portisch (2615)
Szirak Interzonal Szirak (14), 1987



Black to Play

(4) Portisch (2635) − Gligoric (2575)
Milan (2), 1975



White to Play

Chess life is very quiet these days, the players have some rest and can prepare for future battles!

American IM **Irina Krush** is continuing to crush all the opponents in the ***Oakham Masters*** – her victim in the 6th Round was GM Neil McDonald! She has already scored 5½ points and now needs only 1½ points in the last 3 games to achieve her first grandmaster norm. **Nicholas Pert** also keeps his chances for a GM-norm alive but his task is difficult (2½ out of 3) and he will face the leader with black in the next round. Better news is, as ***John Saunders*** reports, that Nicholas not so much needs a GM-norm (it would be his 4th) as the rating points to carry him up to the required level of 2500. IM **Daniel Gormally** beat GM Jonathan Levitt and keeps clear third, two points behind the leader.

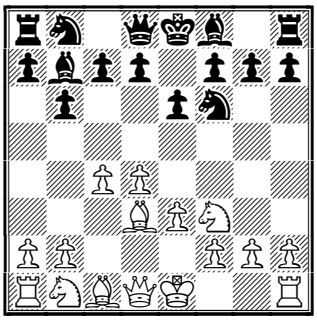
Results of the 6th Round:
McDonald – Krush **0:1**
Pert – Bluvshtein **1:0**
Levitt – Gormally **0:1**
Tyomkin – Estrada Nieto **½:½**
Koneru – McNab **½:½**

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Krush – 5½ points
2. Pert – 4½
3. Gormally – 3½
4-5. McNab, Koneru – 3
6-7. Tyomkin, Estrada Nieto – 2½
8-9. McDonald, Bluvshtein – 2
10. Levitt – 1½

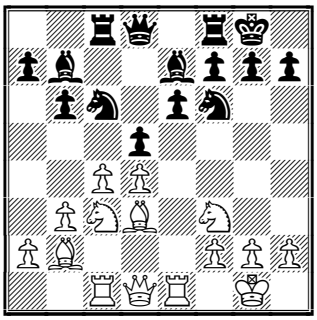
♘♘♘

Annotated Game
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

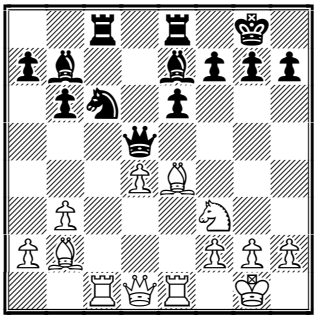
L Portisch 2605 − N De Firmian 2565
Reggio Emilia Reggio Emilia, 1989 E14
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.e3 ♗b7 5.♗d3



5...c5
Recently the system connected with 5...d5 and ...♘bd7 is more often played.
6.0-0 ♗e7 7.♘c3 cxd4 8.exd4 d5 9.b3 0-0 10.♗b2 ♘c6 11.♖e1 ♖c8 12.♖c1

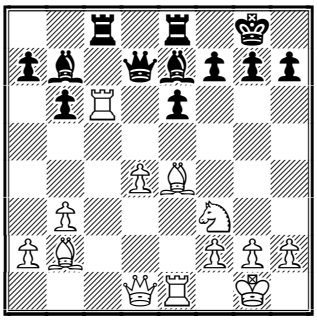


White has more possibilities for active play while Black keeps a solid position.
12...♖e8
The alternative 12...♘b4 deserves attention.
13.cxd5!
This exchange is rather promising.
13...♘xd5 14.♘xd5 ♕xd5
In the game Jussupow − Renet, Kaufbeuren 1993 White achieved better chances after 14...exd5 15.♗f5 ♖c7 16.♕e2±
15.♗e4



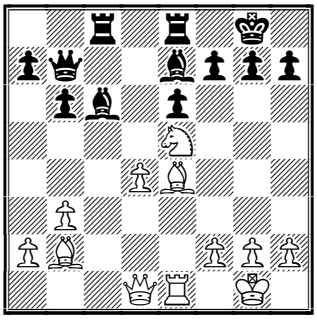
15...♕d7?
A very unsuccessful retreat − almost any other move was better! Yet, it is not so easy for Black to solve the problems

completely. For example, 15...♕h5 16.d5!? ♖cd8 17.dxc6! ♖xd1 18.cxb7!? ♖xe1+ 19.♖xe1 ♗d6 20.♖c1 and White eventually promoted his powerful b7−pawn, San Segundo − Villavicencio, Las Palmas 1996; In the case of 15...♕d6 16.d5!? exd5 17.♕xd5 ♕xd5 18.♗xd5 White keeps the initiative in the ending, Jussupow − Rodriguez, Novi Sad (ol) 1990.



The text move allows White to begin a series of heavy blows.

16.♖xc6! ♗xc6 17.♘e5 ♕b7



18.♗xh7+!

Excellent and rather unexpected! Of course, the idea was not to restore material balance by 18.♘xc6?! ♖xc6 19.♕f3 ♖ec8 20.d5 exd5 21.♗xd5 ♗f8= with equality; An attempt 18.♕h5!? g6 19.♕f3 was also interesting, after 19...♗b4 (19...♗d5 20.♕xf7+ ♔h8 21.♘xg6+! hxg6 22.♕xg6 ♗d6 23.♖e3+−) 20.♗xc6 (20.♘xc6? ♗xe1 21.♕f6 ♖xc6 22.♗xc6 ♕xc6 23.d5 ♗xf2+! 24.♔h1 ♗d4!! 25.♕xd4 e5!) 20...♖xc6 21.♘xc6 ♗xe1 22.d5! followed by ♕f6 White's initiative looked overwhelming.

18...♔f8

A capture of the bishop was no better: 18...♔xh7 19.♕h5+ ♔g8 20.♕xf7+ ♔h7 (20...♔h8 21.♘xc6! ♖f8 22.♕xe7)

A) or 21.♕g6+ ♔g8 22.d5! (22.♕xe6+? ♔h7 23.d5 ♗f6) 22...♗f6 (22...♗xd5? 23.♘d7! e5 24.♗xe5) 23.dxc6 ♕e7 24.♖c1 with a huge advantage;

B) and here White has a pleasant choice: 21.♘xc6!? 21...♖f8 22.♕xe7 ♕xe7 23.♘xe7 ♖c2 24.♖e3! g5 (24...♖xb2?? 25.♖h3#) 25.♗c3 ♖fxf2 26.♖g3+− with an almost decisive advantage.

19.♕h5 ♗b4 20.♗d3!

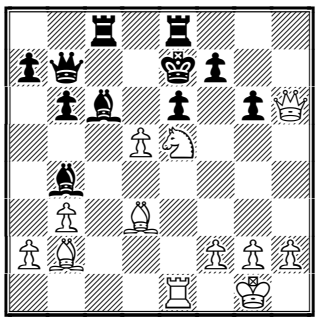
Keeping in mind ♗a6.

20...g6

Both 20...♗xe1?? 21.♗a3+; and 20...♗xg2? 21.♗a6! were losing instantly.

21.♕h6+ ♔e7

The king should go to the centre, 21...♔g8 22.♘g4! f5 23.d5! was too awful for Black.



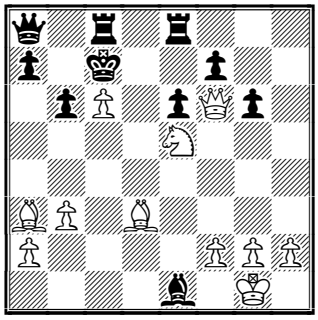
22.d5!

Only the bishop on b2 was not in action − White corrects this "omission".

22...♗xe1

22...♗xd5 23.♕h4+ was also clear: 23...♔f8 (23...g5 24.♕xb4+ ♖c5 25.♗d4+−) 24.♘d7+! ♕xd7 25.♗f6! followed by ♕h8 checkmate! Now White's army shows it's great power.

23.♗a3+ ♔d8 24.♕h4+ ♔c7 25.dxc6 ♕a8 26.♕f6



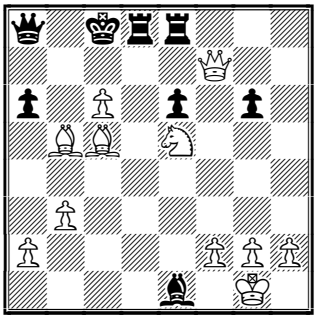
Black's major pieces are dragging out a miserable existence. As to the bishop on e1, it's almost invisible...

26...b5

A desperate attempt to escape with the king.

27.♗c5! No way!

27...♖cd8 28.♕xf7+ ♔c8 29.♗xb5 a6



30.♕d7+!
A nice finish. It's not too difficult to calculate that all Black's pieces will leave the board in a couple of moves so he resigned. Excellent win by Lajos Portisch!
1-0

Answers to Puzzles

(1) 24.♕xd5+! ♖xd5 (24...♗e6 25.♕xe5) **25.♖f8# 1-0**

(2) White cannot exchange the rooks so his task does not look too easy. However, Black resigned after the very next move. **77.♖xh7+! ♔xh7 78.♗xg8+ ♔xg8 79.♔e8 1-0**

(3) Black finds the most powerful way to realise his main trump card − strong passed c−pawn − taking use of the weakness of the first rank. **36...c3! 37.h3 ♖a2! 38.♕f1 c2! 39.♖c1 ♕xb4** The rest is easy. **40.e5 ♖b2 41.♕f2 ♕e4 42.♔h2** [42.exd6 ♖b1] **42...♕xd5** White resigned. **0-1**

(4) Portisch finds and excellent way to use his cavalry at full power. **33.♖xf5! ♗xf5 34.♘e7!** Black resigned as he at least loses the queen. [34.♘e7 ♗b1 (34...♗xh7 35.♕f6#; 34...♗c8 35.♕f6+ ♔xh7 36.♕f7+ ♔h8 37.♘g6#) 35.♕f6+ ♔xh7 36.♕f7+ ♔h6 (36...♔h8 37.♘g6+ ♗xg6 38.♕xb7+−) 37.♘g8+ ♖xg8 38.♕xb7+−] **1-0**

Recommended sites.

www.bcmchess.co.uk
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.chessclub.com
www.fide.com

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-150, 6 April 2001

Chess around the Globe

The World Champion, **Vladimir Kramnik,** possibly earned a **2800+ rating by mistake!** International Arbiter, and ***KasparovChess*** expert ***Vladimir Dvorkovich*** explains how it happened: "The Braingames World Championship Match Kasparov – Kramnik is finally calculated for the April rating list but it was made in completely wrong way. The person who did it probably knows that the transposition of the items does not change the sum but this mathematics law does not work in our case. The point is that the match was calculated **after** the Wijk aan Zee tournament where the expected results of both players and so the change of their ratings were calculated proceeding from the wrong base. Kasparov lost 26 ELO-points in London's match (in fact he simply transferred them to Kramnik) so if it could have been wisely taken into account **before** Wijk aan Zee than the correct ratings would be: **Kasparov – 2826** and **Kramnik – 2796**. As to other participants of the Wijk aan Zee, their ratings were not affected by this mistake as it has not changed the average rating of the tournament. Please don't mislead the chess community and the new World Champion himself by reporting that he passed over 2800 – it still lays ahead…"

Now let's take a look at the tournaments.

The critical game of the ***Oakham Masters*** between the leaders – IMs **Irina Krush** (USA) and **Nicholas Pert** (England) quickly ended in a draw. Irina now needs only two more draws to achieve her first GM-norm, while Nick has to win both games to fulfil the same task.

14 year old **Humpy Koneru, India's rising star,** defeated Canadian prodigy 12 year old Mark Bluvshtein. She now needs a half point from 2 remaining games to get the coveted WGM-norm and one point for an IM-norm.

Results of the 7th Round:
Krush – Pert **½:½**
Gormally – Tyomkin **½:½**
McNab – Levitt **½:½**
Bluvshtein – Koneru **0:1**
Estrada Nieto – McDonald **1:0** **½:½**

Standings after 7 rounds:
1. Krush – 6 points
2. Pert – 5
3-4. Gormally, Koneru – 4
5-6. McNab, Estrada Nieto – 3½
7. Tyomkin – 3
8-10. McDonald, Bluvshtein, Levitt – 2

The 1st Grandmaster Tournament is underway in ***Antalya*****, Turkey.** After 5 rounds IM Stelios Halkias of Greece is leading with 4½ points**. GMs Spirydon Skembris** of Greece and **Krum Georgiev** of Bulgaria are sharing second place, half a point behind**.**

Standings after 5 rounds:
Halkias – 4½ points
2-3. Skembris, Kr. Georgiev – 4
4-6. Popchev, Moroz, Arduman – 3
7-8. Radulov, Mstrovasilis – 2½
9-10. Atakişi, Haznedaroglu – 2
11-12. Erdogdu, Olcayöz – 1½
13. Erdogan – 1
14. Kraidman – ½

All qualifing tournaments of the 2nd **Dos Hermanas Tournament** which is held at the ***Internet Chess Club*** are completed.

32 players are going to the next stage:

1. GM Alexey Dreev – 2685
2. GM Zurab Azmaiparashvili – 2670
3. GM Ivan Sokolov – 2659
4. GM Sergey Shipov – 2640
5. GM Boris Avrukh – 2630
6. GM Alexander Rustemov – 2620
7. GM Lev Psakhis – 2598
8. GM Sergey Volkov – 2564
9. IM Daniel Fridman – 2559
10. GM Roman Dzindzichashvili – 2542
11. GM Andrey Shchekachev – 2537
12. GM Maxim Dlugy – 2531
13. IM Andrey Rychagov – 2525
14. GM Levon Aronian – 2522
15. GM Victor Mikhalevsky – 2500
16. IM Diego Adla – 2499
17. GM Alexander Stripunsky – 2495
18. IM Mikhail Oratovsky – 2493
19. GM Alexander Finkel – 2490
20. GM Pablo Zarnicky – 2487
21. IM Sergey Krivoshey – 2483
22. IM Guillermo Soppe - 2474
23. IM Rodrigo Vasquez – 2468
24. IM Nikolai Vlassov – 2467
25. GM Alexander Kochyev – 2424
26. IM Renier Gonazalez – 2423
27. Genrikh Chepukaitis – 2417
28. IM Mark Ginsburg – 2400
29. IM Guillermo Rey – 2376
30. IM Arkady Shevelev – 2364
31. Roman Sergejev – 2349
32. Willy Hendriks – 2338

Pairings of the knockout matches are:

Dreev – Hendriks
Azmaiparashvili – Sergejev
Sokolov – Shevelev
Shipov – Rey
Avrukh – Ginsburg
Rustemov – Chepukaitis
Psakhis – Gonzalez
Volkov – Kochyev
Fridman – Vlassov
Dzindzichashvili – Vasquez
Shchekachev – Soppe
Dlugy – Krivoshey
Rychagov – Zarnicky
Aronian – Finkel
Mikhalevsky – Oratovsky
Adla – Stripunsky

Each knockout match will be two games of 8/2 time control (8 minutes and 2 second increments for every move played move.) In case of a tie after two games, there will be a single game playoff in which White gets 5 minutes, and Black gets 4 minutes, but Black wins if the result of the game is a draw.

There will be two rounds of knockouts on Friday, April 6, starting at 3PM (ICC time – add 4 hours for GMT), and the final three rounds will be held starting at noon on Saturday, April 7 to determine the overall winner.

Prizes:
1st – 1,500 Euros (appr. $1,350)
2nd – 750 Euros (appr. $675)
3-4 – 500 Euros (appr. $450)
5-8 – 200 Euros (appr. $180)
9-16 – 100 Euros (appr. $90)

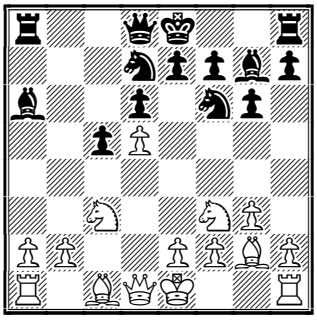
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Y. Kraidman (2334) − S.Halkias (2494)
1st Int. GM Tourn. Kemer−Antalya, TURKEY (4), 04.04.2001 A58
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

The leader of the Antalya GM tournament, IM Stelios Halkias scored 4 wins in the first 5 rounds. Let's take a look at one of his excellent victories.

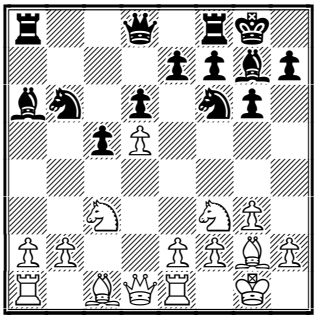
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.♘c3 ♗xa6 7.g3 ♗g7 8.♗g2 d6 9.♘f3 ♘bd7 (D)



The Volga Gambit. Thanks to the pawn sacrifice Black has quickly developed his pieces and can now create strong pressure on White's

queenside − his rooks will be very well placed on the "a" and "b" files, while his Bishops also have good diagonals to work with.

10.0-0 ♘b6 11.♖e1 0-0 (D)



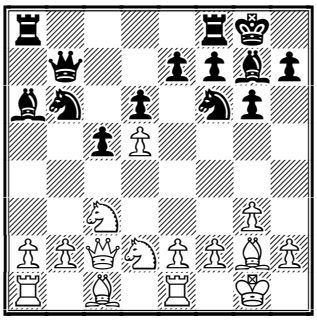
12.♘d2

12.♗f4 is the main and much often played alternative; while 12.e4 is a little premature. White cannot quickly advance e4−e5 as Black plays 12...♘fd7 − while a weakness of the square d3 gives him more possibilities for active play.

12...♕c7 13.♕c2

White has also tried other possibilities. Some examples: 13.♖b1 ♕b7 14.b3 ♘fxd5 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♘f1 ♘c3! 17.♗xb7 ♗xb7 18.♕d3 ♗e4 19.♕e3 ♗d4 20.♕h6 ♗xb1 and Black eventually won in brilliant style, Hort − Alburt, Decin 1977.; 13.♘b3 ♘c4 14.h3 ♖fb8 15.♕c2 ♕b6 16.♖b1 ♘d7 and Black achieved good compensation for the pawn, Korchnoi − Greenfeld, Beersheva 1984.

13...♕b7 (D)



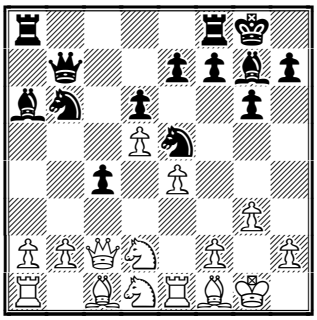
14.e4

14.♘b3!? comes to mind by analogy with the game Korchnoi − Greenfeld; while after 14.♘f1 ♘fxd5 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♕d2 e6 17.♘e3 ♖ab8∞ a draw was agreed in the game Tomecek − Jurka, CZE−chT 1995. The text move should always be well thought out as it weakens the d3 square − the pawns cannot move back!

14...♘g4 15.♘d1?!

A typical manoeuvre in this kind of position, but here it looks pointless − the Black Knight won't occupy the c4 square, and there was no need to defend the pawns on b2 or f2 so urgently. 15.♘f3!? deserved attention with idea of developing the bishop on c1.

15...♘e5 16.♗f1 c4! (D)



Now it is clear that White's strategy was far from perfect. He faces real problems with development and has no chance to counter Black's initiative.

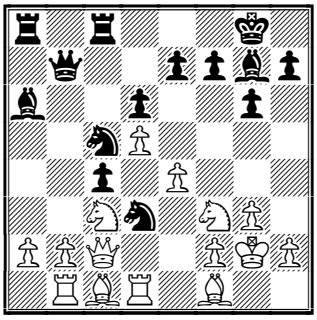
17.♘c3

So the knight came back.

17...♖fc8 18.♖d1 ♘bd7

The Knight is going to d3.

19.♔g2 ♘c5 20.♘f3 ♘ed3 21.♖b1 (D)

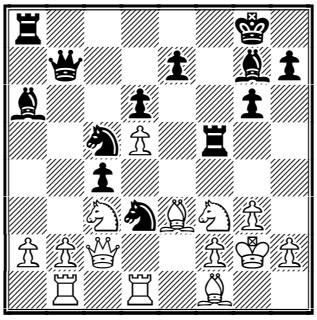


White has defended everything and intends to make his life easier by developing the Bishop to ♗e3 and d4, but Black moves first.

21...f5! 22.exf5 ♖f8! 23.♗e3

The preliminary 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.♗e3 gives Black time for 24...♗xc3 followed by ...♕d5 and ...♗b7.

23...♖xf5↑ (D)

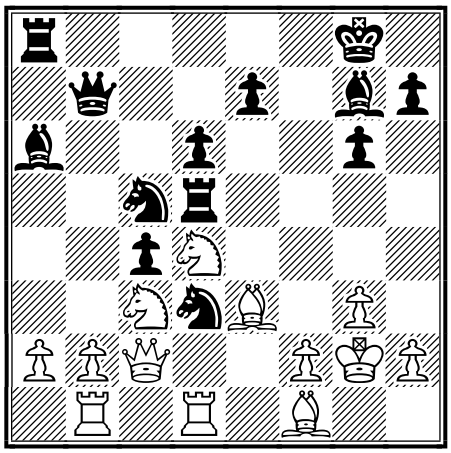


All of Black's pieces are powerful − it is not a big surprise that White is already bad here.

24.♘d4?

24.g4!? was more tenacious, but Black could have realized a big advantage by playing, for example, 24...♖ff8 25.♘d4 ♘b4 followed by ...♘d5.

24...♖xd5! (D)

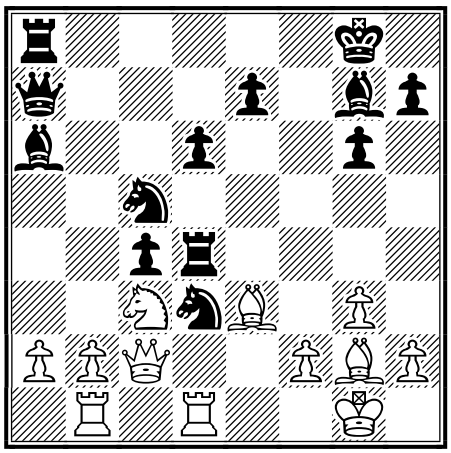


The opening of the long diagonal is fatal for White.

25.♔g1

In case of 25.♘xd5 Black had 25...♗xd4! followed by ...♕d5.

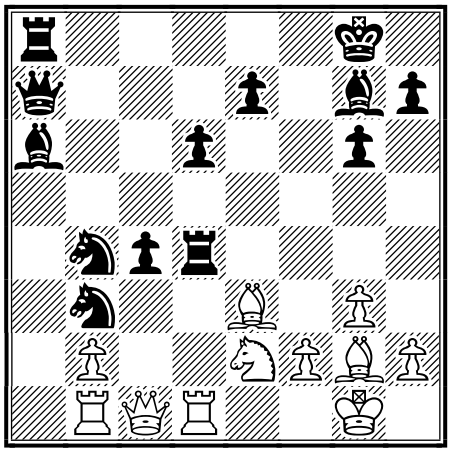
25...♖xd4 26.♗g2 ♕a7 (D)



27.♘e2?

By 27.♗xa8 ♕xa8 28.♗xd4 White could have captured both Black's rooks but the position after 28...♗xd4→ could have been hardly defendable. In addition to the direct ...♗f2, Black has a lot threats such as ...♕c6 and ...♗b7 or ...♘e5−f3. The text move is even worse but it looks like White was too demoralized here.

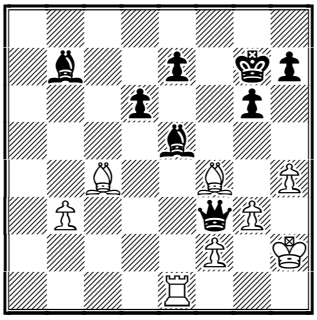
27...♘b4 28.♕c1 ♘xa2 29.♕c2 ♘b4 30.♕c1 ♘a2 31.♕c2 ♘b4 32.♕c1 ♘b3 (D)



The queen is captured! The rest is of little interest. By the way, 32...♖xd1+!? 33.♕xd1 ♖b8 was also not too bad, keeping the extra piece.

33.♘xd4 ♘xc1 34.♖bxc1 ♖b8 35.♘c6 ♕c7 36.♘xb8 ♕xb8 37.♖d2 ♗f6 38.♗h3 ♗c8 39.♗f1 ♘d3 40.♖xc4 ♘e5 41.♖d1 ♘xc4 42.♗xc4+ ♔g7 43.b3 ♗b7 44.h4 ♕c8 45.♔h2 ♕g4 46.♖e1 ♗e5

47.♗f4 ♕f3 (D)



White resigned. **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

www.bcmchess.co.uk
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.chessclub.com
www.tsf.org.tr/index_english.htm

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-151, 7 April 2001

Chess around the Globe

A sensation at the ***Oakham Masters*** GM tournament – 12 year old Canadian prodigy **Mark Bluvshtein** stops the leader, **Irina Krush!** Frankly speaking, she completely outplayed him in the opening and had many ways to prove her advantage, including a simple capture of his Queen at the critical moment, but she was possibly too worn out. Now Irina needs a win in the last round game against another girl in the tournament – 14 year old, **Humpy Koneru**, India's rising star, who already scored the WGM-norm and now needs half a point for IM-norm.

Nick Pert beat Julian Estrada Nieto and has caught up to the leader. He needs now to beat Danny Gormally with Black in the last round to get his 4th (probably superfluous) GM-norm.

Results of the 8th Round:
Bluvshtein – Krush **1:0**
Pert – Estrada Nieto **1:0**
McDonald – Gormally **½:½**
Koneru – Levitt **½:½**
Tyomkin – McNab **½:½**

Standings after 8 rounds:
1-2. Krush, Pert – 6 points
3-4. Gormally, Koneru – 4½
5. McNab – 4
6-7. Tyomkin, Estrada Nieto – 3½
8. Bluvshtein – 3
9-10. Levitt, McDonald – 2½

"Thanks" to the delay, we have the news about the last round of the ***Oakham Masters*** – **Irina Krush** has lost again!

John Saunders reports: "A quiet end to the tournament as **Humpy Koneru** converted her WGM norm into an IM norm. Alas **Nick Pert** and **Irina Krush** missed out on their GM norms, but both gained rating points and took the 1st and 2nd prizes respectively. Old Oakhamian Nick has already been invited back to go for the hat-trick (as he has now won the last two Oakham GM events). Irina tried hard for the win against Humpy, but once again the Indian girl showed cool defence, finishing 3rd. Nick Pert was held solidly by Danny Gormally, who thus came 4th . The last game to finish, Colin McNab against Neil McDonald, was tight until Neil opened up the position, when both sides had dangerous passed pawns. Colin's proved quicker and he shared 4th place."

Results of the 9th Round:
Krush – Koneru **0:1**
Gormally – Pert **½:½**
McNab – McDonald **1:0**
Estrada Nieto – Bluvshtein **½:½**
Levitt – Tyomkin **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Pert - 6½ points
2. Krush – 6
3. Koneru - 5½
4-5. Gormally, McNab – 5
6-7. Tyomkin, Estrada Nieto – 4
8. Bluvshtein – 3½
9. Levitt – 3
10. McDonald – 2½

Congratulations to all the winners! Without a doubt we saw some future chess stars in this very attractive event.

In the 6th Round of the ***Antalya*** IM Stelios Halkias of Greece lost to his compatriot Athanasios Mastrovasilis and was caught by GMs Spyridon Skembris of Greece and Krum Georgiev of Bulgaria. However, today in the 7th Round Halkias won and became the sole

leader again! GM **Alexander Moroz** of Ukraine won his third game in a row and joined Skembris and Georgiev, who faced each other and drew – they are all sharing second place, half a point behind the leader.

Standings after 7 rounds:
1. Halkias – 5½ points
2-4. Moroz, Skembris, Kr. Georgiev – 5
5-6. Popchev, Arduman – 4½
7-8. Radulov, Mstrovasilis – 3½
9-10. Olcayöz, Haznedaroglu – 2½
11-13. Atakişi, Erdogdu, Erdogan – 2
14. Kraidman – 1½

There are sad news from Argentina - Christian Sánchez reports on **TWIC**:

Grandmaster **Gerardo Barbero** has died after a struggle with eye cancer. He was junior (U-18) Argentine champion in 1977, and took fourth place in the world junior (U-18) championship at Graz 1978. He was Argentine champion in 1984 and took second place in the 1985 Argentine championship behind GM Oscar Panno. He played in several Olympiads: Buenos Aires 1978 (3/6), Thessalonica 1984 (7/12), Dubai 1986 (6.5/11), Thessalonica 1988 (7.5/11), Moscow 1994 (3.5/8); at Novi Sad 1990 he scored 50% on board one, his best performance. Since 1986 he been living in Budapest, Hungary. His last tournament was the First Saturday Festival 2000

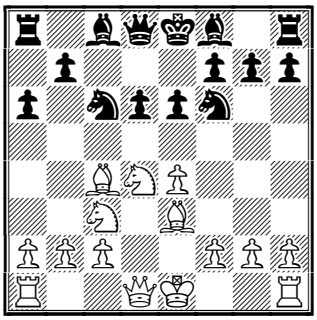
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

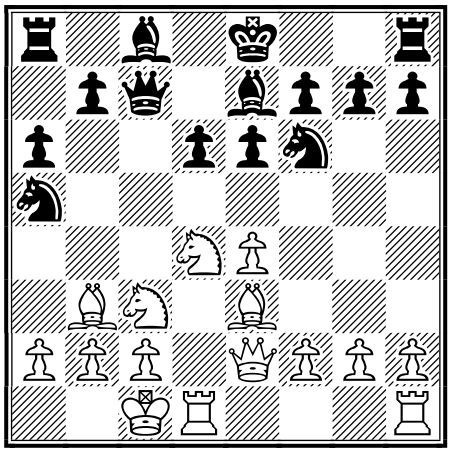
M. Bluvshtein(2287) – I. Krush (2380)

Oakham GM (8), 05.04.2001 B89
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

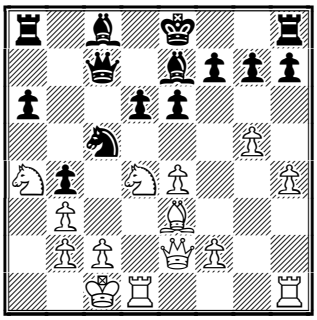
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗e3 a6 (D)



Black begins a very risky set–up, connected with immediate queenside action. In my opinion, the more common line 7...♗e7 8.♕e2 0-0 9.0-0-0 a6 10.♗b3 ♕c7 is more reliable.
8.♕e2
The Velimirovich Attack is really dangerous for Black. I have played against it since my childhood.
8...♗e7 9.0-0-0 ♕c7 10.♗b3 ♘a5 (D)



Black hurries to exchange the strong Bishop on b3, but this leaves the no less important Knight on d4 without a supervision. The more common approach of neutralising White's initiative consists in the control over both pieces: the Knight c6 is for the Knight on d4 while the Knight on f6 should go to c5 to control the Bishop on b3. By playing 10...0-0 Black could have transposed to the above mentioned line.
11.g4 b5 12.g5 ♘xb3+ 13.axb3 ♘d7 14.h4 b4 15.♘a4 ♘c5 (D)



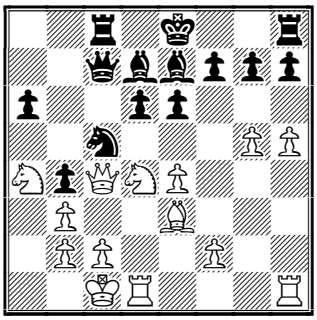
16.♕c4?!

A rare continuation which looks dubious. White usually plays 16.h5 and after 16...♗d7 chooses between the prophylactic 17.♔b1 (and the more direct 17.g6 − in practice both lines promise better chances for White.)

16...♗d7 17.h5

After 17.♕xb4 ♖b8 18.♕c3 ♗xa4 19.bxa4 ♕b7⇄ Black achieved very good counterplay in the game Kupreichik − Morawietz, Cologne 1997.

17...♖c8 (D)



18.♕e2?

This retreat allows Black to obtain a big advantage and it is not a big surprise − in a sharp position White simply lost two tempi for the Queen's manoeuvre. 18.♕xb4? loses a piece after 18...♘xa4 19.bxa4 e5-+ Roberts − Muir, St. Andrews 1989.; Objectively the best was probably 18.g6!? ♘xa4 19.♕xc7 ♖xc7 20.bxa4 but Black's chances are already preferable.

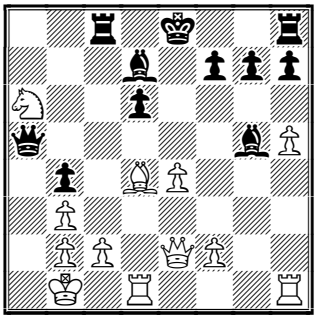
18...e5

Both 18...♘xe4!? ; and 18...♘xb3+!? 19.♘xb3 ♗xa4 also looked quite good.

19.♘xc5 exd4 20.♘xa6

White does not achieve sufficient compensation for the piece after 20.♘xd7 dxe3 21.h6 ♕xd7 22.hxg7 ♖g8

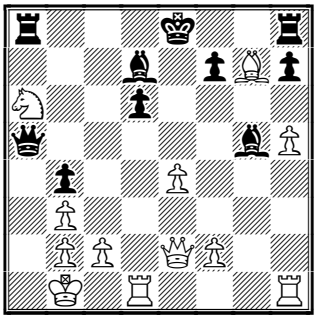
20...♕a5 21.♗xd4 ♗xg5+ 22.♔b1 (D)



22...♖a8

A hasty 22...0-0? was what White was hoping for − after 23.♗xg7! followed by Rd5 he grabs the initiative.; but the slightly unexpected 22...♗h6!? deserved attention − White couldn't save the Knight on a6 and had to look for compensation in playing something like 23.♗e3! ♗xe3 24.fxe3 ♗b5 25.♕g4 ♕xa6 (25...♗xa6 26.♖xd6∞) 26.♖xd6! (26.♕xg7 ♖f8) 26...♕xd6 27.♕xc8+ ♕d8 28.♕c5∞

23.♗xg7 (D)

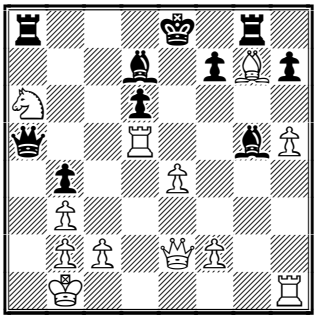


23...♖g8??

A move which is very hard to explain. It's cost Irina a whole point in this game and may cost even more as she put herself in a must win situation for tomorrow's game to get a GM−norm which seemed to be within her reach. Was it not enough for Irina to capture the Queen by 23...♖xa6 24.♕xa6 ♕xa6 25.♗xh8 ? Her winning task was not so easy but

quite feasible. Besides, you may remember that Irina did not need to win this game at any cost − in the last two rounds she needed only two draws to score the coveted norm. The win would have just been a nice bonus.

24.♖d5! (D)



Of course! Is it possible that Irina missed this simple move? Perhaps she was worn out.

24...♕xa6

A sad necessity − Black is forced to enter the bad and probably lost ending.

25.♕xa6 ♖xa6 26.♖xg5 f5!

A very good attempt!

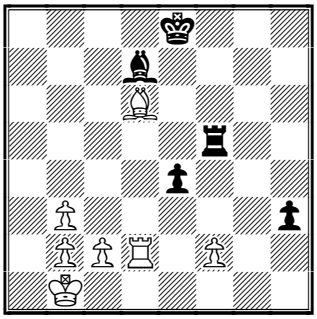
27.♗h6!?

27.exf5 ♔f7 followed by ...Rga8 could have granted Black some counter chances.

27...♖xg5 28.♗xg5 fxe4 29.♖d1

Intending to play Rd4. It looks impossible to defend the b4−pawn so Black's play is almost forced. 29.♗d2 was not so strong: 29...♖b6 30.♖g1 ♔f7 31.h6 ♗f5 32.♖g7+ ♔e6 and Black is defending.

29...♖a5 30.♗f4 ♖xh5 31.♗xd6 ♖f5 32.♖d2 h5 33.♗xb4 h4 34.♗d6 h3 (D)



This far−advanced pawn gives Black some drawing chances.

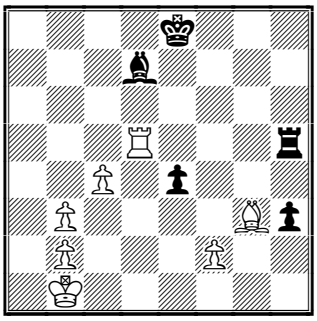
35.c4

35.♖e2! looked more precise.

35...♖h5

35...♖f3 could be met by 36.♖e2!

36.♗h2 ♖g5 37.♗g3 ♖h5 38.♗h2 ♖g5 39.♗g3 ♖h5 40.♖d5 (D)



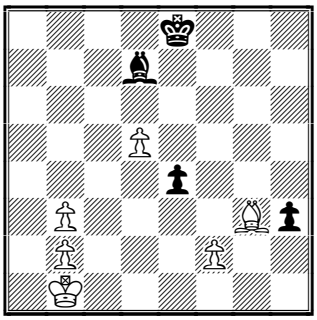
In case of 40.♖d1 Black could have continued by 40...♗c6 resuming the idea ...h3−h2.

40...♖xd5?

A big mistake at the last move of the time control− Black transposes to a lost ending.

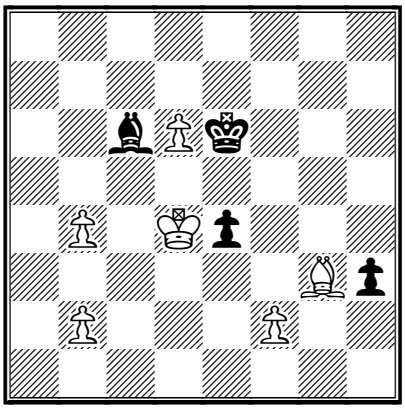
40...♖h7 should have been preferred, keeping drawing chances alive.

41.cxd5+− (D)



The "b" and "d" pawns are very close to each other but the obligation to defend the e4−pawn deprives Black the possibility to build a fortress − she needs the Bishop to be on d7 and the King to be on a6 to stop both pawns simultaneously. The fact that White has two b−pawns is nice for him but it is not important for the assessment of the position.

41...♗c8 42.♔c2 ♗b7 43.d6 ♔d7 44.♔c3 ♔e6 45.♔d4 ♗c6 46.b4 (D)

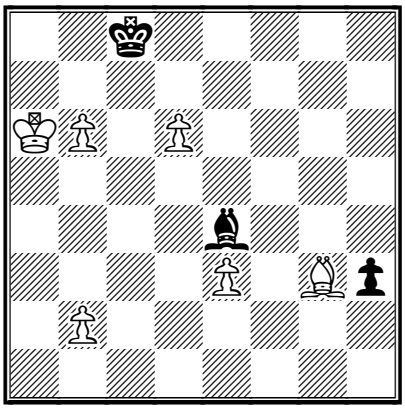


The advance of the b−pawn decides the game.

46...♔d7 47.♔c5 ♗a4 48.b5 e3

Otherwise White promotes the b−pawn immediately.

49.fxe3 ♗c2 50.♔b6 ♗d3 51.♔a5 ♔c8 52.b6 ♗e4 53.♔a6 (D)



Black resigned. 3 GMs and 3 IMs could not stop, Irina Krush, but a 12 year old boy did it! Bravo, Mark! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.bcmchess.co.uk
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.chessclub.com
www.tsf.org.tr/index_english.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-152, 8 April 2001

Chess around the Globe

It has been a while since I produced a ***CT*** issue, so I have some new material in my portfolio, which I would like to share with ***CT*** readers this weekend. Today I would like to offer for your attention an interview with Former World Champion **Boris Spassky**, followed by a tactical quiz with positions taken from his games. Tomorrow we will check the latest tournament news and also discuss a particular pawn structure, often arising from the Gruenfeld Defence with g2-g3. In addition we will also talk about where to play chess in the next few months.

The Former World Champion **Boris Spassky** (photo taken from http://www.rio.com/~johnnymc/bobby8.html) -1992 does not need a special introduction. He reigned in chess between 1969 and 1972 and was one of the world's top players for many years after. Nowadays he rarely plays chess, but naturally he keeps a keen interest in the game. Our interview happened in late November 2000, when Boris Vassilievich visited Kilkenny (he is Honorary President of the Kilkenny Chess Club). Though it's a bit out of date, we hope that the interview will be of interest to the chess public.

Boris Vassilievich, my first question is very general: obviously chess of the 50s, 60s and the 70s is rather different to the modern chess. What is the main difference in your opinion?

Nowadays the dynamic element is more important in chess - players more often sacrifice material to obtain dynamic compensation. Of course, such players were in my generation too and they existed before (for example, Alekhine) but then fewer people played like that than now. When I spoke with Alexander Nikitin (former coach of Garry Kasparov - *A.B.*), he said that players of my generation had very good understanding of chess, but the game was slower then. Nowadays there is more dynamism in chess, modern players like to take the initiative. Usually they are poor defenders though.

Maybe they prefer to attack exactly because the majority of modern players are not good at defence?

Perhaps. For example, the computer defends well, but for humans its is particularly with the modern time control. Time controls directly influences the quality of play.

This anticipates my second question: what do you think of the new time control proposed by FIDE?

It depends how you look at this situation. As for the quality of play, we should try to keep the 'old' time control. We can compare classical chess and rapid chess with theatre and cinema - some actors don't like the latter and prefer to work in the theatre. I think that the World Champion should try to defend the quality of play more than anyone else. On the other hand, chess is a mass sport now and for chess organisers shorter time controls are obviously more attractive. But I think that this control does not suit World Championship matches.

How would you compare the role and place of chess in the society in the 60s and 70s and now?

The place of chess in society is closely related to the attitude of young people

towards our game. Nowadays young people have great choice of occupations, hobbies, etc, so chess is experiencing difficulties because of the high competition. Now it's hard to make a living in chess, so our profession does attract young people.

Was it not always the case that very few chess professionals could make a decent living from the game?

It was always hard. The Soviet Union was an exception, but even there chess players were not rich. Only Fischer changed that. When we played a Candidate's match with Larsen in Malmo in 1968, the total prize fund was something like $250! I protested to the FIDE President Rogard then. But he reasonably replied that it was according to the wishes of the Soviet Chess Federation, to which he had to listen. The Soviet Chess Federation, of course, did not care about the players, for the communists chess was only an instrument.

Recently there was a match in London and soon FIDE championship will start in India. Which tournament is more interesting to you?

The match in London. I followed it closely. Recently I saw Kasparov and he looked to me as still a young and potent champion. What happened in the match is a typical case when nerves let somebody down, when energy is low. Maybe it was just a temporary thing for Kasparov, but maybe it signalled his decline. The tournament in Wjik ann Zee should show a lot. Of course, I support Kasparov as I am a monarchist and I was a chess king myself and know how difficult it to be on the top. I hope he can come back here, as he has done a lot of good for the game over years. But coming back to the throne will be hard, as Kasparov is 37 and his nerves have taken a lot of beating. But God gave him a lot of energy, unlike, say me. I was probably the best in chess for about 6 years - sometime before 1965 and 1971. Kasparov was the best for much longer!

How do you follow chess?

I don't play in tournaments, but I follow some. Sometimes I play through games with a computer. From time to time the computer comes up with very interesting moves, some of which even bring aesthetic pleasure. But I think that modern players should learn how to control the computer, as otherwise it would be bad for the game. I also follow chess on the Internet, where Kasparov's site is very interesting. I am involved with the World Chess Network (***www.worldchessnetwork.com***). I think that in the near future we will see interesting developments there.

Nowadays there are many polls, where people try to define who was the best player ever. It's hard to compare Capablanca and Kasparov, but perhaps you can name three best players among those whom you got to play?

Fischer, Karpov and Kasparov. If I were to extend this list and add people whom I play, I would add Morphy and Andersen, whom I like a lot. Then Chigorin and Alekhine. And, of course, Capablanca. Chigorin was probably the first 'computer-like' Grandmaster. He always gave lots of concrete variations and looked at positions without prejudging.

What about modern players?

Anand is a good player, of course - with a very dynamic style. But some years ago I preferred how Adams played. It will be interesting what will happen with Leko. And I am very curious how Kramnik will play in the near future. Maybe some new interesting players will emerge too like Grischuk and Ponomariov.

Boris Vassilievich, thank you very much for the interview!

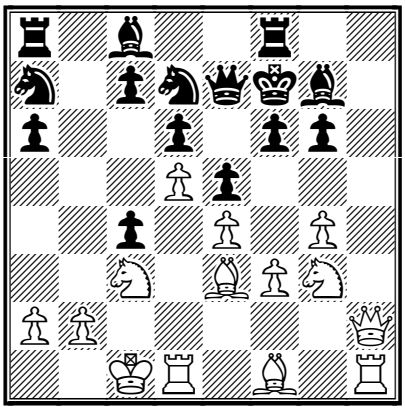
(This interview was conducted by Alexander Baburin on the 26th of November in Kilkenny, Ireland and translated into English by the author.)

Now I would like to offer a small tactical quiz, based on some games of Boris Spassky:

Tactical Quiz

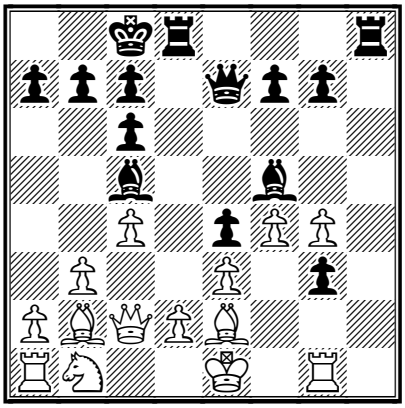
1. B. Spassky − J. Van Oosterom
Wch U20 final−A Antwerp (4), 1955
E85

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♗e3 e5 7.♘ge2 ♘c6 8.♕d2 ♘d7 9.0-0-0 a6 10.d5 ♘a7 11.g4 b5 12.♘g3 bxc4 13.h4 f6 14.h5 ♕e7 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.♕h2 ♔f7 (D)



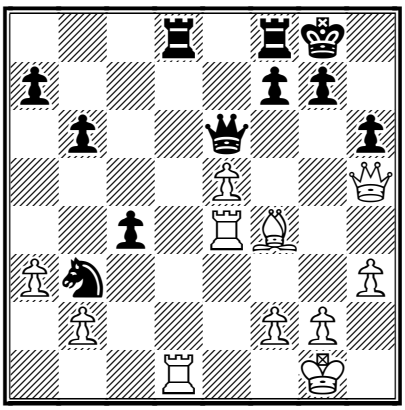
2. B. Larsen − B. Spassky
Belgrade URS−World Belgrade (2.1), 31.03.1970 A01

1.b3 e5 2.♗b2 ♘c6 3.c4 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e4 5.♘d4 ♗c5 6.♘xc6 dxc6 7.e3 ♗f5 8.♕c2 ♕e7 9.♗e2 0-0-0 10.f4 ♘g4 11.g3 h5 12.h3 h4 13.hxg4 hxg3 14.♖g1 (D)



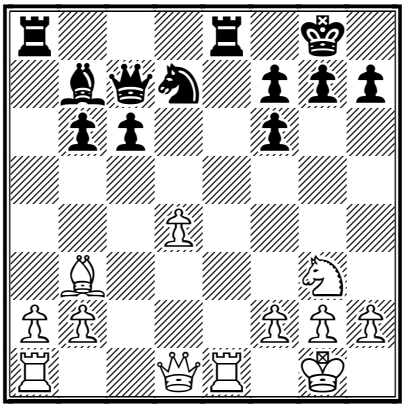
3. Zhu Chen (2503) − B. Spassky,B (2549) [D35]
Flamenco Veterans−Women
Marbella (8), 30.10.1999 D35

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗f4 c6 7.h3 ♗b4 8.♕b3 ♕e7 9.a3 ♗xc3+ 10.♕xc3 ♘e4 11.♕c2 0-0 12.e3 c5 13.♗d3 b6 14.♘e5 ♘xe5 15.dxe5 ♗f5 16.♕d1 ♖ad8 17.0-0 ♗g6 18.♕g4 ♕e6 19.♗b5 ♗f5 20.♕h4 h6 21.♕h5 ♘d2 22.♖fe1 ♘b3 23.♖ad1 c4 24.e4 ♗xe4 25.♗xc4 dxc4 26.♖xe4 (D)



4. B. Spassky (2640) − H. Pfleger (2545)
FRG−ch International Munich, 1979
B15

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗c4 ♘gf6 6.♘xf6+ exf6 7.♘e2 ♘b6 8.♗b3 ♗d6 9.c4 ♗c7 10.♗f4 0-0 11.♗xc7 ♕xc7 12.c5 ♘d7 13.0-0 b6 14.cxb6 axb6 15.♖e1 ♗b7 16.♘g3 ♖fe8 (D)



Solutions to tactical quiz:

1. 17.♘f5!! gxf5 18.♕h5+ Now Black's king cannot escape via e8. **18...♔g8 19.gxf5+− ♖f7 20.♗e2 ♘c5 21.♖dg1 ♕d7 22.♕h8# 1-0**

2. 14...♖h1!! 15.♖xh1 g2 16.♖f1 [16.♖g1 ♕h4+ 17.♔d1 ♕h1-+] **16...♕h4+ 17.♔d1 gxf1♕+ 0-1**

3. 26...♕g6! 0-1

4. 17.♗xf7+!! ♔xf7 18.♕h5+ g6 [18...♔f8 19.♕xh7+− and Ng3−f5 is coming.] **19.♕xh7+ ♔f8 20.h4 1-0**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

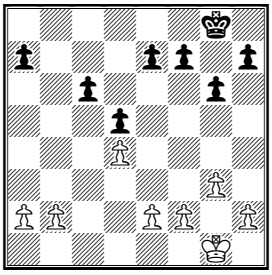
Issue No. 153, 9 April 2001

It has been quite a while since ***Chess Today*** featured a mini lesson for its readers. Of course, our annotated games can be considered rather instructive in their own right, but as some of our readers recently pointed out, examining a particular positional theme could be welcome. Thus, today I decided to talk about one rather typical and quite interesting pawn formation. This material turned out to be rather big and I hope that you will excuse me that current news, ***Player's Profile*** and other stuff will have to wait till Monday. We will cover that, but for now prepare your chess set and if you have time, use it to improve your positional play Enjoy!

Understanding Positional Play
by GM Alexander Baburin

One typical pawn structure from the *Gruenfeld Defence*

I believe in studying typical pawn formations and about 2 years ago I even wrote a book called ***Winning Pawn Structures***. That book deals mainly with the isolated d-pawn and the related structures, but of course there are many other important pawn configurations which are worth examining. Here I would like to share with you my experience in one of them. Have a look at the following position:



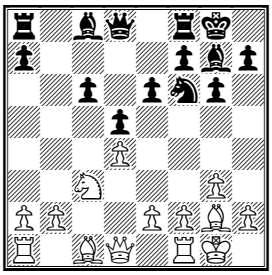
Usually this position happens when White exchanges knights on c6. As a result Black gets a backward pawn on the semi-open c-file, while he now has the semi-open b-file. Let us think of plans available for Black and White here. In this pawn structure **Black** often tries to attack and exchange the d4-pawn. If he does it with ...e5, then after dxe5 Black gets an isolated pawn pair (also examined in my book). It is more sound to play ...c5, but this may be harder to achieve. Sometimes Black does not do anything about the d4-pawn and instead plays on the b-file. If White moves his pawn to b3, then ...a7-a5-a4 (minority attack) becomes tempting.

White usually tries either to attack the c6-pawn and occupy the c5-square or to play in the centre with e2-e4. The latter is mostly prophylactics against ...c6-c5, which becomes harder for Black to manage when White's pawn is on e4. White does not necessarily want to play e4-e5 then, but at some point it might become an attractive option, followed by attack on the kingside. If Black takes on e4, then the weakness of the d4-pawn is usually more then offset of the vulnerability of the c6-pawn, which the g2-bishop begin to attack then.

I would like to show how I am learning this pawn formation. It has not been a smooth process - I still make mistakes in this structure, as you will soon see. One of my first experiences in this pawn formation was in the following game:

A. Baburin (2505) − M. Schawarz (2395) [D79]
Ubeda open (6), 25.01.1996
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 c6 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♘e5 0-0 8.♗g2 e6 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♘xc6 bxc6 (D)



11.♘a4

Also worth considering is 11.♗f4 − after 11...♘d7 12.♕d2 ♕b6 (here ...Qd8−a5 would be a blunder in a view of Nxd5) 13.♖fd1 c5 14.dxc5 ♕xc5 (14...♘xc5 15.♗e3 ♗d7? 16.♘xd5! exd5 17.♕xd5+− This happened in one of Schwarz's games...) 15.♖ac1 and White has the initiative.

11...♘d7 12.♗f4 ♕a5!

12...♗a6 13.♕d2 gave White some advantage in the game Larsen−Krogius(see CT−153 database.)

13.♖c1 ♗a6 14.♗d6 ♖fc8 15.♖e1 ♗f8

Although the Bishop on d6 is well placed, this exchange should be good for White. Black wants to get rid of the annoying bishop, but this exchange favors White as the dark squares become more vulnerable. 15...♗b5 16.♘c3 c5?! Looks tempting, and during the game I expected it, instead of 15...Bf8. Yet there White is better after 17.dxc5 (17.e4?! cxd4 18.♘xb5 ♕xb5 19.exd5 e5) 17...♘xc5 18.♗xd5!! exd5 19.♘xd5±

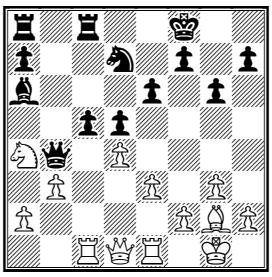
16.♗xf8

I did not want to play 16.b4?! as I felt that after 16...♕d8 17.♗xf8 ♕xf8 Black would be able to play ...Bb5 (...Bc4) and ...a7−a5 before I could stop it.

16...♔xf8 17.b3

Here I spent a lot of time thinking of 17.a3 and 17.e4. I still don't know which move is better. a2−a3 would weaken my positions on the b−file, e. g. after 17...Bc4!? 18.b3 Bb5 and the a3−pawn is weak now; e2−e4 would stop c6−c5, but how would I make progress?!

17...♕b4 18.e3 c5? (D)



Black's desire to get rid of the weak pawn on the c−file is understandable, but this move has serious tactical flaws. Black had to play18...♗b5 or 18...♔g8. After 18...♗b5 19.♘c5 ♘xc5 20.♖xc5 e5 (20...a5?! 21.♕c1 a4? 22.a3 ♕xb3 23.♖c3 ♕a2 24.♖d1 ♕e2 25.♗f1 ♕g4 26.♗xb5+−) 21.♕c1 exd4 22.♗xd5! The threat is a2−a3! 22...d3 23.a3 (23.♖d1!?) 23...♕a5 (23...♕g4 24.♗xc6 ♗xc6 25.♖xc6 ♖xc6 26.♕xc6 ♖d8⇄) 24.♖d1 White is better. Also 18...♔g8 19.♗f1!? leaves White with some edge. White's bishop is good only formally, in fact it does not do much. After exchanging it White will be able to put pressure on the c6−pawn.

19.dxc5 ♘xc5 20.a3!+− ♕xe1+

Or 20...♕xa3 21.♘xc5 ♖xc5 22.♖a1 ♕b4 23.♖xa6+−

21.♕xe1 ♘d3 22.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 23.♕a5 Time: 1.30 − 0.50 **1-0.**

I was quite pleased with that game. It made me think that White was much better in this pawn structure. However, recently I realised that things were not quite as simple as I previously thought. Recently I played 3 games in this line within 2 weeks and I really struggled to prove White's advantage. Here they come in order of play:

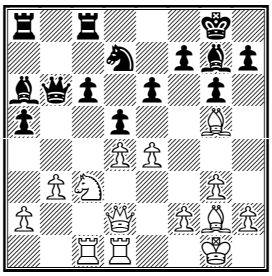
I analysed that game a bit and spent some time thinking where White could have done better. That work paid off surprisingly quickly:

A. Baburin (2598) − M.Vucic (2364) [D73]

Linklater Mem San Francisco USA (8), 05.03.2001

Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 c6 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♘e5 0-0 8.♗g2 e6 9.♗g5 ♕b6 10.♕d2 ♘c6 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.0-0 ♘d7 13.♖fd1 a5 14.b3 ♗a6 15.♖ac1 ♖fc8 16.e4! (D)



White does not want to take on d5 and he is not ready to play e4−e5. But the good thing about playing e2−e4 is that it prevents ...c5.

16...♗b5 17.♗h6 ♘f6 18.♗xg7?

Despite spending a lot of time around here, I failed to find the best plan. Better was 18.h4!? which would create a threat of h4−h5 (after timely e4−e5). There would be more options available for White then.

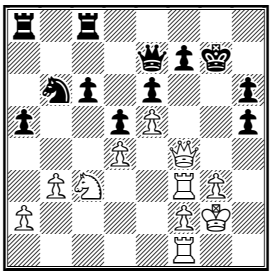
18...♔xg7 19.♕f4 ♕b8 20.e5 ♘d7 21.♖e1 ♕b6 22.♖e3 ♕d8 23.h4 h6 24.♗f1! ♗xf1 25.♖xf1 ♘b6?!

25...c5 would have allowed 26.♘b5; but 25...♖ab8!?, preparing...c6−c5, was worth considering.

26.♖f3 ♕e7 27.h5 gxh5?

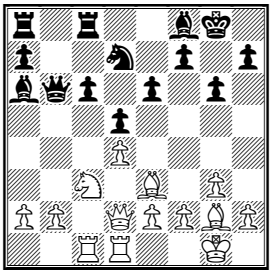
This is just horrible, as Black will not be able to protect his ruined flank. He had to play 27...g5 28.♕g4 a4. After 29.♖d3 White will try to play f2−f4 and then Rdf3 again.

28.♔g2! (D)

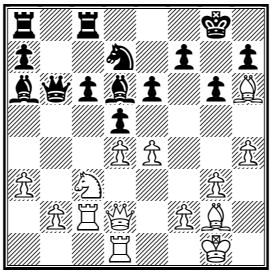


My opponent said that he had overlooked this simple idea.
28...♖h8 29.♖h1 ♖ag8 30.♖xh5 ♘d7 31.♘d1 ♘f8 32.♘e3 ♘g6 33.♕g4 ♔f8 34.♕h3+− ♔e8 35.♘g4 ♔d8 36.♘xh6 ♖xh6 37.♖xh6 ♕g5 38.♖xf7 ♘f4+ 39.♖xf4 ♕xf4 40.♕xe6 1-0.

A. Baburin (2598) − M. Khachian [D73]
National Open, Las Vegas (6), 11.03.2001
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 0-0 5.♗g2 c6 6.♘c3 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.♘e5 e6 9.♗g5 ♕b6 10.♕d2 ♘fd7 11.♗e3 ♘c6 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.0-0 ♗a6 14.♖fd1 ♖fc8 15.♖ac1 ♗f8 (D)



16.♖c2!
Over−protection. Also, perhaps White will need to double rooks on the c−file, so the next will come in handy.
16...♕a5 17.♗h6 ♗b4 18.a3 ♗d6 19.e4 ♕b6?
Better was 19...♗c4 and if 20.e5 then 20...♗c7(protecting the queen and thus preventing ♘xd5.) Most likely White would not have rushed with e4−e5, as then ..c6−c5 comes quick.
20.h4! (D)



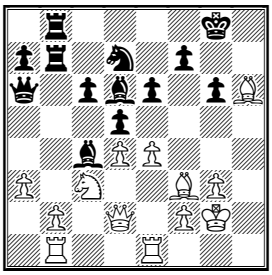
It was easy for me to play here, as the position is very similar to the one from my game against Vucic.
20...♗c4 21.♖e1 ♖ab8 22.h5 ♗b3 23.♖cc1 ♗c4 24.♖b1 ♖b7 25.♗f3!
Black has not achieved much on the queenside, while White is steadily building

up an attack on the other flank.

25...♖cb8 26.♔g2! ♕a6 27.hxg6

I felt it was better to take on g6 before playing Rh1 − if Black takes on g6 with the f−pawn, then the rook will be better placed on e1 − 27...fxg6 28.♗g4 dxe4 29.♖xe4 ♗d3 30.♗xe6+ ♔h8 31.♖h1 ♗xe4+ 32.♘xe4 ♗f8 33.♕f4 ♗xh6 34.♖xh6+−

27...hxg6 (D)



28.♗f4!

This exchange highlights the weakness of the dark squares in Black's camp. White is strategically winning as his attack is too strong.

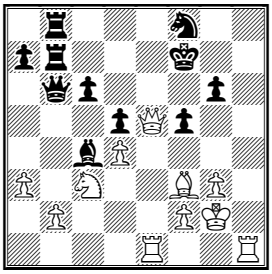
28...♗xf4 29.♕xf4 ♘f8

After 29...♖xb2 30.♖xb2 ♖xb2 31.♖h1 ♕b6□ White would have played 32.exd5!+− (32.♘a4 ♕xd4 33.♘xb2 ♕xb2 is not so convincing.) and if 32...cxd5 only then 33.♘a4 winning.

30.♖h1

This is not best. Better was 30.e5! ♖xb2 (or 30...♗d3 31.♖bd1 ♖xb2 32.♖h1 g5 33.♕xg5+ ♗g6 34.♖h6+− ♘h7 35.♖xh7 ♔xh7 36.♖h1+ ♔g8 37.♕h6) 31.♖xb2 ♖xb2 32.♖h1 f5 33.exf6 ♖b7 34.♗g4, winning.

30...f5 31.exf5 exf5 32.♕e5 ♔f7 33.♖be1 ♕b6(D)



33...♖xb2 34.♕e7+ ♔g8 35.♕f6; 33...♕a5 34.♖h8 ♕c7 35.♕e3 ♖xb2 36.♕h6 ♕d8 37.♗h5 gxh5 38.♖e6+−

34.♖h6

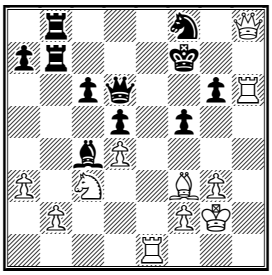
I understood that I needed to bring one of my minor pieces into play, but failed to find the best way to do it. White should have played 34.♘a4! **A)** 34...♕c7 35.♕h8 ♗d3 (35...a5 36.♘c5 ♖xb2 37.♖h7+) 36.♘c5 ♗e4 37.♗xe4 dxe4 38.♖h4+− (38.♘xb7+−) ; **B)** 34...♕d8 35.♘c5 ♖e7 36.♕xe7+ ♕xe7 37.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 38.b3+− This position is very interesting − White's attack led to a win in the endgame. The bishop is lost...; 34.g4?! ♕c7! (34...fxg4 35.♗xg4) 35.gxf5 ♕xe5 36.♖xe5 ♖xb2; Also good for White is 34.♖h8! ♕c7 35.♕e3 ♖xb2 36.♕h6 Rh8 and Qh6 is the correct setup on the h−file − something which I did not obtain in the game. 36...♕d8 37.♗h5 gxh5 38.♖e6!+−

34...♕c7 35.♕h8

This piece arrangement is wrong − a rook should be placed ahead of queen on the open file. I knew it, but I did not believe that Black could defend anyway as he

had only about 30 seconds left here.

35...♕d6?⊕ (D)



Better was 35...♕d8!, when White does not have anything decisive, for example 36.♗h5 36...gxh5=. Better would be to play 36.♘a4! ♕f6 (36...♕a5 37.♖e5+− ♕xa4 38.♖xf5+ gxf5 39.♖f6+) 37.b4 ♕xh8 38.♖xh8 a5 39.♘c5 ♖b5 40.bxa5 ♖xa5 41.a4±. Now the game is over.

36.♗h5! ♖e7 37.♗xg6+ ♕xg6 38.♖xe7+ 1-0.

Despite spoiling the game a bit with 30.Rh1 and 34.Rh6?, I was quite proud of it nevertheless. Very soon I got to play that position again, but it did not go as smoothly as I hoped. This shows that the process of learning has no limit!

A. Baburin,A (2598) − R. Bates,R (2371) [D79]

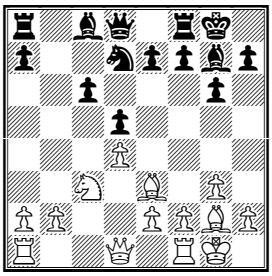
4NCL, 17.03.2001

Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 0-0 5.♗g2 c6 6.♘c3 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.♘e5 ♘c6 9.0-0 ♘d7 10.♘xc6

The line 10.♘xd5 ♘dxe5 11.dxe5 ♗xe5 looked OK for Black, although White won in the game Kuzmin−Tseshkovsky, 1976 after 12.♗g5 ♗e6 (12...♗xb2!?) 13.e4 ♖e8 14.♕d2 ♕d7 15.♖ac1 ♗g7 16.b4

10...bxc6 11.♗e3?! (D)



If Black goes for ...Qb6, this move will be useful. But Black has other plans available. 11.♘a4!?; 11.e4!?

11...♘b6! 12.b3 ♗f5 13.♕d2 ♖e8

Here 13...a5!? was worth considering − it would be good for Black to exchange the a−pawn, as then the b3−pawn might become weak. If White meets ...a4 with b3−b4, then Black's knight might land on c4.

14.♖ac1 ♕d7 15.♗h6 ♗h8!

Black correctly wants to keep the bishop, as it puts pressure on the d4−pawn.

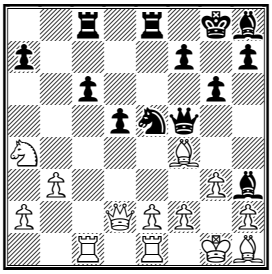
16.♖fe1 ♗h3 17.♗h1! ♖ac8 18.♘d1!? ♕g4!? 19.♗f4 ♕f5 20.♘b2 ♘d7!

The knight was idle and Black correctly relocates it.

21.♘a4

21.e4 dxe4 22.♗xe4 ♕f6⇄

21...e5 22.dxe5 ♘xe5 (D)



23.♗xe5

I decided to play safe, as I was rather tired (came back from USA just 2 days before). Objectively White had to go for 23.♘c5 ♘g4 24.e4±. The rest of the game does not hold much interest to our theme.

23...♗xe5 24.♘c5 ♕f6 25.♘d3 ♗d4 26.e3

26.♕f4 ♕xf4 27.♘xf4 ♗f5

26...♗b6 27.♘f4 ♗f5 28.♗g2 ♖cd8 29.h4 ♗e4 30.♗xe4 ♖xe4 31.♕c2 ♖d6 32.a3 h6 33.♔g2 ♕e7

Around here we had about 2 minutes each.

34.♕c3 c5 35.♖cd1 d4 36.♕d2

36.exd4 cxd4 37.♕d2 (37.♕b4)

36...♕b7 37.♔h2?

37.f3!

37...♖d8 38.exd4 ♖dxd4 39.♖xe4 ♕xe4 40.♕e1 ♕xe1 41.♖xe1 c4 42.bxc4 ♖xc4 43.♔g2 ♖a4 44.h5 gxh5 45.♘d5 ♗c5 46.♘f6+ ♔g7 47.♘xh5+ ♔g6 48.♘f4+ ♔h7 49.♖c1 ♗d6 50.♘d5 ♖xa3

50...♗xa3∓

51.♘f6+ ♔g6 52.♖c6 ♔xf6 53.♖xd6+ ♔g7 54.g4 ♖a5 55.♔g3 ♖a1 56.♔f4 ♖a4+

Time: 2.31 − 2.45 ½-½

Here is one useful supplementary game. I am sure you can find many more interesting games played in this formation. Studying them will do a lot of good for your positional understanding. It is an excellent way to study chess!

B. Larsen − Nikolai Krogius [D79]

Le Havre Le Havre, 1966

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.c4 c6 5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♘c3 0-0 8.♘e5 ♘c6 9.0-0 e6 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♘a4 ♘d7 12.♗f4 ♗a6 13.♕d2 ♖e8 14.♖ac1 ♗b5 15.♘c3 ♗a6 16.♖fd1 ♖c8 17.♗h6 ♗f6 18.h4 e5 19.dxe5 ♗xe5 20.♗h3 ♖c7 21.♗f4 ♘b6 22.b3 ♕f6 23.a4 ♗c8 24.♗g2 ♗xf4 25.♕xf4 ♕xf4 26.gxf4 ♖ce7 27.e3 ♗g4 28.♖d2 ♖b8 29.♘e2 ♗xe2 30.♖xe2 ♖e6 31.♖ec2 d4 32.exd4 ♘d5 33.f5 gxf5 34.♖xc6 ♖xc6 35.♖xc6 ♘f4 36.♗f1 ♖xb3 37.♗c4 ♖b7 38.d5 ♖d7 39.d6 ♘e6 40.♔g2 ♔f8 41.♔g3 ♘d8 42.♖a6 ♖b7 43.♗d5 ♖b4 44.♖xa7 ♖d4 45.♖a5 ♔g7 46.♔f3 ♘e6 47.♔e3 f4+ 48.♔f3 ♔f6 49.♗e4 h6 50.♖f5+ ♔g7 51.♗d5 ♔g6 52.♗xe6 fxe6 53.♖xf4 ♖xd6 54.♔e4 ♖d2 55.♔e5 ♖e2+ 56.♖e4 ♖xf2 57.♔xe6 ♖d2 58.a5 ♖a2 59.♖e5 ♖a1 60.♔d7 ♔f6 61.♖e6+ ♔f7 62.a6 h5 63.♖c6 1-0.

♘♘♘

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-154, 10 April 2001

Chess around the Globe

Today lets take a look at chess events all over the world. First the International GM norm tournament in ***Antalya*** (Turkey) has ended with **S. Halkais** taking first.

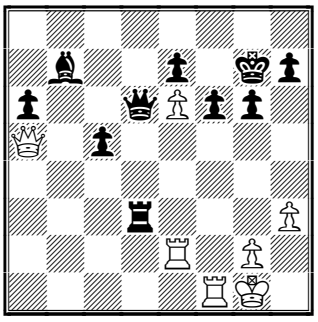
Final standings:
1. S. Halkias – 9 points out of 13
2-3. S. Skembric, Kr. Georgiev – 8
4-6. A. Moroz, C. Arduman, A. Mastrovasilis – 7
7. M. Popchev - 6½ etc.

The 19th International Open tournament starts in ***Metz,*** France. Among the 120 participants there are GMs Degraeve, Eingorn, A. Sokolov, Schekachev, Delchev,Gallagher and others. There were only few draws in the first round.

Also the ***Moscow*** championship is in progress. This tournament with some GMs and IMs isn't weaker than many opens or even some country championships. 94 participants will fight for 3 spots in the Russian championship which will start in Elista, Kalmykia at the end of April. The prise fund is very modest as usual.

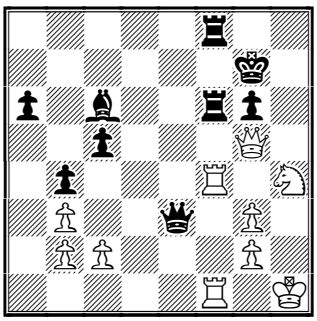
Tactical Puzzles:

1. A. Severiukhin – I. Arakelov
Russia ch. under 20, Kazan 04.2001



Black to play

2. D. Kokarev – D. Pavlov
Russia ch. under 20, Kazan 04.2001



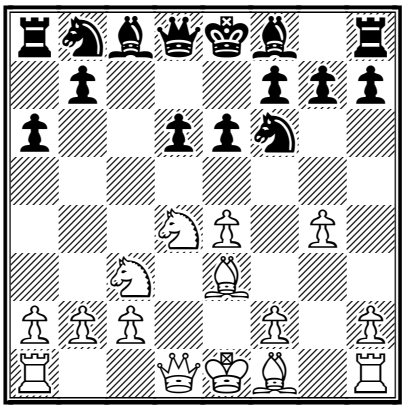
White to play
(Solutions on page 4)
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

P. Smirnov – A. Shomoev
Russia ch. under 20, Kazan 04.2001
B81
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

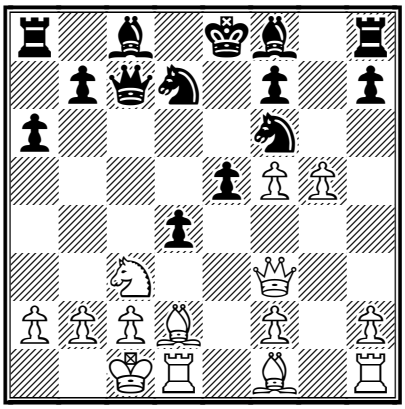
This game was played in the Russian under 20 Championship. it's in progress in Kazan. This event attracted the strongest of our juniors (except GM A.Grischuk), such as IMs E.Shaposhnikov (Elo 2525), S.Grigoriants (2515), P.Smirnov (2511), V.Potkin (2470), and the "Russian Polgar sisters" Tatiana and Nadezhda Kosintseva – they didn't want to play with girls. By the way, the girls tournament is also quite strong. We'll hear about these juniors, as winners of international tournaments very soon. I'm sure of it! You can find more information about this event (in Russian but it doesn't matter – only schedule and games) at ***www.chess.ufanet.ru***. Young players usually like sharp opening systems and these two guys are no exception.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.g4 (D)



Yes, it's a Najdorf system, and a gambit variation.

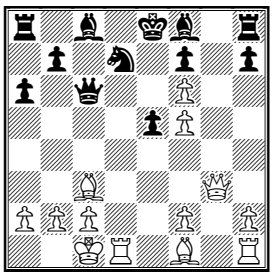
7...e5 8.♘f5 g6 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 11.♕f3 d4 12.0-0-0 ♘bd7 13.♗d2 ♕c7 (D)



14.gxf6

Now there is a lot of theory here. This position attracted much attention last summer, when Alexey Shirov played this gambit with White twice in Polanica Zdroj. vs. Peter: 14.♗d3 ♘c5 15.gxf6 dxc3 16.♗xc3 ♕c6 17.♕e3 e4 18.♗c4 ♗xf5 and he had big troubles but managed to draw nevertheless.

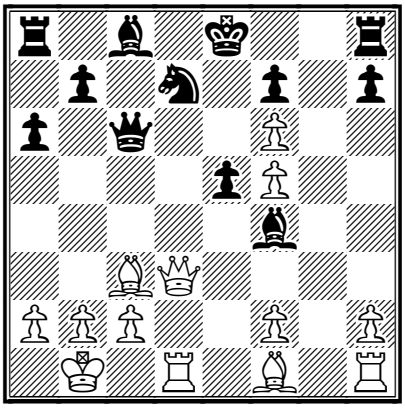
14...dxc3 15.♗xc3 ♕c6 16.♕g3 (D)



16...♗h6+

16...♕xh1?! 17.♗g2 ♗h6+ 18.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 19.♔xd2 ♕xg2 20.♕xg2 a5 21.f4 exf4 22.♕g7 ♖f8 23.♖e1+ ♔d8 24.♖e7 ♔c7 25.♕xf8 1:0 Shirov − Van Wely, Istanbul (Ol) 2000. But it was the second theoretical dispute these two players contested regarding this system.

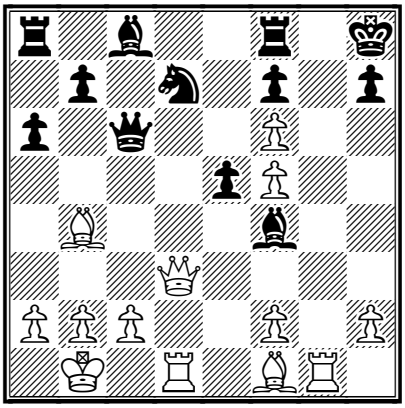
17.♔b1 ♗f4 18.♕d3 (D)



18...0-0

And this is the first one: 18...♖g8 19.♗h3 ♔d8?! 20.♗b4! ♕xf6 21.♕c4! ♖g5 (21...b5 22.♗a5+ ♔e8 23.♕c7→) 22.♖d6 ♕g7 23.f6! ♖g1+ 24.♗f1 ♕g2 25.♗a5+ 1:0 Shirov − Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 2001

19.♖g1+ ♔h8 20.♗b4 (D)



20...♘c5

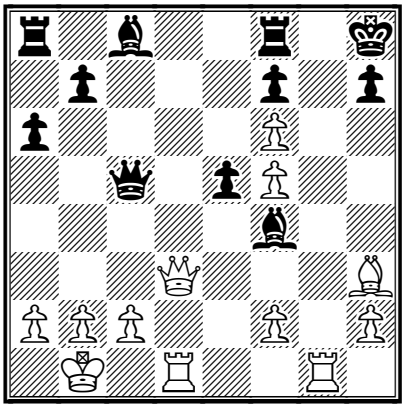
20...♖g8?! 21.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 22.♗e7 h6 23.♗e2 ♘xf6 24.♕d8+ ♔h7 25.♕f8 ♗e6 26.♕xa8 ♗xf5 27.♔a1 ♘d5 28.♕f8→ Shirov − Van Wely, Polianica Zdroj 2000. 20...♘c5 is Van Wely's novelty.

21.♗xc5!?

This is the first independent move in

this game. Previously played was: 21.♕c3 ♕xf6 22.♗xc5 ♗xf5 23.♕a3 ♖fc8 24.♗d3 ♕e6 25.♗xf5 ♕xf5 , and in the endgame, untiring Loek Van Wely won with Black over Kalka (Bundesliga 2000).

21...♕xc5 22.♗h3 (D)



This is the point. White doesn't regain a piece, but now the Bishop on c8 hasn't any squares and the Rook on a8 doesn't take part in the game either. And White has many dangerous threats on the g−file and 8th row.

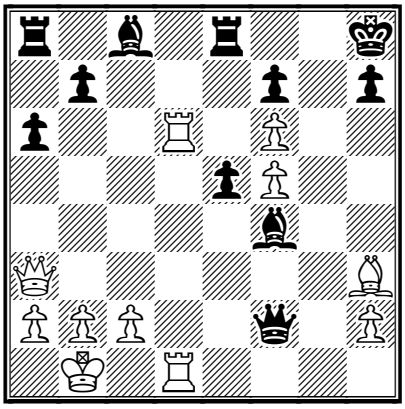
22...♕b6!

Very strong! From here the Queen protects the square d8 and attacks the f6 and f2 pawns.

23.♕a3 ♖e8

Worse was 23...♗h6?! 24.♕e7! (24.♖g7?! ♖d8!)

24.♖d6 ♕xf2 25.♖gd1 (D)



White's initiative looks very strong, but...

25...♗h6!

An interesting alternative was 25...♕e2!?

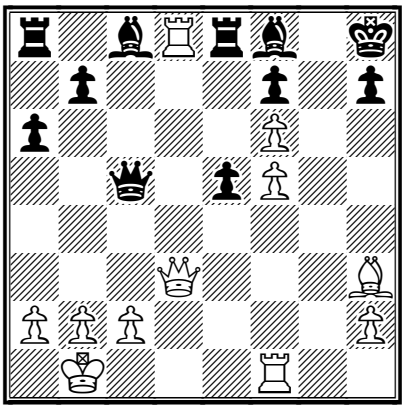
26.♕d3

Not 26.♖d8 ♗xf5! 27.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 28.♗xf5 ♕xf5 29.♕e7 ♖f8-+

26...♗f8! 27.♖f1

27.♖d8 ♗xf5-+

27...♕c5 28.♖d8 (D)



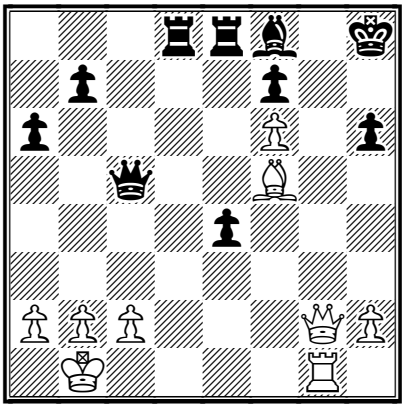
28...♗xf5!

Tactical complications are beginning.

29.♗xf5! ♖axd8 30.♕h3 h6 31.♕g2

White is a Rook down, but he plays for checkmate on the open file!

31...e4 32.♖g1 (D)



32...♕xg1+

A very pragmatic decision. Not so clear was 32...♖d1+ 33.♖xd1 ♕xf5 34.♖g1 ♕h7

33.♕xg1 e3

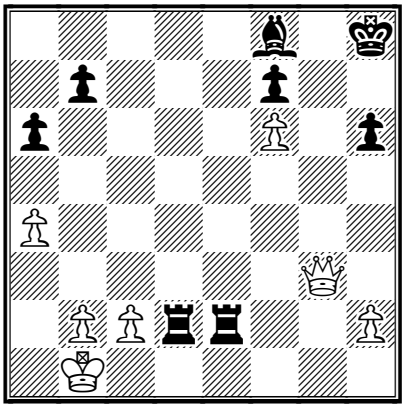
This passed pawn costs at least a Bishop.

34.♗g4

Or 34.♗d3 ♖xd3! 35.cxd3 e2 36.♕e1 ♗b4-+

34...e2 35.♗xe2 ♖xe2 36.a4 ♖dd2

37.♕g3 (D)



37...♖g2 38.♕b8 ♔g8 39.♕xb7 ♖xc2
An interesting and an important theoretical game. **0-1**

<u>Solutions to tactical puzzles</u>:

1. 34...♖xh3! 35.♕d2 35.gxh3 ♕g3+ **35...♕h2+ 36.♔f2 ♖f3+!** [36...♖f3+ 37.♔e1 ♖xf1+ 38.♔xf1 ♕h1+ 39.♔f2 ♕xg2+ 40.♔e3 *(40.¢e1 £g1#)* 40...♕f3#] **0-1.**

2. 32.♘xg6! ♖xg6 33.♖f7+ ♖xf7 34.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 35.♕xe3 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.tsf.org.tr/english/rounds_results/tournament_table.htm
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.europe-echecs.com/articles/metz.php
www.kasparovchess.ru

<u>Contact information.</u>
Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning *Chess Today?* E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-155, 11th April 2001

Chess around the Globe

For decades, Yugoslavia was the second chess power in the world after The Soviet Union. Now Yugoslavia is only a part of what it once was. In spite of the difficult economic situation after the NATO aggression (or maybe better to say "after the help of the civilised world for the Yugoslavian people against the Milosevic regime" – it all depends on your own political views), the peoples love of chess is as strong as ever. And as ever Yugoslavia organises many strong events, team and individual. Recently the men's and women's championships of this country were finished in Hercog Novi.

In the men's championship (16 participants, Cat. X, av. Elo 2490) there was a four way tie for first place between GMs **Branko Damljanovic** and **Aleksandar Kovacevic** and IMs **Nikola Ostojic** and **Dejan Pikula –** 9 points out of 15. At the end of April they will play off.
5-8. Pavlovic, Blagojevic, Tadic, Todorovic – 8
9-11. Antic, Ivanisevic, Gligoric – 7½ etc.

Legendary 78-year old Svetozar Gligoric played very fighting chess and with 6 wins and 6 defeats gained 50%.
In the women's events 1st and 2nd places were taken by ex-champions of the USSR, who have lived in Yugoslavia for many years, **Irina Chelushkina** (12½ points out of 15) and **Svetlana Prudnikova** (10). **3-5.** Benderac, Stankovic, Petrovic – 9½
6-7. Maksimovic, Dimitrijevic – 8 etc.

According to the report by Sinisa Joksic in the TWIC #335 *– new issue available now*

Also, the Ukrainian women's championship finished in Kramatorsk.
Final standing:
1. Anna Zatonskih – 9½ points out of 13
2. Tatiana Kononenko – 9
3-4. Inna Gaponenko, Vladislava Kalinina – 8½ etc.

Our congratulations to all the champions!

Meanwhile, the Danish men's championship (10 participants, cat. VIII, av. Elo 2435) has begun. After 3 rounds GMs **Peter Heine Nielsen** and **Lars Schandorff** and IMs **Kim Pilgaard, Steffen Pedersen** and **Klaus Berg** have 2 points.

In CT-150 we wrote about the qualifying tournaments of the 2nd Dos Hermanas event held at the Internet Chess Club. Now we would like to tell you about its knockout part. As you remember they played two games with control 8 min per game plus 2 sec per move, and with equal score 1:1 one decisive blitz game (White had 5 min, Black 4, draw is a win for Black).

Sensations of the first round:
Guillermo Soppe – Andrei Shchekachev **2:0**, Roman Sergejev – Zurab Azmaiparashvili **2:0**. Very dangerous ICC player Maxim Dlugy lost **½:1½** young Ukrainian Sergei Krivoshey, Russian champion Sergei Volkov lost **0:2** Alexander Kochiev and Pablo Zarnicki lost **0:2** young Muscovite Andrei Rychagov. In other pairs favourites made a step forward.

Round 2:
Alexander Rustemov – Soppe **1½:½**
Ivan Sokolov – Levon Aronian **2:1**
Lev Psakhis – Roman Dzindzichashvili **2:1**

Sergejev – Victor Mikhalevski **2:0**
Alexey Dreev – Alexander Stripunsky **2:1**
Nikolai Vlassov – Alexander Kochyev **1½:½**
Sergei Shipov – Rychagov **1½:½**
Krivoshey – Boris Avrukh **1½:½**

Round 3 (quarterfinal):
Rustemov – Sokolov **2:0**
Sergejev – Psakhis **2:0**
Dreev – Vlassov **1½:½**
Shipov – Krivoshey **1½:½**

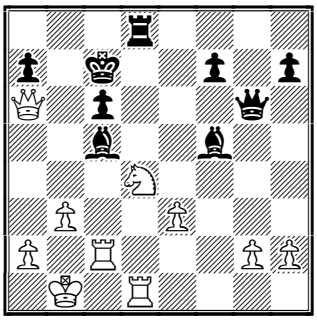
Semifinal:
Rustemov – Sergejev **1½:½**
Shipov – Dreev **1½:½**

And in the final match **GM Sergei Shipov** won with the score **1½:½**. Our congratulations to the main expert of the popular chess site www.kasparovchess.com! Unfortunately Sergei plays very rarely now, but as we say in Russian – seldom but well aimed!

♘♘♘

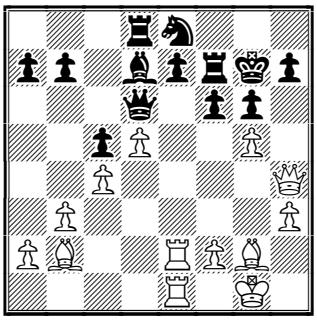
Tactical Quiz

(1) Shaposhnikov – Bocharov
Kazan (Russia ch under 20) 2001



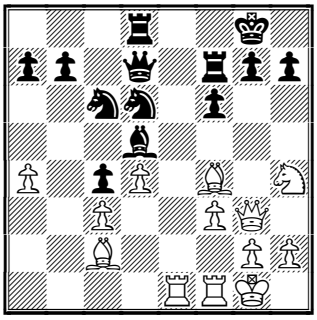
White to Play

(2) Kosintseva – Hairullin
Kazan (Russia ch under 20) ÊÀÇÀÍÜ, 2001



White to Play

(3) Smirnov – Bocharov
Kazan (Russia ch under 20) 2001



White to Play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

S Shipov (2640) – A Rychagov (2525)
Dos Hermanas Internet KO, ICC INT (2.1), 2001 D17
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Of course this is only a rapid game, but it's very interesting and spectacular. Sergei Shipov is well known among Internet chessplayers as the expert behind Kasparov's site. He is a very strong GM. In his childhood Sergei was a pupil at Moscow Sport's Internat, he studied chess in the same class as Eugeny Bareev and Yuri Dokhojan (Kasparov's coach). Shipov was a talented junior but not a vunderkind. After school he studied

mathematics at Moscow University, but having completed his education, Sergei decided to became chess professional.

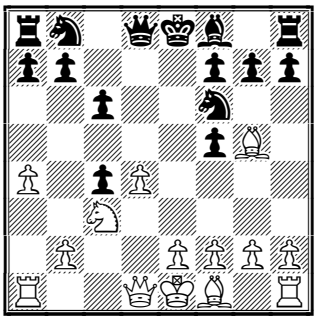
Last year I went to his office to congratulate Sergei on his birthday, and he offered to play me some blitz games − 3 min for me, 1 for him. Our final score shocked me − if I scored 1 win to 3 of his wins then it was a great success for me, but I suspect the score was even worse for me. With such a big handicap!..

I forgot to add that Shipov was ICC−bullit champion (with control 1 min per game).By the way Sergei told me that once, 2−3 years ago, he played some training blitz−matches vs. Garry Kasparov (5 min each). Usually Kasparov plays 12 games in a row, and Sergei told that his "normal" result vs. Garry was 3−4 points out of 12! But Kasparov didn't play in the Internet Dos Hermanas...

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.♘h4 e6

The main alternative is 6...♗c8

7.♘xf5 exf5 8.♗g5!?

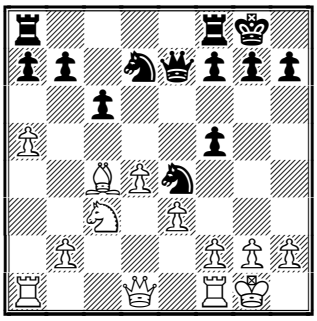


Quite a rare move (much more common is 8.e3). Of course the Bishop is more active here, but White's Queen side is weaker too.

8...♗e7?!

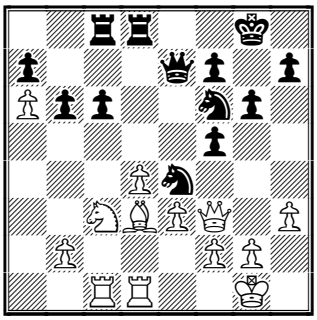
It's a novelty but maybe not very strong. After exchanging of black−squared Bishops White will receive a small but long−term advantage. Alternatives are 8...♘bd7; and the most principled 8...♗b4 (Black tries to exploit the c1 Bishop's absence on the Queenside) 9.e3 ♕a5 10.♗xf6 ♗xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♕xc3+ 12.♔e2 gxf6 13.g3 ♘a6 14.♔f3 f4 15.♖c1 ♕a5 16.♗xc4 fxe3 17.fxe3 ♘b4 18.♔g2 ♘d5 19.♖e1 0-0-0 20.e4 ♘b6 21.♗xf7 ♔b8∞ Tregubov − Kasymzhanov, New Delphi 2000.

9.e3 0-0 10.♗xc4 ♘e4 11.♗xe7 ♕xe7 12.0-0 ♘d7 13.a5!



Typical and strong. After a7−a6, the a5 pawn will hold three Black pawns or if Black permits a5−a6 then the c6−pawn will be weak and the a6 strong for many endgames.

13...♘df6 14.a6 b6 15.♖c1 ♖ac8 16.♕e2 ♕b4 17.♖fd1 ♖fd8 18.♗d3 ♕e7 19.♕f3 g6 20.h3



Black's blockade in the centre isn't very strong and after preparatory work White can drive away his opponent's Knights.

20...c5!?

An attempt at counterplay.

21.♘b5!

The knight is going to... c6!

21...cxd4 22.♘xd4 ♖xc1 23.♖xc1 ♕d6 24.♖d1! ♕c7 25.b4!

A very good positional move. After b4−b5 and Nd4−c6 the Black pieces will be tired with defending the a7 pawn.

25...♕c3 26.b5 ♘d2

Black's only hope − tactical complications.

27.♕e2 ♘b3 28.♘c6 ♖d7 29.♕c2!

Yes, an endgame will be very difficult for Black.

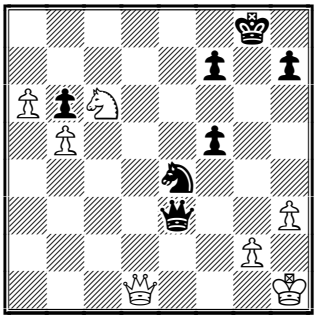
29...♘d5 30.♗xf5!

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind!

30...♘xe3!?

Of course not 30...gxf5 31.♕xc3 ♘xc3 32.♖xd7+−

31.fxe3 ♕xe3+ 32.♔h1 ♖xd1+ 33.♕xd1 gxf5 34.♘xa7 ♘d2 35.♘c6 ♘e4



Last chance – to attack the White King. But look at the notes for White's 30th move...

36.♘e7+!

And Black resigns because he'll lose a Queen. **1-0**

♘♘♘

Where to play chess in the near future?

by Alexander Baburin

If this question comes to your mind, than read on as I about to share with you some information available to me, along with my personal experience.

April.

There is a tournament in **Israel** with relatively high (for that country) prizes - $4,000/$3,000/$2,000, etc. It is called Liberzon Memorial and it takes place in Tel-Aviv, which is, I guess, a lot safer than Jerusalem. The only problem is that the tournament already started on the 9th of April, so you might be a bit late to enter it. But Chess Today will cover this tournament in the next few days. You can also follow it yourself at www.slavchess.co.il/academy/isropch.html

There will be a tournament in **Ireland** at the Easter Weekend - at the Teacher's Club, 36 Parnell Square. It will start at 9-30 on Saturday morning. There will be 3 sections in the tournament. The first prize in the top section is £325. For details please contact Herbert Scarry (tel. 01-8331309) or Shannon Clements (tel. 01-8782436).

Another Easter tournament is organised in **Crete** by the Union of Cretan Chess Associations under the name "Easter in Rethymno 2001". It is going to take place in Rethymno from the 17th to the 21st of April. The former World Champion Anatoly Karpov is going to take part in that chess festival. For more details please refer to http://www.chess.gr/essk/enter.html or http://www.chess.gr/essk

A very strong tournament - 3rd Dubai Open Chess Championship, Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Al Maktum Cup - will take place in the **United Arab Emirates** on 15-26 of April. Prizes: $5,000/$4,500/$4,000/$3,000/$2,500, etc. Contact information: Dubai Chess & Culture Club, U.A.E. DUBAI PO Box 11354. Tel: +(971- 4) 2966664, fax: +(971-4) 2968880.

May.

Yet another tournament will be held in Dublin, **Ireland** - this time in Malahide. The dates are 5-7 of May. The first prize in the top section is £750. Contact Vincent Bisett (01-8453609) or visit http://members.tripod.co.uk/MalahideCC for more information.

The "Torrevella Chess Club" of Salou in **Spain** is organising a chess festival on 7-18 May. 3 tournaments will be held to bring you the chance to make GM or IM norm, to get Elo rating and have nice vacation in Salou, which is located about 100 km south of Barcelona, on the sea. Further details (prizes, accommodation, entry fees, etc.) at http://home2.worldonline.es/ortumsal.

A few tournaments will take place in **Switzerland** at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. Those include The Olympic Young Master (20-27 May; invitational) and the Masters Open (22-27 May), 9 round Swiss system Open - for players with Elo above 2000 (GM and IM norms

possible). You can also play in the General Open - 7 rounds, open for players of all levels with maximum rating of Elo 2150; 24-27 May. For more information and registration please visit www.lausanneyoungmasters.com

July.

The 2001 **Canadian** Open Chess Championship will be held at Mount Allison University in Sackville, a town south-east corner in the province New Brunswick, on the Atlantic coast. The dates of the tournament are July 7-15. The format of the event is a 10 round Swiss. Subsequent to this event there are also large(r) tournaments in Montreal (end of July) and Toronto (Aug 15-19). Prizes (Canadian $) to 1st-5th overall of $3000, $1750, $1250, $1000, and $750 in addition to the various class prizes. Details are at http://www.mta.ca/conference/chess_championships

I have never been to Canada, so I can't say much here. Actually, last year some Canadian organiser asked me whether I would be interested to play in his tournament. I promptly replied "Yes!" and never heard from him again! :-)

CZECH OPEN will take place in Pardubice on 12-29 of July. The will be a whole series of tournaments in the Czech Republic as apart from the CZECH OPEN there will be also rating tournaments in Olomouc, Znojmo, Pec pod Snezkou town, Marianske Lazne and Prague. For more information please refer to http://www.proclient.cz/czechopen and http://www.avekont.cz/calender.htm=20

Czech and Slovak Republics are good places to visit - with friendly people, good food and great beer! Both countries are still very inexpensive.

There will be Politiken Cup will take place in Copenhagen, **Denmark** on 16-27 July. It is an 11-rounds tournament Swiss open with 1 game per day with one free day. Rate of play: 40 moves in 2 hours / 20 move in 1 hour / 30 min. finish. Main Prizes 1.15.000 DK/10.000'8.000/6.000/ 4.000, etc. Entry fee: GM + IM free; FM + WGM + WIM - 600 DK.; Juniors - 500 DK. Seniors (67 years +) - 500 DK. Players with Elo - 750 DK.; without Elo - 850 DK. For more information please refer to www.kbhsu.dk Places to stay: www.rejse-guide.dk/copenhagen.htm. Copenhagen is a great city and if you are looking for a chess holiday, I would really recommend this tournament.

August.

Presov Chess Festival will take place in **Slovakia** on 11-19 August. 9 rounds; 1st prize = 30 000 SK (about 1,500 DM); total prize fund 114 000 SK (about 5,500 DM). Further information on www.chess.vadium.sk/presov

October.

The 5th Open International Bavarian Masters Bavaria will take place in Bad Wiessee, **Germany**, on October 27 - November 04, 2001. It's a lovely place - with a beautiful lake. I played there in 1999 and the Indian Summer in Bavaria was very nice. The tournament is well run and is good for norm/rating seekers. But if you are a chess professional, I must warn you - it's hard to make money there (if you heard of places where it's easy, let me know!). In 1999 the first prize was 6,000 DM - not a lot when you check how many strong GMs played there! Also, there was 20% tax deducted. Still, it is a very good tournament, which I am happy to recommend. Watch out the following site for more information: http://www.schach-am-tegernsee.de/

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1) 35.♘b5+! [35.♘b5+ cxb5 36.♕xa7+ ♔c8 37.♕xc5++−] **1-0**

(2) 32.♖xe7! ♖xe7 33.gxf6+ ♘xf6 34.♗xf6+ [34.♗xf6+ ♕xf6 35.♖xe7+] **1-0**

(3) 21.♗xd6 ♕xd6 22.♖e8+! ♖f8 23.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 24.♕xd6 ♖xd6 25.♖xf8 and White won: **25...♘e7 26.♖e1 ♖d7 27.f4 ♗c6 28.♖e3 ♘d5 29.♖ee8 g5 30.fxg5 fxg5 31.♘f5 ♘xc3 32.♖e6 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:
http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/ukr01chw.htm
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.europe-echecs.com/articles/metz.php
www.kasparovchess.ru (.com)
http://www.skak-dm.dk
http://www.chessclub.com

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-156 12th April 2001

OTB News and ICCF Top Ten

A Category XVII round-robin tournament began in Enghien-les-Bains, France. The format is very popular here: 5 local players (Vladislav Tkatchiev is one of them) and 5 foreigners.

Results of the 1st round:
Alexander Grischuk - Vladimir Akopian ½:½
Laurent Fressinet - Evgeny Bareev 0:1
Loek Van Wely - Viktor Bologan 1:0
Etienne Bacrot - Christian Bauer ½:½
Joel Lautier - Vladislav Tkatchiev ½:½

Today will be the second round:
Akopian – Tkatchiev
Bauer – Lautier
Bologan – Bacrot
Bareev – Van Wely
Grischuk – Fressinet

As usual we have attached all games of the 1st round in cbv and pgn-files. Also see our annotated game section.

Another tournament in France is The Metz Open. It starts on the 7th of April but its organisers are in no hurry, and we know only the results of the 2nd round. If you are interested please visit their site: http://www.europe-echecs.com/articles/metz.php

As we wrote yesterday, The Liberzon Memorial – Israel Open Championship – is in progress in Tel-Aviv. After two rounds the following players have perfect scores: Acs, Avrukh, Boim, De Vreugt, Doettling, Donchenko, Golod, Gyimesi, Mittleman, Murey, Postny, Rabinovich, Roiz, Sutovsky, Tiwari, Van der Doel, Zifroni and Zoler.

Vladimir Epishin won the 7th Werther-Schloss Open (Germany) with 5 points out of 5.
2-8. M. Kopylov, I. Zaragatski, I. Glek, A. Rizouk, V. Mejers, G. Sarakauskas, A. Hoffmann – 4 etc.

Our technical editor Ralph Marconi informs us about **the top-ten ICCF rating list.** The list is valid for the period from 1 April 2001 to 30 September 2001. He pointed out that, OTB (over the board) GM Ulf Anderson is #1, but he still has an unfixed rating in the ICCF rating system. He needs 30 rated games to become established.

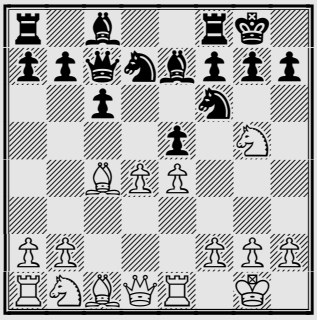
1. Andersson, Ulf (SVE GM) 2756 (24)
2. Timmerman, Gert Jan (NLD GM) 2744 140
3. Oosterom, Joop J. van (NLD GM) 2719 (146)
4. Lykhin, Oleg (RUS) 2700 (16)
5. Rause, Mrs. Olita (f LAT GM) 2689 (159)
6. Neumann, Joachim (GER IM) 2684 (42)
7. Tarnowiecki, Dr. Harald (OST GM) 2679 (131)
8. Hansen, Curt (DEN GM) 2674 (25)
9. Bang, Erik (DEN GM) 2670 (155)
10. Elwert, Hans-Marcus (GER GM) 2664 (193)

It is interesting that right now Ulf Andersson is playing a 6-game match OTB with another top-ICC player Curt Hansen, in Skelleftea, Sweden. The first and second games were drawn. In the open section with 2 points out of two are G. Sax, P. Kiriakov, J. Hector, T. Hillarp-Persson, E. Gausel and T. Nybock.

♘♘♘

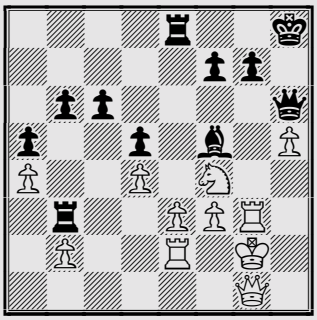
Tactical Quiz

(1) Inarkiev − Beradze
Kazan (Russia ch under 20) 2001
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♗d3 dxc4 6.♗xc4 ♘bd7 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.♖e1 ♕c7 9.e4 e5 10.♘g5 0-0



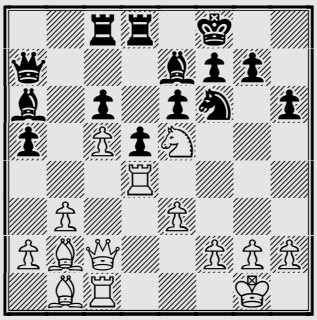
White to play

(2) Prizant − Bryzgalin
Kazan (Russia ch under 20), 2001



Black to play

(3) Shkliar − Arakelov
Kazan (Russia ch under 20), 2001



White to play

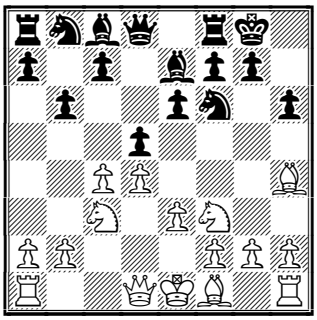
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

L Van Wely (2670) − V Bologan (2676)
It Enghien−les−Bains FRA (1), 11.04.2001 D58

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 0-0 7.e3 b6

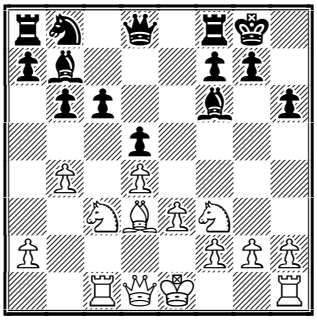


The so−called TBM − Tartakover−Bondarevsky−Makagonov System, one of the more solid systems in the Queen's Gambit.

8.♖c1 ♗b7 9.♗xf6 ♗xf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b4!?

Korchnoi's favourite move, he played it in 1978 vs. Spassky and in 1998 vs. Zviagintsev. Main alternative is 11.Bd3.

11...c6 12.♗d3



Second quite unusual move (main line is 12.Be2).

12...♘d7

A big specialist in the Queen's Gambit, Svetozar Gligoric, played here 12...♕d6!? 13.♕b3 ♘d7 14.0-0 ♗e7 15.♖b1 a5 16.bxa5 ♖xa5 17.a4 ♗d8 18.♖fd1 ♖a8 19.♖bc1 ♖e8 20.♗b1 ♘f6 21.♖e1 ♗c7 , draw, Ivkov − Gligoric, Yugoslavia 1979. The d6 square suits the Black Queen very much in such positions, maybe Gligoric's plan is enough for equality.

13.0-0 a5

Black hasn't any other counterplay.

14.b5 c5 15.♗f5! cxd4

Theoretical move. Of course worse was 15...g6? 16.♗xd7 ♕xd7 17.♘a4!±; , but interesting 15...c4!? After 15...cxd4 Black tries to activate his f6 Bishop and d7 Knight, but the d5 pawn becomes isolated and White Knights get very good squares on d4 and c6.

16.♘xd4 ♘c5 17.g3!?

It looks like a novelty (fianchetto for white−square Bishop). In a previous game White played the more aggressive: 17.♕g4!? g6 18.♗b1 ♗g7 19.♖fd1 ♕d6 20.♘ce2 h5 21.♕f3 ♖ac8⇄ Podzielny − Vaganian, Germany 1995

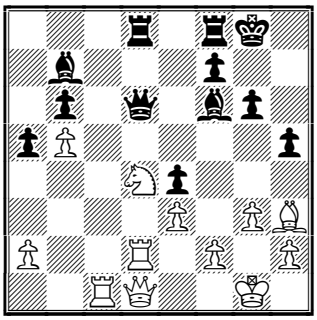
17...g6 18.♗h3 ♕d6 19.♖e1

Rook is going to d2.

19...h5 20.♖e2 ♖ad8 21.♖d2 ♘e4!?

Viorel Bologan is a very active chessplayer, he doesn't like to wait and passively defend, and he is looking for complications.

22.♘xe4 dxe4



23.♖c4!?

Interesting idea, White would like to exploit one of the open files. Maybe the c−file is better for this because White has the c6−square for his Knight here.

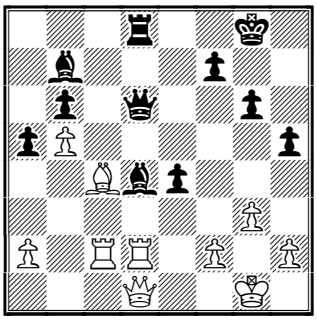
23...♖fe8 24.♗f1 ♖e5

The same active style. But Black hasn't real targets for counterplay. Maybe better was something like 24...♗g7!? and wait.

25.♖cc2! ♖d5?!

See our previous note... Bologan decided to sacrifice an exchange, but he will not receive enough compensation.

26.♗c4 ♖xd4 27.exd4 ♗xd4



28.♗xf7+!

It's a refutation. Not very difficult but nice.

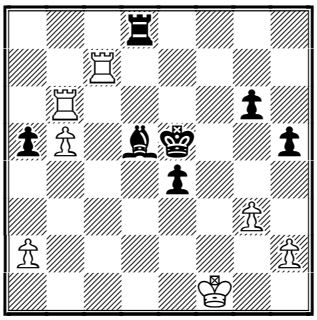
28...♔xf7 29.♖c4 ♗xf2+ 30.♖xf2+

With check!

30...♔e6 31.♕f1 ♕d1

Only move but the endgame is hopeless for Black.

32.♖f6+ ♔e5 33.♖xb6 ♕xf1+ 34.♔xf1 ♗d5 35.♖c7



The rest is quite simple:

35...♔d4 36.♔e1 ♗xa2 37.♖xg6 ♗c4 38.b6 ♗d3 39.♖f6 ♖d5 40.♔d2 ♖b5 41.♖d6+ ♔e5 42.♖h6 ♖b3 43.b7 a4 44.♖e7+ ♔d4 45.♖d6+ 1-0

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1) 11.♗xf7+! ♖xf7 [11...♔h8 12.♘e6+−] **12.♕b3+− ♘f8 13.♕xf7+ ♔h8 14.♕b3 h6 15.♘f7+ ♔h7 16.♘xe5 ♗e6 17.♕c2 ♖d8 18.♘d2 ♔g8 19.♘df3 ♗d6 20.h3 ♕c8 1-0**

(2) 34...♕xf4! 35.exf4 ♖xe2+ [35...♖xe2+ 36.♔h1 ♖bxb2 37.♖xg7!? ♖h2+!] **0-1**

(3) 22.♘xf7! ♔xf7 23.♕g6+ ♔f8 [23...♔g8 24.♖g4!+−] **24.♖g4! d4** [24...♘xg4 25.♗xg7+ ♔g8 26.♗xh6+; 24...♘e8 25.♗xg7+ ♘xg7 26.♖f4+ ♘f5 27.♗xf5+−] **25.♕xg7+ ♔e8 26.♗g6+ ♔d7 27.♖xd4+ ♘d5 28.e4+− +−**

Recommended Web sites:

http://enghien.free.fr
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.europe-echecs.com/articles/metz.php
http://www.tns.nu/solett/A/pairingsr3.html
http://www.slavchess.co.il/academy/isropch.html
http://www.schloss-open.skwerther.de/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-157 13th April 2001

Lucky for Some

Today is the 38th birthday of Garry Kasparov. Maybe the 13th World Champion is the greatest player in chess history. As we say in Russian, you can better see a big thing from a distance.

Sometimes we can dislike some of his words or actions but we can't help but admire his games, his contribution to chess art, chess theory, chess sport, and in popularising our game all over the world, first of all in secondary schools. Garry Kasparov is an extremely bright person: talented orator, journalist, chess teacher (just remember some pupils of his at the Mikhail Botvinnik school: Vladimir Kramnik, Alexey Shirov…). Some of his former seconds played much stronger after working with Kasparov (contradictory case – Eugeny Vladimirov, who couldn't play for years after leaving Kasparov's team, but Garry is a very contradictory person himself). It's hard to overestimate Kasparov's efforts to improve the lives of chess professionals, though his actions have perhaps caused some harm too… but that's not a theme for a congratulatory article; first of all, good health, Garry Kimovich, and many new bright victories! We like your play very much!

In the second round of Enghien-les-Bains event there was only one decisive game – Viorel Bologan lost with White to Etienne Bacrot. It's rare, that Viorel loses games in a row. Fortunately more often he wins them in a row and I wish him a return to that habit as soon as possible!

Results of the 2nd round:
Akopian – Tkachiev ½:½
Bauer – Lautier ½:½
Bologan – Bacrot 0:1
Bareev – Van Wely ½:½
Grischuk – Fressinet ½:½

Standing after 2nd round:
1-3. Bareev, Van Wely, Bacrot – 1½ points
4-8. Bauer, Akopian, Lautier, Tkachiev, Grischuk – 1
9. Fressinet - ½
10. Bologan – 0

Today will be the third round:
Fressinet – Akopian
Van Wely – Grischuk
Bacrot – Bareev
Lautier – Bologan
Tkachiev – Bauer

As usual we attach all games of the 2nd round in cbv and pgn-files. Also see our annotated game section.

The Cuban Championships are in progress in Las Tunas (round-robin system, 18 participants, cat. IX). Standing after 8th round:
1. R. Vera – 6½ points
2-4. L. Dominguez, F. De la Paz, L. Bruzon – 5½
5. O. Almeida – 5
6-7. N. Delgado, J. Nogueiras – 4½ etc.

The Danish Championships, standing after 5th round:
1-2. L. Schandorff, P.H. Nielsen – 4 points
3. J.O.F. Nielsen – 3½
4. K. Pilgaard – 3 etc.

Skelleftea (Sweden) International Chess Festival. Open A, standing after 3 rounds:
1-2. G. Sax, J. Hector – 3 points
3-5. P. Kiriakov, E. Gausel, S. Dvoirys – 2½ etc.

XXXII Abierto de Mar del Plata, Argentina (Swiss system, 9 rounds):
1-2. A. Rodriguez, S. Slipak – 5½ points out of 6
3-7. Z. Franco Ocampos, A. Hoffman, J. Rubinetti, F. Pierrot, J. Rosito – 5 etc.

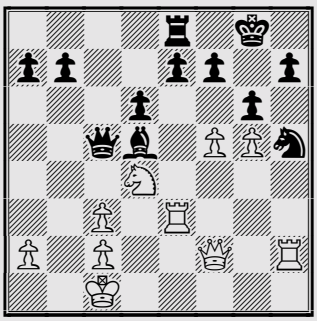
FIDE Zone 3.1a, Iran.
Men's tournament (round-robin, 10 part., cat. V, Av. Elo 2375). Standing after 5th round:
1-2. A. Mallahi, E. Ghaem Madhami - 3½ points
3-4. E. Moradiabadi, M. Al-Modiahki – 3
5. I. Hakki - 2½ etc.
In the Women's group, there were only 6 participants, so it's finished now:
1. E. Paridar - 4½
2. M. Mahini - 3½
3. S. Ghader Pour – 3 etc.

♘♘♘

Play like Kasparov!

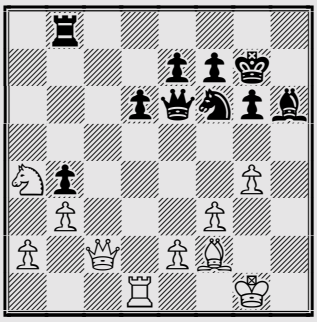
(Answers on page 4)

(1) Kasparov – Piket
Tilburg 1989



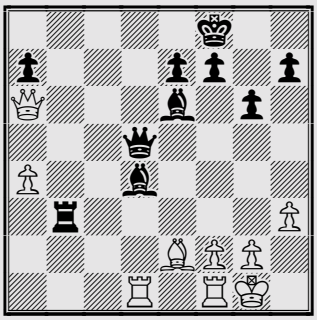
White to play

(2) Hjartarson – Kasparov
Tilburg 1989



Black to play

(3) Bareev – Kasparov
Paris Immopar rapid Paris 1991



White to play

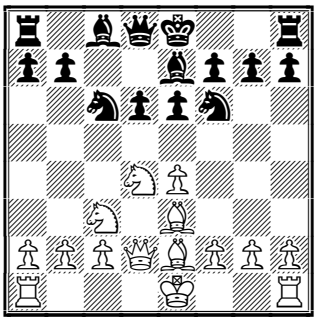
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

V Bologan (2676) – E Bacrot (2627)
It Enghien–les–Bains FRA (2), 12.04.2001 B83

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♗e2 ♗e7 8.♕d2



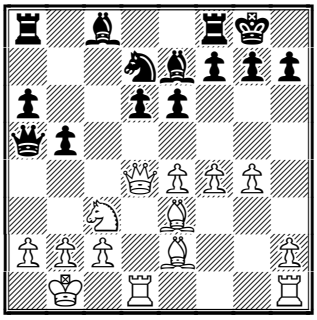
Quite a rare set up in the Classical

Scheveningen. More often White prefers castling short (by the way I suspect that Garry Kasparov knows the final "diagnosis" − White wins or a draw!). One of the main specialists of Scheveningen in the world is Russian master Alexander Nikitin. He was Kasparov's coach for years and now he helps... Etienne Bacrot.

8...0-0 9.f4 a6 10.0-0-0 ♘d7

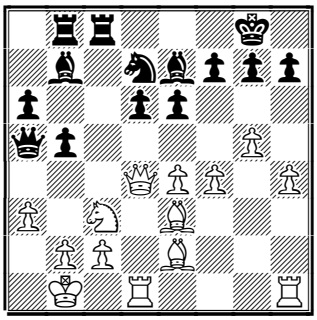
Typical manoeuvre: Black doesn't wait for g2−g4−g5 and transfers his Knight to the Queenside.

11.♔b1 ♘xd4 12.♕xd4 b5 13.g4 ♕a5!?



It's a novelty. 13...♖b8 14.♗f3 b4 15.♘e2 e5 16.♕d2 exf4 17.♘xf4 ♘e5 18.♕e2 ♗g5 19.h4 ♗xf4 20.♗xf4 ♕f6 21.♗xe5 dxe5 22.g5 ♕e7 23.♗g4 ♗xg4 draw, Svidler − Gavrikov, Tallinn (active) 2001

14.a3 ♗b7 15.g5 ♖fc8 16.h4 ♖ab8



Both sides play very logically but maybe a bit slowly. Interesting for White is g5−g6 somewhere and only after hxg6 − h4−h5.

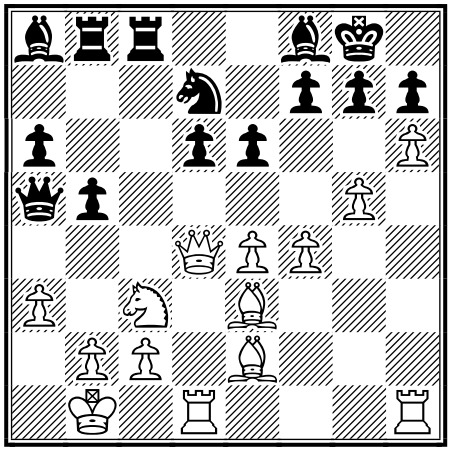
17.h5

17.g6!?

17...♗a8 18.h6

It was another opportunity for 18.g6!? for example: 18...b4!? 19.h6 ♗f6 20.gxh7+ ♔h8

18...♗f8



19.♗d2?

Every move counts in such a sharp Sicilian. It looks like White underestimated the 20th move of his opponent. Alternatives were 19.hxg7!? ♗xg7 20.♕xd6 ♗xc3 21.♕xd7 ♗xe4⩲; 19.g6?! hxg6 (19...fxg6 20.♗g4 ♖e8 21.hxg7 ♗xg7 22.♕xd6 ♘f8 23.♗d4∞) 20.h7+ ♔h8∓

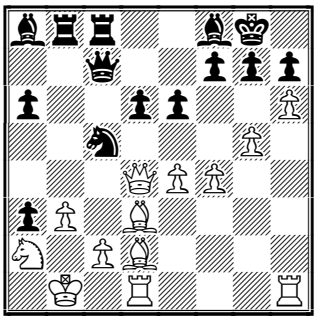
19...b4 20.♘a2

Fritz generated the following variation: 20.axb4!? ♖xb4 21.♕a7 ♕a3 22.b3 ♖xc3 23.♗xc3 ♖xb3+ 24.cxb3 ♗xe4+ 25.♗d3 ♕xb3+ 26.♗b2 ♗xd3+ Of course it's not forcing but quite illustrative.

20...♕c7! 21.♗d3

White hasn't got 21.♘xb4? in view of 21...a5 22.♘a6 ♕xc2+ 23.♔a1 e5-+

21...bxa3 22.b3 ♘c5



A pawn up and a better position − what else could you wish for?!

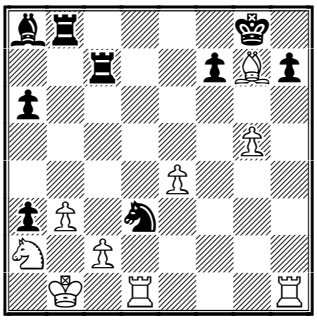
23.♗c3 e5!?

Not so clear was 23...♘xb3 24.cxb3 ♖xb3+ 25.♔a1 ♖xc3 26.♘xc3 ♕xc3+ 27.♕xc3 ♖xc3

24.fxe5 dxe5 25.♕xe5 ♘xd3 26.♕xc7

26.♖xd3 ♕xe5 27.♗xe5 ♗xe4-+

26...♖xc7 27.hxg7 ♗xg7 28.♗xg7



28...♗xe4!
A small final combination.
29.♗d4 ♖xb3+!! 30.cxb3 ♘c1+
And White resigned because of checkmate in two.
0-1

♘♘♘

Answers to Kasparov Quiz

(1) 32.♖xh5! gxh5 33.♕h4 ♕c4 [33...♔h8 34.♕xh5 ♖g8 35.♖h3 ♖g7 36.f6 exf6 37.gxf6 ♖g1+ 38.♔b2 ♗e4 39.♕xf7+−] **34.♕xh5 ♕f1+ 35.♔b2 e5 36.♕h6! ♔h8 37.g6 fxg6 38.fxg6 ♖e7 39.♖f3 ♕c4 40.♕f8+ 1-0**

(2) 29...♘xg4! 30.♗d4+ [30.fxg4 ♕xg4+ 31.♔f1 (31.♔h1 ♗f4-+) 31...♕h3+ 32.♔g1 ♖b5 33.♗d4+ (33.♘c5 ♗e3-+) 33...♔h7-+] **30...♘f6 31.♔g2 ♖b5 0-1**

(3) 19...♖g3! 0-1

Recommended Web sites:
http://enghien.free.fr
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.galeon.com/capablanca/
http://www.ajedrezsiglo21.com/
http://www.spskak.dk/turn2001/dm_stil.shtml
http://www.schloss-open.skwerther.de/
http://www.iranchess.com/zone31.htm
http://pscave.com/solett/eng/index.html

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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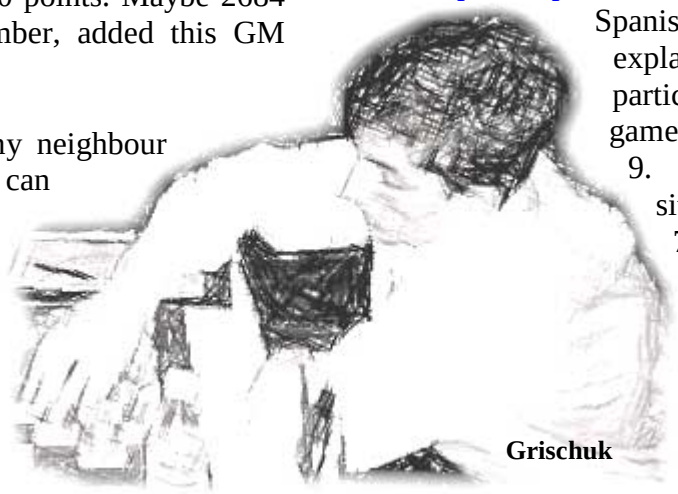
CT-158 14th April 2001

Unlucky For Some

What a mysterious number … 2684! It's Viorel Bologan's exact Elo-coefficient on the 1st January 2001. Viorel played very successfully last year and it was his Elo-record, plus 43 points a half-year etc. But one grandmaster had studied the January list carefully and discovered that a year earlier Alexey Fedorov, Bologan's friend, had the same 2684 Elo, but in 2000 lost about 100 points. Maybe 2684 is an unlucky number, added this GM thoughtfully...

I sincerely wish my neighbour and friend Viorel can squash this "theory" in the Enghien-les-Bains event. Alas, he lost a third game in a row yesterday, this time to Joel Lautier. It was the only decisive game in the third round. Of the other 4 drawn games, 3 were short and one was very interesting.


Grischuk

Results of the 3rd round:
Fressinet – Akopian ½:½
Van Wely – Grischuk ½:½
Bacrot – Bareev ½:½
Lautier – Bologan **1:0**
Tkachiev – Bauer ½:½

Standing after 3rd round:
1-4. Bareev, Van Wely, Lautier, Bacrot – 2 points
5-8. Bauer, Akopian, Tkachiev, Grischuk – 1½
9. Fressinet - 1
10. Bologan – 0

Today will be the forth round:
Akopian – Bauer
Bologan – Tkachiev
Bareev – Lautier
Grischuk – Bacrot
Fressinet – Van Wely

As usual we have attached all games of the 3rd round in cbv and pgn-files. Also see our annotated game section.

All information about the Cuban Championships on official site is in Spanish, so I can't explain why some participants played 10 games, and others only 9. The Tournament situation: **1.** Vera – 7½ points out of 9
2. De la Paz (10 games) – 7
3. Dominguez – 6½
4. Bruzon – 5½
5-6. Perez (10), Almeida – 5
7-9. Delgado, Vazquez (10), Herrera (10) – 4½ etc.

Danish Championships, *standing after 6th round:*
1-2. Schandorff, P.H. Nielsen – 4½ points
3-4. J.O.F. Nielsen, Pilgaard – 4
5. Berg – 3 etc.

After round 4 of the Israel Open Championships the sole leader with 4 points is GM **Emil Sutovsky.**
2-5. Van den Doel, Zifroni, Tseitlin, Zolor – 3½ etc.
On the official site there is only an announcement of this event, more details on TWIC

Skelleftea (Sweden) International Chess Festival. Open A, standing after 5th round:
1-4. Sax, Hector, Gausel, Dvoirys – 4 points
5-9. Kiriakov, Rustemov, Berg, Kiik, Lindgren – 3½ etc.
Third game of Andersson – C.Hansen match was drawn, as two previous. The score is equal 1½:1½.

XXXII Abierto de Mar del Plata, Argentina (Swiss system, 9 rounds):

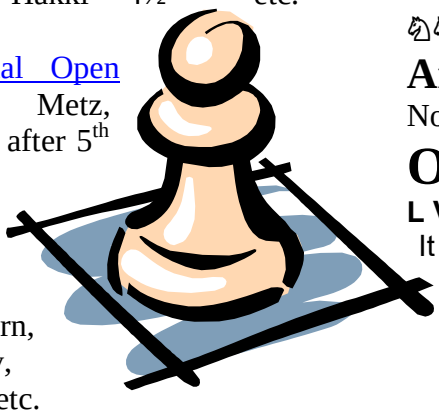
1. Slipak – 6½ points out of 7
2-10. Rodriguez, Franco Ocampos, Hoffman, Giaccio, Giardelli, Rubinetti, Pierrot, Labollita, Rosito – 5½ etc.

Only yesterday we gave the first piece of information about FIDE Zone 3.1a, Iran – men's tournament, standing after the 5th round out of 9. And today we know the final standing! Organisers in Iran work slow but sure ☺.

1. Al-Modiahki – 6½ points
2. Ghaem Madhami – 6
3. Mallahi – 5½
4. Al-Sayed – 5
5-6. Mohammad, Hakki – 4½ etc.

19th International Open tournament, Metz, France. Standing after 5th round:

1. A. Sokolov – 5 points
2-5. Eingorn, Neibour, Delchev, Dgebuadze - 4½ etc.

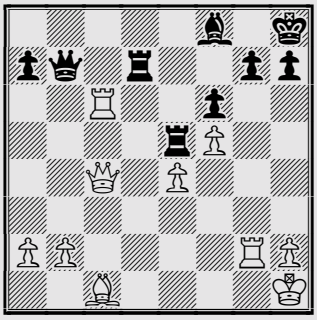


13 International Lenkerhof Open (7 rounds, Swiss system) began 2 days before. After 2 rounds about 30 participants have a perfect score.

♘♘♘

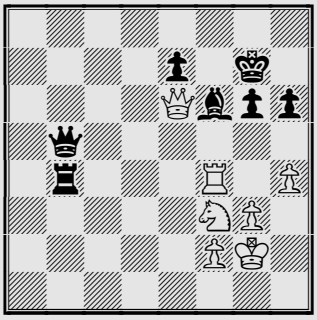
Tactical Quiz

(1) Timofeev – Shomoev
Kazan (Russian ch under 20) 2001



Black to play

(2) Kazakov – Hairullin
Kazan (Russia ch under 20) 2001



White to play

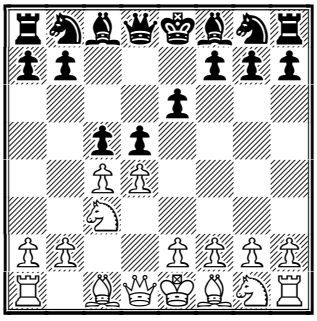
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Opening of Champions

L Van Wely (2670) – A Grischuk (2668)
It Enghien-les-Bains FRA (3), 13.04.2001 D34
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5



The Tarrash Defence was a very sharp opening weapon of two World

Champions: Boris Spassky (he played it very successfully in his match vs. Petrosian) and Garry Kasparov, sometimes it was played by Tal also. Kasparov crushed all his opponents with this opening in the beginning of 1980s, but when he lost two games to Anatoly Karpov in their first title match (Moscow 1984) he abandoned it. By the way, Kasparov didn't have great theoretical troubles in this defence but this type of play suits Karpov much better. I don't want to make any predictions, I only want to say: The Tarrash defence is an opening of champions...

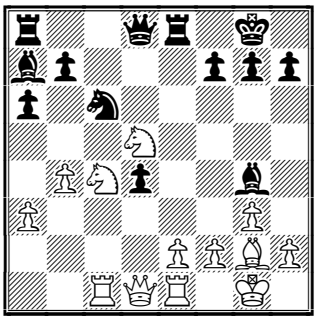
4.cxd5 exd5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.g3 ♘f6 7.♗g2 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5

One of the main lines.

9...♗xc5 10.♗g5 d4 11.♗xf6 ♕xf6 12.♘d5 ♕d8 13.♘d2 ♖e8 14.♖c1 ♗b6 15.♘c4 ♗g4 16.♖e1 ♗c5 17.a3 a6

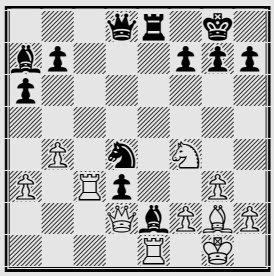
All this is theory. An alternative is 17...♗f8

18.b4 ♗a7



Though Alexander Grischuk is very young he has played at least two games in this position against strong GMs.

19.♘b2 ♗f5 20.♘f4 ♗e4 21.♗xe4 ♖xe4 22.♕d3 ♖e7 23.♕f3 ♕d7 24.♕d5 ♕g4 25.♕h5 ♕d7 26.♘bd3± Milov − Grischuk, Biel 1999.; 19.♘f4 ♖c8 20.♕b3 ♗b8 21.♘d5 ♗xe2 22.♘cb6 d3 23.♕a2 ♖c7 24.♘xc7 ♗xc7 25.♘d5 ♗b8 26.♕d2 ♘d4 27.♖c3 ♗a7 28.♘f4

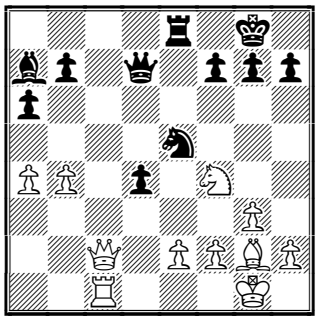


28...♘b3! 29.♖xd3 (29.♖xb3 ♗xf2+!) 29...♗xd3 30.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 31.♕xd3 ♕e1+ 32.♕f1 ♗xf2+ 33.♔h1 ♕xf1+ 34.♗xf1 ♔f8 and Black won, Smirin − Grischuk, New Delhi (active) 2000.

19.♕d2 ♖c8 20.a4!?

Only this move is a novelty. Take a look at one of the previous games: 20.♕f4 ♗e6 21.♕d6 b5 22.♕xd8 ♖cxd8 23.♘c7 ♗xc4 24.♘xe8 ♘e5 25.♘c7 d3 26.♖ed1 ♘g4 27.exd3 ♗xf2+ 28.♔h1 ♗b6 Bystrov − A.Timoschenko, Russia (corr.) 1992.

20...♗e6 21.♘f4 ♗xc4 22.♖xc4 ♘e5 23.♖xc8 ♕xc8 24.♖c1 ♕d7 25.♕c2

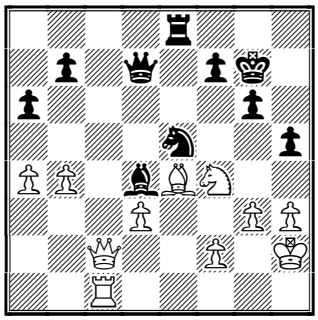


White has a small but long−term advantage, mainly because of difference in Bishop activity. To improve the position of his Bishop Black decides to sacrifice a pawn.

25...d3!?

Not a boy's but a man's move! Grischuk doesn't want to worry about his weak pawn: he lets his opponent do it!

26.exd3 ♗d4 27.h3 g6 28.♔h2 ♔g7 29.♗e4 h5



All the Black pieces are active, and the White ones also...

30.♘d5 ♖e6 31.f4

31.♘c7!? ♖f6 32.f4 h4! Isn't clear.

31...♖c6 32.♕d1 ♖xc1 33.♕xc1 ♕c6

All hopes are for opposite−coloured Bishops.

34.♕d2

After 34.♕xc6 ♘xc6 35.b5 axb5 36.axb5 ♘a7 37.♘c7 b6 38.♔g2 Black's

task isn't simple at all.

34...f5 35.♗g2 ♘d7 36.♕e1 ♕d6

Only a computer can recommend such a dangerous variation as 36...♕xa4 37.♕e7+ ♔h6

37.♕c1

37.b5!?

37...b5!?

A useful move − pawn leaves the diagonal h1-a8 that the g2 Bishop is controlling.

38.a5 h4

I suspect Black had time−trouble: young players like to make pawn−moves in zeitnot.

39.gxh4 ♔h6 40.♕e1?!

It's hard to believe that Black could make a draw after 40.♕c7! for example 40...♕xc7 41.♘xc7 ♘b8 42.♗b7 ♗c3 43.♘d5 ♗e1 44.♔g2

40...♘f6!

Now Black forces a Queen exchange in a more suitable situation, but his position remains very critical. By the way, he is two pawns down...

41.♕e7 ♕xe7 42.♘xe7 ♘e8

Not 42...♗c3? 43.♗b7! ♗xb4 44.♘c6 with good chances for White.

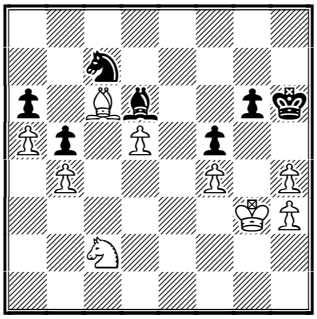
43.♘d5?!

White begins a very long and passive Knight retreat. I think he had to find more active moves, for example, 43.♔g3 ♘c7 44.♘c6 ♗c3 45.d4; interesting, but not enough for White is 43.h5 ♔xh5 44.♘g8 ♔h4 (44...g5!?)

43...♗g7 44.♘e3?! ♗f8 45.♘c2

White has completed his "manoeuvre". Now Black can organise an impregnable fortress on the black squares.

45...♗d6 46.♔g3 ♘c7 47.♗b7 ♔h5! 48.d4 ♔h6 49.d5 ♔h5 50.♗c6 ♔h6 51.♗b7 ♔h5 52.♗c6 ♔h6



53.♗b7 ½-½ White can't improve his position. What a lucky escape for Grischuk!

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1) 33...♗c5! 34.♖xc5 ♖d1+?! [34...♖xc5 35.♕xc5 ♖d1+ 36.♕g1 *(36.♖g1 ♕xe4#)* 36...♖xg1+ 37.♔xg1 ♕xe4-+] **35.♖g1 ♖xe4 36.♖c8+ ♖e8+ 37.♖c6 ♖d6 38.♖f1** [38.♗h6!? gxh6 39.♖c1] **38...♕xc6+ 39.♕xc6 ♖xc6-+ -+**

(2) 43.♘e5! ♕xe5 [43...♗xe5 44.♕xe7+ ♔g8 45.♖f8#; 43...♖xf4 44.♕f7+ ♔h8 45.♘xg6#] **44.♕xe5 ♗xe5 45.♖xb4 ♗d6 46.♖c4 h5 47.♔f3 ♔f6 48.♔e4 e6 49.♖c1 ♗a3 50.♖g1 ♗c5 51.♖g2 ♗d6 52.f3 g5 53.f4 g4 54.♖b2 ♗e7 55.♖b5 ♔g6 56.♖g5+! ♔h6** [56...♗xg5 57.fxg5 ♔f7 *(57...♔g7 58.♔e5 ♔f7 59.♔d6+−)* 58.♔e5 ♔e7 59.g6+−] **57.♖e5 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://enghien.free.fr
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.galeon.com/capablanca/
http://www.ajedrezsiglo21.com/
http://www.spskak.dk/turn2001/dm_stil.shtml
http://www.schloss-open.skwerther.de/
http://www.iranchess.com/zone31.htm
http://pscave.com/solett/eng/index.html
http://www.beochess.ch/startseite.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-159 15th April 2001

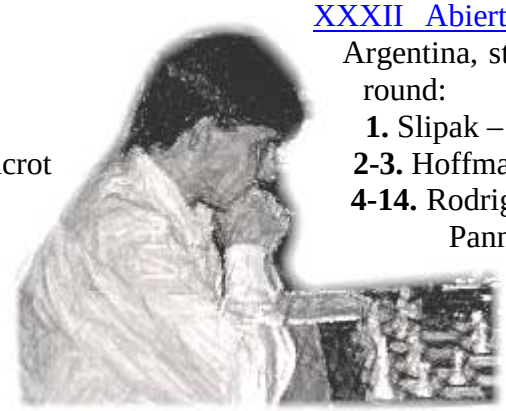
Bareev, Van Wely & Bacrot lead the field

Maybe the grandmaster participants of Enghien-les-Bains tournament waited for the weekend to demonstrate their real skill and true fighting qualities?!

On Saturday there was only one draw – for Viorel Bologan (his first) who tried long and hard to find winning chances against Tkachiev. Akopian and Bareev won quite easily (of course, it's only a deceptive impression!), Bacrot and Van Wely overcame great resistance.

Results of the 4th round:
Akopian – Bauer **1:0**
Bologan – Tkachiev ½:½
Bareev – Lautier **1:0**
Grischuk – Bacrot **0:1**
Fressinet – Van Wely **0:1**

Standing after 4th round:
1-3. Bareev, Van Wely, Bacrot – 3 points
4. Akopian – 2½
5-6. Lautier, Tkachiev – 2
7-8. Bauer, Grischuk – 1½
9. Fressinet – 1
10. Bologan – ½


Bareev

Today will be 5th round:
Van Wely – Akopian
Bacrot – Fressinet
Lautier – Grischuk
Tkachiev – Bareev
Bauer – Bologan

As usual we attach all games of the 4th round in cbv and pgn-files. Also see our annotated game section.

Danish Championships, *standing after 7th round:*
1-2. Schandorff, P.H. Nielsen – 5½ points
3-4. J.O.F. Nielsen, Pilgaard – 4½
5. Berg – 4 etc.

In the 5th round of the Israel Open Championships the sole leader Emil Sutovsky lost to Eric Van den Doel. Tournament situation is:
1-2. Van den Doel, Tseitlin - 4½ points
3-11. Avrukh, Sutovsky, Huzman, Zifroni, Doetlling, Acs, Zoler, K. Movsziszian, Roiz – 4 etc.

Skelleftea (Sweden) International Chess Festival. Standing after 6th round:
1-6. Sax, Hector, Gausel, Dvoirys, Rustemov, Berg – 4½ points
7-9. Kiriakov, NybDck, Kiik, – 4 etc.

XXXII Abierto de Mar del Plata, Argentina, standing before ultimate round:
1. Slipak – 7½ points out of 8
2-3. Hoffman, Pierrot - 6½
4-14. Rodriguez, Franco Ocampos, Panno, Sanchez Almeyra, Giardelli, Felgaer, Rosselli Mailhe, Kanefsck, Needleman, Flores, Rosito – 6 etc.

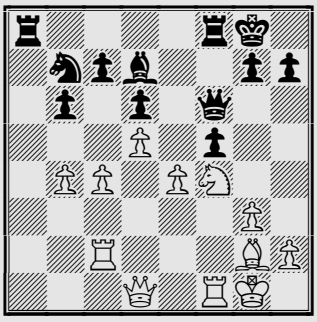
13 International Lenkerhof Open, standing after 3rd round:
1-7. Tukmakov, Miles, Gheorghiu, Seres, Gerber, Videki, Dudas – 3 points etc.

5 International Neckar Open, Germany (Swiss system, 9 rounds). Standing after 3rd round:
1-10. Graf (Nenashev), Braun, Niklasch, Rogers, Ftacnik, Landa, Brendel, Tregubov, Konig, Namyslo – 3 points etc.

♘♘♘

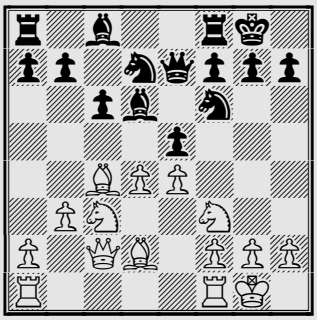
Tactical Quiz

(1) Shaidullina − Zainullina
Kazan (Russia ch, girls under 20), 2001



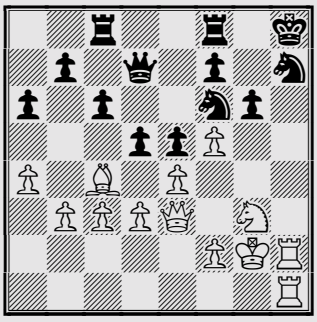
White to play

(2) Timurova − Husnutdinova
Kazan (Russia ch, girls under 20), 2001



Black to play

(3) Grebenschikova − Ivanova
Kazan (Russia ch, girls under 20), 2001



White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

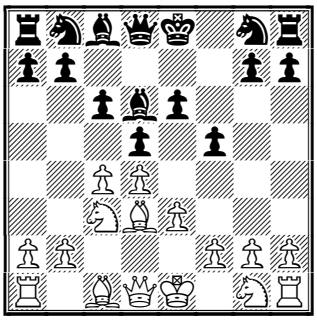
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Seconds Out!

E Bareev (2709) − JLautier (2658)
4e Master d'Echecs d'Enghien Enghien−les−Bains (4), 14.04.2001 D31

Joel Lautier and Evgeny Bareev know each other very well. At the beginning of 90s they worked together sometimes − young Joel visited Evgeny in Moscow. And last Autumn they were Kramnik's seconds in the London match.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.e3 ♗d6 5.♗d3 f5!?



Sometimes Joel plays this Stonewall system, though usually when White has played Nf3 (instead of Nc3 or Bd3).

6.f4

Bareev as usual prefers a solid path. Three years ago Lautier's opponent played the more risky: 6.g4!? ♘f6 7.gxf5 exf5 8.♕b3 dxc4 9.♗xc4 ♕e7 10.a4 ♘bd7 11.a5 ♘e4 12.♘f3 ♘df6 13.h3 ♖b8 14.♖g1 g6 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.h4 f4⇄ Agrest − Lautier, Harplinge 1998.

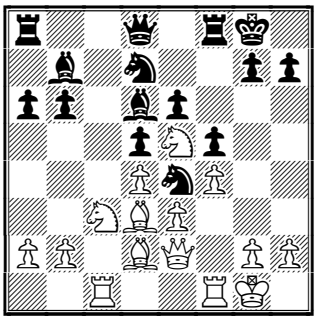
6...♘f6 7.♘f3 0-0 8.0-0 b6

In the 30s−40s Black almost always transfered his c8 Bishop via d7−e8 to h5. Nowdays b7−b6 and Bc8−b7 is preferred.

9.♕e2 ♗b7 10.♗d2 ♘e4 11.♖ac1 a6?!

Black wants to take on d5 with the c pawn and protects the b5 square from the c3 Knight. But maybe better was 11...Nd7 12.cxd5 exd5 etc.

12.cxd5 cxd5 13.♘e5 ♘d7

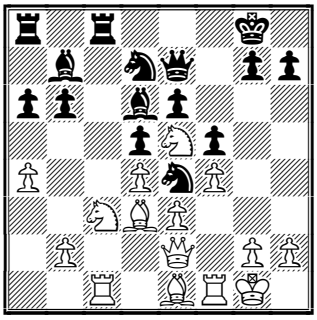


In this symmetrical position White has a small advantage in view of his more active pieces − Rc1, Qe2, Nc3. Also Black has to defend the a6 pawn. Bareev likes such situations − maybe not a very big, but a longterm advantage, without counterplay for his opponent − and he exploits them very well.

14.a4!

Against counterplay b6−b5 and Nd7−b6−c4!?

14...♕e7 15.♗e1 ♖fc8



Black thought that the battle will be on the Queenside, but White has another ideas.

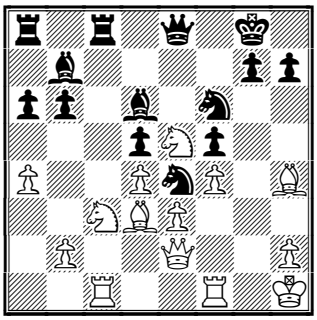
16.g4!? ♘df6?!

16...g6!?

17.♗h4!

Now all White's pieces are very active.

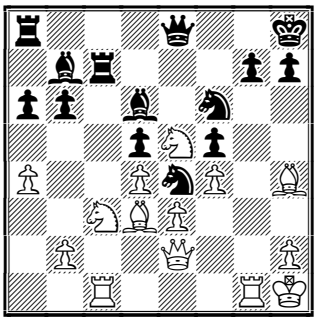
17...♕e8 18.gxf5 exf5 19.♔h1



Black's position has become quite dangerous. He had to find some exchanges, for example,

19...♘xc3 20.bxc3 ♘e4± But being an optimist Lautier hopes for counterplay.

19...♔h8 20.♖g1 ♖c7

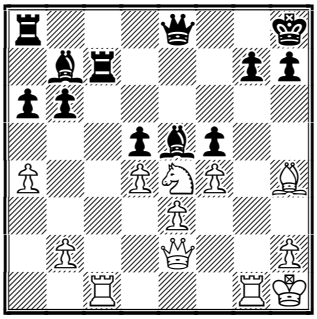


Black's position is much more difficult that it looks at first sight.

21.♗xe4! ♘xe4?

The only move was 21...fxe4!?

22.♘xe4 ♗xe5



Black saw too late that he couldn't take on e4: 22...fxe4 23.♖xc7 ♗xc7 24.♖xg7!! ♔xg7 25.♕g4+ ♔f8 26.♗f6+−; 22...dxe4 23.♖xc7 ♗xc7 24.♖xg7 ♗xe5 25.♖e7+−

23.♘f6!

And a nice final blow

23...♗xf6

23...gxf6 24.♖xc7+−; 23...♕c8 24.♖xc7 ♕xc7 (24...♗xc7 25.♕h5 h6 26.♕g6+−)

24.♖xc7 ♗xh4 25.♖gxg7 ♕e4+ 26.♔g1 1-0

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1) 23.♘e6! ♗xe6 [23...♗a4 24.♘xf8 ♗xc2 25.♕xc2 ♖xf8 26.exf5±] **24.dxe6 ♕xe6 25.e5! c6** [25...♕c8 26.♕d5+] **26.♗xc6 ♕e7 27.♕d5+ 1-0**

(2) 12...exd4 13.♘xd4 ♗xh2+! 14.♔xh2 ♕d6+ 15.g3 ♕xd4∓ ∓

(3) 29.♖xh7+! ♘xh7 30.f6! g5 31.♕xg5 ♖g8 32.♖xh7+ 1-0

Recommended Web sites:
http://enghien.free.fr
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.galeon.com/capablanca/
http://www.ajedrezsiglo21.com/
http://www.spskak.dk/turn2001/dm_stil.shtml
http://www.schloss-open.skwerther.de/
http://www.iranchess.com/zone31.htm
http://pscave.com/solett/eng/index.html
http://www.beochess.ch/startseite.htm
http://www.schachfreundedeizisau.de/NeckarOpen/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-160 16th April 2001

Torre back on the Attack

LEGENDARY Eugene Torre >> has won the Philippine Chess Championship. He did it for the first time in 1970! (And last won it in 1988.)

Final standing (round-robin system, 12 participants, Av. Elo 2394, cat. VI):
1. Torre - 7½ points out of 11
2-3. Antonio, Villamayor – 7
4-5. Gonzales, Sayson - 6½ etc.

Thanks go to **Bobby Ang** later98@yahoo.com for this information.

We are sorry for the mistake in CT-159: yesterday was a rest day at the Enghien-les-Bains tournament. Round 5 will be today.

Danish Championships, *final standing:*
1. Peter Heine Nielsen – 7 points out of 9
2. L. Schandorff – 6½
3. J.O.F. Nielsen – 6
4-5. Berg, Pilgaard – 5½ etc.

Last week you saw some tactical puzzles from the games of the Russian Junior (under 20) Championships which took place in Kazan. This weekend they finished.
Final standing, boy:
1. E. Shaposhnikov - 8½ points out of 11
2. P. Smirnov – 8
3. A. Timofeev – 7½
4-6. E. Inarkiev, V. Potkin, S. Zablotskij – 7 etc.
Girls:
1. E. Ubiennyh - 10½ (!) out of 11
2. I. Zakurdiajeva - 8½
3-4. O. Zimina, L. Husnutdinova - 7½
5. Y. Kochetkova - 6½ etc.

Moscow Championships (Swiss system, 9 rounds), final standing:
1-3. V. Arbakov, V. Baikov, Z. Igriashvili – 7 points
4-7. N. Sretenskij, A. Karpatchev, D. Losev, S. Sestjakov - 6½
The first 3 will play in the Russian Championships in Elista.
Thanks to Viacheslav Neklyudov wechesslove@totalchess.ru for this information.

Argentinean International Master **Sergio Slipak** won XXXII Abierto de Mar del Plata, Argentina. He took 8 points out of 9, a clear point ahead of pursuit.
2-5. Rodriguez, Franco Ocampos, Hoffman, Sanchez Almeyra - 7
6-15. Pierrot, Rosito, Flores, Giaccio, Rubinetti, Kanefsck, Felgaer, Szmetan, Panno, Giardelli – 6½ etc. Our congratulations to all the Champions and Winners!

Israel Open Championships, *standing after 6th round:*
1. Van den Doel – 5½ points
2-3. Huzman, Zifroni – 5
4-14. Avrukh, Sutovsky, Greenfeld, Gyimesi, Doetlling, Acs, Mikhalevsky, Tseitlin, Roiz, Postny, Bar – 4½ points etc.

Skelleftea (Sweden) International Chess Festival. Standing after 7th round:
1. Berg – 5½ points

2-6. Hector, Gausel, Dvoirys, Kiriakov, Rustemov – 5 etc.
The fourth game between Andersson and C. Hansen was drawn as usual. Will we see any decisive games or will all six be drawn?

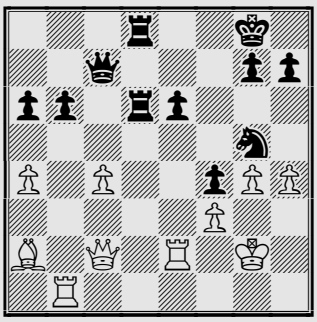
13 International Lenkerhof Open, standing after 4th round:
1. Miles – 4 points
2-10. Tukmakov, Gheorghiu, Berend, Dudas, Seres, Suetin, Videki, Meszaros, Raeber – 3½ etc.

5 International Neckar Open, Germany (Swiss system, 9 rounds). Standing after 5th round:
1. Tregubov – 5 points
2-7. Ftachnik, Landa, Volke, Balinov, Zeller, Horvath – 4½ points etc.

♘♘♘

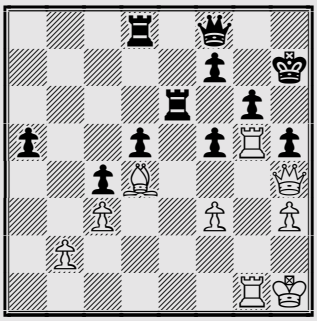
Tactical Quiz

(1) Kochetkova. − Chasovnikova.
Kazan (Russia ch G20) 2001



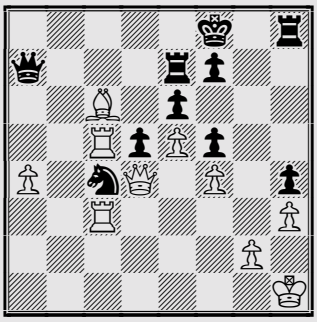
Black to play

(2) Ubiennyh − Zimina
Kazan (Russia ch G20) 2001



White to play

(3) Zakurdiajeva − Zhevakina
Kazan (Russia ch G20) 2001

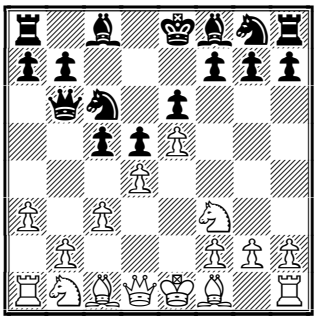


White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
E Torre (2546) − J Gonzales (2396)
PHI−Ch (m) Quezon City (10), 11.04.2001 C02
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♕b6 6.a3



6...♗d7
A more popular alternative is 6...c4!?
7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♖c8 9.♗e3 ♘h6 10.♗d3 ♘f5
More often Black plays 10...♘g4 with the same idea to attack the e3 Bishop and without the possibility of Bxf5. For example: 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♘bd2 ♘xe3 13.fxe3 f5!? 14.exf6 ♗xf6 15.b5!? ♘xd4! 16.exd4 ♗xd4+ 17.♔h1 ♗xa1 18.♕xa1 0-0 19.♕b1 h6 20.♖e1 ♕c5 Sandipan − Akopian, Calcutta 2000.
11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♘bd2 h6?!
What is the idea of this move? Better was to slip into Akopian's plan after 12...♘xe3 13.fxe3 f5 etc.
13.♘b3
According to Nimtzovich, over protection of the d4 pawn. Or more simply, the Knight is going to c5.
13...♘d8

A sad retreat. Black wants to exchange the white−squared Bishops, but his opponent can easily prevent it.

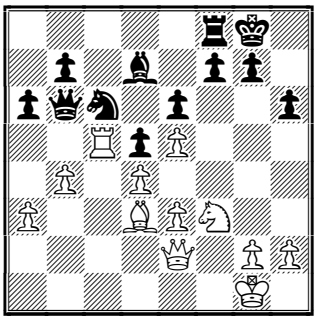
14.♕e2 a6 15.♖fc1 ♖xc1+ 16.♖xc1 ♘xe3

Not sound was 16...♗b5?! 17.♗xb5+ axb5 18.♖c8±

17.fxe3 0-0 18.♘c5 ♗xc5

Once more 18...♗b5? is impossible in view of 19.♗xb5 ♕xb5 (19...axb5? 20.♘d7±) 20.♕xb5 axb5 21.♘d7 ♖e8 22.♖c7

19.♖xc5 ♘c6



White has a big space advantage and a strong pawn centre, but Black's fortress is quite solid...

20.♗b1!

Now it has become clear that 12...h7−h6 wasn't a great move.

20...♘e7 21.♕c2 g6

Of course, not 21...♘f5? 22.g4

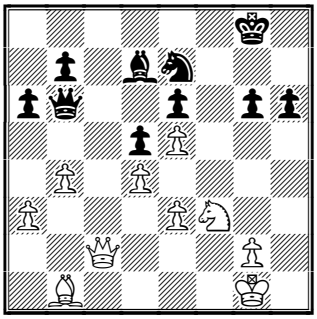
22.h4 ♖c8

After 22...h5 the black squares in the Black camp will be too weak. Gonzales tries to facilitate his defence by exchanges.

23.♖xc8+

The right decision, because after Rc8xc5 bxc5 Black will gain the b−file for his Queen.

23...♗xc8 24.h5 ♗d7 25.hxg6 fxg6



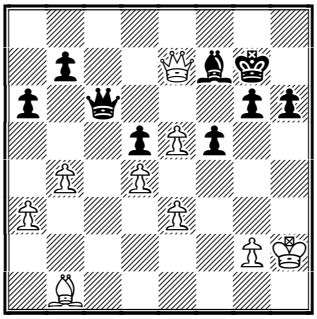
26.♘h4! ♗e8 27.♕f2 ♘f5 28.♘xf5

Torre doesn't avoid the Knight exchange because his Queen and Bishop will be more active than Black's.

28...exf5?!

Why give the opponent a passed pawn? Better was 28...gxf5 29.♕h4 ♕c7 30.♔h2, but Black's position is unpleasant here too.

29.♕h4 ♕c6 30.♔h2 ♔g7 31.♕e7+ ♗f7



32.a4!

White plays on the whole board − it's a sign of a high skill!

32...♕e6

32...♕xa4? 33.e6 ♕e8 34.♕xf7+ ♕xf7 35.exf7 ♔xf7± − I believe it's a winning position though White has some technical problems yet.

33.♕h4

After 33.♕xb7 f4! 34.exf4 ♕g4 Black unexpectedly gains some counterplay.

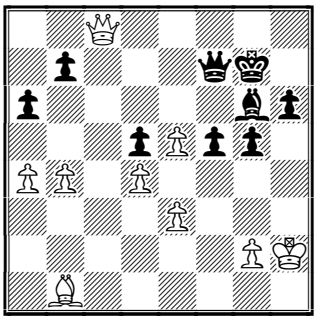
33...g5?!

Better was to keep waiting, for example, 33...♕c6!?

34.♕f2 ♗g6 35.♕c2! ♕f7

35...♕c6?! 36.♕xc6 bxc6 37.♗d3 f4!? 38.♗xa6+− (38.♗xg6!?)

36.♕c8



The White Queen has completed its "voyage around the world"! Now Black can't defend all his weaknesses (b7, d5, f5).

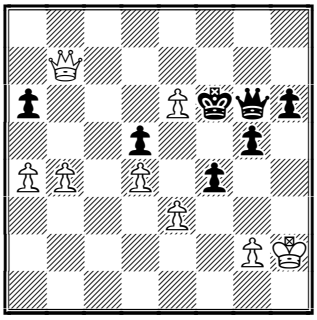
36...f4!?

It's the first and a last active move by Black in this game.

37.e6 ♕e8

Or 37...♕e7 38.♕d7 ♔f6 39.♕xe7+

♔xe7 40.♗xg6+−
38.♕xb7+ ♔f6 39.♗xg6 ♕xg6



40.♕f7+!
The simplest way.
40...♕xf7 41.exf7
41.exf7 ♔xf7 42.exf4 gxf4 43.♔h3 h5 44.♔h4 ♔g6 45.b5+− **1-0**

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1) 33...♘xf3! 34.♕e4 [34.♔xf3 ♖d3+ 35.♔f2 f3!-+] **34...♘d2 35.♕xf4 ♘xb1-+ -+**

(2) 32.♖xh5+! gxh5 33.♕xh5+ ♖h6 [33...♕h6 34.♕xf7+] **34.♕xf5+ ♖g6 35.♖g5! ♕h6 36.♕xf7+ 1-0**

(3) 45.♗xd5! exd5?! [45...♘b6 46.♗c6±] **46.e6!+− ♖b7 47.♕xh8+ ♔e7 48.exf7 ♖b8 49.♕g7 ♖f8 50.♖xd5 ♖xf7 51.♕g5+ ♔e6 52.♖d1 ♕xa4 53.♕g6+ ♔e7 54.♖e1+ ♔f8 55.♕h6+ ♔g8 56.♖xc4 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://enghien.free.fr
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.philchess.com.ph
http://www.ajedrezsiglo21.com/
http://www.spskak.dk/turn2001/dm_stil.shtml
http://www.schloss-open.skwerther.de/
http://www.iranchess.com/zone31.htm
http://pscave.com/solett/eng/index.html
http://www.beochess.ch/startseite.htm
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CT-161 17th April 2001

Akopian joins leaders after dramatic time scramble

Vladimir Akopian >> became the hero of the 5th Round – he beat one of the leaders **Loek Van Wely** with the black pieces and swapped places with him at the top of the ***Enghien-les-Bains*** 17 category tournament. To be fair, Loek has been playing excellently and almost outplayed Vladimir but then lost control in time trouble – this dramatic game will be considered below.

Victor Bologan sacrificed two pieces to destroy his opponent king's shield and scored his first win in the tournament! It let him escape being last on his own – now he's got company.

Results of the 5th Round:
Van Wely – Akopian **0:1**
Bacrot – Fressinet **½:½**
Lautier – Grischuk **1:0**
Tkachiev – Bareev **½:½**
Bauer – Bologan **0:1**

Standings after 5th Round:
1-3. Bareev, Akopian, Bacrot – 3½
4-5. Van Wely, Lautier – 3
6. Tkachiev – 2½
7-10. Bauer, Fressinet, Grischuk, Bologan – 1½

Pairings for the 6th Round:
Bareev – Bauer
Akopian – Bologan
Van Wely – Bacrot
Grischuk – Tkachiev
Fressinet – Lautier

Home players dominated the ***soLett Open 2001***, which has just finished in **Skelleftea,** Sweden. GMs **Jonny Hector** and **Emanuel Berg** scored 6½ points out of 9, Hector was proclaimed the winner due to the better progressive score. An excellent start (4 out of 4) helped GM **Gyula Sax** of Hungary to get third in a group of players who came to the finish half a point behind the leaders – they are GMs **Alexander Rustemov**, **Semen Dvoiris**, **Peter Kiriakov** (all of Russia), **Einar Gausel** of Norway and **Tiger Hillarp-Persson** of Sweden.

Curt Hansen of Denmark won the 6-game ***match*** against **Ulf Andersson** of Sweden – all games except the 5th were drawn. Congratulations to all the winners!

GMs **Ildar Ibragimov** (Russia) and **Alex Wojtkiewicz** (Poland) are heading the ***2001 Foxfoods Open*** with 4½ points after 5 rounds. 8 players are in chase – the top-seeded GMs Igor Novikov (Ukraine), Alexander Shabalov, Alexander Goldin and Alex Yermolinsky (all of USA) are among them.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
Ibragimov (4½) – Wojtkiewicz (4½)
Shabalov (4) – Stripunsky (4)
Novikov (4) – Blatny (4)
Ashley (4) – Goldin (4)
Finegold (4) – Yermolinsky (4)

Dutch GM **Erik Van den Doel** keeps the lead at the ***Israel Open Championships***, 5 players are in chase.
Standings after 7th Round:
1. Van den Doel – 6 points
2-6. Huzman, Gyimesi, Zifroni, Doettling, Tseitling – 5½ etc.

GM **Reynaldo Vera** is dominating the ***Cuban Championship*** with an excellent 9 points out of 11 games. IM **Leinier Dominguez** scored the same 9 points but after 12 games – one player already left the tournament so now it is "only" a 17-player round robin event. GM **Lazaro Bruzon** (U20 World Champion 2000) and IM **Frank de la Paz** are sharing third place with 8 points out of 12.

GMs **Pavel Tregubov** (Europe Champion 2000), **Konstantin Landa** (both of Russia), **Jan Rogers** (Australia) and **Joszef Horvath** (Hungary) are leading in the ***Neckar Open***, Germany with 6 points after 7 rounds.

Top boards of the 8th Round:
Tregubov (6) – Horvath (6)
Rogers (6) – Landa (6)

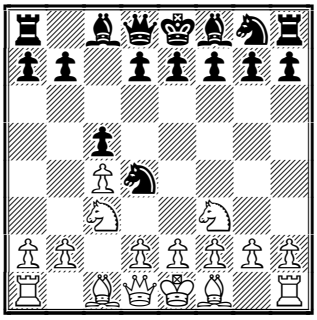
GM **Valery Loginov** and 15 year old IM **Evgeny Alekseev** are leading the ***St.Petersburg Championship*** - after 7 rounds they have scored 4½ points. GM **Sergey Ionov** and IM **Sergey Sivokho** are sharing third place, half a point behind.

Tomorrow a very strong open tournament will start in ***Dubai***, **UAE**. We received some information from keen "ChessToday" reader IM **Mark Heidenfeld** of Ireland:
"There are 100 participants, 34 of which are grandmasters, 7 are 2600+ - they are Andrey Kharlov, Valery Filippov, Jaan Ehlvest, Evgeny Vladimirov, Alexey Alexandrov, Alexander Motylev and Zurab Sturua. The chief arbiter is Geurt Gjissen. Most participants are from former Soviet states, India and other parts of Asia. I seem to be the only (Western) European and with a rating of 2403, I am Nr. 48 of the list. Most of the participants are staying in a newly built hotel (Princess Flamingo Hotel) on the outskirts of Dubai – quite close to the airport. There is a shuttle service taking participants from the Hotel to the playing hall and back. I haven't seen the playing hall yet. That's it for now."
Many thanks, Mark, for your contribution – hope you will help to keep our readers updated!

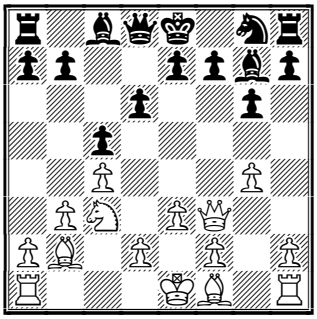
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
L Van Wely (2700) − V Akopian (2656)
Enghien−les−Bains (5), 16.04.2001 A35
1.♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘d4!?



One of the main principles of opening play is that you should avoid moving the same piece twice − it is better to develop another piece. However, there are no rules without exceptions!
4.e3
White may try to confuse the opponent with the creative 4.♘e5 (the idea is to meet 4...d6 with 5.♕a4+!) but the cool 4...♘c6! probably forces White to retreat with the knight: 5.♘f3 ♘d4!? etc.; 4.g3!? is a worthy alternative: 4...♘xf3+ 5.exf3± followed by d2−d4 with a slight edge.
4...♘xf3+ 5.♕xf3 g6
Black spent 3 moves exchanging the knight − in an open position it would be fatal, but here White can hope only for a small advantage − Black has no weaknesses and almost no problems with development.
6.b3 ♗g7 7.♗b2 d6 8.g4!?



A good idea, although it's not new. The more common and passive 8.g3 does not disturb Black very much. After 8...♖b8 9.♗g2 ♘h6 Black achieves acceptable play.

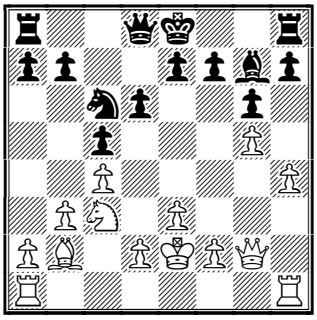
8...♘f6

This natural move is a novelty. Black usually continues 8...♖b8 and after 9.♗g2 ♗d7 10.♕e2 a6 11.g5!? White's chances looked preferable, although Black was not without counterplay, A.Petrosian − Skripchenko, Dortmund 2000 and Krasenkow − Macieja, 57th ch−POL, Plock 2000.

9.g5 ♘d7 10.h4 ♘e5

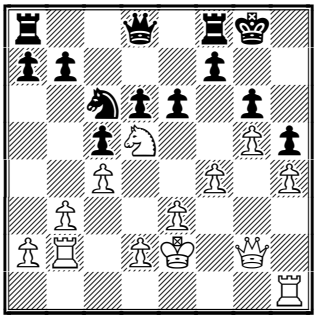
Another knight played three times in a row.

11.♕g2 ♗g4 12.♗e2 ♗xe2 13.♔xe2 ♘c6



At the beginning of the last century some players liked to count tempi in the opening. With regards to this position they would probably have said that Black is very bad as he has lost too much time. However, his position does not look too bad as he has no pawn weaknesses − it takes a lot of time and energy to attack such a solid position.

14.♖ab1 h5 15.♘d5 0-0 16.f4 ♗xb2 17.♖xb2 e6

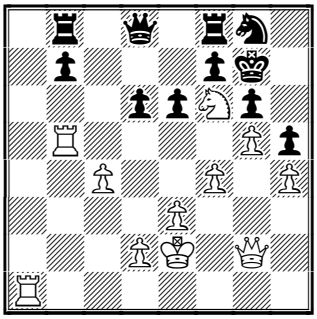


This move looks too suspicious but maybe it was already forced − otherwise Black had no play and, in addition, f4−f5 would be dangerous at some moment. Perhaps the chess classicists were right when using arithmetic in chess?!

18.♘f6+ ♔g7 19.a3

The knight on f6 is very strong but White has to open the position if he wants to win.

19...♖b8 20.b4 cxb4 21.axb4 ♘e7 22.♖a1 a6 23.b5 axb5 24.♖xb5 ♘g8



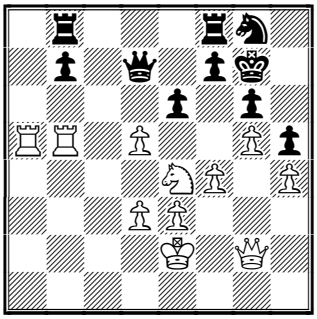
25.♘e4!?

25.♘xg8 ♔xg8 26.d3 (26.♖xb7 ♕c8 27.♖xb8 ♕xc4+) 26...♕c8 with idea ...d6−d5 was not so clear.

25...♕c7 26.d3 d5!?

The only active attempt − Black shouldn't wait until White plays ♔f1, ♕b2, ♖ab1 etc.

27.cxd5 ♕d7 28.♖aa5!



It's not quite usual, but looks very good!

28...♖bc8 29.♔f3 b6!?

Trying to confuse the opponent − Black's position does not look very fun.

30.dxe6

30.♖xb6!? exd5 31.♘c5 followed by ♕b2 looked quite good.

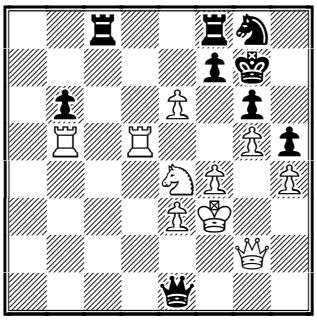
30...♕xd3 31.♖d5

31.♕b2+!? ♔h7 32.♘f2!? could have secured White's advantage without many surprises.

31...♕b1

Trying to attack around the back!

32.♖ab5 ♕e1



The queen alone cannot bother White very much but in time trouble it may make him nervous.

33.♖xb6?

A very unfortunate move. At first sight it is also winning but actually it allows Black to make things complicated. 33.♕b2+! ♔h7 34.♖d7!+− would have avoided all surprises.

33...♘e7!

The knight comes into play!

34.♕b2+ ♔h7 35.♘f6+

35.♖d7 ♘f5! 36.♘f6+ ♔h8 promised nothing real for White − the discovered check is not as dangerous as it looks while both e3− and h4−pawns are hanging. Of course, White could have made a draw if he wanted but unfortunately the position looks almost winning...

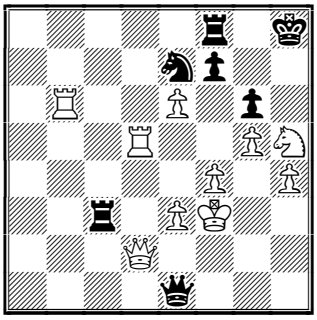
35...♔h8 36.♘xh5+?!

There was no time for such prophylactic moves as 36.♔g2 − after 36...♖c1 37.♘d7+ f6!! White suddenly is in trouble!!; Maybe it was the time for 36.♘e4+!?=

36...♖c3!

Who is attacking?!

37.♕d2??

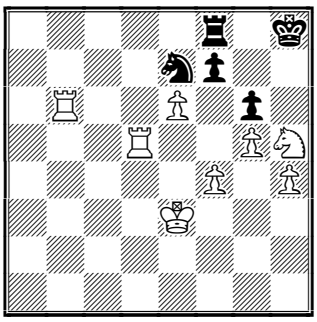


Perhaps White could have escaped here by the cool 37.♖b8! ♕xe3+ 38.♔g2 and Black does not have more than perpetual check.

37...♖xe3+!!

A bolt from the blue!

38.♕xe3 ♕xe3+ 39.♔xe3



39...♘xd5+

What a snack for the knight!

40.♔d4 ♘xb6 41.♘f6 fxe6 42.♔e5 ♘d5

White resigned. A very exciting and dramatic game!

0-1

Recommended sites.

enghien.free.fr
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
pscave.com/solett/eng/index.html
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CT-162, 18th April 2001

Bareev and Akopian lead the field at Enghien-les-Bain!

Evgeny Bareev >> and **Vladimir Akopian** are heading the XVII category ***Enghien-les-Bains*** tournament after beating their opponents in the 6th Round.

Results of the 6th Round:
Bareev – Bauer **1:0**
Akopian – Bologan **1:0**
Van Wely – Bacrot **½:½**
Grischuk – Tkachiev**1:0**
Fressinet – Lautier **0:1**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1-2. Bareev, Akopian – 4½
3-4. Bacrot, Lautier – 4
5. Van Wely – 3½
6-7. Tkachiev, Grischuk – 2½
8-10. Fressinet, Bauer, Bologan – 1½

Pairings for the 6th Round:
Bacrot – Akopian
Bologan – Bareev
Lautier – Van Wely
Tkachiev – Fressinet
Bauer – Grischuk

The central game of round 6 between Barcot and Akopian promises to be very interesting - the French Champion **Etienne Bacrot** will try to do his best against the finalist of the Las Vegas 1999 WorldChampionship,**Vladimir Akopian**.

GM **Peter-Heine Nielsen** has won the ***Danish Championship***. He scored 7 points in the 10 player round robin event. GM **Lars Schandorff** came second, half a point behind. IM Jens Ove Fries-

Nielsen took third, 1½ points behind the Champion.

There was a 7-way tie for first in the recently completed ***2001 Foxfoods Open***. The winners each scored 5½ points. They are GMs **Igor Novikov**, **Alex Wojtkiewicz**, **Ildar Ibragimov**, **Alex Stripunsky**, **Alexey Kudrin** and **Maurice Ashley** and IM **William Paschall**.

Let's take a look at the results of the final day:

Some results of the 6th Round:
Ibragimov (4½) – Wojtkiewicz (4½) **½:½**
Shabalov (4) – Stripunsky (4) **0:1**
Novikov (4) – Blatny (4) **1:0**
Ashley (4) – Goldin (4) **1:0**
Finegold (4) – Yermolinsky (4) **½:½**
A.Ivanov (3½) – Paschall (3½) **0:1**

Some results of the last and 7th Round:
Ibragimov (5) – Novikov (5) **½:½**
Wojtkiewicz (5) – Ashley (5) **½:½**
Stripunsky (5) – D.Gurevich (4½) **½:½**
Yermolinsky (4½) – Paschall (4½) **0:1**
Kudrin (4½) – Finegold (4½) **1:0**

William Paschall's final day achievement of defeating both GMs Yermolinsky and Ivanov, with the black pieces, to move into the winners circle was a great result. Our congratulations to all the winners!

In the penultimate 8th Round of the ***Neckar Open***, **Germany's** GM **Konstantin Landa** (Russia) beat GM Jan Rogers (Australia) with the black pieces and became the sole leader with 7 points.

As usual, the final and 9th Round started in the morning so we already have all the results.

Some results of the 9th Round:
Horvath (6½) – Landa (7) **½:½**
Milov (6½) – Tregubov (6½) **½:½**
Ftacnik (6½) – Farago (6½) **1:0**
Graf-Nenaschew (6) – Forintos (6) **1:0**
Hoi (6) – Rogers (6) **½:½**
Schlosser (6) – Bezold (6) **½:½**
Lindemann (6) – Zeller (6) **1:0**

As you can see above only GM **Lubomir Ftacnik** (Slovakia) was victorious among the contenders and so he joined the leader, **Konstantin Landa**, finishing with 7 ½ points, and a share of 1-2 spots. GMs Pavel Tregubov (Russia, Europe Champion 2000), Joszef Horvath (Hungary), Vadim Milov (Switzerland), Alexander Graf-Nenaschev (Germany) and another home player Stefan Lindemann shared third place with 7 points. Congratulations to the winners!

GM **Reynaldo Vera** keeps the lead in the ***Cuban Championship*** with 9½ points out of 12 games. GM **Leinier Dominguez** has the same score, but after 13 games. GM **Lazaro Bruzon** (U20 World Champion 2000) and IM **Frank de la Paz** won their games and moved closer to the leaders – they both scored 9 points out of 13 games. There are 17 players in this 9 category round robin event.

15 year old IM **Evgeny Alekseev** drew his 8th Round game against one of the outsiders of the event, but it was enough to take grab lead in the ***St.Petersburg Championship*** – he has 5 points. The rest of the field won't give him an easy time though: GMs **Sergey Ivanov**, **Valery Loginov**, **Sergey Ionov**, **Valery Popov** and FM **Ruslan Kashtanov** are sharing second place, half a point behind.

IM ***Mark Heidenfeld*** of Ireland reports from the very strong ***Dubai Open***, **UAE**: "The Dubai Chess and Culture Club is the venue of the tournament. It was a present of Sheik Saaed bin Hamdan Al Maktoum to the chess players. It is a fantastic building designed in the shape of rook. I have never seen such an impressive chess building before - very luxurios with training rooms (for pool and snooker as well!). The tournament was opened by the Sheik and – believe it or not – Kirsan Iljumzhinov. There was also TV coverage on the opening ceremony with an interview from the FIDE President. No major upsets in round one – only a couple of draws. Unfortunately, I am in time trouble and have to leave for my game against Galkin now…"

Many thanks to Mark for his reports. We can only add that some Indian players were the authors of slightly unexpected results in the 1st Round – Dinesh Sharma, C.S.Gokhale and Rahul Shetty drew their games against much more experienced opponents: top-seeded Andrey Kharlov, Zurab Sturua and Alexey Kuzmin respectively. Yet, it's too early to talk about the leaders.

3rd Redbus Knockout tournament finished in **Southend, England**.
John Henderson reports:
"The chess equivalent of "Big Brother" is unquestionably the highlight of the Easter weekend, as the 3rd Redbus Knockout tournament took place at Southend in Essex featuring 16 of the UK's top players battling it out for the 7,500 pounds prize fund. Getting stronger and stronger with each year, the latest edition featured an impressive all-GM line-up: Michael Adams, Julian Hodgson, Stuart Conquest, Luke McShane, Jim Plaskett, Mark Hebden, Murray Chandler, John Emms, Nigel Davies, Bogdan Lalic, Jonathan Rowson, Chris Ward, Glenn Flear, Peter Wells, Aaron Summerscale and Jonathan Levitt. The tournament is the brainchild of one of the original Internet entrepreneurs, Cliff Stanford (also a keen chess player). After forming Demon Internet in 1992

with just 20,000 pounds Stanford hit the big time after selling it on to Scottish Telecom in 1998 for 66 million pounds. He then formed a new company, Redbus Investments and earmarked 15 million pounds to back innovative high-tech ideas."

Thanks John for this report.

Let's take a look at the results:

Round 1:
Ward – **Adams** ½:1½
Flear – **Chandler** 1½:2½
Conquest – **Lalic** 0:2
Plaskett – **Emms** ½:1½
Hodgson – Rowson 1½:½
Wells – **Davies** ½:1½
Hebden – **McShane** 0:2
Summerscale – **Levitt** ½:1½

Quarter finals:
Adams – Chandler 1½:½
Emms – **Lalic** ½:1½
Davies – **Hodgson** 1:3
McShane – Levitt 1½:½

Semifinals:
Adams – Bogdan 1½:½
Hodgson – McShane 3:1

The World number four player, **Michael Adams,** beat the British Champion Julian Hodgson in the **Final** with the of score 2:0 and so won the Redbus Knockout 2001. Our congratulations!

♘♘♘

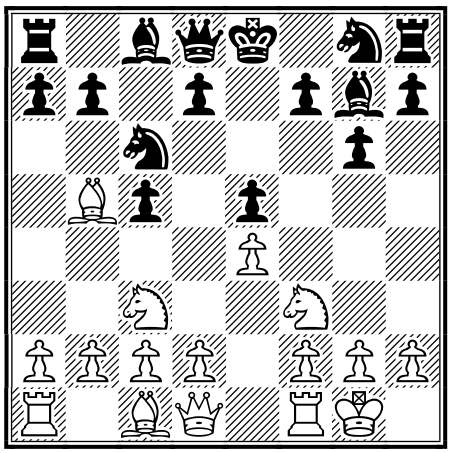
Annotated Game

L. Fressinet (2575) − J. Lautier (2658)

Enghien−les−Bains FRA (6), 17.04.2001 B31

Notes by Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bb5 Bg7 5.0-0 e5 (D)



Both 5...♘d4 ; and 5...♘f6 are the main alternatives.

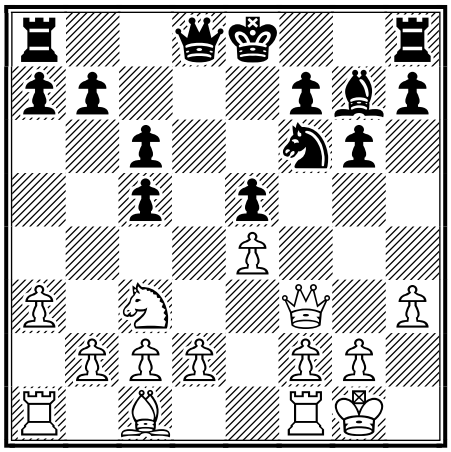
6.Bxc6

By giving up the bishop White clarifies the situation. 6.d3 ♘ge7 is acceptable for Black.

6...dxc6 7.a3

7.d3 is the more common option.

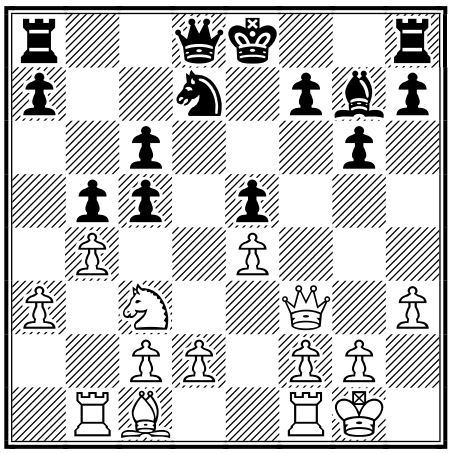
7...Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 ♘f6 (D)



10.b4!?

A new continuation − White immediately begins queenside action. In the game Peng Xiaomin − Rahman, ch−Asia, Udaipur 2000 Black did not have serious problems after 10.d3 ♘d7 11.♗e3 0-0 12.♕e2 ♕e7 13.♖ab1 a5∞

10...♘d7 11.♖b1 b5! (D)

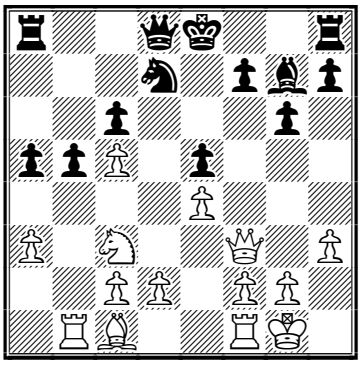


A good counter advance.

12.bxc5?!

12.d3 looked more to the point. Perhaps White missed the following reply.

12...a5! (D)

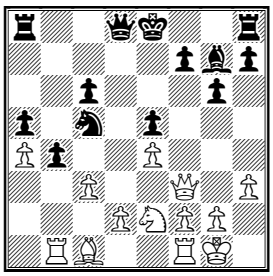


Excellent! White was clearly hoping for 12...♘xc5? 13.a4! followed by ♗a3 with the initiative.

13.a4

13.♕e3 did not solve White's problems due to 13...♕e7∓ followed by ...♘c5 with better chances for Black.; 13.♗b2!? followed by d3, ♘e2 was worthy of consideration. The text move, however, looks even worse.

13...b4 14.♘e2 ♘xc5 15.c3 (D)

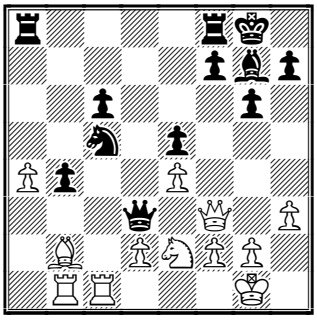


This was White's idea − he tries to open the position before Black castles his King. However, Black has a very strong resource.

15...♕d3! 16.♗b2

An attempt to raise the blockade by 16.♕xd3 ♘xd3 17.cxb4 axb4 18.♖b3 fails to 18...♖d8 (or 18...0-0-0)

16...0-0 17.cxb4 axb4 18.♖fc1(D)

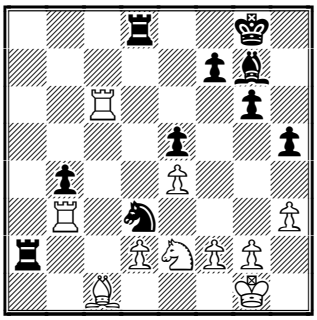


All of White's pieces are in play, but his position is already too compromised. Black used his pawns much better.

18...♖xa4!

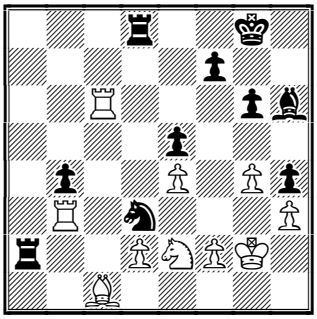
It turns out that the Knight is not hanging!

19.♕xd3 ♘xd3 20.♖xc6 ♖a2 21.♗c1 ♖d8 22.♖b3 h5-+ (D)

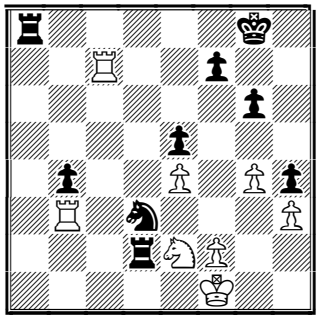


Total domination − White has just nothing left!

23.g4 h4 24.Kg2 ♗h6 (D)



25.♖c7 ♗xd2
It's time to gather in the harvest.
26.♗xd2 ♖xd2 27.Kf1 ♖a8 (D)



White resigned. Nice play by Joel Lautier. **0-1.**

Recommended sites.
enghien.free.fr
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
www.gmchess.com
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-163 19th April 2001

Akopian takes sole lead

Vladimir Akopian drew against **Etienne Bacrot** >> and it was enough to take sole lead after the 7th Round of the ***Enghien-les-Bains*** – due to **Evgeny Bareev**'s loss to **Victor Bologan**.

Results of the 7th Round:
Bacrot – Akopian **½:½**
Bologan – Bareev **1:0**
Lautier – Van Wely **½:½**
Tkachiev – Fressinet **0:1**
Bauer – Grischuk **0:1**

Alexander Grischuk won his second game in a row. Another hero of the round was IM **Laurant Fressinet** who beat French Number One **Vladislav Tkachiev**.

Standings after 7th Round:
1. Akopian – 5
2-4. Bacrot, Bareev, Lautier – 4½
5. Van Wely – 4
6. Grischuk – 3½
7-9. Tkachiev, Fressinet, Bologan – 2½
10. Bauer – 1½

Tomorrow we are looking forward to seeing the leaders clash.

Pairings for the 8th Round:
Akopian – Bareev
Bacrot – Lautier
Grischuk – Bologan
Fressinet – Bauer
Van Wely – Tkachiev

GM **Leinier Dominguez** took the lead at the ***Cuban Championship*** – he scored 10½ points out of 14 games. Yet, GM **Reynaldo Vera** may also consider himself as one of the leaders – he's got 10 out of 13. IM **Frank de la Paz** won a very important game against U20 World Champion 2000 GM Lazaro Bruzon and has also scored 10 points but after 14 games.

GMs **Sergey Ionov** and **Valery Popov** caught up with 15 year old IM **Evgeny Alekseev** at the top of the ***St.Petersburg Championship*** – all leaders have 5½ points after 9 rounds. GM **Sergey Ivanov** and FM **Ruslan Kashtanov** drew their intestine game and are sharing forth place half a point behind.

There are 17 players with a perfect score after the 2nd Round of the very strong open tournament in ***Dubai***, **UAE**.

Top boards of the 3rd Round:
Filippov (2) – Glek (2)
Motylev (2) – Neverov (2)
Shariyazdanov (2) – Galkin (2)
Magerramov (2) – Fedorov (2)
Kobalia (2) – Minasian (2)
Jobava (2) – Asrian (2)
Anastasian (2) – Sorokin (2)
Dizdar (2) – Sveshnikov (2)
Pavasovic (2) – Alexandrov (1½)

The ***Israel Open Championships*** finished in the Kasparov Academy in Tel Aviv. 128 players from 13 countries including 23 GMs and 19 IMs competed in the event.

Alon Shulman reports on TWIC:
"A dramatic last round saw 2 players come from behind to share joint first place. Israeli GM **Alon Greenfeld** played brilliantly to beat Zoltan Gyimesi on board 1 and take first place with 7 pts. If Greenfeld's win is a slight surprise the

identity of the co-champion is a sensation. Just a week ago, 18-year-old IM **Evgeny Postny** won the Israel U-20 Youth championship with 8/9. In this tournament he played against no less than 6 Grandmasters beating 3 and drawing with 2. In the penultimate round the young IM from Haifa created a major upset by beating GM Emil Sutovsky with black. In the last round he beat GM Victor Mikhalevsky after the young GM from Beer-Sheba played too wildly. Postny was declared champion by tiebreak.

Spring seems to really be shining on **Evgeny Postny**. Within 2 weeks he became National Youth Champion, National Open Champion, got his first GM norm and can enjoy his first prize of about $3500. A fine achievement too for **Alon Greenfeld**, the captain of the Israeli National Team. Alon will comfort himself with $3000. Third came **Erik Van den Doel** (Netherlands) who drew with **Fabian Doettling** (Germany) in the last round. Doettling came 6th and clinched his final GM norm. Fourth was Dov Zifroni after a short draw with Boris Kantsler.

The prize for best lady went to **Antoaneta Stefanova** (Bulgaria) and **Nora Medvegy** (Hungary) who played 4 GM's but missed the IM norm after losing in the last round. $250 beauty prize went to **Anatoly Donchenko** for his incredible win with black over GM Leonid Gofshtein.

It was a wonderful tournament with lots of excitement and plenty of very interesting games. The four arbiters were: IA Yochanan Afek, IA Avi Dorner, NA Malkiel Perets, NA Alon Shulman."

Final Standings:
1-2. Postny, A.Greenfeld – 7 points.
3-12. Van den Doel, Zifroni, Avrukh, Doettling, Kantsler, Huzman, Tseitlin, Jonkman etc.

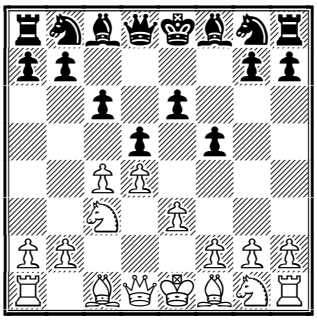
Congratulations to all the winners from "Chess Today"!

♘♘♘

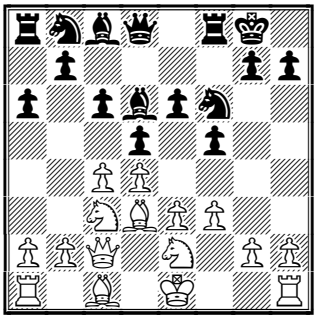
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

C Bauer (2618) − A Grischuk (2663)
4e Master d'Echecs d'Enghien Enghien−les−Bains (7), 18.04.2001 D31
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.e3 f5



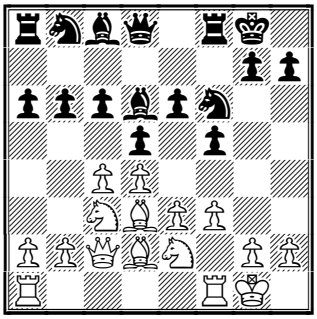
5.♗d3
5.g4!? is supposed to be a principled line against Black's set−up.
5...♘f6 6.♕c2 a6
6...♗d6 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.♘b5 ♘c6± is not so bad for Black but White keeps a small advantage without any risk.
7.♘ge2 ♗d6 8.f3 0-0



9.0-0
White's approach looks also promising but when I play it myself I don't hurry with short castling and prefer 9.♗d2 keeping both possibilities. Alexander Grischuk used to play this variation with the black pieces, one example from his practice: 9...b6 10.0-0-0 ♔h8 11.e4 fxe4 12.fxe4 dxc4 13.♗xc4 e5 14.♖hf1 b5 15.♗b3 ♕e7 16.dxe5 ♗xe5 17.♗f4 a5↑ and Black took the initiative, Kosyrev − Grischuk, Elista 2000.
9...b6!?
In the game Akopian − Grischuk, Ubeda 1999 Black was walking on the

edge: 9...♔h8!? 10.c5 ♗c7 11.e4 fxe4 12.fxe4 ♘g4 13.♗g5! ♗xh2+ 14.♔h1 ♕e8 15.♖xf8+ ♕xf8 16.♘g1 h6! 17.♖f1 ♕e8 18.e5! hxg5 19.♗g6 ♕e7! 20.♕e2 ♘h6 21.♔xh2 g4± with better chances for White.

10.♗d2



10...♕c7!?

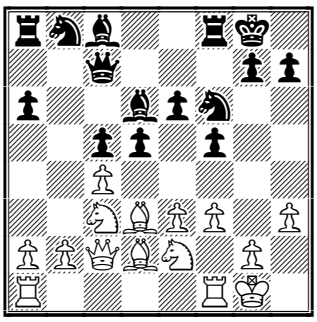
In the game Chernin − Grischuk, Europe−chT, Batumi 1999 Black successfully solved the problems after 10...♔h8 11.♖ad1 ♕c7 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.h3 ♘c6 14.a3 ♗b7 15.e4 dxe4 16.fxe4 e5 17.♘d5 ♘xd5 18.exd5 ♘xd4 19.♕xc7 ♗xc7 20.♘xd4 , here a draw was agreed.

White has obviously prepared an improvement but Grischuk doesn't want to see it and slightly changes the course of the game.

11.h3 c5!

At first glance Black's set−up looks suspicious as he has a lack of development. But actually he keeps the position under control.

12.dxc5 bxc5



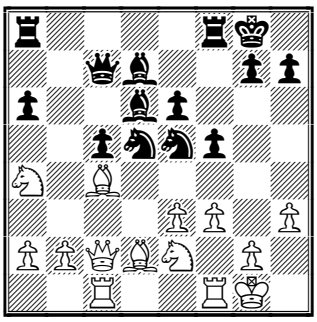
13.♘a4

A concrete approach − White begins direct play against Black's pawns. Unfortunately 13.cxd5?? was impossible due to 13...c4-+; but something like 13.a3!? was maybe more reliable.

13...♘c6 14.♖ac1 ♗d7! 15.cxd5 ♘xd5 16.♗c4

Of course, not 16.♘xc5? ♘cb4 and 17.♕b3 ♗xc5 18.♗xb4 ♘xb4 19.♕xb4 doesn't work due to 19...♗xe3+ followed by ...♗c1.

16...♘e5

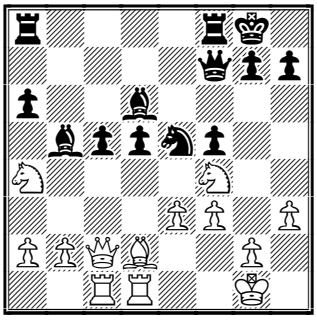


Black's central group is fairly impressive. Yet, the concrete play is continuing...

17.♗xd5 exd5 18.♘f4 ♗b5

18...♗xa4 19.♕xa4 ♕f7 was good for Black. The text move is more ambitious but more risky.

19.♖fd1 ♕f7



20.♗e1?

A very careless move − White misses the reply. White was worried about his knight f4 but actually the resource ...g7−g5 was not as dangerous as it probably seemed to be and the capture on c5 was possible: 20.♘xc5! ♖ac8 (20...♖fe8!∞ is stronger, keeping the pressure) 21.b4 ♗xc5 22.bxc5 g5 23.♗c3! with better chances for White. Was White really expecting to win one of Black's central pawns with no problems?!

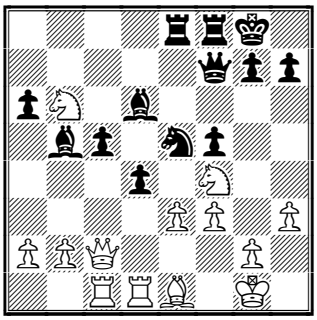
20...d4!∓

Of course! Black takes a strong initiative − all White's minor pieces are out of place now.

21.♘b6

21.exd4 ♘xf3+ (21...♘c4!? is maybe even stronger) 22.gxf3 ♗xf4 was much better for Black.

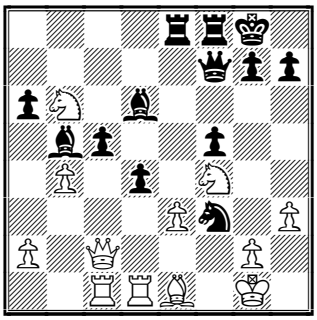
21...♖ae8



22.b4?

White does not see what the problem is. 22.♗g3 seemed to be the only way to continue fighting.

22...♘xf3+!



A nice blow which forces immediate resignation. A confident win by Alexander Grischuk in a tricky opening.22...♘xf3+! 23.gxf3 ♗xf4 24.exf4 ♖e2 with idea ...♕g6−g2 is too obvious. **0-1**

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www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
www.gmchess.com
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-164, 20th April 2001

Loek Van Wely >> joins Barcot, Bareev, and Lautier in 2nd Place.

Vladimir Akopian kept the lead in the XVII category ***Enghien-les-Bains*** tournament after today's draw against Evgeny Bareev. **Loek Van Wely** beat Vladislav Tkachiev and joined **Etienne Bacrot**, **Joel Lautier** and **Evgeny Bareev in** second place.

After a terrible 0 out of 3 start **Victor Bologan** has rebounded. Today he won his second game in a row, against Alexander Grischuk.

Results of the 8th Round:
Akopian – Bareev **½:½**
Bacrot – Lautier **½:½**
Van Wely – Tkachiev **1:0**
Grischuk – Bologan **0:1**
Fressinet – Bauer **½:½**

Standings after 8th Round:
1. Akopian – 5½
2-5. Bacrot, Bareev, Van Wely, Lautier – 5
6-7. Bologan, Grischuk – 3½
8. Fressinet – 3
9. Tkachiev – 2½
10. Bauer – 2

There will be tough battles for the first place tomorrow.

Pairings for the last 9th Round:
Lautier – Akopian
Tkachiev – Bacrot
Bareev – Grischuk
Bauer – Van Wely
Bologan – Fressinet

The XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas*** tournament started today in **Spain**.

The participants are:
1. Mikhail Gurevich BEL 2694
2. Ilya Smirin ISR 2686
3. Alexei Dreev RUS 2685
4. Zurab Azmaiparasvili GEO 2670
5. Ivan Sokolov BIH 2659
6. Michal Krasenkow POL 2658
7. Zoltan Almasi HUN 2640
8. Miguel Illescas Cordoba ESP 2562
9. Francisco Vallejo Pons ESP 2545
10. Teimour Radjabov AZE 2483.

Results of the 1st Round:
Gurevich – Almasi **½:½**
Illescas Cordoba – Dreev **1:0**
Azmaiparashvili – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Sokolov – Smirin **½:½**
Krasenkow – Radjabov **0:1**

A hero of the first day was young 13 year old **Teimour Rajabov** (Azerbaijan), who plays his first tournament as a Grandmaster. In a very exciting battle he managed to checkmate Michal Krasenkov with the black pieces. Home GM **Miguel Illescas Cordoba** outplayed Alexey Dreev – both winners take the lead in the event.

Pairings for the 2nd Round:
Gurevich – Illescas Cordoba
Almasi – Radjabov
Vallejo Pons – Sokolov
Smirin – Krasenkow
Dreev – Azmaiparashvili

GM **Leinier Dominguez** keeps the lead in the ***Cuban Championship*** with 11½

points out of 15 games – he has one game to play. GM **Reynaldo Vera** scored 11 points, but after 14 games so he still keeps good chances to overtake the leader. IM **Frank de la Paz** is clear third with 10½ points and one game to play.

GM **Valery Popov** and IM **Evgeny Alekseev** are sharing the lead before the last round of the ***St.Petersburg Championship*** – they scored 6½ points out of 10 games. GM **Sergey Ionov** is clear third, half a point behind.

Armenian GMs **Karen Asrian** and **Ashot Anastasian** are heading the very strong ***Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup*** which is underway in **Dubai, UAE** – they have a perfect score after 3 rounds. 17 players are in chase.

Top boards of the 3rd Round:
Asrian (3) – Anastasian (3)
Sveshnikov (2½) – Filippov (2½)
Kunte (2½) – Vladimirov (2½)
Glek (2½) – Motylev (2½)
Neverov (2½) – Shariyazdanov (2½)
Fedorov (2½) – Dizdar (2½)
Galkin (2½) – Kobalija (2½)
Minasian (2½) – Pigusov (2½)
Pavasovic (2½) – Yakovich (2½)
Ehlvest (2) – Magerramov (2½)

GM **James Plaskett** (England) is dominating the VII category round robin tournament in ***Hamstead***, **England** with a perfect score after 3 rounds. GM **Alexey Barsov** (Uzbekistan) is clear second, half a point behind but IM Colin Crouch might join him in case of success in the adjourned game against FM John Richardsson.

The schedule of the event supposes an archaic adjournment of the games which nowadays turns out to be the "advanced chess". It might look like different players resumed the game as they clearly gained a little help from Fritz.
Results of the 1st Round:
Rizouk – Barsov **½:½**
Hunt – Koneru **½:½**
McNab – Crouch **½:½**
Richardson – Plaskett **0:1**
Krush – Palliser **1:0**

Results of the 2st Round:
Barsov – Palliser **1:0**
Plaskett – Krush **1:0**

Crouch – Richardson **adjourned**
Koneru – McNab **½:½**
Rizouk – Hunt **½:½**

Results of the 3st Round:
Hunt – Barsov **0:1**
McNab – Rizouk **½:½**
Richardson – Koneru **1:0**
Krush – Crouch **0:1**
Palliser – Plaskett **0:1**

There is also a challenge match between two of the UK's most promising International Masters – **Matthew Turner** and **David Gormally**. The winner stands to pocket **£3,500** and the loser takes home the consolation prize of **£1,500**. However, in the unlikely event of a draw – both players get **£2,000**.

The first game was drawn, **David Gormally** won the second one with the white pieces and took the lead – **1½:½**.

Thanks to ***Adam Raoof*** for this information.

There is a VII category round robin tournament in ***Rijeka***, **Croatia**. After the 1st Round GM **Ognjen Cvitan**, IMs **Filip Ljubicic** (both of Croatia) **Mladen Vucic** (USA) and took the lead.

Results of the 1st round:
Velikov – Inkiov **½:½**
Vucic – Muslija **1:0**
Cvitan – Rukavina **1:0**
Zaja – Bistric **½:½**
Mandekic – Ljubicic **0:1**

There are one GM- and two IM-events in the program of the ***Gausdal Classics*** Festival in **Norway**. After 4 rounds GM **Ralf Akesson** and IM **Stellan Brynell**

(both of Sweden) are sharing the lead in the main tournament with 3½ points. GM **Evgeny Solozhenkin** (Russia) and IM **Frode Elsness** (Norway) are half a point behind.

♘♘♘

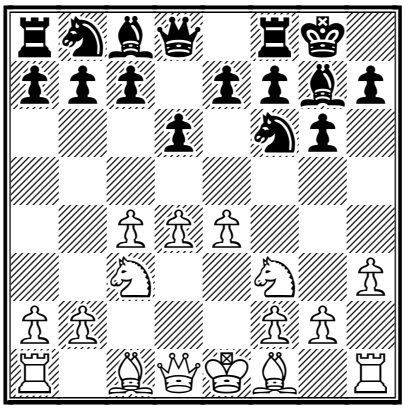
Annotated Game

M. Krasenkow (2655) − T. Radjabov (2533)

It Dos Hermanas ESP (1), 19.04.2001 E90

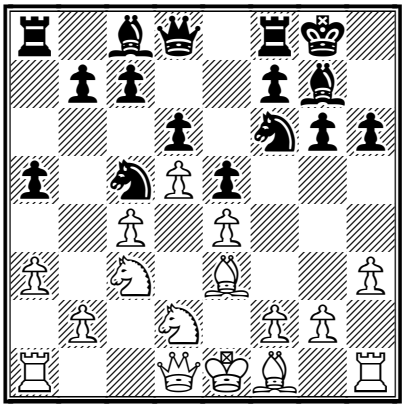
Notes by GM RuslanScherbakov

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.♘c3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.h3 (D)



White had a lot of systems to counter the King's Indian − all of them in which White does not hurry to castle his king, are rather poisonous.

6...e5 7.d5 ♘bd7 8.♗g5 h6 9.♗e3 ♘c5 10.♘d2 a5 11.a3 (D)



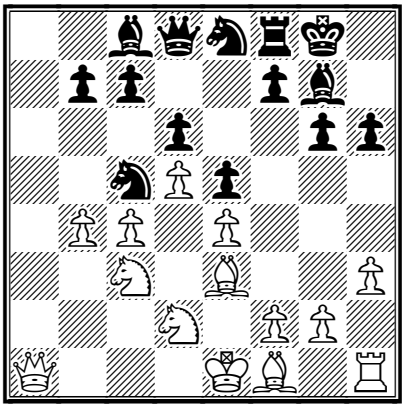
11...♘e8

There are a lot of alternatives, 11...♘h5 is maybe the most promising; Black also tried the interesting 11...♗d7 12.b4 axb4 13.axb4 ♖xa1 14.♕xa1 ♘cxe4!? 15.♘dxe4 ♘xe4 16.♘xe4 f5 17.♘d2 f4 18.♗a7 ♗f5 19.♗e2 b6 but White's chances seem to be better, Volzhin − Hoi, Hamburg 1999.

12.b4 axb4

12...♘a6!? is worthy of consideration.

13.axb4 ♖xa1 14.♕xa1 (D)



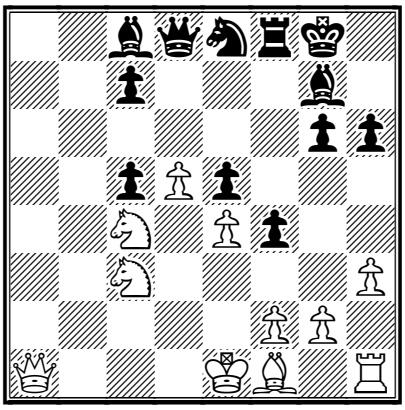
14...♘d7!?

A new continuation. The position after 14...♘a6 15.♕a3 f5 16.♘b3± promises better chances for White, Beliavsky − Khalifman Ubeda 1997 and Agrest − Hall, Ronneby 1998.

15.c5 f5 16.♘c4!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice.

16...f4 17.♗c1 dxc5 18.bxc5 ♘xc5 19.♗a3 b6 20.♗xc5 bxc5 (D)



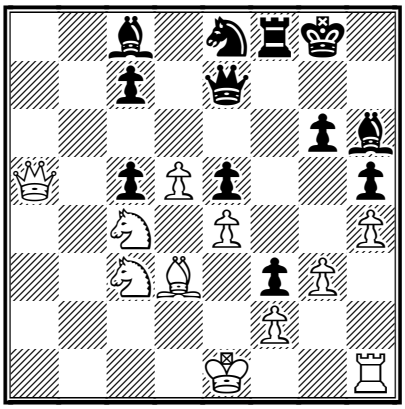
21.♕a5

In the case of 21.♗e2 Black had time to play 21...♘d6

21...f3!

A careless 21...♕e7? would allow White to take full control with 22.♗e2

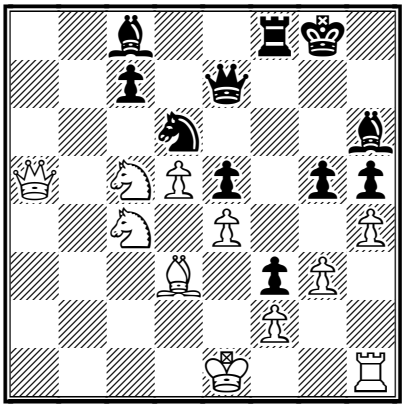
22.g3 ♕e7 23.♗d3 h5! 24.h4 ♗h6 (D)



25.♘a4

If White decided to hide the king away to the safe place on c2 by 25.♔d1?! then Black could have moved his knight to the very active square on g4: 25...♘f6 26.♔c2 ♘g4 27.♖f1 ♗d7 and it is not Black who might have the problems here.

25...♘d6 26.♘xc5 g5!? (D)



A brave move − Black does not want to stay and wait when all White's plans would have been realised. And it worked very well as it confused such an experienced player as Michal Krasenkov!

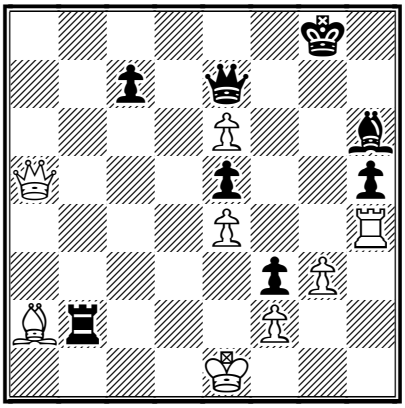
27.♘e6?

White hurries up to clarify the situation. Something like 27.hxg5 ♕xg5 28.♕c3 with a complicated play was stronger.

27...♗xe6 28.dxe6 ♘xc4 29.♗xc4 gxh4! 30.♖xh4

There was no use for the opened g−file after 30.gxh4?! Black seized a strong attack with the same 30...♖b8 31.♗a2 ♖b2→ 32.♖g1+ ♔h7 etc.

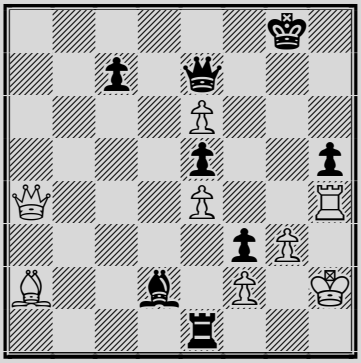
30...♖b8 31.♗a2 ♖b2→ (D)



Suddenly White finds his king under a terrible attack.

32.♕a4 ♖e2+ 33.♔d1

A sad necessity. Unfortunately, 33.♔f1 was losing due to the very beautiful 33...♗d2! 34.♔g1 ♖e1+ 35.♔h2 **(D)**



35...♕xh4+!! 36.gxh4 ♗f4+ 37.♔h3 ♖h1# checkmate!

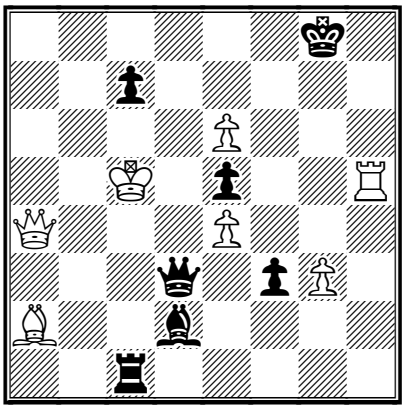
33...♖xf2-+

Now everything is clear.

34.♖xh5 ♖f1+ 35.♔c2 ♕c5+ 36.♔b3

A desperate attempt to escape, but has no chances for success.

36...♕e3+ 37.♔b4 ♕d4+ 38.♔b3 ♕d3+ 39.♔b4 ♗d2+ 40.♔c5 ♖c1+ (D)



White resigned. Bravo, Teimour!
40...♖c1+ 41.♗c4 ♕d6+ 42.♔b5 ♕b6#. **0-1**

Recommended sites.

www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
www.circuit.demon.co.uk/barnet.htm
www.sah-rijeka.hr/turniri.html
http://home.online.no/~eirikgu/gausdal2001/
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-165, 21st April 2001

World Champions Unite against FIDE!

Three World Champions – Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik – united against FIDE in their ***opened letter***:

" As the 12th, 13th, and 14th World Chess Champions, we are writing jointly to voice our disagreement with recent statements and unilateral decisions made by FIDE, the international chess federation. In particular, we are very concerned about FIDE's policy changes regarding the official time controls, their treatment of the history of the World Championship, and their open hostility toward the organisers of traditional events….."

The **FIDE** reacted quickly – you may read the full text of their **response** on the official site.

A big confrontation is coming?!

Let's take a look at the tournament – there are a lot of exciting events underway.

What a fantastic last round in the ***Enghien-les-Bains*** XVII category tournament! **Vladimir Akopian** gained an extra pawn in the ending against **Joel Lautier** and was comfortably trying to convert it to a full point with a draw and at least a share of first place in the pocket. Joel defended well and soon after the time control the game was drawn. This result secured the overall victory for Vladimir, but the main surprise was that it was enough for Joel to come in clear second because **Etienne Bacrot**, **Evgeny Bareev** and **Loek Van Wely**, who were sharing second place with him, lost their games!

Results of the last 9th Round:
Lautier – Akopian **½:½**
Tkachiev – Bacrot **1:0**
Bareev – Grischuk **0:1**
Bauer – Van Wely **1:0**
Bologan – Fressinet **0:1**

Final standings:
1. Akopian – 6
2. Lautier – 5½
3-5. Bacrot, Bareev, Van Wely – 5
6. Grischuk – 4½
7. Fressinet – 4
8-9. Bologan, Tkachiev – 3½
10. Bauer – 3

It was a very interesting tournament. Thanks to all players for their creativity and congratulations to the winners!

After the second round of the XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas*** tournament **Mikhail Gurevich, Francisco Vallejo Pons** and **Teimour Rajabov** are sharing the lead with 1½ points.

Results of the 2nd Round:
Gurevich – Illescas Cordoba **1:0**
Almasi – Radjabov **½:½**
Vallejo Pons – I. Sokolov **1:0**
Smirin – Krasenkow **½:½**
Dreev – Azmaiparashvili **½:½**

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-3. M.Gurevich, Vallejo Pons, Rajabov - 1½
4-7. Smirin, Almasi, Azmaiparashvili, Illescas Cordoba – 1
8-10. Dreev, Krasenkow, I. Sokolov –

GM **Valery Popov** won the ***St.Petersburg Championship*** . In the last round he outplayed IM Sergey Sivokho with the black pieces. By the way, it was his consecutive win – what a

brilliant finish! 15 year old IM **Evgeny Alekseev** came second, GM **Sergey Ivanov** took third place on tie-break. Our congratulations to the winners!

Final standings:
1. Popov – 7½
2. Alekseev – 7
3-4. S.Ivanov, Ionov – 6½
5-7. Yemelin, Loginov, Kashtanov – 5½
8-9. Lugovoi, Sivokho – 5
10-12. Karasev, Polaninov, Utkin – 4

GM **Leinier Dominguez** was free today in the ***Cuban Championship*** but GM **Reynaldo Vera** failed to use this chance to take the lead – he drew the game and only joined Dominguez – both leaders have 11½ points and equal chances for the championship before the last round. IM **Frank de la Paz** keeps clear third, a full point behind.

The leaders of the ***Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup*** in **Dubai, UAE** Armenian GMs **Karen Asrian** and **Ashot Anastasian** drew their game and still keep the lead with 3½ rounds to go. It is unbelievable but none of the contenders were able to win so now 24 players are in chase!

Top boards of the 4rd Round:
Filippov (3) – Asrian (3½)
Anastasian (3½) – Fedorov (3) etc.

GM **James Plaskett** (England) keeps his one and a half point lead in the VII category round robin tournament in ***Hamstead***, **England** – after 5 rounds he has 4½ points. GM **Colin McNab** (Scotland) beat GM **Alexey Barsov** (Uzbekistan) and joined him at second place. IM Colin Crouch and FM John Richardsson are half a point behind but they adjourned the interesting game so the situation will be changed when this game will be finished.

Results of the 4th Round:
Barsov – Plaskett **½:½**
Crouch – Palliser **½:½**
Koneru – Krush **0:1**
Rizouk – Richardson **½:½**
Hunt – McNab **½:½**

Results of the 5th Round:
Plaskett – Crouch **1:0**
McNab – Barsov **1:0**
Richardson – Hunt **1:0**
Krush – Rizouk **½:½**
Palliser – Koneru

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Plaskett – 4½ points
2. McNab, Barsov – 3
3. Richardson – 2½ + adjourned game
4-5. Krush, Rizouk – 2½ etc.

The 3rd game of the match between IMs **Matthew Turner** and **David Gormally** was drawn, Gormally keeps the lead: **2:1.**

Thanks to ***Adam Raoof*** for the information.

GM **Ognjen Cvitan** took the lead in the VII category round robin tournament in ***Rijeka***, **Croatia** with a perfect score after 2 rounds.

Results of the 2nd Round:
Muslija – Cvitan **0:1**
Velikov – Vucic **1:0**
Inkiov – Ljubicic **1:0**
Bistric – Mandekic **1:0**
Rukavina – Zaja **1:0**

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1. Cvitan – 2
2. Velikov, Inkiov, Bistric - 1½ etc.

In the central game of the 5th Round of the ***Gausdal Classics*** GM **Ralf Akesson** beat co-leader GM **Stellan Brynell** with the black pieces and took a full point lead with 4½ points. Brynell was joined by home IMs **Frode Elsness** and **Leif Johannessen** in second place.

Results of the 5th Round:
Brynell – Akesson **0:1**
Elsness – Trygstag **½:½**

Solozhenkin – Miezis **0:1**
Johannessen – Hanley **1:0**
T.Hansen – Tikkanen **½:½**

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Akesson - 4½ points
2-4. Brynell, Elsness, Johannessen – 3½
5-6. Miezis, Solozhenkin – 3

Yet another round, the 6th, has already been played - **Ralf Akesson** strengthened his lead by beating IM Leif Johannessen – he has scored 5½ points.

Results of the 6th Round:
Akesson – Johannessen **1:0**
Trygstag – Brynell **½:½**
Solozhenkin – Elsness **1:0**
Miezis – Tikkanen **1:0**
Hanley – T.Hansen **0:1**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Akesson - 5½ points
2-4. Miezis, Solozhenkin, Brynell – 4
5-6. Elsness, Johannessen – 3½

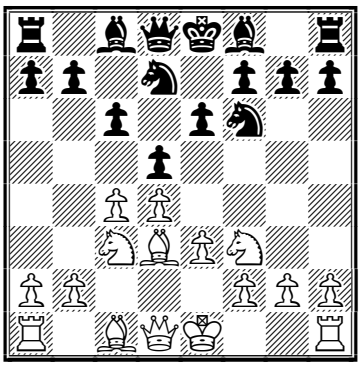
Curiously enough, Akesson already beat all top players of the event and will face three outsiders in last round.

♘♘♘

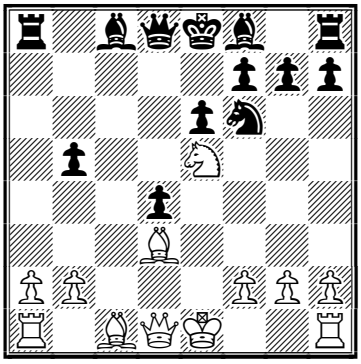
Annotated Game

V. Tkachiev (2672) − E. Bacrot (2627)
Enghien−les−Bains (9), 20.04.2001
D49
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

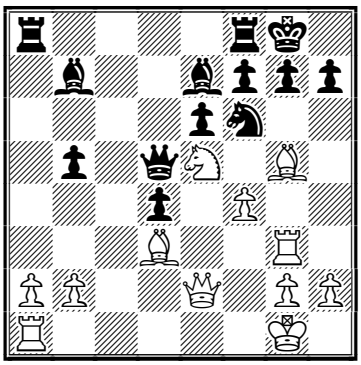
This is the critical battle between the highly rated French player Vladislav Tkachiev, who has played unsuccessfully in this tournament and eager to improve his standing, and the French Champion Etienne Bacrot, who was sharing second place before the game.
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 (D)



Tkachiev has scored a number of excellent wins in the Meran System.
6...dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.e5 cxd4 11.♘xb5 ♘xe5 12.♘xe5 axb5 (D)



13.0-0
13.♗xb5+ ♗d7 14.♘xd7 ♕a5+ 15.♗d2 ♕xb5 16.♘xf8 ♖xf8 is another popular line.
13...♕d5 14.♕e2 ♗a6 15.♗g5 ♗e7 16.f4 0-0 17.♖f3 ♗b7 18.♖g3 (D)



An important position of the sharp Reynolds Attack. It is supposed to be acceptable for Black but he should obviously know what to do.
18...♖fc8!?
Both 18...♖xa2 ; and 18...g6 were

played with good results for Black, but perhaps Vladislav Tkachiev had something prepared in these lines. The text move was tested once and Black won the game but here a big surprise awaited Etienne Bacrot.

19.♗xh7+!

It turns out that the pawn can be taken immediately. 19.♗xf6 ♗xf6 20.♗xh7+ ♔f8 was very good for Black in the game Nemet − Godena, Forli 1992.

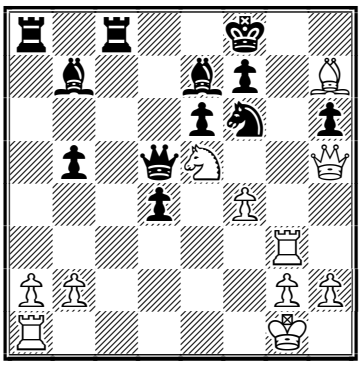
19...♔f8

In the case of 19...♘xh7 20.♗xe7 White's attack looks irresistible. For example: 20...f6 (20...g6 21.♕h5→) 21.♕h5 ♘g5 (21...fxe5 22.♕g6) and now White wins by 22.♗xf6! with a quick checkmate.

20.♗h6!?

A very beautiful idea!

20...gxh6 21.♕h5! (D)



21...♔e8

The only way to avoid direct checkmate.

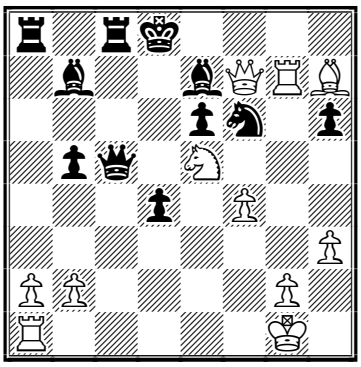
22.♕xf7+ ♔d8

White's play looked very powerful but the assessment of the whole set−up is under question − Black has parried direct threats and secured an extra piece although, of course, his king is still in danger.

23.♖g7!?

23.♘g6 ♕d7 24.♘xe7 ♘e8! 25.♖g8 ♕xe7 26.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 27.♕xb7 ♕d7 was good for Black.

23...♕c5 24.h3(D)



White has sacrificed a piece and now plays a quiet move! Perhaps it means that the position is not so bad for Black but his play is clearly not easy.

24...♖xa2

A tempting decision. 24...♖c7!? comes to mind with the possible idea of the king's escape to b8.

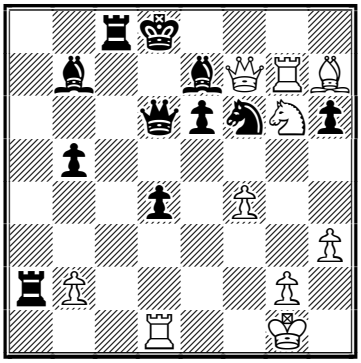
25.♖d1

Of course, not 25.♖xa2?? ♕c1+ 26.♔h2 ♕xf4+ 27.♖g3 ♕xe5-+

25...♕d6

Again, 25...♖c7!? deserved attention.

26.♘g6 (D)

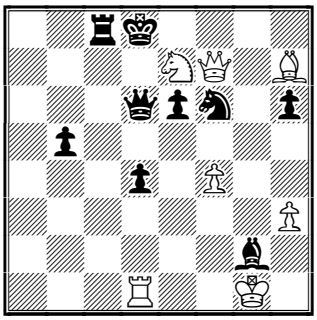


White's turning point looks quite impressive!

26...♖xb2??

A terrible mistake in a position where Black was not at all bad. 26...♖c4! seemed to be the correct way with the idea to counter 27.♘xe7 by 27...♘e8! Here White should probably continue by 28.♘f5!? (28.♖g8 ♕xe7 29.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 30.♕xb7 ♕d7) 28...exf5 29.♕xb7 ♘xg7 30.♕xg7± with a compensation for the exchange but Black can be

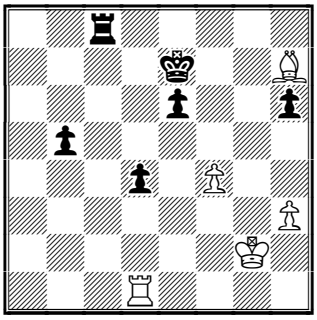
completely satisfied with the position.
27.♘xe7 ♖xg2+ 28.♖xg2 ♗xg2 (D)



29.♕xf6

It seems like Black was hoping only for the "automatic" 29.♔xg2? ♕xe7 30.♖xd4+ ♘d5; 29.♘xc8! was maybe even stronger.

29...♕xe7 30.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 31.♔xg2+− (D)

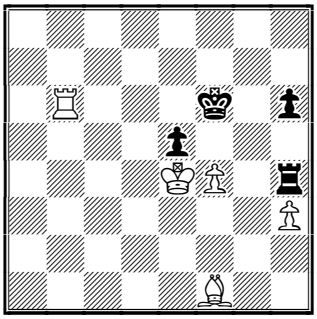


White has enough pawns to convert the extra bishop into the full point. The position with only the bishop and the h−pawn on the board does not appear to be accessible.

31...♖c4 32.♗d3 ♖c5 33.♔f3 ♖h5 34.♗f1 ♖d5

An attempt to exchange the f−pawn by 34...e5 was impossible due to 35.♔g4

35.♔e4 ♔f6 36.♖b1 d3 37.♗xd3 ♖h5 38.♗f1 e5 39.♖xb5 ♖h4 40.♖b6+ (D)



Black resigned. A very interesting game. **1-0**

Recommended sites.
enghien.free.fr
www.doshermanas.net
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-166, 22nd April 2001

Kasparov vs. Chapman Charity Match Starts.

Today was the first day of the ***Garry Kasparov vs. Terence Chapman charity odds match.*** ***(photo taken from website cited --- RPM.)***
Since his days as a British junior champion at the age of 14, Chapman has built the Terence Chapman Group PLC which specialises in Internet technologies and software products for financial institutions. It sponsors the BCF annual Grand Prix competition. Please read an ***interview with Terence Chapman*** by ***Mark Crowther*** for more information.

Two games were played – in the first one Kasparov was black without "a" and "h"pawns (it may be not so bad – the rooks are already active!) and have 60 minutes against 90 - in a complicated four rooks ending he eventually trapped the opponent's king into the mating net. The second game, in which Kasparov took away the "a" and "d" pawns was drawn so the score is **1½:½** - Kasparov leads.

A rapidplay ***match*** between **Anatoly Karpov** and 21 year old WGM **Maria Kouvatsou** (Greece) took place today and finished with the score **1:1**. In the first game Karpov won with the white pieces but Kouvatsou managed to level the score in the second game.

We apologise for the incorrect information about yesterday's 2nd Round of the XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas*** tournament – the game Smirin – Krasenkow wasn't drawn – **Ilya Smirin** (Israel) actually won and was also one of the leaders of the event with 1½ points. Today he beat young Teimour Rajabov in a very exciting game and became sole leader of the event! In the other decisive game of the round **Alexey Dreev** crushed Ivan Sokolov in brilliant style. ***(see annotated game section, page 3 ----RPM.)***

Results of the 3rd Round:
Radjabov – Smirin **0:1**
Azmaiparashvili – M.Gurevich **½:½**
Krasenkov – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Illescas – Almasi **½:½**
I.Sokolov – Dreev **0:1**

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1. Smirin - 2½ points
2-3. M.Gurevich, Vallejo Pons – 2
4-8. Dreev, Almasi, Azmaiparashvili Illescas Cordoba, Rajabov – 1½
9-10. Krasenkow, I. Sokolov – ½

Karen Asrian (Armenia) took the lead in the ***Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup*** in **Dubai, UAE**. In the 5th Round he beat Valery Filippov with the black pieces and scored 4½ points. Curiously enough, all three top boards were lucky for black. As usual, there were a lot of draws, and only GMs **Alexey Fedorov** (Byelorussia), **Jaan Ehlvest** (Estonia) and **Drazen Sermek** (Slovenia) managed to win – they are sharing second place, half a point behind the leader. 24 players have 3½ points.

Some top boards of the 4rd Round:
Filippov – Asrian **0:1**
Anastasian – Fedorov **0:1**
Jobava – Ehlvest **0:1**
Sermek – Sveshnikov **1:0** etc.

We've got some curious information from IM ***Mark Heidenfeld:*** "Some things are unusual, i.e. every day at 6:45 PM the games are interrupted for 10 minutes because of praying time. All players have to leave the tournament hall and are then called back by the chief arbiter. Another little detail: the pieces are normal Staunton chess sets, however with one difference – the kings have been beheaded – the crosses, as a sign of the Christian religion – have been sawed off. Thus, the queen is the tallest piece."

Top boards of the 5th Round:
Asrian (4½) – Sermek (4)
Ehlvest (4) – Fedorov (4) etc.

GM **James Plaskett** (England) is dominating the VII category round robin tournament in ***Hamstead***, **England** – after 6 rounds he has scored 5 points. GMs **Colin McNab** (Scotland), **Alexey Barsov** (Uzbekistan) and WIM **Irina Krush** (USA) are sharing second place, 1½ points behind the leader.

Results of the 6th Round:
Barsov – Crouch **½:½**
Koneru – Plaskett **½:½**
Rizouk – Palliser **½:½**
Hunt – Krush **0:1**
McNab – Richardson **½:½**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Plaskett – 5 points
2-4. McNab, Barsov, Krush – 3½
5. Richardson – 3+ adjourned game

David Gormally keeps the lead in a match versus **Matthew Turner** – the 4th game was drawn so the score is **2½:1½.**

Thanks to ***Adam Raoof*** for the information.

After 3 rounds GM **Ognjen Cvitan** keeps a perfect score in the VII category round robin tournament in ***Rijeka***, **Croatia**. IM **Faruk Bistric** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is second with 2½ points, IM **Mladen Vucic** (USA) is clear third, a full point behind the leader.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Cvitan – Velikov **1:0**
Vucic – Inkiov **1:0**
Ljubicic – Bistric **0:1**
Zaja – Muslija **1:0**
Mandekic - Rukavina **½:½**

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1. Cvitan – 3
2. Bistric – 2½
3. Vucic – 2 etc.

GM **Ralf Akesson** is crushing all the opposition on the ***Gausdal Classics*** in **Norway –** after 7 rounds he has already scored 6½ points. GM **Normunds Miezis** (Latvia) and IM **Stellan Brynell** (Sweden) are sharing second place, 1½ points behind the leader

Results of the 7th Round:
T.R.Hansen – Akesson **0:1**
Brynell – Solozhenkin **1:0**
Elsness – Miezis **0:1 (forfeit)**
Johannessen – Trygstag **½:½**
Tikkanen – Hanley **½:½**

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Akesson - 6½ points
2-3. Brynell, Miezis – 5
4-5. Solozhenkin, Johannessen – 4 etc.

Home player, IM **Frode Elsness,** has withdrawn from the tournament due to a dispute with the chief arbiter. The game Elsness – Trygstad from the 5th Round was declared drawn by the arbiter after Trygstad's flag had fallen, because it presumably was impossible for Elsness to win the position except on time.

Thanks for the IM ***Erik T.Gullaksen*** for this information

♘♘♘

Chess Auction at *Grandmaster Square*

by GM Alexander Baburin

I would like to let all ***CT*** readers know that a fully interactive chess auction has just started at http://www.gmsquare.com/chessauction. I've been involved in book trade since 1995 and last year my business partner James Kayes and I started the ***International Chess Auctions*** in Ireland. We had two very successful auctions in 2000. Then there was a break, as we wanted to switch to a fully automated real-time auction and had to find appropriate software. We have it now.

At present we have only 15 lots on offer, as this is a general test of our auction software in action. Despite its small size, the auction offers some very interesting items, so even if you are not into collecting, please visit our site out of curiosity. For example, we have ***An Easy Introduction to the Game of Chess*** printed in London in 1813 - a nice little book to show your friends! :-) Also very interesting is ***Chess and Chess-players*** by George Walker, published in London in 1850. Not only it is an important book, but this is also a **dedication copy** - signed and dedicated by the author in 1863. Many people collect things nowadays and autographs are always very popular. In two weeks we will have on sale a letter by **Frank Marshall**, a book signed by the great **Paul Keres** and a tournament program signed by both **Robert Fischer** and **Tigran Petrosian**. So, keep an eye on the auction - it will always have something interesting going! At the site you can find our catalogues in different formats - both current and previous.

So, have a look at http://www.gmsquare.com/chessauction and see whether you fancy anything. In order to bid, you will need to register, which is very easy. Once you register at the site, you will receive an email from me (this could take some time, so please allow it!) containing your password. Then you can start spending your money! :-) I must mention, though, that we have found one problem with the software - it currently does not allow placing of proxy bids. We hope to get it fixed soon. In the meantime people have to watch more closely the lots which they really do not want to let go. **Bidding is a game and could be a lot of fun - enjoy!**

♘♘♘

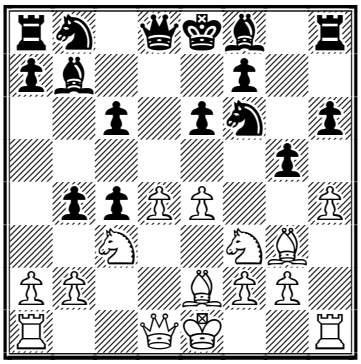
Annotated Game

I. Sokolov (2659) – A. Dreev (2685)

Dos Hermanas (3), 2001 D43

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.♗g3 b5 9.♗e2 ♗b7 10.h4 b4 (D)

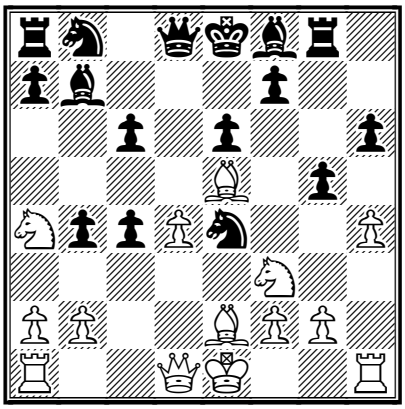


11.♘a4

Not so long time ago a new idea was introduced in the game Ivanov – Potkin, St.Petersburg 2000: 11.hxg5!? bxc3 12.bxc3! ♘xe4 13.♗e5 ♖h7 14.♕c2 ♕a5 15.0-0↑ and White obtained a strong initiative for the piece. The game ended quickly after 15...c5 16.♖ab1 ♕xc3?? 17.♕a4+ ♗c6 18.♖xb8+ and Black had to resign. Well, Black's play may obviously be improved upon, so Ivan Solkolov prefers the common

approach.

11...♘xe4 12.♗e5 ♖g8 (D)

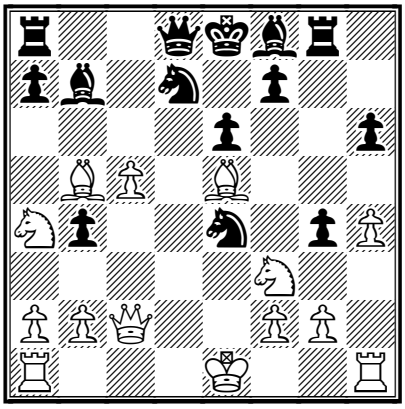


12...f6 is the alternative. Once I played a crazy game after 13.♕c2!? (13.♗xb8!? ♖xb8 14.hxg5 is probably more humanlike play − it was tested in the games S.Ivanov − Sitnikov, RUS−chT Smolensk 2000 and Halkias − Filipenko, Pardubice 2000 and it is too early to make any precise conclusions.) 13...c5 14.♗xc4 fxe5 15.0-0-0! exd4 16.♖he1 with interesting compensation for the piece and two pawns, R.Scherbakov − Yagupov, St. Petersburg 1999.

13.♕c2

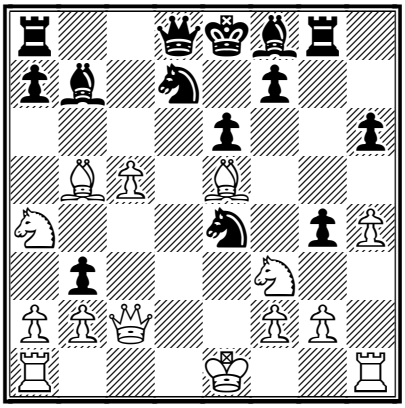
A novelty. 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.♗xc4 ♘d7 was acceptable for Black in the game Xu Jun − Nielsen, Istanbul (ol) 2000.

13...c5 14.♗xc4 g4 15.♗b5+ ♘d7 16.dxc5! (D)



This was probably White's idea − the advance c5−c6 is irresistible but Alexey Dreev finds an excellent resource.

16...b3!! (D)

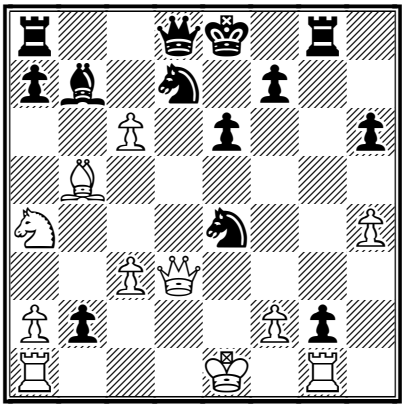


What a push! Black makes available the b4−square for the bishop. 16...gxf3? 17.c6 looked bad for Black.

17.♕d3

Perhaps Ivan was a little bit shocked here. His decision is not unsuccessful. 17.axb3!? gxf3 18.0-0-0! fxg2 19.♖hg1∞ was also interesting.

17...gxf3 18.c6 ♗b4+ 19.♗c3 ♗xc3+ 20.bxc3 fxg2 21.♖g1 b2!? (D)

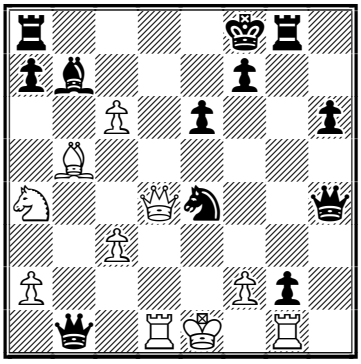


This pawn gets on White's nerves.

22.♖d1?

This is too much − how could White be so indifferent to the pawns g2 and b2?! 22.♘xb2 ♘ec5!? (22...♕xh4∞) 23.cxd7+ ♔e7 24.♕d4 ♕c7 was very good for Black but White still had some fight left.

22...♕xh4! 23.♕xd7+ ♔f8 24.♕d4 b1♕!! (D)



What an importunate pawn! No doubt White is sorry that he had not annihilated it when he the chance.

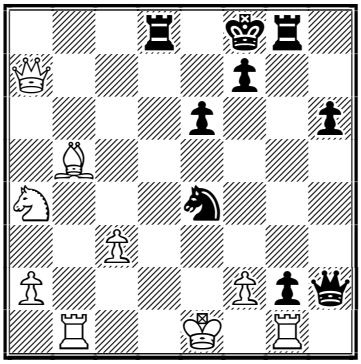
25.♖xb1 ♖d8

That's it!

26.cxb7

26.♕xa7 ♕h2-+ was losing instantly.

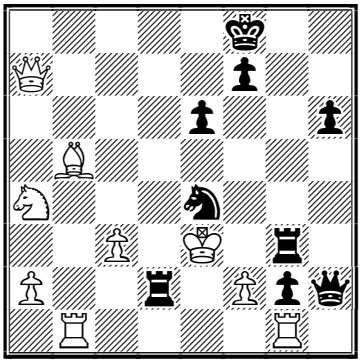
26...♖xd4 27.b8♕+ ♖d8 28.♕xa7 ♕h2 (D)



29.♔e2

A desperate attempt to get out of the fire. 29.f3 was impossible due to 29...♕g3+ 30.♔e2 ♖d2+ 31.♔e3 ♕f2+ 32.♔xe4 ♕xa7-+

29...♖d2+ 30.♔e3 ♖g3+!



The final accord!

31.♔xe4 ♖g4+

White resigned as he is checkmated soon. Wonderful play by Alexey Dreev who arranged fantastic coordination between his pieces! **0-1.**

Recommended sites.

enghien.free.fr
www.doshermanas.net
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
www.circuit.demon.co.uk/barnet.htm
www.sah-rijeka.hr/turniri.html
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www.gmchess.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-167, 23rd April 2001

Kasparov Defeats Chapman in Charity Match

Garry Kasparov won the ***charity odds match*** against **Terence Chapman** with a total score of **2½:1½**. Kasparov faced serious opposition in the 3rd game against Chapman, who heads one of Britain's top listed software companies Terence Chapman Group PLC, as he managed to level the score. But in the decisive 4th game, in which Kasparov gave up the "a"and "e" pawns, the game ended in favor of Kasparov after some unforced errors by Chapman - to the mutual pleasure of all concerned.

Let's take a look at the other events.

Ilya Smirin (Israel) secured sole lead after the 5th Round of the XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas*** tournament. After his loss in the first round **Alexey Dreev** (Russia) won his second game in a row – this time he beat an outsider of the event Michal Krasenkow – and joined home players **Francisco Vallejo Pons** and **Miguel Illescas Cordoba** in second place.

Results of the 4th Round:
Almasi – Smirin **½:½**
M.Gurevich – I.Sokolov **0:1**
Vallejo – Radjabov **½:½**
Dreev – Krasenkow **1:0**
Illescas – Azmaiparashvili **1:0**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Smirin - 3 points
2-4. Dreev, Illescas Cordoba, Vallejo Pons – 2½
5-7. M.Gurevich, Almasi, Rajabov – 2
8-9. I. Sokolov, Azmaiparashvili – 1½
10. Krasenkow – ½

Pairings for the 5th Round:

Smirin – Vallejo Pons
Rajabov – Dreev
I.Sokolov – Illescas Cordoba
Azmaiparashvili – Almasi
Krasenkow – M.Gurevich

In the 6th Round of the ***Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup*** which is taking place in **Dubai, UAE,** GM **Jaan Ehlvest** (Estonia) beat **Alexey Fedorov** (Byelorussia) and joined the leader, **Karen Asrian** (Armenia), who drew against Drazen Sermek (Slovenia).
(See annotated game section for the Ehlvest-Fedorov game page 3 --- RPM.)

Some results of the 6th Round:
Asrian – Sermek **½:½**
Ehlvest – Fedorov **1:0**
Glek – Kharlov **½:½**
Neverov – Vladimirov **0:1**
Alexandrov – Magerramov **1:0**
Galkin – Motylev **½:½**
Sorokin – Shariyazdanov **½:½**
Dizdar – Kobalia **½:½**
Kuzmin – Volzhin **½:½**
Safin – Pigusov **1:0**
Minasian – Yakovich **1:0**
Kotsur – Pavasovic **0:1**
Gadjily – Anastasian **1:0**
Al-Modiahki – Kunte **0:1**

Top boards of the 7th Round:
Asrian (5) – Ehlvest (5)
Vladimirov (4½) – Gadjily (4½)
Sermek (4½) – Alexandrov (4½)
Kunte (4½) – Safin (4½)
Pavasovic (4½) – Minasian (4½)

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov, technical editor – Ralph P. Marconi.
Subscription is $15 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

GM **James Plaskett** (England) kept the lead on the VII category round robin tournament in ***Hamstead***, **England** with 5½ points after 7 rounds. GM **Colin McNab** (Scotland) won an important game against WIM Irina Krush (USA) and is sharing second place with GM **Alexey Barsov** (Uzbekistan), who beat John Richardson (England).

Results of the 7th Round:
Plaskett – Rizouk **½:½**
Krush – McNab **0:1**
Richardson – Barsov **0:1**
Palliser – A.Hunt **½:½**
Crouch – Koneru **½:½**

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Plaskett – 5½ points
2-3. McNab, Barsov – 4½
4. Crouch – 4
5-6. Rizouk, Krush – 3½

The 5th game of the challenge match between **David Gormally** and **Matthew Turner** was drawn – Gormally keeps the lead with a score **3:2. T**omorrow, in the last game Gormally will have the white pieces and very good chances to win the match.

Thanks to ***Adam Raoof*** for the information.

GM **Ognjen Cvitan** is dominating the VII category round robin tournament in ***Rijeka***, **Croatia** – after 4 rounds he still maintains a perfect score! IM **Faruk Bistric** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is second, a full point behind; home IM **Josip Rukavina** is clear third with 2½ points.

Results of the 4th Round:
Vucic – Cvitan **0:1**
Inkiov – Bistric **½:½**
Rukavina – Ljubicic **1:0**
Velikov – Zaja **½:½**
Muslija – Mandekic **0:1**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Cvitan – 4
2. Bistric – 3
3. Rukavina – 2½ etc.

GM **Ralf Akesson** won the ***Gausdal Classics*** in **Norway** with a fantastic result 8 points out of 9 games! GM **Normunds Miezis** (Latvia) and IM **Stellan Brynell** (Sweden) shared second place, 1½ points behind the winner.

Results of the 8th Round:
Akesson – Tikkanen **1:0**

Trygstag – T.R.Hansen **½:½**
Elsness – Brynell **0:1 (forfeit)**
Solozhenkin – Johannessen **½:½**
Miezis **–** Hanley **1:0**

Results of the 9th Round:
Hanley – Akesson **½:½**
Tikkanen – Trygstag **½:½**
T.R.Hansen – Solozhenkin **½:½**
Johannessen – Elsness **1:0 (forfeit)**
Brynell – Miezis **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Akesson – 8 points
2-3. Miezis, Brynell - 6½
4. Johannessen – 5½
5. Solozhenkin – 5
6-7. Trygstad, Elsness – 3½
8-9. T.R.Hansen, Hanley – 2½
10. Tikkanen – 1½

Home player IM **Frode Elsness** has withdrawn from the tournament due to a dispute with the chief arbiter. The game Elsness – Trygstad from the 5th Round was declared drawn by the arbiter after Trygstad's flag had fallen, because it presumably was impossible for Elsness to win the position except on time.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks for IM ***Erik T.Gullaksen*** for the information.

The 4th ***Tanta Open*** is underway in Tanta City about 90 km from Cairo, Egypt. After 4 rounds GM **Hannes Stefansson** (Iceland) and IM **Azer Mirzoev** (Azerbaijan) are leading with

with 3½ points. GMs Alexander Fominykh (Russia) and Dmitry Komarov (Ukraine) and IM Mohamed Tissir (Marocco) are in chase, half a point behind – thanks to ***Mark Crowther*** for this information.

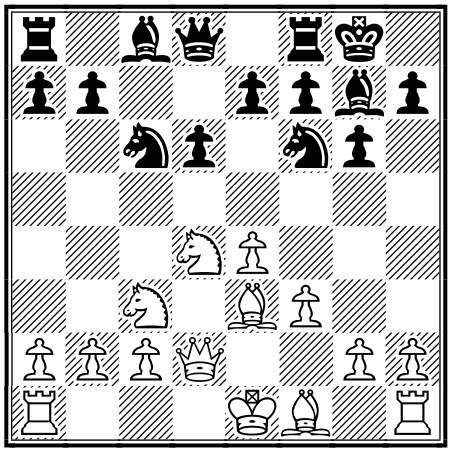
The 2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship just started in **Warsaw, Poland** – we'll keep you updated on this very attractive event.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

J. Ehlvest (2630) − A. Fedorov (2590)
Open Dubai UAE (6), 20.04.2001
B78
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

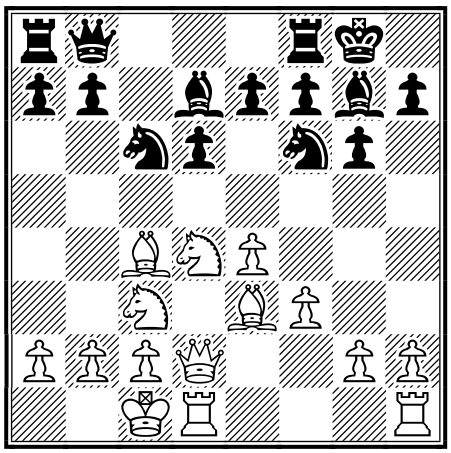
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♕d2 0-0 (D)



9.♗c4

Alexey Fedorov is a well known Dragon's advocate − we featured his excellent win over Michael Adams in Wijk aan Zee, 2001 in the CT−81 after 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♘xd5 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.♘xd5 cxd5 13.♕xd5 ♕c7 14.♕c5 ♕b8!?∞ and so on.

9...♗d7 10.0-0-0 ♕b8 (D)

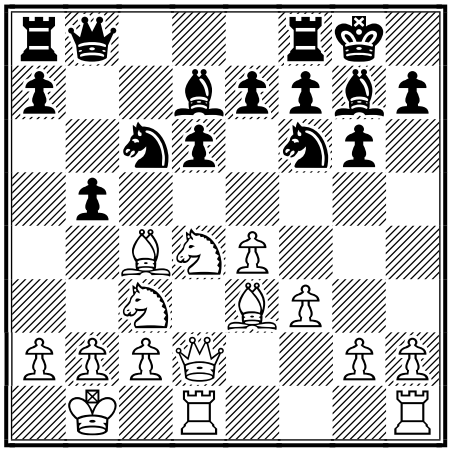


This is one of numerous possibilities. 10...♖c8; 10...♘e5; and 10...♕a5 are the alternatives which seem to be the more common options.

11.♔b1

A rare continuation. Fedorov faced 11.♘d5 a couple of times: 11...♘xd5 12.♗xd5 (12.exd5 gave Black excellent play after 12...♘e5 13.♗e2 ♖c8 14.h4 ♕c7⇄ Movsesian − Fedorov, Las Vegas 1999) 12...♖c8 13.h4 e6 14.♗xc6 bxc6 15.♘b3 d5 with good play for Black, Leko − Fedorov, Europe−chT, Batumi 1999.; the direct 11.g4 is played more often.

11...b5!? (D)



12.♗e2

A cool approach. 12.♘dxb5!? is worth trying, in my opinion. After 12...♘e5 13.♗e2 ♖c8 Black has compensation for the pawn but it

might turn out to be insufficient, Glagolev − Saulin, Moscow 1996.

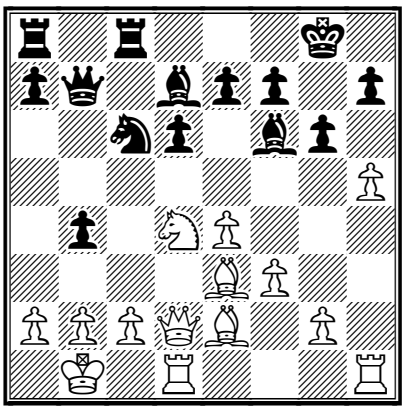
12...b4 13.♘d5 ♕b7

Simplification by 13...♘xd5 14.exd5 ♘xd4 15.♗xd4 ♗xd4 16.♕xd4 looked dangerous for Black as it is not so easy to parry the direct attack of h2−h4−h5 and so on.

14.♘xf6+

White could have won a pawn by 14.♘xc6 ♗xc6 15.♘xb4 but after 15...a5! Black could have had a serious initiative against White's king.

14...♗xf6 15.h4 ♖fc8 16.h5 (D)



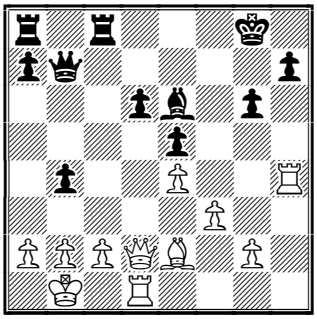
16...♘xd4

Thanks to the White's control over the center Black possibilities to launch an attack against White's king are too limited, so he tries a positional approach.

17.♗xd4 e5 18.♗f2 ♗e6 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.♗h4

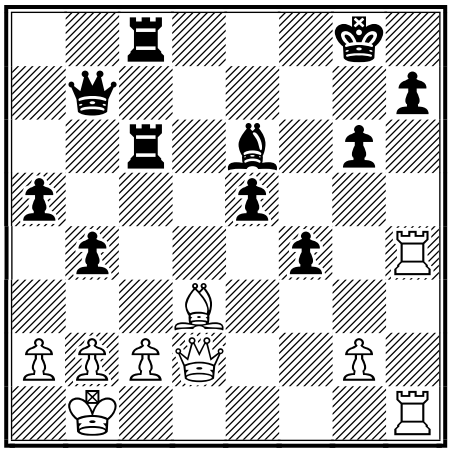
The capture of the d6−pawn gave Black a couple of tempi to organise direct actions on the queenside: 20.♕xd6 ♖c6 21.♕d2 a5∞

20...♗xh4 21.♖xh4 (D)



After the exchange of the dark−squared bishops Black's king looks more vulnerable than White's counterpart.

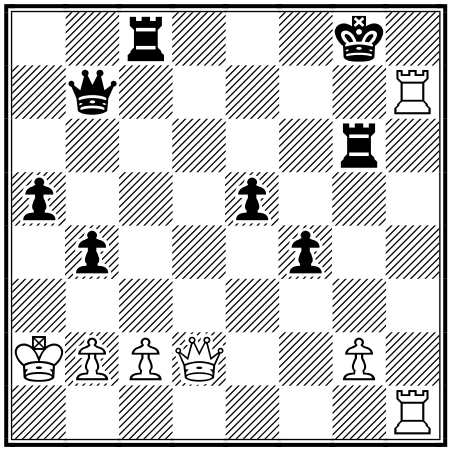
21...♖c6 22.♖dh1 ♖ac8 23.♗d3 a5 24.f4! exf4 25.e5! dxe5 (D)



26.♗xg6!

Excellent!

26...♗xa2+! 27.♔xa2 ♖xg6 28.♖xh7 (D)



28...♖g7?

Of course, not 28...♕xh7?? 29.♖xh7 ♔xh7 30.♕d7+ followed by ♕c8; 28...♕c6!∞ was more to the point − despite of all dangers Black is probably not so bad here.

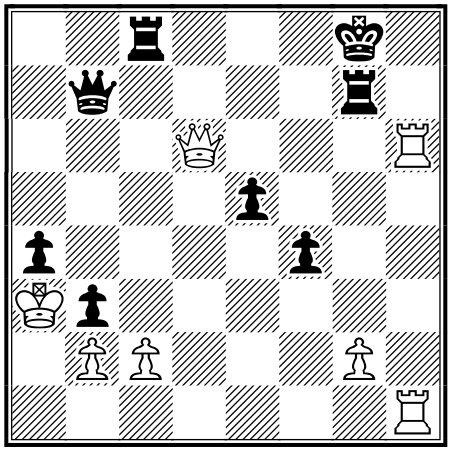
29.♖7h6!

A very annoying move in such a position. Black's king is in great danger and the very next move would be fatal for him.

29...a4

This loses instantly but it looks like it was already difficult to give Black good advice.

30.♕d6! b3+ 31.♔a3 (D)



Black resigned as he has no defence against ♕e6. **1-0.**

Recommended sites.

www.doshermanas.net
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.ajedrezsiglo21.com
www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
www.circuit.demon.co.uk/barnet.htm
www.sah-rijeka.hr/turniri.html
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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-168, 24th April 2001

GM Reinaldo Vera Wins Cuban Championship.

GM **Reinaldo Vera** won the 2001 ***Cuban championship*** with 12½ points out of 16. One player withdrew from this event and all his results were annulled.

2. L. Dominguez – 12
3. F. De la Paz – 11
4. L. Bruzon – 10
5-6. R. Perez, O. Almeida – 8½ etc.

All games were drawn in the 5th Round of the XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas.*** But let's not be too hard on the grandmasters, just remember – they are playing without any day off. Dos Hermanas really isn't a Linares with its 3 free days (as Russians say it's not Rio de Janeiro ☺).

Results of the 5th Round:
Smirin – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Rajabov – Dreev **½:½**
I. Sokolov – Illescas Cordoba **½:½**
Azmaiparashvili – Almasi **½:½**
Krasenkov – M. Gurevich **½:½**

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Smirin – 3½ points
2-4. Dreev, Illescas Cordoba, Vallejo Pons – 3
5-7. M. Gurevich, Almasi, Rajabov – 2½
8-9. I. Sokolov, Azmaiparashvili – 2
10. Krasenkov – 1

Pairings for the 6th Round:
Almasi – Vallejo Pons
Dreev – Smirin
M. Gurevich – Rajabov
Illescas Cordoba – Krasenkov
Azmaiparashvili – I. Sokolov

The 3rd International Rector (6 participants, round-robin system, 2 circles, cat. XIII, avg. Rating 2556) takes place in the National Law Academy of Ukraine, Kharkov. Standing after 7th round:

1. R. Ponomarev – 4½ points
2. A. Moiseenko – 4
3. P. Eljanov – 3½
4-6. Y. Pelletier, A. Zubarev, M.Turov -3

All players are young (students!) and they "bombard" each other - fight tooth and nail. You can find many attractive games at:

http://chesssector.odessa.ua/rector01.htm

As was reported yesterday the ***2nd European Open Women Chess Championship*** started in Warsaw, Poland. 157 participants are fighting for 29 spots for the World Championship (Swiss system, 11 round + tie-break). There was a first sensation in the second round – Elo-favourite **Alisa Galliamova** lost to **Svetlana Petrenko**.

Top boards for the 3rd Round (23 women have 2 points):
Stefanova – Gaponenko
Zhukova – Danielian
Kononenko – Skripchenko-Lautier
Graf-Mamedova – Stepovaia-Diachenko
(it's not a consultation game ☺)
Vasilevich – Dworakowska
Hunt – Radziewicz
Foisor – Petrenko
Ionescu-Brandis – Kosteniuk
Sedina – Korbut
Polovnikova – Olarasu
Zaiatz – Dimitrijevic
Kiseleva – Peptan (1½)

The 6-game challenge match between **David Gormally** and **Matthew Turner** ended in a sensational draw. Turner could win last game with Black and equalised the score at 3 - 3.

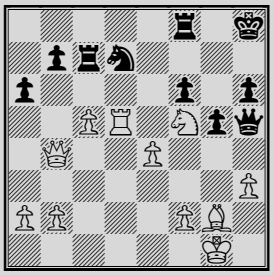
Thanks to ***Adam Raoof*** for this information.

♘♘♘

Tactical Quiz

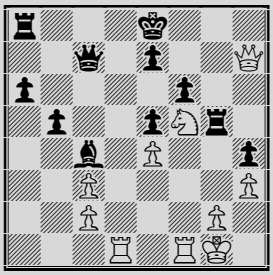
(solutions on page 4)

1. Isaevsky, A. − Grigoriants, S.
(Russian ch under 20) Kazan 2001



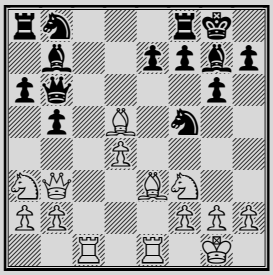
White to play

2. Kazakov, P. − Grischenko, S.
(Russia ch under 20) Kazan 2001



White to play

3. Potkin, V. − Isaevsky, A.
(Russia ch under 20) Kazan, 2001



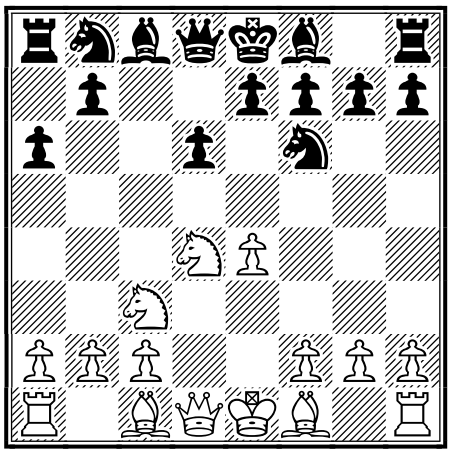
White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

R. Ponomarev (2673) − Y. Pelletier (2531)
Cup Rector Ukraine Kharkov (6), 22.04.2001 B80
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 (D)



The Najdorf Sicilian has been a main opening of choice for decades.

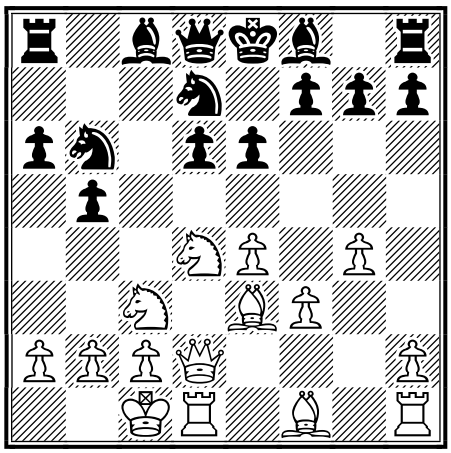
6.♗e3

According to statistics this is the 3rd most often move played. 6.♗g5 is first and then 6.♗e2

6...e6 7.f3 b5 8.g4 ♘fd7

Kasparov played this variation twice in Cannes and it has became popular. The idea behind the move is to start counterplay on the Queen side (where White will be castling) immediately. Of course it's a bit slow, but how does one exploit it?

9.♕d2 ♘b6 10.0-0-0 ♘8d7 (D)



11.♘b3!?

This is a novelty. The Guests of Cannes played 11.♕f2 for example: 11...♗b7 12.♗d3 ♖c8 13.♘ce2 ♘c5 14.♔b1 ♘ba4 15.h4 (15.b3 ♘xd3 16.cxd3 ♘c5 17.♘g3 ♗e7 18.♕b2 b4 Polgar − Kasparov) 15...♕c7 16.♖he1 d5 Grischuk − Kasparov. Ex−champion won both games. As I understand, Ponomarev's idea is to prevent the Knight's manoeuvre, Nd7−c5−a4 etc.

11...b4 12.♘b1

Forced. The Bishop on e3 is too important: 12.♘e2? ♘c4

12...a5

After 12...♗e7 13.♕xb4 d5 14.♕a5 ♗b7 Black hasn't enough compensation for the pawn. But now White has a big advantage in development.

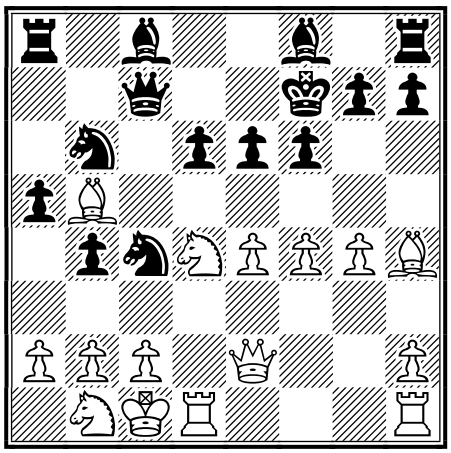
13.♗g5! f6

I suspect in case of 13...♕c7 Black didn't like something like 14.♘d4!? d5!? 15.♘b5 ♕b8 16.♗f4 e5 17.exd5 exf4 18.d6 with a very strong attract. Nevertheless Ruslan Ponomarev played...

14.♘d4! ♘e5

Dubious was 14...fxg5?! 15.♘xe6 ♕f6 16.♘c7+ ♔d8 17.♘xa8 ♘xa8

15.♗b5+ ♔f7 16.♗h4 ♕c7 17.f4 ♘ec4 18.♕e2 (D)



Now Black has big problems with his development. Pelletier decides to go into complications, but...

18...e5!? 19.♘f5 exf4 20.g5!

In this game Ruslan plays like a boy of his age (usually 17−year old Ponomarev prefers long endgames etc.)!

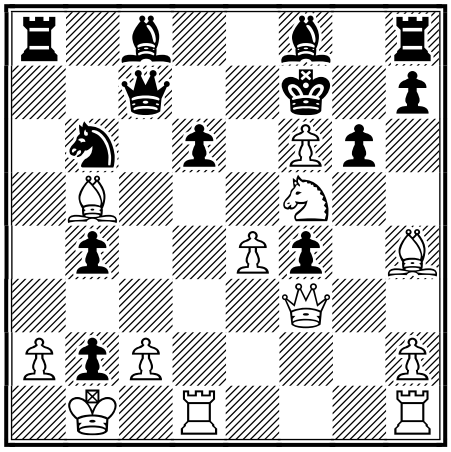
20...♘e5 21.gxf6 g6 22.♘d2!? a4

Black believed his opponent. After 22...gxf5 23.♕h5+ ♘g6 24.♗d3!? White has a strong initiative even though Black's a piece up.

23.♔b1

Ponomarev's style is very often compared with Karpov's play. Last move is typical for Karpov too − quite prophylactic in such a sharp position!

23...a3 24.♘f3 ♘xf3 25.♕xf3 axb2 (D)



26.♖xd6!

A bolt from the blue!

26...♕xd6?!

A very sad decision. Of course after 26...♗xd6 White has a lot of interesting attacking possibilities, for example, 27.♕b3+ ♔f8 (27...♗e6 28.♘h6+ ♔f8 29.♕xe6→) 28.♗g5 h6 (28...♗d7 29.♗h6+ ♔e8 30.f7+ ♔d8 31.♕xb2 ♗e5 32.♕xb4) 29.♗xh6+ ♖xh6 30.♘xh6 but play would have been much sharper than in the game. Now all is quite simple.

27.♘xd6+ ♗xd6 28.e5! ♗e6

Or 28...♗xe5 29.♕e4 ♗d6 30.♕c6+−

29.♕b7+ ♘d7 30.♗c4

A very interesting and important game for theory. **1-0**

Solutions to Tactical Quiz:

1. 35.c6! bxc6 36.♖xd7 c5 37.♕d2 ♖xd7 38.♕xd7 ♕f7 39.♕xf7 ♖xf7 40.♗f1 a5 41.♗b5 ♖b7 42.a4 ♔h7 43.b3 ♖b8 44.♔f1 ♖f8 45.♔e2 h5 46.♗d3 ♖b8 47.♗c4 ♖e8 48.♗d5 ♖b8 49.♔d3 ♖b4 50.♘d6 ♔h6 51.♔e3 ♖b6 52.♘b7 c4 53.♘xa5 c3 54.♘c6 g4 55.h4 1-0

2. 29.♘d6+! 1-0.

3. 16.♘c4 ♕a7 17.♗xf7+! ♔h8 [17...♖xf7 18.♘ce5 e6 19.♕xe6 ♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♕e7 21.♖c8++−; 17...♔xf7 18.♘d6+ ♔f6 19.♗g5#] **18.♘ce5 ♘xe3 19.fxe3 ♗xf3 20.♘xf3+−** and White won. **+−**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/rector01.htm
http://www.galeon.com/capablanca/
http://www.doshermanas.net/festival-2001/
http://www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-169, 25th April 2001

Khalifman, Shirov and Salov Respond With an Open Letter of Their Own!

*"**After** reading the letter of the 3 Ks, we would like to accept the kind invitation of the authors and participate in the discussion regarding burning problems of modern chess. However, unfortunately, some passages from the letter force us to initially comment on the letter itself…"*

The above is the first paragraph of the new open letter – a reply to the open letter by Karpov, Kasparov and Kramnik to FIDE – signed by **Alexander Khalifman, Alexey Shirov, Valery Salov**, participants of St-Petersburg Championships-2001, and the vice-president of this town's chess federation. What does it mean? The start of discussions or the beginning of a confrontation? I'd prefer the former. By the way there are some caustic remarks in open letter #2. Perhaps they are justified, but it's not the best way to start a civil discussion.

This letter was originally written in Russian but now you can read it in English in *TWIC* #337 at: ***http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html***

White to play and win – maybe this was the slogan of the 6th Round of the XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas***?! **Alexey Dreev** outplayed former leader **Ilja Smirin** in very convincing style, and changed places with him *(see our annotated game section, page 3)*. It looks like **Miguel Illescas Cordoba** showed part of his and Kramnik's preparation in the Gruenfeld and beat Mikhail Krasenkov in a long endgame. In contrast **Zurab Azmaiparashvili** won in only 21 moves His opponent Ivan Sokolov had clear problems in the Scotch defence.

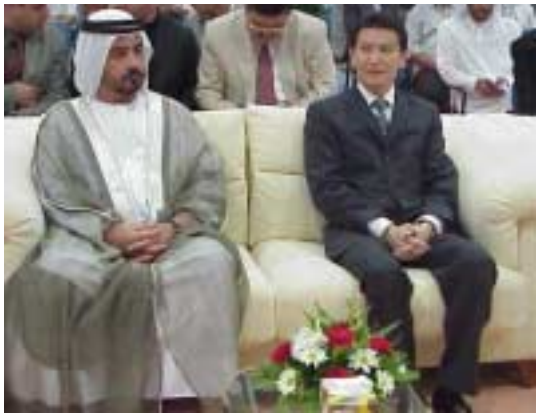
Results of the 6th Round:
Almasi – Vallejo Pons **1:0**
Dreev – Smirin **1:0**
M. Gurevich – Rajabov **1:0**
Illescas Cordoba – Krasenkov **1:0**
Azmaiparashvili – I. Sokolov **1:0**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-2. Dreev, Illescas Cordoba – 4 points
3-5. Smirin**,** M. Gurevich, Almasi – 3½
6-7. Vallejo Pons, Azmaiparashvili – 3
8. Rajabov – 2½
9. I. Sokolov – 2
10. Krasenkov – 1

Pairings for the 7th Round:
I. Sokolov – Almasi
Krasenkov – Azmaiparashvili
Rajabov – Illescas Cordoba
Smirin – M. Gurevich
Vallejo Pons – Dreev

There are four leaders before the penultimate 8th Round of the Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup in ***Dubai***, UAE.

1-4. Ehlvest, Vladimirov, Minasian, Asrian – 5½ points out of 7
5-13. Alexandrov, Kunte, Motylev, Sermek, Fedorov, Safin, Ermenkov, Kobalija, Odeev – 5 etc.



Mr. Al-Bannai, President of Dubai Chess& Culture Club with President of International Federation

Photo from:
http://www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/

Some results of the 7th Round:
Asrian – Ehlvest **½:½**
Vladimirov – Gadjily **1:0**
Sermek – Alexandrov **½:½**
Kunte – Safin **½:½**
Pavasovic – Minasian **0:1**

Top boards of the 8th Round:
Ehlvest – Vladimirov
Minasian – Asrian
Alexandrov – Kunte
Motylev – Sermek
Fedorov – Safin
Ermenkov – Kobalija
Odeev – Kharlov (4½)

Rena Graf-Mamedova (GER), **Aleksandra Dimitrijevic** (YUG) and **Elena Sedina** (ITA) maintain a perfect score after the 3rd Round of the ***2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship*** in Warsaw, Poland. In the second Round only these women won their games on the top boards (see pairing in ***CT-168***). By the way, Elena Sedina played for the Ukrainian team at the last Olympiad in Istanbul although she really leaves in Italy because she married an Italian. Maybe it's simple a mistake by the Polish organisers or something has changed in her live.

Top boards of the 4th round (28 participants have 2½ points):
Dimitrijevic – Sedina
Stefanova - Graf-Mamedova
Kovalevskaya – Kononenko
Dworakowska – Zhukova
Khurtsidze - Ionescu-Brandis
Skripchenko-Lautier – Petrenko
Danielian – Vasilevich
Mkrtchian - Arakhamia-Grant
Khukhashvili – Hunt
Prudnikova – T. Kosintseva
Olarasu – Foisor
Kosteniuk – Moser
Galianina-Ryjanova – Kiseleva
Radziewicz – Polovnikova
Gaponenko – Medic
Galliamova (2 points) - Sudakova

What can we say new about the category VII round-robin tournament in ***Rijeka***, Croatia? We can only repeat (see ***CT-167***) that GM **Ognjen Cvitan** is dominating the field – he has 5½ points out of 6! IM Faruk Bistric has clear second with 4 points.

3-6. Inkiov, Rukavina, Velikov, Vucic – 3½ etc.

GM **James Plaskett** (England) won the VII category (10 participants) round robin tournament in ***Hamstead***, England.

Final standing:
1. Plaskett – 7 points out of 9
2. McNab – 5½
3-5. Rizouk, Barsov, Krush – 5
6. Crouch – 4½
7-9. Koneru, Palliser, Richardson – 3½
10. A. Hunt – 2½

The Lasker S.R.L. chess club organised a Spring Festival in Bucharest, Romania, - reported by Radu CHIRILA for *TWIC*.

GM **Andrei Istratescu** won this VIII category GM event (12 participants, av. Elo 2431) with 8½ points out of 11.
2. Kalezic – 8
3. Dimitrache – 7½
4-7. Vajda, Ionescu, Negulescu, Vasiesiu – 6 etc.

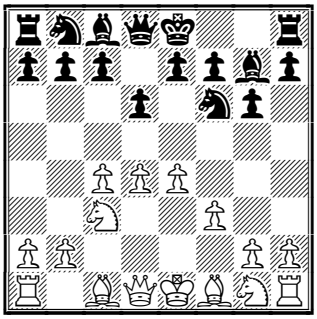
In the women's category IV tournament WF **Mariana Mosnegutu** and WG **Szidonia Vajda** shared 1-2 places with 6 points out of 9.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Dreev − I. Smirin
Ciudad de Dos Hermanas, 24.04.2001 E81
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 (D)



The Saemisch system is one of the most unpleasant of White's weapons vs the Kings Indian. Recently the more fashionable variation is 5.Nf3 and 6.Be2, but even so there are much more games with 5.f3 in databases.

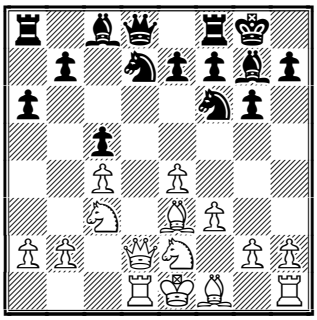
5...0-0 6.♘ge2 a6 7.♗e3 ♘bd7 8.♕d2 c5

Smirin chose a bit unusual plan.

9.dxc5!?

Simple and rather strong. Alternatives are 9.♖d1; 9.0-0-0; or 9.d5

9...dxc5 10.♖d1 (D)

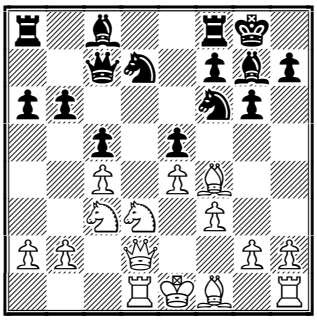


A Solid approach. Dreev refused to castling long and hopes to exploit his better placed pieces (it's not a simple task for a Black Knight to occupy the d4−square while the Knight on c3 is ready to jump on d5).

10...♕a5

Black has also played here 10...♕c7 for example: 11.♘f4 e6 12.♘d3 ♘e8 13.♘f2 f5!? 14.exf5 gxf5 (square d5!) 15.f4 ♘df6 16.♗e2 b6 17.♗f3 ♖a7 18.0-0 ♗b7∞ Khenkin − Banikas, Italy 2000

11.♘c1 ♕c7 12.♘d3 b6 13.♗f4 e5?! (D)



This is quite a dubious novelty because of the weakness of the d5−square. More logical was 13...♕b7 14.♗e2 ♖d8 15.♘c1 ♖e8 16.e5 ♘h5 17.e6!? fxe6 18.♗e3 ♘e5 19.0-0⩲ Luce − Morovic, Denmark 1982

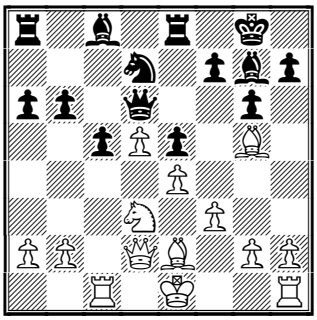
14.♗g5 ♖e8 15.♗e2 ♘f8

The Knight is heading for d4, but White forestalls it.

16.♘d5

Of course

16...♘xd5 17.cxd5 ♘d7 18.♖c1 ♕d6 (D)



19.b4!

After 19.0-0 b5!?⇄ Black has counter−play on the Queenside.

19...cxb4 20.♕xb4

Since his childhood Alexey Dreev enjoys playing endgames and

usually he is very strong in this phase of the game. And to be honest entering an endgame is quite unpleasant for Black here − White has a passed pawn d, control of the c−file, and better development (even though his King is still in the center!) and so on.

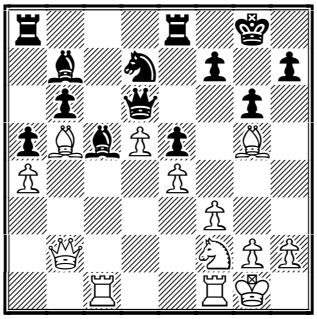
20...♕b8

This looks like only move.

21.0-0 ♗f8 22.♕b2 ♗b7 23.a4!?

A useful prophylactic measure.

23...a5 24.♘f2 ♗c5 25.♗b5 ♕d6 (D)



26.♗xd7

And White begins a combination:

♕xd7 27.♖xc5!

This is a clear positional sacrifice − now White controls the black squares. Also the Bishop on b7 looks very sad.

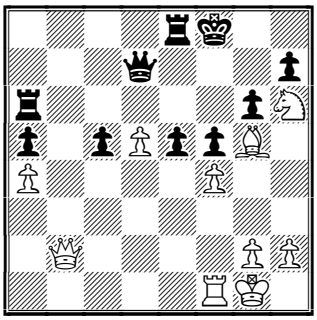
27...bxc5 28.♘g4 ♖a6 29.♘h6+!

White wants more than 29.♘f6+?! ♖xf6 30.♗xf6 ♕d6 (or 30...♗a6)

29...♔f8 30.f4 ♗xd5!?

What else is there to do?!

31.exd5 f5 (D)



32.♖d1?!

Maybe it's a zeitnot irregularity. Better was 32.♕c2!? for example: 32...♕xd5 (32...♕d6 33.♖d1) 33.♖d1 ♕c6 34.♕c4

32...♕xa4 33.♕c1 ♖d6!? 34.h4 ♕b3 35.♕a1 ♖xd5 36.♖b1 ♕e3+ 37.♔h1 ♕d4?

After 37...♕d3!? the position remained very sharp and unclear.

38.♕xa5

Thanks.

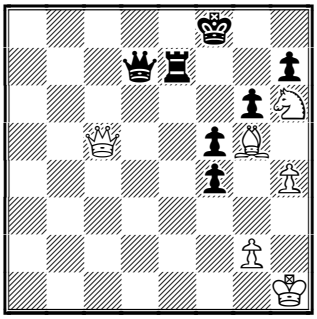
38...exf4?

The decisive mistake − the only move was 38...♖d7!?

39.♖b7!

With the very dangerous threat of checkmate on f7.

39...♖d7 40.♖xd7 ♕xd7 41.♕xc5+ ♖e7 (D)



41...♔g7 42.♕c3+ and mate in 3.

42.♘g8! ♔xg8 43.♕xe7 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/rector01.htm
http://www.doshermanas.net/festival-2001/
http://www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/
http://www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
http://www.sah-rijeka.hr/t-g05/
http://www.circuit.demon.co.uk/barnet.htm

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the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-170 26th April 2001

Smirin beats Gurevich and takes lead …

Ilja Smirin beat Mikhail Gurevich *(see our annotated game section)* in the 7th Round of the XVI category Ciudad de Dos Hermanas and overtook the leaders – Alexey Dreev and Miguel Illescas Cordoba.

Zurab Azmaiparashvili won his second game in a row, this time with Black over Mikhail Krasenkov in 19 moves. It looks like the extremely strong GM Krasenkov has lost his confidence and swims down… The three other games were drawn.

WGM Harriet Hunt

Results of the 7th Round:
I. Sokolov – Almasi ½:½
Krasenkov – Azmaiparashvili 0:1
Rajabov – Illescas Cordoba ½:½
Smirin – M. Gurevich 1:0
Vallejo Pons – Dreev ½:½

Standing after the 7th Round:
1-3. Dreev, Smirin, Illescas Cordoba – 4½ points
4-5. Almasi, Azmaiparashvili – 4
6-7. M. Gurevich, Vallejo Pons – 3½
8. Rajabov – 3
9. I. Sokolov – 2½
10. Krasenkov – 1

Pairings for the 8th Round:
Almasi – Dreev
M. Gurevich – Vallejo Pons
Illescas Cordoba – Smirin
Azmaiparashvili – Rajabov
I. Sokolov – Krasenkov

Due to some technical problems on the web-site of the Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup in Dubai, UAE we can only inform you, that five players shared the lead with 6 points at the end of the 8th Round. Who are those guys? Lets wait till tomorrow – maybe we'll have more news, at least from CT's correspondent in Dubai IM Mark Heidenfeld.

WGM Elena Sedina (ITA) became sole leader after the 4th Round of the 2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship in Warsaw, Poland. As earlier we'll give only the decisive outcomes from this round:
Dimitrijevic – Sedina 0:1
Skripchenko-Lautier – Petrenko 1:0
Danielian – Vasilevich 1:0
Mkrtchian - Arakhamia-Grant 0:1
Khukhashvili – Hunt 0:1
Prudnikova – T. Kosintseva 1:0
Kosteniuk – Moser 1:0
Gaponenko – Medic 1:0

Standing after the 4th Round:
1. Sedina – 4 points
2-9. Hunt, Kosteniuk, Skripchenko-Lautier, Gaponenko, Danielian, Graf-Mamedova, Arakhamia-Grant, Prudnikova – 3 etc.

Top boards of the 5th round (23 participants have 3 points):
Sedina - Skripchenko-Lautier
Arakhamia-Grant - Kosteniuk
Hunt – Gaponenko
Graf-Mamedova - Prudnikova
Kovalevskaya - Danielian
Dworakowska – Stefanova
Zhukova - Radziewicz
Kiseleva – Khurtsidze
Ionescu-Brandis – Bojkovic
N. Kosintseva – Stepovaia-Diachenko
Foisor – Korbut
Sudakova - Galianina-Ryjanova
Chelushkina – Popova

Polovnikova – Dimitrijevic
S. Cherednichenko – Shumiakina
Kononenko – Olarasu

VII category round-robin tournament in Rijeka, Croatia. Standing after 7th Round:
1. Cvitan – 6 points
2. Bistric – 5

3. Rukavina – 4
4-8. Inkiov, Velikov, Zaja, Vucic, Ljubicic – 3½ etc.

Brain Games wakes up!

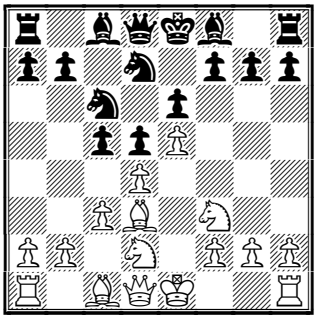
Some information from its official site:
"In October this year the Brain Games (BGN) world chess champion Vladimir Kramnik will face a computer challenge in Bahrain… Now Deep Fritz (Germany) and Deep Junior (Israel) are playing 24-games match in Cadaqués, Spain, under the direction of one of the world's leading computer chess experts, Prof. Enrique Irazoqui. Time control is 40/90. Hardware consists of two dual P933 machines with 768MB RAM, of which 512 are allocated for hashtables and 32 for tablebases. All 3-4-5 men tablebases are installed. The view from the Rocamar Hotel is splendid, which doubtless will inspire both programs to make the best moves. :-)"
We can add that Deep Junior won 4 first games – what an astounding start!

CT-correspondent Bobby ANG reports:
Zone 3.2a Championships have started April 24, 2001 at the Grand Boulevard Hotel, Manila, Philippines. This is a 9-round Swiss System Tournament where 2 will qualify from the men's section and 1 from the women's. As you may be aware, the continent of Asia has 19 slots (we are talking about the men's division. male chauvinist that I am, I never bothered to find out how many in the women's division there are) in the upcoming World Chess Championships. The Asian Continental Championships will have up for grabs 10 slots while the balance of 9 have been assigned to the various sub-zones who should all finish their zonal championships by end of April 2001, otherwise the slots to which they are entitled to will be forfeited in favour of the Asian Continental Championships. That is the reason why the great haste in organising the Zonal Championship. Please follow the link in my web page: http://www.philchess.com.ph

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

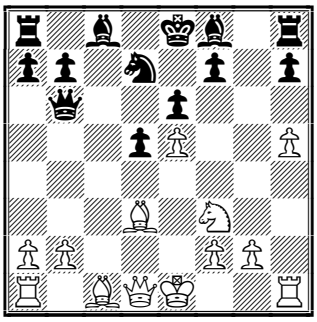
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
I Smirin − M Gurevich
Dos Hermanas, 25.04.2001 C05
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3
A fashionable move. White used to take on d5.
4...Nf6 5.e5 Nfd7 6.c3 Nc6 7.Bd3



7...g6
The main alternative is 7...Qb6 for example 8.0-0 g6 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Nb3 Nxd3 11.Qxd3 Bg7 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Qd2 Bd7 14.Rfe1 a5 15.Bh6± Kasparov − Bareev, Cannes 2001.
8.h4!? Qb6 9.h5 g5
It's still modern theory. By the way in Dos Ermanos there are a lot of "fresh", quite new opening variations. It's very interesting to look at other strong players, not only the so−called elite from Wijk and Linares.
Another possibility is 9...Bg7 Look at the following curious game: 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.Rxh8+ Bxh8 12.Nb3!? c4 13.Bxc4 dxc4 14.Nbd2 Qa6 15.Ne4 Nd8 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.Bg5+ f6 18.Nh4 Nf8 19.Bh6 fxe5 20.dxe5 Nf7 21.Bxf8+ Kxf8 22.Qf3 1:0 Hodge − Jens, Belgium 1999.
10.Nxg5 cxd4 11.cxd4 Nxd4
Also deserving of attention 11...Qxd4 f.e.: 12.Ndf3 Qb4+ 13.Kf1 Ncxe5 14.Rh4 Qe7 15.Bf4 f6 16.Nh3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3

Nc5 18.Qc2 Bd7 19.Re1 Bb5+ 20.Kg1∞ Plaskett − Adamson, England 1998.

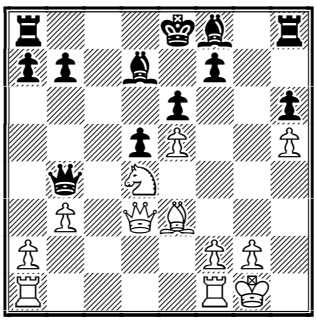
12.Ndf3 Nxf3+ 13.Nxf3



13...h6!?

It's a novelty compared with 13...Nc5 14.Bc2 Qb4+ 15.Kf1 Be7 16.Nd4 Bd7 17.a3 Qc4+ 18.Kg1 Ne4 19.Be3 Qc7 20.Nf3 Bc5∞ Bless − Shaked, Wijk aan Zee 1998. Mikhail Gurevich wants to better protect his black−squares.

14.0-0 Qb4 15.Be3 Nc5 16.Nd4 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Bd7 18.b3



How we can evaluate this position? White has more space, strong pieces in the centre and better development; also the Black pawn structure isn't very good. For compensation Black has two Bishops and a passed pawn on d5, so almost all endgames will be in his favour. Also, the e5−pawn needs protection, but after f2−f4, the e3 Bishop will be a bit limited.

18...Bg7 19.f4 0-0 20.Rf3

White hopes for direct attack...

20...Rfc8

...while Black attacks on the c−file.

21.Rd1 Rc7

Of course, not 21...Rc3? 22.Qd2 and Black can't untie his Rook.

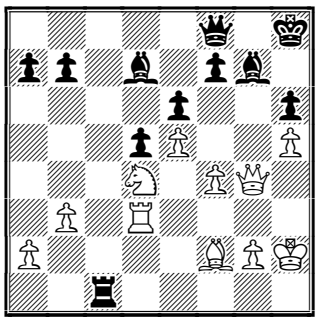
22.Rg3 Kh8 23.Kh2 Rg8 24.Bf2 Rgc8

I think that the position is approximately equal now.

25.Qe2 Rc1

It's in Black's favour to exchange one pair of Rooks.

26.Qg4 Qf8 27.Rxc1 Rxc1 28.Rd3



28...f6?

Why? Maybe Black is a little better but not enough for such a harsh approach.

29.Nxe6 Bxe6 30.Qxe6 fxe5 31.Rxd5

Maybe Black underestimated this move?

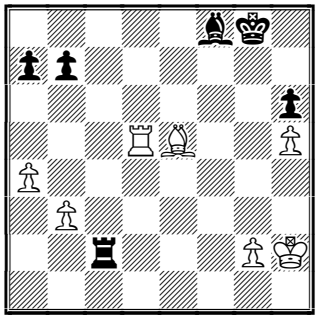
31...Rc2 32.Bh4

32.Bg3 exf4 33.Bh4 was also good for White.

32...Qxf4+ 33.Bg3 Qf6 34.Qe8+ Qf8

34...Kh7 35.Rd8+−

35.Qxf8+ Bxf8 36.Bxe5+ Kg8 37.a4



The endgame is very difficult for Black not only because of his opponent's extra pawn, but also in view of the high activity of all White's pieces.

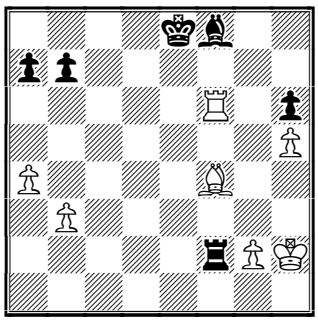
37...Kf7 38.Bf4

38.Rb5!?

38...Ke6 39.Re5+ Kd7 40.Rf5 Ke8

Or 40...Ke7 41.Rb5 b6 42.Bb8+−

41.Rf6 Rf2



The bishop ending after 41...Rc6 42.Rxc6 bxc6 43.Kg3 is lost for Black.

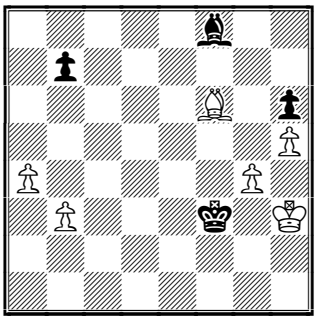
42.Bg5!?

And even this endgame − with better pawn structure for Black − is very difficult for him.

42...Rxf6 43.Bxf6 Kf7 44.Bd4 Ke6?

I don't understand this move also. Why give up a pawn?

45.Bxa7 Kf5 46.Kh3 Kg5 47.g4 Kf4 48.Bd4 Ke4 49.Bf6 Kf3



50.g5 hxg5 51.Bxg5 Ke4 52.Kg4 Kd3 53.Kf5 Kc3 54.Kg6 Kxb3 55.Kf7

It wasn't the best of days for Mikhail Gurevich, of course, but the game is rather interesting − especially the opening.. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.doshermanas.net/festival-2001/
http://www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/
http://www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
http://www.sah-rijeka.hr/t-g05/
http://www.braingames.net/event2.php
http://www.philchess.com.ph

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-171 27th April 2001

Krasenkov overtakes Rajabov …

There was only one decisive game in the penultimate 8th Round of the XVI category Ciudad de Dos Hermanas – Ivan Sokolov beat the outsider Mikhail Krasenkov with White and overtook Teimur Rajabov. It's interesting that in the 9th Round Sokolov and Rajabov will play each other and the winner can gain 50 percentage points. But independently of the result of this game we can say even now that 14-year old Teimur Rajabov more than convincingly confirms his high class. Because it's my last report before a small holiday I want to congratulate CT-readers Teimur and his father (and coach) Boris on a worthy outcome in such a strong tournament and wish him new successes and victories in elite-events!

Results of the 8th Round:
Almasi – Dreev **½:½**
M. Gurevich – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Illescas Cordoba – Smirin **½:½**
Azmaiparashvili – Rajabov **½:½**
I. Sokolov – Krasenkov **1:0**

Standing after the 8th Round:
1-3. Dreev, Smirin**,** Illescas Cordoba – 5 points
4-5. Almasi, Azmaiparashvili – 4½
6-7. M. Gurevich, Vallejo Pons – 4
8-9. Rajabov, I. Sokolov – 3½
10. Krasenkov – 1

Pairings for the last, 9th Round:
Krasenkov – Almasi
Rajabov – I. Sokolov
Smirin – Azmaiparashvili
Vallejo Pons – Illescas Cordoba
Dreev – M. Gurevich

Seven players shared first place in the Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup in Dubai, UAE. It is interesting that six of them played each other in the last round and made short draws and only GM **Pavel Kotsur** won his last game with Black in 23 moves *(see our annotated game section).*
Final standing:
1-7. Asrian, Ehlvest, Alexandrov, Minasian, Motylev, Vladimirov, Kotsur – 6½ points out of 9
8-17. Ermenkov, Shariyazdanov, Fedorov, Kobalija, Pigusov, Sturua, Sorokin, Odeev, Annageldyev, Volzhin – 6 etc.

Elena Sedina, Inna Gaponenko and Ketino Arakhamia-Grant shared 1-3 places after the 5th Round of the 2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship in Warsaw, Poland. There are 6 rounds and tie-break ahead, all can changed, but on a half-way we would like to note unsound start of members of Russian Olympic team Alisa Galliamova and Svetlana Matveeva – they have only 50 percents now. I wish them an improvement in their tournament situation as soon as possible!

Some results of the 5th Round:
Sedina - Skripchenko-Lautier **½:½**
Arakhamia-Grant – Kosteniuk **1:0**
Hunt – Gaponenko **0:1**
Graf-Mamedova – Prudnikova **½:½**
Kovalevskaya – Danielian **1:0**
Dworakowska – Stefanova **½:½**
Zhukova – Radziewicz **½:½**
Kiseleva – Khurtsidze **½:½**
Ionescu-Brandis – Bojkovic **0:1**
N. Kosintseva – Stepovaia **1:0**
Foisor – Korbut **1:0**
Sudakova - Galianina-Ryjanova **0:1**
Chelushkina – Popova **1:0**
Polovnikova – Dimitrijevic **1:0**
S. Cherednichenko – Shumiakina **½:½**
Kononenko – Olarasu **½:½**

Standing after the 5th Round:

1-3. Sedina, Gaponenko, Arakhamia-Grant – 4½ points
4-13. Skripchenko-Lautier, Foisor, Prudnikova, Polovnikova, Graf-Mamedova, Galianina-Ryjanova, Kovalevskaya, Bojkovic, Cheluschkina, N. Kosintseva – 4 etc.

Top boards of the 6th round (23 participants have 3½ points):
Gaponenko – Sedina
Bojkovic - Arakhamia-Grant
Galianina-Ryjanova – Kovalevskaya
Skripchenko-Lautier – Chelushkina
Prudnikova – Polovnikova
Graf-Mamedova – Foisor
Peptan - N. Kosintseva
Stefanova – Paehtz
Stjazhkina – Zhukova
Khurtsidze – Dworakowska
Mkrtchian – Kahiani-Gersinska
Radziewicz – Vasilevich
Olarasu – Hunt
Kosteniuk – T. Kosintseva
Shumiakina – Moser
Grabuzova – Kiseleva
Danielian - S. Cherednichenko
Lagvilava – Kononenko

Sole leader Ognen Cvitan lost to IM Filip Ljubicic in the 8th Round of the VII category round-robin tournament in Rijeka, Croatia, and was overtaken by Faruk Bistric. Both leaders now have 6 points and will play each other in the last Round.
3. Rukavina – 5
4-5. Zaja, Ljubicic – 4½ etc.

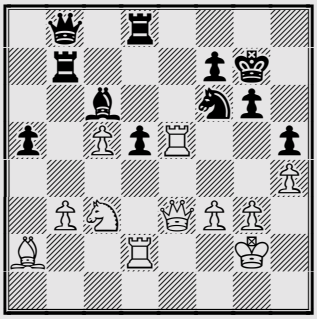
At last Deep Fritz celebrated his first victory over Deep Junior – in the 8th game of their 24-games match in Cadaqués, Spain. But before that it lost the first five and drew the next two so the total score is 6:2 in Deep Junior's favour. Today I decided to look at the machine's games and was amazed by #4. Junior has 2 Rooks and a pawn vs. Fritz's only Rook. Fritz didn't want to resign or forgot to do it. And what did Junior do? I suspect, it decided to reach a theoretical winning 5-pieces position from it's endgame database and… sacrificed a Rook! But Fritz has the same database and it didn't want to grab the Rook; Junior insists, Fritz refuses! But forces were unequal and in 4 or 5 moves Junior forced it's opponent to take a gift and after that realised it's extra pawn. Really it's chess of the future! ☺

http://www.braingames.net/event2.php

♘♘♘

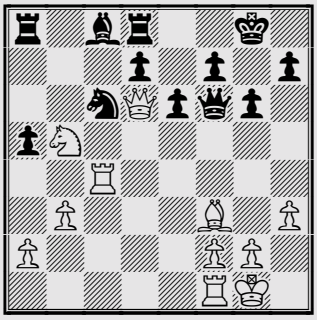
Tactical Quiz

(1) Chasovnikova, E. – Ubiennyh, E.
Kazan (Russia ch girls under 20), 2001



Black to play

(2) Zimina, O. – Melnikova, Y.
Kazan (Russia ch girls under 20), 2001



White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

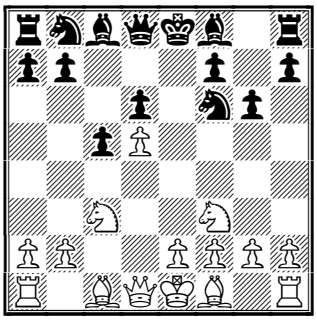
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

S Safin (2504) − P Kotsur (2576)

Dubai Dubai UAE (9), 04.2001 A64

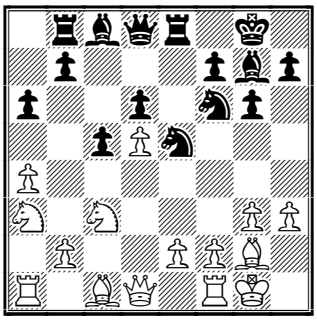
Pavel Kotsur from Kazakhstan is a very strong−willed player, he quite often wins decisive games. For example he beat GM Yuri Balashov (also with Black) in the last round of theGeller Memorial in Moscow a month ago and took clear first.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5!? 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6



Benony system − choice of brave and self confident people!

7.g3 Bg7 8.Bg2 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 Re8 11.Nd2 Nbd7 12.h3 Rb8 13.Nc4 Ne5 14.Na3



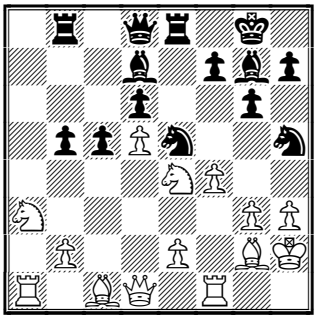
14...Bd7!?

Quite a rare move. Main alternative 14...Nh5 was exploited in the following famous game: 15.e4 Rf8 16.Kh2 f5 17.f4 b5 18.axb5 axb5 19.Naxb5 fxe4 20.Bxe4 Bd7 21.Qe2 Qb6 22.Na3 Rbe8∞ Korchnoi − Kasparov, Lucerne (Ol) 1982. By the way this is the first game (not Kasparov − Shirov from Wijk aan Zee 2001, as Kasparov claim), in which Kasparov didn't shake his opponent's hand before game. But it wasn't his will then but Soviet officials − Korchnoi was than persona non grata for Soviet peoples.

15.f4 Nh5 16.Kh2

It's very dangerous to grab a piece, because the White King is too weak, for example: 16.fxe5 Bxe5 17.g4 (17.Ne4 f5 18.Ng5 Nxg3 19.Nc4 Nxe2+ 20.Kh1 Ng3+ 21.Kg1 Bd4+ 22.Kh2 Nxf1+ 23.Qxf1 b5↑ Ginting − Antonio, Salonika (Ol) 1988) 17...Ng3 18.Nc4 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Bxg4 20.Qd3 Nxe2+ 21.Kh2 Nxc1 22.Qc2 Be2 23.Rf4 Nd3 24.Re4 Rxe4 25.Bxe4 Nf4 0:1 Saeed − Norwood, England 1982; In one of his previous games Safin played here 16.Ne4 Bf5 17.Kh2 Bxe4 18.Bxe4 Nc4 19.Bxg6 Nxg3 20.Kxg3 Ne3 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Bxe3 Rxe3+ 23.Rf3 Rxf3+ 24.Kxf3± Safin − Van Helvoort, Netherland 1998

16...b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Ne4



18...b4!?

Only this move is a theoretical novelty compare with 18...Bf5 19.Nd2 Nc4 20.Naxc4 bxc4 21.Nxc4 Rb4 22.Na5 Rd4 23.Qe1 Qe7 24.e3 Bd7 25.Nc6± Safin − Dowden, Singapore 1995

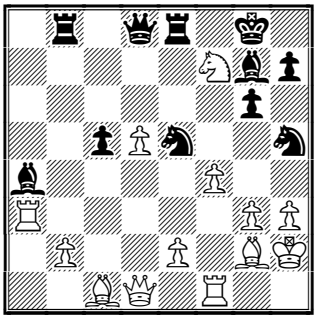
19.Nxd6

Only way if White pretends for advantage.

19...bxa3 20.Rxa3 Ba4!

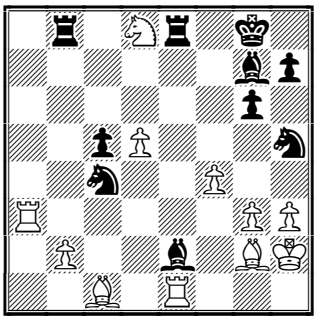
It's a point of computer (I suspect) home preparation.

21.Nxf7?



In such a sharp position the first miscalculation is fatal. Better was

21.Rxa4 Qxd6 22.g4 (22.e4!?; 22.fxe5? Bxe5 23.Bf4 Bxf4 24.gxf4 Rxb2→) 22...Nxf4!? 23.Bxf4 Rxb2∞ **21...Bxd1 22.Nxd8 Bxe2 23.Re1 Nc4!**



Maybe this game shows the depth of modern home preparation, maybe something else... **0-1**

Answers to Quiz

(1) 34...Ng4! 35.Qd4 Rb4 36.Rxd5+ Rxd4 37.R5xd4 Rxd4 38.Rxd4 Qe5 0-1

(2) 24.Nc7 Ra7 [24...Rb8 25.Nd5 Qb2 26.Ne7+±] **25.Nd5 Qe5 26.Ne7+ Kg7 27.Rxc6 Qxd6 28.Rxd6 Re8** [28...Bb7 29.Nc6+−] **29.Nxc8 Rxc8 30.Rfd1 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.doshermanas.net/festival-2001/
http://www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/
http://www.iranchess.com/dubaiopen/
http://www.sah-rijeka.hr/t-g05/
http://www.braingames.net/event2.php
http://www.philchess.com.ph

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-172 28th April 2001

Dreev & Smirin win Dos Hermanas

Alexey Dreev (Russia) and **Ilya Smirin** (Israel) shared 1st place at the XVI category ***Ciudad de Dos Hermanas*** – they both drew in the last round and scored 5½ points out of 9 games. **Dreev**, who started the tournament with a loss, showed a great performance in the other game and was proclaimed winner of the event.

A home player **Miguel Illescas Cordoba** was also one of the leaders but he was conclusively beaten by young compatriot **Francisco Vallejo Pons** – they both, as well as **Zoltan Almasi** (Hungary) and **Zurab Azmaiparashvili** (Georgia) shared third place. 14 years old Teimour Rajabov held on a difficult ending against Ivan Sokolov and finished his first super-tournament with a respectable –1 score.

Results of the last 9th Round:
Krasenkov – Almasi **½:½**
Rajabov – I. Sokolov **½:½**
Smirin – Azmaiparashvili **½:½**
Vallejo Pons – Illescas Cordoba **1:0**
Dreev – M. Gurevich **½:½**

Final standings:
1-2. Dreev, Smirin – 5½ points
3-6. Illescas Cordoba, Vallejo Pons, Almasi, Azmaiparashvili – 5
6-7. M. Gurevich – 4½
8-9. Rajabov, I. Sokolov – 4
10. Krasenkov – 1½

Our congratulations to the winners and best wishes to all the participants of this attractive event!

There are already 5 leaders after the 6th Round of the ***2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship*** in Warsaw, Poland – **Elena Sedina** (UKR), **Inna Gaponenko** (UKR), **Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant** (GEO), **Ekaterina Kovalevskaya** (RUS) and **Almira Skripchenko-Lautier** (MDA). 12 players are in chase.

Some results of the 6th Round:
Gaponenko – Sedina **½:½**
Bojkovic – Arakhamia-Grant **½:½**
Galianina-Ryjanova – Kovalevskaya **0:1**
Skripchenko-Lautier – Chelushkina **1:0**
Prudnikova – Polovnikova **½:½**
Graf-Mamedova – Foisor **½:½**
Peptan – N. Kosintseva **½:½**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-5. Sedina, Gaponenko, Arakhamia-Grant, Kovalevskaya, Skripchenko-Lautier – 5 points
6-17. Stefanova, Zhukova, Bojkovic Prudnikova, Foisor, Kosteniuk, Polovnikova, Grabuzova, Danielian, Graf-Mamedova, Mkrtchian, N. Kosintseva – 4½ etc.

The next 7th Round will be played the day after tomorrow's rest day.

Top boards of the 7th Round:
Kovalevskaya (5) – Gaponenko (5)
Arakhamia-Grant (5) – Skripchenko-Lautier (5)
Sedina (5) – Stefanova (4½)
Zhukova (4½) – Grabuzova (4½)
Polovnikova (4½) – Bojkovic (4½)
N.Kosintseva (4½) – Prudnikova (4½)
Foisor (4½) – Danielian (4½)
Kosteniuk (4½) – Graf-Mamedova (4½)
Vasilevich (4) – Mkrtchian (4½)

Vietnamese players are totally dominating both Men's and Women's ***Zonal tournaments in Manila, Philippines.***

Standings after the 5th Round:
Men's:
1-2. Dao Thien Hai (VIE), Nguyen Anh Dung (VIE) – 4 points

3-4. U.Adianto (INA), A. Rogelio (PHI) – 3½ etc.

Women's:
1-2. Hoang Thanh Trang (VIE), Nguyen Thi Thanh An (VIE) – 4 pts
3-5. Tran Thi Kim Loan (VIE), Vo Hong Phuong (VIE), Le Kiu Thien Kim (VIE) – 3½ etc.

In the last round of the VII category round robin tournament in ***Rijeka***, Croatia GM **Ognjen Cvitan** (CRO) won the battle for first place against IM **Faruk Bistric** (BIH) with black and won the tournament.
Bistric, together with IM **Josip Rukavina** (CRO), shared second place.
Results of the last 9th Round:
Bistric – Cvitan **0:1**
Rukavina – Vucic **1:0**
Ljubicic – Zaja **½:½**
Mandekic – Inkiov **½:½**
Muslija – Velikov **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Cvitan – 7 points
2-3. Rukavina, Bistric – 6
4-5. Ljubicic, Zaja – 5
6. Inkiov – 4½
7. Velikov – 4
8. Vucic – 3½
9. Mandekic – 2½
10. Muslija – 1½

Congratulations to all the winners!

Mark Heidenfeld sends the following report from the Sheikh Rashed Bin Hamdan Cup in Dubai, UAE.

"Correction to CT-171 Evgenij Ermenkov also shared first prize.
(**1-8.** Asrian, Ehlvest, Alexandrov, Minasian, Motylev, Vladimirov, Kotsur, Ermenkov – 6½ points out of 9)
He had an amazing tournament losing first round to a small boy and then winning 5 games in row (round 4-8). Winner on tiebreak was Karen Asrian who was presented the Rashid bin Hamdan al Maktoum cup. For the closing ceremony the prize-giving was held by the Sheik himself (Rashid) who is a boy of maybe 12 years.

General impression: probably one of the best opens ever. Excellently organised (venue, hotel, shuttle service, bulletins, etc.) with a great love of detail. Things like free drinks, chocolate bars every day, and so on. There was daily 10-15 minute TV coverage and lots of players were interviewed. This was not only my opinion … I even heard some of the Russian grandmasters praise the organisers.

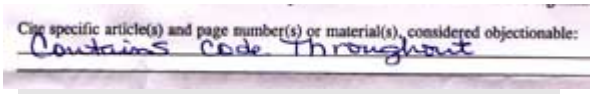
♘♘♘

Dangerous Openings

Well-known writer of many excellent chess books, Eric Schiller is honest enough to send us the following warning about their possible harmful effects

The censorship department of the **Oregon Department of Corrections Snake River Correctional Institute** recently stopped the book "Standard Chess Openings" at the prison gates for the following reasons …

"Contains material that threatens or is detrimental to the security, safety, health, good order, or discipline of the facility, inmate rehabilitation or facilitates criminal activity"



♘♘♘

Greece to Host the 2001 World Junior Chess Championship: press release from Greek Chess Online - http://www.greekchess.com
The Municipality of Peristeri in Athens, Greece will organise the 2001 World Junior Chess Championship for boys & girls up to 20 years old.
The games will be played during August 16-29 in the Exhibition Centre of

Peristeri, Athens. It is the first major FIDE event to be organised in Greece after the 1998 Zonal Tournament 1.5 in Panormo, Crete. It is also the first major chess event which will be organised in Athens, the Host City of the 2004 Olympic Games. The games will be covered through the Internet by Greek Chess Online, the leading Greek Chess Portal http://www.greekchess.com/pagosmio - the official website. The official invitation will be soon delivered to all federations.

Sincerely,
IM George Mastrokoukos
Greek Chess Federation Presidential Board Member
http://www.greekchess.com - All about chess in Greece...

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

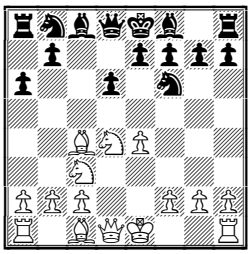
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

F Bistric (2454) − O Cvitan (2526)

5. VM Rijeka 2001 (9), 2001 B86

This was the decisive game of the tournament − both players were heading the field and met each other in the last round.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4

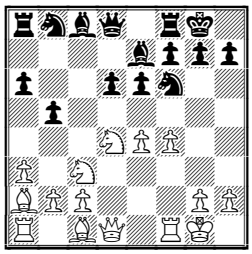


One of the sharpest approaches to counter the Naidorf Sicilian, one of the favourites of the 11th World Champion Robert James Fischer.

6...e6 7.a3

A little surprise. 7.Bb3 is a common option. The text move is less ambitious and it leads to more quiet play − White loses a tempo for the move a2−a3 but secures his knight c3, preventing ...b5−b4.

7...Be7 8.Ba2 0-0 9.0-0 b5 10.f4



10...Nbd7

10...Bb7 is played more often, White can choose between the straightforward 11.f5 (and the quiet 11.Qe2)

11.Qf3

The Immediate 11.f5 e5 12.Nde2 was also tried. Black can achieve a good play by 12...Bb7 13.Ng3 Rc8 Nikitin − Tal, Kislovodsk 1966 or Klovsky − Katalymov, Riga 1975.

11...Bb7 12.f5 e5 13.Nde2

White opened the diagonal for the Sozin bishop but Black's pieces are very good and he can organise good counterplay.

13...a5!? 14.Ng3

14.g4 does not bother Black very much: 14...b4 15.g5 bxc3 16.gxf6 Nxf6 17.Nxc3 Rc8 18.Be3 Rxc3! 19.bxc3 Bxe4 20.Qg3 d5↑ with better chances, Orendy − Szabo, Budapest 1959.

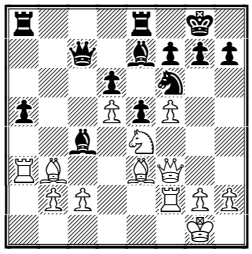
14...b4 15.Nd5 15...Nxd5

This capture is a novelty! 15...Bxd5!? 16.Bxd5 Nxd5 17.exd5 Nf6 was also good for Black, Crawley − Gallagher, London 1986.

16.exd5 Nf6 17.Be3 Re8

...e5−e4 is on the agenda.

18.Ne4 Ba6 19.Rf2 Qc7 20.Bb3 bxa3 21.Rxa3 Bc4

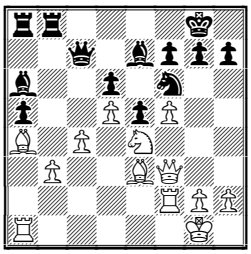


A typical Sicilian situation − if White does not seize the initiative on the kingside then Black achieves comfortable play on the opposite wing. However, here White can strengthen his pawn structure.

22.Ba4! Red8

The immediate 22...Reb8!? deserved attention.

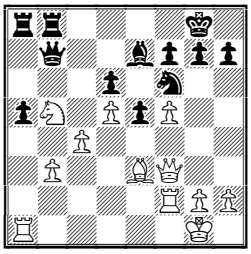
23.b3 Ba6 24.c4 Rdb8 25.Ra1



25...Bc8!

The only way to loosen White's queenside pawn structure is an exchange of the a4 bishop.

26.Nc3 Bd7 27.Bb5 Bxb5 28.Nxb5 Qb7



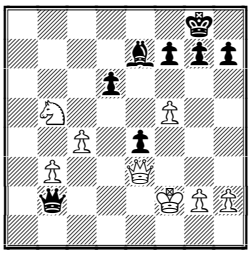
29.Rfa2?!

A hasty decision, perhaps White missed the following resource. 29.Rd2! was more to the point − White secures his pawn structure and his chances look at least not worse.

29...e4 30.Qf2 Nxd5! 31.Rxa5

The exchange favours Black − he liquidated a strong central pawn while his a5−pawn was weak. Yet, concrete play is continuing and perhaps White simply underestimated Black's resources in some of the variations.

31...Nxe3 32.Rxa8 Rxa8 33.Rxa8+ Qxa8 34.Qxe3 Qa1+ 35.Kf2 Qb2+



36.Qe2?

A dubious decision. 36.Kf1 was better but Black kept the initiative by 36...d5! with idea to meet 37.cxd5?! by 37...Qb1+ 38.Kf2 Qc2+ followed by ...♙c5.

36...Qe5!

Of course, not 36...Qxb3? 37.Qxe4

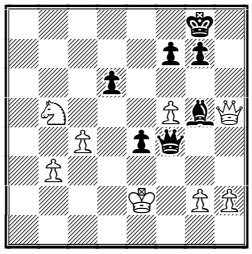
37.Qg4?

Another mistake in the last moves before the time control. White was probably forced to give up the f5−pawn by 37.Qa2!? Qxf5+ 38.Ke2 obtaining counterplay − Black's bishop cannot get into play with such great effect as in the game.

37...h5?

The direct 37...d5! was winning but Black was probably also under time pressure.

38.Qxh5 Qf4+ 39.Ke2 Bg5

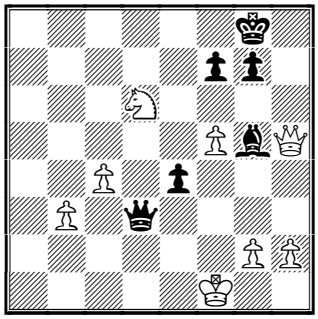


A tempting idea but actually Black's threats are not so strong as they look.

40.Nxd6?

After the cool 40.g3! Qd2+ 41.Kf1 White seemed to be okay and perhaps Black had nothing more than perpetual check by 41...Qc1+= and so on. The move 40 sometimes brings a lot of disappointment.

40...Qd2+ 41.Kf1 Qd3+!



That's it − White's queen has to leave Black's bishop in peace.

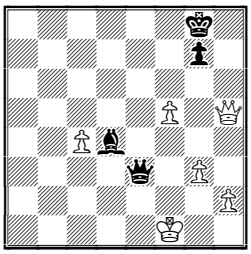
42.Qe2 Qxd6 43.Qxe4 Qd1+ 44.Kf2 Qxb3 45.Qe8+ Kh7 46.Qxf7

Black has the only pawn but the combined threats of the queen and the bishop are pretty strong.

46...Qe3+ 47.Kf1 Qf4+ 48.Kg1 Qe3+ 49.Kf1 Bf6! 50.Qh5+ Kg8 51.g3?

This loses instantly. White could keep defending by 51.Qe2 Qf4+ 52.Ke1 (52.Qf2 Qxc4+) 52...Bc3+ 53.Kd1 Qxf5 54.Kc1 with drawing chances.

51...Bd4



White resigned as he loses the queen. Our congratulations to Ognjen Cvitan once again! 51...Bd4 52.Kg2 (52.Qe2 Qg1#) 52...Qf2+ 53.Kh3 Qf1+ 54.Kg4 Qe2+-+ **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.doshermanas.net/festival-2001/
http://www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
http://www.sah-rijeka.hr/t-g05/
http://www.braingames.net/event2.php
http://www.philchess.com.ph
http://www.chessworks.com/schiller/schiller.htm

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CT-173, 29th April 2001

Kasparov & Kramnik Shine in Zürich

GM Short

There was a qualification day at the *Viktor Korchnoi 70th Birthday Tournament*, which took place in Zürich, Switzerland.

The time control is 25 minutes per game without increment. All the participants were divided into two groups, headed by the World Number One Garry Kasparov and the World Champion Vladimir Kramnik – they both proved their superiority with ease.

Group A final standings:
1. Kasparov 4½ points
2. Piket – 4
3-5. Short, Unzicker, Pelletier – 2
6. Forster – ½

Group B final standings:
1. Kramnik – 3½
2-5. Spassky, Svidler, Korchnoi, Hug – 2½
6. Jenni – 1½

The four best players in each group qualify for the Quarterfinals. In the case of tiebreaks there will be 2 blitzgames (10 min), then another 2 blitzgames (5 min) and if the score is still even there will be one sudden death game in which white gets 6 min, black – 5 min and black will need a draw to claim a match victory.

The tournament will be completed tomorrow – we are looking forward to the Kramnik – Kasparov confrontation in the Final…

Vietnamese players are heading both Men's and Women's ***Zonal tournaments*** in Manila, Philippines.

Standings after the 7th Round:
Men's:
1-2. Nguyen Anh Dung (VIE), Dao Thien Hai (VIE) – 5½ points
3. Utut Adianto (INA) – 5
4. Bong Villamayor (PHI) – 4½ etc.

Women's:
1-2. Nguyen Thi Thanh An (VIE), Hoang Thanh Trang (VIE) – 6 points
3-4. Tran Thi Kim Loan (VIE), Vo Hong Phuong (VIE) – 4½ etc.

GM Vladimir Georgiev (Bulgaria) keeps the lead after the 6th Round of the IX category round robin tournament in ***Cutro***, Italy. GM Igor Miladinovic (Greece) and IM Giulio Borgo (Italy) are sharing second place with 3½ points but after 5 games – there are 11 players in the event so some players already had the day-off.

Results of the 6th Round:
Skembris – Georgiev ½:½
Borgo – Halkias 1:0
Chatalbashev – Ristic 1:0
Ortega – Miladinovic ½:½
Drasko – Aleksic ½:½
Pegorari – free

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. V.Georgiev – 4 points out of 6
2-3. Borgo, Chatalbashev – 3½/5
4. Ortega – 3½/6
5-7. Skembris, Pegorari, Miladinovic – 2½/5
8. Halkias – 2½/6
9-10. Ristic, Drasko – 2/6
11. Aleksic – 1½/5

The 4th Tanta Open finished in Egypt. GM Hannes Stefansson (Iceland) and IM Azer Mirzoev (Azerbaijan) shared first place with 6½ points out of 9 games. GMs Vasil Spasov (Bulgaria) and Alexander Fominykh (Russia) finished half a point behind.

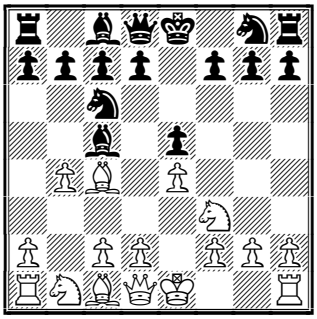
Final standings:
1-2. Stefansson, Mirzoev – 6½ points
3-4. V.Spasov, Fominykh – 6
5-10. Komarov, Khamrakulov, Dochev, Ikonnikov, Jirovsky, Kalod – 5½…

Thanks for Mark Crowther (**TWIC**) for the information and congratulations to the winners!

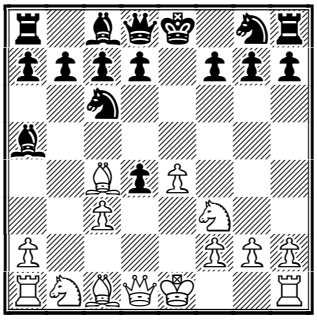
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

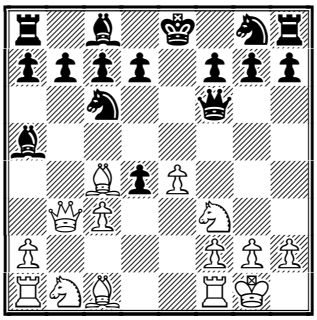
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
N Short (2676) − J Piket (2628)
Korchnoi Birthday Gp A Zurich SUI (4), 28.04.2001 C52
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.b4!?



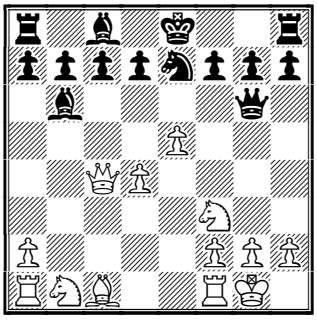
According to the leading expert of the old Evans Gambit GM Evgeny Sveshnikov, it is really dangerous for black − we considered his excellent win over no other than Nigel Short in CT−97.
4...♗xb4 5.c3 ♗a5
In the above mentioned game Short preferred 5...♗e7 6.d4 ♘a5 7.♘xe5 ♘xc4 8.♘xc4 d5 9.exd5 ♕xd5 10.♘e3 ♕d8± , keeping a slightly worse position. Jeroen Piket prefers the most principled way.
6.d4 exd4



7.♕b3
The immediate 7.0-0 is the more common option.
7...♕f6 8.0-0



8...♗b6!?
This looks promising. Other continuations could have transposed to the main lines after 7. 0-0.
9.e5 ♕g6 10.cxd4
10.♗b2 is dubious, after 10...d3 (10...♘a5!?) 11.♘bd2 ♘a5 White could hardly hope to compensate for his material losses as the centre is too closed, De Riviere − Laroche, Paris 1856.
10...♘a5 11.♕a4 ♘xc4 12.♕xc4 ♘e7



Black can be satisfied with the

exchange of such a strong bishop but he's not completely solved his problem of lack of development.

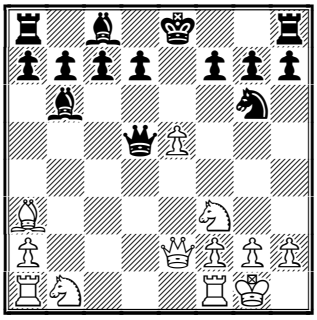
13.♗a3

A new idea. The game H. Pedersen − B. Georgiev, Copenhagen 1989 continued by 13.a4 c6 14.♗a3 ♗d8 15.♘c3 0-0 16.♖fe1 ♖e8∞ with unclear position, where White has sufficient compensation for the pawn.

13...♕e6 14.d5?!

This is maybe too much, even for rapid chess. A simple retreat 14.♕d3!? deserved attention, with good compensation for the pawn.

14...♕xd5 15.♕e2 ♘g6



Now Black is not so worried about his king − everything is protected in his camp and it looks impossible for White to break quickly due to the lack of the pawns he recently sacrificed.

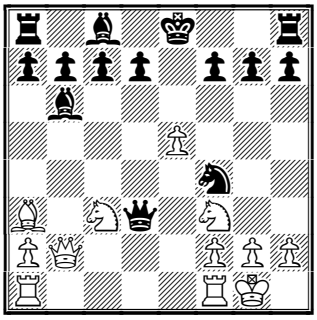
16.♘c3 ♘f4?!

16...♕a5!? 17.♕b2 (17.♗b2?! 0-0) 17...♘f4 looked more natural.

17.♕b2?!

Missing a good chance to obtain compensation for the pawn by 17.♘xd5! ♘xe2+ 18.♔h1 c6 (18...♗a5 19.♖ae1) 19.♖ae1! cxd5 20.♖xe2⩲

17...♕d3



Probably not the best square to retreat to. 17...♕c4!? seemed to be strong, preventing ♕b4 and keeping in mind not only the same ...♕c3 but also ...♘g2!?

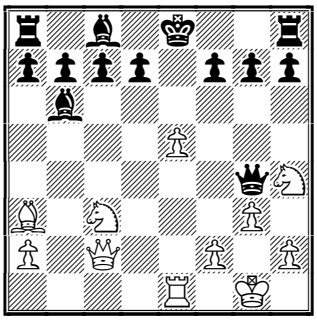
18.♖ae1

This is interesting − White sacrifices the exchange but swaps a very strong knight. But maybe he's just missed it?! By playing 18.♕b4!? ♘g6 (18...c5!? 19.♕xf4 ♕xc3 20.♕a4⩲ followed ♖ac1) 19.♖ad1⩲ White could have got all his pieces into play and maintain the initiative.

18...♕g6

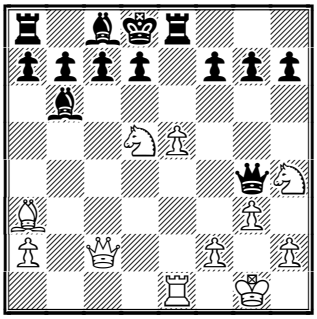
With two ideas − ...♕g2 and ...♘d3.

19.♘h4 ♕g4 20.g3 ♘d3 21.♕c2 ♘xe1 22.♖xe1



The position is still dangerous for Black as he is too late in development. Yet, a big material advantage makes his life a little bit easier.

22...♔d8!? 23.♘d5 ♖e8



23...♕e6!? deserved attention but anyway it was not so easy to extinguish White's initiative.

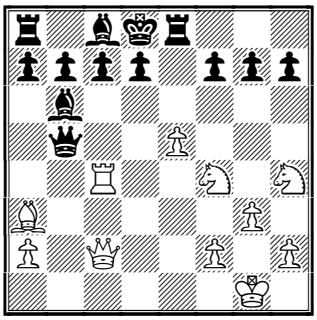
24.♖e4?

This is wrong. One of the bad things of playing without material is that any inaccurate move will spoil the whole game. 24.♗c5! was correct, eliminating a very important defender. Perhaps Black should have already agreed to the move repetition by

A) 24...♖e6 25.♗xb6 cxb6 (25...axb6 26.♕xc7+ ♔e8 27.♕c2) 26.♕xh7∞;

B) 24...♗xc5 25.♕xc5 c6 26.♕a5+ b6 27.♘xb6 axb6 28.♕xb6+ ♔e7 29.♕c5+ ♔d8 30.♕b6+= with perpetual check.

24...♕e6 25.♘f4 ♕c6 26.♖c4 ♕b5

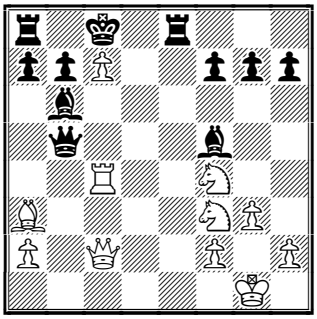


It seems that Black is playing only with the queen but actually White's pieces are losing their energy, placing themselves in the wrong positions.

27.♘f3 d5!

Excellent!

28.exd6 ♗f5 29.dxc7+ ♔c8



Having sacrificed a couple of pawns, Black has activated both the bishop and the rook. His king is also quite safe.

30.♕c1

30.♕c3 was more stubborn but after 30...♗e4! Black keeps control over the position.

30...♕b1

The exchange of the queens brings Black relief from the attack.

31.♘g5?

A blunder but the ending should have been lost anyway.

31...♖e1+

White resigned.

0-1

Recommended Web sites:

www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
www.braingames.net/event2.php
queen.chessclub.com/philchess/2001zt.htm
www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01cutro.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CT-174, 30th April 2001

Kramnick Wins!

The World Champion beat the World's highest graded player today at the Viktor Korchnoi 70th Birthday Tournament, in Zürich, **Switzerland.** He held a draw with Black with yet another Berlin Wall, and won with White. www.kasparov.com

Focus on Seirawan

by Alexander Baburin

Chess Today is always packed with fresh information, but today I would like to take a short break from current tournament news. Instead we will look at chess and its politics, as I would like to offer to your attention my interview with Yasser Seirawan - one of the most prominent figures on the American chess scene. Yasser, now 41, has been in professional chess for two decades and is a well-respected player, author and entrepreneur. He has strong views on chess and is prepared to stand by them - for example he refused to play in the last FIDE World Championship, as he does not agree with FIDE's policies on many issues. In March he did the same when he pulled out of the rapid chess tournament in Cannes, patronised by FIDE.

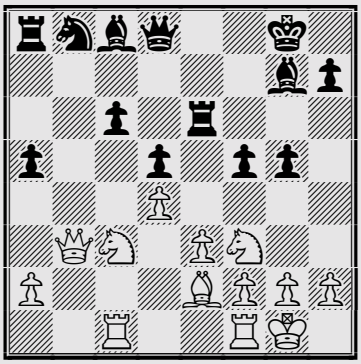
Many have probably seen Yasser's dispute with Valery Salov on the Net. I must say that I share Seirawan's position in most cases and believe that he is one of the most reasonable people on the chess scene. Besides, I have been his fan since I was a teenager!

I hope that you will enjoy the interview, but first I would like to show you a couple of tactical positions:

♘♘♘

Seirawan Quiz *Solutions on p5.*

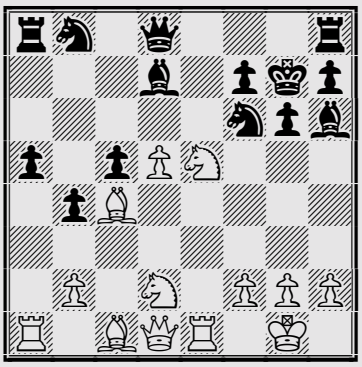
(1) Y Seirawan (2605) – H Ardiansyah (2450)
Indonesia Indonesia (15), 1983 [D91]
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗g5 ♘e4 6.cxd5 ♘xg5 7.♘xg5 e6 8.♘f3 exd5 9.e3 0-0 10.b4 c6 11.♕b3 ♖e8 12.♗e2 a5 13.b5 f5 14.0-0 ♖e6 15.♖ac1 g5? 16.bxc6 bxc6



White to play

Black's pieces are not properly developed yet, but he already started aggressive play on the kingside. The punishment is swift and exemplary

(2) Y Seirawan (2580) – D Gurevich (2505)
USA–ch, 1986 [A57]
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.♘f3 b4 5.a3 a5 6.♘bd2 g6 7.e4 d6 8.axb4 cxb4 9.c5 dxc5 10.♗b5+ ♗d7 11.♗c4 e6 12.0-0 exd5 13.exd5 ♗h6 14.♖e1+ ♔f8 15.♘e5 ♔g7



White to play

White sacrificed a pawn early in the opening and has a big lead in development. Seirawan proves his advantage in style

♘♘♘

Player's Profile

Interview with Yasser Seirawan, 12th March 2001, Las Vegas

Photo from : www.insidechess.com

Yasser, I know it is quite late and you had a long day at the National Open, but hope we can cover a few things. First, next weekend a match between USA and China will take place in Seattle. What is the idea of this match?

- This match a brainchild of Dato Tan Chin Nam, who is famous in Asian circles for sponsoring many chess events, including the Chin Nam Trophy Cup tournaments in China. He supported chess Kuala Lumpur for many years, decades in fact. I saw him about two years ago in Las Vegas and he said: "Yasser, it would be wonderful if we could organise a match between China and the United States on many boards." We started to make arrangements to have the match in San Francisco. At that time Dato was working with the World Chess Network in developing an online site and at the time the site was not ready to stage the match. Later I was working with the Settle Chess Foundation in organising the US Chess Championship and the SCF President, Erik Anderson, said to me: "Yasser, we have to have another event, apart from the US Championship." I told him about Dato's idea and he got very enthusiastic. It worked out even better because the current Governor of Washington State - Gary Locke, comes from a Chinese family. Settle is home of companies like Microsoft and Boeing, which do a lot of business with China.

How did it go then?

- This made the match compelling to the potential sponsors. We made an agreement with the Chinese to have this match for 4 years: we will host it in the first and third year, and they will host the match in the second and fourth year. There will be 4 rounds in each match. We play on 10 board with 3 reserves, there will be 40 games in total.

What is your projection for the coming match?

- Frankly, many American players are very optimistic regarding their own chances and think that we will defeat the Chinese team soundly. I express some very serious reservations - Chinese on women's board and junior board outrank us and even on men's boards they are higher rated! Frankly, I think that we are underdogs and if we win the match, I'll be very happy!

I suspect that Chinese women and juniors will give you a hard time!

♦ They might give us a very hard time indeed! But we have hope in Irina Krush - our board one player.

What about the Settle Chess Foundation? Does it have other aspiring plans?

♦ First of all, SCF (www.seattlechessfoundation.com) wants to have a state-of-the-art chess centre in Settle, which would act as a magnet for chess in the State of Washington. The second thing we want to do is to hold international master classes for juniors - when young chess stars from different countries will come to Seattle for study and tuition in summer time. Thirdly, we really would like to create a scholastics curriculum for schools, which could act as a blue-print anywhere - to build up a great deal of materials, so people interested in teaching chess in schools can have it. Finally, we understand that children are motivated by heroes and role-models, and for that reason SCF is keen on organising elite tournaments, such as the US Chess Championship, which we want to build into a $1m event by the end of our 10-year contract with USCF. We do have further ambitions on an international scale - I spoke with some players about even having 'Russia vs. the Rest of the World' match. I would love SCF itself to evolve to the point that we could do something on an extremely grand scale.

How did the Seattle Chess Foundation start?

♦ Erik Anderson, now President of the SCF, was appalled about the fact that the US Chess Championship had been cancelled because of the lack of funds. He immediately started to work. We wanted a group of underwriters and soon people like Scott Oki and Jim Roberts came onboard. With their backing and strong support we had the US Championship fully funded and then began to search out for other underwriters. The underwriters of the SCF pledge themselves to give $100,000 to the Foundation over 4 years. I believe that currently we a dozen of committed underwriters with 4 more people expected to become underwriters soon. We would like to have 20 underwriters. On top of that, because of the prestige of their names and their commitment to what we are trying to do, we've reached out to corporations. And frankly, we have been successful - we have attracted a number of major Seattle companies, including Boeing, ImageX and Starbucks.

What is your opinion on the way chess is going now - with new time control, changes in the system of world championship, etc.?

♦ When you talk about the international chess scene, almost immediately you have to talk about FIDE. Unfortunately, I shocked myself by the fact that I feel completely the odd man out... I don't understand it - I think my values are extremely common sense and reasonable, but almost on every single issue that FIDE has discussions about, I find myself on the other side of equation. For example, I believe that the rating system is an extremely important promotional tool. I think it is ridiculous to use this system as a weapon against the players. And yet for example FIDE refused the Kasparov-Kramnik match, years ago FIDE threw Kasparov and Short from the list - all of this works against the rating system itself. On the issue of the international titles, FIDE seems to think that every federation deserves at least one Grandmaster... I think that FIDE is cheapening the title to the point where being a Grandmaster

means very little - today there is a line-up at every Olympiad of players waiting for it. On the issue of the world championship: chess has a marvellous 120-year tradition of world championships, but it seems to me that the world champion title has been cheapened to a single knockout event. This is ridiculous to my mind... On the issue, for example, of copyright - perhaps this something we want to seriously investigate, but I for one do not want FIDE as a manager collecting the money and telling me "here is your percentage!". On an issue of the freedom of speech, which we hold very dear in America - yet FIDE issued an edict that all journalists should speak not of Alexander Khalifman, FIDE World Champion, but rather as Alexander Khalifman, World Champion. And FIDE would punish journalists who do not comply with that by refusing their journalistic credentials... And on the issue of time controls: unfortunately chess is not very good for TV, but chess is perfect for the Internet. The slow rate of play was perfect for the Internet - let's cater for our audience on the Net. If FIDE wants TV, let's sponsor a rapid chess championship - the games will be over in one hour and TV will be really happy. Keep classical chess the way it is! I think that there are 3 different kinds of chess - blitz, rapid chess and classical chess. And forcing classical chess to become rapid chess makes no sense!

I agree with you entirely on this one - let's see whether TV stations will line up to cover a rapid chess championship. I am afraid they won't... What do you think of the situation when FIDE has become so dependent on one man - Kirsan Ilyumzhinov.

♦ It has been a lot of problems with FIDE... I just want to add something about FIDE World Championship. One myth is that now as we've made chess a sport, it will receive commercial sponsorship. But in my opinion moving the event to Tehran is not an example of commercial sponsorship. This was Tehran paying to improve its image, end of story. I don't see Coca-Cola or even Cesar's Palace sponsoring the championship. I am grateful to Kirsan for all the money that he is spending on chess. But basically he is forcing the world of chess to accept his ideas. He has golden rule - he has gold and gets to make the rules! And there are people who will follow him. But I don't see what he has done, as being positive for chess, its image and prestige. I am sure that all the players, including myself, who were awarded prizes in FIDE championships, are grateful, but at the same I have a very clear feeling that this title, the FIDE title has been cheapened.

What are your aspirations as a player?

♦ First of all, as a player I truly admire the world's elite players, when they are playing. It is absolutely remarkable to see Kasparov's continued success in tournaments. I follow big tournaments with interest and I watched the match in London keenly. As for playing, my rating has been around 2640-2650, so I am in 'no man's land' - my rating is not high enough to get invited to elite tournaments and not low enough to be invited to tournaments where people try to get norms! I am no big fan of open tournaments. For example, I admire the National Open, but it is too tough for professionals here - only a few will make money and many GMs will lose money in the tournament!

You were always very entrepreneurial - publishing Inside Chess magazine, writing, publishing and selling books, etc. Now you have your magazine online (www.insidechess.com). How is that going?

♦ We went to the Web because of economical reasons. It was no longer

economical for us to publish the magazine as a printed magazine. Inside Chess still sell books and software, but sales have been slow, which is unfortunately a common trend in USA. For example, in the past decade USCF was losing about 1,000 members a year. That is 10,000 members paying $40 each - $400,000 lost in membership fees and probably another $400,000 in lost sales, as those people used to buy books, clocks, etc. This is a very negative trend. But fortunately there are two positive trends too - increase in scholastic chess and growth of the Internet. Mind you, this has not materialised in a monetary fashion to the benefit of the registered chess world - it certainly helped chess and the chess audience on the Net will continue to grow. But it is still a question mark of how to moneytise the many chess fans, registered and unregistered, on the Internet.

Talking about Internet, you were involved with www.chess.net - how is that site doing now?

- Unfortunately chess.net fell a victim of what is known as the burst of the dotcom bubble. The site hired me in October 1999 to serve as the President of chess.net, which I did till my contract ran out. When the contract was for renewal, the stock market for Net companies fell dramatically... Chess.net is still there, but it is not promoting itself and it is not trying hard to raise new members. To my mind, Kasparov.com is also suffering because investors for online companies are longer exist now.

Do you see any reversal of fortune in this area?

- I think that the Internet craze was exaggerated, just as the Internet meltdown is exaggerated. The Internet will continue to grow and some companies, perhaps companies like eBay and Yahoo, will be around for many years. And such companies will take a look at chess in a close business model and say "Hey! There are a few million people playing chess on the Internet and we are going to cater for this market, because it makes business sense." I think we will see some drift in that direction in the next six months or so.

But at the moment there is a lot of stuff on the Internet and most of it is free. In my opinion this is hard to sustain, unless chess sites have some sponsor's money to burn, like with KasparovChess. What do you think will happen?

- I believe that Internet will become far more commercial. So far Internet has got a free ride - free from taxes, etc. Napster is an excellent example. But probably soon Napster will become a subscription-based model and Yahoo will become a subscription-based model - because it will make sense for them to do so. Furthermore I don't think that advertising itself is a dead model. Banner advertising for well-targeted audiences will grow. Many sales will take place on the Internet - they double every year and it is not too difficult to realise that in a few years there will be trillions dollars worth of sales. Also, I think merchandising will be different - for example, you will be giving online lecture on Najdorf variation. And as you speak, people will see a special offer - buy this Sicilian Najdorf book, as if you do it right now, it's only $9,95!

Thank you, Yasser, for sharing your views with Chess Today!

- You are welcome!

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1) 17.♘xd5! a4 [17...cxd5 18.♖xc8 ♕xc8 19.♕xd5 ♘a6 20.♘xg5 ♘c7 21.♕xf5+−] **18.♕b6 ♕xd5 19.♗c4 ♕d6 20.♘xg5 f4 21.♕b1 ♘a6 22.♕xh7+ ♔f8 23.exf4 ♖a7 24.♕f5+ 1-0**

(2) 16.♘xf7!! ♔xf7 17.d6+ ♔f8 18.♖e7 ♗e8 19.♘e4! ♗xc1 20.♘xf6 ♗xb2 21.♘xh7+ ♖xh7 22.♕f3+! ♗f7 23.♖xf7+ 1-0

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CT-175, 1st May 2001

Vietnamese Players Dominate in Manila

The players from Vietnam demonstated complete dominance in both the Men's and Women's *Zonal tournaments* in Manila, Philippines. Nguyen Anh Dung parried all winning attempts by **Bong Villamayor** and secured first place with 7 points out of 9 games. **Dao Thien Hai** caught up to Utut Adianto and took the second spot to the World Championship after the tie-break.

The Women's event was convincingly won by **Hoang Thanh Trang** – she scored an excellent 8 points and took the only pass to the World Championship.

***Final standings**:*
Men's:
1. Nguyen Anh Dung (VIE) - 7 pts
2-3. Dao Thien Hai (VIE),
Utut Adianto (INA) **– 6½**
4-7. Bong Villamayor (PHI), Denny Juswanto (PHI), Mark Paragua (PHI), Jayson Gonzales (PHI) – 5½ etc.

Women's:
1. Hoang Thanh Trang (VIE) – 8 pts
2. Nguyen Thi Thanh An (VIE) – 6½
3-6. Tran Thi Kim Loan (VIE), Vo Hong Phuong (VIE), Batceceg (MON), Le Kiu Thien Kim (VIE) – 5½ etc.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to ***Bobby Ang*** for the information.

Yesterday we briefly reported about **Vladimir Kramnik**'s victory in the ***Viktor Korchnoi 70th Birthday Tournament***, which took place in **Zürich**, **Switzerland**.

Now we would like to give more details of this tournament.

Quaterfinals:
Kasparov – Korchnoi **1:0 ½:½**
Unzicker - **Kramnik 0:1 ½:½**
Short – Spassky **1:0 0:1 1:0 ½:½**
Piket – Svidler **1:0 1:0**

Semifinals:
Kasparov – Short **1:0 ½:½**
Piket – **Kramnik ½:½ 0:1**

Match for 3rd place:
Piket – Short **½:½ ½:½**, place shared

Final match:
Kasparov – **Kramnik ½:½ 0:1**

As had been predicted, Vladimir Kramnik and Garry Kasparov met each other in the Final. In the first game Kasparov once again failed to break Black's fortress in the Berlin Defence. The second game started slowly. Kramnik's play in the Queen's Gambit Accepted wasn't very ambitious and perhaps this lulled Kasparov, who looked slightly confused after the pawn sacrifice and soon went astray. Kramnik preferred (or perhaps missed a more simple one?!) to finish the game with a spectacular combination. It's difficult to resist presenting this spectacular battle, so see the annotated game section below for this fantastic game.

Now let's take a look at the other tournaments.

Inna Gaponenko (Ukraine) and **Natasha Bojkovic** (Yugoslavia) took the lead in the ***2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship*** in **Warsaw, Poland.** Inna Gaponenko beat Ketevan Arakhamia (Georgia) and Natasha Bojkovic beat Elena Sedina (Ukraine) and both have 6½ points after 8 rounds.

The hero of the round was also **Lilit Mkrtchian** (Armenia), who beat none other than Alisa Galliamova and scored 6 points, as did 9 other players. 10 players are in chase. There are 3 games to left play, with the top 29 players qualifying to the World Championship

Some results of the 8th Round:
Grabuzova – Kovalevskaya **½:½**
Bojkovic – Sedina **1:0**
Skripchenko-Lautier – Kosteniuk **½:½**
Gaponenko – Arakhamia **1:0**
Mkrtchian – Galliamova **1:0**
Lagvilava – Stefanova **½:½**

Top boards of the 9th Round:
Gaponenko (6½) – Bojkovic (6½)
Kovalevskaya (6) – Mkrtchian (6)
Foisor (6) – Peptan (6)
Kosteniuk (6) – Khurtsidze (6)
Grabuzova (6) – Skripchenko-Lautier (6)
Danielian (6) – Prudnikova (6)

GM **Vladimir Georgiev** (Bulgaria) kept the lead in the IX category round robin tournament in ***Cutro*, Italy** with 5½ points out of 8 games.

Results of the 8th Round:
Ristic – Georgiev **0:1**
Chatalbashev – Halkias **½:½**
Ortega – Pegorari **1:0**
Borgo – Aleksic **½:½**
Skembris – Miladinovic **½:½**
Drasko – free

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. V.Georgiev – 5½ points out of 8
2. Chatalbashev – 4½/7
3. Ortega – 4½/8
4-5. Borgo, Miladinovic – 4/7
6. Skembris – 3½/7
7. Halkias – 3½/8
8-9. Aleksic, Pegorari – 3/7
10. Drasko – 2½/7
11. Ristic – 2/7

The Bundesliga Season 2000-2001 ended this weekend. Team **Lübecker SV** gave no chances to the other teams and became the Champion, winning all the matches except the last one which was of no importance.

To be honest, their win was not a big surprise. Just take a look at this brilliant staff:

1. GM Alexey Shirov (ESP)
2. GM Michael Adams (ENG)
3. GM Evgeny Bareev (RUS)
4. GM Jonathan Speelman (ENG)
5. GM Vladimir Epishin (RUS)
6. GM Julian Hodgson (ENG)
7. GM Simen Agdestein (NOR)
8. GM Nick de Firmian (USA)
9. GM John Nunn (ENG)
10. GM Lars-Bo Hansen (DEN)
11. GM Jonny Hector (SWE)
12. IM Erling Mortensen (DEN)
13. IM Panagiotis Claduras (GER)
14. IM Jörg Blauert (GER)

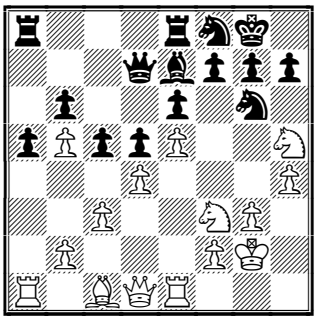
Final Standings:

1. Lübecker SV	**29-1**	**79½:40½**
2. SG Köln Porz	27-3	82½:37½
3. Solinger SG	23-7	84:36 etc

♘♘♘

Annotated Games

G. Kasparov (2827) – N. Short (2676)
Korchnoi Birthday KO Zurich SUI (2.1), 29.04.2001
Notes by GM RuslanScherbakov



First we would like to show an excellent attack by Garry Kasparov in the Semifinal. White completely outplayed his opponent and now comes up with the decisive **18.♗h6!!** After **18...gxh6 19.♕d2**

It becomes clear that, despite the fact that both of White's knights are very close to the king, they do absolutely nothing in defence and are only getting in the way.

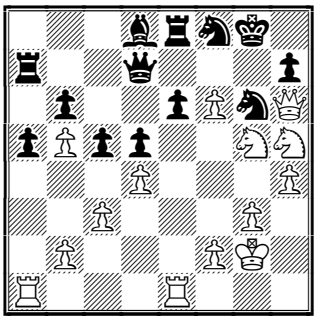
19...f5

The only defence against ♕h6.

20.exf6 ♗d8

20...♗d6 21.♕xh6 followed by ♘g5 was similar.

21.♕xh6 ♖a7 22.♘g5 (D)



What a terrible situation for Black!

22...♕xb5 23.f7+ ♖xf7 24.♘xf7

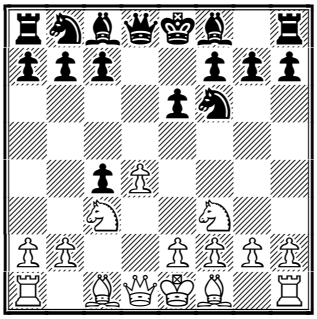
Black resigned. A very nice attack. **1-0.**

V. Kramnik (2797) − G. Kasparov (2827)

Korchnoi Birthday KO Zurich SUI (3.2), 29.04.2001 D26

Notes by GM R.Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 dxc4 (D)



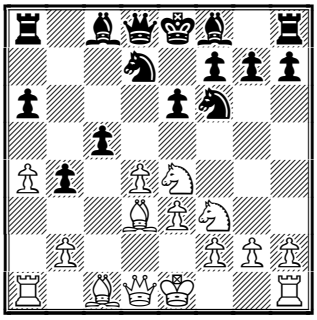
5.e3

White doesn't want to play the sharp Vienna Variation after 5.e4 ♗b4 etc. The text move transposes the game into the Queen's Gambit Accepted but an early sortie of the knight to c3 is supposed to be harmless for Black.

5...a6 6.♗xc4 b5 7.♗d3 c5

The preliminary 7...♗b7 is another option.

8.a4 b4 9.♘e4 ♘bd7 (D)

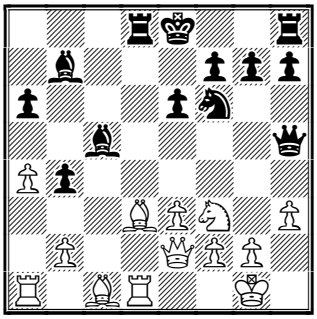


In modern chess players should have very good opening erudition − the game has now transposed into the Meran Variation. The position is still supposed to be quite safe for Black.

10.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 11.0-0 ♗b7 12.dxc5 ♗xc5 13.♕e2 ♕d5 14.♖d1 ♕h5 15.h3

The immediate 15.e4?! is pointless due to 15...♘g4 16.♖f1 0-0 , Cruz − Martin, Mar del Plata 1949.; 15.♘d4 was tried in the game San Segundo − Maksimenko, WchU26 Odessa 1990 but Black didn't have serious problems in the ending after 15...♕xe2 16.♗xe2 ♔e7 and so on.

15...♖d8 (D)



16.♘d4

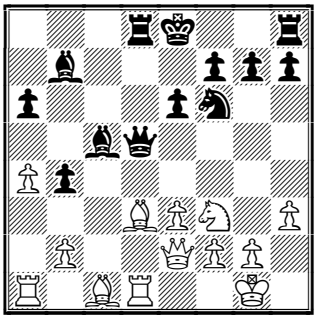
In the case of 16.b3!? Black could have probably played 16...♘e4!? (after 16...e5?! White achieved a clear advantage in the game Gavrilov − S.Ivanov, Russia (ch) 1992 by playing 17.♗b2! e4 18.♗b5+! ♔e7 19.♘e5 ♕xe2 20.♗xe2±) 17.♗b2 ♘c3 18.♗xc3 ♗xf3! 19.♕xf3 ♕xf3 20.gxf3 bxc3 21.♗xa6 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 ♔e7

and White can hardly win this position.

16...♕d5

The text move is a novelty but it does not have any theoretical importance as Black immediately forces the knight to retreat. The ending after 16...♕xe2!? 17.♗xe2 looked absolutely harmless for Black.

17.♘f3 (D)



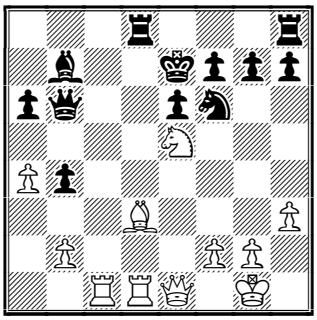
17...♔e7

Black tries to get more than simple repetition of moves by 17...♕h5 Yet, it's unclear if White could have agreed to a draw here − he may get a slight psychological advantage by refusing the repetition, showing that it is he, who is playing for a win. Kasparov does not want to give Kramnik this opportunity − maybe in vain.

18.e4!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice.

18...♘xe4 19.♗e3 ♗xe3 20.♕xe3 ♕c5 21.♕e1! ♘f6 22.♖ac1 ♕b6 23.♘e5⩲ (D)



Black's play is not easy − his king is unsafe and he cannot quickly get the rook h8 into play.

23...♖d4?

Perhaps the result of time−pressure − this is losing at once. 23...♘d5 should have been preferred.

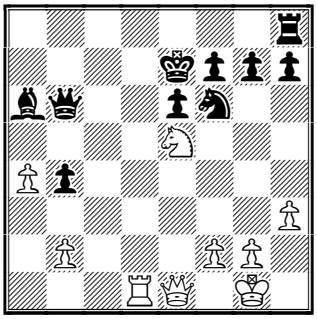
24.♗xa6!?

White's idea is great but 24.♘c4! seemed to be more prosaic − it forced Black to sacrifice the exchange by 24...♖xc4 (24...♕c5? 25.♘e3! followed by ♘f5 25.♖xc4+− with a decisive advantage.

24...♖xd1

The ending after 24...♖e4 25.♕d2 ♖xe5 26.♗xb7 ♖d8 27.♕xd8+ ♕xd8 28.♖xd8 ♔xd8± was not fun for Black.

25.♖xd1 ♗xa6 (D)



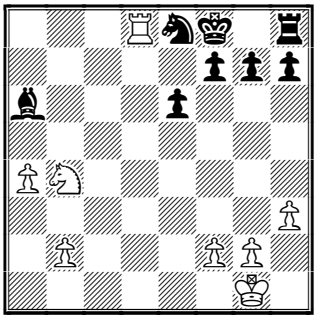
26.♕xb4+!

The point.

26...♕xb4 27.♘c6+ ♔f8

The idea to keep the king closer to the center by 27...♔e8?? was fatal due to 28.♖d8# checkmate!

28.♖d8+! ♘e8 29.♘xb4 (D)



Despite being a piece up Black is in big trouble. The rook is still out of play while White's a−pawn is ready to go. Besides, the bishop has to retreat but there is no a good square to move to!

29...♗e2

After 29...♗b7 30.♖b8 ♗e4 31.f3 ♗f5

32.a5 the pawn was unstoppable.; 29...♔e7 could have been met by 30.♘c6+ ♔f6 31.b4; 29...♗c4!? deserved attention, trying to dislodge White's pieces from their ideal positions.

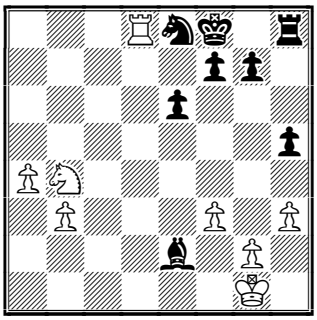
30.f3!

In the case of 30.a5 Black could have stopped the a−pawn by 30...g5 31.a6 ♔g7 32.♖c8 (32.a7 ♘c7) 32...♗xa6 33.♘xa6 ♘d6 although his defensive task was still not easy after 34.♖xh8 ♔xh8±

30...h5?!

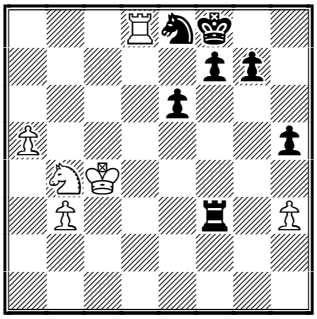
30...♗c4 was probably the only way to continue but White has gained a whole tempo to get the king into play.

31.b3! (D)



The bishop is suddenly trapped! The rest is easy.

31...♖h6 32.♔f2 ♖g6 33.♔xe2 ♖xg2+ 34.♔d3 ♖g3 35.a5 ♖xf3+ 36.♔c4 (D)



Black resigned − he has no chance to stop White's pawns. An excellent win by Vladimir Kramnik − our congratulations once again! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
www.braingames.net/event2.php
queen.chessclub.com/philchess/2001zt.htm
www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01cutro.htm
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CT-176, 2nd May 2001

Kramnik to play Deep Fritz …

Vladimir Kramnik will play DEEP FRITZ in the "Man versus Machine Challenge" in Bahrain, October 2001.

Mark Crowther reports on **TWIC**: "Brain Games plc announced the signing of a million dollar contract on Tuesday 1 May 2001. The contract is with the state of Bahrain for a million dollar prize fund plus a further million dollars in back up for the to be held in October. The main Bahrain figure involved is His Excellency Yousuf Shirawi, former Bahrain chess champion and member of the Bahrain government. The contract was signed for Brain Games Network by CEO David Massey. Grandmaster Ray Keene will be appointed Match Director while Enrique Irazoqui will be invited as chief arbiter.

The match will be between Vladimir Kramnik and Deep Fritz. Deep Fritz beat Deep Junior after drawing their 24 game ***match*** 12-12 by winning two extra playoff games. Deep Junior started with a 5-0 lead. The final critical moment came in game 22. With three games remaining Fritz needed two wins and a draw to force a play-off. Having no "knowledge" of the match situation, Fritz made the terrible blunder of offering a draw. However Junior, also lacking a wider perspective, turned this offer down and went on to lose the game!

The match has been a controversial one with the conditions being turned down by another invited program called Shredder and criticism over which programs were invited."

Many thanks to *Mark Crowther* for this interesting information. Now let's take a look at the tournaments.

Russian Champion Ekaterina Kovalevskaya joined the leaders – Inna Gaponenko (Ukraine) and Natasha Bojkovic (Yugoslavia) – after the 8th Round of the ***2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship*** in Warsaw, Poland.

There are 2 games to play and the top 29 players will qualify to the World Championship.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Gaponenko – Bojkovic ½:½
Kovalevskaya – Mkrtchian 1:0
Foisor – Peptan ½:½
Kosteniuk – Khurtsidze ½:½
Grabuzova – Skripchenko-Lautier ½:½
Danielian – Prudnikova ½:½
Stefanova – Calzetta 1:0

Top boards of the 9th Round:
Bojkovic (7) – Kovalevskaya (7)
Peptan (6½) – Gaponenko (7)
Stefanova (6½) – Foisor (6½)
Khurtsidze (6½) – Grabuzova (6½)
Skripchenko-Lautier (6½) – Danielian (6½)
Prudnikova (6½) – Kosteniuk (6½)
Galliamova (6) – Socko (6) etc.

The ***54th Russian Championship*** has started in the capital of Kalmykia, Elista. It will be 9-round Swiss event with a total prize fund $30000. In addition, the 16 top players will qualify for the European Championship. After the 2nd Round GMs Vladimir Epishin, Maxim Turov, Konstantin Chernyshov and Valentin Arbakov are leading with a perfect score, 17 players are in chase.

Some results of the 2nd Round:
Khasin – Kharlov ½:½
Vaulin – Lastin ½:½
Rustemov – Chernyshov 0:1
Motylev – Jakovenko ½:½
Pigusov – Ionov ½:½
Epishin – Beshukov 1:0
Arbakov – Dvoiris 1:0
Turov – Chebotarev 1:0
Diu – Bezgodov ½:½

Today we would like to present a very exciting battle between GM Alexander Motylev and Dmitry Jakovenko, who were among the leaders after the 1st round.

In the 9th Round of the IX category round robin tournament in ***Cutro***, Italy GM Boris Chatalbashev of Bulgaria beat GM Igor Miladinovic with black and joined his compatriot GM Vladimir Georgiev (Bulgaria) in the lead, who was free from play – both leaders scored 5½ points out of 8 games.

Results of the 9th Round:
Miladinovic – Chatalbashev 0:1
Pegorari – Borgo 0:1
Drasko – Ortega 1:0
Aleksic – Skembris ½:½
Halkias – Ristic ½:½
Georgiev – free

Standings after the 9th Round:
1-2. Chatalbashev, V.Georgiev – 5½/8
3. Borgo – 5/8
4. Ortega – 4½/9
5-6. Skembris Miladinovic – 4/8
7. Halkias – 4/9
8-9. Aleksic, Drasko – 3½/8
10. Pegorari – 3/8
11. Ristic – 2½/8

A strong open tournament is underway in ***Bydgoszcz***, Poland. After 3 rounds a home GM Bartosz Socko leads with perfect score, his compatriot IM Kamil Miton is sharing second place with recent St.Petersburg Champion GM Valery Popov (Russia) and GM Andrey Maksimenko (Ukraine) at half a point behind.

Some results of the 3rd Round:
Socko – Rashkovsky 1:0
Cyborowski – Brodsky ½:½
Rosentalis – Kuczycski ½:½
Miton – Markowski 1:0
Eingorn – Bartel ½:½
Poluljahov – Gleizerov ½:½
Ulibin – Gritsak ½:½
Klovans – Wojtkiewicz ½:½
Bogdanov – V.Popov 0:1
Maksimenko – Sarwicski 1:0
Jaracz – Malaniuk ½:½ etc.

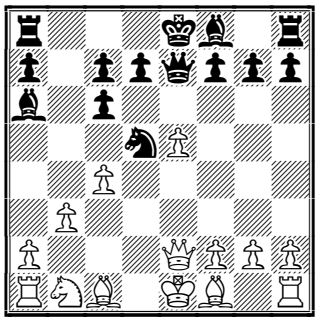
6th Father Ivan Cvitanovic memorial started in Split, Croatia. After 3 rounds GM Csaba Horvath of Hungary and IM Ivan Zaja of Croatia took the lead with 2½ points. There were some problems with the organisation of this VII category round robin event so some participants came late – for example, the ELO-favourite GM Vladimir Dimitrov of Bulgaria played only one game.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

A Motylev (2601) − D Jakovenko (2521)
RUS−ch Elista (2), 2001 C45
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘xc6 bxc6 6.e5 ♕e7 7.♕e2 ♘d5 8.c4 ♗a6 9.b3



A very complicated line of the Scotch Opening − the position is very unbalanced. Black's pawn structure is far from perfect and the a6 bishop (and often the knight) is out of play. However,

White is late in development and he cannot comfortably complete it − Black quickly gets all his pieces into play and tries to use their energy at full power.

9...g5!

The strongest continuation − Black develops the bishop to g7 and at the same time does not allow White to fortify the e5 pawn by f2−f4.

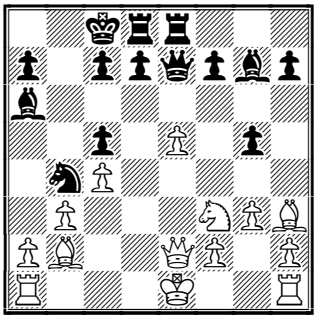
10.g3 ♗g7 11.♗b2 0-0-0

Castling short was put under question after the game Kasparov − Pr.Nikolic, Linares 1997: 11...0-0 12.♘d2 f6 13.♕h5 ♘b4 14.h4! g4 15.♔d1! c5 16.a3 ♘c6 17.♗d3 f5 18.♗xf5 ♗xe5 19.♖e1 d6 20.♗e4! and White is almost winning.

12.♘d2 ♘b4 13.♘f3 ♖he8 14.♗h3

14.a3?! g4! 15.♘h4 ♗xe5 16.0-0-0 ♘a2+ 17.♔c2 ♕f6 was in Black's favour in the game Macieja − Kallio, Stockholm 1999.

14...c5!



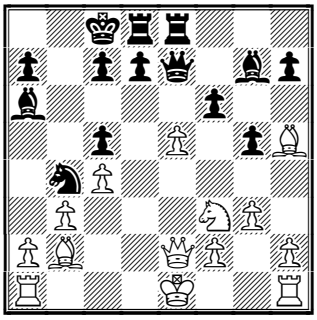
A novelty which looks very good. In the game Baklan − Pedersen, Brussels 2000 Black has not solved the opening problems after 14...h5 15.a3!

15.♗g4

A logical reply.

15...f6!? Direct approach.

16.♗h5



16...fxe5!?

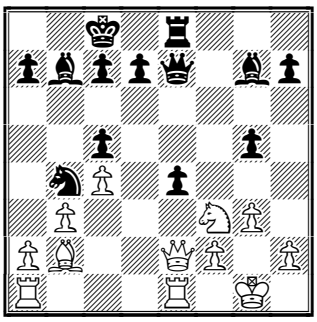
Sound idea − Black's bishop will be very strong on the long diagonal without a counterpart.

17.♗xe8 ♖xe8 18.0-0 ♗b7∞

19.♖fe1

19.a3 ♘c6 20.♖fe1∞ seemed to be more reliable.

19...e4!?



19...♗xf3!? 20.♕xf3 e4! 21.♖xe4 (21.♕e2 ♗xb2 22.♕xb2 ♘d3) 21...♕xe4 22.♕xe4 ♖xe4 23.♗xg7 ♖e2 looked not so bad for Black but he was obviously worried about White's pawn superiority on the kingside − the knight is very slow to stop the passed pawns.

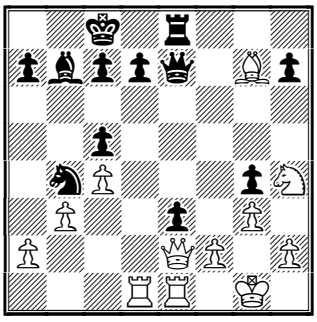
20.♖ad1?

White is playing with fire. 20.♗xg7 ♕xg7 21.♖ed1 was more careful.

20...g4! 21.♘h4

21.♗xg7 gxf3 22.♕b2 ♕e6 looked too dangerous for White but perhaps it was already the most stubborn defence: 23.♕f6! ♕h3 24.♕xf3! e3!! 25.♖d5! ♘xd5 26.cxd5 exf2+ 27.♕xf2 ♖xe1+ 28.♕xe1 ♗xd5 with a big advantage for Black.

21...e3! 22.♗xg7



22.fxe3 ♕e4 23.♘g2 was bad for White due to 23...♗xb2 24.♕xb2 ♘d3 25.♖xd3 ♕xd3 with a huge advantage.

22...♕e4!

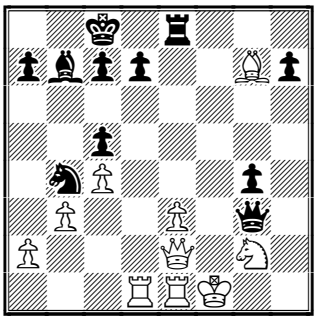
A very energetic play!

23.fxe3!?

23.f3 gxf3 24.♘xf3 ♕xf3 25.♕xf3 ♗xf3 was also unsatisfactory for White but maybe objectively more tenacious than the text move.

23...♕h1+ 24.♔f2 ♕xh2+ 25.♔f1 ♕xg3

26.♘g2



26...♖e7?

Oh, no! Up to now Dmitry has been playing excellently but here he went astray just one step before the total success. 26...♕h3! was correct − White had no good defence against ...g2−g3 and ...♕h1. A picturesque position could have arisen after 27.♕f2 g3 28.♕g1 ♕g4 − White was absolutely helpless.

27.♕f2

The only move.

27...♕xf2+ 28.♔xf2 g3+

The immediate 28...♖xg7!? deserved serious attention − Black keeps a very good square, f3, for the bishop.

29.♔g1

Of course, not 29.♔xg3?? ♖xg7+ followed by ...♖g2.

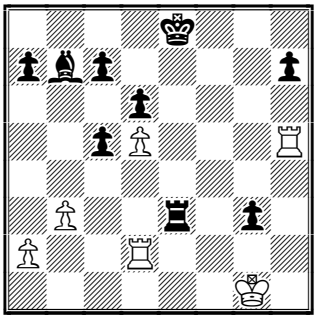
29...♖xg7 30.♖f1

Black's chances still look preferable but the rooks can create good counterplay here.

30...♔d8 31.♖d2 ♔e8 32.♖f5 d6 33.♘f4 ♖e7 34.♘d5!

Closing the diagonal for the monstrous bishop.

34...♘xd5 35.cxd5 ♖xe3 36.♖h5!

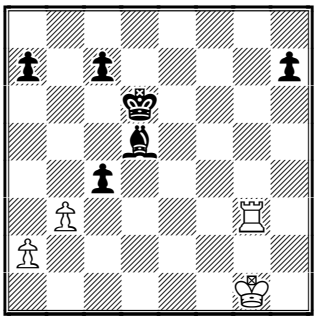


White is completely okay and Black decides to simplify to the draw.

36...♖e5!? 37.♖xe5+ dxe5 38.♖e2 ♔d7

Of course, the d5 pawn was untouchable.

39.♖xe5 ♔d6 40.♖g5 ♗xd5 41.♖xg3 c4



A draw is inevitable and the scoresheets were signed. A very interesting and exciting game! ½-½

Recommended Web sites:

www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01cutro.htm
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm
www.braingames.net/event2.php

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-177, 3rd May 2001

Five share lead in European Women's Championship

Five players are leading before the last round of the *2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship* in Warsaw, Poland. They are Ekaterina Kovalevskaya (Russia), Almira Skripchenko-Lautier (France), Inna Gaponenko (Ukraine), Natasha Bojkovic (Yugoslavia) and Cristina Foisor (Romania). – one of them will become The European Champion 2000 Natalia Zhukova of Ukraine is playing below par and already lost her chances to defend the title – maybe her compatriot Inna Gaponenko, who resumed playing chess not so long ago, will be able to maintain the tradition?!

Some results of the 10th Round:
Bojkovic – Kovalevskaya ½:½
Peptan – Gaponenko ½:½
Stefanova – Foisor 0:1
Khurtsidze – Grabuzova ½:½
Skripchenko-Lautier – Danielian 1:0
Prudnikova – Kosteniuk ½:½
Galliamova – Socko 1:0
Stepovaya – Petrenko 1:0
Olarasu – Arakhamia-Grant 0:1 etc.

Top boards of the last 11th Round:
Kovalevskaya (7½) – Skripchenko-Lautier (7½)
Foisor (7½) – Bojkovic (7½)
Gaponenko (7½) – Galliamova (7)
Kosteniuk (7) – Peptan (7)
Paehtz (7) – Khurtsidze (7)
Sikorova (7) – Stepovaya (7)
Arakhamia-Grant (7) – Peng Zhaoqin (7)
Grabuzova (7) – Prudnikova (7)

First 29 players will qualify to the World Championship.

GM **Konstantin Chernyshov** took the lead in the ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista – in the 3rd Round he started the game with 1. f4 and eliminated Vladimir Epishin in 20 moves – enjoy his crazy style in the annotated game section! Konstantin still keeps a perfect score, GMs Sergey Shipov, Andrey Kharlov, Alexander Lastin, Maxim Turov and Valentin Arbakov, are sharing second place, half a point behind.

Some results of the 2nd Round:
Chernyshov – Epishin 1:0
Arbakov – Turov ½:½
Pushkov – Shipov 0:1
Kharlov – Vaulin 1:0
Lastin – Khasin 1:0
Malakhov – Volzhin ½:½
Bezgodov – Motylev ½:½
Ionov – Dolmatov ½:½
Jakovenko – Pigusov ½:½
Ibragimov – Zakharevich ½:½

The Julian Borowski tournament started in ***Essen***, Germany. Actually there are two round robin events, XV and IX category. Take a look at the list of the GM-A participants:

1. Mikhail Gurevich	BEL 2694
2. Rustam Kasymdzhanov	UZB 2693
3. Michal Krasenkow	POL 2658
4. Artur Jussupow	GER 2645
5. Rustem Dautov	GER 2631
6. Sergey Smagin	RUS 2613
7. Christopher Lutz	GER 2609
8. Emil Sutovsky	ISR 2605
9. Oleg Romanischin	UKR 2556
10. Klaus Bischoff	GER 2552

In the 1st Round the leaders of the brilliant German team, which won silver medals at the last Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, Rustem Dautov and Artur Jussupow, as well as Oleg Romanishin of Ukraine, won their games and took the lead.

Results of the 1st Round:
M.Gurevich – Bischoff ½:½
Romanishin – Smagin 1:0
Jussupow – Sutovsky 0:1
Lutz – Kasymdzhanov **½:½**
Nijboer – Dautov 0:1

Bulgarian GMs **Vladimir Georgiev** and **Boris Chatalbashev** shared first in the IX category round robin tournament in ***Cutro***, Italy. They scored 6½ points out of 10 games and were equal on tiebreak! A home IM Giulio Borgo came third, despite his loss to GM Milan Drasko in the penultimate round. By the way, this was the only decisive game in the last two rounds.
Final standings:
1-2. V.Georgiev, Chatalbashev – 6½
3. Borgo – 5½
4-7. Skembris, Miladinovic, Drasko, Ortega – 5
8-9. Halkias, Aleksic – 4½
10. Pegorari – 4
11. Ristic – 3½
Congratulations to the winners!

In the 4th Round of the very strong open in ***Bydgoszcz***, Poland GM **Valery Popov** of Russia beat the sole leader GM Bartosz Socko and overtook him with 3½ points. A home IM **Kamil Miton** outplayed GM Mikhail Brodsky (Ukraine) with black and is sharing the lead. Seven players are in chase.

Some results of the 4th Round:
V.Popov – Socko 1:0
Brodsky – Miton 0:1
Maksimenko – Cyborowski ½:½
Rashkovsky – Rosentalis ½:½
Jaracz – Eingorn 0:1
Gleizerov – Klovans 1:0
Bartel – Ulybin 0:1
Wojtkiewicz – Poluljakhov ½:½
Gritsak – Zontakh ½:½
Malaniuk – Lanka ½:½
Kuczynski – Lutsko 0:1

Standings after 4 rounds:
1-2. Miton, V.Popov – 3½ points
3-9. Cyborowski, Socko, Eingorn, Gleizerov, Lutsko, Ulibin, Maksimenko – 3 etc.

GM **Csaba Horvath** of Hungary became sole leader of the VII category round robin ***Father Ivan Cvitanovic memorial*** that takes place in Split, Croatia – he has 3 points after 4 rounds. A home IM Ivan Zaja is second with 2½ points. ELO-favourite GM Vladimir Dimitrov of Bulgaria is getting closer – he scored 2 points out of 3 games and has a chance to join the leader if he wins his postponed game.

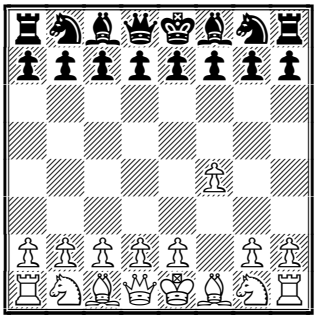
Standings after 4 rounds:
1. Cs. Horvath – 3 points
2. Zaja – 2½
3. Dimitrov – 2(1)
4-6. Forintos, Bukal jr., Ljubicic – 2 etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

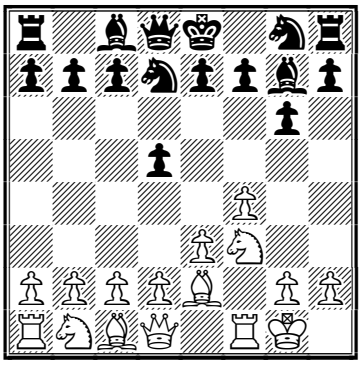
K Chernyshov (2536) − V Epishin (2579)
RUS−ch Elista (3), 03.05.2001 A03
1.f4



Vladimir Epishin has enormous opening knowledge and invention, he was the idea−generator for Anatoly Karpov during his World Champion years. This ugly opening is not too dangerous for Black but at least it equalises the opening knowledge − not such a bad idea!
1...d5
The King's Indian 1...♘f6 is not a bad choice against 1. f4.
2.♘f3 g6 3.e3 ♗g7 4.♗e2 ♘d7

4...c5 5.0-0 ♘c6 is a more common option.

5.0-0

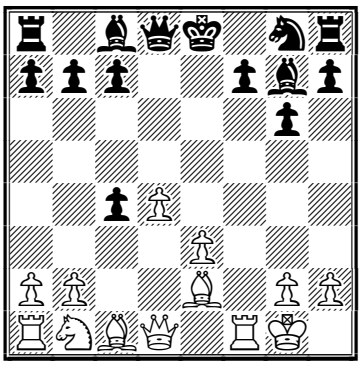


White plays a reversed Iljin−Zhenevsky variation.

5...e5

Consistent play.

6.fxe5 ♘xe5 7.♘xe5 ♗xe5 8.d4! ♗g7 9.c4 dxc4



A new continuation. 9...♘f6 10.♘c3 0-0 11.cxd5 ♘xd5 was played before, here in the game Bohn − Heinemann, GER−chT 1991 White should have preferred 12.e4 with a good play.

10.b3!?

A rather unexpected idea − White does not capture the pawn and develops the bishop to a3 instead! 10.♗xc4 ♘h6 followed by ...0-0 was what Black was possibly expecting for.

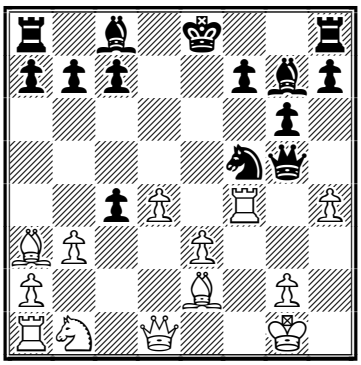
10...♘h6!?

A principled reply. In the case of 10...♘e7 11.♗xc4 0-0 12.♗a3 White's pressure is fairly annoying.

11.♗a3 ♕g5! 12.♖f4 ♘f5

Thanks to the attack to the e3−pawn Black has created some concrete problems for White.

13.h4!?

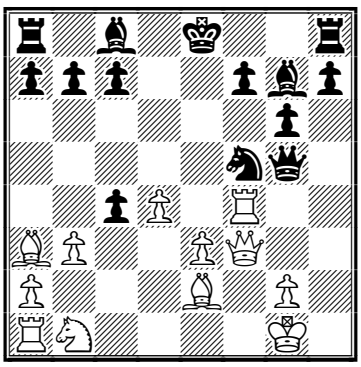


More fuel for the fire! A check 13.♖e4+?! was pointless, after 13...♔d8 14.♗xc4 ♖e8! 15.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 Black exchanged White's active rook and got better chances due to the weakness of the e3−pawn.; 13.♗xc4 ♘xe3 14.♕f3 ♘xc4 15.bxc4 ♗e6 was also very good for Black.

13...♘xh4?!

Black underestimates the danger and loses control over the situation. 13...♕xf4!? was not so bad: 14.exf4 ♗xd4+ 15.♔h2 ♗xa1 16.♗xc4 ♗e6 and so on; but 13...♕g3!? was maybe even stronger − it is not so clear how White should continue here − his central pawns are vulnerable and the king is also not quite safe.

14.♕f1 ♘f5 15.♕f3

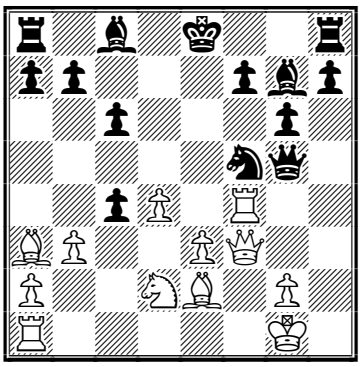


Thanks to another pawn sacrifice White has got the time to consolidate his position and prepare for direct actions.

15...c6?

This is slow. Perhaps it was already the time for such extraordinary decisions as 15...♗e6!? (with idea ...0-0-0) 16.♕xb7 ♘xd4!! with a wild complications where Black's chances were maybe not worse!

16.♘d2!



Quickly getting the reserve into play. White's initiative looks threatening − he intends to remove the f5 knight with g2−g4 or maybe even by ♖f4−f5 after which the invasion of his knight to d6 would be very painful for Black.

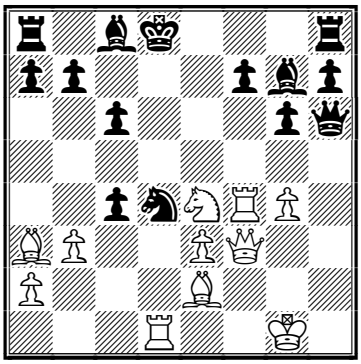
16...♔d8?

Black's desire to move the king from possible check is understandable but this king's retreat is unsuccessful. 16...♗e6!? with idea of castling long seemed to be more tenacious although Black's life was already difficult: 17.♘e4 ♕d8 18.♖xf5! gxf5!? (18...♗xf5 19.♘d6+ ♔d7 20.♘xf5 gxf5 21.♕xf5+ ♔c7 22.♕f4+! ♔b6 23.bxc4→) 19.♘d6+ ♔d7 20.♘xb7↑ with a very strong initiative.

17.♘e4 ♕h6 18.g4! ♘xd4

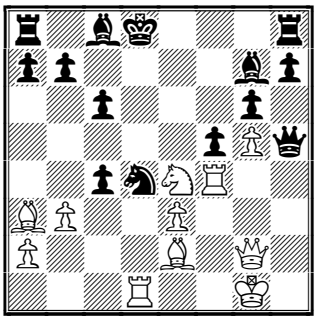
18...♘h4 19.♕g3+− was equally hopeless for Black.

19.♖d1



All White's pieces are in action. Black wasn't given a moment's respite to organise better defence − he can simply resign here.

19...f5 20.g5 ♕h5 21.♕g2



The queen is trapped − Black resigned. A crushing defeat! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.infcom.it/fsi/tornei/01cutro.htm
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-178, 4th May 2001

Tie-Break will decide Winner in Women's Open Championship in Warsaw…

There was no clear winner in the *2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship* in Warsaw, Poland, so according to the regulations it will be decided by tie-break. There are 7 contenders: Alisa Galliamova, Ekaterina Kovalevskaya, Tatiana Stepovaya (all of Russia), Almira Skripchenko-Lautier (Moldavia), Ketevan Arakhamia (Georgia), Cristina Foisor (Romania) and Natasha Bojkovic (Yugoslavia).

Results of the last 11th Round:
Kovalevskaya – Skripchenko-Lautier ½:½
Foisor – Bojkovic ½:½
Gaponenko – Galliamova 0:1
Kosteniuk – Peptan ½:½
Paehtz – Khurtsidze ½:½
Sikorova – Stepovaya 0:1
Arakhamia-Grant – Peng Zhaoqin 1:0
Grabuzova – Prudnikova ½:½

The players, who shared 15-38 places, will also play the tie-break to determine the qualifiers to the World Championship. The First 29 players will qualify, but Galliamova and Kovalevskaya already have the right to play in the World Championship so there are two more spots to fight for. The tie-break will be tomorrow.

Alexander Lastin joined **Konstantin Chernyshov** in the lead after 4th Round of the ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista. Sergey Shipov, Andrey Kharlov, Maxim Turov, Alexander Motylev, Vladimir Malakhov and Vladimir Epishin are half a point behind.

Some results of the 4th Round:
Shipov – Chernyshov ½:½
Turov – Kharlov ½:½
Lastin – Arbakov 1:0
Volkov – Malakhov 0:1
Motylev – Ionov 1:0
Bezgodov – Najer ½:½

Dolmatov – Jakovenko ½:½
Pigusov – Smirnov ½:½
Epishin – Tomashevsky 1:0
Volzhin – Ibragimov ½:½
Zakharevich – Yakovich ½:½
Beshukov – Dvoirys ½:½
Galkin – Chebotarev 1:0
Timofeev – Kobalija 0:1

Today we would like to present an interesting battle – the current Russian Champion **Sergey Volkov** was defeated by **Vladimir Malakhov** with the black pieces in excellent style. *(See annotated game section on page 3 --- RPM.)*

Half of the participants are leading in the GM-A XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany.

Results of the 2nd Round:
Bischoff – Dautov ½:½
Smagin – Jussupow ½:½
M.Gurevich – Romanishin 1:0
Kasymdzhanov – Nijboer 1:0
Sutovsky – Lutz 0:1

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-5. M.Gurevich, Lutz, Kasymdzhanov, Dautov, Jussupow – 1½ points
6-7. Bischoff, Romanishin – 1
8. Smagin – ½
9-10. Nijboer, Sutovsky – 0

Pairings for the 3rd Round:
Jussupow – M.Gurevich
Dautov – Kasymdzhanov
Lutz – Smagin

Romanishin – Bischoff
Nijboer – Sutovsky

In the 5th Round of the strong open in ***Bydgoszcz***, Poland GM **Mikhail Ulybin** (Russia) beat GM Andrey Maksimenko and joined the leaders – GM **Valery Popov** (Russia) and home IM **Kamil Miton**. 7 players are half a point behind.

Some results of the 5th Round:
Miton – V.Popov ½:½
Eingorn – Socko ½:½
Cyborowski – Gleizerov ½:½
Ulybin – Maksimenko 1:0
Lutsko – Wojtkiewicz
Rozentalis – Gritsak ½:½
Lanka – Markowski 0:1
Zontakh – Rashkovsky ½:½
Poluljakhov – Brodsky ½:½
Bargiowski – Malaniuk 0:1

Standings after 4 rounds:
1-3. Miton, V. Popov, Ulybin – 4 points
4-10. Cyborowski, Socko, Eingorn, Wojtkiewicz, Markowski, Gleizerov, Malaniuk – 3½ etc.

GM **Vladimir Dimitrov** (Bulgaria) won the postponed game and caught GM **Csaba Horvath** (Hungary), who was sole leader of the VII category round robin ***Father Ivan Cvitanovic memorial*** which is underway in Split, Croatia – both players have scored 3½ points out of 5 games.

Standings after 5 rounds:
1-2. Dimitrov, Cs. Horvath – 3½ points
3-4. Zaja, Bukal jr. – 3
5-6. Forintos, Ljubicic – 2½ etc

♘♘♘

Editorial note

by GM Alexander Baburin

Dear ***Chess Today*** readers!

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that sometimes the Yahoo mailing list does not deliver ***CT*** to all subscribers. I am not an expert on how e-mail works, but it seems that if somebody's server does not reply within a certain time, Yahoo stops attempting to deliver the message to that particular address. If (or, rather, when!) this happens, please e-mail me at **ababurin@iol.ie** and let me know which issues you are missing - I will re-send them to you ASAP. No need to ask whether your subscription is OK. In particular, it looks like issues No. 176 and 177 were not delivered to many readers. If you are still missing any of them, please contact me and I will re-send them to you.

It has been brought to my attention that on the ***CT*** site (***www.chesstoday.net***) I guaranteed publishing ***Chess Today*** only till July 2001. It certainly takes time to persuade people to part with their money on the Net and, although the paper is still not profitable, I will definitely publish ***CT*** till **January 2002**. Perhaps the fact that only about 200 people subscribed so far, has something to do with the chess community in general and Golf Today would be a better bet?! :-) Still, I feel that the paper provides good service and trust that all people working on it feel proud of ***Chess Today***! We also appreciate your feedback, encouragement and occasional criticism - that help us to make the paper even better!

In **our April Lottery** the prize - ***The Human Comedy of Chess*** by GM Hans Ree goes to our reader Paulo Bergmann. Our congratulations to the lucky winner! Our lotteries will continue, so there is always a chance that you will get more than you paid for! But I am sure that at £14 (Irish punts - about US$16) per 4 months ***CT*** is a great deal anyway, so please mention it to your chess friends and encourage them to subscribe. It is fine to forward a few ***CT*** issues to them, as I reckon that not many people have seen ***CT*** yet. If you or your chess club has a web site, you can post one ***CT*** issue per month in exchange for ***CT*** banners - please see ***www.chesstoday.net*** for

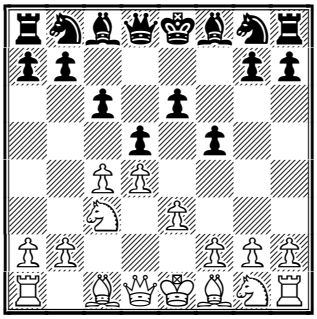
details. If would like to do this, please e-mail me, so I can add you to the list of ***CT* hosts**. In our **May Lottery** the prize will be ***Kings, Commoners and Knaves*** by Edward Winter.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

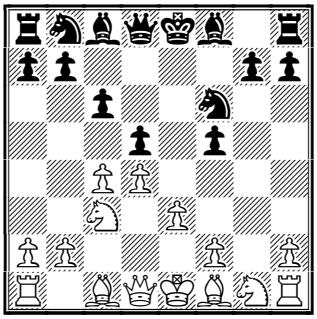
S. Volkov − V. Malakhov
RUS−ch Elista (4), 03.05.2001 D31
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 4.e3 f5 (D)



This set−up is more reliable when White has already developed his Knight to f3. The following reply is supposed to be rather dangerous for Black.

5.g4!? ♘f6 6.gxf5 exf5 (D)



Now the knight on g1 will be developed to f4, putting additional pressure on the important d5−square.

7.cxd5

Starting a series of moves which proved to be unsuccessful. 7.♕b3 is a more common option, which promises better chances for White, according to tournament practice.

7...♘xd5!

7...cxd5?! is much weaker. White would create strong pressure on the d5−pawn by 8.♕b3 followed by ♗g2 and ♘ge2−f4.

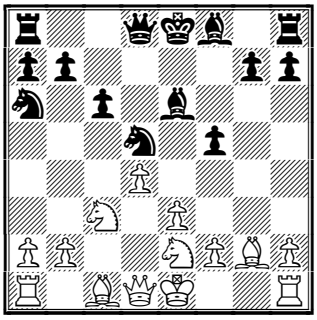
8.♘ge2

8.♕b3!? deserves attention.

8...♗e6 9.♗g2

9.♖g1 does not look very good − after 9...g6 10.♗g2 ♘a6 11.♗d2 ♘ac7 and Black obtained excellent play in the game Dorfman − Popchev, Cienfuegos 1988.

9...♘a6! (D)

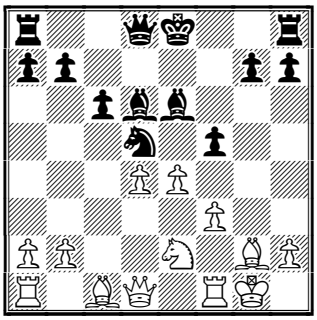


The main task is to fortify the d5−square.

10.0-0 ♘ac7 11.♘xd5 ♘xd5 12.f3

A direct approach. The advance e3−e4 looks promising but Black finds a way to turn it to his own favour.

12...♗d6 13.e4 (D)



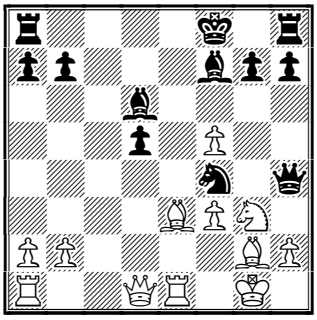
13...♕h4! 14.♘g3 ♘f4 15.d5

An interesting idea but it will became clear soon that it is not as good as it looks. The immediate 15.exf5?! could have been met by 15...♘xg2 (15...♗d5!?) 16.fxe6?! ♗xg3 and White is in trouble.

15...cxd5 16.exf5 ♗f7

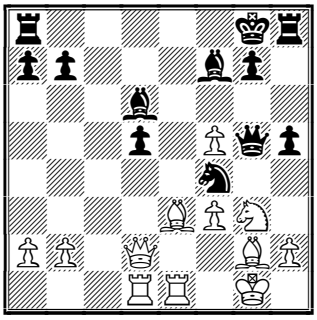
Now 16...♘xg2? 17.fxe6 ♗xg3 was unsuccessful due to 18.hxg3 ♕xg3 19.♕a4+! etc.

17.♖e1+ ♔f8 18.♗e3 (D)



Of course, it is not good for Black to be deprived of castling, but he should be generally satisfied with the situation. His queen and minor pieces are in control of the situation − the only problem is the rook on h8 but the following move solves it in a good way.

18...h5! 19.♕d2 ♕g5 20.♖ad1 ♔g8∓ (D)



White has centralised his major pieces but his bishop on g2 and the knight on g3 are very poorly placed and just have nothing to do! Black clearly has the initiative. He doesn't even need the rook a8 at this stage of the game.

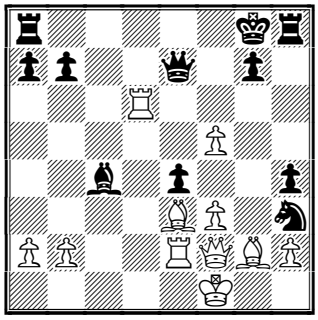
21.♕f2?

White's problems were much more serious than it seemed at first glance. This move is almost losing but it was already not so easy to give him a good advice. Something like 21.♕c3 h4 22.♗xf4 ♗xf4 23.♘e2 was more tenacious but of course this was completely unsatisfactory for White as well.

21...h4 22.♘e4

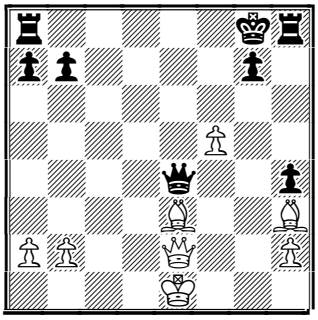
This attempt fails.

22...dxe4 23.♖xd6 ♘h3+ 24.♔f1 ♗c4+ 25.♖e2 ♕e7! (D)

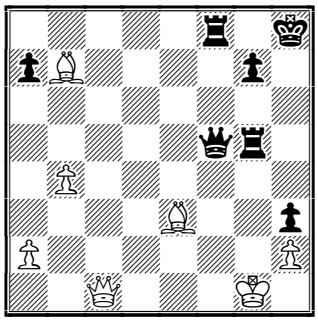


Black gains a big material advantage. The rest is easy.

26.♗xh3 ♕xd6 27.♔e1 ♗xe2 28.♕xe2 ♕d3 29.fxe4 ♕xe4 (D)



30.♗g2 ♕b1+ 31.♔f2 ♕xf5+ 32.♔g1 ♖h5 33.♕c4+ ♔h8 34.♗xb7 ♖f8 35.b4 h3 36.♕c1 ♖g5+! (D)



White resigned as he will be checkmated in a few moves. It was clearly not the best day for Sergey Volkov, but it happened, in many respects, because of the well−thought out and confident play by Vladimir Malakhov. **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-179, 5th May 2001

Almira Skripchenko-Lautier of Moldavia Wins Open Women's Championship After Tie-Breaks!

The formula for the tie-break of the ***2nd European Open Women's Chess Championship*** in Warsaw, Poland was rather complicated – it was a real tie-break. The pairings was made according to the Buscholz tournament. The players who had the best tie-break score passed directly to the second round.

After tie-breaks **Almira Skripchenko-Lautier** (Moldavia) emerged as the new European Champion! Russian Champion **Ekaterina Kovalevskaya** came in second (as in the previous year!), and **Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant** (Georgia) took the bronze medal. The top 31 players will participate in the 2001 World Championship.

Final Standings (after the tie-break):

1-7. Skripchenko-Lautier, Kovalevskaya, **Arakhamia-Grant**, Galliamova, Foisor, Bojkovic, Stepovaya – 8 points

8-14. Gaponenko, Paehtz, Peptan, Grabuzova, Kosteniuk, Khurtsidze, Prudnikova – 7½

15-31. Stefanova, Dworakowska, Peng Zhaoqin, Mkrtchian, Zatonskih, Zielinska, Danielian, Kononenko, Galianina-Ryzhanova, Sedina, Lagvilava, Ciuksyte, Radziewicz, Petrenko, Socko, Kiseleva, Sikorova – 7

32-38. Alexandrova, Shumiakina, Ionescu-Brandis, Dzagnidze, Hunt, Matveeva, Kachiani-Gersinska – 7

Our congratulations to all the winners and for those who qualified to the World Championship!

In the 5th Round of the ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista, **Alexander Motylev** beat top-seeded Sergey Shipov and joined the leaders – **Alexander Lastin** and **Konstantin Chernyshov**, who drew their game. The leaders have 4 points, 10 players are in chase, half a point behind.

Some results of the 5th Round:
Chernyshov – Lastin ½:½
Motylev – Shipov 1:0
Kharlov – Epishin ½:½
Malakhov – Turov ½:½
Najer – Volzhin 1:0
Kobalia – Bezgodov ½:½
Smirnov – Dolmatov 1:0
Burmakin – Galkin 0:1
Arbakov – Pigusov 0:1
Ibragimov – Jakovenko ½:½
Yakovich – Beshukov 1:0
Dvoirys – Zakharevich 1:0
Makarov – Shariyazdanov ½:½
Balashov – Korobov 1:0

Today we present an excellent victory by **Pavel Smirnov** over Sergey Dolmatov *(see annotated game on page 2 --- RPM)*

Rustam Kasymdzhanov (Uzbekistan) became the hero of the 3rd Round of the Julian Borowski GM-A XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany – he beat Rustem Dautov with the black pieces and has scored 2½ points. A home GM **Christopher Lutz** outplayed Sergey Smagin (Russia) and has also scored 2½ points. In the outsider's battle Emil Sutovsky (Israel) proved his superiority over Friso Nijboer (Netherlands) who hasn't scored yet.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Jussupow – M.Gurevich ½:½
Dautov – Kasymdzhanov 0:1

Lutz – Smagin 1:0
Romanishin – Bischoff ½:½
Nijboer – Sutovsky 0:1

Standings after 3 rounds:
1-2. Lutz, Kasymdzhanov – 2½ points
3-4. M.Gurevich, Jussupow – 2
5-7. Bischoff, Romanishin, Dautov – 1½
8. Sutovsky – 1
9. Smagin – ½
10. Nijboer – 0

Pairings for the 4th Round:
M.Gurevich – Lutz
Bischoff – Kasymdzhanov
Romanishin – Jussupow
Sutovsky – Dautov
Smagin – Nijboer

GM **Valery Popov** (Russia) took sole lead in the strong open in ***Bydgoszcz***, Poland. In the 6th Round he beat his compatriot GM **Mikhail Ulybin** and has scored 5 points. Home players GM Bartosz Socko and IM **Kamil Miton** are sharing second place, half a point behind.

Some results of the 6th Round:
V.Popov – Ulybin 1:0
Gleizerov – Miton ½:½
Socko – Markowski 1:0
Malaniuk – Eingorn ½:½
Wojtkiewicz – Cyborowski ½:½
Totsky – Rozentalis 0:1
Jaracz – Zontakh ½:½
Brodsky – Gritsak ½:½
Rashkovsky – Lutsko 1:0
Sarwicski - Poluljakhov 0:1

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. V. Popov - 5 points
2-3. Miton, Socko – 4½
4-12. Cyborowski, Poluljakhov, Eingorn, Rashkovsky, Rozantalis, Wojtkiewicz, Ulybin, Gleizerov, Malaniuk – 4 etc.

ELO-favourite, in the VII category round robin ***Father Ivan Cvitanovic Memorial***, GM **Vladimir Dimitrov** (Bulgaria) took sole lead after beating GM Gyoso Forintos (Hungary) in the 6th Round. A home IM Ivan Zaja and GM Csaba Horvath (Hungary) are in chase, half a point behind.

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Dimitrov - 4½ points
2-3. Zaja, Cs. Horvath – 4
4. Ljubicic – 3½ etc

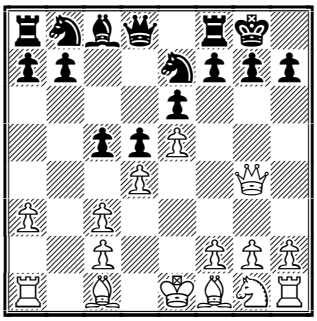
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

P. Smirnov (2511) − S. Dolmatov (2587)

RUS−ch Elista (5), 04.05.2001 C18
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.♕g4 0-0 (D)



Sergey Dolmatov is one of the leading experts of this very complicated variation of the French Defence for both sides.

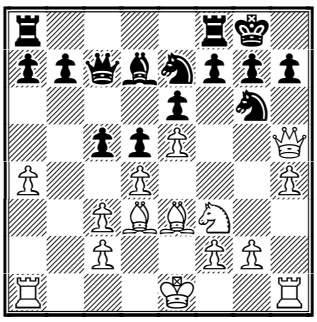
8.♗d3 ♘bc6

Another principle line is 8...f5 9.exf6 ♖xf6 10.♗g5 ♖f7 with no less complicated play.

9.♕h5 ♘g6 10.♘f3 ♕c7 11.♗e3 ♘ce7!?

More common is 11...c4 12.♗xg6 fxg6 13.♕g4±, followed by h4−h5 with slightly better chances for White according to the tournament practice.

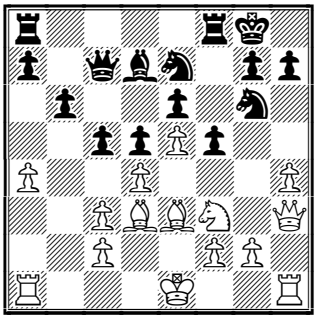
12.h4 ♗d7 13.a4 (D)



13...b6!?

A new continuation. In the game Anand − Lputian, FIDE Wch, New Delhi 2000 White achieved better chances after 13...f5 14.exf6 ♖xf6 15.0-0 c4 16.♗xg6 ♘xg6 17.♕g5±

14.♕g4 f5 15.♕h3!? (D)



15.exf6 ♖xf6 16.h5 could have been strongly met by 16...cxd4! (16...♘f4?! 17.♘e5 ♘xd3+ 18.cxd3) **A)** 17.♗xd4? e5 18.♕g3 ♖xf3 19.♕xf3 (19.gxf3 ♘f4) 19...♖f8-+; **B)** and after 17.hxg6 17...dxe3 18.gxh7+ ♔h8∓ Black's chances were at least not worse.

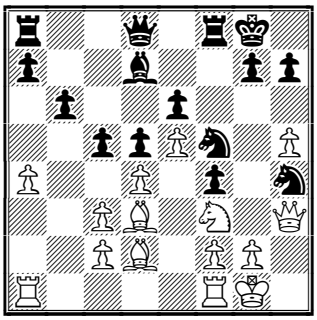
15...f4

A direct approach. 15...cxd4!? 16.cxd4 ♕c3+ 17.♔e2 ♘c6⇄ deserved attention, intending to push the defender of the d4−pawn by ...f4.

16.♗d2 ♘f5

Black has placed his knight on e7 more actively, but now he needs to be careful about the f4−pawn.

17.0-0 ♕d8 18.h5 ♘gh4 (D)



19.♘h2!

A strong decision − White avoids the exchange of knights. 19.♘xh4 ♘xh4 20.♕g4 looked tempting but after 20...c4 21.♗e2 f3! 22.gxf3 ♘f5 and Black has built a very solid position.

19...cxd4

19...♕g5?! was bad due to 20.g3 ♘xg3□ 21.fxg3 ♕xg3+ 22.♕xg3 fxg3 23.♘g4 ♘f3+ 24.♖xf3 ♖xf3 25.h6!± with a big advantage.

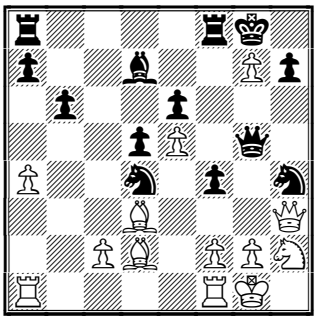
20.cxd4

20.♗xf4!? looked promising − Black faced problems with the knights.

20...♘xd4 21.h6!?

A rather impulsive, but interesting play.

21...♕g5 22.hxg7 (D)



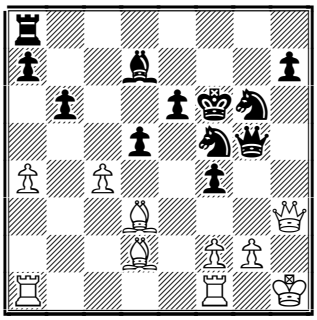
22...♔xg7

22...♖f7!? looked more reliable, intending to capture on g7 with the rook.

23.♔h1 ♘g6 24.♘g4 ♘f5 25.♘f6 ♖xf6

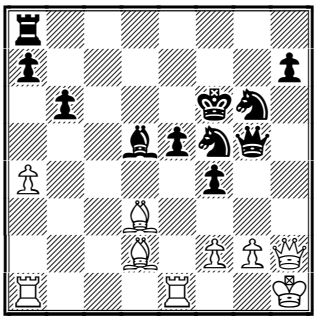
Of course, it was impossible to tolerate such a strongly posted knight.

26.exf6+ ♔xf6 27.c4 (D)



Trying to open up the center because of the centralised king. Yet, Black's monarch is very well defended by his strong pieces.

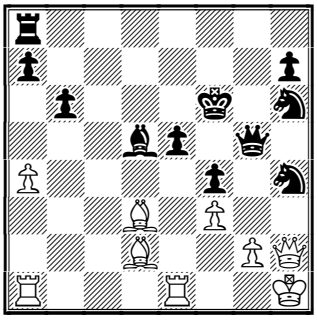
27...e5! 28.♕h2 ♗c6 29.cxd5 ♗xd5 30.♖fe1 (D)



30...♘h6?!

It was time to bring the last piece into play by 30...♖d8!⇄ obtaining very good counter−play.

31.f3 ♘h4?? (D)



Completely missing the following reply. Still 31...♖d8 was a good idea.

32.♖xe5!!+−

A bolt from the blue! The game is over...

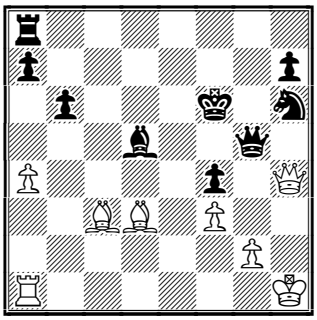
32...♕xe5

Or 32...♔xe5 33.♗xf4+! ♕xf4 34.♖e1+

33.♕xh4+ ♕g5

This loses instantly but 33...♔g7 34.♖c1 was also absolutely hopeless for Black.

34.♗c3+ (D)



Black resigned. Our congratulations for Pavel Smirnov for this excellent victory over such a strong and experienced player in a very intensive battle. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.pzszach.org.pl/europa/womens.htm
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm

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CT-180, 6th May 2001

GM Ulf Andersson top Seed in 36th Capablanca Memorial Tournament in Havana, Cuba.

The *36th Capablanca Memorial* started on the 5th of May, in Havana, Cuba with GM Ulf Andersson of Sweden leading the field in the Elite category XIII group.

(photo from *http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/*)

The participants in the Elite Group are:

GM Ulf Andersson (Sweden) 2640
GM Lázaro Bruzón (Cuba) 2589
GM Hannes Stefansson (Iceland) 2570
GM Thomas Luther (Germany) 2568
GM Anthony Miles (England) 2562
GM Francisco Vallejo (Spain) 2559
GM Jesús Nogueiras (Cuba) 2557
IM Leinier Domínguez (Cuba) 2556
GM I. Alexandre Nataf (France) 2552
GM Walter Arencibia (Cuba) 2543
GM Arnaud Hauchard (France) 2526
IM Neurys Delgado (Cuba) 2481
IM Aryam Abreu (Cuba) 2480

In the 6th Round of the ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista, **Alexander Motylev, Alexander Lastin** and **Konstantin Chernyshov** remain co-leaders as Chernyshov and Motylev drew their game, and Lastin drew his game against Kharlov. Each have 4.5 points . 11 players are in chase, half a point behind.

Some results of the 6th Round
Chernyshov - Motylev 1/2 :1/2
Lastin - Kharlov 1/2:1/2
Epishin - Malakhov 1/2:1/2
Yakovich - Najer 1/2:1/2
Turov - Galkin 1/2:1/2
Pigusov - Dvoirys 1/2:1/2
Kobalija - Smirnov 1:0
Shipov - Bezgodov 1/2:1/2
Jakovenko - Balashov 1/2:1/2
Ibragimov - Pushkov 1/2:1/2

Aseev - Vaulin 1:0
Shariyazdanov - Belozerov 1/2:1/2
Dolmatov - Makarov 1:0
Lugovoi - Volkov 1/2:1/2
Khasin - Ionov 1/2:1/2

Standings of top 14 after 6 rounds

1 Lastin, Alexander - 4.5
2 Motylev, Alexander - 4.5
3 Chernyshov, Konstantin - 4.5
4 Kharlov, Andrei - 4.0
5 Malakhov, Vladimir - 4.0
6 Najer, Evgeniy - 4.0
7 Kobalija, Mihail - 4.0
8 Galkin, Alexander - 4.0
9 Pigusov, Evgeny - 4.0
10 Epishin, Vladimir - 4.0
11 Aseev, Konstantin - 4.0
12 Yakovich, Yuri - 4.0
13 Dvoirys, Semen - 4.0
14 Turov, Maxim - 4.0

IM Ivan Zaja (Croatia), in the VII category round robin ***Father Ivan Cvitanovic Memorial***, takes over the lead from **GM Vladimir Dimitrov**, after Zaja won his game his against Ljubicic, while Dimitrov lost to Horvath! Zaja has scored 6 points, while Dimitrov is a half point behind with 5.5 points. They will face each other in the final round! Horvath who has 5 points and is currently in 3rd place can secure no worse than a tie for second if he wins his final game against Zelic. Zala onlys needs the

draw to secure first place, but needs the full point to gain his final GM norm. It should prove an exciting game!

Rustam Kasymdzhanov (Uzbekistan) wins his second game in a row the 4th round of the Julian Borowski GM-A XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany. This time he beat **Klaus Bischoff** with the black pieces and has scored 3½ points, and has taken the lead! **Christopher Lutz** drew against GM Mikhail Gurevich and is in second place with 3 points. **Emil Sutovsky** (Israel) extended his winning streak to 2 games by defeating Rustem Dautov , while **Friso Nijboer** (Netherlands) finally gets on the board with a draw against GM Sergey Smagin.

Results of the 4th Round:
Bischoff - **Kasymdzhanov** 0 - 1
Sutovsky - Dautov 1 - 0
Smagin - Nijboer ½ - ½
M..Gurevich - Lutz ½ - ½
Romanishin - Jussupow ½ - ½

Standings after 4 rounds:
1. **Kasymdzhanov – 3 ½ points**
2. Lutz - 3.0
3-4. M. Gurevich, Jussupow - 2½
5-6. Romanishin, Sutovsky - 2.0
7-8. Dautov, Bischof - 1½
9. Smagin - 1.0
10. Nijboer - ½

Pairings for the 5th Round:

Jussupow - Bischoff
Lutz - Romanishin
Nijboer - Gurevich
Dautov - Smagin
Kasymdzhanov- Sutovsky

After 8 rounds of play in the strong Open A section in ***Bydgoszcz***, Poland, five players share first place with 5½ points: **GM Eduardas Rozentalis, Eduardas, GM Bartosz Soæko, IM Kamil Mitoñ, GM Valerij Popov,** and **GM Aleksandr Poluljahov.** 12 players are in chase a half point behind**.**

Here are some results of the 8th Round:

Soæko - Rozentalis ½:½
Popov - Eingorn ½:½
Malaniuk - Mitoñ ½:½
Gleizerov - Lanka ½:½
Brodsky - Ulibin ½:½
Wojtkiewicz - Zontakh ½:½
Rashkovsky - Poluljahov 0:1
Jaracz - Cyborowski ½:½
Markowski - 1:0 Pacuszka 1:0
Kuczyñski - Zhigalko ½:½

(please note results of the 7th round can be found at: http://www.szachy.lo.pl/)*

Today's game requires some introduction. It seems that many *CT* readers appreciate instructive games and annotations, so today I would like to show an old game of mine and later follow it up with another game in the same pawn structure. I would recommend that you view the game not in the *CT* body below, but first in *Chess Base*, where you can take advantage of the 'training question' feature. Enjoy this mini-lesson! --- ***Alexander Baburin***

♘♘♘

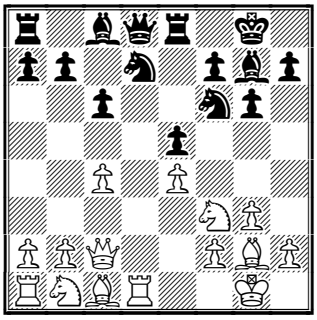
Annotated Game

A. Baburin – Stummer
Budapest, 1992 E60
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.Qc2 e5 8.Rd1 Re8 9.e4 c6 10.dxe5

At that time I liked this exchange, inspired by great results of Ukrainian GM Oleg Romanishin in this system.

10...dxe5 (D)



White has a potentially weak square on d4, while Black has a weakness on d6. White would love to play c4−c5 and place a knight on d6, while Black dreams to land his knight on d4. Play goes around these 2 squares.

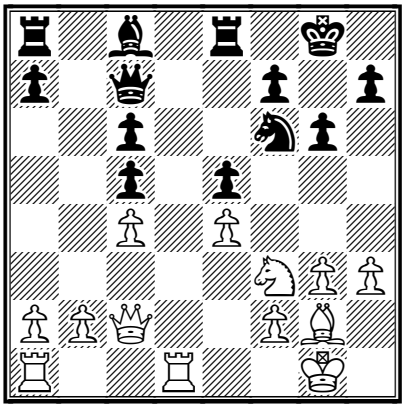
11.h3!

White makes sure that ...Ng4 or ...Bg4 (attacking the f3−knight) does not become an option for Black. 11.Nc3

11...Bf8!? 12.Be3 b6 13.Nc3 Qc7 14.Na4 Nc5

Interesting decision − Black does not mind doubling pawns in order to strengthen his control over the d4−square.

15.Nxc5 Bxc5 16.Bxc5 bxc5 (D)



The Position has changed − Black has greater control over the d4−square, but the c5−pawn might be weak.

17.Ne1! Be6

17...Qe7 18.Nd3 Nd7 19.Qe2 (19.f4!? exf4 20.gxf4↑) 19...Nf8 20.Qe3 Ne6 21.Nxe5 Nd4 22.Nd3 Nc2 23.Qxc5∞

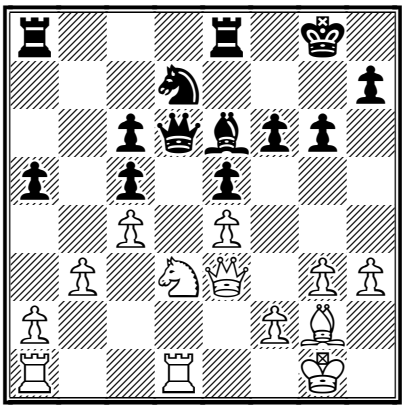
18.Nd3 Nd7 19.b3 f6?

19...a5! 20.f4 (20.Nb2 Nb6) 20...exf4 21.gxf4 f6 22.Qf2↑

20.Qd2! a5

20...Qd6 21.Qa5! Qe7 22.Rd2±

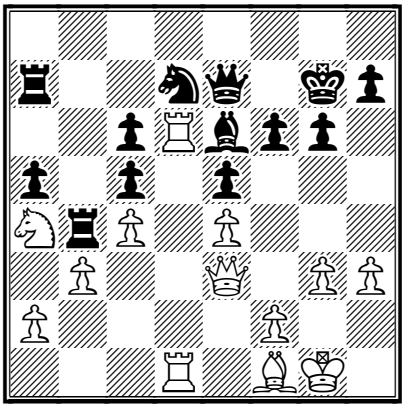
21.Qe3 Qd6 (D)



22.Nb2! Qe7 23.Na4

Now Black is completely tied up − his knight can't move and there is no way he can challenge the a4−knight.

23...Reb8 24.Rd2 Rb4 25.Rad1 Ra7 26.Bf1! Kg7 27.Rd6! (D)



Finally the c5−pawn falls. Black's attempt to trap the d6−rook quickly backfires:

27...Bd5? 28.Rxd7 Rxd7 29.Nxc5 Rd8 30.cxd5 cxd5 31.exd5 Rb6 32.Bc4 f5 33.Re1 f4 34.gxf4 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-181, 7th May 2001

IM Ivan Zaja of Croatia Wins *Father Cvitanovic Memorial !*

Ivan Zaja >>(Croatia), wins the VII category round robin *Father Ivan Cvitanovic Memorial*, in impressive style, scoring 7 points out of 10 and defeating GM Vladimir Dimitrov (Bulgaria) in the final round, and also earning his final GM norm! GM Csaba Horvath (Hungary) placed second with 6/10 and GM Vladimir Dmitrov came in, no doubt, a disappointing 3rd with 5½/10.

The Final Standings:
1. **Ivan Zaja - 7.0**
2. **Csaba Horvath - 6.0**
3. **Vladimir Dimitrov - 5½**
4. Filip Ljubicic - 5.0

5-6. Sandor Videki - 4½
5-6. Vladimir Bukal - 4½
7-8. Gyozo Forintos - 4.0
7-8. Dinko Brumen - 4.0
9. Ivica Armanda - 2½
10. Mladen Zelic - 2.0

Rustam Kasymdzhanov (Uzbekistan) drew his game with **Emil Sutovsky** in the 5th round of the Julian Borowski GM-A XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany and maintains his first place standing with 4 points from 5. GM **Oleg Romanishin** beat **Christopher Lutz** to share second place with GM Lutz and **GM Jussupow,Artur,** who drew his game with **Klaus Bischoff .** After a slow start **Friso Nijboer** (Netherlands) finally scores his first point against none other than **GM Mikhail Gurevich**!

We feature a game between Frisco Nijboer and Emil Sutovsky from round 3 annotated by our guest annotator GM Lev Psakhis. GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir are away participating in chess tournaments.

Results of the 5th Round:
Kasimdzhanov - Sutovsky ½ - ½
Jussupow - Bischoff ½ - ½
Lutz - Romanishin 0 - 1

Nijboer - Gurevich 1 - 0
Dautov - Smagin 1 - 0

Standings after 5 rounds:
1. **Kasymdzhanov – 4.0 points**
2-4. Lutz - 3.0
2-4. Jussupow - 3.0
2-4. Romanishin - 3.0
5-7. Sutovsky - 2½
5-7. Dautov - 2½
5-7. Gurevich - 2½
8. Bischof - 2.0
9. Nijboer - 1½
10. Smagin - 1.0

In the 7th round of the ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista, **Alexander Motylev** and **Alexander Lastin** drew their game and remain in a tie for first wih 5.0 points. **Konstantin Chernyshov** lost to **Vladimir Malakhov** , and drops down to second place with 4½ points, while Malakov claims a share of first place with 5.0 points, along with **Mikhai**l **Kobalija**, who beat **Semen Dvoirys**. 11 players are in chase with 4½ points.

Some results of the 7th Round.

Motylev - Lastin 1/2:1/2
Malakhov - Chernyshov 1:0
Kharlov - Aseev 1/2:1/2
Najer - Epishin 1/2:1/2
Dvoirys - Kobalija 0:1
Galkin - Yakovich 1/2:1/2
Turov - Pigusov 1/2:1/2
Smirnov - Shipov 1:0
Bezgodov - Dolmatov 1/2:1/2
Balashov - Iljushin 1/2:1/2

Burmakin - Ibragimov 1:0

Standings of top 14 after 7 rounds

1. Lastin Alexander 5.0
2. Malakhov, Vladimir 5.0
3. Motylev, Alexander 5.0
4. Kobalija, Mikhail 5.0
5. Kharlov, Andrei 4½
6. Najer, Evgeniy 4½
7. Galkin, Alexander 4½
8. Pigusov, Evgeny 4½
9. Epishin, Vladimir 4½
10. Aseev, Konstantin 4½
11. Yakovich, Yuri 4½
12. Turov, Maxim 4½
13 .Chernyshov, Konstantin 4½
14. Burmakin, Vladimir 4½

GM Eduardas Rozentalis (Russia), GM Valerij Popov (Russia), and **GM Aleksandr Poluljahov (Lithuania)** share first place in the Open A section in ***Bydgoszcz***, Poland, finishing with 6½ points after 9 rounds of play.

As of this writing the first round of the ***36th Capablanca Memorial*** has been completed. In the Elite Group GMs Arnaud Hauchard (France), Igor Alexandre Nataf (France), Hannes Stefansson (Iceland), and Francisco Vallejo (Spain) share first place with 1.0 point. GM Ulf Andersson (Sweden), IM Aryam Abreu (Cuba) GM Anthony Miles (England) and GM Jesús Nogueiras (Cuba) are half a point behind. GM Thomas Luther (Germany) had a free day on the 5th of May.

Results of the 1st round:
Abreu - Andersson ½:½
Hauchard - Delgado 1:0
Dominguez - Nataf 0:1
Stefansson - Bruzon 1:0
Miles - Nogueiras ½:½
Arencibia - Vallejo 0-1

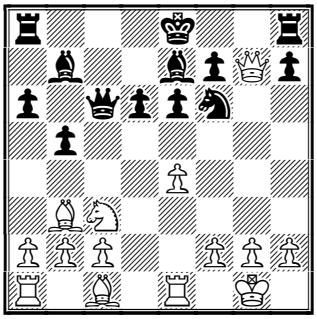
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

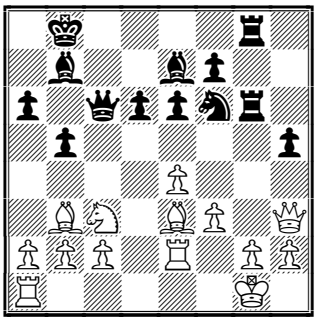
F. Nijboer (2580) – E. Sutovsky (2604)

Essen Borowski–A (3), 04.05.2001
B87
Notes by GM Lev Psakhis

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.♕f3 ♕c7
9...♕b6!? 10.♗e3 ♕b7∞
10.♕g3 ♘c6 11.♘xc6 ♕xc6 12.♖e1 ♗b7 13.♕xg7!? (D)



13.a3!? 0-0 14.♗h6 ♘e8 15.♖ad1 ♖d8 16.♖d3 ♔h8 17.♗g5 ♗xg5 18.♕xg5 ♘f6 19.f3 ♘d7= ½-½ Ivanov,O–Shneider,A/UKR t–ch Alushta 2000 (67)
13...♖g8 14.♕h6 0-0-0 15.♕h3 ♔b8 16.f3 ♖g6 17.♗e3
17.a3 ♖dg8 18.♖e2 h5 19.♔h1 ♕c7 20.♘d1 h4 21.♘e3 ♘h5⩲ 0-1 Georgiev,K–Ivanchuk,V/Tilburg 1993/CBM 39 (34)
17...♖dg8 18.♖e2 h5!? (D)



18...♘d7 19.♘d5! exd5 20.♗xd5 ♕c7 21.♗xf7 ♗f6 22.♖d1 ♗xb2 23.c4 ♗a3 24.cxb5 axb5 25.♗xg8 ♖xg8 26.♕xh7± 1-0 Ivanchuk,V–Polugaevsky, L/Monte Carlo 1993/CBM 34 ext (35)

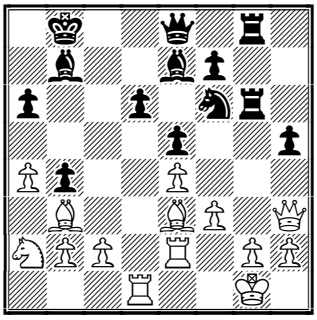
19.♖d1

19.a4 b4 20.♘a2 d5 (20...a5 21.c3!) 21.e5 ♘d7 22.♗d4±

19...♕e8

19...♖8g7!? 20.a4 b4 21.♘a2 ♗c8 22.♕h4 a5 23.♕e1 ♗a6 24.♖ed2 ♘xe4!⇄ 0-1 Jaracz,P−Sergejev,R/Aarhus 1993/EXT 99 (41)

20.a4 b4 21.♘a2 e5! (D)



22.♘xb4

⌓22.♖ed2□ ♗c8 23.♕h4 d5 (23...♘g4 24.♕e1 ♗h4!?) 24.exd5 ♘xd5 25.♕e4 ♘xe3 26.♕xe3 ♗g5

22...a5! 23.♘d3

23.♘d5! ♗c8! (23...♘xd5? 24.♗xd5 ♗c8 25.♕xh5 ♖h8 26.♗xf7!+−) 24.♘xf6 ♗xf6 25.♕xh5 ♖h8 26.♕xg6 fxg6 27.♖xd6 ♗d8 28.♖ed2∞

23...♗c8 24.♕h4 ♘g4 25.♕xh5

25.♕e1 ♘xe3 26.♖xe3 ♖xg2+ 27.♔h1 ♕d7!+−

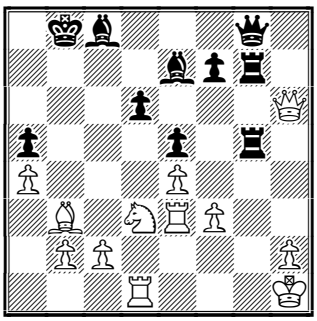
25...♘xe3 26.♖xe3 ♖xg2+

26...♗f6!?

27.♔h1 ♖8g5 28.♕h7

28.♕xf7 ♖xh2+! 29.♔xh2 ♕h8+; 28.♕h6 ♕g8 29.♖ee1 ♖g6 30.♕h5 ♖2g5 31.♕h4 ♖g1+!+−

28...♖g7 29.♕h5 ♖2g5 30.♕h6 ♕g8-+ (D)



31.♖ee1 ♖h7 0-1.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-182, 8th May 2001

ICCF 50 Years World Champions Julibee Tournament Starts!

To mark it's 50th anniversary, the International Correspondence chess Federation (ICCF) has organized a very special tournament - the *World Champions Julibee Tournament (intro)*. All 8 living World CC Champions are participating plus the number one rated player in the ICCF. The average ICCF rating is 2620, which makes this is a category XV event and therefore one of the strongest CC tournaments ever held. The total prize is prize fund is $25,000 Euros. The tournament Director is Nol van't Riet (Netherlands). A crosstable of the event has been posted at:

http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/WCJT.html

The following is the list of participants:

Fritz Baumbach (GER, 2489)
Hans Berliner (USA, 2763)
Tonu Oim (EST, 2610)
Vytas Palciauskas (USA, 2558)
Horst Rittner (GER, 2577)
Grigory Sanakoev (RUS, 2597)
Jorn Sloth (DEN, 2605)
Gert Timmerman (NLD, 2744)
Mikhail Umansky (RUS, 2633)

In the 8th round of the ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista, **Alexander Motylev** and **Alexander Lastin** won their games against **Mikhail Kobalija** and **Vladimir Malakhov** respectively and remain in a tie for first wih 6.0 points. **Andrei Karlov** is in 3rd place with 5½ points by him himself with a win over **Yuri Yakovich**, as black.

Some results of the 8th Round:

Lastin - Kobalija 1:0
Malakhovr - Motylev 0:1
Yakovich - Kharlov 0:1
Aseev - Najer ½:½
Chernyshov - Galkin ½:½
Pigusov - Burmakin ½:½
Epishin - Smirnov ½:½
Shariyazdanov - Turov ½:½
Dolmatov - Vaulin ½:½

Standings of top 10 after 8 rounds:

Lastin, Alexander 6.0
Motylev, Alexander 6.0
Kharlov, Andrei 5½
Malakhov, Vladimir 5.0
Najer, Evgeniy 5.0
Kobalija, Mihail 5.0
Pigusov, Evgeny 5.0
Galkin, Alexander 5.0
Epishin, Vladimir 5.0
Aseev, Konstantin 5.0
etc. …..

As of this writing the 2nd round of the ***36th Capablanca Memorial*** has been completed. In the Elite Group all games were drawn, except for the game **Luther - Abreu,** which was won by Luther. GM Francisco Vallejo (Spain) had a free day.

Results of the 2nd round:

Luther - Abreu 1:0
Andersson - Hauchard ½:½
Nogueiras - Arencibia ½:½
Bruzon - Miles ½:½
Nataf - Stefansson ½:½
Delgado - Dominguez ½:½

Standings after 2 rounds:
1-3. Hauchard 1½
1-3. Nataf 1½
1-3. Stefasson 1½

4-8. Andersson 1.0
4-8. Luther 1.0
4-8. Miles 1.0
4-8. Vallejo 1.0
4-8. Nogueiras 1.0
9-13. Delgado ½
9-13. Arencibia ½
9-13. Bruzon ½
9-13. Albreu ½
9-13. Dominquez ½

Today (the 7th May) was free a day in the A XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany so no games were played.

The parings for the 6th round are:

Bischoff - Sutovsky
Smagin - Kasymdzhanov
Gurevich - Dautov
Romanishin - Nijboer
Jussupow - Lutz

♘♘♘

Editorial note

by Alexander Baburin

Dear ***Chess Today*** readers!

I just returned from the last ***4NCL*** (British Team League) weekend in Birmingham. After some very interesting play, the tournament saw a 3-way tie for first. **Beeson Gregory** lost in the last round to **Wood Green**, but still became the champion because of better match points. **Slough** finished second and **Wood Green** third. The full report will be ready tomorrow, but meanwhile I would like to mention that in the match **Wood Green** - **Beeson Gregory** (5-3 for **Wood Green**) on board 1 Nigel Short (**Wood Green**) drew vs. Michael Adams, while on board 2 Alexander Morozevich (**Wood Green**) beat Peter Svidler with Black.

As you may remember, last Saturday I showed one of my games played in the King's Indian Defence with g2-g3. Today I would like to show another, very similar game. I recommend you to view it in ChessBase, thus turning the game it into a small lesson. Please let me know what you think of this way of presenting games (with training questions) - I would appreciate your comments!

♘♘♘

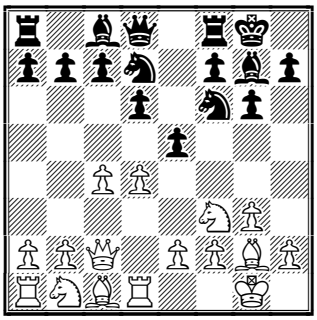
Annotated Game

A. Baburin – S. Robovic (2340)
Oberwart open, 1991 E68
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3

What can I say? I like this system – White rarely gets checkmated here. The trouble is that it's not the most aggressive system against the Gruenfeld, so many KID players choose 4...d5 or 4...c6 here.

4...0-0 5.♗g2 d6 6.0-0 ♘bd7 7.♕c2 e5 8.♖d1 (D)

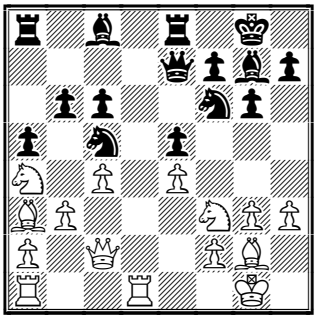


Around that time I liked this system and played it often. Later I came to think that the rook is better off on e1, but this line is still playable.

8...♖e8 9.e4 c6 10.♘c3 ♕e7 11.b3 a5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.h3 ♘c5?!

This allows White to deploy the bishop immediately.

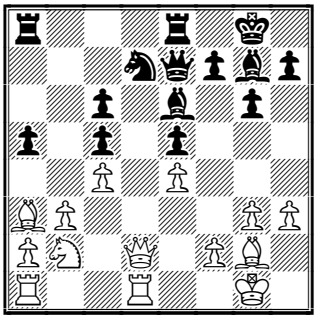
14.♗a3 b6 15.♘a4 (D)



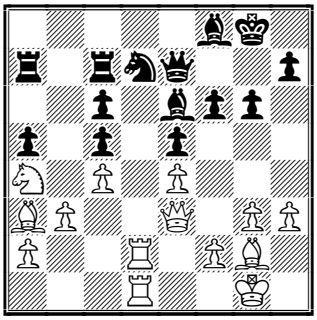
15...♖b8?

This is waste of time, as Black

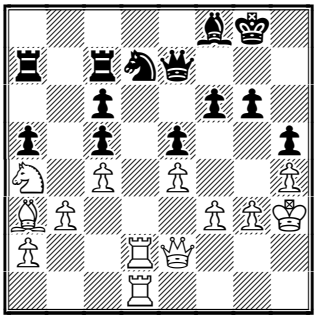
would have to move the queen anyway. Better was 15...♕a7
16.♘xc5?
This is too hasty. Better was 16.♘e1! ♘fd7 17.♘d3 ♗f8 18.♕d2
16...bxc5 17.♘e1 ♗e6 18.♘d3 ♘d7 19.♕d2 ♖a8 20.♘b2 (D)



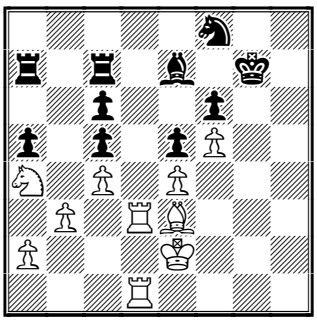
20...♗f8?
20...♘b6□ The only move, as Black must not allow Nb2−a4.
21.♘a4 ♖a7 22.♕e3 f6 23.♖d2 ♖c8 24.♖ad1 ♖cc7 (D)



25.♔h2!
This quiet move prepares the exchange of the light−squared bishops, which favours White.
25...h5 26.h4 ♔h7 27.♕e2 ♗g4 28.f3 ♗e6 29.♗h3 ♗xh3 30.♔xh3 ♔g8 (D)



It's time to make another plan. As White cannot put more pressure on the c5−pawn or the d7−knight, he needs to attack the king. Then the passive position of Black's pieces will tell!
31.♔g2! ♔h7 32.♖d3 ♔g8 33.♕f2 ♔h7 34.♔f1 ♔g7 35.♔e2! ♔h7 36.g4!
White has everything ready and starts an attack on the kingside.
36...hxg4 37.fxg4 ♕e6 38.♕f3 ♗e7 39.♗c1 ♕f7 40.h5! ♘f8 41.hxg6+ ♕xg6 42.♕f5! ♔g7 43.♗e3 ♕xf5 44.gxf5 (D)



Despite limited remaining material, Black's king is doomed, as Black's pieces cannot help him.
44...♘d7 45.♗f2 ♔f7 46.♖h1 ♗f8 47.♖g3 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.4ncl.co.uk/sat.htm
http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/WCJT.html
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/borowski/borowski.html
http://54rcc.fide.com/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-183, 9th May 2001

GM Rustam Kasymdzhanov Maintains Slim lead in Borowski "A" - Tournament in Essen, Germany

After 6 rounds of play in the A - XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany **GM Rustam Kasymdzhanov** is still in the lead with 4½ points out of 6. Kasymdzhanov drew with **GM Sergey Smagin**. A half point behind are **GM Christopher Lutz** and **GM Oleg Romanishin.** >>
Lutz defeated **GM Jussupow,** while Romanishin downed Nijboer.

Results of the 6th Round:

Smagin - **Kasymdzhanov** ½: ½
Romanishin - Nijboer 1:0
Jussupow - **Lutz** 0:1
Bischoff - Sutovsky 0:1
Gurevich - Dautov ½ :½

Standings after 6 rounds:

1. Rustam Kasymdzhanov - 4½
2. Christopher Lutz - 4.0
3. Oleg M. Romanishin - 4.0
4. Emil Sutovsky - 3½
5. Mikhail Gurevich - 3.0
6. Artur Jussupow - 3.0
7. Rustem Dautov - 3.0
8. Klaus Bischoff - 2.0
9. Sergey Smagin - 1½
10. Frisco Nijboer - 1½

Parings for the 7th Round:

Lutz - Bischoff
Nijboer - Jussupow
Dautov - Romanishin
Kasymdzhanov - Gurevich
Sutovsky - Smagin

After three rounds of play in the ***36th Capablanca Memorial*** **GM Hannes Stefansson is in sole lead with 2½** out of 3 in the Elite Group. The game between **GM Ulf Andersson** and **IM Lenier Dominguez** was postponed because Andersson was ill. In this round 4 games were decisive and only 1 drawn! Ariam Abreu had a day off in the 3rd round.

Results of the 3rd round:
Stefansson - Delgado 1:0
Hauchard - Luther ½:½

Dominguez - Andersson (postponed)
Miles - Nataf 1:0
Arencibia - Bruzon 0:1
Vallejo - Nogueiras 1:0

Standings after 3 rounds:
1.Hannes Stefannes - 2½
2-4.Anthony Miles -2.0
2-4. Arnaud Hauchard 2.0
2-4. FranciscoVallejo - 2.0
5-7 Igor Nataf - 1½
5-7. Lazaro Bruzon - 1½
5-7. Thomas Luther - 1½
8-9. Jesus Nogueiras -1.0
8-9. Ulf Andersson -1.0
10-13. Walter Arencibia - ½
10-13. Ariam Abreu - ½
10-13. Neuris Delgado - ½
10-13. Lenier Dominguez - ½

The ***54th Russian Championship*** in Elista, has ended with **GM Alexander Motylev** of Moscow being declared the winner and the new Russian Champion after tie-breaks. His final score was 6½ out of 9. **GM Alexander Lastin, also**

finishing with 6½ points came in second and **GM Andrey Kharlov** took 3rd place with 6.0 points.

Finals standings of top 10:

1. Alexander Motylev - 6½
2. Alexander Lastin - 6½
3. Andrei Kharlov - 6.0
4. Konstantin Chernyshov - 5½
5. Vladimir Malakhov - 5½
6. Evgeny Pigusov - 5½
7. Maxim Turov - 5½
8. Pavel Smirnov - 5½
9. Vladmir Epishin - 5½
10. Valentin Arbakov - 5½

Editorial note

by Alexander Baburin

Dear Chess Today readers!

Thank you for your feedback concerning annotations in Chess Base and use of the ***training question*** function. It seems that most people welcomed this feature, so I will continue to annotate games in this fashion from time to time. I would like to add that you can use ***training questions*** feature with cbv file - either with Chess Base 6.0 or higher or with **ChessBase Light**. The latter is very important, as CB Light is free for download at ***www.chessbase.com***.

Vladimir Kramnik has kindly agreed to give an **interview** to ***Chess Today***. Of course, I could come up with some questions, but it would be more interesting if different people could ask him something. Thus, I invite you to **send your questions** for Vladimir. Mark them 'Kramnik' (in the subject field) and e-mail to ababurin@iol.ie, providing your name and country. As the interview could be conducted very soon (could be even tomorrow - depending on Vladimir's schedule), please send your questions as soon as possible.

Yesterday a season closed in the ***4NCL*** (British Team League). It was a very interesting and eventful weekend in Birmingham - with many good games played. Going into the last 3 rounds the leaders - **Beeson Gregory**-1, had 16 points from 8 matches, while **Slough** and **Wood Green** (for which I play) had 14 points. Wood Green was to play **Beeson Gregory-1** in the last round, but it was almost unrealistic to catch up with the leader as it also had 6 game points more than both **Wood Green** and **Slough.**

In round 9 **Wood Green** beat **Beeson Gregory-2** with 6½-1½, which was good as our opponents had 2 GMs and several IMs. However, **Beeson Gregory-1** scored even better (7-1) against **Barbican-2.** Meanwhile Slough scored 6 points. In round 10 my team failed to score well against **Barbican-2**, winning the match with only with 5-3. For a while it looked even worse, as we could have lost the match. That would be a sad déjà vu - last year in round 9 we lost to **Barbican-1**, which ruined our chances for winning the tournament and the last round clash with **Slough** became a bit irrelevant.

It was clear that **Beeson Gregory-1** won the event even prior to the final round, as **Wood Green** needed to beat them 7½-½. Meanwhile Slow had better chances for 2nd place. Nevertheless both **Beeson Gregory** and **Wood Green** took the match very seriously and had impressive line up. Judge for yourself:

	Wood Green (2571)	Rating	Result	**Beeson Gregory** (2549)	Rating
1	N. Short	2676	½-½	M. Adams	2750
2	A. Morozevich	2749	1-0	P. Svidler	2696
3	A. Baburin	2588	½-½	I. Rogers	2528
4	J. Speelman	2594	½-½	J. Nunn	2578
5	C. Ward	2505	½-½	J. Hodgson	2595
6	M. Turner	2516	½-½	M. Hebden	2560
7	J. Emms	2514	½-½	L. McShane	2490
8	K. Arakhamia-Grant	2427	1-0	H. Richards	2192

So, **Wood Green** beat **Beeson Gregory** won 5-3. The final standings:
1. Beeson Gregory - 20 points (66 game points)
2. Slough - 20 points (63 game points)
3. Wood Green - 20 points (61½ game points)
4.Guilford-ADC-1 - 15 points
5. Barbican 4NCL-1 - 12 points.
For more details on the tournament please refer to www.4ncl.co.uk

It is curious that this season Michael Adams became a champion in 3 different countries! He won in Germany (with Luebeck), France (playing for Monaco) and in UK (playing for Beeson Gregory). Alexander Morozevich also become French champion (as Adams he plays for Monaco), but got only bronze medals in Germany and UK. Another interesting fact that after beating Peter Svidler with Black on Monday, Alexander's score on English soil became an incredible 13½ out of 14! He won the Lloyd's Bank Open in 1994 with 13½ out of 14 and so far won all his games in 4NCL.

Today I would like to show you one game played in Birmingham last Saturday:

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

M. Hennigan (2455) − N. Short (2676)
Birmingham, 05.05.2001 C07
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

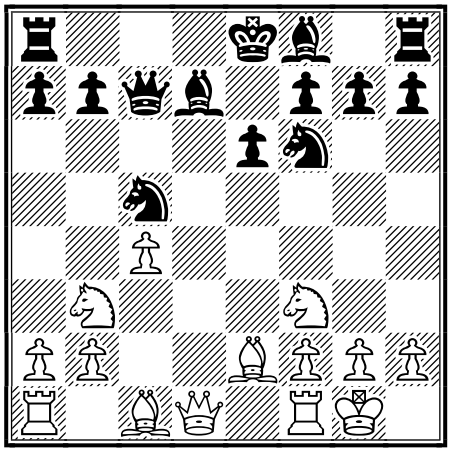
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3 ♘f6 5.exd5 ♘xd5

This is a rare move. Usually Black plays here 5...exd5 settling for the isolated d−pawn.

6.dxc5

6.♘b3 ♘d7 7.♗g5 ♗e7 8.♗xe7 ♕xe7 9.♗b5 cxd4 10.♕xd4 0-0 11.0-0-0 a6 12.♗c4 ♘5f6 13.♖he1 with initiative, as in Palac−Baumegger, Montecatini Terme 1997.; 6.♗b5+ ♗d7 7.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 8.0-0 cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♗e7 10.c4 ♘b4 11.♘2f3 0-0 12.♕e2 ½-½ Pribyl,J−Luther, Pardubice 2000.

6...♘d7 7.c4 ♘5f6 8.♘b3 ♕c7 9.♗e2 ♘xc5 10.0-0 ♗d7! (D)

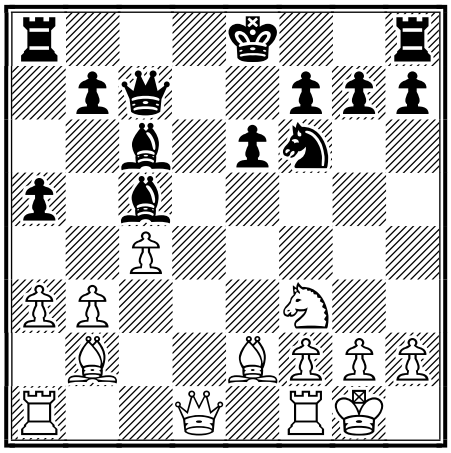


Black waits with developing the f8−bishop, as he does not want to take on c5 in two goes.

11.♘xc5 ♗xc5 12.a3 a5 13.b3 ♗c6!

Black does not hurry with castling and we should soon see why.

14.♗b2 (D)



White has a queenside majority, but it is not going anywhere here just yet. What really matters is that Black's pieces are more actively placed. Short proves it in style:

14...♘g4! 15.h3 h5!

It's important to bring more pieces into attack. Meanwhile Black's king is safe on e8.

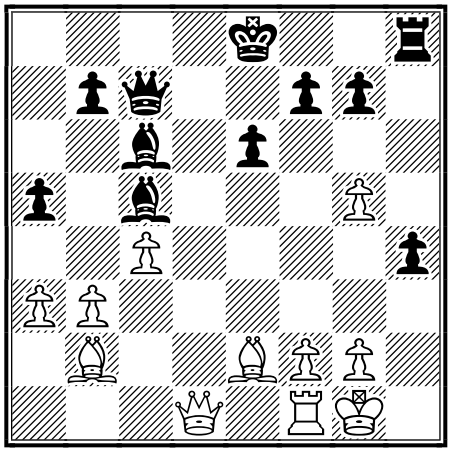
16.hxg4 ♗xf3

16...hxg4? 17.♗e5±

17.g5

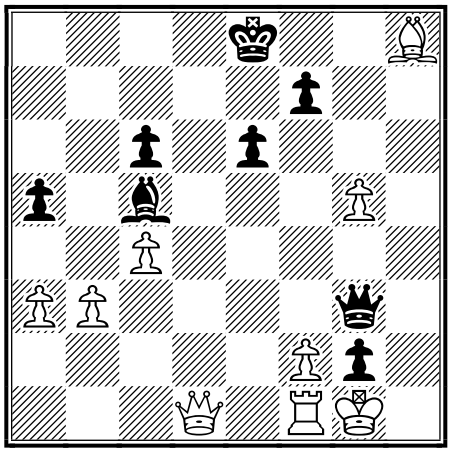
White can't afford opening of the h−file: 17.♗xf3 hxg4 18.♖e1 ♕g3-+

17...♖d8 18.♕c2 ♗c6 19.♖ad1 ♖xd1 20.♕xd1 h4 (D)



Black's h−pawn is about torpedo the enemy king and there is little White can do about it.

21.♗f3 h3 22.♗xc6+ bxc6 23.♗xg7 hxg2 24.♗xh8 ♕g3! (D)



This is a very picturesque position. White can't stop ...Qg3−h3−h1#.

25.♗d4 ♕h3

Nice play by Nigel Short! **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.4ncl.co.uk/sat.htm
http://www.iccf.com/tables/invi/WCJT.html
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.szachy.lo.pl/
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/borowski/borowski.html
http://54rcc.fide.com/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CT-184, 10th May 2001

Kasymdzhanov a point clear of the field

After 7 rounds of play in the A - XV category tournament in Essen Germany, **GM Rustam Kasymdzhanov** has retained top spot by beating Gurevich with White. Lutz could only draw with the advantage of the White pieces and is met on 4½ by Sutovsky who beat Smagin.

Romanishin lost with Black to Dautov and slips to 4th. However … tomorrow he has White against the leader and so has a chance to make a comeback.

Results of the 7th Round:
Lutz - Bischoff ½ - ½
Nijboer - Jussupow ½ - ½
Dautov- Romanishin 1 - 0
Kasimdzhanov - Gurevich 1 - 0
Sutovsky - Smagin 1 - 0

Standings after 7 rounds:
1. Kasimdzhanov 5½
2. Lutz 4½
3. Sutovsky 4½
4. Romanishin 4.0
5. Dautov 4.0
6. Jussupow 3½
7. Gurevich 3.0
8. Bischoff 2½
9. Nijboer 2.0
10. Smagin 1½

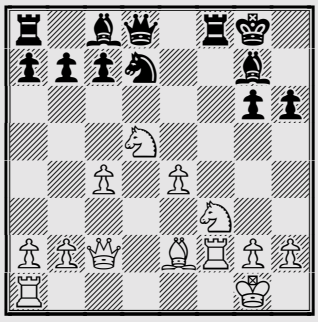
Tomorrow's play
Bischoff - Smagin
Gurevich - Sutovsky
Romanishin - Kasimdzhanov
Jussupow - Dautov
Lutz - Nijboer

Morozevich

Tactical Quiz

This game was played at the recent final 4NCL weekend (see CT-183)

J Speelman – D Norwood
4NCL (9.3), 05.05.2001 [A42]



Black might obtain a certain amount of compensation for the pawn, if he could bring out his pieces. But right now White has a big lead in development. How should he play?

Editors Note: The solution to this puzzle is given at the end of this issue. Also, Alex has annotated the whole game in the cbv file CT-184.cbv attached. By the way, Alex was playing in the same team (Wood Green) as Speelman and he annotates one of the best games of the weekend for us in this edition of *Chess Today*. It was played by another Wood Green << player whose ELO for games played in England must now top 3000!

Four players share first place in the Elite group in the 36th Capablanca Memorial after the first stage of the contest.

Tomorrow is a day of rest for the participants. The game of the day was from the Andersson-Stefansson encounter, with the Swedish GM

winning in 39 moves. Andersson … with 2 points and one postponed is well placed to overtake all four leaders.

Fourth round results
Bruzon - Vallejo ½-½
Nataf - Arencibia 0-1
Delgado - Miles ½-½
Andersson - Stefansson 1-0
Luther - Dominguez 0-1
Abreu - Hauchard ½-½

Top places
Stefannes - 2½
Miles -2½
Hauchard - 2½
Vallejo - 2½

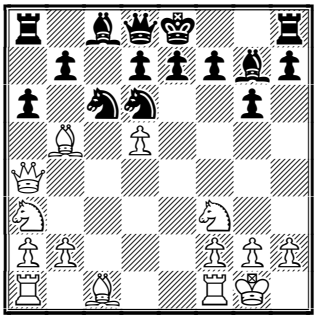
Kramnik Interview: Chess Today has already received many questions for the forthcoming interview with Vladimir Kramnik … readers are welcome to send any more now to Alex at ababurin@iol.ie , marking their e-mail Kramnik in the subject line.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

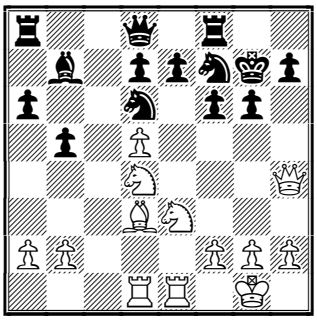
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

A Morozevich(2749) − L McShane (2490)
4NCL (9.1), 05.05.2001 B31
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.c3 ♘f6 6.d4!? cxd4 7.cxd4 ♘xe4 8.d5 ♘d6 9.♘a3 a6 10.♕a4

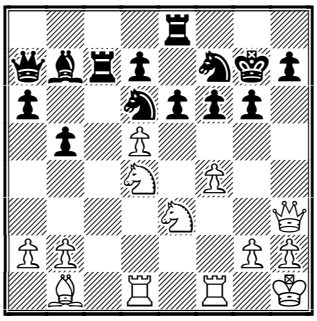


White has a certain amount of compensation for the pawn, as he is better developed. While it's hard to say whether this is full compensation, Morozevich's choice was certainly clever as (like most young players) Luke McShane prefers attack to defence.

10...♘a7
This is a novelty. Previously Black played 10...Na5 or 10...Ne5. For example, in the game Motylev−Lemmers, Rotterdam 1998, White emerged on to after some messy complications: 10...♘e5 11.♘xe5 ♗xe5 12.♖e1 ♗f6 13.♗h6 ♘f5 14.♕f4 axb5 15.♘xb5 d6 16.♖ac1 ♘xh6 17.♕xh6 ♗f5 18.g4 ♗xg4 19.♘c7+ ♔d7 20.♕f4 ♗f5 21.♕c4 ♖a5 22.b4 ♖c5 23.bxc5 ♔xc7 24.♕a4 dxc5 25.♖xc5+ ♔b8 26.♖a5+− By the way, 21-year old GM Motylev just became the new Russian Champion.
11.♗d3 0-0 12.♖e1 b5 13.♕h4 ♗b7 14.♗h6 f6 15.♗xg7 ♔xg7 16.♖ad1 ♘ac8 17.♘c2 ♘f7 18.♘e3 ♘cd6 19.♘d4



White has some compensation, but not much more. But it is not easy to play for Black, who has limited space.
19...♖e8 20.♕h3 ♖c8 21.♗b1 ♖c7 22.f4 ♕b8
This may be a dubious idea.
23.♖f1 ♕a7 24.♔h1 e6?



It was wrong to create tension when most of Black's pieces were on the queenside. Prior to this move Black's position was rather solid, but now it begins to crack:
25.f5!
White does not hesitate to exploit Black's mistake. Previously Black could have met this advance with ...g5, but not

now, as he has a pawn on e6.

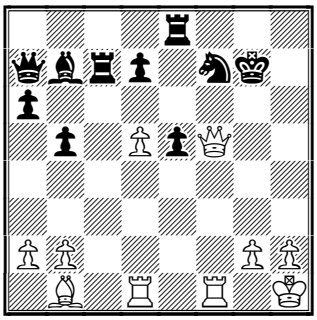
25...e5

After 25...exf5 Black is also doomed due to 26.♘dxf5+ gxf5 27.♘xf5+ ♘xf5 28.♕xf5 Just look at Black's sleeping army on the queenside − no wonder his king cannot survive the assault!

26.fxg6 hxg6 27.♕f3

Clever! Moves like 27.Bxg6 and 27...Ndf5+ also come to mind. Here McShane was in time trouble, which made the situation even worse for him.

27...f5 28.♘exf5+ gxf5 29.♘xf5+ ♘xf5 30.♕xf5



Nothing can save Black here.

30...d6 31.♕g6+ ♔f8 32.♕xd6+ ♖ee7 33.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 34.♖f1+ ♔g8 35.♕g6+ 1-0

<u>Solution to Tactical position</u>

15.e5! Right to the point! **15...c6 16.♕xg6! cxd5 17.♗d3 ♖f4 18.♕h7+ ♔f8 19.♘d4! 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/borowski/borowski.html
http://www.4ncl.co.uk/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
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CT-185, 11th May 2001

Kasymdzhanov Continues to lead in Essen, Germany

After 8 rounds of play in the A - XV category tournament in ***Essen***, Germany **GM Rustam Kasymdzhanov** is still in the Lead. But his lead has been cut by a half point - he could only manage a draw with the White pieces against **GM Oleg Romanishin,** while **GM Emil Sutovsky** (Israel) defeated **GM Mikhail Gurevich** with Black, and **GM Christopher Lutz** defeated **GM Friso Nijboer** (Netherlands). **Kasymdzhanov** can clinch first place with a win over **GM Artur Jussupow**, in tomorrow's 9th and final round.

Results of the 8th Round:
Romanishin - **Kasymdzhanov** ½:½
Lutz - Nijboer 1:0
Gurevich - **Sutovsky** 0:1
Bischoff - Smagin 1:0
Jussupow - Dautov ½: ½

Standings after 8 rounds:
1.Kasimdzhanov - 6.0
2. Lutz - 5½
3. Sutovsky - 5½
4. Romanishin - 4½
5. Dautov - 4½
6. Jussupow - 4.0
7. Bischoff - 3½
8. Gurevich - 3.0
9. Nijboer - 2.0
10. Smagin -1½

Parings for the 9th Round:
Nijboer - Bischoff
Dautov - Lutz
Kasimdzhanov - Jussupow
Sutovsky - Romanishin
Smagin - Gurevich

Emil Sutovsky

Correction: The ICCF's *50 Years World Champions Julbilee Tournament* as announced in ***CT-183*** will start on 1 July 2001. --- *RPM*

As reported in ***CT-184,*** yesterday was a rest day from play in the ***36th Capablanca Memorial*** This allowed those games that had been postponed to be played. In the Elite group **GM Ulf Andersson** drew with Black against **IM Lenier Dominguez** and as a result he had temporarily joined the leaders before the start of the 5th round. The much anticipated game between **GM Anthony Miles** (England) and **GM Ulf Andersson** (Sweden) ended in peaceful draw. With one decisive game in the 5th round between Dominguez and Abreu, and the rest drawn, five players now share first place with 3 points.

Results of the 5th Round:
Dominguez - Abreu 1:0
Stefansson - Luther ½:½
Miles - Andersson ½:½
Arencibia - Delgado ½:½
Vallejo - Nataf ½:½
Nogueiras - Bruzon ½:½

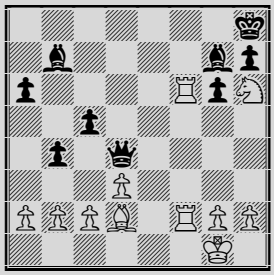
Standings after 5 rounds of top places:
Andersson - 3.0
Miles - 3.0
Stefansson - 3.0
Vallejo - 3.0

Dominguez - 3.0

♘♘♘

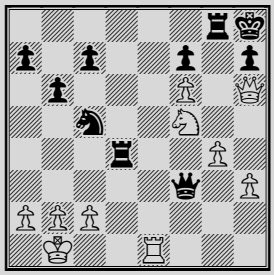
Tactical Quiz

1. J. Degraeve (2589) − E. Djingarova (2253)
Open Metz FRA (7), 13.04.2001 B23



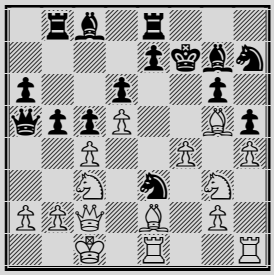
Position after 27…♔h8

2. J. Degraeve (2585) − L. Arnold (2430)
FRA t−ch (6), 2001 C11



Position after 27…♖xd4

3. A. Beheshtaein − S. Guliev (2519)
Open Fajr IRI (2), 04.02.2001 E70



Position after 18…♔xf7

♘♘♘

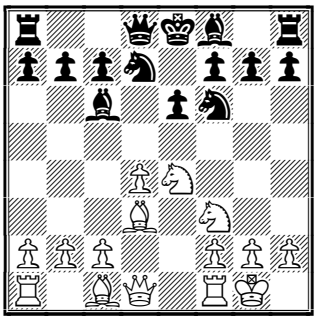
In ***CT-184*** we featured a nice miniature, played by Jon Speelman vs. David Norwood. Although GMs know a lot about chess, even they sometimes committ mortal chess sins and lose quickly. Today I would like to continue this theme and show you yet another miniature at the GM level. So Let's then take a look at some light stuff - no more long positional manoeuvring, no weak isolated pawns or outposts on open files - let's have a look at a good old miniature. This is how chess should be played - if you opponent allows it, of course! :-) --- *Alex Baburin. (note: remember this is a training game too, so view it in CB first - --RPM)*

Anotated Game

I. Nataf (2550) − K. Arkell (2440)
FRA t−ch (5), 2001 C10
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♗d7

This line is slightly passive, but quite playable. The bishop was passive on c8, so Black wants to bring it out. **5.♘f3 ♗c6 6.♗d3 ♘d7 7.0-0 ♘gf6**



8.♘ed2!

8.♘g3 This is very common. On g3 the knight might become passive, but it could be also very active − jumping to h5, etc. 8...♗xf3 (8...♗e7 9.c4 0-0 10.♗f4 ♗xf3 11.♕xf3 c6 12.♖ad1 ♕b6 13.♗c1 ♖fd8 14.♖fe1 ♘f8 15.♘f5 ♕c7 16.♕g3 ♕xg3 17.♘xe7+ ♔h8 18.hxg3 ♖e8 19.♘xc6+− Ponomariov−Malikgulyew, Zagan 1997.) 9.♕xf3 c6 10.b3 ♕a5 11.a3 ♕d5 12.♕e3 c5 13.♗b2 cxd4 14.♕xd4 ♕xd4 15.♗xd4 ♗c5 16.♗b2± Dolmatov−Burmakin, Elista 2001.; 8.♗g5 ♗e7 9.♗xf6 ♘xf6 10.♕e2 0-0 11.c4 ♗xe4 12.♗xe4 ♘xe4 13.♕xe4 c6= Valko−Acs, Nyiregyhaza Toma

op 1999; 8.♕e2 This move allows too many exchanges, which generally suits Black here: 8...♘xe4 9.♗xe4 ♗xe4 10.♕xe4 c6; 8.♖e1 The same problem with this move − too many pieces may come off.; 8.♘c3?!; 8.♘xf6+?! ♕xf6! 9.♗g5?? ♗xf3+

8...g6?

This is too ambitious. In general it's good to limit the d3−bishop like this, but now Black falls behind in development. [8...♗e7 RR 9.♘c4 (RR 9.b3 0-0 10.♗b2 ♗xf3 11.♘xf3 c6 12.♕e2 ♕c7 13.g3 ♖fe8 14.a3± Svidler−Rustemov, Tallinn 2001.) 9...♗xf3 10.♕xf3 c6 11.a4 ♘b6 12.♘a5 ♕d7 13.c4 0-0 14.♖d1 ♖ad8 15.♘b3 ♕c8 16.♗f4 ♖fe8 17.g4! g6 18.♕g3 ♕a8 19.h3 ♘bd7 20.♗e2 ♘f8 21.♗f3 ♘6d7 22.a5± Dorfman−Arkell, Cannes 1998.

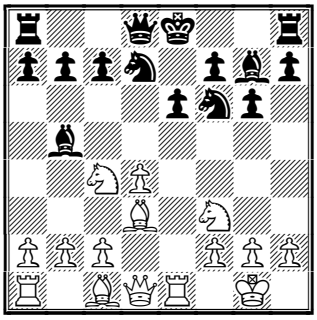
9.♘c4!

9.b3!? ♗g7 10.♗a3 ♗f8 11.♗b2

9...♗b5

Now the usual plan is not so attractive any more: 9...♗xf3 10.♕xf3 c6; 9...♗g7? 10.♘a5 ♗xf3 11.♕xf3

10.♖e1 ♗g7



11.♘a5!

It is important to create threats − simple developing moves won't do − we should attack our opponent when he is not quite ready to defend!

11...♗xd3 12.♕xd3 b6

12...♖b8 13.d5!

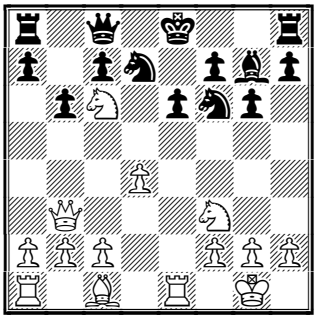
13.♘c6 ♕c8

Pay attention that Black still has not castled − White simply did not give him time to do so.

14.♕a3!

Great move − White wins another tempo for his attack!

14...♗f8 15.♕b3 ♗g7



16.♘g5!

A catastrophe is about to happen on e6, so Black resigned. Check out the lines yourself. 16.d5±; 16.♗f4± **1-0**

Solutions to Tactical Quiz:

1. 28.♖d6! 1-0

2. 28.♕g7+!! 1-0

3. 19.♕xg6+!! ♔f8 19...♔xg6 20.♗xh5# **20.♗xh5 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.4ncl.co.uk/sat.htm
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
www.fide.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
sites.netscape.net/mladen18/mem2001/index.htm
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/borowski/borowski.html

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-186, 12th May 2001

Kasimdzhanov Wins

Rustam Kasimdzhanov >> has won the A Group (Category XV) of the 3rd Julian Borowski Tournament in Essen Germany. He drew his final round game quickly, but then neither Lutz or Sutovsky could get the win they needed to catch him. He is outright winner with **6½ /9.**

9th round results
Nijboer - Bischoff 1:0
Dautov - Lutz ½:½
Kasimdzhanov - Jussupow ½:½
Sutovsky - Romanishin ½:½
Smagin - Gurevich 0:1

Final standings
1.Kasimdzhanov - 6½
2. Lutz - 6
3. Sutovsky - 6
4. Romanishin - 5
5. Dautov - 5
6. Jussupow - 4½
7. Gurevich - 4
8. Bischoff - 3½
9. Nijboer - 3
10. Smagin -1½

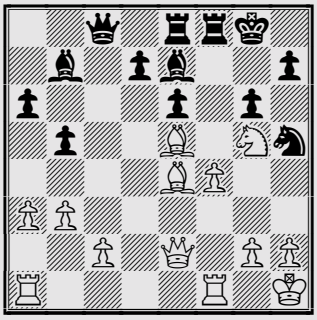
As reported in CT-185, there were 5 leaders after the 5th round of the hard fought 36th Capablanca Memorial The webite has no scores from the 6th round at time of writing. More on this tomorrow.

TWIC reports that The Bosnia 2001 tournament takes place from May 12th to 22nd 2001 in Sarajevo. Participants are *Veselin Topalov Bulgaria 2707, Ilia Smirin Israel 2691, Alexey Dreev Russia 2685, Kiril Georgiev Bulgaria 2676, Sergei Movsesian Czech Republic 2661, Ivan Sokolov BIH 2659, Zdenko Kozul CRO 2595, Bojan Kurajica BIH 2567, Suat Atalik Turkey 2537 and Emir Dizdarevic BIH, 2501.*

Kasimdzhanov

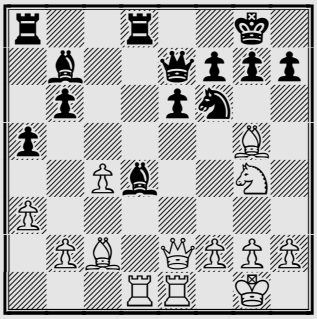
Tactical Quiz

1 Stefansson (2570) – Bruzon (2589)
XXXVI Capablanca Mem Elite Havana CUB (1), 05.05.2001



White to play

2 Sokolov (2611) – Ovezov (2366)
Istanbul (3), 30.10.2000



White to play

♘♘♘

Chess Websites

CT reader **Alistair McNally** has sent us details of his beautifully crafted *Chess Graphics* site.

Chess Graphics
http://www.chessgraphics.com/
He writes on the site:-
"ChessGraphics.com exists because I was bored with the standard look and feel of today's chess software. If I was to spend hours staring at a chess board I at least wanted it to look nice!"

An update to ChessGraphics is planned soon, more boards and html piece sets for ChessBase and Fritz and some new piece sets for Sigma Chess.

Official site of Peter Leko
http://www.chessgate.de/leko/e/homepage.html
This is the new official site of Peter Leko, available in English and German. It already has plenty of content and is hosted by the excellent German chess portal
Chessgate
http://www.chessgate.de
Peter Leko is playing Blitz Games tomorrow (from 2 to 5 Minutes each with an additional increment of one or two seconds) in the Chessgate Playing Zone **Sunday, May 13 from 8.00 - 9.30 pm CET** This event is open for everybody. You just have to be the first to challenge him. We learn from Leko's new site that his favourite quotation is from Myamoto Musashi, a Samurai-warrior who lived more than 300 years ago *"It is important to give the best in all situations. And you have to do it immediately. Tomorrow, it is usually too late."* But draw with him tomorrow and you will receive a book-prize!

The Russian Correspondence Chess Association has a nicely laid out website at http://www.rcca.lgg.ru
Unfortunately it is, at least for the time being, only in Russian. It does not offer any downloads yet, but has a number of X-tables.

Schaakbord http://www.schaakbord.nl
is a new chess links site that is easy to use and already has some high quality chess links. Suggesting a site for inclusion is very quick and easy to do. At the very top of the site is a place for you to type your site url and then click the "Add" button. They will then look at your site and add it. Acceptance and integration takes from one hour to three days.

Please note that, whilst we can't guarantee to include all contributions, readers are welcome to send in their own web sites and suggestions to Chess Today. Please send to ababurin@iol.ie

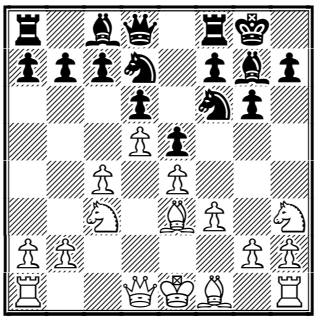
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Alex Baburin

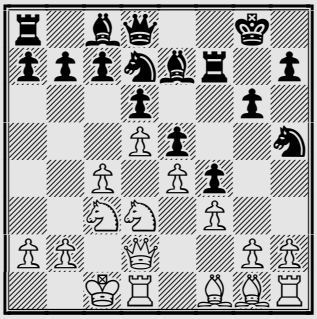
R Kasimdzhanov (2693) − F Nijboer (2580)
Borowski A; Essen (2), 03.05.2001 E87

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♗e3 ♘bd7
This is slightly old−fashioned. At one time 6...e5 was the main line, then 6...Nc6 became the most popular response and later 6...c5 came to light. But chess fashion is like any fashion − well−forgotten stuff suddenly becomes new!
7.♘h3 e5 8.d5



The pawn structure has become stable. White might attack on the queenside with c4−c5, while Black will go for ...f5. However, White might grab space on the kingside with g2−g4 as well, if Black is not careful.

8...♘h5 9.♕d2 f5 10.0-0-0 f4 11.♗g1 ♗f6 12.♘f2 ♗e7 13.♘d3 ♖f7

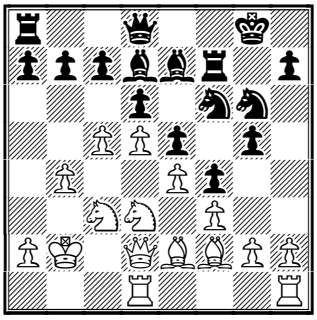


14.b4!

Here superficial logic does not work − the fact that White's king is on the queenside does not mean that he should try to attack on the opposite wing. Everyone should attack where he is stronger. White has many pieces looking at the queenside, so he is not afraid to push pawns from his king.

14...♘f8 15.c5 g5 16.♗e2 ♘g6 17.♗f2 ♘f6 18.♔b2! ♗d7

It is hard to criticise such a natural developing move, but perhaps 18...h5 was better.



19.c6!?

This is an interesting sacrifice, which allows White to open files and diagonals for his pieces.

19...bxc6 20.dxc6 ♗e6?!

I guess Black should have taken the pawn. At least he would have something to suffer for! 20...♗xc6 21.b5

21.b5 a6

Otherwise Black would be squeezed on the queenside. But now White gets a passed pawn there.

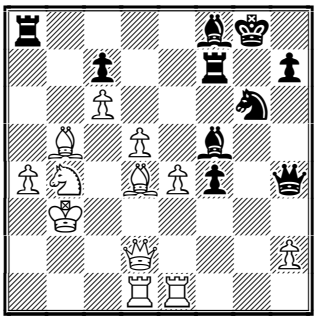
22.♘b4 axb5 23.♗xb5 ♗f8 24.♕e2 ♘e7 25.a4 d5?

This is tempting, but wrong. Better was 25...h5 although Black has already done a lot of damage on the queenside.

26.exd5 ♗f5 27.♕xe5 ♘e8 28.♖he1 ♘g6 29.♕d4 ♘d6 30.♔b3!

The king leaves the a1-h8 diagonal and gives extra protection to the b4−knight. White's pieces are too active for Black to create an attack.

30...♖b8 31.♕d2 g4 32.♗a7! ♖a8 33.♗d4 ♕h4 34.♘e4 gxf3 35.gxf3 ♘xe4 36.fxe4



White is clearly winning as his pawn armada will smash everything in the centre.

36...♗g4 37.♖c1 f3 38.♕f2 ♕e7 39.♗c5 ♕e5 40.♘d3 ♗xc5 41.♖xc5 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/borowski/borowski.html
http://www.4ncl.co.uk/

Answers to Tactical Quiz

(1) 22.♕xh5 1-0

(2) 20.♖xd4! ♖xd4 21.♘xf6+ gxf6 22.♕h5 ♗e4 22...♖e4 23.♖xe4 fxg5 24.♕xh7+ ♔xh7 25.♖xe6+ ♔g7 26.♖xe7+− **23.♖xe4 1-0**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-187, 13th May 2001

Bulgarian Men's Championship

The 65th Bulgarian Men's Championship takes place in Tsarevo (34 participants, 9 rounds, Swiss system). Standing after 2nd round:
1-3. P. Genov, A. Delchev, N. Ninov – 2 points out of 2
4-10. I. Manolov, I. Cheparinov, B. Chatalbashev, V. Spasov, E. Janev, K. Georgiev, J. Radulski – 1½ etc.

The **5th Golden Cleopatra Open** has just finished (2nd-12th May 2001) in Cairo in the Eastern Company Sports Club, about 5 kms from the Pyramids. Final standing:

1-9. D. Sermek (first on tie-break), A. Mirzoev, N. Sulava, S. Kasparov, I. Rausis, A. Fominyh, A. Barsov, A. Omearat, M. Tissir –6½ points out of 9 etc.
(Information from Hassan Khaled on TWIC)

As you know from CT-186, Rustam Kasimdzhanov won the 3rd Julian Borowski tournament, group A (cat. XV) in Essen. Also there was a group B here (cat. IX). Final standing:

1-2. D. Fridman, R. Appel – 6½ points out of 9
3-4. A. Naiditsch, G. Seul – 5½
5-6. S. Siebrecht, Y. Pelletier – 4
7-9. A. Kveinys, J. Van der Wiel, M. Schaefer – 3½
10. F. De Gleria – 2½.

And now some information about recently finished events …

Viswanathan Anand won the IV Mirabal Rapidplay Tournament (Madrid, May 5th-6th 2001). FM Cristian Dolezal (Argentina) was second, GM Gilberto Hernandez (Mexico) was third and GM Bogdan Lalic (England) fourth. Today we would like to show you one of Anand's victories in our annotated game section.

The II Poikovsky (Siberia) International tournament (cat. XV) was held from 25th April to the 5th May in honour of A. Karpov. Like last year it was won by **Viorel Bologan** (Moldova). Our congratulations!

Final standing:
1. V. Bologan – 6 points out of 9
2-3. S. Lputian, S. Rublevsky – 5½
4-5. K. Georgiev, V. Zviagintsev – 5
6-7. R. Leitao, A. Onischuk – 4½
8. A. Obodchuk – 3½
9. I. Morovich – 3
10. N. Mitkov – 2½
Information by Yurij Lobanov
http://www.kasparovchess.ru

And last but not least. The third stage of the Russian Cup took place in Alushta (Ukraine, Crimea) from 16-25 of April. As you know from CT there was an extremely strong open in Dubai this time but the Alushta open was also rather strong. Final standing:
1. V. Borovikov – 7½ points out of 9
2. S. Fedorchuk – 7
3-9. V. Burmakin, A. Korobov, E. Miroshnichenko, Z. Efimenko, V. Malakhatko, D. Yevseev, M. Podgaets – 6½ etc.

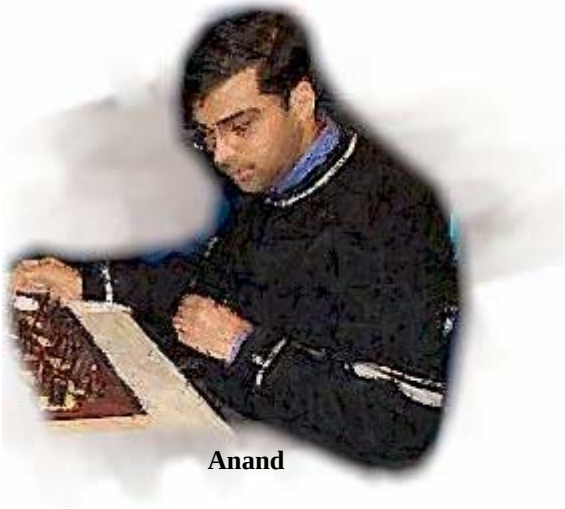
I also had an invitation for this tournament but our editor-in-chief Alex Baburin told me that Crimea is a place for rest but not for playing chess. I followed the advice of an experienced GM and went to Crimea with my bicycle for a holiday. And I have to say Alex as usual was right – it was a fantastic trip! ☺

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

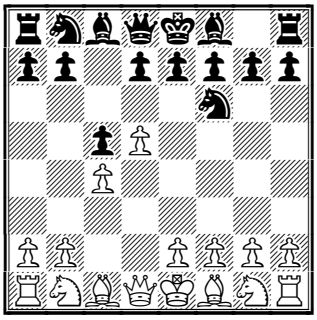
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

V Anand (2794) − G Hernandez (2567)
IV Rapidplay
Mirabal ESP,
06.05.2001/ A75



Anand

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5



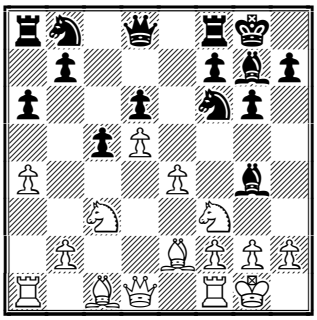
3...g6

3...b5!? leads to the Volga gambit.

4.♘c3 ♗g7 5.e4 d6 6.♘f3 0-0 7.♗e2

Some years ago Black was more afraid of 7.♗d3 e6 8.h3!? exd5 9.cxd5 etc.

7...e6 8.0-0 exd5 9.cxd5 a6 10.a4 ♗g4



11.♘d2!?

A very interesting moment. Anand had a choice: to save the Knight or the Bishop. Many players like Bishops more than Knights, especially they like the Bishop pair, but Vishy decided that in this position the Knight would be more useful.

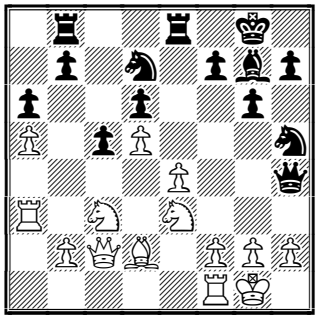
11...♗xe2 12.♕xe2 ♘bd7 13.♘c4 ♘b6 14.♘e3 ♖e8 15.♕c2!?

Of course Anand knows his opponent's game: 15.a5 ♘bd7 16.♘c4 b5 17.♘xd6 ♖e7 18.♗f4 ♘h5 19.♗e3 ♗xc3 20.bxc3 ♕b8 21.♘f5 ♖xe4 22.♘h6+ ♔g7 23.d6 ♘hf6 24.♕d2 ♕e8 25.♖ae1 and White won, Beliavsky − Hernandez, Elista (Olympiad) 1998. But in any case, the FIDE World Champion chooses another way.

15...♖b8 16.♗d2!?

It's a novelty compared with a game from some relative unknowns, where White tried a dubious plan with b2−b4: 16.♖b1 ♕e7 17.f3 ♘bd7 18.b4?! cxb4 19.♖xb4 ♖ec8 20.♗d2 ♖c7 21.♕b1 ♘h5 22.♘e2 ♘c5 23.a5 ♖f8 Hettler − Uwira, Frankfurt 2000. Anand doesn't want to force play, he simply improves his position and waits to see what his opponent does. Anand can wait maybe better than any other player in the world!

16...♘bd7 17.a5 ♘h5 18.♖a3 ♕h4



Black made his choice − he would like to attack on the King side. OK, White is ready for it.

19.g3 ♕h3 20.♗c1

The manoeuvre Bc1-d2−c1 isn't only a waste of time, worse still − Black has shown his cards. After the Bishop's retreat the Queen can protect her King (for example, after f2−f3 or f2−f4).

20...♗d4 21.♘e2 ♘e5 22.f3!

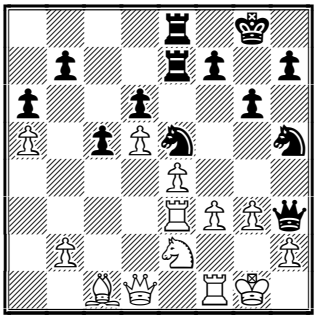
Very calm! Some of Black's pieces look very active but they haven't enough force to break White's defence.

22...♖e7 23.♕d1

Now Black has to exchange his active

Bishop.

23...♗xe3+ 24.♖xe3 ♖be8



25.g4!

The counterattack is beginning.

25...♘f6 26.♘f4 ♕h6 27.♖c3 g5!?

Aggressive, but maybe better was the more modest 27...♕g7 also after 28.g5 ♘fd7 Black has a lack of space.

28.♘g2 ♘g6 29.♕d2 ♖e5 30.♘e3

From here the Knight has two very good squares: f5 and c4.

30...♘f4

The f4 square is rather good too, of course, but White can exchange the f4 Knight for his c1 Bishop, if he likes.

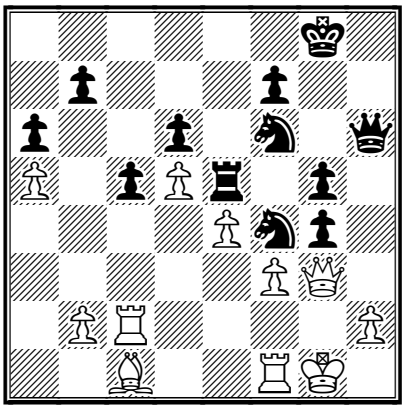
31.♖c2 ♕h3 32.♕f2 h5 33.♘c4!

Now Black has to sacrifice some of his material.

33...hxg4 34.♘xe5 ♖xe5 35.♕g3!?

A "softly softly" move. I suspect many players would prefer a more forcing line such as 35.♗xf4 gxf4 36.♕g2

35...♕h6

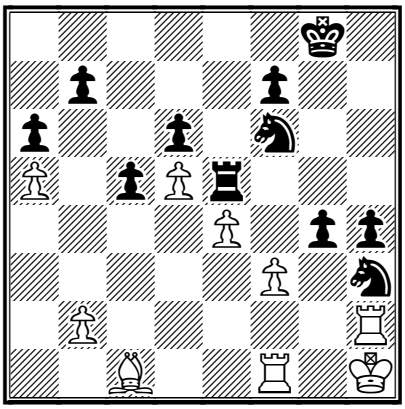


36.h4

It's a point. Neither the g4 or the g5 pawn can take the h pawn because Black loses the f4 Knight.

36...♘h3+ 37.♔h1 ♕xh4 38.♕xh4 gxh4

39.♖h2!



And even now, after the Queen exchange, the h3 Knight has hard times. The c1 Bishop has done a marvellous job from his starting position.

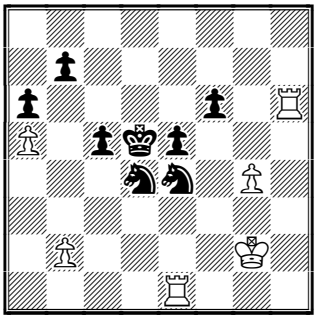
39...♔g7

Maybe better was 39...♘h5!? though White has good chances to win here too, for example: 40.fxg4!? ♘g3+ 41.♔g2 ♘xf1 42.♔xf1 ♘g5 43.♗f4

40.fxg4 ♘g5 41.♗f4 ♘gxe4 42.♗xe5 dxe5 43.♖d1 ♔f8

Or 43...♘xg4 44.d6 ♘gf2+ 45.♔g1+−

44.d6 ♔e8 45.♔g1 ♘g5 46.♖c2 ♘fe4 47.d7+ ♔d8 48.♔g2 h3+ 49.♔h2 ♘f3+ 50.♔xh3 ♘d4 51.♖h2 ♔xd7 52.♔g2 ♔e6 53.♖h6+ f6 54.♖e1 ♔d5



55.♖xe4

According to Capablanca's advice: if you are the exchange ahead, return it but take a pawn instead. By the way Anand could take Capa's advice twice (because he was two exchanges ahead) but after

55...♔xe4 56.♖xf6

Black resigned. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.chessgate.de/turniere/borowski/borowski.html
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.hechiceros.net/site/especial/mirabal/mirabal.shtml
http://www.kasparovchess.ru
http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/alu01apr.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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CT-188, 14th May 2001

Supertournament starts in Saraevo

Supertournament Bosnia 2001 has started in Saraevo, capital town of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1999 and 2000 it was a XIX category FIDE with Kasparov, Shirov, Morozevich, Adams among the participants. Now this event has "only" a XVI category – in any case it's very strong and interesting.

Results of the first day:
I Smirin - B Kurajica **½:½**
E Dizdarevic - A Dreev **½:½**
Z Kozul - S Atalik **1:0**
V Topalov - S Movsesian **1:0**
K Georgiev - I Sokolov **1:0**

Standing:
1-3. Topalov, Georgiev, Kozul – 1 point
4-7. Smirin, Kurajica, Dizdarevic, Dreev – ½
8-10. Atalik, Movsesian, Sokolov – 0

Pairings for the second round:
Kurajica - Sokolov
Movsesian - Georgiev
Atalik - Topalov
Dreev - Kozul
Smirin – Dizdarevic

Also see our annotated game section.

While top Bulgarian GMs Veselin Topalov and Kiril Georgiev are leading in Saraevo, compatriot Aleksander Delchev became sole leader in the 65th Bulgarian Men's Championship with 3 points out of 3. Ninov, Krum Georgiev, Chatalbashev and Cheparinov are in chase half a point behind.

At last we can share with you some new information about the XXXVI Capablanca Memorial in Havana.
Standing after the 7th round:
1. Vallejo Pons – 4½ points out of 6
2-4. Andersson (7 games), Stefansson (7), Miles (7) – 4 points
5-7. Bruzon (6), Dominguez (6), Arencibia (7) – 3½ etc.

Topalov

The finals of the Russian Club Championships have started in Tomsk, Siberia. 12 teams (6 boards in each) are shared into two groups, 6 team in each, round-robin system, 2 team-points for victory, 1 point for a draw. The best three teams from each group will play a final round-robin tournament. Players include Bareev and Grischuk (whose team Norilsk lost in round 1 to "University", Maikop; Grischuk lost with White to Malaniuk, all other games were drawn), Rublevsky, Svidler, Bologan, Sakaev etc.

Some individual results of the first day:
Galkin – Bareev ½:½
Rublevsky – Bologan ½:½
Onischuk – Kharlov 1:0
Svidler – Popov ½:½
Loginov – Sakaev 1:0
Batsanin – Scherbakov ½:½

More information in our next issues.

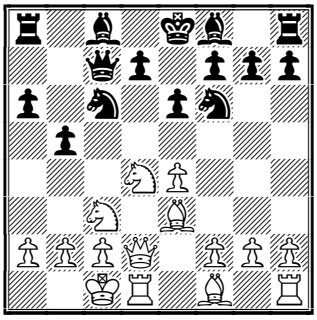
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html (cross-tables in Russian) and http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html (all games of the first round)

♘♘♘

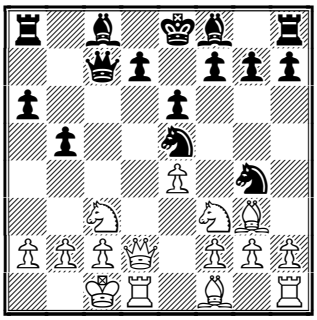
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

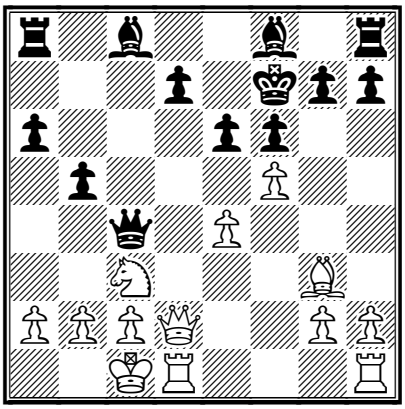
V Topalov − S Movsesian
Saraevo, 13.05.2001 B48
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♕d2 b5!?
The main alternative is 7...♘f6
8.0-0-0 ♘f6



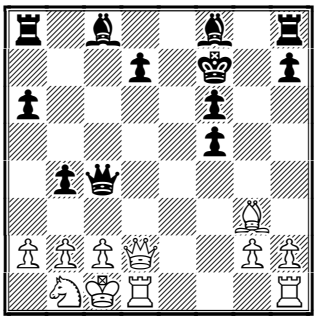
Sergei Movsesian choose a different move to two years earlier: 8...♗b7 9.♘xc6 ♗xc6 10.♘d5!? ♗xd5 11.exd5 ♘f6 12.d6 ♕c6 13.♗e2 ♕xg2 14.f3 ♘d5 15.♖dg1 ♕h3 16.♖g3 ♕h4 17.♖g4 ♕d8 18.♗c5 ♖c8 19.b4⩲ Leko − Movsesian, Las Vegas 1999. Then Black held the position though it looks quite dangerous.
9.♗f4!?
Maybe it's a novelty. This move was known earlier but I didn't find any games where it was played. 9.♘xc6 ♕xc6 10.f3 ♗b7 11.♔b1 ♖c8 12.♗d4 ♗c5 13.g4 ♗xd4 14.♕xd4 ♕c5 15.♕d2 b4 16.♘a4 ♕c6 17.b3 Kobalija − Oral, Cuba 2000.
9...♘e5
Another ways are worse, for example: 9...e5 10.♘xc6 exf4 (10...dxc6? 11.♗xe5!+−) 11.e5!?; 9...d6 10.♘xc6 ♕xc6 11.♗xd6 (11.e5!?) 11...♗xd6 12.♕xd6 ♕xd6 13.♖xd6 b4 14.♘d1 ♘xe4 15.♖d4 ♘f6 16.♖xb4; 9...♕b7?!
10.♘f3!?
Veselin Topalov likes active play and he is always ready for material or positional sacrifices to change the initiative.
10...♘fg4
Black decided to defend his black squares. After 10...♘xf3 11.gxf3 ♕a5 12.♔b1!? (12.♗d6 b4 13.♘b1 ♗xd6 14.♕xd6 ♕xa2 White has better chances.) ; 10...d6? 11.♘xe5 dxe5 12.♗xe5
11.♗g3



11...f6?!
Why not the more natural 11...d6!? for example: 12.♘xe5 (12.h3 ♘xf3 13.gxf3 ♘e5 14.f4 ♘c4 15.♗xc4 ♕xc4; 12.♘d4!?) 12...♘xe5 13.f4 ♘c4 14.♗xc4 ♕xc4 15.f5?! b4!
12.♘xe5 ♘xe5 13.f4 ♘c4 14.♗xc4 ♕xc4 15.f5! ♔f7



Now Black can't play 15...b4 in view of 16.fxe6 dxe6 17.♕d8+ ♔f7 18.♘a4 ♕xa2 19.♘b6 etc.
16.e5!
Topalov as we like him!
16...b4
There are a lot of interesting variations after 16...♗b4!? With opposite−coloured Bishops (after Bxc3 bxc3) the most important factor will be − who will start the attack first. It looks like White can do it faster: 17.fxe6+ dxe6 18.exf6 (18.♖hf1 ♗xc3 19.♕g5 f5 20.♕h5+ g6 21.♕f3∞) 18...♗xc3 19.bxc3 gxf6 (19...♕xa2 20.♕g5 gxf6 21.♕h5+ ♔g7 22.♗e5!) 20.♖hf1!?
17.♘b1
After 17.fxe6+ dxe6 18.♘b1 f5!? Black has quite a solid position.
17...exf5 18.exf6 gxf6



In case of 18...♔xf6 19.♖hf1 Black couldn't play 19...g6? in view of 20.b3 ♕c5 21.♗f2+− and the King will have difficult times on f6. Of course, f7 is a safer place but now black's pawn structure becomes miserable.

19.♗d6!

The f8 Bishop is the only piece which defends its King, so White wants to exchange it. After that, the black squares around the King will be undefendable.

19...♗xd6 20.♕xd6 ♖e8 21.b3 ♕b5 22.♖he1

The same idea − to exchange the defending piece.

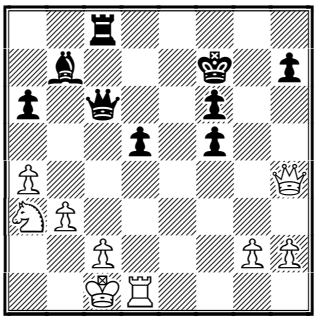
22...♗b7 23.a4!

After 23.♕xd7+ ♔g6! 24.♕c7 ♖ac8 Black can complete his development.

23...♕c6

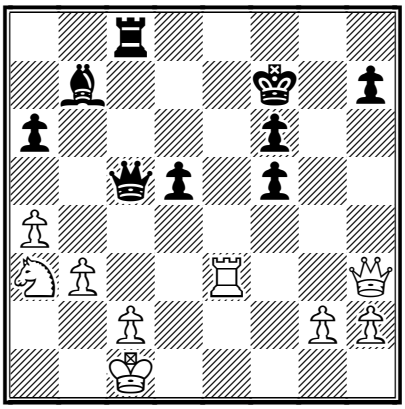
Or 23...bxa3 24.♘xa3 ♕c6 25.♘c4!? and the Knight becomes very active.

24.♕xb4 ♖xe1 25.♕xe1 ♖c8 26.♘a3 d5 27.♕h4



White can retain a sacrificed pawn and now Black has a very difficult position in view of a very sad pawn structure and the miserable position of his King. Also Black hasn't any counterplay because the a3 Knight protects the Queenside.

27...♔g8 28.♖d3 ♕e6 29.♕g3+ ♔f7 30.♖e3 ♕b6 31.♕h3 ♕c5



32.♕xh7+ ♔f8 33.♖g3! 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html

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CT-189, 15th May 2001

Bulgarian GMs on perfect scores at Bosnia 2001 after second round …

The Bulgarian grandmasters were all on perfect scores after the second round of the Bosnia 2001 tournament in Saraevo. It is interesting to note that both Veselin Topalov and Kiril Georgiev beat such a strong GM as Sergei Movsesian. A year ago in Saraevo, Sergei also had a poor start but than crushed two of the favourites, Morozevich and Shirov. And I believe Movsesian will show his best form yet.
By the way, only one game was drawn on the second day. You can see all the games in our cbv and pgn-files and Dreev's convincing victory – in our annotated game section.

Results of the second round:
Kurajica - Sokolov **½:½**
Movsesian - Georgiev **0:1**
Atalik – Topalov **0:1**
Dreev – Kozul **1:0**
Smirin – Dizdarevic **1:0**

Standing after the second round:
1-2. Topalov, Georgiev – 2 points
3-4. Smirin, Dreev – 1½
5-6. Kurajica, Kozul – 1
7-8. Dizdarevic, Sokolov – ½
8-10. Atalik, Movsesian – 0

Pairings for the third round:
Dizdarevic - Kurajica
Kozul - Smirin
Topalov - Dreev
Georgiev - Atalik
Sokolov - Movsesian

Also see our annotated game section.

Aleksander Delchev became sole leader at the 65th Bulgarian Men's Championship with 3½ points out of 4.
2-7. Ninov, Krum Georgiev, Janev, Chatalbashev, Cheparinov, Petrov – 3
8-12. Dimitrov, Peev, Iotov, Spasov, Radulski – 2½ etc.

The main match of the second day of the Russian Club Championships in Tomsk was "Tjumen" – "St-Petersburg-1" (group 2):
Bologan – Svidler **0:1**
Onischuk – Sakaev **½:½**
Lastin – Volkov **1:0**
Motylev – S. Ivanov **½:½**
Najer – Emelin **1:0**
Chuprov – Ionov **0:1**
So the result was a 3:3 draw and both teams received 1 team point.

Standing after the 2nd round.
Group 1: Tomsk – 3 (8), Maikop – 3 (6½), Novokuznetsk – 2 (8), Norilsk – 2 (6½) etc.
Group 2: St-Petersburg-2 – 4 (7), Tjumen – 3 (6½), Kazan – 2 (7), Novosibirsk – 2 (6) etc.

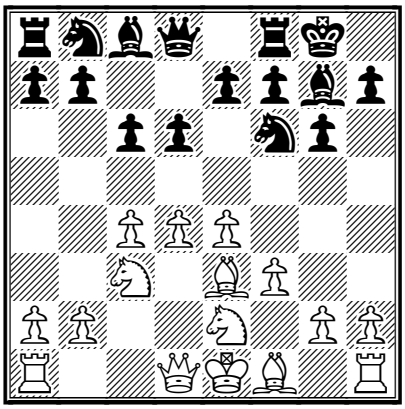
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html and http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

A Dreev (2685) – Z Kozul (2595)
Bosnia 2001 Sarajevo BIH (2), 14.05.2001 E89
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♘ge2 c6
Zdenko Kozul likes this move though the main line begins after 6...c5!?
7.♗e3



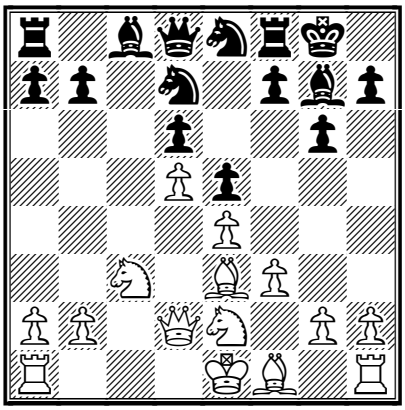
7...♘bd7

Last year against both Alexei Dreev and his second Alexander Filipenko Kozul played the following two lines 7...e5 8.♕d2 ♕c7 9.d5 (9.0-0-0 b5 10.cxb5 cxb5 11.♔b1 ♕b7 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.♘c1 a6 14.♘b3 ♘c6 15.♕f2 ♗e6 16.♘c5 ♕c8 17.♖c1 ♖d8 Filipenko − Kozul, Pula 2000.) 9...cxd5 10.cxd5 ♘bd7 11.♘g3 ♔h8 12.♗d3 ♘g8 13.♖c1 ♕d8 14.♘b5 ♘b6 15.0-0 f5 16.f4 exf4 17.♗xf4 a6 18.♘c7 ♖b8 19.exf5 gxf5 20.♘e6 ♗xe6 21.dxe6 ♘e7 22.♘h5± Dreev − Kozul, Neum (blitz) 2000.

8.♕d2 e5 9.d5 cxd5 10.cxd5

With quite a tricky move order, the players have come to a well−known opening position.

10...♘e8



A rare move, usually Black prefers to defend his Queen side first with 10...a6 for example: 11.g4 h5 12.h3 b5 13.♘g3 h4 14.♘ge2 ♘b6 15.b3 ♘fd7 16.♖g1 b4 17.♘d1 a5 18.♘c1 ♘c5 19.♘b2 a4 20.♖b1 axb3 21.axb3 ♘bd7 22.♘c4∞ Ehlvest − Juswanto, Bali 1999.

11.h4!?

A very interesting novelty. As usual, White tries to prevent his opponent's initiative on the King side, but in a different way − with the h pawn rather than the g pawn 11.g4 f5 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.0-0-0 ♘df6 14.exf5 ♗xf5 15.♘g3 ♗g6 16.♗d3 ♘h5 17.♗xg6 hxg6 18.♘xh5 gxh5 19.♖dg1 ♕h4 Arencibia − Becerra, Habana 1993.

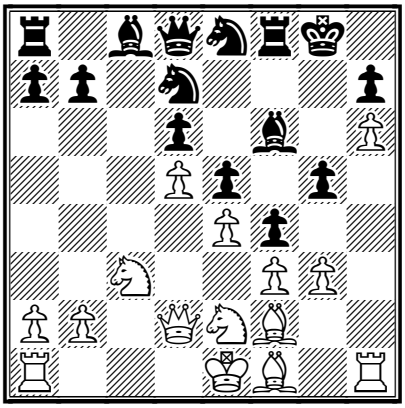
11...f5

I dare not recommend 11...h5 as an alternative.

12.h5 f4 13.♗f2 g5 14.h6!

This pawn will be weak in the endgame, but Alexei believes that this game will be finished earlier...

14...♗f6 15.g3

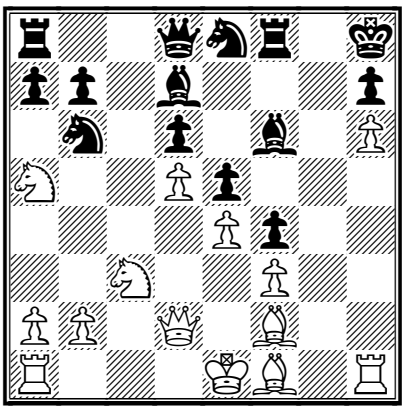


Both Black Knights want to go to f6 but the Bishop doesn't allow it.

15...♘b6 16.gxf4 gxf4

After 16...exf4 White gets d4.

17.♘c1 ♔h8 18.♘b3 ♗d7 19.♘a5!

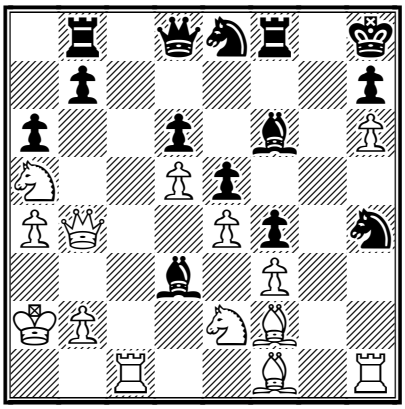


A picturesque position − full domination on both sides and in the centre.

19...♖b8 20.0-0-0 a6 21.♔b1 ♘c8 22.♘e2 ♘e7 23.♖c1 ♗b5 24.♕b4

White can do anything he wants to.

24...♘g6 25.a4 ♗d3+ 26.♔a2 ♘h4



A weak attempt at counterplay.

27.♖c3! ♗xe2 28.♗xe2 ♘g2 29.♖b3

With threats Nxb7 or Nc6.

29...♖c8 30.♕xb7 ♘c7 31.♘c6 ♕e8 32.♗f1

The Bishop is going to h3, Black resigned. A very convincing victory by Alexey Dreev.

1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
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CT-190, 16th May 2001

Smirin Joins Topalov and Georgiev in the Lead in Bosnia…

Ilja Smirin was the only player to win in the third round of the ***Bosnia 2001*** tournament in Saraevo. He beat, with Black Zdenko Kozul and caught up to Veselin Topalov and Kiril Georgiev. Now the leading trio have 2½ points out of 3.
Last year in FIDE World Championship in New Delphi, Topalov and Dreev played against each other and couldn't make a draw in many games. In Saraevo they were more careful and made a 22-move draw. This was due to Dreev's good opening preparation. You can view all the games in our cbv and pgn-files.

Results of the second round:
Dizdarevic - Kurajica **½:½**
Kozul - Smirin **0:1**
Topalov – Dreev **½:½**
Georgiev – Atalik **½:½**
Sokolov – Movsesian **½:½**

Standing after the third round:
1-3. Smirin, Topalov, Georgiev – 2½ points
4. Dreev – 2
5. Kurajica – 1½
6-8. Dizdarevic, Kozul, Sokolov – 1
9-10. Atalik, Movsesian – ½

Pairings for the fourth round:
Kurajica - Movsesian
Atalik - Sokolov
Dreev - Georgiev
Smirin - Topalov
Dizdarevic - Kozul

Boris Chatalbachev caught up to **Aleksander Delchev** in the 5th round of the 65th ***Bulgarian Men's*** Championship. Both leaders now have 4 points.

3-8. Ninov, Krum Georgiev, Janev, Peev, Iotov, Petrov – 3½ etc.

Topalov

There is some new information from Havana about the ***36th Capablanca Memorial***.

Standings after the 8th round:
1. Vallejo Pons – 5 points out of 7
2-5. Bruzon (7 games), Andersson (8), Stefansson (8), Miles (8) – 4½
6-7. Dominguez (7), Arencibia (8) – 4 etc.

From 24th April – 3rd May a GM double round robin category IX (avg. Elo 2456) tournament was played in Podlehnik, Slovenia.

Final standings:
1. Atalik – 6½ points out of 10
2-3. Mikhalchishin, Mohr – 5½
4-5. Polajzer, Krumpacnik – 5
6. Zheliandinov – 2½

Thank you, Janko Bohak for reporting this information to ***CT.***

Don't forget to see new TWIC #340 at: http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

Results of the third round of the Russian Club Championships in Tomsk:
Group 1:
Maikop – Khabarovsk **5:1**
Norilsk – Tomsk **4:2**
Novokuznetsk – Vladivostok **4:2**
Group 2:
St-Petersburg-1 – N.Tagil **4:2**
Kazan – Novosibirsk **3:3**
Tjumen - St-Petersburg-2 **4½:1½**

Standings after the 3rd round.
Group 1: Maikop – 5 (11½), Novokuznetsk – 4 (12), Norilsk – 4 (10½), Tomsk – 3 (10) etc.

Group 2: Tjumen – 5 (11), St-Petersburg-2 – 4 (8½), Kazan – 3 (10), St-Petersburg-1 – 3 (9½) etc.

Also see our annotated game section below.

Editor's note:
Traditional 2D Chess not challenging enough for you? If so CT Readers are invited join the **Three Dimensional (3D) Chess Discussion List**. A list which discusses the various three dimensional variations of Chess.

Join from:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/3-d-chess
or by sending an email to: 3-d-chess-subscribe@egroups.com

To Unsubscribe send message to:
chess_analysis-unsubscribe@onlist.com

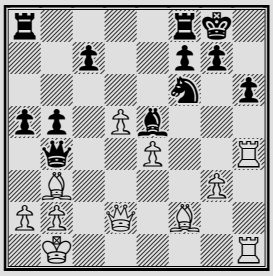
http://www.onlist.com/community/chess_analysis

Remember your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

♘♘♘

Tactical Quiz

1. A. Onischuk (2658) – A. Kharlov (2639)
TCh–RUS Tomsk RUS (1), 13.05.2001



White to play

2. I. Glek – S. Archipov
Tomsk, 2001

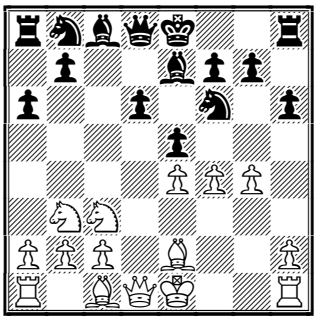
White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

V. Bologan – P. Svidler
Tomsk (2), 14.05.2001 B92
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e2 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.g4!?
Viorel Bologan likes forcing lines from the first moves. More solid is 8.0-0; or 8.♗e3
8...h6 9.f4 (D)



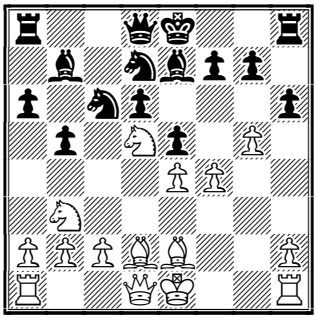
9...b5!?
Is this really a novelty? And so early – on the 9th move? In previous few games Black always took on f4, for example: [9...exf4 10.♗xf4 ♘c6 11.h3 ♗e6 12.♕d2 d5 13.0-0-0 dxe4 14.♕e3 ♕c8 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♕xe4 0-0 17.♔b1 f5!?⇄ Shirov – Van Wely, Tilburg 1997. Svidler isn't afraid of White's next move and maybe he is right.
10.g5 ♘fd7
Of course the d5 square is very important, but how will White continue his pawn attack on the King

side?

11.♘d5 ♗b7 12.♗d2

Now White has some problems with development. For example, he doesn't have the natural [12.♗e3?! in view of 12...exf4 13.♗xf4 hxg5∓

12...♘c6 (D)



Protecting the a5−square.

13.gxh6

An alternative was 13.a4!? bxa4 14.♖xa4 with idea 14...exf4?! 15.♘a5! **13...♗h4+ 14.♔f1 gxh6 15.c4**

First of all White wants to develop his Bishop and Queen in such a way to create pressure on f7.

15...bxc4 16.♗xc4 exf4!

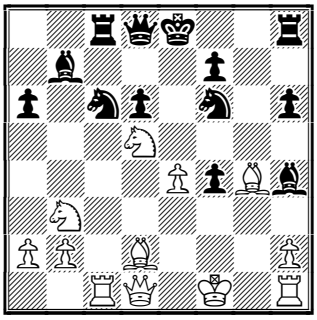
Very calm! From e5 the Black Knight will hold all the position.

17.♖c1 ♖c8 18.♗e2?!

I suspect White's last two moves were too haphazard; maybe, better was to retain a pawn and to think about equality...

18...♘f6!

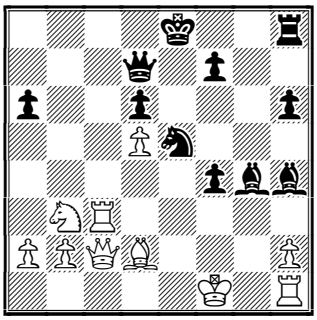
A very good idea − because both Black Knights can't go on e5 at the same time, one of them wants to exchange the dangerous opponent on d5. **19.♗g4**



19...♘xd5!?

After this sacrifice White King's becomes too lonely...

20.exd5 ♘e5 21.♗xc8 ♗xc8 22.♖c3 ♗g4 23.♕c2 ♕d7! (D)



Black attacks from both sides of the board: there are threats from b5 and from h3.

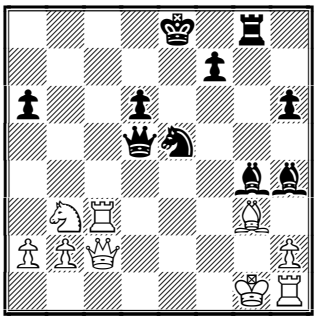
24.♗xf4

Or 24.♘d4 ♗h3+ 25.♔e2 ♕g4+ 26.♘f3 ♕g2+

24...♕b5+ 25.♔g1 ♕xd5 26.♗g3

26.♖c8+ ♗xc8 27.♕xc8+ ♔e7! 28.♕c7+ (28.♕xh8 ♕d1+ 29.♔g2 ♕f3+ 30.♔g1 ♕f2#) 28...♔f6-+

26...♖g8 (D)



All of Black pieces take part in the offence, while the Knight on b3 and Rook h1 have a holiday.

27.♕g2 ♗f3 28.♖xf3 ♘xf3+ 29.♔f2 ♖g5! 30.♕h3 ♖f5 31.♖d1 ♘g5+ 0-1.

Solutions to Tactical Quiz:

1. 30.♖xh6! gxh6 31.♕xh6 ♕xe4+ 32.♗c2 ♕xh1+ 33.♕xh1 ♖fd8 34.g4! ♖d6 35.♗c5+− ♖ad8 36.g5 ♘d7 37.♕h7+ ♔f8 38.g6 fxg6 39.♗xd6+ cxd6 40.♗xg6 and White won. **1-0.**

2. 13.♘d6+! ♗xd6 13...♔e7 14.♕h5!+− **14.♕xd5! 1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-191, 17th May 2001

Smirin, Topalov & Georgiev lead Bosnia 2001

All the players in the top half of the Bosnia 2001 tournament in Saraevo took half a step forward in the 4th round, while in the bottom half there were two decisive games.

Results of the second round:
Kurajica - Movsesian **½:½**
Atalik - Sokolov **0:1**
Dreev - Georgiev **½:½**
Smirin – Topalov **½:½**
Dizdarevic - Kozul **1:0**

Standing after the forth round:
1-3. Smirin, Topalov, Georgiev – 3 points
4. Dreev – 2½
5-7. Dizdarevic, Kurajica, Sokolov – 2
8-9. Movsesian, Kozul – 1
10. Atalik - ½

Pairings for the fifth round:
Kozul - Kurajica
Topalov - Dizdarevic
Georgiev - Smirin
Sokolov - Dreev
Movsesian - Atalik

You can see all the games in our cbv and pgn-files.

Another two supertournaments start this week: -
The II Merida, Mexico double round robin event takes place 16th-22nd May with Anand, Khalifman, Short and Gilberto Hernández.

Pairing for round 1:
Anand - Khalifman
Hernandez - Short

And if that's not enough then how about the International Super Tournament in Astana, Kazakhstan? Kasparov is going to show us whether he has found a refutation of the Berlin!

Astana City , the new capital of Kazakhstan, hosts an International Super Tournament from May 20 - June 1 dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan's Independence.

The games will start at 3 p.m. local time (GMT +6)

Participants:
Vladimir Kramnik
Garry Kasparov
Alexander Morozevich
Alexey Shirov
Boris Gelfand
and Kazakhstan's top player Darmen Sadvakhasov (2585).
There will be live coverage at http://astana.fide.com and http://www.kasparovchess.com Category 20 (average rating 2733).

Editors note: Chess Today's correspondent **Vladimir Barsky** will be there as a second of **Alexander Morozevich** and will send news for us.

The XXXVI Capablanca Memorial in Havana, Cuba.
Standing after the 9th round:
1. Vallejo Pons – 6 points out of 8
2-4. Bruzon (8 games), Andersson (9), Miles (9) – 5
5-7. Dominguez (8), Stefansson (8), Hauchard (8) – 4½

The II international tournament "Open Backa Palanka 2001" took place 2nd-10th May 2001. Final standing:
1. Stojanovic – 7 points out of 9
2-3. Markovic, Milu – 6½
4-8. Benkovic, Leskur, Rajlich, Kosanovic, Sanduleac – 6 etc.

Information by Mihajlo Savic on the site http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

The Asian Zonal Championships took place in Colombo May 4th to 14th, 2001.
Final standing:
Men.
1. Sasikiran – 9 points out of 11
2. Ganguly – 8½
3. Kunte – 8 etc.
Women.
1. Shah – 7 ½ points out of 9
2. Ghate – 7
3-4. Barua, Meenakshi – 6½ etc.

Results of the forth round of the Russian Club Championships in Tomsk.
Group 1:
Maikop – Novokuznetsk **3:3**
Tomsk - Khabarovsk **4½:1½**
Norilsk – Vladivostok **5:1**
Group 2:
St-Petersburg-2 - N.Tagil **4½:1½**
St-Petersburg-1 – Kazan **3½:2½**
Tjumen – Novosibirsk **4½:1½**

Standing after the 4th round.
Group 1: Norilsk – 6 (15½), Maikop – 6 (14½), Novokuznetsk – 5 (15), Tomsk – 5 (14½), Vladivostok – 2 (7½), Khabarovsk – 0 (5).
In the last round the match Tomsk – Novokuznetsk looks interesting.
Group 2: Tjumen – 7 (15½), St-Petersburg-2 – 6 (13), St-Petersburg-1 – 5 (13), Kazan – 3 (12½), Novosibirsk – 3 (10½), N.Tagil – 0 (7½).
Here the tournament situation looks more or less clear.

Starting lists of the four top-teams.

Norilsk: Bareev, Grischuk, Malakhov, Rustemov, Dolmatov, Smagin, Glek, Volzhin
Tjumen: Bologan, Onischuk, Lastin, Motylev, Najer, Prokopchuk, Chuprov, Pliasunov
St-Petersburg-1: Svidler, Sakaev, Korchnoi, Volkov, S. Ivanov, Emelin, Ionov, Lugovoi
Tomsk: Filippov, Vladimirov, Landa, Pigusov, Kotsur, Scherbakov, Makarov, Khasin.

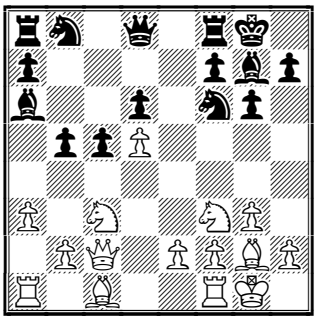
Also see our annotated game section.

http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html and http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
A Onischuk (2658) − V Loginov (2499)
TCh−RUS Tomsk RUS (3), 15.05.2001
E12
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3
The Petrosian system.
4...c5!?
Black transforms play into an Indian Defence type position.
5.d5 ♗a6 6.♕c2 exd5 7.cxd5 g6
7...♘xd5?? 8.♕e4+
8.♘c3 ♗g7 9.g3 0-0 10.♗g2 d6 11.0-0 b5



12.b4!?
Quite a rare move. The idea is to prevent Black's activity on the Queenside. An alternative plan is a pawn offence in the centre, for example: 12.♖e1 ♘bd7 13.e4 ♕b6 14.h3 ♖ac8 15.♗e3 ♕b7 16.♗f4 b4 17.♘a4 ♗b5 18.♗xd6 ♖fe8 19.axb4 cxb4 20.♕b1 a5∞

Rustemov − Loginov, St. Petersburg 1998.

12...♘bd7 13.♗f4!?N

It looks like a novelty, though there were only a few games in this position. The following is one of them: 13.bxc5 dxc5 14.♗b2 ♖e8 15.♖fe1 ♘b6 16.♘d2 ♖c8 17.♖ad1 b4 18.♘ce4 ♘xe4 19.♘xe4 ♗xb2 20.♕xb2 ♖xe4 21.♗xe4 ♘c4 22.♕b3 ♘xa3 23.d6 ♕d7∞ R.Bagirov − Sakaev, Dubai 2000.

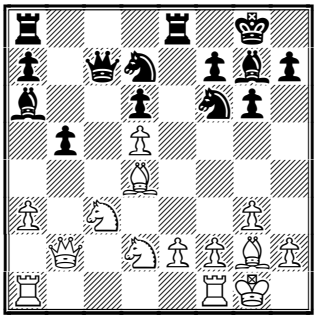
13...♕b6 14.bxc5 ♕xc5!?

After 14...dxc5 15.♖ab1 White develops an unpleasant pressure on the b5 and c5 pawns. But now he receives an important square c6.

15.♗e3 ♕c4

The idea of this move − to provoke Nd2, as opposed to Nf3−d4−c6.

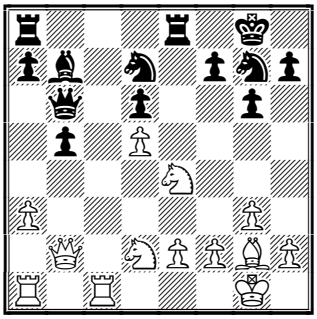
16.♘d2 ♕c7 17.♗d4! ♖fe8 18.♕b2



18...♘h5

Black tries to weaken his opponent's pressure with some exchanges, but his Black squares are becoming very weak. It will be a motive of White's small combination.

19.♗xg7 ♘xg7 20.♖fc1 ♕b6 21.♘ce4 ♗b7



22.♖c6!

It's a point.

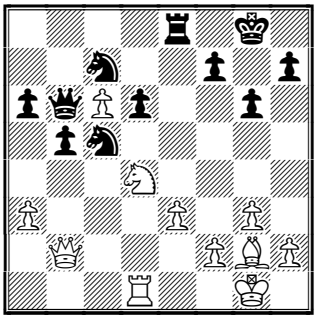
22...♗xc6 23.dxc6 ♘c5 24.♘f6+ ♔h8 25.♘xe8 ♖xe8 26.♘b3

White didn't win any material but as a result of this combination received a strong passed pawn on c6 and activated his g2 Bishop a little, while black's isolated d6 pawn became rather weak.

26...♔g8 27.♘d4 ♘ge6 28.e3

Of course White doesn't want to connect his opponent's pawns.

28...a6 29.♖d1 ♘c7?!



30.♘c2

Now it's very difficult to protect the d−pawn either on d6 or on d5.

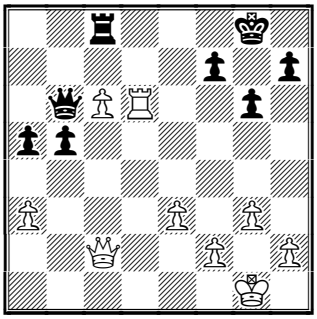
30...d5

Or 30...♖e6 31.♗h3

A) 31...♕xc6!? 32.♗xe6 fxe6 33.♘b4 ♕b6 (33...♕d7 34.♕d4) 34.♕f6!±;

B) 31...f5 32.♗g2 ♘e4 33.♘d4±

31.♘b4 ♘e4 32.♕c2 ♘f6 33.♘xd5 ♘cxd5 34.♗xd5 ♘xd5 35.♖xd5 ♖c8 36.♖d6 a5



37.♕e4!

As is often the case, centralisation is very strong in this type of position.

37...b4 38.axb4 axb4 39.♕d5 ♖f8

Or 39...b3 40.♖d7 ♖f8 41.♖b7+−

40.♖d7 ♕a6 41.c7 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html

http://www.chathurangam.com/abroad/azc2k1/final.asp

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-192, 18th May 2001

GM Francisco Vallejo Tops Field in 36th Capablanca Memorial.

Vallejo

After 10 rounds of play in the ***36th Capablanca Memorial*** **Francisco Vallejo leads by 1½ points over Andersson and Stefansson who share 2nd-3rd.**

Top standings after 10 rounds:
1. Vallejo (9 games) - 7.0
2. Andersson (10) - 5½
3. Stefansson (9)- 5½
4. Dominguez (9)- 5.0
5. Bruzon (9) 5-0
6. Miles (10) - 5.0
etc.

After 7 rounds of play, **Aleksander Delchev,** is in sole lead in the 65th ***Bulgarian Men's Championship*** in Tzarevo.

Some Results of the 7th Round:
Delchev - Janev 1:0
Chatalbashev - Petrov ½:½
Genov - Ninov 0:1
Peev - Spasov 0:1
Iotov - Dimitriv 0:1
Cheparinov - Georgiev 1:0
Bratanov - Rusev 0:1
Karakehajov - Radulski ½:½

Top standings after 7 rounds:
1. Delchev - 6.0
2. Ninov - 5.5
3-4. Chatalbashev - 5.0
3-4. Petrov - 5.0

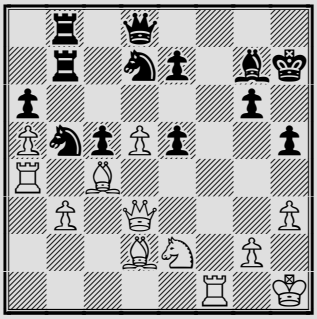
Both games - **Anand - Khalifman** and **Hernandez - Short** ended in draws in the 1st round of the ***II Merida*** double round tournament in Merida, Mexico.

Pairings for round 2:
Short-Khalifman
Hernandez-Anand

As of this writing there are no new results to report in the ***Bosnia 2001*** tournament.

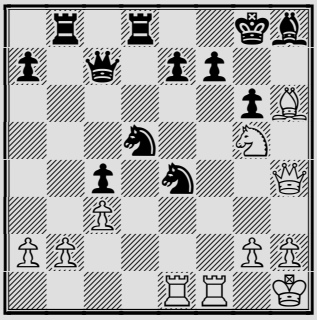
Tactical Quiz

1. I .Rogers – E . Mensch
Deizisau–A (3), 2001



White to play

2. A. Utkin (2345) – S. Sivokho (2476)
ch–City St Petersburg RUS (7), 17.04.2001



White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

M. Makarov (2511) − V. Telnov (2401)

TCh−RUS, Tomsk RUS (4), 16.05.2001 E11

Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

Lately I have developed a taste for chess miniatures, so today I would like to show you yet another short game. This miniature is from the Russian Club Championship, which is still in progress.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♗b4+ 4.♗d2 a5 5.♘c3 b6 6.e3 ♗b7 7.♗d3

This is a quiet system, where White hopes to get an edge thanks to some spatial advantage. Black's main achievement is good control over the e4−square.

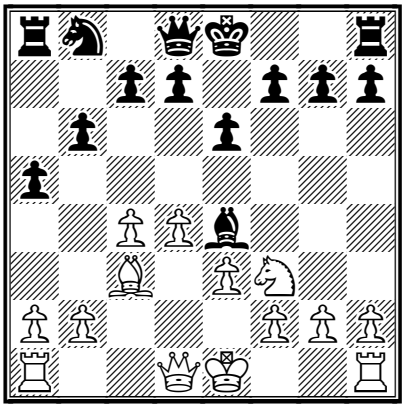
7...♗xc3

This move may be forced sooner or later, but it was better to wait with it for a while and finish the development first. In the game Chiburdanidze−Speelman, Lippstadt 2000, Black stood well after 7...0-0 8.0-0 d6 9.♕e2 ♗xc3 10.♗xc3 ♘e4 11.♗xe4 ♗xe4 12.♘d2 ♗b7 13.e4 ♘d7 14.d5 ♕e7 15.♕g4 e5 16.f4 f6 17.b3 exf4 18.♕xf4 ♖ae8.

8.♗xc3 ♘e4?!

This is the reason why Black took on c3 so early, but such play is a bit simplistic and gives White the initiative:

9.♗xe4! ♗xe4 (D)



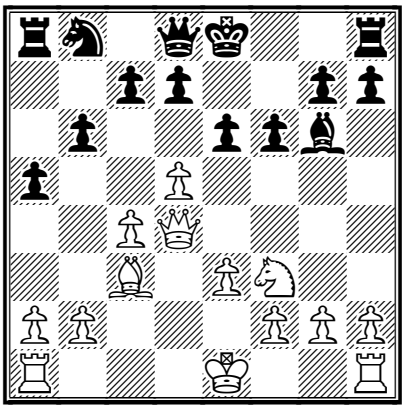
10.d5

White starts action while he has a small lead in development. Now the b8−knight will not be able to enter the game soon.

10...f6

10...0-0?? 11.♕d4+−

11.♕d4 ♗g6 (D)



Perhaps safer was 11...♗xf3 12.gxf3 e5 13.♕g4 ♕e7 14.♖g1 0-0.

12.h4!

White wants to weaken Black's position on the kingside.

12...e5

12...h5 13.♕f4!?

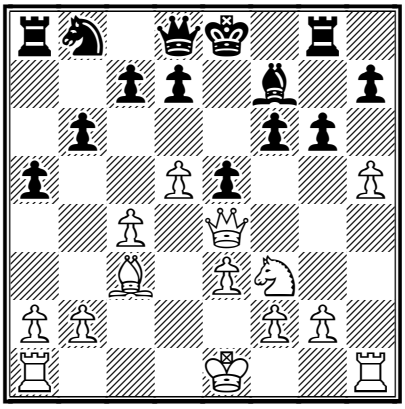
13.♕g4 ♖g8?!

After 13...♕e7 14.h5 ♗d3 White maintains the initiative with 15.♘h4 followed by e3−e4 and Nh4−f5. Still, it would have been a lesser evil for Black.

14.h5 ♗f7 15.♕e4!

Very clever!

15...g6 (D)



White has more space and more pieces in action. His next powerful

move highlights all these advantages: 15...h6 would have led to a similar position, but yet was a preferable option for Black.

16.♗xe5!! fxe5 17.♘xe5 ♕f6

17...♕e7 18.d6+−

18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♖h7! ♖g7

Also after 19...♕f5 20.♕xf5 gxf5 21.♘xf7+− Black is doomed.

20.♘g4+ ♕e7 21.♕xe7+ 1-0.

Solutions to Tactical Quiz:

1. 27.♕xg6+ ! 1-0.

2. 23.♗g7!! After this powerful blow Black is helpless... **23...♗xg7 24.♕h7+ ♔f8 25.♘e6+ ♔e8 26.♘xc7+ ♘xc7 27.♖xe4 ♔f8 28.♕xg6 ♗f6 29.♕h6+ ♗g7 30.♕f4 1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html
http://www.deportesmerida.mx/magistral/ultimo.htm

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-193, 19th May 2001

Vallejo 1½ points clear with 2 days to go …

After 11 rounds in the 37th Capablanca Memorial, **Francisco Vallejo has retained his 1½ point lead after a 24 move draw with Dominguez.. There were draws in all the other games except for Bruzon - Abreu which was won in inspired fashion by Black. There are only 2 days to go.**

Results of the 11th Round
Arencibia - Stefansson ½-½
Vallejo - Dominguez ½-½
Nogueiras - Hauchard ½-½
Bruzon - Abreu 0-1
Nataf - Luther ½-½
Delgado - Andersson ½-½

Standings after 11 Rounds
1 Vallejo 7½
2 Andersson 6.0
3 Stefansson 6.0
4 Dominguez 5½
5 Luther 5.0
6 Abreu 5.0
7 Arencibia 5.0
8 Miles 5.0
9 Hauchard1 5.0
10 Bruzon 5.0
11 Nataf 4.0
12 Nogueiras 4.0
13 Delgado 3.0

The round 5 results for the Bosnia 2001 tournament in Sarajevo are finally on the website and are as follows. Friday 18th was a rest day.

Georgiev - **Smirin** ½-½
Topalov - Dizdarevic ½-½
Sokolov - Dreev ½-½
Movsesian - Atalik 1-0
Kozul - Kurajica 1-0

Round 5 Standings:
1. Smirin 3½
2. Georgiev 3½
3. Topalov 3½
4. Dreev 3.0
5. Dizdarevic 2½
6. Sokolov 2½
7. Kurajica 2.0
8. Movsesiani 2.0
9. Kozul 2.0
10.Atalik ½

At the II Merida Tournament in Mexico Short beat Khalifman with White in a Caro Kann Two Knights. *See this game on page 2.* Anand beat Hernandez with Black in a Closed Sicilian. Round 3 sees the two leaders meet.

Nigel Short - See our annotated Game

Round 2 Standing:
1. Anand, Viswanathan 1½
2. Short 1½
3. Khalifman ½
4 .Hernandez ½

3rd Round pairings
Anand - Short
Hernandez - Khalifman

On May 19th and 20th GM Oscar Panno is directing a massive 50 board match in Argentina between Buenos Aires

province and Buenos Aires City. Several GMs and IMs playing, among them the current Argentinean Champion**, GM Ariel Sorin** and the South American Zonal winner, **IM Fabian Fiorito**. Games will be transmitted live at 3pm (GMT -03) on the official website which is in English.

The Russian Club Championship in Tomsk reached its final stage. 12 teams were battling out in 2 groups for 6 places in the final. Results of the matches between the qualifying teams count for the final, so in group 1 the team 'Universitet' from Maikop, which finished 2nd, did better then 'Norilskiy Nikel', which won the qualifier. The point is that 'Universitet' did better against its main rivals and now has 3 points out of 4 in the final. 'Norilskiy Nikel' has 2 points and 'Sibir' (Tomsk) has just 1 point.

In group 2 'Gazovik' from Tumen scored 9 out of 10 and now has 3 points in the final. The second team from St. Petersburg unexpectedly beat the first team from that city 3½-2½ and now has 2 points in the final. 'St. Petersburg-1' has only one point.

The tournament features many very strong GMs and CT will keep an eye on it. Our writer Ruslan Scherbakov is playing there for 'Sibir'. Good luck, Ruslan!
More information on TWIC

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Alex Baburin

N Short (2676) − A Khalifman (2690)
Merida MEX (2), 17.05.2001 [B11]

It looks like Nigel Short is a difficult opponent for Alexander Khalifman. In 1990-1998 they played 7 games, with Short winning +2=5. This year they played a show match in Moscow and again Short won +1=2. Another game in Merida and again the Englishmen emerged victorious!

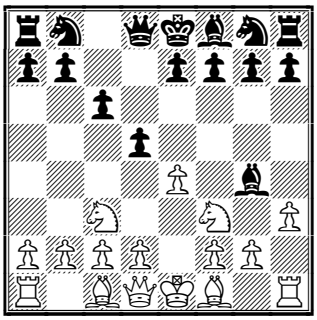
1.e4 c6

It's interesting that Khalifman decided to try the Caro−Kann, instead of his beloved French or Sicilian. Maybe he had something prepared in the 3.e5 line, but Short surprises him first:

2.♘f3 d5 3.♘c3

Robert Fischer used to like this move. Nowadays it is a rare guest on the top level, where White usually tries to break the Caro−Kann with 3.e5.

3...♗g4 4.h3



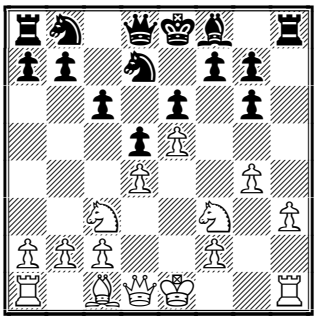
4...♗h5

The game gets a different flavour after 4...♗xf3 5.♕xf3 e6 where, having brought out and exchanged the light−squared bishop, Black places his pawns on light squares. Here is a typical example: 6.a3 ♘d7 7.d3 ♘gf6 8.g3 g6 9.♗g2 ♗g7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♕e2 ♘e8 12.♔h2 f5 13.f4 ♘d6 Matanovic−Petrosian, Kiev 1959.

5.d4

This plan became popular recently. Previously White preferred here 5.exd5 cxd5 6.♗b5+ ♘c6 7.g4 ♗g6 8.♘e5 which is still more popular than 5.d4. One example: 8...♖c8 9.h4 f6 10.♘xg6 hxg6 11.d4 e6 12.♕d3 ♔f7 13.h5 gxh5 14.gxh5 ♘ge7 15.♗e3 ♘f5 16.♗xc6 ♖xc6 17.♘e2 ♕a5+ 18.c3 ♕a6 Fischer−Smyslov, 1959.

5...e6 6.♗d3 ♘f6 7.e5 ♘fd7 8.g4 ♗g6 9.♗xg6 hxg6

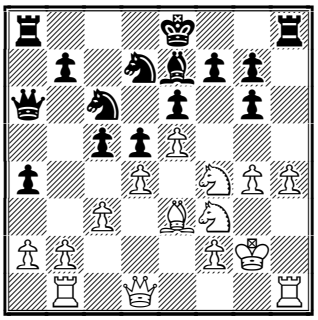


At first sight it looks like Black has a very good version of the French, as he has exchanged his potentially passive light−squared bishop. But there are drawbacks too: Black's kingside pawns are not flexible, while White is also ahead in development.

10.♘e2 c5 11.c3 ♘c6 12.♔f1! ♗e7 13.♔g2 ♕b6

13...0-0? would be rather suicidal after 14.h4

14.♖b1 a5 15.♗e3 a4 16.♘f4 ♕a6 17.h4



White plays where he has more space. This move does not really weaken White's king, as Black cannot attack it. We saw similar ideas in the game Kazimdzhanov−Nijboer in CT-186.

17...a3

As we will soon see, Black is gaining the b4−square for his pieces.

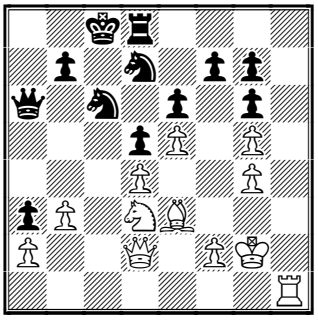
18.b3 cxd4 19.cxd4 ♘b4 20.♕d2 0-0-0

Black's king will be rather safe on b8, but now White shows that the king was an important defender too:

21.♘g5! ♗xg5

After 21...♖hf8 White has a little combination: 22.♖bc1+ ♔b8 23.♘gxe6! fxe6 24.♘xg6 ♘c6 25.♖xc6 ♕xc6 26.♘xe7

22.hxg5 ♖xh1 23.♖xh1 ♘c6 24.♘d3

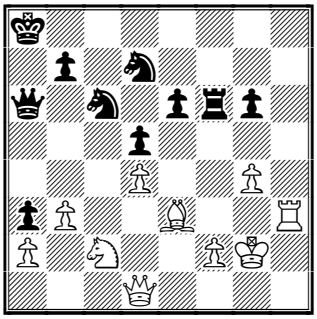


White commands more space, has an open file and might attack the a3−pawn. All of this makes his position preferable. Black should try to break the centre open, as otherwise his d7−knight will stay idle.

24...♔b8 25.♖h3!? ♕b5 26.♖f3 ♖f8 27.♕d1 ♕a6 28.♘e1! f6 29.gxf6 gxf6 30.exf6 ♖xf6 31.♘c2 ♔a8

31...♖xf3 32.♕xf3±

32.♖h3!

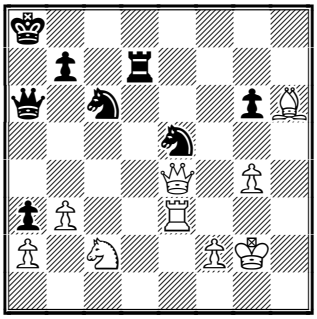


White decided that his rook was more valuable than Black's. Indeed, White's rook has some targets to attack, while its black counterpart has mostly a defensive role.

32...♖f8 33.♗h6 ♖f7

Or 33...♖h8 34.b4! ♕c4 35.♖xa3+ ♔b8 36.♗f4+ e5 37.♗g3+−

34.♖e3 e5 35.dxe5 ♘dxe5 36.♕xd5 ♖d7 37.♕e4



White has a healthy extra pawn and can attack the enemy king and his a3−pawn. At the same time Black's pieces lack targets (White's king is easy to defend), which means that he is lost here.

37...♖d1 38.♖e1 ♖d8 39.♗g5 ♖f8 40.♖e3 ♕b5

This drops another pawn, but it was doomed anyway, as b3−b4 was coming.

41.♘xa3

Nice play by Nigel Short. I did not mark any of Khalifman's moves as a mistake and it was on purpose − in games like this it's hard to say where Black went wrong. This is only an express analysis and I don't want to be superficial.

Perhaps the system with 4...Bh5 is strategically risky, maybe his plan with ...a4−a3 was too ambitious, as the pawn became weak later. I don't know... But whatever it was, White exploited his spatial advantage masterfully.
1-0

Recommended Websites

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html
http://www.ajedrezsiglo21.com/Noticias/Buenosaires_match.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-194, 20th May 2001

Francisco Vallejo Clinches First Place in 36th Capablanca Memorial's Elite Group!

With one round remaining GM Francisco Vallejo maintains his 1½ point lead over the rest of the field in the *36th Capablanca Memorial*, Elite Group and has clinched 1st place, even though he has one game left to play in the tournament! No other player can tie or surpass his total of 8 points. GM Hannes Stefansson of Iceland was unable to contend for top honors, drawing his game with Vallejo as White after only 23 moves. He needed to win in order to position himself for a possible 1st place finish. Now the battle is for 2nd and 3rd places. Eight players will contend for these places in the final round. Arencibia has completed played and finished with 5½ points out of 12.

Results of the 12th round:
Stefansson - Vallejo ½:½
Luther - Delgado 1:0
Abreu - Nataf ½:½
Hauchard - Bruzon ½:½
Dominguez - Nogueiras ½:½
Miles - Arencibia ½:½

Standings after 12 rounds:
1. Vallejo (1 game left) - 8.0
2. Stefansson (1) - 6½
3. Dominguez (1) - 6.0
4. Andersson (1) - 6.0
5. Luther (1) - 6.0
6. Abreu (1) - 5½
7. Arencibia - 5½
8. Miles (1) - 5½
9. Hauchard (1) - 5½
10. Bruzon (1)- 5½
11. Natafr (1) - 4½
12 Nogueiras (1) - 4½
13 Delgado (1) - 3.0

After a days' rest all games in the 6th round in the ***Bosnia 2001*** tournament ended in draws, so there has been no change in the standings.

Standings after 6 rounds:
Smirin - 4
Georgiev - 4
Topalov - 4
Dreev - 3½
Dizdarevic - 3
Sokolov - 3
Kozul - 2½
Kurajica - 2½
Movsesian - 2½
Atalik - 1

Pairings for the 7th round are:
1. Topalov - Kurajica
2. Georgiev - Kozul
3. Sokolov - Dizdarevic
4. Movsesian - Smirin
5. Atalik - Dreev

At the ***II Merida Tournament*** in Mexico **Vishy Anand** defeated **Nigel Short** with White in a Ruy Lopez/Modern Steinitz in the 3rd round, and leads the tournament with 2½ points. *(see annotated game section for **Anand-Short** game! --- RPM.)*

Dominguez

Today was a day off for the players. **Khalifman** defeated **Hernandez** in the other game.

Standings after 3 rounds:
Anand - 2½
Short - 1½
Khalifman -1½
Hernandez - ½

4th rounds pairings:
Short-Hernandez
Khalifman-Anand

The first round of the SuperGM tournament in ***Astana***, Kazakhstan takes place tomorrow (20th of May)

Pairings for the first round are:
Shirov-Kasparov
Morozevich-Sadvakasov
Kramnik-Gelfand

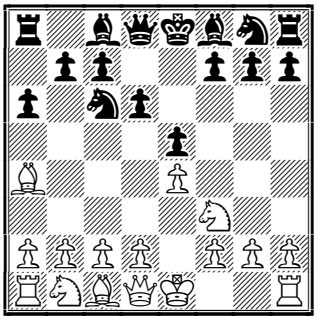
The ***Pula Open*** started on the 18th May in Pula, Croatia and will run till the 26th May. 16 GMs are participating - among them are **Mladen Palac, Evgeny Sveshinkov, Krunoslav Hulak,** and **Gyula Sax.**

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

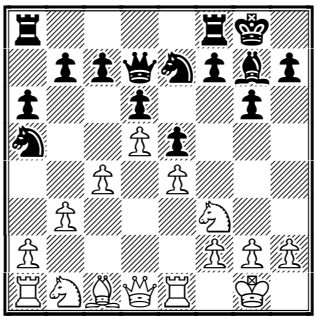
V. Anand (2794) − N. Short (2676)
Merida, MEX (3), 18.05.2001 C76
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 d6 (D)



This is a rare system in modern practice. Obviously Short wanted to avoid the main lines, but his decision could also have been influenced by the fact that Anand has not face this move since 1996. Yet, it was probably not a surprise for Anand as Short played this move against Khalifman earlier this year. In this game Anand proves that he handles off−beat lines well too.

5.c3 g6 6.d4 ♗d7 7.0-0 ♗g7 8.♖e1 ♘ge7 9.d5 ♘a5 10.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 11.b3 0-0 12.c4 (D)



It may look like Black has a good version of the King's Indian, as White spent time on c2−c3−c4. Yet, the opposite is true; this position is worse for Black than most positions in the KID. First of all, the exchange of light−squared bishops favoured White. Now ...f5 would make the e6−square horribly weak in view of ♘f3−g5. Secondly, the a5−knight is misplaced and will allow White to gain tempi in his play on the queenside. Black's bishop, as are the rest of his minor pieces, is not active.

12...c5 13.♗d2 b6 14.♕c1!

Brilliant! White prevents ...h6, after which Black would be able to play ...f5.

14...♘b7

Black decided to use this knight to cover the e6−square, but now there is no pressure on the c4−pawn.

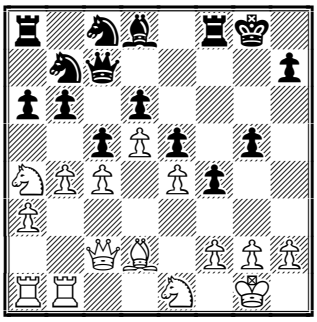
15.a3 f5 16.♘c3 f4 17.♕c2 ♗f6 18.♖eb1!

White vacates the e1-square for the f3−knight.

18...♕c7

This move prevents b3−b4 for a while. It would be more or less forced after ♘c3−a4 anyway.

19.♘e1 g5 20.♘a4 ♘c8 21.b4 ♗d8



White has made good progress on the queenside, while on the other flank Black has nothing serious yet. Now Anand increases pressure, using his spatial advantage:

22.♖b3! ♖a7

After 22...b5 23.♘b2 the tension on the queenside would be in White's favour, who has more forces employed there.

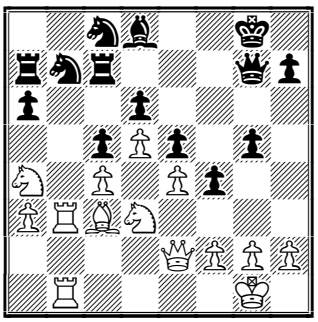
23.♖ab1 ♕g7 24.bxc5 bxc5?!

Now the b7−knight looks awkward. After 24...dxc5 25.f3 ♘bd6 26.♘d3 Black would have serious problems with the e5−pawn. One blockading knight does not compensate Black's weaknesses. At some point White might sacrifice the exchange on b6.; Maybe better was 24...♘xc5 25.♘xc5 dxc5 26.f3 ♘d6 27.♘d3 g4 28.♔h1

25.♘d3 ♖f7 26.♗c3! ♖e7?

Black fortifies his pawn chain, but now he has no play at all. Better was 26...g4 Then White would probably choose between promising sacrifices: 27.♘axc5!? and 27.♗xe5!? dxe5 28.♘axc5 27...♘xc5 28.♘xc5 dxc5 29.♖b8 ♖fc7 30.♕b2

27.♕e2! ♖c7 (D)

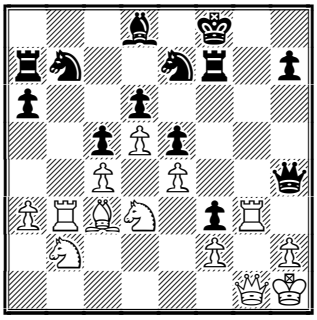


White has more space, control over the b−file, better minor pieces, but one still needs to break through somewhere in order to win the game. I really admire Anand's next move, which shows his superb understanding of chess:

28.g3!!

What is great about this move is that White strikes where Black is supposed to play. Anand correctly judged that Black's pieces tied on the queenside, will not be able to defend their king.

28...♕d7! 29.♘ab2 ♕h3 30.♔h1 ♖f7 31.gxf4 gxf4 32.♖g1+ ♔f8 33.♕d1! f3 34.♖g3 ♕h4 35.♕g1! ♘e7 (D)

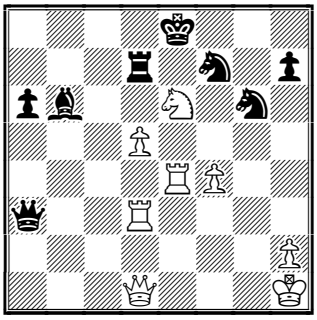


Black's pieces lack harmony, so the position is ripe for tactics:

36.♗xe5! dxe5 37.♘xe5 ♘d6 38.♖bxf3

Maybe even better was 38.♘xf7! ♘xf7 39.♖g4 ♕f6 40.♘d3

38...♕xe4 39.♘xf7 ♘xf7 40.♘d3 ♘g6 41.♘xc5 ♕xc4 42.♘e6+ ♔e8 43.♕d1 ♖d7 44.♖d3 ♗b6 45.♖g4 ♕a2 46.♖e4! ♘fe5 47.♖d2 ♕xa3 48.f4 ♘f7 49.♖d3! (D)



White has centralised all his pieces and is ready for the final attack.

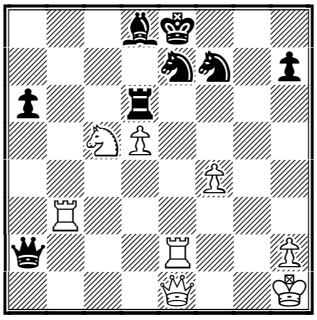
49...♕a2!

In a difficult position Short is putting up a lot of resistance. After 49...♕d6 50.♕a1!+− White's task would be much easier.

50.♖b3?!

Anand's only minor mistake in this game, although it was not easy to find a better move here. After 50.d6? ♖xd6 51.♘g5+ ♘e7 52.♖xd6 ♘xd6 53.♕xd6 ♕b1+ 54.♔g2 ♕g1+ 55.♔h3 ♕f1+ Black has a draw.; Perhaps better is 50.♖d2 but after

50...♕a3 the fight still goes on.
50...♖d6?
Short returns the favour... Much better was 50...♘d6! for example: 51.♖e2 ♕a5 52.f5 ♘xf5 53.♘g7+ ♔f8 54.♘xf5 ♖xd5 55.♕c1 ♖xf5 56.♖xb6 ♕xb6 57.♕c8+ ♔g7 58.♕xf5 even though White has a big, if not a winning advantage in the final position.
51.♘c5+! ♘e7 52.♕e1! ♗d8 53.♖e2!(D)



What a picturesque position! The black queen is finally trapped, as after 53...Qa5 White simply plays 54.Rxe7+. A great game from Anand!
1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-195, 21st May 2001

All games decisive at Astana …

***Alex Baburin** writes:*

In Kazakhstan's capital **Astana,** a super-tournament with **Kramnik, Kasparov, Morozevich, Shirov, Gelfand and Sadvakasov** started today. And what a start it was - all games were decisive! Kasparov beat Shirov with Black and brought his score (not counting draws) against him to an amazing height - 12:0! Kramnik defeated Gelfand on White's side of the Catalan. It looked like Boris should be OK in the ending, which arose soon after the opening, but Vladimir kept the pressure on and emerged victorious, showing nice technique. Alexander Morozevich had White against Darmen Sadvakasov, which could be dangerous for World's No. 4, who often does better with Black. Yet, today Alexander played splendidly with White and won a good game, which we offer in our Game section today. All games are included in our CBV and PGN supplements. There is good coverage of the event at www.kasparovchess.com (with Garry's express comments of his first round game), www.clubkasparov.ru (for those who read Russian) and www.fide.com. Interestingly enough, the Russian page of Kasparov Chess claims that the tournament is covered in jointly and in co-operation between Club Kasparov and FIDE Commerce - an alliance almost unthinkable just a few months ago!

The pairings for tomorrow **are Shirov-Morozevich**, **Sadvakasov-Kramnik** and **Kasparov-Gelfand**. In the first game anything can happen, while in the other two my money is on Kramnik and Kasparov, though I hope that Boris Gelfand can put a good fight against Kasparov. The first 2-3 rounds will show who is in good form and who is not, so I'll be watching them with great interest.

Results of first round
Kramnik (RUS) - Gelfand (ISR) - 1-0
Morozevich (RUS) - Sadvakasov (KAZ) - 1-0
Shirov (ESP) - Kasparov (RUS) - 0-1

Round 2 pairings
Kasparov (2835) - Gelfand (2712)
Sadvakasov (2585) - Kramnik (2797)
Shirov (2722) - Morozevich (2749)

At the II Merida Tournament in Mexico Anand beat Short to go clear first.

Anand goes top in Mexico

Anand - Short 1-0
Khalifman - Hernandez 1-0

Round 3 Standings:
1. Anand 2½
2. Short 1½
3. Khalifman 1½
4. Hernandez ½

Latest: Round 4: Viswanathan Anand -

Alexander Jalifman ½:½ with Short and Hernandez still playing.

After the round 7 results for the Bosnia 2001 tournament the table has a familiar look to it.

Georgiev - Kozul 1-0
Topalov - Kurajica1-0
Sokolov - Dizdarevic ½:½
Movsesian - Smirin 0-1
Atalik - Dreev 0-1

Round 7 Standings:
1. Smirin 5.0
2. Georgiev 5.0
3. Topalov 5.0
4. Dreev 4½
5. Dizdarevic 3½
6. Sokolov 3½
7. Kurajica 2½
8. Movsesian 2½
9. Kozul 2½
10. Atalik 1.0

Chess Today reader (he has been with us since CT-1!) and General Secretary of the ICCF, **Alan Rawlings** sends us this message:

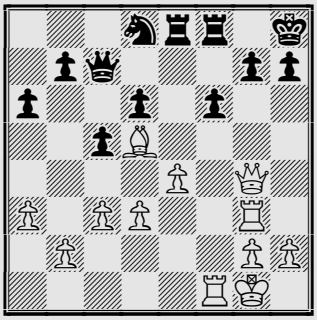
Today (Sunday 20 May) ICCF received the 1000th entry for the ICCF Free Jubilee Email Open, which is a rate of almost 20 entries daily ever since we 'opened for business' in late March. There are still several weeks to go before entries close, and we are clearly looking at ICCF's largest tournament entry for very many years. Entries have been received from 67 countries, including 15 that are not current members of ICCF; the ten leading nations are Germany (100), USA (81), Netherlands (64), England (60), Czech Republic (57), Italy (54), Brazil (49), Spain (44), Denmark (38) and France (34).

If you haven't entered yet, do it now at http://www.iccf.com! And if you have entered, tell your friends to enter too!

♘♘♘

Tactical Quiz

I Gaponenko (2383) − K Rohonyan (2340)
ch−UKR Women Kramatorsk UKR (10), 05.04.2001



White's pieces are much more active than their black counterparts. The d5−bishop is particularly strong. How can White (to play) capitalise on this advantage?

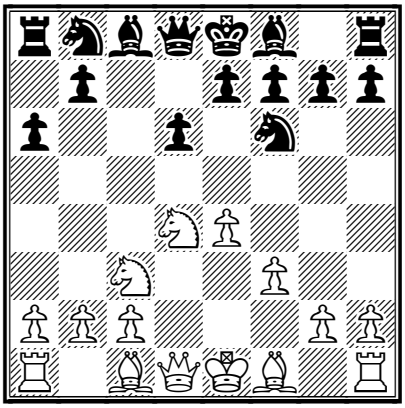
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Alex Baburin

<< A Morozevich (2749) − D Sadvakasov (2585)
Astana (1), 20.05.2001 B90

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3



This system is very popular at the top

level and Alexander Morozevich is one of the main experts on it − with both colours. For example, the game Tiviakov−Morozevich, Wjik aan Zee 2001 comes to mind.

6...e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.♗e3 h5

This is a prophylactic against g2−g4. Only two decades ago such a move would be unthinkable, as Black creates a potential target on the flank where White plans to play. But chess strategy is more complex now than it used to be in the pre−Kasparov era. This move was hardly a surprise for Morozevich, as Sadvakasov has employed it a few times before.

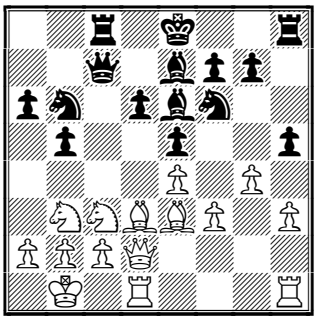
9.♕d2 ♘bd7 10.0-0-0

In a similar position against Sadler in 1999 Morozevich opted for 10.Be2 and 11.0-0, but eventually lost in a very complex battle. Today he tries a different set−up. Another possible plan is 10.a4 for example: 10...♗e7 (10...♖c8 11.♗e2 ♘b6 12.a5 ♘c4 13.♗xc4 ♖xc4 14.0-0 ♗e7 15.♖fd1 0-0 16.♗g5 ♕c7 17.♗xf6 ♗xf6 18.♕xd6 ♖c8 19.♕xc7 ♖8xc7 20.♖d2 ♗g5 21.♖e2 ♖c8 22.♖d1 ♖4c6 Sedlak−Sadvakasov, Subotica 2000.) 11.♗e2 ♖c8 12.0-0 ♘b6 13.♖fd1 d5 14.a5 d4 15.axb6 ♗xb3 16.cxb3 dxe3 17.♕xd8+ ♗xd8 18.♖a5 ♘d7 19.♖ad5 ♘xb6 20.♖xe5+ ♔f8 21.♖c5! J.Polgar−Sadvakasov, Hoogeveen 1999.

10...♖c8 11.♔b1 ♗e7 12.h3

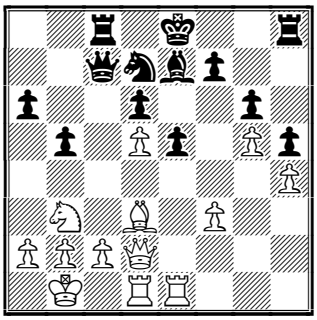
This is a rare move. White prepares g2−g4, even though he cannot play it immediately. 12.♘d5 ♗xd5 (12...♘xd5 13.exd5 ♗f5 14.♗d3 ♗xd3 15.♕xd3 ♗g5 16.♗f2 0-0 17.h4 ♗h6 18.g4 ♗f4 19.♘d2 hxg4 20.fxg4 ♖e8 21.g5 e4 22.♘xe4 ♘e5 23.♕h3 ♘c4 24.♖he1 b5 Perunovic−Sadvakasov, Subotica 2000.) 13.exd5 ♘b6 14.♗xb6 ♕xb6 15.g3 0-0 16.♗h3 ♖a8 17.♖he1 a5 18.a4 ♕c7 19.♗f1 ♖fc8 20.♗b5 ♗f8 21.f4± Shirov−Svidler, Linares 1998.; 12.♕d3 ♗d5 13.exd5 0-0 14.♗f2 ♖e8 15.h4 b5 16.♖e1 g6 17.♘xb5 axb5 18.a4 ♘xd5 19.axb5 ♖b8 20.♖d1 ♘c5 21.♗xc5 ♖c8 22.♗xd6 f6 23.♗c7 ♔f7 24.b6 e4 25.fxe4 ♗d6 26.♗xd6 ♘c7 27.♗xc7 ½-½ Ye Jiangchuan−Sadvakasov,D/Istanbul TUR 2000/The Week in Chess 312 (27)

12...♕c7 13.♗d3 b5 14.g4 ♘b6



Now White starts a typical operation, which leads to a serious change in the pawn formation.

15.♗xb6! ♕xb6 16.g5 ♘d7 17.♘d5 ♗xd5 18.exd5 g6 19.♖he1 ♕c7 20.h4



20...♘b6

Black would like to castle, but after 20...0-0 f4−f5 looks very unpleasant.

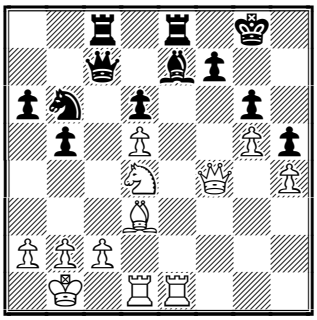
21.f4! exf4?

I think this is Black's only mistake in the game, but it is a serious one! Better was 21...♘xd5 with unclear play after 22.fxe5 dxe5 23.♗xb5+ axb5 24.♕xd5 ♕xc2+ 25.♔a1 0-0

22.♕xf4 0-0

22...♘xd5?? 23.♕d4

23.♘d4 ♖fe8



White is better as he has more space and better pieces. Many would consider here something like 24.Qf3, followed by Nd4−c6, but Morozevich has a different plan in mind: 23...♘xd5 Again Black could not take the d5−pawn as after

24.♕e4 ♕b7 25.♗f1! he would lose material.

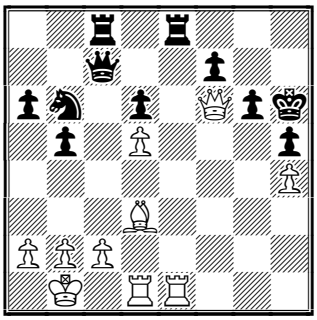
24.♘f5!! ♗f8

Of course, 24...gxf5? 25.♕xf5 is suicidal for Black.

25.♘h6+ ♗xh6 26.gxh6

Now White has a very dangerous pawn near the enemy monarch.

26...♔h7 27.♕f6 ♔xh6



28.♖e6!!

A nice touch − White is going to play 29. .♗xg6, while 28... ♘xd5 29. ♕g5+ ♔g7 30. ♖xe8 is bad for Black. Sadvakasov decided not to prolong the suffering and resigned.

1-0

Answer to Tactical Quiz

24.♕g6!! ♘e6

24...♕d7 25.♖f5 h6 26.♖h5 followed by Rgh3 and Rxh6+, wins.; 24...hxg6 25.♖h3#

25.♖h3 ♘g5

25...h6 26.♖xf6!+−

26.♖xh7+!

Black resigned in view of 26...Nxh7 27.Rf4, followed by 28.Qxg8+! and 29.Rh4#. **1-0**

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-196, 22nd May 2001

Report from Astana

by **Vladimir Barsky**

The tournament, dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan's Independence, is receiving a lot of attention in the country and the organisers are trying their best - so far the tournament is really well run. The players stay in the best hotel in Astana and play in a theatre. There was a nice opening ceremony, with interesting folk dancing. There are many spectators in the playing hall, even though the admission is not free. Astana (formerly Tselinograd) is a nice city, with a particularly attractive city centre, which closely resembles European town centres.

While all players are treated well, Kramnik and Kasparov are being received as kings in Kazakhstan - each of them has his personal Mercedes with a chauffeur. Other players go to the playing hall in a bus, which they have already called a 'school bus' - professors arrive to the exam in a Merc! :-)

Another players' invention is the name 'tournament of Kasparov's friends'. It is not a secret that Garry does not particularly like Shirov, Morozevich or Gelfand. The first one accused Kasparov publicly of many sins (not always correctly, in our opinion), while others helped Kramnik in his pre-match preparation against Kasparov last year. That prompted Garry's anger after the match. He never explained why in his opinion they could not offer their support to Kramnik (Kasparov always had many top class GMs helping him in all his matches), and why they did not offer their help to Kasparov, but this is another story... Meanwhile Garry, who takes such offences rather personally, has a chance to 'punish' the rebels, hence the name of the tournament! :-)

Today the round started later than planned, as Kramnik, Kasparov and Sadvakasov paid a visit to Kazakhstan's President Sultan Nazarbayev, who promised to turn this tournament into a tradition.

Meanwhile in the tournament round 2 was very tense.

Shirov got a winning advantage in the opening in Morozevich's beloved variation of the French (1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6 7.Nf3 a6). Then Morozevich put up a good fight and Shirov allowed Black a chance to escape in the rook ending. Alas, Alexander missed his chance and lost the game. *(Note: See 3rd Quiz question to see if you can do better!)*

Boris Gelfand played the French Defence against Kasparov. In recent tournaments Garry played 3.Nd2 instead of his usual 3.Nc3 and maybe this prompted Boris to try this opening against the former World Champion (it seems that Gelfand never played the French before!). Black stood well after the opening, but became afraid of some ghosts and sacrificed his queen for rook and bishop. Kasparov had the advantage, but failed to convert it - draw.

Darmen Sadvakasov was White against the World Champion. He tried what Kasparov did not in London last year - he played the Scotch. Vladimir did not have real problems in the game and subsequently outplayed his opponent in the ending.

The pairing for tomorrow:
Kramnik - Shirov
Gelfand - Sadvakasov
Morozevich - Kasparov.

Shirov used to be a difficult opponent for Kramnik, but this has changed recently. So far Morozevich has not won a single game against Kasparov, but was close to winning last year in Sarajevo, so anything can happen here as well. Gelfand will obviously try to get to 50% by beating the tournament's outsider. So, it is going another interesting day!

(Vladimir Barsky, reporting for Chess Today from Astana, by phone).

You can find live coverage in the playing zone of www.kasparovchess.com where the comments of the watching chessplayers add spice to the battles, www.clubkasparov.ru (for those who read Russian) and www.fide.com.

The Russian Club Championship has just finished in Tomsk. It saw many top players competing for different teams, such as Korchnoi, Bareev, Svidler, Grischuk, Rublevsky, Sakaev, Bologan, Onischuk, etc. In the final round the 1st team from St. Petersburg beat its main rival 'Norilsky Nikel' 3½-2½ and won the championship with 6 points out of 10. The fact that the winner scored only 60% in match points shows how tense the championship was.

'Norilsky Nikel' got 5 points, as did 'Gazovik' and 'Sibir', but 'Nikel' finished 2nd on a tie-break. Gazovik got the 3rd place and the last available spot in the European Club

At the II Merida Tournament in Mexico the results were as follows:

Round 4
Khalifman - Anand ½:½
Short - Hernandez 1-0

Hernandez lost his 3rd game in a row to Short's Maroczy Bind whilst Kahlifman and Anand had their usual draw.

Round 4 Standings:
1. Anand 3.0
2. Short 2½
3. Khalifman 2.0
4. Hernandez ½

Round 5 pairings
Anand - Hernandez
Khalifman - Short

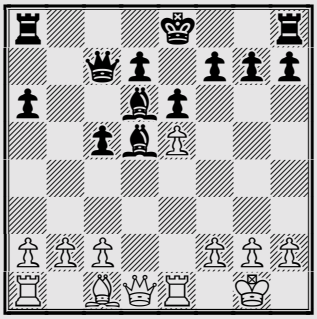
Round 8 results for the Bosnia 2001 Tournament:

1. Kurajica - Dreev ½:½
2. Smirin - Atalik 0-1
3. Dizdarevic - Movsesian ½:½
4.Kozul - Sokolov 1-0
5.Topalov - Georgiev ½:½

Round 8 Standings:
1. Georgiev 5½
2. Topalov 5½
3. Smirin 5.0
4. Dreev 5.0

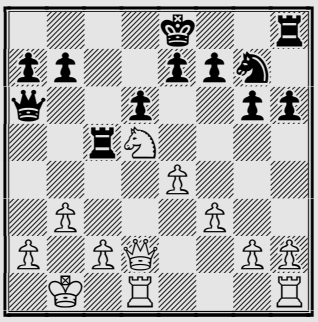
Tactical Quiz
By GM Alex Baburin

I Glek (2566) – S Arkhipov (2531)
TCh–RUS; Tomsk RUS (2), 14.05.2001



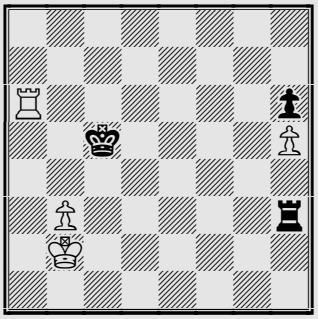
White to play

A Lastin (2627) − R Ovetchkin (2497)
TCh−RUS Tomsk RUS (5), 17.05.2001



White to play

3 Shirov (2722) − Morozevich (2749)
Astana KAZ (2), 21.05.2001 C11



Black to play and draw

Shirov has just played **55.♔b2??** where he should have played the winning 55.♔c2 ♖h2+ 56.♔d3 ♖h3+ 57.♔e4 ♖xb3 58.♖xh6 ♖h3 59.♔e5 ♖h1 60.♖h8 Morozevich replied with **55...♔b4?? but as one young spectator pointed out in the post match analysis he could have drawn!**

Answers to quiz

(1) 14.♕xd5! Nice touch! **14 ...exd5 15.exd6+ 1-0**

(2) 19.♕d4! 19 ... ♔f8 (19...f6 20.♕xc5 dxc5 21.♘c7+ winning.) **20.♘xe7 ♔xe7 21.♕xg7+− 1-0**

(3) After 55**...♖xh5! 56.♖a5+ ♔b4 57.♖xh5** it would be stalemate!

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http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca
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CT-197, 23rd May 2001

Anand Wins II Meirda Tournament in Mexico!

The double round robin ***II Merida Tournament*** in Mexico has ended with **GM Vishy Anand** winning with an undefeated 4½ points out of 6, defeating both Short and Hernandez in their mini-matches and drawing both games against Khalifman. Hernandez could only manage two draws.

Results of the 6th and Final round:
Short - Anand ½:½
Hernandez - Khalifman ½:½

Finals Standings:
Anand - 4½
Short - 3½
Khalifman - 3.0
Hernandez - 1.0

Astana

Report by GM Alex Baburin

The 3rd round in ***Astana*** was as bloody as two the previous ones - again only one draw today. The key game was Kramnik-Shirov. Relations between the two players have been uneasy, although they are not as bad as those between Shirov and Kasparov. Previously Shirov was a very difficult opponent for Kramnik (Shirov won their match in 1998), but in Wjik aan Zee Vladimir won and then also beat Alexey 2-0 in Monaco in March. Today Kramnik had the advantage again, but failed to convert what looked like a winning ending, despite the opposite colored bishops. See the attached CBV file and look at move 42. Amazingly, it is not possible to show a win after 42.h4, what Kramnik played.

Darmen Sadvakasov lost his 3rd game in a row. Today he was really unlucky, as his flag fell in a position, where a draw was the most likely result.

Garry Kasparov caught up with Vladimir Kramnik by beating Alexander Morozevich in a very complex game. We show it in our *Annotated Game section.*

Standings after 3 rounds:
1-2. Vladimir Kramnik and **Garry Kasparov - 2½ points.**
3-4. Alexey Shirov and Boris Gelfand - 1½ points.
5. Alexander Morozevich -1 point.
6. Darmen Sadvakasov - 0 points.

Tomorrow is a day-off at the tournament. On Thursday we will see the following games:
Kramnik - Kasparov
Gelfand - Morozevich
Sadvakasov - Shirov.

It is going to be very interesting!

The ***36th Capablanca Memorial*** has ended with **GM Francisco Vallejo** finishing in first place in the Elite Group with an impressive score of 8½ points out of 12, a point and half ahead of second place finisher **GM Hannes Stefannson** (Iceland).

Results of the 13th round:
Vallejo - Miles ½:½
Andersson - Luther ½:½
Nogueiras - Stefansson ½:½
Bruzon - Dominguez ½:½

Nataf - Hauchard ½:½
Delgado - Abreu 1:0

The Standings (before tiebreaks):

1. **Vallejo - 8½**
2. **Stefannson - 7.0**
3. Dominguez - 6½
4. Andersson - 6½
5. Luther - 6½
6. Miles - 6.0
7. Arencibia - 6.0
8. Hauchard - 6.0
9. Bruzon - 6.0
10. Abreu - 5½
11. Nataf - 5.0
12. Nogueiras - 5.0
13. Delgado - 4.0

The 65th ***Bulgarian Men's*** Championship in Tzarevo has come to end with **Aleksander Delchev** and **Boris Chatalbashev** sharing first place with 7 points. Third place went to Marijan Petrov with 6½ points and Vasil Spasov came in fourth with 6 points.

Topalov

GM Kiril Georgiev wins the ***Bosnia 2001*** Super tournament.

Results of 9th and Final Round:

1. Georgiev - Kurajica 1:0
2. Sokolov - Topalov ½:½
3. Movsesiani - Kozul ½:½
4. Atalik - Dizdarevic 1:0
5. Dreevi - Smirin ½:½

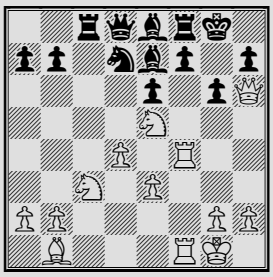
Final standings of top 4:

1. **Kiril Georgiev - 6½**
2. **Vaselin Topalov - 6.0**
3. **Ilia Smirin - 5½**
4. Alexei Dreev - 5½

♘♘♘

Tactical Quiz

1. B. Kalezic – D. Popadic
52nd ch–Montenegro Tivat YUG (7), 15.12.2000 B22



White to play

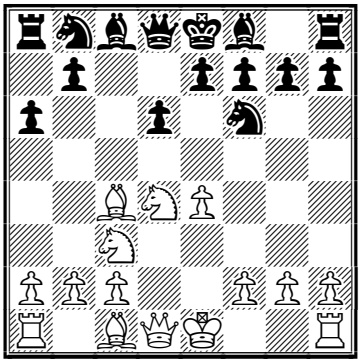
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Morozevich (2749) – G. Kasparov (2827) [B87]
Astana, KAZ (3), 22.05.2001 B87
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

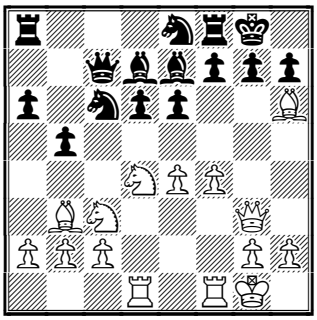
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4

In January in Holland Alexander played 3.Bb5+ against Garry and made a quick draw. Today he decided to give him a battle in the Najdorf. **3...cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4 (D)**



This move, once incredibly popular, has recently lost its place in chess fashion to 6.Be3. However, it is still a dangerous weapon.

6...e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.♕f3 ♕c7 10.♕g3 0-0 11.♗h6 ♘e8 12.♖ad1 ♗d7 13.f4 ♘c6 (D)



14.f5

White must activate the b3−bishop, as otherwise it would be a rather useless piece. In this line of Najdorf White must either sacrifice something on e6 or attack Black's e6−pawn with f2−f4−f5. Last year in Istanbul Morozevich played here 14.♗g5 against Gelfand. After 14...♗xg5 15.fxg5 ♘xd4 16.♖xd4 ♕c5 17.♕e3 b4 18.♘d1 ♗b5 19.♖e1 a5 20.c3 ♘c7 21.h4 ♖fb8 22.♕f2 ♗e8 a very unclear position arose.

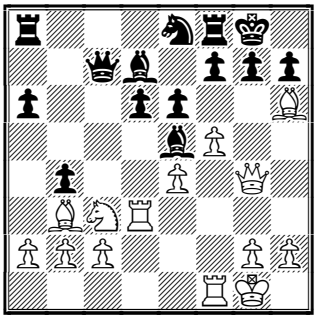
14...♘xd4 15.♖xd4 ♗f6 16.♖d3 ♗e5

A new move − in the game Macieja−Wojtkiewicz Black played 16...Kh8.

17.♕g4

White goes for attack. Yet, it is a pity to leave such a powerful bishop alive! After 17.♗f4 Black would have probably played 17...♘f6 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.♗xe5 dxe5 when he has problems with his e−pawns, but White's bishop is shut out of play. But still it was a worthy alternative for White.

17...b4! (D)



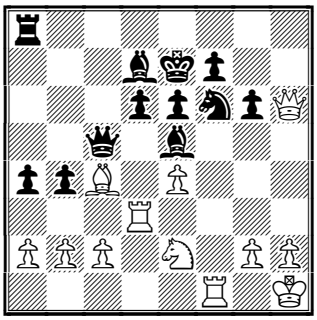
18.f6!

After 18.♘e2 White's knight would be away from the d5−square, so Black could play 18...exf5 19.exf5 ♗xb2; Perhaps White counted on 18.fxe6 ♗xe6 19.♗xe6 bxc3 20.♗d5 but then Black has a pleasant choice between 20...♖c8 (20...cxb2 21.♗xa8 ♕a7+ 22.♔h1 ♕xa8 where Black is close to winning, thanks to his super strong b−pawn.)

18...g6 19.♘e2 a5! 20.♗xf8

20.♕h4. In his explicit analysis at: www.clubkasparov.ru Kasparov said that he analysed 20...a4 21.♗g5 h5 (21...axb3? 22.♕h6+−) 22.g4 with wild complications.

20...♔xf8 21.♕h4 a4 22.♕xh7 ♕a7+ 23.♔h1 ♘xf6 24.♕h6+ ♔e7 25.♗c4 ♕c5 (D)



Black has full compensation for the exchange. GM Shipov recommends here 25...♗c6!?

26.b3 axb3 27.♗xb3?!

Perhaps better was 27.axb3

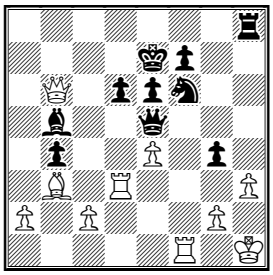
27...♗b5 28.♘f4 ♗xf4 29.♕xf4 ♕e5 30.h3?

According to Alexander Morozevich, here he should have played 30.♕f2!

30...g5! 31.♕f2 g4 32.♕b6

On his site Kasparov mentions 32.♕xf6+ ♕xf6 33.♖xf6 ♔xf6 34.♖xd6 gxh3 35.♖d4 hxg2+ 36.♔xg2 and White is OK.

32...♘d7 33.♕f2 ♘f6 34.♕b6 ♖h8 (D)

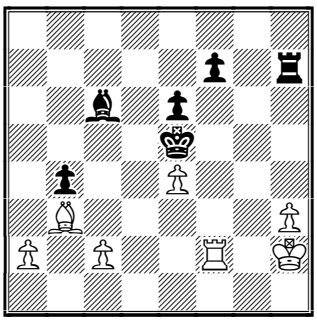


Here both players were rather short of time, but Black wanted more than a draw.

35.♖xd6?

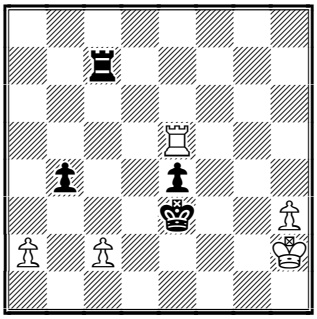
35.♕c7+ ♘d7 36.♖xd6 ♖xh3+ 37.gxh3 ♕xe4+ 38.♔g1 and Black has only the perpetual.

35...♕xd6 36.♕xd6+ ♔xd6 37.♖xf6 ♖h7! 38.♔h2 ♔e5 39.♖f2 gxh3 40.gxh3 ♗c6 (D)



All White's pawns are horrible, so his position is probably lost. In this game White's light−squared bishop failed to play an active role.

41.♗c4 ♗xe4 42.♖e2 f5 43.♗d3 ♔f4 44.♗xe4 fxe4 45.♖f2+ ♔e3 46.♖f8 e5! 47.♖e8 ♖c7 48.♖xe5? (D)



Better was 48.♔g3 activating the king.

48...♔f4!

The rest is easy:

49.♖b5 ♖xc2+ 50.♔g1 e3 51.♖xb4+ ♔f3 52.♖b1 ♖g2+ 53.♔h1 e2 54.a4 ♔f2 55.a5 ♖g5 56.♔h2 ♖xa5 57.h4 ♖a3

Black separates the enemy king with his pawn before promoting his own pawn. A Good game by Kasparov, but it was not easy sailing for him. **0-1.**

Solution to tactical Quiz.

1. 21.♘xf7! ♗xf7 22.♖xf7 ♖xf7 23.♖xf7 ♔xf7 24.♕xh7+ ♔f8 24...♔f6 25.♕xg6# **25.♗xg6** Black cannot satisfactory defend the f7−square, so he resigned. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.ks.gov.ba/bosna2001
http://www.chessbg.com
http://www.inder.co.cu/capablanca/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru/Kalend/Tomsk01.html
http://www.deportesmerida.gob.mx/magistral/ultimo.htm
http://sahklubpula.virtualave.net

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-198, 24th May 2001

Happy Birthday Anatoly!

Anatoly Karpov celebrates his 50th birthday today.

The 12th World Champion is one of the greatest players in chess history. From 1975 (after Robert Fischer's refusal to defend the World Champion's Title) to 1985, when he lost his crown to Garry Kasparov, Karpov was a real King of the chess world. He won almost every tournament he entered. During his career he has won more than 150 events – this record is unlikely to be beaten for some long time.

Karpov's style, based on a unique understanding of position, looks quite simple. He often allowed his opponents to achieve quite acceptable positions but then we often saw a kind of miracle: after slow, sometimes mysterious manoeuvres, it turned out that every Karpov piece was placed in the most effective position and his army was dominating. Many top players, watching some of his games, could not understand what was going on till the very end. Maximum usage of minimum resources – one of the main secrets of his extraordinary technique. Karpov – is a whole epoch in chess. His *battles of the giants* against Kasparov made a great contribution to the game of chess – almost every top player grew up on these matches…

Karpov is still one of the best world players but he is not as formidable an opponent as some 10 years ago. He deserves high praise for his great public work and of course a lack of time and energy does not allow him to achieve his best form to compete with young and very strong professionals. Nevertheless at the last super-tournament we sometimes saw the great Karpov's touches.

Congratulations, Anatoly Evgenievich, we wish you good health and a lot of energy for your future victories!

Now let's take a look at the chess events:-

A big chess festival is underway in Switzerland. Today was the second day of the quarterfinals at the ***Lausanne Young Masters*** and it brought a sensational result – 14 year old **Andrey Volokitin** of Ukraine outplayed his famous compatriot Ruslan Ponomariov and goes onto the semifinal! Other matches will be decided on tie-breaks.

Ponomariov – Volokitin **½:½ 0:1**
Aronian – Bacrot **½:½ ½:½**
Harikrishna – Sasikirian **½:½ ½:½**
Bu Xiangzhi – Bruzon **½:½ ½:½**

After 3 rounds of the **Open Masters** GMs **Laurent Fressinet** (France), **Peter Varga** (Hungary), IMs **Peter Genov** (Bulgaria) and **Eshan Ghaem Maghami** (Iran) are leading with perfect scores.

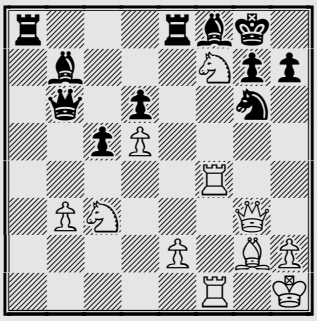
GM **Drazen Sermek** (Slovenia) leads in the strong open tournament in ***Pula***, Croatia – after 5 rounds he keeps a perfect score! Home GMs **Ognjen Cvitan** and 69 year old (!) **Nikolac Juraj** are sharing second place, half a point behind. 14 players have got 4 points.

Today is a day-off at the super-tournament in ***Astana*** – **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Garry Kasparov** are sharing the lead with 2½ points after 3 rounds and tomorrow they will meet each other!

♘♘♘

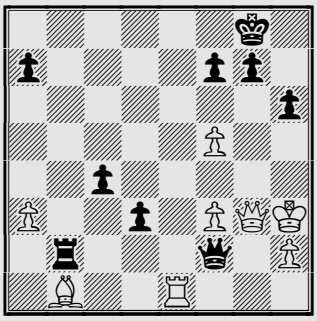
Karpov Quiz

(1) Karpov – Salov
Linares (1), 1993



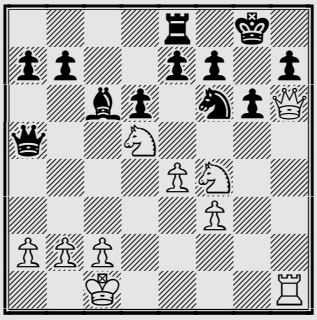
White to play

(2) Lautier – Karpov
Linares (8), 1995



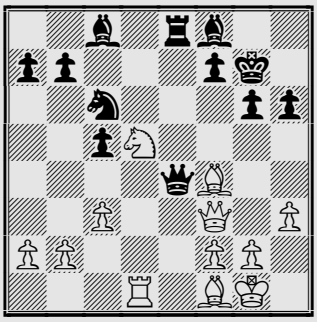
Black to play

(3) Karpov – Korchnoi
Candidates final Moscow (2), 1974



White to play

(4) Karpov – Topalov
Dos Hermanas (9), 1994



White to play

♘♘♘

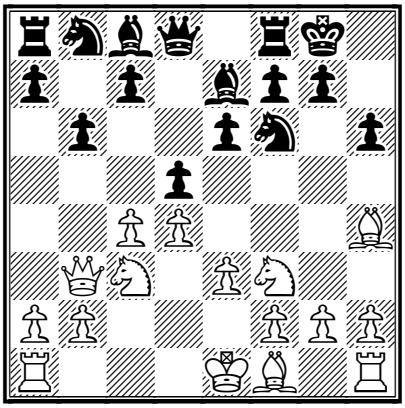
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Karpov (2775) – Beliavsky (2620)
Yugoslavia (ch–T) Niksic, 1996 D58

It is too difficult to select an example of Karpov's extraordinary technique – there are just too many of them. This game, played in the Yugoslavian team Championship, is probably not very well known to chess lovers. I was one of the spectators and it was really amazing to see how he continually improved a position which looked absolutely impossible to improve!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 0-0 7.e3 b6 8.♕b3



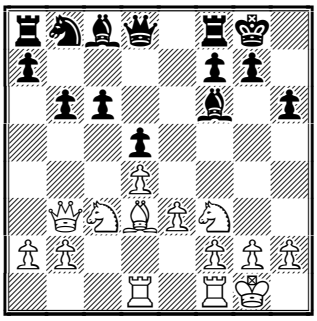
One of the methods of preparing for the typical ...c7–c5 in the Tartakower variation.

8...♗b7 9.♗xf6 ♗xf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♖d1 c6 12.♗d3 ♗c8!?

A rather new idea: Black improves the

bishop on b7 first. 12...♖e8 13.0-0 ♘d7; and 12...♘a6 13.0-0 ♘c7 are usually played.

13.0-0!?

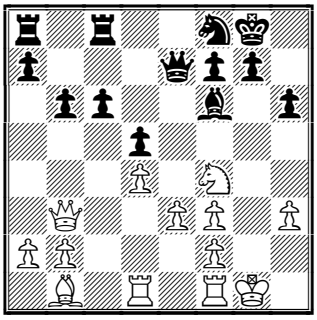


Karpov is not worried about ...Bg4. Maybe he is enticing Black to play it?! In the game Bagirov − Klovans, Tbilisi 1973 Black achieved acceptable play after 13.h3 ♗e6 14.♗b1 ♖e8 15.♘e2 ♕d6 16.0-0 ♘d7=

13...♗g4 14.♘e2!?

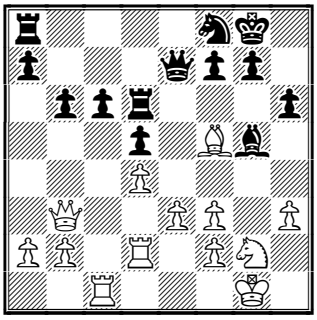
Consistent with his previous move − White is not worried about the doubling of the pawns on the f−file.

14...♕e7 15.♗b1 ♖c8 16.h3 ♗xf3 17.gxf3 ♘d7 18.♘f4 ♘f8



The position looks very good for Black. During the game it was hard to understand how Karpov was going to create problems for Black.

19.♖d2 ♖d8 20.♖c1 ♖d6 21.♗f5 ♗g5 22.♘g2!



This is the first (but not the last!) time the Knight occupies this ugly−looking position. It is hard to believe but this will be the key manoeuvre of the whole game!

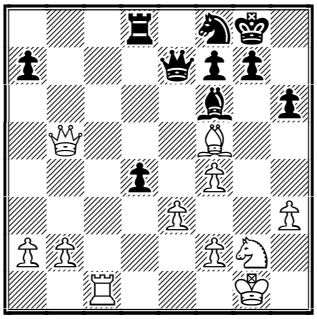
22...♖ad8

Black avoids ...g7−g6 after which White can think about f3−f4−f5 improving his pawn structure; if Black blocks the f−pawn by playing ...f7−f5 himself then White can transfer the Knight to e5 via e1 and f3.

23.f4 ♗f6 24.♖dc2 c5!?

This is tempting − Black sacrifices a pawn but opens up the position and forces White's knight to remain passive on g2. Nevertheless 24...g6!? was worthy of consideration, as after 25.♗g4 h5 26.♗f3 ♕d7 (26...♖c8?! 27.f5) 27.♔h2 ♘e6 the position does not look so bad for Black.

25.dxc5 bxc5 26.♖xc5 ♖b6 27.♖b5 ♖xb5 28.♕xb5 d4!



29.b4

29.e4?! g6! 30.e5 gxf5 31.exf6 ♕xf6 was good for Black.

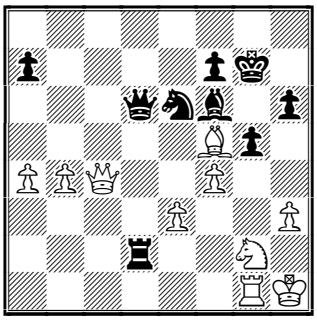
29...dxe3 30.fxe3 g5

30...g6!? also comes into consideration.

31.♕c5 ♖d6

As Karpov indicates in his notes, 31...♕b7 would have been parried by 32.♕c6 ♕e7 33.♕e4

32.♔h1 ♘e6 33.♕c8+ ♔g7 34.♖g1 ♖d2 35.♕c4 ♕d6 36.a4



White is still a pawn up but it looks impossible to convert it to a full point, as his knight and rook are very passive.

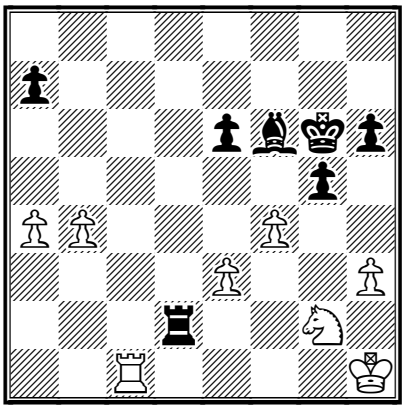
36...♔f8 37.♕c8+

37.b5!? deserves attention.

37...♔g7 38.♗xe6

Under time pressure, White could not find anything better than simplifying into an ending by exchanging both his active pieces.

38...♕xe6 39.♕xe6 fxe6 40.♖c1 ♔g6

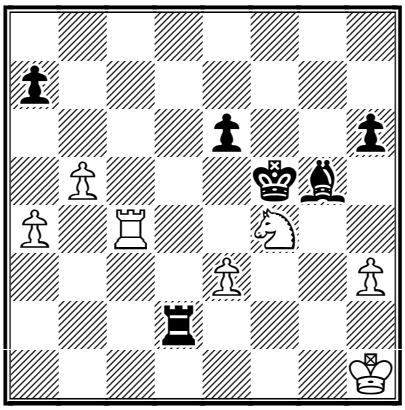


How can White win this ending with such a passive knight? We were all sure it would be a draw...

41.b5 gxf4 42.♘xf4+ ♔f5 43.♖c4

The king cannot be allowed to go further. After 43.♖c7 ♔e4 44.♖f7 ♗e5 45.♘xe6 ♔xe3= Black had no problems at all.

43...♗g5



44.♘g2!

The knight is going back to its favourite square.

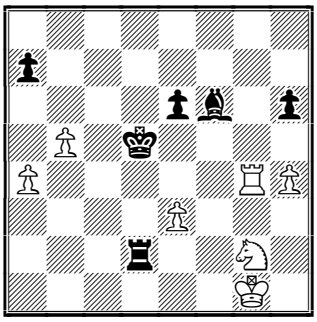
44...♔e5 45.♔g1 ♔d5

45...♖a2 should have been preferred, keeping good drawing chances.

46.♖c7 ♔e4 47.h4 ♗f6

The rook ending after 47...♗xe3+ 48.♘xe3 ♔xe3 49.♖xa7 was lost for Black.

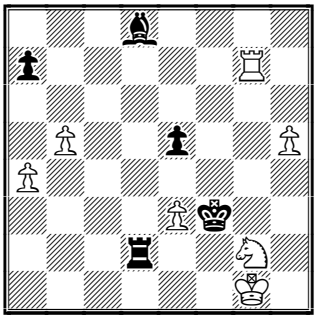
48.♖c4+ ♔d5 49.♖g4



49...e5?!

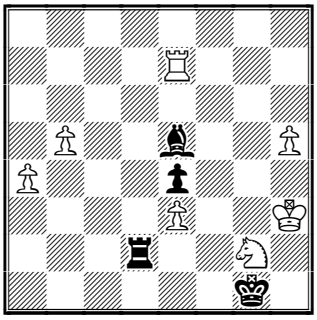
It is not easy to defend a position for fifty moves and of course mistakes are quite possible. Unfortunately for Black his first serious inaccuracy is also his last. 49...♖a2 should have been played although White has now made some progress and can continue with 50.♘f4+ ♔e5 51.♘d3+ and so on.

50.♖g6 ♗d8 51.♖xh6 ♔e4 52.♖h7 ♔f3 53.♖f7+ ♔g3 54.♖g7+ ♔f3 55.h5



Black produced maximum activity but the g2 knight protects everything and deprives Black of any chance of creating the threats − the h−pawn can simply go forward!

55...e4 56.♔h2 ♗f6 57.♖g8 ♗e7 58.♖g3+ ♔f2 59.♖g7 ♗d6+ 60.♔h3 ♗e5 61.♖xa7 ♔g1 62.♖e7!



Black resigned. It looked like White

was just playing back and forth but somehow he has managed to collect all Black's pawns! Only Karpov knows how to do this... **1-0**

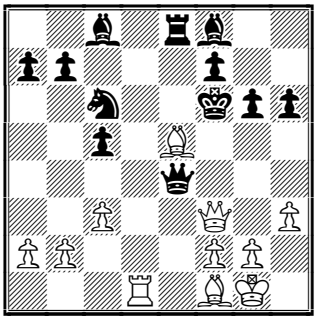
Answers to Karpov Quiz

(1) 33.♕xg6! Black resigned as he is checkmated after 33. ..hg6 34. ♖h4 followed by 35. ♖h8. **1-0**

(2) 39...♕xg3+ 40.hxg3 ♖xb1! White resigned − the pawns cannot be stopped. **0-1**

(3) A very important game for the theory of the Dragon Sicilian. Some moves earlier Karpov improved White's play keeping in mind the following continuation.
24.e5!+−
A decisive blow! Immediate 24.♘xf6+ exf6 25.♘h5 failed to 25...♕g5+ 26.♕xg5 fxg5 27.♘f6+ ♔g7 28.♘xe8+ ♗xe8 and Black is okay.
24...♗xd5 Now after 24...dxe5 25.♘xf6+ exf6 26.♘h5! Black's king is checkmated.
25.exf6 exf6 26.♕xh7+ ♔f8 27.♕h8+
Black resigned as he loses the rook.27.♕h8+ ♔e7 28.♘xd5+ ♕xd5 29.♖e1+ **1-0**

(4) Black's position does not look too bad − there are no weaknesses and everything is protected... except the rook on e8.
30.♘f6!!
A bolt from the blue!
30...♔xf6
30...♕xf3 31.♘xe8++−
What now?
31.♗e5+!!



It's fantastic!
31...♔xe5 32.♕xe4+ ♔xe4 33.♖e1+ ♔f5
34.♖xe8+− ♗e6 35.♖xf8 ♗xa2 36.♖c8
Black resigned as White is going to collect some pawns with ♖c7 and so on. **1-0**

Recommended Sites

http://astana.fide.com/
www.lausanneyoungmasters.com/
http://sahklubpula.virtualave.net/raspisengleski.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-199, 25th May 2001

Kasparov and Kramnik Maintain Slim Lead in Astana

Today was a rather quiet day at the super-tournament in ***Astana***, Kazakhstan.

Results of the 4th Round:
Kramnik – Kasparov **½:½**
Gelfand – Morozevich **1:0**
Sadvakasov – Shirov **½:½**

The highly anticipated battle between **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Garry Kasparov** was slightly disappointing – Kasparov did not face serious problems and equalised the game in the way which was already shown some 20 years ago by the Gruenfeld Defence expert, Slovakian GM Lubomir Ftacnik.

Boris Gelfand convincingly outplayed Alexander Morozevich, who deviated from his favourite Slav and Chigorin Defences but seemed to be unfamiliar with an interesting White idea in the Chebanenko system.

Darmen Sadvakasov played very solidly against Alexey Shirov and scored his first half a point in the tournament.

Standings after the 4th Round:
1-2. Kasparov, Kramnik – 3 points
3. Gelfand – 2½
4. Shirov – 2
5. Morozevich – 1
6. Sadvakasov – ½

Today was the first day of the semifinals in the ***Lausanne Young Masters*** but let's first take a look at the results of the tie-breaks.

Quarterfinal tie-breaks:
Sasikiran – Harikrishna **½:½ 1:0**
Bruzon – Bu Xiangzhi **1:0 ½:½**
Bacrot – Aronian **1:0 0:1 1:0 0:1 1:0**

A very tough battle between Etienne Bacrot and Levon Aronian was decided only in a "sudden death" blitz game.

Semifinals:
Bacrot – Sasikiran **1:0**
Volokitin – Bruzon **½:½**

Today French Champion **Etienne Bacrot** beat young Indian star **Krishnan Sasikiran** rather easily. We feature this instructive game in our annotated game section below.

GMs **Bogdan Lalic** (Croatia), **Laurent Fressinet** (France) and IM **Peter Genov** (Bulgaria) are leading after 5 rounds of the ***Open Masters*** – they scored 4½ points. 6 players are in chase.

After 6 rounds GM **Drazen Sermek** (Slovenia) is dominating the strong open tournament in ***Pula***, Croatia – he still keeps a perfect score! GMs Ognjen Cvitan, Robert Zelcic (both of Croatia), Gyula Sax (Hungary) and Dusko Pavasovic (Slovenia) are in chase, a full point behind

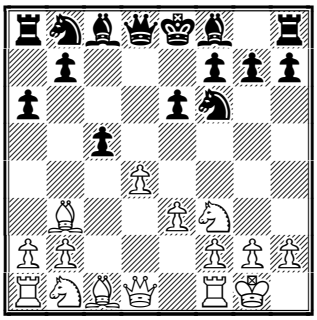
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E. Bacrot (2618) – K. Sasikiran (2601)

Lausanne Young Masters,
Lausanne, 24.05.2001 D27

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.♗b3 (D)



Recently this is one of the most promising lines to counter the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

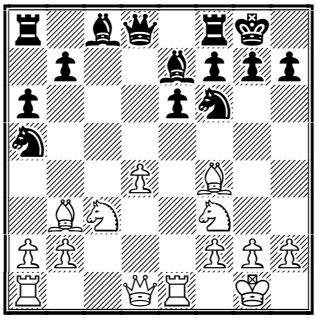
7...♘c6 8.♘c3 cxd4

In case of 8...♗e7 White may go to the ending where he keeps a small, but stable advantage: 9.dxc5 ♕xd1 10.♖xd1 ♗xc5 11.♗d2± followed by ♖ac1 and so on.

9.exd4 ♗e7 10.♖e1 0-0 11.♗f4

During the last few years 11.a3 has been more popular but it seems that Black has found some good ways to hold the position after both 11...b5 and 11...♘a5 12.♗c2 b5

11...♘a5 (D)



Here 11...b5 12.d5↑ gives White an annoying initiative.

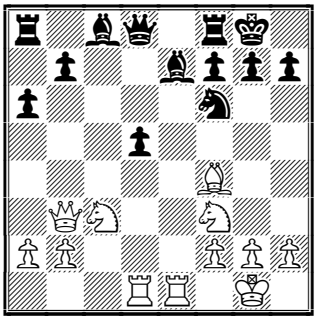
12.d5!?

A rather fresh approach. 12.♗c2 b5 13.d5 is supposed to be not too dangerous for Black − for example: 13...exd5 14.♕d3 ♘c6 15.♗c7! ♕d7 16.♘e5 ♘xe5 17.♗xe5 g6 with a good play, Kasparov − Anand, Wijk aan Zee 1999.

12...♘xb3 13.♕xb3 exd5

In the game Gelfand − Shirov, Delhi 2000 Black managed to hold the balance by 13...♘xd5!? 14.♖ad1 ♘xf4! 15.♖xd8 ♖xd8 16.♖d1 ♘d5 17.♘xd5 exd5 18.h3 b5 19.♖xd5 ♗e6 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.♕c2 , here a draw was agreed but Etienne Bacrot has probably prepared an improvement in this line.

14.♖ad1 (D)

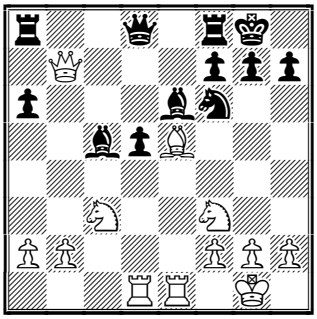


White has achieved a tangible advantage in development and Black is forced to give the pawn back.

14...♗e6 15.♕xb7 ♗c5

After 15...♗d6, Josif Dorfman, who is Bacrot's coach, achieved a certain advantage by 16.♗g5 ♖b8 17.♕xa6 ♖xb2 18.♖e2 ♖xe2 19.♕xe2± Dorfman − Kharlov, TCh−FRA, Bordeaux 2001.

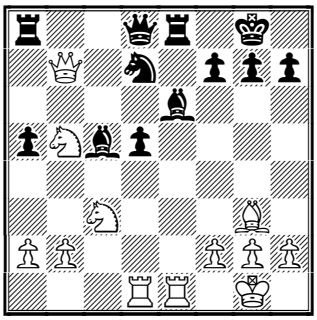
16.♗e5 (D)



16...a5

A novelty. Both 16...♕e7 17.♕xe7 ♗xe7 18.♘d4± , Markowski − Gdanski, ch−POL, Warsaw 2001; and 16...♕a5 17.♘d4 ♗xd4 18.♖xd4 ♘d7 19.♗d6 ♘c5 20.♕c7 ♕xc7 21.♗xc7± , Kramnik − Anand, Amber Rapidplay, Monaco 2001, did not allow Black to solve the problems completely. The text move does not look better than previous attempts.

17.♘d4 ♘d7 18.♗g3 ♖e8 19.♘db5!?(D)



White's initiative looks threatening but Black's defensive resourses should not be underestimated.

19...h5?

A clear mistake which shows that the young Indian player was probably not well prepared for White's set−up. Both 19...♕e7!? with the idea to counter the direct 20.♘c7 (20.♘xd5 ♗xd5 21.♖xe7 ♗xb7 22.♖exd7 ♗c6 23.♖c7 ♗xf2+ 24.♗xf2 ♗xb5=) with 20...♘b6 21.♕c6 ♖ac8; and the immediate 19...♘b6!? were playable for Black.

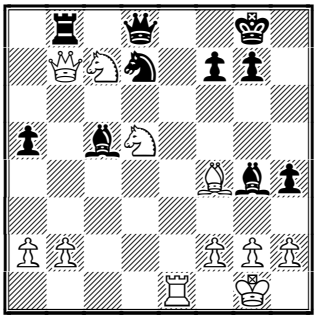
20.♘xd5 h4 21.♗f4

21.♗d6! looked more energetic.

21...♗g4 22.♘bc7!?

A good idea − White forces exchanges. In case of 22.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 23.♖c1 h3! Black gained real counterplay.

22...♖xe1+ 23.♖xe1 ♖b8 (D)



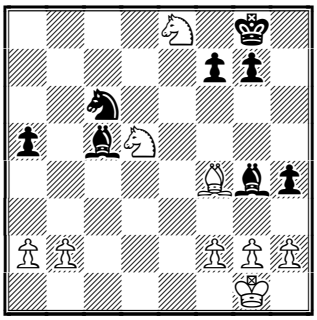
24.♕xb8!

The point.

24...♘xb8?!

This inaccurate move makes White's task easier. 24...♕xb8 was more to the point, saving a whole tempo after 25.♖e8+ ♕xe8 26.♘xe8

25.♖e8+ ♕xe8 26.♘xe8 ♘c6? (D)



The knight is definitely more active on c6, but unfortunately Black has missed something.

27.♘ef6+!

Of course!

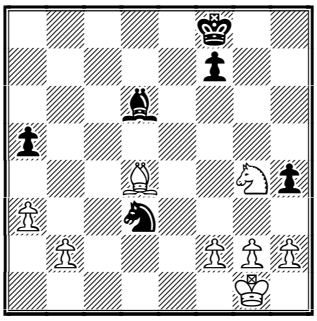
27...gxf6 28.♘xf6+ ♔f8 29.♘xg4 ♘b4 30.♗e3!

30.♗d2 was also not bad but the text move is very good.

30...♗d6

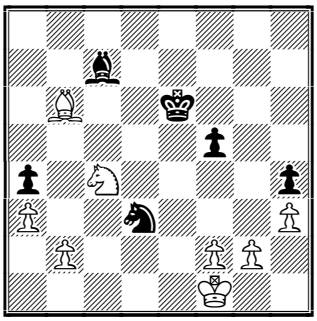
Black couldn't win a pawn by 30...♗xe3 31.♘xe3 ♘xa2 as White immediately takes it back: 32.♘c4 a4 33.♘b6+−

31.a3 ♘d3 32.♗d4 (D)

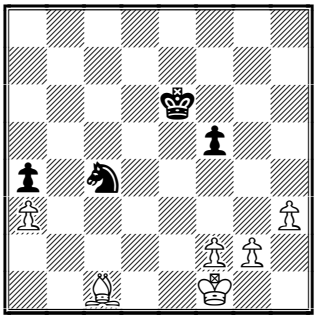


Two extra pawns are more than enough to win this ending. The rest is easy.

32...♔e7 33.h3 ♔e6 34.♘e3 a4 35.♔f1 f5 36.♘c4 ♗c7 37.♗b6 (D)



37...♗e5
37...♗xb6 38.♘xb6 ♘xb2 39.♔e2 ♔e5 40.g3+−
38.♘xe5 ♔xe5 39.♗d8! ♘xb2 40.♗xh4 ♔e6 41.♗g5 ♘c4 42.♗c1 (D)



Black resigned. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://astana.fide.com/
www.lausanneyoungmasters.com/
http://sahklubpula.virtualave.net/raspisengleski.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com

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CT-200, 26th May 2001

CHESS TODAY Celebrates its' 200th ISSUE!

At right the *CT* staff, first row left to right - Raph P. Marconi, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, and Graham Brown, second row center -GM Alex Baburin.

The World Champion **Vladimir Kramnik** takes sole lead at the super-tournament in ***Astana***, Kazakhstan.

Results of the 5th Round:
Morozevich – Kramnik **0:1**
Kasparov – Sadvakasov **½:½**
Shirov – Gelfand **½:½**

As you may remember, since becoming World Champion, Vladimir Kramnik, has lost only one game – to Alexander Morozevich in Wijk aan Zee with the White pieces. Today Kramnik took full revenge, effectively taking advantage Morozevich's poor play – unfortunately at the expense of Morozevich's fourth loss in a row!

The hero of the day was **Darmen Sadvakasov**, who stood bravely to Garry Kasparov, and managed to hold his ground! This interesting and complicated game is featured below in the annotated game section.

Boris Gelfand successfully parried all Alexey Shirov's attempts to replace him in third position.

Standing after the 5th Round:
1. Kramnik – 4 points
2. Kasparov – 3½
3. Gelfand – 3
4. Shirov – 2½
5-6. Sadvakasov, Morozevich – 1

French Champion, **Etienne Bacrot,** qualified to the Final of the ***Lausanne Young Masters*** after drawing the second game against Krishnan Sasikiran (India). In the other semifinal, the World Junior Champion, Lazaro Bruzon (Cuba), failed to convert an extra pawn for the full point – his match against Andrey Volokitin (Ukraine) will be decided on tie-break.

Semifinals:
Bacrot – Sasikiran **1:0 ½:½**
Volokitin – Bruzon **½:½ ½:½**

There are also matches for fifth place. Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine) already won the match against Bu Xiangzhi (China) while there will be another tie-break – Levon Aronian (Armenia) recovered after yesterdays loss to Penteala Harikrisna (India).

Matches for the 5th place:
Ponomarev – Bu Xiangzhi **1:0 ½:½**
Harikrisna – Aronian **1:0 0:1**

After 6 rounds of the ***Open Masters*** GMs **Bogdan Lalic** (Croatia), **Laurent Fressinet**, **Eric Prie** (both of France) and IM **Peter Genov** (Bulgaria) are sharing the lead with 5 points. There are 8 contenders with 4½ points.

In the 7th Round of the open tournament in ***Pula***, Croatia GM **Drazen Sermek** (Slovenia) lost his first half point, but

keeps the lead with 6½ points. A home GM Ognjen Cvitan is clear second, half a point behind, 7 players are sharing third place with 5½ points.

♘♘♘

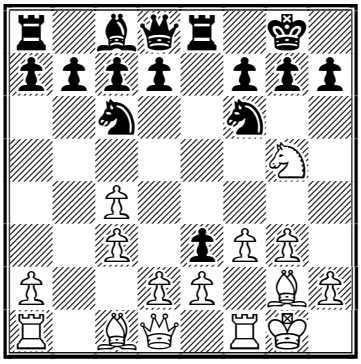
Annotated Game

G. Kasparov (2827) − D. Sadvakasov (2585)

Astana (5), 25.05.2001 A29

Notes by GM Rusland Scherbakov

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.g3 ♗b4 5.♗g2 0-0 6.0-0 e4 7.♘g5 ♗xc3 8.bxc3 ♖e8 9.f3 e3! (D)



This spectacular move was invented by Igor Zaitsev. The pawn sacrifice damages White's pawn structure and puts some obstacles on the diagonals which would be used by White's bishops. Garry Kasparov was the first player who faced it over the board − he lost with White in the World Title Match against Anatoly Karpov in Sevilla, 1987. The natural 9...exf3 allowed White to seize the initiative by 10.♘xf3 d5 11.d4!↑

10.dxe3

In the début of the move 9. ..e3! in the already mentioned game Kasparov − Karpov, Sevilla (m/2) 1987 a very complex position arose after 10.d3 d5 11.♕b3 ♘a5 12.♕a3 c6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.f4 ♘c6 15.♖b1 ♕c7 16.♗b2 ♗g4∞

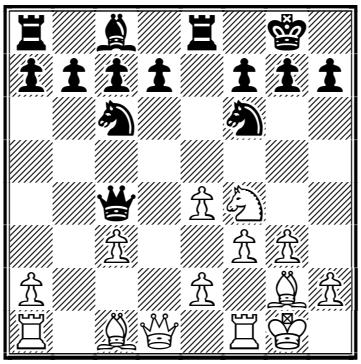
10...♕e7

A rare continuation. Black used to play 10...b6 , intending to develop the bishop to a6 or b7.

11.♘h3!?

11.e4 has been played before. The game Zagorskis − Sammalvuo, Copenhagen 1998 continued by 11...♕c5+ 12.♔h1 h6 13.♘h3 ♕xc4 with complicated play.

11...♕c5 12.♘f4 ♕xc4 13.e4 (D)



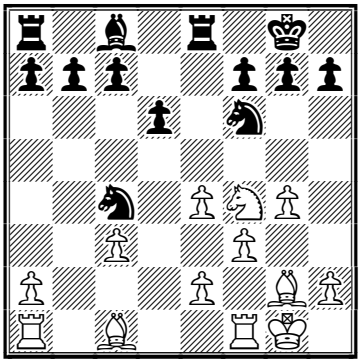
13...d6

13...♕xc3?! was too risky as Black is getting too behind in development: 14.♖b1 ♕d4+ (otherwise ♗b2) 15.♕xd4 ♘xd4 16.♖d1↑ with a strong initiative.

14.♕d3 ♘e5 15.♕xc4

15.♕d4!? was worthy of consideration.

15...♘xc4 16.g4 (D)

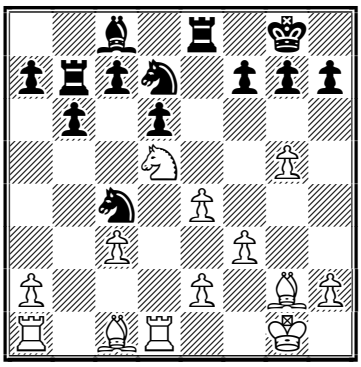


Intending to put the knight on d5 after g4−g5.

16...♖b8

Starting a rather ugly looking plan − Black doesn't want to weaken the pawn d6 with ...c7−c6 and is going to realize a rook's "fianchetto" to defend the pawn c7.

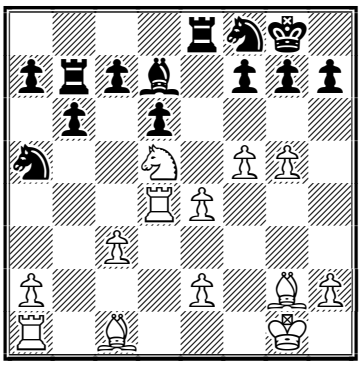
17.♖d1 b6 18.g5 ♘d7 19.♘d5 ♖b7 (D)



20.f4

Little by little White is improving his position.

20...♘f8 21.♖d4 ♘a5 22.f5 ♗d7 (D)



Black is defending with great patience − it is not so easy to refrain from pawn moves!

23.♖b1

Preventing ...♗b5.

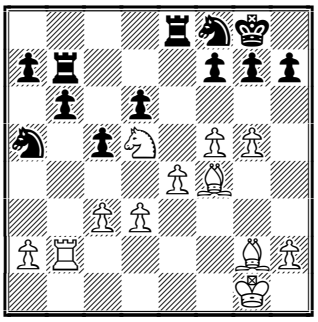
23...c5!

A direct knight's manoeuvre such as 23...♘c6 could have been met by 24.♖c4! b5 25.a4! a6 26.axb5 axb5 27.♖a4! , keeping better chances.

24.♖d3 ♗a4!? 25.♗f4!?

25.♘e3 was too passive; besides Black had the simple 25...♗c6

25...♗c2 26.♖b2 ♗xd3 27.exd3 (D)



Thanks to the exchange sacrifice, White has drastically improved his pawn structure. − His position looks great now. However, Black is not without defensive resources.

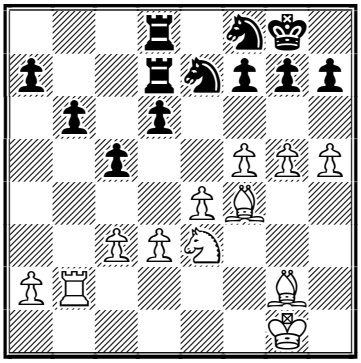
27...♖d8 28.h4!

The h−pawn march looks rather annoying.

28...♘c6 29.h5 ♘e7 30.♘e3

Of course, the knight should be kept on the board − White's kingside pawn attack would create some good squares for invasion.

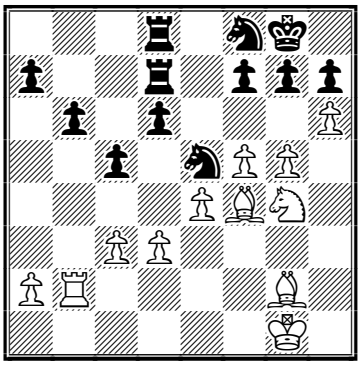
30...♖bd7 (D)



31.♘g4?!

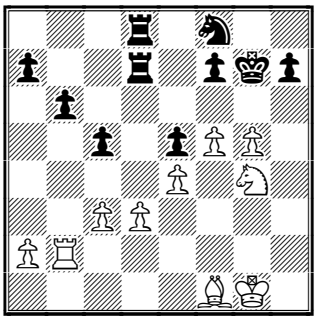
31.h6! looked tempting. After 31...g6 (31...gxh6 32.♘g4↑; 31...♘c6!?) 32.♘g4 ♔h8 33.♘f6 White gained a rather annoying initiative − such ideas as e4−e5 or c3−c4 followed by ♗d2−c3 are hovering over the board but of course Black's position is still full of defensive resourses.

31...♘c6 32.h6 ♘e5! (D)



Just in time! White is forced to open the d−file for Black's rooks.

33.♗xe5 dxe5 34.hxg7 ♔xg7 35.♗f1 (D)



The position still looks dangerous for Black but he finds an excellent resource.

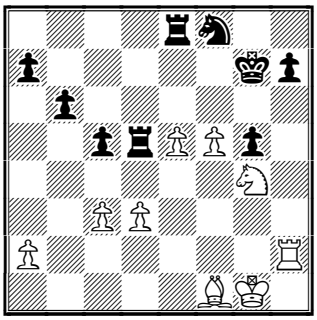
35...♖d6! 36.♘xe5 f6! 37.♘g4!?

The natural 37.gxf6+!? ♔xf6 38.♘g4+ did not promise too much − after 38...♔g5!? (38...♔e7 39.e5 ♖d5 40.♖h2) 39.♖g2 h5!? followed by ...♔f4 Black does not allow White to advance his pawns and so kept reasonable drawing chances.

37...fxg5 38.♖h2

Preventing ...h7−h5. 38.e5 could have been met by 38...h5!? (38...♖d5 39.♖h2 ♖e8 led to the game) 39.exd6 hxg4 and only White can have the problems.

38...♖e8 39.e5 ♖d5 (D)



40.f6+

40.♖h5 ♖dxe5 (40...h6!?) 41.♖xg5+ ♔f7 42.♘xe5+ ♖xe5 43.d4 cxd4 44.cxd4 ♖e4 was good for Black.

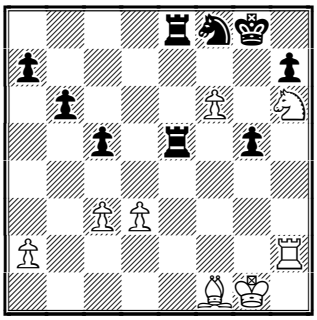
40...♔h8

Only − not 40...♔g6? due to 41.d4! followed by ♗d3.

41.♘h6 ♖dxe5

A winning attempt such as: 41...♘g6?! was too risky due to 42.d4! cxd4 43.♗c4↑

42.♘f7+ ♔g8 43.♘h6+



A draw agreed. A great achievement by Darmen Sadvakasov! **½-½.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://astana.fide.com/
www.lausanneyoungmasters.com/
http://sahklubpula.virtualave.net/raspisengleski.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CT-201, 27th May 2001

Kasparov Defeats Shirov to Share Lead with Kramnik in Astana

A diarchy has been established at the super-tournament in ***Astana*** – **Garry Kasparov** beat Alexey Shirov and joined **Vladimir Kramnik**, who drew against Boris Gelfand.

Results of the 6th Round:
Gelfand – Kramnik **½:½**
Kasparov – Shirov **1:0**
Sadvakasov Morozevich **0:1**

Alexey Shirov fought bravely against Garry Kasparov, but couldn't change his fate once again, missing mate in two in a complicated and roughly equal ending. It was Shirov's 14th loss to Kasparov without a single win! This very exciting and highly dramatic battle is featured in the game section below.

Vladimir Kramnik did not face serious problems and comfortably equalised against Boris Gelfand.

There was a tough clash between the outsiders – Alexander Morozevich eventually outplayed Darmen Sadvakasov and broke his unlucky series of four consecutive losses.

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-2. Kramnik, Kasparov – 4½ points
3. Gelfand – 3½
4. Shirov – 2½
5. Morozevich – 2
6. Sadvakasov – 1

Pairings of the 7th Round:

Morozevich – Shirov
Kramnik – Sadvakasov
Gelfand – Kasparov

The World Junior Champion **Lazaro Bruzon** of Cuba faces French Champion **Etienne Bacrot** in the Final of the ***Lausanne Young Masters***. Other players are also playing decisive matches. Take a look at the results of the first games:

Final:
Bacrot – Bruzon ½:½

For the 3th place:
Volokitin – Sasikiran **½:½**

For the 5th place:
Ponomarev – Aronian **½:½**

For the 7th place:
Bu Xiangzhi – Harikrishna **1:0**

There are already 8 leaders after 7 rounds of the ***Open Masters*** – GMs Bogdan Lalic (Croatia), Laurent Fressinet, Eric Prie (both of France), Mark Hebden (England), Evgeny Vladimirov and Pavel Kotsur (both of Kazakhstan), IMs Peter Genov (Bulgaria) and Lenier Dominguez (Cuba) – all players scored 5½ points.

The ***Russian Women's Championship*** is underway in Elista. In the 4th Round **Julia Demina** beat Ekaterina Polovnikova and took sole lead with 3½ points.

Some results of the 4th Round:
Strutinskaya – Ovod **½:½**
Demina – Polovnikova **1:0**
Mirzoeva – Galianina-Ryjanova **0:1**
Zimina – Grabuzova **1:0**
Kursova – Slavina **0:1**
Korbut – Trofimova **1:0**

Standings after 4th Rounds:
1. Demina – 3½ points
2-7. Ovod, Strutinskaya, Galianina-Ryjanova, Zimina, Slavina, Korbut – 3 etc.

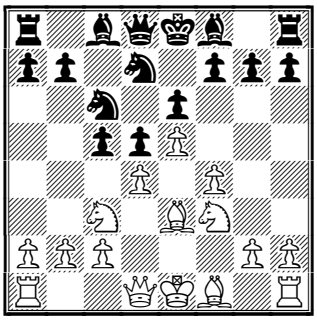
GM **Drazen Sermek** (Slovenia) keeps the lead after the penultimate 8th Round of the open tournament in ***Pula***, Croatia – he scored 7 points. Home GMs Ognjen Cvitan and Mladen Palac are sharing second place together with Hungarian GM Gyula Sax at half a point behind.

¤ ¤ ¤

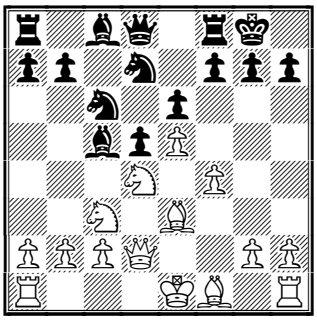
Annotated Game

G. Kasparov (2827) − A. Shirov (2722)
Astana (6), 26.05.2001 C11
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

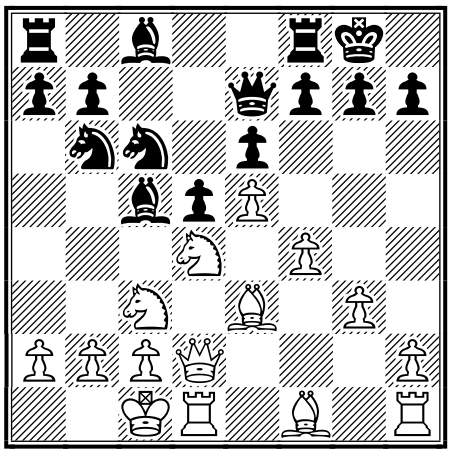
1.e4 e6
A surprising choice − the French Defence is a rare guest in Shirov's practice.
2.d4 d5 3.¤c3 ¤f6 4.e5 ¤fd7 5.f4 c5 6.¤f3 ¤c6 7.¥e3 (D)



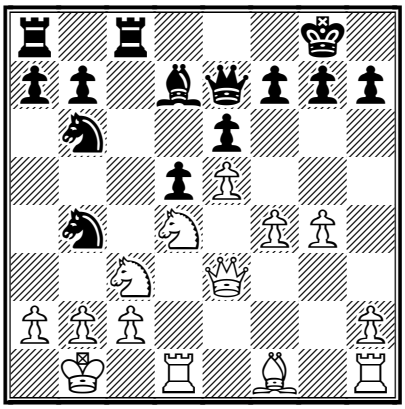
7...cxd4
Both 7...a6 ; and 7...♕b6 are the main alternatives.
8.¤xd4 ¥c5 9.£d2 0-0 (D)



There are some players who prefer to defend the worse ending after 9...♘xd4 10.♗xd4 ♗xd4 11.♕xd4 ♕b6±
10.g3
The direct 10.0-0-0 a6 11.h4 is more popular. Take a look at how energetically Kasparov played this position himself: 11...♘xd4 12.♗xd4 b5 13.♖h3! b4 14.♘a4 ♗xd4 15.♕xd4 f6?! (15...a5!?; 15...♕a5!?) 16.♕xb4! fxe5 17.♕d6! ♕f6 18.f5!! ♕h6+ 19.♔b1 ♖xf5 20.♖f3! ♖xf3 21.gxf3 ♕f6 22.♗h3 ♔f7 23.c4! dxc4 24.♘c3 ♕e7 25.♕c6 ♖b8 26.♘e4 ♘b6 27.♘g5+ ♔g8 28.♕e4! g6 29.♕xe5 ♖b7 30.♖d6 c3 31.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 32.♖xe6 and Black resigned, Kasparov − Short, Amsrterdam 1994.
10...£e7 11.0-0-0 ¤b6 (D)



A typical plan − Black intends to complete his development by ...♗d7, then ...♖c8, starting action on the queenside.
12.¤b3
Clarifying the situation in the center.
12...¥xe3 13.£xe3 ¥d7 14.¢b1 ¦fc8 15.g4
The prophylactic 15.a3!? , which was played in the game Abramovic − Kontic, Vrnjacka Banja 1989, was also worthy of consideration.
15...¤b4!
The only way to create counterplay.
16.¤d4 (D)



16...¦c5

As Kasparov indicated after the game, he was slightly worried about 16...♕c5!? 17.♗d3 ♗a4!? intending to transpose the queen to a5. Besides, in case of the possible ...♗xd3 White cannot capture to d3 with a pawn.

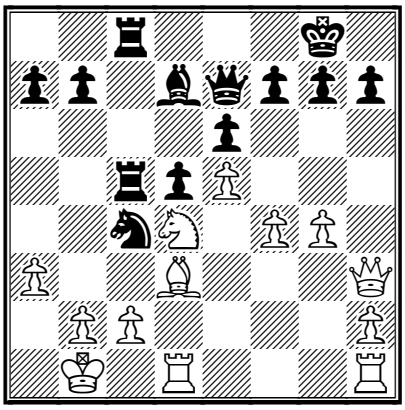
17.a3 ¤c6?!

17...♘a6 seems to be better.

18.¤cb5?!

White could have won a pawn by 18.♘b3! d4 19.♘xd4 ♘xd4 20.♖xd4 ♖ac8 − Kasparov confided after the game that he didn't see 21.♖d6!± , preventing ...♖xc3 − White is simply a pawn up.

18...¤xd4 19.¤xd4 ¦ac8 20.¥d3 ¤c4 21.£h3 (D)



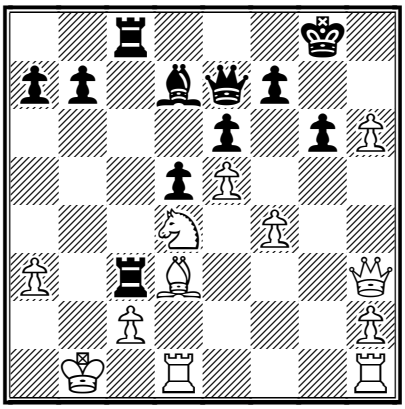
21...h6!?

21...g6!? deserved serious attention. The text move is more risky.

22.g5! ¤xa3+!

The only way to continue fighting.

23.bxa3 ¦c3 24.gxh6 g6 (D)



At first sight White is simply winning but actually he has no time to count material − Black's threats are serious.

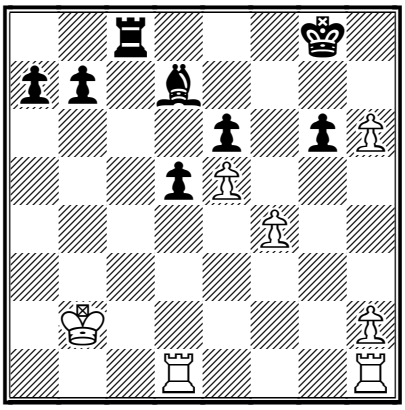
25.£g2

A logical move − White unpins the bishop. However, Black has sufficient counterplay. Strangely enough, it is too difficult to prove White's advantage here, for example: 25.♔c1 ♖8c4 26.♔d2 ♖xa3⇄; or 25.♕g3 ♖xa3 26.♘b3 ♕b4! 27.♗xg6 ♖c3! and White has nothing more than perpetual check, as was indicated by GM Sergey Shipov.

25...¦xa3 26.¤b3 £b4 27.¥xg6

27.♖hg1 did not promise too much due to 27...♖c3 28.♗xg6 ♔h8 followed by ...♖ab3.

27...¦xb3+ 28.cxb3 £xb3+ 29.£b2 £xb2+ 30.¢xb2 fxg6 (D)



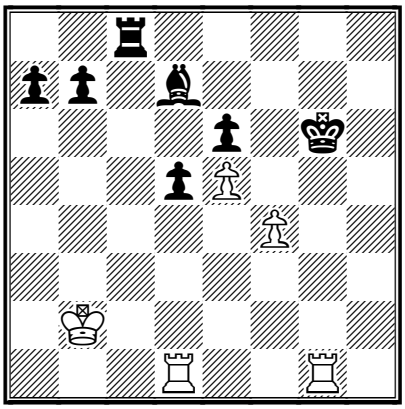
The ending looks good for Black thanks to his queenside pawns.

31.h4 ¢h7 32.h5 ¢xh6 33.hxg6+

33.♖dg1 gxh5 34.♖g5 could have been parried by 34...♗e8 and White should force a draw by 35.♖g8 ♗d7

36.♖g5=

33...¢xg6 34.¦hg1+ (D)

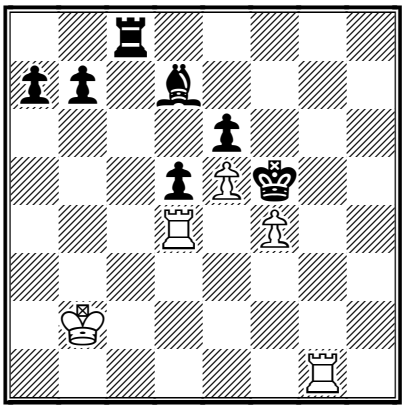


Up to now Shirov was defending excellently but here he produced the unbelievable...

34...¢f5??

After 34...♔f7 Black should hold the position without much problems.

35.¦d4 (D)



Black is checkmated – ♖g5 is inevitable! A highly dramatic finish... **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://astana.fide.com/
www.lausanneyoungmasters.com/
http://sahklubpula.virtualave.net/raspisengleski.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-202, 28th May 2001

Lazaro Bruzon wins Lausanne Young Masters!

The World Junior Champion **Lazaro Bruzon** of Cuba won the ***Lausanne Young Masters***! It was decided on tie-break as the first two games of his final match against French Champion **Etienne Bacrot** were drawn.

Final:
Bacrot – Bruzon **½:½, ½:½, 0:1, ½:½**

For 3rd place:
Volokitin – Sasikiran **½:½, 0:1**

For 5th place:
Ponomarev – Aronian **½:½, 0:1**

For 7th place:
Bu Xiangzhi – Harikrishna **1:0, ½:½**

Curiously enough, in all matches the decisive game was won with the White pieces.

Final Standings:
1. Lazaro Bruzon (Cuba)
2. Etienne Bacrot (France)
3. Krishnan Sasikiran (India)
4. Andrey Volokitin (Ukraine)
5. Levon Aronian (Armenia)
6. Ruslan Ponomarev (Ukraine)
7. Bu Xiangzhi (China)
8. Penteala Harikrishna (India)

There is no doubt we'll see all these young stars in future super-tournaments.

Today we feature an amusing game between Eshan Ghaem Maghami and Alexandra Kosteniuk in our annotated game section below --- RPM

IM **Peter Genov** (Bulgaria) and GM **Pavel Kotsur** (Kazakhstan) shared the victory in the ***Open Masters*** with 7 points out of 9 games. 8 players shared third place: GMs Evgeny Vladimirov (Kazakhstan), Utut Adianto (Indonesia), Laurent Fressinet, Eric Prie (both of France), Mark Hebden (England), Bogdan Lalic (Croatia), IMs Lenier Dominguez (Cuba) and 15 years old Zahar Efimenko (Ukraine) – all players scored 6½ points.

Our congratulations to all the winners in this very attractive chess festival!

All top games were drawn in the 5th Round of the ***Russian Women's Championship*** so the situation has not changed – **Julia Demina** keeps sole lead with 4 points.

Some results of the 5th Round:
Slavina – Demina **½:½**
Ovod – Korbut **½:½**
Galianina-Ryjanova – Strutinskaya **½:½**
Polovnikova – Zimina **½:½**
Kochetkova – Zaiats **1:0**

Standings after 5th Rounds:
1. Demina – 4 points
2-7. Ovod, Strutinskaya, Galianina-Ryjanova, Zimina, Slavina, Korbut – 3½ etc.

GM **Drazen Sermek** (Slovenia) became the sole winner of the strong open tournament in ***Pula***, Croatia with 7½ points out of 9 games. GM Gyula Sax (Hungary) shared second place with 5 home players – GMs Mladen Palac, Ognjen Cvitan, Nenad Sulava, 69 year old (!) Juraj Nikolac and IM Davor Rogic – all scoring 7 points.

Our congratulations to the winners!

Today was a day-off at the super-tournament in ***Astana***. **Vladimir**

Kramnik and **Garry Kasparov** are sharing the lead with 4½ points after 6 rounds.

Pairings for the 7th Round:
Gelfand – Kasparov
Kramnik – Sadvakasov
Morozevich – Shirov

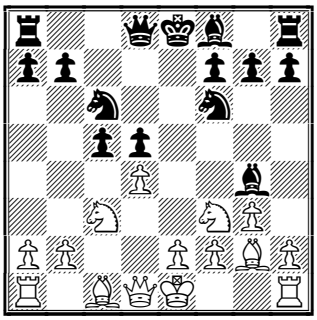
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E. Ghaem Maghami (2500) − A. Kosteniuk (2397)
Lausanne Masters Open (8.12), 26.05.2001 D33
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Alexandra Kosteniuk played very well in the Lausanne Open Masters. In the last round she drew against Vladimir Epishin and scored 6 points out of 9 games. Look at how she confused a rather strong opponent in the penultimate round − hope you will enjoy this funny game.

1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.g3 ♘f6 4.♗g2 c5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.d4 ♘c6 7.♘c3 ♗g4 (D)



The theory is sceptical about this bishop lunge. The main continuation is 7...♗e7 followed by castling.

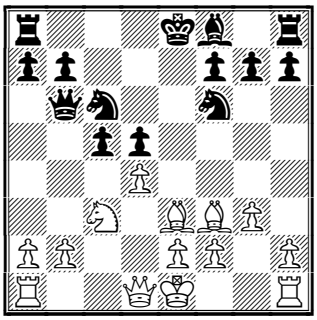
8.♗e3

8.♗g5 is a promising alternative, in case of the direct 8...♗xf3 9.♗xf3 ♘xd4 White achieves a stable advantage by 10.♗xd5 ♗e7 11.♗xf6 (11.♗g2!?) 11...♗xf6 12.0-0 0-0 13.e3 ♘e6 14.♕b3±

8...♗xf3!?

Other continuations do not solve the problems.

9.♗xf3 ♕b6!? (D)

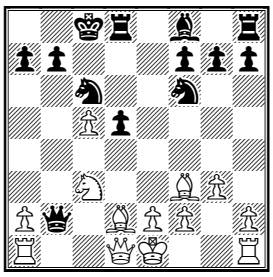


An interesting novelty which, fairly speaking, looks too risky. After the previously played 9...♕d7 10.0-0 ♖d8 11.♖c1± White kept a clear advantage.

10.dxc5

The simple 10.0-0!? deserved serious attention. The text move looks strong as well but Black has a rather unexpected resource.

10...♕xb2 11.♗d2 0-0-0! (D)

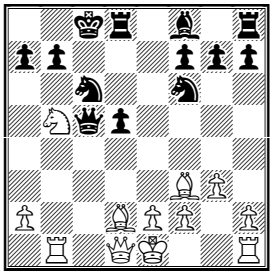


Excellent − the king defends the pawn b7 while the rook quickly comes into play. How many games do you see in the Tarrasch Defence where Black's king castles long?!

12.♖b1

There were some alternatives like 12.♖c1 ; or 12.0-0

12...♕a3 13.♘b5 ♕xc5 (D)

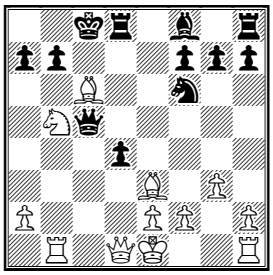


14.♗e3?!

After 14.0-0∞ White had excellent

compensation for the pawn − his initiative against Black's king would be pretty strong.

14...d4 15.♗xc6?? (D)



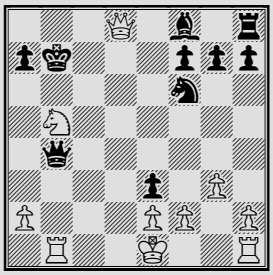
This was White's idea. Unfortunately it has a strong and beautiful refutation. After 15.♗f4 g5!? 16.♗c1∞ the position was far from clear.

15...dxe3! 16.♗xb7+

16.♘xa7+ ♕xa7 17.♗xb7+ ♔c7-+ was just flat.

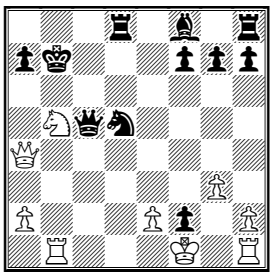
16...♔xb7 17.♕a4

Perhaps White missed that he cannot take the rook by 17.♕xd8 due to



17...♕b4+!! **(D)** 18.♖xb4 ♗xb4+ 19.♔f1 ♖xd8-+ The text move left him no chances as well.

17...exf2+ 18.♔f1 ♘d5! (D)



Very cool − White is not worried about possible checks.

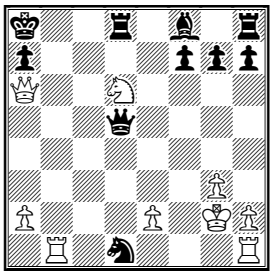
19.♘d6+

19.♘xa7+ ♘b6-+

19...♔a8 20.♕a6

Now it's Black's turn.

20...♘e3+! 21.♔xf2 ♘d1+ 22.♔g2 ♕d5+ (D)



White resigned. A curious game! **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:
http://astana.fide.com/
www.lausanneyoungmasters.com/
http://sahklubpula.virtualave.net/raspisengleski.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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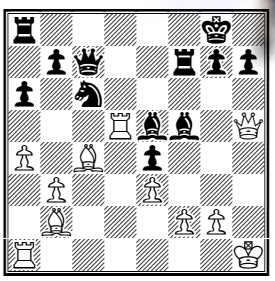
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-203, 29th May 2001

Kramnik entertains the crowd in Astana

Vladimir Kramnik took sole lead at the super-tournament in ***Astana*** after crushing Darmen Sadvakasov in 21 moves! The World Champion gave an instructive lesson to his young opponent and a lot of fun to the spectators, finishing the game with a very beautiful attack – please don't miss it in the game section!

Results of the 7th Round:
Kramnik – Sadvakasov **1:0**
Gelfand – Kasparov **½:½**
Morozevich – Shirov **1:0**

Garry Kasparov quickly achieved good counterplay in the Gruenfeld Defence and tried to entice his opponent into complications. But Boris Gelfand preferred a solid way, which led to simplifications.



Kramnik (White) to Play
From today's annotated game

Alexander Morozevich pressurised Alexey Shirov, eventually forcing him to make a mistake and converted his initiative to the full point in excellent style! It looks like Alexander has recovered after four losses in a row – in the second cycle he has already scored two wins. Yet, he will face both Kasparov and Kramnik with the black pieces but maybe it is even better – we remember his great performance in Wijk aan Zee.

Pairings of the 8th Round:
Shirov – Kramnik
Kasparov – Morozevich
Sadvakasov – Gelfand

Olga Zimina joined **Julia Demina** in the lead after the 6th Round of the ***Russian Women's Championship*** in Elista.

Some results of the 6th Round:
Demina – Galianina-Ryjanova **½:½**
Zimina – Ovod **1:0**

Strutinskaya – Kochetkova **½:½**
Korbut – Slavina **½:½**

Standings after 6th Rounds:
1-2. Demina, Zimina – 4½ points
3-7. Galianina-Ryjanova, Strutinskaya, Slavina, Korbut, Kochetkova – 4 etc.

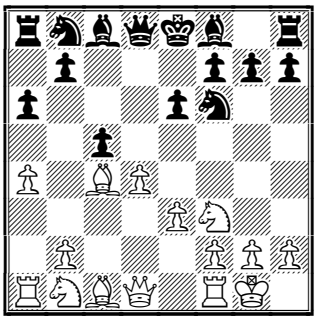
The Championship has very good coverage – you can follow all the games live – they are played on sensory boards and the moves are immediately transmitted to the Internet! The spectators' dream comes true…

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

V Kramnik (2802) – D Sadvakasov (2585)
Astana (7), 28.05.2001 D27
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.a4



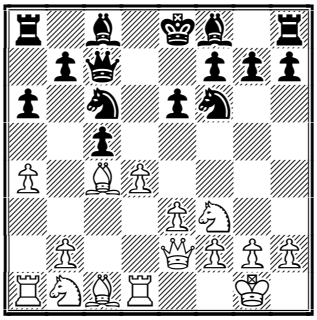
Preventing ...b7–b5. Vladimir Kramnik's efforts may give a boost to the system with a2–a4. Both 7.♗b3 and 7.dxc5 are recently the most popular

alternatives to counter the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

7...♘c6 8.♕e2 ♕c7

8...cxd4 is the more usual option, transposing to positions with an isolated d−pawn after 9.♖d1 ♗e7 10.exd4 0-0 11.♘c3. Kramnik played this position against Kasparov in their recent match: 11...♘d5 12.♗b3 ♖e8 13.h4!? ♘cb4 14.h5 b6 15.♘e5 ♗b7 16.a5! b5 17.h6 g6 18.♘e4 with an initiative although Black still has very good defensive resources, Kramnik − Kasparov, London (m/6) 2000.; If Black does not want to capture on d4, 8...♗e7 seems to be more accurate. After 9.♖d1 0-0! 10.dxc5 (10.♘c3 does not bother Black very much: 10...♕c7 11.♗d2 ♖d8 12.dxc5 ♗xc5 13.♖ac1 b6 and he completes development without problems: 14.♘a2 a5! 15.♘c3 ♗b7 16.♘b5 ♕e7 , here a draw was agreed in the game Kempinski − Rublevsky, Polanica Zdroj 1996) 10...♕c7 11.b3 Black can start immediate counterplay by 11...e5! The game Pr. Nikolic − Seirawan, Skelleftea 1989 continued 12.♘c3 e4 13.♘d2 ♗g4 14.f3 exf3 15.gxf3 ♗h5 16.♗b2 ♖ad8 with mutual chances. As we'll see, in the featured game Black was too late to produce such counterplay.

9.♖d1



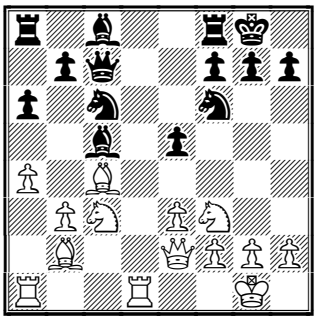
9...♗d6?!

This seems to be an inaccuracy, which allows White to take the initiative. 9...♗e7 is more to the point with the idea to counter 10.dxc5 with 10...0-0! − this position was considered in the notes to the move 8. ..♕c7.

10.dxc5! ♗xc5 11.b3 0-0

After 11...♘a5?! Black is getting too far behind in development: 12.♗b2 ♘xc4 13.♕xc4 ♗d6 14.♘bd2! with a very strong initiative, Lutz − Schulz, GER−chT 1990.

12.♗b2 e5 13.♘c3!

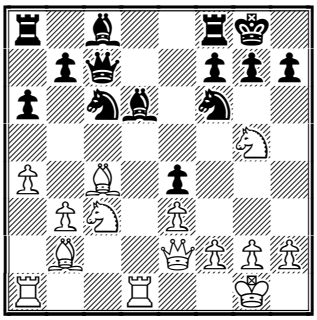


A novelty, which looks quite strong. White does not waste time on the prophylactic 13.h3 although the tournament practice promises him better chances too: 13...♕e7 (13...e4 14.♘g5 h6 15.♗xf6 hxg5 16.♗b2 Zhukova − Skripchenko, Belgrade 2000) 14.♘c3 ♗e6 (14...e4 15.♘d2± Lutz − Huebner, Munich 1993) 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.♗xd5 ♗xd5 17.♖xd5 ♖ad8 18.♖ad1 with a stable advantage, Panczyk − Radulov, Polanica Zdroj 1982 and Pinter − Radulov, Baile Herculane (zt) 1982.

13...e4

13...♗g4 could not solve the problems: 14.h3 ♗h5 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.♗xd5 ♗d6 17.♖ac1 with a clear advantage for White. Yet, it seemed to be reliable for Black − at least here he could have avoided such a crushing defeat.

14.♘g5 ♗d6?



A big, almost decisive mistake. The threat to the h2 pawn does not really matter − time is much more important. It is already the bishop's third move in the game − White's play hasn't been so wasteful and if we remember that he gains an extra tempo on the very first move it wouldn't be a big surprise that his fully mobilised army is already in a position to launch decisive attack. 14...♗g4! was the only way to put resistance although his life was already

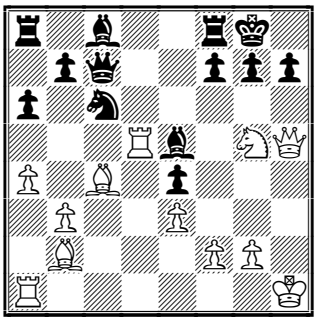
not easy:

A) 15.f3? was just wrong: 15...exf3 16.gxf3 ♖ae8!? (16...♕f4 17.♘xf7 ♗xe3+ 18.♔g2∞) 17.♘ge4 ♘xe4 18.♘d5 ♕d8 19.fxg4 ♕g5 with excellent play;

B) 15.♘d5! 15...♗xe2 16.♘xc7 ♗xd1 17.♘xa8 ♗c2 (17...♗h5!? 18.♗xf6 ♗g6!? 19.♗xg7 ♔xg7 20.♘c7±) 18.♖c1 ♘b4 19.♗c3 with a strong initiative in the ending.

15.♘d5! All White's pieces are looking at the kingside − who will be excited about the h2−pawn?! 15.♘cxe4? ♘xe4 16.♘xe4 ♗xh2+ 17.♔h1 ♗e5 was much less evil for Black.

15...♘xd5 16.♖xd5 ♗xh2+ 17.♔h1 ♗e5 18.♕h5



18...♗f5?!

18...h6 was more stubborn: 19.♘xf7! ♖xf7 20.♖xe5 (20.♗xe5 ♕e7) 20...♘xe5 21.♗xe5 ♕e7 and here White has a choice: 22.♕g6!? (22.♗xf7+ ♕xf7 23.♕xf7+ ♔xf7 24.♖c1 g5±)

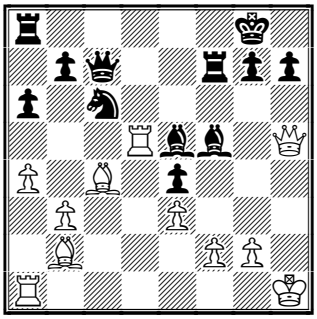
A) 22...♕xe5 23.♕xf7+ ♔h7

A1) 24.♖d1!? ♗g4 (24...♗f5 25.♕xb7+−) 25.♖d5 ♕f6 26.♕xf6 gxf6 27.♖d6+−;

A2) 24.♕g8+ 24...♔g6 25.♖c1+−;

B) 22...♕h4+! 23.♗h2 (23.♔g1?? ♕xf2+) 23...♕f6 24.♕xf6 gxf6 25.♖c1± with a huge advantage in the ending although Black is still fighting.

19.♘xf7! ♖xf7



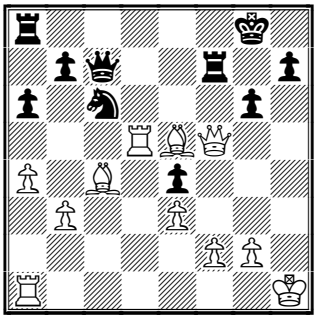
20.♕xf5!!

Very beautiful!

20...g6

Of course, the queen is untouchable due to the direct checkmate: 20...♖xf5 21.♖d8#; 20...♗xb2 was losing to 21.♖d7+−

21.♗xe5!



Black resigned as he loses a piece after all. A nice win by Vladimir Kramnik.

1-0

Recommended Web sites:
http://astana.fide.com/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-204, 30th May 2001

World Champion still top in Astana

The situation is unchanged at the super-tournament in ***Astana***, Kazakhstan as all games ended in draws. The World Champion **Vladimir Kramnik** remains sole leader of the event, half a point ahead of Garry Kasparov.

Results of the 8th Round:
Shirov – Kramnik **½:½**
Kasparov – Morozevich **½:½**
Sadvakasov – Gelfand **½:½**

Standing after the 8th Round:
1. Kramnik – 6 points
2. Kasparov – 5½
3. Gelfand – 4½
4. Morozevich – 3½
5. Shirov – 3
6. Sadvakasov – 1½

Actually Kramnik, who played his infamous Berlin Defence, had a very good chance to strengthen his lead as Shirov blundered some moves before the time control but Vladimir soon returned the favour.

Alexander Morozevich played a rather tricky line of Slav Defence, which brought him a glorious victory over Vladimir Kramnik in Wijk aan Zee and defended excellently. This interesting game, which ended in draw when there were almost no pieces on the board, is considered in the game section. Tomorrow Morozevich will face Kramnik with the same black pieces – we are looking forward a theoretical duel…

There was almost no play in the game Darmen Sadvakasov versus Boris Gelfand – the players agreed to draw in the early opening in a complicated position.

Pairings of the 9th Round:
Kramnik – Morozevich
Sadvakasov – Kasparov
Gelfand – Shirov

There are already 3 leaders on the ***Russian Women's Championship*** in Elista – in the 7th Round **Ekaterina Korbut** beat Julia Galianina-Ryzhanova and joined **Julia Demina** and **Olga Zimina**, who drew their game.

Some results of the 7th Round:
Zimina – Demina **½:½**
Galianina-Ryzhanova – Korbut **0:1**
Slavina – Strutinskaya **½:½**
Kochetkova – Khusnutdinova **½:½**
Sudakova – Grabuzova **0:1**
Polovnikova – Zaiats **½:½**

Standings after 7th Rounds:
1-3. Demina, Korbut, Zimina – 5points
4-7. Grabuzova, Strutinskaya, Slavina, Kochetkova – 4½ etc.

♘♘♘

Bargain Hunt!

Dear Chess Today readers!

Some of you may know that I've been involved in book trade and chess auctions for a number of years. If you have a few spare minutes, please have a look at the auction catalogue, which has just been posted at:- http://www.gmsquare.com/chessauction/current-cat.html. It is available in Word and PDF formats. The lots will be posted

on Thursday evening - between 18-00 and 21-00 Dublin time. Each lot will be on the site for 48 hours from the moment it is posted. I will post them in order, beginning with Lot No 1. The auction will end on Saturday night. Proxy bidding makes life easier, as bidders do not have to monitor the lots constantly: if you are really interested in something, simply specify the maximum amount you are prepared to pay, and the system will bid on your behalf.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the auction, but please note that in order to bid you need to register at the auction site http://www.gmsquare.com/chessauction/.

The registration form is e-mailed to me and then I forward that message to you, so you can see your password. I advise you to change the password later, so you can remember it, as you need to use your password every time you submit a bid. Please note that it may be a few hours before your receive your password after you have registered. Thus, do not leave registering till the last minute.

There are many interesting items at the auction - Keres', Petrosian's and Fischer's autographs, Marshall's letter, rare books and a unique chess clock. Even if you are not a serious collector yet, you can find something for yourself - like books on chess strategy or openings.

I hope you will find the auction worth visiting. Please let you chess friends know about it too. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at ababurin@iol.ie.

Alexander Baburin

♘♘♘

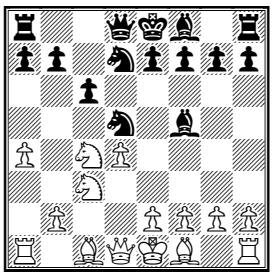
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Kasparov (2827) − Morozevich (2749)

Astana (8), 29.05.2001 D17

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.♘e5 ♘bd7 7.♘xc4 ♘d5!?



Thanks to this surprising idea from the Yugoslavian player Nebojsa Misailovic Alexander scored a glorious victory over the World Champion Vladimir Kramnik in Wijk aan Zee 2001. Objectively speaking, he experienced certain problems in that game so today he prepared an improvement. You probably know that some years ago Morozevich revived the whole variation 7...♕c7 8.g3 e5 9.dxe5 ♘xe5 10.♗f4 ♘fd7 11.♗g2 f6 12.0-0 and here 12...♘c5! although Black recently experiences some problems in this line.

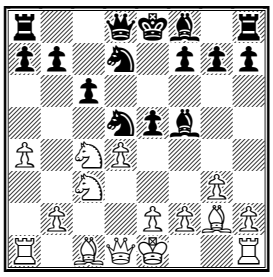
8.g3

Look at the game by the inventor of the idea 7. ..♘d5!?: 8.f3 e5! 9.♘xd5 cxd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.dxe5 ♖c8 12.e3 ♗b4+ 13.♗d2 0-0!! 14.a5?! (something like 14.g3 was better, Black might continue 14...♕a5 with initiative) 14...♖c2 15.♗c3 ♖xb2! 16.♕d4 ♕e7 17.♖d1?! ♕h4+!! 18.♕xh4 ♗xc3+ 19.♖d2 ♖xd2 and White resigned, Jovanovski − Misailovic, Nis 1994 − a wonderful game!

8...e5!

It looks like this pawn advance can hardly be prevented!

9.♗g2



9.♘xd5 ♗e4! (9...cxd5 is weaker

although after 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.dxe5 ♗b4+ 12.♗d2 ♕a5 Black's activity gives him good chances to escape, for example 13.♗g2 ♖c8 14.♗xb4 ♕xb4+ 15.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 16.♔xd2 ♖c2+ 17.♔e3 d4+ 18.♔xd4 ♖xe2 19.♗xb7 ♔e7⇄ with counterplay) 10.f3 ♗xd5 11.♘xe5 ♘xe5 12.dxe5 does not promise too much for White − he is behind in development and it's not easy to keep the pawn on e5. For example: 12...♗b4+ 13.♗d2 ♗b3!? 14.♕c1 a5 with good counterplay.

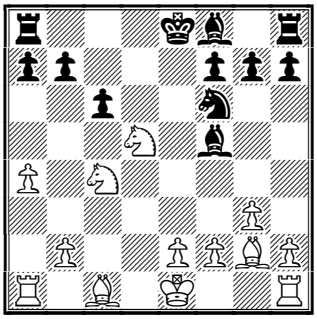
9...exd4!?

Here is the promised improvement! Kramnik − Morozevich, Wijk aan Zee 2001 continued by 9...♘xc3 10.bxc3 exd4 11.♕xd4 ♘c5 (11...♘b6!? 12.♘e3!?) 12.♕e3+!? (12.♕e5+ ♗e6 13.♗a3 would have been met by 13...♕f6!?) 12...♘e6 13.a5 ♗c2!? 14.♗a3 ♗xa3 15.♘xa3 ♗b3 16.a6! (16.♖b1 ♗d5) 16...♗d5 17.axb7 ♖b8 18.f3! (18.0-0 ♗xg2 19.♔xg2 ♖xb7) 18...c5 and here White could have posed more serious problems for Black by playing 19.♗h3! (after 19.0-0 ♖xb7 20.♖fd1 ♖d7 21.c4 ♗c6 22.♖xd7 ♗xd7 23.♘c2 ♗c8! Black has managed to organise a very good defence) 19...♕g5!? 20.♘c2! with clearly better chances.

10.♕xd4 ♕f6!

Otherwise it was difficult to complete the development of the kingside.

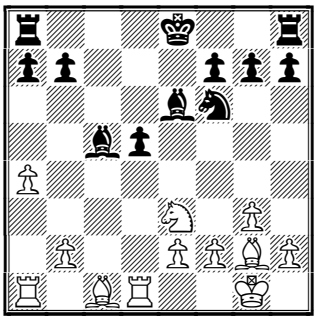
11.♕xf6 ♘7xf6 12.♘xd5



12...cxd5

12...♘xd5?! looked too risky because of the direct 13.e4! (13.0-0 ♗e6) 13...♘b4 14.exf5! ♘c2+ 15.♔d2 ♘xa1 16.♔c3 and it is hard to believe that Black can save the knight on a1. However, everything is still probably according to the home analysis.

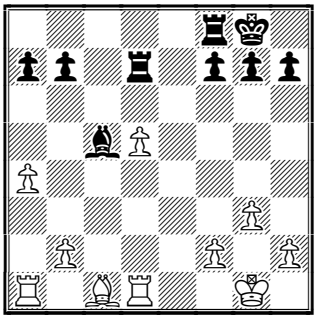
13.♘e3 ♗e6 14.0-0 ♗c5 15.♖d1



15...0-0!

An excellent defence − Black ignores the threat and hopes that his lead in development will allow him to win a pawn back. Yet, the word "hopes" is probably incorrect when talking about top−level play − instead we should say "deep and precise calculations". In case of passive defence 15...♖d8 White achieved small but stable advantage by 16.♘c2! followed by ♗e3 (or maybe b2−b4) with a blockade of the isolated d−pawn.(16.♗d2 ♘e4)

16.♘xd5 ♘xd5 17.♗xd5 ♖ad8 18.e4 ♗xd5 19.exd5 ♖d7



20.♖b1

The rook ending after 20.♗e3!? ♗xe3 21.fxe3 was maybe more promising. Black can probably hold it on but with a very precise play. For example, the direct 21...♖fd8 22.♖ac1 (22.e4 f5! 23.exf5 ♖xd5 24.♖xd5 ♖xd5 25.♖f1 ♔f7=) 22...f5 23.♖c5 b6 (23...♔f7 24.♖f1 ♔g6) 24.♖b5 ♔f7 25.♔f2 ♔f6 26.♔f3 ♔e5 27.d6+ ♔e6 28.♔f4 was not an easy draw for Black.

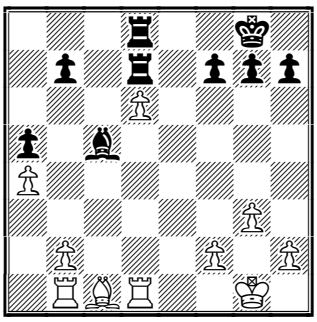
20...a5

20...♖fd8 was suspicious due to 21.b4 ♗f8 22.♗e3 b6 23.b5 ♖xd5 24.♖xd5 ♖xd5 25.♖c1 with an annoying initiative − after the rook's penetration White will try to organise a strong passed pawn by a4−a5.

21.d6!?

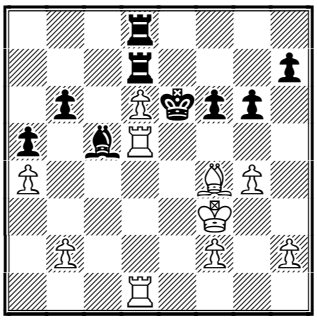
An interesting move. Again, the rook ending after 21.♗e3 deserved attention.

21...♖fd8!?



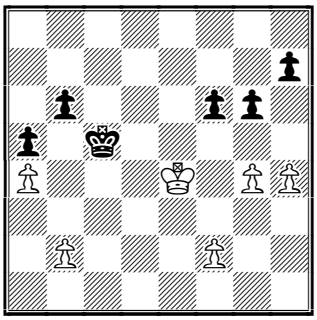
Black is not in hurry to win the pawn back − he wants to do it in the most favourable situation.

22.♖d5 b6 23.♗f4 f6 24.♖bd1 ♔f7 25.♔g2 ♔e6 26.♔f3 g6 27.g4



Both sides are preparing for the pawn ending.

27...♗xd6 28.h4 ♗xf4 29.♖xd7 ♖xd7 30.♖xd7 ♔xd7 31.♔xf4 ♔d6 32.♔e4 ♔c5

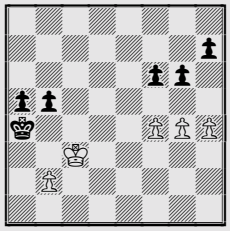


At first glance it could seem Black simply wins the a4−pawn but actually it is still White who is playing for a win thanks to his centralised king and active kingside pawns.

33.f4 ♔b4 34.f5?!

As Garry Kasparov pointed out, he could have set a beautiful trap by playing 34.♔d5! and if

A) 34...♔xa4?? there follows 35.♔c4! b5+ 36.♔c3+−

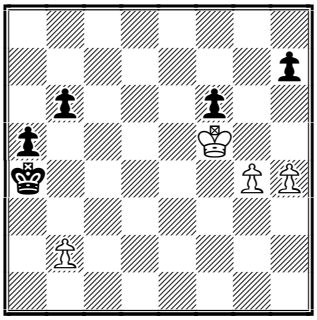


and Black is forced to allow a typical breakthrough by playing 36...h6 37.g5! fxg5 (37...hxg5 38.f5 gxf5 39.h5 g4 40.♔d2) 38.h5! and Black's king will be checkmated.;

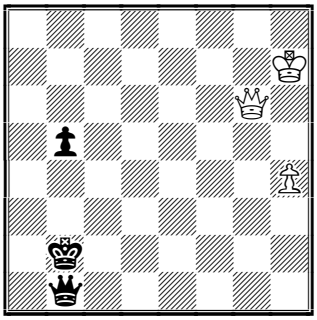
So he would have had to find the correct move

B) 34...♔b3! and the forced 35.f5 gxf5 36.gxf5 ♔xa4 37.♔e6 ♔b3 38.♔xf6 ♔xb2 39.♔g5 a4 40.f6 a3 41.f7 a2 42.f8♕ a1♕ 43.♕g7+ ♔a2 44.♕a7+ ♔b2 45.♕xb6+ ♔c2 would still leave White with winning chances in this queen ending. After the text move Black has no more chances to go wrong.

34...gxf5+ 35.♔xf5 ♔xa4



36.♔xf6 ♔b3 37.♔g7 ♔xb2 38.♔xh7 a4 39.g5 a3 40.g6 a2 41.g7 a1♕ 42.g8♕ ♕b1+ 43.♕g6 b5!



Of course, Black does not exchange

the queens himself, freeing up the way for White's passed pawn. Here a draw was agreed as it is not too difficult to see that the pawns will be promoted at the same time. An excellent defence by Alexander Morozevich − in this rather strange opening variation he has got the score 1½ − ½ against Kramnik and Kasparov! It is interesting to see if this line will be repeated tomorrow, when Kramnik faces Morozevich with the white pieces... **½:½**

Recommended Web sites:

http://astana.fide.com/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-205, 31st May 2001

Chess life is very quiet these days. Even at the super-tournament in ***Astana***, Kazakhstan there was a day-off.

There are two rounds to play. The World Champion **Vladimir Kramnik** keeps sole lead of the event, half a point ahead of **Garry Kasparov**.

Standing after the 8th Round:
1. Kramnik – 6 points
2. Kasparov – 5½
3. Gelfand – 4½
4. Morozevich – 3½
5. Shirov – 3
6. Sadvakasov – 1½

Pairings for the 9th Round:

Kramnik – Morozevich
Sadvakasov – Kasparov
Gelfand – Shirov

Of course, the round may change the tournament situation but it looks like overall victory will be decided in the last round, where Kasparov will face Kramnik with the white pieces!

There are 4 leaders on the ***Russian Women's Championship*** in Elista before the last 9th Round – GM **Julia Demina**, IMs **Irina Slavina**, **Olga Zimina** and **Ekaterina Korbut**.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Korbut – Demina **½:½**
Strutinskaya – Zimina **½:½**
Slavina – Ovod **1:0**
Grabuzova – Kochetkova **½:½**
Loktionova – Polovnikova **0:1**
Khusnutdinova - Galianina-Ryzhanova **½:½**
Zaiats – Kursova **½:½**

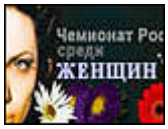
Standings after 8th Rounds:
1-4. Demina, Slavina, Korbut, Zimina – 5½ points
5-8. Polovnikova, Grabuzova, Strutinskaya, Kochetkova – 5 etc.

Unfortunately we were unable to find information about other events but it is clear there are some tournaments underway which simply do not have Internet coverage. Luckily we will have plenty of action tomorrow!

Dear readers, feel free to send us the news about interesting events in your home cities, your games, curiosities around the chess board to share them with chess lovers from all over the World!

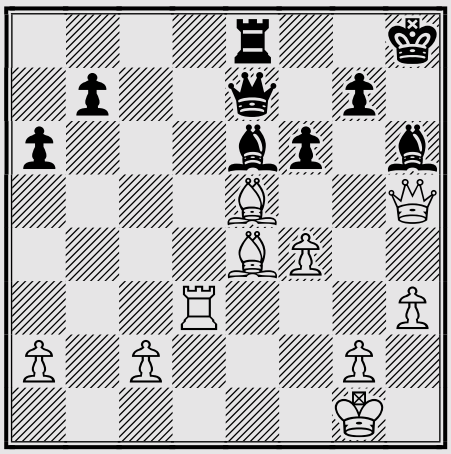
Russian Women's Championship Quiz

With GM Ruslan Scherbakov



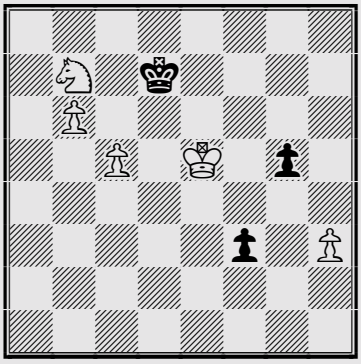
Today we would like to give you a tactical quiz from the highlights of the Russian Women's Championship.

(1) I Zakurdjaeva (2282) − B Kharashkina (2173)
RUS−ch (women) Elista (8), 30.05.2001



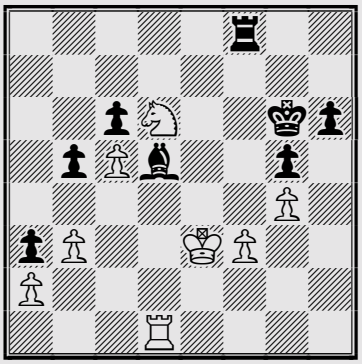
White to play

(2) T Rubtsova (2312) − I Zakurdjaeva (2282)
RUS−ch (women) (7), 29.05.2001



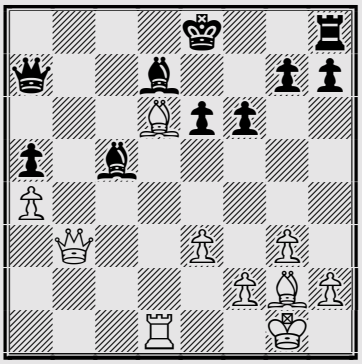
White to play

(3) J Ovchinnikova (2204) − E Mirzoeva (2326)
RUS−ch (women) Elista (8), 30.05.2001



White to play

4) I Slavina,I (2333) − E Ovod (2383)
RUS−ch (women) Elista (8), 30.05.2001



White to play

Web Watch

Graham Brown

Just for curiosity I recently went to the search engine www.google.co.uk and searched on the word "chess" and clicked the "uk sites" option.

Top of the list of "about 30900 sites" came the Exeter Chess Club **Coaching Page** which Tim (Internet Inventor) Berners-Lee would be pleased about since it is set up to be viewed by "Any Browser" and is mostly pure text and default blue underlined text hyperlinks.

Google is to be congratulated for putting such an excellent site top. It is of course of use to all chess players but has some excellent coaching tips for beginners. But then even expert players sometimes need reminding of the basics! The Cool Tip page is particularly useful:

"COOL TIP: how do you avoid blunders?

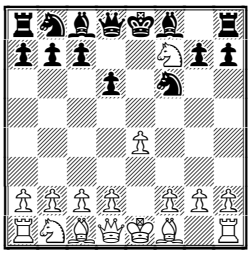
After you have decided but before moving, write the move down, and before playing it, check it again for any tactical features you may have missed. After this fresh look, then you move.
Blumenfeld's rule:

> "*It often happens that a player carries out a deep and complicated calculation, but fails to spot something elementary right at the first move. In order to avoid such gross blunders, the Soviet master B. Blumenfeld made this recommendation:- When you have finished your calculations, write down the move you have decided upon on the score sheet. Then examine the position for a short time 'through the eyes of a patzer'. Ask whether you have left a mate in one on, or left a piece or a pawn to be taken.*

Only when you have convinced yourself that there is no immediate catastrophe for you should you make the planned move."

-- KOTOV "

If you have ever wondered how to play against the rather drawish Petroff then why not try the **Cochrane Gambit? 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘xf7**



I have just had the fun of adding an interesting game with this variation to the Website of The Kings Head Chess Club You will find the game in the Games Diary 2 half way down the right hand frame, with annotations by Steve Berry Choose the second game down from the board on the left frame of the Webpage **Berry-Deva.** If you click the chessboard then you can play through the game with the space bar. Readers are warned that the page also contains a rather poor game by your Technical Editor! Avoid playing through this or your chess will suffer!

And if the opening is good enough for Topolov to draw with Kramnik then it's good enough for most of our games!?

♘♘♘

Answers to Quiz

(1.) 1.♗xf6! It turns out that both defenders of the pawn f6 have too many duties. **1...gxf6 2.♕xh6+** Black resigned. **1-0**

(2.) 1.c6+! The simplest − White finds the way to stop the Black's pawn. [After 1.♔d5 f2 2.c6+ ♔e7 3.c7 f1♕ 4.c8♕ Black had a lot of checks although the position is winning for White too.] **1...♔xc6 2.♘a5+ ♔xb6 3.♘c4+ ♔c5 4.♘e3** The rest is easy. **4...f2 5.♔e4 ♔d6 6.♔f3 ♔e6 7.♔xf2** and Black resigned soon. **1-0**

(3.) 1.♖xd5! cxd5 2.c6+− and the pawn cannot be stopped. **1-0**

(4.) 1.♗c6! This excellent move allowed Irina Slavina to join the leaders of the Championship. Black resigned as she cannot defend the square e6 without heavy losses. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://astana.fide.com/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.fide.com
www.chessclub.com
www.khcc.org.uk
http://www.ex.ac.uk/~dregis/DR

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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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CT-206, 1st June 2001

Astana Draws to a Climax …

The situation at the super-tournament in *Astana*, Kazakhstan has remained unchanged for the last two rounds. Today all the games were drawn again.

Results of the 9th Round:
Kramnik – Morozevich **½:½**
Sadvakasov – Kasparov **½:½**
Gelfand – Shirov **½:½**

Standing after the 9th Round:
1. Kramnik – 6½ points
2. Kasparov – 6
3. Gelfand – 5
4. Morozevich – 4
5. Shirov – 3½
6. Sadvakasov – 2

We were looking forward to a theoretical duel between Vladimir Kramnik and Alexander Morozevich. A theoretical duel did happen but not the expected one. Morozevich defended a dubious-looking idea which did not serve him well against Kasparov in Wijk aan Zee 2001. This time he introduced an improvement and achieved very good play rather confidently. Curiously enough, both Kramnik and Kasparov are trying to pressurise him in the same variations, passing him from one to another and we should praise Alexander very much – every time he shows something special, not only trying to solve the problems in that particular game – his ideas either open a new chapter in opening theory or revive whole variations! Not an easy task in modern chess…

The hero of the round became **Darmen Sadvakasov**, who kept the tension on Garry Kasparov till the very end. Objectively Kasparov had excellent compensation for the sacrificed exchange but it was clearly not enough for him and, trying to outplay his young opponent, the World Number One became rather uncomfortable – he had to pressurise very carefully not to overstep the mark. After mutual mistakes in time trouble the game ended in a draw to the great pleasure of the spectators – Darmen has managed to draw a whole mini-match with no one else than Garry Kasparov!

It is interesting that while Kramnik beat Sadvakasov twice Kasparov "lost" a whole point. It means that in Linares or Wijk aan Zee Kasparov would have been sole leader, as usual, but this tournament takes place in Astana!

Tomorrow's tough clash between Kasparov and Kramnik is highly anticipated. Kramnik has an excellent chance to break Kasparov's unbelievable record of winning every tournament (not counting rapid events) since January 1999 – only once was he not a clear winner sharing first place with Kramnik in Linares 2000. On the other hand, we have already forgotten when Kasparov last beat Kramnik – it was as long ago as in Linares 1997 but then we remember very well his losses in London 2000 and Zurich 2001. This is obviously too much for Kasparov…

Of course, it is impossible to predict the outcome but the only thing is clear – there will no sharing of the victory. It must be the only one…

Pairings of the 10th Round:
Kasparov – Kramnik
Morozevich – Gelfand
Shirov – Sadvakasov

Now let's take a look at the other events.

IM **Olga Zimina** became the new Russian Champion. In the last Round of the ***Russian Women's Championship*** in Elista she beat IM Irina Slavina while other leaders – GM Julia Demina and FM Ekaterina Korbut drew their games and shared second place.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Demina – Strutinskaya **½:½**
Zimina – Slavina **1:0**
Kochetkova – Korbut **½:½**
Polovnikova – Grabuzova **½:½**
Kursova – Khusnutdinova **1:0**
Galianina-Ryzhanova – Zaiats **½:½**
Ovod – Rubtzova **0:1**

Final standings:
1. Zimina – 6½ points
2-3. Demina, Korbut – 6 points
4-9. Polovnikova, Grabuzova, Strutinskaya, Slavina, Kursova, Kochetkova – 5½ etc.

Our congratulations for the winners!

Today we've got the news about recently finished ***Chicago Open***.

IM ***John Donaldson*** reports:
"GMs **Alexander Goldin** and **Julian Hodgson** scored 6 from 7 to win the Chicago Open held May 25-28 at the Hyatt Hotel in the Chicago suburb of Oakbrook. The two winners each received $7,500 for their efforts in finishing ahead of 13 other GMs and many IMs and NMs. Among the close to 900(!) players participating were Mechanics Institute members Vinay Bhat, David Pruess and Kayven Riese, each of whom turned in excellent performances. Vinay, who was tied for the lead with 4 from 4 at one point, ended up scoring 5-2, including a win over Latvian GM Normunds Miezes and a draw with GM Yury Shulman. Pruess, defeated the first GM in his career in round two (Alex Fishbein) and immediately followed up with a win over another GM (Dmitry Gurevich) in round three in route to 4 1/2 points. Kayven, who travelled from the Bay Area to Chicago and back by train, scored 6-1 to tie for first in the under 1600 section. Congratulations to these players for a job well-done!"

Many thanks to John Donaldson for this interesting information.

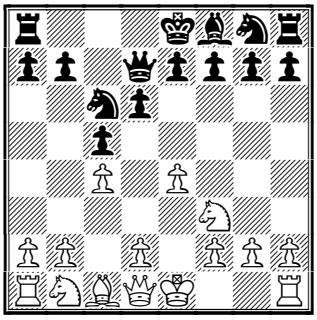
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

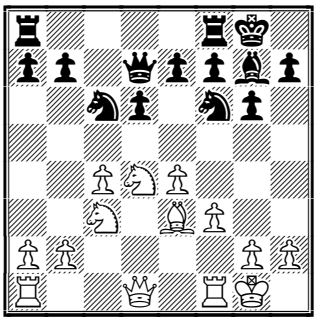
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Sadvakasov (2585) – Kasparov (2827)
Astana (9), 31.05.2001
B52

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♗b5+
Not a very ambitious approach, but fairly reliable.
3...♗d7 4.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 5.c4 ♘c6



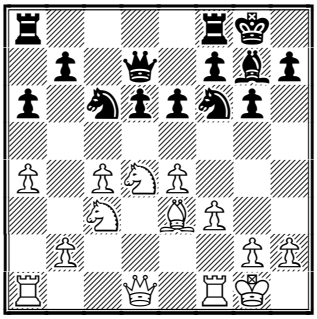
6.d4
In a very spectacular game versus chess lovers from all over the World via the Internet in 1999 Kasparov himself preferred 6.♘c3 ♘f6 7.0-0 g6 8.d4 cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♗g7 10.♘de2 and after 10...♕e6!? 11.♘d5 ♕xe4 12.♘c7+ ♔d7 13.♘xa8 ♕xc4 14.♘b6+ axb6 15.♘c3 ♖a8± a complicated position with slightly better chances for White has arisen.
6...cxd4 7.♘xd4 ♘f6 8.♘c3 g6 9.f3 ♗g7 10.♗e3 0-0 11.0-0



11...a6

Darmen has already played this position in this tournament, after 11...♖fc8 12.b3 ♕d8 13.♕d2 ♕a5 14.♖fd1 a6 15.a4 ♘d7 16.♘de2 ♖e8 17.♖ab1 ♖ac8 a draw was agreed in the game Sadvakasov − Gelfand, Astana 2001.

12.a4 e6



13.♖c1

13.b3 can be countered by the immediate 13...d5 After 14.exd5 exd5 15.c5 ♖fe8 16.♗f2 ♘h5 17.♕d2 ♖ad8 18.♖ae1 ♗e5 19.♘ce2 ♘g7 20.♖d1 a draw was agreed in the game Movsesian − Lutz, GER−chT 1999. Curiously enough, the final position is much more redolent King's Indian than the Sicilian.

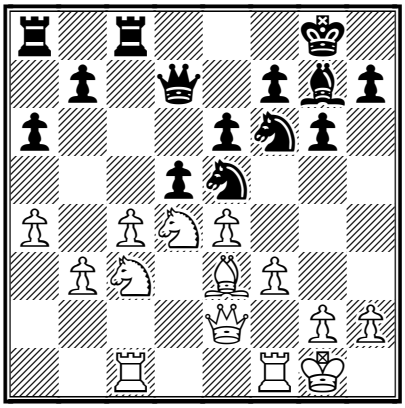
13...♘e5 14.♕e2 ♖fc8

Only top players know why the rook should be left on a8 here. 14...♖ac8!? looked natural.

15.b3

White radically prevented the advance ...b7−b5 but another typical breakthrough is coming.

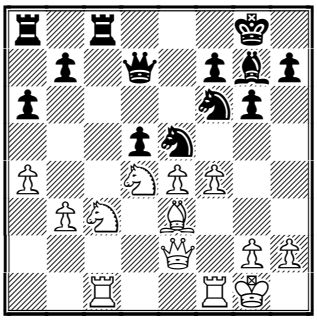
15...d5



16.cxd5

The immediate 16.f4!? deserved serious attention with a very complicated play after 16...♘eg4

16...exd5 17.f4

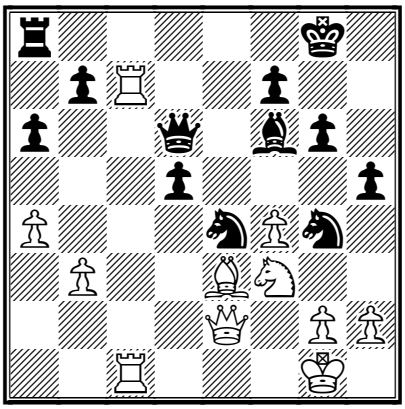


Of course, not 17.exd5?? ♖xc3! 18.♖xc3 ♘xd5 19.♖cc1 (19.♖fc1 ♘xc3 20.♖xc3 ♘c6-+) 19...♘xe3 20.♕xe3 ♘g4! and Black is winning.

17...♖xc3!?

Typical Kasparov play − the initiative at any cost! 17...♘eg4!? 18.e5 ♘e4 was also not so clear and maybe objectively stronger.

18.♖xc3 ♘xe4 19.♖c2 ♘g4 20.♖fc1 h5 21.♖c7 ♕d6 22.♘f3 ♗f6!



Black should not forget about prophylactic moves − he secures the g7 square for the king.

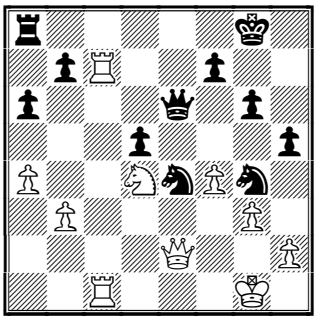
23.g3

White defends the f4 pawn to have the possibility to exchange the bishops by ♗d4 if needed and also makes available the g2 square for the king. The drawback of this pawn advance is that it weakens the kingside pawn structure and creates objects for Black's counterplay. Something like 23.a5!? was worthy of consideration.

23...♕e6!?

Black forces the exchange of the bishops himself, supposing it is a good defensive piece.

24.♗d4 ♗xd4+ 25.♘xd4



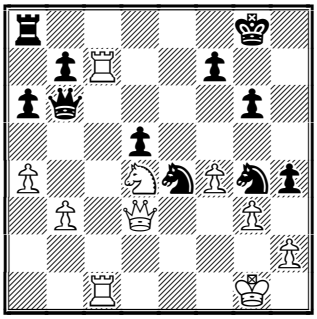
25...♕b6

25...♕f6!? may lead to move repetition after 26.♖c8+ ♖xc8 27.♖xc8+ ♔h7 28.♕d3 ♘gf2 29.♕e3 ♘g4=

26.♕d3

26.♕b2!? h4!? 27.♔g2 was interesting.

26...♘gf2 27.♕e3 ♘g4 28.♕d3 h4!?



Refusing the move repetition.

29.a5?!

Starting a series of time−trouble errors The pawn could have been captured − 29.gxh4!? − and Black had already to seriously think about 29...♘gf2 30.♕e3 ♘g4=

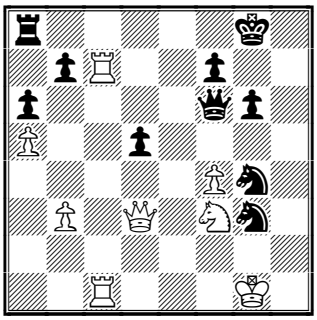
29...♕f6?!

It was quite possible to take the pawn by 29...♕xa5!

30.♘f3?

30.♘e2 should have been preferred and everything is protected.

30...hxg3 31.hxg3 ♘xg3



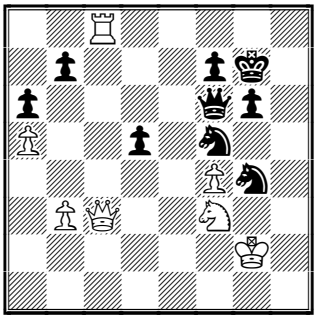
32.♖c8+

Black's position looks threatening and White hurries to make exchanges.

32...♖xc8 33.♖xc8+ ♔g7 34.♔g2 ♘f5!

Preventing the queen exchange which was possible after the careless 34...♘h5?! 35.♕d4!

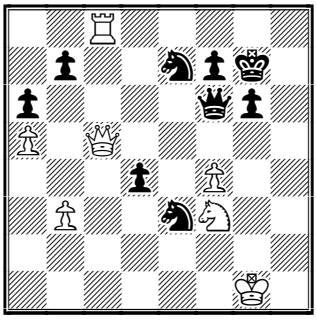
35.♕c3



35...♘ge3+?

As was cleared in the post−mortem analysis, Black could have obtained excellent winning chances by 35...d4! 36.♕c5 ♘d6 37.♖c7 d3!∓

36.♔g1 d4 37.♕c5 ♘e7



Here a draw was agreed.After 37...♘e7 38.♖b8 ♘3d5 39.♕xd4 ♘c6 40.♕xf6+ ♔xf6 41.♖xb7 ♘xa5 a draw was the most likely result as it looks impossible for White to keep his pawns. A very tense game. **½-½**

Recommended Web sites:

http://astana.fide.com/
www.chessclub.org/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-207, 2nd June 2001

The Berlin Wall Demolished in Astana!

Garry Kasparov won a decisive battle against **Vladimir Kramnik** and won the super-tournament in ***Astana***, which was dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the independence of Kazakhstan.

The players contested a principled dispute in the *Berlin Defence* – Kramnik introduced a new idea which looked rather risky. Kasparov's play, although perhaps not free from inaccuracies, was generally just brilliant – a beautiful pawn sacrifice, a very subtle king's move and an excellent rook manoeuvre – you can find all these spectacular moments in the game section below.

Thus, Garry Kasparov extends his outstanding series of tournament victories which tarted from January 1999 – our congratulations!

Results of the 10th Round:
Kasparov – Kramnik **1:0**
Morozevich – Gelfand **½:½**
Shirov – Sadvakasov **1:0**

Final standings:
1. Kasparov – 7 points out of 10
2. Kramnik – 6½
3. Gelfand – 5½
4-5. Shirov, Morozevich – 4½
6. Sadvakasov – 2

Alexander Morozevich tried to catch Gelfand for third place but Boris parried his attempts with confidence.
The game between Alexey Shirov and Darmen Sadvakasov was very exciting. As usual, Shirov tried to fan the flames on the board, sacrificing an exchange and a pawn just to achieve interesting play. After a complicated fighting he managed to get enough counterchances but then his young opponent groundlessly tried to score his first win in the tournament and Shirov's pawns quickly decided the game. Nevertheless, such a great tournament was a very instructive lesson for Darmen, let's wish him future successes!

Let's take a look at the other events.

The ***2nd SUFE Cup*** is underway in **Shanghai, China**. It is a double-round Sheveningen system match called *China versus World All Stars Women's Summit*. It features the best Chinese women players against the rest of World, mainly from Georgia, Russia. The time control is 25 minutes with 10 seconds increment.

After 2 rounds China leads: **6½:5½**

Take a look at the results:
1st Round:
Chiburdanidze – Xie Jun **0:1**
Zhukova – Zhu Chen **0:1**
Maric* – Wang Pin **0:1**
Alexandria – Xu Juhua **1:0**
Gaprindashvili* – Wang Lei **0:1**
Ioseliani* – Qin Kanying **1:0**

2nd Round:
Xie Jun – Zhukova **½:½**
Zhu Chen* – Ioseliani **1:0**
Wang Pin* – Gaprindashvili **½:½**
Xu Juhua – Chiburdanidze **0:1**
Wang Lei – Alexandria **0:1**
Qin Kanying* – Maric **½:½**

Standings after 2 rounds:
1-2. Zhu Chen, Alexandria – 2 points,
3-4. Xie Jun, Wang Pin – 1½

5-7. Wang Lei, Ioseliani, Chiburdanidze – 1
8-11. Zhukova, Gaprindashvili, Maric, Qin Kanying – ½
12. Xu Yuhua – 0

The ***2nd European Men's Championship*** is underway in **Ohrid, Macedonia**. This 13 round Swiss event promises to be very exciting. There are 143 GMs (!) and 38 IMs among 204 players, which compete for 46 passes to the FIDE World Championship

♘♘♘

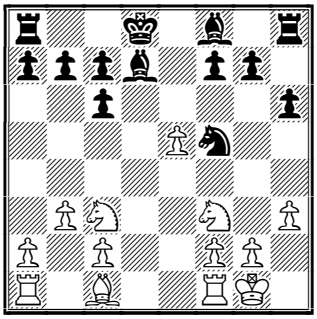
Annotated Game

G. Kasparov (2827) − V. Kramnik (2797)
Astana (10), 01.06.2001 C67
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

The battle of the tournament!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6
The Berlin Defence − both players are proceeding along a principled dispute.

4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 9.♘c3 h6 10.h3 ♗d7 11.b3 (D)

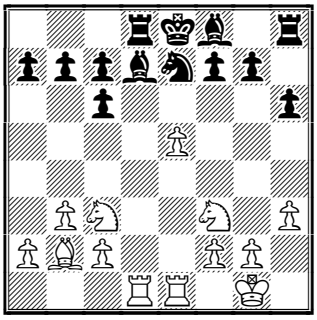


11...♔e8
A new approach. Previously Black preferred to move the king to the other side − 11...♔c8 , followed by ...b6, ♔b7 and ...♘e7−g6 as Kramnik usually did in their match in London 2000.

12.♗b2 ♖d8
Black has developed his queen's rook but how he is going to develop the king rook!? However, in this system Black often plays with only a half an army in action for a prolonged period of time.

13.♖ad1 ♘e7
A standard manoeuvre − the knight is going to g6.

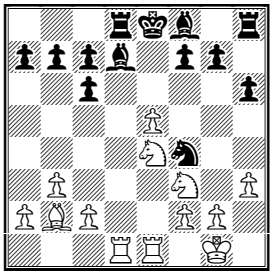
14.♖fe1 (D)



14...♘g6
14...c5 looked suspicious as it allowed an immediate break by 15.e6!? (15.♘e4 ♘g6 was also a possible way) and after 15...♗xe6 16.♘b5 ♖xd1 17.♖xd1 f6 18.♘xc7+ ♔f7 19.♖d8 and Black faces certain problems: it is not easy to get the h8 rook into play and at the same time secure his queenside, for example: 19...♘c6 20.♘xe6 ♔xe6 21.♖e8+ ♔d7 (21...♔f7 22.♖c8) 22.♖a8 and so on.

15.♘e4
In case of 15.♘d4 Black could have played 15...♗e7. Here the advance 16.e6 (16.♘e4 c5) promises a small advantage: 16...♗xe6 17.♘xe6 fxe6 18.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 (18...♔xd8 19.♖xe6 ♗f6 20.♘a4) 19.♖xe6+ (19.♘e4!?) 19...♔f7 20.♖e1 ♗f6 21.♘a4 but Black keeps reasonable drawish chances.

15...♘f4?! (D)



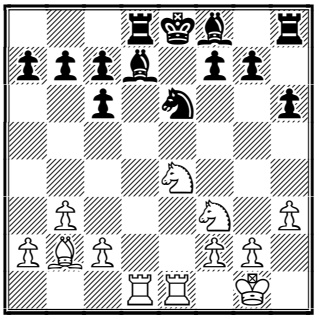
15...c5 looked much more reliable,

taking control over the d4−square, preventing the f3 knight from entering the action.

16.e6!!

A brilliant resource! White opens the e−file against Black's king as well as the long diagonal for the bishop and seizes a very strong initiative.

16...♘xe6 (D)



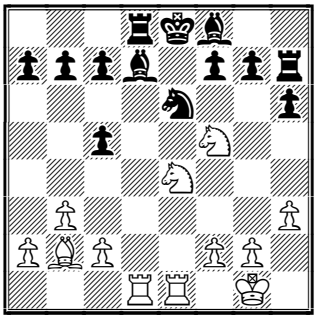
17.♘d4

17.♗e5!? ♖c8 18.♘h4! was maybe even stronger, keeping in mind not only ♘f5 but f4−f5 as well. I agree with Sergey Shipov − Black's life is difficult here.

17...c5?!

This push seems to be a serious mistake − the knight is going to f5 anyway. Vladimir probably underestimated White's resources in the position after his 25th move. It looks like Black had to defend the g7 pawn in advance by the rather ugly 17...♖h7! Now 18.♘f5 (18.f4!?) could be met by 18...♗c8 and Black keeps defending.

18.♘f5 ♖h7□ (D)



The only move. 18...♖g8? was much worse as White could have captured another pawn first: 19.♘xh6! ♖h8 20.♘f5+− and so on.

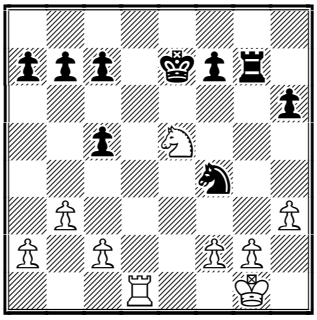
19.♗f6!

Very energetic and beautiful play!

19...♖c8 20.♗xg7

As Kasparov pointed out after the game, 20.♗h4!? was maybe stronger, keeping Black almost paralysed.

20...♗xg7 21.♘xg7+ ♖xg7 22.♘f6+ ♔e7 23.♘xd7 ♖d8 24.♘e5 ♖xd1 25.♖xd1 ♘f4 (D)



This is the position Black probably had in mind. However, a big surprise was waiting for him.

26.♔h1!!

The rook ending after 26.♘g4?! ♘xh3+! 27.gxh3 f5 28.f3 h5 29.♔f2 hxg4 30.♖g1 was probably drawn − here 30...c4!? deserved attention as the most precise way.

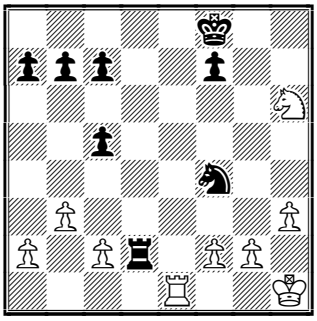
26...♖g5

It turns out that the pawn is untouchable: 26...♖xg2? 27.♘d3+−; or 26...♘xg2? 27.♖g1 (this is why the White moved the king to h1, and not to f1!) 27...♖g5 (27...♔f6 28.♘g4+) 28.♘f3 ♖f5 29.♔xg2+−

27.♘g4 ♖d5 28.♖e1+!

In the knight ending after 28.♖xd5?! ♘xd5 29.♘xh6 ♘b4⇄ Black's pawns were no less dangerous than White's.

28...♔f8 29.♘xh6 ♖d2?! (D)



It seems that Black has gained good counterplay, but the following manoeuvre almost clarifies the situation. By the way, the text move was rather inaccurate − the preliminary 29...♔g7 30.♘g4 should have been played and only now 30...♖d2 keeping drawing chances.

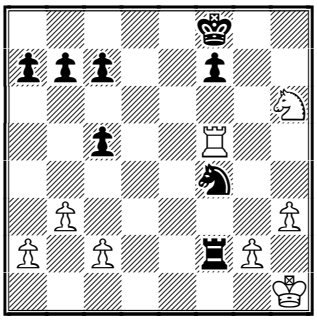
30.♖e5!

Excellent − the rook is going to f5!

30...♖xf2?

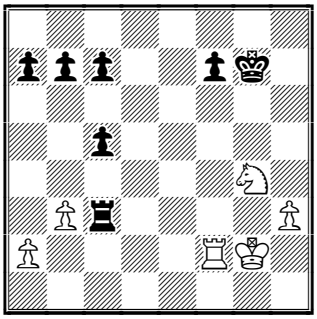
A decisive mistake. Only 30...♔g7! left Black some chances to escape.

31.♖f5 (D)



The pin is fatal for Black.

31...♔g7 32.♘g4 ♖xg2 33.♖xf4 ♖xc2 34.♖f2 ♖c3 35.♔g2 (D)

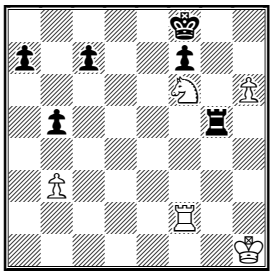


The rest is easy.

35...b5 36.h4 c4 37.h5 cxb3 38.axb3 ♖c5

Or 38...♖xb3 39.h6+ ♔g8 40.♘f6+ followed by ♖e2.

39.h6+ ♔f8 40.♘f6 ♖g5+ 41.♔h1 (D)



After ♖h2 the pawn is unstoppable so Black resigned. Inspired play by Garry Kasparov. Our congratulations once again! **1-0.**

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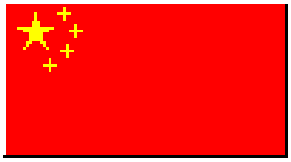
CT-208, 3rd June 2001

Chinese Team Stills Leads in Shanghai



After 5 rounds of the **2nd SUFE Rapid Cup** *China versus World Women's Summit* in **Shanghai** the Chinese team leads with a score of **17½:12½**.

*3rd Round: (*indicates black pieces)* **4-2**
Xie Jun – Ioseliani **½:½**
Zhu Chen – Gaprindashvili **1:0**
Wang Pin* – Zhukova **1:0**
Xu Juhua – Maric **0:1**
Wang Lei* – Chiburdanidze **½:½**
Qin Kanying* – Alexandria **1:0**

4th Round: **3½:2½**
Xie Jun* – Alexandria **0:1**
Zhu Chen – Maric **½:½**
Wang Pin – Chiburdanidze **½:½**
Xu Juhua* – Gaprindashvili **½:½**
Wang Lei* – Ioseliani **1:0**
Qin Kanying – Zhukova **1:0**

5th Round: **3:3**
Xie Jun* – Maric **½:½**
Zhu Chen* – Chiburdanidze **½:½**
Wang Pin – Alexandria **1:0**
Xu Juhua – Ioseliani **0:1**
Wang Lei – Zhukova **½:½**
Qin Kanying* – Gaprindashvili **½:½**

Standings after 5 rounds:
1. Wang Pin – 4½ points
2. Zhu Chen – 4
3-5. Alexandria, Qin Kanying, Wang Lei – 3
6-9. Chiburdanidze, Maric, Ioseliani, Xie Jun – 2½
10-11. Zhukova, Gaprindashvili – 1
12. Xu Yuhua – ½

As you may notice, the World Champion Xie Jun, and especially the winner of the 1st World Cup Xu Yuhua are far from their best form, but the other young Chinese players are dominating the field, ensuring a clear lead in the match.

The ***2nd European Men's Championship*** is in full swing in **Ohrid, Macedonia**. After the 2nd Round 15 players are leading with a perfect score. The heroes of the day were 14 year old **Andrey Volokitin** (Ukraine), who beat a very experienced Zurab Sturua (Georgia) and **Vladislav Nevednichy** (Romania), who smashed one of the ELO-favourites Kiril Georgiev (Bulgaria) in brilliant style. This spectacular battle is featured below in the game section. By the way, both winners are among the leaders as well!

Pairings for the 3rd Round:
Sakaev (2) – Hulak (2)
Nevednichy (2) – Lastin (2)
Ruck (2) – Avrukh (2)
Nisipeanu (2) – Atalik (2)
Iordachescu (2) – Bischoff (2)
Volokitin (2) – Aseev (2)
De Vreught (2)– Gyimesi (2)
M.Gurevich (1½) – Basagic (2)
J.Polgar (1½) – Luther (1½)
Van Wely (1½) – A. Sokolov (1½) etc.

Both Men's and Women's ***Indian Championships*** are underway in New Delhi. There are 19 players in the Men's and 14 in the Women's round robin events. The time control is one hour 30 minutes for the first 40 moves and then 30 minutes for the rest of the game.

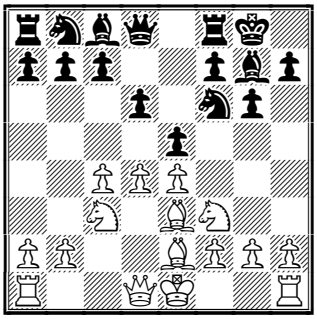
Surprisingly enough, after 2 rounds there are no players with a perfect score in the Men's event, but 7 players have 1½ points. The defending Champion **Abhijit Kunte** and the only 2600+ player **Krishnan Sasikiran** are among them.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

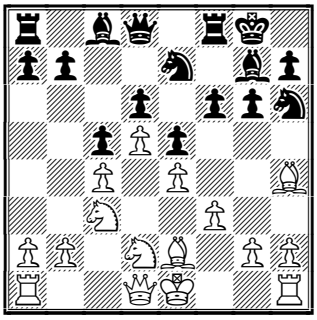
K. Georgiev (2676) − V. Nevednichy (2563)
2nd European Championship Ohrid (2), 02.06.2001 E92
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.♗e3 (D)



7.0-0 is the classical approach.

7...♘g4 8.♗g5 f6 9.♗h4 ♘c6 10.d5 ♘e7 11.♘d2 ♘h6 12.f3 c5 (D)



All these moves have been played many times. The position is very complex − both armies will come into close contact very soon on the whole front line.

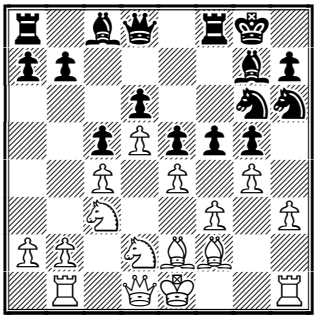
13.♖b1

13.dxc6 bxc6 14.b4 is a slightly different approach − to open up the center and so decrease the strength of Black's kingside activity.

13...g5 14.♗f2 f5 15.h3

A new continuation − White is going to stop Black's initiative on the kingside radically. Tournament practice promises slightly better chances for White after 15.b4 b6 16.bxc5 bxc5 (16...dxc5 17.exf5! ♘hxf5 18.♘de4±) 17.0-0±

15...♘g6 16.g4 (D)



This was the idea but, in my opinion it cannot bother Black very much. Such a radical way of closing the kingside could have much better effect if White were able to transfer his knight to f5 for sure − here it does not seem to be an easy task.

16...fxg4 17.hxg4 ♘h4 18.♖h2

18.♘f1? was impossible due to 18...♘g2+ 19.♔d2 ♘xg4!

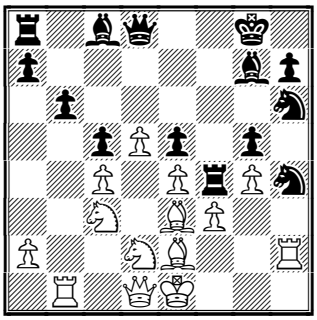
18...♖f4

Occupying all good squares.

19.b4

Here 19.♘f1!? was worthy of consideration, intending to counter 19...♕f6 by 20.♗xh4 gxh4 21.♘e3 keeping in mind not only ♘f5 but sometimes ♘g2.

19...b6 20.bxc5 dxc5 21.♗e3 (D)



Intending to transfer the knight to f5 with all conveniences.

21...♕f6!?

No way!

22.♗xf4

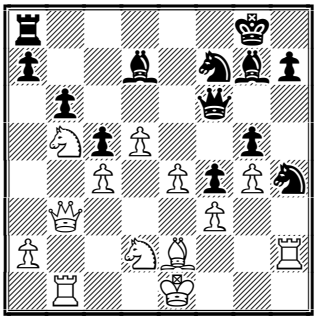
This is maybe a hasty decision. 22.♕a4!? deserved serious attention, making it more difficult for Black to develop his queenside.

22...exf4 23.♘b5

As often is the case in the King's

Indian, Black's dark−squared bishop is at least not worse, than a rook. Here White also has connected passed pawns so Black shouldn't let them to go too far.

23...♗d7 24.♕b3 ♘f7 (D)



25.♔d1

A natural idea − but the king seems to be quite safe on c2.

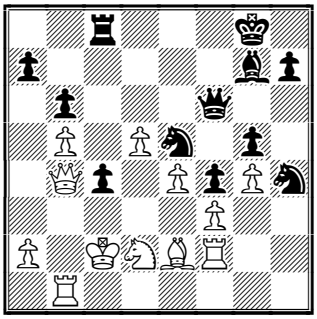
25...♘e5 26.♔c2

Thanks to his excellent "dark−squared" pieces Black's chances look not so bad. Here Vladislav decided to begin concrete actions.

26...♗xb5 27.cxb5 c4 28.♕b4

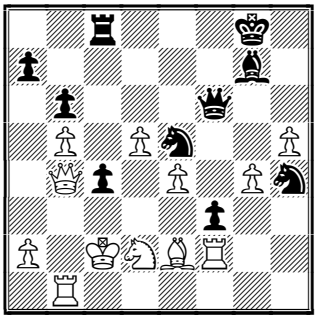
28.♗xc4 ♖c8∞ was too unclear.

28...♖c8 29.♖f2 (D)



White has protected everything but Black finds a fairly spectacular way to throw more wood into the fire.

29...h5!? 30.gxh5 g4! 31.fxg4 f3 (D)



Sacrificing a couple of pawns, Black clears another diagonal for the bishop on g7 − quite in a spirit of such positions. Objectively this was maybe too much, but both players were probably in the time trouble. White's play is fairly not easy under the time pressure.

32.g5?

A tempting move, but probably wrong. Something like 32.♖g1!? was stronger.

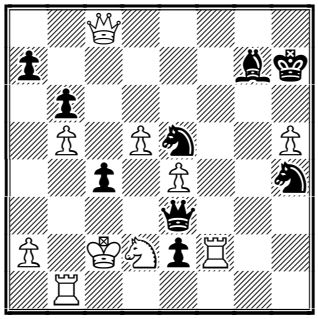
32...♕xg5 33.♕d6

This was the idea − White is threatening ♕e6.

33...fxe2!

However, Black ignores the threat to his rook, believing that in such positions the bishops are more useful!

34.♕e6+ ♔h7 35.♕xc8 ♕e3 (D)



Suddenly White finds himself in big trouble − Black's pieces are dominating and his attack is irresistible.

36.♖xe2

A sad necessity.

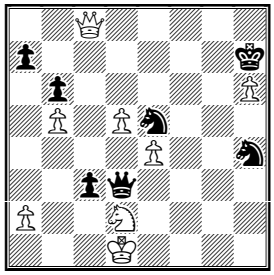
36...♕xe2 37.♖g1 ♕d3+ 38.♔d1

Or 38.♔c1 ♕c3+-+

38...c3 39.♖xg7+

The last attempt.

39...♔xg7 40.h6+ ♔h7 (D)



White resigned. An excellent win by

Vladislav Nevednichy, who played this King's Indian on his finger−tips. **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:
www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chennaionline.com/chess/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

CT-209, 4th June 2001

Today's issue is rather special, as with it I would like to introduce a regular coaching section in *Chess Today (CT) (see page 2).*

According to your feedback our newspaper is much appreciated by its readers and we hope to attract more members soon. To improve the quality of *CT*, we plan to concentrate on its instructional value. Personally I believe that most *CT* readers value our paper mostly for its annotated games. We will keep them, as well as news, puzzles and interviews. But as most of our readers are not chess professionals, we will have more instructional materials in the paper - on more or less regular base. The opportunities are limitless here - we can consider endgame, middlegame or openings. Also interesting is to discuss how to train in chess. Feedback from our readers is always very welcome. I also hope that we can make the discussion forum at www.chesstoday.net much more active- surely *CT* readers can share their views on chess and help each other! You can also send your questions and suggestions to ababurin@iol.ie. Please mark them 'Chess Instruction' in the subject field. I will try to deal with all messages and will certainly choose the most interesting of them for discussing in *Chess Today*.

As for other *CT* news and plans, I hope to have an interview with **Vladimir Kramnik** soon. It was not possible to do it before the tournament in Astana and I did not want to bother Vladimir during the competition, but hopefully he will have more time now. In July we plan to produce *Chess Today* CD, which will contain the first 200 issues of our newspaper: Chess Base and PGN files, all PDF files and perhaps Acrobat Reader and Chess Base Light (if their owners agree to this). The CD will be offered to all existing readers at a considerable discount.

For today's issue I chose a particular endgame theme, but before I get to it, I would like to mention what is going on in the **European Championship** in Ohrid, Macedonia. It is a very strong tournament, which could be even stronger, if it was not held in a now-troubled country... Still, to have 40 GMs over 2600 is awesome and I hope that everything will be well with the event and its participants.

In round 3 there were many draws at the top of the cross-table, which is hardly surprising as there are many qualifying places and not many would be prepared to risk too much at this stage. Besides, the playing field is rather level. GM Konstantin Aseev beat Andrei Volokitin, while GM Dennis de Vreught defeated GM Zoltan Gyimesi. Thus, **Aseev** and **de Vreught** are only 2 players with perfect scores now.

There were some big upsets in this round, as Judith Polgar (2678) lost to Thomas Luther (2568), while the top-seeded Mikhail Gurevich (2688) only drew with White against IM Zlatko Basagic (2345). Elo-favourites are not doing well in the tournament so far, for example Mikhail Krasenkov (2655) lost with White to Peter Wells (2522). More on this tournament and other events tomorrow.

When talking about current news, I cannot omit the **Internet chess auction**, which finished on Sunday. It was held at the GM Square site at this address: www.gmsquare.com/chessauction. I was directly involved in the auction and was

very pleased with its outcome. Thanks to advertising at the Chess Café, TWIC, GM Chess, Chess Base and some other sites, the auction attracted many interested chess fans. Here are some interesting sales: 'An Inquiry into the antient Greek game, supposed to have been invented by Palamedes' by J. Christie), published in London in 1801, was sold for 1099.82 euro (about US$930). Caxton's 'The Game of the Chesse', reproduced in 1855 by Vincent Figgins, went for 751 euro. So, if you have similar books just gathering dust in your attic, please let me now ASAP! :-)

But chess stuff does not have to be old to be valuable and sought after. For example, a program of the Fischer-Petrosian match, signed by both Fischer and Petrosian, went for 460 euro. Another interesting lot - program on the 46th USSR championship (where Kasparov debuted in 1978), signed by all its participants, fetched 392 euro. If you are curious about chess collecting, please keep an eye at auction our site: www.gmsquare.com/chessauction, where results of the auction should be posted in the next 1-2 days. And quite seriously, if you have some books, which you would like to sell, feel free to contact me via e-mail.

It's OK on my First page today. Free.

Talking about interesting and unusual chess stuff on the Internet, I want to mention the online **exposition about chess history**. It has 40 pictures and 50 descriptions (in French) and you can find it at http://www.chessgalaxy.com/expo.

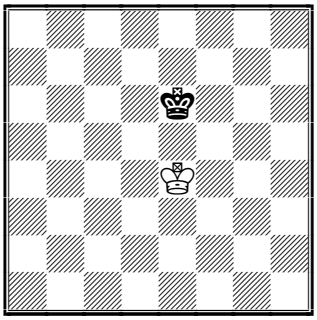
Finally, if your FIDE rating is over 2400 and you want to test yourself in a GM-tournament, we have good news for you: **A player with 2400+ is sought** for a round robin GM tournament (category VIII or IX) with 11 rounds and GM and IM norms available. It will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia on June 18-29 (the 18th of June is the arrival day). For more details and contact information please check out http://www.gmchess.com/news/local/othertournaments.html

♔♔♔

Coach's Corner

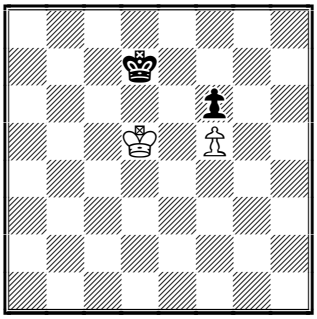
conducted by GM Alexander Baburin

For today's discussion in our *Coach's Corner* I chose a deceptively simple topic - **the opposition**. Many of you may think that there is nothing difficult about it, but you might be wrong! In work as a coach, I often found that even strong players sometimes know little about the opposition! Let's start with a simple example:



Here the white king wants to cross the 5th rank, but his black counterpart is preventing it − he opposes the white king. If White is to play, Black has the opposition. He can meet 1.♔d4 with 1...♔d6, etc. **=**

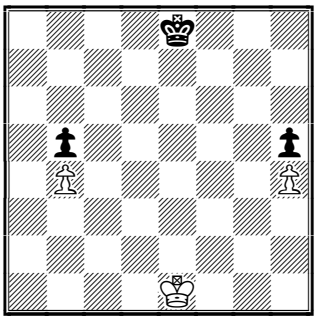
Why does the opposition matter? Just have a look at the following position and you will see why!



Black to play, White wins

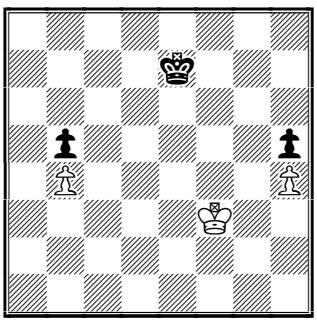
Here it is Black to play, so White has the opposition and can get through the 6th rank. Thus he wins the f6−pawn and the game. **1...♔e7 2.♔c6** This is called out−flanking. **2...♔f7 3.♔d7 ♔f8 4.♔e6 ♔g7 5.♔e7** Opposition again! **5...♔g8 6.♔xf6 ♔f8 7.♔e6 ♔e8 8.f6 ♔f8 9.f7 1-0.**

Now let's consider a more complicated case.



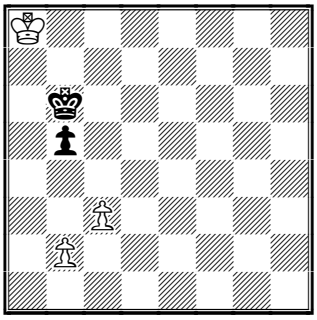
White to play, wins

White must move the king forward and try to cross the 5th rank. This requires some skill or knowledge. For example bad is 1.♔d2? ♔d8! 2.♔d3 ♔d7 3.♔d4 ♔d6 and White can't make progress. So White must play **1.♔e2!** Now 1...♔e7 2.♔e3 ♔e6 does not set too many problems after 3.♔e4 ♔f6 4.♔f4! (4.♔d5? ♔f5 5.♔c5 ♔g4 6.♔xb5 ♔xh4 is only equal.) 4...♔g6 (4...♔e6 5.♔g5 ♔d5 6.♔xh5 ¢c4 7.♔g4 and White wins.) 5.♔e5 Out−flanking! 5...♔g7 6.♔f5 (6.♔d5+−) 6...♔h6 7.♔f6 ♔h7 8.♔g5+−. **Better is 1...♔d8!**
Here White can go wrong − 2.♔e3? And Black gets the opposition with **2...♔e7.**
2.♔f3! ♔e7 (D)



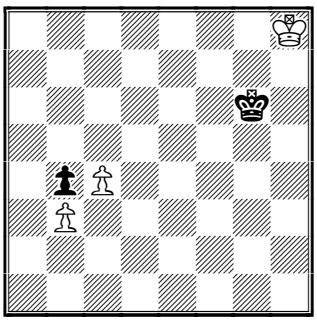
3.♔e3! ♔e6 4.♔e4 and the rest is easy − White wins.

I like the following study by Nikolai Grigoriev very much, which illustrates the opposition brilliantly.



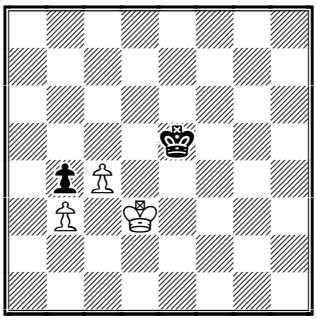
White to play, wins

After 1.b4? ♔a6! 2.♔b8 ♔b6 3.♔c8 ♔c6 4.♔d8 ♔d6 5.♔e8 ♔e6= White can't make progress. Also poor is 1.♔b8? b4 and Black draws, as 2.c4?? even loses after 2...b3! So White must play **1.b3!** Now after 1...♔a6 2.b4! ♔b6 3.♔b8 White has the opposition, so he wins: 3...♔c6 4.♔a7+−. But Black has a tricky resource: **1...♔a5 2.♔b8!** After 2.♔b7? b4 3.c4 Black escapes! **2...b4 3.c4 ♔b6** Black has obtained the opposition, but at a price − now the c4−pawn is a protected passed pawn, which is a great asset! **4.♔c8 ♔c6 5.♔d8 ♔d6 6.♔e8 ♔e6 7.♔f8 ♔f6 8.♔g8 ♔g6** 8...♔e5 loses after 9.♔f7 ♔d4 10.♔e6 ♔c3 11.c5 ♔xb3 12.c6 ♔a2 13.c7 b3 14.c8♕ b2 15.♕a6+ **9.♔h8! (D)**



Now Black's king cannot follow his enemy, as he has to stay inside the square of the c4−pawn. **9...♔f6** (Diagonal opposition.) 9...♔h6?

10.c5+− **10.♔h7 ♔f7 11.♔h6 ♔f6 12.♔h5 ♔f5 13.♔h4 ♔f4 14.♔h3! ♔f5 15.♔g3 ♔g5 16.♔f3 ♔f5 17.♔e3 ♔e5 18.♔d3 (D)**

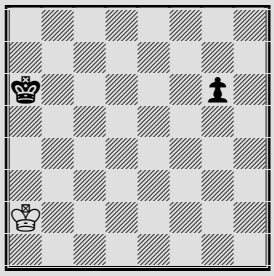


Finally Black can't keep the opposition and so he loses. **18...♔d6 19.♔d4 ♔c6 20.c5 +−**

If these positions above seem too easy for you then try our little test below. Write down your anwsers and check our solutions in tomorrow's issue of **Chess Today**. But please take this seriously, as these positions are harder than they look. Good luck!

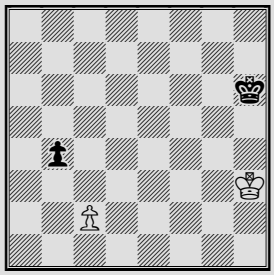
Endgame Quiz

Mandler, study 1969



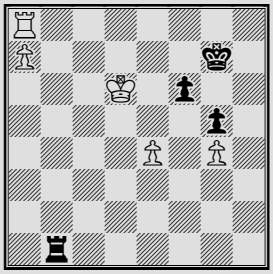
White to play, draws

Bianchetti, study 1925



White to play, draws

Benko−Gereben



How should the game end with best play from both sides and what the continuation should be?

Please tell us what you think of our instuctional course and share with us what you would like to see in ***Chess Today!***

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback! **Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today.** Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-210, 5th June 2001

Konstantin Aseev Leads in Ohrid!

Konstantin Aseev (Russia) took sole lead after the 4th round of the ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia. The St-Petersburg's GM has a perfect score – 4 points. Today he is the hero of our annotated game section. GMs Hulak, Timoshenko and Delchev have 3½ points out of 4.

Some results of the forth round:
Aseev (3) **1:0** De Vreugt (3)
Luther (2½) **½:½** Sakaev (2½)
Lastin (2½) **0:1** Hulak (2½)
Nevednichy (2½) **½:½** Lputian (2½)
Timoshenko (2½) **1:0** Motylev (2½)
Avrukh (2½) **½:½** Romanishin (2½)
Bischoff (2½) **½:½** Nisipeanu (2½)
Fedorov (2½) **½:½** Ruck (2½)
Korobov (2½) **½:½** Iordachescu (2½)
Basagic (2½) **0:1** Delchev (2½)
Anastasian (2½) **½:½** Jobava (2½)
Atalik (2½) **½:½** Short (2)

After 8 rounds of the ***2nd SUFE Rapid Cup*** China versus World Women's Summit in Shanghai the Chinese team continues to lead with a score of 29:19. The Chinese won rounds 6th and 8th with the score 4½:1½ and 4:2 respectively, and drew 3:3 in round 7. There will be 4 more rounds

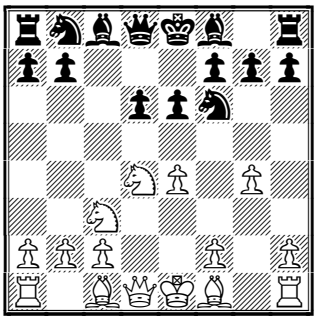
IM Ponnuswamy Koguel leads with 2 ½ points after the 3rd round of the ***Indian Championships*** in New Delphi.
2-8. Sasikiran, Kunte, Ganguly, Thipsay, Lahiri, Barua, Ravi – 2 points etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

K. Aseev (2577) – E. Arlandi (2423)
2nd IECC Ohrid MKD (2), 02.06.2001
B81
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6
Nowadays this move is not often played – mianly because of...
6.g4! (D)



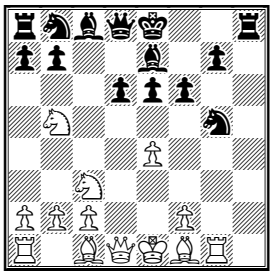
The Keres attack is a very unpleasant line for Black.
6...h6
In my oppinion this is the most solid move in this not too solid (for Black) system. For example, Kasparov played it vs. Karpov in the 1st game of their 1st match (Moscow 1984) and made a draw without big problems. But after that game he hasn't allowed the Keres attack in his games. Who knows why?!I think too risky is 6...♘c6?! and; 6...a6?!; Maybe Black can play 6...e5!? – you can ask GM Ruslan Scherbakov about it :–).
7.h4 ♗e7
The main alternative is 7...♘c6
8.♖g1 ♘h7?!
A very rare move. The idea is to blockade White's pawns on the King side, but this task is very difficult.
9.g5!?
This looks like the strongest and most principled way. A good alternative is 9.♘f3!?; not good is –

9.h5?!

9...hxg5 10.hxg5 ♘xg5

Or 10...♘f8 11.♗e3 ♘c6 12.♕d2 ♘xd4 13.♗xd4 e5 14.♗e3 ♕a5 15.♗c4 ♗e6 16.♘d5 ♕xd2+ 17.♔xd2 ♗d8 18.♖h1± Mokos − Nozdzoviczi, Slovakia 1993/94.

11.♘db5 f6 (D)



12.e5!

White played much weaker in the following game: 12.♗xg5 fxg5 13.♕d4 0-0 14.0-0-0 ♘c6 15.♕c4 a6 16.♘d4 ♘xd4 17.♖xd4 ♗f6 18.♖d3 ♗e5 19.♖h3 b5 20.♕e2 ♕f6∓ Belotti − V.Atlas, Switzerland 1992. Konstantin Aseev sacrifices a second pawn, but receives a very strong initiative.

12...dxe5

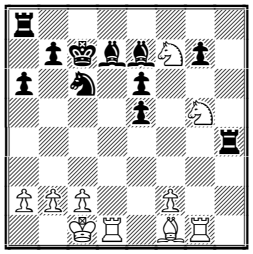
Of course, not 12...fxe5?? 13.♗xg5 ♗xg5 14.♘xd6+ ♔f8 15.♘xc8+−; After 12...d5!? 13.exf6 gxf6 14.♗f4 ♘a6∞ and White has good compensation for a pawn but maybe not more.

13.♗xg5 fxg5 14.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 15.0-0-0+ ♗d7 16.♘e4!

Yes, Black has many pawns but most of them are very weak. He also has big problems with his development.

16...a6

Other methods are 16...♘c6 17.♘xg5 ♔c8 18.♘e4±; 16...♖h5!? 17.♗e2 ♖h2∞ **17.♘bd6 ♔c7 18.♘f7 ♖h4 19.♘exg5 ♘c6?! (D)**



After this White retains a second pawn and gains a big advantage. More stubborn was 19...♗f6 20.♗h3 ♘c6 21.♗xe6 ♗e8 with some counterplay.

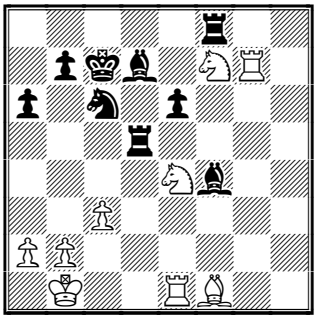
20.♘f3 ♖h5 21.♖xg7 e4 22.♘3g5 ♗f6 23.♖g6 ♗d4 24.c3!?

White could simply play 24.♘xe4 but he doesn't want lose a tempo. However, maybe the simplest way was also the best way.

24...♗xf2 25.♘xe4 ♗e3+ 26.♔b1 ♖d5

This is easy to understand − Black wants to defend his pieces. "Brave" comp suggestes 26...♘e7!? but humans usually try to avoid variations like 27.♘f6 ♗a4 etc.

27.♖e1 ♖f8 28.♖g7 ♗f4? (D)



The best defense is offense, so Black could exploit with 28...♖f5; or 28...♗d2.

29.♗c4! ♖f5 30.♘fg5

Now Black can't defend all his weaknesses.

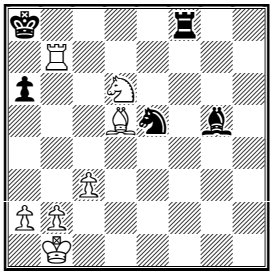
30...♔c8

30...♗xg5 31.♘xg5 ♔b6 32.♗xe6

31.♖xd7!

The decisive blow.

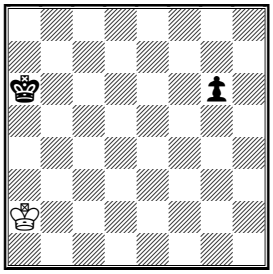
31...♗xg5 32.♗xe6 ♖e5 33.♘d6+ ♔b8 34.♖xe5 ♘xe5 35.♖xb7+ ♔a8 36.♗d5 (D)



36...♖f1+ 37.♔c2 ♖c1+ 38.♔b3 ♖d1 39.♖b5+ 1-0.

Solutions to Yesterday's Endgame Quiz (in CT−209):

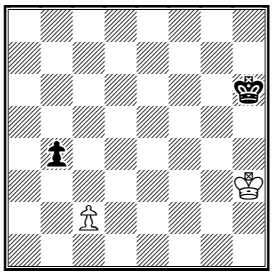
Mandler study, 1969



White to play, draws

After 1.♔b3? ♔b5! 2.♔c3 ♔c5 3.♔d3 ♔d5 4.♔e3 ♔e5 5.♔f3 ♔f5 6.♔g3 ♔g5 Black has the opposition, so his king outflanks his white counterpart: 7.♔f3 ♔h4 8.♔g2 ♔g4 9.♔f2 ♔h3-+. Thus, White should play **1.♔b2!.** Now 1...♔b5 can be met with 2.♔b3!=. After **1...♔b6** White also draws: **2.♔c2 ♔c6 3.♔d2 ♔d6 4.♔e2 ♔e6 5.♔f2 ♔f6 6.♔g2! ♔g5 7.♔g3=.**

Bianchetti study, 1925

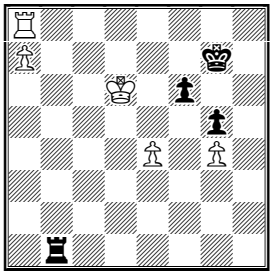


* White to play, wins

* (Some of you may have figured out that it should have read "White to play, wins" and not draws. I didn't catch it while editing. So blame me for the confusion. At any rate Alex gives the solution below −−−RPM)

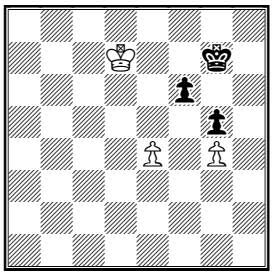
1.♔h4! Now Black cannot gain the opposition. After 1.♔g4? ♔g6 Black draws by sacrificing his pawn in time: 2.♔f4 ♔f6 3.♔e4 ♔e6 4.♔d4 b3! 5.cxb3 ♔d6 6.♔c4 ♔c6 7.♔b4 ♔b6=.
1...♔g6 2.♔g4 ♔f6 3.♔f4 ♔e6 4.♔e4 ♔d6 5.♔d4 b3
Or 5...♔c6 6.♔c4 b3 (6...♔c7 7.♔xb4 ♔b6 8.♔c4 ♔c6 9.c3+−) 7.cxb3! ♔b6 8.♔b4+−.
6.cxb3 ♔c6 7.♔c4 ♔b6 8.♔b4 ♔c6 9.♔a5 ♔b7 10.♔b5 1-0.

Benko − Gereben endgame



Black can easily stop the a−pawn by playing 1...♖a1, since White's king doesn't have any shelter. However, Black should not rush with making this move and first examine the position more carefully, checking what White can do after 1...♖a1. In the game Black played **1...♖a1?.** He obviously saw that 2.♖e8? could be met with 2...♖a6+=, but missed that White could seize the distant opposition after **2.♖c8! ♖a6+ 3.♖c6 ♖xa7 4.♖c7+ ♖xc7 5.♔xc7.** Now White wins, as he can transform the distant opposition into a short one easily, for example: 5...♔g6 6.♔d8! ♔h7 7.♔d7! ♔h6 8.♔e8 ♔g7 9.♔e7 ♔g6 10.♔f8+−.

Instead of **1...♖a1?** Black should have played **1...♖d1+!** 2.♔e6 ♖a1. After 3.♖e8 Black has 3...♖a6+!=, while 3.♖d8 ♖xa7 4.♖d7+ ♖xd7 5.♔xd7**(D)** leads to the following instructive position:



This is a tricky moment − after 5...♔f7? 6.♔d6 Black cannot keep the opposition and thus he loses the game: 6...♔g7 7.♔e7 ♔g6 8.♔f8+−. But there is a draw − Black must play 5...♔h7!!, taking the distant opposition! After 6.♔d6 ♔h6! 7.e5 fxe5 8.♔xe5 ♔g6 9.♔e6 ♔g7 10.♔f5 ♔f7 11.♔xg5 ♔g7 Black is OK.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.mercan.com.cn/mercan2000/china.htm
http://www.iecc2001.com.mk

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-211, 6th June 2001

The Chinese Women's Team Victorious in Shanghai!

The Chinese Women's team totally dominated in the ***2nd SUFE Rapid Cup*** *China versus World Women's Summit* in **Shanghai** and won it with the impressive final score of **41½:30½**.

Individual results:
China team:
1. Wang Pin – 8 points
2. Zhu Chen – 7½
3-4. Xie Jun, Xu Yuhua – 7
5. Wang Lei – 6½
6. Qin Kanying – 5½

World Stars:
1. Maia Chiburdanidze GEO – 7 points
2. Alisa Maric YUG – 6
3. Nana Alexandria GEO – 5½
4. Nana Ioseliani GEO – 5
5. Nona Gaprindashvili GEO – 4
6. Natalia Zhukova UKR – 3

The event once again demonstrated convincingly the superiority of the Chinese players in women's chess.

After 5 rounds of play there has emerged two leaders in the ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia – **Georgy Timoshenko** of the Ukraine and **Konstantin Aseev** of Russia after beating Krunoslav Hulak with the black pieces.

Some results of the 5th Round:
(3½) Delchev **½:½** Aseev (4)
(3½) Hulak **0:1** Timoschenko (3½)
(3) Van Wely **1:0** Anastasian (3)
(3) Greenfeld **½:½** Graf-Nenaschew (3)
(3) Vaganian **½:½** Luther (3)
(3) Stefansson **½:½** Almazi (3)
(3) Sakaev **1:0** Nevednichy (3)
(3) Romanishin **½:½** Alexandrov (3)
(3) Vallejo Pons **½:½** Macieja (3)
(3) Lputian **1:0** Atalik (3)
(3) Ruck **0:1** Milov (3)
(3) Jobava **0:1** Avrukh (3)
(3) Czebe **½:½** Sturua (3)
(3) Nisipeanu **½:½** Korobov (3)
(3) De Vreugt **1:0** Fedorov (3)
(3) Iordachescu **1:0** Chernyshov (3)
(2½) J.Polgar **1:0** Bischoff (3)
(2½) M.Gurevich **0:1** Gyimesi (2½) etc.

Standings after 5th Round:
1-2. Aseev, Timoshenko – 4½ points
3-10. Delchev, Van Wely, Sakaev, Lputian, Milov, Avrukh, De Vreugt, Iordachescu – 4 etc.

Pairings of the 6th Round:
Aseev (4½) – Timoshenko (4½)
Avrukh (4) – Van Wely (4)
Iordachescu (4) – Sakaev (4)
Delchev (4) – Lputian (4)
Milov (4) – De Vreugt (4)

*(Today we feature the game between **Romanishin** and **Rublevsky** from round 3 in our annotated game section on page 2. --- RPM)*

IM **Ponnuswamy Konguvel** regained sole lead after the 6th Round of the ***Indian Championships*** in New Delhi – he has scored 5 points. The ELO-favourite **Krishnan Sasikiran** is in second, half a point behind, and the defending Champion **Abhijit Kunte** keeps clear third with 4 points.

Standings after 6th Round:
1. Konguvel – 5 points
2. Sasikiran – 4½
3. Kunte – 4
4-7. Harikrishna, Barua, Ganguly, Lahiri – 3½

In the Women's event **Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi** took a full point lead with 3½ points after 4 rounds.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

O. Romanishin (2559) − S. Rublevsky (2657)

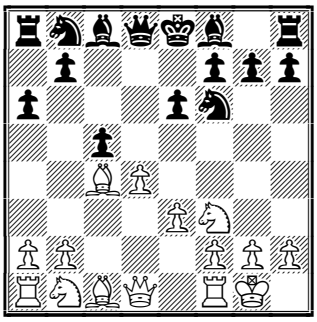
2nd IECC Ohrid MKD (3), 03.06.2001

D27

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

This excellent game was played in the 3rd Round. I was upset over my friend's loss but at the same time I was lost in admiration watching the wonderful play of Oleg Romanishin. Look and enjoy!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3 c5 5.♗xc4 a6 6.0-0 ♘f6 (D)



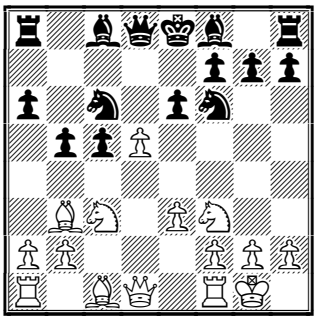
7.♗b3

Just a few days ago Vladimir Kramnik smashed Darmen Sadvakasov in beautiful style after 7.a4 − you enjoyed this game in **CT−203.**

7...♘c6 8.♘c3 b5

Both 8...♗e7 ; and 8...cxd4 9.exd4 ♗e7 are supposed to be more reliable.

9.d5! (D)



A new continuation, which casts doubts upon the whole line with 9. ..b5. Before White tested 9.♕e2 ; 9.dxc5; and 9.a4.

9...exd5 10.a4!

10.♘xd5 c4 11.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 12.♗c2 ♗b7 was quite good for Black.

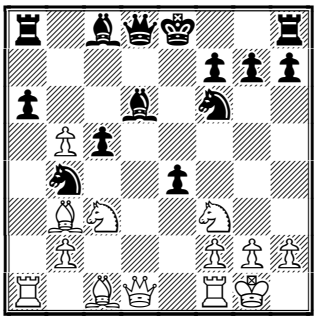
10...♘b4

10...c4?! allowed the preliminary 11.axb5

11.axb5 ♗d6

Solid play − Black intends to castle kingside and improve his position thanks to his pawn superiority in center. However, it is White to move at the moment.

12.e4! dxe4 (D)



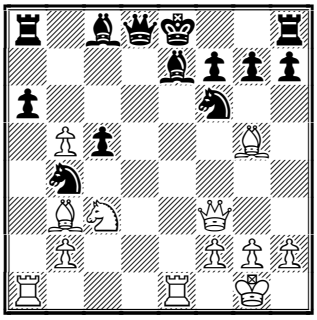
13.♗g5!!

A bolt from the blue! White sacrifices a whole piece, but his initiative only at first glance does not appear too strong.... 13.♘g5?! 0-0 14.♘cxe4 could have been met by 14...♘xe4 15.♘xe4 ♗xh2+! 16.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 17.♔g1 ♕xe4 winning a pawn.

13...exf3 14.♖e1+ ♗e7

14...♔f8 didn't look much better − White's initiative was really strong after 15.♕xf3 (15.♘e4!?) 15...♖a7 16.♖ad1↑

15.♕xf3 (D)

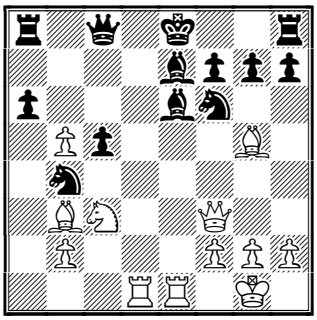


15...♗e6?!

This loses almost by force but it seems that it was already too late to

give Black better advice. 15...♗g4? was impossible due to 16.♖xe7+! ♔xe7 17.♕xg4 ♔f8 18.♕f3 followed by ♘e4; perhaps 15...♖a7 was the most stubborn continuation but Black's life was already difficult: 16.♗xf6! (16.♖ad1 ♕b6) 16...gxf6 17.♖ad1 (17.♕xf6 0-0) 17...♖d7 (17...♕b6 18.♘a4 ♕b7 19.♕h5 0-0 20.b6 ♖a8 21.♘xc5 ♗xc5 22.♕xc5↑ a5 23.♖e7 ♕c6 24.♕h5!+−) 18.♖xd7 ♗xd7 19.♕xf6 ♖f8 20.bxa6↑ and Black is almost helpless.

16.♖ad1 ♕c8 (D)



16...♕b8 17.♗f4 ♕c8 18.♖xe6! was similar.

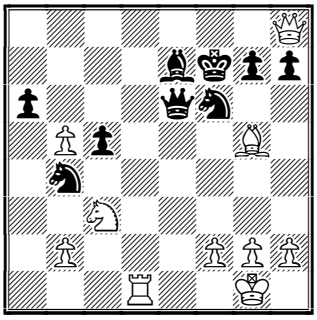
17.♖xe6!!

Another excellent blow − White does not give his opponent a moment's respite.

17...fxe6 18.♗xe6 ♕xe6

It was impossible to escape with the queen: 18...♕b8 19.♗f4 ♕a7 and now 20.b6!+− White has sacrificed a lot of material but now he gains it back with interest!

19.♕xa8+ ♔f7 20.♕xh8+− (D)



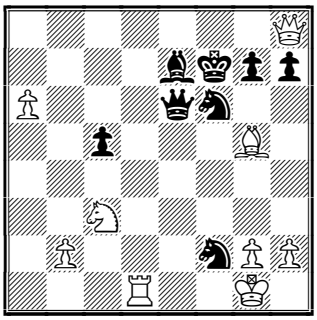
20...♘d3!?

A desperate attempt.

21.bxa6

21.♗xf6 ♗xf6 22.bxa6 was also good enough as 22...♕f5 was not too dangerous: 23.♖f1 ♗d4 24.♘b5 ♗xf2+ 25.♔h1 etc.

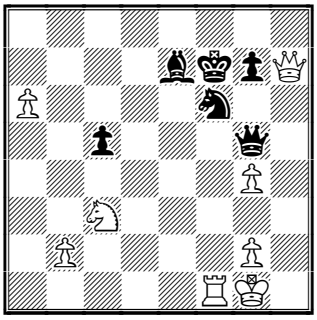
21...♘xf2!? (D)



22.♖f1!?

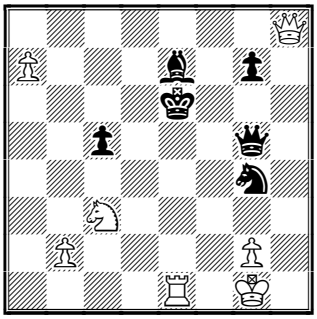
The most reliable way − White creates a pin over the f−file.

22...♘2g4 23.h3! ♕e5 24.hxg4 ♕xg5 25.♕xh7 (D)



Taking control over the h−file. By the way, White's main idea is not so much to promote the a−pawn as to exchange the queens by the slighlty unexpected 26. ♕h5!

25...♔e8 26.♕h8+ ♔d7 27.a7 ♘xg4 28.♖d1+ ♔e6 29.♖e1+ (D)



Black decides he has had a enough. A brilliant game by Oleg Romanishin!

1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chennaionline.com/chess/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CT-212, 7th June 2001

Four lead at Ohrid

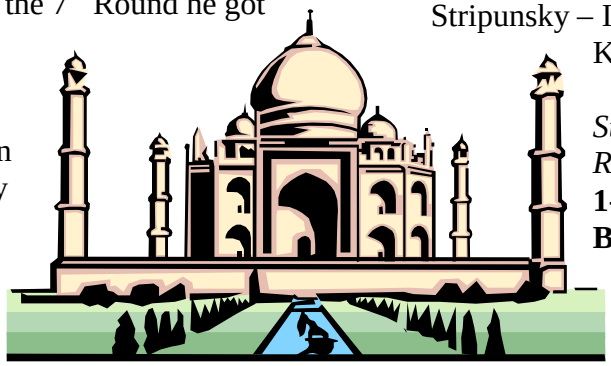
Four players are leading at the ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia with 5 points after 6 rounds – they are **Konstantin Aseev** (Russia), **Georgy Timoshenko** (Ukraine), **Smbat Lputian** (Armenia) and **Vadim Milov** (Switzerland). 10 players are in chase, half a point behind.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
(4½) Aseev **½:½** Timoshenko (4½)
(4) Avrukh **½:½** Van Wely (4)
(4) Iordachescu **½:½** Sakaev (4)
(4) Delchev **0:1** Lputian (4)
(4) Milov **1:0** De Vreugt (4)

Pairings of the 7th Round:
Lputian (5) – Aseev (5)
Timoshenko (5) – Milov (5)
Macieja (4½) – Ponomarev (4½)
Van Wely (4½) – Iordachescu (4½)
Motylev (4½) – Graf (4½)
Vaganian (4½) – Avrukh (4½)
Sakaev (4½) – Galego (4½) etc.

Today we present a nice win from one the leaders Vadim Milov over Dennis de Vreugt as well as some tactical positions from the previous rounds.

IM **Ponnuswamy Konguvel** retains sole lead at the ***Indian Championships*** in New Delhi – in the 7th Round he got lucky and beat Pravin Thipsay and moved to 6 points. His main rivals – the only 2600+ player **Krishnan Sasikiran** and the defending Champion **Abhijit Kunte** also won their games and keep second and third place respectively.



Results of the 6th Round:
Thipsay – Konguvel **0:1**
Roy – Sasikiran **0:1**
Kunte – Lahiri **1:0**
Barua – Prasad **1:0**
Ravi – Sahu **0:1**
Ganguly – Neelotpal Das **½:½**
Saravanan – Mishra **0:1**
Sriram Jha – Prakash **½:½**
Wajih – Murugan **1:0**
Harikrishna – bye

Standings after 6th Round:
1. Konguvel – 6 points
2. Sasikiran – 5½
3. Kunte – 5
4. Barua – 4½
5. Ganguly – 4
6-7. Harikrishna, Lahiri – 3½ etc.

In the Women's event **Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi** still keeps a full point lead with 4½ points after 5 rounds.

After the 2nd Round of the IX category round-robin ***SmartChess.com International*** ELO-favourite GM **Igor Novikov** (Ukraine), IMs **Gregory Shahade** and **Jay Bonin** (both of USA) are sharing the lead with 1½ points.

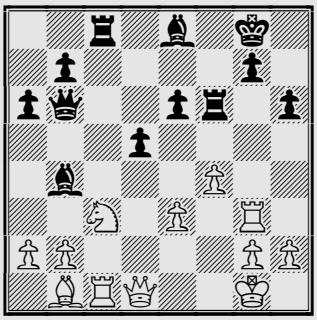
Results of the 2nd Round:
Bonin – Sarkar **½:½**
Charbonneau – Novikov **0:1**
Shahade – Yudasin **1:0**
Stripunsky – Ippolito **½:½**
Krush – Simutowe **1:0**

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-3. Novikov, Shahade, Bonin – 1½ pts,
4-7. Stripunsky, Charbonneau, Sarkar, Krush – 1
8-10. Yudasin, Simutowe, Ippolito – ½

♘♘♘

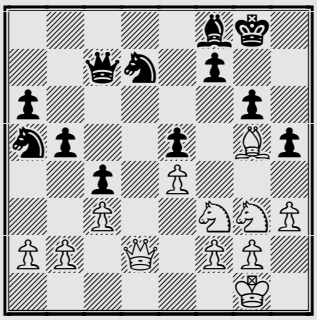
Tactical Quiz

(1) Van Wely (2670) − Anastasian (2574)
2nd IECC Ohrid MKD (5), 05.06.2001



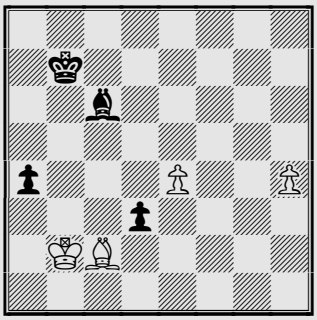
White to play

(2) De Vreugt (2460) − Fedorov (2590)
2nd IECC Ohrid (5), 05.06.2001



White to play

(3) Neverov (2562) − Georgiev (2676)
2nd IECC Ohrid MKD (5), 05.06.2001



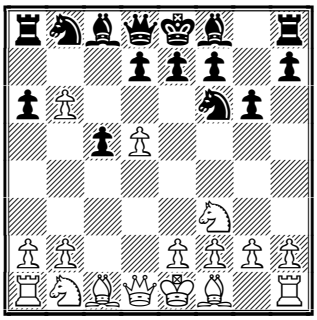
Black to play

♘♘♘

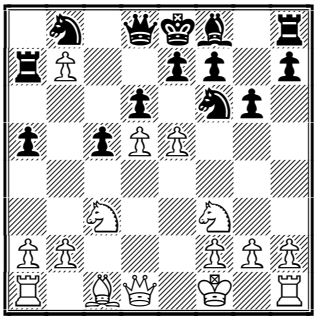
Annotated Game

Notes by Ruslan Scherbakov

Milov (2605) − De Vreugt (2460)
2nd IECC Ohrid (6), 06.06.2001 A57
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5
The Volga Gambit is rather popular nowadays − Black sacrifices a pawn to open the "a" and "b" files for his rooks in order to create strong pressure over White's queenside.
4.♘f3 g6 5.cxb5 a6 6.b6!?



White rejects the gambit − he would be satisfied with a small advantage in a clearer situation.
6...a5
An interesting approach − Black is not in a hurry to capture the b6 pawn and tries to gain some benefit before doing so. Both 6...♕xb6 and 6...d6 are the alternatives.
7.♘c3 ♗a6
The point of Black's previous move.
8.b7!?
Here White has tried a lot of continuations, the text move is one of the most promising of them.
8...♖a7
8...♗xb7 9.e4 gives White a clear advantage.
9.e4 ♗xf1 10.♔xf1 d6 11.e5!

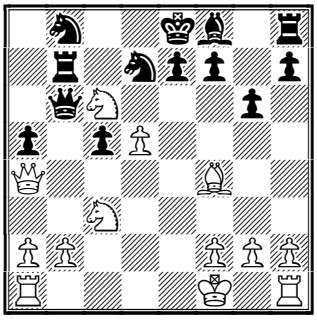


A concrete and strong decision. Despite his king not being castled, White begins direct actions in the centre, exploiting some concrete features of the position. By the way, it seems to be Black who is actually late in development "thanks" to his sophisticated manoeuvres.

11...dxe5 12.♘xe5 ♖xb7 13.♕a4+ ♘fd7 14.♘c6! ♕b6

After 14...♕c8 15.♗f4 ♘a6 16.♖e1 followed by ♘e7 and d5−d6 Black had to resign very soon, Stefansson − Djurhuus, (zt) 2000. The text move looks like an improvement but, truthfully speaking, Black's position looks too suspicious anyway and it is hard to explain why the young Dutch player repeated this line.

15.♗f4



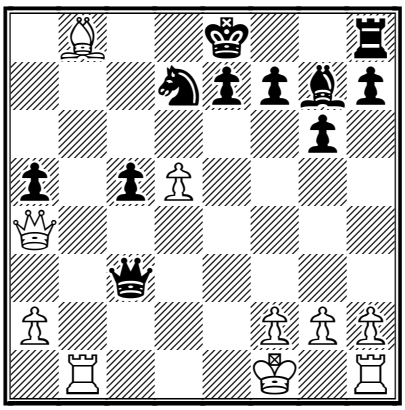
15...♗g7

A sad necessity. 15...♘a6? was much worse due to 16.♘xa5 ♕xb2 (16...♖a7 17.♘b5) 17.♖e1 ♖b4 (17...♖b6 18.♘c4 ♕b4 19.♘xb6) 18.♕c6 f6 19.♘e4 and White is winning.

16.♘xb8 ♖xb8 17.♗xb8 ♕xb2

The only chance.

18.♖b1 ♕xc3



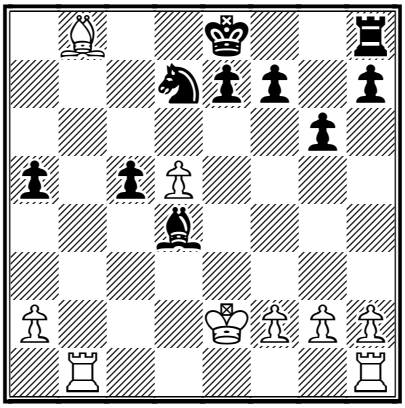
19.♔e2!

A simple way to get the last piece into play.

19...♕d4

19...0-0 was impossible due to 20.♖hc1 (but not 20.♕xd7? ♕c2+ and the situation becomes confused)

20.♕xd4 ♗xd4



21.d6!

Perhaps Black was intending to create some counterplay against the d5 pawn − the text move shattered his hopes.

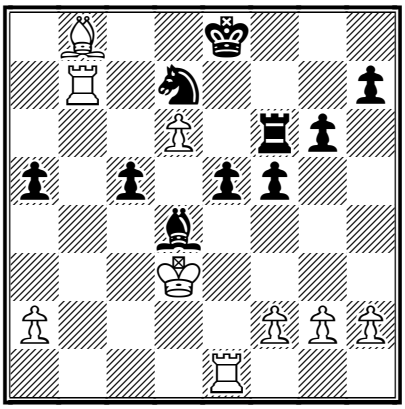
21...f5

Trying to make things more complicated.

22.♖b7 ♖f8 23.♖e1 ♖f6 24.♔d3

The right way for the king!

24...e5



25.♖eb1!

Of course, White might have been played the simple 25.f3 but the text move is more energetic.

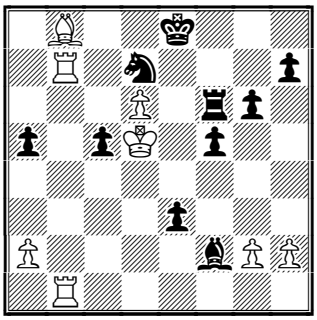
25...e4+?!

25...♗xf2 seemed to be more tenacious, not helping White in his plans.

26.♔c4! ♗xf2 27.♔d5!

The king march decides the game quickly.

27...e3



Or 27...♗d4 28.♖c7 ♔d8 29.♖bb7 ♖f7 30.♗a7 with a quick checkmate.

28.♖xd7!

Winning by force.

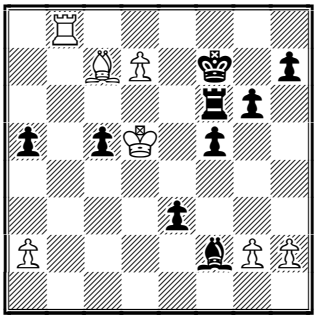
28...♔xd7 29.♖b7+ ♔d8

29...♔e8 could have prolonged the suffering: 30.d7+ ♔e7 31.♗c7! ♔xd7 32.♗e5+ ♔c8 33.♖b8+ ♔d7 34.♗xf6 e2 35.♗c3 e1♕ 36.♗xe1 ♗xe1 37.♖b7+ and so on.

30.♗c7+ ♔e8 31.♖b8+ ♔f7

The pawn could not be stopped: 31...♔d7 32.♖d8 checkmate − White should thank his king for this.

32.d7



Black resigned. **1-0**

Answers to Quiz

(1) 1.♘xd5! Black resigned. **1-0**

(2) Here the excellent and totally unexpected **1.♗d8!**

allowed White to win a pawn:

1...♕xd8 2.♘xe5 ♘b7 3.♕xd7 ♕xd7 4.♘xd7 ♗h6 5.♘e2

and White successfully converted it into a full point.

1-0

(3) After **1...a3+!**

White resigned. A capture of the bishop 1...dxc2?? 2.♔xc2= led only to draw as the light−squared bishop does not help Black to promote the a−pawn.

0-1

Recommended Web sites:

www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chathurangam.com/
www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-213, 8th June 2001

Loek Van Wely Joins Leaders at Ohrid

Loek Van Wely (Netherlands) won with White vs. Viorel Iordachescu (Moldova) at the 7th Round of the ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia and caught up to the four leaders. All other top boards were drawn (some of them were quite short). Today Loek is our hero of our annotated game section.

Van Wely

Top boards of the 7th Round:
(5) Lputian ½:½ Aseev (5)
(5) Timoshenko ½:½ Milov (5)
(4½) Macieja ½:½Ponomariov (4½)
(4½) Van Wely **1:0** Iordachescu (4½)
(4½) Motylev ½:½ Graf (4½)
(4½) Vaganian ½:½ Avrukh (4½)
(4½) Sakaev ½:½ Galego (4½)

Standing after the 7th Round:
1-5. Lputian, Aseev, Timoshenko, Milov, Van Wely – 5½ points
6-17. Macieja, Ponomarev, Motylev, Graf, Vaganian, Avrukh, Sakaev, Galego, Asrian, Movsesian, Nisipeanu, Aleksandrov – 5 etc.

Pairings of the 8th Round:
Aseev - Van Wely
Milov - Lputian
Timoshenko - Movsesian
Ponomariov - Motylev
Graf - Macieja
Galego - Vaganian
Avrukh - Sakaev
Aleksandrov - Nisipeanu
J. Polgar (4½) - Asrian

Igor Novikov took sole lead after the 3rd Round of the IX cat. Round-robin ***SmartChess.com International tournament.***

Results of the 3rd Round:
Novikov - Krush **1:0**
Sarkar - Stripunsky **1:0**
Yudasin - Bonin **1:0**
Simutowe - Shahade ½:½
Ippolito - Charbonneau ½:½

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1. Novikov – 2 ½ points
2-3. Shahade, Sarkar – 2
4-6. Bonin, Yudasin, Charbonneau – 1½
7-10. Stripunsky, Simutowe, Ippolito, Krush – 1

Herman van Riemsdijk reports from Brasilia:
Zonal 2.4 will start today at the Sao Paulo Chess Club. Ten players (Milos, Leitao, Vescovi, Lima, Matsuura, Pelikian, Oblitas, Soto, Haro and Coelho) will fight for places in the next World Championship. Games will start at 3:30 pm (Brasília) and can be followed on line at the official page: http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm

KRAMNIK TO PLAY **KASPAROV** AGAIN! On the 19th of June they will play a blitz match.

Vladimir Kramnik will open The Champion Club on the 12th of June 2001 at www.kasparovchess.com He will be lecturing on some of his recent games and taking questions from KC members.

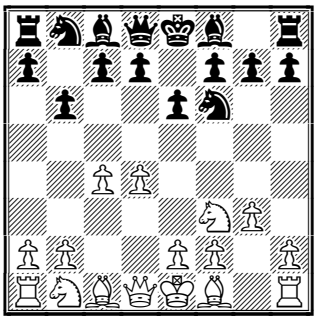
* Please note that on Saturday the 9th of June there will be another edition of ***Coach's Corner,*** so you are welcome to send your questions to GM Alex Baburin at: ababurin@iol.ie ---RPM.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

L. Van Wely − V. Iordachescu
Ohrid (7), 07.06.2001 E15
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 (D)



The Rubinstein variation is one of the most solid continuation in such a solid opening as the Nimzo Indian. According to the statistics White very rarely loses in this system.

4...♗a6 5.b3 ♗b7 6.♗g2 ♗b4+

The idea of this check is to entice White to block the check with the Bishop on d2, thereby depriving this Bishop the best square b2, on the long diagonal. Of course White can play Bd2−c3 later, but the c3−square is the best place for Knight b1.

7.♗d2 a5!?

The most popular move in this position nowadays − for example it is quite often essayed by GM Michael Adams. About 15 years ago Black almost automatically played 7...♗e7 for example, 8.0-0 c6 9.♘c3 d5 and so on. The idea of 7...a5 (or 7...c5) originated from the Bogoljubov defence (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4 etc.).

8.0-0 0-0 9.♕c2 d6 10.♗g5!?

The main alternative is 10.♘c3 ♘bd7 11.♘e1 ♕c8 12.♖c1 ♖e8 13.♘b5 ♗xg2 14.♘xg2 ♕b8 15.a3 ♗xd2 16.♕xd2 c6 17.♘c3 d5 18.♖fd1 b5 19.cxb5 cxb5 20.♕d3 b4 21.♘b5 ♖c8 22.a4 draw, Korchnoi − Adams, Wijk aan Zee 2000.

10...a4

This is more or less forced because White threatened to catch the Bishop on b4 after 11.a3.

11.♘c3

11.a3?! axb3 12.♕xb3 ♗a5

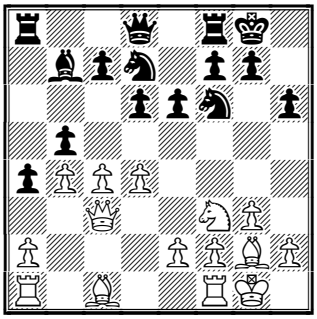
11...♗xc3

The Logical way − the Bishop doesn't have a great a future on b4 anyway. But if Black is very fond of his Bishop, he can save it for awhile. For example: 11...axb3!? 12.axb3 ♘bd7 13.♘d2 ♗xg2 14.♔xg2 ♕b8 15.e4 ♕b7 16.d5 exd5 17.exd5 h6 18.♗f4 ♘c5 19.♘f3 ♗xc3 20.♕xc3 b5 21.♘d4 bxc4 22.bxc4 ♘ce4± Flumbort − Nagy, Hungary 1998.

12.♕xc3 ♘bd7 13.b4 h6 14.♗c1

As we said earlier, b2 is the best place for Bishop.

14...b5!? (D)

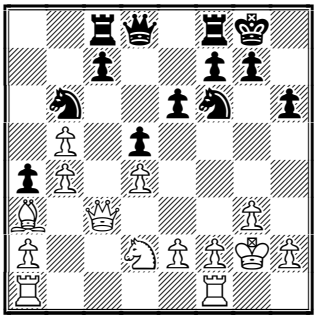


This interesting pawn sac was first tried by Adams. Black wants to exchange the white−square Bishops and blockade his opponent's pawns on the squares of the same color as his Bishop on c1. But it's not all that simple.

15.cxb5 ♘b6 16.♗a3

This move made to parry Nf6−d5.

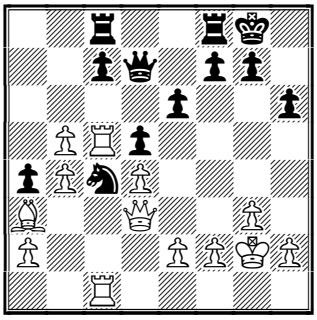
16...♖c8 17.♘d2 ♗xg2 18.♔xg2 d5!? (D)



To be honest this is the first original

move made by Black, because three years ago the following game was played: 18...♘fd5 19.♕d3 f5 20.♖ac1 ♕d7 21.e3 ♖b8 22.f3 f4 23.gxf4 ♖xf4 24.e4 ♘f6 25.♔h1 ♖f8 26.♖g1↑ Anand − Adams, Madrid 1998. Moldavian GM Viorel Iordachescu tries to occupy squares c4 and maybe e4 with his Knights.

19.♕d3 ♘e8 20.♖ac1 ♘d6 21.♖c5 ♕d7 22.♖fc1 ♘bc4 23.♘xc4 ♘xc4 (D)



24.♖1xc4!

I suspect this wasn't a very difficult decision for White because he receives two pawns and strong centralised pieces for the exchange.

24...dxc4 25.♕xc4 ♖fd8 26.♗b2 ♖b8 27.e4!

Maybe Black hoped to receive counterplay after 27.♖xc7 ♕xb5 28.♕xb5 ♖xb5 29.a3 e5!?

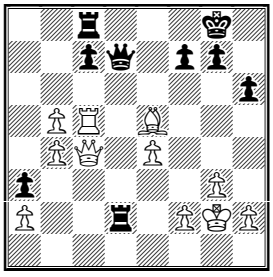
27...a3 28.♗c3 ♖b6 29.d5

As we wrote earlier Loek Van Wely likes such play (and I would like to know who doesn't like such play!): forward, forward and only forward!

29...exd5 30.♖xd5 ♖d6 31.♖c5 ♖c8

After 31...♕e6 32.♖xc7 ♕xc4 33.♖xc4 ♖b6 34.♖c7!? ♖xb5 35.♖a7 White also has an advantage.

32.♗e5 ♖d2? (D)



The Decisive mistake, Black had to hold the Rook on the 6th rank: 32...♖e6; 32...♖b6

33.b6!

And Black resigned. A very convincing victory by Van Wely! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.iecc2001.com.mk
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
http://www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
www.kasparovchess.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown, Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-214, 9th June 2001

Five lead at Ohrid

Friday was a rest day at the 2nd European Men's Championship in Ohrid, Macedonia. As you remember GMs Lputian, Aseev, Timoshenko, Milov and Van Wely are leading with 5½ points out of seven. Today will be the 8th Round.

Another very attractive event started today in Leon, Spain. Alexei Shirov (Spain), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), Vishy Anand (India) and Peter Leko (Hungary) are fighting in so called "Advanced chess". This was Garry Kasparov's idea – players receive the help of a computer with a playing programme and database. Time control: 20 min per player plus 10 or 15 seconds increment for a move. Knockout system. On the first day Shirov beat Topalov 2½ : 1½, though Vecelin won the first game. Today Anand will play Leko.

Ukrainian GM Igor Novikov strengthened his leading position after winning with White vs. Ippolito in the 4th Round of the IX cat. Round-robin SmartChess.com International tournament.

Results of the 4th Round:
Novikov - Ippolito 1:0
Bonin - Simutowe 1:0
Charbonneau – Sarkar ½:½
Krush - Shahade - 1:0
Stripunsky - Yudasin ½:½-

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Novikov – 3½ points
2-3. Bonin, Sarkar – 2½
4-7. Shahade, Yudasin, Charbonneau, Krush – 2
8. Stripunsky – 1½
9-10. Simutowe, Ippolito – 1

Today Igor Novikov is the hero of our annotated game section.
Herman van Riemsdijk reports from Brasilia:

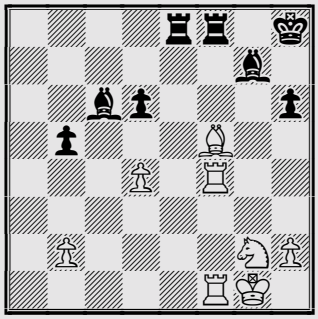
Dear Chessfriends, The Zone 2.4 qualifying tournament has started today in the Sao Paulo Chess Club.

Results of Round 1:
Lima ½:½ Matsuura
Pelikian 1:0 Coelho
Soto 0:1 Leitao
Vescovi 1:0 Milos
Oblitas 1:0 Haro

Pairing of the 2nd Round:
Matsuura – Haro
Milos – Oblitas
Leitão – Vescovi
Coelho – Soto
Lima – Pelikian

Charbonneau – Novikov

Novikov to Play
From our annotated game



36 ... ???
A small final combination.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

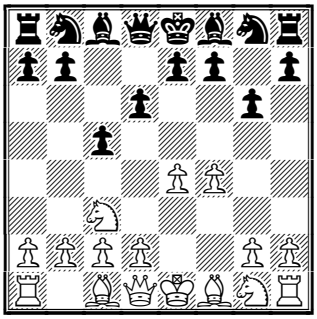
P Charbonneau (2407) − I Novikov (2596)

Smartchess.com Int New York USA (2), 05.06.2001 B23

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3

One of the main strengths of Ukrainian GM Igor Novikov is opening knowledge. As Black he likes to play The Najdorf Sicilian but his opponent didn't give him such an opportunity.

2...d6 3.f4 g6



A rather sharp system where Black has to know the variations very exactly to avoid being checkmated somewhere on move 22.

4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗c4 ♘c6 6.0-0 e6 7.d3 ♘ge7 8.♕e1 h6!? 9.♗b3

Novikov has played this line for years, for example: 9.♗d2 0-0 10.♗b3 d5 11.♖d1 f5 12.exd5 exd5 13.♔h1 ♔h8 14.♕g3 ♗e6 15.♘e2 ♕d7 16.♖de1 ♗g8 17.c3 d4 18.c4 a6 Berzinsh − Novikov, Ch Europe 1992.

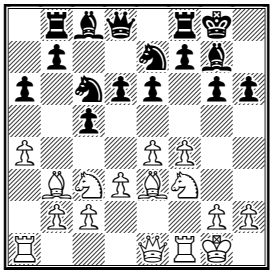
9...a6 10.a4

The main alternative is 10.e5!? , i.e. 10...♘f5 11.♔h1 d5 12.♘e2 h5 13.c3 b6 14.♘g3 ♘ce7 15.♘xf5 ♘xf5 16.d4 a5 17.♗a4+ ♗d7 18.♗c2 ♗b5 19.♖f2 ♗f8 20.♗e3 ♖c8 21.♖d1 ♗e7 22.♖fd2 cxd4 23.♘xd4 ♘xd4 draw, Khalifman − Van Wely, Ch European Club 1999.

10...♖b8 11.♗e3!?

This move gave a very nice victory to Emil Sutovsky in his game last year against Gelfand. Other lines are: 11.♕g3 b5 12.axb5 axb5 13.f5 exf5 14.♗f4 c4 15.dxc4 bxc4 16.♗xc4 ♖xb2 17.♗xd6 ♗xc3 18.♗c7 ♕d7 19.♖ad1 ♘d4 with very complicated play, Belotti − Novikov, Aosta 1998.; 11.♘d1 b5 12.axb5 axb5 13.♘f2 0-0 14.c3 b4 15.♗d1 ♗d7 16.e5 bxc3 17.bxc3 ♘d5 18.♗d2 ♕c7 19.c4?! ♘xf4! 20.♗xf4 dxe5 21.♗g3 f5 22.h3 f4 23.♗h4 e4 24.♕xe4 ♗xa1 25.♕xg6+ ♗g7∓ J. Polgar − Gelfand, 2000.

11...0-0!?



It's a novelty compared to this recently played game 11...b6 12.♕h4 ♘a5 13.♗a2 ♘ec6 14.♕g3 ♘b4 15.f5 ♘xa2 16.♘xa2 exf5 17.exf5 ♗xf5 18.♘h4 ♗e5 19.♗f4 ♗xf4 20.♕xf4 ♗e6 21.♘xg6! fxg6 22.♖ae1 ♕e7 23.♘c3 ♔d7 24.♘d5 ♗xd5 25.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 26.b4 Sutovsky − Gelfand, Israel 2000.

12.f5!?

This is one of the most principled continuations. Another one is 12.e5!? Maybe Black was prepared to play 12...♘f5 for example, 13.♗f2 ♘fd4!? 14.♗h4!?

12...gxf5

After 12...exf5?! The b3 Bishop becomes extremely strong, and also the c3 Knight receives a central square − d5.

13.♘h4

White has sacrificed a pawn in exchange for weakening Black's King position. As usual Black has to find counterplay in the centre and on the Queen side.

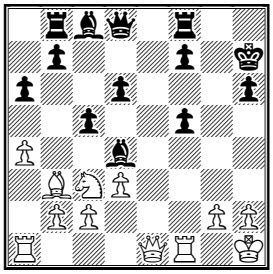
13...♘d4! 14.♗xd4

Or White has to loose a tempo after 14.♗a2

14...♗xd4+ 15.♔h1 ♔h7

Too bold was 15...fxe4?! 16.♘xe4 with threats for squares d6 and f6.

16.exf5 ♘xf5 17.♘xf5 exf5



Of course, the f pawns are not that strong but one of them is an extra! Another important point − the very strong position of the d4 Bishop and open "g" file.

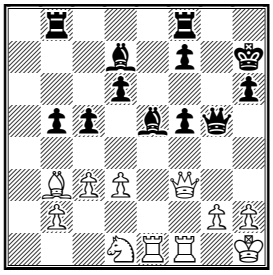
18.♕e2

The computer also recommends this, but maybe White can try something more "exotic", for example, 18.♘d1!? with idea c2−c3 and Nd1-e3−f5.

18...♗d7 19.♖ae1 ♕g5 20.♕f3 b5

Move by move − Black starts his own counterplay.

21.axb5 axb5 22.♘d1 ♗e5 23.c3?



Maybe this is a decisive mistake. White overlooked his opponent's threat. 23.♗d5!?

23...♕h4! 24.g3

24.h3 ♖g8!? is not a piece of cake too, for example: 25.♗xf7 ♖g3 26.♕h5 ♖xh3+ 27.gxh3 ♗c6+ 28.♖e4 ♕xh5 29.♗xh5 fxe4 30.dxe4 ♗xe4+ with a much better endgame.

24...♗xg3!

Not very difficult but a nice combination.

25.♖e2

Bishop is untouchable: 25.♕xg3 ♗c6+ 26.♔g1 ♖g8-+

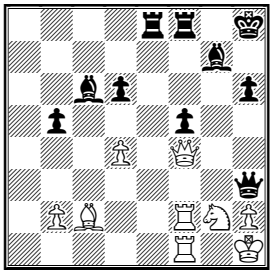
25...♗e5 26.♘e3 f4 27.d4

A last try ...

27...♗g7 28.♗c2+ ♔h8 29.♘g2 ♕h3 30.♕e4

An endgame also is very bad: 30.♕xh3 ♗xh3 31.♖xf4 ♖fe8

30...f5 31.♕xf4 ♖be8 32.♖ef2 cxd4 33.cxd4 ♗c6



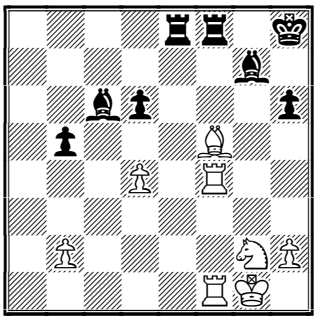
34.♗xf5?!

It isn't in White's favour to open files, but what else to do? Black has a very simple plan for improving his position: Be4, Bxd4 or Bf6, Rg8 etc.

34...♕e3!

Yes, Black insists on an endgame! White has to exchange Queens.

35.♔g1 ♕xf4 36.♖xf4



36...♖xf5!

A small final combination.

37.♖xf5 ♗xd4+ 38.♔h1 ♖e2

And White resigned because it's impossible to defend the g2 Knight. An interesting game. It is also important for opening theory.

0-1

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.iecc2001.com.mk
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
http://www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
http://www.diariodeleon.com

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-215, 10th June 2001

Congratulations Ruslan & Tatiana!

In today's editorial note I would like to start by congratulating our regular author **Ruslan Scherbakov** on the birth of his second child! All members of Chess Today wish Ruslan, his wife Tatiana and his baby-boy all the best - great health, joy and happiness! We are fortunate to have Ruslan as our author - he is not only a very strong Grandmaster, but is also a very diligent writer. Apart from his regular work for CT, Ruslan also writes for Chess Publishing.

In our **May Lottery** the winner was Lau Yung, who will receive a book *'Kings, Commoners and Knaves'*, written by Edward Winter. Congratulations to the winner! In June the prize will be a copy of new John Nunn book called *'Understanding Chess Move by Move'*. This book will be soon available at the GM Square Chess Shop (look at www.gmsquare.com), together with many other new titles - keep an eye on our shop!

Problems with e-mail delivery. It seems that after battling with Microsoft, AOL decided to take on Chess Today! :-)
We have noticed that recently most complaints about missing issues come from AOL users. What is weird is that some people (often the same) seem to miss every second issue. I guess there must be something going on between Yahoo (where our mailing list is) and AOL. There is nothing we can do here, as moving a list is pretty difficult.

How to request missing issues. When you missed CT issue(s), please e-mail me at ababurin@iol.ie, letting me know what issues you are missing. I will gladly re-send them to you, no problem!
To avoid over-loading our editors Ralph and Graham with unnecessary mail, please do not hit 'Reply' to CT message (this sends your e-mail to ALL of us) when you want to request a missing issue.

Yearly CT subscription. I believe that CT readership can only go up as more people get online. Thus, I plan to offer two different options when people re-subscribe to CT: you can renew your subscription for 4 months at £14 or for one year at £36. A new campaign will be launched soon to promote CT on the Net and reach a wider audience. Meanwhile **you can help CT** by spreading the word about our paper among your chess friends. Please feel free to forward them CT issues from time to time.

Chess Today on CD. In July-August we plan to produce a CD with the first 200 issues of our newspaper. It will contain all the PDF files (with some minor mistakes fixed) and one large database with the annotated games, featured in CT. The CD will be available for existing CT-subscribers at a considerable discount. This way you can get access to all our materials and use them to improve your chess!

News in brief. Today I would like to concentrate on our "Trainer's Corner", so I will briefly cover most of the important news here - more will follow tomorrow!

In Macedonia the **European Championship** resumed after the rest day. In round 8 on the top table **Loek van Wely** (Netherlands) defeated

Konstantin Aseev (Russia) with Black and seized the leadership. King Loek (as he is known) has 6½ points. GMs Milov, Lputian and Timoshenko are on 6 points. Judith Polgar beat Karen Asrian with White and moved closer to the leaders - she is on 5½ points now. Other Elo-favourites suffered defeats in this round: Krasenkov lost to Anastasian, Nevednichy beat Z. Almasi and Rublevsky lost to Volkov. Young GM A. Moiseenko beat Kiril Georgiev with Black, while Korchnoi also with White lost to San Segundo.

Two days ago I read in 'Financial Times' that Macedonia was about to declare war, after the killing of 5 Macedonian soldiers by rebels. I just hope that no chess players will be harmed... They could easily become targets for a terrorist attack and this is one reason why I am not playing in Ohrid. FIDE and European Chess Unions knew well in advance that Macedonia was not a safe place, but as usually did nothing to find a different venue. And as there are not many good tournaments around, many players are prepared to take a risk. I don't blame them - these sadly are the realities of our profession, where too many players chase too little money... :-(It is hard to imagine a big tennis or golf tournament being played in Macedonia at the moment!

In **Leon, Spain** Vishy Anand beat Peter Leko in Advanced Chess after blitz play-off and will now meet Alexey Shirov in the final. This will be a mini-replica of their match in Tehran last year.

♘♘♘

Trainer's Corner

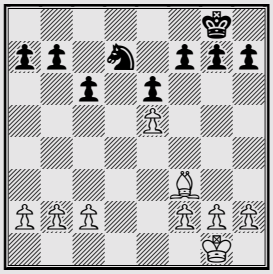
I have received the first questions for this column from CT readers and would like to answer them now. A reader from Sweden, **Peter Backe**, sent the following message: "You want some proposals for improvement for CT. One thing is as you say writing more questions and answers about openings or middle− and endgame. That would be great! Maybe another idea would be a Question−corner, something as I have seen on the KC−site, where readers can put questions about openings, positions or anything really − maybe even historical questions about old GMs or so? ".

I agree with Peter and invite all our readers to send in your questions. I am keen to avoid spending too much time on opening theory, but will answer the most interesting questions regarding that aspect of chess too. Peter also sent a curious game, which I will analyse next week.

Another Chess Today reader from Texas **Doug Schwetke** sent a few questions. Here I would like to deal with the first of them: "I would like to see an article on positional motifs or sacrifices common to the **Alekhine Defence**. The only one I can figure out is Black's use of the minority attack in the **Kengis variation**." The line Doug is talking about is 1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 dxe5 5.♘xe5 g6, where Black often under−mines the d4−pawn by ...c5, thus obtaining pawn majority on the kingside. When White to play c2−c3 in order to limit the g7−bishop, Black often goes for ...b7−b5−b4, which is a typical case of the minority attack.

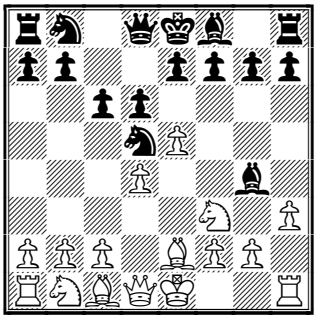
However, I would say that this is not a very common motif in the Alekhine Defence. The main idea of this opening is to provoke White to push his pawns and then attack the enemy centre while it is weak. Usually Black attacks the e5−pawn. You try to exchange its defenders, so you can win that pawn later. Have a look at the following diagram:

Black's dream position

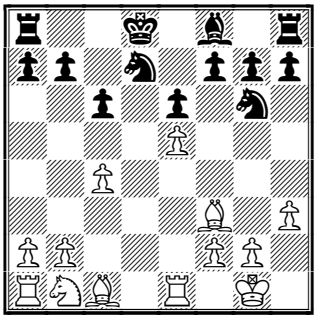


The e5−pawn has no defenders and is destined to fall. Here I would like to show a few games where this idea was realised successfully. I trust that you understand that I picked the games where White played rather poorly, so Black's ideas would come out even better.

Ladron Guevara Bravo − Perez Diaz,
Ch of Malaga, 2001
1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 ♗g4 5.♗e2 c6
Black cannot start with 5...e6 6.0-0 ♗xf3 7.♗xf3 dxe5?, as that allows 8.c4. Thus he plays ...c6, intending to continue with ... ♗xf3 and dxe5. This was Flohr's idea and the line bears his name.
6.h3? (D)

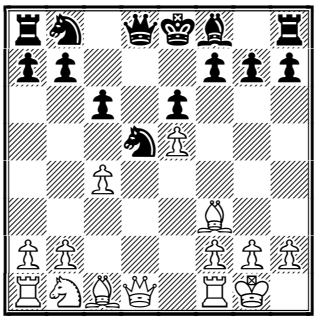


White plays into his opponent's hands, as Black planned to take on f3 anyway. Better is 6.0-0 ♗xf3 7.♗xf3 dxe5 8.dxe5 e6 or 6.♘g5!, keeping the knight.
6...♗xf3 7.♗xf3 dxe5 8.dxe5 e6 9.c4?!
Not a great idea either − the knight will move to g6, where it can attack the e5−pawn.
9...♘e7 10.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 11.0-0 ♘d7 12.♖e1 ♘g6 (D)

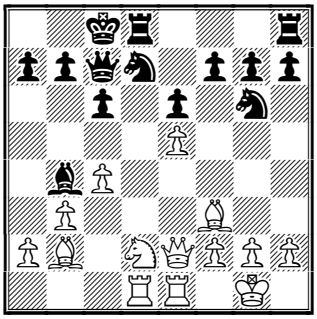


White already cannot save the pawn. The rest of the game is less interesting for our theme.
13.♗h5 ♘dxe5 14.b3 ♔c7 15.♗b2 ♘d3 16.♖e2 ♘xb2 17.♖xb2 ♗e7 18.♘c3 ♗f6 19.♖c2 ♖ad8 20.♖e1 ♗xc3 21.♖xc3 ♖d2 22.a4 ♖hd8 23.♖f3 ♖8d7 24.♗xg6 hxg6 25.♖e4 ♔d6 26.♖h4 ♔e7 27.c5 ♖d1+ 28.♔h2 ♖7d4 29.♖ff4 e5 30.♖xd4 ♖xd4 31.♖xd4 exd4 32.♔g3 ♔e6 33.♔f3 ♔d5 34.♔e2 ♔xc5 35.♔d3 ♔d5 36.f4 f5 37.g4 fxg4 38.hxg4 0-1

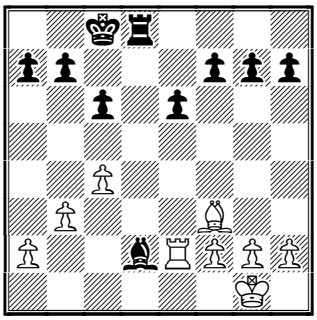
D. Stavsky − S. Dzhambulatov,
Russian Ch, boys under 14, Smolensk 2001
1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 ♗g4 5.♗e2 c6 6.0-0 ♗xf3 7.♗xf3 dxe5 8.dxe5 e6 9.c4?! (D)



This is a typical 'pushy' move − it looks active, but does it really achieve anything? Not much − apart from moving the knight to a better position (on d5 it only **looked** nice) and weakening the d3− and d4− squares.
9...♘e7! 10.♕e2 ♘g6
Black is not allowing ♗f4.
11.b3 ♘d7 12.♗b2 ♕c7 13.♖e1 ♗b4! 14.♘d2 0-0-0! 15.♖ad1 (D)



Pay attention how Black built his play around the e5−pawn. White has been trying to protect it, but this task is already beyond his reach:
15...♘dxe5! 16.♗xe5 ♘xe5 17.♕xe5 ♕xe5 18.♖xe5 ♖xd2 19.♖xd2 ♗xd2 20.♖e2 ♖d8 (D)



The weak link is gone! The rest is technical work − without the rooks it would be a draw due to the opposite squared bishops, but with rooks on Black has great winning chances.

21.♗e4 ♔c7 22.g3 g6 23.♔g2 ♔b6 24.♗c2 ♔c5 25.a3 ♗c1 26.a4 ♔b4 27.♔f1 ♔c3 28.♔e1 ♖d6 29.♗d1 ♗d2+ 30.♔f1 a5 31.h3 ♔b2 32.♖e4 ♗b4 33.♗e2 ♔xb3 34.♖e3+ ♔xa4 35.♗d3 ♗c3 36.♗e4 ♔b4 37.c5 ♖d1+ 0-1

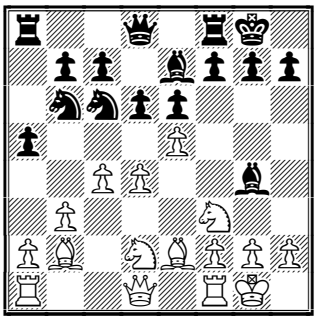
This positional theme reminds me of a curious game, which I played long time ago. My opponent was very dangerous in sharp play, but had some strange ideas about positional chess.

V. Nevostrujev − A. Baburin, Andropov 1986

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 ♗g4 5.♗e2 e6 6.0-0 ♘c6 7.c4 ♘b6 8.b3

This is not a good idea − the bishop would be better off on e3.

8...♗e7 9.♗b2 0-0 10.♘bd2 a5! (D)



Black is trying to get some play on the queenside by threatening ...a5−a4. Then ...a3 could be unpleasant. White prevents this, but at some cost:

11.a3 dxe5! 12.dxe5

Here the e5−pawn is not weak yet, but it makes the b2−bishop look rather silly. Black is starting to move around this pawn:

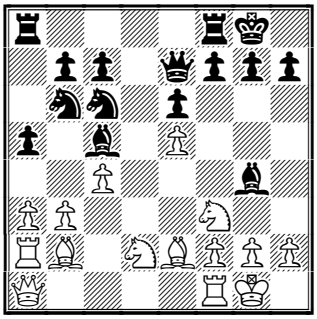
12...♗c5!

Black wants to develop his rook, so the bishop vacates the e7−square for the queen and then the queen will leave the d8−square for one of the rooks.

13.♖a2?!

Better was 13.♘e4 ♕e7.

13...♕e7 14.♕a1 (D)

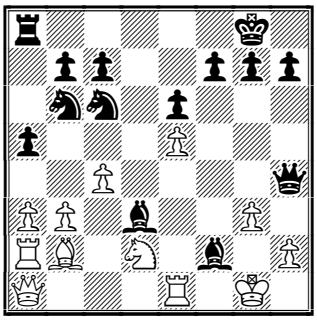


Weird move... I guess my opponent developed Reti's ideas to the extreme!:−)

14...♖fd8 15.♔h1?

This is just a blunder. When after the game I asked my opponent what was the idea behind this move, he replied that he planned ♖f1-g1 and then after ...♗xf3, gxf3. Then he said, Black would play ...f6 and after e5xf6 all White's pieces (♖g1, ♕a1 and ♗b2) would attack the g7−square with devastating effect. I thought that he was just pulling my leg, but actually the guy was serious about this great plan! Good for me that I never planned ...f6! :−)

15...♖xd2 16.♘xd2 ♗xe2 17.♖e1 ♗d3 18.♔g1 ♕h4 19.g3 ♗xf2+ (D)



When I look at my early games, I wonder why I don't play like this anymore?! Sad, really... **20.♔xf2 ♕xh2+ 21.♔e3 ♕xg3+ 22.♘f3 ♗xc4 23.bxc4 ♘xc4+ 24.♔e2 ♕g2+ 25.♔d1 ♕xf3+ 26.♔c1 ♕f4+ 27.♔b1 ♘d2+ 28.♔c2 ♖d8 29.♗c3 ♕a4+ 30.♔b2 ♕b5+ 31.♔c2 ♕d3+ 32.♔b2 ♘d4 33.♗xd4 ♕xd4+ 34.♔c2 ♕d3+ 35.♔b2 ♖d5**

36.a4 ♖d4 0-1

If White ever takes on d6 (e5xd6), then the d4−pawn should be you prime target. We might consider that theme later on.

Meanwhile please let me know what you think of Trainer's Corner and **send in your questions!** ababurin@iol.ie,

I would also like to add that I give lessons over the phone. The rate at this moment is $50 per hour. If you would like improve your chess, taking a few lessons might be a good idea. I can help you to assess your play and suggest a possible course of work. Please e−mail me if interested. I have a few students in USA, who take such lessons.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback! **Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today.** Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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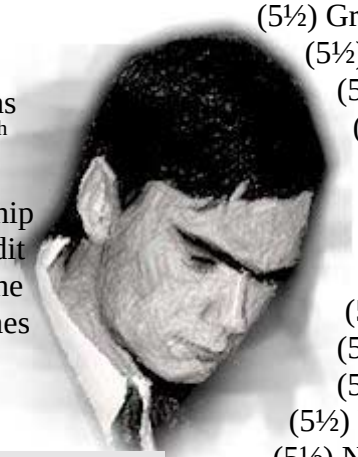
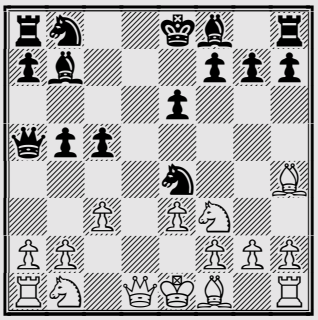
Van Wely leads Ohrid



Loek Van Wely retains clear first after the 9th Round of the 2nd European Men's Championship in Ohrid, Macedonia. But Judit Polgar deserves a mention; she has she won her last two games and now shares 2nd place.

Konstantin Sakaev beat the new Bulgarian champion in a curious game –
Sakaev – Delchev
Ohrid (9), 10.06.2001
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.♗g5 ♕a5+ 5.c3 ♘e4 6.♗h4 ♗b7 7.e3 e6 8.dxe6 dxe6



9. ???
White to play

More details about the last two days in Ohrid:

Results of the top of the 8th Round:
Aseev - Van Wely **0:1**
Milov – Lputian ½:½
Timoshenko – Movsesian ½:½
Ponomariov – Motylev ½:½
Graf – Macieja ½:½
Galego – Vaganian ½:½
Avrukh – Sakaev ½:½
Aleksandrov – Nisipeanu ½:½
J. Polgar – Asrian **1:0**
Results of the top of the 9th Round:
(6½) Van Wely ½:½ Timoshenko (6)
(6) Lputian ½:½ Ponomariov (5½)
(5½) Graf ½:½ Milov (6)
(5½) Motylev **0:1** J. Polgar (5½)
(5½) Movsesian **1:0** Avrukh (5½)
(5½) Vaganian **1:0** Iordachescu (5½)
(5½) Sakaev **1:0** Delchev (5½)
(5½) Nisipeanu ½:½ Lastin (5½)
(5½) Aseev **1:0** Aleksandrov (5½)
(5½) Macieja ½:½ Anastasian (5½)
(5½) Vallejo Pons **0:1** Sutovsky (5½)
(5½) Nevednichy **0:1** Tiviakov (5½)
(5½) Galego ½:½ Gurevich (5)

Standing after the 9th Round:
1. Van Wely – 7 points
2-11. Timoshenko, Lputian, Milov, J. Polgar, Movsesian, Vaganian, Sakaev, Aseev, Sutovsky, Tiviakov – 6½ etc.

Pairings of the 10th Round:
(6½) Vaganian - Van Wely (7)
(6½) Milov – J. Polgar (6½)
(6½) Sutovsky – Movsesian (6½)
(6½) Timoshenko – Sakaev (6½)
(6½) Tiviakov – Lputian (6½)
(6) Bologan – Aseev (6½)
(6) Ponomariov – Greenfeld (6)
(6) Anastasian – Nikolic (6)
(6) Luther – Graf (6)
(6) Volkov - Dautov (6)
(6) Lastin – Kacheishvili (6)
(6) Volokitin – Macieja (6)
(6) Nisipeanu – Galego (6)

Six months after Tehran-2000 (the final of the FIDE World Championship 2000) World Champion Vishy Anand will play a match vs. Vice-champion Alexei Shirov again! Now we are talking about the "Advanced Chess" event in Leon, Spain. As we reported yesterday, in the second semi-final match Anand beat Peter Leko on tiebreak. Quite unexpectedly Vishy lost the first game with White in a Petroff Defence, but took

revenge in the second with Black in a Najdorf Sicilian, and after that there were two draws in the Petroff. As you remember in the first semi-final Shirov beat Topalov.

Ukrainian GM **Igor Novikov** increased his lead further in the IX cat. Round-robin SmartChess.com International tournament. Now he is 1½ points ahead of the 2 second placed players.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Novikov – 4½ points
2-3. Shahade, Yudasin – 3
4-6. Stripunsky, Bonin, Sarkar - 2½
7-9. Charbonneau, Ippolito, Krush – 2
10. Simutowe – 1

Four Brazilians are leading after the 3rd Round of the Zone 2.4 qualifying tournament in Sao Paulo, Brasilia. GMs **Darcy Lima, Giovanni Vescovi, Rafael Leitao** and IM **Everaldo Matsuura** have 2½ points.

The traditional "White Nights" tournament started in St-Petersburg, Russia. There are 19 GM and 29 IM among 114 participants in total. After the 2nd Round 9 players have a perfect score.

Pairing of the 3rd Round (top boards):
Korotylev – Smikovski
Sivokho – Popov
Beshukov – Shaposhnikov
Malaniuk – Vulfson
Yagupov – Fominyh

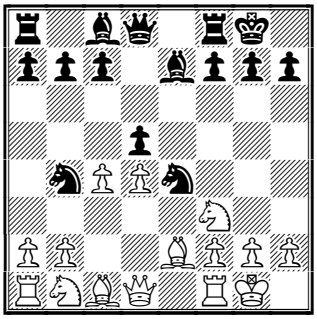
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
Bologan, V. − Huzman, A.
Ohrid (9), 10.06.2001 C42
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6

In Astana, Israeli GM Boris Gelfand surprised his opponents with his opening repertoire for Black vs. 1.e4. Boris has almost always played 1...c5, however for Astana he prepared 1...e6 and 1...e5 (Petroff Defence). In the capital of Kazakhstan he was with his permanent coach, Israeli GM Alexander Huzman who left the event three days before the finish to take part in the European Championships. I believe we can suppose that Gelfand and Huzman prepared the following line together.

3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♗d3 ♗e7 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.c4 ♘b4 9.♗e2 0-0



10.a3

Now the "magisterial road" is 10.♘c3 with a lot of forcing variations. Viorel Bologan made the correct choice − go for a less forcing, more positional way, where he can exploit the lack of experience in such positions of his opponent ..

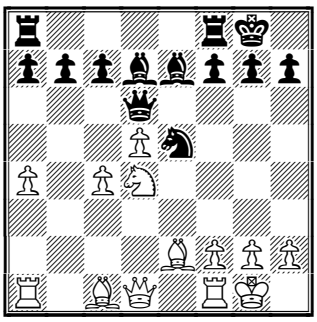
10...♘c6 11.cxd5 ♕xd5 12.♘c3 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♗f5 14.c4

The alternative is 14.♗f4 ♘a5 15.♗xc7 ♖ac8 16.♗xa5 ♕xa5 17.c4 ♗f6 18.♗d3 ♗g4 19.h3 ♗xf3 20.♕xf3 ♖cd8 21.♖ab1 ♗xd4 22.♖xb7 g6 23.♗e4 ♖d6⩲ Zhang Zhong − Karpov, France 2000.

14...♕d6 15.d5

White didn't gain much in the following game: 15.♗e3 ♗f6 16.♖a2 ♖ad8 17.d5 ♘a5 18.♘d4 ♗d7 19.a4 ♖fe8 20.♘b5 ♗xb5 21.axb5 b6 Morozevich − Shirov, Sarajevo 1999.

15...♘e5 16.♘d4 ♗d7 17.a4



17...c5?!

A rather dubious novelty, after which White receives a strongly defended passed pawn on d5. Better was not to fix

the pawn structure on the Queen side, for example: 17...♖fe8 18.♘b5 ♗xb5 19.axb5 ♘d7 20.♖a3 ♗f6 21.♖e3 ♘c5 22.♗d3 ♖xe3 23.♗xe3 g6 24.g3 a5 25.bxa6 ♖xa6 Tishbierek − Jussupow, Germany 1992.

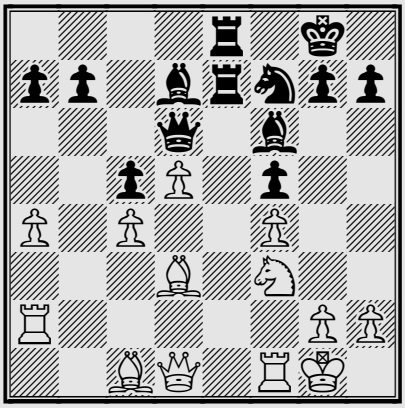
18.♘b3 f5?!

Another suspicious move, after which the Black pieces (especially the d7 Bishop) will be very limited. Better was 18...♗f6!?

19.f4! ♘f7 20.♘d2

The Knight is going to e5. Five opposition pieces will defend this extremely important outpost ... but the Knight will take it in any case!

20...♗f6 21.♖a2 ♖fe8 22.♘f3 ♖e7 23.♗d3 ♖ae8



Here it is: two Rooks, Queen, Knight and Bishop are defending the e5−square! But White has another targets also. As you see Black's Rooks haven't any squares in White camp on the e−file − thanks to the Bishops.

24.♕c2 g6 25.g3 ♔g7 26.a5 ♗c8 27.♗d2

White doesn't hurry: after 27.♗b2 (to exchange Bishop and fight for e5−point) Black receives the e3−square for counterplay.

27...b6 28.♖b1 ♖b7 29.♗c3

A more suitable time: one Rook has left the open file.

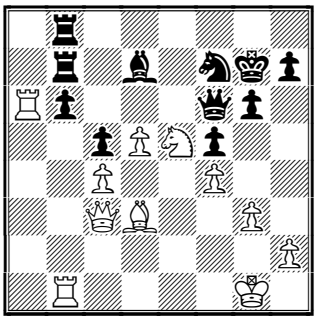
29...♗d7

29...♖e3!?

30.axb6 axb6 31.♖a6

It goes without saying that White has a big advantage now.

31...♖eb8 32.♕b2 ♗xc3 33.♕xc3+ ♕f6 34.♘e5!



The Knight takes it's place!

34...♗e8

34...♘d6 35.♕b2!?

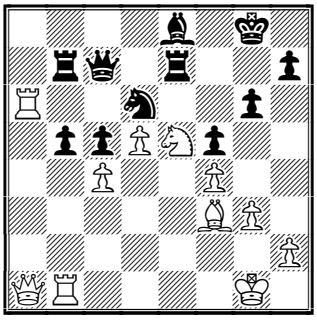
35.♕a1 ♔g8 36.♖e1 ♘d6 37.♗f1

One of White's ideas is a Knight jump to c6, so the Bishop is going to g2 where it will protect the c6−square and also defend the e4−one.

37...♕d8 38.♗g2 ♖e7 39.♖d1

With the same idea Nc6

39...♕c7 40.♗f3 ♖b7 41.♖b1 b5?



I can't understand this move. It's a typical zeitnot move − maybe Black miscalculated and hadn't time to think? Now White wins in a few moves.

42.♖c6!

Rather unexpectedly White begins an attack on the King!

42...♗xc6 43.dxc6 ♖a7 44.♕b2 ♘xc4

Black's task is very difficult, for example: 44...bxc4 45.♗d5+ ♘f7 46.♘xf7 ♖xf7 47.♕f6+−; 44...b4!? 45.♗d5+ ♘f7 (45...♔f8 46.♘xg6+ hxg6 47.♕h8#) 46.♘xf7 ♖xf7 47.♖a1! ♖xa1+ 48.♕xa1 b3 49.♕f6 ♕a7 50.♕e5! ♔f8 51.♕h8+ ♔e7 52.♗xf7+−

45.♗d5+ ♖f7 46.♘xc4 bxc4 47.♕f6

And Black resigned in view of47.♕f6 ♕c8 (47...♔f8 48.♕h8+ ♔e7 49.♖e1+; 47...♕e7 48.♗xf7+ ♕xf7 49.♖b8+) 48.♕e5! ♖ac7 49.♖b7

1-0

Sakaev − Delchev Answer to quiz:−
9.♗xb5+ ♘c6 10.♘e5 [♕c7 11.♕a4+−] **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.iecc2001.com.mk
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
http://www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
http://www.diariodeleon.com
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-217, 12th June 2001

Anand Shines in Spain

Vishy Anand has beaten Alexei Shirov once more, this time – in the final match of the "Advanced Chess" event in Leon, Spain.

After a draw in the first game Anand won the 2nd and 3rd (and the match with them) and lost the 4th. All the games were quite interesting (you can find them in our pgn and cbv files), but a little "inhuman". So in our Annotated game section there is a game from the European Championship.

Emil Sutovsky and **Sergei Tiviakov** won their games in the 10th Round of the 2nd European Men's Championship in Ohrid, Macedonia, and caught up **Loek Van Wely**.

Results of the top of the 10th Round:
(6½) Vaganian **½:½** Van Wely (7)
(6½) Milov **½:½** J. Polgar (6½)
(6½) Sutovsky **1:0** Movsesian (6½)
(6½) Timoshenko **½:½** Sakaev (6½)
(6½) Tiviakov **1:0** Lputian (6½)
(6) Bologan **½:½** Aseev (6½)
(6) Ponomariov **1:0** Greenfeld (6)
(6) Anastasian **1:0** Nikolic (6)
(6) Luther **½:½** Graf (6)
(6) Volkov **1:0** Dautov (6)
(6) Lastin **½:½** Kacheishvili (6)
(6) Volokitin **½:½** Macieja (6)
(6) Nisipeanu **½:½** Galego (6)

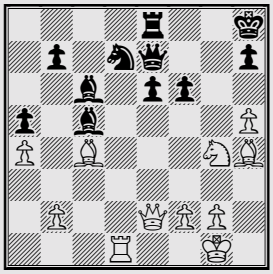
Standing after the 10th Round:
1-3. Sutovsky, Tiviakov, Van Wely – 7½ points
4-13. Vaganian, Milov, J. Polgar, Timoshenko, Sakaev, Bologan, Aseev, Ponomarev, Anastasian, Volkov – 7 etc.

Ukrainian GM **Igor Novikov** is now 1½ points clear of second place after drawing with White against Leonid Yudasin in the 6th Round of the IX cat. Round-robin SmartChess.com International tournament.

Results of the 6th Round:
Novikov – Yudasin **½:½**
Stripunsky – Shahade **½:½**
Charbonneau – Simutove **1:0**
Ippolito – Sarkar **½:½**
Krush – Bonin **0:1**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Novikov – 5 points
2-4. Bonin, Shahade, Yudasin – 3½
5-7. Charbonneau, Stripunsky, Sarkar – 3
8. Ippolito - 2½
9. Krush – 2
10. Simutowe – 1

From our annotated game



White played ... **26. ––– !**
"A simple but nice final blow"

GM **Rafael Leitao** became sole leader after the 4th round of the Zone 2.4 qualifying tournament in Sao Paulo.
1. Leitao – 3 ½ points
2-3. Lima, Vescovi – 3
4-5. Milos, Matsuure – 2½ etc.

GMs **Vladimir Malaniuk** and **Alexey Korotylev** have a perfect score after the 3rd Round of the "White Nights" tournament in St-Petersburg, Russia. 19 participants have 2½ points.
Top Results of the 3rd Round:
Korotylev – Smikovski **1:0**
Sivokho – Popov **½:½**
Beshukov – Shaposhnikov **½:½**
Malaniuk – Vulfson **1:0**
Yagupov – Fominyh **0:1**

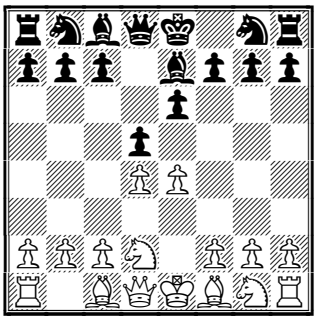
Pairings of the 4th Round:
Malaniuk – Korotylev
Inarkiev – Shariyazdanov
Fominyh – Sivokho
Tseshkovsky - Eliseev
Popov - Kokarev
Meister - Timofeev
Shaposhnikov - Polovodin
Yandarbiev – Yevseev
Kornev – Beshukov
Polaninov – Vorobiov
Yemelin (2) - Sambuev

*Our regular reader **GM Karsten Mueller** reports from Germany:*
The international Hamburg City Championship 2001 has just finished yesterday:
1. J. Hector – 8 points out of 9 (Elo performance 2840)
2. M. Brodsky – 6½
3-4. I. Farago, K. Müller – 6
5-8. Z. Lanka, D. Rogozenko, Dr. Ftacnik, O. Reeh – 5½ etc. (30 participants, 9 GM).

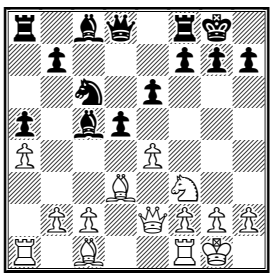
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
Tiviakov − Lputian
Ohrid (10), 11.06.2001 C03
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♗e7!?



The Romanishin variation has become quite popular after Morozevich's successes with it in the last couple of years. Black doesn't hurry to develop the g8 Knight and wants to see his opponent's plans first.
4.♗d3 c5 5.dxc5 ♘f6
Black will take the c5 pawn later − maybe with his Knight (i.e. after e5 Nd7) in order to attack d3−Bishop when he does this.
6.♕e2 ♘c6 7.♘gf3 a5
Morozevich prefers 7...♘b4!? immediately attacking the d3 Bishop, for example: 8.0-0 ♘xd3 9.cxd3 ♗xc5 10.♘b3 ♗e7 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗h4 ♗d7 13.♖ac1 dxe4 14.dxe4 ♕b6 15.♖fd1 ♗a4 16.♕c4 ♗xb3 17.axb3 0-0 18.♗xf6 ♗xf6 19.e5 ♗g5 20.♖d6 ♕a5 Ponomariov − Morozevich, Istanbul (Ol) 2000.
8.0-0 0-0 9.a4
Last year Lputian played against 9.c4 a4 10.♖d1 ♗xc5 11.exd5 exd5 12.cxd5 ♘b4 13.♘e4 ♘xd3 14.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 15.♕xd3 ♗f5 16.♕b5 b6⩲ Asrian − Lputian, Armenia (Ch) 2000.
9...♘d7
The d3 Bishop is very dangerous, either now or on the next move Black had to attack it by Nb4, as occurred in the following game: 9...♘b4! 10.e5 ♘d7 11.♘b3 ♘xd3 12.cxd3 ♘xc5 13.♘xc5 ♗xc5 14.♗e3 d4 15.♗f4 ♕d5 16.♘g5 ♗e7 Xie − Matveeva, New Delhi 2000.
10.♘b3 ♘xc5 11.♘xc5 ♗xc5



(Quiz: What did White play next?)

12.c3!

Now the d3 Bishop is untouchable, so White has good attacking chances on the Kingside.

12...♗d7

Black hasn't time for 12...e5? (with idea Bg4), for example: 13.exd5 ♕xd5 14.♗e4 ♕d7 15.♖d1 ♕e7 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♕xe5±

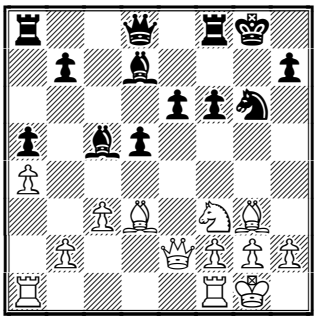
13.♗f4

13.e5?! f6

13...♘e7 14.e5! ♘g6 15.♗g3 f5

The only chance for counterplay, or White will play h2−h4−h5 etc.

16.exf6 gxf6



17.c4

White has to attack, destroy and blockade his opponent's pawn centre as soon as possible.

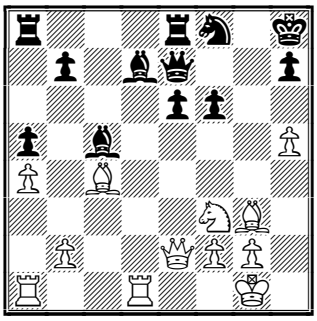
17...dxc4

Too dangerous 17...d4?! 18.♗xg6 (18.♘h4!?) 18...hxg6 19.♕e4

18.♗xc4 ♕e7 19.h4!

The g6 knight is placed too well.

19...♖fe8 20.♖fd1 ♔h8 21.h5 ♘f8



22.♘e5!

White begins a final attack.

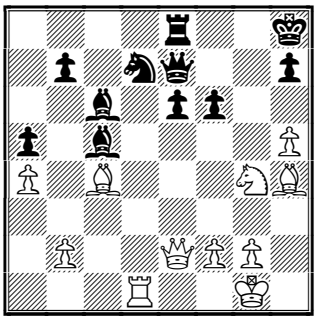
22...♖ad8

Not 22...fxe5 23.♗xe5+ ♔g8 24.♕g4+ ♘g6 25.hxg6+−

23.♗h4 ♗c6

23...♕g7 24.h6!

24.♘g4+− ♖xd1+ 25.♖xd1 ♘d7



26.♖xd7!

A simple but nice final blow.

26...♕xd7 27.♗xf6+ ♔g8 28.♘h6+ ♔f8 29.♕g4 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.iecc2001.com.mk
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
http://www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
http://www.diariodeleon.com
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru

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CT-218, 13th June 2001

Polgar equal first in European Men's …

Five players are sharing the lead after 11th Round of the ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia. **Judit Polgar**, **Ruslan Ponomarev** and **Vadim Milov** outplayed their opponents and joined **Loek Van Wely** and **Emil Sutovsky**.

Polgar - Kasparov

Top results of the 11th Round:
(7½) Van Wely **½:½** Sutovsky (7½)
(7) J. Polgar **1:0** Tiviakov (7½)
(7) Aseev **0:1** Ponomarev (7)
(7) Timoshenko **½:½** Vaganian (7)
(7) Sakaev **½:½** Anastasian (7)
(7) Milov **1:0** Volkov (7)
(6½) Avrukh **½:½** Bologan (6½)
(6½) Kacheishvili **½:½** Azmaiparashvili (6½)
(6½) Movsesian **½:½** Nisipeanu (6½)
(6½) Graf **½:½** Sulskis (6½)
(6½) Psakhis **½:½** Lastin (6½)
(6½) Galego **½:½** Khenkin (6½)
(6½) Macieja **½:½** Luther (6½)
(6½) Lputian **½:½** Volokitin (6½)

Standing after the 11th Round:
1-5. Sutovsky, Van Wely, J. Polgar, Ponomarev, Milov – 8 points
6-11. Vaganian, Timoshenko, Tiviakov, Sakaev, Bologan, Anastasian – 7½ etc.

There are two rounds to play. The players compete for 46 passes to the World Championship, 8 points out of 13 seems to be good enough to complete the task.

The top-seeded GM **Krishnan Sasikiran** remains the sole leader of the ***Indian Championships*** despite a surprising defeat to IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra in Round 15. The defending Champion **Abhijit Kunte** shares second place with **Dibyendu Barua**, a full point behind the leader.

Standings after 15th Round:
1. Sasikiran – 11 points
2-3. Kunte, Barua – 10
4. Konguvel – 9½
5-6. Mishra, Ganguly – 8½
7. Thipsay – 8 etc.

In the Women's event **Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi** is a clear leader with 8½ points after 10 rounds, already two and a half point ahead.

In the 5th Round of the ***Zonal tournament*** in Sao Paulo, Brazil ELO-favourite GM **Gilberto Milos** beat the leader **Rafael Leitao** and caught him at …second place – **Jovanni Veskovi** won his game and took a sole lead.

Results of the 5th Round:
(2½) Milos **1:0** Leitao (3½)
(3) Veskovi **1:0** Pelikian (1½)
(2) Oblitas Lima (3)
(1½) Soto **1:0** Matsuura (2½)
(½) Haro **0:1** Coelho (0)

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Vescovi – 4 points
2-4. Milos, Leitao, Lima – 3½
5-7. Matsuura, Oblitas, Soto – 2½ etc.

Ukrainian GM **Igor Novikov** has just about secured an overall victory in the IX category round-robin ***SmartChess.com International*** tournament, after 7th Round he's already achieved a two point lead!

Results of the 7th Round:
(1) Simutowe **0:1** Novikov (5)
(3½) Yudasin **½:½** Ippolito (3½)
(3½) Shahade **½:½** Charbonneau (3)
(3½) Bonin **0:1** Stripunsky (3)

(3) Sarkar **0:1** Krush (2)

Standings after the 7th Round:

1. Novikov – 6 points
2-4. Yudasin, Shahade, Stripunsky – 4
5-6. Charbonneau, Bonin – 3½
7-9. Sarkar, Ippolito, Krush – 3
10. Simutowe – 1

7 players are leading after the 4th Round of the ***"White Nights"*** open tournament in St.Petersburg, Russia.

Top Results of the 4th Round:

(3) Malaniuk **½:½** Korotylev (3)
(2½) Inarkiev **½:½** Shariyazdanov (2½)
(2½) Fominykh **1:0** Sivokho (2½)
(2½) Tseshkovsky **0:1** Eliseev (2½)
(2½) Popov **1:0** Kokarev (2½)
(2½) Meister **½:½** Timofeev (2½)
(2½) Shaposhnikov **½:½** Polovodin (2½)
(2½) Yandarbiev **½:½** Yevseev (2½)
(2½) Kornev **0:1** Beshukov (2½)
(2½) Vorobiov **1:0** (def.) Polaninov (2½)

Pairings of the 5th Round:

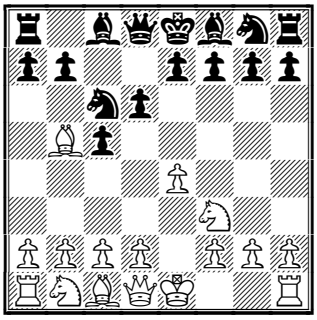
(3½) Eliseev – Fominykh (3½)
(3½) Korotylev – Vorobiov (3½)
(3½) Beshukov – Popov (3½)
(3) Shariyazdanov – Malaniuk (3½)

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

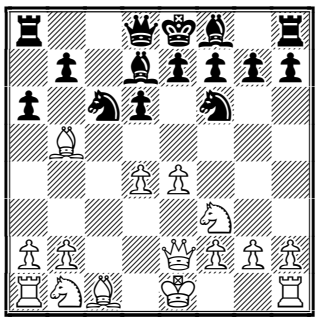
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
Polgar (2679) − Tiviakov (2603)
European Championship Ohrid, Macedonia (11), 12.06.2001 B51

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 d6



Sergey Tiviakov is one of the main experts of this rather flexible way to counter ♗b5 − it can also be played if the bishop comes to b5 with check.

4.c3 ♘f6 5.♕e2 ♗d7 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 a6



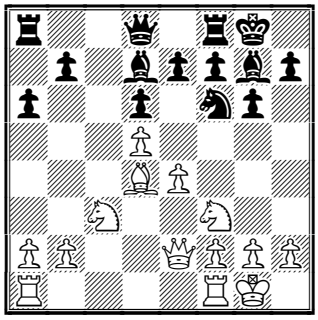
8.♗xc6!?

A new continuation. Just a couple of days ago Black achieved acceptable play after 8.♗a4 e5 9.♗xc6 ♗xc6 10.♘c3 ♕b8 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♗g5 0-0 13.♖fd1 ♖e8 and eventually outplayed the opponent, Nevednichy − Tiviakov, 2nd IECC, Ohrid 2001.

8...♗xc6 9.d5 ♗d7

9...♗b5!? looked interesting, trying to make White's life less comfortable.

10.♘c3 g6 11.0-0 ♗g7 12.♗e3 0-0 13.♗d4



A space advantage gives White better chances, nevertheless Black's position is still fairly solid.

13...♗g4 14.h3 ♗xf3 15.♕xf3 ♖c8 16.♖ac1 b5

An active attempt which, however, weakens the c6 square. An immediate 16...♕d7!? was worthy of considering.

17.♕e3

A solid move. Black might have planned ...♗h6 followed by ...b5−b4.

18...e6

18...♖xc1 19.♖xc1 ♖c8 also came to mind, keeping a passive but defensible position. The text move looks natural − Black forces an exchange of the d5 pawn, preventing a possible penetration to c6 and obtaining more space for manoeuvres.

19.dxe6 ♕xe6?!

19...fxe6!? seemed to be more to the point. As we'll see, the additional control over the d5 square would not be pointless. Black probably overestimated the effect of his threat to the a2 pawn.

20.f3 ♖xc1

20...♕xa2 21.♖a1 followed by ♖a6 was unsatisfactory for Black.

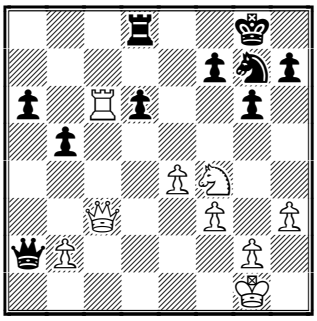
21.♖xc1

I believe Judit did not considered the knight's capture 21.♘xc1 at all.

21...♕xa2 22.♖c6 ♖d8 23.♕c3

Taking control over the long diagonal.

23...♘e8 24.♗xg7 ♘xg7 25.♘f4

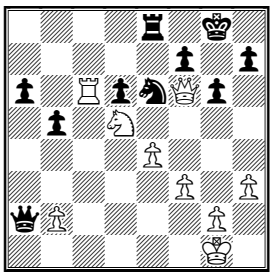


A simple play − the knight is going to d5.

25...♘e6

The position after 25...♘e8 26.♘d5 could be hardly defended.

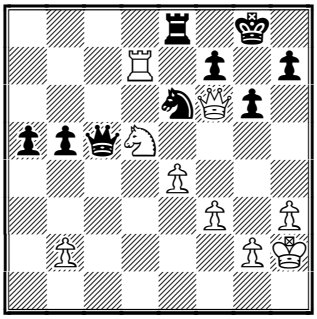
26.♕f6! ♖e8 27.♘d5



27...a5

It was not so easy to find a more useful move − White's pieces are dominating.

28.♖xd6 ♕c4 29.♖d7 ♕c5+ 30.♔h2



Black resigned. A confident win by Judit Polgar, which helped her to join the leaders. Come on, Judit! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:
www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chathurangam.com/
www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
www.totalchess.spb.ru/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CT-219, 14th June 2001

Ponomarev and Sutovsky lead in Ohrid

The ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia comes closer to the end. **Ruslan Ponomarev** (Ukraine) and **Emil Sutovsky** (Israel) became the heroes of the 12th preliminary Round – they beat Vadim Milov and Konstantin Sakaev respectively and are heading the field with excellent 9 points. Judit Polgar and Loek Van Wely drew their game and are sharing third place, half a point behind.

Top results of the 12th Round:
(8) J. Polgar **½:½** Van Wely (8)
(8) Ponomarev **1:0** Milov (8)
(8) Sutovsky **1:0** Sakaev (7½)
(7½) Anastasian **½:½** Vaganian (7½)
(7½) Tiviakov **½:½** Timoshenko (7½)
(7) Nisipeanu **½:½** Bologan (7)
(7) Azmaiparashvili **1:0** Aseev (7)
(7) Psakhis **½:½** Movsesian (7)
(7) Luther **½:½** Pr. Nikolic (7)
(7) Kacheishvili **0:1** Graf (7)
(7) Vallejo **½:½** Beliavsky (7)
(7) Lastin **½:½** Volkov (7)
(7) Sulskis **½:½** Khenkin (7)
(7) Gdanski **½:½** Macieja (7)
(7) Malakhatko **½:½** Lputian (7)
(7) Volokitin **½:½** Avrukh (7)
(6½) Tkachiev **1:0** Galego (7)
(6½) Dautov **½:½** A. Sokolov (6½)
(6½) Ehlvest **1:0** Neverov (6½)
(6½) Conquest **1:0** Piket (6½) etc.

Standing after the 12th Round:
1-2. Ponomarev, Sutovsky – 9 points
3-4. Van Wely, J. Polgar – 8½ points
5-11. Milov, Vaganian, Timoshenko, Tiviakov, Anastasian, Graf, Azmaiparashvili – 8 etc.

Top boards of the 13th Round:
(9) Ponomarev – Sutovsky (9)
(8) Graf – J. Polgar (8½)
(8½) Van Wely – Azmaiparashvili (8)
(8) Vaganian – Tiviakov (8)
(8) Milov – Anastasian (8)
(8) Timoshenko – Tkachiev (7½) etc.

Today we would like to present a very important and interesting battle between Emil Sutovsky and Konstantin Sakaev. Emil maintained the pressure very inventively, not being hurry to win a sacrificed pawn…

Let's take a look at the other events.

Krishnan Sasikiran strengthened his lead after the 16th Round of the ***Indian Championships*** – now he is a full point ahead of despite the surprising defeat to IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra in Round 15. The defending Champion **Abhijit Kunte** shares second place with **Dibyendu Barua**, a full point behind the leader.

Standings after 16th Round:
1. Sasikiran – 12 points
2. Barua – 11
3. Kunte – 10½
4. Konguvel – 9½
5-6. Mishra, Ganguly – 9
7-9. Harikrishna, Thipsay, Prasad – 8½ etc.

Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi already retained the title of Indian Women's Champion – she scored an excellent 9½ points from 11 rounds and secured overall victory. Our congratulations!

Standings after 11th Round:
1. Vijayalakshmi - 9½ points
2-3. Swati Ghate, Meenakshi – 7
4-5. Aarthie, Bhagyashree – 6½ etc.

The only IM in the strong XIII category the ***Sigeman & Co. 2001*** tournament in Malmö, Sweden – **Emanuel Berg** (Sweden) is a surprising leader of the event – after two rounds he keeps a perfect score!

Results of the 2nd Round:
(1) Berg **1:0** De Firmian (1)
(½) Gulko **1:0** Rajabov (1)
(½) Timman **½:½** I. Sokolov (½)
(½) Hector **½:½** C.Hansen (0)
(0) P.Cramling **1:0** Wedberg (0)

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1. Berg – 2 points
2. Gulko – 1½
3-8. I. Sokolov, Timman, Hector, De Firmian, Rajabov, P.Cramling – 1
9. C.Hansen – ½
10. Wedberg – 0

In the 6th Round of ***Zonal tournament*** (VIII cat. round robin, 10 players) in Sao Paulo, Brazil all the leaders made a full step forward so the situation is unchanged – **Giovanni Vescovi** is clear first with 5 points, **Gilberto Milos**, **Rafael Leitao** and **Darcy Lima** are in chase, half a point behind.

Results of the 6th Round:
(2½) Soto **0:1** Vescovi (4)
(1) Coelho **0:1** Milos (3½)
(2½) Matsuura **0:1** Leitao (3½)
(3½) Lima **1:0** Haro (½)
(1½) Pelikian **1:0** Oblitas (2½)

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Vescovi – 5 points
2-4. Milos, Leitao, Lima – 4½
5-8. Matsuura, Oblitas, Soto, Pelikian – 2½ etc.

Igor Novikov (Ukraine) is crushing all the opposition on the IX category round-robin ***SmartChess.com International*** tournament, keeping two points clear lead before the last round.

Results of the 8th Round:
(6) Novikov **1:0** Shahade (4)
(3) Sarkar **0:1** Yudasin (4)
(3) Krush **0:1** Stripunsky (4)
(3½) Charbonneau **0:1** Bonin (3½)
(4) Ippolito **0:1** Simutowe (1)

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Novikov – 7 points
2-3. Yudasin, Stripunsky – 5
4. Bonin – 4½
5. Shahade – 4
6. Charbonneau – 3½
7-9. Sarkar, Ippolito, Krush – 3
10. Simutowe – 2

Our congratulations, Igor, on such a confident victory!

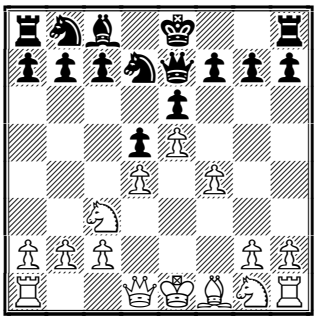
10 players are leading after the 5th Round of the **"*White Nights*"** open tournament in St.Petersburg, Russia.

Pairings of the 6th Round:
(4) Fominykh – Beshukov (4)
(4) Eliseev – Korotylev (4)
(4) V.Popov – Polovodin (4)
(4) Vorobiov – Malaniuk (4)
(4) Meister – Vokarev (4) etc.

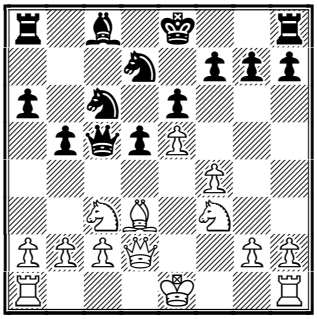
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E Sutovsky (2604) – K Sakaev (2637)
European Championship Ohrid, Macedonia (12), 13.06.2001 C14
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.e5 ♘fd7 6.♗xe7 ♕xe7 7.f4



7...a6
7...0-0 8.♘f3 c5 is the main alternative.
8.♘f3 c5 9.dxc5 ♘c6 10.♗d3 ♕xc5 11.♕d2 b5



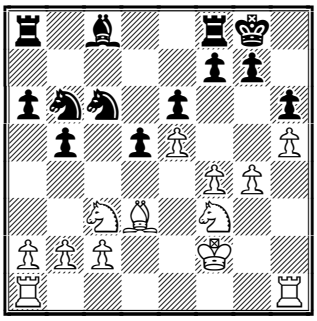
12.h4!?

A rare move in this position but an advance of the h−pawn is quite typical for this French pawn structure. Both 12.a3 and 12.♘e2 are more common options. One of the most recent examples from the top−level was the game Bologan − Short, Buenos Aires 2000 − Black achieved good play after 12.♕f2 ♗b7 13.a3 h6 14.h4 0-0 15.♕xc5 ♘xc5 16.b4 ♘d7 17.♔d2 ♘b6 18.♘e2 ♘c4+ 19.♗xc4 dxc4 and White should play carefully to hold balance.

12...♘b6 13.h5 h6 14.♕f2

Castling long did not look very good as Black was ready to begin direct actions on the queenside.

14...♕xf2+ 15.♔xf2 0-0 16.g4



A very complicated ending has arisen. As usual, White does not achieve very much if he simply occupies a the d4 square with the knight (♘e2−d4) − Black would obtain good counter chances by ...♘a4−c5, ...♗d7, b4, a5, ♖c8 or maybe ...f7−f6 so White begins more concrete actions on the kingside.

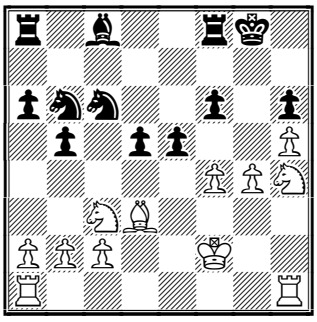
16...f6

Otherwise White's initiative would be real after g4−g5 etc.

17.exf6 gxf6 18.♘h4

18.♖ae1?! couldn't prevent 18...e5! anyway.

18...e5



It may seem that Black's pawn majority in the centre gives him better chances − for example, Black is going to push White's pieces back by ...e5−e4, b5−b4 and so on. However, Emil Sutovsky finds an excellent way to continue his own play.

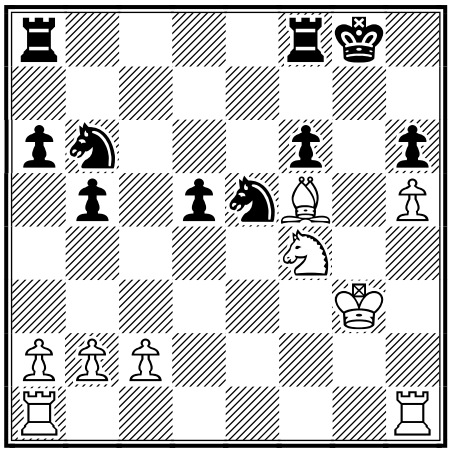
19.♗g6!!

A masterful play! It was tempting to put the knight on g6 with tempo but actually after 19.♘g6?! ♖f7 the knight was rather useless there. It is quite common to occupy strong squares on the side of the board with long−ranged pieces while the knight should be placed closer to the centre.

19...exf4

The alternative was 19...b4 20.♘e2 ♗xg4 but it could not extinguish White's initiative: 21.♖hg1 ♗xe2 22.♔xe2 etc.

20.♘e2 ♘e5 21.♘xf4 ♘xg4+ 22.♔g3 ♘e5 23.♘f5 ♗xf5 24.♗xf5



White is still a pawn down but it is clear that he has more than enough compensation for the pawn. His minor pieces are very strong (especially the bishop) while the rooks might effectively use the "g" and "d" files, creating certain pressure over Black's pawn weaknesses.

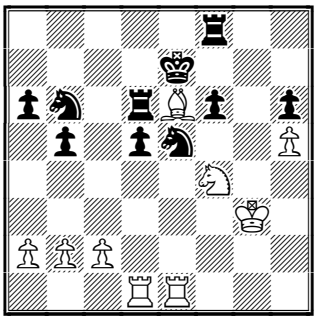
24...♔f7

Black moves the king to the centre, escaping from the g−file.

25.♗e6+ ♔e7 26.♖ad1 ♖ad8 27.♖he1!

A hasty 27.♗xd5?! ♘xd5 28.♘xd5+ gave Black a good opportunity to activate the rook via the g−file, for example: 28...♔f7 29.♖hf1 ♖g8+ 30.♔h3 ♘g4 followed by ...♖g5.

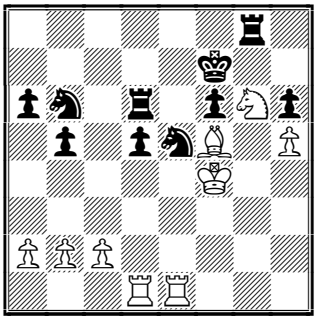
27...♖d6



28.♗f5!

White likes his bishop very much! He does not win a pawn back, playing for the initiative and obviously hoping to get it back with interest.

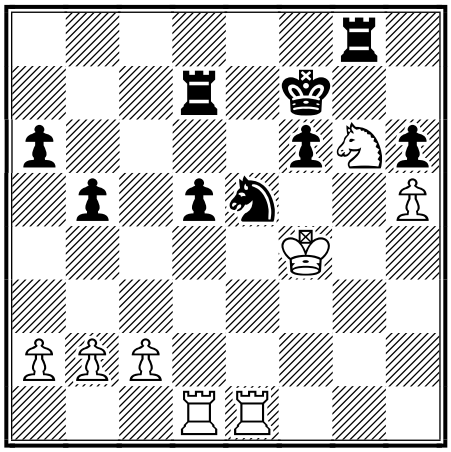
28...♖g8+ 29.♘g6+ ♔f7 30.♔f4



30...♘bd7?

And Black breaks down! Objectively, White was pressuring very inventively in spite of the ending on the board but Black still had good defensive resources. As alternatives ... 30...♖e8 ; 30...♘c6; and even 30...d4 were worthy of consideration.

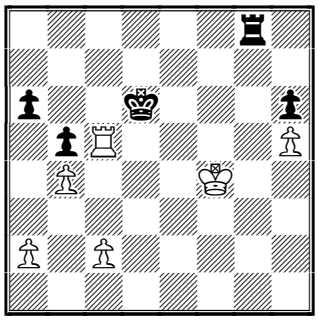
31.♗xd7 ♖xd7



32.♖xe5!

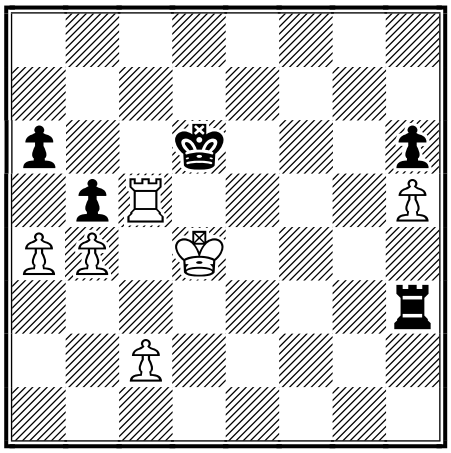
Obviously missed.

32...fxe5+ 33.♘xe5+ ♔e6 34.♘xd7 ♔xd7 35.♖xd5+ ♔e6 36.♖c5 ♔d6 37.b4



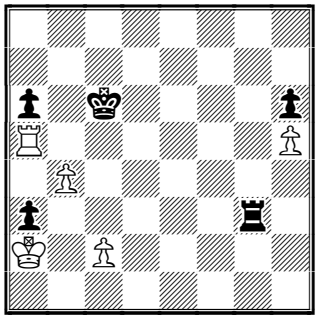
The ending seems to be winning for White as Black is deprived from any counterplay. However, in the rook ending a very precise technique is always required.

37...♖g2 38.a3 ♖f2+ 39.♔e4 ♖h2 40.♔d4 ♖h3 41.a4!



Clearing the 5th rank for the rook and creating a passed c−pawn. The a−pawn will be taken back very soon.

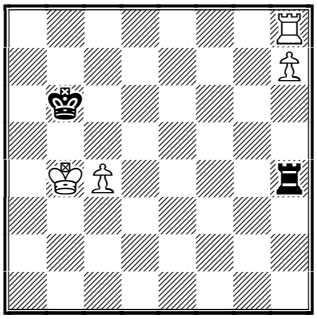
41...bxa4 42.♔c4 ♖h4+ 43.♔c3 ♖h3+ 44.♔c4 ♖h4+ 45.♔c3 ♖h3+ 46.♔b2 a3+ 47.♔a2 ♖g3 48.♖a5 ♔c6



49.♖xa3

Not giving Black a single possibility to activate the pieces, which could have happened after 49.♖xa6+ ♔b5 50.♖xa3 ♖g4 51.c3 ♔c4 although White was probably winning with 52.♖b3 and so on.

The text move is more reliable.
49...♖g2 50.♔b3 ♔b6 51.♖a5 ♖f2 52.♖e5 ♖f6 53.c3 ♖d6 54.♖e8
The rook is going to g6.
54...a5 55.♖g8 ♖d5 56.♖g6+ ♔c7 57.♖xh6 axb4 58.♔xb4 ♖g5 59.♖h8 ♔b6 60.h6 ♖g4+ 61.c4 ♖h4 62.h7



This move would be a terrible mistake if White had another pawn on the "a" or "b" file . Now the task is simple and can be completed without the help of the king − the pawn is going to c6 and after the only move ...♔c7 White plays ♖h8−a8, winning Black's rook.
62...♔b7 63.♔b5
Black resigned. An excellent performance by Emil Sutovsky in a highly important game!
1-0

Recommended Web sites:

www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chathurangam.com/
www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
www.sigeman-chess.com/english/intro.html
www.totalchess.spb.ru/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-220, 15th June 2001

Novikov Wins SmartChess.com International

Igor Novikov (Ukraine) convincingly won the category IX round-robin ***SmartChess.com International***, a point and a half ahead of **Alexander Stripunsky** (USA), who came clear second.

Novikov

(photo taken from SmartChess.com website --- RPM.)

Results of the 9th Round:
(4½) Bonin **½:½** Novikov (7)
(5) Yudasin **½:½** Krush (3)
(5) Stripunsky **1:0** Charbonneau (3½)
(4) Shahade **½:½** Ippolito (3)
(2) Simutowe **1:0** Sarkar (3)

Final standings:
1. Novikov – 7½ points
2. Stripunsky – 6
3. Yudasin – 5½
4. Bonin – 5
5. Shahade – 4½
6-8. Ippolito, Krush, Charbonneau – 3½
9-10. Sarkar, Simutowe – 3

Congratulations to all the winners!

An overwhelming majority of the last round games of the ***2nd European Men's Championship*** in Ohrid, Macedonia were drawn – the players were completing the task of qualifing to the World Championship so there were only 2 decisive games on the first 20 boards!

Tomorrow will be the day of tie-breaks. **Ruslan Ponomarev** (Ukraine) and **Emil Sutovsky** (Israel) will decide the title while **Zurab Azmaiparashvili**, who beat **Loek van Wely** with black pieces *(-see the annotated game section for this tense and exciting game! --- RPM)* and joined **Judit Polgar** at third place will play for the bronze medal.

Final standings:
1-2. Ponomarev, Sutovsky – 9½ points
3-4. J.Polgar, Azmaiparashvili – 9 points
5-11. Van Wely,Milov, Vaganian,Timoshenko, Tiviakov, Anastasian, Graf – 8½ etc.

Besides there will be tie-breaks for the last qualifying places to the World Championship – tomorrow we'll give the names of all players, who successfully completed this task.

In the 18th penultimate round of the ***Indian Championships*** **Dibyendu Barua** beat Surya Shekhar Ganguly and caught up to the leader, the only 2600+ player of the event **Krishnan Sasikiran**, who was free from play today. In the final round Barua will play with Saptarshi with the white pieces while Sasikiran will face Neelotpal Das. Defending champion Abhijit Kunte will be free from play tomorrow. He has secured at least a tie for third place.

Standings after 18th Round:
1-2. Sasikiran, Barua – 13 points
3. Kunte – 11½
4. Mishra – 10½
5-7. Ganguly, Konguvel, Harikrishna – 10 etc.

Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi already won the Women's Championship, but

today she surprisingly lost to Saheli Dhar Barua.

Standings after 11th Round:
1. Vijayalakshmi - 9½ points
2-3. Meenakshi, Swati Ghate – 8
4-5. Aarthie, Bhagyashree – 7½ etc.

The only decisive game of the 3rd Round of the ***Sigeman & Co. 2001*** tournament in Malmö, Sweden was between sole leader **Emanuel Berg**, who kept a perfect score and **Tom Wedberg**, who lost both his games. Emanuel achieved an excellent position and tried to strengthen his lead but a series of inaccuracies led him to a bitter end. Still, he is on top, together with **Boris Gulko**, who drew with black against Ivan Sokolov.

Results of the 3rd Round:
(0) Wedberg **1:0** Berg (2)
(1) I.Sokolov **½:½** Gulko (1½)
(1) De Firmian **½:½** Hector (1)
(1) Rajabov **½:½** P.Cramling (1)
(½) C.Hansen **½:½** Timman (1)

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-2. Berg, Gulko – 2 points
3-8. I.Sokolov, Timman, Hector, De Firmian, Rajabov, P.Cramling – 1½
9-10. Wedberg, C.Hansen – 1

Giovanni Vescovi keeps sole lead after the 7th Round of the VIII cat. round robin ***Zonal tournament***, which takes place in Sao Paulo, Brazil. **Rafael Leitao** is clear second, half a point behind.

Results of the 7th Round:
(5) Vescovi **1:0** Matsuura (2½)
(4½) Leitao **1:0** Coelho (1)

(4½) Milos **½:½** Lima (4½)
(2½) **1:0** Oblitas **½:½** Soto (2½)
(½) Haro **½:½** Pelikian (2½)

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Vescovi – 6 points
2. Leitao – 5½
3-4. Milos, Lima – 5
5. Pelikian – 3½
6-7. Oblitas, Soto – 3 etc.

Valery Popov, Alexander Fominykh and Alexe Eliseev are leading in the **"*White Nights*"** open tournament in St.Petersburg, Russia with 5 points after 7 rounds.

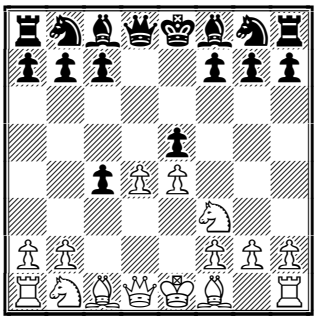
Top results of the 6th Round:
(4) Fominykh **1:0** Beshukov (4)
(4) Eliseev **1:0** Korotylev (4)
(4) V.Popov **1:0** Polovodin (4)
(4) Vorobiov **½:½** Malaniuk (4)
(4) Meister **½:½** Vokarev (4)

Top boards of the 7th Round:
(5) V.Popov – Fominykh (5)
(4½) Malaniuk – Eliseev (5)
(4½) Meister – Kornev (4½)
(4½) Vokarev – Vorobiov (4½) etc

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

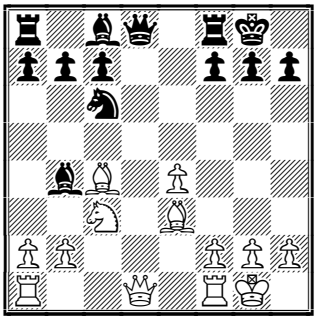
L. Van Wely (2670) – A. Azmaiparashvili (2670) D20
European Championship Ohrid, Macedonia (13), 14.06.2001 D20
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 (D)



4...Bb4+
4..exd4 is the main continuation. However, it is still unclear how White can achieve a tangible advantage after the text move.
5.Nc3 exd4 6.Nxd4 Ne7
6...Qe7 is suspicious as White simply ignores the threat to the e4 pawn: 7.Bxc4 Qxe4+ 8.Be3!? The game Dreev – R.Scherbakov, Borzhomi 1988 continued by 8...Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Ne7 (9...Nf6!?)

10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Ng6 and after the very strong and rather unexpected 12.Bc1! Qg4 13.Ba3↑ Black found himself in trouble.

7.Bxc4 Nbc6 8.Be3 Nxd4 9.Bxd4 0-0 10.0-0 Nc6 11.Be3 (D)



11...Qxd1

Loek Van Wely was already familiar with this position, after 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 Qe7 13.Qa4 Ne5 14.Be2 b6 15.Rfd1 Bd7 16.Qc2 Rad8 17.a4 Be6 18.c4± he achieved a small advantage in the game Van Wely − Huebner, Wijk aan Zee 1996.

12.Rfxd1 Bxc3

Black cannot allow this knight to jump to d5 or b5.

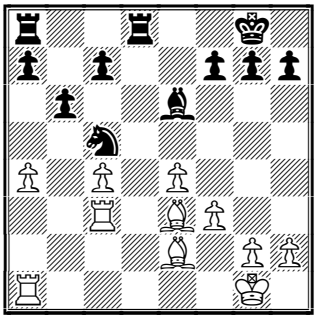
13.bxc3 Be6 14.Be2 Rfd8

White has achieved a pair of bishops but his queenside pawn structure is not perfect and Black has good chances to find a stable position for his knight somewhere in front of the c−pawn.

15.c4 Ne5 16.Rdc1 b6 17.a4

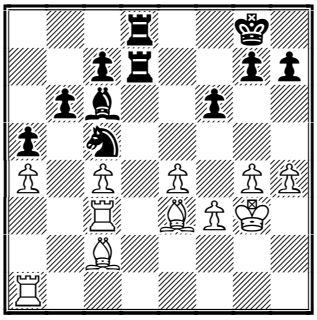
17.c5 promised nothing due to 17...Nd3 18.Rc3 Nxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Rxc5 Rd2⇄

17...Nd3 18.Rc3 Nc5 19.f3 (D)



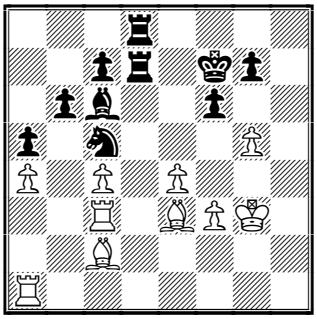
Here and later the exchange on c5 favoured Black as it gave him control over the "b" and "d" files. Black's rooks occupy the strong foreposts b4 and d4 and White would have been forced to defend his weak queenside pawns.

19...a5 20.Kf2 Bd7 21.Bd1 Bc6 22.Bc2 Rd7 23.g4 Rad8 24.Kg3 f6 25.h4 (D)



White is hoping to use the potential of his long−ranged pieces − being temporarily chained to the queenside weaknesses, where they would quickly get into action on the opposite side. However, Black can be completely satisfied with his very solid position.

25...h6 26.g5 hxg5 27.hxg5 Kf7 (D)



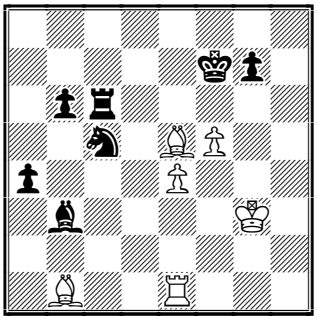
28.Rca3

The attempt 28.gxf6!? gxf6 29.Bxc5 bxc5 30.Rh1 (with idea ♖h5) could have been parried by 30...Rg8+ 31.Kf4 Rg5± keeping a slightly worse position where a draw is obviously the most likely result. Perhaps it was objectively the best way for White but Loek prefers to keep the tension, trying to get more chances to outplay his opponent. However, as we'll see, Zurab Azmaiparashvili was equal to the task, not losing control over the position even for a single moment.

28...Rh8 29.Re1 fxg5!?

Black decided to begin concrete play against White's weaknesses.

30.Bxg5 Rd4 31.Bf4 Rxc4 32.Bb1 Rxa4 33.Rxa4 Bxa4 34.Bxc7 Rh6 35.f4 Rc6 36.Be5 Bb3 37.f5 a4 (D)

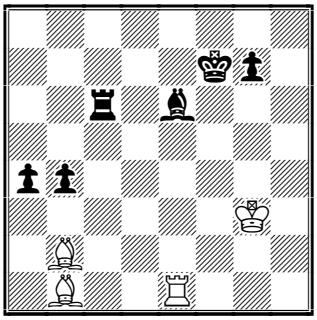


Both sides show their trump cards.

38.Bb2 b5 39.e5 b4 40.e6+ Nxe6

The piece sacrifice is forced but not bad at all − Black eliminates the last of White's pawns.

41.fxe6+ Bxe6 (D)

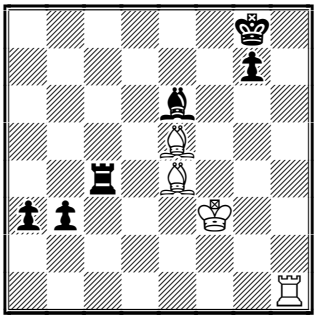


At first glance the position should be drawn but actually White's task is not so easy − Black can try to make progress without any risk.

42.Rf1+ Kg8 43.Be4 Rc8 44.Rh1

44.Be5!? was also worthy of consideration with the idea to meet 44...a3 with 45.Bd6

44...Rc4 45.Kf3 a3 46.Be5 b3 (D)



47.Bh7+?!

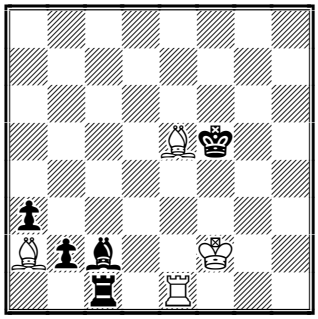
47.Rg1! looked more to the point and probably led to an easier draw.

47...Kf8 48.Rg1 b2 49.Bxg7+

The rook would be much more useful on the 7th rank.

49...Ke7 50.Be5 Bd5+ 51.Ke3 Rc1 52.Kf2 Bb3 53.Re1 Kf7 54.Bd3

White is in no hurry to "exchange" both his bishops for two pawns. Here though, it could have been realised by 54.Bxb2 axb2 55.Re2 Rh1 56.Be4 b1Q 57.Bxb1 Rxb1 although White should still need good work to hold the position ♖ vs ♖+♗. **54...Bc2 55.Bc4+ Kg6 56.Ba2 Kf5 (D)**



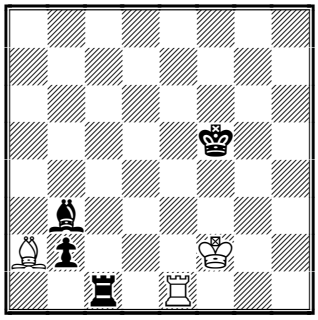
57.Bd4

Perhaps it was the time to go for 57.Bd6!? Ra1 58.Bxa3 Rxa2 59.Bxb2 etc.

57...Bb3! 58.Bxb2

Another, and maybe the strongest option was 58.Re2!? b1Q 59.Bxb1+ Rxb1 60.Re5+ followed by ♖a5 but it is still not a draw.

58...axb2 (D)



59.Bb1+?

The only way was 59.Re2! Bc2 60.Ke3! Ke5 (60...Ra1 61.Rxc2 Rxa2 62.Rc5+ Ke6 63.Rb5=) and now

61.Bb1!! and maybe Black has nothing more than 61...Rxb1 62.Kd2+! Be4 63.Kc3 followed by ♖b2 and so on.

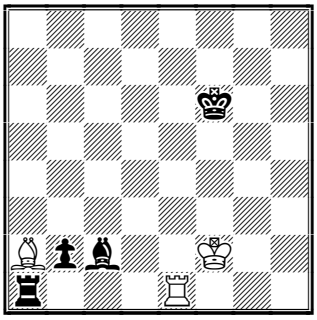
59...Kf4

59...Bc2! was winning instantly.

60.Re4+ Kg5 61.Re5+

61.Rb4 does not help due to 61...Rxb1 62.Rxb3 Rh1!-+

61...Kf6 62.Re1 Bc2 63.Ba2 Ra1



White resigned. A very tense game. **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chathurangam.com/
www.smartchess.com/SmartChessOnline/default.htm
www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
www.sigeman-chess.com/english/intro.html
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CT-221, 16th June 2001

Emil Sutovsky Tops Field in 2nd European Men's Championship

The ***2nd European Men's Championship*** has ended in Ohrid, Macedonia. It was a very strong and attractive event with 143 GMs and 38 IMs among the participants!

Today was the day of tie-breaks.
Emil Sutovsky beat Ruslan Ponomarev and became the new **European Champion!** He is a very nice and versatile person – musician, singer, and he speaks many languages: English, Russian, Hebrew, Spanish, Italian. He also heads one of the most interesting chess sites – Chessy!

Our congratulations, Emil, for this glorious victory!

The Bronze medal was awarded to **Zurab Azmaiparashvili**, who outplayed Judit Polgar in the match for third place.
21 participants, who scored 7½ points out of 13, were competing for the last 4 passes to the World Championship.

Tie-breaks for the gold medal:
Ponomarev – **Sutovsky ½:½ 0:1**

For the bronze medal:
J.Polgar – **Azmaiparashvili ½:½ 0:1**

For the last qualifying places:
Round 1:
Roeder – **Epishin ½:½** 0:1
Delchev – Galkin 1:0 1:0
Lautier – Markowski 1:0 0:1 1:0
Almasi – **Piket ½:½ ½:½** 0:1
Tregubov – Najer 1:0 **½:½**

Round 2:
Tregubov – Istratescu 1:0 1:0
Piket – A.Sokolov 1:0 1:0
Lautier – Galego 1:0 1:0
Delchev – San Segundo 1:0 **½:½**
Epishin – **Savchenko** 1:0 0:1 0:1
Iordachescu – **Atalik** 1:0 0:1 0:1
Alexandrov – **Gyimesi** 0:1 0:1
K.Georgiev – Vaisser 1:0, **½:½**

Round 3:
Tregubov – **K.Georgiev ½:½** 0:1
Piket – **Gyimesi ½:½** 0:1
Lautier – Atalik 1:0 **½:½**
Delchev – Savchenko 1:0 1:0

*(The game **Georgiev-Tregubov** is featured in the annotated game section on page 3 ---RPM.)*

Final standings:
1. Sutovsky – 9½ points
2. Ponomarev – 9½
3. Azmaiparashvili – 9
4. J.Polgar – 9
5-11. Van Wely, Timoshenko, Vaganian, Graf, Milov, Tiviakov, Anastasian – 8½
12-45. Luther, Lputian, Vallejo Pons, Sakaev, Tkachiev, Sulskis, Macieja, Movsesian, Avrukh, Nisipeanu, Gdanski, Zvjaginsev, Aseev, Bologan, Dautov, Motylev, Volokitin, Ehlvest, Beliavsky, Psakhis, M.Gurevich, Malakhatko, Rublevsky, Pr.Nikolic, Pigusov, Khenkin, Asrian, Cvitan, Lastin, Fedorov, Baklan, Conquest, Volkov, Kobalia – 8,
46-… Kir.Georgiev, Lautier, Gyimesi, Delchev – 7½ etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners and qualifiers!

Now let's take a look at the other events.

Both leaders drew in the final and 19th Round of the ***Indian Championships*** – **Dibyendu Barua** was proclaimed the **new Champion** thanks to his win in round 11 over top seeded **Krishnan Sasikiran**, who took the silver medal.

Former champion **Abhijit Kunte** came in third.

Men's final standings:
1-2. Sasikiran, Barua – 13½ points
3. Kunte – 11½
4. Mishra – 11
5. Harikrishna – 10½
6-8. Ganguly, Konguvel, Prasad – 10 etc.

Subbaraman Vijayalakshmi won the Women's Championship forth time in a row!

Women's final standings:
1. Vijayalakshmi - 10½ points
2. Meenakshi – 9
3. Swati Ghate – 8½
4. Aarthie – 8
5. Bhagyashree – 7½ etc.

Congratulations for all the winners!

There are 4 leaders after the 4th Round of the strong XIII category ***Sigeman & Co. 2001*** tournament in Malmö, Sweden – **Ivan Sokolov**, **Jan Timman**, **Boris Gulko** and **Emanuel Berg** have scored 2½ points. Tom Wedberg completely recovered after his poor start; today he won his second game in a row with black pieces against Jonny Hector.

Results of the 3rd Round:
(2) Berg **½:½** Rajabov (1½)
(2) Gulko **½:½** P.Cramling (1½)
(1½) I.Sokolov **1:0** C.Hansen (1)
(1½) Timman **1:0** de Firmian (1½)
(1½) Hector **0:1** Wedberg (1)

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-4. I.Sokolov, Timman, Gulko, Berg – 2½ points
5-7. Wedberg, Rajabov, P.Cramling – 2
8-9. Hector, de Firmian – 1½
10. C.Hansen – 1

Giovanni Vescovi remains in sole lead before the last round of the ***Zonal tournament*** in Sao Paulo, Brazil. **Darcy Lima** won a very important game against Rafael Leitao and overtook him at second place, as well as top seeded **Gilberto Milos.**

Results of the 8th Round:
(6) Vescovi **½:½** Oblitas (3)
(5) Lima **1:0** Leitao (5½)
(3½) Pelikian **0:1** Milos (5)
(3) Soto **1:0** Haro (½)
(2½) Matsuura **1:0** Coelho (1)

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Vescovi – 6½ points
2-3. Milos, Lima – 6
4. Leitao – 5½
5. Soto – 4
6-8. Oblitas, Pelikian, Matsuura – 3½ etc.

Vladimir Malaniuk, **Valery Popov**, **Alexander Fominykh** and **Alexey Kornev** Eliseev are sharing the lead in the **"*White Nights*"** open tournament in St.Petersburg, Russia with 5½ points after 7 rounds.

Top results of the 7th Round:
(5) V.Popov **½:½** Fominykh (5)
(4½) Malaniuk **1:0** Eliseev (5)
(4½) Meister **0:1** Kornev (4½)
(4½) Vokarev **½:½** Vorobiov (4½) etc.

Top boards of the 8th Round:
(5½) Fominykh – Malaniuk (5½)
(5½) Kornev – V.Popov (5½)
(5) Zakharevich – Vaulin (5)
(5) Shaposhnikov – Sivokho (5)
(5) Eliseev – Evseev (5)
(5) Loginov – Beshukov (5)
(5) Polovodin – Vokarev (5)
(5) Vorobiov – Sambuev (5)

GM **Hristodoulos Banikas** lost a rapid ***match*** to **Deep Junior** in Athens, Greece with a total score **1½:2½**. There were 4 games with 25min/10sec time control. After the first day Banikas was leading 1½:½ but lost both remaining games, every time spoiling a certain advantage.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

K. Georgiev (2676) – P. Tregubov (2628)

Europe Championship Ohrid (20), 15.06.2001 A57

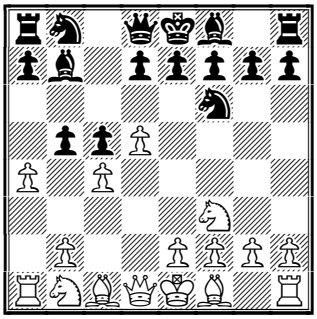
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

This was the decisive battle for the qualifying pass to the World Championship between one of the World's top players, Kiril Georgiev and Pavel Tregubov, who already resigned his title of the 1st European Champion.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.Nf3

White ignores the Volga Gambit. By the way, Kiril Georgiev sometimes plays it as Black.

4...Bb7 5.a4 (D)



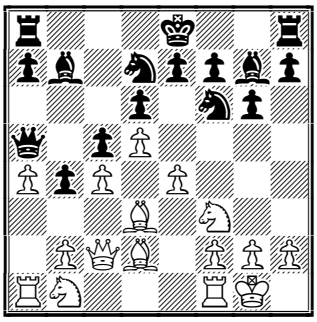
5...Qa5+!?

5...b4 6.Nbd2 d6 7.e4 is more often played. The idea of the check is to force White to place the bishop to d2, depriving him from the more comfortable development by ♘bd2, b3, ♗b2 etc.

6.Bd2

In case of 6.Nbd2?! bxc4 White has no good defence of the pawn d5.

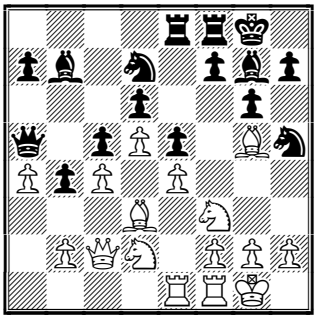
6...b4 7.Qc2 d6 8.e4 Nbd7 9.Bd3 g6 10.0-0 Bg7 (D)



11.Bf4

Pavel Tregubov was already familiar with this position, in the game Khenkin – Tregubov, TCh–YUG, Herceg Novi 2001 he achieved a good play after 11.h3 0-0 12.Be3 Rae8 13.Nbd2 e5 14.g4 Kh8 15.Kg2 Ng8 16.Rh1 Ne7⇄

11...0-0 12.Nbd2 Nh5 13.Bg5 Rae8 14.Rae1 e5 (D)



Closing the center. White is slightly better thanks to the space advantage but Black had reasonable hopes to stand his ground, defending a rather narrow area of the possible break.

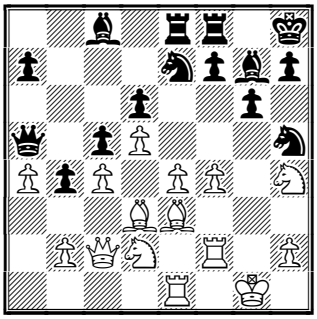
15.g3 Bc8 16.Nh4 Ndf6 17.f3 Kh8

Regrouping the pieces by an already tried method, just like in the game mentioned above.

18.Rf2 Ng8 19.Be3 Ne7 20.f4

White cannot hope for success without this pawn advance.

20...exf4 21.gxf4 (D)



21...f5?!

This counterstrike looks suspicious for Black.

21...Nf6!? looked more reliable, keeping good counterplay.

22.e5!

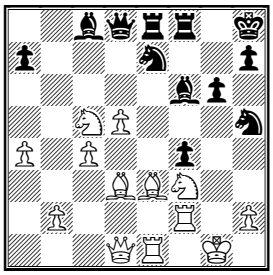
All of Black's queenside pawns are almost lost, after which White gains a

very strong passed pawns in the center.

22...b3

To confuse the opponent. Yet, 22...dxe5!? was maybe stronger. A possible line was 23.Nb3 (23.fxe5 Bxe5 24.Nb3 Qd8) 23...Qd8 24.fxe5 Nxd5!? 25.cxd5 Qxh4 26.Bxc5 and despite the fact that White's chances look preferable, the position is very complicated and double−edged.

23.Qd1 dxe5 24.fxe5 Bxe5 25.Nxb3 Qd8 26.Nf3 Bf6 27.Nxc5 f4 (D)



28.Bc1?!

White was probably worried about playing 28.Bd4!? because of 28...Bxd4 29.Nxd4 Nxd5 30.Nce6 Bxe6 31.Nxe6 Rxe6 32.Rxe6 Ne3⇄ with counterplay, which objectively did not look sufficient to compensate material losses. The text move allows Black to take the initiative.

28...Nf5 29.Rxe8

The immediate 29.Ne4!? seemed to be stronger.

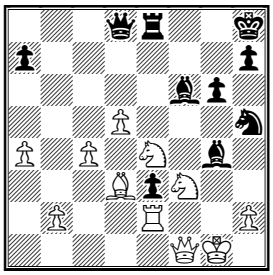
29...Rxe8 30.Re2 Ne3!

It was already possible to win a pawn back by 30...Rxe2!? 31.Bxe2 Qb6 and White is forced to play 32.b4∞ but Black is playing for more!

31.Bxe3 fxe3 32.Ne4 Bg4

I suppose White was very worried about his position at this moment!

33.Qf1 (D)



33...Rf8

A tempting move. Nevertheless the simple and natural 33...Nf4!? was no less stronger. After 34.Rxe3 Qb6 35.c5 Qxb2⇄ Black obtained an excellent play.

34.Rxe3 Bd4

Still, 34...Qb6 35.c5 Qxb2 was worthy of consideration.

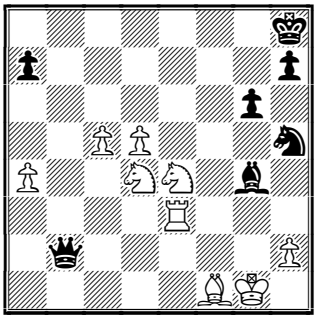
35.Nxd4 Rxf1+ 36.Bxf1 Qb6

Here both players must have been in severe time trouble which can explain the following mistakes.

37.c5

Objectively more reliable was something like 37.Nf2!? Qxd4 38.Re4 Qxb2 39.Nxg4 but don't forget − they are playing with 15 minutes time control to make such unexpected decisions.

37...Qxb2 (D)



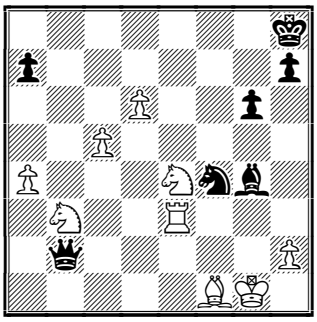
38.Nb3?

A wrong way. 38.Nc6! was stronger, keeping the defence after 38...Qc1 39.Kf2∞

38...Nf4?!

After 38...Qe5! White could have found himself in trouble, for example, 39.d6?! could be met by 39...Nf6 with the idea of ...♕d4 followed by ...♘d5.

39.d6 (D)



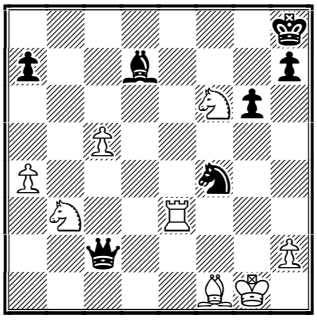
39...Qc2

39...Bd7∞ looked natural.

40.Nf6 Be6

40...Ne2+ 41.Bxe2 Bxe2 with the idea of ...♕d1-f1 seemed to be enough for some kind of perpetual check.

41.d7 Bxd7?? (D)

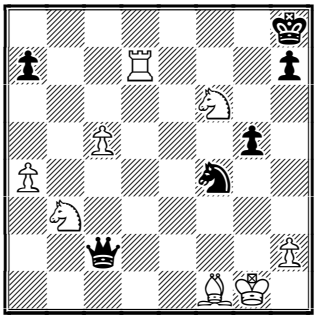


Total collapse. 41...Qd1 42.Kf2 Kg7∞ was quite playable for Black!

42.Re7!

Of course!

42...g5 43.Rxd7 (D)



Rh7 comes next so Black resigned. A highly dramatic finish! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.iecc2001.com.mk/
www.chathurangam.com/
www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
www.sigeman-chess.com/english/intro.html
www.totalchess.spb.ru/
www.chess.gr/
www.chessclub.com

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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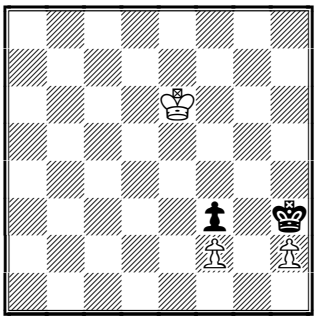
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-222, 17th June 2001

News in brief. As I would like to concentrate on our *Trainer's Corner* today, news reports will have to wait for one day. I can only say that the young **Brazilian GM Giovanni Vescovi won the Zonal tournament**, which just ended in San Paulo. He scored 7½ points out of 9. Two of his compatriots - GMs Milos and Lima finished with 7 points and presumably there will be a play-off, as I believe that only 2 places in the World Championship are available from that zone.

♘♘♘

Trainer's Corner

Our *Trainer's Corner* is taking off nicely as I keep receiving questions from our readers. I would like to stress that I might not be able to answer all opening questions or go into great details into some specific positions. My aim is to provide practical hints on how to improve your chess and play better. As a coach, I often find that many club players do not think properly in chess. In my view to rectify that is much more important than to study some long line in the Sicilian! Have a look at the following position and test yourself:



White to play

Take 5-10 minutes and formulate (to yourself) everything what you thought of this regarding position. We will consider this example later on. This position is also available with a *training question* in our database, so look there first, if you prefer.

Meanwhile I would like to deal with a question, which I received from our Swedish reader -

Peter Backe: "Hello! I am a new Swedish reader (Master strength in over-the-board and in CC) of your excellent newspaper. In your last issue you wanted some proposals of improvement for CT. One thing is as you say writing more about openings or middle- and endgame! That would be great of course!

Maybe another idea would be a Question-corner, something like as I have seen on the KC-site, where readers can put questions about Openings, positions or anything really - even maybe historical questions about old grandmasters or so?

My contribution to this is my game played in the Swedish Correspondence tournament, which started this spring. Furhoff is a very strong over-the board player so it was OK to have a draw with Black against him. But could he with the White pieces have come out as the better part after 16.Ne2, the natural move, instead of his chosen one? Many greetings! Keep up the strong writings!"

I completely agree with Peter - being able to ask questions could be a great asset to our readers! So, please send your questions to ababurin@iol.ie and I will try to answer them. As for the game, which Peter sent, here it is:

J. Furhoff – P. Backe, CC 2001
French Defence, C07
Annotations by Peter Backe, unless indicated by AB

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.exd5 ♕xd5 5.♘gf3 cxd4 6.♗c4 ♕d6 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♘b3 ♘c6 9.♘bxd4 ♘xd4 10.♘xd4 a6 11.♖e1 ♕c7 12.♗b3

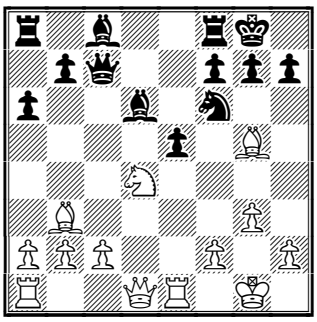
♗d6 13.g3

Interesting! I found just one game played with this continuation. Black should try to develop his c8−bishop along the a8−h1 diagonal, but this game turns rather differently as we will see. White's threat is now 14.Nf5!.

13...0-0

13...e5 would be also replied by White in the same way:

14.♗g5 e5 (D)



I think that this is a theoretical novelty! In the game Ivanov−Brunner, Gausdal Troll Master 1991, Black played 14...b5!? 15.♗xf6 gxf6 16.Qd2, but White's 16th move wasn't obliged and I think 16. ♕g4+ ♔h8 17.♖ad1 or even 16.c3!? was interesting. An Alternative might be 14...♘e8.

AB: I think that this move has a certain logic − Black drives away the enemy knight and opens up his c8−bishop. It is very risky strategically (the d5−square!), but White has some weaknesses on the kingside now too.

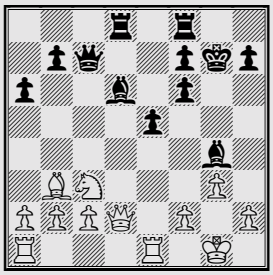
15.♗xf6 gxf6 16.♕f3

Very tactically played! I was counting on 16. ♘e2, when 16...♗g4!? seems best. Maybe 17.♕d2 and then something like 17...♔g7!? might be considered.

16...exd4 17.♕xf6

Draw proposed by White as after 17...♕c6! he has nothing more than the perpetual check. **½-½**

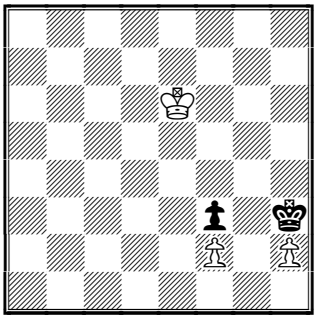
AB: Certainly more critical was 16.♘e2 ♗g4! 17.♕d2 (17.♕c1!?) 17...♔g7 and now White can choose between 18.♗d5!?, with the idea of c2−c4 and ♘e2−c3, and 18.♘c3 18...♖ad8 **(D)**



I think that here White's chances are a bit better, but this does not make 14...e5 unplayable.

Now let us examine our pawn ending.

Moravec, 1925



White to play

Black is threatening to capture both of White's pawns. Clearly White must move the king towards the f3−pawn. But what path should he choose? This is a good example to test your thinking process!

First of all, it would be really lousy to see only the line with 1.♔f5 ♔xh2?? 2.♔f4 ♔g2 3.♔e3 and cry "Eureka!". Indeed, in that position whoever is to play loses and there it's Black. But Black does not have to take on h2 − after 1.♔f5? ♔g2! 2.h4 ♔xf2 3.h5 ♔g1 4.h6 f2 5.h7 f1♕+ 6.♔g6 ♕f8 Black wins.

I've seen many people finding that variation and resting on it. They would typically say "Obviously, 1.♔f5? loses and therefore White

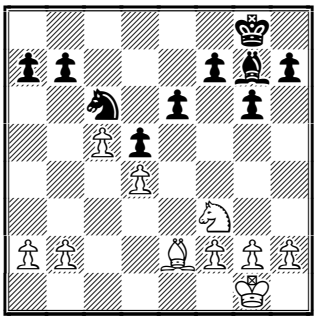
must play 1.♔e5!, when Black won't queen his pawn with check." If you thought that way too, you were wrong! You saw only half the picture, as after 1.♔e5? ♔g2 2.h4 ♔xf2 3.h5 ♔g1 4.h6 f2 5.h7 f1♕ 6.h8♕ ♕a1+ Black is still winning. **Never be lazy and convince yourself in what you simply want to believe.**

Now it should not be hard to see the solution, if your remember that White should try to attack the f3−pawn. Yet, you'd be surprised to know how many players forget about that aim altogether and gave up after you show them that both 1.♔f5? and 1.♔e5? lose. **Another lesson − do not panic!**

After the correct **1.♔d5! ♔g2 2.h4 ♔xf2 3.h5 ♔g1 4.h6 f2 5.h7** White is fine.

Last week we talked about some ideas in the Alekhine Defence. I said that one of the main positional themes for Black is putting pressure on the e5-pawn. If White takes on d6 with e5xd6, then Black should target the d4-pawn. Now I would like to discuss this positional theme. Have a look at the following diagram, which features Black's 'dream position':

Weak d4−pawn in the Alekhine Defence



Here White's bishop cannot protect the d4−pawn. Although formally it is a 'good' bishop, this does not stop him from being pretty useless!

I would like to illustrate this idea with one of my old games. It is also available in our database with training questions. I would recommend you to play through the game in Chess Base first.

Victor Varavin − Alex Baburin

Moscow 1986, Alekhine Defence B05

1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3 ♗g4 5.♗e2 e6 6.0-0 ♘c6 7.c4 ♘b6 8.exd6 cxd6 9.b3

This is rather harmless. Better is 9.d5!.

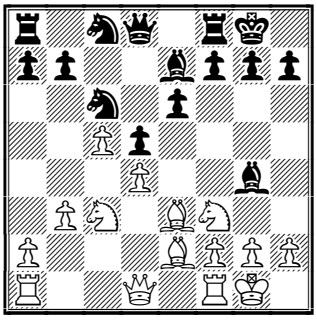
9...♗e7 10.♗e3 0-0 11.♘c3

Here my opponent offered a draw. In general I am not too keen to quick draws. Here it would be particularly wrong to accept the offer, as I knew such positions really well and my opponent looked uncomfortable.

11...d5! 12.c5

After 12.cxd5?! ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 ♕xd5 Black would be already better.

12...♘c8! (D)



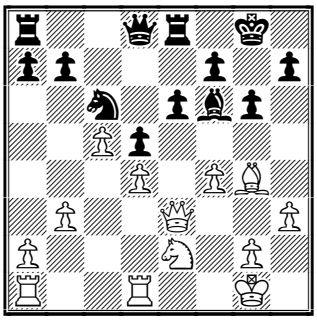
13.♕d2 ♗f6 14.♖fd1 ♘8e7 15.h3?!

Not very logical, as Black wanted to exchange the f3−knight anyway.

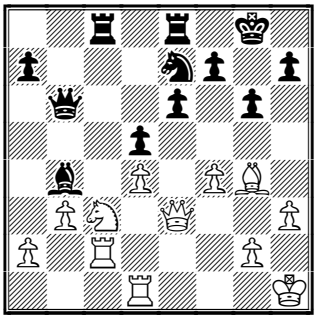
15...♗xf3 16.♗xf3 ♘f5 17.♘e2 g6

Nowadays I would have played 17...b6!.

18.♗g4 ♘xe3 19.♕xe3 ♖e8 20.f4 *(D)*

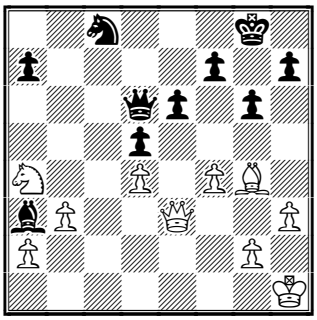


20...b6! 21.♖ac1 ♖c8 22.♔h1 bxc5 23.♖xc5 ♗e7 24.♖c3 ♗b4 25.♖c2 ♕b6 26.♘c3 ♘e7! (D)



Black wants to fight for the c−file. If he could swap off all rooks, he can then attack the d4−pawn with 3 pieces, while White would have only 2 defenders.

27.♘a4 ♕d6 28.♖dc1 ♗a3 29.♖xc8 ♖xc8 30.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 *(D)*



Black has achieved his goal and is ready to play ...♘c8−e7−c6 and ...♕b4. He can also attack the d4−pawn with the bishop, while White's bishop is pretty useless. White's desperate try on the next move could not save him:

31.f5 gxf5 32.♕g5+ ♔f8 33.♗h5♘e7 34.♕f6 ♘g6 35.♗xg6 hxg6 36.♕h8+ ♔e7 37.♕c8 ♕f4 38.♘c5 ♕xd4 39.♘b7 ♕b6 40.b4 ♗xb4 41.a4 a5 42.g4 d4 43.♔g2 d3 44.♔f3 d2 45.♔e2 fxg4 46.hxg4 ♕d4 0-1

I hope that you've enjoyed this week's *Trainer's Corner*. It may not be on next week as I will be away, but please keep sending your questions - I will deal with them when I return!

I also give lessons over the phone. The current rate is $50 per hour. You can call Ireland for as little as $4-5 per hour from many countries (like USA), so if you would like to take lessons from me, please e-mail me at ababurin@iol.ie.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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CT-223, 18th June 2001

Cramling and Wedberg Co-leaders In Malmo

Pia Cramling and **Tom Wedberg** are leading after the 6th round of the ***Sigeman & Co Chess*** Tournament in Malmo, Sweden.

Results of the 5th Round:
Wedberg – Timman **1:0**
De Firmian – I. Sokolov **½:½**
C. Hansen – Gulko **1:0**
Radjabov – Hector **1:0**
Cramling – Berg **1:0**

Results of the 6th Round:
Hector – Cramling **0:1**
Sokolov – Wedberg **0:1**
Hansen – de Firmian **1:0**
Timman – Radjabov **½:½**
Gulko – Berg **1:0**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-2. Cramling, Wedberg – 4 points
3-4. Gulko, Radjabov – 3½
5-7. Timman, Sokolov, Hansen – 3
8. Berg – 2½
9. de Firmian – 2
10. Hector – 1½

GMs **Valeri Popov** and **Alexander Vaulin** won the ***White Nights*** tournament in St-Petersburg, Russia.

Top Results of the last, 9th Round:
(6) Yevseev **½:½** Fominyh (6)
(6) Popov **1:0** Loginov (6)
(6) Vaulin **1:0** Kornev (6)

(6) Malaniuk **½:½** Shaposhnikov (5½)
(5½) Korotylev **1:0** Polovodin (5½)
(5½) Vokarev **0:1** Sivokho (5½)
(5½) Meister **½:½** Vorobiov (5½)
(5½) Sambuev **0:1** Shariyazdanov (5)

Final standing:
1-2. Vaulin, Popov – 7 points
3-7. Yevseev, Fominyh, Malaniuk, Korotylev, Sivokho – 6½
8-19. Loginov, Kornev, Shaposhnikov, Meister, Vorobiov, Shariyazdanov, Iskusnyh, Smikovski, Solovjov, Eliseev, Kokarev, Beshukov – 6 etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners! Also see our annotated game section – today **Alexander Vaulin** is our hero.

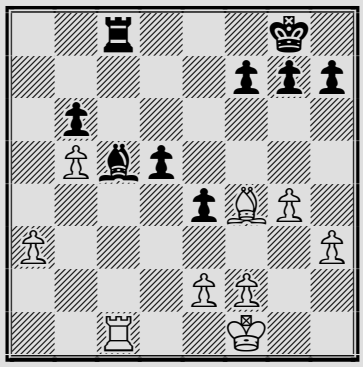
There is another open tournament in progress in Russia, this time in ***Voronezh***. There are 4 GMs and 31 IMs in this traditional tournament (9 rounds, Swiss system).

Pairing for the 5th Round:
(4) Ivanov Victor L. - Chuprov (4)
(3½) Zakharov - Ulko (3½)
(3½) Tolstikh Nikolay - Obukhov (3½)
(3½) Alavkin - Arakelov (3½)

♘♘♘

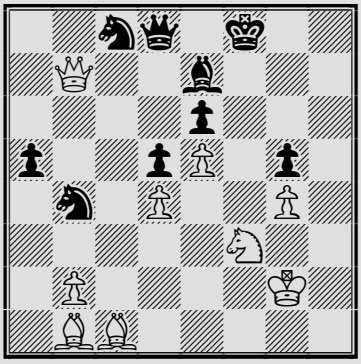
Tactical Quiz

1. Vaulin A. – Klimov S.
It White Nights 2001 (Cup Russia) St. Petersburg (Russia) (5.12), 06.2001



White to play

2. Vorobiov E. − Poliakov A.
It White Nights 2001 (Cup Russia) St. Petersburg (Russia) (1.19), 2001



White to play
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E. Korbut − A. Vaulin
It White Nights 2001 (Cup Russia) St. Petersburg (Russia) (2.24), 06.2001
B93
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Alexander Vaulin is a very experienced GM with a solid opening repertoir and good tactical skill, winner of some openings. His opponent in the following game was 17−year old Ekaterina Korbut. Two weeks earlier she won a bronze medal at the Russian Women's Championship. She always plays in very active, "male" chess tournaments and never avoids opening battles where important critical lines are played.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f4

This variation was more popular in the mid 1980s, mainly thanks to the efforts of Andrei Sokolov. Now more often White plays 6.♗e3 or even; 6.f3!?; Also there are two moves which are played at all times − 6.♗e2 and; 6.♗g5

6...e5 7.♘f3 ♘bd7 8.a4

Other lines begin with 8.♗d3 and; 8.♗e2!?

8...♗e7 9.♗d3 0-0 10.0-0 exf4

The main alternative is 10...♘c5

11.♔h1

Another interesting opinion was a pawn sacrifice, for example: 11.♗xf4 ♕b6+ 12.♔h1 ♕xb2 13.♕d2 (13.♕e1!?) 13...♕b6 14.♗g5 (14.♘d5!? ♘xd5 15.exd5 ♘c5 16.♖ae1 ♕d8 17.h3 ♗d7 18.a5 ♖c8 19.♖e2 ♘xd3 20.cxd3 ♗f5 21.♖fe1⩲ Adams − van Wely, Germany 1994) 14...♕d8 15.♘d4 ♘c5 16.♘f5 ♗xf5 17.♖xf5 ♘g4 18.♖af1 ♗xg5 19.♖xg5 ♘e5∓ V.Orlov − Vaulin, Elista 1994

11...♘h5

As in some lines of the King's Gambit, Black tries to hold the pawn f4, mainly because it closes the very important f−file.

12.♘d4

Take a look at one of the recent games: 12.♘d5 ♘c5 13.♘d4 ♘f6 14.♗xf4 ♘cxe4 15.♗xe4 ♘xe4 16.♕e2 f5 17.♕c4 ♔h8 18.a5 ♗d7 19.♘b6 ♖b8 20.♘e6 ♗xe6 21.♕xe6 ♗g5 22.♘d7 ♗xf4 23.♖xf4 ♘c5 24.♘xc5 dxc5 25.♖xf5= Arakhamia−Grant − Palac, Italy 2001

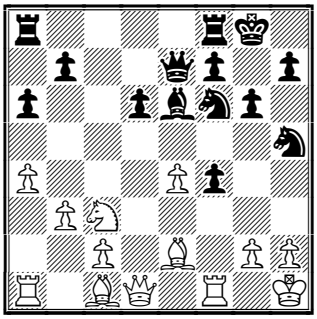
12...g6 13.♗e2 ♘df6 14.♘f5!?

Sharper than 14.♗xh5 ♘xh5 15.♘d5 ♗g5 16.♕f3 ♗d7 17.♘e2 ♗c6 18.♘exf4 ♘xf4 19.♗xf4 ♗xd5 20.exd5 ♖c8 21.c3 ♗xf4 22.♕xf4 ♖c7 23.♖ae1 ♖e7 24.h3 draw, J.Polgar − Gelfand, Linares 1997

14...♗e6 15.♘xe7+

Worse is 15.b3?! gxf5! 16.♗xh5 fxe4 17.♗b2 ♕a5 18.♗e2 ♖fc8 19.♕e1 ♕g5 20.♕d2 d5∓ Grigoriants − Vorobiov, Moscow 1999

15...♕xe7 16.b3 (D)



16...♖fd8N

This is a novelty according to the

following game:
16...♖ac8 17.♕d4 ♗g4 18.♘d5 ♕e5 19.♕xe5 dxe5 20.♗xg4 ♘xg4 21.♘e7+ ♔g7 22.♘xc8 ♖xc8 23.c4± Bielczyk − Wojtkiewicz, Poland 1995

17.♗b2 ♕c7 18.♘d5 ♗xd5 19.exd5 ♕e7 20.♗f3

The Bishop has to follow Knight f5; after 20.c4 ♖e8 21.♗d3?! ♘d7! 22.♕d2 ♘e5 (22...♕h4!? 23.♔g1 ♘e5 Black has no problems.)

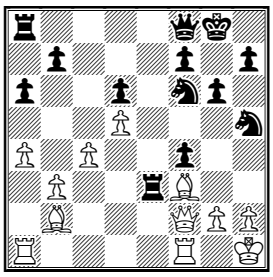
20...♖e8 21.c4 ♕f8 22.♕d4!?

White's position looks quite promising...

22...♖e5! 23.♕f2

White has to protect g3−square: 23.♕b6?! ♘g3+! 24.hxg3 ♕h6+ 25.♔g1 fxg3 26.♖fe1 ♖xe1+ 27.♖xe1 ♕d2 28.♖b1 ♕c2-+

23...♖e3? (D)



Maybe I have missed something especially strong, but this optimistic move looks like a mistake. But after 23...♖ee8 24.♕h4 White is better.

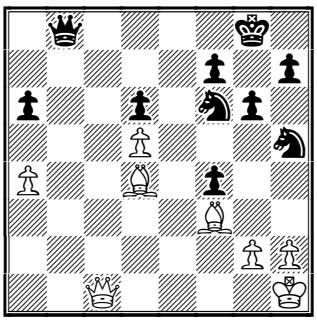
24.♗d4?

This move too. What was Black's idea after 24.g4! if 24...♘g3+ then simply 25.hxg3 ♕h6+ 26.♕h2

24...♖xb3 25.♖fb1 ♖xb1+ 26.♖xb1 ♖c8 27.♖xb7 ♖xc4 28.♕b2 ♕e8!

Black shows that he also has some threats.

29.♖b8 ♖c1+ 30.♕xc1 ♕xb8 (D)

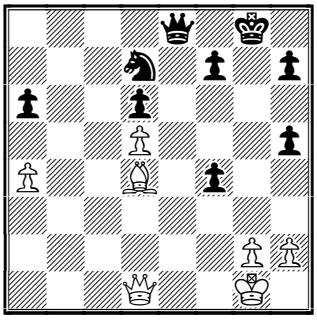


White is a pawn down, but due to the two Bishops has a good chances for a draw. But the young player looks a bit confused...

31.♔g1 ♕e8 32.♕a1 ♘d7 33.♗xh5?

Don't hurry to exchange Bishops! Much better was 33.♕f1! with threats for pawns a6 and f4.

33...gxh5 34.♕d1 (D)



34...♕e4!

Decisive centralisation. The Bishop d4 is "empty".

35.♗a1 ♘e5 36.h3 f3! 37.g3 ♕e3+ 38.♔f1 ♘d3 0-1.

Solutions to tactical Quiz:

1. 29.♗d6 d4 29...♖a8 30.♗xc5 bxc5 31.♖xc5 ♔f8 32.♖c7!? ♖b8 33.a4+−; 29...f6 30.♖xc5! **30.♖xc5! bxc5 31.b6 c4 32.b7 ♖d8 33.b8♕ ♖xb8 34.♗xb8 c3 35.♔e1 1-0.**

2. 47.♘xg5! ♗xg5 48.♕h7 ♕e7 48...♗xc1 49.♗g6 ♘d6 50.♕h8+ ♔e7 51.♕g7+ ♘f7 52.♕xf7# **49.♕h8+ ♔f7 50.♕h5+ ♔g8 51.♗xg5 ♕f7 52.♗f6! 1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.sigeman-chess.com/
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.relex.ru/~xuser/voronezh_open/
http://www.totalchess.spb.ru

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-224, 19h June 2001

Wedberg and Cramling Maintain Slim Lead In Malmo

There was only one decisive game in the 7th Round of the ***Sigeman & Co*** Chess Tournament in Malmo, Sweden. Ivan Sokolov, beat with Black, Teimour Rajabov, and GMs exchange their places in the cross-table.

Results of the 7th Round:
Berg – Hector **½:½**
de Firmian – Gulko **½:½**
Wedberg – Hansen **½:½**
Radjabov – Sokolov **0:1**
Cramling – Timman **½:½**

Standing after the 7th Round:
1-2. Cramling, Wedberg – 4½ points
3-4. Gulko, Sokolov – 4
5-7. Timman, Radjabov, Hansen – 3½
8. Berg – 3
9. de Firmian – 2½
10. Hector – 2

Today in our annotated game section we feature Tom Wedberg's victory over Jan Timman from the 5th round. As you will recall he lost his first two games, but since then he has won 4 games in a row.

There are four leaders after the 5th Round of the ***Voronezh Open*** tournament.

Top results of the 5th Round:
Ivanov Victor L. - Chuprov **½:½**
Zakharov - Ulko 1:0
Tolstikh - Obukhov 0:1
Alavkin - Arakelov **½:½**

Standing after the 5th Round:
1-4. Chuprov, Zakharov, Obukhov, V.L. Ivanov – 4½ points
5-16. Arakelov, Zakhartsov, Varavin, Amonatov, Kobylkin, Tunik, Granovski, Chuprikov, Vinokurov, Akhmadeev, Egorov, Pavlov – 4 etc.

Pairing for the 6th Round:
Chuprov – Zakharov
Obukhov – Ivanov Victor L.
Arakelov – Zakhartsov
Varavin – Amonatov
Kobylkin – Tunik
Granovski – Chuprikov
Vinokurov – Akhmadeev
Egorov – Pavlov

GMs **Normunds Miezis, Sergei Ovsejevitsch** and **Christian Bauer** shared 1-3 places with 8 points out of 9 in the ***8th Rapid Echternacher open***, Luxembourg.

4-7. Haub, Fontaine, Csiszar, Glek – 7½ etc. (283 participants, 8 GM, 20 IM)

Our regular reader GM Karsten Muller informs us:
"The German team blitz championship ended yesterday with the following results:
1. SG Köln Porz (van Wely, Bacrot, Lutz, van den Doel)
2. Tegernsee (Khenkin, Hertneck, Beim, Stangl, Teske)
3. Leipzig-Gohlis
4. St. Ingbert
5. Hamburger SK (26 teams, all play all on 4 boards)."

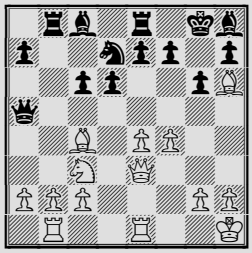
The Dutch Championships will start today. There will be 10 participants in men's section (round-robin system): Champion-2000 **Loek van Wely, GMs Jeroen Piket,Sergei Tiviakov, Friso Nijboer, Paul van der Sterren, Erik van den Doel, John van der Wiel, IMs Karel van der Weide, Mark van der Werf and Sipke Ernst.** In the women's section (double round-robin): WGM **Zhao Qin Peng, WIM Tea Lanchava, WGM Erika Sziva, Petra Schuurman**, **Colleen Otten** and **Bianca Muhren**.

As you can see this time there isn't a computer entered into the tournament. Lets hope that without Fritz the event will be as interesting as last year's was!

♘♘♘

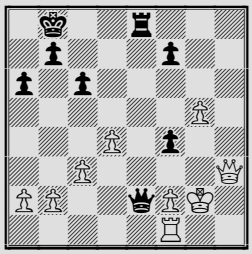
Tactical Quiz

1. Ustinov A. − Inarkiev E.
It White Nights 2001 (Cup Russia) St. Petersburg (Russia) (1.24), 2001



Black to play

2. Kholmov R. − Malaniuk V.
It White Nights 2001 (Cup Russia) St. Petersburg (Russia) (2.10), 06.2001



Black to play

♘♘♘

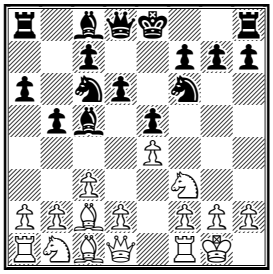
Annotated Game

T. Wedberg (2505) − J. Timman
Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament
Malmoe, Sweden (5), 2001 C78
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗c5

A very fashionable line.

6.c3 b5 7.♗c2 d6 (D)



Sharper and forcing variations begin after 7...d5!? for example: 8.d4 dxe4 9.♘bd2!? exf3 10.♕xf3 ♗e7 11.♕xc6+ ♗d7 12.♕f3 exd4 13.cxd4 0-0 14.♘e4 ♗e6 15.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 16.♗e4 ♗xd4!? 17.♖d1 c5∞ Topalov − Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2001

8.d4 ♗b6 9.h3

As in the classical lines of the Ruy Lopez, it's important to protect the g4−square to reduce the pressure on the d4−pawn. Maybe premature is 9.a4!? for example: 9...♗g4 10.d5 ♘e7 11.h3 ♗d7 12.axb5 axb5 13.♖xa8 ♕xa8 14.♘a3 0-0 15.♗g5 ♔h8 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♘h2 ♖g8⇄ Adams − Hector, Copenhagen 1997.

9...♗b7 10.a3 0-0 11.♗e3!?N

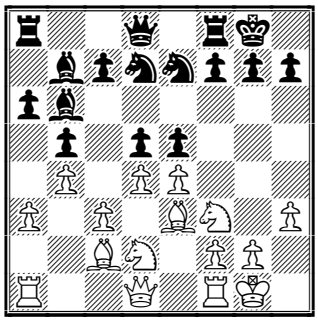
An interesting novelty. As stated before White must defend the d4−pawn strongly because this is the key point of the whole position. So less effective was 11.♗g5 as was played in the following game: 11...h6 12.♗h4 ♕e7 13.♕d3 ♘b8 14.♘bd2 c5! 15.b3 cxd4 16.cxd4 ♘bd7 17.b4 ♖fc8 18.♖ac1 ♘f8 19.♗g3 ♘g6⇄ S. Polgar − Segal, Israel 1999.

11...♘d7

Black defends the b6−Bishop. After, for example: 11...♖e8 12.d5!? ♘e7 13.♗xb6 cxb6 14.♘bd2± White has a small but stable advantage.

12.♘bd2 ♘e7 13.b4! (D)

White continues to fortify the d4−square using all strong moves! Now White prevents the c7−c5 advance.



13...d5?!

Another typical idea in the Ruy Lopez − to open the center and simplify the position. But White's pieces are a bit more active so he

retains the better chances.

14.♖e1 dxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘d5

15...f5? 16.♗b3+ ♔h8 17.♘eg5±; 15...exd4 16.♗xd4!?±

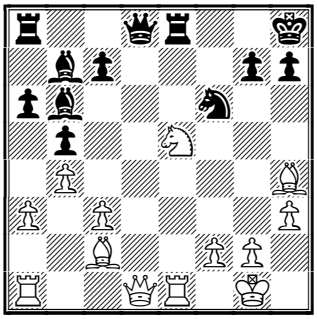
16.♗g5 f6 17.♗h4 ♖e8?

This is a mistake. But Black's tasks are not simple now. After 17...exd4 18.♘xd4 ♖e8 19.♕h5!? White's threats are rather dangerous. Maybe best was 17...♕e8!? 18.dxe5 ♘xe5± (18...fxe5!?)

18.dxe5 ♔h8

Unfortunately Black could not take the d− pawn: 18...♘xe5 19.♘xe5 ♖xe5 20.♘xf6+!+−

19.exf6 ♘7xf6 20.♘xf6 ♘xf6 21.♘e5 (D)



Now White has an extra pawn and the better position; what else you can you wish for?!

21...♕d5□ 22.♕xd5 ♗xd5 23.♖ad1 c6 24.♗xf6 gxf6 25.♘d7

A Very energetic realisation of an advantage.

25...♖xe1+ 26.♖xe1 ♗d8 27.♗e4! ♗f7

Hopeless is 27...♗xe4 28.♖xe4 ♔g7 29.♘c5 (29.♖e8!?)

28.♘c5

White doesn't want to give his opponent any counterplay after 28.♗xc6 ♖c8.

28...♖c8 29.♖d1

Why not 29.♘xa6 ♖a8 30.♘c5 ♖xa3 31.♗xc6 ♖xc3 32.♗xb5 ? See annotation for the previous move.

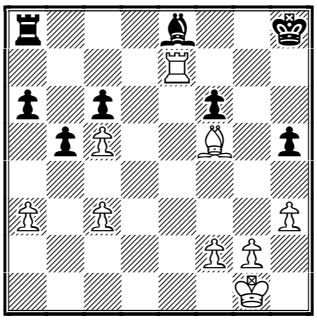
29...♗e8 30.♗f5

White finds a way to penetrate.

30...♖a8 31.♖e1 ♗b6 32.♖e7

Here it is!

32...♗xc5 33.bxc5 h5 (D)



34.♗d7?!

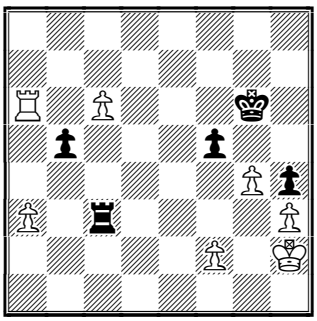
Maybe this isn't the best decision, even though the Rook ending is very difficult for Black. But why not simply 34.♔f1 − White's Rook and Bishop are more active than their counter−parts. The same can be said of the Kings.

34...♗xd7 35.♖xd7 ♖e8 36.♖d6 ♖e1+ 37.♔h2 ♔g7?!

Better was 37...♖a1! with some chances for a successful defence.

38.♖xc6 ♖c1 39.♖xa6 ♖xc3 40.c6 ♔g6 41.g3 h4 42.g4 f5? (D)

The final mistake in a difficult situation.



43.c7+!

Black resigned in view of 43.c7+ ♔g5 (43...♔f7 44.♖a7 ♔f6 45.♖b7+−) 44.♖b6! fxg4 (44...♖xc7 45.♖xb5+−) 45.♖xb5+ ♔f6 46.hxg4 ♖xc7 47.♔h3+− **1-0.**

Solutions to tactical Quiz:

1.18...♖xb2! 19.♖xb2 ♕xc3 20.♕xc3 ♗xc3 21.♖eb1 ♗xb2 22.♖xb2 ♘c5 23.♗d3 f6∓ and Black won **0-1.**

2. 32...♖e3! 33.♕f5?! ⌓33.♕h8+ ♔a7 34.♔g1 ♕g4+ 35.♔h2 ♖e2 36.d5!? ♕g3+ 37.♔h1 ♕f3+ 38.♔g1

♕xd5-+ 33...♖g3+! 34.♔h2 ♕h5+ 0-1.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.sigeman-chess.com/
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.relex.ru/~xuser/voronezh_open/
http://www.desprenger-echternach.lu/
http://www.newinchess.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CT- 225, 20th June 2001

Kramnik Defeats Kasparov in Blitz Match!

Vladimir Kramnik beat Garry Kasparov in their two-game Internet blitz match. It was played on 19 June at ***www.kasparovchess.com*** and available on-line only for members of this site. But now all can view these games. Kramnik won the first game with Black in a very interesting tactical battle (*see our annotated game section*) and had an advantage in the second game but it ended in a draw. Final result: 1½:½ in favour of the World Champ!

Ivan Sokolov made a new kind of "castling" with his opponent. In the 8th round of the ***Sigeman & Co Chess*** Tournament in Malmo, Sweden, he defeated co-leader Pia Cramling and now shares first place with Tom Wedberg.

Results of the 8th Round:
Gulko – Hector **½:½**
Sokolov – Cramling **1:0**
Hansen – Radjabov **½:½**
Timman – Berg **1:0**
de Firmian – Wedberg **½:½**

Standing after the 8th Round:
1-2. Sokolov, Wedberg – 5 points
3-5. Cramling, Gulko, Timman – 4½
6-7. Radjabov, Hansen – 4
8-9. Berg, de Firmian – 3
10. Hector – 2½

Pairing of the last, 9th Round:
Wedberg – Gulko
Hector – Timman
Berg – Sokolov
Cramling – Hansen
Radjabov – de Firmian

The Mayor's Cup – X cat. Round-robin event started in Queens, New York.

It is organised by **GM Susan Polgar** and the Polgar Chess Center.
In the picture from http://www.polgarchess.com/ –
Susan Polgar and **Mayor Giuliani**.

Results of the 1st Round:
Nakamura – Yudasin **0:1**
Gruenfeld - Schneider **0:1**
Perelshteyn – Novikov **½:½**
Blatny - Simutowe **0:1**
Krush – Shahade **1:0**

Pairing of the 2nd Round:
Yudasin - Shahade
Simutowe - Krush
Novikov – Blatny
Schneider – Perelshteyn
Nakamura - Gruenfeld

Alexander Zakharov became sole leader after the 6th Round of ***Voronezh*** open tournament.

Top results of the 6th Round:
Chuprov – Zakharov **0:1**
Obukhov – Ivanov **½:½**

Arakelov – Zakhartsov **0:1**
Varavin – Amonatov **1:0**
Kobylkin – Tunik **½:½**
Granovski – Chuprikov **½:½**
Vinokurov – Akhmadeev **0:1**
Egorov – Pavlov **1:0**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Zakharov – 5½ points out of 6
2-7. Varavin, Zakhartsov, Obukhov, Egorov, Akhmadeev, Ivanov – 5 points
8-16. Tolstykh, Tunik, Chuprov, Alavkin, Kobylkin, Granovski, Chuprikov, Grebionkin, Khmelnitski – 4½ etc.

Pairing for the 7th Round:
Zakharov – Varavin
Zakharstov – Obukhov
Ivanov – Egorov
Akhmadeev – Tolstikh
Tunik – Chuprov
Alavkin – Kobylkin
Chuprikov – Khmelnitski
Grebionkin – Granovski

GM **Gilberto Milos** qualified to The World Championship from the ***Zone 2.4*** qualifying tournament in Sao Paulo, Brasil, by beating in the play round GM Darcy Lima 3:1.

New, TWIC #345 is now available at: http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
As usual you can found a lot of interesting and useful information here.

The ***Costa Rican Championships*** took place 26th May-16 June 2001 in San Jose (13 round, Swiss system).

Final standing:
1. Bernal Gonzalez – 10½ points out of 13
2. Valdes – 10
3-4. Murillo, Minero – 9½
5. Vaglio – 7½ etc.

The ***4th Olivais Rapid Chess Open*** took place on June 10th in Portugal (126 players, 8 rounds Swiss).

1-3. Strikovic, Reinaldo, Fernandes – 7 points out of 8
4-6. Spraggett, Damaso, Quintino – 6½ etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

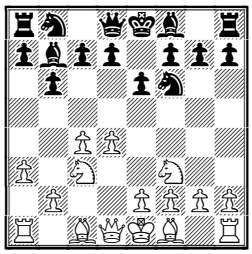
G. Kasparov − V. Kramnik
Internet, 19.06.2001 E12
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Of couse the following is only a blitz game but I suspect many players would be proud to play something like this in classical chess!

1.d4

No Berlin Wall today! Naturally the champ and ex−champ did not want to show their opening preparations in the main lines. So, in the second game the Slav defence was played, no Gruenfeld.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.♘c3 ♗b7 5.a3 (D)



The Petrosian system. Kasparov has played it since his youth.

5...d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.e3 g6!?

This move became popular between 1980-1990. Older is 7...♗e7 Look at two classical games: 8.♗b5+ c6 9.♗d3 c5 (9...♘d7 10.e4 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 c5 12.0-0 cxd4 13.cxd4 0-0 14.♕e2 ♖c8 15.♗b2 ♕c7 16.♕e3 ♘f6 17.♘e5 b5 18.f4!→ Kasparov − Akesson, Ch World Juniors 1980. How long has Garry Kasparov played top flight chess! And he is only 38−yers old now...) 10.♘xd5 ♕xd5 11.dxc5 ♕xc5 12.♗d2 ♘c6 13.♖c1 ♕d6 14.♕c2 ♖c8 15.0-0 h6 16.♖fd1 0-0 17.♗c3 ♕b8 18.♕a4! ♖fd8 19.♕e4 g6 20.♕g4 h5 21.♕h3 f5 22.♗c4± Petrosian − Smyslov, Ch USSR 1961

8.♘xd5

8.♗b5+ was an unhappy move for Garry: 8...c6 9.♗d3 ♗g7 10.e4 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 c5 12.♗g5 ♕d6 13.e5 ♕d7 14.dxc5 0-0! 15.cxb6 axb6∞ Kasparov − Korchnoi, London (m/1) 1983. Korchnoi won that game.

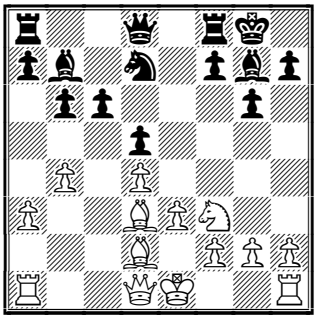
8...exd5 9.♗b5+

By the way, Kramnik also likes this type of position for White: 9.b4 ♗g7 10.♗e2 0-0 11.0-0 c6 12.a4 a6 13.♗b2 ♘d7 14.♕b3 b5 15.a5 ♖e8 16.♖ac1 ♖e6 17.♖c2 ♕e7 18.♘e1⇄ Kramnik − Lutz, Germany 1993

9...c6 10.♗d3 ♗g7 11.b4

11.e4!? dxe4 12.♗xe4 0-0 13.0-0 ♘d7 14.♗g5 ♕c7 15.♖c1 ♖fe8 16.♖e1 c5 17.♕c2 ♗xe4 18.♖xe4 ♕b7= Kramnik − Anand, Linares 1993.

11...0-0 12.♗d2 ♘d7 (D)



13.♖b1

Maybe this is a novelty, but one move doesn't play a big role in such a position. More important is the opponent's plans. 13.0-0 ♖e8 14.♕c2 ♖c8 15.♖ab1 ♕c7 16.♖fc1 ♕d6 17.a4 ♗a8 18.♗c3 ♖e7 19.h3 ♘f8 20.♘d2 ♘e6 21.♘b3 ♘g5 22.a5± Piket − Lauber, Germany 1993.

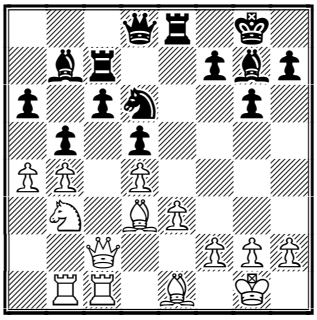
13...♖e8 14.0-0 ♘f6

I prefer this way for the Knight (f6−e4−d6 etc.) rather than Nf8−f6 as Lauber played. In the Karslbad structure d6 and e4 are the best squares for Black's Knight.

15.♕c2 ♘e4 16.♖fc1 ♖c8 17.♗e1 ♘d6

Black is waiting. In some variations (like it was in the game) Kramnik prepares b6−b5 and Nd6−c4. It's a hard task for White to attack the "weak" c6−pawn with Black's Knight on c4, and dificult to prepare e3−e4 with the Bishop on g7.

18.a4 a6! 19.♘d2 ♖c7 20.♘b3 b5 (D)



Black prepares the Bishop to c8 and Rook a8 to the center and King side by trying to close the Queen side.

21.♘c5 ♗c8 22.♖a1 ♖ce7 23.♗c3 ♘c4 24.♖a2 ♕d6 25.axb5 axb5 26.♖a8 ♘b6 27.♖a2 h5

At first sight Black has the better chances, but I believe this is a wrong evaluation. It's very hard to attack on the King side without the Knight there. And White's pawn structure is very solid.

28.♖ca1 h4 29.♕d1 h3!?

This pawn will be weak in the endgame − Kramnik shows his aggressive demeanor.

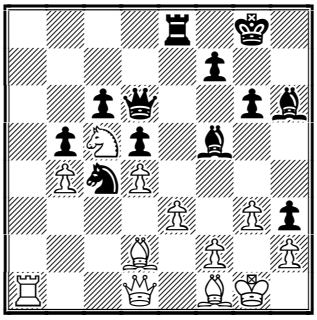
30.g3 ♘c4 31.♗f1 ♗h6

This is mainly a psychological move. In some variatians Black threatens to capture on e3.

2.♖a8

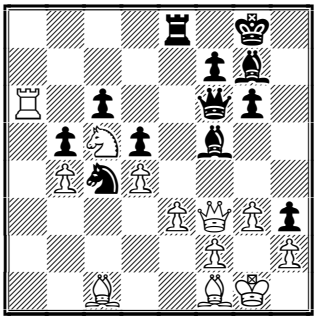
White wants to exchange a pair of Rooks or maybe sacriface the exchange and take the h3 pawn.

32...♗f5 33.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 34.♗d2 (D)



This position is dynamically equal or maybe White is slightly better. It's simpler for White to improve his position than for Black to.

34...♕f6 35.♗c1 ♗g7 36.♖a6 ♔h7!? 37.♕f3 ♔g8!? (D)



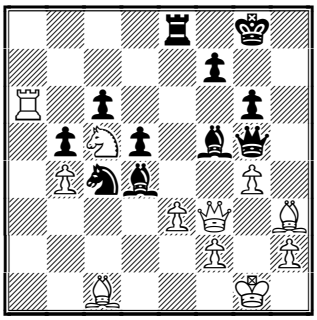
Black is waiting. Or, it's a blitz game, I forgot about it − such interesting and logical was play for both sides.

38.g4!?

Kasparov doesn't want a draw − in time trouble a move like g3−g4 is a very manly decision.

38...♕g5 39.♗xh3?

Kasparov overlooks his opponent's next reply. It was hard to find with only 20 seconds left on the clock. After 39.♕xh3! ♗xg4 40.♕g3 ♕h5 41.♖xc6 White has an advantage.



39...♗xd4!! 40.♔h1

40.exd4 ♕xc1+ 41.♗f1 (41.♔g2 ♖e1 42.♔g3 ♖g1+ 43.♗g2 ♘d2 44.♕e2 ♘f1+ 45.♔f3 ♗xg4+! and mate in 6 according Fritz) 41...♘d2 42.♕h3 ♗xg4-+

40...♘e5 41.♕g3 ♘xg4 42.♖xc6

42.f4 ♕h5 43.♗xg4 ♗xg4 44.exd4 ♗h3 45.♗e3 ♖xe3-+; 42.f3 ♘f2+ 43.♕xf2 ♗xh3 44.f4 (44.exd4 ♖e1+ 45.♕xe1 ♕g2#) 44...♕h5-+ and so on. It's very simple to attack when you have Fritz as you overnight friend!

42...♗xc5 43.♖xc5 ♕h5

with the idea of 44...Qxh3 45.Qxh3 Nxf3+

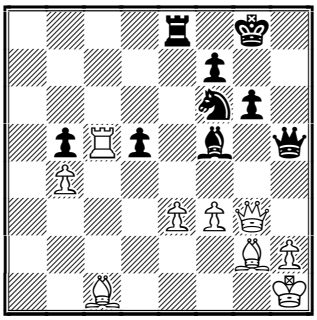
44.♗g2

44.♗f1!?

44...♘f6

44...♘xe3!? 45.♗f3 ♗g4∓

45.f3 (D)



45...♘e4!

At Last − a very nice and decisive blow.

46.♕c7 ♘xc5 47.bxc5 ♗h3

and White lost on time. Thanks to both players for such a keen battle! **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.sigeman-chess.com/
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.relex.ru/~xuser/voronezh_open/
http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/Zonal2001.htm
http://www.newinchess.com
http://www.geocities.com/ajedrezencostarica
http://www.terravista.pt/FerNoronha/3111
http://www.polgarchess.com/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-226, 21st June 2001

Gulko and Timman Win the Sigeman & Co. Chess Tournament.

Experience means much in chess! Boris Gulko and **Jan Timman** became winners of the ***Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament*** in Malmo, Sweden. Both of them won their last Round games. Our congratulations to the winners!

Results of the 9th Round:
Wedberg – Gulko **0:1**
Hector – Timman **0:1**
Berg – Sokolov **1:0**
Cramling – Hansen **½:½**
Radjabov – de Firmian **1:0**

Final standing:
1-2. Gulko, Timman – 5½ points
3-6. Sokolov, Wedberg, Cramling, Radjabov – 5
7. Hansen – 4½
8. Berg – 4
9. de Firmian – 3
10. Hector – 2½

Also see our annotated game section.

Only **GM Leonid Yudasin** has a perfect score after the second Round of the ***Mayor's Cup*** in Queens, New York.

Results of the 2nd Round:
Yudasin - Shahade **1:0**
Simutowe - Krush **½:½**
Novikov – Blatny **1:0**
Schneider – Perelshteyn **½:½**
Nakamura – Gruenfeld **½:½**

Standing after the 2nd Round:
1. Yudasin – 2 points
2-5. Schneider, Krush, Simutowe, Novikov – 1½
6. Perelshteyn – 1

Pairing of the 3rd Round:
Gruenfeld – Yudasin
Perelshteyn – Nakamura
Blatny – Schneider
Krush – Novikov
Shahade – Simutowe

Timman

Alexander Zakharov remains in first place after the 7th Round of the ***Voronezh*** open tournament – all top games were drawn.

Top results of the 6th Round:
Zakharov – Varavin **½:½**
Zakharstov – Obukhov **½:½**
Ivanov – Egorov **½:½**
Akhmadeev – Tolstikh **½:½**
Tunik – Chuprov **1:0**
Alavkin – Kobylkin **½:½**
Chuprikov – Khmelnitski **0:1**
Grebionkin – Granovski **1:0**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Zakharov – 6 points out of 7
2-10. Zakhartsov, Khmelnitski, Akhmadeev, Varavin, Ivanov, Obukhov, Grebionkin, Egorov, Tunik – 5½ etc.

Pairing for the 8th Round:
Zakharstov – Zakharov
Khmelnitski – Akhmadeev
Varavin – Ivanov
Obukhov – Grebionkin
Egorov – Tunik

15-year old **Kadir Guseinov** from Azerbaijan earned his first GM-norm in the First Saturday tournament (2-14 June, ***Budapest***, Hungary). Also 15-year old **Wang Shuai** from China executed his 3rd and final IM-norm. Our congratulations to the young prodigys!

Final standings:
Cat. VI (av. Elo 2383)
1. Guseinov – 10½ points out of 13

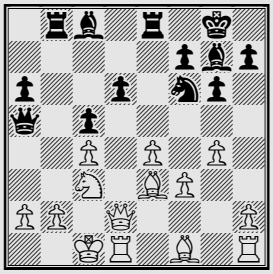
2. Al Sayed – 8½
3. Matlak – 8
4-5. Hoang Thanh Trang, Kosanovic – 7½ etc.
Cat. II (2288)
1. **Wang Shuai** – 9 ½ points out of 13
2. Nemeth – 9
3. Seres – 8½ etc.

Hartmut Metz informs us:
The Ordix Open, with which the Chess Classic Mainz 2001 will start on Saturday. We hope that we are able to present several stars in the evening too, who will play in the simuls vs. the world champions Anand and Kramnik. We are in contact with one boxing world champion and some football players from the German national team. It's for sure that Eckhard Freise, the famous winner of a one million show, and Jürgen Zäck (five times winner of the Ironman Europe) will play…

The Chess Classic Mainz' Ordix Open represents an outstanding line-up: not only two of the top ten players will meet at the rapid chess open in the Rheingoldhalle on 23 June (registration up to 12 noon) and 24 June. The competition for the prize fund of 45,000 German Marks will be started by 35 grandmasters that all expect to have a good chance of winning the first prize of 10,000 German Marks. The currently registered 27 elite players (on 13 June) have a rating average of more than 2600 Elo… ♘♘♘

Tactical Quiz

1. G. Golovchenko − D. Kokarev
It White Nights 2001 (Cup Russia) St. Petersburg (Russia) (2.28), 06.2001



Black to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

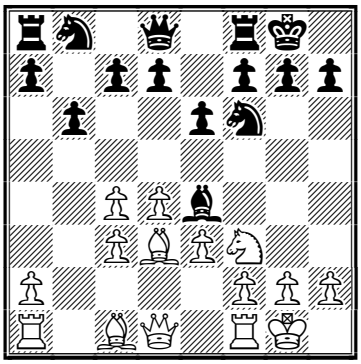
T. Radjabov (2533) − N. De Firmian (2545)
Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (9), 20.06.2001 E43
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Teimour Radjabov matures before our very eyes − in his second elite tournament, the 14 year old prodigy from Baku, Azerbajdan played more confidently and stronger than he did in Dos Hermanas and deservedly shared 3rd place. Our congratulations and best wishes to regular readers of ***CT*** Teimour and his father Boris!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3
The Rubinstein system of Nimzovitch Indian Defence.

4...b6 5.♗d3 ♗b7 6.♘f3 0-0 7.0-0 ♗xc3
More often seen by Black is 7...d5 or; 7...c5 to immediately attack his opponent's center.

8.bxc3 ♗e4 (D)



Of course, Black wants to exchange Bishops but White can easily avoid this. After ♗e2 and then ♘d2 White regains the "lost" tempo.

9.♗e2 d6
Black has another interesting idea − to switch the Bishop to the b1-h7 diagonal: 9...c5 10.♘d2 ♗g6!? 11.♗f3 ♘c6 12.♗a3 ♖c8 13.dxc5 ♕e7 14.♘b3 ♘e5 15.♗e2 ♘e4 16.♖c1 ♘xc5 17.♗xc5 bxc5 18.f4 ♘c6 19.♗f3± Reshevsky − Fischer, Buenos Aires 1970.

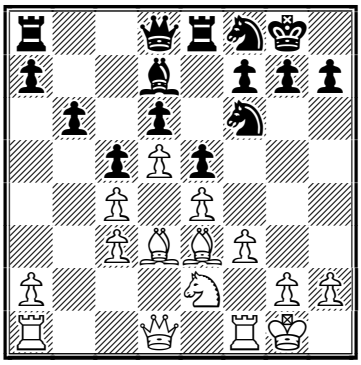
10.♘d2 ♗b7 11.f3 c5?!

According to Nimzovich, Black has to attack his opponent's center with the e−pawn due to the force of the d4−pawn coming to d5. After that Black will attack with the c−pawn and open the c−file. Another of Black's plans is to attack the c4−pawn by ♘b8−c6−a5 and ♗b7−a6. I believe Black played more logically in the following game: 11...e5 12.e4 ♘bd7 13.♖f2 ♖e8 14.♘f1 ♘f8 15.♗d3 ♘g6 16.g3 c6 17.d5 cxd5 18.cxd5 draw, Lukacs − Barczay, Hungary 1977.

12.e4 ♘bd7 13.♗d3 e5

Black prevents f3−f4.

14.♘b3 ♖e8 15.d5 ♘f8 16.♗e3 ♗c8 17.♘c1 ♗d7 18.♘e2 (D)



Black now has a very passive position without any counterplay and has to wait for White's attack on the King side.

18...♘g6 19.a4!

But first White tries to close the Queen side.

19...♖b8 20.♕d2 ♔h8 21.♔h1 a5?!

Depression! Better was to wait for White's pawn offensive on the King side and than start his own activity on the Queen's side by a7−a6, b6−b5!?.

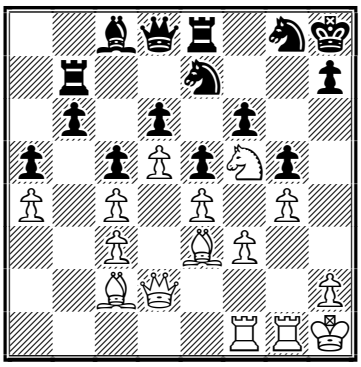
22.♗c2 ♘g8 23.g4 ♖b7 24.♘g3 ♗c8 25.♘f5

Teimour plays very simply and effectively.

25...♘6e7 26.♖g1 f6 27.♖af1

White wants to open the f−file after f3−f4.

27...g5 (D)



28.h4!

Not the f−file, then the h−file! Play is being directed toward one goal.

28...♘xf5

It was hard to suffer the Knight on f5, but now the Bishop on c2 becomes strong. (Notice White's 40th move.)

29.exf5 h6

Now all of Black's pawns stand on the black squares. White's white−squared Bishop is usually good, but in this position the Bishop c8 is very unhappy.

30.♔g2 ♔g7 31.♖h1 ♔f8 32.hxg5 hxg5 33.♗e4 ♖g7 34.♖h8 ♗d7 35.♕c2 ♔f7 36.♖fh1 ♘e7 37.♖8h6

Of course White has to save both Rooks to control the h−file.

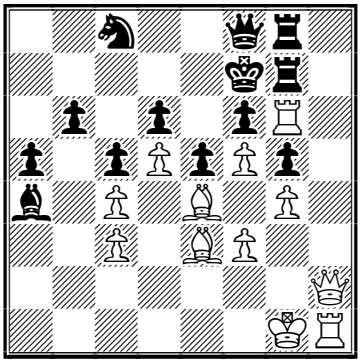
37...♘c8 38.♔g1 ♖eg8 39.♕h2!

The a4 pawn doesn't play any role now − White begins a direct attack.

39...♗xa4 40.♖g6!

Remember about the Bishop on e4!

40...♕f8 (D)



41.♗xg5!

A very hard blow.

41...♖xg6

41...fxg5 42.♖e6 ♕d8□ 43.f6±

42.fxg6+ ♔e8 43.♗h6 ♕e7 44.♕a2!?
White plays all over the board.
44...♗d7 45.♗e3 f5?!
Depression number two. In any case Black's position isn't very enviable!
46.gxf5 ♕f6 47.♖h5
With the idea of Bg5
47...♘e7 48.♗g5 ♕f8 49.♕b1 ♗xf5
Or 49...♘c8 50.f6+−
50.♕b5+ ♗d7 51.♕xb6 a4
And Black resigned. A very convincing victory by the youngest GM! **1-0.**

Solution to tactical Quiz:

1. 17...♗xg4! 18.e5 18.fxg4 ♘xe4 19.♘xe4 ♕xa2 20.♘c3 ♕a1+ 21.♔c2 ♖xb2+ 22.♔d3 ♕a3!?-+ **18...♗xf3 19.exf6 ♗xf6 20.♖g1 ♗xc3** [20...♗xc3 21.♕xc3 (21.bxc3 ♕a3+ 22.♔c2 ♗e4+ 23.♗d3 ♕b2#) 21...♕xc3+ 22.bxc3 ♗xd1 **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.sigeman-chess.com/
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.relex.ru/~xuser/voronezh_open/
http://www.newinchess.com
http://www.polgarchess.com/
http://w3.enternet.hu/vlagyus/firstsat.html

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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-227, 22nd June 2001

Yudasin caught by Krush & Novikov in New York

Israeli GM Yehuda Gruenfeld beat his compatriot (born in Russia, now living in the USA) GM Leonid Yudasin in the third Round of the Mayor's Cup in Queens, New York. And after that the former leader Yudasin was caught up by Ukraine born WIM Irina Krush and GM Igor Novikov.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Gruenfeld – Yudasin **1:0**
Perelshteyn – Nakamura **½:½**
Blatny – Schneider **1:0**
Krush – Novikov **½:½**
Shahade – Simutowe **1:0**

Standing after the 3rd Round:
1-3. Yudasin, Krush, Novikov – 2 points
4-7. Gruenfeld, Schneider, Perelshteyn, Simutowe – 1½
8-10. Blatny, Shahade, Nakamura – 1

Pairing of the 4th Round:
Yudasin – Simutowe
Novikov – Shahade
Schneider – Krush
Nakamura – Blatny
Gruenfeld – Perelshteyn

Also see our annotated game section.

Former leader Alexander Zakharov lost in the 8th Round of the Voronezh Open, and four players are ahead of a cross-table now.

Top results of the 8th Round:
Zakharstov – Zakharov **1:0**
Khmelnitski – Akhmadeev **1:0**
Varavin – Ivanov **0:1**
Obukhov – Grebionkin **½:½**
Egorov – Tunik **1:0**

Standing after the 8th Round:
1-4. Ivanov, Zakhartsov, Egorov, Khmelnitski – 6½ points out of 8
5-11. Alavkin, Obukhov, Grebionkin, Gasanov, Zakharov, Vinokurov, Pavlov – 6 etc.

Pairing for the last, 9th Round:
Ivanov – Zakharstov
Egorov – Khmelnitski
Alavkin – Obukhov
Grebionkin – Gasanov
Zakharov – Vinokurov
Pavlov – Ulko (5½)

A very interesting and important open letter about the recently finished European Championship has appeared on the TWIC site
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
It's not very long, but we'll quote only the first and last paragraphs:

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter on behalf of a large group of participants of the European Championship in Ohrid, who asked me to do so. The problem is very important and closely connected with the so-called "commercialisation" of chess...
…It is easy to calculate that the money made on the players covered most of the organisers' half of the prize fund, so the players were (along with FIDE) the main sponsors of the event. Is it this robbery that they call commercialisation?
Kind regards,

Michal Krasenkow, Gorzow Wlkp., Poland

♘♘♘

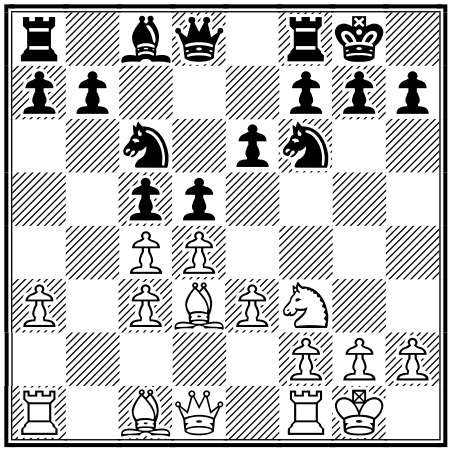
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

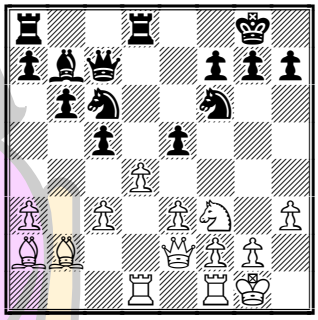
I Krush (2380) – G Shahade (2458)
Mayor's Cup New York USA (1), 18.06.2001) E59

It always attracts attention when a young girl is playing in a male GM−tournament. Especially when she is one of the leaders. Take a look at the following very convincing win by 17−year old Irina Krush.

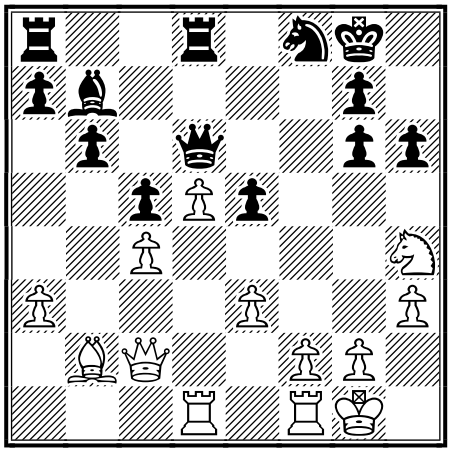
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3
Once more (see CT−226) Nimtzovich Indian Defence, Rubinstein system.
4...0-0 5.♗d3 d5 6.♘f3 c5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.a3 ♗xc3 9.bxc3



Of course, the most popular first move is 1.e2−e4. But according to statistics, after 1.d2−d4 the most popular moves are those that were played in this game (1... .♘f6 for Black, 2.c4 for White, 2...e6 for Black etc.). Only now Black chooses the second most popular move.
9...♕c7 10.♗b2 dxc4 11.♗xc4 e5 12.h3
This line was extremely fashionable in the 1950s-1960s, and recently it began to appear in tournaments again.
12...♖d8
More often Black plays 12...e4 for example: 13.♘d2 ♘a5 14.♗a2 ♗f5 15.c4 ♖fe8 16.d5 ♘d7 17.f4 exf3 18.♕xf3 ♗g6 19.h4 h5∞ Kramnik − Tiviakov, Wijk aan Zee 2001.
13.♕e2 b6 14.♖ad1 ♗b7 15.♗a2

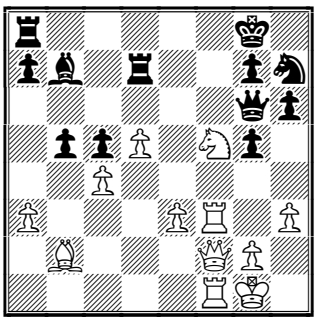


15...h6
Four moves later Black will regret that weakening of the g6−square ... 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 exd4 17.♘xd4 ♘xd4 18.♗xd4 ♕e7 19.♕b2 ♘e4!?∞ Johansson − Stefansson, Sweden 1997.
16.d5! ♘e7
A sharp alternative was 16...e4!? 17.♘h4 ♘e5⇄
17.c4 ♘g6
After 17...e4 18.♘d2 Black lost a pawn.
18.♗b1 ♘d7 19.♗xg6! fxg6 20.♘h4
It's very simple to evaluate this position: just compare the b2 Bishop with its opposite number on b7.
20...♕d6 21.♕c2 ♘f8



22.f4! exf4 23.♖xf4!
Very energetic and without prejudices! White takes the f−file, while Black can't exploit the weak e3 pawn.
23...♖d7
23...g5? 24.♘f5+−
24.♖df1 g5?
The Knight receives the f5−square, and White's task becomes rather simple.

Better was 24...b5!? for example: 25.cxb5 ♗xd5 26.e4 ♗f7 (26...♗b7 27.♕c4+ ♔h7 28.♖f7+−)
25.♘f5 ♕g6 26.♖4f3 b5 27.♕f2!+− ♘h7



28.♘xg7
This is the end.
28...g4
28...♖xg7 29.♗xg7 ♕xg7 30.♖f7+−
29.hxg4 ♖xg7 30.♗xg7 bxc4 31.♗a1 c3 32.♕e1 ♘g5 33.♖f6 ♕d3 34.♕xc3
An endgame will be hopeless for Black but without swapping queens it will be mate in 2−3 moves. So Black resigned.
1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.relex.ru/~xuser/voronezh_open/
http://www.polgarchess.com/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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CT-228, 23rd June 2001

Piket and van den Doel lead in Leeuwarden

Jeroen Piket and **Erik van den Doel** are leading with perfect scores after the second Round of the Dutch Championship in Leeuwarden. Defending Champion Loek van Wely has drawn both his games.

Piket

Results of the 1st Round:
Piket – Ernst **1:0**
Tiviakov – van der Weide **½:½**
van der Werf – van der Wiel **½:½**
van den Doel – van der Sterren **1:0**
van Wely – Nijboer **½:½**

Results of the 2nd Round:
Ernst – Nijboer **0:1**
van der Sterren –van Wely **½:½**
van der Wiel – van den Doel **0:1**
van der Weide – van der Werf **1:0**
Piket – Tiviakov **1:0**

Standing after the 2nd Round:
1-2. Van den Doel, Piket – 2 points
3-4. Nijboer, Van der Weide – 1½
5. Van Wely – 1
6-9. Tiviakov, Van der Sterren, Van der Wiel, Van der Werf – ½
10. Ernst – 0

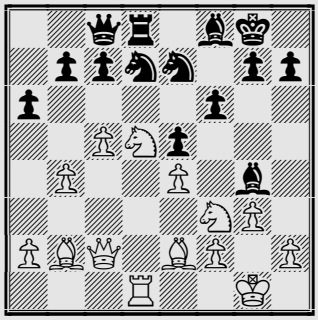
Pairing for the 3rd Round:
Tiviakov – Ernst
van der Werf – Piket
van den Doel – van der Weide
van Wely – van der Wiel
Nijboer – van der Sterren

Women's Championship, standing after the 3rd Round:
1. Peng – 3
2. Lanchava – 2
3-4. Schuurman, Sziva – 1½
5. Otten – 1
6. Muhren – 0

Also see our annotated game section.

Tactical Quiz

V Kuporosov – I Sudakova
White Nights Russia 06.2001



White to play

All five games were decisive in the 4th Round of the Mayor's Cup in Queens, New York. Interesting that Black won the "micro-match" 3:2. Irina Krush and Igor Novikov retain the shared leadership.

Results of the 4th Round:
Yudasin – Simutowe **0:1**
Novikov – Shahade **1:0**
Schneider – Krush **0:1**
Nakamura – Blatny **0:1**
Gruenfeld – Perelshteyn **1:0**

Standing after the 4th Round:
1-2. Krush, Novikov – 3 points
3-4. Simutowe, Gruenfeld – 2½

5-6. Yudasin, Blatny – 2
7-8. Schneider, Perelshteyn – 1½
9-10. Shahade, Nakamura – 1

Pairing of the 5th Round:
Perelshteyn – Yudasin
Blatny – Gruenfeld
Krush – Nakamura
Shahade – Schneider
Simutowe – Novikov

Evgeny Egorov won the traditional Voronezh Open thanks to his victory on the last day.

Results of the 9th Round:
Ivanov – Zakharstov **½:½**
Egorov – Khmelnitski **1:0**
Alavkin – Obukhov **0:1**
Grebionkin – Gasanov **½:½**
Zakharov – Vinokurov **1:0**
Pavlov – Ulko **0:1**

Final standing:
1. Egorov – 7½ points out of 9
2-5. Zakhartsov, Ivanov, Zakharov, Obukhov – 7
6-13. Vysochin, Ulko, Khmelnitski, Varavin, Grebionkin, Tunik, Shalimov, Gasanov – 6½ etc.

The III ShakkiNet Chess tournament (10 participants, cat. VIII, av. Elo 2437, GM norm 6½, IM norm 5) started in Helsinki, Finland.
Results of the 1st Round:
Maki-Uuro – C. Horvath **½:½**
Blauert – Salmensuu **½:½**
Karttunen – Nyback **½:½**
Agopov – Holmsten **0:1**
J. Horvath – Solozhenkin **½:½**

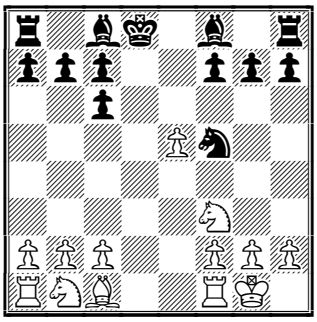
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

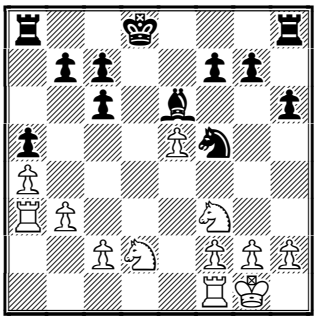
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
J Van der Wiel (2493) − E Van den Doel (2574) C67
ch−NED Leeuwarden NED (2), 22.06.2001

If you thought that the "Berlin Wall" was at last crushed in Astana − you were wrong!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8



Here it is. Now John van der Wiel chooses quite a rare way to develop his Queen's Knight.
9.♘bd2!?
I don't know why it can be better than the main line 9.♘c3. From d2 the Knight can go to c4 and e4, but it can't be dangerous for Black.
9...h6
Black want's to develop his Bishop on e6 and defends the g5 square against Nf3−g5xe6.
10.b3 a5 11.a4 ♗e6 12.♗a3
One of Black's compensations for doubled pawns is the so−called "Advantage of the Two Bishops". White deals with this but loses two tempi what with the rook having to go to a3.
12...♗xa3 13.♖xa3



13...♔c8!
It's a very important moment − Black has to decide where his King will go. On the Queenside it has good perspectives.
14.♖d1 ♖d8 15.♖aa1 b5!
Black hasn't got this move with his opponent's Knight on c3.
16.♔f1
After 16.♘e4 Black had two alternatives: 16...♗d5 (or 16...♖xd1+!? 17.♖xd1 bxa4 18.bxa4 ♖b8) 17.♘c5 ♖e8!?

16...♔b7 17.♘e4 ♔b6 18.♔e1 ♗d5

Now Black is simply better thanks to the more active position of his pieces. It is interesting that the a8 Rook is placed very well on it's starting position because White can never play axb5 due to cxb5 and a5−a4 etc.

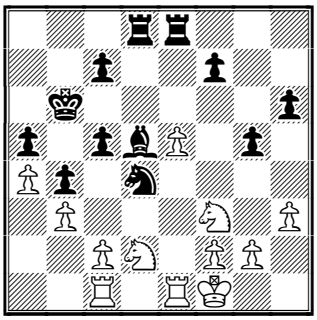
19.♘ed2 b4 20.♔e2 ♖e8 21.♔f1

The e5−pawn has become a headache for White.

21...♖ad8 22.♖ac1 c5 23.h3 g5!?

Black prevents f2−f4 after the Knight exchange.

24.♖e1 ♘d4



After the opening White had more space. Where is it now?

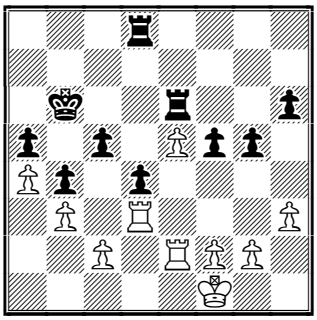
25.♘xd4

Very sad move. But had White anything better? After, for example, 25.♖e3 ♖e7 26.♖d3 ♘xf3 27.♘xf3 c4 Black also has strong initiative.

25...cxd4 26.♖cd1 ♖e6 27.♘e4 ♗xe4 28.♖xe4 c5 29.♖d3

White finds a counterplay on the 3rd rank. After 29.f3!? ♖de8 30.♖de1 ♔c6 31.g4!? (31.f4 f5!∓) 31...♔d5 32.f4 f6∓ it's position also is bad.

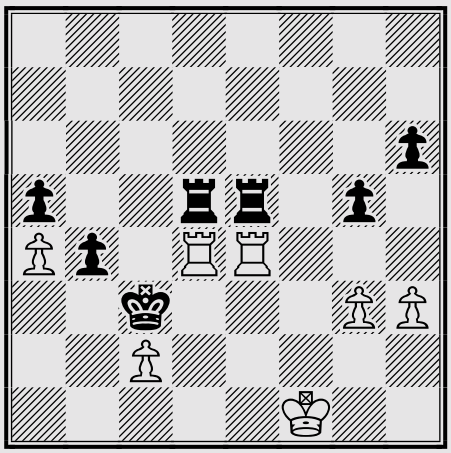
29...f5! 30.♖e2



30...c4!

Break!

31.bxc4 ♔c5 32.♖f3 f4 33.g3 fxg3 34.fxg3 ♔xc4 35.♖e4 ♖d5 36.♖d3 ♖exe5 37.♖dxd4+ ♔c3



A very picturesque position − all four Rooks are in the centre!

38.♖c4+ ♔b2 39.♖xe5 ♖xe5 40.♔f2 ♔a3-+ 41.♖c6 ♔xa4 42.g4 ♔a3 43.♖xh6 ♖c5 0-1

Answer to Quiz

22.♘xe7+ ♗xe7 23.♕b3+ ♔h8 24.♘g5! fxg5 25.♗xg4 ♘xc5 26.♖xd8+ 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.relex.ru/~xuser/voronezh_open/
http://www.polgarchess.com/
http://www.schaakbond.nl
http://www.shakki.net/3si/

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CT-229, 24th June 2001

Adams & Morozevich on 3/3 at Rapidplay

Adams

The Chess Classic Mainz' Ordix Open with almost 500(!) participants started yesterday. There isn't a lot of information about the strongest rapid tournament (11 rounds, 25 min per game, Swiss system) in the World yet. We know only that on the first day 3 rounds were played and favourites Michael Adams and Alexander Morozevich have a perfect score (as have a lot of other players I suspect).

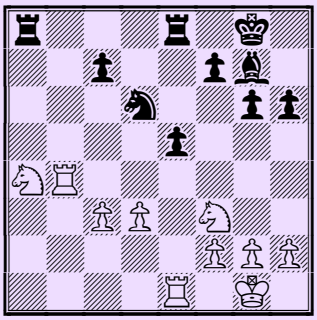
Today in our annotated game section – one of Morozevich's victories.

Only defending champion Loek van Wely won in the third Round of the Dutch Championship in Leeuwarden. Now he is half a point behind the leaders Erik van den Doel and Jeroen Piket.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Tiviakov – Ernst **½:½**
van der Werf – Piket **½:½**
van den Doel – van der Weide **½:½**
van Wely – van der Wiel **1:0**
Nijboer – van der Sterren **½:½**

Standing after the 3rd Round:
1-2. Van den Doel, Piket – 2½ points
3-5. Nijboer, Van Wely, Van der Weide – 2
6-8. Tiviakov, Van der Sterren, Van der Werf – 1
9-10. Van der Wiel, Ernst – ½

Bonnaire – Adams
Chess Classic Ordix
Open (1) Mainz, 23.06.2001



Black to play

Pairing for the 4th Round:
Ernst – van der Sterren
van der Wiel – Nijboer
van der Weide – van Wely
Piket – van den Doel
Tiviakov – van der Werf

Irina Krush and Igor Novikov improved their leading positions after winning their games in the 5th Round of the Mayor's Cup in Queens, New York.

Results of the 4th Round:
Perelshteyn – Yudasin **0:1**
Blatny – Gruenfeld **½:½**
Krush – Nakamura **1:0**
Shahade – Schneider **½:½**
Simutowe – Novikov **0:1**

Standing after the 5th Round:
1-2. Krush, Novikov – 4 points
3-4. Yudasin, Gruenfeld – 3
5-6. Simutowe Blatny – 2½
7. Schneider – 2
8-9. Shahade, Perelshteyn – 1½
10. Nakamura – 1

Pairing of the 6th Round:
Yudasin – Novikov
Schneider – Simutowe
Nakamura – Shahade
Gruenfeld – Krush
Perelshteyn – Blatny

The III ShakkiNet Chess tournament, Helsinki, Finland. Standing after the 2nd Round:

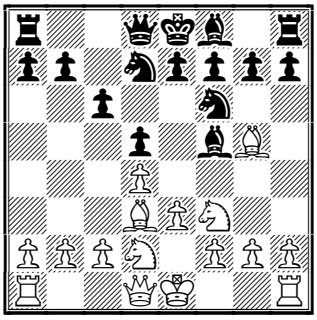
1-4. Maki-Uuro, Karttunen, Holmsten, Nyback – 1½ points
5-7. C. Horvath, J. Horvath, Solozhenkin – 1
8-9. Blauert, Salmensuu – ½
10. Agopov – 0

♘♘♘

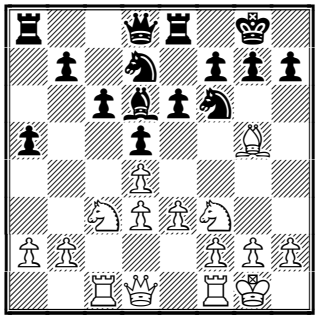
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

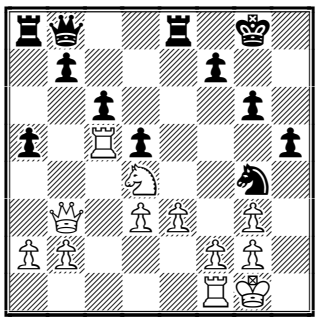
P Chandler – A Morozevich
Chess Classic
Ordix Open (2)
Mainz, 23.06.2001
D03
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♗g5 c6 4.♘bd2
It's not the best square for Knight; see, for example, CT−228.
4...♗f5 5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3



Famous Soviet GM, coach and theoretician Isaak Boleslavsky said of a similar situation: "If you like to play such openings, you do not study openings at all!" Maybe this isn't the best way (playing "without openings!") to struggle against an elite GM.
6...♗xd3
According to my base it's a novelty. In any case Black hasn't big problems after 6...♗g4; or 6...♗g6
7.cxd3 e6 8.0-0 ♗d6 9.♖b1 a5
Prevents a minority attack.
10.♖c1 0-0 11.♘b1
White recognises that the Knight hadn't any perspectives on d2 and puts it on its "rightful place" c3.
11...♖e8 12.♘c3

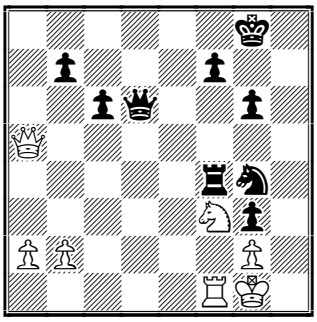


12...e5!
Now Black has at least an equal position.
13.♗h4?!
What was the idea? Better was the simple 13.dxe5 ♘xe5 14.♘xe5 ♗xe5 15.d4
13...exd4 14.♘xd4 ♕b8 15.♗g3 ♗xg3 16.hxg3
Black has received a very good square for his Knight on g4, not far from his opponent's King...
16...g6! 17.♘a4 h5 18.♕b3?!
A very optimistic move. The Queen had to control the g4−square.
18...♘g4 19.♘c5 ♘xc5 20.♖xc5

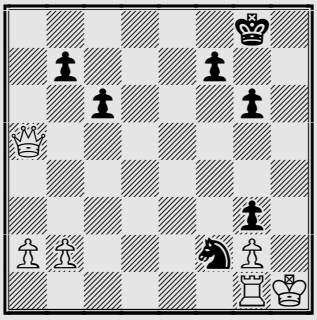


20...h4!
Of course! Black's Queen, Knight and pawn create a very strong attack.
21.e4 hxg3 22.f4 ♕d6
Queen is going on f6−h4 (or h8) and h2.
23.♕c3 dxe4
The simplest way. Why not capture a

second pawn?
24.dxe4 ♖xe4 25.♘f3 ♖xf4 26.♖xa5 ♖xa5 27.♕xa5



27...♖xf3!
Pretty final blow.
28.♖xf3
28.gxf3 ♕d4+ 29.♔g2 (29.♔h1 ♕h8+!) 29...♘e3+ 30.♔xg3 (30.♔g1 ♘f5+ and mate in 6 − Fritz, but a human could play 30...Nc4+) 30...♘xf1+-+
28...♕d1+ 29.♖f1 ♕d4+ 0-1
After 30.♔h1 Black has mate in 3 − 30...♕h8+ (or mate in 4 − 30...♘f2+ 31.♔g1 ♘h3+ 32.♔h1 ♕g1+ 33.♖xg1 ♘f2#!)



Answer to quiz: 25...e4! 26.dxe4 c5! 27.♖b6?! 27.♘xc5 ♗xc3 28.♖bb1 (28.♖b6 ♗xe1 29.♖xd6 ♗b4-+) 28...♗xe1 29.♖xe1 ♖ac8∓ **27...♘c4 0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.polgarchess.com/
http://www.schaakbond.nl
http://www.shakki.net/3si/
http://www.chesstigers.de/ChessClassic2001e/open/index.htm

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-230, 25th June 2001

Adams overtakes 501 competitors

Michael Adams went into clear first place in the Chess Classic Mainz' Ordix Open. He took 9½ points out of 11 and overtook 501 participants.

Final standing:
1. Adams – 9½ points
2-6. Milov, Eismont, Rublevsky, Glek, Lobron – 9
7-17. Dreev, Agrest, Baklan, Saltaev, Svidler, Bischoff, Rausis, Shchekachev, Barsov, Gofshtein, Hausrath – 8½ etc.
Alexander Morozevich shared 18-36 places with 8 points, he lost to Epishin, Eismont and Rausis.

At the Dutch Championship Jeroen Piket was too optimistic in sacrificing a Bishop in his game against. Erik van den Doel, his opponent found a precise defence, won and became sole leader. Loek van Wely takes clear second after a Sicilian victory with Black (see our annotated game section).

Results of the 4th Round:
Ernst – van der Sterren **1:0**
van der Wiel – Nijboer **½:½**
van der Weide – van Wely **0:1**
Piket – van den Doel **0:1**
Tiviakov – van der Werf **1:0**

Standing after the 4th Round:
1. Van den Doel – 3½ points
2. Van Wely – 3
3-4. Nijboer, Piket – 2½
5-6. Van der Weide, Tiviakov – 2
7. Ernst – 1½
8-10. Van der Sterren, Van der Wiel, Van der Werf – 1

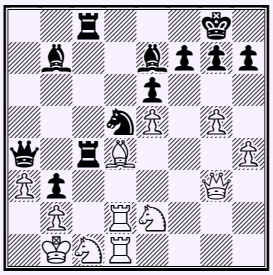
Pairing for the 5th Round (26th of June):
van der Werf – Ernst
van den Doel – Tiviakov
van Wely – Piket
Nijboer - van der Weide
van der Sterren – van der Wiel

Women's Round 5th standing:
1. Peng – 4½ points
2-3. Lanchava, Schuurman – 3
4. Sziva – 2½
5. Otten – 2
6. Muhren – 0

This weekend was Superfinal of the Polish Team Championship. Polonia plus GSM (Ivanchuk, Bareev, Macieja etc.) beat PTS (Grabarczyk, Miton, Staniszewski etc.) 4:2 and 5:1. Bareev lost first game for Miton but took a revenge on the second day.

Igor Novikov became a sole leader after the 6th Round of the Mayor's Cup in Queens, New York.

Black to play
From our annotated game



32 ... ???
Final storm.

Results of the 6th Round:
Yudasin – Novikov **½:½**
Schneider – Simutowe **1:0**
Nakamura – Shahade **½:½**
Gruenfeld – Krush **1:0**
Perelshteyn – Blatny **0:1**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Novikov – 4½ points
2-3. Krush, Gruenfeld – 4
4-5. Yudasin, Blatny – 3½
6. Schneider – 3
7. Simutowe – 2½
8. Shahade – 2

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky, technical editor – Graham Brown.
Subscription is $15 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

9-10. Perelshteyn, Nakamura – 1½

Pairing of the 7th Round:
Blatny – Yudasin
Krush – Perelshteyn
Shahade – Gruenfeld
Simutowe – Nakamura
Novikov – Schneider

The III ShakkiNet Chess tournament, Helsinki, Finland. Standing after the 3rd Round:

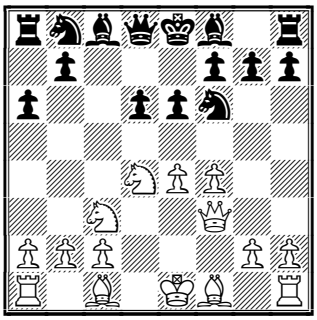
1-4. Maki-Uuro, Karttunen, J. Horvath, Solozhenkin – 2 points
5-8. Holmsten, Salmensuu, C. Horvath, Nyback – 1½
9. Blauert – 1
10. Agopov – 0

♘♘♘

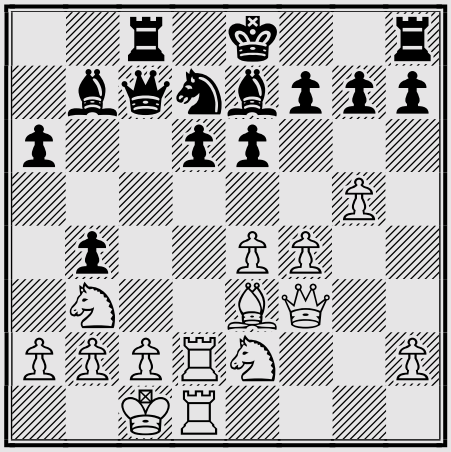
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Van der Weide (2455) − Van Wely (2670)
ch−NED Leeuwarden NED (4), 24.06.2001 B82
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6
Loek's favourite Sicilian Najdorf.
6.f4
Very solid but now rather "old−fashioned" (it was popular in the 1980s) continuation.
6...e6
Black would like to play Scheveningen. A main alternative is 6...e5
7.♕f3

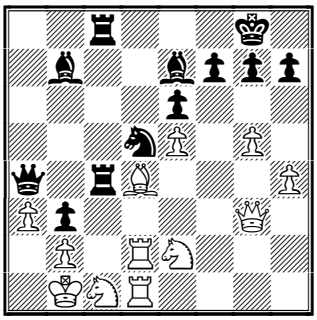


Aggressive plan with long castling.
7...♕b6!?
Very often it's useful to drive away the centralised Knight on d4.
8.♘b3 ♕c7
A prophylactic vs. Be3 and Na4−b6 (in case of, for example, 8...Nc6).
9.g4 b5 10.g5 ♘fd7 11.♗d3 ♗b7 12.♗e3 ♘c5
Black doesn't hurry to develop his Kingside: more important is to create counterplay on the Queenside first.
13.0-0-0?!
Interesting was 13.f5!? with the idea of taking on d3 (after Nxd3) with a pawn to strongly defend the pawn on e4.
13...♘xd3+ 14.♖xd3
14.cxd3? b4-+
14...♘d7 15.♖hd1
(aimless move)
15...b4 16.♘e2 ♖c8 17.♖3d2 ♗e7



Only now when Black has created some initiative against his opponent's King, does van Wely began his Kingside development.

18.♘g3 0-0 19.♕f2
White hasn't real threats and has to wait but it's usually very dangerous to wait in the Sicilian.
19...a5 20.♔b1 a4 21.♘c1 ♖fe8 22.♘d3 b3!
Of course, Black began to open files against White's King.
23.cxb3 axb3 24.a3
Or 24.axb3 ♕a5 25.♗d4 ♖a8 26.♗c3 ♕a2+ 27.♔c2 ♖ec8 with a strong attack.
24...♕c4 25.e5 dxe5 26.fxe5 ♕b5
Now Black has an advantage "free of charge".
27.♕f4 ♖c4 28.♗d4 ♘b6 29.♘e2 ♘d5 30.♕g3 ♕a4 31.♘dc1 ♖ec8 32.h4



32.♕xb3? ♖xc1+ 33.♘xc1 ♖xc1+ 34.♔xc1 ♕xb3-+; 32.♘xb3 ♘b4!? with idea Be4+ or Nc2 and Bxa3

32...♘b4!

Final storm.

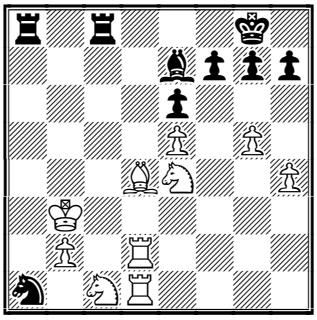
33.♕e3

33.axb4 ♖a8-+

33...♘c2 34.♕xb3 ♗e4! 35.♕xa4 ♖xa4 36.♘c3

36.♔a2 ♘xa3! 37.b3 (37.bxa3 ♖xa3+ 38.♔b2 ♖b8+-+) 37...♖aa8 38.♔b2 ♖cb8

36...♘xa3+! 37.♔a2 ♖aa8 38.♘xe4 ♘c2+ 39.♔b3 ♘a1#



I'm not strong in a study composition but I suspect this is a "right mate". **0-1**

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http://www.polgarchess.com/
http://www.schaakbond.nl
http://www.shakki.net/3si/
http://www.chesstigers.de/ChessClassic2001e/open/index.htm
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-231, 26th June 2001

Vladimir Kramnik 26 today!

The World Champion Vladimir Kramnik celebrates his 26th birthday! There is no need to give him a special write up, it is enough to remind you that he is the only person who has managed to beat the Great Garry Kasparov in a match.

We kindly congratulate Vladimir and wish him all the best in chess and life!

To know more about Vladimir please take a look at his recent **interview** at **KasparovChess**.

By the way, tomorrow in **Mainz, Germany** a highly anticipated event will start – the 10-game rapid match between both World Champions – ***Vladimir Kramnik versus Vishy Anand***!

There is also a match between Michael Adams and Peter Leko in the program of the ***Chess Classic 2001*** – they will play Fischer Random Chess!

There are a lot of tournaments underway. **Irina Krush** took the lead after the 7th Round of the 10th category ***Mayor's Cup*** in **Queens, New York**. It became clear after Igor Novikov's surprising loss to Dmitry Schneider with the white pieces.

Results of the 7th Round:
Novikov – Schneider **0:1**
Krush – Perelshteyn **1:0**
Blatny – Yudasin **½:½**
Shahade – Gruenfeld **1:0**
Simutowe – Nakamura **1:0**

Standing after the 7th Round:
1. Krush – 5 points,
2. Novikov – 4½
3-6. Schneider, Gruenfeld, Blatny, Yudasin – 4
7. Simutowe – 3½
8. Shahade – 3
9-10. Perelshteyn, Nakamura – 1½

A home FM **Miikka Mäki-Uuro** became a sole leader on the 3rd ***ShakkiNet*** tournament, which takes place in **Helsinki, Finland**.

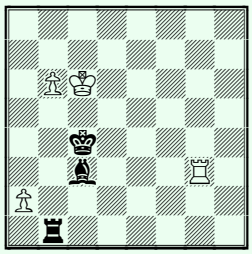
Standing after the 4th Round:
1. Mäki-Uuro – 3 points,
2-4. Karttunen, Solozhenkin, Salmensuu – 2½
5-8. Holmsten, J.Horvath, C. Horvath, Nybäck – 2
9. Blauert – 1½
10. Agopov – 0

25 players keeps perfect score after 2 rounds of the ***Ljubljana OPEN***. There are 5 GMs and 8 IMs among 124 participants.

Today was a rest day on the ***Dutch Championships*** Jeroen Piket was too optimistic in sacrificing a Bishop in his game against. **Erik van den Doel** keeps the lead after 4 rounds, Loek van Wely is clear second.

Standing after the 4th Round:
1. Van den Doel – 3½ points
2. Van Wely – 3
3-4. Nijboer, Piket – 2½
5-6. Van der Weide, Tiviakov – 2
7. Ernst – 1½
8-10. Van der Sterren, Van der Wiel, Van der Werf – 1

From our annotated game



63.a4?
63.♖g4+ ♗d4 64.b7 was correct.
63...♗e5?
Wrong way! Both players were probably too tired and under time pressure at the end of the game. **63...??? led to an immediate draw.**

Pairings of the 5th Round:
Van den Doel – Tiviakov
Van Wely – Piket
Nijboer – van der Weide
Van der Werf – Ernst
Van der Sterren – Van der Wiel

In the Women's event **Peng Zhaoqin** is dominating the field with 4½ points after 5 rounds.

Women's Round 5 standing:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 4½ points
2-3. Lanchava, Schuurman – 3
4. Sziva – 2½
5. Otten – 2
6. Muhren – 0

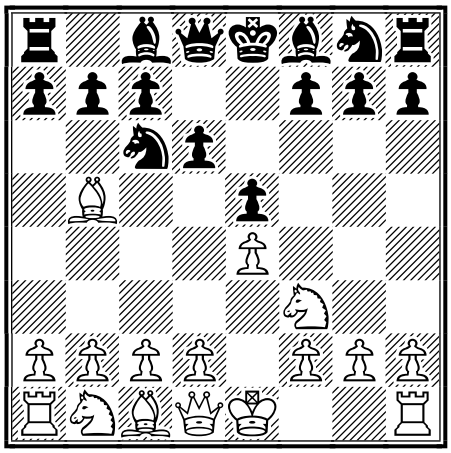
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

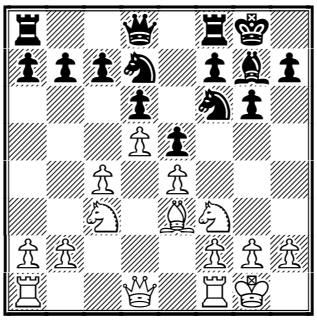
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Krush (2380) − Perelshteyn (2436)
Mayor's Cup New York USA (7), 24.06.2001 C62

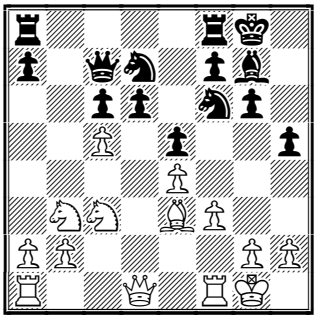
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 d6



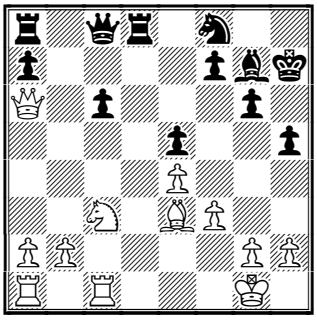
The Steinitz Defence is a passive but playable variation.
4.0-0 ♗d7 5.c3 g6 6.d4 ♗g7 7.d5
A transposition to some kind of King's Indian pawn structure is not a bad idea.
7...♘b8 8.c4 ♘f6 9.♘c3 0-0 10.♗xd7
Otherwise Black might think about the bishop retreat.
10...♘bxd7 11.♗e3



A space advantage in the centre secures better chances for White.
11...h6
In such a position Black always has alternatives but his counterplay is limited. Yet, something like 11...♕e7!? was worthy of consideration.
12.♘d2 h5 13.f3 c5 14.dxc6!
Correct decision − with a closed centre Black can organise a good counterplay on the kingside by preparing the advance ...f7−f5 etc. Besides White has a concrete possibility to break Black's queenside pawn structure.
14...bxc6 15.♘b3 ♕c7 16.c5!



16...dxc5 17.♘xc5 ♘xc5 18.♗xc5 ♖fd8 19.♕e2
White has achieved a clear and stable advantage − he has a simple play against weak Black's pawns.
19...♘d7 20.♗e3 ♘f8 21.♖fc1 ♔h7 22.♕a6!? ♕c8



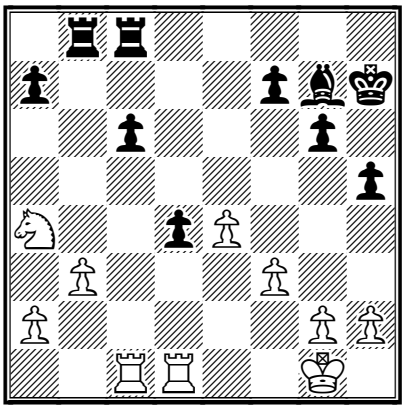
23.♕xc8

The queen retreat 23.♕c4 didn't bring any immediate effect as after 23...♘e6 24.♘a4 ♕b7 the pawn is untouchable: 25.♕xc6?? ♖d1+!-+ but of course it couldn't spoil White's advantage and was quite possible. In the ending White is also clearly better.

23...♖dxc8 24.♖d1 ♘e6 25.♘a4

25.♖d7 could be also met by 25...♘d4

25...♘d4 26.♗xd4 exd4 27.♖ac1 ♖ab8 28.b3



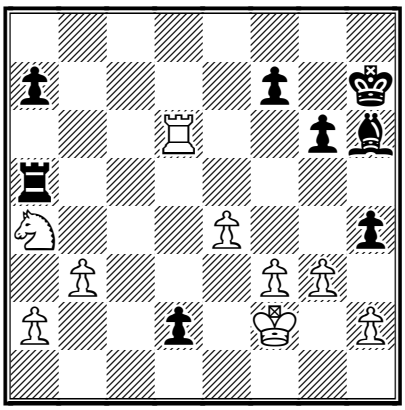
28...♖b5

Black could have invaded with the bishop: 28...♗h6!? 29.♖c4 ♗e3+ 30.♔f1 Of course, White could ignore its appearance, playing on light squares but the unavailability of the squares c1 and d2 would make his task more difficult.

29.♖c4 ♖a5 30.♔f1 h4 31.♖dc1 d3

An attempt to create a counterplay.

32.♖xc6 ♖xc6 33.♖xc6 d2 34.♖d6 ♗h6 35.♔e2 ♖g5 36.♔f2 ♖a5 37.g3



Intending to cut the bishop by f3−f4.

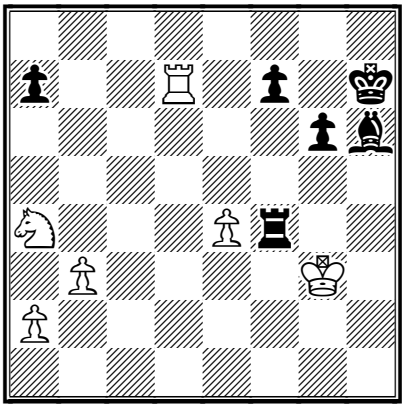
37...♖a6?!

This is rather pointless. 37...hxg3+ 38.hxg3 ♖h5 should have been preferred, intending to create a counterplay after 39.f4 ♖h2+ 40.♔e3 g5!

38.♖d7 ♖c6 39.f4 d1♕ 40.♖xd1 ♖c2+ 41.♔f3 ♖xh2 42.gxh4

42.♖d7! seemed to be stronger, not worrying about 42...♖h3 (42...h3 43.♔g4) 43.♔g4 ♖xg3+ 44.♔xh4 ♖e3 45.♖xf7+ (45.♘c5 ♗xf4 46.♖xf7+ ♔h6) 45...♔g8 46.♖xa7+−

42...♖xh4 43.♖d7 ♖xf4+ 44.♔g3



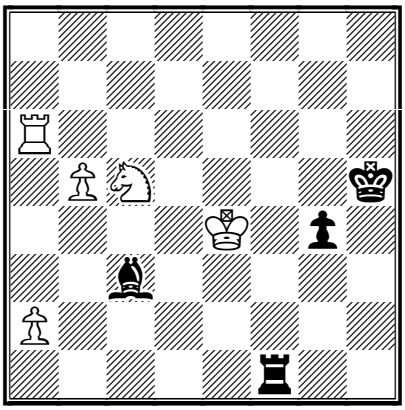
44...♖xe4?!

A rather strange decision − Black simply gives up a very important pawn. 44...a5 looked more to the point.

45.♖xf7+ ♗g7 46.♖xa7

The position should be winning for White but Black can offer a tough resistance.

46...♔h6 47.♘c5 ♖e3+ 48.♔f4 ♗d4 49.♖a5 ♖e1 50.b4 g5+ 51.♔f5 ♖f1+ 52.♔e4 ♗c3 53.♖a6+ ♔h5 54.b5 g4



55.b6?!

White should have probably activated the rook by 55.♖a8!

55...♖e1+ 56.♔d5

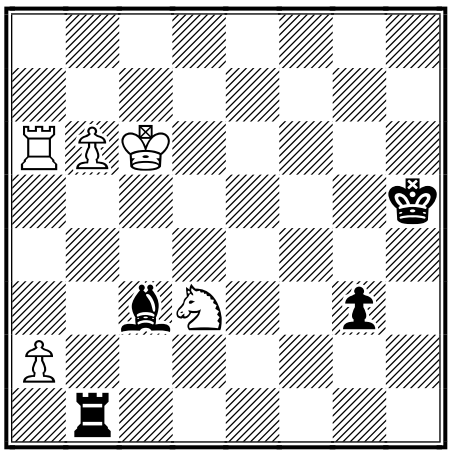
56.♔d3 g3 57.♔xc3 g2 58.♖a8 ♖c1+ 59.♔b4 ♖xc5! 60.♖g8 ♖g5 was drawn.

56...g3 57.♘d3?!

In case of the direct 57.b7!? g2 58.b8♕ (58.♘d3 ♗e5!!) 58...g1♕ the position

was getting crazy but it was still preferable for White.

57...♖b1 58.♔c6



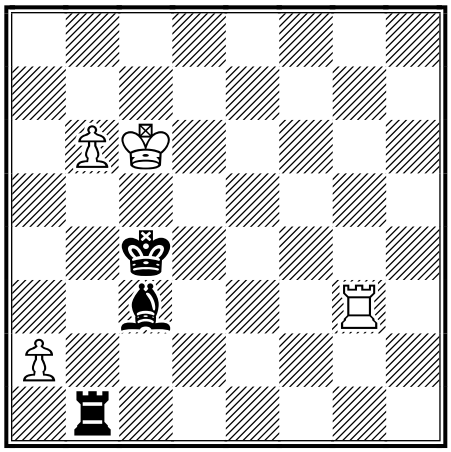
58...♔g4?

After 58...♗d2! it was already White who had to look for escape: 59.♖a8 g2 60.♖h8+ ♔g4 61.♘f2+ (61.♖g8+ ♗g5 62.♘f2+ ♔h4 63.♘h3) 61...♔f3 62.♖f8+ ♗f4 63.♘h3 ♔g4 64.♘xf4 g1♕ 65.♖g8+ ♔xf4 66.♖xg1 ♖xg1 67.b7= with a draw.

59.♖a4+ ♔f3 60.♖f4+ ♔e3 61.♖g4 ♔xd3

61...♔f3!? deserved attention although after 62.♖g8 g2 63.b7 White kept winning chances.

62.♖xg3+ ♔c4



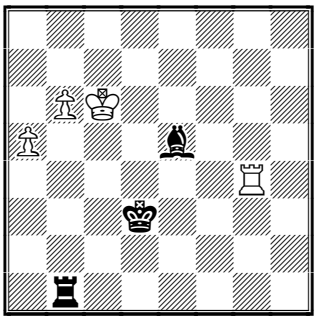
63.a4?

63.♖g4+ ♗d4 64.b7 was correct.

63...♗e5?

Wrong way! Both players were probably too tired and under time pressure at the end of the game. 63...♗a5! led to an immediate draw.

64.♖g4+ ♔d3 65.a5



Now White's pawns are unstoppable and soon Black resigned. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.polgarchess.com
www.schaakbond.nl
www.shakki.net/3si
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.clubkasparov.com
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-232, 27th June 2001

World Champions equal …

The battle between World Champions has begun! Today was the first day of the ten game rapid play match between **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Vishy Anand** in Mainz, Germany as the main part of the ***Chess Classic 2001***.

Both games were drawn – the first one was very exciting – Kramnik's position looked superior but Anand, who was playing black, little by little improved the situation and in the end it was Kramnik who had to work hard to hold the balance.

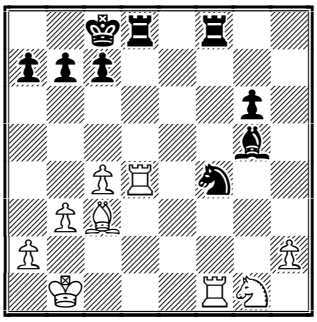
Kramnik – Anand ½:½ ½:½

Today was also the first day of the Fischer Random Chess (the arrangement of the pieces is set with the help of drawing lots) match between **Peter Leko** and **Michael Adams**.

Adams – Leko ½:½ 0:1

In the second game Adams fell into a very beautiful trap and found himself a whole piece down in the ending.

Adams (2750) – Leko (2730)



Black to play

Loek van Wely joined **Erik van den Doel** at the lead on the ***Dutch Championships*** – the latter was beaten by Sergey Tiviakov in the 5th Round.

Results of the 5th Round:
Van den Doel – Tiviakov **0:1**
Van Wely – Piket **½:½**
Nijboer – Van der Weide **½:½**
Van der Werf – Ernst **½:½**
Van der Sterren – Van der Wiel **0:1**

Standing after the 5th Round:
1-2. Van den Doel, Van Wely – 3½ pts
3-5. Tiviakov, Nijboer, Piket – 3
6. Van der Weide – 2½
7-8. Ernst, Van der Wiel – 2
9. Van der Werf – 1½
10. Van der Sterren – 1

In the Women's event **Peng Zhaoqin** is crushing all the opposition – in the 6th Round she outplayed one of her main rivals Tea Lanchava with the black pieces and moved to an excellent 5½ points.

Women's Round 6 standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 5½ points
2. Schuurman – 4
3. Sziva – 3½
4. Lanchava – 3
5. Otten – 2
6. Muhren – 0

A strong round-robin tournament started in ***Clichy***, **France**. **Stuart Conquest** (England) and **Christian Bauer** (France) won their first games and took the lead.
Results of the 1st Round:
M.Gurevich – Renet **½:½**
Lautier – Hebden **½:½**
Bauer – Nataf **1:0**
Tregubov – Conquest **0:1**
Degraeve – Apicella **½:½**
Standings after the 1st Round:
1-2. Conquest, Bauer – 1 points
3-8. Apicella, Degraeve, M.Gurevich, Hebden, Lautier, Renet – ½
9-10. Nataf, Tregubov – 0

Igor Novikov joined **Irina Krush** at the lead in Queens, New York after the 8th Round of the ***Mayor's Cup***.

Results of the 8th Round:
Blatny – Krush **½:½**
Nakamura – Novikov **0:1**
Gruenfeld – Simutowe **1:0**
Yudasin – Schneider **1:0**
Perelshteyn – Shahade **0:1**

Standings after the 8th Round:
1-2. Novikov, Krush – 5½ points
3-4. Gruenfeld, Yudasin – 5
5. Blatny – 4½
6-7. Schneider, Shahade – 4
8. Simutowe – 3½
9-10. Perelshteyn, Nakamura – 1½

The last round promises to be very interesting – the leaders are playing against the chasing pack!

Pairings of the last 9th Round:
Novikov – Gruenfeld
Krush – Yudasin
Shahade – Blatny
Schneider – Nakamura
Simutowe – Perelshteyn

GM **Evgeny Solozhenkin** (Russia) took the lead at the VIII category ***ShakkiNet*** tournament in **Helsinki, Finland** – after 5 rounds he scored 3½ points.

Standing after the 5th Round:
1. Solozhenkin – 3½ points,
2-5. J. Horvath, Mäki-Uuro, Karttunen, Nybäck – 3
6-7. C. Horvath, Salmensuu – 2½
8-9. Holmsten, Blauert – 2
10. Agopov – ½

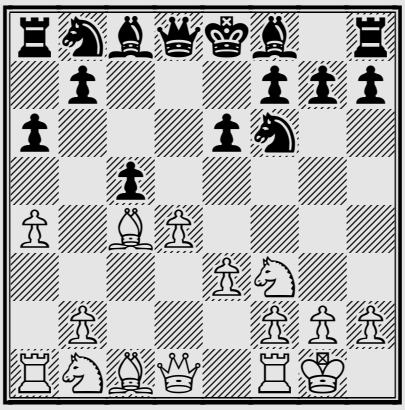
It's still too early to speak about the leaders of the ***Ljubljana OPEN*** in **Slovenia** – 11 players keep a perfect score after 3 rounds. There are 5 GMs and 8 IMs among 124 participants.

♘♘♘

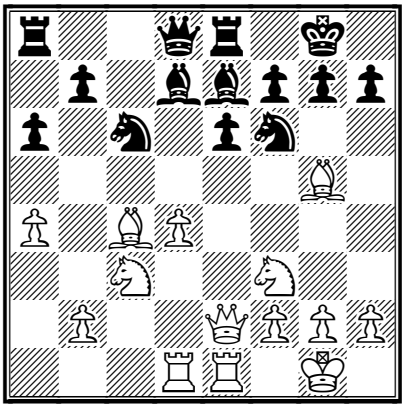
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

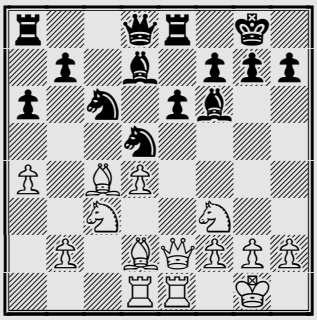
Kramnik (2797) – Anand (2794)
Mainz CC Champions Duel Mainz GER (1), 26.06.2001 D27
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3 ♘f6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.a4



7...cxd4
You may remember a very spectacular win by Valdimir Kramnik over Darmen Sadvakasov in Astana 2001 after 7...♘c6 8.♕e2 ♕c7 9.♖d1 – please refer to CT–203.
8.exd4 ♘c6 9.♘c3 ♗e7 10.♗g5 0-0 11.♖e1 ♗d7 12.♕e2 ♖e8 13.♖ad1



White increases the pressure – Black should defend very carefully.
13...♘d5 14.♗d2
The exchanges 14.♗xd5 exd5 15.♗xe7 ♖xe7 didn't bring White any advantage in the game Bertok – Keres, Leipzig (ol) 1960, after 16.♕d2 ♗g4 a draw was agreed.
14...♗f6



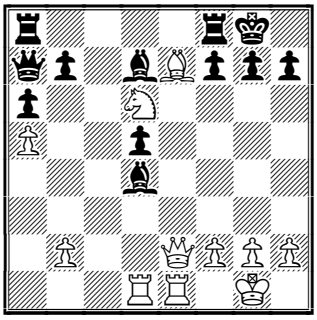
15.♘e4!?

A new continuation. In the game Speelman − Schlosser, Lippstadt 2000 White played 15.♕e4!? and after 15...♘xc3 16.♗xc3 ♕c7 17.♘e5 ♘xe5 18.dxe5 ♗e7 19.♖d3 ♗xa4 20.♖h3 g6 21.♗xe6 fxe6 22.♕xa4 ♗c5 23.♗d4 ♖f8 24.♗xc5 a draw was agreed.

15...♘xd4

A principled reply, although it is maybe exactly what White was hoping for.

16.♘xd4 ♗xd4 17.♗g5 ♕b6 18.a5 ♕a7 19.♘d6 ♖f8 20.♗xd5 exd5 21.♗e7



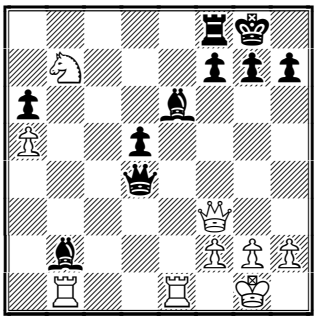
21...♗e6

21...♖fb8?! looked too suspicious.

22.♕f3

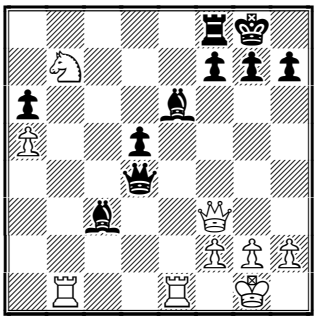
White had to think about retreat for the knight.

22...♗xb2 23.♖b1 ♕d4 24.♗xf8 ♖xf8 25.♘xb7



White's chances look preferable as Black has not consolidated his forces yet.

25...♗c3



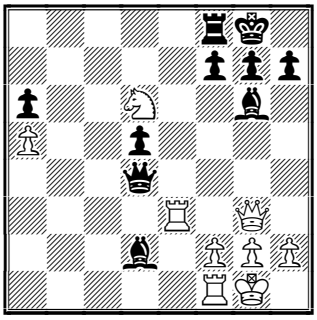
26.♖e3

The more straightforward 26.♖ec1!? ♗b4 27.♖c6 deserved serious attention and it might prove White's advantage. Now Black begins to disturb the opponent by little cavils.

26...♗g4 27.♕g3 ♗f5 28.♖f1 ♗d2 29.♘d6

Taking an opportunity to get the knight back − however, at the cost of the a5 pawn.

29...♗g6



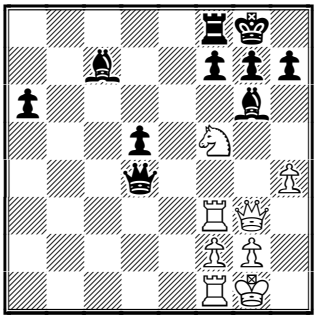
30.♖f3

Maybe not the best. 30.♖e8!? was interesting, Kramnik was probably worried to exchange his active rook.

30...♗xa5 31.h4

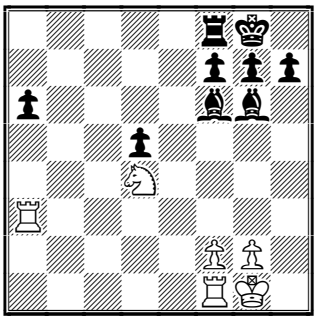
This is too ambitious and too risky. The natural 31.♘f5 could have avoided unnecessary problems.

31...♗c7 32.♘f5



A rather spectacular move. White

simplifies the position but loses another pawn! 32.♖c1 ♗b8!? 33.♖c6 a5 34.♖fc3 should be acceptable for White, too.
32...♗xg3 33.♘xd4 ♗xh4 34.♖a3 ♗f6



A draw was agreed. After 34...♗f6 35.♖d1 it is the most likely result. **½-½**

Answer to quiz

White just carelessly captured on d4 with the rook.
21...♘d5!!
Not so easy to foresee, isn't it?!
22.♖xf8 ♘xc3+ 23.♔c2 ♖xf8 24.♖g4
Unfortunately the knight cannot be taken: 24.♔xc3 ♗f6-+
24...♗f6
and Black successfully converted his extra piece into the full point.
0-1

Recommended Web sites:

www.schaakbond.nl
www.polgarchess.com
www.shakki.net/3si
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-233, 28th June 2001

Kramnik ahead of Anand in Mainz

Vladimir Kramnik took the lead at the ***Chess Classic 2001*** rapid play match against **Vishy Anand** in Mainz, Germany. In the first Anand missed a heavy blow in the Berlin Defence and was knocked out at once. In the second game Kramnik pressurised his opponent but at the critical moment preferred to take no risks, he was probably satisfied with his lead.

	1	2	3	4
Kramnik	½	½	**1**	½
Anand	½	½	**0**	½

In the Fischer Random Chess match between **Peter Leko** and **Michael Adams** Leko dominates: **3-1**.

	1	2	3	4
Adams	½	**0**	½	**0**
Leko	½	**1**	½	**1**

Erik van den Doel restored the lead on the ***Dutch Championships*** – in the 6th Round he beat Mark van der Werf with the black pieces. Jeroen Piket outplayed Friso Nijboer and joined Loek van Wely in second place.

Results of the 6th Round:
Van der Werf – Van den Doel **0:1**
Tiviakov – Van Wely **½:½**
Piket – Nijboer **1:0**
Van der Weide – Van der Sterren **½:½**
Ernst – Van der Wiel **½:½**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Van den Doel – 4½ points
2-3. Van Wely, Piket – 4
4. Tiviakov – 3½
5-6. Nijboer, Van der Weide – 3
7-8. Ernst, Van der Wiel – 2½
9-10. Van der Werf, Van der Sterren – 1½

In the Women's event **Peng Zhaoqin** has almost secured an overall victory – after 7 rounds she scored 6½ points, already two points ahead of her nearest rivals.

Women's Round 7 standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 6½ points
2-3. Schuurman, Sziva – 4½
4. Lanchava – 3½
5. Otten – 2
6. Muhren – 0

Stuart Conquest (England) and **Christian Bauer** (France) keep the lead after the 3rd Round of the strong round-robin tournament in ***Clichy***, France. The round was a catastrophe for black players, they managed to draw only one game from five!

Results of the 2nd Round:
Renet – Conquest **0:1**
M.Gurevich – Bauer **½:½**
Nataf – Lautier **½:½**
Hebden – Degraeve **1:0**
Apicella – Tregubov **½:½**

Results of the 3rd Round:
Conquest – Apicella **½:½**
Bauer – Renet **1:0**
Tregubov – Hebden **1:0**
Lautier – M.Gurevich **1:0**
Degraeve – Nataf **1:0**

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1-2. Conquest, Bauer – 2½ points
3. Lautier – 2
4-7. Apicella, Tregubov, Hebden, Degraeve – 1½
8. M.Gurevich – 1
9-10. Nataf, Renet – ½

Igor Novikov and **Irina Krush** shared first place on the 10th category ***Mayor's Cup***, which just finished in Queens, New York. Novikov was proclaimed a winner on tie-break but Krush is also happy with a GM-norm. Two Israeli players **Yehuda**

Gruenfeld and **Leonid Yudasin** shared third place.

Results of the last 9th Round:
Novikov – Gruenfeld **½:½**
Krush – Yudasin **½:½**
Shahade – Blatny **½:½**
Schneider – Nakamura **½:½**
Simutowe – Perelshteyn **0:1**

Final standings:
1-2. Novikov, Krush – 6 points
3-4. Gruenfeld, Yudasin – 5½
5. Blatny – 5
6-7. Schneider, Shahade – 4½
8. Simutowe – 3½
9. Perelshteyn – 2½
10. Nakamura – 2

Our congratulations to all the winners!

GM **Evgeny Solozhenkin** (Russia) keeps the lead at the 8th category ***ShakkiNet*** tournament in Helsinki, Finland with 4 points after 6 rounds.

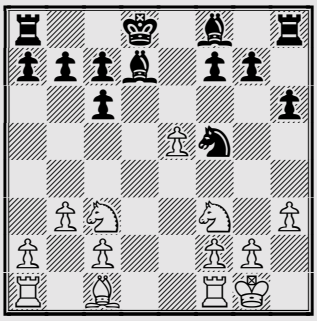
Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Solozhenkin – 4 points,
2-4. J.Horvath, C. Horvath, Mäki-Uuro – 3½
5-7. Karttunen, Nybäck, Salmensuu – 3
8-9. Holmsten, Blauert – 2½
10. Agopov – 1½

After 4 rounds of the ***Ljubljana OPEN*** in Slovenia GM **Ivan Farago** (Hungary), IMs **Robert Loncar** (Croatia), **Marko Tratar** (Slovenia) and FM **Doru Ionescu** (Romania) are leading with perfect score. 5 players are in chase.

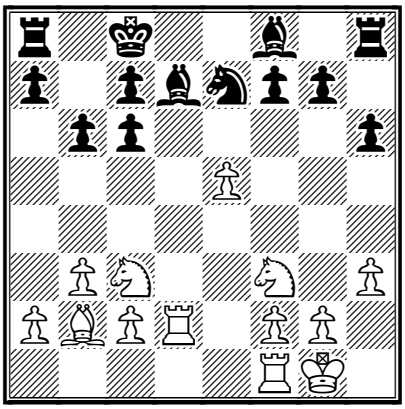
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

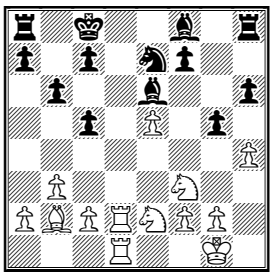
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
Anand (2794) − Kramnik (2797)
Mainz CC Champions Duel Mainz GER (3), 27.06.2001 C67
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5
Vishy Anand has prepared something in the Berlin Defence.
3...♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 9.♘c3 h6 10.h3 ♗d7 11.b3



11...♔c8
You may remember that not so long ago Kramnik tried 11...♔e8 but did not manage to hold his ground against Kasparov in Astana − please refer to CT−207 for details. The text move is a well−known path.
12.♗b2 b6 13.♖ad1 ♘e7 14.♖d2!?



A new and interesting continuation. White is doubling the rooks over the d−file and Black can hardly prevent an invasion due to the lack in development. The question is if it really disturbs Black. Kramnik usually played against 14.♘e2 take a look at some examples from his practice: 14...♘g6 15.♘g3 (after 15.♘e1 h5 16.♘d3 c5 17.c4 a5 18.a4 h4 19.♘c3 ♗e6 20.♘d5 ♔b7 21.♘e3 ♖h5 22.♗c3 ♖e8 23.♖d2 ♔c8 24.f4 ♘e7 25.♘f2 ♘f5 a draw was agreed in the Kasparov − Kramnik, Braingames WCC (m/1) London 2000) 15...♘f4 16.♘d4 a5 17.a4 b5 18.♔h2 bxa4 19.bxa4 ♘d5 20.♖d3 ♘b6 21.♖e1 ♘xa4 22.♗a1 c5 23.e6 fxe6 24.♘xe6 ♗d6 25.♘xg7 ♖f8 26.♔g1 c4 27.♖dd1 ♗b4 28.♖e3 ♖a6∞ with very complicated play, Shirov − Kramnik, Astana 2001.
14...c5 15.♖fd1 ♗e6 16.♘e2 g5!? 17.h4!?

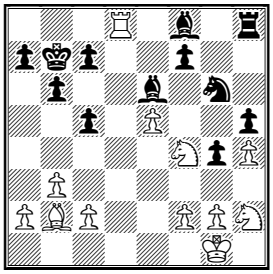


A principled reply − White takes an opportunity to begin concrete actions on the side where he has pawn majority.

17...g4 18.♘h2 h5 19.♖d8+ ♔b7 20.♖xa8 ♔xa8 21.♖d8+ ♔b7

White successfully penetrated with the rook but the pin itself does not bother Black very much as the rook can be easily protected.

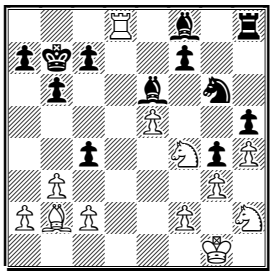
22.♘f4 ♘g6



23.g3

A rather sophisticated approach. A natural 23.♘xe6!? was probably better. After 23...fxe6 24.♖e8 ♗e7 25.♖xh8 ♘xh8 26.g3 , intending to break on the kingside by f2−f3 etc. White kept small advantage but it looks like Black can hold on by 26...c4! (otherwise White will play c2−c4 himself) 27.bxc4 ♔c6 28.f3 gxf3 29.♘xf3 ♘g6 although it is clear that good work still has to be done to score half a point.

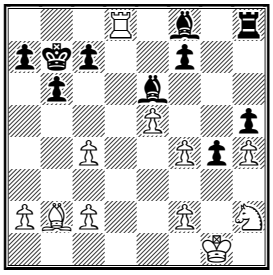
23...c4!



24.bxc4??

Falling into the trap − a quite unusual case for Vishy Anand. A normal play was 24.♘xe6 fxe6 25.bxc4 ♔c6 and Black is okay.

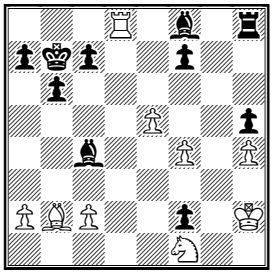
24...♘xf4 25.gxf4



25...g3!

The point − White cannot allow ...♗c5 check.

26.♘f1 gxf2+ 27.♔h2 ♗xc4



0-1 White resigned. A severe blow for Vishy Anand. (27...♗xc4 28.♖d1 ♖g8-+)

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www.chesstigers.de/ChessClassic2001
www.schaakbond.nl
www.clichy-echecs.org
www.polgarchess.com
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0106/ljubljana
www.shakki.net/3si
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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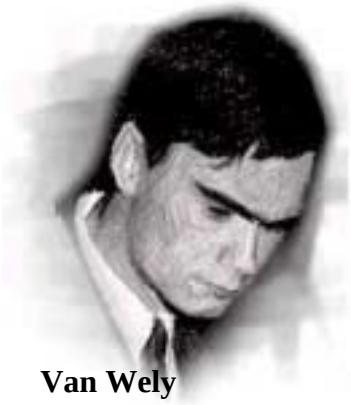
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-234, 29th June 2001

Van Wely Co-leader In Dutch Championship

In the 7th Round of the ***Dutch Championships*** **Loek van Wely** joined **Erik van den Doel** at the lead – both players have 5 points, a half point ahead of Jeroen Piket.


Van Wely

Results of the 7th Round:
Van den Doel – Ernst **½:½**
Van Wely – Van der Werf **1:0**
Nijboer – Tiviakov **½:½**
Van der Sterren – Piket **½:½**
Van der Wiel – Van der Weide **½:½**

Standing after the 7th Round:
1-2. Van den Doel, Van Wely – 5 pts,
3. Piket – 4½
4. Tiviakov – 4
5-6. Nijboer, Van der Weide – 3½
7-8. Ernst, Van der Wiel – 3
9. Van der Sterren – 2
10. Van der Werf – 1½

In the Women's event **Peng Zhaoqin** won again and achieved the unbelievable score 7½ points out of 8!

Erika Sziva won a principle battle for second place against Petra Schuurman.

Women's Round 8 standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 7½ points
2. Sziva – 5½
3. Schuurman – 4½
4. Lanchava – 4
5. Otten – 2
6. Muhren – ½

Today was a rest day in the ***Chess Classic 2001*** 10 game rapid play match **Kramnik vs Anand**. After 4 games Kramnik leads: **2½:1½**

	1	2	3	4
Kramnik	½	½	**1**	½
Anand	½	½	**0**	½

Michael Adams has finally managed to win a game in the Fischer Random Chess match against **Peter Leko.** However**,** Leko still keeps the lead: **3½:2½**.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adams	½	**0**	½	**0**	½	**1**
Leko	½	**1**	½	**1**	½	**0**

Stuart Conquest (England) and **Christian Bauer** (France) keep the lead in the strong round-robin tournament in ***Clichy***, France with 3 points after 4 rounds. Manuel Apicella joined Joel Lautier (both of France) at third place, half a point behind the leaders. Top-seeded Mikhail Gurevich (Belgium) scored his first victory against Degraeve. See the annotated game section for this game.

Results of the 4th Round:
Bauer – Lautier **½:½**
Hebden – Conquest **½:½**
Renet – Apicella **0:1**
M.Gurevich – Degraeve **1:0**
Nataf – Tregubov **½:½**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1-2. Conquest, Bauer – 3 points
3-4. Lautier, Apicella – 2½
5-7. M.Gurevich, Tregubov, Hebden – 2
8. Degraeve – 1½
9. Nataf – 1
10. Renet – ½

Pairings of the 5th Round:
Conquest – Nataf
Degraeve – Bauer

Lautier – Renet
Apicella – Hebden
Tregubov – M.Gurevich

GM **Evgeny Solozhenkin** (Russia) keeps the lead at the 8th category ***ShakkiNet*** tournament in Helsinki, Finland with 5 points after 7 rounds.

Standing after the 7th Round:
1. Solozhenkin – 5 points,
2. J.Horvath – 4½
3-4. C. Horvath, Nybäck – 4
5-6. Mäki-Uuro, Holmsten – 3½
7-8. Karttunen, Salmensuu – 3
9. Blauert – 2½
10. Agopov – 2

5 players are leading with 4½ points after the 5th Round of the ***Ljubljana OPEN*** in Slovenia. 8 players are in chase.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
(4½) Bl.Kovacevic – Tratar (4½)
(4½) Loncar – Farago (4½)
(4½) D.Ionescu – Piskur (4) etc

♘♘♘

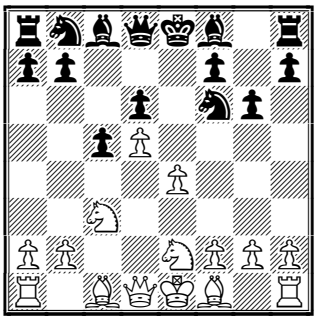
Annotated Game

M. Gurevich (2688) − J. Degraeve (2589)

Clichy (4), 28.06.2001 A65

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.♘c3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.♘ge2!? (D)

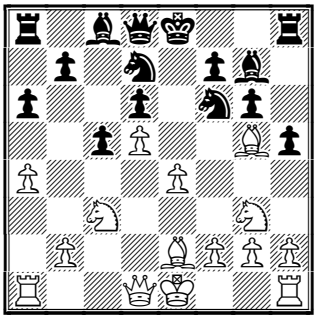


A good idea against the Benoni.

7...♗g7 8.♘g3 a6 9.a4 ♘bd7 10.♗e2 h5

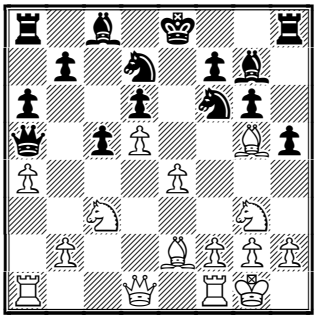
Intending to continue by ...h4 and ...♘h5. The position after 10...0-0 11.0-0 often arises from the King's Indian Defence.

11.♗g5 (D)



White is in no hurry to castle. The bishop is very good on g5 while the f1-square is kept available for a more comfortable knight's retreat.

11...♕a5 12.♗d2 ♕d8 13.♗g5 ♕a5 14.0-0 (D)

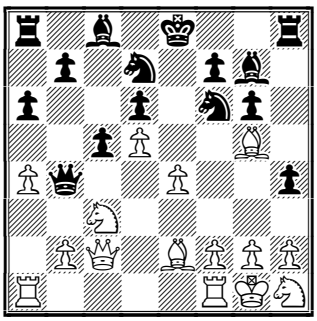


Well, a corner square is not the best place for the knight, it will get back into play via square f2.

14...h4 15.♘h1 ♕b4

Black continues a very risky strategy, playing with a limited number of pieces...

16.♕c2 (D)



16...♘e5?!

16...h3!? 17.g3 ♘e5 deserved attention − it would be much more difficult for White to advance his f−

pawn to f4 as the square g4 is available for Black's pieces.

17.h3!

By the way, the rook is now chained to the protection of h4−pawn, so Black has problems with castling.

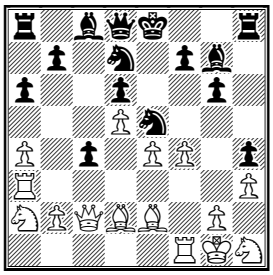
17...♘fd7 18.♖a3!

18.f4? ♘c4∞ was unclear. White is doing everything to achieve maximum effect with the advance f2−f4. If he solves this task successfully, Black's position will be crushed quickly.

18...c4 19.♘a2 ♕a5 20.♗d2!

White does not forget to retreat the bishop before advancing the f−pawn.

20...♕d8 21.f4 (D)



Black's strategy crashes.

21...♘d3 22.♕xc4 ♘3c5

In the event of 22...♘xb2 23.♕c2+− it is painful to see Black's position − the knight getst stuck on b2 while the rest of the army is undeveloped.

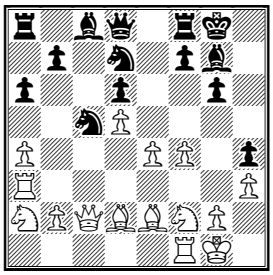
23.♘f2

23.b4 could have been met by 23...b5! 24.♕c2 ♘xa4, although here White's advantage is beyond doubt too.

23...0-0?

23...♗xb2! should have been tried despite all dangers: 24.♗c3!? ♗xa3 (24...♗xc3!? 25.♕xc3 0-0) 25.♗xh8 ♕a5 , creating counterplay.

24.♕c2 (D)

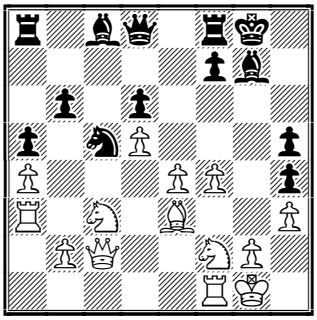


Black is a pawn down but then his position is worse...

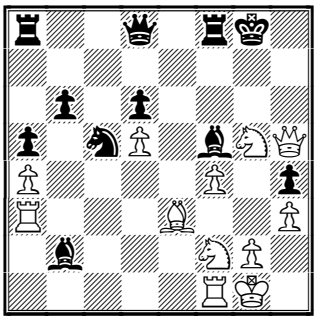
24...a5 25.♘c3 ♘f6 26.♗f3 ♘h5

A desperate attempt, quite in the spirit of the position.

27.♗xh5 gxh5 28.♗e3 b6 (D)



29.♕d1! f5 30.♕xh5 fxe4 31.♘cxe4 ♗f5 32.♘g5 ♗xb2 (D)



The position is getting sharp − the only chance for Black is somehow to confuse the opponent.

33.♕xh4!

But the man who was the Soviet Champion can hardly be confused!

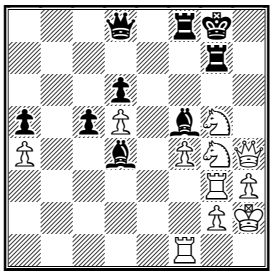
33...♖a7

In case of 33...♗xa3 the attack was terrific: 34.♗d4 ♖f6 35.♘g4 ♘d7 36.♘h6+ and so on.

34.♗xc5 bxc5 35.♖g3

This was the idea of capturing the h4−pawn!

35...♖g7 36.♘g4 ♗d4+ 37.♔h2 (D)



Black resigned. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

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www.schaakbond.nl
www.clichy-echecs.org
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0106/ljubljana
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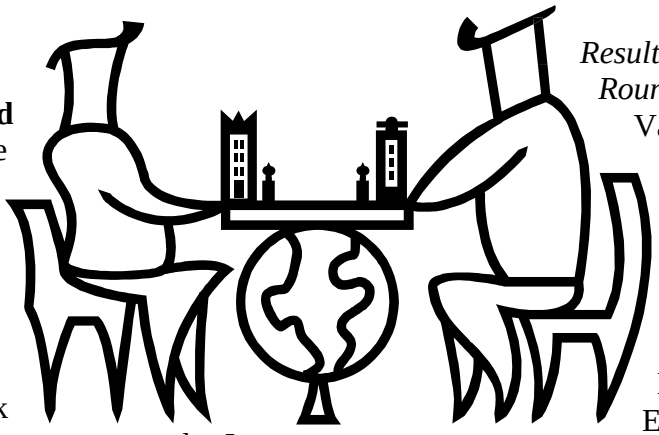
CT-235, 30th June 2001

Anand Levels Score with Black



Vishy Anand levels the score in the *Chess Classic 2001* rapid play match versus **Vladimir Kramnik**!

Today Kramnik surprised the spectators very much. In the first game he started sacrificial play right from the opening but Anand conclusively parried the attack. In the second game he refused to enter the Berlin Defence (!) – it is probably that he needs more time to prepare the anti-dote to Anand's plan which was introduced in the 3rd game. In the Neo-Archangel Kramnik quickly solved all the problems so the total score is equal now: **3:3**.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Kramnik	½	½	**1**	½	**0**	½
Anand	½	½	**0**	½	**1**	½

Michael Adams and **Peter Leko** drew both games of their Fischer Random Chess match, Leko keeps the lead: **4½:3½.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Adams	½	**0**	½	**0**	½	**1**	½	½
Leko	½	**1**	½	**1**	½	**0**	½	½

In the 8th Round of the *Dutch Championships* the leaders – **Loek van Wely** and **Erik van den Doel** – faced each other and drew the game without much fighting. They still keep the lead with 5½ points. Sergey Tiviakov beat Paul van der Sterren and joined Jeroen Piket in third place, half a point behind the leaders.

Results of the 8th Round:
Van den Doel – Van Wely **½:½**
Piket – Van der Wiel **½:½**
Tiviakov – Van der Sterren **1:0**
Van der Werf – Nijboer **0:1**
Ernst – Van der Weide **0:1**

Standing after the 8th Round:
1-2. Van den Doel, Van Wely – 5½ pts,
3-4. Piket, Tiviakov – 5
5-6. Nijboer, Van der Weide – 4½
7. Van der Wiel – 3½
8. Ernst – 3
9. Van der Sterren – 2
10. Van der Werf – 1½

In the Women's event **Peng Zhaoqin** is going to break the record – 8½ points out of 9!

Women's Round 9 standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 8½ points
2. Sziva – 6
3-4. Lanchava, Schuurman – 4½
5. Otten – 2½
6. Muhren – 1

There was a peaceful day at the strong round-robin tournament in *Clichy*, France – all five games were drawn. The situation is unchanged: **Stuart Conquest** (England) and **Christian Bauer** (France) keep the lead, Joel Lautier and Manuel Apicella (both of France) are sharing third place, half a point behind the leaders.

Results of the 5th Round:
Conquest – Nataf **½:½**
Degraeve – Bauer **½:½**

Lautier – Renet **½:½**
Apicella – Hebden **½:½**
Tregubov – M.Gurevich **½:½**

Standings after the 5th Round:
1-2. Conquest, Bauer – 3½ points
3-4. Lautier, Apicella – 3
5-7. M.Gurevich, Tregubov, Hebden – 2½
8. Degraeve – 2
9. Nataf – 1½
10. Renet – 1

Pairings of the 6th Round:
M.Gurevich – Conquest
Bauer – Tregubov
Lautier – Degraeve
Nataf – Apicella
Renet – Hebden

The Horvath brothers (Hungary) are doing well at the ***ShakkiNet*** tournament in Helsinki, Finland. GM **Joszef Horvath** took the lead – it became clear after the rather surprising loss of Evgeny Solozhenkin (Russia) to the home IM Mika Karttunen. Czaba Horvath joined Solozhenkin at second place.

Standing after the 8th Round:
1. J.Horvath – 5½ points,
2-3. C. Horvath, Solozhenkin – 5
4-5. Holmsten Nybäck – 4½
6-7. Karttunen, Mäki-Uuro – 4
8. Salmensuu – 3
9. Blauert – 2½
10. Agopov – 2

GM **Ivan Farago** (Hungary) and IM **Blazimir Kovacecic** (Croatia) are sharing the lead after the 6th Round of the ***Ljubljana OPEN*** in Slovenia with 5½ points. ELO-favourite GM Gyula Sax (Hungary) is half a point behind.

Top boards of the 7th Round:
(5½) Farago –Bl.Kovacevic (5½)
(5) Kastelic – Sax (5)
(4½) Tratar – D.Ionescu (5) etc.

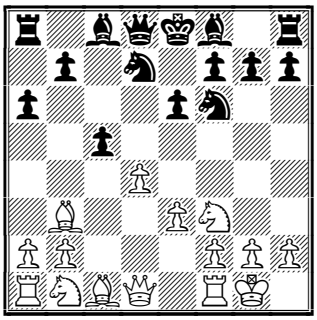
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Kramnik (2802) − Anand (2794)
Mainz Chess Classic Mainz, Germany (5), 29.06.2001 D27

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3 ♘f6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.♗b3 ♘bd7



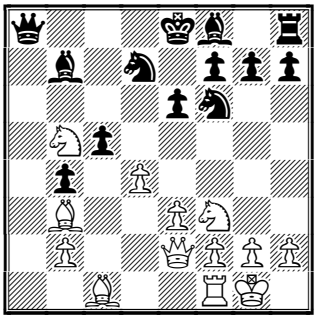
7...♘c6 is recently a common option.

8.♕e2

8.e4!? is supposed to be rather annoying for Black. A couple of examples from my own practice: 8...♘xe4 9.♖e1 ♘ef6 (9...♘df6; 9...♘d6) 10.d5 ♘b6 11.dxe6 ♗xe6

A) 12.♕xd8+ ♖xd8 13.♗xe6 fxe6 14.♘g5 c4!? (14...♖d7 15.♘xe6 ♖e7 16.♘c3 ♔f7 17.♘g5+ ♔g6 18.♖d1±) 15.♘c3 (15.♘xe6 ♗b4! 16.♘c3 ♖d7 17.♘xg7+ ♔f7 18.♘f5 ♘a4; 15.♖xe6+ ♗e7 16.♖xb6?? ♖d1#) 15...♖d7 16.♖xe6+ ♖e7 17.♗e3 ♘bd5 18.♘xd5 ♘xd5 19.♗d4 Epishin − R.Scherbakov, ch−RUS, Elista 1996; **B)** 12.♗xe6!? 12...♕xd1 13.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 14.♖xd1 ♘bd5 15.♘c3 ♖d8 16.♘e5+ with a certain initiative in the ending, R.Scherbakov − Nadyrkhanov, Krasnodar 1997.

8...b5 9.a4 ♗b7 10.axb5 axb5 11.♖xa8 ♕xa8 12.♘c3 b4 13.♘b5



This well−known position usually arises from the line 7. ♕e2 b5 8. ♗b3

♗b7 9. a4 ♘bd7 etc.

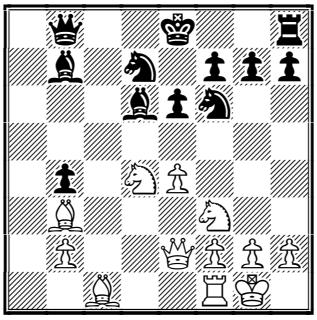
13...♕b8

Both 13...♕a5 ; and 13...♗xf3 are less popular alternatives. Once Anand quickly achieved good play after 14.gxf3 (14.♕xf3!? ♕xf3 15.gxf3±) 14...♕b8 15.♖d1 ♗e7 16.e4 cxd4 17.♘xd4 ♗d6! Yussupow − Anand, Las Palmas 1993

14.e4 cxd4

14...♘xe4?! is supposed to be dangerous for Black since the game Yussupow − J. Polgar, Moskow (ol) 1994: 15.♘g5! ♗c6 16.d5! ♗xb5 17.♕xe4 ♘f6 18.♕e3 ♗xf1 19.♘xf7!! ♕xh2+ 20.♔xh2 ♘g4+ 21.♔g1 ♘xe3 22.♘xh8 ♘xd5 23.♗a4+ ♔e7 24.♗g5+ ♘f6 25.♔xf1 with a decisive advantage.

15.♘bxd4 ♗d6

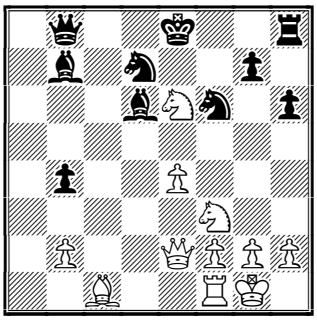


15...♗c5 is another possibility, some examples from recent practice: 16.♖d1 0-0 17.♘xe6 fxe6 18.♗xe6+ ♔h8 19.♗xd7 ♗xe4 20.♘g5 (20.♗e6 ♗xf3 21.gxf3 ♗d6 22.♕c4 ♗xh2+ 23.♔g2 ♗d6 Sasikiran − Vladimirov, Shenyang 1999) 20...♗g6 21.♗h3 ♗h5 22.♘f3 ♘g4 23.♗xg4 ♗xg4 24.♗e3 ♗xf3 25.gxf3 ♗d6 26.h3 and White eventually converted his extra pawn to a full point although the position is obviously drawn, Sasikiran − Barua, Guntur 2000.

16.♗xe6

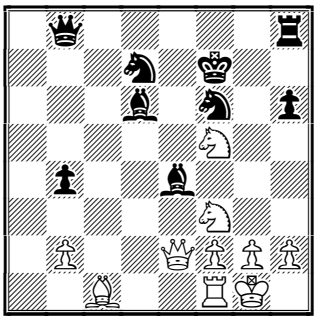
A principled sacrifice... if White is going to prove the advantage, of course.

16...fxe6 17.♘xe6 h6!?



A new continuation, which casts doubts upon White's idea. Black supposes it is important to cover the g5−square first of all. 17...♘e5?! looks suspicious for Black due to 18.♘xe5 ♗xe5 19.f4 with a strong initiative, Uhlmann − Balcerowski, Bad Liebenstein 1963; Black has usually, and successfully, played 17...g6 but I am sure both Kramnik and Anand have their own opinions about this position.

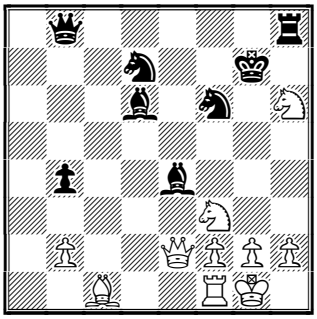
18.♘xg7+ ♔f7 19.♘f5 ♗xe4



20.♘xh6+?!

20.♘xd6+!? ♕xd6 21.♖d1 followed by ♘d4 and f2−f3 may promise better chances to achieve some compensation for the piece.

20...♔g7



Obviously it is not White who is attacking − all 6 of Black's pieces are very strong and 3 pawns are clearly insufficient to balance the extra piece.

21.h3?

Vladimir Kramnik was not himself in this game. 21.♕d2! should have been preferred without any doubts.

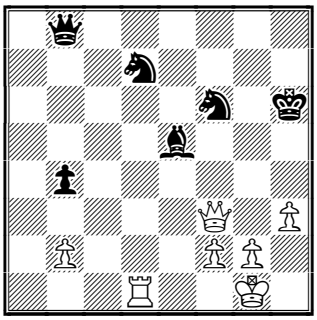
21...♖xh6! 22.♗xh6+ ♔xh6

As a rule, the rook has no chance against 3 minor pieces.

23.♖d1 ♗xf3

Simplifying the position. However, it was also not bad to keep the bishop on the board.

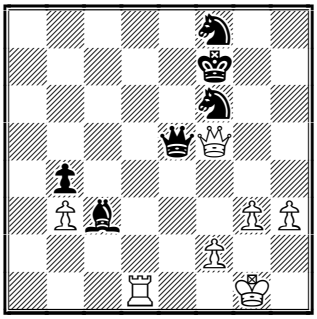
24.♕xf3 ♗e5



25.♕e3+

The only chance for White was his passed pawns so 25.g4!? ♗xb2 (25...♕g8!?) 26.h4 deserved serious attention.

25...♔g7 26.♕g5+ ♔f7 27.♕f5 ♘f8 28.b3 ♗c3 29.g3 ♕e5



Black has consolidated his army and White resigned− a little bit prematurely, in my opinion. It's true, the position is lost for White but why not to play some moves − we know many examples when even much clearer positions have finished with an unexpected result!

0-1

Recommended Web sites:

www.chesstigers.de/ChessClassic2001
www.schaakbond.nl
www.clichy-echecs.org
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0106/ljubljana
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-236, 1st July 2001

Kramnik & Anand still level

Vladimir Kramnik spoiled two excellent chances to take the lead in the ***Chess Classic 2001*** rapid play match against **Vishy Anand**.

In both games he had an extra pawn while Anand didn't have any compensation other than some extra minutes on the clock – and it was enough to escape thanks to his fantastic defence! Of course, with a little help from Kramnik…

There are two games to play, the score is **4:4.**

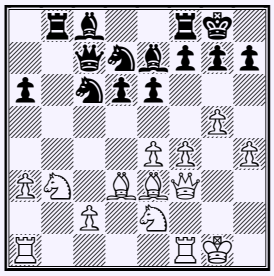
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kramnik	½	½	**1**	½	**0**	½	½	½
Anand	½	½	**0**	½	**1**	½	½	½

Yesterday we mistakenly wrote that **Peter Leko** kept the lead in the Fischer Random Chess match against **Michael Adams** with the score **4½:3½** – actually it was the final score, Leko won the event!

Today **Peter Leko** and **Michael Adams** crushed the **Pocket Fritz** computer in exhibition match – **3½:½**.

Both leaders were successful in the last round of the ***Dutch Championships*** – tomorrow **Loek van Wely** and **Erik van den Doel** will face each other to decide the Champion on tie-break. Jeroen Piket and Sergey Tiviakov shared third place and will also play for the bronze medal.

Kramnik (Black) to play
From our annotated game
White has just castled
17.0-0?



Missing a blow.
17... ___ !

Results of the 9th Round:
Van Wely – Ernst **1:0**
Nijboer – Van den Doel **0:1**
Van der Wiel – Tiviakov **½:½**
Van der Weide – Piket **½:½**
Van der Sterren – Van der Werf **0:1**

Final standings:
1-2. Van Wely, Van den Doel – 6½ pts,
3-4. Piket, Tiviakov – 5½
5. Van der Weide – 5
6. Nijboer – 4½
7. Van der Wiel – 4
8. Ernst – 3
9. Van der Werf – 2½
10. Van der Sterren – 2

Peng Zhaoqin totally dominated the Women's event and finished with an excellent 9 points out of 10!

Women's final standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 9 points
2. Sziva – 6½
3. Bosboom-Lanchava – 5½
4. Schuurman – 5
5. Otten – 2½
6. Muhren – 1½

Stuart Conquest (England) and **Christian Bauer** (France) keep the lead at the strong round-robin tournament in ***Clichy***, France with 4 points after 6 rounds. Joel Lautier (France) and Mark Hebden (England) are sharing third place, half a point behind the leaders.

Results of the 6th Round:
M.Gurevich – Conquest **½:½**
Bauer – Tregubov **½:½**
Lautier – Degraeve **½:½**
Nataf – Apicella **1:0**
Renet – Hebden **0:1**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1-2. Conquest, Bauer – 4 points
3-4. Lautier, Hebden – 3½
5-7. M.Gurevich, Tregubov, Apicella – 3
8-9. Degraeve, Nataf – 2½
10. Renet – 1

Pairings of the 7th Round:
Conquest – Bauer
Tregubov – Lautier
Hebden – Nataf
Apicella – M.Gurevich
Degraeve – Renet

GM **Joszef Horvath** (Hungary) won the 3rd ***ShakkiNet*** tournament in Helsinki, Finland. In the last round he drew against his brother GM Csaba Horvath, who shared second place with GM Evgeny Solozhenkin (Russia). Tomi Nybäck (Finland) achieved the IM-norm.

Final standings:
1. J.Horvath – 6 points,
2-3. C. Horvath, Solozhenkin – 5½
4. Nybäck – 5
5-6. Holmsten, Karttunen – 4½
7-8. Salmensuu, Mäki-Uuro – 4
9. Blauert – 3½
10. Agopov – 2½
Congratulations to the winners!

After 7 rounds of the ***Ljubljana OPEN*** in Slovenia GM Ivan Farago (Hungary) and IM Blazimir Kovacecic (Croatia) keep the lead with 6 points.

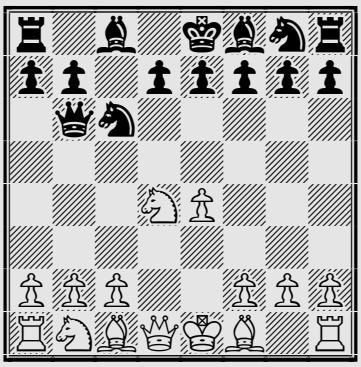
Top boards of the 8th Round:
(6) Bl.Kovacevic – Sax (5½) Farago – (5½) Barle – Farago (6)
(5½) Loncar – Kastelic (5½)
(5½) D. Ionescu – Sitnik (5½) etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

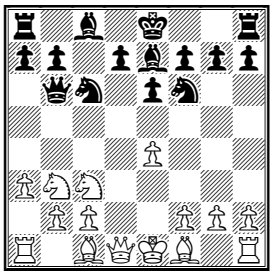
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Anand (2794) – Kramnik (2797)
Mainz CC Champions Duel Mainz GER (7), 30.06.2001 B33
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♕b6

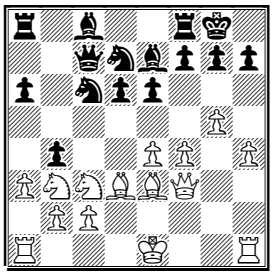


This early queen sortie is one of my favourites recently, although objectively it is probably not enough to solve all the problems. One of the main ideas behind it is to force youngsters, who like very much to play deep lines of the Rauzer variation (♗g5), playing some 25 moves in a couple of minutes, to show their general understanding of the Scheveningen pawn structure. Of course, there is no connection with the guys who are playing this game...

5.♘b3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 e6 7.a3
7.♗d3 followed by 0-0, ♔h1, f4 is a good attempt to use the extra tempo – as usually Black's queen retreats to c7 without any request.
7...♗e7



8.f4
7. a3 may be combined with 8.♗f4!? 8.♗e2 followed by 0-0 etc. is also possible.
8...d6 9.♕f3 a6 10.♗d3 0-0 11.g4 ♘d7 12.♗e3 ♕c7 13.g5 b5 14.h4 b4

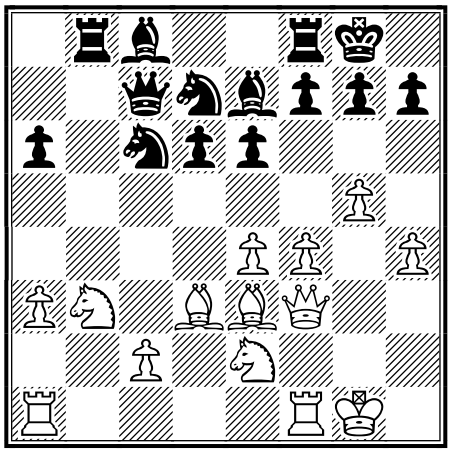


A drawback of the pawn advance a2−a3 is that it helps Black to open lines on the queenside.

15.♘e2 bxa3 16.bxa3 ♖b8

White's pawn attack is not as dangerous as it looks even if he has the king castled and the more solid queenside pawn structure. Black's chances already look preferable here, especially taking into account that castling is not possible for the moment.

17.0-0?

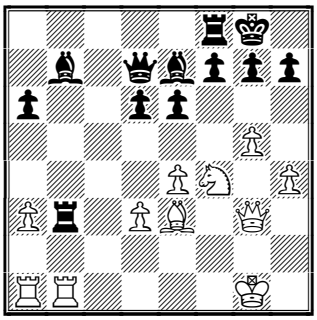


Missing a blow.

17...♘ce5! 18.fxe5 ♘xe5 19.♕g3 ♘xd3 20.cxd3 ♖xb3

White is a pawn down and his king is unsafe.

21.♖fc1 ♕d7 22.♘f4 ♗b7 23.♖cb1



23...♕b5

23...♖xb1+!? 24.♖xb1 ♖c8 looked quite good.

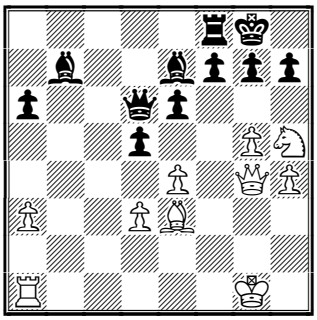
24.♖xb3 ♕xb3 25.♕e1 ♕a4 26.♕d1 ♕d7

26...♕xd1+!? 27.♖xd1 d5 28.♖b1 ♗a8 was also not bad.

27.♕g4 d5 28.♘h5!?

The only attempt to create counterplay.

28...♕d6

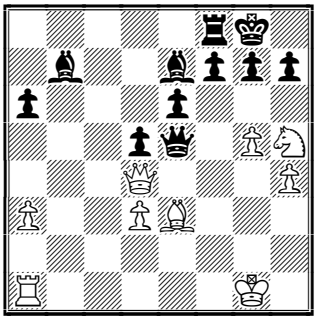


More active 28...♕b5!? deserved attention.

29.e5!?

The bishop b7 should be kept passive by any cost.

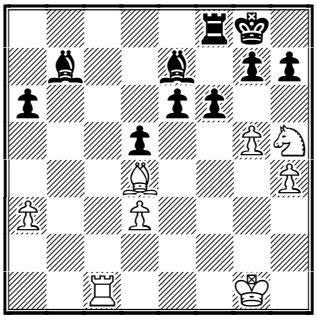
29...♕xe5 30.♕d4



30...♕xd4?

A serious inaccuracy. Was Kramnik too relaxed with two extra pawns? Both 30...f6 and 30...♗d6 seemed to be more precise.

31.♗xd4 f6 32.♖c1



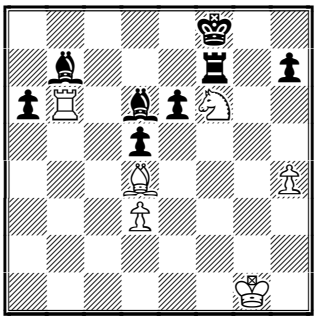
32...♖f7

32...♗d6!? 33.gxf6 e5 was interesting; as well as the cool 32...♗d8

33.gxf6 gxf6 34.♖b1! ♗xa3 35.♘xf6+ ♔f8 36.♖b3! ♗d6

In the case of 36...♗c1 White would have organised counterplay by 37.♗c5+ ♔g7 38.♘e8+ ♔h6 39.♖b6 but Black still kept winning chances.

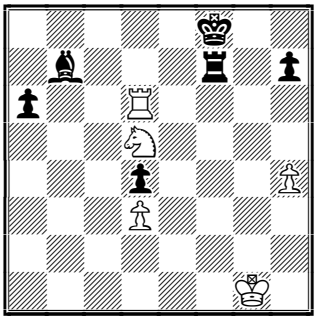
37.♖b6



37...e5

In the ending after 37...♖xf6 38.♖xd6 ♖g6+ 39.♔f2 White had very good drawing chances but his task was still not easy.

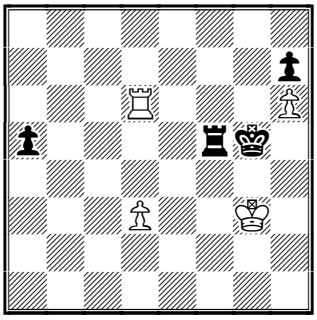
38.♖xd6 exd4 39.♘xd5



39...♗xd5?!

39...♔e8!? deserved serious attention. The rook ending is just drawn.

40.♖xd5 ♖f4 41.h5 ♔g7 42.♔g2 ♔f6 43.♔g3 ♖f5 44.♖xd4 ♔g5 45.♖d6 a5 46.h6



A draw agreed. A lucky escape by Vishy Anand. **½-½**

Recommended Web sites:

www.chesstigers.de/ChessClassic2001
www.schaakbond.nl
www.clichy-echecs.org
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0106/ljubljana
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CT-237, 2nd July 2001

Tie Break Blitz Match Decides in Favor of Anand in his Rapid-

Play Match Against Kramnik!

The 10 games rapid - play match ***Chess Classic 2001*** between both World Champions **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Vishy Anand** has ended in Mainz, Germany. On the last day both games were drawn so the total score was equal for both players – **5:5.**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kramnik	½	½	**1**	½	**0**	½	½	½	½	½
Anand	½	½	**0**	½	**1**	½	½	½	½	½

There was a tie-break of two blitz games – **Vishy Anand** convincingly won the first game and forced a perpetual check in a winning position in the second to secure the overall victory – our congratulations to the winner!

The tie-break:
Anand – Kramnik 1:0 ½:½

(See the annotated game section for the first game of this mini-blitz match --- RPM)

A tie-break was also played in the ***Dutch Championships*** – **Loek van Wely** gave no chance to **Erik van den Doel** and successfully defended his title.

Tie-break for the gold medal:
Van den Doel – Van Wely **0:1 0:1 0:1**

Our congratulations to **Loek van Wely**, and for **Peng Zhaoqin**, who also defended her Women's Champion title successfully, as well as for all the medallists!

The ***Swedish Championships*** have started in Linköping, 200 km south of Stockholm. There were already some unexpected results in the 1st Round – young **Pontus Carlsson** and **Anders Olsson** beat such strong GMs as Jonny Hector and Ralf Akesson respectively while **Jonas Barkhagen** outplayed the second seeded GM Tom Wedberg.

Results of the 1st Round:
A.Eriksson – Agrest **0:1**
Barkhagen – Wedberg **1:0**
Berg – P. Cramling **½:½**
Hector – P. Carlsson **0:1**
L. Karlsson – Hillarp Persson **½:½**
Olsson – Åkesson **1:0**
Brynell – Couso **1:0**

There was a tough battle between the leaders in the 7th Round of the strong round-robin tournament in ***Clichy***, France – **Stuart Conquest** beat Christian Bauer and took sole lead of the event, a full point ahead of four players.

Results of the 7th Round:
Conquest – Bauer **1:0**
Tregubov – Lautier **½:½**
Hebden – Nataf **½:½**
Apicella – M.Gurevich **0:1**
Degraeve – Renet **1:0**

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Conquest – 5 points
2-5. M.Gurevich, Lautier, Bauer, Hebden – 4
6-7. Tregubov, Degraeve – 3½
8-9. Apicella, Nataf – 3
10. Renet – 1

Pairings of the 8th Round:
Lautier – Conquest
M.Gurevich – Hebden
Bauer – Apicella
Degraeve – Tregubov
Renet – Nataf

5 players shared first place in the just completed ***Ljubljana OPEN*** in Slovenia. IM **Blazimir Kovacecic** of Croatia was proclaimed winner on tie-break, the co-winners are GM **Ivan Farago** (Hungary), FM **Doru-Alexandru Ionescu** (Romania), IM **Robert Loncar** (Croatia) and a home IM **Marko Tratar**.

Top results of the 8th Round:
(6) Bl.Kovacevic **½:½** Sax (5½)
(5½) Barle **½:½** Farago (6)
(5½) Loncar **1:0** Kastelic (5½)
(5½) D.Ionescu **1:0** Sitnik (5½)

Top results of the 9th Round:
(6½) Loncar **½:½** Bl.Kovacevic (6½)
(6) Sax **½:½** Farago (6½)
(6) Podlesnik **½:½** D.Ionescu (6½)
(6) Tratar **1:0** Barle (6)

Final standings:
1-5. Bl.Kovacevic, Farago, D.Ionescu, Loncar, Tratar – 7 points
6-13. Sax, Podkriznik, Sitnik, Podlesnik, Kutuzovic, Zelcic, Navinsek, Novak – 6½ etc.

Our congratulations to All the winners!

The strong ***Andorra OPEN*** is underway. The top-seeded players are: **Vladimir Baklan, Igor Khenkin, Vadim Milov, Mihai Marin, Boris Avrukh** and **Lev Psakhis.** In the 1st Round 72 players won their games.

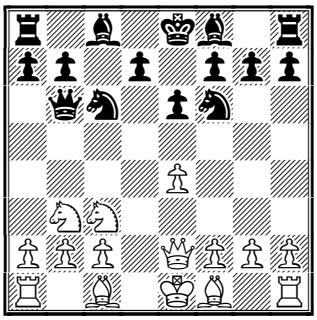
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

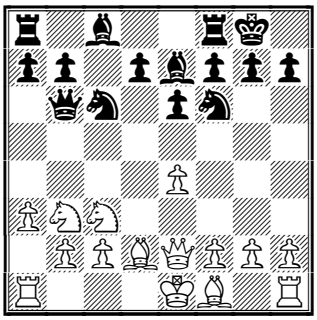
V. Anand (2794) – V. Kramnik (2797)

Mainz CC Champions Duel Playoff
Mainz GER (1), 26.06.2001 B33
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov]

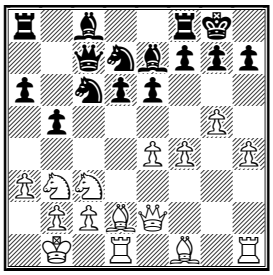
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♕b6 5.♘b3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 e6 7.♕e2!? (D)



You may remember that just yesterday Anand countered the system 4. ..♕b6 unsuccessfully. Today he employs one of the most dangerous methods for Black.
7...♗b4 8.♗d2 0-0 9.a3 ♗e7 (D)



9...♗xc3?! 10.♗xc3 e5 11.0-0-0 is clearly better for White.
10.0-0-0
10.e5 is not as strong as it looks, after 10...♘e8! (10...♘d5?! is weaker) Black soon undermines the e5 pawn by ...d7−d6. The game V.Spasov − Kurajica, Moscow (ol) 1994 continued by 11.0-0-0 ♕c7 12.f4 a6 13.♘e4 d6 14.exd6 ♘xd6 15.g3 b5 16.♗g2 ♘xe4 17.♗xe4 ♗b7 18.♗c3 and here a draw was agreed.
10...d6 11.g4 a6 12.g5 ♘d7 13.h4 ♕c7 14.f4 b5 15.♔b1 (D)



Quite a typical position but there is

little difference compared to the common lines − instead of ♕d2+♗e3 White arranges his pieces by ♕e2+♗d2. This may favour White as the queen on e2 makes her attack stronger.

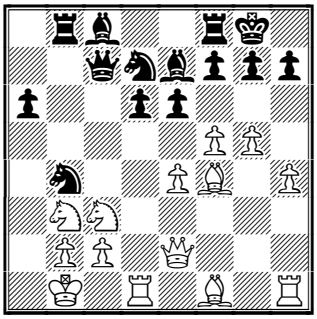
15...b4

Here the typical manoeuvre 15...♘b6 is not so effective as White is not much worried about ...♘c4 and can simply continue his attack by 16.h5→; However, 15...♘c5!? deserved attention. In the case of 16.♘xc5 dxc5 the manoeuvre ...♘d4 would promise Black counterplay.

16.axb4 ♘xb4 17.f5

17.h5!? was also worthy of consideration.

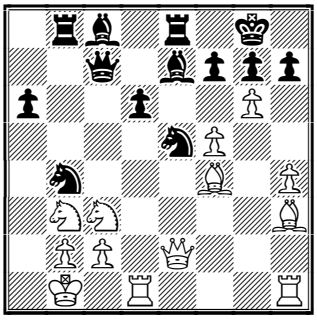
17...♖b8 18.♗f4 (D)



18...exf5?!

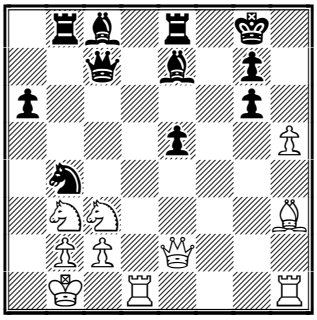
As a rule, Black should refrain from this capture as Black loses control over the d5 square as well gives White a strong e4 square for the knight. Perhaps Kramnik was worried about playing 18...♘e5 immediately due to the push f5−f6 here or later but it nevertheless seemed to be more to the point despite all dangers.

19.exf5 ♘e5 20.♗h3 ♖e8 21.g6! (D)



Beginning a direct attack − White opens lines against Black's king.

21...hxg6 22.♗xe5 dxe5 23.fxg6 fxg6 24.h5!(D)



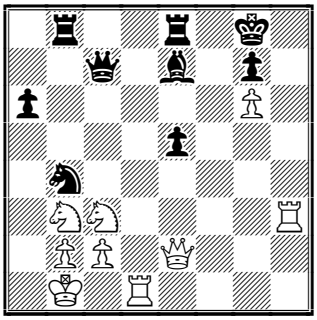
24...♗f5?

This counter action turns out to be a fatal mistake.

25.hxg6 ♗xh3

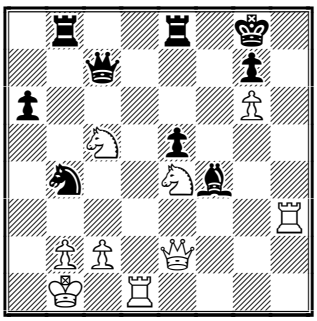
A sad necessity. 25...♗xc2+ was impossible due to 26.♕xc2! ♘xc2 27.♗e6+ with a checkmate; while 25...♗xg6 was equally bad due to the same 26.♗e6+ ♗f7 27.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 28.♕h5+ with a decisive attack.

26.♖xh3 (D)



Black's position is just not defendable.

26...♗g5 27.♘e4 ♗f4 28.♘bc5 (D)



♕c4 comes next so Black resigned.

1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

www.chesstigers.de/ChessClassic2001
www.schaakbond.nl
www.clichy-echecs.org
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0106/ljubljana
www.internet.ad/feva/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-238, 3rd July 2001

New FIDE Rating List Out - Kasparov Still on Top!

The new official rating list (on 1 July) appeared on the FIDE website at: ***www.fide.com*** We published the top 20 chess players (with their Elo ratings on 1 April too).

No.	*Name*	*ap01*	*ju01*	*Gms*	*DOB*
1.	**G. Kasparov**	2835	**2838**	10	13.04.63
2.	V. Kramnik	2797	**2802**	10	25.06.75
3.	V. Anand	2794	**2794**	0	11.12.69
4.	A. Morozevich	2749	**2749**	22	18.07.77
5.	M. Adams	2750	**2744**	19	17.11.71
6.	V. Ivanchuk	2731	**2731**	0	18.03.69
7.	P. Leko	2730	**2730**	0	08.09.79
8.	E. Bareev	2709	**2719**	29	21.11.66
9.	V. Topalov	2707	**2711**	9	15.03.75
10.	A. Shirov	2722	**2706**	21	04.07.72
11.	R. Kasimdzhanov	2693	**2704**	20	05.12.79
12.	B. Gelfand	2712	**2704**	13	24.06.68
13.	I. Smirin	2691	**2702**	30	21.01.68
14.	A. Khalifman	2690	**2700**	10	18.01.66
15.	K. Georgiev	2676	**2695**	32	28.11.65
16.	L. Van Wely	2670	**2695**	44	07.10.72
17.	P. Svidler	2695	**2695**	9	17.06.76
18.	A. Karpov	2692	**2692**	0	23.05.51
19.	A. Dreev	2685	**2690**	18	30.01.69
20.	J. Polgar	2678	**2686**	13	23.07.76

Garry Kasparov retains clear first, while **Vladimir Kramnik** became the second player surpassing the 2800 mark. Vishy Anand didn't play classical chess the last three month according this list (but what about Merida in May?). I suspect there will be new version of this list soon (as usual, like the last time).

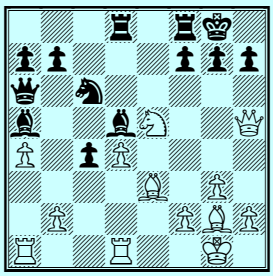
Stellan Brynel became sole leader after the 2nd round of the ***Swedish Championships*** in Linkoping.

Results of the 2nd round:
Karlsson – Berg **0:1**
Akesson – Eriksson **1:0**
Carlsson – Olsson **½:½**
Couso – Hector **½:½**
Wedberg – Brynell **0:1**
Cramling – Barkhagen **½:½**
Hillarp Persson – Agrest **½:½**

Standings after the 2nd round:
1. Brynell – 2 points
2-6. Agrest, Barkhagen, Berg, Carlsson, Olsson – 1½
7-9. Cramling, Hillarp Persson, Akesson – 1
10-12. Hector, Karlsson, Couso – ½
13-14. Eriksson, Wedberg – 0

Pairing for the 3rd round:
Berg – Hillarp Persson
Barkhagen – Karlsson
Brynell – Cramling
Hector – Wedberg
Olsson – Couso
Eriksson – Carlsson
Agrest – Åkesson

Lautier (White) to Play
From our Annotated Game
Black overlooks?
17…♗d5? 18. ?



A new, tough battle between the leaders took place in the 8th round of the ***Clichy*** tournament. **Joel Lautier** beat **Stuart Conquest** *(see our annotated game section)* and has caught up to him. All other games were drawn.

Results of the 8th round:
Lautier – Conquest **1:0**
Gurevich – Hebden **½:½**
Bauer – Apicella **½:½**
Degraeve – Tregubov **½:½**
Renet – Nataf **½:½**

Standing after the 8th, penultimate round:
1-2. Lautier, Conquest – 5 points
3-5. Gurevich, Bauer, Hebden – 4½
6-7. Tregubov, Degraeve – 4
8-9. Apicella, Nataf – 3½
10. Renet – 1½

♘♘♘

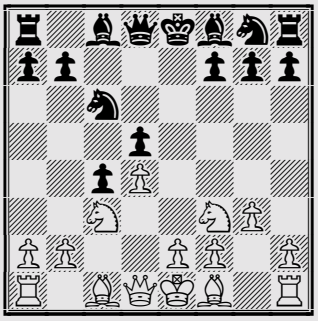
Annotated Game

J. Lautier − S. Conquest
Clichy (8), 02.07.2001 D33
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5

The Classical Tarrash defence. This opening has never completely disappeared from Grandmaster play.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.g3 c4 (D)



The So called Stahlberg, or Swedish variation. Swedish GM Gideon Stahlberg started to play this move in the 1930s. The idea is very simple − Black receives a pawn mayority on the Queen side and would like to exploit it somewhere in the endgame. Of course White has to play very energetically in the center as soon as possible.

7.♗g2 ♗b4 8.0-0 ♘ge7 9.e4!

Because White has a slight lead in development.

9...0-0

Rather suspect is 9...♗xc3?! − for example: 10.bxc3 dxe4 11.♘d2 ♗e6 12.♘xe4 b6 13.♗g5 f6? 14.♗xf6! 0-0 15.♗xe7 ♘xe7 16.♕d2± Kondratiev − Taimanov, Leningrad 1950; An alternative is 9...dxe4!?

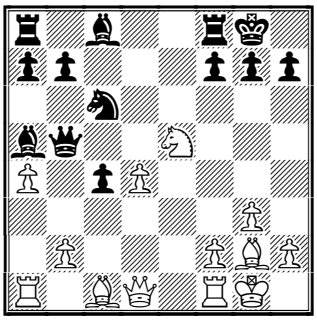
10.♘xd5

The main theoretical way is 10.exd5 ♘xd5 11.♗g5 etc.

10...♘xd5 11.exd5 ♕xd5 12.a3 ♗a5

With this retreat the Bishop doesn't allow the Rook on f1 to go to e1.

13.♘e5 ♕b5 14.a4!? (D)



A very natural move, and a novelty at the same time. The Queen must go to the corner. 14.b4?! cxb3 15.♖b1 ♘xe5 16.♖xb3 ♕a4 17.dxe5 ♗g4 18.f3 ♖fd8 19.♖d3 ♕c4 20.♖d6 ♗f5 21.♗e3 ♗d3 22.♖f2 ♖xd6 23.exd6 ♖e8↑ Vera − Arencibia, Habana 1990.

14...♕a6 15.♗e3 ♗e6

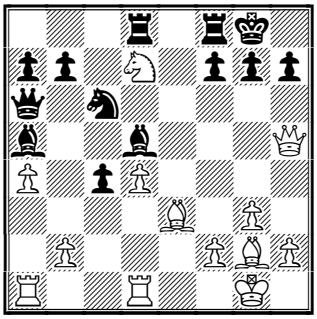
After 15...♘xe5 16.dxe5 White has a very promising position with chances for an attack.

16.♕h5!?

Joel Lautier likes such active moves. Look at the Queen on a6 and the Bishop a5 − they are very far from their King and couldn't help him.

16...♖ad8 17.♖fd1 ♗d5?

I think Black overlooked White's next move. Earlier or later he had to take on e5 − 17...♘xe5



18.♘d7! (D)

A small combination.

18...♖xd7 19.♗xd5 ♖fd8 20.♗e4 g6

Fritz shows that after 20...h6!? 21.♗xh6 gxh6 22.♕xh6 Black could play 22...♘xd4! 23.♗h7+ ♔h8 24.♗g6+ ♔g8 25.♗h7+ with perpetual check. Of course White can not to

sacrifice a Bishop.

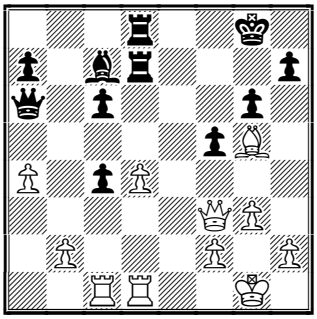
21.♕f3 f5!?

The dark squares in Black's camp are too weak so we can understand Conquest's decision here − he would like to do something active, otherwise Black hasn't any counterplay.

22.♗xc6 bxc6

Or 22...♕xc6 23.♕xc6 bxc6 24.♖dc1 and the endgame is rather difficult for Black.

23.♖ac1 ♗c7 (D)



24.♗g5!?

White doesn't want to exploit pawn weakness − He would like to checkmate the enemy King!

24...♖b8

24...♖e8 25.♖e1 (25.b3!?)

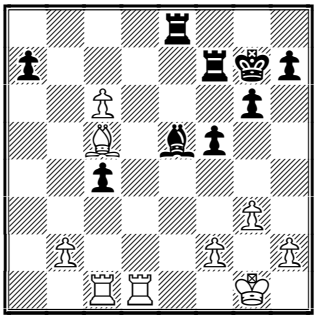
25.♕e2! ♕xa4 26.♗e7 ♔g7 27.♕e6 c5

The only move. 27...♖d5 28.♗f6+ ♔h6 29.♕e7+−

28.♗xc5 ♖f7 29.d5 ♖e8 30.♕c6!

The simplest way − swap queens to head to a winning endgame.

30...♕xc6 31.dxc6 ♗e5 (D)



31...♖e4 32.♗d4+!?

32.♖e1!

And another small combination a−la Capablanca, this time − final.

32...♗xb2 33.♖xe8 ♗xc1 34.♗d6! 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.fide.com
http://www.clichy-echecs.org/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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CT-239, 4th July 2001

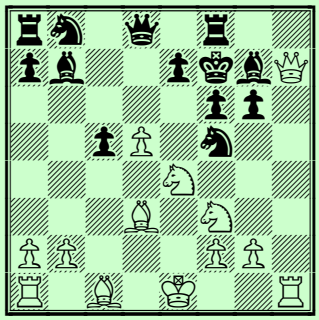
Conquest Triumphs in Clichy

English GM Stuart Conquest won the round-robin tournament in ***Clichy,*** France. In the last round he beat his opponent while co-leader Joel Lautier drawn his game.

Results of the 9th round:
Conquest – Degraeve **1:0**
Hebden – Bauer **1:0**
Tregubov – Renet **½:½**
Nataf – Gurevich **½:½**
Apicella – Lautier **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Conquest – 6 points
2-3. Lautier, Hebden – 5½
4. Gurevich – 5
5-6. Tregubov, Bauer – 4½
7-9. Degraeve, Apicella, Nataf – 4
10. Renet – 2

Conquest (White) to Play
From our Annotated Game
17…♔**f7**



And now the final blow:
18. ?

Also see our annotated game section for Conquest-Degraeve.

There are four leaders after the 3rd round of the ***Swedish Championships*** in Linkoping.

Results of the 3rd round:
Berg – Hillarp Persson **1:0**
Barkhagen – Karlsson **1:0**
Brynell – Cramling **½:½**
Hector – Wedberg **½:½**
Olsson – Couso **½:½**
Eriksson – Carlsson **½:½**
Agrest – Åkesson **1:0**

Standings after the 3rd round:
1-4. Agrest, Barkhagen, Berg, Brynell – 2½ points
5-6. Carlsson, Olsson – 2
7. Cramling – 1½
8-11. Hector, Hillarp Persson, Couso, Akesson – 1
12-14. Karlsson, Eriksson, Wedberg – ½

Pairing for the 4th round:
Karlsson – Brynell
Berg – Barkhagen
Carlsson – Agrest
Couso – Eriksson
Wedberg – Olsson
Cramling – Hector
Hillarp Persson – Åkesson

The Traditional ***14th Milan Vidmar Memorial*** started in Portoroz, Slovenia. This time it's a round-robin tournament with 10 participants (*it is interesting to note that one of them is Rumanian Alexandru Crisan who made strange "Elo-records" some years ago and didn't play after that*); FIDE cat. XIII (av. Elo 2572).

Results of the 1st round:
Volokitin Andrei – Crisan Alexandru **1:0**
Kozul Zdenko – Macieja Bartlomiej **1:0**
Mikhalchishin Adrian – Pavasovic Dusko **½:½**
Mohr Georg – Beliavsky Alexander **½:½**
Sermek Drazen – Gelfand Boris **0:1**

Pairing for the 2nd round:
Crisan – Beliavsky
Pavasovic – Mohr
Gelfand – Mikhalchishin
Macieja – Sermek
Volokitin – Kozul

The category IV ***St. John's University Spring International*** tournament took place in New York City.

Final standing:
1. J. Sarkar – 6½ points out of 9
2. W. Morrison – 6

3. E. Gersov – 5½
4-5. B. Smith, J. Bonin – 5
6. B. Szuk – 4½
7-8. S. Muhammad, B. Kurniawan – 4
9. S. Glinert – 3
10. M. Belorusov – 1½

♘♘♘

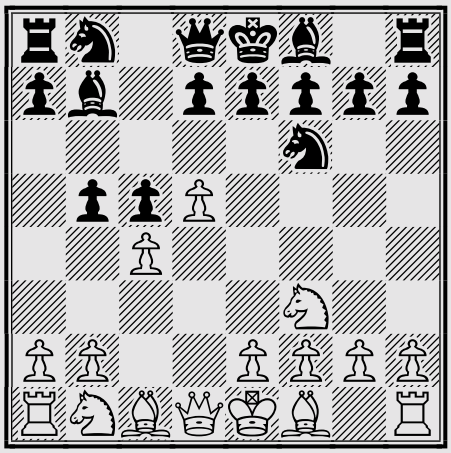
Annotated Game

S. Conquest (2563) − J. Degraeve (2589)

GM Clichy FRA (9), 03.07.2001 A57

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.d5 b5 4.c4 ♗b7 (D)



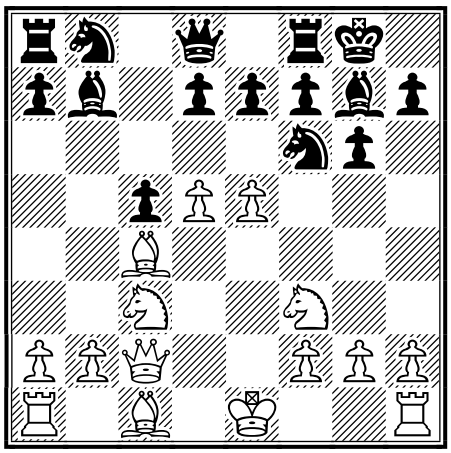
The very sharp Bluemenfeld Gambit. It has many ideas in common with the Volga Gambit; the main one being is that the b−pawn is sacrificed in exchanged for a pawn center (in perspective).

5.♕c2 bxc4 6.e4 g6N

This is a novelty. Previously Black has started the struggle for the center immediately, for example: 6...e6 7.♗g5 h6 8.♗xf6 gxf6 9.♗xc4 ♗d6 10.0-0 ♗a6 11.♘a3! ♖g8 12.♖ad1 ♗xc4 13.♘xc4 ♗f4 14.e5! f5 15.♘d6+± Cramling − Fernandez, Spain 2001.; 6...d6

7.♗xc4 ♗g7 8.♘c3 0-0?! (D)

In my opinion, this is an extremely risky move because White's e−pawn can now advance forward. Better and more solid was 8...d6!?



9.e5 ♘e8 10.h4!

Why not? White begins a straightforward attack with the Rook still on h1."Open h−file, check, check and checkmate!" − this was Fischer's slogan in similar positions.

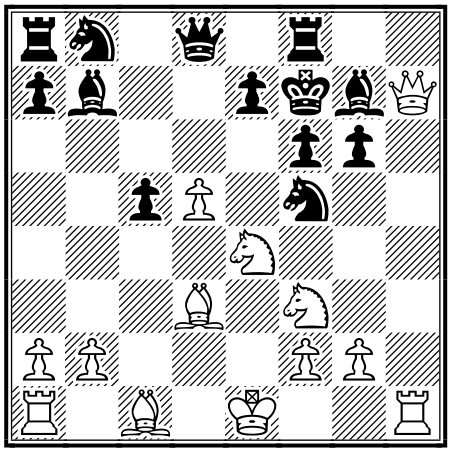
10...d6 11.h5 dxe5 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.♕e4

The Queen is going to h4.

13...♘d6?

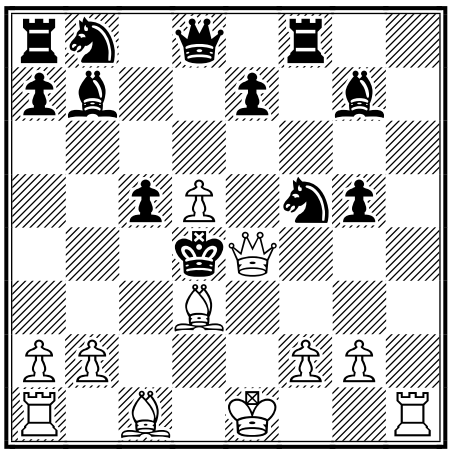
13...♘f6!? looks more natural − for example: 14.♕h4 ♘bd7 15.♗h6 ♘h5 16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.g4 ♖h8!⇄

14.♕h4 f6 15.♗d3 e4 16.♘xe4 ♘f5 17.♕h7+ ♔f7 (D)



And now the final blow:

18.♘eg5+! fxg5 19.♘e5+ ♔f6 20.♕xg6+ ♔xe5 21.♕e6+ ♔d4 22.♕e4#



Checkmate in the center of the board. Such games were played in the 19th century! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.fide.com
http://www.clichy-echecs.org/
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://facpub.stjohns.edu/~kerrt/chess/sjuchess.html

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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-240, 5th July 2001

Four Share Lead in Linkoping

The same four players share the lead after the 4th round of the ***Swedish Championships*** in Linkoping.

Results of the 4th round:
Karlsson – Brynell **½:½**
Berg – Barkhagen **½:½**
Carlsson – Agrest **½:½**
Couso – Eriksson **0:1**
Wedberg – Olsson **1:0**
Cramling – Hector **0:1**
Hillarp Persson – Åkesson **½:½**

Standing after the 4th round:
1-4. Agrest, Barkhagen, Berg, Brynell – 3 points
5. Carlsson – 2½
6-7. Hector, Olsson – 2
8-12. Akesson, Hillarp Persson, Eriksson, Cramling, Wedberg – 1½
13-14. Karlsson, Couso – 1

Pairing for the 5th round:
Barkhagen – Hillarp Persson
Brynell – Berg
Hector – Karlsson
Olsson – Cramling
Eriksson – Wedberg
Agrest – Couso
Åkesson – Carlsson

The Young Ukrainian **Andrei Volokitin** became sole leader after the second round of ***14th Milan Vidmar Memorial*** in Portoroz, Slovenia. The only player who hasn't even a half point yet is the sad, famous Rumanian Alexandru Crisan.

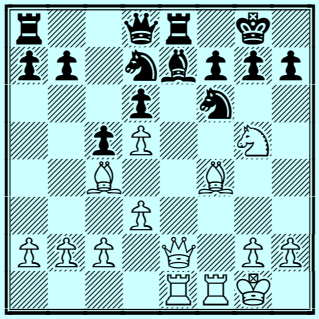
Results of the 1st round:
Crisan – Beliavsky **0:1**
Pavasovic – Mohr **½:½**
Gelfand – Mikhalchishin **½:½**
Macieja – Sermek **½:½**
Volokitin – Kozul **1:0**

Standing after the 2nd round:
1. Volokitin – 2 points
2-3. Beliavsky, Gelfand – 1½
4-7. Kozul, Mikhalchishin, Mohr, Pavasovic – 1
8-9. Sermek, Macieja – ½
10. Crisan – 0

Pairing for the 3rd round:
Kozul – Crisan
Sermek – Volokitin
Mikhalchishin – Macieja
Mohr – Gelfand
Beliavsky – Pavasovic

Also see our annotated game section for

Volokitin (White) to Play
From our Annotated game
13…♖e8



14. ?
A brilliant and well calculated combination!

the exciting miniature - Volokitin-Kozul

There is in progress the very interesting ***IV Mercosur Cup*** (cat. IX, av. Elo 2467) in Vicente Lopez, Argentina. The scoring is 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 points for a loss, but we'll give you the results in the more traditional form (1 point for win, ½ for a draw). The FIDE Time Controls: 40 moves in 75 minutes followed by 15 minutes to finish with

each player getting extra 30 seconds each move. The computer program **Chess Tiger** is competing and leads after 8 rounds of play.

Results of the 8th round:
COMP Chess Tiger – Pablo Ricardi **1:0**
Oscar Panno – Enrique Scarella **½:½**
Sergio Slipak – Diego Valerga **½:½**
Everaldo Matsuura – Mauricio Dorin **1:0**
Eduardo Limp – Alejandro Hoffman **0:1**
Andres Rodriguez – Miguel Andres **½:½**

Standing after the 8th round:
1. Chess Tiger – 6½ points
2-3. Panno, Slipak – 5
4-5 Hoffman**,** Valerga – 4½
6-7. Limp, Ricardi – 4
8-9. Andres, Rodriguez – 3½
10. Matsuura – 3
11. Scarella – 2½
12. Dorin – 1½

Pairing for the 9th round:
Andres – Chess Tiger
Hoffman – Rodriguez
H Dorin – Limp
Valerga – Matsuura
Scarella – Slipak
Ricardi – Panno

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

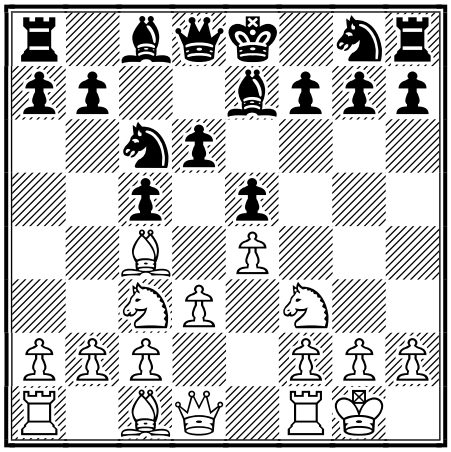
A. Volokitin (2550) − Z. Kozul (2555)

14. Memorial dr. Milana Vidmarja, 2001 B30

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Who is this guy, **Andrei Volokitin** anyway, who beat in just 20 moves such a mastadon like GM Zdenko Kozhul? We really don't know much about this Ukrainian junior. Last year at the Chess Olimpiad under 16 he played on first board for his team. This past May in Lousanna he beat his compatriot Ruslan Ponomarev. It was a sensation because even though Ruslan is only one year older than Andrei, he has for some years been among the chess elite. And in June Volokitin won a vacation to the World Championship 2001. Now he is the leader in the 14th Vidmar Memorial. Not too bad!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♗c4 d6 5.d3 ♗e7 6.0-0 (D)



6...♗e6!?

More often Black plays 6...♘f6 , for example: 7.♘g5 0-0 8.f4 exf4 9.♗xf4 h6 10.♘f3 ♗e6 11.♘d5 ♗xd5 12.♗xd5 ♘xd5 13.exd5 ♘b4!? Sadvakasov − Morozevich, Astana 2001.(13...♘e5 14.♕d2 ♘xf3+ 15.♖xf3 ♗g5 16.♖af1 ♗xf4 17.♕xf4 ♕d7= Chandler − Krush, Hastings 2000.)

7.♘d5 ♘f6 8.♘g5 ♗xd5 9.exd5 ♘b8 10.f4!?

This natural move is a novelty. Earlier White played 10.a4!?; 10.♗b5+; or even 10.b4!? , as in the following game: 10...cxb4 11.♕e1 ♘bd7 12.♕xb4 ♘b6 13.♗b5+ ♔f8 14.c4 ♘fxd5 15.cxd5 ♗xg5 16.♗xg5 ♕xg5 17.f4 exf4 18.♖ae1 ♕xd5 19.♕xf4 f6 20.♗c4 ♘xc4 21.dxc4 ♕c5+⩲ Hector − Scherbakov, Denmark 1993.

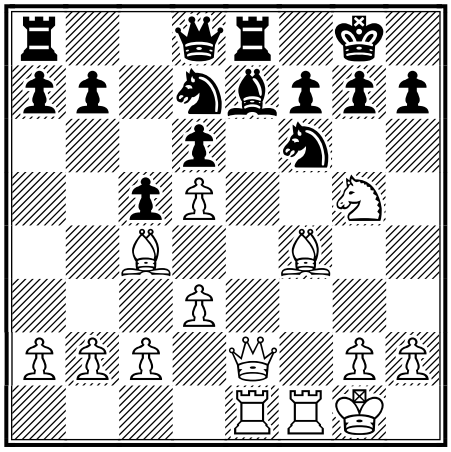
10...exf4

Of course, not 10...h6? 11.♘xf7! ♔xf7 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.d6+ ♔e8 14.dxe7 ♕xe7±; but interesting was 10...0-0!?

11.♗xf4 0-0 12.♕e2 ♘bd7?

If Black knew his fate, he would have played 12...h6 without any doubts.

13.♖ae1 ♖e8 (D)



13...h6 14.♕xe7 hxg5 15.♗xg5±

14.♘xf7!

A brilliant and well calculated combination! Maybe it was a full surprise for Black.

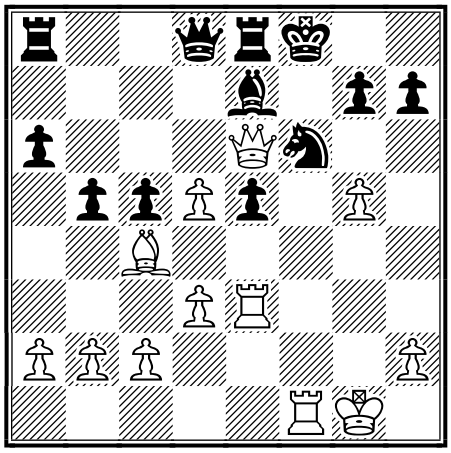
14...♔xf7 15.♕e6+ ♔f8 16.g4 a6

Or 16...h6 17.h4 with a very strong attack, for example: 17...♘b6 18.g5 hxg5 19.hxg5 ♕c8 20.gxf6 ♕xe6 21.fxe7+ ♕xe7 22.♗xd6+ ♔g8 23.♖xe7+−; 16...♘b6 17.g5→

17.g5 b5 18.♖e3!

The Last reserve went for offence!

18...♘e5 19.♗xe5 dxe5 (D)



20.g6!

And Black resigned in view of mate in two: 20.g6 hxg6 21.♖h3 Andrei Volokitin attacked in one breath! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.fide.com
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://www.ajedrez-de-estilo.com.ar/ade/

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-241, 6th July 2001

Agrest Leads Field in Linkoping

Evgeni Agrest leads after the 5th round of the ***Swedish Championships*** in Linkoping.

Rsults of the 5th round:
Barkhagen – Hillarp Persson **½:½**
Brynell – Berg **½:½**
Hector – Karlsson **½:½**
Olsson – Cramling **½:½**
Eriksson – Wedberg **0:1**
Agrest – Couso **1:0**
Åkesson – Carlsson **1:0**

*Photo by © **Peter Halvarsson** 2001*

Standings after the 5th round:
1. Agrest – 4 points
2-4. Barkhagen, Berg, Brynell – 3½
5-9. Akesson, Hector, Olsson, Carlsson, Wedberg – 2½
10-11. Hillarp Persson, Cramling – 2
12-13. Karlsson, Eriksson – 1½
14. Couso – 1

Pairing for the 6th round:
Karlsson – Olsson
Berg – Hector
Barkhagen – Brynell
Couso – Åkesson
Wedberg – Agrest
Cramling – Eriksson
Hillarp Persson – Carlsson

The young Ukrainian **Andrei Volokitin** retained sole lead with a perfect score after the 3rd round of ***14th Milan Vidmar Memorial*** in Portoroz, Slovenia. To be honest he had the worse position vs. Sermek, but his experienced opponent made a mistake.

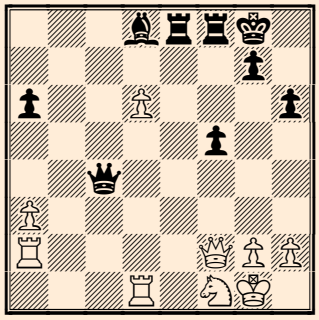
Results of the 3rd round:
Kozul – Crisan **1:0**
Sermek – Volokitin **0:1**
Mikhalchishin – Macieja **½:½**
Mohr – Gelfand **0:1**
Beliavsky – Pavasovic **½:½**

Standing after the 3rd round:
1. Volokitin – 3 points
2. Gelfand – 2½
3-4. Beliavsky, Kozul – 2
5-6. Mikhalchishin, Pavasovic – 1½
7-8. Mohr, Macieja – 1
9. Sermek – ½
10. Crisan – 0

Pairing for the 4th round:
Crisan – Pavasovic
Gelfand – Beliavsky
Macieja – Mohr
Volokitin – Mikhalchishin
Kozul – Sermek

*Also see our annotated game section for **Mohr-Gelfand.***

Gelfand (Black) to Play
From our Annotated Game
29.d6?



29...?
White overlooks a simple tactic.

Vladislav Akselrod leads after the 5th round of the **6th Stage of Russian Cup** in Tomsk, Siberia. (Swiss system, 9 rounds, 62 players.)

1. Akselrod – 4½ points out of 5
2-6. Kornev, Ovetchkin, Shinkevich, Beshukov, Kurnosov – 4 etc.

Information and games at: http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

Four players share first place after the 5th round of ***Andorra open.***

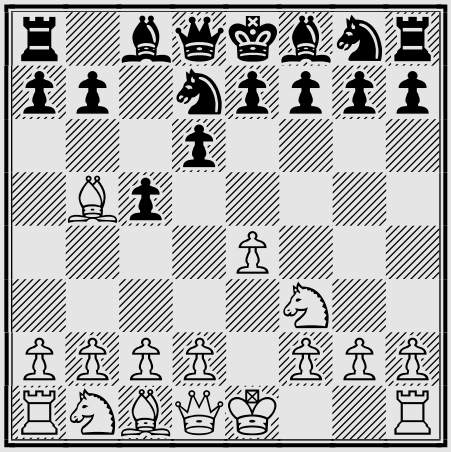
1-3. Milov, Avrukh, Rotstein – 4 points
4-11. Khenkin, Psakhis, Comas, Rausis, Stefanova, Visser, Lopez Martinez, Jonkman – 3½ etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

G. Mohr (2484) − B. Gelfand (2704)
Milan Vidmar Mem Portoroz SLO (3), 05.07.2001 B51
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♗b5+ ♘d7!? (D)



Boris usually chooses the more solid 3...♗d7 after which Black has big problems with playing for a win. The text move is sharper.

4.d4 ♘gf6 5.♘c3 cxd4 6.♕xd4 e5 7.♕d3 h6

Black can't allow 8.Bg5, and White occupies the d5−square with the Knight.

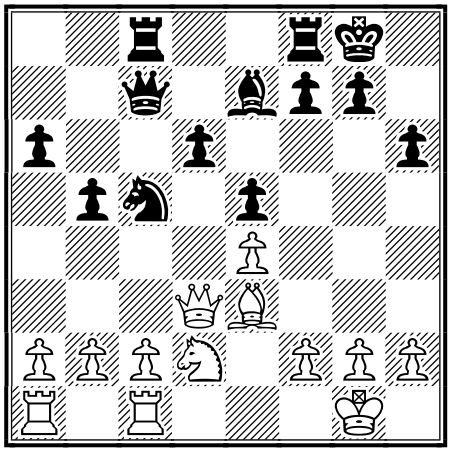
8.♗e3 ♗e7 9.0-0

I think more precise is 9.♗c4!? ,to prevent Black's activity on the Queen side. For example: 9...a6 10.a4 ♕c7 11.0-0 0-0 12.♘d2 ♖b8 13.a5 ♘c5 14.♕e2 ♗e6 15.♗xe6 ♘xe6 16.♖a4 ♕c6 17.♖c4 ♕d7 18.♖d1 ♗d8 19.♖a4 d5 20.exd5 ♘xd5 21.♘de4 ♘xc3 22.♘xc3 ♕e8 23.b3± Adams − Svidler, New Delhi 2000.

9...a6 10.♗c4 b5 11.♗b3

White didn't gain any advantage in the following game: 11.♗d5 ♖b8 12.♗a7 ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 ♖b7 14.♘xe7 ♕xe7 15.♗e3 ♘f6 16.♘d2 0-0 17.♘b3 ♗e6 18.♘a5?! ♖c7 19.♗d2 d5 20.exd5 ♗xd5∓ Ye − Fedorov, Belfort 1999.

11...♗b7 12.♘d5 ♗xd5 13.♗xd5 ♘xd5 14.♕xd5 0-0 15.♕d3 ♕c7 16.♘d2 ♖ac8 17.♖fc1 ♘c5 (D)



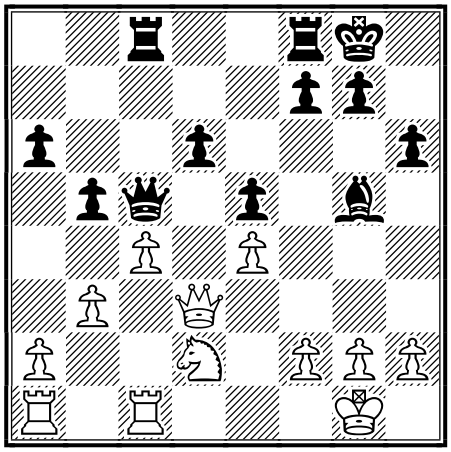
18.♗xc5?!

If White wants to exploit "the good Knight vs the bad Bishop", his "good" Knight has to be on d5 or at least on c3 (e3). Better were: 18.♕e2; 18.♕d5!?

18...♕xc5 19.c4

Or 19.♘f1 ♗g5 and Black has no problems.

19...♗g5 20.b3 (D)



20...d5!?

Chess programs don't see such moves. Black gains a strong initiative for a pawn.

21.exd5 f5 22.♖d1

Interesting was 22.cxb5!? − for example.: 22...♕xc1+ 23.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 24.♘f1 e4 25.♕e2 axb5 26.♕xb5 ♖fc8 27.g3 ♖a1∞

22...e4 23.♕e2 ♖ce8 24.a3?!

A rather careless move. 24.♖ac1!?; 24.♘f1!?

24...e3!

A new and more unpleasant pawn break.

25.♘f1

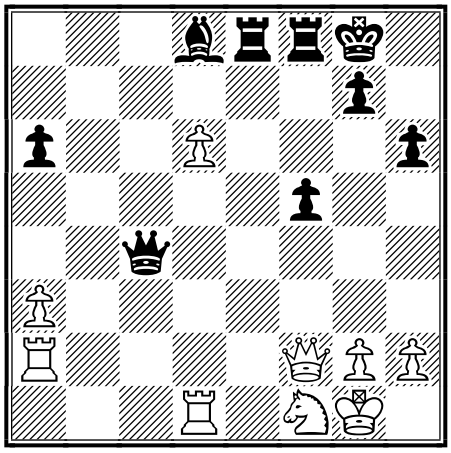
25.♘f3? exf2+ 26.♕xf2 ♗e3-+; 25.fxe3 ♗xe3+ 26.♔h1 ♗d4∓

25...bxc4 26.bxc4 exf2+ 27.♕xf2 ♕xc4∓

Black has the better chances here thanks to the stronger Bishop vs weaker Knight and the better King's position.

28.♖a2 ♗d8 29.d6?

The decisive mistake − White overlooked a simple tactic.



29...♗b6! 30.♕xb6 ♕xa2 31.♕xa6 f4 32.♘d2 ♕d5 33.♕c4 ♖f5 34.♕c2 ♖e2 0-1.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.fide.com
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://www.internet.ad/feva/Open2001/XIXOpen/class.htm

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-242, 7th July 2001

The 29th Annual World Open Starts in Philadelphia!

The famous ***29th Annual Philadelphia World Open*** is in progress. For me it has a very tricky system (maybe because I have not played in America yet), with many sections and something so called *schedule* in the main, open, section.

7-Day Schedule with GM Jan Ehlvest, Boris Gulko, Fabian Doettling and others.
1-2. Doettling, V. Gaprindashvili – 3 points out of 3
3-11. Gulko, Ehlvest, Donaldson, Vovsha, Hebert, Braylovsky, Nakamura, Nsubuga, Formanek – 2½ etc.

2-Weekend Schedule
1. Kudrin – 3½ points out of 4
2-4. Stripunsky, Blatny, Rohde – 3 etc.

5-Day Schedule
Now 22 players have 2 points out of 2.

Also see our annotated game section for ***Doettling - Mascarinas***

Evgeni Agrest strengthened his lead with another victory in the 6th round of the ***Swedish Championships*** in Linkoping.

Results of the 6th round:
Karlsson – Olsson **1:0**
Berg – Hector **0:1**
Barkhagen – Brynell **½:½**
Couso – Åkesson **1:0**
Wedberg – Agrest **0:1**
Cramling – Eriksson
Hillarp Persson – Carlsson **0:1**

Standing after the 6th round:
1. Agrest – 5 points
2-3. Barkhagen, Brynell – 4
4-6. Berg, Hector, Carlsson – 3½
7. Cramling – 3
8-11. Karlsson, Olsson, Wedberg Akesson – 2½
12-13. Hillarp Persson, Couso – 2
14. Eriksson – 1½

Pairing for the 7th round:
Brynell – Hillarp Persson
Hector – Barkhagen
Olsson - Berg
Eriksson – Karlsson
Agrest – Cramling
Åkesson – Wedberg
Carlsson – Couso

All games were drawn in the 4th round of the ***14th Milan Vidmar Memorial*** accept one, the game Crisan-Pavasovic. You can easily guess what the result was.

Results of the 4th round:
Crisan – Pavasovic **0:1**
Gelfand – Beliavsky **½:½**
Macieja – Mohr **½:½**
Volokitin – Mikhalchishin **½:½**
Kozul – Sermek **½:½**

Standing after the 4th round:
1. Volokitin – 3½ points
2. Gelfand – 3
3-5. Beliavsky, Kozul, Pavasovic – 2½
6. Mikhalchishin – 2
7-8. Mohr, Macieja – 1½
9. Sermek – 1
10. Crisan – 0

Pairing for the 5th round:
Sermek – Crisan
Mikhalchishin – Kozul
Mohr – Volokitin
Beliavsky – Macieja
Pavasovic – Gelfand

Boris Avrukh and **Antoaneta Stefanova** are leading after the 7th round of ***Andorra open***.

1-2. Avrukh, Stefanova – 6 points
3-7. Psakhis, Rotstein, Rausis, Lopez Martinez, Gyimesi – 5½ etc.

♘♘♘

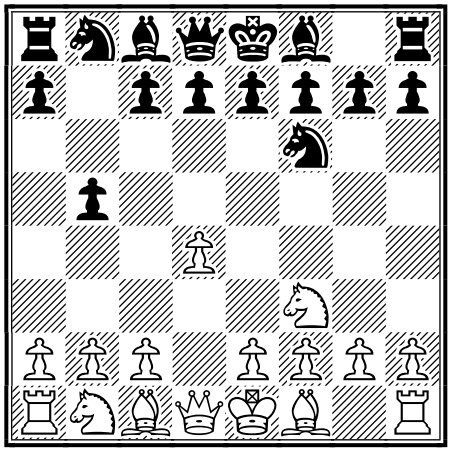
Annotated Game

F. Doettling (2587) − R. Mascarinas (2327)

Open − 7 Day Philadelphia (2), 03.07.2001 A46

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 b5!? (D)



Of course this is quite a playable move and in fact it's rather often employed, especially in open tournaments. But it has one big minus: Black shows his plans too early, at least earlier than his opponent.

3.♗g5 ♘e4

An admirer of this system, the Yugoslavian Ljubomir Ljubojevic, sometimes leaves his Knight on f6, allowing the exchange, doubling Black's pawns, for example: 3...♗b7 4.♘bd2 a6 5.a4 d6 6.♗xf6 gxf6 7.axb5 axb5 8.♖xa8 ♗xa8 9.e4 c6 10.♗d3 ♘d7 11.0-0 e6 12.♕a1 ♗e7 13.♕a7 0-0 14.♖a1± Karpov − Ljubojevic, Monaco 1994.

4.♗h4 ♗b7 5.♘bd2 ♘xd2

5...d6 6.e3 ♘xd2 7.♕xd2 c6 8.a4 ♕b6 9.♗e2 h6 10.0-0 a6 11.e4!? ♘d7 12.c3 e6 13.♖fe1 g5 14.♗g3 ♗e7 15.h3± Huebner − Glinke, Berlin 1999.

6.♕xd2 g6 7.e3 a6 8.♗e2 ♗g7 9.a4!

It's clear that the b5 pawn is a very good target for attack.

9...c6

With the Bishop on b7 and the Knight still on b8 this is a rather sad move.

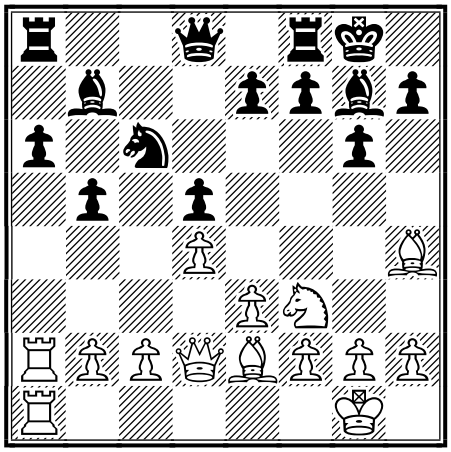
10.0-0 0-0 11.axb5!?

A concrete approach: White activates his opponent's Bishop on b7, but creates a weak pawn on a6.

11...cxb5

Black can't take with the a−pawn in view of 11...axb5 12.♖xa8 ♗xa8 13.♖a1 ♗b7 14.♕a5!? ♕xa5 15.♖xa5 ♖e8 16.♖a7± with a very difficult ending.

12.♖a2 d5 13.♖fa1 ♘c6 (D)



14.♘e1!

The Knight is going to c5.

14...♕b6 15.♘d3 ♖fe8 16.♘c5 ♗c8 17.b4!

First White fixes the Black pawns on the queenside and after that attacks the a−pawn.

17...e5!?

Black tries to find any counterplay in the center, but without success.

18.c3 ♖a7 19.♗f3!?

Another technical move − White asks his opponent if he wants to completely open the center.

19...e4 20.♗e2 ♗f8 21.♖a3

Preparing for ♕a2 or ♖1a2 and

♕d2−b2−a1.

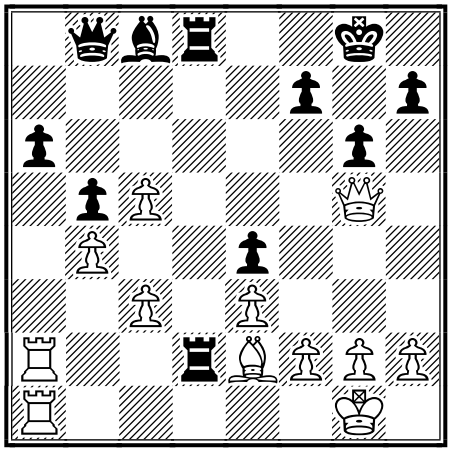
21...♘b8 22.♗g3!

Now Black has huge problems with defending his pawn on a6.

22...♗xc5 23.dxc5 ♕b7 24.♗xb8 ♕xb8 25.♕xd5

White wins a pawn and gains the better position.

25...♖d7 26.♕g5 ♖d2 27.♖3a2 ♖ed8 (D)



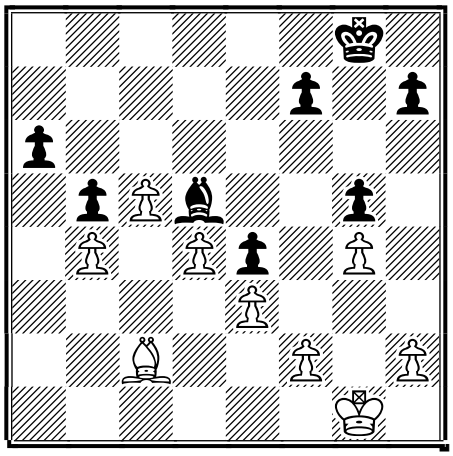
28.♖xd2 ♖xd2 29.♖d1! ♖xd1+

Black is forced to exchange Rooks: 29...♖xe2 30.♕f6 ♗d7 31.♔f1+−

30.♗xd1 ♗e6 31.♕f6 ♕c8 32.♕d4

Centralisation almost always the best way to realise a material advantage.

32...♕d7 33.♗c2 ♕xd4 34.cxd4 ♗d5 35.g4 g5 (D)



36.f3!

The final accurate move. Black resigned. White played this game with flawless technique. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.worldopen.com/home.htm
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://www.internet.ad/feva/Open2001/XIXOpen/class.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-243, 8th July 2001

16th North Sea Cup Starts in Esbjerg, Denmark

The traditional, ***16th North Sea Cup*** started in Esbjerg, Denmark. It's a category 14 event with an average Elo of 2586.

Results of the 1st round:
Curt Hansen – Emil Sutovsky **½:½**
Luke McShane – Igor-Alexandre Nataf **½:½**
Eduardas Rozentalis – Jonathan Speelman **½:½**
Erik van den Doel – Lars Schandorff **½:½**
Peter Heine Nielsen – Alexander Rustemov **0:1**

Results of the 2nd round
Hansen – McShane **0:1**

Schandorff – Nielsen **½:½**
Speelman – van den Doel **½:½**
Nataf – Rozentalis **½:½**
Sutovsky – Rustemov **½:½**

Standing after the 2nd round:
1-2. McShane, Rustemov – 1½ points
3-8. Rozentalis, van den Doel, Schandorff, Speelman, Nataf, Sutovsky 1
9-10. Hansen, Nielsen – ½

Pairing for the 3rd round:
McShane – Sutovsky
Rozentalis – Hansen
van den Doel – Nataf
Nielsen – Speelman
Rustemov – Schandorff

All schedules have merged now at the ***Philadelphia World open***. Six players are leading with 4½ points out of 5 and there are 4 more rounds.

Standing after the 5th round:
1-6. Ehlvest, Goldin, Shulman, Finegold, Gruenfeld, Young – 4½ points
7-20. Smirin, Gulko, Onischuk, Wojtkiewicz, Yudasin, Stripunsky, Benjamin, Blatny, Doettling, Garcia, Vovsha, Ardaman, Ariel, Pixton – 4 etc.

Pairing for the 6th round:
Ehlvest – Finegold
Goldin – Gruenfeld
Young – Shulman
Smirin – Blatny
Garcia – Onischuk
Doettling – Wojtkiewicz
Vovsha – Yudasin
Stripunsky – Ardaman
Pixton – Benjamin
Kudrin – Ariel

See our annotated game section for ***J. Ehlvest - Nakamura***.

Yesterday the 7th of July was a free day at the ***Swedish Championship***. The 7th round will play today.

Thanks to Alexandru Crisan there is always at least one decisive game at the ***14th Milan Vidmar Memorial***. But in the 5th round there were two: Bartolomiej Macieja also lost to Alexander Beliavsky.

Results of the 5th round:
Sermek – Crisan **1:0**
Mikhalchishin – Kozul **½:½**
Mohr – Volokitin **½:½**
Beliavsky – Macieja **1:0**
Pavasovic – Gelfand **½:½**

Standing after the 5th round:
1. Volokitin – 4 points
2-3. Beliavsky, Gelfand – 3½
4-5. Kozul, Pavasovic – 3
6. Mikhalchishin – 2½
7-8. Mohr, Sermek – 2
9. Macieja – 1½
10. Crisan – 0

Pairing for the 6th round:
Crisan – Gelfand
Macieja – Pavasovic
Volokitin – Beliavsky
Kozul – Mohr
Sermek – Mikhalchishin

4-5. Kozul, Pavasovic – 3
6. Mikhalchishin – 2½
7-8. Mohr, Sermek – 2
9. Macieja – 1½
10. Crisan – 0

Pairing for the 6th round:
Crisan – Gelfand
Macieja – Pavasovic
Volokitin – Beliavsky
Kozul – Mohr
Sermek – Mikhalchishin

♘♘♘

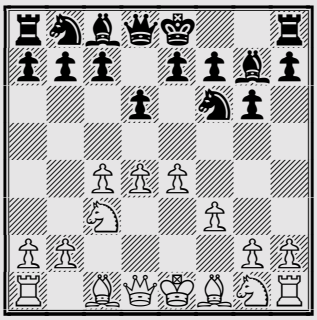
Annotated Game

J. Ehlvest (2703) − H. Nakamura (2412) [A65]

Open − 7 Day Philadelphia (4), 05.07.2001 A65

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 ♗g7 5.f3 (D)



The Saemisch system is the most popular answer in the whole history of King's Indian defence, even though last year, more fashionable was 5.♘f3.

5...0-0 6.♘ge2 c5 7.d5 e6 8.♗g5

Sometimes Black takes on d5 immediately, for example:

8...h6

8...exd5 9.cxd5 ♘bd7 10.♕d2 a6 11.a4 h6 12.♗e3 (12.♗xh6 ♘xe4 13.♘xe4 ♕h4+ 14.g3 ♕xh6⇄) 12...♘e5 13.♘c1 ♘h5 14.♗e2 f5 15.f4 ♘g4 16.♗xg4 ♕h4+ 17.♕f2 ♕xg4 18.h3 ♕g3⇄ Mestel − McShane, ch England 2000.

9.♗e3 exd5 10.cxd5 ♘bd7 11.♕d2

Another line is 11.♘g3 ♘e5 12.♗e2 h5 13.0-0 ♘h7 14.♕d2 h4 15.♘h1 g5 16.f4 gxf4 17.♗xf4 ♕f6 18.♘f2 ♕g6 19.♔h1 ♗d7± Ibragimov − Zulfugarli, Linares 2001. **11...♘e5 12.♘g3 h5 13.♗g5 h4!?**

Black is better developed and, therefore, it makes it easier to find complications.

14.♘ge2

White, of course, avoids them. 14.♗xh4?! ♘xe4 15.♘cxe4 (15.♕f4 ♗f6!?) 15...♕xh4 16.♘xd6 f5!?∞ (16...♗h6!?; 16...♖d8!?)

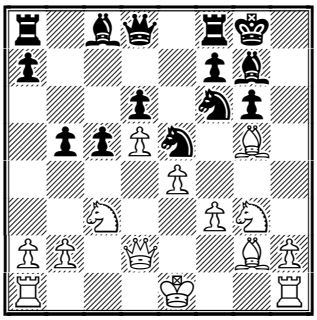
14...h3

14...♕a5!?

15.♘g3 hxg2

Now White can easily complete his development, but what else is there to do? If 15...a6 than 16.f4; a move like 15...b5 is simple to recommend, but difficult to play (Black hardly has enough compensation for the pawn).

16.♗xg2 b5 (D)



The pawn sacrifice is more reasonable now because now the Knight on e5 controls the very important squares c4 and d3.

17.0-0

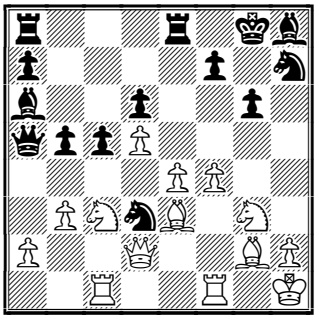
Too risky is 17.♘xb5?! for example: 17...♖b8 18.a4 a6 19.♘a3 ♖xb2!

17...♕b6 18.b3 ♖e8 19.♔h1 ♘h7 20.♗h6 ♗h8 21.♗e3 ♕a5 22.♖ac1

Ehlvest plays very solidly. He has a strong pawn center and a space advantage and he doesn't begin any complications before completing his

development. But Black can't wait, he has to play actively, because strategically his position is rather doubtful.

22...♗a6 23.f4 ♘d3!? (D)



Here it is! Black secures a very strong Knight in the heart of White's camp, however, Black's other pieces are not so well placed.

24.♖c2

24.♕xd3? b4 25.♕c2 ♗xf1-+

24...c4 25.bxc4 bxc4 26.e5!

Black's Queen is far from her King so White can start a direct attack.

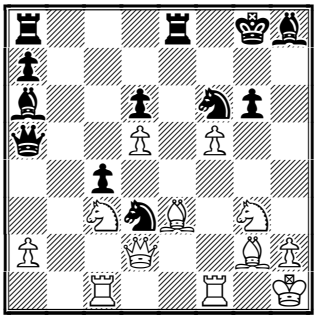
26...f5!?

Trying to protect the e4−square. Very dangerous is 26...dxe5 27.f5 ♘f8 28.d6!?

27.exf6 ♘xf6 28.f5!

Almost all of White pieces can and would like to attack the enemy King.

28...♘b4 29.♖cc1 ♘d3 (D)



30.♗d4!

Ehlvest doesn't want to lose a single tempo by defending his Rook.

30...♘xc1 31.♕g5 ♕c7

It too late, dear Queen!

32.fxg6 ♘d3

32...♖f8 33.♘f5! ♗g7 34.♘xg7 ♕xg7 35.♖xf6+−; 32...♘h5!? 33.♖f7!+−

33.♘f5!

Black has an extra Rook, but White has more pieces on the King side in the attack.

33...♘g4!? 34.g7! ♘ge5 35.♘h6+

Jan Ehlvest played this game very solidly and at the same time quite energetically − A winning combination! 35.♘h6+ ♔h7 36.♗e4+ ♘g6 37.♗xg6#

1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.worldopen.com/home.htm
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://www.internet.ad/feva/Open2001/XIXOpen/class.htm
http://home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/1index.htm

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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CT-244, 9th July 2001

Sutovsky And Rustemov Share Lead In Esbjerg

The 2001 European **Champion GM Emil Sutovsky** beat one of the leaders Luke McShane in the 3rd round of ***16th North Sea Cup*** and has the share of first place with Rustemov.

Sutovsky

Results of the 3rd round:
McShane – Sutovsky **0:1**
Rozentalis – Hansen **½:½**
van den Doel – Nataf **½:½**
Nielsen – Speelman **1:0**
Rustemov – Schandorff **½:½**

Standing after the 3rd round:
1-2. Rustemov, Sutovsky – 2 points
3-8. McShane, Rozentalis, van den Doel, Schandorff, Nielsen, Nataf – 1½
9-10. Hansen, Speelman – 1

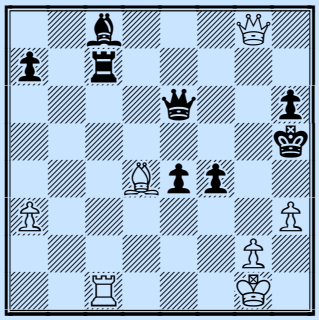
*Also see our annotated game section for **Nielsen-Speelman***

Three GMs are leading after the 7th round of the ***Philadelphia World open***.

Standing after the 7th round:
1-3. Onischuk, Shulman, Finegold – 6 points
4-12. Smirin, Yudasin, Goldin, Hodgson, Benjamin, Gruenfeld, Doettling, Ashley, Zaitshik – 5½ etc.

Pairing for the 8th round:
Shulman – Onischuk
Smirin – Finegold
Gruenfeld – Yudasin
Ashley – Goldin
Doettling – Hodgson
Benjamin – Zaitshik
Ehlvest – Kriventsov
Stripunsky – Gaprindishvili
Kaufaman – Chernin
Braylovsky – A. Ivanov
Kudrin – Tate
Le Siege – Nakamura

Nielsen (White) to play
From our Annotated game
43. .. ♖xc7
Loses immediately...



44. ?

Evgenij Agrest has strengthened his lead in the ***Swedish championship*** after a new victory; this time over Pia Cramling with White.

Results of the 7th round:
Brynell – Hillarp
Persson **½:½**
Hector – Barkhagen **0:1**
Olsson – Berg **½:½**
Eriksson – Karlsson **0:1**
Agrest – Cramling **1:0**
Åkesson – Wedberg **0:1**
Carlsson – Couso **½:½**

Standing after the 7th round:
1. Agrest – 6 points
2. Barkhagen – 5
3. Brynell – 4½
4. Berg – 4
5-8. Hector, Hillarp Persson, Karlsson, Wedberg – 3½
9-11. Cramling, Olsson, Carlsson – 3
12-13. Akesson, Couso – 2½
14. Eriksson – 1½

Pairing for the 8th round:
Karlsson – Agrest
Berg – Eriksson
Barkhagen – Olsson
Brynell – Hector
Wedberg – Carlsson
Cramling – Åkesson
Hillarp Persson – Couso

The young hero at the start of the ***14th Milan Vidmar Memorial***, **Andrei Volokitin,** lost to the very experienced and strong Alexander Beliavsky in the 6th round. Beliavsky now shares first place with Boris Gelfand, Volokitin is clear third. Poor Crisan played yesterday as usual.

Results of the 6th round:
Crisan – Gelfand **0:1**
Macieja – Pavasovic **½:½**
Volokitin – Beliavsky **0:1**
Kozul – Mohr **½:½**
Sermek – Mikhalchishin **½:½**

Standing after the 6th round:
1-2. Beliavsky, Gelfand – 4½ points
3. Volokitin – 4
4-5. Kozul, Pavasovic – 3½
6. Mikhalchishin – 3
7-8. Mohr, Sermek – 2½
9. Macieja – 2
10. Crisan – 0

Pairing for the 7th round:
Mikhalchishin – Crisan
Mohr – Sermek
Beliavsky – Kozul
Pavasovic – Volokitin
Gelfand – Macieja

Boris Avrukh, Antoaneta Stefanova and **Arkadij Rotstein** are leading with 6½ points out of 8 before the last round of the ***Andorra open***.

4-11 - Khenkin, Psakhis, Gyimesi, Mikhalevski, Campora, Rausis, Lopez Martinez, Andres Gonzalez – 6 etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

P. Nielsen (2593) − J. Speelman (2603)

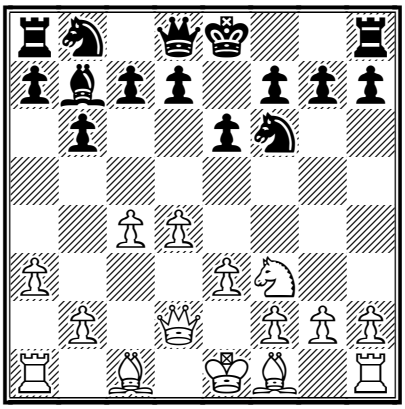
16th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN (3), 08.07.2001 E14

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 ♗b4+

The Bogoljubov defence.

4.♘bd2 b6 5.a3 ♗xd2+ 6.♕xd2 ♗b7 7.e3 (D)



7...d6

The main alternative for Black is a plan with d7−d5 instead of d7−d6, for example: 7...0-0 8.♗e2 ♘e4 9.♕d3 d5 10.b3 a5 11.0-0 a4 12.b4 ♘d6! 13.c5 ♗a6 14.♕c2 ♗xe2 15.♕xe2 ♘c4 16.e4 ♘c6 17.e5 f5 18.♗f4 h6 19.h4 ♕e8= Gershon − Macieja, Bermuda 2001.

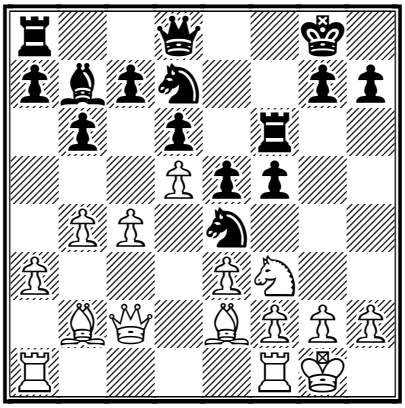
8.♗e2 ♘bd7 9.b4 0-0

9...a5 10.♗b2 axb4 11.axb4 ♖xa1+ 12.♗xa1 ♕a8 13.0-0 0-0 14.♗b2 ♗e4 15.♖a1 ♕b7 16.♘e1 d5 17.f3 ♗g6 18.cxd5 exd5 19.♗a6 ♕c6 20.♖c1 ♕d6 21.♗b5± Heinbuch − Horstmann, Bundesliga 1988/89.

10.♗b2 ♘e4 11.♕c2 f5 12.0-0 ♖f6

A quite aggressive move, more solid is 12...♕e7!?− for example: 13.d5 exd5 14.♖ad1 c5 15.cxd5 a5 16.♗c4 ♔h8 17.♕e2 axb4 18.axb4 ♖a4 19.bxc5 bxc5 20.♖a1 ♖fa8⇄ I. Sokolov − Adams, Cap d'Agde 1996.

13.d5 e5?! (D)



This is all a theory but for me I don't like this move in view of a very strong

reply by White. Maybe better is 13...♖g6 14.♘e1 ♕g5 15.f4 ♕e7 16.♘f3 c5 17.dxc6 ♗xc6 18.♘d4 ♗b7 19.♗f3 ♖c8 20.♖ac1 a6 21.♕d3 ♘df6∞ Sarno − Smyslov, Roma 1990.; 13...♖h6!?

14.♘h4!

White threatens to capture on f5.

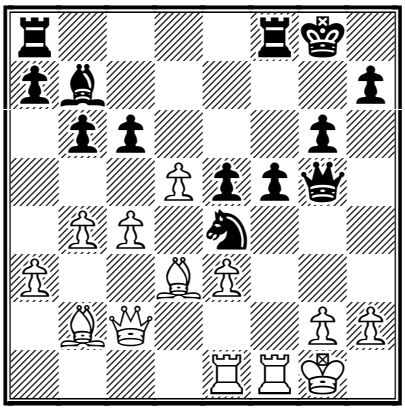
14...g6 15.f3 ♘g5 16.f4 ♘e4 17.♘f3 ♖f8

This is a novelty − compare to: 17...♕e7 18.♗d3 b5 19.cxb5 ♗xd5 20.♕xc7 ♖ff8 21.♖ac1 exf4 22.exf4 ♖fc8 23.♕xc8+ ♖xc8 24.♖xc8+ ♘f8 25.♗d4± Belotti − Ceresoli, Italy 1993. Maybe Speelman wasn't aware of this game?

18.fxe5 ♘xe5 19.♘xe5 dxe5 20.♗d3!?

Also not bad was 20.♗xe5 ♖e8 21.♗d4 c6 and Black has only small compensation for the pawn.

20...♕g5 21.♖ae1 c6 (D)



22.c5!?

Very interesting, though the simple 22. ♗xe4 was perhaps stronger.

22...bxc5 23.bxc5 cxd5 24.c6

This is the point: for the sacrificed pawn White now has a strong passed pawn and has disconnected the enemy's Rooks (after the forced move: Bb7−c8).

24...♗c8 25.♗xe4 dxe4

25...fxe4 26.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 27.♕c5+ ♕e7 28.♕xd5+−

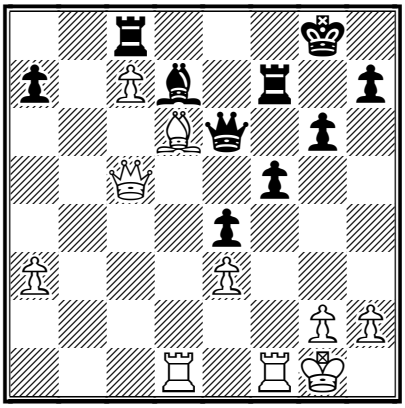
26.♕c4+ ♖f7 27.c7!?

27.♗xe5

27...♗d7 28.♖d1 ♕e7 29.♗xe5 ♖c8

29...♕xe5? 30.♖xd7 ♕e8 31.♖fd1+−

30.♗d6 ♕e6 31.♕c5 (D)



Now White has a very big advantage thanks to the pawn on c7 and the weak dark squares in his opponent's camp. With opposite colored Bishops White can easily mount a strong attack.

31...h6 32.♖b1 ♔h7 33.♖b8 g5 34.♗e5 ♕a6 35.h3

A useful prophylactic move , especially if White hasn't much time.

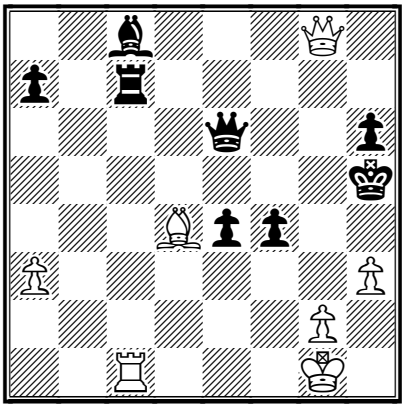
35...♕d3 36.♗d4 ♕a6 37.♕e5

The Bishop and Queen battery is ready.

37...♕e6 38.♖d1 f4

38...♕xe5 39.♗xe5 ♗e6 40.♖xc8 ♗xc8 41.♖d8+−

39.♖xc8 ♗xc8 40.♕h8+ ♔g6 41.exf4 gxf4 42.♕g8+ ♔h5 43.♖c1 ♖xc7 (D)



Loses immediately, but in any case Black's position is hopeless − his King is not defendable.

44.♕g4+! 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.worldopen.com/home.htm
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://www.internet.ad/feva/Open2001/XIXOpen/class.htm
http://home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/1index.htm
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-245, 10th July 2001

Lucky for some!

In our June Chess Today Lottery the winner was Michel Briet, who will receive a copy of John Nunn's book '*Understanding Chess Move by Move*'. We would like to remind all our readers that every month we have a lottery among CT subscribers with a book prize. In July the prize will be another of Nunn's book - 'Secrets of Practical Chess' - you can be the lucky winner!"

♘♘♘

As many of our readers probably know, in 3 days a very strong tournament will start in Dortmund. Probably it will be the strongest event of this year - with Kramnik, Anand, Morozevich, Adams, Leko and Topalov playing in a double-round tournament. Alexander Baburin will be there for the second half of the tournament, so if you would like to ask those players a question, please send your enquiries to ababurin@iol.ie. As you may remember, a while ago we invited you to send questions for Vladimir Kramnik. We are pleased to let you know that the interview took place in Moscow recently and will be published in CT soon.

♘♘♘

Meanwhile we would like to offer you a chance to be a 'chess Cassandra' - try to correctly guess the top 4 finishers in Dortmund and send your prediction to ababurin@iol.ie, marking them 'Dortmund'. The entries must be send before noon of 12th July (Dublin time). You can specify if some players will finish on the same number of points. The person sending the correct answer first will receive a prize - attractive Gambit clock (worth about $60). Good luck!"

♘♘♘

Alexander Goldin won the Philadelphia World open for the second time (his first was in 1998). He shared first with six other participants but very convincingly won the blitz play-off.

Final standing:
1-7. Goldin, Smirin, Onischuk, Yudasin, Shulman, Benjamin, A. Ivanov – 7 points out of 9
8-20. Hodgson, Stripunsky, Chernin, Gruenfeld, Finegold, Fedorovich, Blatny, Doettling, Zaitshik, Vovsha, Kriventsov, Tate, Rogers – 6½ etc.

See also our annotated game section

Another open has just finished in Europe, in Andorra.
Final standing:
1-5. Avrukh, Stefanova, Rotstein, Campora, Mikhalevski – 7 points out of 9
6-12. Khenkin, Psakhis, Gyimesi, Rausis, Lopez Martinez, Marin, Narciso Dublan – 6½ etc.

It's a reality of our time: it doesn't matter, where are you living - in Russia, in Moscow or in Cheliabinsk, – if you want to know anything about the 6th Stage of the Russian Cup in Tomsk, you have to visit the London web-site TWIC

Final standing:
1-2. Akselrod, Ovetchkin – 7 points out of 9
3-5. Kornev, Bocharov, Smirnov – 6½ etc.
Our congratulations to all the winners!

There is an interesting and rare situation still at the Swedish Championships: players have clear first, second, third and fourth places!

Results of the 8th round:
Karlsson – Agrest **½:½**
Berg – Eriksson **1:0**
Barkhagen – Olsson **1:0**
Brynell – Hector **1:0**
Wedberg – Carlsson **½:½**
Cramling – Åkesson **½:½**
Hillarp Persson – Couso **½:½**

Standing after the 8th round:
1. Agrest – 6½ points
2. Barkhagen – 6
3. Brynell – 5½
4. Berg – 5
5-7. Hillarp Persson, Karlsson, Wedberg – 4
8-10. Hector, Cramling, Carlsson – 3½
11-13. Akesson, Olsson, Couso – 3
14. Eriksson – 1½

Pairing for the 9th round:
Hector – Hillarp Persson
Olsson – Brynell
Eriksson – Barkhagen
Agrest – Berg
Åkesson – Karlsson
Carlsson – Cramling
Couso – Wedberg

Alexandru Crisan became the hero of the 7th round of the 14th Milan Vidmar Memorial – he made a draw! I can find only one possible explanation: because his opponent Adrian Mikhalchishin had drawn all his previous games, he didn't want to break his series! ☺

As you remember, Crisan became well known in the chess World after his Elo-scandal, when his rating rose in a "mysterious" way to 2635 (Crisan "won" some very strange matches with crushing scores and didn't play in other events).

It might seem quite fun but it's also a bit sad in reality. Only yesterday I had heard from IM Igor Yagupov about a new "Russian Crisan" from Tula. Really he has first category (rating approximately 1800) but now he is an "international master" with Elo greater than 2500 and in September he will be GM. His driver (who never played chess) is a "master" too, and some of the workers of his own firm (all very far from being interested in chess) have very high Elos too. His nickname is Akhromeev. He said to Yagupov that he wants and will have an Elo above 2700 and for this goal he can "arrange" an Elo (if it will help him) even for his dog and cat! What for? I don't know, I can't understand such "chessplayers".

You can ask where the Russian Chess Federation was looking but that's another (thou also sad) story…

Now let's come back in Portoroz. There is the same situation like in Sweden – clear first-fourth places!

Results of the 7th round:
Mikhalchishin – Crisan **½:½**
Mohr – Sermek **½:½**
Beliavsky – Kozul **1:0**
Pavasovic – Volokitin **½:½**
Gelfand – Macieja **½:½**

Standing after the 7th round:
1. Beliavsky – 5½ points
2. Gelfand – 5
3. Volokitin – 4½
4. Pavasovic – 4
5-6. Kozul, Mikhalchishin – 3½
7-8. Mohr, Sermek – 3
9. Macieja – 2½
10. Crisan – ½

Pairing for the 8th round:
Crisan – Macieja
Volokitin – Gelfand
Kozul – Pavasovic
Sermek – Beliavsky
Mikhalchishin – Mohr

The Belgian Championships starting this weekend (round-robin system, 10 participants).
Starting after the 2nd round:
1-2. Chuchelov, M. Gurevich – 2 points
3-6. P. Claesen, Dgebuadze, Cekro, Dutreeuw – 1

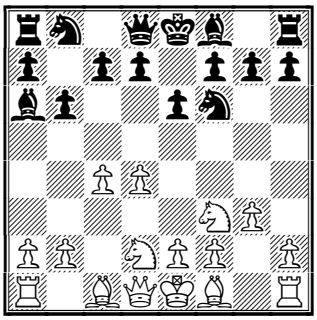
7-10. J. Claesen, Meessen, Van Mechelen, Winants – ½

We can say the same about the Scottish Championships but it contained 14 players and will be played as a Swiss system, 9 rounds (?!).
Standing after the 2nd round:
1. Motwani – 2 points
2-4. Shaw, McNab, Bryson – 1½ etc.

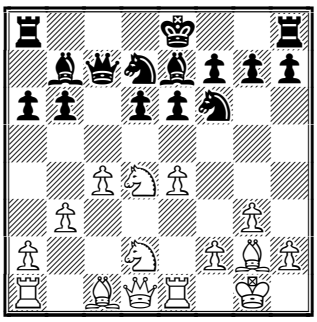
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

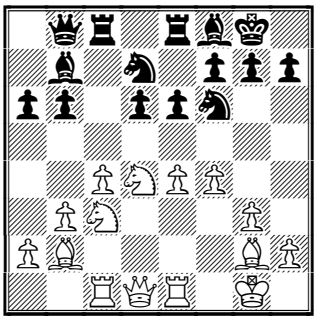
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
J Bonin (2448) − A Goldin (2684)
Open − 5 Day Philadelphia (3), 05.07.2001 E15
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Ba6 5.Nbd2



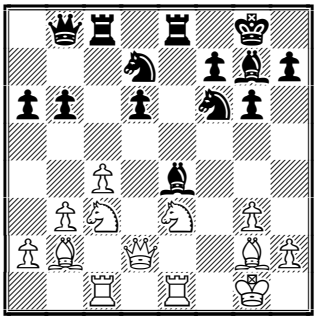
This move leads to a more animated struggle, than 5.b3
5...Bb7 6.Bg2 c5 7.e4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5
Useful − Black wants to drive away the enemy Knight from the centre.
9.N4b3 Be7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Re1 d6 12.Nd4 Nbd7 13.b3 a6



A hedgehog structure is ready.
14.Bb2 0-0 15.Rc1 Rac8 16.Nb1
All White's pieces are placed well except the Knight on d2. It's going to c3.
16...Qb8 17.Nc3 Rfe8 18.f4 Bf8

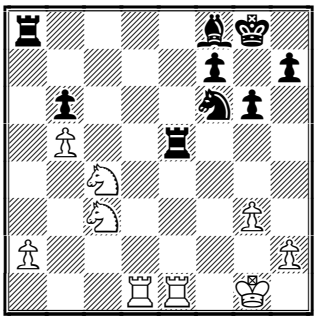


Black has a very strong, if a little passive, position and is waiting for White's premature activity. And here it is!
19.f5?!
Straight onto Black's prickles
19...exf5!
Black shows that he's well prepared for the following complications. Of course, after 19...e5 20.Nc2 White has small but long−time advantage.
20.Nxf5 g6 21.Ne3?!
Maybe better was the less ambitious 21.Nd4 but Knight would like to occupy d5−square.
21...Bg7
21...Nxe4?? 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 23.Qd4+−
22.Qd2?
After that Black can capture a pawn. Reasonable continuations were 22.Ned5 b5!?; or 22.Bh3!?



22...Bxe4!
It looks like Black was waiting only 22...Nxe4?! 23.Nxe4 Bxe4 (23...Bxb2 24.Qxb2 Bxe4 25.Ng4! h5 26.Nh6+ Kh7 27.Nxf7+−) 24.Bxg7 Bxg2 25.Bb2! with strong attack on dark squares.
23.Ba3
A better chance to continue the game.
23...Nc5 24.b4 Ncd7 25.b5 Bxg2 26.Bxd6 Qa8 27.Qxg2 axb5 28.Qxa8 Rxa8 29.cxb5 Ne5
An endgame is better for Black in view of the activity of all his pieces, especially the a8 Rook and the g7 Bishop, while

White's forces are uncoordinated.
30.Bxe5 Rxe5 31.Rcd1 Bf8
With unpleasant ideas Bc5 or Bb4.
32.Nc4?



Last mistake − now White is losing by force.
32...Rxe1+ 33.Rxe1 Rc8 34.Ne4 Nxe4 35.Rxe4 f5 36.Rf4 g5!
36...Bh6?! 37.Rh4
37.Nxb6
37.Rxf5 Rxc4 38.Rxg5+ Bg7-+
37...Rc1+ 38.Rf1 Bc5+
It's a point
39.Kg2 Rxf1 40.Kxf1 Bxb6 0-1

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.worldopen.com/home.htm
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://www.internet.ad/feva/Open2001/XIXOpen/class.htm
http://home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/1index.htm
http://lnl.ovh.org/bcc2001/home.html
http://members.aol.com/BAChess/sca2001/main.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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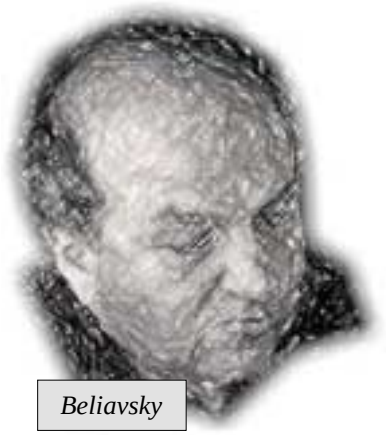
CT-246, 11th July 2001

Beliavsky leads going into 9th round


Beliavsky

Alexander Beliavsky kept sole lead after the 8th of the 9 rounds of the 14th Milan Vidmar Memorial. On the last day he will play against his old friend and second Adrian Mikhalchishin and a draw looks the most probable result (especially because Adrian has drawn all his 8 games!). And if Alexander's main rival Boris Gelfand wins with White vs. Zdenko Kozhul he'll share first place. But let's wait a little…

Results of the 8th round:
Crisan – Macieja **0:1**
Volokitin – Gelfand **½:½**
Kozul – Pavasovic **1:0**
Sermek – Beliavsky **½:½**
Mikhalchishin – Mohr **½:½**

Standing after the 8th round:
1. Beliavsky – 6 points
2. Gelfand – 5½
3. Volokitin – 5
4. Kozul – 4½
5-6. Pavasovic, Mikhalchishin – 4
7-9. Mohr, Sermek, Macieja – 3½
10. Crisan – ½

Pairing for the 9th round:
Mohr – Crisan
Beliavsky – Mikhalchishin
Pavasovic – Sermek
Gelfand – Kozul
Macieja – Volokitin

Today there is a very important game Barkhagen – Agrest in the 10th round of the Swedish Championships: Agrest is leader, Barkhagen has a half point less and the White pieces.

Results of the 9th round:
Hector – Hillarp Persson **1:0**
Olsson – Brynell **0:1**
Eriksson – Barkhagen **½:½**
Agrest – Berg **½:½**
Åkesson – Karlsson **0:1**
Carlsson – Cramling **½:½**
Couso – Wedberg **0:1**

Standing after the 9th round:
1. Agrest – 7 points
2-3. Barkhagen, Brynell – 6½
4. Berg – 5½
5-6. Karlsson, Wedberg – 5
7. Hector – 4½
8-10. Cramling, Hillarp Persson, Carlsson – 4
11-13. Akesson, Olsson, Couso – 3
14. Eriksson – 2

Pairing for the 10th round:
Karlsson – Carlsson
Berg – Åkesson
Barkhagen – Agrest
Brynell – Eriksson
Hector – Olsson
Cramling – Couso
Hillarp Persson – Wedberg

Also see our annotated game section

All is very quiet at the North Sea: one decisive game each round, three leaders have plus one each… Nord Ost, where are you?!

Results of the 4th round:
Sutovsky – Schandorff **½:½**
McShane – Rozentalis **½:½**
Hansen – Van den Doel **½:½**
Speelman – Rustemov **½:½**
Nataf – Nielsen **0:1**

Standing after the 4th round:
1-3. Rustemov, Sutovsky, Nielsen – 2½ points

4-7. McShane, Rozentalis, van den Doel, Schandorff – 2
8-10. Hansen, Speelman, Nataf – 1½

The Belgian Championships, *starting after the 3rd round:*
1. M. Gurevich – 3 points
2. Chuchelov – 2½
3. Dgebuadze
4-5. P. Claesen, Winants – 1½ etc.

The Scottish Championships, *standing after the 3rd round:*
1. Motwani – 2½ points
2-7. Rowson, Shaw, Arakhamia-Grant, McNab, Bryson, Norris – 2 etc.

The IV Mercosur Cup has finished in Argentina. It was won easily by the computer program Chess Tiger – 8 victories and only 3 draws, without loses.
Final standing:
1. CHESS TIGER – 9 ½ points out of 11
2-3. Slipak, Valerga – 7½
4-5. Ricardi, Hoffman – 6½
6-8. Limp, Scarella, Panno – 5 etc.

Information from the new, #348 TWIC: An Open Chess Championship for countries of the Black Sea region took place in Batumi, Georgia. 95 players from Georgia , Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia competed.
Final standing:
1. Supatashvili – 7½ points out of 9
2-4. Yegiazarian, Gelashvili, Aleksandrov – 7
5-7. Mamedyarov, Mchedlishvili, Chibukhchian – 6½
8-17. Izoria, Zhukova, Gagunashvili, Bayramov, Aroshidze, Ara Minasian, Shalamberidze, R. Mamedov, Shanava, Gurieli – 6 etc.

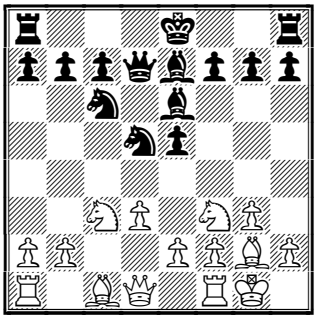
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E Agrest (2529) − P Cramling (2510)
Swedish Ch 2001 Linkoping (7), 08.07.2001
A29

The following game is a rather interesting clash of two styles, two approaches to chess: Evgenij Agrest usually plays in a very solid positional way while Pia Cramling prefers more emotional, instinctive chess.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.d3
More often White plays 4.g3
4...d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.g3 ♗e7 7.♗g2 ♗e6 8.0-0 ♕d7?!



I think better is 8...0-0 for example: 9.♗d2 ♕d7 10.a3 f6 11.♖c1 ♘xc3 12.♗xc3 a5 13.♘d2 a4 14.♘e4 ♗d5 15.♗d2 ♘d4 16.♗b4 ♖fd8 17.♗xe7 ♕xe7 Serper − Tal, Ch USSR, Moscow 1991. After the text move White can receive the two Bishops' advantage.

9.♘g5! ♗xg5
Black can avoid this exchange: 9...♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♗d5 11.e4!? ♗e6 12.♘xe6 ♕xe6 13.d4±

10.♗xg5 h5!?
In one old game there was played 10...f6 11.♗e3!? ♘xe3 12.fxe3 ♗h3 13.♗xh3 ♕xh3 14.♘e4 0-0-0 15.♖c1 h5 16.♕a4 h4 17.♘f2 ♕d7 18.g4 ♔b8 19.♖c4 Uhlman − Golz, Drezden 1959. But Pia tries to attack her opponent's King straight after the opening.

11.♘e4 b6
protecting the c5−square

12.♖c1 ♖c8 13.♗d2
With the idea Ng5, exchanging another Bishop too.

13...f6 14.♖e1
It's a prophylactic against to move Bh3 with exchange of light−square Bishops.

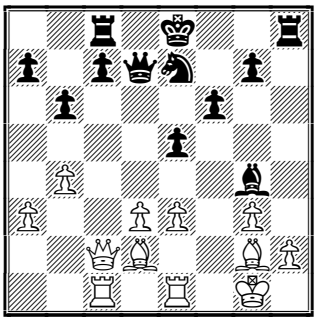
14...♘ce7 15.b4
Of course White doesn't allow c7−c5, and Black has a very strong position in the centre.

15...h4 16.a3 hxg3 17.fxg3
White has to have a half−open f−file to counterbalance Black's pressure on the h−file. Also it will be easy to defend the h2−point along the second rank without the f2 pawn.

17...♘f5 18.e3 ♘de7 19.♘f2

First of all White strengthens the fortresses.

19...♘h6 20.♕c2 ♘g4 21.♘xg4 ♗xg4



22.d4!

All is quiet near the White King, therefore Agrest begins an offence in the centre, where the enemy King has no hiding place!

22...♗f5

It was too risky to take a pawn opening all the central lines, for example: 22...exd4 23.exd4 ♕xd4+ 24.♗e3 (24.♔h1 ♗h3 25.♕g6+?! ♔f8 26.♖xe7? ♗xg2+) 24...♕d7 25.♗b7 ♖b8 26.♗xb6!? ♖xb7 27.♗c5 ♗e6 28.♕e4 ♘d5 29.♕xe6+ ♕xe6 30.♖xe6+ I think White also has another good opportunities.

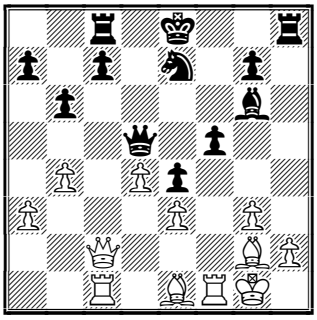
23.♕b2

Now Black has to make his choice in the centre.

23...e4 24.♕c2 ♕d5 25.♖f1 ♗g6 26.♗e1!?

A new prophylactic move, it's quite unpleasant for Black because he hasn't a lot of useful moves.

26...f5?!



27.g4!

White has to open lines to exploit his development advantage and strength of the two Bishops (one of them wants to go on g3).

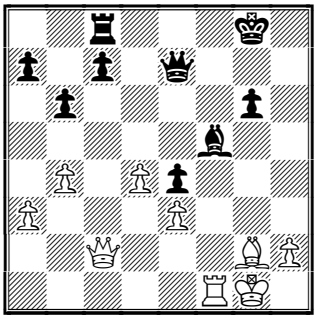
27...0-0

27...♕d6? 28.♗g3; 27...fxg4?! 28.♗g3!? (28.♕a4+!? c6 29.♕xa7) 28...c6 29.♖f4

28.♗h4 ♕d7 29.♗xe7?!

Maybe the simple 29.gxf5 ♘xf5 30.♗g5 was better.

29...♕xe7 30.gxf5 ♖xf5 31.♖xf5 ♗xf5 32.♖f1 g6



White received a small but long−term advantage thanks to Black's weaknesses on e4 and c7.

33.♕f2!?

An interesting idea especially unpleasant in time trouble: White wants to exploit the enemy King's position also.

33...c5?! 34.♕g3!

With the simple threat Rxf5.

34...♕c7?!

34...♔h7!? 35.bxc5 bxc5 36.d5!?↑

35.♕g5 ♕g7?

It's a decisive mistake after which White wins a pawn and soon the game.

36.bxc5 bxc5 37.dxc5 ♕e5

37...♖xc5 38.♗xe4+−

38.♗h3! 1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://schacksm.just.nu/
http://www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14/
http://home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/1index.htm
http://lnl.ovh.org/bcc2001/home.html
http://members.aol.com/BAChess/sca2001/main.htm
http://www.ajedrez-de-estilo.com.ar/ade/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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CT-247, 12th July 2001

Beliavsky wins Milan Vidmar Memorial

Alexander Beliavsky has won the 14th ***Milan Vidmar Memorial*** which has just finished in Portoroz, Slovenia. The top-seeded **Boris Gelfand** was second and 14 year old **Andrey Volokitin** came third, but this already does not seem to be something extraordinary, we remember his excellent performance this year – Andrey beat his famous compatriot Ruslan Ponomarev in the Lausanne Young Masters and qualified for the World Championship and the European Championship in Macedonia.

The third rated player of the tournament Alexandru Crisan finished with half a point out of 9 games but it does not seem to be a big surprise too. In the last round he lost a dead-drawn rook ending in which any intelligent player with ELO-rating higher than 2200 does not really need to watch on the board to make a draw – have a look at this in the game section…

Results of the last 9th Round:
Beliavsky – Mikhalchishin **½:½**
Gelfand – Kozul **½:½**
Macieja – Volokitin **½:½**
Pavasovic – Sermek **½:½**
Mohr – Crisan **1:0**

Final standings:
1. Beliavsky – 6½ points
2. Gelfand – 6
3. Volokitin – 5½
4. Kozul – 5
5-7. Pavasovic, Mikhalchishin, Mohr – 4½
8-9. Sermek, Macieja – 4
10. Crisan – ½

Our congratulations to the winners!

The ELO-favourite of the ***Swedish Championships*** **Evgeny Agrest** proves his superiority – today he beat one of his rivals, Jonas Barkhagen, with the black pieces and strengthened his lead. Stellan Brynell is clear second, a full point behind the leader.

Results of the 10th Round:
Barkhagen – Agrest **0:1**
Brynell – Eriksson **½:½**
Berg – Åkesson **1:0**
Hillarp Persson – Wedberg **0:1**
Karlsson – Carlsson **½:½**
P. Cramling – Couso **1:0**
Hector – Olsson **0:1**

Standing after the 10th Round:
1. Agrest – 8 points
2. Brynell – 7
3-4. Berg, Barkhagen – 6½
5. Wedberg – 6
6. Karlsson – 5½
7. P. Cramling – 5
8-9. Hector, Carlsson – 4½
10-11. Hillarp Persson, Olsson – 4
12-13. Åkesson, Couso – 3
14. Eriksson – 2½

Pairing for the 11th Round:
Agrest – Brynell
Carlsson – Berg
Åkesson – Barkhagen
Wedberg – P. Cramling
Couso – Karlsson
Eriksson – Hector
Olsson – Hillarp Persson

♘♘♘

The 5th Round of the ***North Sea Cup*** in Esbjerg, Denmark was no exception – there was one decisive game and black won again! **Luke McShane** beat Erik van den Doel and joined the leaders.

Results of the 5th Round:
Rozentalis – Sutovsky **½:½**
Van den Doel – McShane **0:1**

Nielsen – Hansen **½:½**
Rustemov – Nataf **½:½**
Schandorff – Speelman **½:½**

Standing after the 5th Round:
1-4. Rustemov, Sutovsky, P. H. Nielsen,
McShane – 3 points
5-6. Schandorff, Rozentalis – 2½
7-10. Hansen, Speelman, Nataf,
Van den Doel – 2

Pairings of the 6th Round:
McShane – P. H. Nielsen
Sutovsky – Speelman
C.Hansen – Rustemov
Rozentalis – van den Doel
Nataf – Schandorff

♘♘♘

Mikhail Gurevich keeps perfect score after the 4th Round of the ***Belgian Championships***, Vladimir Chuchelov is half a point behind.

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. M.Gurevich – 4 points
2. Chuchelov – 3½
3. Dgebuadze – 3
4. J. Claesen – 2 etc.

After the 4th Round of the ***Scottish Championships*** **Jonathan Rowson** took the lead with 3 points. Tomorrow he faces Ketino Arakhamia-Grant, who is one of 7 in the chasing pack.

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Rowson – 3 points
2-8. Arakhamia-Grant, Motwani, Shaw, McNab, Bryson, Norris, Mannion – 2½...

♘♘♘

Don't forget – tomorrow the super-tournament "***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001***" opens in Germany. Both World Champions – **Vladimir Kramnik** and **Viswanathan Anand** – meet each other at the double round robin event in which the 2,3,4,5,7 and 9th players of the July rating list (!) are competing:

1. Vladimir Kramnik (RUS) 2802
2. Viswanathan Anand (IND) 2794
3. Alexander Morozevich (RUS) 2749
4. Michael Adams (ENG) 2744
5. Peter Leko (HUN) 2730
6. Veselin Topalov (BUL) 2711

Pairings for the 1st Round:
Topalov – Kramnik
Morozevich – Anand
Leko – Adams

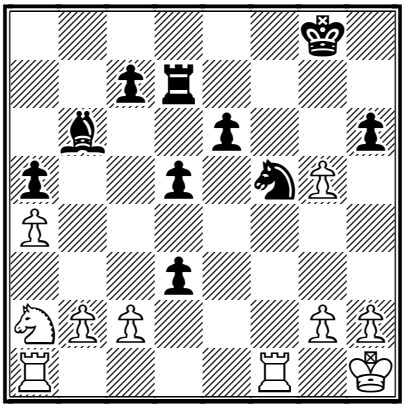
Dortmund is a lucky place for Vladimir Kramnik – he won this traditional tournament 5 times (!) but the opposition is quite impressive this year

♘♘♘

Strange Games Indeed

GM Ruslan Scherbakov *shows a nice tactic from the Swedish Championships and considers a very odd Grandmaster game!*

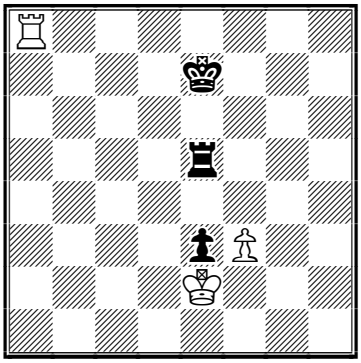
J Hector (2552) – A Olsson (2265)
Swedish Ch 2001 Linkoping (10), 11.07.2001



Black to play

At the early stage of the game experienced Jonny Hector outplayed his opponent but then he lost control, probably being under time pressure. Here Jonny Olsson finished the game with a nice combination. Answer at end of issue.

G Mohr (2484) – A Crisan (2635)
Milan Vidmar Mem Portoroz SLO (9), 11.07.2001



One example of grandmaster endgame technique... Do you believe White can win here?!

56.♖a3 ♔f6 57.♖xe3 ♖a5

The pawn ending after 57...♖xe3+ wasn't too bad.

58.♖e4 ♔f5

58...♖e5 still deserved some attention...

59.♔f2

The rest needs no comments. When I was one of the pupils at the GM Panchenko chess school and later, when I became one of the coaches, such positions were discussed by our 10 or so year old boys and girls only once – there is too little here to talk about...

59...♖a8 60.♖e7 ♖a2+ 61.♔g3 ♖a3 62.♖h7 ♖b3 63.♖h5+ ♔g6 64.♖a5 ♖c3 65.♔g4 ♖c4+ 66.f4 ♖c6 67.♖g5+ ♔f6 68.♖h5 ♔g7 69.♔g5 ♖g6+ 70.♔f5 ♖a6 71.♖h1 ♖a5+ 72.♔g4 ♖a4 73.♔g5 ♖a2 74.♖b1 ♖a5+ 75.f5 ♖a7 76.♖b6 ♖c7 77.♖g6+ ♔f7 78.♖h6 ♖c5 79.♖h7+ ♔g8 80.♖e7 ♔f8 81.♖e6 ♔f7 82.♖a6 ♖c7 83.♖h6 ♖c5 84.♖h7+ ♔g8 85.♖d7 ♔f8 86.♔g6 ♖c1 87.♖f7+ ♔e8 88.♖a7 ♔f8 89.♖a8+ ♔e7 90.f6+ ♔e6 91.♖e8+ ♔d7 92.f7 ♖g1+ 93.♔h5 ♖h1+ 94.♔g4 ♖g1+ 95.♔h3 1-0

Answer to quiz

30...♘g3+!! White resigned as he is suddenly checkmated!30...♘g3+!! 31.hxg3 hxg5 followed by ...♖h7. **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

www.chessgate.de
www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14
w1.131.telia.com/~u13115684/index_e.html
home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/2index.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-248, 13th July 2001

Kramnik & Leko lead in Dortmund 2001

Vladimir Kramnik and Peter Leko took the lead at the super-tournament "***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001***", which started in Germany.

Both heroes of the day showed great endgame technique and skilfully exploited inaccurate play from their opponents in positions where a draw seemed to be the most likely result.

Results of the 1st Round:
Topalov – Kramnik 0:1
Morozevich – Anand ½:½
Leko – Adams 1:0

Standings after the 1st Round:
1-2. Kramnik, Leko – 1 point
3-4. Anand, Morozevich – ½
5-6. Adams, Topalov – 0

Tomorrow the leaders will play each other!

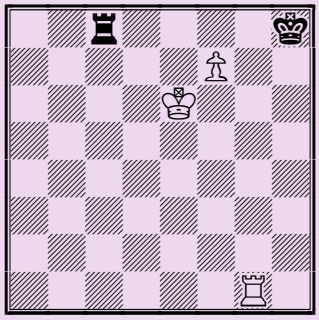
Pairings for the 2nd Round:
Kramnik – Leko
Anand – Adams
Morozevich – Topalov

European Champion Emil Sutovsky (Israel) and a home GM Peter-Heine Nielsen took the lead after the bloody 6th Round of the ***North Sea Cup*** in Esbjerg, Denmark. In contrast to the rather quite previous rounds there was only one draw today!

Results of the 6th Round:
McShane – P.H.Nielsen 0:1
Sutovsky – Speelman 1:0
C.Hansen – Rustemov 1:0
Rozentalis – Van den Doel 1:0
Nataf – Schandorff ½:½

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-2. Sutovsky, P.-H.Nielsen – 4 points
3. Rozentalis – 3½
4-7. Rustemov, C.Hansen, McShane, Schandorff – 3
8. Nataf – 2½
9-10. Speelman, Van den Doel – 2

Endgame Quiz



White to play and win
(Answer at end of issue)

Pairings of the 7th Round:
P.H.Nielsen – Rozentalis
Van den Doel – Sutovsky
Rustemov – McShane
Schandorff – C.Hansen
Speelman – Nataf

Evgeny Agrest keeps sole lead at the ***Swedish Championships*** with 8½ points after 11 rounds. Stellan Brynell, Emanuel Berg and Jonas Barkhagen are in chase, a full point behind the leader. The players with the black pieces were quite successful today.

Results of the 11th Round:
Agrest – Brynell ½:½
Carlsson – Berg 0:1
Åkesson – Barkhagen 0:1
Wedberg – P.Cramling ½:½
Couso – Karlsson 0:1
Eriksson – Hector 0:1
Olsson – Hillarp Persson ½:½

Standing after the 11th Round:
1. Agrest – 8½ points
2-4. Brynell, Barkhagen, Berg – 7½
5-6. Wedberg, Karlsson – 6½
7-8. P.Cramling, Hector – 5½
9-11. Carlsson, Olsson, Hillarp Persson – 4½
12-13. Åkesson, Couso – 3
14. Eriksson – 2½

Pairing for the 12th Round:
Hector – Agrest
Brynell – Åkesson
Barkhagen – Carlsson
Berg – Couso
Karlsson – Wedberg
Hillarp Persson – P.Cramling
Olsson – Eriksson

Mikhail Gurevich is dominating the ***Belgian Championships*** with a perfect score after the 5th Round.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. M.Gurevich – 5 points
2. Chuchelov – 3½
3. P.Claesen – 3
4-5. J. Claesen, Dgebuadze – 2½ etc.

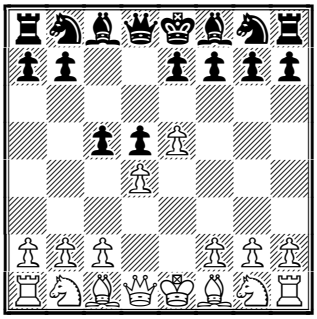
After the 5th Round of the ***Scottish Championships*** Jonathan Rowson and Douglas Bryson are sharing the lead with 3½ points.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1-2. Rowson, Bryson – 3½ points
3-7. Arakhamia-Grant, Motwani, Shaw, McNab, Norris – 3 etc.

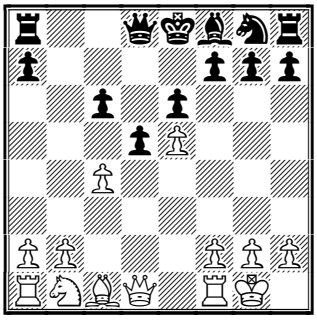
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

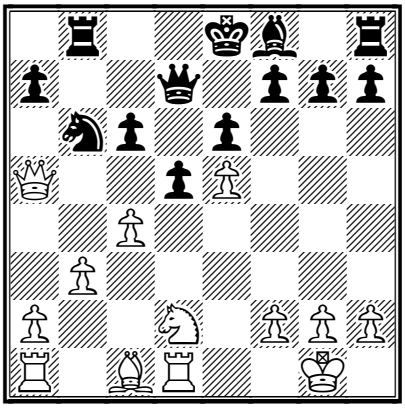
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
E Sutovsky − J Speelman
16th North Sea Cup Esbjerg, Denmark (6), 12.07.2001B12
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5



A modern approach. Black immediately undermines White's pawn chain as he usually does in the French Defence. He is not so worried about a loss of tempo and hopes to use his light−squared bishop in a more efficient way than it's routine sortie to f5. However, I believe that such opening strategy can be punished by energetic play. 3...♗f5 is still the main continuation.
4.♘f3
4.dxc5 is a common option.
4...♘c6 5.♗b5!?
Surprisingly enough this is a novelty! 5.dxc5 ♗g4 6.♗b5 is usually played.
5...cxd4
5...♗g4 could have transposed to known positions where White keeps better chances.
6.♘xd4 ♗d7 7.♘xc6
An impatient 7.e6?! could only promote Black's development: 7...fxe6 8.♗xc6 bxc6 9.♕h5+ g6 10.♕e5 ♘f6 11.♘xe6 ♗xe6 12.♕xe6 ♕d7 and so on.
7...♗xc6 8.♗xc6+ bxc6 9.0-0 e6 10.c4



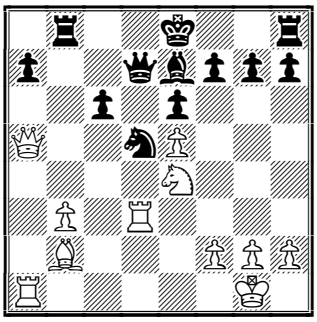
A logical play − White is trying to break before Black completes his development. Yet, Black's position is quite solid.
10...♘e7 11.♕a4 ♕d7 12.♘d2 ♖b8 13.b3 ♘c8
Another route for the knight deserved attention: 13...♘g6!?
14.♖d1 ♘b6 15.♕a5!



It is important to keep control over the square c5.
15...dxc4

15...♗e7 looked safer.

16.♗b2 cxb3 17.axb3 ♘d5 18.♘e4 ♗e7 19.♖d3



19...♖b4?!

This is dubious, Black underestimates the danger. 19...0-0 was quite good for Black.

20.♘d6+! ♗xd6 21.exd6

♖d5 is threatening so Black has to waste another tempo for the rook retreat.

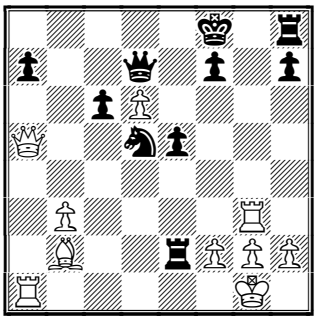
21...♖e4?!

This is too creative. 21...♖b7!? 22.♗xg7 ♖g8 23.♗e5 f6 24.♗g3 e5 25.♕c5 was in White's favour but still playable for Black.

22.♖g3 e5

22...f6 was unsatisfactory due to 23.f3 ♖e2 24.♗d4±

23.♖xg7 ♔f8 24.♖g3 ♖e2



Black was maybe hoping to use the activity of this rook for creating counterplay but a big surprise awaited him.

25.h3!!

After this modest pawn advance, which secures the king's safety, Black is just helpless − White invades down the a−file with decisive effect.

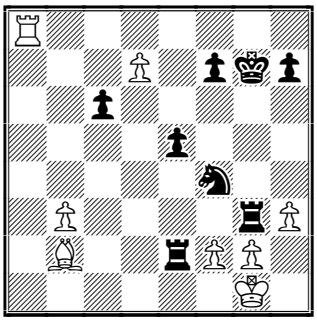
25...♖g8

It turns out that after 25...♖xb2 26.♕xa7 ♕xa7 27.♖xa7 ♘b6 28.♖b7 Black loses the rook h8 after 28...♔e8 29.♖b8+ and so on.

26.♕xa7 ♕xa7 27.♖xa7 ♖xg3 28.♖a8+!

Precisely played! 28.fxg3? ♔e8 was much less bad for Black.

28...♔g7 29.d7! ♘f4



30.♖g8+! 1-0

A last finesse. Black resigned. A very confident game by Emil Sutovsky.

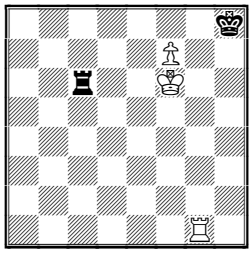
Answer to Endgame quiz:

Yesterday in CT−247 we considered the rook ending Mohr − Crisan, Portoroz 2001 where Black managed to lose an absolutely drawn position. We gave the moves almost without comments but some questions may have still arisen so we'd like to give one instructive position. Generally, it has little in common with the game − Black could have easily held the position by keeping the rook on the 6th rank, which has been known for some 200 years from Philidor's analysis. Well, he didn't know that. Suppose, he also missed an opportunity to place the rook more distant from the king and for some reason placed his king on h8 instead of h7 (of course, the king's march to the centre was just pointless as it didn't allow his own rook to give checks). Surprisingly enough, only a total combination of these omissions allows White to win here in a rather difficult, but quite instructive way.

1.♔e7

1.♔d7? leads to an immediate draw after 1...♖a8 2.♖a1 (2.♖g6 ♔h7 3.♖a6 ♖b8 4.♔e7 ♔g7) 2...♖b8

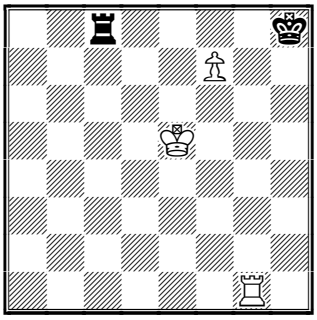
1...♖c7+ 2.♔f6 ♖c6+



3.♔e5!

The king's march 3.♔f5 ♖c5+ 4.♔g6 ♖c6+ 5.♔h5 ♖c5+ 6.♔h6 gives nothing as after 6...♖c6+ 7.♖g6 ♖xg6+ 8.♔xg6 it's a stalemate!

3...♖c8

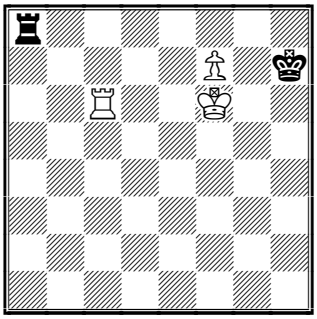


One more check does not help: 3...♖c5+ 4.♔d6! ♖c8 5.♖e1! ♔g7 6.♖e8+−

4.♖g6!!

Thanks to the fact that Black's king does not control this square White can realise this decisive manoeuvre.

4...♔h7 5.♖c6! ♖a8 6.♔f6



The rook protected the king from checks while the king was just in time not to allow his counterpart to get closer to the pawn. There is no defence to ♖c6−e6−e8.

Recommended Web sites:

www.chessgate.de
www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14
w1.131.telia.com/~u13115684/index_e.html
home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/2index.htm
members.aol.com/BAChess/sca2001/main.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CT-249, 14th July 2001

Kramnik and Leko draw in Dortmund

Vladimir Kramnik and Peter Leko drew their game and keep the lead at the super-tournament "***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001***".

Topalov

Veselin Topalov was the hero of the day, having confidently parried Alexander Morozevich's impulsive attack – see our games section.

Results of the 2nd Round:
Kramnik – Leko ½:½
Anand – Adams ½:½
Morozevich – Topalov 0:1

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-2. Kramnik, Leko – 1½ points
3-4. Anand, Topalov – 1
5-6. Adams, Morozevich – ½

Pairings for the 3rd Round:
Adams – Kramnik
Leko – Morozevich
Topalov – Anand

On Sunday, July 15th, 12 a.m. there will be a press conference in the hotel of the Grandmasters, Holiday Inn Dortmund (Raum Waxholm). There will be presented an agreement between Braingames Network and the Organising Committee of the Dortmunder Sparkassen Chess Meeting.

In the upcoming year Vladimir Kramnik has to defend his title and Dortmund will play an important role regarding the qualification of his challenger.

There will be statements from Vladimir Kramnik (BGN World Chess Champion), Raymond Keene (Games Director of Braingames Network), Jörg Stüdemann (Member of the board, Dortmund City Hall), Gerd Kolbe (Event Organiser) and Carsten Hensel (Spokesman).

Now let's take a look at the other events. European Champion Emil Sutovsky Israel) and a home GM Peter-Heine Nielsen strengthened their lead at the ***North Sea Cup*** in Esbjerg, Denmark – going into the last round they are already one and a half points ahead and tomorrow will face each other in the decisive battle.

Results of the 7th Round:
P. H. Nielsen – Rozentalis 1:0
Van den Doel – Sutovsky 0:1
Rustemov – McShane 0:1
Schandorff – C.Hansen ½:½
Speelman – Nataf 1:0

Results of the 8th Round:
Sutovsky – Nataf 1:0
Van den Doel – P. H. Nielsen 0:1
McShane – Schandorff ½:½
Rozentalis – Rustemov 1:0
C.Hansen – Speelman ½:½

Standings after the 8th Round:
1-2. Sutovsky, P. H. Nielsen – 6 points
3-4. Rozentalis, McShane – 4½
5-6. C.Hansen, Schandorff – 4
7. Speelman – 3½
8. Rustemov – 3
9. Nataf – 2½
10. Van den Doel – 2

Pairings of the 9th Round:
P. H. Nielsen – Sutovsky
Speelman – McShane
Schandorff – Rozentalis
Nataf – C.Hansen
Rustemov – Van den Doel

Evgeny Agrest has excellent chances for the first place at the ***Swedish Championships*** – in the 12th Round he won again and keeps a full point lead before the last round.

Results of the 12th Round:
Hector – Agrest 0:1
Brynell – Åkesson 0:1
Barkhagen – Carlsson 0:1
Berg – Couso 1:0
Karlsson – Wedberg ½:½
Hillarp Persson – P. Cramling ½:½
Olsson – Eriksson 1:0

Standings after the 12th Round:
1. Agrest – 9½ points
2. Berg – 8½
3-4. Barkhagen, Brynell – 7½
5-6. Wedberg, Karlsson – 7
7. P. Cramling – 6
8-10. Hector, Carlsson, Olsson – 5½
11. Hillarp Persson – 5
12. Åkesson – 4
13. Couso – 3
14. Eriksson – 2½

Pairings for the last 13th Round:
Agrest – Olsson
Wedberg – Berg
Carlsson – Brynell
Couso – Barkhagen
P. Cramling – Karlsson
Åkesson – Hector
Eriksson – Hillarp Persson

Mikhail Gurevich is crushing all opposition and dominating the ***Belgian Championships*** – after 7 rounds he still keeps a perfect score – an unbelievable 7 points!

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. M.Gurevich – 7 points
2. Dgebuadze – 5
3. Chuchelov – 4
4. P. Claesen – 3½ etc.

Jonathan Rowson took a sole lead on the ***Scottish Championships*** after beating Douglas Bryson in the 6th Round. IM John Shaw and FM Alan Norris are sharing second place, half a point behind.

Top results of the 6th Round:
Rowson – Bryson 1:0
Arakhamia-Grant – Motwani ½:½
Shaw – Berry 1:0
McNab – Norris 0:1

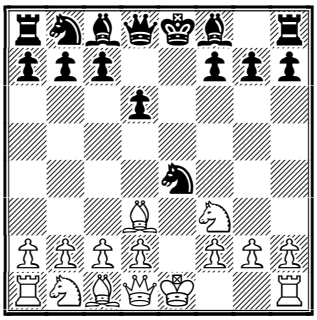
Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Rowson – 4½ points
2-3. Shaw, Norris – 4
4-7. Arakhamia-Grant, Motwani, Bryson, Mannion – 3½ etc.

Top boards of the 7th Round:
(4) Norris – Rowson (4½)
(3½) Mannion – Shaw (4)
(3½) Bryson – Arakhamia-Grant (3½)
(3½) Motwani – Buchanan (3)

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
Morozevich (2749) − Topalov (2711)
Sparkassen Cat XXI Dortmund GER (2), 13.07.2001 C42
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6
The Petroff Defence is very popular at the top−level.
3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♗d3



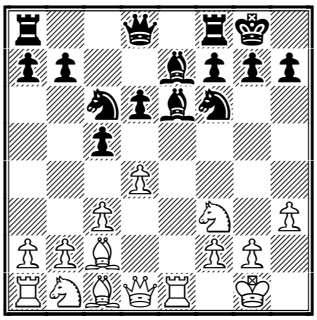
"Does the white player understand the first principles of chess?! How he is going to develop the bishop on c1?!" − my first trainer told me about such ugly moves when I was a child. Well, the 4th

best player in the World is in action so instead of criticism we had better try to find the idea behind it. Of course, White is not planning to leave the bishop c1 locked in − he will let him go with c3, ♗c2, d4 and so on but first he is trying to put pose some new problems for Black, off the well beaten track of 5.d4

5...♘f6 6.h3 ♗e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c3 c5 9.♗c2 ♘c6 10.d4

Everything is fine with the bishops − they are looking at the rival's king, promising White slightly better chances. Yet, Black's position is quite solid.

10...♗e6 11.♖e1



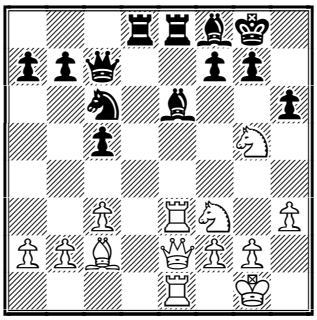
11...h6

An improvement compare to the game Morozevich − Vladimirov, Delhi 2000 where after the dubious 11...♕c8?! White seized the initiative: 12.♗g5 ♘d5 13.♘a3! and after 13...h6 14.♕d3! ♗f5?! (14...f5!?) 15.♕xf5 ♕xf5 16.♗xf5 ♗xg5 17.♗e4 ♘c7 18.♗xc6 bxc6 19.dxc5 dxc5 20.♘e5 ♖fd8 21.♘ac4 achieved decisive advantage in the ending.

12.♗e3 ♖e8 13.♘bd2 ♗f8 14.♘e4 ♘d5 15.dxc5 ♘xe3 16.♖xe3 dxc5 17.♕e2 ♕c7 18.♖e1 ♖ad8

White's position looks threatening, especially his tripled major pieces on the e−file. However, Black has no weaknesses and keeps everything well protected.

19.♘eg5!?

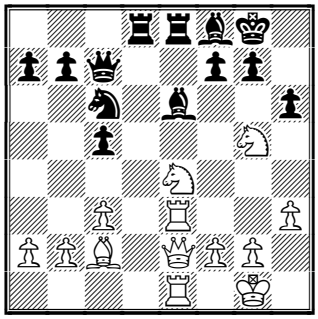


Unfortunately, the pawn attack is hardly possible here so White is trying to break Black's defences hurriedly.

19...♖d6

A cool defence − Black is not obliged to accept the gift. 19...hxg5 20.♘xg5 looked really dangerous for Black.

20.♘e4 ♖dd8 21.♘fg5!?



Another swoop.

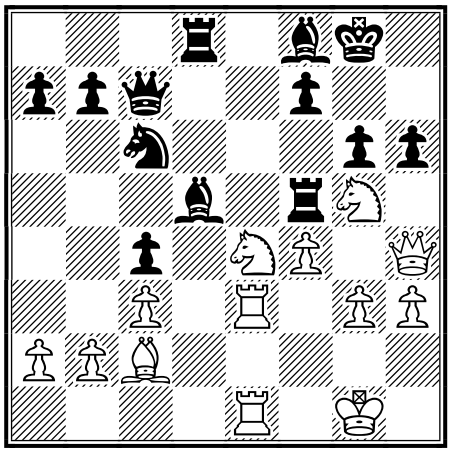
21...♗d5 22.♕h5?!

This queen's sortie looks promising but Black finds a good refutation. 22.♘h7!? looked interesting; while 22.♘f3 ♗e6 could have led to the draw by repetition.

22...♖e5!

Excellent defensive manoeuvre.

23.f4 ♖f5 24.g3 g6 25.♕h4 c4!



To remind White about his own king.

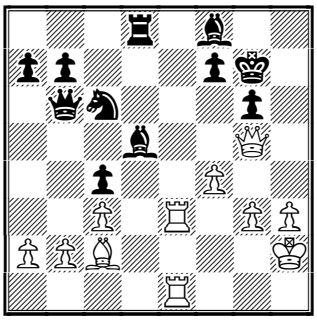
26.♔h2 ♔g7!

This quiet move signifies the crushing of White's strategy. His pieces are stuck on the kingside while Black's are ready not only to capture some material but also to launch a very strong counter attack.

27.♕g4

There was no way back: 27.♘f3 ♗e7 28.♕g4 h5

27...hxg5 28.♘xg5 ♖xg5 29.♕xg5 ♕b6!



Assuming the offensive.

30.f5!?

A desperate attempt.

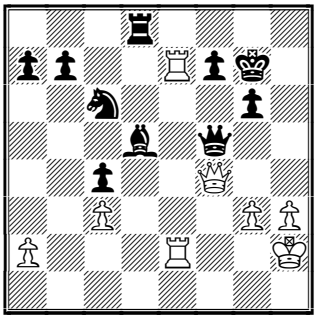
30...♗e7! 31.♕f4

Unfortunately, the bishop is untouchable: 31.♖xe7?? ♕f2#

31...♕xb2 32.♖xe7

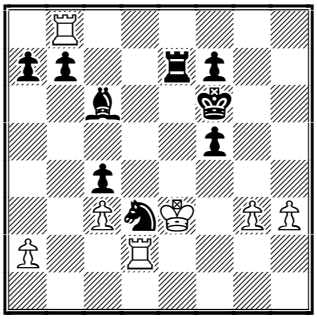
32.♖1e2 wasn't better due to 32...♕c1 (or maybe first 32...♕a1!? 33.♖e1 ♕xa2 34.♖1e2 ♕a1 35.♖e1 ♕b2 36.♖1e2 ♕c1 and so on) 33.♗e4 and now both 33...g5 (and 33...♗g5!? 34.♕xg5 ♗xe4 were good enough)

32...♕xc2+ 33.♖1e2 ♕xf5



The rest is clear.

34.♕xf5 gxf5 35.♖e8 ♖d7 36.♖d2 ♔f6 37.♔g1 ♘e5 38.♔f2 ♘d3+ 39.♔e3 ♗c6 40.♖b8 ♖e7+



White resigned. A confident game by Veselin Topalov. **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:

www.chessgate.de
www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14
w1.131.telia.com/~u13115684/index_e.html
home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/2index.htm
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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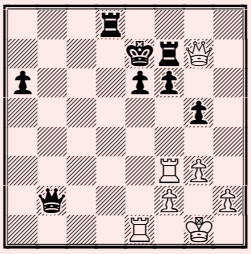
CT-250, 15th July 2001

Topalov Topples Anand

Veselin Topalov was the hero of the super-tournament ***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001*** again! Today he smashed the FIDE World Champion Vishy Anand in excellent style and joined Vladimir Kramnik and Peter Leko in the lead. It was Anand's first defeat in classical chess this year – enjoy this encounter in the game section.

Topalov - Anand



Black's last move was 32...Rf8-f7
How can White win now?
See solution in the Game section

Both remaining games were drawn so the tournament situation looks rather strange now – three players are leading a full point ahead of three other competitors.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Adams – Kramnik **½:½**
Leko – Morozevich **½:½**
Topalov – Anand **1:0**

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1-3. Kramnik, Leko, Topalov – 2 points
4-6. Anand, Adams, Morozevich – 1

Tomorrow the leaders will examine the outsiders!
Pairings for the 4th Round:
Kramnik – Morozevich
Leko – Anand
Adams – Topalov

The program of this chess meeting also includes a 10 game match between 15 year old **Arkadi Naiditsch** and the current European Women's Champion **Elmira Skripchenko-Lautier**. After 3 games Naiditsch leads by a score of **2½:½.** Tomorrow **Dr. Robert Huebner** will start a 6 game match against **Fritz**.

Let's take a look at the other tournaments …

♦ **Peter-Heine Nielsen** (Denmark) and the European Champion **Emil Sutovsky** (Israel) shared victory at the ***North Sea Cup*** in Esbjerg, Denmark. Both players produced an excellent performance to achieve a one and a half point advantage. Eduardas Rozentalis (Lithuania) and 17 year old Luke McShane (England) shared third place.

Results of the 9th Round:
P. H. Nielsen – Sutovsky **½:½**
Speelman – McShane **½:½**
Schandorff – Rozentalis **½:½**
Nataf – C.Hansen **½:½**
Rustemov – Van den Doel **½:½**
Final standings:
1-2. Sutovsky, P. H. Nielsen – 6½
3-4. Rozentalis, McShane – 5 **5-6.** C.Hansen, Schandorff – 4½ **7.** Speelman – 4 **8.** Rustemov – 3½ **9.** Nataf – 3 **10.** Van den Doel – 2½

♦ The ELO-favourite of the ***Swedish Championships*** **Evgeny Agrest** proved his superiority and finished a full point ahead of Emanuel Berg and two points ahead of Stellan Brynell, who came second and third respectively.

Results of the 13th Round:
Agrest – Olsson **½:½**
Wedberg – Berg **½:½**
Carlsson – Brynell **½:½**
Couso – Barkhagen **1:0**
P. Cramling – Karlsson **½:½**
Åkesson – Hector **1:0**
Eriksson – Hillarp Persson **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Agrest – 10 points 2. Berg – 9 **3.** Brynell – 8 **4-6.** Barkhagen, Karlsson, Wedberg – 7½ **7.** P. Cramling – 6½ **8-9.** Carlsson, Olsson – 6 **10-11.** Hillarp Persson, Hector – 5½ **12.** Åkesson – 5 **13.** Couso – 4 **14.** Eriksson – 3
Our congratulations to all the winners of the recently finished tournaments!

♦ **Mikhail Gurevich** is just one step away from a fantastic result – going into the last round of the ***Belgian Championships*** he still keeps a perfect score – **8 out of 8!**

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. M. Gurevich – 8 points
2-3. Chuchelov, Dgebuadze – 5
4-7. P. Claesen, Winants, Cekro, Dutreeuw – 3½ etc.

♦ After the 2nd Round of the ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters*** **Karl Mah** (England) is leading with a perfect score, 7 players are in chase. There are 22 players in this 9 round Swiss event.

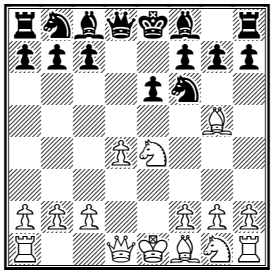
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

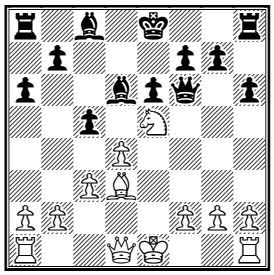
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Topalov (2711) − Anand (2794)
Sparkassen Cat XXI Dortmund GER (3), 14.07.2001 C11

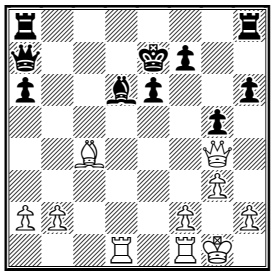
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4



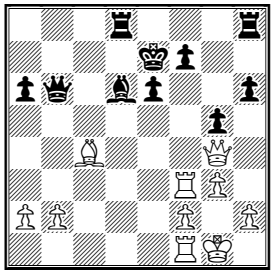
5...♘bd7
Alexander Morozevich prefers 5...♗e7 , today he quickly equalised in one of his pet variations: 6.♗xf6 gxf6 7.♘f3 a6!? 8.g3 ♘c6 9.♘c3 h5!? 10.♗g2 h4! 11.0-0 hxg3 12.hxg3 e5 13.dxe5 ♕xd1 14.♖axd1 fxe5 15.♘d5 ♗d6 16.♘g5 ♔f8 17.♘b6 cxb6 18.♖xd6 ♔e7 19.♖d2 and here a draw was agreed, Leko − Morozevich, Dortmund 2001.
6.♘f3 h6 7.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 8.♗xf6 ♕xf6 9.♗b5+!? c6 10.♗d3
White has secured a small advantage as Black has well−known problems with the bishop on c8.
10...a6
Black intends to advance ...c6−c5 as soon as possible. 10...♗d6 is the main alternative, which does not solve the problems completely. For example: 11.♕e2 0-0 12.0-0-0 a5 13.♔b1 a4 14.a3 ♖a5 15.♖he1 c5 16.dxc5 ♗xc5 17.♖d2! g6 18.♘e5 ♗d4 19.♘g4! ♕g7 20.c3 ♗b6 21.f4 ♖d8 22.♗c2! ♖xd2 23.♕xd2 ♖d5 24.♕e2 and the attempt to develop the bishop by 24...♗d7 failed to 25.♘e5 ♗e8 26.♘xg6! Leko − Akopian, Groningen 1996.
11.c3 c5 12.♘e5 ♗d6



13.♕e2
An improvement compared to the game Topalov − Shirov, Leon 2001, which continued 13.♕a4+ ♔e7 14.0-0 ♗xe5 15.dxe5 ♕xe5 16.♖ae1 ♕c7 17.♕h4+ g5 18.♕h5 ♗d7 and White has not proved sufficient compensation for the pawn.
13...cxd4 14.cxd4 14...♗d7
14...♗b4+ 15.♔f1 0-0 came to mind but Black had certain problems with his light−squared bishop there. Anand reasonably tries to solve it with help of the king, postponing the castling but this approach is also not without drawbacks.
15.0-0 ♕f4
15...♖d8 allowed 16.♕e4
16.g3!
Giving Black no respite.
16...♕xd4 17.♘xd7 ♔xd7 18.♕f3 ♔e7 19.♕xb7+ ♔f6 20.♖ad1 ♕a7 21.♕f3+ ♔e7 22.♕g4 g5 23.♗c4



White's initiative looks threatening.
23...♕b6 24.♖d3 ♖ad8 25.♖f3!



A very good square for the rook − Black was obviously hoping for some exchanges over the d−file.
25...♗e5 26.♖e1 f6 27.♕h5!
A roundabout way.
27...♕b4

Trying to force matters. 27...♕c5 28.b3 left Black with all his problems.; 27...♕xb2!? deserved attention despite all the risks, the direct 28.♖b3 (28.♕g6 ♖dg8 29.♕e4 ♖b8) could have been met by 28...♕d4 29.♖b7+ (29.♗xa6!?) 29...♖d7 although after 30.♖xd7+ ♕xd7 31.♕g6 White's chances are still preferable.

28.♖xe5!

As a rule, the opposite coloured bishops usually favour the attacker − however, positions with major pieces are also not very fun if the king is vulnerable.

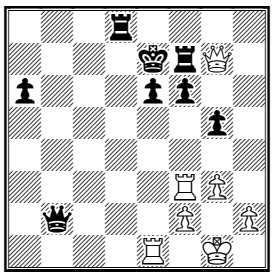
28...♕xc4

Of course, not 28...fxe5 29.♕f7+ ♔d6 30.♕xe6+ and so on.

29.♖e1 ♕xa2 30.♕g6 ♖hf8 31.♕xh6 31...♕xb2?!

31...♖d6 seemed to be more stubborn defence. Perhaps Black overestimated his chances in the position 2♖ vs ♕.

32.♕g7+ ♖f7



33.♖xe6+!

An excellent blow.

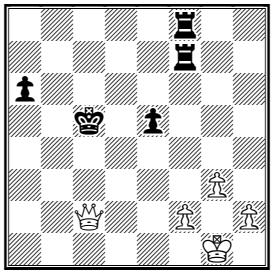
33...♔xe6 34.♖e3+ ♕e5

The only move. 34...♔d6 was impossible due to 35.♕xf7 ♕c1+ 36.♔g2 ♕c6+ 37.♔f1 ♕b5+ 38.♔g1 and so on.

35.♖xe5+ fxe5 36.♕xg5

The kingside passed pawns are just about unstoppable. The only chance for Black is his a−pawn but the opened position of the king forced him to keep everything protected − it is impossible to combine this task with the movement of the passed pawn.

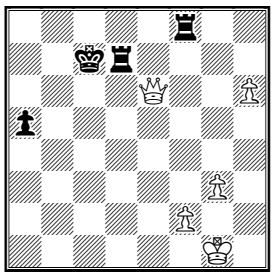
36...♖df8 37.♕g4+ ♔d5 38.♕d1+ ♔c5 39.♕c2+



39...♔b4

39...♔b5 was more accurate but the position after 40.♕e2+ ♔b6 41.♕xe5 did not promise real chances for escape anyway.

40.♕b2+ ♔c5 41.♕xe5+ ♔b6 42.h4 a5 43.h5 ♖d7 44.♕e6+ ♔c7 45.h6



Black resigned. An excellent performance by Veselin Topalov! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:
www.chessgate.de
www.sah-zveza.si/mv/14
w1.131.telia.com/~u13115684/index_e.html
home1.inet.tele.dk/tpherman/vh2001/2index.htm
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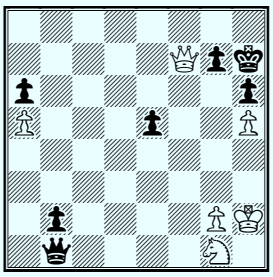
CT-251, 16th July 2001

Kramnik Top

Vladimir Kramnik became the sole leader of the super-tournament "***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001***". Today he showed outstanding endgame technique against Alexander Morozevich – see our game section.

Veselin Topalov had chances to prolong his winning series with entertaning play but Michael Adams found the way to escape - see right.

Adams - Topalov
White to play



It looks like White is in big touble but he finds the way to escape.
See solution in the Game section

There was not much fighting in the game between Peter Leko and Vishy Anand.

Results of the 4th Round:
Kramnik – Morozevich **1:0**
Leko – Anand **½:½**
Adams – Topalov **½:½**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Kramnik – 3 points,
2-3. Leko, Topalov – 2½
4-5. Anand, Adams – 1½
6. Morozevich – 1

Tomorrow we are looking forward to the battle between the World Champions!

Pairings for the 5th Round:
Anand – Kramnik
Topalov – Leko
Morozevich – Adams

♦ In the match between **Arkadi Naiditsch** and the European Women Champion **Elmira Skripchenko-Lautier** the home youngster leads: **3:1**.

♦ **Dr. Robert Huebner** easily drew with Black in the 1st game of his 6 game match against **Fritz.**.

♦ **Mikhail Gurevich** came up to our expectations at the ***Belgian Championships***! **9 out of 9** seems to be an eternal record for a national championships with grandmasters participating!

Final standings:
1. M.Gurevich – 9 points
2-3. Chuchelov, Dgebuadze – 6
4. Winants – 4½ **5.** Cekro – 4
6-7. Dutreeuw, P. Claesen – 3½
etc.

♦ **Jonathan Rowson** already secured an overall victory before the last round of the ***Scottish Championships***.

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Rowson – 6½ points 2-5. Arakhamia-Grant, Motwani, Shaw, Norris – 5 etc.

Pairings of the last 9th Round:
(4) McNab – Rowson (6½)
(5) Norris – Arakhamia-Grant (5)
(5) Motwani – Gourlay (3½)
(5) Shaw – Stevenson (2½)
(1½) Rutherford – Bryson (4½)
(3½) Buchanan – Berry (4)
(2½) Fraser – Mannion (3½)

Don't be surprised to see the players with very different scores facing each other – this is a 9 round swiss event with only 14 participants!

♦ IMs **Karl Mah**, **Simon Williams** and FM **James Vigus** (all of England) are sharing the lead with 2½ points after the 3rd Round of the ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters***.

♦ The VII category tournament "***Trofeo Intel® Pentium® 4***" is underway in Milan, Italy. GM **Miso Cebalo** is probably trying to repeat the record of Mikhail Gurevich – after 6 rounds he keeps a perfect score.

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Cebalo – 6 points 2-4. Godena, Lazic, Bellia – 3½ etc.

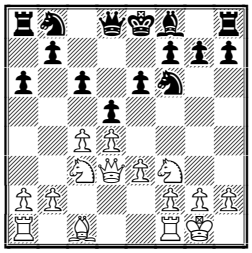
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Kramnik (2802) − Morozevich (2749)
Sparkassen Chess−Meeting 2001 Dortmund (4), 01.07.2001 D12

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗f5 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗d3 ♗xd3 7.♕xd3 e6 8.0-0



The line Vladimir Kramnik chose to counter the Slav Defence is not the most ambitious and looks quite safe for Black. However, he still has to play carefully to hold the balance and, moreover, his active and tricky possibilities are very limited − not so bad when playing against Alexander Morozevich!

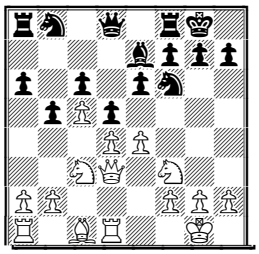
8...♗e7

The game J.Horvath − G.Timoshenko, Cairo 1997 quickly ended in a draw after 8...b5 9.b3 (9.c5!?) 9...♘bd7 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.a4 b4 12.♘e2 ♗d6 13.♗b2 0-0 14.♖ac1 but Kramnik's set−up with c4−c5 deserved attention here too.

9.e4 0-0

An immediate 9...b5!? deserved attention, because, similar to the game, 10.c5 dxe4 (10...b4 11.e5 bxc3 12.exf6 ♗xf6 13.♕xc3) 11.♘xe4 ♘xe4 12.♕xe4 ♕d5 13.♕xd5 cxd5 the Black king could be useful in the center.

10.♖d1 b5 11.c5!

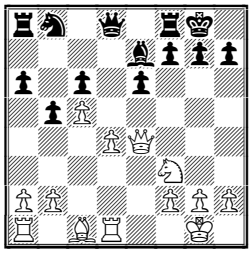


A promising idea! This pawn advance is very good if Black still has the light−squared bishop. Here it is also not bad as the space advantage is useful. Notice, that at first sight Black can now win a pawn in two ways but White has provided for every possibility.

11...dxe4

11...b4?! was just dubious: 12.e5 (12.exd5!? bxc3 13.d6) 12...bxc3 13.exf6 ♗xf6 14.♕xc3 with a certain advantage.

12.♘xe4 ♘xe4 13.♕xe4



13...♕d5

13...♗xc5 should have been foreseen. White was probably going to play 14.♘g5 (14.a4!?) 14...g6 15.♕h4 (15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.♗h6 ♗d6 17.♗xf8 ♔xf8 18.♕xe6 ♖a7) 15...h5 16.g4 with a strong−looking initiative.

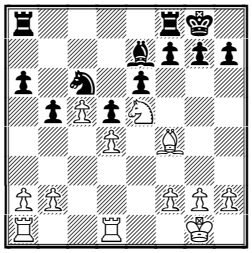
14.♕xd5 cxd5 15.♗f4

In the ending White has a stable advantage thanks to his very strong passed pawn.

15...♘c6

Preliminary 15...♖c8!? was worthy of con−sidering. Maybe Black was worried about 16.♗xb8 ♖axb8 17.♘e5

16.♘e5!



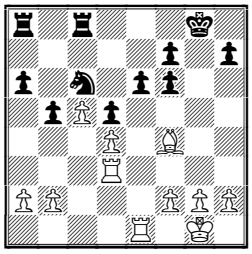
16...♘b8

This sudden retreat is not without merit but generally it looks rather ugly. 16...♘xe5 was natural but after 17.♗xe5 Black's position was not very fun. The advance of the f−pawn looks promising for White while the rook's manoeuvres along the 3rd rank would add to the problems for Black.

17.♖d3 ♖c8 18.♖e1 ♗f6 19.♘g4 ♘c6?!

It looks like Black really did not want to ex−change his knight for the bishop, which White could force after 19...♗e7!?

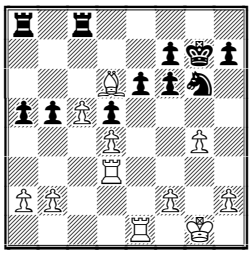
20.♘xf6+ gxf6



21.♗g3!

21.♗h6 ♔h8 did not give any real results. An immediate 21.♗d6 came to mind but White's idea is stronger − he entices the knight to leave his strong position on c6 first. The bishop is going to h4 to take aim at the square f6.

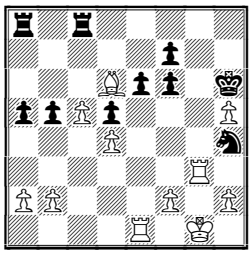
21...♔g7 22.♗h4 ♘e7 23.g4! ♘g6 24.♗g3 a5 25.♗d6



25...h5!?

A desperate attempt to improve the position which is refuted with surgical precision.

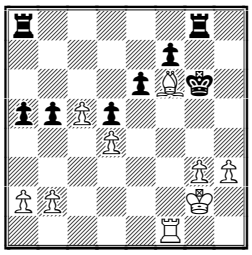
26.gxh5! ♘h4 27.♖g3+ ♔h6



28.♗e7!

Excellent! 28.♖h3 ♖g8+ 29.♔f1 ♘f5 30.♗f4+ ♔h7 granted Black some counterplay.

28...♘f5 29.♗xf6 ♘xg3 30.fxg3 ♖g8 31.♔g2 ♔xh5 32.h3 ♔g6 33.♖f1

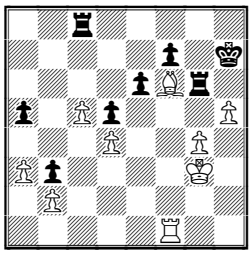


White is dominating − Black's rooks have no chance for activity.

33...♔h7 34.g4 b4 35.♔g3 b3 36.a3!

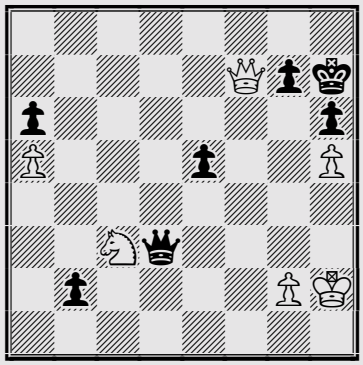
No way!

36...♖ac8 37.h4 ♖g6 38.h5



Black decided he has had enough. A masterful and very instructive play by Vladimir Kramnik! **1-0**

Answer to quiz: 49.♘e2! ♕d3 50.♘c3!



50...♕xc3

A draw agreed due to perpetual check.50...b1♕ did not promise winning chances as after 51.♘xb1 ♕xb1 52.♕e6 Black cannot keep everything under control.

Recommended Web sites:
www.chessgate.de
members.aol.com/BAChess/sca2001/main.htm
www.swyoungmasters.co.uk/
italiascacchistica.com/pentium4/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CT-252, 17th July 2001

Kramnik Maintains Sole Lead in Dortmund

The BGN **Vladimir Kramnik** keeps the lead after the first circle of the super-tournament "**Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001**". Today he easily parried not too ambitious attempts by the FIDE World Champion **Vishy Anand**, who seems to be far from his best form at the moment.

The game Topalov – Leko was a rather quick draw while **Alexander Morozevich** convincingly outplayed Michael Adams and escaped the last place – *see our game section*.

Results of the 5th Round:
Anand – Kramnik **½:½**
Topalov – Leko **½:½**
Morozevich – Adams **1:0**

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Kramnik – 3½ points,
2-3. Leko, Topalov – 3
4-5. Anand, Morozevich – 2
6. Adams – 1½

Tomorrow will be a rest day for the players.

Arkadi Naiditsch leads **3½:1½** in the match against the European Women Champion **Elmira Skripchenko-Lautier**.

Dr. Robert Huebner keeps the balance in his match against **Deep Fritz – 1:1**

A press conference was held on Sunday featuring the BGN World Champion Vladimir Kramnik, Raymond Keene (Games Director of the Braingames Network), Jörg Stüdemann (Member of the board of the Dortmund City Hall), Gerd Kolbe (Event Organiser) and Carsten Hensel (Spokesman). An agreement was presented between the Braingames Network and the Organising Committee of the Dortmunder Sparkassen Chess Meeting - Dortmund will host a Candidates Tournament to produce a challenger to play Vladimir Kramnik for the BGN World Championship. The tournament will take place on

July 6-21, 2002.

Eight players will participate in the tournament. Every GM will be paid a participation fee of 30,000 DM. The total prize fund will be at least $200,000. Garry Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand as well as four top players from the FIDE rating list at the start of the event will receive the invitations. Another two participants will qualify from the Internet tournament.

The participants of the main event will be divided into two groups, in which two double-round robins will be held. Two winners from each group are to play in the semifinals (2 games) and then the winner of the final (4 games) will challenge Kramnik in a 16-game match. The prize fund will be at least $2,000,000. This World Championship match will probably take place in Bahrain in October 2002. The next World Championship match will be played in Dortmund in the year 2004.

The information above was taken from KasparovChess.

Jonathan Rowson won the ***Scottish Championships*** which have just ended in Aberdeen. Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant, Paul Motwani and John Shaw shared second place.

Results of the last 9th Round:
(4) McNab **½:½** Rowson (6½)
(5) Norris **0:1** Arakhamia-Grant (5)
(5) Motwani **1:0** Gourlay (3½)
(5) Shaw **1:0** Stevenson (2½)
(1½) Rutherford **0:1** Bryson (4½)
(3½) Buchanan **0:1** Berry (4)
(2½) Fraser **0:1** Mannion (3½)

Final standings:
1. Rowson – 7 points
2-4. Arakhamia-Grant, Motwani, Shaw – 6
5. Bryson etc.

Our congratulations to the winners!

FM **James Vigus** took the lead in the ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters*** after beating Karl Mah in the 4th Round. IM Simon Williams keeps clear second.

Top results of the 4th Round:
Mah – Vigus **0:1**

Middelburg – Williams ½:½
Skytte – Gladyshev ½:½
Sinkevich – Bromann ½:½
Trent – Ippolito ½:½
Zhao – Hinks-Edwards **1:0**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Vigus – 3½ points,
2. Williams – 3 etc.

*Many thanks for FM **Richard Palliser** for the information.*

Miso Cebalo secured a victory in the VII category tournament "***Trofeo Intel® Pentium® 4***" in Milan, Italy – however, he failed to repeat Mikhail Gurevich's record after drawing his first game in the 7th Round.

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Cebalo – 6½ points
2-4. Godena, Lazic, Lanzani, Bellia – 4

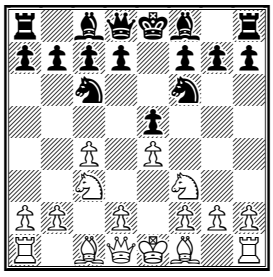
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Morozevich (2749) − M. Adams (2744)
Sparkassen Chess−Meeting 2001 Dortmund (5), 01.07.2001 A28
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.c4
A rather unexpected choice − Alexander usually begins with 1. e4.

1...♘f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.e4 (D)



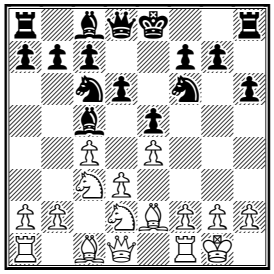
Radically preventing d7−d5. However, Black can now take control over the d4 square. 4.g3 is the more common option; 4.e3; and 4.d4 are other possibilities.

4...♗b4
4...♗c5 is the main alternative. Possible play is 5.♘xe5 ♘xe5 6.d4 ♗b4 7.dxe5 ♘xe4 8.♕d4 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♗e7 10.♕g4↑ and White gains some initiative while Black can be satisfied with the better pawn structure.

5.d3 d6 6.♗e2
A rare continuation. 6.g3 is usually played.

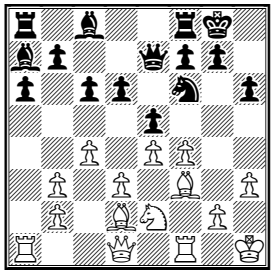
6...h6 7.0-0 ♗c5
7...0-0 looks natural. In the game Nei − Gipslis, Tallinn 1975 Black achieved good play after 8.♘d5 ♗c5 9.♖b1 a5 10.a3 ♘xd5 11.cxd5 ♘d4 12.♘xd4 ♗xd4 13.♗e3 ♗xe3 14.fxe3 c6 15.dxc6 bxc6= with a roughly equal position.

8.♘d2!? (D)



A good manoeuvre − White is planning to advance the f−pawn.

8...♘d4 9.♘b3 ♘xb3 10.axb3 0-0 11.♔h1 c6 12.f4 ♗d4 13.♗f3 a6 14.h3 ♕e7 15.♘e2 ♗a7 16.♗d2 (D)

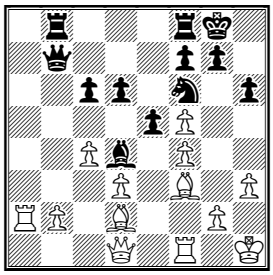


16...b5
16...♘g4!? comes to mind with the idea to force some exchanges.

17.♘g3!
White simply ignores the d4 square, realising his own plans.

17...♖b8 18.♘f5 ♗xf5 19.exf5
White has clearly made some progress, gaining the bishop pair. Yet, concrete play is still continuing.

19...bxc4 20.bxc4 ♗d4 21.♖xa6 ♕b7 22.♖a2 (D)

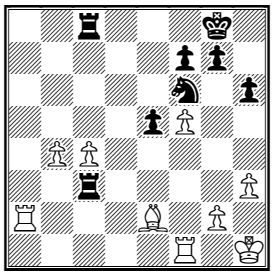


Of course, not 22.♖xc6? e4! 23.♖xd6 exf3!

22...♕b3?!

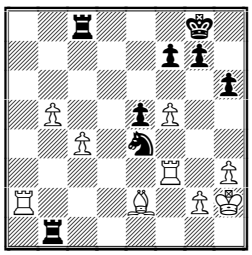
Black hopes to gain all the pawns back after swapping the queens but it turns out to be a difficult task. 22...♗xb2!? was tempting. Now 23.♕a4 could have been met by 23...e4! followed by ...♖a8.

23.♕xb3 ♖xb3 24.fxe5 dxe5 25.♗xc6 ♖c8 26.♗f3 ♖xd3 27.b4 ♗c3 28.♗xc3 ♖xc3 29.♗e2! (D)



29.c5 allowed Black to get strong counterplay by 29...e4 30.♗e2 ♖b8⇄

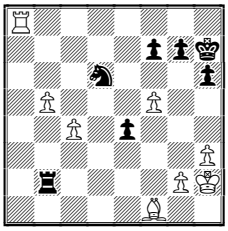
29...♖b3 30.b5 ♘e4 31.♖f3 ♖b1+ 32.♔h2 (D)



32...♘d6

The blockade by 32...♘c5 did not have the desired effect due to 33.♖fa3 followed by ♖a8 and so on.

33.♖fa3! ♔h7 34.♖a8 ♖xa8 35.♖xa8 ♖b2 36.♗f1 e4 (D)

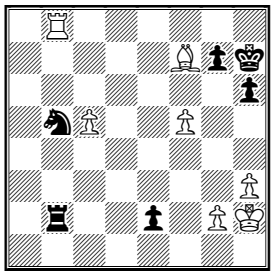


In case of 36...♖b1 37.c5! ♘xb5 38.♗d3 ♖b3 39.♗c4+− White was winning instantly.

37.c5! ♘xb5 38.♖b8 e3 39.♗c4!

A very energetic, brave but probably well−calculated continuation − White ignores Black's far advanced passed pawn in the last few moves before reaching the time control. 39.♖xb5 e2 40.♗xe2 ♖xe2 gave Black good chances to escape as he was able to place his rook on the best position, behind the passed pawn.

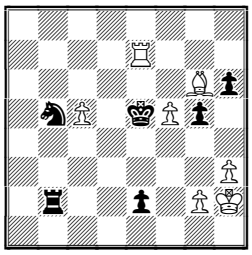
39...e2 40.♗xf7 (D)



40...g5

40...g6!? deserved attention with the idea to make the g5 square available for the king. After 41.♗xg6+ ♔g7 42.♖e8 (42.♖b7+? ♔f6 is good for Black) 42...♘d4 43.♗h5 ♖c2 Black kept drawish chances. Now White wins almost by force.

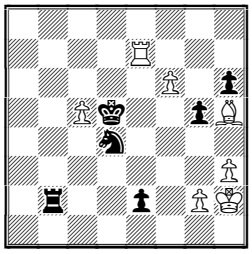
41.♗g6+ ♔g7 42.♖b7+ ♔f6 43.♖f7+ ♔e5 44.♖e7+ (D)



44...♔d5

The "active" 44...♔f4? failed to 45.f6 with idea ♖e4−checkmate.; while 44...♔f6 45.♖e6+ ♔g7 46.♗h5+− was just losing for Black.

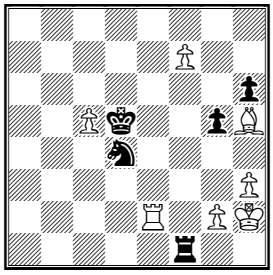
45.f6 ♘d4 46.♗h5 (D)



46...♖b1

Black might have tried to confuse the opponent by 46...♖b8 47.f7 ♖f8 48.♖e8 g4!? but the cool 49.♔g3 left him no chances to escape.

47.f7 ♖f1 48.♖xe2! (D)



A very nice final blow. Black resigned. After 48.♖xe2! ♘xe2 49.♗f3+!! ♖xf3 50.gxf3+− White promotes the pawn. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-253, 18th July 2001

All Quiet in Dortmund

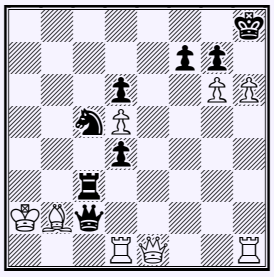
Today is a rest day at the super- tournament ***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001*** Braingames World Champion **Vladimir Kramnik** keeps the lead after the first circle, half a point ahead of Veselin Topalov and Peter Leko.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Kramnik – 3½ points,
2-3. Leko, Topalov – 3
4-5. Anand, Morozevich – 2
6. Adams – 1½

Tomorrow the 6th Round will be played:
The pairings will be:
Kramnik – Topalov
Adams – Leko
Anand – Morozevich

Today we would like to present a very exciting game from the match between the talented Dortmund player **Arkadi Naiditsch** and European Women's Champion **Elmira Skripchenko-Lautier**. The current score is **3½:1½,** with Naiditsch leading.

Skripchenko-Lautier-Naiditsch
From our annotated game
White has just played
35.♔b1-a2



Black to play and mate in two? Solution in game section.

The big chess Festival ***Czech Open 2001*** started in Pardubice. We already have the results of the 4-player team's competition – the team "**Rotor Volgograd**" (GMs Konstantin Chernyshov, Veniamin Shtyrenkov, IMs Ravil Hasangatin and Maxim Chetverik – the guys are probably the funs of this popular Russian soccer team) gave no chance to their opponents and won the event with the excellent score of 23½ from 28.

The program for the Festival contains 9 (!) events, including the main open tournament which will start on the 20th of July.

In the 5th Round of the ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters*** IM **Simon Williams** joined FM **James Vigus** at the lead – both players scored 4 points.

Top results of the 5th Round:

Vigus – Skytte **½:½**
Williams – Zhao **1:0**
Bromann – Mah **½:½**
Gladyszev – Middelburg **1:0**
Ippolito – Sinkevich **½:½**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1-2. Vigus, Williams – 4 points,
3. Gladyshev – 3½ etc.

*Many thanks to FM **Richard Palliser** for this information.*

It was a peaceful 8th Round in the VII category tournament "***Trofeo Intel® Pentium® 4***" in Milan, Italy – all top games were drawn so the situation is unchanged. **Miso Cebalo** is in the early lead, while four players compete for second place!

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Cebalo – 7 points
2-4. Godena, Lazic, Lanzani, Bellia – 4½

The ***Wilbert Paige Memorial*** is underway at the old Hotel Theresa building in **Harlem**.

***Jerome Bibuld** reports on TWIC:* "It is not only the first international chess tournament ever held in Harlem, but also the strongest tournament in history in which every player either has been born in Africa or is of relatively recent African descent."

After 3 rounds IM **Michael Schleifer** (Canada) and FM **Stephen Muhammad** (USA) are leading with 2½ points.

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1. Schleifer, Muhammad – 2½ **points**

2. Nsubuga – 2 etc

♘♘♘

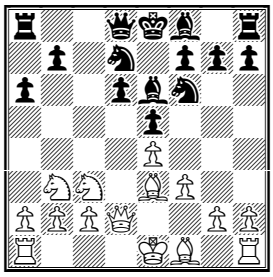
Annotated Game

A. Skripchenko−Lautier (2494) − A. Naiditsch (2524)

Dortmund (2), 13.07.2001 B90

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.f3 ♘bd7 9.♕d2 (D)



9...b5

Recently 9...h5 is also popular, radically stopping g2−g4.

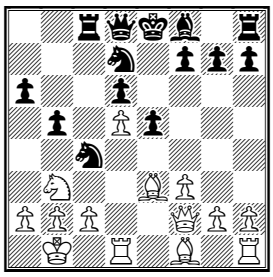
10.0-0-0 ♖c8 11.♔b1

The immediate 11.g4!? was tested several times, one example from GM practice is: 11...h6 12.♔b1 ♘b6 13.♕f2 ♘fd7 14.♘d5 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♘c4 16.♗xc4 bxc4 (16...♖xc4?! 17.♘d2 Δ ♘e4±) 17.♘c1 ♗e7 18.h4∞ with mutual chances, Zagrebelny − Kaiumov, Alma Ata 1995

11...♘b6 12.♕f2

White is not worried about the typical exchange sacrifice 12. ..♖c3? due to 13. ♗b6

12...♘fd7 13.♘d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♘c4 (D)

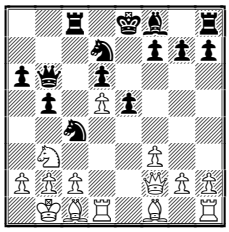


A popular strategy in the Sicilian − Black plays his trump cards on the queenside and only after that completes the development of the kingside.

15.♗c1

In the game Tolnai − Danner, Budapest 1994 Black achieved better chances after 15.g4 ♗e7 16.♗d3 ♗h4 17.♕e2 0-0 18.♗c1 ♘db6 19.♘d2 ♘xd2+ 20.♗xd2 ♘c4 21.♗c1 ♗g5∓

15...♕b6?! (D)



As a rule, the endgame in the Sicilian is good for Black. However, the square b6 should have been reserved for the knight on d7 − 15...♗e7 looked more to the point.

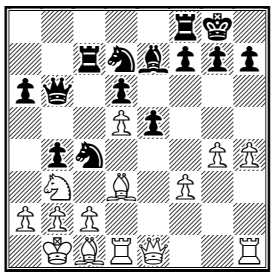
16.♕e1!

Keeping in mind ♘b3−d4. In case of 16.♕g3 the bishop could be well developed to the long diagonal after 16...g6

16...♗e7 17.g4 0-0 18.h4

Here 18.♘d4? doesn't work due to 18...exd4 19.♕xe7 ♘f6 and White is trouble.

18...b4 19.♗d3 ♖c7? (D)



Due to the move ...♕d8−b6 Black has to think about support for the knight on c4 in case of ♕e1-e2. However, he misses a hidden possibility. 19...♖fe8 should have been preferred.

20.g5

A routine move, probably played without much thought. After 20.♗g5! however (by the way, quite a typical method) Black could have been sorry about his previous manoeuvres − the threat ♕e4 can be parried only by making serious compromises. Perhaps the only way for Black to prolong the battle was already 20...f6 (20...♖e8 21.♕e4) 21.♕e4 g6 22.♗h6 ♖fc8 23.h5 f5□ 24.gxf5 ♘f6 25.♕e2 g5□ and so on.

20...a5?

A careless move again.

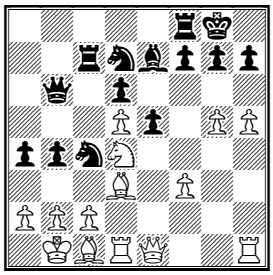
The knight should be given immediate support by 20...♖fc8

21.h5?!

Both players are missing some hidden possibilities, based on the unstable position of

the knight on c4: 21.♕e4! f5 22.♕e2! was pretty strong. However, White has excellent attacking prospects anyway − Black's counterplay is late.

21...a4 22.♘d4! (D)

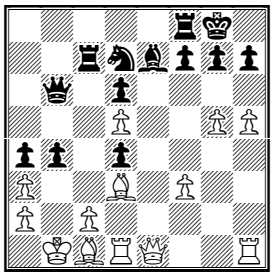


A nice retreat!

22...♘a3+

A desperate attempt. 22...exd4? was too bad: 23.♕e4! f5 24.♕e6+ ♔h8 25.♕xe7 followed by h5−h6.

23.bxa3 exd4 (D)



24.axb4?!

24.♕xe7? would be a serious mistake due to 24...♖b8 with the twofold idea of ...ba3 and ...♘e5; but the preliminary 24.♕e4! would have won on the spot.

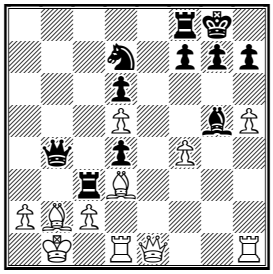
24...a3 25.♗xa3?!

The immediate 25.g6!?→ was tempting.

25...♗xg5 26.f4 ♖c3!?

An interesting attempt, otherwise White could have fortified his queenside by ♗a3−b2 and a2−a3.

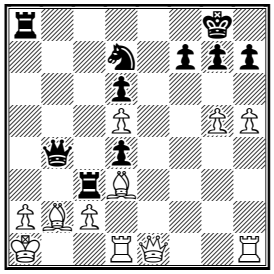
27.♗b2 ♕xb4(D)



28.♔a1?

28.♗xh7+! seemed to be strong: 28...♔xh7 (28...♔h8 29.♖xd4!) 29.♕e4+ f5 (29...♔g8 30.♖xd4 ♕b6 31.♖b4 ♖e3 32.♕c4+−) 30.♕xd4 ♕xd4 31.♖xd4 with a big advantage. Both players were probably under time pressure.

28...♖a8 29.fxg5 (D)



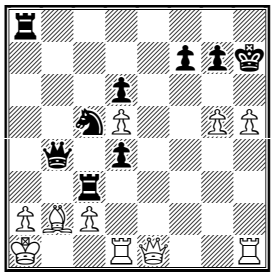
29...♘c5?

Missing the way to escape: 29...♕a5! 30.♔b1 ♕xa2+ 31.♔c1 ♖b8 32.♗xc3 ♕a3+!! 33.♗b2 ♕xb2+ 34.♔d2 ♕c3+ etc.

30.♗xh7+!

Finally!

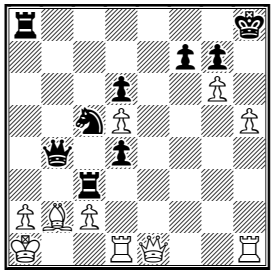
30...♔xh7 (D)



31.g6+?

As will be clear soon, White should have played 31.♖xd4! now while the Black's king is on h7. After 31...♕a5 (31...♕xd4 32.♕xc3 ♖xa2+ 33.♔b1!) 32.♕b1+− White was winning.

31...♔h8! (D)

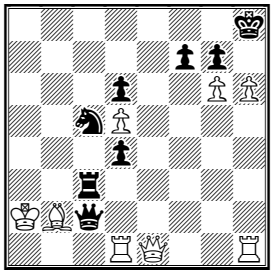


The only way to gain a tempo for attack!

32.h6??

This is loses at once. 32.♖xd4! was correct but Black was still fighting after 32...♕a5! 33.♕b1 ♖xc2! , here White had to find the spectacular defence 34.♖b4! and after 34...♕xb4 35.♕xc2 ♘b3+ 36.♔b1 ♘d2+ there would still be a lot of checks from both sides.

32...♖xa2+! 33.♔xa2 ♕a4+ 34.♔b1 ♕xc2+ 35.♔a2 (D)



35...♖a3+!

White resigned in view of checkmate next move. A very exciting game, isn't it? **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:
www.chessgate.de
www.swyoungmasters.co.uk/
italiascacchistica.com/pentium4/
www.thechessdrum.net/WPM/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-254, 19th July 2001

Morozevich Celebrates 24th Birthday With Victory Over Anand in Dortmund!

Yesterday was the 6th Round of the ***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001*** super tournament. **GM Alexander Morozevich** also celebrated his 24th birthday. And the best present he gave himself was to outplay, with Black, FIDE World champion Vishy Anand in very exciting style! Our congratulations to Alexander – *see our annotated game section.*

Results of the 6th round:
Anand – Morozevich **0:1**
Kramnik – Topalov **½:½**
Adams – Leko **½:½**

Standings after the 6th round:
1. Kramnik – 4 points
2-3. Topalov, Leko – 3½
4. Morozevich – 3
5-6. Adams, Anand – 2

Pairing for the 7th round:
Leko – Kramnik
Adams – Anand
Topalow – Morozevich

Also in Dortmund yesterday **Almira Skripchenko-Lautier** lost with White to **Arkadij Naiditsch** in th 6th game of their match. The score is 4½:1½ in Naiditsch's favour.

Dr. Robert Huebner drew the 3rd game of his ***match*** vs. Deep Fritz. The score is equal – 1½:1½.

GM **Miso Cebalo** won with very a good score the ***Trofeo Intel® Pentium® 4*** in Milan.

Final standing:
1. Cebalo – 7 points out of 9
2-6. Lazic, Bellia, Lanzani, Godena, Drazic – 4½ etc.

FM Richard Palliser reports for *CT* on the 6th round of the ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters***.

Top results:
Gladyszev – Williams **½:½**
Sinkevich – Vigus **1:0**
Mah – Hanley **1:0**
Antal – Bromann **1:0**
Middelburg – Skytte **½:½**
Zhao – Ippolito **½:½**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Williams – 4 ½ points
2-6. Antal, Gladyszev, Mah, Sinkevich, Vigus – 4 etc.

Wilbert Paige Memorial: *standings after the 4th Round:*
1-2. Schleifer, Muhammad – 3 points
3-5. Kobese, Morrison, Solomon – 2½ etc.

The ***Dutch Open*** is taking place in Dieren.

Pairings for the 3rd Round:
(2) Krivoshey – van den Doel (2)
(2) Meijers – Dvoirys (2)
(2) Ernst – Rogozenko (2)
(2) Berelovich – Stellwagen (2)
(1½) Tiviakov – Hendriks (2)

The ***23rd Copenhagen Open*** (Politiken Cup) is in progress.
Standing after the 3rd Round:
1-11. M. Gurevich, Rustemov, Nielsen, Psakhis, Hector, de Firmian, McShane, Brynell, Mortensen, Jepson, Nilssen – 3 points
Pairing for the 4th Round:
Brynell – Gurevich
Rustemov – Mortensen
Nielsen - Hoi
Jepson – Psakhis
Hector – Lezcano Jaen
Palo – De Firmian
McShane – Nilssen

Aleksander Delchev and **Nenad Sulava** won the ***1st Hyers Open***, France.

Final standings:
1-2. Delchev, Sulava – 7 points out of 9 **3.** Fontaine – 6½
4-8. Bernal Moro, Lukov, Karpatchev, Vallin, Guidarelli – 6 etc.

Veniamin Styrenkov won the 104-round blitz-marathon in ***Pardubice***. He won 90 games and drew 6. Ramil Hasangatin, had the same overall score (93), but he won "only" 89 games.

♘♘♘

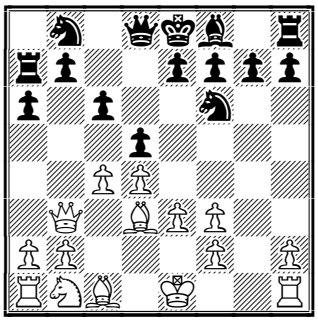
Annotated Game

V. Anand (2794) − A. Morozevich (2749)
Sparkassen Cat XXI Dortmund GER (6), 18.07.2001 D11
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6
In the 4th round vs. Kramnik, Alexander played 4...♗f5 , but in this game he prefered to play another move.

5.♗d3 ♗g4 6.♕b3!?
Of course White has a lot of alternatives instead of this active move, for example: 6.♘bd2 e6 7.0-0 ♘bd7 8.♕e2 ♗e7 9.b3 0-0 10.♗b2 c5 11.♖fc1 ♖c8 12.a3 ♖e8 13.♕f1 draw, Karpov − Dorfman, Cap d'Agde 1998.

6...♗xf3 7.gxf3
It's interesting to note why White did not take the b−pawn − 7.♕xb7!? with complications. **(D)**



7...♖a7!?
Morozevich's novelty. When I saw this move I remembered the game Gelfand − Morozevich (Astana 2001) and wasn't happy at all. In a previous game there saw: 7...♕c7 8.♘c3 e6 9.e4!? (9.♗d2 dxc4 10.♕xc4 ♘bd7 11.♘e4 ♗e7 12.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 13.♕c2 ♕b6 14.♗c3 c5 15.dxc5 ♕xc5 16.♗xf6 ♕xc2 17.♗xc2 ♘xf6= Solak − Motylev, Bucharest 2001) 9...dxc4 10.♗xc4 b5 11.♗e2 c5 12.d5 c4 13.♕d1 exd5 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.♕xd5 ♗b4+ 16.♔f1 ♘c6 17.♖g1 g6 18.♗f4 ♕xf4 19.♕xc6+ ♔e7 20.♕b7+ ♔f6 21.♗xc4 ♔g7∞ Hebden − Prie, France 2000.

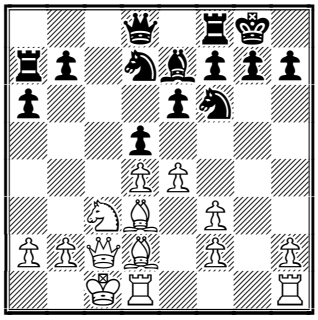
8.♘c3 e6
And this position reminded me of a good set−up in the Chigorin Defence, because the c6−square is more suitable for the pawn than for the Knight.

9.♕c2
White could try somewhere 9.c5!? and f4 with a space advantage, and also Black has an ugly Rook on a7.

9...♗e7 10.♗d2
A very modest development for the Bishop

10...0-0 11.0-0-0 ♘bd7 12.cxd5?!
White opens the c−file for his opponent. Better was 12.♔b1!? with an unclear situation in the center. As a rule such unclear situations favour the side who has the extra Bishop.

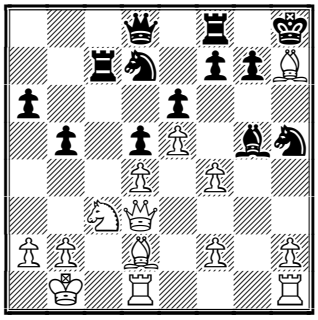
12...cxd5 13.e4(D)



13...♔h8!
Very strong. Morozevich sacrifices a pawn in exchange for a blockade on the King side.

14.e5 ♘h5 15.♗xh7 b5
Black starts counterplay along the c−file.

16.♔b1 ♖c7 17.♕d3 ♗g5 (D)



18.f4!?
Anand gives back the pawn, but opens a way for his Queen on the King side. After 18.♗xg5? ♕xg5 White can't save his Bishop. ; 18.♗e3 ♗xe3 19.fxe3 ♕g5 20.♘e2 (20.f4 ♕h6 21.♗f5!? Fritz) 20...♕h6 21.♘g3 g6∓;

Interesting was 18.♘e2!? ♗xd2 19.♖xd2 ♕g5 20.♖c2⇄

18...♗xf4 19.♗xf4 ♘xf4 20.♕e3?!

This looks like a serious mistake, better was 20.♕g3 ♘h5 (20...b4!?; 20...♔xh7 21.♕xf4=) 21.♗d3! ♘xg3 22.hxg3+ ♔g8 23.♗h7+ ♔h8 24.♗d3+=

20...♕h4!

Of course Morozevich doesn't want to exchange his very strong Knight on f4. It holds the whole position.

21.♗c2?!

Another inaccurate move. 21.♗d3

21...♖fc8! 22.♗d3

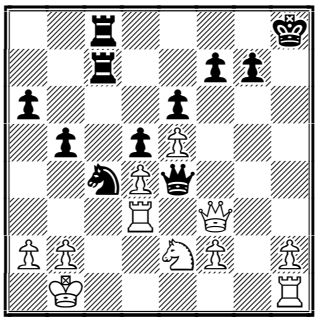
As a result White loses a tempo.

22...♘b6 23.♘e2

23.♕g3 ♕h6! 24.♖hg1 ♘c4!?→

23...♘xd3 24.♖xd3 ♘c4 25.♕f3

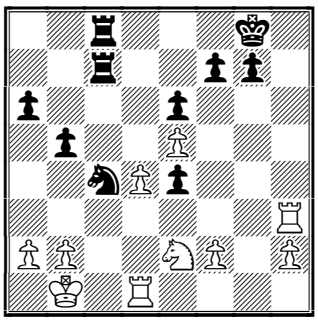
White's position is quite unpleasant now, for example: 25.♕h3 ♕xh3 (25...♘d2+!? 26.♔a1 ♕xh3 27.♖xh3+ ♔g8∓) 26.♖xh3+ ♔g8 27.♖c3 ♘d2+ 28.♔c2 ♘e4∓



25...♕e4! (D)

The simplest − the endgame will be very difficult for White.

26.♕xe4 dxe4 27.♖h3+ ♔g8 28.♖d1? (D)



The Final mistake and now − final blow.

28...♘xb2!

And Anand resigned − obviously he was extremely upset by his position. A very convincing victory by Alexander Morozevich!

0-1.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.chessgate.de
http://italiascacchistica.com/pentium4/
http://www.swyoungmasters.co.uk
http://www.thechessdrum.net/WPM/WPM_CrossTable.html
http://www.schaakbond.nl
http://kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001/tabel.asp
http://echiquier.hyerois.free.fr/
http://www.proclient.cz/czechopen/Vysledky/Results.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-255, 20th July 2001

Topalov Defeats Morozevich and Shares Lead with Kramnik in Dortmund

Topalov

Alexander Morozevich enjoys chess so much that sometimes he forgets draws are also possible and can be respectable outcomes. He won two straight games and thus wanted to continue his winning streak, but…. **Veselin Topalov** had his own ideas! To be honest Topalov played very well indeed and convincingly beat Morozevich in a very complicated Sicilian endgame. After this victory he caught up to Vladimir Kramnik for the lead. Two other games were drawn: Adams – Anand without much struggle, and Leko – Kramnik with much fight.

Results of the 7th round:
Leko – Kramnik **½:½**
Adams – Anand **½:½**
Topalov – Morozevich **1:0**

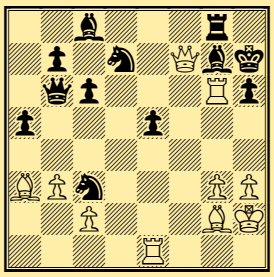
Standing after the 7th round:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 4½ points
3. Leko – 4
4. Morozevich – 3
5-6. Adams, Anand – 2½

Pairing for the 8th round:
Kramnik – Adams
Anand – Topalov
Morozevich – Leko

Arkadij Naiditsch won again vs. Almira Skripchenko-Lautier – (*see our annotated game section.*) The score of their match is 5½:1½ in Naiditsch's favour now.

Dr. Robert Huebner drew the 4th game vs. Deep Fritz in their ***match***. The score is equal – 2:2.

Naiditsch– Skripchenko
From our annotated game
Black has just played
31...♖d8–g8



White to move and mate in 5.
Solution in game section.

Sorry a mistake was reported in the previous issue - GM **Miso Cebalo** had 7 points only after the 8th (!) Round of the ***Trofeo Intel® Pentium® 4*** in Milan - after the 9th he had 8! Of course his victory became clear a day before yesterday, but only now can we tell you the actual final standings:

1. Cebalo – 8 points out of 9
2-3. Godena, Bellia – 5½
4-5. Lazic, Drazic – 5
6. Lanzani, – 4½ etc.

FM Richard Palliser reports for ***CT*** on the 7th round of ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters***.

Top results:
Williams – Mah **½:½**
Sinkevich – Antal **0:1**
Vigus – Gladyszev **0:1**
Skytte – Palliser **0:1**
Ippolito – Middelburg **1:0**

Standing after the 7th Round:
1-3. Antal, Gladyszev, Williams – 5 points
4. Mah – 4½ etc.

*The **Wilbert Paige Memorial**, standings after the 5th Round:*
1-2. Schleifer, Muhammad – 4 points
3. Kobese – 3½
4. Morrison – 3
5-6. Solomon, Rogers – 2½ etc.

The ***Dutch Open*** is taking place in Dieren.
Pairing for the 4th Round:
(3) Dvoirys – Krivoshey (3)

(3) Hendriks – Berelovich (3)
(2½) Rogozenko,D (2,5) – Werle (2½)
(2½) Peng – Weide (2½)
(2½) Ami – Ernst (2½)

The ***23rd Copenhagen Open*** (Politiken Cup).
Results of the 4th Round:
Brynell – Gurevich **0:1**
Rustemov – Mortensen **1:0**
Nielsen – Hoi **1:0**
Jepson – Psakhis **1:0**
Hector – Lezcano Jaen **1:0**
Palo – De Firmian **0:1**
McShane – Nilssen **1:0**

Standing after the 4th Round:
1-7. M. Gurevich, Rustemov, Nielsen, Hector, de Firmian, McShane, Jepson – 4 points

Pairing for the 5th Round:
Gurevich – Hector
De Firmian – Rustemov
McShane – Nielsen
Speelman – Jepson

The ***Heart of Finland Open*** is in progress in Jyvaskyla with 9 GMs among 172 players.

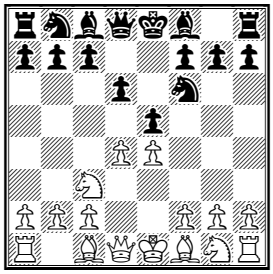
Pairing for the 4th Round:
(3) Rytshagov – Paasikangas-Tella (3)
(3) Nevanlinna – Seeman (3)
(3) Pirttimaki – Tella (3)
(3) Nyysti - Yrjola (3)
(3) Pechenizkiy – Nyback (3)

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Naiditsch (2524) – A. Skripchenko – Lautier (2494)
Sparkassen Match 2001 Dortmund (7), 01.07.2001 C41
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5!? (D)



4.♘f3

Black invites his opponent into the endgame 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 6.♗c4 ♗e6 7.♗xe6 fxe6 etc., but White prefers the middlegame in the Philidor defence.

4...♘bd7 5.♗c4 ♗e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.♖e1 c6 8.a4

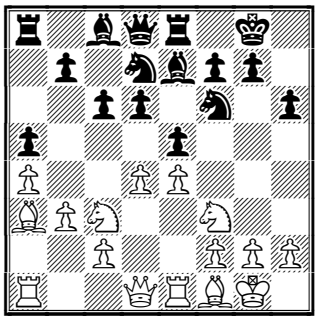
An important move − White prevents b7−b5 which would give Black active play on the Queen side.

8...a5 9.b3!

Such development (Bishop c1 on b2 or a3) was recommended by Zigbert Tarrash about a 100 years ago.

9...h6 10.♗a3 ♖e8 11.♗f1

This is a useful move − White avoids typical blows like Nxe4 and d5 or d6−d5 etc.



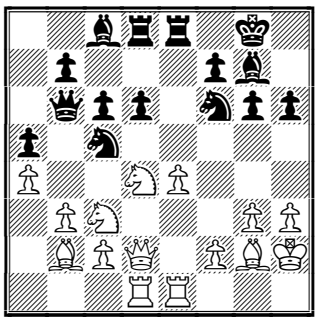
11...exd4?!

This is a concession in the centre by Black, nevertheless it's rather difficult for him to complete his development otherwise. However, an interesting alternative was 11...♕c7!?

12.♘xd4 ♘c5 13.g3

Solid and strong! Bishops from a3 and g2 will control all the centre.

13...♕b6 14.♗g2 ♗g4 15.♕d2 ♖ad8 16.h3 ♗c8 17.♔h2 ♗f8 18.♗b2 g6 19.♖ad1 ♗g7 (D)

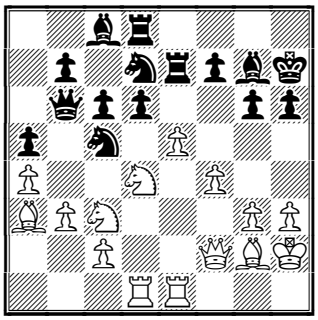


Both sides have made useful moves and now it's time for White to create a plan.

20.f3!? ♕c7 21.♕f2 ♔h7 22.♗a3 ♘fd7 23.f4 ♖e7?! 24.e5!

After a long preparation on both sides White starts a pawn offensive in the centre.

24...♕b6 (D)



24...dxe5 25.♘db5!? cxb5 26.♘xb5 ♕b6 (26...♕b8 27.♗xc5±) 27.♖d6±

25.♘db5!

Nice blow − White exploits the Rook's position on e7.

25...dxe5

25...cxb5 26.♘d5±

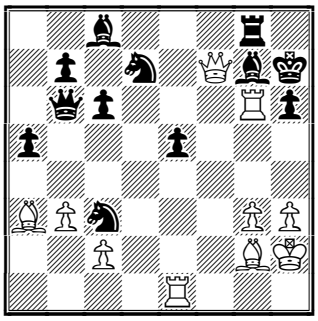
26.♘d6 ♖e6 27.f5!

Energetic play − White attacks all over the board.

27...♖xd6

27...♖f6 28.♘c4+−

28.♖xd6 ♘xa4!? 29.fxg6+ fxg6 30.♕f7 ♘xc3 31.♖xg6 ♖g8 (D)



And now mate in 5:

32.♖xh6+!

32.♖xh6+ ♔xh6 33.♗c1+ ♕e3 34.♗xe3+ ♔h7 35.♕h5+ ♗h6 36.♕xh6#. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.chessgate.de
http://italiascacchistica.com/pentium4/
http://www.swyoungmasters.co.uk
http://www.thechessdrum.net/WPM/WPM_CrossTable.html
http://www.schaakbond.nl
http://kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001/tabel.asp
http://www.shakki.net/turnaukset/hof01.htm

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CT-256, 21th July 2001

Topalov Takes Over Lead in Dortmund

Anand

Veselin Topalov showed outstanding play at the super-tournament ***Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2001*** – today he beat FIDE World Champion Vishy Anand with black in a tough 84 move battle. It looks like Anand made the decisive mistake on the very last move. This puts Tapolov in the lead by himself. By the way, Veselin beat Vishy in their mini-match with the fairly unexpected, but well deserved score of 2:0! Vaselin started this tournament with a loss to Braingames World Champion Vladimir Kramnik.

There was no fight in the game Kramnik – Adams, while Alexander Morozevich was lucky to escape against Peter Leko. His position seemed to be lost during some 40 moves.

Results of the 8th Round:
Kramnik – Adams **½:½**
Anand – Topalov **0:1**
Morozevich – Leko **½:½**

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Topalov - 5½ points,
2. Kramnik – 5
3. Leko – 4½
4. Morozevich – 3½
5. Adams – 3
6. Anand – 2½

The standings is rather curious – the players are symmetrically divided by an imaginary 50 percent score line.

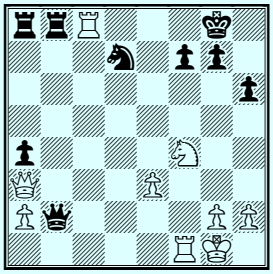
Pairings of the 9th Round:
Leko – Topalov
Kramnik – Anand
Adams – Morozevich

In the other events **Arkadi Naiditsch** convincingly leads against European Women's Champion **Elmira Skripchenko-Lautier** with a score of **6:2,** while **Dr. Robert Huebner** keeps the balance against **Fritz – 2:2**.

Semen Dvoiris (Russia) is sole leader in the ***Dutch Open*** in Dieren with a perfect score after the 4th Round.

Some results of the 4th Round:
Dvoirys – Krivoshey **1:0**
Hendriks – Berelovich **½:½**
Rogozenko – Werle **0:1**
Peng Zhaoqin – Van der Weide **1:0**
Ami – Ernst **½:½**

Mini Tactical Quiz
Schleifer– Simutowe
Wilbert Paige Memorial, Harlem (1)
Black played 1. …♕b2+.



White to play and win.
Solution on page 3

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Dvoiris – 4 points,
2. Berelovich, Hendriks, Peng Zhaoqin, Werle – 3½ etc.

Jonny Hector (Sweden) became the hero of the 5th Round of the ***Politiken Cup*** in Copenhagen, Denmark – he did the unbelievable, beating (with black pieces!) no less else than Mikhail Gurevich (Belgium), who had scored 13 wins in a row before this game – a baker's dozen! **Alexander Rustemov** (Russia) was successful against Nick de Firmian (USA) and also keeps a perfect score.

Some results of the th Round:
Gurevich – Hector **0:1**
De Firmian – Rustemov **0:1**
McShane – Nielsen **½:½**
Speelman – Jepson **½:½**

Standings after the 5th Round:
1-2. Rustemov, Hector – 5 points,
3-5. P.H.Nielsen, McShane, Jepson – 4½

Pairings for the 6th Round:

(5) Rustemov – Hector (5)

(4½) Jepson – McShane (4½)
(4½) P.H.Nielsen – M.Gurevich (4) etc.

Gergely Antal (Hungary) took over the top spot in the ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters*** – in the preliminary 8th Round he beat IM Simon Williams (England) and scored 6 points. Oleg Gladyshev is clear second, half a point behind.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Antal – Williams **1:0**

Mah – Gladyshev **½:½**
Bromann – Ippolito **½:½**
Zhao – Sinkevich **1:0**

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Antal – 6 points,
2. Gladyshev – 5½
3-6. Vigus, Williams, Mah,
Zhao Zong-Yuan – 5 etc.

*Many thanks to FM **Richard Palliser** for this information.*

The ***Heart of Finland*** open tournament is underway in Jyvaskyla. **Mikhail Rytchagov** (Estonia) and 16 year old **Tomi Nyback** (Finland) is leading with a perfect score after 4 rounds.

Some results of the 4th Round:
Yrjola – Rytchagov **0:1**
Tella – Nyback **0:1**

Seeman – Kveinys **½:½**
Miezis – Novik **0:1**
Solozhenkin – Nevanlinna **1:0**

Standings after the 4th Round:
1-2. Rytchagov, Nyback – 4 points,
3-4. Solozhenkin, Novik – 3½ etc.

FM **Stephen Muhammad** (USA) is sole leader in the ***Wilbert Paige Memorial*** in Harlem with 5 points after the 6th Round. IM **Michael Schleifer** (Canada) is half a point behind.

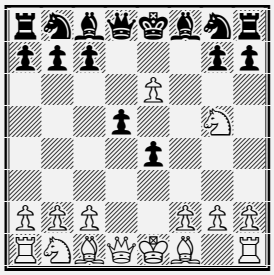
Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Muhammad – 5 points
2. Schleifer – 4½
3. Kobese – 4 etc

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

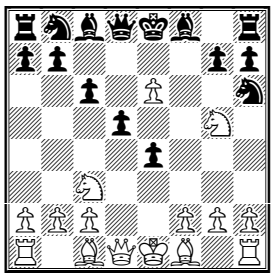
E. Mortensen (2423) − J. Hvenekilde (2267)
Politiken Cup Copenhagen (5), 20.07.2001
C41
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov & Erling Mortensen

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 f5 4.dxe5 fxe4 5.♘g5 d5 6.e6! (D)

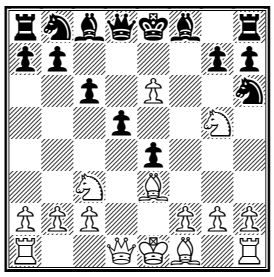


This position was thoroughly tested ...200 years ago. Due to disastrous results for Black it almost disappeared from practice, but Erling Mortensen has a very tenacious memory − he wrote: "As far as I remembered this is suppose to be the refutation of 3...f5."

6...♘h6 7.♘c3 c6 (D)



8.♗e3!? (D)



A novelty! In years past White usually sacrificed a piece by 8.♘gxe4 dxe4 9.♕h5+ g6 10.♕e5 ♖g8 11.♗xh6 ♗xh6 12.♖d1 ♕e7 (in the game Staunton − Morphy, London 1858 Black did not achieve sufficient compensation after 12...♕g5?! 13.♕c7 ♗xe6 14.♕xb7 e3 15.f3! ♕e7 16.♕xa8 ♔f7 17.♘e4±) 13.♗c4⩲ − this position was tested several times in the match Atwood − Wilson, London 1898.;

8.♘xh7!? deserves serious attention, in my opinion.

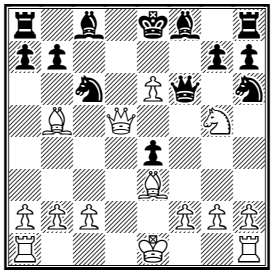
8...♕f6?

A big mistake, which leads to quick disaster. 8...♕d6!? looked not so bad, after the possible 9.♕h5+ g6 10.♕h3 ♗g7⇄ The position is sharp and quite playable for Black.

9.♘xd5!

Probably underestimated.

9...cxd5 10.♗b5+ ♘c6 11.♕xd5+−

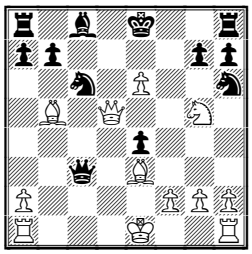


Black is now in big trouble. He is already lost.

11...♗b4+ 12.c3 ♗xc3+

A desperate attempt.

13.bxc3 ♕xc3+ (D)



14.♔d1!?

14.♔e2!? was natural and also good enough − in case of 14...a6 he had the killing 15.♗d2!+− (15.♗a4 ♕d3+)

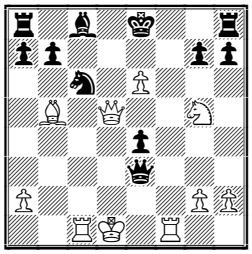
14...♘f5

After 14...♕xa1+ 15.♔c2 ♕xh1 16.♗c5+− Black cannot defend against the numerous threats, as was indicated by Mortensen.

15.♖c1! ♘xe3+

In case of 15...♘fe7 16.♖xc3 (16.♕d7+ ♗xd7 17.exd7+ ♔xd7 18.♖xc3+−) 16...♘xd5 17.♖xc6!+− White wins a whole piece in the ending.

16.fxe3 ♕xe3 17.♖f1! (D)



The last piece came into the action with decisive effect. Black resigned as he cannot even try to defend his king − he has just no pieces to play with. **1-0.**

Solutions to Mini Tactical Quiz:

2.♖c8+! A typical combination, useful to be memorised. **2...♔h7 3.♕xb2 ♖xb2 4.♖xa8** and Black resigned soon. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.chessgate.de
www.schaakbond.nl
kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001
www.proclient.cz/czechopen
www.shakki.net/turnaukset/hof01.htm
www.swyoungmasters.co.uk
www.thechessdrum.net/WPM
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CT-257, 21st July 2001

Dortmund Impressions, Friday 20th July 2001

by GM Alexander Baburin

Being a chess journalist for many years, it is nearly impossible for me not to write at least something about the Dortmund super-tournament. I came here as Alexander Morozevich's coach and originally I did not plan to write anything, but then I thought that perhaps *Chess Today* readers might like some on-site reporting.

This is my first time in Dortmund. The city made a favourable impression on me - it is not big and has a nice city centre. The players stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel about a 30 minute walk from the city. As it is situated near a wonderful Westphalia park, the location is pretty good. Play starts at 2 p.m. in Dortmund's theatre. Its hall can accommodate about thousand people, but so far I've seen only between 100 and 200 spectators at the tournament. I guess that there will be more this weekend. Spectators are treated nicely here. They can follow the games on giant screens, while listening to GM-commentary on their head-phones. As for yours truly, I like shifting between the playing hall and the press-room. It has 5 monitors, where one can follow all the games simultaneously. Apart from that, here there are such goodies as free coffee and soft drinks. The latter you can find in a drawer designated 'NOT for journalists', which makes taking stuff from it particularly tempting to me! :-)

With an average rating of 2753, this is going to be the strongest tournament this year. In fact, the only way to have a stronger tournament would be to replace on of the players with Garry Kasparov. Tough tournaments like this one normally favour players with a solid style. Therefore many expected that apart from Kramnik and Anand, Adams and Leko would have the best chances. According to the same logic, Topalov and Morozevich should find it hard going. But while this is true for the ever-uncompromising Morozevich, Topalov has created a small sensation here. It has been a good while since Veselin has done this well in a super-tournament. True, he had a bumpy start when he lost to Kramnik in round 1 and was losing to Morozevich in round 2, but then his play changed dramatically. As I am writing these words, he is trying to beat Vishy Anand, which would make him sole leader, ahead of Kramnik and Leko.

Anand's poor performance is perhaps the biggest surprise of the event. Not only has he only a few points, but his play is also unrecognisable. Maybe he is too tired. On the other hand Kramnik looks fresh and determined to win. This won't be easy in light of the strong competition from Topalov and Leko.

The day before I came here, Alexander Morozevich beat Michael Adams and went on -1. In round 6 he won a nice game against Anand and got on 50%. It was an important victory, as now he has wins over both Kramnik and Anand. And both were with Black! The game Anand-Morozevich was played on Alexander's 24th birthday, so after winning it he jokingly thanked Vishy for a nice present. Apparently, the Indian did not like that at all, muttering something like "Do you always insult your opponents after winning a game?!" In my humble opinion, Vishy was way too touchy in this episode.

In the evening I gave Alexander my present - Gerri Halliwell's CD. Some of you may have seen a post on the newsgroups, claiming that these two married in London recently. While this is not true, I was still wondering what was going on - anything is possible and certainly there is no smoke without fire! Yet, when I came to Dortmund, there was no sign of Gerri. But on the other hand Alexander was visibly pleased with my present. While he refused to confirm or refute the news, he said that he always liked England and also planned to visit the country a few times in the near future.

Sometimes a victory can be as tiring as a defeat and this is what probably happened to Morozevich - after the game against Anand his play apparently deteriorated. He lost to Topalov in round 7 and now he is losing to Leko - too bad. At least he never blames his seconds, so I am safe! :-)

I am quite enjoying the tournament, only wishing that the weather would be better - I got too much of this '+15 C, mild rain' stuff recently in Dublin! I'd like to wish all CT readers a nice weekend! Also, stay tuned - I hope to write some more from Dortmund this weekend.

I suspect now we don't have to worry - our editor-in-chief, Alex Baburin, is alive and well, because Alexander Morozevich escaped from Leko on Friday and beat Adams on Saturday! ☺ You can find this very complicated and interesting game in our annotated game section. But of course the central meeting of the 9th Round were the two Champions' game Kramnik – Anand. It looks like Vladimir was very determined to win while Vishy lost a bit of his motivation. As a result Kramnik won and caught up to Veselin Topalov who drew with Black vs. Leko.

Results of the 9th Round:
Leko – Topalow **½:½**
Kramnik – Anand **1:0**
Adams – Morozevich **0:1**

Standings after the 9th round:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 6 points
3. Leko – 5
4. Morozevich – 4½
5. Adams – 3
6. Anand – 2½

Pairing for the last 10th round:
Anand – Leko
Morozevich – Kramnik
Topalov – Adams

I think in the final day of the tournament all players will be playing for a win: Kramnik and Topalov – because they are fighting for the first place, Anand and Adams will try to win a single game, Morozevich – as usual, Leko – because Anand will try to beat him. A very interesting last round is waiting for us!

Arkadij Naiditsch drew vs. Almira Skripchenko Lautier, and Dr. Robert Huebner did the same vs. Deep Fritz. The score is 6½:2½ in Naiditsch's favour and 2½:2½ in the Huebner's ***match.***

Many thanks FM Richard Palliser for his reports for CT about ***Smith & Williamson Young Masters*.**

Top results of the last 9th Round:
Gladyszev – Antal **½:½**
Zhao – Mah **½:½**
Williams – Skytte **0:1**
Vigus – Bromann **½:½**
Ippolito – Hanley **1:0**

Final standing:
1. Antal – 6 ½ points out of 9
2. Gladyszev – 6
3-7. Ippolito, Mah, Skytte, Vigus, Zhao – 5½ etc.

*The **Wilbert Paige Memorial**, standing after the 7th Round:*
1-2. Muhammad – 5 points, Schleifer – 5 points out 8,
3-5. Kobese, Morrison, Rogers – 4
6. Simpson – 3½ points out of 8 etc.

The Dutch Open takes place in Dieren.
Pairing for the 6th Round:
(4½) Dvoirys – Werle (4½)
(4) Krivoshey – Ikonnikov (4)
(4) Brodsky – Ernst (4)
(4) Ami – Berelovich (4)
(3½) Hendriks – Moiseenko (3½)
(3½) Peng – Dgebuadze (3½)

Alexander Rustemov are leading with the perfect score after the 6th Round of the ***23rd Copenhagen Open*** (Politiken Cup).
Results of the 6th Round:
Rustemov – Hector **1:0**
Jepson – McShane **1:0**
Nielsen – Gurevich **½:½**
Jakobsen – Speelman **½:½**
Psakhis – Lezcano **½:½**
Nilssen – De Firmian **0:1**
Palo – Ward **0:1**
Bekker-Jensen – Mortensen **0:1**
Jacobsen – Høi **0:1**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Rustemov – 6 points out of 6
2. Jepson – 5½
3-8. Nielsen, Hector, de Firmian, Ward, Mortensen, Hoi – 5 etc.

Pairings for the 7th Round:
Jepson – Rustemov

Ward – Nielsen
De Firmian – Mortensen
Hector – Hoi

The ***Heart of Finland Open***, standings after the 6th Round:
1-3. Rytchagov, Nyback, Novik – 5½ points out of 6
4-8. Kveinys, Seeman, Agopov, Ernst, Fieandt – 5 etc.

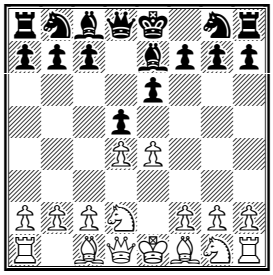
Pairings for the last, 7th Round:
Rytshagov – Novik
Seeman – Nyback
Agopov – Kveinys
Fieandt – Ernst

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

M. Adams (2744) − A. Morozevich (2749)
Sparkassen Cat XXI Dortmund GER (9), 21.07.2001 C03
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky & GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♗e7!? (D)



Romanishin's system became rather popular the last few years thanks to Morozevich's efforts. Maybe we can name this line the Romanishin−Morozevich variation now.

4.e5

Adams and Morozevich played this line with 3..Be7 at least 6 times − a little match really! Last time Micky preferred [4.c3!? c5 5.dxc5 ♗xc5 6.♘b3 ♗b6 7.e5 ♘c6 8.♘f3 f6 9.♗b5 ♗d7 10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.0-0 ♘e7 12.♗e3 0-0∞ Adams − Morozevich, Cannes (active) 2001. Now Adams returns to the move he played in their first and second games.

4...c5 5.dxc5

This is quite rare move. Two years ago Adams played the more ambitious, but maybe less strong: 5.♕g4 g5!? (it's hard to criticise this very brave move) 6.dxc5 h5 7.♗b5+ ♗d7 8.♕e2 ♕c7 9.♘b3 ♗xb5 10.♕xb5+ ♘c6 11.f4 0-0-0 12.♘f3 g4 13.♘fd4 ♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♗xc5∓ Adams − Morozevich, Francfurt (active 1999).

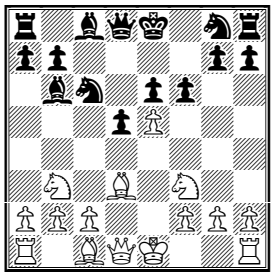
5...♘c6 6.♘gf3 ♗xc5

6...♕c7 7.♗b5 ♗xc5 8.♘b3 ♗b6 9.0-0 ♘ge7 10.♗f4 ♗d7 11.♖e1 ♘g6 12.♗g3 ♘a5 13.♘bd4 a6⇄ G. Kuzmin − Romanishin, Leningrad 1977.

7.♘b3 ♗b6 8.♗d3!?

8.♗f4!? ♘ge7 9.♗d3 ♘g6 10.♗g3 ♗c7 (10...0-0!?) 11.♕e2 ♘b4 12.0-0 ♘xd3 13.♕xd3 0-0 14.♖fe1 ♗d7 15.♘bd4± Vysochin − Malykin, Kiev 2000.

8...f6 (D)



Morozevich plays according to Nimtzovich's advice: Black has a pawn centre and wants to move it forward, but White blockades it with the pawn on e5. So Black has to exchange this pawn and not allow his opponent's minor pieces to occupy squares e5 and d4.

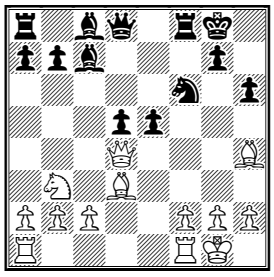
9.♕e2 fxe5 10.♘xe5 ♘f6 11.0-0

White hasn't the time to defend the Knight on e5 with the Bishop c1, for example: 11.♗f4 0-0 12.♗g3 (12.0-0 ♘e4!? 13.♗xe4 ♖xf4⇄) 12...♘xe5 13.♗xe5?! ♘e4↑; But interesting was 11.♗b5!?

11...♘xe5 12.♕xe5 0-0 13.♗g5

13.♗f4? ♘g4

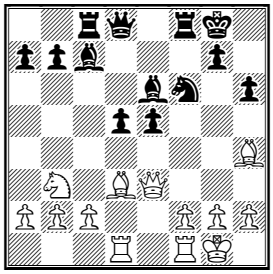
13...♗c7 14.♕d4 h6 15.♗h4 e5 (D)



Black has managed to move his pawn centre so it he has the better chances now. White hasn't any positional compensation; for example, White's development is only a bit better.

16.♕c5 ♗e6 17.♖ad1 ♖c8 18.♕e3

It's hard to believe that White can take a7−pawn. (D)



18...e4!?

Morozevich starts interesting complications. A more quiet method was for example, 18...♕e8!? Who knows maybe it was even stronger.

19.♗xe4 ♗xh2+! 20.♔h1

20.♔xh2 ♘g4+-+

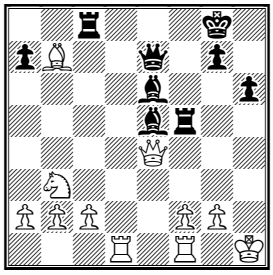
20...♕d6 21.♗xf6

21.♗g6 ♘g4 22.♕e2 ♘e5 (22...♗g1? 23.♗g3!) 23.♗h5 g6∓

21...♗f4 22.♕f3 ♖xf6 23.♗xd5 ♗e5 24.♗xb7 ♕e7 25.♕e4

25.♕e2 ♕xb7!? 26.♕xe5 ♖xc2∞

25...♖f5! (D)



26.♖fe1?

We received a small email note from Alex Baburin. He wrote that "♖fe1 was a bad mistake − instead Alexander considered 26.♗xc8?? ♖h5+ 27.♔g1 ♗h2+ 28.♔h1 ♗f4+ 29.♔g1 ♖h1+ 30.♔xh1 ♕h4+ 31.♔g1 ♕h2#; the best defence" 26.g3 ♖c4 27.♕g2

26...♖f4!

Now White is lost. It is funny how Black's rook moved ♖f8−f6−f5−f4! (A.Baburin)

27.♕e3 ♖h4+

27...♖h4+ 28.♔g1 ♗h2+ 29.♔f1 ♗c4+ 30.♖d3 ♕xb7-+ **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.chessgate.de
http://italiascacchistica.com/pentium4/
http://www.swyoungmasters.co.uk
http://www.thechessdrum.net/WPM/WPM_CrossTable.html
http://www.schaakbond.nl
http://kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001/tabel.asp
http://www.shakki.net/turnaukset/hof01.htm

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-258, 23rd July 2001

Kramnik and Topalov not tourists

I have to confess: I'm not Cassandra at all! ☺ Yesterday I said that all the games of the last round would be very hard fought and … was absolutely wrong. Though maybe not quite absolutely: the games Morozevich – Kramnik and especially Topalov – Adams have a theoretical importance. Adams sacrificed a pawn in the Petroff Defence and received at least full positional compensation. Morozevich did the same in a Scotch Game but Kramnik immediately returned it. It looks as if all the players were too tired to fight tooth and nail and as a result – 3 short draws. Oh, sorry, 5 draws: Skripchenko-Lautier – Naiditcsh (21 moves) and Huebner – Fritz (only 9).

Our congratulations to all the winners and especially to Veselin Topalov who refuted Kasparov's words that in Dortmund there were 5 elite players … and Topalov. As usual in Dortmund, Kramnik is on the first step (sometimes he takes clear first sometimes he shares it). As usual Leko made a lot of draws (9 out of 10) and as usual (alas!) Morozevich lost a lot of games … Of course nobody could predict such poor results from Adams and Anand. But to tell the truth it's not the first time Vishy has taken a last place and played far below his real level. He has to think about it.

We are waiting for Dortmund-2002. Will it be a candidate tournament? And who will play there?

Results of the 10th Round:
Anand – Leko **½:½**
Morozevich – Kramnik **½:½**
Topalov – Adams **½:½**

Final standing:
1-2. Kramnik, Topalov – 6½ points
3. Leko – 5½
4. Morozevich – 5
5. Adams – 3½
6. Anand – 3

Arkadij Naiditsch – Almira Skripchenko Lautier: **7:3**

Dr. Robert Huebner – Deep Fritz: **3:3** (six draws).

♦ Wilbert Paige Memorial, *standing after the 8th Round:*
1. Muhammad – 6 points
2. Schleifer – 5 points out 9,
3-5. Kobese, Morrison, Rogers – 4
6-7. Solomon – 3½, Simpson – 3½ points out of 8 etc.

♦ **Alexander Rustemov** retains his leading position after drawing in the 7th Round of the 23rd Copenhagen Open (Politiken Cup). Today in our annotated game section we would like to show one of his victories.

Results of the 7th Round:
Jepson – Rustemov **½:½**
Ward – Nielsen **0:1**
De Firmian – Mortensen **½:½**
Hector – Hoi **½:½**
Gurevich – Jakobsen **1:0**
Speelman – Lezcano **1:0**
Pedersen – Psakhis **0:1**
Aaberg – McShane **0:1**

Standing after the 7th Round:
1. Rustemov – 6½ points
2-3. Nielsen, Jepson – 6
4-9. M. Gurevich, Speelman, Psakhis, de Firmian, McShane, Mortensen – 5½ etc.

Pairing for the 8th Round:
Rustemov – Nielsen
Hector – Jepson
McShane – Gurevich
Mortensen – Speelman
Psakhis – de Firmian

♦ *The* Heart of Finland Open, *final standing (there was 9 not 7 rounds):*
1. Rytchagov – 7½ points
2-7. Seeman, Novik, Kveinys, Ernst, Solozhenkin, Kengis – 7 etc.

♦ *CT has received the following information from our correspondent Jean LACASSAGNE (Paris, France):*

"I would like to report on the great Paris Chess Championship Opens (21/29th July)... This year, 748 chess players have come to us from all over the world.

There are four tournaments A,B,C and FIDE. Games are played in excellent conditions in the Gymnasium Halle Carpentier, near Porte de Choisy. The four top boards in the FIDE open are live on the internet web at http://chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/

This year the special guest is the French IGM Laurent Fressinet, and the others great players are: Bauer, Chabanon, Khenkin, Kruppa, Kuzmin, Timoschenko, Savchenko, Schneider, Sermek, Miroschminenko, Pavasovic, Nikcevic, Lupu, Stefanova, Te Roza, Inkiov, Murrey, Shirazi or Ohkotnik.....

On the first round (Saturday 16.OO pm), many favourites had nice successes ... Only Bauer, Kruppa and Khenkin made draws and the biggest surprise was the defeat of Nikcevic and Inkiov!

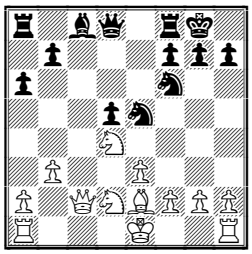
♦ One of the largest European opens has just started in Pardubice, Czech Republic. There are 303 players in the main open. After the second round 35 participants have 2 points. Among them Elo-favourites Vladimir Burmakin, Krishnan Sasikiran, Hannes Stefansson, Alexei Korotylev, Konstantin Chernyshov, Denis Yevseev and others.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by Vladimir Barsky

A Rustemov (2607) − J Hector (2552)
Politiken Cup Copenhagen (6), 20.07.2001 D45
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 ♗d6 7.b3 0-0 8.♗e2 e5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.♘b5 ♗b4+ 11.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 12.♘xd2 a6 13.dxe5! ♘xe5 14.♘d4



After the opening (Anti−Meran System) White has a small but long−term advantage because of Black's weak d5 pawn and "bad" Bishop on c8. But Black has better development and every chance for a draw.

14...♗g4

If Black exchanges Bishops he won't have any problems.

15.f3 ♖c8 16.♕b2 ♗d7 17.0-0 ♕b6 18.♖fc1 ♖fe8?!

White would like to exchange as many pieces (except the d7 Bishop of course) as his opponent allows. So better was 18...♘c6!? and Rfe8 only after that.

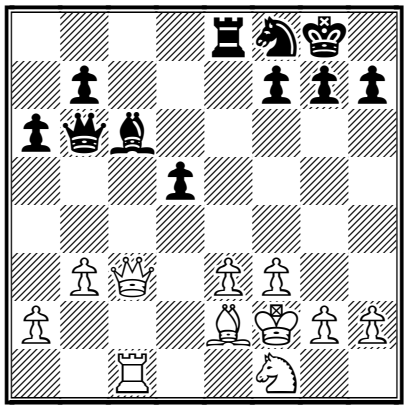
19.♖xc8 ♗xc8 20.♖c1 ♗d7 21.♕c3!

White takes the c−file and prepares for a Queen exchange on c5 or c7.

21...♘c6 22.♘xc6 ♗xc6

22...♖xe3? 23.♕d4; 22...bxc6?! 23.♔f2 and Qc5

23.♔f2 ♘d7 24.♘f1 ♘f8



25.♕d4!?

25.♕c5? ♕xc5 26.♖xc5 ♘e6 27.♖c1 d4 equal

25...♕a5

I think Black has to escape after 25...♕xd4 26.exd4 ♘e6 27.♖d1 a5!? with idea b7−b6, Bb7 and Rc8, because White Rook has to defend pawn d4 − it's not a good job for Rook.

26.♕d2 ♕b6 27.♘g3 g6

Or the White Knight will get to d4 via f5.

28.♗d1 ♘e6 29.♘e2

Another way to the same square.

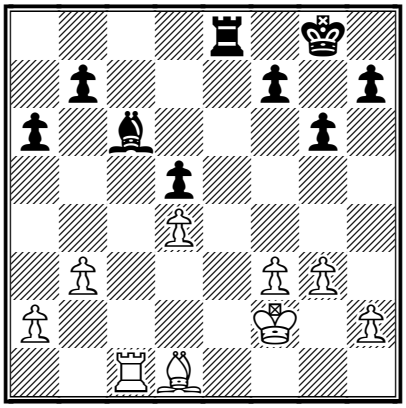
29...♕c7 30.g3 ♕e5

Black had the rather tricky move 30...♕d7!? with the idea 31.♘d4?! ♘xd4 32.♕xd4 ♕h3 33.♔g1 ♗b5! Not only is the d5−pawn weak, but White's Kingside too.

31.♘d4 ♘xd4 32.♕xd4 ♕xd4?!

I don't like this move. With Queens − 32...♕e6!? − Black has more chances while an endgame will be one of two results: draw or loss.

33.exd4



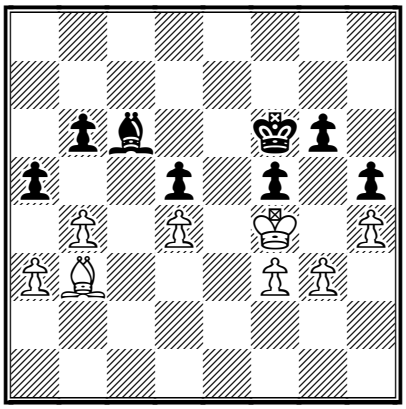
33...♔f8?!

With a light−squared Bishop and all his pawns on white squares Black can't drawn. Better was 33...g5!?

34.h4! h5?

Maybe this or maybe Black's next move is a decisive mistake. It is a bit strange that a very strong GM don't want to follow Capablanca's advice to place pawns on squares of opposite colour to your Bishop (with light−square Bishop − on dark square and vice−versa).

35.♖c3! f5? 36.♖e3 ♖xe3 37.♔xe3 ♔e7 38.♔f4 ♔f6 39.b4! b6 40.♗b3 a5 41.a3



This is a first zugzvang. The King can't move so the Bishop has to leave the c6 square.

41...♗b7 42.b5!

White's idea (very typical to tell the truth) will be clear very soon.

42...♗a8 43.g4! fxg4 44.fxg4 hxg4 45.♔xg4 ♗b7 46.♔f4

Here it is: White would like to play Bb3−d1-g4−d7−c6, while the Black King has to defend squares e5 and g5.

46...♗c8

An attempt at counterplay. Too late...

47.♗xd5 ♗h3 48.♗c4 ♗f5 49.d5 ♗c2 50.d6 ♗f5 51.♗e2!

51...♔e6 52.♗g4+−

51...♗c2 52.♗g4 ♗b3 53.♔e4

It's a time for the King to be activated.

53...♗c4 54.♗d7 ♗b3 55.♔d4 ♗d1 56.♗e8 ♗h5 57.a4!

The second zugzvang. The King has to go.

57...♔e6 58.d7 ♔e7 59.♔e5 ♗d1 60.♗xg6 ♗xa4 61.h5 ♗b3 62.h6 ♗g8 63.h7

1-0

A very technical win by White.

♘♘♘

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.chessgate.de
http://www.thechessdrum.net/WPM/WPM_CrossTable.html
http://kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001/tabel.asp
http://www.shakki.net/turnaukset/hof01.htm
http://www.proclient.cz/czechopen/Vysledky/Results.htm

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-259, 24th July 2001

Judit Polgar celebrates her 25th birthday.

Polgar - Kasparov

The greatest woman player of all time, she has actually avoided playing in women's competitions. Many top players have doubted her ability to stay at the very top level – she has proved her strength by beating all the critics over the board! You probably remember her latest achievements: +7(!) at the Olympiad in Istanbul 2000, playing for the Hungary Men's team, equal second in Linares 2001, where she was the only player who stressed Garry Kasparov in their intestine games and drew the mini-match and 3-4 places at the recent European Championship where only defeat in the last round and then unsuccessful play in the rapid match against Zurab Azmaiparashvili spoiled a bronze medal. Today we would like to present a couple of highlights from her practice (accidentally against the same opponent – sorry, Zurab!☺).

Chess Today congratulates Judit on her birthday and wishes her all the best in chess and life!

There are a lot of tournaments these days, let's take a look at them.

♦ A double round robin super-tournament started today in ***Biel***, Switzerland. Let's remind you of the list of participants:

Boris Gelfand	ISR	2714
Peter Svidler	RUS	2695
Joel Lautier	FRA	2675
Alexander Grischuk	RUS	2669
Viktor Kortchnoi	SUI	2617
Yannick Pelletier	SUI	2531

The evergreen 70 years old **Victor Korchnoi** became the hero of the 1st Round – he beat top-seeded Boris Gelfand with black. Previous winner **Peter Svidler** outplayed Alexander Grischuk.

Results of the 1st Round:
Svidler – Grischuk **1:0**
Pelletier – Lautier **½:½**
Gelfand – Korchnoi **0:1**
Standings after the 1st Round:
1-2. Svidler, Korchnoi – 1 point
3-4. Lautier, Pelletier – ½
5-6. Gelfand, Grischuk – 0

♦ **Semen Dvoiris** (Russia) keeps a sole lead at the ***Dutch Open*** in Dieren after beating Jan Werle in the 6th Round. He scored 5½ points, half a point ahead of Sergey Krivoshey (Ukraine).

Some results of the 6th Round:
Dvoiris – Werle **1:0**
Krivoshey – Ikonnikov **1:0**
Brodsky – Ernst **½:½**
Ami – Berelovich **½:½**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Dvoiris – 5½ points,
2. Krivoshey – 5
3-7. Brodsky, Ernst, Ami, Berelovich, Werle – 4½ etc.

♦ The ELO-favourite of the ***Paris Championships*** **Laurant Fressinet** (France) as well as 32 other players keep a perfect score after the 2nd Round.

♦ 11 players, including top-seeded **Vladimir Burmakin** (Russia), are sharing the lead with a perfect score after the 3rd Round of the ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice.

♦ **Anton Korobov** (Ukraine) has a full point clear lead after the 6th Round of the ***European Junior Championships*** (under 20) in Patras, Greece. **Iweta Radziewicz** (Poland) and **Alina Motoc** (Romania) are sharing the lead on the Girls event.

Standings after the 6th Round:
Boys:
1. Korobov - 5½ points
2. Timofeev, Berg, Izoria – 4½ etc.

Girls:
1-2. Radziewicz, Motoc – 5 points
3-4. Matnadze, Javakhishvili – 4½ etc.

♦ **Garry Kasparov** visited *Patras* – he won a six game blitz match against Greek Champion Hristodoulos Banikas (5½:½), gave a simultaneous against 20 players and a *press-conference* at the University of Patras. "We must clean our house…" – you can find the full text at the site of the *Greek Chess Federation*.

♦ There is another event underway in Patras. After the 5th Round of the strong "***Patra Open***" GMs **Vassilios Kotronias** (Greece), **Tamaz Gelashvili** (Georgia) and IM **Andrei Rychagov** (Russia) are sharing the lead with 4½ points. 20 players are in chase.

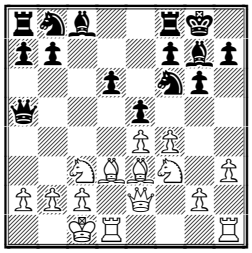
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

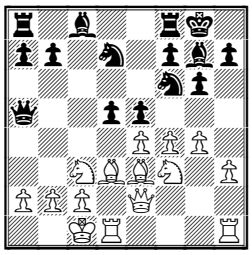
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

J Polgar (2555) − Z Azmaiparashvili (2575)
OHRA−B Amsterdam, 1989 B09

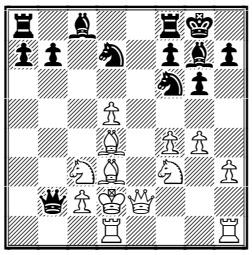
1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.f4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 c5 6.dxc5 ♕a5 7.♗d3 ♕xc5 8.♕e2 0-0 9.♗e3 ♕a5 10.h3!?
Preventing Bg4. 10.0-0 ♗g4 is known to be acceptable for Black.
10...e5
The tempting 10...♘h5?! could have been well met by 11.♔f2 followed by 12.g4 with good attacking prospects.
11.0-0-0!?



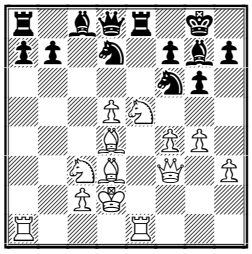
An ambitious approach, quite typical for Judit Polgar. After 11.0-0 ♘c6 wasn't too annoying for Black.
11...♘bd7
Here 11...♘h5 can be countered by 12.f5!? ♘g3 13.♕e1 ♘xh1 14.g4! with a strong initiative. Look how Black was smashed in the game S.Polgar − Van Wely, Wijk aan Zee 1990 14...gxf5?! (14...d5!?) 15.gxf5 ♕d8 16.♗c4 ♔h8 17.♘g5 ♗h6 (17...f6 18.♘xh7) 18.♕h4 ♗xg5 19.♗xg5 f6 20.♗h6 ♘d7 21.♖g1 ♕e7 22.♕g4 and Black resigned.
12.g4 d5!



Black is in hurry to organise a counterplay. After 12...exf4 13.♗xf4 ♘e5 14.♗xe5 dxe5 15.♗c4 White has achieved a superior position.
13.exd5 e4 14.♘xe4 ♕xa2
14...♘xe4 15.♗xe4 ♖e8 (15...♕xa2 16.c3) 16.♗d4 was bad for Black.
15.♘c3! ♕a1+ 16.♔d2 ♕xb2 17.♗d4



17...♕b4?!
It was better to push the white queen away first: 17...♖e8 18.♕g2 (18.♕f2 ♘c5! 19.♗xc5? ♘xg4!) 18...♕b4 19.♖b1 ♕d6 and in case of 20.♘e5 Black can simply sacrifice an exchange by 20...♘xe5! 21.fxe5 ♖xe5 and White's king cannot feel comfortable in the centre.
18.♖b1 ♕a5
18...♕d6 19.♗e5
19.♖a1 ♕c7
The immediate 19...♕d8 was probably better.
20.♘e5
Now the knight is well placed on e5.
20...♕d8 21.♕f3 ♖e8 22.♖he1



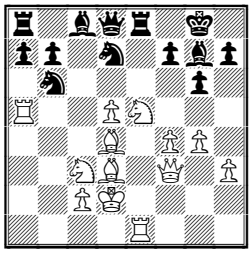
All White's pieces are in action now. However, the position still looks unclear as Black can find some tricks utilising the central placement of the

White king.

22...♘b6 23.♖a5!

White is playing with all her pieces while Black still cannot complete his development.

23...♘fd7



24.d6?

This active move looks very logical but it helps Black to develop the bishop c8. Much stronger was 24.♖b5! a6 25.♖bb1 with advantage as Black can hardly play without weakening moves like ...f7−f6.

24...♘xe5 25.fxe5 ♗e6 26.♖c5

The rook finds an unusual way to penetrate to the 7th rank.

26...♕g5+!?

26...♘d7 27.♖c7

27.♗e3 ♕d8

At the cost of some time Black has defended against the rook's penetration but White has another active plan.

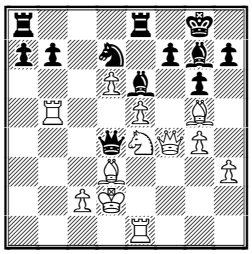
28.♘e4?!

Judit does not think about repetition. However, her decision is probably too risky.

28...♘d7 29.♗g5 ♕b6 30.♖b5 ♕d4?

After 30...♕c6! with the idea of meeting 31.♕f4 with 31...a6 pushing the rook away from the defence of the e5−pawn White could find herself in trouble.

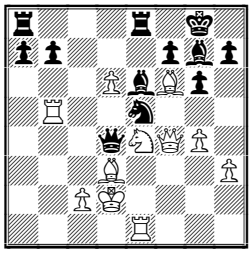
31.♕f4!



31...♘xe5!?

An interesting, but very risky move, especially in time trouble − it is quite possible to miss something here. 31...♗xe5? was losing due to 32.♖xe5 ♘xe5 33.♘f6+; while 31...♔h8 seemed to be safer but wasn't completely satisfactory for Black: 32.♘f6! (32.♘c3 ♕xf4+ 33.♗xf4 b6) 32...♕xf4+ 33.♗xf4 ♗xf6!? (33...♘xf6 34.exf6 ♗xf6 35.♖xb7) 34.exf6 b6

32.♗f6!



An attempt to win the queen by 32.♘f6+? ♗xf6 33.♕xd4 failed to 33...♘f3+ 34.♔d1 ♘xd4

32...♗c4??

A big mistake which loses on the spot. 32...♗f5? was losing: 33.♖xe5 ♖xe5 34.♕xe5; 32...♘xd3? was also bad due to 33.cxd3 ♕a4! 34.♗xg7 ♕xb5 (34...♔xg7 35.♕e5+) 35.♗c3; 32...♗d5! was the only way which led to very sharp and unclear play.

33.♗xe5 ♖xe5

Or 33...♗xe5 34.♖xe5! ♖xe5 35.♘f6+

34.♘f6+!

Now it works very well.

34...♗xf6 35.♕xd4 ♖xe1 36.♕xc4 ♖ae8 37.d7 ♗g5+

Black resigned not waiting for 38. ♖g5. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
www.chess.gr/
www.otenet.gr/chessclub/2001
www.schaakbond.nl/
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
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www.proclient.cz/czechopen
www.thechessdrum.net/WPM
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-260, 25th July 2001

Korchnoi and Svidler Shine in Biel

Both leaders of the very strong tournament in ***Biel*** won again – **Peter Svidler** beat Joel Lautier while the great **Victor Korchnoi** gave an instructive lesson of positional play to young Alexander Grischuk – enjoy it in the game section.

Notice that the tournament is very bloody till so far – only one draw in six games!

Results of the 1st Round:
Lautier – Svidler **0:1**
Korchnoi – Grischuk **1:0**
Gelfand – Pelletier **1:0**

Standings after the 2nd Round:
1-2. Svidler, Korchnoi – 2 points
3. Gelfand – 1
4-5. Lautier, Pelletier – ½
6. Grischuk – 0

Pairings for the 3rd Round:
Svidler – Gelfand
Pelletier – Korchnoi
Grischuk – Lautier

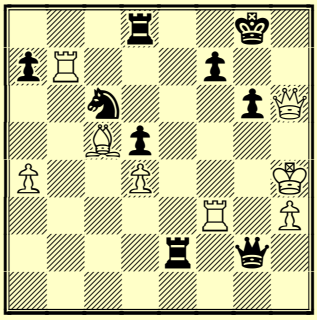
♦ **Semen Dvoiris** (Russia) retains the lead after the 7th Round of the ***Dutch Open*** in Dieren.

Some results of the 7th Round:
S. Ernst – Dvoiris **½:½**
Werle – Krivoshey **1:0**
Berelovich – Brodsky **½:½**
Moiseenko – Ami **½:½**

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Dvoiris – 6 points,
2. Werle – 5½
3-11. Krivoshey, Brodsky, Ernst, Ami, Berelovich, Ikonnikov, Dgebuadze, Peng Zhaoqin, Meijers etc.

♦ 13 players, including the ELO-favourite of the ***Paris Championships*** **Laurant Fressinet** (France) keep perfects score after the 3rd Round.

J Polgar (2555) – L Hansen (2525)
Vejstrup 1989 White to play



The last move was 32. ..♕g2?? Black was obviously going to play ...♖e4 next but a great surprise awaited him.

♦ GM **Alexander Moroz** (Ukraine) and IM **Alexey Gavrilov** (Russia) are leading after the 4th Round of the strong ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice – both players keep a perfect score. 16 players are in chase.

♦ **Anton Korobov** (Ukraine) strengthened his lead at the ***European Junior Championships*** (under 20) in Patras, Greece after beating Emanuel Berg (Denmark) in the 7th Round. Zviad Izoria (Georgia) is a full point behind. **Iweta Radziewicz** (Poland) became a leader of the Girls event.

Standings after the 7th Round:
Boys:
1. Korobov - 6½ points
2. Izoria – 5½
3-4. Stryjecki, Jirka – 5 etc.

Girls:
1. Radziewicz – 6 points
2-3. Matnadze, Javakhishvili – 5½ etc.

♦ GM **Tamaz Gelashvili** (Georgia) took a sole lead on the strong "***Patra Open***" after beating a home GM Vassilios Kotronias in the 6th Round.

Standings after the 6th Round:
1. Gelashvili – 5½ points,
2-8. Istratescu, Halkias, Rychagov, Bagaturov, Marjanovic, Genov, K. Nikolaidis – 5 etc.

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov; technical editor – Graham Brown
Subscription is $15 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

♦ **Alexander Rustemov** (Russia) keeps the lead with 7 points after the 8th Round of the ***Politiken Cup*** in Copenhagen, Denmark.

♦ FM **Stephen Muhammad** (USA) has won the ***Wilbert Paige Memorial*** in Harlem – he also achieved the IM-norm with 6½ points out of 9 games. IMs **Michael Schleifer** (Canada) and **Watu Kobese** (South Africa) shared second place, half a point behind the winner.

It was not only the first international chess tournament ever held in Harlem, but also the strongest tournament in history in which every player either has been born in Africa or is of relatively recent African descent. Our congratulations to the winners!

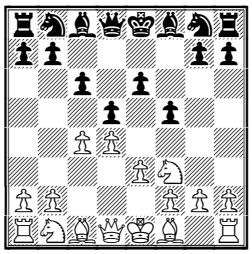
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

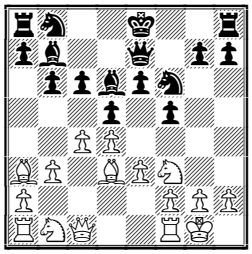
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Korchnoi (2617) − Grischuk (2669)
Biel Chess Festival Biel, Switzerland (2), 24.07.2001 A84

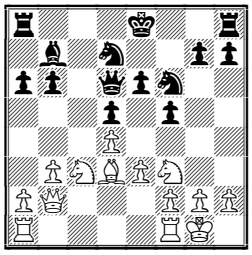
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c6 4.e3 f5



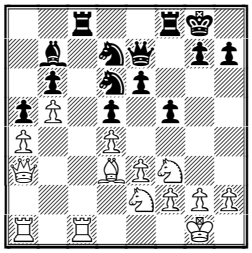
One of Grischuk's pet variations − a transposition from the Slav to the Stonewall.
5.♗d3 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♗d6 7.b3 ♕e7
Preventing an immediate ♗c1-a3.
8.♗b2 b6 9.♕c1 ♗b7 10.♗a3



Some years ago, when I also used to play this system with the black pieces, this was one of the most annoying plans for me − White exchanges dark−squared bishops, limiting Black's active possibilities. Generally White's advantage is small but Black should keep passive defence during the whole game.
10...♘bd7?!
In my opinion, this is a serious inaccuracy − Black shouldn't hurry to play with this knight, keeping the possibility to develop it to c6. 10...0-0 is normal. One fresh example from GM practice: 11.♗xd6 ♕xd6 12.♕a3 c5 13.cxd5 ♘xd5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.♗e2 f4! with good counterplay, Yakovich − Kharlov, ch−RUS, Elista RUS 2001.; the immediate 10...♗xa3 was also more to the point. In the ending Black keeps a slightly worse but defensible position.
11.cxd5! cxd5 12.♗xd6 ♕xd6 13.♘c3 a6 14.♕b2

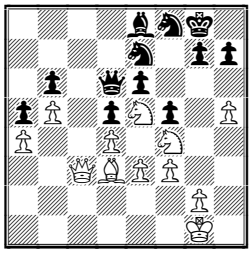


Thanks to the eternal weakness of the square e5 White has a stable advantage. Black's b7 bishop is also passive but a great technique is required to convert such small pluses to the full point.
14...0-0 15.b4
In the game Kiselev − Totsky, Spasskoe 1996 White transposed the knight to f4 a little bit hastily: 15.♘e2 ♖fc8 16.♘f4 ♘e4 17.b4 ♖c7 18.a4 ♖ac8, after which he had to be careful about Black's counterplay on the c−file.
15...♖ac8 16.a4 ♘e4 17.♘e2 ♕e7
Moving the knight to d6. 17...♖c7 18.♖fc1 couldn't solve the problems.
18.♖fc1 ♘d6 19.b5! a5 20.♕a3



20...♖xc1+
Preferring a passive approach. Perhaps 20...e5!? 21.dxe5 ♘xe5 was not as suspicious as it looked − it may promise a counterplay.
21.♖xc1 ♖c8 22.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 23.♕c3
The exchanges of all rooks didn't bring much relief − due to the lack of space and passivity of the pieces Black has certain problems.

23...♕d6 24.♘f4 ♘e7 25.h4! ♘f8 26.h5 ♗c8 27.♘e5 ♗d7 28.f3 ♗e8



Black has managed to improve the position of his bishop − however it hasn't become much more active after that.

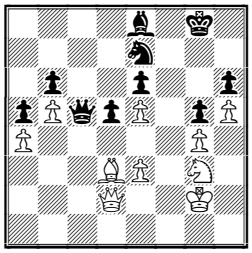
29.g4 g5!? 30.♘e2

Continuing his own play. 30.hxg6!? followed by g4−g5 also came to mind.

30...♘d7 31.♔g2 h6 32.♘g3 fxg4 33.fxg4 ♘xe5

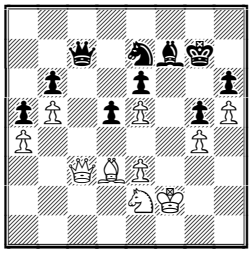
Black could hardly live without this exchange.

34.dxe5 ♕c5 35.♕d2



It could seem that Black has got some activity but look at his minor pieces − their routes have many restrictions and all stops are predetermined.

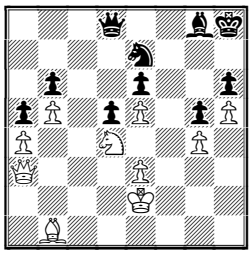
35...♕c7 36.♕b2 ♔g7 37.♘e2 ♔g8 38.♔f2 ♗f7 39.♕d4 ♔g7 40.♕c3



40...♕b8

In the ending after 40...♕xc3 41.♘xc3 White plays e3−e4 and sooner or later gets to Black's weaknesses. However, with the queens on the board Black's position looks even less attractive.

41.♘d4 ♕d8 42.♔e2 ♗g8 43.♗b1 ♔h8 44.♕a3



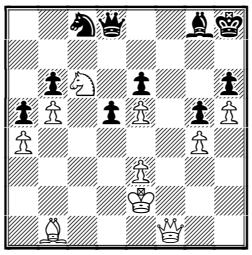
44...♘c8

♕a3−d6 cannot be allowed.

45.♗g6 ♔g7 46.♗b1 ♔h8 47.♕c1! ♘e7

This loses instantly but Black's position was helpless anyway.

48.♕f1! ♘c8 49.♘c6



♕f8 is coming. Black decided he has had enough. A very instructive game and excellent technique by Victor Korchnoi! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:
www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
www.chess.gr/
www.otenet.gr/chessclub/2001
www.schaakbond.nl/
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001
www.proclient.cz/czechopen
www.thechessdrum.net/WPM
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

Answer to quiz

33.♕g7+!! A bolt from the blue − it is White who is mating! 33 ♔xg7 34.♖fxf7+ ♔h8 35.♖h7+ ♔g8 36.♖bg7# **1-0**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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CT-261, 26th July 2001

Svidler takes lead in Biel

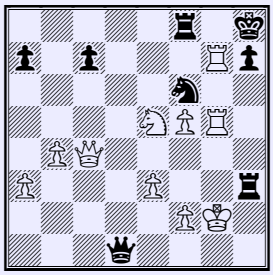
Peter Svidler took the lead at the very strong tournament in ***Biel***, Switzerland. This became clear after the rather unexpected defeat of Victor Korchnoi to Yannik Pelletier. Both remaining games were peaceful.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Svidler – Gelfand **½:½**
Pelletier – Korchnoi **1:0**
Grischuk – Lautier **½:½**

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1. Svidler – 2½ points
2. Korchnoi – 2
3-4. Gelfand, Pelletier – 1½
5. Lautier – 1
6. Grischuk – ½

Pairings for the 4th Round:
Svidler – Korchnoi
Lautier – Gelfand
Grischuk – Pelletier

Janssen 2429 – Van den Doel 2564
Dieren (8), 25.07.2001



White to play
Can you find the quickest way to win?

♦ **Alexander Rustemov** (Russia) retains the lead after the 9th Round of the ***Politiken Cup*** in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Some results of the 9th Round:
Psakhis – Rustemov ½:½
Jepson – Hoi ½:½
P. H. Nielsen – Brynell ½:½
M.Gurevich – Mortensen 1:0
Speelman – McShane ½:½
Berg – Hector 0:1

Standings after the 9th Round:
1. Rustemov – 7½ points,
2-7. M.Gurevich, P. H. Nielsen, Psakhis, Hector, Hoi, Jepson – 7 etc.

There are two rounds to play.

♦ **Semen Dvoiris** (Russia) keeps sole lead before the last round of the ***Dutch Open*** in Dieren.
Some results of the 8th Round:
Dvoiris – Ikonnikov ½:½
Dgebuadze – Werle ½:½
Brodsky – Meijers ½:½
S. Ernst – Berelovich 1:0
Ami – Krivoshey 0:1
Rogozenko – Peng Zhaoqin 1:0

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Dvoiris – 6½ points,
2. Krivoshey, Werle, S. Ernst – 6 etc.

♦ After the 4th Round of the ***Paris Championships*** the ELO-favourite **Laurant Fressinet** (France), **Alexander Shneider** and **Alexander Okhotnik** (both of Ukraine) are sharing the lead with perfect score. 16 players are half a point behind.

♦ IM **Alexey Gavrilov** (Russia) retains a perfect score after beating GM Alexander Moroz (Ukraine) in the 5th Round of the ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice. 16 players are in chase.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Gavrilov – 5 points,
2-6. Tomashevsky, Vokac, Navara, Teske, Tolstykh – 4½

♦ In the 8th Round of the ***European Junior Championships*** (under 20) in Patras, Greece **Zviad Izoria** (Georgia) beat **Anton Korobov** (Ukraine) and caught him in the lead with 6½ points. **Iweta Radziewicz** (Poland) is dominating the Girls event with 7 points.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Boys:
Izoria – Korobov 1:0
Stryjecki – Jirka 1:0
Timofeev – Postny ½:½
Dziuba – Buhmann 0:1
Berg – Guseinov 0:1
Mastrovasilis – Berkvens 0:1

Girls:
Hodova – Radziewicz 0:1
Matnadze – Zakurdjaeva 0:1
Motoc – Javakhishvili 0:1

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov; technical editor – Graham Brown
Subscription is $15 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Standings after the 8th Round:
Boys:
1-2. Izoria, Korobov - 6½ points
3. Stryjecki – 6
4-5. Buhmann, Guseinov – 5½ etc.

Girls:
1. Radziewicz – 7 points
2. Javakhishvili – 6½
3. Zakurdjaeva – 6
4. Matnadze – 5½ etc.

♦ In the 7th Round of the strong "***Patra Open*** the top-seeded GM **Andrei Istratescu** (Romania) beat Tamaz Gelashvili (Georgia) and overtook him in the lead with 6 points. Greek Champion **Stelios Halkias** smashed Peter Genov (Bulgaria) and became joint leader of the event – please enjoy his aggressive style in the game section.

Some results of the 7th Round:
Istratescu – Gelashvili 1:0
Halkias – Genov 1:0
Rychagov – Bagaturov ½:½
Marjanovic – K. Nikolaidis ½:½

Standings after the 7th Round:
1-2. Istratescu, Halkias – 6 points,
3-11. Kotronias, Krakops, Gelashvili, Potapov, Rychagov, Barsov, Bagaturov, Marjanovic, K. Nikolaidis – 5 etc.

♦ There was no winner in our Dortmund quiz - Anand and Topalov confused everyone! Virtually everybody included Anand in the top 2!

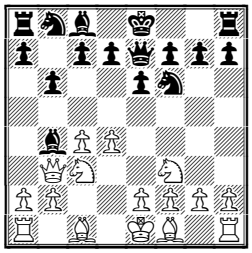
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

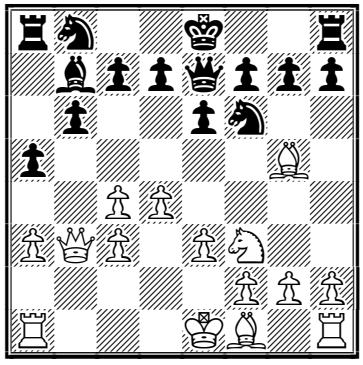
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

S Halkias (2505) − P Genov (2473)
3rd International Open of Patras Rio (7.2), 24.07.2001 E21

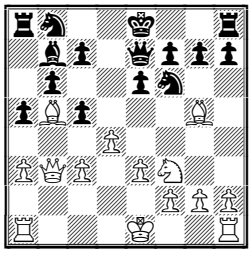
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.♘c3 ♗b4 5.♕b3 ♕e7



6.♗g5
Both 6.g3 and 6.a3 are more common options.
6...♗b7 7.e3 a5
Black usually pushes the bishop on g5 first: 7...h6 8.♗h4 (8.♗xf6 ♗xc3+ 9.♕xc3 ♕xf6 10.♗e2 0-0 11.0-0 d6 is okay for Black) 8...a5 (8...♗xc3+ 9.♕xc3 g5 10.♗g3 ♘e4 11.♕c2 d6 is also playable, Barsov − Taleb, Abudhabi 2000) 9.a3 ♗xc3+ 10.♕xc3 d6 11.♗d3 ♘bd7 with acceptable play for Black, Campos Moreno − Pogorelov, La Bordeta 1999.
8.a3 ♗xc3+ 9.bxc3!?



A new and interesting continuation. At first sight White has just ruined his pawn structure himself but this pawn capture has some pluses: White intends to attack Black's queenside by c4−c5 and the opened b−file will be very useful; besides, another c−pawn will help to keep the d5 square under control by c3−c4 and it may be advanced further as well. 9.♕xc3 was played in the game Seirawan − A. Sokolov, Montpellier (ct) 1985 and after 9...♘e4 10.♗xe7 ♘xc3 11.♗h4 ♘e4 Black has got a slightly worse ending.
9...d6
Mikhail Chigorin (and probably Alexander Morozevich) would hardly think too much before giving up another bishop: 9...♗xf3!? 10.gxf3 a4!? 11.♕c2 ♘c6 and it doesn't seem to be easy for White to open the position for the bishops although his chances still should be preferred.
10.c5!?
A typical breakthrough, White wants to complete his development with maximum effect. The drawback is obvious − the pawn is sacrificed.
10...dxc5 11.♗b5+



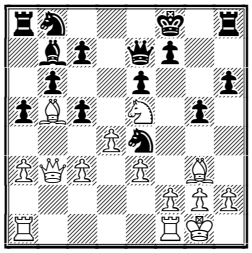
11...♔f8

Of course, after 11...c6 12.♗d3 ♘bd7 Black was stressed over the b−file. Nevertheless it looked safer − the possibility to castle the king is not such a bad rule in chess. According to Evgeny Sveshnikov, it slightly favours Black, who faces more risks in the opening − one of his suggestions to decrease the amount of draws in chess is to abolish this rule!

12.♘e5 h6 13.♗h4 g5 14.♗g3 ♘e4

In case of 14...♗xg2 15.♖g1 ♗b7 16.0-0-0⩲ White had good compensation for the pawn thanks to the advantage in development and the vulnerable position of Black's king.

15.0-0!?



An interesting idea − White would like to check the level of his opponent's greediness. **15...♘d2**

Actually it is not bad to provide himself with some more material − Black has problems with development anyway.

16.♕c2 ♘xf1 17.♖xf1 ♔g7 18.f4 f5 19.fxg5

Otherwise Black will be happy to close the kingside by ...g5−g4.

19...hxg5 20.♗d3

The f−file has to be opened by any cost!

20...♖f8?!

As will become clear soon, the rook is quite useful in defence on the h−file so 20...♖h6!? deserved serious attention. Black was possibly worried about 21.♗xf5!? exf5 22.♖xf5 but after 22...♗d5!? he was defending. A possible play was 23.♘g4 ♗e4 24.♗e5+! ♕xe5 25.♖f7+! ♔h8 and White should probably agree to the repetition of moves by 26.♖f8+ ♔g7 27.♖f7+!=

21.♕e2! ♕e8?!

Perhaps 21...♖f6!? was more stubborn.

22.e4

Now Black is in big trouble.

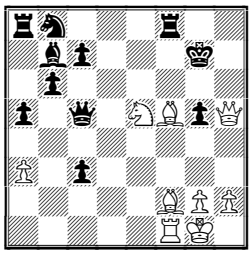
22...cxd4

22...f4 was met by 23.♕g4!; while the position after 22...♘c6 23.exf5 exf5 24.♗xf5 ♘e7 25.♕g4 ♖xf5 26.♖xf5 ♘xf5 27.♕xg5+ ♔h8 28.♕xf5→ can be hardly defended.

23.exf5 exf5 24.♗xf5 dxc3

It was too late to give Black better advice − he hasn't managed to include his queenside pieces into the defence. 24...♘c6 25.♕g4+− was equally bad.

25.♕g4 ♕e7 26.♕h5 ♕c5+ 27.♗f2



Black resigned. **1-0**

Quiz Answer: 1.♖g8+! ♘xg8 2.♕xg8+!
and checkmate next move. **1-0**

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www.chess.gr
www.otenet.gr/chessclub/2001
www.schaakbond.nl/
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-262, 27th July 2001

Svidler Remains on top in Biel.

All games were drawn in the 5th Round of the very strong tournament in ***Biel***, Switzerland so the situation is unchanged – the last year winner **Peter Svidler** is the leader, followed closely by the veteran Victor Korchnoi, in clear second, a half point behind.

Results of the 4th Round:
Svidler – Korchnoi ½:½
Lautier – Gelfand ½:½
Grischuk – Pelletier ½:½

Alexander Grischuk played a very interesting game and was close to success at some point but in severe time trouble he made some mistakes. Nevertheless he managed to save the half point by an heroic defence in a rook endgame.

Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Svidler – 3 points
2. Korchnoi – 2½
3-4. Gelfand, Pelletier – 2
5. Lautier – 1½
6. Grischuk – 1

Pairings for the 5th Round:
Pelletier – Svidler
Korchnoi – Lautier
Gelfand – Grischuk

Dutch Champion **Peter-Heine Nielsen** and twice Soviet Champion **Lev Psakhis** joined **Alexander Rustemov** (Russia) at the lead after the preliminary 10th Round of the ***Politiken Cup*** in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Some results of the 10th Round:
Rustemov – M.Gurevich ½:½
P.-H.Nielsen – Jepson 1:0
Hoi – Psakhis 0:1
Hector – Speelman 0:1
McShane – de Firmian 0:1
Brynell – Aaberg 1:0
Standings after the 9th Round:
1-3. Rustemov, P.-H.Nielsen, Psakhis – 8 points
4-7. M.Gurevich, Speelman, de Firmian, Brynell – 7½ etc.

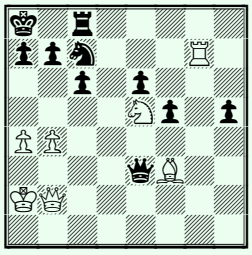
The ELO-favourite of the ***Paris Championships***, a home GM **Laurant Fressinet,** keeps a perfect score after the 5th Round.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Fressinet – 5 points
2-7. Shneider, Lupu, Murrey, Bergez, Miroshnichenko, Szabolcsi – 4½ etc.

Home GM, **Marek Vokac,** took the lead at the ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice after beating Alexey Gavrilov (Russia) in the 6th Round.

Some results of the 6th Round:
Vokac – Gavrilov 1:0
Tomashevsky – Navara ½:½
Tolstykh – Teske ½:½
Moroz – Burmakin 0:1

Postny – Stryjecki
From our annotated Game
Black has just played
46…♕c3–e3



Can you find the winning line forWhite? Solution in game section.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Vokac – 5½ points,
2-9. Gavrilov, Burmakin, Tomashevsky, Womacka, Navara, Kalinitschew, Teske, Tolstykh – 5 etc.

In the 9th Round of the ***European Junior Championships*** (under 20) in Patras, Greece **Anton Korobov** (Ukraine) took sole lead again. Zviad Izoria (Georgia) is half a point behind. In the Girls event all the leaders won their games, **Iweta Radziewicz** (Poland) is on top with 8 points.

Some results of the 9th Round:
Boys:
Guseinov – Izoria ½:½
Korobov – Buhmann 1:0
Postny – Stryjecki 1:0
Jirka – Timofeev 0:1

Girls:
Radziewicz – Richards 1:0
Javakhishvili – Makka 1:0
Zakurdjaeva – Karlovich 1:0

Matras – Matnadze 0:1

Standings after the 9th Round:
Boys:
1. Korobov – 7½ points**,**
2. Izoria – 7
3-6. Timofeev, Postny, Guseinov, Stryjecki – 6 etc.

Girls:
1. Radziewicz – 8 points
2. Javakhishvili – 7½
3. Zakurdjaeva – 7
4. Matnadze – 6½ etc.

Greek Champion **Stelios Halkias** won the strong ***Patra Open***. **T**op-seeded GM **Andrei Istratescu** (Romania) shared second place with GMs Vassilios Kotronias (Greece) and Maris Krakops (Latvia).

Some results of the 8th Round:
Istratescu – Halkias ½:½
Bagaturov – Kotronias ½:½
Krakops – Barsov 1:0
Gelashvili – Marjanovic 1:0

Some results of the final 9th Round:
Krakops – Istratescu ½:½
Halkias – Gelashvili 1:0
Banikas – Bagaturov ½:½
Rychagov – Ovsejevich ½:½
Kotronias – Miladinovich 1:0

Final standings:
1. Halkias – 7½ points
2-4. Istratescu, Kotronias, Krakops – 7…

Semen Dvoiris (Russia) won the ***Dutch Open*** in Dieren.

Some results of the final 9th Round:
Moiseenko – Dvoirys ½:½
Krivoshey – S.Ernst ½:½
Werle – Brodsky ½:½
Ikonnikov – Dgebuadze 0:1
Meijers – Rogozenko 1:0

Final standings:
1. Dvoiris – 7 points,
2-6. Krivoshey, Werle, S. Ernst, Meijers, Dgebuadze – 6½ etc.

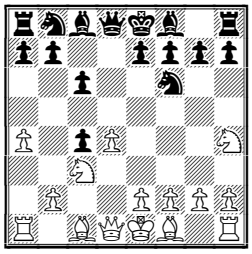
Our congratulations to the winners of these recently finished tournaments.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

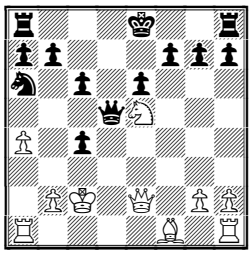
E. Postny (2486) − M. Stryjecki (2441)
EuchJM (9.3), 25.07.2001 D17
Notes by Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.♘h4 ♗c8 (D)



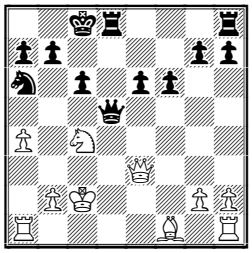
7.♘f3
The position with an isolated pawn after 7.e3 e5 8.♗xc4 exd4 9.exd4 ♗e7 10.0-0 0-0± promises a slight edge for White, but Postny prefers another way.

7...♗f5 8.♘e5 e6 9.f3 ♗b4 10.e4 ♗xe4 11.fxe4 ♘xe4 12.♗d2 ♕xd4 13.♘xe4 ♕xe4+ 14.♕e2 ♗xd2+ 15.♔xd2 ♕d5+ 16.♔c2 ♘a6 (D)



17.♕e1!?
Perhaps this rare continuation deserves more attention. White intends to capture the pawn on c4 with the bishop and so forces Black to advance the f−pawn. 17.♘xc4 is the well worn track. These days Black more often goes for 17...0-0 18.♕e5 ♖ab8 and here Ivanchuk's invention 19.a5!? (Ivanchuk − Bareev, Montecatini Terme 2000) caused Bareev some headache − you may remember the games Topalov − Khalifman, Istanbul (ol) 2000 and Anand − Khalifman, New Delhi 2000.

17...f6 18.♘xc4 0-0-0 19.♕e3



As a result, a well−known position has arisen. It promises White a small advantage and, moreover, he was maybe satisfied to entice Black into the variation which is recently supposed to be not his best option and so it has been forgotten for awhile.

19...♘c5

19...♔b8 is a common option. A possible line of play is 20.♗e2 ♕xg2 21.♖hg1 ♕xh2 22.♖xg7 ♘b4+ 23.♔b3 ♘d5 24.♕f3± − this position was tested several times. One example: 24...h5 25.♖f1 ♖c8 26.♔a2 ♖c7 27.♖fg1 ♕f4 28.♕xf4 ♘xf4 29.♗f3± and White has maintained his small advantage, Kramnik − Lautier, Cannes (m/6) 1993.

20.b4 ♘a6

20...♘xa4?! was unsuccessful in the game Stohl − Haba, Prague 1989: 21.♗e2! ♘b6 (21...b5? 22.♖xa4! bxa4 23.♕xa7+−) 22.♘xb6+ axb6 23.♖hd1± with a big advantage; after 20...♕e4+ 21.♕xe4 ♘xe4 22.♗e2 h5 the players could have transposed to the game Gelfand − Hort, Munich 1991. (22...e5!?) According to Boris Gelfand, here White should have played 23.b5!? (23.♖hd1 ♖xd1 24.♖xd1 ♔c7±) 23...cxb5 24.axb5 ♔b8 25.b6 a6 26.♖hd1↑ with initiative.; 20...♕f5+ 21.♔c3 ♘e4+ 22.♔b3± was also better for White.

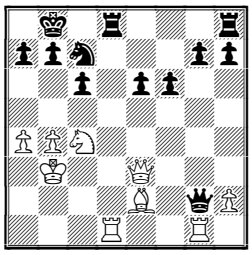
21.♔c3

21.♕xa7 was not so clear due to 21...♕e4+ (21...♘xb4+? 22.♔c3+−) 22.♔c3 c5!⇄ , intending to check on d4.

21...♔b8 22.♗e2 ♕xg2

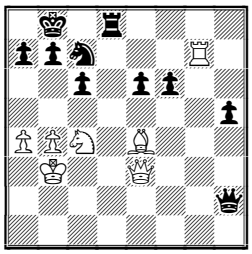
Perhaps Black should have paid more attention to 22...c5!?

23.♖ag1 ♕d5 24.♖d1 ♘c7!? 25.♔b3 ♕g2 26.♖dg1 ♕d5 27.♖d1 ♕g2 28.♖hg1 (D)



Black has 4 pawns for the piece but of course it is White who is playing for a win − with an extra piece this helps get to his opponent's king.

28...♕xh2 29.♖xg7 ♖xd1 30.♗xd1 ♖d8 31.♗c2 h5 32.♗e4! (D)



Suddenly Black has problems with his queen!

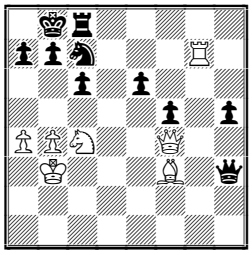
32...f5

32...h4? was losses instantly: 33.♖g2 ♕h1 34.♖d2+−; 32...♖e8!? deserved attention with the idea to follow ...f6−f5 with ...e6−e5 − at least it wasn't weakening the square e5.

33.♗f3 ♕h3?

Obviously Black shouldn't move the queen from the important diagonal.

34.♕f4 ♖c8 (D)



35.♔b2?

In the time trouble White failed to find the rather unexpected 35.♘d2! , covering the only available square for the queen and Black is in zugzwang: 35...h4 36.♔b2 a6 37.♔c2+− and so on.

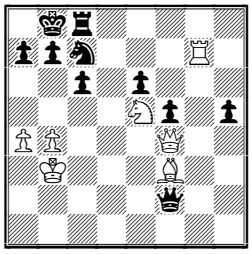
35...♕f1

Now Black is back in the game.

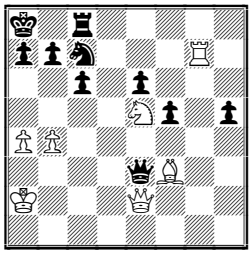
36.♘e5?!

A very logical continuation which has one

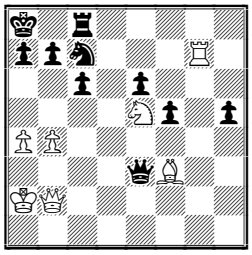
serious drawback − it unpins the knight on c7.
36...♕f2+ 37.♔b3 (D)



37...♕f1?!
After 37...♘d5! 38.♘d3+ ♘xf4 39.♘xf2 ♖h8 Black could hardly lose the ending.
38.♔b2 ♕f2+ 39.♔b3 ♕f1 40.♔a2 ♕f2+ 41.♔a3 ♕f1?!
41...♘d5!
42.♕h2 ♕e1 43.♔b3 ♕e3+ 44.♔a2 ♔a8
44...f4!? followed by ...♘d5 was interesting.
45.♕e2 (D)



45...♕c3?
A big mistake − Black correctly assumed that the queens should be kept on the board but actually helps White to swap them! Almost any other retreat was quite playable.
46.♕b2! ♕e3?? (D)



Black doesn't see the point. Yet, the ending after 46...♕xb2+ 47.♔xb2 was already not much fun as White's pieces are dominating.
47.♖xc7!
This probably came as a shock.
47...♖d8
47...♖xc7 48.♘g4! followed by ♕h8.
48.♖d7
Black resigned. An interesting and rather important theoretical game. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:
www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
www.chess.gr
www.otenet.gr/chessclub/2001
www.schaakbond.nl/
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001
www.proclient.cz/czechopen
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-263, 28th July 2001

Korchnoi takes sole lead in Switzerland

Victor Korchnoi has taken sole lead at the very strong tournament in ***Biel***, Switzerland! In the final 5th Round of the first circle he outplayed Joel Lautier in a worse endgame while Peter Svidler unexpectedly lost to **Yannick Pelletier**.

Results of the 5th Round:
Pelletier – Svidler **1:0**
Korchnoi – Lautier **1:0**
Gelfand – Grischuk **½:½**

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Korchnoi – 3½ points
2-3. Pelletier, Svidler – 3
4. Gelfand – 2½
5-6. Grischuk, Lautier – 1½

Tomorrow will be a rest day.

There is a strong open tournament underway in Biel. A clear leader of the event is **R. B. Ramesh** (India), who became a hero of the 4th Round beating Boris Avrukh (Israel).

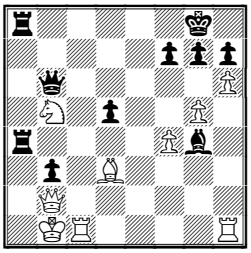
Standings after the 4th Round:
1. Ramesh – 4 points,
2-4. Pavlovic, Yagupov, Arizmedi – 3½..

Top boards of the 5th Round:
Pavlovic – Ramesh
Yagupov – Arizmedi
Mikhalevsky – Tukmakov
Avrukh – Rashkovsky

A home GM **Laurant Fressinet** and IM **Janos Szabolcsi** (Hungary) are leading after the 6th Round of the ***Paris Championships***

Standings after the 6th Round:
1-2. Fressinet, Szabolcsi – 5½ points
3-9. Shneider, Lupu, Savchenko, Bauer, Khenkin, Miroshnichenko, Shirazi – 5…

Prokopchuk – R. Scherbakov
chT–RUS Elista 1998



Black to play and win
Solution is in the notes to move 13 in today's annotated game.

A top-seeded GM **Vladimir Burmakin** (Russia) and GM **Mathias Womacka** (Germany) are heading the ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice.

Some results of the 7th Round:
Burmakin – Vokac 1:0
Navara – Womacka **0:1**
Teske – Tomashevsky **½:½**
Gavrilov – Kalinitschew **½:½**

Standings after the 7th Round:
1-2. Burmakin, Womacka – 6 points,
3-14. Gavrilov, Tomashevsky, Vokac, Fridman, Korotylev, Yevseev, Potkin, Kalinitschew, Neverov, Sergeev, Teske, Vorobjev – 5½ etc.

Five players shared the first place on the ***Politiken Cup*** in Copenhagen, Denmark. The winners are: Belgian Champion 2001 **Mikhail Gurevich** (you may remember his unbelievable 9 out of 9 performance!), Dutch Champion 2001 **Peter-Heine Nielsen**, twice Soviet Champion **Lev Psakhis** (Israel) as well as **Alexander Rustemov** (Russia) and **Nick de Firmian** (USA). at the lead after the preliminary 10th Round of.

Some results of the 11th Round:

Psakhis – P.-H. Nielsen **½:½**
Speelman – Rustemov **½:½**
M.Gurevich – J. Akesson **1:0**
de Firmian – Brynell **1:0**

Final standings:
1-5. M.Gurevich, Rustemov, P.-H.Nielsen, Psakhis, de Firmian – 8½
6-8. Speelman, Mortensen, Hoi – 8 etc.

Zviad Izoria (Georgia) and **Iweta Radziewicz** (Poland) became the winners of the ***European Junior Championships*** (under 20) in Patras, Greece.

Some results of the 10th Round:
Boys:
Timofeev – Korobov **1:0**
Postny – Izoria **½:½**
Stryjecki – Guseinov **½:½**

Girls:
Srebrnic - Radziewicz **0:1**
Sperdokli – Javakhishvili **0:1**
Richards – Zakurdjaeva **0:1**
Matnadze – Makka **1:0**

Some results of the 11th Round:
Boys:
Izoria – Pert **½:½**
Korobov – Postny **0:1**
Guseinov – Timofeev **½:½**
Buhmann – Stryjecki **1:0**
Dziuba – Berkvens **1:0**

Girls:
Radziewicz – Sebag **½:½**
Javakhishvili – Karlovich **½:½**
Zakurdjaeva – Matras **½:½**
Mietzner – Matnadze **0:1**

Final standings:
Boys:
1. Zviad Izoria (Georgia) – 8 points,
2. Anton Korobov (Ukraine) – 7½
3. Evgeny Postny (Israel) – 7½
4-6. Buhmann, Dziuba, Timofeev – 7½...

Girls:
1. Iweta Radziewicz (Poland) – 9½
2. Lela Javakhishvili (Georgia) – 9
3. Irina Zakurdjaeva (Russia) – 8½
4. Ana Matnadze (Russia) – 8½ etc.

Our congratulations for all the winners!

The information from ***Mark Crowther*** (TWIC): the **Continental Open** in Las Vegas takes place 26th – 29th July. It is a four-day event although there are different schedules. The 3-day schedule players begin this afternoon and merge with the 4-day players this evening. On Saturday, the 2 day schedule players will play three rounds and merge for round 4 in the evening. Rounds 5 and 6 will have all the players combined.

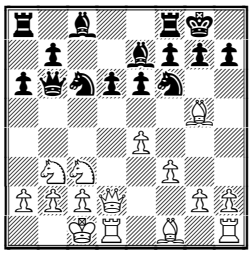
Some results of the 1st Round:
Patterson – Onischuk **0:1**
Sulskis – Marrero **1:0**
Langer – Atalik **0:1**
Yermolinsky – Noble **1:0**
Koo – Blatny **½:½**
Harmon – Browne **0:1**

♘♘♘

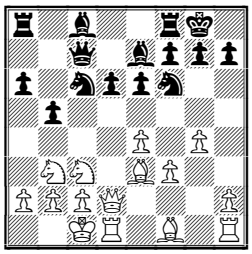
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
T Calistri (2305) − V Okhotnik (2446)
Paris Championship (6), 26.07.2001 B66

Look how French player Tristan Calistri smashed the experienced IM Vladimir Okhotnik.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♕d2 a6 8.0-0-0 ♕b6 9.♘b3 ♗e7 10.f3 0-0

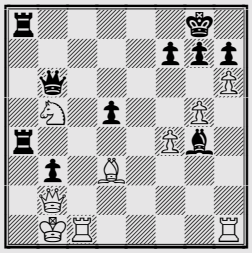


The position with opposite−castled kings creates very sharp and complicated play, where every move has to be well−thought out.
11.g4 ♕c7 12.♗e3 b5



13.♗d3
It looks more natural to start with 13.g5 although the same positions may be reached. One example from my own practice: 13...♘d7 14.f4 ♘b6! 15.♗d3 (after 15.♕f2 ♖b8 16.h4 ♘a4! Black has obtained very good counterplay in the game Nezhmetdinov − Taimanov, Baku 1951: 17.♗d2 ♘xc3 18.♗xc3 b4 19.♗d2 a5 20.♔b1 a4 21.♘c1 ♗d7 22.♗d3 ♖fc8 23.h5 ♘a5 with mutual chances) 15...♖e8 16.h4 b4 17.♘e2 a5 18.♔b1 d5! with an excellent play. The game Prokopchuk − R. Scherbakov, chT−RUS Elista 1998 continued by 19.♗xb6 ♕xb6 20.exd5 exd5 21.h5 a4 22.♘bd4 b3! 23.♘xc6 ♕xc6 24.cxb3 axb3 25.a3 ♗g4

26.♖c1 ♕b6 27.♘c3 ♗xa3!! 28.bxa3 ♖xa3 29.♘b5 ♖a4 30.h6 ♖ea8 31.♕b2

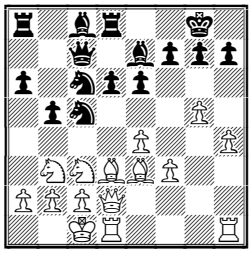


31...♖a1+! 32.♕xa1 ♖xa1+ 33.♔xa1 ♕f2-+ and Black eventually won.

13...♖d8?!

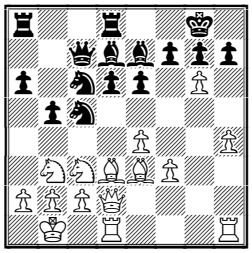
This rook move is just odd in this situation.

14.g5 ♘d7 15.h4 ♘c5?!



The way Black arranges his pieces can be usually seen in the Velimirovich Attack. Here 15...♘b6 is more to the point, as we saw in game above.

16.♔b1 ♗d7 17.g6!?



A rather typical method but slower attacks were also not bad here.

17...♗e8?

This retreat cannot be good. The pawn should have been taken: 17...hxg6 18.h5 b4 19.hxg6 fxg6 (19...bxc3?? 20.♖h8+!) 20.♘e2; 17...fxg6 looked better: 18.h5 gxh5 19.♖xh5 b4 20.♘e2 ♘xd3 21.cxd3 with good attacking possibilities on the kingside though everything is still far from clear.

18.gxh7+ ♔h8 19.♖dg1 b4?

19...♘xd3 20.cxd3 ♗f8 should have been preferred, White would continue by 21.h5, followed by h6, ♗g5 and so on. The text move allows a crushing attack.

20.♖xg7!!

Excellent!

20...♘e5

There was no good defence: 20...♔xg7 21.♕g2+ ♔xh7 22.♖g1; 20...♗f6 21.♖g8+ ♔xh7 22.e5+ ♔xg8 23.exf6; 20...♘xd3 21.♗d4! ♘xd4 22.♕h6 with a quick checkmate in all cases.

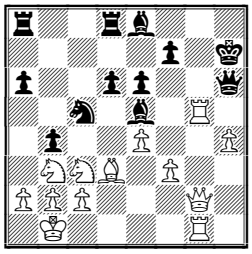
21.♗d4 ♗f6 22.♖g8+

22.♖g3 was also good enough.

22...♔xh7 23.♖hg1 23...♕e7

Again, Black had some alternatives which couldn't help either: 23...♘xb3 24.axb3 bxc3 25.♗xc3 ♗b5 26.♖8g5!+−; 23...♘cxd3 24.♖8g5!! ♗xg5 25.♕xg5 with a forced checkmate: 25...f5 26.♕g8+ ♔h6 27.♕h8+ ♕h7 28.♗e3+ f4 29.♗xf4+ ♘xf4 30.♕f8+ ♔h5 31.♖g5+ ♔xh4 32.♕xf4+ ♔h3 33.♕g3#

24.♗xe5! ♗xe5 25.♕g2 ♕f6 26.♖g5 ♕h6



27.♖xe5! ♗d7 28.♖h5 Black resigned. A crushing defeat! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
www.chess.gr
www.otenet.gr/chessclub/2001
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
kbhsu.brinkster.net/ksu/politiken_cup/p_c_2001
www.proclient.cz/czechopen
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-264, 29th July 2001

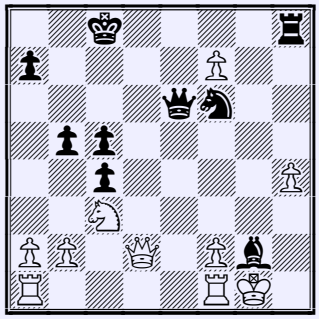
Korchnoi rests top

Today was the rest day for the participants of the very strong tournament in ***Biel***, Switzerland. 70 year old **Victor Korchnoi** is a leader of the event, half a point ahead of Yannick Pelletier and last years winner Peter Svidler.

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Korchnoi – 3½ points
2-3. Pelletier, Svidler – 3
4. Gelfand – 2½
5-6. Grischuk, Lautier – 1½

Pairings for the 6th Round:
Korchnoi – Gelfand
Lautier – Pelletier
Grischuk – Svidler

Black has just played ♕b6 −e6??
A tempting continuation but with a very serious drawback − it is just losing!



White to play and win
Solution in our game section

After the 5th Round of the strong *Biel Open* there are rather surprising leaders – IMs **R. B. Ramesh** (India) and **Julen Luis Arizmendi Martinez** (Spain).

Some results of the 5th Round:
Pavlovic – Ramesh ½:½
Yagupov – Arizmedi 0:1
Mikhalevsky – Tukmakov 1:0
Avrukh – Rashkovsky ½:½
Kempinsky – Efimenko ½:½
Jenni – Kobalia 0:1
Schaufelberger – Guliev 0:1

Standings after the 5th Round:
1-2. Ramesh, Arizmendi Martinez – 4½ points
3-7. Pavlovic, Zollbrecht, Kobalia, V. Mikhalevsky, Guliev – 4 etc.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
Ramesh – Arizmendi Martinez
Zollbrecht – Kobalia
Guliev – Mikhalevsky
Milov – Pavlovic

Five players, including the top-seeded home GM **Laurant Fressinet**, are sharing the lead after the 7th Round of the ***Paris Championships***.

Standings after the 7th Round:
1-5. Fressinet, Lupu, Bauer, Szabolcsi, Miroshnichenko – 6 points,
6-14. Inkiov, Shneider, Savchenko, Shchekachev, Timoshenko, Nikcevic, Lukov, Kruppa, Plantet – 5½ etc.

GMs **Vladimir Burmakin** (Russia), **Mathias Womacka** (Germany) and IM **Denis Yevseev** (Russia) are sharing the lead after the preliminary 8th Round of the ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Womacka – Burmakin ½:½
Vorobjev – Korotylev ½:½
Neverov – Sergeev ½:½
Teske – Fridman ½:½
Kalinitschew – Potkin ½:½
Yevseev – Gavrilov 1:0
Tomashevsky – Vokac ½:½
Sasikiran – Meister 1:0
Meduna – Babula 0:1
Chernyshov – Haba 0:1

Standings after the 8th Round:
1-3. Burmakin, Womacka, Yevseev – 6½ points etc.
4-18. Haba, Tomashevsky, Fridman, Vokac, Korotylev, Sasikiran, Teske, Kalinitschew, Sergeev, Neverov, Socko, Vorobjev, Potkin, Babula, Jarasz – 6 etc.

Alexander Onischuk (Ukraine), Smbat Lputian (Armenia), Alexander Goldin (USA), Eduard Gufeld, John Donaldson (all of USA) and Suat Atalik (Bosnia & Herzegovina) keep perfect score after the 2nd Round of the **Continental Open** in Las Vegas (the information is taken from *TWIC*)

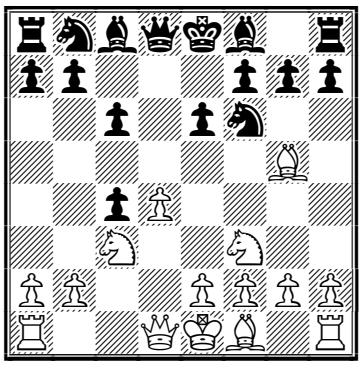
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

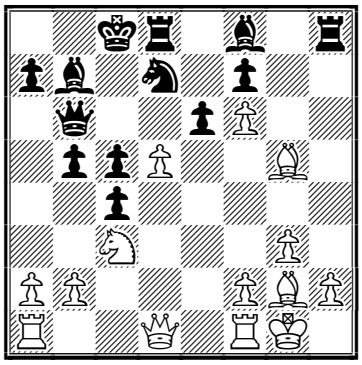
G Timoshenko (2554) − L Bergez (2392)
Paris Championship (7), 27.07.2001 D44

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e6 5.♗g5 dxc4



The Botvinnik variation leads to very sharp complications and requires a very deep knowledge from both players.

6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♘bd7 11.g3 ♗b7 12.♗g2 ♕b6 13.exf6 c5 14.d5 0-0-0 15.0-0



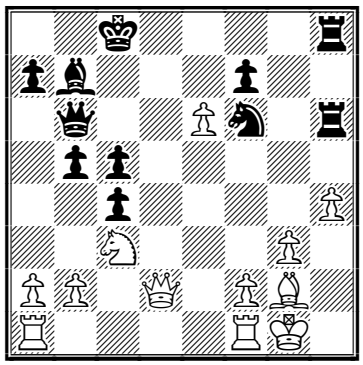
15...♗h6

This bishop sortie is usually played without inclusion of the moves ...c6−c5 and d4−d5. Here 15...b4 is a well−known path after which White chooses between 16.♘a4 and 16.♖b1!?

16.♗xh6 ♖xh6 17.♕d2 ♖dh8 18.h4

This is a novelty. 18.dxe6 was played a couple of times, Black should have replied with 18...fxe6 (18...♘xf6 19.exf7 Geberl − Taeger, Germany 1994.) 19.h4 ♘xf6 20.♗xb7+ ♔xb7 with reasonable counterplay.

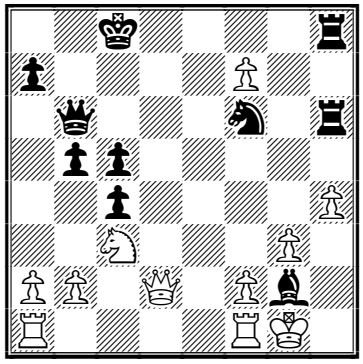
18...♘xf6 19.dxe6



19...♗xg2?!

This natural move is actually a mistake − Black probably missed a strong intermediate move. 19...fxe6 should have been played, we mentioned this position in the notes above.

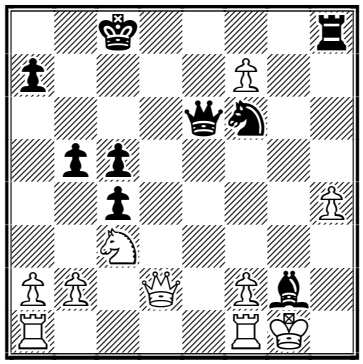
20.exf7!



20...♖xh4!?

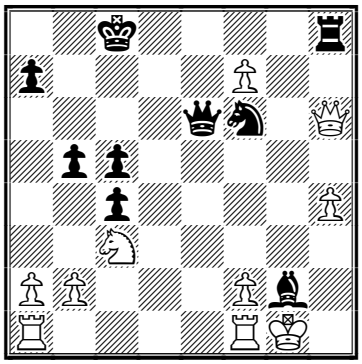
An interesting attempt. Black had no time for 20...♗xf1?? due to 21.♕xh6!; 20...♖6h7 21.♔xg2 was not very fun either.

21.gxh4 ♕e6??



A tempting continuation but with a very serious drawback − it is just losing. After 21...♗xf1 22.♖xf1 ♖f8 23.♖e1 ♖xf7 24.♕g5! White kept better chances but Black was still fighting.

22.♕h6!!+−

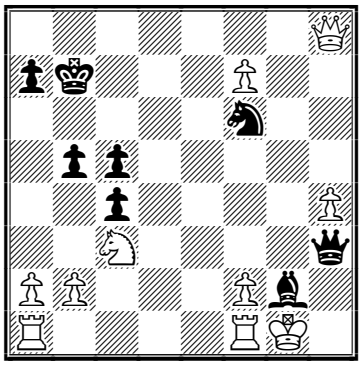


This heavy blow decides the game.

22...♕h3

An attempt to confuse the opponent.

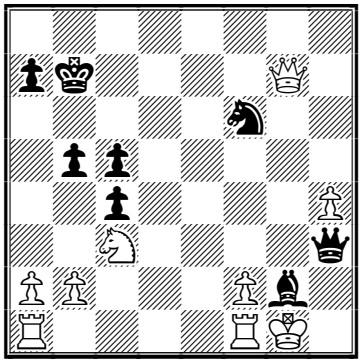
23.♕xh8+ ♔b7



24.♕a8+!

The queen has done a good job and dies gloriously − White doesn't regret it very much since the new one comes alive with great effect. Objectively, 24.f3 was also good enough.

24...♔xa8 25.f8♕+ ♔b7 26.♕g7+



26...♔b6 27.♕xg2

Black resigned.

1-0

Recommended Web sites:

www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
www.proclient.cz/czechopen
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-265, 30th July 2001

Korchnoi still top in Biel

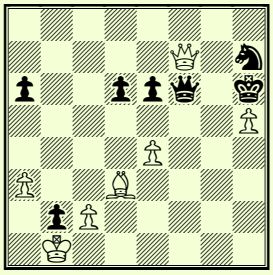
Victor Korchnoi keeps sole lead at the very strong tournament in ***Biel***, Switzerland. All games were drawn in the 6th Round. There was an interesting battle between Alexander Grischuk and Peter Svidler – enjoy it at the game section. Both remaining games was quiet and ended peacefully without much fighting.

Round 6 results:
Korchnoi – Gelfand ½:½
Lautier – Pelletier ½:½
Grischuk – Svidler ½:½

Round 6 standings:
1. Korchnoi – 4 points
2-3. Pelletier, Svidler – 3½
4. Gelfand – 3
5-6. Grischuk, Lautier – 2

Round 7 pairings:
Grischuk – Korchnoi
Svidler – Lautier
Pelletier – Gelfand

S Solovjov (2430) – K Chernyshov (2560)
Pardubice, KB Open Pardubice, 2001



White to play
Solution on page 3.

German players were shining at the recently finished strong open tournaments. **Christian Bauer** became a winner of the ***Paris Championships***.

Round 8 selected results:
Bauer – Szabolcsi 1:0
Fressinet – Lupu ½:½
Shneider – Lukov 1:0
Mirochnichenko – Timoshenko ½:½
Plantet – Savchenko 0:1
Shchekachev – Inkiov 1:0
Calistri – Shirazi 0:1
Kruppa – Nikcevic 1:0

Final 9th Round selected results:
Bauer – Fressinet ½:½
Shneider – Kruppa ½:½
Lupu – Shchekachev ½:½
Savchenko – Mirochnichenko ½:½
Timoshenko – Handke 1:0
Shirazi – Leroy 1:0
Szabolcsi – Khenkin 0:1
Lamoureux – Santo-Roman 0:1
Final standings:
1. Bauer – 7½ points
2-12. Shneider, Fressinet, Lupu, Miroshnichenko, Savchenko, Shchekachev, Timoshenko, Shirazi, Kruppa, Khenkin, Santo-Roman – 7 etc.

IM **Mathias Womacka** (Germany) won the ***Czech Open*** in Pardubice. GMs Vladimir Burmakin, Denis Yevseev (both of Russia), Daniel Fridman (Latvia), Valery Neverov (Ukraine) and Bartocz Socko (Poland) shared second place.

Final 9th Round selected results:

Burmakin – Yevseev ½:½
Korotylev – Womacka 0:1
Vokac – Sasikiran ½:½
Babula – Vorobiov ½:½
Fridman – Kalinitschew 1:0
B.Socko – Teske 1:0

Final standings:
1. Womacka - 7½ points
2-6. Burmakin, Fridman, Yevseev, Neverov, B. Socko – 7 etc.

Our congratulations to the winners of these imposing events!

Chris Bird of *Fantasy Chess* reports (the information is taken from *TWIC*):

After the different playing schedules of the **Continental Open** in Las Vegas merged into one big field as we head into the final day's play. IM **John Donaldson** is the only person with a 100% record as he beat FM Emory Tate in the top board game.

Round 4 standings:
1. Donaldson – 4 points,
2-7. Onischuk, Lputian, Goldin, Sulskis, Atalik, Anka – 3½
8-14. Finegold, Blatny, Browne, Akobian, Mulyar, Tate, Hummel – 3 etc.

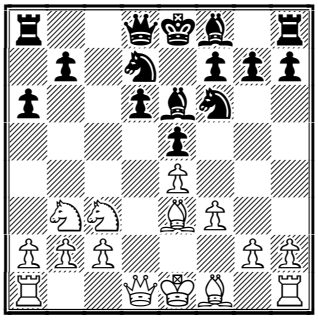
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

A Grischuk (2669) − P Svidler (2695)
Biel Chess Festival Biel, Switzerland (6), 29.07
B90.2001

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.♗e3 ♘bd7



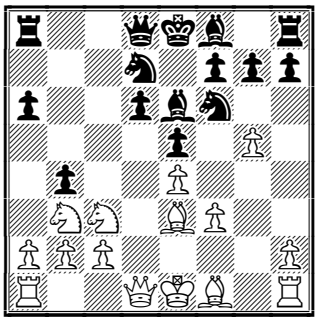
9.g4

We have seen 9.♕d2 b5 10.0-0-0 is the game Skripchenko−Lautier − Naiditsch, Dortmund (m/2) 2001.

9...b5

9...h6 10.♕d2 ♗e7 is the alternative way.

10.g5 b4

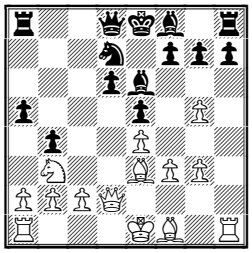


The immediate knight retreat 10...♘h5 seems to be worse: 11.♕d2 ♗e7 12.0-0-0 ♘b6 13.♘d5 ♘xd5 14.exd5 ♗d7 15.♘a5 0-0 16.♔b1 f6 17.gxf6 ♖xf6 18.♘c6 ♗xc6 19.dxc6 with a clear advantage, Grischuk − Fressinet, Lausanne (m/1) 2000.

11.♘e2

11.♘d5 ♘xd5 12.exd5 ♗f5 13.♗d3 ♗xd3 14.♕xd3 may promise a small edge for White but Black can be also satisfied with the position. For example: 14...♗e7 15.♖g1 (15.h4 0-0 16.0-0-0 a5 17.♘d2 f5 Shirov − Svidler, Wijk aan Zee 1999) 15...0-0 16.0-0-0 a5 17.♘d2 f5! 18.gxf6 ♘xf6 19.♔b1 ♘h5 20.♖g4 ♕d7 with good counterplay, Leko − Kasparov, Linares 1999.

11...♘h5 12.♕d2 a5 13.♘g3 ♘xg3 14.hxg3



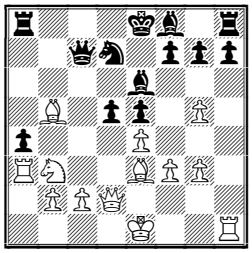
14...♕c7!?

A new and rather provocative continuation. 14...a4 was played before: 15.♘c1 ♕a5 16.♗h3 ♗xh3 17.♖xh3 ♘b6 18.b3 d5! 19.♘d3 ♗d6 20.♖d1 d4 21.♗g1 axb3 22.axb3 ♖c8 with mutual chances, Morovic Fernandez − Shirov, Barcelona 2000. Perhaps Peter didn't want to give the opponent a possibility to show an improvement.

15.a3!?

A logical counter strike on the queenside which breaks Black's pawn structure. However, it was obviously foreseen.

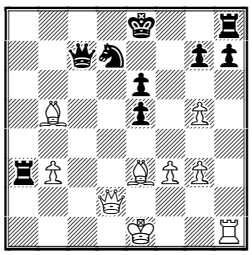
15...bxa3 16.♖xa3 a4 17.♗b5 d5!



18.exd5!

Excellent reply! By sacrificing the exchange White takes the initiative. In the case of 18.♖xa4 ♖xa4 19.♗xa4 d4!? (19...dxe4!? 20.fxe4 ♕c4) 20.♗f2 ♕c4 21.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 Black could have achieved very good compensation for the pawn.

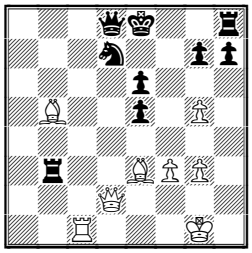
18...♗xa3 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.bxa3 axb3 21.cxb3 ♖xa3



22.0-0

22.♔f2 looked tempting in order to keep the bishop on e3 protected. It might work well if Black plays similar to the game but here he could demonstrate the drawback of placing the king on the 2nd rank by playing 22...♕b7! (22...♖xb3? 23.♖c1 ♕d8 24.♕xd7+!! ♕xd7 25.♖c8+ ♔f7 26.♗xd7 ♖xc8 27.♗xc8) 23.♕d6 (23.♗a4? 0-0) 23...♖a2+ 24.♗e2 ♕d5, consolidating his army.

22...♖xb3 23.♖c1 ♕d8



24.♗c4

Now 24.♕xd7+? doesn't work as after 24...♕xd7 25.♖c8+ ♔f7 26.♗xd7 the bishop e3 is not protected: 26...♖xc8 27.♗xc8 ♖xe3

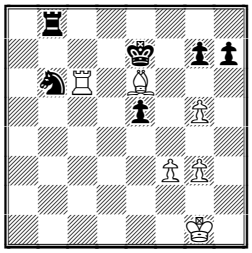
24...♖xe3!

24...♖b8?! 25.♗xe6 was too suspicious for Black.

25.♕xe3 ♕b6 26.♕xb6 ♘xb6 27.♗xe6 ♔e7

Just in time − ♖c1-c7 would be painful.

28.♖c6 ♖b8



Despite the simplifications Black still hasn't solved the problems completely and has to work hard to hold balance.

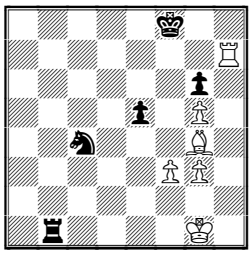
29.♗f5 g6 30.♗g4 ♔f8 31.♖f6+

31.♖c7 ♘d5 32.♖xh7 ♖b1+ was similar to the game.

31...♔g7 32.♖e6 ♘c4 33.♖e7+ ♔f8!

It was very dangerous for Black to stay keep the king in the mating net after 33...♔h8?! 34.♗e6

34.♖xh7 ♖b1+



The combined actions of the rook and knight gives Black sufficient counterplay.

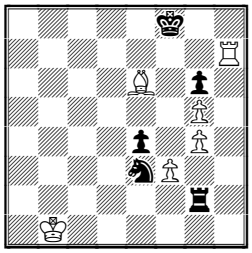
35.♔f2

35.♔h2 was pointless due to 35...♖b2+ (35...e4!? 36.fxe4 ♘e5) 36.♔h3 ♖b1 with idea ...♘e3.

35...♖b2+ 36.♔e1 ♘e3 37.♗e6 ♘g2+ 38.♔f1 ♘e3+ 39.♔e1 ♘g2+ 40.♔d1 ♘e3+ 41.♔c1 ♖c2+

It is quite useful to push the king as far as possible.

42.♔b1 ♖g2 43.g4 e4!



Just in time to break White's pawn structure. Now Black gains both g−pawns so a draw is inevitable.

44.fxe4

A draw agreed. An interesting game − both players were equal to the task.

½-½

Recommended Web sites:

www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
chp2001.echecs-idf.com/chpt/
www.proclient.cz/czechopen
play.at/fantasychess
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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CT-266, 31st July 2001

A Recurrent Refrain - Korchnoi Still on Top in Biel!

Yesterday all three games were drawn at the ***Biel*** tournament. So **Viktor Korchnoi** has retained sole lead half a point ahead of last year's winner Peter Svidler from his native Leningrad – St. Petersburg and today his compatriot Yannik Pelletier.

Results of the 7th Round:
Pelletier – Gelfand **½:½**
Svidler – Lautier **½:½**
Grischuk – Korchnoi **½:½**

Standing after the 7th Round:
1. Korchnoi – 4½ points
2-3. Pelletier, Svidler – 4
4. Gelfand – 3½
5-6. Grischuk, Lautier – 2½

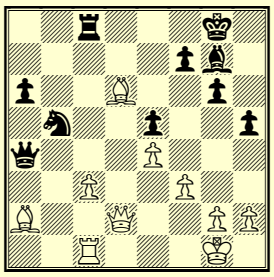
Round 8th pairing:
Kortchnoi – Pelletier
Gelfand – Svidler
Lautier – Grischuk

There are three leaders at the Masters Open tournament after the 6th Round. (Swiss system, 9 rounds.)
1-3. Ramesh, Arizmendi, Kobalia – 5 points
4-10. Avrukh, Mikhalevsky, Pavlovic, Yagupov, Solak, Guliev, Efimenko – 4½ etc.

Round 7th pairing:
Kobalija – Ramesh
Arizmedi – Cvitan
Avrukh – Efimenko
Yagupov – Guliev
Mikhalevski – Rashkovsky
Pavlovic – Solak

GMs **Alexander Onischuk, Smbat Lputian** and **Alexander Goldin** shared 1-3 places with 5 points out of 6 at the Continental Open in Las Vegas, the U.S.A.

K. Sakaev - O. Sepp
Paul Keres Memorial
From our annotated game.
Black played:
32...♘a3xb5



White to play and win.
Solution in game section.

4-11. Sulskis, D. Gurevich, Finegold, I. Ivanov, Browne, Akobian, Donaldson, Anka – 4½
12-15. Yermolinsky, Gufeld, Mulyar, Tate – 4 etc.
Information at:
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

There are some strong opens in progress.
About 200 players are taking part in the ***Hogeschool Zeeland Tournament*** Vlissingen in the Netherlands. After 3 Rounds 14 participants have 3 points, among them Elo-favourites **Kasimdzhanov, Van Wely, Piket, Psakhis** etc. (Swiss system, 9 rounds.)

23 players have a perfect score after the 2nd Round of the 5th International Chess Tournament ***Korinthos 2001***, Greece. Elo-favourites are **Graf, Najer, Istrateskou, Spasov, Nikolaidis** are here. (Swiss system, 9 rounds.)

The ***British Chess Championships*** started yesterday at the Spa Centre in Scarborough - 70 participants, Swiss system, 11 Rounds, £25,000 prize fund. The reigning champion is Julian Hodgson who plays again this year.

Now we can tell you some results of the first day:
Hodgson – Tan **1:0**
Trent – Miles **0:1**
Hebden – Stephenson **1:0**
Pert – Chandler **½:½**
Emms – Willmoth **1:0**
Jackson – Lalic **½:½**

And last but not least, GM **Konstantin Sakaev** is leading at the ***Paul Keres Memorial*** in Tallinn, Estonia.

Standing after the 8th Round:
1. Sakaev – 7 points
2. Gavrikov – 6½
3-8. Miezis, Kveinys, Lugovoi, Rythagov, Sepp, Khamatgaleev – 6
9-12. Kengis, Yemelin, Cmilyte, Reizniece – 5½ etc.

Pairing for the last Round:
Sakaev – Kveinys

Lugovoi – Gavrikov
Sepp – Miezis
Rytshagov – Khamatgaleev
Cmilyte – Kengis
Yemelin – Reizniece

Also see our annotated game section for the game, Sakaev - Sepp.

♘♘♘

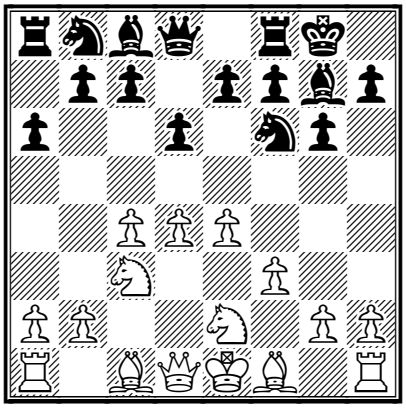
Annotated Game

K. Sakaev (RUS) − O. Sepp (EST)

Paul Keres Memorial Tallinn(Estonia) (5), 07.2001 E81

Notes by IM Vladimir.Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♘ge2 a6!? (D)



A rare continuation vs. the Saemisch system in the King's Indian Defense; more often Black plays in the centre: 6...c5; 6...e5; or 6...♘c6 In this system White has a very strong pawn centre, but rather poor development, so Black has to start some complications as soon as possible. But after 6...a6 the "complications" start very far from King on e1 and they don't annoy White that much.

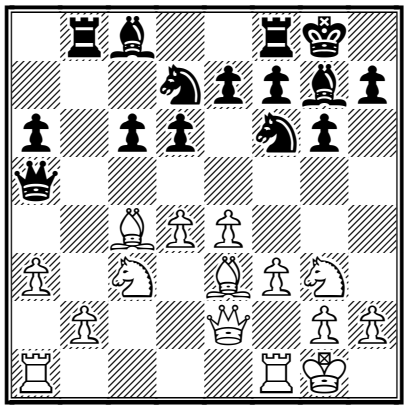
7.♗e3 ♘bd7 8.♘g3 c6

Interesting alternatives are: 8...c5 9.d5 b5!?; or 8...h5 x ♘g3

9.♗e2

Sakaev dosen't want to prevent b7−b5. He thinks it isn't dangerous for White. Nevertheless he could play: 9.a4!? , for example: 9...a5 x b4 10.♕d2 e5 11.♖d1 exd4 12.♗xd4 ♕e7 13.♗e2 h5 14.0-0 ♘c5 15.♗e3 ♘e8 16.♖fe1 ♗e6 17.♗h6 h4 18.♘h1 f6∞ Chernin − Gavrikov, Moscow 1985.

9...b5 10.0-0 bxc4 11.♗xc4 ♖b8 12.♕e2 ♕a5 13.a3!



A useful profolactic move. White protects the b4−square and prepares ♗c4−a2 or b2−b4 somewhere.

13...c5!?

After this Black receives an isolated pawn on c5, but what else is there to do? Black has big problems in finding useful developmental moves.

14.dxc5 dxc5

14...♘xc5?? 15.b4+−

15.♗f4!

White's first task is to decrease the effectiveness of the on Bishop g7, or it can gain the strong square on d4.The idea is to play e4−e5.

15...e5□

15...♖a8?! 16.e5±

16.♗e3 ♘b6

Of course Black would like to occupy the d4 square with one of his Knights, but it's not a simple task at all. From b6 or f6 it would take a Knight 3 moves to reach the d4 square.. It's a very long distance for a Knight to move diagonally across to a square.

17.♗a2 c4 18.♕f2

With the simple, but unpleasant idea of ♗c5−b4 trapping Black's Queen.

18...♘a4 19.♘xa4 ♕xa4 20.♖ac1 ♗e6 21.♖c2 ♖fc8 22.♖fc1 ♘e8 23.♘e2

All of White's pieces are very well placed acsept his Knight. Now it starts it's trip to c3 and to d5.

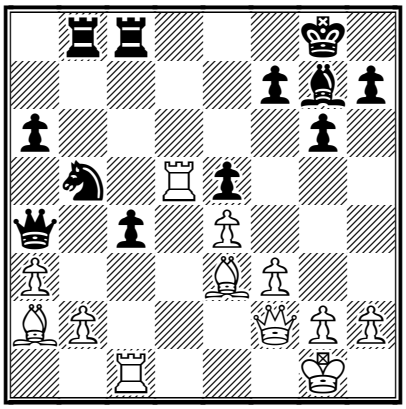
23...♘d6 24.♘c3 ♕a5 25.♖d2 ♘b5

Black would like to take the d4−square...

26.♘d5

With the double threats of: ♘e7+ and ♗xc4.

26...♗xd5 27.♖xd5 ♕a4 (D)



28.♕d2!?

It appears Konstantin Sakaev likes profolactic moves. Now he tries to prevent c4−c3 and ♘b5−d4.

28...h5?!

If 28...♘d4 than 29.♖a5!? c3!? 30.♖xc3 ♘e2+ 31.♔h1 ♘xc3 32.♖xa4 ♘xa4 33.♕d7!±; but maybe better was the immediate 28...c3!?

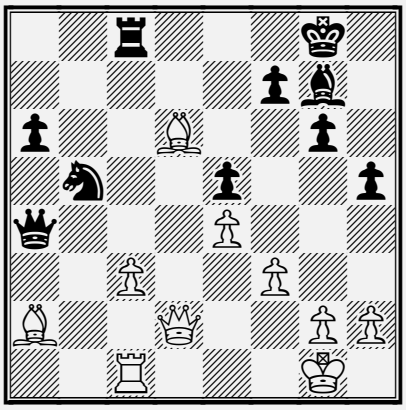
29.♗c5!

Once more White threatens to trap Black's Queen (♖xc4).

29...c3 30.bxc3 ♘xa3 31.♗d6 ♖b5

This move loses at once but very nicely.

32.♖xb5 ♘xb5 (D)



33.♗xf7+!

We almost forgot about this Bishop...

33...♔h8

Or 33...♔xf7 34.♕d5+ ♔f6 (34...♔e8 35.♕e6+ ♔d8 36.♕e7#) 35.♗xe5+ (35.♕xe5+?! ♔f7 36.♕e7+ ♔g8 37.♕e6+ ♔h7 38.♕xc8 ♘xd6±) 35...♔e7 36.♗xg7+−; 33...♔h7 34.♕g5+−

34.♗xe5!

34.♗xe5 ♗xe5 35.♕h6#! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
http://people.zeelandnet.nl/hgroffen
http://www.chess.gr/korinthos/index.html
http://www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
http://www.malekeskus.ee/pk01/elist.shtml

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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-267, 1 August 2001

Sakaev Wins Paul Keres Memorial!

Konstantin Sakaev took first place in the ***Paul Keres Memorial*** in Tallinn, Estonia. In the final round all top games were drawn except that Yemelin beat Reizniece.

Finals standing:
1. Sakaev – 7½ points out of 9
2. Gavrikov – 7
3-9. Miezis, Kveinys, Lugovoi, M. Rythagov, Sepp, Khamatgaleev, Yemelin – 6½
10-14. Kengis, Cmilyte, Seeman, Kulaots, Nyback – 6 etc.

Viktor Korchnoi strengthened his lead after beating Yannick Pelletier in the 8th Round of ***Biel*** tournament. So Korchnoi took revenge for losing to his young compatriot in the first round. Two other games were drawn.

Results of the 8th Round:
Kortchnoi – Pelletier **1:0**
Gelfand – Svidler **½:½**
Lautier – Grischuk **½:½**

Standing after the 8th Round:
1. Korchnoi – 5½ points
2. Svidler – 4½
3-4. Pelletier, Gelfand – 4
5-6. Grischuk, Lautier – 3

*Today will be a rest day. Also see our annotated game section for **Kortchnoi-Pelletier***

GMs **Boris Avrukh** and **Mihail Kobalia** are leading with 6½ points out of 8 before the last round of the ***Masters Open***.

Round 9th pairing:
(6½) Kobalija – Avrukh (6½)
(6) Milov – Guliev (6)
(6) Kempinski – Ramesh (6)
(6) Mikhalevski – Markowski (5½)
(5½) Rashkovsky – Cvitan (5½)
(5½) Kunte – Arizmedi (5½)
(5½) Fish – Solak (5½)
(5½) Pavlovic – Efimenko (5½)
(5) Tukmakov – Yagupov (5½)

The ***Hogeschool Zeeland Tournament Vlissingen***:
pairings for the 5th Round:
(4) Psachis – Kasimdzhanov (4)
(4) Van Wely – Piket (4)
(3½) Epishin – Ikonnikov (4)
(3½) Werner – Romanishin (3½)
(3½) Nijboer – Muhren (3½)
(3½) Heppekausen – Ernst (3½)
(3½) Nieuwelink – Pomes (3½)

*The 5th International Chess Tournament **Korinthos 2001**:*
pairing of the 4th Round:
(3) Najer – Gelashvili (3)
(3) Potapov – Istrateskou (3)
(3) Spasov – A. Rychagov (3)
(3) Panagiotopoulos – Nikolaidis (3)
(2½) Ovsejevitsch – Bagaturov (3)
(2½) Kounalakis – Graf (2½)
(2½) Miladinovic – Gesos (2½)
(2½) Svetushkin – Stoumbos (2½)

*Some top results of the 2nd Round of **the British Chess Championships**.*
Arkell – Hodgson **½:½**
Miles – Ledger **1:0**
Ansell – Hebden **½:½**
Knott – Emms **½:½**
Williams – Gallagher **½:½**
Eames – Turner **½:½**
Summerscale – Palliser **½:½**
Ledger – Wells **0:1**
Ward – Singh **1:0**
Hanley – Gormally **1:0**

And a piece of news from the new TWIC #351:
Yin Hao reports: The Zhong Hong Real Estate Cup (round-robin system, 12 participants, X cat., av. Elo 2476) took place in Beijing, China from 20th-30th July 2001. IM **Zhang Pengxiang** took first place and earned his final GM norm.

1. Zhang Pengxiang – 8 points out of 11
2. Li Shilong – 7½
3. Wu Shaobin - 7

4-8. Liang Jinrong, Wang Zili, Wu Wenjin, Ni Hua, Wang Pin – 6 etc.

The 2001 *Emanuel Lasker Memorial* was played in Barlinek, Czech Republic 19th-29th July 2001. The tournaments were very small, with only 16 players in open A section and 34 in open B section. **Stanislav Voitsekhovsky, Michael Krasenkow** and **Evgeny Gleizerov** finished with 7½ points out of 10 in the main event.

1-3. Voitsekhovsky, Krasenkow, Gleizerov – 7½ points

4-6. Borovikov, Ulibin, Schmidt – 7 etc.

♘♘♘

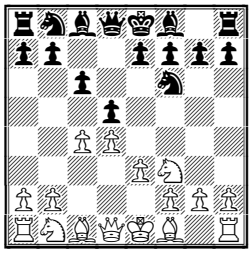
Annotated Game

V. Korchnoi (2617) Y. Pelletier (2531)

GM Biel SUI (8), 31.07.2001 D12

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Sergei Shipov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.¤f3 ¤f6 4.e3 (D)



This isn't very ambitious , but it's a solid and a rather poisonous move. It's enough to say that it was played by such strong GMs as Karpov, Kramnik, Dreev and Baburin.

4...¥f5 5.¤c3 e6 6.¤h4 ¥g6

6...♗g4!?

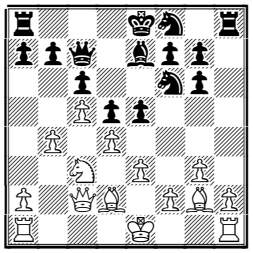
7.£b3 £c7

Just one example from recent practice: 7...♕b6 8.♘xg6 hxg6 9.♗d2 ♕xb3 10.axb3 ♘bd7 11.g3 ♗e7 12.♗g2 g5 13.e4 dxc4 14.bxc4 e5 15.d5 ♘b6 16.b3 ♘fd7 17.♔d1 ♘c5 18.♔c2 a5 19.♗e3± Baburin – Wojtkiewicz, San Francisco 2001.

8.¤xg6 hxg6 9.¥d2 ¤bd7 10.g3 ¤b6?!

I think this is a dubious move. Black provokes c4−c5, but loses two tempi. Also, can the text be so bad for White who gains a lot of space in the bargain? Maybe better is 10...♗e7

11.c5 ¤bd7 12.£c2! e5 13.b4 ¥e7 14.¥g2 ¤f8



Black would like to attack the d4−pawn, but White doesn't want to defend so decides to start his own offence.

15.b5 ¤e6 16.bxc6 bxc6 17.£a4 0-0 18.0-0 g5!?

White does not have a big advantage, but it is certainly a clear advantage (more space, the two Bishops, and the more active pieces) so Black has to find counterplay.

19.¦ab1 ¦fb8 20.¤e2 exd4

After 20...e4 21.f3!? exf3 22.♗xf3 and ♘c3, e4!? the g5 pawn will be weak.

21.exd4 ¦xb1 22.¦xb1 ¤d7

Black prepares to exchange Rooks. Worse was 22...♖b8?! 23.♖xb8+ ♕xb8 24.♕xc6 ♕b1+ 25.♗f1 ♕xa2 26.♗e3±

23.¥h3

White couldn't play 23.f4 right now in view of 23...gxf4 24.♘xf4? ♘xd4!

23...¦b8 24.¦xb8+ ¤xb8 25.f4!?

White starts forcing play. Very often this is a sign of a time−trouble.

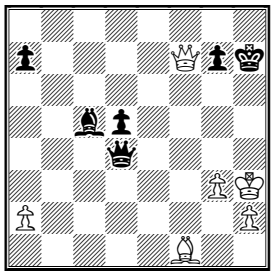
25...gxf4 26.¤xf4

An interesting alternative was 26.♗xe6!? **A)** 26...fxe6 27.♗xf4 (27.♘xf4 e5!?) 27...♕b7 **A1)** 28.♗xb8 ♕xb8 29.♕xc6 ♕b1+ 30.♔f2 ♕f5+ 31.♔e1 (31.♘f4 ♕c2+) 31...♕b1+ 32.♔f2 ♕f5+=; **A2)** 28.♕c2!?± ; **B)** 26...f3!? 27.♗g4 fxe2 28.♗xe2±

26...¤xf4 27.¥xf4 £b7 28.¥xb8 £xb8 29.£xc6 £b1+ 30.¥f1 £e4!

Strong centralisation: from here the Queen defends and attacks.

31.£e8+ ¢h7 32.£xf7 £xd4+ 33.¢g2 ¥xc5 34.¢h3 (D)



Now the position looks dead drawn, but in a time−trouble Pelletier unexpectedly loses two pawns.

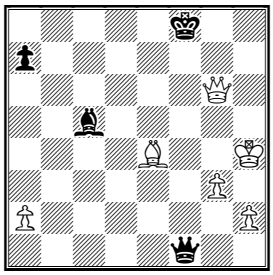
34...£e3? 35.£xd5

Of course.

35...g6 36.¥d3 ¢h6 37.¥e4 £f2 38.£e6 £f1+ 39.¢h4

Now Black has big problems.

39...¢g7™ 40.£xg6+ ¢f8 (D)



41.£f5+?!

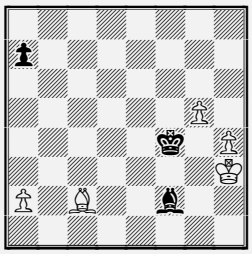
GM Sergei Shipov on http://www.clubkasparov.ru/site/news/2001/biel/game8.htm tries to prove that Black could draw in the opposite−coloured Bishop endgame. If he's right this move is a mistake. But maybe Korchnoi could win even if Pelletier were defending the best way.

41...£xf5 42.¥xf5 ¥g1 43.¢h3!

43.h3 ♗f2 44.♔g4 ♔f7 45.h4 ♔f6 46.♗c2 ♔e5 47.♔h3 ♗e1 48.g4 ♔f4=

43...¢f7?

In Shipov's opinion, Black could draw after 43...♗c5! What follows is partly his lines, and partly my attempts to refute them. From the diargram position it is a theoretical draw. I failed to refute GM Shipov; maybe our readers will be more happy? **A)** 44.♔g4 ♗g1 45.h4 ♗f2 46.♔h3 ♔g7 47.g4 ♔f6 48.♗c2 ♔e5 49.g5 ♔f4!= (D)



; **B)** 44.♔g2 ♔f7 **B1)** 45.♔f3 ♔f6 **B1a)** 46.♔f4 ♗g1 47.h3 (47.h4 ♗f2 48.♗c2) 47...♗f2; **B1b)** 46.♔g4 ♗g1 47.h4 ♗f2; **B1c)** 46.♗c2 46...♔e5 47.h4 ♗b4 48.♔g4 (48.g4 ♗e1 49.g5 ♗xh4 50.♔g4 ♗e1 51.♔h5 ♔e6 52.g6 ♗d2) 48...♗e1 49.♔g5 ♗xg3 50.h5 ♔e6 51.♔g6 (51.♗b3+ ♔e7) 51...♗e5; **B2)** 45.h4 45...♔f6 **B2a)** 46.♗c2 ♗b4 47.g4 ♗e1 48.g5+ ♔e5 49.h5 (49.g6 ♔f6 50.♔h3 ♔g7) 49...♔f4; **B2b)** 46.g4 46...♔e5 **B2b1)** 47.♗c8 ♔f4 (47...♗b4 48.♔f2 ♔f4 49.g5 ♗c5+ 50.♔e2 ♔g3 51.h5 ♔f4 52.g6 ♗f8 53.♔d3 ♔g5) 48.g5 ♗b4 49.♔f2; **B2b2)** 47.♔g3 47...♗b4; **C)** 44.♗c2 ♔f7 45.g4 ♗d6 46.♔g2 ♗e7 47.h3 ♗h4; **D)** 44.♗c8 ♔f7 45.g4 ♗d6 46.♔g2 ♗e7; **E)** 44.g4 44...♗d6 45.♔g2 (45.g5 ♗f4!) 45...♗e7! 46.h3 ♗h4 47.♔f3 ♔f7 48.♔f4 ♔f6 49.♗c2 ♗g5+ 50.♔g3 ♗d2 51.h4 ♗e1+ 52.♔h3 ♔e5 53.g5 ♔f4=

44.g4 ¢f6 45.¢g3 ¥e3 46.¥c2 ¥d2 47.¢h4!

The King is going to h5, than h2−h4; g4−g5 etc. Black resigned. A theoretically important endgame! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
http://people.zeelandnet.nl/hgroffen
http://www.chess.gr/korinthos/index.html
http://www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
http://www.malekeskus.ee/pk01/elist.shtml
http://www.szachy.lo.pl

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-268, 2 August 2001

Korchnoi Tries to Extend Lead in Biel!

Yesterday was a rest day at the ***Biel*** tournament. Today will be the 9th Round. **Viktor Korchnoi** is leading with 5½ points out of 8, a clear point ahead of last year's winner Peter Svidler.

Pairings for the 9th Round:
Lautier – Kortchnoi
Grischuk – Gelfand
Svidler – Pelletier

GMs **Boris Avrukh**, **Mihail Kobalia** and **Vadim Milov** are leading with 7 points out of 9 in the ***Masters Open***. There will be 11 Round here, not 9, as was written by mistake earlier.

Top results of Round 9th:
Kobalija – Avrukh **½:½**
Milov – Guliev **1:0**
Kempinski – Ramesh **½:½**
Mikhalevski – Markowski **0:1**
Rashkovsky – Cvitan **½:½**
Kunte – Arizmedi **1:0**
Fish – Solak **½:½**
Pavlovic – Efimenko **½:½**
Tukmakov – Yagupov **1:0**

Standing after the 9th Round:
1-3. Avrukh, Milov, Kobalija – 7 points
4-7. Ramesh, Kempinski, Kunte, Markowski – 6½ etc.

Pairings for the 10th Round:
Avrukh – Ramesh
Milov – Kobalija
Markowski – Kempinski
Cvitan – Kunte

*Also see our annotated game section for **Riazantsev - Milov.***

*The **Hogeschool Zeeland Tournament** Vlissingen, some results of the 5th Round:*
Psachis – Kasimdzhanov **½:½**
Van Wely – Piket **½:½**
Epishin – Ikonnikov **1:0**
Werner – Romanishin **½:½**
Nijboer – Muhren **1:0**
Heppekausen – Ernst **0:1**
Nieuwelink – Pomes **½:½**

Pairing for the 6th Round:
(4½) Kasimdzhanov – Epishin (4½)
(4½) Ernst – Van Wely (4½)
(4½) Piket – Psachis (4½)
(4) Romanishin – Nijboer (4½)

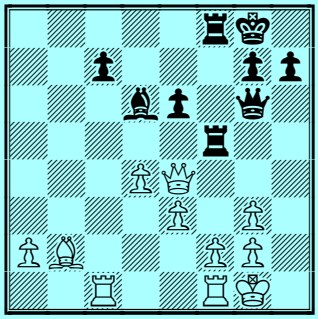
*The 5th International Chess Tournament **Korinthos 2001**, some results of the 4th Round:*
Najer – Gelashvili **1:0**
Potapov – Istrateskou **½:½**
Spasov – A. Rychagov **½:½**
Panagiotopoulos – Nikolaidis **0:1**
Ovsejevitsch – Bagaturov **½:½**

Pairing for the 5th Round:
(4) Nikolaidis – Najer (4)
(3½) Graf – Miladinovic (3½)
(3½) Istrateskou – Svetushkin (3½)
(3½) Bagaturov – Spasov (3½)
(3½) Rychagov – Potapov (3½)

*Some top results of the 3rd Round of the **British Chess Championships**.*
Shaw – Miles **½:½**
Wells – Hanley **1:0**
Ward – Walker **½:½**
Hodgson – Ansell **1:0**
Hebden – Knott **½:½**
Zhao Zong-Yuan – Chandler **½:½**
Emms – Williams **1:0**
Gallagher – Waddington **1:0**

So **Peter Wells** is leading with 3 points out of 3.

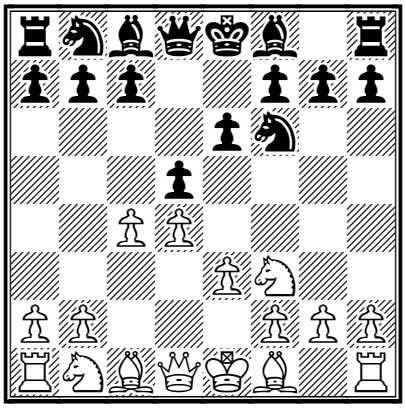
Riazantsev - Milov
MTO Biel (8), 2001
White has just played
24.♕ b7xe4



Black to move and win.
Solution in game section.

Annotated Game

A. Riazantsev – V. Milov
MTO Biel (8), 2001 D30
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.e3!? (D)



White closes the c1-h6 diagonal for the Bishop on c1. This of course is not the way to struggle for an opening advantage. The main lines are 4.♘c3; 4.♗g5 Alexander Riazantsev, a Russian junior, is now a GM (at 16), but unfortunately he dosen't have a permanent strong coach and as a result he sometimes plays very modest lines.

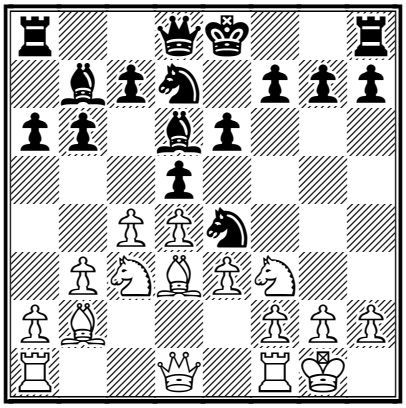
4...a6!?

Somewhere (for example, after Bf1-e2 or Bf1-d3) Black would like to exchange on c4 and make a "big fianchetto" b7−b5.

5.♘c3 ♘bd7

Black doesn't want to beat on c4 before the f1 Bishop moves.

6.b3 b6 7.♗b2 ♗b7 8.♗d3 ♘e4 9.0-0 ♗d6 (D)



Black has placed his pieces on very good squares and now has at least equal chances. It's White who has to think about his plans while Black's play is very simple: 0-0, Ndf6 or f5 and Ndf6 and a possible offensive on the King side.

10.♘e2 0-0 11.♖c1 dxc4

Black opens the h1-a8 diagonal for the Bishop on b7. 11...f5 12.♘e5!?∞

12.bxc4 f5 13.♘g3?!

In some lines this Knight has a more interesting trip: Ne2−f4, then d4−d5 and Nf4−e6. From g3 the exchange with the e4−Knight, is all that's possible.. But Black has the second Knight for the e4−square waiting. 13.♕c2!?

13...♘df6 14.♕e2 ♕e8 15.♘e5 ♘xg3 16.hxg3 ♘e4 17.♗xe4?!

Black allows the exchange of his "superfluous" Knight and occupies the e4−square with the Bishop. White now has a small advantage, but it's not a reason for White to give his opponent two Bishops.

17...♗xe4 18.♘f3 b5!?

Black wants to blocade the b2−Bishop after c4−c5 (then all of White's central pawns will be placed on the dark squares).

19.♘g5!?

White finds some complications but they will be in Black's favour.

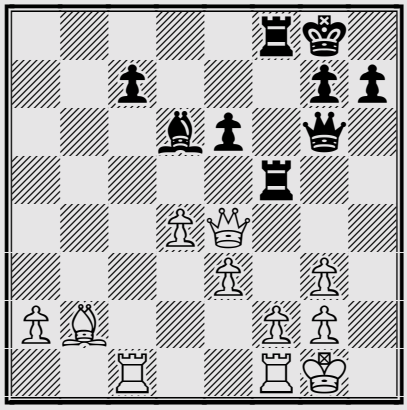
19...♕g6

19...♗b7?! 20.c5 ♗e7 21.♘xe6 ♕c6 22.♘f4±

20.♘xe4 fxe4 21.cxb5 axb5 22.♕xb5 ♖f5!

The h−file is open, so Black starts a direct attack.

23.♕b7 ♖af8 24.♕xe4?! (D)



This loses by force, but what else is there to do, how does White defend hs King?

24...♗xg3! 25.♕xf5□

25.fxg3 ♖xf1+-+; 25.♖c2 ♖xf2! 26.♕xg6 ♖xf1#

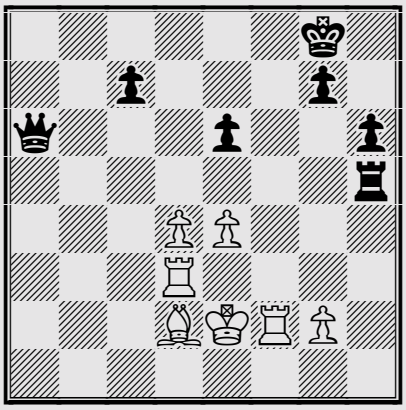
25...♖xf5 26.fxg3 ♕xg3

It's very hard for White to coordinate his pieces so Black's position is almost winning.

27.♖c3

27.♖xf5 exf5 28.♖c3 ♕e1+ 29.♔h2 ♕f2 30.♖b3 ♔f7-+

27...♖h5 28.♖f2 ♕h2+ 29.♔f1 ♕h1+ 30.♔e2 ♕b1-+ 31.♗c1 ♕xa2+ 32.♗d2 ♕a6+ 33.♖d3 h6 34.e4 (D)



34...e5!?

Black has many good ways to win, but maybe this one is the simplest.

35.♗c3

35.d5 ♕c4 36.♔e3 ♖h4-+

35...exd4 36.♗xd4 ♖h4 37.♔e3 ♕g6 38.e5 ♖g4 39.♔d2 ♖xg2 0-1.

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
http://people.zeelandnet.nl/hgroffen
http://www.chess.gr/korinthos/index.html
http://www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html

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CT-269, 3rd August 2001

Maxim Turov Wins Québec Open.

Russian GM **Maxim Turov** won the ***Québec Open Championships*** with 8½ points out of 9!

Final standings:
1. Turov – 8 ½ out of 9
2. Oral – 8
3. Rozentalis – 7½
4-13. Linskiy, Mikanovic, Schleifer, Bannon, St-Amand, Barbeau, Cuartas, Tessier-Desrosiers, Sullivan, Audet-Bouchard – 5½ etc.

Joel Lautier was the hero of the 9th Round in ***Biel***. He beat the leader **Viktor Korchnoi** in a very complicated game. But Korchnoi retained his first place standing before the start of the last round because Peter Svidler failed to win a winning position vs. Yannick Pelletier. The third game was a rather short draw.

Results of the 9th Round:
Lautier – Kortchnoi **1:0**
Grischuk – Gelfand **½:½**
Svidler – Pelletier **½:½**

Standing after the 9th Round:
1. Korchnoi – 5½ points out of 9
2. Svidler – 5
3-4. Pelletier, Gelfand – 4½
5. Lautier – 4
6. Grischuk – 3½

Pairing for the 10th Round:
Kortchnoi – Svidler
Pelletier – Grischuk
Gelfand – Lautier

Also see our annotated game section for ***Lautier-Korchnoi***

The ***Hogeschool Zeeland Tournament*** *Vlissingen, some results of the 6th Round:*
Kasimdzhanov – Epishin **1:0**
Ernst – Van Wely **½:½**
Piket – Psachis **1:0**
Romanishin – Nijboer **½:½**
Pairing for the 7th Round:
(5½) Piket – Kasimdzhanov (5½)
(5) Van Wely – Janssen (5)
(5) Vehi – Ikonnikov (5)
(5) Nijboer – Ernst (5)
(5) Lobzhanidze – Werle (5)

5th International Chess Tournament ***Korinthos 2001****, some results of the 5th Round:*
Nikolaidis – Najer **0:1**
Graf – Miladinovic **½:½**
Istrateskou – Svetushkin **½:½**
Bagaturov – Spasov **½:½**
Rychagov – Potapov **1:0**

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Najer – 5
2. A. Rychagov 4½
3-12. Graf, Istrateskou, Spasov, I. Nikolaidis, Gelashvili, Miladinovic, Bagaturov, Svetushkin, Khurtsidze, K. Nikolaidis – 4 etc.

Some top results of the 4th Round of the ***British Chess Championships****.*
Miles – Wells **½:½**
Hodgson – Shaw **½:½**
Pert – Emms **½:½**
Walker – Gallagher **½:½**
Arkell – Ward **0:1**
Ledger – Hebden **½:½**
Chandler – Palliser **1:0**
Lalic – Eames **1:0**
Rowson – Ghasi **1:0**
Hanley – Turner **½:½**

Standing after the 4th Round:
1-2. Wells, Ward – 3½ points
3-12. Pert, Shaw, Hodgson, Emms, Miles, Walker, Gallagher, Chandler, Lalic, Rowson – 3 etc.

Final standings of the ***XXI Cullera tournament*** *(Spain):*
1. Delchev – 7 ½ points out of 9
2-5. Tyomkin, Moskalenko, Herrera, Toledano Llinares – 7 etc.

Andrei Belozerov won the ***Novosibirsk Capital of Siberia 2001 Open*** (Russia).

Finals Standings:
1. Belozerov – 9 points out of 11
2-4. Bocharov, Shushpanov, Katalymov – 8½
5-7. Erikalov, Abashev, Frolov – 8 etc.

Herman Claudius van Riemsdijk reports on TWIC:
"On Saturday and Sunday (July 28th and 29th 2001) an interesting tournament was held in the ***Sao Paulo Chess Club*** (99 years old last June 12th). Five invited players and one qualified (Santos) played a double Round Robin with games of 25' each with an additional 10" per move. There were three important prizes (all about US$ 1.600,00) which allowed the prize winners to cover all expenses for the American Continental Tournament in Cali, Colombia (August 9 until 20). The sponsor was Itaъ Bank. IA Marius van Riemsdijk was chief arbiter and myself the tournament director."

Final standings:
1. Leitao – 8 ½ points out of 10
2. Lima – 7½
3. Sunye Neto – 5
4. Matsuura – 4
5. Pelikian – 3½
6. Santos – 1½

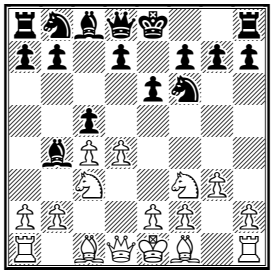
Our congratulations to all the winners.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

J. Lautier − V. Korchnoi
GM Turnier Biel (9.3), 02.08.2001 E20
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♘f3 c5 5.g3 (D)



This strange "mix" of Nimzo Indian Defence, the Queen's Indian and the Catalan was more popular 10-15 years ago, but of course the last word wasn't said here.

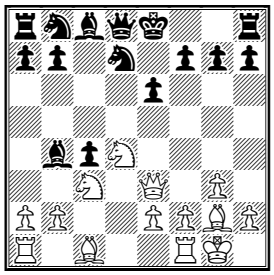
5...cxd4 6.♘xd4 ♘e4 7.♕d3 ♘c5!?

Very rare move, the main alternatives are 7...♕a5 or; 7...♗xc3+ 8.bxc3 ♘c5

8.♕e3 d5!?

It's hard to say if this is a novelty or not. 8...♘c6 9.♗g2 ♕f6 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♗d2 ♗a6 12.0-0 ♘b7 13.♘d5! cxd5 14.♗xb4 ♗xc4 15.♖ac1 d4 16.♕a3 ♗d5 17.♗xd5 exd5 18.♖c7+− Brynell − Furhoff, Goteborg 1990.

9.♗g2 dxc4 10.0-0 ♘cd7? (D)



Extremely strange play. It looks like Viktor Korchnoi has forgotten that pieces need to be developed.

11.♘d5!

The same jump as in the Brynell game!

11...♗c5 12.♘xe6!

Very energetic − Black's King is still in the centre, justifying this piece sacrifice.

12...fxe6

12...♗xe3 13.♘dc7+ ♔e7 14.♘xd8 ♔xd8 15.♘xa8+−

13.♕xe6+ ♗e7

13...♔f8 14.♗e3!? ♘a6 (14...♗xe3? 15.♕d6+ ♔f7 16.fxe3+ ♘f6 17.♕xd8 ♖xd8 18.♘c7±) 15.♖ad1→

14.♗f3

The most difficult task for White is to choose the best move from many tempting possibilities. 14.♗g5? ♘f6; 14.♖d1!?

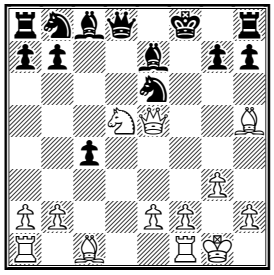
14...♘f8

14...♘f6?? 15.♘xf6+ gxf6 16.♗h5+ ♔f8 17.♕f7#

15.♕e5 x c7 **15...♘e6**

Black has to protect the c7−square.

16.♗h5+ ♔f8 (D)



17.♗h6!

A nice, strong move! Do you remember the game Anand − Lautier, Biel 1997? If not, take a look at it − 4 years ago here in Biel Anand beat Lautier with a similar Bishop blow; Joel didn't forget Vishy's lesson.

17...♔g8

17...gxh6 18.♕xh8#!; 17...♗f6 18.♘xf6 gxh6 19.♖ad1+−

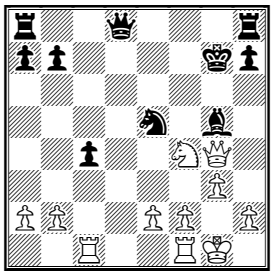
18.♗g4 gxh6 19.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 20.♕xe6+ ♔f8 21.♖ac1?!

Maybe this move is too "clever". Why not 21.♕xh6+ ♔e8 (21...♔f7 22.♕f4+ ♗f6 23.♘c7±) 22.♕h5+ ♔f8 23.♕e5 or; 21.♕e5 right now: White attacks the h8 Rook and the square c7 (♘c7 is a dangerous threat).

21...♘c6 22.♕xh6+ ♔f7 23.♕h5+ ♔g7 24.♕g4+

More logical was 24.♖xc4!?

24...♗g5 25.♘f4 ♘e5 (D)



26.♘e6+?

Had White a simple win or not? − 26.♕xg5+ ♕xg5 27.♘e6+ ♔g6 28.♘xg5 ♔xg5 29.f4+

26...♔f6!

For a long time Korchnoi has defended with forced moves, but his position was so bad that he could have lost by force at least twice.

27.♕h3

27.♕xg5+ ♔xe6 and the Knight on e5 protects the Black King very nicely.

27...♕d7 28.♘xg5 ♔xg5 29.♕h4+

29.f4+!? ♔g6 30.♕h4 ♕d4+ 31.♖f2 ♘c6 32.f5+

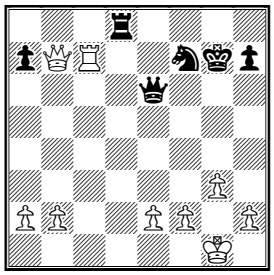
29...♔g6 30.♖fd1 ♕c6 31.♕e7

Even here, after some mistakes, White still has a strong attack.

31...♘f7 32.♖d4 ♕f6 33.♕e4+

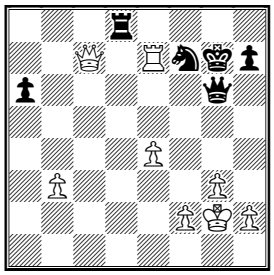
33.♖g4+ ♘g5 34.♕e4+ ♕f5 and White has to exchange Queens, though the endgame would be in his favour also.

33...♔g7 34.♖cxc4 ♖hd8 35.♖xd8 ♖xd8 36.♕xb7 ♕e6 37.♖c7



Korchnoi has consolidated his forces − not too long ago Black didn't have a such good position!

37...♕xa2 38.b3 ♕b1+ 39.♔g2 ♕f5 40.e4 ♕g6 41.♖e7 a6 42.♕c7 (D)



42...♖d1??

An awful mistake at the same moment when Black gained some real counterplay. 42...♖d4!?

43.♕e5+!

And Black resigned in view of 43.♕e5+ ♕f6 (43...♔f8 44.♖e8#; 43...♔h6 44.♕f4+ ♔g7 45.♖xf7+ ♕xf7 46.♕g4+ ♕g6 47.♕xd1+−) 44.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 45.♕h5+ ♕g6 46.♕xd1+− A dramatic game! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
http://people.zeelandnet.nl/hgroffen
http://www.chess.gr/korinthos/index.html
http://www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
http://opencullera2001.cjb.net
http://www.chessib.com
http://www.fqechecs.qc.ca/
http://www.hipernet.com.br/HiperChess/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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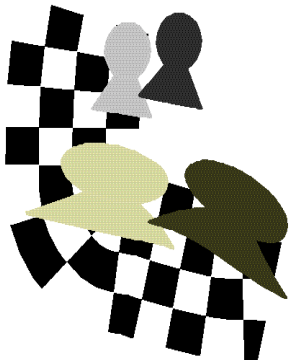
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-270, 4th August 2001

Korchnoi triumphant!

Victor Korchnoi triumphs in ***Biel***, Switzerland! – he saw off all his young and very strong opponents!
There was only one decisive game in the last round – Alexander Grischuk beat Yannick Pelletier and escaped being last on his own.



Results of the final 10 Round.
Korchnoi – Svidler **½:½**
Pelletier – Grischuk **0:1**
Gelfand – Lautier **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Korchnoi – 6 points
2. Svidler – 5½
3. Gelfand – 5
4-6. Lautier, Grischuk, Pelletier – 4½

A rather sophisticated formula is used at the strong ***Biel Open*** – first 4 players after 9 rounds of the 11 rounds tournament – Vadim Milov (Switzerland), Boris Avrukh (Israel), Mikhail Kobalia (Russia) and R. B. Ramesh (India) were playing the semi-final and final.

Semi-finals:
Milov – Kobalia **0:1**
Avrukh – Ramesh **½:½ 1:0 ½:½**

Boris Avrukh (Israel) became a winner, beating Mikhail Kobalia on tie-break. Vadim Milov took third place, also after the rapid games.

Final:
Avrukh – Kobalia **½:½ 1:0 0:1 ½:½ 1:0**

For the 3rd place:
Milov – Ramesh **½:½ 1:0 1:0**

Our congratulations to all the winners and especially for Victor Korchnoi – he is one of the greats!

Five players are leading after the 7th Round of the ***Hogeschool Zeeland Tournament*** in Vlissingen, Netherlands.

Selected results of the 7th Round:
Piket – Kasimdzhanov ½:½
Van Wely – Janssen 1:0
Vehi Bach – Ikonnikov ½:½
Nijboer – S. Ernst 1:0
Lobzhanidze – Werle 1:0

Pairings for the 8th Round:
(6) Kasimdzhanov – Nijboer (6)
(6) Lobzhanidze – Van Wely (6)
(5½) Epishin – Piket (6)

Evgeny Najer (Russia) keeps an excellent perfect score after the 6th Round of the ***Korinthos Open*** in Greece.

Selected results of the 6th Round:
Najer – Rychagov 1:0
Bagaturov – Graf ½:½
Miladinovic – Istratescu ½:½
Spasov – Khurtsidze 1:0
Svetushkin – I. Nikolaidis ½:½
K. Nikolaidis – Gelashvili 0:1

Standing after the 6th Round:
1. Najer – 6 points
2-3. Spasov, Gelashvili – 5
4-11. Rychagov, Istratescu, I. Nikolaidis, Graf, Bellia, Bagaturov, Miladinovic, Potapov

John Emms, Bodgan Lalic, Peter Wells and Chris Ward are sharing the lead after the 5th Round of the ***British Championship***.

Selected results of the 5th Round:
Wells – Ward **½:½**
Gallagher – Hodgson **½:½**
Rowson – Miles **½:½**
Shaw – Chandler **½:½**
Emms – Walker 1:0
Lalic – Pert 1:0
Hebden – Williams 1:0

Standing after the 5th Round:
1-4. Emms, Lalic, Wells, Ward – 4 points
5-15. Hodgson, Miles, Hebden, Chandler, Gallagher, Rowson, Turner, Gormally, Shaw, Ansell, Singh – 3½ etc.

The category IX **Montreal International** tournament is underway. In the 1st Round GMs **Eduardas Rozentalis** (Lithuania), **Alexander Lesiege** and IM **Igor Zugic** (both of Canada) won their games.

Standing after the 1st Round:
1-3. Lesiege, Rozentalis, Zugic – 1 point
4-9. Charbonneau, Kosyrev, Krush, Oral, Mikanovic, Turov – ½
10-12. Barbeau, Goldenberg, Hebert – 0

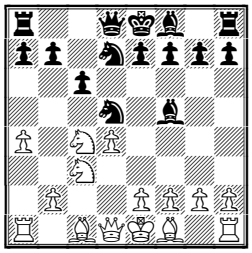
Alexey Shirov leads on the ***Liepajas rokade*** strong rapid tournament.

Standing after 7 rounds:
1**. Shirov – 6 points**
2-7. Ehlvest, Wojtkievic, Fridman, Sadvakasov, Dlugy, Kengis – 4
8-9. Khalifman, Shabalov – 3½
10-11. Magem Badals, Kveinis – 2½
12. Adianto – 2

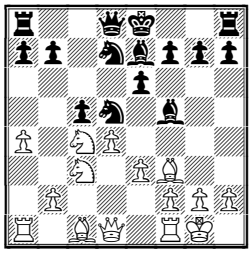
This information from *TWIC:* "According to a report by *Leontxo García* in El Pais 3rd August 2001 the final match of the FIDE World Chess Championships are likely to be in London taking place January 2nd to January 12th 2002. This is said to be the strong preference of the Championship's marketing company Octagon. FIDE hope that all the other matches (up to and including the semi-finals) in the knockout event will be held November 25th to December 12th 2001 in either Monte Carlo (seems to be the first choice) or Cannes. Negotiations are taking place this weekend between FIDE President Kirsan Iljumzhinov and interested parties. The sticking point seems to be that both Monte Carlo and Cannes wish to hold the final too, not take what might be seen as just a qualifier for the main event. However as Iljumzhinov is personally contributing slightly more than $3m to the prizefund as opposed to only $400,000 from the organisers he seems in a position to get his way.

Annotated Game

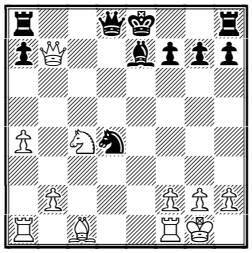
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
E Najer – A Rychagov
Korinthos 2001 (6), 02.08.2001
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.♘e5 ♘bd7 7.♘xc4 ♘d5!?



You may remember this idea from the Yugoslavian player Nebojsa Misailovic which served Alexander Morozevich very well in his games against Vladimir Kramnik in Wijk aan Zee 2001 and Garry Kasparov in Astana 2001 − see CT−204 for details.
8.e3
Both mentioned games continued 8.g3 e5! etc.
8...e6 9.♗e2
The exchange of the bishops after 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♕xd3 just made Black's life easier in the game Milovanovic − Misailovic, Nis 1995.
9...c5
Black does not want to wait for f2−f3 and e3−e4 but this pawn advance is not without drawbacks − it weakens the long diagonal. 9...♗e7 was the worthy alternative.
10.0-0 ♗e7 11.♗f3!



11...cxd4?!
11...♘7f6!? was logical, fortifying the square d5. Black was possibly worried about 12.♕b3 but he could have met it by 12...cxd4 13.exd4 ♘b4!? with good counter chances. The text allows White to take the initiative.
12.♘xd5 exd5 13.♗xd5 ♘c5 14.♕f3 ♗e6 15.♗xe6 ♘xe6 16.exd4 ♘xd4 17.♕xb7



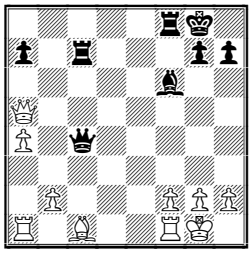
The initiative brought White a healthy pawn.
17...♖c8 18.♘e5 ♖c7 19.♕e4 f5 20.♕d3 ♗f6 21.♘f3
A careful play. 21.♗f4 looked more energetic but it actually gave Black a good chance to complicate

matters by 21...g5!? A possible play was 22.♖fe1 0-0 23.♖ac1!? ♖xc1 24.♗xc1 ♕d5 25.f4 ♖c8 followed by ...♖c2 with counterplay.

21...0-0

21...♘c2 was maybe more tenacious although after 22.♕xd8+ ♗xd8 23.♖b1 0-0 24.b3± White little by little consolidates his position.

22.♘xd4 ♕xd4 23.♕xf5 ♕c4 24.♕a5

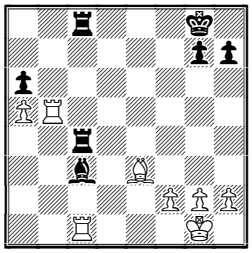


Despite two extra pawns, the win is not as easy as it may seem to be. The b2 pawn is difficult to secure while the pawn majority on the kingside does not guarantee the win. Fortunately, there are the pawns on the queenside as well.

24...♗d4 25.♗e3 ♗xb2 26.♖ab1 ♗c3 27.♕b5 ♕xb5 28.♖xb5 ♖c4 29.♖c1 ♖fc8 30.a5

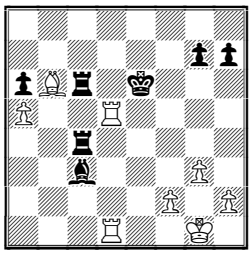
Of course, not 30.♗xa7? ♖xa4

30...a6



Black could hardly keep the pawn under the bishop's attack. However, it allows White to protect his a−pawn by ♗b6 and completely switch himself to the other actions.

31.♖d5 ♔f7 32.g3 ♔e6 33.♖cd1 ♖8c6 34.♗b6



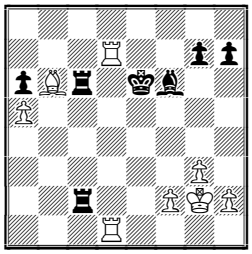
34...♗f6?!

34...♗b4!? was more to the point, trying to exchange the bishops by ...♗c5 or the pair of rooks by ...♖d6 (or ...♖c1). 35.♖d7 (35.♔g2)

35.♔g2 ♖c2?!

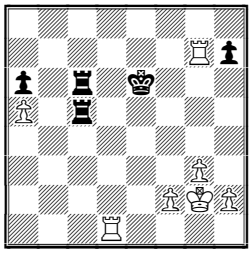
35...♖c1!? was better attempt.

36.♖d7



Now White wins another pawn.

36...♗e7 37.♖a7 ♗c5 38.♗xc5 ♖2xc5 39.♖xg7



Black resigned. White's modest opening approach deserves attention but it's too early to make precise conclusions − let's wait for the future games of ... Alexander Morozevich!

1-0

Recommended Web sites:

www.bielchessfestival.ch/site/start_e.htm
www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
people.zeelandnet.nl/hgroffen/
www.chess.gr/korinthos/index.html
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.liepaja-online.lv/sahs/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-271, 5th August 2001

Shirov king of *speed* …

Alexey Shirov has very convincingly won the Liepajas rokade rapid tournament.

Final standings:
1. Shirov – 8 points out of 11
2-3. Ehlvest, Shabalov – 6½
4-5. Sadvakasov, Wojtkiewicz – 6
6-8. Khalifman, Dlugy, Kveinys – 5½
9. Kengis – 5
10. Fridman – 4½
11. Adianto – 4
12. Magem Badals – 3

The Dutch trio won the Hogeschool Zeeland Tournament Vlissingen.

Some results of Round 8th:
Kasimdzhanov – Nijboer **½:½**
Lobzhanidze – Van Wely **0:1**
Epishin – Piket **0:1**
Romanishin – Werner **1:0**
Ikonnikov – Jonkman **1:0**
Delemarre – Vehi **½:½**

Some results of Round 9th:
(7) Van Wely **½:½** Kasimdzhanov (6½)
(7) Piket **½:½** Romanishin (6½)
(6½) Nijboer **1:0** Ikonnikov (6½)
(6) Werle **0:1** Psachis (6)
(6) Delemarre **0:1** Lobzhanidze (6)
(6) Vehi **½:½** Van Dongen (6)
(6) Janssen **1:0** Geirnaert (6)

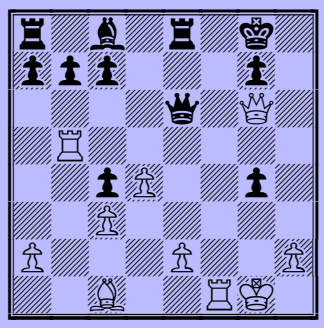
Final standings:
1-3. Van Wely, Piket, Nijboer – 7½ points out of 9
4-8. Kasimdzhanov, Romanishin, Psachis, Lobzhanidze, Janssen – 7 etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners!

5th International Chess Tournament "Korinthos 2001".

Some results of the 7th Round:
Spasov – Najer **½:½**
Gelashvili – Ovsejevitsch **½:½**
A. Rychagov – Svetushkin **½:½**

White to play



From our Annotated Game

Istrateskou – Bagaturov **1:0**
I. Nikolaidis – Makropoulou **1:0**
Graf – Mastrovasilis **1:0**
Bellia – Potapov **1:0**
Leer Salvensen – Miladinovic **0:1**
Khurtsidze – Byklum **½:½**

Pairing for the 8th Round:
(6½) Najer – Graf (5½)
(5½) Miladinovic – Spasov (5½)

=1st GM Ward

(5½) Gelashvili – Istrateskou (5½)
(5½) Bella – I. Nikolaidis (5½)
(5) Byklum – A. Rychagov (5)
(5) Ovsejevitsch – Svetushkin (5)
(5) K. Nikolaidis – Bagaturov (4½)

Some top results of the 6th Round of the British Chess Championships.

Wells – Emms ½:½
Ward – Lalic ½:½
Hodgson – Turner **1:0**
Miles – Gormally ½:½
Hebden – Shaw **0:1**
Chandler – Singh **1:0**
Ansell – Gallagher ½:½

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-7. Wells, Ward, Emms, Lalic, Hodgson, Shaw, Chandler – 4 ½ points out of 6 etc.

Montreal *tournament, standing after the 2nd Round:*
1. Lesiège – 2 points
2-3. Rozentalis, Charbonneau – 1½
4-8. Turov, Oral, Kosyrev, Zugic, Mikanovic – 1
9-12. Hébert, Krush, Barbeau, Goldenberg – ½

Also see our annotated game section

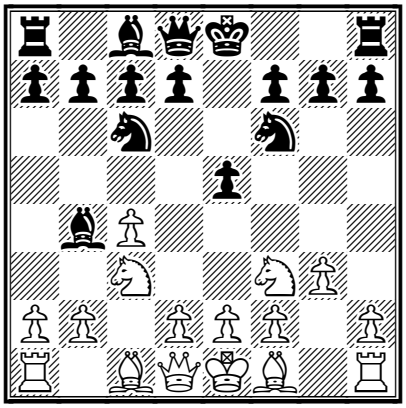
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

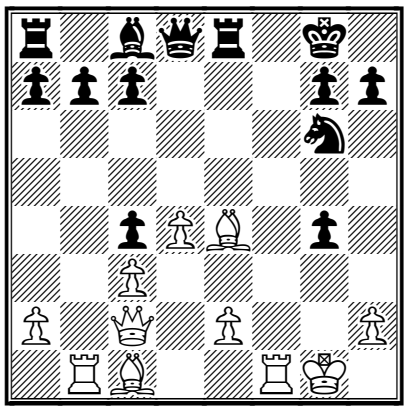
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

A Lesiege (2564) − I Zugic (2440)
It Montreal CAN (2), 03.08.2001 A29

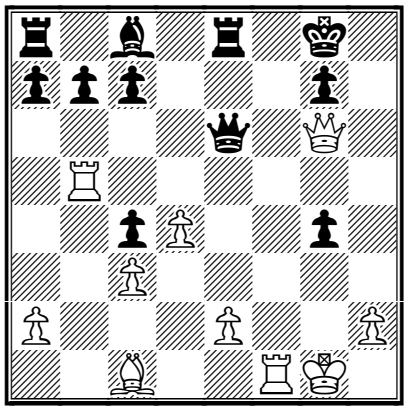
1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.g3 ♗b4!?



In the last few decades this favourite move of Smyslov has become maybe even more popular than the classical 4...d5
5.♗g2 0-0 6.0-0 e4 7.♘g5 ♗xc3 8.bxc3 ♖e8 9.f3 exf3
I think better is another way: 9...e3!? (I. Zaitsev), for example: 10.d3 (10.dxe3?! Kasparov − Sadvakasov, Astana 2001.) 10...d5 11.♕b3 ♘a5 12.♕a3 c6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.f4 ♘c6 15.♖b1 ♕c7 Kasparov − Karpov, Sevilla 1987.
10.♘xf3 d5 11.d4 ♘e4 12.♕c2 dxc4
And here more solid looks 12...♗f5!? 13.♘h4 ♗g4 But all this is a theory still.
13.♖b1 f5 14.g4 fxg4!?
It looks like a new idea. In previous games Black didn't solve his problems after either 14...♕e7 15.gxf5 ♘d6 16.♘g5 ♕xe2 17.♗d5+ ♔h8 18.♕xe2 ♖xe2 19.♗f4 Kasparov − Ivanchuk, Moscow 1988; no 14...g6 15.♗f4
15.♘e5 ♘xe5 16.♗xe4 ♘g6



17.♗xg6
17.♗xb7 ♗xb7 18.♖xb7 ♕d7 and Black has good counterchances.
17...hxg6 18.♕xg6 ♕e7?
What a pity − Black made a mistake right after the opening in such an interesting position... Better was 18...♕d7!?, and White can't include his second Rook into attack. Of couse he has good compensation for a pawn, but does he have more? 19.e4!? ♖e6! (19...♕e6 20.♖f6!) 20.♕xg4 ♕e8 and the White King is also rather weak.
19.♖b5!
Typical, but strong in any case.
19...♕e6



19...♖f8!?
20.♕h5!

Of course without Queens Black can successfully defend his position: 20.♖f6?! ♕xf6! 21.♕xe8+ ♕f8 22.♕xf8+ ♔xf8 23.♖c5 c6= But now quite unexpectedly Black can't do anything against White's straightforward offence.

20...g6

20...♖e7? 21.♖e5 ♕d6 22.♖d5

21.♕h6

Black resigned because he can't defend against Rg5.

1-0

Recommended Web sites:

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.liepaja-online.lv/sahs/
http://people.zeelandnet.nl/hgroffen
http://www.chess.gr/korinthos/index.html
http://www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
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CT-273, 7th August 2001

IM John Shaw leads the British

IM John Shaw took the lead at the ***British Championship*** – in the 7th Round he confidently outplayed Chris Ward while other leaders drew their games.

Selected results of the 7th Round:
Emms – Hodgson ½:½
Lalic – Chandler ½:½
Shaw – Ward 1:0
Gormally – Wells ½:½
Palliser – Miles ½:½
Gallagher – Knott 1:0
Rowson – Ansell 0:1
Summerscale – Walker 1:0

Standing after the 7th Round:
1. Shaw - 5½ points,
2-9. Hodgson, Chandler, Emms, Lalic, Wells, Ansell, Gallagher, Summerscale – 5 etc.

In the 4th Round of the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament in Canada **Vladimir Kosyrev** (Russia) won a very important game against Alexander Lesiège (Canada) and became a sole leader as Eduardas Rozentalis (Lithuania) lost to Tomas Oral (Czech Rep.).

Standing after the 4th Round:
1. Kosyrev – 3 points,
2-6. Lesiège, Rozentalis, Oral, Mikanovic, Barbeau – 2½ points etc.

An interesting VII category ***Stork Young Masters*** tournament started in Hengelo, Netherlands.
The list of participants:

1. Nazar Firman	IM	Ukraine	ELO 2511
2. Zahar Efimenko	IM	Ukraine	2495
3. Ruud Janssen	IM	Netherlands	2437
4. Joost Berkvens		Netherlands	2444
5. Leonid Kritz	FM	Germany	2423
6. Jan Werle		Netherlands	2412
7. Andrey Zhigalko		Byelorussia	2400
8. Jana Jackova	WIM	Czech Rep.	2350
9. Nico Vink		Netherlands	2281
10. Mikhail Ginzburg		Byelorussia	2274

The IM-norm is 5½ points out of 9 games. There was only one decisive game in the first round – **Zahar Efimenko** beat Joons Berkvens and became a sole leader of the event.

Results of the 1st Round:
Kritz – Firman ½:½
Berkvens – Efimenko 0:1
Janssen – Zhigalko ½:½
Vink – Werle ½:½
Jackova – Ginzburg ½:½

IMs **Florian Jenny** and **Martin Senff** are leading at the ***Ambassador Open*** in Bern, Switzerland with a perfect score after 3 rounds.

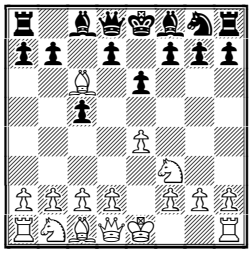
Pairings for the 4th Round:
(3) Jenni – Senff (3)
(2½) Jelmer – Rashkovsky (2½)
(2½) Holzke – Kurmann (2½)
(2½) Kachiani – Gheorghiu (2½)
(2½) Bagirov – Heinz (2½)

30 players, including top-seeded GMs Igor Khenkin, Klaus Bischoff (both of Germany) and Leonid Gofshtein (Israel) keep perfect score after 2 rounds of the open tournament in ***Recklinghausen*** Germany.

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

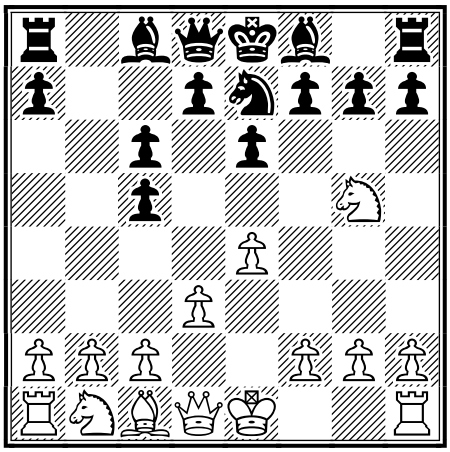
J Rowson (2514) − S Ansell (2376)
GB−ch Scarborough (7), 07.2001 B30
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 e6 4.♗xc6



White parts with his bishop to damage Black's pawn structure. In my opinion, it doesn't disturb Black very much − as usual, White should keep the position closed so it reduces his active possibilities. However, Black has to play carefully to solve the problem of the bishop on c8 − an attempt to open the diagonal c8−h3 by ...d7−d6

can be met by e4−e5 while if he manages to put the pawns on e5 and d6 too early White can break in the centre by c2−c3 and d3−d4, taking use of his lead in development. 4.0-0 is a common option.

4...bxc6 5.d3 ♘e7 6.♘g5

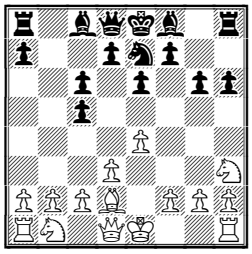


An unusual position requires unusual decisions − by spending some extra time White gets the f−pawn into the action. 6.♕e2 f6!? 7.♘h4 g6 8.f4 ♗g7 was played in the game Najer − R. Scherbakov, TCh−RUS, Tomsk 2001. After 9.e5 0-0 10.♘f3 fxe5 11.fxe5 ♘f5 12.c3 Black activated his light−squared bishop by typical pawn sacrifice: 12...c4! 13.dxc4 c5 14.0-0 ♗b7 with active counterplay.; 6.0-0 ♘g6 7.♘g5 is a popular alternative.

6...h6

A rather fresh idea − Black wants to keep the long diagonal open. For some reason Black more often plays 6...f6 7.♘h3 g6 8.f4 ♗g7 9.0-0 0-0, keeping a solid but somewhat passive position.

7.♘h3 g6 8.♗d2

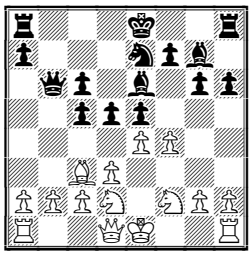


This is also a typical manoeuvre for such positions. The question is if the combination of the ideas White realises in the opening is really good.

8...♗g7 9.♗c3 e5 10.f4 d5 11.♘f2 ♕b6!?

A good idea − Black keeps the tension. In the game Svetushkin − Motylev, Bucharest 1998 Black preferred 11...d4 12.♗d2 exf4 13.♗xf4 0-0 with unclear play but the fact that the queenside pawn structure is stabilised makes White's task easier.

12.♘d2 ♗e6



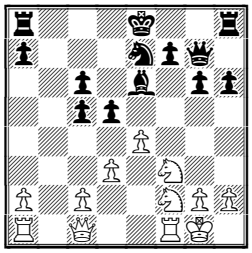
13.♗xe5

Of course, 13.fxe5?? is still impossible as Black prevents ♘d2−c4 and can play 13...d4

13...♗xe5 14.fxe5 ♕xb2 15.0-0!?

An interesting pawn sacrifice. 15.♘f3 ♕c3+ 16.♔e2 g5!? was very good for Black.

15...♕xe5 16.♘f3 ♕g7 17.♕c1



17.♕d2!? also came to mind, moving the queen to a5.

17...g5!

An excellent decision. The routine 17...0-0? was much weaker due to 18.♕a3 and White wins the pawn on c5, occupying a dominating position with the queen.

18.♖b1

In case of 18.h3 Black could think about 18...♖g8

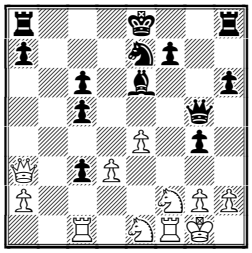
18...g4 19.♘e1 ♕g5!? 20.♕a3 d4

20...♕e3!? looked interesting but it could be met by 21.g3! followed by ♘g2.

21.c3!

Trying to get Black's c−pawns.

21...dxc3 22.♖c1



22...♘g6!?

22...0-0 23.♖xc3 c4! 24.dxc4 ♘g6 was also not so bad.

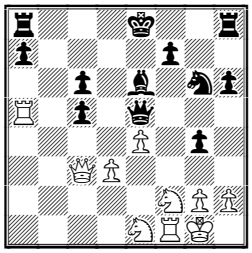
23.♕xc3

23.♖xc3 looked more natural and it led to unclear play after 23...c4!?

23...♗xa2!?

23...c4!? 24.dxc4 0-0 was quite good for Black.

24.♖a1!? ♗e6 25.♖a5 ♕e5



25...g3?! looked suspicious for Black due to 26.hxg3 ♕xg3 27.♕xc5 ♕c7 (27...♘f4 28.♕xc6+ ♔e7 29.♕b7+! ♔f6 30.♘h3! ♗xh3 31.♕c7) 28.♘f3 with initiative.

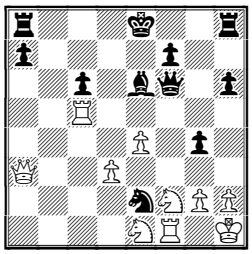
26.♕a3!?

An ambitious attempt. By playing 26.♕xe5!? ♘xe5 27.♖xc5 White could have won a pawn back and the draw would be the most likely result.

26...♘f4

Black accepts the challenge! Yet, 26...0-0 was probably more reliable.

27.♖xc5 ♘e2+ 28.♔h1 ♕f6



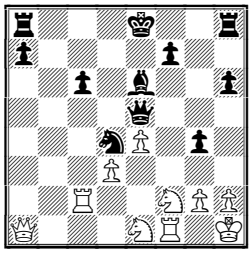
29.♖c2?

Perhaps being under time pressure, White makes a big mistake. 29.e5! looked tempting. A possible play was 29...♕f4 (otherwise ♘f2−e4) 30.♖xc6 g3!? (30...♕xe5 31.♘e4↑) 31.♖c7 ♗d7 32.♖xd7! ♔xd7 33.♕d6+ ♔e8 34.♕c6+ ♔e7 35.♕b7+! (35.♕d6+=) 35...♔e6 36.d4! gxf2 37.d5+ ♔f5 38.♖xf2!! ♕xf2 39.♕xf7+ ♔xe5 40.♕xf2 ♘d4 − White has the initiative but Black can probably hold on in this position by getting the rooks into play as quickly as possible.

29...♘d4 30.♕a1

This was White's idea but the pin doesn't achieve the desired effect.

30...♕e5!



Protecting the c6 pawn indirectly − Black simply gained an extra pawn and occupied very good central squares. By the way, 30...♕d8 was not a defence as 31.♖xc6 was quite possible!

31.♘d1 0-0 32.♘e3 f5!

32...♖fd8 was solid but less energetic.

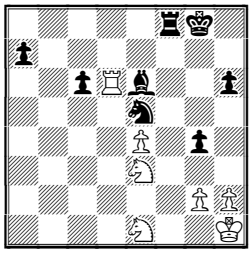
33.♖d2

33.♘xf5 ♗xf5 34.exf5 ♖ae8 wasn't better for White.

33...fxe4 34.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 35.dxe4 ♘f3!?

A good idea although 35...c5!? was maybe stronger.

36.♕xe5 ♘xe5 37.♖d6?



A blunder in a very difficult, probably lost position.

37...♘c4! 38.♘1c2?

38.♖xe6 ♘xe3 followed by ...♖f8−f1-e1 was lost.

38...♘xd6

White resigned. A very interesting game and an excellent performance by Simon Ansell!

0-1

Recommended Web sites:
www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
www.schaakbond.nl/nieuws/stork2001/index.htm
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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CT-275, 9th August 2001

Gallagher leads British

Joseph Gallagher became sole leader of the ***British Championship*** in Scarborough – today he is the hero of our annotated game again – enjoy his enterprising play against John Shaw. The reigning Champion Julian Hodgson shares second place with Peter Wells.

Selected results of the 9th Round:
Gallagher – Shaw 1:0
Lalic – Hodgson ½:½
Emms – Arkell ½:½
Lane – Wells 0:1
Gormally – Ward ½:½
Summerscale – Ansell ½:½
Pert – Hebden 0:1
Ledger – Chandler 0:1

Standing after the 9th Round:
1. Gallagher – 7 points,
2-3. Hodgson, Wells – 6½
4-13. Hebden, Chandler, Emms, Lalic, Rowson, Ward, Gormally, Show, Arkell, Ansell – 6 etc.

Vladimir Kosyrev (Russia) and **Tomas Oral** (Czech Rep.) keep the lead after the 6th Round of the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament in Canada.

Results of the 6th Round:
Hebert – Kosyrev 0:1
Oral – Krush 1:0
Rozentalis – Mikanovic 1:0
Lesiège – Charbonneau 1:0
Turov – Zugic ½:½
Goldenberg – Barbeau 0:1

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-2. Kosyrev, Oral – 4½ points,
3-4. Rozentalis, Lesiège – 4
5-6. Turov, Barbeau – 3½
7. Zugic – 3
8-9. Charbonneau, Mikanovic – 2½
10. Krush – 2
11. Goldenberg – 1½
12. Hebert – ½

Zahar Efimenko (Ukraine) keep the lead after the 5th Round of the VII category ***Stork Young Masters*** tournament in Hengelo, Netherlands.

Results of the 4th Round:
Ginzburg – Efimenko 0:1
Kritz – Jackova 0:1
Firman – Berkvens 0:1
Zhigalko – Werle 0:1
Janssen – Vink ½:½

Results of the 5th Round:
Efimenko – Firman ½:½
Jackova – Zhigalko 0:1
Werle – Ginzburg 1:0
Vink – Kritz ½:½
Berkvens – Janssen ½:½

Jan Werle became the hero of the last Round – he has managed to win with the white pieces and finally open the score – it is now 1:11 … in black's favour!

Standings after the 5th Round:
1. Efimenko – 4
2. Werle –3½
3. Jackova – 3
4-5. Vink, Kritz – 2½
6-9. Firman, Janssen, Zhigalko, Berkvens – 2
10. Ginzburg – 1½

There are six leaders with 4 points after the 5th Round of the ***Ambassador Open*** in Bern, Switzerland.
Selected results of the 5th Round:
Rashkovsky – Jenni ½:½
Senff – Holzke ½:½
Gheorghiu – R. Bagirov ½:½
Gerber – Kachiani 0:1
T. Horvath – Klovans ½:½

Top boards of the 6th Round:
(4) Holzke – Rashkovsky (4)
(4) Jenni – Kachiani (4)
(4) R. Bagirov – Senff (4) etc.

Five players, including the ELO-favourite **Igor Khenkin** (Germany), keep perfect score after the 4th Round of the open tournament in

Recklinghausen, Germany.

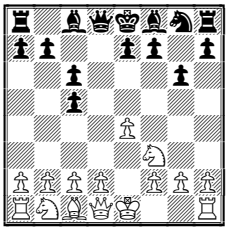
Selected results of the 4th Round:
O. Eismont – Khenkin 0:1
A. Rotstein – Gawehns 1:0
Hillarp Persson – Schebler 0:1
Podzielny – Koscielski 1:0
J. Rotstein – Feygin 0:1
Bischoff – Zaragatski 1:0

Top boards for the 5th Round:
(4) Khenkin – Podzielny (4)
(4) Schebler – A. Rotstein (4)
(4) Feygin – Mainka (3½)
(3½) Kalka – Bischoff (3½)
(3½) Gofshtein – Halasz (3½)
(3) Berelovich – Bakhmatov (3½) etc.

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
J Gallagher (2516) − J Shaw (2478)
British Championship Scarborough (9), 08.08
B31.2001

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.♗xc6 dxc6

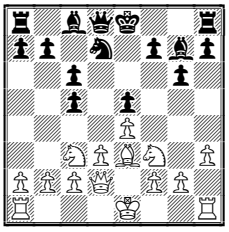


This capture makes Black's development easier but decreases his influence in the centre and reduces the possibilities to organise an active counterplay. 4...bxc6 leads to more interesting although more risky play for Black.

5.d3 ♗g7 6.h3

Preventing ...♗c8−g4 − as a rule, this bishop is passive and so rather useless in such closed positions.

6...♘f6 7.♘c3 ♘d7 8.♗e3 e5 9.♕d2



9...♕e7

9...h6 is the alternative, securing the bishop g7 from exchange. A possible play is 10.0-0 (John Shaw himself hasn't got very much by playing 10.g4 ♕e7 11.0-0-0 ♘f8 12.♘e2 ♘e6 13.c3 b6 Shaw − Golod, Cappelle−la−Grande 2000) 10...♕e7 11.♘h2 ♘f8 (11...g5!?) 12.f4 exf4 13.♖xf4 ♗e6 14.♖af1 ♘d7 15.♖4f2 with better chances for White, Rublevsky − Vokarev, Tch−RUS Azov 1996.

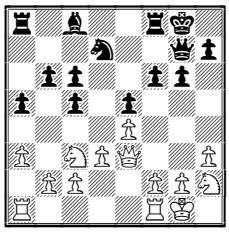
10.♗h6 f6

In the game Adams − Chandler, Southend 2001 Black played 10...0-0 and after 11.♘h2 ♖d8 12.♘g4 ♘f8 13.♗xg7 ♔xg7 14.♕h6+ ♔g8 15.0-0-0 White maintained a small but stable advantage.

11.♗xg7 ♕xg7 12.♕e3 b6 13.a3

A new continuation which doesn't change the course of the game. 13.♘d2 0-0 14.0-0-0 ♖e8 15.f4 gave White a small edge in Nevednichy − Simic, Cetinje 1993: 15...exf4 16.♕xf4 ♘e5 17.g4 ♗e6 18.♖hf1 ♖f8 19.♖f2

13...a5 14.0-0 0-0 15.♘h2



A logical play − after swapping the dark−squared bishops White is going to advance the f−pawn, pressurising Black's kingside.

15...♗b7 16.f4 ♖ae8 17.fxe5 ♘xe5 18.♖f2 ♕d7 19.♖af1 ♔g7 20.♘e2

White has obtained a small but lasting edge. Black's position is solid but he has nothing to do and must watch White's manoeuvres carefully.

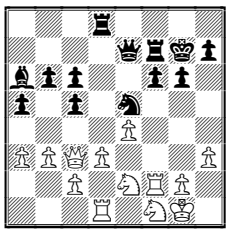
20...♕d8 21.♕d2

Yet, there is no direct way for White to make progress − he should act slowly, trying to weaken Black's position. Now he moves the queen to c3, increasing the pressure over the long diagonal, also stressing Black with a possible b2−b4.

21...♕d6

Black's queenside pawn group can hardly produce any counterplay, for example, 21...c4 22.d4 c5 23.d5 did not disturb White very much.

22.♕c3 ♗a6 23.b3 ♖f7 24.♖b1 ♖d8 25.♘f1 ♕e7 26.♖d1



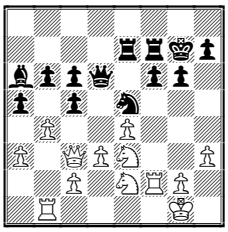
26...♗c8

26...♔g8 seemed to be more to the point.

27.♘e3 ♗a6

One should be very patient to keep manoeuvring, and very careful as well − Black can do nothing here, only wait.

28.♘f4 ♖e8 29.♖b1 ♕d6 30.♘e2 ♖ee7 31.b4



Finally White decided to realise this breakthrough.

31...cxb4

31...♘xd3!? 32.cxd3 ♕xd3 looked interesting, keeping in mind that the pair of knights cannot checkmate on the empty board.

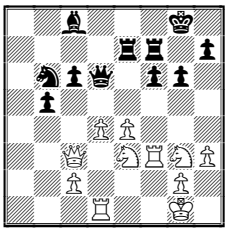
32.axb4 axb4 33.♖xb4 b5 34.♖b1 ♗c8

A poor bishop − it's just useless here. On the other hand, White's knights are ready for action.

35.d4 ♘d7 36.♘g3 ♘b6

Defending the knight fork. Of course, the knight is untouchable: 36...♕xg3?? 37.♘f5+

37.♖f3 ♔g8 38.♖d1



38...♖a7?

A big mistake − the advance of the e−pawn should not be allowed by any cost. Both 38...b4 ; and 38...♘a4 came to mind but White's chances were still preferable − Black cannot feel comfortable due to the vulnerable dark squares on the kingside.

39.e5! ♖a3

39...♘a4 40.♕b3! was also unsatisfactory for Black.

40.♕b2

40.♘e4!? was painful for Black.

40...♘a4 41.♕c1

Black produced some activity on the queenside but it looks like his pieces only moved away from the battle area. By the way, the a3 rook is under threat − the e3 knight is ready to jump.

41...♕f8 42.exf6

42.♘e4!? came to mind: 42...♘c3 43.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 44.♖xf6 ♘e2+ 45.♔f2 securing an extra pawn. Yet, the win was not so easy after 45...♘xc1 46.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 47.♖xc1 ♗e6 The text move is more to the point − White doesn't want to simplify the position.

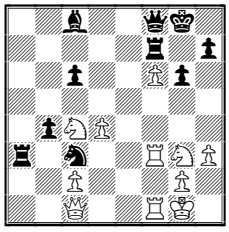
42...b4

42...♘c3!? 43.♖df1 ♖a4 could have offered more resistance.

43.♖df1 ♘c3

Getting the knight closer to the centre − however, it is too late.

44.♘c4



The knight is going to e5 with a tempo.

44...♗a6

A desperate attempt.

45.♘xa3 ♗xf1 46.♕xf1 bxa3 47.♖xc3 a2 48.♕a1

48.♕a6 ♕e8 49.♖a3 was also good enough.

48...♖a7 49.♖f3 ♕f7 50.♘e4 ♕d5 51.f7+ ♔f8 52.♘f6

Black resigned. A confident game by Joseph Gallagher! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:
www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
www.schaakbond.nl/nieuws/stork2001/index.htm
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-276, 10th August 2001

Gallagher still top

Joseph Gallagher retains the sole lead before the last round of the ***British Championship*** – today he drew against Peter Wells while the reigning Champion Julian Hodgson couldn't beat Murray Chandler. Mark Hebden was in excellent counter attacking form – he is our hero of the game section today.

Selected results of the 10th Round:
Wells – Gallagher ½:½
Chandler – Hodgson ½:½
Ward – Hebden 0:1
Shaw – Emms 0:1
Ansell – B.Lalic 0:1
K. Arkell – Rowson 1:0
Kelly – Gormally ½:½
Williams – Summerscale 0:1
N. Pert – Lane 1:0
Miles – Singh ½:½

Standing after the 10th Round:
1. Gallagher – 7½ points,
2-7. Hodgson, Hebden, Emms, Lalic, Wells, K. Arkell – 7
8-10. Chandler, Summerscale, Gormally – 6½ etc.

The last round promises to be very bloody – the British Championship is at stake. Yet, the tie-breaks are to be played in case of tie.

Jan Werle joined **Zahar Efimenko** at the lead after the 6th Round of the VII category ***Stork Young Masters*** tournament in Hengelo, Netherlands.

Results of the 6th Round:
Janssen – Efimenko ½:½
Firman – Werle 0:1
Jackova – Vink 1:0
Kritz – Berkvens 0:1
Zhigalko – Ginzburg ½:½

Standings after the 6th Round:
1-2. Efimenko, Werle – 4½ points
3. Jackova – 4
4. Berkvens – 3
5-8. Janssen, Zhigalko, Vink, Kritz – 2½
9-10. Ginzburg, Firman – 2

The White players are still suffering – the total score is 2:13 in Black's favour.

IMs **Florian Jenni** and **Martin Senff** are leading at the ***Ambassador Open*** in Bern, Switzerland with 5 points after 6 rounds.

Selected results of the 6th Round:
Holzke – Rashkovsky ½:½
Jenni – Kachiani 1:0
R. Bagirov – Senff 0:1
Schwartz – Gheorghiu 0:1
Klovans – Heinz 1:0

Top boards of the 7th Round:
(4½) Gheorghiu – Jenni (5)
(5) Senff – Rashkovsky (4½)
(4½) Vovsha – Holzke (4½)
(4) Kachiani – Klovans (4½)
(4) T. Horvath – R. Bagirov (4)

Arkady Rotstein of Germany became sole leader of the open tournament in ***Recklinghausen***, Germany – he is the only player with a perfect score after 5 rounds. The top-seeded Igor Khenkin, Karl-Heinz Podzielny (both of Germany) and Mikhail Feygin (Ukraine) are sharing second place.

Selected results of the 5th Round:
Khenkin – Podzielny ½:½
Schebler – A. Rotstein 0:1
Feygin – Mainka ½:½
Kalka – Bischoff ½:½
Gofshtein – Halasz ½:½
Berelovich – Bakhmatov 1:0

Top boards of the 6th Round:
(5) A. Rotstein – Khenkin (4½)
(4½) Podzielny – Feygin (4½)
(4) Bischoff – Koscielski (4)
(4) J. Rotstein – Gofstein (4)
(4) Kern – Berelovich (4) etc.

There was a rest day on the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament in Canada. **Vladimir Kosyrev** (Russia) and **Tomas Oral** (Czech Rep.) are leading after the 6 rounds.

Standing after the 6th Round:
1-2. Kosyrev, Oral – 4½ points,
3-4. Rozentalis, Lesiège – 4
5-6. Turov, Barbeau – 3½
7. Zugic – 3
8-9. Charbonneau, Mikanovic – 2½
10. Krush – 2
11. Goldenberg – 1½
12. Hebert – ½

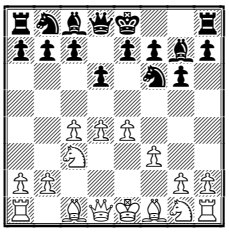
Pairings of the 7th Round:
Kosyrev – Turov
Barbeau – Oral
Krush – Rozentalis
Mikanovic – Lesiège
Zugic – Goldenberg
Charbonneau – Hebert

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Ward (2493) − M Hebden (2550)
British Championship Scarborough, England E81 (10), 09.08.2001

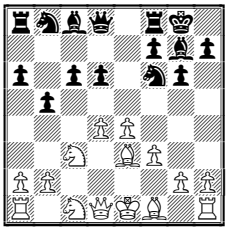
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3



The Saemish variation is one of the most ambitious systems against the King's Indian. White is often not in a hurry to castle, trying to make it more difficult for Black to find an object for counterplay. However, "more ambitious" quite often means "more risky".

5...0-0 6.♘ge2 a6 7.♗e3 c6 8.c5!?
8.♕d2 is the more common option.

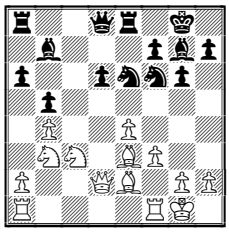
8...b5!? 9.cxd6 exd6 10.♘c1



A typical route for the knight, but new for this particular situation. White usually plays 10.♕d2 , followed by ♘e2−g3, ♗f1-e2 and 0-0.

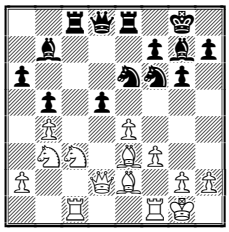
10...♘bd7 11.♗e2 ♖e8 12.♕d2 c5
Starting counter actions in the centre.

13.dxc5 ♘xc5 14.0-0 ♗b7 15.b4 ♘e6 16.♘b3



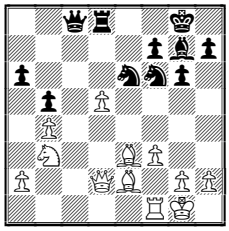
White has comfortably developed his pieces and intends to pressurise the weak d−pawn. However, Black doesn't give him the chance.

16...♖c8 17.♖ac1 d5!



18.♘xd5
18.e5!? deserved attention. Black should have probably played 18...♘d7 (18...d4 19.♘xd4 ♘d5 20.♘xd5 ♕xd5 21.♘xe6 fxe6 22.♕xd5 ♗xd5 23.f4 ♗xa2 24.♖xc8 ♖xc8 25.♖a1±) 19.f4 ♘b6⇄ with counter chances.

18...♗xd5 19.♖xc8 ♕xc8 20.exd5 ♖d8



As often happens, when Black succeeds with a freeing pawn advance ...d6−d5, he gets the initiative. White should be more careful now.

21.♖c1
Probably not the best. White could have achieved a better situation by playing 21.d6!? ♘e8 22.♖c1 ♕b8 23.d7 ♘f6 24.♘c5 and so on.

21...♕b8 22.♘a5?!
This knight's raid does not look very good. 22.♘c5 ♖xd5 23.♘d3 seemed to be more reliable, for example, 23...♘d4 24.♗f1 and so on.

22...♖xd5 23.♕c3?!
A rather suspicious decision again. 23.♕e1 looked much safer.

23...♕f8! 24.♕c8?!
Continuing the active but wrong plan, which only plays into Black's hands.

24...♖d8

24...♖e5! could be annoying for White. However, the text move allows Black to seize a strong initiative as well.

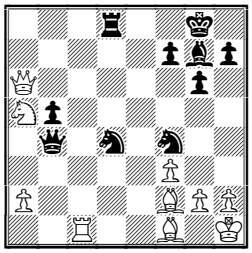
25.♕xa6 ♘d5 26.♗f2 ♘d4 27.♗f1 ♘f4

27...♘xb4!? , followed by ...♘a2, was maybe stronger.

28.♔h1

28.♖b1 didn't solve the problems due to 28...♘fe2+ 29.♗xe2 ♘xe2+ 30.♔f1 (30.♔h1 ♕xb4!) 30...♘c3 31.♖e1 ♕xb4 with initiative.

28...♕xb4



The situation clearly turned out to the Black's favour.

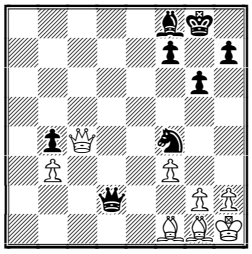
29.♖c8

This exchange weakens the first rank. Perhaps White was under the time pressure to consider such defensive moves as 29.♗e3!? and preferred to simplify the position.

29...♖f8 30.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 31.♘b3 ♘xb3 32.axb3 ♕d2

Of course, it is unreasonable for Black to swap queenside pawns.

33.♗g1 b4 34.♕c4



At first sight, White is complete okay as everything is well protected. However, his pieces are very passive and sometimes it is not so easy for him to find the move.

34...♘e6

On the other hand, Black has some active plans − for example, he keeps in mind ...♕c3 and ...♗c5, exchanging dark−squared bishops with idea to get to the pawn b3 by ...♘c5.

35.♕d3 ♕c3

Perhaps 35...♕e1!? was more subtle.

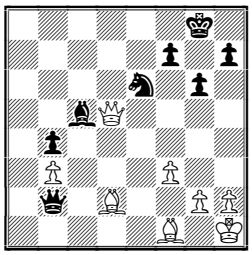
36.♗e3?

36.♕d1! was correct, securing the bishop's sortie to c4.

36...♗c5 37.♗d2 ♕b2

Now White is in big trouble.

38.♕d5



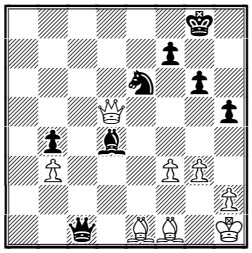
38...h5!?

The immediate 38...♗d4 was met by 39.♗h6

39.g3?

A blunder but White's position was very difficult anyway.

39...♗d4! 40.♗e1 ♕c1



...♗c3 comes next, winning the bishop. White resigned. Mark Hebden is excellent when counter attacking! **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:
www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
www.schaakbond.nl/nieuws/stork2001/index.htm
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Editors:
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CT-277, 11th August 2001

GM Joseph Gallagher is new British Champion

Swiss resident **Joseph Gallagher** is the new British Champion! In the last 11th Round of the ***British Championship*** he made a quick draw against Keith Arkell and became the most interested spectator. All the chasing pack, including last years winner Julian Hodgson, were fighting tooth and nail but failed to produce a decisive result!

Selected results of the last 11th Round:
Gallagher – Arkell ½:½
Hodgson – Wells ½:½
Emms – Lalic ½:½
Hebden – Summerscale ½:½
Gormally – Chandler 1:0
Rowson – R. Pert 1:0
Turner – Kelly 1:0
Zong Zhao – Ward 0:1
Shaw – Ansell 1:0
Crouch – N. Pert ½:½

Final standings:
1. Gallagher – 8 points,
2-8. Hodgson, Hebden, Emms, Lalic, Wells, Gormally, K. Arkell – 7½
9-13. Rowson, Turner, Summerscale, Ward, Shaw – 7 etc.

Our congratulations to Joseph Gallagher on his well-deserved victory!

Zahar Efimenko (Ukraine) keeps sole lead before the last round of the VII category ***Stork Young Masters*** tournament in Hengelo, Netherlands.

Results of the 7th Round:
Efimenko – Kritz ½:½
Werle – Janssen ½:½
Berkvens – Jackova ½:½
Vink – Zhigalko 0:1
Ginzburg – Firman 0:1

Results of the 8th Round:
Jackova – Efimenko ½:½
Kritz – Werle 1:0
Vink – Berkvens 0:1
Zhigalko – Firman 0:1
Janssen – Ginzburg 1:0

Standings after the 8th Round:
1. Efimenko - 5½ points
2-3. Werle, Jackova – 5
4. Berkvens – 4½
5-7. Janssen, Kritz, Firman – 4
8. Zhigalko – 3½
9. Vink – 2½
10. Ginzburg – 2

It has become popular in Switzerland to determine the winners of open tournaments on tie-breaks. The first four players will compete for the overall victory at the ***Ambassador Open*** in Bern while other participants will continue the 9-round swiss.

Selected results of the 7th Round:
Gheorghiu – Jenni 0:1
Senff – Rashkovsky ½:½
Vovsha – Holzke 0:1
Kachiani – Klovans ½:½
T. Horvath – R. Bagirov ½:½
Gerber – Kelecevic ½:½

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Jenni – 6 points
2-3. Senff, Holzke – 5½
4-5. Rashkovsky, Klovans – 5
6-14. Kachiani, Gheorghiu, R. Bagirov, Gerber, T. Horvath, Vovsha, Hugentobler, Kelecevic, Leib – 4½

Semifinals:
(6) Jenni – Rashkovsky (5)
(5½) Senff – Holzke (5½)

Top boards of the 8th Round:
(5) Klovans – Gerber (4½)
(4½) Vovsha – Gheorghiu (4½)
(4½) R. Bagirov – Hugentobler (4½)
(4½) Kachiani – T. Horvath (4½)
(4½) Kelecevic – Leib (4½)

The ELO-favourite of the ***Recklinghausen*** Open **Igor Khenkin** became a sole leader after beating Arkady Rotstein in the 6th Round. FM **Janus Koscielski** sensationally won against GM Klaus Bischoff with the Black pieces.

Selected results of the 6th Round:
A. Rotstein – Khenkin 0:1
Podzielny – Feygin ½:½
Bischoff – Koscielski 0:1
J. Rotstein – Gofstein ½:½
Kern – Berelovich ½:½
Kummerow – Schebler 0:1
Mainka – Wilde 1:0
Halasz – Zaragatski 1:0

Top boards of the 7th Round:
(5½) Khenkin – Halasz (5)
(5) Feygin – A. Rotstein (5)
(5) Schebler – Podzielny (5)
(5) Koscielski – Mainka (5)

There was a rest day on the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament in Canada. **Vladimir Kosyrev** (Russia) and **Tomas Oral** (Czech Rep.) are leading after 6 rounds.

Results of the 7th Round:
Kosyrev – Turov ½:½
Barbeau – Oral ½:½
Krush – Rozentalis ½:½
Mikanovic – Lesiège 0:1
Zugic – Goldenberg ½:½
Charbonneau – Hebert 0:1

Standing after the 7th Round:
1-3. Kosyrev, Lesiège, Oral – 5 points,
4. Rozentalis – 4½
5-6. Turov, Barbeau – 4
7. Zugic – 3½
8-10. Charbonneau, Krush, Mikanovic – 2½
11. Goldenberg – 2
12. Hebert – 1½

In the 7th Round of the ***Bergen International*** in Norway **Arthur Kogan** (Israel) made his first draw and retained a sole lead. Swedish Champion Evgeny Agrest is half a point behind.

Selected results of the 7th Round:
Kogan – Agrest ½:½
Holmsten – Salmensuu ½:½
Lie – Vl. Georgiev ½:½
Djurhuus – Porper 1:0
Fyllingen – Schandorff ½:½

Standings after the 7th Round:
1. Kogan – 6½ points,
2. Agrest – 6
3-5. Holmsten, Salmensuu, Djurhuus – 5½ etc.

Top boards of the 8th Round:
(5½) Salmensuu – Kogan (6½)
(6) Agrest – Djurhuus (5½)
(5) Stefanova – Holmsten (5½)
(5) Vl. Georgiev – Fyllingen (5)
(5) Brynell – Dworakovska (5)
(5) Pedersen – Lie (5)
(5) Heim – Johannessen (5)

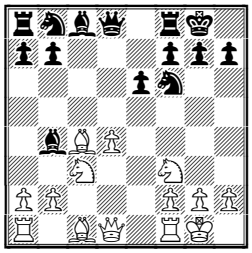
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

J Emms (2532) − B Lalic (2528)
British Championship Scarborough, England (11), 10.08.2001
E54

Both players were striving for a victory which would allow them to share first place with Joseph Gallagher and proceed to the tie−break.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♗b4 7.♗d3 dxc4 8.♗xc4 0-0 9.0-0

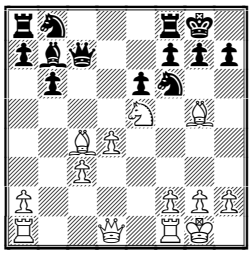


Starting from the Caro−Cann Defence the game has transposed into one of the main lines of the Rubinstein system of the Nimzo−Indian.

9...b6 10.♗g5 ♗b7 11.♘e5 ♗xc3

One of the most principled ways to counter White's straightforward approach. The alternatives are: 11...♗e7, 11...♘bd7 and 11...♘c6

12.bxc3 ♕c7



13.♗b3!?

An interesting novelty in the well−known position! Of course, nobody was thinking about 13.♗xf6 gxf6 14.♕g4+ ♔h8 15.♕h4 fxe5 16.♕f6+ ♔g8 17.♕g5+ with perpetual check, as was played, for example, in the game Timman − Karpov, Malta (ol) 1980.

13...♘c6

In this line Black quite often allows his kingside pawn structure to be damaged − his main task is to bring all his pieces into play as quickly as possible.

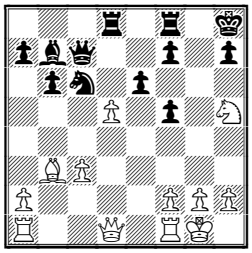
14.♗xf6 gxf6 15.♘g4 f5

Black didn't want to lock his queen in on g7 by playing 15...♕f4!? 16.g3 ♕g5 17.f4 ♕g7 although the things are not so clear as White's king is not totally safe here.

16.♘f6+ ♔g7 17.♘h5+ ♔h8 18.d5!?

18.♕d2 ♖g8 19.f3 could have also secured a small advantage.

18...♖ad8?!

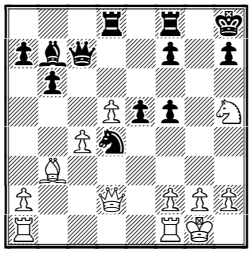


18...exd5 should have probably been played but of course White's chances were preferable after 19.♗xd5 ♖ad8 20.♕f3 f6

19.c4?

19.♕c1! seemed to be very strong: 19...exd5 20.♕h6 f6 21.♘f4 , winning the exchange.

19...e5 20.♕d2 ♘d4

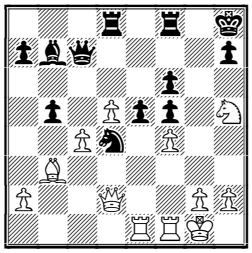


Now everything is fine for Black.

21.f4

In the case of 21.♕h6?! f6! 22.♘xf6 ♕f7 23.♘h5 f4 Black cut off the knight and took the initiative − by the way, ...♕f7−g6 is one of the ideas.

21...f6 22.♖ae1 b5!

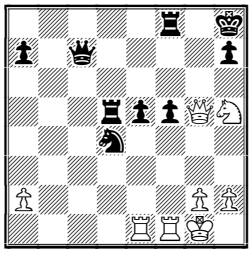


This excellent counter strike comes just in time − Black undermines support of the pawn d5. After 22...♖de8 White was possibly going to proceed with 23.♘xf6!? ♕c5 (23...♖xf6? 24.fxe5 ♕c5 25.exf6!) 24.♔h1 ♖xf6 25.fxe5 ♖g6 26.♖f4 ♘xb3 27.axb3 with better chances.

23.fxe5 fxe5 24.♕g5?!

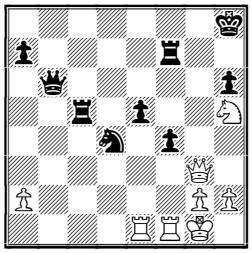
It looks like after 24.♕h6 bxc4 25.♗xc4 ♖f7! White couldn't save the pawn d5 as well but here he would continue fighting by 26.♖c1

24...bxc4 25.♗xc4 ♗xd5 26.♗xd5 ♖xd5



So Black just gained a healthy extra pawn.

27.♖e3 ♖c5 28.♕h6 ♖f7 29.♖ee1 ♕b6 30.♕g5 h6 31.♕g3 f4

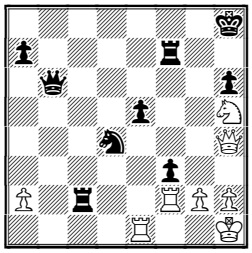


In addition to his extra pawn Black has got a very strong initiative − he looks totally winning now. However, in time trouble something unbelievable happened.

32.♕h4 f3

32...♖c2 33.♔h1 ♕g6 34.♕h3 ♖f5-+ was also good enough.

33.♖f2 ♖c2! 34.♔h1



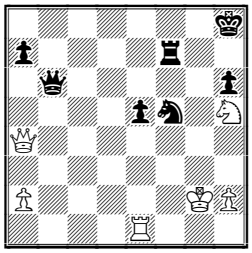
34...♘f5?

Black probably thought he was winning at once. 34...fxg2+ 35.♖xg2 ♖xg2 36.♔xg2 ♘f3 followed by ...♘e1 could finish the game without much problems.

35.♕a4!

Not yet!

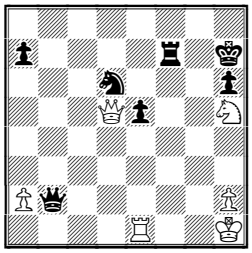
35...fxg2+ 36.♖xg2 ♖xg2 37.♔xg2



37...♕b2+?

As often happens, one mistake follows after another. Perhaps Black has not managed to restore his concentration after an unpleasant surprise on move 35. 37...♘g7! won instantly thanks to the double threat ...♕f2 and of course ...♘h5.

38.♔h1 ♘d6 39.♕a5 ♔h7 40.♕d5



40...♕f2?

The final mistake. Now White can simply take on e5 so Black offered a draw. Both 40...♖f2 41.♕d3+ ♔h8; and 40...♕c3 could have secured excellent winning chances. The e5 pawn was untouchable: 41.♕xe5?? ♖f1+! A highly dramatic game!

½-½

Recommended Web sites:

www.chess.co.uk/Brit2001/index.html
www.schaakbond.nl/nieuws/stork2001/index.htm
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
home.online.no/~eirikgu/bergen2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-278, 12th August 2001

Lost Boys Open Tournament begins

The very strong ***Lost Boys Open*** has just started in Amsterdam. The European Champion Emil Sutovsky, Belgium Champion Mikhail Gurevich, Dutch Champion Loek Van Wely, and such famous players as Jan Timman, Jeroen Piket, Ivan Sokolov, Boris Avrukh and Pavel Tregubov are the favourites.

10 players are leading with perfect score after the 2nd Round.

Top boards of the 3rd Round:
(2) Van Wely – Nijboer (2)
(2) Gustafsson – I. Sokolov(2)
(2) Sutovsky – Shchekachev (2)
(2) Van den Doel – Handke (2)
(2) Arakhamia-Grant – Gershon (2)

The 102nd annual ***US Open*** is in progress at Hotel Sheraton Framingham (near Boston). As usual, the tournament has different playing schedules for the first six rounds (one can play all the games with a full time control, some or all of them in rapid chess) so only after the 6th Round, when all the schedules have been merged, we can talk about the leaders.

Selected results of the 6th Round:
Fishbein – Kudrin ½:½
Wojkeiwicz – J. Donaldson ½:½
Yudasin – Kelleher 1:0
Mulyar – Ashley 1:0
Roldan – Sagalchik 0:1
Schmaltz – Gaudreau 1:0
Brundo – Benjamin 0:1
Atalik – Schorr 1:0
Cudro – Stripunsky 0:1
Benen – Kalinin 0:1
Paschall – Henry 1:0
Rensch – Fedorowicz ½:½

GMs Leonid Yudasin (Israel), Sergey Kudrin, Alexander Fishbein, Gennady Sagalchik (all of USA), Roland Schmaltz (Germany) and IM Michael Mulyar (USA) are leading with 5½ points. 21 players are in chase with 5 points.

Zahar Efimenko (Ukraine) has won of the VII category ***Stork Young Masters*** tournament in Hengelo, Netherlands.

Results of the last 9th Round:
Efimenko – Vink ½:½
Werle – Jackova ½:½
Berkvens – Zhigalko 1:0
Firman – Janssen 0:1
Ginzburg – Kritz 1:0

Final standings:
1. Efimenko - 6 points
2-4. Werle, Jackova, Berkvens – 5½
5. Janssen – 5
6-7. Kritz, Firman – 4
8. Zhigalko – 3½
9-10. Vink, Ginzburg – 3

Joost Berkvens (Netherlands) started with half a point out of 3 but then scored 5 points in the remaining 6 games and achieved an IM-norm. Jana Jackova (Czech Rep.) also deserves high praise for her equal second in the company of strong guys.
Our congratulations to all the winners!

It seems that the players' scores after the first 7 rounds was important for the pairings of the semifinals and finals of the ***Ambassador Open*** in Bern.

Semifinals:
(6) Jenni ½:½ 0:1 Rashkovsky (5)
(5½) Senff ½:½ 0:1 Holzke (5½)
Selected results of the 8th Round:
Klovans – Gerber 0:1
Vovsha – Gheorghiu ½:½
R. Bagirov – Hugentobler 1:0
Kachiani – T. Horvath 1:0
Kelecevic – Leib ½:½

The results of the semifinals didn't have any visible effect – take a look at the pairings for the last round.
Finals:
(6½) Jenni – Senff (6)
(6) Holzke – Rashkovsky (5½)

Top boards of the 9th Round:
(5½) Gerber – R. Bagirov (5½)
(5) Schwartz – Kachiani (5½) etc.

The ELO-favourite of the ***Recklinghausen*** Open **Igor Khenkin** retained sole lead after beating Tamas Halasz in the 7th Round. Mikhail Feygin and Karl-Heinz Podzielny are sharing second place, half a point behind.

Selected results of the 7th Round:
Khenkin – Halasz 1:0
Feygin – A. Rotstein 1:0
Schebler – Podzielny 0:1
Koscielski – Mainka ½:½

Top boards of the 8th Round:
(6) Feygin – Khenkin (6½)
(6) Podzielny – Gofstein (5½)
(5½) Mainka – Kalka (5½)
(5½) Hillarp Persson – Koscielski (5½)
(5½) J. Rotstein – Bischoff (5)

Alexander Lesiège (Canada) and **Tomas Oral** (Czech Rep.) are leading after the 8th Round of the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament.

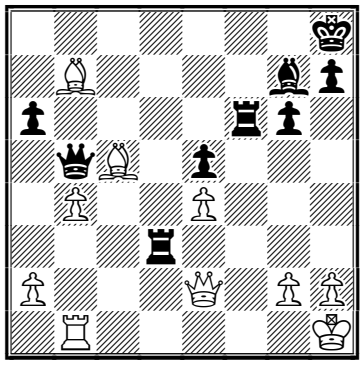
Results of the 8th Round:
Lesiège – Hebert 1:0
Goldenberg – Kosyrev ½:½
Oral – Zugic 1:0
Rozentalis – Barbeau 1:0
Turov – Charbonneau ½:½
Mikanovic – Krush 0:1

Standing after the 8th Round:
1-2. Oral, Lesiège – 6 points,
3-4. Kosyrev, Rozentalis – 5½
5. Turov – 4½
6. Barbeau – 4
7-8. Krush, Zugic – 3½
9. Charbonneau – 3
10-11. Goldenberg, Mikanovic – 2½
12. Hebert – 1½

Tactical Quiz

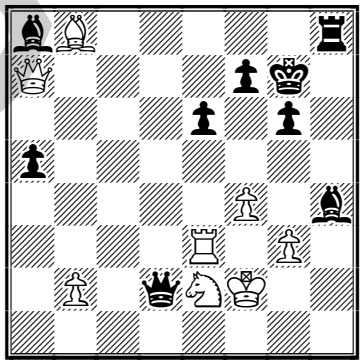
With GM Ruslan Scherbakov

(1) J Berkvens (2444) – Z Efimenko (2495)
Stork Young Masters Hengelo (1), 05.08.2001



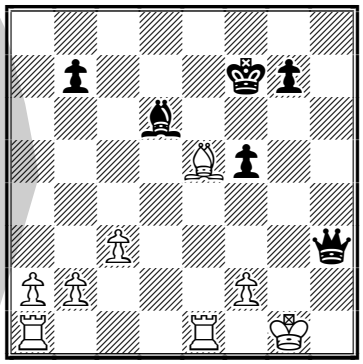
Black to play

(2) N Vink (2281) – A Zhigalko (2400)
Stork Young Masters Hengelo (7), 10.08.2001



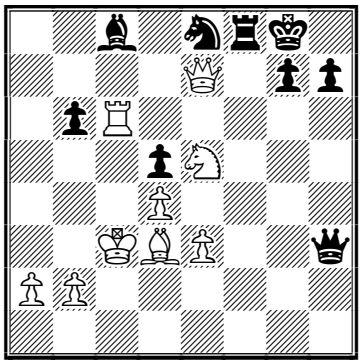
Black to play

(3) G Lane (2456) – P Wells (2510)
GBR–ch Scarborough (9), 08.08.2001



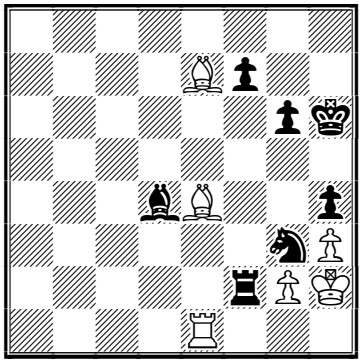
Black to play

(4) J Rowson (2514) − R Pert (2245)
GBR−ch Scarborough (11), 10.08.2001



White to play

(5) J Smeets (2311) − B Avrukh (2598)
Lost Boys Amsterdam (1), 08.10.2001

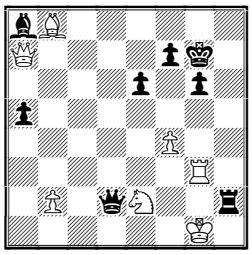


Black to play

Answers to Quiz

(1) 1...♖b3!
1...♖b3 2.♖e1 ♕xe2 3.♖xe2 ♖b1+ 4.♗g1 ♖ff1 **0-1**

(2) 48...♗xg3+! 49.♖xg3
49.♔xg3 ♕e1+ 50.♔g4 ♕h4#
49...♖h2+ 50.♔g1



50...♕e1+!
and White is checkmated. **0-1**

(3) 1...f4!
This excellent move decides the game.
2.f3
2.♗xd6 f3 followed by ...♕g2 checkmate.
2...♕g3+
White resigned. **0-1**

(4) 27.♗xh7+! ♕xh7
27...♔xh7 28.♕xf8+−
28.♘g6 Black resigned. **1-0**

(5) 56...♖f1!
White resigned as he loses the e4 bishop 56...♖f1 57.♖xf1 ♘xf1+ 58.♔h1 ♘g3+ 59.♔h2 ♘xe4 **0-1**

Recommended Web sites:
chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
www.uschess.org/tournaments/usopen/
www.schaakbond.nl/nieuws/stork2001/index.htm
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
home.online.no/~eirikgu/bergen2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CT-279, 13th August 2001

Van Wely and Gershon top after 3 rounds

Dutch Champion **Loek Van Wely** and **Alik Gershon** (Israel) keep perfect scores after the 3rd Round of the strong ***Lost Boys Open*** in Amsterdam. Such favourites as the European Champion Emil Sutovsky, Jeroen Piket, Ivan Sokolov, Boris Avrukh are among the chasing pack while Belgian Champion Mikhail Gurevich seems to be out of form – he was lucky to escape in the first round and now lost to Dennis de Vreught.

Selected results of the 3rd Round:
Van Wely – Nijboer 1:0
Gustafsson – I. Sokolov ½:½
Sutovsky – Shchekachev ½:½
Van den Doel – Handke ½:½
Arakhamia-Grant – Gershon 0:1
De Vreught – M.Gurevich 1:0

Top boards of the 4th Round:
(3) Gershon – Van Wely (3)
(2½) I. Sokolov – De Vreugt (2½)
(2½) S. Ernst – Sutovsky (2½)
(2½) Handke – Piket (2½)
(2½) Shchekachev – Van den Doel (2½)
(2½) Avrukh – Gustafsson (2½)

US Champion GM **Joel Benjamin** and IM **Fabian Doettling** of Germany are leading after the preliminary 8th Round of the ***US Open***.

Selected results of the 7th Round:
Schmaltz – Yudasin ½:½
Kudrin – Mulyar ½:½
Sagalchik – Fishbein ½:½
Perelshteyn – Wojkeiwicz ½:½
Benjamin – G. Shahade 1:0
Kriventsov – Atalik ½:½
Stripunsky – Kaufman 1:0
Kalikshteyn – Doettling 0:1
Foygel – Ariel 1:0
J. Donaldson – J. Shahade 1:0
Lapshun – Rasin 1:0
Friedman – Paschall 1:0

Selected results of the 8th Round:
Yudasin – Foygel ½:½
Schmaltz – Benjamin 0:1
Kudrin – Sagalchik ½:½
Mulyar – Stripunsky ½:½
Doettling – J. Donaldson 1:0
Fishbein – Lapshun ½:½
Wojtkiewicz – Friedman 1:0
Atalik – Nakamura ½:½
Readey – Kalinin 0:1
Palatnik – Nsubuga 1:0
Bisguier – Danilovic 0:1

Standings after the 8th Round:
1-2. Benjamin, Doettling – 7 points,
3-... Fishbein, Sagalchik, Yudasin, Kudrin, Mulyar, Stripunsky, Foygel, Lapshun, Wojtkiewicz, Kalinin, Palatnik, Danilovic… – 6½ etc.

Many thanks for *K.Visweswaran* for this information we've taken from *TWIC*.

GM **Naum Rashkovsky** of Russia won the ***Ambassador Open*** in Bern.

Finals:
(6) Holzke ½:½ 0:1 Rashkovsky (5½)
(6½) Jenni ½:½ 0:1 Senff (6)

Selected results of the last 9th Round:
Gerber – R. Bagirov 0:1
Schwartz – Kachiani ½:½
Gheorghiu – Kelecevic ½:½
Leib – Klovans ½:½
De Andres – Vovsha 0:1
Heinz – Jelmer 0:1

Final standings:
1. GM Naum Rashkovsky (Russia)
2. IM Frank Holzke (Germany)
3. IM Martin Senff (Germany)
4. IM Florian Jenni (Switzerland)
5. R. Bagirov – 6½
6. Kachiani, Vovsha, Jelmer – 6 etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners!

The top-seeded **Igor Khenkin** and **Karl-Heinz Podzielny** (both of Germany) are sharing the lead before the last round of the ***Recklinghausen Open***.

Selected results of the 8th Round:
Feygin – Khenkin ½:½
Podzielny – Gofstein 1:0
Mainka – Kalka 0:1
Hillarp Persson – Koscielski 1:0
J. Rotstein – Bischoff 0:1
A. Rotstein – Wilde 1:0

Top boards of the last 9th Round:
(7) Khenkin – Hillarp Persson (6½)
(6½) Kalka – Podzielny (7)
(6) Bischoff – Feygin (6½)
(6) Halasz – A. Rotstein (6)
(5½) Schebler – Bakhmatov (6)

A home GM **Alexander Lesiège** became sole leader of the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament in Canada. Tomas Oral (Czech Rep.) is clear second, Vladimir Kosyrev (Russia) and Eduardas Rozentalis (Lithuania) are sharing third place.

Results of the 9th Round:
Krush – Lesiège 0:1
Kosyrev – Oral ½:½
Zugic – Rozentalis ½:½
Hebert – Turov 0:1
Barbeau – Mikanovic 1:0
Charbonneau – Goldenberg 1:0

Standing after the 9th Round:
1. Lesiège – 7 points,
2. Oral – 6½
3-4. Kosyrev, Rozentalis – 6
5. Turov – 5½
6. Barbeau – 5
7-8. Charbonneau, Zugic – 4
9. Krush – 3½
10-11. Goldenberg, Mikanovic – 2½
12. Hebert – 1½

GMs **Arthur Kogan** (Israel) and Swedish Champion **Evgeny Agrest** shared victory at the ***Bergen International*** in Norway – both winners scored an excellent 8 points out of 9 games.

Selected results of the 8th Round:
Salmensuu – Kogan 0:1
Agrest – Djurhuus 1:0
Stefanova – Holmsten 1:0
Vl. Georgiev – Fyllingen ½:½
Brynell – Dworakovska 1:0
Pedersen – Lie 1:0
Heim – Johannessen 0:1

Selected results of the last 9th Round:
Kogan – Brynell ½:½
Agrest – Pedersen 1:0
Johannessen – Stefanova 1:0
Schandorff – Vl. Georgiev 1:0
Holmsten – Mitkov 0:1
Fyllingen – Gausel 0:1
Berg – Salmensuu 0:1
Djurhuus – Heim 1:0

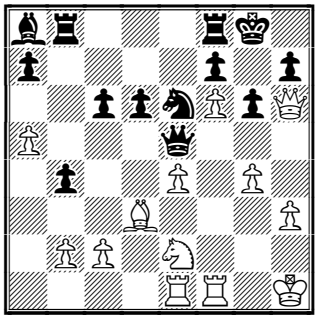
Final standings:
1-2. Kogan, Agrest – 8 points,
3. Johannessen – 7
4-9. Brynell, Gausel, Djurhuus, Schandorff, Salmensuu, Mitkov – 6½ etc.

Our congratulations to the winners!

Quiz Today

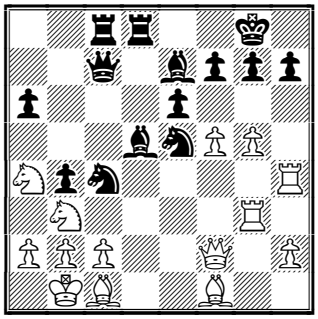
With GM Ruslan Scherbakov

(1) D De Vreugt (2429) – M Gurevich (2633)
LostBoys2001 Amsterdam (3), 12.08.2001



White to play

(2) From our annotated game



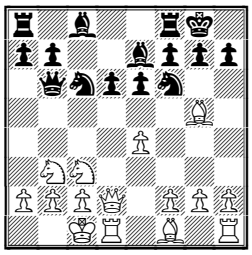
Black to play

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

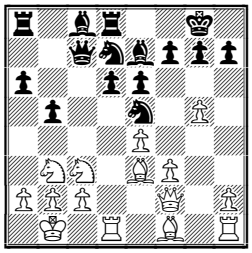
K Arakhamia−Grant (2446) − A Gershon (2553)
LostBoys2001 Amsterdam (3), 12.08.2001

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♕d2 ♗e7 8.0-0-0 0-0 9.♘b3 ♕b6



One of the principle variations in the Rauzer Sicilian − as usual, the opposite−castled kings create very sharp play.

10.f3 a6 11.♔b1 ♖d8 12.♗e3 ♕c7 13.♕f2 ♘d7 14.g4 b5 15.g5 ♘ce5

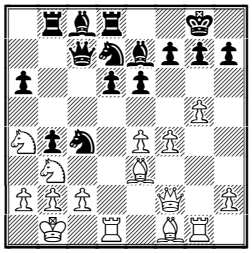


The game Timman − Salov, Linares 1991 continued by 15...♖b8 16.h4 ♘b6 17.g6!? ♘a4 (17...fxg6!? 18.h5 gxh5 19.♖xh5 ♘a4) 18.gxf7+ ♔xf7 19.♘e2 ♗f6 20.♘ed4 ♘xd4 21.♗xd4 e5 22.♗e3 ♔g8 with an acceptable but maybe slightly worse position for Black.

16.♖g1

A new continuation − White intends to push the knight e5 by f3−f4 and prevents its jump to g4. 16.♗d3 ♖b8 17.h4 ♘c4 18.♗c1 was unclear in the game Schlosser − Wittmann, Moesern 1997.

16...b4 17.♘a4 ♖b8 18.f4 ♘c4



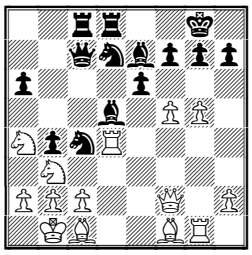
19.♗c1

19.♗xc4!? ♕xc4 20.f5 deserved serious attention. Now the attempt to win the knight a4 by 20...♕c6 could be met by 21.♘d4! ♕xa4? (21...♕xe4∞) 22.b3 ♕a3 23.♗c1 ♕a5 24.♘c6 followed by ♘e7.

19...♗b7 20.♖d4 d5! 21.exd5 ♗xd5 22.f5

It looks like White begins first but Black has sufficient resources both in defence and in attack.

22...♖bc8



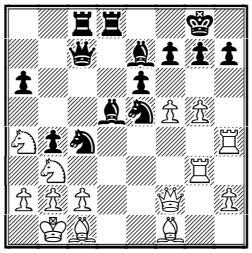
23.♖g3?!

Connected with a suicidal idea. 23.f6!? ♗f8 24.fxg7 ♗xg7 25.♖f4 seemed to be more to the point but Black is already at least not worse.

23...♘de5

23...♕c6 was probably met by 24.♖h3! with idea in case of 24...♕xa4 to launch a strong−looking attack by 25.♕h4 ♘f8 26.f6! (26.♗xc4 ♗xc4 27.♖xc4 exf5) 26...♗c5 27.♗d3!

24.♖h4?



A fatal mistake, White obviously missed the following reply. Again, something like 24.f6 should have been preferred: 24...♗f8 25.fxg7 ♗xg7 26.♘ac5 with very complicated play.

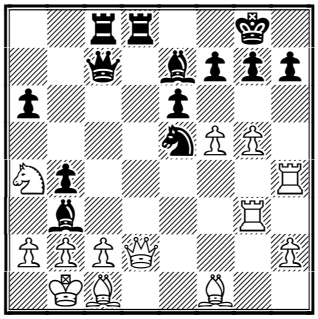
24...♘d2+!!

A bolt from the blue! By the way, it's not so easy to see, is it?!

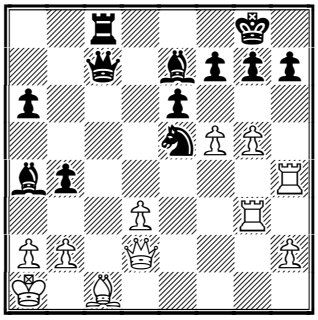
25.♕xd2

The only move to protect the square c2.

25...♗xb3



26.♗d3 ♖xd3! 27.cxd3 ♗c2+! 28.♔a1 ♗xa4



White resigned as the only defence of the bishop c1 allows a big fork on f3. 28...♗xa4 29.♖g1 (29.♔b1 ♗c2+ 30.♔a1 ♗xd3 31.♖g1 ♘f3) 29...♘f3 **0-1**

Answer to quiz

The knight e6 is the only defender of the square g7...

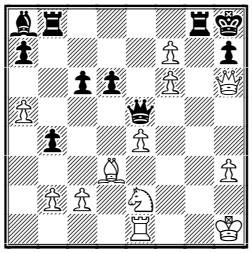
23.♖f5!!

This excellent blow decides the game.

23...gxf5

23...♕xb2 wasn't better due to 24.♖h5! (24.♘f4+−) 24...gxh5 25.e5 c5+ 26.♔g1 with a quick checkmate

24.gxf5 ♔h8 25.fxe6 ♖g8 26.exf7



26...c5 27.fxg8♕+ ♖xg8 28.♘f4 Black resigned. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
www.uschess.org/tournaments/usopen/
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
home.online.no/~eirikgu/bergen2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-280, 14th August 2001

Sokolov catches Gershon and Van Wely

In the fourth round of the strong ***Lost Boys Open*** in Amsterdam **Ivan Sokolov** caught up with the leaders **Gershon** and **Van Wely**. Sokolov beat the young Dutchman de Vreugt – see our annotated game section. All other top games were drawn.

Van Wely

Selected results of the 4th Round:
Gershon – Van Wely **½:½**
I. Sokolov – De Vreugt **1:0**
Ernst – Sutovsky **½:½**
Handke – Piket **½:½**
Shchekachev – Van den Doel **½:½**
Avrukh – Gustafsson **½:½**

Top boards of the 5th Round:
(3½) Van Wely – I. Sokolov (3½)
(3) Sutovsky – Gershon (3½)
(3) Piket – Ernst (3)
(3) Gustafsson – Tregubov (3)
(3) van den Doel – Stellwagen (3)
(3) van der Wiel – Avrukh (3)
(3) Timman – Handke (3)
(3) Solleveld – Nijboer (3)
(3) Wintzer – Shchekachev (3)
(2½) M. Gurevich – Happel (3)

GMs **Alex Wojtkiewicz, Joel Benjamin, Alexander Stripunsky** and IM **Fabian Doettling** shared first place with 7½ points out of 9 at the ***US Open***. 23 players have got 7 points.

Selected results of the 9th Round:
Benjamin – Doettling **½:½**
Sagalchik – Wojtkiewicz **0:1**
Lapshun – Yudasin **½:½**
Foygel – Atalik **½:½**
Danilovic – Kudrin **½:½**
Stripunsky – Kriventsov **1:0**
Kalinin – Palatnik **½:½**

The top-seeded **Igor Khenkin** and **Karl-Heinz Podzielny** (both of Germany) are sharing the first place at the ***Recklinghausen Open***.
Selected results of the 9th Round:
Khenkin – Hillarp Persson **½:½**
Kalka – Podzielny **½:½**
Bischoff – Feygin **½:½**
Halasz – A. Rotstein **0:1**
Schebler – Bakhmatov **1:0**

Final standings:
1-2. Khenkin, Podzielny – 7½ points out of 9
3-6. Hillarp Persson, Kalka, Feygin, Rotstein – 7 etc.

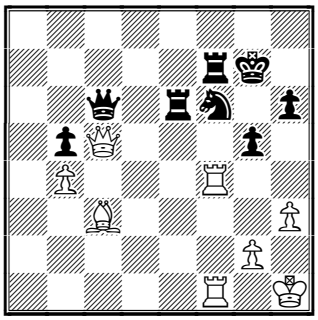
Our congratulations to the winners!

A home GM **Alexander Lesiège** retains sole lead of the IX category ***Montreal International*** tournament in Canada.

Standing after the 10th Round:
1. Lesiège – 7½ points
2. Oral – 7
3-4. Kosyrev, Rozentalis – 6½
5. Turov – 6
6. Barbeau – 5½
7-8. Charbonneau, Zugic – 4½
9. Krush – 4
10. Mikanovic – 3
11-12. Goldenberg, Hebert – 2½

The French Championships started in Marseilles (Round-robin system, 16 participants).
Results of the 1st Round:
Relange – Bauer **½:½**
Koch – Lautier **½:½**
Fontaine – A. Sokolov **½:½**
Chabanon – Fressinet **0:1**
Belkhodja – Degraeve **0:1**
Hauchard – Vaisser **½:½**
Apicella – Bacrot **½:½**
Dorfman – Nataf **½:½**

From our annotated Game
Black has just played g5



White to play

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

I Sokolov (2659) − D De Vreugt (2429)
LostBoys 2001 Amsterdam (4), 13.08.2001 D18

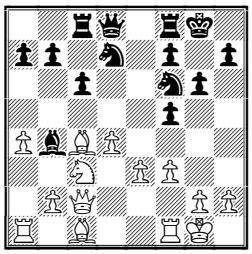
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.e3

Ivan Sokolov likes this quiet variation of the Slav Defence.

6...e6 7.♗xc4 ♗b4 8.0-0 0-0 9.♘h4 ♘bd7

The main alternatives are 9...♗g4 ; and 9...♗g6

10.♘xf5 exf5 11.♕c2 g6 12.f3 ♖c8



This is one of the key positions of this system. White has two Bishops and a pawn centre but has worse development. White prepares e3−e4 to activate his c1-Bishop, Black tries to attack his opponents central pawns.

13.♕f2

Earlier Sokolov preferred 13.♔h1 for example: 13...c5 14.♘a2 ♗a5 15.dxc5 ♕e7 (15...♖xc5 16.b4 ♗xb4 17.♘xb4 ♕c7 18.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 19.♕a2 ♘e5 I. Sokolov − Sakaev, Neum 2000) 16.b4 ♗xb4 17.♘xb4 ♕xc5 18.♗b3 ♕xb4 19.♗a3 ♕h4 20.♕a2 ♘c5 I. Sokolov − Shirov, Saraevo 2000. As you have seen Black had counterplay mainly thanks to the opposition of the Rook on c8 and Queen on c2. So White placed the Queen on another line, also defending the King from check along the a7−g1 diagonal.

13...c5 14.♗a2 a6?!

It looks like a waste of time. In the previous games Black played 14...♕a5 15.♗d2 f4 16.♔h1 fxe3 17.♗xe3 c4 18.♘e4 ♖fe8 19.♖fc1 ♕d5 Johannessen − Rausis, Gausdal 2000 or; 14...♕b6 with the following Rfe8 or Rfd8 and pressure on White's pawns.

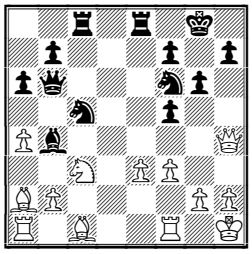
15.♔h1 ♕b6 16.♕h4!?

White would like to exploit the weak dark squares on the Kingside; also it prepares e3−e4.

16...♖fe8?!

After 16...cxd4 17.exd4 ♗xc3 (17...♖fe8!?) 18.bxc3 it's very risky to grab a pawn − 18...♖xc3?! 19.♖b1 But now the f7−point becomes rather weak...

17.dxc5 ♘xc5



18.e4!

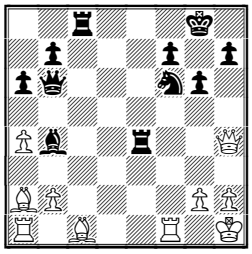
White opens position to his benefit.

18...fxe4

18...♗xc3 19.bxc3 fxe4 20.♗e3! with strong initiative.

19.♘xe4 ♘cxe4 20.fxe4 ♖xe4?!

A new mistake in a difficult position.



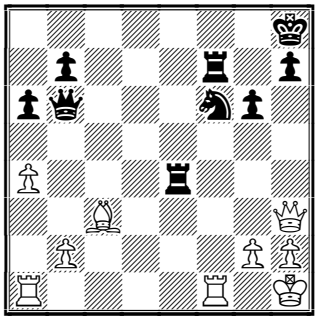
21.♗xf7+! ♔h8

21...♔xf7 22.♕xe4+−

22.♗f4

22.♖xf6? ♖e1+ 23.♕xe1 ♕xf6=; 22.♕xf6+?? ♕xf6 23.♖xf6 ♖e1+-+

22...♗d2 23.♕h3 ♖f8 24.♗xd2 ♖xf7 25.♗c3



The c3 Bishop is much stronger than the Knight on f6. Black is unable to unpin it.

25...♖e6 26.♖f4 ♔g7

26...♔g8 27.♖af1

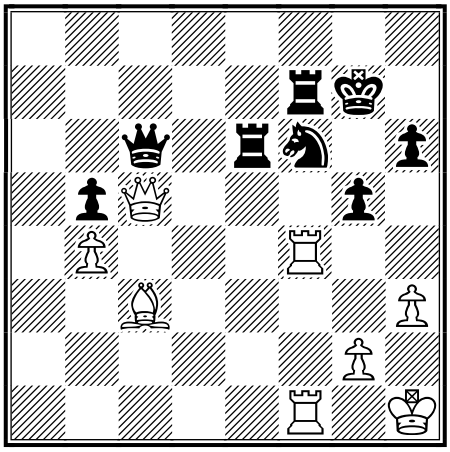
27.♖af1 ♕c6 28.♕h4 b5 29.axb5 axb5 30.h3!

It's not a zugzvang yet but Black hasn't a useful move anyway.

30...h6 31.♕f2 ♕d6 32.b4!

Black has to wait while White makes preparations to swap all the pieces for a winning pawn endgame.

32...♕c6 33.♕c5! g5



Now all is ready for a small final combination...

34.♖xf6! ♖fxf6 35.♖xf6 ♕xc5 35...♖xf6 36.♕xc6+−

36.bxc5 ♖xf6 37.c6! b4 38.♗xf6+

1-0

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
www.uschess.org/tournaments/usopen/
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.schach.server.de/
home.online.no/~eirikgu/bergen2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://216.46.240.197/Default.asp?Langue=e

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-281, 15th August 2001

Van Wely Takes Over Lead in Amsterdam

Loek Van Wely became sole leader after his convincing victory over Ivan Sokolov in the fifth round of the ***Lost Boys Open*** in Amsterdam (*see our annotated game section*). Boris Avrukh won his game by default because his opponent John van der Wiel was unable to play due to the flu. Today will be a rest day; The pairings of the 6th round will be known this evening.

Selected results of the 5th Round:
Van Wely – I. Sokolov **1:0**
Sutovsky – Gershon **½:½**
Piket – Ernst **1:0**
Gustafsson – Tregubov **½:½**
van den Doel – Stellwagen **1:0**
van der Wiel – Avrukh **0:1***
Timman – Handke **1:0**
Solleveld – Nijboer **½:½**
Wintzer – Shchekachev **0:1**
M. Gurevich – Happel **1:0**

Standing after the 5th Round:
1. Van Wely – 4½ points out of 5
2-7. Gershon, Timman, Avrukh, Piket, van den Doel, Shchekachev – 4
8-16. Sutovsky, I. Sokolov, Vreugt, Gustafsson, Nijboer, Hendriks, Tregubov, Solleveld, M. Gurevich – 3½ etc.

Stefan Pfannkuch reports on TWIC:
Peter Leko and **Viswanathan Anand** drew live on German TV Channel WDR. Anand replaced last year's champion Kramnik who is preparing for his match against Deep Fritz. This and the Villarrobledo rapidplay are Anand's only scheduled events before his defence of his FIDE World Title. *New #353 TWIC is available now.*

GM **Aleksander Delchev** with 6 points out of 7 won the ***8th Nice Summer Open*** (France).
Final standings:
1. Delchev – 6 points out of 7
2-6. Komljenovic, Sulava, Badea, Madl, Inkiov – 5½ etc.

A home GM **Alexander Lesiège** won the category IX ***Montreal International*** tournament in Québec, Canada.

Final Standings:
1. Lesiège – 8 points out of 11 ($2000)
2-4. Oral, Kosyrev, Rozentalis – 7½ ($867 each)
5. Turov – 7 ($500)
6. Barbeau – 6 ($400)
7. Zugic – 5½ ($300)
8. Charbonneau – 4½ ($200)
9. Krush – 4
10-11. Mikanovic, Hebert – 3
12. Goldenberg,– 2½

Our congratulations to the winners!

The 16 players participating in the ***76th French Championships*** are split into two groups of 8 for all-play-all. The leaders will qualify for the later stages.

Results of the 2nd Round, standings and pairing of the 3rd Round:
Group A (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2556).
A. Sokolov – Koch **1:0**
Lautier – Belkhodja **½:½**
Degraeve – Hauchard **1:0**
Fontaine – Vaisser **0:1**

1. Degraeve – 2 points
2-3. Vaisser, A.Sokolov – 1½
4. Lautier – 1
5-8. Fontaine, Koch, Belkhodja, Hauchard – ½

Belkhodja – Sokolov
Hauchard – Lautier
Vaisser – Degraeve
Koch – Fontaine

Group B (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2559).
Fressinet – Apicella **½:½**
Bacrot – Dorfman **1:0**
Nataf – Relange **1:0**
Chabanon – Bauer **0:1**

1-4. Bauer, Nataf, Bacrot, Fressinet – 1½
5. Apicella – 1
6-7. Dorfman, Relange – ½
8. Chabanon – 0

Dorfman – Fressinet
Relange – Bacrot
Bauer – Nataf
Apicella – Chabanon

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

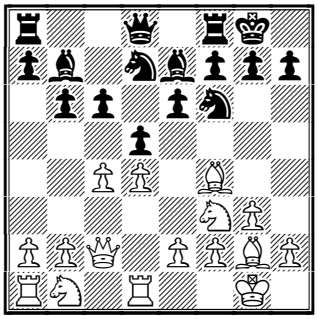
L. Van Wely (2695) − I .Sokolov (2659)
LostBoys 2001 Amsterdam (5), 14.08.2001
E08
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3
White wants to play the Catalan.

3...♗b4+ 4.♗d2 ♗e7
Black enticed his opponent to play his Bishop to d2 while the best square for it is b2 (after b2−b3).

5.♗g2 d5 6.♘f3 c6 7.♕c2
Of course there is a lot of alternatives in this well known theoretical position.

7...0-0 8.0-0 ♘bd7 9.♖d1 b6 10.♗f4 ♗b7 (D)



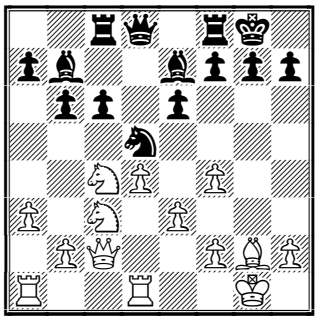
After 10...♗a6 11.b3 players can reach a position from another opening − the Queen's Indian Defence/ Rubinstein System (4.g3).

11.♘c3 dxc4
Last year Loek van Wely lost with White after 11...♘h5 12.♗c1 f5 13.♘e5 ♖c8 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.♕a4 ♘xe5 16.dxe5 a6 17.♗e3 f4 18.♗d4 ♖c4 19.♕xc4 dxc4 20.♗xb7 fxg3 21.hxg3 ♕c7 22.♗f3 g6∓ Van Wely − Jussupov, Istanbul (Ol) 2000. But we all know that Loek is a chessplayer of principles and he never avoids theoretical disputes in his favorite lines. Sokolov, however chooses another variation.

12.♘d2 ♘d5 13.♘xc4 ♘xf4 14.gxf4 ♘f6!?
The second rarest move (the first being 11...dxc4), more often Black plays 14...♕c7 , for example: 15.e3 ♖ac8 16.♖ab1 ♘f6 17.b4 ♘d5 18.a3 f5 19.♘e5 ♗d6 20.♖bc1± Dautov − Tiviakov, match Netherlands − Germany 2000.

15.e3 ♘d5 16.a3
This is a novelty according to the following short draw: 16.♖ac1 ♖c8 17.♘e5 f6 18.♘d3 f5 19.♘e5 ♗d6 20.♕e2 ♗xe5 21.fxe5 draw, Berezin − Itkis, Bucharest 1998.

16...♖c8 (D)

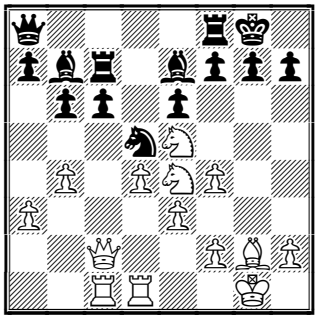


What can we say about this position? White has more space in the centre and on the Queen side − Black, even with two Bishops doesn't have real counterplay, because it's very hard for for him to open lines for his Bishops.

17.b4 ♖c7
Sokolov decides to stay and wait. A more active plan is f7−f5, Nd5−f6, preparing c6−c5.

18.♘e5 ♗d6?! 19.♘e4!
Knights on central squares always become very strong!

19...♗e7 20.♖ac1 ♕a8?! (D)



Reti's manoeuvre looks rather strange here.

21.♘g5! ♗xg5
Black has to exchange his Bishop: 21...g6?! 22.♘xg6!? fxg6 (22...hxg6 23.♘xe6 fxe6 24.♕xg6+ ♔h8 25.♕h6+ ♔g8 26.♕xe6+ ♖f7 27.♗xd5+−) 23.♘xe6↑

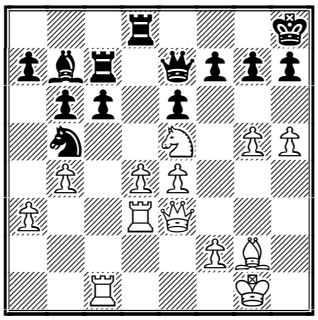
22.fxg5 ♕d8
Black had to admit that the Queen's manoeuvre was simply a waste of time.

23.♘f3 ♕e7 24.♕d2
Preparing e3−e4, White defends f4−point.

24...♖cc8?!
Ivan Sokolov is a very good defender. Why did he play so passively in this game?

Interesting was 24...f5!?

25.e4 ♘c7 26.h4 ♖fd8 27.♕e3 ♘b5 28.♘e5 ♖c7?! 29.♖d3 ♔h8 30.h5 (D)



White can do all that he wants to.

30...♔g8 31.♖cd1 f6

Too late for counterplay.

32.gxf6 gxf6 33.♘g4 ♔h8 34.e5!

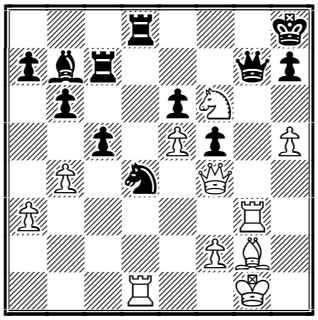
A simple, but strong positional move. White tries to exploit the weak dark squares in his opponent's camp. It also opens the h1-a8 diagonal for the Bishop and the Black Knight now can't go to d6 to help defend his King.

34...♕g7 35.♕f4

35.♘xf6?! c5 with small complications.

35...f5 36.♘f6 c5 37.♖g3 ♘xd4!?

The last chance.



38.h6!

Maybe this is the most clear way to victory. 38.♖xg7?! ♖xg7!⇄; 38.♗xb7!? ♘e2+ 39.♔h2 ♖xd1 40.♖xg7 ♖xg7 41.♕e3 ♘d4

38...♕f7

38...♘e2+ 39.♔h2 ♕f8 40.♖xd8 ♕xd8 41.♕d2!+−.

39.♔h2 ♗xg2 40.♖xg2 ♖cc8?

Loses immediately. The only move was 40...♕f8

41.♖g7 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
fqechecs.qc.ca/
www.beochess.ch/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.echecs.asso.fr/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-282, 16th August 2001

Galego Wins the Brasilia Chess Club Festival

Luis Galego (Portugal) won the ***Brasilia Chess Club Festival*** (cat. IV, av. Elo 2339) in Brasilia City.

1. Galego – 7 points out of 9
2-3. Matsuura, Coelho – 6
4-5. Crosa, Needleman – 5
6. Cubas – 4½
7. Valle – 4
8. Limp – 3½
9-10. Teixeira, Caldeira – 2

Yesterday the following information appeared on TWIC:
"According to a report on Dutch Teletext (15th August 2001) Vladimir Kramnik, Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov will play in a tournament in December to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the birth of Mikhail Botvinnik in Moscow."
http://teletekst.nos.nl/cgi-bin/tt/nos/page/t/628

Vladimir Kramnik mentioned this event in his interviews for *64-Chess Review* (#7/2001) and on the site www.kasparovchess.ru but he didn't go into much detail. As we receive more information we will inform you.

Yesterday was a rest day at the ***Lost Boys Open*** in Amsterdam. As you recall **Loek Van Wely is** leading with 4½ points out of 5. Today will be the 6th Round.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
(4) Avrukh – Van Wely (4½)
(4) Shchekachev – Piket (4)
(4) Gershon – van den Doel (4)
(3½) I. Sokolov – Timman (4)
(3½) Solleveld – Sutovsky (3½)
(3½) Hendriks – M. Gurevich (3½)
(3½) Tregubov – de Vreugt (3½)
(3½) Nijboer – Gustafsson (3½)

Yesterday was the 3rd Round of the ***76th French Championships***. The leaders will qualify for the later stages. There are now sole leaders in both groups – **Jean-Marc Degraeve** (Group A) and **Christian Bauer** (Group B) have 2½ points.

Results of the 3rd Round, standings and pairing of the 4th Round:
Group A (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2556).
Belkhodja – Sokolov **½:½**
Hauchard – Lautier **½:½**
Vaisser – Degraeve **½:½**
Koch – Fontaine **0:1**

1. Degraeve – 2½ points
2-3. Vaisser, A.Sokolov – 2
4-5. Fontaine, Lautier – 1½
6-7. Belkhodja, Hauchard – 1
8. Koch – ½

Sokolov – Hauchard
Lautier – Vaisser
Fontaine – Degraeve
Koch – Belkhodja

Group B (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2559).
Dorfman – Fressinet **1:0**
Relange – Bacrot **½:½**
Bauer – Nataf **1:0**
Apicella – Chabanon **1:0**

1. Bauer – 2½
2-3. Bacrot, Apicella – 2
4-6. Dorfman, Nataf, Fressinet – 1½
7. Relange – 1
8. Chabanon – 0

Fressinet – Relange
Bacrot – Bauer
Chabanon – Nataf
Apicella – Dorfman

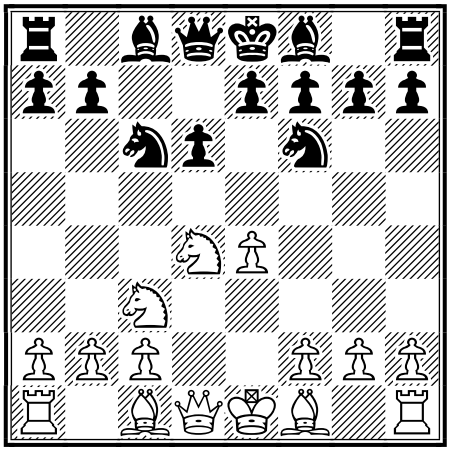
Also see our annotated game section.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

J. Koch (2518) − R. Fontaine (2452)
ch FRA Marseille (3), 08.12.2001 B70
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 (D)



This very solid system was played by Kasparov and Kramnik. Black is ready for 6.♗g5 (Rauzer variatian) and 6.♗c4 (Sozin or Velimirovic attack).

6.♗e2

A very modest move, after which Black has a lot of suitable continuations, for example 6...e5, 6...e6 (Scheveningen system) or the text move...

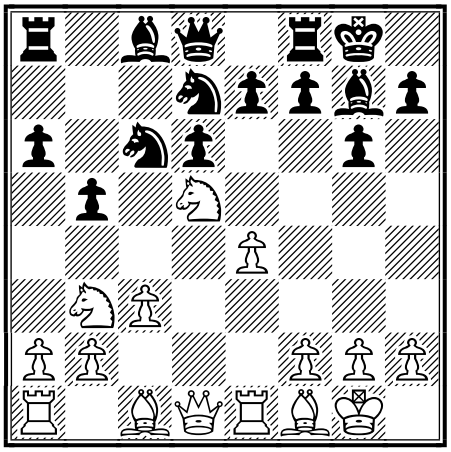
6...g6

Fontaine chose the very secure Dragon system (the most dangerous for Black is Rauzer's plan with 6.Be3 and long castling).

7.♘b3 ♗g7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♖e1

Once more, very modest. White doesn't even prepare f2−f4 to control the central squares.

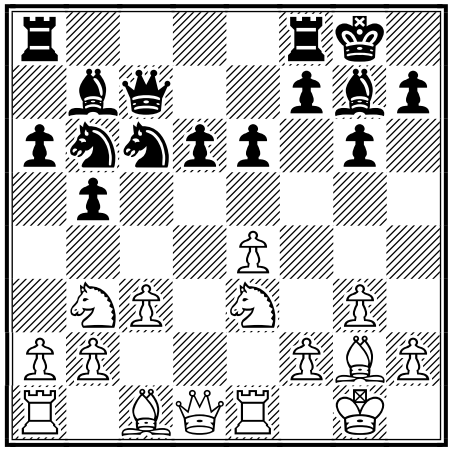
9...a6 10.♗f1 b5 11.♘d5 ♘d7 12.c3 (D)



12...e6

Thanks to White's pure development Black can weaken his d−pawn.

13.♘e3 ♘b6 14.g3 ♗b7 15.♗g2 ♕c7 (D)



16.h4?!

A very strange idea. Almost all of White's previous moves were defensive − and now Koch wants to attack on the King side?! As usual Black begins a central counterattack.

16...♖ad8 17.h5 d5! 18.hxg6 dxe4!

Black sacrifices a pawn due to the open position and exploits his lead in development.

19.gxf7+?!

Better was 19.gxh7+ ♔h8 because now Black starts a direct attack against his opponent's King.

19...♕xf7 20.♕e2 ♘e5 21.♘c5

Maybe better was 21.♖d1!? ♖xd1+ 22.♘xd1 ♘f3+ 23.♔f1 trying to save the very important g2−Bishop for defence.

21...♘f3+ 22.♗xf3 exf3 23.♕c2 ♗a8 24.♘f1

White's position is very difficult, maybe even losing because it's extremly hard to defend against the simple but unpleasant idea of −Qf7−h5−h3−g2#! Only the Knight to e3 can protect the g2−sguare, but Black can exchange it for the Knight b6 or Bishop g7. 24.♕b3 ♘d5!

24...♕h5 25.♗g5

The last attempt to distract the Queen on h5 from her mission, but...

25...♕h3 26.♘e3 ♘c4 27.♕b3 ♗d5

White resigned. This game is a rather good example for studying the theme of "Counterattack in the centre as a reaction to a flank attack". **0–1.**

Recommended Web sites:
chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
http://www.persocom.com.br/bcx
www.beochess.ch/

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-283, 17th August 2001

Karpov and Korchnoi Teammates in Volga!

A very interesting 2-day match in honour of ***1000-years of Kazan*** took place in the town of Volga, the capital of Tatarstan. This marks the first time since 1974 that **Anatoly Karpov** and **Victor Korchnoi** have played on the same team! **Kazan** won on the first day 3½:2½ thanks to victory of a young talent from this town over the experienced GM Viorel Bologan (*see our annotated game section below)*. On the second day **Europe** took revenge 3½:2½, so the final score was an equal 6:6. All games were very interesting and full of fight.

Europe: Anatoly Karpov, Alexander Khalifman, Victor Korchnoi, Maya Chiburdanidze, Vladimir Akopian, Viorel Bologan
Kazan: Alexei Dreev, Sergei Rublevsky, Andrei Kharlov, Alisa Galliamova, Ildar Ibragimov, Artem Timofeev

Round one:
Karpov – Dreev **½:½**
Rublevsky – Khalifman **½:½**
Korchnoi – Kharlov **½:½**
Galliamova – Chiburdanidze **½:½**
Akopian – Ibragimov **½:½**
Timofeev – Bologan **1:0**

Round two:
Dreev – Karpov **½:½**
Khalifman – Rublevsky **1:0**
Kharlov – Korchnoi **½:½**
Chiburdanidze – Galliamova **½:½**
Ibragimov – Akopian **1:0**
Bologan – Timofeev **1:0**

There are three leaders now at the ***Lost Boys Open*** in Amsterdam: **Andrei Shchekachev** and **Eric van den Doel** won their games and caught up to **Loek Van Wely.**

Some results of the 6th Round:
Avrukh – Van Wely **½:½**
Shchekachev – Piket **1:0**
Gershon – van den Doel **0:1**
I. Sokolov – Timman **½:½**
Solleveld – Sutovsky **0:1**
Hendriks – M. Gurevich **½:½**
Tregubov – de Vreugt **1:0**
Nijboer – Gustafsson **1:0**

Standings after the 6th Round:
1-3. van den Doel, van Wely, Shchekachev – 5 points
4-8. Sutovsky, Avrukh, Timman, Nijboer, Tregubov 4½ etc.

Top boards of the 7th Round:
Van Wely – Shchekachev
Van den Doel – Tregubov
Sutovsky – Nijboer
Timman – Avrukh
Arakhamia-Grant – Sokolov
Gurevich – Ernst
Piket – Jonkman
Handke – Gershon
Ikonnikov – Hendriks

The 4th Round of the ***76th French Championships*** was rather quiet – only one decisive game in each group.

Results of the 4th Round, standings and pairing of the 5th Round:
Group A (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2556).
Sokolov – Hauchard **½:½**
Lautier – Vaisser **½:½**
Fontaine – Degraeve **½:½**
Koch – Belkhodja **1:0**

1. Degraeve – 3 points
2-3. Vaisser, A.Sokolov – 2½
4-5. Fontaine, Lautier – 2
6-7. Koch, Hauchard – 1½
8. Belkhodja – 1

Vaisser – Sokolov
Degraeve – Lautier
Hauchard – Koch
Belkhodja – Fontaine

Group B (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2559).

Fressinet – Relange **0:1**
Bacrot – Bauer **½:½**
Chabanon – Nataf **½:½**
Apicella – Dorfman **½:½**

1. Bauer – 3
2-3. Bacrot, Apicella – 2½
4-6. Dorfman, Nataf, Relange – 2
7. Fressinet – 1½
8. Chabanon – ½

Bauer – Fressinet
Nataf – Bacrot
Relange – Apicella
Dorfman – Chabanon

The ***3rd Asian Individual Championships*** (11 Rounds, Swiss System) comes to a finish in Calcutta. Total prize fund (from FIDE) – $64000. Winners will qualify for FIDE World Championships.

Top boards of the last Round:
(8) Xu Jun – Barsov (7)
(7½) Iuldachev – Ganguly Surya (7)
(6½) Harikrishna – Ghaem Maghami (7)
(6½) Kostenko – Yu Shaoteng (6½)
(6½) Li Wenliang – Barua (6½)
(6½) Zhang Pengxiang – Dzhumaev (6½)
(6) Vladimirov – Al-Modiahki (6½)

Dragoljub Velimirovic won the 1st Ljubisa Savic-Mauzer Memorial (cat. VI, av. Elo 2387, 16-24 June) in Bijeljina, Yugoslavia. Thanks to Jovan Petronic for this information for TWIC #353.

Final standing:
1. Velimirovic – 7 points out of 9
2. Cosma – 5½
3-4. Milu, Viktor Ivanov – 5
5-6. Rosic, Kozakov – 4½
7. Ivkov – 4
8-9. Sekulic, Stojanovic – 3½
10. Puric – 2½

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Timofeev − V. Bologan

Match of europa−tatarstan 2001 Kazan (1), 08.1500 C95

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

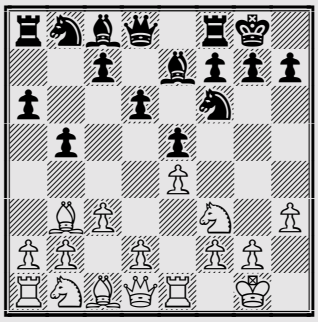
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6

Thanks to Vladimir Kramnik and his Berlin wall we began to forget about this move of late.

4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7

And this line looks like a rarity as opposed to the more fashionable Archangel and New−Archangel systems.

6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘b8 (D)



Do you remember the name of this system? Yes, you are right − the Breyer variation. In the 1970s it was the main line in the Ruy Lopez (along with 9...Na5 − the Chigorin variation and a bit later − 9...Re8 − the Zaitsev variation), it was played by Karpov, Spassky, and Portish. This very solid system appears only from time to time but I'm sure this situation will change soon.

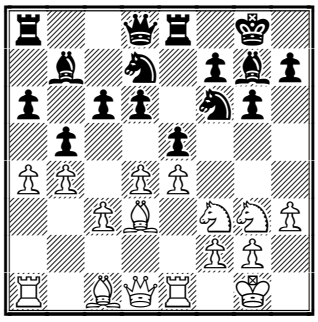
10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♗b7 12.♗c2 ♖e8 13.♘f1 ♗f8 14.♘g3 g6 15.a4

Of course all of this is theory.

15...♗g7

The main alternative is 15...c5

16.♗d3 c6 17.b4!? (D)



Step by step the players go their own way. The main line is 17.Bg5, though, I can't tell you what work this Bishop does on this square. The text move is more understandable: White wants more space on the Queen side and in the centre.

17...d5

The only game I found in my database was the following: 17...♘b6 18.a5 ♘a4 19.♖a3

exd4 20.cxd4 c5 21.bxc5 dxc5 22.d5 ♘xd5!? 23.exd5 ♘c3 24.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 25.♕c2 ♘xd5⩲ Kveinys − Bronstein, Reykjavik 1994.Bologan starts his counerattack in the centre (see CT−282) immediately.

18.♗g5

After d6−d5 this move creates pressure on the central pawns.

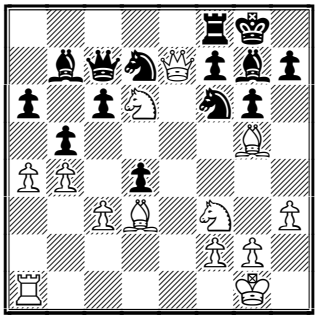
18...dxe4

After 18...exd4?! 19.e5 dxc3 Black doesn't have enough compensation for the piece.; 18...h6?! 19.♗xf6 ♕xf6 (19...♗xf6 20.exd5±) 20.exd5 cxd5 21.axb5 axb5 22.♖xa8 ♗xa8 23.♗xb5±

19.♘xe4 exd4 20.♘d6!?

An interesting decision, but not bad was also 20.cxd4!?

20...♖xe1+ 21.♕xe1 ♕c7 22.♕e7 ♖f8 (D)



23.♘e5!

Very energetic! White's Knights occupy the dark squares in his opponent's camp.

23...♗c8

23...♕d8 24.♕xd8 ♖xd8 25.cxd4!?±

24.♘xd7

White had a lot of tempting continuations. This is one of them.

24...♘xd7 25.♗c2

With the simple idea of attacking the f7 square.

25...h6 26.♗h4 c5!?

Now Black gains counterplay and the situation becomes unclear.

27.♖e1 d3

This position is very hard to evaluate − both sides have to calculate and calculate, for example, 27...dxc3!?; 27...c4!?; 27...cxb4 and many other moves.

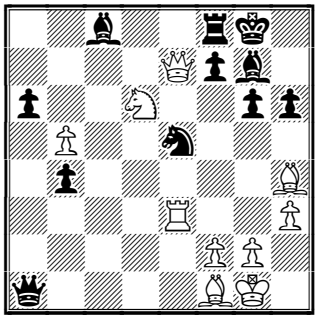
28.♗xd3 cxb4 29.axb5 ♕xc3 30.♖e3

White threatens to take on g6 in some variations.

30...♘e5?!

I suspect this is a mistake, and better was 30...b3

31.♗f1 ♕a1? (D)



Black had to play 31...♕c5!?

32.♗f6!

A bit unexpected, Black loses a piece.

32...♗e6 33.♖xe5 b3 34.♖xe6

Not difficult, but nice.

34...♗xf6 35.♖xf6 b2 36.♖xf7 b1♕

White also wins after 36...♕xf1+ 37.♔h2 ♖xf7 38.♕xf7+ ♔h8 39.♘e8

37.♕xf8#

Very energetic play by the Kazan junior! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:
chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.echecs.asso.fr/
http://www.mi.ru/~kznchess
http://www.asianchess2001.com/

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-284, 18th August 2001

Van Wely regains sole lead in Amsterdam, Xu Jun is victorious in Calcutta

In round 7 of the ***Lost Boys Open*** tournament one of the leaders GM Loek 'The King' van Wely defeated another co-leader GM Schekachev and became sole leader, as one of his main rivals van den Doel only drew. After 7 rounds the standing is as follows:
1. Van Wely - 6 points;
2-3. Van den Doel and Timman - 5½ points;
4-9. Tregubov, Nijboer, Schekachev, Sutovsky, Piket and Gersohon - 5 points.

The 5th round of the ***76th French Championships*** was very peaceful. In Group 'A' all games ended in a draw, while in the other group Josif Dorfman beat Jean-Luc Chabanon with White. In Group 'A' GM Jean-Marc Degraeve is leading with 3½ points, while GMs Anatoly Vaisser and Andrei Sokolov are on 3 points. In Group 'B' GM Christian Bauer is ahead with 3½ points, while GMs Etienne Bacrot, Manuel Apicella and Josif Dorfams are half a point behind.

The ***3rd Asian Individual Championships*** has ended in Calcutta, India. The outright winner was GM Xu Jun China, who scored 8½ points out of 11 and received $12,00 for his efforts.
Other results: **2.** GM Saidali Iuldachev (UZB) - 8 points and $10,000;
3-6. IM Surya Sekhar Ganguly (IND), IM Pengxiang Zhang (China), GM Alexei Barsov (UZB) and IM Maghami Ehsan Ghaem (IRI) - 7½ points and $ 5,750 each.

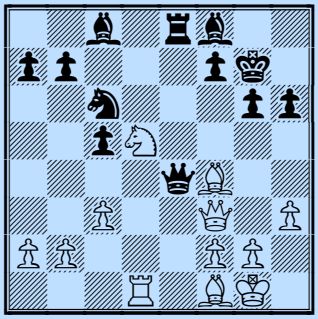
More tournament news on Saturday and Sunday!

***Chess Today (CT)* News.** I am happy to come back and work on *CT* after a holiday. There are some news in *CT* and I would like to share them with our readers.

First of all, I am very pleased that ***CT* has a very high loyalty** rate - over 90% of our readers renew their subscription for another term. This is a clear indication that *CT* offers a valuable service. We intend to keep it this way and hope to make *CT* even more informative and entertaining. In the near future we will publish original training material (for example articles by GM Sveshnikov) and interviews with various leading players.

Yahoo groups and their service. The number of requests to re-send missing issues reduced greatly - I hope this is because our readers can now avail themselves of our archives. It may not be easy to retrieve *CT* issues for the first time because Yahoo requires you to register (time-consuming process!), but once this is done, it is easy to use. I would appreciate if you will share with me your experience concerning *CT* archives, etc. Yahoo groups have some nice features and one of them is worth mentioning - now **you can suspend your subscription** without leaving a list. If you go on holiday and do not want *CT* to fill up your mailbox, simply go to your page at *CT* list and press 'Edit my Membership' (or similar link). Once there choose 'No e-mail'. Then you can pick up recent *CT* issues at our archive, if you wish. You can always change this setting later.

Tactical Quiz
Karpov - Topalov, Dos Hermanas 1994



White to Play and win
Solution on page 3.

***Chess Today* Lottery.** In our July lottery the lucky winner was **Felix Fröschl** from Austria. He will receive John Nunn's excellent book *Secrets of Practical Chess*. In August we will give away the book *Russians vs. Fischer* as our lottery prize.

We need your opinion! Recently GM Alexander Morozevich came up with an interesting and innovative idea - he plans to critically annotate all his games from the recent super-tournament in

Dortmund and make it available for downloading for a small fee. The games will be presented in both Chess Base (also PGN) and HTML formats. It will be high quality notes, which will also expose some stereotype annotations made in the online chess media. We would appreciate if you will tell us what you think of this idea. Would you be interested in paying for this service and what kind of fee would you regard as 'fair'?

Free stuff still dominates the Net, but chess professionals need income just as everyone else. So, if they can sell quality products (like their annotations) to a wide audience of chess fans, both sides will benefit! I am sure many players will watch Alexander's experiment with great interest. **Please send your comments** to ababurin@iol.ie.

Tomorrow I will do **Trainer's Corner**, so please send me your questions as soon as possible! Finally, I would like to invite you to participate in our discussion forum, which you can find at www.chesstoday.net/wwwboard/index.html. WGM Natalia Zhukova posted a message there recently, so the page is worth visiting. Personally I can promise that I will answer all interesting postings!

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

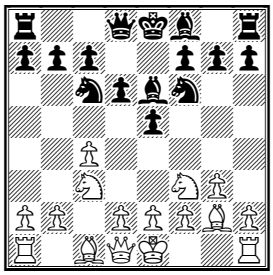
Today I would like to show you an interesting miniature, which I came across recently. From time to time I search my database for recent miniatures as I find many of them very entertaining and some of them also highly instructive. The following game fits both criteria. You can see how small (at first glance!) mistakes lead to a crashing defeat.

Boris Gulko (2606) − Sean Nagle (2396)
29th World Open Philadelphia, 2001 A25
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 e5 4.♗g2 d6

In my opinion it's easier to play for Black after 4...♗b4.

5.♘f3 ♗e6?! (D)



On the surface this move looks fine − Black develops with a 'tempo'. But in fact this idea is dubious − Black should have tried to develop the kingside first − either with 5...Be7 or 5...g6 and 6...Bg7, even though it's not easy for him to transpose into the King's Indian Defence now. For example: 5...g6 6.d4!. Now Black has to do something about the e−pawn, while after 6.0-0 ♗g7 7.d4 0-0 the game transposes into a well−known line of the KID. 6...exd4 7.♘xd4 ♘xd4 8.♕xd4 and White's chances are better.

6.d4!

Such an experienced and strong Grandmaster as Boris Gulko does not hesitate to grab the initiative. The text move is much stronger than 6.d3. Black's problem is that ...♗xc4 is time−consuming, but without that, the move 5...♗e6 makes little sense.

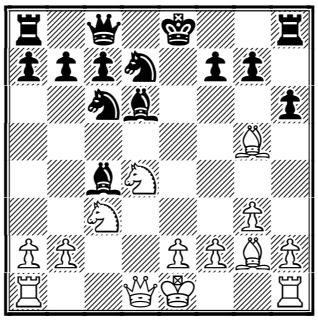
6...♗xc4

After 6...exd4 7.♘xd4 ♘xd4 8.♕xd4 c6 9.0-0 White is better as he can attack the d6−pawn with ♗f4 and ♖ad1, while his c4−♙ could be easily protected with b2−b3.

7.dxe5 ♘d7?

Now Black falls behind in development. Clearly, 7...♘xe5? 8.♘xe5 dxe5 9.♕a4+ b5 10.♘xb5 could not satisfy him either. But 7...dxe5 8.♕a4 ♗d5 was worth trying. After 9.e4 b5 10.♕xb5 ♖b8 11.♕e2 ♗e6 Black has structural problems, but life goes on. White can also try 9.♗g5 with a great compensation for a pawn or 9.0-0, but where there is choice, there is a chance to go wrong!

8.♗g5! ♕c8 9.exd6 ♗xd6 10.♘d4! h6! (D)



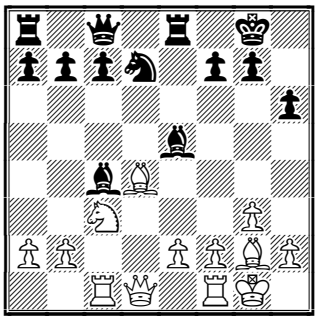
The best defence − we shall soon see why Black needs to include this move before he takes on d4.

11.♗e3 ♘xd4 12.♗xd4

Now after 12.♕xd4 ♗e6 White cannot take the g7−pawn, as 13.♕xg7?? ♗e5 loses the queen. That's why Black had to play 10...h6 −

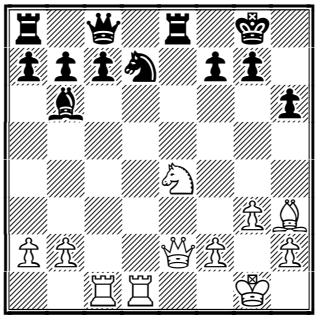
otherwise White would have 14.♕h6 in that line.

12...0-0 13.0-0 ♖e8 14.♖c1! ♗e5 (D)



Black's position looks solid enough. But his pieces lack harmony and Gulko highlights this with energetic play:

15.♘e4! ♗xe2 16.♕xe2 ♗xd4 17.♖fd1 ♗b6 18.♗h3! (D)



Total domination − all White's pieces are in action. The finish is swift:

18...♖e7 19.♗xd7 ♖xd7 20.♘f6+ and Black resigned as 20...gxf6 21.♕g4+ is hopeless for him. **1-0.**

Solution to our tactical quiz:

Karpov - Topalov, 1994. 30.♘f6!! This sudden blow decides the game. **30...♔xf6 31.♗e5+ ♔xe5 32.♕xe4+ ♔xe4 33.♖e1+ ♔f5 34.♖xe8** This is the point of the combination − now Black loses one of his bishops. **34...♗e6 35.♖xf8 ♗xa2 36.♖c8** White plans to play ♖c7, so Black resigned. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.chesstoday.net

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Trainer's Corner

It has been a very long time since the last *TC* appeared in *CT*, so I have some catching up to do. We will come back to the tournaments tomorrow, while today I would like to answer some of your questions.

Our first question comes from the USA:

"Hi Alex,
Thanks for using my idea for a training topic. I really enjoyed it. I have some more ideas for training topics. A variation of the Alekhine that is played by a lot of class players is **1.e4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 d5.** This means the ideas in this variation are important to us "fish". Unfortunately there are no good references on it in any of the books. Keep up the good work!
Doug Schwetke, Arlington, Texas"

Indeed, 2.♘c3 is a rather common choice against the Alekhine Defence. Of course, White must be ready for 2...e5, after which he does not get the Rue Lopez and some other openings. I usually play 2...d5. Then after 3.e5 Black can choose between 3...d4 and 3...♘fd7. The latter allows a dangerous pawn sacrifice - 4.e6!?, but it is far more interesting and ambitious than 3...d4.

After 3.exd5 ♘xd5 Black does not have serious problems - for example in case of **4.♘xd5?! ♕xd5** he might be already a bit better. If **4.♘f3**, then I recommend 4... ♘xc3 - in order to unbalance the position and have better chances for a win (and for a loss!). A similar pawn structure arises after **4.♗c4** e6 5.♘f3 ♘xc3 - White has better development and more control in the centre, but Black has counter-chances related to some defects in White's pawn formation. Another good way to meet 4.Bc4 is 4...♘b6 5.♗b3 ♘c6 6.♘f3 ♗f5, followed by ...e6 and ... ♗e7, although here the position is rather dry. More entertaining is 5...c5, but then you must know what you are doing. Finally, Black can also play 4..♘xc3 and after 5. ♕f3 e6 6. ♕xc3 ♘c6 7.♘f3 he has 7...♕f6!. The ending after 8.♕xf6 gxf6 is rather interesting and fully playable for Black.
I would like to conclude that the Alekhine Defence leads to interesting positions and is completely playable, particularly on the club level, where it has certain surprise value.

Another question I received from Germany:

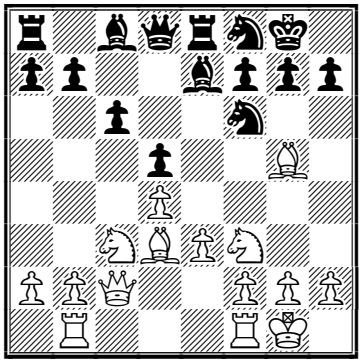
" Dear Mr. Baburin,
I would like to thank you for installing a regular "Coach's corner" in Chess Today. Instructive lessons and instructive game annotations are more worthy for me than "hot" theory. For me, it's important to know more about the transposing from the opening to the middlegame. For example: how to play with or against an isolated d-pawn?
How to play against the minority attack in the Declined Queen's Gambit? (in this opening I often have absolutely no counterplay with black)
Are there any openings with which I receive the same middlegame positions?
With best regards from Berlin and the best wishes for Chess Today, Sven Metzger"

OK, let start with the first question - how to play against the isolated-d pawn. Of course, I can't give a simple answer in a few pages, after I wrote a whole book on this subject! :-) Basically, you need to block the isolani. If you are Black and you play against the isolated d4-pawn, then you need to pay particular attention to the d5-square, making sure that White can't break with d4-d5. Often you would put a knight on d5. Sometimes it's good to transform the structure then with ... ♘xc3.

You main goal is simplification. If you succeed in exchanging a few pieces, this usually improves your chances. But be careful not to swap off everything - for example usually you are better off to keep at least one pair of rooks on the board. Your ideal material correlation is 'knight and major pieces vs. bishops and major pieces'. I have enclosed one game like that in today's database. It is from my book *Winning Pawn Structures*, which you can buy for 24.95 euro at www.gmsquare.com (visit our Chess Shop and look under 'MiddleGame & General Strategy'). I can autograph this book if you wish. You can refer to this book for more information on IQP - it deals not only with middlegame, but also with relevant endings and some transformation of this pawn structure.

Now about the minority attack in the QGD. It is a very complex line, which is extremely interesting

and rich in ideas for both White and Black. Let's look at the following position:



Black to play

It arises after

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗g5 c6 6.e3 ♗e7 7.♕c2 0-0 8.♗d3 ♘bd7 9.♘f3 ♖e8 10.0-0 ♘f8 11.♖ab1

Here White plans to play b2−b4−b5xc6, which is a minority attack. Black has several counter−plans. One sharp line is 11...a5 12.a3 ♘e4 For example, in the game Taimanov−Nezhmetdinov, Kiev 1954 Black obtained a winning position after 13.♗xe7 ♕xe7 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 ♘g6 16.b5 ♗g4 17.♘d2 ♘xd2 18.♕xd2 ♘h4 (threatening ...♗h3 and also ...♘f3+.) 19.f3 ♕xe3+ 20.♕xe3 ♖xe3 21.fxg4 ♖xd3. Of course, things are not that simple − White usually takes on e4 earlier, with complex position. Here I would like to recommend to you Smyslov's idea −

11...♘g6 12.b4 a6

It's useful to exchange the a−pawn, so you won't be left with a weakness on a7 eventually.

13.a4 ♗d6

Black wants to play ...h6 and recapture on f6 with a queen. The bishop is well positioned on d6, looking at the kingside.

14.b5 axb5 15.axb5 h6 16.♗xf6 ♕xf6 17.e4 ♘f4 18.e5 ♕e6∞

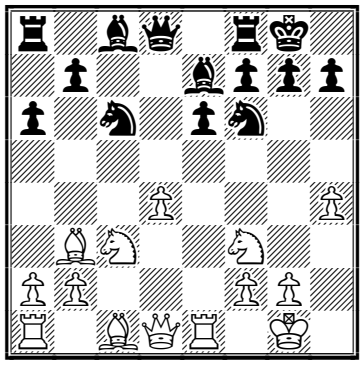
As in the game Jandzhgava−Baburin, 1989.

As for middle game positions, which are typical for different openings, certain lines of the Caro-Kann (or Scandinavian Game) are similar to some lines of the Slav. The Panov Attack of the Caro-Kann is very similar to certain lines of the Nimzo-Indian, etc.

Recently I received yet another question about positions with an isolated queen pawn:

"Dear Alex,
I like CT very much and as you offered us the readers some time ago to submit questions or topics for development, I catch the ball and would like you to develop something about a line (rather a new move) that is getting trendy in a well known line of the QGA. I have read almost all your book Winning Pawn Structures, and this is closely related to the subject of the book. The point is the move 11.h4 in the line you can see in the attached file. Kramnik has played it against Huebner and rates it as "!?" in Informant 79, while Rublevsky in the same informant, annotating a game of himself with black against Bareev gives it a whole "?". Could you try to give us your readers an idea of the main motivation for white for this early pawn sortie, and why it is good, bad or just playable?
Thanks a lot!
Gustavo Albarran, Buenos Aires, Argentina."

We are talking about the following position:



It arose in the game **Kramnik−Huebner,** Dortmund 2000, after

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.♗b3 cxd4 8.exd4 ♘c6 9.♘c3 ♗e7 10.♖e1 0-0 11.h4

The idea of the move is h2−h4 is rather simple:

a) White is going to play ♕d3 and ♗c2, which will force ...g6. Then it would be handy to have the pawn on h4, so White can play h4−h5, particularly if the f6−knight will leave its post.

b) It is useful to have the g5−square over−protected − when White plays ♗g5, it may be important that the bishop is well defended.

So, h2−h4 is a rather deep concept − the question is whether Black can deploy his

forces comfortably before White starts his attack on the kingside. In the game Kramnik−Huebner White won after

11...♘a5 12.♗c2 b5 13.♕d3 ♗b7 14.h5 ♗xf3 15.♕xf3 ♕xd4 16.♗f4 b4 17.♖ad1 ♕c4 18.♗d3 ♕c6 19.♘e4 ♘d5 20.♗e5 f5 21.♕g3 ♖f7 22.♘d2 ♘b7 23.♘f3 ♘c5 24.♘d4 ♕b6 25.♘xf5 exf5 26.♗c4 ♘f6 27.♗c7 1-0.

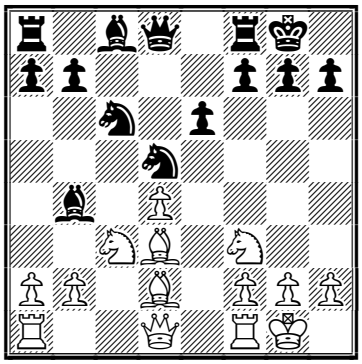
But later Rublevsky improved Black's play with 16...h6 and the game was drawn after 17.♖ad1 ♕c5 18.♕g3 ♘xh5 19.♕d3 ♕f5 20.♕xf5 exf5 21.♘d5 ♘xf4 22.♘xe7+ ♔h7 23.g3 ♘h5 24.♗xf5+ g6 25.♗e4 ♖ad8 26.♘d5 ♔g7 27.♘c7 ♘f6 28.♗f3 ♖xd1 29.♖xd1 ♖c8 30.♖c1 ♖d8 31.♖d1 ♖c8 32.♖c1 ♖d8 33.♖d1 ½−½

So, I guess it's too early to say whether 11.h4 is good or bad. But it is certainly very interesting!

Now I would like to show one instructive game from my book on the isolated d−pawn, which illustrates the idea of the h2−h4−h5 very well:

Banas − Navarovszky
Trencianske Teplice 1974
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♗b4 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♗d2 0-0 9.♗d3 ♘c6 10.0-0 (D)



10...♘f6

In this line Karpov prefers 10... ♗e7, leaving the knight on d5 for a while. Later the knight can be moved to f6, as in his games vs. Kamsky in Elista in 1996, or exchanged on c3, as in the game Wahls−Karpov, Baden−Baden 1992. The text enables White to bring his bishop to g5, pinning the knight.

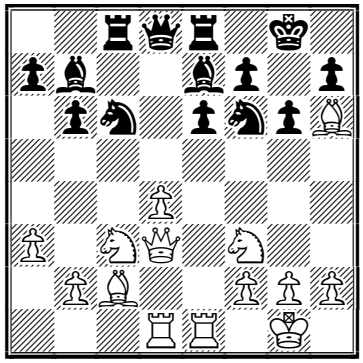
11.♗g5

Here White has also tried 11 a3 and 11 ♗e3, but the text looks very logical too.

11...♗e7 12.♖e1 b6 13.a3!

White prepares ♗c2, ♕d3 and prevents ...♘c6−b4−d5.

13...♗b7 14.♗c2 ♖c8 15.♕d3 g6 16.♗h6 ♖e8 17.♖ad1± (D)



White has mobilised all his pieces. The next thing White is likely to do is to re−deploy the bishop on b3, threatening to break in the centre by d4−d5. White has a significant advantage here, as he can vary his plans according to Black's defensive tactics, while Black is rather cramped − there are too many pieces on the board and Black lacks rooks for his ones.

17...♘d5

Black prevents the d4−d5 break radically. It is likely that sooner or later he would be obliged to do so anyway. We indicate in our sample line below what might happen, if Black chooses not to blockade the isolani: 17...♖c7?! 18.♗b3! ♖d7 19.d5 ♘a5 20.dxe6! ♖xd3 21.exf7+ ♔h8 22.♖xd3 ♕xd3 23.fxe8♕+ ♘xe8 24.♖xe7+−.

18.h4!

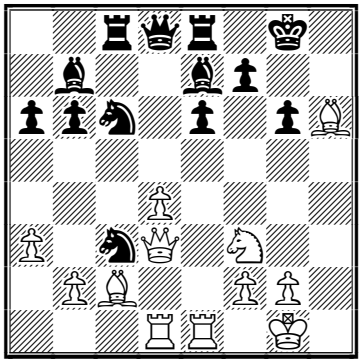
When the knight is gone from the kingside, it's logical to take advantage of it and increase the tension there. At the moment the battery ♕d3 & ♗c2 is pointed to the g6−monolith, therefore the h−pawn is needed in order to weaken it.

18...a6?

This indifferent move will cause Black a lot of troubles. He should have played 18... ♘xc3 instead, and after 19 bxc3 choose between 19... ♕d5 and 19... ♗f6 (19... ♗xh4? would be bad in a view of 20 d5!); in both case White would have the initiative, but Black would do

okay.

19.h5 ♘xc3?? 20.hxg6! hxg6 (D)



21.♖xe6!!

The crashing "zwischenzug", which Black obviously missed, expecting 21 bxc3 only.

21...♘e5□ 22.♘xe5 ♗e4□ 23.♖xg6+! fxg6

Or 23...♔h7 24.♕h3 fxg6 25.♗xe4 ♘xe4 26.♗g5+ ♔g8 27.♕e6+ ♔h8 28.♘f7+ ♔g7 29.♘xd8+−.

24.♗b3+ ♔h7 25.♕h3 ♗h4

Or 25...♘e2+ 26.♔f1 ♗h4 27.♘f7! ♗f5 28.g4 ♗xg4 29.♕xg4 ♕f6 30.♘g5+ ♗xg5 31.♗xg5+−.

26.bxc3+− ♖c7 27.♘f7 ♖xf7 28.♗xf7 ♗f5 29.♕h2 ♖e2 30.♗e3 ♔g7 31.♗c4 ♖c2 32.♕f4 1-0.

With this game I would like to finish our mini-lesson - please send your comments concerning the *Trainer's Corner* and your questions to ababurin@iol.ie. Thank you.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-286, 20th August 2001

Van Wely Victorious in Amsterdam!

Loek Van Wely won the very strong ***Lost Boys Open*** in Amsterdam.

Emil Sutovsky *(left) and* ***Loek van Wely*** *(right) analyse their game, while editor-in-chief of* New in Chess, *Dirk Jan Ten Geuzendam looks on. (picture taken from official web-site)*

Some results of the 8th Round:
Van den Doel – van Wely **0:1**
Gershon – Timman **1:0**
Tregubov – Sutovsky **0:1**
Nijboer – Piket **½:½**
Shchekachev – M. Gurevich **½:½**
I. Sokolov – van der Wiel **1:0**
Avrukh – Arakhamia-Grant **1:0**

Some results of the 9th Round:
van Wely – Sutovsky **½:½**
I. Sokolov – Gershon **1:0**
Piket – Avrukh **1:0**
Nijboer – van den Doel **½:½**
Timman – Shchekachev **1:0**
M. Gurevich – Blitterswijk **½:½**
Krnic – Tregubov **0:1**
Ikonnikov – Ami **1:0**
Michiels – Jonkman **0:1**

Final standings:
1. Van Wely – 7½ points
2-5. Piket, Sokolov, Sutovsky, Timman – 6½
6-11. Gershon, Ikonnikov, Jonkman, Nijboer, Tregubov, Van den Doel – 6

Vishwanathan Anand was proclaimed the winner of the ***XIX Villarobledo International Open*** (Spain) rapidplay tournament (25 min per game, 9 rounds).

Final standing:
1-2. Anand, Shirov – 7 ½ points
3-8. Kolev, Ljubojevic, Agrest, Lalic, Collas, Chernin

Our congratulations to the winners!

About 150 players from about 55 countries (91 boys and 62 girls, among them some GMs and a lot of IMs) are taking part in the ***2001 World Junior U20 Chess Championship*** in Greece. Swiss system, 13 rounds.

Standings after the 3rd Round:
Boys: **1-5.** Bu Xiangzhi, Berg, Izoria, Azarov, Zhao Zong-Yuan – 3 point
6-11. Shaposhnikov, Miton, Simutowe, Sedlak, Schenk, Gagunashvili – 2 ½ etc.
Girls: **1-4.** Koneru, N. Kosintseva, Gu Xiaobing, Khukhashvili – 3 points
5-9. T. Kosintseva, Paehtz, Radziewicz, Zimina, Charkhalashvili – 2½ etc.

Also see our annotated game section.

Yesterday the preliminary stage of the ***76th French Championships*** ended. It was rather quiet with only with one decisive game in each group.

Results of the Rounds 6th and 7th and final standings of the preliminary groups:
Group A (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2556).
R6 Sokolov – Degraeve **½:½**
Fontaine- Lautier **½:½**
Koch – Vaisser **0:1**
Belkhodja – Hauchard **0:1**

R7 Lautier – Sokolov **½:½**
Degraeve – Koch **1:0**
Vaisser – Belkhodja **½:½**
Hauchard – Fontaine **0:1**

1. Degraeve – 5 points
2. Vaisser – 4½
3-4. A. Sokolov, Fontaine – 4

5. Lautier – 3½
6. Hauchard – 3
7-8. Koch, Belkhodja – 2

Group B (cat. XIII, av. Elo 2559).
R6 Fressinet – Nataf **½:½**
Chabanon – Bacrot **0:1**
Apicella – Bauer **1:0**
Dorfman – Relange **½:½**

R7 Bacrot – Fressinet **1:0**
Nataf – Apicella **1:0**
Bauer – Dorfman **½:½**
Relange – Chabanon **1:0**

1. Bacrot – 5
2-6. Bauer, Apicella, Dorfman, Nataf, Relange – 4
7. Fressinet – 2½
8. Chabanon – ½

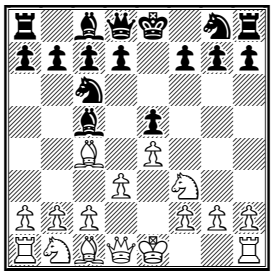
We are unable as yet say who and with whom will play in the next stage. There may be a tie-break in group B. So please stay tuned.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Neiksans (2435) − L. Vajda (2507)
WJCC 2001 (2), 2001 C50
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.d3 (D)



Such a quiet variation of the Italian Game doesn't usually herald sharp play.

4...♘f6 5.♗b3?!
This looks like a waste of time.

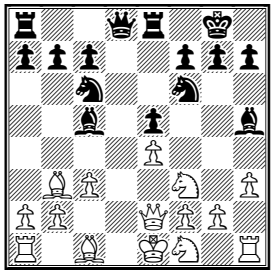
5...0-0 6.c3 d5!?
Black begins the struggle for the initiative.

7.♘bd2 ♗g4
According to my database this is a new attempt − very natural, I have to say.

8.h3 ♗h5 9.♕e2 ♖e8
All of Black pieces except the Rook on a8 are placed actively now.

10.♘f1?
White doesn't hurry to complete his development and plays like the position is closed. But never forget about the "old masters"!

10...dxe4 11.dxe4 (D)

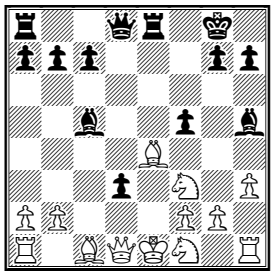


11...♘d4!
Black has to open files to exploit his advantage in development. Due to this goal a piece sacrifice is in order.

12.cxd4 exd4
The motive of this combination is opposition of Rook e8 with White's King and Queen. White has a variety of ways to defend the e4−pawn, but all of them have minuses.

13.♗c2
Worse was 13.♘1d2 ♘xe4 14.♘xe4 d3 15.♕d1 ♖xe4+ 16.♔f1 ♖e2-+; but interesting is 13.e5!? d3!? 14.♕d1 ♖xe5+ 15.♘e3∞.

13...♘xe4 14.♗xe4 d3 15.♕d1 f5!

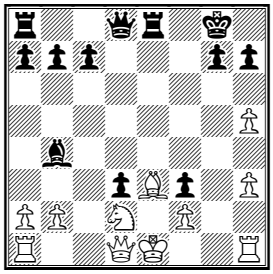


This was the point of Black's combination. Now he's two pieces down, but threatens to win both back after fxe4, with interest.

16.♗e3
White had other defending possibilities but in all cases Black retains a strong initiative, for example: 16.♕b3+ ♗f7 17.♕xb7 ♖xe4+ (17...fxe4 18.♘3d2 ♕g5≅) 18.♘e3 ♖b8 19.♕c6 ♗b4+→; 16.♘g3 fxe4 17.0-0 (17.♘xh5 exf3+ 18.♔f1 ♖e2-+) 17...exf3 18.♘xh5 fxg2 19.♔xg2 ♕d5+ 20.♔h2 ♖ad8≅

16...fxe4 17.g4 exf3 18.gxh5
At first sight White gains a small rest, but...

18...♗b4+ 19.♘d2 (D)



19...♖xe3+!!

A new, and this time decisive sacrifice. To my mind it was David Bronstein's words − that the King fears most of all... a Rook from the a−file, because after it completes its' attack the King is very often checkmated. This game isn't an exception!

20.fxe3 ♕h4+ 21.♔f1 ♕g3 22.♖g1

Or 22.♕xf3 ♖f8-+

22...♕xh3+ 23.♔e1

23.♔f2 ♗xd2 24.♕xd2 ♕h2+-+

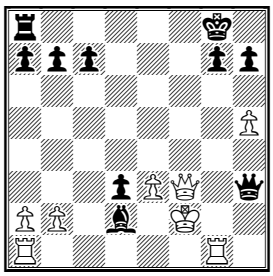
23...♕h2 24.♔f1 ♕h3+

24...♗xd2-+

25.♔f2?!

I suspect Black wanted to avoid repeating the position after 25.♔e1 but in any case this was a bit better than the text move.

25...♗xd2 26.♕xf3!? (D)



A tricky, final trap.

26...♗xe3+!

After 26...♖f8?? 27.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 28.♖g1+ and Black is checkmated in 4!

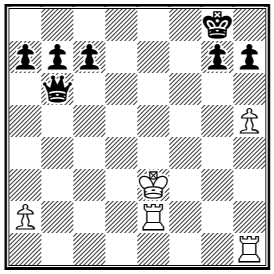
27.♔xe3 ♖e8+

Rook from the a−file, your word!

28.♔f2 ♖e2+ 29.♕xe2 dxe2

This position is winning for Black mainly because of the exposed nature of White King's position (and thanks to the extra pawns, of course!).

30.♖h1 ♕d3 31.♖ae1 ♕d4+ 32.♔f3 ♕f6+ 33.♔e3 ♕xb2 34.♖xe2 ♕b6+ (D)



Now White's Rooks don't defend each other anymore, so White's main task is not to overlook one of them. The 41st move for White's was the final mistake.

35.♔f4 ♕d6+ 36.♔e3 ♕g3+ 37.♔d2 ♕f4+ 38.♖e3 ♕f2+ 39.♔d3 h6 40.a3 ♕a2 41.♔e4? ♕g2+ 0-1.

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.echecs.asso.fr/
http://www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
http://chess.lostcity.nl/lostboys2001/
http://www.ajedrezvillarrobledo.com/
http://www.greekchess.com/pagosmio

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-287, 21st August 2001

Yermolinsky Leads in Cali

Alexey Yermolinsky (USA) has the lead going into the final round of the ***American Continental Championships*** in Cali, Colombia.

Standings after the 10th Round:
1. Yermolinsky – 8 points,
2-5. Dominguez, Goldin, Gulko, Zapata – 7½
6-19. Abreu, Arencibia, Cabrera, Campora, D.Gurevich, Hoffman, A.Ivanov, Leitao, Lima, Morovic, Nogueiras, Ricardi, Szmetan, Vescovi…

The players are also fighting for 7 passes to the 2001 FIDE Championships. Keep in mind that Lazaro Bruzon, Lenier Dominguez (both of Cuba), Dmitry Gurevich, Alexander Shabalov (both of USA), Giovanni Vescovi (Brazil) and Alonso Zapata (Colombia) have already qualified.

The ***World Championships U20*** is underway in Peristeri, Greece. After 4 rounds **Emanuel Berg** (Sweden) and **Sergey Azarov** (Byelorussia) are heading the boys field, while **Nadezhda Kosintseva** (Russia) and **Gu Xiaobing** (China) are leading in the girls event.

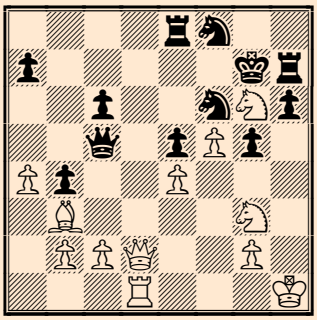
Some results of the 4th Round:
Boys:
Izoria – Bu Xiangzhi **½:½**
Zhao Zong-Yuan – Berg **0:1**
Simutowe – Azarov **0:1**
Gagunashvili – Shaposhnikov **1:0**
Miton – Schenk **½:½**
Sedlak – Acs **½:½**

Girls:
Gu Xiaobing – Koneru 1:0
Khukhashvili – N.Kosintseva 0:1
T.Kosintseva – Radziewicz **½:½**
Paehtz – Charkhalashvili **½:½**
Zimina - Xu Yuanyuan 0:1

Standings after the 4th Round:
Boys:
1-2. Berg, Azarov – 4 points,
3-5. Bu Xiangzhi, Izoria, Gagunashvili – 3½ etc.

Girls:
1-2. N. Kosintseva, Gu Xiaobing – 4 points,
13 players have 3 points.

Tactical Quiz
Kapnisis– Vajda
(from our annoted game)
WJCC 2001 (4), 2001
Black has just played
27...♘e7–f8



White to play and win. *Solution in game section.*

Eloi Relange has earned the last pass to the final stage of the ***French Championships*** – today he beat Iosif Dorfman on tie-break. Igor-Alexander Nataf also shared 4th place, but refused to play blitz.

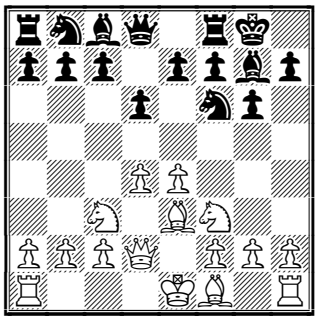
So the eight players who will compete for the overall championship are: Jean-Marc Degraeve, Etienne Bacrot, Anatoly Vaisser, Christian Bauer, Andrey Sokolov, Manuel Apicella, Eloi Relange and Robert Fontaine.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

S. Kapnisis (2373) – L. Vajda (2507)
WJCC 2001 (4), 2001 B08
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Just yesterday we enjoyed excellent play by Levente Vajda. This time it was a moment of glory for his opponent – Spyridon Kapnisis.
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗e3 0-0 6.♕d2 (D)



Straight forward and a rather promising approach to counter the Pirc Defence − White is going to weaken the position of his rival's king by swapping the dark−squared bishops.

6...c6

There are many alternatives, including 6...♘g4 7.♗g5; and 6...♗g4 7.♘g5 with better chances for White.

7.♗h6 b5 8.♗d3 ♘bd7

8...♗g4!? is supposed to be more consistent, trying to reduce the strength of White's attack by damaging White's pawn structure as well as solving the problem of the passive bishop on c8.

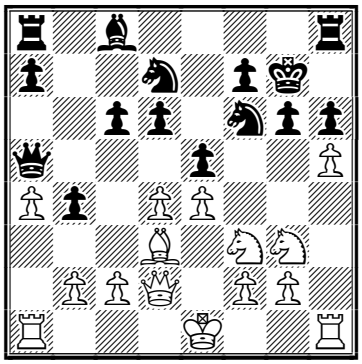
9.♗xg7 ♔xg7 10.a4!? b4 11.♘e2 ♕a5

A new continuation, which looks artificial. Yet, the more natural 11...a5 couldn't help Black get an acceptable position in the game Ansell − Koneru, London 1999, which continued by 12.e5 dxe5 13.dxe5 ♘g4 14.♕f4 ♘c5 15.♗c4 f6 16.e6! f5 17.h3 ♘f6 18.♕e3 ♘fe4 19.♘f4 ♖f6 20.♘d4± with a clear advantage.

12.♘g3

White increases the concentration of his forces on the kingside.

12...h6 13.h4 e5 14.h5 ♖h8 (D)



15.♘h4

The immediate 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.♗c4 was maybe even stronger.

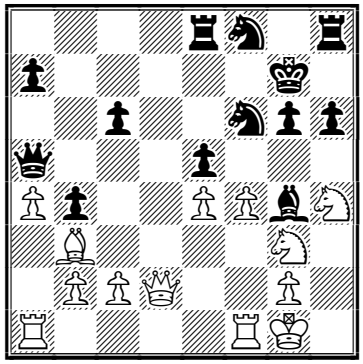
15...♘f8 16.♗c4

A very good diagonal for the bishop.

16...♗g4 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.♗b3 ♖e8 19.f3 ♗c8

An attempt to neutralise White's bishop by 19...♗e6 was also worthy of consideration. After 20.♗xe6 ♖xe6 everything was not so clear.(20...♘xe6? 21.♘hf5+! gxf5 22.♘xf5+ ♔g8 23.♖xh6→)

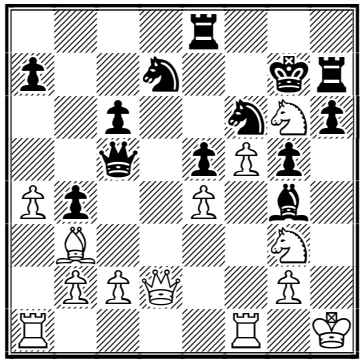
20.f4 ♗g4 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.0-0 (D)



22...♘8d7?

A serious mistake which is hard to explain. It allows White to seize a very strong initiative. The f4 pawn should obviously be captured, maybe after the preliminary 22...♕c5+!? 23.♔h2 − 23...exf4 24.♕xf4 ♘8d7 with good play for Black.

23.f5! ♕c5+ 24.♔h1 g5 25.♘g6 ♖h7 (D)

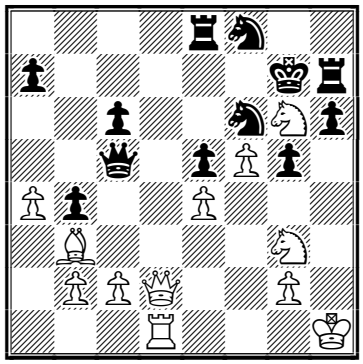


The knight on g6 and the bishop on b3 causes serious problems for the Black's king. By the way, Black doesn't have any move that is very dangerous for White.

26.♖ad1! ♗xd1?

Black does not see the danger − the bishop was a very important defender of the h5−square. 26...♘f8 was the only move to continue fighting.

27.♖xd1 ♘f8 (D)



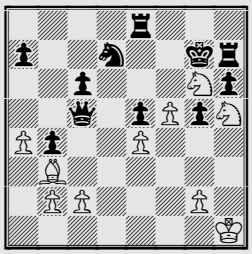
Perhaps Black was satisfied with this position − having the exchange, with the knight on g6 about to be swapped...

28.♕d7+ !!!

This is the first time I have ever seen the queen moving into an attack by two knights! This is an absolutely incredible, fantastic move and deserves much more than just two exclamation marks.

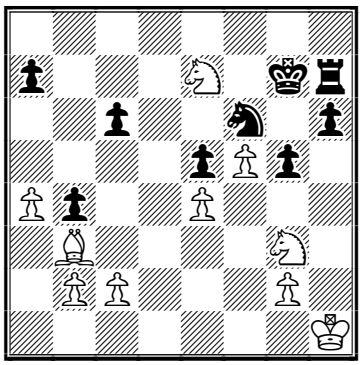
28...♘8xd7 29.♖xd7+ ♖e7

The idea was to distract the knight f6 from it's main duty − defending h5, 29...♘xd7 30.♘h5# (D)



checkmate!

30.♖xe7+ ♕xe7 31.♘xe7+− (D)



Black has managed not to lose at once, but the ending is lost for him. In this position the two pieces are stronger than the rook, while Black's pawns are too vulnerable.

31...h5!?

In case of 31...c5 32.♘c6 (32.♗d5!?) 32...h5 33.♗d5 and Black is deprived of any counter−play.

32.♘xc6 h4 33.♘f1 ♘xe4 34.♘xb4

34.♘e3!? deserved attention.

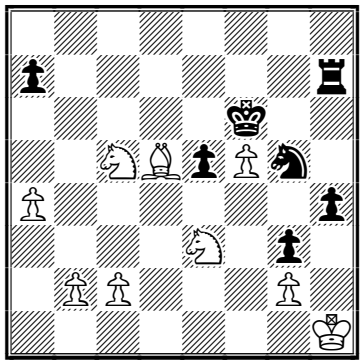
34...g4 35.♘d3 ♔f6 36.♘e3 g3

Very close to the king although without serious threats − anyway, White shouldn't be too relaxed...

37.♗d5 ♘g5

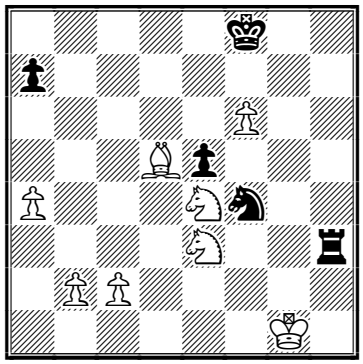
After 37...♘f2+ 38.♘xf2 gxf2 39.♘g4+ ♔xf5 40.♘xf2 Black had no chances to save the game.

38.♘c5!



The best defence is attack!

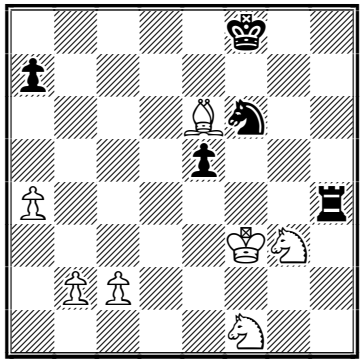
38...h3 39.gxh3 ♘xh3 40.♘e4+ ♔e7 41.f6+ ♔f8 42.♘xg3 ♘f4+ 43.♔g1 ♖h6 44.♘e4 ♖h3 (D)



45.♔f2

45.♘c5!? was probably quicker: 45...♖xe3 46.♘d7+ ♔e8 47.f7+ ♔xd7 48.f8♕ ♘xd5 49.♕f2! followed by c2−c4 and so on.

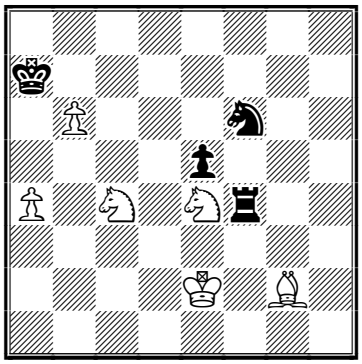
45...♖h2+ 46.♔f3 ♖h3+ 47.♘g3 ♘h5 48.♘ef1 ♘xf6 49.♗e6 ♖h4 (D)



Somehow Black has managed to prolong the resistance again. However, the queenside pawn majority makes White's task not too difficult.

50.b3 ♖f4+ 51.♔e2 ♔e7 52.♗h3 ♔d6 53.♘d2 ♔c5 54.c3 a5 55.♗g2 ♘g4 56.♘ge4+ ♔b6 57.♘c4+ ♔a6 58.b4 axb4 59.cxb4 ♔a7 60.b5

♘f6 61.b6+



Black resigned. A wonderful combination by Spyridon Kapnisis!61.b6+ ♔b8 62.♘c5 (62.♘xf6 ♖xf6 63.a5) 62...♖xc4 63.♘a6+ ♔c8 64.b7+ **1-0.**

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www.echecs.asso.fr/
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-288, 22nd August 2001

Yermolinsky Wins in Cali!

Alexey Yermolinsky (USA) has won the the ***American Continental Championships*** in Cali, Colombia. The winner, as well as those players who shared second place, Alexander Goldin, Boris Gulko (both of USA), Daniel Campora, Alejandro Hoffman (both of Argentina) have qualified for the FIDE World Championship 2001.

Final standings:
1. Yermolinsky – 8½ points,
2-8. Goldin, Dominguez, Gulko, Zapata, Campora, Hoffman, Cabrera – 8
9.-… A.Ivanov etc.

Leinier Dominquez (Cuba) and Alonso Zapata (Colombia) already qualified for the World Championship so there was a tie-break for the last and 7th spot which was won by Alexander Ivanov (USA).

Our congratulations to the winners!

Sergei Azarov (Byelorussia) and **Nadezhda Kosintseva** (Russia) are heading the boys and the girls events respectively in the ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece, keeping a perfect score after 5 rounds.

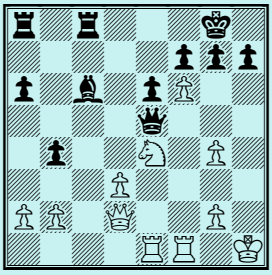
Some results of the 5th Round:
Boys:
Berg – Azarov **0:1**
Bu Xiangzhi – Gagunashvili **½:½**
Sargissian – Izoria **1:0**
Ni Hua – Stryjecki **1:0**
Neiksans – Miton **½:½**
Roiz – Kapnisis **½:½**
Schenk – Navara **0:1**
Zhao Zong-Yuan – Postny **0:1**
Korobov – J.P.Gomez **1:0**
Mahesh – Sedlak **1:0**

Girls:
N.Kosintseva – Gu Xiaobing **1:0**
Xu Yuanyuan – Calotescu **1:0**
Charkhalashvili – T.Kosintseva
Radziewicz – Paehtz **0:1**
Koneru – Khukhashvili **½:½**
Meenakshi – Mkrtchian **0:1**
Hryhorenko – Dzagnidze **0:1**
Jackova – Aarthie **½:½**

Standings after the 5th Round:
Boys:
1. Azarov – 5 points,
2-10. Ni Hua, Bu Xiangzhi, Sargissian, Postny, Berg, Navara, Korobov, Gagunashvili, Mahesh – 4

Girls:
1. N.Kosintseva – 5 points,
2-6. Xu Yuanyuan, Paehtz, Mkrtchian, Dzagnidze, Gu Xiaobing – 4 etc.

Tactical Quiz
Gagunashvili – Shaposhnikov
WJCC 2001 (4), 2001



White to play and win.
Solution on page 3

The ***French Championships*** entered the final stage – eight best players proceed to the final group while eight "also rans" (actually seven, as Igor-Alexander Nataf refused to play due to disagreement with the formula of the Championship) will play for 9-16 places.
Yesterday we gave a incorrect list of the final group - the blitz match between Eloi Relange and Iosif Dorfman had a little importance as both players have qualified anyway after Nataf's refusal.

Results of the 4th Round:
1-8 places:
Bacrot – Fontaine **½:½**
Bauer – A. Sokolov **½:½**
Relange – Vaisser **½:½**
Dorfman – Degraeve **½:½**

9-16 places:
Lautier – Chabanon unf.
Koch – Nataf **1:0** (forfeit)
Belkhodja – Apicella **1:0**
Hauchard – Fressinet **½:½**

The results of the first stage are taken into account. The players will meet only those opponents which they didn't play in the preliminary group.

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov; technical editor – Ralph P. Marconi
Subscription is $15 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Standings after the 4th Round (first 3 rounds were already played in the groups):

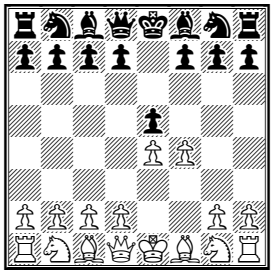
1-8 places:
1-2. Bacrot, Degraeve – 5½ points,
3-4. Vaisser, Bauer – 5
5-8. Relange, A.Sokolov, Fontaine, Dorfman – 4½

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E. Berg (2496) − S. Azarov (2461)
WJCC 2001 (5), 2001 C30
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 e5 2.f4 (D)



Thanks to the great efforts of the Byelorussian GM Alexey Fedorov the King's Gambit has recently not been completely forgotten but it is maybe a little bit more risky to play against his compatriots.

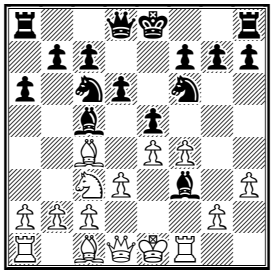
2...♗c5

Sergey Azarov declines the Gambit.

3.♘f3 d6 4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.♗c4 ♘c6 6.d3 a6 7.♖f1

A rare continuation. Both 7.f5 ; and 7.♘d5 are played more often. One example from Fedorov's practice: 7...♗g4 8.c3 ♘h5 9.f5! h6 10.b4 ♗a7 11.♗e3 ♘e7 12.♗xa7 ♘xd5 13.♗xd5 ♖xa7 14.0-0 ♘f4 15.♗b3 h5 16.d4 ♕e7 17.♕d2 h4 18.♖ae1± with better chances for White, Fedorov − Fyllingen, Aars 1999.

7...♗g4 8.h3 ♗xf3 (D)



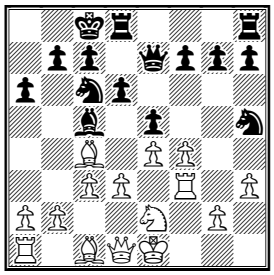
9.♖xf3

A novelty. White has always captured with the queen, which looks more natural.

9...♘h5!?

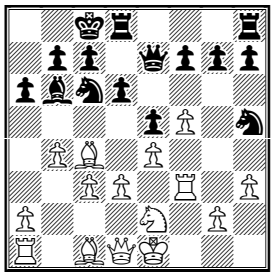
Perhaps White was going to counter 9...♘d4 with 10.♖g3∞

10.♘e2 ♕e7 11.c3 0-0-0!? (D)



One of the ideas behind the 2. ..♗c5 variation is to prevent short castling while it takes time for White to hide the king on the queenside − Black solves this task much quicker.

12.b4 ♗b6 13.f5 (D)



13.♗d5!? looked interesting − it may keep the center closed and secure good chances for White.

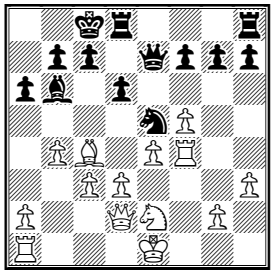
13...♘f4!

Perhaps this counter action was underestimated.

14.♗xf4?!

This looks rather suspicious to leave the bishop on b6 without a counter−part. 14.♘xf4!? exf4 15.♔f1 seemed to be stronger.

14...exf4 15.♖xf4 ♘e5 16.♕d2 (D)



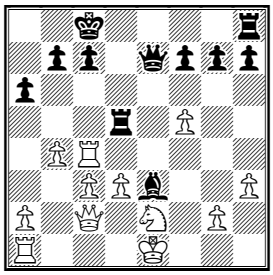
16...d5!

Highly consistent play − Black opens another central line against his rival's king.

17.exd5

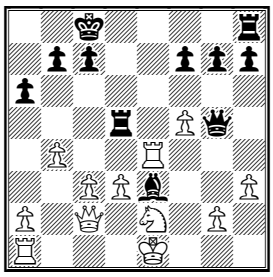
17.♗xd5 c6 18.d4 cxd5 19.dxe5 ♕xe5 was also unsatisfactory for White.

17...♘xc4 18.♖xc4 ♗e3! 19.♕c2 ♖xd5(D)



White is in serious trouble − his king is stuck in the center. In addition, it doesn't allow him to get the rook a1 into play.

20.♖e4 ♕g5 (D)



21.h4?

A decisive mistake. 21.d4!? was much more tenacious although White's position after 21...♕xf5! *(*21...♕xg2? was suddenly lost due to 22.♖xe3 ♕h1+ 23.♔f2! ♕xa1 24.♘g3 and the threat ♖e3−e1 can be prevented only by *24...♖xd4+−)* 22.♘g3 ♕g6∓ was not much fun.

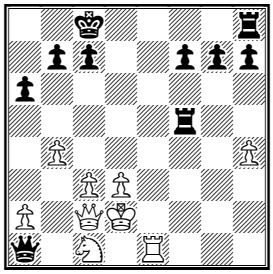
21...♕xg2!

White probably thought that this capture was impossible. However, Black had calculated well and White bravely "fell" into the trap.

22.♖xe3 ♕h1+ 23.♔d2

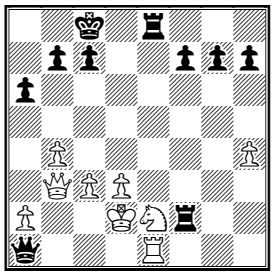
Here 23.♔f2? was just pointless due to 23...♖xf5+-+

23...♕xa1 24.♘c1 ♖xf5 25.♖e1 (D)

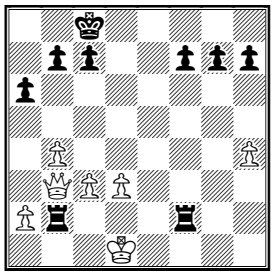


♘c1-e2 is unavoidable but the rest of Black's army comes just in time.

25...♖f2+ 26.♘e2 ♖e8! 27.♕b3 (D)



27...♕xe1+! 28.♔xe1 ♖exe2+ 29.♔d1 ♖b2



White resigned. Confident play by Sergey Azarov. **0-1.**

Solution to tactical quiz:
Gagunashvili − Shaposhnikov
Here White demonstrated a forced win after: **25.♖f5! exf5 26.♕g5 ♔f8** 26...g6 27.♕h6 **27.♕xg7+ ♔e8 28.♘d6+ ♔d7 29.♖xe5 ♔xd6 30.♖xf5** and Black resigned soon. **1-0.**

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www.echecs.asso.fr/
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
galeon.com/continental_cali/partidas.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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CT-289, 23rd August 2001

Degraeve Leads in the French Championships

Jean-Marc Degraeve took the lead at the ***French Championships*** after beating Eloi Relange in the 5th Round in the final group.

Results of the 5th Round:
1-8 places:
Vaisser – Dorfman ½:½
A.Sokolov – Bacrot ½:½
Degraeve – Relange **1:0**
Fontaine – Bauer ½:½

Chabanon – Hauchard ½:½
Fressinet – Lautier ½:½
Nataf – Belkhodja **0:1** (forfeit)
Apicella – Koch ½:½

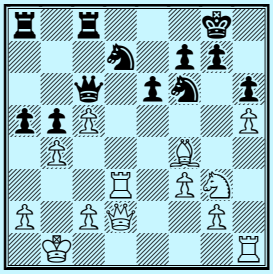
Standings after the 5th Round:
1-8 places:
1. Degraeve – 6½ points,
2. Bacrot – 6
3-4. Vaisser, Bauer – 5½
5-7. A.Sokolov, Fontaine, Dorfman – 5
8. Relange – 4½

9-16 places:
9. Lautier – 5 points
10-13. Nataf, Hauchard, Apicella, Belkhodja – 4
14-15. Koch, Fressinet – 3½
16. Chabanon – 1

In the 9th Round of the *Women's Championship* **Marie Sebag** and **Maria Leconte** drew their intresting game and still keep their lead with 7½ points each.

Sergei Azarov (Byelorussia) and **Nadezhda Kosintseva** (Russia) keep the lead at the boys and the girls ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece.

Aronian - Izoria
WJCC 2001 (6), 2001
From our annotated game
Black has just played
20...a7-a5



White to play and win
Solution in game section

Some results of the 7th Round:
Boys:
Azarov – Ni Hua ½:½
Postny – Bu Xiangzhi **0:1**
Korobov – Sargissian ½:½
Gagunashvili – Berg **1:0**
Navara – Mahesh **1:0**
Aronian – Izoria **1:0**

Girls:
Paehtz – N.Kosintseva ½:½
Dzagnidze – Xu Yuanyuan **0:1**
Mkrtchian – Gu Xiaobing **1:0**
T.Kosintseva – Kaps **1:0**

Standings after the 7th Round:
Boys:
1. Azarov – 5½ points,
2-4. Bu Xiangzhi, Navara, Gagunashvili – 5
5-8. Ni Hua, Aronian, Sargissian, Korobov – 4½…

Girls:
1. N.Kosintseva – 5½ points,
2-3. Xu Yuanyuan, Mkrtchian – 5
4-7. T.Kosintseva, Paehtz, Khukhashvili, Aarthie – 4½ etc.

Top boards of the 8th Round:
Boys:
(5) Bu Xiangzhi – Azarov (5½)
(5) Gagunashvili – Navara (5)
(4½) Ni Hua – Korobov (4½)
(4½) Sargissian – Aronian (4½)

Girls:
(5½) N.Kosintseva – Mkrtchian (5)
(5) Xu Yuanyuan – T.Kosintseva
4½) Aarthie – Paehtz (4½)
(4) Gu Xiaobing – Khukhashvili (4½)

The 2001 closed ***Canadian Championship*** (FIDE Zonal) has started in Montréal, Québec. 14 players are participating, including clear favourites of the event GMs **Kevin Spraggett** and **Alexandre Lesiège.** Both won their first games.

There are 9 GMs and 8 IMs among 114 participants of the ***1st European Grand-Prix*** in

Kavala, Greece. The top-seeded players are Andrei Istratescu (Romania), Mihal Krasenkow (Poland) and Vasil Spasov (Bulgaria).

The 18th ***World Microcomputer Chess Championships*** is underway in Maastricht, Netherlands. After 6 rounds **Deep Junior 7** leads with 5½ points.

♘♘♘

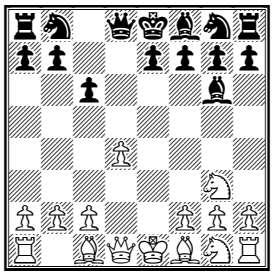
Annotated Game

L. Aronian (2562) – Z. Izoria (2486)

WJCC 2001 (6), 2001 B18

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

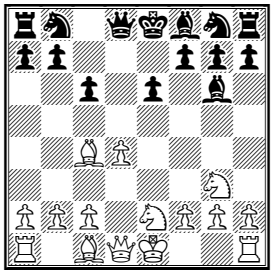
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♗f5 5.♘g3 ♗g6 (D)



6.♗c4

6.h4 is an overworked variation of the Caro-Cann Defence: 6...h6 7.♘f3 ♘d7 8.h5 ♗h7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♕xd3 and so on.

6...e6 7.♘1e2 (D)

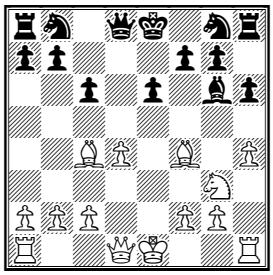


A tricky line – White wants to achieve a pair of bishops.

7...♗d6 8.h4 h6 9.♘f4 ♗xf4

Black can also part with the other bishop by playing 9...♘e7

10.♗xf4 (D)



White's objective is fulfilled – however, the position is rather closed for the bishops. Besides, Black has no weaknesses.

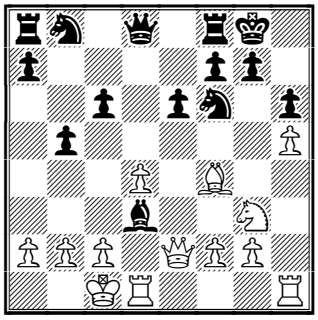
10...♘f6 11.♕e2 0-0

11...♕xd4 12.♗e5 ♕d8 looks dangerous for Black. Yet, in the game Fressinet – Bareev, Enghien-les-Bains 2001 Bareev eventually managed to extinguish White's initiative and realise the extra pawn after 13.♖d1 ♘bd7 14.f4 ♕b6 15.♗d4 ♕c7 16.0-0 0-0 and so on.; 11...♘bd7 looks safer, in my opinion, not being in a hurry to castle kingside. Possible play is 12.0-0-0 ♘d5 13.♗d2 ♘7f6 14.h5 ♗h7 15.♗d3 ♗xd3 16.♕xd3 a5 17.♔b1 b5 18.♘e4± with slightly better chances, Rublevsky – Burmakin, Russia (ch) St. Petersburg 1998.

12.h5 ♗h7 13.0-0-0 b5 14.♗d3

The bishop on h7 is more useful both in defence and in the attack, so White should forgot about his pair of bishops.

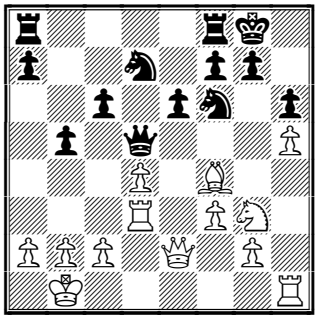
14...♗xd3 (D)



15.♖xd3!?

Curiously enough, only this move is a novelty. Previously White captured with the queen but failed to create problems for Black. For example: 15.♕xd3 ♕d5 16.♔b1 ♘bd7 with a good play, Michalczak – Doettling, Boblinger 2000. Capturing with the rook looks more entertaining.

15...♕d5 16.♔b1 ♘bd7 17.f3 (D)



17...c5?

This sacrifice is rather interesting, but unfortunately it has a refutation which, to be fair, was not so easy to foresee. Something like 17...a5 was more to the point.

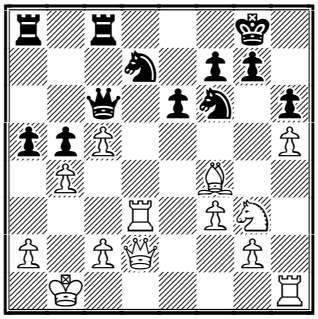
18.dxc5 ♕c6

18...♕xc5? 19.♗d6+−

19.♕d2 ♖fc8 20.b4!

A good idea − White gives support to the pawn on c5.

20...a5 (D)



21.♗xh6!!

An excellent and well−calculated decision − suddenly it is White who is attacking! 21.a3? was dubious due to the simple 21...axb4 22.axb4 ♕a6→; while after 21.c3 ♘d5⩲ Black had compensation for the minor material deficit as he has direct counter−play against White's king.

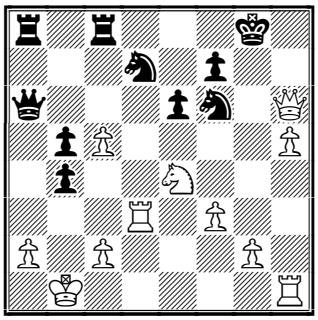
21...gxh6

21...axb4 led to the similar play 22.♘e4! (not 22.♕g5? ♘e8 23.♗xg7 ♕xc5! and Black is okay) 22...♕a6 23.a3! and so on.

22.♕xh6 axb4

This counter strike is Black's only chance, but it's too late. There was already no defence, for example: 22...♘h7 23.♘e4 followed by ♖h1-h3−g3 with a quick checkmate.

23.♘e4! ♕a6 (D)



The attempt 23...b3 could have been ignored by 24.♖h3! (24.♖xb3 e5 25.♖h4 ♕a6 26.a3 b4! 27.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 28.♖bxb4 ♖cb8±) 24...bxa2+ (24...bxc2+ 25.♔c1) 25.♔a1 and so on.

24.a3! e5

Or 24...b3 25.♖h3 bxc2+ 26.♔c1 etc.

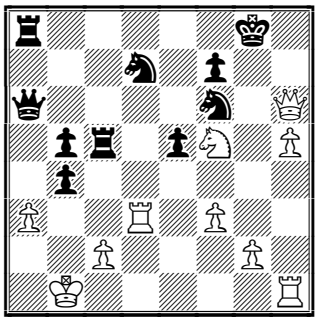
25.♘d6!

A decisive manoeuvre.

25...♖xc5

25...♘e8 26.♖h3

26.♘f5 (D)



Black has no defence against mate in one so he resigned. A crushing defeat! **1-0.**

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www.echecs.asso.fr/
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.vrichey.de/ccc2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-290, 24th August 2001

Bauer and Bacrot Join Degraeve for the lead in France

Christian Bauer joined **Jean-Marc Degraeve** for the lead after beating him in the 6th round of the ***French Championships***. A draw was sufficient for **Etienne Bacrot** to become one of the leaders too.

Results of the preliminary 6th Round:
1-8 places:
Bauer – Degraeve **1:0**
Bacrot – Vaisser **½:½**
Dorfman – A.Sokolov **½:½**
Relange – Fontaine **1:0**

9-16 places
Lautier – Apicella **½:½**
Belkhodja – Chabanon **½:½**
Koch – Fressinet **0:1**

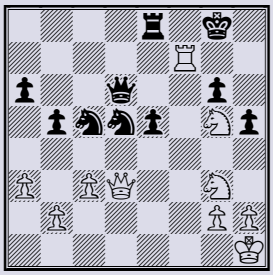
Standings after the 6th Round:
1-8 places:
1-3. Bauer, Bacrot, Degraeve – 6½ points,
4. Vaisser – 6
5-7. A.Sokolov, Relange, Dorfman – 5½
8. Fontaine – 5

9-16 places:
9. Lautier – 5½ points
10. Apicella – 4½
11-12. Fressinet, Hauchard – 4
13. Belkhodja – 3½
14. Koch – 2½
15. Chabanon – 1

The last round promises to be very interesting – all leaers will face each other!

Pairings for the last 7th Round:
1-8 places:
Vaisser – Bauer
Degraeve – Bacrot
A.Sokolov – Relange
Fontaine – Dorfman

Tactical Quiz
Zhao – Markos
WJCC 2001 (2), 2001
Black has just played
33.....♘c5



White to play and win.
Solution on page 4.

GM Alex Baburin will present another *Trainer's Corner* this coming Saturday. He invites you to send your comments and questions to: ababurin@iol.ie.

Marie Sebag and **Maria Leconte** are crushing the opposition at the *Women's Championship*. After 10 rounds they have scored an excellent 8½ points each.

Sergei Azarov (Byelorussia) keeps the lead at the Boys event of the ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece. **Lilit Mkrtchian** (Armenia) beat Nadezhda Kosintseva and became the new leader of the Girls event. Tatiana Kosintseva outplayed Xu Yuanyuan (China) and joined her sister at the second place.

Some results of the 7th Round:
Boys:
Bu Xiangzhi – Azarov **½:½**
Gagunashvili – Navara **½:½**
Ni Hua – Korobov **1:0**
Sargissian – Aronian **½:½**

Girls:
N.Kosintseva – Mkrtchian **0:1**
Xu Yuanyuan – T.Kosintseva **0:1**
Aarthie – Paehtz **½:½**
Gu Xiaobing – Khukhashvili **1:0**

Standings after the 7th Round:
Boys:
1. Azarov – 6 points,
2-5. Ni Hua, Bu Xiangzhi, Navara, Gagunashvili – 5½
6-11. Aronian, Shaposhnikov, Acs, Sargissian, Berg, Postny – 5 etc.

Girls:
1. Mkrtchian – 6 points,
2-3. T.Kosintseva, N.Kosintseva – 5½
4-10. Xu Yuanyuan, Paehtz, Koneru, Dzagnidze, Gu Xiaobing, Charkhalashvili, Aarthie – 4½

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov; technical editor – Ralph P. Marconi
Subscription is $15 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Correction: There are 31 participants in the 2001 Canadian Championship, not 14 as reported in yesterday's CT - Ralph P. Marconi, technical editor.

Kevin Spraggett is sole leader of the ***Canadian Championship*** (FIDE Zonal) in Montréal, Québec with a perfect score after 3 rounds.

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1. Spraggett – 3 points,
2-6. Lesiège, Khassanov, Haessel, Glinert, Phillips – 2½ etc.

The ELO-favourites of the ***1st European Grand-Prix*** in Kavala, Greece, Andrei Istratescu (Romania), Michal Krasenkow (Poland) and Vasil Spasov (Bulgaria) as well as 23 other players, keep perfect scores after 2 rounds.

The ***European Grand-Prix*** is underway in Lisboa, Portugal. 24 players, including the top-seeded **Jeroen Piket** (Netherlands), won their first two games.

Deep Junior 7 is dominating the 18th ***World Microcomputer Chess Championships*** in Maastricht, Netherlands with 7½ points after 8 rounds.

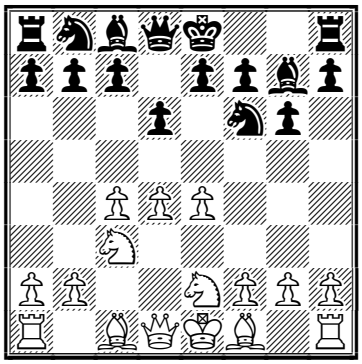
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

C. Bauer (2576) − J. Degraeve (2602)
France Championship (9), 2001 E70
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

This game was very important. Jean Marc Degraeve was sole leader of the Championship, while Christian Bauer was clear third, a full point behind.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘ge2 (D)

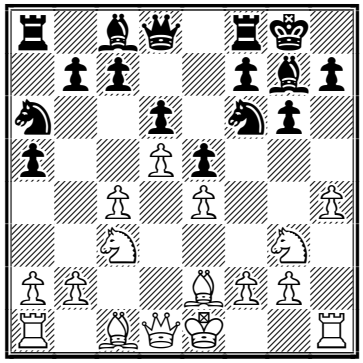


Not the most popular but an interesting approach to counter the King's Indian.

5...0-0 6.♘g3 e5 7.d5 a5

In my opinion, this is rather slow. The immediate 7...c6 is a worthy alternative. A possible line of play is 8.♗e2 cxd5 9.cxd5 ♘bd7 (9...a6 10.a4!) 10.h4 (10.0-0 a6 11.♗e3 h5!?⇄) 10...h5 with reasonable counter−play.

8.♗e2 ♘a6 9.h4 (D)



Thanks to the closed center White can start direct kingside activity.

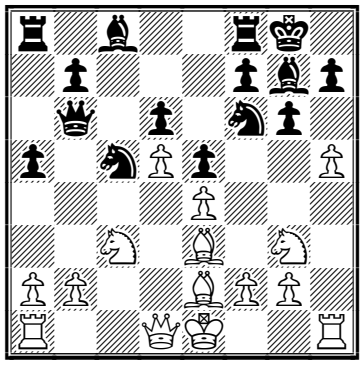
9...c6

In my opinion, the advance of the h−pawn should be stopped. 9...h5!? looks more testing. In the game M.Gurevich − Nijboer, Netherlands 1992 Black achieved good counter−play after 10.♗g5 ♕e8 11.♕d2 ♘h7 12.♗e3 ♗d7⇄ and so on.

10.h5

Now Black is pressured on the kingside.

10...cxd5 11.cxd5 ♘c5 12.♗e3 ♕b6 (D)

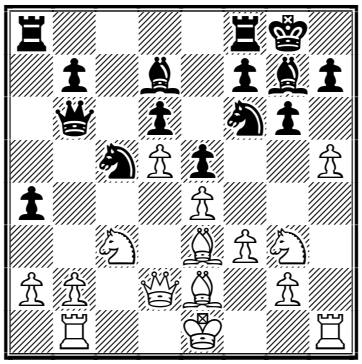


13.♕d2

13.b3 was played in the game Korchnoi − Nunn, Wijk aan Zee 1992: 13...♗d7 (13...♕b4 14.♗d2 ♕d4 15.♘b5 ♘d3+ 16.♗xd3 ♕xd3 17.♘xd6±) 14.0-0 ♕b4 (14...♖fc8∞) 15.♕d2 ♖fc8 16.a3 ♕b6 (16...♕xb3? 17.♖fb1) 17.♖ab1 ♕d8 (17...♘xb3? 18.♕d1+−) 18.h6!? ♗f8 19.♖fc1 ♘g4 20.♗xg4 ♗xg4 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 ♘a4 and Black solved the problems;

13.♖b1 ♗d7 14.♘f1?! gave Black good counter−play in the game Lutz − Gelfand, Horgen 1994: 14...a4 15.♘d2 ♕a5 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.f3 b5 18.a3 ♘h5⇄ and so on.

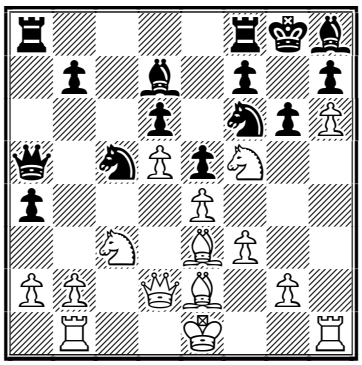
13...♗d7 14.♖b1 a4 15.f3 (D)



15...♕a5?!

A serious mistake which leads to trouble. Something like 15...♖fc8 should have been played, with the idea to meet 16.h6 with 16...♗f8

16.h6! ♗h8 17.♘f5! (D)



A light−squared bishop in very useful in such positions.

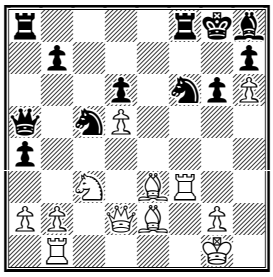
17...♗xf5

Of course, not 17...gxf5? due to 18.♗xc5+−

18.exf5 e4

A double−edged decision − Black opens not only the long diagonal for the bishop, but the center as well and it may help White to seize the initiative.

19.fxg6 fxg6 20.0-0 exf3 21.♖xf3 (D)



Black's king looks rather vulnerable now.

21...♖fe8?!

Another inaccurate move. 21...♘fd7! looked far more to the point and it might promise Black counter chances.

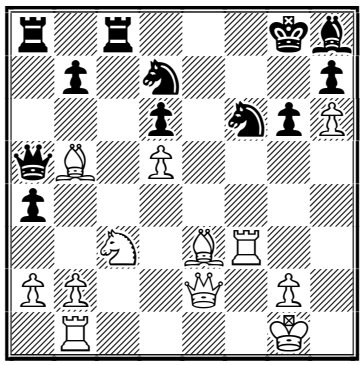
22.♗b5! ♖ec8

Perhaps at first Black was going to play 22...♘fe4 but it was bad due to 23.♘xe4 ♖xe4 24.♕xa5 ♖xa5 25.♖bf1 ♖a8 26.♗xc5 dxc5 27.♗d7+− However, the text move is no better.

23.♕e2

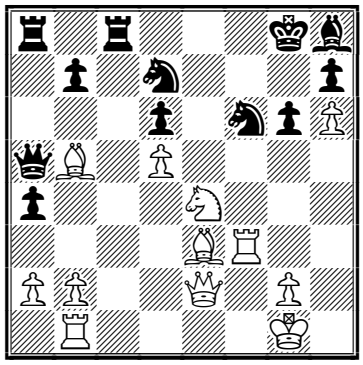
The direct 23.♗xc5!? ♖xc5 (23...dxc5 24.d6) 24.♕e2 followed by ♕e6 was also very good.

23...♘cd7 (D)



23...♘fe4 was losing due to 24.♘xe4 ♘xe4 25.♗d7 followed by ♗e6.

24.♘e4! (D)



Black has nothing to oppose White's initiative.

24...♕c7

24...♘xe4? 25.♗xd7+−

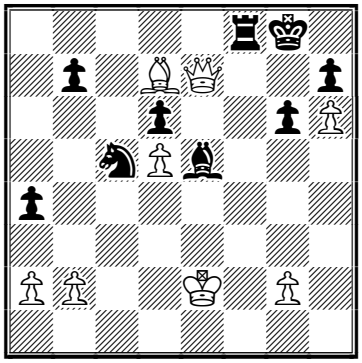
25.♖c1

25.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 26.♗d4 was maybe even better.

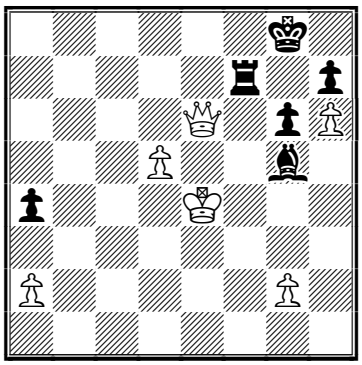
25...♕xc1+

The only move to continue fighting but, fairly speaking, Black has no chance to save the game due to his vulnerable king. 25...♕d8

26.♖xc8 ♖xc8 (26...♕xc8 27.♘xd6) 27.♗g5+− **26.♗xc1 ♖xc1+ 27.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 28.♔xf1 ♘xe4 29.♕xe4 ♘c5 30.♕e7 ♖f8+ 31.♔e2 ♗e5 32.♗d7 (D)**



A decisive penetration.
32...♘xd7 33.♕xd7
The rest is easy − the knight c5 was the only piece which could defend the weak pawns. **33...b6 34.♔d3 ♗xb2 35.♕xd6 ♗f6 36.♕xb6 ♗g5 37.♕e6+ ♖f7 38.♕e8+ ♖f8 39.♕e6+ ♖f7 40.♔e4 (D)**



Black resigned. This confident win allowed Christian Bauer to join the leader. **1-0.**

Solution to tactical quiz:
34.♘xh5!! Very beautiful! **34...♖d8** 34...♘xd3 35.♖g7+ ♔f8 36.♘h7# **35.♕xd5!!** Another spectacular blow − the queen insists on being sacrificed! **35...gxh5** 35...♕xd5 36.♘f6+ ♔h8 37.♖h7# **36.♖f8+!** A nice final touch! Black resigned. **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:
www.echecs.asso.fr/
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.vrichey.de/ccc2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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CT-291, 25th August 2001

Vaisser, Bacrot and DeGraeve Share First Place at the French Championships

Anatoly Vaisser is our hero today. In the last round of the ***French Championships*** he won a grandiose 83 move battle against Christian Bauer, overtook him and caught the other leaders **Etienne Bacrot** and **Jean-Marc Degraeve,** to claim a share of first place.

Results of the last 7th Round:
1-8 places:
Vaisser – Bauer **1:0**
Degraeve – Bacrot **½:½**
A.Sokolov – Relange **½:½**
Fontaine – Dorfman **½:½**

9-16 places:
Apicella – Hauchard **½:½**
Fressinet – Belkhodja **½:½**
Chabanon – Koch **1:0**

Final standings:
1-8 places:
1-3. Vaisser, Bacrot, Degraeve – 7 points,
4. Bauer – 6½
5-7. A.Sokolov, Relange, Dorfman – 6
8. Fontaine – 5½

9-16 places:
9. Lautier – 5½ points
10. Apicella – 5
11-12. Fressinet, Hauchard – 4½
13. Belkhodja – 4
14. Koch – 2½
15. Chabanon – 2

Marie Sebag and **Maria Leconte** shared the victory at the *Women's Championship* with an excellent 9½ points out of 11games.

It is not announced on the official site that there will be tie-breaks for the title or who will be proclaimed the Champion. We will report about it tomorrow. Anyway, our congratulations to all the winners!

Merab Gagunashvili (Georgia) became the leader of the Boys event at the ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece after beating Sergei Azarov (Byelorussia) in the 8th Round. **Lilit Mkrtchian** (Armenia) has retained the lead at the Girls event.

Some results of the 8th Round:
Boys:
Azarov – Gagunashvili **0:1**
Navara – Ni Hua **½:½**
Aronian – Bu Xiangzhi **1:0**
Shaposhnikov – Sargissian **0:1**
Postny – Acs **0:1**
Miton – Berg **½:½**

Girls:
T.Kosintseva – Mkrtchian **½:½**
Xu Yuanyuan – N.Kosintseva **1:0**
Paehtz – Gu Xiaobing **0:1**
Koneru – Aarthie **1:0**
Dzagnidze – Charkhalashvili **½:½**

Standings after the 8th Round:
Boys:
1. Gagunashvili – 6½ points,
2-7. Ni Hua, Aronian, Acs, Sargissian, Navara, Azarov – 6
8-12. Bu Xiangzhi, Roiz, Berg, Izoria, Korobov – 5

Girls:
1. Mkrtchian – 6½ points,
2-5. Xu Yuanyuan, T.Kosintseva, Koneru, Gu Xiaobing – 6
6-8. N.Kosintseva, Dzagnidze, Charkhalashvili – 5½

Kevin Spraggett, Marat Khassanov and **Stephen Glinert** are sharing the lead after the 4th Round of the ***Canadian Championship*** (FIDE Zonal) in Montréal, Québec.

Top boards of the 5th Round:
(3½) Spraggett – Mikanovic (3)
(3) Khassanov – Glinert (3)
(3) Lesiège – Gaspariants (3)
(2½) Phillips – Bluvstein (3)

(2½) Haessel – Schleifer (2½)
(2½) A.Gurevich – Milicecevic (2½)

13 players are leading at the ***1st European Grand-Prix*** in Kavala, Greece.

Top boards of the 4th Round:
(3) Krasenkow – Kr. Georgiev (3)
(3) Miladinovic – Spasov (3)
(3) Vouldis – Skembris (3)
(3) Bojkov – Halkias (3)
(2½) Banikas – Dochev (3)

The ELO-favourite of the ***European Grand-Prix*** in Lisboa, Portugal, GM **Jeroen Piket** (Netherlands) and 8 other players keep perfect scores after 3 rounds.

Top boards of the 4th Round:
(3) Kotronias – Piket (3)
(3) Sulskis – Gofshtein (3)
(3) Oratovsky – Cs.Horvath (3)
(3) Sulava – Narciso Dublan (3)
(2½) J.Horvath – Galego (3)

A strong open tournament is underway in ***Bratto***, Italy. 9 players, including top-seeded **Vadim Milov** (Switzerland) and **Vladimir Epishin** (Russia), are sharing the lead after 2 rounds.

Top boards of the 3rd Round:
(2) Milov – Borgo (2)
(2) C.Foisor – Epishin (2)
(2) Dervishi – Astengo (2)
(2) Drazic – O.Foisor (2)
(2) Zichichi – Lalic (1½)

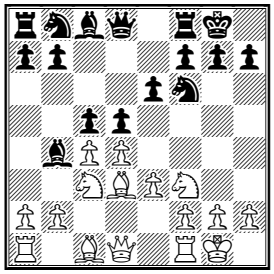
Deep Junior 7 (multi-processor) won the 18th ***World Microcomputer Chess Championships***, which finished in Maastricht, Netherlands. **Shredder** won the single processor category.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

A. Vaisser − C. Bauer
French Championship (10), 24.08.2001 E54
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♗d3 d5 6.♘f3 c5 7.0-0 (D)



The starting position of many well analysed variations of the Rubinstein Nimzo−Indian.

7...dxc4 8.♗xc4 cxd4 9.exd4 a6

9...b6 is more popular, but the text move is also quite solid.

10.a4

Some years ago I tried the direct approach: 10.♘e5!? The game R.Scherbakov − A.Kharitonov, Russia (ch) Elista 1994 continued by 10...b5! 11.♕f3! ♕xd4 12.♕xa8 ♕xe5 13.♗e2□ ♗xc3! 14.bxc3 ♕xe2! 15.♕xb8 ♘d5 16.a4!? Up to now everything was according to my home analysis, but here Andrey Kharitonov came up with a strong blockading idea which immediately cleared the situation. 16...♕c4! 17.♗a3 Here a draw was agreed − both sides can hardly play for a win. For example, 17...♖e8 18.axb5 ♗d7 followed by ...♗b5 and so on.

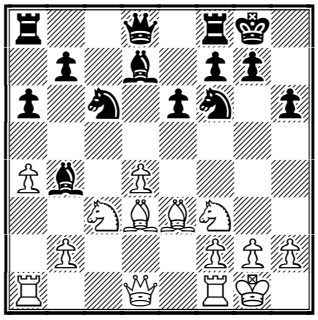
10...♘c6 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗e3

12.♗h4 has been played much more often.

12...♗d7

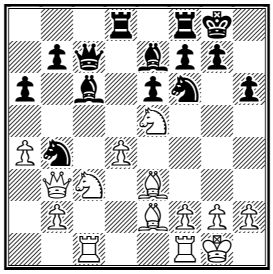
A new continuation. There wasn't much fight in the game Jussupow − Dautov, Bundesliga 2000: 12...♕a5 13.♕b3 ♖d8 14.♖fd1 ♘d5 15.♘e4 ♕b6 16.♕d3 ♗e7 17.b3 ♗d7 18.♘g3 ♗e8 and here a draw was agreed.

13.♗d3 (D)



In such positions this bishop often switches from the a2−g8 to the b1-h7 diagonal. One of the ideas is to a create a strong battery by ♗d3−b1 followed by ♕d1-d3. Notice, that Black cannot neutralise it by ...g7−g6 as the bishop e3 keeps an eye on the pawn h6.

13...♕a5 14.♘d2!? ♗e7 15.♘c4 ♕c7 16.♖c1 ♘b4 17.♗e2 ♗c6 18.♘e5 ♖ad8 19.♕b3 (D)

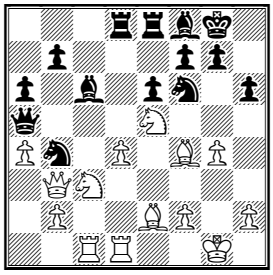


Black has distracted White's attention from the kingside, but his queenside in now under pressure.

19...♕a5 20.♖fd1 ♖fe8

If 20...♗d5 21.♘xd5 ♘fxd5 22.♗d2± White retains the better chances.

21.♗f4 ♗f8 22.g4!!! (D)



What a move − it is not a kingside pawn attack − White just wants to trap the queen by ♘e5−c4. Notice the immediate 22.♘e5−c4 allows Black the escape square f5. The position after 22.♘xc6 bxc6 was comfortable for Black although maybe slightly worse. This brusque pawn advance was obviously dictated by a "must win" tournament situation.

22...♘fd5 23.♘xc6 ♘xc6! 24.♘xd5 ♖xd5!

An adequate reply for the White's action.

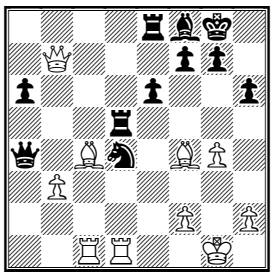
25.♕xb7

25.♗e3 was maybe objectively stronger but here Black had nothing to worry about.]

25...♘xd4 26.♗c4

26.♕xa6!? was safer but White rejects moves which do not promise winning chances.

26...♕xa4 27.b3 (D)



The position after 27.♕xa6 ♘e2+! 28.♗xe2 ♕xf4∓ was already not very fun.

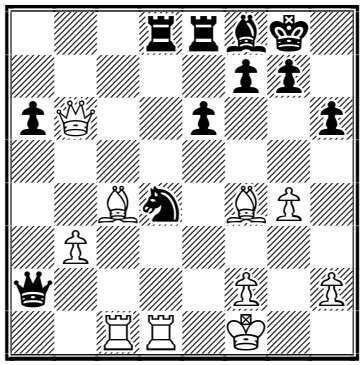
27...♕a2?

Missing an excellent chance to secure a big advantage. 27...♘e2+! was still possible as after 28.♔f1 Black had 28...♘xc1! 29.bxa4 ♖xd1+ 30.♔g2 ♖d4-+ with an almost decisive advantage.

28.♔f1! ♖dd8??

As usual, one mistake follows another. 28...♖ed8! was quite good since 29.♗xd5? was impossible due to 29...♕e2+ 30.♔g1 ♖xd5↑ with a very strong initiative.

29.♕b6! (D)



Obviously Black missed this move.

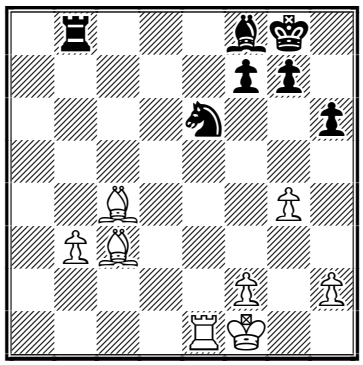
29...e5 30.♗xe5 ♘e6

The only way to save the knight.

31.♖xd8 ♘xd8 32.♗c3 ♕a3 33.♖e1!? ♘e6

After 33...♖xe1+ 34.♗xe1 ♕d6 35.♕xd6 ♗xd6 36.h3+− Black looses the a6−pawn.

34.♕xa6 ♕xa6 35.♗xa6 ♖b8 36.♗c4+− (D)



The position is technically winning for White now.

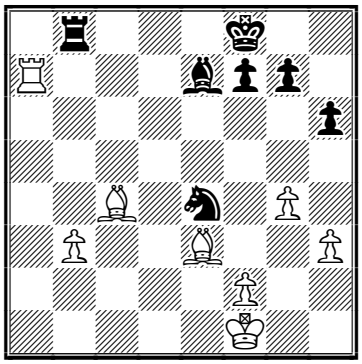
36...♗b4 37.♗e5!?

White grabs the opportunity to secure a pair of bishop. Yet, 37.♗xb4 ♖xb4 38.♔e2!+− was also not bad.

37...♖d8 38.♖c1 ♘c5 39.♖a1 ♖e8 40.♗d4 ♘e4 41.♗e3 ♔f8

41...♘d2+ 42.♗xd2 ♗xd2 43.♖a7+− was lost for Black.

42.♖a4 ♗d6 43.h3 ♖b8 44.♖a7 ♗e7 (D)



45.b4?!

Such a sharp move should be calculated till the very end. Unfortunately something was missed. I don't think Black had real chances to save the game after, for example, 45.♔e2 ; or 45.h4

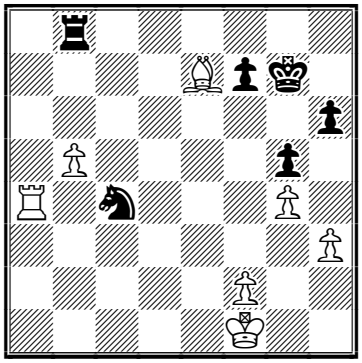
45...g5!

The only available but sufficient move to continue the battle.

46.b5 ♘d6 47.♗c5 ♘xc4 48.♗xe7+ ♔g7

48...♔e8 was impossible due to 49.♗f6 ♖xb5 50.♖e7+ ♔f8 51.♖c7 ♘b6 52.♖b7+− and White wins the knight.

49.♖a4 (D)



Perhaps White was thinking he secures the b−pawn by the next ♖b4? However, the knight is a fairly tricky piece...

49...♘d2+! 50.♔e2

50.♔e1 ♘f3+ 51.♔e2 ♘e5 52.♖b4? didn't work due to 52...♖e8 followed by ...♘e5−c6.

50...♘b3 51.♔d3 ♖xb5

Black has made the unbelievable − he won the passed pawn. However, the knight is in trouble.

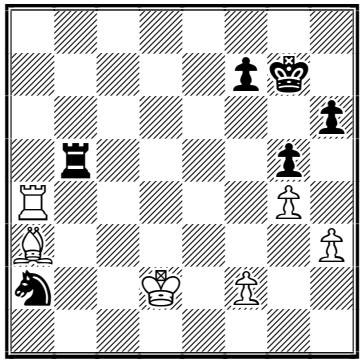
52.♗b4 ♘c1+

52...♘c5+? was probably White's dream: 53.♔c4 ♘xa4 54.♔xb5 and the knight is trapped: 54...♘b2 55.♗c3+

53.♔d2 ♘a2

53...♘b3+! was quite possible. After 54.♔c3 ♘c1 the knight gets away, for example: 55.♔c4 ♖b8 and so on although White still has some initiative.

54.♗a3 (D)



54...♖b3!?

Black decided it is too dangerous to play with the knight on a2 although White had no way to win it directly.

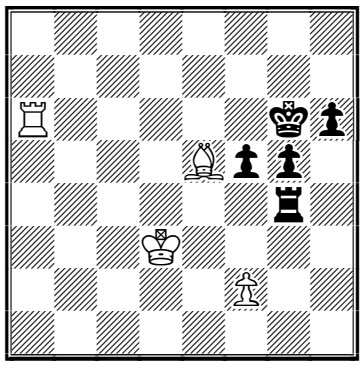
55.♔c2 ♖xh3 56.♗b2+ ♔h7 57.♖xa2

It was impossible to secure a pawn by 57.♗d4 due to 57...♖h4 with the idea of ...h6−h5.

57...♖f3 58.♗d4 ♖f4 59.♔d3 ♖xg4

White has only one pawn left − his winning task, therefore, seems to be difficult. However, Black's pawn structure is far from perfect.

60.♗e5! f5 61.♖a7+ ♔g6 62.♖a6+ (D)



62...♔h5

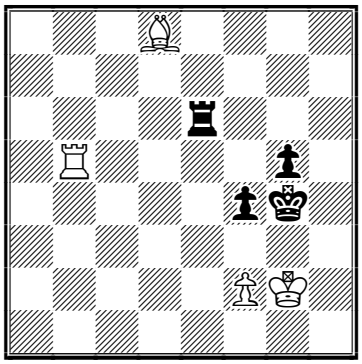
A passive approach was too dangerous: 62...♔h7? 63.♖f6 f4 64.♔e4→ with a mating attack.

63.♗g7 ♖b4 64.♖xh6+ ♔g4 65.♔e2 ♖a4

Black wants to swap all the pawns but it seems to be not an easy task. Besides, he was under severe time pressure and failed to

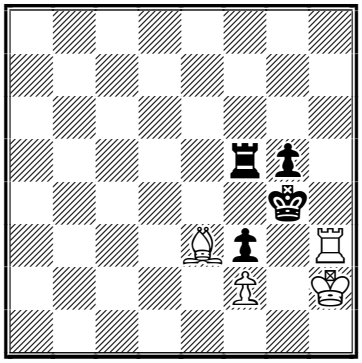
offer tougher resistance.

66.♖b6 f4 67.♖b5 ♖a6 68.♔f1 ♖g6 69.♗e5 ♔f5 70.♔g2 ♖e6 71.♗c7+ ♔g4 72.♗d8 (D)



72...f3+

After this advance Black loses all chances to swap the pawns but unfortunately it was obligatory. If 72...♖g6 White continued by 73.f3+ ♔h5 (73...♔h4 74.♖b1) 74.♔h3 ♖g8 75.♗f6 ♖g6 76.♖f5 ♖g8 77.♗e5 and so on. **73.♔h2 ♖h6+ 74.♔g1 ♖g6 75.♖b4+ ♔h3 76.♖b6 ♖g7 77.♖h6+ ♔g4 78.♔h2 ♖d7 79.♗b6 ♖b7 80.♗e3 ♖e7 81.♖h3 ♖e5 82.♖h7 ♖f5 83.♖h3 (D)**



Somewhere around here Black lost on time according to the official site but he is already lost anyway. What a tough battle! **1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:

www.echecs.asso.fr/
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.vrichey.de/ccc2001/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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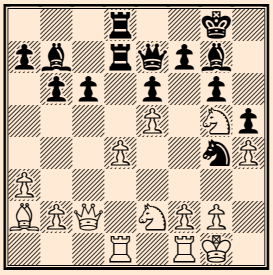
CT-292, 26th August 2001

Interview with GM Vladimir Kramnik

Since I did not receive too many questions for my ***Trainer's Corner*** column this week, I would like to show you an interview with the World Champion, **GM Vladimir Kramnik**, instead. But I do hope that the lack of questions concerning chess is not an indication of laziness, but rather a sign that *CT* readers know everything about chess already! :-) But if this is not the case yet, please feel free to send me your questions to ababurin@iol.ie. Meanwhile enjoy the interview and our tactical quiz, ***Play like Kramnik!***.

2. Kramnik – Short
Dortmund (5), 1995



position after 21.. ¦a8-d8
White to play and win

The interview that follows with Kramnik was conducted this past June in Moscow. I had hoped to have it published sooner, but it was hard to get a hold of Vladimir before the tournament in Dortmund and I did not think that it would be right to bother him during the event. Then it became difficult to reach Vladimir again. But finally you can now see the interview, where the World Champion answers some of your questions. I would only like to add that during the tournament in Dortmund, ***Brain Games*** announced its Chess World Championship cycle. There will be a qualifying tournament, a Candidates tournament and the final match. So, it seems that Kramnik's dream of restoring some order in the chess world might be coming true!

Alexander Baburin (AB): Vladimir, I would like to ask you various questions, which *Chess Today* readers sent us. The first question concerns the match in London. There you looked very fit. Was it a special part of your pre-match preparation?

Vladimir Kramnik (VK): Of course. I know from experience that the better my physical condition, the better I play. To maintain good intellectual productivity, one needs good physical form and top chess players pay a lot of attention to this. Probably, Botvinnik was the first who established the link between physical condition and chess results.

AB: How do you take care of your physical form then?

VK: Before an important tournament I do more physical exercises, while after it I take things easier. The match against Kasparov took a lot of energy, but I was well prepared.

AB: What does your physical training involve?

VK: Anything, which gives me a chance to get my body working - tennis, weight lifting, running or swimming.

AB: On the one hand, Kasparov did a lot of positive things for promoting chess in the 'outside' world, but on the other hand he brought a lot of chaos to the chess world itself. How do you see your historical role in chess?

VK: I do not think of my own 'historical' role yet! :-) I try to do my best and what I believe in. At this moment I would like to restore some order in the chess world.

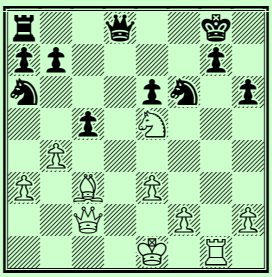
AB: Did you ever have to face the *Evans Gambit*?

VK: I can't remember now. Maybe sometime in my childhood. One needs to check a database for that.

AB: When you play, do you always look for the best move and search for the ultimate 'chess

Tactical Quiz
Play Like Kramnik!

1. Kramnik – Toth
Rio de Janeiro Masters–Challengers (8), 09.1991



position after 20…f7xe6
White to play and win

truth' or can you bluff - playing a move, which is not objectively best, but which gives you good practical chances?

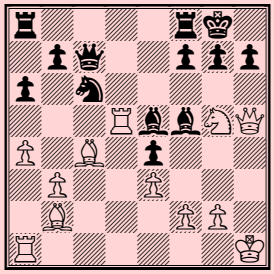
VK: No one can play chess at the highest level, if he is not flexible. Usually I try to make best moves, but sometimes I can bluff too.

AB: Do you have games, which are particularly memorable to you?

VK: I have played so many games, that I've forgotten most of them! :-) I am not too emotional about results of my games - I try to do my best and care a lot when I play, but after the game is finished, I am not too emotionally attached to it. But talking about important games, my match again Kasparov was memorable, particularly the 15th game, which gave me the title.

AB: How do you work on chess? Do you have a kind of working schedule - like having 'office hours'?

4.Kramnik – Sadvakasov
Astana 2001 Astana, Kazakhstan (7), 28.05.2001



position after 18... ¥c8-f5
White to play and win

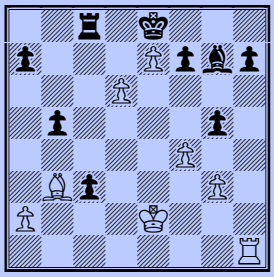
VK: I think chess is a creative activity, so for me it was never a goal, say, to work on chess at least 3 hours a day. Of course, it would be ideal to do at least something in chess every day, but I have days when [I] do not touch chess and that's OK. Sometimes I don't work on chess for a week, but sometimes I can work for 12 hours a day!

AB: Did any player influence you in particular? Like a former World Champion?

VK: It is hard to tell - all World Champions influenced my play in one way or another. But if we are to take one, then it has to be Karpov. When I was a kid, I had books with his best games and studied them. It made a clear mark on my style and approach to chess - I believe that we learn things like this in the childhood. Maybe if it was a book of Korchnoi's or Fischer's games, I would be a different player.

AB: I also thought that your style was close to that of Karpov. And when you started to beat Karpov a few years ago, I thought that it was a definite step forward for you.

3. Kramnik – Svidler
Dortmund Dortmund (2), 27.06.1998



position after 29.. ¢f8-e8
White to play and win

VK: I don't know, whether it was step forward for me or a step backward for my opponent! :-) But indeed, in chess I like logic and harmony, if you know what I mean. I believe it was also the foundation of Karpov's play.

AB: Kasparov played against the World over the Net - do you plan something like that too?

VK: Of course, if somebody offered me something like this, I might try it. But I have little time to organise such events myself. In general, I have a different approach to such things than Kasparov - he always was a public figure, while I don't have a desire to become one. I don't want and don't need to be in the limelight. Of course, I understand that it will be more difficult for me to promote chess, not being a public figure. But this has advantages too - I can devote more time to studying chess and taking part in chess projects.

AB: If you had to leave chess now or will ever need to do that, what would you do with your life?

VK: Hard to tell: I never had to choose like this - I always knew that I would be a chess player. I don't think that one should limit his life just to chess. I would like to do other things in life, but what exactly, I can't tell right now. Maybe later in my life I will want to do something else rather than chess. But I would be a different man then and will think about what to do around that time!

AB: Now there are many young and aggressive players and talk about the drawing death of chess are more or less gone. But in the past people offered different ideas on how to encourage decisive results in chess - like giving 3

points for a win and 1 point for a draw. What do you think of this?

VK: I think that this is possible, although I doubt that it would increase the percentage of decisive games. Chess fans should understand that chess is more or less a drawn game. But in chess, like in other fields, the process is more interesting than result. If both people fight and the game results in a draw, I don't see any problem here. We should pay more attention to the quality of games and the aesthetic aspect of chess.

AB: Do you have any news from *Brain Games* regarding the future World Championship cycle?

VK: I believe that the cycle should consist of some kind of qualification tournaments, Candidate tournament and World Championship match. There is a project like this, but it is too early for me to say more. Besides, there are people in the chess world, who won't be happy with the news like this, so I don't want to announce anything prematurely - when it could harm these developments. I think we will hear something about it before autumn.

AB: What about the famous 3K letter? Karpov, Kasparov and you invited FIDE to a constructive dialogue. Any new developments there - between the players, who signed the letter, and FIDE and FIDE Commerce?

VK: We established our position and now it is up to FIDE to respond. So far FIDE has not replied positively. And I don't think that I need such a dialogue more than FIDE, so I won't insist on it.

AB: FIDE signed a contract with *Octagon*, which will market chess. Have you had any contacts with that company?

VK: Yes, I spoke with people in *Octagon*. I could see that they had a reasonable and professional approach, unlike people in FIDE, which is a completely unprofessional organisation. But on the other hand we have not seen any concrete results of the co-operation yet. I did not see the contract between FIDE and *Octagon* either and I am not sure that this contract is a long-term one.

AB: Most people in chess agree that we should try to promote our game or at least not to make it less popular. But most disagree on how to achieve this goal. People talk about shortening time controls, introducing knockout formulas, etc. What do you think of this?

VK: I clearly expressed my position in the 3K letter. I believe that we need a discussion, but I think that the decision should not be made by those, who will directly benefit from the proposed changes. For example, some players play rapid chess much better than classical chess. So, they might vote to shorten the time control, but I don't think this is fair. I think that the top 20 players or so should decide on such issues.

AB: Vladimir, thank you for the interview and good luck in your tournaments!

VK: Thank you!

Solutions to our tactical positions.

1. 21.♖xg7+! 1-0.

2. 22.♗xe6!! fxe6 23.♕xg6 ♘xe5 24.♕h7+ ♔f8 25.♘f4 1-0.

3. 30.♗xf7+! 1-0.

4.19.♘xf7! ♖xf7 20.♕xf5! g6 20...♖xf5 21.♖d8# **21.♗xe5 1-0.**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-293, 27th August 2001

Bacrot and Leconte Win French Championships!

Yesterday's issue was completely dedicated to the World Champion Vladimir Kramnik so with a little delay we announce that **Etienne Bacrot** won the ***French Championships*** for the third time by beating out two other contenders, **Anatoly Vaisser** and **Jean-Marc Degraeve**, on tie-break.

Results of the tie-breaks:
Bacrot – Degraeve **½:½**
Vaisser – Bacrot **0:1**
Degraeve – Vaisser **0:1**
Degraeve – Bacrot **0:1**
Bacrot – Vaisser **½:½**

Final standings:
1. Bacrot – 3 points
2. Vaisser – 1½
3. Degraeve – ½

The Women's title was also decided on tie-break. Former Ukrainian, **Maria Leconte** became the Women's French Champion.

Results of the Women's tie-break:
Sebag – Leconte **½:½**
Leconte – Sebag **1:0**

Our congratulations to all the winners!

Gabriel Sargissian (Armenia) became sole leader of the Boys event after the 10th Round of the ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece. The defending Champion **Xu Yuanyuan** (China) shares the lead with **Humpy Koneru** (India) in the Girls event.

Some results of the 9th Round:
Boys:
Gagunashvili – Aronian **½:½**
Acs – Navara **½:½**
Sargissian – Azarov **1:0**
Roiz – Ni Hua **0:1**

Girls:
Mkrtchian – Koneru **0:1**
Gu Xiaobing - Xu Yuanyuan **0:1**
T.Kosintseva – Dzagnidze **½:½**
Charkhalashvili – N.Kosintseva **1:0**

Some results of the 10th Round:
Boys:
Ni Hua – Gagunashvili **½:½**
Berg – Sargissian **0:1**
Aronian – Acs **½:½**
Navara – Bu Xiangzhi **½:½**
Shaposhnikov – Neiksans **½:½**
Azarov – Mahesh Chandran **1:0**

Girls:
Koneru – Xu Yuanyuan **½:½**
Paehtz – T.Kosintseva **1:0**
Mkrtchian – Radziewicz **½:½**
Zimina – Charkhalashvili **1:0**
Zhao Xue – Gu Xiaobing **1:0**
Dzagnidze – Meenakshi **1:0**

Standings after the 10th Round:
Boys:
1. Sargissian – 8 points,
2-3. Ni Hua, Gagunashvili – 7½
4-8. Aronian, Bu Xiangzhi, Acs, Navara, Azarov – 7 etc.

Girls:
1-2. Xu Yuanyuan, Koneru – 7½ points,
3-7. Paehtz, Mkrtchian, Zhao Xue, Dzagnidze, Zimina – 7 etc.

Top-seeded **Kevin Spraggett** and former Russian **Marat Khassanov** are sharing the lead after the 5th Round of the ***Canadian Championship*** (FIDE Zonal) in Montréal, Québec.

Top boards of the 6th Round:
(3½) Schleifer – Spraggett (4½)
(4) Lesiège – Khassanov (4½)
(3½) Bluvstein – Glinert (3½)

Michal Krasenkow (Poland) keeps a perfect score after the 5th Round of the ***1st European Grand-Prix*** in Kavala, Greece. Vasil Spasov (Bulgaria) and Spyridon Skembris (Greece) are half a point behind.

Top boards of the 5th Round:
(5) Krasenkow – Skembris (4½)
(4) Istratescu – Spasov (4½)
(4) Miladinovic – Botsari (4) etc.

Vassilios Kotronias (Greece), **Ljubomir Ftacnik** (Slovakia) and **Marc Narciso Dublan** (Spain) are leading after the 5th Round of the ***European Grand-Prix*** in Lisboa, Portugal. 16 players have 4 points.

Top boards of the 4th Round:
(4½) Kotronias – Ftacnik (4½)
(4) Kogan – Narciso Dublan (4½)
(4) Fluvia Poyatos – Piket (4) etc.

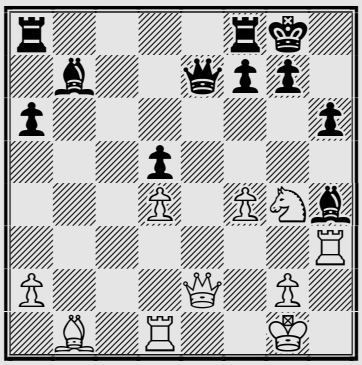
The ELO-favourites of open tournament in ***Bratto***, Italy – **Vadim Milov** (Switzerland) and **Vladimir Epishin** (Russia) are sharing the lead with **Sinisa Drazic** (Yugoslavia) and **Erald Dervishi** (Albania)

Top boards of the 5th Round:
(3½) Milov – Epishin (3½)
(3½) Dervishi – Drazic (3½)
(3) Khenkin – Belotti (3)
(3) Contin – Lalic (3) etc.

Tactical Quiz

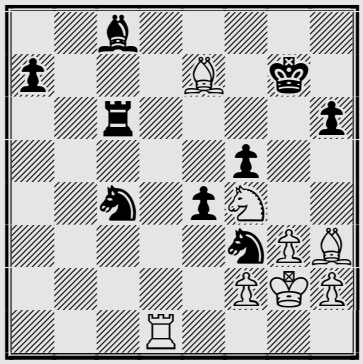
There are a lot of interesting games in every round of the World Junior Championship. Young boys and girls are playing without any compromises! Today we would like to present the highlights of the 9th round. (*Solutions on page 3. You should cover up the answers so you are not tempted to sneak a peak. Good luck - RPM)*

1. Sargissian– Azarov
WJCC 2001 (9), 2001



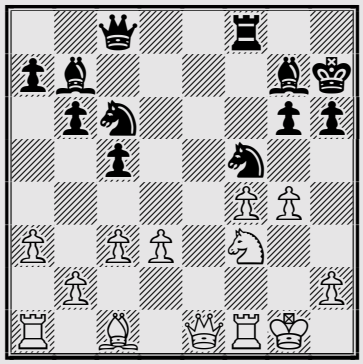
White to play and win

2. Roiz– Ni
WJCC 2001 (9), 2001



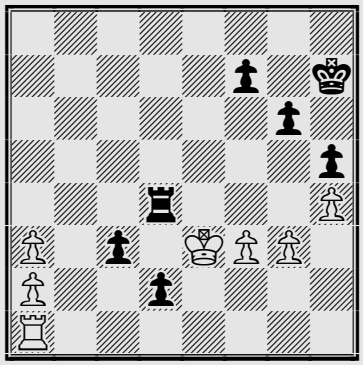
Black to play and win

3. Sigalas– Zhao
WJCC 2001 (9), 2001



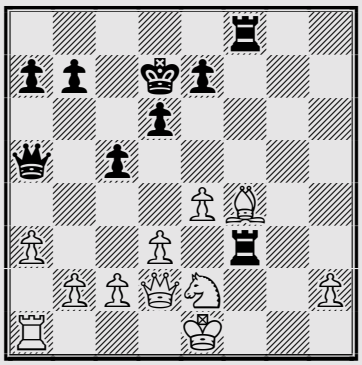
Black to play and win

4. Mkrtchian– Koneru
WJCC 2001 (9), 2001



Black to play and win

5. Zuriel− Zhao
WJCC 2001 (9), 2001



Black to play and win

Solutions to tactical Quiz:

1. 26.♘xh6+! gxh6 27.♕g4+ ♔h8 27...♗g5 28.♕f5 f6 29.fxg5 fxg5 30.♕g6+ ♕g7 31.♕e6+ ♖f7 32.♖xh6+− **28.♕f5 f6 29.♖xh4 ♕g7 30.♕h3 ♗c8 31.♖xh6+ ♔g8 32.♕h5 1-0.**

2. 37...♘e3+!! After this brilliant move White immediately resigned. 37...♘e3+ 38.fxe3 ♖c2+ 39.♘e2 (39.♔f1 ♗a6+; 39.♔h1 ♖xh2#) 39...♖xe2+ 40.♔f1 ♗a6-+ **0-1.**

3. 19...♘fd4! Using the bishop b7 at full power. **20.cxd4 ♘xd4** 20...♕xg4+ 21.♕g3 **21.♘e5 ♗xe5 22.♕xe5 ♖e8 0-1.**

4. 85...♖d4! A nice finish − Black promotes his pawns. 85...♖d4 86.♔xd4 (86.♔e2 c2) 86...c2 **0-1.**

5. Instead of 23. ♘d1! White inaccurately played 23. ♘e2?? **23...♖f1+!** A very unpleasant surprise − White loses the queen! 23...♖f1+ 24.♔xf1 ♕xd2-+ **0-1.**

Recommended Web sites:
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
maskeret.com/bratto/2001.shtml
www.echecs.asso.fr/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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CT-294, 28th August 2001

Three Top in Tilburg

The Tilburg Weekend tournament (6 Round, Swiss system, 1¾ hours for the first 40 moves then 15 minutes for the rest of the game) finished this Sunday.

Final standings: **1-3. Chuchelov, Dgebuadze, Nijboer** – 5 points out of 6 **4-9.** van Beers, Tiviakov, Motwani, Stillger, Dambacher, Moll – 4½ etc.

♦ The AbuDhabi Open is underway. There are three tournaments. In the masters event 42 participants are playing including 15 GMs and 11 IMs.

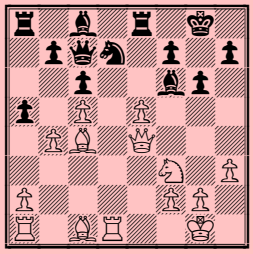
Top boards for the 3rd Round:
(2) Gleizerov – Dzhumaev (2) (1½) Sharif – Kotsur (1½) (1½) Vladimirov – Barsov (1½) (1½) S. Gouliev – Vakhidov (1½) (1½) Safin – Bagirov (1½) (1½) Zagrebelny – Ulibin (1½) (1½) Sale – Volzhin (1½) (1½) Salem – Iuldachev (1½) (1½) Arkhipov – Szekely (1½) *Please also see our annotated game section.*

♦ In the 7th Round of the Canadian Championship (FIDE Zonal) in Montréal, Québec top-seeded **Kevin Spraggett** beat Marat Khassanov with White while **Alexandre Lesiege** did the same with Black vs. Stephen Glinert. And now both GMs are leading with 6 points out of 7. *Top boards of the 8th Round:* (5) Schleifer – Lesiege (6) (5) Hamilton – Spraggett (6) (5) Bluvshtein – Ochkoos (4) (4½) Khassanov – Ghannoum (4)

♦ **Michal Krasenkow** (Poland) keeps a perfect score after the 6th Round of the 1st European Grand-Prix in Kavala, Greece. Now he is ahead of his rivals by a full point. *Top boards of the 7th Round:* (5) Spasov – Krasenkov (6) (5) Halkias – Vouldis (5) (4½) Miladinovic – Dochev (5)

♦ Six players are leading with 5 points after the 6th Round of the European Grand-Prix in Lisboa, Portugal, and in the 7th Round they will play each other: *Top boards of the 7th Round:* Strikovic – Piket / Ftacnik – Narciso Dublan / Tyomkin – Kotronias

Quiz Today:
A Simutowe (2462) – L Cernousek (2262)
WJCC 2001 (10), 2001



White to play

♦ **Sinisa Drazic** (Yugoslavia) became the sole leader after the 5th Round of the open tournament in Bratto, Italy. Milov, Epishin and Borgo are in chase. *Top boards of the 6th Round:* (4½) Drazic – Milov (4) (4) Epishin – Borgo (4)

♦ Ni Hua (China) became a sole leader of the Boys event after beating Gabriel Sargissian (Armenia) with Black in the 11th Round of the World Junior Championships U20 in Peristeri, Greece. At the Girls event there are three leaders now. *Some results of the 11th Round:* ***Boys:*** Sargissian – Ni Hua 0:1 Acs – Gagunashvili 1:0 Navara – Aronian 0:1 Bu Xiangzhi – Shaposhnikov ½:½ Azarov – Miton ½:½ Korobov – Horvath ½:½ Bakre – Berg 0:1 Neiksans – Izoria 0:1 Palliser – Postny ½:½ ***Girls:*** Xu Yuanyuan – Mkrtchian 0:1 Zhao Xue – Koneru 1:0 Dzagnidze – Paehtz 1:0 Khukhashvili – Zimina ½:½ Radziewicz – N. Kosintseva 0:1 Jackova – T. Kosintseva ½:½ Charkhalashvili – Reizniece 1:0

Standings after the 11th Round: ***Boys:*** **1. Ni Hua –** 8½ points **2-4.** Aronian, Acs, Sargissian – 8 **5-9.** Bu Xiangzhi, Berg, Izoria, Azarov, Gagunashvili – 7½ etc. **Girls**: **1-3. Mkrtchian, Zhao Xue, Dzagnidze –** 8 points **5-9.** Xu Yuanyuan, Koneru, N. Kosintseva, Zimina, Charkhalashvili – 7½ points **10-14.** T. Kosintseva, Paehtz, Gu Xiaobing, Khukhashvili, Meenakshi – 7 etc.

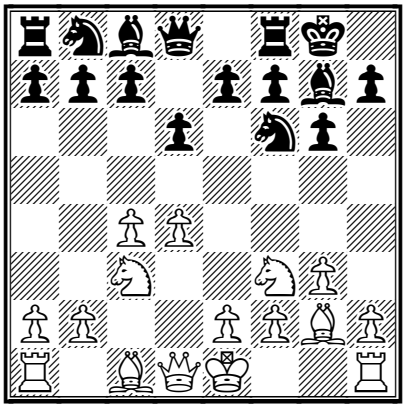
Top boards for the 12th Round: ***Boys:*** Ni Hua – Aronian / Acs – Sargissian / Berg – Bu Xiangzhi / Izoria – Azarov / Gagunashvili – Korobov / Shaposhnikov – Navara / Miton – Mahesh Chandran / Horvath – Palliser / Roiz – Stryjecki ***Girls:*** Mkrtchian – Zhao Xue / N. Kosintseva – Dzagnidze / Xu Yuanyuan – Charkhalashvili / Zimina – Koneru / T. Kosintseva – Gu Xiaobing / Paehtz – Khukhashvili / Meenakshi – Calotescu

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

S Guliev (2510) − A Molina (2293)
ADCF MASTERS 2001 Abu Dhabi (1.9), 25
E62.08.2001

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.♘f3 0-0 5.g3 d6 6.♗g2



Mikhail Botvinnik liked to play this solid system with a fianchetto vs. King's Indian.

6...♘c6 7.0-0 ♗f5!?

Quite a provocative move. More popular is 7...a6

8.d5 ♘a5 9.♘d4 ♗d7

Of course, after 9...♘xc4?! 10.♘xf5 gxf5 11.♕d3 ♘e5 12.♕xf5 White is better.

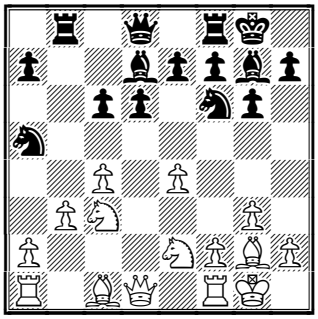
10.b3 c5

Black tries to open the diagonal for his Bishop.

11.dxc6 bxc6

An alternative is 11...♘xc6 12.♗b2 ♕a5 13.e3 ♖ac8 14.♖c1 ♗g4 15.♕d2 a6 16.h3 ♗d7 17.♖fd1 Baburin − Davila, Yerevan (ol) 1996.

12.e4 ♖b8 13.♘de2



Obviously White has more space, but Black can prepare a very good square for his Knight on d4 and also start counterplay on the Queenside.

13...♕c8

Black prepares a Bishop exchange and to release the d8−square for his f8 Rook.

14.♖e1

White prevents his opponent's idea.

14...♖d8 15.♗e3

White can't develop the c1 Bishop on the long diagonal in view of 15.♗b2? ♘xc4

15...c5 16.♕d2 ♘c6 17.♗h6!? ♗h8 18.♗g5

I think White's idea is to make the manoeuvre Ne8 and Nd8 difficult.

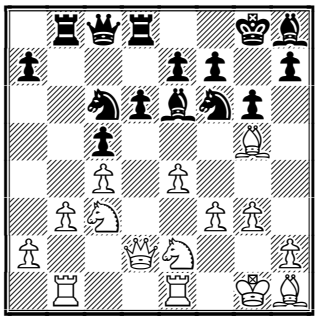
18...♗h3!?

It's not so easy for Black to occupy the d4−point, for example: 18...♘e8?! 19.♖ad1 ♘c7 20.♘d5.

19.♗h1 ♗g4

Black tries to repeat opponent's play, but...

20.f3! ♗e6 21.♖ab1

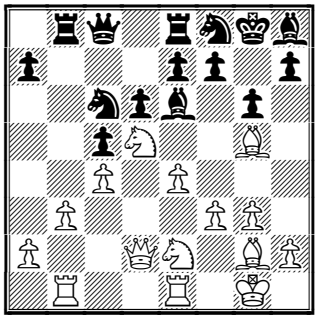


White prepares to occupy more space after Nc3−d5, while Black hasn't real counterplay.

21...♖e8!? 22.♘d5 ♘d7 23.♗g2!?

A useful move: White would like to know his opponent's ideas.

23...♘f8



After 23...♗xd5 24.exd5 ♘d4 25.♘xd4 (25.♗e3!? ♘f5 26.♗f2) 25...♗xd4+ 26.♔h1 Black has to think about pawn e7.

24.h4!

All is quiet in the centre so White can start a pawn attack on the Kingside.

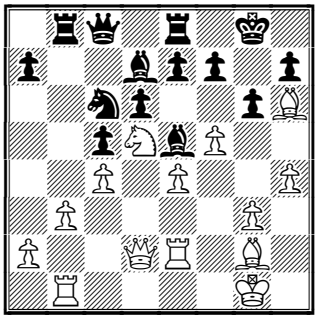
24...♗d7 25.♗h6 ♘e6?!

I don't know how Black can play with the enemy Knight on d5. Better was 25...e6!? 26.♘dc3 ♘d4

26.f4 ♘ed4

Yes, here it is, but how to defend the King after

27.f5! ♘xe2+ 28.♖xe2 ♗e5?!



Once more better was 28...e6!? though after 29.fxe6 fxe6 30.♘e3!? ♘d4 31.♖f2 White takes the f−file.

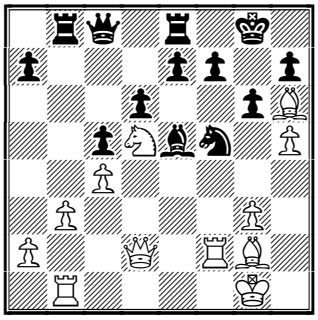
29.h5

Simple and strong. Threats to the King are the strongest threats in chess.

29...♘d4 30.♖f2 ♗xf5!?

An interesting attempt at counterplay but maybe it's too late.

31.exf5 ♘xf5



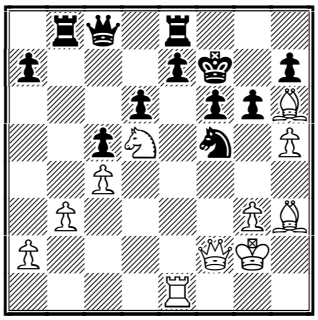
32.♗h3!

White returns an exchange but creates an extremely strong attack.

32...♗d4 33.♔g2 ♗xf2 34.♕xf2

All black squares around the black King are weak now, and Black tries to defend some of them, but without success.

34...f6 35.♖e1 ♔f7



An now − a very nice final combination (to exploit the dark squares):

36.g4! ♘xh6 37.♖xe7+! ♖xe7 38.♕xf6+ ♔g8 39.♘xe7 1-0

♘♘♘

Quiz Today Answer:

18.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 19.♕c4+ ♔g7 20.♖xd7+! And Black resigned in view of 20.♖xd7+ ♕xd7 21.exf6+ ♔xf6 (21...♔h8 22.f7+−) 22.♗b2+ ♔e7 23.♖e1+ ♔f8 (23...♔d8 24.♗f6++−) 24.♕f4+ ♔g8 25.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 26.♕d4 ♕e7 27.♘g5!+−

Recommended Web sites:
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
maskeret.com/bratto/2001.shtml
http://www.eksakt.nl/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.abudhabichess.com/

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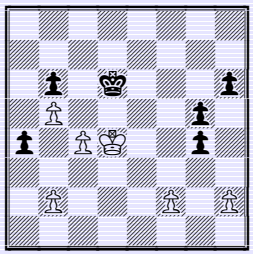
CT-295, 29th August 2001

The Number is up?

Quiz Today:
Aftsoglou – Kritsikis
Kavala 10th Open 2001 (7.18), 27.08.2001



White to play

According to information in the new TWIC #355, in July Romanian **Alexandru Crisan** won two tournaments in Yugoslavia: in Kladovo (cat. XII, 2539, 6 players, double round-robin) and in Tekija (cat. XIII, 2552, 3 players, double round-robin). *Kladovo:* **1-2.** Crisan, Ruck – 7 points out of 10, **3.** Ivanisevic – 5½, **4.** Rajkovic – 5, **5.** Sulypa – 4½, **6.** Maksimovic – 1. Crisan twice beat Yugoslavian GM Dusan Rajkovic and IM Branimir Maksimovic, all his other games were short draws. I have never heard of the Hungarian GM – Robert Ruck, maybe he is very strong.

A 2846 performance!?

And in *Tekija* Crisan was unstoppable: 3 victories, 1 draw, his performance was 2846 (**1.** Crisan – 3½ points out of 4, **2.** Markovic – 1½, **3.** Jacimovic – 1). What does all this mean? We haven't forgotten Crisan's performance in Portoroz a month before (½ points out of 9) and saw his games… Maybe he studied a great deal of modern theory last month and practised chess day and night? To tell the truth it's rather hard to believe.

I have another explanation. Maybe he would like to begin legal proceedings against chess journalists who have named him a "rating-thief"? In this case I would like to suggest that FIDE make the following resolution: chessplayers have to decide such arguments not in courts but simply over the board. For example, if Crisan could beat GM Hans Ree (see his article "Matters of Honour" in "New in Chess" #5/2001) in a 6-10 game match then NIC will have to write that Crisan is a super-grandmaster, maybe even stronger than Kasparov. If he can't beat him then Ree was right – The Romanian "GM" is an Elo-thief or at least an Elo-buyer. Thou Crisan's Elo is more than 200 points higher than mine, I am also ready to play him. I think if I'm unlucky and lose our editor-in-chief Alex Baburin will stand up for me ☺.

But seriously - who knows how to stop Crisans all over the world?.

♦ In both the boys and girls events, the leaders lost with White in the penultimate Round of the ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece. Some results of the 12th Round: *Boys:* Ni Hua – Aronian **0:1** Acs – Sargissian **1:0** Berg – Bu Xiangzhi **0:1** Izoria – Azarov **½:½** Gagunashvili – Korobov **1:0** Shaposhnikov – Navara **½:½** Miton – Mahesh Chandran **1:0** Horvath – Palliser **1:0** Roiz – Stryjecki **1:0** *Girls*: Mkrtchian – Zhao Xue **0:1** N. Kosintseva – Dzagnidze **1:0** Xu Yuanyuan – Charkhalashvili **0:1** Zimina – Koneru **0:1** T. Kosintseva – Gu Xiaobing **0:1** Paehtz – Khukhashvili **½:½** Meenakshi – Calotescu **½:½**

Standings after the 12th Round:
Boys: **1-2. Aronian, Acs –** 9 points **3-5.** Ni Hua, Bu Xiangzhi, Gagunashvili – 8½ **6-10.** Miton, Sargissian, Horvath, Izoria, Azarov – 8 **11-15.** Shaposhnikov, Roiz, Berg, Navara, Bakre – 7½ etc.

Girls: **1. Zhao Xue –** 9 points **2-4.** Koneru, N. Kosintseva, Charkhalashvili – 8½ **5-7.** Mkrtchian, Dzagnidze, Gu Xiaobing – 8 **8-13.** Xu Yuanyuan, Paehtz, Radziewicz, Zimina, Khukhashvili, Meenakshi – 7½ etc.

Top boards for the last 13th Round:
Boys: Bu Xiangzhi – Acs / Aronian – Miton / Ni Hua – Izoria / Sargissian – Gagunashvili / Azarov – Horvath / Bakre – Shaposhnikov / Navara – Roiz Vajda – Berg

Girls: Zhao Xue – N. Kosintseva / Charkhalashvili – Gu Xiaobing / Koneru – Paehtz / Dzagnidze – Mkrtchian / Radziewicz – Xu Yuanyuan / Khukhashvili – Meenakshi / Calotescu – Zimina

♦ News from the AbuDhabi Open:
Some results of the 3rd Round: Gleizerov – Dzhumaev **½:½** Sharif – Kotsur **½:½** Vladimirov – Barsov **1:0** S. Gouliev – Vakhidov **½:½** Safin –

Bagirov **0:1** Zagrebelny – Ulibin **1:0** Sale – Volzhin **0:1** Salem – Iuldachev **1:0** Arkhipov – Szekely **½:½** *Top boards for the 4th Round:* (2½) Bagirov – Gleizerov (2½) (2½) Dzhumaev – Vladimirov (2½) (2½) Volzhi – Zagrebelny (2½) (2) Magerramov – Salem (2) (2) Kotsur – Arkhipov (2) (2) Szekely - S. Gouliev (2) (2) Vakhidov – Prasad (2) (2) Badjarani – Sharif (2) (1½) Ulibin – Raetsky (2)

♦ Both leaders GMs **Kevin Spraggett** and **Alexandre Lesiege** won their games with Black in the 8th Round of the ***Canadian Championship*** (FIDE Zonal) in Montréal, Québec. Some results of the 8th Round Schleifer – Lesiege **0:1** Hamilton – Spraggett **0:1** Bluvshtein – Ochkoos **1:0** Khassanov – Ghannoum **1:0** *Top boards of the 9th Round:* (7) Spraggett – Bluvshtein (6) (7) Lesiege – Hamilton (5) (5½) Khassanov – Schleifer (5) (5) Phillips – Yoos (4½) (4½) Gaspariants – Mikanovic (5) *Also see our annotated game section.*

♦ **Michal Krasenkow** made his first draw in the 7th Round of the ***1st European Grand-Prix*** in Kavala, Greece. All his rivals did the same, so he retains a clear point lead. *Some results of the 7th Round:* Spasov – Krasenkov **½:½** Halkias – Vouldis **½:½** Miladinovic – Dochev **½:½** *Top boards of the 8th Round:* (6½) Krasenkov – Halkias (5½) (5½) Dochev – Spasov (5½) (5½) Vouldis – Bojkov (5½) (5½) Petrov – Istratescu (5½)

♦ **Jeroen Piket** and **Lubomir Ftacnik** won their games in the 7th Round of the ***European Grand-Prix*** in Lisboa, Portugal, shares first place now and will play each other in the next Round. *Some results of the 7th Round:* Strikovic – Piket **0:1** Ftacnik – Narciso Dublan **1:0** Tyomkin – Kotronias **½:½** *Top boards of the 8th Round:* (6) Piket – Ftacnik (6) (5½) Mirzoev – Horvath (5½) (5½) Oratovsky – Kotronias (5½) (5½)

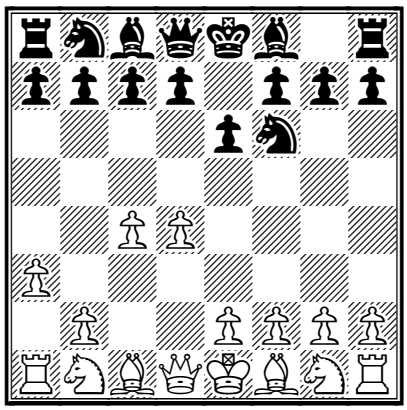
Gofshtein – Jonkman (5½) (5) J. Horvath – Tyomkin (5½)

♦ **Vladimir Epishin** couch up **Sinisa Drazic** after winning his game in the 6th Round of open tournament in ***Bratto***, Italy. *Some results of the 6th Round:* Drazic – Milov **½:½** Epishin – Borgo **1:0** *Top boards of the 7th Round:* (5) Drazic – Epishin (5) (4½) Milov – Bellini (4½) (4½) Khenkin – Cebalo (4½)

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

M Schleifer – A Lesiege
Canadian Closed 2001 Montreal, Quebec (8), 27.08.2001 E00
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.a3!?



A bit too original! White doesn't want to play either a Nimtzovich Defence or a Queen's Indian?! Well, then it will be a classical Queens Gambit where the a2–a3 move isn't the most useful for White.

3...d5

The simplest way.

4.♘c3 dxc4 5.e3 c5 6.♘f3 a6 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗a2 ♗b7 9.0-0 ♘bd7

It looks like Black has solved most of his opening problems.

10.♕e2

Or 10.d5 exd5 11.♘xd5 c4 (11...♗d6!? with easy play for Black.)

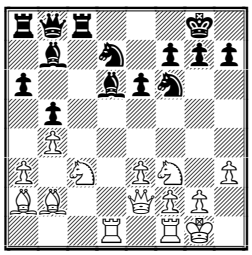
10...♗e7 11.dxc5 ♗xc5 12.b4?!

A double–edged move: White develops the c1 Bishop on the long diagonal but weakens the c4–square. Black with a Knight on d7 can quite easy occupy it. 12.e4!?

12...♗d6 13.♗b2 ♕b8

Black wins a tempi for development.

14.h3 0-0 15.♖ad1 ♖c8



This position reminds a little of the famous Capablanca − Alekhine match game 21.

16.♘d4 ♘e5 17.f4 ♘c4 18.♗xc4 bxc4!?

An interesting idea − Black prepares a pawn attack a7−a5 and removes his pawn from b5 where it was attacked by two Knights.

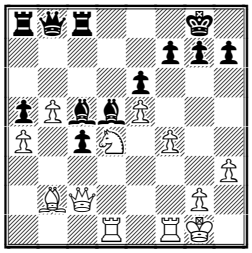
19.♕c2 ♖e8 20.♕e2 ♖c8 21.♕c2 ♗f8

Black is better − of course he doesn't want a draw.

22.e4?!

It's a "pseudo−active" move − White only weakens his position more.

22...a5! 23.b5 ♗c5 24.e5 ♘d5 25.♘xd5 ♗xd5 26.a4



26...c3!

The position is ripe for combinative play.

27.♗c1

27.♗xc3 ♗b4 28.♘e2 ♗c4 (28...♕b7!?) 29.♗xb4 axb4; After 27.♕xc3 ♗xd4+ 28.♕xd4 ♖c4 29.♕f2 ♖xa4 The Black Bishop is much more active than White's.

27...♕b7 28.♖fe1 ♗b6

Bishop opens a way for Black Rook.

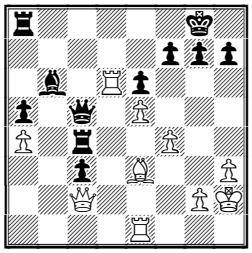
29.♔h2 ♖c4 30.♘c6

It's not a very nice move to have to make but otherwise Black could play Rac8, Rb4, R8c4 etc.

30...♗xc6 31.bxc6 ♕xc6 32.♖d6 ♕c5!?

More simple was 32...♕b7 but Black is ready to sacrifice a Queen

33.♗e3



33...♕xe3 34.♖xe3 ♗xe3 35.♕d3

After 35.g3 ♗c5 Black can exploit the second rank.

35...♗xf4+ 36.g3 ♖cc8

White resigned − The c3 pawn is decisive.

0-1

♘♘♘

Quiz Today Answer:

40.c5+!

A typical for pawn endgames break.

40...bxc5+ 41.♔c4 h5 42.b6

And Black resigned: pawns f2 and h2 stop three opponent's pawns while on the Queen side White will take both black pawns. **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
maskeret.com/bratto/2001.shtml
http://www.eksakt.nl/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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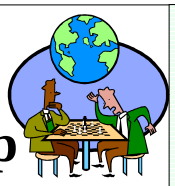
CT-296, 30th August 2001

World Junior Championship



Peter Acs (Hungary) and **Humpy Koneru** (India) became the new "Chess Prince and Princess" at the ***World Junior Championships U20*** in Peristeri, Greece.

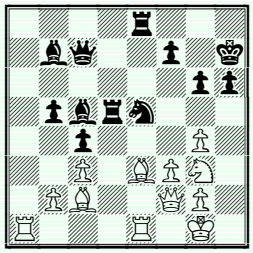
Some results of the 13th Round:
Boys: Bu Xiangzhi – Acs **0:1** Aronian – Miton **½:½** Ni Hua – Izoria **½:½** Sargissian – Gagunashvili **0:1**
Azarov – Horvath **½:½** Bakre – Shaposhnikov **0:1** Navara – Roiz **0:1** Vajda – Berg **1:0**

Girls: Zhao Xue – N. Kosintseva **½:½** Charkhalashvili – Gu Xiaobing **0:1** Koneru – Paehtz **1:0** Dzagnidze – Mkrtchian **½:½** Radziewicz – Xu Yuanyuan **0:1** Khukhashvili – Meenakshi **½:½** Calotescu – Zimina **1:0**
Final Standings:
Boys: **1. Acs** – 10 points out of 13 **2-3.** Gagunashvili, Aronian – 9½ **4.** Ni Hua – 9 **5-11.** Azarov, Bu Xiangzhi, Izoria, Shaposhnikov, Miton, Roiz, Horvath – 8½ **12-17.** Sargissian, Mahesh Chandran, Palliser, Markos, Schenk, Vajda – 8 etc.
Girls: **1-2. Koneru, Zhao Xue** – 9½ points out of 13 **3-4.** N. Kosintseva, Gu Xiaobing – 9 **5-8.** Mkrtchian, Xu Yuanyuan, Dzagnidze, Charkhalashvili – 8½ **9-14.** Khukhashvili, Meenakshi, Aarthie, Jackova, Calotescu, Sergeeva – 8 etc. *Please see our annotated game section.*

PRESS RELEASE 29-8-2001: The 2001 World Junior Chess Championship has just ended: GM Peter Acs from Hungary is the new World Junior Chess Champion U20 and WIM Humpy Koneru of India is the new World Girls Chess Champion U20! This year's event was organised by the Municipality of Peristeri in Athens, the Host City of the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece. It was a record-breaking event in terms of participation (150 boys and girls from 56 countries), with daily TV and Web coverage and with strong support from the Greek government and some of the largest Greek listed companies (OTE, PIRAEUS BANK and ALTER TV). More information (games, results, final standings, etc.) is available in the official ***website*** *of the event.*

Sincerely, IM George Mastrokoukos
General Secretary of the Executive Committee

Quiz Today:
Navara (2491) – Roiz (2511)
WJCC 2001 (13), 2001



Black to play

♦ GMs **Kevin Spraggett** and **Alexandre Lesiege** shared first place in the ***Canadian Championship*** (FIDE Zonal) in Montréal, Québec. Some results of the 9th Round Spraggett – Bluvshtein **1:0** Lesiege – Hamilton **1:0** Khassanov – Schleifer **½:½** Phillips – Yoos **½:½** Gaspariants – Mikanovic **1:0** *Final Standings:* **1-2.** Spraggett, Lesiege – 8 points out of 9 **3-4.** Khassanov, Bluvshtein – 6 **5-7.** Schleifer, Phillips, Gaspariants – 5½ **8-12.** Glinert, Hamilton, Mikanovic, Ghannoum, Yoos – 5 etc.

♦ **Michal Krasenkow** and **Marijan Petrov** won the ***1st European Grand-Prix*** in Kavala, Greece. As you remember Krasenkov won his first six games and after that made draws and in the last Round he was caught up by Petrov.

Some results of the 8th Round: Krasenkov – Halkias **½:½** Dochev – Spasov **1:0** Vouldis – Bojkov **1:0** Petrov – Istratescu **1:0** *Some results of the 9th Round:* Vouldis – Krasenkov **½:½** Petrov – Dochev **1:0** Halkias – Markidis **1:0** Kr. Georgiev – Skembris **½:½** Nikolaidis – Vasilev **1:0**

Final Standings:
1-2. Krasenkov, Petrov – 7½ points out of 9
3-5. Vouldis, Halkias, Nikolaidis – 7 **6-13.** Dochev, Spasov, Skembris, Bojkov, Istratescu, Kr. Georgiev, Andrievic, Banikas – 6½ etc.

♦ **Vladimir Baklan, Orest Gritsak** (both Ukraine) and **Robert Kempinski** (Poland) shared first place at the ***XXXVIII Rubinstein*** Memorial Festival in Polanica Zdrój, Poland (Swiss system, 10 Round). *Final standings:* **1-3. Baklan, Kempinski, Gritsak** – 8 points out of 10 **4.** Zubarev – 7½ **5-17.** Eljanov, Wojtaszek,

Smetankin, Jakubiec, Jaracz, Cyborowski, Markowski, Schmidt, Shishkin, Miroshnichenko, Vysochin, Zezulkin, Anuszkiewicz – 7 etc.
Our congratulations to all the winners!

♦ **Evgeni Vladimirov** and **Sergei Zagrebelny** are leading with 3½ points after the 4th Round of the ***AbuDhabi Open***: *Some results of the 4th Round:* Bagirov – Gleizerov **½:½** Dzhumaev – Vladimirov **0:1** Volzhi – Zagrebelny **0:1** Magerramov – Salem **½:½** Kotsur – Arkhipov **½:½** Szekely - S. Gouliev **½:½** Vakhidov – Prasad **½:½** Badjarani – Sharif **½:½** Ulibin – Raetsky **1:0** *Top boards for the 5th Round:* (3½) Vladimirov – Zagrebelny (3½) (3) Salem – Bagirov (3) (3) Gleizerov – Kotsur (2½) (2½) Prasad – Volzhin (2½) (2½) Vakhidov – Ulibin (2½) (2½) Szekely – Dzhumaev (2½) (2½) Arkhipov – Badjarani (2½) (2½) Sharif – Magerramov (2½) (2½) S. Gouliev – Lodhi (2½)

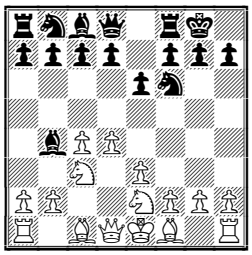
♦ **Jeroen Piket** beat Lubomir Ftacnik in the 8th Round of the ***European Grand-Prix*** in Lisboa, Portugal, and became a sole leader. *Some results of the 8th Round:* Piket – Ftacnik **1:0** Mirzoev – Cs. Horvath **½:½** Oratovsky – Kotronias **1:0** Gofshtein – Jonkman **½:½** J. Horvath – Tyomkin **½:½** *Top boards of the last 9th Round:* (7) Piket – Oratovsky (6½) (6) Ftacnik – Mirzoev (6) (6) Cs. Horvath – Narciso Dublan (6) (6) Tyomkin – Gofshtein (6) (6) Jonkman – Kogan (6) (5½) Stohl – Hernando Rodrigo (6)

♦ Vladimir Epishin, Igor Khenkin and Sinisa Drazic share first place after the 7th Round of open tournament in ***Bratto***, Italy. *Some results of the 7th Round:* Drazic – Epishin **½:½** Milov – Bellini **½:½** Khenkin – Cebalo **1:0** *Top boards of the 8th Round:* (5½) Epishin – Khenkin (5½) (5) Bellini – Drazic (5½) (5) Belotti – Milov (5) (5) Godena – Foisor (5) (5) Borgo – Arlandi (5)

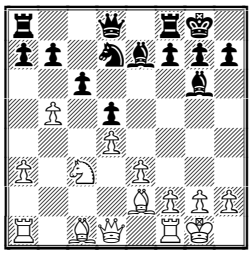
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
X Bu (2553) − P Acs (2514)
WJCC 2001 (13), 2001 E46
It's the last Round, the Chinese junior is half a point ahead of his opponent and can make a draw to at least share first place. Bu played with White − was his task that hard? But in the few previous rounds the leaders had usually lost with White...

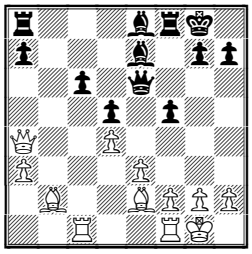
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♘ge2



A solid line of the solid Rubinstein system: White doesn't allow his c pawns to be doubled.
5...d5 6.a3 ♗e7 7.cxd5 ♘xd5
Another way is 7...exd5
8.♘xd5 exd5 9.♘c3
The old set up looks more active − 9.g3 ♘d7 10.♗g2 ♘f6 11.0-0 ♗d6 12.♘c3 c6 13.b4 a6 14.♖e1 ♖e8 15.♗b2 ♗f8 16.♕d3 ♗e6 Reshevsky − Botvinnik, AVRO−tournament 1938.; or 9.♘f4!?
9...c6 10.♗e2
10.g3!?
10...♗f5 11.0-0 ♗g6 12.b4 ♘d7 13.b5

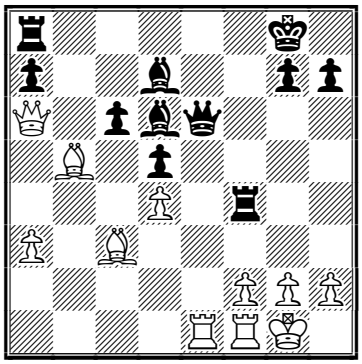


An unjustified break. White hasn't complete his development so it's not a suitable time for a minority attack.
13...♘b6 14.♕b3 ♕d6 15.♗b2 ♕e6 16.♘a4 ♘xa4 17.♕xa4 f5!
The White Queen is far from it's King and the e3 Bishop isn't defended now, so Black begins a counterattack on the King side.
18.bxc6
18.g3 didn't prevent 18...f4! 19.gxf4 ♗e4 20.f3 ♗f5 21.♕b3 ♗h3
18...bxc6 19.♖ac1 ♗e8

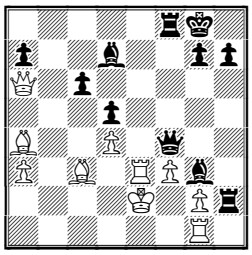


20.♕a6
The break f5−f4 is unstoppable: 20.g3? f4! 21.gxf4 ♕g6+ 22.♔h1 ♕e4+ 23.♔g1 ♖f6-+
20...♗d7 21.♗c3 f4 22.exf4 ♖xf4 23.♖ce1 ♗d6!
Black prepares for attack. White Queen, what

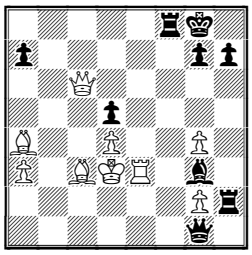
are you doing on a6?!
24.♗b5?



24...♕f7!
Black didn't want to force a nice perpetual, he is playing for a win! 24...♕h6 25.♗xc6 ♕xh2+ 26.♔xh2 ♖h4+ 27.♔g1 ♗h2+ 28.♔h1 ♗f4+ 29.♔g1 ♗h2+
25.♗a4
25.♗xc6 ♖f6!
25...♖f8
It's clear now that White's position has become very difficult: all the Black pieces take part in the attack while the Queen on a6 and both White's Bishops can't help their King.
26.♖e2 ♖h4 27.f3
27.g3 ♗xg3! 28.hxg3 ♕f3 29.gxh4 ♗h3-+; 27.h3 ♗xh3 28.gxh3 ♕g6+ 29.♔h1 ♖xh3#
27...♗xh2+-+ 28.♔f2 ♕f4 29.♖e3 ♗g3+ 30.♔e2 ♖h2 31.♖g1



31...♗g4!
Last effort: Black threatens to grab the f3−pawn.
32.fxg4
It loses immediately, but after 32.♕d3 ♗f5 33.♕d2 ♕d6 Black (with pawn up) also has a very strong attack.
32...♕f2+ 33.♔d3 ♕xg1 34.♕xc6



Now a task from Fritz: mate in 5.
34...♕b1+! 35.♗c2 ♕f1+ 36.♖e2 ♖f3+!
Acs successfully completed this task, and in view of mate in 2 (37.♔d2 ♗f4+ 38.♖e3 ♗xe3#) White resigned. **0−1** Our congratulations to the new junior world champion Peter Acs!

Quiz Today Answer: 31...♘xf3+! 32.♕xf3
32.gxf3 ♖xe3 33.♖xe3 (33.♔h2 ♖dd3 34.♗xd3 ♖xd3 35.♕e2 ♗xf3-+) 33...♗xe3 34.♕xe3 ♕xg3+-+
32...♖d3! 33.♗xc5 ♖xe1+ 34.♖xe1 ♖xf3 0-1

Recommended Web sites:
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
maskeret.com/bratto/2001.shtml
http://www.eksakt.nl/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.abudhabichess.com/

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-297, 31st August 2001

World Chess Championships 2001

On Tuesday August 30 there was a conference in Moscow in the Press Centre of "Argumenty i Fakty" ("Arguments and facts") publishing house, dedicated to the World Chess Championships 2001. The questions of the press were answered by K. Ilyumzhinov, the President of FIDE, E. Omuku, the Executive Director of FIDE, A. Selivanov, the President of Russian Chess Federation and F. Campomanes, the Honorary President of FIDE. On www.fide.com you can read the press-releases.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov had announced that the Men's (128 participants) and Women's (64) WCC will take place in Moscow from 24 November till December 2001, while the 8 round Final Match will be held from 3rd of January until 13 January 2002 - also in Moscow. The Prize fund is $3.000.000 in the men's event (including $1.100.000 in the final match) and $500.000 in the women's. Iljumzhinov was asked about the tournament of "Three K" the same time and the same venue – Moscow. He answered that there wasn't any official information about this event yet while FIDE has to announce it's championship till 1st September and send invitations before this day to all potential participants (and "Three K" will receive them also). Oh, FIDE has to work hard today! ☺

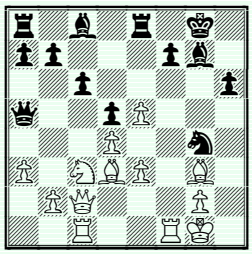
Also the FIDE President told about FIDE's plans to organise next year 6 tournaments of it's Grand Prix series and maybe one of them will be for 4: Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand and Shirov. FIDE's co-operation with Octagon is continuing.

Let's wait a little: we have an interesting December and maybe next year will be even more interesting!

♦ Sergei Zagrebelnyi became sole leader, with Rufat Bagirov clear second after the 5th Round of the AbuDhabi Open: *Some results of the 5th Round:* Vladimirov – Zagrebelny **0:1** Salem – Bagirov **0:1** Gleizerov – Kotsur **0:1** Prasad – Volzhin **1:0** Vakhidov – Ulibin **½:½** Szekely – Dzhumaev **½:½** Arkhipov – Badjarani **1:0** Sharif – Magerramov **½:½** S. Gouliev – Lodhi **1:0** *Top boards for the 6th Round:* (4½) Zagrebelny – Bagirov (4) (3½) Kotsur - S. Gouliev (3½) (3½) Arkhipov – Vladimirov (3½) (3) Gleizerov – Prasad (3½) *Also see our annotated game section.*

Quiz Today:

Safin Shukhrat (2529) – Ali Mahmoud (2272)
ADCF MASTERS 2001 Abu Dhabi (5.9), 29.08.2001



White to play

Forthcoming tournaments:

♦ Isle of Man Open - 29th September - 7th October 2001. *Highly recommended!* Bavarian Open in Bad Wiessee on 27 October - 4 November 2001. *Highly recommended!*

♦ The Najdorf Memorial 2001 will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina from September 4 to 13. It is a Category XIV tournament with an ELO average of 2595. The competitors will be the following: *GM Anatoly Karpov GM Judith Polgar GM Nigel Short GM Viktor Korchnoi GM Gilberto Milos GM Xie Jun GM Pablo Ricardi GM Henrique Mecking GM Tiemour Radjabov IM Ruben Felgaer.* Ajedrez Siglo 21 is the official website for the tournament and will broadcast the games live. For linking purposes, there is main page for the tournament in English with access to all the tournament information, including live games, crosstable, games for download, news, photos and comments.

♦ *Forthcoming tournaments in Groningen:* **European Championship 2002** (ECC) Qualifier World Chess Championship 2002 13 rounds: Thursday December 20 - Friday January 4 Inscriptions only by the federations **Women Grandmaster Tournament (WGM)** 11 rounds: Saturday December 22 - Thursday January 3 Invitation Tournament
Gasunie Young Masters (GYM) 11 rounds: Saturday December 22 - Thursday January 3 Invitation Tournament **Open Grandmaster Tournament** (OGM) 10 rounds: Thursday

December 20 - Sunday December 30 Players rated > 2100 1st prize Dfl. 4000.-. Entry fee Dfl. 150.-; born in 1983 or after Dfl.75.- .GM,IM>2450;WGM,WIM>2250 free. rating>2450;GM,IM<2450;WGM,WIM<2250 Dfl.75.-. Rate of play : 40/2; 20/1; + 15 minutes

Open Rating Tournament A/B 9 rounds: Thursday December 20 - Saturday December 29 Open A : players rated > 1750, < 2150 1st prize Dfl. 1500.- Entry fee Dfl. 110.-; born in 1983 or after Dfl. 75 Open B : players rated < 1800 1st prize Dfl. 1000.- Entry fee Dfl. 85.-; born in 1983 or after Dfl. 65 Rate of play: 40/2; 20/1; + 15 minutes

Mini Tournaments 5 rounds: Thursday December 20 - Monday December 24 (MV) Wednesday December 26 - Sunday December 30 (MN) Players rated < 2300 ; 1st prize Dfl. 300.- Entry fee Dfl. 65.-; born in 1983 or after Dfl. 45.- Rate of play: 40/2; + 30 minutes

Full details Stichting Schaak Groningen, P.O. Box 8010 9702 KA Groningen, The Netherlands Fax. ++31-50-5250155 E-mail: info@groningenchess.nl http://www.groningenchess.nl Thank you in advance. Sincerely yours, **Johan Zwanepol,** executive director.

♦ There are six leaders before the last, 9th Round of open tournament in ***Bratto***, Italy. *Some results of the 8th Round:* Epishin – Khenkin **½:½** (5) Bellini – Drazic **½:½** (5) Belotti – Milov **0:1** (5) Godena – Foisor **1:0** (5) Borgo – Arlandi **1:0** *Top boards for the 9th Round:* (6) Milov – Godena (6) (5½) Lalic – Epishin (6) (6) Khenkin – Drazic (6) (5½) Bellini – Borgo (6) (5) Komarov – Cebalo (5½)

♦ **Daniel Gormally, Graeme Buckley** and **Penteala Harikrishna** shared first place in the Ron Banwell MSO Masters (ENG, 18-27 August, 10 Round, Swiss system). *Final standings:* **1-3. Gormally, Buckley, Harikrishna** – 7½ points out of 10 **4-6.** Anagnostopoulos, Ravi, Barua – 7 **7-9.** Konguvel, Kunte, Batyrov – 6½ etc.

♦ **Christoph Wisnewski** and **Leonid Voloshin** won the Kiel open (GER, 18-24 August). *Final standing:* **1-2. Wisnewski, Voloshin** – 7 ½ points out of 9 **3-7.** Karpatchev, Baramidze, Kalinitschew, M. Ivanov, Janz – 7 **8-16.** Bukhman, Meijers, Schwarz, Sarakauskas, Bekker-Jensen, Haba, Homuth, Langrock, Bekker-Jensen – 6½ etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners!

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

Vladimirov Evegeny (2612) − Zagrebelny Sergey (2466)

ADCF MASTERS 2001 Abu Dhabi (5.9), 29.08.2001 E54

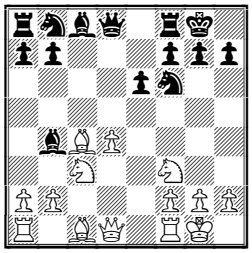
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♗d3

Yesterday we saw a game with 5.♘ge2

5...d5 6.♘f3 c5 7.0-0 cxd4

The main alternative is 7...♘c6!?

8.exd4 dxc4 9.♗xc4



A typical set up with the isolated d4−pawn. Black has a lot of moves here, the most popular is 9...b6.

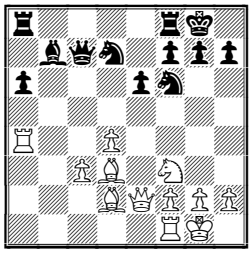
9...a6 10.a3

10.♗g5!?

10...♗xc3 11.bxc3 ♕c7!?

More often Black plays 11...b5 for example: 12.♗d3 ♗b7 13.a4 ♕d5 14.♖e1 ♘bd7 15.♕e2 ♖fc8 16.♗d2 ♗c6 Dolmatov − Bareev, Elista 1997.

12.♕e2 b5 13.♗d3 ♗b7 14.♗d2 ♘bd7 15.a4 bxa4 16.♖xa4



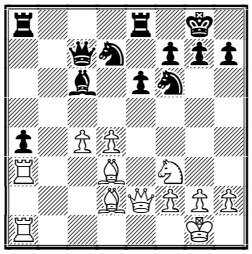
16...a5!?

A new approach: Black wants to push his passed pawn as soon as possible. 16...♖fd8 17.♖fa1 ♘b6 18.♖a5 ♖d5 19.♘e5 ♘bd7 Hort − Christiansen, Indonesia 1982; 16...♘d5 17.♖a3 ♖fe8 18.♖b1 e5 19.dxe5 ♘xe5 20.♘xe5 ♖xe5 21.♕d1 ♖ae8 22.c4 ♘f6 23.♗f1 Nenashev − Chandler, Bundesliga 2000/01

17.♖fa1 ♗c6 18.♖4a3 a4 19.c4

White has a strong pawn centre and two Bishops, Black's only trump is a4−pawn. I think White's chances have to be better.

19...♖fe8

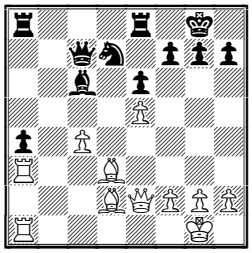


Black prepares e6−e5.

20.♘e5!?

White prevents this idea. Another logical move was 20.♗c3

20...♘xe5 21.dxe5 ♘d7



22.♗xh7+!?

It looks very tempting. There is no place for common reasoning now, chessplayers have to sit and calculate variations.

22...♔xh7 23.♕h5+ ♔g8 24.♖h3 f5

24...f6 25.♕h7+ ♔f7 (25...♔f8? 26.♗b4+) 26.♖g3 ♖g8 27.♕g6+ ♔e7 28.♗b4+ ♔d8 29.♕f7 ♖h8 30.♕xg7

25.♕h7+ ♔f7 26.♖g3 ♖g8 27.♕g6+ ♔e7 28.♗b4+

White wants more than a perpetual 28.♕g5+ ♔e8 29.♕g6+

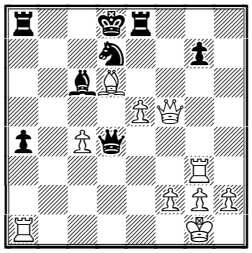
A) 29...♔d8 30.♕xe6 ♖h8 (30...♖e8? 31.♗g5++−) 31.♖xg7;

B) 29...♔e7 etc.

28...♔d8 29.♗d6?

Much stronger was 29.♕f7! ♖e8 30.♖xg7 and the Black position is extremely difficult.

29...♕b6 30.♕xe6 ♖e8 31.♕xf5 ♕d4!



Maybe White overlooked this counterplay.

32.♖e1??

What a pity! But after losing the e5 pawn White's position is worse now: 32.♖c1 ♘xe5 33.♗xe5 ♖xe5 34.♕g6 ♕e4

32...♕xd6!

Of course!

33.♖d3 ♕c5 34.h4 a3 35.♕g5+ ♖e7

Black was lucky in this game!

0-1

Solution to Quiz Today

20.♗h7+ ♔f8 21.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 22.♕g6+ And Fritz says: mate in 7. We can't argue with him! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
maskeret.com/bratto/2001.shtml
http://www.eksakt.nl/
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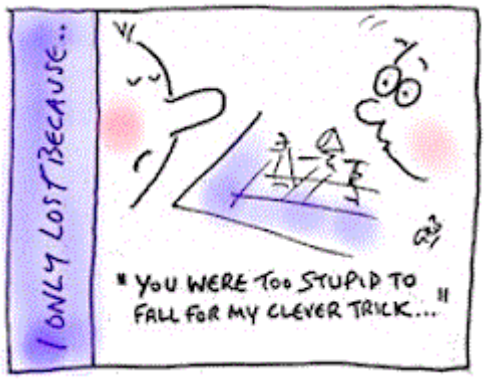
I only lost because …

by GKB



Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-298, 1st September 2001

Piket wins in Lisboa

Jeroen Piket has won the ***European Grand-Prix*** in Lisboa, Portugal. *Some results of the 9th Round:* Piket – Oratovsky **½:½** Ftacnik – Mirzoev **½:½** Cs. Horvath – Narciso Dublan **½:½** Tyomkin – Gofshtein **½:½** Jonkman – Kogan **0:1** Stohl – Hernando Rodrigo **1:0**

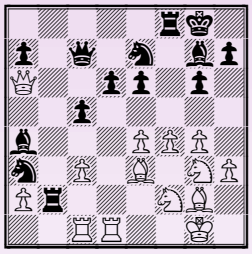
Final Standings: **1. Piket** – 7½ points out of 9 **2-3.** Oratovsky, Kogan – 7 **4-16.** Ftacnik, Narciso Dublan, Kotronias, C. Horvath, Tyomkin, Gofshtein, J. Horvath, Sulava, Mirzoev, Stohl, Roeder, Lazarev, Gallagher – 6½ etc. *Also see our annotated game section.*

♦ All top boards were drawn in the last day of open tournament in ***Bratto***, Italy. *Some results of the 9th Round:* Milov – Godena **½:½** Lalic – Epishin **½:½** Khenkin – Drazic **½:½** Bellini – Borgo **½:½** Komarov – Cebalo **½:½** *Final standing:* **1-6. Epishin, Milov, Borgo, Drazic, Khenkin, Godena** – 6½ points out of 9 **7-12.** Foisor, Arlandi, Dervishi, Bellini, Cebalo, Lalic – 6 etc.

♦ **Alexander Naumann** and **Ildar Ibragimov** shared first place at the IV Pyramiden-Franken-Cup (18-25 August, Swiss system, 9 Rounds). *Final Standings:* **1-2. Naumann, Ibragimov** – 7 ½ points out of 9 **3-6.** Bischoff, Romanishin, Jansa, Holzke – 7 **7-12.** Schmaltz, Naiditsch, Doettling, Hedke, Enders, Wall – 6 ½ etc.

♦ **Vadim Zvjaginsev** convincingly won the Julian Borowski Rapidplay (25th August, Swiss system, 11 rounds). *Final Standings:* **1. Zvjaginsev** – 8 ½ points out of 11 **2.** Fridmann – 7½ **3-5.** Kveinys, Appel, Meins – 7 **6-12.** Lutz, Kiseleva, Hausrath, Rabiega, Luther, Mainka, Van Wely – 6½ etc. *Our congratulations to all the winners!*

Quiz Today:
Leite (2148) – Frois (2374)
NS Fatima European Grand Prix
Lisboa (7.36), 28.08.2001



Black to play and win

World Chess Championship Press Release
Moscow, 30 August 2001

The FIDE President, H.E. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, has approved Moscow as the Host City for this year's World Chess Championship and Women's World Chess Championship matches. The preliminaries to semi-final rounds of the World Chess Championships shall be held concurrently with the entire Women's World Championships starting 24 November and ending 11 December 2001, while the 8 round Final Match will be held beginning 3rd of January until 13 January 2002.

The Championships in Moscow have been planned as part of the celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of one of FIDE's greatest World Champions the legendary Mikhail Botvinnik who became the first of the series of Champions when following the death of World Champion Alexander Alekhine in 1946, FIDE, some 55 years ago, at its congress in Winterthur, took on its rightful role as the custodian of the World Chess Championship title.

The occasion will also be used to pay tribute to the memory of the third FIDE President and World Champion the late Max Euwe, whose centenary is being celebrated this year. Also to be honoured are Andre Lilienthal (90), Vassily Smyslov (80), Mark Taimanov (75), Victor Korchnov (70), Nona Gaptindashvili (60), Anatoly Karpov (50), and Maya Chiburdanidze (40). FIDE and its 160 member countries are proud of these great champions who have played a tremendous role in the development and popularisation of chess.

FIDE wishes to place on record, its appreciation to all those who in one way or another submitted bids or expressed interest in the hosting of the 2001 World Chess Championships. Gens Una Sumus

Emmanuel Omuku Executive Director

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

A Strikovic (2515) − J Piket (2630)

NS Fatima European Grand Prix Lisboa (7.1), 27.08.2001

[A12]

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.b3

The Reti opening.

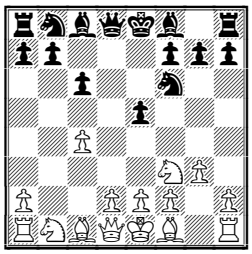
3...♘f6 4.g3

If White wants to prevent the following operation he plays 4.♗b2

4...dxc4

Another (and more popular) way is 4...♗f5 and e7−e6, strengthening point d5.

5.bxc4 e5



The point of Black's previous move. Now he gets a strong pawn on e5, but it is up against two enemy pawns in the centre − d2 and e2.

6.♘c3

An interesting alternative is 6.♗b2 for example:

A) in some previous games Black played 6...♗c5!? and the e5 pawn is untouchable: 7.♗xe5?! (7.♘xe5? ♗xf2+! 8.♔xf2 ♕b6+ 9.♔e1 ♕xb2) 7...♗xf2+! 8.♔xf2 ♘g4+ 9.♔e1 ♘xe5 10.♘xe5 ♕d4 11.♘xf7 0-0!?∓;

B) 6...e4 7.♘d4 ♗e7 8.♗g2 0-0 9.0-0 ♗g4 10.h3 ♗d7 11.♘c3 ♗xh3 12.♗xh3 ♕xd4 13.♕b3 ♕b6 14.♗f5 ♖e8 15.♕c2± Lobron − Vetter, Bundesliga 1981/82.

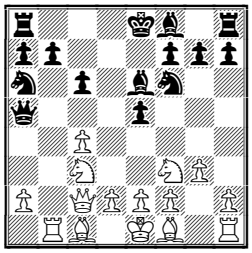
6...♕a5!?

A rare move in rare position.

7.♕c2 ♗e6

7...♘a6 8.♗g2 ♗e6 9.0-0 ♗b4 10.♘e4 ♘xe4 11.♕xe4 f6 12.d4 ♗xc4 13.dxe5 ♗d5 14.♕g4 draw, Jacobsen − Sloth, Denmark 1976.

8.♖b1 ♘a6!?



White didn't want to begin wild complications, for example

9.♗g2

9.♖xb7!? ♘b4 10.♕a4!? (10.♕b2!?) 10...♕xa4 11.♘xa4 ♗xc4!? (11...♗c8 12.♖xb4 ♗xb4 13.♘xe5 ♗d6 14.♗b2±) 12.♘xe5 ♗d5 13.♖g1 c5 14.♖b5 ♘c2+ 15.♔d1 ♘d4 16.♖b2

9...♗b4 10.♘a4?!

Of course White didn't want to receive doubled c−pawns, but maybe it wasn't too dangerous: 10.a3!? ♗xc3 11.♕xc3 ♕xc3 12.dxc3 e4 13.♘e5 Now Black gains an initiative:

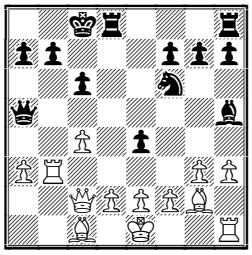
10...e4 11.♘d4 ♗g4

Quite unexpectedly the e2 pawn becomes weak!

12.h3 ♗h5 13.a3

White didn't dare to play 13.g4?!

13...♗c5 14.♘xc5 ♘xc5 15.♘b3 ♘xb3 16.♖xb3 0-0-0

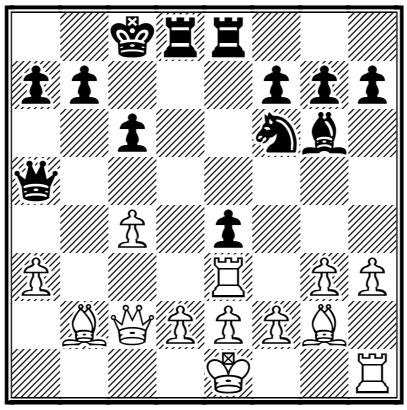


Black has more or less completed his development, while White has to prepare to castle.

17.♗b2 ♖he8 18.♖e3!?

In Black's favour is 18.♗xf6 gxf6 19.♗xe4?! ♖xe4! 20.♕xe4 ♕xd2+ 21.♔f1 ♕d1+ 22.♔g2 ♕xb3 23.♕f5+ ♔b8 24.♕xh5 ♕xc4

18...♗g6



The e4 pawn plays a very important role, because it blunts White's pieces. White has defended the e2 pawn, but now he has to think about the d2 pawn...

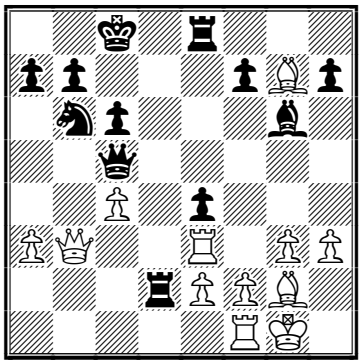
19.♗c3 ♕c5

...Now − what about the c4 pawn!.

20.♕b3 ♘d7!

A strong manoeuvre − Piket would like to attack the c4 pawn, because it's hard for White to defend it by d2−d3.

21.0-0 ♘b6 22.♗xg7 ♖xd2

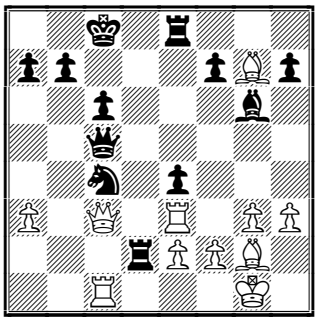


White's Bishops are quite useless, while the "bad" Bishop on g6 is rather strong.

23.♕c3?

Complications will be in Black's favour. Better was 23.♖c1 f5!?

23...♘xc4 24.♖c1



24...♖d5!

Unexpected and strong. White can't take the Knight.

25.♕f6?

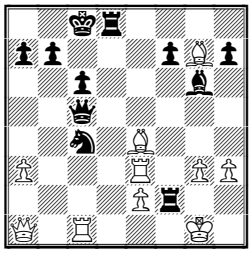
New mistake. Also bad was 25.♕xc4? ♖d1+!; but better was 25.♕b3!? b5 26.a4⩲

25...♖f5 26.♕a1 ♖d8?!

Stronger was 26...♖xf2! 27.♗d4 ♖xg2+! 28.♔h1 (28.♔xg2 ♘xe3+-+) 28...♕h5 29.g4 ♖xg4-+

27.♗xe4?!

It looks like White can get to an endgame − worse, but at least an endgame with chances for defence: 27.♗h6!? ♘xe3 28.♖xc5 ♖d1+ 29.♕xd1 ♘xd1 30.♖xf5 ♗xf5∓



27...♖xf2!

As on the previous move this blow decides a game.

28.♗d4

28.♖xc4 ♕xe3-+

28...♖xd4 29.♗xg6

29.♔xf2 ♖xe4-+; 29.♖xc4 ♖xc4 30.♔xf2 ♖xe4-+

29...♖f6 30.♗xh7 b5

Also good was, for example, computer's move 30...♖df4!

31.♕c3 ♖dd6

A Convincing victory by Jeroen Piket.

0-1

Solution to Quiz Today: 22...♘c2! 22...♗xd1? 23.♕xa3± **23.♖d2 ♗b5! 24.♕xd6 ♕xd6 25.♖xd6 ♘xe3 26.♖xe6 ♖xf4 27.c4 ♔f7 0-1**

Recommended Web sites:
www.greekchess.com/pagosmio/
www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
maskeret.com/bratto/2001.shtml
http://www.eksakt.nl/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.abudhabichess.com/

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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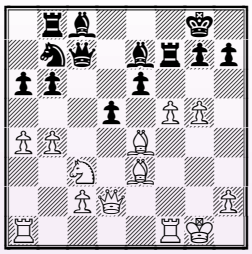
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-299, 2nd September 2001

Zagrebelny increases lead

Uzbekistanian GM Sergei Zagrebelny strengthened his lead after a new victory in the 6th Round of the AbuDhabi Open. Now he is a point and a half (!) ahead of his nearest rivals. *Some results of the 6th Round:* Zagrebelny – Bagirov **1:0** Kotsur - S. Gouliev **½:½** Arkhipov – Vladimirov **½:½** Gleizerov – Prasad **1:0** *Top boards for the 7th Round:* (4) Safin – Zagrebelny (5½) (4) Bagirov – Kotsur (4) (4) Vladimirov – Dizdar (4) (4) S. Gouliev – Gleizerov (4) (3½) Magerramov – Arkhipov (4) *Also see our annotated game section.*

♦ The European Youth Chess Championships started in Chalkidiki, Greece. There are 10 events: boys under 10 (B10), girls under 10 (G10), B12, G12, B14, G14, B16, G16, B18, G18, all are 9-rounds Swiss system. Because this information interests mainly parents of young prodigies we'll tell you about elder groups mainly. In B18 Elo-favourite is IM Dmitri Yakovenko (Russia). Also there will be FIDE congress during this event (4-10 September).

Quiz Today:
Anisimov – Deva
31.08.2001



White to play and win

♦ The Austrian championships took place in Mureck (5-19th August, round-robin, cat. V, 2370, 16 participants). **Siegfried Baumegger** shared first place with Nikolaus Stanec and won the title on tie-break. In the women's event **Helene Mira** was the clear winner. *Final Standings:* **1-2. Baumegger, Stanec** – 10 points out of 15 **3-4.** Volkmann, Neubauer – 9 **5-8.** Sommerbauer, Lendwai, Wach, Weiss – 8 ½ etc. Women's event. **1. Mira** – 8 points out of 11 **2-3.** Sommer, Hapala – 7 etc. *Our congratulations to the winners!*

♦ The Icelandic Chess Championships started in Strandgotu, Hafnarfirdi (round-robin system, 10 players). *Results of the 1st Round:* Kristjansson – Ptacnikova **½:½** Gunnarsson – Thorfinnsson **1:0** Vidarsson – Thorhallsson **0:1** Thorfinsson – Gunnarsson **½:½** Bjornsson – Stefansson **0:1**

Editorial Note: *By GM Alex Baburin:*

I hope that over weekends people have more time for chess, so I would like to cover various points today. Let's start with our **August CT Lottery**. Every month we give away one quality book as a prize, so some lucky CT subscriber gets even more than he paid for! :-) In August it was Ian Jordan, who will receive a copy of *'Russians vs. Fischer'*. In September the prize will be my book 'Winning Pawn Structures'.

While **CT readership** goes up steadily, we would naturally love to see it grow faster. I believe that there are many people on the Net, who wouldn't mind paying for a quality chess publication. So, the main challenge remains how to reach our audience. We've been trying various ideas, like advertising CT on the Net and making alliances with traditional publications. But one of the best ways is recommendation from our readers. Thus, **I would like to ask all our readers to help us by sending today's and tomorrow's CT issues to all your chess friends.** They probably won't mind reading it, while this will allow us to reach a wider audience. Let's give it a try! And to see that we do everything we can to promote CT ourselves, just look at the picture of me and my son Ivan delivering print-outs of our paper to distant settlements in Turkey this August! This picture also comes attached as jpg.

My own profile. A while ago I received the following e-mail from one of our readers:
"Dear Alex, You wrote that Yahoo asked for your age, favourite food, sexual orientation and the

name of your dog! Well... What *is* your age, favourite food, sexual orientation and the name of your dog? And while we're at it, what make of car do you drive, what is your favourite beer, and which team do you cheer for in football? Still enjoying Chess Today... Thanks, Dennis Sustare"

I don't mind revealing a bit more about myself other than the mere fact that I play the QGA and Alekhine Defence with Black, so no problem here:- I am 34 years old, 192 cm (6 feet, 4 inches) tall and have 2 kids (I guess this makes me pretty straight!) - Ivan (11) and Anastasia (6). I like Russian, Indian, Italian and Chinese food - in no particular order. I have no dog, but I love big dogs and also cats (but NOT with long fur!). I drive 1993 Opel Astra - medium sized German car, while still waiting for my BMW. :-) I like Carlsberg and Heineken. Last year I tried fantastic Pilsener, while in Slovakia. Also, Russian beer is not bad nowadays. Despite living in Ireland, I can't stand Guinness, although I quite like Kilkenny beer. I don't follow football much, only when the World Cup is on. Then I tend to support the French or Italians.

If interested, you can read more about me at www.gmsquare.com/Baburin/profile.htm I will gladly answer more questions here, so feel free to contact me at ababurin@iol.ie - **let's have a blitz interview!** One thing I do as chess professional is coaching. I am interested to have more students, so I asked 2 of my existing students, whom **I teach over the phone**, to share their experiences. Here is what they had to say:

"Given that I don't live in an urban centre (the nearest GM is two and a half hours away), over-the-phone lessons were my only sensible option. I hooked up with Alexander Baburin because I found his book Winning Pawn Structures exceptionally clear. I'm happy that his explanations over the phone are equally as clear. And working with him is much better than reading a book because it's less passive. I'm forced to think more during a lesson, and that's helped my game. The first couple of times I found it strange because we had never met face to face. But now I think nothing of it, and I find it very comfortable. And using ICC to go over games does have an advantage over face-to-face lessons; you can save the analysis at the click of a key so that you can review it later if you want. *Paul Hoffman, USA*"

"In the beginning, I was sceptical about taking chess lessons since I have always tried to study chess on my own. But I found myself stagnating at a certain level of understanding without the ability to break through. Then some of my friends who were master level players had indicated that lessons were very helpful even at the master level. I knew about GM Baburin through his articles and his book "Winning Pawn Structures" [which incidentally you MUST purchase through him instead of other channels]. Since I liked the way he wrote and his enthusiasm about the game, I decided to take lessons from him.

Now, having had several lessons with GM Baburin, I can tell you first hand that I have begun to see the game differently. I also feel that I am beginning to have a better understanding of the subtle nuances of chess. Together we have addressed many bad chess habits and ineffective patterns of reasoning that I often engaged in as a player. These are things which I would not have found on my own as one tends to "miss the forest for the trees" [my apologies to Kotov, :-)] and I was trying to fix my chess game by focusing on irrelevant things. Unfortunately, we are often not our own best coach or critic. This is exactly the area where you will need someone such as GM Baburin. As a professional musician, I can tell you that endeavours such as music or chess can be greatly enhanced with the proper coaching. GM Baburin is not just a Grandmaster, but also a great teacher who genuinely loves to teach. This is evident in his attitude and approach during our lessons. I honestly feel that he treats each of his pupils in an individual way and does not merely regurgitate the same lesson over and over again to different people. His approach makes the hard work enjoyable. [Sorry, there is no short cut -- it's all hard work]. Naturally, my ratings have also improved. I highly recommend him as a teacher of all levels. I am not alone in this, as I know of at least one prominent Grandmaster who has him as a coach. Our lessons have been conducted over the telephone as I only have one phone line and am unable to be on the internet simultaneously. This has not been a hindrance to me as software such as ChessBase or BookUp may be used to take notes, etc. Finally I would like to say "thank you, Alex". Sincerely, *Tony Makarome, USA*."

I think that in the future taking chess lessons in general and taking them over the phone/Net in particular, will become much more popular. Indeed, people hire a trainer when they do sports or work with a teacher when they learn music. It should not be any different with chess - a good coach can help you a lot. My current rate is $50 an hour. If the student has a second line, we can go on ICC and look at the board there, which helps. But just talking over the phone is effective too. I see my goal in advising my students on what they should study and how they should work on their game, rather then in teaching them a particular line in the Sicilian. If you are interested, please e-mail me at ababurin@iol.ie for more details. Calls to Ireland are pretty cheap from many countries - under $5 an hour.

This week I added a lot of new stuff to **my online shop** at www.gmsquare.com. At the moment I offer mostly Gambit books, but other publishers, such as Everyman, NiC and Batsford will be represented soon as well. I hope to turn my shop into one of the best online chess shops in the near future. Every time you buy something, you gain points, which you can use for future purchases. In addition to that, I am offering a **special discount for CT readers** - buy something from my shop before 9th September, quote your e-mail address to which you receive CT, and you will get your goods 10% cheaper! We have a secure server for CC payments, accept cheques and dispatch orders within 2 working days, mostly via airmail - please pay the shop a visit and see for yourself!

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

S Zagrebelny (2466) − R Bagirov (2458)

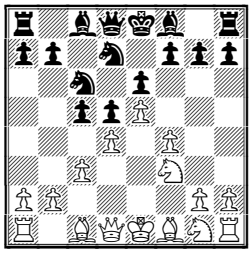
Masters Tournament Abu Dhabi (6.9), 31.08.2001 C05

Ten years ago the USSR was broken up, and in the Manila Chess Olympiad 1992 there were 15 new teams. Russia took first place and very unexpectedly Uzbekistan gained silver. The leader of that team, Grigori Serper, is living in the U.S.A. now, second board Alexander Nenashev is now German Graf, coach Sergei Pinchuk is a Russian citizen... GM Sergei Zagrebelny played then on the 3rd or 4th board, and played quite successfully. For many years chess professionals knew him as a strong GM, but somehow Sergei has lost a lot of Elo−points. Maybe the AbuDhabi event has returned his self−confidence?!

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4

An alternative is 5.♗d3

5...c5 6.c3 ♘c6 7.♘df3

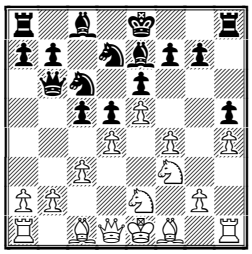


Sergei Zagrebelny has played this very sharp line for many years. White has more space but loses time in development. Black has to play very energetically and attack his opponent's pawn centre as soon as possible.

7...♕b6 8.h4 h5

Earlier in a couple of games Bagirov played 8...cxd4. For example, two years ago also in AbuDhabi these players played the following way: 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗b4+ 10.♔f2 f6 11.♗e3 0-0 (11...♗e7 12.♕d2 a5 13.a4 0-0 14.♘e2 ♕b4 15.♕xb4 ♘xb4 16.♘c3 ♘b6 17.b3 ♗d7 18.♖c1 ♖ac8 19.♗e2 f5 Zagrebelny − Williams, Hastings 2000. 20.h5 ; 11...fxe5 12.fxe5 0-0 13.♗d3 ♘xd4 14.♘e2 ♘xe5 15.♗xd4 ♘g4+ 16.♔g3 ♕d6+ 17.♔xg4 e5+ 18.♔g3 exd4+ 19.♔f2 ♗g4 Saltaev − M. Gurevich, France 2001. Interesting, that Uzbekistani GM Mikhail Saltaev also played in Manila-1992.) 12.♖c1 fxe5 13.fxe5 ♗e7 14.♕d2 ♘dxe5 15.dxe5 d4 16.♗g5 ♗b4 17.♕d3 ♘xe5 18.♕e4 ♗d6 Zagrebelny − R. Bagirov, AbuDhabi 1999. In the end Black won.

9.♘e2 ♗e7



10.f5!?

It looks like a novelty (though this idea is typical for such a pawn structure).

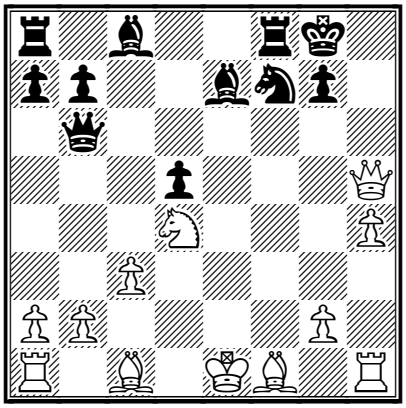
10...cxd4

10...exf5 11.♘f4 and White wins the d5 pawn.

11.fxe6 ♘dxe5!?

11...fxe6 12.cxd4 with an edge for White.

12.♘xe5 ♘xe5 13.exf7+ ♘xf7 14.♘xd4 0-0!? 15.♕xh5!



Very brave but at first sight − right. White not only wins a pawn but also prepares a long castling.

15...♗f6 16.♗d3 ♖e8+ 17.♘e2 ♗d7

Black has to complete his development too.

18.♗g5!?

Firstly the computer suggests winning a second pawn − 18.♗g6 ♖e7 19.♕h7+ ♔f8 20.♗xf7? ♔xf7 21.♕h5+ ♔g8 22.♕xd5+ , but it's too dangerous for a human! On the contrary, White is ready to return a pawn.

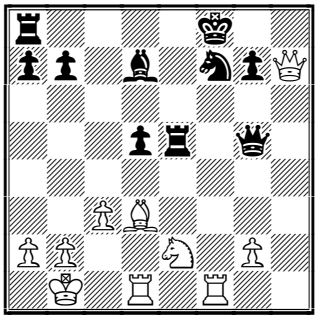
18...♖e5

18...♕xb2 19.0-0 with strong attack.(19.♗xf6!? ♕xa1+ 20.♔f2 ♖xe2+ 21.♗xe2 ♕b2 22.♗d4 ♖e8)

19.♕h7+ ♔f8 20.0-0-0

Why not 20.♗xf6 gxf6 21.0-0-0 f. e.: 21...♗f5!? 22.♗xf5 ♖xe2 23.♗c2

20...♗xg5+ 21.hxg5 ♕e3+ 22.♔b1 ♕xg5 23.♖hf1



With material equality White's has a strong initiative, because his opponent's King is very weak.

23...♔e7 24.♘f4 ♘h8

What a sad decision!

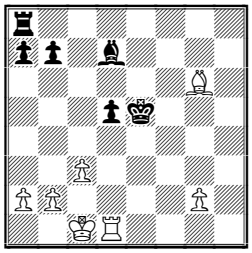
25.♘g6+

Very tempting was an attempt to open more lines: 25.c4!? But Sergrei decided to win a pawn once more and enter an endgame.

25...♘xg6 26.♕xg7+ ♔d6 27.♖f6+ ♖e6 28.♖xg6 ♖xg6 29.♕xg6+ ♕xg6 30.♗xg6 ♔e5

30...♖g8?! 31.♗e4

31.♔c1



White has good chances for a win but his task isn't very simple: to my mind rooks and bishops are the most "drawing" pieces.

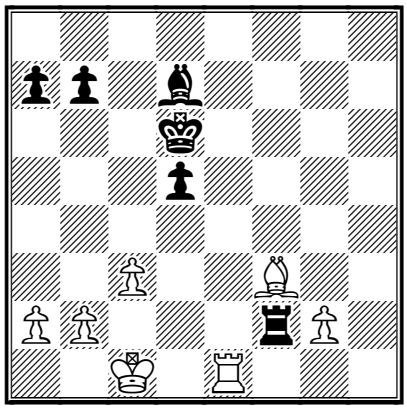
31...♖f8

31...♖g8? 32.♗f7+−; 31...♖h8!? and after 32.♖e1+ King can go forward: 32...♔f4

32.♖e1+ ♔d6

32...♔f4?? 33.♖f1+

33.♗h5 ♖f2 34.♗f3



Now White has more or less consolidated his position: bishop defends it's own pawn and attacks the opponents, the King is going to go to the centre (after Re1-e2).

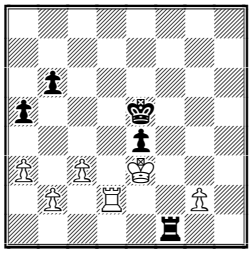
34...♗f5 35.♖e2 ♖f1+ 36.♔d2 b6 37.a3 a5 38.♔e3 ♔e5 39.♖d2

Step by step White improves his position.

39...♗e4

After 39...♗e6? 40.♖d1!? bishop's ending has to be winning.

40.♗xe4 dxe4

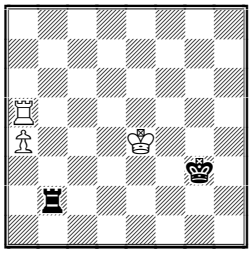


41.c4

White has to drive black's King away from the e4 pawn.

41...♖e1+ 42.♔f2 ♖c1 43.♖d5+ ♔f4 44.g3+ ♔g4

45.♖b5 ♖xc4 46.♖xb6 ♖c1 47.♖b5 ♖d1 48.♖xa5 ♖d2+ 49.♔e3 ♖xb2 50.♔xe4 ♔xg3 51.a4

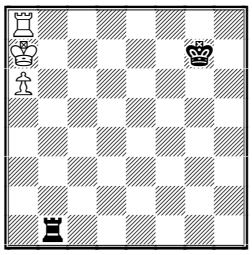


This position is winning because the g3 King is too far from the a4 pawn.

51...♖a2 52.♖a8 ♔g4 53.a5 ♖a4+ 54.♔e5 ♔g5 55.a6 ♔g6 56.♔d6

Of course not 56.a7?? ♔g7 (56...♔h7 with a draw. The White King has to have a refuge vs. rook's checks on a7.)

56...♖a1 57.♔c6 ♔g7 58.♔b7 ♖b1+ 59.♔a7

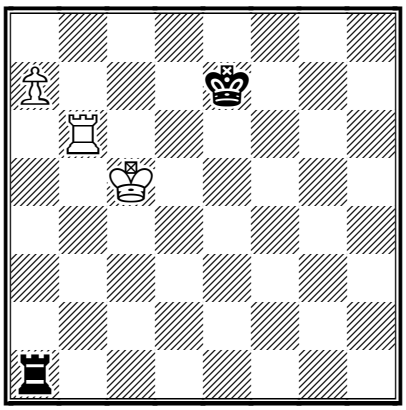


Here it is.

59...♔f7 60.♖b8

All this is theory but it's useful to repeat it once more!

60...♖d1 61.♖b6 ♔e7 62.♔b7 ♖d7+ 63.♔c6 ♖d6+ 64.♔c5 ♖d1 65.a7 ♖a1



66.♖h6!

And after 66...Kd7 White will play 67.Rh8! Black resigned. **1-0**

Solution to Quiz Today: 25.♘xd5! exd5 26.♗xd5 ♔f8 Only move in view of threat g5−g6. **27.♗xf7 ♔xf7 28.♕d5+ ♔f8 29.f6** Also good was 29.g6 **29...♘d8** 29...gxf6 30.gxf6 ♗d6 31.♗h6+ ♔e8 32.f7++− **30.fxe7+ ♔xe7 31.♗f4 1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

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www.chess.gr/kavala/index.html
www.execulink.com/~binkie/closed2001/
www.infoxadrez.com/
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I only lost because …

By GKB

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CT-300, 3 September 2001

Zagrebelny maintains lead in AbuDhabi

Chess Today Celebrates its' 300th Issue!

As reported in yesterday's *CT*, **Sergei Zagrebelny** is still a point and a half ahead of his nearest rivals. After drawing in the 7th Round of the ***AbuDhabi Open*** he has 6 points. 11 (!) players have 4½. *Some results of the 7th Round:* Safin – Zagrebelny **½:½,** Bagirov – Kotsur **½:½** Vladimirov – Dizdar **½:½,** S. Gouliev – Gleizerov **½:½** Magerramov – Arkhipov **1:0.** *Top boards for the 8th Round:* **(6)** Zagrebelny – Kotsur **(4½); (4½)** Bagirov – Magerramov **(4½); (4½)** Dizdar – S. Gouliev **(4½), (4½)** Barsov – Gleizerov **(4½), (4½)** Ulibin – Safin **(4½), (4½)** Mherramzade – Vladimirov **(4½)**

At the ***European Youth Chess Championships*** in Chalkidiki, Greece, tow rounds have been played. we are now publishing lists of leaders in the groups under 18 and 16 (all of them have 2 points out of 2).
B18: **1-8.** Izoria, Dziuba, Khismatullin, Werle, Gashimov, T. Kosintseva, Popovic, Zawadzki
B16: **1-9.** Inarkiev, Bartel, Antal, Novikov, Palo, Erwich, Porat, Pakleza, Sitnikov
G18: **1-8.** Charkhalashvili, Stiri, Kolganova, Makka, Rutherford, Raeva, Tidman, Van Weersel
G16: **1-7.** Guseva, Vasilevich, Motoc, Muhren, Kineva, Papadopoulou, Koursova

*The **Icelandic Chess Championships**, results of the 2nd Round:* Gunnarsson – Bjornsson **½:½;** Ptacnikova – Stefansson **½:½ ,**Kristjansson – Gunnarsson **1:0,**Thorfinnsson – Vidarsson **1:0** Thorhallsson – Thorfinnsson **½:½.** *Standings after the 2nd Round:* **1-4.** Gunnarsson, Kristjansson, Thorhallsson, Stefansson – 1½ points out of 2

Sunday, (2 September) was a holiday in Moscow. It was called "A day of city". There were many holiday events, and one of them was the ***Moscow Chess Lighting Championships***, organised by the newspaper ***Vechernjaja Moskva*** (***Evening Moscow***) with a traditional main prize – the ***Russian samovar***. Though the money prizes were not big , this tournament is a very prestigious tournament. Mikhail Tal had a huge collection of Moscow Lighting samovars. This prize was also won by Tigran Petrosian, David Bronstein, and Yury Averbah (this time he was the main arbiter). 8-time winner of the samovar, 68-years old **Evgeni Vasiukov**, was also among the participants.

***Sergei Rublevsky**, picture from www.kasparovchess*

The Russian Olympic team was prepared for it's match vs. China in Moscow region last week, and the members from another town (St-Petersburg - Sergei Rublevski – Kazan, and Peter Svidler also were invited. In total there were 20 participants in this round-robin system event).

Sergei Rublevsky lead almost the whole tournament and his win was highly deserved. **Alexander Morozevich** in the 3-5 rounds lost 3 games in a row, but managed to rebound and was in the chase as well. In the last round, the game Rublevski – Morozevich ended in a draw. Sergei, a half-point up going into the final, needing only the half and thus became the winner. I asked him and also Alexander Morozevich and **Vadim Zviagintsev** to show us their most interesting episodes of the struggle – *see our annotated game section and tactical quiz.*

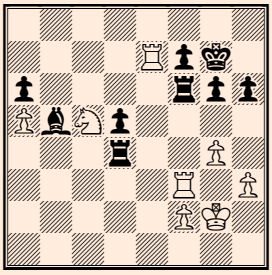
Final standings: **1. Sergei Rublevsky** – 14 points out of 19, **2-3.** Svidler, Morozevich – 13½, **4-5.** Korotylev, Zviagintsev – 12½, **6.** Dreev – 11½, **7-8.** Bareev, Grischuk – 11, **9.** Lastin – 10, **10-12.** Dvalishvili, Riazantsev, Rychagov – 9½ etc.

Editorial Note:
by *GM Alex Baburin*

Today I would like to talk a bit about chess politics. I am sure that in the next few months we will see some struggle between FIDE and *Brain*

Games over what World Championship cycle is more legitimate. I think that it was not a mere coincidence that FIDE chose Moscow as the venue for its World Championships, when a tournament with Kramnik, Kasparov and Karpov was scheduled there as well. It looks like Kirsan Illyumzhinov wants to shadow that event - something like his deputy in FIDE Commerce Mr. Tarasov threatened to do with tournaments in Wijk aan Zee, Dortmund and Linares. Personally, I hope that some agreement will be made, but I doubt that this is possible with the current management of FIDE. Despite its slogan, it has not been too responsive to various calls from the chess community, particularly from the professional one.

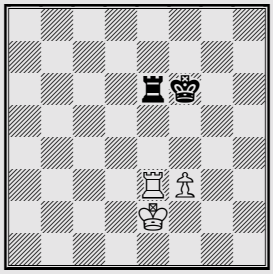
Quiz Today
1. Morozevich – Ivanenko
Moscow Lighting, 02.09.2001



White to play and win

One obvious area, where FIDE could do something constructive, is sorting out a mess with ratings and titles. We all know about the 'great' players from Burma and also about Grandmaster' Alexandru Crisan of Romania. The latter scored ½ point out of 9 (!!) in the recent Vidmar Memorial, losing the following position along the way:

G. Mohr (2484) - A. Crisan (2635), Portoroz 2001

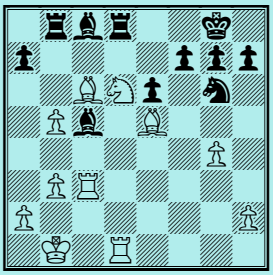


Correction: the black Rook is on e5 --- RPM

Here 57...♖xe3+ 58.♔xe3 ♔e5 is an easy draw, but of course after 57... ♖a5 Black has no problems either. Surely, GM with 2635 Elo should be able to hold such positions?! Yet, Crisan failed to do so and lost 38 moves later. I just wonder how many 1300 players will lose this ending...

At this moment this 'crafty' Romanian player enjoys the 46th position in World's rating list, just above GMs Mikhail Gurevich and Arthur Yusupov! One would be concerned about a sharp drop in his rating after the Vidmar Memorial, but don't worry - the guy bounced back with two 'fine' victories in tournaments in Yugoslavia. Both of them looked very suspicious (see IM Vladimir Barsky's material in *CT-295*). In one of them he showed demonstrated a 2846-performace - is this not amazing for a guy who does not know even elementary endings?!

2. Zvjagintsev – Dreev
Moscow Lighting, 02.09.2001



Black to play

The problem is very serious - it is quite possible soon that people like Crisan will bring their ratings even higher, automatically gaining places in World FIDE Championships. Then they will be getting money (OK, they probably have expenses when 'earning' their ratings), depriving some deserving players a chance to make a better living. Alas, the fact that FIDE did not take a hard stance against such abuse, has already tempted more people into inflating their ratings. For example, I recently received *'64-Chess review' No.7* of 2001. There I read an interesting article by IM Igor Yagupov, who described how a local businessmen in his native Tula (city about 120 km from Moscow; GM Kotov was from there) last year decided first to get and then to raise his Elo. That guy - Mr. Vladimir Afromeev - has been so successful in his fraud, that he now has an international rating of 2520! I call it a fraud, because many know that the some of the tournaments, which he 'organised' never took place, while in some others certain players threw points at Mr. Afromeev. Now he is an FIDE Master and I bet that soon he will become Grandmaster. God, help our game! Sorry, I meant Kirsan! :-)

By the way, at some point Mr. Afromeev decided that his personal driver should have Elo rating too

(who wants un-rated drivers nowadays?!). Now that guy has a rating in excess of 2440. Mr. Afromeev is even claimed to have said that if he wanted, his cat would get a rating like that too! Now, that's something for FIDE to look at, if you ask me! Alas, as Yagupov's article indicates, the Russian Chess Federation is not going to do anything and I doubt that FIDE will do much either. Yet, this problem can be deal with - for example by establishing a FIDE commission, which would examine all suspicious tournaments, demand score-sheets and warn people, who took part in them.

I often receive feedback from our readers and today I would like to quote a recent message from one of our reader in Canada:

"Dear friends at *CT*, I am taking this opportunity to offer a few comments. First of all, congratulations on a fine newsletter, with its many enjoyable features, including the tactical quizzes and the special training articles. I have become a dedicated *CT* follower, having renewed for a third time, the latest for a full year. I sometimes think that the daily list of results would be more interesting if I knew more about some of the players. One way that this might be done is to provide occasional player profiles
prior or during an event. For example, there may be an open tournament with a dozen not so well known grandmasters and others. You might amuse readers with some speculations as to who might win the next day's encounters, or you might include some background information on one of the players, whose game you want to show. The more personal your descriptions, the better.
One possibility you might contemplate for the future is to use an Internet chess site to meet your audience online (for an additional fee). I think that Coffee Break chess and *CT* have likely created a captive audience that might be willing to pay for online chess sessions. You might arrange this with an existing online chess site so as to avoid software development costs. Kind of like "going to the *CT* chess club" say weekly for a few hours. You could analyze, lecture, play blitz, or arrange for little tournaments among *CT* readers. Anyway, these are "brainstorming" thoughts. Best wishes, and keep up the great work at CT! *Jean-Francois Wen, Calgary*"

This is a great letter to receive and I completely agree with Mr. Wen that we should cover the professional chess world better - most chess fans don't know many GMs, which makes it less interesting to follow tournaments. Personally, I believe that this is one of the main problems with modern chess. I also agree that communication with our readers should be more regular and meeting online is an exciting idea - I will investigate it. Meanwhile, **how about meeting online for a chat** next Saturday (8th September), say at 18-00 London time? Yahoo has chat facilities for *CT* members - check this out at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChessToday/chat. If you are interested, please e-mail me at: ababurin@iol.ie. Perhaps Ruslan, Graham and Ralph will be able to take part in the chat too. Also, please keep on sending your suggestions - **we listen to you! And don't forget to send your questions for Trainer's Corner!**

Finally, a few technical issues:
1) When you want to change the address to which you receive *CT*, please do it yourself at the *CT* group at Yahoo - we simply have no authority to change that address for you! If for whatever reason you fail to change the address, please request to join the *CT* list with a different address, e-mail me at ababurin@iol.ie, providing your current address to which you get *CT*. Then I will approve your request, simultaneously deleting your first address from the list.
2) Please note that we cannot allow receiving *CT* to multiple e-mail addresses - it would be a logistic nightmare otherwise!
3) If you need to access our archives, but do not remember your Yahoo ID and password, you should be able to retrieve those at the Yahoo groups, if you use the e-mail address, which you used originally with the list - Yahoo should send password to that address.

♘♘♘

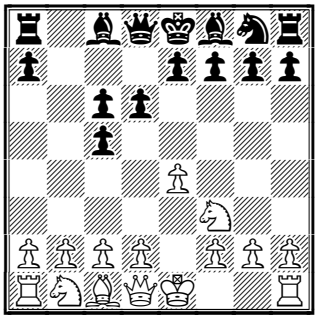
Annotated Game

Rublevsky − Arbakov

Moscow Lighting, 02.09.2001 B51

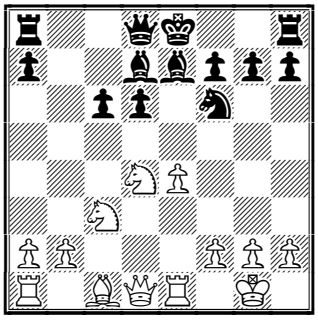
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 d6 4.♗xc6+ bxc6 (D)



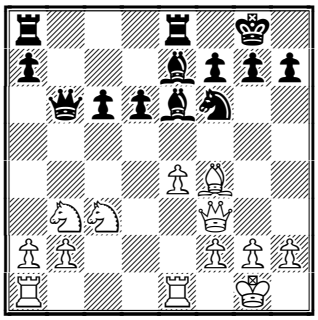
Sergei Rublevsky likes this, at first sight modest, but rather poisonous variation.

5.0-0 e5 6.c3 ♘f6 7.♖e1 ♗e7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 exd4 10.♘xd4 ♗d7 11.♘c3 (D)



This is a typical position for this line: White has more space. All of his pieces have good squares, while Black's bishops are quite passive. They have to defend the weak pawns on c6 and d6.

11...0-0 12.♗f4 ♖e8 13.♕f3 ♕b6 14.♘b3 ♗e6 (D)



It appears at first sight Black has recognised his opening problems, but don't forget this is blitz, where the main thing is a 'fantasy eel' for victory!

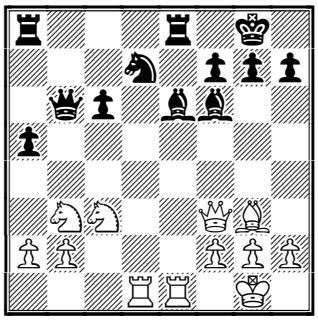
15.e5!? dxe5 16.♗xe5 ♘d7

16...♗xb3 17.axb3 ♕xb3 18.♕xc6±

17.♗g3 a5?!

Black had a good opportunity here − 17...♗xb3 18.axb3 ♘c5∓

18.♖ad1 ♗f6 (D)



18...a4? 19.♘d4±

19.♘e4!

Forward!

19...♗xb2!?

19...a4!?

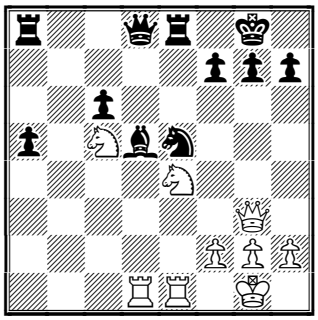
20.♖b1 ♗e5?!

Fritz suggests two alternatives: 20...a4 21.♖xb2 axb3 22.axb3 ♗d5∓; or 20...♗d5!? 21.♖xb2 ♕b4! 22.♖be2 ♗xe4 23.♖xe4?? ♕xe1+! I think the second is too difficult to find in blitz.

21.♘bc5 ♕d8 22.♗xe5 ♘xe5 23.♕g3 ♗xa2!?

Valentin Arbakov is extremely experienced Moscow blitz player and he knows very well one of the main blitz rules: first of all take all that you can − here pawns run to queening very fast!

24.♖bd1 ♗d5? (D



This very natural move turns out to be a mistake.

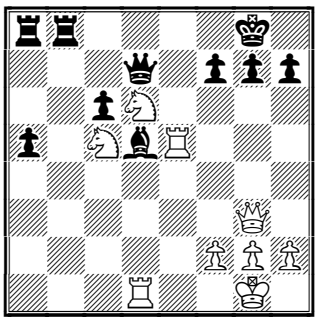
25.♘b7! ♕e7 26.♘ed6!

What brave knights! But Fritz doesn't sleep, it suggests

26...♖eb8?

26...♘f3+! 27.gxf3 ♕xe1+ 28.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 29.♔g2 a4 and, like I said, pawns run very fast. But Black missed this chance.

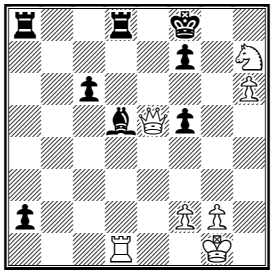
27.♖xe5 ♕d7 28.♘c5! (D)



Now White is winning. The remainder isn't very interesting but Sergei was very proud that he remembered his game till the end. **28...♕c7**

28...♕xd6? 29.♖e8++−

29.♘f5 g6 30.♖e8+ ♖xe8 31.♕xc7 gxf5 32.♕g3+ ♔h8 33.♕c3+ ♔g8 34.♘d7 ♖ed8 35.♘f6+ ♔f8 36.♘xh7+ ♔g8 37.♘f6+ ♔f8 38.♕g3 ♔e7 39.♕e5+ ♔f8 40.h4 a4 41.h5 a3 42.h6 a2 43.♘h7+ (D)



1-0.

Solutions to Quiz Today:

1.♘e6+! ♖xe6 2.♖exf7+ ♔g8 3.♖f8+ 1-0.

2. Here Alexei Dreev, who played the first half of the game very energetically, decided to win a piece. **1...♗b4 2.♖c4 ♘xe5 3.♖xb4 ♘xc6 4.bxc6!** An now all of a sudden he realises that he can't take the rook afterall: **4...♖a8** 4...♖xb4 5.c7 ♖d7 (5...♖f8 6.♘xc8 ♖xc8 7.♖d8++−) 6.♘xc8! ♖xd1+ **A)** The following variations shows why not on c2: 7.♔c2?! ♖bd4 8.♘e7+ ♔f8 9.♘c6? (9.c8♕+ ♔xe7 10.♕c5+±) 9...♖4d2+ 10.♔c3 ♖c1+ 11.♔xd2 ♖xc6-+; **B)** 7.♔b2!! A fantastic position: even two rooks are not able stop the pawn on c7: 7...♖bd4 (7...♖dd4 8.♘e7+ ♔f8 9.♘c6!+−; 7...♖d7 8.♘e7+ ♔f8 9.c8♕+ ♔xe7 10.♕c5++−; 7...♖xg4!? (maybe this provides the most resistance.) 8.♘e7+ ♔f8 9.♘c6 ♖g2+ 10.♔a3 g5 11.c8♕+ ♔g7±) 8.♘e7+ ♔f8 9.♘c6 ♖4d2+ 10.♔a3!+− now the King has the a3 square for an escape. **5.c7 ♖f8 6.♖b8 1-0.**

Recommended Web sites:
http://www.skak.is/si/sthi2001.htm
http://www.chess.at/
http://www.sportmeeting.org/chessen.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
http://www.abudhabichess.com/

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by GKB

Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
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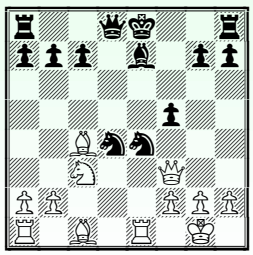
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-316, 19th September 2001

Ukrainian Championship Report

Quiz Today:



White to play and Win

Dear CT readers, the name of the your new reporter is *Mikhail Golubev*. Maybe some of you know me as a chess grandmaster, internet activist or as author of the opening book that was published in England two years ago.

I'll start my CT contributions with an overview of the **Ukrainian Chess Championship** (in which I played) which took place from September 8-16.

It was already the 10th championship since Ukraine obtained its independence in 1991. This time the event was held in the small town of Ordzhonikidze (Eastern Ukraine), and, thanks to the great efforts of the main Championship sponsor, Open Joint-Stock Company ORGOK, we had a strong and interesting tournament.

As you know from the previous CT issue, it was GM Aleksandar Berelovich (left) who, quite unexpectedly, took clear first place. Un-expectedly, but not undeservingly: Aleksandar is well known as a dangerous fighter and this time he managed to show all the strongest sides of his style and approach. In Ordzhonikidze he won four games - and three of them in the different variations with an isolated white pawn on d4. This is Alexander's favourite structure, and I only wonder what he likes more: to play with White or with Black in these positions… Anyway, I can predict that the 2.c3 Sicilian will became more popular in Germany in the very near future, because the new Ukrainian Champion has lived already for some months in this country and visited the Ukraine especially to participate in the strongest Ukrainian Championship ever.

Ahead of 16 grandmasters, second and third places were shared by IM's Vladislav Borovikov and Andrey Volokitin. After a quick draw in the last round both scored a final GM norm. What about Vladislav? I'm not quite sure if he is really happy with his achievement: at 2593 he was the ELO favourite in Ordzhonikidze, and he is probably one of the highest rated IM's in the world these days. Borovikov did not have one worse position in the tournament, something that I can hardly say about other participants. Andrey Volokitin, the youngest player, scored his third GM norm in a row. The previous two events were the European Championship in Ohrid and a strong robin tournament in Portoroz. Before that, he played in the Lausanne Young Master tournament. It was a knockout event and no chance for norm there, but he defeated none other than our compatriot Ruslan Ponomariov, number one in the "under-twenty" world rating.

Out of 30 players, eight teenagers participated in the tournament. Volokitin, Eljanov, Firman, Efimenko, Fedorchuk, Korobov, Areshchenko, Maximov. They are all extremely talented players and everybody in the Ukraine knew that. However, it was still good to organise such a chess meeting, even just to confirm that 15-16 years old guys already could compete with experienced grandmasters like Romanishin, Malaniuk, and so on.

Within the format of this small overview I can hardly say much about the players who are not so young, and, like myself, shared 9th-13th places. Because my own score was slightly special, I can say a few words. I lost games with Black in the rounds 3, 5, 7; made two draws, also with Black, in the rounds 1 and 9 and won all my games with White in the rounds 2, 4, 6, 8. Quite crazy results, and games too. One of them I have commented below…

On September 11 we played our 4th round. The news on TV arrived when all the players played their games. So, it was tournament arbiters who were informed first. They told us what had happened in USA after we finished our games…

Ukrainian Chess Federation published a open letter in the Ukrainian sport newspaper "Sportyvna Gazeta" to express our solidarity with the American people. Perhaps, it would be naive to think that the opinion of Ukrainan chess players could help to anybody now. Nevertheless, it was something everyone wanted to sign to show sympathy and support.

Finally, the latest available results of the two important current events. More about them in the forthcoming CT issues.

Europe-Asia Intercontinental Match

Round 3 (women) Ioseliani Xie Jun 1-0 Kovalevskaja Xu Yuhua 0-1 Chiburdanidze Zhu Chen 0-1 Gurieli Hoang 0-1 **Round 4 (women)** Xie Jun Ioseliani 1/2-1/2 Xu Yuhua Kovalevskaja 1-0 Zhu Chen Chiburdanidze 0-1 Hoang Gurieli 1-0 **Round 3 (men)** Sutovsky Kasimdzhanov 0-1 Bacrot Ye 1/2-1/2 Azmaiparashvili Vladimirov 1/2-1/2 Van Wely Adianto 1-0 Kasparov Dao 1-0 Gurevich Rogers 1-0 **Round 4 (men)** Kasimdzhanov Sutovsky 1/2-1/2 Ye Bacrot 0-1 Vladimirov Azmaiparashvili 0-1 Adianto Van Wely 1-0 Dao Kasparov 0-1 Rogers Gurevich 1/2-1/2

Armenian Championship

Results of the 5th round Sargissian - Hachatrian 1/2-1/2, Art. Minasian - Asrian 1/2-1/2, Nalbandian - Aronian -1/2-1/2, Yegiazarian - Harutjunian 1-0, Anastasian - Ara Minasian -1/2-1/2, Lputian-free

Standings after the 5th Round: Lputian - 3,5 (4), Yegiazarian - 3 (4), Aronian - 3, Asrian - 2,5 (4) , Anastasian - 2,5 (4), Art.Minasian - 2,5, Ara.Minasian - 2,5, Sargissian - 2, Nalbandian - 2, Hachatrian - 1 (4), Harutjunian - 0,5.

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

V Rogovski (2443) – M Golubev (2526)

Ukrainian Championship Ordzhonikidze (1), 08.0 9.2001 B76

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6

The Dragon.

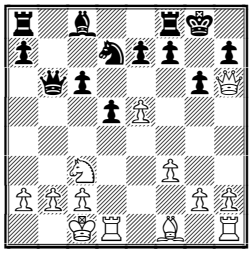
6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♗h6

In the early 80s several strong grandmasters including Jan Timman used this idea for White. The main line after 9...d5 is 10.exd5.

11...♗xh6 12.♕xh6 ♕b6!? 13.e5!

Black should have sufficient resources after 13.exd5 ♖b8! (or 13...cxd5 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.♖xd5 ♗e6 , Staeger–Ward, Metz 1995)

13...♘d7



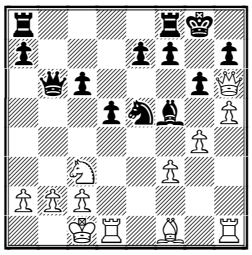
14.h4!

Of course, not 14.f4? ♕e3+ 15.♔b1 ♘xe5; or 14.♕f4? ♖b8 with possible continuation 15.b3 ♕c7 16.♖e1 f6

14...♘xe5!

There is nothing else: 14...♖d8? 15.h5 ♘f8 16.hxg6 fxg6 17.♗d3 ♖b8 18.b3 Bellini–Raeber, Swiss Team Championship 1996,; or 14...♖b8? 15.♘a4! , followed by 16.h5! with winning position.

15.h5 ♗f5 16.g4



After 16.hxg6 ♗xg6 it's not an easy task for White to prove that he has a real compensation for the pawn.

16...f6!

Again, this is the only move.

17.♕f4

After 17.gxf5? g5 White's queen is trapped and he could resign in view of the inevitable ♘f7

However, very interesting is 17.♕d2! with an extremely complicated situation. For example, 17...♘xf3 (or 17...♖ab8 18.b3 ♘xf3 19.♕f4) 18.♕f4! ♖ab8 19.b3 , and now: **A)** 19...♗xc2 20.hxg6 (20.♔xc2! ♕f2+ 21.♔b1 e5 22.♕h6 g5 23.♘e4!) 20...♗xg6 (20...♗xd1? 21.♖xh7! ♘g5 22.♕h2!+−) 21.♕xf3 e5; **B)** 19...♕b4!?; **C)** 19...♗xg4!? 20.hxg6 (20.♕xg4!? ♕e3+ 21.♔b2 ♘e5) 20...♕b4! (20...h5 21.♕h6! ♘g5 22.♗e2±)

17...♖ab8!

17...♗d7 18.hxg6 ♘xg6 19.♕h6 ♖f7 20.♗d3 ♘f8 (20..♖g7? 21.♗xg6 hxg6 22.♕h8+ ♔f7 23.♕xa8+−) 21.♖dg1∞

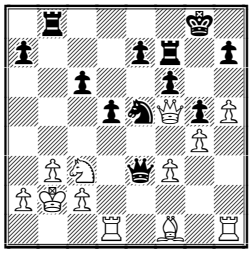
18.b3

Maybe 18.♘a4!? promises good drawing chances for White: 18...♕b4! (18...♕a5 19.b3!) 19.♖d4! (19.♕xb4 ♖xb4 20.gxf5 ♖xa4 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.fxg6) 19...♕e1+ 20.♖d1 ♖b4 (20...♕b4 21.♖d4; 20...♕a5 21.b3) 21.♖xe1 ♖xf4 22.gxf5 ♖xa4 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.fxg6; 18.gxf5? ♕xb2+ 19.♔d2 ♖b4!

18...g5!

I like this idea. Unsafe for Black is 18...♗d7 19.hxg6 ♘xg6 20.♕h6 ♖f7 21.♗d3 ♖g7 (Shabalov) 22.♗xg6 hxg6 23.♘a4 ♕b4 24.♘c5!; or 18...♕c5? 19.gxf5! ♕xc3 20.hxg6 , and I saw that after 20...♖b4 21.♕h6 ♕a1+ 22.♔d2 White wins.

19.♕xf5 ♕e3+ 20.♔b2 ♖f7!

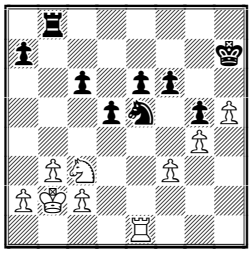


Unexpectedly, White can't avoid 21...e6! 22.♕xe6 Nc4+ without material concessions.

21.♗d3

This results in a clearly better endgame for Black. 21.♖d3 ♘c4+! 22.♔b1 (22.♔a1? ♕c1+ 23.♘b1 ♕b2#) 22...♕e1+! (22...♘a3+= and, as I found after the game, here a draw was agreed in Lutsko−Shabalov, Riga 1983) 23.♖d1 (23.♘d1? e6-+) 23...♕xc3 , and after 24.♗xc4 White hardly has full compensation.; during the game I saw also 21.♖h3 (or first 21.f4 e6, and now 22.Rh3) 21...e6 22.f4 ♕xh3 (22...♘c4+? 23.♗xc4! ♕xh3 24.♕xe6 dxc4 25.♖d7 ♖bf8 26.♘e4+−; 22...exf5!?) 23.♗xh3 (23.♕xe6 ♕xg4 24.♕d6 ♘d7∓; 23.fxe5 ♕xc3+ 24.♔xc3 exf5-+; 23.♕xe5 fxe5 24.♗xh3 exf4!?∓) 23...exf5 (23...♘c4+?! 24.♔c1 exf5 25.bxc4) 24.fxe5 fxg4!? 25.♗xg4 (25.e6 gxh3! 26.exf7+ ♔xf7) 25...f5! with better chances for Black; Another solution is 21.♘e4!? and maybe it's not as bad as it looks.

21...e6 22.♖he1 ♕xe1 23.♕xh7+ ♖xh7 24.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 25.♖xe1



In this position Black should have better chances, mainly because the white rook has no clear prospects. One of the good possible ideas is associated with ...c5!? now or on the next move. Unfortunately, in a certain amount of time trouble Black didn't manage to find the correct way.

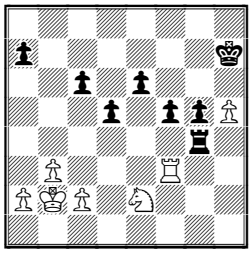
25...♖b4 26.♘e2

I expected only 26.♘a4 ♖f4 27.♘c5 ♖xf3 28.♘xe6

26...♘xf3 27.♖f1 ♖xg4

Possibly, 27...♘e5!? 28.♖xf6 ♖e4 was still better for Black.

28.♖xf3 f5



This position is quite dangerous for White − Black wants to queen one of his pawns after some 6 or 7 moves. However, Rogovski shows an interesting way to equality...

29.♖e3

The good illustration of the Black's possibilities is 29.♖c3? ♖e4! 30.♘g3 ♖e1 31.♖xc6 f4

29...f4

29...♖e4? 30.♖xe4

30.♘xf4!

This beautiful possibility allows White to stay on his ground. 30.♖xe6 f3

30...♖xf4!

30...gxf4 31.♖xe6 f3 32.♖f6 ♖g3 33.♖xc6!

31.♖xe6 ♖f7!?

White's idea was not only Rxc6, but rather ...Rg6! which stops the 'g' pawn completely. Another way (31...♖h4 32.♖xc6 ♖xh5) looks risky for Black.

32.♔c3!

Worse was 32.♖xc6 g4!; or 32.♖g6? ♖g7

32...g4 33.♔d3!

33.♔d4? ♖g7 34.♔e3? g3
33...g3
33...♖g7 34.♔e2! g3 35.♔f1!
34.♖g6 ♖g7 35.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 36.♔e3 ♔h6 37.♔f3 ♔xh5 38.♔xg3 ♔g5 ½-½

Solution to Quiz Today:

13.♕h5+! g6 14.♘xe4! gxh5 14...fxe4 15.♕e5 ♖f8 16.♕xe4+− **15.♘f6+ ♔f8 16.♗h6# +−**

Recommended websites:
http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/ukr01ch.htm
http://www.armchess.am
http://chess.batumi.net

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi
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CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

CT-365, 7th November 2001

At last we catch up with TWIC! Believe it or not, our issue today is number 365, exactly the same as the new TWIC (don't forget to take a look at it). And from now on we will be ahead, because we'll prepare CT-366 tomorrow while Mark Crowther makes TWIC-366 only next week! ☺

Vladimir Barsky
Reports an anniversary

Of course it's only a funny coincidence that the first daily Internet newspaper *Chess Today* celebrates it's first year in existence the same time as the best weekly Internet Chess Magazine TWIC www.chess.co.uk/twic/twic.html celebrates it's 7th. But maybe it's a good sign for both of us?!

Now some tournament news in brief.

We have already written about Vishy Anand's victory in Bastia Open. As you remember after an initial Swiss there was a knock-out for the 16 best players. But others who didn't get in the 16 could also play in new 9-round Swiss. It was won by GM **Andrei Shchekachev**.

Final standing:
1. Shchekachev – 7½ points out of 9 **2-4.** Tregubov, Kozul, Agrest – 7 **5-9.** Riazantsev, Wojtkiewicz, Cebalo, Timoshenko, G. Kuzmin – 6½ etc. www.opencorsica.com

14 year-old Indian **Humpy Koneru** (who is World Junior champion among girls under 20) won the Third Saturday round-robin tournament in Belgrade (cat. VII, av. Elo 2415, 12 participants). She gathered 8½ points and scored a GM norm, like **Mihajlo Stojanovic**, who had a worse tie-break.

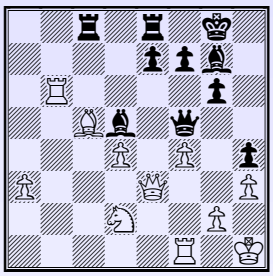
Final standing:
1-2. Koneru, Stojanovic – 8½ points out of 11 **3.** Lopez Martinez – 7 **4-5.** Kosanovic, Orlov – 6 **6-7.** Todorov, Boskovic – 5 etc.www.beochess.org.yu

GM **Viktor Varavin** won the 4th Golden Autumn round-robin tournament (VIII category, av. Elo 2426, 14 participants) in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine.

Final standing: **1.** Varavin – 8½ points out of 13 **2.** Arzumanian – 8 **3-4.** Shtyrenkov, Gasanov – 7½ **5-8.** Andreev, Chuprikov, Sikula, Khurtsidze – 7 **9.** Alexandrova – 6½ etc. chess-sector.odessa.ua/alu01oc2.htm

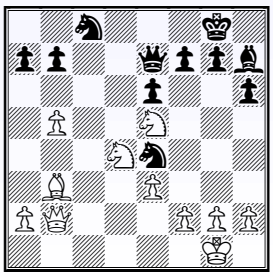
Quiz today

(1) Tomczak (2300) – Bastys (2265)
4th WCh U20 Team, Rio de Janeiro BRA (4), 2001



Black to play

(2) Vera (2090) – Falkenberg
4th WCh U20 Team, Rio de Janeiro BRA (4), 2001



White to play

Ralph Marconi, Graham Brown, Vladimir Barsky, Alex Baburin, Ruslan Scherbakov, Mikhail Golubev

Also see our annotated game section. Our congratulations to all the winners!

At time of going to press we know only the pairing of the 1st round of the European Team Championships in Leon, Spain. There are 34 men's (4 boards each) team and 32 women's (2 boards). There will be 9-round Swiss.

1st round, men: Czech – Israel England – Latvia Slovakia – Netherlands France – Spain B Macedonia – Ukraine Spain A – Azerbaijan etc.

Women: Latvia – Yugoslavia Ukraine – Spain Croatia – Germany Moldova – Azerbaijan Italy – Hungary Georgia – Switzerland etc.

More about the Championships and teams tomorrow www.euroleon 2001.com/results.htm

Chess Today is celebrating its first birthday!

By Alex Baburin

Time really does fly - a year passed very quickly and all of a sudden we have a small case for celebration as our paper is one year old today. But perhaps this is not such a small reason to celebrate - if you consider what happened in that year.

One year ago dot-com ventures were flying high and I sometimes thought that perhaps I should be thinking big, dreaming up some colossal chess portal or something of that kind. But instead I wanted to start an electronic chess paper, which would provide a service to chess fans every day - news, games, stories, puzzles... Nothing glossy and certainly no IOP on NASDAQ was planned! Chess Today had no sponsor's money to burn and I hoped that the paper would make money by charging a subscription fee. While this is still not a very popular concept on the Net (well, it is *very* popular among content-providers!), it worked and I was able to run the paper without making my kids hungry. Meanwhile Boo.com and Lastminute.com bit the dust, Amazon is still struggling to show any profit - but CT is alive and well. I would like to thank our readers for that - at Chess Today we are happy to have such a loyal audience!

I would also like to thank all and everyone in our team - our regular authors IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Ruslan Scherbakov, our editors Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi. Many thanks also to Mikhail Golubev, who did many CT issues and to Tim Harding, who edited some of the first issues. We have some very keen supporters between chess professionals. Some, like GMs Karsten Mueller and Lev Psakhis, sent their notes, while others (Speelman, Agdestein, Radjabov and many others) gave us moral support. Thank you all!

It may sound strange, but now we can talk about a **history of Chess Today** - on the Net time goes faster and here one year counts as many in ordinary life. So, here is a short introduction to the CT history:

I got the idea of a daily chess paper sometime in October 2000. At that time I wrote (I still do!) a weekly chess column in Irish newspaper 'Sunday Independent'. I saw that with so many things happening in chess, I could write about it every day. But there was no paper, which would publish it every day - so I decided to start my own! I spoke with a few people and got a rather positive response. The idea was to provide daily news and good commentary, so people could follow the chess world without spending too much time searching the Net. One of my main worries was (and still is) that Chess Today could be almost too

good - it's hard to digest so much chess stuff every day. And if the customer does not get 'full value' (i.e. does not read one or two issues), he might feel unhappy... This argument is hard to beat, but I always say that even I do not read every CT issue on the same day - I often come back to them later. And if we make CT a weekly magazine, then we compete with TWIC, while publishing 'Chess This Month' on the Net makes almost no sense...

As I chose a daily format, it was clear that it could not be a one-man show. Fortunately Vladimir and Ruslan agreed to join me. I had known them for many years, which obviously helped. It was harder to get an editor, but thanks to friends' recommendations I found Graham and Ralph. We still have not met in person, but we get on very well. Come to think of it - we live in Russia, England, Ireland, Ukraine and Canada, we have connections problems and computer breakdowns, but not even once have we failed to deliver you the latest chess news! Like most chess pros, I used to be very individualistic, but working on CT has taught me a lot about team work!

On our first birthday I do not only observe the past, but also **look into the future**. Many readers say that it is a surprise that CT does not have thousands of subscribers yet. Well, this is something I should work on. I would also appreciate help from you - please recommend CT to your chess friends, print and post a few issues at your chess club and at the tournaments which you attend - the more people who know about us, the better! If you have a web site, please give a link to www.chesstoday.net.

Please send your feedback, suggestions and recommendations to ababurin@iol.ie. We appreciate your time and effort, so all such e-mails - when you tell us what you like or don't like in CT and suggest how to promote it, will enter our **special anniversary draw.** The main prize will be a 'Gambit' chess clock and the second prize will be a new book by GM Dorfman - 'The Method in Chess'. Please send your e-mails before Sunday. Those who have already sent us such feedback, will enter the draw automatically.

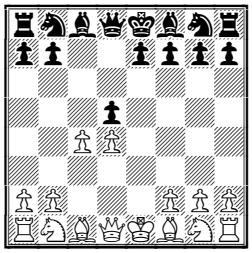
I enjoy writing for Chess Today myself and will continue with my 'Trainer's Corner'. I plan to publish more thematic articles and games in 'training' format - sort of a 'Master Class'. As always you are welcome to send me questions about endgame, openings, etc. and suggest players you would like to learn more about. We also plan to offer new services to our readers such as opinion polls, chats with GMs and online lessons. Together we can make CT better - thank you for your support!

Annotated Game

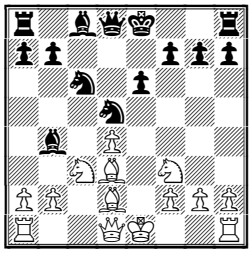
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

V Varavin (2490) − A Bets (2375)
4th Golden Autumn, Alushta UKR, 2001 B14
In our jubilee issue I decided to choose a game with our editor−in−chief's favourite pawn structure (he even calls it a "Winning Pawn Structure"). Maybe in the new edition of his book he will use this game and be thinking about his colleague who annotated it in CT! :−)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4



Some GMs regard the Panov's attack the strongest way against the Caro−Cann Defence.
4...♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♗b4 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♗d2 ♘c6 9.♗d3



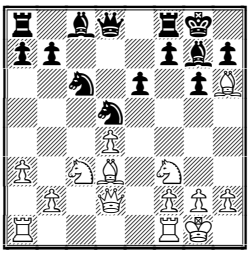
This position can arise from quite a lot of openings: Caro−Cann Defence, Queen's Gambit Accepted, Nimzo Indian etc.
9...0-0 10.0-0 ♗e7
An alternative is 10...♘f6
11.a3 ♗f6 12.♕e2 g6
12.Qe2 isn't the most aggressive move, and very often after it games are quickly drawn, for example: 12...♘xd4 13.♘xd4 ♗xd4 14.♗xh7+ (14.♕e4 ♘f6∓) 14...♔xh7 15.♕d3+ ♔g8 16.♕xd4

♘b6 17.♗e3 ♕xd4 18.♗xd4 ♘d5 19.♘xd5 draw, Gdanski − Macieja, Warsaw 2001.

13.♗h6 ♗g7

13...♖e8 14.♖ad1 ♘xc3 15.bxc3 b6 16.♕e3 ♗b7 17.♗g5 ♗xg5 18.♘xg5 ♕e7 19.♖fe1 ♘a5 20.♕f4 ♗d5∓ Grund − Dautov, Germany 1997.

14.♕d2

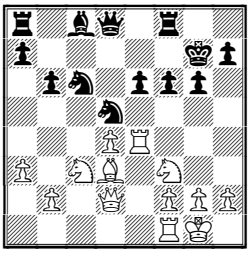


Formally speaking this move is a novelty maybe, but this idea − not to exchange on g7 but defend the h6 bishop with queen to d2 − was known at least from Botvinnik's games. White's idea is to increase control over the dark squares. Take a look at the following bright game: 14.♗xg7 ♔xg7 15.♗e4 ♘ce7 16.♖ac1 ♘f6 17.♖fd1 ♖b8 18.d5! exd5 19.♘xd5 ♘exd5 20.♗xd5 ♕b6 (20...♘xd5 21.♕e5+) 21.♕e5 ♗g4 22.♗xf7! ♖bc8 23.♗c4± Hebden − Andruet, France 1988.

14...b6 15.♖ae1 f6?!

A very dubious move. Obviously, black weakens a lot of squares in his camp.

16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.♖e4!



Alex Baburin in his book "Winning Pawn Structures" calls this manoeuvre a "Rook lift": The rook is ready to attack the king on g7 along the h−file. In this game black prevents this idea but the rook finds another good job, on the e−file.

17...♘ce7

The knight hastens to protect the h6−square (in case of Re4−h4).

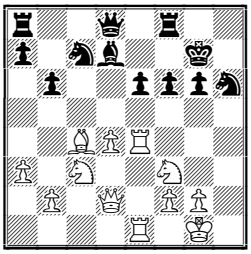
18.♖fe1 ♘g8 19.h4 ♗d7 20.♗c4! ♘c7

White has created such strong pressure on the point d5, that the knight has to leave it. Now the advance d4−d5 is on the cards.

21.h5 ♘h6

Not much better is 21...g5 in view of 22.d5! e5 23.♘xe5!? fxe5 24.♖xe5 with very strong attack. Of course white doesn't have to sacrifice a piece − he has another good ways to improve his position also.

22.hxg6 hxg6



23.d5!

Here it is!

23...e5

After 23...exd5 white receives too many open files for his pieces, i.e.: 24.♘xd5 ♘xd5 25.♕xd5 ♖f7 26.♘g5! fxg5 27.♕d4+ ♕f6 (27...♔h7 28.♗xf7 ♘xf7 29.♖e7 ♗e8 30.♕xd8 ♖xd8 31.♖xe8+−; 27...♖f6 28.♖e7+ ♘f7 29.♕xf6+! ♔xf6 30.♖xf7#) 28.♗xf7+−

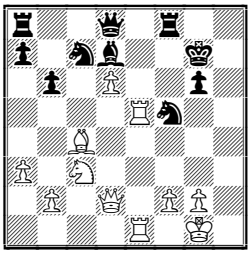
24.♘xe5!

Now white has to pay for his open files, but to tell the truth the price isn't very high! :−)

24...fxe5 25.♖xe5 ♘f5

Black can't defend this position, i.e. 25...♖e8 26.d6+−; 25...♗f5 26.d6 ♘e8 27.♖e7+ ♘f7 28.♗xf7 ♖xf7 29.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 30.♖e7+ ♔g8 31.♕d5+ ♔h8 32.♕d4+ ♔g8 33.♕c4++−

26.d6!



Now white threatens a deadly check with rook e7.

26...♘e6 27.♗xe6 ♗xe6 28.♖xe6 ♖f6 1-0

♘♘♘

Chess Today, Chess Tomorrow

By Graham Brown

In late 2000 I received an email from GM Alex Baburin. I knew him from *Coffee Break Chess* but as far as I knew he didn't know me so I was somewhat intrigued. It turned out that a friend had recommended me to help edit a new daily web chess newspaper he was thinking of setting up. I jumped at the chance! I would be helping with the technical aspects not the Chess he said.

Thank God I'm not doing the Chess I thought. I was a reasonable club standard player - BCF 137 (approx. Elo 1696) but wouldn't fancy doing the writing! A year on my grade has gone up to BCF 158 (approx. Elo 1864) and I've won the trophy you see me holding in the picture! A good jump which I attribute to having to edit so many superbly annotated games! I think I will still leave the actual writing of the annotations to the titled players!!! Unless I can jump another few hundred Elo places :-)

And I (in England) still haven't met Alex (in Ireland) or Ruslan and Vladimir (in Russia) or Mikhail (in Ukraine) or Ralph (in Canada)! Alex is talking about online lectures ... In that case I hope to meet them and you all online … in Chess Tomorrow!

Solution to our tactical puzzles:

(1) 43...♖xc5! 44.dxc5 ♗d4! 44...♗d4 45.♕xd4 ♕xh3+ 46.♔g1 ♕xg2# **0-1**

(2) 25.♘xf7! ♕b4 25...♔xf7 26.♗xe6+ ♔f8 27.♗xc8+− **26.♘xh6+! ♔h8 27.♘f3 ♕xb5 28.♘f7+ ♔g8 29.♘7g5 ♗f5 30.♗xe6+ 1-0**

I've enjoyed being a part of the CT team and that I believe my editing skills have improved. I can't say if my chess has improved any though :-). But, I believe that the annotated games and quizzes we offer in the magazine can help one's chess. I would like the magazine to have a very long life and be the best on the net in what we offer.
Ralph Marconi

In my view, Chess Today is the first really professional project in the electronic chess journalism. I wish a lot of success to CT team and to Alex personally. He goes in the correct direction **GM Mikhail Golubev**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-372, 14th November 2001

Remembering Tony Miles (1955 -2001)

by GM Alexander Baburin

I still cannot get over the news that Tony Miles has died . I heard about his death on Monday night, but it is going to take a while before this will go down with me. In 11 days my club *Wood Green* will play vs. his club *Slough* in Birmingham (Tony's home town) and he would have been my likely opponent (we played in a similar match last year). I already started to think what to play against Tony, but...

Photo by John Hendersen

Unfortunately he was rather careless about his health and about a year ago was diagnosed with diabetes. Alas, I suspect that did not change his attitude much, which could be the reason for his premature death.

I first heard about Miles in 1979, when he played in the Riga Interzonal. In the late 70s and early 80s he was among the best players in the world and certainly was one of the most interesting characters! Miles had a very original style and sought his own ways in chess - just look at one of his games vs. Karpov: 1.e4 a6!?!. So, for me to meet him in the early 90s was like meeting a chess legend. I was very curious not only about his play, but also about his personality. It was a very pleasant first contact - both over the board and away from it Tony was very friendly, once you got to know him a bit.

Later we met at numerous tournaments - St. Michel, Cappelle la Grande, Dublin, Biel, Isle of Man, Havana, Andorra, Cuba, Istanbul. We played a few times. He was a difficult opponent for me! And I could see that Tony simply loved chess - so he put so much into it, both during the game and in the analysis. Once he gave me a lift from Biel to Birmingham in his car (Tony was very fond of his Mercedes!) and I was a guest in his house for a night. Next morning Tony brought me to the airport, which was very nice of him. We had lots of time to talk, which was great. Tony had a terrific sense of humour, with a strong witty flavour. That was evident in his writing too, whether in chess magazines or on the Net - I always read his article with joy!

As far as I know, Tony liked travelling and probably visited more countries than any other chess player! He also liked and skiing. But his main passion was playing chess and thinking of it. He was constantly looking for new ideas in chess. They did not have to be 100% sound - just being playable was enough for him. I remember how once he showed me the line 1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 c6 and asked my opinion. I said that, that the Alekhine Defence was risky enough without playing stuff like 4...c6, but he liked the line. Well, later I picked that system too - it is not 100% sound, but interesting and playable!

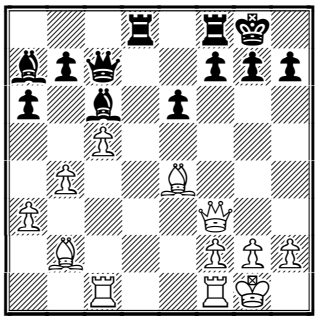
It is a pity Tony did not write a book on his career. I asked him once whether he considered writing a book and he replied that one day he would do that, but that day was still far ahead - he was too busy playing in tournaments! I guess Tony was happy - he did what he liked and what he was good at. This is how I will remember this man, and sadly without whom the chess world has become poorer...

Special Quiz Today dedicated to the tactical prowess of GM Tony Miles……

1. A. Miles (2565) – W. Browne (2590)

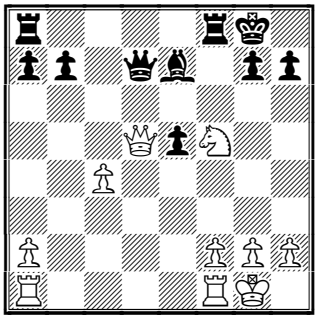
Luzern ol (Men) Luzern (11), 1982

The last move was 17. ..♖ad8?.



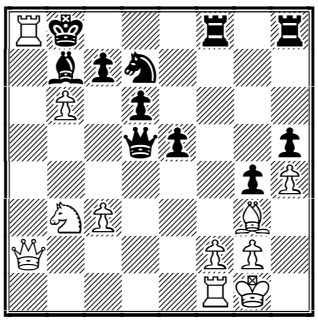
White to play

2. A. Miles (2560) − J.Timman (2640)
OHRA Amsterdam (1), 1985



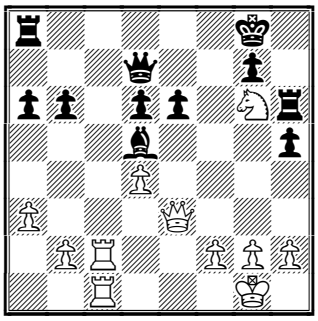
White to play

3. A. Miles (2565) − E. Dizdarevic (2490)
Sarajevo Sarajevo, 1987
Black has just played 26. ..♕c4xd5.



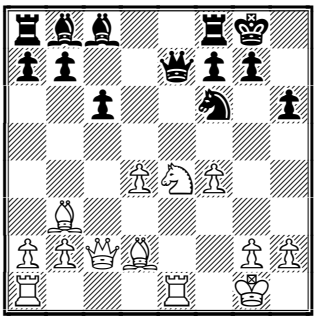
White to play

4. A. Miles(2565) − A. Anastasian,A (2490)
EU−chT (Men) Debrecen (9), 1992
The last move was 27. ..♖h8−h6.



White to play

5. A. Miles (2565) − A. Summerscale (2345)
Dublin (zt) Dublin, 1993
Black just played 17. ..♘d7−f6.



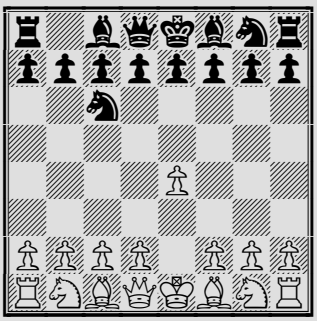
White to play

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

J. Howell (2525) − A. Miles (2600)
Isle of Man op Isle of Man (2), 1995 B00
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 ♘c6 (D)



Tony Miles' speciality (Nimzovich's Defense). This tricky and, objectively speaking, suspicious opening looked quite playable in his hands.

2.d4 e5 3.dxe5

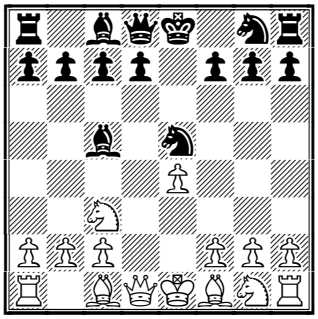
3.d5 is an alternative. Possible play is 3...♘ce7 4.♘f3 (4.♗e3 f5!? 5.f3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 d6 7.♕d2 g6 8.0-0-0 ♗g7 9.h3 f4! 10.♗f2 0-0 11.♔b1 a6 12.♘ge2 ♗d7 13.♘c1 b5 14.a3 ♕b8↑ Campora − Miles, Sevilla 1993) 4...♘g6 5.h4 h5 6.♗g5 ♘f6 7.♘c3 ♗e7 8.♗xf6!? ♗xf6 9.d6 c6 10.g3 ♘f8! 11.♕d2 ♘e6 12.♗h3 b6 13.0-0-0 a5⇄ and Black is not without a counterplay, Hall − Miles, Reykjavik 1998

3...♘xe5 4.♘c3

There are some other possibilities: 4.♘f3 ♗b4+!? **A)** 5.♘bd2 ♘xf3+ 6.♕xf3 ♘e7 7.a3 ♗a5 8.b4 ♗b6 9.♗b2 0-0 10.♗c4 ♘c6 11.♘b3

(11.♕g3 ♗d4) 11...♕h4! 12.g3?! (12.0-0 d6 13.♕g3=) 12...♕h6! 13.♖d1 d6∓ G.Garcia − Miles, Matanzas 1995; **B)** 5.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 6.♘bxd2 ♕f6= Hecht − Miles, Germany BL 1983; **C)** 5.c3 5...♗d6!? 6.♘bd2 ♘xf3+ 7.♘xf3 ♘e7 8.e5 ♗c5 9.b4?! (9.♗f4!?) 9...♗b6 10.♗f4 0-0 11.♗c4 ♘g6 12.♗g3 d6! 13.exd6 ♖e8+ 14.♗e2 ♕f6 15.0-0 cxd6⇄ Kudrin − Miles, ch−USA 1989; 4.f4 ♘c6 5.♗c4 ♗b4+ 6.♗d2 ♕h4+ 7.g3 ♕e7 8.♕e2 ♗xd2+ 9.♘xd2 d6 10.0-0-0 ♘f6 11.♘gf3 0-0 12.h3 d5 13.exd5 ♕xe2 14.♗xe2 ♘xd5= and Black has almost equalised, Milov − Miles, Isle of Man 1995.

4...♗c5 (D)



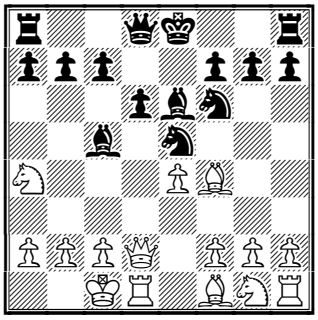
5.♗f4

5.f4 can be met by 5...♘c6 6.♗c4!? d6 7.♘f3 ♗e6!? 8.♗xe6 fxe6 9.♘a4 ♗b6 10.♘xb6 axb6 11.0-0 ♘f6 12.♘g5 ♕e7 with acceptable play, Akopian − Miles, Moscow GMA 1990.

5...d6 6.♕d2 ♘f6 7.0-0-0 ♗e6

Black has no problems with development.

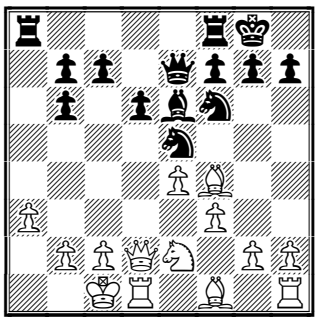
8.♘a4 (D)



8...♗b6

Miles' tricky style didn't reject solid positional decisions. For example, here 8...♘xe4!? could have led to interesting complications but the simple bishop's retreat was preferred.

9.f3 0-0 10.a3 ♕e7 11.♘xb6 axb6 12.♘e2 (D)



White's king lacks defenders so the knight is going to become one. However, the next step will be never made.

12...♘g6 13.♔b1?!

Any knight's move to c3 or d4 looked preferable.

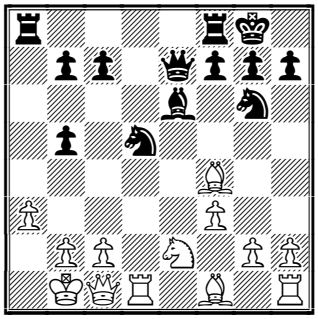
13...d5! 14.exd5

14.e5!? ♘d7 15.♗g5 was worthy of consideration.

14...♘xd5 15.♕c1?

Another dubious decision. 15.♗g5!? f6 16.♘d4! seemed to be the best.

15...b5! (D)

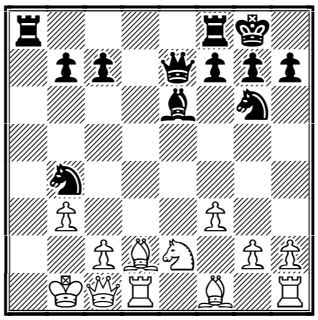


White already faces problems as the attack is fairly strong.

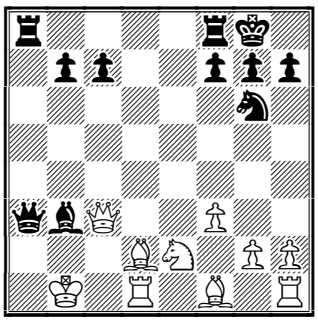
16.♗d2 b4! 17.axb4

Perhaps 17.♘d4!? bxa3 18.bxa3 ♖xa3 19.♘xe6 ♖fa8 20.♕b2 fxe6 21.♗c4 was more stubborn.

17...♘xb4 18.b3 (D)



18...♘xc2!
This crushing blow comes just in time! White is losing due to the unfortunate position of his pieces.
19.♕xc2
19.♔xc2 wasn't better: 19...♖a2+! 20.♔b1 (20.♔d3 ♗f5+) 20...♖fa8 and so on.
19...♕a3 20.♕c3
20.♕b2 didn't help due to 20...♗f5+ 21.♔c1 ♕a1+! 22.♕xa1 ♖xa1+ 23.♔b2 ♖xd1-+
20...♗xb3 (D)



White resigned. A glorious day for the 1. ..♘c6!? opening. 20...♗xb3 21.♖e1 ♕a2+ 22.♔c1 ♖fd8-+ **0-1.**

Recommended websites:
www.fide.com
www.kasparovchess.com
http://www.euroleon2001.com

Solutions to Quiz Today:
1. A. Miles (2565) − W. Browne (2590)
18.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 19.♕h5+ ♔g8 20.♗xg7! A typical combination completely destroying Black king's shield. **20... ♔xg7 21.♕g5+ ♔h8 22.♕f6+ ♔g8 23.♖c4** The checkmate is unavoidable. Black resigned. **1-0.**

2. A. Miles (2560) − J.Timman (2640)
This simple queens exchange forced Black's resignation − suddenly he loses a piece!
18.♕d5+ ♕xd5 19.♘xe7+!. 1-0.

3. A. Miles (2565) − E. Dizdarevic (2490)
27.♖a8+! ♗xa8 28.♕a7+ ♔c8 29.♕xc7#
1-0.

4. A. Miles(2565) − A. Anastasian,A (2490)
28.♖c8+! ♖xc8 29.♖xc8+ ♔f7 (29... ♕xc8 30.♘e7+) **30.♖f8+! ♔xg6 31.♕d3+! ♔g5 32.♕g3#** checkmate! **1-0.**

5. A. Miles (2565) − A. Summerscale (2345)
18.♗b4! ♕xb4 18... ♕d8 19♘xf6+ ♕xf6 20.♗xf8 ♔xf8 21.♕h7 **19.♘xf6+ gxf6**
20. ♕g6+ ♔h8 21.♕xh6+ ♔g8 22.♕g6+ ♔h8 23.♕xf6+ ♔g8 24.♖e3 ♖e3−g3 comes next. Black resigned. **1-0.**

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-402, 14th December 2001

A great day for the Ukraine!

Two Ukrainian chessplayers **Vasily Ivanchuk** and **Ruslan Ponomariov** will compete in the final of the World Chess Championships in January 2002!

Thursday saw the last classical games in the men's semi-finals and the women's final. In Moscow's Kremlin Palace for Congresses, three games were in progress:

Anand – Ivanchuk
Ponomariov – Svidler
Zhu Chen – Kosteniuk

Only in the first match was the score equal (three draws), while Ponomariov and Zhu Chen each had a lead of 2:1 - and the White pieces. The young Ukrainian star Ponomariov chose a very solid system with c2-c3 to fight Svidler's Sicilian. Petr tried to find some complications, sacrificed a knight for two pawns, but Ruslan reacted very precisely, forced a lot of piece exchanges and Svidler offered a draw himself on the 18th move, because his position was a bit worse.

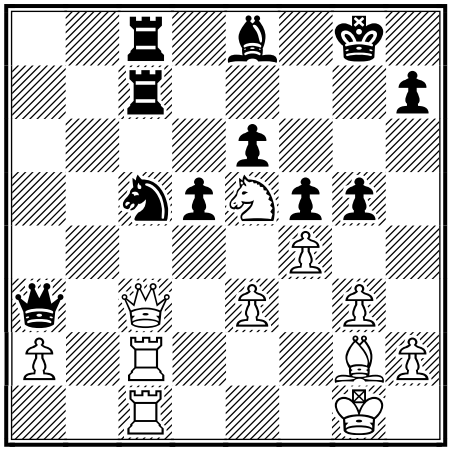
Vasily Ivanchuk played inspired chess and beat the FIDE World Champion with black. It is interesting to note that in the opening he adopted the same manoeuvre (with change of colours) Nf6-d7-b6 which gave success to Alexander Morozevich in his game against. Michael Adams in Dortmund-2001.

And last but not least: **Alexandra Kosteniuk** won with black and equalised the scores! She didn't have any advantage after the opening and maybe her position was even a bit worse but Alexandra maintained the tension very capably (in general she does this very well!) and kept her chances alive. *Look at our Quiz Today; also you can find all these games in the cbv-file, while Anand – Ivanchuk is in our annotated game section.*

So we are waiting for Friday's tie-break **Zhu Chen – Kosteniuk** and January's match **Ponomariov – Ivanchuk.**

Quiz Tday

Zhu Chen (2497) − Kosteniuk (2455)
FIDE WCh Women KO Moscow RUS (6.4), 13.12.2001



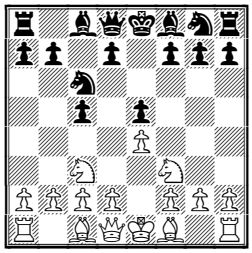
Black to play and win

Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

V Anand (2770) − V Ivanchuk (2731)
FIDE WCh KO Moscow RUS (6.41), 13.12.2001 B30

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5!?



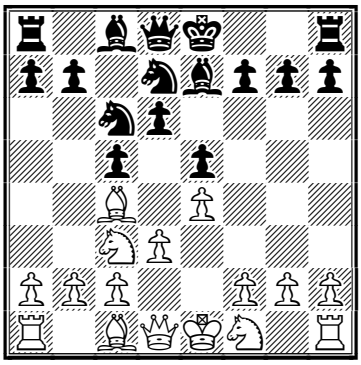
In the 2nd game Ivanchuk played 3...♘f6 Now he chose another system,

where black has very strong control over the important d4−point, but weakens another central point, d5.

4.♗c4 d6 5.d3 ♗e7 6.♘d2

The idea of this 3−move knight maneuver − to take control over the d5 and f5 squares.

6...♘f6 7.♘f1 ♘d7!?

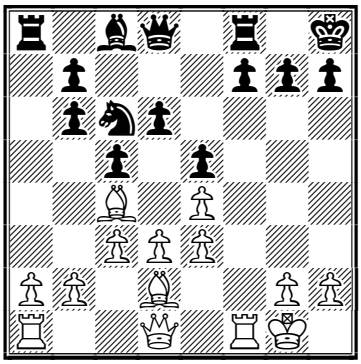


It looks like a new and very interesting idea: black wants to attacl the c4 bishop from b6 and also prepares such useful moves as Be7−g5 and f7−f5. Black has usually played 7...♗g4 for example: 8.f3 ♗e6 9.♘e3 0-0 10.0-0 ♘d7 11.g3 ♘b6 12.f4 ♘xc4 13.dxc4 exf4 14.gxf4 f5 15.exf5 ♗c8 16.♘cd5 ♘d4 Svidler − Lautier, Biel 2001.

8.♘d5 ♘b6 9.♘xb6 axb6 10.c3 0-0 11.♘e3 ♗g5! 12.0-0 ♔h8

Apparently black has solved his opening problems and has equal chances.

13.♗d2 ♗xe3 14.fxe3?!

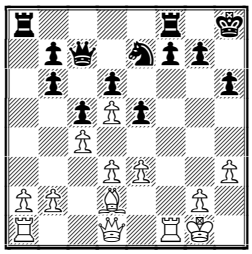


I don't like this move: white is demanding more from the position than it can give, and limiting his bishop.

14...♕e7 15.♗d5 ♗e6 16.♕b3 ♘a5! 17.♕c2

After 17.♕xb6? ♖a6 18.♕b5 ♗d7 white loses a queen.

17...♕c7 18.h3 h6 19.c4 ♘c6 20.♕d1 ♗xd5 21.exd5 ♘e7

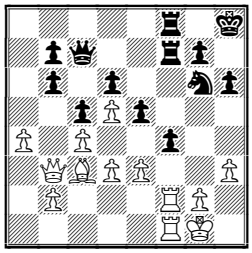


In this position, the e7 knight is at the very least no weaker than the d2 bishop, because black has a very strong pawn chain on the dark squares.

22.a4 f5 23.♗c3?! ♖f7 24.♕b3?

White's 23 and 24th moves were very ambitious but it's hard to get any initiative on the queenside, when black has a half−open a−file. Meanwhile the king on g1 remains almost alone...

24...♘g6! 25.♖f2 ♖af8 26.♖af1 f4!



Black begins an attack.

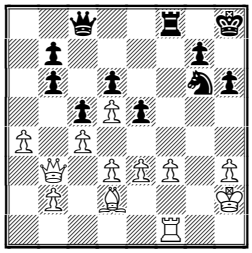
27.♗d2 f3!

Maybe Ivanchuk didn't calculate this pawn sacrifice to the end (really it's very hard to do!) but he understood that black has very strong compensation because his queen can join in the attack faster than it's rival can join the defense.

28.♖xf3 ♖xf3 29.gxf3

After 29.♖xf3 ♖xf3 30.gxf3 ♘h4 31.♔f2 ♕f7 32.♕d1 ♕f5 33.♕h1 ♕xd3 black also has an advantage but maybe that way was more stubborn.

29...♕c8 30.♔h2



30...♖f5!

The so−called "rook lift" − a very unpleasant maneuver here, because the b3 queen is too far from the king.

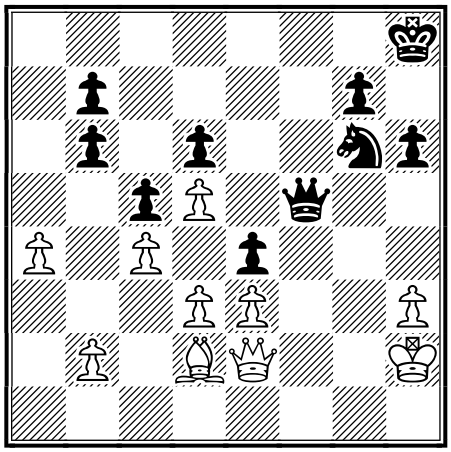
31.f4

Only move.

31...♖h5 32.f5

32.♖f3 ♕g4! 33.♖g3 ♕e2+ 34.♖g2 ♕f3 35.♖g3?! (35.♔g1 ♖xh3-+) 35...♕f2+ 36.♖g2 ♖xh3+! 37.♔xh3 ♕h4#

32...♖xf5 33.♕d1 ♕f8! 34.♖xf5 ♕xf5 35.♕e2 e4!

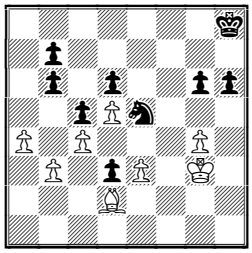


Poor bishop!

36.♕g4

After 36.dxe4 ♕e5+ 37.♔g1 ♕xb2 white's position also isn't a piece of cake but now Anand loses almost by force.

36...♕xg4 37.hxg4 ♘e5! 38.♔g3 exd3 39.b3 g6!



Ivanchuk simply creates a second passed pawn on h5. White is unable to win one pawn because another will cost a bishop.

40.e4 h5 41.gxh5 gxh5 42.♔f2 h4

42...h4 43.♗c3 ♔g8! 44.♗xe5 dxe5 45.d6 ♔f8 and the black king is in the quadrant of the d6−pawn, so Anand resigned. A glorious victory by Vasily Ivanchuk! **0-1**

Answer to Quiz Today:

40...♘b3! 41.♕xb3?

41.♕d3 ♕xc1+ 42.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 43.♗f1 ♘c5 44.♕a3 ♘e4∓ 45.♕e7? ♗b5 46.♕xe6+ ♔h8-+

41...♕xb3 42.axb3 ♖xc2 43.♖xc2 ♖xc2-+ 44.fxg5 ♖e2 45.♘f3 ♖xe3 46.♘d4 ♔f7 47.♗f1 ♗d7 48.♔f2 ♖c3 49.b4 e5 50.♘f3 ♔e6 51.♘h4 e4 52.g6 hxg6 53.♘xg6 d4 54.h4 ♖c2+ 55.♔e1 ♖c1+ 56.♔f2 e3+ 57.♔g1 ♗b5 0-1

Recommended websites:

www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today. Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-1(420), 1st January 2002

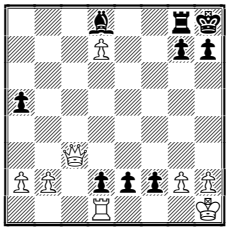
Happy New Year!

Chess Today wishes all its readers Happy New Year! May the next year see you all in good health, with increasing prosperity and chess ratings going through the roof!

Chess Wonders

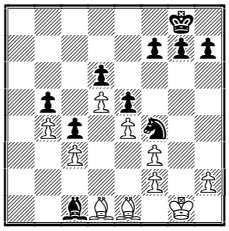
The first day in the year has magic in it, so today we will look at some beautiful, unusual or just weird positions:

A McDonnell – L De Labourdonnais
London, 1834

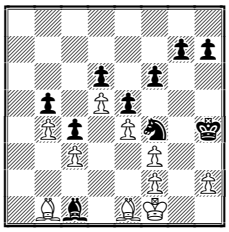


Black has just played 37... e2 and White resigned. The diagrammed position is a beautiful confirmation of Philidor's saying that pawns are the soul of chess!

J Kliavinsh – V Ragozin
USSR Ch semi–final Lvov, 1951

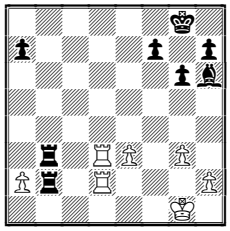


This is an amazing position – White's bishops are completely paralyzed! So much for the '2 bishops advantage'... **29.♗c2 f6 30.♔f1 ♔f7 31.♗d1 ♔g6 32.♗c2 ♔g5 33.♗b1 ♔h4**



Black is in control and calmly advances his king. The finish is near: **34.♗c2 ♔h3 35.♔g1 h6 36.♗b1 h5 37.♗c2 ♘d3 38.♔f1 ♔xh2 39.♔e2 ♔g2 40.♗xd3 cxd3+ 0-1**

Y Porat – G Barcza
Moscow OL Moscow (3), 1956



Black has just played **29.... ♖8xb3** and a very picturesque position has arisen – with four rooks looking at each other! Luckily for Black, he has yet another piece looking at the scene!
30.axb3 ♖xd2
White resigned as 31.♖xd2 ♗xe3+ 32.♖f2 ♔g7 33.♔g2 ♗xf2 34.♔xf2 ♔f6 is clearly hopeless for him.

Finding Your Chess Future

What makes a good chess player? Some say it is talent or hard work … or both. Nonsense – what distinguishes a good chess player from a bad one is the precise knowledge of his chess horoscope! You need to know your good and bad days – when to trade off queens early and when to get involved with the Najdorf Variation. Not many know their chess horoscopes though – this precious knowledge is carefully protected by Tibetan monks, KGB agents and Chess Today editors. But once a year we lift the cover of the future and let our readers look into it! Actually, we can do it on a regular base – provided you are prepared to cough up a modest fee of $999 for an individual assessment. If interested, please send your money as soon as

possible (your chess future won't wait!) to our accounts in Moscow Chase or Credit Russia First Novgorod banks. This is a really small price to pay, as you will soon see!

Before we start, a legal disclaimer is in order. You see, we are so honest that we don't bury it in a small print in the end of the article – instead we say it out openly: all are predictions are 99% accurate (so many people have confirmed that to us last year!), but we refuse to take any responsibility for any of them!

Capricorn - The Goat
December 22 to January 20

Well, you did not expect anything good, did you? The truth is that this year you will learn the all of the following sayings are correct: "doubled pawns are weak", 'knight on the rim is dim", "rook endings are always drawn" and so on. And on all those occasions you will be on the receiving end... Sad, really, but there is hope – move to chess composition and you will avoid bitter defeats, while making beautiful positions for which you will be remembered! If your are still itching to play chess, try correspondence chess, but use the slowest rate of play possible – so the games won't be finished till 2003 – by then you chess luck might change. And do not say we did not warn you!

Aquarius - The Water Carrier
January 21 to February 19

A rocky year is ahead of you: you will find that changing from Alekhine Defence to the Berlin Wall is not as easy as you once imagined. Avoid gambits, particularly if FIDE succeeds in implementing its desired time-control: 1 second per move with a 0.3 second increment – you may not have enough to digest all those snatched pawns! For you, Internet Publishing (particularly chess!) is an ideal business to be in this year – prepare to a great windfall – you may find that by the end of the year Garry will abandon all his plans to challenge Vladimir and will want to play you instead. Accept the match only if:

- The prize fund is not less than $3m
- It is distributed 51-49 between the winner and you
- You use the desired FIDE time control

Pisces - The Fish
February 20 to March 20

Good year all round for you: you will succeed in studying all those books in the wonderful 'Beating the...' and 'Smashing the..." series. In the FIDE knockout of 2002 your middlegame play will be worthy of Rubinstein, your endgame technique will make Capablanca jealous and Garry Kasparov will want you in his team as an opening expert – great success awaits you! No FIDE knockout this year?! Sorry, pal – try to practice in your local club, while waiting then!

Aries - The Ram
March 21-April 19

It is time for a radical change this year – we hope that you followed our advice last January. If so, now you are truly fed up with the Colle, the Torre, the London and all other boring stuff. Good news: this year you can play gambits! A little hint: The Latvian Gambit is good on Sundays (and no other day!) – your opponent might still have a hangover

from the previous night, thus greatly increasing your chances to pass move 20. The Smith-Morra is good for Fridays, when the adrenaline is low in your opponents. On all other days of the week stick to the trusted Queen's Gambit!

Taurus - The Bull
April 20 - May 21

You are the Bull and this is a year of the Dark Horse – you know what this means for you, don't you?! Yet, there is hope – if you choose the right colour. Study the writings of a certain Hungarian Grandmaster to find the correct answer. If you fail, at the end of the year you can write a book 'White is not OK' – the massive honorarium ($482 – typical for chess authors, you know!) will help you to get by.

Gemini - The Twins
May 22 - June 21

Danger is creeping around every corner – in openings, in middle game and, worst of all, in endings... Try to avoid queen endings, unless a queen up. Rook endings will be indeed all drawn, but only if you are 2 (or more) pawns up. You will not be successful with your bishops, so try the following manoeuvres: Bf1-b5xc6 and Bc1-g5xf6. Beware that this may not work well against the Karo-Cann and 1.d4 e6.

Cancer - The Crab
June 22 to July 22

Difficult year for you – you will blunder a lot, particularly when playing in last rounds in USA, when big money is at stake. But there is a solution: exchange pieces as much as your can and as early as possible. Remember: the more you trade off, the less you can blunder! Recommended openings: Exchanged Ruy and Exchange Slav. Bright spots: your endgame technique will be superb, particularly in pawnless and pieceless endings – refer to John Nunn's latest book to improve it further!

Leo - The Lion
July 23 to August 22

This is a good year for you. We hope that you studied your defences against 1.b4 and 1.g4 last year. This year it is time to broaden your repertoire: analyse 1.a3 and 1.h3. These are vastly different openings, so do not examine them during the same week. You may start playing them with White too – at least you are not hanging anything loose! This opening will work particularly well against Geminis (you'd be surprised how often they will play ...Bb4 and ...Bg4) and Cancers. The latter will blunder a lot, so it does not matter what you play.

Virgo - The Virgin
August 23 to September 23

You will get great success in chess over the Internet this year, if you can prepare for the tournaments properly. I hear you say "opening study, endgame work and over-the-phone lessons with Alexander Baburin". Wrong! All nonsense!! The correct preparation involves having two computers at home – one is Pentium-75, which you shall use for connecting to the FIDE server (that is a clean machine – even the arbiters will pity you!) and the other one is for 'consulting'. It should be Pentium-9 with 4096 Mb of RAM and the latest databases. Having a few GM-friends is useful too. Practice on Net chess servers. Don't be afraid of ethical problems – soon most others will have no choice but to cheat while playing on the Net too!

Libra - The Scales
September 24 to October 23

In January introduce The King's Indian Defence to your repertoire, but avoid playing 1...Nf6 to 1.e4 – that is not exactly the KID, as you might find out!

February is good for a bishop pair in the ending, particularly against a lonely knight. May will be a difficult month for you, so play only on the Internet. However, avoid Virgo then – his 'consultant' is too powerful! Try not to get (or take!) isolated pawns, particularly in September. Study rook endings – although with new time controls you will get them in 0.05% of all your games, they will still represent 50% of all your endings!

Scorpio - The Scorpion
October 24 to November 22

Be brave: play the Sicilian, Gruenfeld, KID and the lot – no boring stuff, no endings, nothing but attack! You may lose a lot, but you can always boost your rating using our old formula – a holiday break in Burma or a training (but rated!) tournament in Macedonia. If you can afford it, play a few matches in Romania, if you can find the right opponent. Visiting Tula (Russia) might help too – the city is famous not only for its samovars and handguns, but also for generous rating hand-outs!

Sagittarius - The Archer
November 23 to December 21

This year your best area is certainly South Africa – you will certainly qualify from there to all world championships! Try to relocate, if you don't live there already. But beware that your Petroff Defence will show serious cracks in June and switching to the French will not help much either – it will be virtually refuted by then. Try Caro-Kann instead. Don't forget to exchange your prize winnings (peso) into dollars on the same day as the tournaments end, before it loses most of its value!

To all our readers: please do not forget that staying with Chess Today is the best way to make sure that your chess future is bright!

And do not be selfish – introduce all your chess friends to the paper – bring it to your club or to tournaments where you play. Or simple e-mail it to your friends once in a while, encouraging them to join us!

Please note that we have changed numeration of CT issues - today with start with issues No. 1, while in brackets we will give the actual number of each issue beginning from the very first one.

However CT files (PDF, PGN and CBV) will have continuous numbering – for obvious (computer related) reasons.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today. Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
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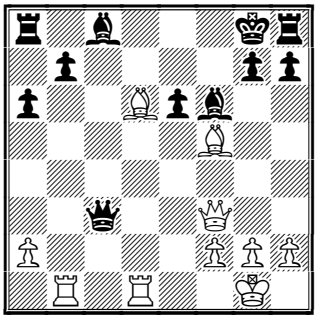
CT-19(438), 19th January 2002

Tactical Quiz

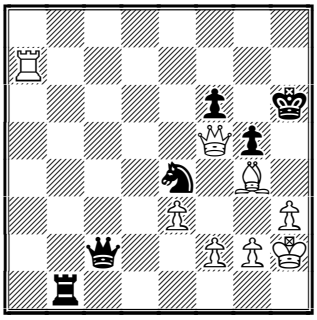
Today you can try to solve it in the 'Training' mode in Chess Base too. Some of our readers suggested using that function more often and I agree with that. This means a bit more work for us (journalists), but more fun for you - enjoy!

Tian Tian (2355) – I. Blasko (2310)
Budapest 2001



White to play

Ormos-Betazky, Budapest 1951



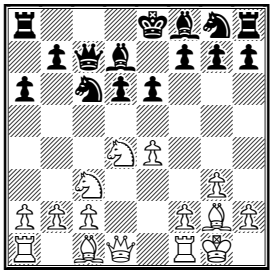
Black to play, is it time to resign?

Chess News

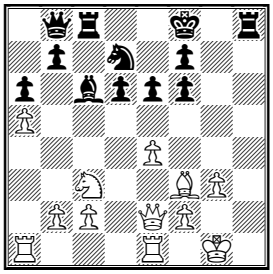
In the **Corus tournament** the players had a day-off yesterday. As you may remember, Adams, Grischuk and Bareev are leading with 3½ points out of 5, while Morozevich, Khalifman and Timman are chasing them on 3 points. Today round 6 will be played and I would single out 2 games: Leko-Grischuk and Timman-Bareev. They are very interesting, though I believe that both will end peacefully.

In the **Ponomariov – Ivanchuk match** yesterday Ponomariov was White in game 3. Ivanchuk changed the opening, going for the Sicilian Defence (he played the French Defence in game 1). Well, Vasily knows everything in chess, which makes him very difficult to prepare for. Ruslan went for a very solid set-up with g2-g3 and Bg2. I think this was a good idea, as the match is pretty short and being the leader Ponomariov does not need to play risky stuff. Also, Ivanchuk could have pushed too hard against the extra-solid line and lost again. Here is the game with a few diagrams:

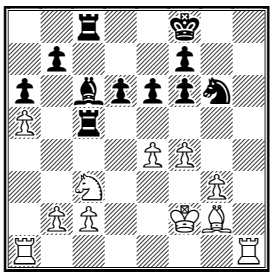
Ponomariov (2727) − Ivanchuk (2717) [B47]
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.g3 a6 7.♗g2 d6 8.0-0 ♗d7 (D)



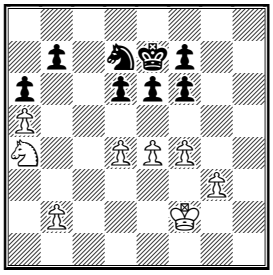
9.♘xc6 ♗xc6 10.♖e1 ♗e7 11.♕g4 h5 12.♕e2 h4 13.a4 hxg3 14.hxg3 ♖c8 15.a5 ♔f8 16.♗e3 ♘f6 17.♗b6 ♕b8 18.♗f3 ♘d7 19.♗d4 ♗f6 20.♗xf6 gxf6 (D)



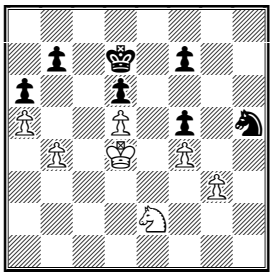
21.♗g2 ♘e5 22.f4 ♕a7+ 23.♔f1 ♘g6 24.♕f2 ♕xf2+ 25.♔xf2 ♖h5 26.♖h1 ♖c5 (D)



27.♖h7 ♔e7 28.♗f1 ♘f8 29.♖h8 ♗b5 30.♗d3 ♗xd3 31.cxd3 ♘d7 32.♖xc8 ♖xc8 33.d4 ♖c4 34.♖a4 ♖xa4 35.♘xa4 (D)



35...f5 36.exf5 exf5 37.♘c3 ♘f6 38.d5 ♘d7 39.b4 ♘f6 40.♔e3 ♔d7 41.♔d4 ♘h5 42.♘e2 (D)



42...♘f6 43.♔c4 ♘e4 44.b5 axb5+ 45.♔xb5 ♔c7 46.♔c4 ♔b8 47.♔b4 ½-½

Chat with Grandmaster Baburin

Well, that's me... If you are interested to discuss Chess Today or chess in general (how to improve, what GMs eat for breakfast, latest chess gossip), come to the chat - you are most welcome! The chat will take place ***next Saturday, 26 January,*** at 16-00 London time. That will be 19-00 in Moscow, 17-00 in Berlin, 11-00 in New York and 8-00 in Los Angeles.

Last time we used Yahoo for a little chat, but that requires people to have their Yahoo IDs, which might prevent many CT readers from joining us. Fortunately, there is a better place – ***InterChess server***. It is a small and friendly online club, where we can talk. You do not need to pay in order to join the club for the day. The whole thing (with good Net connection) should take only about 5 minutes. Please read these instructions carefully:

1. Please go to http://www.interchess.com/Registration.asp
2. Register a nickname (please use only letters and numbers).
3. Download software from http://www.interchess.com/Download.asp
4. When the download is completed, double-click on the downloaded file to install InterChesss Game application.
5. Run that program.
6. When the dialogue box appears, insert your nickname, password and choose 'Lectures' room. I will be there – my nickname is 'Big Bear'.
7. You will enter as a spectator and can take part in the chat. The board may or may not used – the key point is ***chat***. Please use English language.

One advantage of that location is that the chat session could be saved (not possible with Yahoo!), so we might show it in CT later. If you have special suggestions, etc., please e-mail me in advance! I would also suggest downloading the program in advance. I reckon that the chat will be for about an hour – talk to you on Saturday!

Web Watch

Garry Kasparov wrote about his views on the current situation in the chess world at Kasparov Chess site. Quite an interesting read.

Recent US championship drew a lot of attention and if you would like to learn more about its participants, North-West Chess website could be a good place to start – it has many good photo, as well as a link to an interesting interview with GM Yasser Seirawan.

Book Review
by Sam Collins

As I'm writing this on the opening day of the Ponomariov-Ivanchuk world championship match, I feel that **Excelling at Chess** (Everyman Chess, 190 pages, £16.99) by Danish IM Jacob Aagaard will be of interest to even more chess players than usual. As we watch the Ukrainian giants battle for one of the highest honours in chess, it is natural to ask ourselves how we can best improve our own games, and Aagaard makes a very interesting attempt to answer this question.

Those of you familiar with Aagaard's previous work will have noticed that it centered around the opening (*The Dutch Stonewall*, *Sicilian Kalshnikov* and *Easy Guide to the Panov-Botvinnik Attack*, to name but a few). **Excelling at Chess** is Aagaard's first attempt to provide a general guide to chess improvement, and an excellent guide it is too.

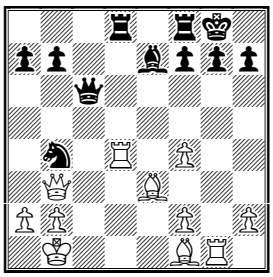
The book is the medium through which Aagaard discusses his theory of chess improvement. In his opening chapters, 'Think Like a Human - and Excel at Chess' and 'Real Chess Players', he suggests, amongst other things, that calculation is overrated in modern chess. Aagaard believes that the so-called 'Real Chess Players' ('someone who knows where the pieces belong'; according to Kasparov, there are only a handful of such players), such as Kasparov, Kramnik and Anand, are superior not by virtue of their calculating ability but rather because of their positional understanding. In his analysis of Kasparov's games, for instance, Aagaard points out that it is the Grandmaster's iron logic which gives him the edge, since Kasparov knows what he should be trying to do, and finds the tactics to do it. There are some points at which I find his theory dubious - it is clear that Kasparov and Kramnik calculate more than almost anyone else, and perhaps it is their phenomenal visualisation powers and tactical instincts which enable them to do so with precision, rather than a simple superiority of logic - but it is a refreshing new perspective into modern chess.

Aagaard's next chapter, 'No Rules?', is probably the most interesting in the book. Here is the first rebellion I have seen against the universally embraced theory of 'Rule-Independence', as developed by fantastic books such as Suba's *Dynamic Chess Strategy* and Watson's *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy*. Aagaard strongly argues that chess is based on rules ("knights on the rim are dim", "bishops beat knights in open positions", "rooks behind passed pawns" and so on), and it is the logical analysis of the interaction of these rules that will enable players to get to the heart of chess positions. Aagaard criticises Watson's views, and annotates several games (used by Watson as examples of the inapplicability of general rules) by showing the logical basis for a player's decisions. While he slightly misses Watson's point, he still presents interesting arguments. He discusses elements (real features of positions - weaknesses, passed pawns, open files, etc.) and concepts (ideas we would like to play - improving our knight, setting up a blockade, exchanging off minor pieces to get a good knight vs. bad bishop endgame and so forth), global and local rules (how individual positional factors affect the validity of general rules), and the technique of comparing pieces. This is all rather difficult to describe, so I'll let Mr. Aagaard say a few words:

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5 4 c4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♘f3 ♗g4 7 cxd5 ♘xd5 8

♕b3 ♗xf3 9 gxf3 ♘b6 10 ♗e3 e6 11 0-0-0 ♗e7 12 d5 exd5 13 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 14 ♖xd5 ♕c7 15 ♔b1 0-0 16 f4 ♘b4 17 ♖d4 ♕c6? 18 ♖g1 ♖ad8 (D)

Acs-Ruck, Hungary 1996



White to play

"Let us start with comparing the pieces. The kings seem to be more or less equal. White has some pressure on the g-file and Black has potential pressure on the e4-b1 diagonal. Actually, Black threatens ...Rxd4 followed by ...Qe4+. This is what made Brynell (*who had this position in an earlier game - Collins*) play the awful 19 Rc4? and end up in a poor position that he won in thirty moves. It is hard to see a difference between the kings, but there is one when we come to the queens. White's queen is posted on practically the best square, monitoring the key squares d5, b7 and f7 and assisting the attack on Black's knight. The black queen is also well placed, but not permanently since it can easily be challenged by Bg2 at any moment. In fact it is not easy to see where the queen should find a long-term resting place, so this is a positional problem for Black. The rooks on d4 and d8 appear to be of equal strength; I like the pressure White's exerts on b4, but I also like the potential pressure on the d-file. As for the other rooks, White's is aggressively posted on the g-file and is clearly superior to Black's, which does nothing on f8 and is yet to find a decent role. The dark-squared bishops are evenly matched, and it is a case of which will occupy the long diagonal first (at the moment it looks like Black, but nothing is decided yet). I prefer White's light-squared bishop to the knight (despite the fact that it is not well placed at the moment) in view of the respective long-term prospects of the pieces. Both b7 and f7 are major weaknesses and Black cannot find a safe spot for the knight in this open centre. Actually this is a powerful example of a bishop being superior to a knight in an open position. The bishop can move freely and the knight has nowhere to go.

"Had Brynell carried out this brief exercise (he was busy worrying about Black's threat) he would have been more optimistic, although I know that Brynell would have been careful nonetheless. It is my conclusion that White stands better and should play aggressively. The best way to put pressure on the opponent before you strike is to improve your worst placed piece, and we already know that this is the light squared bishop. So we ask ourselves: at Christmas where would we want our light squared bishop? The answers are e4 or d5, central squares from where the bishop can concentrate on different weaknesses in the enemy camp. But how do we engineer this? Brynell wanted to play 19 Bg2 but noticed the seemingly deadly check 19...Qg6+, after which 20 Be4 loses to 20...Qxg1+. Note that 19 Bd3 allows an exchange of a great bishop for what we have already discovered is Black's worst piece. Thus Black's threat and 19 Bg2 Qg6+ prompted Brynell to opt for 19 Rc4?, but this is the wrong attitude. We can see that 19 Bg2 is the correct move from our logical assumptions, so we should try harder to make it work - as do the best players. So, I quickly came up with...

19 ♗g2!! ♕g6+ 20 f5!

"This is not so difficult to find but, alas, was overlooked by Brynell. In fact this is Brynell's great weakness. He is a very careful player who dislikes sacrificing material without immediate gain and is not too fond of lengthy calculations. Consequently a tactic such as the text might be lost on him. I guess that is why he will not become world champion.

20...♕xf5+ 21 ♗e4

"One of the ideal squares for the

bishop."

Aagard draws extensively on his knowledge of psychology throughout the book, particularly in the chapter 'Attitude at the Board and Other Tips', where he touches on aspects of physical and mental conditioning which, he believes, are essential for success. I enjoyed his honesty here... he is clearly writing from the perspective of a player who tried and failed to gain the Grandmaster title, and he is candid in his explanations of his own mistakes. While such an ambitious project from a player rated FIDE 2356 may normally be met with some scepticism (we would generally be much more receptive to a top player's account of how top players think), this unique perspective gives the book much of its charm. Aagaard's views, while controversial, are always interesting. His chapter 'Why Study the Endgame', for instance, really made me think about endgames differently by showing the (sometimes appalling) mistakes of top players in the most basic positions. His proposed method of studying openings is also thought provoking.

Indeed, this is the best adjective I can find to describe this book: thought provoking. It is packed with interesting and original material, and many of Aagaard's suggestions seem to make excellent sense. It is sometimes difficult to follow Aagaard's train of thought (several spelling and typographical errors don't help), but if the reader perseveres he can make sense of all of the concepts presented here. All in all, a gem of a book, and one I highly recommend.

*My Assessment (with 5 stars being the highest mark): * * * * **

Solutions to our tactical quiz.
1) Tian Tian – I. Blasko, 2001: 24.♕xb7! exf5 25.♕xa8 ♔f7 26.♖bc1 1-0 Also good was 24.♕e2 h6 25.♖bc1.
2) Ormos-Betazky, Budapest 1951. It would be wrong to resign – Black drew after 1...♖h1+! 2.♔xh1 ♘g3+! 3.fxg3 ♕xg2+ 4.♔xg2 ½-½

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276.
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-20(439), 20th January 2002

Half Way in Moscow

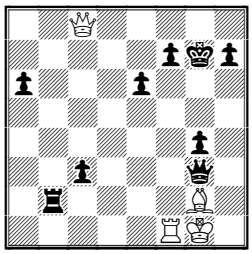
In the fifth game of the FIDE World Chess Championships Final in Moscow Ruslan Ponomariov, playing black, choose the Queen's Gambit Accepted as he had done in the second game. But this time black castled on the queenside while white's king was on the another flank. White had more space in the centre and on the left, black attacked with a pawn on the right flank. On the 28th move black gained the upper hand after a tricky knight jump, but Ruslan missed this opportunity. After some exchanges Vasily Ivanchuk won a pawn and had good winning chances, but also missed them. To my mind he had to play g3-g4 somewhere. At the after game's press-conference Vasily said that his brain was not in gear in the final stage of this game. You can find GM Sergey Shipov's analysis of this game at kasparov.com.

Sunday is a rest day at the WCC final. Both players were asked how they planned to spend this day. Vasily said he would like to go to the Bolshoi theatre; Ruslan will celebrate his second Gennady Kuzmin's 56-birthday.

So after the first half of the match **Ruslan Ponomariov** is leading **2½:1½**. *As usual, we include this game (and Corus games also) in our cbv-file.*

Evgenij Bareev became sole leader at the Corus super tournament in Wijk aan Zee - chess.lostcity.nl/Corus2002 - after beating Jan Timman with black in the 6th Round. **Alexander Morozevich** beat Rustam Kasymzhanov with white and shares second place with **Michael Adams.**

Quiz Today: Piket (2659) – Khalifman (2688) Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 9.01.2002



White to play and salvage a draw

Round 6 results:
Morozevich – Kasimdzhanov **1:0** Adams – Lautier **½:½** Piket – Khalifman **½:½** Van Wely – Dreev **½:½** Gurevich – Gelfand **½:½** Leko – Grischuk **1:0** Timman – Bareev **0:1**

Round 6 Standings: **1. Bareev** – 4½ points out of 6 **2-3.** Adams, Morozevich – 4 **4-6.** Grischuk, Khalifman, Leko – 3½ **7-9.** Dreev, Gelfand, Timman – 3 **10-12.** Gurevich, Lautier, Piket – 2½ **13.** Kasimdzhanov – 1½ **14.** Van Wely – 1

Round 7 pairing:
Bareev – Morozevich
Grischuk – Timman
Gelfand – Leko
Dreev – Gurevich
Khalifman – Van Wely
Lautier – Piket
Kasimdzhanov – Adams

Tournament B, round 4 results: Jonkman – Stefanova **½:½** Sokolov – Peng **1:0** Krasenkov – Yu **½:½** Cuijpers – Skrypchenko **1:0** Nijboer – Werle **1:0** Tregubov – Van der Wiel **1:0**

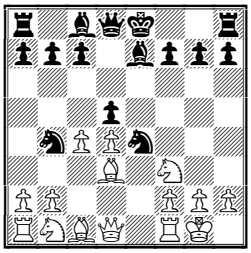
Round 4 Standings: **1. Sokolov** – 3½ points out of 4 **2-3.** Krasenkov, Nijboer – 3 **4-6.** Jonkman, Stefanova, Tregubov – 2½ **7-9.** Cuijpers, Van der Wiel, Yu – 1½ **10-11.** Peng, Werle – 1 **12.** Skrypchenko – ½

Round 5 pairing:
Van der Wiel – Jonkman
Werle – Tregubov
Skrypchenko – Nijboer
Yu – Cuijpers
Peng – Krasenkov
Stefanova – Sokolov

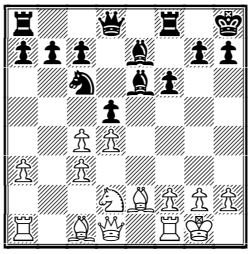
Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
P Leko (2713) − A Grischuk (2671)
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (6),
19.01.2002 C42

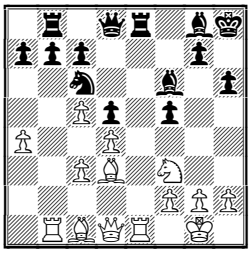
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♗d3 ♘c6 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.c4 ♘b4



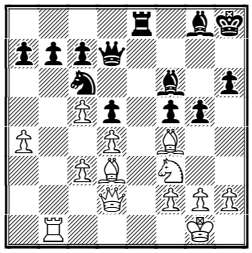
A popular line of the Petroff Defense.
9.♗e2 ♗e6 10.♘c3 0-0 11.♘e5
White provokes the following move, after which the e6−point will be weak.
11...f6 12.♘f3 ♔h8 13.a3 ♘xc3
13...♘c6!?
14.bxc3 ♘c6 15.♘d2



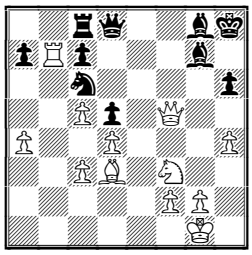
After the opening, white has a strong pawn centre so his position is a bit better − a feature in this variation.
15...f5 16.♖e1 ♗f6 17.a4 ♗g8 18.c5!? ♖e8 19.♘f3 h6 20.♖b1 ♖b8 21.♗d3!



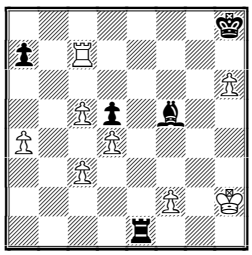
White finds weaknesses in the black camp. Grischuk has to defend his b7 and f5 pawns.
21...♖xe1+ 22.♕xe1 ♕d7 23.♗f4 ♖e8?!
Black finds active counter−play, but maybe better was something like 23...♗h7!?
24.♕d2 g5?



But it's a mistake − in view of the following clever sac.
25.♖xb7!
White gets 3 pawns for a piece but the main point is that all his pieces become very active.
25...♖c8 26.h4! gxf4 27.♕xf4 ♗g7 28.♕xf5!
White's position is so strong that Leko even invites his opponent into an endgame.
28...♕d8

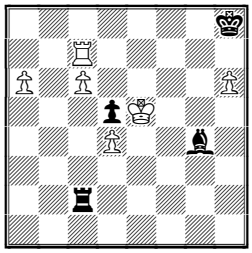


29.♘g5!
Very energetic and very nice! White's threat is Nf7+ and Qh7x, so black has to accept the second sac.
29...hxg5 30.hxg5 ♕f8 31.♕h3+ ♗h6 32.♗f5 ♖e8 33.♖xc7 ♖e1+ 34.♔h2 ♘e7 35.g4 ♗e6 36.♕xh6+ ♕xh6+ 37.gxh6 ♘xf5 38.gxf5 ♗xf5



White has too many strong passed pawns so an endgame has to be winning

for him.
39.♖f7 ♗g6 40.♖xa7 ♖c1 41.♔g3 It's important: don't forget to activate your king! **41...♖xc3+ 42.♔f4 ♗h5 43.♔e5 ♖f3 44.c6 ♗g4 45.a5 ♖xf2 46.a6 ♖c2 47.♖c7**



Black resigned. A brilliant victory for Peter Leko. **1-0**

Recommended websites:
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru

North-West Chess Website - Note

Apologies that I forgot to give the website address of the **North-West Chess website** www.nwchess.com - The site includes a lot of information about the recent **US Championship**, lots of good photos, as well as a link to an interesting interview with GM Yasser Seirawan. - (GKB)

Solution to Quiz Today:

White's position looks very sad, bui Jeroen Piket found a perpetual check: **44.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 45.♕d7+ ♔f8 46.♕d8+ ♔f7 47.♕d7+ ♔f6 48.♕d8+ ♔f5**
48...♔e5?? 49.♕c7+
49.♕f8+ ♔e5 50.♕c5+!
Now the king hasn't any way to the queen side.
50...♔f4 51.♕c7+ e5 52.♕c4+ ♔g5 53.♕g8+ ♔f6 54.♕f8+ ♔e6 55.♕e8+ ♔d6 56.♕c6+! ♔e7 57.♕c7+ ♔f6 58.♕d8+ ♔f5 59.♕c8+ ♔g6 ½-½

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill,
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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-21(440), 21st January 2002

Bareev leads Corus

Sunday was a rest day at the FIDE World Chess Championships Final in Moscow, we turn our attention to the Corus super tournament in Wijk aan Zee.

To my mind the most interesting match was the leader Bareev's game against Morozevich. Alexander chose his favourite line in the Slav Defence, which he played against both Kasparov and Kramnik. Evgenij, who was Kramnik's second at London-2000 match, tried to improve Vladimir's play (according to the game Kramnik – Morozevich, Astana 2001). White won a pawn, but black received strong compensation because both his rooks and a knight were very active. It looks like it was Morozevich who played for a win in the mutual time-trouble, but Bareev defended very precisely. IM Maxim Notkin has annotated this game on Kasparovchess but only in Russian as yet.

Also on this site you can find Kasparov's expressions about Wijk aan Zee and the Ponomarev – Ivanchuk match (in Russian too). I believe English-language readers will read with interest another of Kasparov's article, "Topics that must be discussed" about the present situation in the chess world.

But let's come back to Wijk. **Grischuk** rather easily beat Timman, **Khalifman** did the same to Van Wely, all other games were drawn. But there were no so called "grandmaster's draws": Gelfand and Leko played to lone kings, Kasimdzhanov missed his chances against Adams *(see our annotated game section)…*

Round 7 results: Bareev – Morozevich **½:½** Grischuk – Timman **1:0** Gelfand – Leko **½:½** Dreev – Gurevich **½:½** Khalifman – Van Wely **1:0** Lautier – Piket **½:½** Kasimdzhanov – Adams **½:½**

Round 7 Standings: **1. Bareev** – 5 points out of 7 **2-5.** Adams, Grischuk, Khalifman, Morozevich – 4½ **6.** Leko – 4 **7-8.** Dreev, Gelfand – 3½ **9-12.** Gurevich, Lautier, Piket, Timman – 3 **13.** Kasimdzhanov – 2 **14.** Van Wely – 1

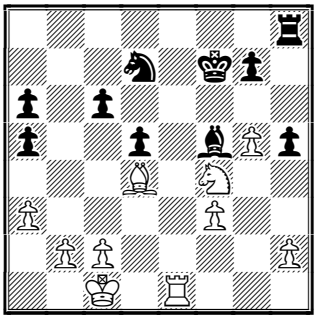
Round 8 pairing: Morozevich – Adams Piket – Kasimdzhanov Van Wely – Lautier Gurevich – Khalifman Leko – Dreev Timman – Gelfand Bareev – Grischuk

♦ *Tournament B, round 5 results:* Van der Wiel – Jonkman **1:0** Werle – Tregubov **0:1** Skrypchenko – Nijboer **0:1** Yu – Cuijpers **1:0** Peng – Krasenkov **0:1** Stefanova – Sokolov **½:½**

Round 5 Standings: **1-3. Sokolov, Krasenkov, Nijboer** – 4 points out of 5 **4.** Tregubov – 3½ **5.** Stefanova – 3 **6-8.** Jonkman, Van der Wiel, Yu – 2½ **9.** Cuijpers – 1½ **10-11.** Peng, Werle – 1 **12.** Skrypchenko – ½

Round 6 pairing: Jonkman – Sokolov Krasenkov – Stefanova Cuijpers – Peng Nijboer – Yu Tregubov – Skrypchenko Van der Wiel – Werle

♦ **Quiz Today: Grischuk (2671) - Timman (2605)**
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 20.01.2002



White to play

♦ The Indian Championships are in progress in Nagpur. There are 5 GMs (Sasikiran, Harikrishna, Barua, Kunte, Thipsay) and 9 IMs among 20 participants of the VIII Category round-robin event. After the 4th round **Sasikiran, Harikrishna, Barua, Ganguly** share first place with 3½ points.

♦ GMs **Alexander Graf, Branko Damljanovic** and **Igor Efimov** share first place with 4 points after the 5th round of the traditional, 18th open tournament in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. K. Georgiev, Onischuk, Palac, Kolev, V. Georgiev, Kurajica, Rogozenko, Dizdarevic and Mitkov have 3½ points etc.

♦ **Arkadij Naiditsch** won the 6th Bad Zwesten, Germany, open (4th-10th January, Swiss system, 9 rounds). Final Standings: **1.** Naiditsch – 7½ points out of 9 **2-7.** Bischoff, Bauer, Epishin, Luther, Farago, Karpatchev – 7 **8-12.** Shirazi, M. Ivanov, Boudre, Doeres, Biedekoepper – 6½ etc.

♦ **Roberto Cifuentes Parada, Vladimir Epishin** and **Mihai Suba** shared first at the XXVII Abierto International Ciudad de Sevillia, Spain (11th-19th January, 9 rounds, Swiss system). Final Standings:
1-3. Cifuentes Parada, Epishin, Suba – 7 ½ points out of 9 **4-11.** Matamoros Franco, Lalic, Komljenovic, Korneev, Spraggett, Cabrera, Candela Perez, Mellado Trivico – 7 **12-18.** Hamdouchi, Paragua, Rustemov, Fernandez Romero, Campora Sivori, Frois, Estremera Pacos – 6½ etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners!

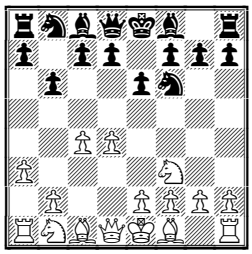
♦ Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

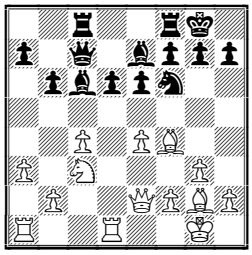
R Kasimdzhanov (2695) – M Adams (2742)

Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 20.01.2002 E12

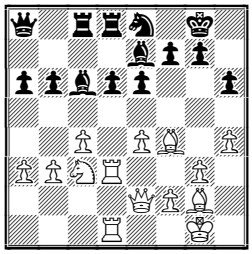
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3



The Petrosian system of the Queen's Indian Defense.
4...♗a6 5.♕c2 ♗b7 6.♘c3 c5 7.e4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♘c6 9.♘xc6 ♗xc6 10.♕e2
White prepares the f1 bishop's fianchetto. Worse was 10.g3?! ♘xe4!? 11.♘xe4 f5 12.♗g2 fxe4 13.♗xe4 ♗xe4 14.♕xe4 ♗e7
10...d6 11.g3 ♗e7 12.♗g2 0-0 13.0-0 ♖c8 14.♖d1 ♕c7 15.♗f4



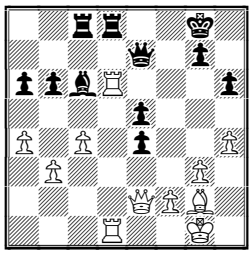
So, black has chosen a hedgehog variation. White has more space, black has a very flexible position. Rustam Kasimzhanov has begun to put pressure on the potentially weak d6 pawn and tries to provoke the e6−e5 move.
15...♕b8 16.♖d2 ♖fd8 17.♖ad1 h6 18.h4 ♘e8 19.♖d3 a6 20.b3 ♕a8?



An imprecise move which white immediately exploits.
21.♘d5! ♕a7
21...exd5? 22.exd5 and white takes back one or another bishop.; 21...♗f8? 22.♘xb6
22.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 23.a4 e5!?
Of course, e8 isn't the best place for a

knight. Michael Adams finds some active counter−play.

24.♗d2 ♕b7 25.♗b4 f5!? 26.♗xd6 fxe4 27.♖3d2 ♘xd6 28.♖xd6 ♕e7

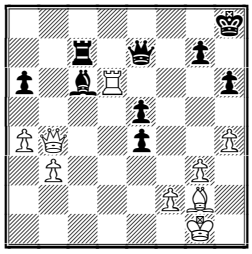


29.c5!

Fritz's advice is 29.♕g4!? ♖xd6 30.♕xc8+ ♔h7 31.♖e1 but in this line black's pieces are more active than his opponent's.

29...bxc5 30.♕c4+ ♔h8 31.♕xc5 ♖xd6 32.♖xd6 ♖c7 White's threat was Rxh6+.

33.♕b4



33...e3!?

An active defence: Adams sacrifices a pawn in order to weaken his opponent's king.

34.fxe3 ♗xg2 35.♔xg2 a5 36.♕d2 ♖c8 37.♕d5?!

I don't like this move: in this sharp position the queen has to protect its king against. checks along the second rank. Better was 37.e4!? or 37.♖d5 which attacks black's pawns with the rook and attempts to exchange rooks or queens.

37...♕f8!

Black occupies another open file with his queen.

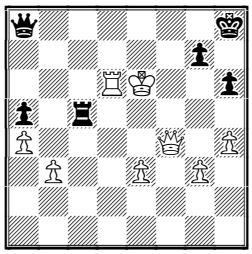
38.♕xe5?!

Now the king has to go into the center, where black will attack it and force a draw. Though after 38.♕d2 e4 39.♕d1 black maybe has enough counterplay for a draw also.

38...♖c2+ 39.♔h3 ♕f1+ 40.♔g4 ♕e2+ 41.♔f5 ♕f3+ 42.♕f4

Maybe better was 42.♔g6 but it's hard to calculate this position even with a computer, for example: 42...♕g4+ 43.♔f7 ♖c7+ (43...♕f3+ 44.♕f4 ♕a8? 45.♖xh6+ gxh6 46.♕xh6#) 44.♔e8 ♕c8+ (44...♖c8+ 45.♖d8 ♕g6+ 46.♔d7+ ♖xd8+ 47.♔xd8 ♕b6+) 45.♖d8 ♕b7 46.♕e6

42...♖c5+ 43.♔e6 ♕a8



From now on Fritz evaluates this position as equal. We all know how computers like extra pawns, so when one side has two extra pawns but the computer gives an equal evaluation maybe it's correct.

44.♔e7 ♖c7+ 45.♖d7 ♖c8 46.♖c7 ♖e8+ 47.♔d6 ♖d8+ 48.♔e7 ♖e8+ 49.♔d6 ♖d8+ 50.♔e7 ♖e8+ ½-½

A lucky escape for Michael Adams!

♦ Daytrip to the 4NCL

*CT Technical Editor **Graham Brown** meets **GM Alex Baburin** and watches an amazing Korchnoi endgame.*

Today I took a train to Birmingham (the 2nd biggest City in England) to watch the 4NCL www.4ncl.co.uk. There were many top GMs playing, one of them being *Chess Today* Editor in Chief GM Baburin! In this Futuristic World that we live in now I have only ever met him on the Internet!

GMs Mestel and Speelman in the 4NCL analysis room

When I arrived, Alex (playing for Wood Green) was deep in thought against GM

Dr John Nunn (playing for Beeson Gregory). I decided against tapping Alex on the shoulder! When the complex battle ended in a truce they went away to analyse the game so again I waited my time. I would have nothing to add to the Anglo-Russian analysis team of Nunn-Baburin. When the analysis was finished I introduced myself.

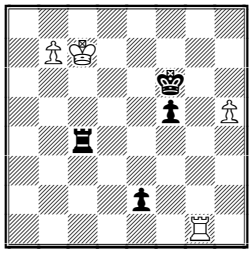
I soon found myself (1900 elo on a good day) sitting opposite GMs Baburin & Short in the local pizza restaurant. Eventually the conversation turned to chess but I wasn't worried. It was entertaining to listen to them analyse without a chessboard at 100mph.

Wood Green lost a close match today and won on Saturday. Alex scored 1½ out of 2. and will hopefully let you know about an interesting top board clash between Korchnoi and Bologan soon. I myself was quite bemused by it, but there were several GMs in the corridor who also missed the draw that Korchnoi demonstrated after winning the game.

This is a fragment of the game that I can remember. It's quite near to the end of the game but I couldn't catch all the moves. More in CT soon about this game!

GM Korchnoi – GM Bologan

Fragment seen through a large crowd!
Whole Game coming soon



1.♔d6 ♖b4 2.♔c6 ♖b3

There really is nothing to compare with seeing the practical chess struggle in action. Is chess an art? a science? a game? After watching the 4NCL for a day … I say it's a Sport!

Recommended websites:
http://www.clubkasparov.ru/site/news/2002/wijk/live7.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.4ncl.co.uk

Solution to Quiz Today:
26.g6+! ♗xg6
After 26...♔f8 27.♘e6+ ♗xe6 28.♖xe6 c5 29.♗e3 black has to play without a rook h8.
27.♖e7+! ♔xe7 28.♘xg6+ ♔e6 29.♘xh8+− g5 30.♘g6 c5 31.♗g7 ♔f5 32.♘e7+ ♔e6 33.♘c6 d4 34.♔d2 a4 35.c3 ♔d5 36.♘d8 1-0

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-22(441), 22nd January 2002

Ponomarev wins in Time Trouble

A terrible day for Vassily Ivanchuk! After a rest day, in the 5th game of the FIDE World Chess Championships Final in Moscow he totally overplayed Ruslan Ponomarev with black, but in mutual time-trouble missed white's annoying counter-play, became nervous and then lost … Is it all over now? (Ponomariov is leading **3½:1½** now and has to take only one more point in the 3 games that are left to became new World Champion)? GM Sergei Shipov, who annotated this game on Kasparovchess (on Russian), thinks that the outcome of this match is clear. Ivanchuk missed his chances in the 2nd, 4th and 5th games; maybe in the following games fortune will shine on him? *Also see our annotated game section.*

Monday was a rather peaceful day at Corus: there were six draws and only Jan Timman won … with white against Boris Gelfand. So **Evgenij Bareev** keeps the lead, 4 players are in chase.

Round 8 results: Morozevich – Adams **½:½** Piket – Kasimdzhanov **½:½** Van Wely – Lautier **½:½** Gurevich – Khalifman **½:½** Leko – Dreev **½:½** Timman – Gelfand **1:0** Bareev – Grischuk **½:½**

Round 8 Standings: **1. Bareev** – 5½ points out of 8 **2-5.** Adams, Grischuk, Khalifman, Morozevich – 5 **6.** Leko – 4½ **7-8.** Dreev, Timman – 4 **9-12.** Gelfand, Gurevich, Lautier, Piket – 3½ **13.** Kasimdzhanov – 2½ **14.** Van Wely – 1½

Round 9 pairing: Grischuk – Morozevich Gelfand – Bareev Dreev – Timman Khalifman – Leko Lautier – Gurevich Kasimdzhanov – Van Wely Adams – Piket

Tournament B, round 6 results: Jonkman – Sokolov **½:½** Krasenkov – Stefanova **1:0** Cuijpers – Peng **½:½** Nijboer – Yu **1:0** Tregubov – Skrypchenko **½:½** Van der Wiel – Werle **½:½**

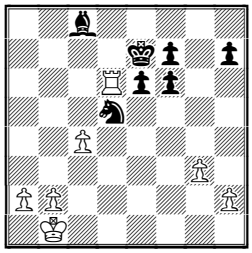
Round 6 Standings: **1-2. Krasenkov, Nijboer** – 5 points out of 6 **3.** Sokolov – 4½ **4.** Tregubov – 4 **5-7.** Jonkman, Stefanova, Van der Wiel – 3 **8.** Yu – 2½ **9.** Cuijpers – 2 **10-11.** Peng, Werle – 1½ **12.** Skrypchenko – 1

Round 7 pairing: Werle – Jonkman Skrypchenko – Van der Wiel Yu – Tregubov Peng – Nijboer Stefanova – Cuijpers Sokolov – Krasenkov

♦ GMs **Barua** and **Harikrishna** are leading with 4½ points after the 5th Round of the Indian Championships. Sasikiran and Ganguly have 4 points each.

♦ 18th Skopje (Macedonia) open, standings after the 6th round: **1-2. Graf, Damljanovic** – 5 points out of 6 **3.** K. Georgiev – 4½ **4-11.** Palac, Kolev, V.

♦ **Quiz Today: Timman (2605) – Gelfand (2703)**
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (8), 21.01.2002



Black has just played 26...Ke8−e7. It was a decisive mistake, after which white won by force!

Georgiev, Kurajica, Dizdarevic, Mitkov, Stanojoski, Efimov – 4 etc.

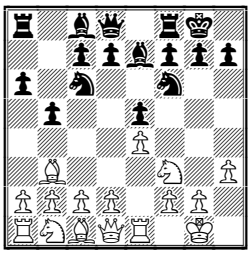
12 players took part in the Ljubliana (Slovenia) round-robin event (XI cat., av. Elo 2510) in honour of 90th anniversary of the of SK Ljubljana Metalka Trgovina. Standings after the 2nd round:
1. Sveshnikov – 2 points out of 2 **2-7.** Beliavsky, Soln, Nisipeanu, Kharlov, Pavasovic, Farago – 1½ **8-9.** Volokitin,. Tratar – ½ **10-12.** Polajzer, Jelen, Podlesnik – 0

♦ Annotated Game

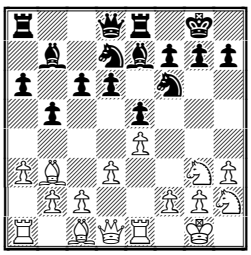
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

R Ponomariov (2727) − V Ivanchuk (2717)
FIDE WCh KO Final Moscow RUS (7.5), 21.01.2002 C88

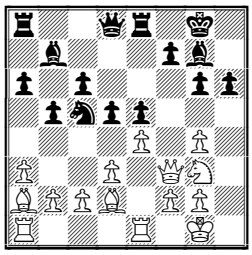
1.e4 e5
French, Sicilian, Spanish... What will Ivanchuk play in the 7th game against 1.e4 ?
2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.h3



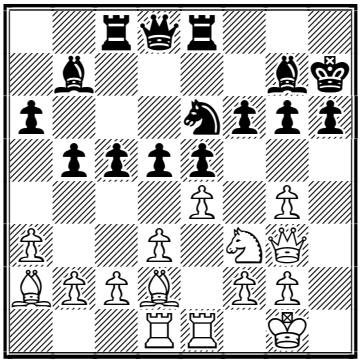
Ponomariov doesn't want to play the Marshall Attack in case of 8.c3 d5
8...♗b7 9.d3 d6 10.a3
A prophylactic against Na5.
10...♘b8 11.♘bd2 ♘bd7 12.♘f1 ♖e8 13.♘g3 c6 14.♘h2



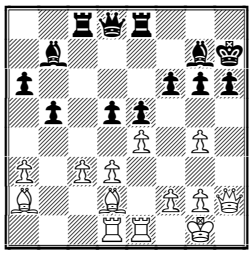
It's a novelty, but Ruslan Ponomariov said at the after−game press−conference, that he somewhere mixed up his piece maneuvers on the kingside. In the following game white received an advantage: 14.♘f5 ♗f8 15.♘h2 d5 16.♕f3 ♔h8 17.♗g5 h6 18.♗h4 g6 19.♘e3 g5 20.♗g3± Shirov − Adams, Wijk aan Zee 1998.
14...d5 15.♕f3 g6 16.♗a2 ♗f8 17.♗g5 h6 18.♗d2 ♗g7 19.♘g4 ♘xg4 20.hxg4 ♘c5



It looks like black has received at least an equal position after the opening: a strong pawn centre, some ideas with Ne6−d4 or Ne6−g5 etc.
21.♖ad1 ♖c8 22.♘f1 ♘e6 23.♕g3 ♔h7 24.♘h2
The Knight is going to f3, but his collegue was there from the 2nd till the 14th moves...
24...f6!? 25.♘f3 c5!?



Ivanchuk has stretched his center and begins a pawn offence in the centre. Ponomariov hasn't any active counter−play and has to stay and wait. But his position is still rather solid.
26.♕h2
With a threat g4−g5 somewhere.
26...♘d4 27.♘xd4 cxd4 28.c3
Maybe better was 28.♗b3!? In case of 28...a5 29.a4 bxa4 30.♗xa4 ♗c6!? 31.♗xc6 ♖xc6 32.c3!? white's position (without light−square bishops) looks much better, than in the game.
28...dxc3 29.bxc3?



Ruslan was unable to explain this very strange decision. After 29.♗xc3 d4 30.♗d2 ♖c2 31.♗c1 white has a rather solid position. Though maybe better for black was 29...Qd7!? with the idea of Red8.

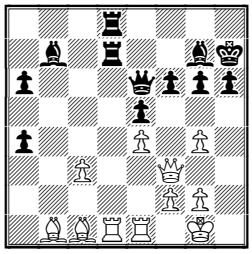
29...dxe4 30.dxe4 ♕e7 31.a4

Now white has to sac a pawn without real compensation.

31...bxa4 32.♕h3 ♖ed8 33.♕f3 ♖c7

Ivanchuk makes natural and strong moves. The only problem was − he made them very slowly and now has approximately 4−5 minutes vs. 19−20 Ponomariov's.

34.♗c1 ♖cd7 35.♗b1 ♕e6!



The Queen immediately takes this diagonal under control.

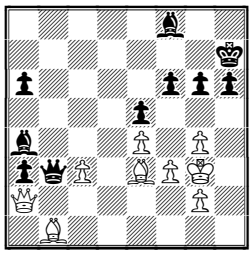
36.♖xd7 ♖xd7 37.♗c2 ♗c6 38.♖d1 ♕a2! 39.♖xd7 ♗xd7 40.♕d1 ♗b5 41.♗e3 ♕c4 42.♔h2 ♗c6 43.♕a1 ♗f8

The g7 Bishop also wakes up...

44.♗b1 a3 45.f3 ♕b3 46.♕a2 ♗a4!

After 46...♕xa2 47.♗xa2 ♗a4 48.♔g1 ♗c2 with idea a5−a4 and Bb3 white has 49.♗b6□

47.♔g3



Ivanchuk has a huge advantage but Ponomariov finds a trick...

47...♔g7?

After the prophylactic move 47...g5! white hasn't any chances.

48.♕d2!!

Very nice! All of a sudden white activates his pieces. Ivanchuk missed his chances and began to be nervous.

48...g5

After 48...♕xb1 49.♗xh6+ ♔f7 50.♕d5+ ♔e8 51.♕a8+ ♔d7 52.♗xf8 black has to make a perpetual check: 52...♕e1+ 53.♔h2 ♕h4+ 54.♔g1 ♕e1+

49.♗a2 ♕b7

Or 49...♕d1 50.♕d5! with the same very sharp endgame, where white has his own chances, for example: 50...♕xd5 51.exd5 ♗c2 52.c4 (52.♗b6 ♔f7) 52...a5 53.c5 a4 54.c6 etc. I suspect, after 48.Qd2! black hadn't an advantage, but Ivanchuk didn't want to admit it.

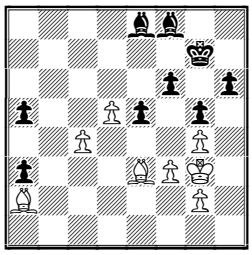
50.♕d3

50.♕d5!?

50...♗e8 51.♕d5 ♕xd5

51...♕f7 52.♔f2

52.exd5 a5 53.c4

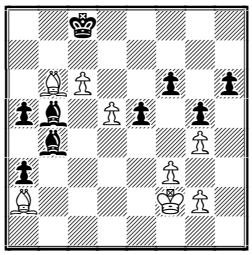


In this position white's chances for a win is better because he has two passed pawns, while black only one.

53...♗b4 54.c5 ♔f8 55.♔f2 ♗b5 56.c6 ♔e7 57.♗a7 ♔d8

The first step on the false way. 57...♗d3 58.♔e3 ♗f1= bishop has to defend f1-a6 diagonal.(58...♗c2 59.♗b6 a4? 60.c7 ♔d7 61.♗c4!+−)

58.♗b6+ ♔c8??



Now white wins. For the 3rd (!) time in this match (just recall the 2nd and 4th games) Vasily Ivanchuk underestimates such a factor as the activity of his opponent's king. 58...♔e7!=

59.♔e3! a4 60.♔e4 ♗e2

Or 60...♗f1 61.♔f5! (61.g3 ♗e2 62.♔f5 ♗xf3 63.♔e6 ♗xg4+ 64.♔xf6 ♗d6-+) 61...♗xg2 62.♗c4 ♗d6 63.♔e6 ♗c7 64.♗a6+ ♔b8 65.♗xc7+ ♔xc7 66.d6+ ♔xc6 67.d7+−

61.♔f5

Here Ivanchuk recognized that his position is losing, and began to shake his head very intensively, but all is over now...

61...e4 62.♔e6 exf3 63.d6 ♗xd6 64.♔xd6

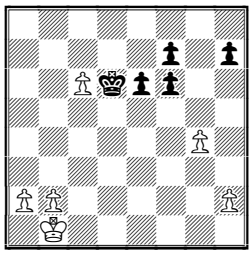
I hope Ivanchuk forgets this nightmare and gives a great fight in the 6, 7 and 8th games. Good luck, Vasily!

1-0

Recommended websites:
http://www.clubkasparov.ru/site/news/2002/wijk/live7.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.4ncl.co.uk

Solution to Quiz Today:

27.♖c6 ♗b7 28.cxd5! ♗xc6 29.dxc6 ♔d6 30.g4!



Here Gelfand resigned because this position is winning for white. You don't need to calculate all the variations, but simply create a plan: white can promote his pawns "a" and "b" on the 6th rank without any problems, while black's passed pawn will be only on e5. After this, the white king will be able to go to the 6th rank also and checkmate the opposing king with the help of his pawns.

1-0

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-23(442), 23rd January 2002

Ponomariov draws closer to World Crown

In the 6th game of the FIDE World Chess Championships Final in Moscow Vassily Ivanchuk had white … maybe for the last time in this match. But many journalists and spectators got the impression that after yesterday's shock he was unable to play to his full strength. Yes, he tried, but couldn't find top gear. Vassily swapped his first move and played 1.e2-e4 and Ruslan choose the very solid Petroff Defense. Black quite easily equalised and it was white who offered a draw on the 27th move. As usual, GM Sergei Shipov has annotated this game at Kasparovchess (in Russian).

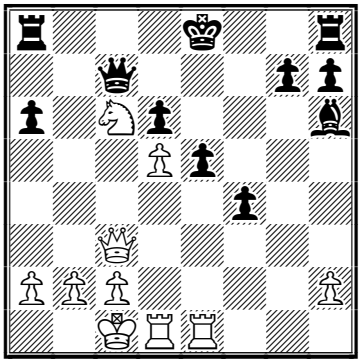
Now Ruslan Ponomariov is leading **4:2** and he needs only half a point to win the title. Will the 7th game be a mere formality or will Ivanchuk put up a big fight? I'd prefer the latter (I think the spectators would too), but who knows…

♦ In the 9th round of Corus **Alexander Grischuk** beat Alexander Morozevich (who chose the Berlin Wall for the first time) and caught up **Evgenij Bareev.** It is interesting that Evgenij, as black, played Morozevich's favourite line in the Slav Defense against Gelfand (see the Bareev – Morozevich game) and rather easily made a draw.

Round 9 results: Grischuk – Morozevich **1:0** Gelfand – Bareev **½:½** Dreev – Timman **½:½** Khalifman – Leko **½:½** Lautier – Gurevich **½:½** Kasimdzhanov – Van Wely **1:0** Adams – Piket **½:½**

Round 9 Standings: **1-2. Bareev, Grischuk** – 6 points out of 9 **3-4.** Adams, Khalifman– 5½ **5-6.** Leko, Morozevich – 5 **7-8.** Dreev, Timman – 4½ **9-12.** Gelfand, Gurevich, Lautier, Piket – 4 **13.** Kasimdzhanov – 3½ **14.** Van Wely – 1½

♦ **Quiz Today: Nakamura (2430) – Lesiege (2572)**
GMA Bermuda BER (1), 21.01.2002



White to play

Tournament B, round 7 results: Werle – Jonkman **0:1** Skrypchenko – Van der Wiel **½:½** Yu – Tregubov **1:0** Peng – Nijboer **1:0** Stefanova – Cuijpers **0:1** Sokolov – Krasenkov **½:½**

Round 7 Standings: **1. Krasenkov** – 5½ points out of 7 **2-3.** Nijboer, Sokolov – 5 **4-5.** Jonkman, Tregubov – 4 **6-7.** Yu, Van der Wiel – 3½ **8-9.** Stefanova, Cuijpers – 3 **10.** Peng – 2½ **12.** Skrypchenko, Werle – 1½

Today is a rest day at the A and B events. Also see our annotated game section.

♦ **Barua, Harikrishna, Sasikiran** and **Ganguly** are leading with 5 points after the 6th Round of the Indian Championships.

♦ 18th Skopje (Macedonia) open, standings after the 7th round: **1. Graf** – 6 points out of 7 **2-4.** Kolev, Dizdarevic, Damljanovic – 5 **5-14.** K. Georgiev, Palac, V. Georgiev, Ivanisevic, Kurajica, Galego, Miladinovic, Mitkov, Efimov, Bojkovic – 4 etc.

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor – Graham Brown.
Subscription is €19 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

♦ Ljubliana (Slovenia) round-robin event, standings after the 3rd round: **1-3. Beliavsky, Kharlov, Sveshnikov** – 2½ points **4-6.** Nisipeanu, Pavasovic, Farago – 2 **7.** Soln – 1½ **8-9.** Volokitin, Tratar – 1 **10-11.** Jelen, Podlesnik – ½ **12.** Polajzer – 0

♦ The Bermuda round-robin GMs events (10 participants each) started at the Fairmont Southampton Princess Hotel.

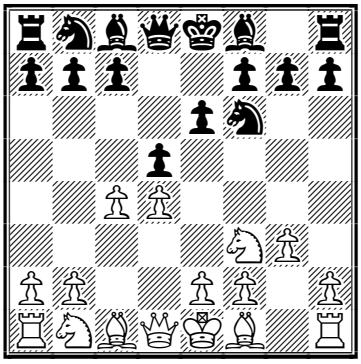
Round 1 Results, group A: Socko – Ernst **1:0** Handke – Johannessen **0:1** Vuckovic – Krush **½:½** Vescovi – Macieja **½:½** Nakamura – Lesiege **1:0**

Round 1 Results, group B: Kallio – Alvarez **1:0** Berg – De Vreugt **1:0** Blehm – Perelshteyn **1:0** Charbonneau – Nyback **1:0** Paehtz – Shahade **½:½**

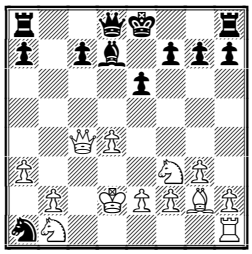
♦ Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

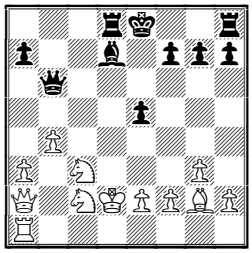
R Kasimdzhanov (2695) − L Van Wely (2697)
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 22.01.2002 E04
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3



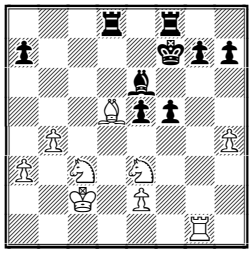
The Catalan Opening.
4...dxc4 5.♗g2 ♘c6!? 6.♕a4 ♗b4+
Loek van Wely decides to play one of the sharpest lines of this opening.
7.♗d2 ♘d5 8.♗xb4 ♘dxb4 9.a3!?
Rustam Kasimzhanov doesn't object to this invitation. A quieter line is 9.0-0
9...b5 10.♕xb5 ♘c2+ 11.♔d2 ♘xa1 12.♕xc6+ ♗d7 13.♕xc4



13...c5
An alternative is 13...♖b8
14.♕a2 ♕a5+
14...cxd4 15.♕xa1 ♖c8 16.b3 e5 17.♖d1 ♕a5+ 18.b4 ♕b5 19.♔e1 0-0 20.♘bd2 ♖c2 Levin − Rogozenko, Germany 2001.
15.♘c3
15.b4 cxb4 16.♕xa1 ♖c8 17.♘e5 ♗b5 18.a4 0-0 19.♗e4 f6 20.♘d3 f5 21.♗f3 b3+ 22.♘c3 ♗xd3 23.exd3 f4 Kaidanov − Goldin, USA 1998.
15...cxd4 16.♘xd4 ♖d8 17.♖xa1 e5 18.b4 ♕b6 19.♘c2



Last year black began to use
19...♕xf2
19...♗e6+ (San Segundo − Aleksandrov, Ch Europe 2001, K. Georgiev − Timoshenko, Panormo 2001) − not without success.
20.♗d5
So, white has a small material advantage, but his king is very weak. To my mind, the only minus of this extremely interesting position is the fact, that all this is still theory ...
20...0-0 21.♕c4 ♗e6 22.♘e3 ♕xh2 23.♕h4 ♕xh4 24.gxh4 f5 25.♔c2 ♔f7 26.♖g1



This move is a novelty! Last year in Wijk aan Zee, Kasparov (white) and Adams agreed a draw after 26.♖d1 f4 27.♘c4

26...♖d7

After 26...g6 27.h5!? f4!? 28.hxg6+ hxg6 29.♗xe6+ ♔xe6 30.♘c4± or; 26...f4 27.♗xe6+ ♔xe6 28.♘c4± black has some problems defending his pawns.

27.♗xe6+ ♔xe6 28.♘a4 ♔f6

28...♖c8+!? 29.♘c5+ ♔f6

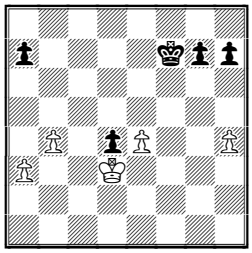
29.♘c5 ♖d4?

This very natural move turns out to be a decisive mistake, because Kasimzhanov finds a nice blow. But maybe this endgame as a whole (which looks quite good for black) isn't so simple. 29...♖c8!?

30.♘xf5! ♔xf5 31.e4+! ♔f6

31...♖xe4 32.♖g5+ ♔f4 33.♘e6++−

32.♖f1+ ♔e7 33.♖xf8 ♔xf8 34.♘e6+ ♔f7 35.♘xd4 exd4 36.♔d3



And it's all over now.

36...h5 37.♔xd4 g5 38.hxg5 ♔g6 39.b5 ♔xg5 40.a4

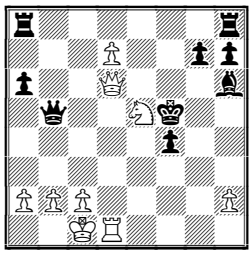
40.a4 ♔g4 (40...h4 41.♔e3) 41.a5 h4 42.♔e3 ♔g3 43.b6 axb6 44.axb6 h3 45.b7 h2 46.b8♕+ with check (though without check it will be winning also).

1-0

Recommended websites:
http://www.clubkasparov.ru/site/news/2002/wijk/live7.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.4ncl.co.uk

Solution to Quiz Today:

24.♖xe5+! dxe5 25.d6 ♕d7 25...♕b6 26.d7+ (26.♕xe5+?! ♔d7 27.♕f5+ ♔xc6 28.♕e4+=) 26...♔f7 27.♘xe5+ ♔e6 28.♖e1 **26.♘xe5 ♕b5 27.d7+ ♔e7 28.♕a3+ ♔e6 29.♕d6+ ♔f5**



30.♘f3 30.♘c6! **30...♔g4 31.♘d4 ♕c4 32.♖g1+ ♔h3** 32...♔h5 33.♕e5+ g5 34.h4+− **33.♕e5 g6 34.♕e4 1-0**

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-24(443), 24th January 2002

Ponomariov youngest ever World Chess Champion!

Ruslan Ponomariov has become the 16th FIDE World Chess Champion; our congratulations to Ruslan! In the 7th game of the WCC Final in Moscow Vassily Ivanchuk, with black, choose a new opening against 1.e4, the Alekhine Defence, but didn't even equalise and agreed a draw in a losing position. The final score was **4½:2½** in Ruslan's favour. Ponomariov was better prepared for this match, including the new time control, and for his opponent – so, he deserved his victory! Of course. Vasily Ivanchuk is a very strong chess-player, maybe he is even a chess genius, but in this match Ponomariov was stronger. And don't forget, Ruslan is only 18; he is the youngest World champion in the history of chess. As usual, GM Sergei Shipov annotated this game on Kasparovchess (in Russian).

On the 25th of January there will be the official closing ceremony of the WCC.

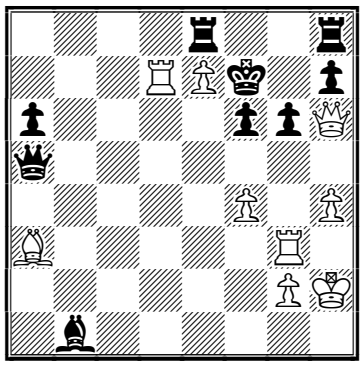
Today, after the last rest day, the 10th round of Corus will be played. Just recall that **Alexander Grischuk** and **Evgenij Bareev** are leading with 6 points out of 9**.** There are 4 more rounds left.

Round 10 pairing:
Morozevich – Piket Van Wely – Adams Gurevich – Kasimdzhanov Leko – Lautier Timman – Khalifman Bareev – Dreev Grischuk – Gelfand

♦ In tournament B **Michael Krasenkov** is the sole leader with 5½ points out of 7.

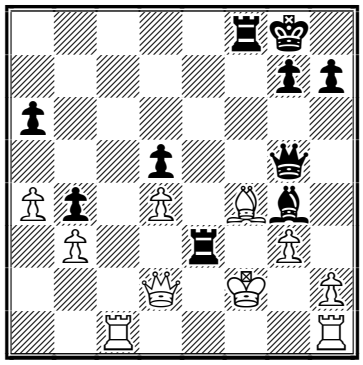
Quiz Today:

(1) Popov (2297) – Mitkov (2401)
18th Open Skopje MKD (8.18), 22.01.2002



White to play

(2) Mitkov (2492) – Kurajica (2539)
18th Open Skopje MKD (8.6), 22.01.2002



Black to play

Round 8 pairing: Jonkman – Krasenkov Cuijpers – Sokolov Nijboer – Stefanova Tregubov – Peng Van der Wiel – Yu Werle – Skrypchenko
Also see our annotated game section.

♦ GM **Alexander Graf** guaranteed himself first place one round before the end of the 18th Skopje (Macedonia) open. He is 1½ points ahead of 3 players who share second place. Our congratulations, Alexander!

Standings after the 8th round:
1. Graf – 7 points out of 8 **2-7.** K. Georgiev, Kolev, Damljanovic,

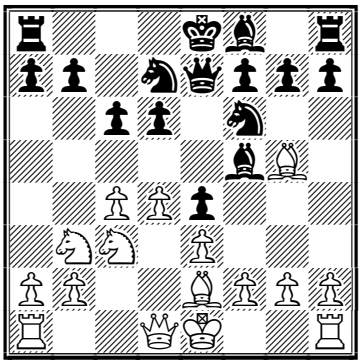
Ivanisevic, Kurajica, Galego – 5½ **8-12.** Dizdarevic, Palac, Kosyrev, V. Georgiev, Stonojoski – 5 etc.

♦ Ljubliana (Slovenia) round-robin event, standings after the 4th round:
1-2. Beliavsky, Kharlov – 3½ points **3.** Nisipeanu – 3 **4-5.** Sveshnikov, Pavasovic – 2½ **6-9.** Farago, Volokitin, Soln, Tratar – 2 etc.

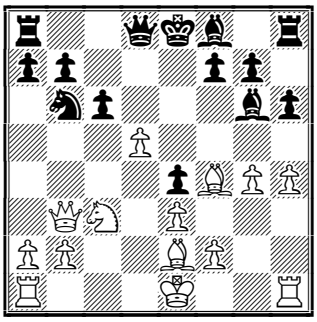
♦ Annotated Game

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

A Graf (2605) − E Dizdarevic (2502)
18th Open Skopje MKD (8.1), 22.01.2002 A54
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♘f3 e4 5.♘d2 ♕e7 6.♘b3 c6 7.♗g5 ♗f5 8.e3 ♘bd7 9.♗e2

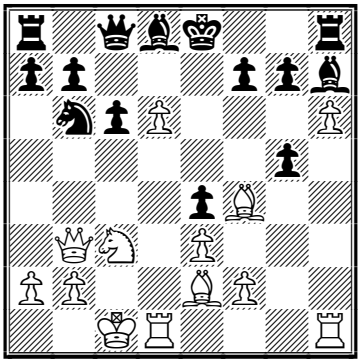


Both sides have played the opening in a rather original way. Black has gained some space, but has some problems with development.
9...♕d8 10.g4! ♗g6 11.h4 h6 12.♗f4 d5 13.♘d2!? ♘b6 14.♕b3 dxc4 15.♘xc4 ♘fd5 16.♘xb6 ♘xb6 17.d5!

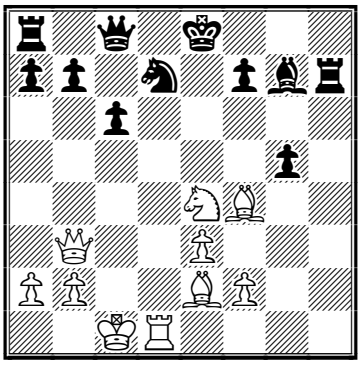


Of course, white would like to open the position, because he has better development.

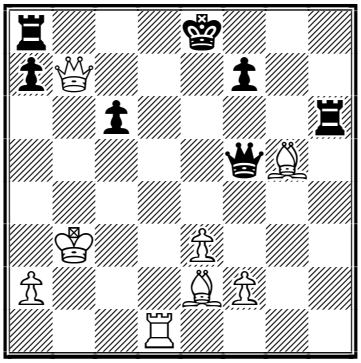
17...♗e7 18.0-0-0 ♕c8 19.d6! ♗d8 20.h5 ♗h7 21.g5 hxg5 22.h6!



22...♗f6!?
22...gxf4 23.hxg7 ♖g8 24.♖xh7+−; 22...gxh6!? 23.♗e5 ♖g8 24.♖xh6
23.hxg7 ♗xg7 24.♖xh7! ♖xh7 25.d7+ ♘xd7 26.♘xe4



Thanks to some energetic blows white has gained a winning position.
26...♖h6 26...♗f8 27.♗g4+− **27.♗xg5 ♘c5 28.♘xc5 ♕f5 29.♕xb7 ♕xc5+ 30.♔b1 ♕f5+ 31.♔a1 ♗xb2+ 32.♔xb2 ♕e5+ 33.♔c2 ♕f5+ 34.♔b3**



1-0

Recommended websites:
www.pawnpusher.co.uk
http://www.khcc.org.uk/rapidplay_2002.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.4ncl.co.uk

Solution to Quiz Today:

(1) 34.♕f8+! ♔e6 35.♖d6+ 1-0
(2) 29...♖xf4+! 30.gxf4 ♕xf4+ 31.♔g1 ♖g3+ 0-1

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CT-25(444), 25th January 2002

Bareev leads at the *Corus*

In the 10th round of Corus **Evgenij Bareev --->>** overtook with white Alexei Dreev and became the sole leader, because former leader Alexander Grischuk drew his game. Morozevich beat Piket, and all other games were drawn.

Round 10 pairing:
Morozevich – Piket **1:0;** Van Wely – Adams **½:½;** Gurevich – Kasimdzhanov **½:½;** Leko – Lautier **½:½;** Timman – Khalifman **½:½;** Bareev – Dreev **1:0** Grischuk – Gelfand **½:½**

Round 10 standings:
1. Bareev – 7 points out of 10
2. Grischuk – 6½; **3-5.** Adams, Khalifman, Morozevich – 6
6. Leko – 5½; **7-8.** Gurevich, Timman – 5
9-11. Gelfand, Dreev, Lautier – 4½
12. Piket – 4; **13.** Kasimdzhanov – 3½
14. Van Wely – 2

Round 11 pairing:
Gelfand – Morozevich; Dreev – Grischuk
Khalifman – Bareev; Lautier – Timman
Kasimdzhanov – Leko;
Adams – Gurevich; Piket – Van Wely

Tournament B, Round 8 results:
Jonkman – Krasenkov **½:½;** Cuijpers – Sokolov **0:1;** Nijboer – Stefanova **½:½** Tregubov – Peng **1:0;** Van der Wiel – Yu **½:½;** Werle – Skripchenko **0:1**

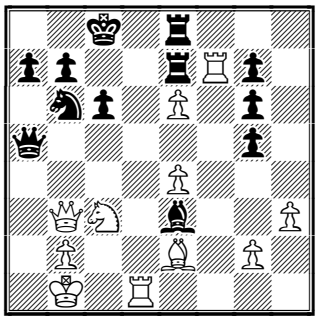
Round 8 Standings:
1-2. Krasenkov, Sokolov – 6 points out of 8; **3.** Nijboer – 5½; **4.** Tregubov – 5
5. Jonkman – 4½ ; **6-7.** Yu, Van der Wiel – 4 ; **8.** Stefanova – 3; **9.** Cuijpers – 3
10-11. Peng, Skripchenko – 2½ ;
12. Werle – 1½

Round 9 pairing:
Skripchenko – Jonkman
Yu – Werle; Peng – Van der Wiel
Stefanova – Tregubov
Sokolov – Nijboer
Krasenkov – Cuijpers

Also see our annotated game section.

Quiz Today…

1. Tregubov,P (2626) – Peng Zhaoqin (2460)
Corus B Wijk aan Zee NED (8), 24.01.2002



White to play

18th Skopje (Macedonia) open, final standings:
1. Graf – 7½ points out of 9; **2.** Galego – 6½; **3-8.** Damljanovic, Kolev, K. Georgiev, Kurajica, V. Georgiev, Ivanisevic – 6; **9-12.** Palac, Rogozenko, Horvath, Kosyrev – 5½ etc.

Ljubliana (Slovenia) round-robin event, standings after the 5th round:
1-2. Beliavsky, Kharlov – 4 points; **3-4.** Pavasovic, Nisipeanu – 3½; **5-7.** Tratar, Farago, Sveshnikov – 3; **8.** Volokitin – 2½ etc.

Indian Championships, standings after the 8th Round:

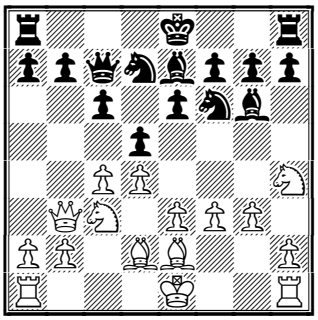
1. Harikrishna – 7 points **2.** Barua – 6 ½ **3.** Ganguly – 6; **4-5.** Sasikiran, Sriram Jha – 5½ etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

E. Bareev (2707) − A. Dreev (2683)
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (10), 24.01.2002 D12
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗f5 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘h4 ♗e4 7.f3 ♗g6 8.♕b3 ♕c7 9.♗d2 ♘bd7 10.♗e2 ♗e7 11.g3 (D)



In this rather popular variation White tries to gain the two bishops and more space. Black in compensation hasn't any pawn weaknesses. White's last move prepares ♘h4xg6: now after hxg6 the h−pawn will be protected.

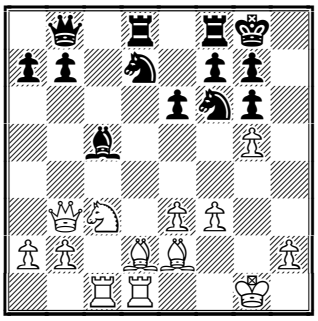
11...dxc4 12.♗xc4 ♗h5 13.♗e2 0-0 14.0-0 c5

Black opens the centre to exploit the weak pawn on e3 and a somewhat open position for the king on g1.

15.♖ac1 ♖ad8 16.g4!?

A logical move, but of course double−edged.

16...♗g6 17.♘xg6 hxg6 18.♖fd1 ♕b8 19.dxc5 ♗xc5 20.g5 (D)



20...♘b6!?

Of course, Dreev doesn't want to put his knight on either h5 or e8, so he begins some tactical operations.

21.♘a4!?

21.gxf6? ♖xd2! 22.♖xd2 ♗xe3+-+

21...♘xa4 22.gxf6 ♖d5

Here and on the next move very interesting was 22...♕e5!?

23.♗e1 ♖g5+?!

Not the best place for a rook. 23...♕e5!?

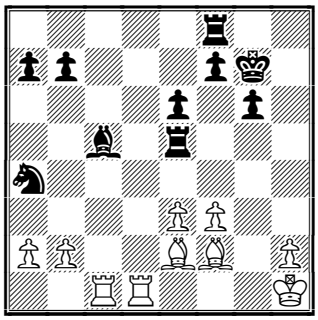
24.♔h1 ♘b6 25.♗f2

25.♗g3? ♖xg3 26.hxg3 ♕xg3 27.♖xc5 ♕h3+ 28.♔g1 ♕g3+ 29.♔f1 ♕h3+ 30.♔e1 ♕g3+=; 25.fxg7 ♖c8⇄ (25...♔xg7 26.f4 ♖f5 27.♗g4±)

25...♕e5 26.fxg7 ♔xg727.♕c3

White's king is too weak for the middlegame, so Bareev hurries to exchange queens.

27...♘a4 28.♕xe5+ ♖xe5 (D)



29.b3?!

29.f4 ♖e4 30.♗f3±

29...♗xe3! 30.♗g3 ♖c5

Maybe White missed this move? Now Black wins a pawn, though White has some compensation for it.

31.♖xc5 ♘xc5 32.b4 ♘a6 33.♖d3 ♗b6 34.♖d7 ♖c8?!

34...♖d8 35.♖xb7 ♘xb4∓

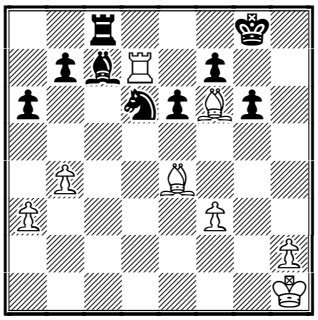
35.a3!

Now knight a6 is off−side.

35...♘c7 36.♗e5+ ♔f8 37.♗d6+ ♔g8 38.♗d3 ♘e8 39.♗e5 ♗c7

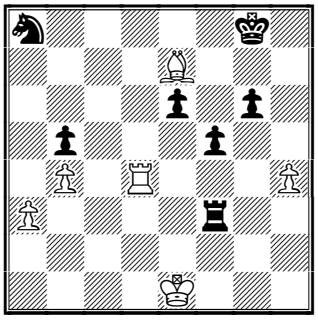
39...♖d8!? 40.♗b5 ♖xd7 41.♗xd7 ♗c7 42.♗d4 ♘d6 43.♗xa7 b6∓

40.♗d4 a6 41.♗e4 ♘d6 42.♗f6! (D)



Obviously in time−trouble Black missed his chances to simplify the position, and now White is better: all his pieces are more active, than his opponent's.

42...b5 43.♔g2 ♗b8 44.h4 ♘e8 45.♗e7 ♗e5 46.♖a7 f5 47.♗a8 ♖c2+ 48.♔f1 ♗d4 49.♖xa6 ♘c7 50.♖d6 ♖f2+ 51.♔e1 ♘xa8 52.♖xd4 ♖xf3 (D)



Black has exchanged his bishop and pawns, but the knight on a8 is now out of play, and Bareev immediately exploits this.

53.a4!

53.♖d8+ ♔f7 54.♗c5 ♖xa3∓

53...♘b6

53...bxa4 54.♖d8+ ♔f7 55.♗c5±

54.axb5 ♔f7 55.♗c5 e5

Or 55...♘d5 56.b6 and Black has to sac his knight.

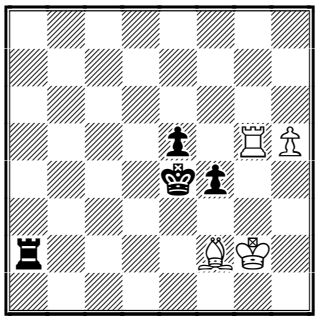
56.♖d8 ♖b3 57.♗xb6 ♖xb4 58.♖d5 ♔e6 59.♖c5 ♔d6 60.♖c6+ ♔d5 61.♖xg6 ♖xb5

At last Black takes the b−paw, but White still has another one − on h4.

62.h5 ♖b2 63.♔f1 ♖h2 64.♖g5 ♔e4

64...f4 65.♗c7+−

65.♔g1 ♖h3 66.♗a5 ♖a3 67.♗e1 f4 68.♔g2 ♖a2+ 69.♗f2 (D)



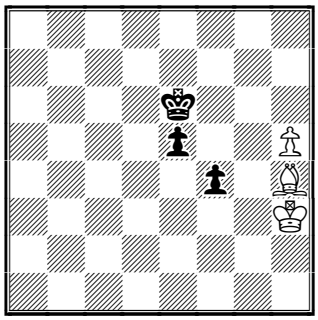
69...♖a6 70.♖g6 ♖a8 71.♖f6!

An important move − to control the pawn on f4. Now king on e4 is unable to fight vs. pawn on h5.

71...♖g8+ 72.♖g6 ♖c8 73.♖g5

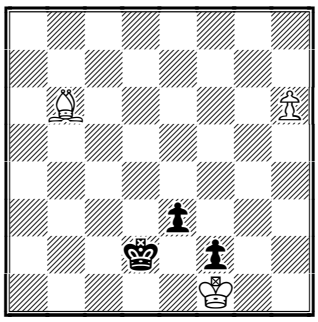
The same idea.

73...♖c6 74.♗h4 ♖e6 75.♖g6 ♔f5 76.♖xe6 ♔xe6 77.♔h3 (D)



White has the advanced h−pawn, so his position is winning, but Black continues to play, maybe because of the new mutual time−trouble.

77...♔f5 78.♗d8 e4 79.♔h4 e3 80.♗b6 ♔e4 81.h6 f3 82.♔g3 f2 83.♔g2 ♔d3 84.♔f1 ♔d2 (D)



85.♗xe3+ ♔xe3 86.h7 ♔f3 87.h8♕ ♔e3 88.♕h3+ ♔e4 89.♔xf2 ♔d4 90.♕e3+ A very important victory for Evgenij Bareev. 1-0.

Recommended websites:
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru

1. Tregubov,P (2626) – Peng Zhaoqin (2460)

26.♘d5! cxd5 [26...♘xd5 27.exd5 ♗c5 28.d6+–] **27.♕xe3 dxe4** [27...♕b4 28.♖xe7 ♖xe7 29.exd5+–; 27...♘c4 28.♕c1 ♖c7 29.♖xc7+ ♕xc7 30.♖xd5+–] **28.♕c1+** [28.♕c1+ ♔b8 29.♖xe7 ♖xe7 30.♖d8+] **1-0.**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
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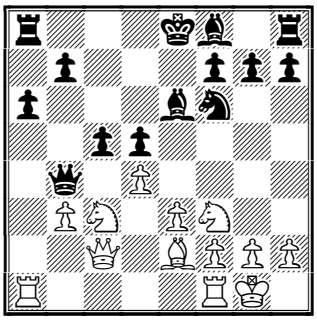
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-26(445), 26th January 2002

Tactical Quiz

Krasenkov (2570) - Cuijpers (2458)
Corus B Wijk aan Zee, 25.01.2002



White to play

You can also try to solve this position in training mode in our database.

Chess News

It was a very interesting day at the Corus tournament yesterday.

In round 11 the leader – Evgeny ***Bareev*** (2707) – met with Alexander ***Khalifman*** (2688). According to the Mega-2002 database, these two played a lot against each other. Prior to this game Bareev was a difficult opponent for Khalifman: in their first encounter in the database Bareev (rated 2365 then) beat Khalifman (2490) with Black. The score of their decisive games was 7-1 in Bareev's favour, but yesterday he got crashed. Michael ***Adams*** won a nice game against Mikhail Gurevich. You can find both these games in our Annotated Game Section, with my brief notes.

Joel ***Lautier*** beat Jan Timman, showing a nice example of how to play against the isolated d-pawn. Other games were drawn, but those were not short draws. Alexander Morozevich, playing Black vs. Boris Gelfand, surprised many by choosing the Caro-Kann – it looks like Morozevich has radically expanded his repertoire. Alexey Dreev was very close to winning against Alexander Grischuk in the Queen's Gambit Accepted, but Black managed to survive.

Morozevich

With two rounds to go, the standing in the tournament is as follows:

1-4. Adams, Bareev, Khalifman and Grischuk – 7 points;
5. Morozevich - 6½ points;
6. Leko – 6 points;
7. Lautier – 5½ points;
8-11. Gurevich, Gelfand, Dreev and Timman – 5 points.
12. Piket – 4½ points;
13. Kasimdzhanov 4 points;
14. Van Wely – 2½ points.

Today the games are: Morozevich - van Wely, Gurevich-Piket, **Leko-Adams**, Timman-Kasimdzhanov, **Bareev-Lautier, Grischuk-Khalifman** and Gelfand-Dreev.

I predict that Morozevich and Bareev will win, while the other leaders will draw.

♦ In tournament 'B' ***Mikhail Krasenkov*** (2570) of Poland became sole leader. After 9 rounds he has 7 points, while Ivan Sokolov (2659) has 6½ points and Friso Nijboer is on 6 points.

♦ In Bermuda GM Bartlomiej ***Macieja*** (2612) from Poland and IM Hikaru ***Nakamura*** (USA, 2430) are leading with 3 points after 4 rounds.

♦ In the Indian Championship GM ***Barua*** caught up with GM ***Harikrishna*** by defeating GM Thipsay. Both leaders have 7½ points from 9 games.

♦ In Ljubliana GMs ***Beliavsky*** and ***Kharlov*** fortified their lead positions by beating GMs Pavasovic and Volokitin respectively. The leaders have 5 points out of 6 – a full point ahead of GM Nisipeanu and Ivan Farago.

♦ As announced in the press-release sent to us by Zena Howard, yesterday UK Multi Media group Einstein Group plc, purchased Intellectual Leisure Ltd, which owns some of the assets previously held by BGN plc. This includes rights to the match Kramnik vs. Machine and BGN Candidate tournament in Dortmund in 2002. More about this news in our next issue.

Chat with Grandmaster Baburin

If you are interested to discuss Chess Today or chess in general (how to improve, what GMs eat for breakfast, latest chess gossip), please come to the chat which will take place today – on ***Saturday, 26 January,*** at 16-00 London time. That will be 19-00 in Moscow, 17-00 in Berlin, 11-00 in New York and 8-00 in Los Angeles.

Last time we used Yahoo for a little chat, but that requires people to have their Yahoo IDs, which might prevent many CT readers from joining us. Fortunately, there is a better place – ***InterChess server***. It is a small and friendly online club, where we can talk. You do not need to pay in order to join the club for the day. The whole thing (with good Net connection) should take only about 5 minutes. Please read these instructions carefully:

1. Please go to http://www.interchess.com/Registration.asp
2. Register a nickname (please use only letters and numbers).
3. Download software from http://www.interchess.com/Download.asp
4. When the download is completed, double-click on the downloaded file to install InterChess Game application.
5. Run that program.
6. When the dialogue box appears, insert your nickname, password and choose 'Lectures' room. I will be there – my nickname is 'Big Bear'.
7. You will enter as a spectator and can take part in the chat. The board may or may not used – the key point is ***chat***. Please use English language.

One advantage of that location is that the chat session could be saved (not possible with Yahoo!), so we might show it in CT later. If you have special suggestions, etc., please e-mail me in advance! I would also suggest downloading the program in advance. I reckon that the chat will be for about an hour – see you online today!

One Week in the Life of a Chess Pro

There are a few updates on the GM Square Web site. For example, you can find the chess Horoscope-2002 there. If your are interested to know more about the life of chess professionals, please check my diary on this site.

Annotated Games

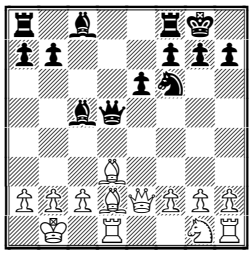
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

A Khalifman (2688) − E Bareev (2707)
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (11),
25.01.2002 C10

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4

More common is another version of the Rubinstein Variation − 3...♘f6 4.♗g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♗e7 where White has to do something about the g5−bishop.

4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗d3 ♘gf6 6.♕e2 c5 7.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 8.dxc5 ♗xc5 9.♗d2 0-0 10.0-0-0 ♕d5 11.♔b1

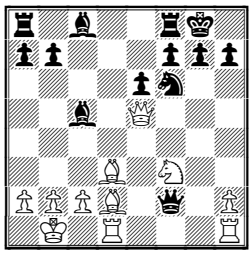


In the game Sadler−Miles, Hove 1997, White got advantage after 11.♗c3 ♕g5+ 12.♔b1 ♘d5 13.♗e5 ♕xg2? 14.♕h5 f5 15.♘f3 ♕g4 16.♖hg1 ♕xh5 17.♖xg7+ ♔h8 18.♖g5+ ♘f6 19.♖xh5

11...♕xg2

Grabbing this pawn looks risky, but there is no point to play 10...♕d5 otherwise!

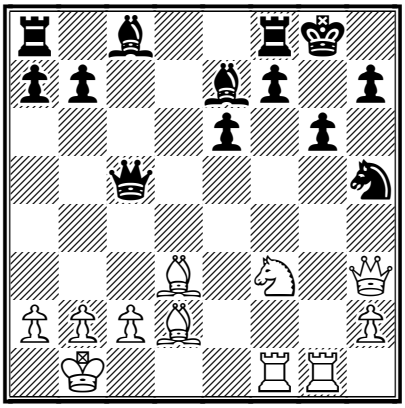
12.♘f3 ♕xf2 13.♕e5



13...♗e7

This is a new move, which Bareev obviously had prepared at home. In the game Ivanisevic−Supatashvili, Panormo 1998 White won after 13...♕xf3 14.♕xc5 b6 15.♕g5 h6 16.♕h4 ♕h5 17.♕g3 ♔h8 18.♖hg1 ♖g8 19.♖df1 ♗b7 20.♗c3 e5 21.♗xe5 ♖ae8 22.♖f5 ♖xe5 23.♖xe5 ♕f3 24.♕xf3 ♗xf3 25.♖e7 ♗d5 26.♖xa7 ♖e8 27.c4 ♗e6 28.♖b7 ♘d7 29.♗c2 ♘e5 30.b3 ♘f3 31.♖g2 g5 32.♖xb6 h5 33.♗e4 ♗h3 34.♖g3 ♖xe4 35.♖xh3 g4 36.♖xh5+ ♔g7 37.c5 ♖e2 38.c6

14.♖df1 ♕c5 15.♕g3 ♘h5 16.♕h3 g6 17.♖hg1



This is a very interesting position. I am sure that White has enough play for 2 pawns. Here Black went wrong:

17...♘f4??

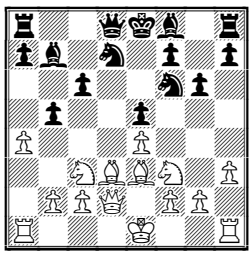
Usually it is better not to get smart when you are defending and not all your pieces are active. Here Black exchanges an important defender and also allows White to gain time for attack.

18.♗xf4 e5 19.♕h6 exf4 20.♖g5!

20.♖g5! f5 (20...♕c7 21.♖h5) 21.♖xg6+ hxg6 22.♕xg6+ ♔h8 23.♕h6+ ♔g8 24.♗c4+ ♕xc4 25.♖g1+ winning. **1-0**

M Adams (2742) − M Gurevich (2641)
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (11),
25.01.2002 B07

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♗e3 c6 5.♕d2 b5 6.♗d3 ♘bd7 7.♘f3 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.h3 ♗b7 10.a4

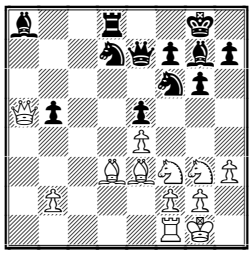


The main idea behind this move is prophylactics: White does not want to allow ...a6 and ...c5, so he makes sure that the c6−pawn does not move.

10...a6

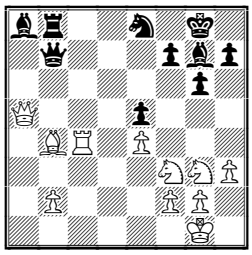
10...b4 11.♘e2

11.0-0 ♗g7 12.♘e2 ♕e7 13.♘g3 0-0 14.c4! ♖fd8 15.axb5 cxb5 16.cxb5 axb5 17.♖xa8 ♗xa8 18.♕a5



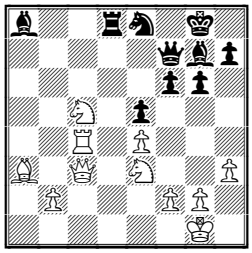
White stands better as he has an object to attack (the b−pawn), while Black has no active plan. Also, the g7−bishop is not particularly useful.

18...b4 19.♖c1 ♘e8 20.♗d2 ♖b8 21.♗b5! ♘df6 22.♗xb4 ♕b7 23.♗xe8 ♘xe8 24.♖c4



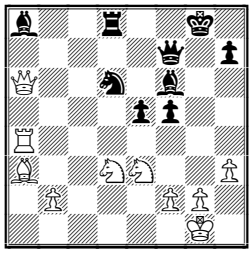
White has won a pawn and now he needs to consolidate his position before he can exploit his material advantage.

24...f6 25.♘d2 ♕d7 26.♘gf1 ♗b7 27.♗a3 ♖a8 28.♕c3 ♖d8 29.♘b3 ♕f7 30.♘c5 ♗a8 31.♘e3



It's amazing how easily Adams' pieces took the best positions.

31...♘d6 32.♕a5 ♖c8 33.♖b4 f5 34.♕a6 ♖d8 35.♕b6 ♗f6 36.♖a4 ♘c8 37.♕a6 ♘d6 38.♕b6 ♘c8 39.♕a6 ♘d6 40.exf5 gxf5 41.♘d3



41...♗b7 42.♕b6 ♘e4 43.♘xe5 ♖d1+ 44.♘xd1 ♗xe5 1-0

Solution to our tactical quiz.

15.♘b5! ♖c8 16.♖a4 axb5

16...cxd4 17.♘c7+ ♖xc7 18.♕xc7 ♕c5 19.♕xb7 dxe3 20.♖xa6 exf2+ 21.♔h1 is also bad for Black.

17.♖xb4 cxb4 18.♗xb5+ ♔d8 19.♕a2 ♗d6 20.♘g5 ♔e7 21.f3 ♗d7 22.♗xd7 ♘xd7 23.♕a5 h6 24.♘h3 ♖c2 25.♕xd5 ♖hc8 26.♘f2 ♖e2 27.♘e4 ♗b8 28.♘c5 ♘xc5 29.dxc5 ♖d8 30.♕xb7+ ♔f8 31.c6 ♖c2 32.♕xb4+ ♔g8 33.♕e4 ♖c3 34.b4 ♗a7 35.♖e1 ♗b6 36.b5 ♖b3 37.c7 ♗xc7 38.♕c4 ♗a5 39.♕xb3 ♗xe1 40.b6 ♖a8 1-0

Recommended websites:

http://www.interchess.com
www.pawnpusher.co.uk
http://www.khcc.org.uk/rapidplay_2002.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.4ncl.co.uk

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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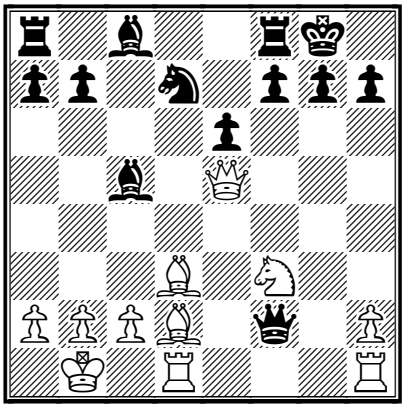
CT-27(446), 27th January 2002

Quiz Today

Morozevich (2742) – Van Wely (2697)



White to play

See the answer in our annotated game.

Chess News

Once again the Corus tournament produced some very interesting games – it was an exiting round on Saturday! Let us look at the results first:

Bareev-Lautier 1-0;
Grischuk-Khalifman 1-0;
Morozevich - van Wely 1-0;
Leko-Adams ½-½;
Gelfand-Dreev ½-½;
Timman-Kasimdzhanov ½-½
M. Gurevich – Piket ½-½

After a horrible defeat in the previous round at the hands of Alexander Khalifman, on Saturday **Evgeny Bareev** showed strong willpower and won an interesting game against Joel Lautier. They both work with Vladimir Kramnik and know each other pretty well. I thought that Bareev would win, as he is pretty dangerous with White and has shown good play in this tournament. I also thought that **Alexander Morozevich** would beat Loek van Wely – simply because he always does! This happens quite often … that one player wins almost all their games against a particular opponent. Yesterday was no exception – see this game in our Annotated Game section.

I thought that the other leaders would draw, but **Alexander Grischuk** refuted my prediction by beating Alexander Khalifman. The 18-year old Muscovite shows great courage in this tournament – he has won 6 games, lost 2 and has only 4 draws so far. So … before the last round the standing is as follows:

1-2. Bareev and Grischuk – 8 points;
3-4. Adams and Morozevich - 7½ points;
5. Khalifman – 7 points;
6. Leko – 6½ points;

In the final round the pairings are:
Lautier–Grischuk,
Kasimdzhanov–Bareev,
Dreev-Morozevich,
Adams-Timman
Khalifman-Gelfand
Piket-Leko
van Wely – Gurevich.

I predict that Adams will win and join Bareev and Grischuk on the top. Should be fun to watch!

In tournament 'B' ***Mikhail Krasenkov*** (2570) of Poland fortified his leading position. He drew his game, while his main rival Ivan Sokolov lost in an interesting game to Pavel Tregubov. Now Krasenkov has 7½ points, while Ivan Sokolov and Friso Nijboer are on 6½ points.

Chess Today Chat

Yesterday I took part in an online chat at ***InterChess server***. The chat went well and we will offer its transcript in

tomorrow's issue of CT. I hope to have such chats on a regular basis and hopefully we will have more people attending next time (there were 10 people in the chat room today).

Annotated Game

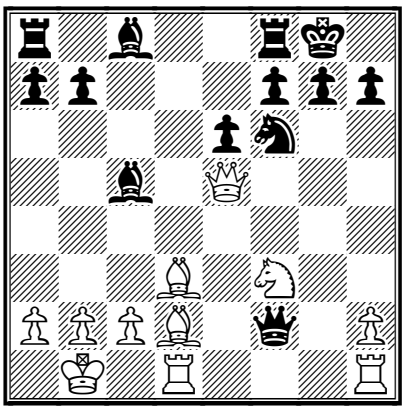
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

□ Morozevich (2742)

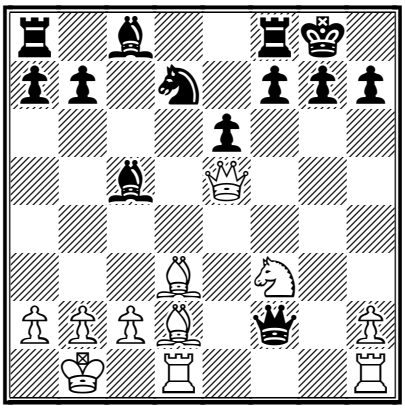
■ Van Wely (2697)

Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (12), 26.01.2002 C10

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗d3 ♘gf6 6.♕e2 c5 7.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 8.dxc5 ♗xc5 9.♗d2 0-0 10.0-0-0 ♕d5 11.♔b1 ♕xg2 12.♘f3 ♕xf2 13.♕e5

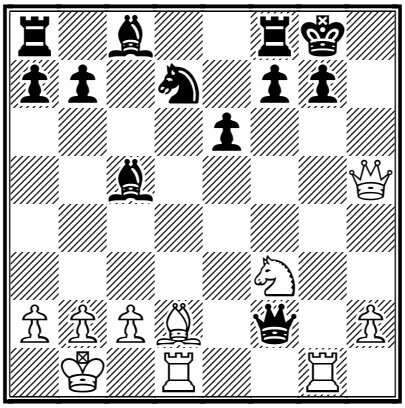


13...♘d7?



In the game Khalifman−Bareev Black played 13...♗e7 and after 14.♖df1 ♕c5 15.♕g3 ♘h5 16.♕h3 g6 17.♖hg1 ♘f4?? 18.♗xf4 e5 19.♕h6 exf4 20.♖g5 had to resign.; 13...♕xf3 14.♕xc5 was also tested once and White won. So, van Wely came up with a novelty:

14.♗xh7+!! ♔xh7 15.♕h5+ ♔g8 16.♖hg1



White is a piece down, but he has all his forces mobilised while Black's king does not have many defenders.

16...♗e3?!

Perhaps the best chance was to bring the knight to defence immediately: 16...♘f6 Yet, after 17.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 18.♕g5+ ♔h7 19.♕h6+ ♔g8 20.♕xf6 ♗d4 21.♕g5+ ♗g7 22.♖g1 ♕xg1+ 23.♕xg1 White is better.; 16...g6? 17.♖xg6+ fxg6 18.♕xg6+ ♔h8 19.♗c3+ e5 20.♘xe5 ♘f6 21.♘f7+ ♖xf7 22.♕xf7

17.♗xe3 ♕xe3 18.♖g3! ♕c5?

18...♘f6 19.♕h4

19.♕h6 1-0

Recommended websites:
http://www.interchess.com
www.pawnpusher.co.uk
http://www.khcc.org.uk/rapidplay_2002.htm
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.kasparovchess.ru
www.4ncl.co.uk

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-28(447), 28th January 2002

Chess News

Yesterday the last round of the Corus tournament was played in Wijk aan Zee. All games, except one, ended peacefully, but in most of them there was real some fighting: Adams-Timman, ½:½ 39 moves, Sicilian Khalifman-Gelfand, ½:½ 23 moves, Sicilian; Dreev-Morozevich, ½:½ 57 moves, Slav Defense; Piket-Leko, ½:½ 18 moves, Queen's Indian; Lautier-Grischuk ½:½ 41 moves, Tarrasch Kasimdzhanov-**Bareev**, 0-1 33 moves Anti-Meran van; Wely–Gurevich, ½:½ 28 moves Semi-Slav

Final standings:
1. Evgeny Bareev->> (Russia, 2707) – 9 points; 2. Alexander Grischuk (Russia, 2671) - 8½ points; **3-4.** Michael Adams (England, 2742) and Alexander Morozevich (Russia, 2742) - 8 points;
5. Alexander Khalifman (Russia, 2688) – 7½ points; 6. Leko – 7 points; 7-11. Dreev, Gelfand, Lautier, Timman and Piket – 6 points; 12. M. Gurevich – 5½ points;
13. Kasimdzhanov – 4½ points; 14. Van Wely – 3 points.

This is easily the best result in **Bareev's** career. He has been around for many years, but winning super-tournaments is not something he was good at. However, in Wijk aan Zee he showed both very interesting play (for example, look at his game against Anand) and great psychological stamina. As you may remember, he got crushed by Khalifman in round 11, but managed to hit back with two wins. Today we look at his game from the last round.

In tournament 'B' **Mikhail Krasenkov** was the winner. He is known for big swings in his tournament form and rating. This time he was in good shape and won convincingly. Final standings:
1. Mikhail Krasenkov (Poland, 2570) – 8 points; **2-3.** Friso Nijboer (NED, 2574) and Ivan Sokolov (BIH 2659) – 7 points:
4. Tregubov – 6½ points; 5-6. Van der Wiel and Jonkman – 6 points; 7-8. Stefanova and Yu Shaoteng – 5½ points;
9-10. Cuijpers and Peng Zhaoqin – 4 points; 11. Skripchenko-Lautier – 3½ points; 12. Werle – 3 points.

Other tournament news:

In Bermuda in tournament 'A' **IM Hikaru Nakamura** (USA, 2430) is leading with 4 points after 5 rounds. He is followed by GMs **Macieja** (Poland, 2612) and **Vescovi** (Brazil, 2590) on 3½ points. There are 4 rounds left. The average rating is 2500 and the GM norm is 6 points, so Nakamura has a very good chance of scoring it.

In the 'B' tournament **Pawel Blehm**, (Poland, 2535) is leading with 4 points out of 5, followed by Emanuel Berg (2500) and Dennis De Vreugt (2446), who both have 3½ points. There GM-norm is 6½ points.

In the Indian Championship GMs **Barua** and **Harikrishna** are leading with 8½ points after 11 rounds. GM Sasikaran and IM Ganguly are at 8 points.

In Ljubliana GM **Alexander Beliavsky** (Slovenia, 2649) is leading with 6 points after 7 rounds. He is closely followed by GM **Andrei Kharlov** (Russia, 2638) on 5½ points. There are 4 rounds left.

It had been announced that UK Multi Media group Einstein Group Plc has bought the rights to the match Kramnik vs. Machine, BGN Candidate tournament

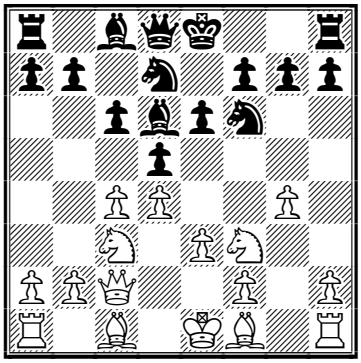
in Dortmund in 2002 and the World Championship match in 2003. You can read more about this in the press-release at the TWIC site. I think it is too early to say what this means for chess – let us see the Kramnik match vs. Machine first. I would also like to see what Kasparov has to say about this; no doubt, there will be something on his site soon.

♘♘♘

Annotated Games

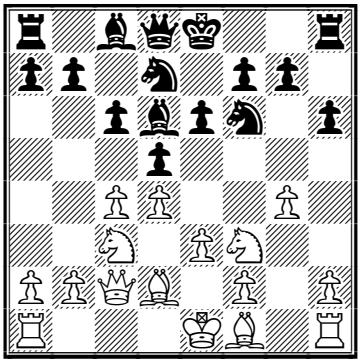
Kasimdzhanov (2695) − Bareev (2707)
Corus Wijk aan Zee NED (13), 27.01.2002 D45
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 ♗d6 7.g4 (D)



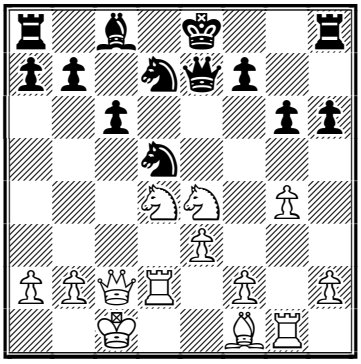
This move first appeared in tournament practice in the early 90s. It is often used by such GMs as Krasenkov, Shirov and Dreev. White wants to grab space on the kingside and displace the f6−knight. Black has a variety of replies: 7...♘xg4, 7...dxc4, 7...♗b4, etc. Here are some examples:
7...dxc4 8.e4 e5! 9.g5 exd4 10.♘xd4 ♘g4 11.h3 ♘ge5 12.♗e3 ♘c5 13.0-0-0 ♘ed3+ 14.♔b1 ♕e7 15.♖g1 g6 Adams−Kasparov, Dortmund 1992.;
7...0-0 8.g5 ♘h5 9.♗d2 f5 10.gxf6 ♘hxf6 11.♘g5 ♕e8 12.0-0-0 h6 13.h4→ Shirov−Thorhallson, Reykjavik 1992.;
7...♘xg4 8.♖g1 ♘h6 9.e4 dxe4 10.♘xe4 ♗b4+ 11.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 12.♕xd2 ♘f5 13.0-0-0 ♘f6 14.♗d3 0-0 15.♖g2 ♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♕f6 17.♘e5 ♖d8 18.♘g4 ♕e7 19.♗xf5 exf5 20.♘h6+ ♔h8 21.♖xg7! ♔xg7 22.♖g1+ ♔h8 23.♕e2! 1-0 Krasenkov−Sveshnikov, Moscow 1992.
Bareev chose the move, which we saw in the game Gelfand−Lautier (see CT−432).

7...h6 8.♗d2 (D)



In this position Gelfand chose 8.♖g1 and won after 8...e5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.g5 hxg5 11.♘xg5 ♕e7 12.♘b5 exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘e5 14.♗d2 ♘fg4 15.h3 ♕xg5 16.hxg4 ♗xg4 17.♗e2 ♕f6 18.♗xg4 ♘xg4 19.0-0-0 ♘e5 20.♗c3 ♖c8 21.f4 ♖xc3 22.♕xc3 ♘c4 23.♘b5 ♕xc3+ 24.♘xc3 ♖h2 25.♖xd5 ♗e7 26.♖d4 ♘xe3 27.♖e4 ♘f5 28.♘d5. No doubt, Bareev had something in mind in that line too.

8...♕e7 9.♖g1 e5 10.cxd5 ♘xd5 11.♘e4 ♗b4 12.0-0-0 exd4 13.♘xd4 ♗xd2+ 14.♖xd2 g6 (D)



Preventing ♘d4−f5.

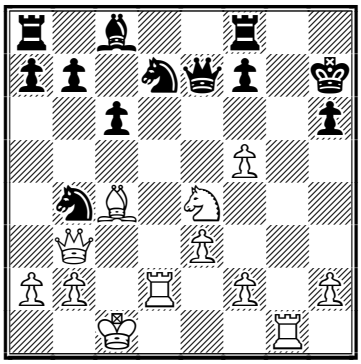
15.♗c4

Perhaps 15.♗g2 was more prudent.

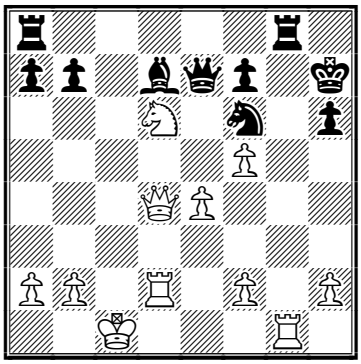
15...♘b4 16.♕b3 0-0 17.♘f5

I doubt that this sacrifice can work − unlike in the game Morozevich−van Wely (where White also sacrificed a piece early), here Black has not done anything anti−positional yet.

17...gxf5 18.gxf5+ ♔h7 (D)

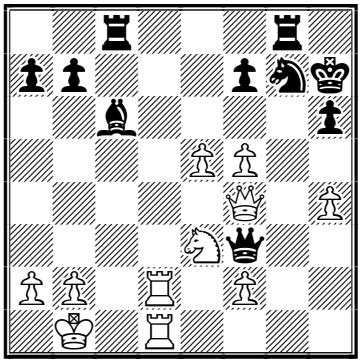


19.♘d6 ♘d5 20.♗xd5 cxd5 21.♕xd5 ♘f6 22.♕d4 ♗d7 23.e4 ♖g8 (D)



Black is consolidating his position.

24.♖gd1 ♗c6 25.e5 ♘e8 26.♘c4 ♖c8 27.♔b1 ♕g5 28.♘e3 ♘g7 29.h4 ♕h5 30.♕f4 ♕f3 (D)



Black is now winning.

31.♖d4 ♕xf4 32.♖xf4 ♖ce8 33.f6 ♘h5 0-1.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CT-29(448), 29th January 2002

Next super tournament - *Linares* to start February 22nd

The Corus super tournament has just ended in Wijk aan Zee. The next time we will see the top players in action again seems to be in Linares, which will take place from 22nd February to 10th March. The participation of **Garry Kasparov**, **Viswanathan Anand**, **Michael Adams**, **Vassily Ivanchuk**, **Alexei Shirov**, **Francisco Vallejo Pons** and either **Ruslan Ponomariov**, **Vladimir Kramnik** or **Veselin Topalov** is highly anticipated.

There are some interesting tournaments underway at the moment.

15 year old GM **Penteala Harikrishna** took the lead at the ***Indian Championships*** in Nagpur with 9½ points after 12 rounds. GM Dibuendu Barua is clear second, half a point behind, Krishnan Sasikiran keeps third place with 8½ points. WIM Swaty Ghate sensationally beat IM Ganguly, who had made his GM norm yesterday.

GM **Alexander Beliavsky** (Slovenia) heads the 90th anniversary of the of SK Ljubljana Metalka Trgovina XI category tournament in ***Ljubljana*** with 6½ points after 8 rounds. GMs Andrey Kharlov (Russia) and Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (Romania) are sharing second place, a full point behind the leader.

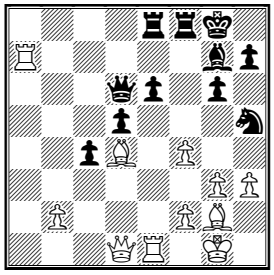
IM **Hikaru Nakamura** (USA) is dominating the ***Bermuda*** "A" tournament with 5 points out of 6 games. He is already has a full point lead over GMs Bartlomiej Macieja (Poland) and Giovanni Vescovi (Brazil) and needs only 1 point in 3 remaining games to register GM-norm.

In tournament "B" GM **Pawel Blehm** (Poland) is leading with the same 5 points, IM Emanuel Berg (Sweden) is clear second with 4½ points – he needs 2 out of 3 to get a GM-norm.

Today we present some highlights from these event.

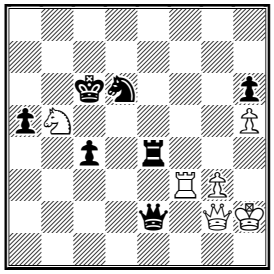
Quiz Today…

1. J. Alvarez (2379) – T. Nyback (2448)
Bermuda International GM B Bermuda (5), 25.01.2002



White to play and win

2. Charbonneau,P (2386) – Kallio,H (2522)
Bermuda International GM B Bermuda (6), 27.01.2002
Black just inaccurately played 50. .. ♕d3–e2??, hoping for the ending..

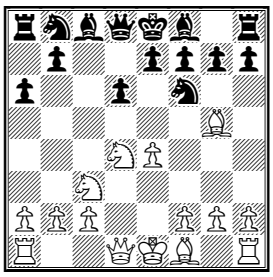


White to play and win

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

Vuckovic,B (2455) – Nakamura,H (2430)
GM A Bermuda (5), 25.01.2002 B99
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 (D)

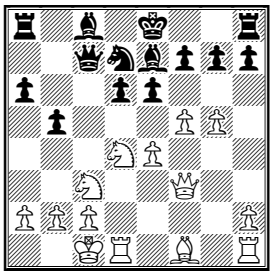


One of the sharpest ways to counter the Najdorf Sicilian.

6...e6 7.f4 ♗e7 8.♕f3 ♕c7 9.0-0-0 ♘bd7

We looked at 9...♗d7 in the game Leko − Morozevich/Wijk aan Zee 2001 CT−82.

10.g4 b5 11.♗xf6 ♘xf6 12.g5 ♘d7 13.f5 (D)



The most logical continuation.

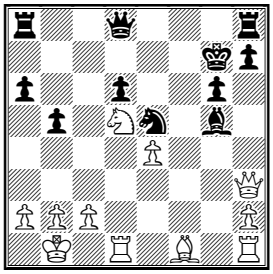
13...♗xg5+

13...♘c5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 ♗f8 16.♖g1 is another main line − and Black faces problems.

14.♔b1 ♘e5 15.♕h5 ♕e7

The alternative 15...♕d8 may lead to similar play.

16.♘xe6 ♗xe6 17.fxe6 g6 18.exf7+ ♔xf7 19.♕h3 ♔g7 20.♘d5 ♕d8 (D)



Still a well−known position! White is hoping to launch a direct attack against Black's king using his major pieces on the g and h files, but Black has very good defensive resources − special thanks should be addressed to his knight on e5 while the dark−squared bishop might be very useful as well.

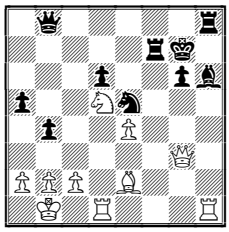
21.♕c3 ♖a7

Black decides this rook should take part in defense and is headed for f7. The rook has nothing to do on the c−file: 21...♖c8 22.♕d4 while the ♕d4−a7 check might be annoying in the future for Black.

22.♕a3!? ♕b8

A new continuation. 22...♖a8 looks dubious: 23.♗e2 **A)** or 23...♖f8 24.h4! ♗xh4 25.♕h3 ♖f2 (25...g5 26.♘e3!) 26.♘c7! ♕xc7 27.♕xh4+− Groszpeter − Ruck/Paks 1999; **B)** 23...h6 24.h4 ♗xh4 25.♘f4 ♔h7 26.♖xd6 ♕e7 27.♘d5 ♕g5 28.♕h3 ♗f2 29.♖d7+! ♘xd7 30.♕xd7+ ♔g8 31.♘e7+ ♔f8 32.♖f1 ♕g2 33.♘xg6+! ♕xg6 34.♖xf2+ ♔g8 35.♕d5+ and Black resigned, Baklan − Gallagher/Bundesliga 2001.

23.h4 ♗h6 24.h5 a5 25.♗e2 b4 26.♕g3 ♖f7 27.hxg6 hxg6 (D)



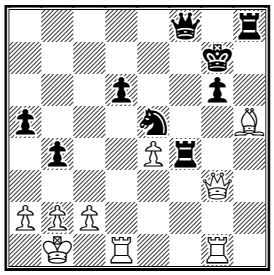
28.♗h5

This is maybe too straightforward. 28.♖dg1!? looked tempting, keeping in mind such ideas as the direct ♗e2−h5 and the tricky ♖h1-h5 followed ♖h5xe5.

28...♕f8 29.♖hg1

It may seem that White's strategy is overwhelming, but Black has prepared an adequate defense.

29...♗f4 30.♘xf4 ♖xf4 (D)



31.♗xg6!?

White takes up the challenge, but objectively Black should be okay after this queen sacrifice.

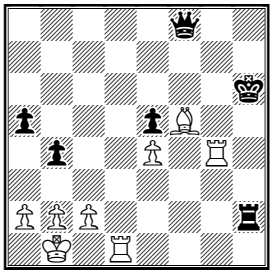
31...♖g4 32.♕xe5+ dxe5 33.♖xg4

Black has to play carefully as his king might face real danger.

33...♖h2

33...♕f2 seemed to be more precise, activating the queen first.

34.♗f5+ ♔h6 (D)

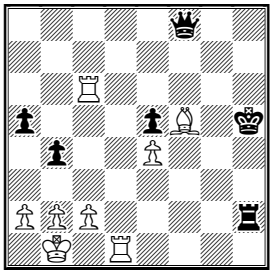


Black king is in dangerous situation, but an extra queen should be enough to keep the balance.

35.♖g6+?!

35.♔a1! was a very interesting prophylactic move. Now 35...♕c5 is bad due to 36.♖g8! while it is not so easy to defend against the idea of ♖g4−g1 followed by ♖d1-d7−h7

35...♔h5 36.♖c6?! (D)



This move looks suspicious − the rooks are losing communication between each other. 36.♖dg1 looks natural and the game could have ended in a draw after 36...♕c5 37.♖1g5+ ♔h4 38.♖g4+= with perpetual.

36...♕d8!

An excellent reply!

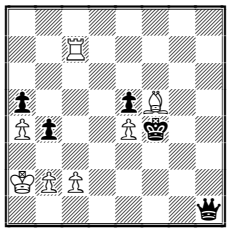
37.♖c1 ♕h4

Black is correctly going to exchange one of the rooks after which his king can go everywhere.

38.♖c7 ♔g5 39.a4

39.♖h7 ♕f2 40.♖xh2 ♕xh2 41.c4 (41.c3!?) did not solve the problems due to 41...a4 followed by a4−a3.

39...♖h1 40.♖xh1 ♕xh1+ 41.♔a2 ♔f4(D)



42.♖c4?!

42.♖d7! could have avoided unnecessary problems, cutting the king from the Queenside − the rook has some good posts on the d−file.

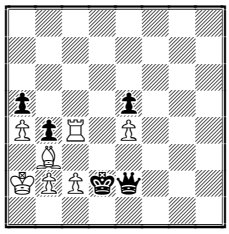
42...♕d1 43.♗e6 ♔e3 44.♗d5

Completing the wrong idea − The bishop looks good on d5, but actually it not only does nothing here but also prevents the rook from using the d−file.

44...♔d2 45.♖c8 ♔c1

Black is going to give a checkmate on the e2−square!

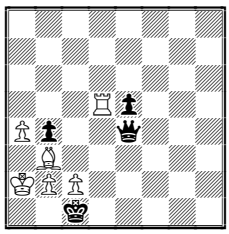
46.♗b3 ♕e2 47.♖c4 ♔d2 (D)



48.♖c5?

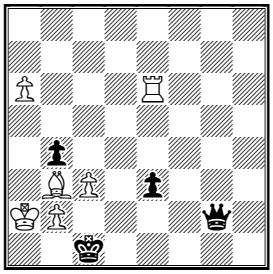
Too risky against the queen. It looks like White could just stay by 48.♔b1 ♕e1+ 49.♔a2 ♔c1 , keeping in mind 50.c3 in case of such kind of zugzwang.

48...♕xe4 49.♖xa5 ♔c1 50.♖d5 (D)



Maybe White was also playing for a

win? The idea c2−c3 followed by ♖d5−d1 might work at some moment... but only if Black completely ignores it. Meanwhile, the passed e−pawn now decides the game. **50...♕e2 51.a5 e4 52.♖d6 e3 53.a6 ♕g2 54.♖e6 ♕g7! 55.c3 ♕g2 (D)**



Black eventually finds the way to b2! White resigned. **0-1.**

Recommended websites:
www.chathurangam.com/indian2001/39thBPCLNatlA/
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0201/lsk02/
www.bermuda.bm/chess
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

Solutions to Quiz Today:

1. J. Alvarez − T. Nyback
24.♕xh5!! Distracting the defender. **24...♖f7** Freeing the f8−square for the king. [Unfortunately, 24...♗xd4 was impossible due to 25.♕xh7# checkmate!] **25.♖xf7 gxh5 26.♖xg7+ ♔f8 27.♖xh7** Black resigned. **1-0.**

2. P. Charbonneau − H. Kallio
51.♘d4+! Already the familiar theme of distraction. **51...♖xd4 52.♕xe2** Black resigned. **1-0**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!
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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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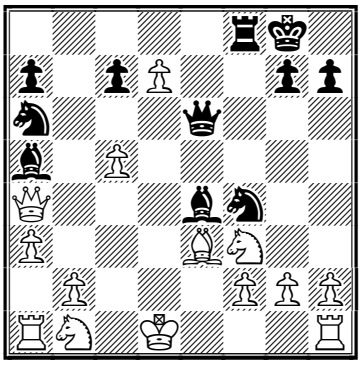
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-30(449), 30th January 2002

Tactical Quiz



Black to play - *White has just played 18. Qa4 and now Black finds an excellent blow to decide the game - Answer in our Annotated Game.*

While chess lovers from all over the World are looking forward to watch the battles of giants in Linares in the last week of February … it is announced that the rest of the elite and the best French players will compete in Cannes at the same time!

The list of participants is quite impressive:
Alexander Morozevich (RUS, 2742), Veselin Topalov (BUL, 2739), Peter Leko (HUN, 2713), Evgeny Bareev (RUS, 2708), Boris Gelfand (ISR, 2707), Anatoly Karpov (RUS, 2693), Joel Lautier (FRA, 2687), Etienne Bacrot (FRA, 2649), Laurent Fressinet (FRA, 2591), Igor-Alexander Nataf (FRA, 2546).

In the key game of the 13th Round of the ***Indian Championships*** in Nagpur **Krishnan Sasikiran** beat the leader Penteala Harikrishna in a super-marathon 125-move (!) battle and joined him, but only at second place – **Dibyendu Barua** is a new leader after his confident victory over Sriram Jha.

Standings after 13 rounds:
1. Barua – 10 points,
2-3. Sasikiran, Harikrishna – 9½
4. Ganguly – 8½
5-7. Kunte, Gokhale, Saravanan etc.

GM **Alexander Beliavsky** (Slovenia) is dominating the XI category tournament in ***Ljubljana*** with 7½ points after 9 rounds. GMs Andrey Kharlov (Russia) and Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (Romania) are already 1½ points behind.

Standings after 9 rounds:
1. Beliavsky – 7½ points
2-3. Nisipeanu, Kharlov – 6
4-6. Sveshnikov, Pavasovic, Tratar – 5½
7. Volokitin – 5 etc.

The leader of the ***Bermuda*** **"A"** tournament IM **Hikaru Nakamura** (USA) lost to IM Leif Johannessen (Norway) and was caught by GM **Giovanni Vescovi** (Brazil), who beat WIM Irina Krush (USA). Nakamura, who still hasn't made a single draw (!), now needs 1 point in 2 remaining games to get GM-norm.

Stanfings after 7 rounds:
1-2. Nakamura, Vescovi – 5 points,
3. Macieja – 4½
4. Johannessen – 4
5-6. Socko, Lesiege – 3½ etc.

In tournament **"B"** GM **Pawel Blehm** (Poland) strengthened his lead – he has already scored 6 points. IM Emanuel Berg (Sweden) is clear second with 5 points – he needs 1½ out of 2 for GM-norm.

Standings after 7 rounds:
1. Blehm – 6 points,
2. Berg – 5
3. Charbonneau – 4½
4. De Vreught – 4 etc.

There are four leaders after 4 rounds at the VII category tournament in ***Montecatini Terme***, Italy – GMs Stefan

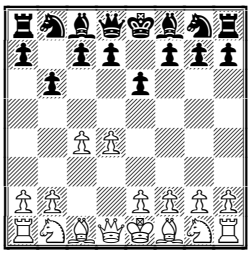
Djuric (Yugoslavia), Ivan Zaja (Croatia), IMs Paolo Vezzosi (Italy) and Evgeny Janev (Bulgaria) have scored 2½ points.

Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

I Jelen (2374) − A Beliavsky (2649)
90th anniversary LSK Metalka Trgovina Ljubl A40jana (9), 28.01.2002

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6

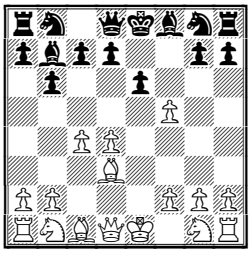


A fairly unusual opening − White is allowed to build a strong pawn center but Black is going to immediately attack it, hoping that White does not have enough development to support it.

3.e4 ♗b7 4.♗d3 f5!?

4...♘c6 followed by 5. ..♘b4 does not solve the problems − White keeps better chances by, for example, 5.♘f3 ♘b4 6.♘c3 ♘xd3+ 7.♕xd3 ♗b4 8.d5!? and so on.

5.exf5



A principled way − White is ready to sacrifice a rook for the initiative.

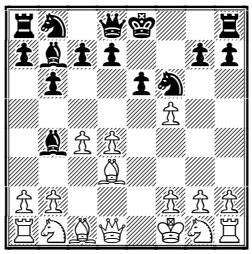
5...♗b4+

A modern approach. 5...♗xg2 is supposed to be too risky: 6.♕h5+ g6 7.fxg6 ♗g7 (7...♘f6? is bad due to 8.g7+ ♘xh5 9.gxh8♕ ♗xh1 10.♕xh7) 8.gxh7+ ♔f8 9.♘e2! ♗xh1 10.♗g5! ♘f6 11.♕h4 then White completes the development of the Q−side and gets a very strong initiative, according to the tournament practice since the game Browne − Miles, Tilburg 1978.

6.♔f1

White has to defend the pawn g2 as Black king has got a square f8 to retreat after Qd1-h5 check.

6...♘f6!



Black is playing for quick development − after the castling the White king may feel itself uncomfortable on the opened f−file.

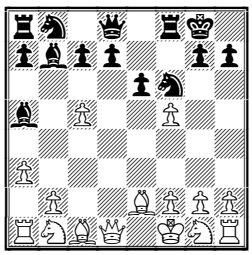
7.♗e2!?

A rather sophisticated approach, which was introduced in practice by ...Alexander Beliavsky! A attempt to disturb the bishop b4 immediately by 7.c5 bxc5 8.a3 can be met by 8...c4! 9.♗xc4 ♗a5 10.fxe6 dxe6 followed by 0-0 with an active play.; 7.♘f3 looks more reliable: 7...0-0 8.a3 ♗d6 9.♘c3 In the game R.Scherbakov − Volzhin, Koszalin 1999 White got better after 9...exf5 (9...♕e8!? looks more testing.) 10.♗xf5 ♘c6 (again, 10...♕e8 was stronger) 11.♗g5! ♕e8 12.♗xf6! ♖xf6 13.♗e4 and Black's initiative is neutralised.

7...0-0 8.c5 bxc5 9.a3

Now Black does not have c5−c4 with tempo.

9...♗a5 10.dxc5



10...♘d5

This move Beliavsky faced himself when playing against Nigel Short in 1997. Later 10...♘e4!? was triumphally played in the game Khenkin − Shabalov, Koszalin 1999: 11.b4 ♕f6 12.♖a2 ♗d5 13.♖b2 ♘c6! 14.♘f3 ♖ab8 15.fxe6 dxe6 16.h4 ♘xc5 17.♕c2 ♘e4 18.bxa5 ♘d4 19.♕d3 ♘b3 20.♖c2 ♘bc5 21.♖xc5 (21.♕e3 ♖xb1 22.♖xc5 ♘xc5 23.♕xc5 ♕a1!-+) 21...♘xc5 22.♕c2 ♗e4 23.♕xc5

♖xb1 and White resigned as 24.♔g1 is met by 24...♕f4! Perhaps Alexander knows how White's play would be improved.

11.♘f3

11.b4 is bad due to 11...♕f6 12.♖a2 ♕xf5 13.♗d3 ♗a6! 14.♗xa6 ♕xb1 15.♖b2 ♘e3+!

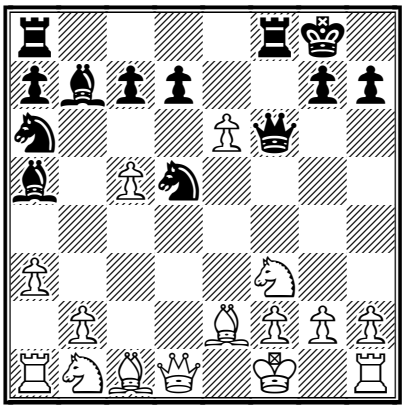
11...♕f6

Already mentioned game Beliavsky − Short, Wch Groningen 1997 continued by 11...♖xf5 12.b4 ♘xb4 13.axb4 ♗xb4 14.♗b2 a5 15.h4 ♖d5 16.♕b3 ♘a6 17.♘c3 ♘xc5 18.♕c2 ♖f5 with reasonable compensation for the piece although White's chances look preferable.

12.fxe6

12.♕c2 ♘c6 13.♗g5 ♕xf5 14.♕xf5 ♖xf5 15.b4 ♘cxb4 16.axb4 ♗xb4∞ was unclear in the game Kachiani−Gersinska − Kengis, Berlin 1999.

12...♘a6!?



An interesting novelty, and quite in the spirit of position − every Black's move involves a new piece into play! In the game Ellers − Bunzmann, Fuerth 1998 White obtained clearly better chances after 12...c6 13.♘bd2 ♗xd2 14.♗xd2 dxe6 15.♗g5 ♕g6 16.♕b1!? ♖f5 17.h4±

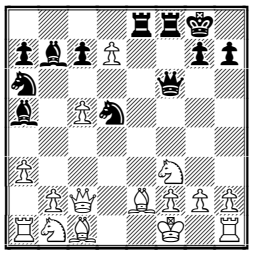
13.♕c2

The line 13.♕a4!? ♘xc5! 14.♕xa5 ♘b3 15.♕b5 ♘xa1 16.♕xb7 was also worthy of consideration − White's play was not so easy due to his lack in development but thorough analysis might prove his superiority.

13...♖ae8!?

The last piece comes into play! it is much more difficult for White to develop something so he should continue his strategy of grabbing the material.

14.exd7



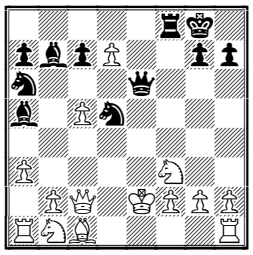
14...♖xe2!

There is nothing to discuss − just a logical continuation of previous play.

15.♔xe2

15.♕xe2 ♘xc5 was very unclear.

15...♕e6+



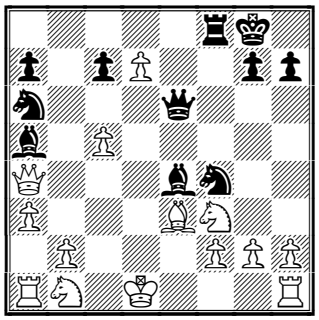
16.♗e3?

White's desire to develop something is quite understandable but this move happened to be a fatal mistake. It is really not easy to keep oneself cool−minded in such wild positions... 16.♔f1! was correct − Black has many interesting possibilities but he should not forget that he has already sacrificed a lot of material.

16...♘f4+ 17.♔d1

There was no way back: 17.♔f1? ♗xf3-+

17...♗e4! 18.♕a4



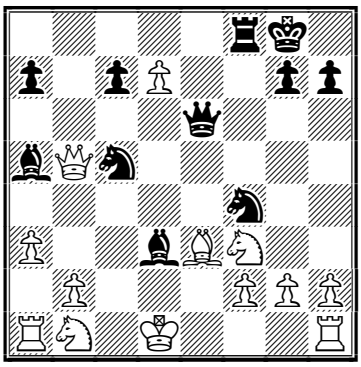
18...♘xc5!

This excellent blow decides the game.

19.♕b5

19.♕xa5 led to checkmate after 19...♕b3+ 20.♔e1 ♘xg2+ 21.♔f1 ♕d1+ and so on.

19...♗d3!



White can avoid the immediate checkmate only by giving up the queen so he preferred to resign. Very powerful play by Alexander Beliavsky!
0-1

Recommended websites:

www.chathurangam.com/indian2001/39thBPCLNatlA/
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0201/lsk02/
www.bermuda.bm/chess
www.federscacchi.it/
www.ajedrez21.com/
www.nao-ccc.com/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
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CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

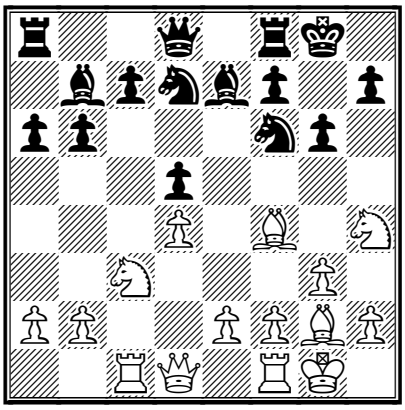
CT-31(450), 31st January 2002

Tactical Quiz

Set by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Harikrishna (2525) – Vijayalakshmi (2399)
Indian Championship
Nagpur (14), 30.01.2002

Black has just prevented the annoying ♘h4–f5 with 11. ..g6? What happened next?!



White to play

The leader has changed again after the 14th Round of the ***Indian Championships*** in Nagpur. Dibyendu Barua's loss to Saravanan allowed **Krishnan Sasikiran** and **Penteala Harikrishna** to take the joint lead.

Standings after 14 rounds:
1-2. Sasikiran, Harikrishna – 10½
3. Barua – 10 points,
4. Ganguly – 9
5. Saravanan – 8½
6-7. Kunte, Sriram Jha – 8 etc.

Alexander Beliavsky (Slovenia) has conclusively won the 90th anniversary of SK Ljubljana Metalka Trgovina XI category tournament in ***Ljubljana***, 1½ points ahead of GM Andrey Kharlov (Russia) and IM Marko Tratar (Slovenia).

Final standings:
1. Beliavsky – 8½ points
2-3. Tratar, Kharlov – 7
4. Pavasovic – 6½
5-6. Nisipeanu, Sveshnikov – 6
7-8. Farago, Volokitin – 5
9. Soln – 4½
10. Podlesnik – 3
11. Jelen – 2½

IM **Hikaru Nakamura** (USA) became the sole leader of the ***Bermuda*** **"A"** X category tournament again! It all became clear when Giovanni Vescovi (Brazil) lost to IM Leif Johannessen (Norway), who crushed both leaders in the last two rounds! Johannessen now needs a win in his last round game against Bartosz Socko (Poland) to achieve a GM-norm while Nakamura needs a draw against another Polish player – Bartolomiej Macieja.

Standings after 8 rounds:
1. Nakamura - 5½ points,
2-3. Johannessen, Vescovi – 5
4-6. Lesiege, Macieja, Socko – 4½
7-8. Vuckovic, S.Ernst – 3½
9. Krush – 2½
10. Handke – 1½

Today we present an excellent win by Alexandre Lesiege over Bartolomiej Macieja.

GM **Pawel Blehm** (Poland) keeps the lead at the **"B"** tournament but he is closely followed by IM Emanuel Berg (Sweden), who need to make a draw against one of the outsiders of the event to achieve a GM-norm.

Standings after 8 rounds:
1. Blehm – 6½ points,
2. Berg – 6

This issue is prepared by GMs Ruslan Scherbakov & Alex Baburin; technical editor – Graham Brown.
Subscription is €19 for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

3. Charbonneau – 5
4. De Vreught – 4½ etc.

The situation is rather complicated after 5 rounds at the VII category tournament in ***Montecatini Terme***, Italy – GMs Miso Cebalo, Ivan Zaja (both of Croatia), Vladimir Georgiev and IM Evgeny Janev (both of Bulgaria) are leading with 3 points while a home IM Spartaco Sarno has 2½ points out of 4 games.

Some curious news from **Mark Crowther** (TWIC):

"**Bobby Fischer** gave an **interview** (you need Real Audio) with an Icelandic TV Station. He chatted with former bodyguard from 1972 match Sæmundur Pálsson. There are two main points that interest me. Firstly is that he will only play FischerRandom Chess. "I don't play the old chess anymore". He denies he played Short (or indeed anyone else) on the Internet saying "He can say whatever he wants".

It's an uncomfortable listen. Usual warning of extreme anti-Jewish and anti-American remarks and very bad language."

Web Watch

with GM Alex Baburin

Today I would like to share with you a few sites, which caught my eye recently. Please let me start with TWIC, which in my opinion is the best chess web site nowadays. I know that most keen chess players visit that site anyway, but still … do not miss the latest edition: it has a link to yet another Fischer's interview and information about Einstein's Group entry into the world of chess. The latter story has some coverage on the Kasparov Chess site (another great site, by the way!) – where IM David Levy speaks about BGN in the Open File section.

If you are looking for a tournament in February, consider the Aeroflot Open 2002. Basically, you get a very good deal on flight and accomodation in Moscow, which could be very pricey otherwise. Well, you have to fly with Aeroflot, which is not the best company in the world (certainly, not my favourite!), but this could be worth it – Moscow is a great city to visit nowadays! The tournament is on 4-11 of February and it will be followed by an open tournament in St. Petersburg (12-20 February).

If you prefer the US and are looking for a place to play in March, then think of the National Open in Las Vegas. I have played there 3 times and I like the tournament very much. Las Vegas is surely a crazy place, but I believe it is worth visiting. But be careful – nobody can win as much in chess as they can lose in casinos there! :-)

Today you have the last chance to vote in the Chess Award 2001. And if you do come there to vote, please don't forget about Grandmaster Square website! :-) After some period of inactivity, we are back to updating the site. You can find their chess horoscope for 2002, latest book reviews by Sam Collins and my diary, which I kept for a week. I would appreciate your opinion on the site in general and the Diary in particular.

Please also have a look at the newly designed Chess Today site. It still needs some polishing and we will do it soon, but in the meantime we would like to hear from you what you think of the new design and what else we may need to put onto the site.

♘♘♘

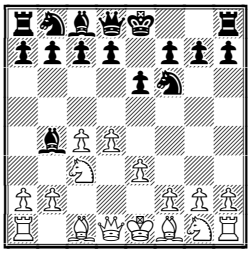
Annotated Game

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

A Lesiege (2572) − B Macieja (2612)

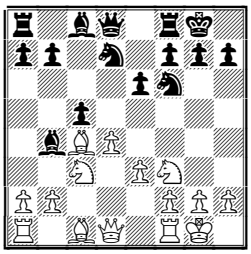
Bermuda GM A (8), 29.01.2002 E55

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3



The Rubinstein Variation of the Nimzo Indian − one of the most complex systems in modern chess.

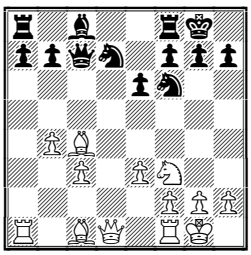
4...0-0 5.♗d3 c5 6.♘f3 d5 7.0-0 dxc4 8.♗xc4 ♘bd7



9.a3

9.♕e2 may lead to rather harp and deep line 9...b6 10.d5 ♗xc3 11.dxe6 ♘e5 12.exf7+ ♔h8 13.bxc3 ♗g4 14.e4 ♕e7 15.♖e1 b5! 16.♗xb5 ♘h5 − this position has been tested for the last 40 years and it seems that Black can hold on.

9...cxd4 10.axb4 dxc3 11.bxc3 ♕c7



In this system Black often parts with his bishop − here he hopes that the detached c−pawn will give him enough counterplay.

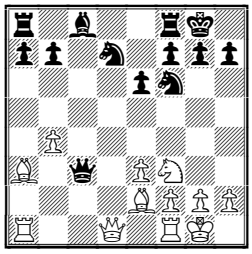
12.♗e2!?

An ambitious approach − White sacrifices a pawn for the initiative. 12.♕b3 is more often played but Black is more or less okay after 12...♘b6 13.♗e2 e5 14.♖a5 ♗e6 15.♕c2 ♘bd7 The game Khalifman − Anand, Merida 2001 continued by 16.c4 b6 17.♖a6 ♖fc8 18.♘d2 ♕b7 19.b5 ♘c5 20.♖a3 a6 and here a draw was agreed.

12...♕xc3

Black takes the challenge. Otherwise White advances his c−pawn although in the game Garcia Gonzales − Balashov, Leningrad 1977 Black achieved good play after 12...e5 13.c4 b6 14.♗b2 ♗b7 15.♕b3 ♖fe8 16.♖fd1 a5 and so on.

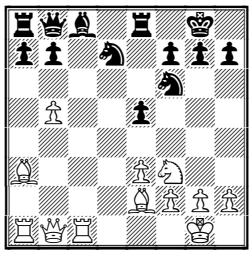
13.♗a3



13...e5?!

A novelty, which does not look good. To get the c8 bishop into play Black should move the knight from d7 but the e5 pawn requires attention. Besides, opening the a2−g8 diagonal may also give Black more of a headache. This position was tested in the BGN World Championship match, after 13...♘d5 14.♕b1 ♕f6 15.♗d3 h6 16.b5 ♖d8 17.♗b2 ♕e7 and here, according to Vladimir Kramnik, objectively the best way was 18.♗a3 (18.♖a4?! gave Black at least equal chances in the game Kramnik − Kasparov, London (m/12) 2000: 18...♘c5 19.♗h7+ ♔h8 20.♖h4 f6 21.♖c4 ♗d7 and so on.) 18...♕f6 (18...♕e8 19.♖c1) 19.♗b2 with a repetition of moves.

14.♕b1 ♕c7 15.♖c1 ♕b8 16.b5 ♖e8

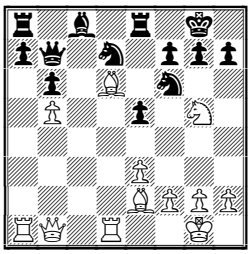


Was Black really hoping to hold this position?! It looks like he seriously underestimated White's possibilities.

17.♖d1!

The queen is under threat.

17...b6 18.♗d6 ♕b7 19.♘g5!



Taking aim at the square f7.

19...h6

A principled continuation which leads to disaster. In case of 19...♘f8 20.♗c4 (20.♖c1!?) 20...♗e6 21.♘xe6 ♘xe6 22.♗xe5 White had a huge advantage but it was maybe a more tenacious defence.

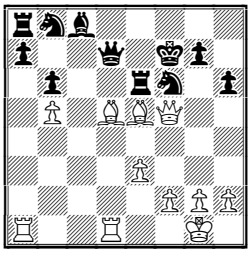
20.♘xf7! ♔xf7 21.♗c4+ ♖e6 22.♕f5

22.f4!? with idea f4−f5 also came to mind.

22...♘b8

22...♘c5 was losing to 23.♗xc5 bxc5 24.♖a6! ♕e7 25.♖dd6!

23.♗d5 ♕d7 24.♗xe5

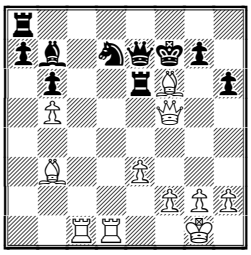


A picturesque position − White is totally dominating.

24...♗b7 25.♗b3 ♕e7 26.♖ac1

There were many ways to win but to get the last piece into play is the most convincing.

26...♘bd7 27.♗xf6



Black resigned as he loses too much material. A crushing defeat! **1-0**

Solution to Tactical Quiz:

12.♗xc7! ♕e8 12...♕xc7 13.♘xd5 followed by 14. ♘e7 and 15. ♗b7 was even worse.

13.♘f3+− and White converted his extra pawn into a full point.

Recommended websites:

www.chathurangam.com/indian2001/39thBPCLNatlA/
www.sah-zveza.si/rez/0201/lsk02/
www.bermuda.bm/chess
www.federscacchi.it/
www.ajedrez21.com/
www.nao-ccc.com/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com.

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-32(451), 1st February 2002

Johannessen, Vescovi Nakamura and Blehm win in Bermuda

IMs **Leif Erlend Johannessen** (Norway), **Hikaru Nakamura** (USA – by the way, he is 14 years old and the current US Junior Champion!) and GM **Giovanni Vescovi** (Brazil) shared the victory at the just completed the ***Bermuda Internationals*** **"A"** tournament in Southampton.

Final standings:
1-3. Johannessen, Nakamura, Vescovi – 6 pts; 4-5. Macieja, Lesiege – 5; 6. Socko – 4½; 7. Vuckovic – 4; 8. S.Ernst – 3½; 9. Krush – 3; 10. Handke – 2

Both Nakamura and Johannessen achieved GM-norms. The latter won his 3 last games, having beaten both co-winners!

Today we present some highlights from the winners games.

GM **Pawel Blehm** (Poland) convincingly won the tournament **"B"**. IM **Emanuel Berg** (Sweden) came in second and scored a GM-norm.

Final standings:
1. Blehm – 7½ points, 2. Berg – 6½
3-4. Charbonneau, De Vreught – 5½
5. G.Shahade – 4½; 6. Paehtz – 4
7-8. Perelstein, Kallio – 3½;
9. Alvarez – 3; 10. Nyback – 1½

Our congratulations to the winners!

After the 15th Round of the ***Indian Championships*** in Nagpur, **Krishnan Sasikiran** took sole lead. In the key game of the round Penteala Harikrishna drew against Dibyendu Barua and secured clear second, Barua is in the third place.

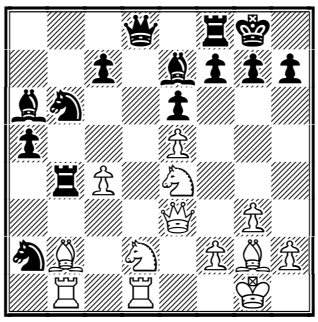
Standings after 15 rounds:
1. Sasikiran – 11½ points, 2. Harikrishna – 11; 3. Barua – 10½; **4. Ganguly – 10** 5. Saravanan – 9; 6-7. Kunte, Sriram Jha – 8½ etc.

After 7 rounds of the VII category tournament in ***Montecatini Terme***, Italy GM **Miso Cebalo** (Croatia) and IM **Evgeny Janev** (Bulgaria) are leading with 5 points, GM Stefan Djuric (Yugoslavia) is clear third, half a point behind.

Quiz Today…

1. G.Vescovi (2590) - L. Johannessen (2427)
Bermuda GM A (8), 29.01.2002

Black has won a pawn but some of his pieces look rather awkwardly placed. And he is down a piece. However, he finds a way not only to simplify the position, but to win back his material and another pawn in the process! Can you find it?



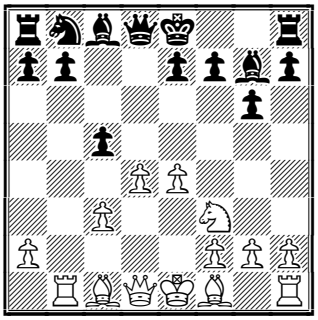
Black to play

Some news from **Mark Crowther** (TWIC) concerning the new FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov's participation in the Linares super-tournament:
"It seems **Ruslan Ponomariov** has turned down the invitation and may face legal action according to a report by Leonxto Garcia in El Pais 30th January. Veselin Topalov will play in Cannes not in Linares. It's not clear who Ponomariov's replacement will be".

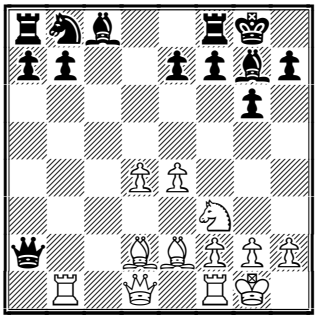
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

L. Johannessen,L (2427) −
H. Nakamura (2430)
Bermuda International GM A
Bermuda (7), 28.01.2002 D85
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♘f3 c5 8.♖b1 (D)

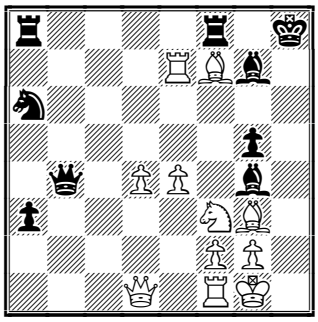


A very complicated and well−developed variation of the Gruenfeld Defence.
8...0-0 9.♗e2 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♕a5+ 11.♗d2 ♕xa2 12.0-0 (D)



Black has won a pawn but has lost time in doing so. White's strong pawn center and active pieces should promise him more than enough compensation for the pawn, but in practice things are always far from clear. Black is often not in a hurry to move his queen back into his camp, preferring to walk on the edge by pushing the a−pawn as far as possible. The position with very unusual material balance often happens as Black is ready to give up his queen when his a−pawn becomes a really important factor.

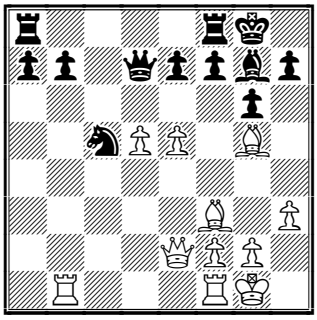
12...♗g4 13.♗g5 ♕e6
A rare move. 13...h6 is the main line which may lead to very sharp complications after 14.♗h4!? (14.♗e3 is a common alternative; while 14.♗xe7 ♖e8 15.♖xb7 ♘d7 16.♗b4 ♖xe4 is good for Black) 14...a5 15.♖xb7 g5 16.♗g3 a4 Take a look at the wonderful game Gelfand − Shirov, Polanica Zdroj 1998: 17.h4 *(*later White was forced to look for improvement, such as 17.♖c7!? , not allowing the knight b8 to get into play. In the game R.Scherbakov − Vokarev, Novgorod 1999 Black got into trouble after 17...♕b3 18.♕xb3 axb3 19.♖b1 b2 20.♖xb2 ♖a1+ 21.♗f1 ♗xf3 22.gxf3 ♗xd4 23.♖b5!±) 17...a3 (a novelty 17...♘c6! allowed Black to solve the problems in the game Shipov − I.Sokolov, Hastings 1999: *18.hxg5* hxg5 19.d5 ♗xf3 20.♗xf3 ♘d4 and so on) 18.hxg5 hxg5 19.♖c7! ♘a6 20.♖xe7 ♕b2 21.♗c4 ♕b4 22.♗xf7+ ♔h8 **(D)**



and here the fantastic 23.♖d7!! secured White's advantage: 23...♗xd7 24.♘xg5 ♕b6 25.♗e6! ♕xe6□ 26.♘xe6 ♗xe6 27.♗e5! and so on.
14.h3
Another pawn sacrifice 14.d5!? ♕xe4 15.♕d2⩲ was successfully tried in the game Sakaev − Bukhman, URS 1989: 15...f6 16.♗e3 a5 17.♖fc1 ♖c8 18.h3 ♗d7 19.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 20.♗d3 ♕a4 21.♗c5 ♕d7 22.♕e2 ♗f8 23.♗c4 ♔h8 24.♖b6 ♘a6 25.♗d4 ♘c7 26.♘e5! fxe5 27.♕xe5+ ♔g8 28.d6+ e6 29.dxc7+− but Black's play can obviously be improved.
14...♗xf3 15.♗xf3 ♕d7 16.d5 ♘a6

16...b6? is dubious as here 17.e5! comes with increased effect: 17...f6 18.d6 fxg5 19.♗xa8± Al Ashhab − Mohsen, Tanta 1997.

17.♕e2 ♘c5 18.e5↑ (D)



A superior pawn center and excellent pieces gives White more than enough compensation for the minor material loss. Black has no time and no possibility to think about the advance of his Q−side passed pawns. The natural e−pawn advance was actually a novelty. In the game Tella − Kekki, Helsinki 1997 after 18.♕e3 b6 19.e5 ♖ab8 20.♗h6 ♕f5 21.♗xg7 ♔xg7 22.♖b4 a draw was agreed.

18...♖ae8

This idea does not look very good. However, it is difficult to say which move was preferable − Black's play is really not easy here.

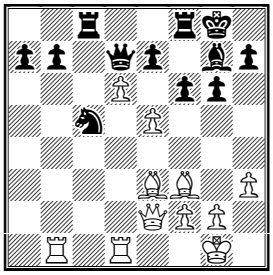
19.♖fd1 f6

This counter attempt does not have the desired effect.

20.♗e3! ♖c8?

This is almost losing. In case of 20...b6 White secured the advantage by 21.♗xc5 bxc5 22.d6! getting a strong passed pawn on the d−file but it was probably more tenacious for Black.

21.d6! (D)



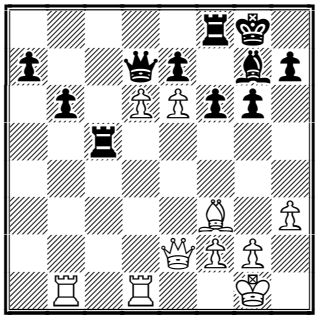
21...b6

21...exd6 was met by 22.♗xc5 ♖xc5 23.♕a2+! ♔h8 24.♕xa7 (with ideas such as Qxc5 and ♖xb7) 24...♕d8 25.exd6+− and so on.

22.♗xc5 ♖xc5

That was Black's idea − to keep the Q−side closed. However, White is allowed too much in the center.

23.e6 (D)



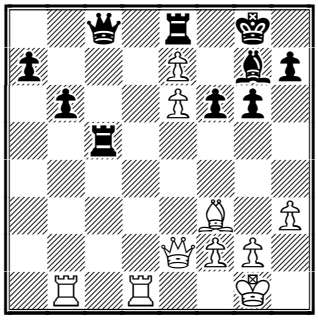
23...♕c8

This is losing by force but after 23...♕d8 24.dxe7 ♕xe7 25.♖d7 ♕e8 26.♖xa7 ♖e5 27.♕a2+− White also gets a decisive advantage.

24.dxe7

The d−pawn was superb after 24.d7 but it was unclear how to break.

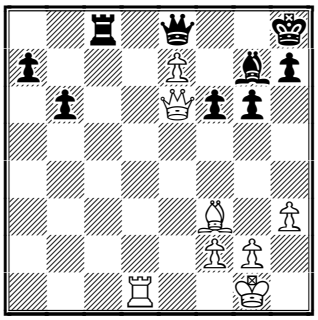
24...♖e8 (D)



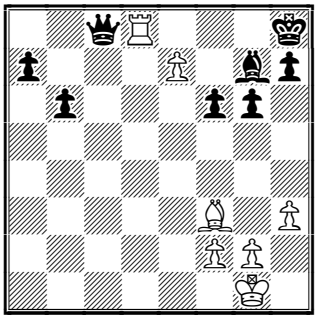
25.♖d8!

A winning idea − White needs only one pawn on the e−file, which is well supported by the queen.

25...♖xd8 26.exd8♕+ ♕xd8 27.e7 ♕e8 28.♕e6+ ♔h8 29.♖d1 ♖c8 (D)



30.♕xc8!
30.♗c6 was also good enough. **30...♕xc8 31.♖d8+ (D)**



Black resigned. This confident win helped Leif Johannessen to achieve a GM−norm. Fortunately his young opponent also managed to fulfil the same task despite this crushing defeat. Our congratulations to both players once again! **1-0.**

Recommended websites:
www.chathurangam.com/indian2001/39thBPCLNatlA/
www.bermuda.bm/chess
www.federscacchi.it/
www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html
www.chessclub.com

Solution to Quiz Today:
1. G.Vescovi - L. Johannessen
19...♖xb2! 20.♖xb2 ♘xc4 21.♕b3 ♘xb2 22.♕xb2 ♘b4 And Black converted his material advantage without any problems.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CT-81(500) March 22nd 2002

Chess Today Anniversary!

GM Alex Baburin celebrates our anniversary with a look at the history of CT.

Today is a special day for the CT team, as we have reached issue No. 500. Perhaps in the future such anniversaries will become routine, but for now it brings a sense of excitement to me. Here I would like to look back and talk about the history of Chess Today – hopefully it will be of interest to our readers, particularly the new ones.

CT started in November 2000. That autumn I got an idea that there was enough news in the chess world to fill a good few pages every day, particularly if one presented annotated games, as well as news. In a way, I was inspired by the success of my *Coffee Break Chess* newsletter. Yet, CT was a much more ambitious project, which clearly required a dedicated team. Fortunately, I had good contacts and soon CT got a few members aboard – IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Ruslan Scherbakov started to write for it, while Graham Brown began to edit it. At the beginning Tim Harding, editor of Chess Mail, also helped.

While I had known Ruslan since we were kids, and met Vladimir when I was 17, with Graham it was a different and quite an amazing story. For more than a year we worked together, exchanged numerous e-mails practically every day, but never actually met. Only recently Graham and I met in Birmingham – there is the power of the Internet for you! Jimmy Adams (editor of Chess Monthly) recommended Graham to me and I cannot thank Jimmy enough for that.

Ralph Marconi is our other editor, who puts a lot of effort into CT. I am yet to meet him (hopefully that day will come!), but it has been a pleasure to work together. The commitment of Ralph and Graham is the main reason that, despite living in different countries, we have not failed to deliver a single issue in 500 days!

Aliens ...

Grandmaster Mikhail Golubev wrote for CT for a while and we stay in touch. He is quite busy playing, and writing books, but I hope to see him working for CT again. And who knows, perhaps the CT team will expand in the future – while we are not planning any IPO on NASDAQ, Chess Today has survived times that have proved very difficult for many Net companies. Our readership is growing (albeit slowly) and with more people turning to the Net, the only way is up!

500 days is a long period, during which have we discussed different ideas to make CT better. But it seems that our format suits most of our readers fine – daily news, with quality

annotated games and occasional interviews. This is what came across in the polls and in e-mails. We are going to stick to this format. I know that most readers would love to see more instructional stuff, and this is one area where we can improve, particularly if we can get other strong players to write for the paper.

Another area of possible improvement is marketing. Recently I went to Norway for 10 days and met perhaps over 100 players. I reckon that just 5% of them heard of Chess Today. I guess that situation is similar in other countries...

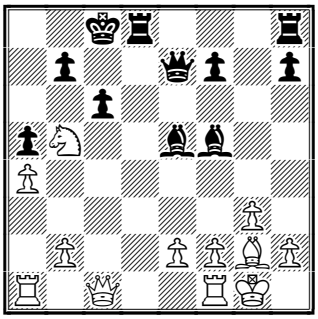
We do need more readers and I see it as my job to promote CT more effectively. I still have a lot to learn in this department, so if you have ideas and suggestions, please let me know – I may be slow implementing them, but I will get there eventually! Meanwhile please help us by spreading the word about Chess Today. We have close to 400 readers. It is fair to say that every chess player (on average) knows more than 10 chess players with e-mail address. If everyone mentions CT to his chess friends (perhaps forwarding to them one issue, be it news, middle game instructions or endgame stuff), that would allow over 4,000 people to learn about us! Please help us to promote Chess Today – bring a printed copy to your club or to a tournament where you play, post an announcement on newsgroups or on your club's Web site, tell your partners on ICC and other servers – the opportunities are limitless. We have re-designed and updated the CT site (www.chesstoday.net) – please advertise it too. Together we can make this publication even better!

Monaco 2002

Now to the chess news. The main story is still the tournament in Monaco, where round 5 was played on Thursday. There were two particularly interesting matches in that round: ***Kramnik-Morozevich*** and **Shirov-Bareev**. Kramnik was not doing well in the tournament (50%), so obviously he was keen to fight one of the leaders. He managed to win in rapid chess (a pretty interesting game – check it out in our database).

Quiz Today

Kramnik – Morozevich
Rapid, Monaco 2002

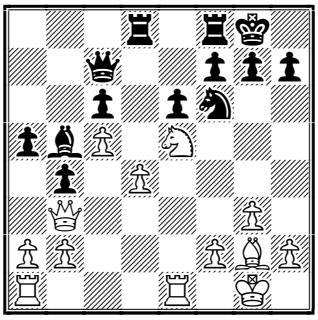


White to play

Their blindfold game was a rather uneventful draw, but Kramnik has become the first player to resist Morozevich in blindfold chess in Monaco.

Before round 5 Shirov was leading with 6½ points out of 8, while Bareev was equal second on 6 points. This made their duel particularly important. Usually Shirov is a tough examiner for the Muscovite, but in rapid chess Bareev outplayed his opponent. Yet, the match was drawn as in blindfold chess Bareev blundered dramatically:

Bareev – Shirov



White to play

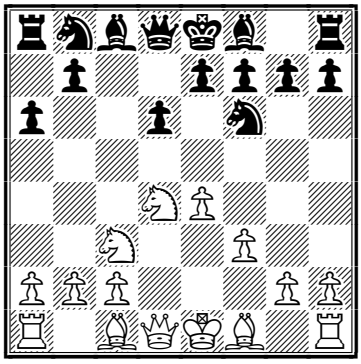
Here White is probably a little better. One reasonable way to play would be 20.a4! bxa3 21.bxa3 a4 *(21...♖xd4 22.a4 ♖b4 23.♕c2 ♗a6 24.♘xc6 ♖c4 25.♕d3±)* 22.♕e3±. Yet, the game went **20.♗xc6?? ♗xc6 21.♘xc6 ♕xc6 0-1**

Ivanchuk beat Piket 1½:½, Ljubojevic with the same score defeated van Wely, Gelfand won 2-0 against Almasi (see our Annotated Game Section today), while Leko got the same result against Topalov. Overall, main results of the round are that Shirov fortified his leading position, while Gelfand and Leko improved their standings a lot. Combined (rapid and blindfold chess) standing after 5 rounds:

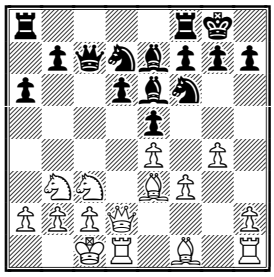
1. Alexei Shirov – 7½ points out of 10
2. Evgeny Bareev – 7 points. 3-5. Morozevich, Ivanchuk and Gelfand – 6½ points; 6. Kramnik – 5½ points; 7. Leko – 5 points; 8-9. Topalov and Piket – 4 points; 10. Ljubojevic – 3 points; 11. Almasi – 2½ points; 12. van Wely – 2 points.

Expert Najdorf

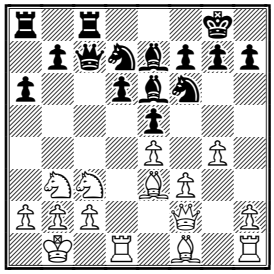
□ **Z. Almasi (2633)**
■ **B. Gelfand (2736)**
Amber-2002, Blind, Monaco (5)
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6
Gelfand is one of world's leading experts on the Najdorf, which he has played since childhood.
6.f3 ***(D)***



White plays this move when he wants to avoid 6.♗e3 ♘g4!?.
6...e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.♗e3 ♗e7 9.♕d2 0-0 10.0-0-0 ♘bd7 11.g4
This is not just a beginning of pawn storm, but also fights for the d5-square.
11...♕c7 ***(D)***



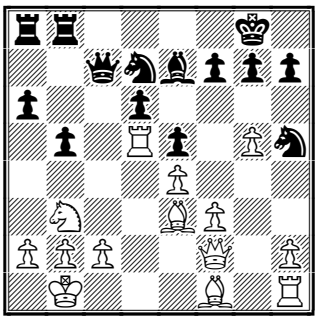
12.♔b1
White has various options here, for example, **12.g5** is very popular. One recent game went 12...♘h5 13.♔b1 b5 14.♘d5 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♘b6 16.♘a5 ♘xd5 17.♕xd5 ♕xa5 18.c4 ♕b4 19.♖g1 ♖ab8 20.cxb5 axb5 21.a3 ♕a4 22.♖g4 ♘f4 23.♗xf4 exf4 24.♖d4 ♕a5 25.♖e4 ♕d8 26.♗xb5 ♔h8 27.♖exf4 ♕b6 28.a4 ♕c5 29.♖d4 f5 30.♖g2 ♖fc8 31.♕xc5 ♖xc5 32.f4 g6 33.b4 ♖c3 34.♖c2 ♖f3 35.♗c6 ♖f1+ 36.♔a2 ♗f8 37.b5 ♗g7 38.♖cd2 ♗xd4 39.♖xd4 ♖c1 40.a5 1-0 Bologan-Fressinet, Pamplona 2002. One exemplary game in this line is **12.h4** b5 13.♘d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♖fc8 15.♔b1 ♘b6 16.♗xb6 ♕xb6 17.♕e1 a5 18.g5 ♘h5 19.a3 ♘f4 20.♖h2 ♖c7 21.♘c1 ♕b7 22.♖hd2 ♖c5 23.♘d3 ♘xd3 24.♗xd3 g6 25.♖h2 ♕d7 26.♕e4 ♖ac8 27.♖dh1 h5 28.gxh6 f5 29.♕e1 ♔h7 30.♖g2 ♖g8 31.♕xa5 ♖xd5 32.♗c4 ♗d8 33.♕a8 bxc4 34.♕xd5 c3 35.♖hg1 ♗f6 36.b3 ♕e7 37.a4 g5 38.hxg5 ♖xg5 39.♖xg5 ♗xg5 40.f4 1-0 Adams-Kobalija, Moscow 2001.
12...♖fc8 13.♕f2!? ***(D)***



A tricky move, typical for this

system. White gets control over the b6-square, which means that he is fighting over the critical d5-square. It also matters that ...b7-b5-b4xc3 will not come with tempo. [13.g5 ♘h5 14.♘d5 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♘b6 16.♘a5 ♘f4 17.♗xf4 exf4 18.♗h3 ♖e8 19.♕xf4 ♗f8 20.♖d2 ♖e5 21.♖hd1 ♖ae8 22.♕h4 g6 23.♗f1 ♖f5 24.♖d3 ♗g7 25.♘b3 ♘c4⩲ Tiviakov-Morozevich, Wijk aan Zee 2001. Gelfand lost to Shirov in 2000 in New Delhi in this line after 16.♖g1 a5 17.a3 a4 18.♘c5!, so he obviously had something up his sleeve as he went for this variation again.

13...b5 14.g5 ♘h5 15.♘d5 ♗xd5 16.♖xd5 ♖cb8! ***(D)***



This is one reason why Black had played ♖fc8 and not ♖ac8 - now the a8-♖ is very useful where it is.

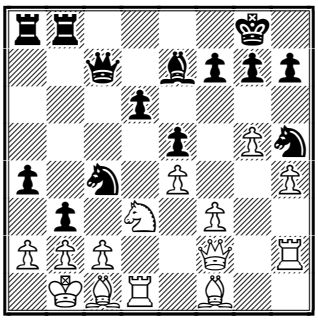
17.♘c1?!N

17.h4 ♘b6 18.♗xb6 ♖xb6 ½-½ Jenni-Forster, Zug 2001.

17...♘b6 18.♖d1 ♘c4 19.h4 a5 20.♖h2

White would like to get rid of the c4-knight, but after 20.♗xc4 bxc4 21.c3 a4 22.a3 Black has 22...d5!.

20...a4 21.♘d3 b4 22.♗c1 b3 ***(D)***



Something has gone wrong for White, as Black has all the play here.

23.cxb3 axb3 24.a3 d5!

This move in the Najdorf often spells doom for White.

25.exd5 ♗xa3 0-1

White resigned as 26.bxa3 b2! Is clearly hopeless for him. Nice play by Gelfand – it looks like White needs some repair work in the line with 12.♔b1.

More tournament news tomorrow – stay tuned!

Solution to Quiz Today:- 19.♘a7+! According to Fritz, 19.♕e1 cxb5 20.♕xa5 is another interesting possibility. But Kramnik chose an even more energetic way. **19...♔b8 20.♘xc6+** The point, now Black's king is too exposed. **20...bxc6 21.♕xc6 ♔a7 22.♕b5 ♗c8 23.♕xa5+** Four pawns and attack is too much for a piece, White is clearly winning. **23...♗a6 24.♖ac1 ♖c8 25.b4 ♗c7 26.♕f5 ♖he8 27.b5 ♗b7 28.♗xb7 ♔xb7 29.♕d5+ ♔b8 30.b6! ♗xb6 31.♖b1 ♕e6 32.♕xe6 ♖xe6 33.a5 ♖cc6 34.e3 1-0**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
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CT-102(521) April 12th 2002

Impressions of *Chess Informant* 83 (EE) and a look at The Best Novelty of *Chess Informant* 82
GM Mikhail Golubev

Yesterday I was very happy to receive *Chess Informant* 83, Electronic Edition.

Chess Informant (or *Informator*) is a unique chess publication that is published three times per year (it was two times per year formerly). In each issue, all the important new games are annotated by the world's best players (Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand, etc. - I think that all today's elite players co-operate with the Chess Informant; for example you can see the list of Contributor's of the last Volume at *Chess Informant* website), and *Chess Informant* also accepts and publishes games of much weaker players (such as GM Golubev) in these rare cases if they have something to tell and show. From the beginning, *Chess Informant* developed its famous Code System (also known as *Chess Informant* Style annotations) where symbols in chess annotations are used instead of words, that reduces the size of the same annotations dramatically and makes it possible to understand annotated games for players all over the world.

I became familiar with *Chess Informant* a few years after I started to play chess (therefore, about 20 years ago), and there were obviously no electronic editions at the time. The former Soviet Union was the biggest market for the *Chess Informant* books, due to the incredible number of serious players in the country. The price of *Chess Informant* was 10 rubles, not cheap at all (you would not believe me if I told you how long one could survive in the USSR with that money!), and anyway it was not an easy task to buy a book for that official price. Odessa Chess Club received some limited numbers of Chess Informant, and there was a special list of players and coaches of clubs, who had a right to buy a book. Many things have changed since then. At the beginning of the 90s the Soviet Union stopped buying Chess Informants (logical, since the country didn't exist anymore), while some people in former the USSR Republics started to sell pirate photocopies of the Yugoslav books (it was impossible to do that in the USSR, and not because copyrights were so much respected, but because organisations were forced to ask KGB permission to make any kind of photocopies - for example Odessa chess club required special permission to multiply empty chess crosstables, letters to the participants of correspondence tournaments and other similar things). Lately, I haven't seen *Informant* photocopies in the Ukraine (People found some better ways to make money), and original *Informant* publications are still very difficult to buy in my country.

Yes, everything flows and changes, and recently well annotated games on the Internet started to appear sometimes here and there, but *Chess Informant* still keeps it's unique position as the magazine that provides annotations to all the top games *(another famous publication, New in Chess, works in a different way, they provide detailed surveys of specified popular opening variants, not trying to include all the important new games of all the opening)*, and if you wish to download free annotations from web sites, then you will need probably many many hours to collect material that will even compare in value with a single *Informant* issue, while the content of some sites such as KasparovChess.com has already stopped being free of charge. The information boom made it tempting for some serious players (usually, but not always, the young players) to think that they can now do their opening preparation without a Chess Informant, but such an approach can

be strongly punished. The game that I annotated for CT-325 (Smirin 2702 – Grischuk 2661) is a good practical example, where White, was unfamiliar with the latest *Informant* analysis by GM Atalik and lost a game in 22 moves!

So, I return to ***Chess Informant* 83 EE**, already the third *Chess Informant* that I have received in electronic form. *Chess Informant* announces that *Chess Informant* 83 EE (naturally, the same as the printed version) brings together 584 annotated games and 643 variations from the events held between October 1st, 2001 and January 31st, 2002 (there is also perhaps a few February 2002 games – at least I am sure about my own game against Shirov from the Bundesliga). The following top events are covered: Wijk aan Zee, Erevan Wcht, Leon, Moscow Wch, Pamplona, USA Ch, Wijk aan Zee, Kramnik-Kasparov Botvinnik Memorial match, Ponomariov-Ivanchuk FIDE Final, etc. Leading contributors of issue 83 are Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand, Adams, Morozevich, Ponomariov, Ivanchuk, Shirov, Leko, Bareev, Gelfand, Smirin, Van Wely, Kasimdzhanov, Svidler, Khalifman, Lautier, Dreev, Ju. Polgar, Grischuk, Short, and so on. I don't think that annotations of these players and their games requires any credit from me, so it is better I just try to compare electronic and printed versions. In order to read Electronic Editions customers should download from *Informant* site (or order together with electronic publication on CD) the ***Chess Informant* Reader** program, an independent product that was developed by the *Informant* team, as I can suppose, in order to protect *Informant* publications from pirate copying (earlier it was possible for some years to buy Informants in the popular ChessBase format, but as I know this practice was terminated by *Chess Informant* a few years ago when their CIReader appeared). Currently the Reader is a good program that allows you to find quickly all what you need amongst *Chess Informant* games.

In many ways, the idea of an electronic book is evidently artificial because, basically, the book is something that you can read in the printed form (at least as I understand the idea). *Chess Informant* is no exception, and it is easier to read it printed, *but only if you have one of the very few issues*! Speaking about multiple issues (e.g. all 83 issues that serious players would love to have), the *Chess Informant* Reader program easily allows users, for example, to search games by position from all 83 Informants with one or two mouse clicks, and I am not sure that chess player's wife would so easily allow him to search a certain chess position among 83 printed books.

Meanwhile, *Chess Informant* has just released its new software, called ***Chess Informant* Expert,** which is fully compatible with all *Chess Informant* electronic publications, and specially designed to display *Chess Informant* games and trademark sections. Beta version of the *Chess Informant* Expert can be downloaded from www.sahovski.com/expert.htm. CIExpert is an important innovation, since trademark sections include: *The best ten games of the preceding Volume, The ten most important theoretical novelties of the preceding Volume, Combinations, Endings, Tournaments and The Best of Chess Informant* (the latter section devoted to the games and career highlights of the world champions and greatest players, such us Jan Timman for Volume 83), and there was, unfortunately, no way to read them, using *Chess Informant* Reader. Another important thing is that the new Expert program will work with chess gamefiles in PGN format.

A good surprise for me in the Novelties section – the game **Rogozenko-Filipenko** (*Informant* 82/ Game 383), played in the FIDE World Internet Chess Championship 2001, was awarded the Most Important Theoretical Novelty of the Preceding Volume 82. Seven arbiters (Anand,

Bareev, Benjamin, Jussupow, Lutz, Salov, I.Sokolov) put the Rogozenko game in first place (10 points), and there were also 9 points from Timman, 8 points from Jussupow and 4 points from Beliavsky (who probably knows something special about the particular opening). Generally, quite a good reason to look at the game seriously! I haven't play that opening line before (actually I knew well only the Kramnik–Anand 1997 game, and saw a few other important games occasionally). Nevertheless, I heroically decided to comment this game for Chess Today and at the same time requested by email my good friend, Romanian (ex–Moldovian) Grandmaster Dorian Rogozenko to say a few words about how his novelty was born ..

When I finished with my annotations, I found that Dorian sent us his own detailed notes to the game!. So, I don't see better solution than to ask our technical editor Graham Brown to put both versions in the issue, in order to give readers the possibility to compare an outsider's and insider's guide to the acute Anti–Moscow system and the best *Chess Informant* novelty.

I forgot to tell you that the *best game* of *Informant* 82 is Kramnik–Anand (1–0) from Dortmund 2001, it won in its section much less confidently than Rogozenko's. The game Borovikov–Golubev from Ukrainian Championship 2001 that I lost (and commented in CT–329) took ninth place in the best novelties list, so, OK, maybe games that I annotate here in Chess Today are not always particularly bad.

Outsider

□ **D Rogozenko**
■ **A Filipenko**
WICC www.fide.com, 2001 D43
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4

6.♗xf6 is more popular, but playing like this you can hardly win The Best Novelty prize.

6...dxc4

6...g5 7.♗g3 dxc4 is the less precise move order for Black, but White usually plays 8.e4 anyway.

7.e4

This acute system was employed by Spassky in the 1960s, and later by Kasparov, Kramnik, Topalov and other famous players. Presumably, it can be less profitable for White than the Botvinnik Variation (5...dxc4 6.e4 b5), but, nevertheless, Black can hardly hope for a quiet life.

7...g5

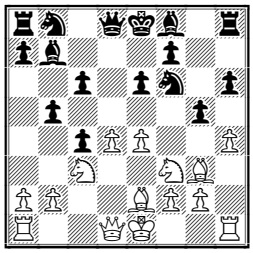
7...b5 8.e5! transposes to the Botinnik Variation: 8...g5 9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♘bd7 , and so on.

8.♗g3 b5 9.♗e2

The main move, but White has several alternatives. E.g., GM Jobava always plays 9.♘e5!? here.

9...♗b7

And this is Black's main answer that leads to a critical crossroad.



10.h4

An extremely fashionable idea, introduced by A.Khalifman 1998. 10.e5!? ♘h5 *(⌓10...♘d5!* Kasparov–Tal., Moscow IZ 1982*)* 11.a4! a6 12.♘xg5! ♘xg3 13.♘xf7 ♔xf7 14.fxg3 ♔g8! 15.0–0 ♘d7 16.♗g4 ♕e7 17.♘e4 ♖h7 18.♘d6 ♖b8 19.b4? *(19.axb5 cxb5 20.♘xb7 ♖xb7 21.♖xa6 ♖b6 22.♖xb6 ♘xb6 23.♖f6±* Kramnik, later it occurred in Ward–Grabliauskas, Copenhagen open 1998.*)* 19...h5! 20.♗h3 ♗h6! 21.♔h1 ♗g5 22.♕c2 ♖g7 23.♕e2 ♗a8! 24.♕xh5 ♖f8 25.♘e4 c5 26.♘xg5 ♗d5!!∓ Kramnik–Anand, Belgrade 1997; 10.♘e5!? is Topalov's speciality; 10.0–0 , the old speciality of Ruslan Sherbakov, is somehow out of fashion now. An example: 10...♘bd7 11.d5!? cxd5 12.exd5 ♘xd5 13.♘xb5 a6 14.♘bd4 ♗g7 15.♗xc4 0–0= Shirov–Kramnik, Frankfurt rpd 1996.

10...b4

In featured game Rogozenko delivered a serious blow against this tempting move. 10...g4 11.♘e5 is alternative, where 11...h5!? was the last Dreev's choice: 12.0–0 ♘bd7 13.♕c2 ♘xe5 14.♗xe5 ♗g7 15.♖ad1 0–0 16.f3 ♘h7 17.♗xg7 ♔xg7 18.fxg4 ♕xh4 19.gxh5 ♘g5 20.♕d2 ♘h3+ 21.gxh3 ♕g3+ 22.♔h1 ♕xh3+ 23.♔g1 ♕g3+ 24.♔h1 ♕h3+ ½–½ Van Wely–Dreev, Wijk aan Zee 2002 – in fact nothing really new since Van Wely made a draw in the same way two years earlier, against Lautier.

11.hxg5!?

11.♘a4 ♘xe4 12.♗e5∞ led to double-edged play in several important games; I.Sokolov–Dreev, Dos Hermanas 2001 was commented in CT by Ruslan Sherbakov.

11...bxc3 12.bxc3!

(According to Se.Ivanov, this idea was first proposed by GM Igor Zaitsev) After 12.gxf6 , the following confident win by GM Dreev had a wide publicity in the chess world: 12...cxb2 13.♖b1 ♕a5+ 14.♘d2 c3 15.0–0 ♗a6 16.♘b3N *(16.♘c4 ♕xa2 17.♘e3 ♗xe2 18.♕xe2 ♘d7 19.d5* with some counterplay for White occurred in Yuferov–Sveshnikov, Chigorin Mem St. Petersburg 2000*)* 16...♕xa2 17.♘c5 ♗b5 18.♕c2 ♕a3 19.♖fd1 ♖g8 20.♗xb5 cxb5 21.♕e2 ♕b4 22.♘xe6 ♕c4 23.♘c7+ ♔d8 24.♕h5 ♖g5 25.♕h3 ♖xg3 26.♕xg3 ♕xc7 27.♕g8 ♘d7 28.♕xf7 ♕c4 29.d5 ♕xe4 0–1 Atalik–Dreev, Sarajevo 2001

12...♘xe4

12...♘fd7!? should leave White with promising compensation for a knight.

13.♗e5 ♖h7

13...♘xc3!? was proposed by Rogozenko (as the last Black's chance?).

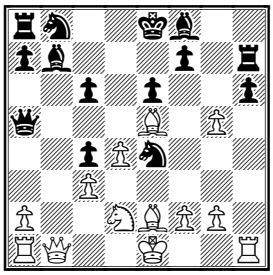
14.♕b1!!N

14.♕c2?∞ occurred in Se.Ivanov–Potkin, Chigorin Mem St. Petersburg 2000.

14...♕a5

14...f5 15.gxf6 ♕d5 *(15...♕a5 16.♘d2* transposes to the game*)* 16.♘d2 , with a big advantage.

15.♘d2!!



And this is a real and killing novelty. 15.0–0 ♘xc3! 16.♕xb7 ♘xe2+ (check!) 17.♔h1 hxg5+ (check!) 18.♘h2 ♗d6! (this saves a rook) 19.♗xd6 ♕d8–+ was given by GM Se.Ivanov in *Informant* 80.

15...f5

Or 15...♕xc3 16.0–0!!+–; An very nice (for White) line is 15...♘xd2 16.♕xb7 ♕xc3 17.♕c8+ ♔e7 18.♗f6+ ♔d6 19.♕d8+ ♘d7 20.♗e5+ ♔d5 21.♕xd7+ ♔e4 22.♕xc6+ ♔f5 23.♖d1+– , Rogozenko

16.gxf6 c5

Or 16...♕xc3 17.0–0 ♕xd2 18.♕xe4 ♖d7 *(18...♖f7+–)* 19.♕g6+ ♔d8 20.♕g8+–

17.♘xe4 ♗xe4 18.♗h5+!

The last nuance – White must remove bishop from e2 in order to make this square available for his king.

18...♔d8 19.♕xe4 ♕xc3+ 20.♔e2

And White won easily:

20...♕d3+ 21.♕xd3 cxd3+ 22.♔xd3 ♘c6 23.♗f3 ♖c8 24.♗xc6! ♖xc6 25.♖ab1 ♗d6 26.♔e4 cxd4 27.♗xd6 ♖xd6 28.♖b8+ ♔c7 29.♖hb1 ♖b6 30.♖8xb6 axb6 31.♔e5 d3 32.♔xe6 1–0

Insider

□ **D Rogozenko**

■ **A Filipenko**

WICC www.fide.com, 2001 D43

Notes by GM D Rogozenko

This game was played in the last round. By making a draw I had a 90% chance to qualify for the World Championship (in the end it turned out that a draw would have qualified me as well). My opponent had an even better situation – by drawing this game he would have definitely qualified among the first 8 places,

thanks to his best Buchgolz tie-break. Nevertheless I decided to play for a win.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4

I used to play the positional 6.Bxf6, which gives White a slight edge, but Black has a very solid position. In a way I was lucky to meet Filipenko - he always sticks to his openings which he knows very well (he is Alexey Dreev's coach), so I could rightly guess the variation.

6...dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.♗g3 b5 9.♗e2

The sharp Anti-Moscow Gambit is fashionable these days and is a very risky choice for either side. Home preparation and a good feeling of the arising chaotic positions are essential in this opening. White is a pawn down, but he has a strong pawn center and possibilities to break through with the help of d4-d5.

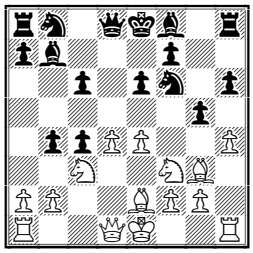
9...♗b7

[9...♘bd7 Playing 9. ... Nbd7 was, for a long time, considered to be a must until the next advance was proved to be unpleasant for Black: 10.d5! I already had experience in this line: 10...b4 11.dxe6 bxc3 12.exd7+ ♗xd7 13.bxc3 ♘xe4 14.♕d4 ♘xg3 15.hxg3 ♖g8 16.♕xc4 ♖g6! A good novelty. The idea is to free the rook before playing Bg7 and Kf8-g8. 17.♘e5 After a long thought I decided that the best chance to keep the initiative is to play a position with opposite-coloured bishops. *(17.0–0 ♗g7* △Kf8-g8.*)* 17...♖e6 18.♘xd7 ♕xd7 19.♖d1 ♕e7 20.0–0 ♕c5 21.♕g4 ♗d6 *(21...♖d8!* This would have given better chances to defend. *22.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 23.♗c4 ♖f6±)* 22.♗c4 ♖f6 23.♖fe1+ *(23.♕e4+ ♔d7 24.♖d4* was right, with a strong attack.*)* 23...♔f8 24.♖e3

A) 24...♗xg3! We both missed this nice tactical blow. 25.♕xg3 *(or 25.♖xg3 ♖f4=)* 25...♕xc4 26.♕e5 ♔g7 27.♖f3 ♕e6=;

B) 24...♖d8 25.♗b3 ♗c7? 26.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 27.♕e4 ♔g7 28.♗c2 ♖g6 29.♕e8 ♗f6 30.♕d7 *(30.♖e6!)* 30...h5 31.♗xg6 ♔xg6 32.♕d3+ ♔g7 33.♖f3 ♕e7 34.♔h2 1–0 Rogozenko-Peng Zhaoqin, Dieren 2001]

10.h4 b4

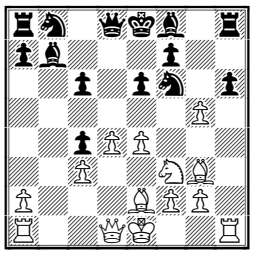


Here we are. This line became fashionable last year, when Dreev achieved two very important wins with it. As I knew Filipenko used to be Dreev's coach, there was definitely a big possibility that he would play it against me. [Below is the game against Romanian IM Cosma, played in March 2001. During my preparation for it, I discovered the whole idea from my game against Filipenko. But Cosma played 10. ... g4 instead of 10. ... b4, so I had to keep the novelty for 7 months, waiting for a victim... 10...g4 11.♘e5 ♖g8 12.♘xg4 ♘bd7 13.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 14.♗f3 ♕b6 15.♕d2 h5 16.0–0 ♖d8 17.♘e2 c5 18.d5 exd5 19.exd5 ♗xd5 20.♕f4 ♗xf3 21.♕xf3 ♖d3 22.♕f4 ♗e7 23.♖fe1⩲ ♘d5 24.♕e5 ♕b7 25.♕xh5 ♔f8 26.♖ad1! Trading Black's most active piece 26...♕c6 27.b3 ♖g6 28.bxc4 bxc4 29.♖b1± ♔g8 30.♖ec1 ♕e6 31.♖b8+ ♗f8 32.♗e5 ♘f6 33.♗xf6 ♕xf6 34.♕xc5 ♖d6 35.♕xc4 ♖d2 36.♘f4 ♖h6 37.♕c5 ♕g7 38.♕g5 ♕xg5 39.hxg5 ♖b6 40.♖a8 ♔g7 41.g4 1–0 Rogozenko,D-Cosma,I Romanian Team Champ. 2001]

11.hxg5

[11.♘a4 ♘xe4 12.♗e5 ♖g8 13.♕c2 c5 14.♗xc4 g4 15.♗b5+ ♘d7 16.dxc5 b3 17.♕d3 gxf3 18.c6 ♗b4+ and Black was victorious later in this incredible sharp position, Sokolov,I-Dreev,A/Dos Hermanas, (0–1, 31 moves).]

11...bxc3 12.bxc3!



White is a piece down and he is not even thinking yet to regain material! The initiative is more important, but here I would like to explain something. In principle Black's position looks ugly. He has a lot of weaknesses and no safe place for the king. But he has a considerable material advantage and also some possibilities for active play, connected mainly with queen's and knight's actions (Qa5, Ne4). So most important for White is to prevent Black's initiative, not to take material yet. That's why 12.bxc3 is actually a very logical move – it eliminates the potential danger of black queenside pawns. In *Informatory* 80 (which was released in April 2001, if I am not mistaken) I found out that 12.bxc3 was Zaitsev's idea. No doubt about that, but still reading this was a bit painful, cause I came to the same idea myself during my preparation to the above mentioned game v Cosma. It was already then when I discovered the refutation of Black's play, which was demonstrated in this game. [12.gxf6 This is the most natural move, but it gives Black too strong a queenside initiative 12...cxb2 13.♖b1 ♕a5+ 14.♘d2 c3 15.0–0 ♗a6 16.♘b3 ♕xa2 17.♘c5 ♗b5 18.♕c2 ♕a3 19.♖fd1 ♖g8 20.♗xb5 cxb5 21.♕e2 ♕b4 22.♘xe6 ♕c4 23.♘c7+ ♔d8 24.♕h5 ♖g5 25.♕h3 ♖xg3 26.♕xg3 ♕xc7 27.♕g8 ♘d7 28.♕xf7 ♕c4 29.d5 ♕xe4 0–1 Atalik,S–Dreev,A/Sarajevo 2001]

12...♘xe4

[12...♘fd7 is another story. To analyze this position till the end is impossible, so here my verdict was that after 13.Rb1 Nb6 14.a4 or 13.Bxc4 White just has a positional compensation for the piece.]

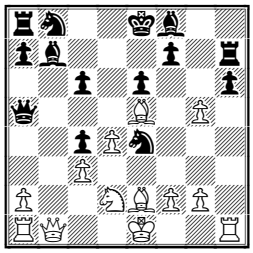
13.♗e5 ♖h7

[13...♘xc3 An important move to consider. Chess computers evaluate the position as winning for Black, but in fact my opinion was that after 14.♕c2 ♘xe2 15.♗xh8 ♘f4 16.gxh6! ♘xg2+ 17.♔f1 Black is lost. The pawn on h6 is simply too strong and there is nothing Black can do about that.]

14.♕b1!N

This is a novelty which brought me the *Chess Informant* first prize. It looks natural, of course, but the problem is that it must be connected with the next move. [White won in the following game, but Black has several possibilities to improve. 14.♕c2 ♕a5 *(14...c5!?)* 15.0–0 c5 16.♖ab1 ♕xc3 *(16...♗c6!?* △ Qxc3.*)* 17.♕a4+ ♗c6 18.♖xb8+ Ivanov,S–Potkin,V/St Petersburg 2000]

14...♕a5 15.♘d2!!



In the annotations given in *Informant* 80 to Ivanov–Potkin, only the move 15.0–0 is analyzed and the line ends by winning for Black. In fact White is winning by force in all variations, so with 14.Qb1 and 15.Nd2 the evaluation was changed from a losing line in a winning one.

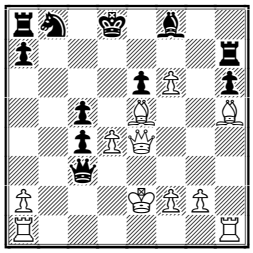
15...f5

The idea of this move is to protect bishop on b7 by the rook. But the pawn on f6 gives White many additional possibilities. In the end this was the pawn to decide the game. [15...♕xc3 16.0–0!+–; 15...♘xc3 16.♕xb7+–; 15...♘xd2 16.♕xb7 ♕xc3 17.♕c8+ ♔e7 18.♗f6+ ♔d6 19.♕d8+ ♘d7 20.♗e5+ time to take material: 20...♔d5 21.♕xd7+ ♔e4 22.♕xc6+ ♔f5 23.♖d1 this is a dream position for White when playing Anti–Moscow Gambit...]

16.gxf6 c5 17.♘xe4 ♗xe4 18.♗h5+

An important check. [18.♕xe4?? ♕xc3+ and Black takes the rook with check.]

18...♔d8 19.♕xe4 ♕xc3+ 20.♔e2



It was only here that my analysis ended. And all this was done in March 2001, the night before my game versus Cosma. Around here Filipenko offered a draw. I felt really sorry for Filipenko, who played a nice tournament and lost his qualification hopes with this game, but of course I could not accept it. I knew I was winning and that's the sport – one wins, another loses – a tough thing... I have been often in my life on the losing side (too often, if you ask me) and there is nobody to blame for that but myself. It's just a game after all, so no tragedy if somebody loses it.

20...♕d3+ 21.♕xd3 cxd3+ 22.♔xd3 ♘c6 23.♗f3

The easiest way is to trade everything.

23...♖c8 24.♗xc6 ♖xc6 25.♖ab1 ♗d6 26.♔e4

The f-pawn will decide the game.

26...cxd4 27.♗xd6 ♖xd6 28.♖b8+ ♔c7 29.♖hb1 ♖b6 30.♖8xb6 axb6 31.♔e5 d3 32.♔xe6 1-0

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-107(526) April 17th 2002

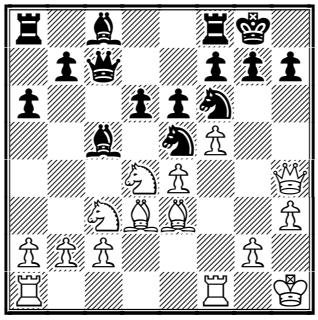
Smirin vs Computers: 1,5-0,5; Vallejo Pons wins Dos Hermanas Open; Mitkov victorious in Macedonian

Amongst current chess events with the participation of humans, the Internet match Human vs Computers is probably the most interesting one to discuss today. But, first, some news about recently completed tournaments:

GM Francisco Vallejo Pons, a rising Spanish chess star, was the sole winner of the third **Dos Hermanas Open**, which took place from the 5th-13th April 2002. He scored 7,5/9. Sharing 2nd to 6th place with 7/9 were grandmasters Oleg Korneev, Bogdan Lalic, Alexander Rustemov, and two IMs, Juliah Radulski and Ivan Cheparinov.

The 11th **Macedonian Championships** (1st-14th April 2002) ended with a deserved win for the ELO favourite Grandmaster Nikola Mitkov (10/13). Trajce Nedev was clear second with 9/13. It attracted my attention that it was these two players, who recently shocked the chess world with their unusual attacking exchange sacrifice in the Sicilian Defence:

N. Mitkov (2532) - S. Rublevsky (2670), *European Club Cup Neum 2000.*
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗d3 ♘c6 7.♗e3 ♘f6 8.0-0 ♘e5 9.h3 ♗c5 10.♔h1 d6 11.f4 ♘g6
This is an important theoretical continuation, since 11...Nc6 12.e5!! Kasparov-Anand, Tilburg 1991, is promising for White
12.♕e1 0-0 13.f5 ♘e5 14.♕h4 (D)



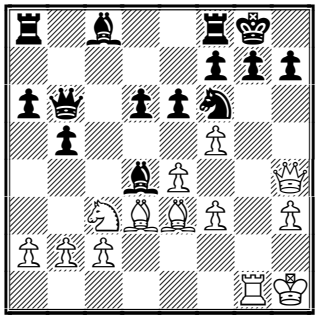
14...♗d7
14...b5 15.♖f3 ♘xf3 16.gxf3 ♘e8 17.♖g1 g6 18.♖g4 b4 19.♘ce2 e5 20.♕h6 d5 21.♖h4 f6 22.♘e6 ♗xe6 23.♗xc5 ♖f7 24.fxe6 ♖g7 25.♗xb4 1-0
Nedev,T (2460) - Comas Fabrego,L (2510) Batumi EchT 1999
15.♖f3 ♘xf3 16.gxf3 ♔h8 17.♖g1 ♕d8 18.e5 dxe5 19.♖xg7 ♖g8 20.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 21.♗g5 ♗e7 22.♘e4 ♘d5 23.f6 ♕b6 24.♘c5 ♕xc5 25.♕xh7+ 1-0.

Recently a few more games in this variation have been played. I won, for example, one game with White (see our ***Quiz Today*** section!). As usual in the Sicilian, things are not always so clear, but the Macedonian Attack is still a very dangerous weapon.

QIUZ TODAY

M. Golubev (2530) - V. Podinic (2366)
Lasker Autumn GM, Bucharest (3), 2001

Position after 17...♗c5xd4
and now how does White win here?



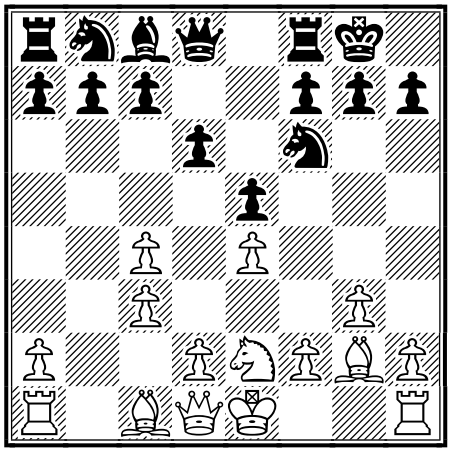
White to play and win

Internet Match Human vs Computers II

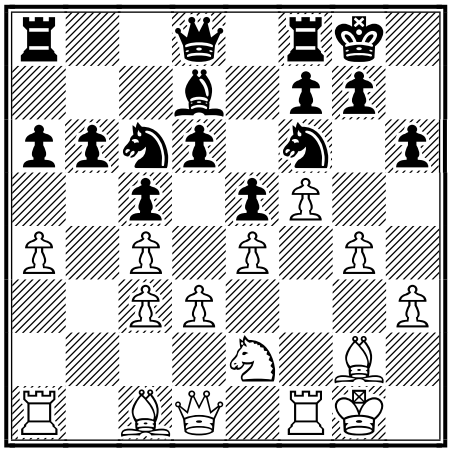
Israeli Grandmaster **Ilya Smirin** is playing a match versus top computer programs. The event was organised and intensively covered by KasparovChess and ChessBase. It's not the first case of such co-operation. Very recently Grandmaster Boris Gulko faced top programs in a similar match, and lost with a score 3-5, and I remember how I played one and half years ago in a Human vs Machine 2000 event, when computers crushed a team of 8 international players. The results of my own play were not impressive. I lost both games vs Junior and Fritz, trying to compete with them in a sharp semi-open positions. My comments to these games were published at KasparovChess. There is also possibility for download online comments by M.Greengard and other commentators, and of course GM Alterman's notes to the fantastic Alterman Wall game.

In the first two games of the present match, Ilya Smirin showed that he is a very dangerous opponent for the today's best computer programs. Smirin won an impressive anti-computer game with White against Shredder. This game will be commented on in this issue. I will show moves by Shredder which are below any criticism. He made a draw in a second game against Hiarcs, when it was only the human who had any chances to win the endgame.

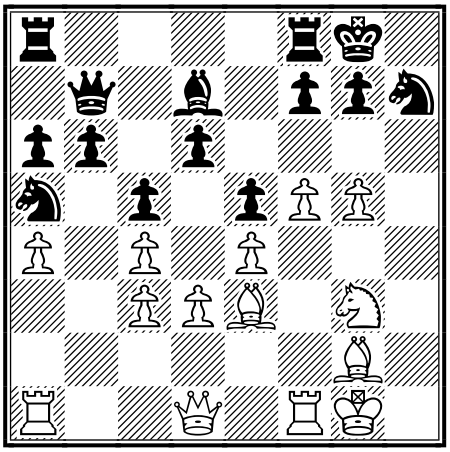
White: I. Smirin (2702)
Black: Deep Shredder
[A22]
Internet match II (60'+10) KC (1), 15.04.2002
Comments by GM Golubev
1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.g3 ♗b4 4.♗g2 0-0 5.e4 ♗xc3 6.bxc3 d6 7.♘e2 (D)



Maybe White is slightly better here, but the computer still has the possibility to prepare c6 and ...d5, with some play. However it doesn't like to open the position (maybe because White has the "two bishop advantage") and look, what happened...
7...♗g4 8.f3 ♗e6 9.d3 c5
Shredder made mistakes with almost every move, so I prefer not to use question marks at all in my comments. The last move was particularly bad, in my view.
10.0-0 h6 11.h3 a6 12.a4 b6 13.f4 ♘c6 14.f5 ♗d7 15.g4 (D)



15...♕c7
The idea of a possible advance of the h and g pawns did not make Shredder too nervous.
16.♘g3 ♘a5 17.h4 ♘h7 18.g5 hxg5 19.hxg5 ♕b7 20.♗e3 (D)



The Log file from the ChessBase site showed that the program always evaluated the position as almost equal during the course of the game. Only now did it "understand" how bad Black's position is. Of course, the fate of Black king is obvious.
20...b5 21.axb5 axb5 22.♕h5 bxc4 23.f6 ♖fc8 24.fxg7 ♗g4 1-0.

Current results and playing schedule: April 14 Smirin-Shredder 1-0, April 15 Hiarcs-Smirin draw, April 18 Smirin-Junior, April 21 Tiger-Smirin, April 22 Shredder-Smirin, April 24 Smirin-Hiarcs, April 25 Junior-Smirin, April 28 Smirin-Tiger.

Solution to Quiz Today:
M. Golubev (2530) - V. Podinic (2366)
18.e5!+- ♗xe3 [18...dxe5 19.♕xf6 (or *19.♖xg7+*) 19...e4 20.♗xd4+-; 18...♘e8 19.♖xg7+ ♘xg7 20.f6+-] **19.♖xg7+! ♔h8** [the point is 19...♔xg7 20.exf6+! ♔h8 21.fxe6 h6 22.♕e4! , and 23.♕h7# is inevitable.] **20.♖xh7+ ♘xh7 21.f6 1-0.**

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CHESS TODAY

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CT-108(527) April 18th 2002

Alexandra under fire

Russian chess star Alexandra Kosteniuk again tops the news at the ChessBase website. They provide us a link to the Foxnews.com article about Alexandra, called The New Face of Chess Is a Pretty One.

At same time, Kosteniuk's name can be found at the top of another popular site, The Chess Cafe. They have published a review by Taylor Kingston on Alexandra's book *How I Became a Grandmaster at Age 14.*

Mr Kingston's review is called *From Russia With Hype, or Too Many Cooks and a Wine that Won't Travel.* Sometimes I think that things like negative book reviews should have only very limited rights to existence. Look: instead of punishing a book, which a reviewer for some reason doesn't like, wouldn't it be easier to avoid writing anything? The reviewer ends up punishing his own readers, who are usually forced in such cases into a long and unpleasant read.

And Kingston's review ranges wider. He complains about Alexandra's website www.kosteniuk.com and then moves on to a critique of her personality. This is hardly pleasant to read. Since Taylor Kingston more than confidently writes on behalf of Western chess-players (both professionals and amateurs), it is better that I avoid the arbiter's role further and provide a direct link to his article, where at least there are several quotations from Kosteniuk's book.

Meanwhile, Alexandra Kosteniuk, unfortunately, lost against GM Dragomaretsky in the first round of the Moscow Championship (KO), with a score of ½-1½. Results of the second round of this strong event were unavailable at time of going to press.

Other news

The Week in Chess published Octagon's reply to one point made in the Shirov letter on the Dubai Grand Prix Prizefund. Here it is:

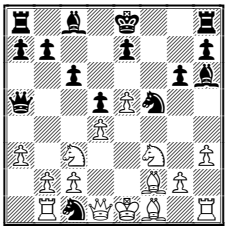
"Octagon were not and are not responsible for the prize funds at FIDE Grand Prix events. The reason for the reduction in the UAE Grand Prix prize fund was the last minute withdrawal of support from a private investor with whom FIDE Commerce had been negotiating.

Octagon continue to work alongside FIDE and FIDE Commerce to build on the success of this first Grand Prix in Dubai."

At the New in Chess site we can see that *New in Chess Yearbook* (the key product of NiC, together with NiC Magazine) has changed its look, and it is no less than English Grandmaster Michael Adams who looks at us from the cover of the just published Yearbook 62. There were probably no photos in the preceding 61 Volumes!

It is too early to speak about other innovations in New in Chess Yearbook, but one more change should be mentioned - *unannotated* Yearbook 62 games are available for download in different formats at Newinchess.com.

Quiz Today



Black to play - How did the Knight get to c1? – See our annotated game to find out!

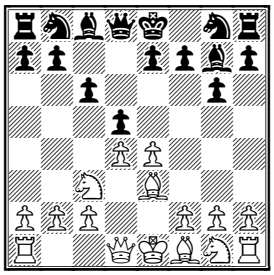
This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor Graham Brown
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Fantasy Chess

□ **J Hall (2495)**
■ **J Hodgson (2595)**
Bundesliga, 2002 B15

Very good chess and very good fantasy chess from Grandmaster Julian Hodgson.

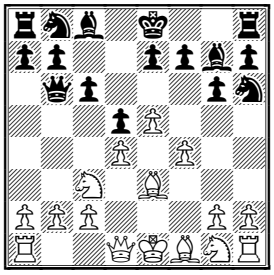
1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♘c3 c6 4.♗e3 d5



5.e5

White probably slightly mixes things up. If he wanted to play the line with e5 and f4, he should start with 4.f4, but now 5.♕d2 is the usual move. In the line 4.f4 d4 5.e5 White's bishop often goes to e3, that's true – but not always, and it should depend on Black's play...

5...♘h6 6.f4 ♕b6

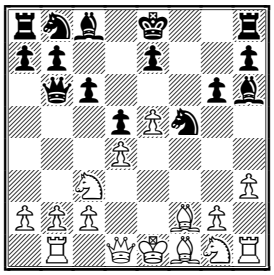


This is, probably, already a new and certainly not a bad idea in this particular position.

7.♖b1 f6 8.h3

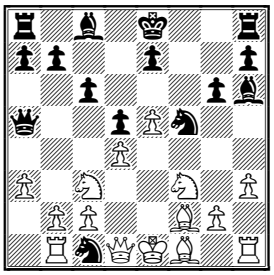
8.♘f3 allows 8...♗g4 , but nevertheless it deserves attention for White.

8...fxe5 9.fxe5 ♘f5 10.♗f2 ♗h6



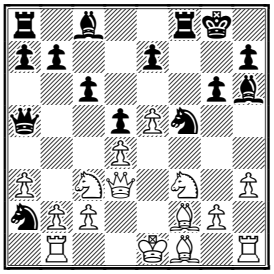
Black has good counterplay.

11.♕d3 ♘a6 12.♘f3 ♘b4 13.♕d1 ♕a5 14.a3 ♘a2 15.♕d3 ♘c1!? 16.♕d1



It is not every day we can see something like this in grandmaster games. Hodgson's previous move had psychological value, and he returns the knight back now. White is right to repeat moves, anyway.

16...♘a2 17.♕d3 0-0



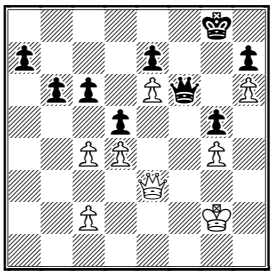
18.g4?

This allows Black to get an advantage by quite prosaic methods. More in the spirit of previous play would be 18.♘d2!? ♘xc3 19.♘b3 ♘xb1+!? 20.♘xa5 ♗d2+ 21.♔e2 ♗xa5∞

18...♘e3!∓ 19.♘d2 ♘xc3 20.bxc3 ♘xf1 21.♘xf1 b6 22.♗e3 ♗a6 23.♕d2 ♖xf1+ 24.♖xf1 ♗xe3 25.♕xe3 ♗xf1 26.♔xf1 ♕xa3

So, Black won a pawn, and I don't see compensation for White.

27.♔g2 ♕a2 28.♖c1 ♖f8 29.h4 ♕a6 30.h5 ♕c8 31.e6 ♖f6 32.♖e1 ♕b8 33.♖f1 ♖xf1 34.♔xf1 ♕f8+ 35.♔g2 ♕f6 36.h6 g5 37.c4!?



37...♕f4!

One hint from Mikhail Golubev: before entering a pawn endgame, try to calculate who will queen his pawns first. It seems that GM Hodgson has already heard about this hint!.

38.♕xf4 gxf4 39.cxd5 cxd5 40.c4 0-1

40.. dxc4! 41.d5 c3!,

And Black's pawns are faster;

40.g5 b5! 41.♔f3 a5,

And Black's 'a' pawn is unstoppable;

40.♔f3 a5! 41.c4 dxc4 42.d5 c3 43.d6 exd6 44.g5 c2 45.e7 ♔f7 46.g6+ hxg6 47.h7 c1♕ 48.e8♕+ ♔xe8 49.h8♕+ ♔d7

And Black wins with five(!) extra pawns in a queen endgame.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Chess Today is published by:
Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-109(528) April 19th 2002

Eurotel KO Details

The Eurotel KO is the main story today, and below we publish a press release that CT has received from Yvette Seirawan:

Press Release

Eurotel World Chess Trophy Pairings Announcement: *Prague's Most Exciting Chess Event Ever – April 27 to May 5, 2002*
Prague, April 18, 2002

The Eurotel World Chess Trophy featuring the world's 32 top-players and presented under the auspices of Online World Chess B.V. (Bessel Kok, and Serge Grimaux), is pleased to announce the pairings for the first round. The drawing of lots to determine who will play with which colour in the opening games will be done during the opening ceremony at 4 PM on Saturday, April 27.

A series of rapid chess knock-out matches will determine the two finalists, who will then measure themselves in two games of classical chess during the last two days of the event to determine the winner of the 2002 Eurotel World Chess Trophy.

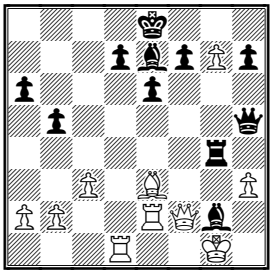
Group A:
Kasparov (RUS) – Milos (BRA)
Ye (CHN) – Polgar (HUN)
Gelfand (ISR) – Seirawan (USA)
Ivanchuk (UKR) – Van Wely (NED)

Group D:
Anand (IND) – Timman (NED)
Khalifman (RUS) – Bologan (MDA)
Leko (HUN) – Sokolov (BIH)
Adams (ENG) – Radjabov (AZE)

Group B:
Kramnik (RUS) – Hracek (CZE)
Karpov (RUS) – Short (ENG)
Grischuk (RUS) – Tkachiev (FRA)
Morozevich (RUS) – Movsesian (CZE)

Quiz Today

From our annotated Game



How can White (to play) save the game now?

Group C:
Topalov (BUL) – Milov (SUI)
Svidler (RUS) – Piket (NED)
Shirov (ESP) – Gurevich (BEL)
Bareev (RUS) – Jussupow (GER)

The winner emerging from Group A will play the winner of Group D, and the winner of Group B will face the winner of Group C. The final match will be between the winner of A versus D and the winner of B versus C.

All games will be displayed in real time on the Internet at www.worldchesstrophy.cz. (For English version, there is a link at the top right of the page – GKB) Up-to-date information (commentary, results, chat) will also be available on handsets via the mobile portal Juice at /Sport/World Chess Trophy, and via Juice Easy (call *111*#). (Web, WAP, and Juice Easy channels will be launched on April 15, 2002.)

The event takes place at Zofin Palaci (Slovansky ostrov 226, Praha 1). Admission is free at the door, but tickets must be obtained in advance through Ticketpro outlets located all over the Czech Republic. Venue capacity is limited.

For more information, call Ticketpro

Call Center at + 420 2 24 81 80 80, or write to chess@ticketpro.cz Members of the press can contact Lucie Boublikova, Online World Chess B.V., at + 420 2 61 00 11 23, or by email at chess@ticketpro.cz. They may also contact Katerina Tornerova at + 420 2 24 81 40 20, or by email at chess@ticketpro.cz

The event is organized in collaboration with Robert Porkert of Interkoncerts a.s.

♖♖♖

We can see that almost all the world's top players will play the Eurotel KO event, and there have also been several wildcards given, first of all to the strongest Czechian grandmasters Movsesian and Hracek. Once in 1994 I played against Zbynek Hracek – it was an quite interesting duel, and of course I was not very happy to lose a game in the end, but now I can try to get some profit from such a result because I can use this game to present the dangerous tactical fighter Grandmaster Hracek, Eurotel KO participant, to the readers of CT.

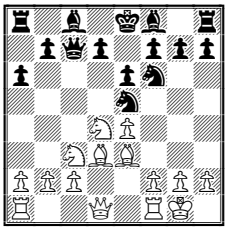
Sicilian Battle

□ **M Golubev**
■ **Z Hracek**
German Team Cup, 1994 B48
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♕c7 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♗d3 a6 8.0-0

This setup for White (♗e3, ♗d3) against the Tajmanov Sicilian was fashionable in the 1990s, thanks to Garry Kasparov who used it in supertournaments several times.

8...♘e5



9.h3

Interestingly, in the line 9.♗e2!? b5 *(maybe stronger is 9...♗c5!? 10.f4 d6)* 10.f4 ♘c4 11.♗xc4 ♕xc4 the same position as in the game line may occur, with the small difference that White's pawn is on h2 there (instead of h3). Then one of the possible variations is 12.e5 ♘d5 13.♘xd5 ♕xd5 14.♕e2 ♗b7 15.♖ad1 ♖c8 16.c3 ♗c5 17.♘f5 ♗xe3+ 18.♘xe3 ♕c5 19.♕d2 0–0 20.♕d4, and, also interesting, my 1994 opponent recently won twice in this position, with different colours! (0–1 Groszpeter–Hracek, 1999; 1–0 Hracek–D.Rajkovic, 2000).

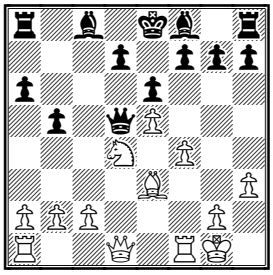
9...b5

9...♗c5 is the main theoretical direction.

10.f4 ♘c4 11.♗xc4 ♕xc4 12.e5

White can fight for an advantage also by 12.♕d3 d5 *(12...♗b7 13.a4 ♕xd3 14.cxd3 b4 15.♘ce2±)* 13.e5 ♘d7 , and I see that now 14.♕d1!? has become popular. (Black had few problems in the classical game Fischer–Petrosian, Santa Monica 1966 after *14.♕xc4 dxc4 15.f5 ♘xe5 16.fxe6 ♗xe6 17.♖ae1 ♘d7 18.♘xe6 fxe6 19.♗d4 0–0–0 20.♖xe6 ♘c5 21.♖c6+ ♔b7 22.♖xc5 ♖xd4 23.♖cf5 ♗d6 24.♖f7+ ♔c6 25.♖xg7 b4)*

12...♘d5 13.♘xd5 ♕xd5



In this position Black, who has the advantage of the two bishops, is obviously dominating the h1–a8 diagonal, but White's lead in development should compensate for that more than sufficiently. From a practical point of view, it's quite complicated to play here – for either side.

14.♕e2 ♗b7 15.♖ad1

Usually White is trying to disallow ...♗c5 by 15.♘b3 ♖c8 16.c3 , and that's a reasonable idea.

15...♖c8

15...♕e4!?; 15...♗c5 would be premature in view of 16.♘f5!

16.♕f2

16.♘b3!?

16...♗c5 17.c3

After 17.♘f5, sufficient is 17...♕xg2+! 18.♕xg2 ♗xg2 19.♘xg7+ ♔e7 20.♗xc5+ ♖xc5 21.♔xg2 ♖g8; Maybe 17.♖d2!? deserved attention

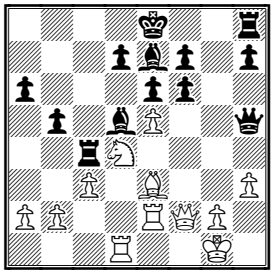
17...♕e4! 18.♖fe1 ♗e7! 19.♘f3 ♕g6 20.♖e2 ♗d5 21.♘d4 ♕h5?!

Black has played very well, and now should have a good game after 21...f5!?, a move suggested by Hracek after the game.; 21...♕e4 was probably also better than 21...♕h5.

22.f5!

White usually should not miss the chance to play f4–f5 in this kind of position.

22...♖c4 23.f6 gxf6



24.exf6?!

Crisis in time trouble, but Black's counterattack was in no way evident. The immediate 24.♘f5! should bring problems for Black, because 24...♕xf5 *(24...♖g8 25.♖xd5! exd5 26.exf6+–)* 25.♕xf5 exf5 26.♖xd5 favours White

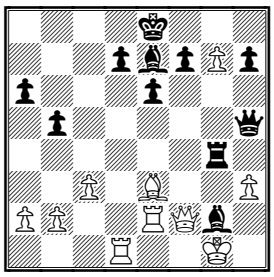
24...♖g8!

Much stronger than the passive 24...♗f8?!

25.♘f5 ♗xg2!!

All other moves leave Black in a difficult, at best, position. 25...♖xg2+? loses to 26.♕xg2 ♗xg2 27.♘g7+

26.♘g7+ ♖xg7 27.fxg7 ♖g4!



The point.

28.♖d4?

With a few minutes on the clock I saw the correct idea, but had no possibility to calculate the lines accurately, and unfortunately couldn't believe that Black has no win after 28.♕xg2!! ♖xg2+ 29.♖xg2! ♕xd1+ 30.♔h2 ♗d6+ 31.♖g3 , which in fact is a dead draw, e.g. 31...♗xg3+ 32.♔xg3 ♕e1+ 33.♔f3 and, moreover, even 30.♔f2!? instead of 30.♔h2 leads to a similar draw, too.

28...♖xg7 29.♕xg2 ♖xg2+ 30.♖xg2 f5 31.h4 ♗c5 32.♖g8+ ♔f7 33.♖g5 ♕f3

33...♗xd4!? 34.♖xh5 ♗xe3+ 35.♔g2 ♔g6 was also winning, of course

34.♖xd7+ ♔e8 35.♗xc5 ♔xd7 36.♗d4 e5 0–1

♖ ♖ ♖

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
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CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

CT-110(529) April 20h, 2002

Ilyumzhinov to Visit Eurotel Event

You may find this difficult to believe, but FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov will visit Prague. The following press release appeared at the FIDE site:

FIDE PRESS RELEASE REGARDING MEETING IN PRAGUE ON MAY 6th, 2002

Lausanne, April 17th, 2002

The President of FIDE, His Excellency Kirsan N. Ilyumzhinov, has issued the following statement:

"I am pleased to accept an invitation to attend the closing ceremony of the Eurotel World Chess Trophy tournament on May 5th in the Czech Republic's capital city of Prague. This is an outstanding event bringing together the top chess grandmasters in a world-class venue. The day after the conclusion of the tournament, May 6th, a meeting will be held in a spirit of goodwill and compromise in which we will discuss the issues facing the chess world and explore ways of co-ordinating our efforts for the greatest good of chess. We look forward to a successful outcome and we urge everyone to support us in this constructive effort. FIDE will not be issuing any further public statements on this matter until after the meeting."

---- Federation International des Echecs, Lausanne, Switzerland.

This is certainly good news, because in Prague it should be possibly to settle the question whether the ultimate world championship (with Ponomariov, Kramnik, Kasparov and other top players playing) will take place in the near future. In any event without the participation of FIDE such a compromise can hardly be found in the present situation.

♖♖♖

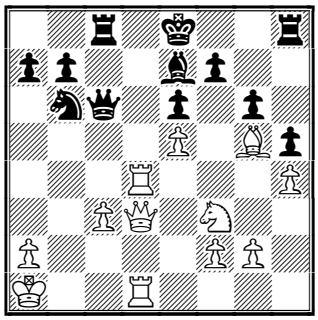
Good bye Tarasov?

The Russian newspaper Commersant reported on 18th April that Russian businessman Tarasov no longer works for FIDE. After the recent Dubai Grand Prix prize fund scandal, Ilyumzhinov dismissed him, says *Commersant* (this topic is also discussed at the Kasparovchess.ru site). If true, I will not cry - in a recent interview Tarasov said that chess is a hobby for him, and I believe that he will have success in some other career, investing his efforts in some other direction.

Quiz Today

Sveshnikov - Saleh

Dubai Open, 2002



White to play and win

Tournament news

In the Smirin vs Computers Internet match, Israeli Grandmaster was very close on 18th April to achieving another victory in his impressive anti-computer style, having after approx. 30 moves a clearly winning position against Junior. The program, however, undeservingly escaped to draw. This will be the annotated game of this issue The overall score now is 2-1 for human.

The 6th Golden Cleopatra Open 2002 took place in Cairo, Egypt, 7th-17th April. After 11 rounds, Sergei Tiviakov was clear first with 8,5 points, ahead of a group of seven players who scored a half point less. Final Standings: 1 Tiviakov Sergei NED 8,5 24079 2 Georgiev Krum BUL 8 (53,5) 3 Rausis Igors LAT 8 (53,5) 4 Mirzoev Azer AZE 8

(51,5) 5 Ikonnikov Vyacheslav RUS 8 (51) 6 Vysochin Spartak UKR 8 (50,5) 7 Blehm Pawel POL 8 (50) 8 Gross David CZE 8 (45,5). It is pleasant for the CT writers to report, that someone can combine internet activity with good practical results tournaments. Czech GM Tiviakov's site is at www.tiviakov.demon.nl.

The Dubai Open 2002 is one of the most interesting events that is underway now. In 5th Round a young Ukrainian Grandmaster Alexander Goloshchapov won against Andrei Istratescu of Romania, and Goloshchapov is leading now with an impressive 5/5 score.

There are several serious events taking place in Russia now:
Moscow KO Championship entered its Quarter Final phase. On 19th–20th April, Malakhov–Naer, Korotylev–Vasiukov, Balashov–Amonatov and Rustemov–Kharitonov are playing. If someone knows how to find games from this event, please, help us!

The Pojkovo International is a strong tournament – a 16 category FIDE (average ELO 2628) event. There is tense fighting and many draws; the single exception, local player IM Obodchuk (ELO 2435) lost all three games in the first rounds.

The 75th St–Petersburg Championship with several grandmasters participating **is** taking place from 16th–25th April 2002. After three rounds, GM Sergey Ivanov who won all three games is sole the leader.

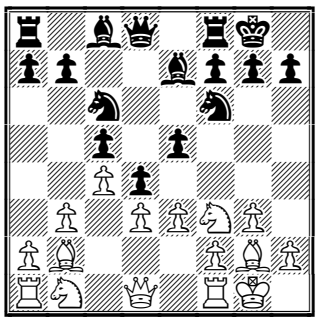
Chess Curiosities site closed

The popular web site of Tim Krabbe, who has collected various chess curiosities (unusual games and positions, etc.) for several years is now closed. Those who knew of and liked this collection can now only read a NOTICE, where Tim Krabbe explains how his site was attacked by an ICC computer cheater. For additional details go to: Chess Cafe Bulletin Board.

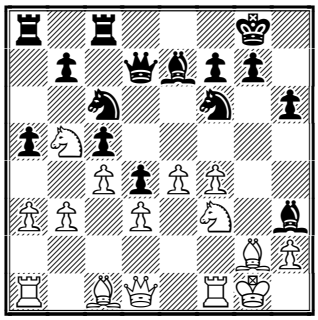
♖♖♖

Lucky Escape by *Junior*

White: I. Smirin (2702)
Black: Deep Junior
[A14] *Internet match II (60'+10) KC (3), 18.04.2002*
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev
1.c4 e6 2.♘f3 d5 3.b3 c5 4.♗b2 ♘c6 5.g3 ♘f6 6.♗g2 ♗e7 7.0–0 d4 8.d3 0–0 9.e3 e5 (D)



10.e4!
An anti–computer strategy. It is well–known that computer programs play very bad in closed positions where long–term plans and general understanding is much more important than one or two tempi. Besides, 10.e4 is not so bad in any event
10...h6 11.♘a3 ♗e6 12.♘c2 a5 13.♘a3 ♕d7 14.♘b5 ♗h3 15.♘h4 ♗g4 16.♗f3 ♗e6 17.♗g2 ♖fc8 18.♗c1 ♗g4 19.f3 ♗e6 20.f4 exf4 21.gxf4 ♗g4 22.♘f3 ♗h3 23.a3! (D)



24.♖a2! is White's idea now.
23...♗xg2
After Black makes eight deep moves with his bishop, it is not "good" anymore, and is rather "bad". So, Junior decides to exchange it.

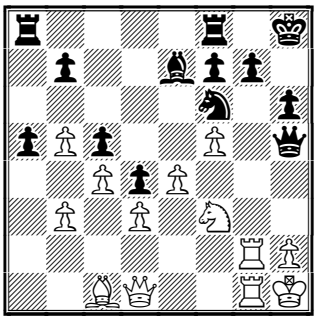
24.♔xg2 ♕g4+ 25.♔h1 ♕h3 26.♖a2 ♘a7 27.a4 ♘xb5 28.axb5 ♖f8 29.♖g2 ♔h8

Nearly the first sensible move Black has made since 9...e5.

30.f5±

White is absolutely dominating.

30...♕h5 31.♖fg1 (D)



31...♖ae8!?

Smirin was probably shocked by such a move, and from now he loses control of the game to some extent. Junior hardly liked the line 31...♖g8 32.e5 ♘h7? *(32...♘d7 33.♘g5+−)* 33.♘g5!! ♕xd1 34.♘xf7# , and there is nothing to calculate anymore.

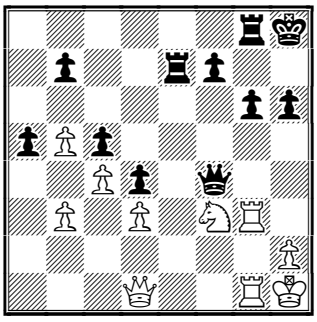
32.♗f4

It was better to take the g−pawn: 32.♖xg7!? ♖g8 33.♖xg8+ ♖xg8 34.♖xg8+ , and White should win step by step without big problems.; and I like 32.♕f1! △♕h3 33.♕e2! even more.

32...♖g8 33.♖g3 g6 34.e5

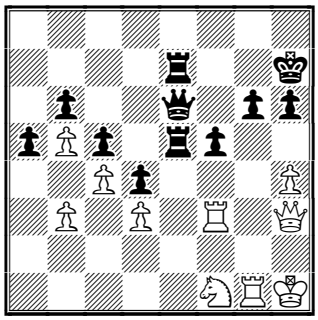
⌓34.♕f1!? gxf5 35.♖h3 ♖xg1+ 36.♘xg1 ♕g4 37.♗xh6 ♘h5! 38.♕xf5 ♕xf5 39.exf5 ♘f6 40.♗f4+ ♔g7 41.♖g3+± should still be a technical win, but not an easy one against a program.

34...♕xf5 35.exf6 ♕xf4 36.fxe7 ♖xe7 D)



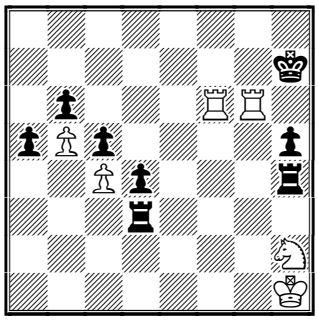
Of course, White is still much better with knight for a two pawns, but the computer can defend such positions quite confidently. The problem for the human here is that now it is not clear where to place his extra knight.

37.♘d2 ♕e5 38.♕f3 ♔h7 39.♕g2 b6 40.♘e4 ♖e6 41.♖h3 ♔g7 42.♖g3 ♔h7 43.h4 f5! 44.♘d2 ♕f6 45.♘f3 ♖e3 46.♕h3 ♕e6 47.♘d2 ♖g7 48.♖f3 ♖e7 49.♘f1 ♖e5 (D)



Black already has some compensation.

50.♘g3 h5 51.♘f1 ♖e2 52.♖fg3 f4 53.♕xe6 ♖7xe6 54.♖f3 ♖b2 55.♖xf4 ♖xb3 56.♖f3 ♖e4 57.♖f7+ ♔g8 58.♖f6 ♖xh4+ 59.♘h2 ♖xd3 60.♖gxg6+ ♔h7 (D)



It now should probably be a draw in all variations. If White wishes, he can give perpetual from squares h6 and g6. Smirin, however, is trying to win, but after a few more moves he will be forced to give perpetual check anyway.

61.♔g1 ♖d1+ 62.♘f1 d3 63.♖g2 ♖e1 64.♖f7+ ♔h8 65.♖f8+ ♔h7 66.♖f7+ ♔h8 67.♖f8+ ♔h7 68.♖f7+ ½−½.

Solution to Quiz Today:
Sveshnikov − Saleh
22.♖d8+! 1–0 **+−**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276
Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.
E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors:
GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.

Technical editors:
Graham Brown. Ralph P. Marconi

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-111(530) April 21st 2002

Chess News

Vladimir Yurkov (1936-2002).

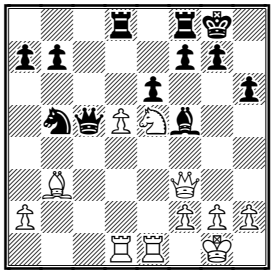
Sad news from Moscow – Vladimir Barsky has informed us that Vladimir Nikolaevich Yurkov, one of Russia's most respected chess trainers, died on Saturday.

Yurkov was born and lived in Moscow and took part in many Moscow championships. While in 1962 he became Soviet Master of chess, his main achievements were in coaching - among his students were such players as GMs Balashov, Razuvaev, Andrei Sokolov and Morozevich and WGM Kushnir. He also seconded GMs Ehlvest and Onischuk. CT journalist IM Vladimir Barsky was also a student of his.

Yurkov's start pupil was probably Andrei Sokolov, who played the final Candidate's match against Karpov in 1987.

I have included some of Yurkov's wins in our database today. Here is one example of his tactical ability:

V. Yurkov - N. Gaprindashvili
Parnu 1973



White to play

In the 3rd Karpov International Tournament in Poikovsky, after 5 rounds the standings are as follows:
1. Onischuk - 3½ points 2-6. Zvjaginsev, Vaganian, Bologan, Dreev and I. Sokolov – 3 points; 7. Rublevsky – 2½ points; 8-9. Vescovi and Aleksandrov – 2 points; 10. Obodchuk – 0 points.

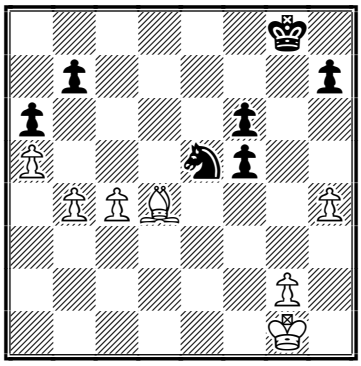
The St. Petersburg chess championship (10 players, all-play-all) is in progress. After 4 rounds the standings are as follows:
1. GM Sergei Ivanov - 3½ points; 2. GM Valery Loginov – 3 points; 3-5. GMs Popov, Yemelin and IM Klimov 2½ points; 6. GM Lugovoi – 2 points; 7-8. Anisimov and GM Eliseev – 1½ points; 9. Smirnov – 1 point. 10. Golcman – 0 points

In the Moscow Championship in round 3 GMs Vladimir Malakhov and Alexey Korotylev won their first games against Evgeny Naer and Evgeny Vasiukov. Mini-matches Rustemov-Kharitonov and Balashov-Amonatov are as yet drawn.

In the Dubai Open after 6 rounds GM **Alexander Goloschapov** (Ukraine) is leading with 5½ points. GMs Sergey Volkov and Jaan Ehlvest are equal second on 5 points, followed by 6 GMs on 4½ points: Kharlov, Pigusov, Vladimirov, Gleizerov, Galkin and Alexey Kuzmin. GM Ruslan Scherbakov is on 3½ points.

Test Your Endgame

With GM Alex Baburin



White to play

White's c4-pawn is under attack and he has to make an important decision

– to play 1.c5 or to get rid of the enemy knight with 1.♗xe5. Allow yourself **5–10 minutes** and decide what you would have done. Solution is in the end of this issue.

Chess Today News

There are a few developments in CT, which I would like to mention to our readers.

First, we now accept payments made by PayPal. Secondly, we will soon accept subscriptions to CT via ICC and their "shekel" payment method. Hopefully, this will allow CT to gain new readers among the 25,000 or so ICC users. And with more readers (bigger budget) we can do more things – like inviting contributions from other authors (theoretical articles, etc).

Hopefully, the day will come when CT readership will be in thousands – there are many keen chess players on the Internet and our fees are not high, compared to traditional publications. I guess, we just have to keep at it – please help us to promote CT: forward it to your chess friends, post printed issues at your chess club or local tournament, do a review at your web site, etc.

Meanwhile we will try to improve on the quality as well. I think that CT could benefit from more structure – when readers know what is coming up every weekend, etc. Currently we consider the following sections: "Chess History" (covering particular tournaments and players), "CT Interview", "Master Class" (opening, middlegame, endgame), "Player's Profile", etc. ***Please e-mail us with your suggestions! ababurin@iol.ie***

I would also like to mention that in my opinion having games of club players (i.e. our readers) annotated here would be of interest to many – please send us your games in PGN or CBV format. If you could annotate them first, even better – this way you can learn more about your chess! Also, don't forget to send your questions for our "Trainer's Corner" section – I might be slow answering them, but I get there eventually!

One way to get more out of CT is to develop our Discussion Forum at the CT site – with many keen readers, we can turn this place into a useful exchange of chess ideas – please pay a visit to our discussion board and take part in it. Registration is very simple and takes only 1–2 minutes.

Book Review

By Sam Collins

Meeting 1 e4 (♕14.99, 159 pages, Everyman Chess, 2002) by IM Alexander Raetsky could be the perfect book to improve your chances against 1 e4. Through 72 annotated games, the author details a complete Black repertoire against the king's pawn based on the Four Knights variation (1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6, normally followed by 6...♗b4 and a quick ..d5). The Four Knights is not the most popular variation in the Sicilian, and it is normally used merely to transpose into the Sveshnikov (6.♘db5 d6 7.♗f4 e5 8.♗g5), but it is played by several grandmasters including Grischuk and Chandler with good results.

The author recommends the move orders 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 and 1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 e6, and provides complete coverage of responses to all of White's options. Against the Rossolimo (1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5), he recommends 3...e6; his suggestion against the Closed Sicilian (1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 e6 3 g3) is 3...d5, and he suggests main-line play against the c3 Sicilian (1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘f3 ♘c6). White's lesser options (Grand Prix Attack, Morra Gambit and 2.g3) are all covered as well. The repertoire is well thought out, and the reader will be fully equipped to handle tricky move orders like 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6

3.c3, and 1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘ge2.

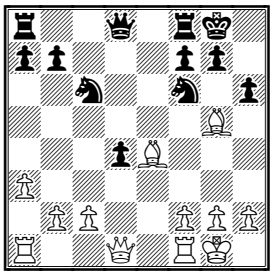
In a book of such breadth, the author has to make important choices about which material to include and which to omit, and I don't feel that Raetsky always gets the balance right. For instance, he didn't need to have a chapter on the Morra Gambit, since after 1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 Black can simply play 3...♘f6 and after 4.e5 ♘d5 we are back into the recommended lines against the c3 Sicilian. Dealing with the Morra Gambit was a good idea since Black shouldn't be so eager to let White escape into a relatively respectable variation (the c3 Sicilian) from an opening as dubious as the Morra Gambit. But other choices were not so prudent. For instance, devoting three games to 1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.g3 – a variation which is unpopular and confers no chances of an opening advantage – isn't a good idea. It makes the author's job a lot easier, since he can display lines all ending in the evaluation "and Black has good chances", but it would have been better to devote less space to this sideline and more to critical variations like (in the Four Knights) 6.♗e2 ♗b4 7.0–0 ♗xc3 8.bxc3 ♘xe4, an unclear and theoretically important variation.

The book is well-researched and well-written. Most of the author's recommendations are main lines and critical variations, meaning that the reader is on quite solid ground, and Raetsky's coverage is concise, accurate and informative. Here is a typical example:

A response to 1.e4

□ **Kir. Georgiev**
■ **Chandler**
Leningrad 1987

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘db5 ♗b4 7.a3 ♗xc3+ 8.♘xc3 d5 9.exd5 exd5 10.♗d3 0–0 11.0–0 d4 12.♘e4 ♗f5 13.♗g5 ♗xe4 14.♗xe4 h6 ***(D)***



This deprives White of the advantage of the two bishops. Another good possibility is 14..♕d6, when 15.♗xf6 ♕xf6 leads to the same position, the only difference being the position of the h-pawn (h7 or h6), which is less than important.

15 ♗h4

Here White has an alternative in 15.♗xf6 ♕xf6. If the position is simplified so that only the heavy artillery remains, Black has no problems: 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.b4 a5 18.♕d3 ♖fb8 19.♖ab1 axb4 20.axb4 ♖a4 21.♖fe1 g6 with obvious drawing tendencies in Weitzer–Priehoda, Germany 1996.

In Xie Jun–Polgar, Jaen 1996, Black skillfully neutralized her opponent's minimal initiative after 16.♕f3 ♕xf3 17.♗xf3 ♖ac8 (aiming at the c2-pawn) 18.♖fe1 ♖fd8 19.♖ad1 ♔f8.

Kudrin–Chandler, London 1987, saw instead 16.♖e1 ♖ad8 17.♕d3 ♘e5 18.♕b3 b6 19.♖e2 g6 20.♖ae1 ♔g7 21.♕b5 ♖fe8 22.♗d3 ♘xd3 23.♕xd3 and in this major piece endgame Black kept the balance by means of pressure against the c2-pawn: 23△♖xe2 24.♖xe2 ♖d5 25.♖e1 ♖c5.

♖♖♖

In conclusion, IM Raetsky has produced an excellent book covering a good repertoire against 1 e4. Buy it!

My assessment (with 5 stars being the highest mark): * * * *

Solution to our tactical test:
Yurkov–Gaprindashvili, Parnu 1973
24.♘xf7!

Also good is 24.dxe6 ♗xe6 25.♖xd8 ♖xd8 26.♘xf7 ♗xf7 27.♗xf7+ ♔h8

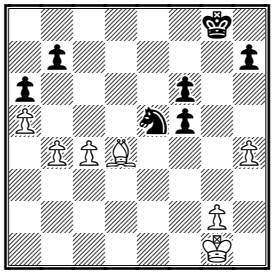
28.♕xb7, but taking on f7 immediately is more energetic.

24...♖de8

Black also loses after 24...♔xf7 25.dxe6+ ♔e7 26.♕xb7+ ♘c7 27.♖c1+−, 24...♖xf7 25.dxe6+− or 24...♗c2 25.♖c1 ♘d4 *(25...♖xf7 26.dxe6!)* 26.♘xh6+! gxh6 27.♕g3+ ♔h8 28.♗xc2 ♘xc2 29.♖xe6+−.

25.dxe6 ♗xe6 26.♗xe6 ♖xe6 27.♖xe6 ♘d4 28.♘xh6+ ♔h8 29.♕xf8+ ♕xf8 30.♖xd4 gxh6 31.♖d7 ♕c8 32.♖xh6+ ♔g8 33.♖hd6 ♕c1+ 34.♖d1 ♕c6 35.♖d8+ ♔f7 36.♖1d7+ ♔e6 37.♖d6+ 1−0

Solution to our endgame test:



White to play

1.♗xe5!

After 1.c5? ♘c6 2.♗c3 ♔f7 White is not any better − his pawns on the queenside are blocked for good.

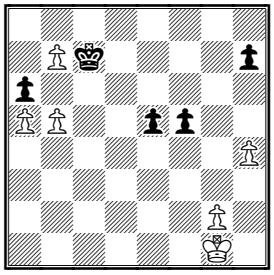
1...fxe5 2.b5!

White must play energetically here. Taking on e5 improved Black's pawn structure dramatically and if White starts playing casually now − like 2.♔f2? ♔f7 3.♔e3 ♔e6 − he may be in trouble as the e5−pawn is very strong.

2...♔f7 3.c5! ♔e7

3...axb5? 4.c6 bxc6 5.a6+−.

4.c6 ♔d6 5.cxb7 ♔c7 ***(D)***

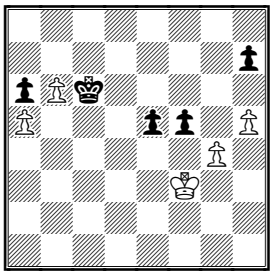


This is the key moment. If you chose 1.♗xe5, you had to foresee this position. If you saw what White should play here and why, even better!

6.b6+!!

After the trivial 6.bxa6 Black can save the game with 6...h5!! 7.♔f2 e4=. Now the white king is tied up to the e−pawn. 8.♔e3 ♔b8 9.♔d4 ♔c7 10.♔e3 ♔b8 11.g4 fxg4 12.♔xe4. Gaining a tempo by sacrificing the b7−pawn, White can prevent this fortress.

6...♔xb7 7.h5! ♔c6 8.♔f2 ♔b7 9.♔f3 ♔c6 10.g4! ***(D)***



Here White wins − after 10...fxg4 all Black's pawns fall, while 10...f4 allows 11.g5 and 12.g6.

♖♖♖

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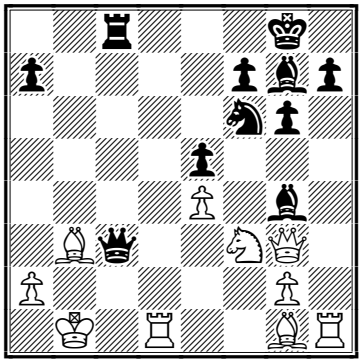
CT-217(636) 5th August 2002

King Loek scores 8½/9 to win Lost Boys tournament again

Four tournaments, one old chess piece and one new game to mention today. But first, from the notes in today's annotated game, this is a possible position from ***Gallagher-Ward*** *if White had played 24.Rd1? instead of the game move.*

Quiz Today:



Black to play and win

Lost Boys Tournament

For the second time in a row, Loek van Wely has won this event - this year he scored an incredible 8½/9. Our congratulations to the Dutch Grandmaster on this great success, and I hope that my colleagues will return to his excellent performance and Lost Boys tournament in forthcoming CT issues!

Liepajas Rokade

In the Latvian chess festival several famous chess-players participated. *7th Round results*: Miezis – Azmaiparashvili 1:0, Ehlvest – Nikolajev 1/2, Sveshnikov – Khalifman 1:0, Kengis – Kveinys 1/2. *Rapid chess supertournament final standings*: **1.** Sveshnikov 4½ 2. Khalifman 4½ **3.-5.** Azmaiparashvili 4 Ehlvest 4 Kengis 4 **6**. Miezis 3 **7**. Kveinys 2½ **8**. Nikolajev 1½ (the places as given at official site).

Smith & Williamson British Championship

The tournament standing after six rounds of the British Championship 2002 was commented at the BCM Online website in the following way:

"No less than ten players share the lead on 4½/6: five English players - Speelman, Wells, Turner, McShane and Nick Pert; one Anglo-Swiss - reigning champion Joe Gallagher (who is of course about as Swiss as Swiss Cottage underground station); one Scot - Jonathan Rowson; and three Indians - Barua, 16-year-old Harikrishna and 15-year-old girl Humpy Koneru, who maintains her challenge for the 'triple crown' (full championship, women's championship and under 21 championship)".

The fighting chess that is taking place in this tournament will be illustrated by today's annotated game.

Montreal International

Jean-Marc Degraeve leads with 7½ points after 9 rounds. His nearest rival, Vasilios Kotronias, has only 6 points, but it would nevertheless be premature to say that the French GM has the tournament sewn up because he still has to face Kotronias in one of the two remaining rounds.

The oldest European chess piece is discovered

This message first appeared at the end of July in the BBC News, and now the ChessBase site shows us a photograph of the Albania chess piece, found by British archaeologists, which appears to be more than 500 years older than any piece previously discovered in Europe.

Dragon Debate

□ **J Gallagher (2517)**
■ **C Ward (2498)**
BCF-ch Torquay (5.9), 02.08.2002 B78
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

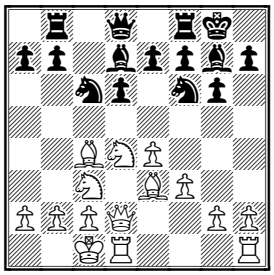
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3

This move almost forces Black to transpose into a 'normal' Dragon (2...d6/5...g6). A rare try is 5.f3 ; , and 5.e5? is impossible because of 5...♕a5+

5...d6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♕d2 0-0 9.♗c4 ♗d7 10.0-0-0!

This line (together with the 9.0–0–0 variation) creates a lot of headaches nowadays for the Sicilian Dragon players.

10...♖b8!?



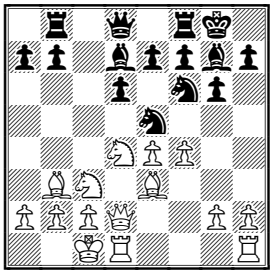
A rarely seen idea from the past, which has become more popular this year. I know that in the "New in Chess Yearbook" (Issue 62) a long article about 10...♖b8 was published, but I have every chance of keeping a fresh view on the Gallagher-Ward game since my copy of Yearbook 62, as far as I can tell, has been intensively studied by one of the Ukraine's post-men!... The basic plan behind ...♖b8 is to play ...♘e5 (or ...♘a5), b5 and ♘c4 - if White allows this, the rook can certainly be more useful on b8 than on the usual square c8. In the latest edition of his enthusiastic book ("Winning with the Dragon 2"), Chris Ward recommended the old line for Black 10...♕a5 11.♔b1 ♖fc8 12.♗b3 ♘e5 13.h4 ♘c4 14.♗xc4 ♖xc4 15.♘b3 ♕c7 , where he provides some interesting analysis. However, it was quite uncertain what he recommends doing after the one of the most natural moves for White, 16.g4!? ; 10...♘e5 11.♗b3 ♖b8 transposes to the game; instead of 11.♗b3 White has a curious alternative 11.♗e2!?, as Svidler played against me in the Semifinal of the German Teams Cup 2001/2.

11.♗b3

The natural prophylactic move, in view of all of the possible Black ideas, related with ...b5.

11...♘e5

An alternative is 11...♘a5. Then I was quite happy with 12.g4 b5! (Cacorin-Golubev, Odessa 1986), but after 12.♗h6!? Black faces more problems.



12.f4

A new move that can hardly cast doubt on Black's setup. Usually at such an early stage, the move f4 can't be good for White in the Yugoslav Attack, because he should have really strong reasons to destroy his own fundamental pawn formation (f3-e4). One of the alternatives, 12.♗h6!? has already occurred once in Gallagher's practice (Gallagher-Lahav, Tel-Aviv 1988). In comparison with the usual variations (10...♖c8), here Black can't reply with the typical 12...♗xh6 and 13...♖xc3!, but it is not clear how successfully 12.♗h6 works against Black's main idea with ...b5..

12...♘eg4 13.♗g1 b5!

Ward makes use of the rook on b8. A typical move would be 13...e5 , and 14.fxe5? is bad because of 14...Bh6. However, as well as knight retreats, the following deserves White's attention 14.h3!? exd4 15.♗xd4 ♘h6 16.g4

14.h3 b4!

Let me to finish the coverage of the opening phase of the game here: Black has strong counterplay, and I would be surprised if Gallagher's play will find too many disciples.

15.hxg4 bxc3 16.♕xc3 ♖c8 17.♕g3

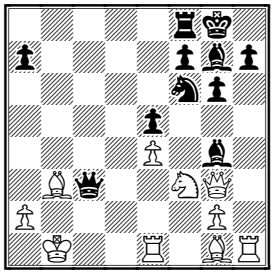
♗xg4 18.♖e1 ♕a5 19.c3

After 19.e5 ♘h5!, White can't play 20.♕xg4?? because his e1 rook is attacked.

19...e5 20.fxe5 dxe5 21.♘f3

White allows a dangerous rook sacrifice but I can imagine how much he wanted to create at least some illusory threat, like Qxe5.

21...♖xc3+ 22.bxc3 ♕xc3+ 23.♔b1

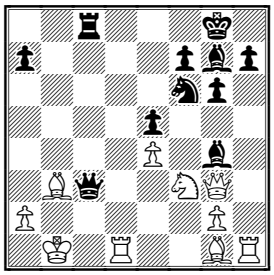


23...♖c8

Black is playing for a win (and creates a very nice trap!). I suppose that both players saw that Black had the possibility to force a draw by 23...♗xf3 24.gxf3 ♕d3+ 25.♔b2 *(25.♗c2? ♖b8+ 26.♔c1 ♕a3+ 27.♔d1 ♖d8+ 28.♔e2 ♕a6+)* 25...♕d2+=

24.♗xa7

In such a situation, when an opponent gives up a rook for an attack, probably only two kind of players can calmly take a pawn that looks almost irrelevant. A beginner, unaware of the danger to his exposed king on the chess board, or a "Deadly Tactician" Grandmaster like the 2001 British Champion Joe Gallagher, whose moves in acute positions can be based on very comprehensive calculations. The tempting idea for White was 24.♖d1?



(preventing ...Qd3+ and preparing moves like Qe1). There, however, Black wins beautifully: 24...♘xe4! 25.♕xg4 (Simpler is *25.♕e1 ♘d2+!* , followed by 26...♗f5+, and Black wins*)* 25...♘d2+!! (the point) 26.♘xd2 *(26.♖xd2 ♕c1#)* 26...♕d3+! 27.♔b2 e4+ 28.♔a3 ♕d6+ 29.♔a4 ♕a6+ 30.♔b4 ♗c3# – checkmate and, perhaps, a diagram for "Winning with the Dragon 3". After 24.Bxa7, Black hardly has anything better than perpetual check, and the game ended peacefully after

24...♕d3+ 25.♔b2 ♕c3+ 26.♔b1 ♕d3+ 27.♔b2 ♕c3+ ½–½

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov and IM Vladimir Barsky.
CT-226(645), 14th August 2002

Curacao to celebrate 40th anniversary of the 1962 World Championship Candidates tournament!

We recently received a letter from, Mr. Ger Jan Meijer. He writes:

"Dear editors of Chess Today*:*
We are happy to announce the Curacao 1962- 2002 chess tournament (Curacao is an island in the Caribbean and is part of the Netherlands Antilles). This is an open tournament that will be held from November 16 to November 28, 2002. The tournament is dedicated to the fact that it is 40 years ago that the World championship Candidates Tournament took place here. Victor Korchnoi and Yuri Averbakh [have] already confirmed that they will return after 40 years to celebrate this anniversary and we are also trying to get GM Pal Benko on board.

"The tournament will have 9 rounds and a maximum of 120 players including about 15 titled players. We already have confirmations from Jan Timman (NL), Bartek Macieja (Pol), Sofia Polgar (Israel/Hungary), Yona Kosashvili (Israel), Anjelina Belakovskaia (USA), Alonso Zapata (Colombia), Johann Alvarez (Venezuela) and Carlos Gallegos (Venezuela). We will announce the other names of titled players on short term.

"Our concept is that the tournament should also be very interesting for non professional club players who would like having the experience of a very international tournament with the opportunity to play against opponents from all directions (Europe, USA, Caribbean and South America). In 2001 we already had participants of 17 countries and we are expecting more flags this year.

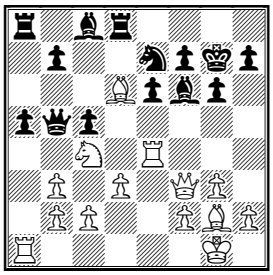
"More information (including a 1962 and a 2001 picture gallery and general information about Curacao) you can find on our website www.curacao.com/chess. There is also a download of the electronic tournament book of the 2001 edition available. Jan Timman was the winner of this tournament.
Yours sincerely,
Ger Jan Meijer
Curacao 1962 - 2002 Chess Federation".

I would like to remind you that the winner of the 1962 Curacao Candidates Tournament was **Tigran Petrosian** who challenged the then reigning World Champion, Mikhail Botvinnik, and defeated him in the World Championship Match, thus becoming the ninth World Chess Champion. The 13th of August, is the sad 18th anniversary of Petrosian's death in 1984. For this reason I have decided to dedicate today's *CT* issue as a tribute to this great chessplayer.

(photo taken from the curacao.com/chess gallery page. Petrosian is seated analyzing with Michail Tal to his left. I don't know the on-lookers --- RPM.)

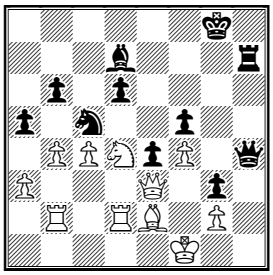
Quiz Today - Petrosian's gems

1. T. Petrosian - L. Pachman
Bled Bled (6), 10.09.1961



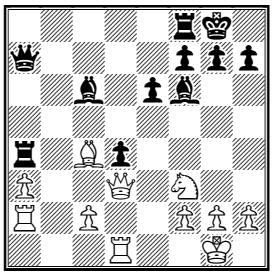
White to play

2. P. Keres – T. Petrosian
Candidates Tournament
Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade (4), 11.09.1959



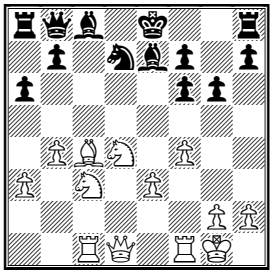
Black to play

3. M. Tal – T. Petrosian
Candidats Tournament Curacao (8), 13.05.1962



Black to play

4. T. Petrosian – V. Korchnoi
Candidats Tournament Curacao (23), 16.06.1962



White to play

Links in a Chain

□ **T. Petrosian**
■ **V. Jansa**
Bar Intenational Tournament
Yugoslavia, 1980 A48
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

You may enjoy Petrosian's tactical skill in today's Quiz Today section while the annotated game features his famous positional style. This game is rather unknown. It isn't included in ChessBase Mega.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♗g5

Petrosian liked this bishop's development and wrote a very instructive article about it. After 2...e6 he often opted for 3. Bg5 too.

3...♗g7 4.c3

The idea is to restrict his opponent's bishop on g7.

4...0–0 5.♘bd2 d6 6.e4 ♘bd7

The Czech GM is going to play e7–e5. There's nothing bad with this continuation but it doesn't help to solve the dark squared bishop's problems. [In my opinion the best plan for Black is 6...c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.♗c4 ♘c6 9.0–0 ♕c7 10.♕e2 (or *10.♖e1* ; or *10.♕c2* – Black's reaction is the same) 10...h6 11.♗h4 ♘h5

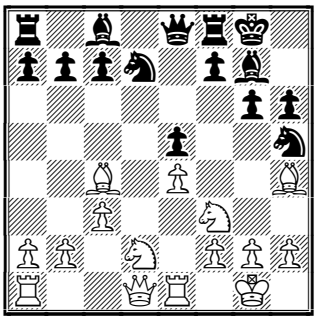
7.♗c4 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.0–0 h6

9...c6 10.a4 ♕c7 with the idea of Nñ5–e6 can also be recommended as Akopian once played.

10.♗h4 ♕e8

Setting the knight free. 10...g5 11.♗g3 ♘h5 12.♖e1 ♘xg3 13.hxg3 is in White's favour as the light squares in Black's camp are weakened.

11.♖e1 ♘h5 (D)



12.a4! ♗f6?!

Black underestimates White's a-pawn advance. 12...a5 was certainly

better. Jansa's fellow countryman GM Jan Smejkal (a player of exquisite positional understanding) played a7-a5 even before a2-a4 had been made.

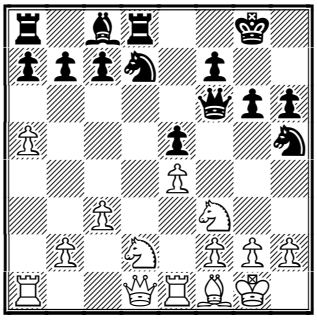
13.a5! ♕e7

After 13...♗xh4 14.♘xh4 ♘f4 15.g3 ♘e6 16.♕b3 ♘dc5 17.♕a2! White has an edge.

14.♗xf6 ♕xf6 15.♗f1!

Nimzowitch's "My System" was Petrosian's favourite book. This prophylactic move is influenced by Nimzowitch's ideas. It's obvious that Black is going to play Nf4 so White prepares to meet it with g2-g3. Besides the c4 square may be useful for the knight.

15...♖d8 (D)



16.♕e2!

Such moves are hard to find. Maybe harder than crushing combinations. It looks as if the queen asks the enemy knight to go where it wants to, "winning a tempo". In fact, this attack is completely inoffensive while the queen takes the e3 square from where it looks at both flanks at the same time.

16...♘f4 17.♕e3

18.g3 is threatened..

17...g5 18.♖ed1

Now 19.Nc4 is unpleasant and Black gets problems with protecting the e5 pawn Jansa cedes the d-file. Another little victory for White.

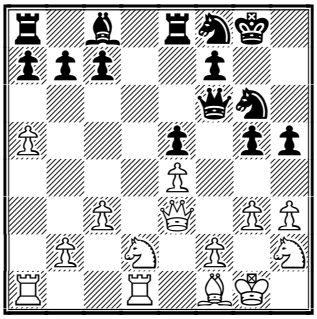
18...♖e8

18...♘f8 19.♕c5! lost a pawn.

19.g3 ♘g6 20.h3!

Max Euwe once said that Petrosian handled his pawns with the highest mastery.

20...♘df8 21.♘h2 h5 (D)



Black covers the g4 square but it will not last for long.

22.♗e2! h4

22...♗xh3 23.♗xh5 doesn't make much difference.

23.♗g4 ♔g7 24.♘df1!

Next stop is e3.

24...♘h7

If 24...♘e6 then 25.♗f5 followed by Ng4.

25.♖d3

It appears that White's previous move implied the rook doubling along the open file. It's hard for Black to fight for it as the rook a8 has to watch over the a7 pawn.

25...♗e6 26.♗xe6 ♕xe6 27.♘g4 ♘f6

It's not easy to recommend something better.

28.♕xg5 ♘xe4 29.♕h6+ ♔g8 30.♖ad1

White has total control over the central line.

30...♘f6 31.♘fe3 ♘xg4

31...e4 32.♖d5! ♘xd5? 33.♘xd5 with a dreadful check on f6.

32.♘xg4 hxg3 33.♖xg3

Remember 25.Rd3!

33...♖ad8 34.♖e1!

Now White may give up the d-file since the attack on the kingside tips the balance.

34...♕f5 35.h4 ♖e6?!

35...♕f4 36.h5 ♕xh6 37.♘xh6+ ♔g7 38.hxg6 ♔xh6 39.gxf7 ♖e6 40.♔g2! ♖g6 41.♖xe5 didn't save. Now Black loses a piece.

36.h5 ♕f4 37.hxg6

Black resigned. The game without visual effects, but all of White's moves were the links in one chain. **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. T. Petrosian – L. Pachman
Bled Bled (6), 10.09.1961
19.♕xf6+!! ♔xf6 20.♗e5+ ♔g5 21.♗g7! and mate is inevitable **1–0.**

2. P. Keres – T. Petrosian
Candidates Tournament
Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade (4), 11.09.1959
51...♕xf4+! 0–1.

3. M. Tal – T. Petrosian
Candidats Tournament Curacao (8), 13.05.1962
20...♖xc4! [20...♖xc4 21.♕xc4 ♗d5–+] **0–1.**

4. T. Petrosian – V. Korchnoi
Candidats Tournament Curacao (23), 16.06.1962
15.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 16.♕b3+ ♔e8 [16...♔g7 17.♘e6+ ♔h6 18.♖f3+–] **17.♘d5 ♗d6 18.♘e6 b5 19.♘dc7+ ♔e7** [19...♗xc7 20.♘xc7+ ♔d8 21.♕e6 ♕xc7 22.♖fd1!! *(22.♖xc7 ♔xc7 23.♖c1+ ♔d8!)*] **20.♘d4! ♔f8** [20...♗xc7 21.♘c6++–; 20...♕xc7 21.♖xc7 ♗xc7 22.♕e6+ ♔f8 *(22...♔d8 23.♘c6#)* 23.♕c6 ♖a7 24.♘e6++–] **21.♘xa8** [21.♘xa8 ♕xa8 22.♕e6 ♕b8 23.♘c6 ♕c7 24.♘e7!] **1–0.**

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-266(685) 23rd September 2002

Leong and Ilyumzhinov reach an agreement!

Ignatius Leong, who earlier announced that he would compete for the FIDE Presidency, has reached an agreement with Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. Paragraph 3.1 of their Agreement states: "The Presidential Ticket of Ignatius Leong shall withdraw in favour of the ticket of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov." Additional details are published at: www.fideonline.c/news.asp?id=79. Leong's previously published MANIFESTO (*Reform for a Better FIDE*) at press-time was still available at: www.fide-reform.org.

Shirov number one on Rapid rating list

The Rapid Ratings 20th September 2002 are published at the TWIC site. **GM Alexei Shirov**, who wrote an open letter a few days concerning rapid ratings, heads the list. The Top ten are: 1. Shirov 279, 2. Kasparov 279, 3. Adams 279 4. Anand 278 5. Topalov 277 6. Gelfand 277 7. Leko 275 8. Morozevich 274 9. Ivanchuk 274 10. Tkachiev 273. The rating list is accompanied by a letter by Willy Iclicki. In it he describes the current situation with rapid ratings, and points out that the tournament in Villarrobledo (where Shirov performed very well) was not counted because organisers didn't send him the tournament cross-table on time. "See you next February", says Iclicki at the end.

European Club Cup starts in Greece

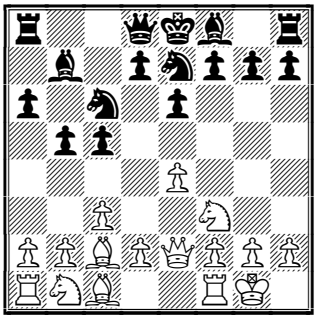
43 teams (or rather 42, since the Irish team had no opponent) started doing battle in Kallithea, Halkidiki (Greece) on the 22nd of September for the European Club Cup. The Top five teams are: **NAO Chess Club** (Grischuk, Svidler, Lautier. Kramnik will not be playing), **Bosna Sarajevo** (Adams, Shirov, I.Sokolov, Movsesian, Radjabov), the current ECC champion **Norilsky Nikel** (Bareev, Dreev, Zvjaginsev, Malakhov), another Russian club **Ladia-Kazan** (Khalifman, Akopian, Baklan) and **Polonia Plus GSM** (Ivanchuk, Ju.Polgar, Krasenkow, Macieja).
As always, only Eastern Europe has showed a serious approach to the event. Germany and England this time are represented (what is already surprise!), but with no strong teams. The Netherlands is no present at all.
The single relative sensation in the first round was the draw that **German Neukolln team** reached against Russian team.

ECC Round 1, September 22nd: ASA Shlomo Har-Zvi Tel-Aviv (ISR) - NAO Chess Club (FRA) 2-4, Bosna Sarajevo (BIH) - Chess Academy (GRE) 5-1, C.A. Reverte Albox (ESP) - Norilsky Nikel (RUS) 2-4, Ladia-Kazan-1000 (RUS) - Schachfreunde Neukolln (GER) 3-3, Die Klagenfurter (AUT) - Polonia Plus GSM (POL) 0,5-5,5, St-Petersburg LTG (RUS) - Rochade Eupen (BEL) 3,5-2,5, Hellir Chess Club (ISL) - Tomsk-400 (RUS) 1-5, Kiseljak (BIH) - Sollentuna Chess Club (SWE) 5-1, Corpora Lipovec (SVK) - BM Kisela Voda Skopje (MKD) 0,5-5,5, Clichy (FRA) - Arhus (DEN) 4,5-1,5, Boey Temse (BEL) - A.V.Momot Chess Club (UKR) 1,5-4,5, Danko Donbass (UKR) - Shakkikerho Taraus (FIN) 5,5-0,5, Barbican (ENG) - Beer-Sheva (ISR) 3-3, Karpaty-Galychyna (UKR) - Joensuun Shakkikerho (FIN) 4,5-1,5, Studenti (ALB) - Alkaloid Skopje (MKD) 1-5, Merkur Versicherung (AUT) - Liege (BEL) 4-2, Bristol (ENG) - NSK-SZ Rafinerija Novi Sad (YUG) 0,5-5,5, Napredak Sarajevo (BIH) - Dudelange (LUX) 5,5-0,5, Istanbul (TUR) - Zalaegerszeg (HUN) 1,5-4,5, Hapoel Cellcom Kfar-

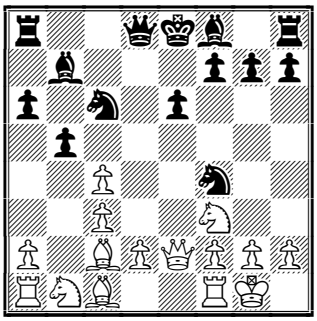
Sava (ISR) – Randaberg (NOR) 5–1, Cardiff (WLS) – Hohenems (AUT) 1–5, Crumlin (IRL) Bye 3.

Annotated Game

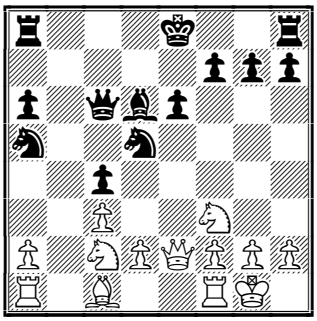
□ **A. Finkel (2485)**
■ **I. Nataf (2560)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (Greece) (1), 22.09.2002 B30
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 e6 4.0–0 ♘ge7 5.c3 a6 6.♗a4 b5 7.♗c2
This line of the Sicilian is quite topical this year over a similar line that one may see in the Ruy Lopez.
7...♗b7 8.♕e2 (D)



If 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 , Black plays 9...♘b4!
8...c4!?
Two previous games where Black used this risky move can be found in the notes that follow. The usual continuations were 8...d5 9.e5 d4 10.♗e4 , as in Grishchuk–Kasparov, Moscow FIDE GP rpd 2002 (this game was commented by Vladimir Barsky in CT–574),; and 8...♘g6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♘h4 , as in Adams–Shirov, Linares 2002 (Nataf earlier also played like this with Black).
9.b3 d5
Clearly better for White was 9...cxb3?! 10.axb3 d5 11.d4 b4 12.exd5 ♕xd5 13.♖d1 ♘g6 14.♗g5 ♗e7 15.c4± in Batsanin–Smirnov, Novokuznetsk 1999
10.exd5 ♘xd5
The pawn sacrifice, of course! 10...exd5?! looks suicidal,; also dangerous for Black is 10...♕xd5?! for example, 11.bxc4 bxc4 12.♘a3 ♘a5 13.♖b1 ♘g6 14.♖xb7!→
11.bxc4 ♘f4 (D)



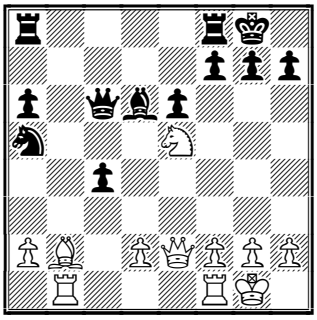
An almost unstudied position with many possibilities for the both sides.
12.♕e4
CT editor Ruslan Sherbakov is cited as the co–author of the following cheerful game: 12.♕e3 ♗d6 13.d4 *(13.cxb5!?* , and Black should look for something else than the interesting, but hardly sufficient *13...♘e5 14.♘xe5 ♕g5 15.♗e4 ♕xe5 16.♗c6+ ♗xc6 17.♕xe5 ♗xe5 18.bxc6 ♘d3 19.♘a3 ♖c8 20.♘c4)* 13...bxc4 14.♘bd2 ♘d5 15.♕e1 ♘xc3 16.♘xc4 ♗b4 (dubious for Black is *16...♘d5 17.♖b1! ♗b4 18.♗d2±;* but *16...♘b5!?* deserved attention*)* 17.♗g5 ♘xd4?! (this was over optimistic; better was *17...♕c7!?*) 18.♗a4+?! (and in this truly chaotic situation White missed a good chance with *18.♗xd8 ♘ce2+ 19.♔h1 ♗xe1 20.♘d6+!±*) 18...♘xa4 19.♕xb4 ♘xf3+ 20.♔h1 f6! 21.♕xa4+ *(21.♘d6+!?)* 21...♔f7 22.♖fd1 ♗d5 23.♗f4 g5 24.♗g3 h5 25.gxf3 h4∞ , and here a draw was agreed in Batsanin–R.Sherbakov, Russian ChT (Tomsk) 2001.
12...♕c7! 13.♕e3
The manoeuvre ♕e2–e4–e3 is very deep, or else White was simply too late in finding Black's idea 13.d4? ♘xd4! . One way or another, now White simply returns the sacrificed pawn.
13...bxc4 14.♘a3 ♘d5
Black should have a good play, even if he loses the c4–pawn in some variations because his pieces on the light squares are placed very well!
15.♕e2 ♘a5 16.♗a4+ ♗c6 17.♗xc6+ ♕xc6∓
And Black still retains the c–pawn too.
18.♘c2 ♗d6 (D)



19.♘b4!?

Creative! Black's possible idea was ...♘f4; also, White had some long-term structural problems: his "bad bishop", and his pawns fixed on c3 and d2. So, Finkel simply gives up the c3 pawn, to open up the a1–h8 diagonal.

19...♘xb4 20.cxb4 ♗xb4 21.♖b1 ♗d6 22.♗b2 0-0 23.♘e5 (D)



As a result, White obtains good activity for the sacrificed pawn, Black is still only slightly better. **23...♕c7 24.♗c3 ♗xe5**

Or 24...♘c6!? 25.♘xc4 ♗xh2+ 26.♔h1 , with certain compensation.

25.♗xe5

A more standard decision would be to exchange queens: 25.♕xe5! ♕xe5 26.♗xe5 , and am not sure that Black has real winning chances... Rook + bishop are stronger than rook + knight, but queen + bishop are weaker than queen + knight. That's a general rule, and that is probably reason enough to think that Black may not be able to win with his extra pawn. **25...♕c5 26.♖fc1 ♖ac8 27.♗a1 ♖fd8**

Black's winning chances have slightly increased, but here, the factor of time probably started to tell.

28.h4 ♕d5 29.♖c2 ♕d3?

Simply loosing his extra pawn. **30.♕e5 f6**

30...♕g6? 31.h5! ♕h6 32.♕xa5+- was the point.

31.♕xe6+ ♔h8 32.♖bc1 ♖c6 33.♕e7 ♖cd6 34.♕c7 ♕d5 35.♗c3 ♘c6= ½-½

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

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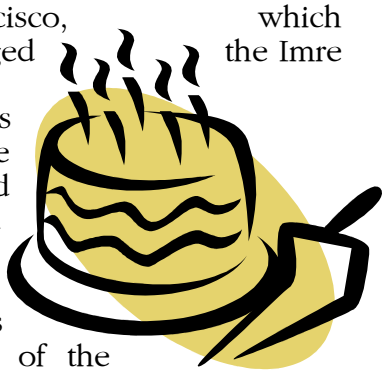
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-267(686) 24th September 2002

Happy Birthday, John!

Today is the birthday of one of our contributors – **IM John Donaldson** and on behalf of the Chess Today team I would like to say: *Happy Birthday, John!*

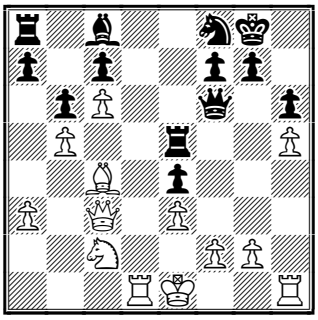
John is a strong and experienced IM, but he is also a fine chess author, who has written many books – such as his works on Rubinstein and Fischer and openings books (e.g. on the Dragon). Recently he has turned to chess history and has written about some lesser-known players (for example, on Zemgalis). John is a director of the Chess Club at the Mechanics Institute in San Francisco, which recently staged the Imre Konig Memorial. His work on the Konig should be published soon.



John has been captain of the USA chess team on many occasions, most notably in Luzern in 1993, when USA won the World Team Championship. Here are two examples of Donaldson's play:

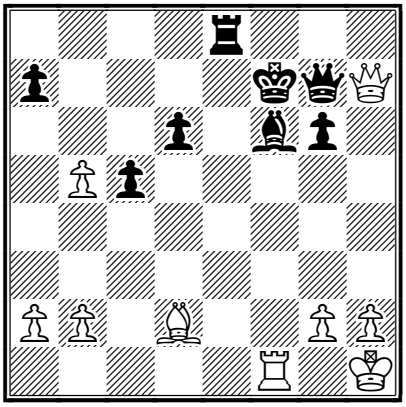
Quiz Today

(1) E Tangborn – J Donaldson
Washington Teen Champ Washington Teen Champ, 1974



Black to play

(2) J Donaldson (2431) – A Lee (2236)
Koltanowski Memorial San Francisco (1), 14.12.2000



White to play

Alex Baburin

Tournament News

The 2nd round of the European Club Cup took place on the 23rd September.

One of the favourites, Polonia Plus GSM, unexpectedly lost with a 2½-3½ score against the also strong, but weaker, St Petersburg team. The Polish team suffered a true catastrophe on their White boards (½-2½): Ivanchuk agreed an 18 move draw against Sakaev, and Krasenkow and Rozentalis each lost a pawn in the opening without compensation, in their games against Korchnoi and S.Ivanov, respectively. The scores of these three games are available in the CT-686 CBV file.

ECC Round 2, September 23rd. Top Results: Polonia Plus GSM (POL) – St Petersburg (RUS) 2½-3½, BM Kisela Voda Skopje (MKD) – Merkur Versicherung (AUT) 4-2, Norilsky Nikel (RUS) – Danko Donbass (UKR) 3½-2½, NSK-SZ Rafinerija Novi Sad (YUG) – NAO Chess Club (FRA) 2½-3½, Zalaegerszeg (HUN) – Napredak Sarajevo (BIH) 3-3, Karpaty-Galychyna (UKR) – Bosna Sarajevo

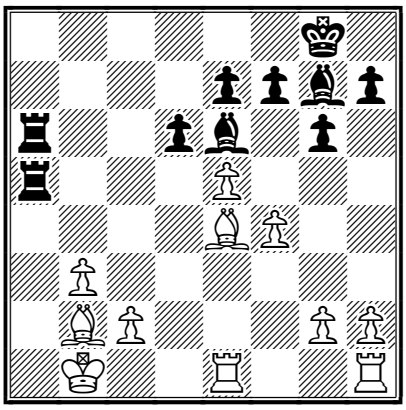
(BIH) 1–5, Tomsk–400 (RUS) – A.V.Momot Chess Club (UKR) 4–2, Clichy (FRA) – Kiseljak (BIH) 2½–3½.

Gustavo Albarran has informed us that the Najdorf Memorial 2002 takes place in Buenos Aires from September 23rd to October 8th. The tournament has 2 stages, a Great Swiss Open to 8 rounds, and a Playoff Final, played by the 10 top players from the Open plus 6 invited masters. More about this event in upcoming CT issues.

ECC Round 1 fragments

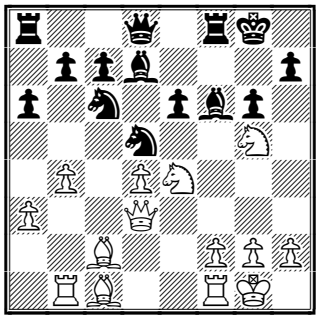
GM Mikhail Golubev *looks at seven fragments from the 1st round of the European Club Cup:*

P Rewitz (2286) – J Moingt (2284)
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002



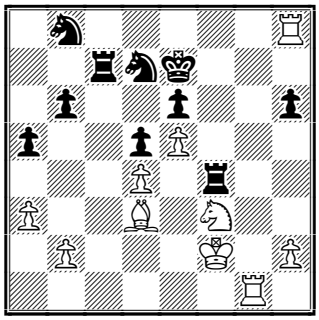
23.exd6??
Perhaps White has made the worst possible move in this position!
23...♖a1+! 0–1

T Radjabov (2618) – A Tzermiadianos (2440)
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002



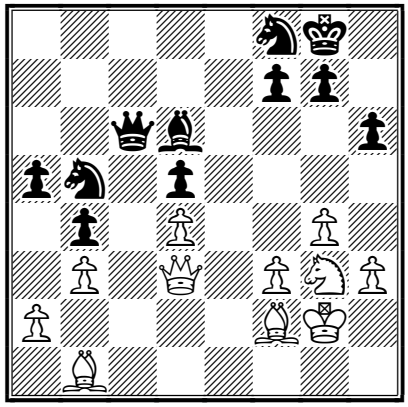
19.♘xh7!+– ♘ce7
19...♔xh7 20.♘g5+! ♗xg5 21.♕xg6+ ♔h8 22.♕h7#
20.♘exf6+ ♘xf6 21.♘xf8 ♕xf8 22.♕g3 ♕g7 23.♗g5 1–0

M Kozakov (2450) – T Nivala (2218)
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002



32.♖g7+! ♖f7 33.♗g6! ♖c2+
33...♖xg7 34.♖e8# **34.♔e3 1–0**

K Bischoff (2554) – V Ivanchuk (2711)
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002



Something more complicated: a lesson in exchanging pieces profitably by Vassily Ivanchuk.

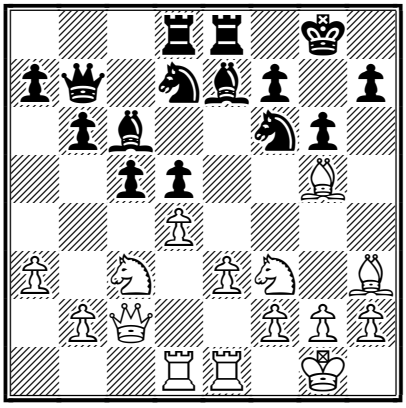
35...♗xg3! 36.♗xg3 ♘a3! 37.♕d1 ♘xb1 38.♕xb1 ♘e6

Black is clearly better.

39.♗f2 ♘f4+ 40.♔h2 ♘e2 41.♔g2 ♕c1 42.♕f5 g5 43.h4 ♘f4+ 0-1

Z Azmaiparashvili (2676) - E Agrest (2599)

European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002



18.b4!

A deep pawn sacrifice: White makes more lines available for his pieces, and this makes Black's defence very difficult.

18...cxb4 19.axb4 ♗xb4 20.♘e5 ♗e7 21.♘xc6 ♕xc6 22.♕b3 ♕b7 23.g3 ♘f8 24.♗xf6 ♗xf6 25.♗g2 ♗g7 26.♘xd5

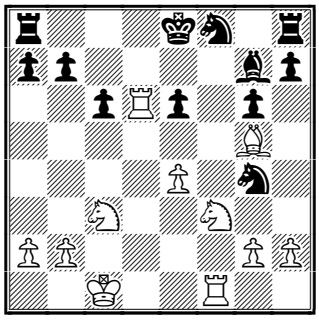
White returns the pawn, and has a great advantage.

26...♕d7 27.♖a1 ♖b8 28.♖ec1 ♘e6 29.♖a6 ♔h8 30.♕a2 ♖ec8 31.♖xc8+ ♕xc8 32.♖xa7 b5 33.h4 b4 34.♕b3 ♕c1+ 35.♔h2 ♕e1 36.♖xf7 ♘d8 37.♖e7 ♘c6 38.♖c7 ♘a5 39.♕a4 b3 40.♕d7 ♖g8 41.♘f6 1-0

S Savchenko (2537) - H Lehtinen (2338) A41

European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002

1.d4 d6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.♘c3 e5 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 7.♗d2 ♗e6 8.0-0-0 ♘d7 9.♘g5!? ♗xc4 10.e4 ♗xf1 11.♖hxf1 ♘h6 12.f4 c6 13.fxe5 ♔e7 14.♘f3 ♘g4 15.♗g5+ ♔e8 16.e6 fxe6 17.♖d6 ♘f8



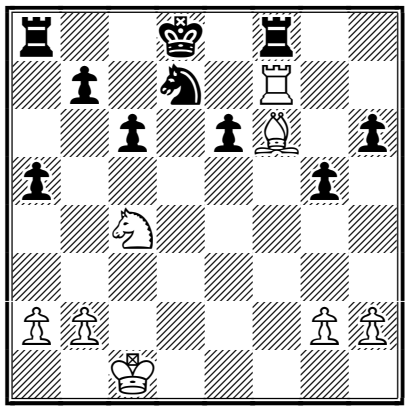
18.e5?!

An over optimistic novelty. 18.♖fd1 with sufficient compensation and approximately equal chances occurred in the interesting blindfold game Kramnik-Topalov, Monaco 1998.

18...♘xe5 19.♘xe5 ♗xe5 20.♘e4 h6

Even after 20...♗xd6 21.♘xd6+ ♔d7 White is only "almost" dominating. I don't see the full compensation for him, e.g.: 22.♘f7 ♖g8 23.♘h6 ♖g7 24.♗f6 ♖e7 25.♗xe7 ♔xe7 26.♖f7+ ♔d6 27.♖xb7 a5

21.♗e3 ♗xd6 22.♘xd6+ ♔e7 23.♗c5 ♘d7 24.♖f7+ ♔d8 25.♘e4 g5 26.♗e7+ ♔c8 27.♗d6 a5 28.♗e5 ♖f8 29.♘d6+ ♔c7 30.♘c4+ ♔d8 31.♗f6+



31...♔c7

31...♔c8!?

32.♗e5+ ♔d8 33.♗f6+ ♔c7

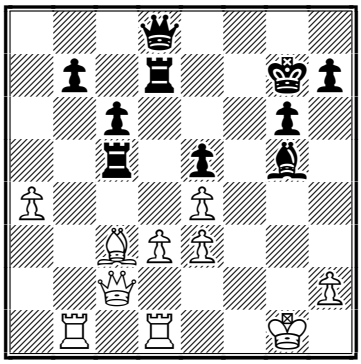
Draw by repetition - not such a bad outcome for White. **½-½**

M Suba (2507) - E Bareev (2726) A29

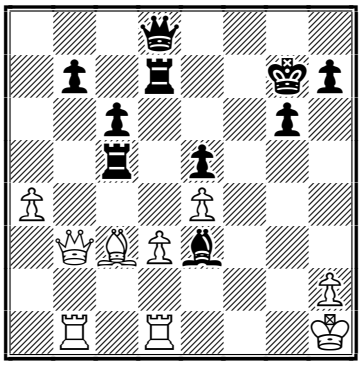
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (1), 22.09.2002

1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♘c3 ♘b6 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.0-0

Both Suba and Bareev use this line ("Reversed Dragon") for White.
7...♗e7 8.a3 0-0 9.b4 ♗e6 10.♖b1 f6 11.d3 ♘d4 12.♗b2 ♘xf3+ 13.♗xf3 c6 14.♗a1 ♖f7 15.a4 a5 16.bxa5 ♖xa5 17.♗h5 g6 18.♗f3 ♗c5 19.♕c2 ♖d7 20.♖fd1 ♗e7 21.e3 ♔g7 22.g4 ♘d5 23.g5 ♘xc3 24.♗xc3 ♖c5 25.gxf6+?!
After 25.♕b2!? the outcome of the opening fight would be still not clear.
25...♗xf6 26.♗e4 ♗d5! 27.f3?
Consequent, but bad.
27...♗xe4 28.fxe4 ♗g5!



White loses a pawn.
29.♕b3 ♗xe3+ 30.♔h1



30...♖f7?
An easy win was 30...♕f6! 31.♖f1 ♗f2!
31.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 32.♖xf1 ♕d7 33.♗b2!
Unexpectedly, Black gets problems with his rook and he inevitably will lose the exchange after ♗b2-a3.
33...b5 34.♗a3 bxa4 35.♕b8 ♕e7 36.♕a8 ♔h6 37.♕xa4 ♗f4 38.♗xc5
38.♕d1!?
38...♕xc5 39.♕a2 ♕e3 40.♕f2 ½-½

Solutions to Quiz Today

(1) 22...♖xh5! 0-1

(2) 28.♖xf6+!
This is the best way to claim the full point here.
28...♔xf6 29.♗c3+ ♖e5 30.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 31.a4
31.a4 ♔f7 32.♗xe5 dxe5 33.a5 ♔e7 34.b6 axb6 35.a6+- **1-0**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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CT-268(687) 25th September 2002

GM Eduard Gufeld dies age 66.

Eduard Gufeld 1936-2002
By GM Mikhail Golubev

Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld has died at the age of 66 at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He suffered a massive stroke two weeks ago which left him in a coma. A legendary chess writer and journalist, Gufeld wrote prodigiously about chess - more than one hundred books, not to mention his articles which are impossible to count. Contradictions and mysteries always accompanied his name. In the latter years Gufeld was sometimes too harshly criticized by reviewers for repetitions in his books, but we should not forget that his initial articles were usually very good. As Grandmaster Bagirov told me, Gufeld "bought furniture for his entire flat" for the fees that he received for annotations in various magazines to the Bagirov-Gufeld game! But the game deserved it. I always liked Gufeld's introduction to his Sicilian Dragon monograph (1982) - a simply great article in my opinion. Besides, we should not forget that during his best years Gufeld, a player of romantic attacking style, was a dangerous opponent even for world champions - in his CV were wins against such players as Smyslov, Tal and Spassky. Even in the 1990s, Gufeld still maintained serious chess strength. Once I played against him (Alushta Open, 1993), and lost a quite interesting game. The impulsive Grandmaster even told everybody who was around after the game that it was "his new Joconde!". Still, his "old Joconde" was better, I believe that we can repeat it again and again ...

□ **V Bagirov**
■ **E Gufeld**
USSR Championship sf Kirovabad, 1973 E84

1.d4 g6 2.c4 ♗g7 3.♘c3 d6 4.e4 ♘f6 5.f3 0-0 6.♗e3 ♘c6 7.♘ge2 ♖b8 8.♕d2 a6 9.♗h6 b5 10.h4 e5 11.♗xg7 ♔xg7 12.h5 ♔h8 13.♘d5 bxc4 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.♕h6 ♘h5 16.g4 ♖xb2 17.gxh5 g5 18.♖g1 g4 19.0-0-0 ♖xa2 20.♘ef4 exf4 21.♘xf4 ♖xf4 22.♕xf4 c3 23.♗c4 ♖a3 24.fxg4 ♘b4 25.♔b1 ♗e6 26.♗xe6 ♘d3 27.♕f7 ♕b8+ 28.♗b3 ♖xb3+ 29.♔c2 ♘b4+ 30.♔xb3 ♘d5+ 31.♔c2 ♕b2+ 32.♔d3 ♕b5+ 0-1

ECC Round 3: Norilsky Nikel lose to Bosna

In the third round of the European Club Cup, last year winners, Norilsky Nikel, lost their vital match against Bosna Sarajevo with minimal score 2½-3½. With the same minimal score NAO Chess Club won against a strong team from Macedonia.

Probably, Bosna and NAO Club have become the two main favourites now, but all the Russian teams are nevertheless still able to compete for first place. There are also three Ukrainian teams - all three lost in Round 2, but won in Rounds 1 and 3, and preserve some chances.

ECC Round 3, September 24th. Top Results: Hapoel Cellcom Kfar-Sava (ISR) - St Petersburg (RUS) 2-4, Bosna Sarajevo (BIH) - Norilsky Nikel (RUS) 3½-2½ (Adams v Bareev 1-0, Shirov v Dreev 1/2, I.Sokolov v Zviagintsev 1/2, Movsesian v Malakhov 1-0, Radjabov v Tregubov 0-1, Kozul v Rustemov 1/2), NAO Chess Club (FRA) - BM Kisela Voda Skopje (MKD) 3½-2½ (Grischuk v

Ki.Georgiev 1/2, Svidler v Onischuk 1–0, Lautier v Damljanovic 1/2, Bacrot v Ivanisevic 1/2, Nataf v Mitkov 1–0, Hauchard v Vl.Georgiev, Vladimir 0–1), Kiseljak (BIH) – Tomsk–400 (RUS) 3–3, Zalaegerszeg (HUN)–Alkaloid Skopje (MKD) 2–4, Ladia–Kazan–1000 (RUS) – Napredak Sarajevo (BIH) 5–1, Die Klagenfurter (AUT) – Beer–Sheva (ISR) 1½–4½, Studenti (ALB) – Polonia Plus GSM (POL) ½–5½.

At the official website the organisers make *all* games available only on the following day, so this issue's games section will be devoted to the 2nd Round games only. The only exception will be the vital game from Bosna and Norilsky Nikel, Adams–Bareev, which I include in the CBV file: Bareev was almost winning, but made a big mistake on the 31st move, and missed good drawing chances after that, unfortunately for his team he lost the game.

Web Watch

The ChessBase.com site has been lively and interesting in the past few days. In the news section there is, for example, and article 'Chess in Saipan' ("about ten thousand miles from anywhere you've ever been"), and a new Kasparov NY Times interview. Besides their own publications, The ChessBase site follow notable chess publications in the mainstream and computer media. The first site with a similar approach, as far as I know, was ChessWatch by Gene Venable, an integral part of KasparovChess.com. Unfortunately, Chess Watch has not been updated since April 1, 2002 and the latest item there is, "Chess Today reports that Sony will sponsor a match between Anatoly Karpov and Robert Fischer in October.." – I hope that it was not this April 1st joke by my colleagues that nudged Gene to stop his project!

One more new Kasparov interview, but in Russian, has appeared at the www.worldchessrating.ru site (formerly the Russian version of Kasparov–chess).

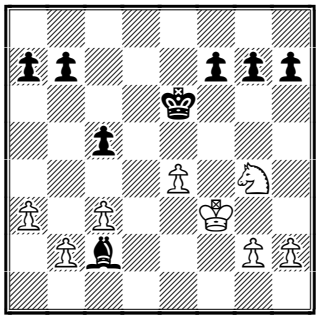
Newinchess.com informs us that the New in Chess Yearbook 64 and Magazine 6/2002 are out now. On the NiC web site one may find full information about these and previous publications, and download games from books without annotations.

ECC Round 2 selected games

In the second round of the European Club Cup so many interesting games were played, that I failed to single out just one or two of them. Sometimes chess can be really exciting.

So, I offer for your attention one fragment and four games below (and five more Round 2 games are included in today's CBV file!).

□ **J Degraeve (2586)**
■ **S Lputian (2634)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (2), 23.09.2002



To start with, a useful lesson. Black has a better endgame, and certain, if slight, winning chances. Probably he tried to win by force, but after

38...♗xe4+?! 39.♔xe4 f5+ 40.♔f4 fxg4

The two following White's moves made it pretty clear, that he didn't need to take the g4 pawn at all:

41.c4!

Not 41.♔xg4? ♔d5–+

41...♔f6 42.g3!

Not 42.♔xg4? ♔e5–+; After 42.g3! h5 White can even keep his king on e3 and d3, so a draw was agreed. **½–½**

□ **V Filippov (2615)**
■ **V Borovikov (2570)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (2), 23.09.2002 – D43

A good win for White in an acute and topical line (see CT 521 for more details!).

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.♗g3 b5 9.♗e2 ♗b7 10.h4 g4 11.♘e5 h5 12.0-0 ♘bd7 13.♕c2 ♘xe5 14.♗xe5 ♗g7 15.♖ad1 0-0 16.♗g3

16.f3 ♘h7 17.♗xg7 ♔xg7 18.fxg4 ♕xh4 19.gxh5 ♘g5 20.♕d2 ♘h3+ 21.gxh3 ♕g3+ 22.♔h1 ♕xh3+= Van Wely–Lautier, Monaco rpd 2000; Van Wely–Dreev, Wijk aan Zee 2002

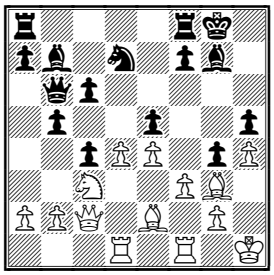
16...♘d7

Alternative 16...♘h7 17.e5 f5 18.exf6 ♕xf6 occurred in Kramnik–Akopian, Dortmund 2000

17.f3

17.e5 c5 18.♘e4 ♗xe4 19.♕xe4 ♕b6 20.d5 exd5 21.♕xd5 ♖ad8 22.♕e4 ♘xe5!∓ Goldin–Khenkin, New York Open 2000

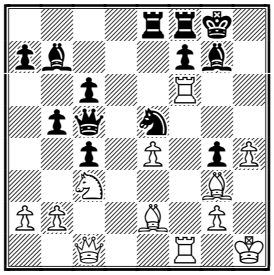
17...♕b6 18.♔h1 e5



19.dxe5N

19.d5 cxd5 20.♘xd5 ♗xd5 21.♖xd5 ♖ad8 22.fxg4 hxg4 23.♗xg4 ♘f6! 24.♖xd8 ♖xd8⇄ was good for Black is Vallejo Pons–Dreev, Biel 2002

19...♘xe5 20.♕c1 ♖ae8 21.fxg4 hxg4 22.♖d6 ♕c5 23.♖df6



23...♗c8

Black certainly had alternatives here. For example, the following comes into consideration 23...♗xf6!? 24.♖xf6 ♘g6 25.♕h6 ♕d4 26.e5 ♖xe5 27.♖xg6+ fxg6 28.♕xg6+ ♔h8=

24.♕g5 ♘d3 25.♘d5!

Very nice blow!

25...♖xe4

25...cxd5 26.♗xd3 cxd3 27.h5!+–

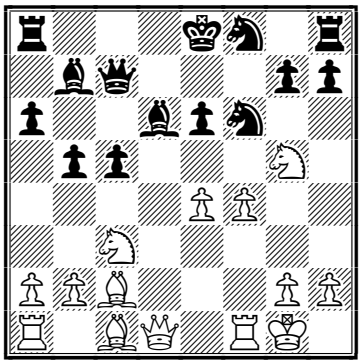
26.♗xd3 cxd3 27.♖xc6 ♕xc6 28.♘f6+ ♕xf6 29.♖xf6±

After all, White is better.

29...♖e2 30.h5 d2 31.♖d6 ♔h7 32.h6 d1♕+ 33.♖xd1 ♗xh6 34.♕xb5 ♖fe8 35.♖f1 f5 36.♖xf5 ♗xf5 37.♕xf5+ ♔g8 38.♕xg4+ ♗g7 39.b4 ♖2e4 40.♕d7 ♖8e6 41.♗f4 ♖e7 42.♕d5+ ♔h8 43.♗g5 ♖7e5 44.♕d2 ♔h7 45.♕d3 ♔g6 46.♗e3 ♔f7 47.♗c5 a5 48.a3 axb4 49.axb4 ♖e1+ 50.♔h2 ♖h5+ 51.♔g3 ♖ee5 52.♗e3 ♗f8 53.♕c4+ ♖d5 54.b5 ♗d6+ 55.♔g4 ♔e7 56.b6 ♖b5 57.b7 ♖he5 58.♗f4 ♖xb7 59.♗xe5 ♗xe5 60.♔f5 1-0

□ **Y Kruppa (2544)**
■ **A Dreev (2676)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (2), 23.09.2002 – D48

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 ♗b7 9.0-0 a6 10.e4 c5 11.d5 ♕c7 12.dxe6 fxe6 13.♗c2 ♗d6 14.♘g5 ♘f8 15.f4



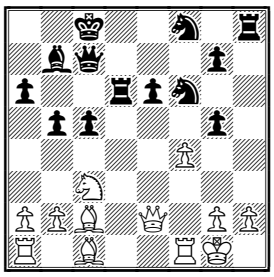
15...h6!?

Earlier Dreev always played 15...0–0–0 in this position that was more than familiar to him.

16.e5 0-0-0 17.exd6

After 17.♘f7!? draw was agreed in Piket–Khenkin, French Cht 2000, and it was the only game with 15...h6 that I was able to find.

17...♖xd6 18.♕e2 hxg5



19.a4

19.fxg5 ♖d4→ gives Black an attack. Probably, White should continue 20.h3 , and 20...♖xh3 21.♗f4! *(21.gxh3? ♕g3+)* 21...♖xf4 22.gxh3 ♖xf1+ 23.♔xf1 ♕f4+ 24.♕f2 ♕xg5∞ is not so clear.

19...b4 20.♘e4 ♖d5 21.♘xf6 gxf6 22.♗e4 ♖d4 23.♗xb7+ ♔xb7∓

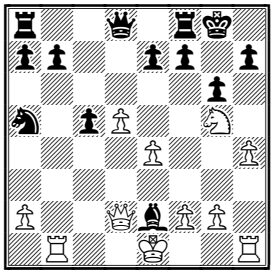
Black is pawn up, and I don't see compensation for White.

24.♕f3+ ♖d5 25.h3 gxf4 26.♗xf4 ♕c6 27.♖ae1 ♖g8 28.♗h6 ♘d7 29.♖e2 ♖d6 30.♕h5 e5 31.♕f7 ♕d5 32.♖xf6 ♕d1+ 33.♖f1 ♕xe2 34.♕xg8 ♖xh6 35.♕d5+ ♔c7 36.♖d1 ♖h7 37.♕d6+ ♔b7 38.♕d5+ ♔a7 39.♕d6 ♕e3+ 40.♔h1 ♘b8 41.♖d3 ♕c1+ 42.♖d1 ♕xb2 43.♕xc5+ ♔a8 44.♖d8 ♖b7 45.♕c6 ♕e2 46.♕e8 ♕f1+ 47.♔h2 ♕f4+ 48.♔h1 ♕c1+ 49.♔h2 ♕c7 50.♖c8 ♕d6 51.♖d8 ♕b6 0-1

□ **E Bacrot (2653)**
■ **P Popovic (2525)**

European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (2), 23.09.2002 – D85

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♘f3 c5 8.♖b1 0-0 9.♗e2 ♘c6 10.d5 ♗xc3+ 11.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 12.♕xd2 ♘a5 13.h4 ♗g4 14.♘g5 ♗xe2



15.♔xe2

This is, of course, still a known move.

15...e6 16.h5 ♘c4 17.♕c1 exd5 18.♘xh7N

Earlier occurred 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.♖xb7 ♕f6 *(19...♖b8?* , Meissner,B–Steinmacher, Ladenburg 1992, *20.♖bxh7+–)* 20.f3 ♖ab8 21.♖hxh7 ♖xb7 22.♖xb7 ♕a6∓ Wortham–Fuzishawa, IECG 1999

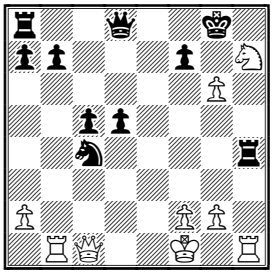
18...♖e8

18...♕e7?! 19.♔f1! (but not *19.♘xf8? ♕xe4+ 20.♔f1 ♘d2+)*

19.hxg6

19.♔f1 ♖xe4 20.g3!?

19...♖xe4+ 20.♔f1 ♖h4!



20...fxg6? 21.♕h6+–

21.♖xh4

Complications arising after 21.gxf7+ ♔xh7 are, possibly (!), in Black's favour: 22.♖xb7 *(22.♕c2+ ♔g7 23.f8♕+ ♔xf8 24.♕f5+ ♔g8 25.♖xh4 ♕xh4–+)* 22...♖xh1+ 23.♔e2 ♔g6! 24.♕xh1 ♘d6 25.♖b3 ♕e7+ 26.♖e3 ♘e4–+

21...♕xh4 22.♔g1 ♘e5

Black is better!

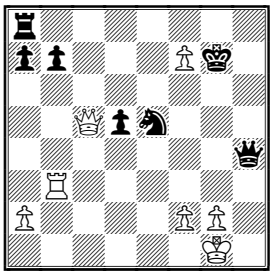
23.gxf7+?!

⩲23.♘g5 ♘xg6 24.g3! (not *24.♖xb7? ♘f4)* , and Black's advantage is, possibly, minimal – for example 24...♕h6 25.♖xb7 f6 26.f4 fxg5 27.♕xc5 , etc.

23...♔xh7 24.♕xc5

24.♖xb7 ♖f8 25.♕xc5 ♘g4∓

24...♔g7 25.♖b3



25...♕c4??

25...♕e4!?∓

26.f8♕+! ♖xf8 27.♕e7+! 1-0

□ **A Kharlov (2609)**
■ **D Sands (2246)**

European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (2), 23.09.2002 - D89

Again, a very acute line (what do you expect from games, selected by me?!), which was covered by Ruslan Scherbakov in CT-361.

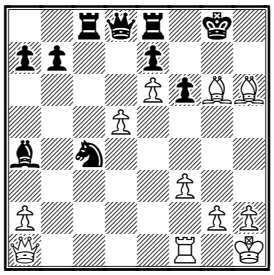
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗c4 0-0 8.♘e2 c5 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♗g4 11.f3 ♘a5 12.♗d3 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗e6 14.d5

This old gambit is still very dangerous!

14...♗xa1 15.♕xa1 f6 16.♗h6 ♖e8 17.♔h1 ♖c8 18.♘f4 ♗d7 19.e5 ♘c4 20.e6 ♗a4

20...♘e5!? (Korchnoi) 21.exd7 ♕xd7 22.♕b1 ♘xd3 23.♕xd3 e5 24.♘e2 ♕a4 25.♘c3 ♕d4 26.♕xd4 exd4 27.♘e4 ♖ed8 28.♘xf6+ ♔f7 29.♘e4 ♖xd5∞ P.Nielsen-Turov, Copenhagen 2002

21.♘xg6 hxg6 22.♗xg6



This intriguing position has already occurred in practice, and more than once.

22...♘e5 23.♗e4 ♗c2

Another way is 23...♕a5 24.♕d4 (possibly. stronger is *24.♕b2!?*) 24...♗c2 *(24...♖c4 25.♕f2 ♖xe4 26.fxe4 ♕c3 27.d6* +- Torres-Ramos, corr. 1990*)* 25.♗xc2 ♖xc2 26.♕h4 ♖c4 27.f4 *(27.♕g3+ ♘g4 28.f4 f5 29.♕h4 ♕c3 30.♕g5+ ♔h8)* , and in the game S.Ernst-Jens, Apeldorn 2001, Black missed a good opportunity of 27...♕a3! ∆28.♕h5 ♖c1! 29.♕xe8+ ♔h7-+

24.♗xc2 ♖xc2 25.♕d1 ♖c5?N

25...♖c4?! 26.f4± Dimitriadis-Reichardt, IECG 2000; 25...♔h7 26.♕xc2+ *(26.f4!? ♔xh6 27.fxe5)* 26...♔xh6 27.f4 ♘g6 28.♕f5?! ♖h8∓ Bannik-Novotelnov, Tbilisi 1951; 25...♕c7 - Kobalija-Zakharstov, St Petersburg 2001, CT-361.

26.f4 ♕xd5 27.♕h5+-

It's over now.

27...♕xe6

27...♖c2 28.♖g1!

28.♕xe8+ ♔h7 29.fxe5 ♔xh6 30.exf6 ♕xf6 1-0

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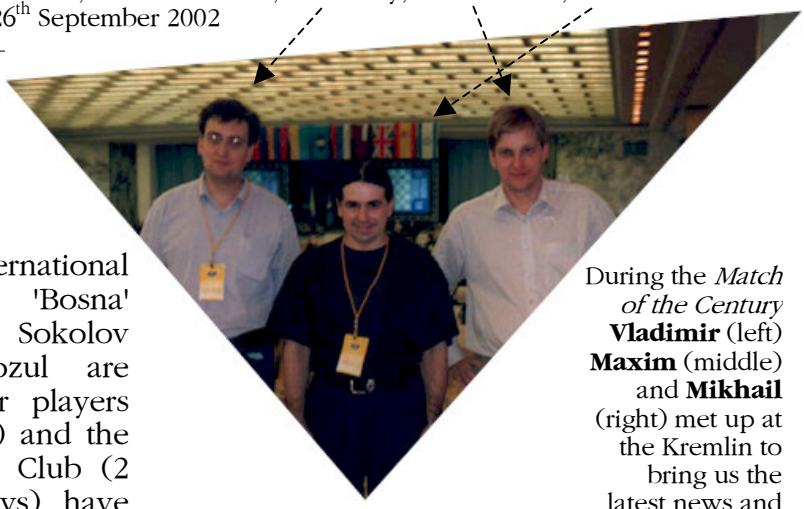
CT-269(688) 26th September 2002

European Club Cup News

IM Maxim Notkin

A *very* international team 'Bosna' (only Sokolov and Kozul are Bosnians and all the other players represent different countries) and the more balanced NAO Chess Club (2 Russians and 4 French guys) have taken the lead after 4 rounds at the European Club Cup



CHESS TODAY in Action!

During the *Match of the Century* **Vladimir** (left) **Maxim** (middle) and **Mikhail** (right) met up at the Kremlin to bring us the latest news and annotated games from the event.

Round 4 results:
Saint Petersburg LTG (RUS) – Bosna (BIH) 2:4 (Sakaev – Adams 0:1, Volkov – Shirov ½:½, Korchnoi – I. Sokolov ½:½, S.Ivanov – Movsesian ½:½, Alekseev – Radjabov ½:½, Smirnov – Kozul 0:1)
Chess Club Alkaloid (MKD) – NAO Chess Club (FRA) 2:4 (Aleksandrov – Grischuk ½:½, Tiviakov – Svidler 0:1, Nedev – Lautier ½:½, Bogdanovski – Bacrot ½:½, Stanojoski – Nataf ½:½, Stojanovski – Hauchard 0:1)
Kiseliak (BIH) – Ladia-Kazan-1000 (RUS) 2:4 (Azmaiparashvili – Khalifman ½:½, Nikolic – Akopian 0:1, Lputian – Rublevsky ½:½, Palac-Kharlov ½:½, Yemelin- Baklan ½:½, Lugovoi – Timofeev 0:1)
Beer-Sheva Chess Club (ISR) – Tomsk-400 (RUS) 2:4, Polonia Plus GSM (POL) – Chess Academy of D.E.I. (GRE) 4½:1½, Norilsky Nikel (RUS) – Hapoel (ISR) 5:1

Round 4 standings:
1. Bosna –8 (17,5)
2. NAO Chess Club –8 (15)
3. Ladia-Kazan-1000 – 7 (17,5)
4. Tomsk-400 – 7 (16)
5. Polonia Plus GSM – 6 (18)
6-7. A.V. Momot (UKR), Danko (UKR) – 6 (16)
8. Kisela Voda (MKD) – 6 (15,5)
9-10. Norilsky Nikel, Chess Club Alkaloid – 6 (15), etc.

Round 5 pairings:
NAO – Bosna
Tomsk-400 – Ladia-Kazan-1000
Alkaloid – Polonia
Saint Petersburg LTG – A.V. Momot

I recommend to you the 'Interview' link on the official site. FIDE World Ex-Champion Alexander Khalifman and the GMs Sergei Movsesian and Loek van Wely were asked about their opinions on the plans for reunification of the chess world, chess programs, The Internet and so on, while Teimour Radjabov answered questions about his life, plans, hobbys etc.

In the chess section I will follow the standard set by Mikhail. There are so many interesting games that it's impossible to focus upon a single one. If there is a highlight then it is Khalifman's excellent attack against Atalik ..

□ **A Khalifman (2690)**
■ **S Atalik (2551)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002 - C42
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♘c3
This line looks harmless but Shirov has tried it twice at the match Russia vs ROW and scored two points.

5...♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♗e7 7.♗f4 ♘d7 8.♕d2 ♘c5 9.0-0-0 ♗g4

9...0–0 10.♔b1 *(10.♗e3 ♗e6 11.♔b1 a6 12.♘d4 ♗d7 13.f3* Shirov – Motylev*)* 10...♗f6 11.♗e3 b6 12.♘d4 ♗b7 13.f3 Shirov – Morozevich. In both games Shirov's attacks were unstoppable.

10.♗e2 0-0 11.h3 ♗h5 12.g4 ♗g6 13.h4

White shows his serious intentions.

13...♖e8 14.h5 ♗e4 15.♖hg1 ♘e6 16.♗e3 c5 17.g5

The idea is simple – to open files on the kingside then mate will be found somehow.

17...d5 18.g6! hxg6

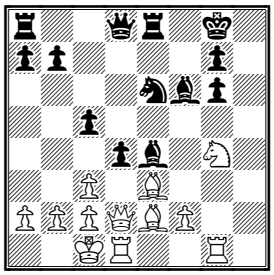
Of course 18...fxg6 19.hxg6 h6 *(19...♗xg6 20.♘e5)* doesn't solve the problem because of 20.♗xh6!

19.hxg6 fxg6 20.♘e5 ♗f6 21.♘g4!

Better than 21.♘xg6 ♕a5 22.♔b1 d4!

21...d4

This move awakens White's light-squared bishop.



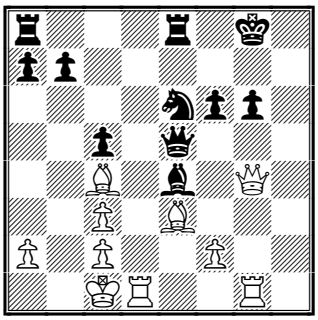
22.♗c4! dxc3

22...dxe3 23.♕xe3 ♗g5 24.f4+–

23.♕e2 ♕b6

The pawn on b2 would have been only a shield for the White's king.

24.♘xf6+ gxf6 25.bxc3 ♕c7 26.♕g4 ♕e5



27.♖d5!!

The best move of the 3rd round!

27...♕xc3

27...♗xd5 28.♕xg6+ ♔f8 29.♗xc5+! ♘xc5 30.♕g7#

28.♕xe4 ♕a1+ 29.♔d2 ♕xg1 30.♖d7 1-0

□ **S Volkov (2636)**
■ **A Gershon (2556)**

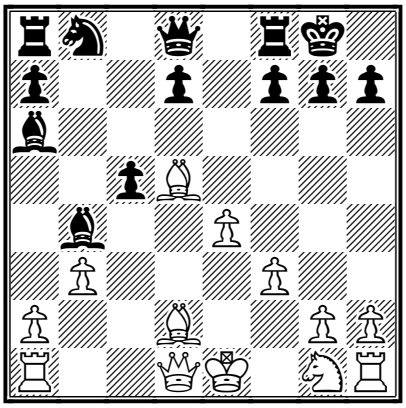
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002 – E20

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.f3 c5 5.d5 b5 6.e4 0-0 7.♗d2 bxc4 8.♗xc4 ♗a6!?

A novelty. 8...♗b7 9.♘ge2 ♗xc3 10.♗xc3 was played in a couple of games and after 10...♘xd5! White has to capture with the bishop as 11.exd5? loses a pawn in view of 11...♕h4+

9.b3 exd5 10.♘xd5 ♘xd5 11.♗xd5



11...♕g5!

Creating two serious threats – Qxg2 and Qe3+. White has only one move at his disposal.

12.♗xb4! ♕xg2!

Worse is 12...cxb4 13.♕d2 and the ending is preferable for White.

13.♗xc5

The only move again. After 13.♗xa8 cxb4 Black obtains the material advantage. What a pity the a1 rook is not attacked!

13...♕f1+ 14.♔d2 ♕d3+ 15.♔e1

White should accept a repetition of moves. 15.♔c1 ♕c3+ 16.♕c2 *(16.♔b1?? ♗d3+)* 16...♕xa1+ may favour only Black.

15...♕f1+

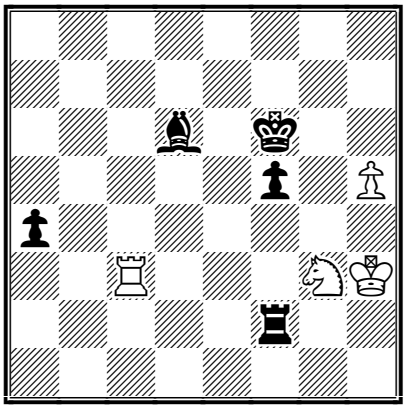
15...♕c3+ deserved attention as after 16.♔f2 *(16.♕d2 ♕xa1+ 17.♔f2 ♖c8)*

16...♕xc5+ 17.♔g2 ♘c6 Black is slightly better thanks to White's exposed king position.

16.♔d2 ♕d3+ 17.♔e1

A curious draw! **½–½**

□ **A Onischuk (2644)**
■ **P Svidler (2690)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



The board is almost empty but Svidler manages to keep the pressure on.

50.h6 ♔g6 51.♖c6 ♖d2 52.h7 ♔xh7 53.♘xf5 ♗b4 54.♖a6

White should have played 54.♖h6+ ♔g8 55.♖h4! ♖d3+ 56.♔g2 ♖b3 57.♘e7+! ♗xe7 *(57...♔f7 58.♘d5 a3 59.♘xb4* and the knight comes in time*)* 58.♖xa4 obtaining the famous ending.

54...a3 55.♖a4

55.♔g4 a2 56.♖a7+ was better but Onischuk is obsessed by the wrong idea.

55...a2 56.♘d4?

Trying to reach the "R vs R+B" ending but Black's next move is an unpleasant surprise.

56...♖d3+! 57.♔g2 ♗a3 58.♘c2

The checks don't change anything.

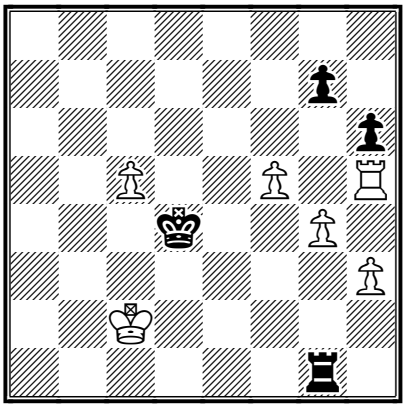
58...♖d2+! 59.♔f3 ♖xc2 60.♖a7+

60.♖xa3 ♖c3+! 61.♖xc3 a1♕

60...♔g6

White resigned. At the last FIDE World Championship Svidler couldn't beat Gelfand having queen vs rook but since that time he has improved I think. And I think Onischuk thought so too. **0–1**

□ **I Nataf (2560)**
■ **N Mitkov (2493)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



57.c6 ♖g3 58.f6! ♖c3+

58...gxf6 59.♖c5!! ♔xc5 60.c7+–

59.♔d2 gxf6 60.♖xh6 ♖xc6 61.g5 ♖a6?

Right was 61...♖c5! 62.g6 *(62.gxf6 ♖f5 63.h4 ♔e5=)* 62...♖g5 63.♖h4+ (in case of *63.♔e2 ♔e4 64.h4 ♖g2+* the active pieces allow Black to save the game. The most interesting line is *65.♔f1 ♔f3 66.h5 ♖h2 67.♔g1 ♖g2+ 68.♔h1 f5! 69.♖h8 ♔f2 70.♖a8 ♖g1+* with perpetual check "from g1 to g4".*)* 63...♔e5 64.♖g4 and surprisingly the pawn ending is drawn – 64...♖xg4 65.hxg4 ♔e6 66.♔d3 ♔e7 67.♔e4 ♔f8 68.♔f4 ♔g8! 69.♔f5 ♔g7 70.g5 fxg5 71.♔xg5 ♔g8=

62.♖xf6 ♖a2+ 63.♔e1 ♖g2 64.♖f4+ ♔e5 65.♖g4!

Now it's quite another matter.

65...♖xg4 66.hxg4 ♔e6 67.♔f2 ♔f7 68.♔e3 ♔g7 69.♔e4!

69.♔f4?? ♔g6=

69...♔g6 70.♔f4 ♔f7 71.♔f5 ♔g7 72.g6 ♔h6 73.g7!

73.♔f6?? stalemate

73...♔xg7 74.♔g5

White takes the opposition.

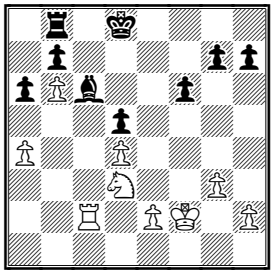
74...♔h7 75.♔f6 ♔h6 76.g5+ ♔h7 77.♔f7 ♔h8 78.♔g6

One more time – 78.g6??

78...♔g8 79.♔h6

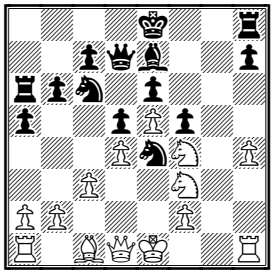
That's it. White has avoided all the traps. **1–0**

□ **Z Azmaiparashvili (2676)**
■ **V Filippov (2615)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



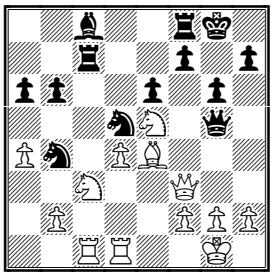
32.♖xc6! bxc6 33.a5 ♖b7
After 33...♖a8 34.♘c5 Black will find himself in zugzwang sooner or later for example 34...g6 35.g4 h6 36.h3 and 36...♔e7 loses to 37.♘xa6! ♖xa6 38.b7
34.♘c5 ♖e7 35.♘xa6 ♔c8 36.♘c5 ♔b8 37.a6 ♔a8 38.♔e1
The king goes to the queenside and Black is helpless against two ideas: a7, Na6-c7 or b7, Nd7, b8Q winning the pawn ending For example 38.♔e1 ♖e3 39.♔d2 ♖a3 40.b7+ ♔a7 41.♘d7 ♖b3 42.♔c2 ♖b5 43.♔c3 h5 44.b8♕+ ♖xb8 45.♘xb8 ♔xb8 46.♔b4+-
1-0

□ **D Stojanovski (2416)**
■ **G Horvath (2441)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



16.♘g5! ♗xg5
After 16...♘xg5 17.hxg5 White has a clear advantage as 17...♗xg5 loses to 18.♕h5+ but looking at the final position, one may think it was a better option for Black.
17.♕h5+! ♕f7 18.hxg5 ♕xh5 19.♖xh5
The e6 pawn needs protection so...
19...♘d8
and now
20.f3!
The knight is ensnared in the very centre of the board. 20.f3 ♘g3 21.♖h3+- **1-0**

□ **D Kosic (2542)**
■ **A Kharlov (2609)**
European Club Cup 2002 Halkidiki (3), 24.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



An example of a blunder.
21.♘xd5?? ♖xc1
White resigned in view of 21...♖xc1 22.♘xb4 ♕d2! **0-1**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel:

(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-270(689) 27th September 2002

IM Ricardo Calvo dies

More sad news comes right after Eduard Gufeld's passing. IM Ricardo Calvo has died of cancer of the oesophagus in Madrid at the age of 59. Ricardo Calvo was born in Alcoy (Alicante) 22nd October 1943 and died in Madrid 26th September 2002. He played for Spain in 5 Olympiads Havana (1966), Lugano (1968), Siegen (1970), Nice (1974) and Buenos Aires (1978).

At The European Club Cup the 5th round saw the match of the two teams, with perfect scores. NAO Chess Club secured a victory over Bosna thanks to the only decisive game. Grischuk beat Adams and thus has become the hero of the day. His team retains a perfect score. It's interesting that they are inferior to many teams in the amount of the individual points i.e. they win all the matches by a small margin.

Round 5 results:

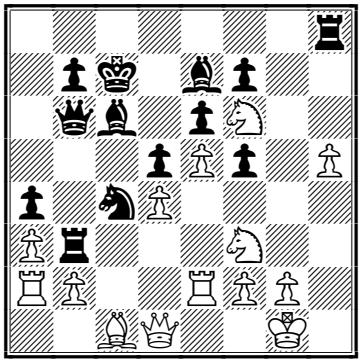
NAO Chess Club (FRA) - Bosna (BIH) 3½: 2½ (Grischuk – Adams 1:0, Svidler – Shirov ½:½, Lautier – I. Sokolov ½:½, Bacrot – Movsesian ½:½, Fressinet – Radjabov ½:½, Nataf – Kozul ½:½)
Tomsk-400 (RUS) - Ladia-Kazan-1000 (RUS) 2½:3½ (Filippov – Khalifman ½:½, Motylev – Akopian ½:½, Pigusov – Rublevsky ½:½, Kobalia – Kharlov 1:0, Landa – Baklan 0:1, Belozerov – Timofeev 0:1)
Chess Club Alkaloid (MKD) - Polonia Plus GSM 3:3 (Aleksandrov – Ivanchuk ½:½, Tiviakov – Polgar ½:½, Nedev – Krasenkow 1:0, Jacimovic – Macieja 1:0, Bogdanovski – Kempinski 0:1, Stanojoski – Socko 0:1)
Saint Petersburg LTG (RUS) - A.V. Momot (UKR) 2½:3½, Danko (UKR) - Kisela Voda (MKD) 2:4, Rochade Eupen (BEL) - Norilsky Nikel (RUS) 1:5, Beer-Sheva Chess Club (ISR) - Kiseliak (BIH) 2½:3½

Round 5 standings:
1. NAO Chess Club –10 (18.5)
2. Ladia-Kazan-1000 –9 (21)
3-4. Bosna, Norilsky Nikel – 8 (20)
5-6. A.V. Momot (UKR), Kisela Voda (MKD) – 8(19.5), etc.

Round 6 pairings
Ladia-Kazan-1000 – NAO
Bosna – A.V. Momot
Norilsky Nilel – Kisela Voda
Polonia Plus GSM – Kiseliak

The game section again features a mosaic of the fragments that caught my eye.

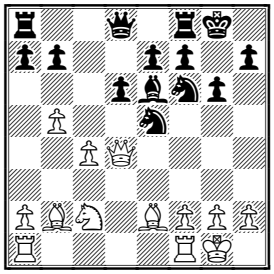
□ **A Shirov (2697)**
■ **S Volkov (2636)**
ECC Halkidiki GRE (4), 25.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



White is going to push forward the h pawn. The best way to stop it is to capture it!
30...♖xf3! 31.gxf3 ♗xf6 32.exf6 ♖xh5
I think Shirov was annoyed by the disappearance of his passed pawn. Surely he set his hopes on it. So he creates another one even though it costs him a rook!
33.♖xe6! fxe6 34.f7 ♖h8 35.♗h6 ♕d7
35...♘xb2 36.♕e2 ♕xd4 37.♕xe6! leads to unnecessary complications.
36.f8♕ ♖xf8 37.♗xf8 ♕d8 38.♗b4 ♕g5+ 39.♔h2
Forcing a draw. 39.♔f1?? loses to 39...♗b5

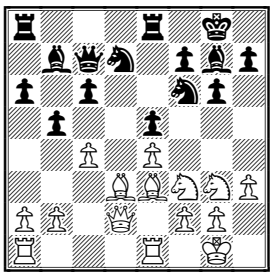
39...♕h5+ 40.♔g2 ♕g6+ 41.♔h2 ♕h6+ ½–½

□ **P Svidler (2690)**
■ **S Tiviakov (2628)**
ECC Halkidiki GRE (4), 25.09.2002 – B37
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 d6 7.♘c2 ♗g7 8.♗e2 ♘d7 9.0–0 ♘c5 10.♗d2 0–0 11.b4 ♗xc3
A risky move. Tiviakov once made it against Smirin and equalized. That's why he decided to repeat it I think. 11...♘e6 is the usual continuation.
12.♗xc3 ♘xe4 13.♗b2 ♗e6 14.b5 ♘e5 15.♕d4 ♘f6

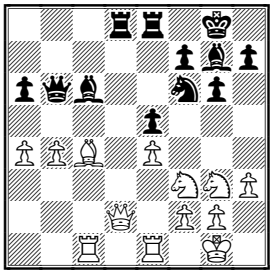


16.f4
Van Wely made this move against Gustafsson in Dieren 1999 and won. Probably Tiviakov wasn't aware of that game. 16.♘e3 ♘ed7 17.♖ad1 a6 18.g4 ♕b6 was played in Smirin – Tiviakov Paris 1991
16...♘ed7
This move has a serious drawback. It doesn't leave enough space for the bishop. Gustafsson chose another place for his knight – 16...♘eg4 but after 17.h3 ♘h6 18.g4 ♖c8 19.♘e3! with the idea g4–g5 the whole thing doesn't look good
17.g4!
Both threats g5 and f5 are highly unpleasant.
17...♕b6
17...♗xg4 18.♗xg4 e5 19.♕d1
18.f5 ♗xc4 19.♗xc4 ♘xg4
Black has got three pawns for a piece but in this position it's not enough.
20.♗d5 ♖ac8 21.♘e3! ♘ge5
21...♘xe3?? 22.♕g7#
22.♕xb6 ♘xb6 23.♗xb7 ♖b8
23...♖c7 24.♗a6 doesn't change much.
24.♗a6! ♘d3 25.♗d4 ♘b4 26.♖fc1 ♘xa6 27.bxa6 e5 28.fxe6 fxe6 29.♖ab1
Black resigned.
1–0

□ **V Akopian (2678)**
■ **P Nikolic (2653)**
ECC Halkidiki GRE (4), 25.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



15.a4!
Black should determine his queenside pawn structure.
15...bxc4 16.♗xc4 c5 17.♖ac1 ♗c6
White's central pawn is protected indirectly by 17...♘xe4? 18.♘xe4 ♗xe4 19.♘g5
18.b4!
The wish to clear a path for the rook is quite natural.
18...♘b6?!
After 18...cxb4 White has a pleasant choice between 19.♕xb4 *(and 19.♗d5 ♘b8 20.♕xb4)* and if 19...♕b7 then 20.♗xf7+!? ♔xf7 21.♕c4+ Nevertheless it was a better option for Black
19.♗b3 c4
In case of 19...♗xa4 White continues 20.bxc5 ♗xb3 21.cxb6 and the passed pawn gives him almost decisive advantage.; 19...♘xa4 is even worse due to 20.♕a2 ♘b6 21.♖xc5
20.♗xb6 ♕xb6 21.♗xc4 ♖ad8?



Now a nice combination follows.

Better was 21...♕b7

22.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 23.♖xc6! ♕xc6 24.♕xd8! ♕xa4

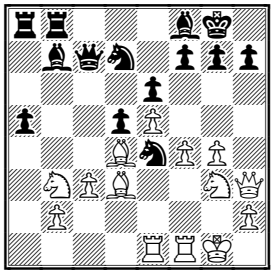
24...♖xd8 25.♘xe5+; 4...♘xe4!? 25.♕d3 ♘xg3 26.♘g5+ ♔e7 *(26...♔g8? 27.♕b3+)* 27.♕xg3

25.♕d6 ♕b5 26.♖c1

And Akopian has converted his advantage into the win.

26...♔g8 27.♖c7 a5 28.bxa5 ♕xa5 29.♕c6 ♗h6 30.♖b7 ♕d8 31.♕c2 ♕c8 32.♕b3+ ♕e6 33.♕b5 ♖c8 34.♖b6 ♕e7 35.♕b3+ ♔h8 36.♖e6 ♕f8 37.♘xe5 ♖c1+ 38.♔h2 ♗f4 39.♕b2 ♔g8 40.♕b3 ♔h8 41.♕b2 ♔g8 42.♕a2 ♔h8 43.♕e2 ♖b1 44.♕f3 ♘h5 45.♕c3 ♘g7 46.♘d7 ♕d8 47.♖f6 1-0

□ **A Vydeslaver (2430)**
■ **K Landa (2621)**
ECC Halkidiki GRE (4), 25.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



Not every attack leads to a win. Here's the pattern of a successful defence.

22.♖xe4 dxe4 23.♘xe4

White's most menacing piece is the light-squared bishop. The understanding of this fact helped Black to find the best way to defend.

23...♗a6! 24.♘g5

24.♘f6+ ♘xf6; 24.♗xa6 ♖xa6 25.♘g5 h6

24...♗xd3

24...h6 was also possible and after 25.♗xa6 *(25.♕h5 ♗xd3 26.♕xf7+ ♔h8 27.♘xe6 ♕c6* is not dangerous at all*)* 25...♖xa6 26.♕d3 hxg5 27.♕xa6 ♖xb3 Black grabs more

25.♕xd3 g6 26.f5

Despair

26...♖xb3 27.fxe6 fxe6 28.♖f7

28.♕f3 ♘b6 White may take back one pawn by the nice 29.♕xf8+ ♖xf8 30.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 31.♘xe6+ ♔e7 32.♘xc7 ♔d7 but this ending is hopeless.

28...♘xe5! 29.♕g3

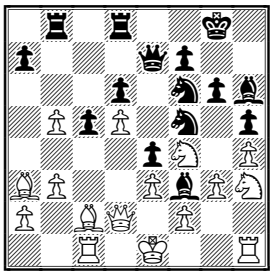
29.♖xc7 ♘xd3 30.♘xh7 ♗h6! 31.♘f6+ ♔f8 32.♖d7 *(32.♖h7 ♖d8 33.♖xh6 e5)* 32...♗g5! 33.♘h7+ ♔e8

29...♘xf7 30.♕xc7 ♘xg5

The queen is a very good piece but not omnipotent.

31.♕c6 ♖ab8 32.h4 ♘f7 33.h5 g5 34.c4 ♖g3+ 35.♔f2 ♖xg4 36.♗c3 ♖f4+ 37.♔g2 ♖g4+ 38.♔f2 ♖f4+ 39.♔g2 ♗b4 0-1

□ **S Conquest (2542)**
■ **I Ivanisevic (2550)**
ECC Halkidiki GRE (4), 25.09.2002
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin



Stuart Conquest is a very original player. His opponent never knows where to expect a blow from. The diagrammed position isn't good for Stuart but it suits his style. It's hard to understand what it's all about.

23.0-0 ♘g4 24.♗b2 ♘xh4!?

24...♖xb5

25.♕c3!

25.gxh4? ♗xf4 26.exf4 ♕xh4 27.♕c3 f6–+

25...♘e5 26.b4 ♖xb5 27.bxc5 ♖xc5 28.♕b4

Everything's OK with Black's position but there's is a vulnerable piece in the camp. It is ... the h6 bishop. Just watch!

28...a5

28...♖dc8!

29.♕a4 ♖c4 30.♕xa5 g5 31.♗xe5 dxe5 32.♕a6! gxf4 33.♕xh6 fxg3?

33...♘f5 34.♕g5+ *(34.♕a6? ♗e2!)* 34...♕xg5 35.♘xg5 ♖dc8 36.♘xf3 ♖xc2 *(36...exf3 37.♗xf5 ♖xc1 38.♗xc8 ♖xc8 39.gxf4 exf4 40.e4)* 37.♖xc2 ♖xc2 38.♘xe5 fxe3 and Black is still better

34.♘g5! f5 35.♗b3! gxf2+ 36.♔xf2

♖d6 37.♗xc4! f4
37...♖xh6 38.d6+
38.♘e6 fxe3+ 39.♕xe3 ♖xe6 40.♖g1+ ♔h7 41.dxe6 1-0

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-1(785) 1st January 2003

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear friends, the *Chess Today* Team wishes you a Happy and Prosperous New Year – may all your dreams come true in 2003! Enjoy good health, enjoy life and, of course, play good chess!

The New Year Day is always special – people reflect on what happened in the past year and try to look into the future. This day has some magic and I would like to get some of that magic into this issue.

We will leave aside tournament news for a day or two and look at more global events. Let us start with a look back at the most important events of 2002!

January 2002.

Two rising Indian chess stars – Sasikiran (2569) and Harikrishna (2502) tied for 1st at Hastings, together with GM Barsov (2525, Uzbekistan) – on 6½ out of 9.

Viorel Bologan (2668) won a tournament in Pamplona with 7 out of 9, 1½ points clear of Radjabov (another rising star), Almasi and Andersson.

Nigel Short (2663) won his match against Hannes Stefansson (2604) in Reykjavik – 4½:1½!

Larry Christiansen and Nick De Firmian tied for first at the US Championship in Seattle. Christiansen won the tie-break match.

Evgeny Bareev won Corus tournament in Wijk aan Zee with 9 out of 13. Alexander Grischuk was second. Adams and Morozevich tied for third place.

Ukrainian Ruslan Ponomariov became the new FIDE World Champion after defeating his compatriot Vasily Ivanchuk in Moscow – 4½:2½.

Einstein Group plc took over the rights (contracts or arrangements) previously held by the troubled Brain Games Network for the Brains in Bahrain (Man v Machine), Dortmund qualifier and 2003 Chess Championship match against Vladimir Kramnik.

February 2002.

Five GMs – Gregory Kaidanov (USA), Alexander Grischuk (Russia), Aleksej Aleksandrov (Byelorussia), Alexander Shabalov (USA) and Vadim Milov (Switzerland) tied for first at super-strong Aeroflot Open in Moscow (with 6½ out of 9). Kaidanov was first on tiebreak.

GM Eduardas Rozentalis (2598, Lithuania) won the huge open (678 players!) in Capelle la Grande with 7½ out of 9.

Well-known chess author GM Edmar Mednis died (1937-2002).

Loek van Wely drew his match vs. *Rebel* – 2:2, all games were decisive and White won every game!

March 2002.

Veselin Topalov and Boris Gelfand tied for first at NAO Masters (cat. 18) in Cannes. The winners scored 6 out of 9. Elo-favourite Alexander Morozevich had probably the worst result in his career, finishing clear last.

Garry Kasparov won Linares (cat. 20) – with 8 out of 12. Ruslan Ponomariov competed with his most of the distance and finished clear second on 6½ points, proving that his result results were justified. Kasparov won their mini-match 1½:½.

GM Yasser Seirawan proposed a plan on unification of the chess world. The

plan got support from Bessel Kok.

GMs Jaan Ehlvest and Oleg Korneev, won the strong Reykjavik Open with 7 points out of 9.

GM Alexander Morozevich won the Amber tournament in Monaco (blindfold and rapid chess) with combined score of 15 points out of 22, ahead of Shirov (14½) and Leko (13½). Morozevich was best in blindfold chess, while Gelfand was best in rapid tournament.

GM Sarunas Sulskis (Lithuania) won the strong Goodricke International Open in Calcutta.

April 2002.

Peter Leko beat Alexander Grischuk in the final of FIDE Grand Prix in Dubai. Alexei Shirov was third. WGM Zhu Chen knocked out Ruslan Ponomariov in the first round of the event.

GM Alexander Onischuk, who settled in USA, won a strong closed tournament in Siberia.

May 2002.

Vishy Anand won a Rapid Chess tournament in Prague, organised by Bessel Kok. In the final he beat Anatoly Karpov. Kasparov lost to Ivanchuk earlier in the tournament.

Prague Agreement was signed by Ilyumzhinov, Kramnik and Kasparov. There were immediate complaints from some top GMs, who claimed that the agreement left them outside of World Championship for 2 years.

Young Cuban GM Lazaro Bruzon won Capablanca Memorial in Havana.

Russian GM Vadim Zvjaginsev (2645) had the best result of his career so far, winning category 16 tournament in Essen (Germany) with 7½ points out of 9 – 2905 performance! Peter Leko was second with also a great result – 7 points.

GM Sergei Movsesian (Czech Republic, 2624) won a category 16 tournament in Sarajevo, ahead of Ivan Sokolov, Shirov, Dreev, etc.

June 2002.

Garry Kasparov won the FIDE Grand Prix tournament in Moscow. In the final he defeated Alexander Khalifman, while in the semi-final he beat Teimour Radjabov. However, both matches were not easy for Kasparov.

Nigel Short won a strong closed tournament in Malmo

Vladimir Kramnik won a match in *advanced chess* in Leon, Spain, against Vishy Anand – 3½:2½. Only one game was decisive.

Polish GM Bartlomiej Macieja won the European Championship in Batumi, Georgia.

July 2002.

Peter Leko won the Dortmund Qualifier. He beat Alexey Shirov (2½:½). in the semi-final and in the final defeated Veselin Topalov (2½:1½), thus gaining the right to challenge Vladimir Kramnik.

China-USA match took place in Shanghai. The hosts won 20½:19½.

GM Ilia Smirin (2676, Israel) won closed tournament in Biel (cat. 16).

GM Loek Van Wely won the Lost Boys Open in Amsterdam with 8½ points out of 9 – 2949 performance!

August 2002.

Etienne Bacrot won the French Championship, defeating Joel Lautier in the final match.

September 2002.

GM Alexander Lastin (2625) won the

Russian Championship in Krasnodar.

The *New Match of the Century* took place in Moscow on 8–11 September. It was a 10 round Scheveningen rapid play (25 minutes + 10 seconds per move) tournament between 10 players from Russia and 10 from the Rest of the World. To the surprise of many, ROW won 52–48! GM Yasser Seirawan was captain of the winning team.

Shirov was the top scorer – 7 out of 10!. 3Ks – Kasparov, Kramnik and Karpov had a negative result.

Humpy Koneru became the youngest girl to become a GM, beating the previous record of Judith Polgar.

BOSNA Sarajevo won the European Team Cup, ahead of "Norilsky Nikel" (Norilsk), Polonia Plus GSM (Warsaw) and NAO.

GM Eduard Gufeld (1936–2002) died in USA from a heart attack.

October 2002

Etienne Bacrot beat Boris Gelfand in a match in France – 3½:2½. Only the last game was decisive.

Anand and Xu Yuhua defended their World Cup titles won in Shenyang China in 2000 as they won again in the FIDE World Cup in Hyderabad, India. In the final Anand beat Rustam Kasimdzhanov 1½:½.

Vladimir Kramnik drew against DEEP FRITZ in Bahrain – 4:4. He had an early lead (3:1), but then lost two games.

Young Hungarian GM Peter Acs (2591) won category 17 closed tournament in Netherlands.

November 2002.

Boris Gelfand won rapid tournament in Cap d'Agde, defeating Anatoly Karpov in the final (2:0).

Russia won gold in men's Olympiad in Bled (Slovenia), ahead of Hungary and Armenia.

In the women's event China won again, though Georgia led for most of the tournament. But that team collapsed on the finish. Russia took silver and Poland – bronze.

GMs Viktor Korchnoi and Yona Kosashvili won in Curaçao Open.

GM Thomas Luther (2538) won German Championship.

December 2002.

GM Igor Khenkin (2603, Germany) won strong open in Dominican Republic with 7½ points out of 9, ahead of peter Svidler, Sergei Volkov, Daniel Fridman and Hikaru Nakamura (7 points).

GM Ilya Smirin won Israeli Championship.

Russian GM Filippov won in the Torre Memorial in Mexico.

Anatoly Karpov defeated his old rival Garry Kasparov in rapid chess match in New York – 2½:1½.

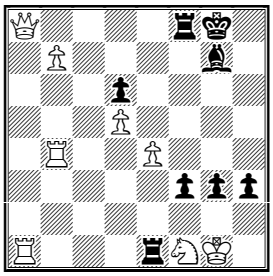
GMs Kasimdzhanov and Bologan share first place at Pamplona.

♘♘♘

As I said, the New Year Day is somewhat magic and so today I want to show you some truly beautiful and simply bizarre and weird positions – enjoy our collection!

Kudriashov – I. Ivanov

USSR, 1979



White to play

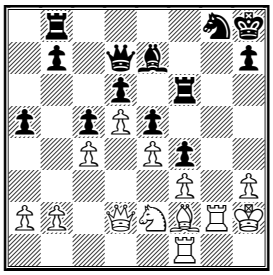
The last moves were **1.a8♕ h3!!.** Here White resigned despite being a queen up and able to get another one! As you can see here, his decision was quite reasonable:
2.b8♕ f2+ 3.♔h1 g2+ 4.♔h2 ♗e5+ 5.♔xh3 gxf1♕+ 6.♔g4 ♕g2+ 7.♔h5 ♕h3+ 8.♔g6 ♖g1+ 9.♖xg1 fxg1♕#.

2.♖xe1 f2+ 3.♔h1 fxe1♕–+;

2.♕xf8+ ♗xf8 3.♖b2 ♖xa1 4.b8♕ h2+ 5.♖xh2 ♖xf1+ 6.♔xf1 gxh2–+.
(from the book ⇔The Most Amazing Chess Moves of All Time's by GM Emms)

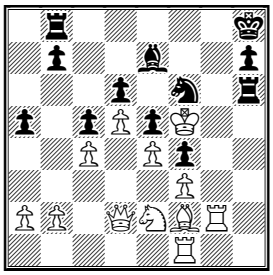
In the above position the White king did not survive the attack of Black's passed pawns. In our next few examples the king caught cold, walking too much on the board. Let us start with a classical example:

Averbakh–Kotov
Zurich 1953
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘f3 ♘bd7 4.♘c3 e5 5.e4 ♗e7 6.♗e2 0–0 7.0–0 c6 8.♕c2 ♖e8 9.♖d1 ♗f8 10.♖b1 a5 11.d5 ♘c5 12.♗e3 ♕c7 13.h3 ♗d7 14.♖bc1 g6 15.♘d2 ♖ab8 16.♘b3 ♘xb3 17.♕xb3 c5 18.♔h2 ♔h8 19.♕c2 ♘g8 20.♗g4 ♘h6 21.♗xd7 ♕xd7 22.♕d2 ♘g8 23.g4 f5 24.f3 ♗e7 25.♖g1 ♖f8 26.♖cf1 ♖f7 27.gxf5 gxf5 28.♖g2 f4 29.♗f2 ♖f6 30.♘e2 *(D)*



White has better bishop, etc. but the presence of the pawn on h3 allows Black to start beautiful attack:

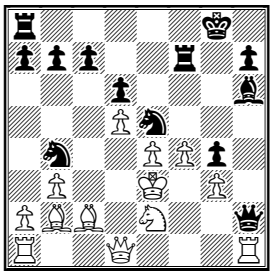
30...♕xh3+!! 31.♔xh3 ♖h6+ 32.♔g4 ♘f6+ 33.♔f5 *(D)*



White's king is on its own and has hard time surviving the attack. Here the easiest way to win was 33...♘g4! 34.♘xf4 ♖g8 35.♘h5 ♖hg6 36.♕g5 ♗xg5 37.♔xg4 ♗f4+ 38.♔h3 ♖xg2 39.♘xf4 exf4–+. But in the game Black also prevailed:
33...♘d7 34.♖g5 ♖f8+ 35.♔g4 ♘f6+ 36.♔f5 ♘g8+ 37.♔g4 ♘f6+ 38.♔f5 ♘xd5+ 39.♔g4 ♘f6+ 40.♔f5 ♘g8+ 41.♔g4 ♘f6+ 42.♔f5 ♘g8+ 43.♔g4 ♗xg5 44.♔xg5 ♖f7 45.♗h4 ♖g6+ 46.♔h5 ♖fg7 47.♗g5 ♖xg5+ 48.♔h4 ♘f6 49.♘g3 ♖xg3 50.♕xd6 ♖3g6 51.♕b8+ ♖g8 0–1

Another classical example of a queen sacrifice:

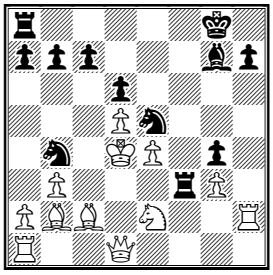
Polugaevsky–Nezhmetdinov
[A53] Sochi, 1958
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘c3 e5 4.e4 exd4 5.♕xd4 ♘c6 6.♕d2 g6 7.b3 ♗g7 8.♗b2 0–0 9.♗d3 ♘g4 10.♘ge2 ♕h4 11.♘g3 ♘ge5 12.0–0 f5 13.f3 ♗h6 14.♕d1 f4 15.♘ge2 g5 16.♘d5 g4 17.g3 fxg3 18.hxg3 ♕h3 19.f4 ♗e6 20.♗c2 ♖f7 21.♔f2 ♕h2+ 22.♔e3 ♗xd5 23.cxd5 ♘b4 24.♖h1 *(D)*



24...♖xf4!!
Black starts crushing attack. What makes it beautiful is that Black develops the attack with quiet moves,

being a queen down.

25.♖xh2 ♖f3+ 26.♔d4 ♗g7! *(D)*



27.a4

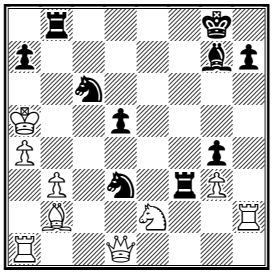
White could not save the game, as the following variations show. They are based on the analysis of Nezhmetdinov himself, which you can find in the book ***Nezhmetdinov's Best Games of Chess*** (available at the GM Square online shop).

27.♘g1 ♖xg3 28.♘e2 ♖f3 29.♘g1 ♘ed3+ 30.♔c4 ♘xb2+ 31.♔xb4 ♗c3+ 32.♔a3 b5! 33.♕d4 ♗xd4 34.♘xf3 ♗c3 35.b4 ♘c4+ 36.♔b3 ♗xa1–+.

27.♘c3 ♘ed3+ 28.e5 ♗xe5+ 29.♔c4 ♘xb2+ 30.♔xb4 ♗xc3+ 31.♔a3 ♘xd1 32.♖xd1 ♖xg3–+

27.♖f2 c5+ *(or 27...♖xf2 28.♔e3 ♖f3+ 29.♔d2 ♗h6+ 30.♘f4 ♖xg3–+)* 28.dxc6 ♘ed3+ 29.e5 ♗xe5+ 30.♔c4 b5+ 31.♔xb5 ♖b8+ 32.♔a4 ♘xb2+ 33.♔a3 ♘xd1–+.

27...c5+ 28.dxc6 bxc6 29.♗d3 ♘exd3+ 30.♔c4 d5+ 31.exd5 cxd5+ 32.♔b5 ♖b8+ 33.♔a5 ♘c6+ *(D)*

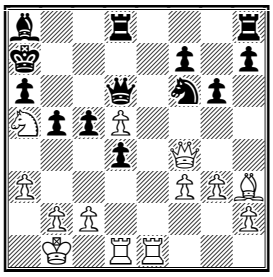


0–1.

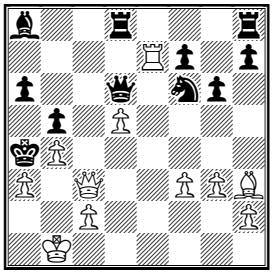
And finally, a modern example, played on the highest level – one of the best games of the past decade!

Kasparov–Topalov
Wijk aan Zee 1999

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♗e3 ♗g7 5.♕d2 c6 6.f3 b5 7.♘ge2 ♘bd7 8.♗h6 ♗xh6 9.♕xh6 ♗b7 10.a3 e5 11.0–0–0 ♕e7 12.♔b1 a6 13.♘c1 0–0–0 14.♘b3 exd4 15.♖xd4 c5 16.♖d1 ♘b6 17.g3 ♔b8 18.♘a5 ♗a8 19.♗h3 d5 20.♕f4+ ♔a7 21.♖he1 d4 22.♘d5 ♘bxd5 23.exd5 ♕d6 *(D)*

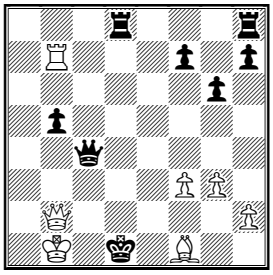


24.♖xd4! cxd4 25.♖e7+! ♔b6 26.♕xd4+ ♔xa5 27.b4+ ♔a4 28.♕c3 *(D)*



Objectively stronger was 28.♖a7!, for example, with the following nice line possible: 28...♘xd5 29.♖xa6+ ♕xa6 30.♕b2 ♘c3+ 31.♕xc3 ♗d5 32.♔b2 ♕e6 33.♗xe6 fxe6 34.♕b3+ ♗xb3 35.cxb3#.

28...♕xd5 29.♖a7 ♗b7 30.♖xb7 ♕c4 [30...♖he8!] **31.♕xf6 ♔xa3 32.♕xa6+ ♔xb4 33.c3+ ♔xc3 34.♕a1+ ♔d2 35.♕b2+ ♔d1 36.♗f1 *(D)***



Is not chess beautiful?! Just look at what a journey the black king had to take!

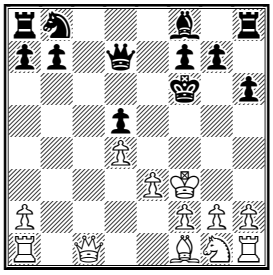
36...♖d2 37.♖d7! ♖xd7 38.♗xc4 bxc4 39.♕xh8 ♖d3 40.♕a8 c3

41.♕a4+ ♔e1 42.f4 f5 43.♔c1 ♖d2 44.♕a7 1-0.

While all people enjoy attacks on the king, I also find pleasure in unusual positions. Like this one:

Smyslov-Pachman
Moscow Ol 1956
Queen's Gambit Declined

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗g5 c6 6.e3 h6 7.♗h4 ♗f5 8.♕f3 ♕b6 9.♕xf5 ♕xb2 10.♕c8+ ♔e7 11.♘xd5+ cxd5 12.♕c1 ♕b4+ 13.♔e2 ♕b5+ 14.♔f3 ♕d7 15.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 *(D)*



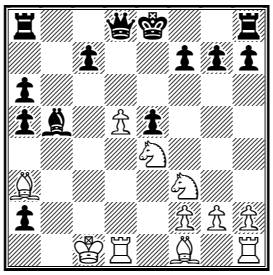
What a weird position, with kings on f3 and f6, instead of knights! This is some kind of 'Improved Petroff'! :-) White is better because he has healthier pawn structure – the d5- and b7- pawns are somewhat weak.

16.g3 ♕f5+ 17.♔g2 ♗d6 18.♕d1 g6 19.♗d3 ♕e6 20.♖b1 ♘c6 21.♖xb7 ♖ab8 22.♖xb8 ♖xb8 23.♘e2 ♔g7 24.♕a4 ♘e7 25.♖b1 ♖xb1 26.♗xb1 ♗b8 27.♗c2 h5 28.♕b5 ♗c7 29.h4 a6 30.♕b7 1-0

Pawns chains can take various configurations and some are quite spectacular. Look at this game:

Epishin-Baburin
Vienna Open 1998

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 ♘c6 4.♗e3 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.d5 ♘a5 7.♘f3 ♗d6 8.♕a4+ ♗d7 9.♕xa5 a6 10.♗c5 b6 11.♗xd6 bxa5 12.♗a3 ♗b5 13.b3 ♘xe4 14.♘xe4 cxb3 15.0-0-0 bxa2 *(D)*



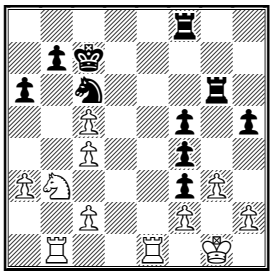
Black's d-pawn made a great career – it took three enemy pawns! Black has tripled pawns - formation, often called the Irish Pawn Centre! As here these pawns are hardly central, I call it the Irish Pawn Chain.

16.♔b2 f6 17.♔xa2 ♔f7 18.♖d2 ♕d7 19.♗xb5 axb5 20.♖c1 b4 21.♗b2 ♖hd8 22.♖c6 ♔g8 23.♘c5 ♕g4 24.♘e6 ♕xg2 25.♘xd8 ♖xd8 26.♘e1 ♕e4 27.♖c1 a4 28.f3 ♕e3 29.♖cd1 ♕b3+ 30.♔a1 a3 31.♗c1 ♕c3+ 32.♔b1 ♖a8 0-1

Want to learn more about the Irish Pawn Chain? Then the following game is for you!

Smyslov-Botvinnik,
Moscow, m (19), 1954

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.a3 ♗xc3+ 5.bxc3 dxe4 6.♕g4 ♘f6 7.♕xg7 ♖g8 8.♕h6 c5 9.♘e2 ♘c6 10.dxc5 ♖g6 11.♕d2 ♗d7 12.♖b1 ♕c7 13.♕d6 0-0-0 14.♕xc7+ ♔xc7 15.♘d4 a6 16.♗f4+ ♔c8 17.g3 ♘d5 18.♗d2 e5 19.♘b3 ♗g4 20.♗g2 f5 21.0-0 ♗f3 22.♗h3 ♖f8 23.♖fe1 ♔c7 24.♗g2 h5 25.c4 ♘f4 26.♗xf3 exf3 27.♗xf4 exf4 *(D)*



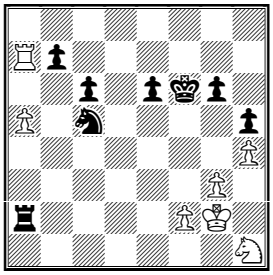
Both sides have tripled pawns - double Irish pawn centre!!

28.♘d2 fxg3 29.♘xf3 gxh2+ 30.♔xh2 ♖fg8 31.♔h3 ♖g4 32.♖e6 ♖xc4 33.♖f6 ♖g7 34.♖xf5 ♖xc2 35.♘g5 ♖e7 36.♔h4 ♘d4 37.♖f4

♘b5 38.a4 ♘c3 39.♖c4 ♖ee2 40.♖b6 ♘d5 41.♖xc2 ♖xc2 42.♘e6+ ♔d7 43.♖d6+ ♔e7 44.♖xd5 ♔xe6 45.♖d6+ ½-½

Pieces sometimes find most bizarre places to be in. Some positions are just hilarious (or sad, if you have such a piece!). One example, which I witnessed in Copenhagen in 1996:

Tseshkovsky-Nouro
Politiken Cup, Copenhagen 1996



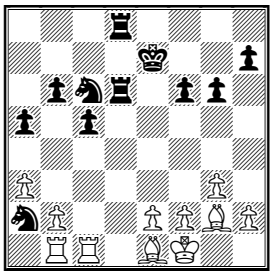
Black to play

White is not only a pawn down, he also effectively has a piece less. **41...♖b2 42.♖a8 ♖a2 43.♔h3 ♘b3 44.♖f8+ ♔g7 45.♖c8 ♘xa5 46.f3 b5 47.g4 ♔f6 48.♖b8 hxg4+ 49.fxg4 ♘c4 50.♘g3 ♖a3 51.h5 gxh5 52.gxh5 ♘e3 53.♖f8+ ♔g7 54.♖f3 b4 55.h6+ ♔g6 56.♔h4 ♘f5+ 0-1.**

While the white knight was a very sad piece in the above game, sometimes putting your knights to an edge can be interesting. I was pretty impressed with this game:

Psakhis-Speelman
Hastings 1987/1988

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 c5 4.d5 e6 5.♘c3 exd5 6.♕xd5 ♕xd5 7.♘xd5 ♗d6 8.♘d2 ♘e7 9.♘xc4 ♘xd5 10.♘xd6+ ♔e7 11.♘xc8+ ♖xc8 12.g3 ♘c6 13.♗g2 ♖d8 14.♗g5+ f6 15.♗d2 ♖d6 16.0-0 ♖ad8 17.♖fc1 b6 18.♔f1 a5 19.♗e1 g6 20.♖ab1 ♘db4 21.a3 ♘a2 *(D)*



Speelman himself gave this move '?!' in his book, for objectively it is not sound. But it is very creative and for that deserves '!!'. **22.♖c4 ♘d4 23.b3 ♘b5 24.♖b2 ♘ac3 25.a4 ♘d1 26.♖b1 ♘a3 27.♖cc1 ♘xb1**

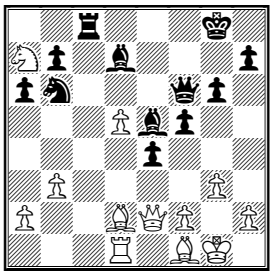
28.♖xb1 f5 29.♗b7 g5 30.♗a6 f4 31.♗d3 ♖xd3 32.exd3 ♖xd3 33.♔e2 ♖d5 34.gxf4 gxf4 35.♖c1 ♘b2 36.♗c3 ♘d3 37.♖g1 ♘b4 38.♖g7+ ♔f8 39.♗b2 ♖d3 0-1

Again, this game is another good reason to visit GM Square shop in 2003! :-) There you can find excellent the book *'Jon Speelman's Best Games'*.

I once had ventured with my knight to a similar square too:

Baburin - J. Horvath
Budapest 1992

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♗g2 ♘b6 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.e3 0-0 9.♘c3 ♖e8 10.♘e1 e5 11.d5 ♘a5 12.e4 c6 13.♘c2 cxd5 14.exd5 f5 15.♕e2 ♗d7 16.♖d1 ♘ac4 17.b3 ♘d6 18.♗d2 ♖c8 19.♖ac1 e4 20.♘a3 ♗e5 21.♗f1 ♕f6 22.♘ab5 ♘xb5 23.♘xb5 a6 24.♖xc8 ♖xc8 25.♘a7 *(D)*



Not that I was happy to make that move... But everything else was even worse! Strangely, I survived in the game.

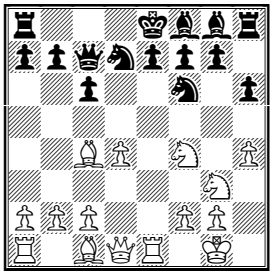
25...♖e8 26.♗e3 f4 27.♗c5 ♗f5

28.♘c6! bxc6 29.♗xb6 cxd5 30.♕xa6 e3 31.♕b5 ♖b8 32.♕xd5+ ♗e6 33.♕c6 fxg3 34.♗xe3 ♖c8 35.♕e4 gxf2+ 36.♗xf2 ♗xh2+ 37.♔xh2 ♕xf2+ 38.♗g2 ♗f7 39.♖f1 ♕xa2 40.♖xf7 ♔xf7 41.♕b7+ ♔f6 42.♕xc8 ♕xb3 ½–½

Finally, let us look at some strange bishops:

Porreca-Bronstein
Belgrade 1954

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♗f5 5.♘g3 ♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘h3 ♗h7 8.♗c4 ♘f6 9.♘f4 ♘bd7 10.0-0 ♕c7 11.♖e1 ♗g8!? *(D)*



Again, very creative thinking! Black wants to play ...e6, but he does not want to allow any sacrifices on that square. So, his move is pretty logical!

12.♘d3 e6 13.♗f4 ♗d6 14.♗xd6 ♕xd6 15.♘f5 ♕f8 16.♕f3 0-0-0 17.♘g3 ♗h7 18.a4 ♗xd3 19.♗xd3 ♕d6 20.a5 a6 21.♖a3 g5 22.h5 ♕f4 23.♕e2 ♔c7 24.c3 ♖he8 25.♘e4 ♘xe4 26.♕xe4 ♕xe4 27.♗xe4 ♘f6 28.♗f3 g4 29.♗d1 ♖g8 30.♖e5 ♖d5 31.♖a4 ♖g5 32.♗b3 ♖dxe5 33.dxe5 ♘d7 34.♗d1 ♘xe5 35.♖e4 ♖xh5 36.♗xg4 ♘xg4 37.♖xg4 ♖xa5 38.♖g7 ♖f5 39.g4 ♖f6 40.♔g2 ♔d6 41.♔g3 e5 42.♖g8 ♔d5 0-1

If you come across unusual or bizarre positions, please send them in PGN or Chess Base format to ababurin@iol.ie. We will publish them in Chess Today!

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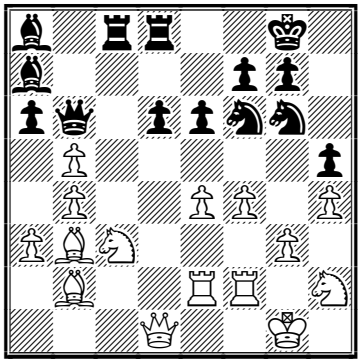
CT-9(793) 9th January 2003

Quiz Today

Mrdja (2368) – Palac (2568)
45th It Reggio Emilia ITA (9),
06.01.2003



Black to play

Kasparov.com

Two preliminary games between Kasparov and *DeepJunior* in Jerusalem have been cancelled because of Kasparov's ongoing problems as a result of the folding of his website *kasparov.com* and action taken by the First International Bank of Israel which is trying to recover $1.6m loaned to the site.

On TWIC (or alternatively on the website http://ww.worldchessrating.ru if you prefer to read it in Russian ☺) you may read the Press Release by Kasparov on Legal Action over KC On-Line prepared by his manager Owen Williams.

Kasparov himself said on the subject: "I joined in this venture and put my name and my own money in it with great hopes of using the Internet to spread the game of chess throughout the world and especially to help children learn about and appreciate the game. Unfortunately, the economics of chess, the collapse of the high tech market, and some unwise spending decisions on the part of those controlling the business side of the venture combined to preclude us from realizing the potential of this super chess site and eventually taking the company public through an IPO, which we had all hoped to do. A number of people and institutions lost time and money in the venture, and that is regrettable."

The main match called the "The FIDE Man Vs Machine World Chess Championship" goes ahead on Sunday Jan 26th.

Jean-Luc Chabanon took first place at the 45th Reggio Emilia International on tie-break. He scored 7 points as did Mladen Palac. The cbv-file contains Chabanon's impressive win over Oleg Romanishin from the final round mentioned in the annotations to the Chabanon – Castaldo game in CT-792. Take a look at this symphony of the White pawns– you won't regret it!

Final Standings:
1-2. **Chabanon**, Palac – 7.0
3. Tomescu – 6.5
4. Cebalo – 6.0
5. Romanishin – 5.5
6-7. Mrdja, Vezzosi – 3.5
8. Castaldo – 3.0
9-10. Scalcione, Iotti – 1.5

Below are excerpts from the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Newsletter 121 By **John Donaldson, MI Chess Director**

The University of Maryland at Baltimore County B, led by GM Alex Sherzer and IM Eugene Perelshteyn, won the 2002 Pan Am Intercollegiate held in Miami immediately after Christmas. UMBC B's other team members were: FM William Morrison, NM John Rouleau, and Battsetseg

Tsagaan. The winners, who were seeded number three, scored 5½ from 6, drawing only with second seed University of Texas at Dallas. UTD, led by GMs Yury Shulman and Marcin Kaminski, tied for second with pre tournament favorite UMBC A (GMs Alex Onischuk, Alex Wojtkiewicz and Pavel Blehm) at 5:1. Because of the rules of the competition, the two University of Maryland schools did not compete against each other. Stanford did not send as strong a team as in years past and finished in the middle of the 30 team field which came from as far away as Peru and Puerto Rico.

Letter from CT Reader ...

Dear CT-Team,

With greatest interest I followed the game "Smagin – Vlassov", which IM Vlassov annotated in CT-782. Nikolai offered a line (5.d4 Bg4 6.Bb5 O-O-O 7.Bc6: bc 8.h3 Qh5 9.Qd3...etc, with an "excellent position for Black"). I remember a game Pieper – Vlassov, in which Pieper played 9.Qe2. This is why I would like to know what IM Vlassov will do against the plan "c4 & d5". The line is 9.Qe2 Bf3 10.gf e6 11.Be3 (IM Vlassov lost against 11.Bd2...too) Bb4 12.0-0-0 Bc3 13.Qa6 Kd7 14.bc Ne7N (14...Qf3 Sulypa-Zajarny, Alushta 2000) 15.c4! Qf3 16.Rhg1 Rhg8 17.d5! e5 18.Rg3 Qh5 19.Rg5 Qh3 20.Re5 f6 Great to have IM Vlassov with us! I would wish to read an article written by him with the theme 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.e5... Best wishes for the New Year!!!

Marcel Juegel

Thank you, Marcel. Here is **IM Nikolai Vlassov** with his comments

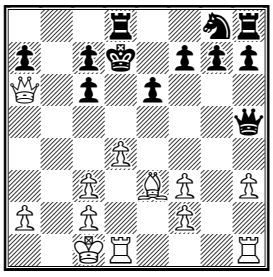
I would like to give a short comment to the game Marcel mentioned in his letter. The appropriate 14th move had to be as follows: 14...Qb5! After the decisive mistake on the 16th move, Black's position became undefendable.

Pieper - Vlassov B01 (5), 2001

1.e4 ♘c6 2.♘f3 d5 3.exd5 ♕xd5 4.♘c3 ♕a5 5.d4 ♗g4 6.♗b5 0-0-0 7.♗xc6 bxc6 8.h3 ♕h5 9.♕e2 ♗xf3 10.gxf3 e6 11.♗e3 ♗b4 12.0-0-0N

One more lyrical digression: playing sharp openings you get used to both victories over GMs and defeats against untitled chess players. Here is one of my most memorable losses (it deprived me of the first place in a tournament). 12.♖g1 g6 13.♖g5 ♕xh3 14.0–0–0 h6 15.♕a6+ ♔d7 16.d5 exd5? *(16...hxg5 17.dxe6+ ♔e7)* 17.♘xd5 ♗d6 18.♖g3 ♕e6 19.♘b4 ♘e7 20.♖g4 ♕f5 21.♖e4 ♕f6 22.♗f4 ♖c8 23.♔b1 ♖hd8 24.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 25.♘xc6+ ♔f8 26.♗xh6+ ♔g8 27.♘xd8 ♖xd8 28.♗e3 ♕xf3 29.♕f1 ♖e8 30.♕g1 ♗e5 31.♕h1 ♕f6 32.♕e4 ♖e6?? 33.♕a8+ ♔g7 34.♖h1 1–0 Smagacz,D-Vlassov,N/Zabrze 1991 (34)

12...♗xc3 13.♕a6+ ♔d7 14.bxc3



14...♘e7N

RR 14...♕xf3 15.♖hg1 g6 16.c4 ♘e7 17.d5 exd5 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.♕a4+ ♔c8 20.♗g5 ♖he8 21.♖de1 f6 22.♕a6+ ♔b8 23.♖e3 ♖d6 24.♕b5+ 1–0 Sulypa,A-Zajarnyi,A/Alushta 2000/CBM 75 ext (24); Strategically appropriate is 14...♕b5!? . I was scared of making this move because of 15.♕xb5 cxb5 16.♖hg1 g6 17.d5! but it looks like Black resists 17...♘f6! 18.dxe6+ ♔xe6 19.♖de1 ♖he8! 20.♖g5 ♖d5!=

15.c4 ♕xf3?!

15...♖b8! 16.d5 exd5 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.♕a4+! ♔d8 19.♕xa7±

16.♖hg1

16.d5! e5 17.♗c5 cxd5 18.cxd5 ♕f4+ 19.♖d2 ♔e8

16...♖hg8?!

16...♔e8 17.♖g3; 16...♘f5! 17.d5 exd5 18.cxd5 ♘xe3=

17.d5! e5 18.♖g3 ♕h5 19.♖g5 ♕xh3 20.♖xe5 f6 21.d6! fxe5 22.dxe7+

22.dxc7++−

22...♔xe7 23.♗g5++− ♔f7 24.♗xd8 ♖e8 25.♗xc7 e4 26.c5 ♕c3 27.♗d6 ♕a1+ 28.♔d2 ♕f6 29.♕c4+ ♖e6 30.♔e1 ♕h6 31.♗g3 e3 32.♕f4+ ♕xf4 33.♗xf4 exf2+ 34.♔xf2 ♖e4 35.♗b8 a6 36.♖d7+ ♔f6 37.♖d6+ ♔f5 38.♖xc6 ♖a4 39.♔e3 ♖xa2 40.♔d3 ♖a5 41.♔d4 h5 42.♗e5 ♖a2 43.♗xg7 h4 44.♖f6+ ♔g4 45.♔d3 ♖a5 46.♖g6+ ♔h5 47.♖h6+ ♔g5 48.c6 ♖f5 49.c7 ♖c5 50.♖xa6 ♖xc7 51.♗f6+ ♔h5 52.♖a5+ ♔g6 53.♗xh4 ♖d7+ 54.♔c4 ♖c7+ 55.♖c5 ♖h7 56.♗g3 1−0

Annotated Game

Today's Annotated Game features the encounter between the Russian and British young stars from the recent Premier Hastings.

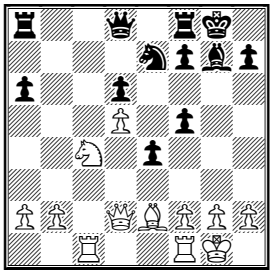
□ **A Kosteniuk (2455)**
■ **L McShane (2546)**

Event: Premier Hastings ENG (9), 05.01.2003 B33

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5

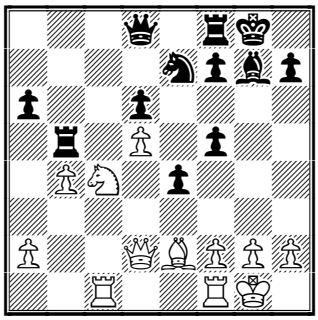
The Sveshnikov Variation of the Sicilian Defence has arisen. This is one of the most fighting lines.

6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♘d5 f5 11.♗d3 ♗e6 12.0−0 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♘e7 14.c4 e4 15.♗e2 ♗g7 16.♕d2 bxc4 17.♘xc4 0−0 18.♖ac1N



This simple move has not occurred before but it looks like it can strengthen this line, which Black used to be unsuccessful in: 18.♖ad1 ♖b8 19.♕f4 ♖b5 *(19...♕d7 20.b3 ♖fd8 21.g4 ♘g6 22.♕xf5 ♕xf5 23.gxf5 ♘f4 24.♖d2 ♗h6 25.♘e3 ♔h8 26.h4 ♖g8+ 27.♔h2 ♘g2 28.♖d4 ♗xe3 29.fxe3 ♘xe3 30.♖g1 ♖xg1 31.♔xg1 ♘xf5 32.♖a4 ♖c8 33.♗c4 ♔g7 34.♖xa6 ♔f6 35.♖a7 ♘e3 36.♖d7 ♘xc4 37.bxc4 ♖xc4 38.♔f2 ♔e5 39.♖xf7 ♔xd5* 0–1 Vukovic,Z−Rogozenko,D/Bucharest 2000/CBM 77/Rogozenko (39)*)* 20.♘e3 ♖xb2 21.♗c4 ♗e5 22.♕g5+ ♔h8 23.♗b3 ♖g8 24.♕h5 ♘g6 25.♔h1 ♘f4 26.♕xf5 ♕h4 27.♕xe4 ♕h5 28.♕f3 ♕xf3 29.gxf3 ♘h3 30.f4 ♗xf4 31.♘c2 ♗e5 32.f4 ♘xf4 Novik,M−Kramnik,V/Sochi 1990/TD/0–1 (42)

18...♖b8 19.b4 ♖b5!?



Luke takes one of the principled lines. I prefer another one: 19...♘g6 20.♘a5 ♕h4 with threats on the king's side. But, of course, it is much easier for me because I know the final result of the game.

20.♘e3! f4 21.♘c2

21.♗xb5 fxe3 22.♕xe3 axb5 23.♕xe4 at first sight, this position is also in favour of White, but she has no passed pawns and Black's knight and bishop can outplay the White rook.

21...♖xd5

The following blow 21...e3!? is denied with 22.fxe3 ♖xd5 23.♗d3! fxe3 24.♕xe3± and Black's separate pawns provide White with obvious superiority.

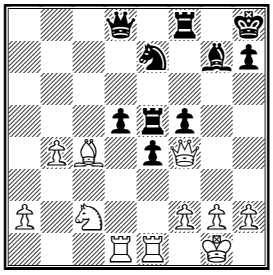
22.♕xf4 ♖e5 23.♗xa6 d5 24.♖cd1 f5?!

24...♘g6 25.♕e3 ♕d6 gave Black good compensation for the pawn in the form of a strong group in the centre and chances to attack the White king.

25.♗c4! ♔h8

Now the move 25...♘g6 faces 26.♖xd5! ♖xd5 27.♕d2 and White gets her rook back with two extra pawns remaining

26.♖fe1



26...♕c8?!

One more error! Black stands well after 26...♘g6 27.♕c1 f4

27.♗b3 ♘g6 28.♕c1

Now the d5-pawn needs protection.

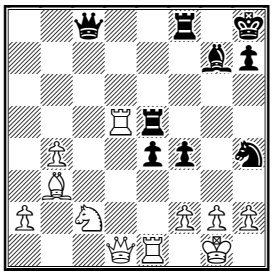
28...f4?!

Black should have acknowledged his mistake and protected the pawn, for instance, with 28...♕d7 White has better chances here but the opponents have got all the struggle ahead. However, Black rushes into a fast and "unjustified" attack instead.

29.♖xd5 ♘h4

After 29...e3 White resists 30.fxe3 f3 31.♖f1 f2+ 32.♔h1 *(32.♖xf2 ♖xf2 33.♔xf2 ♕f5+ 34.♔g1 ♖xd5 35.♗xd5 ♕xd5)* 32...♖xd5 33.♗xd5± with two extra pawns.

30.♕d1



30...f3?

Only this move is a decisive mistake. Perhaps, I hurried to judge the attack as an "unjustified" one. (As often happens, the commentator is influenced by the final result of the game!). After the appropriate 30...♕f5! Black has excellent chances for draw. But the position is too complicated to give an exact appraisal. For example, 31.♔h1! (Bad is *31.♖d8? ♘f3+! 32.gxf3 ♕g5+)* 31...e3! *(31...♘xg2 32.♔xg2 ♖xd5 33.♗xd5 ♖d8 34.♖xe4! ♕g6+ 35.♔f1 ♕xe4 36.♗xe4 ♖xd1+ 37.♔e2* a- and b-file pawns must promote*)* 32.♖xe5 *(32.f3 ♕g5! 33.♖e2 ♖xd5 34.♕xd5 ♕xd5 35.♗xd5 ♖d8 36.♗b3 ♖d2 37.♗c4 ♖d1+ 38.♖e1 ♖d2=; 32.fxe3 f3! 33.g4 ♕xg4 34.♖g1 ♕f5* with double-edged fight.*)* 32...♗xe5 33.♖g1! *(33.♕d5 ♗c3! 34.♕xf5 ♘xf5 35.♖e2 ♖d8! 36.fxe3 ♖d1+ 37.♘e1 ♖a1 38.exf4 ♗xe1=)* 33...exf2 34.♖f1 ♘xg2 35.♔xg2 f3+ 36.♔h1 ♗xh2!= with perpetual check.

31.♖xe5

It is not clear what Black has missed but now all his threats are easily resisted. However, Alexandra makes some more accurate moves.

31...♗xe5 32.♖xe4 ♖d8 33.♘d4! ♗f6 34.g3 ♘f5 35.♕xf3 ♖xd4 36.♖e6! ♖d2 37.♖xf6 ♘d4 38.♖f8+ 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today: 42...♖xc3! 42...♖xc3 43.♗xc3 ♘xe4 **0-1**

Correction: Yesterdays news item about the ICCF *Champions League* qualifying round email chess event should have read as follows:

Each Player plays 10 games. Maximum point total for each **team** is 40 pts.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback! **Please tell your chess friends about Chess Today.** Feel free to send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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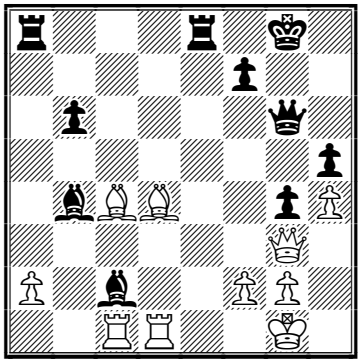
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-10(794) 10th January 2003

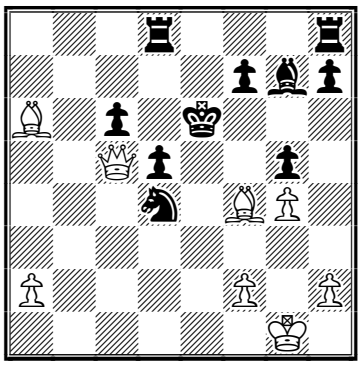
Quiz Today

Hebden (2515) – Laubsch (2295)
Challengers, Hastings ENG (1), 2002



White to play

Richards (2260) – Williams (2390)
Challengers, Hastings ENG (5), 2003



White to play

65th Corus starts 11th

At the moment we are waiting for some big chess events. The first super-tournament of the year the 65th Corus Chess event will start on the 11th of January.

Group A: Vladimir Kramnik (2809, RUS), Viswanathan Anand (2755, IND), Vesselin Topalov (2743, BUL), Ruslan Ponomariov (2743, UKR), Evgeny Bareev (2737, RUS), Vassily Ivanchuk (2709, UKR), Alexander Grischuk (2702, RUS), Alexei Shirov (2699, ESP), Anatoly Karpov (2688, RUS), Judit Polgar (2685, HUN), Loek Van Wely (2681, NED), Michal Krasenkov (2651, POL), Teimour Radjabov (2628, AZE) and Jan Timman (2594, NED).

Group B (they will start on the 14th of January): Zhang Zhong (CHN, 2620), Peter Acs (HUN, 2591), Johnny Hector (SWE, 2590), Arkady Naiditsch (GER, 2586), Ian Rogers (AUS, 2557), Friso Nijboer (NED, 2556), Sergey Karjakin (UKR, 2527), John van der Wiel (NED, 2509), Dennis de Vreugt (NED, 2501), Koneru Humpy (IND, 2484), Viktorija Cmylite (LITH, 2460), Alexandra Kosteniuk (RUS, 2455), Harmen Jonkman (NED, 2456) and Daniel Stellwagen (NED, 2426).

Just recall that last year's winner of main event was Russian GM Evgeny Bareev.

The second big event – the U.S.A Championships starts today. There is great coverage on www.chess.fm.

Information from TWIC:
The final schedule of the Kasparov vs. Deep Junior has been announced. The schedule is Game 1 Sun Jan 26th, Game 2 Tue Jan 28th, Game 3 Thu Jan 30th, Game 4 Sun Feb 2nd, Game 5 Wed Feb 5th and Game 6 Fri Feb 7th all games start at 3:30pm EST. In the New York Athletic Club (NYAC)-180 Central Park South - New York. The event is International Chess Federation (FIDE) and International Computer Games Association (ICGA President David Levy) and the US Chess Federation (USCF).

The event is called the "The FIDE Man Vs Machine World Chess Championship" and is sponsored by FIDE and presented by X3D Technologies Corporation which covered the recent Kasparov - Karpov match.
The time control is 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 20 moves in one hour then 30 minutes for the rest of the game.

The XIII Rapid Chess Tournament Paul Keres Memorial takes place January 10th–12th 2003 in Tallinn.

There are two stages, a preliminary event 25 + 25 mins, 7 round Swiss system.

The Men's Main tournament (25 + 25 min) played by the 4 best players from group A, 3 players invited directly to the Main Tournament and the best Estonian player. The Women's event will be played by the 5 best players of group A of Preliminary Tournament and 3 players invited directly to the Main Tournament.

The Australian Open is in progress in Penrith, Australia.

Pairings for Round 11:
Humphrey (8) – Wallace (9)
Smerdon (8) – Froehlich (7)
Xie (7½) – Solomon (7)
Rej (7) – Schultz–Pedersen (7)
Hamilton (7) – Partsi (7)
Hoffmann (7) – Fischer–Nielsen (7)

The 11th Donau Open took place in Aschach an der Donau in Austria (Swiss system, 7 rounds).

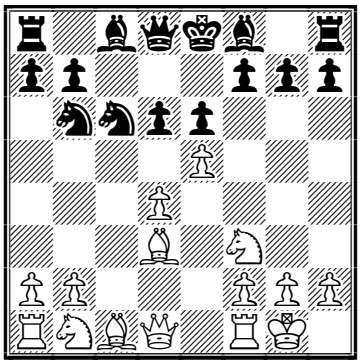
Final Standings:
1. Stanec, Nikolaus – 6 points
2–5. C. Horvath, Krivoshey, Mahdi, Mazi – 5½
6–9. Jurek, Lau, Orel, Wegener – 5 etc.

A Tale of 2 Sicilians

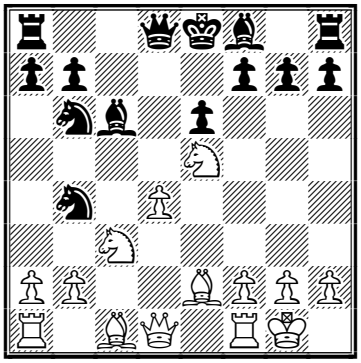
□ **J Shaw (2480)**
■ **I Gourlay (2255)**
Event: Challengers, Hastings ENG (7), 2003 – B22
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c3
A clever move order. After playing 2...e6 Black hasn't got the most unpleasant lines for White against c3 – 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 and 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4!?

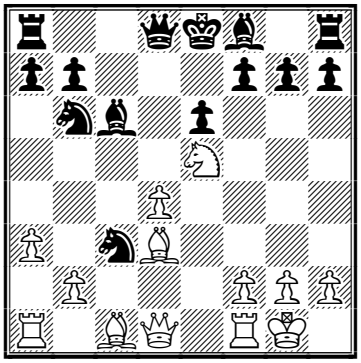
3...♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.♗c4 ♘b6 8.♗d3 ♘c6 9.0–0



A rather popular set up of the 2.c3 Sicilian.
9...♘b4
An alternative is 9...♗e7
10.♗e2 dxe5 11.♘xe5 ♗d7 12.♘c3 ♗c6

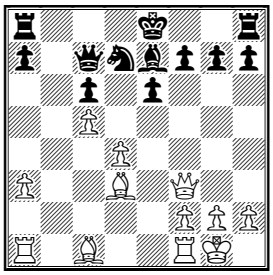


A typical bishop manoeuvre. Black would like to exchange it for the e5 Knight, and very often Black takes on c6 with the pawn in these cases – so that White cannot exchange his isolated d pawn with d4–d5.
13.a3 ♘4d5 14.♗d3 ♘xc3



Both black knights would like to occupy the d5–square, so Black exchanges one of them.

15.bxc3 ♘d7 16.♘xc6 bxc6 17.♕f3 ♕c7 18.c4 ♗e7 19.c5?!



A rather strange idea. Now Black gets the d5-square for his Knight once more; also he has a possible counter-play with e6-e5...

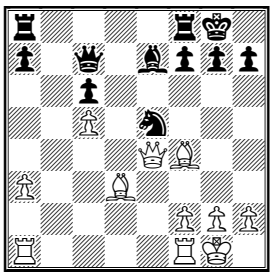
19...0-0 20.♗f4 e5?

However ... not now!

21.dxe5 ♘xe5?

I don't know how we can explain this blunder.

22.♕e4



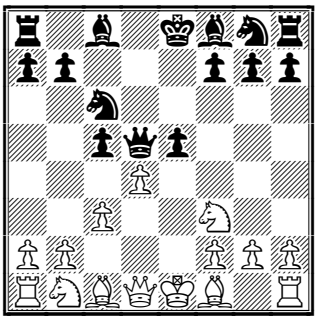
And it is all over now, Black resigned. **1-0**

□ **J Shaw (2480) -**
■ **E Lawson (2235)**

Event: Challengers, Hastings ENG (3), 2002 B22

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 ♕xd5 5.d4 e5



An interesting line, but to my mind it is far from the strongest choice in this system. In the symmetrical position White has to have better chances thanks to his better development and the Black Queen being in the middle of the board.

6.♘xe5

More precise than 6.dxe5?! ♕xd1+

6...♘xe5 7.dxe5 ♕xe5+

Now after the exchange on d1 White could defend the e5 pawn with the f pawn.

8.♗e3 ♗d7 9.♕b3

9.♘a3!?

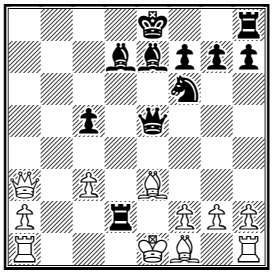
9...♘f6!?

An interesting idea: Black is ready to sacrifice a pawn.

10.♘d2 ♗e7 11.♕xb7

Principled, but risky. After the modest 11.♘f3 White has nothing.

11...♖b8 12.♕xa7 ♖xb2 13.♕a3 ♖xd2!



Additionally Black sacrifices an exchange, but the White king has to stay in the center.

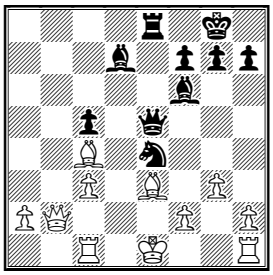
14.♔xd2 ♘e4+ 15.♔e1 0-0 16.♗c4

16.♗d3? c4

16...♗h4

Attacking the weak f pawn.

17.g3 ♗f6 18.♖c1 ♖e8 19.♕b2



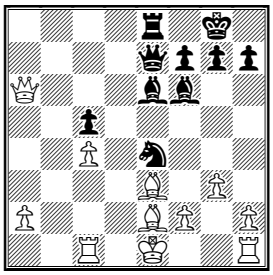
It's very difficult for White to develop his h1 Rook. 19.h4? ♘xg3; 19.♔f1 ♗h3+

19...♘g5

Black begins to occupy the weak light squares in the Black camp.

20.♕b7 ♗g4 21.♕d5 ♕e7 22.♗e2

♗e6 23.♕c6 ♖c8 24.♕a6 ♘e4 25.c4 ♖e8



White has defended rather stubbornly, but what to do with the h1 Rook? The question is still open...

26.♗f3 ♘g5 27.♗e2

27.♗g2 ♗d4!?

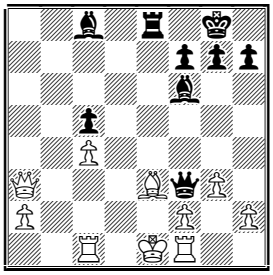
27...♗c8!

Now Black gains a diagonal a8-h1.

28.♕a3

28.♕c6? ♗b7

28...♕e4 29.♖f1 ♘f3+ 30.♗xf3 ♕xf3



The e2 bishop has left the board, and I think that White's position has become hopeless.

31.♕d3 ♗g4

With a cruel threat 32...Rd8 33.Qc2 Bc3+ 34.Qxc3 Rd1+.

32.♔d2

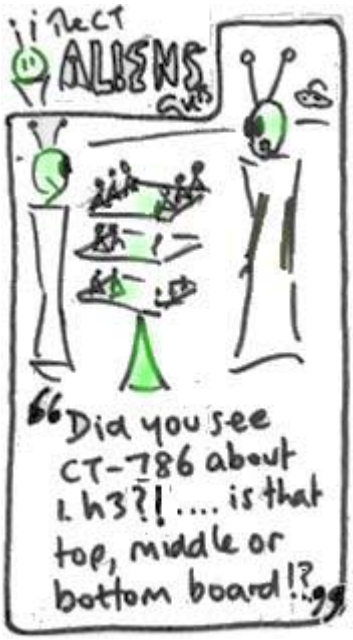
32.♖d1 ♗c3+ 33.♕xc3 ♕e2#

32...♖d8 33.♕xd8+ ♗xd8 34.♖fe1 ♗a5+ 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today:

28.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 28...♕xf7 29.♖xc2 **29.♕c7+ ♗e7 30.♖xc2 ♖ac8 31.♕f4+ ♔g8 32.♖xc8 ♖xc8 33.♕e5 ♖d8? 34.♕xe7 1-0**

23.♗c8+! ♔f6 23...♖xc8 24.♕d6# **24.♕xd4+ ♔g6 25.♗f5+ ♔h6 26.♗xg5+! ♔xg5 27.♕xg7+ ♔f4 28.♕d4+ ♔g5 29.h4+** 29.h4+ ♔xh4 *(29...♔h6 30.♕f6#)* 30.♕f6+ ♔h3 31.♕h6# **1-0**



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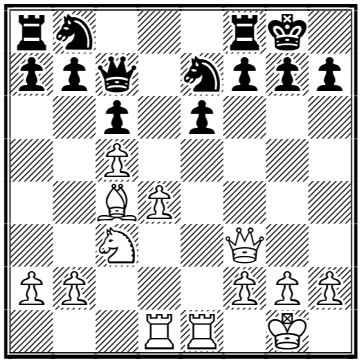
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-11(795) 11th January 2003

Quiz Today

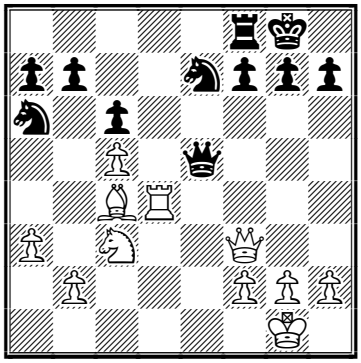
R. Bauer - Bryan
New England Open 1997



White to play

Later in that game White was able to find yet another tactical blow:

R. Bauer - Bryan
New England Open 1997



White to play

Chess News

Perhaps the main news yesterday was the FIDE ultimatum to its Champion Ruslan Ponomariov. This is what Chess Today received from our contributor GM Mikhail Golubev, who is also actively involved in Ukrainian Web sites:

"Dear colleagues, apologies for the inconvenience, it may be of interest for you: some urgent news appeared at http://www.chesspage.kiev.ua/?z=interview.35 - there is official information from the Ukrainian Chess Federation (and express-interview with Ponomariov).

GM Ponomarov

The story is as follows: FIDE requested Ruslan Ponomariov to sign a contract or an agreement (the quality of which is strongly questioned by the Ukrainian side), by the end of 10th January. If he will not sign, then a Kasparov-Ivanchuk match will be announced by FIDE.

I do not have any information about Ivanchuk's opinion on this situation. This may be an ultimate end of the Prague agreements' spirit - even if Ponomariov does sign everything under this incredibly strong pressure.

Some hope remains that it was not Ilymzhinov himself who prepared the ultimatum. Unofficial information has it that Mr. Omuku was responsible for contacts with the Ukrainian Federation.

I wrote my own brief comments at chess-sector.odessa.ua/matum.htm the message from the Chesspage is quite official - the site's editor is a press-attaché of the Ukrainian Chess Federation. There was another, very recent express-interview with Ponomariov, published in the Ukrainian newspaper *Facty* on the 9th of January.

All materials are in Russian, which is still one of the official FIDE languages.

I hope that Ruslan Ponomariov will be able to play normally in Wijk aan Zee now, despite the current crisis.

With best regards, Mikhail Golubev; http://chess-sector.odessa.ua"

I should add that the main points, which Ponomariov makes, are:

1. He should defend his FIDE title using the same time control, as the one he used to gain it.

2. As the Champion, he should have draw odds as does Kramnik have in his match vs. Leko.

Chess Today will keep you posted on the developments there! And, of course, we will be covering the Corus tournament – IM Yochanan Afek will be sending special reports from the Netherlands for Chess Today.

♦ The USA Championship started in Seattle this Thursday. The event is also covered by Chess FM and the Internet Chess Club.

We received the following information from John Henderson:

"Since taking over the rights to one of the most historic national titles in 2000, the America's Foundation for Chess (www.af4c.org) has dramatically increased the prize fund. With a further hike this year of $50,000, the event offers a record prize fund of $255,000, with $25,000 slotted for the winner.

Twenty top players (12 men, 8 women) - including defending champions Larry Christiansen and Jennifer Shahade, and the 2001 and 2002 US Junior Champions Aaron Pixton and Hikaru Nakamura - were automatically seeded into the new open-format event. Also competing will be 36 players (32 men, 4 women) who battled for a cherished spot in some of the many qualifying events held throughout the U.S. The field is completed with two top junior wild card entries determined by the AF4C, which this year went to Laura Ross, 14, and 2002 recipient of the prestigious Samford Fellowship. 18-year-old Varuzhan Akobian."

Round 1 did not see any major upsets, but in a number of games Elo-favourites were held to a draw. For example, IM John Donaldson drew against his former boss (in Inside Chess) GM Yasser Seirawan. You can find all games from round 1 in our database today, while we also look at the game of the defending US champion in some detail in this issue.

Most games of round 2 are still in progress at the time of writing, but here some results: Lein-Seirawan – draw, Gulko-Brown – draw; J. Donaldson lost to GM Stripunsky, Nick De Firmian drew against I. Foygel. More tomorrow!

♦ In Astana, Kazakhstan, the match Korchnoi-Sadvakasov is taking place (9-19 January). Game 1 was drawn. The match is broadcast online on the site Chess in Kazakhstan.

However, the coverage could have been better – from information on the site it is not even clear who was playing White in game 1.

♦ We received the following message from our reader Adolivio Capece:

"**Paoli is 95 years old!**
On Monday January 13, GM Enrico Paoli will be 95 years old! He is the oldest player still in activity in the world. If you want to send him your greetings, feel free to e-mail him at paoli@italiascacchistica.com

Please, do not use attachments! All messages will be printed and sent to him."

This message was promptly followed by an e-mail from our editor Ralph Marconi:

"This is quite an achievement for Mr. Paoli. But he's not the oldest active chess player in the world. :-)

To my best knowledge, ICCF IM Zoltan Sarosy, who lives in Canada, is the oldest active chess player, albeit he has been playing correspondence chess for a many years now. He will be 97 this year!"

It is great to see many veterans still playing chess – Smyslov, Taimanov, Averbakh and many others. It looks that chess helps not only the mind, but the body as well! Maybe Chess Today should be regarded as a health newspaper then! :-)

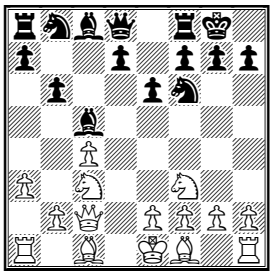
Chess Today December Lottery

Last month the lucky winner in our lottery was John Cline from USA, who will receive the latest New in Chess yearbook – No. 65.

Annotated Game

□ **Larry Kaufman (2415)**
■ **Larry Christiansen (2566)**
Event: USA Ch, Seattle (1), 09.01.2003
Nimzo-Indian Defence, Classical Variation [E39]
Annotations: **GM Alexander Baburin**

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.a3 ♗xc5 7.♘f3 b6 ***(D)***



This system has become quite popular again lately - Black wants to build up the Hedgehog structure. Some of our readers may remember a recent game Korchnoi-Macieja, Kurasao 2002. There Korchnoi played 8.♗g5.

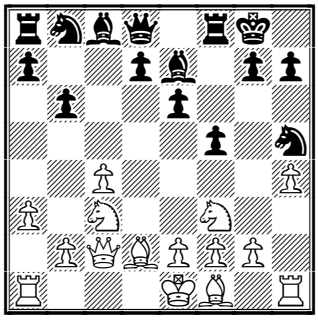
8.♗f4 ♘h5

It is logical to attack the bishop at once, before White develops the a1-rook, as otherwise the bishop would just retreat to c1. For example: 8...♗b7 9.♖d1 ♗xf3 10.exf3 ♘c6 11.b4 ♘h5 12.♗c1 ♗e7 13.♗e2 f5 14.f4 ♘f6 15.0-0 ♖c8 16.♗e3 ♖f7 17.♖d2 ♗f8 18.♖fd1 g6 19.♗f3 and White got unpleasant pressure in the game Ivanchuk-Zvjaginsev, Elista 1998.

9.♗g5 ♗e7 10.h4N

New move, but not necessarily a good one. To me the most logical option seems to be 10.♗xe7 ♕xe7 11.g4 ♘f6 12.g5, as in the game I.Sokolov-Zvjaginsev, Panormo 2001. That game then went: 12...♘e8 13.♖g1 ♗b7 14.♘d4 ♘d6 15.e3 ♖c8 16.♗d3 g6 17.♕e2 e5 18.♘db5 ♘xb5 19.♘xb5 e4 20.♗c2 d5 21.0-0-0 ♖xc4 22.♔b1 ♘d7 23.♗b3 ♖c5 24.♘c3 ♖xc3 25.bxc3 ♘c5 26.♗xd5 ♗xd5 27.♖xd5 ♘a4 28.♕d2 ♕xa3 29.♖d8+ ½-½.

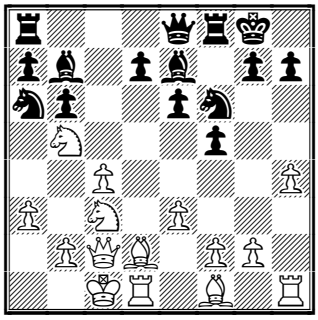
10...f6 11.♗d2 f5 ***(D)***



12.e3

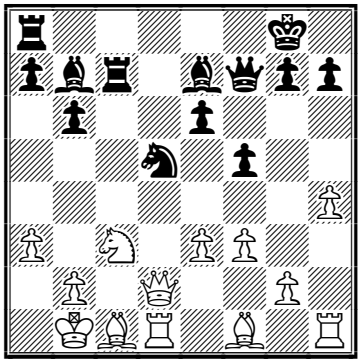
I would have preferred 12.e4. here

12...♗b7 13.0-0-0 ♘a6! 14.♘d4 ♕e8 15.♘db5 ♘f6! ***(D)***



Black's chances are slightly better for his chances to organise attack look higher than his opponent's.

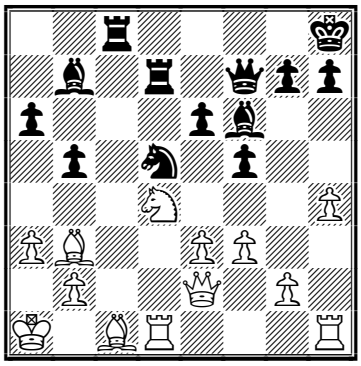
16.f3 ♕f7 17.♔b1 ♖fc8 18.♗c1 d5 19.cxd5 ♘xd5 20.♕d2 ♘ac7 21.♘xc7 ♖xc7 ***(D)***



22.♘b5

Leaving the d5-knight alive surely was not an easy decision for White. However, after 22.♘xd5 ♗xd5 Black would also have better chances: his d5-bishop is very active. For example, 23.♗a6? ♗b3!.

22...♖d7 23.♗c4 ♖c8 24.♕e2 a6 25.♘d4 b5 26.♗b3 ♗f6 27.♔a1 ♔h8! ***(D)***



Prophylactics - if Black ever plays ...e5, it would be nice not to have his queen and the king on the same diagonal.

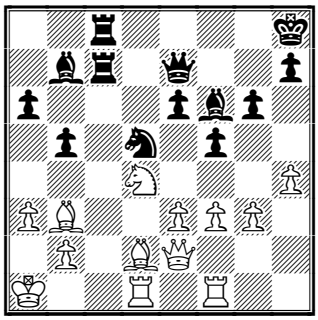
28.♖hf1 ♖dc7 29.♗d2 ♕e7

Perhaps, there is nothing wrong with 29...♗xh4 but most chess pros won't snatch such a pawn, while having better position anyway.

30.g3?!

Perhaps White was concerned about ...f5-f4. The problem with this move is that it's too slow. Now Black finalises his preparations for an attack:

30...g6! ***(D)***

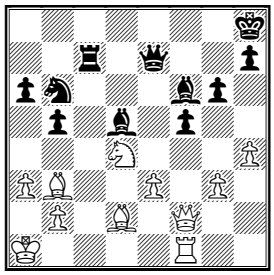


A very good move - now Black is ready to dislodge the d4-knights.

31.♖c1 e5 32.♖xc7 ♖xc7 33.♘c2 e4 34.♘d4 exf3 35.♕xf3 ♘b6!

This solid retreat is better than 35...♘c3 36.♕f4 ♗e5 37.♕h6 ♘e4 38.♗a5 ♖c8 39.g4, where White gets counter-chances.

36.♕f2 ♗d5! ***(D)***



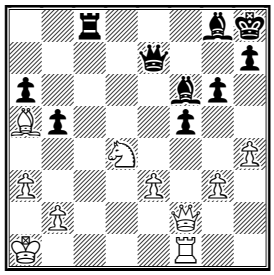
37.♗a5?

Better was 37.♗xd5 ♘xd5 38.h5, though after 38...♕e4 Black is still better - he can always get rid of White's knight, while White cannot do the same to the d5-knight.

37...♗xb3 38.♗xb6

38.♘xb3?? ♕xa3+ wins for Black.

38...♖c8 39.♗a5 ♗g8! ***(D)***



This is when the move 27... ♔h8! comes in handy! Black wants to play ... ♕f7.

40.h5?

White had to defend with 40.♕e1! - in order to meet 40...♕f7 with 41.♕b1.

40...♕f7 41.b4 ♕b3 42.♕b2 ♕xe3 43.♗b6 ♖c3 0-1

Solutions:
R. Bauer – Bryan
New England Open 1997

Position 1: **15.♖xe6! ♘a6 16.♖e5 ♖ad8 17.a3 ♖xd4 18.♖xd4 ♕xe5**

Position 2: **19.♕xf7+! 1-0**

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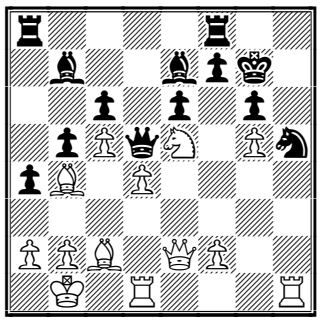
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-12(796) 12th January 2003

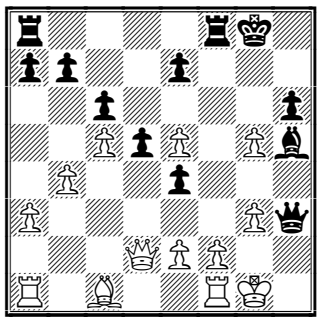
Quiz Today

Krush (2433) – Levina (2095) D31
ch-USA Seattle USA (2), 10.01.2003



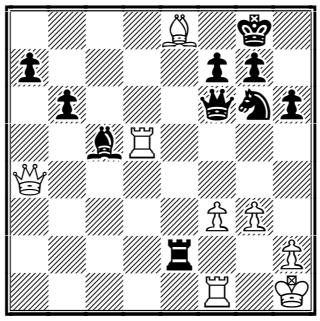
White to play

Hahn (2219) – Pixton (2449)
ch-USA Seattle USA (2), 10.01.2003



Black to play

Krasenkow (2633) – Karpov (2688)
GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (1), 11.01.2003



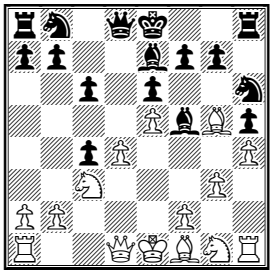
And from our Annotated Game – Karsenkow has just played 29.♔h1 and now Karpov came up with a nice final blow

White to play

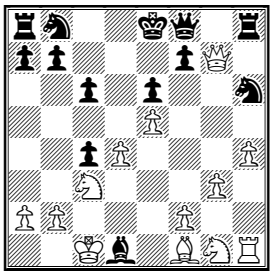
Karpov and Bareev start with victories

The 12th World Champion **Anatoly Karpov** and last years winner of Wijk aan Zee **Evgeny Bareev** started with victories in the first super-tournament of the year the 65th Corus Chess event. Interestingly, both Russian GMs won their games with Black: Karpov beat Michal Krasenkov *(see our annotated game section)* while Bareev outplayed FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov ...

□ **R Ponomariov (2734)**
■ **E Bareev (2729)**
Event: – GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (1), 11.01.2003 B12
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.h4 h5 5.c4 e6 6.♘c3 ♗e7 7.g3 ♘h6 8.♗g5 dxc4!?



9.♗xe7 ♕xe7 10.♕xh5?! 10.♗xc4!? **10...♕b4 11.0-0-0? ♗g4 12.♕g5 ♗xd1 13.♕xg7 ♕f8**



It looks like Ruslan Ponomariov had missed this move. Now White got rather a bad ending. Maybe Evgeny Bareev could have realised his advantage more precisely, but he won in the end.

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Graham Brown
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

All other games in main event were drawn.

Results of the 1st Round:
Ponomariov – Bareev **0:1**
Kramnik – Ivanchuk **½:½**
Krasenkow – Karpov **0:1**
Shirov – Timman **½:½**
Grischuk – van Wely **½:½**
Polgar – Topalov **½:½**
Anand – Radjabov **½:½**

Pairing for the 2nd Round:
Bareev – Radjabov
Topalov – Anand
van Wely – Polgar
Timman – Grischuk
Karpov – Shirov
Ivanchuk – Krasenkow
Ponomariov – Kramnik

The GM 'B' event also started on Saturday (sorry for the mistake in CT-794).

Results of the 1st Round:
de Vreugt – Hector **0:1**
Nijboer – Acs **1:0**
Cmilyte – Naiditsch **0:1**
Rogers – Jonkman **½:½**
van der Wiel – Koneru **½:½**
Karjakin – Zhong **½:½**
Stellwagen – Kosteniuk **1:0**

Pairing for the 2nd Round:
Hector – Kosteniuk
Zhong – Stellwagen
Koneru – Karjakin
Jonkman – van der Wiel
Naiditsch – Rogers
Acs – Cmilyte
de Vreugt – Nijboer

Also you can find a short annotations from the games by GM Konstantin Aseev on www.ruschess.com

John Henderson has sent us a report about the second round of the USA Championships:

GOOD 'OL WALTER BROWNE! At the end of day two of the AF4C US Chess Championships taking place in Seattle, there's a five-way tie at the top as the elite 58 chess player's from around the US do battle once again for the crown made famous by Bobby Fischer, which this year has a record prize fund of $255,000 – the biggest annual prize for a chess tournament anywhere in the world.

When Fischer won his record-breaking eighth title in 1966, he only took home $2,500. This year there's $25,000 allotted for the winner of the nine round event taking place at the Northwest Rooms at the Seattle Centre, which runs daily until 18 January.

Early leaders on full points with two wins from two games are top seed **Gregory Kaidanov** (Kentucky), **Yury Lapshun** (Brooklyn), **Gennadi Zaitshik** (Philadelphia), **Varuzhan Akobian** (California) and **Jesse Kraai** (New Mexico) – four of whom will have to play each other in round three. On their tail however is an ominous chasing pack of 16 just a half point behind the pace setters, including defending champion Larry Christiansen (Massachusetts) and six-time former champion Walter Browne (California), who celebrated his 54th birthday during round two. We organised a present of a bottle of vintage wine for Walter and it was placed by his board. We even went as far as wishing this living-legend a Happy Birthday before the start of play. We were even prepared to give him a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. Typically Walter arrived 5 minutes late and missed everything!

Big shock of the day was the defeat of second seed Alexander Goldin, formerly of Israel. Though he's been in the United States for quite a few years now, this is his first Championship and he is one of the pre-tournament favourites. He has won numerous tournaments in the USA, and managed to maintain a very high FIDE rating (he is 2621 in January 2003) while playing in these opens. His defeat to IM Yury Lapshun therefore comes as a big surprise – and also makes Goldin's task of becoming one of the few to win on their debut even harder.

Also falling behind at an early stage is three-time winner and local hero Yasser Seirawan. A second successive draw to tournament 'old hand' Anatoly Lein (a sprightful 71) likewise leaves Seirawan one point of the lead and leaves him now playing catch-up with the leaders. Someone who is however pleased with her two draws is last year's woman's champion Jennifer Shahade, who looks to be continuing where she left off last year. After an opening round draw with Hikaru Nakamura, the defending champion followed this up with a solid draw against GM Gregory Serper.

Round 2 Standings:
6-19. Gulko, Shabalov, De Firmian, Stripunsky, Christiansen, Yermolinsky, Kudrin, Nakamura, Fedorowicz, Browne, Gurevich, Foygel, Ashley, Perelshteyn – 1½
20-42. Goldin, Seirawan, Benjamin, Finegold, Ivanov, Serper, Kreiman, Fishbein, Mulyar, G. Shahade, Enkhbat, Paschall, Pixton, Kriventsov, Ippolito, Burnett, Lein, E. Donaldson, Krush, Muhammad, Sarkar, J. Shahade, Shiber – 1
43-52. J. Donaldson, Kaufman, Baginskaite, Watson, Pruess, Bennett, Ross, Groberman, Markzon, Esserman – ½
53-58. Battsetseg, Hahn, Epstein, Tsai, Sagalchik, Levina – 0

The XIII Rapid Chess Tournament Paul Keres Memorial is in progress in Tallinn, Estonia. On Saturday the main event, a round-robin for 8 players started. There are 3 invited GMs playing, Alexander Morozevich, Alexei Dreev and Jaan Ehlvest and 5 winners of the preliminary event.

Standings after the 3rd Round:
1-3. Dreev, Miroshnichenko, Morozevich – 2½ points
4. Ehlvest – 1½
5-6. Zontah, Kanep – 1
7-8. Veingold, Gavrikov – ½

In the women's event of the same format **Cramling** and **Ciuksyte** are leading with 2½ points out of 3.

The second game of the Korchnoi – Sadvakasov match in Astana, Kazakhstan was also drawn. Sadvakasov had White. The score is equal 1:1.

IM John-Paul Wallace won the 2003 Pratt Foundation Australian Open Chess Championships with 9 ½ points out of 11, a full point ahead of second place.

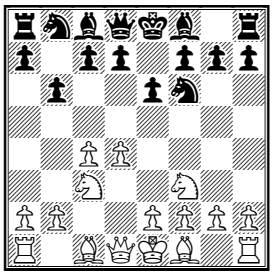
Final Standings:
2-3. Smerdon, Humphrey – 8½
4-7. Solomon, Rej, Hamilton, Hoffmann – 8
8-12. Xie, Lane, Froehlich, Wilkins, Ilic – 7½ etc.

Annotated Game

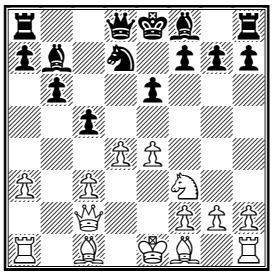
□ **M Krasenkow (2633)**
■ **A Karpov (2688)**
Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (1), 11.01.2003 E12

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 b6 4.♘c3



4...♗b7
4...♗b4 leads to a much sharper position from the Nimtzovich Defence. After the text move and White's reply, the Petrosian system of the Queen's Indian has arisen.
5.a3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♕c2 ♘xc3 8.bxc3 ♘d7 9.e4 c5



White gets a pawn center but Black, who leads in development, begins to attack it immediately.

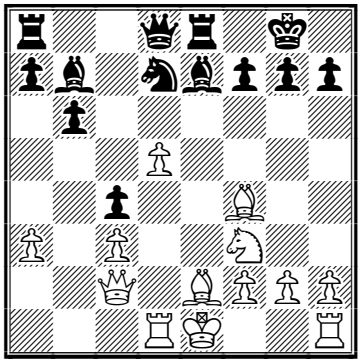
10.♗f4

To my mind this is a rather illogical move. White has to concentrate on development and getting his King away from the center, not on gaining space and so on.

10...♗e7 11.d5 exd5 12.exd5 0-0

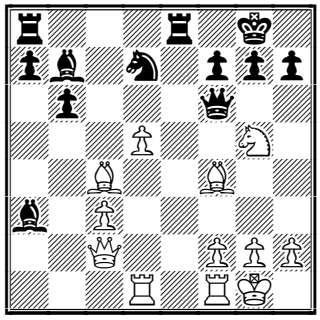
Of course it's very risky to win a pawn after 12...♗xd5?! 13.0–0–0 with two unpleasant pins along the d-file.

13.♖d1 ♖e8 14.♗e2 c4!



A correct idea: Black would like to begin complications as early as possible while the White king is still in the center.

15.0-0 ♗xa3 16.♗xc4 ♕f6 17.♘g5!?



White doesn't want to defend passively and finds some active counter-play.

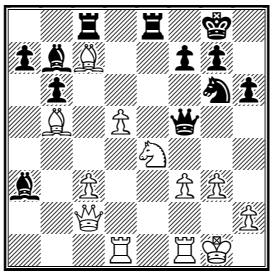
17...♘f8 18.g3 h6 19.♘e4 ♕f5 20.f3 ♘g6!

Karpov plays very simple and strong! It's become clear that none of White's minor pieces are very good, they "hang" in the center.

21.♗c7!?

With an interesting idea - to catch the Queen almost in the center, but Black has a strong reply.

21...♖ac8 22.♗b5



22...♖xc7!

After 22...♖f8? 23.g4! the Queen has no squares to go to!

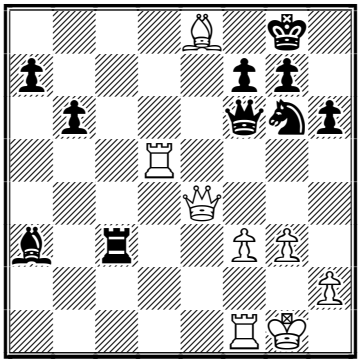
23.♗xe8 ♗xd5

I think Black has at least enough compensation for the exchange: two strong Bishops, the King is rather open, the c3 and f3 pawns weak, the e8 Bishop is almost off side...

24.♘f6+?!

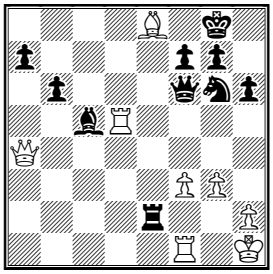
A dubious decision: now Black will have two pawns for the exchange and an active Rook.

24...♕xf6 25.♖xd5 ♖xc3 26.♕e4?!



It looks like this move loses by force.

26...♗c5+ 27.♔g2 ♖e3 28.♕a4 ♖e2+ 29.♔h1



29...♖e1!

A nice final blow. White resigned.29...♖e1 30.♖xe1 *(30.♖d1 ♕xf3#)* 30...♕xf3# **0-1**

Solutions:

25.♖xh5! gxh5 26.♕xh5 f5 26...♖h8 27.♕xf7# **27.gxf6+ 1-0**

26...♗f3! 26...♗f3 27.exf3 exf3 **0-1**

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

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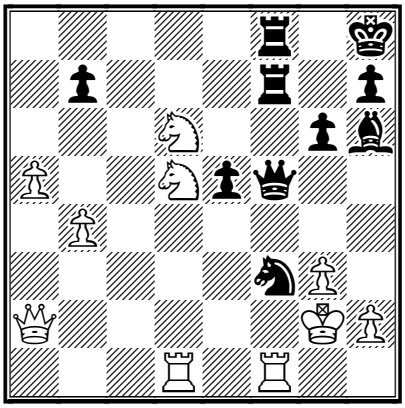
CT-13(797) 13th January 2003

Quiz Today

Burnett (2436) - Ivanov (2520)
ch-USA Seattle USA (3), 11.01.2003



White to play

2 Worlds at War & Bareev goes Top

The second round of Wijk aan Zee saw the encounter of two World Champions.

Yesterday the FIDE World Champion **Ruslan Ponomariov** demonstrated feeble play against Evgeny Bareev and I think there were very few who believed he would be victorious over the Brain Games World Champion Vladimir Kramnik. But Ruslan has performed a miracle in outplaying Vladimir in great positional style (see the Annotated game). In the meantime Bareev defeated the youngest player of the event Teimour Radjabov convincingly and became sole leader with a perfect score. Another hero of the day is Anand who was patiently defending all the game through against Topalov. Vesselin prepared an exchange sacrifice in a popular line of the Petrov but Vishy parried all White's threats and obtained a winning ending. The other games were drawn: Karpov – Shirov and Van Wely – Polgar fought to the last but what can poor people do with rook endings ☺ ? Krasenkow equalized against Ivanchuk in the Open variation of Ruy Lopez. Timman – Grischuk was a quick draw.

Round 2 results:
Bareev – Radjabov 1:0
Ponomariov – Kramnik 1:0
Karpov – Shirov ½:½
Topalov – Anand 0:1
Timman – Grischuk ½:½
Van Wely – Polgar ½:½
Ivanchuk – Krasenkow ½:½

Round 2 standings:
1. Bareev – 2
2-3. Karpov, Anand – 1½
4-10. Shirov, Timman, Grischuk, Van Wely, Polgar, Ivanchuk, Ponomariov – 1
11-14. Kramnik, Topalov, Krasenkow, Radjabov –½
Tomorrow is a day-off.

The most interesting games of the 2nd round in Wijk aan Zee B in my opinion were Koneru – Karjakin and Hector – Kosteniuk. You may find them in the cbv-file.

Round 2 results:
Koneru – Karjakin ½:½
Zhang Zhong – Stellwagen 1:0
Hector – Kosteniuk ½:½
Naiditsch – Rogers ½:½
Jonkman – Van der Wiel ½:½
De Vreught – Nijboer 1:0
Acs – Cmilyte ½:½

Round 2 standings:
1-3. Zhang Zhong, Hector, Naiditsch – 1½
4-11. Koneru, Karjakin, Stellwagen, Rogers, Jonkman, Van der Wiel, De Vreught, Nijboer – 1
12-14. Kosteniuk, Cmilyte, Acs – ½

♦ **Gregory Kaidanov** has taken a lead at the USA Championships He is the only one who has a perfect score after 3 rounds. The game Akobian – Lapshun lasted 164 moves!

Some results of the 3rd round:
Zaichik – Kaidanov 0:1
Kraai – Gulko 0:1
Akobian – Lapshun ½:½

Shabalov – Fedorowicz 1:0
Perelshteyn – Kudrin 1:0
Browne – Christiansen ½:½

Yermolinsky – Foygel ½:½
Nakamura – De Firmian ½:½
Stripunsky – Gurevich ½:½
Fishbein – Krush ½:½
Goldin – Ashley ½:½
Seirawan – Ippolito 1:0
Pixton – Benjamin 0:1
Serper – Lein ½:½
Enhbat – J. Shahade ½:½
E. Donaldson – Kreiman 0:1

Round 3 standings:

1. Kaidanov – 3
2–6. Gulko, Akobian, Lapshun, Shabalov, Perelshteyn – 2½
7–25. Zaichik, Browne, Christiansen, Nakamura, De Firmian, Yermolinsky, Foygel, Stripunsky, Gurevich, Ashley, Benjamin, Seirawan, Kreiman, Muhammad, Sarkar, Kraai, Ivanov, Finegold, Paschall – 2
26–38. Goldin, Lein, Kudrin, J. Shahade, Serper, Fedorowicz, Pruess, Watson, Fishbein, Enhbat, Krush, Baginskaite, Kaufman – 1½, etc.

♦ News from the Korchnoi – Sadvakasov match in Astana.

Korchnoi lost the 3rd game with White. Sadvakasov leads 2:1.

♦ Alexander Morozevich won The XIII rapid Chess Tournament Paul Keres Memorial in Tallinn.
1. Morozevich – 5½
2–3. Dreev, Miroshnichenko – 5
4. Ehlvest – 4½
5. Gavrikov – 3½
6. Zontakh – 2½
7. Veingold – 2
8. Kanep – 1

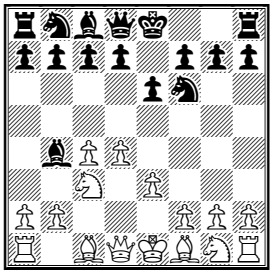
WGM Pia Cramling of Sweden won the women's tournament. Like Morozevich she scored 5½ points out of 7.

Annotated Game

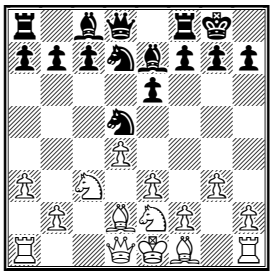
□ **R Ponomariov (2734)**
■ **V Kramnik (2807)**
Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (2), 12.01.2003 E46

Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3



The Rubinstein System of Nimzowitsch Defence.
4...0–0 5.♘ge2
With this move White shows his desire to keep the pawn structure unbroken. Saving a tempo on the light-squared bishop's development he doesn't allow his opponent to play c7–c5 as it will be met by a2–a3.
5...d5 6.a3 ♗e7 7.cxd5 ♘xd5
7...exd5 is of equal value.
8.♗d2
A ploy which you can also meet in the Petrosian System of the Queens Indian. White puts the bishop on d2 ready for the exchange on c3, planning to take the long diagonal.
8...♘d7
8...♘f6 9.g3 ♘bd7 10.♗g2 c6 11.♕c2 e5 12.♖d1 exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘b6 14.h3 ♘fd5 15.0–0 gave White a stable advantage in Graf – Xu Jun, Bled 2002; after 8...♘xc3 9.♘xc3 *(9.♗xc3 b6∞)* 9...c5 10.dxc5 ♗xc5 11.♘e4 ♗e7 12.♗c3 White is slightly better, Taimanov – Karpov, Leningrad 1973
9.g3



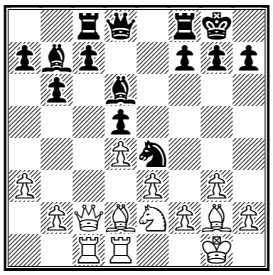
9...b6

A new move. 9...♘xc3 10.♗xc3 c5 was played in Volkov – Sakaev, New Delhi 2000. After 11.♗g2 cxd4 12.♕xd4 ♗f6 13.♕d6 ♘b6 14.♕xd8 ♗xc3+ 15.♘xc3 ♖xd8 Black managed to equalize.

10.♘xd5 exd5 11.♗g2 ♘f6 12.0-0 ♘e4 13.♖c1

Ponomariov accepts the exchange of the dark-squared bishop. In this case it will be difficult for Black to prepare c7-c5 in view of the d5 pawn weakness.

13...♗b7 14.♕c2 ♖c8 15.♖fd1 ♗d6



Kramnik isn't in a hurry with c7-c5 apparently considering the positions that would arise as favourable for White. Ponomariov tries to provoke this advance.

16.♗b4!

An interesting move. White swaps his opponent's good bishop. The exchange on b4 would open the a file for White. Besides Black will have to forget about c5 for a long time.

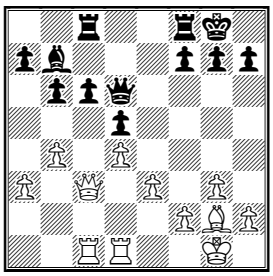
16...♕f6

"Mini-trap".

17.♘c3

17.♗xd6? ♕xf2+

17...♘xc3 18.♕xc3 c6 19.♗xd6 ♕xd6 20.b4



White has a durable advantage on the queenside. Kramnik begins to seek a place for the bishop.

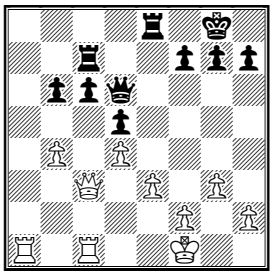
20...♖c7 21.a4 ♗c8 22.a5!

Black can't take on a5 as it would weaken the c5 point irremediably. Which means that White is able to decide when the a-file will be opened.

22...♗a6! 23.♖a1 ♗b5

A silver lining: the bishop gets a good square at last. 23...♗c4 24.axb6 axb6 25.e4±

24.♖dc1 ♖e8 25.axb6 axb6 26.♗f1 ♗xf1 27.♔xf1

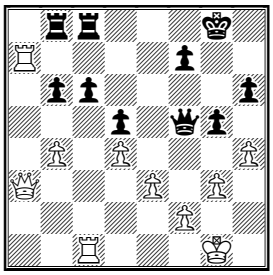


In this position Black should look carefully after his queenside pawns while White has no pawn to take care of.

27...♖b8 28.♖a6 ♕d7 29.♔g1 h6 30.♕a3 ♖cc8!

Preventing the exchange of a pair of rooks. It's better for Black to have two rooks to protect the pawns.

31.h4 ♕f5 32.♖a7 g5



This move weakens Black's king shield. Probably Vladimir decided to play for a win. If White takes on g5 then after ...Kg7 threats along the h-file could be created. But Ruslan finds an excellent reply. I think after the discreet 32...♕e6 33.♕a6 ♕d6 the game would have ended up in a draw.

33.h5! ♕f3 34.♕d3!

Kramnik didn't expect this idea and he lost his way.

34...♔h8?!

If 34...♕xh5 then 35.♕f5! ♕g6 (queen's only move) 36.♕xg6+ fxg6 37.♖d7± and Black has too many weak pawns along the 6th rank.; but maybe he could create a fortress by

34...♕g4 and if 35.♕a6 ♕e6 36.♖b7 then 36...♖xb7 37.♕xb7 b5

35.♕a6

35.♖d7 ♕f6 36.g4 was also good.

35...♔g7?

More stubborn was 35...♕xh5 36.♖b7! ♖a8 37.♕xb6 ♔g7 38.♖c7 ♖xc7 39.♕xc7 ♖a6

A)

40.♖xc6 leads to a draw after 40...♕d1+ 41.♔g2 ♖a1 42.♕e5+ ♔h7 43.♕f5+ ♔g8! 44.♖c8+ ♔g7 45.♕e5+ ♔g6 46.♖g8+ ♔h5 47.g4+ ♕xg4+ *(47...♔xg4?? 48.♕f4+! ♔h5 49.♕h2+! ♔g4 50.♕h3#)* 48.♕g3=;

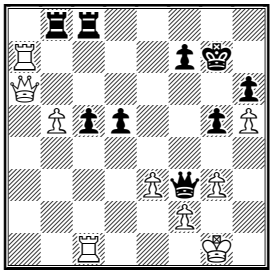
B)

40.♕e5+! 40...♔h7 41.b5! cxb5 42.♕xd5±

36.b5! c5?

Black is already in serious troubles. This move loses immediately. The game could have been longer after 36...♕f6 37.bxc6 ♖xc6 38.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 *(38...♕xf7 39.♖xc6+−)* 39.♕a7+ ♕e7 40.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 41.♖xc6 b5 42.♖xh6 b4 43.♖c6 b3 44.♖c1 g4 45.♖b1

37.dxc5 bxc5



Simply overlooking White's next move. Anyway the desperate attack 37...d4 38.exd4 ♖e8 39.c6 ♖e2 40.♖f1 ♖be8 41.♕a3! didn't change anything e.g. 41...♖8e3 42.♖xf7+! The position of the day :)

38.♕g6+!

Kramnik resigned.38.♕g6+ ♔f8 *(38...♔h8 39.♖xf7)* 39.♕xh6+ ♔g8 40.♕xg5+ ♔h8 *(40...♔f8 41.h6)* 41.♖a6

1−0

Solution to Quiz Today:

31...♘h4+ 31...♘h4+ 32.gxh4 *(32.♔g1 ♕xf1+ 33.♖xf1 ♖xf1#)* 32...♕g4+ 33.♔h1 ♖xf1+ 34.♖xf1 ♖xf1# **0−1**

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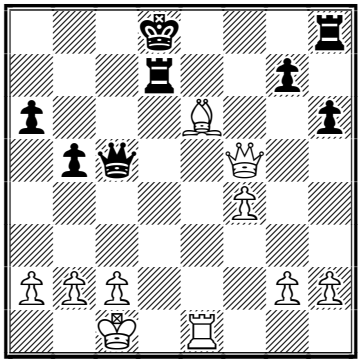
CT-14(798) 14th January 2003

Quiz Today

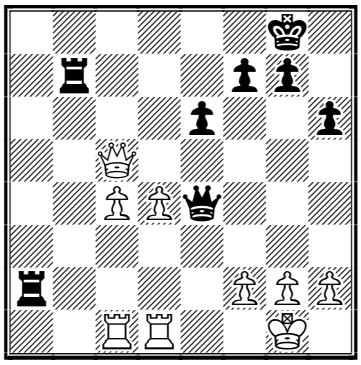
By **IM Maxim Notkin**

Ashley (2485) – Nakamura (2520)
ch-USA Seattle USA (4), 12.01.2003



Black to play

Kanep (2445) – Ehlvest (2600)
Keres Memorial Rapid Tallinn EST (2),



Black to play

News Roundup

By **IM Maxim Notkin**

Today is a day-off in Wijk aan Zee. Nevertheless we have a lot of information from this small Dutch town. The FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov has published an Open Letter to the FIDE President. It was first published in Russian. The English translation is by Zoya Vlassova, Chess Today. Please contact Chess Today regarding further reproduction.

To: Mr. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, FIDE President

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to inform you that on 11-12th January 2003 I had a meeting in Wijk aan Zee (the Netherlands) with Mr. G. Makropoulos, FIDE First Vice-President, and Mr. Z. Azmaiparashvili, FIDE Vice-President. Unfortunately, despite my frequent requests and requests from the Ukrainian Chess Federation to obtain official minutes of the FIDE General Assembly decisions (made in Bled in November 2002), concerning reunification World Chess Championship and Prague Agreements, we have not received such documents. I believe that it is necessary to make a bilateral contract between FIDE and me, World Champion, for the Ponomariov-Kasparov Unification World Championship match. While I share with FIDE big responsibility for the unification of the chess world, I request keeping to generally accepted international laws and procedures.

Regretfully, a number of previous FIDE projects have not been put into practice. FIDE Grand Prix 2002 series broke off after two tournaments instead of five planned. No match was organised between FIDE World Champion and World Champion among Computer Programs. There is also no clear vision of the next World Championship Cycle. The only thing we have now is unapproved project of World Chess Championship for 2003-2005.

Unfortunately, nobody consulted with me as FIDE World Champion while Prague Agreements were being developed and signed. The meeting in Wijk aan Zee should have contributed to further advancement of the unification of the chess world. However, Mr. President, I would like

to draw your attention that staging such negotiations during my participation in tournaments should not be acceptable in the future.

For my part, I confirm once again my support of the Prague Agreements and my readiness to meet in a match with Mr. Garry Kasparov, official FIDE Challenger.

Yours sincerely,

Ruslan Ponomariov,
World Champion

We also received reports about the first 2 rounds from **IM Yochanan Afek.**

Round 1: It's the youth era in the chess world and the compositions of the top groups of the 65th edition of the Corus festival held in the tiny Dutch tourist resort of Wijk aan Zee, do keep up with the spirit. It is the second year that Kasparov has been absent (after he had won the A group 3 times in a row), yet the world's elite enjoys an impressive representation led by world champions Vladimir Kramnik, Viswananthan Anand and Ruslan Ponomariov.

The youngest participant in group A is Teymor Radjabov (15) and the local chess community is represented here this year just by Loek van Wely and Jan Timman, after the temporary retirement of Jeroen Piket, a regular in the top group for the last decade or so. Bareev will try to defend his surprising victory from last year. Three players in the top group have already won it twice in the past: Anatoly Karpov (1988&1993) and Jan Timman (1981&1985) and Vishy Anand (shared in 1989 &1998).

John van der Wiel (43) is acting as the nestor of the B group in which Sergej Karjakin is the youngest participant who is celebrating today (Jan. 12th) his 13th birthday. Other prominent teenagers in this group are the world girls champion, the Indian GM (for men!) Humpy Koneru and the Dutch youth champion Daniel Stellwagen (both 15) as well as the German grandmaster Arkadij Naiditsch (17). Two of the world's strongest girls are also competing here: Alexandra Kosteniuk (17) and Viktorija Cmiltyte (19) who is by now Mrs. Shirov. Both started with a loss to their younger adversaries, Stellwagen and Naiditsch. Around 1500 players of all levels and ages are expected to take part in the numerous events of the festival during the next two weeks, among them present and past members of the Dutch parliament.

Lock van Wely

Round 2: The extremely crowded weekends in De Moriaan, the traditional venue of the Wijk aan Zee annual festival, usually inspire the players for an even extra fighting spirit and indeed after the fairly peaceful first round there were some more bloody encounters yesterday in group A.

The most curious encounter of the round was undoubtedly the duel between the current world champions: Ponomariov launched a queenside minority attack inserting heavy pressure on Kramnik's vulnerable pawn structure there. Kramnik pushed erroneously one of the shaky pawns overlooking a surprising deadly check on the other wing resulting from the sudden opening of the ranks. That blunder, not under particularly severe time pressure, forced Kramnik's immediate resignation.

Bareev scored a second convincing victory, this time against young Radjabov, by skillfully exploiting a pair of advanced pawns in the center and the rather cramped position of black. Topalov defended heroically a lost position, with an exchange down, against Anand, just to postpone, for long hours, the inevitable defeat .In the NBA basketball there is an accurate term for it – garbage time!

Shirov got a slightly inferior 4 rooks ending against Karpov, a type of position which the ex-world champion often manages to squeeze the whole point from .Yet Alexei handled the ending accurately navigating it to a peaceful conclusion. The most attractive game in group B was the rather sharp battle between the youngest players of the field in which Karjakin, celebrating yesterday his 13th birthday, managed to get a rook Knight and a bishop for his queen. However Koneru's queen proved to be extremely active against the young Ukrainian's exposed king, thus forcing perpetual check.

Yochanan Afek

♦ USA Championships: Alexander Shabalov has caught up with Gregory Kaidanov after round 4. They share the lead with 3½ points.

*Below is **John Henderson's** report about Round 4. jbh@af4c.org*

In the shoes of the Fischerman

Despite having last played in the US Championships in 1966, to this day Bobby Fischer continues to cast a giant shadow over the US Championships by holding just about all the major records for the event. The erratic genius first came to world prominence in 1957 when he made his debut in the national championships in New York. The precarious fourteen-year-old rank-outsider proved to be the shock winner that year to become (and still is) the youngest title holder. "I just got good", was Fischer's explanation of his unexpected victory and rise to prominence. From there he never looked back. In 1964, Fischer exceeded Sammy Reshevsky's record of five titles (though Sammy did go on to claim another two after Fischer 'retired' himself from the Championships) in impressive style as he notched up the most extraordinary record ever achieved in a modern, national competition: He won all eleven games, most of which were against top grandmaster-level opponents. By 1966 when he played in his eighth and final US Championships, Fischer set yet another record: Winning the title on every appearance – played eight, won eight! The only one of his records so far that has been beaten is that of youngest-ever competitor - an honor that now belongs to last year's AF4C wild card Hana Itkis, who was 13 when she played. By the end of the fourth round of the current championship, Fischer can rest in the knowledge that this year the rest of his records will remain intact – and in particular that of winning with a perfect score as sole leader Gregory Kaidanov ceded the draw to 2002 Samford Fellowship recipient Varuzhan Akobian. At one stage it looked as if Kaidanov, who is in the hunt for his first US title, was coming under a lot of pressure in the good knight vs. bad bishop ending. However Kaidanov held on to stay unbeaten and in the joint lead with 3.5/4. Joining him in equal first is two-time joint winner (1993 and 2000) Alexander "Shabba" Shabalov who expertly converted his endgame advantage against Yuri Lapshun through for the full point. In a nice little note to this game, Lapshun, who was the 'guilty' party in his 164-move game the previous round to Akobian, picked up his tournament bulletin before the start of the game, looked at the amount of space (nearly a whole page!) his game had taken up and just shook his head in disbelief – and no

wonder when at least 80 of them were superfluous! Joining the chasing pack just a half point behind the leaders is defending champion Larry Christiansen, who beat Santa Fe's finest Jesse Kraai. Also getting in on the action is the 2001 US Junior Champion Hikaru Nakamura, 15, after Maurice Ashley's sacrificial assault spectacularly back-fired after he failed to spot the obvious defence. Nakamura, who holds the national record for being (at 10) the youngest American ever to earn the master title, puts himself up with the leaders and the chance to become the youngest winner of the title since Fischer. And, with two GM norms already under his belt, Nakamura could be in-line for a third and final norm to become the youngest American GM since Fischer.

Round 4 results:
Kaidanov – Akobian ½:½
Gulko – Perelshteyn ½:½
Lapshun – Shabalov 0:1
Kreiman – Seirawan ½:½
Benjamin – Zaichik ½:½
Kudrin – Baginskaite ½:½
J. Shahade – Fishbein 0:1
De Firmian – Browne ½:½
Foygel – Stripunsky ½:½
Christiansen – Kraai 1:0
Gurevich – Yermolinsky ½:½
Finegold – Muhammad ½:½
Ivanov – Paschall ½:½
Ashley – Nakamura 0:1
Goldin – Sarkar ½:½
Krush – Serper ½:½
Fedorowicz – Kaufman ½:½
Watson – Enhbat ½:½
Lein – Pruess 1:0
Mulyar – Battsetseg 1:0
G. Shahade – O. Sagalchik 1:0
Pixton – E. Donaldson ½:½
Hahn – Kriventsov 0:1
Ippolito – Shiber 1:0
Epstein – Burnett 0:1
J. Donaldson – Ross 1:0
Groberman – Bennett ½:½
Markzon – Tsai ½:½
Esserman – Levina ½:½

Round 4 standings:
1-2. Kaidanov, Shabalov – 3½
3-7. Gulko, Akobian, Christiansen, Nakamura, Perelshteyn – 3
8-25. Seirawan, Benjamin, De Firmian, Stripunsky, Yermolinsky, Finegold, Ivanov, Zaitshik, Kreiman, Fishbein, Lapshun, Browne, Gurevich, Foygel, Paschall, Lein, Muhammad, Sarkar – 2½
26-41. Goldin, Serper, Kudrin, Fedorowicz, Ashley, Mulyar, Kraai, G. Shahade, Enhbat, Kriventsov, Ippolito, Burnett, Kaufman, Baginskaite, Krush, Watson – 2
42-46. Pixton, J Donaldson, E Donaldson, J Shahade, Pruess – 1½
47-53. Bennett, Battsetseg, Hahn, Epstein, Sagalchik, Groberman, Shiber – 1
54-58. Markzon, Esserman, Tsai, Ross, Levina – ½

GM Kaidanov

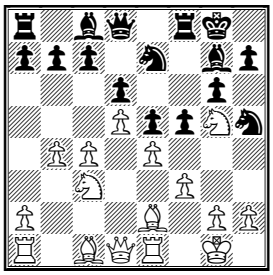
Annotated Game

□ **E Bareev (2729)**
■ **T Radjabov (2624)**
Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (2), 12.01.2003 - E97

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

I could not select a game among those played in the first three rounds of the USA Championship that I wanted to comment. But I did find the one I was looking for one among the Wijk aan Zee tournament games!
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗e2 0-0 6.♘f3 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6

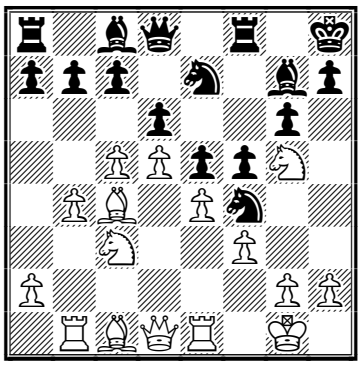
8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4 ♘h5 10.♖e1 f5 11.♘g5 ♘f6 12.f3 ♘h5



This is the principled line of the Kings' Indian Defense, which used to bring resounding victories to Bareev: 12...c6 13.♔h1 h6 14.♘e6 ♗xe6 15.dxe6 ♘e8 16.♕b3 ♘c7 17.c5 d5 18.exd5 cxd5 19.♗b2 ♕e8 20.♖ad1

♖d8 21.a4 a6 22.b5 ♔h7 23.♗a3 ♘xe6 24.bxa6 ♘d4 25.♕xb7 ♖b8 26.♕c7 ♘c2 27.♘b5 Bareev–Topalov Dortmund 2002/WCR collection/1–0 (61)

13.c5 ♘f4 14.♗c4 ♔h8 15.♖b1N



The following has occurred before: 15.♘e6 ♗xe6 16.dxe6 fxe4 17.fxe4 ♘c6 18.♗e3 ♘d4 19.♖c1 dxc5 20.bxc5 ♘fxe6 21.c6 bxc6 22.♗xe6 ♘xe6 23.♕xd8 ♖fxd8 24.♘a4 ♘d4 25.♘c5 ♖ab8 26.♗g5 ♖e8 27.♘d3 ♖b5 28.♖c4 a5 29.♔f2 ♖f8+ 30.♔e3 ♘e6 31.h4 ♖f7 32.♔d2 ♖d7 33.♖ec1 ♘xg5 34.hxg5 ♗f8 35.♖xc6 ♗e7 36.♔e2 ♗xg5 37.♖1c5 ♖xc5 ½–½ Tukmakov,V–Efimenko,Z/Lausanne 2001/KasparovChess collection (37); è 15.g3 h6 16.♘e6 ♘xe6 17.dxe6 ♘c6 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.♘b5 ♗xe6 20.♗xe6 ♕b6+ 21.♗e3 ♕xb5 22.exf5 gxf5 23.a4 ♕xb4 24.♖b1 ♕a3 25.♖xb7 ♘d8 26.♗c1 ♕c5+ 27.♗e3 ♕a3 28.♗c1 ♕c5+ 29.♗e3 ♕a3 ½–½ Najer,E–Voitsekhovsky,S/St Petersburg RUS 2002/The Week in Chess 417 (29)

Eugeny is not speeding things up.

15...a6

The daring of the following move was not a success: 15...♘exd5?! 16.♘xd5 ♕xg5 17.♗xf4 exf4 18.♘xc7 fxe4 19.♖xe4 ♗h3 20.♖e2!± and White has extra material.

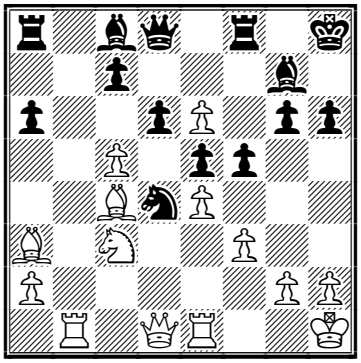
16.♔h1

White is just making useful moves, waiting for Black's "request" to take the knight away from g5.

16...h6 17.♘e6 ♘xe6 18.dxe6 ♘c6

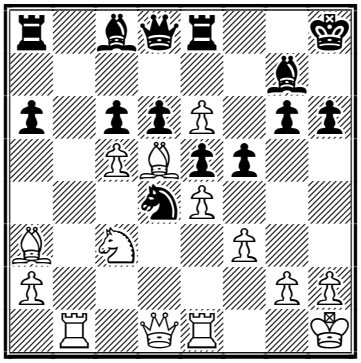
Black had an idea to capture the d4–square with his knight and to "surround" the pawn on e6. But he failed to do it because he did not manage to keep the position closed.

19.b5 ♘d4 20.bxa6 bxa6 21.♗a3!



It is already clear that actions undertaken on moves 15–16 are more in favour of White than Black. It is not possible to remove the e6–splinter painlessly.

21...♖e8 22.♗d5! c6



After 22...♗xe6 23.♗xa8 ♕xa8 24.cxd6 cxd6 25.♖b6! Black has no compensation for exchange.

23.cxd6! ♗xe6

This is an imaginary piece sacrifice. Obviously, it should not be taken:

23...cxd5 24.e7 ♕d7 25.♘xd5+−

24.♗xe6 ♖xe6 25.♗c5±

The position has become clear: White has almost won, the only pride of Black, his knight on d4, is forced to step back in order to block the b-file.

25...♘b5 26.♕b3 ♕e8 27.♖ed1 ♖d8 28.♘xb5!

The right decision! Every further exchange shows more clearly the pitiful role of the g7-knight.

28...axb5 29.a4 bxa4 30.♕xa4 ♗f8 31.d7 ♕f7 32.♕a5

It is not easy to play the King's Indian Defence again after such defeats. I think Tejmur has to study openings more careful in order to hold among elite players. And so far Bareev is in sole lead in Wijk aan Zee! **1-0**

Solution to Quiz Today:

25...♕f2! 0-1

28...♖xf2! 28...♖xf2 29.♔xf2 ♖b2+ **0-1**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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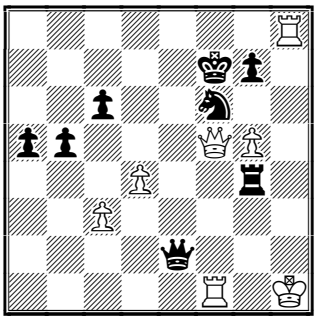
CT-15(799) 15th January 2003

Quiz Today

Stellwagen – Koneru
Corus Chess Tournament 2003 Wijk aan Zee, 2003



White to play

Chess News

by IM Vladmir Barsky

So far, a day hasn't gone by in January without an open letter or at least press release appearing in public ☺. TWIC has published the following one:

Mrs. Nahed OJJEH, President of NAO Chess Club, has decided to break all relations with the Einstein group. Since its creation, NAO Chess Club and its president Mrs. Nahed OJJEH have been seeking the development as well as the reunification of the world of chess. In that spirit, in July 2002, to guarantee the success of the "Candidates Tournament", first phase of the reunification process, Mrs. OJJEH put up a prize-fund of 300,000 Euros. The Einstein Group, in charge of the event, did not respect its engagement. It did not pay out the whole sum allocated to the players for the tournament. Some participants, among them Evgeny BAREEV and Boris GELFAND, were not paid. For the past four months, NAO's inquiries have remained unanswered by the Einstein Group. The Einstein Group claims it is not responsible, giving false excuses. This is both scandalous and unacceptable. These carry prejudices to the players and discredit the world of chess. The NAO Chess Club and its President cannot be responsible for such behavior and in consequence have decided to break all relations with the Einstein Group.
NAO CHESS CLUB
Paris, 14th January 2003

Just recall that in the 1st Round of the 65th Corus Chess tournament Evgenij Bareev beat Ruslan Ponomariov, and in the 2nd Round Ponomariov beat Vladimir Kramnik. And now, in the 3rd Round Kramnik beat Bareev – the circle has closed ☺. As on the 1st day Vladimir played 1.e2-e4 – it looks like he decided to change his opening repertoire radically. His former second chose the Caro-Kann, where White received a bit better ending. To know what happened *see our annotated game section.* Another World Champion, Ruslan Ponomariov, had a very inferior position vs. Michael Krasenkow, but he was able to find a miracle escape.

Results of the 3rd Round:
Anand – Van Wely **½:½**
Polgar – Timman **1:0**
Kramnik – Bareev **1:0**
Shirov – Ivanchuk **½:½**
Grischuk – Karpov **½:½**
Krasenkow – Ponomariov **½:½**
Radjabov – Topalov **0:1**

Round 3 Standings:
1-4. Karpov, Anand, Polgar, Bareev – 2 points out of 3
5-11. Van Wely, Kramnik, Shirov, Grischuk, Ivanchuk, Ponomariov, Topalov – 1½
12-13. Timman, Krasenkow – 1
14. Radjabov – ½

Pairing for the 4th Round:
Bareev – Topalov
van Wely – Radjabov
Timman – Anand
Karpov – Polgar
Ivanchuk – Grischuk
Ponomariov – Shirov
Kramnik – Krasenkow

This issue is prepared by IMs Barsky, Afek & GM Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Tournament B
Results of the 3rd Round:
Nijboer – Hector **1:0**
Cmilyte – de Vreugt **0:1**
Rogers – Acs **1:0**
van der Wiel – Naiditsch **½:½**
Karjakin – Jonkman **1:0**
Stellwagen – Koneru **1:0**
Kosteniuk – Zhong **0:1**

Round 3 Standings:
1. Zhong – 2½ points out of 3

2–7. de Vreugt, Nijboer, Rogers, Karjakin, Stellwagen, Naiditsch – 2
8–9. van der Wiel, Hector – 1 ½
10–11. Koneru, Jonkman – 1
12–14. Cmilyte, Kosteniuk, Acs – ½

Pairing for the 4th Round:
Hector – Zhong
Koneru – Kosteniuk
Jonkman – Stellwagen
Naiditsch – Karjakin
Acs – van der Wiel
de Vreugt – Rogers
Nijboer – Cmilyte

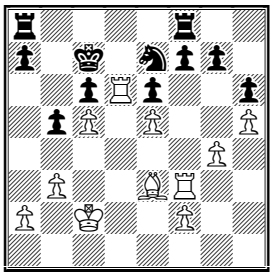
Also we found some short annotations by GM Valery Popov posted at: www.ruschess.com

Wijk aan Zee, round 3

*by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for* Chess Today*; notes to games by **GM Alex Baburin***

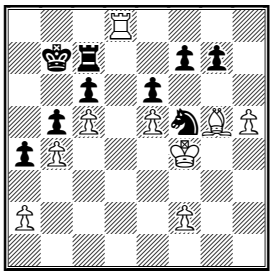
A rest day following a tiring weekend seemed to restore the fighting spirit on the podium of De Moriaan, the traditional venue of the Corus festival. The highlight of the third round was the impressive comeback of world champion Vladimir Kramnik. Playing the main line of the Caro-Kann as White, probably for the first time at such a level, Kramnik's spatial advantage and control over an open file in the ending, earned him the victory.

Kramnik–Bareev



Black to play, position after 29. ♖d6!

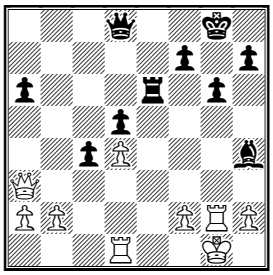
It is important that White could occupy the d6-outpost before Black plugged the d-file with ...Nd5.
29...a5 30.g5! hxg5 31.♗xg5 ♘f5
[31...♘d5 32.h6!]
32.♖d1 a4 33.b4 ♔c8 34.♖fd3 ♖a7 35.♖d8+ ♖xd8 36.♖xd8+ ♔b7 37.♔c3 ♔a6 38.♔d3 ♖c7 39.♔e4 ♔b7 40.♖d1 ♔c8 41.♖d8+ ♔b7 42.♔f4 ♖c8 43.♖d7+ ♖c7 44.♖d3 ♔c8 45.♖d8+ ♔b7 (D)



White turned his advantage into a victory with a brilliant quiet sacrifice:
46.♗f6!! g6
Or 46...gxf6 47.exf6 ♖c8 48.♖xc8 ♔xc8 49.♔g5 ♔d7 50.h6 ♘xh6 51.♔xh6 e5 52.♔h7!! ♔e6 53.♔g7 e4 54.a3 and White wins the pawn ending.
47.hxg6 fxg6 48.♔g5 1-0.

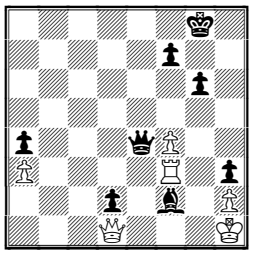
However the public prize of the day was awarded to Veselin Topalov who played, as Black a rather inventive game against young Tejmour Radjabov. The Bulgarian sacrificed the exchange for a pawn and strong initiative, based on his harmonious officers that dominated successfully his opponent's exposed king as well as his misplaced rooks.

Radjabov-Topalov



White to play

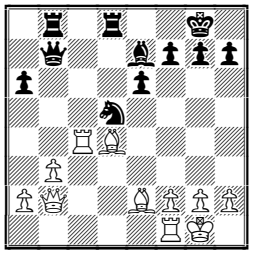
28.♕c3 ♕e7 29.b3 ♕a3 30.♕c2 ♕e7 31.♔f1 cxb3 32.♕xb3 ♕d6 33.♕d3 ♕f4 34.♕d2 ♕f5 35.♕d3 ♖e4 36.♕b3 ♔g7 37.♕d3 h5 38.♕b3 ♗f6 39.♖g3 ♖f4 40.♕e3 h4 41.♖g2 ♖f3 42.♕e2 a5 43.♔g1 ♖f4 44.♔h1 ♖e4 45.♕f1 a4 46.♖d2 ♗xd4 47.♕d1 ♗e5 48.f3 ♖b4 49.♖d3 h3 50.♖e2 d4 51.♖f2 ♗f4 52.♕e2 ♖b1+ 53.♖d1 d3 54.♕f1 ♖xd1 55.♕xd1 d2 56.♖e2 ♕d3 57.♖f2 ♗e3 58.♖f1 ♗d4 59.a3 ♔g8 60.f4 ♕e4+ 61.♖f3 ♗f2 (D)



Complete zugzwang! **0-1.**

The chain of successive draws of the local representative was finally cut today. While van Wely drew again, this time rather comfortably as Black against Anand in the main line of the Sveshnikov, Timman got into trouble against Mrs. Polgar, following a peculiar knight manoeuvre.

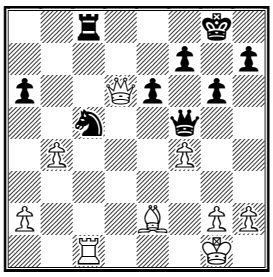
J. Polgar - Timman



Black to play

With no prior provocation he moved his well-placed knight from its favourable stronghold d5 to the edge of the board, in order to get rid of his opponent's pair of bishops. However, later he failed to find a good place for the knight, which was eventually pinned and lost.

20...♘b6?! 21.♖c2 ♘a4 22.♕a1 ♕e4 23.♖d2 ♗c5 24.♗xc5 ♘xc5 25.♕c3 ♖xd2 26.♕xd2 g6 27.♖c1 ♕e5 28.f4 ♕f5 29.♕d6 ♖c8 30.b4 (D)



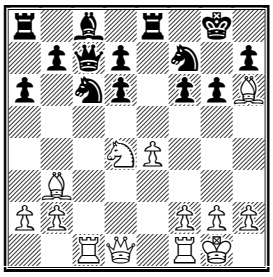
30...♕e4 31.♕d2 1-0.

The draws Shirov-Ivanchuk (the Kalashnikov Variation, 20 moves) and Grischuk- Karpov (the Petroff, 35 moves) were not particularly exciting, while Krasenkov tried hard against Ponomariov in a 4 bishops ending before being forced into a drawn position.

Group B saw all three young ladies badly treated: 15 year old Dutch junior champion, Daniel Stellwagen scored his second well-deserved victory in the tournament, this time over Humpi Koneru, who is a year younger than him. Kostenjuk and Smilyte had a similar fate against Zhong and de Vreugt respectively. The youngest GM ever Sergej Karjakin (13 years and 2 days old!) cracked Jonkman's Berlin Wall in the Ruy Lopez after the latter took a poisoned pawn.

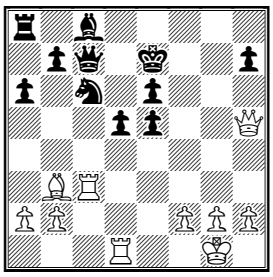
Two other wins – of Rogers over Acs and Nijboer over Hector – made this round the most uncompromising in WAZ so far.

Nijboer–Hector



White to play

20.♘f5! ♖e6 21.♗f4 gxf5 22.exf5 ♔f8 23.fxe6 dxe6 24.♕h5 ♘fe5 25.♖fd1 d5 26.♗xe5 fxe5 27.♖c3 ♔e7 (D)



28.♗xd5! 1–0 Black resigned in view of 28... exd5 29.♕xh7+ ♔d6 30.♖xd5+ ♔xd5 31.♕xc7.

GMs Gregory Kaidanov and Alexander Shabalov are leading with 4 points after the 5th round of the USA Championships. We are waiting for a new reports by John Henderson, so for now we offer you only technical information:

Round 5th results:
Shabalov – Kaidanov **½:½**
Akobian – Gulko **½:½**
Nakamura – Christiansen **½:½**
Perelshteyn – Benjamin **0:1**
Seirawan – Lapshun **1:0**
E. Donaldson – J. Shahade **½:½**
Fishbein – De Firmian **1:0**
Stripunsky – Browne **1:0**
Yermolinsky – Lein **1:0**
Paschall – Finegold **½:½**

Round 5th Standings:
1–2. Kaidanov, Shabalov – 4 points
3–12. Gulko, Seirawan, Benjamin, Stripunsky, Christiansen, Yermolinsky, Akobian, Nakamura, Fishbein, Muhammad – 3½
13–25. Finegold, Ivanov, Serper, Zaitshik, Kreiman, Gurevich, Foygel, Perelshteyn, Mulyar, Kraai, Paschall, Burnett, Sarkar – 3 etc.

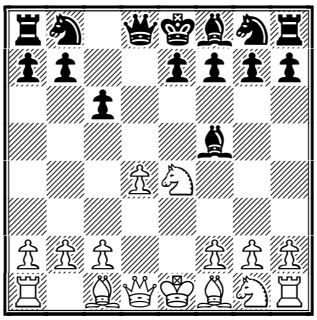
Darmen Sadvakasov won with White the 4th game of his match in Astana, Kazakhstan vs. Victor Korchnoi. So the score is 3:1 now in favour of much younger grandmaster.

♘♘♘

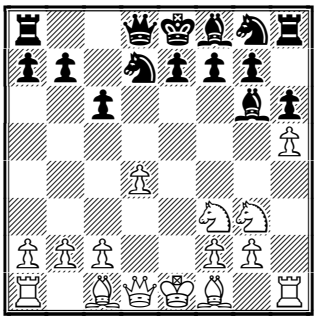
Annotated Game

□ **Kramnik**
■ **Bareev**
Event: *Corus Chess Tournament 2003*
Wijk aan Zee, 2003 – ***[B19]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3
The sharper 3.e5!? has almost become the main weapon vs. the Karo–Kann defence. But Kramnik chooses the more solid, classical continuation.
3...dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♗f5 (D)

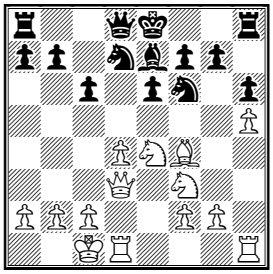


The main alternative is 4...♘d7.
5.♘g3 ♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘f3 ♘d7 8.h5 (D)



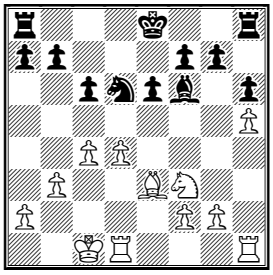
Is this move useful for White or is it better to keep the pawn on h4? There was a lot of debate about it 30–40 years ago. As I know the more popular plan now is h4–h5.
8...♗h7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♕xd3

♘gf6 11.♗f4 e6 12.0-0-0 ♗e7 13.♘e4 (D)



Vladimir Kramnik isn't afraid of exchanges. He likes to realize (and is able to do it!) even the smallest positional advantage.

13...♘xe4 14.♕xe4 ♘f6 15.♕d3 ♕d5 16.c4 ♕e4 17.♕xe4 ♘xe4 18.♗e3 ♘d6 19.b3 ♗f6 (D)



What can we say about this endgame? White has a bit more space, Black hasn't any pawn weaknesses. Draw?

20.g4

Not at all.

20...b5!?

Bareev tries to find counter-play on the queen side. In general, b7-b5 is a typical move with such pawn structure - Black would like to receive d5-square for his knight.

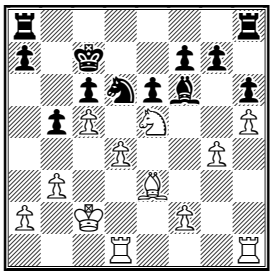
21.♘d2 ♔d7 22.♔c2 ♗d8?!

A tactical inaccuracy, which is exploited by White immediately. Interesting was 22...a5

23.♘f3! ♗f6

23...bxc4 24.♘e5+ ♔c7 25.bxc4.

24.♘e5+ ♔c7 25.c5! (D)

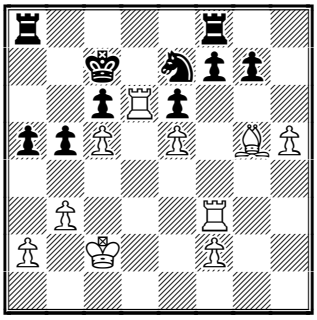


A well calculated and evaluated move! Yes, the knight on d5 could be even stronger than Bishop e3, but Black has to spend a lot of tempi to place his knight onto this central outpost. And White gains time to exploit his space advantage and begin an offensive on the king side.

25...♗xe5 26.dxe5 ♘c8 27.♖h3! ♘e7 28.♖f3 ♖hf8 29.♖d6 a5

29...♘c8 30.♖d4 ♘e7 31.♖df4.

30.g5 hxg5 31.♗xg5(D)



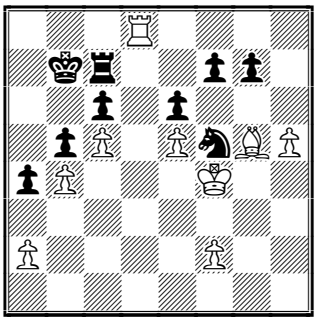
31...♘f5

The knight must go here. [After 31...♘d5 32.h6 White will win the f7-pawn very soon.

32.♖d1 a4 33.b4 ♔c8 34.♖fd3 ♖a7 35.♖d8+ ♖xd8 36.♖xd8+ ♔b7 37.♔c3 ♔a6 38.♔d3 ♖c7 39.♔e4 ♔b7 40.♖d1 ♔c8 41.♖d8+ ♔b7 42.♔f4 ♖c8 43.♖d7+ ♖c7 44.♖d3

Of course no player would exchange their active piece.

44...♔c8 45.♖d8+ ♔b7 (D)



46.♗f6!

The final blow!

46...g6

In case of 46...gxf6 47.exf6 h5 - pawn, after Kf4-g5 has to bring home the victory.

47.hxg6 fxg6 48.♔g5

A very nice technical victory by Vladimir Kramnik! **1-0.**

Solutions to Quiz Today:
Stellwagen – Koneru
Corus Chess Tournament 2003 Wijk aan Zee, 2003
51.♕d7+ ♔g6 52.♖xf6+! gxf6 53.♖g8+ 1–0.

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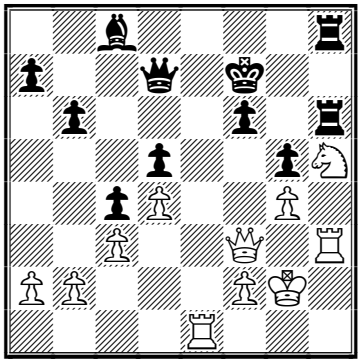
CT-16(800) 16th January 2003

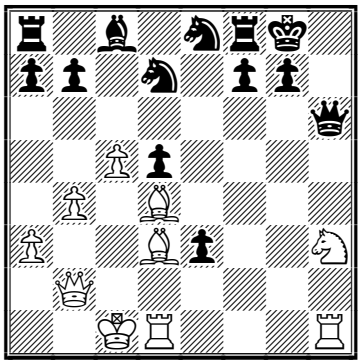
Quiz Today

Stripunsky (2554) – Browne (2484)



White to play

Serper (2556) – Ippolito (2378)
ch-USA Seattle USA (5), 13.01.2003



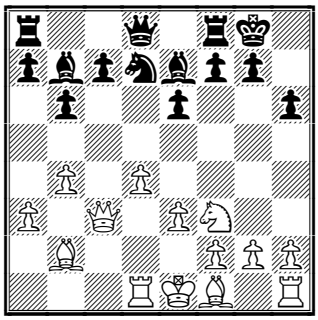
White to play

Wijk aan Zee, Round 4

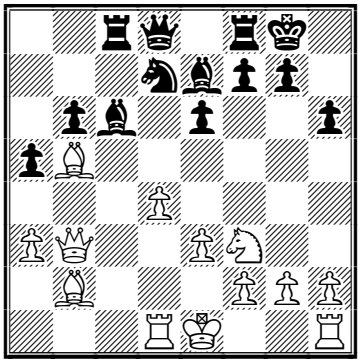
www.coruschess.com
*by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for Chess Today; notes to games by GM Alex Baburin*

Judith Polgar was the heroine of the 4th round in the WAZ festival, scoring her first classical chess victory ever against ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov. Her 12...a5 move seems to be new.

Karpov – Polgar
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.a3 ♗b7 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♕c2 ♘xc3 8.♕xc3 h6 9.e3 ♘d7 10.b4 ♗e7 11.♗b2 0-0 12.♖d1 *(D)*



12...a5
"I played it because I didn't want to be tortured again by Anatoly. If I had to lose, at least to have the game my way...".
13.b5 ♖c8 14.♕b3 c6 15.bxc6 ♗xc6 16.♗b5? *(D)*
Karpov's 16.♗b5 seems a severe blunder totally ignoring the fine blow 16... ♗b4+!, after which Black got the upper hand and never looked back. The game was awarded with the daily public prize.

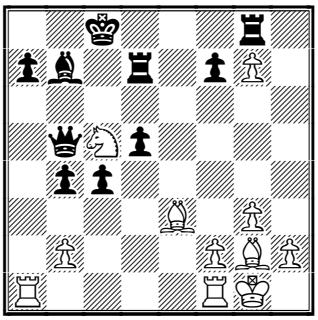


16...♗b4+! 17.axb4 ♗xb5 18.bxa5 ♗c4 19.♕a3 bxa5 20.♕d6 ♗b5 21.d5 ♖c2 22.♖d2 ♕c8 23.♕a3 ♖xd2 24.♔xd2 ♘b6 25.♕c3 ♘c4+ 26.♔c2 e5 27.♔b1 ♕g4 28.♖c1 ♖b8 29.♖c2 f6 30.d6 ♕xg2 31.♘d2 ♕h1+ 32.♔a2 ♘xd6 33.♕c5 ♖c8 0-1

Another upset for White was witnessed in the Ponomariov-Shirov game with a well-known queen sacrifice in the Botvinnik variation of the Slav, first introduced against Shirov himself by Ivanchuk on the very same podium in 1996.

Ponomariov – Shirov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♘bd7 11.g3 ♗b7 12.♗g2 ♕b6 13.exf6 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5 15.d5 b4 16.♘a4 ♕b5 17.a3 exd5 18.axb4 cxb4 19.♗e3 ♘c5 20.♕g4+ ♖d7 21.♕g7 ♗xg7 22.fxg7 ♖g8 23.♘xc5 *(D)*

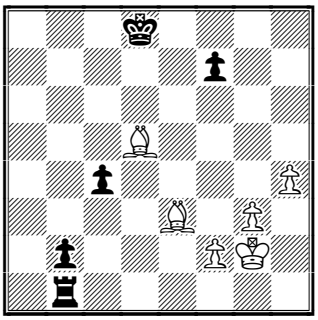


This time Shirov sacked back his own queen at the right moment and easily won with his already advanced pawns on the queenside.

23...♖xg7N

23...d4 24.♗xb7+ ♖xb7 25.♘xb7 ♕b6 26.♗xd4 ♕xd4 27.♖fd1 ♕xb2 28.♘d6+ ♔b8 29.♖db1 ♕xg7 30.♖xb4+ ♔c7 31.♖a6 ♖b8 32.♖xa7+ ♔xd6 33.♖xb8 ♕g4 34.♖d8+ ♔c6 35.♖a1 1–0 Ivanchuk–Shirov, Wijk aan Zee 1996.

24.♘xd7 ♕xd7 25.♖xa7 ♖g6 26.♖fa1 ♖e6 27.♗d4 ♖e2 28.h4 ♖d2 29.♗e3 ♖xb2 30.♖1a5 b3 31.♖c5+ ♔d8 32.♖xb7 ♕xb7 33.♖xd5+ ♕xd5 34.♗xd5 ♖b1+ 35.♔g2 b2 *(D)*

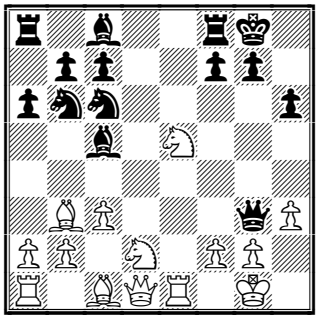


36.♗e4 ♖d1 37.♗g5+ ♔e8 38.♗f6 b1♕ 39.♗xb1 ♖xb1 40.h5 ♔f8 41.g4 ♖d1 42.♗b2 ♔g8 0-1

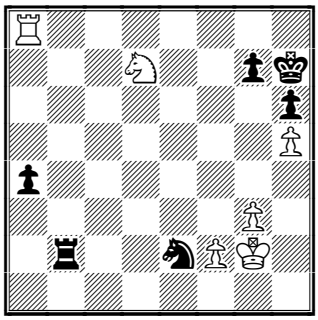
The honour of White in this round was eventually redeemed by World Champion Vladimir Kramnik, who seems to be enjoying his new romance with 1.e4 openings immensely. Yesterday he obtained an edge with the bishop opening against Krasenkov and won a fine ending in a study-like manner starting with 69. h6! and ending with a rare mate net after 7 hours play.

Kramnik – Krasenkow

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 a6 6.♗b3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 ♘xd5 9.h3 ♘b6 10.♖e1 h6 11.♘bd2 ♕xd3 12.♘xe5 ♕g3

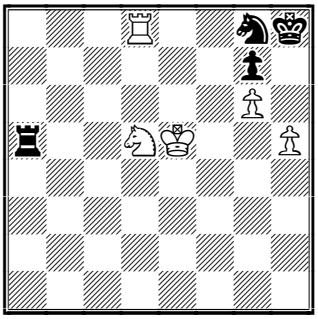


13.♕f3 ♕xf3 14.♘dxf3 ♘e7 15.♘d3 ♗d6 16.♗f4 ♘g6 17.♗xd6 cxd6 18.♖e4 a5 19.♖d4 ♖d8 20.♖d1 d5 21.♘c5 ♘e7 22.a4 ♖e8 23.♖4d2 ♘d7 24.♘xd7 ♗xd7 25.c4 dxc4 26.♖xd7 cxb3 27.♖xb7 ♖ab8 28.♖dd7 ♘c6 29.♖xf7 ♖xb7 30.♖xb7 ♖e4 31.♖xb3 ♖xa4 32.♖b6 ♖c4 33.g3 a4 34.h4 ♘d4 35.♘e5 ♖c5 36.♖b8+ ♔h7 37.♘d7 ♖b5 38.♖a8 ♘e2+ 39.♔g2 ♖xb2 40.h5! *(D)*



40...♘c3 41.♘e5 ♖b5 42.f4 ♘e4 43.g4 ♘f6 44.♘g6 ♘g8 45.♘f8+ ♔h8 46.♘g6+ ♔h7 47.♔f3 ♖b3+ 48.♔e4 a3 49.♘f8+ ♔h8 50.♘g6+ ♔h7 51.g5 hxg5 52.fxg5 ♖b4+ 53.♔f5 ♖b5+ 54.♔g4 ♖b4+ 55.♔f5 ♖b5+ 56.♔g4 ♖b4+ 57.♘f4 a2 58.♖xa2 ♘e7 59.♖a8 ♘g8 60.♖a7

♔h8 61.♖a8 ♔h7 62.♖f8 ♔h8 63.♔f3 ♖b3+ 64.♔e4 ♖b4+ 65.♔e5 ♖b5+ 66.♘d5 ♖a5 67.♖d8 ♔h7 68.g6+ ♔h8 ***(D)***



69.h6! ♖a7

If 69...gxh6, then 70.♖d7!, winning.

70.♘e3

After 70.h7? ♖e7+ Black's rook becomes a ***desperado***: 71.♔d6 ♖e6+!=. **70...gxh6 71.♘f5 ♖a5+ 72.♔f4 ♖a4+ 73.♔f3 ♖a3+ 74.♔g4 ♖a4+ 75.♔h5 ♖a7 76.♖f8 ♖b7 77.♔h4**

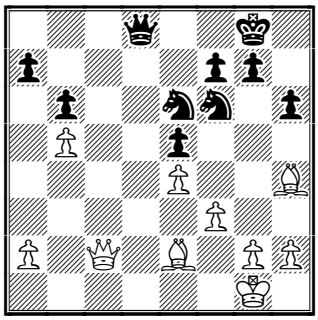
Also good was 77.♖f7! ♖xf7 78.gxf7 ♘f6+ 79.♔g6 ♘d7 80.♔xh6 ♘f8 81.♘h4. **77...♖b4+ 78.♔g3 ♖b6 79.♘e7 ♔g7 80.♖f7+ 1-0**

After a single defeat in the third round Jan Timman was back again on the draw track, this time against Vishy Anand. According to Anand he could either follow the theoretical line up to the inevitable draw or risk a worsening of his position.

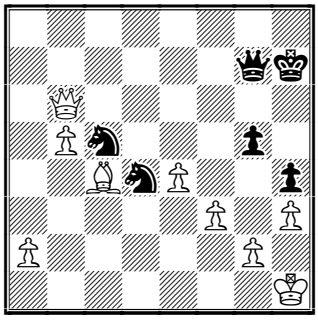
The game Bareev-Topalov saw an interesting duel between a pair of bishops and a pair of knights with queens. White sacked a bishop to collect a few pawns, but Topalov responded with a nice counter knight sacrifice to secure a draw by perpetual check.

Bareev – Topalov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 d5 5.cxd5 ♕xd5 6.e3 c5 7.♗d2 ♗xc3 8.bxc3 b6 9.♘f3 ♘bd7 10.c4 ♕d6 11.♗e2 ♗b7 12.♖d1 ♖c8 13.0-0 ♕c7 14.dxc5 ♘xc5 15.♘d4 0-0 16.f3 ♖fd8 17.♗e1 ♕e7 18.♗h4 ♗c6 19.♘b5 h6 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.e4 ♗xb5 22.cxb5 e5 23.♖d1 ♘e6 24.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 ***(D)***



25.♕c1 ♕d6 26.♗f2 ♘d7 27.♗c4 ♘d4 28.h3 ♘c5 29.♔h2 g5 30.♕a3 ♕d7 31.♗g3 ♕e7 32.♕b4 h5 33.♔h1 ♕f6 34.♕a3 ♔g7 35.♕xa7 h4 36.♗xe5 ♕xe5 37.♕xf7+ ♔h6 38.♕f8+ ♕g7 39.♕d6+ ♔h7 40.♕xb6 ***(D)***



40...♘xf3 41.gxf3 ♕a1+ 42.♔g2 ♕b2+ 43.♔f1 ♕c1+ 44.♔f2 ½-½

Dutchman Loek van Wely scored a fourth draw in a row, this time a hard fought one (80 moves) against young Tejmour Radjabov.

In group B Dutch Junior Champion Daniel Stellwagen proved he can beat a man too by beating his countryman Jonkman. In one of the sharpest encounters of the round Peter Acs scored his first victory over the Nestor of the group, John van der Wiel. The young ladies derby between Kostenjuk and Koneru ended in a draw, while German hope Arkadi Naiditsch scored a fine victory over Sergei Karjakin. Chinese GM Zhong is leading the field after beating Swede Jonny Hector.

Results of the 4th Round:
Bareev – Topalov **½:½**
van Wely – Radjabov **½:½**
Timman – Anand **½:½**
Karpov – Polgar **0:1**

Ivanchuk – Grischuk **½:½**
Ponomariov – Shirov **0:1**
Kramnik – Krasenkow **1:0**

Round 4 Standings:
1. Polgar – 3 points
2–5. Kramnik, Anand, Shirov, Bareev – 2½
6–10. Van Wely, Ivanchuk, Grischuk, Topalov, Karpov – 2
11–12. Timman, Ponomariov – 1½
13–14. Radjabov, Krasenkow – 1

Pairing for the 5th Round:
Krasenkow – Bareev
Shirov – Kramnik
Grischuk – Ponomariov
Polgar – Ivanchuk
Anand – Karpov
Radjabov – Timman
Topalov – van Wely

Tournament 'B'.
Results of the 4th Round:
Hector – Zhong **0:1**
Koneru – Kosteniuk **½:½**
Jonkman – Stellwagen **0:1**
Naiditsch – Karjakin **1:0**
Acs – van der Wiel **1:0**
de Vreugt – Rogers **½:½**
Nijboer – Cmilyte **1:0**

Round 4 Standings:
1. Zhong – 3½ points
2–4. Naiditsch, Nijboer, Stellwagen – 3
5–6. De Vreugt, Rogers – 2½
7. Karjakin – 2
8–11. Hector, Van der Wiel, Koneru, Acs – 1½
12–13. Jonkman, Kosteniuk – 1
14. Cmilyte – ½

Pairing for the 5th Round:
Cmilyte – Hector
Rogers – Nijboer
van der Wiel – de Vreugt
Karjakin – Acs
Stellwagen – Naiditsch
Kosteniuk – Jonkman
Zhong – Koneru

♦ There was a rest day after the 5th Round of the USA Championships. So it's a suitable time to read a new report by **John Henderson** from Seattle.

ROUND FIVE

Morphy's Law

As in many countries the championship title gradually evolved through time. Whilst many in the world would immediately identify with legends of the game such as the great Paul Morphy or perhaps George Mackenzie (a Scottish mercenary who became a Captain fighting for the North during the Civil War), they, along with little known first champion Charles Stanley, only became US Champions by "popular acclaim" – hailed as such by virtue of their playing strength in matches and tournaments of that particular era. In the days before such official titles were organised to be fought over, they rightly were acclaimed champions one and all in the record books: Stanley 1845–57; Morphy 1857–71, and MacKenzie 1871–90. For the purists however, the first official champion was actually the 'Kentucky Lion' Jackson Showalter (who also has another claim to fame as being reputedly accredited with the invention of the curve ball in baseball) who won the title in 1890. For nearly half a century thereafter, the US title was decided by a match between the two top players in the country – another legend Frank Marshall being the last incumbent to reign in such a way, who held the title from 1905 through to 1936. This all changed in 1936 when the national title became an invitational affair between the top players in the country – dominated in the process (and in order) by three players: Sammy Reshevsky, who won the first of his six titles in 1936 (his last in 1969!); Bobby Fischer, who broke all the records for the championship; and the redoubtable Walter Browne, a competitor in this year's championship, with six titles to his name. The new-styled Open format of the championship created by the America's Foundation for Chess has breathed new life – and money – into an ailing tournament; one which unbelievably was all but cancelled by the USCF until the intervention at the

eleventh hour of the then Seattle Chess Foundation in 2000. This new format created by the AF4C has added an extra dynamism and prestige to the championship as the elite field of the US's finest battle it out for a world record prize fund for a national title of $253,000, with $25,000 slotted to the winner. And, as the competition hots up for this year's title, the race is well and truly open as the championship reaches its metaphoric midway point of the rest day. A tough top-board encounter between the leaders Gregory Kaidanov, looking for his first title, and former champion Alexander Shabalov ended after a 31-move draw. This left the door open for a number of former champions to play 'catch-up' with some decisive play. First to join the chasing pack was local hero and four-time title winner Yasser Seirawan, who wasted no time in dispatching Yury Lapshun as the 'Greek Gift' of Bxh7+ won the day with a brisk 24 move win. Next up was two-time winner Joel Benjamin, whose timely exchange on c3 against Eugene Perelshteyn led to a positionally won game. Another two-time winner Alex "The Yerminator" Yermolinsky gradually ground down tournament veteran Anatoly Lein (a sprightly 71) in a long ending. Draws between former champion (both US and USSR) Boris Gulko and 2002 Samford Fellowship recipient Varuzhan Akobian, and defending champion Larry Christiansen and US Junior champion Hikaru Nakamura, kept not only two top juniors in the hunt for a dream first title and their final GM norms, but also another two seasoned champions. In a round with many spectacular games, that will no doubt feature in the list of best game prizes, check out, apart from Seirawan-Lapshun and Perelshteyn-Benjamin, Stripunsky's win over six-time champion Walter Browne with a beautiful combination, and Serper's stunning 24 Rh8+!! over Ippolito - all likely candidates for the Paul Albert Jnr. $1,000 Brilliancy Prize. It's Murphy's law I suppose (the principle that if anything can go wrong, it will), but with no clear runaway leader the logjam now at the top, especially with the addition of more ex champions and a couple of hungry young wannabes to the chasing pack, means that this year the title could yet again be decided by a nerve-wracking playoff, which will be slotted in for Sunday the 19th if needed.

♦ The 5th game of match in Astana, Kazakhstan Victor Korchnoi vs. Darmen Sadvakasov was drawn. So the score is 3½:1½ in Sadvakasov's favour. There will be 3 more games there.

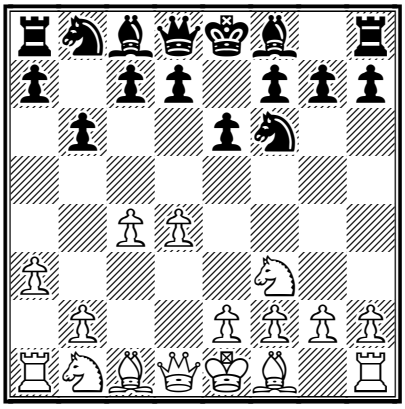
Annotated Game

☐ **A Karpov (2688)**
■ **J Polgar (2700)**
Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (4), 15.01.2003 - E12

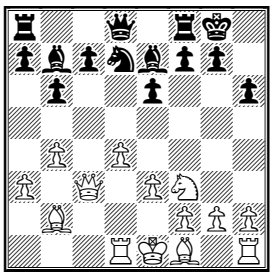
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

A Karpov (2688) - J Polgar (2700) E12

GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (4), 15.01.2003
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.a3



The Petrosian system of the Queen's Indian. Just recall that in the 1st Round of Wijk, Karpov played this line with Black vs. Krasenkow.
4...♗b7 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♕c2 ♘xc3 8.♕xc3
Krasenkov had preferred 8.bxc3
8...h6 9.e3 ♘d7 10.b4 ♗e7 11.♗b2 0-0 12.♖d1

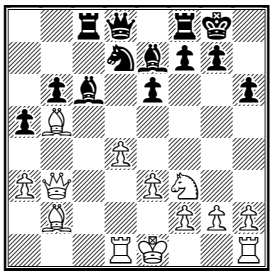


A prophylactic vs. possible 12...c5 13.dxc5 Bf6 and exchange on c5 with equalisation.

12...a5!?

This is a new and interesting idea. Black is ahead in development and therefore she tries to open a file ("a" or "c") for her rook. Karpov vs. Krasenkow did the same: he began complications as soon as possible.

13.b5 ♖c8 14.♕b3 c6 15.bxc6 ♗xc6 16.♗b5?

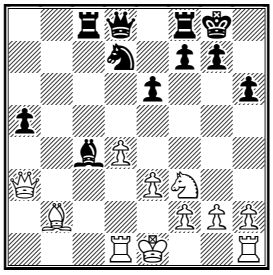


What a silly mistake! After, for example, 16.♗e2!? Black still has to fight for equality.

16...♗b4+!

Simple, but nice. White's king has to stay in the centre now.

17.axb4 ♗xb5 18.bxa5 ♗c4 19.♕a3 bxa5



20.♕d6?!

Karpov begins to play rather riskily. Maybe better was the quieter 20.♘d2!? ♗b5 21.f3!? preparing Kf2 and Rhe1.

20...♗b5

A prophylactic against the move 21.Ne5, exchanging Queens.

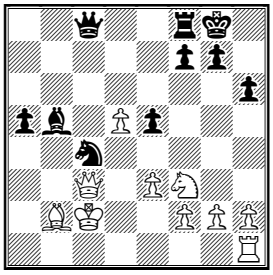
21.d5!?

This was the point of White's idea, but Black has a strong reply.

21...♖c2! 22.♖d2 ♕c8 23.♕a3

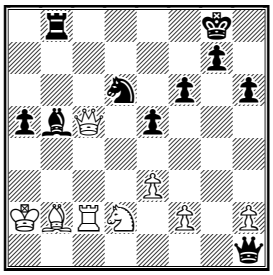
23.dxe6 ♖xb2!

23...♖xd2 24.♔xd2 ♘b6! 25.♕c3 ♘c4+ 26.♔c2 e5



Pity the king on c2! He dreams of finding a quiet corner like h1...

27.♔b1 ♕g4 28.♖c1 ♖b8 29.♖c2 f6 30.d6 ♕xg2 31.♘d2 ♕h1+ 32.♔a2 ♘xd6 33.♕c5



Final blunder after which Black wins immediately:

33...♖c8

Black wins the rook, so White resigned. **0-1**

Solution to Quiz Today: ONE: 34.♘xf6! ♖xh3 34...♖xf6 35.♖xh8 ♖xf3 36.♖h7+ ♔f8 37.♖xd7+- **35.♘xd7+ ♖xf3 36.♘e5+ ♔g7 37.♔xf3± ♖h3+ 38.♔g2 ♖h4 39.♖h1! ♖xh1 40.♔xh1 ♔f6 41.♔g2+- 1-0 TWO: 23.♘g5! ♕xg5 24.♖h8+!!** 24.♖h8+ ♔xh8 25.♕h2+ ♔g8 *(25...♕h6 26.♕xh6+)* 26.♕h7# **1-0**

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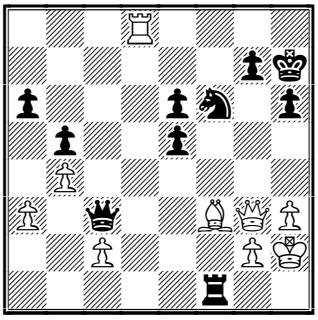
CT-17(801) 17th January 2003

Quiz Today

Mulyar (2446) - Serper (2556)
ch-USA Seattle USA (6), 15.01.2003



White to play

Please Mr Postman

In CT-799 Vladimir Barsky wrote: "A day hasn't gone by recently without an open letter or at least a press release ☺"

I may add he was ***so*** right that it is no longer ☺! FIDE have now published a press release in which they explain their view on the actual situation with the match Ponomariov – Kasparov. You may read the full (and very lengthy) text of this on TWIC or www.fide.com You may visit also chess-sector.odessa.ua/crisis.htm to know Mikhail Golubev's alternative point of view.

Below are the key paragraphs of the FIDE press release.

Following several discussions with Mr. Silvio Danailov it became clear that World Champion Ponomariov was making **four demands**:

1.The postponement of the match from May till after the 15th of June 2003.
2.Splitting of the prize fund on a 50-50 basis.
3.That his World Championship match with G. Kasparov should be played with the new FIDE time control.
4.That he should be allowed to retain the title in the event of a draw.

FIDE's reaction to these requests :

1.The President, in consultation with the World Championship Committee, approved Mr. Ponomariov's request for the dates to be postponed until after 15 June 2003.

2.On the idea to split the prize money 50-50, a compromise was found to further reduce the 60-40 ratio in the regulations to 55-45 between winner and loser, while still maintaining the sporting principles that the winner should earn more for his efforts.

3. In consultations with the manager of the World Champion, members of the World Championship Committee had asked if the issue of time control was of utmost importance and were informed that Ponomariov's camp would prefer the new FIDE time control. While preferring the new time control, for which it had received criticisms in the media and from many leading Grandmasters and Federations, FIDE nevertheless decided to support the request for the old classical time control because this was one of the main points of discussion in the Prague Agreement.

4.It has always been clear since the introduction of the new World Championship Regulations including the regulations under which Mr. Ponomariov became World Champion that FIDE has always insisted as a matter of principle, that the World Champion should not enjoy any special sporting privileges. Indeed, he was required as a rule, to play with other top players from the early rounds and there was no provision whatsoever for him to retain his title in the event of a tie, hence the introduction of the tiebreak system.

♦ January 17 is Maya Chiburdanidze's birthday. Maya is five times Women's World Champion. She first won the title in 1978 at 17 years of age by defeating Nona Gaprindashvili. To the present day Maya is still one of the best female players of the world. The cbv-file contains four of Chiburdanidze's games. Just enjoy it.

Our congratulations, Maya!

♦ Wijk aan Zee

Round 5 results: Shirov – Kramnik 1:0 Anand – Karpov 1:0 Grischuk – Ponomariov ½:½ Topalov – Van Wely 0:1 Radjabov – Timman 1:0 Polgar – Ivanchuk ½:½ Krasenkow – Bareev ½:½

Round 5 standings:
1-3. Shirov, Anand, Polgar – 3½ 4-5. Bareev, Van Wely– 3 6-8. Grischuk, Ivanchuk, Kramnik – 2½ 9-12. Ponomariov, Topalov, Karpov, Radjabov – 2 13-14. Krasenkow, Timman – 1½

Wijk aan Zee B
Round 5 results: Zhang Zhong – Koneru 1:0 Stellwagen – Naiditsch 1:0 Rogers – Nijboer ½:½ Karjakin – Acs ½:½ Kosteniuk – Jonkman 0:1 Van der Wiel – De Vreught ½:½ Cmilyte – Hector 0:1

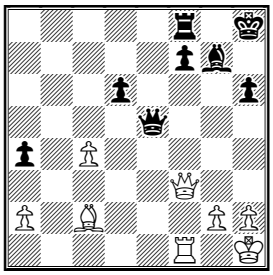
Round 5 standings:
1. Zhang Zhong – 4½ 2. Stellwagen – 4 3. Nijboer – 3½ 4-6. Rogers, De Vreught, Naiditsch – 3 7-8. Karjakin, Hector – 2½ 9-11. Jonkman, Van der Wiel, Acs – 2 12. Koneru – 1½ 13. Kosteniuk – 1 14. Cmilyte – ½

Wijk aan Zee, Round 5

*by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for Chess Today; notes to games by **GM Alex Baburin***

Bloody battles and some terrible blunders were again dominating the fifth round of the A group of the Corus festival in Wijk aan Zee. The winner of the public 'best game' prize was again Alexei Shirov, who upset world champion Vladimir Kramnik for the second time! It seemed that Kramnik, as Black, got the upper hand in a typically sharp Sicilian Sveshnikov battle. However, a couple of inaccuracies from Kramnik in a severe time pressure enabled Shirov to win a pawn and to advance his own passed pawn up to the unstoppable promotion.

Shirov – Kramnik [B33]
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♘d5 f5 11.♗d3 ♗e6 12.0-0 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♘e7 14.c3 ♗g7 15.♕h5 e4 16.♗c2 0-0 17.♖ae1 ♕c8 18.♗b3 a5 19.♕g5 ♕b7 20.f3 h6 21.♕g3 a4 22.♗c2 b4 23.♘c4 ♕xd5 24.fxe4 ♕xc4 25.exf5 ♘d5 26.f6 ♘xf6 27.♖xf6 ♖ae8 28.♖ef1 ♖e2 29.♗d3 ♕c5+ 30.♔h1 ♖e3 31.♖6f3 ♖xf3 32.♕xf3 bxc3 33.bxc3 ♕e5 34.c4 ♔h8 35.♗c2! *(D)*

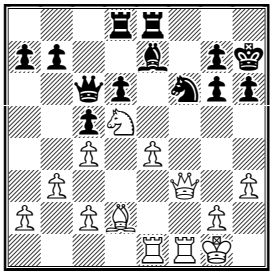


White is clearly better for he has a safer king (and thus a stronger bishop!) and few pawn targets to attack.
35...♕a5 36.♕d3 f5 37.♕xd6 ♕c3 38.♗d3 ♕d2 39.c5 ♕xa2 40.c6 ♖g8 41.♕g6 ♖f8 42.c7 ♕g8 43.♕c6 ♖c8 44.♗a6 1-0

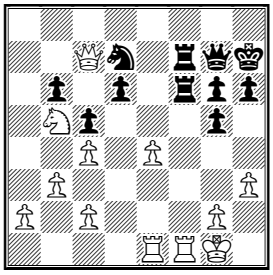
Dutch champion Loek van Wely had some unpleasant experiences in previous editions of the event. This time he seems to take business more seriously (avoiding crazy blitz matches in the press room, for instance) and that definitely shows in the score table. After 4 successive draws he scored yesterday his first victory –

playing Black against Veselin Topalov. The Bulgarian picked up a couple of deserted pawns on the queenside and losing all sense of danger he completely ignored a simple mating attack of his opponent.

Topalov – Van Wely [B30]
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♗c4 ♗e7 5.d3 d6 6.0–0 ♘f6 7.♘g5 0–0 8.f4 exf4 9.♗xf4 ♘a5 10.♕d2 ♘xc4 11.dxc4 ♗g4 12.♘f3 ♖e8 13.♕f2 ♕b6 14.b3 ♗h5 15.♖ae1 ♕c6 16.h3 ♖ad8 17.♘h4 ♗g6 18.♘xg6 fxg6 19.♕f3 h6 20.♘d5 ♔h7 21.♗d2 *(D)*



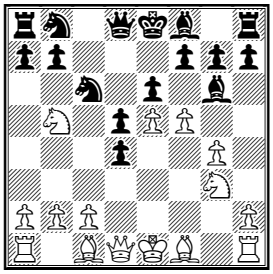
White's chances look better.
21...♕d7 22.♘f4 g5 23.♘e2 ♖f8 24.♕d3 g6 25.♘c3 ♕e6 26.♘d5 ♘d7 27.♘c7 ♕g8 28.♗c3 ♗f6 29.♗xf6 ♖xf6 30.♕d5 b6 31.♕b7
This is at least tempting! If White can take pawns on the queenside and bring the queen back to protect his king, he will be winning. But this is a big 'if'!
31...♕g7 32.♕xa7 ♖df8 33.♘b5 ♖8f7 34.♕c7 *(D)*



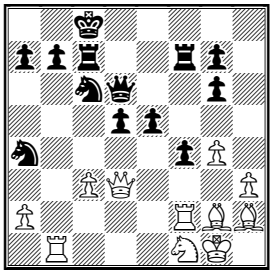
34...g4! 35.hxg4 ♘e5 36.♕xb6 ♘xg4–+ 37.e5 ♖xf1+ 0–1
It is a forced checkmate after 38.♖xf1 ♖xf1+ 39.♔xf1 ♕f7+ 40.♔e2 ♕f2+ 41.♔d1 *(41.♔d3 ♕e3#)* 41...♘e3+ 42.♔c1 ♕xc2#.

Ex-world champion Anatoly Karpov suffered a second defeat in a row (when did this last happen?), this time at the hands of Anand. In the Advance Variation (3.e5) of his beloved Caro-Kann Defence Karpov sacrificed a piece for 3 central pawns. However, later he lost one of them and Anand managed to handle the resulting complications and to score an important point.

Anand – Karpov [B12]
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘c3 e6 5.g4 ♗g6 6.♘ge2 ♘e7 7.f4 c5
7...♘a6 8.♘g3 ♘b4 9.f5 exf5 10.a3 f4 11.axb4 fxg3 12.hxg3 ♘c8 13.b5∞ as in E. Berg – T. Hansen, Bergen 2001.
8.♘g3 cxd4N
8...c4? 9.♗h3 ♕d7 10.0–0± Lloret Fillol – Arbouche, 1994.
9.♘b5 ♘ec6 10.f5 *(D)*



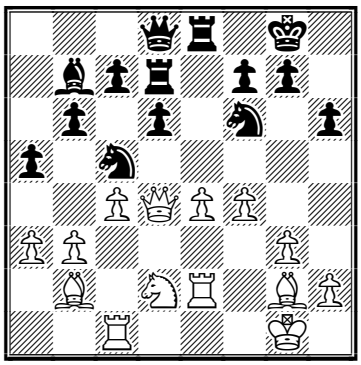
The g6-bishop is lost, but Black gets a few pawns for it.
10...♗c5 11.♘d6+ ♗xd6 12.exd6 ♕xd6 13.♗g2 f6 14.fxg6 hxg6 15.0–0 ♘d7 16.♖f2 0–0–0 17.c3 dxc3 18.bxc3 ♘b6 19.♘f1 ♖d7 20.h3 f5 21.♖b1 ♖f8 22.♕b3 ♖ff7 23.♕c2 ♖c7 24.♕d3 ♘a4 25.♗f4 e5 26.♗h2 f4 *(D)*



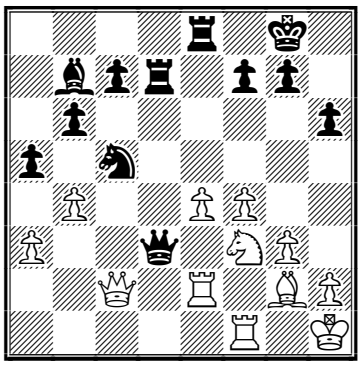
27.♕xd5 ♕xd5 28.♗xd5 ♖fe7 29.c4 ♘d4 30.♘d2 ♘c3 31.♖e1 b5 32.♘e4 ♘xe4 33.♖xe4 g5 34.cxb5 ♘xb5 35.♖e1 ♘c3 36.♗b3 a5 37.♔f1 a4 38.♗c2 ♔b7 39.♗f5 a3 40.♖c2 ♖c6 41.♗g1 ♖c4 42.♗f2 e4 43.♖ec1 ♖ec7 44.♗e1 1–0

A painful defeat was also the fate of Dutch veteran Jan Timman who played very well and was about to win an important central pawn when all of a sudden he was tempted to a terrible oversight (35...Nxb4??) losing a whole piece and the whole point to young Radjabov.

Radjabov – Timman [E15]
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♗a6 5.♘bd2 ♗b4 6.♕c2 ♗b7 7.♗g2 ♗e4 8.♕d1 0-0 9.0-0 ♗xd2 10.♕xd2 d6 11.b3 ♘bd7 12.♗b2 ♕e7 13.♖ac1 ♖fe8 14.♖fe1 h6 15.♕c3 a5 16.♗h3 ♗b7 17.♘d2 e5 18.e4 exd4 19.♕xd4 ♘c5 20.f4 ♖ad8 21.♗g2 ♖d7 22.a3 ♕d8 23.♖e2 *(D)*



23...d5! 24.cxd5 ♗xd5 25.♕c3 ♗b7 26.♕c2 ♘d3 27.♗xf6 ♕xf6 28.♖f1 ♕d4+ 29.♔h1 ♘c5 30.♘f3 ♕d3 31.b4 *(D)*

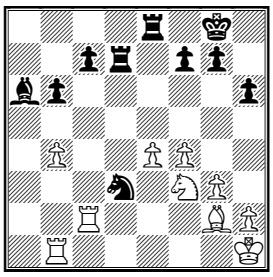


Black completely outplayed his young opponent – the e-pawn is doomed.

31...♗a6

There was nothing wrong with 31...♕xc2! 32.♖xc2 ♗xe4–+.

32.♖fe1 ♕xc2 33.♖xc2 ♘d3 34.♖b1 axb4 35.axb4 *(D)*



35...♘xb4??

Unbelievable! Timman again rejects the e4-pawn and instead blunders a piece... Still good was 35...♖xe4!.

36.♖xb4 ♖d1+ 37.♘g1

Could it be possible that Timman did not see this retreat? **37...c5 38.♖xb6 ♗d3 39.♖c3 ♖a8 40.♗f3 ♖d2 41.♖xd3 ♖xd3 42.e5 ♖ad8 43.♔g2 ♔f8 44.♖c6 ♖c3 45.♘e2 ♖c4 46.♔f2 ♖b8 47.♗d5 ♖c2 48.♗e4 ♖c4 49.♗d3 ♖a4 50.♖xc5 ♖d8 51.♗c4 ♖a7 52.♔e3 ♖a3+ 53.♔e4 ♖d7 54.♖c8+ 1-0**

After two successive wins, over Timman and Karpov, Judith slowed down yesterday to maintain her lead. Ivanchuk chose the rare 2...a6 in the open Sicilian and created a hedgehog-like set-up which suited Judith's peaceful mood and draw was agreed after 18 moves. Krasenkov and Bareev got in a sharp line of the Slav, but after a series of mutual tactical blows found themselves in a completely equal bishop vs. knight ending which left them no better option than sharing the point. The game Grischuk – Ponomariov witnessed once again the fashionable Berlin Wall line in the Ruy-Lopez. White sacrificed a pawn for initiative but that proved good enough for a draw by repetition.

The highlight of the round in the B group was the fourth victory of Dutch Junior Champion Daniel Stellwagen. This time he won over young German GM Arkadi Naiditsch with a thematic bishop sacrifice to nail the black king in the centre. Harmen Jonkman recovered from his poor start on the account of Russian model Alexandra Kostenjuk. Tomorrow is the second day-off in Wijk aan Zee. The 6th round will be played on January, 18.

♦ USA Championships

The games of the leaders on the first 3 boards were quick draws. It allowed Alex Fishbein to join Kaidanov and Shabalov. Fishbein defeated the defending champion Larry Christiansen in a tough 86-move battle. See the best game of the round in the cbv-file.

Round 6 results:
Kaidanov – Seirawan ½:½ Gulko – Shabalov ½:½ Benjamin – Akobian ½:½ Nakamura – Stripunsky ½:½ Browne – Baginskaite 1:0 Christiansen – Fishbein 0:1 Muhammad – Yermolinsky ½:½ Finegold – Foygel 0:1 Ivanov – Perelshteyn 1:0 Mulyar – Serper 1:0 Kudrin – E. Donaldson 1:0 Kraai – Zaichik ½:½ Ippolito – Battsetseg 0:1 Kreiman – Paschall 1:0 Krush – J. Donaldson 0:1 Watson – Goldin 0:1 J. Shahade – Kaufman ½:½ Gurevich – Burnett ½:½ Hahn – Bennett 0:1 Fedorowicz – Enhbat 1:0 De Firmian – Sarkar ½:½ Lein – Ashley ½:½ Lapshun – Pixton ½:½ G. Shahade – Kriventsov 1:0 Epstein – Pruess ½:½ Ross – Markzon ½:½ Tsai – Shiber 0:1 Levina – Sagalchik 0:1 Groberman – Esserman 1:0

Round 6 standings:
1-3. Kaidanov, Shabalov, Fishbein –4½ 4-15. Gulko, Seirawan, Benjamin, Stripunsky, Yermolinsky, Akobian, Ivanov, Nakamura, Kreiman, Foygel, Mulyar, Muhammad – 4 16-25. Goldin, Christiansen, Fedorowicz, Zaitshik, Browne, Gurevich, Kraai, G. Shahade, Burnett, Sarkar – 3½ 26-36. De Firmian, Finegold, Serper, Kudrin, Lapshun, Perelshteyn, Paschall, Pixton, J. Donaldson, Lein, Battsetseg – 3 37-44. Ashley, Enhbat, Kriventsov, Kaufman, Baginskaite, Watson, J. Shahade; Bennett – 2½ 45-55. Ippolito, E. Donaldson; Krush, Pruess, Markzon, Hahn, Epstein, Sagalchik, Ross, Groberman, Shiber – 2 56-57. Tsai, Levina – 1 58. Esserman – ½

Whilst all the players took a rest after 5 rounds, **John Henderson** kept on working.

"**No such thing as a rest day...**

A popular misconception has it that on the rest day the backroom staff and the players in big tournaments have a "rest". Maybe in other events, but this isn't the case in the US Championships. While there are no games played as the tournament reaches its midway point, there is however a lot of chess work to be done - and for the good of the game in the community.

The mission statement of the AF4C is "to invest in the education of our children and to bring chess into our cultural fabric." So, in order to compete in the US Championships that has a record-prize fund of $253,000, all the players have to sign a contract with the AF4C that has within it a provision for them to "give back" two days of their time within one-year of signing to promote chess. Mostly the players spend this time in Seattle by playing simuls or visits to schools in the Washington area where we have scholastic chess programs. Sometimes we even ask the players to do something similar a lot nearer to home if we deem it a worthy cause, though in general most of this community work is done in and around Seattle during their free time.

In between Christmas and New Year, we called on the services of WGM Elena Donaldson and her husband, IM Georgi Orlov, to take part in a Living Chess Battle held at the Seattle Center, with the redoubtable Seattle Knights (www.seattleknights.com), a professional mediaeval combat troupe, playing the part of the chess pieces on a giant-sized board. This was a Living Chess Match with a difference, though. When a piece was taken in the game, they then had to do battle on the stage with real weapons!

The whole day proved to be big success - especially with the kids. Not only did Elena and Georgi play two games (Georgi winning 1½-½), but in-between the breaks we recreated the chess scene from the first Harry

Potter film (which incidentally was composed for the Hollywood blockbuster by our commentator, IM Jeremy Silman.) and had three kids selected from the audience to play the parts of Harry, Hermione and Ron. A fun day out that helped both to promote chess in the community at large and the forthcoming US Championships.

We also call on some of the top players to do some special media work for the AF4C during this time. On the rest day I had the task of getting defending women's champion Jenn Shahade out of bed before 8.00am accompany her as she was the "special guest" on the "Bob Rivers and Twisted Radio" morning show at Seattle classic rock radio station KZOK (102.5 FM). From the billing on the KZOK website we knew it wasn't going to be easy: "Jennifer Shahade (rhymes with "hottie"), defending U.S. women's chess champion, competing in the U.S. Chess Championships this week in Seattle."

On arrival, however, the radio hosts were amazed that Jennifer was a chess player, let alone a women's champion. Assorted jokes about whether or not she undid a few buttons on her blouse before playing against men were about as intellectual as their conversation got, and our feisty defending champion took it with good humor despite the early hour.

The main activity of the day, though, was a giant simultaneous organized at the Seattle Center as 25 of the players each taking on rows of 20 K-12 students (over 300 kids). This included a bus load of students from Seattle area low-income schools such as Bailey-Gatzert Elementary, a participant of the AF4C classroom chess program. The kids loved it! They got to play some of the top stars in the game like Maurice Ashley, Boris Gulko, Yasser Seirawan and Walter Browne. More importantly, the player's loved it as they felt they were doing a worthy job of taking chess to the community".

John B Henderson *jbh@af4c.org*

♦ The 6th game of the Korchnoi – Sadvakasov match in Astana ended in a draw.
Sadvakasov leads 4:2.

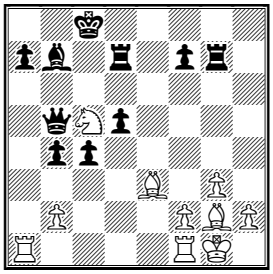
♦ GM Eduard Rozentalis of Lithuania has become a sole winner of the Gausdal Troll Masters Open Tournament (10 rounds Swiss system).
Final standings:
1. Rozentalis – 8
2. Miezis – 7½
3-6. Hanley, Ovsejevitsch, Lugovoi, Carlsen – 7
7. Shumiakina – 6½, etc.
12 years-old FM Magnus Carlsen made IM-norm.

Readers Letter

With GM Alex Baburin

Yesterday we received the following message from one of our readers, concerning the following game:

Ponomariov (2734) - Shirov (2723)
[D44] GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (4), 15.01.2003
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♘bd7 11.g3 ♗b7 12.♗g2 ♕b6 13.exf6 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5 15.d5 b4 16.♘a4 ♕b5 17.a3 exd5 18.axb4 cxb4 19.♗e3 ♘c5 20.♕g4+ ♖d7 21.♕g7 ♗xg7 22.fxg7 ♖g8 23.♘xc5 ♖xg7 ***(D)***



24.♘xd7 ♕xd7 25.♖xa7 ♖g6 26.♖fa1 ♖e6 27.♗d4 ♖e2 28.h4 ♖d2 29.♗e3 ♖xb2 30.♖1a5 b3 31.♖c5+ ♔d8 32.♖xb7 ♕xb7 33.♖xd5+ ♕xd5 34.♗xd5 ♖b1+

35.♔g2 b2 36.♗e4 ♖d1 37.♗g5+ ♔e8 38.♗f6 b1♕ 39.♗xb1 ♖xb1 40.h5 ♔f8 41.g4 ♖d1 42.♗b2 ♔g8 0-1

"Hello, guys!

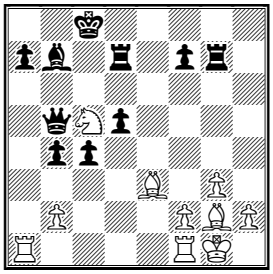
I suspect you have already heard this, but 23...Rxg7 was first suggested by Sadler in his book on the Semi-Slav, and then by Pedersen in his book on the Botvinnik variation (with credit to Sadler). Both authors suggest 24.Bd4 as the best move for White.

23...Rg7 shows up in two games in my database. In both White played 24.Bh3 and went on to lose. 24.Bd4 has yet to be tried. Too bad Ponomariov didn't know this, as it would be interesting to see what Shirov would play against it. Anyway, 24.Nd7 is the "N".

Best regards, Don Aldrich"

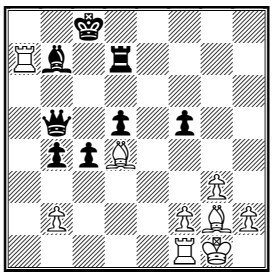
There is a tendency to think that top GMs know everything, while in fact sometimes they are also caught unprepared. However, I suspect that Ponomariov knew this line – perhaps he just had a different opinion about the merits of 24.Bd4.

Let's look at the position after **23...Rxg7:**



White to play

24.♗d4! (Sadler) **24...f5 25.♘xd7!?** *25.♗h3 ♖gf7 26.♖xa7 ♖c7 27.♘e6 ♖ce7 28.♘g5 ♕e8 29.♘xf7 ♕xf7 30.♖fa1 ♕h5 31.♗g2 f4 32.♖7a5 f3 33.♗f1* and he Black should have played 33...Re4! in the game B.Lalic-Wilson, London 1996, as IM Pedersen mentions in his book.
25...♖xd7 26.♖xa7



Here, according to GM Mathew Sadler, it is easier to play for White. I guess we will see more games played by this variation in the near future – then it should be possible to make a clearer opinion about 24.Bd4.

You can read some more about this line at the Ukrainian Chess Online site. There GM Golubev shows a game where White went 21.Nc5!? instead of the queen sacrifice. In our today's database you can also find a game where White tried 24.Bh3. That game was annotated by GM Ruslan Scherbakov and published at the Chess Publishing site a few months ago.

If you are keen to learn more about the ultra sharp Botvinnik Variation, consider getting a book 'The Botvinnik Semi-Slav' by IM Steffen Pedersen (Gambit 2000, 24.50 euros, available at the GM Square online shop).

Annotated Game

□ **A Shirov (2723)**
■ **V Kramnik (2807)**
Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (5), 16.01.2003 - B33

Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5
The Sveshnikov Variation served Kramnik loyally for many years before the Berlin Wall era.
6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♘d5 f5 11.♗d3 ♗e6 12.0-0 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♘e7
Black has obtained mobile pawns in the centre and in conjunction with the white knight's bad location it compensates him for the spoiled pawn

structure.

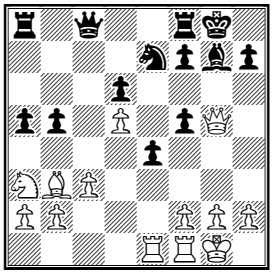
14.c3 ♗g7 15.♕h5 e4 16.♗c2 0-0 17.♖ae1 ♕c8 18.♗b3

Just a few years ago 18.♔h1 had been considered as the main continuation. Last year in Dortmund Leko demonstrated an important improvement - 18...♖b8 and won two critical games against Shirov and Topalov. Then in the rapid match in Mainz Ponomariov against Anand applied successfully the text move.

18...a5

Anand played 18...♘g6 which let White activate the knight - 19.♘c2 ♖e8 20.f4! exf3 21.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 22.♕xf3 f4 23.♖e1 ♕d7 24.♘b4! a5 25.♘c6 with better position.

19.♕g5



In case of 19.♘xb5 a4 20.♗d1 (worse is *20.♗c2 ♕c5* and White should play *21.♘a3)* 20...♕c5 21.♗e2 ♘xd5 Black has sufficient counterplay as 22.♕xf5?! is met by 22...♘xc3! 23.♕xc5 ♘xe2+ 24.♖xe2 dxc5

19...♕b7

A new move. After 19...♘g6 20.♘xb5 a4 21.♗d1 ♕c5

A)

22.♘d4 ♗xd4 23.cxd4 ♕xd4 and here 24.♕xf5 is worth considering (instead of *24.h4* Werle,J-Nunn,J/Hamburg GER 2003/0-1 (44)*)*;

B)

22.c4!? 22...♕xc4 23.♘xd6 ♕xa2 24.♖e2 ♕xd5 25.♘xf5 ♖a5 26.g4 a double-edged position arose in Bruzon - Handke, Oropesa del Mar 1999

20.f3 h6 21.♕g3

Keeping an eye on Black's bishop. Less precise is 21.♕f4 (keeping an eye on the f5-pawn :-) 21...a4 22.♗c2 b4 23.cxb4 *(23.♘c4* works only with the queen on g3 - see the game*)* 23...♕xb4 and the white knight doesn't feel at ease.

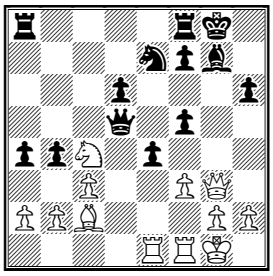
21...a4

After 21...♘xd5 22.fxe4 fxe4 23.♖f5 White has an advantage thanks to the opponent's weak pawns b5, d6, e4.

22.♗c2 b4 23.♘c4

White had a choice between the text move and 23.cxb4 ♘xd5 24.fxe4 f4 25.♕h4 ♘xb4 *(25...♘e3? 26.♖xf4)* 26.♗b1 ±

23...♕xd5



23...bxc3 24.fxe4 fxe4 *(24...cxb2? 25.exf5)* 25.bxc3 f5 26.♘e3 favours White though the defensive resources are not exhausted ; 23...b3 24.axb3 axb3 25.♗b1 didn't change much

24.fxe4!

That's Shirov's idea!

24...♕xc4 25.exf5

It's impossible for Black to retain the piece.

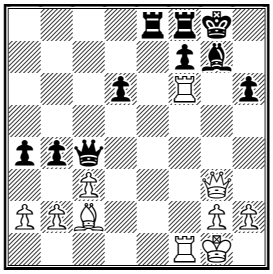
25...♘d5

Too risky is 25...♘xf5 26.♖xf5 ♕xa2 27.♖f4 and after Qd3 White has a dangerous attack.

26.f6 ♘xf6 27.♖xf6 ♖ae8

An instructive moment. Kramnik defends in such a way that all his pieces are involved.

28.♖ef1



28...♖e2?!

A pseudo-active move which only allows White to improve the position of his bishop. Better was 28...bxc3 29.bxc3 *(29.♖xh6 ♕d4+ 30.♔h1 ♕e3* with perpetual*)* 29...♕c5+ 30.♔h1 ♖e3 31.♖6f3 ♕c4!

29.♗d3 ♕c5+ 30.♔h1 ♖e3

After 30...♖xb2 31.♖xh6 the black King would hardly escape.

31.♖6f3 ♖xf3 32.♕xf3 bxc3 33.bxc3 ♕e5

33...♕xc3? loses to 34.♕f5; after 33...♗xc3 34.♕e4 f5 35.♕xa4 White combines the advance of the passed a-pawn with the threats to the enemy king.

34.c4 ♔h8?! 35.♗c2 ♕a5?

A decisive mistake. Right was 35...♕e6 36.♕d3 ♕g6 trying to reach the ending with the opposite colour bishops.

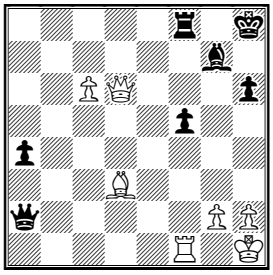
36.♕d3

White wins the important d6-pawn obtaining the passed pawn. The game is over.

36...f5 37.♕xd6 ♕c3 38.♗d3 ♕d2 39.c5!

Nothing can stop it from promotion.

39...♕xa2 40.c6



40...♖g8

Setting the last trap.

41.♕g6!

41.c7?? ♕xg2+ 42.♔xg2 ♗e5+ 43.♔f3 ♗xd6 44.♖c1 ♖c8=

41...♖f8 42.c7 ♕g8 43.♕c6 ♖c8 44.♗a6 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today:

42.♖d7! 42.♗e4+?? ♘xe4 **42...♘g4+** 42...♘xd7 43.♗e4+; 42...♖h1+ 43.♔xh1 ♕a1+ 44.♖d1 **43.♕xg4** 43.♗xg4?? ♖h1+ **1-0**

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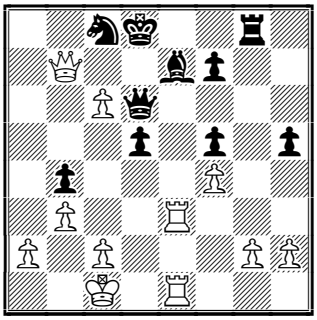
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-18(802) 18th January 2003

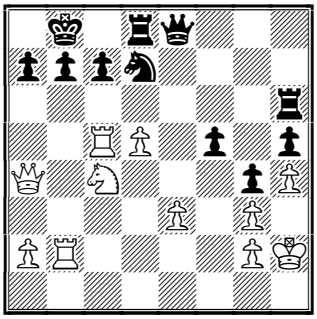
Quiz Today

1) A. Khalifman – P. Svidler
Tilburg Tilburg (2), 1994



White to play

2) A. Khalifman – G. Serper
St Petersburg op2 St Petersburg (6), 1994



White to play

Chess News
by IM Maxim Notkin

Alexander Shabalov has taken sole lead at the USA Championships In the 7th round he outplayed Alex Fishbein in the Classical Kings Indian *(see Annotated game)*. All the other leader games ended in a draw. Alexander Goldin has achieved a good pace after a languid start and entered an abundant group that share third place. Gregory Kaidanov is clear second.

Round 7 results:
Shabalov – Fishbein 1:0
Stripunsky – Kaidanov ½:½
Ivanov – Gulko ½:½
Seirawan – Nakamura ½:½
Foygel – Benjamin ½:½
Akobian – Muhammad ½:½
Perelshteyn – Battsetseg ½:½
Yermolinsky – Kreiman ½:½
Goldin – Mulyar 1:0
Gurevich – Christiansen ½:½
Enhbat – Baginskaite 1:0
Fedorowicz – Kraai 1:0
Zaichik – G. Shahade 0:1
Sarkar – Browne ½:½
Kriventsov – J. Shahade 0:1
Burnett – Finegold ½:½
Paschall – De Firmian ½:½
Pixton – Serper 0:1
E. Donaldson – Epstein 1:0
Hahn – Ippolito ½:½
Lein – Lapshun ½:½
Ashley – Watson ½:½
J. Donaldson – Kudrin 1:0
Kaufman – Bennett 1:0
Sagalchik – Krush 0:1
Pruess – Ross 1:0
Markzon – Groberman 1:0
Shiber – Levina ½:½
Esserman – Tsai 1:0

Round 7 standings:
1. Shabalov – 5½
2. Kaidanov – 5

3–17. Goldin, Gulko, Seirawan, Benjamin, Stripunsky, Yermolinsky, Akobian, Ivanov, Nakamura, Fedorowicz, Kreiman, Fishbein, Foygel, G. Shahade, Muhammad – 4½
18–25. Christiansen, Serper, Browne, Gurevich, Mulyar, J. Donaldson, Burnett, Sarkar – 4
26–37. De Firmian, Finegold, Zaitshik, Lapshun, Perelshteyn, Kraai, Enkhbat, Paschall, Lein, Kaufman, J Shahade, Battsetseg – 3½
38–45. Kudrin, Ashley, Pixton, E. Donaldson, Krush, Watson, Pruess, Markzon – 3
46–51. Kriventsov, Ippolito, Baginskaite, Bennett, Hahn, Shiber – 2½
52–55. Epstein, Sagalchik, Ross, Groberman – 2
56–57. Esserman, Levina – 1½
58. Tsai – 1

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

The world's best grandmasters have their second day-off in Wijk aan Zee The 6th round will be played tomorrow.

Round 6 pairings:
Bareev – Van Wely
Karpov – Radjabov
Timman – Topalov
Ivanchuk – Anand
Ponomariov – Polgar
Kramnik – Grischuk
Krasenkow – Shirov

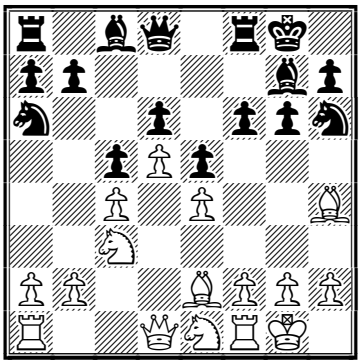
On January 18, 1966 the FIDE World Champion-1999 **Alexander Khalifman** was born. Today's cbv-file contains some of the most important and finest games of his career.

♘♘♘

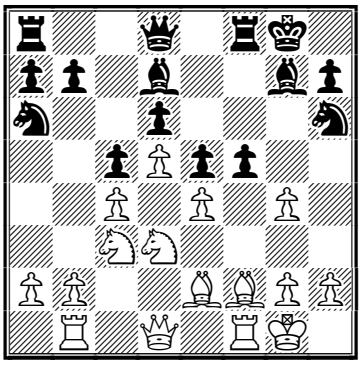
Annotated Game

□ **A. Shabalov (2613)**
■ **A. Fishbein (2489)**
Event: *ch-USA Seattle USA (7), 16.01.2003* **– *[E94]***
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 c6
The main line 7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.b4 is going through a crisis. The latest evidence was the Bareev - Radjabov game from Wijk aan Zee.; The text move leads to the same kind of positions as 7...Na6 ; and 7...Nbd7]
8.d5
White gains space in the centre. He isn't going to take on c6 right now, but Black should always remember about the d6-pawn while manoeuvring.
8...Na6
As a rule the opening of the c-file favours White.
9.Be3 Ng4
The typical 9...Nc5 in this position is dubious due to 10.dxc6 bxc6 *(10...Nfxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Qd5!)* 11.Nxe5 Nfxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe5 13.Nxc5 dxc5 14.Bxc5 and White wins a pawn.]
10.Bg5 f6 11.Bh4
Black has driven White's bishop away from its optimal square e3, but instead he has to think about the g4-knight's fate.
11...c5
The duo knight on a6 and pawn on c5 restrains White's activity on the queen's flank for a while. But this also has its drawbacks as the knight is quite passive. Of course, senseless is 11...Nc5 12.b4
12.Ne1 Nh6 (D)



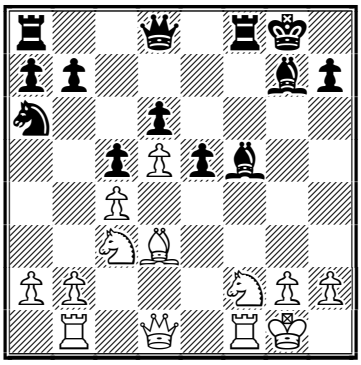
Another option is 12...h5 which was first put into practice by Topalov.
13.f3
White can make the moves a3, Nd3 and f3 in any order. Shabalov prepares the f2 square for the bishop first. Probably he had in mind the game Peng Zhaoqin - Fishbein from the recent 33rd NCC in Philadelphia. [Peng played 13.Nd3 g5 14.Bg3 f5 15.exf5 Bxf5 16.f3 Bg6 17.Bf2 Nf5 and Black obtained a good position though in the end Fishbein lost.
13...Bd7
Perhaps this is a waste of time. The bishop can do its job staying in its initial place.
14.Nd3 g5 15.Bf2 f5 16.Rb1
Shabalov isn't concerned with Black's preparations on the kingside and carries out his plans on the opposite flank.
16...g4?!
I believe better is 16...f4 although with the knight on h6 it's more difficult for Black to create an attack. On the other hand White's play on the queenside is also hampered. After 17.a3 Nf7 18.b4 b6 both sides have their chances.
17.fxg4 (D)



17...Nxg4?

A strategically mistake that gives White an almost winning position. In case of 17...fxg4 Black has some problems with the minor his pieces, but I can't call the position after 18.a3 (or *18.Qd2 Nf7 19.Be3 Qh4)* 18...Qg5 hopeless for him.

18.exf5 Nxf2 19.Nxf2! Bxf5 20.Bd3± (D)



White clutches at the key square e4 with all his might. He swaps the light-squared bishops, leaving his opponent with an extremely passive knight and bishop.

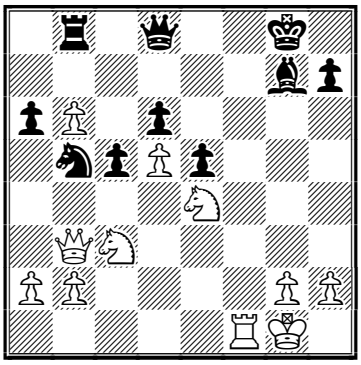
20...Nc7 21.Bxf5 Rxf5 22.Qb3

Connecting the rooks without losing a tempo.

22...Rb8 23.Nfe4 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 b5

It's too late for the Benko Gambit :-) If 24...Ne8 then 25.Qd1 and any square on the d1–h5 diagonal looks very attractive for White's queen. ; after 24...a6 both the "primitive" 25.a4 (and the "creative" *25.Qb6 Ne8 26.Qa7!?* retain a solid advantage.*)*

25.cxb5 a6 26.b6 Nb5 (D)



26...Ne8 27.Na4 and Black is unable to take the pawn back.

27.Nxb5 axb5

Maybe Fishbein counted on 27...Rxb6 but it fails to 28.Qh3 axb5 29.Ng5! and White checkmates or wins the queen - 29...h6 *(29...Qxg5 30.Qc8+)* 30.Qe6+ Kh8 31.Nf7+

28.Qh3+- h6 29.Qe6+ Kh7

After 29...Kh8 White has different ways to win e.g. 30.b7! Rxb7 31.Nxd6.

30.Rf7 Qh4 31.Qf5+ Kg8 32.g3 Qxe4

32...Qd8 33.Qg6 mating

33.Rxg7+

Even without this in-between capture White's position would have been completely winning.

33...Kxg7 34.Qxe4 Rxb6 1-0.

Solutions to Quiz Today:

1) A. Khalifman - P. Svidler

Tilburg Tilburg (2), 1994

31.Rxe7! Nxe7 32.Rxe7 [32.Rxe7 Qxe7 *(32...Qxf4+ 33.Kb1 Qf1+ 34.Kb2)* 33.Qb8#] **1-0.**

2) A. Khalifman - G. Serper

St Petersburg op2 St Petersburg (6), 1994

28.Rxb7+!! Kxb7 29.Rxc7+!! Kxc7 30.Qxa7+ Kc8 31.d6! [31.d6 Rxd6 32.Nxd6#] **1-0.**

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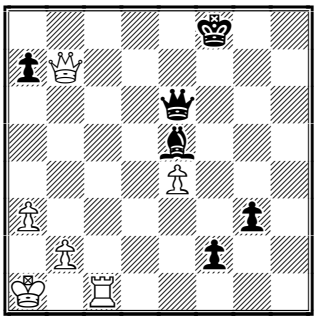
CT-18(802) 18th January 2003

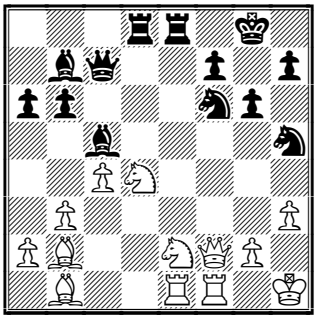
Quiz Today

1) J. Timman – V. Topalov
GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 18.01.2003



Black to play

2) B. Kreiman – A. Stripunsky
ch-USA Seattle USA (8), 17.01.2003



Black to play

6th round report of the Wijk aan Zee tournament

by IM Yochanan Afek

It is a typical crowded weekend in Wijk Aan Zee as hundreds of chess enthusiasts make it rather difficult even to have a glance at the podium (Dutch people are by far the tallest in Europe). After beating both current world champions Alexei Shirov was yesterday far from his usual form, handling the QGA rather poorly (13...Nd7?) and thus enabling, Polish (ex- Russian) Michael Krasenkov to score his first victory in the event as well as the public prize of the day.

Ponomariov – Polgar saw an interesting Nimzo-Indian line where the Fide world champion sacked a pawn for considerable initiative on the queenside. After further exchanges Pono's rook and knight seemed a promising pair but with a pawn behind it was good enough for just a draw.

Timman – Topalov witnessed a rather creative approach on Black's part pushing pawns ahead on the kingside and in the center. After the predictable exchange sacrifice on d4, Timman skilfully consolidated (38.Kb1! and 41.g3) and could draw several times by perpetual check. However since he has not had a single win so far he tried to win at all costs (51.Qh7+??) ignoring the finesse 53...Qc4! which consequently forced his resignation.

Bareev defended successfully against Van Wely 's aggressive Grunfeld when at move 40 he suddenly forgot to capture the c7 rook and consequently got a hopeless ending. Karpov

defended well an inferior pawn down ending against young Radjabov, sacrificing his knight for Teimor's remaining connected passed pawns. Teimor played for another long hour the resulting rook and bishop vs. rook ending but eventually was forced to a draw by the 50 move rule.

The short draws Kramnik – Grischuk (Nimzo-Indian) and Ivanchuk – Anand (Sicilian, 20) were not too exciting.

The story of the B group is the unstoppable charge of Chinese GM Zhong who dropped a mere half a point so far. Nevertheless the main attraction for the Dutch fans is still the local junior champion Daniel Stellwagen who needs just 1 point out of the next 3 rounds for his first GM norm.

This issue is prepared by IMs Barsky & Afek, Henderson; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

On Friday the traditional 10 player tournament has started in WAZ. The main group is actually a C GM event with Chinese junior GM Bu the top seeded .However he managed just to draw his first 2 games and the leaders ,with 2 wins each are German GM Eric Lobron and Dutch junior Erwin L'ami.

Results of the 6th Round:
Ivanchuk – Anand **½:½**
Kramnik – Grischuk **½:½**
Bareev – Van Wely **0:1**
Ponomariov – Polgar **½:½**
Krasenkow – Shirov **1:0**
Karpov – Radjabov **½:½**
Timman – Topalov **0:1**

Round 6 Standings:
1-3. Van Wely, Anand, Polgar – 4 points
4. Shirov – 3½
5-9. Ivanchuk, Kramnik, Grischuk, Bareev, Topalov – 3
10-13. Ponomariov, Krasenkow, Karpov, Radjabov – 2½
14. Timman – 1½

Pairing for the 7th Round:

Shirov – Bareev
Grischuk – Krasenkow
Polgar – Kramnik
Anand – Ponomariov
Radjabov – Ivanchuk
Topalov – Karpov
van Wely – Timman

Tournament "B".
Results of the 6th Round:
Nijboer – Van der Wiel **1:0**
Naiditsch – Kosteniuk **1:0**
De Vreugt – Karjakin **½:½**
Hector – Koneru **1:0**
Acs – Stellwagen **½:½**
Jonkman – Zhong **0:1**
Cmilyte – Rogers **½:½**

Round 6 Standings:
1. Zhong – 5½ points
2-3. Nijboer, Stellwagen – 4½
4. Naiditsch – 4
5-7. Rogers, De Vreugt, Hector – 3½
8. Karjakin – 3
9. Acs – 2½
10-11. Van der Wiel, Jonkman – 2
12. Koneru – 1½
13-14. Cmilyte, Kosteniuk – 1

Pairing for the 7th Round:
Rogers – Hector
van der Wiel – Cmilyte
Karjakin – Nijboer
Stellwagen – de Vreugt
Kosteniuk – Acs
Zhong – Naiditsch
Koneru – Jonkman

John Henderson reports from the USA Championships.

The race for the 2003 AF4C US Championships was blown wide open in the penultimate eighth round of the tournament taking place at the Northwest Rooms in Seattle, as overnight leader Alexander Shabalov lost to his bete noire Joel Benjamin, the player accredited with being the chess-brains behind the IBM super-computer Deep Blue. With the leader losing, a multiple eight-way tie has developed, with five former champions among the eight who'll be battling it out in the final round for the record first prize of $25,000. And, with

Boris Gulko (the only player in the world to have held both the US and USSR national titles) beating 15-year-old Hikaru Nakamura, the chances of Bobby Fischer's record of youngest player to win the title diminished also. If any players are still tied for the lead by the end of the final round on Saturday, they will have to come back to the arena on Sunday for a nerve-wracking playoff for both the title of US Champion and the first prize of $25,000.

In the race for the women's title, defending champion Jennifer Shahade made it two wins out of two against tough male opposition for a score of 4.5/9. She is now favourite to retain her title and first prize of $12,500. Going into the final round, she has a half point lead over former champion Irina Krush on 4/9.

About America's Foundation for Chess Founded in 2000, America's Foundation for Chess (formerly the

Seattle Chess Foundation) is committed to bringing chess into every U.S. classroom. By first making chess a larger part of America's cultural fabric – accessible in schools and in popular culture – AF4C hopes to elevate the profile of chess in America. To this end, AF4C is providing chess instruction materials and training to teachers, who have little or no chess background. In addition, by sponsoring high-level competitions such as the U.S. Chess Championships, AF4C is cultivating chess role models and a venue for chess excellence in America. By forging partnerships with schools and corporations, AF4C plans to make chess a part of every classroom experience.

Round 8 Results:
Benjamin – Shabalov **1:0**
Kaidanov – Goldin **½:½**
Gulko – Nakamura **1:0**
J. Shahade – Perelshteyn **1:0**
Battsetseg – Kraai **0:1**
Christiansen – Muhammad **1:0**
Seirawan – Fedorowicz **0:1**
Kreiman – Stripunsky **0:1**

Fishbein – Yermolinsky **½:½**
Akobian – Foygel **1:0**

Round 8 Standings:
1-8. Shabalov, Kaidanov, Gulko, Benjamin, Stripunsky, Akobian, Ivanov, Fedorowicz – 5 ½ points
9-15. Goldin, Yermolinsky, Fishbein, Christiansen, Gurevich, Burnett, Sarkar – 5 etc.

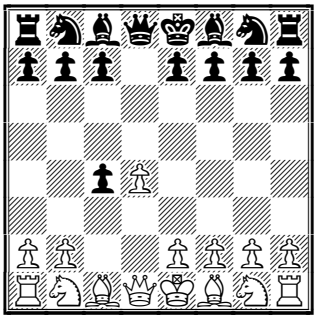
The 7th game of the match in Astana, Kazakhstan between GM Victor Korchnoi and Darmen Sadvakasov was drawn (Korchnoi had White). So the score is 4½:2½ in Sadvakasov's favour, Thus this 8-game match has been be won by Darmen. Our congratulations, Darmen!

♘♘♘

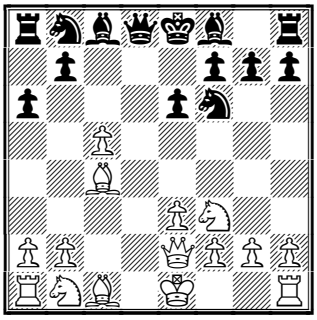
Annotated Game

□ **M. Krasenkow (2633)**
■ **A. Shirov (2723)**
Event: *GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 18.01.2003* – ***[D26]***
Annotations by IM Vladmir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 (D)

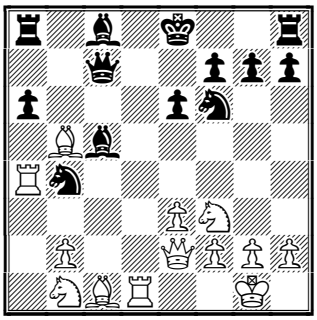


It's a big question for me, why such an aggressive player like Alexey Shirov likes to play Queen Gambit Accepted. Of course, Alexey plays endgame very well, but to my mind his strongest suit is calculation in extremely sharp situations.
3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.♕e2 a6 7.dxc5 (D)



The quiet line – White avoids the isolated pawn on d4.
7...♗xc5 8.0-0 b5?! 9.♗d3 ♘c6 10.♖d1 ♕c7 11.a4!
A logical move: White is ahead in development so he has to hurry with complications before Black has a chance to castle.
11...bxa4?!
After 11...b4 12.♘bd2 White receives the c4-square for his knight, but it looks like this wasn't very dangerous for Black..
12.♖xa4 ♘b4
Defending the a6-pawn.

13.♗b5+! (D)



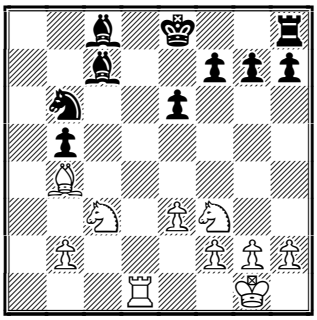
13...♘d7?

After 13...♗d7 14.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 15.♗d2 position also looks rather dangerous for Black but maybe he could defend: **A)** 15...♕b6!? 16.♗xb4 *(16.♗c3 ♘f6 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.♘c3)* 16...♗xb4 17.♖xd7!? ♔xd7 18.♘e5+ ♔e8 19.♕g4 *(19.♕f3 ♖a7)* 19...♖c8; **B)** 15...a5 16.♘a3 0–0 – White has an initiative, but no more.

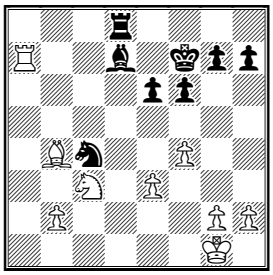
14.♗d2 ♖b8 15.♗xb4 ♖xb5 16.♕c2! ♘b6

16...♕b7 17.♗c3 f6 *(17...0–0 18.♘g5!+– g6 19.♘xh7 ♔xh7 20.♖h4+ ♔g8 21.♖h8#)* 18.♖h4↑

17.♖a5! ♗d6 18.♕xc7 ♗xc7 19.♖xb5 axb5 20.♘c3 (D)



The Black king on e8 is in the center still and b5–pawn is very weak – White has clear advantage now. **20...♗d7 21.♘d4 ♗e5 22.♘dxb5 f6 23.♘d6+ ♗xd6 24.♖xd6 ♘c4 25.♖a6 ♔f7 26.♖a7 ♖d8 27.f4 (D)**

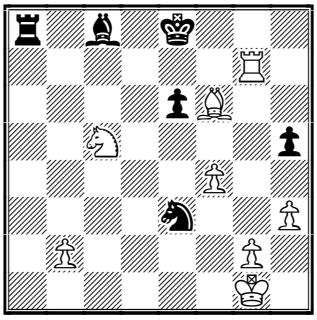


A human decision: White is afraid to miss the check and mate along the first rank.

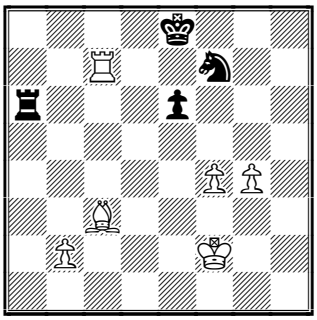
27...♔e8 28.♘e4 ♖b8 29.♗c3 ♘xe3?!

Maybe more stubborn was 29...♘b6!? for example: 30.♘d6+ ♔e7 31.♗b4 ♘c4 32.♘f5+?! *(32.♘b7+ ♔e8 33.♗c3±)* 32...♔d8 33.♗e7+ ♔e8 34.♗d6 ♖xb2 35.♘xg7+ ♔d8 36.♖a8+ ♗c8 37.♗c5±

30.♘c5 ♗c8 31.♖xg7+– h5 32.♗xf6 ♖a8 33.h3 (D)



33...♘f5 34.♖c7 ♖a1+ 35.♔f2 ♗a6 36.♘xa6 ♖xa6 37.g4 ♘d6 38.♗e5 hxg4 39.hxg4 ♘f7 40.♗c3 (D)



White has two extra pawns and his bishop is much stronger than the knight. Black hasn't any chances to draw. **1–0.**

Solutions to Quiz Today:

1) J. Timman – V. Topalov

GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (6), 18.01.2003

53...♕c4!! 54.♕a8+ [54.♖xc4 f1♕+ 55.♔a2 ♕xc4+] **54...♔e7 55.♕xa7+ ♗c7 0–1.**

2) B. Kreiman – A. Stripunsky

ch–USA Seattle USA (8), 17.01.2003

26...♖xe2! 27.♖xe2 ♘g3+ 28.♔g1 ♖xd4! 29.♖e3 ♘xf1 0–1.

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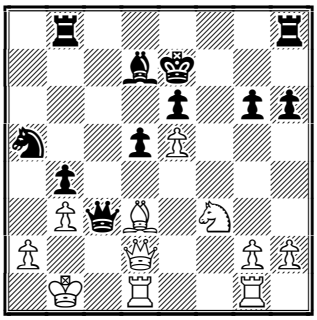
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-20(804) 20th January 2003

Quiz Today

1) S. Karjakin – F. Nijboer
GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 19.01.2003



White to play

GM Alexander Shabalov wins 2003 AF4C US Championship

by John Henderson

In a dramatic finale to the AF4C US Chess Championships in Seattle, No.6 seed Alexander Shabalov won the top prize of $25,000 and the 2003 national title after a nerve-wracking final round of play. With eight players tied for first on 5.5/8 going into the final round, a mass playoff for the title looked almost inevitable as six of the games ended in draws. However the playoff scenario for the overall title was avoided as Shabalov, regarding on the playing circuit as a chess *street fighter*, overcame a bad position against 18 year old Varuzhan Akobian to fittingly win the last game left to be played in the tournament hall. The win gives Shabalov his first outright US title. In 1993 he shared the title with Alexander Yermolinsky, and in 2000 he shared a three-way tie with Yasser Seirawan and Joel Benjamin. Shabalov, 35, from Pittsburgh, PA, was born in Riga, Latvia. As a youngster he was identified as a promising talent by winning the highly competitive Under 16 Championship of the Soviet Union in 1982. In 1988 he chose the career of being a professional player and became a grandmaster in 1991. Among his chess teachers were the late Mikhail Tal and Vladimir Bagirov. Because of political turmoil, Alex decided to move to America in 1992 and ended up in Pittsburgh where his wife obtained a medical residency.

AF4C US WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP GOES TO PLAYOFF
by John Henderson

Despite one playoff being avoided in the overall championships, the three leading women players have to come back tomorrow to contest a playoff for the title and the $12,500 first prize. In the final round, defending champion Jennifer Shahade lost to IM Ben Finegold to finish on a score of 4.5/9. This allowed the 1998 champion Irina Krush, who drew her last round game against IM Eugene Perelshteyn, to catch up with her rival. And, with Anna Hahn beating Elina Groberman, she will now also join the two top US ladies for a three-way playoff for the title.

Round 9 results:
Ivanov – Kaidanov ½:½
Stripunsky – Gulko ½:½
Fedorowicz – Benjamin ½:½
Shabalov – Akobian 1:0
Finegold – J. Shahade 1:0

Goldin – Fishbein 1:0
Burnett – Christiansen ½:½
Yermolinsky – Sarkar ½:½
Gurevich – Seirawan 0:1
Kraai – De Firmian 0:1
E. Donaldson – Ashley ½:½
Nakamura – G. Shahade 1:0
Foygel – Serper ½:½
J. Donaldson – Zaichik 0:1
Muhammad – Kreiman ½:½
Perelshteyn – Krush ½:½
Lein – Browne ½:½
Kaufman – Battsetseg 1:0
Epstein – Tsai ½:½
Mulyar – Kudrin ½:½

Paschall – Baginskaite 1:0
Pruess – Lapshun 0:1
Ippolito – Watson ½:½
Enkhbat – Markzon 1:0
Groberman – Hahn 0:1
Pixton – Kriventsov 1:0
Shiber – Sagalchik 1:0
Esserman – Bennett 1:0
Levina – Ross 0:1

Final standings:
1. Shabalov – 6½
2–8. Kaidanov, Goldin, Gulko, Benjamin, Stripunsky, Ivanov, Fedorowicz – 6
9–17. Seirawan, De Firmian, Christiansen, Yermolinsky, Akobian, Nakamura, Zaitshik, Burnett, Sarkar – 5½
18–24. Finegold, Serper, Kreiman, Fishbein, Gurevich, Foygel, Muhammad – 5
25–38. Kudrin, Lapshun, Browne, Mulyar, Kraai, G. Shahade, Enkhbat, Paschall, J. Donaldson, Lein, Kaufman, *Krush, J. Shahade, Hahn* – 4½
39–44. Ashley, Perelshteyn, Pixton, Ippolito, *E. Donaldson*, Watson – 4
45–49. *Baginskaite*, Pruess, Markzon, *Battsetseg*, Shiber – 3½
50–54. Kriventsov, Esserman, *Epstein, Ross, Groberman* – 3
55–56. Bennett, *Tsai* – 2½
57. *Sagalchik* – 2
58. *Levina* – 1½
Italics – female player
FM Stephen Muhammad scored his third and final IM norm.
FM Igor Foygel scored his third and final IM norm.
WIM Jennifer Shahade scored both her second IM and second WGM norm.

The final and 8th game of the Korchnoi – Sadvakasov match in Astana ended in a draw. Sadvakasov won 5:3. I think it's not out of place to remind that two years ago the similar match Korchnoi – Ponomariov ended in a draw 4:4.

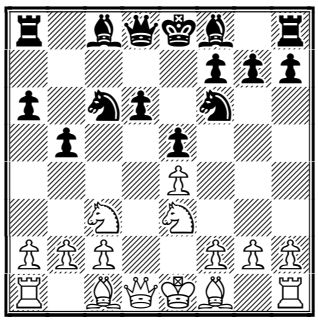
Tomorrow IM Nikolai Vlassov will comment on the main game of the US Championships final round – Shabalov – Akobian. Today's Annotated game features Alexei Shirov's aggressive style.

The Wijk aan Zee Report

(7th round)
*by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for* Chess Today*; notes to games by **GM Alex Baburin***

Vishy Anand played yesterday a dynamic pawn sacrifice line against Ponomariov. According to the Indian star no one before dared to pick up the pawn and indeed White rapidly enjoyed great piece play. Black should have avoided further opening of lines by giving away the extra pawn (11...b3) as after 12.♖**x**a3 White 's advantage was too hard to meet and soon earned him the exchange and with a little bit of prophylactic caution the entire game.

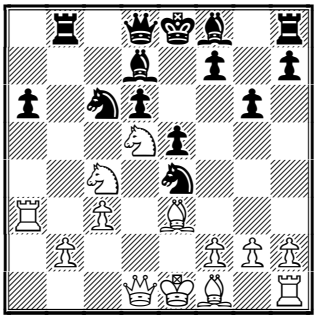
Anand – Ponomariov [B32]
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e5 5.♘b5 d6 6.♘1c3 a6 7.♘a3 ♘f6 8.♘c4 b5 9.♘e3 (D)



9...b4N

9...♗e6 10.a3 ♖c8 11.♗e2 ♘d4 12.0–0 ♗e7 13.f4 ♕b6 14.f5 ♘xe2+ 15.♘xe2 ♗c4 16.♔h1 ♘xe4 17.b3 ♗xe2 18.♕xe2 ♕c6 19.c4 bxc4 20.bxc4 h5 21.♗b2 ♗g5 22.♖f3 h4 ½–½ Alekhine–Galindo, Madrid 1941.

10.♘cd5 ♘xe4 11.a3 bxa3 12.♖xa3 g6 13.c3 ♗d7 14.♘c4 ♖b8 15.♗e3 (D)



15...f5 16.♗b6 ♖xb6 17.♘cxb6 ♗h6 18.♗d3 0–0 19.♗xe4 fxe4 20.0–0 ♗e6 21.♖xa6 ♕h4 22.♕e2 ♘d8 23.♖a8 ♔g7 24.g3 ♗g4 25.gxh4 ♗xe2 26.♖fa1 g5 27.♘d7 ♖f5 28.♖xd8 gxh4 29.♖g8+ ♔f7 30.♖a7 ♖f3 31.♘7f6+ ♔e6 32.♖e7+ ♔f5 33.♘g4 ♗d2 34.♘ge3+ 1–0

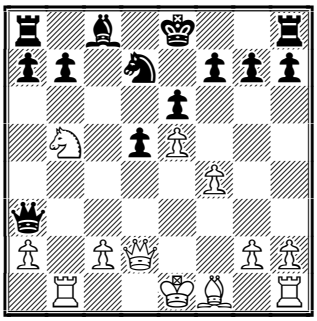
Shirov restored his good form on the account of last year winner Bareev, cracking his favourite French Defence by a double pawn sacrifice to obtain an overwhelming positional domination. Bareev tried to stop the avalanche by a counter pawn sacrifice, however 28.f5! was simply much too much to deal with.

Shirov – Bareev [C11]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♗e3 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗c5 9.♕d2 ♗xd4 10.♗xd4 ♘xd4 11.♕xd4 ♕b6 12.♕d2 ♕xb2

12...♘c5 13.0–0–0 ♗d7 14.♕d4 a6 15.h4 0–0–0 16.♖h3 ♗c6 17.♘e2 ♔b8 18.♖c3 ♘a4 19.♕xb6 ♘xb6 20.♘d4 ♗d7 21.b3± Kasparov–Timman, Horgen 1995.

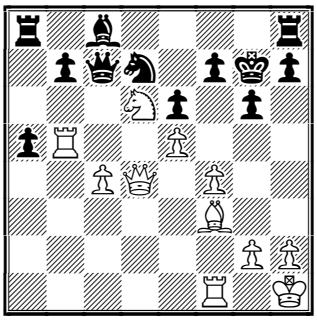
13.♖b1 ♕a3 14.♘b5 (D)



14...♕xa2N

14...♕c5 15.♘d6+ ♔e7 16.♖b5 ♕a3 17.c4 d4 18.♖b3 ♕c5 19.♘e4 ♕c6 20.♕b4+ ♔d8 21.♗d3 ♖f8 22.0–0 b6 23.♘d6 ♘c5 24.♗e4 ♘xe4 25.♘xe4 ♖g8 26.♘d6 ♕c5 27.♕a4 ♔c7 28.♖b5 ♕c6 29.c5→ P. Nielsen–Holst, Aars 1999.

15.♘d6+ ♔f8 16.♖d1 ♕b2 17.♗e2 ♕b6 18.c4 d4 19.♗f3 a5 20.0–0 d3+ 21.♔h1 ♕d4 22.♘b5 ♕c5 23.♕xd3 g6 24.♘d6 ♘b6 25.♖b1 ♔g7 26.♖b5 ♕c7 27.♕d4 ♘d7 (D)



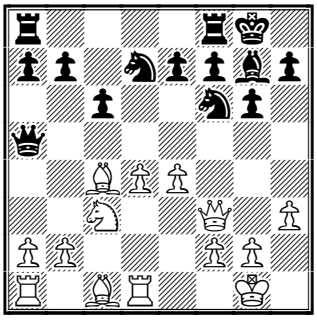
28.f5! gxf5 29.♘xf5+ exf5 30.e6+ ♘e5 31.♖xe5 f6 32.♖xf5 ♖f8 33.♗d5 ♕e7 34.♖h5 ♔h8 35.♗e4 ♗xe6 36.♖xh7+ ♕xh7 37.♗xh7 ♔xh7 38.♕e4+ 1–0.

Jan Timman has hard time trying to recover from a series of unlucky defeats. Yesterday he did not put too much resistance against his countryman Loek van Wely. The Slav Defence he chose came as some surprise for Loek, yet after the dubious 11...Qa5 (allowing 12.e4. Better was the immediate 12...e5) White got the upper hand rapidly in view of the misplaced queen and moreover the potential advance of his central pawns. Black's artificial efforts to block the pawn by a knight led eventually to the loss of the piece in the middle of the board, giving the Dutch champion

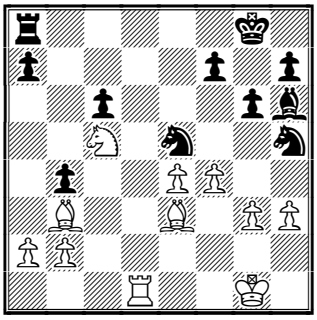
a third successive point, while Timman will try again to cut the misfortunate chain of three defeats in a row.

Van Wely – Timman [D11]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 g6 5.♗d3 ♗g7 6.0-0 0-0 7.♘c3 ♗g4 8.h3 ♗xf3 9.♕xf3 dxc4 10.♗xc4 ♘bd7 11.♖d1 ♕a5? 12.e4 (D)



12...b5 13.♗b3 e5 14.dxe5 ♘xe5 15.♕e2 b4 16.♘a4 ♕b5 17.♕c2 ♖fd8 18.♗e3 ♖d3 19.♖xd3 ♕xd3 20.♕xd3 ♘xd3 21.♖d1 ♘e5 22.f4 ♗h6 23.♘c5 ♘h5 24.g3 *(D)*



1-0.

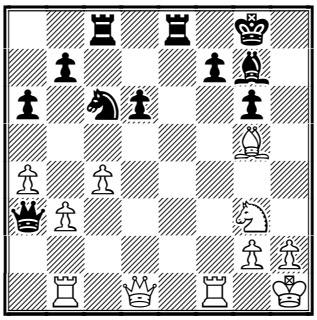
Grischuk-Krasenkov saw another main line of the Sicilian Sveshnikov with rather aggressive play by Black: 23...b4 seems premature as the resulting lines proved the opening to favour White. 36...♖c5 was the decisive mistake, while 36...♔f8 would have put much more stubborn resistance.

No dramatic events were seen in either in the short draw Radjabov-Ivanchuk (Slav, 22 moves) or in the much longer game Topalov-Karpov (Nimzo-Indian, 69 moves). Kramnik tried hard to win a rook and bishop ending each with a pawn up against Judith Polgar. He won even another pawn but, finding himself in an opposite colour bishops endings, he had nothing to fight for anymore and the point was eventually shared.

It seems that nobody can really stop the amazing run of the Chinese GM Zhong in the B group. In the 7th round he beat young German GM Naiditsch, in an exemplary kingside attack following the quiet 3.♗b5+ line in the Sicilian. 33.♖**x**f7! was not too difficult to calculate, yet the following positional exchange sacrifice was quite impressive.

Zhong – Naiditsch [B52]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♗b5+ ♗d7 4.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 5.c4 ♘c6 6.♘c3 ♘f6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 g6 9.f3 ♗g7 10.♘de2 0-0 11.0-0 ♖fc8 12.b3 a6 13.a4 ♕d8 14.♗e3 ♘d7 15.♖b1 ♕a5 16.♕d2 ♕b4 17.♖fd1 ♘c5 18.♕c2 ♕a5 19.♔h1 ♘d7 20.♕d2 ♕b4 21.♗g5 ♖e8 22.♗h4 ♖ac8 23.f4 ♘c5 24.♕c2 ♕a3 25.♖f1 e6 26.f5 ♘b4 27.♕d1 exf5 28.exf5 ♘e4 29.♘xe4 ♖xe4 30.♗g5 ♖ee8 31.♘g3 ♘c6 32.fxg6 hxg6 (D)



33.♖xf7! ♕c5 34.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 35.♕g4 ♘e5 36.♕h4 ♘f7 37.♗f6+ ♔g8 38.♕g4 ♔h7 39.♖f1 ♖c7 40.♕h4+ ♔g8 41.h3 ♕e3 42.♔h2 ♕h6 43.♕g4 ♘e5 44.♗xe5 dxe5 45.♘e4 ♖ee7 46.♘f6+ ♔h8 47.♘d5 ♖f7 48.♖e1 ♖c6 49.♖xe5 ♕f8 50.♕g3 ♕d6 51.c5 ♕f8 52.b4 ♔g7 53.♕c3 ♔g8 54.♕e3 ♔h7 55.♖e8 ♕g7 56.b5 1-0

Russian model Alexandra Kostenjuk scored her first victory over Hungarian

GM Peter Acs (135 moves!), while Karjakin beat Dutchman Nijboer in a typical opposite attacks play in the Sicilian. The 15 years-old Dutch Junior Champion Daniel Stellwagen made another step to his GM norm by drawing with countryman Dennis de Vreugt. After 3 rounds in the C group, German GM Eric Lobron and Dutch IM Ruud Janssen are sharing the lead with 2.5 points.

Round 7 results:
Anand – Ponomariov 1:0
Shirov – Bareev 1:0
Grischuk – Krasenkow 1:0
Van Wely – Timman 1:0
Polgar – Kramnik ½:½
Radjabov Ivanchuk ½:½
Topalov – Karpov ½:½

Round 7 standings:
1-2. Anand, Van Wely – 5
3-4. Shirov, Polgar – 4½
5. Grischuk – 4
6-8. Ivanchuk, Kramnik, Topalov – 3½
9-11. Bareev, Karpov, Radjabov – 3
12-13. Ponomariov, Krasenkow – 2½
14. Timman – 1½

Tournament B
Round 7 results:
Zhang Zhong – Naiditsch 1:0
Stellwagen – De Vreught ½:½
Rogers – Hector ½:½
Karjakin – Nijboer 1:0
Koneru – Jonkman 1:0
Van der Wiel – Cmilyte ½:½
Kosteniuk – Acs 1:0

Round 7 standings:
1. Zhang Zhong – 6½
2. Stellwagen – 5
3. Nijboer – 4½
4-8. Rogers, De Vreught, Naiditsch, Hector, Karjakin – 4
9-11. Van der Wiel, Koneru, Acs – 2½
12-13. Jonkman, Kosteniuk –2
14. Cmilyte – 1½

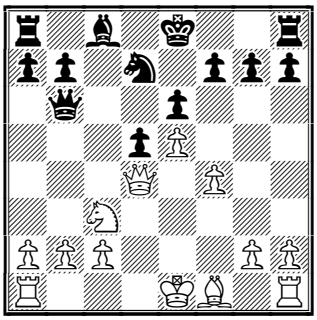
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

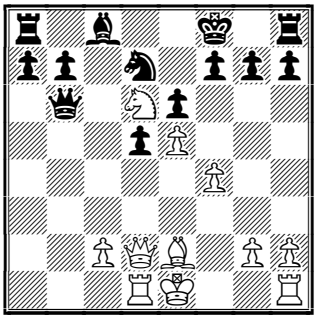
☐ **A. Shirov (2723)**
■ **E. Bareev (2729)**
Event: *GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 19.01.2003* **– [C11]**

Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♗e3 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗c5 9.♕d2 ♗xd4 10.♗xd4 ♘xd4 11.♕xd4 ♕b6 (D)



12.♕d2!?
This line commonly leads to an ending with White having a slight advantage after 12.♕xb6 ♘xb6 13.♘b5; or 12.♘b5 ♕xd4 13.♘xd4 But these types of positions suit Bareev much more than Shirov. I don't mean Shirov is less competent without queens on the board, but in a double-edged middlegame with the initiative he surely feels right at home.
12...♕xb2?!
Excessive self-confidence. [Such a brave man as Jan Timman didn't dare capture this pawn. His game against Kasparov (Horgen 1995) continued 12...♘c5 13.0–0–0 ♗d7 14.♕d4 a6 15.h4 0–0–0 16.♖h3 ♗c6 17.♘e2 ♔b8 18.♖c3 ♘a4 19.♕xb6 ♘xb6 and they got this ending with a few changes in the location of the pieces.
13.♖b1 ♕a3 14.♘b5 ♕xa2
Bareev decides to suffer with two pawns in the pocket. The game Nielsen - Holst, Aars 1999 saw 14...♕c5 15.♘d6+ ♔e7 16.♖b5 ♕a3 17.c4 d4 18.♖b3 ♕c5 19.♘e4 ♕c6 20.♕b4+ ♔d8 21.♗d3 with full compensation for the pawn.
15.♘d6+ ♔f8 16.♖d1
Bad is 16.♕b4? a5. White's plan is simple - ♗e2, 0–0 followed by the opening of the f-file.
16...♕b2 17.♗e2 ♕b6 (D)



In case of 17...a5 18.0–0 ♕b4 White can choose between 19.c3 (and *19.♕xb4 axb4 20.♖a1 ♖xa1 21.♖xa1 ♔e7 22.♖a8 ♘b6 23.♖a7* and it's not easy for Black to complete his development.) ; 17...♔e7 18.0–0 ♕b6+ *(18...♘c5? 19.♖b1 ♕a2 20.♖a1 ♕b2 21.♖fb1* and the queen is trapped) 19.♔h1 ♘c5 fulfilling all of White's dreams after 20.f5 The text move allows Shirov to attack Black's centre.

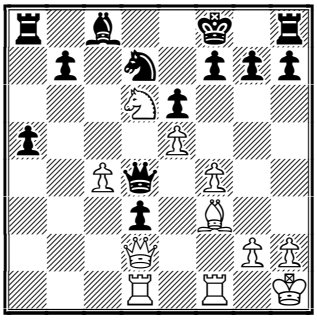
18.c4! d4

Naturally Black is ready to give one pawn back exchanging the queens. [Black can't capture the pawn 18...dxc4 in view of 19.♘xc8 ♖xc8 20.♕xd7; if 18...♘c5 then 19.cxd5 exd5 20.f5! (not *20.♕xd5 ♕b4+)*

19.♗f3

Preparing to castling. 19.0–0?? d3+.

19...a5 20.0–0 d3+ 21.♔h1 ♕d4?! (D)



Hoping that the queen and the d3–pawn can hold White's pieces. But Shirov's reply shows it's all in vain. Maybe the only chance for Black was 21...♘c5 After 22.♕e3 he should try **A)** as 22...♘a4 leaves White a strong initiative in the ending e.g. 23.♕xb6 *(23.♕xd3 ♘b2 24.♕b1 a4 25.c5 ♕b3* is not that clear) 23...♘xb6 24.♖xd3 ♔e7 25.♖b1 ♘d7 26.♘xb7 and if 26...a4 *(26...♗xb7 27.♖xb7 ♖hd8 28.♗c6)* then 27.♘d8! winning the exchange since the attempt to save it leads to an even worse result – 27...♖a6 28.♘c6+ ♔e8 29.♖b8! ♘xb8 30.♖d8#; **B)** 22...♕c7

22.♘b5! ♕c5

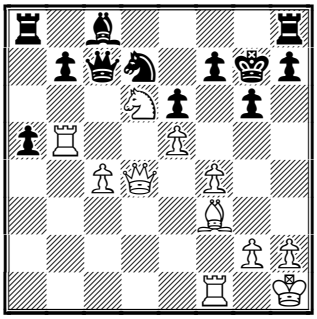
The capture 22...♕xc4 would have opened the c–file for the White rook (s) 23.♘d6 ♕d4 *(23...♕c2 24.♕e3* and Rxd3) 24.♖c1 ♘b6 25.♖c3

23.♕xd3

Now White has a great attacking position for one pawn only. **23...g6 24.♘d6 ♘b6**

24...♔g7 loses material after 25.♗xb7 ♗xb7 26.♘xb7

25.♖b1 ♔g7 26.♖b5 ♕c7 27.♕d4 ♘d7 (D)



28.f5!?

Shirov is true to himself. There were many ways to win – for example 28.♗xb7 ♗xb7 29.♖xb7 ♕c5 30.♕xc5 ♘xc5 31.♖xf7+ ♔g8 32.♖c7; or 28.♖d1 but he prefers a straight attack; less precise was 28.♘xc8 ♖axc8 29.♖xb7 ♕xc4 30.♕xc4 ♖xc4 31.♖xd7 ♖xf4.

28...gxf5 29.♘xf5+! exf5 30.e6+ ♘e5

30...♘f6 31.♖xf5 ♕e7 32.♗d5+–

31.♖xe5 f6 32.♖xf5 ♖f8 33.♗d5

Probably after the game Alexei was slightly disappointed discovering a nice blow 33.♗xb7! ♕xb7 34.♖g5+ ♔h8 35.♖xf6 mating (even after 35...♕b1+ 36.♖f1+ :–) This line is more appropriate to his style.

33...♕e7 34.♖h5 ♔h8

34...♗xe6 35.♕e4+– (or *35.♖e1 ♖a6 36.♗xe6 ♖xe6 37.♕g4+)*

35.♗e4 ♗xe6 36.♖xh7+ ♕xh7 37.♗xh7 ♔xh7 38.♕e4+ 1–0.

Solution to Quiz Today:
1) S. Karjakin – F. Nijboer
GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (7), 19.01.2003
28.♕f4! [28.♕f4 ♖bf8 *(28...♘xb3 29.♕f6+ ♔e8 30.♗xg6#; 28...♔d8 29.♕f6+ ♔c7 30.♖c1)* 29.♕h4+ g5 30.♘xg5! ♕xe5 *(30...hxg5 31.♕xg5+ ♔e8 32.♗g6+ ♖f7 33.♖gf1)* 31.♘h7+!] **1–0.**

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(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY

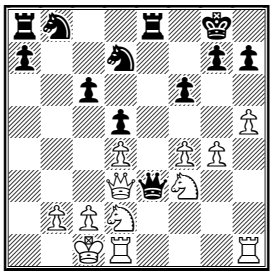
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin

CT-21(805) 21st January 2003

Quiz Today

Naiditsch (2585) – Koneru (2496)



White to play

Anna Hahn wins the USA Women's championship after playoff.

by John Henderson

In a fairytale ending to decide the 2003 Af4C US Women's Champion, underdog Anna Hahn, from Jersey City, N.J, caused a major chess upset in the three-way playoff for the crown by beating former champions Jennifer Shahade and Irina Krush.

Scoring back to back wins against the two top US women players gave Hahn both the title and the record first prize of $12,500. For Hahn, 26, who was seeded No.6 for the women's crown at the start of the Championship, the final result proved to be the biggest win of her career – and one that shocked many of the commentators and spectators in the playing hall.

Biographical details of Anna Hahn, 2003 AF4C US Women's Champion

Women's International Master Anna Hahn was born in Riga, Latvia June 21, 1976 and currently resides in Jersey City, N.J. As a child she used to watch her father and grandfather play chess and when she was seven years old her grandfather decided to take her to the local chess club.

Her best chess achievements include the Latvian Women's Champion in 1992 and, after moving to the U.S., tying for second place in the World Girl's Championship in 1993. Anna earned her Women's international master title in 1995. In 2000 Anna participated in the chess Olympiad in Turkey, and the women's world championship in India.

She likes chess because of the logic and complexity of the game. Besides chess Anna is fond of dancing and she loves music and goes to a lot of concerts and performances. In other sports, her interests are in tennis and kickboxing. In December 1998 she became a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in Finance and Computer Science and is currently working at Goldman Sachs Investment Bank as a programmer. Anna is now also doing a part time Masters Program in Carnegie Mellon (NY location), studying Computational Finance.

About America's Foundation for Chess

Founded in 2000, America's Foundation for Chess (formerly the Seattle Chess Foundation) is committed to bringing chess into every

U.S. classroom. By first making chess a larger part of America's cultural fabric – accessible in schools and in popular culture – AF4C hopes to elevate the profile of chess in America. To this end, AF4C is providing chess instruction materials and training to teachers, who have little or no chess background. In addition, by sponsoring high-level competitions such as the U.S. Chess Championships, AF4C is cultivating chess role models and a venue for chess excellence in America. By forging partnerships with schools and corporations, AF4C plans to make chess a part of every classroom experience.

As some of *Chess Today* readers may remember, our regular contributor GM Mikhail Golubev recently published a number of materials concerning the situation around the Ponomariov-Kasparov match. You can find his most recent Open Letter at http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/fideopen.htm. Mikhail received a rather interesting response from a chess reader in France – Joel Bouard – see it at http://chess-sector.odessa.ua/unity_e.htm

The Wijk aan Zee Report

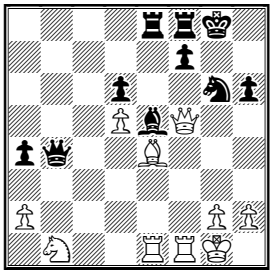
(8th round)

by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for *Chess Today*; notes to games by **GM Alex Baburin**

Alexei Shirov, whose victory here over world champion Kramnik, using the Sicilian Sveshnikov has impressed the chess community worldwide, became yesterday the victim of his own pet-line. Since he was convinced that he had actually got nothing as White in the above-mentioned game, he tried against Grischuk a new move (21.Qf4 instead of 21.Qg3) and this time had even less.

Alexei Shirov (2723) – Alexander Grischuk (2712) [B33]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♘d5 f5 11.♗d3 ♗e6 12.0-0 ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♘e7 14.c3 ♗g7 15.♕h5 e4 16.♗c2 ♕c8 17.♖ae1 0-0 18.♗b3 a5 19.♕g5 ♕b7 20.f3 h6 21.♕f4 a4 22.♗c2 b4 23.cxb4 ♕xb4 24.fxe4 ♘g6 25.♕xf5 ♗xb2 26.e5 ♗xe5 27.♘b1 ♖ae8 28.♗e4? (D)



28...♗f4!-+ 29.g3 ♖e5 30.♕g4 ♖xe4 31.♖xe4 ♕xe4 32.gxf4 ♖b8 0-1

White resigned as 33.♕g2 ♕xb1 34.f5 ♖b2 35.♕g3 ♕e4 36.fxg6 ♕d4+ 37.♔h1 ♕xd5+ is hopeless for him.

In another theoretical debate, the Bayonet variation of the Classical King's Indian was once again at the focus of young Teimor Radjabov game – this time against FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov. The latter tried to challenge this highly fashionable line with the popular penetration Ne6, in an attempt to undermine the traditional kingside initiative. However Radjabov managed to neutralise in a cool tempered manner all White's threats and emerged from the complications not just with an extra pawn, but also with a tremendous counter mating attack which forced the frustrated Ukrainian star to resign and earned the winner the daily public prize.

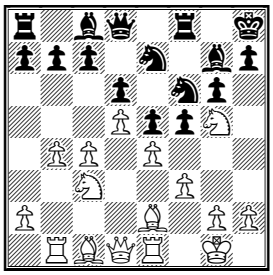
Ruslan Ponomariov (2734) – Teimour Radjabov (2624) [E97]

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4 ♘h5 10.♖e1 f5 11.♘g5 ♘f6 12.f3 ♔h8

12...♘h5 13.c5 ♘f4 14.♗c4 ♔h8

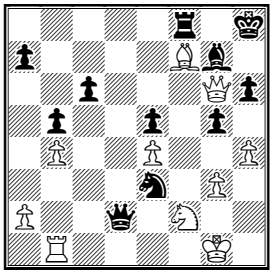
15.♖b1 a6 16.♔h1 h6 17.♘e6 ♘xe6 18.dxe6 ♘c6 19.b5 ♘d4 20.bxa6 bxa6 21.♗a3 ♖e8 22.♗d5 c6 23.cxd6 ♗xe6 24.♗xe6 ♖xe6 25.♗c5 ♘b5 26.♕b3 ♕e8 27.♖ed1 ♖d8 28.♘xb5 axb5 29.a4 bxa4 30.♕xa4 ♗f8 31.d7 ♕f7 32.♕a5 1–0 Bareev–Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2003.

13.♖b1N **(D)**



13.♗e3

13...h6 14.♘e6 ♗xe6 15.dxe6 fxe4 16.fxe4 ♘c6 17.♘d5 ♘g8 18.♗d3 ♘d4 19.♕g4 g5 20.♕h3 c6 21.♘e3 ♕f6 22.♘g4 ♕e7 23.♗e3 ♘xe6 24.g3 ♕d7 25.♖f1 d5 26.♖f5 dxc4 27.♗xc4 ♘d4 28.♖xf8 ♖xf8 29.♕h5 ♕d6 30.♔g2 b5 31.♗f7 ♘c2 32.♗c5 ♕d2+ 33.♘f2 ♘f6 34.♕g6 ♘g4 35.♔g1 ♘ce3 36.♗xe3 ♘xe3 37.h4 (D)

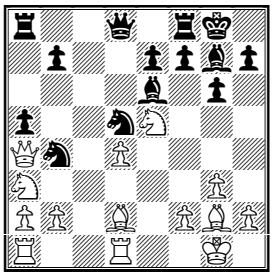


37...♕e2! 38.♕h5 g4 0–1.

It was a rather disastrous day for the local participants in the A group. Loek van Wely was quite unhappy with his move 17...Bxe5 against Karpov. It was just a piece of cake for the ex–World Champion to convert the early material advantage into an easy point. Karpov could experience again, after a long and dry period, the taste of a triumph, stopping the Dutchman's own victorious campaign.

Anatoly Karpov (2688) – Loek van Wely (2668) [D73]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 d5 5.♗g2 dxc4 6.♕a4+ ♘fd7 7.♕xc4 ♘b6 8.♕c3 ♘a6 9.0–0 c5 10.e3 0–0 11.♘a3 ♗f5 12.♖d1 cxd4 13.exd4 ♘d5 14.♕b3 ♘ab4 15.♗d2 a5 16.♘e5 ♗e6 17.♕a4 (D)

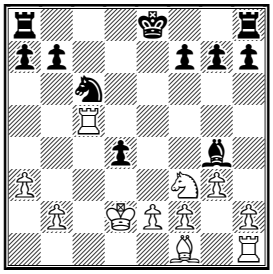


17...♗xe5 18.dxe5 ♗g4 19.♗h6 ♗xd1 20.♖xd1 ♖e8 21.♘b5 ♕d7 22.a3 e6 23.h4 ♕c6 24.axb4 axb4 25.♗xd5 exd5 26.♕xb4 ♖xe5 27.♘d4 ♕a6 28.♕c3 ♕c4 29.♘f3 ♕xc3 30.bxc3 ♖e7 31.♖xd5 ♖c7 32.♗d2 h5 33.♘d4 ♖a2 34.♖d8+ ♔g7 35.♗f4 ♖e7 36.♘f3 f6 37.♗d6 ♖f7 38.♘d4 ♖a6 39.♔g2 g5 40.♔f3 ♔g6 41.♔e3 ♖a1 42.♘f3 1–0.

Jan Timman seems deep in the mud following a fourth defeat in a row against Bareev. This time Timman tried to solve the problem of an isolated central pawn by giving it away for practically nothing! The Russian did exactly what we are all expected to do: he simply exchanged all pieces up to the happy ending.

Evgeny Bareev (2729) – Jan Timman (2594) [E37]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 d5 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.♕xc3 ♘e4 7.♕c2 c5 8.dxc5 ♘c6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.♘f3 ♕a5+ 11.♗d2 ♕xc5 12.♕xc5 ♘xc5 13.♖c1 ♘b3 14.♖c3 ♘xd2 15.♔xd2 ♗g4 16.g3 d4 17.♖c5 *(D)*



17...d3? 18.♔xd3 0–0–0+ 19.♔c3 ♖he8 20.h3 ♗e6 21.♗g2 ♗d5 22.♖d1 ♗e4 23.♖d2 ♔b8 24.b4 b6

25.♖c4 f5 26.g4 ♖xd2 27.♔xd2 fxg4 28.hxg4 ♗d5 29.♖f4 ♖d8 30.♔c3 ♖c8 31.♔b2 ♖d8 32.g5 b5 33.♔c3 ♖c8 34.♗h3 ♖c7 35.♔d2 a5 36.♘d4 axb4 37.♘xb5 ♖f7 38.♖xf7 ♗xf7 39.axb4 ♘xb4 40.♘d6 ♗g6 41.♘f5 ♗xf5 42.♗xf5 g6 43.♗e6 ♘c6 44.♗g8 ♔c7 45.♗xh7 ♘e7 46.f4 ♔d7 47.e4 ♔e8 48.f5 1-0

Krasenkov-Polgar saw a fairly peaceful Queen's Indian with all light officers exchanged to leave the heavy guns rather useless in view of the symmetrical pawn structure. Ivanchuk drew again, this time with Topalov introducing a rare guest in WAZ this year: The Sicilian Rossolimo (1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5). The last game to be finished was Kramnik-Anand where the World Champion tried for a long time to start his own comeback on the account of the sole leader but to no avail.

The stormy run of Chinese Zhong in the B group slowed somewhat down following his second draw against young Hungarian GM Peter Acs. Dutch junior champion Daniel Stellwagen scored a 9 rounds GM norm (with a round to go!) with his draw as Black against countryman GM Nijboer. Alexandra Kosteniuk demonstrated a model recovery of a rather slow start, hunting a second successive male GM, Dennis de Vreugt, who paid the full price for the original strategy of using senior officers to blockade advancing pawns. Lithuanian WGM Victoria Cmilyte (Mrs. Shirov) finally managed to justify her first name by crushing young Sergej Karjakin in a sudden mating attack. A whole female celebration was partially spoiled as Indian Humpy Koneru lost again, to Germany's youngest GM Arkadij Naiditsch, whose little combination (23.♖he1! and 25. ♖de1!) amused the spectators.

In the C group Dutchman IM Ruud Janssen took the lead after 4 rounds with 3.5 points ahead of IM Cherniaev and GM Lobron, who have 3 points each.

Round 8 results:
Bareev – Timman 1:0
Ponomariov – Radjabov 0:1
Karpov – Van Wely 1:0
Kramnik – Anand ½:½
Shirov – Grischuk 0:1
Krasenkow – Polgar ½:½
Ivanchuk – Topalov ½:½

Round 8 standings:
1. Vishy Anand (2753) - 5½ points;
2-4. Loek van Wely (2668), Judit Polgar (2700) and Alexander Grischuk (2712) – 5 points;
5. Alexei Shirov (2723) – 4½ points;
6-11. Vassily Ivanchuk (2699), Anatoly Karpov (2688), Vladimir Kramnik (2807), Veselin Topalov (2743), Teimour Radjabov (2624) and Evgeny Bareev (2729) – 4 points;
12. Mikhail Krasenkov (2633) – 3 points;
13. Ruslan Ponomariov (2734) – 2½ points;
14. Jan Timman (2594) – 1½ points.

Tournament "B", round 8 results:
Cmilyte – Karjakin 1:0
Nijboer – Stellwagen ½:½
Hector – Jonkman ½:½
Naiditsch – Koneru 1:0
Rogers – Van der Wiel ½:½
De Vreught – Kosteniuk 0:1
Acs – Zhang Zhong ½:½

Round 8 Standings:
1. Zhang Zhong (2624) - 7 points;
2. Daniel Stellwagen (2427) 5½ points;
3-4. Friso Nijboer (2553) and Arkadij Naiditsch (2585) – 5 points;
5-6. Ian Rogers (2569) and Jonny Hector (2570) – 4½ points;
7-8. Dennis De Vreugt (2504) and Sergey Karjakin (2547) – 4points;
9-11. Peter Acs (2623), John van der Wiel (2509) and Alexandra Kosteniuk (2456) – 3 points;
12-14. Victoria Cmilyte (2452), Humpy Koneru (2496) and Harmen Jonkman (2436) – 2½ points;

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **Alexander Shabalov**

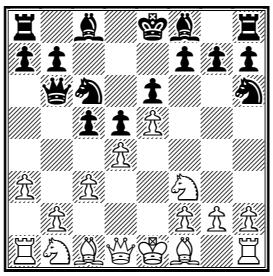
■ **Varuzhan Akobian**

Event: *USA Ch 2003*– ***[C02]***

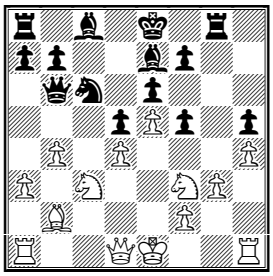
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

There were many leaders before the last round of the USA Championship but only Shabalov managed to win the last game.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♕b6 6.a3 ♘h6 (D)



7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♘f5 9.♗b2 ♗e7 10.h4 h5 11.♗d3 g6 12.♗xf5 gxf5 13.♘c3 ♖g8 14.g3N (D)

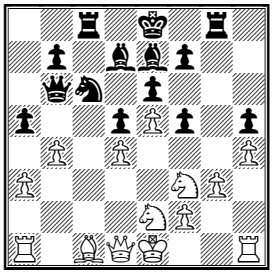


This is a novelty, but the idea is quite typical for this variation: White prepares to move his king to the g2–square because he does not want to take his rook away from the h–file. Other examples: ***14.0–0*** ♖g4 15.♘e2 ♗d7 16.g3 0–0–0 17.♗c1 ♖dg8 18.♔h1 ♔b8 19.♗f4 ♔a8 20.♕d2 f6 21.exf6 ♗xf6 22.♖fc1 e5 23.dxe5 ♗xh4 24.♘xh4 ♕xf2 25.♘g2 h4 26.♖f1 hxg3 27.♖xf2 gxf2 28.e6 ♗xe6 29.♕e3 ♗f7 30.♕xf2 d4 31.♖d1 1–0 Grischuk–Zhang Pengxiang, Shanghai 2001. ***14.♘g5*** ♕xd4 15.♕xd4 ♘xd4 16.♘xd5 ♘c2+ 17.♔d2 exd5 18.♔xc2 ♗xg5 19.hxg5 ♖xg5 20.♗d4 ♗e6 21.g3 ♔d7 22.♗e3 ♖g4 23.♗f4 ♖gg8 24.♔d3 ♖gc8 25.♖ac1 ♖c4 26.♖xh5 a5 27.♖xc4 dxc4+ 28.♔c3 ♔c6 Grischuk–Sakaev, Tomsk 2001.

14...♗d7 15.♗c1!?

This is a very unconventional move, but the idea is clear: to get control over the g5–square. But is it worth two tempi?

15...♖c8 16.♘e2 a5 (D)



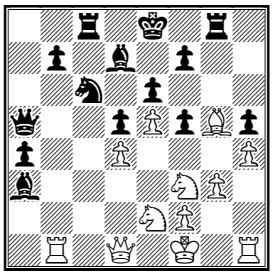
17.b5!?

Unexpected pawn sacrifice. After 17.bxa5 ♘xa5 18.♗g5 ♗b5 19.♗xe7 ♔xe7 Black would stand is a bit better – his pieces are more active.

17...♕xb5

Now Black's queen and the a5–pawn prevent him from playing his bishop to b5 and moving his knight to c4, so White has won a couple of tempi.

18.♗g5 a4 19.♖b1 ♕a5+ 20.♔f1 ♗xa3 (D)



White keeps on giving Black pawns and Black continues to take them! Now he has a dangerous passed pawn on the queenside.

21.♖a1?!

Better looked 21.♔g2, with further ♘e2–f4–h5–f6.

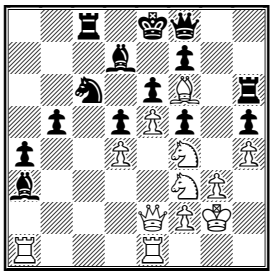
21...♕b4

An attempt to catch the white rook 21...♗b2 22.♖xa4 ♕b5 could be met by 23.♔g2! ♘xe5 24.♘xe5 ♕xa4 25.♘xd7! ♕xd7 26.♕b3! and b2–bishop is trapped.

22.♘f4 ♖h8

Black is determined to give nothing to White.

23.♔g2 b5 24.♗f6 ♖h6 25.♖e1 ♕f8 26.♕e2 (D)



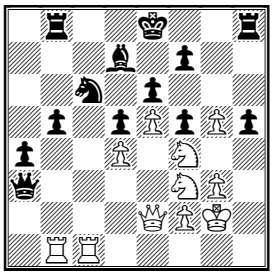
26...♗e7

After 26...♘a5 27.♘g5 ♘b3 28.♖ad1 ♗c1! 29.♘xh5 ♖g6 30.♘h3! White also has compensation.

27.♗g5 ♖h8 28.♖ec1 ♖b8 29.♖ab1 ♗xg5?!

Now White begins to get the upper hand. 29...♘a5 deserved consideration.

30.hxg5 ♕a3 (D)



Better was 30...♘a5, although after 31.g6 ♘c4 32.♖h1 White's attack is very dangerous.

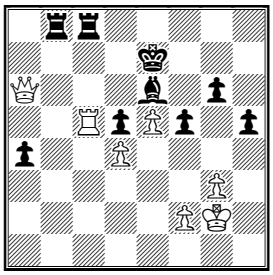
31.g6! fxg6 32.♘xe6!

Possibly Black missed this blow in his calculations – now White has a decisive advantage.

32...♗xe6 33.♖xc6 ♕e7 34.♖xb5 ♔f7 35.♘g5+

Also good was 35.♖xb8 ♖xb8 36.♕a6!+–.

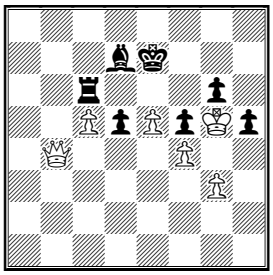
35...♕xg5 36.♖c7+ ♔e7 37.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 38.♖c5 ♖hc8 39.♕a6+– (D)



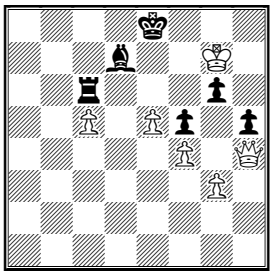
39...♖xc5 40.♕a7+ ♔e8 41.dxc5 ♖c8 42.♕xa4+ ♗d7 43.♕d4 ♗e6

Black is trying to build a fortress, but his dark squares are too weak.

44.f4 ♔e7 45.♕b4 ♖c6 46.♔h3 ♗d7 47.♔h4 ♔f7 48.♔g5 ♔e7 (D)



49.♕b3 ♖e6 50.♕xd5 ♗c6 51.♕a2 ♗d7 52.♔h6! ♗e8 53.♔g7 ♗d7 54.♕h2 ♖c6 55.♕h4+ ♔e8 (D)



56.♕f6!

White is happy to sacrifice the queen for he can soon get another one!

56...♖xf6 57.exf6 ♗e6 58.c6 g5 59.fxg5 f4 60.g6 fxg3 61.f7+ 1–0.

Solution to Quiz Today:
Naiditsch–Koneru:
23.♖he1! ♕xd3 24.♖xe8+ ♔f7 25.♖de1!!+– The key move! **25...♕e4 26.♘xe4 ♔xe8 27.♘xf6+ ♔f7 28.♘g5+ 1–0.**

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(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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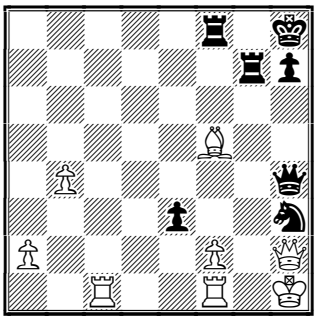
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-22(806) 22nd January 2003

Quiz Today

A. Kosteniuk- F. Nijboer
GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 21.01.2003



Black to play

Chess today received the following press release:

X3dworld.com presents Garry Kasparov vs Deep Junior The First Official World Chess Championship MAN vs MACHINE

New York, NY – January 17, 2003

X3D Technologies presents the First Official World Chess Championship: **Man vs Machine**, sanctioned by **F.I.D.E.** (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) and **I.C.G.A.** (International Computer Game Association).

The championship will be held at the New York Athletic Club in New York City from January 26 to February 7, 2003, in 6 matches with classic time control. **F.I.D.E**. President **Kirsan Ilyumzhinov** stated in Moscow: "New York is the best place in the world to showcase this historical event and promote the game of chess as a symbol of friendship between all the countries." The matches will be broadcast in Extreme 3D by **X3D Technologies**, live on the Internet at www.X3dworld.com.

X3D's multiple award-winning technologies transform video, games and movies from 2D to 3D in real time for the computer, television and Internet broadcast. Elliot Klein, **X3D** C.E.O., declares: "I believe that our technologies will be the next killer applications for entertainment, education, games and chess. **X3D** algorithms achieve over 90 million complex calculations per second and allow images to float in the air, inside and in front of the screen." Information about **X3D**'s revolutionary technology is available on the company's web site at www.X3dworld.com.

Since Deep Blue, a new generation of super-computers has been competing every year. **Deep Junior**, three-time world champion, won the last official world chess championship for computers in July 2002, in Maastricht, Netherlands, against 18 other machines.

Garry Kasparov is without doubt the world's most renowned chess player. He surpassed Bobby Fischer's best-ever rating of 2785. Today, many consider him the greatest player in the history of chess.

For more information and press passes to the event, please contact **Belinda Banks at 718-320-4898**.

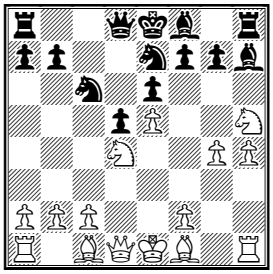
The Wijk aan Zee Report

(9th round)
by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for *Chess Today*; notes to games by **GM Alex Baburin**

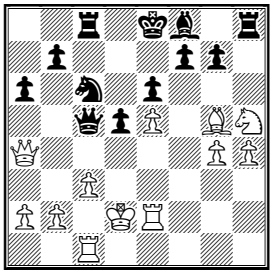
The Corus tournament is approaching its final stage and the fatigue does show to judge from the number of short draws in the top group yesterday. Jan Timman managed to break the lengthy chain of defeats by drawing a quiet Petroff Defence game

against Karpov. Shirov was involved again in the Sicilian Sveshnikov complex, this time as Black and forced a draw by repetition on move 22. No special dramatic events were seen also in van Wely–Ivanchuk (Slav, 20 moves), Radjabov–Kramnik (Queen's Indian, 19 moves) and Anand–Krasenkov (Berlin Wall, 19 moves). The toughest battle in the top group was undoubtedly Grischuk–Bareev, displaying the ultra sharp advance variation in the Caro–Kann. When the white king eventually managed to find shelter on the queenside, by a kind of artificial castling manoeuvre, Black opened a new front there and after the finesse 35...♗b4! it was all over.

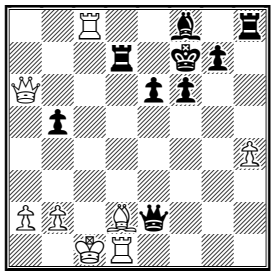
Grischuk – Bareev [B12]
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘c3 e6 5.g4 ♗g6 6.♘ge2 c5 7.h4 h5 8.♘f4 ♗h7 9.♘xh5 cxd4 10.♘b5 ♘c6 11.♘xd4 ♘ge7 *(D)*



12.♖h3 a6 13.♗g5 ♕b6 14.♘xc6 ♘xc6 15.♗d3 ♗xd3 16.♖xd3 ♕b4+ 17.c3 ♕e4+ 18.♖e3 ♕g2 19.♖c1 ♕g1+ 20.♔d2 ♕xf2+ 21.♖e2 ♕c5 22.♕a4 ♖c8 (D)



23.♖f1 ♖c7 24.♔c1 d4 25.♖d1 ♖d7 26.♖ed2 ♕xe5 27.cxd4 ♕e4 28.♖c2 f6 29.♗d2 b5 30.♕xa6 ♘xd4 31.♖c8+ ♔f7 32.♘g3 ♕xg4 33.♖g1 ♘e2+ 34.♘xe2 ♕xe2 35.♖d1 (D)

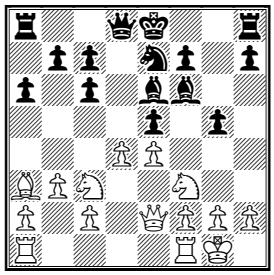


35...♗b4! 36.♕c6 ♗xd2+ 37.♔c2 ♗a5+ 38.♔b3 ♕xd1+ 0–1

The Berlin Wall line in the Ruy Lopez seemed under a big threat in Topalov–Ponomariov when the latter discovered a surprising exchange sacrifice and his bishop proved powerful in the queenside pawn battle. This courageous bishop was finally sacrificed for the last white pawn to secure the hard fought draw.

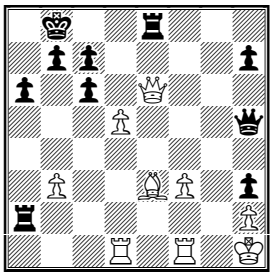
The B group made it up to the bloodthirsty public with plenty of fighting spirit. Even the Chinese GM who seems to be unstoppable on his way to the A group next year prefers to do it in grand style and yesterday beat De Vreugt in an excellent game. The Dutchman probably missed his best practical chance 13...g3!? 14.hxg3 ♖g8!.

Zhong – De Vreugt [C68]
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 5.0–0 ♗e7 6.♘c3 ♗f6 7.♕e2 ♗e6 8.b3 ♘e7 9.♗a3 g5 10.d4! (D)



10...g4 11.♖ad1!
11.♘xe5? ♕xd4 12.♘d3 ♕xc3 13.♗b2 ♕xb2 14.♘xb2 ♗xb2∓.
11...exd4
11...gxf3 12.♕xf3 ♗g7 13.dxe5 ♕c8 14.♕g3→.
12.♘xd4 ♗xd4 13.♘a4 ♘g6 14.c3 ♘f4 15.♕c2 ♘h3+ 16.gxh3 gxh3 17.♖d3 ♖g8+ 18.♔h1 ♕h4 19.cxd4

♕xe4+ 20.f3 ♕h4 21.♘c5+- 0-0-0 22.♘xe6 ♖g2 23.♕c5 ♖dg8 24.♕e5 fxe6 25.♗c1 ♔b8 26.♖dd1 ♖f8 27.♗e3 ♖xa2 28.♕xe6 ♕h5 29.d5 ♖e8 (D)



30.dxc6! ♖e2 31.♕h6 ♕f5 32.♕g5 ♕e6 33.♖d8+ 1-0

Karjakin recovered quickly from his defeat in the 8th round by beating the solid Australian GM Jan Rogers. The whole bottom group made a successful escaping attempt before the [final] free day, which falls to the general elections in Holland.

German GM Eric Lobron and Dutch IM Ruud Janssen are sharing the lead in the C group with 4 points out of 5.

Results of the 9th Round:
Anand – Krasenkow **½:½**
van Wely – Ivanchuk **½:½**
Polgar – Shirov **½:½**
Grischuk – Bareev **0:1**
Radjabov – Kramnik **½:½**
Topalov – Ponomariov **½:½**
Timman – Karpov **½:½**

Round 9 Standings:
1. Anand – 6 points
2-3. van Wely, Polgar – 5½
4-6. Shirov, Grischuk, Bareev – 5
7-11. Ivanchuk, Kramnik, Karpov, Topalov, Radjabov – 4½
12. Krasenkow – 3½
13. Ponomariov – 3
14. Timman – 2

Tournament "B".
Results of the 9th Round:
Zhong – de Vreugt **1:0**
Stellwagen – Cmilyte **0:1**
Karjakin – Rogers **1:0**
van der Wiel – Hector **½:½**
Jonkman – Naiditsch **1:0**
Koneru – Acs **1:0**
Kosteniuk – Nijboer **0:1**

Round 9 Standings:
1. Zhong – 8 points
2. Nijboer – 6
3. Stellwagen – 5½
4-6. Karjakin, Naiditsch, Hector – 5
7. Rogers – 4½
8. de Vreugt – 4
9-12. Cmilyte, van der Wiel, Jonkman, Koneru – 3½
13-14. Acs, Kosteniuk – 3

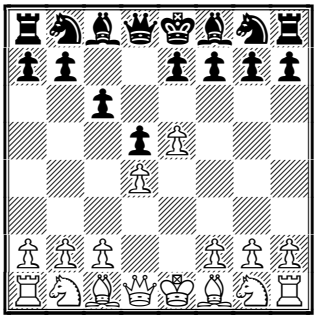
Wednesday will be the last rest day of the tournaments.

As in previous years, the men's and women's Indian Championships are round-robin events with 21 and 13 players respectively. The strongest Indian players Anand and Konery have been playing in Wijk A and B, while all the other best players are fighting for national awards. In the men's section Sasikiran has the best results so far – 4 ½ points out of 5. Harikrisna and Barua have the same score but after 6 games, while Kunte has 4 points out of 6. In the women's event Mohota is leading with 3½ points out of 4. Aarthie and Harika have half a point less.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

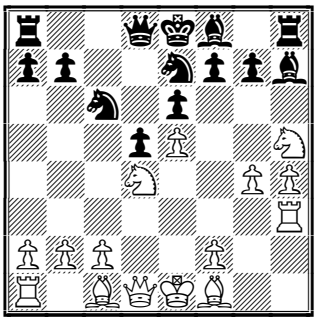
☐ **A. Grischuk (2712)**
■ **E. Bareev (2729**
Event: *GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 21.01.2003* ***- [B12]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 (D)



If Grischuk could play e4-e5 he makes this move :-) to be serious, 3.e5 is Alexander's main weapon against the French and Karo-Cann

Defences. As a coincidence, these openings are Bareev' favourite defences vs. 1.e4, so Evgeny couldn't avoid this pawn move!

3...♗f5 4.♘c3 e6 5.g4 ♗g6 6.♘ge2 c5 7.h4 h5 8.♘f4 ♗h7 9.♘xh5 cxd4 10.♘b5 ♘c6 11.♘xd4 ♘ge7 12.♖h3!? (D)



This looks like a novelty. Half a year ago Grischuk himself played 12.a3 in his game vs. Yasser Seirawan, Moscow Grand-Prix FIDE, 2002.; Another possibility is 12.♗b5

12...a6

In case of 12...♘xe5?! 13.♗b5+ ♘5c6 14.♗g5!? it's rather hard for Black to complete his development. Bareev plays very calmly.

13.♗g5

After the "bright" move 13.♗h6!? Black gets the better chances: 13...♘xd4 *(13...gxh6?? 14.♘f6#; 13...♕a5+!?)* 14.♕xd4 ♘c6 15.♕a4 ♗xc2!? 16.♕xc2 ♖xh6∓

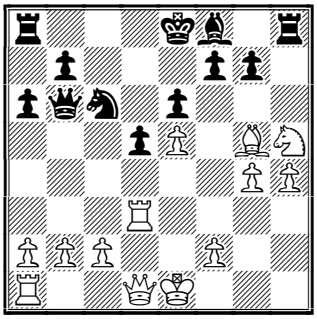
13...♕b6

Maybe Black could take a pawn – 13...♘xe5!? but after 14.♗f6! White could gain an unpleasant initiative, for example: 14...♕a5+ 15.b4 ♕xb4+ 16.c3 ♕d6 17.♗xg7 *(17.♘xg7+!? ♗xg7 18.♗xg7 ♖g8 19.♗xe5 ♕xe5+ 20.♖e3∞)* 17...♗xg7 18.♘xg7+ ♔f8 19.♘h5∞

14.♘xc6 ♘xc6 15.♗d3 ♗xd3

Though after 15...♕xb2!? 16.f4 ♗xd3 17.♖xd3 Black's position looks quite solid, I could understand Bareev who disliked pawn b2 after his game vs. Shirov a couple of rounds earlier...

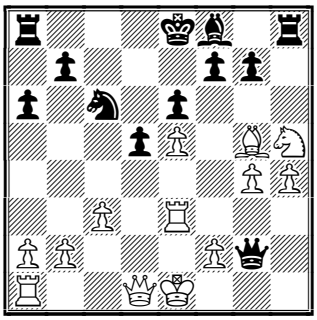
16.♖xd3 (D)



16...♕b4+!

A first step in a quite an unusual queen's penetration into the opponent's camp.

17.c3 ♕e4+ 18.♖e3 ♕g2 (D)



Maybe this sounds a bit strange (because only the black queen takes part in the offence now), but it's very difficult to find a good move for White now. For example:

19.♖c1

19.♘g3? ♗c5 20.♖e2 ♘xe5–+; 19.f4?! ♗c5 20.♖f3 *(20.♘xg7+ ♔f8)* 20...♘d4! *(20...♖xh5!? 21.gxh5 d4)* 21.cxd4 ♗b4+ 22.♖c3 ♕xb2∓; 19.f3?!

19...♕g1+ 20.♔d2

20.♔e2? ♕xg4+–+

20...♕xf2+ 21.♖e2

In the endgame after 21.♕e2 ♕xe2+ 22.♖xe2 ♖c8∓ *(22...b5?!* Black will have a small but long-term advantage in view of the weaknesses of e5-pawn. *)*

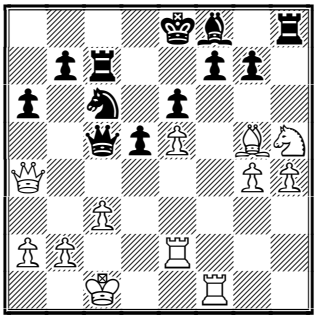
21...♕c5 22.♕a4 ♖c8 23.♖f1

Attacking the weak point f7.

23...♖c7

Black defends it in advance.

24.♔c1 (D)



24...d4!

A sign for counter-attack. It is curious that Black's undeveloped pieces - the f8-bishop and the h8-rook - take a rather active part in the game, while it's hard to say the same about the g5-bishop and the h5-knight. Also Black's king is safer.

25.♖d1 ♖d7

25...dxc3?? 26.♖d8#!

26.♖ed2?!

Without the e5-pawn White's position will be become very difficult. 26.♗f4!?

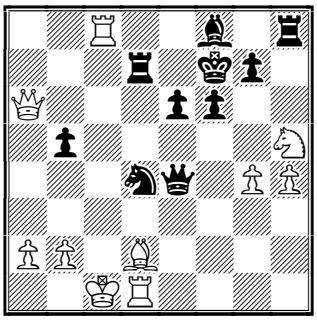
26...♕xe5 27.cxd4 ♕e4 28.♖c2 f6∓ 29.♗d2

29.♗xf6 ♖xh5 30.gxh5 gxf6–+

29...b5!?

Also good was 29...♕xg4 or; 29...♖xd4

30.♕xa6 ♘xd4 31.♖c8+ ♔f7 (D)



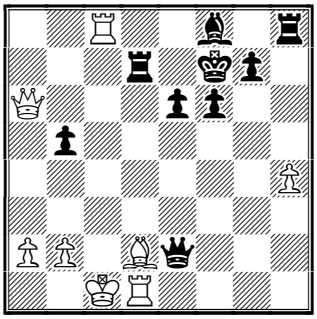
32.♘g3

32.♘f4 ♗b4! 33.♗xb4 *(33.♖xh8 ♕c2#)* 33...♕xf4+ 34.♗d2 ♖xc8+ 35.♕xc8 ♖c7+ 36.♔b1 ♕e4+ 37.♔a1 ♘c2+ 38.♔b1 ♘a3+ 39.♔a1 ♕b1+ 40.♖xb1 ♘c2#

32...♕xg4 33.♖g1 ♘e2+?!

Black could win by force after 33...♘f3! 34.♕xb5 ♕d4–+

34.♘xe2 ♕xe2 35.♖d1? (D)



This move loses immediately. Much more stubborn was 35.♖c2!

35...♗b4! 36.♕c6

36.♖xh8 ♗xd2+ 37.♔c2 ♕d3#

36...♗xd2+ 37.♔c2

White had to resign here, but maybe Alexander was in time-trouble and did not have time to do it...

37...♗a5+ 38.♔b3 ♕xd1+ 0-1.

Solution to Quiz Today:

A. Kosteniuk- F. Nijboer

GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 21.01.2003

36...♖g1+! 37.♖xg1 ♘xf2+ 38.♔g2 ♖g8+ 0-1

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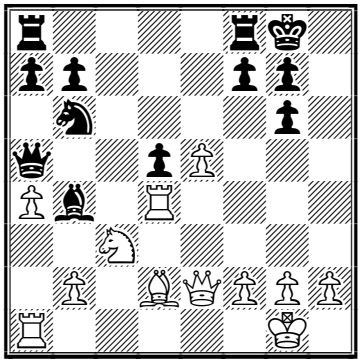
CT-23(807) 23rd January 2003

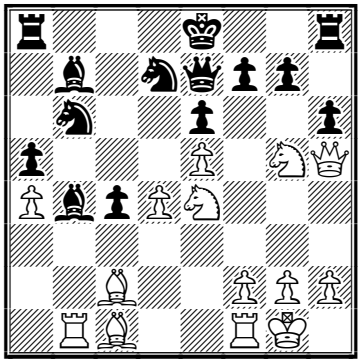
Quiz Today

Bacrot (2653) – Fressinet (2606)
FRA-ch Pool B Marsailles (7), 19.08.2001



White to play

Bacrot (2653) – Dao Thien (2572)
EUR-ASIA m 30' Batumi (10), 19.09.2001



White to play

Anand Leads, 4 to Go

Wednesday was the last rest day of the 65th Corus Chess tournament Just recall that going into the last 4 Rounds Vishy Anand is leading the main event with 6 points out of 9, while in tournament B Zhang Zhong has 8 (!) points.

Pairing for the 10th Round:
Tournament A:
Bareev – Karpov
Ivanchuk – Timman
Ponomariov – van Wely
Kramnik – Topalov
Krasenkow – Radjabov
Shirov – Anand
Grischuk – Polgar
Tournament B
Hector – Naiditsch
Acs – Jonkman
de Vreugt – Koneru
Nijboer – Zhong
Cmilyte – Kosteniuk
Rogers – Stellwagen
van der Wiel – Karjakin

♦ **Krishnan Sasikiran** is leading with 6 points out of 7 in the Indian Championships. **Dibyendu Barua** also has 6 points, but has played one more game. Kunte and Harikrisna have 5½ points out of 8.

In the women's event **Ramaswamy Aarthie** has 4/5, Mohota – 3½/4 and Harika 3½/5.

♦ On 22nd of January **Etien Bacrot** celebrated his 20th birthday. Despite his youth he is 3-times French champion and one of the brightest new stars in the World. Our congratulations, Etien, take a look at two of his combinations in our Quiz today section.

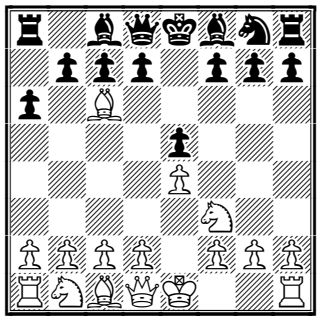
Annotated Game

□ **Zhang Zhong (2624)**
■ **Dennis De Vreugt (2504)**
Event: GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (9), 21.01.2003 C68

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

Today lets take more careful look at tournament B of Wijk-aan-Zee, and at the leader, Chinese GM Zhang Zhong. To tell the truth, his lead isn't a surprise because Zhang Zhong is a well-known GM with brilliant tactical skill and his own style of play.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗xc6



Usually the Exchange variation of the Ruy Lopez is associated with a quite endgame with slightly better chances for White, but with Black having some counter-play thanks to the Bishop pair etc... But let's continue.

4...dxc6 5.0-0 ♗e7!?

5...♗g4!?

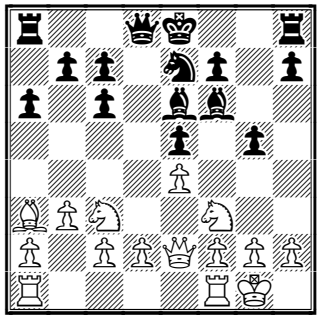
6.♘c3

6.♘xe5 ♕d4

6...♗f6

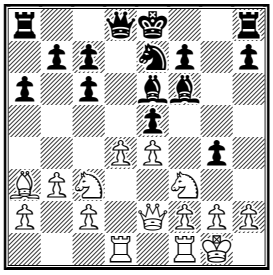
Black develops in a rather original way. First of all he tries to prevent d2-d4.

7.♕e2 ♗e6 8.b3 ♘e7 9.♗a3 g5!?



A very aggressive approach. But what about development? The King is in the center still, so White decides to open the play and is prepared to sacrifice to do it.

10.d4!? g4 11.♖ad1

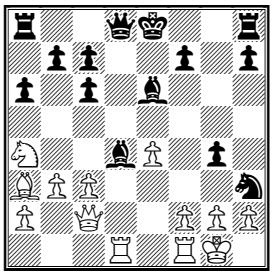


It's a point. Of course not 11.♘xe5? ♕xd4

11...exd4

Black didn't dare to take the knight. As compensation White could get two or even three pawns and an unpleasant initiative, i.e.: 11...gxf3 12.♕xf3 ♗g7 *(12...♗g5?! 13.dxe5 ♕c8 14.♕g3±)* 13.dxe5 ♕c8 14.♕g3 *(14.♗xe7?! ♔xe7 15.♕g3 ♖g8)* 14...♘g6 15.f4↑

12.♘xd4 ♗xd4 13.♘a4 ♘g6 14.c3 ♘f4 15.♕c2 ♘h3+!?

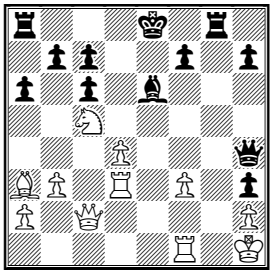


Black begins sharp counter-play. But now it's White who will have extra material.

16.gxh3 gxh3 17.♖d3!

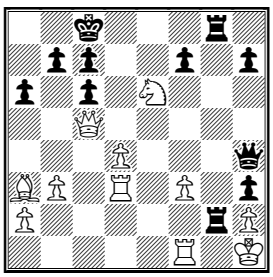
An only move which wins a piece. After 17.♔h1? ♕f6 in view of check on f3 White hasn't time to take the d4 bishop that is now unpinned and ready to flee.

17...♖g8+ 18.♔h1 ♕h4 19.cxd4 ♕xe4+ 20.f3 ♕h4 21.♘c5



White has an extra Knight now. Black's only chance is his strong pawn on h3 and control over the g2-square.

21...0-0-0 22.♘xe6 ♖g2 23.♕c5 ♖dg8



Black has two very dangerous threats

now: 24...Rxh2+ 25.Kxh2 Qg3+ and 24...Rg1+ 25.Rxg1 Rxg1+ 26.Kxg1 Qe1 Mate. But White has a defence.

24.♕e5!

From this central square the Queen controls the entire board: she defends both weak points h2 and e1 and creates a cruel threat 25.Qxc7 Mate.

24...fxe6 25.♗c1 ♔b8

25...♕f2? 26.♕xe6+ ♔b8 27.♕xg8+ ♖xg8 28.♖xf2

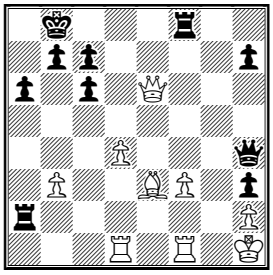
26.♖dd1

White has to be careful: 26.♗f4? ♕f2!! 27.♕xc7+ ♔a8–+ and Black wins.

26...♖f8

Else White could play Bf4–g3, closing the g–file.

27.♗e3 ♖xa2 28.♕xe6

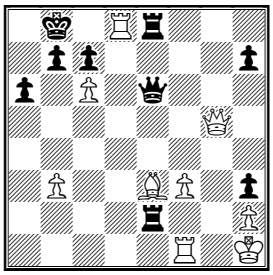


Now it's clear that Black hasn't enough compensation for the Bishop.

28...♕h5 29.d5! ♖e8 30.dxc6! ♖e2

30...♖xe6 31.♖d8#

31.♕h6 ♕f5 32.♕g5 ♕e6 33.♖d8+



1–0

Solution to Quiz Today:

20.♕g4! ♘c4 20...♗e7 21.♘xd5 ♕c5 22.♖c1+– **21.♕h3 g5 22.♗xg5 ♘xe5 23.♖xb4!** 23.♖xb4! ♕xb4 24.♘xd5 ♕g4 25.♘e7# **1–0**

18.♘xf7! ♕xf7 19.♘d6+ ♗xd6 20.♗g6 0–0 21.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 22.exd6+– ♗d5 23.♕d1 c3 24.♗a3 ♘c4 25.♗c5 ♘d2 26.♖c1 ♗b3 27.♕e1 ♘xf1 28.♕xc3 ♗xa4 29.♖xf1 ♗b5 30.♖b1 1–0

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CHESS TODAY
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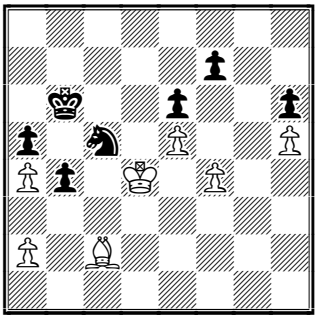
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-24(808) 24th January 2003

Quiz Today

Neelotpal (2406) – Ravi (2419)
ch-IND Mumbai IND (5), 20.01.2003

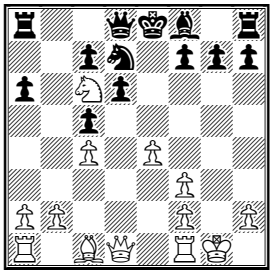


White to play

Anand Accelerates

After a long series of draws followed by pleasant pressroom chatting, Ivanchuk decided it was time for business, displaying an original knight maneuver in the Ruy-Lopez aimed at dominating Timman's queenside rook.

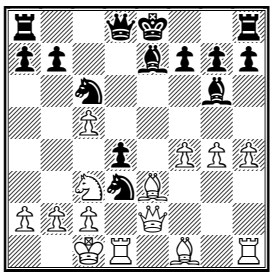
13.♘c6



The Dutchman's attempt to obtain counter chances against the somewhat exposed white king, with a suicidal sacrifice, was easily refuted by the Ukrainian who will hopefully show a bit more of what he is capable of in the remaining rounds.

Alexei Shirov experienced once again an unpleasant upset to one of his favourite lines- the advance variation of the Caro-Kann. As usual he set fire on the board sending ahead a bunch of pawns and even sacrificed a piece to keep on the momentum.

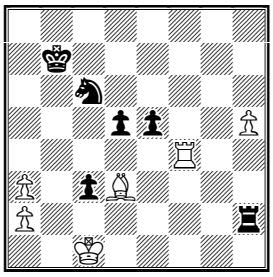
14. ... ♘d3+



However Anand calmly picked up all gifts (according to him his ...a5 move was the most important to secure, whenever needed, the square b4 for the knight) and eventually a precious point to maintain his clear lead. (*See our annotated game for the full story.*)

Judith Polgar regained her killer instinct after a couple of peaceful rounds on the account of young Grischuk. The world's strongest woman ever "seduced" the Russian to a poisoned pawn and his hungry knight suddenly found it difficult to retreat. Although she blundered the piece back in time trouble her 3 passed pawns still managed to do the trick.

47. ... e5 0-1



Ponomariov got the upper hand following the Sicilian Rossolimo against van Wely, thanks to a strong protected passed pawn e7. In a 4 rooks ending Loek blundered an important pawn and then also some further drawing chances.

Topalov had a long suffer against the world champion while Krasenkov was another victim to the invincible Classical king's Indian of young

Radjabov. The only draw in this bloody round was seen in Bareev–Karpov in a dull bishop vs. knight ending.

The B group continues to be a spectacular one-man show of the Chinese Zhong , who scored yesterday his eighth victory against GM Nijboer. The Dutchman sacrificed a pawn (28.Ne4), to sieze the open file, but probably ignored the powerful 29... Ra8!

The Australian GM Rogers suffered a second defeat against rising Dutch junior Daniel Stellwagen in the highly sharp Botvinnik line of the Slav–Meran. The latter came up with a surprising small exchange sacrifice, after which his pawn parade was simply unstoppable. That nice victory earned him the daily public prize.
Yochanan Afek

Wijk aan Zee
Round 10 results:
Shirov – Anand 0:1
Kramnik – Topalov 1:0
Ivanchuk – Timman 1:0
Bareev – Karpov ½:½
Grischuk – Polgar 0:1
Ponomariov – Van Wely 1:0
Krasenkow – Radjabov 0:1

Round 10 standings:
1. Anand – 7
2. Polgar – 6½
3–7. Kramnik, Van Wely, Ivanchuk, Radjabov, Bareev – 5½
8–10. Shirov, Karpov, Grischuk – 5
11. Topalov – 4½
12. Ponomariov – 4
13. Krasenkow – 3½
14. Timman – 2

Wijk aan Zee B
Round 10 results:
Nijboer – Zhang Zhong 0:1
De Vreught – Koneru 1:0
Hector – Naiditsch 0:1
Rogers – Stellwagen 0:1
Cmilyte – Kosteniuk ½:½
Van der Wiel – Karjakin ½:½
Acs – Jonkman ½:½

Round 10 standings:
1. Zhang Zhong – 9
2. Stellwagen – 6½
3–4. Naiditsch, Nijboer – 6
5. Karjakin – 5½
6–7. De Vreught, Hector – 5
8. Rogers – 4½
9–11. Cmilyte, Van der Wiel, Jonkman – 4
12–14. Kosteniuk, Koneru, Acs –3½

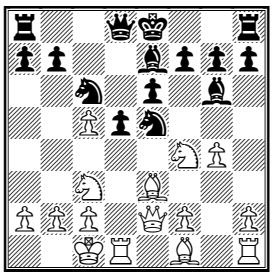
♦ Indian Championships
Round 9 standings:
1. Sasikiran – 7/8
2. Kunte – 6½/9
3. Barua – 6/9
4. Harikrishna – 5½/8
5–6. Ravi, Neelotpal – 5/8

Annotated Game

☐ **A Shirov (2723)**
■ **V Anand (2753)**
Event: GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (10), 23.01.2003 – B12

Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♗f5 4.♘c3 e6 5.g4 ♗g6 6.♘ge2 c5 7.♗e3
This sharp line of the Caro-Kann is very popular nowadays. Two days ago Grischuk, playing Bareev, opted for 7.h4
7...♘c6 8.dxc5 ♘xe5
The main line. Both opponents had experience playing this position for Black at the Russia vs Rest of the World match. Shirov against Grischuk tried 8...♖c8 but obtained an inferior position; Anand successfully tested 8...a6 against Motylev.
9.♘f4
This move has been played a few times by the US Champion-2003 Alexander Shabalov. And again for Shirov himself this position is familiar. The knight has another route also – 9.♘d4
9...♘e7 10.♕e2
Shirov – Gyimesi (FIDE WCh, Moscow 2001) saw 10.♗b5+ ♘7c6 11.♕e2
10...♘7c6 11.0-0-0 ♗e7



A reasonable novelty. 11...♕a5 has been played before but after 12.♗d4! White managed to make use of the Q vs K opposition along the e-file.

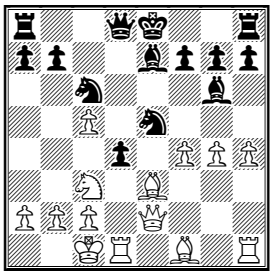
12.♘fxd5!?

This interesting sacrifice could have been even stronger after 12.h4!

12...exd5 13.f4 d4!

Of course the cowardly 13...♘d7 14.f5 wasn't taken into consideration by Anand.

14.h4!



Bad was 14.fxe5 (or 14.f5) in view of 14...♗g5! (I like this geometry!)

14...♘d3+!

It reminds me of Anand's 26th move in his game against Topalov from the 2nd round.

15.cxd3 h5!

In case of the immediate 15...dxc3 White takes the piece back after 16.h5

16.f5 ♗h7

So Black wins a piece but his light-squared bishop is out of play for a while.

17.♗d2 dxc3 18.♗xc3 0-0 19.d4

After 19.gxh5 ♗f6 White's initiative vaporises.

19...a5

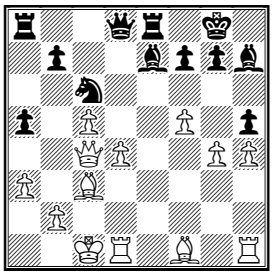
White was threatening with d4-d5. Anand prepares a square for the knight's retreat.

20.a3 ♖e8

Now White should defend against the check on g5.

21.♕c4

21.♕f2 was better. From here the queen protects both f5 and h4 pawns while the c4 square could be assigned to a bishop e.g. 21...hxg4 22.d5 ♘b4!? 23.♗c4! with unclear play.*(23.axb4?! axb4 24.♗xb4? ♖a1+ 25.♔c2 ♖xd1 26.♔xd1 ♕xd5+)*



21...♗xh4! 22.♗d3

22.d5 is harmless now in view of 22...♘e5

22...hxg4 23.♔b1?

Too slow. Shirov's only chance was 23.♖dg1 and if 23...♕g5+ then 24.♗d2 Taking the g4 pawn, White can still disturb the opponent's king.

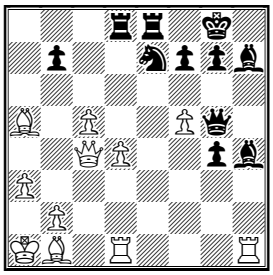
23...♕g5 24.♔a1

24.♗d2 ♕f6 followed by Bxf5.

24...♖ad8

Black has consolidated, his advantage is obvious.

25.♗b1 ♘e7! 26.♗xa5



♗xf5!? 27.♗xd8 ♖xd8

Giving the exchange back Anand set his bishop free. Now Black has a material advantage and a dangerous passed pawn in addition.

28.♖hf1 g6 29.♕b3 ♗e6 30.♕xb7 ♕d5! 31.♕xd5 ♘xd5 32.♖h1 ♗f2 33.c6 ♖c8 34.♖c1 g3 35.♗e4 ♘f6 36.♗g2 ♗d5!

White resigned. Without the bishop he's unable to stop the g-pawn.

0-1

Solution to Quiz Today:

40.♗g6! ♘xa4 40...fxg6 41.hxg6+- **41.♗xf7 ♘c5 42.f5! exf5 43.e6 ♘xe6+ 44.♗xe6 f4 45.♔e4 ♔c5 46.♔xf4 a4 47.♔e5 b3 48.♗xb3! 1-0**

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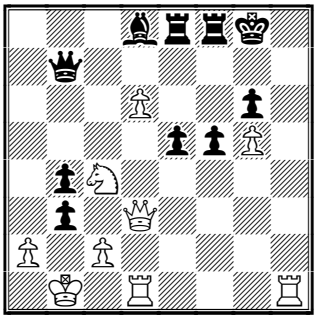
CT-26(810) 26th January 2003

Quiz Today

R. Ramesh – J. Sriram
ch-IND Mumbai IND (7), 22.01.2003



White to play

Kasparov vs Deep Junior Match to start today!

Sunday, 26th January, the **Kasparov vs. Deep Junior** match starts in New York City. In the 1st game Kasparov will play with White.

Just recall the playing schedule:
Game 1 – Sun. 26th Jan
Game 2 – Tue. 28th Jan
Game 3 – Thur. 30th Jan
Game 4 – Sun. 2nd Feb
Game 5 – Wed 5th Feb
Game 6 – Fri. 7th Feb

All games start at 3:30PM EST. The event is called the *The FIDE Man Vs Machine World Chess Championship* and is sponsored by FIDE and presented by X3D Technologies Corporation which covered the recent Kasparov – Karpov match. The time control is 40 moves in 2 hours followed by 20 moves in one hour then 30 minutes for the rest of the game. The Prize Fund is $1 million with a $500,000 fee for Garry Kasparov, the other half being divided: Winner gets $300,000 to the winner and the loser $200,000, in the case of a tie, $250,000 each.
Official coverage:
http://www.x3dworld.com

We are pleased to bring you today, **IM Yochanan Afek's** 11th round report from the WAZ

The highlight of the 11th round in the A group was undoubtedly the amazing victory of the Dutch champion Loek van Wely over world champion Kramnik . After the effective manoeuvre ♕d2-h6 Black, though having a perfectly sound position, found it hard to make real progress while White had that concrete plan g4-♖g2. The decisive mistake was 38..♕**x**f6? (38... ♕e6 was called for) after which the emerging ending was probably hopeless. Loek said he had calculated the whole bishop ending starting with 48.b5! , Including the finesse 49.c5! up to the inevitable promotion. The impressive game earned him the daily public prize. His countryman Jan Timman, on the other hand, would prefer to forget this year's WAZ ordeal and the earlier the better. Never before has he committed so many blunders in such a short period. Just yesterday, against Ponomariov, 21.a3??, losing the exchange on the spot, seemed the worst of them all. Topalov-Krasenkov saw another version of the fashionable Berlin wall line in the Ruy-Lopez with a new move 13..♘e6. Black gave away his g5 pawn for the c2 one allowing White to take over. A real thriller occurred between two of the most peaceful players of the top group: Ivanchuk vs. Karpov. 16... ♘g4! Looks new, leading to a series of mutual tactical blows. Karpov emerged from the complications with the exchange for a pawn but with no real winning prospects. The fight went on just for a couple of more moves before Vasily had his 10th draw in the tournament. Anand-Grischuk was a thirteen move draw following the Rossolimo line of the Sicilian. Judith Polgar did not achieve much against the Burn variation of Bareev's beloved French

and after massive exchanges a drawish rook ending appeared. Radjabov failed to take advantage of his superior pawn structure in a bishop and rook ending against Shirov.

Wijk aan Zee B

In group B the Chinese GM Zhong arrived yesterday at the office as usual to collect his daily point, his 9th win so far! With 3.5 points ahead of the others and the ticket to the top group next year in his pocket, he will try to have even more fun in the remaining rounds.

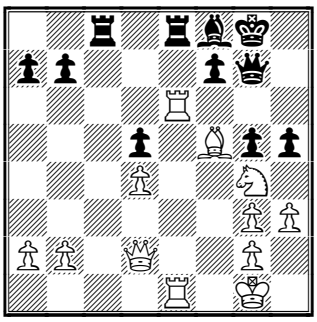
Dutch IM Ruud Janssen is leading the C group with 5.5 points out of 7, ahead of German GM Eric Lobron 5.

The Wijk aan Zee Report

(12h round)
by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for *Chess Today*

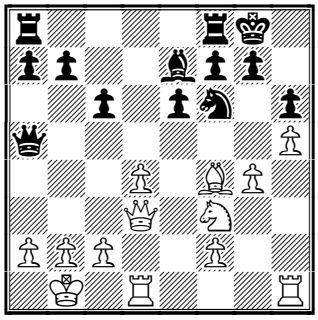
On the eve of the last round the players gave one more try to improve their position in the final standings. Ponomariov managed to crack the reputed rock-solid Petroff employed by Karpov with the spectacular **30.♖xe6! (D)**

R. Ponomariov – A. Karpov

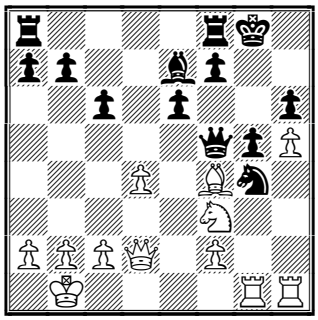


After which it was just a matter of technique to convert the 2 pawns advantage into a full point. Ivanchuk is back to his 50% after being defeated for the first time in the event, by Bareev, who demonstrated excellent attacking play. According to the winner, Ivanchuk still obtained some drawing chances even without his queen, but committed a couple of inaccurate moves. Jan Timman failed again to show any sign of recovery from his disastrous form but he could hardly find in Kramnik the right opponent for his comeback, especially after the latter's defeat from the round before. He gave away, again, a pawn for practically no compensation and later a second one. His king, stuck in the center, eventually led to the loss of his pinned knight too. Krasenkov-van Wely was perhaps the shortest draw in the entire event, yet the other two draws of the round were achieved after really tough fights, both in the usually solid Caro-Kann. Anand was surprised by Judith's **16.g4 (D)**

J. Polgar – V. Anand



in a main line of the Caro-Kann, but after the rather original **18...g5! (D)**



he handled the complications splendidly up to the peaceful conclusion. Asked whether that was the most solid way to win the tournament, he replied that he had no better choice, as he was practically forced to play the only moves, no matter what the situation in the tournament was. This exciting game earned Judith and Vishy together the daily public prize. Shirov insisted

again on the advance variation of the Caro-Kann and following an eventful battle with Topalov defending skilfully against all threats, Alexei had nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual check.

The great hero of the round was undoubtedly the Australian GM Jan Rogers, who following a rather mediocre performance so far, created a mini -sensation in group B by finally stopping the stormy run of the Chinese clear leader Zhong. Nevertheless despite his first defeat Zhong had already secured his glorious victory a couple of rounds before.

Dutch IM Ruud Janssen is the sole leader of group C with 6.5 out of 8 and a draw in the last round against Chernaiev would grant him a GM norm.

Results of the 12th Round:
Polgart – Anand **½:½**
Bareev – Ivanchuk **1:0**
Grischuk – Radjabov **1:0**
Kramnik – Timman **1:0**
Shirov – Topalov **½:½**
Ponomariov – Karpov **1:0**
Krasenkow – van Wely **½:½**

Standings after the 12th Round:
1. Anand – 8
2. Polgar – 7½
3-4. Van Wely, Bareev – 7
5-6. Grischuk, Kramnik – 6½
7-11. Shirov, Ivanchuk, Ponomariov, Radjabov, Topalov – 6
12. Karpov – 5½
13. Krasenkow – 4
14. Timman – 2

Pairings for the final, 13th Round:
Anand – Bareev
Radjabov – Polgar
Topalov – Grischuk
van Wely – Shirov
Timman – Krasenkow
Karpov – Kramnik
Ivanchuk – Ponomariov

Tournament B
Results of the 12th Round:
Nijboer – Jonkman **1:0**
Karjakin – Stellwagen **½:½**
Van der Wiel – Kosteniuk **1:0**
De Vreugt – Naiditsch **0:1**
Rogers – Zhong **1:0**
Hector – Acs **0:1**
Cmilyte – Koneru **0:1**

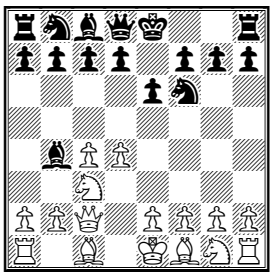
Standings after the 12th Round:
1. Zhang Zhong – 10
2. Nijboer – 7½
3-4. Stellwagen, Naiditsch – 7
5. Karjakin – 6½
6-7. Van der Wiel, De Vreugt – 6
8-10. Rogers, Acs, Hector – 5½
11. Koneru – 5
12. Kosteniuk – 4½
13-14. Cmilyte, Jonkman – 4

Pairing for the last, 13th Round:
Stellwagen – Hector
Kosteniuk – Karjakin
Zhong – van der Wiel
Koneru – Rogers
Jonkman – Cmilyte
Naiditsch – Nijboer
Acs – de Vreugt

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **E. Bareev (2729)**
■ **V. Ivanchuk (2699)**
Event: *GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (12), 25.01.2003* **- *[E34]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 (D)



Eugeny Bareev likes this solid line (Classical variation) of Nimzo Indian defence - the Queen protects the knight on c3 and White avoids double pawns c3 and c4.

4...d5 5.cxd5 ♕xd5 6.e3 c5 7.♗d2 ♗xc3 8.bxc3!?

This move was popular in 1930s, but

Bareev likes it. Nowadays much more popular is 8.♗xc3

8...b6

8...0–0 9.♘f3 b6 10.c4 ♕h5 11.♗e2 ♗b7 12.0–0 ♘bd7 etc. Bareev – Huzman, Panormo 2001.

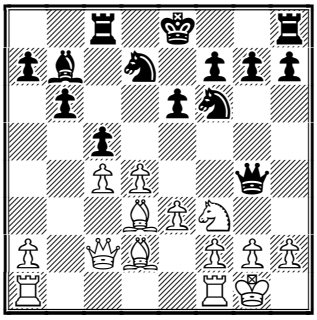
9.♘f3 ♗b7

9...♘bd7 10.c4 ♕d6 11.♗e2 ♗b7 12.♖d1 ♖c8 13.0–0 ♕c7 14.dxc5 ♘xc5 15.♘d4 0–0⇄ Bareev – Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 2003, 4th Round.

10.♗e2 ♘bd7 11.0–0 ♖c8?!

Maybe more precise was 11...0–0 Because Black's king is still in the center White decides to sacrifice a pawn to open some files to expose the king on e8.

12.c4 ♕e4 13.♗d3 ♕g4 (D)



14.d5!?

And here it is.

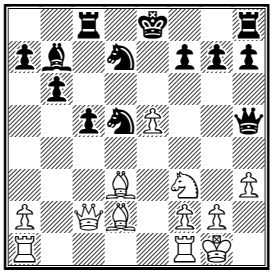
14...exd5 15.cxd5 ♗xd5

Black has to accept the "gift", because otherwise his position after e3–e4 will be very difficult. Also Black couldn't take on d5 with knight, for example: [15...♘xd5? 16.♗f5 ♘b4 *(16...♕h5 17.♕e4+ ♔d8 18.♖fd1→)* 17.♗xb4 ♕xb4 18.♖fb1 ♕a3 19.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 20.♕f5+ ♔e8 21.♖d1+–

16.e4 ♗b7

Obviously the second pawn was poisoned: 16...♘xe4? 17.♖ae1! *(17.♖fe1 f5 18.♘g5 ♘e5 19.f3 ♘xf3+ 20.♘xf3 0–0∞)* 17...f5 18.♘g5 0–0 19.f3+–

17.h3 ♕h5 18.e5 ♘d5 (D)



Fritz offers 18...♘g8 but as a human I couldn't believe this move :–)

19.♖ae1

An alternative was 19.♗f5!? ♖d8 *(19...♗c6 20.e6 fxe6 21.♗xe6≅; 19...♘e7?! 20.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 21.♕a4+ ♘c6 22.♖fd1≅)* 20.e6 fxe6 21.♗xe6≅]

19...♘b4

19...0–0 20.♘g5 g6 21.♗e2 ♕h4 22.g3 ♕d4 *(22...♕h6 23.♗g4+–)* 23.♘f3!±; 19...♘c7!? 20.♘g5 ♘e6

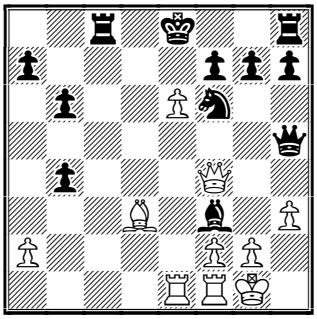
20.♗xb4 cxb4 21.♕d2 ♗xf3

21...0–0!? 22.♘g5 h6 23.e6 ♘c5 24.exf7+ ♔h8

22.e6! ♘f6

22...fxe6 23.♖xe6+ ♔d8 *(23...♔f7 24.♗g6+! hxg6 25.♕xd7+ ♔g8 26.♕xc8+ ♔h7 27.♕d7±)*]

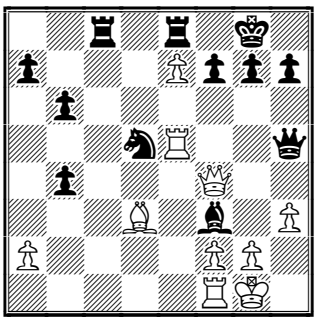
23.♕f4! (D)



A key position. Can Black save his bishop or not?

23...0–0

After 23...♗c6 24.exf7+ ♔xf7 25.♖e5 ♕h6 26.♗c4+ ♔f8 27.♕d4→ White receives a very strong attack. A much more complicated situation arises after; 23...♗d5!? for example: 24.e7!? *(24.♖e5 ♕h6 25.♗b5+ ♔e7 26.♕xb4+ ♖c5)* 24...♘d7 25.♗b5 ♗e6 26.♖e5 ♕h6 27.♕d4! ♖c1! *(27...♔xe7? 28.♕xd7+)* 28.♖xe6 ♖xf1+ 29.♔xf1 ♕xe6 30.♕xg7 ♕xa2 31.♕xh8+ ♔xe7–+] **24.e7 ♖fe8 25.♖e5 ♘d5? (D)**



Maybe Black missed his opponent's reply, after which he has to part with his Queen. 25...♕h6?! 26.♕xf3 *(26.♕xh6 gxh6 27.gxf3 ♖c5 28.♖fe1 ♘d5∞)* 26...♕d2 27.♗b5; 25...♖xe7!? 26.♖xh5 *(26.♖xe7 ♘d5 27.♕xf7+ ♕xf7 28.♗xh7+ ♔f8 29.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 30.♗f5 ♖c5 31.gxf3 ♘c3∓)* 26...♗xh5 27.♕xb4 ♖e5=

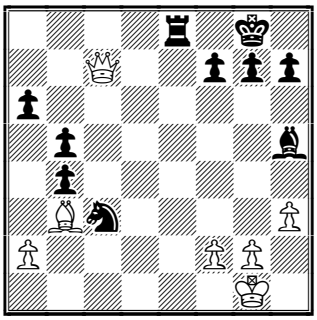
26.♕g3! ♘xe7

26...♕h6 27.♕xf3 ♘xe7 28.♗b5 ♕d6 29.♖fe1+−

27.♖xh5 ♗xh5 28.♖e1 ♘d5

More stubborn was 28...♗g6 29.♗b5 ♘f5 30.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 31.♕c7

29.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 30.♗c4! ♘c3 31.♕c7 b5 32.♗b3 a6 (D)



33.f4!

This strong move wins at once: Black can't defend the f7-point and save his bishop at the same time.

33...♘e2+ 34.♔h2 1-0.

Solution to Quiz Today

R. Ramesh – J. Sriram

ch-IND Mumbai IND (7), 22.01.2003

30.d7! [30.♕xb3 ♕f7] **30...bxc2+** [30...bxa2+ 31.♔a1 ♖e7 32.♕h3+−] **31.♕xc2 ♖e7 32.♕h2 ♕e4+ 33.♔a1 ♖g7 34.♘d6! 1-0**

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(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
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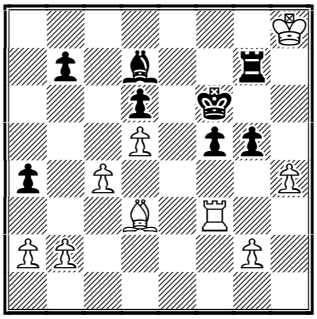
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-27(811) 27th January 2003

Quiz Today

A. Naiditsch – F. Nijboer F
GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (13), 26.01.2003



White to play

Anand wins Corus, while Kasparov takes first game against DJ!

New York City (26 Jan 2003): The first game of the Kasparov vs Deep Junior match was easily won by the man. Kasparov played White. In a sharp line of Slav Defence (Anti-Meran) with 7.g4 he got the advantage. On the 17th move Junior unexpectedly sacrificed the exchange but obtained nothing instead. 10 moves later the computer resigned in a completely lost ending. Kasparov leads 1:0. Nikolai Vlassov will comment on this game for you in the next CT issue. The 2nd game will be played on Tuesday, January 28.

The Wijk aan Zee Report

(13h and final round)
by **IM Yochanan Afek**, especially for *Chess Today*

Vishy Anand went undefeated to win the top group of the 65th Corus tournament in the Dutch tourist resort of WAZ for the third time in his career. It was, however, the first time his triumph was his alone to saveur. His drawn game with Bareev yesterday (a French, in 14 moves) was the 59th in a row (in the last 4 editions here) without a single loss!

Judith Polgar, going undefeated as well this year, drew in 19 moves following a peaceful Queen's Indian to gain the highlight of her entire career so far, ahead of several current and former world champions, to establish once more her unshakeable position as the strongest lady player ever .The other short draw of the round was achieved, following a main line of the Nimzo-Indian , between the great Ks,

Karpov and Kramnik. For Kramnik it was the first serious classical chess event since Dortmund 2001 (except a few battles with silicon monsters) and it indeed showed , as it is rather rare for him to lose 3 games in one tournament.

Van Wely sacrificed a pawn in the main line of the Queen's Gambit Accepted and penetrated with both rooks to the seventh rank. It looked dangerous when Shirov in a well-timed counter attack left the Dutchman in a hopeless position with 2 pawns down. Nevertheless Loek's final result this year is a great improvement comparing the memorable disaster of the previous edition. That could hardly be said about the exceptionally poor performance of his countryman Jan Timman who managed to draw a

clearly inferior ending against Krasenkov, obtaining an uncrackable fortress position. Without a single win Timman found himself down there at the very bottom and is going to have a rest from competitive chess for several months. Topalov–Grischuk saw another interesting version of the Sicilian Sveshnikov in which White masterfully obtained a winning position but somewhere around time trouble he spoiled it and got one of those rook endings where two connected passed pawns are insufficient for a win. Ponomariov blundered heavily already at move 20 against Ivanchuk probably seeing 21.Bc5 but ignoring 21.Qc5!, which won the exchange in a couple of more moves, and then the entire game. It seems that the whole world championship affair and the pressure put on him to sign the contract had a direct effect on Pono's performance here.

The Wijk aan Zee B group was won in grand style by Chinese GM Zhang Zhong who paved his way to the A group next year, scoring impressively 10 wins, 2 draws and just one loss. German GM Arkady Neiditsch (17), beating Dutchman Friso Nijboer and Dutch IM Daniel Stellwagen (15), beating Swedish GM Johny Hector and scoring a well-deserved GM norm, shared second.

Group C saw a dramatic turn around in the very last round when Dutch IM lost to Russian IM Cherniaev and missed his chance for a GM norm and first place. German GM Eric Lobron took advantage of the circumstances to win the tournament with 7/9,ahead of Janssen and Chinese GM Bu 6.5 each, Cherniaev 6 and Croatian GM Cebalo 5.

Round 13 results:
Anand – Bareev ½:½
Radjabov – Polgar ½:½
Van Wely – Shirov 0:1
Ivanchuk – Ponomariov 1:0
Karpov – Kramnik ½:½
Topalov – Grischuk ½:½
Timman – Krasenkow ½:½

Fianal standings:
1. Anand – 8½
2. Polgar – 8
3. Bareev – 7½
4–8. Van Wely, Ivanchuk, Shirov, Grischuk, Kramnik – 7
9–10. Topalov, Radjabov – 6½
12. Karpov, Ponomariov – 6
13. Krasenkow – 4½
14. Timman – 2½

Chinese GM Zhang Zhong has demonstrated a clear superiority in the Wijk aan Zee B His final score is 11 points, 3 points ahead of the second place!

Round 13 results:
Zhang Zhong – Van der Wiel 1:0
Stellwagen – Hector 1:0
Kosteniuk – Karjakin ½:½
Naiditsch – Nijboer 1:0
Acs – De Vreught ½:½
Koneru – Rogers 1:0
Jonkman – Cmilyte 1:0

Final standings:
1. Zhang Zhong – 11
2–3. Stellwagen, Naiditsch – 8
4. Nijboer – 7½
5. Karjakin – 7
6. De Vreught – 6½
7–9. Acs, Van der Wiel, Koneru – 6
10–11. Hector, Rogers – 5½
12–13. Kosteniuk, Jonkman – 5
14. Cmilyte – 4

Indian Championships
Round 14 standings:
1. Sasikiran –11
2. Harikrishna – 10
3. Kunte – 9½
4. Barua – 8½
5. Ganguly – 8
6–8. Neelotpal, Ravi, Venkatesh – 7½, etc.
All the leaders except for Kunte have played 13 games.

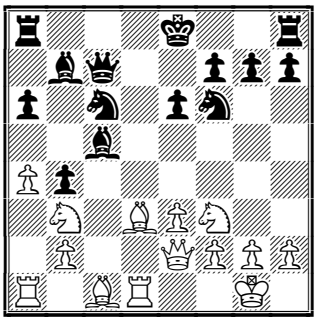
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

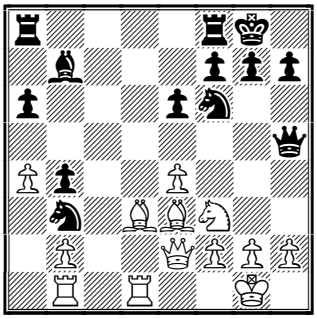
□ **V. Ivanchuk (2699)**
■ **R. Ponomariov (2734)**
Event: *GMA Wijk aan Zee NED (13), 26.01.2003*– ***[D27]***

Annotations by IM Maxin Notkin

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 a6 6.0–0 c5 7.dxc5 ♗xc5 8.♕e2 b5
Many people play 8...♘c6 ; or 8...♕c7
9.♗d3 ♘c6 10.♖d1
White has a variety of plans – 1) 10.a3 followed by b4 and ♗b2; 2) 10.♘c3 with ideas of e4 or ♘e4 ; 3) 10.♘bd2 and the knight can go to e4 again or b3
10...♕c7 11.a4
This line arose a few times in the games of the 1930's. Salo Flohr played it with Black against three World Champions.
11...b4
Flohr tried this advance against Alekhine (Bled 1931) and Euwe (Amsterdam/ Karlsbad 1932) and lost both games. This made him turn to the pawns exchange. The position after 11...bxa4 has already been met in Wijk aan Zee. Krasenkow against Shirov played 12.♖xa4 ♘b4 13.♗b5+ ♘d7 14.♗d2N Black couldn't solve the new problems and lost.
12.♘bd2 ♗b7N
Alekhine – Flohr continued 12...0–0 13.♘b3 ♗e7 14.e4 ♘d7 15.♗e3 and the weakness of the c5–square failed Black eventually.; Against Euwe Flohr prevented Nb3 by means of 12...♘a5 but after 13.b3 ♘d5 14.♗b2 ♘c3 15.♗xc3 bxc3 16.♘e4 ♘xb3 17.♖ab1 ♘a5 18.♖dc1! White obtained a strong initiative and won quickly – 18...♗e7 19.♖xc3 ♕d8 20.♖d1 ♕b6 21.♘fg5 g6 22.♕f3 0–0 23.♘f6+ ♗xf6 24.♕xf6 ♗b7 25.♘xh7! ♖fd8 *(25...♔xh7 26.♗xg6+ ♔g8 27.♖d7+–)* 26.h4 ♖d7 27.h5 ♕d8 28.h6! 1–0
13.♘b3 (D)



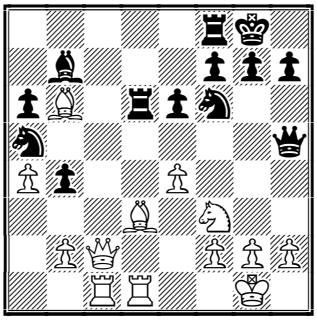
13...♘a5
Ruslan makes an unusual decision to give up a bishop. I believe there's nothing bad with 13...♗d6 14.e4 0–0.
14.♘xc5 ♕xc5 15.e4 ♘b3 16.♖b1
After the suggesting itself 16.♗e3 ♕h5 White loses the e4–pawn.
16...0–0
The exchange 16...♘xc1 gives White a huge advantage in development. After 17.♖bxc1 ♕b6 *(17...♕h5 18.♖c7; 17...♕a5 18.♘d2)* 18.♘e5 0–0 19.♘c4 followed by e4–e5 the white knight gets the excellent d6–square while the queen will provoke the weakening of his opponent's kingside by ♕h5 (or ♕e4 in case of ♘f6–d5).
17.♗e3 ♕h5 (D)



The retreat along the c–file 17...♕c6 allows White to set an unpleasant opposition by 18.♗c2 ♘c5 *(18...♘a5 19.♖bc1)* 19.♖bc1! (the ideas of Bxc5, e5, Bxh7+ are in the air) 19...♘cxe4 20.♖d4 and Black's pieces lack steadiness.
18.♕c2!
Now 18.♗c2 ♘c5 doesn't hurt at all.
18...♘a5 19.♖bc1
19.♕c5 which looks dangerous is met by 19...♕xc5 20.♗xc5 ♖fd8 21.♗xb4 ♖xd3! 22.♖xd3 ♗xe4 23.♖bd1 ♗xd3 24.♖xd3 ♘c6 and Nd5 equalizing.]
19...♖ad8?!
Maybe after 19...♖ac8 Ponomariov didn't like 20.♕e2 aiming at the a6–

pawn; and in case of 19...♖fc8 White can play 20.♕d2 this time having the b4-pawn as a target and using the fact that 20...♘b3? is parried by the in-between check on c8. Nevertheless one of these moves should have been chosen.

20.♗b6 ♖d6? (D)



The FIDE World Champion simply overlooked the White's next move, otherwise I don't know what to think. 20...♖xd3 fails to 21.♕xd3 ♗xe4 22.♕xa6 ♗xf3 23.gxf3 ♘b3 24.♖c8 winning; 20...♖c8 was necessary.

21.♕c5!

Apparently he counted on 21.♗c5 ♖c6 and White's bishop is in danger; or 21.♗xa5 ♕xa5 22.e5 ♖c6 and Black's pieces escape the double attack.

21...♕xc5 22.♗xc5

The game is over. Ivanchuk is no in hurry to take the rook and is rewarded by a knight for his patience.

22...♖d7 23.♘e5!? ♖dd8 24.♗xb4 ♘b3 25.♖c3 ♖fe8

25...♘d4 26.♗xf8 ♔xf8 27.♖c7

26.♖xb3 ♗xe4 27.f3 ♗f5 28.♖d2 ♖b8 29.♗xa6

Black resigned. **1-0.**

Solutions to Quiz Today

A. Naiditsch - F. Nijboer F

GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (13), 26.01.2003

37.♗xf5! ♗xf5 38.♖xf5+ ♔xf5 39.♔xg7 gxh4 40.♔f7 ♔f4 [40...b6 41.♔e7 ♔f4 *(41...♔e5 42.a3)* 42.♔xd6 ♔g3 43.♔c6 ♔xg2 44.d6 h3 45.d7 h2 46.d8♕ h1♕ 47.♕d5+] **41.c5! 1-0**

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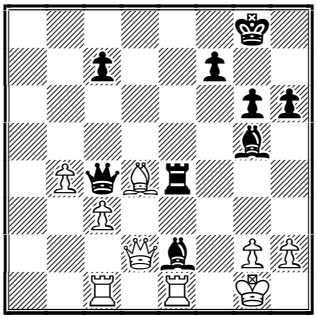
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-28(812) 28th January 2003

Quiz Today

I Rogers – Zhang Zhong
GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (12), 25.01.2003



White to play

The whole world is now keeping a sharp eye on the *Man vs Machine* match. **Garry Kasparov** managed to start it with a brilliant victory! Please, see below the first encounter annotated by **IM Nikolai Vlassov**. Tomorrow is the second game of the match.

Indian Championship:
Official coverage at:
http://www.venuschessacademy.com/index.html
Round 15 Standings:
1. Krishnan Sasikiran – 12/14;
2. P. Harikrishna – 10½/14;
3. Abhijit Kunte – 10/15;
4. Dibyendu Barua – 9½/14;
5. Surya Shekhar Ganguly, – 8½/14;
6. M.R Venkatesh – 8½/14;
7. Das Neelotpal – 8/14;

8–10. Kidambi Sundararajan;
Lanka Ravi;
Tejas Bakre – 7½/14, etc.

The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival has started on 25th January. The festival includes the following events:

1. Cat. XV GM-A Tournament: An 11 round, round robin tournament (25 January – 5 February)

Round 1 results:
A. Shabalov – L. Christiansen, L – ½:½
A. Gershon – B. Macieja – 1:0
P. Svidler – K. Miton – 1:0
G. Vescovi – T. Markowski – 1:0
A. Volokitin – S. Movsesian – ½:½

The game A. Motylev – M. Al-Modiakhi will be played on Saturday, which is a rest day.

Round 2 results:
L. Christiansen – L. Motylev – 0:1
B. Macieja – M. Al-Modiakhi – 1:0
S. Movsesian – A. Gershon – ½:½
K. Miton – A. Volokitin – 0:1
T. Markowski – P. Svidler – ½:½
A. Shabalov, – G. Vescovi – 0:1

2. Cat. X GM-B Tournament: An 11 round, round robin tournament (25 January – 5 February)

Round 1 results:
E. Berg – P. Blatny – 0:1
R. Schmaltz – V. Dinstuhl – 1:0
J. Moreno – H. Kallio – 1:0
E. Perelshteyn – M. Mulyar – 1:0
H. Nakamura – G. Seul – 1:0

The game W. Paschall – D. Fridman, D will be played on Saturday, a rest day.

Round 2 results:
H. Kallio – P. Blatny – 1:0
W. Paschall – E. Berg – ½:½
M. Mulyar – D. Fridman – 0:1
G. Seul – E. Perelshteyn – 0:1
V. Dinstuhl – H. Nakamura – 1:0
J. Moreno – R. Schmaltz – ½:½

The game W. Paschall- D. Fridman will be played on Saturday.

3. Bermuda Open: A five rounds weekend Swiss Open. (7 February – 9 February)
4. Bermuda Blitz: 6 February

♘♘♘

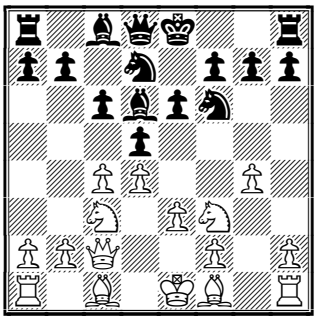
Annotated Game

□ **Garry Kasparov**
■ **Deep Junior**

Event: *Man vs Machine Match, NYC (1), 26.01.2003* – ***[D45]***

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 ♗d6 (D)



For the last 10 years this quiet and solid Queen's Gambit has been followed by the keen move

7.g4!?

for a great deal of the time. And Kasparov himself was at the root, the first game of that kind included in chess bases had been played by him in 1992.

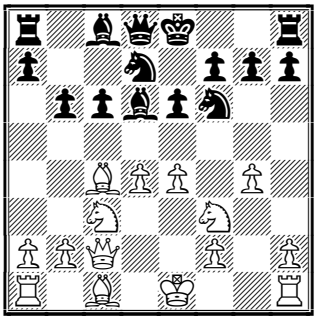
7...dxc4 8.♗xc4

RR The even more reckless move 8.e4!? has occured before 8...e5 9.g5 exd4 10.♘xd4 ♘g4 11.h3 ♘ge5 12.♗e3 ♘c5 13.0–0–0 ♘ed3+ 14.♔b1 ♕e7 15.♖g1 g6 16.♗g2 0–0 17.♔a1 ♗f4 18.♗xf4 ♘xf4 19.h4 ♖d8 20.♕d2 ♘cd3 21.♕e3 ♗g4 22.♖d2 ♕e5 0–1 Adams,M–Kasparov,G/Dortmund 1992

8...b6

This move is necessary for the development of the c8–bishop because the knight on d7 can't make useful moves...

9.e4 (D)



9...e5?!

This move is one of the reasons for Black's troubles. I wonder why he made the previous move if he was going to make this one?! [Interesting is the sharpest line 9...♗b7!? 10.e5 c5! 11.exf6 ♗xf3 *(11...♕xf6)* 12.fxg7 ♖g8 13.♕xh7 ♘f6 14.♗b5+ ♔e7 15.♗g5 ♗f4! ½–½ Barsov,A–Kohlweyer,B/Porto San Giorgio Judging by Kasparov's comments he knew of this possibility and was ready for it.

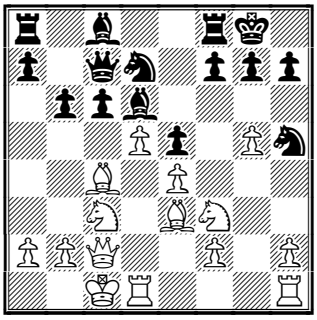
10.g5 ♘h5

Starting from here I began experimenting comparing the moves made by "my" Junior vs the Junior Kasparov was playing. Below I am going to highlight the differences. In this position "my" Junior stubbornly wanted to give the knight to White after 10...exd4?! 11.♘xd4 ♘e5?! Does the c6–pawn cost more than a knight?! 12.gxf6 ♕xf6 13.♗e2+–; 10...♘g4 does not help 11.d5! and the knight is trapped.

11.♗e3 0–0

As for this move "my" Junior did not even have any desire to review it! It immediately felt up to playing more "proactive" 11...b5 or; 11...exd4

12.0–0–0 ♕c7 13.d5!N (D)



A very strong novelty, which was decisive for Kasparov's victory. The following has occurred before: [13.♔b1 and; 13.♗e2 By the way, Kasparov spent quite a lot of time on this move. Did he strive to recall or manage to find it during the game?

13...b5?!

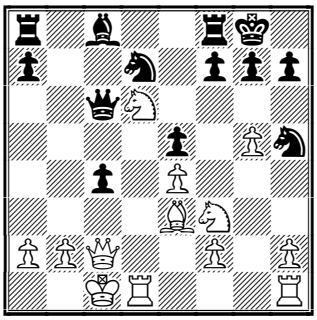
More reliable is 13...♗b7 , but Junior is so fond of counter attack...

14.dxc6! bxc4 15.♘b5!

Not so clear is 15.♕d2 ♗b4! 16.cxd7 ♗b7 the knight on d6 is more

dangerous for Black than a pawn on d7.

15...♕xc6 16.♘xd6 (D)

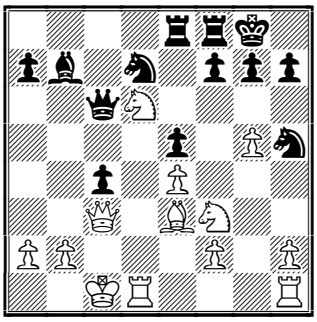


Immediately after the opening, Black's position looks like a country annexed by enemies. And it is not the king on g8 who rules but imperial representative, the knight on d6!

16...♗b7

The despairing attempt to relieve by means of 16...f5?! also does not lead to success 17.♘xf5 ♖xf5 18.exf5 ♕xf3 19.♕xc4+ ♔h8 20.♕f7 ♕c6+ 21.♔b1 ♗b7 22.♖he1 ♕e4+ 23.♔a1+− and Black falls.

17.♕c3 ♖ae8 (D)



Not every chess programme can "realise" that the d6-knight is stronger than the rook. Junior knows it! But the only thing Black can hope for here is that the opponent slips up during time trouble. GM Shipov indicated the beautiful: 17...♖fd8? 18.♘xf7! ♔xf7 19.♖xd7+!+−

18.♘xe8 ♖xe8 19.♖he1 ♕b5 20.♘d2 ♖c8

Junior is not happy to sacrifice the c4-pawn, maybe one of the knights will manage to get on d3?

21.♔b1 ♘f8?!

Junior is fulfilling its long-term plan! It is transferring both of its knights on f4 and after that - on d3! But who will grant him an opportunity to make so many moves in a row?! "My" Junior suggested opening "the window": [21...g6

22.♔a1 ♘g6 23.♖c1 ♗a6 24.b3!

That's it! The bulwark on c4 fallsl, the knights were too late.

24...cxb3 25.♕xb3 ♖a8 26.♕xb5 ♗xb5 27.♖c7

In conclusion I would like to concentrate on a curious "side" effect of my "experiment". Kasparov's play did not differ much from "my" Junior's recommendations than the two Juniors differing from one another. His performance was above reproach, but Junior would have managed to defeat himself even not worse if he had got the same position after the opening. We can ascertain that the Human won his first game thanks to an excellent home preparation. And, of course, he did not lose his nerve. We will hope that, at least playing with White, Junior will succeed in getting the better position after the opening and defending more zealously. **1-0.**

Solutions to Quiz Today

I Rogers - Zhang Zhong

GMB Wijk aan Zee NED (12), 25.01.2003

33.♖a1! [33.♕c2 ♖xd4! 34.cxd4 ♕xd4+ 35.♔h1 ♗xc1] **33...♔f8 34.♖a8+ ♔e7 35.♕c2+− ♕e6 36.♖a6 c6 37.♖a7+ ♔e8 38.♗c5 f5 39.♖ea1 ♗e3+ 40.♗xe3 ♖xe3 41.♕d2 1-0**

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CHESS TODAY
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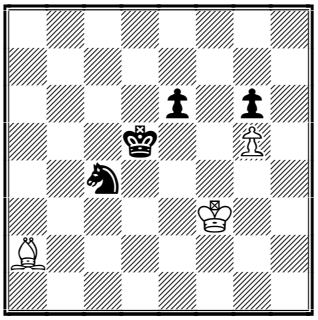
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-29(813) 29th January 2003

Quiz Today

A. Gershon (2571) – B. Macieja (2629)
GMA Bermuda BER (1), 25.01.2003



White to play
Position after 60... ♔d4-d5

Bareev vs Hiracs X match starts – first game drawn

Quiet opening in Maastricht
by Eric van Reem
(Press officer Chess Events Maastricht Foundation)

The first game of the Man vs. Machine match **Bareev-Hiarcs X** ended in a draw. Dick Klokgieters from sponsor Duwell opened the match at 1 PM CET. Bareev, playing Black, chose the French Opening. Hiarcs avoided the exchange of queens in the middle game. After 25 moves Black seemed to have a slight advantage, but Hiarcs could defend its position. Bareev thought that he was almost winning after the queens were exchanged, but he could not find a winning variation. "Well, let´s try again tomorrow", Bareev smiled. Mark Uniacke was not unhappy with the draw. "The exchange variation is drawish, but the open position is good for the computer. I don´t like those close positions with a Caro-Kann-Slav pawn structure, which are difficult for computers".

You can find the game with analyses by Jan van Reek at the official website: www.chessevents.nl. The next game will be played on Tuesday, 13.00 CET. You will also find some pictures on the official website. This game is included in the attached game files.

Krishnan Sasikiran keeps his leading position after the 17th Round of 40th Indian Championships .

1. Sasikiran – 14 points
2. Harikrishna – 12
3-4. Kunte, Barua – 10½
5-7. Neelotpal, Ganguly, Venkatesh – 9 etc. (all the leaders had played 16 games)

Also see our Annotated Game section.

The Bermuda GMA and GMB 2003 tournaments,

Round 3 Standings.:
GMA
1-2. Vescovi, Svidler – 2½ points
3. Gershon – 2
4-8. Motylev (after 2 games), Markowski, Movsesian, Volokitin, Macieja – 1½ etc.

GMB
1-2. Schmaltz, Perelshteyn – 2½ points
3. Nakamura – 2
4-7. Paschall (out of 2), Fridman (out of 2), Dinstuhl, Moreno Carnero – 1½ etc.

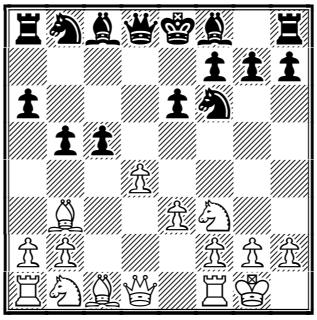
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **K. Sasikiran (2664)**
■ **S. Ganguly (2556)**
Event: *ch-IND Mumbai IND (16), 28.01.2003* – ***[D27]***

Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.♗b3 b5 (D)



A popular line of the Queen Gambit accepted.

8.a4

First White tries to weaken his opponent's pawn structure on the Queen side.

8...b4 9.♘bd2

And the Knight is headed for c4.

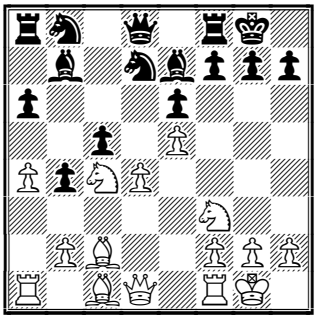
9...♗b7 10.e4!? ♗e7

Black didn't dare to accept the pawn sacrifice, maybe in view of 10...♘xe4 11.♘xe4 ♗xe4 12.♖e1 ♗d5 *(12...♗b7 13.d5)* 13.♗g5↑

11.e5 ♘fd7?!

11...♘d5 looks much more natural.

12.♘c4 0-0 13.♗c2 (D)



With the strong protected pawn on e5 White has clearly the better chances here.

13...cxd4 14.♗f4!

White defends the e5-pawn once again – Aron Nimzovich would be happy!

14...♗d5 15.♕xd4 b3!?

An interesting attempt at counterplay: Black develops his Knights with tempi.

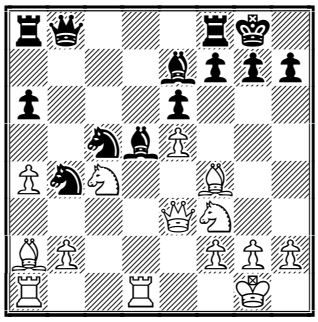
16.♗xb3 ♘c6 17.♕e3 ♘c5 18.♖fd1

18.♗a2 ♘b4 19.♘d6 ♘xa4=

18...♕b8

18...♘xb3!? 19.♕xb3 ♖b8∞

19.♗a2 ♘b4 (D)



20.♘d6!

Not only Garry Kasparov knows (see CT-812), that a Knight on d6 usually stands very well! :-)

20...♘xa2

20...♘c2? 21.♕xc5; 20...♘xa4? 21.♗xd5 ♘xd5 22.♖xd5 exd5 23.♖xa4±

21.♕xc5 ♕xb2 22.♗d2

Black has regained the pawn, but his knight a2 is nearly trapped now.

22...♖ab8 23.♕a7 ♗d8?!

Interesting was 23...♗xd6!? 24.exd6 ♗xf3 25.gxf3 ♘c3!? for example: 26.♗xc3 ♕xc3 27.d7 *(27.♕xa6 ♕xf3⇄)* 27...♕a5 28.♖ac1 ♕g5+ 29.♔h1 ♕f4 30.♖c3

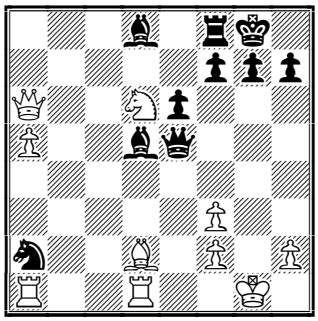
24.a5!

Simple and strong: the Bishop has to stay on d8 now.

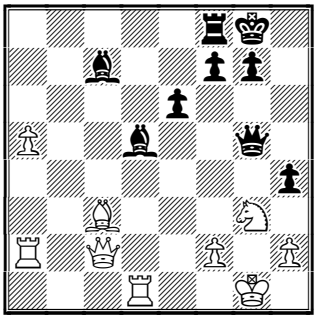
24...♖b3?!

Black thinks about attack, but it would be better to evacuate his Knight a2 from it's poor off-side position.

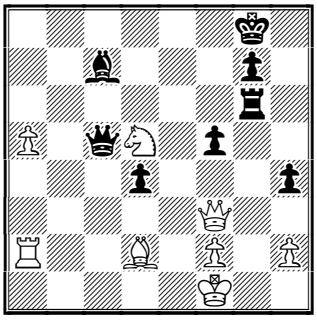
25.♕xa6 ♖xf3 26.gxf3 ♕xe5 (D)



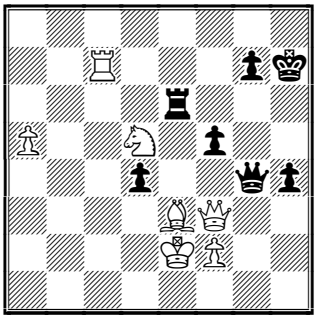
27.♘e4
The Knight hurries to defend his King.
27...♗c7 28.♘g3 ♗xf3 29.♕c4!
And Queen does the same.
29...♗d5
29...♗xd1? 30.♖xd1 and Black looses the Knight a2 or Bishop c7.
30.♕c2 h5 31.♖xa2 h4 32.♗c3 ♕g5 (D)



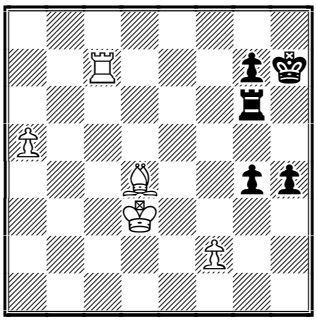
33.♖xd5!
Thanks to this exchange sacrifice White unpins the knight on g3 and receives a decisive advantage. But the realisation was also very interesting and full of tactical blows.
33...exd5 34.♗d2 ♕e7
34...♕g4 35.♕xc7+−
35.♘f1 ♕d7 36.♕a4 ♕e7 37.♕g4
37.a6
37...f5 38.♕f3 ♖f6 39.♘e3 d4 40.♘d5 ♖g6+ 41.♔f1 ♕c5 (D)



42.♕b3
42.♘xc7? ♕c4+
42...♔h7 43.♖c2 ♕d6 44.♖xc7 ♕xh2 45.♕f3 ♕g1+ 46.♔e2 ♖e6+ 47.♗e3 ♕g4 (D)



48.♘f6+! ♖xf6 49.♕xg4 d3+ 50.♔xd3 fxg4 51.♗d4 ♖g6 (D)



52.♖xg7+!
52.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 53.♗xg7 ♔xg7 54.a6 h3 55.a7 h2 56.a8♕+− **1−0.**

Solutions to Quiz Today
A. Gershon (2571) – B. Macieja (2629)
GMA Bermuda BER (1), 25.01.2003
61.♗xc4+! I suspect, for Black this exchange was like a bolt from the blue – the pawn ending will be winning for White very easily. **61...♔xc4 62.♔e4** And King takes both e6 and g6. Black resigned. **1−0.**

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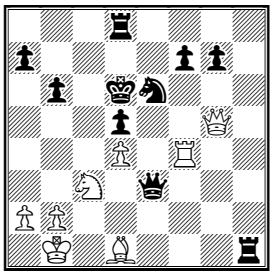
CT-30(814) 30th January 2003

Quiz Today

Shabalov (2613) – Vescovi (2592)
GMA Bermuda BER (2), 26.01.2003

37. ... ♘e6?



White to play

White either gave up here or lost on time. However, he could draw this game easily ...

Kasparov 1½ Junior ½

Top grandmasters are deeply concerned about the situation in the Chess World and have appealed to Mr. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov in an Open Letter.

The second encounter of Kasparov vs Deep Junior was drawn. Now we are looking forward to the third game, which is taking place tomorrow. Please, find below annotations to the second game of the match.

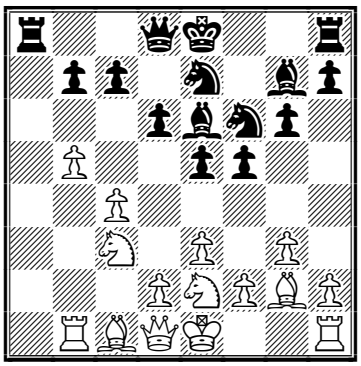
Another Man vs Machine match is being held in Maastricht. The second game was also drawn here. It is included in our cbv file and we are grateful to Eric van Reem for the following report ...

Strategic battle ends in a draw
by Eric van Reem (Press officer, Chess Events Maastricht Foundation)

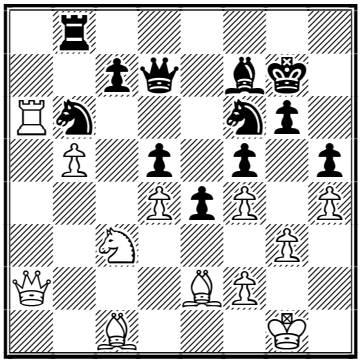
Mark Uniacke arrived at the Centre Ceramique early to get his fast Athlon 2.4 Ghz with 1GB RAM started and to play a few blitz games with Hiarcs X against Hiarcs 8. It is obvious that the new version is stronger than its predecessor: Hiarcs X crushed his younger version 4½-½. "I think that this new version is about 50-60 ELO points stronger than Hiarcs 8. I have been working full-time on this version since October. I am a bit nervous before the games start, you could say that I am the nervous part of the program!", Mark Uniacke told us before the game.

Hiarcs has often played in the famous Aegon Man vs. Machine tournaments in The Hague in the nineties. Hiarcs played 30 games in 'Aegon' and scored 18,5 points (62%). In 1997, during an exhibition before the last Aegon tournament started, Hiarcs 5 played games against Anand and Timman: both games ended in a draw.

GM Igor Glek (ELO 2576) came to Maastricht on Wednesday to help his good friend Bareev. They obviously prepared an English opening (very polite, since Hiarcs is an English program!) and after the new move **11 ..Be6**



Hiarcs felt quite comfortable. The English program closed the centre and Bareev took the opportunity to take the initiative on the queenside. Glek thought that white was slightly better after 31 moves,
31..Nf6



but "it is difficult to find the correct plan. Black has a cramped position but maybe it is easy for computers to defend this position. It is a good position to play with white against a human player, but against a computer it is a different story. I can remember that I played against Fritz 3 in a tournament in Bonn in 1995. I thought that I had a winning position but Fritz found some incredible moves. I could not believe that the computer could hold the position." Back to the game: Hiarcs tried to take over the initiative with moves like 36 ..e3 and 37.. ♘xb5. However, that gave some tactical chances for the 36-year old Muscovite. It was not enough to get a winning advantage though: the game ended in a draw.

On Thursday the third game will be played on 13.00 CET. The games can be followed live on the official website: www.chessevents.nl. You may also like to follow the games on the ChessBase server and chat with friends about the game.

The Gibraltar Chess Congress has started on 28th January 2003. A lot of players managed to win the first game. Among them are:

Short, Nigel D g ENG 2690;
Tiviakov, Sergei g NED 2635;
Agdestein, Simen g NOR 2578;
Cramling, Pia g SWE 2492 1.0;
Epishin, Vladimir g RUS 2626;
Hamdouchi, Hichem g MAR 2615;
McShane, Luke J g ENG 2568;
Palac, Mladen g CRO 2591;
Pavlovic, Milos g YUG 2560;
Korneev, Oleg g RUS 2613;
Kotronias, Vasilios g CYP 2573;
Lalic, Bogdan g ENG 2547;
Luther, Thomas g GER 2575;
Speelman, Jonathan S g ENG 2583; etc.

After the 18th round of Indian Championship Krishnan Sasikiran is still in the sole lead with 2 points ahead.
Official coverage at:
www.venuschessacademy.com

Round 18 Standings:
Sasikiran, Krishnan – 14.5/17;
Harikrishna, P – 12.5/17;
Kunte, Abhijit – 11.0/17;
Barua, Dibyendu – 11.0/17;
Neelotpal, Das – 10.0/17;
Venkatesh, M.R – 10.0/17;
Ganguly, Surya Shekhar – 9.5/17;
Sundararajan, Kidambi – 9.0/17;
Thipsay, Praveen M – 9.0/17;
Bakre, Tejas – 9.0/17; etc.

The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival
www.bermuda.bm/chess

Cat. XV GM-A Tournament:
Round 4 standings:
Vescovi, Giovanni – 3.0;
Svidler, Peter – 3.0;
Markowski, Tomasz – 2.5;
Motylev, Alexander – 2.0;
Christiansen, Larry M – 2.0;
Movsesian, Sergei – 2.0;
Gershon, Alik – 2.0; etc.

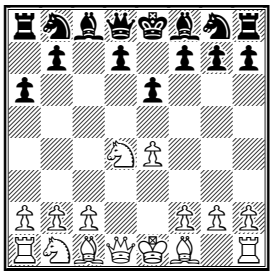
Cat. X GM-B Tournament:
Round 4 standings:
Schmaltz, Roland – 3.0;
Perelshteyn, Eugene – 3.0;
Paschall, William M – 2.5;
Nakamura, Hikaru – 2.5;
Fridman, Daniel – 2.0;
Dinstuhl, Volkmar – 2.0;
Moreno Carnero, Javier – 2.0;
Berg, Emanuel – 2.0; etc.

Annotated Game

□ **Deep Junior (2750)**
■ **G. Kasparov (2847)**
Event: Chess21 www.chess21.com (2), 29.01.2003 B42

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6

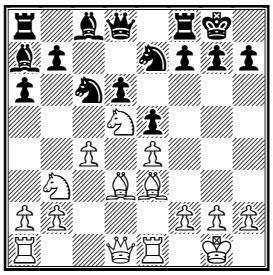


The Paulsen Variation of the Sicilian Defense has arisen. Garry makes an excellent choice. If one can avoid sharp forced lines in the Sicilian, delicate comprehension is required, which Junior is lacking.

5.♗d3 ♗c5 6.♘b3 ♗a7 7.c4 ♘c6 8.♘c3 d6 9.0-0 ♘ge7 10.♖e1

Most players prefer 10.♔h1 with further f-pawn advancement.

10...0-0 11.♗e3 e5 12.♘d5N



This is a novelty and it is unlikely to be a good one. Having placed the knight on a beautiful square in the center, White loses the opportunity to press the weak pawn on d6. Here stronger and more "human" is 12.♗xa7 ♖xa7 13.♕d2 ♗e6 14.♗f1 b6 15.♖ed1 and White is slightly better here. 15...♖d7 16.♖ac1 f5 17.f3 f4 18.♘d5 g5 19.♕f2 ♘c8 20.c5 bxc5 21.♗xa6 ♗xd5 22.exd5 ♘6e7 23.♗d3 ♖a7 24.♕c2 ♔g7 25.♗xh7 c4 26.♘d2 ♘b6 Kogan,A-Bezold,M/Wuerzburg 19961-0

12...a5

Black is starting to struggle for the d4-square.

13.♖c1

The break 13.c5 is harmless for both players: 13...a4 14.cxd6 ♕xd6 15.♗xa7 axb3 16.♗e3 bxa2 17.♗c4 ♘xd5 18.♖xa2! with a probable draw.

13...a4 14.♗xa7 ♖xa7 15.♘d2

15.♘a1 deserved consideration with the knight transfer to c2, where it is able to keep control of d4, and even move to e3 and support another knight on d5.

15...♘d4 16.♕h5

White yearns for an attack on the Queen's side, but everything is quite stable there.

16...♘e6

Black's knight hops from the good d4 to go to the excellent c5.

17.♖c3 ♘c5 18.♗c2

In the light of further developments it was safer to move one more square away: 18.♗b1

18...♘xd5 19.exd5 g6!

Being unafraid of the illusory weakness (White has nothing to attack Black with), Black is lining up an impenetrable fortress against White's bishop on c2.

20.♕h6 f5 21.♖a3?!

Unhumanlike interest in the a4-pawn lures White to the brick of disaster. By the way, he is slightly worse here. An attack on Black's king 21.♖h3 is resisted by the simple 21...b6 - and the rook on a7 is of use here!

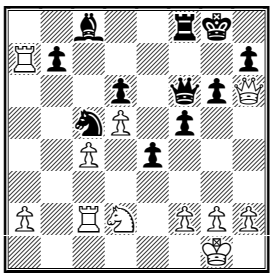
21...♕f6!

Provoking White into winning the exchange, Black is arranging a strong attack on the Queen's side!

22.b4 axb3! 23.♖xa7 bxc2 24.♖c1

It is necessary to eradicate the pawn

24...e4 25.♖xc2



25...♕a1+

Garry is losing tempi, which are very important for an attack. Much stronger is 25...f4! 26.♘f1 e3 27.♘xe3 the rest is much worse: h6-Queen and a7-rook are left all over the board and do not participate in the defense. 27...♗f5! This is an important intermediate move! Taking advantage of the back rank weakness, Black gains one more tempo. 28.♖c1 ♕b2 29.♖d1 fxe3 30.♕xe3 ♗d3!∓

26.♘f1 f4 27.♖a8!

The only, but sufficient defense. Sacrificing the Queen, White gets rid of half the remaining Black pieces.

27...e3 28.fxe3 fxe3 29.♕xf8+! ♔xf8 30.♖xc8+ ♔f7

Game drawn. Playing for a win is not safe for either side. **½-½**

Solution to Quiz Today:

38. ♘b5+ ♔c6 39. ♘xa7+ ♔d6 with repetition because the king is unable to move to the 7th rank due to ♖xf7 winning the Queen. **0-1**

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

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CHESS TODAY
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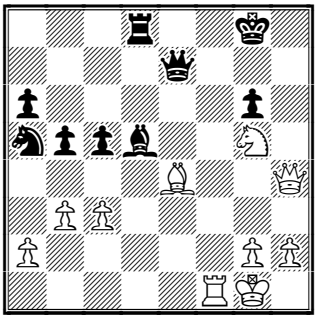
CT-31(815) 31st January 2003

Quiz Today

Svidler (2693) – Christiansen (2562)
GMA Bermuda BER (5), 29.01.2003



White to play

Evgeny Bareev played 13 games in the Corus Chess Tournament in Wijk aan Zee and had just one day to recover from that tour-de-force. On Tuesday the first game of his match against Hiarcs X started. His results so far (three easy draws) prove that it is not necessary to have a certain version of an engine weeks or even months in advance. Bareev: "I just play and really don't care what the name of the program is: Fritz, Junior or Hiarcs, what's the difference? I am a professional chess player, I just play".

Mark Uniacke keeps on working on his engine, even in Maastricht :"Since Hiarcs 8 was released last year, I have made 196 new versions, this version in Maastricht is called Hiarcs 8.196. I have been able to work full-time on the engine since October. I hope that Hiarcs 9 will be released this year. I do only release a new version when it is at least 40 ELO points stronger than its predecessor. And this Maastricht version is at least 60 points stronger than Hiarcs 8. I would not mind to get the top spot on the SSDF list again".

After 13 games in Wijk and two in Maastricht, Evgeny Bareev wanted to think of something else than chess. Your reporter, and match director Hans Adriaanse, joined Evgeny to see *Die another day*, the newest James Bond movie. Evgeny told me that he is James Bond fan: "I have at least 10 Bond movies on tape in Moscow". Afterwards he smiled: "Hmm, no Russians in this movie, does that mean that we are not the bad guys anymore?"

In the third game, Bareev obviously did not want to be the bad guy with black. In a French Defence, Hiarcs chose another variation to game 1, but could not get an advantage. The English program grabbed a pawn, but it was not difficult to equalize for black. After 36 moves Bareev offered a draw. Mark Uniacke accepted that offer. "I am a bit disappointed that I could not get more out of the opening with white. I have been through a lot of Evgeny's games, but it is hard to find a weak spot in his repertoire. His openings are sound and it is difficult to get an advantage."

The last game will be played on Friday, 31 January, 13.00 CET. You can follow the games live on the website www.chessevents.nl.

Eric van Reem

Krishnan Sasikiran won the 40th Indian Championships ahead of schedule, two Rounds before the finish and... lost his first game in this competition! (You can find it in our database today.)

Standings before the last Round:
1. Sasikiran – 15½ points out of 19
2. Harikrishna – 14
3. Kunte – 12
4. Barua – 11½
5-6. Neelotpal, Ganguly – 11 etc.

Women events:
1. Aarthie – 8 ½ points out of 11
2-3. Mohota, Vijayalakshmi – 8 etc.

There will be one more round.

The Bermuda GMA and GMB 2003 tournaments, Round 5 Standings.

GMA
1-2. Vescovi, Svidler – 4 points
3. Markowski – 3½
4. Gershon – 3
5. Movsesian – 2 ½
6-8. Motylev (4 games), Christiansen, Macieja – 2 etc.

GMB
1-3. Schmaltz, Perelshteyn, Nakamura – 3½ points
4-5. Paschall (4 games), Berg – 3 etc.

Also see our Annotated Game ...

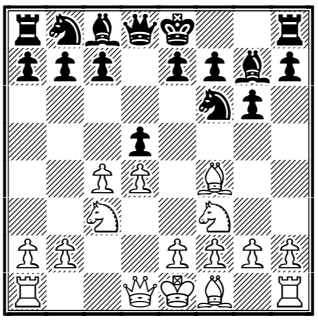
Annotated Game

□ **A Gershon (2571)**
■ **A Shabalov (2613)**
Event: GMA Bermuda BER (5), 29.01.2003 - D92

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

Nowadays grandmasters have to memorise a huge amount of opening variations in order to avoid opening disasters. But from time to time such collapses happen even to the best of them. The next game is a good example of such a situation - a very strong grandmaster, USA champion 2003 Alexander Shabalov, forget the theory in a very sharp line and ... it was all over very soon. And his opponent didn't make a single original move!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗f4

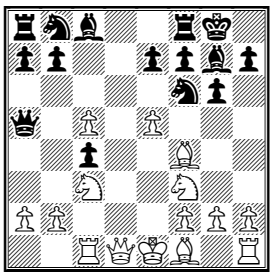


Of course this simple developing move doesn't pretend to be a "refutation" of the Gruenfeld Defence", but it's quite poisoned.

5...0-0 6.♖c1 c5

A month ago in his match vs. Karpov Kasparov choose another line: 6...dxc4 7.e3 ♗e6 *(7...♘bd7 8.♗xc4 c5 9.dxc5 ♘xc5 10.0-0 ♗e6 11.♗xe6 ♘xe6 12.♗e5* Karpov - Kasparov, New-York 2002 (m/3)*)* 8.♘g5 ♗g4 9.f3 ♗c8 10.♗xc4 c6 11.♕b3 e6 Karpov - Kasparov, New-York 2002 (m/1). In both games Karpov had a small advantage after the opening.

7.dxc5 dxc4 8.e4 ♕a5 9.e5



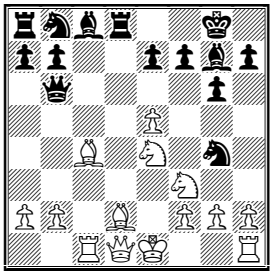
9...♖d8

An alternative is 9...♘h5 for example: 10.♗e3 ♖d8 11.♘d2 ♗xe5 12.♗xc4 ♘c6 13.♕b3 e6 14.♘f3 ♗f4 15.0-0 ♗xe3 16.fxe3 ♕xc5 17.♘e4 ♕e7 18.g4⩲ draw, Dreev - Zvjaginsev, Germany 2000.

10.♗d2 ♘g4 11.♗xc4 ♕xc5

Another line runs after 11...♘c6 12.♘b5 ♖xd2!? etc.

12.♘e4 ♕b6



13.♗xf7+

Nice move, but this combination has been known for more than 40 years!

13...♔xf7 14.♘fg5+

13.Bxf7 was first played by Tigran Petrosian vs. Pal Benko. And the American grandmaster found a defence: 14.♖xc8 ♖xc8 15.♘fg5+ ♔g8! 16.♕xg4 ♕c6! *(16...♘a6? 17.♘d6!* and White won soon in the games Lukacs

– Berndt, AUT-ch 1999 and Lukacs – Szeberenyi, Budapest 2000.*)* 17.♘d6 ♕d7 *(17...exd6?? 18.♕e6+ ♔h8 19.♘f7+ ♔g8 20.♘h6+ ♔h8 21.♕g8+ ♖xg8 22.♘f7#)* 18.♕xd7 ♘xd7 19.♘xc8 ♖xc8 20.f4 ♖c2 21.♔e2 ♗h6 22.♘f3 ♖xb2 *(22...♗xf4? 23.♔d3)* 23.g3 g5 draw, Petrosian – Benko, Curasao 1962

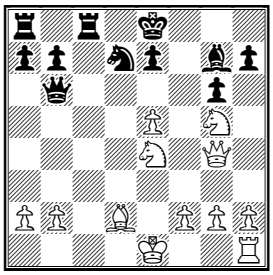
14...♔e8?

14...♔g8!

15.♖xc8 ♖xc8

15...♘xe5 16.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 17.♘e6 ♘d3+ 18.♔f1+–

16.♕xg4 ♘d7



16...♕c6 17.♘d6+ with check! 17...exd6 18.♕e6+ ♔d8 19.exd6+–

17.♘d6+!

And Shabalov resigned, while the following game ran two moves more:17.♘d6+ exd6 18.♕e6+ ♔d8 19.exd6 Black resigned, Ruzele – Roeder, Gelsenkirchen 1999.

1–0

Solution to Quiz Today:

31.♗xd5+ Black resigned in view of31.♗xd5+ ♖xd5 32.♖f8+!! ♕xf8 *(32...♔xf8 33.♕h8#)* 33.♕h7# **1–0**

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CT-31(816) 1st February 2003

Deep Junior bounces

The Kasparov vs Deep Junior match is getting more and more exciting. The computer has managed to win Game 3 and equalize the score. Now everything starts all over again. Please see our Annotated game to see how Deep Junior, playing Black, beat Kasparov.

Another Man vs Machine match has finished today. **GM Bareev drew the last game and the match against HiarcsX.**

The 40th National A Championships of India has finished today.

Krishnan Sasikiran won it with 16 points out of 20. **Official coverage at:** http://www.venuschessacademy.com/index.html

Final Standings:
Sasikiran, Krishnan – 16; Harikrishna, P – 14; Kunte, Abhijit; Barua, Dibyendu – 12½; Ganguly, Surya Shekhar – 12; Neelotpal, Das; Sund-ararajan, Kidambi – 11½;

Ramaswamy Aarthie won the Women's Indian Championship.

Final Standings:
Ramaswamy, Aarthie – 9; Subbaraman, Vijayalakshmi – 9; Mohota, Nisha; Harika, Dronavalli – 8½; 5. Swati, Ghate – 8.0; etc.

The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival

Cat. XV GM-A Tournament:
Round 6 standings:
Vescovi, Giovanni – 5/6;
Svidler, Peter – 4½/6;
Markowski, Tomasz – 4/6;
Gershon, Alik – 3/6;
Movsesian, Sergei – 3/6;
Motylev, Alexander – 2½/5;
Christiansen, Larry M – 2½/6;
Miton, Kamil – 2½/6;
Shabalov, Alexander – 2½/6;
Volokitin, Andrei – 2/6;
Macieja, Bartlomiej – 2/6;
Al-Modiahki, Mohamad – 1½/5

Cat. X GM-B Tournament
Round 6 Standings:
Paschall, William M – 4/5;
Schmaltz, Roland – 4/6;
Nakamura, Hikaru – 4/6;
Perelshteyn, Eugene – 4/6;
Berg, Emanuel – 4/6;
Fridman, Daniel – 3/5; etc.

Mr. Rolf Behovits, the new press officer and spokesman of the "Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2003", informs of the following:

1. The event takes place in the Dortmund Theatre from 31 July to 10 August 2003.

2. A double round robin system with 6 GM involved (category 19/20) will be played. Among the six players are Classical World Chess Champion Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), his challenger for the World Title Peter Leko
(Hungary) and Wijk aan Zee winner Viswanathan Anand (India). These players already accepted the invitation.

3. The Dortmund Organising Committee agreed to invite the winner of the AEROFLOT OPEN at Moscow, which is supposed to take place from 10th to 20th February 2003. For the first time, Germany's big hope – Grandmaster Arkadi Naiditsch (17) From Dortmund – will have the opportunity to challenge the elite. Another top GM will complete the field.

4. The time control will be the classical one and identical with the World Chess Championship Match Kramnik vs. Leko:

40 moves for 2 hours each player, 20 moves for 1 hour each player, 15 min+30 sec. per move each player for the rest.

5. The festival character of Dortmund will not be changed. The organizers are preparing for 2 Opens of different levels, art exhibitions, presentations of chess articles and many more activities.

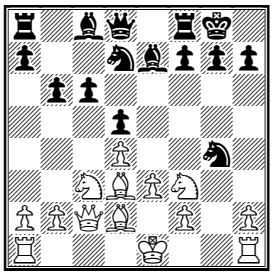
6. More information for chess players, e.g. concerning the Dortmund Open and other issues can be obtained from the Tournament Director, Mr. Stefan Koth, via email: skoth17418@aol.com

Annotated Game

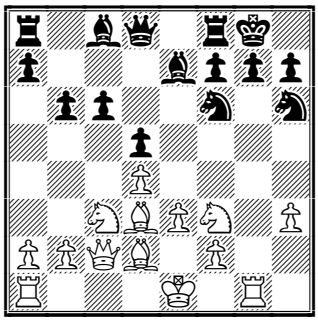
□ **Kasparov (2847)**
■ **Deep Junior (2750)**
Event: FIDE Man vs Machine WCh New York (3), 30.01.2003 D45

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

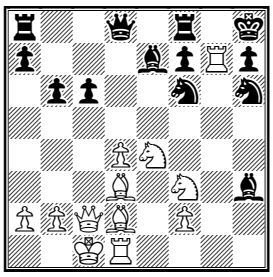
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 b6
Black is not interested in a repetition of Game 1 at all (i.e. 6...♗d6) That's why the computer is the first to vary from that game.
7.cxd5 exd5 8.♗d3 ♗e7 9.♗d2N
The idea of this novelty is quite simple: to prepare long castling and attack on the king side. The following has occured before: 9.0–0 0–0 10.b3 h6 11.♗b2 ♗b7 12.♖ac1 ♗d6 13.♘e2 ♖e8 14.♘g3 a5 15.a4 ♖c8 16.♕b1 ♖c7 17.♖fe1 ♕a8 18.♗c3 ♗a6 19.♗c2 ♖cc8 20.♗f5 ♖cd8 21.b4 axb4 22.♗xb4 ♗xg3 23.hxg3 ♗c4 Barbero,G–Rausis,I/Bern 1998 0–1; and a sharp 9.e4
9...0–0?!
Such rigidity deserves censure. Black should have made the useful move 9...♗b7 and waited to see which side White castled.
10.g4!?
When both sides are attacking on different sides of the board, the bottom line is to be ahead of your opponent! And Garry saves a tempo by not castling making Black defend.
10...♘xg4!?



Principled decision. After 10...g6 11.g5 ♘h5 12.e4 White attacks with "no expense spared".
11.♖g1
It is difficult to refrain from taking the pawn 11.♗xh7+ ♔h8 12.♖g1 ♘df6 13.♗d3 c5 14.h3 ♘h6 15.e4! White's attack is very serious. but the position breaks down and Black has an opportunity for counter play. Kasparov prefers saving a tempo to knight moves.
11...♘df6!?
A very important move. But it is likely that the position requires such a decision. After 11...♘gf6 12.0–0–0, with a probable double rook attack on the g–file, White's attack becomes very dangerous.; The trapping move 11...f5 is beautifully resisted by 12.h3! (but not by *12.♗xf5? ♖xf5! 13.♕xf5 ♘de5–+)* 12...♘gf6 *(12...♘h6 13.♘xd5! cxd5 14.♕c6 ♖b8 15.♕xh6+–)* 13.♗xf5±
12.h3 ♘h6



13.e4!?
13.0–0–0 deserved consideration, completing mobilization. For instance, 13...♔h8 *(13...♗xh3 14.e4 ♘hg4 15.e5 ♘e4 16.♘xe4 dxe4 17.♗xe4±* White wins the material back keeping the terrible attack.*)* 14.e4 dxe4 15.♘xe4 White's possibilities can be demonstrated by a wonderful, but not compulsory, line: 15...♗xh3 16.♖xg7!!

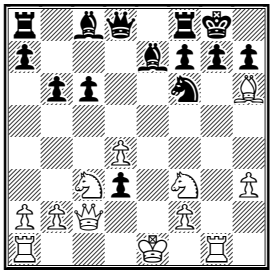


16...♔xg7 17.♗xh6+ ♔xh6 18.♕d2+! ♔g7 19.♕g5+ ♔h8 20.♘xf6 ♗xf6 21.♕h6 with checkmate

13...dxe4 14.♗xh6?!

White has lots of possibilities but it is not easy to choose the best one... White has a very good chance of a win after 14.♗xe4! ♔h8 15.♗xh6 gxh6 16.♗xc6 ♖b8 17.♕d2!±

14...exd3



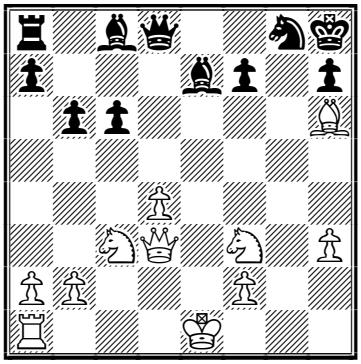
15.♖xg7+

And here White had some options to choose from 15.♗xg7 ♘g4! *(15...dxc2?? 16.♗xf6+)* 16.♕xd3 ♔xg7 17.hxg4 Taking into account the Black king position, two White's knights have good chances against Black's bishops.

15...♔h8 16.♕xd3 ♖g8

Oh, dear! White is so short of the second rook! But Garry decided to save it.

17.♖xg8+ ♘xg8!



Unlike White, Black has got a narrow path of only moves. Much worse is 17...♕xg8 18.0–0–0 and the second rook succeeds in occupying the g-file.

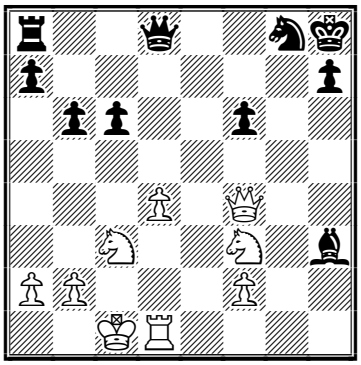
18.♗f4 f6?!

This is a pretty strange move. For the sake of protecting e5 Black deprives itself of a square which is very important to its minor pieces. This is even more curious because "my" Junior did not take this move seriously recommending 18...♕d7! with the Queen's involvement in protection along the c8-h3 diagonal. Black stands merely a bit worse. 19.♘e5 ♕xh3

19.0-0-0 ♗d6

19...♕d7 again deserved consideration. Black's desire to spend a tempo on exchanging the bishop, which it has been so careful with, is unclear.

20.♕e3 ♗xf4 21.♕xf4 ♗xh3!?



It is frightful for a Human is take such a pawn, but not for a Machine! Refutation is out of sight. So, I can't rule out the possibility that this is the strongest move in the position.

22.♖g1 ♕b8!

Black can't put up with the White Queen occupying the strong attacking position and finds the only way to dispel it.

23.♕e3

After 23.♕h4 ♗f5 24.♘d1 ♕e8! Black is OK.

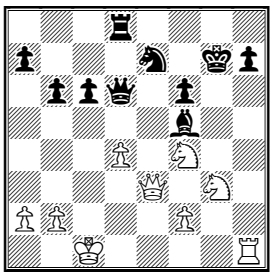
23...♕d6 24.♘h4

The knight is trying to turn the Black king out of its comfortable home. In the meantime, there was an opportunity to take the h7-pawn at the very beginning...

24...♗e6 25.♖h1 ♖d8

Black has completed its development and is afraid of nothing now.

26.♘g6+ ♔g7 27.♘f4 ♗f5 28.♘ce2 ♘e7 29.♘g3

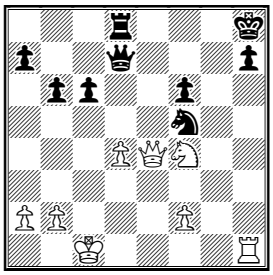


It looks like White has managed to cause serious threats, but it is just an illusory thing...

29...♔h8!

The only, but quite sufficient move for successful defence.

30.♘xf5 ♘xf5 31.♕e4 ♕d7!



After this (and again the only!) protection White should have resigned himself to the draw. It can be achieved in two ways, at least:

32.♖h5?

Fatal mistake! 32.♘g6+ ♔g7 33.♘f4 ♔h8= *(33...♖e8?! 34.♕g2+ ♔f8 35.♘g6+! hxg6 36.♕xg6 ♕g7 37.♕xf5 ♕g5+ 38.♕xg5 fxg5=)* ; 32.♕g2 ♕g7 *(32...♘e7 33.♕e4 ♕f5 34.♕xe7 ♕xf4+ 35.♔b1 ♕f5+ 36.♔a1 ♖g8 37.♖xh7+ ♕xh7 38.♕xf6+* with perpetual check through f6-d8-h4.*)* 33.♕xg7+ ♘xg7 34.♘g6+ ♔g8 35.♘e7+=

32...♘xd4!

There is a threat of moving the knight back on b3 with checkmate on d1.

33.♘g6+?!

Much more stubborn is 33.♖h1 ♔g8 34.♖g1+ ♔f8 35.♕g2 ♕f7 36.♔b1 and the two extra pawns is tempered by Black's King poor position. But, of course, there is a slim chance of holding such a position against the computer.

33...♔g8 34.♘e7+ ♔f8 35.♘d5

35.♖xh7 ♘b3+! 36.♔c2 ♘a1+! 37.♔c3 ♕d2+ 38.♔c4 b5+ 39.♔c5 ♕d6#

35...♕g7! 36.♕xd4 ♖xd5

Irreproachable play. It is impossible to take on d5 twice due to check on g5 with queen exchange. White had a winning position by the 13th move (Junior did not manage to cope with its openings problems), but chose the wrong way and missed the win with the 14–15th moves. After that both opponents were struggling zealously... until the 32nd move, where Kasparov overlooked decisive counter play from his rival. The Computer has equalised the score!

0-1

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel:

(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

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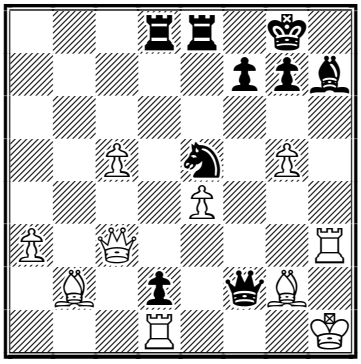
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-33(817) 2nd February 2003

Quiz Today

Ledger (2397) – Plaskett (2467)
Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay GIB (3), 30.01.2003 A12



Black to play

Verscovi leads in Bermuda. Short on 3/3 in Gibraltar.

The Bermuda GMA and GMB 2003 tournaments, Round 7 Standings.

GMA
1. Vescovi – 5½ points
2. Svidler – 5
3-4. Markowski, Movsesian – 4
5-6. Motylev (6 games), Gershon – 3½
7-8. Christiansen, Macieja – 3 etc.

GMB
1-2. Schmaltz, Berg – 4½ points
3-6. Paschall (6 games), Fridman (6), Nakamura, Perelshteyn – 4 etc.

Nigel Short has a perfect score after the 3rd Round of the Gibraltar Chess Congress.

2-8. Luther, Hamdouchi, Kotronias, Tiviakov, Speelman, Sulskis, Korneev – 2½ etc.

Please see our Annotated Game section.

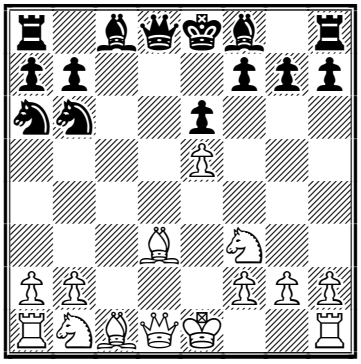
The Dannemann Classico 6-game match between 18-years old Alexandra Kosteniuk and the 13-year old Sergey Karjakin started on Saturday in Brissago, Switzerland. The first game, in which Kosteniuk had White, was drawn. You can find the text in our database.

Gibraltar #1: Short work of the c3 Sicilian ...

☐ **J Shaw (2470)**
■ **N Short (2690)**
Event: Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay GIB (3), 30.01.2003 B22

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

I'd like to annotate in brief an interesting set up by Short in a popular line of the 2. c3 Sicilian.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.♗c4 ♘b6
7...♘c6!?
8.♗d3 dxe5 9.dxe5 ♘a6

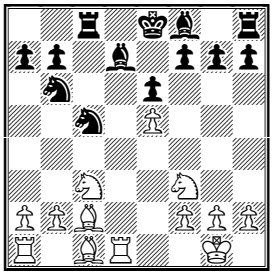


Here it is: The knight is going to b4 or c5 in order to exchange Queens, and an endgame will, at the very least, not be bad for Black – the e5 pawn will be a target for the black knights. Of course it's not an absolutely new idea; for example, take a look at the following game: 9...♘8d7 10.♕e2 ♗b4+ 11.♘c3 ♘c5 12.♗c2 ♗d7 13.0–0 ♗xc3 14.bxc3 ♗a4! 15.♗xa4+ ♘bxa4 16.♖d1 ♕a5∓ Strigunsky – Rotstein, Ukraine 1991.

10.0-0

10.♕e2!?

10...♘c5 11.♗c2 ♕xd1 12.♖xd1 ♗d7 13.♘c3 ♖c8!



With the idea Nc5-a4; Black would like to exchange light-squared bishops and a pair of knights also.

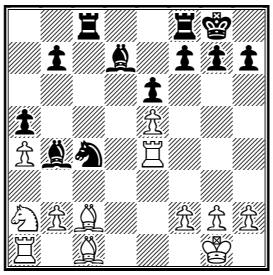
14.a4

White prevents this threat but weakens the b4-square.

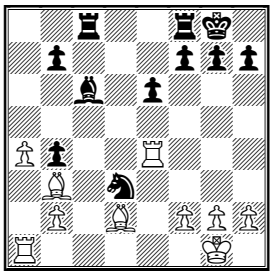
14...a5 15.♘d4 ♗e7 16.♘b3 ♘c4!

It's obvious now that Black has won the opening struggle and taken the initiative.

17.♖e1 0-0 18.♘xc5 ♗xc5 19.♖e4 ♗b4 20.♘a2?



20...♘xe5! 21.♘xb4 axb4 22.♗b3 ♘d3 23.♗d2 ♗c6



Black has an extra pawn and a better position; Short has realised his advantage. It looks like this is a rather simple and unpleasant method against the 2.c3 Sicilian isn't it?

24.♖g4 h5 25.♖h4 ♖fd8 26.♗g5 ♖d7 27.♖d1 ♖a8 28.♗c2 ♖a5 29.♖xd3 ♖xd3 30.♗xd3 ♖xg5 31.♗f1 ♗xa4 32.♖xb4 ♗c6 33.h4 ♖e5 34.♔h2 ♔f8 35.g3 ♔e7 36.♗g2 ♔d6 37.♗xc6 ♔xc6 38.♔g2 b5 39.♔f3 ♔c5 40.♖b3 b4 41.♖d3 ♖d5 42.♖e3 g6 43.♔e2 e5 44.f3 f5 45.b3 ♔d6 46.♔e1 ♖d4 47.♔e2 ♔d5 48.♔e1 e4 49.♔e2 ♔e5 50.♔e1 ♖d5 51.♔e2 ♖a5 0-1

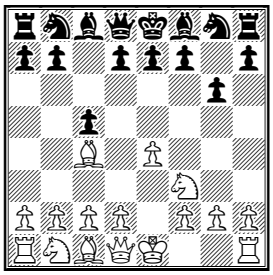
Gibraltar # 2: Another brilliant short game - by Speelman

□ **J Speelman (2583)**
■ **J Bellon Lopez (2428)**

Event: Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay GIB (3), 30.01.2003 - B27

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

1.♘f3 c5 2.e4 g6!? 3.♗c4!?



Jonathan Speelman likes rather unusual lines; and as we can see, his opponent does also.

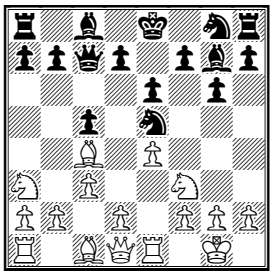
3...♗g7 4.0-0 e6 5.♖e1 ♕c7

What's the idea behind this move? I think Black prevents d2-d4 (after which the d6-square is very weak) - now after d4 cxd4 Bishop c4 will be attacking with the Queen. On the other hand Black has lost a tempo for development.

6.c3 ♘c6 7.♘a3!

White prepares both d2-d4 (Knight a3 defends Bishop c4) and Na3-b5 sometime.

7...♘e5?!



A very strange decision: Black totally forgets about development... 7...♘ge7?! 8.d4 d6 9.♘b5 ♕b8 10.♗f4 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♘d6+±; 7...a6 8.d4 b5!?

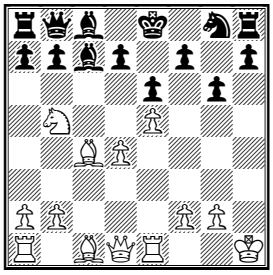
8.♘xe5 ♗xe5 9.d4!

Of course! The h2 pawn is worth next to nothing here.

9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♗xh2+ 11.♔h1

With the simple threat of e4-e5, winning the Bishop.

11...♗d6 12.♘b5 ♕b8 13.e5 ♗c7



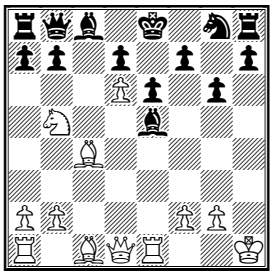
14.d5!

White sacrifices a second pawn to paralyse the opponent's position.

14...♗xe5

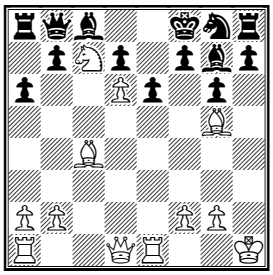
It's very hard to offer an alternative move.

15.d6



A picturesque position!

15...♗g7 16.♘c7+ ♔f8 17.♗g5 a6?!



18.♗xe6!

A nice final blow.

18...♘f6

18...dxe6 19.d7 ♗xd7 20.♕xd7+−; 18...fxe6 19.♕f3+ ♘f6 20.♗xf6 ♗xf6 21.♕xf6+ ♔g8 22.♘e8+−

19.♗b3

White has too many threats so Black has to resign.19.♗b3 h6 20.♗h4 g5 21.♕d5 *(21.♕e2)* 21...♘xd5 22.♖e8# **1-0**

Solution to Quiz Today:

39...♕e2 40.♕c2 ♕e1+! 40...♕e1+ 41.♔h2 ♘g4# **0-1**

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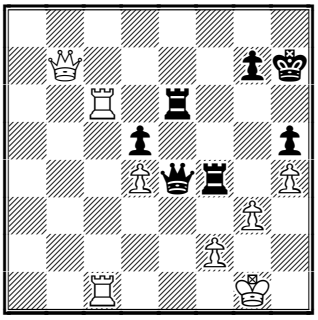
CT-34(818) 3nd February 2003

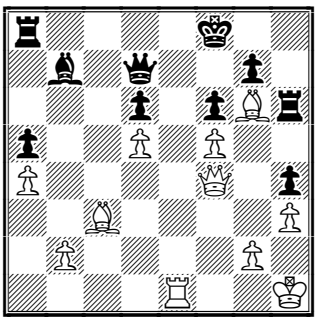
Quiz Today

Dinstuhl (2416) – Blatny (2475)
GMB Bermuda BER (6), 30.01.2003



Find: a) Black's next move; b) the best defence for White

Kotronias (2573) – Cramling (2492)
Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay GIB (2), 29.01.2003



White to play

Latest News

The 4th game of Kasparov – Deep Junior match is played *tonight* – I mean Moscow time ☺. Read the full report in tomorrow's CT issue.

♦ **Gibraltar Chess Congress**
www.gibraltarchesscongress.com
In the 5th round Vasilios Kotronias beat Nigel Short and shares the lead now with Sarunas Sulskis who defeated the Champion of Germany Thomas Luther.

Round 5 standings: 1-2. Kotronias, Sulskis – 4½ 3. McShane – 4 4-10.Short, Hamdouchi, Epishin, Korneev, Johansen, Palac, Tiviakov – 3½

♦ **The Dannemann Classico match**
www.chessbase.de
The 2nd game of this match between Kosteniuk and Karjakin ended in a draw. The score is 1:1.

♦ **The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival**
www.bermuda.bm/chess
Saturday was the day-off. Today's Annotated game features the leader of the *Tournament A* Giovanni Vescovi of Brazil who has scored 5½ points out of 7. Peter Svidler is half a point behind.

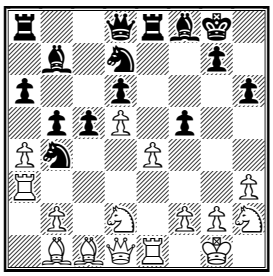
Annotated game

□ **A Volokitin (2565)**
■ **G Vescovi (2592)**
Event: GMA Bermuda BER (5), 29.01.2003 C92
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♗b7 10.d4 ♖e8
This variation is named after GM Igor Zaitsev. He discovered that the assault 11.Ng5 isn't dangerous for Black in this position as after the rook's retreat White has no way to exploit the tempo.
11.♘bd2 ♗f8 12.a4 h6 13.♗c2
It's almost the only reasonable way to maintain the tension in the centre. White needs to protect the e4-pawn before transposing the knight to g3 via f1.
13...exd4 14.cxd4 ♘b4 15.♗b1 c5
Black has given up the centre in order to attack the white pawns without delay.
16.d5 ♘d7 17.♖a3
Apparently Black is going to play f7-f5. Therefore White prefers to hold the knight on d2. From here it protects the pawn and obtains the e4-square after

e4xf5 while the rook has good perspectives along the 3rd rank.

17...f5 18.♘h2



This line has been played by many "authorities".

18...c4

A rare move. Vescovi opted for the main continuation 18...♘f6 against Topalov (FIDE World Ch Moscow 2001) and Ye (FIDE World CUP, Hyderabad 2002) and lost twice. So it was a time to deviate.

19.♖g3

White has scored good results applying other moves. 19.♖f3 was played in Timman – Piket, Amsterdam 1995; Ivanchuk against Karpov (Monte Carlo 1993) chose 19.exf5 there are a lot of complicated double-edged lines here. For our purposes I would just like to notice that 19...♖xe1+ *(*Karpov played *19...♘c5 20.♖xe8 ♕xe8 21.♖g3 ♘bd3)* 20.♕xe1 ♘c5 isn't good due to 21.♘xc4!

19...♘c5 20.exf5

It's quite another matter. Black's knight arrives at d3 on time.

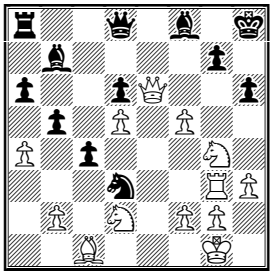
20...♖xe1+ 21.♕xe1 ♘bd3 22.♗xd3

The Ukrainian junior goes the wrong way. Better was 22.♕d1 ♗xd5 23.b3! and after 23...♘xc1 White has the in-between 24.bxc4! with unclear position.

22...♘xd3 23.♕e6+?

Again better was 23.♕d1

23...♔h8 24.♘g4



Volokitin counted on this attack but it is parried by one precise move.

24...♕e8!

Of course not 24...♘xc1? 25.♘xh6! mating. Now White has to take care of his miserable bishop.

25.♖e3 ♕xe6 26.dxe6

Threatening with 27.e7.

26...♗e7

The black bishop escapes easily the fate of its opponent.

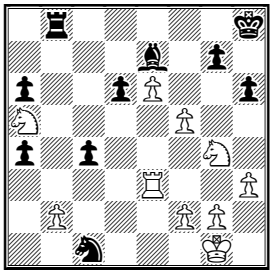
27.♘b3

A smart but insufficient resource.

27...bxa4 28.♘a5 ♘xc1

Far less strong was 28...♗d5 29.♗d2 ♘xb2 30.♘xh6! gxh6 31.♗c3+

29.♘xb7 ♖b8 30.♘a5



30...c3!

A nice little shot.

31.bxc3

31.♖xc3 ♘e2+

31...a3

The pawn is unstoppable.

32.c4 a2 33.♖a3 d5!

Still there was a chance to make a mistake. After 33...♖b1? 34.♘c6 Black wins nothing but the exchange.

34.♖a4 ♖b4 35.♖xa2

35.♖a3 ♖b1–+

35...♘xa2 36.cxd5

It's obvious that White's pawns aren't dangerous. Vescovi plays accurately to the end. 36.♘c6 ♖b1+ 37.♔h2 ♗d6+ followed by dxc4 loses as well.

36...♘c3 37.♘e3 ♖b1+! 38.♔h2 ♖b5 39.♘c6 ♗d6+

Check! That's what he played 37...Rb1+ for.

40.f4 ♘xd5

The simplest way. No need to complicate with 40...♗xf4+ 41.g3

41.♘xd5 ♖xd5 42.e7 ♗xe7 43.♘xe7 ♖c5

Both white pieces are cut off. Another a-pawn is going to promote. Volokitin's king undertakes a curious

final march.
44.♔g3 a5 45.♔g4 a4 46.♔h5 a3 47.♔g6 a2 48.♔f7 ♖c7!
White resigned.48...a1♕?? 49.♘g6+ ♔h7 50.♘f8+ with perpetual was too transparent.
0-1

Solution to Quiz Today:

33...♖xf2! 34.♔xf2? 34.♕b1∓ **34...♕xd4+ 35.♔f1 ♕d3+ 36.♔g1 ♕xg3+ 37.♔h1** 37.♔f1 ♕f4+ 38.♔g1 ♖g6+! 39.♖xg6 ♕xc1+ 40.♔h2 ♔xg6 41.♕a6+ ♔h7 42.♕d3+ g6 43.♕xd5 ♕f4+-+ **37...♕xh4+ 38.♔g1 ♕g3+ 39.♔h1 ♖e4! 40.♕b1 g6! 41.♖6c4 ♕f3+ 0-1**

31.♗xf6! ♗xd5 31...gxf6 32.♕xh6+ ♔g8 *(32...♕g7 33.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 34.♖e7+)* 33.♖e4! ♗xd5 34.♖g4+- **32.♗xg7+!** 32.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 *(32...♕xg7 33.♕xd6+ ♔g8 34.♕xd5+)* 33.♕d4+ ♔f8 34.♕xd5 ♖c8 35.♖e6+- **1-0**

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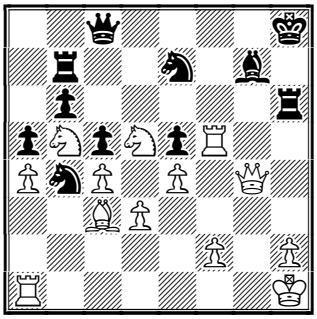
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-35(819) 4th February 2003

Quiz Today

1) G. Vescovi – A. Motylev
GMA Bermuda BER (8), 02.02.2003



White to move

Kasparov 2 – DJ 2

After the regrettable defeat of the human in Game 3 the struggle in the Kasparov vs Deep Junior match was strained to the breaking point. Kasparov is playing White only one more time in remaining three games. Moreover, Garry has scored just 2 points having winning positions all the time, which are not so easy to obtain. In Game 4 for the first time during the match Junior did not stand worse even for a single moment. Besides, Kasparov had to show remarkable endurance and inventiveness when he was defending. Now everything will be on the line during the last two games as happened in the Kramnik-Fritz match. Please find the annotations to the fourth game of the match below.

Letter to the Editor

(CT Reader, Doug Schwetke (Texas, USA) sent in the following letter of his first hand experiences watching game 4 in NYC --- RPM) .

Hi!
Just wanted to give my impressions of the Kasparov-Jr match. I was lucky enough to watch game 4 in New York. There was a standing room only crowd. The observers of the game are mostly in a large room with multiple dual monitors set up to observe the actual position and the analysis position. There was one large 3D projection tv in the corner. The view through the glasses was interesting but not exceptional. After several hours I did get a headache from wearing the glasses.

Several luminaries of US chess were introduced and comments were made by the Shahade siblings and Susan Polgar.

The commentary by GMs Ashley and Seirawan was excellent. The move 8...♘d7 caused quite a stir. The move 12.h3 was considered to weaken the dark squares and was kind of a computer move. On the move 21.b4 Kasparov expression went into contortions. It was obvious that he was very unhappy with his position. With all the moving to and fro of the knights Seirawan and Ashley were to the point of laughter in not understanding any more than the audience. The moves 32.♔h1 and 34.♔g1 provoked a lot of laughter from the audience. Seiriwan joked that 34.♔g1 was to avoid the dangerous bishop on b7. Move 33.♘xc6 was cheered as it meant there was now a pair of knights that couldn't go back and forth. Hopefully the Chess Today analysts will have better luck with the game.

Kasparov's use of time was interesting; he had a long think in the opening. He eventually went ahead of time over the computer and then had about 2 minutes a move left on about move 26. Just before the time control at move 40 Kasparov had 5 minutes to Deep Jr's 2 minutes. After the game he stated he was concerned about his time trouble in the previous.

During the last several moves the machine operator appeared to leave the stage on every move. Ashley and

Seirawan were certain of the draw. My impression was that the operator was aware of the draw and was getting advice from the team on when "the public" would recognise the game as drawn. After Black's last move, Kasparov put his watch on (a sign the game has a result) and the operator immediately returned to the board, made the last move and offered a draw.

In the interview after the game Kasparov thought he may have even been lost at one point but I was unable to understand where he was talking. Kasparov was gracious and had his picture taken with some children chess players from Philadelphia.

A fascinating experience. I wish I could attend more of the games. I have some pictures if you are interested.

David Surratt of the
The Chessville Weekly
http://www.chessville.com
informs us that Chessville has posted Max Panfilov's word & picture reports from Games 1 and 4 at:
Game 1:
http://www.chessville.com/News/Kasparov_v_Deep_Junior/Round_1.htm
Game 4:
http://www.chessville.com/News/Kasparov_v_Deep_Junior/Round_4.htm

Thank you David for this interesting information.

The youngest GM ever, Sergey Karjakin, won Game 3 of his match against Alexandra Kosteniuk.

The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival

Cat. XV GM-A Tournament:
Giovanni Vescovi managed to hold his leading position after Round 8.

Round 8 standings:
1. Vescovi, Giovanni – 6.5;
2. Svidler, Peter – 6.0;
3. Markowski, Tomasz – 5.0;
4. Motylev, Alexander – 4.5;

5-6 Gershon, Alik; Movsesian, Sergei – 4.0; etc.

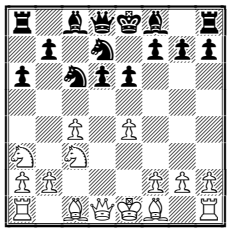
Cat. X GM-B Tournament
Round 8 Standings:
1-2 Schmaltz, Roland; Fridman, Daniel – 5.5;
3. Nakamura, Hikaru – 5.0;
4-6 Berg, Emanuel; Perelshteyn, Eugene; Paschall, William M – 4.5; etc.

Vasilious Kotronias is in the sole lead at **Gibraltar Chess Congress** with one point ahead.
Round 6 Standings:
1. Kotronias, Vasilios – 5.5;
2-3. Sulskis, Sarunas; McShane, Luke – 4.5;
4-15 Epishin, Vladimir; Palac, Mladen; Korneev, Oleg; Short, Nigel D; Hamdouchi, Hichem; Lalic, Bogdan; Johansen, Darryl K; Tiviakov, Sergei; Speelman, Jonathan S; Cherniaev, Alexander; Reinderman, Dimitri; Pavlovic, Milos – 4.0; etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **Deep Junior (2750)**
■ **G. Kasparov (2847)**
Event: *FIDE Man vs Machine Wch NYC (4), 03.02.2003*- ***[B44]***
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlasov
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘b5 d6 6.c4 ♘f6 7.♘1c3 a6 8.♘a3
A "Hedgehog" line has arisen. It was named either after the nice living creature, who has the ability to over power a viper, or after anti-tank fortification...
8...♘d7!N (D)



Exclamation mark here does not show appreciation of this unusual chess move, but highlights Garry's capability to make his opponent vary from the opening library and come to independent decisions at such an early stage. And Junior is not usually good at it. As for losing two tempi, they are not so important in the "hedgehog" line. Humans used to interpret this position as follows: 8...♗e7 9.g3 ♗d7 10.♗g2 ♖c8 11.0–0 ♘e5 12.♗f4 0–0 13.♕e2 ♕c7 14.♖ac1 ♖fd8 15.♖fd1 ♗e8 16.h3 ♕c5 17.♕d2 ♔f8 18.♘e2 ♘c6 19.♗e3 ♕b4 20.♖c3 ♕a5 21.♘c2 ♘e5 22.♕d4 b5 23.♕b6 ♕xb6 24.♗xb6 Anand,V–Salov,V/Biel 1993 ½–½.

9.♘c2 ♗e7 10.♗e2 b6 11.0–0 ♗b7 12.h3?!

This move is not essential for White here. The "Hedgehog" is one of the most unpleasant lines for modern chess programs. On the one hand such programs evaluate the position in White's favour in view of space advantage. On the other hand they are unable to look far ahead and specific calculation of several moves is not of any help because there are a lot of moves of almost equal value. The position is changing considerably from one move to another and decisions made by a program one after another could turn out to be "incoherent".

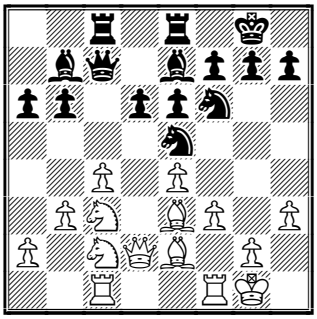
12...0–0 13.♗e3 ♖c8 14.♕d2 ♘ce5 15.b3 ♘f6 16.f3

Having "danced" with his knights, Garry has made White's pawns occupy light squares. In combination with h3 it therefore has weakened the dark squares and gives Black a point of attack in breaking the game.

16...♕c7

One of the Black's idea is to choose a suitable time for a breakthrough with d6–d5 or b6–b5. It is necessary, though, to assess the result of such a breakthrough at every move.

17.♖ac1 ♖fe8 (D)



Garry misses a very interesting opportunity. 17...b5! White is faced with a difficult choice: it can sacrifice either the c4–pawn or e4– pawn, or a piece for the initiative! Here are the possible alternatives: 18.cxb5 *(18.f4 ♘ed7 19.f5; 18.♗f2 bxc4 19.bxc4 ♘xc4 20.♗xc4 ♕xc4 21.♘e3 ♕b4 22.♖c2)* 18...♕xc3 19.♕xc3 ♖xc3 20.bxa6 ♗a8 21.♗d4 Each alternative offers pretty good chances for Black. But Garry bets on viscous positional manoeuvring and avoids the breaking open of the game, which is of potenial benefit to the computer. **18.a3 ♘ed7**

Again 18...b5!

19.♖fd1 ♕b8

Another missed opportunity! 19...♘c5 20.♖b1 d5! with an excellent play by Black. Further I will not dwell upon each move of that kind, it is obvious that Garry followed the strategy of not to break open the position. He is sure not to play against a human in such a way!

20.♗f2 ♖cd8

At this moment my friend, Sergey Shipov (expert in this line), made misprint while commenting the game on–line, recommending d6–d6! That's exactly what Garry was doing almost during the whole game! :) 20...d5

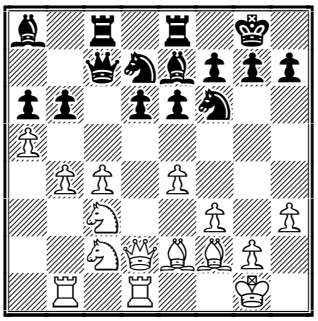
21.b4 ♗a8

21...d5 22.cxd5 exd5 23.exd5 ♗d6]

22.a4

Taking advantage of Black's apparent delay, Junior sets his "infantry" marching.

22...♖c8 23.♖b1 ♕c7 24.a5!? (D)



An interesting break with a pawn sacrifice.

24...bxa5

By the way "my" Junior rejected this move and instead favoured: 24...b5!? In this case, White's chances of initiative development are not less than in the game. For instance, 25.♘e3 ♘e5 *(25...bxc4 26.♗xc4 ♘e5 27.♗xa6 ♕xc3 28.♗xc8±* White's passed pawns are very dangerous*)* 26.♘xb5!? (White does not have to be in a hurry with a sacrifice: *26.♖bc1* , but here Black might have a perilous counter play: *26...♘xc4 27.♘xc4 bxc4 28.b5 d5 29.bxa6 dxe4* with initiative.*)* 26...axb5 27.cxb5 d5 28.b6 ♕b8 29.exd5 ♘xd5 30.♘xd5 ♗xd5 31.a6 and it is likely that it would be necessary to give the piece back.

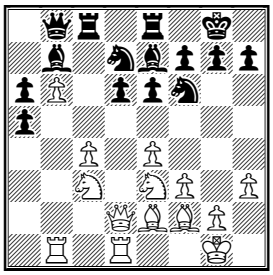
25.b5 ♗b7

Even under the blows of White's pawns, Black keeps the position closed and does not agree to encounter the battle: 25...♘b6!? 26.♘e3 d5!? with puzzling complications (and maybe it is even possible to break the computer trying to get from him the exact evaluation of such position:) 27.bxa6 dxe4 28.♘b5 ♕f4

26.b6

A more "humanlike" plan for White is to transfer his knight to a5 via d4 and b3. 26.♘d4 And the passed pawn on b6 is very dangerous!

26...♕b8 27.♘e3 (D)



27...♘c5

27...d5 28.exd5 *(28.cxd5 ♗b4)* 28...♗c5

28.♕a2 ♘fd7 29.♘a4 ♘e5 30.♘c2 ♘cd7 31.♘d4 ♖ed8 32.♔h1!?

White's attack has reached b6, but has been stopped. Junior did not manage to find another attacking plan so far.

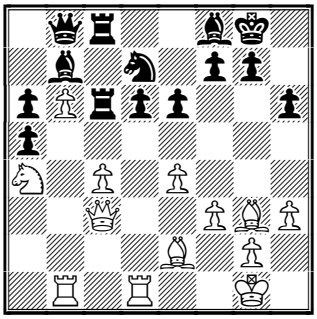
32...♘c6 [

It was worth waiting to see what would happen after: 32...h6 But for some reason Garry decided to exchange a couple of knights.

33.♘xc6 ♖xc6 34.♔g1 h6 35.♕a3!

The knights exchange allowed White's attacking objective, the d6-pawn.

35...♖dc8 36.♗g3 ♗f8 37.♕c3 (D)



The pawn on a5 falls. It looks like a serious threat of loss is hanging over Black.

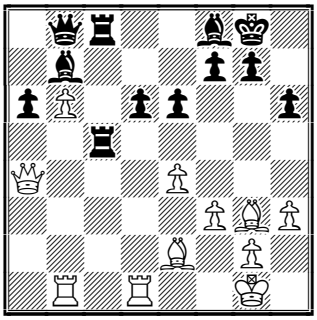
37...♘e5! 38.c5!

After the exchange 38.♗xe5 dxe5 39.♕xa5 White has a formidable looking position, but I can't see the way to break Black's defence: 39...♖d8 40.c5 ♖xd1+ 41.♖xd1 ♕c8

38...♘d7!

Having trapped the pawn on c5, the knight eradicates it!

39.♕xa5 ♘xc5 40.♘xc5 ♖xc5 41.♕a4 (D)



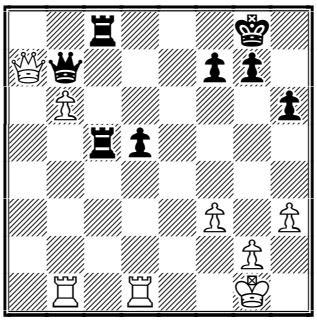
Time trouble came to its close. Black has an extra pawn, but White has compensation in the form of the initiative. 41.♕a1

41...♖5c6

Having assessed the position as a dangerous one for him, Garry showed a clear plan for a draw: the rooks leaves c5-square for the exchange of dark-squared bishops that weakens protection of b6-pawn.

42.♗f2 d5!

But he does not avoid sacrifices. **43.♗xa6 ♗c5 44.♗xc5 ♖xc5 45.♗xb7 ♕xb7 46.exd5 exd5 47.♕a7 (D)**



47...♖5c7!?

The computer is unable to understand why the Human gave him a pawn. However it is clear to Kasparov - he is building unassailable fortress and an extra pawn is not of any importance to him.

48.♕xb7 ♖xb7 49.♖xd5 ♖c6 50.♖db5 h5 51.♔f2

51.♖xh5 ♖cxb6 Three pawns against two with rooks on the board - this is a draw.

51...♖e6 52.f4 g6 53.♔g3 ♔g7 54.♔h4 ♔h6 55.♖1b4 ♖d6 56.g3 f6 57.g4 hxg4 58.hxg4 ♔g7 59.♖b3 ♖c6 60.g5 f5 61.♖b1

White's rooks are tied to the protection of the extra pawn . There is no chance of a win. Game drawn!

½-½.

Solution to Quiz Today

G. Vescovi - A. Motylev

GMA Bermuda BER (8), 02.02.2003

43.♘d6! Black resigned in view of 43...Rxd6 44.Nxe7 Rxe7 45.Rh5+ and the Queen on c8 is falling. **1-0.**

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CHESS TODAY
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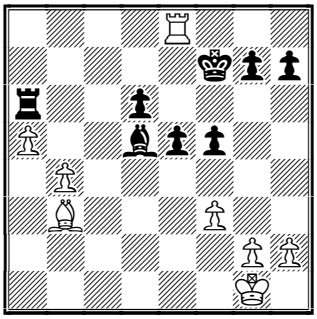
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-36(820) 5th February 2003

Quiz Today

Karjakin – Kosteniuk
Dannemann Masters Brissago, Switzerland (4), 04.02.2003
Quiz taken from today's annotated game below.



White to play and win
Solution in annotated game

Open letter to Kirsan Illjumzinov

Some days ago an Open Letter by a group of leading GMs to Kirsan Illjumzinov had appeared on the Internet. It was first published in Russian on www.chess-express.ru On Tuesday it was placed on www.chesstoday.com/twic/twic.html with some additional GM's signatures. Below is the letter:

Dear Mr President,

We, a group of leading grandmasters participating in the international tournament in Wijk aan Zee, turn to you in this critical moment for the fate of world chess. We are deeply worried about the fact that the three stages of the FIDE Grand Prix have not been played. The first stage took place in Dubai in April 2002, the second in Moscow in June of the same year. As it is known, during the FIDE congress 2000 in Istanbul it was decided to return to the 2- year cycle of staging the world championship. The prize fund remained the same as for the 1-year cycle, i.e. three million US $ instead of the 5 million US $ for the 2-year cycle in 1997-1998. The explanation for reducing the prize fund was that the money saved this way would be used for the FIDE Grand Prix.Without stating reasons, the FIDE Grand Prix 2002 was stopped after two stages instead of the scheduled five. Furthermore, its official results have not been published. As this is one of the most important tournaments in the official FIDE calender, we find these situation unacceptable. Also, we are worried about the lack of reliable information concerning the world championship 2003 which the FIDE congress scheduled for November/December of this year. For professional players like us, it is absolutely necessary to plan far ahead so that we can prepare ourselves for the confirmed date and the rules of this tournament. In this letter, Mr President, we have expressed but a small part of the problems which have recently been worrying the grandmasters and the whole chess world.

Sincerely yours, L. van Wely, E. Bareev, A. Karpov, R. Ponomariov, A. Grischuk and A. Shirov.

Wijk aan Zee, Holland, 26.01.03"

Additional signatures: V. Kramnik, V. Topalov, J. Polgar, M. Krasenkov, T. Radjabov.

The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival

Round 9 Standings.
GMA
1. Vescovi – 7 points
2. Svidler – 6½
3. Markowski – 5½
4. Motylev – 5
5-10. Macieja, Miton, Christiansen, Gershon, Movsesian, Shabalov – 4
11. Volokitin – 3½
12. Al-Modiahki – 2½

GMB
1-2. Fridman Schmaltz – 6 points
3-4. Nakamura, Perelshteyn – 5½
5. Paschall – 5
6-7. Moreno Carnero, Berg – 4½
8-9. Dinstuhl, Kallio – 4
10. Seul – 3½
11. Blatny – 3
12. Mulyar – 2½

Sergey Karjakin won the 4th game The Dannemann Classico 6-games match vs. Alexandra Kosteniuk. The score is 3:1 in Kariakin's favour.

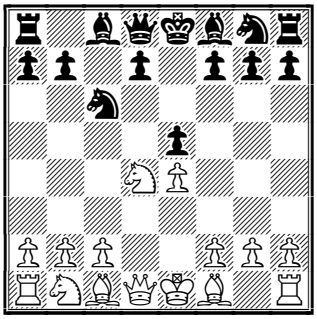
Also see our Annotated Game section.

♘♘♘

"Maltese Cross"!

□ **S. Karjakin (2547)**
■ **A. Kosteniuk (2456)**
Event: *Dannermann Classico Match, Brissago, Switzerland (4), 04.02.2003* – ***[B32]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e5 (D)

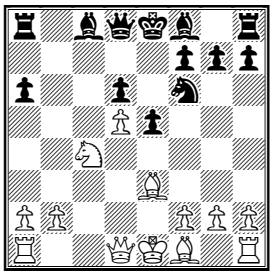


Since Alexandra Kosteniuk's second during this match is the famous GM Eugenij Sveshnikov there's nothing strange that she plays the Sicilian with 4...e5.

5.♘b5 d6 6.♘1c3
6.c4; 6.a4!?

6...a6 7.♘a3 b5 8.♘d5 ♘ce7
Black also has some alternatives here, for example: 8...♘ge7 ; 8...♘f6

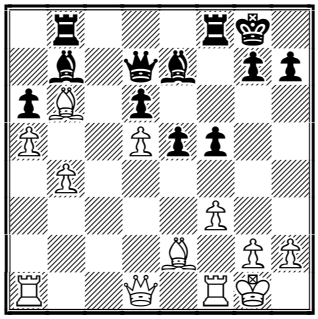
9.c4!? ♘xd5 10.exd5 bxc4 11.♘xc4 ♘f6 12.♗e3 (D)



A popular plan, which was used in earlier games by Sergey Kariakin and Ruslan Ponomariov. White evacuates his Knight from "off-side" on a3 and prepares to gain the b6-square. Now White has a pawn majority on the Queen-side, so there will be the permanent threat of b4-b5 creating a passed a-pawn. On the other hand the d-pawn has become weak and also Black could create a very strong and flexible pawn centre after f7-f5.

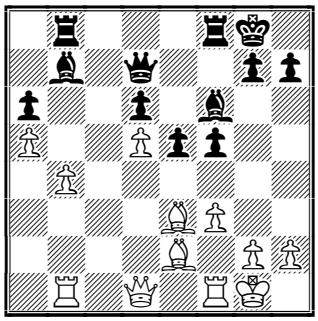
12...♖b8 13.♗e2 ♗e7 14.a4 0-0 15.0-0 ♗b7
Almost the same position arises after 15...♘d7 16.a5 f5 17.♘b6

16.♘b6 ♘d7 17.a5 f5 18.f3 ♘xb6 19.♗xb6 ♕d7 20.b4 (D)



20...♗d8
Interesting was 20...♗g5!? trying to create counter-play along the c-file (The bishop takes control over the c1-square), f.e. 21.♖b1 ♖bc8 with the threat of ♕f7.

21.♗e3 ♗f6 22.♖b1 (D)



22...♕f7?!

I believe better was 22...♖fc8!? preventing Be2-c4, f.e. 23.b5 axb5 24.♘xb5 ♕f7 25.♘c6 *(25.♕a4 ♘xd5 26.♘d7 ♖xb1 27.♖xb1 ♖a8 28.♘xf5 ♘d8)* 25...♘a6 26.♖e1 ♘h4 27.g3 ♘d8⇄ *(27...f4!?)*

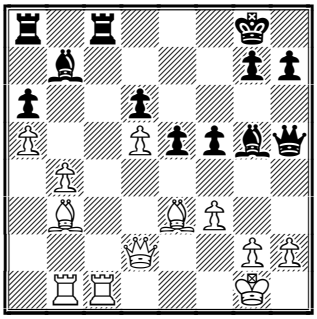
23.♘c4 ♖fc8 24.♕d3±

Now pawn d5 is very well protected l and White has the better chances thanks to pressure on the Queen-side.

24...♖a8 25.♖fc1 ♕h5

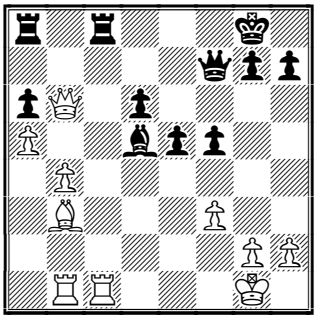
Black has to find counter-chances somewhere.

26.♘b3 ♘g5 27.♕d2! (D)



Good idea - the a7-g1 diagonal is very important.

27...♘xe3+ 28.♕xe3 ♕f7 29.♕b6 ♘xd5?! (D)



Maybe Black missed her opponent's next move or move 34th. Better was 29...♕e7 **A)** 30.b5 axb5 31.♕xb5 ♖xc1+ 32.♖xc1 ♘a6 *(32...e4!?)* 33.♕b6 ♕g5!?⇄; **B)** 30.♖xc8+ 30...♖xc8 31.b5 axb5 32.♕xb5

30.♕xa6!

Nice move, of course, it doesn't spell death for Black, just yet.

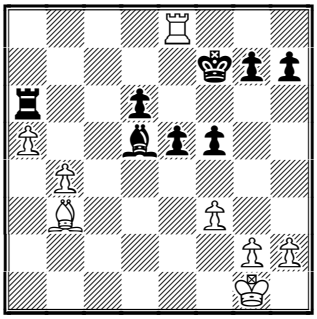
30...♖xc1+?!

A miscalculation. Better was 30...♖cb8 31.♕d3 ♘xb3 32.♖xb3 e4!? *(32...♖xa5? 33.bxa5 ♕xb3 34.♖c8+ ♔f7 35.♕xf5+ ♔e7 36.♕f8+)* 33.fxe4 fxe4 34.♕e3⇄; but not 30...♖xa6?? 31.♖xc8+ ♕f8 32.♘xd5+ ♔h8 33.♖xf8#

31.♖xc1 ♖xa6?

Looses by force, though after 31...♖f8 32.♘xd5 ♕xd5 33.b5± White is better.

32.♖c8+ ♕e8 33.♖xe8+ ♔f7 (D)



34.♖a8!!

Obviously Black calculated only 34.♘a4 ♘b3 35.♘b5 ♖a7⇄ After the text White wins a piece, so Black resigned. A nice combination "Maltese cross"! **1-0.**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel:

(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin.

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CHESS TODAY
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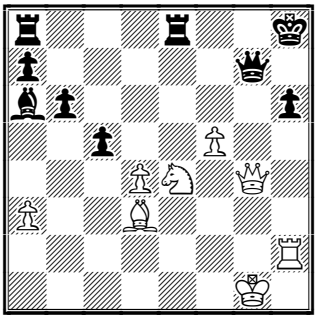
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-37(821) 6th February 2003

Quiz Today

Agdestein (2578) – Palac (2591)
Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay ENG (8), 04.02.2003



Here white to played **30.♘g5?** which was a decisive mistake.

i) What should White have played on move 30?
ii) After 30.♘g5?, what is Black's star move ?

Latest News

While I was preparing this issue, the 5th game of the Kasparov vs Deep Junior match in New York started and ended. It was a 19 move draw. Let me quote www.worldchessrating.com "Game 5 of this match looks like it may start a whole new era in the history of Man vs Machine clashes. In a calm line of the Nimzo-Indian Defence it was Junior who went for a speculative piece sacrifice. After 30 minutes of hesitation Kasparov decided to allow a drawish continuation". In the next CT issue IM Nikolai Vlassov will comment on this game for you.

♦ The Brazilian GM Giovanni Vescovi is half a point ahead of Peter Svidler before the final round in the main event of The 20th Bermuda Inter-national Chess Festival. This distance has been established four rounds ago and since then their results were identical. The USA Champions of 2002 and 2003 Larry Christiansen and Alexander Shabalov share the penultimate place. The latter is probably too relaxed after snatching $25,000 a couple of weeks ago. In the 10th round he suffered the second opening catastrophe in the tournament (see the Annotated game and also his game against Gershon in CT-815).

Round 10 standings:
Tournament A
1. Vescovi – 7½
2. Svidler – 7
3. Markowski – 6½
4-5. Miton, Motylev – 5
6-9. Macieja, Movsesian, Gershon, Volokitin – 4½
10-11. Shabalov, Christiansen – 4
12. Al-Modiakhi – 3

Tournament B
1. Fridman – 7
2-3. Nakamura, Schmaltz – 6½
4. Perelshteyn – 6
5-7. Moreno Carnero, Paschall, Kallio – 5
8. Berg – 4½
9-10. Dinstuhl, Seul – 4
11. Blatny – 3½
12. Mulyar – 3

♦ GM Vasilios Kotronias of Cyprus retains a sole lead before two final rounds at Gibraltar Chess Congress

Round 8 standings:
1. Kotronias – 6½
2. Sulskis – 6
3-6. McShane, Short, Palac, Epishin – 5½
7-18. Luther, Hamdouchi, Korneev, Johansen, Tiviakov, Speelman, Campora, Plaskett, Cherniaev, Reinderman, Shaw, A. Ledger – 5, etc.

♦ The 5th game of The Dannemann Classico match Kosteniuk – Karjakin ended in a draw. Karjakin leads 3½:1½. Thus he has already won the match. The final game will be played tomorrow.

♦ GM Evgeny Agrest of Sweden is sole leader of 3rd Griesheimer Tournament (Cat. 11). He has scored 5½ points in 7 rounds. Galdunts, Prusikhin and Jakubiec who share the second place have only 4 points.

Before talking about the Shabalov – Miton encounter I'd like to take a look at a game that lasted only 13 moves. I suppose Bellon Lopez – Baum from the cbv-file will draw the short games collectors' attention as well.

Annotated games

□ **J Plaskett (2467)**
■ **J Speelman (2583)**
Event: Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay ENG (6), 02.02.2003 -B01

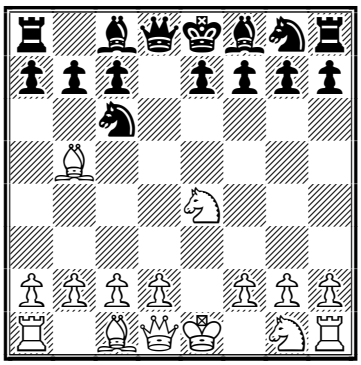
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

Both opponents are well known for their original; perhaps I could even say eccentric, style.

1.e4 d5 2.♘c3

Of course Jim Plaskett knows that the normal reply is 2.exd5, this day he decided to try something less routine.

2...dxe4 3.♘xe4 ♘c6 4.♗b5?!



Hey it's not a Ruy Lopez! As Black's next move shows better is 4.♘f3

4...♕d5! 5.♕e2 ♗f5 6.♘g3!?

White can't play 6.d3?? ♕xb5; To give up one bishop in the very beginning - 6.♗xc6+ ♕xc6 7.d3 is boring; while 6.f3 looks a bit "ugly"

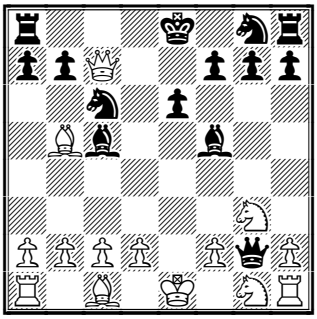
6...♕xg2

6...♗xc2!?

7.♕e5 e6?

7...♗d7

8.♕xc7 ♗c5



9.♕f4?

Dubious is 9.♕xb7 ♗xf2+ *(9...♕xf2+? 10.♔d1+-)* 10.♔d1 ♗g4+ 11.♘1e2 ♗xe2+ 12.♗xe2 ♖b8 13.♕a6 ♗xg3 and here only 14.♖f1! allows to go on fighting; but 9.♘xf5 unexpectedly gives White a notable advantage as the capture on f2 isn't dangerous while after 9...♕xh1 *(9...exf5 10.♕xb7 ♕xf2+ 11.♔d1+-)* 10.♔f1! it's difficult for Black to defend the queenside.

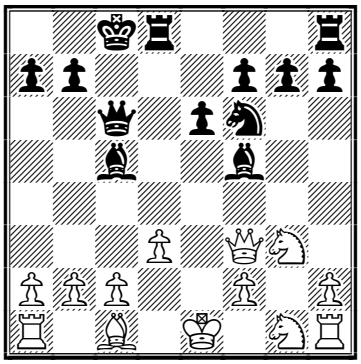
9...0-0-0 10.♗xc6

10...Nd4 was an unpleasant threat.

10...♕xc6

Obviously with a pair of bishops and a better development Black has an edge.

11.d3 ♘f6 12.♕f3?



It turns out to be that the control over the b4-square was very important thing. White should have played 12.♘f3∓

12...♗b4+! 13.♗d2

Other moves are worse - 13.c3 ♗xc3+; 13.♔d1 ♗g4; 13.♔f1 ♗h3+!

13...♕xc2!

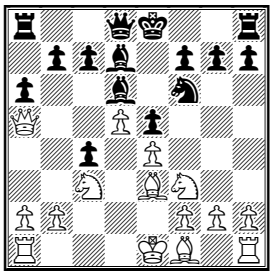
White resigned.13...♕xc2 Now 14.♖c1 doesn't win the queen but loses the rook *(14.♗xb4 ♕xb2* is hopeless as well*)* 14...♕xc1+

0-1

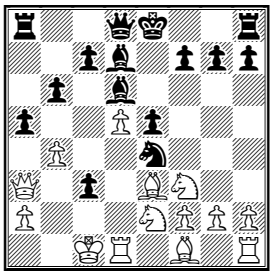
□ **A Shabalov (2613)**
■ **K Miton (2544)**
Event: GMA Bermuda BER (10), 04.02.2003 – D20

Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 ♘c6
Black has a rich choice of opening systems – 3...♘f6 ; 3...e5; 3...c5
4.♗e3 ♘f6 5.♘c3
Lately White prefers 5.f3 because of the idea that you will see pretty soon.
5...e5 6.d5 ♘a5 7.♘f3
I played this position against GM Balashov (Moscow 1996) and opted "discreetly" for 7.♕a4+ c6 8.dxc6 ♘xc6 9.♗xc4 (the idea of IM Polovodin *9.♘f3!?* deserves attention) 9...♗b4 10.♘f3 0–0 11.0–0 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 ♘xe4 13.♖fd1 ♕f6 14.♗xf7+ and a draw was agreed in view of 14...♖xf7 15.♕xe4= And if I was more educated then I would have known that the game Vyzmanavin – Sadler (Paris 1994) had already proved the harmlessness of this variation for Black. Anyway it's good that I didn't play 7. ♘f3.
7...♗d6 8.♕a4+
After 8.♗xc4 ♘xc4 9.♕a4+ c6 10.♕xc4 cxd5 it's White who may have problems.
8...♗d7!
Now in case of 8...c6 9.dxc6 ♘xc6 10.♖d1 White would have been clearly better but the knight on a5 was just a bait.
9.♕xa5 a6!



The simple 10...b6 is threatening trapping the queen. The statistics in this position is awful for White.
10.♘e2
Clearing the path for the queen. The first trial of this idea was absolutely triumphant – 10.♘b1 ♘xe4 11.♔d1 c3! White resigned, Illescas – Sadler, Linares 1995; few months later Karpov being unaware of this novelty fell into the trap against Lautier (Amber–rapid 1996) and preferred to give up the queen for a rook and a minor piece 10.♗xc4 b6 11.♕xa6 ♖xa6 12.♗xa6 The ex–World Champion managed to make a draw but the evaluation is quite clear; Karpov's assistant Vladimir Epishin tried to revive the line by means of the queen sacrifice – 10.♗c5 b6 11.♗xd6 bxa5 12.♗a3 but lost two games – to Vaulin (Majkop 1998) and ...Baburin (Vienna 1998). And it's not the only Alex' win in this line! ; One of the up–to–date examples is 10.b4 b6 11.♕a3 a5 12.♕c1 axb4 13.♘d1 b5 and Black won, Sturua – Kharlov, European Championship, Batumi 2002; apparently better is 10.♘a4 b6 *(10...♕e7!? 11.a3 ♘xe4 12.♗xc4 b5 13.♗d3 ♘f6 14.♘c3 e4)* 11.♘xb6 cxb6 12.♗xb6 ♕e7 13.a3 ♘xe4 14.♗xc4 and Black has a compensation for a pawn
10...♘xe4
Depriving the queen of the c3 and d2 squares. White faces the same old problem – what to do with his main piece.
11.0–0–0?
The queen is ready to retreat humbly to e1 but it seems that Shabalov forgot the game Illescas – Sadler.
11...c3! 12.b4
Karpov's idea doesn't serve with white king on the queenside – 12.♘xc3 b6 13.♕xa6 ♖xa6 14.♗xa6 ♘xc3 15.bxc3 ♕a8–+
12...b6 13.♕a3 a5



Anyone would be glad to get such position with Black after 13 moves only!
14.♕b3 axb4
Apart from being objectively bad White's position is highly annoying.

I'm sure you know what I mean :)

15.♘g3 ♖a3 16.♕xa3

All the queen's retreats lose – 16.♕c2 b3! 17.♕xe4 *(17.axb3 ♖a1+)* 17...♖xa2; 16.♕b1 c2! 17.♕xc2 ♘xg3 18.hxg3 ♖c3; 16.♕c4 ♘xg3 17.hxg3 ♕a8

16...bxa3 17.♘xe4 0-0 18.♘xc3 f5

The rest is easy.

19.♗c4 b5! 20.♗b3

20.♗xb5 ♗xb5 21.♘xb5 ♕b8–+

20...b4 21.♘e2 f4 22.♘xf4

Of course 22.♗d2 e4 23.♘fd4 ♕f6 was more stubborn but I can imagine Alexander's feelings about his position.

22...exf4 23.♗d4 ♕a8 24.♖d2 ♕a6 25.♖c2 ♗a4 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today:

i) After 30.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 31.f6+! White doesn't run the risk of losing e.g. **A)** 31...♔g6 32.♗xa6 ♖xe4 33.♗d3; **B)** 31...♔f7 32.♘d6+ ♔xf6 33.♘xe8+ ♖xe8 34.♗xa6; **C)** 31...♔g8 32.♗xa6 ♖xe4 33.♗c4+ ♔h7 *(33...♔f8 34.♖xh6)* 34.♗d3; **D)** 31...♔f8 32.♗xa6 ♖xe4 33.♖xh6 ♔f7 *(33...♖g4+ 34.♔f2 ♖g8 35.♗c4)* 34.♗c4+ ♖e6=

ii) 30...♗xd3! 31.♖xh6+ ♕xh6 32.♘f7+ ♔h7 33.♘xh6 ♖g8 0-1

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CT-38(822) 7th February 2003

Kasparov – Deep Junior

The Kasparov vs Deep Junior match is coming to its end. Tomorrow is the final game, which will decide the outcome of this exciting encounter. Nikolai Vlassov comments on Game 5 in today's issue

♦ The Dannemann Classico match has finished in Brissago, Switzerland. Sergey Karjakin defeated Alexandra Kosteniuk. The final score is 4-2.

♦ **Giovanni Viscovi won GM-A Tournament of The 20th Bermuda International Chess Festival** with half a point ahead of Peter Svidler.
Final standings:
1. Vescovi, Giovanni – 8.0;
2. Svidler, Peter – 7½;
3. Markowski, Tomasz – 7.0;
4. Motylev, Alexander – 6.0;
5. Milton, Kamil – 5½; etc.

Daniel Fridman is in clear first at Cat. X GM-B Tournament
Final Standings:
1. Fridman, Daniel – 8.0;
2. Nakamura, Hikaru – 7½;
3. Perelshteyn, Eugene – 7.0;
4. Schmaltz, Roland – 6½;
5. Moreno Carnero, Javier – 5½; etc.

♦ Before the last round Vasilious Kotronias is keeping the sole lead at **Gibraltar Chess Congress** half a point ahead of Nigel Short and Sarunas Sulskis.

Round 9 Standings:

1. Kotronias, Vasilios – 7.0; 2-3 Short, Nigel; Sulskis, Sarunas – 6½; 4-9 Palac, Mladen; Epishin, Vladimir; Johansen, Darryl K; Plaskett, Jim; Shaw, John; Ledger, Andrew – 6.0; etc.

GM Evgeny Agrest has won the 3. Griesheimer Tournament in advance. IM S. Galdunts und IM M. Prusikhin have chances for GM-norms if they win their last round games.

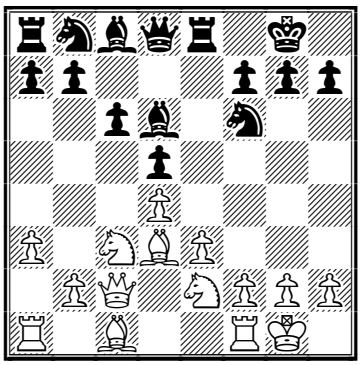
In the IM-Tournament IM Stephan Solonar and Jiri Jirka are sharing the first place before the final round. IM B. Grabarczyk, FM H. Gohil und FM C. Schramm are half a point behind.

Annotated game

□ **G. Kasparov (2847)**
■ **Deep Junior (2750)**
Event: Chess21 www.chess21.com (5), 06.02.2003 – E48

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3
The Rubinstein variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defence has arisen.
4...0-0 5.♗d3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♘ge2 ♖e8 8.0-0 ♗d6 9.a3 c6N
At first sight this is a sensible move strengthening the pawn in the center, but humans haven't played the position in this way! The following has occurred before: 9...h5 10.f3 c5 11.♕e1 ♘c6 12.♕h4 g6 13.♗d2 ♗f8 14.♖ad1 a6 15.♗c1 cxd4 16.exd4 ♗g7 17.♗g5 ♕d6 18.♗b1 b5 19.♔h1 b4 20.axb4 ♘xb4 21.♕f2 a5 22.♖fe1 ♗d7 23.♘c1 ♘h7 24.♗e3 Baumegger,S-Wells,P /Germany 1997 0–1; 9...a5 10.f3 c5 11.♕e1 ♘c6 12.♕h4 h6 13.♕f2 b6 14.♗d2 ♗a6 15.♗xa6 ♖xa6 16.♖ad1 ♕b8 17.g4 b5 18.dxc5 ♗xc5 19.♗c1 ♖d8 20.♘d4 b4 21.axb4 ♕xb4 22.♘ce2 a4 23.♔h1 ♖c8 24.♘f5 ♘e5 25.♘ed4 ♖e8 26.♖g1 ♘h7 27.h4 ♖b6 28.f4 ♘c4 29.g5 h5 ½–½ Mchedlishvili,M-Zvjag-insev,/Moscow 2002; 9...♘g4 10.♘f4 c6 11.h3 ♗xf4 12.exf4 ♘f6 13.♗e3 ♘bd7 14.♕f3 ♘b6 15.b3 ♕e7 16.♖fe1 ♘e4 17.♘xe4 dxe4 18.♗xe4 ♗e6 19.♗c2 f5 20.♗d2 ♕f7 21.♖e5 ♘d7 22.♖e3 ♘f6 23.♖ae1 ♗d5 24.♖xe8+ Obukhov,A-Ikonnikov,V /Cheliabinsk 1990 ½–½
10.♕c2



The last move made by White looks like it is provoking Black to sacrifice on h2, but judging by the following struggle, Kasparov did not expect Junior to be so insolent. To keep the position closed, it was sufficient to make the following move: 10.♗d2

10...♗xh2+!?

If humans played this game, the signs would rather be quite the opposite because Black's attack seems to be very unprepared – he has an undeveloped Queenside.

11.♔xh2 ♘g4+ 12.♔g3

Of course, impossible is 12.♔g1?? ♕h4–+

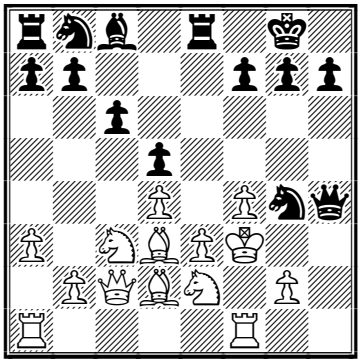
12...♕g5 13.f4 ♕h5

Black's idea rests on the fact that White can not make the move Rh1. If he had a Queen on d1 he would not have any doubts about his position.

14.♗d2 ♕h2+

Black does not have enough compensation after 14...♖xe3+ 15.♗xe3 ♘xe3 16.♕d2 ♘xf1+ 17.♖xf1±, and White has to win little by little.

15.♔f3 ♕h4!



Here it is: the crucial position! Losing is 15...♕h5 16.♖h1!+–

16.♗xh7+

In reality Garry resigned himself to a draw here. The following leads to immediate draw 16.♘g3 ♘h2+ 17.♔f2 ♘g4+=; The only way to play for a win is 16.g3!? White has still more difficulties because here Black has two possibilities, the results of which are hard to calculate accurately and quite difficult to estimate:

A)

Another possibility is 16...♘h2+ 17.♔f2 ♘g4+ 18.♔e1 ♕h3! The Queen is chasing the f1–rook not allowing the White king to run to the left. In spite of the fact that Black has only one pawn compensation for a piece, it is not so easy for White to unravel the tangle of his own pieces. The position is unclear. 19.♖d1 *(19.e4 ♕g2 20.f5 ♘h2! 21.♖f4 ♗xf5!?)* 19...♖xe3;

B)

16...♕h2 Black is trying to keep the White king on f3.

B1)

17.♖ae1

B1a)

17...♘xe3?! 18.♗xe3 ♕h5+ *(18...♗g4+ 19.♔xg4 ♖xe3 20.♗xh7+!+–)* 19.♔g2 ♖xe3 20.♘g1!+–;

B1b)

17...h5 ;

B2)

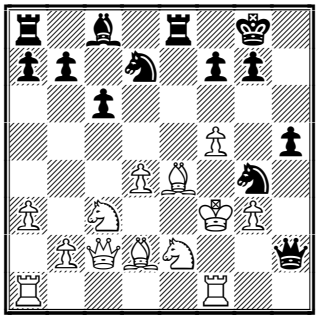
17.f5

B2a)

Probably, even stronger is 17...♘d7!! 18.♔xg4 *(18.e4 ♘ge5+ 19.dxe5 ♘xe5+ 20.♔e3 c5!! 21.♘xd5 ♘g4+ 22.♔f4 ♘e5=)* 18...♕g2 19.e4 ♘f6+ 20.♔f4 dxe4 21.♗xe4 ♘xe4 *(21...♖xe4+! 22.♘xe4 ♘d5+ 23.♔e5 ♗xf5!* with a lot of complications requiring serious home analysis (preferably involving a lot of people and computers).*)*;

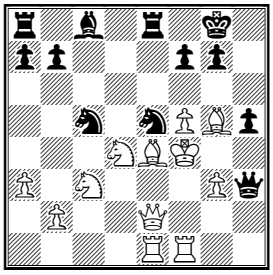
B2b)

17...h5 18.e4 dxe4+ 19.♗xe4 ♘d7



20.♗g5 c5! 21.♖ae1 cxd4 22.♘xd4

♘ge5+ 23.♔f4 ♕h3! 24.♕e2 ♘c5



Having calculated this alternative and similar ones, and taking into account his loss to Deep Blue, Garry made the decision to postpone the decisive struggle until the last game. Although the spectators were deprived of a colossal show, it must be admitted that computers have the upper hand in such position, perhaps only David Bronstein has another opinion... ; and, of course, impossible is 16.♖h1?? ♕f2#

16...♔h8 17.♘g3

17.g3 ♘h2+ 18.♔f2 ♘g4+ 19.♔e1 ♕xh7 20.♕xh7+ ♔xh7 21.♖h1+ ♔g8 with an obvious advantage to Black.

17...♘h2+

The idea of taking on h7 with the bishop was to give Junior the opportunity to slip up and proceed with the worse end game. 17...♕xh7 18.♖h1 ♘h6 19.♕xh7+ ♔xh7 20.f5!± Black inexorably forces the perpetual check.

18.♔f2 ♘g4+ 19.♔f3 ♘h2+ ½–½

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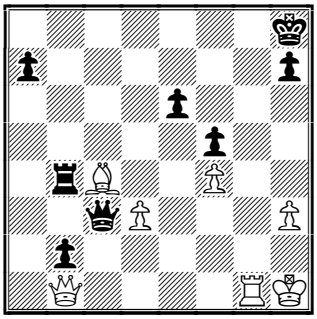
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-39(823) 8th February 2003

Quiz Today

B. Baum – A. Barsov
Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay ENG (10), 06.02.2003



Black to play

Kasparov vs DJ: 3-3 tie!

(The final game ended in an exciting draw. In tomorrow's issue we will feature the 6th game annotated by IM Nikolai Vlasov.
--- Ralph P. Marconi)

Next week the giant Aeroflot-open starts in Moscow. The first round will be played on Tuesday, 11 February. Today at the press conference **Anatoly Karpov** answering the reporters' questions repeated the ideas stated in the top GMs Open Letter to Kirsan Iljumzhinov (see *CT-820*). The ex-World Champion was quite severe in his statements so the fighting for the elite players rights is in full swing.

Nigel Short caught up to Vasilios Kotronias in the final round of the Gibraltar Chess Congress Thus, they share first place, a half point ahead of Mladen Palac and John Shaw. The winners met in the 5th round (*see Annotated game section.)*

According to TWIC, Shaw got his first GM norm after Jim Plaskett lost on time after forgetting that the time limit didn't include extra time at move 40. At this moment he was two pawns up in an ending. Our congratulations to a lucky man, John!

Final standings:
1-2. Kotronias, Short – 7½
3-4. Palac, Shaw – 7
5-9. Johansen, Tiviakov, Sulskis, Epishin, A. Ledger – 6½
10-18. Cherniaev, Plaskett, Speelman, Luther, Pavlovic, Lalic, Reinderman, Barsov, D. Ledger – 6, etc.

GM Evgeny Agrest won the 3rd Griesheimer Tournament. Michael Prusikhin scored the GM norm.

Final standings:
1. Agrest – 7
2. Prusikhin – 6
3. Galdunts – 5½
4. Jakubiec – 5
5-6. Buhmann, M. Grabarczyk – 4½
7. Ruck – 4
8. Krivoshey – 3½
9-10. Kritz, Kunin – 2½
Stephan Solonar and Bogdan Grabarczyk won the IM-Tournament scoring 5½ points.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **Kotronias,V (2573)**
■ **Short,N (2690)**
Event: *Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay ENG (5), 01.02.2003* **– *[B03]***
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

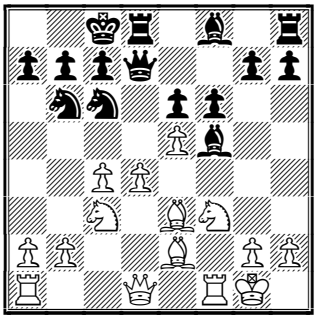
1.e4 ♘f6 2.e5 ♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 ♘b6 5.f4
The sharpest line of the Alekhine Defence. White seizes all the space in the centre but he needs to act vigorously lest his advanced pawns become vulnerable.

5...dxe5 6.fxe5 ♘c6 7.♗e3
Not 7.♘f3 which allows Black to put his light-squared bishop on a good square 7...♗g4 putting pressure on the key point – d4.

7...♗f5 8.♘c3 e6 9.♘f3 ♕d7
Preparing to castle on the queenside. In this way Black aims one more piece at d4. Now 9...♗g4 would have lost a tempo. Nevertheless this move is one of the main continuations as it corresponds with Black's general idea

of putting a pressure on his opponent's centre.; many interesting games have been played after 9...♗e7 as well.

10.♗e2 0-0-0 11.0-0 f6 (D)



11...♗g4 is possible again virtually forcing 12.c5 ♘d5 with unclear play.

12.d5!?

This move could be played after 12.exf6 gxf6

12...♘xe5

Bad is 12...exd5 13.♗xb6! axb6 14.cxd5 and 14...♘xe5? loses to 15.♘xe5 fxe5 16.♖xf5! ♕xf5 17.♗g4.

13.♘xe5 fxe5 14.a4!

Beginning play against the badly placed knight on b6. This often happens to the b6-knight. I may point at some lines of the Grunfeld Defence (Fianchetto) or Sicilian where the knight on b3 is the most passive of White's pieces.

14...a5?

Better is 14...♔b8 as was played in the game Gutzeit-Carl, Hochspeyer 1967. Black prepares the knight's retreat to c8 without weakening the pawn structure on the queenside where his king stays.

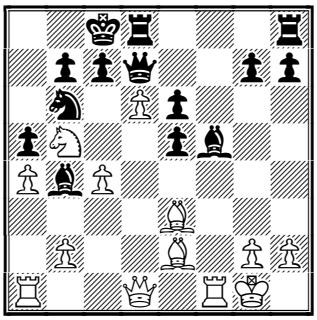
15.♘b5

White creates threats without delay. The black knight lacks support.

15...♗b4

15...exd5 is still impossible due to 16.♗xb6 cxb6 17.♖xf5; the idea of White's knight assault is revealed in the line 15...♔b8 16.d6! ♗xd6 17.c5 *(17.♘xd6* is not that strong in view of the curious reply *17...♕c6!* and if *18.♕b3* then *18...♕xd6 19.c5 ♕d5!* saving the piece*)* 17...♘d5 18.cxd6 ♘xe3 19.♕d2! *(19.dxc7+? ♕xc7)* 19...c6 *(19...♘xf1? 20.♕xa5+-)* 20.♕xe3 cxb5 21.♖fd1 and White has an advantage thanks to a strong passed pawn.

16.d6! (D)



16...♘a8

The only way to protect the c7-pawn. Since the knight has taken up this ridiculous position in any event maybe it was better to carry out this retreat on the previous move.

17.c5

Black has to reckon with c5-c6.

17...♔b8 18.♗f3

18.♖c1!?

18...c6?!

Depriving his opponent of various tactical possibilities - on the other hand it gives him a powerful pawn d6 and makes his knight's position even more desperate.

19.♘a3 e4 20.♗e2 b6

Otherwise after ♘c4 the game would be decided.

21.cxb6

Replacing one strong pawn with another. After 21.♘c4!? bxc5 22.♗g5 White wins the exchange - 22...♕b7 *(22...♖df8? 23.♘e5+-)* 23.♗xd8 ♖xd8 but apparently Kotronias didn't like the idea of activating Black's pieces.

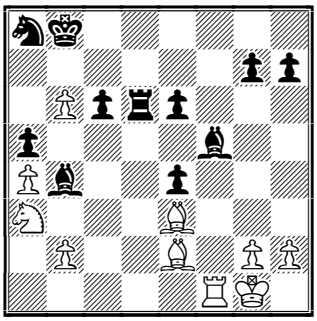
21...♕xd6 22.♕xd6+

With the queens on the board - 22.♕b3 White's initiative could be even stronger.

22...♖xd6 23.♖ad1 ♖hd8?

A fatal mistake. Black is unable to hold the d-file by means of 23...♖d5 due to 24.♖xd5 cxd5 25.♗a6! with the highly unpleasant threat of ♗f4+; the only chance was 23...♖xd1 24.♖xd1 e5! taking control over the d7 square and in case of 25.♗a6 ♗g4! the white rook should leave the d-file.

24.♖xd6 ♖xd6 (D)



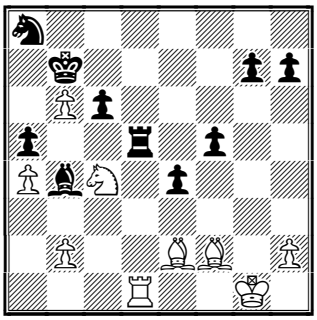
25.g4! ♗d2

After 25...♗g6 26.♖f8+ ♔b7 27.♘c4 ♖d7 *(27...♖d5 28.♖g8)* White has an elegant combination 28.♘xa5+! ♗xa5 29.♗a6+! ♔xa6 30.♖xa8+ ♔b7 31.♖xa5 and with the "a" and "b" pawns he should win easily.

26.♗f2! ♔b7

Black gives up a piece and the game is over. Now there was no time for 26...♗g6 in view of 27.♗g3

27.♘c4 ♖d5 28.gxf5 exf5 29.♖d1 ♗b4 (D)



30.♗e3!

The black pawns on the kingside are blocked.

30...g6 31.♔f2 ♖xd1 32.♗xd1 c5 33.♗b3! ♘xb6 34.♘xb6 ♔xb6 35.♗g8

And the pawns fall, Black resigned. **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz today:

B. Baum – A. Barsov

Gibraltar Masters Catalan Bay ENG (10), 06.02.2003

38...♖xc4!-+ 39.♕f1 [39.dxc4 ♕xh3#] **39...♖c8 40.♕e2 ♕c6+ 0-1.**

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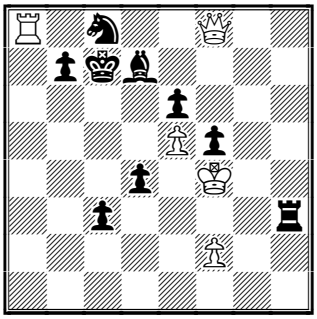
CT-40(824) 9th February 2003

Quiz Today

1. H. Nakamura – E. Berg
GMB Bermuda BER (8), 02.02.2003



White to play

CHESS NEWS

As announced in yesterday's issue the Kasparov vs Deep Junior match ended in a 3-3 draw. Unfortunately, Kasparov did not manage to win the 6th game and accepted a draw after the 28th move just at the point when the spectators were waiting for a hard struggle to ensue. So, they were very disappointed about the quick draw. Neither human, nor computer proved their superiority. My comments on the final game of this Man vs Machine exciting encounter is featured in today's annotated game section.

Hikaru Nakamura won the **Bermuda Blitz**, which was held on the 6th of February. It was a 5 round robin tournament and Nakamura scored 8.5 out of 10 with half a point ahead of Vescovi, Volokitin, E. Berg & P. Blatny.

The 11th Open Internazionale Valle d'Aosta starts on the 8th of February. This is a 9 round Swiss tournament. The time control is 100 minutes for 40 moves + 50 minutes for 20 moves + 10 minutes + 30 seconds for each move beginning from the first one. The participants include **Zurab Azmaiparashvili, Victor Korchnoi, Sergey Tiviakov, Mikhail Gurevich, Antuaneta Stefanova,** etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **Deep Junior**
■ **Garry Kasparov**
Event: *Man vs Machine Match, NYC (6), 08.02.2003* – ***[B92]***
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlasov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e2 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♔h1 ♗d7 10.♗e3 ♗c6 11.♗f3N

Humans have played 11.f3 a5 *(11...♘bd7 12.a4 ♖c8 13.a5 h6 14.♕d3 ♘e8 15.♘d5 ♗xd5 16.♖fd1 ♕c7 17.♖dc1 ♗f6 18.♕c4 ♗e7 19.♖d1 ♘df6 20.♗d4 ♘h7 21.exd5 ♘ef6 22.♖a3 ♗d8 23.♗f2* 1–0 Lutz,C-Gutman,L/Frankfurt 1996/EXT 99 (23)) 12.♘d2 a4 13.♘c4 b5 14.♘b6 ♖a7 15.♘bd5 ♖b7 16.♕d2 ♘a6 17.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 18.♘xa4 ♘c7 19.♘c3 b4 20.♘d5 ♘xd5 21.exd5 ♗d7 22.♗c4 ♖e8 23.a4 bxa3 24.♖xa3 ♖xb2 25.♗b5 e4 26.fxe4 ♖xe4 ½–½ Lutz,C-Gallagher,J/Biel 1996/CBM 55 (26); RR 11.♘d5 ♘bd7 12.f3 ♘xd5 13.exd5 ♗a4 14.♕d2 h6 15.♕b4 ♗xb3 16.axb3 ♕c7 17.c3 ♗g5 18.♗g1 f5 19.♗d3 ♖ae8 20.♖ae1 h5 21.♗c2 g6 22.g4 hxg4 23.fxg4 e4 24.gxf5 gxf5 25.♖e2 ♗h6 Oll,L-Wojtkiewicz,A/Tallinn 1998/CBM 62 ext/1–0 (37)

11...♘bd7 12.a4 b6

Proactive 12...b5 is tactically refuted by 13.♘a5! ♕xa5 14.axb5± (indicated by GM Shipov)

13.♕d3 ♗b7

The bishop's journey from c8 to b7 made in three moves gives a strange impression, however, Black can afford this here as in the "hedgehog" line.

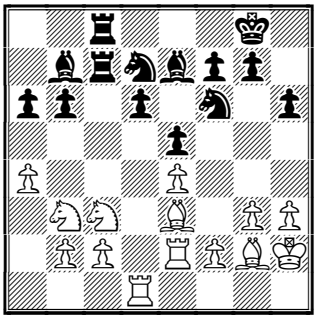
14.h3

As it had happened in Game 4, Junior again had difficulties with finding a proactive plan.

14...♖c8 15.♖ad1 h6 16.♖fe1 ♕c7 17.g3 ♖fd8 18.♔h2 ♖e8 19.♖e2 ♕c4

Kasparov could not wait for his opponent's position to weaken any

longer and seeing DJ's inability in making progess, Garry proceeded with entering the better endgame. **20.♕xc4 ♖xc4 21.♘d2 ♖c7 22.♗g2 ♖ec8 23.♘b3!? (D)**



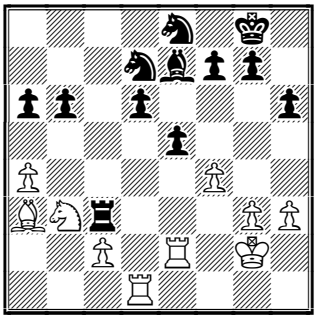
Having the worse position, Junior provokes Kasparov into an exchange sacrifice, which Kasparov considered to be the most dangerous continuation for White! Also possible was 23.♘db1 and it is not easy for Black to find ways to develop any initiative. **23...♖xc3! 24.bxc3 ♗xe4**

An attempt to keep the light-squared bishops on the board by 24...♖xc3 would not give Black any appreciable advantage either. For instance, 25.♗c1 ♗c6 26.a5 ♗b5 27.♖ed2 bxa5 28.♘xa5 ♗a4 29.♘b7 ♘e8 30.♘xd6 ♗xd6 31.♖xd6 ♘xd6 32.♖xd6 ♖xc2 33.♖xa6=

25.♗c1 ♗xg2 26.♔xg2 ♖xc3 27.♗a3 ♘e8

Junior is fond of playing proactively. He considered that the move 27...♖c6 was more dangerous for "him", although it was not difficult for Kasparov to calculate 28.♘d4! exd4 29.♖xe7 ♖xc2 30.♗xd6 ♖c4 31.♗a3 ♘f8 32.♖b7 ♘e6 33.♖xb6 ♖xa4 34.♗b2= and Black does not have any practical chances for a win.

28.f4 (D) ½-½.



This move was followed by a mutual agreement to the draw, which made the spectators furious. However, from the chess and sporting points of view this is quite obvious. The game could possibly proceed with the following: 28...f6 29.a5 bxa5 30.♗b2 ♖c8 31.♘xa5 ♔f7 32.♗a3. Even if Black has a slight advantage here, it is unlikely that a Human could turn it into a win, playing against a Computer.

Solution to Quiz today:

1. H. Nakamura – E. Berg

GMB Bermuda BER (8), 02.02.2003

37.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 38.♕d6# 1-0

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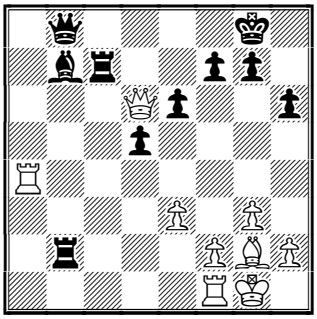
CT-41(825) 10th February 2003

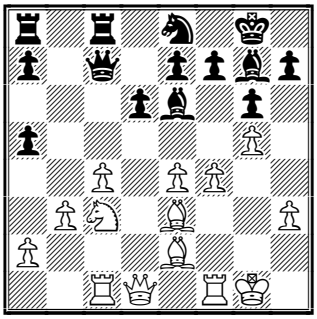
Quiz Today

1. P. Pascal – A. Atalik
11 Open Saint Vincent (1), 08.02.2003



Black to play

2. V. Kortcnoi – C. Yeuillaz
11 Open Saint Vincent (1), 08.02.2003



White to play

Post Kasparov–DJ match Press conference published at FIDE website

The FIDE website has published an interesting post Kasparov – DJ match Press Conference by **Garry Kasparov**. The following are only Kasparov's answers but it's not difficult to imagine the journalists' questions.

GK: I played the sharpest line I could in the opening.
GK: I sacrificed with 23...Rxc3 and then I offered a draw. I wasn't sure I was better. I believe it was a logical move and the best move, but it's hard to do these things against a machine. Perhaps I should have waited.
GK: I wanted to play normal chess. I admit I completely blundered Bc1–a3, which is a very nice manoeuvre.
GK: Against any human player I would continue fighting in the final position. Black is definitely not worse. But to win it would take a long, long time and there is the pressure of playing the computer.
GK: The longer the game goes, the chance to blunder increases and the program will never make a big mistake. And a draw was a good result. Before the game the main item on my agenda was not to lose.
GK: I came into this match wanting to dominate, but there is a gap between our desires and our abilities. I knew I would get good positions, but finishing these off is the hard part.
GK: In game two, I had a winning position and missed it. In game three I missed winning chances and then even blundered the draw. So I feel I outplayed it.
GK: I analysed the sacrifice in game 5 extensively and I have to admit it was a good sacrifice. It was a unique situation and a good move.
GK: We looked at it deeply and White might be a little better but White is under a lot of pressure. It's a big moment for computer chess that it played something like 10...Bxh2 in game five.

GK: To win the game today requires more energy and creativity than ever and Junior symbolises these advances. But it's still vulnerable, we saw some shortcomings here in this match. We saw its strengths and weaknesses both.
GK: The machine will never collapse, but a human can never be so sure.

We are anticipating a giant Aeroflot Open 2003 which takes place in Moscow 10th–20th February. There will be about 150 (!) grandmasters, among them: Alexander Grischuk RUS 2712, Petr Svidler RUS 2693, Alexey Dreev RUS 2690, Vladimir Malakhov RUS 2677, Vadim Zvyagintsev RUS 2671, Joel Lautier FRA 2670, Loek van Wely NED 2668, Rafael Vaganian ARM 2667, Ilia Smirin ISR 2664, Emil Sutovsky ISR 2651, Konstantin Landa RUS 2649, Konstantin Sakaev RUS 2645, Sergey Roublevski RUS 2644, Vladislav Tkachiev FRA 2642, Alexander Motiliev RUS 2640, Alexander Lastin RUS 2636, Mikhail Kobalia RUS 2635, Aleksej Aleksandrov BLR 2633, Victor Bologan MDA 2630, Gregory Kaidanov USA 2629, Igor Khenkin GER 2624 etc.

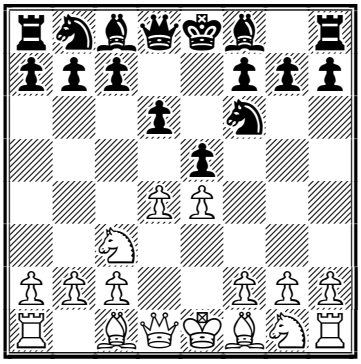
The 11th Open Internazionale Valle d'Aosta (Italy) started on Saturday.
Some results of the 1st round:
VALENTI – AZMAIPARASHVILI **½:½**
KORTCNOI – YEUILLAZ **1:0**
RICHARDS – TIVIAKOV **0:1**
M. GUREVICH – DE WIT **1:0**
FLEAR – VOLKOV **0:1**
BAKLAN – PANTALEONI **1:0**
GIRETTI KANEV – NISIPEANI **0:1**
PALAC – DE LA TORRE **1:0**
TOLHUIZEN – HUZMAN **½:½**
DELCHEV – DEKKER **1:0**
PASCAL – ATALIK **0:1**
BAUER – ROBERTS **1:0**

Also see our Annotated Game section.

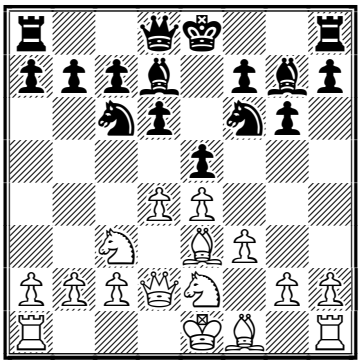
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

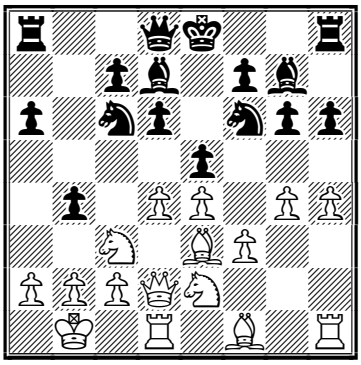
☐ **C. Bauer (2578)**
■ **P.Roberts (2185)**
Event: *11 Open Saint Vincent (1), 08.02.2003* – ***[B07]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.d4 d6 2.e4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 (D)



With this move order Black offers a rather tricky endgame.
4.♘ge2
If 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 6.♗c4 ♗e6 7.♗xe6 fxe6 and Black in fact has a solid position. White therefore decided to continue the struggle into the middlegame.
4...♘c6 5.f3!? ♗d7?! 6.♗e3 g6 7.♕d2 ♗g7 (D)



Now this is a position from the Pirc–Ufimtsev Defence. But it's hard to say what Black's bishop is doing on d7.
8.0–0–0 h6
Black wants to avoid the exchange of bishops after 8...0–0 9.Bh6. But all this is too slow, allowing White to create his offence without any problems.
9.♔b1 a6 10.g4 b5 11.h4 b4 (D)



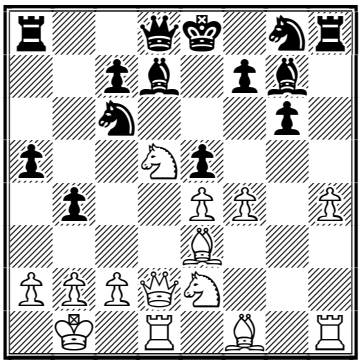
12.♘d5 a5

After 12...♘xd5 13.exd5 ♘e7 14.dxe5 dxe5 *(14...♗xe5 15.♗xh6)* 15.♘g3!? White also has clear a advantage.

13.g5 ♘g8 14.gxh6 ♗xh6 15.f4!

Of course White would like to open as many files as possible – the black king stays in the center still...

15...♗g7 16.dxe5 dxe5 (D)



17.f5!

A Typical pawn sacrifice: White opens the g-file. Now the King on e8 has no hiding place either on the queen side nor on the king side.

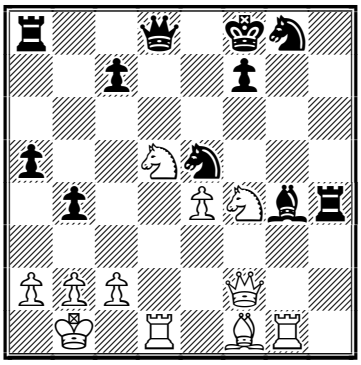
17...gxf5 18.♖g1 f4

18...♗f6? 19.♖xg8+! ♖xg8 20.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 21.♕xd7++−; 18...♗f8? 19.♖xg8! ♖xg8 20.♘f6+ ♕xf6 21.♕xd7#; 18...♖h7!?

19.♗xf4! exf4 20.♖xg7 ♔f8 21.♖g1 ♖xh4 22.♘exf4 ♗g4

It's difficult to believe that Black can hold such a position, for example: 22...♘e5!? 23.♕d4 ♘g4 24.♘e3±; 22...♖g4 23.♗b5±

23.♕f2 ♘e5 (D)



24.♖xg4!

A nice final shot.

24...♘xg4

24...♖xg4 25.♘e6+

25.♘e6+ ♔e8 26.♗b5+

26.♗b5+ c6 27.♗xc6+ ♕d7 28.♘dc7+ ♔e7 29.♖xd7# **1-0.**

Solutions to Quiz today:

1. P. Pascal – A. Atalik

11 Open Saint Vincent (1), 08.02.2003

29...♖xf2! 30.♕b6 [30.♖xf2 ♖c1+; 30.♔xf2 ♖c2+] **30...♖xg2+! 31.♔xg2 d4+ 32.♔g1** [32.♔h3 ♗g2+!] **32...♖c2 33.♖b1 ♖g2+ 34.♔f1 ♖xh2 35.♕xb7 ♖h1+ 36.♔g2 ♖xb1-+ 37.♕e4 ♖a1 38.♖xa1 ♕b2+ 39.♔f3 ♕xa1 40.exd4 0-1.**

2. V. Kortcnoi – C. Yeuillaz

11 Open Saint Vincent (1), 08.02.2003

18.f5 ♗d7 19.♘d5 ♕d8 20.f6! exf6 21.gxf6 ♗xf6? [21...♗f8 22.♗g4±] **22.♖xf6!** [22.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 23.♗g5? ♕b6+ 24.♔h2 ♘xe4∓; 22.♖xf6 ♘xf6 23.♗g5] **1-0.**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel:

(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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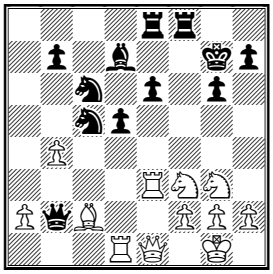
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-42(826) 11th February 2003

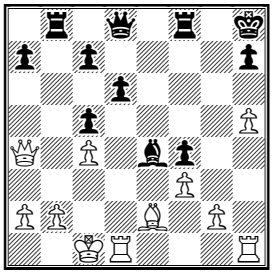
Quiz Today

1. Nisipeanu – Welling
Saint Vincent (2), 09.02.2003



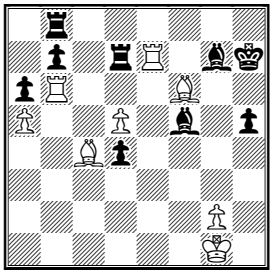
White to play

2. Skembris – Azamaiparashvili
Saint Vincent (3), 10.02.2003



Black to play

3. Relange-Geveke
Saint Vincent (3), 10.02.2003



White to play

Tournament News

Yesterday the third round was played at the traditional open tournament in Saint Vincent (Italy). I took part in that tournament a few years ago and liked it a lot – beautiful scenery, good playing conditions and excellent food. Obviously, I was not the only player who noticed that, since the tournament is getting stronger and stronger with every year. The current edition features many very strong GMs. Let us have a look at the results among those who were on 100% score after 2 rounds:

1 Korchnoi – Godena ½–½
2 **M. Gurevich** – Arizmendi 1–0
3 Legky – **Volkov** 0–1
4 Ortega – Nisipeanu ½–½
5 Palac – Skripchenko ½–½
6 Delchev – **Efimov** 0–1
7 Vassallo – Atalik ½–½
8 Bauer – Ibrahimov ½–½
9 Nevednichy – Saldano ½–½
10 Szekely – V. Georgiev ½–½
11 **Rotstein** – Sedina 1–0
12 Mitkov – **Arakhamia-Grant** 0–1
13 Costantini – Golod ½–½
14 Fontaine – Sanchez ½–½
15 **Tiviakov** (1½) – Djingarova (2) 1–0

As you can see, Elo-favourites are not having an easy time of it in St. Vincent; they won just 4:2, with many draws. Things will probably get even tougher as the tournament progresses. In our database you can find some games from St Vincent (rounds 2 and 3). See also our Annotated Game section.

Today the Aeroflot Open starts in Moscow. High prizes ($25,000; $15,000; $10,000; 2x$5,000; 3x$3,000; 5x$2,000; 7x$1,000, etc) attracted many top players, including **GMs Alexander Grischuk, Peter Svidler, Alexey Dreev, Joel Lautier and Loek van Wely**. Perhaps the fact that this year the winner of the Aeroflot Open will be invited to Dortmund super-tournament (summer), also played a role in attracting so many top players.

Vladimir Kramnik sent a letter to the participants of the tournament, emphasising the importance of the classical time control in chess: "Only [the] classical or professional time control provides to a player the unique opportunities for experience of

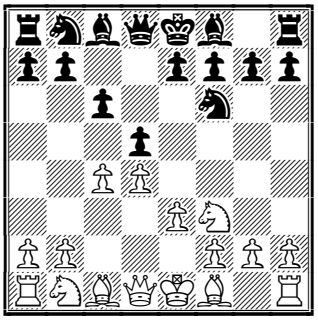
all the beauty and thorough fullness of our wonderful game. I am sure, that one can expect excellent games, which shall be remembered for a long period of time."

Chess Today will be covering this tournament extensively – stay tuned!

Annotated Game

□ **GM Vitaly Golod** (2532, Israel)
■ **IM Lawrence Cooper** (2353, England)
Event: *Saint Vincent Open 09.02.2003 – D11 – Slav Defence*
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 (D)



This is a very popular system nowadays – White avoids the main line of the Slav – 4. ♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5. Also, if now Black wants to play the semi-Slav, after 4...e6 White does not have to play the Meran Variation (arising after 5. ♘c3 ♘bd7 6. ♗d3 dxc4 7. ♗xc4 b5) – he can avoid it by delaying ♘b1–c3 (or playing ♘b1-d2). Kramnik employs 4.e3 regularly.

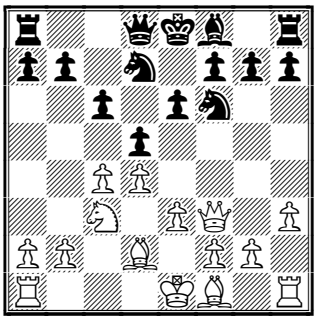
4...♗g4

Logical – Black should develop this bishop prior to playing ...e6. Another option is 4...♗f5 5.♘c3 e6 and now White should hunt the enemy bishop, if he wants to get any advantage: 6.♘h4!. Black also often plays 4...a6, delaying development of the c8 bishop.

5.h3 ♗xf3

Also possible is 5...♗h5. Then White usually opts for 6.♘c3 (after *6.cxd5* Black should play *6...♗xf3! 7.♕xf3 cxd5* – Black lost a tempo, but White has reduced his spatial advantage and the number of his options by playing cxd5.) 6...e6 7.g4 ♗g6 8.♘e5.

6.♕xf3 e6 7.♘c3 ♘bd7 8.♗d2 (D)



White has two bishops and more space. His plan is to gain space on the kingside with g2-g4. With his last move, White prepares long castle – in case he needs it.

8...♗b4

Logical idea – Black wants to fight for the e4-square. Another move is 8...♗d6, for example: 9.g4 h6 10.h4 ♗b4 *(10...♕e7 11.0–0–0 0–0–0 12.♔b1 ♖he8 13.g5 hxg5 14.hxg5 ♘e4 15.♘xe4 dxe4 16.♕g4 f5 17.gxf6 ♘xf6 18.♕g6±* Baburin-Hanley, Port Erin 2001.) 11.♗d3 dxc4 12.♗xc4 ♕e7 13.0–0–0 ♘d5 14.e4 ♘xc3 15.bxc3 b5 16.♗b3 ♗a3+ 17.♔b1 a5∞ Bacrot-Bareev, Enghien les Bains 2001.

9.♗d3 ♘b6?!N

A novelty – Black wants to force cxd5. However, this idea is time consuming. Two other examples: *9...0–0* 10.a3 ♗d6 11.g4 dxc4 12.♗xc4 ♘d5 13.e4 ♘5b6 14.♗a2 c5 15.d5 exd5 16.♘xd5 ♘xd5 17.♗xd5 ♘f6 18.♗g5 ♕a5+ 19.♗d2 ♕d8 20.♗g5 ♕a5+ ½–½ Mikhalchishin-Ehlvest, Kujbyshev 1986.; *9...dxc4* 10.♗xc4 e5 11.a3 ♗a5 12.0–0 0–0 13.♖ad1 ♗c7 14.♗a2 exd4 15.exd4 h6 ½–½ Zarubin-Rublevsky, St Petersburg 1994.

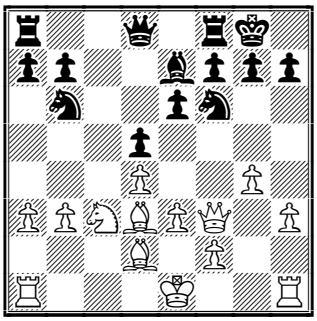
10.cxd5 cxd5?!

I would have preferred 10...exd5, keeping the pawn structure more dynamic. 11.a3 ♗d6 After ...0–0, ...♖e8 and ...♕e7 Black would be able to fight for control over e4.

11.a3 ♗e7 12.b3!

This move highlights that the b6-knight is misplaced.

12...0–0 13.g4!? (D)

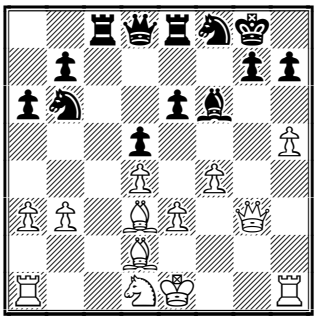


Interesting idea – White starts grabbing space on the kingside, while his king will be pretty safe on e2. Black cannot counter this plan with ...e6–e5, which justifies White's strategy.

13...♖c8 14.g5 ♘fd7 15.h4 ♖e8

Perhaps better was to play 15...f5 immediately. Then White would have to open play with 16.gxf6, but then Black's rook might be better off on the f–file than on e8.

16.♕g3 ♘f8 17.f4 a6 18.h5 f5 19.gxf6! ♗xf6 20.♘d1! (D)



White's advantage is becoming clear – he has play on the kingside, while Black has no obvious plan.

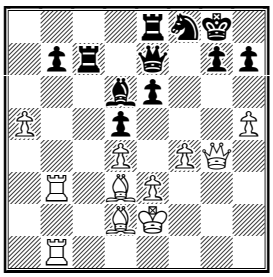
20...♘bd7 21.♖b1

Prophylactics against ...Nc5.

21...♗e7 22.♔e2! ♗xa3 23.b4 ♕e7 24.♘f2 a5 25.bxa5

Black saved the bishop, but now White has play down the b–file.

25...♘f6 26.♘g4 ♘xg4 27.♕xg4 ♖c7 28.♖b3 ♗d6 29.♖hb1 *(D)*

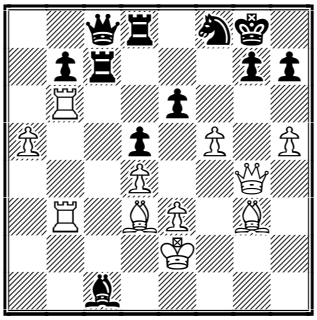


An interesting transformation, typical for modern chess, has occurred: White threatened to develop play on the kingside, which prompted Black to open the other flank (with ... ♗xa3). As a result, White has promising play on the queenside now!

29...♕f7 30.♖b6 ♖d8 31.♗e1! ♕d7 32.♗h4 ♗e7 33.♗g3 ♕c8

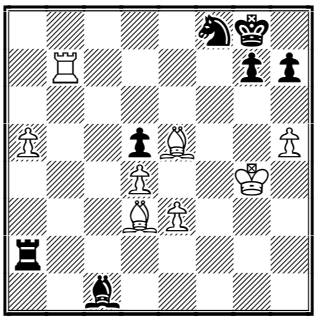
33...♗d6 34.♖xd6 ♕xd6 35.f5

34.♖1b2 ♗a3 35.♖2b3 ♗c1 36.f5!+– (D)



This is a signal for the final attack.

36...exf5 37.♗xf5 ♖c2+ 38.♔f3 ♕c4 39.♗d3 ♕c8 40.♖xb7 ♕xg4+ 41.♔xg4 ♖a2 42.♖b8 ♖xb8 43.♖xb8 ♔f7 44.♖b7+ ♔g8 45.♗e5 (D)



1–0.

Nice win by GM Golod – this game shows that two bishops still count for something!

Solutions to Quiz Today:

Nisipeanu–Welling:

White played **22.♕c3+!**, forcing immediate resignation, since Black was losing a piece in all variations: 22...♕xc3 23.♖xc3 ♘xb4 *(23...♘a6 24.b5 or 23...♘e4 24.♗xe4 dxe4 25.♖xd7+)* 24.♖xc5. **1–0.**

Skembris–Azamaiparashvili:

21...♖xb2! 22.♔xb2 [22.fxe4 ♖xe2–+]

22...♕f6+ 23.♔a3 [23.♔c1 ♕c3+] 23...♖b8! 24.♕b3 ♖b6! 25.♕xb6 axb6 26.♔b3 ♘f5!–+ 27.♘d3 ♘e6! 28.a4 c6 29.♘e4 b5 30.axb5 cxb5 31.♘d5 ♘xd5 32.♖xd5 b4 33.♖d3 ♔g7 34.♖xd6 ♕c3+ 0–1

Relange–Geveke: 36.♘d3! 1–0.

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CT-43(827) 12th February 2003

Current Tournament Events:

***(Aeroflot in Moscow and 11th Aosta Open)* by GM Mikhail Golubev**

The Aeroflot Open 2003 which started in Moscow on February 11th 2003 is certainly an extraordinary open tournament. This once again is confirmed by the results on the three first boards in the initial round (Zagrebelny-Grischuk, Svidler-Belov, Kozyrev-Dreev – **all draws**). What I personally dislike about the Aeroflot Open system is that grandmasters are required to pay a big start fee there. But this may also guarantee that they will be angry and aggressive and we'll see a lot of fighting chess. In comparison, the 11th Aosta Open in Saint Vincent looks like rather a modest event, despite that it is very strong and interesting by all usual standards. The Top three results of Round 4: Efimov (3) – Gurevich (3) 0-1, Volkov (3) – Rotstein (3) 1-0, Arakamia-Grant (3) – Korchnoi (2,5) 0-1.

Decisive matches in two European Leagues: *Bundesliga* and *Belgian Interclub Championship*

Last weekend, the really critical matches took place in German Bundesliga and Belgian Interclub Championships.

In **Bundesliga (BL)**, two superclubs, **Köln Porz** and **Lübecker SV** had a perfect score before meeting each other. The battle between these two dream teams ended in a win for Lübecker, with the following board results:

SG Köln Porz 3 – 5 Lübecker SV
Lutz ½ : ½ Adams
Khalifman 0 : 1 Grischuk
Van Wely 0 : 1 Shirov
Sokolov ½ : ½ Lautier
Andersson ½ : ½ Epishin
Vaganian 0 : 1 Fressinet
Hansen 1 : 0 Speelman
Graf ½ : ½ Nunn

The nice win by Shirov over Van Wely in this match attracted wide attention in Germany:

Annotated Game 1

□ **A. Shirov (2699)**
■ **L. Van Wely (2681)**
Event: *BL 0203 SG Koln Porz – Lubecker SV Porz (10.3), 08.02.2003-* ***[B30]***
Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

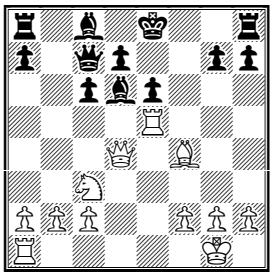
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6
After 3...e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♘f6 White can also avoid the Sveshnikov variation by 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.e5

4.♗b5!
According to theory, White can fight for advantage in this variation.

4...♕c7 5.0-0 e6 6.♖e1 ♘g4 7.♗xc6 bxc6 8.e5 f6 9.d4 cxd4 10.♕xd4 ♘xe5 11.♘xe5 fxe5 12.♖xe5 ♗e7
The immediate 12...♗d6 13.♗f4 could make the game one move shorter.

13.♗g5 ♗d6
13...d6 14.♗xe7 dxe5 15.♕c5!

14.♗f4! (D)



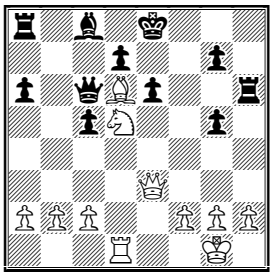
Shirov is in his element.

14...c5
14...♗xe5?! 15.♗xe5 ♕b6 16.♕g4!

15.♕e3 a6?!
(Black can hardly survive this way, but he was worse in any event.

16.♘d5 ♕c6 17.♖g5 h6 18.♗xd6 hxg5
Or 18...♕xd6 19.♖d1 hxg5 20.♘f6++-, and if 20...♔e7 , then 21.♘g8+!? ♖xg8 22.♕xg5+

19.♖d1 ♖h6 (D)



20.♘e7! ♕a4 21.♕f3
Now the game is completely over.
21...♗b7 22.♕xb7 ♖d8 23.♘g8
(Of course, Shirov finds a most spectacular way to win.)
23...♖h8 24.♕f3 ♖xg8 25.♕h5+
25.♕h5+ g6 26.♕h7. **1-0.**

After 11 rounds completed, the standings in the first half of the Bundesliga crosstable looks as follow:
1. Lübecker SV 22 (63½)
2. SG Köln Porz 20 (61)
3. SV Werder Bremen 18 (54½)
4. Hamburger SK 15 (49)
5. SC Baden Oos 14 (51½)
6. Solinger SG 14 (47)
7. TV Tegernsee 13 (47½)
8. SC Kreuzberg 12 (44½)

It is unlikely that anything will happen in the four remaining rounds (i.e. two BL weekends) that will derail **Lübecker** on their way to their third champion title in a row. Their opponents will, nevertheless, try to fight as hard they can, including my own team, Stuttgarter Schachfreunde.

For the second and last time in the season, on the last weekend **Stuttgart** was one of four BL weekend places. Four teams represented in Stuttgart were **Baden Oos** (headed by Vishy Anand), **SC Kreuzberg**, **SFR Neukölln** and our **SSF** team. Thanks to the firm Dürr, Stuttgart has, possibly, the nicest venue in Bundesliga, and there is always many spectators. Photos by Thilo Gubler (SC Baden-Oos) from the last weekend are available at www.chessbase.de/bundesliga/nachrichten.asp?id=195.

As usual in BL, there were some surprising results in Stuttgart:
Round 10 (Saturday, 8 Feb): Stuttgart-Kreuzberg 4-4, Baden Oos-Neukölln 3,5:4,5 (seven draws and one win for Neukölln!).
Round 11 (Sunday, 9 Feb): Kreuzberg-Baden Oos 3-5 (Anand won against Almasi), Neukolln-Stuttgart 2,5:5,5.
I played only on Saturday, my lucky win against Raj Tischbierek helped my team to save a match. I will comment on this game below in today's annotated game 2 section below.

The Bundesliga site is at:www.schachbundesliga.de; on 11 February all games from rounds 10 and 11 became available and of course reports (in German) and photos appeared there much earlier.

In the **Belgian Interclub Championship**, the a crucial match took place also - the current champion, **Liege**, played against the leaders, my team **Eynatten**. Nine grandmasters (6 for Eynatten, and 3 for Liege) participated in probably the strongest match in history in the Belgian League. **Eynatten** was the favourite, but our team even over-scored against **Liege.** (e.g. Golubev saved half point vs Chabanon, despite the fact that my position in mutual time trouble was totally lost).

Liege 1,5 - 6,5 Eynatten
Degraeve 0 - 1 Naiditsch
Winants 0 - 1 Goloshchapov
Chabanon ½ : ½ Golubev
Cekro 0 - 1 Nijboer
Kocsis 0 - 1 Horvath Csaba
Wuts 1 - 0 Horvath Adam
Hautot 0 - 1 Horvath Tamas
Gulbas 0 - 1 Baramidze

The current standings of the leaders speaks for itself, and can hardly make my team-mates unhappy:
1. Eynattten 49.5
2. Temse 39
3. Liege 37.5
4. Hoboken 36.5
5. Rochade 35.

There are three more rounds to go.

Note that in Belgium board points are important, not a match points.
A few more words about my other chess activities.
This Saturday I expect to be completely crushed in the traditional Dutch Open Blitz Championship in Dordrecht, see list of participants at: www.blitzchess.nl/eng/subscriptionlist.htm.

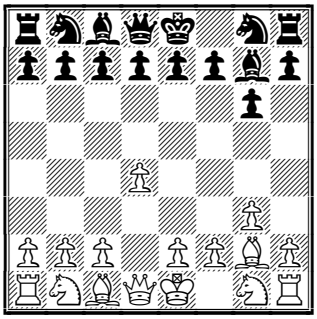
I continue to spent a lot of time, following the conflict between **GM Ruslan Ponomariov** and FIDE, which is backing GM **Garry Kasparov**. I collect materials at **chess-sector.odessa.ua/crisis.htm**. It is unlikely now that unity will take place. Still, among chess journalists there are those who are familiar with the real situation and who try to propose some compromise solutions. See independent propositions by Mark Crowther and Franklin J. Campbell at the bottom of the above mentioned webpage.

Web Watch
Among internet chess news I can mention the fact that the *fide.com* site is now unavailable. This pause in their web service was previously announced at the FIDE site, so it's disappearance is no surprise this time. At the same time I recently become familiar with two Yugoslav chess sites. On *chess.vrsac.com* with its impressive FIDE rating database, I wrote a short piece at my site, and another resource is at: www.geocities.com/jovanpetronic – IM Petronic's personal page with interesting links.

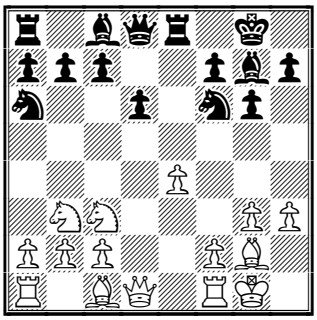
♘♘♘

Annotated Game 2

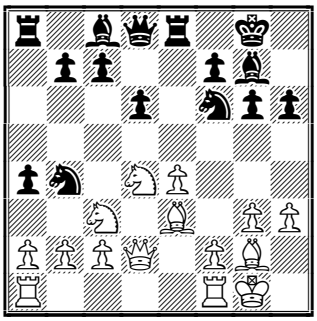
□ **R. Tischbierek (2523)**
■ **M. Golubev (2528)**
Event: *BL 0203 Stuttgarter Sfr – SC Kreuzberg Stuttgart (10.3), 08.02.2003 – [B07]*
Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev
1.g3 g6 2.♗g2 ♗g7 3.d4 (D)



White's setup can be unpleasant for King's Indian players.
3...♘f6
I decided to play a Pirc Defence.
4.e4 d6 5.♘c3 0-0 6.♘ge2 e5 7.h3 exd4
Usually Black plays 7...♘c6, 7...c6 or 7...♘bd7.
8.♘xd4 ♖e8 9.0-0 ♘a6
White, perhaps, is slightly better, but it's not easy to stop Black's counterplay completely.
10.♘b3!? (D)



This prevents ...♘c5, and also sometimes White will have e4-e5 if Black will play with his c8 bishop.
10...♘b4
An interesting move, but of course there were alternatives.
11.♗g5 h6 12.♗e3 a5 13.♕d2
The safest continuation for White was 13.a3 ♘c6
13...a4!N
Later I discovered that our play was not new up to this point, despite the fact that 9...♘a6 is a very rare move. 13...♔h7?! occurred in Ljubojevic-Jhunjhnuwal, Luceren OL 1982.
14.♘d4 (D)



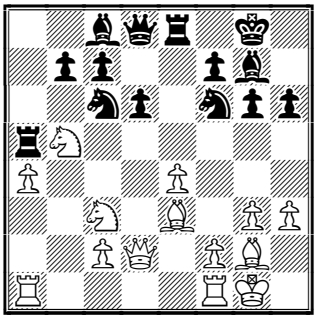
14...a3 15.bxa3

15.b3 was a serious alternative, but Black still has many chances. I could play 15...♔h7 then(but would also think of *15...d5 16.exd5 ♘fxd5 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.♗xh6 ♗xh6 19.♕xh6 ♘c3)*

15...♖xa3 16.♘db5 ♖a5! 17.a3?!

GM Tischbierek missed the possibility of ...♖e5! after further ♗xh6. Otherwise he probably would play 17.a4! , with mutual chances.

17...♘c6 18.a4 (D)



The point was 18.♗xh6 ♗xh6 19.♕xh6 ♖e5! , returning a pawn after 20.♖ab1 *(or 20.a4)* 20...♖h5 and 21...♗xh3(or even *20...♗xh3!* at once*)*

18...♘e5

18...♔h7 19.f4!?

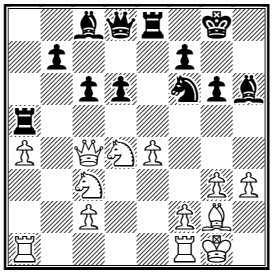
19.♗xh6 ♘c4

This is probably better than 19...♗xh3 20.♗xg7 ♔xg7∞

20.♕d4

20.♕c1 ♗xh6 21.♕xh6 c6 22.♘a3 ♘xa3 23.♖xa3 ♗xh3 24.♗xh3 ♖h5.

20...♗xh6 21.♕xc4 c6 22.♘d4 (D)



Black has extremely good compensation for the pawn: two bishops, and White's queenside structure is still bad.

22...♖h5!?

Fritz proposes 22...♘xe4!∓

23.h4?!

23.g4! was probably correct. Then I could play 23...♘xg4!? (or the calmer: *23...♖c5 24.♕d3∞)* 24.hxg4 ♗xg4 , what is very unclear.

23...♘g4

23...♘xe4!?

24.♘f3

24.♘ce2!? was a better way to defend this already dubious position.

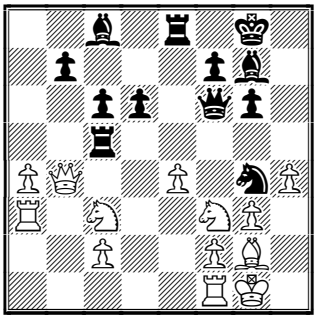
24...♖c5

24...♗g7!?

25.♕b4

25.♕d3 ♗e6!?

25...♗g7 26.♖a3 ♕f6 (D)



27.♘e2

I expected some waiting move, because after 27...♖xc3 White will have 28.e5, and not everything is clear. 27.♖d1!? △♖xc3 28.e5! dxe5 29.♕xc3 ♕e7 *(29...♕f5)* 30.♘g5 e4 31.♕b3; 27.a5!?

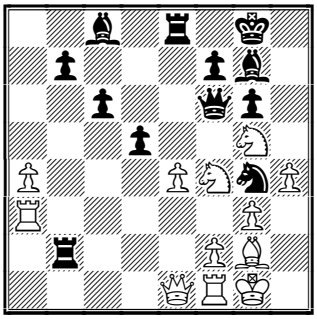
27...♖xc2 28.♘f4

Black should be better also after 28.♘fd4!? ♖c5 *(28...c5?! 29.♕b5 cxd4 30.♕xe8+ ♔h7 31.♘f4)* 29.f3 ♘e5 △30.f4 ♘g4.

28...♖b2∓ 29.♕e1

29.♖b3 ♖xb3 30.♕xb3 ♖xe4; 29.♕c4 ♖xf2! △30.♖xf2 ♘xf2 31.♔xf2 ♕b2+

29...d5 30.♘g5 (D)



30...dxe4

There should be various ways to convert Black's advantage. Taking into account further time trouble, I tried to play simpler.

31.♘xe4 ♕e7 32.♖a1 ♗f5 33.♘d6 ♕xe1

33...♖xf2!? (Fritz) – I didn't consider this move during the game.

34.♖axe1 ♖xe1 35.♖xe1 ♗d4! 36.♘h3! ♘xf2

36...♗e6!?

37.♖e8+ ♔h7 38.♘g5+

38.♘xf5!? gxf5 *(38...♖b1+ 39.♗f1 ♘xh3+ 40.♔h2 gxf5 41.♗xh3)* 39.♘xf2 ♗xf2+ 40.♔h2 ♖b3∓

38...♔g7 39.♘xf5+ gxf5 40.♔f1

40.♔h2? ♘g4+ 41.♔h3 ♗g1! 42.h5 ♘f2+ 43.♔h4 ♖b4+–+

40...♘g4

40...♘d3!? 41.♖d8

41.♗f3 ♘e3+

White resigned, despite the fact that he could have played on for some time. Possibly the correct decision by Raj Tischbierek (the Editor of German chess magazine 'Schach') – on Sunday he won a game against Rustem Dautov! 41...♘e3+ 42.♔g1 *(42.♔e1? ♗c3#)* 42...♘g4+ *(42...♖a2!?)* 43.♔f1 ♘h2+ 44.♔e1 ♗f2+ 45.♔d1 ♘xf3 *(45...♗xg3!?)* 46.♘xf3 ♗xg3 , and so on. **0–1.**

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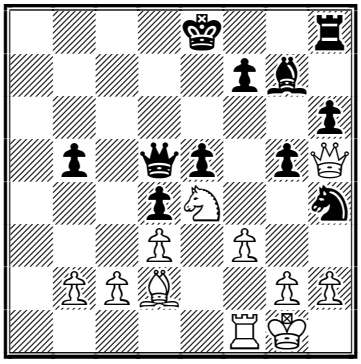
CT-44(828) 13th February 2003

Quiz Today

Morozevich- Savchenko
Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (1), 11.02.2003



White to play

When we give the results of open-tournaments we give the first 5-10, sometimes 15 boards, not more. But the Aeroflot Open 2003 is so strong and interesting that we decided to change tradition a little. The following are the results of the 30 top boards from Round 2. Note that on boards 1-27 players had a full point, on boards 28-30 – half a point.

Gagunashvili – Morozevich **1:0**
Adianto – Zvjaginsev **0:1**
Dvoirys – Van Wely **½:½**
S. Ivanov – Smirin **½:½**
Sakaev – Brodsky **½:½**
Jakovenko – Rublevsky **½:½**
Aleksandrov – Kempinski **1:0**
Ovetchkin – Bologan **0:1**
Granda Zuniga – Romanishin **0:1**
Fominyh – Tregubov **½:½**
Shaposhnikov – Kazhgaleyev **½:½**
Degraeve – Moiseenko **0:1**
Chuchelov – Vasiukov **1:0**
Morovic Fernandez – Jussupov **½:½**
Dolmatov – Loginov **1:0**
Turov – Efimenko **0:1**
Neverov – Lerner **½:½**
Sadvakasov – Korotylev **1:0**
Korobov – Najer **0:1**
Ulibin – Vokarev **1:0**
V. Popov – Akhmetov **1:0**
Alexandrova – Burmakin **1:0**
Smirnov – Vlassov **1:0**
Frolyanov – Eljanov **0:1**
Sharavdorj – Bu X. **0:1**
Al Sayed – Galkin **0:1**
Lahno K. – Mchedlishvili **0:1**
Grischuk – Kozyrev **1:0**
Balashov – Svidler **½:½**
Dreev – Zagrebelny **1:0**

Young Georgian Merab Gagunashvili beat Alexander Morozevich – this is the main sensation of the second day. There are more than 500 players in three sections; they play in the splendid and large hall of central Moscow hotel 'Russia' 200 metres away from the Red Square. It looks like the playing conditions are pretty good this year. But there are some problems, of course. One of them – there are Internet publications of only the top six boards. The organisers don't prepare pgn-files for all other games but only scan and prepare jpg-files. So it's rather difficult to follow the games of the open.

Top boards for the 3rd Round:
Zvjaginsev – Popov
Eljanov – Aleksandrov
Bologan – Smirnov
Moiseenko – Gagunashvili
Bu – Chuchelov
Galkin – Dolmatov
Efimenko – Sadvakasov
Najer – Alexandrova
Mchedlishvili – Ulibin
Romanishin – Grischuk

Also see our Annotated Game section.

The 11th Open Internazionale Valle d'Aosta

Standing after the 4th Round:
1-2. M. GUREVICH, VOLKOV – 4 points
3-10. Azmaiparashvili, Kortcnoi, Tiviakov, Nisipeanu, Atalik, Golod, Miladinovic, Costantini – 3½ etc.

Pairings for Round 5:
M. Gurevich – Volkov
Miladinovic Igor – Azmaiparashvili
Kortcnoi – Atalik
Tiviakov – Golod
Costantini – Nisipeanu

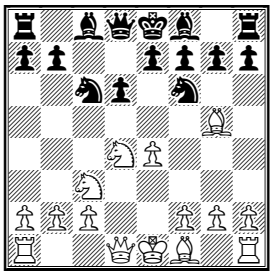
The strongest Icelandic player, GM Hannes Stefansson (2569) plays a 6 game training match against GM Sergei Movsesjan (2663) in Reykjavik, Iceland. The first two games were won by the guest.

Annotated game

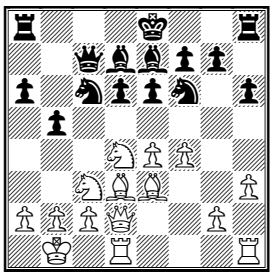
□ **D Sadvakasov**
■ **A Korotylev**
Event: Aeroflot-open (2), 12.02.2003
B66

Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

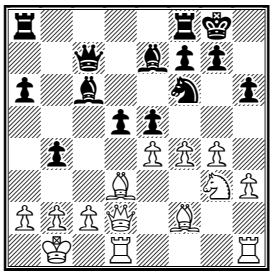
"Please notice my game today! It was the best I have ever played!" – exclaimed Darmen Sadvakasov, who had just finished his battle against Alexei Korotylev and spotted me. "If you'd played against Fritz 8 your "nice" attack would hardly have lasted more than 5 moves!" – replied Alexei sceptically. OK, in any case lets take a look at some interesting chess!
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗g5



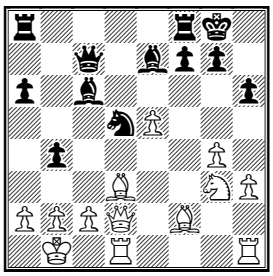
Today the Rauser system is less popular than the Najdorf, Sveshnikov or Paulsen systems, but all this is only a matter of fashion, of course.
6...e6 7.♕d2 a6 8.0-0-0 h6 9.♗e3 ♗d7 10.f4
An alternative is 10.f3 but the text move is more aggressive.
10...b5 11.♗d3 ♕c7 12.♔b1 ♗e7 13.h3



White plays very straightforwardly, but such play is rather unpleasant for Black. Sadvakasov simply prepares g2-g4-g5 with a crushing attack on the kingside.
13...0-0!?
Without any danger!
14.g4 ♘xd4
Black has to hurry with counter-play in the center and on the queenside.
15.♗xd4 b4 16.♘e2 e5 17.♗f2 ♗c6 18.♘g3 d5



Usually in the Sicilian, Black has good play after such a counter-blow in the center. But the situation is still very complicated: White has a nice square on f5 for his knight and there are a lot of other pieces on the board.
19.exd5 ♘xd5 20.fxe5



20...♘c3+!?
Black begins complications. It is interesting that it isn't so simple to take the important e5 pawn, for example: 20...♕xe5 21.♖he1 ♕g5 22.♘f5 ♗f6 *(22...♕xd2 23.♘xe7+ ♘xe7 24.♖xd2±)* 23.♕xg5 ♗xg5 *(23...hxg5 24.♗c4!?)* 24.♗d4±; Maybe better was 20...♗g5!? 21.♕e1 ♖fe8 22.♗d4 ♗f6 23.♕f2 ♗xe5

24.♗xe5 ♖xe5 25.♖he1=

21.bxc3 ♗xh1

If 21...bxc3 22.♕xc3 ♕b7+ 23.♔a1 ♗xh1 24.♖xh1 and White is better.

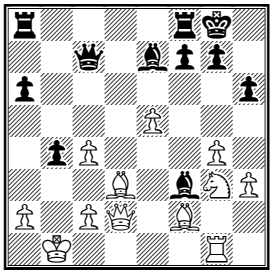
22.c4

White has to agree to play further without an exchange in view of 22.♖xh1 bxc3 23.♕c1 ♖ab8+ 24.♔a1 ♖b2–+ On the other hand the f5 knight, together with the e5 pawn, will cost at least as much as a rook.

22...♗f3

22...♗g5!?

23.♖g1



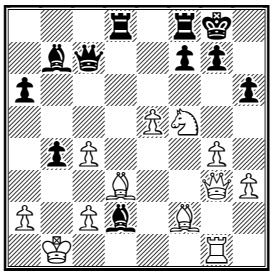
23...♖ad8

White has good compensation for material in all lines, i.e.: 23...♗g5 24.♕e1 ♖fe8 25.♗d4 ♖ad8 26.♕f2⩲; 23...♕xe5 24.♗d4 ♕g5 *(24...♕xd4? 25.♗h7+; 24...♗g5 25.♕f2 ♕d6 26.♗xg7!±)* 25.♕f2 ♗c6 26.♘f5 ♗f6 27.♗e3+–

24.♕f4 ♗b7

If 24...♗c6 then 25.♘f5

25.♘f5 ♗g5 26.♕g3 ♗d2



According to Fritz this is the best move. Black would like to attack the key pawn e5 from c3, but... 26...♖fe8 27.h4 ♗d2 28.♘d6⩲

27.g5!!

Very nice: the storm is beginning!

27...hxg5

27...h5 28.g6 f6 29.exf6 ♕xg3 30.f7+ ♔h8 31.♗xg3+–; 27...♗xg5 28.h4+–

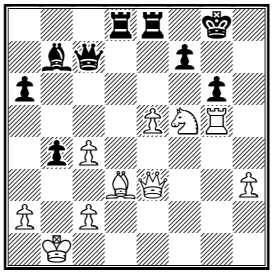
28.♗e3 ♗xe3 29.♕xe3 ♖fe8

29...f6 30.exf6 gxf6 31.h4 ♖de8 32.♕f2

30.♖xg5

All the White pieces attack the poor king on g8...

30...g6



30...f6 31.♖xg7+

31.♖h5!

The final blow after which Black has no defence.

31...f6

The alternatives are 31...gxh5 32.♕g5+ ♔f8 33.♕g7#; 31...♕xe5 32.♘h6+ ♔h7 33.♖xe5+–; 31...♖xe5 32.♖h8+ ♔xh8 33.♕h6+ ♔g8 34.♕g7#; 31...gxf5 32.♕g5+ ♔f8 33.♖h8#

32.♕g1 g5 33.exf6

And Black resigned. A really nice game, or Fritz 8 has to analyse it overnight? :–) **1–0**

Solution to Quiz Today: 23.f4! exf4 23...0–0 24.fxg5+– **24.♖xf4 ♘g6** 24...♕d7 25.♖xf7 ♕xf7 26.♘d6+; 24...0–0 25.♖xh4+– **25.♖f5! ♕d7** 25...♕xf5 26.♘d6+; 25...♕d7 26.♗b4!+– **1–0**

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
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CT-45(829) 14th February 2003

Aeroflot Open - 6 on perfect score

The Third round of the Aeroflot Open 2003 has not clarified the top places. Six players have managed to score 3 out of 3, they are Zvjaginsev, Alexandrov, Bologan, Moiseenko, Najer, Efimenko.

Here are the results of the 10 top boards:
Zvjaginsev – Popov 1:0
Eljanov – Aleksandrov 0:1
Bologan – Smirnov 1:0
Moiseenko-Gagunashvili 1:0
Bu X. – Chchelov - ½:½
Galkin – Dolmatov - ½:½
Efimenko – Sadvakasov 1:0
Najer – Alexandrova 1:0
Mchedlishvili – Ulibin - ½:½
Romanishin – Grischuk- ½:½

Nikolai Vlassov annotates his game against Pavel Smirnov played in Round 2 for today's issue.

The 11th Open Internazionale Valle d'Aosta

Sergei Tiviakov, Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu, Suat Atalik and Igor Miladinovic joined Mikhail Gurevich and Sergey Volkov share the lead after Round 5 with 4½/5.

Pairings for round 6:
Nisipeanu – Tiviakov
Atalik - Gurevich Mikhail
Volkov - Miladinovic Igor

The third game of match between GM Hannes Stefansson and GM Sergei Movsesjan ended in a draw. Movsesjan is leading 2½:½.

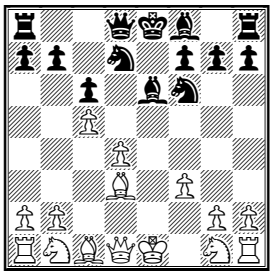
GM Nigel Short is playing a 6-game match against GM Ehsan Ghaem Magami. The match is played under FIDE rules and time control (90 minutes + 30 seconds). The first game was a draw, Short was the winner of the second game. The current score is 1½:½ in Short's favour.

Scandinavian Attack

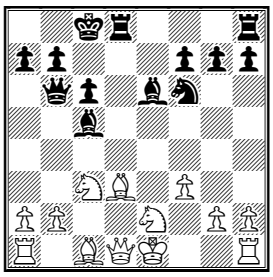
A Novelty in the Portuguese Variation

□ **P Smirnov**
■ **N Vlassov**
Event: Aeroflot -op Moscow (2), 12.02.2003 B01
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♘f6 3.d4 ♗g4 4.♗b5+ ♘bd7 5.f3 ♗f5 6.c4 e6 7.dxe6 ♗xe6 8.c5 c6 9.♗d3



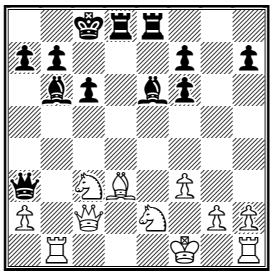
This sacrifice has been waiting its chance for a year and a half. In the second round of last year's Aeroflot tournament I was trying to trap GM Dvoirys in this line but he managed to vary earlier.
9...♘xc5!N 10.dxc5 ♗xc5 11.♘e2 ♕b6 12.♘bc3 0-0-0



Black has not only a pawn for his piece, but also the White king is stuck in the centre and there are open lines for attack!
13.♗g5?!
This was the end of my home preparation. The following moves have been reviewed more carefully 13.♕c2 and; 13.♔f1
13...♕xb2!?

This is not an easy decision. Calculation of this beautiful line 13...♘d5!? 14.♗xd8 ♗f2+ 15.♔f1 ♘e3+ 16.♔xf2 ♘xd1+ *(16...♖xd8 17.♕g1! ♖xd3=)* 17.♔e1 ♖xd8 *(or 17...♕f2+ 18.♔xd1 ♖xd8 19.♔c2 ♕xg2)* 18.♖xd1 ♕xb2∓ and comparison of this position to the one I eventually chose had taken too much time.; The following also deserved consideration 13...♗e3 14.♗xf6 gxf6 15.♕c2 h5∓ – and Black has long-term compensation.

14.♖b1 ♕a3 15.♕c2 ♖he8 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♔f1 ♗b6



Interesting is 17...a6!? with the idea to deprive White of the opportunity to give his rook for the bishop at the cost of a tempo, but during the game I determined that I could do well without it. 18.♗f5 ♗a7 19.♗xe6+ ♖xe6 20.♕xh7 ♕c5 21.♕h4 ♕e3=

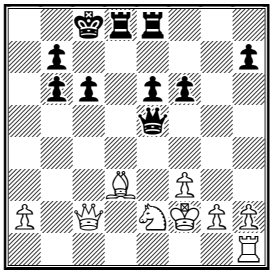
18.♘f4 ♕d6 19.♘ce2

Unfortunately, not this one 19.g3? ♕xf4!–+

19...♕e5 20.♘xe6 fxe6

Also possible is 20...♖xe6 21.♗f5 ♕e3 22.♖xb6 axb6 3.♔e1=, but I decided to keep more pieces for an attack

21.♖xb6 axb6 22.♔f2



22...♖d6?!

Black's advantage could be fixed with 22...f5∓ and White would have to rush into a hard struggle for illusive escape. ; 22...♕d6 23.♗xh7!

23.f4 ♕h5

23...♕a5 24.♖b1 ♖ed8 25.♖b3 h5∓

24.♗e4!

The bishop was immediately transferred to the square, which Black had been determined to take away.

24...e5?!

Black is unlikely to win the end game after 24...♖ed8 25.♗f3 ♕c5+ 26.♕xc5 bxc5 27.♖c1 b6 28.a4! but, at least, it was impossible to lose here.

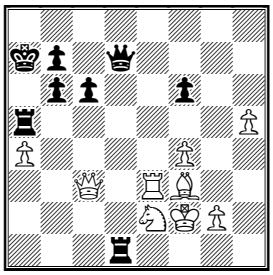
25.♗xh7! e4?!

The idea is correct, Black has no right to exchange queens not having a pawn on h7. But it is not necessary to give up one more pawn. 25...♕h6=

26.♗xe4 ♔c7 27.♗f3 ♕f7

27...♕a5 is equal

28.♖b1 ♕e7 29.♖b3 ♕d7 30.♖e3 ♖a8 31.a4 ♖a5 32.h4 ♔b8 33.h5 ♔a7 34.♕c4 ♖d1 35.♕c3



35...♖xa4?!

It is amazing but Junior considers this losing move, which gives up the last pawn on theking side, to be the strongest one! How wonderful I took to it (Junior):(White is unlikely to win after the strong 35...♕d6 For instance, 36.h6 ♖h1 37.♕d4 ♕xd4 38.♘xd4 ♖xh6 39.♖e7 ♔a8 40.♖e8+ ♔a7 41.♘xc6+ bxc6 42.♗xc6 b5 43.♗xb5 f5=

36.♕xf6 ♕d2 37.♕c3

I missed this response during the time trouble.

37...♕d8 38.g3 ♕d6? 39.♕e5

Immediately winning was 39.♖e8!± , but both of us were in time trouble.

39...♕d2 40.♕c3 ♕d6

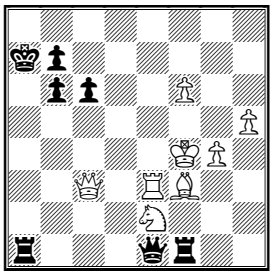
40...♕d7

41.f5

Having made 40 moves, White began to advance passed pawns. It was not a safe decision because the king was at risk with three of Black's major pieces trying to reach it.

41...♕d7 42.g4 ♕d6 43.♔g2 ♖aa1

44.f6 ♖h1 45.♕e5 ♕d2 46.♔g3 ♕e1+ 47.♔f4 ♖f1 48.♕c3?!



This move does not let the win slip, but better is 48.♕d4+−

48...♕h4! 49.♔f5 ♖a5+ 50.♖e5!

The only possible move! 50.♔e6? ♖xf3! 51.♖xf3 ♕xg4+ 52.♔e7 ♕e4+ 53.♔f8 ♖xh5! *(53...♕xe2)*

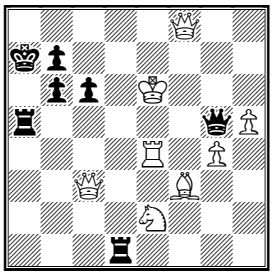
50...♖a4 51.♖e4

51.♔e6 ♖xg4 52.f7!+−

51...♖a5+ 52.♔e6 ♕g5 53.f7 ♖d1

53...♕d5+ 54.♔e7 ♖d1 55.f8♕ ♕d7+ 56.♔f6 ♖d6+ 57.♕xd6 ♕xd6+ 58.♔g7+−

54.f8♕

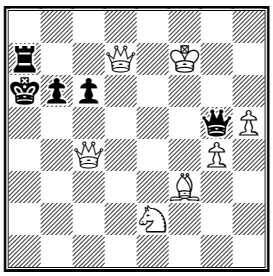


A beautiful position! The board is full of pieces, the proud White king is in the very centre and is afraid of nothing – it has good safety.

54...♕d5+ 55.♔f6 ♕g5+

To refute 55...♖d3 the following is pretty enough 56.h6 and White has too many pieces.

56.♔f7 ♖d7+ 57.♖e7 ♖d6 58.♖xb7+ ♔xb7 59.♕xd6 ♖a7 60.♕d7+ ♔a6 61.♕c4+



Black resigned. Everything could have happened quite differently if I had not missed three(!) pawns from the kingside in a row. **1−0**

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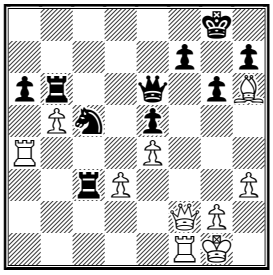
CT-46(830) 15th February 2003

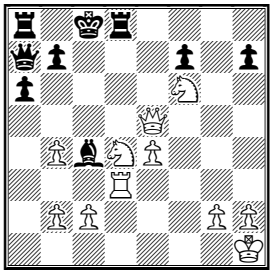
Quiz Today

1. Bologan – Smirnov
Aeroflot (3)



White to play

2. Sutovsky – Dvoirys
Aeroflot (3)



White to play
(solution in annotated game)

Perfect Scores end at Aeroflot-Open

After 4 rounds there is no player with a perfect score at the Aeroflot-open in Moscow. Three games by the leaders were all draws, which allowed three lucky players to catch up to them.

Round 4 results (top 30 boards):
Moiseenko – Zvjagintsev ½:½
Aleksandrov – Efimenko ½:½
Najer – Bologan ½:½
Fressinet – Van Wely ½:½
Chuchelov – Sutovsky ½:½
Dolmatov – Sakaev ½:½
Neverov – Rublevsky 0:1
Lastin – Bu Xiangzhi 1:0
Aronian – Galkin 0:1
Ulibin – Kazhgaleyev ½:½
Mamedyarov – Romanishin ½:½
Dreev – Mchedlishvili 1:0
Grischuk – Jakovenko ½:½
Malakhov – Sorokin ½:½
Lautier – Artashes Minasian ½:½
Sveshnikov – Smirin ½:½
Tkachev – Brodsky ½:½
Ovetchkin – Kobalia ½:½
Kaidanov – Kempiski 1:0
Yemelin – Epishin ½:½
Khenkin – Degraeve 1:0
Pelletier – Nataf 0:1
Granda Zuniga – Vasiukov 1:0
Shaposhnikov – Tregubov ½:½
Ikonnikov – Jussupov ½:½
Kotsur – Shomoev 0:1
Avrukh – Lugovoi 0:1
Savchenko – Fedorov ½:½
Popov – Turov 1:0
Sadvakasov – Markowski ½:½

9 players – **Zvjagintsev, Najer, Rublevsky, Moiseenko, Bologan, Lastin, Galkin, Aleksandrov, Efimenko** – lead with 3½ points. 21 players have scored 3 points.

Round 5 pairings:
Zvjagintsev – Najer
Rublevsky – Moiseenko
Bologan – Lastin
Galkin – Aleksandrov
Efimenko – Kaidanov
Dolmatov – Dreev
Van Wely – Ulibin
Sutovsky – Popov
Sakaev – Izoria
Gagunashvili – Khenkin

The 11th Open Valle d'Aosta
Nisipeanu beat Volkov and leads with 6½ points after 7 rounds. Rotstein is clear second with 6 points. Volkov, M. Gurevich, Tiviakov, Palac, Nevednichy, Miladinovic and Golod are half a point behind sharing third place.

The 3rd game of the Nigel Short – Ghaem Maghami match in Tehran was drawn. The score is 2:1 in Short's favour.

The 4th game of the Movsesian – Stefansson match in Reykjavik was won by Sergei Movsesian and thus he has secured the overall victory. The next game ended in a draw. Movsesian leads 4:1 before the final encounter.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **Sutovsky**
■ **Dvoirys**
Event: *Aeroflot Open (3)* – ***[B86]***
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4

The Sozin Attack was the lethal weapon in the hands of Robert James Fischer.

6...e6 7.♗b3 ♘bd7 8.♗g5

The main line is 8.f4 ♘c5 and here White has a rich choice between 9.e5 *(9.f5; 9.0–0;* and *9.♕f3)*

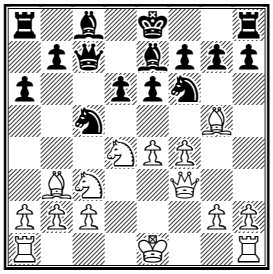
8...♘c5

In our Olympiad issues you may find the game Morozevich – Cvitan which continued 8...h6 9.♗h4 ♕a5 10.♕e2

9.f4

9.♕e2; and 9.♕f3 are playable as well.

9...♗e7 10.♕f3 ♕c7 (D)



Sutovsky himself played this position with Black. He opted for one of the typical ideas in the Najdorf System with bishop on g5 – 10...h6 11.♗h4 g5 12.fxg5 ♘fd7 13.0–0 ♘e5 14.♕h5 ♗xg5 Bezemer – Sutovsky, Lost Boys 2002, but after 15.♗g3! ♗e3+ 16.♔h1 ♕g5 17.♕d1! found himself in an inferior position and couldn't beat his opponent who was just a 2320 player.

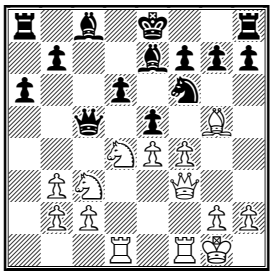
11.0–0

A new move in this position though the idea of kingside castling can be met in similar lines of Sozin Attack. White plans to put his queenside rook on e1 and most likely his king on h1 and then to begin action in the centre by e4–e5 that would provide his c3–knight with the e4–square. Before 11.0–0–0 had been played.

11...♘xb3

Strictly speaking this position has already been seen in practice. In the game Sordo – Fernandez from a secondary Spanish tournament which saw a slightly different move order White captured on b3 with the knight apparently being afraid of the pin along the a7–g1 diagonal. Sutovsky shows that he doesn't care.

12.axb3 ♕c5 13.♖ad1 e5? (D)



So what? White has lost a piece? In fact the following few moves have demonstrated clearly that this way is pernicious for Black. Therefore 13...0–0 was better now and since 12...♕c5 turned out to be a blank shot it would have made sense to castle instead of it.

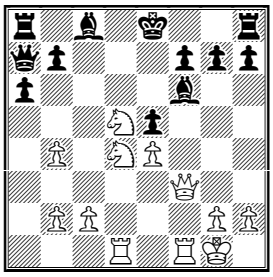
14.b4! ♕a7

The only retreat. Bad is 14...♕xb4? 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.♘d5 ♕c5 17.b4 ♕c4 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.♘xf6+ gxf6 20.♕xf6; 14...♕c4 doesn't change anything in view of 15.b3!

15.♗xf6 ♗xf6

Even worse is 15...gxf6 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.♘d5

16.fxe5 dxe5 17.♘d5! (D)



White's threats along the f–file mean more than the doomed knight.

17...♖f8

Protecting the f7-pawn and taking the rook away from h8 where it would have been attacked after the double capture on f6. The decision of the Aeroflot organisers to present the games by the jpg-version of the sheets instead of pgn sometimes may produce a misreading. Not everyone has clear handwriting. For example here some sources point out 17...♖b8 as the move played by Dvoirys. But then White would have easily won after 18.♘xf6+ gxf6 19.♕xf6 so I suppose I was right reading Black's 17th move as ♖f8.; after 17...exd4 18.e5! d3+ 19.♔h1 Black is helpless; as well as in case of 17...0–0 18.♘xf6+ gxf6 19.♕xf6 exd4 20.♖d3+-

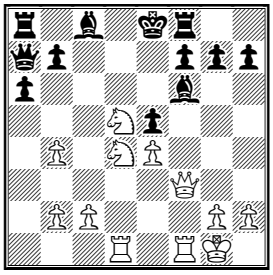
18.♘c7+ ♔e7

18...♔d8 loses to 19.♘xa8 exd4 20.e5 followed by ♕d5+

19.♘d5+

19.♘xa8 exd4 20.♘c7 was enough to win but Sutovsky wants more.

19...♔e8 (D)



20.♕g3!? ♗e6

20...exd4 21.♖xf6 gxf6 22.♕d6! and mate is inevitable.

21.♖xf6! gxf6

If 21...exd4 then 22.♘c7+ ♔e7 23.♕xg7 d3+ 24.♔h1 ♗c4 25.♕g5 winning; or 21...♗xd5 22.♕xe5+ ♗e6 23.♖xe6+ fxe6 24.♕xe6+ ♔d8 25.♔h1!+- ♔c7 26.♘b5+! axb5 27.♕d6+ ♔c8 28.♕xf8+ ♔c7 29.♕d6+ ♔c8 30.♕d8#

22.♘xf6+ ♔d8

Trying to escape to the queenside. Hopeless is 22...♔e7 23.♕xe5 with ideas of ♘d5+ or ♔h1(f1) and ♘f5#

23.♕xe5

23.♔h1! exd4 24.♕d6+ ♔c8 25.♕xf8+ ♔c7 26.♕e7+ was good as well.

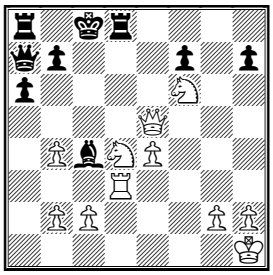
23...♔c8 24.♔h1 ♖d8

24...♕b6 25.♖d3

25.♖d3

Getting rid of the pin and threatening with ♖c3.

25...♗c4 (D)



26.♘e6!

Wow! The knight that should have died a long time is still alive! And ironically puts an end to the game. Black resigned in view of 26.♘e6 fxe6 *(26...♗xe6 27.♖c3+; 26...♗xd3 27.♕c7#)* 27.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 28.♕d6+ ♔c8 29.♕d7+ ♔b8 30.♕d8# - a very nice mate! **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz today
1. Bologan - Smirnov
Aeroflot (3)

36.♖a3! ♘xd3 [36...♖xa3 37.♕xc5; 36...♘b3 37.bxa6] **37.♕h4** [37.♕h4! ♖c8 38.♖xd3] **1-0**

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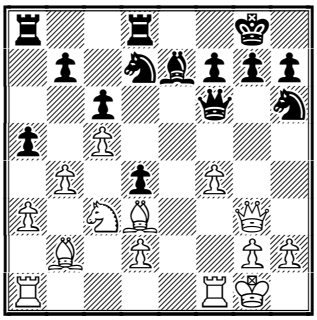
CT-47(831) 16th February 2003

Quiz Today

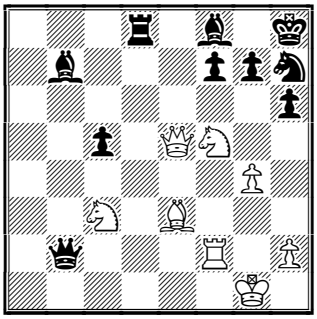
1. E. Ghaem Maghami – N. Short
Match Tehran IRI (4), 15.02.2003

White played 15.♘c3 with the idea of 15...dxc3? 16.♗xc3 with a mating threat on g7. Find a refutation for Black?



Black to play

2. S. Papa – M. Godena
11th Aosta Open Saint Vincent ITA (7), 14.02.2003



Black to play

World Champion Ponomariov to Defend his Title Against Kasparov

(FIDE has published the following official press-release on their website www.fideonline.com.)

Following a meeting with FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov in his Moscow office Wednesday, World Chess Champion Ruslan Ponomariov reaffirmed his willingness to defend his title against World no 1 rated player Garry Kasparov under the Match Regulations as approved by the FIDE President and the Presidential Board of FIDE. The meeting which was attended by the President of the Chess Federation of the Ukraine, Mr. Victor Petrov, FIDE Executive Director Emmanuel Omuku, Assistant to the FIDE President Berik Balgabarv and Representative of the State Committee of Physical Culture and Sport of the Ukraine, Mr. Leonid Timoshenko saw both the FIDE President and the World Champion reviewing the principles of the Prague Agreement and the unification matches for the World Championship.

President Ilyumzhinov commended World Champion Ponomariov for his suggestions regarding his upcoming match with Kasparov as well as his proposals regarding the unification match between the winner of his match with Grandmaster Kasparov and the winner of the Kramnik – Leko match, as well as the post unification cycle of the World Championship. President Ilyumzhinov assured the World Champion that his proposals will be submitted to the next meeting of the Presidential Board of FIDE scheduled 22-23 February 2003 in Bucharest for consideration.

None of the leading players were able to win in the 5th round of the Aeroflot Open 2003 and as a result there are 14 players that have 4 points out of 5. And the Elo-favourites Grischuk, Svidler, Dreev, Morozevich and Malakhov are not among them.

Some results of the 5th round:
Zvjaginsev (3,5) – Najer (3,5) **½:½**
Rublevsky (3,5) – Moiseenko (3,5) **½:½**
Bologan (3,5) – Lastin (3,5) **½:½**
Galkin (3,5) – Aleksandrov (3,5) **½:½**
Efimenko (3,5) – Kaidanov (3) **0:1**
Dolmatov (3) – Dreev (3) **½:½**
Van Wely (3) – Ulibin (3) **0:1**
Sutovsky (3) – Popov (3) **½:½**
Sakaev (3) – Izoria (3) **1:0**
Gagunashvili (3) – Khenkin (3) **½:½**

Nataf (3) – Granda Zuniga (3) **½:½**
Kazhgaleyev (3) – Deviatkin (3) **½:½**
Shomoev (3) – Mamedyarov (3) **0:1**
Romanishin (3) – Fressinet (3) **0:1**
Lugovoi (3) – Chuchelov (3) **1:0**
Jobava (2,5) – Grischuk (2,5) **½:½**
Svidler (2,5) – Sveshnikov (2,5) **½:½**
Morozevich (2,5) – Anastasian (2,5) **0:1**
A. Minasian (2,5) – Malakhov (2,5) **1:0**
Ovetchkin (2,5) – Lautier (2,5) **0:1**
Smirin (2,5) – Yemelin (2,5) **1:0**
Amonatov (2,5) – Tkachev (2,5) **0:1**
Kobalia (2,5) – Berelovich (2,5) **½:½**
Epishin (2,5) – Shaposhnikov (2,5) **½:½**
Tregubov (2,5) – Savchenko (2,5) **½:½**
Brodsky (2,5) – Aronian (2,5) **½:½**
Ikonnikov (2,5) – Rustemov (2,5) **½:½**
Jussupov (2,5) – Kovchan (2,5) **1:0**
Poluljahov (2,5) – Milov (2,5) **0:1**
Beshukov (2,5) – Neverov (2,5) **0:1**

Top boards for the 6th round:
Mamedyarov (4) Zvjaginsev (4)
Moiseenko (4) Sakaev (4)
Fressinet (4) Rublevsky (4)
Lastin (4) Najer (4)
Aleksandrov (4) Lugovoi (4)
Ulibin (4) Bologan (4)
Kaidanov (4) Galkin (4)
Dreev (3,5) Bu X. (3,5)
Lautier (3,5) Fedorov A. (3,5)
Popov (3,5) Smirin (3,5)
Gagunashvili (3,5) Sutovsky (3,5)
Tkachev (3,5) Sorokin (3,5)
Khenkin (3,5) Jakovenko D. (3,5)
Granda Zuniga (3,5) Lerner K. (3,5)
Adianto (3,5) Kazhgaleyev (3,5)
Anastasian (3,5) Jussupov (3,5)
Milov (3,5) A. Minasian (3,5)
Korobov (3,5) Dolmatov (3,5)
Deviatkin (3,5) Efimenko (3,5)
Neverov (3,5) Nataf (3,5)

(Also see our Annotated Game section.)

GM **Sergei Movsesjan** beat the strongest Icelandic GM Hannes Stefansson in a 6-game training match . The final score was 4½:1½ (3 wins and 3 draws). The Last game was drawn.

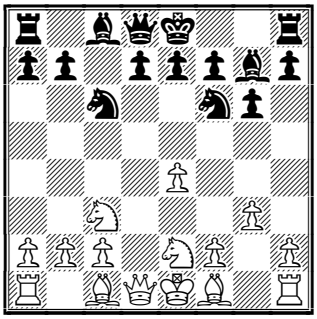
GM **Nigel Short** won the 4th game, again with Black in his match vs. Ehsan Ghaem Maghami in Tehran, Iran. The score is 3:1 in Short's favour now.

Book Review
by Andy Ansel

I was quite excited when I received ***Taming the Sicilian*** *by Nigel Davies* (Everyman Chess, 144 pages, $19.95) to review. As a dedicated 1.e4 player, I have always played the Closed Sicilian, but my recent results with these lines in ICCF e-mail play have been disappointing. Thus, with much anticipation, I started reading through this book hoping to find a new response to the Sicilian.

The gist of Davies' recommendation is a g3 system against the Sicilian. My first impression of the work was that the lines (and notes) that were given provided fairly skimpy coverage with one or two games and that the reader would have to use other resources and put in a lot more effort to actually learn and use this opening. I decided to look at his recommended line against the Accelerated Dragon (which I play as Black) and compare it to my *bible – Accelerated Dragons* by Donaldson and Silman (D&S). Boy was I in for a shock! Much as I loathe criticising a GM's work (since he is a much better player than I am), I feel that I am the perfect intended readership (i.e. ELO 2000 player.) and that my opinion should count.

First, Davies' coverage of this line is limited to one game. The line we are looking at is:
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.♘c3 ♗g7 6.♘de2 ♘f6 7.g3 (D)



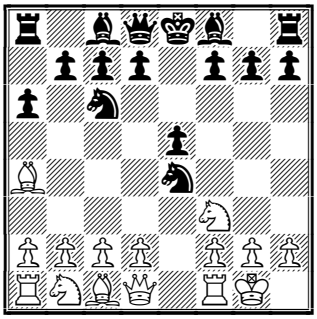
Note that Davies' main line is 6...d6 with 6...Nf6 as a side note; however this is the main line in D&S. Davies then gives 7...d5!? as the follow up; however D&S gives 7...b5!. Perhaps the author wasn't familiar with the game Marinkovic-Davies, Vrnjacka Banja, 1991 ?! You can find this game in today CT database. My database has 38 games with the 7...b5 line and Black scores an impressive 59%. Thus in the one line that I am familiar with, I found sloppy and incomplete research in Davies' book for properly learning this line.

Based on the Accelerated Dragon and the overall thin coverage on other lines, I doubt that this book offers much to the reader. I welcome a comprehensive repertoire book for White against the Sicilian (à la *Beating the Sicilian* by Nunn which had some great original analysis), but cannot recommend this book at all.

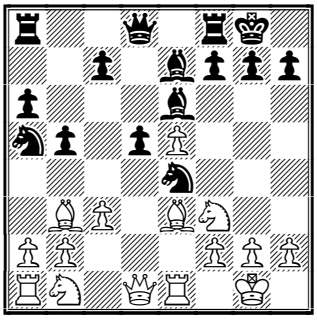
♘♘♘

À la Steinitz!

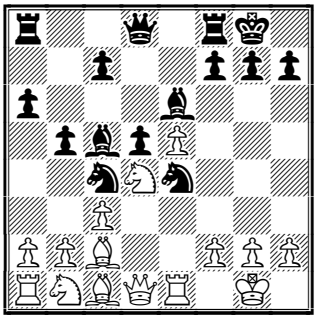
☐ **Z. Efimenko (2590)**
■ **G. Kaidanov (2629)**
Event: *Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (5), 15.02.2003* – ***[C83]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
Last year's winner of the Aeroflot-open, G. Kaidanov, won a nice game against Z. Efimenko and now shares first place. Can he win back to back tournaments?!
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 (D)



From time to time White "refutes" the Open variation of the Ruy Lopez, but always there are always many players who dare to play it again and again. The Ex-soviet, now American GM Kaidanov is one of them.
6.d4 b5 7.♗b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♗e6 9.♗e3!?
A logical move - White immediately takes control over the weak dark squares in Black's camp. But more popular lines are: 9.c3; or 9.♘bd2!?
9...♗e7 10.c3 0-0 11.♖e1
11.♘bd2!?
11...♘a5!? (D)



This looks like a novelty - Black has played previously 11...♕d7
12.♗c2
Maybe better was 12.♘bd2!? ♘xb3 13.axb3 though it wasn't so easy for White to part with the light-square bishop, of course.
12...♘c4 13.♗c1
The dark-square bishop is an important piece also, no doubt, but now Black gains a very big advantage in development
13...♗c5 14.♘d4? (D)



Obviously White missed his opponent's strong reply. The only move was 14.♗xe4 dxe4 15.♘d4 *(15.♕xd8 ♖axd8 16.♖xe4 ♖d1+ 17.♖e1 ♖fd8∓)* 15...♗d5!?↑ with better chances for Black.

14...♘xf2!

A typical shot, but very nice in any event.

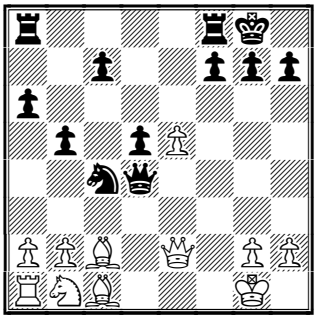
15.♔xf2 ♕h4+ 16.♔g1

16.g3 ♕xh2+ 17.♔f3 *(17.♔f1 ♗h3#)* 17...h5!?→; 16.♔f1 f6!→

16...♗g4 17.♖e2

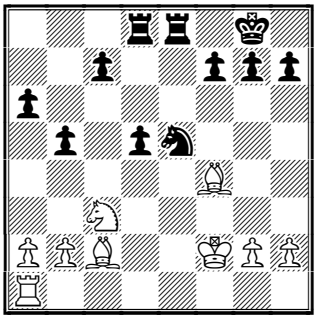
17.g3 ♗xd1 18.gxh4 ♗xc2; 17.♕d3 ♕xe1+

17...♗xe2 18.♕xe2 ♗xd4+ 19.cxd4 ♕xd4+ (D)



Black wins many pawns.

20.♕f2 ♕xf2+ 21.♔xf2 ♘xe5 22.♗f4 ♖fe8 23.♘c3 ♖ad8 (D)



A pair of bishops is almost always a very dangerous weapon, but Black has too many extra pawns together with his rooks. Black is clearly better in this endgame.

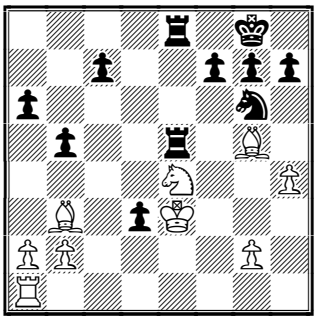
24.h3?!

a new mistake.

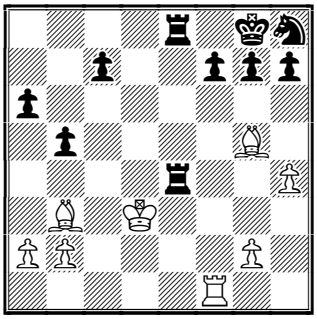
24...d4 25.♘e4

This move loses the knight.

25...♘g6 26.♗g5 ♖d5 27.h4 d3 28.♗b3 ♖f5+ 29.♔e3 ♖fe5 (D)



30.♔xd3 ♖xe4 31.♖f1 ♘h8! (D)

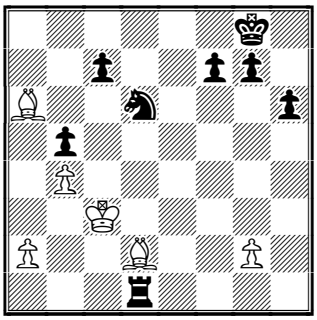


À la Steinitz!

32.♗d5 ♖e1 33.♖xe1 ♖xe1 34.b4 ♘g6

White had to resign somewhere here, but maybe he hadn't enough time to do it.

35.♔d4 h6 36.♗d2 ♖d1 37.♔c3 ♘xh4 38.♗b7 ♘f5 39.♗xa6 ♘d6 (D)



40.♔d4

It's difficult to believe that this move was actually made on the board. I suspect that White had resigned here

an arbiter in accordance with his role had placed both kings on the dark central squares d4 and e5. **0-1.**

Solution to Quiz today

1. E. Ghaem Maghami - N. Short
Match Tehran IRI (4), 15.02.2003
15...♘xc5! [15...dxc3? 16.♗xc3] **16.bxc5 dxc3 17.♗xc3 ♗xc5+! 18.♔h1 ♗d4∓ and** black won a pawn and realised the victory step by step on move 49.

2. S. Papa - M. Godena
11th Aosta Open Saint Vincent ITA (7), 14.02.2003
31...♖d1+! 0-1.

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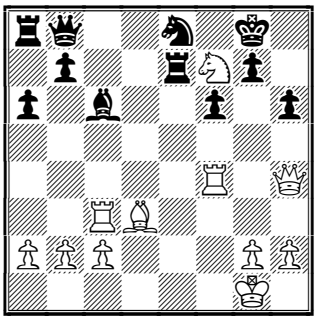
CT-48(832) 17th February 2003

Quiz Today

1. H. Saldano – N. Friedrich
11th Aosta Open Saint Vincent ITA (8), 15.02.2003



White to play

Aleksandrov leads Aeroflot Open

The 6th round of the Aeroflot-open saw the Byelorussian GM **Alexey Aleksandrov** taking the lead, turning a crowd of leaders into a swarm of pursuers. Aleksandrov has 5 points now. There are 19 players half a point behind. You will find all of them in the pairing list below. The ELO favourites still encounter difficulties in scoring wins. Svidler, Dreev and Smirin have 4 points Grischuk, Morozevich, Malakhov and Lautier are on "+1" level. Van Wely has scored 50%.

Round 6 results (top 30 boards):
Mamedyarov – Zvjagintsev ½:½
Moiseenko – Sakaev ½:½
Fressinet – Rublevsky ½:½
Lastin – Najer ½:½
Aleksandrov – Lugovoi 1:0
Ulibin – Bologan ½:½
Kaidanov – Galkin ½:½
Dreev – Bu Xiangzhi ½:½
Lautier – Fedorov 0:1
Popov – Smirin ½:½
Gagunashvili – Sutovsky 0:1
Tkachev – Sorokin 0:1
Khenkin – Jakovenko ½:½
Granda Zuniga – Lerner ½:½
Adianto – Kazhgaleyev 0:1
Anastasian – Jussupov 0:1
Milov – Artashes Minasian 1:0
Korobov – Dolmatov ½:½
Deviatkin – Efimenko 0:1
Neverov – Nataf ½:½
Grischuk – Brodsky ½:½
Berelovich – Svidler 0:1
Kempiski – Van Wely 1:0
Romanishin – Landa ½:½
Shaposhnikov – Kobalia ½:½
Degraeve – Epishin ½:½
Tregubov – Morovic Fernandez ½:½
Aronian – Ikonnikov 1:0
Rustemov – Shomoev ½:½
Savchenko – Ehlvest ½:½

Round 7 pairings:
Zvjagintsev – Aleksandrov
Sutovsky – Fressinet
Jussupov – Sakaev
Rublevsky – Ulibin
Efimenko – Lastin
Bologan – Milov
Najer – Kaidanov
Kazhgaleyev – Fedorov
Galkin – Moiseenko
Sorokin – Mamedyarov

The hero of the FIDE World Championship in Las Vegas 1999, GM Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu of Romania, has won the 11th Open Valle d'Aosta that took place in Saint Vincent.
The final standings:
1. Nisipeanu – 7½
2-4. Tiviakov, Azmaiparashvili, Nevednichy – 7
5-15. M. Gurevich, Rotstein, Golod, Palac, Korchnoi, Atalik, R. Ibrahimov, V. Georgiev, Bauer, Baklan, Kveynis – 6½, etc.

The 5th game of Nigel Short – Ghaem Maghami match in Tehran was drawn. The score is 3½:1½. Nigel has secured has thus secured the match win with one game is left to play.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **Aleksandrov,A**
■ **Lugovoi,A**
Event: *Aeroflot-open (6)* **- *[E48]***
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin
This game features the triumph of a good middlegame plan.

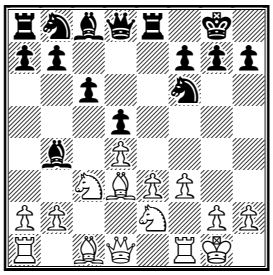
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 0-0 5.♗d3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♘ge2

Aleksandrov is one of the experts in this line of the Nimzo-Indian Defence. His pieces know their places very well.

7...c6

Just a reminder that Deep Junior against Kasparov chose 7...♖e8 8.0–0 ♗d6.

8.0-0 ♖e8 9.f3 (D)



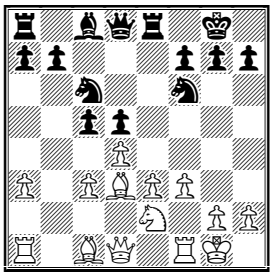
9...c5

The situation in the centre is different after f2-f3 and Black can thus safely advance the c-pawn one square further. In case of d4xc5 White would be unable to siege the isolated d5-pawn because of the weakness on e3. [However it seems to me that 9...b6! with the idea of Ba6 that was played in Giorgadze - Piket, Istanbul 2000 is more promising for Black.

10.a3 ♗xc3

Black gives up the bishop consolidating his opponent's centre at the same time. A dubious strategy in my opinion, but it's not time to talk about White's advantage yet. [The game D. Gurevich - Tisdall, Brighton 1982 saw 10...cxd4 11.axb4 dxc3 12.bxc3 ♘c6 13.♘f4 ♕c7 14.♗b1 ♘e5?! 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♕xd5 ♕xc3 17.♗d2! ♕b2?? *(17...♕xa1? 18.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 19.♖xa1; 17...♕c4)* 18.♖a2! and Black resigned for his queen is trapped and 18...♗e6 doesn't help in view of 19.♕xe6! Strangely enough in previous games White always preferred 11.exd4.

11.bxc3 ♘c6 (D)



Here Aleksandrov demonstrates an instructive regrouping.

12.♖a2!

Note that the capture on c5 is disadvantageous for White as well as the c5-c4 advance for Black.

12...♕c7 13.♘g3 ♗e6 14.♗b1! ♖ac8?!

Unlike White, Black has no clear idea of his plans. It's obvious that after the moves ♖af2 and ♕d3 White would have to prepare e3-e4 in order to activate his pieces. Therefore 14...♖ad8 looks logical to put pressure on the d4-pawn in advance. After 15.♖af2 h6 16.♕d3 ♕a5 17.♖d1 ♗c8 it's not easy for White to improve.

15.♖af2 ♕d7?!

To have the rook in opposition to the queen is better.

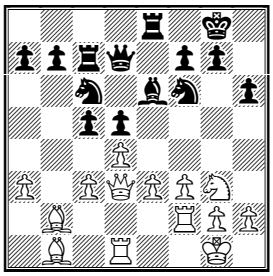
16.♕d3

Black should parry the threat of 17. ♘h5 threat.

16...h6 17.♖d1

White begins the final preparation for the advance in the centre.

17...♖c7 18.♗b2 (D)



White's pieces are still hidden behind his pawn chain, but the approaching e3-e4 will change everything. [Premature is 18.e4 cxd4 **A**) if 19.♗f4!? then 19...dxe4! *(19...♖cc8? 20.e5+-)* 20.fxe4 ♘g4!; **B)** 19.cxd4 19...dxe4 20.♘xe4 ♘xe4 21.♕xe4 *(21.fxe4 ♗g4)* 21...f5

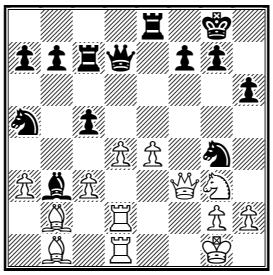
18...♘a5 19.e4! I believe Black's

position is strategically lost already. The outlines of White's following play are known since the time of Botvinnik.

19...dxe4 20.fxe4 ♗c4

Worse is 20...♘g4 21.♖f4

21.♕f3 ♘g4 22.♖fd2 ♗b3 (D)



Black tries with all his might to break the harmony of White's pieces. Aleksandrov's next move shows it's all in vain.

23.♘f5!

For a crushing attack White doesn't need two rooks!

23...♗xd1 24.♖xd1 h5

An unnecessary weakening move. More stubborn was 24...♘f6 though White has a variety of attractive plans, e.g. 25.e5 (after *25.♘xh6+ gxh6 26.♕xf6 ♘c4 27.♗c1 ♖c6* Black has certain counterplay; *25.♕g3 g6 26.♘xh6+ ♔h7 27.e5 ♘d5 28.♘g4* deserves attention) 25...♘h7 26.♕g4 g6 27.♘xh6+ ♔g7 28.♘f5+ *(28.♗f5!?)* 28...♔h8 29.d5!

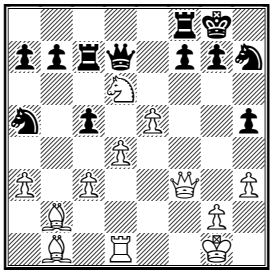
25.h3 ♘f6

Maybe Black was hoping for an in-between 25...♘c4 (covering the d6-square) 26.♗c1 ♘f6 but White has the impressive 27.♗h6! gxh6 *(27...g6 28.♘e3 ♘xe3?? 29.♕xf6)* 28.♕g3+ ♘g4 29.hxg4 and the attack is irresistible.

26.e5 ♘h7

26...♘d5 27.♘d6+-

27.♘d6 ♖f8 (D)



28.d5!

White doesn't want to slow down after 28.♕xh5 g6

28...b5

28...g6 29.c4! and the black knight is out and the white dark-squared bishop is in.

29.c4! ♘xc4 30.♘xc4 bxc4 31.e6 fxe6

Everything else loses as well - 31...♕d6 32.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 33.♕xh5+ ♔g8 34.♗e5; 31...♕a4 32.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 33.d6; 31...♘g5 32.♗h7+!? ♔h8 *(32...♔xh7 33.♕xh5+ ♔g8 34.exd7)* 33.♕xh5

32.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 33.♕xf8 exd5 34.♗e5 ♖c8 35.♖xd5!

Black resigned. 35.♖xd5 ♕xd5 36.♕xg7# **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz today

1. H. Saldano - N. Friedrich

11th Aosta Open Saint Vincent ITA (8), 15.02.2003

28.♘xh6+! gxh6 29.♗c4+ ♔h7 30.♖g3 ♘g7 [30...♕a7+ 31.♔f1; 30...♕e5 31.♗g8+; 30...♖g7 31.♕xh6+! ♔xh6 32.♖h4#] **31.♖xf6 ♘h5 32.♖xh6+! ♔xh6 33.♕g5+ 1-0**

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-49(833) 18th February 2003

Aleksandrov continues to lead Aeroflot Open

Alexey Aleksandrov is once the person of the day. Today in the 7th round of the Aeroflot-open he scored his fifth win; this time over Vadim Zvjagintsev whose play in the opening was far from rational (*see Annotated game section*). With 6 points Aleksandrov is half a point ahead of Victor Bologan, Alexey Fedorov and Maxim Sorokin. All the other players listed in the Round 8 pairings below have scored 5 points.

Round 7 results (top 30 boards):
Zvjagintsev – Aleksandrov 0:1
Sutovsky – Fressinet ½:½
Jussupov – Sakaev ½:½
Rublevsky – Ulibin ½:½
Efimenko – Lastin ½:½
Bologan – Milov 1:0
Najer – Kaidanov ½:½
Kazhgaleyev – Fedorov 0:1
Galkin – Moiseenko ½:½
Sorokin – Mamedyarov 1:0
Svidler – Kempinski 1:0
Jakovenko – Dreev 0:1
Smirin – Sadvakasov 1:0
Bu Xiangzhi – Khenkin ½:½
Jobava – Granda Zuniga 0:1
Nataf – Aronian ½:½
Dolmatov – Sveshnikov 1:0
Lugovoi – Neverov 1:0
Lerner – Popov 1:0
Korobov – Smirnov 0:1
S. Ivanov – Grischuk ½:½
Morozevich – Romanishin 1:0
Anastasian – Malakhov ½:½
Brodsky – Lautier ½:½
Landa – Shaposhnikov ½:½
Artashes Minasian – Tkachev 0:1
Kobalia – Degraeve 1:0
Epishin – Savchenko ½:½
Ovetchkin – Tregubov 0:1
Yurtaev – Rustemov ½:½

Round 8 pairings:
Aleksandrov – Bologan
Fedorov – Sorokin
Fressinet – Svidler
Dreev – Jussupov
Smirin – Dolmatov
Efimenko – Sutovsky
Sakaev – Najer
Smirnov – Rublevsky
Lastin – Galkin
Kaidanov – Lerner
Granda Zuniga – Lugovoi
Ulibin – Moiseenko

The final game of the Nigel Short – Ghaem Maghami match in Tehran was a quick draw. Short won the match 4:2.

Tomorrow a Category XV tournament starts at the Reykjavik Art Museum. Michael Adams, Alexei Shirov, Ivan Sokolov, Etienne Bacrot, Bartlomiej Macieja, Viktor Korchnoi, Luke McShane, Hannes Stefansson, Helgi Gretarsson and Stefan Kristjansson will be taking part in the event which is organized by Hrokurinn Chess Club. The official site is: http://www.hrokurinn.is

(CT publishes a statement by a number of leading professional GMs)

Statement from the group of players with regards to newly formed GM steering committee and possible changes in the World Championship

At the moment professional players (grandmasters) are facing challenging times with regards to the WCC and reunification of the chess World. From the reports in the press it could have been understood that [the] GM Steering Committee has been established to cooperate with FIDE in order to ensure that the next WCC and the post-unification period would be organised in the best interests of the professional players involved. Sadly, the GM Steering Committee had not been elected using any form of general elections principles. It should be therefore understood that

grandmasters currently "elected" in the Steering Committee cannot take decisions on behalf of the other players. [The] GM Steering Committee should be an important body representing the interests of the players and elected by the players. Therefore [the] top two hundred players (according to the last two FIDE Elo lists) should be given a chance to choose their representatives in the legal and fair elections. Needless to say grandmasters sitting on the Steering Committee should not hold other functions within FIDE or expect to receive wild-cards for the various kinds of the FIDE events.

Currently FIDE is planning drastic changes in the World Championship cycle possibly forfeiting democratic achievements of the past years and giving privileged positions to the very few. Hopefully majority of the grandmasters would be consulted before such (unpopular) moves will be made.

Signed: **Kramnik, Shirov, Gelfand, Khalifman, Svidler, I. Sokolov, Kasimdzhanov, Sasikiran, Rublevsky, Bologan, Andersson, Tregubov, Vaganian,Tkachiev, Chernin, Huzman, Cu. Hansen, Vallejo, Illescas, Zvjaginsev, Iordachescu, Onischuk, Smirin**

Letter to the Editor

The recent match in New York between Garry Kasparov and Deep Junior drew a lot of attention and received great publicity. It was very good for the game, which was once again in [the] media spotlight. But as you may recall, the last game was somewhat of an anti-climax. The fact that a draw was agreed in still a very complex position, clearly irritated many... *Chess Today* received the following article from our reader Pete Tamburro (USA). Many would know Pete because of his work on Chess FM.

Man vs. Mashine

by Pete Tamburro

You could just imagine it in your mind, sports fans... The announcer in dramatic voice intoning, 'We're going into the 10th inning of this seventh game of the World Series, baseball lovers, and we have a great duel between the best in the sport.
' The Yanks seem to have a slight edge with the experienced bullpen, but the Diamondbacks are tough outs. They never swing at a bad pitch and will cream it if the relief ace serves just one fat one up to the plate. And with the pressure of it being the deciding game, anything can happen! 'Wait, Joe Torre is walking up to the umpire. Yes, our mike has picked it up! He's offering the Diamondback manager a draw!.
'The Diamondback team is having an impromptu meeting in the dugout. They're nodding their heads. Yes, fans, it's a tied World Series. They will split the money and everyone goes without risking loss.'
"Joe, Joe Torre, can we have a word with you."
"Sure."
"Joe, you seemed to have an edge going into extra innings. What made you offer the draw?"
"Well, I didn't want one mistake by Rivera to cost us the series. That happened before and it might affect him psychologically. Plus, maybe Giambi and Williams might not have come through for that run we needed. You know how Mr. Steinbrenner hates to lose. That way we don't have to risk losing for anyone. It was a great series, wasn't it?"
"Im sorry, Joe, I couldn"t hear that last comment. The booing is getting too loud. And with those seats landing so close to you on the field, you had better go."

Hard to imagine, huh? Well, if Garry Kasparov and the rest of the world class GMs want chess to take its rightful place as a sport, they had better understand that every real sport has winners and losers, champions and also-rans, and that champions –

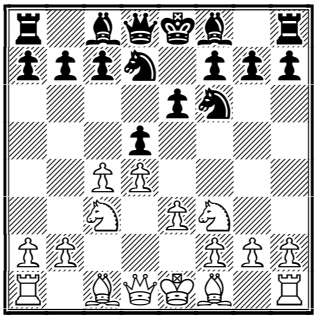
and heroes – have to risk loss to achieve greatness. Without further comment, we present the 'deciding' game of the Man vs. Machine World 'Championship.'

☐ **Deep Junior Computer**
■ **Garry Kasparov**
Man v. Machine World Championship, 2003
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e2 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♔h1 ♗d7 10.♗e3 ♗c6 11.♗f3 ♘bd7 12.a4 b6 13.♕d3 ♗b7 14.h3 ♖c8 15.♖ad1 h6 16.♖fe1 ♕c7 17.g3 ♖fd8 18.♔h2 ♖e8 19.♖e2 ♕c4 20.♕xc4 ♖xc4 21.♘d2 ♖c7 22.♗g2 ♖ec8 23.♘b3 ♖xc3 24.bxc3 ♗xe4 25.♗c1 ♗xg2 26.♔xg2 ♖xc3 27.♗a3 ♘e8 28.f4 ½-½.

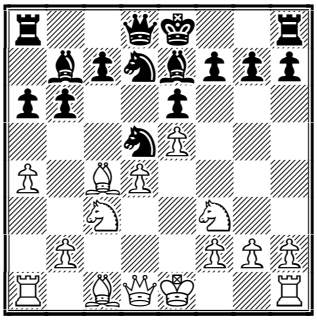
♘♘♘

Aeroflot Drama

☐ **V. Zvjagintsev**
■ **A. Aleksandrov**
Event: *Aeroflot-open (7)* – ***[D30]***
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.e3 ♘bd7 5.♘c3 (D)



5...a6
By this slightly unusual move order Black is trying to win a tempo as compared with the Meran Variation which arises after 5...c6 Black's main idea here is to play d5xc4, b7-b5 and then c6-c5. As a rule for the latter advance he needs to play a7-a6 first in order to protect the b5-pawn. After 5...a6 Black has a positional threat of the exchange on c4 followed by b7-b5.
6.♗e2
White develops the bishop on e2 not on d3 because in case of d5xc4 he isn't going to take on c4 immediately. [The various methods have been tested to make Black's 5th move useless or at least harmless. 6.a4 which was played in Khalifman - Ivanchuk, Moscow (blitz) 1993 simply covers the b5-square. Black should play d5xc4 followed by c7-c5 obtaining the position of the Queen's Gambit Accepted.; After 6.b3 (Riazantsev - Aleksandrov, Batumi 2002 and Korchnoi - Nikolic, Istanbul 2000) White is no longer afraid of b7-b5 as he would capture on c4 with the pawn. Playing 6...♗b4 here, Black hampers the opponent's comfortable development; The curious 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♘e5 was played in an "ancient" game Rubinstein - Tartakower, Rotterdam 1931. White is going to fortify the knight by f2-f4 and Black can't take on e5 because of the insufficient protection of the d5-pawn.; the encounter Botvinnik - Thomas, Nottingham 1936 was the first that saw 6.c5 Black is unable to manage without c7-c6 and White means to use the weakening of the b6-square in this case.
6...dxc4 7.a4!
After 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗e2 c5 Black solves all his opening problems.
7...b6
Sooner or later White will have to touch his light-squared bishop one more time taking on c4 whereas Black develops it without a loss of time.
8.e4
8.♗xc4 ♗b7 9.0-0 is a normal continuation. The position is about even as White's dark-squared bishop is restricted by his own pawn chain.
8...♗b7 9.e5 ♘d5 10.♗xc4 ♗e7 (D)



11.h4?!

Surely Zvjagintsev knew that he was breaking the general opening rules. But sometimes it's beyond our will. In this game the desire for win lead to quite the contrary. Right was 11.♘xd5 ♗xd5 *(11...exd5 12.♗d3 c5 13.0–0* and Black has some problems with the b7 bishop*)* 12.♗xd5 exd5 13.0–0 0–0 14.♕b3 – there's no bad bishop but instead Black's central pawn needs protection

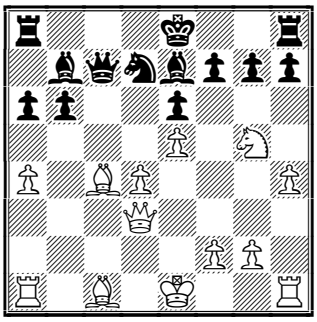
11...c5! 12.♘g5?

Once started he couldn't stop. This move loses by force.

12...♘xc3

White counted on the lines like 12...0–0 13.♕d3 g6 14.♗xd5 exd5 15.e6; or 12...h6 13.♘xe6!? *(13.♕h5!? 0–0 14.♗xd5 exd5 15.e6)* 13...fxe6 14.♕h5+ ♔f8 15.♗xd5 exd5 16.e6 ♕e8! 17.♕xe8+ ♔xe8 18.exd7+ ♔xd7 19.♗e3 But the unsteady state of the White pieces and the exposed position of his king allows the following combination.

13.bxc3 cxd4 14.cxd4 ♕c7 15.♕d3 (D)



After 15.♗e2 ♕c3+ 16.♗d2 ♕xd4 White is one pawn down and it's just the beginning – there'll be more; even worse is 15.♕e2 ♖c8 and White loses either bishop or the rook; the sacrifice 15.♗xe6 fxe6 16.♘xe6 gives nothing after 16...♕c6 17.♘xg7+ ♔f8 18.♘f5 ♕xg2

15...♘xe5!–+ 16.dxe5 ♕xe5+ 17.♕e3 ♕xa1 18.♘xf7

18.0–0 ♕xa4 all you need to evaluate the position is to count the chessmen.

18...0–0!

Unlike his opponent Aleksandrov obeys the opening laws :) However to accept the donation was also possible – 18...♔xf7 19.♕xe6+ ♔e8 20.♕f7+ *(20.0–0 ♕f6)* 20...♔d8 21.0–0 ♕f6 22.♖d1+ ♔c8 23.♗e6+ ♔b8 24.♗f4+ ♔a7–+

19.♗xe6 ♗c5 20.♘e5+

The farewell check. or 20.♕d2 ♖ae8]

20...♔h8

White resigned. "Aeroflot Drama" :)

0–1.

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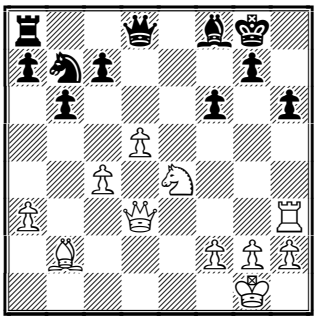
CT-50(834) 19th February 2003

Quiz Today

A. Fedorov – M. Sorokin
Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (8), 18.02.2003



White to play

Kirsan Iljumzhinov Garry Kasparov hold Press Conference

Today a press conference was held by FIDE President **Kirsan Iljumzhinov** and **Garry Kasparov** in Moscow. The main theme was the results of the recent **Kasparov – Deep Junior** match in NewYork City. It was announced that the strongest human GM will regularly play vs. the strongest computer chess program. In addition Iljumzhinov announced that Kasparov will play vs. Ponomariov in Buenos-Aires (Argentina) from the 19th of June to the 7th of July. The price fund will be **not less than $1,000,000!**

You can find additional details (only in Russian still) at:
www.worldchessrating.ru and
www.chess-express-ru

Two Belarusian GMs, **Alexei Aleksandrov and Alexei Fedorov** – now share the lead with 6½ points before the 9th and final round of the Aeroflot Open 2003 and will play each other on the last day. Just recall that the first prize in this event is $25,000 plus a vacation in Dortmund-2003 superb tournament.

Some results of the 8th round:
Aleksandrov (6) – Bologan (5,5) **½:½**
Fedorov (5,5) – Sorokin (5,5) **1:0**
Fressinet (5) – Svidler (5) **0:1**
Dreev (5) – Jussupov (5) **1:0**
Smirin (5) – Dolmatov (5) **½:½**
Efimenko (5) – Sutovsky (5) **½:½**
Sakaev (5) – Najer (5) **½:½**
Smirnov (5) – Rublevsky (5) **½:½**
Lastin (5) – Galkin (5) **0:1**
Kaidanov (5) – Lerner (5) **1:0**
Granda Zuniga (5) – Lugovoi (5) **1:0**
Ulibin (5) – Moiseenko (5) **½:½**
Kotsur (4,5) – Morozevich (4,5) **0:1**
Bu X. (4,5) – Zvjaginsev (4,5) **1:0**
Tkachev (4,5) – Nataf (4,5) **½:½**
Sulskis (4,5) – Kobalia (4,5) **0:1**
Khenkin (4,5) – Morovic (4,5) **1:0**
Chernyshov (4,5) – Tregubov (4,5) **0:1**
Aronian (4,5) – Shomoev (4,5) **0:1**
Ionov (4,5) Kazhgaleyev (4,5) **½:½**
Mamedyarov (4,5) – Bocharov (4,5) **1:0**
Milov (4,5) – Goloshchapov (4,5) **½:½**
Grischuk (4) – Anastasian (4) **1:0**
Malakhov (4) – Jobava (4) **½:½**
Lautier (4) – Volzhin (4) **1:0**
Sveshnikov (4) – Van Wely (4) **½:½**
Vaganian (4) – Amonatov (4) **½:½**
Landa (4) – Fominyh (4) **1:0**
Brodsky (4) – Motylev (4) **0:1**
Yurtaev (4) – Epishin (4) **1:0**

Top boards for the 9th round:
Fedorov (6,5) – Aleksandrov (6,5)
Svidler (6) – Kaidanov (6)
Galkin (6) – Dreev (6)
Bologan (6) – Granda Zuniga (6)
Morozevich (5,5) – Mamedyarov (5,5)
Najer (5,5) – Smirin (5,5)
Sutovsky (5,5) – Dolmatov (5,5)
Sorokin (5,5) – Sakaev (5,5)
Rublevsky (5,5) – Efimenko (5,5)
Kobalia (5,5) – Ulibin (5,5)
Shomoev (5,5) – Khenkin (5,5)
Tregubov (5,5) – Smirnov (5,5)
Moiseenko (5,5) – Bu X. (5,5)
Gagunashvili (5) – Grischuk (5)
Lautier (5) – Yurtaev (5)
Nataf (5) – Landa (5)
Shaposhnikov (5) – Tkachev (5)
Motylev (5) – Belov (5)

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Lugovoi (5) – Lastin (5)
Kazhgaleyev (5) – Savchenko (5)
Timoshenko (5) – Fressinet (5)
Jussupov (5) – Ionov (5)
Sadvakasov (5) – Milov (5)
Goloshchapov (5) – Popov (5)
Lerner (5) – Izoria (5)

Also see our Annotated Game section.

A category XV tournament (average elo – 2618) organised by Iceland's Hrokurinn Chess Club is underway at the Reykjavik Art Museum. The event will run from the 18th to 27th of February. The list of participants were published in *CT–833*. **Gretarsson** leads with 1 point, followed by all the others with a ½ point.

Round 1:
Sokolov – Macieja **½:½**
Stefansson – Shirov **½:½**
Bacrot – Adams **½:½**
McShane – Korchnoi **½:½**
Gretarsson – Kristjansson **1:0**

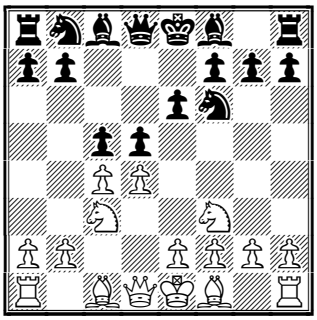
Pairing for the 2nd Round:
Sokolov – Stefansson
Shirov – Bacrot
Adams – McShane
Korchnoi – Gretarsson
Macieja – Kristjansson

♘♘♘

Improved Tarrasch Defense

□ **A. Dreev (2690)**
■ **A. Jussupow (2592)**
Event: *Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (8), 18.02.2003* – ***[D41]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 c5 (D)

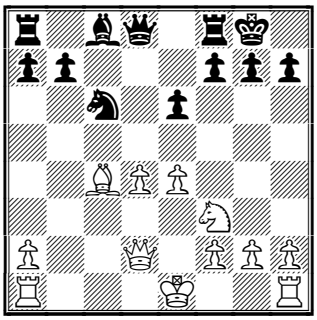


So called improved Tarrasch Defence. Tarrasch, though, thought that his wonderful defence (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5) didn't need any "improvements".

5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e4

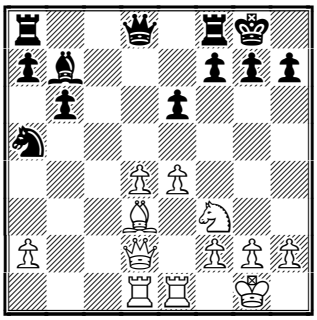
6.e3!?; One of the most original move I've seen in this position is 6.a3!?

6...♘xc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♗b4+ 9.♗d2 ♗xd2+ 10.♕xd2 0–0 11.♗c4 ♘c6 (D)



This line leads to rather well known and sharp positions in which every move costs are critical.

12.0–0 b6 13.♖ad1 ♘a5 14.♗d3 ♗b7 15.♖fe1 (D)



15...♕e7

15...♖c8 was played in the following classical game: 16.d5! exd5 17.e5! ♘c4 *(17...♖c6!? 18.♘d4 ♖h6 19.f4 ♘c6 20.♘f5∞* Khenkin – Straeter, Recklinghausen 1996.*)* 18.♕f4 ♘b2 19.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 20.♘g5+ ♔g6 21.h4!! ♖c4 22.h5+ ♔h6 23.♘xf7+ ♔h7 24.♕f5+ ♔g8 25.e6! ♕f6 26.♕xf6 gxf6 27.♖d2 ♖c6 28.♖xb2+– Polugaevsky – Tal, Moscow 1967. The famous Russian GM Lev Polugaevsky had always analysed opening lines very deeply, this particular one until move 25–30.; Another possibility is 15...h6 for example: 16.d5 exd5 17.e5 ♘c4 18.♕e2 ♕c7 19.♘d4 ♖ae8 20.f4 b5 21.♔h1 ♕b6 22.♗f5∞ Gulko –

Jussupow, Riga 1995.

16.d5!?

16.♕f4 f6 17.d5 e5 18.♕d2 ♖ac8 19.♖c1 ♖xc1 20.♖xc1 ♖c8 21.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 22.♕c3 ♗g4⇄ Ruck – Graf, Yerevan 2001.

16...♖ad8

Black decides to save his pawn on e6 to cover the f5-square. 16...exd5!? 17.e5 *(17.exd5 ♕d6⇄)* 17...♘c4 *(17...d4!? 18.♘xd4 ♖ad8 19.♘f5 ♕e6 20.♕g5 g6∞)* 18.♕e2≚

17.♘d4 ♗c8?!

With the same idea. Black doesn't want to exchange on d5. 17...exd5 18.♘f5 *(18.e5!?)* 18...♕f6 19.exd5 ♔h8 20.♘e7!? ♖fe8 21.♕b4!?±

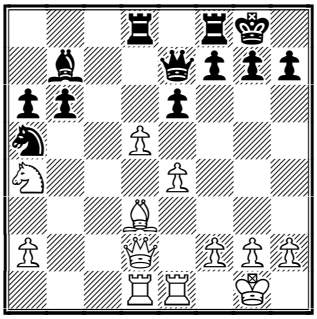
18.♘b5!?

White has to find new targets to attack. He tries to weaken Black's queen side.

18...a6?!

18...exd5 19.exd5 ♕d7 20.♕c2 g6 21.♘c3±; 18...♗a6!?

19.♘c3 ♗b7 20.♘a4! (D)



Now it's hard to defend b6 pawn and the knight on a5.

20...exd5

20...♕d6 21.♖b1 exd5 22.♖xb6+–

21.♘xb6 ♕c5

21...dxe4 22.♕xa5+–; 21...♘c4 22.♘xd5 ♗xd5 23.exd5+–

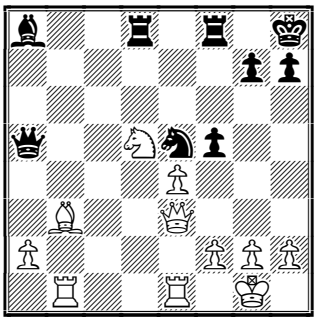
22.♘xd5 ♘c6

Because Black couldn't play 22...♗xd5 23.exd5 ♖xd5? 24.♗xh7++– ,and White wins an extra pawn without any compensation for Black.

23.♖b1 ♗a8?! 24.♗xa6

Two extra pawns.

24...f5 25.♕e3 ♕a5 26.♗c4 ♘e5 27.♗b3 ♔h8 (D)



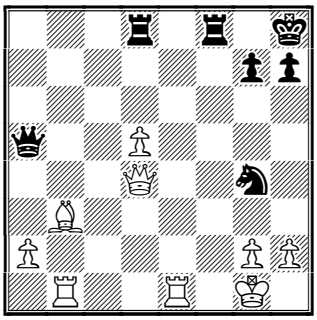
28.f3

28.♕g5!?

28...fxe4 29.fxe4 ♘g4 30.♕d4 ♗xd5

30...♖f4!?

31.exd5 (D)



31...♖f4!?

The last attempt.

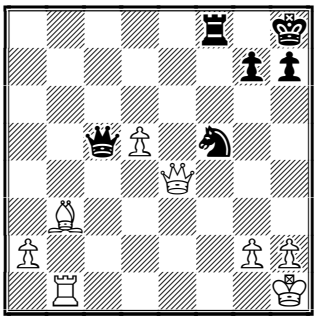
32.♕xf4 ♕c5+ 33.♖e3

33.♔f1 ♖f8; 33.♔h1 ♘f2+

33...♘xe3 34.♔h1 ♖f8

34...♘xd5 35.♕f5 ♕d4 36.♗xd5+–

35.♕e4 ♘f5?! (D)



36.♗c2! ♕c3? 37.♕xf5! 1–0.

Solution to Quiz Today

A. Fedorov – M. Sorokin

Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (8), 18.02.2003

32.♖xh6!! gxh6 [32...f5 33.♘f6+ gxf6 *(33...♔f7 34.♕xf5+–)* 34.♕g3+ ♗g7 *(34...♔f7 35.♖h7+ ♔e8 36.♕g6#)* 35.♗xf6+–] **33.♘xf6+ ♔f7** [33...♔h8 34.♕h7#] **34.♕f5! ♘c5** [34...♗g7

35.♕e6+ ♔g6 36.♘e4+ ♗f6 *(36...♔h7 37.♕f7 ♕f8 38.♘f6+ ♔h8 39.♕g6+−)* 37.f4!?+−] **35.♘e4+** [35.♘g8+! ♔e8 *(35...♔xg8 36.♕g6+ ♗g7 37.♕xg7#)* 36.♕g6+ ♔d7 37.♕c6+ ♔c8 38.♕xa8+] **35...♔e8 36.♕g6+ ♔d7 37.♘xc5+ ♔c8** [37...♗xc5 38.♕e6#; 37...♔c8 38.♗f6 ♗e7 39.♗xe7 ♕xe7 40.♕g8+ ♕d8 41.♕e6+ ♔b8 42.♘d7+ ♔b7 43.♕c6+ ♔c8 *(43...♔a6 44.♘c5+! ♔a5 45.♕a4#)* 44.♘xb6+ axb6 45.♕xa8+ ♔d7 46.♕xd8++−] **1−0.**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353−1) 278−2276. Fax/phone: (353−1) 283−6839.E−mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-51(835) 20th February 2003

Aeroflot Open: Viorel Bologan first on tie-break!

Prior to the final and 9th round of the Aeroflot Open 2003, two Belarusian Grandmasters, Alexei Alexandrov and Alexei Fedorov, shared the lead with 6½ points. Normally, their last round game would decide the ultimate winner of the competition. However, Alexandrov and Fedorov made a draw quickly, therefore giving chances to the six in the chasing pack who were all on 6 points before the last round.

Some might criticise the Belarusian GMs for their quick draw, but I certainly wouldn't. The motivations to end the game peacefully, share the big money and keep good personal relations in such a situation are obvious. The same problem of quick last round draws arose in another great recent tournament, the US Championship. It is very unattractive for the sponsors to see such results, but to correct the situation, in my view *the system* should be somehow corrected. One quite radical idea, which I like, is to give 0.4 points for a draw with White, and 0.6 points for a draw with Black. Then we can avoid sharing of places by a large number of players, and the possibility to make a quick draw will be less tempting.

So, Alexandrov's and Fedorov's pursuers got their chance, and this chance was taken by Viorel Bologan and Peter Svidler, who won their games against Granda Zuniga and Gregory Kaidanov, respectively. Bologan and Svidler joined Alexandrov and Fedorov and all four players ended the tournament with 7 points. The name of tournament winner (to whom, by the way, a place in the Dortmund tournament was awarded) was determined, according to the average ELO of the winner's opponents (highest and lowest ratings of opponents were excluded from the calculation, according to the rules). This showed that Viorel Bologan was the Aeroflot Open 2003 winner, the final standing being: **1. Bologan 2. Alexandrov 3. Fedorov 4. Svidler.**

On behalf of the Chess Today team, I congratulate our colleague, Moldovian Grandmaster Viorel Bologan on his victory. Viorel is not only active as a player, but he is also an active chess journalist, the author of countless tournament reports in various chess magazines. I should also of course mention that in 2002, an interview with Viorel Bologan was published in CT-657.

More news of the final day of the Aeroflot Open will be reported by my Moscow colleagues in the next CT issue, and Viorel Bologan's decisive win over Granda Zuniga will be the annotated game.

ELDI Snelschaak Marathon in Mercure Hotel Dordrecht

A special report by GM Mikhail Golubev

Photo By Adri Timmermans

ON 15 February 2003 I participated in the famous, and at the same time unusual tournament – *Open Dutch Blitzchess Marathon,* or *ELDI Snel-schaak Marathon,* named after the new tournament main sponsor, *ELDI Chemicals*. 200 players competed in 17 double rounds (i.e. we played two games against each opponent in each of the 17 rounds – 34 games overall).

The Dordrecht Marathon always has a strong list of participants including mainly, but not only, the strongest Dutch players. The previous winners were Piket (1996, 2002), Van Wely (1998, 2000), Kir. Georgiev (1997), Vaganian (1999), Lautier (2001). The first prize in 2003 was as high as 1600 euros, not bad for some 9 hours of work even for a top grandmaster. Taking into account the strong competition from Aeroflot, several possible participants, including Van Wely and Lautier, were absent. Even so there were many famous players competing. The top 10 players were I. Sokolov, J. Piket, P. Nikolic, Y. Seirawan, M. Sadler, U. Andersson, J. Timman, J. Speelman, D. Fridman, F. Nijboer, and were several other GMs including A. Barsov, P. Popovic, D. de Vreugt, J. Gdanski, V. Gurevich and myself.

The tournament battle was quite exciting, participants showed many great ideas, silly blunders, and unpredictable results. The tournament favourite GM Ivan Sokolov made a draw in the first round against an opponent more than 700 ELO points lower! Many club players are quite dangerous in blitz. Also I twice, finished mini-matches against 1900+ players with a 1½-½ score. Yasser Seirawan was on the top board more often than anyone. On this board the games were transmitted for the spectators onto a large display. He won his first 5 matches with a score 2-0, and Jan Timman, Ivan Sokolov and Jeroen Piket played less successfully, but close to the very end Sokolov reached the leaders. Everything was finally decided in the very last round, before which Seirawan was sole leader with a half point margin. Follower Sokolov and Timman won their matches with a 2-0 score, while Seirawan scored only 1½. So, three players shared the first place. The Buchgolz system defined the following order of winners:

The final results: 1. Sokolov, 2. Timman 3. Seirawan, (all 25) 4. de Vreugt (23) 5. Nikolic. 6. Bosboom. 7. Andersson. 8. Popovic, P. (all 22½) 9. Speelman, 10. V.Gurevich 11. Solomunovic, (all 22) 12. Piket, 13 Smeets 14. Fridman 15. Nijboer 16. Sadler 17. Solleveld 18. Mohr 19. Cekro 21½ (all 21½).

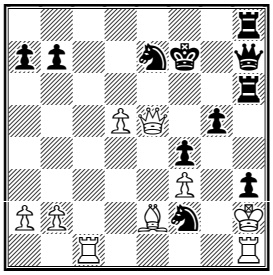
Having 21 points, I shared 20th place with four other players, having the best Buchgolz in the group. The latter fact is not surprising, because I finished with ½/4 in the two last rounds, losing 0-2 to Seirawan, and then ½-1½ to Piket. Before that, my results against the top 19 players were not disastrous: 2-0 vs. Nijboer, 1½-½ vs. Popovic, Solomunovic and Mohr, 1-1 vs. de Vreugt, Bosboom and Gurevich, and ½-1½ vs. Fridman.

Despite an unimpressive personal result, I should say that the tournament was absolutely wonderful. Together with six main organizers, there were 19 other arbiters who worked on the tournament; therefore it is not surprising that rounds started in accordance with the previously published schedule. The pleasant and spacious tournament venue was provided by the luxurious Mercure hotel, which is also one of the event sponsors. In the playing hall, the pairings were automatically shown on several big screens. It was no problem to eat and drink in the tournament buffet even between rounds, but there was also the main hotel restaurant and even a McDonalds, situated some 100m away from the Mercure hotel. The media were present throughout the whole of the tournament. Organizers put every possible effort into helping invited foreign players find a hotel - this resulted in the fact that I didn't even see the town of Dordrecht, because it was not necessary for me to leave the hotel. But I was very happy to see such a tournament. Chess organizers in other countries who plan to put on something similar can be strongly advised to visit one of the next Open Dutch Blitzchess Marathon, to see how it's done in Dordrecht.

In this issue's CBV file I provide first board games (source – the tournament site blitzchess.nl), and also some of the relatively more sensible of my games that I was able to reconstruct after the tournament end. Apart from the event site, nice reports with photos are available at chessbase.com and schakers.info.

One more blitz game ...

Luc Vanstreels –Mikhail Golubev
Event: blitz game Eynatten, 02.2003



This position occurred in a blitz game that I played recently in the Eynatten, Belgium chess club. At this point, we found that the chess clock wasn't working properly, and started to analyse, instead of play.

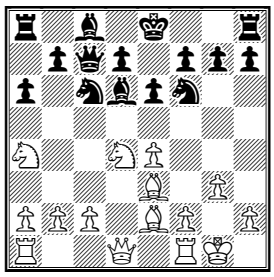
29.♖c7 ♖e8 30.d6 ♖e6 31.♗c4 ♘g4+ 32.fxg4 ♕c2+ 33.♔xh3 ♕xc4 34.♕f5+ ♔g8 35.♕xg5+ ♘g6 36.♖xc4 ♖e3+ And draw. Is chess not beautiful?

Annotated Game

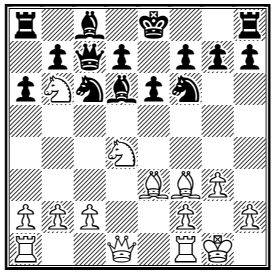
□ **V Bologan (2630)**
■ **Z Granda (2623)**
Event: Aeroflot Open Moscow (9), 19.02.2003 B49

Annotations: **GM Mikhail Golubev**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e2 a6 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♗e3 ♗b4
At the highest level in modern chess, Black often declines the chance to play classical Scheveningen positions, which arise after 8...d6. This is a matter of fashion, the Scheveningen is not yet refuted of course!
9.♘a4 ♗d6 10.g3



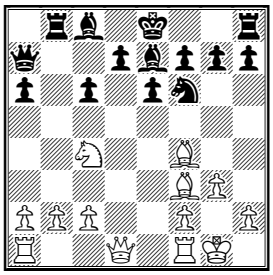
This subvariation clearly has theoretical value. In 2000, Anand, defeated Shirov with it in the FIDE Wch Final.
10...♘xe4
I would prefer to call this move dubious, but will limit myself to 'risky'. Anand's move was 10...b5. It so happened that I witnessed one of the most important recent games on this topic: 11.♘b6 ♖b8 12.♘xc8 ♖xc8 13.c4! *(13.a4* occurred in Shirov–Anand, FIDE Wch Final New Delhi/Teheran 2000.*)* 13...♘xd4 14.♗xd4 bxc4 15.♖c1 ♕b8 16.♗xc4± Svidler–Macieja, Bundesliga 2002/2003. Peter Svidler won that game, and later said that he found 13.c4 in the same way he finds all his best novelties, during the game!
11.♗f3 ♘f6
11...f5 12.♗xe4 fxe4 13.♘xc6 ♕xc6 14.♘b6 ♖b8 15.♕h5+ g6 16.♕h6 ♗e5 17.♗f4 ♗xf4?! 18.♕xf4 d6 19.♘xc8 ♖xc8 20.♕f6± was Smejkal–Spassov, Oerebro 1966.
12.♘b6!



This is a new and interesting move; earlier occurred 12.c4.
12...♖b8
After 12...♕xb6 13.♘xe6 it is clear without variations that White gets an extremely dangerous attack for a piece.
13.♘xc6 bxc6
Clearly better for White is 13...dxc6?! 14.♘c4 ♔e7 15.♗b6 ♕d7 16.♗a7±
14.♘c4 ♗e7!
Probably the correct decision – other

moves give White a direct attack: 14...♔e7?! 15.♕e2! followed by ♖ad1.; or 14...♗e5?! 15.♘xe5 *(15.♗c5 d5!; 15.♖e1!?)* 15...♕xe5 16.♗f4 ♕xb2 17.♕d6!? ♖b7 18.♗e3.

15.♗f4 ♕a7



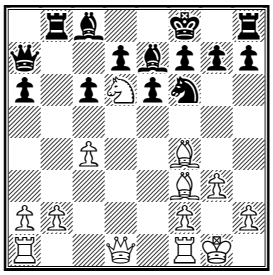
16.♘d6+!?

This is also correct, at least from a practical point of view. After grabbing the exchange by 16.♗xb8 ♕xb8∞ White's initiative evaporates.

16...♔f8!

16...♗xd6?! is extremely dangerous for Black, e.g. 17.♕xd6 *(17.♗xd6 ♖xb2 18.♗a3 ♕b8!)* 17...♖xb2 18.♖ab1 ♕b7 *(18...♕b6 19.♗e3 ♕b5 20.♗c5 ♔d8 21.♕e7+ ♔c7 22.c4+−)* 19.♗xc6 dxc6 20.♖xb2 ♕xb2 21.♕xc6+ ♗d7 22.♕a8+ ♔e7 23.♕xh8+−

17.c4



White has obvious long-term compensation, but it's also obvious that the fate of the struggle is not yet decided.

17...♘e8?

A mistake, which is difficult to explain. Black should avoid the exchange by any means possible, hoping to defend and keep his extra pawn.

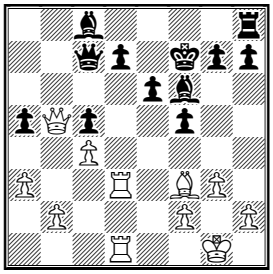
18.♘xe8 ♔xe8 19.♗xb8 ♕xb8 20.♖b1±

In this position Black has insufficient compensation for his small material loss – and even castling is no longer possible.

20...c5

Normally, Black should try to play ...d5 in such a structure, but how is he to do that with his king in the centre? White then would have chances to open the position and develop an attack quickly.

21.a3 a5 22.♕a4 ♕c7 23.♖fd1 f5 24.♖d3 ♔f7 25.♕b5 ♗f6 26.♖bd1



26...♖d8?

Not an obvious, but an important mistake, which Bologan confidently exploits. 26...♗d4 was correct. White is better after 27.b4 *(or 27.♖xd4!?)* 27...axb4 28.axb4, but a lot of play is ahead.

27.♖d6! ♗d4 28.♖1xd4! cxd4 29.c5

If White can take on d4 calmly, he will get a dominating position with equal material. Granda Zuniga decides to defend the pawn, but this way loses even faster.

29...e5?! 30.♕c4+! ♔e7

Or 30...♔f8 31.♗h5! g6 32.♗xg6 hxg6 33.♖f6+ wins. Maybe this was what Black missed when he made his 29th move.

31.♕d5 ♖e8 32.♕xe5+ 1-0

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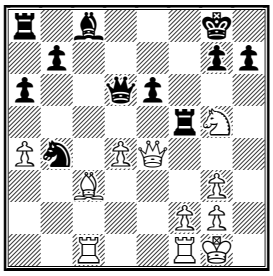
CT-52(836) 21st February 2003

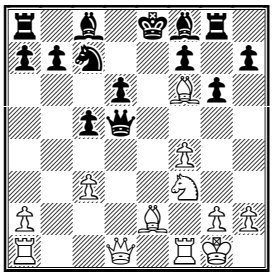
Quiz Today

Sarthou (2375) – Lucchetti (2181)
National I Montpellier FRA (3)
02.02.2003



White to play

Song – Stuart (2215)
Open Auckland NZL (9), 31.01.2003



White to play

The following interview was conducted via e-mail shortly after the Dutch blitz championship, where both Grandmasters took part. The questions by GM Golubev are in italics.

GM Yasser Seirawan

Interview with Yasser Seirawan by Mikhail Golubev

Dear Yasser, you initiated the Chess Unity Plan back in 2002. The biggest recent problem – Ruslan Ponomariov's involvement in the process – seems to be solved now. Are you satisfied with the current standing of the Unity Plan? Do you consider that the chess world has had to pay a certain price for the unification?

Dear Mikhail, It is my pleasure to answer your questions and to try and bring some satisfaction to your readers. The road to unity in chess has been very difficult, requiring the goodwill of all parties concerned. As expected, problems have hampered the effort, yet I remain hopeful that it will succeed.

First, we should put World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov's position in perspective: on the one hand he is very fortunate that the effort to unify the chess world has occurred 'on his watch'. Without the unity effort, he would face being placed in Round One of the next FIDE World Knock-Out Championship. While he could be expected to win a handsome prize, mathematically, his chance to repeat his performance as World Champion is very slim. Indeed, it is the randomness of the format that I and others have criticized, that paved the way to the new double-elimination format proposed by GM Khalifman in Prague. Being 'forced' to play a World Championship match for a one million dollar prize fund against the World's best-known player, Garry Kasparov, is quite a fortunate happenstance. On the other hand, as World Champion, Ruslan has certain rights. He is putting his title at stake ahead of his expected challenge of a December 2003 Knock-out event. If he were to lose the match to Kasparov, he would no longer be World Champion and would lose certain commercial advantages. Ruslan

therefore felt quite justified in making certain demands.

I was fearful that the draw-odds and time-control demands would be insurmountable. I was therefore quite relieved to read that Ruslan and FIDE President Kirsan Iljumzhinov were able to meet and overcome these differences. I've also read that this match is to take place in Buenos Aires during a timeframe and for a prize-fund formula suitable for Ruslan. So both parties compromised and I congratulate Ruslan and Kirsan for making their effort. As a chess fan, I look forward to an exciting Ponomariov versus Kasparov match!

Regarding the Kramnik versus Leko, Classical Chess World Championship match, I don't have any information. I've read that two cities are being considered but little else. The Prague Agreement envisioned two World Championship matches in the May 2003 time frame and a unification match in October 2003, completing the first cycle. This would be followed by a Knockout tournament in December 2003 for new challengers to emerge in a second cycle. If the Kramnik - Leko match gets postponed there will be to many practical problems to overcome and the possibility of unity in 2003 will simply slip away.

So, a mixed picture. A lot of time has passed since Prague and I would have liked to have seen much more progress made. Yes, the whole chess world paid a price for uniting the chess world. Whether one likes the FIDE Knockout tournament or not, the format had the huge advantage of confirming a World Champion at its conclusion within a very short period of time. While grandmasters will be able to compete for the FIDE World Championship Title in 2003, the process of Candidate Matches means that 2005 is the earliest date for a grandmaster other than Ponomariov, Kramnik, Kasparov or Leko to be crowned. That is indeed quite a price to pay. Yet at the end of the day, it is absolutely imperative for sponsors, organizers, players and fans that unity is achieved so that chess can grow.

A few days ago world top Grand-masters, including Kramnik and Shirov, published an open letter in TWIC-432, discussing the current situation with the GM Steering Committee. What is your view on that?

It is hard work to build up something over time and create something concrete and positive. Ask Utut Adianto of Indonesia, Eugene Torre of the Philippines, Miguel Quinteros of Argentina or Joel Lautier of France, if you don't believe me. Signing an open letter is easy. Especially, if you didn't even have to write it yourself. Frankly, criticism comes far to easily for chess grandmasters. This is due to the great amount of frustration and disillusion-ment that is rampant amongst professional chess players. I tried very hard to get grandmasters to agree to **serve** on the GM Steering Committee. The reality is that there was a ballot, a vote and an election of a GM Steering Committee in Bled. I am very grateful to my colleagues who agreed to **serve**.

Unfortunately, the very reason for the GM Steering Committee has been put to question. The Prague Agreement envisioned a GM Steering Committee that would help construct the rules of the cycle and represent the players. Indeed there were a lot of discussions about a Players Health & Benefit Fund amongst other promising ideas that the GM Steering Committee would try to develop. In Bled, a FIDE World Chess Championship Committee (WCCC) of three persons, Georgios Makropoulos, Zurab Azmaiparashvili and Israel Gelfer were appointed. So the role of the Steering Committee has been largely usurped. We are not "steering" the cycle at this time.

I challenge any of the writers of the open letter to take my place on the GM Steering Committee and to work

for positive change. Then with great delight I too can play the role of critic just as unfairly as them. To make changes, small positive steps are required. Let's create a structure where folks can serve, let us create a process where they can be elected and then go ahead and make our sport better for all. 2004 is fast approaching for the Spanish Minorca Olympiad where we will have new elections. I welcome candidates to apply now! Perhaps, our top 200 GMs would even care to vote? At least we can hope.

I should also say, there seems to be a great deal of 'fear' within this open letter. Fear that the members of the GM Steering Committee will leverage their roles and duties for personal gain. Furthermore, there seems to be a concern that somehow there is a 'permanency' to such a structure. Goodness gracious, nothing could be further from the truth! We are not a GMA creating events. We are an advisory body trying to encourage positive change. In the worse case, we make a collective mistake. A terrible possibility to be sure, but hardly a tragedy. Mistakes can be undone! At best, we can 'force' the adoption of such things as Khalifman's double-elimination, agreement about the types of time controls, titles, ratings and other aspects vital to the financial well-being of our top players. Let me be clear: without a GM Steering Committee, or a similar body, we will have nothing at all. Open letters will be a shout for attention and then it will fade away. I should also like to add that I will not be the President or the Chairman of the GM Steering Committee. I've offered to be the Secretary (a most disagreeable post) in order to lessen the workload for others. As soon as we meet and elect ourselves – provided we have a job to perform – an agenda and an open discussion can ensue.

Well at least I'm grateful **for** their open letter. My colleagues are sharing their concerns and show that they **do care** about their sport. I dislike the 'silent majority' and much prefer a boisterous crowd!

Do you see any chances to force world top 200 players to complete the poll on professional time control? As I know, you invested a lot of time and energy in this project.

This is a prime example of the disillusionment that exists amongst the top players. I as well as other members of the GM Steering Committee, worked very hard to get the views of our colleagues about the time controls, for example. Many couldn't be bothered to answer. Others answered that their voice wouldn't be heard and that they wouldn't be a party to a 'sham' vote. Yet, the vast majority of the players who deigned to vote DID show their strong support for a Professional or Classical time control. The WCCC in its regulations recommendations, accepted the time control of 40/2, 20/1, Game/15 + 30 Seconds. So this was a **great** achievement. Yet, the thanks for this success from my colleagues has been remarkably muted. Good deeds go unmentioned. This is not a prescription for creating positive change and encouraging folks to work hard. 'Forcing' players to do something, even something that **benefits** them and their sport, such as a proper dress code, is sure to provoke the ire of the players. It seems like a no-win situation, which makes me very sad.

During the FIDE Congress in Bled in 2002 some information emerged, claiming that you might take an official position within FIDE. What is the current situation with your involvement in FIDE's work?

For clarity, I have no official position within FIDE. Nor was I offered a FIDE position. The offer was to work on behalf of FIDE Commerce, a for-profit company that has the commercial rights of FIDE, but is an independent entity. FIDE Commerce is undergoing a major restructuring and I have no

position within it. Mr. Berik Balgabaev has been performing the duties and responsibilities of FIDE Commerce President for the past few months following Bled. For those unfamiliar with him, he was the chief organizer of the Russia versus the Rest of the World match, which was a wonderful competition that was organized very well. If he is as successful within FIDE Commerce as he was with the Russia versus ROW event, good things can happen!

Recently you were a commentator at the Kasparov vs. Deep Junior match in New York. Could you tell us what surprised you more – the ...Bxh2+ sacrifice played by Deep Junior or the result of 12 year old Karjakin vs. Shirov, Karpov, Pilgar and Ponomariov in Benidorm in late 2002?

I must say that working as a commentator during the Kasparov–Junior match was a pleasure. The games were simply great. I enjoyed the first five games immensely and the sixth game was shaping up to be a fascinating battle. The audience was disappointed by the premature peace agreement, as was I. Kasparov was fighting the ghosts of computers past as well as his own form. Objectively, Kasparov should have won this match by a convincing score, but as all chess players know, the hardest thing to do is win a won position and his slips in games two and three haunted him. I must also mention that my co–host, GM Maurice Ashley was terrific and the star of our commentary team. Erudite and witty, Maurice made the whole experience a lot of fun! In short, the match occupied my attention. I found Junior's Bxh2+ sacrifice astonishing – a tremendous breakthrough in computer programming. When one thinks about computers as routinely defeating the very best players in the world, I envision such types of chess where the human player is overwhelmed by the calculative requirement of combinative sacrifices. The advances in computer chess is exciting to behold.

On 15th of February I witnessed your victory, shared with Ivan Sokolov and Jan Timman, in the Dutch Open Blitz Championship. What are the current ambitions of Yasser Seirawan as a player? Do you plan to play in World Chess championships?

For a few years I have been thinking of joining the exodus of grandmasters, leaving the sport. After selling *Inside Chess* magazine to the Chess Cafe website in September 2001, I was well on my way to an early retirement. I wanted to give a parting gift to the chess world as thanks for all the wonderful things that chess has given me. I could think of no finer thanks than to try and help unify the chess world. If I could stimulate that process, I could then give a kind and graceful wave goodbye. At the time, I had the feeling of being a champion of lost causes. I was greatly uplifted by Bessel Kok, Erik Anderson and Dato Tan Chin Nam in the whole process and if not for their encouragement I wouldn't have initiated the effort. I was happily relieved as others stepped forward playing constructive roles. A key figure, FIDE President Kirsan Iljumzhinov, seized the opportunity and embraced it. At certain times, he could easily have been derailed and given up. But he persevered and made a huge difference in crafting an agreement.

My exit was delayed as the process took a lot longer then I had expected! A lot more effort as well. More or less after Bled, I realized that I had nursed the process as far as I could. I had an obligation to America' s Foundation For Chess (AFFC) to compete in the US Championships in January and to my Hilversum Dutch League Chess Club. Once the Dutch League is finished in May 2003, then I can withdraw myself satisfied that I've done my best. I will certainly follow events in the chess world and lend a supporting hand where I'm able. Unfortunately, I have to be realistic about chess. Sponsors have been disappearing for years and I see this

decline as continuing. If unification succeeds then chess has every reasonable expectation of growing and I may yet reverse my intended course.

Solution to Quiz Today

1. **23.♗xb4! ♕xb4 24.♖xc8+! ♖xc8 25.♕xe6+ 1-0**

2. **14.♗b5+! ♗d7 15.♖e1+ ♕e6 16.♖xe6+ fxe6 17.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 18.c4 ♖e8 19.♕a4+ ♔c8 20.♕xa7 ♗e7 21.♗xe7 ♖xe7 22.♖b1 ♘a6 23.♕a8+ ♘b8 24.♘g5 h6 25.♘e4 ♖d8 26.♖b6 ♖ed7 27.♘xd6+ 1-0**

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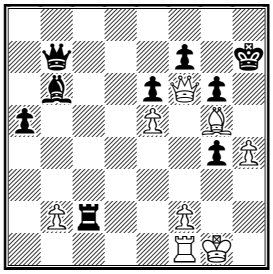
CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin

CT-53(837) 22nd February 2003

Quiz Today: Lugovoi – Lastin



White to play

After round 3, Bartlomiej Macieja, Ivan Sokolov, Viktor Korchnoi, Alexei Shirov and Michael Adams share the lead at The Hrokurinn Chess Festival in Reykjavik with 2 out of 3.

Round 3 results:
McShane – Shirov – ½:½;
Stefansson – Macieja – ½:½;
Gretarsson, Helgi Ass – Adams 0–1
Kristjansson – Korchnoi – ½:½;
Bacrot – Sokolov, Ivan 0–1 (The Shirov–Bacrot game from round 2 is today's annotated game.)

The opening ceremony and drawing of lots at the traditional Linares Supertournament (XX category) was held on the 21st of February 2003. Round one starts on the 22nd of February. This is a double round robin tournament. Players include Garry Kasparov, Vladimir Kramnik, Vis-wanathan Anand, Peter Leko, Ruslan Ponomariov, Francisco Vallejo Pons and Teimour Radjabov.

The 19th Capelle La Grande International Open takes place 22nd February to 1st March 2003. Invited players include Alexander Moiseenko, Karen Asrian, Artyom Timofeev, Zahar Efimenko, Eduardas Rozentalis, Suat Atalik, Edvins Kengis, Thomas Luther, etc.

Maxim Notkin is preparing a big exciting report on the Aeroflot Open tomorrow. Don't miss it!

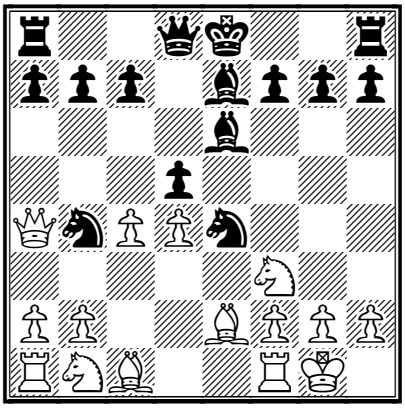
Annotated Game

□ **A Shirov (2723)**
■ **E Bacrot (2671)**
Event: Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (2), 19.02.2003 – C42

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♗d3 ♘c6 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.c4 ♘b4 9.♗e2 ♗e6

Instead of ♗e6, Anand castled against Kasparov in Linares 2000 and drew, 9...0–0 10.♘c3 b6 11.a3 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 ♘c6 13.cxd5 ♕xd5 14.♖e1 ♗b7 15.♗d3 ♖ae8 16.c4 ♕d8 17.d5 ♘b8 18.♕c2 g6 19.♘e5 ♗f6 20.♗b2 ♘d7 21.f4 ♗g7 22.♕f2 ♘c5 23.♗c2 ♕d6 24.♖e3 f6 25.♘g4 ♖xe3 26.♕xe3 ♗c8 27.f5 ♗xf5 28.♗xf5 gxf5 29.♘f2 ♘e4 30.♘xe4 ½–½



10.♕a4+N

This is an interesting novelty. Shirov is usually considered to be an outstanding generator of chess combinations, but he has also shown a lot of examples of how he can play the end game brilliantly. That's why the early queen exchange should come as no surprise. The following has been played before 10.♘c3

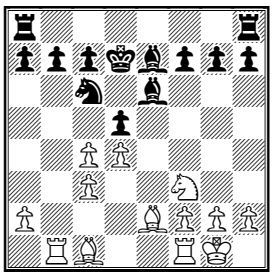
10...♕d7 11.♕xd7+ ♔xd7

Shirov's next opponent will know what he had in mind for 11...♗xd7

12.♘c3 ♘xc3

A careless move. Stronger was 12...♘f6

13.bxc3 ♘c6 14.♖b1

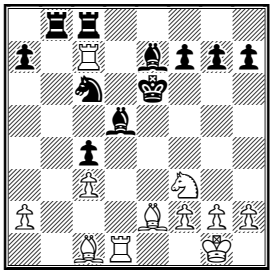


The d5-square is not safe, the Black king is in the centre, White has a proactive rook on the b-file. These combine to give White an advantage.

14...dxc4 15.d5!

Alexey does not miss the opportunity to lure out the Black king.

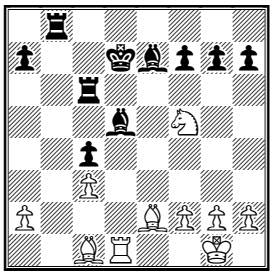
15...♗xd5 16.♖d1 ♔e6 17.♖xb7 ♖ab8 18.♖xc7 ♖hc8



19.♖xc6+

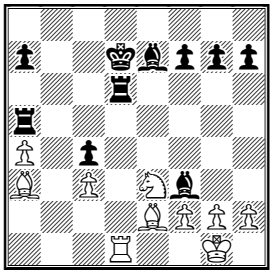
19.♘g5+ ♗xg5 20.♖xc8 ♖xc8 21.♗xg5 White is two bishops up, but he is not happy yet.

19...♖xc6 20.♘d4+ ♔d7 21.♘f5



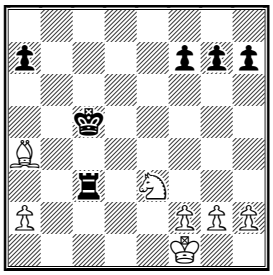
21...♖b1

White's combination is wonderful anyway, but Bacrot lost a very beautiful opportunity here: 21...♖b5! 22.a4 ♖a5 23.♘e3 ♖d6 24.♗a3 ♗f3!!



Black survives thanks to this unexpected blow! But, of course, it was not easy to find it three moves ago. 25.♗xf3 ♖xd1+ 26.♗xd1 ♗xa3 27.♘xc4 ♖d5 28.♗g4+ f5 29.♘e3 ♖c5 30.♗xf5+ with a possible draw

22.♘xe7 ♖xc1 23.♘xd5 ♖xd1+ 24.♗xd1 ♖d6 25.♘e3 ♖d3 26.♗a4+ ♔d6 27.♘xc4+ ♔c5 28.♘e3 ♖xc3 29.♔f1



The smoke has cleared, White has a material advantage and manages to turn it into a win by move 54.

29...g6 30.♔e2 ♔d4 31.♘c2+ ♔e4 32.♗b3 f5 33.h4 f4 34.♘e1 ♔f5 35.♘f3 ♖c7 36.♔d3 h6 37.♔d4 g5 38.♗c4 ♖d7+ 39.♗d5 ♖c7 40.hxg5 hxg5 41.♗e4+ ♔f6 42.♘e5 ♖c1 43.♘d3 ♖c2 44.a4 ♖a2 45.♗c6 ♖c2 46.♔d5 g4 47.♘xf4 ♖xf2 48.g3 ♔f5 49.♗d7+ ♔g5 50.♘e6+ ♔h5 51.♘c5 ♖f3 52.♘e4 ♖d3+ 53.♔e5 ♖a3 54.♗e8+ 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today 38.♗h6!+- 1-0

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CHESS TODAY
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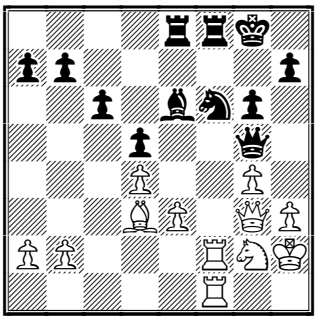
CT-54(838) 23rd February 2003

Quiz Today: *Sokolov (2688) – McShane (2568) Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (4), 21.02.2003*



White to play

Today we have plenty of interesting news to report as the Linares Supertournament has just started. The first round saw Kramnik paired with Kasparov. Kramnik thought that he had obtained nothing in the opening (Queen's Gambit Accepted) and suggested a draw on move 18. According to Emil Sutovsky White had a slight advantage in the final position and should have played for a win.

Anand outplayed Ponomariov in a better ending, demonstrating brilliant technical skill. In a Berlin Wall, White's knights were omnipresent. Radjabov was attacking Leko with White in the Petrosian System of the Queen's Indian and had good winning chances but the Hungarian managed to defend and won in the ending.

Round 1 results:
Kramnik – Kasparov ½:½
Anand – Ponomariov 1:0
Radjabov – Leko 0:1

Hrokurinn Chess Club Tournament in Reykjavik.
Alexey Shirov has taken sole lead after two victories over the local players. In the 4th round Macieja beat Korchnoi but on the next day the veteran recovered completely defeating none other than Michael Adams.

Round 4 results:
Macieja – Korchnoi 1:0
Sokolov – McShane 1:0
Shirov – Gretarsson 1:0
Adams – Kristjansson 1:0
Stefansson – Bacrot ½:½

Round 5 results:
Bacrot – Macieja ½:½
McShane – Stefansson 1:0
Gretarsson – Sokolov ½:½
Kristjansson – Shirov 0:1
Korchnoi – Adams 1:0

Round 5 standings:
1. Shirov – 4
2-3. Macieja, Sokolov – 3½
4-5. Korchnoi, Adams – 3
6. McShane – 2½
7. Stefansson – 2
8-9. Gretarsson, Bacrot – 1½
10. Kristjansson –½

As you already know, the GM Viorel Bologan of Moldova (for the Western public they use the more ordinary name Victor) has won the Aeroflot-open on tie-break (average ELO of the opponents) sharing first place with Alexey Aleksandrov and Alexey Fedorov (both from Byelorussia and good friends to each other) and Peter Svidler of Russia.

Today we will talk about the winners but let me first give you the results of all those who won a prize in this giant event (there were 36 in total). Even at the end of this list you will find well-known names. And you wouldn't discover the ELO-favourite Alexander Grischuk among them. He has made a lot of draws and lost the final game scoring a humble '+1'. Imagine how strong the tournament was!

The final standings:
1-4. Bologan, Aleksandrov, Fedorov, Svidler – 7
5-10. Najer, Galkin, Rublevsky, Sakaev, Dreev, Smirnov – 6½
11-28. Ulibin, Dolmatov, Moiseenko,

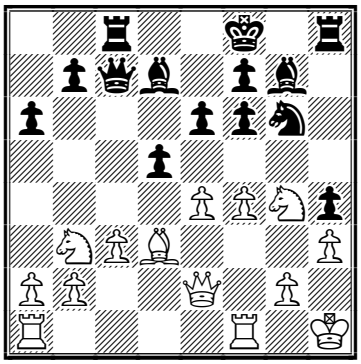
Bu Xiangzhi, Savchenko, Gagunashvili, Sutovsky, Kaidanov, Lugovoi, Morozevich, Popov, Mamedyarov, Kobalia, Shomoev, Tkachev, Khenkin, Granda Zuniga, Timoshenko – 6
29–55. Romanishin, Nataf, Sadvakasov, Lerner, Efimenko, Kovchan, Smirin, Frolyanov, Van Wely, Lautier, Malakhov, Jussupov, Morovic Fernandez, Ovetchkin, Sorokin, Tregubov, Al Sayed, Ionov, Landa, Motylev, Belov, Milov, Izoria, Adianto, Yurtaev, Burmakin – 5½, etc.

Viorel Bologan
Born December 14, 1971. ELO 2630. The winner of Jurmala (1991), Novgorod open (1995), New York open (1997), Keres Memorial in Tallinn (1998), Belfort (1999), Minsk zonal tournament (2000), Shanghai (2000), Poikovskij (2001), Pamplona (2001) and AEROFLOT-OPEN (2003).

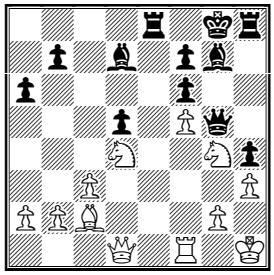
For the past few years Bologan has lived in Moscow. He has a beautiful wife (visit www.worldchessrating.com for the evidence) and a little daughter. Viorel plays professional, but at the same time creative, chess. He has scored many nice wins, which he willingly annotates for numerous magazines in Russia and abroad. As a winner of Aeroflot. Bologan will be taking part in the supertournament in Dortmund this year.

In CT-835 Mikhail Golubev annotated the game that brought Bologan victory in the Aeroflot. Today I offer to you a queen hunt.

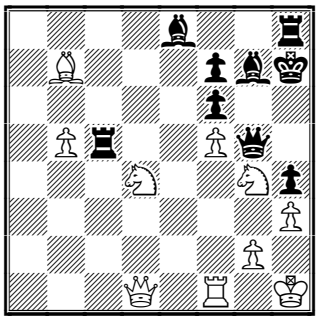
□ **V Bologan (2630)**
■ **V Milov (2592)**
Event: Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (7), 17.02.2003 – B61
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗g5 ♗d7 7.♕d2 ♖c8 8.♘b3 h6 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♗d3 ♗g7 11.0-0 h5 12.♔h1 h4 13.h3 a6 14.♘d5 e6 15.♘e3 ♕c7 16.f4 ♘e7 17.♕e2 ♘g6 18.♘g4 ♔f8 19.c3 d5



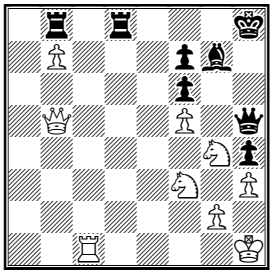
20.f5! ♘f4 21.♖xf4!
White gives up the exchange in order to drive the black queen into a corner.
21...♕xf4 22.♖f1 ♕g5
After 22...♕g3? 23.e5! fxe5 24.♖f3 the queen is trapped; the alternative was 22...♕d6 23.e5 *(23.fxe6 ♕xe6 24.♘d4)* 23...fxe5 24.f6 ♗h6 25.♘xe5 ♗g5 26.♘d4 and White has obvious compensation.
23.♘d4 exf5 24.exf5 ♖e8 25.♕d1 ♔g8 26.♗c2!



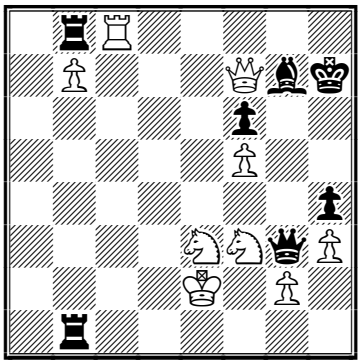
Actually none of the black pieces are able to improve their position. White plays as if he had a material advantage.
26...♗c6 27.b4 ♖e7 28.a4 ♔h7 29.b5 axb5 30.axb5 ♗e8 31.♗b3 ♖c7 32.♗xd5 ♖xc3 33.♗xb7
The first achievement – White has obtained a passed pawn.
33...♖c5



34.♕b1!
not 34.♕b3 ♕d2
34...♖c4
34...♕d2? 35.♘b3; probably 34...♗d7 was better trying to bring the king's rook into action.
35.♘f3 ♕h5
It's getting harder. 35...♕f4 didn't relieve the pressure in view of 36.♘fe5 ♖b4!? 37.♕e1! ♕d4 38.♘c6 ♗xc6 39.bxc6
36.b6 ♗c6 37.♗xc6 ♖xc6 38.♕b5?!
Stronger was 38.♕d1! ♖xb6 *(38...♕xf5 39.♘d4)* 39.♘d2! ♔g8 *(39...♕g5 40.♘e4)* 40.♘e4+− exploiting the desperate position of queen.
38...♖d6 39.♕c5 ♖dd8 40.b7 ♖b8 41.♖b1 ♖hd8 42.♕b5
Nothing has really changed as compared to the position after 25 moves.
42...♔h8 43.♘f2 ♗f8 44.♘g4 ♗g7 45.♖c1



45...♕h7
It seems the queen doesn't have much fun.
46.♔g1 ♕g8 47.♖c7 ♕f8
Her Majesty is almost back.
48.♕c4 ♖d1+
48...♔g8 49.♘xh4 ♖d1+ 50.♔f2
49.♔f2 ♕d6 50.♘e3! ♕g3+ 51.♔e2
The knights protect everything.
51...♖b1 52.♖c8+ ♔h7 53.♕xf7



53...♖b2+ 54.♔d1 ♕d6+
54...♖8xb7 55.♕g8+ ♔h6 56.♘g4++−
55.♔c1 ♖xg2 56.♘xg2 ♕a3+ 57.♔c2 ♕a4+ 58.♔d2
The checks will be over soon. Black resigned. **1−0**

Alexey Aleksandrov
Born May 11, 1973. ELO 2633.
The winner of Nikolaev zonal tournament (1993), Stockholm (1995), Minsk (1996), Zhukov Memorial (1996), Moscow (1996), Kstovo (1998), Petrov Memorial (2000), Krasnodar (2000).

It's plain to see from these statistics that the first peak of Aleksandrov's career was in 1996. Maybe we are witnessing a new rise. He's a good positional player with superior ending technique. Already in the mid 90's Aleksandrov scored many wins playing the Berlin Wall with Black. So in some sense he was a teacher of Kramnik ☺ Alexey is an expert in the Nimzo-Indian with White as well. His Aeroflot games got an abundant coverage in CT as he was always at the top. Let me make a reference to CT-832 & 833 and pass on to Alexey's compatriot and namesake.

Alexey Fedorov.
Born September 27, 1972. ELO 2579.
The winner of Chigorin Memorial (1996), Aars (1999). Two times Byelorussia champion.

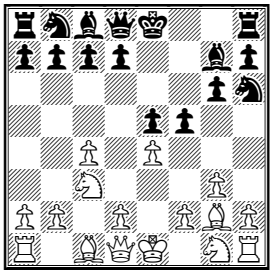
Despite a lack of first places in strong tournaments, Alexey almost reached 2700 status in 1999. That year he won a couple of events, then knocked out Gulko and Timman at the FIDE World Championship and then performed excellently at the European Team Championship in Batumi. His initial attempts to enter the 'high society' weren't successful. Fedorov failed in Polanica Zdroj and scored moderately in Wijk aan Zee. Chess fans have always liked Fedorov for his romantic style. Alexey plays The King's Gambit

and sharp Sicilian for White, Dragon and King's Indian for Black. At the Chigorin Memorial 1996 yours truly was checkmated in 20 moves in King's Gambit. By the way I'm proud to say that against both Bologan and Aleksandrov I have '+1'.

In the CT-834 Quiz you can see a sample of Fedorov's attacking play. Today I'd like to offer a rather fun game from the second round.

□ **A Minasian**
■ **A Fedorov**
Event: Aeroflot (2) - A21
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.c4 g6 2.g3 ♗g7 3.♗g2 e5 4.♘c3 f5 5.e4 ♘h6
A risky move.

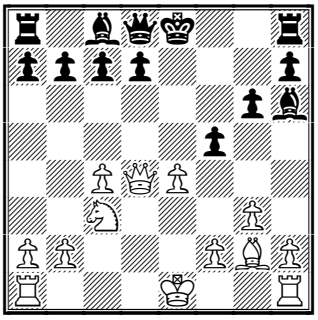


6.d4! ♘c6
The line 6...exd4 7.♗xh6 ♗xh6 8.♕xd4 0–0 9.exf5 is worse for Black than the game continuation because against 9...♕e7+ White has 10.♘ge2

7.♘f3
The variations 7.dxe5 ♘xe5 8.f4 *(or 8.♗xh6 ♗xh6 9.f4 ♘g4 10.♕d4)* ; and 7.d5 ♘d4 8.♘ge2 are reasonable alternatives

7...♘xd4!
Bad is 7...exd4? 8.♗g5! ♗f6 *(8...♘e7? 9.♘d5)* 9.♗xf6 ♕xf6 10.♘d5 ♕d8 11.♘xd4±

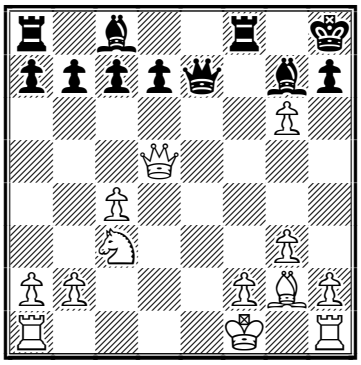
8.♘xd4 exd4 9.♗xh6 ♗xh6 10.♕xd4



10...0-0 11.exf5 ♕e7+
Of course not 11...♖xf5? 12.♗d5+

12.♔f1
I believe the king would have stood better on the queenside - 12.♔d1 followed by Kc2, Rad1, Rhe1. Now the h1 rook is out of play.

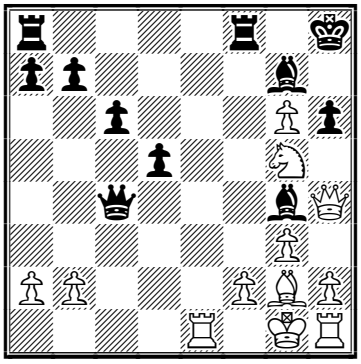
12...♗g7 13.♕d5+ ♔h8 14.fxg6



14...c6!?
14...♕f6 15.♕d2 ♕xg6 was more cautious but it's not Fedorov's style.

15.♕h5 h6 16.♖e1 ♕b4 17.♘e4?
White should have taken care of the c4-pawn - 17.♕e2 b6 18.♗e4 ♗a6 19.♗d3

17...♕xc4+ 18.♔g1 d5 19.♘g5 ♗g4 20.♕h4



20...♖xf2!
Playing against Fedorov you should always be ready for such tricks.

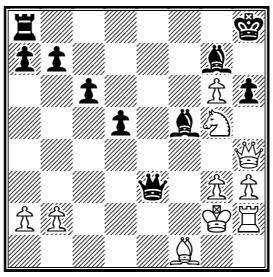
21.h3
21.♔xf2 ♗d4+ 22.♖e3 ♕e2+ 23.♔g1 ♗xe3#

21...♕c2! 22.♖h2
Isn't it funny?

22...♕d2 23.♖f1
23.♖b1 ♗d1! 24.♖xd1 ♕xd1+ 25.♔xf2 ♗d4+ winning the queen

23...♖xf1+ 24.♗xf1
24.♔xf1 ♕d1+ 25.♔f2 ♗d4#

24...♕e3+ 25.♔g2 ♗f5



It's time to reap the harvest.

26.♘f3 ♗e4 27.♕f4 ♕b6 28.♕d2 ♖f8 29.♗e2 ♕xb2 30.♕xb2 ♗xb2 31.♖h1 c5

White resigned. He's completely helpless against a pair of bishops and a pair of passed pawns. **0-1**

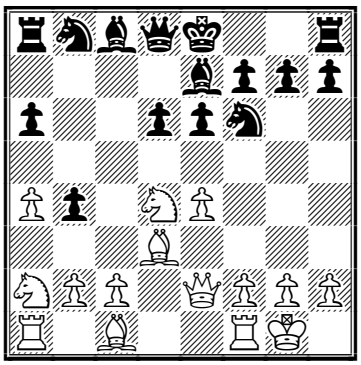
Peter Svidler.
Born June 17, 1976. ELO 2690.
Three times Russian champion (1994, 1995, 1997). Also shared the first place in the Russian Championship in 1998. The semi-finalist of FIDE World Championship 2001. The winner (or co-winner) of Novosibirsk (1995), Nordic Grand Prix (1997), Tilburg (1997), Dortmund (1998), Biel (2000), North Sea Cup (2000).

One of the most friendly and communicable grandmasters in the world. Without doubt Peter is an elite player. In the above-mentioned Tilburg-1997 tournament, he shared first place with Kasparov and Kramnik. Unfortunately the existing system of supertournaments (if you're not 2700 they don't regard you as a man) deprives him of the events he certainly deserves to play in. As far as I know his current ELO has exceeded the 'magic number' and maybe Svidler will get the invitations at last. To catch up with the leaders of the Aeroflot he needed to win his four final games in a row. As you can guess, he did it! ☺

Before I show his game from the penultimate round I'd like to remind you (or to let you know) that Peter is a happy father of twins. Without this information the story would be incomplete.

□ **L Fressinet (2593)**
■ **P Svidler (2693)**
Event: Aeroflot Open Moscow RUS (8), 18.02.2003 B43
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♘c3 b5 6.♗d3 d6 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♕e2 ♗e7 9.a4 b4 10.♘a2



10...e5!

A good novelty. After 10...a5 11.c3 e5 12.♗b5+! ♔f8 *(12...♗d7 13.♘f5)* 13.♘b3 White has an edge.

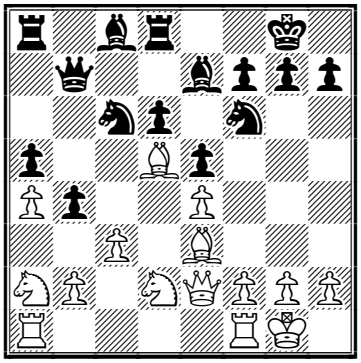
11.♘b3 ♘c6 12.♗g5 0-0 13.♗c4 a5 14.c3 ♕b6

Black is playing for the Na2 restriction.

15.♗e3 ♕b7 16.♘d2 ♖d8

16...♗e6 was more precise.

17.♗d5!?



17...♗f8!?

17...♘xd5 18.exd5 ♘b8 19.c4 followed by b2-b3, Rae1, Nc1-d3 is in White's favour.

18.♗xc6

18.c4!?

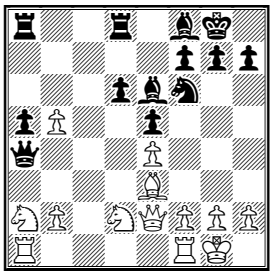
18...♕xc6 19.cxb4 ♕xa4

In case of 19...♘xe4 20.♖fc1 ♕b7 21.bxa5 ♖xa5 22.b4! White gets a pair of dangerous passed pawns as 22...♖xa4? loses to 23.♘xe4 ♕xe4 24.♘c3

20.b5

After 20.♗b6! Black can play for counterplay, sacrificing a pawn – 20...♖d7 (or try to equalize in the ending *20...♗a6 21.♕d1 ♕xd1 22.♖fxd1 ♖db8 23.bxa5 ♘d7)* 21.bxa5 ♗a6 22.♕d1! ♕b5 23.♕c2 d5

20...♗e6



21.b3!?

An interesting sacrifice. After 21.♘c3 ♕b4 White is unable to ensnare the queen.

21...♗xb3 22.♘xb3 ♕xb3 23.♗g5?!

Correct was 23.♖fb1 ♕e6 24.b6! ♘xe4 25.b7 ♖ab8 26.♗b6 *(26.♗a7 d5 27.♗xb8 ♖xb8∓)* 26...♖d7 27.♕xe4 ♖dxb7 28.♗a7! *(28.♗e3? ♕xa2!)* 28...♖xb1+ *(28...♕xa2? 29.♗xb8)* 29.♖xb1 d5 30.♕c2 ♖xb1+ 31.♕xb1 d4 though Black's pawns look terrifying.

23...d5! 24.♖fb1?!

24.♗xf6 gxf6 25.exd5 ♕xd5∓

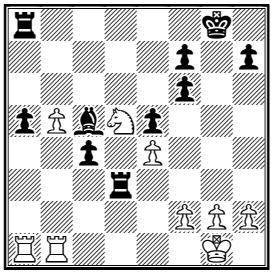
24...♕c4 25.♕xc4 dxc4

Two pawns are better than one.

26.♘c3 ♖d3 27.♗xf6

27.♖c1 ♖xc3! 28.♖xc3 ♘xe4 29.♖xc4 ♘xg5

27...gxf6 28.♘d5 ♗c5!



29.♖c1

To take on f6 is a waste of time because of 29.♘xf6+ ♔g7 30.♘d5 a4 31.b6 ♖b3 32.b7 ♖b8; after 29.b6!? ♗d4! 30.b7 *(30.♖a4 ♖b3!)* 30...♖b8 and then if **A)** then 31.♘e7+ ♔f8 32.♖xa5!? *(32.♘c6 ♖xb7! 33.♖xb7 ♗xa1)* 32...♔xe7 33.♖a8 then 33...♗a7! 34.♖xa7 c3 35.♖a2 ♖d7 36.♖c2 ♖dxb7 and the c3-pawn remains on the board; and if **B)** then 31.♖xa5 31...♖xb7! 32.♘xf6+ ♔g7 33.♘h5+ ♔h6 34.♖a6+ ♔xh5 35.g4+ ♔xg4 36.♖xb7 c3 and Black should win despite a loss of the exchange

29...♗d4 30.♖ab1 ♖b3! 31.b6 a4 32.♘xf6+ ♔g7 33.♘d7 a3 34.b7 ♖d8

34...♖d8 35.b8♕ ♖dxb8 36.♘xb8 a2–+

0-1

Solution to Quiz Today 28.♖xf6! ♖xf6 29.h4+-

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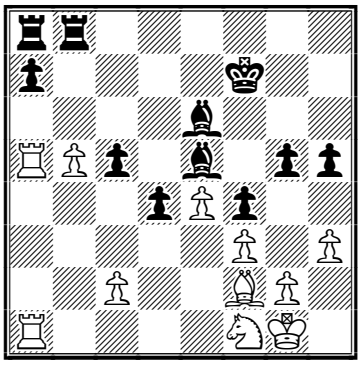
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-55(839) 24th February 2003

Quiz Today: Ponomariov (2734) – Kramnik (2807) B31 XX SuperGM Linares ESP (2), 23.02.2003



Black to play

Today is a day-off at the Hrokurinn Chess Club Tournament in Reykjavik. So today we focus totally upon Linares especially because the 2nd round saw some exciting events. The sensational Kasparov – Radjabov encounter is our Annotated game. What else is possible when a promising junior defeats World No.1?

Kramnik has gained revenge for his loss against Ponomariov in Wijk aan Zee. The Brain Games Champion solved all the opening problems and converted a pair of bishops into a point convincingly. The way Kramnik handled his pawns was amazing. The FIDE Champion is on 0/2.

Paco Vallejo played well against Anand. It seems after winning the exchange he had fulfilled his plan and a draw was agreed ☺ In the final position Paco could try to get more.

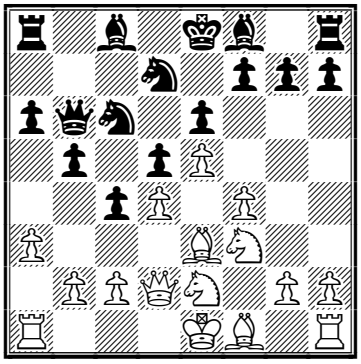
Round 2 results:
Kasparov – Radjabov 0:1
Ponomariov – Kramnik 0:1
Vallejo – Anand ½:½

It is difficult to asssess the standings in this tournament because of the unusual format of the tournament. Let's wait until the end of the first lap. After the second round Kramnik and Anand have 1½/2, Leko has 1/1, Radjabov 1/2, Vallejo ½/1, Kasparov ½/2, Ponomariov 0/2.

Annotated Game:-
French Defence Novelty

□ **Kasparov (2847)**
■ **Radjabov – (2624)**
Event: XX SuperGM Linares ESP (2), 23.02.2003- C11
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♗e3 a6 8.♕d2 b5 9.a3
Preventing b5-b4. In the early years of the exploration of this line it was thought that White couldn't allow this mass of queenside pawns. So the majority of games saw the exchange 9.dxc5. But then it was discovered that the advance of black pawns on the queenside, that we will see here, might favour White. Indeed it's not so easy for Black to progress after b5-b4 and c5-c4 if White's king is not there, while White has a clear idea of preparing f4-f5 which works better with the centre closed. Therefore even the provocative 9.♗d3 c4 10.♗e2 b4 11.♘d1 has been played. Kasparov isn't afraid of c5-c4 at all but prefers to impede b5-b4.
9...♕b6
9...♗b7 10.♗d3 was played in a game played by Kasparov's permanent assistant Yuri Dokhoian (Dokhoian – Vasiukov, Moscow 1990).
10.♘e2 c4 (N)



The original research commences. This position hasn't been seen before.

11.g4

I spoke a bit with the GM Emil Sutovsky about this game. He believes Kasparov could act more carefully – 11.g3 then Bg2, 0–0 and so on as Black is unable to achieve something special on the queenside. The text move allows Radjabov to begin counterplay.

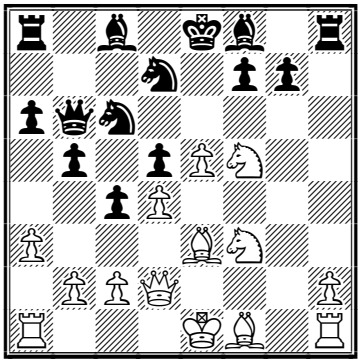
11...h5 12.gxh5

Not 12.g5? g6 and the kingside is closed forever.

12...♖xh5 13.♘g3 ♖h8 14.f5

Kasparov acts in the usual straightforward way for this position.

14...exf5 15.♘xf5



15...♘f6!

This was the idea behind Black's previous move. With the help of this trick Radjabov gets good squares for his pieces. Nevertheless it's early to talk about equality.

16.♘g3

Both 16.exf6 ♗xf5; and 16.♘xg7+ ♗xg7 17.exf6 ♗xf6 are harmless.

16...♘g4 17.♗f4 ♗e6

After 17...b4 18.axb4 ♕xb4 19.c3 White retains the advantage due to the weak pawn on d5.

18.c3 ♗e7

18...♘a5 19.♖d1 ♘b3 20.♕c2± – b3 is scarcely a better place for the knight than c6.

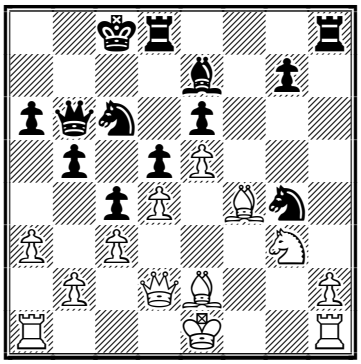
19.♘g5

19.h3 ♘h6 looks natural but I suppose Kasparov saw the position after his 23rd move from here regarding it as a favourable for White.

19...0–0–0

The dark-squared bishop is good and Radjabov doesn't give it up.

20.♘xe6 fxe6 21.♗e2!?



21...♘gxe5!?

In case of 21...♘xh2 or 21...♖xh2 22.♖xh2 ♘xh2 the knight will not find his way back home. Just a few moves ago Radjabov would have played here 21...♘h6 Now he finds a more active way.

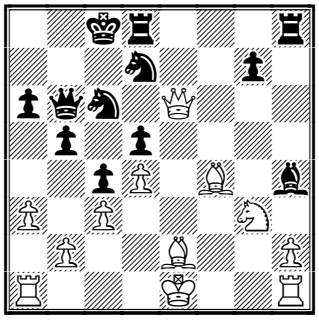
22.♕e3!

After 22.dxe5 d4; or 22.♗xe5 ♘xe5 23.dxe5 ♗c5 a position arises in which Kasparov would have preferred to be Black. A long-term initiative for a piece is secured.

22...♘d7?

Right was 22...♗d6! and if 23.dxe5 then again 23...♗c5 with compensation for the piece.

23.♕xe6 ♗h4



24.♕g4?

What has confused Kasparov in the line 24.♕xd5! ? Here's an example: 24...♖de8 25.0–0–0! ♗xg3 26.hxg3 ♖xh1 27.♖xh1 ♖xe2 28.♖h8+ ♘d8 29.♕a8+ ♘b8 30.♗xb8+–

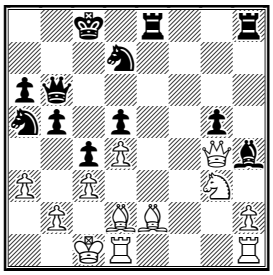
24...g5! 25.♗d2

25.♗xg5?! ♖dg8 and White loses the queen – 26.♕xh4 ♖xh4 27.♗xh4 Kasparov confessed he overlooked this simple line.

25...♖de8

Annoying threats appear...

26.0-0-0 ♘a5



27.♖df1??

A fatal mistake. Necessary was 27.♔b1 with an unclear position.

27...♘b3+ 28.♔d1 ♗xg3

Eliminating the knight which could go to f5 covering the dangerous diagonal.

29.♖f7

29.♕xg3 loses to 29...♕g6 30.♕xg5 ♕b1+ 31.♗c1 ♖hg8 32.♕f4 ♖e4 33.♕h6 ♖g6!; if 29.hxg3 then 29...♕g6 30.♗c1 ♕b1 31.♕xg5 ♘xc1 32.♕xc1 ♕e4!–+

29...♖d8 30.♗xg5 ♕g6! 31.♕f5

31.♖f5 ♖de8–+

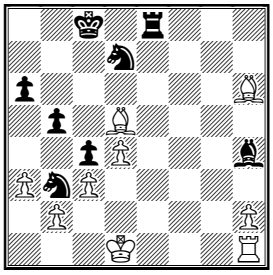
31...♕xf5 32.♖xf5 ♖df8 33.♖xf8+ ♘xf8 34.♗f3 ♗h4!

Stronger than 34...♖xh2 35.♖xh2 ♗xh2 36.♗xd5 and Black has a lot of technical problems.

35.♗e3

35.♗xh4 ♖xh4 36.♗xd5 ♘xd4!–+

35...♘d7 36.♗xd5 ♖e8 37.♗h6



37...♘dc5!

A nice realization!

38.♗f7 ♖e7 39.♗h5 ♘d3

Black has activated his pieces, further resistance is senseless. Kasparov resigned. **0-1**

Solution to Quiz Today 29...d3! 30.♖xa7+ ♔f6! 31.♖xa8 ♖xa8 32.♖xa8 32.♖c1 ♗b2 33.♖b1 dxc2 32...dxc2 33.♖f8+ ♔g6 34.♖e8 ♔f7 35.♖f8+!? ♔g6 35...♔xf8 36.♗xc5+ ♔f7 37.♗a3 36.♖e8 ♗c4 37.♖xe5 c1♕ 38.♖xc5 ♕xf1+ 39.♔h2 ♕xf2 40.♖xc4 g4 0–1

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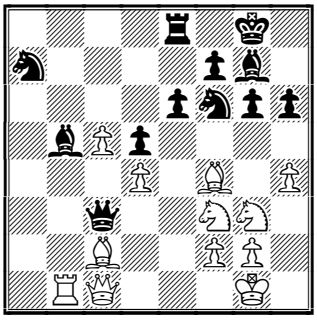
CT-56(840) 25th February 2003

Quiz Today

V. Korchnoi (2642) – M. Adams (2734) Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (5), 22.02.2003



White to play

Kramnik leads at Linares

The 3rd round of the Linares Super tournament (XX category) was played on the 24th of February 2003. All three games: Leko–Kasparov, Radjabov –Ponomariov, and Kramnik–Vallejo were drawn. Anand had a day–off.

Standings after 3 rounds:
1. Kramnik – 2.0 (3)*
2–4. Anand – 1.5(2), Radjabov – 1.5 (2), Leko –1.5 (2)
5–6. Kasparov – 1(3), Vallejo 1(2)
7. Ponomariov – 1 (3)

** (note: number between ( ) refers to the number of games played.)*

Pairings for the 25th of February:
Ponomariov–Leko
Vallejo–Radjabov
Anand–Kramnik
Kasparov will have a day off.

Please, see annotated game Ponomariov–Kramnik, played in Round 2.

The 12th International Paderborn Computer Chess Championship took place from the 19 to 23 February 2003. Fritz won this tournament with 5 out of 7. Yace came in second and Brutus took the third prize.

The 6th Malaga Open started on the 21st of February 2003. Players include
1. Sergei Tiviakov (NED) 2635
2. Oleg Korneev (RUS) 2613
3. Aimen Rizouk (ALG) 2519
4. Roberto Cifuentes Parada (ESP) 2506
5. Mihai Suba (ROM) 2501
6. Pia Cramling (SWE) 2492
7. Rodrigo Vasquez (CHI) 2481, etc.

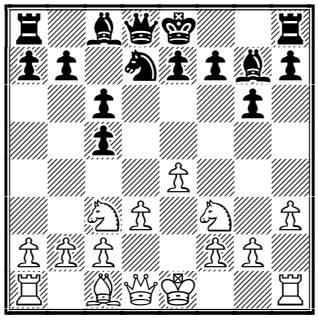
Round 5 standing:
1. Sergei Tiviakov – 5
2–5. Aimen Rizouk, Alexis Cabrera, Pia Cramling, Frank de la Paz – 4.5; etc.

Eight players are sharing the lead with 3/3 in the 19th CAPPELLE LA GRANDE INTERNATIONAL OPEN. They are Henrik Teske, Vladimir Burmakin, Alexander Shneider, Konstantin Aseev, Spartak Vysochin, Krzysztof Jakubowski; Philipp Schlosser and Aleksander Mista

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

☐ **R. Ponomariov (2734)**
■ **V. Kramnik (2807)**
Event: XX SuperGM Linares ESP (2), 23.02.2003 – ***[B31]***
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlasova
Kramnik won this game convincingly in revenge for his deafeat in Wijk–aan–Zee.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 5.h3 ♗g7 6.d3 ♘f6 7.♘c3 ♘d7 (D)



A well known variation of the Sicilian Defence that is still in fashion has arisen. The last move of the Black knight is the beginning of the journey on the itinerary: d7–f8–e6–d4. Black, however, is in no hurry to castle. It's in his interest to find out the intentions of the White king first.

8.♗e3 e5 9.♕d2 h6

Avoiding the exchange of the dark-squared bishops.

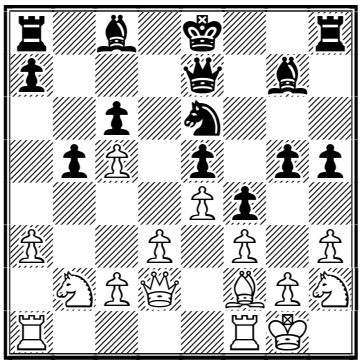
10.0–0 ♕e7 11.a3 ♘f8 12.b4 ♘e6 13.♘a4 b6 14.♘h2?!N

This game demonstrated that this was obviously not the best response and h2–knight was anticipating his bad fate. At the same time it is not clear how White is going to struggle for advantage. [14.bxc5 b5 (This is the idea of Black's previous move. Having prepared in advance, the Black pawn attacks the White knight, b5–pawn cannot be taken and the queen's side is not open.) 15.♘c3 f5! (Worse is *15...♘xc5 16.d4! exd4 17.♗xd4 ♗xd4 18.♕xd4* and White is slightly better.*)* 16.exf5 gxf5 17.♕e1 (The rook sacrifice is hardly appropriate in the line *17.a4 b4 18.♘e2 f4 19.♘xf4 exf4 20.♗xf4 ♗xa1 21.♖xa1 0–0;* as well as the piece sacrifice in the following line *17.d4!? f4 18.♘xe5! fxe3 19.fxe3 ♗xe5 20.dxe5 ♘xc5 21.♕d4 ♗e6 22.♘e4 ♘xe4 23.♕xe4 ♗d5* , although all these lines need verification (and Kramnik has probably done it already).*)* 17...0–0 and Black's position is a bit more proactive .]

14...f5! 15.f3

A logical move. Since Black has two bishops, White is trying to keep the position closed.

15...f4 16.♗f2 h5 17.bxc5 b5 18.♘b2 g5?! (D)



This move looks unconvincing to me. Black has three pretty good opportunities 18...♗d7 ; 18...♖b8; 18...0–0 in any case he has no problem to equalise.

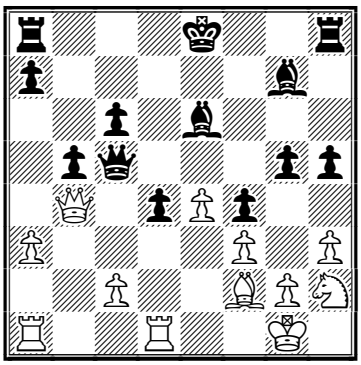
19.d4?!

To break open the position at Black's strongest point is colourful and ... suicidal for White. White missed a good chance to get the lost initiative back by 19.a4! ♘d4 20.axb5 cxb5 21.c4! and Black is in a tight corner – files are open for the White rooks and Black's g7–bishop can not participate in the game. The following is not dangerous at all 21...♘b3 22.♕b4 ♘xa1 23.♖xa1± with more than enough compensation for exchange.

19...exd4 20.♘d3 ♘xc5

The following is quite good for Black 20...a5 21.e5 ♘xc5 22.♘xc5 ♕xc5 23.♗xd4 ♕d5 but this is a matter of personal taste.

21.♘xc5 ♕xc5 22.♖fd1 ♗e6 23.♕b4!? (D)



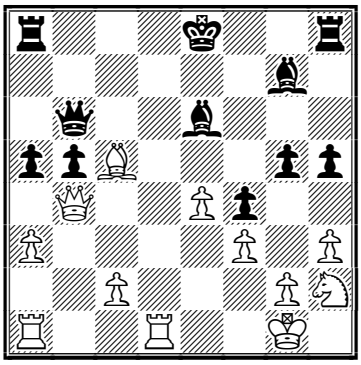
A witty attempt! After 23.♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 24.♕xd4 ♕xd4+ 25.♖xd4 ♔e7 White is in a hard end game.

23...♕b6!

White's idea proves to be correct in case of 23...♕xb4 24.axb4 d3 25.cxd3 ♗xa1 26.♖xa1 and White manages to block Black's pawns on the queen's side.

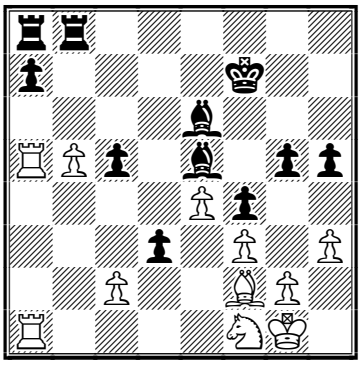
24.a4

24.♗xd4 does not work because of 24...c5! 25.♗xc5 a5! **(D)**



with material advantage.

24...c5 25.♕xb5+ ♕xb5 26.axb5 ♔f7 27.♖a5 ♖hb8 28.♘f1 ♗e5 29.♖da1 d3! (D)



And now the elegant turning of the advantage into a win follows.

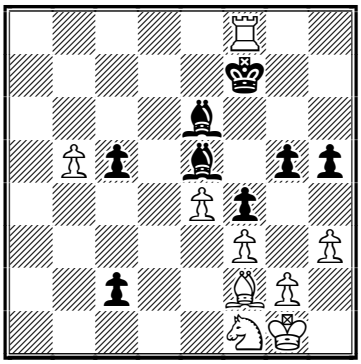
30.♖xa7+ ♔f6! 31.♖xa8 ♖xa8

Black's passed pawn is irresistible.

32.♖xa8 dxc2 33.♖f8+ ♔g6

33...♗f7–+ would decide the outcome at once.

34.♖e8 ♔f7 35.♖f8+! (D)



The last trick is unable to change the alignment .

35...♔g6

Even after 35...♔xf8 36.♗xc5+ ♔f7 37.♗a3 ♗c4–+ Black has to win, any way.

36.♖e8 ♗c4 37.♖xe5 c1♕ 38.♖xc5 ♕xf1+ 39.♔h2 ♕xf2 40.♖xc4 g4 0-1.

Solution to Quiz Today

V. Korchnoi (2642) – M. Adams (2734) Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (5), 22.02.2003

31.♖b3! ♕c4 [31...♕a5 32.♖a3+–] **32.♕b2! ♗a4 33.♘d2 ♗xb3 34.♘xc4 dxc4 35.♗xb3 cxb3 36.♕xb3+– ♘d5 37.♕a4 ♖d8 38.♗xh6 ♗xh6 39.♕xa7 ♗g7 40.c6 ♖c8 41.♘e4 1-0.**

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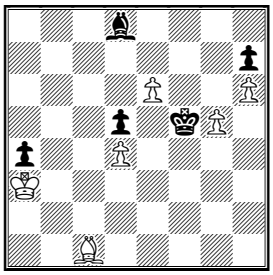
CT-57(841) 26th February 2003

Quiz Today

I. Sokolov (2688) – S. Kristjansson (2432)
Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (6), 24.02.2003



White to play

Draws all around again in 4th round at Linares

All three games were drawn in the 4th round of the Linares Supertournament. Anand and Kramnik finished their game very soon, while Vallejo Pons – Radjabov and Ponomariov – Leko only after great battle. In both cases Black had extra material, but couldn't exploit it. Kasparov had a rest day.

Before announcing the standings after 4 rounds of play lets cite the following letter from one of our readers:

*Hi. I understand that the standings at Linares might be a bit confusing: one could say that Kramnik is leading with 2 points (after 3 rounds – **editorial**), followed by Leko and Anand with 1.5 points. You clearly state the number of games played for each of the players. However, that's not quite accurate: 2 points out of 3 is 67% while 1.5 out of 2 is 75% (which means they're leading, and not Kramnik). ICC follows what I think is a more sensible way of giving the standings: they give plus scores:*
+1 Kramnik, Leko, Anand
+0 Radjabov, Valleo
−1 Kasparov
−2 Ponomariov

Obviously, none of this matters once the players reach the halfway and the end point of the tournament, but I just thought I'd share my comments with you.
Best regards,
Baldomero Garcia

OK, lets do the same as the ICC.
Round 4 standings:
+1 Kramnik (4 games), Leko (3), Anand (3)
+0 Radjabov (4), Valleo (3)
−1 Kasparov (3)
−2 Ponomariov (4)

Wednesday will be a rest day.

Alexei Shirov became the sole leader after his victory with Black over Michael Adams (see our annotated game section) in the 7th round of a category XV tournament in Reykjavik.

Round 6th results:
Sokolov – Kristjansson **1:0**
Shirov – Korchnoi **½:½**
Macieja – Adams **½:½**
Stefansson – Gretarsson **½:½**
Bacrot – McShane **0:1**

Round 7th results:
McShane – Macieja **0:1**
Gretarsson – Bacrot **0:1**
Kristjansson – Stefansson **½:½**
Korchnoi – Sokolov **½:½**
Adams – Shirov **0:1**

Round 7 Standings:
1. Shirov – 5½
2–3. Sokolov, Macieja – 5
4. Korchnoi – 4
5–6. McShane, Adams – 3½
7. Stefansson – 3
8. Bacrot – 2½
9. Gretarsson – 2
10. Kristjansson – 1

Round 8th pairing:
Macieja – Shirov
Sokolov – Adams
Stefansson – Korchnoi
Bacrot – Kristjansson

McShane – Gretarsson

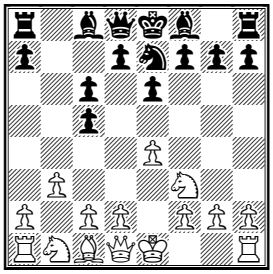
Five players are leading with 4½ points after the 5th round of Cappelle la Grande Open: **Vysochin, Mista, Aseev, Shaw and Gajewski**. 33 players are in hot pursuit half a point behind.

The Malaga Open has also been in progress.
Pairings for the 7th round:
TIVIAKOV [5½] – DE LA PAZ [5½]
CIFUENTES PARADA [5] – CABRERA [5½]
MATAMOROS FRANCO [5] – CRAMLING [5]
RIZOUK [4½] – PEREZ CANDELARIO [5]
VASQUEZ [4½] – BORBJERGGAARD [4½]
CHEPARINOV [4½] – BARRIA ZUÑIGA [4½]
HERRERA [4½] – PAZ LADRON DE GUEVARA [4½]
TISSIR [4½] – BELLON LOPEZ [4½]
FERNANDEZ SILES [4½] – KOVACEVIC [4½]
RASMUSSEN [4½] – LESKOVAR [4½]
BLAZQUEZ [4½] – SALDAÑO [4]

♘♘♘

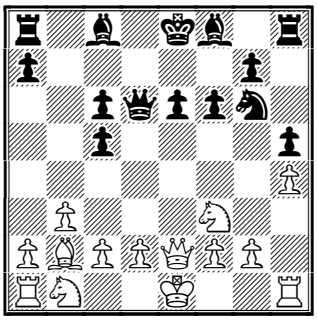
Annotated Game

□ **M. Adams (2734)**
■ **A. Shirov (2723)**
Event: *Hrokurinn Reykjavik, Iceland (7), 25.02.2003*– ***[B30]***
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 e6 4.♗xc6 bxc6 5.b3 ♘e7 (D)

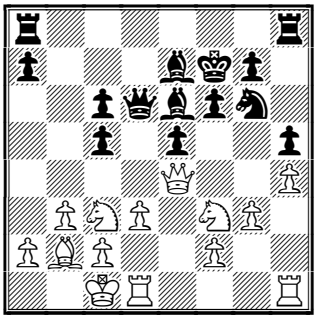


Knight is going to g6, leaving the f6 square for the f7-pawn. Black would like to create a barrier vs. bishop b2.
6.♗b2 ♘g6 7.h4!? h5 8.e5

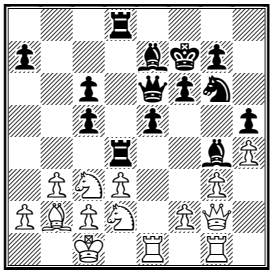
The right decision: now Black is unable to create a pawn chain in the center.
8...d6
Black has to exchange this pawn otherwise his bishops haven't any future.
9.exd6 ♕xd6 10.♕e2 f6 (D)



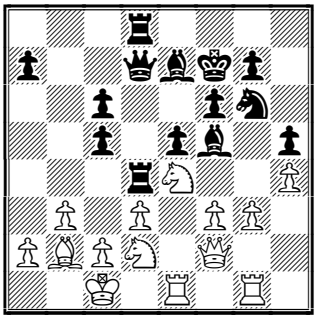
11.♕e4 ♔f7 12.♘c3 e5 13.0-0-0 ♗e7 14.d3 ♗e6 15.g3 (D)



A very interesting and complicated position. Both sides have their own pluses and minuses. White would like to open the f-file to attack king on f7. Black has his counter-chances on the queen-side and in the center (we'll see in the game an exchange sacrifice on d4).
15...♖ad8 16.♖hf1
Preparing something like ♘g1 and f2-f4.
16...♗h3 17.♖g1 ♗g4 18.♖de1 ♕e6 19.♘d2 ♖d4 20.♕g2 ♖hd8 (D)



21.f3 ♗h3 22.♕f2 ♗f5 23.♘ce4 ♕d7!? (D)

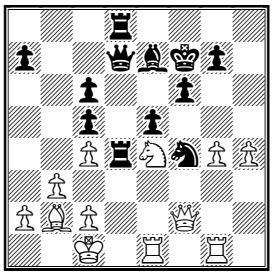


In my opinion White is better here so Shirov tries to make the game more complicated.

24.g4?!

A double-edged move – the knight on g6 receives the very good square f4 "free of charge". Why not 24.♗xd4 cxd4 25.f4!?± *(25.♘c4!?±* But of course it's very difficult to understand and calculate the following complications, and it doesn't matter – with a computer or without it.*)*

24...♗e6 25.♘c4 hxg4 26.fxg4 ♗xc4 27.dxc4 ♘f4 (D)



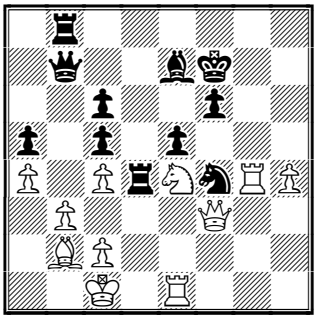
28.♕f3

Now after 28.♗xd4 cxd4 in view of d4-d3 Black will have full compensation for the exchange.

28...a5 29.a4 ♕b7 30.g5!?

30.♗xd4 cxd4 31.g5 *(31.♘f2 d3!? 32.♘xd3? ♘xd3+ 33.cxd3 ♕xb3→)* 31...d3 32.gxf6 gxf6 33.♕g4 ♕b4!?⇄

30...♖b8 31.gxf6 gxf6 32.♖g4 (D)

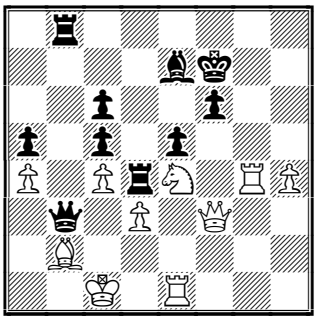


32.♗xd4 cxd4 33.h5 d3!? *(33...♕b4!?)*

32...♘d3+!?

In any case Shirov finds a breakthrew on the key point d3!

33.cxd3 ♕xb3 (D)



This is the culmination point of the game.

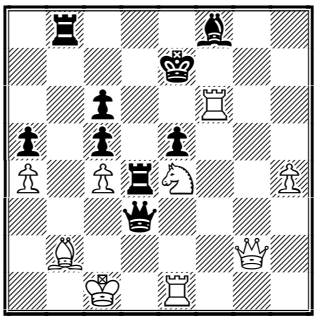
34.♕g2?!

It looks like White could win here by force: 34.♘g5+! ♔e8 35.♗xd4 ♕b1+ 36.♔d2 **A)** 36...cxd4 37.♕xc6+ ♔f8 *(37...♔d8 38.♘f7#)* 38.♘e6+ ♔f7 39.♖g7#!; **B)** 36...♕a2+ 37.♗b2 *(37.♔e3 cxd4+ 38.♔e4 fxg5 39.♔xe5!?+–)* ; 34.♗xd4?! Only leads to a draw. 34...cxd4 35.♘g5+ ♔g7 36.♘e6+ ♔h6 37.♖g6+ ♔xg6 38.♘f4+ exf4 39.♕g4+ ♔f7 *(39...♔h6 40.♕xf4+=)* 40.♕e6+ ♔g6 41.♕g4+=

34...♗f8 35.♖g6?!

Is this a decisive mistake or not? Fritz says that White can draw after 35.♖f1!? ♗h6+ 36.♔b1 ♕xd3+ 37.♔a1 ♖xe4 38.♖xe4 ♖b4 39.♖xf6+ ♔xf6 40.♕f2+ ♔e7 41.♖xe5+ ♔d8 42.♕f6+ ♔c7 43.♕e7+ ♕d7 44.♕xd7+ ♔xd7 45.♖xc5 ♖xa4+ 46.♔b1=; 35.♕f2 ♗h6+ 36.♔b1 ♕xd3+ 37.♔a1

35...♕xd3 36.♖xf6+ ♔e7 (D)



37.♗xd4??

Of course this is a blunder, but I couldn't find any defence for White, for example: 37.♖e6+ ♔xe6 38.♕g6+ ♔e7 39.♕f6+ ♔e8 40.♕xe5+ ♔d7

41.♘f6+ ♔c8–+; 37.♖f2 ♖xc4+ 38.♖c2 ♗h6+ 39.♘g5 *(39.♔b1 ♖cb4–+)* 39...♖xb2! 40.♔xb2 ♖b4+ 41.♔c1 *(41.♔a1 ♕a3+ 42.♖a2 ♕c3+ 43.♖b2 ♖xa4+ 44.♔b1 ♕xe1+)* 41...♕a3+ 42.♔d1 ♖d4+ **A)** 43.♖d2 ♕xa4+ 44.♔c1 *(44.♔e2 ♖xd2+ 45.♔xd2 ♕a2+ 46.♔d1 ♕xg2–+)* 44...♕a1+ 45.♔c2 ♕xe1–+; **B)** 43.♔e2 ; 37.♘d6!? **A)** 37...♖xd6 38.♖xe5+ ♔xf6 *(38...♔d8 39.♖xf8+)* 39.♖e3+ ♖xb2 40.♕g5+ ♔f7 41.♖xd3+–; **B)** 37...♔xf6 38.♕g5+ ♔e6 39.♕xe5+ ♔d7 40.♕e6+ ♔c7 41.♕f7+ ♔b6–+] **37...♖b1# 0–1.**

Solution to Quiz Today
I. Sokolov (2688) – S. Kristjansson (2432)
Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (6), 24.02.2003
51.♗f4!! ♔xe6 [51...♔xf4 52.g6 hxg6 53.h7 ♗f6 54.e7+–] **52.g6 ♗f6 53.♗e5 hxg6 54.h7 1–0**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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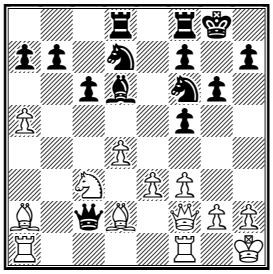
CT-58(842) 27th February 2003

Quiz Today: P. Cramling – Tissir Malaga Open, 26.02.2003

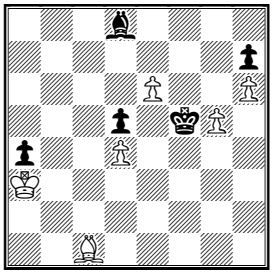


White to play

Letters to the Editor

Yesterday we received two messages concerning an error in our solution to the tactical quiz. Let's give that position first:

I. Sokolov – S. Kristjansson
Reykjavic 24.02.2003



Here White played **51.♘f4!!** and won after **51...♔xe6 52.g6 ♘f6 53.♘e5 hxg6 54.h7 1-0.** We gave another line: 51...♔xf4 52.g6 hxg6 53.h7 ♘f6 54.e7+-.

But as GM Harry Schussler (Sweden) wrote, 'White has to play something like 54. ♔xa4 first.' – because in our variation Black takes on e7 with **check**.

Another CT reader from Sweden – Hakan Winfridsson – came to a similar conclusion: 'The right move is 54.h8♕ ♘xh8 55.e7 1-0.' He then added: 'In CT-835 GM Golubev had a discussion about quick draws in the last round, and had no good answer on how to get rid of them. In Sweden were I live, some tournaments don't share money if points are equal. This means that the 1st placed player after tiebreak gets all the money for 1st place, 2nd place gets 2nd prize and so on. This doesn't take away all quick draws, but at least a player with a bad tiebreak will try to win to get the big money. *Regards Håkan Winfridsson'.*

I am aware of this system, but personally dislike it – sometimes the difference in prize money might be huge and why should someone be punished if their first (second) round opponent has a bad tournament? I think the so-called Hort System is best - when half of the prize money is distributed according to the tiebreak and half is shared equally.

Coming back to yesterday's tactical quiz, I am very glad that two readers spotted our error – this means that some people actually read Chess Today! :-)

Chess News

Yesterday was a rest day at Linares, but there are plenty of other interesting tournaments in progress. In the category XV tournament in Reykjavik, round 8 saw the following results:

Macieja - Shirov - ½:½
I. Sokolov - Adams - ½:½
Stefansson – Korchnoi - 0-1
Bacrot – Kristjansson - 1-0
McShane – Gretarsson - 1-0
You can find these games in our database.

Before the last round **Alexei Shirov** is leading on 6 points. GMs Bartlomej Macieja (Poland, 2629) and Ivan Sokolov (Netherlands, 2688) are half a point behind. Victor Korchnoi is on 5 points. Elo-favourite Michael Adams is on 50%.

The last round should be intriguing as two of the leaders face each other,

while the other leader meets with one of the players from the bottom of the X-table:

Gretarsson – **Macieja**
S. Kristjansson – McShane
Korchnoi – Bacrot
Adams – Stefansson
Shirov – I. Sokolov

In the Malaga Open round 8 saw the following results on top boards:

Cabrera – Tiviakov – ½:½
Perez – Cifuentes – 1:0
Pia Cramling – Tissir – 1:0
Borbjerggaard – Cheparinvo – 0:1
S. Kovachevic – Matamoros – 0:1
De La Paz – Herrera – ½:½

Again, you can find these games in our database.

Before the last round the standings are as follows:
1. GM Sergei **Tiviakov** (2635, Netherlands) – 7 points;
2–7. GM Pia Cramling (2492, Sweden), IM Alexis Cabrera (2478, Columbia), GM Franco Matamoros (2460, Ecuador), IM Manuel Perez (2404, Spain), IM Ivan Cheparinov (2478, Bulgaria) and IM Karsten Rasmussen (2396, Denmark) – all are on 6½ points.

At the time of writing, the Web site of the big open tournament in Cappelle la Grande (France) seems to be down, so we will cover its progress tomorrow.

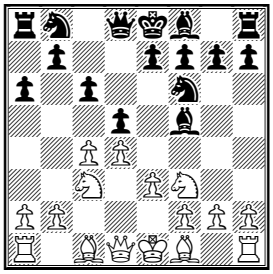
Annotated Game

Today I would like to show one of my recent games. As you will see, it was quite a painful experience – I lost a completely winning ending to one of the Linares players. Well, chess is not only about winning, and hopefully I can learn a thing or two from this game. And the sooner I get it out of my system, the better! The game was played in the French team league. As I don't play in tournaments much nowadays, I signed up for 4 (!!) different leagues – in France, UK, Austria and Germany.

I will cover all those leagues in detail in one of our forthcoming issues – you may recall that we touched upon this subject in CT-827, when GM Golubev wrote about the German League (BL) and the Belgian Team Championship.

□ **GM Alex Baburin (2558 Ireland)**
■ **GM Vallejo Pons (2628 Spain)**
Event: French Team League, Drancy (2), 01.02.2003
Annotations: **GM Alexander Baburin**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗f5 5.♘c3 a6 ***(D)***

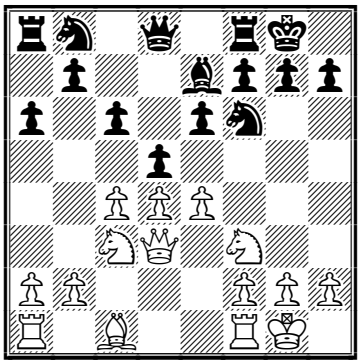


This is a popular alternative to 5...e6 6. ♘h4.

6.♗d3

Another option is 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♕b3 for example: 7...♖a7 8.♘e5 e6 9.♗e2 h5? 10.0–0 ♘bd7 11.♘xd7 ♘xd7 12.e4 dxe4 13.♗e3 ♕b8 14.d5 ♗c5 15.♗xc5 ♘xc5 16.♕b6 ♘d7 17.♕b4 e5 18.♖fd1 ♖h6 19.♖ac1 ♖d6 20.♗xh5 ♖b6 21.♕a5 ♖xb2 22.d6 ♗e6 23.♘d5 ♔f8 24.♕c3 ♖a8 1–0 Avrukh-Abolianin, Antwerp 1997.

6...♗xd3 7.♕xd3 e6 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.e4 0-0 ***(D)***



10.♗g5

10.e5?! dxc4 11.♕xc4 ♘d5 would be pretty good for Black, but 10.♖d1, as

in Kramnik–Morozevich, Dortmund 2001, is probably better – White should keep more pieces on the board.

10...dxe4 11.♘xe4 ♘bd7

11...♘xe4 12.♗xe7 ♘xf2?? 13.♕a3+–.

12.♖ad1 a5

Black wants to gain some room on the queenside. One small drawback of this plan is that this pawn might require attention later.

13.♘xf6+

Here I also considered 13.♘c3 aiming for e2, ♘e5, etc.

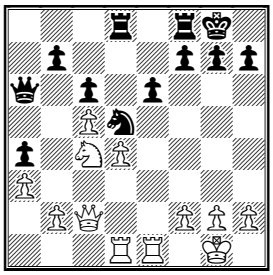
13...♗xf6 14.♗xf6 ♘xf6 15.♘e5 a4 16.♖fe1 ♕a5 17.c5

White fixes the pawn structure. Here Black thought for about 10 minutes before our clock broke down (low battery?). The arbiter brought another digital clock, but it did not work either. Since that was their last spare DGT clock, the arbiter brought a mechanical clock and we started to play with a different time control – without increment, etc. All this time Vallejo was sitting and examining the position. I believe in such a situation a player should get up and leave the board. I had a similar case in Istanbul 2000 and there too my opponent took unfair advantage of the situation.

17...♖ad8 18.♘c4 ♕a6 19.♕c2

19.♘b6 ♕xd3 20.♖xd3 ♘d5 21.♘xa4 ♘b4 is fine for Black.

19...♘d5 20.a3 *(D)*



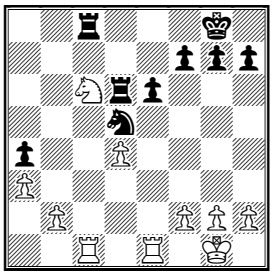
20...b5?!

Black had to play patiently. 20...♖d7 21.♖d3 ♖fd8 22.♖ed1 ♘f4 23.♖3d2 ♘d5. Then White's only plan is play on the kingside, perhaps using the 3rd rank for a rook lift. But Black should have enough counter-play.

21.cxb6 ♘xb6 22.♘e5 ♘d5?

Keeping the pawn with 22...♖c8! was certainly better.

23.♕xc6 ♕xc6 24.♘xc6 ♖d6 25.♖c1 ♖c8 *(D)*



White has won a pawn and while this may not be enough for a win yet, he certainly has a serious advantage.

26.♘e5!

26.♘b4? ♖b8.

26...♖b8 27.g3!?

I wanted to control the f4-square and to secure the back-rank. 27.♖c4 f6 28.♘d3 ♘b6 29.♖b4 e5.

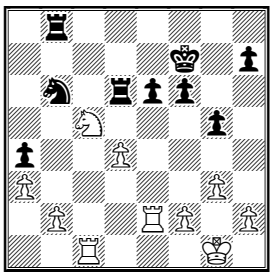
27...f6 28.♘d3 ♔f7

I also considered 28...♖b3 29.♘c5 ♖xb2 30.♘xa4 ♖a2 31.♘c5 ♖xa3 32.♘xe6 Then after 32...♔f7 White has a winning shot: 33.♘c7!+– ♖a2 34.♘xd5 ♖xd5 35.♖c7+ ♔g6 36.♖ee7 ♖xd4 37.♖xg7+ ♔f5 38.♖c5+.

29.♖e2

Here I wanted to play 29.h4, grabbing more space on the kingside, but did not like the line 29...♖b3 30.♖ed1 ♘b6 31.♖c7+ ♖d7 32.♖xd7+ ♘xd7 – 33.♘c5 ♘xc5 34.dxc5 ♖xb2 35.♖d7+ ♔g6 36.c6 ♖c2 37.c7 e5. Still, after 33.♖d2! White has good winning chances.

29...g5 30.♘c5 ♘b6 *(D)*



31.♘xe6

On this move I spent 8 of the remaining 15 minutes. Vallejo was already in time-trouble, having only 2 minutes left. Objectively this move is not good.

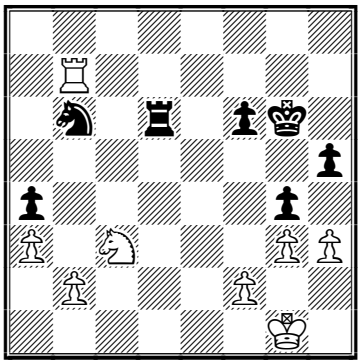
31...♖e8 32.d5

32.♖c7+?? ♘d7.

32...♘xd5

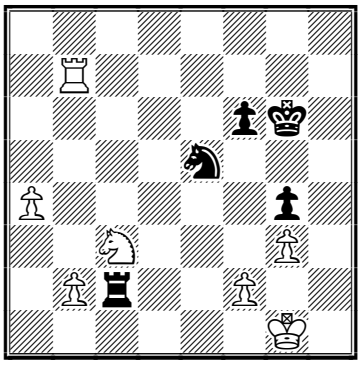
Better was 32...♖xd5! 33.♖ce1 ♖c8! and White's knight is shaky.

33.♘d4 ♖xe2 34.♘xe2 ♘b6 35.♖c7+ ♔g6 36.♖b7 h5 37.♘c3 g4 38.h3! *(D)*



White kept extra pawn and activated his pieces – winning prospects are good.

38...♘c4 39.hxg4 hxg4 40.♘xa4 ♘e5 41.♘c3 ♖d2 42.a4 ♖c2! *(D)*



This is better than 42...♘f3+? 43.♔f1 ♘h2+ 44.♔g2 ♘f3 45.a5 ♖c2 46.♔f1!. The character of this endgame is pretty clear: Black will try to take 1–2 pawns, while White will push his a-pawn to the limit. White is winning, but not without some difficulties.

Here Vallejo offered a draw – an incredible display of arrogance! I wonder if he could do it in a similar situation against Kasparov in Linares?! That would be interesting!

Anyway, I guess his main idea was to annoy me, so I just replied that I'd like to play.

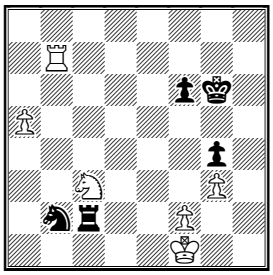
43.♔f1!

43.a5? ♖c1+ 44.♔g2 ♘f3 45.♘e2 is clearly inferior.

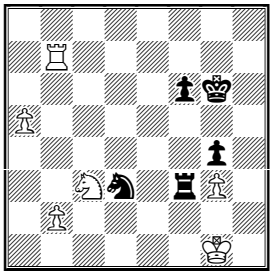
43...♘d3 44.a5

Better was 44.♘e2! ♘xb2 45.♘f4+ ♔f5 46.a5 ♘c4 47.a6 ♖a2 48.a7.

44...♘xb2 *(D)*



This move, unsettling White's knight, looks very natural. But strangely enough, 44...♖xf2+!? is not a bad try: 45.♔g1 ♖f3! *(D)*

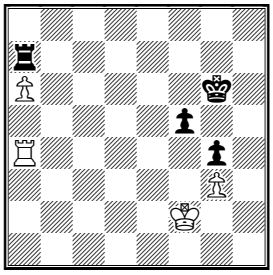


Then White would have to choose (always difficult!) between two promising lines:

46.a6!?

♖xg3+ 47.♔f1 ♖f3+ 48.♔e2 ♘f4+ 49.♔d2 ♖d3+ 50.♔c2 ♖d6! 51.♖b4! *(51.a7? ♖a6 52.♘b5 g3)* 51...♖xa6 52.♖xf4 ♔g5 53.♖d4. White should be winning, but things are still tricky.

46.♘e2!? ..♖e3 *(46...♘c5 47.♖b5 ♘a6 48.♖b6)* 47.♖b3 ♖xe2 48.♖xd3 ♖xb2 49.♖a3 ♖b7 50.a6 ♖a7 51.♔f2 f5 52.♖a4 ***(D)***



52...♔g5 53.♖a5 ♔f6 54.♔e3 ♖e7+ 55.♔d4 ♖a7 56.♔c5 f4 57.gxf4 g3 58.♔b6 g2 59.♖a1.

It seems that after 46.♘e2!? White wins, but this may not be easy to foresee.

45.♘e4?

Here I was spoiled for choice, but chose the worst move possible,

despite spending 11 of the remaining 35 minutes on it. The knight is shaky on e4, which Black managed to exploit in the game. My first intention was to play ***45.♘e2***, restricting the enemy rook for a while and getting an option of playing ♘f4+. It looks like White wins after 45...♘d3 46.♖b3 ♘e5 *(46...♖xe2?? 47.♔xe2 ♘c1+ 48.♔d1 ♘xb3 49.a6+−* I saw this line.*; 46...♘c5 47.♖c3 ♖xc3 48.♘xc3+−)* 47.♖a3 ♘c4 48.♖a1 ♘d2+ 49.♔g2 ♘b3 50.♘f4+ ♔f5 51.♖a3 ♘d4 52.a6+−.

Also good was ***45.♘d5!?*** ♘d3 46.a6 ♖xf2+ 47.♔g1 ♖e2! *(47...♖a2 48.a7 ♘c5 49.♖e7+−)* 48.♖e7 *(48.♘c3 ♖e1+ 49.♔g2 ♖a1 50.a7 ♘c5 51.♖e7)* 48...♖a2 49.a7 ♘e5 50.♖c7 and White should win.

Endgame play used to be my strong side, but I have noticed that recently I have made a lot of mistakes in them. Perhaps this is because my calculation is rusty (many endings are about calculation!). Another explanation is that lack of practice and serious training means that I am pretty tired after 4 hours of play. Anyway, something to think about!

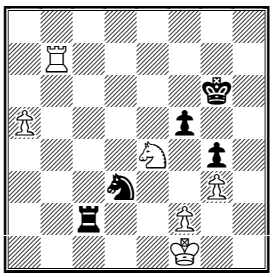
45...♖c1+!

I missed this move completely, counting only on 45...♔f5 46.♘d6+ ♔e6 47.♘b5! and White wins.

46.♔e2 ♖c2+ 47.♔e1

Or 47.♔e3 ♘c4+ 48.♔d3 ♘xa5! (the point!) 49.♖b5 ♖a2=.

47...♘d3+ 48.♔f1 f5! *(D)*



For some strange reason this logical move came as a surprise to me. Here we both had about 8 minutes left, but while Vallejo kept playing well, my play deteriorated...

49.♖b6+ ♔g7 50.♘d6 ♖xf2+ 51.♔g1 ♖f3 52.a6 ♖xg3+ 53.♔f1 ♖f3+ 54.♔e2

54.♔g1 was simpler.

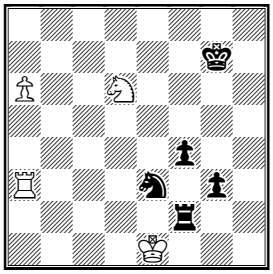
54...♘f4+ 55.♔d2 ♖f2+ 56.♔d1

56.♔e3

56...♘d5 57.♖b3

Here I offered a draw − we both had about 1 minute left.

57...f4 58.♖a3 ♘e3+ 59.♔e1 g3 *(D)*



60.a7??

I completely lost my mind! Actually, on the falling flag I saw move 60.♘f5+! but did not play it. That would have saved the game:

60...♘xf5

61.a7 ♘e3 62.a8♕ ♘c2+ 63.♔d1 ♘xa3 64.♕xa3= ♔g6 *(64...g2?? 65.♕a7+; 64...♖f1+ 65.♔e2 g2 66.♕e7+=).*

60...♔f6

61.♘xe3 fxe3 62.♖xe3=.

60...♘c2+! 61.♔d1 g2 62.♘f5+ ♔f6 63.♖a6+ ♔xf5 64.♔c1 g1♕+ 65.♔b2 and soon Black checkmated. **0−1**

Solution: 20.♗c4! 1−0

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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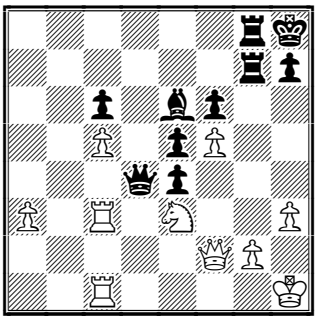
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-59(843) 28th February 2003

Quiz Today: Stefansson (2569) – Korchnoi (2642) E32 Hrokurinn Reykjavic ISL (8), 26.02.2003



Black to play

Latest News:

The 5th Round of the Linares Supertournament (XX category) was played on the 27th of February 2003.

Radjabov– Anand ½–½
Kasparov –Ponomariov 1–0
Leko–Vallejo 1–0

Standings
Leko +2 3(4)
Anand +1 2½(4)
Kramnik +1 2½(4)
Radjabov = 2½(5)
Kasparov = 2(4)
Vallejo –1 1½ (4)
Ponomariov –3 1(5)

Pairings for the 28th of February:
Anand – Leko,
Vallejo – Kasparov,
Kramnik – Radjabov
Ponomariov has a rest day.

Category XV in Reykjavik,

Final Standings: 1. Shirov, Alexei g ESP 2723 7.0; 2. Macieja, Bartlomiej g POL 2629 6.0; 3. Korchnoi, Viktor g SUI 2642 6.0; 4. Sokolov, Ivan g NED 2688 5½; 5. McShane, Luke J g ENG 2568 5.5; 6. Adams, Michael g ENG 2734 5.0; 7. Bacrot, Etienne g FRA 2671 3½; 8. Stefansson, Hannes g ISL 2569 3.0; 9. Gretarsson, Helgi Ass g ISL 2516 2½; 10. Kristjansson, Stefan m ISL 2432 1.0;

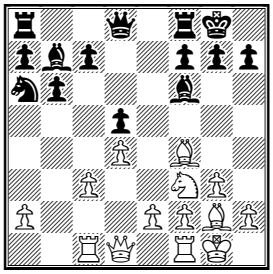
The 6th Malaga Open started on the 21st of February 2003. Players include
1. Tiviakov, Sergei Ned 2635;
2. Korneev, Oleg Rus 2613;
3. Rizouk, Aimen Alg 2519;
4. Cifuentes Parada, Roberto Esp 2506;
5. Suba, Mihai Rom 2501;
6. Cramling, Pia Swe 2492;
7. Vasquez, Rodrigo Chi 2481; Etc.

Round 8 standing:
1 Tiviakov, Sergei – 7
2–7 Cheparinov, Ivan, Rasmussen, Karsten, Perez Candelario, Manuel, Matamoros Franco, Carlos Cabrera, Alexis; Cramling, Pia – 6½ Etc.

Aleksander Mista is leading with 6/7 in the 19th Cappelle la Grande International Open. 18 players have 5½/7.

Annotated Game:

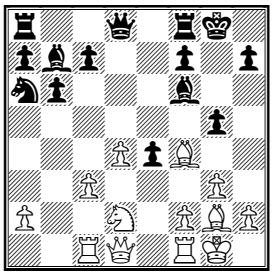
□ **Kasparov**
■ **Ponomarev**
Event: XX SuperGM Linares ESP (5), 27.02.2003
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.d4 e6 3.g3 b6 4.♗g2 ♗b7 5.c4 ♗e7 6.♘c3 ♘e4 7.♗d2 ♗f6 8.0-0 0-0 9.♖c1 d5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♗f4 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 ♘a6N



This is a novelty, a new move against the subversive c3–c4. In that case the equalizing c7–c5 would follow. At the same time the knight on a6 is rather passive and White should give up the c3–c4 plan in order to attack the kingside, for instance, with the move h2–h4, which gives him an advantage.
13.e4!?
The pawn gift is illusory, it can be

taken back if White wants.

13...dxe4 14.♘d2 g5?



After 14...♖e8 15.♖e1 the position opens and the a6-knight does not participate in the game.

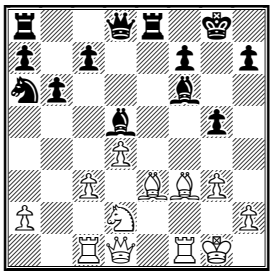
15.♗e3!?

Garry chose a more complicated line. I would prefer 15.♘xe4! ♗xe4 16.♗xe4 gxf4 17.♕h5 ♖e8 18.♕xh7+ ♔f8 19.♗b7! returns the knight and the Black position is in ruins. For example after 19...c5 *(19...♗g7 20.♗xa6 ♕d5 21.a4±)* 20.♗xa6 cxd4 21.♖fd1! White is a pawn up, Black's king is not protected and bishops of different colour strengthen the attack.

15...♖e8 16.f4!?

To break open files for attack.

16...exf3 17.♗xf3 ♗d5!

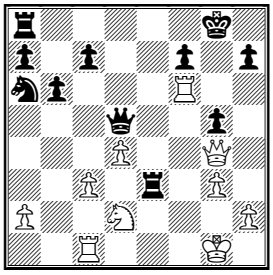


Ruslan shows great tenacity in defence. Losing is 17...♖xe3 18.♗xb7 ♖xc3 19.♘b3! ♖xc1 20.♕xc1 and White has to win

18.♗xd5!

The apparently winning 18.♕e2 is refuted by 18...♘b4! and Black is OK.

18...♕xd5 19.♖xf6 ♖xe3 20.♕g4



20...♖e6

It is no easier even after the move 20...♖ae8 because of 21.♖f5 ♕d8 22.♖cf1!± The lack of the a6-knight is disastrous for Black in any case.

21.♖f5

The following seemed to be even stronger 21.c4! ♕d6 *(21...♕d8 22.♖xe6 fxe6 23.♖f1±)* 22.♕xg5+ ♔h8 23.♖xf7 ♕xd4+ 24.♔h1± Anyway, White has a serious attack with material equality.

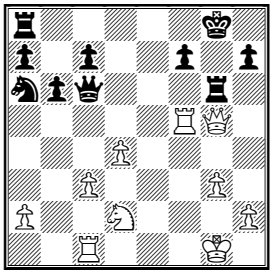
21...♕c6?

The following was the best chance for Black 21...♕xa2!? 22.♕xg5+ ♖g6 23.♕f4± in order not to just be a pawn down for nothing..

22.♕xg5+

Even stronger is 22.♖cf1 involving the rook in the attack

22...♖g6



23.♕h5

Not bad was 23.♕f4 immediately attacking the f7-pawn.

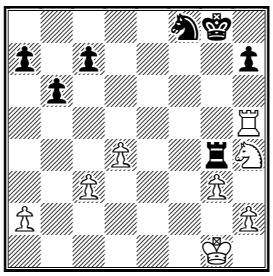
23...♖f8

23...♖e8 didn't redeem the position - 24.♘f3! (The rook sacrifice *24.♖xf7 ♔xf7 25.♕xh7+ ♔f8 26.♖f1+ ♖f6 27.♕h6+ ♔f7 28.♕h7+* leads to nothing but perpetual check.) 24...f6 25.♘h4 ♔g7 26.♘xg6 hxg6 27.♕f3+-

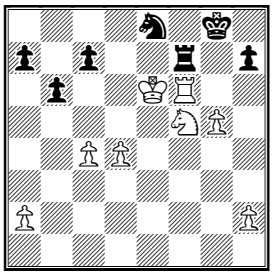
24.♘f3 f6 25.♘h4 ♖g7 26.♕h6 ♘b8 27.♖h5 f5

More stubborn was 27...♖e8 28.♘f5 ♖f7 29.♖h4, but in this case Black's position is extremely difficult too.

28.♕f4 ♕e4 29.♖f1 ♕xf4 30.♖xf4 ♖g4 31.♖fxf5 ♘d7 32.♖xf8+ ♘xf8



The game enters the endgame with White a pawn up. There is no compensation for it, and the position is technically won. This was confidently shown by Kasparov:
33.♔f2 ♘d7 34.♘f5 ♔h8 35.♔f3 ♖g8 36.♖h6 ♖f8 37.g4 ♘f6 38.c4 ♔g8 39.♔f4 ♖f7 40.g5 ♘e8 41.♔e5 ♖d7 42.♔e6 ♖f7 43.♖f6!



43...♘xf6 1-0

Solution: 41...♖xg2! 42.♕h4? 42.♕xg2 ♖xg2 43.♔xg2 ♕d2+ 44.♔g1 *(44.♔g3 ♗xf5)* 44...♗b3 **42...♕d2! 43.♕xf6+ ♖8g7 44.♕xe5 ♖2g3! 0-1**

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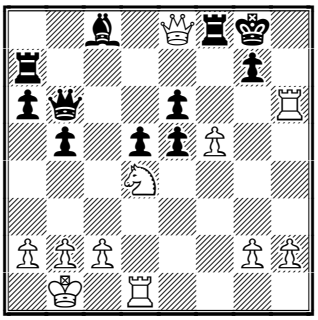
CT-60(844) 1st March 2003

Quiz Today: Kramnik (2807) – Radjabov (2624) Linares (6), 28.02.2003



White to play
From our annotated game

Chess News:
GM Ruslan Scherbakov makes a welcome return to CT to report on the 6th round at Linares and annotates the Kramnik-Radjabov game.

The 6th Round of the Linares super-tournament has just finished.

Vladimir Kramnik has crushed Teimour Radjabov's French Defence in excellent style and now he is sharing the lead with **Vishy Anand**, who has eventually broken Peter Leko's tough resistance. At some point it looked like Leko had obtained miraculous chances to escape but it was a kind of illusion.

Garry Kasparov got under pressure against Paco Vallejo Pons so a draw was not so bad a result for him today.

Anand – Leko **1:0**
Vallejo Pons – Kasparov **½:½**
Kramnik – Radjabov **1:0**
Ponomariov had a rest day.

Standings after 6 rounds:
Anand, Kramnik +2 3½(5)
Leko +1 3(5)
Kasparov +0 2½ (5)
Radjabov –1 2½(6)
Vallejo –1 2 (5)
Ponomariov –3 1(5)

The 7th round may change things a lot – look at the pairings:

Kasparov – Anand
Leko – Kramnik
Ponomariov – Vallejo Pons
Radjabov has a free day.

The 6th Malaga Open has just finished in Spain. The top-seeded GM **Sergei Tiviakov** has won the event.

Final standings:
1. GM Sergei Tiviakov (2635, NED) – 7½ points,
2-7. IM Alexis Cabrera (2478, COL), GM Pia Cramling (2492, SWE), GM Carlos Matamoros Franco (2460, ECU), IM Manuel Perez Candelario (2404, ESP), IM Ivan Cheparinov (2478, BUL), GM Oleg Korneev (2613, RUS), IM Karsten Rasmussen (2396, DEN) – 7 etc.

Chess in Ireland
by GM Alex Baburin

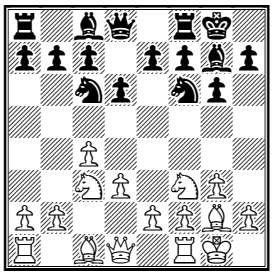
Last weekend an international tournament took place in Bunratty (near Limerick, about 200 km from Dublin), west of Ireland. The Bunratty Congress (chief organiser - by Gerry Graham) established a new record for chess tournaments in Ireland – with 317 players competing in four different sections. Most players were from Ireland, but there were visitors from UK, Netherlands, Spain, Slovakia and Austria. There were three GMs in the Masters Section: many-time British Champion Dr John Nunn, many-time US Champion Joel Benjamin and Alexander Baburin. After some tense struggles the event ended in a 5-way tie between IM Brian Kelly, GM John Nunn, Dr Yuri Rochev, GM Alexander Baburin and Lorin D'Costa, all scoring 4½ points out of 6 and receiving 350 euros each. The time control in the top section was 90 minutes per game each (without increment). There was one

round on Friday, three on Saturday and two on Sunday.

It was an enjoyable tournament and a good holiday break – most people stayed in the 4-star Fitzpatrick Hotel, which has swimming pool, sauna, etc. The playing hall was very spacious and comfortable. Moves from the top board were demonstrated on a big screen, using DGT technology. The Bunratty Congress is an annual tournament, so if you would like to play there in 2004, check its Web site for details.

The following game received warm greetings in Bunratty, as the defending champion Brian Kelly (Ireland) defeated the top-seeded player in round 4:

□ **Brian Kelly**
■ **John Nunn**
Event: Bunratty Masters (4), 22.02.2003 – A16
Annotations: **GM Alexander Baburin**
1.c4 g6 2.♘c3 ♗g7 3.g3 ♘f6 4.♗g2 0-0 5.♘f3 d6 6.0-0 ♘c6 7.d3 ***(D)***



Black is playing the King's Indian defence, while White is playing the English Opening. His plan is queenside expansion with ♖b1, b2-b4-b5, etc.

7...a6

This is a rare move, but even Spassky tried it once! Black prepares ...b5. Usually Black plays something like 7...e5 8.♖b1 a5 9.a3 h6!? here ruling out ♗g5 and so keeping better control over the d5-square.

8.♖b1 b5?!

Nunn has already tried this move before, but in this game it gets more or less refuted. Better is 8...♗d7 9.b4 b5.

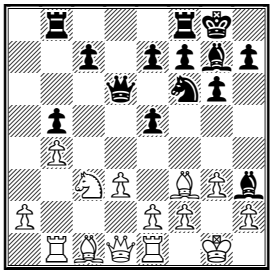
9.♘e5!

After 9.♘d4 ♘xd4 10.♗xa8 b4 11.♗e3 ♗h3 12.♗g2 ♗xg2 13.♔xg2 ♕a8+ 14.♔g1 ♘f5 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.cxd5 ♕xd5 17.♗d2 ♕b7 Black was fine in the game Cobb-Nunn, 2000.

9...dxe5 10.♗xc6 ♖b8 11.cxb5 axb5 12.b4!

Of course, not 12.♗xb5?, because of 12...♗h3 13.♖e1 ♖xb5 14.♘xb5 ♕d5 and White is in trouble.

12...♗h3 13.♖e1! ♕d6 14.♗f3 ***(D)***

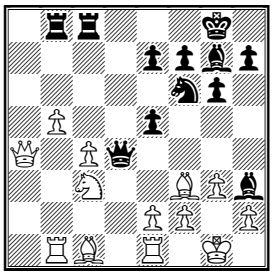


White stands better because the e5-pawn makes the g7-bishop passive. Black tries to free his game, but only deepenes his problems:

14...c5? 15.a4!

This excellent move gives White a dangerous passed pawn.

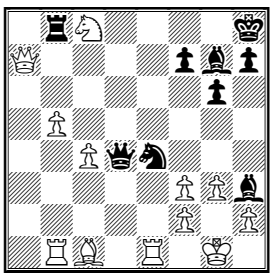
15...bxa4 16.b5 ♖fc8 17.♕xa4 c4? 18.dxc4 ♕d4 ***(D)***



19.♘d5

The computer suggests a pretty line here: 19.♖d1! ♕xc3 20.♗b2 ♕xc4 21.♖d8+ ♖xd8 22.♕xc4, winning.

19...e4 20.♘xe7+ ♔h8 21.♘xc8 exf3 22.♕a7 ♘e4 23.exf3 ***(D)***



Black could have resigned here...

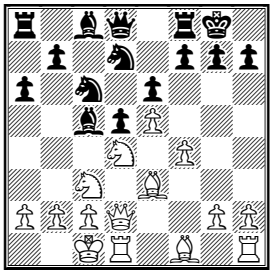
23...♕c3 24.♕e3 ♖xc8 25.fxe4 ♕c2 26.♗a3 ♖xc4 27.b6 ♗d4 28.♕e2 ♗g4 29.♕xc2 ♖xc2 30.♖f1 1-0

Linares Annotated Game:
Can the French Defence beat 2Ks?

□ **Kramnik (2807)**
■ **Radjabov (2624)**
Event: Linares (6), 28.02.2003 – C11
Annotations: **GM Ruslan Scherbakov**

Vladimir Kramnik has just changed his first move to 1. e4 and so he hasn't got much experience yet. But today it was not so difficult for him to prepare as Teimour Radjabov recently prefers the French...

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♗e3 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗c5 9.♕d2 0-0 10.0-0-0 a6



This complicated line of the French Defence is rather well researched. The most popular move is a tempting pawn advance 11. h4, which has been successfully used by Garry Kasparov. The alternative is the prophylactic 11. Kb1. Kramnik comes up with a fresh approach, which looks promising – at first he is going to provoke some weakening of the Black K-side to make the attack more effective.

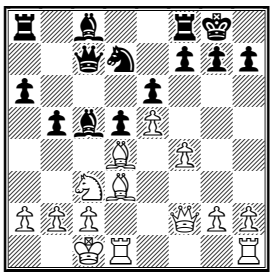
11.♕f2!? ♘xd4

Perhaps Teimour was taken by surprise – his defensive plan does not look very good. Black's main problems is his bishop on c8 so 11...♗xd4!? 12.♗xd4 b5 13.♗d3 b4 followed by ...a6-a5 and ...Bc8-a6 seems more to the point.

12.♗xd4 ♕c7

Now Black has to spend time to defend his bishop on c5 – and this is not the only drawback, as we'll see.

13.♗d3 b5



Taking into account what happened next we can recommend including 13...♗xd4 14.♕xd4 b5, distracting the White queen from the K-side first.

14.♕h4!

This new idea looks quite strong – White forces the weakening of the Black king shield. After 14.♘e2 ♗e7 15.♔b1 ♗b7 it was not easy for White to begin the K-side attack, Moreda – B. Kovacevic, Nova Gorica 2001.

14...h6

Obviously Black did not want to weaken his dark squares by 14...g6 but it was maybe a worthy alternative.

15.♘e2

Now White is simply going to push his g-pawn with a strong attack. Black cannot quickly create any counter chances on the opposite flank so he should find them somewhere else.

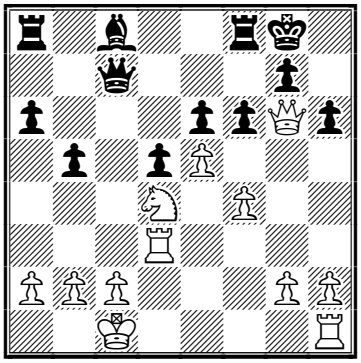
15...f6!? 16.♕g4! ♗xd4 17.♘xd4 ♘c5 18.♕g6!

The queen is doing a great job! 18.♖he1!? looked natural but Vladimir prefers a more concrete and energetic approach.

18...♘xd3+

Of course, 18...f5?! 19.g4 was unacceptable for Black.

19.♖xd3

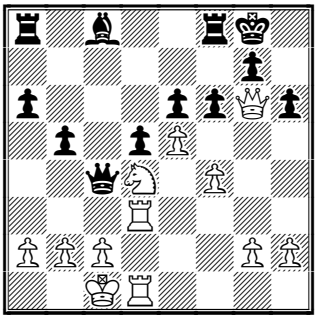


19...♕c4?

This move is hard to accept. First of all, it is just inconsistent with previous play – Black was trying to oppose

White's forthcoming K-side attack. Then, Black was definitely worse and he had to defend - instead he is trying to attack with just a queen - White can simply ignore it since he has a very good piece in defence - his king, who can defend himself if needed. Finally, White is definitely going to create a direct attack on the K-side - and in this critical moment Black is moving his queen as far from his king as possible... 19...fxe5?! was losing a pawn: 20.♘xe6 ♗xe6 21.♕xe6+ ♔h8 22.fxe5±; but 19...♖a7 was tempting - Black had to bring something into play!

20.♖hd1!



White does not pay much attention to Black's threat, freeing his rook on d3 for K-side actions.

20...♖a7

Again, Black changed his mind although he has obviously realised that 20...♕xa2 was just bad due to the simple 21.♖g3 ♖f7 22.exf6 and after 22...♕a1+ 23.♔d2 ♕xb2 24.♔e2+- White's attack was irresistible while Black had no chance to disturb the White king.

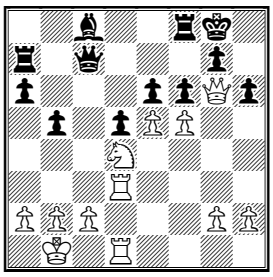
21.♔b1

Thanks to Black's uncertain play White has got an enormous advantage.

21...♕c7?!

Black changes his plans every move - it is not a big surprise White quickly gets a decisive advantage. At least he should have tried to get some counter chances by using his queen on c4 since he had put it there: 21...b4!? deserved attention keeping in mind a possible fxe5 fxe5 and Rf8-f1 if White moves his rook from d3. Yet, White could push the queen away with 22.b3 if he wanted.

22.f5!



A concrete and very energetic approach - White gives Black a chance to get his bishop into play but it does not help him much.

22...♕b6

Both 22...fxe5 23.♘xe6 and 22...exf5 23.e6 were equally bad for Black.

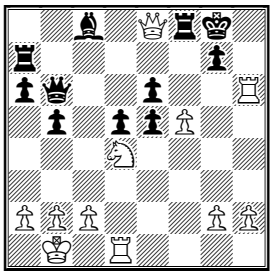
23.♖h3!

Finishing the game with direct attack.

23...fxe5 24.♖xh6! ♖f6

24...exd4 was losing to 25.♕h7+ ♔f7 26.f6! ♔e8 27.fxg7 ♖xg7 28.♕xg7+- and so on. This is not the only way to win this position, just a matter of taste.

25.♕e8+ ♖f8



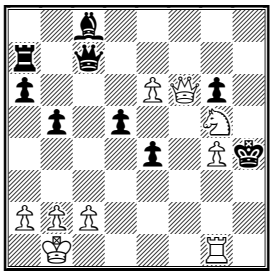
26.♖h8+! ♔xh8 27.♕xf8+ ♔h7 28.♘f3

28.♖d3 exf5 29.♖h3+ ♔g6 30.♘f3 was another good way.

28...♕c7

The bishop on c8 was hanging, by the way...

29.fxe6 e4 30.♘g5+ ♔h6 31.h4 ♔h5 32.♕f5 g6 33.g4+ ♔xh4 34.♖h1+ ♔g3 35.♖g1+ ♔h4 36.♕f6



Black resigned. It was clearly not Teimour's day... **1-0**

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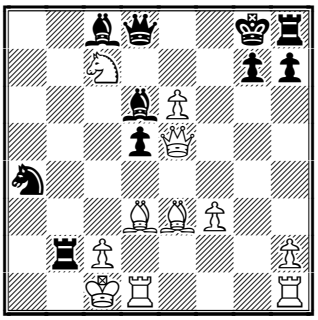
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-61(845) 2nd March 2003

Quiz Today: Vasquez (2481) – Jaime Montalvan (2307) Malaga op–06 (9.8), 27.02.2003



Black has just played 23. ..Bf8–d6. and now White found a brilliant way to finish the game.

Latest News

In the crucial game of the 7th Round of the Linares super-tournament Garry Kasparov beat Vishy Anand. The rook and pawn endgame seemed drawish but it turned out to be not so easy to hold it over the board.

Leko – Kramnik was a rather boring draw in a Sveshnikov Sicilian while Ruslan Ponomariov has eventually scored his first win, having shown great technique in an opposite-coloured bishop endgame which looked impossible to win.

Kasparov – Anand 1:0
Leko – Kramnik ½:½
Ponomariov – Vallejo Pons 1:0
Radjabov had a rest day.

Standings after 7 rounds:
1. Kramnik +2 (4/6)
2–4. Kasparov, Leko, Anand +1 (3½/6)
5. Radjabov –1 (2½/6)
6–7. Ponomariov, Vallejo Pons –2 (2/6)

Kasparov seems fully recovered after his disastrous start. He is already sharing second place and tomorrow he might even take the lead – look at the pairings for the next 8th round:

Kasparov – Kramnik
Leko – Radjabov
Ponomariov – Anand
Vallejo Pons is has a free day.

Tournament News

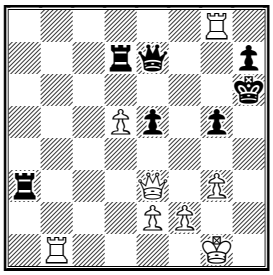
The Anibal Open has started in Linares.
The 125 player field is headed by
1. Alexander Beliavsky (2649, SLO)
2. Oleg Korneev (2613, RUS)
3. Andrei Kharlov (2597, RUS)
4. Evgeny Najer (2585, RUS)
5. Alexander Delchev (2583, BUL)
6. Evgeny Gleizerov (2579, RUS)
7. Bartosz Socko (2577, POL)
8. Vasilios Kotronias (2573, CYP) etc.

The biggest world open has just finished in Capelle-la-Grande (France) – more than 600 players have participated in the event with more than 80 GMs and 50 IMs among them.

7 players shared first place:
1–7. Vladimir Burmakin (2575, RUS), Eduardas Rozentalis (2585, LTU), Philipp Schlosser (2534, GER), Alexander Areshchenko (2566, UKR), Jakov Geller (2448, RUS), Dmitry Bocharov (2524, RUS), Evgeny Miroshnichenko (2538, UKR).

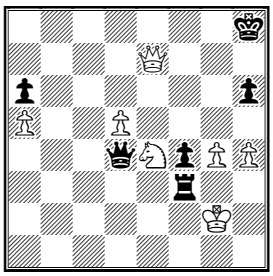
There were a lot of interesting games played there today – here are a couple of highlights ...

E Kengis (2570) – I Efimov (2480)
Cappelle la Grande (8), 28.02.2003



White's position is totally winning but he found the quickest and the most attractive way. (see page 4)

P Schlosser (2534) – A Raetsky (2444) Cappelle la Grande (8), 28.02.2003



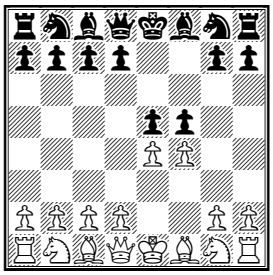
If White takes the rook Black will give perpetual check. Can White achieve more than a draw? (See page 4)

Annotated Game

□ **C Kennaugh (2290)**
■ **K Shirazi (2438)**
Event: Open Cappelle la Grande (7), 27.02.2003 – C30
Annotations: **GM Ruslan Scherbakov**

The following game was played in a style which was common a few centuries ago. I hope you will enjoy the battle. This is still a type of chess and is sometimes no less attractive than subtle rook endgames etc! ...

1.e4 e5 2.f4 f5!?



Kamran Shirazi is known for his tricky style. Now he demonstrates a crazy approach – who is playing the King's Gambit?!

3.exf5

White has tried many possibilities here, it seems interesting to keep tension with 3.♘c3 but Black can maybe show great patience by 3...♘c6?!

3...e4

A similar 3...exf4?! was proved to be bad in the old game Chigorin – Hruby, Vienna 1882: 4.♕h5+ g6 5.fxg6 ♘f6 6.g7+! ♘xh5 7.gxh8♕ ♕h4+ 8.♔d1+–; One interesting game, which was played about... 400 years ago, continued 3...♕h4+ 4.g3 ♕e7 5.♕h5+ ♔d8 6.fxe5 ♕xe5+ 7.♗e2 ♘f6 8.♕f3 d5 9.g4 h5 10.h3? *(10.g5!)* 10...hxg4 11.hxg4 ♖xh1 12.♕xh1 ♕g3+ 13.♔d1 ♘xg4 14.♕xd5+ ♗d7 15.♘f3? ♘f2+ 16.♔e1 ♘d3+ 17.♔d1 and now a well-known 17...♕e1+! 18.♘xe1 ♘f2# checkmate, NN – Greco, Europe 1620!

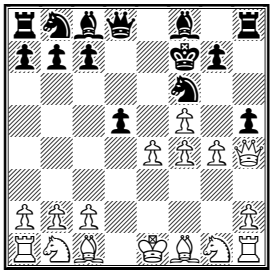
4.♕h5+ ♔e7!

4...g6 was losing to 5.fxg6 ♘f6 6.g7+! ♘xh5 7.gxh8♕+–

5.d3 ♘f6 6.♕g5!? h6 7.♕h4 d5 8.g4?!

White prefers to be materialistic but he should not forget development. The immediate 8.dxe4 looked more to the point, keeping the better chances.

8...♔f7 9.dxe4 h5!

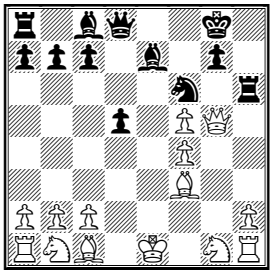


An excellent resource. 9...dxe4? was just bad due to 10.♗c4+

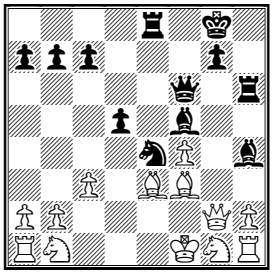
10.e5 hxg4 11.♕g5 ♘bd7 12.♗e2

White decided to help his queen.

12...♖h5 13.♕g6+ ♔g8 14.exf6 ♘xf6 15.♗xg4 ♖h6 16.♕g5 ♗e7 17.♗f3



17...♘e4 18.♕g2 ♗h4+ 19♔f1 ♗xf5 20.♗e3 ♕f6 21.c3 ♖e8



Black has already developed all of his pieces and his initiative looks threatening. Yet, White still has one serious advantage – he is a whole piece up.

22.♘d2??

It seems that White has lost control over the situation – he has just ignored all the threats. 22.♗d4 was correct but after 22...♕f7 White still has certain problems with development.

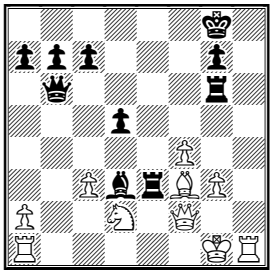
22...♘xc3!

22...♕a6+! was also not bad: 23.♗e2 ♘xd2+ 24.♗xd2 ♖xe2! 25.♘xe2 ♕d3 26.h3 ♖g6–+

23.bxc3 ♖xe3

23...♕xc3! was maybe even stronger.

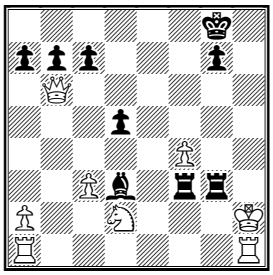
24.♘e2 ♖g6 25.♘g3 ♗d3+ 26.♔g1 ♕b6! 27.♕f2 ♗xg3 28.hxg3



28...♖xg3+!

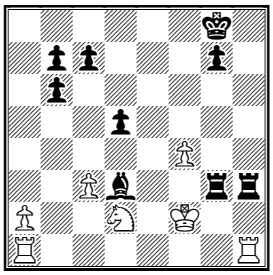
Black does not give his opponent a second's respite!

29.♔h2 ♖exf3! 30.♕xb6



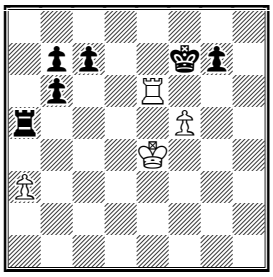
The f3 rook is hanging but Black can move it before taking the queen.

30...♖h3+ 31.♔g2 ♖fg3+ 32.♔f2 axb6–+



The smoke has cleared – Black has a decisive advantage.

33.♖xh3 ♖xh3 34.♖e1 ♖h2+ 35.♔e3 ♗f5 36.a3 ♖h3+ 37.♔d4 ♔f7 38.♔xd5 ♖xc3 39.♘c4 ♗e6+ 40.♖xe6 ♖xc4 41.f5 ♖c5+ 42.♔e4 ♖a5



White resigned. Nowadays, when a very small mistake can be fatal in such tournaments as Wijk aan Zee or Linares and most of the top players are very careful about their ELO rating, we don't see this kind of play very often...

0–1

Solution:

24.♕xg7+!!

Inviting the opponent's king for a walk.

24...♔xg7 25.♖hg1+ ♔f6

25...♗g3!? was more tenacious but it could only prolong the suffering in the lost endgame after 26.♖xg3+ ♔f8 27.♗h6+ ♔e7 28.♗g5+ ♔d6 29.♗xd8 ♖xd8 30.♘xd5 ♗xe6 31.♗e4+–

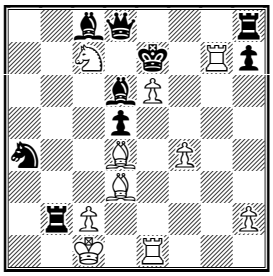
26.♗g5+ ♔e5 27.♖de1+ ♔d4 28.♗e3+ ♔e5 29.f4+

29.♗c5+ was a bit quicker: 29...♔f4 *(29...♔f6 30.♘xd5#)* 30.♘xd5+ ♔xf3 31.♖ef1# checkmate.

29...♔f6 30.♗d4+ ♔e7

The king has successfully escaped to his camp but only to resign after

31.♖g7+



due to the quick checkmate. **1–0**

Capelle quiz:

E Kengis (2570) – I Efimov (2480)
37.♔g2! There is no defence against ♖b1–h1 so Black resigned. **1–0**

P Schlosser (2534) – A Raetsky (2444)
49.♕f8+ ♔h7 50.♘f6+ ♔g6 51.♕g8+! Black resigned as he loses the queen. **1–0**

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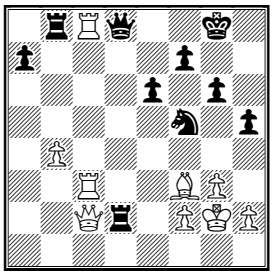
CT-62(846) 3rd March 2003

Quiz Today

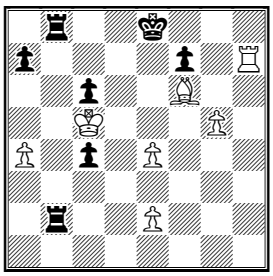
1. A. Adly (2315) – O. Korneev (2613)
X Anibal Open Linares ESP (1), 28.02.2003
White's last move was 31.♖c4-c8. Is he really winning the queen?



Black to play

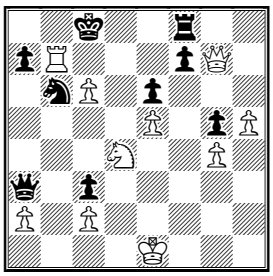
2. A. Beliavsky (2649) – M. Cornette (2329)
X Anibal Open Linares ESP (1), 28.02.2003

Find the best way for White to win.



White to play

3. P. Leko (2736) – T. Radjabov (2624) Linares (8), 02.03.2003



White to play
position after 31...♕a3
(solution in annotated game)

Latest News:
Kramnik protects lead in Linares by drawing with Kasparov, but Leko joins him

The 8th Round of the Ciudad de Linares supertournament has just finished. The most anticipated battle between Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik ended in draw. Kasparov tried to apply pressure to his opponent in the Ruy Lopez but Kramnik defended precisely and thus protected his lead in the tournament. Yet, he is not alone as Peter Leko has caught up to him by crushing Teimour Radjabov's French Defence in brilliant style.

Ruslan Ponomariov and Vishy Anand were playing a very complicated endgame. Anand sacrificed a pawn for positional domination, but Ponomariov was able to neutralize his activity.

Kasparov – Kramnik **½:½**
Leko – Radjabov **1:0**
Ponomariov – Anand **½:½**
Vallejo Pons had a rest day.

Standings after 8 rounds:
1-2. Kramnik, Leko +2 (4½/7)
3-4. Kasparov, Anand +1 (4/7)
5-7. Radjabov, Ponomariov –2 (2½/7), Vallejo Pons –2 (2/6).

Pairings for the next 9th round:
Kramnik – Ponomariov
Radjabov – Kasparov
Anand – Vallejo Pons
Peter Leko will play a role of spectator.

Kasparov is eager to take revenge for his loss in the first circle, while Kramnik and Anand will be trying to strengthen their positions as well.

The ELO-favourites, **Alexander Beliavsky** (2649, SLO) and **Oleg Korneev** (2613, RUS) are sharing the

lead among 16 players after 2 rounds of the Anibal Open.

Tomorrow the Gudmundur J. Gudmundsson Memorial opens in Reykjavik, Iceland. It will be a 9 round swiss event with a time control of 25 minutes.

The list of participants is quite impressive:

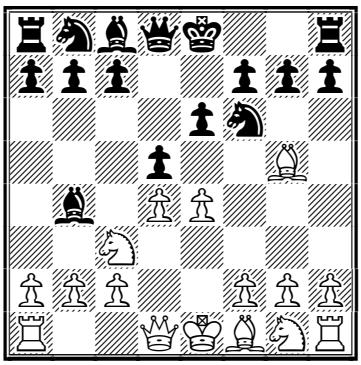
1. Veselin Topalov (2743, BUL)
2. Michael Adams(2734, ENG)
3. Alexei Shirov (2723, ESP)
4. Ivan Sokolov (2688,NED)
5. Etienne Bacrot (2671, FRA)
6. Joel Lautier (2670, FRA)
7. Loek Van Wely (2688, NED)
8. Emil Sutovsky (2651, ISR)
9. Predrag Nikolic (2638, BIH)
10. Mikhail Gurevich (2634, BEL)
11. Johann Hjartarson (2634, ISL)
12. Michal Krasenkow (2633, POL)
13. Viorel Bologan (2630, MDA)
14. Bartlomiej Macieja (2629, POL) etc.

♘♘♘

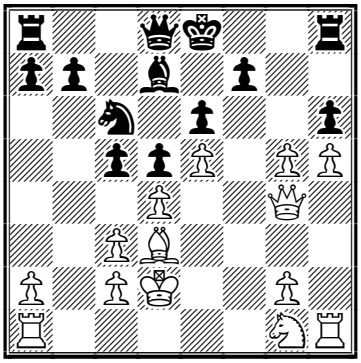
Annotated Game

□ **P. Leko (2736)**
■ **T. Radjabov (2624)**
Event: *Linares (8), 02.03.2003*– ***[C12]***
Annotations by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

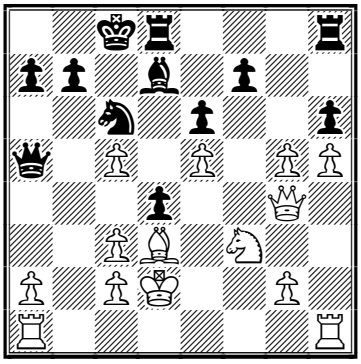
1.e4 e6
Teimour remains faithful to his opening choice despite all his sufferings in this tournament.
2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5
Despite his boring style (to be fair, it has already changed!) Peter Leko has always played this complicated line with enthusiasm.
4...♗b4 (D)



The Mac Cutcheon variation is one of the most complex lines in modern chess.
5.e5 h6 6.♗d2 ♗xc3 7.bxc3 ♘e4 8.♕g4 g6 9.♗d3 ♘xd2 10.♔xd2 c5 11.h4
11.♘f3 is the main alternative. Radjabov just faced this position in the Wijk aan Zee supertournament: 11...♗d7 12.dxc5 ♕e7 13.♖ab1 ♗c6 14.♘d4 ♘d7 15.♖he1 ♘xc5 with excellent play, Anand – Radjabov, Wijk aan Zee 2003.
11...♗d7 12.h5 g5 13.f4 ♘c6 14.fxg5 (D)



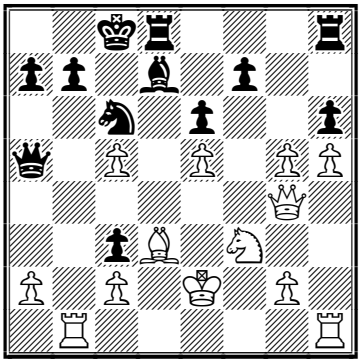
14...♕a5!?
An aggressive approach. Teimour probably did not want to suffer in the endgame after 14...♕xg5+ 15.♕xg5 hxg5 16.♔e3± as was tested in the game Leko – Short, EU-chT Batumi 1999.
15.dxc5 d4 16.♘f3 0-0-0 (D)



17.♖ab1!?
A rather logical novelty. White continues his development, being not much worried about his centralised king – Black cannot create any real threats anyway. [In the game Olivier – Goldgewicht, Cannes 1995 White forgot about his rooks and after

17.♔e2 ♕xc3 18.♕f4 hxg5 19.♘xg5 ♕xc5 20.♘f3 f5!?⇄ Black had obtained very good counter chances.

17...dxc3+ 18.♔e2 (D)



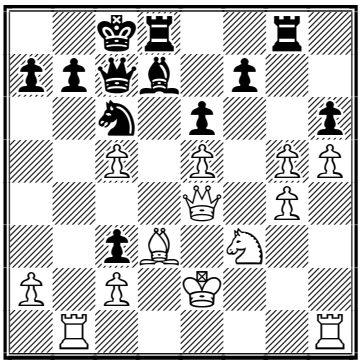
18...♖hg8

Perhaps Black could have achieved more by the immediate 18...hxg5!? followed by the pawn sac ...g5-g4 is the queen moves - then his rook would find a job on the g-file: 19.♕e4 g4!? 20.♕xg4 ♖hg8⇄ with excellent play.

19.♕e4!

White wisely moves his queen from the g4-square. Now he can always meet the forthcoming h6xg5 by g2-g4, securing his knight on f3 (and so the e5-pawn) from g5-g4. Besides, his well-protected pawn on h5 will give him a certain advantage in any endgame.

19...♕c7 20.g4 (D)



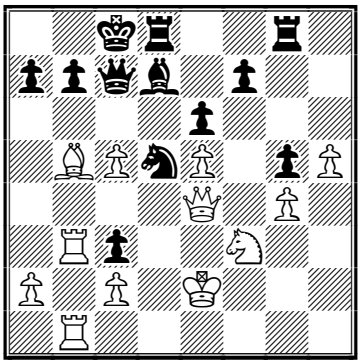
20...♘e7!? 21.♗b5

White does not think about g5xh6. Yet, perhaps 21.gxh6!? was not at all bad: 21...♗c6 22.♕f4 ♗xf3+ 23.♔xf3 but Leko prefers not to give Black any counterplay if possible.

21...hxg5 22.♖b3

Now White is going to double his rooks along the b-file.

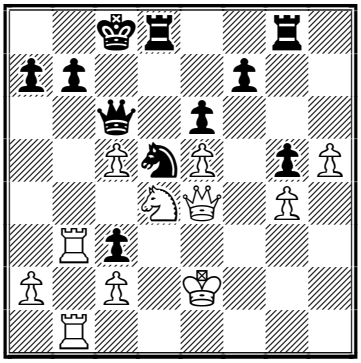
22...♘d5 23.♖hb1 (D)



23...♗c6?

This is too bad - Teimour clearly underestimated White's ideas. 23...f5! seemed to be the best attempt: 24.exf6 ♘xf6 25.♗xd7+ (the immediate *25.♕e5?!* was weaker as the White rook is better placed on b3, attacking the c3-pawn: *25...♗xb5+ 26.♖xb5 ♖d2+! 27.♔e1 ♕xe5+ 28.♘xe5 ♖g7∞)* 25...♖xd7 26.♕e5! *(26.♕c4 ♕g3∞)* 26...♖d2+! 27.♔e1 ♕xe5+ 28.♘xe5 ♖g7± and Black could still defend although White's superiority is beyond doubt.

24.♗xc6 ♕xc6 25.♘d4! (D)



Suddenly White begins a very strong attack against the Black king.

25...♕a6+

Black had a tough choice: 25...♕xc5 26.♖xb7+- was hardly defendable; while the endgame after 25...♘f4+ 26.♔f3 (only not *26.♔e3?? ♘g2+ 27.♔f3 ♘h4+=* with repetition) 26...♕xe4+ 27.♔xe4+- was just bad.

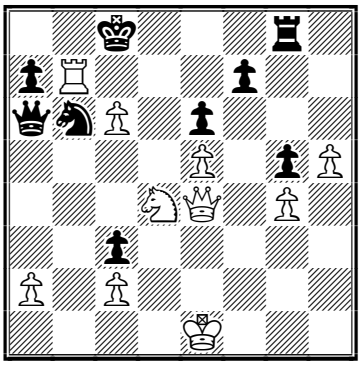
26.♔e1

The king is going back home to be a witness of the triumph of his army.

26...♖d7 27.c6! ♖c7

27...bxc6 28.♖b8+

28.♖xb7 ♖xb7 29.♖xb7 ♘b6 (D)

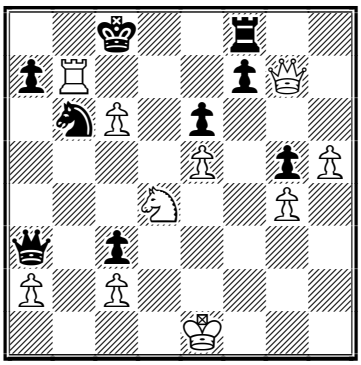


Any other move, for example, 29...♖f8 allowed 30.♘b5!

30.♕h7

30.♘f5 was also not bad.

30...♖f8 31.♕g7 ♕a3 (D)



32.♕xf8+!

White had many winning ideas but Peter prefers the way to please spectators. Black resigned. After 32.♕xf8+ ♕xf8 33.♘b5 ♕c5 34.♘d6+ ♔d8 35.c7+ ♕xc7 36.♖xc7 ♔xc7 37.h6 and the h-pawn is unstoppable. **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today

1. A. Adly (2315) - O. Korneev (2613)

X Anibal Open Linares ESP (1), 28.02.2003

Not at all! After **31...♖xc8 32.♖xc8 ♘e3+** he had to resign. **0-1.**

2. A. Beliavsky (2649) - M. Cornette (2329)

X Anibal Open Linares ESP (1), 28.02.2003

Black has the exchange but in fact he is losing instantly after **38.♔d6! ♖d8+ 39.♔c7!** and the checkmate Rh7-h8 cannot be prevented. **1-0.**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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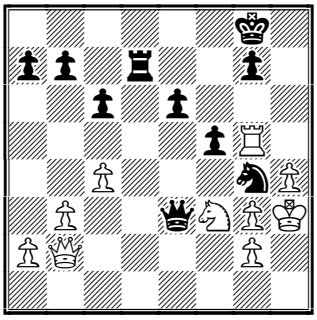
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-63(847) 4th March 2003

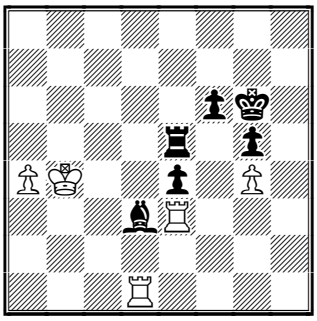
Quiz Today

1. N. Fercec (2484) – K. Chernyshov (2561)
Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (4), 24.02.2003



Black to play

2. A **Mista (2419) – K. Aseev (2556)**
Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (6), 26.02.2003



White to play

In Linares all three games of the 9th round of the super tournament ended in a draw today. Two of them were rather uninspired. Radjabov and Kasparov were playing accurately in an equal position from Queen's Gambit Accepted while Vallejo has built a firm Berlin Wall against Anand. The Annotated game of today's issue is a more exciting encounter Kramnik – Ponomariov. In a position of the Ruy Lopez, which has been known inside out, Kramnik made a new move that looked a bit eccentric. However in the following play he obtained good winning chances but in a time-trouble couldn't realize it.

Round 9 results:
Radjabov – Kasparov ½:½
Kramnik – Ponomariov ½:½
Anand – Vallejo ½:½

Round 9 standings:
+2 Kramnik – 5/8, Leko – 4½/7
+1 Kasparov, Anand – 4½/8
–2 Radjabov, Ponomariov – 3/8, Vallejo – 2½/7

Round 10 pairings:
Vallejo – Kramnik
Ponomariov – Radjabov
Kasparov – Leko
Anand is taking a rest.

At the The Anibal Open in Linares after the 3rd round 4 players – Beliavsky, Korobov Kotronias and Kempinski have taken the lead with perfect score.

A very strong rapid open – the Edda Rapid Tournament has started in Reykjavik. 2 rounds have been played today. Except for Korchnoi all the participants of the recent Hrokurinn Chess Club XV Category are competing here. 6 of them – Adams, Shirov, Macieja, McShane, Stefansson, Gretarsson are among 20 leaders along with Lautier, Sutovsky, Nikolic, Krasenkow, Gurevich, Tregubov, Ehlvest, De Firmian and others. 10 players have scored 1½. This number includes three other players from Hrokurinn Sokolov, Bacrot, Kristjansson as well as the winner of the Aeroflot-open, Bologan. In the group of players who have 50% are Topalov and Van Wely. They both lost in the second round, the former to Helgi Olafsson and the latter to Viparsson. Nicolay Vlassov is sharing their fate, but he was defeated by a much more famous opponent – Alexey Shirov, whose wife Victoria Cmilyte has 1 point too.

♘♘♘

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Annotated Game

New move in the Spanish/Chigorin

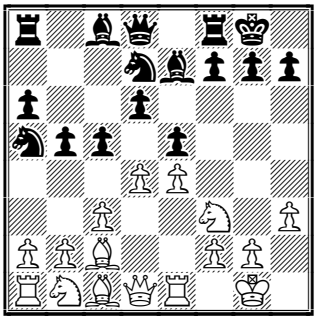
□ **V. Kramnik (2807)**

■ **R. Ponomariov (2734)**

Event: *XX SuperGM Linares ESP (9), 03.03.2003* – ***[C96]***

Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

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 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Nd7 (D)



A well-known position. The database contains almost 500 games with different plans for White. Kramnik's next move has never been played before!

12.Kh1!?

To be honest watching the game on ICC I first thought that Vladimir touched his king accidentally and therefore had to move it :) But now it seems to me I'm ready to explain this peculiar move. As a rule White plays here 12.dxc5 dxc5 13.Nbd2 sending the knight to d5; or first 12.Nbd2 where Black's normal and common counterplay consists of 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6; At the Russia vs Rest of the World match in Kremlin Kasparov against Ponomariov opted for 12.b3 then after 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Nc6 gave his knight a good stand on c3 – 14.Nc3 Kramnik's idea is the same but he doesn't want to weaken the a1–h8 diagonal. Let's look at the Kasparov – Ponomariov continuation: 14...exd4 15.Nd5 Nde5 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Bf6 with tactical counterchances. Without b2-b3 the situation would be even more favourable for White therefore Black should find something else.] But the choice isn't rich. The most logical is

12...Bb7

In case of 12...Bf6 White plays 13.d5 planning a standard attack on the K-side – g2-g4, Nd2-f1-g3-f5. Here Kh1 move turns out to be very useful as it frees the place for the rook. The same advance follows after 12...Bb7 –

13.d5

Notice that after the immediate 12.d5 the bishop never goes to b7 but stays on c8 supporting f7-f5.

13...f5!?

Trying to break free at once. [In case of 13...Nc4 White could carry out the above-mentioned plan – 14.g4 and so on. Black could have found himself in a passive position as to prepare f7-f5 would have been difficult e.g. 14...g6 15.b3 Ncb6 16.Bh6 Re8 17.Rg1]

14.exf5

Staying on b1 instead of d2 the knight doesn't impede the queen to protect the d5-pawn so Black needs some time to regain it.

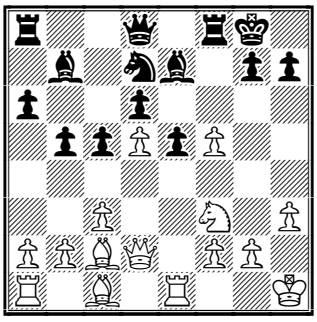
14...Nc4

If 14...Nf6 then 15.Ng5 and the knight goes directly to e6 as in Kramnik's favourite King's Indian line with 9.b4. Ponomariov was unable to delay this manoeuvre for long though.

15.Nbd2 Nxd2

After 15...Bxd5 16.Ne4 two knights are aiming at g5 and the intrusion can only be prevented by the light-squared bishop exchange – 16...Ncb6 *(16...Bb7 17.Nfg5 Rxf5? 18.Ne6 Qc8 19.Nxg7! Kxg7 20.Qg4+)* 17.Neg5 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 which promises good play for the white bishop; 15...Ncb6 16.Ne4 doesn't change much.

16.Qxd2 (D)



16...Nf6

In case of 16...Nb6 White can hang on to the pawn – 17.Be4!

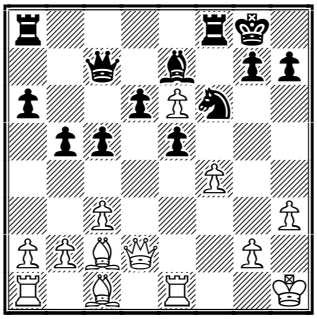
17.Ng5!

The dream has come true.

17...Bxd5 18.f4!

Kramnik is trying to open the e −file. Being protected from behind the e6−pawn would be more dangerous.

18...Qc7! 19.Ne6 Bxe6 20.fxe6 (D)



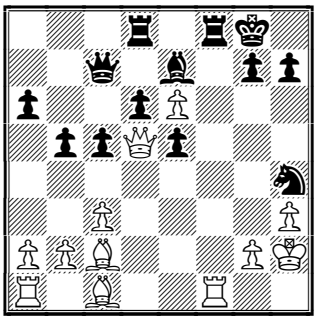
20...Nh5!

Looks risky as the d5 square becomes available for the white queen but otherwise Black can't hope for counterplay.

21.Qd5 Rad8

Intending to capture on f4 with a piece. 21...Nf6 is senseless due to 22.Qf3; after 21...Nxf4 22.Bxf4 exf4 White plays 23.Re4 reinforcing the position gradually(because the hasty *23.Qh5 g6 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.Qxg6+ Kh8* only gives the perpetual. *)*

22.f5! Ng3+ 23.Kh2 Nxf5 24.Rf1 Nh4! (D)



The best defence again. After 24...g6 25.g4 an interesting trick 25...Nd4!? *(25...Ng7 26.Bh6* is dismal*)* 26.Rxf8+ Rxf8 27.cxd4 Rf2+ 28.Kg1 Rxc2 in the end leads to a position where by means of the precise move 29.Bh6! White creates decisive threats along the f−file for example 29...Qd8 *(29...cxd4 30.Qf3)* 30.Qf3 Qe8 31.Rf1+−

25.Bg5

The quiet 25.Be3 deserved attention too with the idea to play a2−a4 at an opportune moment.; another reasonable option is 25.Rf7 Rxf7 26.exf7+ and after 26...Kf8 *(⌓26...Kh8)* 27.Bxh7 Bf6 28.g3! the knight is trapped.

25...Ng6!

Worse is 25...Kh8 26.Bxh4 Bxh4 27.Qe4 g5□ 28.g3! d5 29.Qg4 e4 30.Kg2 winning the bishop.

26.h4 Nf4?!

The knight has made five moves in a row! Safer was 26...Rxf1 27.Rxf1 Rf8 After 28.Rf7 *(28.Rxf8+ Nxf8∞; 28.Bxg6 Rxf1 29.Bf7+ Rxf7! 30.exf7+ Kf8 31.Qe6? Qd8)* 28...Rxf7 29.exf7+ Kf8 the f7−pawn is not that dangerous as it looks.

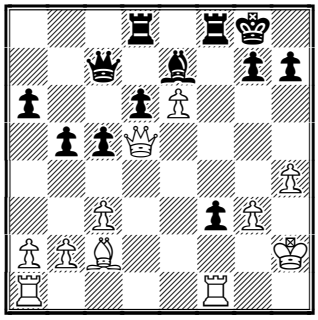
27.Bxf4 exf4

27...Rxf4 28.Rxf4 exf4 29.h5! followed by the Qf5 (or e4, or d3) gives White a serious attack.

28.g3!

Now Black was ready to meet 28.h5 with 28...Rf6 29.Qe4 g6 (or even *29...Rh6)* ; 28.Qh5 g6 29.Bxg6 hxg6 30.Qxg6+ Kh8=

28...f3 (D)



If 28...fxg3+ 29.Kxg3 then with the open files on the kingside the idea of Qh5 is much more efficient.

29.Rxf3?

Missing the advantage. After 29.h5! Rf6 30.Rxf3 Rdf8 *(30...Rxf3 31.Qxf3 Rf8 32.Qd3+−)* 31.Raf1 Rxf3 32.Rxf3 Rxf3 33.Qxf3 Bf6 34.Qe4 White gains a pawn and still has good winning chances.

29...Rxf3 30.Qxf3 Rf8 31.Qd3 g6 32.Rf1

White has to be cautious already. Careless 32.h5? loses to 32...Rf2+ 33.Kg1 *(33.Kh3 c4 34.Qd1 Qc6)* 33...c4! 34.Qd1 *(34.Qe4 d5!)* 34...Qc5

32...Qc8 33.Rxf8+ Draw agreed.

½−½.

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. N. Fercec (2484) – K. Chernyshov (2561)
Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (4), 24.02.2003
43...Qxg5! [43...Qxg5 44.hxg5 Rd1 45.Nh2 Rh1] **0–1.**

2. A **Mista (2419) – K. Aseev (2556)**
Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (6), 26.02.2003
41.Rdxd3! exd3 42.Rxe5 fxe5 43.Kc3 1–0

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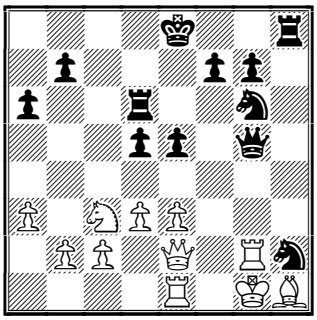
CT-64(848) 5th March 2003

Quiz Today

1. S. Gudmundsson – I. Sokolov
Edda Rapid Reykjavic ISL (1), 03.03.2003



Black to play

CHESS NEWS

The players of the super tournament at Linares have a day off today.

At the The Anibal Open after the 4th round the leading group has grown – **Alexander Riazantsev, Stelios Halkias, Alexander Delchev, Alejandro Hoffman** and **Rodrigo Vasquez** have joined **Alexander Beliavsky, Anton Korobov and Robert Kempinski**. The leaders have scored 3½ points.

As of this writing 5 rounds have been played in Reykjavik at the Edda Rapid Tournament The only player with a perfect score is the GM **Emil Sutovsky.** Michael Adams, Mikhail Gurevich and Ivan Sokolov are half a point behind. Shirov, McShane, Stefansson, Lautier, Nikolic, Krasenkow, Bacrot, Kristjansson and Ehlvest have 4 points. CT-representative **Nicolay Vlassov** has scored 3½ and keeps good company with Topalov, Van Wely, Bologan, Macieja, Gretarsson, Hjartarson, Tregubov and De Firmian.

We received the following sad news from ICC and believe that it is appropriate to publish it in *Chess Today* – Alex Dunne is one of our readers and we would like to support him at this difficult time. *Chess Today* will be making a donation to the relief fund, as well as giving a free life-time subscription to him. Nothing can reverse his great loss, but hopefully human care and support can help him to cope with it better. --- *GM Alexander Baburin*

Condolences to Alex Dunne

On the morning of Sunday, February 16, fire destroyed the home of ICCF rated master and FIDE Master Alex Dunne (USA). His wife and 2 year old grandson were unable to escape the flames, and perished in the fire. Alex is a popular correspondence chess columnist for Chess Life and an active ICC member. His chess library and computers were also destroyed by the fire. If you would like to give Alex support, you can send email to him at alex.dunne@cqservices.com. ICC wishes to express its sympathy to Alex, and will be making a donation.

The Pennsylvania State Chess Federation is accepting donations for a fund to be set up for the benefit of Alex. Contributions may be made by check or credit card. If contributing by check, please make checks payable to "PSCF" and send them to: Dr. Ira Lee Riddle, 400 Newtown Road, Warminster, PA 18974-5208, USA. Please include a note indicating that the check is for the Alex Dunne Fund. If you wish to donate by Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, or PayPal, please visit the following webpage setup by CC.COM: http://correspondencechess.com/alexdunne/fund.html. All contributions to the Alex Dunne Fund are tax-deductible under US law.

♘♘♘

ANNIVERSARY

On March, 5 the outstanding Russian GM Evgeny Vasiukov celebrates his 70th birthday. The winner of more than 40 international tournaments he is well-known for his extraordinary combinational skill. Vasiukov is also a great blitz player who won the friendly matches against the World Champions Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Karpov and even beat the young Bobby Fischer when he came to Moscow at the age of 15. Vladimir Barsky and I asked the Grandmaster to give jubilee material for our newspaper *Chess Week*. Then at the closing ceremony of Aeroflot-open Vasiukov showed us the following game. Since the organizers had already replaced the signs of the chess festival in the playing hall by glasses of champagne he sat at a table, took the board and the pieces out of his bag, set up the initial position and began to speak, drawing an audience fast. The GM Emil Sutovsky was among the listeners we remember.

"I'd like to show you the game from one of the Soviet tournaments that I played back in 1960", said Vasiukov. "I remember the other players forgot about their games and surrounded our board. It was no wonder as in this encounter I sacrificed almost all my pieces!"

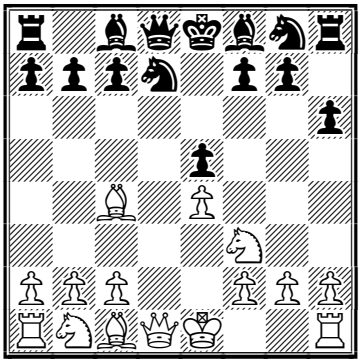
A feast of Sacrifices!

□ **E. Vasiukov**
■ **B. Lebedev**
Event: *Moscow, 1960* – ***[C41]***
Annotations by GM Evgeny Vasiukov

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 ♘d7 4.♗c4 h6?

The right continuation here is 4...c6 taking control over the d5-square; bad are both 4...♘gf6? 5.♘g5; and 4...♗e7? 5.dxe5 ♘xe5 *(5...dxe5? 6.♕d5+-)* 6.♘xe5 dxe5 7.♕h5 with double attack on e5 and f7. By the text move Black covers the g5-square intending to complete his development – Nf6, Be7, 0–0, obtaining a common Philidor Defence position. But in open games a loss of time in the opening is sometimes fatal. I felt myself bound to refute the opponent's play.

5.dxe5 dxe5 (D)



5...♘xe5? 6.♘xe5 dxe5 7.♗xf7+.

6.♗xf7+!

Sacrifice No.1 – White gives up the bishop.

6...♔xf7 7.♘xe5+ ♔f6

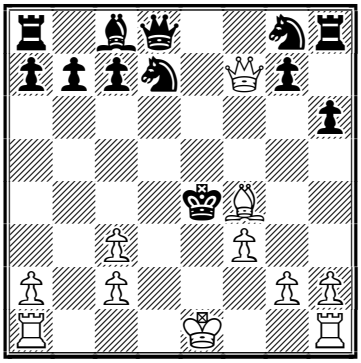
The only move. 7...♔e8 (or e6) leads to a quick checkmate; after 7...♔e7 White simply takes the rook – 8.♘g6+ ♔e8 9.♘xh8 with winning position.

8.♘c3!!

The cool developing move and the second sacrifice at the same time. Before 8.♕d4 had been tried but after 8...c5! 9.♘xd7+ ♔e7 10.♕xc5+ ♔xd7 the position is far from clear.

8...♔xe5

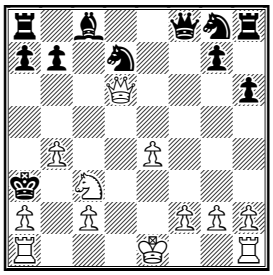
The Black king should go forward. 8...♗d6 loses to 9.♕f3+; in recent years the game Skachkov – Krovelschikov was played at the tournament of the Russian Cup in Tomsk 2001: 8...♗b4 9.♕d4 (now it works fine) 9...♗xc3+ *(9...c5? 10.♕d6#!)* 10.bxc3 ♔e6? 11.♕d5+ ♔f6 *(11...♔e7 12.♕f7+ ♔d6 13.♘c4+ ♔c6 14.♕d5#)* 12.♕f7+! ♔xe5 13.♗f4+ ♔xe4 14.f3#!



Here I noticed a very nice tactical idea and couldn't resist the temptation. I played

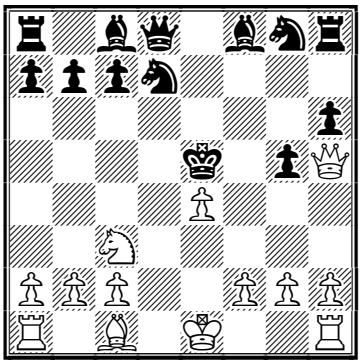
9.♕h5+

which objectively is not the best. Two years later in a simul I opted for the tougher 9.♕d5+ The most curious thing is that this position arose in two games, my opponents sat virtually side by side. Looking at each other they were making the forced moves – 9...♔f6 10.♕f5+ ♔e7 11.♘d5+ ♔d6 *(11...♔e8 12.♕g6#)* 12.♗f4+ ♔c6 13.♕e6+ ♗d6 14.♘b4+ ♔b6 15.♗xd6 Here my opponents stopped and plunged in thought. 15...cxd6 (The first one chose *15...c6* but resigned after *16.♘d5+!* in view of *16...cxd5 17.♗e7+ ♔c7 18.♕d6#)* Seeing that his "partner" deviated by 15...cxd6, but it didn't help 16.♕xd6+ ♔a5 17.♘d5 ♕f8 18.b4+ ♔a4 19.♘c3+ ♔a3 *(D)*



and Black was checkmated after 20.♖b1! ♕xd6 21.♖b3# But let's go back to the game.

9...g5 (D)

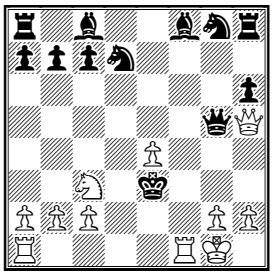


10.♗xg5!

Number three!

10...hxg5

After 10...♕xg5 I was going to play 11.f4+! ♔xf4 12.0–0+ ♔e3 *(D)*

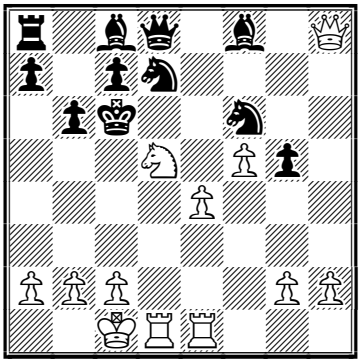


(12...♔e5 13.♖f5+ winning the queen while the attack is going on *)* and here White makes a quiet move 13.♖ad1!! with inevitable mate. Because of this unbelievable line I chose the check on h5 on move 9! But Black played stronger.

11.f4+! ♔e6 12.f5+ ♔e7 13.♘d5+ ♔d6

The king can't find a safe place.

14.♕xh8 ♘gf6 15.0–0–0 ♔c6 16.♖he1 b6 (D)



17.♘b4+!

The last minor piece is sent to the altar.

17...♗xb4!

A smart resource. After 17...♔b7 18.e5 the pawns will smash everything.

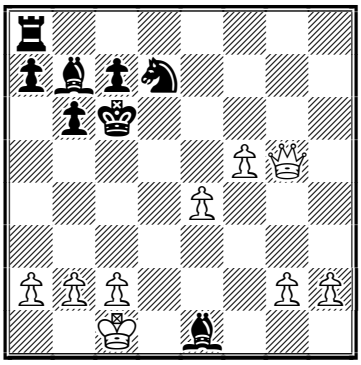
18.♕xd8 ♗b7!

White's queen is trapped. It's time to sacrifice the major pieces!

19.♖xd7! ♘xd7

It's a pity that my opponent didn't opt for 19...♖xd8 20.♖xd8 ♗xe1 21.e5 ♘g4 22.e6 ♗b4 23.♖d4 ♗e7 24.♖xg4 ♔d5 Here after 25.h4!? ♔e5? 26.hxg5 ♔xf5 27.g6!! ♔xg4 28.g7 this fantastic position could have arisen. White has given up all his pieces but the pair of enemy bishops is feeble against White's pawns!

20.♕xg5 ♗xe1 (D)



Black has four pieces for the queen but they lack co-ordination. The mobile white queen is able to bring more chaos to the adversary's disposition. **21.♕e3!**

It appears that the board is small for the dark-squared bishop.

21...♗h4

The e1–a5 diagonal isn't the right direction either: 21...♗b4 22.♕d4; 21...♗a5 22.♕d4 b5 *(22...♘c5 23.c3!)* 23.♕d5+ ♔b6 24.♕xd7 White has taken one piece back and Black is unable to even compensate for it with one pawn as 24...♗xe4? loses to 25.♕d4+

22.♕h6+

A game of backwards and forwards.

22...♗f6 23.e5!

Time to withdraw a deposit.

23...♖f8 24.exf6 ♖xf6 25.♕f4

The pawn trio together with the queen decides.

25...♗c8 26.g4 ♘c5 27.b4! ♘b7 28.♕c4+ ♔d7 29.♕d4+ ♖d6

29...♔e7 30.♕e5+ ♔f7 31.♕xc7+.

30.♕g7+ ♔c6 31.f6 ♘d8 32.f7 ♘xf7 33.♕xf7

Black resigned. The g4-pawn is untouchable in view of ♕c4+. This is one of my most memorable games" concluded the Grandmaster. Thank you very much maestro and our congratulations to you! **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. S. Gudmundsson - I. Sokolov

Edda Rapid Reykjavic ISL (1), 03.03.2003

26...♘f3+! 27.♕xf3 ♖xh1+ 28.♔xh1? [28.♔f2∓] **28...♕h4+ 29.♖h2? ♕xe1+ 30.♔g2 ♘h4+** [30...♘f4+! 31.exf4 ♖g6+ 32.♔h3 ♕g1! 33.♖g2 ♕h1+] **31.♖xh4 ♕xh4 32.♘xd5 ♖g6+ 33.♔f1 ♕h2 34.♘c7+ ♔f8 0-1.**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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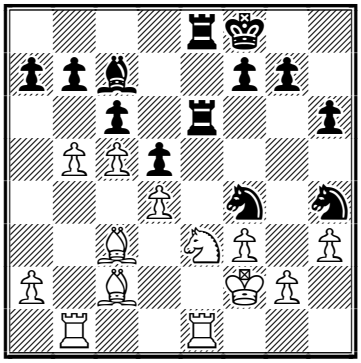
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-65(849) 6th March 2003

Quiz Today: Gorbatov (2448) – Najer (2585) Anibal Open, Linares, 04.03.2003



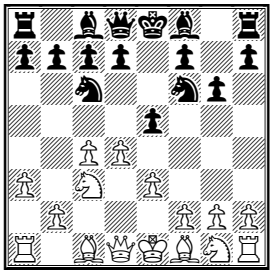
Black to play

Chess News

Yesterday, round 10 was played at Linares. All the games were drawn, but after interesting fighting chess. Kasparov was pressing against Leko – at some point White (Kasparov) sacrificed an exchange, but the immediate counter-sacrifice from Leko kept the balance. Radjabov seems to be a difficult opponent for Ponomariov – this time the young GM from Baku got better chances with Black. But in the end Ponomariov's active defence (27.♖e1! and 30.d4!) saved him.

The game Vallejo-Kramnik was short, but interesting. Have a look:

□ **Vallejo (2629)**
■ **Kramnik (2807)**
Event: Linares (10), 05.03.2003 – [A25]
Annotations: **GM Alexander Baburin**
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.e3 ♘c6 4.a3 g6 5.d4 ***(D)***



Apparently, this is a very rare position – I found only 3 games in Mega 2002 database!

5...exd4

True King's Indian fans would have played here 5...d6 – after 6.d5 ♘e7 both a2-a3 and e2-e3 may not be ideal moves.

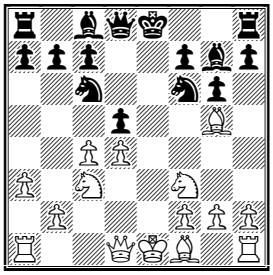
6.exd4 ♗g7 7.♘f3

7.d5 ♘e7 8.♗e2 d6 9.♗f4 0–0 10.h3 ♖e8 11.♘f3 ♘f5 12.0–0 ♘e4 Conquest-Howell, Oakham 1994.

7...d5

7...0–0 8.d5 ♘e5 9.♘xe5 ♖e8 10.♗e2 ♖xe5 11.0–0 ♘e4 12.♘xe4 ♖xe4 13.♗d3 ♖e8 14.♖b1 d6 15.♗f4 ½–½ Lebredo-Diaz, Cienfuegos 1975.

8.♗g5 ***(D)***



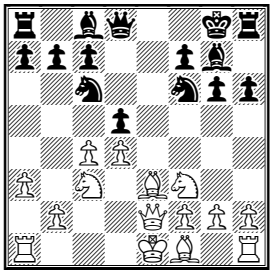
8...h6(N)

In this position Kramnik's friend and second Evgeny Bareev played 8...0–0 After 9.♘xd5 ♗g4 10.♗e2 ♗xf3 11.♗xf3 ♖e8+ 12.♔f1 h6 13.♗e3 ♘xd5 14.♗xd5 ♕f6 15.♗xc6 ♕xc6 16.♖c1 ♖ad8 17.d5 ♕f6 18.♖c3 c6 Black eventually won in the game Bistric-Bareev, Bihac 1999, but perhaps Kramnik did not quite believe in Black's compensation for a pawn.

9.♕e2+!?

The line 9.♗xf6 ♕xf6 *(9...♗xf6 10.cxd5 ♘e7 11.♕a4+)* 10.♘xd5 ♕d6 seems to be OK for Black.

9...♔f8 10.♗e3 ♔g8! ***(D)***



Black is about to make artificial castling, while White needs to solve the problem of the f1–bishop. So, Vallejo decided to simplify the position:
11.cxd5 ♘xd5 12.♘xd5 ♕xd5 13.♕b5 ½–½

Standings after 10 rounds:

Peter Leko (HUN 2736) 5/8, **+2**;
Vladimir Kramnik (RUS 2807) – 5½/9, **+2**;
Vishy Anand (IND 2753) – 4½/8, **+1**;
Garry Kasparov (RUS 2847) – 5/9, **+1**;
Teimour Radjabov (AZE 2624) – 3½/9, **–2**;
Ruslan Ponomariov (UKR 2734) 3½/9, **–2**;
Francisco Vallejo Pons (ESP 2629) – 3/8, **–2**.

In the Anibal Open in Linares after 5 rounds there are three leaders:
1–3. Stelios Halkias, Alexander Delchev and Anton Korobov 4½ points;
4–12. Alexander Riazantsev, Salvador Del Rio Angelis, Alexander Beliavsky, Sergey Grigoriants, Andrei Kharlov, Evgeniy Najer, Rodrigo Vasquez, Vassilios Kotronias and Ernesto Inarkiev – all 4 points.

The EDDA Rapid Tournament has finished in Reykjavik. GM Mikhail Gurevich from Belgium hit the jackpot – $10,000!

Final results:
1. Mikhail Gurevich – 8 points out of 9;
2–3. Ivan Sokolov and Emil Sutovsky – 7 points ($3,500 each);
4–12. Lautier, Shirov, Adams, van Wely, Nikolic, Ehlvest, Bacrot, Bologan and Votava – 6½ points (about $1000 each).

You can find many games from these tournaments in our database today.

Letters to the Editor

We keep receiving e–mails from our readers and today I would like to publish two of them. The first one came from –Steven Craig Miller from Illinois, USA:

"I'm a new reader. I find it odd that at the end of your paper you write: 'Chess Today is copyright 2002.' Eh ... you do know that the year is 2003, yes?

Also, you add: 'Any unauthorized reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever is strictly prohibited without express written permission." Yet the e–mail which I receive states: 'We would appreciate your help in promoting CT – with more readers we can employ more journalists and make CT even more interesting. Please forward CT issues to your chess friends, take printed versions to your chess club and to the tournaments where you play.'

Which is it? Why the mixed message? Have you thought of crafting a statement which might reflect your true intent?

How about adding something like: 'Subscribers are allowed to non–commercially distribute copies of Chess Today at their chess club and at the tournaments where they play.' Otherwise, your copyright notice gives the impression that everyone who gives away a printed copy of CT is violating your copyright."

Steven has a good point and we will update our copyright notice. Basically, we welcome forwarding of CT messages, provided it is not done on a regular basis (i.e. every day!) and no fee is charged. If some readers want to post printed CT issues in their club or at chess tournaments, that's fine by us too. What we are against is an un–authorised posting of Chess Today content on the Web and use of our annotated games without our consent. Alas, we have seen both...

The second letter also came from USA (we'll keep the sender's name secret!):

"Alex, I was just curious if the following article is true or a joke because it looks very suspicious as they ask to send money to the third party person including the strange name of the bank ..
chess-sector.odessa.ua/noreturn.htm

It's not clearly seen from the article whether it's a joke or a serious matter and is very confusing! So, just wanted to let you know if you haven't heard about this one. I even saw somewhere this article being referenced as a serious matter on another website. Best,..."

Well, I am glad our joke worked and confused at least some people. The text was written by my Moscow friend Evgeny, who last summer visited me in my home city – Nizhniy Novgorod. I showed him the building where I lived the first 25 years of my life. The house is about to be demolished. Evgeny took some photos and later sent me that text (in Russian) which made me laugh. I translated it to English and added that 'strange bank name' – would you transfer money to the bank called 'The Point of No Returns'?! By the way, you can find Russian version of the joke on chess-sector.odessa.ua/dablin.htm

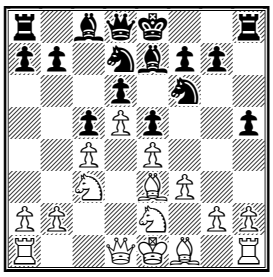
So, guys, take it easy – no need you save 'our great contemporary' and 'our favourite Grandmaster' yet! :-)

Annotated Game: Today I would like to show a game where one side had a considerable space advantage and eventually converted it into a full point. The game is very long, so my notes will be brief!

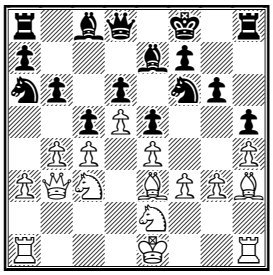
□ **A. Delchev (2583)**
■ **A. Hoffman (2506)**
Event: Anibal Open, Linares (04.03.2003) – [B07]

Annotations: **GM Alexander Baburin**

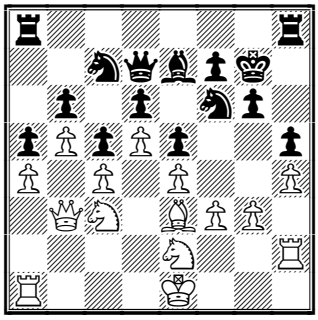
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.f3 e5 4.♘e2 ♗e7 5.c4 h5 6.♘bc3 c6 7.♗e3 ♘bd7 8.d5 c5 ***(D)***



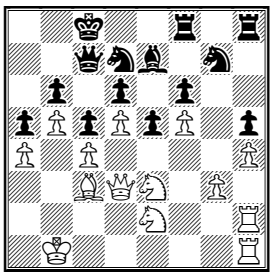
Usually Black avoids such positions because White commands more space and this gives White better chances.
9.h4 ♘b8 10.a3 ♘a6 11.b4 b6
11...cxb4? 12.axb4 ♘xb4?? 13.♕a4+.
12.g3 ♔f8 13.♕b3 g6 14.♗h3 ***(D)***



In this pawn formation, exchanging light-squared bishops is usually considered good for White - his bishop is 'bad' (blocked by his own pawns), while his black counterpart is 'good'. Of course, nothing is that simple in chess!
14...♗xh3 15.♖xh3 ♔d7 16.♖h2 ♔g7 17.b5 ♘c7 18.a4 a5! ***(D)***

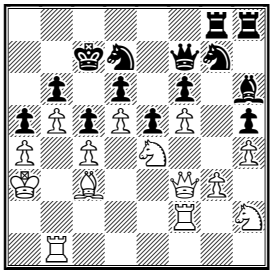


Otherwise after a4-a5 White would have threatened to open the a-file when it would suit him. Now the position is very closed, so deep manoeuvring begins:
19.0-0-0 ♖ag8 20.♖f1 ♔f8 21.♘d1 ♔e8 22.♗d2 ♔d8 23.♕d3 ♔c8 24.♔b1 ♕d8 25.♘f2 ♘d7 26.♘h3 f6 27.♗c3 ♘e8 28.f4 ♕c7 29.♘f2 ♘g7 30.♘d1 ♖f8 31.♘e3 ♘e8 32.♖fh1 ♘g7 33.f5 gxf5 34.exf5 ***(D)***



White has got a good square for his knight. Pay attention to the d7-knight - it has no good squares or route on the board! But it is hard for White to win this position because he can only play for the g2-g4 advance or sacrifice on a5.

34...♖h7 35.♗d2 ♖fh8 36.♘c3 ♕d8 37.♘e4 ♔c7 38.♖f1 ♕e8 39.♘c2 ♕f7 40.♘a1 ♖g8 41.♘b3 ♖a8 42.♗c3 ♘e8 43.♕f3 ♖h8 44.♘bd2 ♘g7 45.♖fh1 ♖ag8 46.♘f1 ♘e8 47.♘e3 ♗f8 48.♖g2 ♗h6 49.♘f1 ♖h7 50.♘h2 ♖gh8 51.♔a2 ♖g8 52.♖b1 ♘g7 53.♖gb2 ♖a8 54.♘f1 ♖hh8 55.♖f2 ♖hg8 56.♔b3 ♖h8 57.♕d3 ♖hg8 58.♕f3 ♖h8 59.♘h2 ♖ag8 60.♔a3 *(D)*



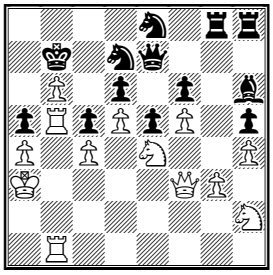
60...♘e8?

Black had to play 60...♖a8! – obstructing the back rank, he makes a sacrifice on a5 possible:

61.♖fb2! ♕e7 62.♗xa5!

Finally White gets through!

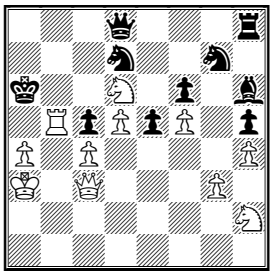
62...bxa5 63.b6+ ♔b7 64.♖b5 *(D)*



64...♘g7 65.♖xa5 ♖a8 66.♖a7+! ♖xa7 67.bxa7+ ♔xa7

After 67...♔a8? 68.♕b3 wins.

68.♕c3 ♔a6 69.♖b5 ♕d8 70.♘xd6 *(D)*



Black's position collapses...

70...♘e8 71.♘f7 ♕c7 72.d6 ♘xd6 73.♘xd6 ♖b8 74.♘e4 ♖d8 75.♘f1 ♖b8 76.♘h2 ♗f8 77.♘f3 ♘b6 78.♘fd2 ♖d8 79.♘b3 ♖d4 80.♘exc5+ 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today:

28...♘hxg2! 29.♘xg2 ♖e2+ 30.♖xe2 ♖xe2+ 31.♔f1 ♖xc2–+ 32.b6 axb6 33.cxb6 ♗d6 34.♗b4 ♗xb4 35.♘xf4 ♗d6 0–1

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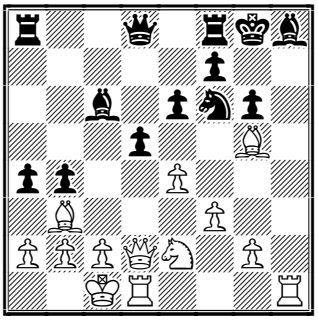
CT-66(850) 7th March 2003

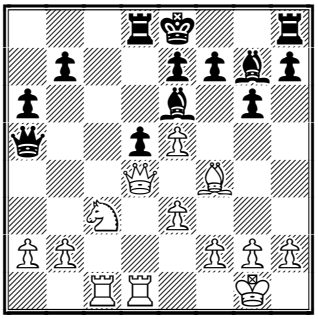
Quiz Today: *From the Anibal Open*

1) Pavlovic (2560) – Alonso (2443)
B76 X Anibal Open Linares ESP (6), 05.03.2003



White to play

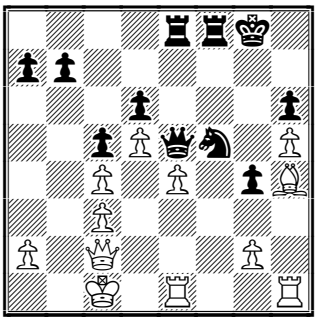
2) Gleizerov (2579) – Peng (2425)
X Anibal Open Linares ESP (6), 05.03.2003



White to play

3) Gokhale (2374) – Sorokin (2560)
X Anibal Open Linares ESP (6), 05.03.2003

White's last move was 25.e3-e4?



Black to play

Chess News

For the 3rd round in a row all three games of the Linares Supertournament were drawn. To my mind these draws were much less interesting than the previous days ones. Of course you can judge by yourself: as usual we add these games in our cbv and pgn files.

Round 11
Kramnik – Anand **½:½**
Leko – Ponomariov **½:½**
Radjabov – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Kasparov – BYE

Once more Kramnik began his game with 1.e4, but maybe he wasn't completely ready for the Ruy Lopez New Archangelsk and chose the very solid d2-d3 set up. Anand got at least an equal position very easily.

Leko also played more than solid chess – he had exploited the 6.g2-g3 system against the Paulsen Sicilian of Ponomariov. White was a bit better but Ruslan defended very calmly.

To my mind only young Radjabov created some opening problems for his opponent Vallejo Pons. The slightly older Spanish GM had to sacrifice a queen to create a fortress.

Round 11 Standings:

Kramnik – 6 points out of 10 (+2)
Leko – 5½/9 (+2)
Kasparov – 5/9 (+1)
Anand – 5/9 (+1)
Ponomariov – 4/10 (-2)
Radjabov – 4/10 (-2)
Vallejo Pons – 3½/9 (-2)

Round 12 pairings:

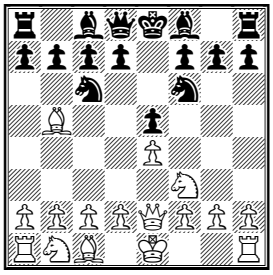
Anand – Radjabov
Vallejo – Leko
Ponomariov – Kasparov
Bye – Kramnik

Annibal Open, Round 6 leading standings:
1-6. Kharlov, Halkias, Delchev, Korobov, Inarkiev, Vasquez – 5 points
7-14. Beliavsky, Pavlovic, Del Rio Angelis, Korneev, Arizmendi Martinez, Kempinski, Nakamura, Riazantsev – 4½ etc.

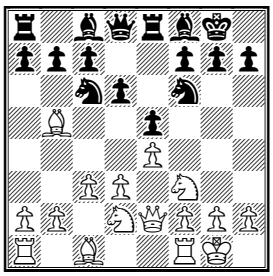
Annotated Game:

□ **S. Grigoriants (2524)**
■ **A. Kharlov (2597)**
Event: X Anibal Open Linares ESP (6), 05.03.2003 C65
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

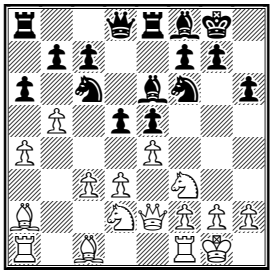
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.♕e2!?



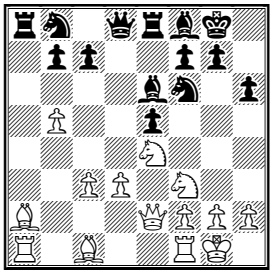
Of course, not everybody likes to play against the fashionable Berlin Wall. In this game White decides to keep the queens on the board. 4.0–0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 etc.
4...♗d6
At first sight this move looks like a beginner's mistake (the bishop stands ahead of the d7-pawn), but nowadays it's a typical opening method: Black prepares 0–0, Re8, then Bf8 and d7-d6 or even d7-d5. So the bishop defends the e5 pawn, and Black avoids d2-d4 in case of 4...d7-d6.
5.c3 0-0 6.0-0 ♖e8 7.d3 ♗f8 8.♘bd2 d6



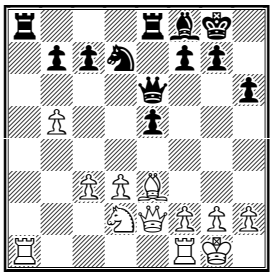
Black hasn't any weak points and no development problems.
9.a4?! a6 10.♗c4 d5!?
Now Black begins a struggle for the initiative. Obviously Black has solved all his opening problems.
11.♗a2 h6 12.b4 ♗e6 13.b5?!



White doesn't like to accept that Black has at least equal chances, and tries to attack on the queenside. But pawns can't move backwards, and the b5 pawn becomes rather weak rather soon.
13...axb5 14.axb5 dxe4 15.♘xe4
White has to take with the knight to defend the a2 bishop with the queen.
15...♘b8



Of course it's just a temporary inconvenience: the b8 knight will return into play in 2-3 moves.
16.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 17.♗e3
Unpinning the a2 bishop because the a1 rook is protected now by the other rook.
17...♘d7 18.♗xe6 ♕xe6 19.♘d2



After some exchanges the situation has become more or less clear: the white pawns on the left hand side of

the board are weak, and White has no compensation for that. Black could improve his position without any risk.

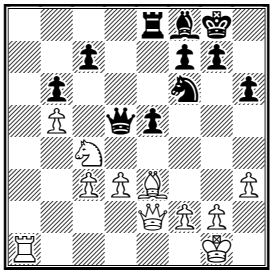
19...♘f6 20.♘c4?! b6!

A useful move: the b5 pawn is blocked now, and the c4 knight hasn't the a5-square..

21.h3?

After this "prophylactic" move White loses a pawn.

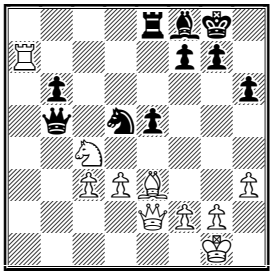
21...♖xa1 22.♖xa1 ♕d5



23.♖a7

Or 23.♖b1 ♖d8 and White is unable to defend both the b5 and d3 pawns.

23...♕xb5 24.♖xc7 ♘d5 25.♖a7



25...e4!

Final blow.

26.dxe4 ♘xe3

In case of 26...♖xe4 White could escape after 27.♕f3! *(not 27.♕h5? ♘c7!)* and White couldn't take the knight in view of 27...♕xc4? 28.♕xf7+ ♔h7 29.♕xf8+-

27.fxe3 ♖c8

A technical victory by Black. **0-1**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1) 20.♖xh8+! ♔xh8 21.e5 ♘e4 22.♗xd8! and Black resigned in view of 22.♗xd8 ♘xd2 23.♗f6+ ♔g8 24.♖h1 **1-0**

2) 15.b4! ♕a3 15...♕c7 16.♘xd5 ♕b8 17.♘c7++- **16.♖b1 ♖c8** 16...f6 17.♖b3+- **17.♖b3 ♖xc3 18.♖xa3 ♖xa3 19.e4+- 0-0 20.exd5 ♗f5 21.♕b6 h6 22.♕xb7 g5 23.♗g3 ♖e8 24.h4 ♖xa2 25.d6 exd6 26.exd6 ♖d8 27.hxg5 ♖d7 28.♕f3 1-0**

3) 25...♘xh4 26.♖xh4 ♕g5+ 0-1

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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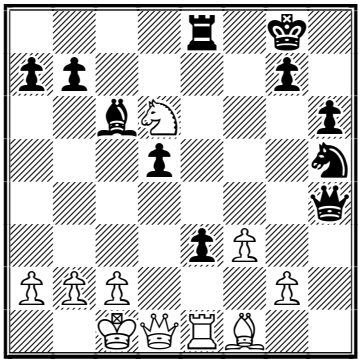
CT-67(851) 8th March 2003

Quiz Today:

(1) Candela (2432) – Gleizerov (2579)
Open Anibal Linares (7.9), 06.03.2003

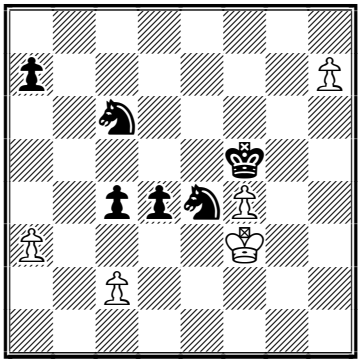
White just took the Black bishop by 28. Nb5xd6.



Black to play

(2) Socko (2577) – Potkin (2516)
Open Anibal Linares (7.10), 06.03.2003

White just played 50. h6-h7. The pawn looks unstoppable but...



Black to play

KNIGHTMARE for Leko

The 12th round of the Linares super-tournament XX "Ciudad de Linares" has finished.

Today Vladimir Kramnik was a spectator and Peter Leko had a chance to take sole lead. However, he not only missed out on first, but was beaten by Paco Vallejo Pons. The Spanish GM scored his first win in the tournament, and in brilliant style! Don't miss it in our game section.

So it was Vishy Anand, who substituted Leko at the top after beating Teimour Radjabov, who committed suicide in a worse position.

In the battle between Ruslan Ponomariov and Garry Kasparov both players were equal to the task – the complicated endgame always seemed drawish.

Vallejo Pons – Leko **1:0**
Anand – Radjabov **1:0**
Ponomariov – Kasparov **½:½**
Kramnik – Bye

Round 12 standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Anand **+2** (6/10)
3-4. Kasparov, Leko **+1** (5½/10)
5. Vallejo Pons **-1** (4½/10)
6. Ponomariov **-2** (4½/11)
7. Radjabov **-3** (4/11)

Pairings for the next 13th round:
Leko – Anand
Radjabov – Kramnik
Kasparov – Vallejo Pons
Ponomariov will have a rest day.

Tournament News

The Anibal Open is underway in Linares.

Top results of the last 7th round:

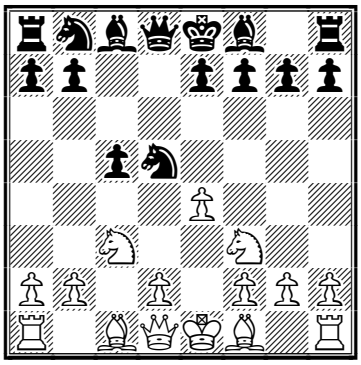
Kharlov – Halkias **1:0**
Delchev – Korobov **0:1**
Inarkiev – R.Vasquez **½:½**
Beliavsky – M.Pavlovic **1:0**

Del Rio Angelis – Korneev **1:0**
Round 7 standings:
1–2. Anton Korobov (UKR, 2509), Andrei Kharlov (RUS, 2597) – 6 points, 3–6. Alexander Beliavsky (SLO, 2649), Salvador Del Rio Angelis (ESP, 2487), Ernesto Inarkiev (RUS, 2566), Rodrigo Vasquez (CHI, 2481) – 5½ etc.

Annotated Game:

□ **F Vallejo Pons (2629)**
■ **P Leko (2736)**
Event: Linares (12), 07.03.2003 – A34
Annotations: **GM Ruslan Scherbakov**

1.♘f3 c5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4



This variation has not been very popular recently. White usually prefers 5.g3, or 5.d4

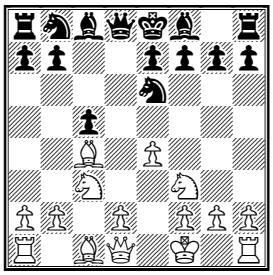
5...♘b4 6.♗c4

White quickly develops his pieces but to pay for it he allows himself the luxury of not castling.

6...♘d3+

6...♗e6 7.♗xe6 ♘d3+ 8.♔f1 fxe6 brought Black a famous and very important victory in the game Tal – Polugaevsky, Riga (m/1) 1979 but later it was proved to be dubious for Black: 9.♘g5 ♕b6 10.♕f3 *(10.♕e2 c4 11.b3 h6 12.♘f3 ♘c6 13.bxc4 0–0–0* gave Black counter chances in the previously mentioned game*)* 10...c4 11.b3! h6 12.bxc4! ♘xc1 13.♘f7! ♖g8 14.♘e5!+– with a decisive advantage already, Tukmakov – Peshina, SSSR 1980.

7.♔e2 ♘f4+ 8.♔f1 ♘e6



Black plays one more move with the knight to stop d2–d4.

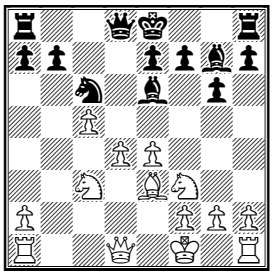
9.b4!?

An interesting approach – White sacrifices the pawn in order to dislodge the Black c5 pawn and to build a strong pawn center. The alternative 9.♘e5 does not promise too much. For example, 9...g6 *(9...♘c6!?* was also tried *)* 10.♕a4+ ♗d7 11.♘xd7 ♕xd7 12.♗xe6 fxe6 13.♕xd7+ ♔xd7 14.e5 ♗g7 and Black is OK, Vallejo Pons – Fernandez Romero, Dos Hermanas 2002.

9...g6!?

Black rejects the gift and offers one himself, playing for quick development. A principled 9...cxb4 has been also tried. White obtains good compensation for the pawn but the position remains very unclear: 10.♘e2 *(10.♘d5 ♘c6 11.d4 g6 12.♗e3 ♗g7 13.♕d2 0–0 14.♖d1⩲* Piket – Van Wely, Andorra (zt) 1998*)* 10...♘c7 11.d4 e6 12.h4 b5 *(12...♗d6 13.h5 h6 14.♖h4 ♘d7 15.♗b2 ♗e7 16.♖h3∞* Huebner – Tukmakov, Wijk aan Zee 1984*)* 13.♗d3 ♗b7 14.h5 h6 15.♖h4 ♘d7 16.♗f4 a6∞ Loginov – Van Wely, Moscow Aeroflot 2002.

10.bxc5 ♗g7 11.♗xe6 ♗xe6 12.d4 ♘c6 13.♗e3

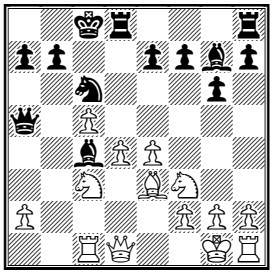


13...♗c4+

A new continuation, and maybe not the best. Black could have chosen between 13...♗g4!? , Seirawan – Miles,

London 1982; and 13...♕a5!? 14.♕d2 *(*Black was completely OK after *14.♘e2 ♗c4 15.♖c1 ♕xa2 16.d5 ♖d8* , here a draw was agreed in the game Pajkovic – Horvath, Niksic 1996*)* 14...0–0–0 15.♖c1 f5 16.exf5 gxf5⩲ with pressure on the d4-pawn, Ftacnik – Pinter, Prague 1985.

14.♔g1 ♕a5 15.♖c1 0–0–0?!



A dubious decision – the king will always be in danger on this side of the board. Both 15...♖d8 ; and maybe even 15...0–0 were safer and could promise good counter chances for Black.

16.♘b1!

Not a trivial play! White correctly supposes that if he puts his pawn to d5 Black will be almost dead so he finds the most direct way to do it!

16...♕a6

16...♗xa2 could have been met by 17.♗d2!? ♕a6 18.d5 and so on but maybe this way was more tenacious.

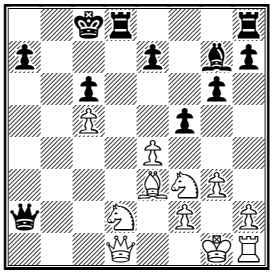
17.d5 f5!?

Black is trying to break White's center at any cost.

18.♖xc4! ♕xc4 19.♘bd2 ♕xa2 20.dxc6 bxc6

The position would be OK for Black if his king was a bit safer.

21.g3



It's time to complete development.

21...♖d3

This active-looking move is maybe a waste of time. The more concrete 21...♗c3!? could have forced White to take on f5 and so it might have promised better chances to hold the position.

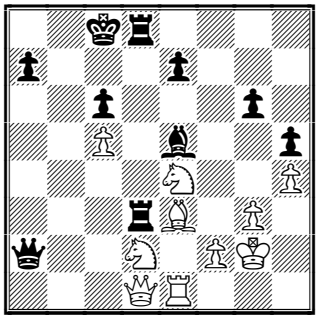
22.♔g2 fxe4 23.♘g5 ♖f8

23...♖xe3? 24.fxe3 ♖d8 25.♘gxe4 ♗c3 did not work. White had some possibilities to secure a material advantage, for example, 26.♖f1 *(26.♕g4+ ♔c7 27.♘xc3 ♕xd2+ 28.♘e2)* 26...♗xd2 27.♖f2+–

24.♘gxe4 ♗e5 25.♖e1

White has consolidated his forces and so he can claim a big advantage. Black's rooks have no real job while his king is unsafe – two minor pieces are clearly better in this position.

25...h5 26.h4 ♖fd8



27.♕b1!?

Generally the player, who has two minor pieces against the rook, should keep the queens on the board, trying to use his extra piece in the attack against the rival king. On the other hand, the rook is often better in the endgame but, of course, there are exceptions. Here Vallejo did not find the way to get his queen into play but he realised that his position in the endgame is very stable and the opponent's rooks will have no job in the endgame and the passed a-pawn will be of no importance.

27...♕xb1 28.♖xb1 ♗c7

Black could have tried to swap the bishops by 28...♗d4!? but it was easy to avoid this with, for example, 29.♗f4

29.♘c4 ♖8d5

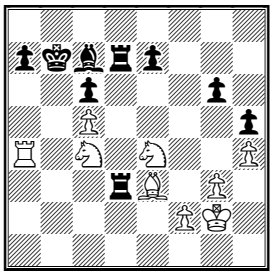
Unfortunately, 29...♖d1? was impossible as White had two knights for the check: 30.♘ed6+! ♖8xd6 31.♘xd6+!+–

30.♖a1 ♔b7 31.♖a4!

A very strong maneuver – White begins direct play against the Black weaknesses, such as the king, despite

the endgame on the board!

31...♖d7



Again, Black had no possibility to activate his rooks: 31...♖d1? 32.♘c3+−

32.♘g5!

White subtly noticed that the e6-square would be an excellent place for the knight.

32...♖3d5 33.♘e6 ♖f5

The only way to secure ...the g6-pawn! 33...♖d1 could have been met by 34.♘xc7 ♖xc7 35.♘e5+−

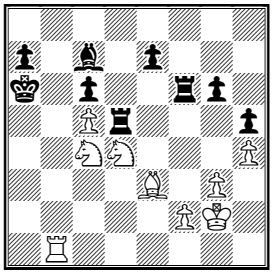
34.♘d4 ♖f6 35.♖b4+

35.♗g5!? was maybe more energetic but the text move does not spoil anything.

35...♔a6

Trying to confuse the opponent by the possible king march but it has no chance of success.

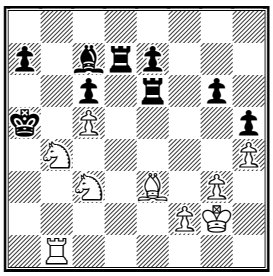
36.♖b1 ♖d5



37.♘c2! ♖d7 38.♘b4+ ♔b5 39.♘d2

39.♘d6+! was also not bad.

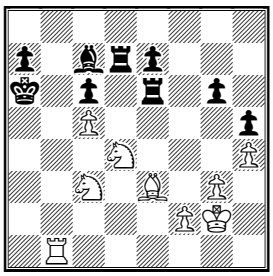
39...♔a4 40.♘e4! ♖e6 41.♘c3+ ♔a5



42.♘c2!

This nice retreat to the key square finishes the game − checkmate is threatened!

42...♔a6 43.♘d4!



The knights are going forward again! Here Peter decided to stop the KNIGHTMARE. A wonderful game by Paco Vallejo Pons! The line 43.♘d4 ♖f6 44.♘e4 ♖f8 45.♘xc6 with ideas Nc6-b4 or maybe even Nc6xa7 was too obvious to continue.

1-0

Solution to Quiz Today: 1) 28...e2! White resigned as he loses the knight after the following ...Qh4-f4 check. **0-1 2) 50...♘e5+!** One of the knights will stop the pawn so White resigned. **0-1**

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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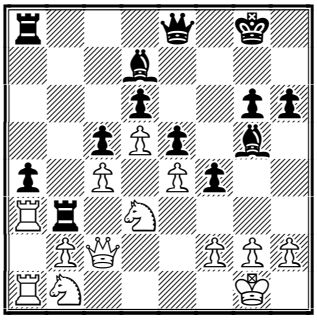
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-68(852) 9th March 2003

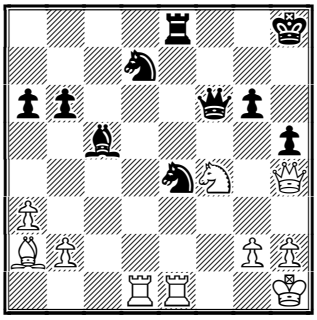
Quiz Today

1. A. Kharlov (2597) – S. Halkias (2521)
Open Anibal Linares (7.1), 06.03.2003



White to play
position after 32...♖b8-b3

2. S. Del Rio Angelis (2487) – O. Korneev (2613)
Open Anibal Linares (7.5), 06.03.2003



White to play
position after 31...♕e5-f6.

Latest Chess News: Leko rebounds!

The 13th round of the Linares super tournament XX "Ciudad de Linares" has ended. **Peter Leko** has quickly recovered after yesterday's painful loss – today he beat one of the leaders – Vishy Anand to overtake him and join **Vladimir Kramnik**, who easily outplayed Teimour Radjabov in the opening but then missed many chances to convert his extra pawn.

Excellent physical form is extremely important in modern chess – for example, today Anand was also not himself – he missed a small trick in the opening, then played some fairly strange moves in a classical rook endgame 3 vs 3 with passed pawn on the other side. It seems that **Garry Kasparov** also lacks energy at the end of this tough tournament. Today he played rather passively against Francisco Vallejo Pons and was not able to put serious problems before him. Then Vallejo was probably too optimistic with his pawn sacrifice, but in the mutual time scramble Kasparov preferred to repeat moves.

Leko – Anand **1:0**
Radjabov – Kramnik **½:½**
Kasparov – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Ponomariov was free from play.

Round 13 standings:
1-2. Kramnik, Leko **+2** (6½/11)
3-4. Kasparov, Anand **+1** (6/11)

5. Vallejo Pons **-1** (5/11)
6. Ponomariov **-2** (4½/11)
7. Radjabov **-3** (4½/12)

The pairings for the final round could not be more interesting. We'll see the battle for the tournament: Kramnik vs Leko (a prelude of their semifinal match of the unifying FIDE cycle?!), the battle for the 3rd place: Anand – Kasparov, and the game Vallejo – Ponomariov is also promising to be a mortal combat.

Tournament News

The 9th round of the Anibal Open in Linares was rather peaceful so the situation at the top has not changed much.

Top results of the 9th round:

Kharlov – Beliavsky **½:½**
Del Rio Angelis – Korobov **½:½**
Delchev – Vasquez **½:½**
Nakamura – Inarkiev **0:1**

Riazantsev – Najer **½:½**
Arizmendi Martinez – Gleizerov **0:1**
Halkias – Kotronias **½:½**
El Gindy – Pavlovic **1:0**
Sorokin – Potkin **½:½**
Ubilava – Grigoriants **0:1**

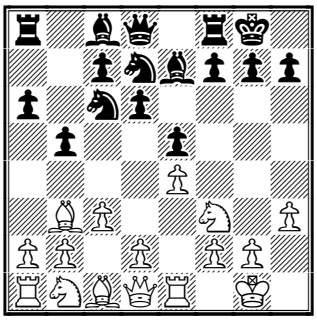
Round 9 standings:
1–3. Ernesto Inarkiev (RUS, 2566), Anton Korobov (UKR, 2509), Andrei Kharlov (RUS, 2597) – 7 points, 4–10. Alexander Beliavsky (SLO, 2649), Salvador Del Rio Angelis (ESP, 2487), Alexander Delchev (2583, BUL), Rodrigo Vasquez (CHI, 2481), Sergei Grigoriants (2524, RUS), Essam El Gindy (2467, EGY), Evgeny Gleizerov (2579, RUS) – 6½ etc.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

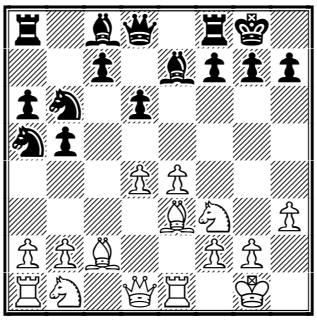
□ D. Campora (2505)
■ I. Abdelnabbi (2413)
Event: *Open Anibal Linares (7.16), 06.03.2003*– ***[C92]***
Annotations by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Yesterday we enjoyed excellent play by GM Francisco Vallejo Pons, whose cavalry instilled horror into GM Peter Leko's army. In the following game Egyptian player, Abdelenabbi, also tried to arrange his knights in a best way, but with quite a different result.
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0–0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0–0 9.h3 ♘d7 (D)

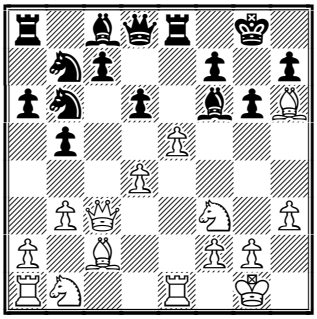


A rare line of the classical Ruy Lopez.
10.d4 ♘b6 11.♗e3
11.♘bd2 followed by ♘d2–f1 is the main continuation. Yet, the text move was successfully tried many times by Mikhail Tal.

11...exd4
Perhaps Black can keep tension in center. An old and famous game Fischer – Bronstein, Portoroz (izt) 1958 continued 11...♖b8!? 12.♘bd2 ♗f6 13.d5 *(13.♘f1!?)* 13...♘a5 14.♗c2 ♘ac4 15.♘xc4 ♘xc4 16.♗c1 c6! 17.dxc6 ♕c7 followed by ... ♕c7xc6 with good play for Black.
12.cxd4 ♘a5 13.♗c2 (D)



13...♘ac4
Black continues his plan but in fact it does not bother White very much. [The rather typical undermining 13...c5!? seems more to the point: 14.♘c3 *(14.e5 dxe5 15.♘xe5 ♘bc4 16.♕d3 f5∞* was unclear in the game Tal – Panno, Portoroz (izt) 1958*)* 14...♘ac4 15.♗c1 cxd4 16.♘xd4 ♗f6⇄ Gligoric – Olafsson, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade (ct) 1959.
14.♗c1 ♗f6?!
This is not the way to get counter chances – White can do anything he wants. 14...c5!? was still the most testing continuation.
15.b3 ♘a5 16.♕d3 g6 17.♗h6 ♖e8 18.♕c3!?
A concrete and rather interesting idea. Yet, the routine 18.♘bd2 was also not bad.
18...♘b7 19.e5 (D)



19...♗h8
Black is almost forced to play such

ugly moves, keeping some hope alive to break White's center. The exchange of the dark-squared bishop gave White a big advantage after the simple 19...♗g7 20.♗xg7 ♔xg7 21.♗e4±

20.♘bd2 ♘d5 21.♕b2 dxe5 22.dxe5 ♘c5?!

Obviously the knight on b7 was not the piece to be proud of but Black also had to think about other pieces. Something like 22...♗e6 looked more to the point.

23.♖ad1

Little by little White has developed all his pieces while Black has been trying to arrange his knights.

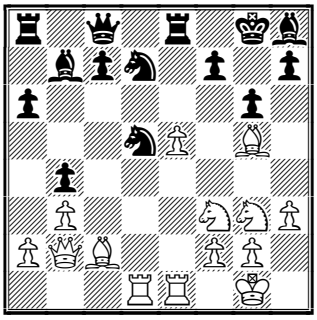
23...♗b7 24.♘e4

White had two interesting options: 24.♘c4!? ; and 24.♗g5!? with certain advantage in both cases.

24...♘d7!?

24...♘xe4 25.♗xe4 c6± was not satisfactory for Black.

25.♗g5 ♕c8 26.♘g3 b4 (D)



A tempting move – Black creates a strong forepost on c3 for the knight. However, he still forgets about other pieces and White finds a brilliant way to use Black's lack of resources in action. 26...c5!? was probably stronger, getting the queen into play.

27.♗f5!?

A man's move! It was just played with the modest idea to prevent .. ♘d5-c3. Objectively 27.♕d4 was maybe stronger.

27...gxf5 28.♘xf5

Now ♘d5-c3 is possible but the situation around the Black king is changed a little...

28...♘c3??

Perhaps Black is too mad about riding his horses – he does not see his other pieces but only the knights... :) 28...♖e6! looked much more to the point, getting the rook into defence.

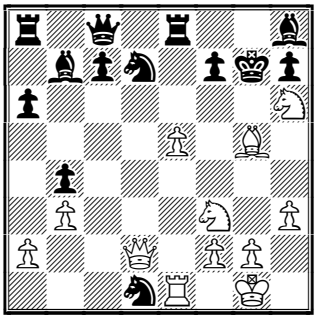
29.♘h6+ ♔g7

29...♔f8 30.♕c2+- was just bad.]

30.♕d2!

The queen comes into play with great effect.

30...♘xd1? (D)



A final mistake. The knight has made a great career, but it had no good effect on his king's fate. 30...♘d5! was the only way to defend: 31.♕d4 ♖e6 32.♕g4 ♖g6 33.♘h4→ with strong attack.

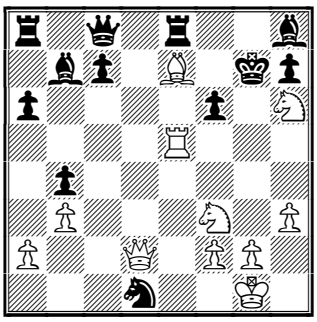
31.♗e7!

A wonderful blow! Yet, the simple 31.♕f4 also could have also led to quick checkmate.

31...♘xe5

In the line 31...♖xe7 32.♕g5+ ♔f8 33.♕g8# the rook on e7 prevents the king's escape.

32.♖xe5 f6 (D)



33.♖g5+!

A nice final touch. Black resigned – most of his pieces were just spectators in his collapse. **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. A. Kharlov (2597) – S. Halkias (2521)

Open Anibal Linares (7.1), 06.03.2003

33.♕xb3! axb3 34.♖xa8 ♗d8 35.♖b8 Black cannot save his bishop on d8 and after **35...g5 36.♖aa8** he

resigned. **1-0**

2. S. Del Rio Angelis (2487) - O. Korneev (2613)

Open Anibal Linares (7.5), 06.03.2003

32.♖xd7! **♘f2+** [32...♕xh4 33.♘xg6#] **33.♕xf2!** **♕xf4!?** Black shows a good sense of humour. **34.♖xe8+** Resigned. **1-0.**

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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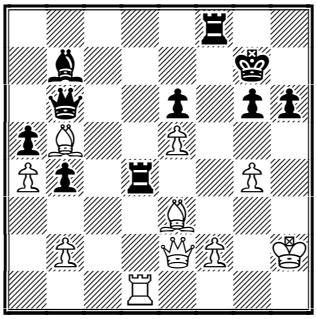
CT-69(853) 10th March 2003

Quiz Today

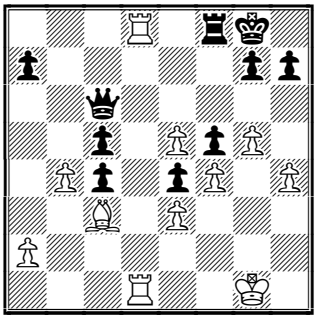
1. M. Ezat (2381) – O. Korneev (2613)
Open Anibal Linares (9.18), 08.03.2003
How can Black get out of the pin?



Black to play
position after 29.♖d1

2. A. Adly (2315) – A. Cabrera (2478)
Open Anibal Linares (9.17), 08.03.2003

Despite playing without his queen, White found a brilliant way to prove his superiority. Can you find it too?



White to play

Latest Chess News: Leko wins the Linares super tournament on tie-break!

One of the biggest chess events of the year – the XX "Ciudad de Linares" super tournament has ended. **Peter Leko** carefully drew against **Vladimir Kramnik** and was proclaimed the winner of the event after tie-breaks (number of wins). It's a bit surprising that Leko won, since he played more risky chess – he won four games and lost two, while Kramnik remained the only unbeaten player of the event. Yet, the Hungarian player is already no longer the "drawing player" he used to be and it seems that chess lovers should not associate his name with a draw anymore!

Garry Kasparov was energetically trying to outplay **Vishy Anand** despite having to play with Black, but Anand was careful in defense and so both players shared 3rd place. Certainly this is much more disappointing for Kasparov, who did not show his usual power in this tournament. Yet, if he hadn't lost to Radjabov with White piece, but had beaten him as almost everybody else did he would be the clear winner of the event. But, anyway we haven't seen Kasparov so lacking initiative and energy very often in the past.

Ruslan Ponomariov has managed to beat Vallejo Pons and slightly improved his score. He was certainly hoping to get more but his play still seems to be affected by all the problems with FIDE around his match with Kasparov.

Despite his last round loss, **Francisco Vallejo Pons** can consider his play in this supertournament successful. He has proved he can compete against the best World players – we may recall his brilliant win against Leko and two draws against Kasparov, in which the Spanish GM put certain problems for his formidable rival.

Teimour Radjabov should not be too disappointed with his result – he beat Kasparov after all! Such a great school will certainly help him to improve his play.

Final standings:
1-2. Leko, Kramnik, +2 (7/12)
3-4. Anand, Kasparov **+1** (6½/12)
5. Ponomariov **-1** (5½/12)
6. Vallejo Pons **-2** (5/12)

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov ; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

7. Radjabov **−3** (4½/12)

Tournament News

The Anibal Open in Linares has also ended. In the last round the leaders decided not to take much risk and allowed some players to join the company.

Top results of the last 10th round:

Korobov – Inarkiev **½:½**
Gleizerov – Kharlov **½:½**
Beliavsky – R.Vasquez **½:½**
El Gindy – Delchev **0:1**
Grigoriants – Del Rio Angelis **0:1**
Najer – Nakamura **1:0**
Kotronias – J.Ivanov **1:0**

Final standings:
1−5. Anton Korobov (UKR, 2509), Ernesto Inarkiev (RUS, 2566), Andrei Kharlov (RUS, 2597), Salvador Del Rio Angelis (ESP, 2487), Alexander Delchev (2583, BUL) – 7½ points, 6−10. Alexander Beliavsky (SLO, 2649), Rodrigo Vasquez (CHI, 2481), Vasilios Kotronias (2573, CYP), Evgeny Najer (2585, RUS), Evgeny Gleizerov (2579, RUS) – 7 etc.

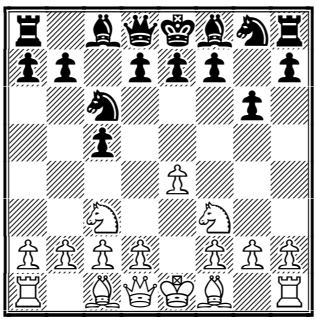
Our congratulations to all the winners!

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **V. Anand (2753)**
■ **G. Kasparov (2847)**
Event: *Ciudad de Linares Linares (14), 09.03.2003*− ***[B72]***
Annotations by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 g6 (D)

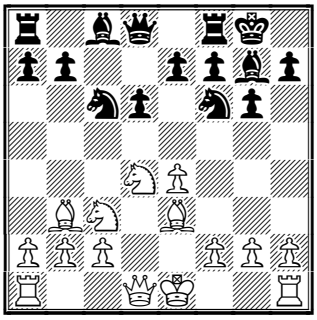


You may remember the Dragon has made a revolution in the World Title match between these same opponents in New York 1995 − a very tough match turned out to be easy for Kasparov as Anand totally collapsed with the White pieces.

4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♗g7 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♗c4 0−0

Yet, this is not the main theoretical path of the Dragon variation.

8.♗b3 d6 (D)



Everybody knows that 8...♘a5? is too early here because of 9.e5! ♘e8 10.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 11.♘e6!!+− and Black could resign as he loses the queen, Fischer − Reshevsky, New York 1958.

9.h3

This is not the first time Anand prefers to avoid the main theoretical argument against Kasparov. 9.f3 ♗d7 10.h4 is the main line − you can get find additional information in CT−389, where GM Mikhail Golubev commented on the game Ponomariov − Tiviakov, Wch Moscow 2001.

9...♘a5 10.0−0 b6

I don't believe White can give any problems for Black by playing this line. Black has the bishop on b3 under control while his own bishops are fairly good.

11.♖e1

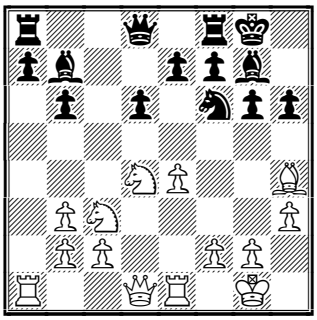
White continues in the same simple style. Now he is probably going to play ♗e3−g5 and ♘c3−d5, and if Black takes on d5, then after e4xd5 White creates pressure on the e7−pawn. 11.♕d3 ♗b7 12.♗g5 ♘xb3 13.axb3 a6 14.♖fe1 h6= was very comfortable for Black in the game J.Polgar − Topalov, Novgorod 1996.

11...♗b7 12.♗g5 ♘xb3

The immediate 12...h6 could have been met by 13.♗xf6! ♗xf6 14.♗d5±

with better chances, Klovans – Konguvel, Biel 2000.

13.axb3 h6 14.♗h4 (D)



14...♕d7!

A good innovation. 14...a6 allows White to realize his plan: 15.♘d5! ♘xd5 *(15...e6 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 18.♕d2±* De Firmian – Kir.Georgiev, Yerevan 1996*)* 16.exd5 ♖e8 *(16...g5? 17.♘f5!)* 17.c4± with a comfortable edge, Ye Jiangchuan – Fedorov, Istanbul (ol) 2000.

15.♕d2

Here 15.♘d5? was simply losing a pawn after 15...♘xd5 16.exd5 g5 17.♗g3 (there was no ♘d4–f5 resource!) 17...♗xd5 and so on.

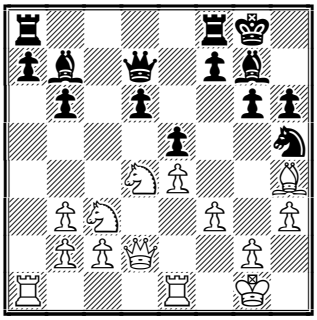
15...♘h5!?

Starting concrete action on the king side.

16.f3

Forced as Black was threatening ...g6–g5.

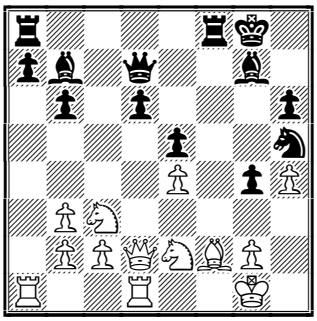
16...e5! (D)



17.♘de2

17.♘db5 was strongly met by 17...d5! 18.exd5 a6 19.♘a3 b5↑ and White was playing without the knight.

17...f5 18.♖ed1 fxe4 19.fxe4 g5 20.♗f2 g4 21.h4 (D)



21.♕xd6?! was dubious because of the simple 21...♕f7↑ followed by ...g4xh3, breaking White king's shield.

21...♘f4

A tempting pawn sacrifice, which certainly gives Black excellent play. However, it simplifies the position and probably reduces his winning chances. 21...♖f6!? led to the more complicated play and it could have promised more chances to produce a decisive result. It was maybe more risky for Black but objectively his chances could not be worse here.

22.♕xd6

22.♘xf4!? exf4 23.♕xd6 was maybe more precise. It could lead to the game in case of 23...♕f7 24.♕d7 etc.

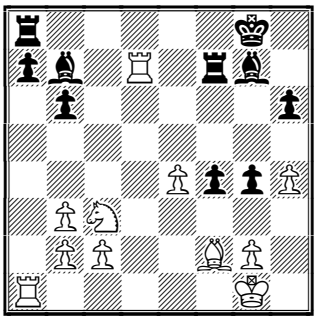
22...♕f7

22...♘xe2+!? 23.♘xe2 ♕f7 was rather interesting and it seemed more promising for Black: 24.♖f1 ♗xe4 25.♗e3 *(25.♗xb6?? did not work due to the simple 25...axb6!)* 25...♕g6 26.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 27.♕xg6 ♗xg6 28.♖xa7 ♗xc2↑ and pair of strong bishops gives Black the initiative.

23.♘xf4 exf4 24.♕d7!

Otherwise White could face real problems with his king.

24...♕xd7 25.♖xd7 ♖f7 (D)



White should play carefully as he is the only side who can lose this endgame – Black can always think about ... ♗g7xc3 and ♗b7xe4 while

his K-side pawns is also a very good resource.

26.♖d6 ♔h7 27.♖ad1

27.♗d4 looked risky due to 27...♗f8 28.♖e6 ♖d8↑

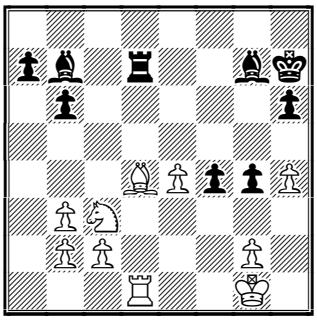
27...♖e8

27...♗xc3 could hardly promise more: 28.bxc3 ♗xe4 29.♖e1 ♗f5 *(29...♗xc2 30.♖ee6)* 30.♗d4 and so on.

28.♖d7 ♖ee7 29.♖xe7 ♖xe7 30.♗d4

An important resource to avoid any problems.

30...♖d7 (D)

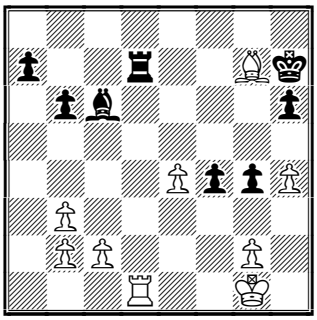


There is already no reason for Black to take more risk. 30...♗xd4+?! 31.♖xd4 ♔g6 with the idea of ♔h5xh4 could hardly work as after 32.♘d5 ♖f7 33.c4 he couldn't play 33...♔h5? anyway due to 34.e5+-

31.♘d5!

In case of 31.♗xg7?! ♖xd1+ 32.♘xd1 ♔xg7 White still faced problems.

31...♗xd5 32.♗xg7 ♗c6 (D)



A draw agreed. **½-½.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. M. Ezat (2381) - O. Korneev (2613)

29...♕d8! White resigned. **0-1.**

2. A. Adly (2315) - A. Cabrera (2478)

Open Anibal Linares (9.17), 08.03.2003

29.e6!! ♕xe6 30.♖8d6! ♕c8 31.♖d7! Everything was forced. Now Black just helpless against combined play of the White's powerful pieces. **31...♖e8 32.♖xg7+ ♔f8 33.♖dd7 ♖d8 34.♖df7+ ♔e8 35.♖e7+ ♔f8 36.♖gf7+ ♔g8 37.♖xh7 ♔f8 38.g6 ♖d1+ 39.♔f2 ♖d2+ 40.♔g3** Black resigned. A wonderful attack! **1-0.**

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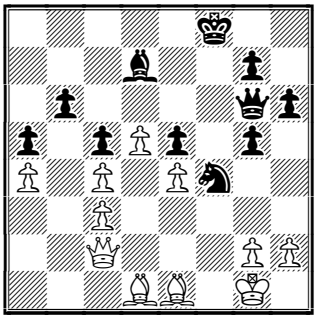
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-70(854) 11th March 2003

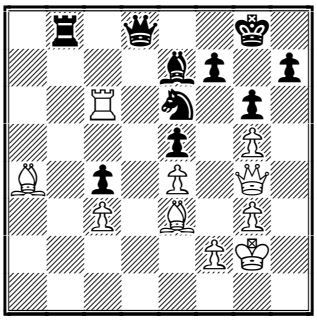
Quiz Today

(1) B. Spassky (2660) – R. Fischer (2785)
World Championship 28th Reykjavik (5), 20.07.1972



Black to play

(2) R. Fischer – R. Shocron
Mar del Plata Mar del Plata (7), 30.03.1959



White to play

Latest Chess News:

The Linares super tournament has ended and the important *classical* events are over for a while. But very soon we will enjoy the world's strongest grandmasters play in a lighter kind of chess event.

Coming up next is the 12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament, which will take place the 15th-27th March 2002. The players are (in alphabetical order): **Zoltan Almasi, Viswanathan Anand, Evgeny Bareev, Boris Gelfand, Vassily Ivanchuk, Vladimir Kramnik, Peter Leko, Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Alexander Morozevich, Alexei Shirov, Veselin Topalov and Loek Van Wely.**

Sad news has been announced on TWIC:
*Former secretary-general of FIDE **Dr Lim Kok Ann** has died at the age of 83. Born 27th January 1920 he died the 8th March 2003. Dr Lim Kok Ann was a medical doctor who gained worldwide fame in 1957 when he isolated the flu virus at the height of the Asian influenza epidemic. He was Singapore's first chess champion in 1949. He established the Singapore Chess Federation, which he headed for 18 years. He went on to be secretary-general of the international chess federation FIDE 1982-1988.*

*The Czech Grandmaster **Ludek Pachman** born 11th May 1924 is reported to have died in Passau, Germany at the age of 78 on Thursday 6th March 2003. Pachman was seven times champion of Czechoslovakia, won six international tournaments and played in six Interzonals. He was a supporter of the reformist Czech Prime-minister Alexander Dubcek and was jailed a number of times after the Soviet occupation of Czecheslovakia in 1968 to reverse the reforms. He was allowed to leave for Germany in 1972. He was a prolific journalist and the writer of over 80 books. Pachman had a +2 -2 =4 record against Bobby Fischer.*

This second obituary reminds us of one of the most extraordinary and outstanding persons in the history of chess – the 11th World Champion Robert James Fischer. On March, 9 the famous American chess-player celebrated his 60th birthday. And I'd like to dedicate today's issue to him. I'm not going to talk about his life, career and political and religious views. I won't even discuss his possible return. ☺ There's a mass of books and articles written about

Fischer and everyone may choose a work according to his taste. I will show one of Bobby's early games that had impressed me once when I analyzed it *by hand.* I liked the final tactical blow and used it from time to time as a training example for my pupils. But then one day I saw it together with Fritz and Fritz revealed to me the real depth of this game, giving me an hour of pure entertainment. To keep the annotated game format I give the moves from the start with short notes.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **R. Fischer**
■ **J. Sherwin**
Event: *USA-ch New York (7), 1957*
- [B86]
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.0-0 b5 8.♗b3 b4 9.♘b1

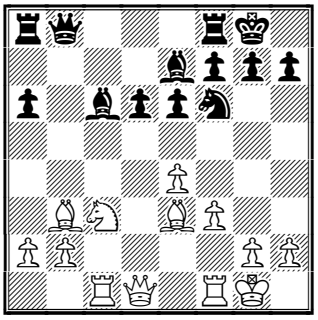
Obviously stronger is 9.♘a4 After the text move Black had many opportunities to get a comfortable play. **9...♗d7**

9...♘xe4 10.♕f3 d5 11.c4 has been tested in a couple of old games with good results for White though the compensation for a pawn may be insufficient. The bishop's development on b7 deserves attention.

10.♗e3 ♘c6 11.f3 ♗e7 12.c3 bxc3

Allows White to bring the knight back into the game. 12...a5 was quite reasonable.

13.♘xc6 ♗xc6 14.♘xc3 0-0 15.♖c1 ♕b8 (D)



15...♕d7 16.♘a4±

16.♘d5!? exd5?

Black should have played 16...♘xd5 17.exd5 ♗xd5 18.♗xd5 exd5 19.b3 ♕b5 with an equal position.

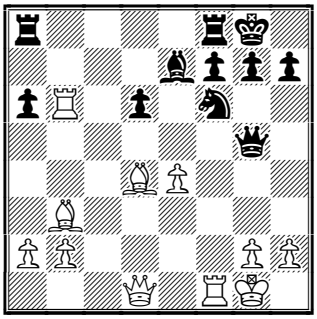
17.♖xc6 dxe4 18.fxe4

A pair of bishops defines White's advantage.

18...♕b5

Probably Sherwin noticed too late that 18...♘xe4 is bad due to 19.♖xf7! ♖xf7 20.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 21.♕d5+ ♔f8 22.♕xe4± and 22...♕xb2? loses to 23.♖b6 ♕a1+ 24.♖b1 d5 25.♕xe7+! ♔xe7 26.♖xa1; 18...♕b7 19.♕c2.

19.♖b6 ♕e5 20.♗d4! ♕g5 (D)



20...♕xe4? 21.♖e1

21.♕f3?!

21.♖b7! with idea of 21...♗d8 22.♖xf7! ♖xf7 23.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 24.♕b3+ and 25.♕b7 winning the exchange.

21...♘d7!? 22.♖b7

A human move. The computer doesn't consider the pin along the f-file after 22.♗xf7+ ♔h8 as a dangerous for White.

22...♘e5 23.♕e2 ♗f6

Black has consolidated the position somehow.

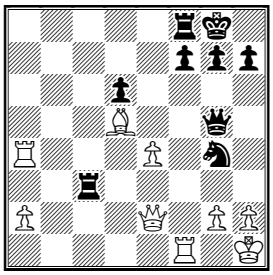
24.♔h1 a5 25.♗d5

25.h3!

25...♖ac8 26.♗c3 a4 27.♖a7

The young Fischer liked to win material. The hunting for the remote pawn gives Black counterchances.

27...♘g4! 28.♖xa4 ♗xc3 29.bxc3 ♖xc3?! (D)



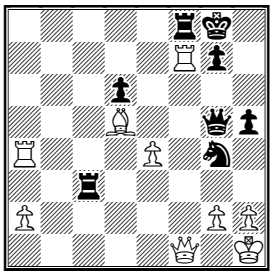
After 29...♘e3! 30.♕d2 h6 31.♖c1 *(31.♖f3 ♖xc3!)* 31...♘xd5 32.♕xg5 hxg5 33.exd5 ♖c5 34.♖d4 ♖e8 And black has sufficient compensation for the pawn in the rook ending. And here it is. Fisher strikes the "decisive" blow.

30.♖xf7!

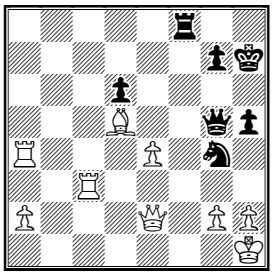
Using the weakness of the 8th rank. Of course the rook is untouchable in view of Ra8+.

30...♖c1+?

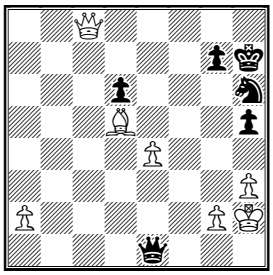
A natural reply. White's 1st rank is weak as well. Bobby's next two moves show his high tactical abilities. Black could have tried to use the same motif another way – 30...♕xd5? but it fails to 31.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 32.♕f1+! ♕f7 33.♖a8+ ♔e7 34.♖a7+ winning the queen. I thought that this line along with the text move settles the matter but the all-seeing silicon monster has another opinion.; Black had incredible defence 30...h5! White can capture any of enemy major pieces. He also has some other attractive possibilities. Nevertheless he's unable to get the advantage. It's obvious that White can't take the queen by ♖f5+; xg5 as he is checkmated after Rc1. Let's look at other lines: **A)** 31.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 32.♕f1+ ♕f6 In the ending White has no winning chances so he should be satisfied with 33.♖a8+ ♔e7 34.♖a7+ ♔d8 35.♖a8+= draw by perpetual; **B)** after 31.♕f1 *(d)*



Black replies 31...♔h7! (not *31...♖xf7? 32.♕xf7+ ♔h7 33.♕g8+ ♔h6 34.♕h8+ ♔g6 35.♗f7+! ♔xf7 36.♖a7+ ♔f6 37.♕d8+ ♔g6 38.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 39.♕xg5++–)* 32.♖xf8 ♖c1 and the 33...Ne3! threat is as dangerous as the queen capture (or even more); **C)** bad is the tempting 31.♖f3+? ♔h7 Yes White can take any rook he likes but both captures lose – 32.♖xf8 (if *32.♖xc3 (d)*



then the great blow *32...♕d2!* finishes off*)* 32...♖c1+ 33.♖f1 ♕f4! 34.g3 ♖xf1+ 35.♔g2 ♖f2+ 36.♔h3 ♕f3! 37.♕xf3 ♖xh2#; **D)** 31.♖c4! 31.Rc4 solves the back rank problem but it gives Black time to arrange his matters as well. 31...♖xc4 To hold the position Black has to keep the queens on the board. **D1)** 32.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 33.♕xc4 ♕e5 34.♕c8+ ♔e7 35.♕c7+ ♔e8! (in the ending after *35...♔f6 36.♕f7+ ♔g5 37.♕f5+ ♕xf5 38.exf5 ♔xf5 39.a4* White has good chances to win*)* 36.♕b8+ ♔e7 37.♕b7+ ♔d8 and I believe it should be a draw; **D2)** 32.♕xc4 32...♖xf7 33.♗xf7+ ♔h7! 34.♕c8 (or *34.♕f1 g6! 35.♗d5 ♕d2 36.♕f7+ ♔h6 37.♕f8+ ♔g5=)* 34...♘h6! 35.♗d5 ♕d2 36.h3 ♕e1+ 37.♔h2 (d)

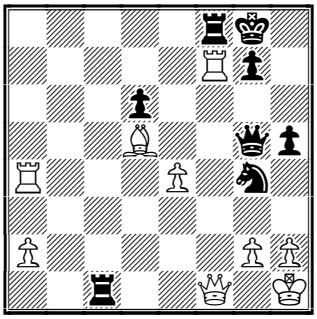


and the knight is back – 37...♘g4+! 38.hxg4 ♕h4+ 39.♔g1 ♕e1+ draw! After all you may say: 'Well it was very fine but what's wrong with Rc1+?' The answer is

31.♕f1!

After 31.♖f1+?? ♔h8 the rook is pinned and it is White who is checkmated – 32.♖a8 ♖xa8 33.♗xa8 ♕f4–+

31...h5 (D)



Too late though this statement needs a proof. 31...♖xf1+ 32.♖xf1+ ♕xd5 33.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 34.exd5

32.♕xc1!!

We've seen the position after 32.♖xf8+? ♔h7 in the line 30...h5 31.♕f1 and found out it's rather dangerous for White. But Fischer's excellent reply makes everything clear. I witnessed many times how 2300–2400 players were trying to discover this move and it took them 5–7 minutes. And frankly speaking I wouldn't be sure about my own capacity either. The problem is that our mind is already "tuned" to the f1–f8 line and to change the direction requires some flexibility. Fortunately Bobby was a genius.

32...♕h4

32...♕xc1+ 33.♖f1+ ♔h8 34.♖xc1 is "better" but being demoralised Sherwin gives up all his pieces.

33.♖xf8+ ♔h7

33...♔xf8 34.♕c8+ ♔e7 35.♖a7+ ♔f6 36.♕f5#

34.h3 ♕g3 35.hxg4 h4 36.♗e6

Two rooks, the bishop ... and a pawn :–) Time to resign. Hope you enjoyed it. **1–0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

(1) B. Spassky (2660) – R. Fischer (2785)

World Championship 28th Reykjavik (5), 20.07.1972

27...♗xa4! [27...♗xa4 28.♕xa4 ♕xe4 29.♔f2 ♘d3+ 30.♔g3 ♕h4+!? 31.♔f3 ♕f4+ 32.♔e2 ♘c1#!] **0–1**

(2) R. Fischer – R. Shocron

Mar del Plata Mar del Plata (7), 30.03.1959

39.♖xe6! ♕c8 [39...fxe6 40.♕xe6+ ♔f8 41.♕xe5+–] **40.♗d7!** [40.♗d7! ♕xd7 41.♖xg6+] **1–0**

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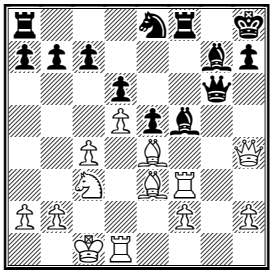
CT-71(855) 12th March 2003

Quiz Today

Ehlvest – Bacrot
Reykjavik, 2003



White to play

European Chess Leagues

Last year I signed up to four (!) different team leagues (UK, France, Germany and Austria) and today I would like to take a brief look at the situation in two of them.

UK

In the Four Nations Chess League (4NCL) my club *Wood Green* came second or third in the past few seasons, despite being a favourite to win in some of them. But if we could not always defeat our main rivals, we certainly outlived them! *Beeson Gregory* (champion of the last two years) has lost most of its sponsorship and *Slough* looks a pale shadow of the team it was 2-3 years ago, when Tony Miles was its captain.

This year *Wood Green* (captain – Brian Smith), which has such players as Adams, Short, Morozevich, Bologan, Seirawan, Speelman, Agdestein, Lalic, Emms, Ward, etc, on its books, looks certain to win the championship. The only possible opposition is *Guildford-ADC* (with GMs Kosten, Rowson, Gallagher, Conquest, Hebden, Flear, King, etc), but last year Wood Green won 7-1! Of course, as stock market shows, past performance is not a guarantee of future returns! :-)

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Wood Green-1 – 12 points;
2. Betsson.com – 11 points;
3-4. Guildford-ADC and Barbican-1 – 10 points;
5-6. Slough-1 and Wood Green-2 – 6 points, etc.

Germany

In BL there are 15 rounds and last weekend rounds 12 and 13 were played. The defending champion – Luebeck – dropped the first point, drawing against SC Baden Oos:

Lübecker SV 4-4 SC Baden Oos

Adams ½:½ Svidler
Grischuk ½:½ Krasenkow
Shirov 0:1 Dautov
Lautier ½:½ Huebner
Epishin ½:½ Doettling
Speelman ½:½ Schenk
Hodgson ½:½ Schlosser
Nunn 1:0 Keitlinghaus

Luebeck had their practically best team, but SC Baden was missing its first board – Vishy Anand, who was playing in Linares.

Two other super teams battled against each other:

Solinger SG 2½-5½ SG Köln Porz

Piket ½:½ Lutz
Kasimdzhanov ½:½ I. Sokolov
Jussupow ½:½ Andersson
Sadler ½:½ M. Gurevich
Naumann 0:1 Cu. Hansen
Sandipan 0:1 Graf
Stellwagen 0:1 van den Doel
Werle ½:½ Kengis

Standings before the last two rounds:

1. Lübecker SV 74½:29½, **25 pts**;
2. SG Köln Porz 71:33, **24 pts**;
3. SV Werder Bremen 64½:39½, **21 pts**;
4. Hamburger SK 58:46, 18 pts;

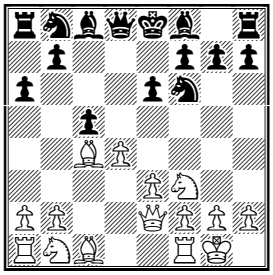
5. TV Tegernsee 57½:46½, 17 pts;
6. SC Baden Oos 59½:44½, 16 pts
7. Solinger SG 54½:49½, 16 pts, etc.

Annotated Game

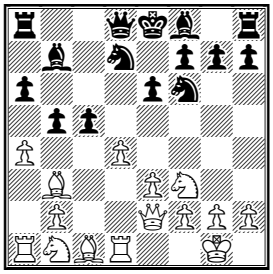
Today I would like to show you a game which I played four days ago against a talented British junior. It is always easier to annotate one's own games, because much of the thinking process is clear to the annotator. So, while this game is not of top quality, I hope that you will find it instructive.

□ **Lorin D'Costa (2285)**
■ **Alexander Baburin (2558)**
4NCL, Telford (5), 08.03.2003
Queen's Gambit Accepted, D29
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin

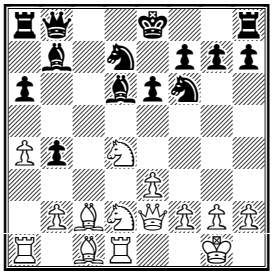
1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 a6 4.e3 e6
Two weeks prior to this game I played 4...Bg4 against the same opponent and got a good position after the opening. But it makes sense to vary your opening lines.
5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 ♘f6 7.♕e2 (D)



Classical line of the Queen's Gambit Accepted. In recent years 7.♗b3 replaced 7.♕e2 and 7.a4 as the main move. Also popular is 7.dxc5, favoured by Kramnik.
7...b5 8.♗b3 ♗b7 9.♖d1 ♘bd7 10.a4 (D)



White tries to weaken Black's pawn on the queenside. However, 10.♘c3, followed by d4-d5 or e3-e4 is more common.
10...♕b8
Also possible is 10...b4 or 10...♕b6. More popular is 10...♗e7 and I vaguely remembered that. I also remembered that I had played 10...Qb8 against GM Levitt, but it turns out that I had an earlier game as well! After 10...♗e7 the following lines are possible:
11.axb5 axb5 12.♖xa8 ♕xa8 13.dxc5 0–0 14.♘bd2 ♘xc5 15.♗c2 b4 and Black stood well in Valek-Kuporosov, Sumperk 1990.
11.dxc5 0–0 12.♗c2 b4 *(12...♗xc5 13.♘e5 b4 14.♘xd7 ♘xd7 15.♘d2±* Euwe-Alekhine, 1937.*)* 13.c6 ♗xc6 14.♘e5 ♕c7 15.♘xc6 ♕xc6 16.b3 ♖ac8∓ Ilivitzki-Petrosian, Moscow 1955.
11.♗c2
11.♘bd2 ♗d6 12.♘f1 0–0 13.♗d2 c4 14.♗c2 ♗e4 15.♗a5 ♖c8 16.b4 ♕b7∓ Lelchuk-Baburin, Helsinki 1992.
11...b4!?
This move takes away the c3-square and White's play pressure on b5. I am also waiting for dxc5, so I would not lose a tempo.
12.♘bd2 cxd4 13.♘xd4 ♗d6 (D)



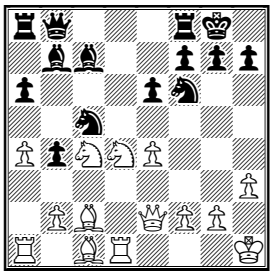
14.h3
After 14.g3 I considered 14...h5!?. Amusingly, there was a game which went just like that: 15.♘c4 ♗c7 16.f3 g5 17.e4 g4 18.♗g5 ♖g8 19.f4 ♕a7 20.♔f1 ♔f8 21.♖ac1 ♔g7 22.e5 ♘d5 23.h3± ♗b6 24.♘xb6 ♕xb6 25.hxg4 hxg4 26.a5 ♕xa5 27.f5 ♖h8 28.♗h4 ♖h6 29.fxe6 fxe6 30.♕xg4+ ♔h8 31.♕g5 ♖f8+ 32.♔g1 ♖h7 33.♗xh7 ♘f4 34.gxf4 ♕d5 35.♔h2 ♘xe5 36.fxe5 1–0 L.Evans-Sherwin, New York 1962.
14...0-0
After the game I found the following

example: 14...a5 15.♘c4 ♗h2+ 16.♔h1 0–0 17.♘b3 ♗c7 18.e4 ♘e5 19.♘xe5 ♗xe5 20.♗d3 ♖c8∓ Burmakin–Kharlov, Kazan 2001.

15.♘c4 ♗h2+!

It might be useful for Black to have White's king on h1.

16.♔h1 ♗c7 17.e4 ♘c5 (D)



18.f3

This move builds a solid wall against the b7–bishop, but weakens dark squares on the kingside.

In case of 18.e5 ♘fe4 19.♗f4 I was going to play 19...f6!?. After 20.♗xe4 ♗xe4 21.♘d6 ♗d5 *(21...♗xd6 22.exd6 e5? 23.♕c4+)* 22.♘4f5∞ a very sharp situation arises.

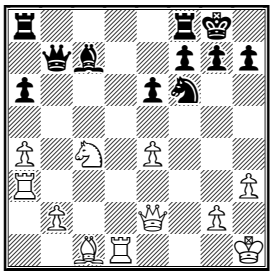
18...b3

Interesting decision, but certainly quite double–edged. The idea is to split White's rooks if he plays 19.♗b1. Perhaps better still was the obvious 18...♘h5 19.♕e3 (or *19.♕e1 ♘g3+ 20.♔g1 b3! 21.♘xb3 ♘xb3 22.♗xb3 ♗xe4∓)* 19...♘g3+ 20.♔g1 ♖d8.

19.♘xb3!

Position after 19.♗b1 ♘h5 20.♕e1 ♖d8 looks unpleasant for White, so he correctly avoids it.

19...♘xb3 20.♗xb3 ♗xe4 21.fxe4 ♕xb3 22.♖a3! ♕b7 *(D)*



I saw this position when I played 18...b3 and decided that it would be good for Black. The e4–pawn and White's back–rank are a bit weak, as we will soon see.

23.♖e1

I had expected that move, but now I think that White had to play 23.e5! ♘e4 *(23...♘d5* might be safer.*)* 24.♘d6! (the line *24.♖e3 f5 25.exf6 ♘g3+ 26.♖xg3 ♗xg3* is OK for Black.*)* 24...♗xd6 25.exd6 and White is better.

23...♖ad8! 24.e5

Again, when I played 18...b3, I had seen the position arising after 24.♗g5 ♘xe4 25.♗xd8 ♖xd8 and assessed it as better for Black.

24...♘e4 25.♖f3

Or 25.♕xe4 ♕xe4 26.♖xe4 ♖d1+ 27.♔h2 ♖xc1∓.

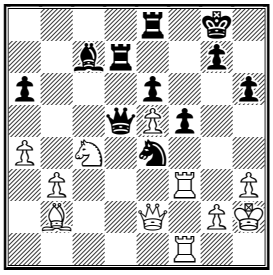
25...f5! 26.b3

The alternative was 26.exf6, when Black could choose between 26...♘g3+!? 27.♖xg3 ♗xg3 and (and 26...♖xf6 27.♔g1.

26...♖fe8 27.♖ef1

I would have played 27.♗a3 here.

27...♕d5 28.♗b2 h6 29.♔h2 ♖d7! (D)

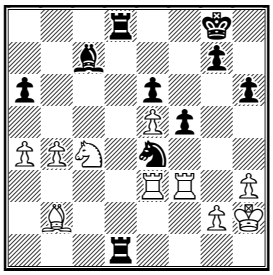


Useful little move – Black wants to control the d–file, while rook on the 7th might give his kingside some extra protection. Black stands better thanks to his excellent knight, but White's position is solid. At that point I had 8 minutes left, while my opponent had 6.

30.♖e3 ♖ed8 31.♖ff3?! ♕d1!

Black's queen looked very nice on d5, but he needs entry into the enemy territory, so exchanging queens makes a lot of sense.

32.♕xd1 ♖xd1 33.b4 (D)



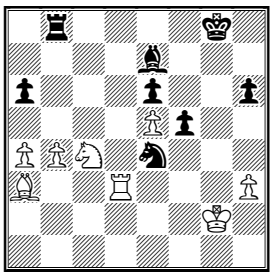
33...♖1d5

Here I missed a very interesting move: 33...♖b1!?. The idea is very obvious: to tie White's pieces and to attack his king. Of course, the point is that 34.♖d3! is met with 34...♖xd3 35.♖xd3 ♖xb2 (also good is *35...f4!? 36.♖d4 f3 37.♖xe4 ♖xb2 38.♘xb2 f2 39.♖f4 ♗xe5 40.g3 ♗xf4 41.♔g2 ♗xg3* Black is better, but is he winning?!) 36.♘xb2 ♗xe5+ 37.g3 ♗xb2. However, things are not clear here after 38.a5!. Also possible is 34...♖d5!? 35.g3 *(35.♗a3!?)* 35...a5! 36.bxa5 ♖c5.

34.♖b3 ♖b8

Better was 34...g5!, grabbing space on the kingside. Then 35.g4? ♘d2! Is bad for White.

35.g4! g6 36.♔g2 ♗d8 37.gxf5 gxf5 38.♖fd3 ♖xd3 39.♖xd3 ♗e7 40.♗a3 (D)



Both White and Black played quite sensibly in the time-trouble. Perhaps Black should have got more out of his position, but if I played here 40...♖c8 (the move I saw), Black could still play for a win. For example: 40...♖c8 41.♘d6 *(41.b5 ♖xc4 42.♗xe7 axb5 43.axb5 ♖c2+ 44.♔f3 ♖b2∓)* 41...♖c2+ 42.♔g1 ♗h4 43.b5 axb5 44.axb5 ♗f2+ 45.♔f1 ♘g3+ 46.♔g2 ♗e1+ 47.♔g1 f4. However here my opponent distracted my by adjusting his piece after he made his 40th move (not allowed by rules!). With my flag rising, I panicked a bit and came up with a bad move:

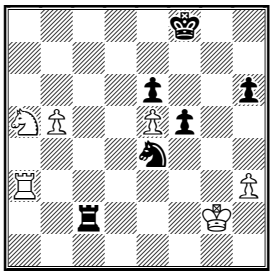
40...♔f8?

I saw that 40...♗xb4? would be fatal for Black: 41.♖b3 ♗d6 42.exd6 ♖xb3 43.d7 ♖d3 44.♗d6+-.

41.♘a5?

After 20–minute thinking White made an error. I feared 41.♘d6. My opponent rejected it on the account of 41...♖d8 42.b5 axb5 43.axb5 ♖b8. I saw that line too, but did not believe that Black could get away with such play. Indeed, analysis shows that 44.b6! ♖xb6 45.♘c8 ♗xa3 46.♘xb6 is very unpleasant for Black. Perhaps he should try to escape by playing 43...♗xd6.

41...♖c8! 42.b5 ♗xa3 43.♖xa3 axb5 44.axb5 ♖c2+ (D)



45.♔g1

45.♔f3? ♖b2!∓

45...♖c1+ 46.♔g2 ♖c2+ 47.♔g1 ½–½.

Solutions to Quiz Today:

Ehlvest–Bacrot:

20.♖xf5! ♖xf5 21.♕h3 ♖h5 22.♕f3 1–0.

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CHESS TODAY

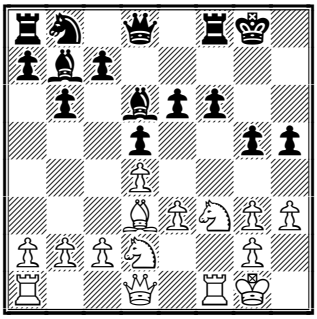
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin

CT-72(856) 13th March 2003

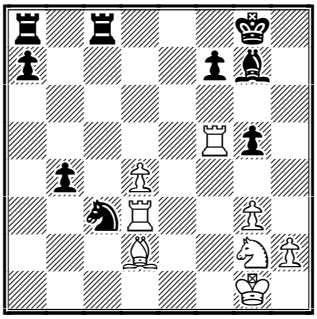
Quiz Today:

Murshed – Ahmed
Dhaka, 2003



White to play

Drljevic – Chelushkina
Belgrade 2003



Black to play

Although this chess week looks rather quiet at first sight (Linares has finished, Monaco hasn't begun) there are some interesting events in progress all over the world.

14 players are taking part in the 6th United Insurance & United Leasing GM (round-robin system) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Uzbekistanian GM **Marat Dzhumaev** is leading now with 4½ points out of 5. GMs Sergei Tiviakov (Netherlands) and Alexei Barsov (Uzbekistan) have 3½, GMs Alexander Goloshchapov (Ukraine), Ziaur Rahman (Bangladesh) and Tahir Vakhidov – 3 etc.

Also see our Annotated game section.

There are only a few women's tournaments nowadays, and one of them is in March in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. This is the 36th event with a Round-robin system, 10 players, average rating 2279 and a FIDE category of 10.

Standing after the 7th round:
1-2. Ana Benderac (Yugoslavia), **Svetlana Petrenko** (Moldova) – 5 points
3-4. Svetlana Prudnikova, Irina Chelushkina (both – Yugoslavia) – 4½
5. Dalia Blimke (Poland) – 3½ etc.

Internet coverage: is at the website http://www.beochess.org.yu/2003/S007.htm

For many years GM Evgeny Sveshikov has lived with his family in Riga, Latvia, but only recently has he decided to become a Latvian chess player. These days he takes part in the Latvian championships in Liepai. It's a bit strange for me to see his name in the cross-table in Latvian manner – 'Jevgenijs Svesnikovs'. In any case after 7 rounds (of 9 in total, Swiss system) he shares first place with Rolands Berzins and Ilmars Starostits – 5 points.

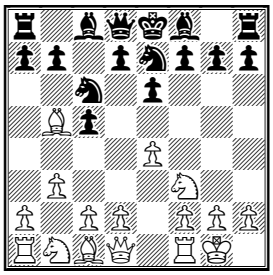
And news from TWIC:
The 16th "Ciudad de León" chess tournament will take place June 5th-9th 2003 in León, Spain. This year it will be a quadrangular knockout rapid tournament (not advanced chess i.e. no computers as in recent years) with Ruslan Ponomariov (Elo 2734) Vesselin Topalov, (Elo 2743) Sergey Karjakin, (Elo 2547) and Francisco "Paco" Vallejo Pons (Elo 2629) The venue will be the Edificio de la Junta de Castilla y León".
2 semi-finals of 4 games - 20 minutes + 10 seconds per move. Schedule: Friday June 6th : First Semi final: Topalov - Karjakin Saturday June 7th Second Semi final : Ponomariov - Vallejo Sunday June 8th: Final.

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Graham Brown
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

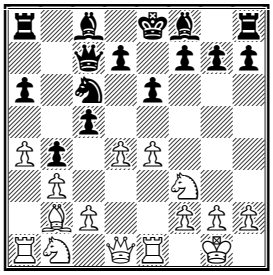
The official web sites will be: www.advancedchessleon.com and www.elajedrezdelfuturo.com

Annotated Game:

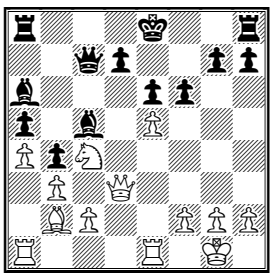
□ **M Dzhumaev (2507)**
■ **A Goloshchapov (2523)**
Event: 6th United Insurance Dhaka BAN (4), 11.03.2003 – B30
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 e6 4.0-0 ♘ge7 5.b3!?



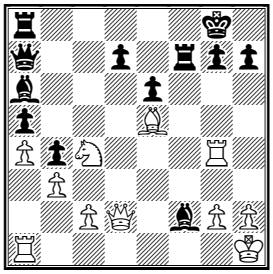
I like another plan – 5.♖e1 a6 6.♗f1!? but Dzhumaev isn't afraid to exchange his bishop.
5...a6 6.♗xc6 ♘xc6 7.♗b2 b5 8.♖e1 ♕c7 9.a4!? b4 10.d4!?



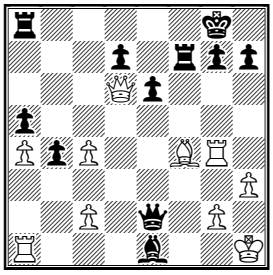
White tries to open the position to exploit his lead in development.
10...cxd4 11.♘xd4 ♘xd4 12.♕xd4 f6
Black has to defend the a1–h8 diagonal.
13.♘d2 ♗c5 14.♕d3 a5 15.♘c4 ♗a6 16.e5!?



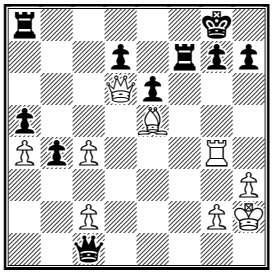
White has to hurry with active operations. If Black completes his development he will have better chances thanks to the pair of bishops and a pawn majority in the center.
16...0-0 17.♖e4!? fxe5 18.♗xe5 ♗xf2+ 19.♔h1 ♕a7 20.♖g4 ♖f7 21.♕d2



21...♗xc4 22.bxc4 ♕e3 23.♕d6 ♗e1
With an obvious, but very unpleasant, threat.
24.♗f4 ♕e2 25.h3



25...♕f1+
Also strong was 25...h5 26.♖g5 ♕f1+ 27.♔h2 ♕xf4+ 28.♕xf4 ♖xf4 29.♖xe1 ♖xc4 30.♖e2 h4!? – I believe Black has to win this ending. But Ukrainian GM decided to win an exchange. Of course it's also good.
26.♔h2 ♗g3+ 27.♗xg3 ♕xa1 28.♗e5
Black has a decisive material advantage now but some technical problems to realise it. The a1 rook was only a passive White piece by the way. Now Black has to defend his king and activate his a8 rook.
28...♕c1

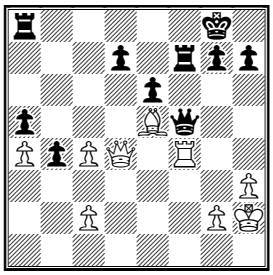


28...♕e1!?; 28...♕xa4!?

29.♕d4

After 29.♗xg7!? ♖xg7 30.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 31.♕g3+ ♔f6 32.♕f3+ ♔e7 33.♕xa8 ♕xc2 Black has to win thanks to the b4 pawn.

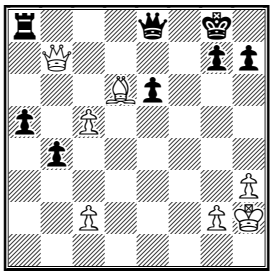
29...♕h6 30.♖h4 ♕g6 31.♖g4 ♕f5 32.♖f4



32...♕g5?!

The line 32...♕h5 33.♖h4 ♕e2 34.♖g4 g6!? looks rather dangerous for a human, but now White can create a passed pawn on the c file ...

33.♖xf7 ♔xf7 34.♕xd7+ ♕e7 35.♕d3 ♔g8 36.♗d6 ♕d7 37.c5 ♕xa4 38.♕e4 ♕e8 39.♕b7

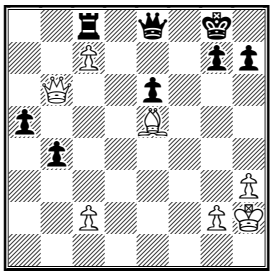


Maybe this position is winning for Black still, but now White has serious counter-play.

39...♕c8?!

39...♖c8 40.♗e5 ♕f8 41.♗d6 ♕d8 42.♗e5=; 39...♖d8!? 40.♗e5 ♕f8 41.c6 a4 42.c7 ♖c8 43.♕a6 ♕e8∞

40.c6! ♕e8 41.♗e5 ♕f8 42.c7 ♕c8 43.♕b5 ♕e8 44.♕b7 ♖c8 45.♕b6



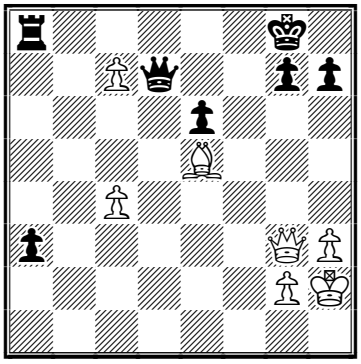
45...a4

In other lines Black can't improve his position. Really the bishop isn't weaker than the rook.

46.♕xb4 ♕d7 47.♕a5 ♕d5 48.♕c3 ♕d7 49.♕g3!?

It looks like it is White who tries to play for a win now!

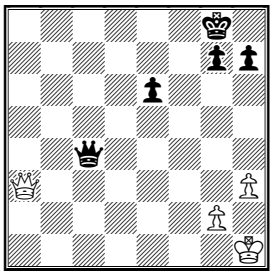
49...♖a8 50.c4 a3



51.♕f3 ♖c8

51...♕c8 52.♕g4 ♕d7 53.♗xg7!? h5 *(53...♕xg7 54.♕xe6+ ♕f7 55.c8♕+ ♖xc8 56.♕xc8+±)* 54.♕e4

52.♕xa3 ♖xc7 53.♗xc7 ♕xc7+ 54.♔h1 ♕xc4



The situation has become more or less clear. Black has an extra pawn but it's very difficult to use it: his king has to go forward.

55.♕a8+ ♔f7 56.♕b7+ ♔f6 57.♕f3+ ♔g5 58.♕e3+ ♔f5 59.♕f3+ ♕f4

59...♔g6 60.♕g3+ ♔f7 61.♕f3+

60.♕h5+ ♔f6 61.♕xh7= ♕f1+ 62.♔h2 ♕f4+ 63.♔h1 ♕f1+

A tense and interesting draw. **½-½**

Solution to Quiz Today: 1) 14.♘xg5! fxg5 15.♕xh5 ♕d7 16.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 17.♖f1 ♘c6 18.♗g6 ♘d8 19.♘f3 ♕g7 20.♘xg5 1-0

2) 32...b3! 33.♗xc3 ♖xc3! 34.♖xc3 ♗xd4+ 35.♖e3 ♖b8 36.♖f1 b2 37.♖b1 ♖c8 0-1

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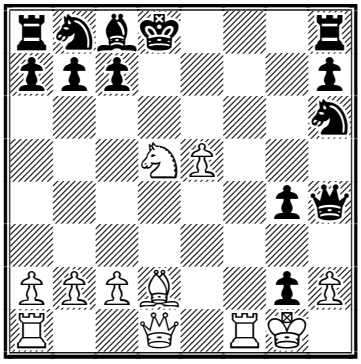
CT-73(857) 14th March 2003

Quiz Today:

Vlassov – Kaganov
Spartakiada Kujbyshev 1986



White to play

Chess News

Evgeny Sveshnikov and Rolands Berzins are sharing the lead in the Latvian Championship after winning their games in Round 8. They have 6 points. Before the last round Ilmars Starostits, Janis Grasis and Olegs Krivonosovs are 1 point behind

The standing in the 6th United Insurance and Leasing GM tournament has not changed after **Round 6.** Marat Dzhumaev is still in the sole lead with 5 points out of 6. Sergei Tiviakov is half a point behind the leader in clear second. Alexei Barsov and Ziaur Rahman have 4/6.

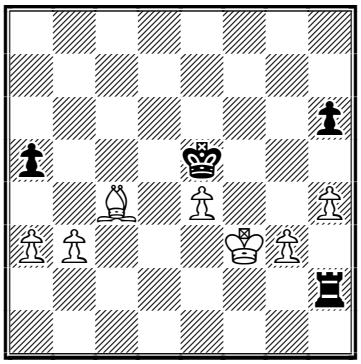
The IV Dos Hermanas Tournament is starting on March 14 on ICC. The cash prize fund is EUR 4,850 plus ICC membership prizes.
The time control is 8 2.
12 Swiss-system qualifying tournaments will be held on the ICC. Qualifier winners and 20 other of the best-scoring players will advance to the knockout finals.

Note: *Today's annotated game contains a complex endgame studylike position. Try to solve it if you like, (the answer continues on page 2) or just enjoy an educational endgame! – GKB*

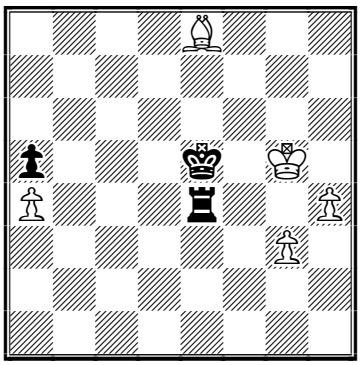
Annotated Game:
Endgame Special

□ **Bezgodov**
■ **Vlassov**
Event: Universiada Moscow (9), 20.08.1987
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

46.b3

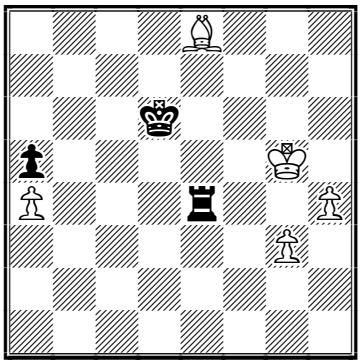


After an uneasy struggle, the game proceeded to a calm and apparently drawish endgame with White having a material advantage. But I yearned to win – that was the problem! So taking advantage of my rival's similar desire, I set a treacherous trap for him:
46...h5!?
The pawn is under threat! Why should not it be taken?
47.♗f7 ♖c2 48.♗xh5 ♖c3+ 49.♔g4 ♖xb3 50.a4 ♖b4 51.♗e8 ♖xe4+ 52.♔g5?!



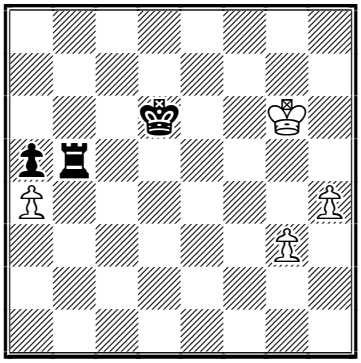
White has a wish to win and falls into the trap! The simple 52.♔f3 is enough for a draw. Now the diagram shows a study: It is **Black to play and Win** – ANSWER ON NEXT PAGE ...

52...♔d6!



53.♗f7

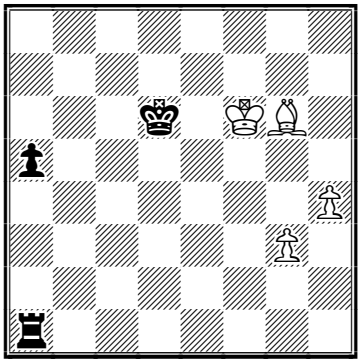
Because of 53.♗b5?? ♖e5+ 54.♔g6 ♖xb5!–+



White has to give up his pawn. And Black has a passed pawn!; More stubborn is 53.♗g6 ♖xa4

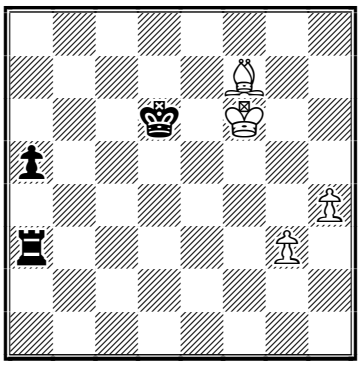
A) 54.h5 ♔e7 55.h6 ♔f8! 56.♔f6 ♖b4–+ *(56...♔g8 57.♗f5 ♖b4 58.♗e6+! ♔h7 59.g4 ♖b6! 60.g5 a4 61.♔f7 a3! 62.♗c4 ♖b4–+)*;

B) 54.♔f6 54...♖a1!



The only winning move! 55.h5 a4 56.h6 a3 57.♔g5! *(57.♗f7 ♖f1+ 58.♔g6 ♖xf7–+)* 57...♖h1 58.♗f7 ♔e7 59.♗c4 ♔f8! 60.♔g6 ♖d1! 61.g4 ♖d4! 62.h7 ♖d6+–+

53...♖xa4 54.♔f6 ♖a3!



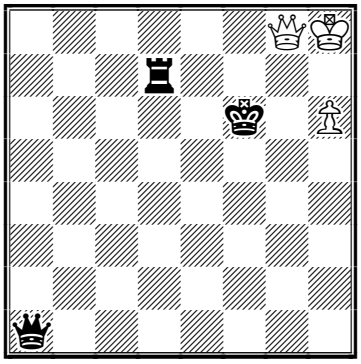
Again the only winning move!

55.g4

55.h5 ♖f3+ 56.♔g7 ♖xg3+! *(56...♔e7 57.♗g6 a4 58.h6 a3 59.h7 a2 60.h8♕ a1♕+ 61.♔h7 ♕xh8+ 62.♔xh8=)* 57.♔f6 ♖f3+ 58.♔g6 ♔e7–+

55...♖f3+ 56.♔g6 ♔e7 57.♗a2 a4 58.h5 ♖f2 59.♗d5 ♖d2! 60.♗f7 ♔f8 61.g5 ♖d6+ 62.♔h7 ♔xf7 63.g6+ ♔e7

63...♔f6 64.g7 ♖d8–+ (However, the following beautiful line is also possible *64...♖d7 65.h6 a3 66.♔h8 a2 67.g8♕ a1♕–+)*



64.g7 ♖d8 65.h6 a3 66.g8♕ ♖xg8 67.♔xg8 a2 68.h7 a1♕ 69.h8♕ ♕a8+ 70.♔g7 ♕g2+ 71.♔h6 ♕h3+ 72.♔g7 ♕g4+ 73.♔h6 ♕h4+ 74.♔g7 ♕g5+ 75.♔h7 ♔f7 76.♕f6+ ♔xf6

So, if we have a bishop on f7, the rook moves to a3; if we have a bishop on g6, the rook moves to a1! I would like to thank GM Shipov, GM Yakovich and Robert Petrov, chess veteran from Samara (Russia), for their valuable contribution to analysis of this end game. Unfortunately, I don't remember which of them found which line because it happened many years ago, but I only remember that I managed to win the game ... **0–1**

Solution to Quiz Today
1.♗g5+ ♕xg5 2.♘xc7+ ♗d7
2...♔xc7 3.♕d6# **3.♘e6+ ♔c8**
4.♘xg5 gxf1♕+ 5.♕xf1± and White won

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY

The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net

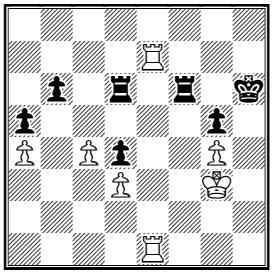
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin

CT-74(858) 15th March 2003

Quiz Today:

Benderac – Jicman
Belgrade, 2003

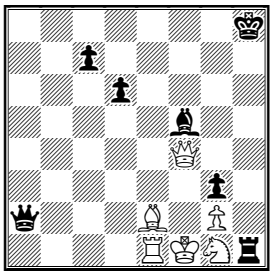
Black just played 40. ..g5. The material is equal and White cannot attack Black's pawns but...



White to play

Olarasu – Blimke
Belgrade, 2003

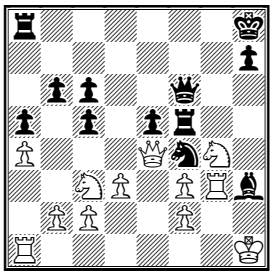
White had really good winning chances but the greedy 46. Qe3xf4?? led to a very unexpected disaster...



Black to play

And from our annotated game ...

23...♕f6!
Setting a small trap in passing.
24.♘g4



Black to play

Chess News

The 12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament with a prize fund of $193,250 will start tomorrow in Monaco.

The Linares winners Peter Leko and Vladimir Kramnik are there, together with many other top players: Viswanathan Anand, Veselin Topalov, Evgeny Bareev, Alexei Shirov, Boris Gelfand, Vassily Ivanchuk, Alexander Morozevich, Zoltan Almasi, Loek Van Wely and Ljubomir Ljubojevic.

Tournament News

GM **Marat Dzhumaev** has maintained his lead in the 6th United Insurance tournament in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

7 round standings:
1. Marat Dhumaev (2507, UZB) – 6,
2. Sergei Tiviakov (2635, NED) – 5
3-4. Ziaur Rahman (2542, BAN), Alexei Barsov (2525, UZB) – 4½ etc.

The only GM of the event, **Evgeny Sveshnikov** has won the Latvian Championship.

Final standings:
1-2. Evgeny Sveshnikov (2549), Rolands Berzins (2450) – 6½/9
3-4. Arnolds Luckans (2424), Oleg Krivonosov (2431) – 6 etc.

The Women's event was dominated by **Laura Rogule** – U14 World Champion.

4 consecutive wins in the final rounds helped WGM **Svetlana Prudnikova** to become sole winner of the round-robin Ladies tournament in Belgrade.

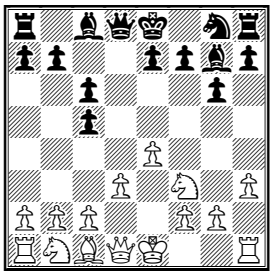
Final standings: 1. Svetlana Prudnikova (2426, YUG) – 6½/9, 2. Ana Benderac (2286, YUG) – 6 3-4. Svetlana Petrenko (2340, MDA), Irina Chelushkina (2366, YUG) – 5½ etc.

Annotated Game:

□ **M Savic (2159)**
■ **S Prudnikova (2426)**
Event: 36th International Ladies Tournament Belgrade (9), 13.03.2003 – B31
Annotations: **GM Ruslan Scherbakov**

In the middle of the tournament, Svetlana Prudnikova lost a winning position to one of the outsiders of the tournament. However, by beating the rest of her opponents she eventually celebrated overall victory in the tournament. Here I would like to present her brilliant play in the crucial last round game – look and enjoy!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 5.d3 ♗g7 6.h3



6...b6!?

An interesting way to play this system. Black is trying to deprive White of some possibilities, which the immediate closing of the diagonal with 6...e5 or 6...Nf6 might allow.

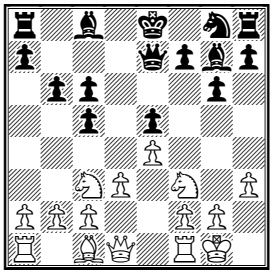
7.♘c3 e5

7...♘h6 has been tried a few times but it does not seem completely satisfactory for Black: 8.♗e3 f6 9.0–0 e5 10.a3!? a5 11.♘a4 ♖b8 12.b4 cxb4 13.axb4 b5 14.♘c5 a4 15.d4 ♘f7 16.♕e2 0–0 17.c4! ♘d6 18.♖fd1 ♕e7 19.cxb5 cxb5 20.dxe5 fxe5 21.♗g5 ♗f6 22.♗xf6 ♕xf6 23.♖d3 ♘f7 24.♖d5± with a clear advantage, Rublevsky – Iskusnyh, RUS-chT St. Petersburg 1999.

8.0–0

As a rule, White begins with 8.♗e3 followed by Qd1–d2, intending to swap dark-squared bishops, depriving Black of the bishop pair. Then possible is 8...♕e7!? *(8...♘e7!?* is also playable but the knight is rather passive here. Yet, in the game Adams – Kramnik, FIDE WCh Las Vegas 1999 Black did not have many problems: *9.♕d2 h6 10.♘h2 ♗e6 11.0–0–0 ♕d7 12.♔b1 0–0–0 13.♕e2 f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.f4 ♖he8 16.♕d2 ♕b7!? 17.fxe5 ♗xe5* and here a draw was agreed*)* 9.♕d2 Now Black has an interesting ambitious attempt 9...h6!?, securing the bishop pair. The drawback is also clear – she will face problems with castling. *(9...♘f6* promises a slight edge for White after *10.♗h6 0–0 11.0–0–0±)* 10.0–0 ♘f6 11.a3!? ♘d7 12.♖fb1 ♘f8 13.b4 ♘e6 14.bxc5 f5!? with complicated play, in which White's chances look slightly preferable, Bezold – Wells, Pulvermuehle 2000.

8...♕e7!?



Black prefers to develop the knight to f6.

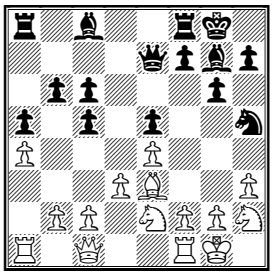
9.a4?!

White is not very familiar with the basic subtleties of this type of position – the b2–b4 advance is one of the important resources.

9...a5 10.♗e3 ♘f6 11.♘h2?!

Another dubious idea – White wants to advance f2–f4 but it cannot be realised in this situation. Still 11.♕d2 was more to the point.

11...♘h5 12.♘e2 0–0 13.♕c1



Finally White has completed her plan – the b2-pawn is protected and so f2–f4 is prepared. However, there is a little drawback – Black comes first!

13...f5 14.exf5 gxf5 15.♗h6

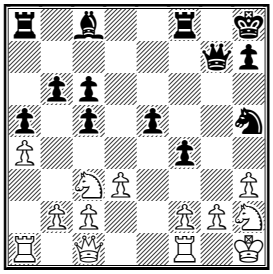
The exchange of these bishops is one of the main White ideas in the system,

connected with Bb5xc6. However, White usually arranges other pieces much more comfortably and does not let Black to get so much activity in the center and on the kingside.

15...f4!

Black begins direct kingside actions. It might look that she does not care about the e5-pawn but White just cannot think about it as she has to parry concrete threats.

16.♗xg7 ♕xg7 17.♔h1 ♔h8 18.♘c3



Despite the errors, White's position is still rather solid. 18.♘f3?! could have been met by 18...c4! with a poor choice for White: to get a weak pawn on d3 or to let the Black e5-pawn come into action with great effect.

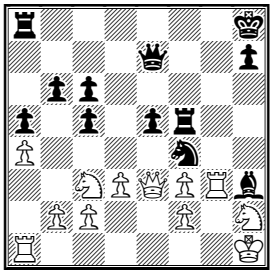
18...f3!?

An interesting attempt but maybe too clarifying. A routine 18...♗e6 with the idea of putting the bishop on d5 could have secured better chances for Black.

19.gxf3?!

After this capture Black gets a clear advantage. 19.♘xf3? was bad due to 19...♖xf3! 20.gxf3 ♕d7! 21.♕h6 ♕xh3+ 22.♔g1 ♗f5 23.♘e2 ♕xf3–+ followed by ...Ra8-g8; 19.♖g1! was correct, taking a good opportunity to get the rook into play. Then possible was 19...fxg2+ 20.♖xg2 ♕f6 21.♘e4 ♕f4 22.♘g4 c4!? and Black's chances looked slightly preferable.

19...♘f4 20.♖g1 ♕e7 21.♕e3 ♗xh3 22.♖g3 ♖f5



Getting all the pieces into action.

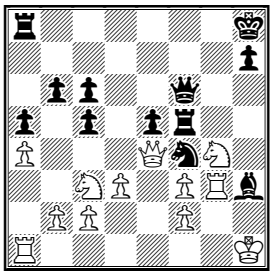
23.♕e4

In case of 23.♖ag1 Black could simply continue the attack by 23...♖h5 followed by ... Qe7-h4.

23...♕f6!

Setting a small trap in passing.

24.♘g4



It's very tempting to disturb the queen but...

24...♖h5!!

Now Black's attack can hardly be parried.

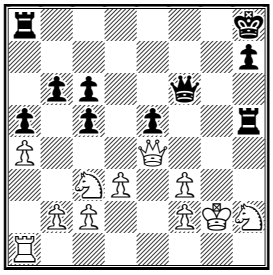
25.♘h2

Of course, not 25.♘xf6?? ♗g2+ 26.♔g1 ♖h1#; 25.♔g1 was simply met by 25...♗xg4 26.fxg4 ♘h3+–+

25...♗g2+!?

25...♕h4–+ was also not bad.

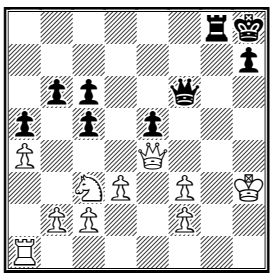
26.♖xg2 ♘xg2 27.♔xg2



27...♖xh2+!

A very energetic and well-calculated play! 27...♖g8+ seemed less clear: 28.♘g4 ♕h4 29.♔f1 ♕h1+ 30.♔e2 ♕xa1 31.♕xc6 with counter chances.

28.♔xh2 ♖g8 29.♔h3

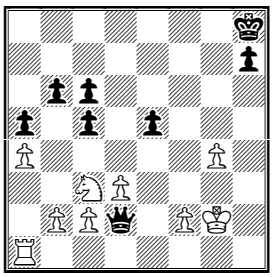


The only defence against ...Qf6-h6.

29...♕e6+! 30.♕g4

A sad necessity...

30...♖xg4 31.fxg4 ♕h6+ 32.♔g2 ♕d2

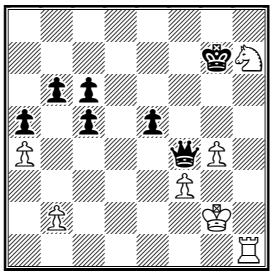


Now everything is clear.

33.♘e4 ♕xc2 34.♖h1 ♕xd3 35.♘f6 ♔g7

Of course, Black does not miss the checkmate Rh1xh7.

36.♘xh7 ♕e4+ 37.f3 ♕f4



White resigned. A masterful game by Svetlana Prudnikova! **0-1**

Solution to Quiz Today

1) 41.♖h1+ ♔g6 42.♖eh7! The king is the best target. Black resigned. **1-0**

2) 46...♕a7! To be fair, it's quite possible to miss such a move - suddenly the knight on g1 cannot be saved! The Black king is opened but there are no checks so White had to resign. **0-1**

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CHESS TODAY
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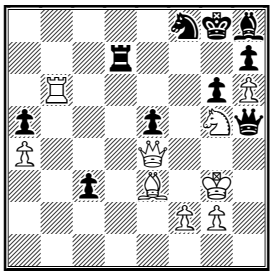
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-75(859) 16th March 2003

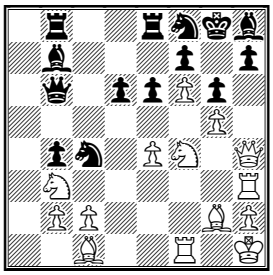
Quiz Today

1. Reefat bin Satter – Z. Rahman
6th United Insurance Dhaka BAN (8), 15.03.2003
It might look that Black is in trouble – his queen, bishop and knight are very poorly placed while White is threatening Qe4-c4. However, everything was well calculated and now Black clarifies the situation in his favour...



Black to move

S. Tiviakov – S. Ahmed
Event: 6th United Insurance Dhaka BAN (8), 15.03.2003



White to play
Solution in today's annotated game.

Tournament News

The 12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament started today in Monaco.

Day 1 results (blindfold/rapid; the rapid game was played with reversed colour):

Ljubojevic – Ivanchuk **0:1 ½:½**
Gelfand – Anand **½:½ ½:½**

Van Wely – Morozevich **1:0 0:1**
Leko – Bareev **1:0 ½:½**
Almasi – Kramnik **0:1 1:0**
Topalov – Shirov **1:0 ½:½**

Today **Veselin Topalov** celebrated his 28th birthday. He made a good present for himself by beating Alexei Shirov – our congratulations!

Day 1 standings:
1-3. Topalov, Leko, Ivanchuk – 1½
4-9 . Kramnik, Anand, Gelfand, Morozevich, Almasi, Van Wely – 1
10-12. Bareev, Shirov, Ljubojevic – ½

GM **Marat Dzhumaev** is heading the 6th United Insurance tournament in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

8 round standings:

1. Marat Dhumaev (2507, UZB) – 6½/8,
2. Sergei Tiviakov (2635, NED) – 6
3. Ziaur Rahman (2542, BAN) – 5½
4. Alexei Barsov (2525, UZB) – 5

5-6. Alexander Goloshchapov (2523, UKR), Niaz Murshed (2435, BAN) – 4½
etc.

Today we present some highlights from the 8th round on page X.

Book Review
by Sam Collins

Finding myself, gentle reader, on holiday in Linares (my current pathetic 2.5/5 in the Open forbids me from saying that my purpose here relates to the actual *playing* of chess), I'm taking great pleasure in using my CT press badge to sneak into the press centre, grab a complimentary decaf and watch Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand and other giants bashing each other on the monitors. It makes me feel like a true amateur (see my first five rounds on

TWIC for practical examples) and a chess fan. Fortunate, then, that alongside my toothbrush I found *Heroic Tales: The Best of ChessCafe.com 1996–2001* (Russell Enterprises Inc., 431 pages, R.R.P. $24.95) stuffed in the bottom of my suitcase.

Anyone unfamiliar with Chess Cafe is advised to take a peek. This website features a large collection of entertaining, instructive and free (a point I'll return to later) material from a wide range of sources, from chess bad-boy Tim Harding to mega-trainer Mark Dvoretsky (indeed, even our beloved editor wrote there for a spell). All things considered, it's a great site.

This book, as described in the non-sexy part of the title, is a collection of the best stuff from the Café during the past five years. It is divided into sections entitled *In the Arena* (vignettes depicting top-level chess), *Instruction* (from Harding analysis of dodgy gambits to Dvoretsky and Muller on opposite coloured bishops), *Q&A* (club players' chess questions answered), *Humour* (Tony Miles and an Aussie), *History* (essays on a feast of tournaments and players), *Reviews* (of books), *Chess in Flux* (things like faster time controls and quick draw fines), *Politics* (well...) and *Sui Generis* (I would tell you, but I don't want to spoil the surprise).

While there is quite obviously a bit of everything, this book primarily aims to entertain. Thus, if you're looking for something to push you over the 1750 mark and only have $25 to your name, buy something else. However, I think it's generally a good idea to flesh out one's chess library with something a little lighter, if only to rekindle one's chess interest between Poisoned Pawn sub-variations. And a lot of the material in this book really is top quality. Dvoretsky, for some reason, *always* hits the mark; Miles is as funny as he was throughout his tragically brief career (indeed, his account in *India* of the lack of chess clocks for the Commonwealth Championship was particularly resonant, for the simple reason that *exactly* the same thing happened at the most recent World Junior in Goa, with organisers shrugging it off with such legendary lines as "Why would it be a problem to play with two different time controls in the same tournament?" and "No, FIDE won't object; after all, its Vice-President is on the organising committee"); and Genna Sosonsko's portrait of Euwe is the best chess essay I've ever read. Of course, there's some stuff I wasn't too keen on; I don't want to annoy anyone by naming names, but suffice it to say that another couple of Dvoretsky endings (or even a Baburin book review) would have been preferable to a few of the pieces featured here.

That's no great loss, I suppose, since all the material featured at ChessCafe is archived at the site. Yes, that includes the material in this book. So why buy it? Well, to have most of the good stuff neatly compiled in an attractively produced book. I have no doubt that some people will buy this book, and presumably they'll be motivated by something like the above. However, when a book is as easy to write (because there's nothing to write) as this one, I feel it puts a double onus on the editor to make sure the edition is, well, perfect. And this hasn't happened. I'm not familiar with Mr. Taylor Kingston, who edited the book, but in addition to praising him for his largely excellent choice of material I would have to chastise him for not proofreading it thoroughly enough. For instance, the Harding article on the Urusov Gambit (this is why I class him as a chess bad-boy; if I played half of Tim's suggested lines [frequently backed up by a game between two unknown correspondence players in 1937, always ending in mate in under 10 moves], I don't think I'd ever get out of the opening with a semi-reasonable number of pawns) has several rather major errors (muddling variations, suggesting Qxh6 when there's a black

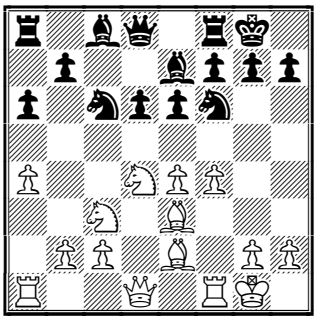
rook on h8 and so on) which should have been eliminated. This notwithstanding, I think Chess Cafe does excellent work and I'm glad to see they stand to benefit from it by the publication of this tome. If you can't be bothered to go online every time you want to read about Tal or Lasker, this book is a very nice read. Check out the website for sure, but as light chess related bedside reading goes (if that's your thing), this really is rather good.

MY ASSESSMENT: * * * *

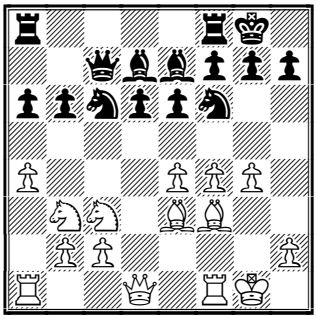
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ S. Tiviakov (2635)
■ S. Ahmed (2309)
Event: 6th United Insurance Dhaka
BAN (8), 15.03.2003
Sicilian Defence/ Scheveningen variation- [B83]
Annotations by GM Ruslan Scherbakov
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.♗e2 ♗e7 8.a4 ♘c6 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4 (D)



10...♗d7
A rather rare approach in the Scheveningen variation. 10...♕c7 is a common option. The tabia after 11.♔h1 ♖e8 12.♗f3 ♖b8 was tested hundreds of times - you may recall how skilfully Garry Kasparov defended Black's position in the World Title matches against Anatoly Karpov and later against Vishy Anand.
11.♘b3
Correctly preventing Black's idea to take on d4 followed by ... ♗d7-c6.
11...b6
In his turn, Black does not allow White to make wider his sphere of influence on the queen-side by the typical a4-a5 advance.
12.♗f3 ♕c7
This is not a transposition into the main line as Black has already put his bishop on d7. It is worth considering to continue playing without the queen's move: 12...♖b8!? 13.g4 ♘a5! 14.g5 ♘e8 15.♘xa5 bxa5 16.b3 f6! 17.h4 fxg5 18.hxg5 g6 with good counterplay, A.Kovacevic - Ilincic, Jugoslavia 2000.
13.g4 (D)



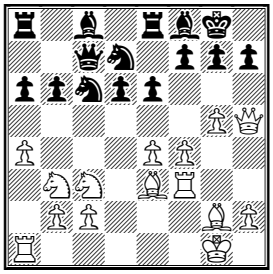
Without any wasteful moves White begins direct actions on the K-side. It is also demonstrates a drawback of the move ...Bc8-d7 - the bishop occupies the best square for the knight's retreat. [Slower play would give Black time rearrange his pieces better, for example: 13.♕e2 ♖fc8!? 14.g4 ♗e8 15.g5 ♘d7 16.♗g2 ♘a5! with a good play, Tischbierek - Tseshkovsky, Rostock 1984.
13...♗c8
Such a waste of time might seem to be dubious but it's also quite typical for this type of position - the bishop moves to the more active position on b7 at the same time freeing the square d7 for the knight. You may remember that Kasparov played the same manoeuvre in his triumphal 24th game of his match against Karpov in 1995. However, there is an important difference - in that game, which brought Kasparov the World Title, he has already played ... ♖f8-e8 and ...♖a8-b8 while White has played less useful moves ♔g1-h1 and ♕d1-d2. [Black has tried other moves but without much success. Just a few examples: 13...♖ab8 14.g5 ♘e8 15.♗g2 f6 16.h4 ♕d8 17.♗h3 ♘c7 18.♕d2 ,

Kaiumov – L.Grigorian, Tashkent 1973; 13...♗e8 14.g5 ♘d7 15.♗g2 ♘c5 16.f5 ♕d8 17.♕g4 ♔h8 18.♕g3 ♘e5 19.♘d4 , Sigurjonsson – F.Olafsson, Reykjavik 1974 – in both cases this was not the Sicilian Black was probably hoping to play.

14.g5 ♘d7 15.♗g2

A typical manoeuvre – the bishop frees the way for the major pieces: White's attacking plan is ♖f1–f3–h3 and ♕d1–h5.

15...♖e8 16.♕h5 ♗f8 17.♖f3 (D)



Things would hardly be better for White – he has prepared the attack without a single wasteful move! Of course, Black should have been more creative and precise in defence.

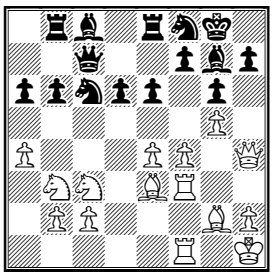
17...g6 18.♕h4 ♗g7

18...♕d8!? did not seem to be better. Then Black could meet 19.♖h3 with 19...h5 but the improvement 20.♘e2!? in a number of games the direct knight's sacrifice, followed by Ne2–g3xh5 as a rule gave White a very strong attack even if Black was able to arrange his pieces not so passively.

19.♖af1 ♘f8 20.♔h1

Here White can take the liberty of spending one tempo for this move. Black is still too far from creating serious counterplay but it is useful to hide the king from possible surprises before the decisive attack.

20...♖b8 (D)



21.f5

It seems that 21.♖h3!? b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.f5→ was the more precise order of moves to carry on with White's plan.

21...♘e5

It is hard to believe Black could allow the White knight to go to d5: 21...exf5 22.exf5 ♗xf5 23.♘d5 ♕d8 24.♘f6+ ♗xf6 25.gxf6→ and the attack can hardly be parried.

22.♖h3?!

White underestimates Black's counter chances. 22.♖3f2!? seemed more accurate, keeping the better chances.

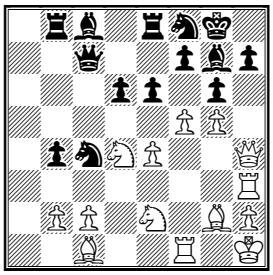
22...b5?

22...exf5! was quite possible at this moment! Then the move 23.♘d5 could have been met with 23...♕c4! and 24.♘f6+ had no effect due to 24...♗xf6 25.gxf6 h5

23.axb5 axb5 24.♘d4

24.f6!? could have locked in the bishop forever but White was probably trying not to prolong the battle for too long.

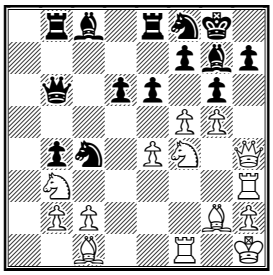
24...b4 25.♘ce2 ♘c4 26.♗c1 (D)



26...♕c5?!

It seems that Black did not consider such an option as 26...exf5 at all. However, this capture had some obvious pluses, such as the opening of the e–file for the rook and the diagonal c8–h3 for the bishop. After 27.exf5 ♗b7⇄ White could not be too relaxed because of his vulnerable king.

27.♘b3 ♕b6 28.♘f4!? (D)

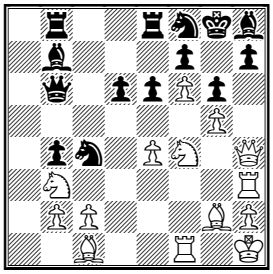


Setting a trap.

28...♗b7??

It looks like Black was wrongly directed by his prejudice: if he decided never to capture on f5 it did not mean White will never advance his f-pawn! [Still 28...exf5 could have promised counter chances but it was already in White's favour: 29.♘d5 ♕a7 30.exf5 *(30.♘f6+!?)* 30...♗xf5 31.♕xc4 ♖bc8 32.♕b5 and so on.

29.f6! ♗h8 (D)



30.♘xg6!!

A bolt from the blue - White breaks Black's fortress at the most fortified point! Black resigned as the quick checkmate is unavoidable. 30.♘xg6!! ♘xg6 *(30...fxg6 31.f7+ ♔g7 32.♕h6#)* 31.♕xh7+ ♔f8 32.♕xh8+! ♘xh8 33.♖xh8# **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. Reefat bin Satter - Z. Rahman

40...♖d4! 41.♗xd4 Unfortunately, the queen could not retreat due to the mate in one. **41...♕xg5+ 42.♔f3 exd4** The rest is simple. **43.g4 ♕d8 44.♕c6 ♕d7 45.♕c4+ ♕f7+ 46.♕xf7+ ♔xf7 47.♔e4 ♘d7 48.♖c6 d3!** White resigned. **0-1.**

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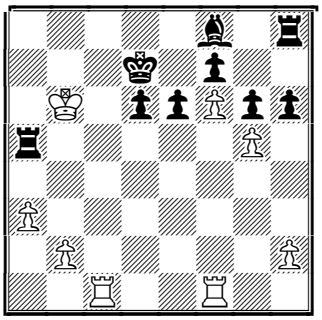
CT-76(860) 17th March 2003

Quiz Today

V. Kramnik – V. Topalov
Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo MNC (2), 16.03.2003



White to play
position after 35..♖xa5

Tournament News

Monaco Amber

The 2nd Round Blindford games of the 12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament became available before our press time. This Week in Chess suggests that the Kramnik-Topalov game is the most impressive – and we share this opinion! See Kramnik's final combination in our Quiz section.

Round 2 (Blindfold):
Shirov 0-1 Leko
Kramnik 1-0 Topalov
Bareev 1-0 Almasi
Ivanchuk 1-0 Morozevich
Anand 1-0 van Wely
Ljubojevic ½ Gelfand.

Dhaka

9th round standings:
1. Marat Dzhumaev (2507, UZB) 7
2-3. Ziaur Rahman (2542, BAN) and Sergei Tiviakov (2635, NED) 6½
4.Alexei Barsov (2525, UZB) 6½
Alexander Goloshchapov (2523, UKR) 5½, etc.

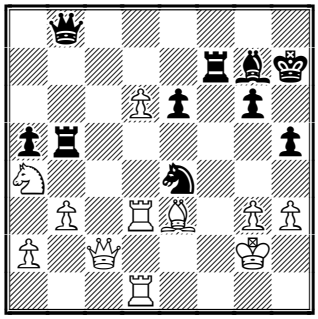
Ponomariov in Andorra and Kiev

After the end of Linares tournament Ruslan Ponomariov visited Andorra, where on 12th March he won a blitz match against IM De la Riva. The score was 5-1. On the 13th of March Ponomariov was awarded an audience with the Ukrainian President Kuchma. According to TV and press reports, Ponomariov and Kuchma discussed a situation in the chess world.

Bundesliga Rounds 12-13

On the 8th and 9th of March I played in Luebeck, where an interesting BL weekend took place. Thanks to the Linares modern tournament formula (7 participants), such players as Adams, Grischuk, Shirov, Svidler were free to play in the German League. The Luebeck team lost a point for the first time in the BL season, making draw 4-4 against Baden Oos. Luebeck had almost an ideal line-up, and Baden Oos played without Anand, who was busy finishing in the Linares tournament – but this team was not too much weaker, and besides only two of three their foreigners (Anand, Svidler, Krasenkow) can play in a specified match together. After seven games completed, the score was 4-3 for Luebeck, and everything was decided in the following highly exciting game:

R Dautov (Baden Oos) (2600) – A. Shirov (Luebeck) (2720)
Bundesliga 2002/3 Luebeck (12), 08.03.2003



*position after **39.d5-d6***

After a tense fight, Shirov finally got position to his taste. White's pawn on d6 is strong, but his king is vulnerable.

39...♕b7?

But this is wrong. 39...♕a8!∞ with

dangerous threats would be correct. For example, 40.♘b6 *(40.♔h2 h4; 40.♔g1 ♖f3)* 40...♖xb6 41.♗xb6 ♕b7!? 42.d7 ♘xg3+ 43.♔h2 *(43.♔xg3? ♗e5+)* 43...♘f1+ 44.♔g1 ♕xb6+ , and Black has at least a draw.

40.♔g1 ♖f3 41.♕c7!!

The key move. Black should lose time in retreating his queen, and White's queen will occupy c7, the decisive square in supporting the d-pawn and defending the White king.

41...♖xg3+ 42.♔h2 ♕a8 43.♗d4!

43.d7 ♖xe3! 44.♖xe3 ♕f8!

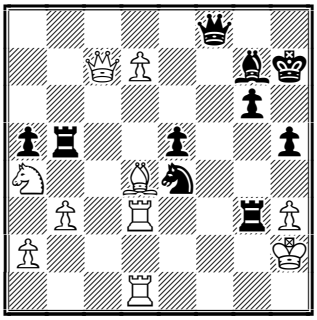
43...e5

43...♖b7 44.♕c6 is probably winning for White, e.g. 44...♗xd4 45.♕xe4! ♖xd3 46.♖xd3 e5 47.♖g3!+-

44.d7

44.♖xg3!? ♘xg3 *(44...exd4 45.d7+- ∆ ♗e5 46.d8♕+)* 45.d7.

44...♕f8! (D)



An excellent practical chance.

45.♖xg3!

At this stage Dautov spent almost all his time that remained before the second control, and showed the most convincing way to win. Or maybe even the only one. 45.d8♕?? ♕f4 is good for Black, e.g. 46.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 47.♗xe5+ ♖xe5 48.♖d7+ ♔h6 49.♕h8+ ♔g5 50.♕xe5+ ♕xe5 51.♖1d5 ♕xd5 52.♖xd5+ ♔h4

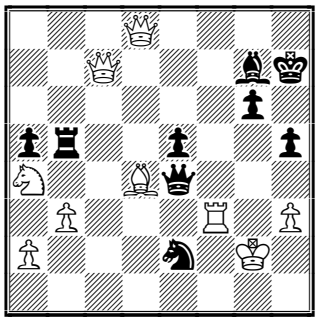
45...♕f4 46.♖dd3! ♘xg3 47.d8♕!

47.♖xg3? h4

47...♘e2+ 48.♔g2! ♕e4+

48...exd4 49.♖f3!+- (not *49.♕xf4? ♘xf4+* and 50...♘xd3) 49...♖g5+ 50.♔f2 ♕d2 51.♕xg7+! ♔xg7 52.♕f8+ ♔h7 53.♖f7#; 48...♘xd4 49.♖xd4+-

49.♖f3! (D)



49.♔f2? ♘f4 50.♖e3 ♕g2+ 51.♔e1 ♕g1+ 52.♔d2 ♖d5= 53.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 54.♕e7+ with perpetual check is one of incredible lines.

49...♘f4+

Black had many ideas, but nothing works. The material advantage is decisive here. 49...exd4 50.♕f6!+-; 49...♖b7 50.♗xe5!? ♖xc7 51.♕xc7+-

50.♔g3! ♖d5

50...h4+ 51.♕xh4+ ♘h5+ 52.♕xh5+ gxh5 53.♗e3+-; 50...♘e6 51.♘c3!+-; 50...♘e2+ 51.♔f2 , and the idea of 52.♕xg7+! is killing.; 50...♕e1+ 51.♔h2!?

51.♕de7 h4+ 52.♔h2 ♘h5 53.♖f7 1-0.

The Luebeck photo report by Thilo Gubler is available at www.rochade.de. (There is a Dautov-Shirov game photo; on another picture where Svidler, Adams and Speelman are analyzing this game.)

Globalisation in action

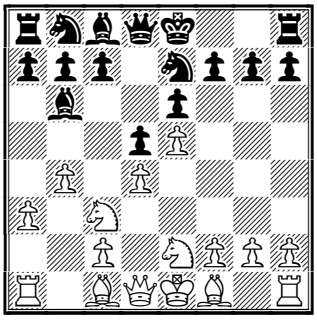
Australian Grandmaster and journalist Ian Rogers commented for the Ukrainian sport newspaper *Komanda* on the recent Linares Kasparov incident - how everything happened ("Some of this time his hand was only about ten centimetres from my throat."). An Article in Russian is at: www.komanda.com.ua/other/2003/03/14/linares. I had a chance to express my opinions on various matters in the an email interview (in English) for the website Seagaard Chess Reviews.

♘♘♘

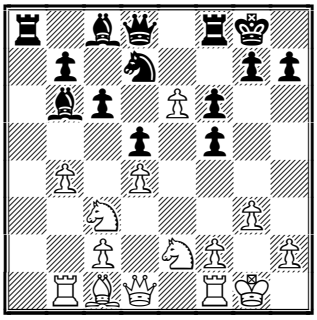
Annotated Game

□ **M. Golubev (2535)**
■ **E. Berg (2525)**
Event: Bundesliga 2002/3 Luebeck (12), 08.03.2003
French Defence/ Winawer/Alekhine variation [C15)
Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

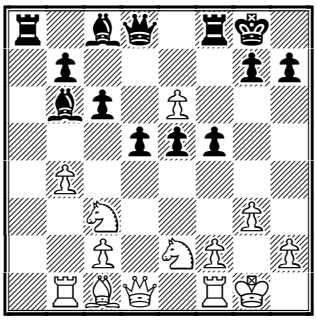
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♘ge2
I was absolutely not prepared to face Berg, and deviated from 4.e5, what is what I usually play here.
4...♘e7!?
White found himself "out of book" immediately after this rare move. 4...♘f6; and 4...dxe4 are two well-known continuations.
5.a3 ♗a5 6.b4
I was not sure if I would be able to fight for advantage after 6.g3!? dxe4 7.b4 ♗b6 8.♘xe4 , and now 8...e5!; The line 6.e5 c5!? looked very playable for Black.
6...♗b6 7.e5 (D)



7...c6
I expected Black to play such a move only after ...0–0 and f6. 7...0–0 8.♘a4!? is what he probably disliked.; 7...f6!? is interesting, when 8.exf6 gxf6 9.♘f4 0–0∞ is not clear; and 7...a5!? was probably the most logical move, since after 8.♖b1 axb4 9.axb4 , ♘a4 is not an idea anymore.
8.g3 ♘d7
8...0–0 looks more natural.
9.♗g2
Taking into account further developments, ⌓9.♗h3!? was possibly better.
9...a5 10.♖b1 0–0 11.0–0 ♘f5!
11...f6? 12.♘f4
12.♗h3!?
White had not too much alternative ideas.
12...axb4 13.axb4 f6! 14.♗xf5
14.♘f4? ♘xd4 15.♗xe6+ ♔h8∓
14...exf5 15.e6!?



It is hard to exclude that better was 15.exf6 , but if anyone would had problems there, it hardly would be Black.
15...♘e5!
A possibility, which I noticed immediately... after I played 15.e6. I spent quite a lot of time looking at 15...♘b8 16.♘f4 g5 , where Black wins material. The plan was 17.♖e1 ♖e8 18.g4!∞ , sacrificing a piece, bet preserving a pawn on e6.(Instead, *18.♕h5?! ♖e7∓* should be good for Black*)*
16.dxe5 fxe5∞ (D)



Black has only one pawn for a piece, but he certainly will get the second one, and the co-ordination between white pieces is nearly disastrous - it is difficult to fight against ...d4 without doing things like ♕d2, ♘d1 or ♖b2, ♘b1.
17.♖e1
After 17.e7 ♕xe7 18.b5 Black can simply remove his bishop from b6.; Or 17.b5 ♗xe6 18.bxc6 bxc6 , and ...d4 is still an unpleasant idea.
17...d4!∓
17...♗xe6?! 18.♘f4! ♗f7! 19.♖xe5

♕f6∞ is hardly promising for Black.

18.e7

18.♘xd4 ♕xd4! *(18...♗xd4 19.e7 ♕xe7 20.♕xd4 exd4 21.♖xe7 dxc3 22.♗f4=)* 19.♗e3 ♕xd1 *(≤19...♕xc3 20.e7 ♖e8 21.♗xb6)* 20.♖bxd1 ♗c7 21.e7 ♖e8 22.♗c5 ♖a3!? seems to be better for Black.; I had no trust in 18.♘f4 dxc3 19.♕xd8 ♖xd8 20.♖xe5 , but maybe 20...♖a2 21.♖e2 is not radically hopeless for White.

18...♕xe7 19.b5?

The blunder. But after 19.♘xd4 ♖d8! 20.♘xc6 (or *20.♘xf5 ♗xf5 21.♕e2 ♗d4 22.♗e3∓)* 20...bxc6 21.♕e2 Black is seriously better.

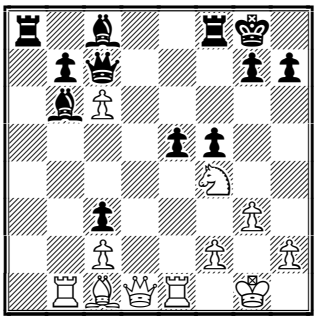
19...dxc3–+ 20.♘f4!?

At least, an active move. 20.bxc6 ♖d8–+ was what I missed in the beginning.

20...♕c7?!

20...♗c7!? 21.bxc6 bxc6–+ △22.♕f3 ♕f6 would be almost absolutely hopeless for White.

21.bxc6! (D)



21...♗d4!?

Played after long thought. I expected other replies: 21...exf4 22.♕d5+! ♔h8 23.♗xf4 bxc6 24.♕b3 ♗xf2+ 25.♔xf2 ♕a7+ 26.♗e3; 21...bxc6 22.♘d5! cxd5 23.♕xd5+; 21...♖d8? 22.♘d5 ♕f7 23.♘xb6! ♖xd1 24.♖xd1

22.♘d5 ♕d6!?

Starting from here, we entered increasing mutual time trouble. 22...♕f7 23.♘e7+ ♕xe7 24.♕xd4 exd4 25.♖xe7 bxc6 26.♗f4 would be a logical line – White is two pawns down, but not all is clear.

23.♗f4?

Instead of this objectively losing move, I should play 23.♘e7+ ♕xe7 24.♕xd4 , etc.; 23.♘b6? ♕xc6!? 24.♘xa8 f4–+

23...♕c5?!

Both players almost stopped to understand, what is going on. [The simplest way to win would be 23...♕xd5 24.♖xe5 *(24.♗xe5 ♖a4–+)* 24...♕d8!–+ (less clear *24...♕c4?! 25.cxb7 ♗xb7 26.♖xb7 ♗xe5 27.♗xe5)*

24.♗xe5!?

24.♘e7+ ♔h8 25.cxb7 ♗xb7 26.♖xb7 ♗xf2+ 27.♔h1 ♗xe1 28.♕d7 ♖f7 29.♘g6+ hxg6 30.♕xf7 ♕c6+ 31.♔g1 ♕f6–+; 24.♖xe5 ♗xe5 25.cxb7 ♗xb7 26.♖xb7 ♗xf4 27.♘xf4 ♕c6–+

24...♗xf2+ 25.♔h1 bxc6?!

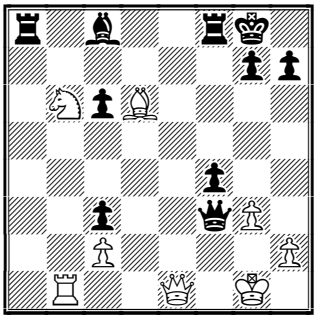
There were better ideas: 25...♗xe1!? △26.cxb7 ♗xb7 27.♖xb7 ♖fd8 28.♖xg7+ ♔f8 29.♖xh7 ♕xd5+ 30.♕xd5 ♖xd5 31.♖h8+ ♔e7 32.♖xa8 ♖xe5–+; or 25...♕xc6!? △26.♕f3 ♖e8]

26.♘b6 ♗xe1

26...♗e6!? 27.♗d6 ♗d5+ 28.♘xd5 ♕xd5+ 29.♕xd5+ cxd5] **27.♗d6! ♕f2**

27...♕a5!?

28.♕xe1 ♕f3+ 29.♔g1 f4! (D)



Here in terrible mutual Zeitnot, an incredible thing happened – the indication of our times disappeared from the electronic clock. Before that, we each had about (!) one minute for 11 moves. One of the arbiters, after he found that our times were lost forever, proposed to give 2 minutes for each player. Another proposed to give 30 sec, and 40 sec respectively. Then I proposed to my opponent a draw. He agreed. It was clear to us that there was no way to finish the game in a normal way. Black is still objectively better, but already not so much.29...f4 30.♘xa8 *(30.♕f1? ♕e3+; 30.♗xf8? ♗h3)* 30...♗f5 *(30...♗h3 31.♕f2 ♕xf2+ 32.♔xf2 ♖xa8 33.♖b3)* 31.♕e7 ♖xa8 32.♖f1 △♕e3+?? 33.♕xe3 fxe3 34.♖xf5 **½–½.**

Solution to Quiz Today:
V. Kramnik – V. Topalov

White to play. Kramnik wins quickly and nicely. **36.♖c7+!** [≤36.♔xa5 hxg5 37.♔b6 e5] **36...♔d8 37.♖fc1! ♖c5** [37...♖a8 38.♔b7+–] **38.♖1xc5 dxc5 39.♔c6!** [39.♔c6! hxg5 40.♖a7] **1–0.**

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CHESS TODAY
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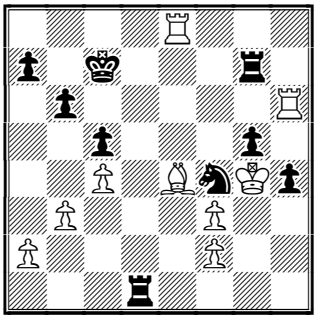
CT-77(861) 18th March 2003

Quiz Today

A. Shirov – V. Topalov
Amber Rapid Monte Carlo MNC (1), 15.03.2003
Topalov played 44...♖d8, and went on to draw the game in a few more moves. But he could have won the game if he played a different 44th move. How?



position after 44.♖e8

Tournament News

After 3 rounds in the 12th Amber Tournament Peter Leko is in sole lead with 4 ½ out of 6. His future opponent, Vladimir Kramnik is half a point behind.

Round 3 results:
Blindfold:

Gelfand – Ivanchuk 1–0
van Wely – Ljubojevic 1–0
Morozevich – Anand 1–0
Almasi – Leko ½ – ½
Topalov – Bareev 1–0
Kramnik – Shirov 1–0

Rapid:

Ivanchuk – Gelfand 1–0
Ljubojevic – van Wely ½ – ½
Anand – Morozevich 1–0
Leko – Almasi ½ – ½
Bareev – Topalov 1–0
Shirov – Kramnik ½ –½

Blindfold Standings:

1. Kramnik, Vladimir – 3.0
2. Leko, Peter – 2½
3. Gelfand, Boris – 2.0
4. Ivanchuk, Vassily – 2.0
5. Van Wely, Loek – 2.0
6. Topalov, Veselin – 2.0
7. Anand, Viswanathan – 1½
8. Morozevich, Alexander – 1.0
9. Bareev, Evgeny – 1.0
10. Almasi, Zoltan – ½
11. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir – ½
12. Shirov, Alexei – 0.0

Rapid Standings:

1. Bareev, Evgeny – 2½
2. Anand, Viswanathan – 2.0
3. Leko, Peter – 2.0
4. Morozevich, Alexander – 2.0
5. Gelfand, Boris – 1½
6. Ivanchuk, Vassily – 1½
7. Almasi, Zoltan – 1½
8. Van Wely, Loek – 1.0
9. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir – 1.0
10. Topalov, Veselin – 1.0
11. Shirov, Alexei – 1.0
12. Kramnik, Vladimir – 1.0

Combined Standings after Round 3:

1. Leko, Peter – 4½
2. Kramnik, Vladimir – 4.0
3. Anand, Viswanathan – 3½
4. Gelfand, Boris – 3½
5. Bareev, Evgeny – 3½
6. Ivanchuk, Vassily – 3½
7. Morozevich, Alexander – 3.0
8. Topalov, Veselin – 3.0
9. Van Wely, Loek – 3.0
10. Almasi, Zoltan – 2.0
11. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir – 1½
12. Shirov, Alexei – 1.0

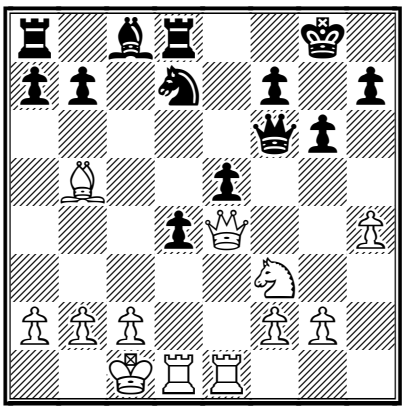
The leader has not changed in the 6th United Insurance and Leasing GM tournament after 10 rounds of play. Marat Dzhumaev is leading with 8 points out of 10. Sergei Tiviakov is half a point behind in the clear second. Alexei Barsov, Ziaur Rahman and Alexander Goloshchapov are one point behind Tiviakov.

♘♘♘

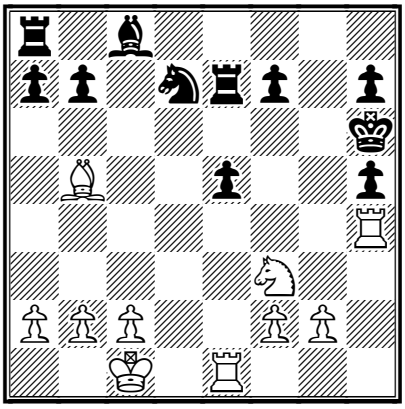
Annotated Game

□ **P. Leko (2736)**
■ **A. Shirov (2723)**
Event: Amber Rapid Monte Carlo MNC (2), 16.03.2003
French Defence/Classical Variation
C11
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♘bd7 6.♘f3 ♗e7 7.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 8.h4 0-0 9.♗d3 c5 10.♕e2 cxd4 11.♕e4 g6 12.0-0-0 e5 13.♗xf6 ♕xf6 14.♗b5 ♖d8 15.♖he1 (D)



15...♔g7N
Here Black should play very accurately in order not to get the worst position. Anand in his game with Kasparov in Kopavogur 2000 did it this way: 15...♕b6 16.♗c4 ♘c5 17.♕xe5 ♗e6 18.♗xe6 ♘xe6 19.h5 d3 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.♖h1 ♘g7 22.cxd3 ♕xf2 23.♖d2 ♖ac8+ 24.♔b1 ♕c5 25.♕f4 ♘h5 26.♕h6 ♕f8 27.♕g5 ♕c5 28.♕h6 ½–½ Kasparov,G–Anand,V/Kopavogur 2000/EXT 2001 (28)
16.h5 ♖e8?!
does not look too great. But what can we recommend for Black? Maybe the following move, which verges on the insane. 16...gxh5!?
17.♖xd4±
White returns the pawn and nothing can compensate for the defects in Black's position.
17...♖e7 18.♕e3 gxh5 19.♖h4 ♕h6 20.♕xh6+ ♔xh6 (D)



21.g4
More convincing is 21.♗xd7 ♗xd7 22.♖eh1 f6 23.♖xh5+ ♔g6 24.♖h6+ ♔f5 25.♖1h5+± with an extra pawn.
21...♔g7 22.♖xh5 f6 23.g5 f5 24.♗xd7
24.♖h6 e4 25.♘d4±
24...♗xd7 25.♖xe5 ♖ae8 26.♖xe7+ ♖xe7
Here Black managed to bring his a8-rook into action, but it is not easy to turn an advantage into a win.
27.♔d2 ♗c6 28.♘h4 ♖d7+ 29.♔c1 f4 30.c4 ♗e4 31.♖h6 ♖c7 32.b3 b5
Thanks to accurate defense Black has managed to equalize.
33.♖e6 ♗d3 34.♔d2 bxc4 35.bxc4 ♗xc4 36.♘f5+ ♔f8 37.♖f6+ ♖f7 38.♖xf7+ ♗xf7 39.a3 ♗a2?
39...♗g6 did not leave White any chance of a win.
40.♔e2 ♗b1?
This is losing again. More stubborn is 40...♗e6 41.♘h4 ♗d5
41.♘d4 ♔e7 42.♔f3 ♔d6 43.♔xf4 ♔c5 1-0.

Solution to Quiz Today:
A. Shirov – V. Topalov
44...♖f7!–+ 45.♔xg5 ♖g1+ 46.♔xh4 ♖fg7!.

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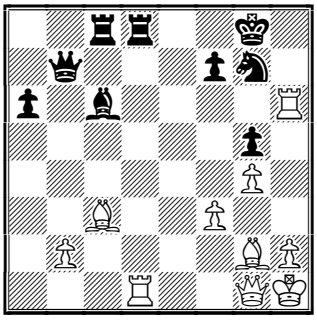
CT-78(862) 19th March 2003

Quiz Today

Z Almasi – P. Leko
Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo MNC (3), 17.03.2003

White played 51.♖f1?!, and on move 70 the game was drawn. However, White can win the game by playing a different 51st move. How?



position after 50...♘g7

Tournament News

12th Amber Tournament
Round 4 results:

Blindfold:
Leko – Kramnik – ½-½
Bareev – Shirov – 0–1
Almasi – Topalov – 1–0
Ivanchuk – Anand – ½-½
Ljubojevic – Morozevich – 0–1
Gelfand – van Wely – 1–0

Rapid:
Kramnik – Leko – ½-½
Shirov – Bareev – ½-½
Topalov – Almasi – 1–0
Anand – Ivanchuk – 1–0
Morozevich – Ljubojevic – 1–0
van Wely – Gelfand – ½-½

Blindfold Standings:
1. Kramnik, Vladimir – 3½
2. Leko, Peter – 3.0
3. Gelfand, Boris – 3.0
4. Ivanchuk, Vassily – 2 ½
5. Van Wely, Loek – 2.0
6. Topalov, Veselin – 2.0
7. Anand, Viswanathan – 2.0
8. Morozevich, Alexander – 2.0
9. Almasi, Zoltan – 1½
10.Bareev, Evgeny – 1.0
11. Shirov, Alexei – 1.0
12.Ljubojevic, Ljubomir – ½

Rapid Standings:
1. Bareev, Evgeny – 3.0
2. Anand, Viswanathan – 3.0
3. Morozevich, Alexander – 3.0
4. Leko, Peter – 2½
5. Gelfand, Boris – 2.0
6. Topalov, Veselin – 2.0
7.Ivanchuk, Vassily – 1½
8. Almasi, Zoltan – 1½
9. Van Wely, Loek – 1½
10.. Shirov, Alexei – 1 ½
11. Kramnik, Vladimir – 1½
12. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir – 1.0

Combined Standings after Round 4:
1. Leko, Peter – 5½
2. Kramnik, Vladimir – 5.0
3. Anand, Viswanathan – 5.0
4. Gelfand, Boris – 5.0
5. Morozevich, Alexander – 5.0
6. Bareev, Evgeny – 4.0
7. Ivanchuk, Vassily – 4.0
8. Topalov, Veselin – 4.0
9. Van Wely, Loek – 3½
10. Almasi, Zoltan – 3.0
11.Shirov, Alexei – 2½
12. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir – 1½

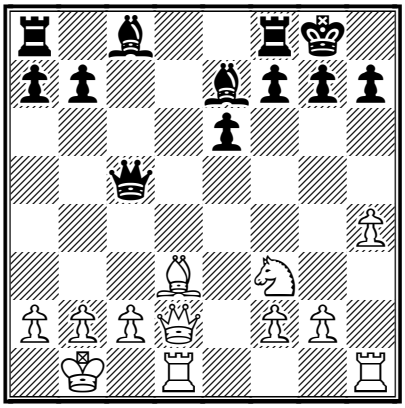
The first two places are still occupied by **Marat Dzhumaev** (8.5/11) and **Sergei Tiviakov** (8/11) in the 6th United Insurance and Leasing GM tournament after 11 rounds of play. Alexei Barsov is now in the clear third with 7.5 out of 11, and Ziaur Rahman is in fourth place with half a point behind Barsov.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **V. Topalov (2743)**
■ **E. Bareev (2729**
Event: Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo MNC (3), 17.03.2003
French Defence/Classical variation – C11
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♗e7 6.♗xf6 ♗xf6 7.♘f3 ♘d7 8.♕d2 0-0 9.0-0-0 ♗e7 10.♗d3 c5 11.♘xc5 ♘xc5 12.dxc5 ♕d5 13.♔b1 ♕xc5 14.h4 (D)



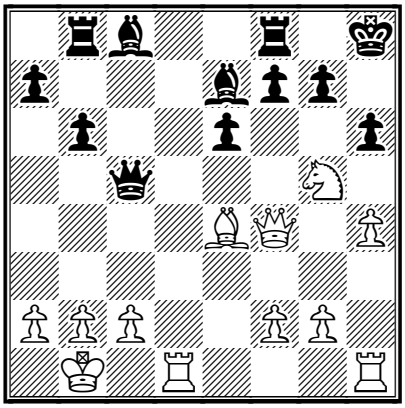
14...b6?

Also bad is 14...♖d8 15.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 *(15...♔h8 16.♗d3±)* 16.♘g5+ ♔g8 17.♕xd8+ ♗xd8 18.♖xd8+ ♕f8 19.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 20.♖d1± with an extra pawn.; Apparently, Black should play 14...h6 ; or 14...♕b6

15.♘g5! h6

Black has nothing even after 15...g6 16.♘xh7! ♔xh7 17.h5 ♔g8 18.hxg6 ♕g5 19.f4± and White's attack must end with a win.

16.♗h7+! ♔h8 17.♗e4 ♖b8 18.♕f4! (D)

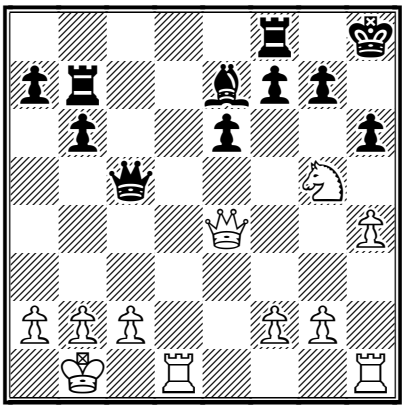


A double attack at b8 and f7.

18...♗b7

After 18...♗f6 19.♕xb8 ♕b4 20.♘xf7+! ♖xf7 21.♕xc8+ ♖f8 22.♕xf8+ ♕xf8 23.c3± White has to win because the two rooks in such a position are worth much more than the queen.

19.♗xb7 ♖xb7 20.♕e4! (D)



The final double threats at h7 and b7 finishes, a standard, but very vigorous attack by White.

20...♗xg5 21.♕xb7

21.hxg5 White also has a big advantage after 21...♖c7 22.gxh6 g6±

21...♗f6 22.♕f3±

A bit later Topalov managed to turn his material advantage into a win without any problem.

22...♖c8 23.c3 b5 24.♖c1 a5 25.g4 ♔g8 26.♕e4 ♕c4 27.♖ce1 a4 28.♕xc4 ♖xc4 29.g5 hxg5 30.hxg5 ♗xg5 31.♖e5 ♗h4 32.♖xb5 g5 33.f3 ♖f4 34.♖h3 f5 35.♔c2 ♔f7 36.♔d3 ♔f6 37.♖b4 ♔e5 38.a3 ♗f2 39.♔e2 ♗c5 40.♖xf4 ♔xf4 41.♖h6 e5 42.♖c6 ♗g1 43.♖c4+ ♔g3 44.♖xa4 ♔g2 45.♖a8 g4 46.fxg4 f4 47.♖f8 ♗h2 48.g5 1-0.

Solution to Quiz Today:
Z Almasi - P. Leko

The following won easily 51.♗f6! ♖xd1 52.♕xd1+- and there is no protection from the queen transfer to h7.

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CT-79(863) 20th March 2003

Tournament News

Wednesday was a rest day at the 12th Amber Tournament in Monaco, but we would like to show you another game from this event in today's annotated game section. Today there will be the 5th round:

5th round pairings:
van Wely – Ivanchuk
Morozevich – Gelfand
Anand – Ljubojevic
Topalov – Leko
Shirov – Almasi
Kramnik – Bareev

Marat Dzhumaev and **Sergei Tiviakov** share 1-2 places before the penultimate round of the 6th United Insurance & United Leasing GM (round-robin system) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Round 12 Standings:
1-2. Dzhumaev, Tiviakov – 8½
3-4. Barsov, Rahman – 8
5. Goloshchapov – 7½
6-7. Vakhidov, Murshed – 6½
8. Hossain – 6 etc.

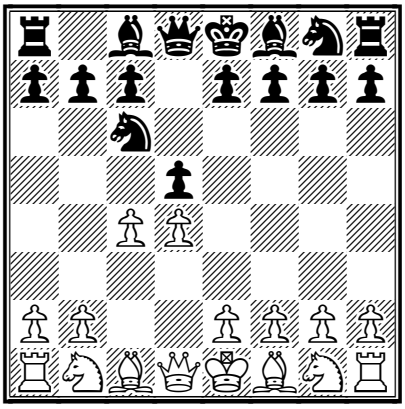
According to www.chess-express.ru, GM **Darmen Sadvakasov** won the Kazakhstan championship with brilliant result 11½ points out of 13. Kostenko came in second, Kotsur and Ibraev shared 3-4 places.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **L. Ljubojevic (2570)**
■ **A. Morozevich (2678)**
Event: Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo
MNC (4), 18.03.2003
QGD/Chigorin Defence - [D07]
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♘c6! (D)



Here it is - the famous Morozevich's weapon - the Chigorin Defence! To be honest this opening isn't completely correct for Black, but Morozevich knows it very deeply.

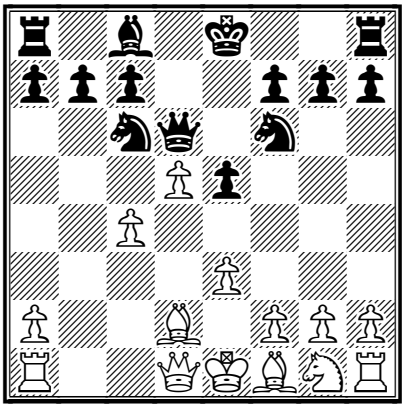
3.cxd5

A solid move, but I suspect more dangerous is 3.♘c3 or; 3.♘f3.

3...♕xd5 4.e3 e5 5.♘c3 ♗b4 6.♗d2 ♗xc3 7.bxc3

Another, maybe more critical line runs after 7.♗xc3 exd4 8.♘e2 ♗g4 9.f3 etc.

7...♘f6 8.c4 ♕d6 9.d5 (D)



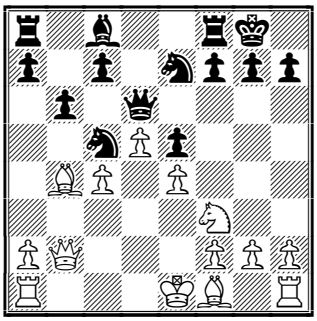
9...♘e7

In one of my games I preferred 9...♘b8 and had success, but the text move is more logical - the knight c6 will be better placed on the king side.

10.♕b1 0-0 11.e4?!

11.♗b4!?

11...♘d7 12.♗b4 ♘c5 13.♘f3 b6 14.♕b2 (D)

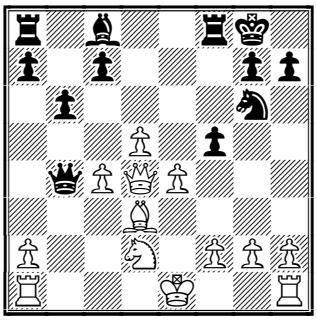


In my opinion this move is too slow – White forgets about development. 14.♗e2

14...f5! 15.♕xe5

15.♘xe5 fxe4 16.♗e2 c6!?⇄

15...♘d3+ 16.♗xd3 ♕xb4+ 17.♘d2 ♘g6! 18.♕d4 (D)



18.♕xc7?! ♕c3 19.♔e2 fxe4 20.♘xe4 ♗g4+ 21.f3 ♕b2+ with a very strong, maybe even decisive attack.

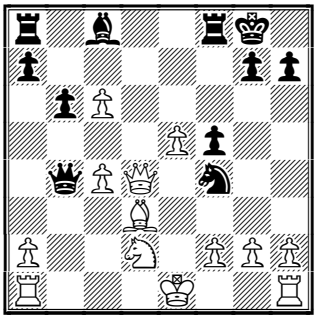
18...c5!?

Also strong was the immediate 18...♘f4 but Black would like to open one more line. In this case one pawn doesn't matter.

19.dxc6□

19.♕e3 f4 20.♕e2 f3 21.♕d1 *(21.gxf3 ♘f4 22.♕f1 ♕c3–+)* 21...♘e5∓

19...♘f4 20.e5? (D)



20.♗f1 fxe4 21.a3 ♕a4∞

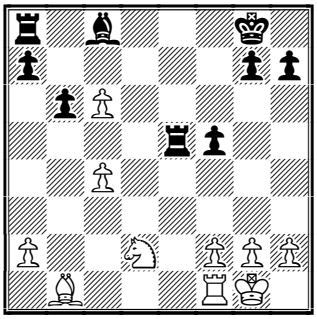
20...♕b2!!

It's very easy to overlook such a crushing move, especially when you are playing blindfold. Now Black wins material: 20...♘xg2+ 21.♔f1 ♕xd2 22.♕d5+ ♔h8 23.♔xg2 ♕g5+ 24.♔f1±

21.♕xf4

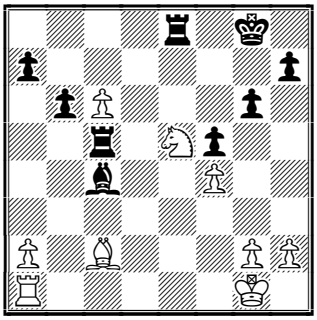
21.♕xb2 ♘xd3+ 22.♔e2 ♘xb2–+.

21...♕xa1+ 22.♗b1 ♖e8 23.0–0 ♕xe5 24.♕xe5 ♖xe5 (D)



The endgame has to be winning for Black – the pawns c6 and c4 are too weak.

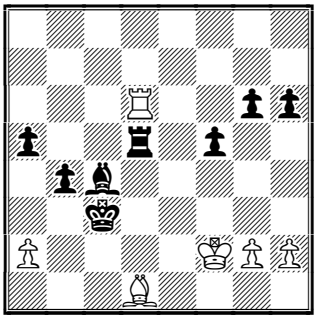
25.♘f3 ♖c5 26.♖e1 ♗a6 27.♘e5 g6 28.♗c2 ♖e8 29.f4 ♗xc4 30.♖a1 (D)



30...♖exe5

The simplest – the knight e5 was too strong.

31.fxe5 ♖xc6 32.♗a4 b5 33.♗b3 ♔f7 34.♖d1 ♔e6 35.♖d8 a5 36.♖e8+ ♔d5 37.♖b8 ♔xe5 38.♔f2 ♔d4 39.♖b7 h6 40.♗d1 b4 41.♖a7 ♖c5 42.♖d7+ ♔c3 43.♖d6 ♖d5 (D)



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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
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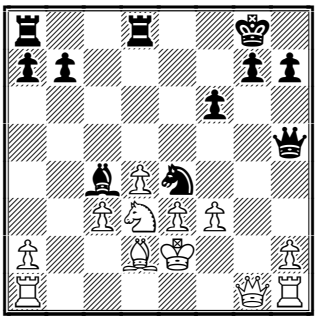
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-80(864) 21st March 2003

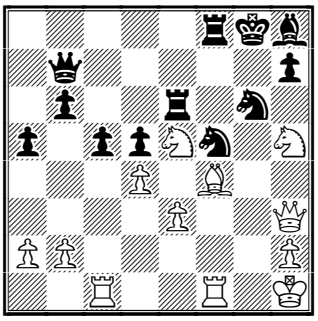
Quiz Today:

Barsov- Reefat
Dhaka 2003



Black to play

Barsov-Goloshchapov
Dhaka 2003



White to play

12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament.

After the 5th round, Viswanathan Anand has taken the lead by beating, quite predictably, Ljubomir Ljubojevic 2:0. Another whitewash however, was completely unexpected – Almasi defeated Shirov. Apparently Shirov has his bad days in Monaco. Kramnik is almost perfect in blindfold but in rapid play he scores moderately. The 'sequel' of the Dortmund final candidates match, Topalov – Leko, saw two draws.

Round 5

Blindfold
Van Wely – Ivanchuk 1:0
Morozevich – Gelfand ½:½
Anand – Ljubojevic 1:0
Topalov – Leko ½:½
Shirov – Almasi 0:1
Kramnik – Bareev 1:0

Rapid
Ivanchuk – Van Wely 1:0
Gelfand – Morozevich 0:1
Ljubojevic – Anand 0:1
Leko – Topalov ½:½
Almasi – Shirov 1:0
Bareev – Kramnik ½:½

Blindfold Round 5 Standings:
1. Kramnik – 4½
2-3. Gelfand, Leko – 3½
4-5. Anand, Van Wely – 3
6-9. Morozevich, Almasi, Ivanchuk, Topalov – 2½
10-11. Bareev, Shirov – 1
12. Ljubojevic – ½

Rapid Round 5 Standings:
1-2. Anand, Morozevich – 4
3. Bareev – 3½
4. Leko – 3
5-7. Topalov, Almasi, Ivanchuk – 2½
8-9. Kramnik, Gelfand – 2
10-11. Shirov, Van Wely – 1½
12. Ljubojevic – 1

Combined Round 5 Standings:
1. Anand – 7
2-4. Kramnik, Leko, Morozevich – 6½
5. Gelfand – 5½
6-8. Topalov, Almasi, Ivanchuk – 5
9-10. Bareev, Van Wely – 4½
11. Shirov – 2½
12. Ljubojevic – 1½

The 6th United Insurance & United Leasing tournament has finished in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The permanent leader Marat Dzhumaev of Uzbekistan has been finally caught up by Sergei Tiviakov of Netherlands and the local player Ziaur Rahman.

Final Standings:
1-3. Dzhumaev, Tiviakov, Z. Rahman – 9
4-5. Barsov, Goloshchapov – 8
6-7. Vakhidov, Murshed – 7
8. Hossain – 6½
9. Reefat – 6

10-11. Neelotpal, Magem Badals – 5½
12. Ahmed – 4½
13-14. T. Rahman, Abdulla – 3

The GM Victor Kupreichik has won the 69th Championship of Byelorussia with 9 points out of 12, one point ahead of the GMs Viacheslav Dydyshko and Andrei Kovalev. The co-winners of the Aeroflot-open Alexey Aleksandrov and Alexey Fedorov didn't take part in the event.

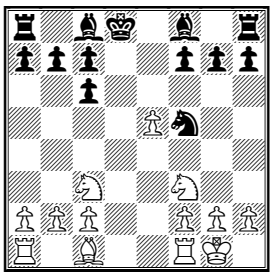
Annotated Game:

□ **A Shirov (2723)**
■ **Z Almasi (2676)**
Event: Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo MNC (5), 20.03.2003 C67

Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**

Shirov managed to turn the "boring" Berlin Wall into a Western. Unfortunately, contrary to the normal rules of the genre, the cowboy committed suicide in the final scene.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 9.♘c3



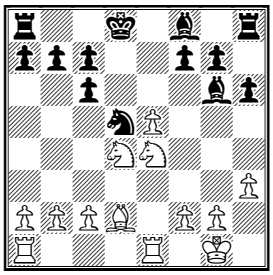
9...♘e7
Almasi's know-how. The Hungarian was the first person to put the manoeuvre Ne7-g6 into practice. Nowadays Paco Vallejo and Tomasz Markowski make this move right now but there are many others including Kramnik who prefer to delay it for a while.

10.h3
10.♘d4 ♘g6 11.f4 ♗c5 12.♗e3 ♗b6! 13.♖ae1 ♘h4 14.e6 was played in... Shirov - Almasi (Tilburg 1996) and here according to Shirov Black should have replied 14...c5! with equality.

10...h6
10...♘g6 11.♗g5+ is the main line. Almasi prevents the check.

11.♘e4!? ♗f5
In case of 11...♘g6 White can send his knight to h5 where it puts an annoying pressure on the opponent's kingside

12.♖e1 ♘d5!? 13.♘d4 ♗g6 14.♗d2



14...c5
An invitation to sharp play which Shirov accepts immediately.

15.♘b5
After 15.♘b3 b6 16.♖ad1 ♔c8 the knight on b3 lacks activity and 17.♗xh6 is met by 17...♘b4 regaining the pawn.

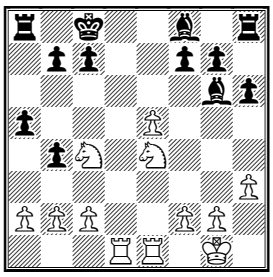
15...a6 16.♘a3
A kind of symmetry. The manoeuvre c4-a5 becomes possible for White's second knight.

16...♔c8 17.♖ad1 ♘b4
After 17...♗e7 the capture 18.♗xh6 already works as the c2-pawn is protected.

18.♗xb4
18.c3 ♘c6 19.♗f4 ♗e7 was an alternative but then I think I wouldn't have chosen this game for today's issue!

18...cxb4 19.♘c4
The Brownian motion of the knight (g1-f3-d4-b5-a3-c4) is impressive.

19...a5



This move contains a direct threat of b7-b5 which was bad at the moment due to Na5. Furthermore the idea developing the rook via a6 appears.

Shirov takes appropriate measures. 19...♗e7 was more cautious.

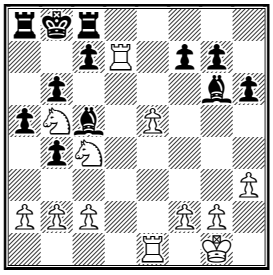
20.♖d5! b6 21.♘ed6+! ♔b8!

21...cxd6 loses to 22.♘xb6+ ♔b7 23.♘xa8 ♔xa8 24.exd6 and Black should give up the bishop for the d6-pawn.

22.♘b5

The second knight is trying to contribute its share into a chaotic movement. White's initiative is rising.

22...♗c5 23.♖d7 ♖c8



The courageous 23...♗xc2! was better and White has to waste time for 24.b3!? (because both *24.♘xc7 ♖a7 25.♖d2 ♖xc7 26.♖xc2 ♗d4;* and *24.♖xf7 ♗a4! 25.♘xc7 ♖a7* favour Black*)*

24.♘cd6!

Another knight sacrifice on the same square! This time it can't be rejected.

24...cxd6 25.exd6

Rb7# is near :-)

25...a4

25...♗xc2 deserved attention again and if 26.♖ee7 *(26.♖xf7 ♗a4!)* then 26...♖a6 ; bad was 25...♗f5? 26.♖xf7

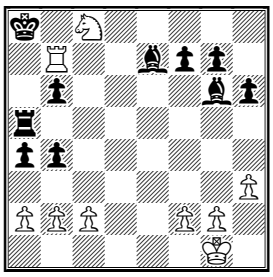
26.♖ee7 ♖a5 27.♖b7+ ♔a8 28.♘a7 ♗xd6

28...♖d8? fails to 29.♘c6 b5 30.♘xd8; 28...♖f8 isn't better in view of 29.♘c6 b5 30.♘xa5 and another rook falls; Black had a curious counterattack - 28...♗xf2+! 29.♔xf2 ♖xc2+ and then A) 30.♔g1? suddenly loses after 30...♖g5! and it's Black whose threats are decisive e.g. 31.d7 *(31.g4 ♖d5)* 31...♖gxg2+ 32.♔f1 ♖gd2; but B) 30.♔g3! 30...♖g5+ 31.♔f4 and here perpetual check is the most probable outcome.

29.♘xc8

It seems that this knight has had a good career: b1–c3–e4–d6–b5–a7–c8! Alas its next selfish move ruined White's game.

29...♗xe7



The rook has disappeared but its Platonic idea is still on the board.

30.♘xb6+??

It's hard to ride the horses blindfold! What was Shirov thinking about while making this move? That he's checkmating I suppose. What a great disappointment it was... After 30.♖xe7 ♖b5 31.♖e8!? ♖c5! *(31...♔b7? 32.♘d6+)* 32.♘xb6+ ♔b7 33.♘xa4 ♖xc2 the ending is equal.

30...♔xb7

White resigned. **0-1**

Solution to Quiz Today

1) 25...♘c5! 26.dxc5 ♖xd3 27.♔e1 ♕xf3 0-1 2) 31.♗h6! ♖xe5 31...♘xh6 32.♕xe6+ **32.♗xf8 ♖e8 33.♕xf5 cxd4** 33...♖xf8 34.♕e6+ ♖f7 35.♕e8+ ♘f8 36.♖g1+ ♗g7 37.♖xg7+! ♖xg7 38.♘f6+; 33...♘xf8 34.♖g1+ ♘g6 35.♖xg6+! hxg6 36.♕xg6+ **34.♗d6 1-0**

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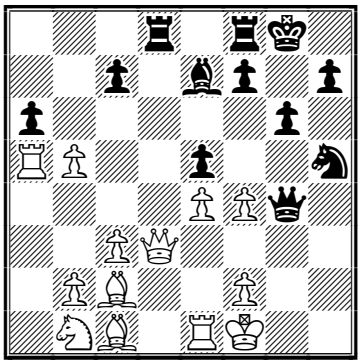
CT-81(865) 22nd March 2003

Quiz Today: Shirov-Morozevich
Position After 19 ..Rad8



White to play. How to stop Black's attack?

12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid Tournament

The 6th Round of the Monaco Amber tournament took place on 21st March. There were two draws between Kramnik and Anand. Leko beat Ivanchuk 1½-½ to share the overall lead with Anand. Morozevich lost 0-2 to Shirov, despite the fact that Shirov is still 11th in the combined standing. Gelfand won both games against Almasi, as did Bareev against Ljubojevic. Topalov-Van Wely 1½-½.

Round 6
Blindfold
Bareev - Ljubojevic 1-0
Gelfand - Almasi 0-1
Topalov - Van Wely 1-0
Shirov - Morozevich 1-0
Kramnik - Anand ½-½
Leko - Ivanchuk ½-½

Rapid
Ljubojevic - Bareev 0-1
Gelfand - Almasi 1-0
van Wely - Topalov ½-½
Morozevich - Shirov 0-1
Anand - Kramnik ½-½
Ivanchuk - Leko 0-1

Blindfold Round 6 Standings:
1. Kramnik - 5
2. Gelfand - 4½
3. Leko - 4
4-5. Anand, Topalov - 3½
6-7. Ivanchuk, Van Wely - 3
8-9. Almasi, Morozevich - 2½
10-11. Shirov, Bareev - 2
12. Ljubojevic - ½

Rapid Round 6 Standings:
1-2. Anand, Bareev - 4½
3-4. Leko, Morozevich - 4
5-6. Topalov, Gelfand - 3
7-10. Kramnik, Shirov, Ivanchuk, Almasi - 2½
11. Van Wely - 2
12. Ljubojevic - 1

Combined Round 6 Standings:
1-2. Leko, Anand - 8
3-4. Kramnik, Gelfand - 7½
5-7. Topalov, Morozevich, Bareev - 6½
8. Ivanchuk - 5½
9-10. Almasi, Van Wely - 5
11. Shirov - 4½
12. Ljubojevic - 1½

Web Watch

The German Cup Finals takes place in Berlin March 21-23. Official website is at: home.arcor.de/friesenschach, and Live-Transmission is at: www.schach.com/berlin/index.htm.

The Most Important Novelty of Informator's Volume 85 is one of the recent updates at ChessCafe.com.

The book *Linares, Linares!* by Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam is reviewed at ChessBase.com.

BCM Online site invites its visitors to send comments on Kasparov's Linares outburst.

GM Nigel Short comments on the same topic at his Telegraph Sunday chess column.
"Psychologists would doubtless look on Kasparov's fatherless early years as the root cause of his unchecked petulance; whatever the reason, his

brooding ill temper and subsequent out-bursts are very ugly to behold.", writes Kasparov's former rival in the 1993 World Championship match.

Meanwhile, Kasparov has written a new article for the Wall Street Journal, called *Winning the Longer-Term War*. It seems that only the Russian translation is available on the web, at the Inosmi.ru site. Kasparov supports the American President's strategy.

President FIDE Ilyumzhinov, with whom Kasparov works closely on reunification of the chess world, is probably looking on the current crisis from a different perspective. On Monday he visited Iraq and met with the Iraqi President's oldest son there. One of many reports is at Yahoo News.

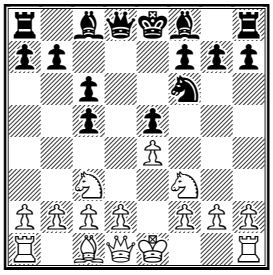
There were no messages to say if Ilyumzhinov met any chess-players in Iraq; possibly not. The Fide.com/ratings site shows that Iraq is not a strong chess country with only 141 players who have an international rating (10 of these players are rated higher than 2300).

The European Individual Women's Championship that was planned for Turkey has been postponed, according to the Fide website.

Annotated Game:

□ **V Anand (2753)**
■ **VKramnik (2807)**
Event: Amber Rapid Monte Carlo MNC (6), 21.03.2003 - B30
Annotations: **GM Mikhail Golubev**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗b5 e5 5.♗xc6 dxc6



Not an entirely new position for Kramnik's practice.

6.♘xe5!

Principled continuation. 6.d3 ♘d7!= occurred in Petelin-Kramnik, Sochi 1990.

6...♘xe4 7.♘xe4 ♕d4

7...♕d5 leads to the same positions.

8.♕e2 ♕xe5 9.f4

After 9.d4 cxd4 10.f4 ♕a5+ 11.♗d2 ♗b4 Black solves his opening problems: 12.♘d6+ ♔d7 13.♘xf7 ♗xd2+ etc., Zakic-Bakic, Yugoslavia 1992.

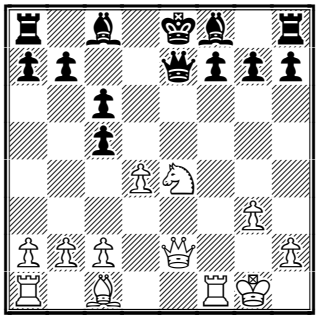
9...♕xf4

9...♕e7 10.f5 ♕e5 is no less dangerous a line for Black: 11.♖f1!? *(or 11.d4 cxd4 12.0-0 ♗c5 13.♔h1 0-0 14.♗f4 ♕d5 15.c4 d3 16.♕e1 ♕d4 17.♗d2!?* Veinger-Birnboim, Israeli Ch 1986*; 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.d3)* 11...♗e7 12.d4 cxd4 13.♗f4 ♕a5+ 14.♗d2 ♕a6 15.♘d6+ ♔f8 16.♘c4⩲ Ma.Tseitlin-Nikcevic, Paris op 1995

10.d4

10.♘f6+ ♔d8 11.♕e8+ ♔c7 12.♕xf7+ ♔d8!= Korneev-Murey, Paris open 1995

10...♕h4+ 11.g3 ♕e7 12.0-0



I am not sure, what Kramnik would play in event of 12.♗g5!? with idea 12...f6 13.0-0-0 fxg5 14.dxc5⩲ , as in Plaskett-Murey, Gausdal 1985, but 12...♕e6 looks a sensible try.

12...f5

12...♕e6?! 13.♖xf7!! gave a dangerous initiative for White in Maliutin-Belikov, Volgograd 1990.

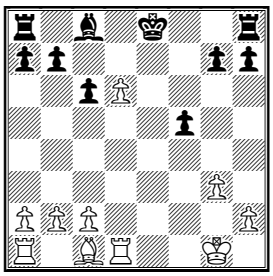
13.♘d6+

13.♖f4!?

13...♔d7 14.♕xe7+ ♗xe7 15.dxc5

15.♘xf5!? with idea of 15...cxd4 16.♘xe7 ♔xe7 17.♗g5+ is a possible improvement.

15...♗xd6 16.♖d1 ♔e8 17.cxd6



17.♖xd6 ♔f7!= , followed by ♖e8, ♗e6.

17...♗e6

17...h6? 18.♖e1+

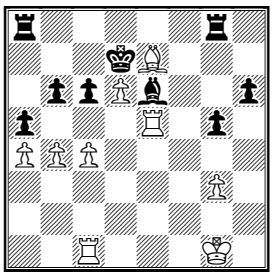
18.♗g5!? ♔d7 19.♖e1 h6 20.♗e7±

The endgame is slightly better for White, his d6 pawn is potentially dangerous.

20...g5! 21.♖e5 ♖hg8 22.a4 b6 23.b4 a6 24.♖c1?!

24.a5!?±

24...f4 25.c4 fxg3 26.hxg3 a5!=

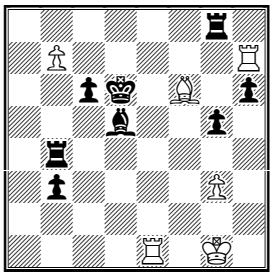


This strike equalizes the chances.

27.c5?

An over-optimistic move, which could cost the game for White. 27.bxa5 ♖xa5!; 27.b5 c5! (but not *27...cxb5 28.c5!)*

27...axb4 28.cxb6 ♖xa4 29.♖ce1 ♗d5 30.♗f6 b3 31.b7 ♖b4 32.♖e7+ ♔xd6 33.♖h7∓



Black has good chances for a win.

33...c5!? 34.♖xh6

Or 34.♗e5+ ♔c6 35.♖c7+ ♔b6 36.♖g7 ♖f8!

34...♖xb7 35.♗e5+

35.♗c3+!?

35...♔e7 36.♖d1?

⌓36.♗d4+

36...b2?

36...♗e4!, and White should not survive. If 37.♖e1, then sufficient is 37...♗g6 .

37.♖b1 ♖a8 38.♖xb2 ♖xb2 39.♗xb2 ♖a2? 40.♗f6+ ½-½

Solution to Quiz Today

20.♗d1! Not 20.♕e2? ♕h3+ 21.♔g1 ♗c5!→ **20...♕h4 21.♕f3 axb5 22.♖xb5 ♘xf4 23.♗xf4 exf4 24.♔g2**, and White is clearly winning. **24...c5 25.e5 h5 26.c4 ♖d4 27.♘c3 ♕g5+ 28.♔f1 ♖xc4 29.e6 f5 30.♕g2 ♕xg2+ 31.♔xg2 ♖d8 32.♗b3 ♖cd4 33.♖b7 ♔f8 34.♖a1 c4 35.♖aa7 ♗c5 36.♖f7+ ♔g8 37.♖g7+ ♔h8 38.♖h7+ ♔g8 39.♖ag7+ ♔f8 40.♖xg6! cxb3 41.♖f7+ ♔e8 42.♖g8+ 1-0**

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-82(866) 23rd March 2003

Chess News

In Round 7 of the 12th Amber Tournament Boris Gelfand won his blindfold game against Bareev and is sharing the lead with Kramnik in the Blindfold section. Topalov won both his games and is now in third place with Leko and Kramnik in Combined Standing. Anand managed to hold his lead by beating Shirov in Rapid and making a draw in Blindfold.

Round 7 results:

Blindfold:
Anand – Shirov ½,
Ivanchuk – Kramnik ½, Morozevich – Leko 1-0,
Gelfand - Bareev 1-0,
van Wely - Almasi ½,
Ljubojevic - Topalov 0-1

Rapid:
Shirov – Anand 0-1,
Kramnik – Ivanchuk ½,
Leko – Morozevich ½,
Bareev – Gelfand ½,
Almasi - van Wely ½,
Topalov – Ljubojevic 1-0.

Blindfold Standings:

1-2 Kramnik; Gelfand - 5½;
3. Topalov - 4½;
4-5 Leko; Anand - 4.0;
6-8 Morozevich; Ivanchuk; Van Wely - 3½; 9. Almasi - 3.0;
10. Shirov - 2½;
11. Bareev - 2.0;
12. Ljubojevic - ½

Rapid Standings:

1. Anand – 5½;
2. Bareev – 5.0;
3-4 Leko, Morozevich – 4½;
5. Topalov – 4.0;
6. Gelfand – 3½
7-9 Kramnik, Ivanchuk, Almasi – 3.0;
10-11 van Wely, Shirov – 2½;
12. Ljubojevic – 1.0

Combined Standings after Round 7:

1. Anand – 9½;
2. Gelfand – 9.0;
3-5 Kramnik, Leko, Topalov – 8½;
6. Morozevich – 8;
7. Bareev – 7;
8. Ivanchuk – 6½;
9-10 Almasi, van Wely – 6.0;
11. Shirov –5.0;
12. Ljubojevic – 1½

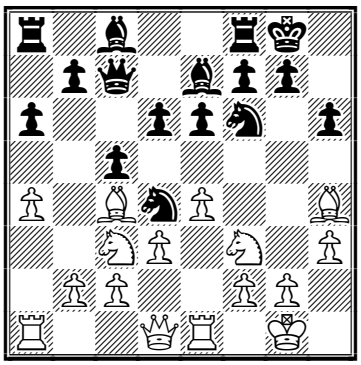
The IV Internet Tournament "Ciudad de Dos Hermanas", which takes place on ICC, came to its final stage. GM Vitali Golod, GM Vladimir Potkin, GM Pablo Zarnicki and IM Roi Reinaldo are playing in the semi-final.

Annotated Game:

☐ **A Morozevich (2678)**
■ **A Shirov (2723)**
Event: Amber Rapid Monte Carlo MNC (6), 21.03.2003 - B30

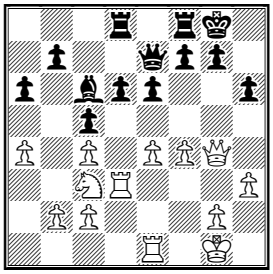
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

In a dramatic encounter from round 6, one of the leaders, Alexander Morozevich, lost twice to Alexei Shirov, who has not been lucky at this tournament. This is how it happened:
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗b5 ♕c7 5.d3 ♘d4 6.♗c4 e6 7.a4 a6 8.h3 ♗e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1 d6 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗h4

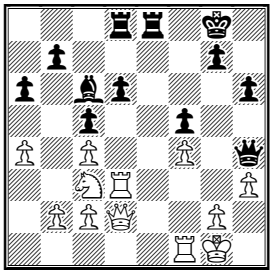


Black's first trick:
12..♘xf3+ 13.♕xf3 ♘d7!? 14.♗xe7

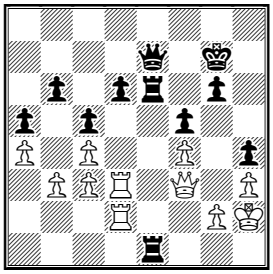
♘e5 15.♕g3 ♕xe7 16.f4 ♘xc4 17.dxc4 ♗d7 18.♖ad1 ♗c6 19.♕g4 ♖ad8 20.♖d3



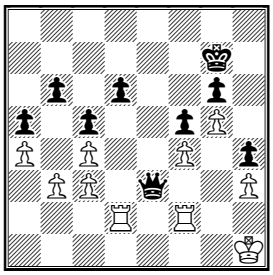
The second trick:
20...f5!? 21.exf5 exf5 22.♕d1 ♕h4 23.♕d2 ♖fe8



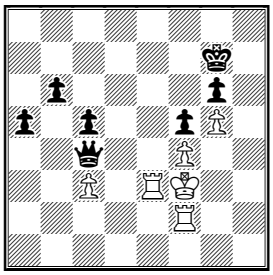
24.♖f1?!
It was not necessary at all to give up the e-file for free. Safe for White is 24.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25.♖xd6= ♖e1+ *(25...♕g3 26.♖d8)* 26.♔h2 ♖f1 27.♘d5
24...♖e6 25.♔h2 ♔h7 26.b3 ♖de8 27.♖g3 ♕e7 28.♕d3 g6 29.♘d5 ♕g7 30.♖f2 h5 31.c3 a5 32.♖gf3 h4 33.♖d2 ♗xd5 34.♕xd5 ♖8e7 35.♕d3 ♕f6 36.♕f1 ♖e4 37.♕f2 ♔g7 38.♖fd3 ♖7e6 39.♕f3 ♕e7 40.♕f2 b6 41.♕f3 ♖e1



42.♕c6?
42.♖d1 This move keeps the balance
42...♖f1! 43.♖f3 ♖c1!
Black's major pieces have successfully invaded and now are threatening to checkmate White's king.
44.g4!
The only defensive move.
44...♖ee1 45.♖ff2 ♔h6 46.g5+ ♔g7 47.♕f3 ♖h1+ 48.♕xh1 ♖xh1+ 49.♔xh1 ♕e3∓



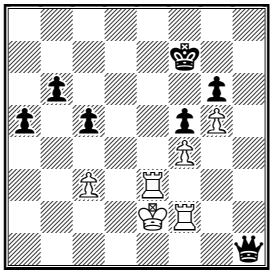
Black's queen is much stronger than his opponent's two rooks. And it is difficult for these rooks either to adjust to defence or to move on to the counter attack, White's king is too open.
50.♔g1 ♕g3+ 51.♔f1 ♕xh3+?!
Stronger is 51...♕xc3 52.♖xd6 ♕xh3+
52.♔e2 ♕h1 53.♖xd6
Now when White's rook is free, he has very good chances for a draw.
53...h3 54.♖d7+ ♔f8 55.♖h7
White could make a draw immediately after 55.♔d2!= with the second rook involvement.
55...♔g8 56.♖h6 ♔g7 57.♖h4
The following line does not give an opportunity for a clear draw: 57.♖f3 h2 58.♖fh3 ♕e4+ 59.♔d1 h1♕+ 60.♖xh1 ♕d3+ 61.♔e1 ♕xc3+ 62.♔f2 ♕d4+ 63.♔e2 ♕e4+ 64.♔d1 ♕d3+ 65.♔e1 ♕e3+ and every check takes pawns
57...♕b1!
Now White in taking the passed pawn on h-file loses his own pawns on the queen's side.
58.♖xh3 ♕xb3 59.♖e3!
It is very important not to let the Black king run from the cage
59...♕xa4 60.♔f3
60.♔d3 ♕d1+ 61.♖d2=
60...♕xc4??



61.♖d2??
"Courtesy" in reply. Immediately

winning is 61.♖fe2! and to protect himself from being checkmated Black has to give up his queen for a rook.

61...♕f1+ 62.♖f2 ♕d1+ 63.♖fe2 ♕f1+ 64.♖f2 ♕h1+ 65.♔e2 ♔f7



It is difficult for White to coordinate his rooks here, Black has an advantage.

66.c4 ♕c1 67.♔d3 ♕d1+

More convincing is 67...b5! 68.cxb5 ♕d1+ 69.♖d2 c4+!–+ and one of the rooks is missing.

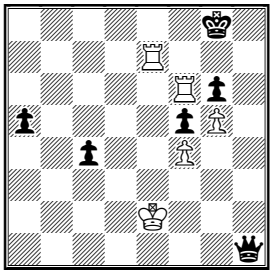
68.♖d2 ♕b3+ 69.♔e2 ♕xc4+ 70.♔e1 ♕a4?

70...♕b4!∓

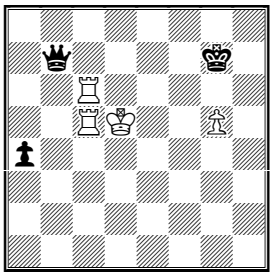
71.♖d6!

The rooks are released again and White has the draw in his pocket!

71...c4 72.♖xb6 ♕a1+ 73.♔e2 ♕h1 74.♖f6+ ♔g7 75.♖e7+ ♔g8



76.♖xg6+ ♔f8 77.♖ge6 ♕h2+ 78.♔d1 ♕g1+ 79.♔c2 ♕f2+ 80.♖e2 ♕c5 81.♖7e5 ♕a3 82.♖2e3 ♕a4+ 83.♔c3 ♕b4+ 84.♔c2 c3 85.♖xc3 ♕xf4 86.♖cc5 ♕a4+ 87.♔d3 ♕d1+ 88.♔c4 ♔g7 89.♖xf5 a4 90.♖f6 ♕b3+ 91.♔d4 ♕b4+ 92.♔d5 ♕b7+ 93.♔d6 ♕b6+ 94.♔d5 ♕b7+

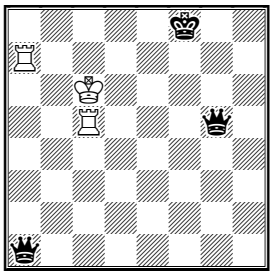


Playing for a win in a drawish position, White overshoots the mark.

95.♖fc6? a3!∓ 96.♔c4 ♕f7+! 97.♔c3 ♕f3+ 98.♔b4

White cannot make a draw even after: 98.♔c2 ♕f2+ 99.♔c3 ♕b2+ 100.♔d3 a2 101.♖c7+ ♔g6 102.♖7c6+ ♔h5 103.g6+ ♔g4–+

98...a2 99.♖c7+ ♔f8 100.♖a7 ♕e4+ 101.♔c3 ♕e3+ 102.♔c4 ♕c1+ 103.♔d5 ♕xg5+ 104.♔c6 a1♕!



A striking ending, it is impossible to take both queens at once.

105.♖xg5 ♕f6+ 106.♔d7 ♕xg5 107.♖c7 ♕d5+ 108.♔c8 ♔e8 109.♔b8 ♔d8 110.♖c8+ ♔d7 111.♖c7+ ♔d6 112.♖g7 ♔c6 113.♖g6+ ♔b5 114.♔c7 ♕f7+ 0-1

A lot of mistakes are inevitable when both opponents are trying to win regardless of the situation on the board. But it's great for spectators!

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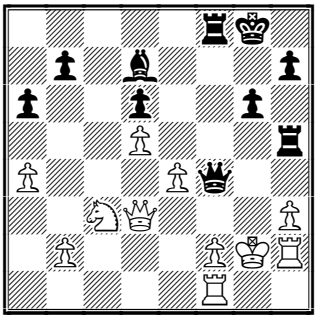
CT-83(867) 24th March 2003

Quiz Today:

Ljubojevic-Topalov
Monte Carlo 2003



Black to play

Chess News

The confident 2-0 victory of Morozevich over Kramnik at the Amber, became the sensation of Round 8. It's also necessary to mention Shirov's win against Ivanchuk in Rapid. Alexei is playing the second part of the tournament much better than the first!

Blindfold
Almasi 1-0 Ljubojevic,
Topalov ½ Gelfand,
Bareev 0-1 van Wely,
Kramnik 0-1 Morozevich,
Leko ½ Anand,
Shirov ½ Ivanchuk

1. Gelfand, Boris g ISR 2700 6.0;
2. Kramnik, Vladimir g RUS 2807 5½;
3.Topalov, Veselin g BUL 2743 5.0;
4. Morozevich, Alexander g RUS 2678 4½; 5. Leko, Peter g HUN 2736 4½;
6. Anand, Viswanathan g IND 2753 4½;
7. Van Wely, Loek g NED 2668 4½;
8. Ivanchuk, Vassily g UKR 2699 4.0;
9. Almasi, Zoltan g HUN 2676 4.0;
10. Shirov, Alexei g ESP 2723 3.0;
11. Bareev, Evgeny g RUS 2729 2.0;
12. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir g YUG 2570 ½;

Rapid
Ljubojevic-Almasi ½,
Gelfand - Topalov, ½
van Wely - Bareev, 0-1
Morozevich - Kramnik 1-0,
Anand - Leko ½,
Ivanchuk - Shirov 0-1

1.Anand, Viswanathan g IND 2753 6,0;
2. Bareev, Evgeny g RUS 2729 6.0;
3. Morozevich, Alexander g RUS 2678 5½
4. Leko, Peter g HUN 2736 5.0;
5. Topalov, Veselin g BUL 2743 4½;
6. Gelfand, Boris g ISR 2700 4.0;
7. Almasi, Zoltan g HUN 2676 3½;
8. Shirov, Alexei g ESP 2723 3½;
9. Ivanchuk, Vassily g UKR 2699 3.0;
10. Kramnik, Vladimir g RUS 2807 3.0;
11. Van Wely, Loek g NED 2668 2½;
12. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir g YUG 2570 1½;

Combined R8 Standings:

1. Anand, Viswanathan g IND 2753 1½; 2. Morozevich, Alexander g RUS 10.0;
3. Gelfand, Boris g ISR 2700 10.0;
4. Leko, Peter g HUN 2736 9½;
5. Topalov, Veselin g BUL 2743 9½;
6. Kramnik, Vladimir g RUS 2807 8½;
7. Bareev, Evgeny g RUS 2729 8.0;
8. Almasi, Zoltan g HUN 2676 7½;
9. Ivanchuk, Vassily g UKR 2699 7.0;
10. Van Wely, Loek g NED 2668 7.0;
11. Shirov, Alexei g ESP 2723 6½;
12. Ljubojevic, Ljubomir g YUG 2570 2.0

Annotated Game:

□ **Topalov**
■ **Ljubojevic**
Event: Monte Carlo MNC, 2003 B48
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

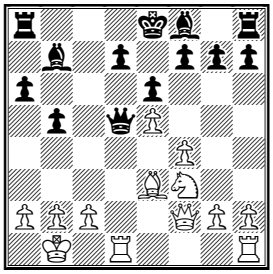
Ljubojevic lost twice again. We need to give him his due - there was still some beautiful chess played.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♕d2 ♘e5

Black moves this knight several times damaging the development of other pieces. The idea of the manoeuvre is

to get the advantage of the two bishops, but Topalov shows by simple and convincing play, that it's not worth it.

8.0-0-0 ♘f6 9.f4 ♘c4 10.♗xc4 ♕xc4 11.e5 ♘d5 12.♘xd5 ♕xd5 13.♔b1 b5 14.♕f2 ♗b7 15.♘f3!N



A strong novelty, putting Black's variation in doubt. After 15.♖hg1, which has happened before, Black managed to defend successfully.

15...♕c6 16.♖d3 b4 17.♖hd1 ♗c8

Finalising the development of all pieces, White begins active operations.

18.f5!

The attack looks decisive.

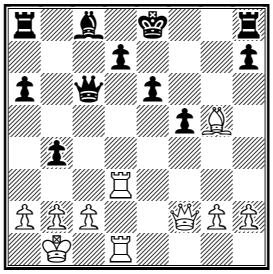
18...♗e7

Of no help is 18...exf5 19.♘d4 ♕g6 20.♘xf5 d5 21.♘d6+ ♗xd6 22.exd6 ♗e6 23.♗d4+- In spite of material equality the White's position is almost winning - Black can't connect the rooks and get the king to safety.

19.f6! gxf6 20.exf6 ♗xf6

Black can't arrange the defence also after 20...♗f8 21.♘e5 ♕b5 22.♘xd7 ♗xd7 23.♖xd7 ♕xd7 24.♖xd7 ♔xd7 25.♕f3+-

21.♘g5! ♗xg5 22.♗xg5 f5

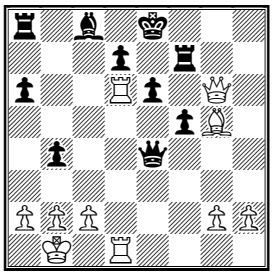


Black tries to prevent the intrusion of the queen to f6, but White goes around this barrier easily.

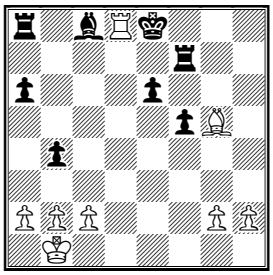
23.♕d4 ♖f8 24.♕g7 ♖f7 25.♕g8+ ♖f8 26.♕xh7 ♖f7 27.♕g8+ ♖f8 28.♕g6+ ♖f7 29.♖d6

The simple 29.♖h3 won also, but the game deserves a more spectacular ending.

29...♕e4



30.♖xe6+ ♕xe6 31.♕xe6+ dxe6 32.♖d8#



Since Morphy's times this mate brings pleasure to chess fans :)). **1-0**

Solution to Quiz Today: 31...♗g4!-+ 32.f3 ♗xf3+ 33.♖xf3 ♖g5+! 34.♔h1 ♕xf3+ 0-1

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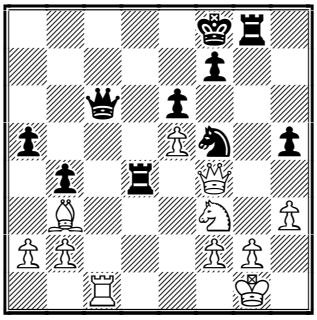
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-84(868) 25th March 2003

Quiz Today

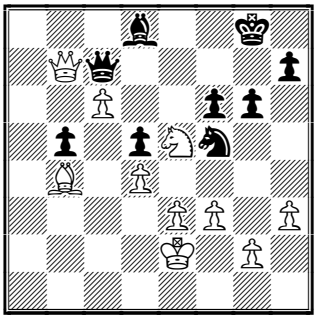
1. A. Cabrera – S. Shipov
Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.1), 21.03.2003

Find the best move for White.



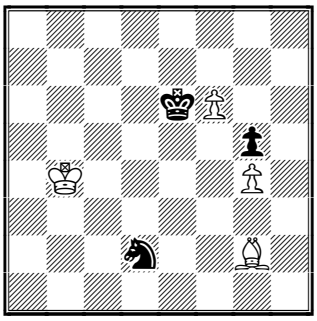
position after 30...♖d4

2. I. Ibragimov – Roiz
Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.2), 21.03.2003



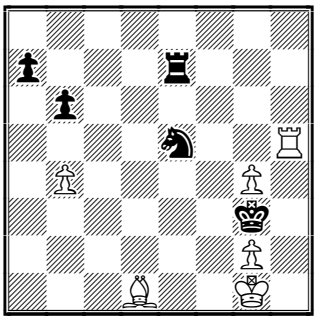
position after 36...f6

3. V. Potkin – Z. Izoria
Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.1), 21.03.2003



position after 55...♔e6

4. I. McShane – D. Solak
Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.2), 21.03.2003



Position after 45...Bd1

Tournament News

Today is a rest day at the 12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid tournament. Before the final three rounds **Anand** is in clear first, a half point ahead of Morozevich and Gelfand, and a whole point ahead of Leko and Topalov.

The **IV Internet Chess Tournament Ciudad de Dos Hermanas** took place on the Internet Chess Club (ICC) icc@www.chessclub.com For the fourth time, the Dos Hermanas tournament took place on ICC and again defended its position as the most successful Internet chess tournament. 1,117 people played, among them 67 Grandmasters and 103 International Masters. The players came from 75 different countries. The final stages took place on the 21st and 22nd March.

The winners of the 12 qualifying rounds plus the 20 best other finishers wered seeded by FIDE rating in the knockout finals played Friday March 21 and Saturday March 22.

Each pair in the knockouts played a two game match at 8 min.+ 2 sec. per move and if tied after two games, played a third game: White with five minutes and Black with four minutes, without time increments, with White obliged to win ("in Sudden death"). The young Russian **GM Vladimir**

Potkin won the event. He demonstrated good technique, but in the 1st game of the final match he had to show his tactical skill in a worse position (*see our annotated game section*). I liked the game Ivanisevic – Sakaev very much as well, which you may find in the pgn-file. Unfortunately for some reason Konstantin Sakaev couldn't play the quarterfinal match against Potkin.

The final results:
1st prize (1500 Euro): GM Vladimir Potkin (Russia)
2nd prize (750 Euro): GM Pablo Zarnicki (Argentina)
3rd–4th (500 Euro): GM Vitaly Golod (Israel), IM Roi Reinaldo (Spain)
5th–8th (200 Euro): GM Konstantin Sakaev (Russia), GM Luke McShane (England), GM Christian Bauer (France), IM Csaba Balogh (Hungary)
9th–16th (100 Euro): GM Mikhail Kobalia (Russia), GM Alexey Dreev (Russia), GM Alexander Grischuk (Russia), GM Pavel Jaracz (Poland), GM Ivan Ivanisevic (Yugoslavia), Levon Aronian (Armenia), GM Sergey Shipov (Russia), GM Ildar Ibragimov (USA).

The top three non GM/IM players won a 6-month extension prize as well as the top three non-members of the ICC. This event was sponsored by the Dos Hermanas City Council, the Municipal Foundation for Sport of Dos Hermanas and EDAMI (Miguel Illescas Chess School).

On March 28th – April 5th 2003 the **XII** over-the-board **Dos Hermanas** tournament will take place. **Alexei Shirov, Alexander Khalifman, Alexey Dreev, Sergey Tiviakov, Francisco Vallejo, Vladimir Epishin, Alexander Rustemov, Miguel Illescas, Sergey Karjakin** and **Daniel Campora** will compete in the event that should be a Category XVI.

The Hunguest Hotels Super Chess Tournament will take place in Budapest 11th –20th April 2003. The list of players includes **Peter Leko, Judit Polgar, Boris Gelfand, Nigel Short, Zoltan Almasi, Sergei Movsesian, Viktor Korchnoi, Christopher Lutz, Peter Acs** and **Ferenc Berkes.**

The II Magistral de Badalona (II Badalona Masters) 2418 (Cat VII) took place 11th –21st March 2003. It was played in the Badalona Swimming Club, with wonderful views of the sea, so one could watch the sunset and the games.

Final Standings:
1. Moskalenko (Ukraine) – 7
2. Rausis (Bangladesh) – 6
3. Kolev (Bulgaria) – 5½
4–5. Vehí Bach (Spain), J.M. López (Spain) – 5
6. Barrientos (Colombia) – 4
7–8. Baches (Spain), Belezky (Ukraine) – 3½
9–10. Iglesias (Argentina), Ríos (Colombia) – 3

Information courtesy of our reader Bruce Humphrey.

(Please note that I reproduced the players ratings in our annotated game as was indicated by IM Maxim Notkin. I am not familiar with ICC ratings, so I do not know if these ratings are correct or not – Ralph P. Marconi*

♘♘♘

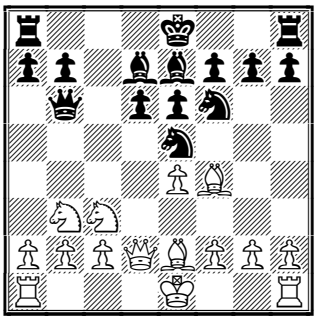
Annotated Game

☐ **V. Potkin (3022)** *
■ **P. Zarnicki (3098)** *
Event: *Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout Internet Chess Club (5.1), 22.03.2003*
Sicilian Defence/Sozin Attack **– [B57]**
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 ♕b6
By this move Black avoids the sharp Velimirovic Attack that arises after 6...e6 7.♗e3 ♗e7 8.♕e2 a6 9.0–0–0 Sooner or later the queen will be driven away by Be3, but the very important "sicilian" knight d4 is forced

to leave its post right now.

7.♘b3 e6 8.♗f4 ♘e5 9.♗e2 ♗d7 10.♕d2 ♗e7 (D)



11.0-0-0 0-0

No one has dared to take the pawn on f2 though a "direct" refutation doesn't work – 11...♕xf2 12.♖hf1 ♕xg2 13.♗xe5?! (better is *13.♖g1 ♕h3 14.♖xg7* with initiative that compensates for the pawn.) 13...dxe5 14.♖xf6 as after 14...0–0–0! 15.♖f3 ♗g5 16.♖e3 ♕f2 17.♘d5 ♗c6! and Black wins.; Maybe more precise is 11...♗c6

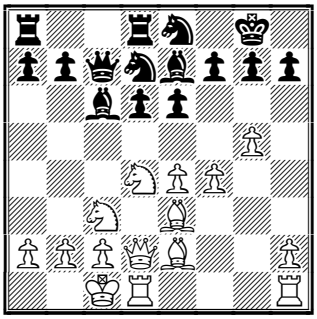
12.g4! ♗c6

The g4-pawn is certainly poison – 12...♘exg4 13.♗xg4 ♘xg4 14.♖hg1 ♘f6 15.e5 ♘e8 *(15...dxe5 16.♗xe5)* 16.exd6± Kupreichik – Lopushnoy, Omsk 1998

13.f3 ♖fd8

Stronger is 13...♕c7 preparing b7-b5 as it was played in Fedorov – Gershon, Saint Vincent 2000

14.♗e3 ♕c7 15.g5 ♘e8 16.f4 ♘d7 17.♘d4 (D)



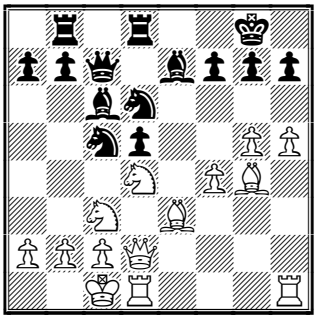
Obviously White has more room for manoeuvres but Black's position is flexible enough and he may count on activity on the queenside and in the centre.

17...♘c5 18.♗f3 ♖ac8 An unnecessary move. The pawn sacrifice 18...b5 19.♘cxb5 ♗xb5 20.♘xb5 ♕b7 21.♘c3 ♖ab8 22.b3 is insufficient; Black, however, could play 18...d5 immediately.

19.h4

19.f5!?±

19...d5! 20.exd5 exd5 21.♗g4 ♖b8 22.h5 ♘d6! (D)



Worse is 22...♘e4 23.♘xe4 dxe4 24.g6→ with attack

23.g6

A typical breakthrough but here Potkin underestimates his opponent's possibilities. [After 23.♘xc6 bxc6! 24.♗xc5 ♘c4 25.♗xe7 ♕b7 (or *25...♘xd2 26.♗xd8 ♖xd8 27.♖xd2 ♕xf4 28.♗e2 ♕xg5)* 26.♗a3 ♘xd2 27.♖xd2 the position is unclear.

23...♘c4 24.♕e1 ♖e8!

In case of 24...♗d6 (threatening with 25...Nxe3) White obtains the advantage by 25.♘cb5 ♗xb5 26.♘xb5 ♕b6 27.gxf7+ (the straightforward *27.h6!* is even stronger) 27...♔f8 28.h6! ♕xb5 29.♕c3 To save his king Black has to give the piece back – 29...♕xb2+ 30.♕xb2 ♘xb2 31.hxg7+ ♔xg7 32.♗d4+! and White maintains the powerful attack in the ending.

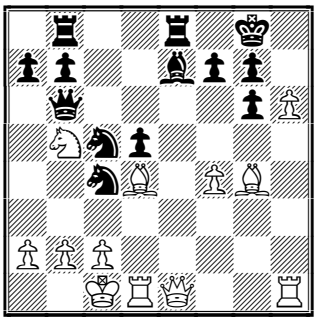
25.h6?!

Better was 25.gxh7+ ♔h8 26.♘cb5 *(26.h6 ♗f6! 27.hxg7+ ♗xg7 28.♘f5 ♕b6* and leads to a Black decisive advantage – *29.b3 ♖xe3! 30.♘xe3 ♘xe3 31.♕xe3?? ♘xb3+)* 26...♗xb5 27.♘xb5 ♕b6 28.♗d4 ♗f6 29.♕g1 ♗xd4 30.♕xd4 ♖e4 31.♕c3 and Black may force the draw by repetition (but may play for win as well!); 25.gxf7+ ♔xf7 favours Black

25...hxg6 26.♘db5

26.hxg7 ♗f6–+

26...♗xb5 27.♘xb5 ♕b6 28.♗d4!? (D)



In a desperate situation White creates threats ingeniously

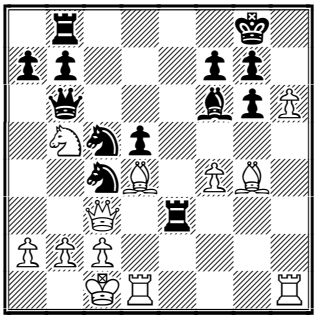
28...♗f6!

28...♕xb5? loses to 29.hxg7 f6 30.♕h4 ♔f7 31.f5 with a crushing attack.

29.♕c3

If 29.♕b4 then 29...♗xd4 30.♖xd4 ♘e3! (not *30...a6? 31.♖xd5)*

29...♖e3! (D)



30.♗xf6

The only move.

30...♖xc3?

Probably more convincing was 30...gxf6! 31.♕d4 ♖e4 32.♕c3 ♘e3 33.♖dg1 d4 34.♘xd4 ♘a4 winning.

31.♗xc3 ♕xb5 32.hxg7 f6 33.♖h8+ ♔xg7 34.♖xb8 ♕a6 35.♔b1 ♘e3?

Black had to cover the e7 square by 35...♕d6! 36.♖c8 *(36.♖e8 ♘a4 37.♗d4 ♕xf4–+)* 36...♘e3 37.♖g1 ♘xg4 38.♖xg4 ♕d7 39.♖xc5 ♕xg4 winning.

36.♖e1! ♘e4?

36...♘xg4?? 37.♖e7+ ♔h6 38.♖h8#; Again right was 36...♕d6 37.♖e8 d4 38.♗xd4 ♕xd4 39.♖8xe3 ♕xf4 40.♗f3 and perhaps Black is slightly better still.

37.♗c8 ♘g2?

The third mistake in a row becomes fatal. [Black should have played 37...♘xc3+ 38.bxc3 ♕b5+ 39.♔c1 ♕e8 40.♖xb7+ ♔g8 41.♖b4! ♕xc8 42.♖xe3 preparing to suffer in the 2 rook vs queen ending.

38.♖xb7+ ♕xb7

38...♔g8 39.♖b8+–

39.♗xb7 ♘xc3+ 40.bxc3 ♘xe1 41.♗xd5 g5 42.♔c1

Black forfeited on time but he loses the knight anyway. **1–0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. A. Cabrera – S. Shipov

Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.1), 21.03.2003

31.♕g5!

2. I. Ibragimov – Roiz

Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.2), 21.03.2003

37.♗a5! Black resigns [37.♗a5 ♕xa5 38.♕f7+ ♔h8 39.♕f8#] **1–0.**

3. V. Potkin – Z. Izoria

Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.1), 21.03.2003

56.♔c3 ♘b1+ 57.♔b2! ♘d2 58.♔c2 ♘c4 59.♗d5+! ♔xf6 [59...♔xd5 60.f7] **60.♗xc4 ♔e5 61.♔d2** Black forfeits on time **1–0.**

4. I. McShane – D. Solak

Dos Hermanas Internet Knockout
Internet Chess Club (1.2), 21.03.2003

45...♘f3+! 46.♗xf3 ♖e1#

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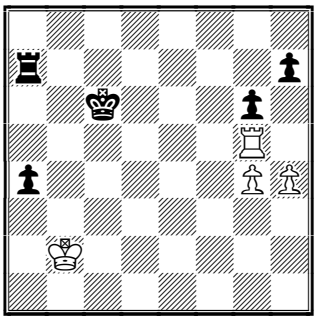
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-85(869) 26th March 2003

Quiz Today

1. B. Ivanchuk – V. Topalov
Amber Blindfold (9)
25.03.2003



position after 48.♖g5

Tournament News

In Round 9 of the 12th Amber Blindfold and Rapid urnament Anand scored 1½-½ over Almasi and kept the lead. Topalov and Leko made a powerful dash, took 2 points against Ivanchuk and van Wely respectively, and and now they are sharing 2nd place.

Round 9, March 25th, 2003

Blindfold results
Morozevich 1-0 Bareev
Anand 1-0 Almasi
Ivanchuk 0-1 Topalov
Ljubojevic 0-1 Shirov
Gelfand 0-1 Kramnik
van Wely 0-1 Leko

Rapid results
Bareev 1-0 Morozevich
Almasi 1/2 Anand
Topalov 1-0 Ivanchuk,
Shirov 1-0 Ljubojevic
Kramnik ½-½ Gelfand
Leko 1-0 van Wely.

Blindfold round 9 Standings:

1. Kramnik, V. (RUS) 2807 – 6½
2. Gelfand, B. (ISR)2700 – 6.0
3. Topalov, V. (BUL) 2743 – 6.0
4. Leko, P. (HUN) 2736 – 5½
5. Morozevich, A. (RUS) 2678 – 5½
6. Anand, V. (IND) 2753 –5½
7. Van Wely, L. (NED) 2668 – 4½
8. Ivanchuk, V. (UKR) 2699 – 4.0
9. Almasi, Z. (HUN) 2676 – 4.0
10. Shirov, A. (ESP) 2723 – 4.0
11. Bareev, Evgeny (RUS) 2729 – 2.0
12. Ljubojevic, L. (YUG) 2570 –½

Rapid round 9 Standings:
1. Bareev, E. (RUS) 2729 – 7.0
2. Anand, V. (IND) 2753 –6½
3. Leko, P. (HUN) 2736 – 6.0
4. Morozevich, A. (RUS) 2678 – 5½
5. Topalov, V. (BUL) 2743 – 5½
6. Gelfand, B. (ISR) 2700 – 4½
7. Shirov, A. (ESP) 2723 – 4½
8. Almasi, Z. (HUN) 2676 – 4.0
9. Kramnik, V. (RUS) 2807 – 3½
10. Ivanchuk, V. (UKR) 2699 – 3.0
11. Van Wely, L. (NED) 2668 – 2½
12. Ljubojevic, L. (YUG) 2570 –1½

Combined round 9 Standings:

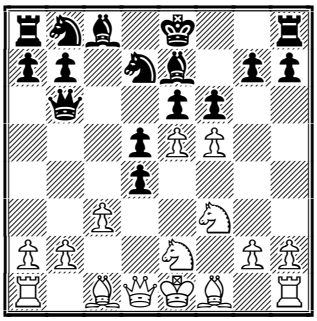
1. Anand, V. (IND) 2753 –12.0
2. Leko, P. (HUN) 2736 – 11½
3. Topalov, V. (BUL) 2743 – 11½
4. Morozevich, A. (RUS) 2678 –11.0
5. Gelfand, B. (ISR) 2700 – 10½
6. Kramnik, V. (RUS) 2807 – 10.0
7. Bareev, E. (RUS) 2729 – 9.0
8. Shirov, A. (ESP) 2723 – 8½
9. Almasi, Z. (HUN) 2676 – 8.0
10. Van Wely, L. (NED) 2668 – 7.0
11. Ivanchuk, V. (UKR) 2699 – 7.0
12. Ljubojevic, L. (YUG) 2570 –2.0

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

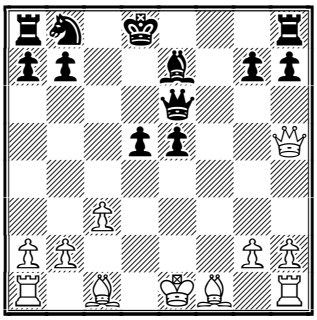
□ **A. Morozevich (2678)**
■ **E. Bareev (2729)**
Event: *Amber Blindfold (9), 25.03.2003*
French Defence/Classical Variation
– [C11]
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.♘ce2 c5 6.c3 ♕b6 7.f4 f6 8.♘f3 ♗e7 9.f5 cxd4N (D)



An attempt at improving the variation. 9...exf5 10.♘f4! has happened before with a clear advantage for White. 10...cxd4 11.e6 ♘f8 12.♘xd4 ♗xe6 13.♘dxe6 ♘xe6 14.♕xd5 ♘xf4 15.♗xf4 ♘c6 16.♗c4 ♖f8 17.0–0–0 ♖d8 18.♕xf5 ♘e5 19.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 20.♗xe5 g6 21.♕e4 fxe5 22.♕xe5+ ♗e7 23.♖e1 ♕d8 24.♗b5+ ♔f7 25.♕e6+ 1–0 Voigt,M–Lamprecht,F/Germany 1993/EXT 97–B (25)

10.♘exd4 ♘xe5 11.♘xe5 fxe5 12.♕h5+ ♔d8 13.♘xe6+ ♗xe6 14.fxe6 ♕xe6 (D)



The critical position. The future of this variation depends upon the evaluation of this position. White has two bishops and hasn't lost (in contrast to Black) the right to castle. Black is a pawn up and good chances at keeping the hanging pair pawns in the centre. I think those who wish to play this position, ideas can be found for both sides!

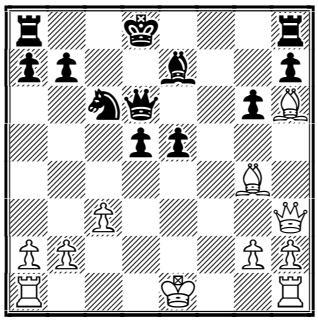
15.♗e2 g6

An attempt to avoid this excessive weakening deserved attention – for example: 15...♘d7

16.♗g4 ♕d6 17.♕h3 ♘c6

17...h5 (after 15...g6) looked more logical.

18.♗h6 (D)

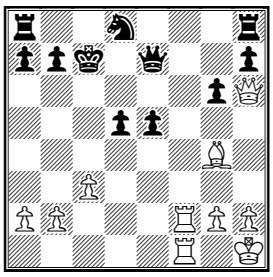


18...♗f8?!

But this move seems to me a serious mistake. Apparently Evgeniy didn't observe, due to poor sight, that he hadn't time to occupy the f–file. A complicated fight with mutual chances would appear after the natural 18...♔c7 19.0–0–0 (I don't think that Black should fear to lose the outermost pawn after *19.♗g7 ♖hg8 20.♕xh7)* 19...♖ad8

19.0–0! ♗xh6 20.♕xh6 ♔c7

20...♕c5+ didn't make Black's defence much easier. 21.♔h1 ♕e7 22.♖f2! (To occupy the empty file f–pawn is more important than to capture the central pawn! *22.♖ad1 ♔c7 23.♖xd5 ♖ad8=)* 22...♔c7 23.♖af1 ♘d8 *(D)*



And here the grace decision for White is found: 24.♗e6!± The brave bishop can't be taken neither by queen nor by knight: 24...♕xe6 *(24...♘xe6 25.♖f7+–)* 25.♕g7++–

21.♖f7+ ♔b6 22.♖af1

Alexander managed to find a clue to the position. He has occupied the only opened file by all his heavy pieces, he made them the masters of the situation and left Black's heavy pieces without any work. There is a serious advantage for White in spite of the pawn less.

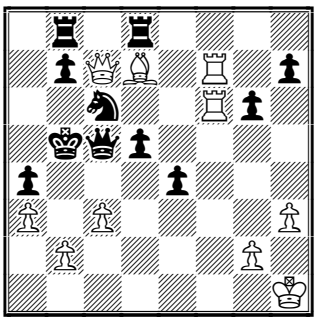
22...a5 23.h3 ♖ab8 24.a3 a4 25.♔h1 ♕c5 26.♖1f6

Tanks go ahead unhurriedly.

26...e4 27.♕f4 ♔a5

27...♔a7 28.♕c7 ♖hf8 29.♖xc6! ♖xf7 30.♖a6+!+−

28.♗d7 ♖hd8 29.♕c7+ ♔b5 (D)



After 29...♕b6 30.♕d6+− Black has nothing to breath.

30.♖d6?!

Right idea, but inaccurate execution. Correct was 30.♖e6! ♕b6 31.c4+ dxc4 32.♕e5+ ♕c5 33.♕xe4±

30...♔c4!

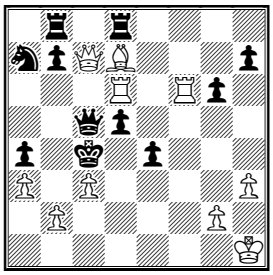
The only, but saving move! Amazingly, White has already lost winning chances.

31.♖ff6?!

Strictly speaking, for White, it's time to humbly accept the draw after 31.♗xc6 ♕xd6 32.♕a5 bxc6 *(32...b5 33.♗xb5+ ♖xb5 34.♕xa4+ ♔c5 35.♕d4+ ♔c6 36.♖f6)* 33.♕xa4+ ♔d3 34.♕d1+=

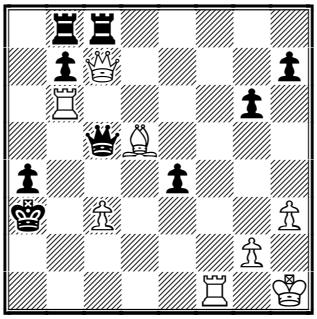
31...♔b3?

Evgeniy's wish to get king into safety as soon as possible because of his time trouble is understandable. Understandable, but inexcusable!



After the unexpected 31...♘a7!! *(D)* (to find such a move blind fold is not easy − to be in luck or not to be) 32.♕xc5+ ♔xc5 33.♗xa4 ♖xd6 34.b4+ ♔c4 35.♖xd6 ♘c8–+ and Black must win.

32.♗xc6 ♖dc8 33.♗xd5+ ♔xb2 34.♖b6+ ♔xa3 35.♖f1! (D)



A spectacular ending in this dramatic game. It's possible to capture the queen, rook, and the bishop, but there is no way to avoid the mate. **1−0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. B. Ivanchuk − V. Topalov

[48.♖e5] **48...♖b7+! 49.♔a3 ♖b5 0−1.**

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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
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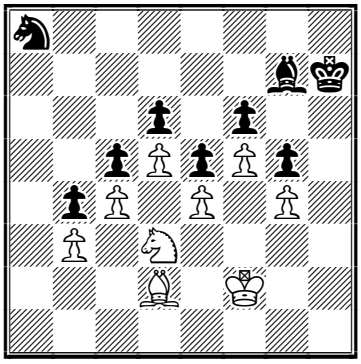
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-86(870) 27th March 2003

Quiz Today

Simons – Verbeque
Belgium2003



White to play and win.

Penultimate round in Monaco

The 10th and penultimate round of the 12th Amber Tournament was played on 26th March.

Anand ended both games vs. Bareev peacefully. Topalov exchanged wins with Morozevich. There was the first win by Ljubojevic, in a messy blindfold game, depriving Leko from occupying first place. So, all the leaders have played 1-1 and the last round, which will take place on 27th March, will decide everything.

Blindfold results
Shirov-Gelfand 1-0
Kramnik-Van Wely 1-0
Leko- Ljubojevic 0-1
Bareev-Anand ½-½
Almasi-Ivanchuk ½-½
Topalov-Morozevich 0-1

Rapid results
Gelfand-Shirov ½-½
van Wely-Kramnik ½-½
Ljubojevic-Leko 0-1
Anand-Bareev ½-½
Ivanchuk-Almasi ½-½
Morozevich-Topalov 0-1

Blindfold Round 10 Standings:
1. Kramnik – 7½
2. Morozevich – 6½
3-5. Gelfand, Anand and Topalov – 6
6. Leko – 5½
7. Shirov – 5
8-10. Ivanchuk, Almasi and Van Wely – 4½
11. Bareev – 2½
12. Ljubojevic – 1½

Rapid Round 10 Standings:
1. Bareev – 7½
2-3. Anand and Leko –7
4. Topalov – 6½
5. Morozevich – 5½
6-7. Gelfand and Shirov – 5
8. Almasi – 4½
9. Kramnik – 4
10. Ivanchuk – 3½
11. Van Wely – 3
12. Ljubojevic – 1½

Combined Round 10 Standings:
1. Anand – 13
2-3. Leko and Topalov – 12½
4. Morozevich – 12
5. Kramnik – 11½
6. Gelfand – 11
7-8. Shirov and Bareev – 10
9. Almasi – 9
10. Ivanchuk – 8
11. Van Wely – 7½
12. Ljubojevic – 3

In the last round Anand plays Topalov, Leko plays Gelfand, Morozevich plays Almasi.

Many of the European regular team competitions end in March. Lets look, what happened recently in Germany, Sweden and Belgium.

German Cup Final
Last years German Teams Cup finalist, **Baden Oos**, won the Cup this year, thanks to Svidler's first board victory against Lutz.

Berlin, 23rd March 2003
SG Porz – SC Baden-Oos 1½:2½
Lutz – Svidler 0-1
Graf – Krasenkow ½-½
Vaganian – Huebner ½-½
Khalifman – Dautov ½-½

Swedish Team Championships
26 GMs participated in the Swedish Team Championships 2002/2003. The winners were Sollentuna SK from Stockholm:
1. Sollentuna SK 19, 2. SK Rockaden 19, 3 Limhamns SK 18 4. Skara SS 18 (12 teams).

The full information is available at www.schacknyheter.com/live/elit03/

Turm Eynatten team wins the Belgian Interclub Championships 2002/2003
(an insider's report by Mikhail Golubev)

Eynatten children with Flag of the club

The Belgian Interclub Championships ended on 23rd March 2003 with the victory of SK Turm Eynatten. Our team won all our matches, also showing the best board points result, which is a decisive factor in Belgium.

1. Eynatten 64½ board points (11 match points)
2. Temse 56 (8)
3. Liege 53 (10)
4. Rochade Eupen 47 (7½)
5. Hoboken 46½ (6)
12 teams, 11 rounds.

Of course, I can't be disappointed either with the team result or with my personal result (5½/6). Overall, The Eynatten team used 28 players in the Championship – including 14 Grandmasters, but not one Belgian player! The players that played most for Eynatten were IM Roeder (6½/9), GM Naiditsch (5½/8), G.Welling (4½/8), myself, and GM Van den Doel (4/5). GMs Rogers and Jo. Horvath scored 3/3 each. There were 7 players who played just one game for us, among them Peter Svidler and Ivan Sokolov.

The success of Eynatten is, strictly speaking, the result of joint efforts and co-operation between Eynatten and Wirtzfeld chess clubs. President of Eynatten club Werner Paulus, the chess organizers Victor Schleck and Bernard Loo are those who are highly responsible for the victory.

Victor Schleck & Mikhail Golubev

In the highest Belgian League there was not one team from Brussels (!), but as many as three teams represented the small German-speaking community (apart from Eynatten, also SK Eupen 1947, and Rochade Eupen, the winner of League in the years 1993-2001). The derby between Eynatten and Rochade in Round 9 became the strongest match of the Championship:
Eynatten – Rochade Eupen 5-3
Svidler – Vaganian ½-½
Lutz – Chuchelov 0-1
Van den Doel – Kishnev 1-0
Naiditsch – Feygin ½-½
Golubev – Schneider 1-0
Nijboer – Coenen 1-0
Roeder – Ahn 1-0
Welling – Meessen 0-1

Mikhail giving a Simultaneous exhibition in Eynatten, November 2002

A few more statistics: 26 players from various teams played all 11 games in the league, very good results were shown by IM van der Stricht (9/11, perf. 2624) and GM Chuchelov (8/11, perf. 2609). C.Gulbas (ELO 2325) with 10/11 reached a performance of 2599! The best team performance (2503) was, naturally, shown by the Eynatten team. The average ELO of Eynatten players is 2466, and average ELO of players from all teams is 2311.

The games of the Belgian league are available at:
users.pandora.be/vmaes/interclub

Web Watch:

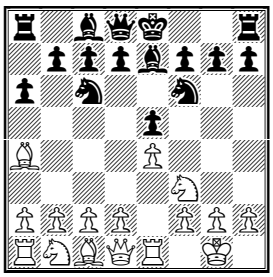
Andy McFarland informed us about recent updates of the **2003 FIDE knockout Qualifiers** site, which provides schedule for all continental championships and other information.

An interesting **interview with chess journalist Lev Khariton** by Abdul Karim is published at the Pakchess.com site.

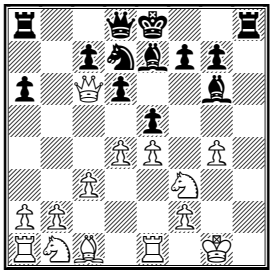
Farewell, Jeroen Piket! Is the new ChessCafé.com article by Hans Ree. The permanent URL of this article in ChessCafe Archives is www.chesscafe.com/text/hans81.pdf.

Annotated Game:

□ **V Topalov (2743)**
■ **A Morozevich (2678)**
Event: Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo MNC (10), 26.03.2003 C87
Annotations: **GM Mikhail Golubev**
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1



6...d6
The main lines of the Ruy Lopez begin with 6...b5 7.♗b3, but who knows what is the main line according to Morozevich's own theory?
7.c3
7.♗xc6+ bxc6 8.d4 is a quite logical continuation for White.; less so 7.d4 b5 8.♗b3 , where winning a pawn by 8...♘xd4!? 9.♘xd4 exd4 (with idea of 10.♕xd4?? c5–+) should be OK for Black. He can also play 8...♗g4!?.
7...♗g4 8.h3 ♗h5 9.♗xc6+
Now (or on the previous move) 9.d3 was possible, with slow play.
9...bxc6 10.d4 ♘d7 11.g4?!
Very risky. 11.♘bd2 0–0 (if *11...♗f6* , then *12.♕a4)* 12.♘f1 would be normal.
11...♗g6 12.♕a4 h5!
12...exd4 is certainly less testing for White.
13.♕xc6 hxg4 14.hxg4



14...♔f8!N
After this strong move, Black's serious compensation becomes evident. In the game Matulovic–Ciocaltea, Bucharest 1966, Black blundered a pawn: 14...f6? 15.dxe5 ♗f7 *(15...fxe5 16.♘xe5! dxe5 17.♕xg6+)* 16.exd6 cxd6 *(16...♗xd6 17.e5!+–)* 17.♗f4!?± , and White gradually won.
15.♘bd2 ♖b8! 16.♘f1
16.♕xa6 ♘f6 with an attack after 17.g5 (or *17.dxe5 ♘xg4→)* 17...♘h7→; 16.d5? ♘c5 , followed by ♖b6 would be nice, but only for Black.

16...♖b6 17.♕c4 exd4 18.♕xd4

18.cxd4? ♘f6∓ is bad for White; , but 18.♘xd4!? ♘e5 19.♕e2 deserved some attention.

18...♗f6 19.♕e3 ♘e5 20.♘3h2

20.♘xe5 was possible, but White's position would be dangerous in this case too.

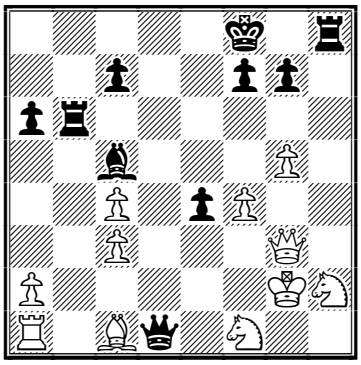
20...d5!? 21.g5

21.exd5 ♘d3 22.♖e2 ♖d6∞ , and a strong initiative compensates Black's material losses.

21...♘c4 22.♕g3

Also 22.♕c5+ ♗e7 23.♕xd5 ♕xd5 24.exd5 ♘xb2 would be better for Black.

22...♗e5 23.f4 ♗d6 24.b3 ♗c5+ 25.♔g2 ♗xe4+ 26.♖xe4 dxe4 27.bxc4 ♕d1∓



28.♕g4

Black is clearly better, and the tricky move 28.♕f2?! wouldn't refute such evaluation. For example, 28...♖c6!? *(28...♗xf2 29.♗a3+ ♕d6 30.♗xd6+ cxd6 31.♔xf2 ♖h3* is also not bad, but after *32.♘g4!?* White somehow manages to co-ordinate his pieces.*)* 29.♕d2 ♖xh2+ 30.♔xh2 ♕h5+ followed by 31...♖d6! with a crushing attack.

28...♕c2+ 29.♗d2 ♖e6! 30.♕f5

30.♕d1 ♕d3!

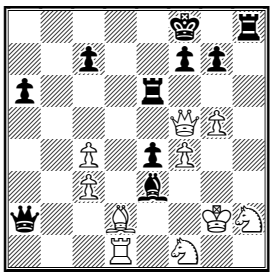
30...♗e3!

Morozevich's play in this blindfold game is very impressive.

31.♖c1

31.♕d5 ♗xf4!–+; , or 31.♔h1 ♖xh2+! (better than *31...♗xd2 32.g6)* 32.♘xh2 ♕xd2 33.g6 ♖xg6 34.♕c8+ ♔e7 35.♕xc7+ ♕d7 should be winning for Black.

31...♕xa2 32.♖d1?



32.♖a1!? ♕xa1 33.♘xe3 followed by ♘hf1 should give some practical chances to White – at least there he controls squares around his king.; 32.♔h1 ♖xh2+!–+ would be even worse for White than on the previous move.

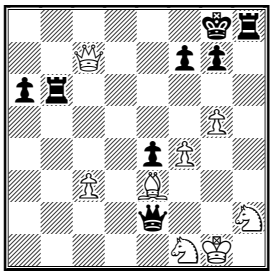
32...♕xc4!

Possibly, Topalov missed this move, which practically finishes the struggle.

33.♗xe3?! ♕e2+ 34.♗f2 ♕xd1–+

It's clearly winning now.

35.♕c5+ ♕d6 36.♕a7 ♔g8 37.♗e3 ♖e8! 38.♕b7 ♕d3 39.♕c6 ♖e6 40.♕c5 ♕e2+ 41.♔g1 ♖b6 42.♕xc7



42...♖xh2!

Prepared decisive blow.

43.♕c8+ ♔h7 44.♕f5+ ♖g6 45.♘xh2 ♕xe3+ 46.♔g2 f6 47.♘g4 ♕f3+ 48.♔g1 fxg5 49.♘e5 ♕g3+ 0–1

Solution to Quiz Today: 1.♘xb4! Not 1.♘xc5?? dxc5 2.d6 ♗f8 3.d7 ♗e7

1...cxb4 2.♗xb4 ♗f8 3.♗a5!+– Black resigned: he loses his knight for a pawn, and the resulting endgame is easily won for White.3.♗a5 ♔g8 4.b4 ♔f7 5.b5 ♔e8 6.b6 ♘xb6 7.♗xb6 ♔d7 8.♔e2 ♔c8 9.♔d3 ♗e7 10.c5 and then, for example, 10...dxc5 11.♔c4 ♗f8 *(11...♔d7 12.♗xc5 ♗d8 13.♔b5 ♗c7 14.♗b4 ♗b8 15.♔b6 ♗c7+ 16.♔b7 ♗d8 17.d6+–; 11...♔b7 12.♗xc5 ♗d8 13.♔b5+–)* 12.♗xc5 ♗g7 13.♔b5 ♔d7 14.♔a6 ♗h6 *(14...♔c7 15.♗e7+–)* 15.♔b7 ♗g7 16.♗a3 ♗h6 17.♗e7! ♗g7 18.d6 ♗h8 19.♗f8+– **1–0**

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Chess News: 12th Amber Tournament

Vishy Anand has won the 12th Melody Amber event in Monaco, a clear point ahead of Peter Leko and Alexander Morozevich. This is his 3rd victory in Monaco.

The winners of the previous tournaments were:
1992: Vassili Ivanchuk
1993: Ljubomir Ljubojevic
1994: Viswanathan Anand
1995: Anatoly Karpov
1996: Vladimir Kramnik
1997: Viswanathan Anand
1998: Alexei Shirov and Vladimir Kramnik
1999: Vladimir Kramnik
2000: Alexei Shirov
2001: Veselin Topalov and Vladimir Kramnik
2002: Alexander Morozevich

Results of the last, 11th round:
Blindfold
Ivanchuk – Bareev **½:½**
van Wely – Shirov **½:½**
Ljubojevic – Kramnik **½:½**
Morozevich – Almasi **½:½**
Anand – Topalov **1:0**
Gelfand – Leko **½:½**

Rapid
Bareev – Ivanchuk **½:½**
Shirov – van Wely **1:0**
Kramnik – Ljubojevic **1:0**
Almasi – Morozevich **0:1**
Topalov – Anand **½:½**
Leko – Gelfand **½:½**

Final Blindfold Standings:
1. Kramnik – 8
2-3. Morozevich, Anand – 7
4. Gelfand – 6½
5-6. Leko, Topalov – 6
7. Shirov – 5½
8-10. Ivanchuk, Almasi, Van Wely – 5
11. Bareev – 3
12. Ljubojevic – 2

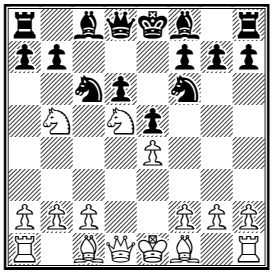
Final Rapid Standings:
1. Bareev – 8
2-3. Anand, Leko – 7½
4. Topalov – 7
5. Morozevich – 6½
6. Shirov – 6
7. Gelfand – 5½
8. Kramnik – 5
9. Almasi – 4½
10. Ivanchuk – 4
11. Van Wely – 3
12. Ljubojevic – 1½

Final Combined Standings:
1. Anand – 14½
2-3. Leko, Morozevich – 13½
4-5. Kramnik, Topalov – 13
6. Gelfand – 12
7. Shirov – 11½
8. Bareev – 11
9. Almasi – 9½
10. Ivanchuk – 9
11. Van Wely – 8
12. Ljubojevic – 3½

Anand had played very solidly, he lost only one game and shared 2nd place in both nominations, blindfold and rapid. So far this year Anand has won all the tournaments where he hasn't met Kasparov on his way.

Take a look at his blindfold game from the last round, which brought him victory in this tournament.

□ **V Anand (2753)**
■ **V Topalov (2743)**
Event: Amber Blindfold Monte Carlo MNC (11), 27.03.2003 B33
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♘d5



Much more popular is 7.♗g5
7...♘xd5 8.exd5 ♘b8

Good alternative is 8...♘e7

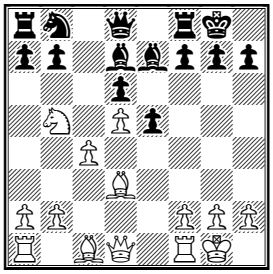
9.c4 ♗e7

9...a6

10.♗d3

10.♗e2

10...0-0 11.0-0 ♗d7

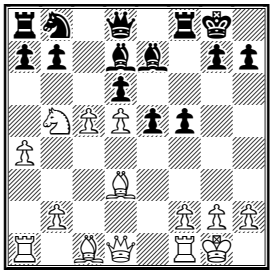


This move looks a bit strange: where will black develop his b8 knight? More natural is 11...a6. After other moves White has some tempi to develop an initiative, for example:; 11...f5 12.c5!?; 11...♘d7?! 12.♕c2 g6 13.♗h6 ♖e8 14.f4! a6 15.f5! axb5 16.fxg6 f6 *(16...fxg6 17.♗xg6!; 16...hxg6 17.♖xf7!)* 17.g7 f5 18.♖xf5 bxc4 19.♗e4 ♗f6 20.♖g5 ♔f7 21.♗xh7 ♖g8 22.♕f5+- Chandler - Cramling, Innsbruck 1977

12.a4 f5

12...a6!?

13.c5!?



This is an interesting pawn sacrifice. Obviously White finds a way to exploit his lead in development and tries to open the position.

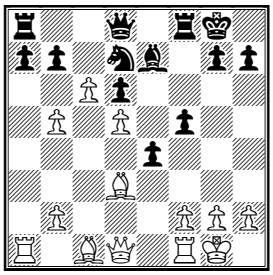
13...♗xb5 14.axb5 e4

What was Anand's idea in case of 14...dxc5 ? Maybe 15.d6!? ♗xd6 *(or 15...♕xd6 16.♗c4+ ♔h8 17.♕xd6 ♗xd6 18.♗d5 a5 19.♗xb7 ♖a7 20.♗d5∞)* 16.♗c4+ ♔h8 17.♗d5 ♕b6 18.♗xb7 ♕xb7 19.♕xd6 ♘d7 20.♖d1∞ in both lines white has a strong initiative as compensation for the pawn.

15.c6!?

Another interesting move, but why not the more simple 15.♗c4

15...♘d7?!



To my mind better was 15...bxc6 16.♕b3 *(16.dxc6!? exd3 17.♕xd3∞)* 16...c5 *(16...exd3 17.b6)* 17.b6 a5 and Black has good counterplay.

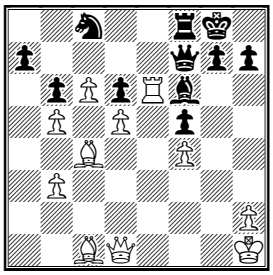
16.♗e2±

Now White is clearly better - the c6 pawn is very strong.

16...♘e5 17.f4!? exf3 18.gxf3 ♗f6 19.♔h1 b6 20.♖a2!?

Nice move: White prepares to double the rooks along the e-file. 20.f4 ♘g6 21.♗d3

20...♕c7 21.f4 ♘g6 22.b3 ♘e7 23.♗c4 ♖ae8 24.♖e1 ♘c8 25.♖ae2 ♖xe2 26.♖xe2 ♕f7 27.♖e6

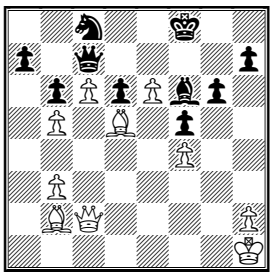


I believe White didn't play 27.♕e1 in view of 27...a6!? but after 28.♖e6 *(28.bxa6? b5 29.♗xb5 ♕xd5+)* 28...a5 pawn b6 is very weak.

27...♖e8 28.♕e2 ♔f8 29.♗a3 ♖xe6?

It looks like a capitulation. Black could hold his position after 29...g6 or; 29...♗d4

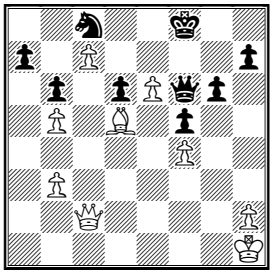
30.dxe6 ♕e7 31.♗d5 g6 32.♕c2 ♕c7 33.♗b2!



33...♕g7

33...♘e7?! 34.♗xf6 ♘xd5 35.♗g5±; 33...♔g7? 34.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 35.♕c3+ ♔e7 36.♕g7+ ♔e8 37.♕g8+ ♔e7 38.♕f7+ ♔d8 39.♕f8#; 33...♗g7 34.♗xg7+ ♕xg7 *(34...♔xg7 35.♕c3+)* 35.c7±

34.♗xf6 ♕xf6 35.c7



White breaks his opponent's blockade.

35...♕d4 36.♗b7 ♕xf4 37.♕c4! ♕f2 38.♗xc8 ♕e1+

38...d5 39.♕d3!?+−

39.♔g2 ♕d2+ 40.♔f3 d5 41.♕f4! ♕c3+ 42.♔g2 ♕c2+ 43.♔h3 1−0

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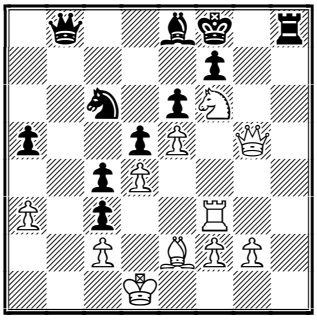
CT-88(872) 29th March 2003

Quiz Today

A. Kovchan – D. Sadvakasov
Rector Cup Kharkov, 03.06.2003

White has not achieved much in the French Defence [in this game, while Black has numerous threats, such as ♖h1, ♕b1 or ♘d4. Fortunately, it's White to play... Find the line which holds the game for White.



White to play

Tournament News

The very strong XVI category Dos Hermanas tournament starts today. Lets us recall for you the list of participants, according to the pairings.

1. Alexander Khalifman (2702, RUS)
2. Alexander Rustemov (2604, RUS)
3. Alexei Shirov (2723, ESP)
4. Alexey Dreev (2690, RUS)
5. Sergey Karjakin (2547, UKR)
6. Daniel Campora (2505, ARG)
7. Francisco Vallejo (2629, ESP)
8. Vladimir Epishin (2626, GER)
9. Miguel Illescas (2595, ESP)
10. Sergey Tiviakov (2635, NED)

In the 1st round we'll see the following battles. Unfortunately there is no live coverage yet.

Khalifman – Tiviakov
Rustemov – Illescas
Shirov – Epishin
Dreev – Vallejo
Karjakin – Campora

The **Rector Cup** is underway in Kharkov, Ukraine. The formula for the event is rather unusual. There will be two teams of young players; the **Academy of Law** (Kharkov) and the team of the young leading **World players** will be competing according to the scheveningen system – the players from the same team do not meet each other.

The Academy team:
Alexander Moiseenko – 2597
Pavel Eljanov – 2571
Alexander Kovchan –2536
Alexander Zubarev – 2501

All the players are representing the Ukraine.

The World players:
Evgeny Alekseev (2614, RUS)
Sarunas Sulskis (2567, LTU)
Darmen Sadvakasov (2523, KAZ),
Kaido Kulaots (2513, EST)

After the first part of the match, played under the classical time control, the score is **17½ : 14½** in favour of **The World players**. The second part (rapid chess) will be played today and tomorrow.

The individual results are:
1-2. Alekseev, Kulaots – 5 points
3-5. Eljanov, Kovchan, Sulskis – 4
6-7. Zubarev, Sadvakasov – 3½
8. Moiseenko – 3

Today we present some highlights from this event.

♘♘♘

Tricky Play!

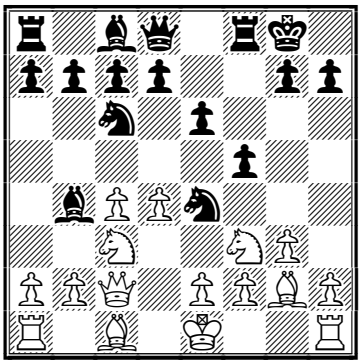
□ **A. Moiseenko (2597)**
■ **S. Sulskis (2567)**
Event: *Rector Cup Kharkov, 03.05.2003*
Nimzo – Indian Defence – [E21]

Annotations by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♘f3 ♘e4

A rather ambitious way to counter the line 4.♘f3.

5.♕c2 f5 6.g3 0-0 7.♗g2 ♘c6 (D)

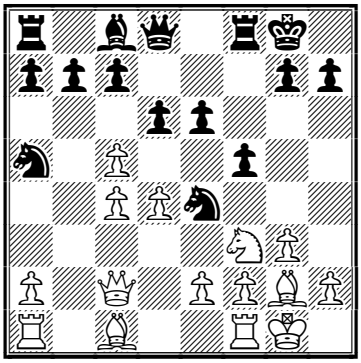


Black is playing a strange hybrid of some openings, such as the Nimzo Indian and Dutch.

8.0-0 ♗xc3 9.bxc3 ♘a5 10.c5!?

A recent game C.Ward - A.Grant, Jersey 2003 continued 10.♕d3!? b6 11.♘d2 ♘xd2 12.♗xd2 ♗a6!? 13.♗xa8 ♕xa8 14.♗f4 ♗xc4 15.♕c2 d6⇄ and Black has achieved good play.

10...d6 11.c4 (D)



White is pushing his doubled pawns forward, trying to get rid of them and so as to open diagonals for his bishops.

11...dxc5!?

This principled decision seems to be an interesting novelty. After 11...b6 12.♗d2 ♘xd2 13.♘xd2 d5 14.cxd5 exd5 15.e3 ♗e6 16.♕c3 ♖f7 17.♖fc1± White got a clear advantage in the game Kasparov - Karpov, Moscow (m/19) 1985.

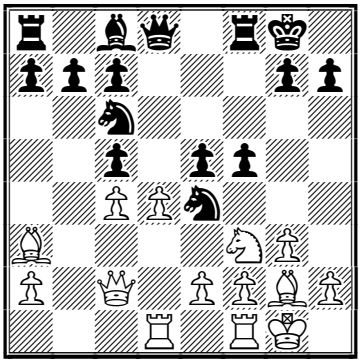
12.♗a3 ♘c6

It is important to get this knight back into play.

13.♖ad1

Black's position still looks problematical - he has' t found a way to develop his queen side pieces.

13...e5!? (D)

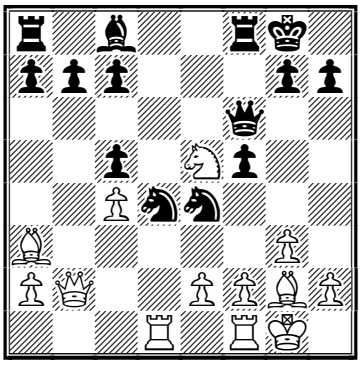


Black is playing very creatively; he is trying to open the diagonal for his bishop on c8 at any cost.

14.♘xe5

White's choice was not so easy and perhaps this decision was not the best. In case of 14.dxe5 ♕e8 15.♗b2 ♗e6⇄ Black had counterplay against the weak c4-pawn.; 14.d5!? also came to mind: 14...♘d4 15.♘xd4 exd4 16.♗xe4 fxe4 17.♗xc5 ♖e8 18.♖xd4 ♗f5⇄ and Black is also not without counter chances. Yet, in both these lines White's chances looked preferable.

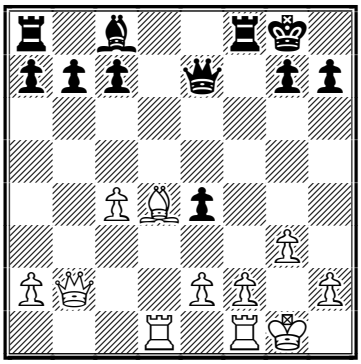
14...♘xd4 15.♕b2 ♕f6 (D)



16.♗xe4

16.♗xc5 was met by 16...♘xe2+! 17.♕xe2 ♘xc5 18.♗d5+ ♔h8 19.♘f7+ ♔g8 and White had nothing more than to repeat moves . Yet, this was maybe not so bad for White, considering the course and final outcome of the game.

16...fxe4 17.♗xc5 ♕xe5 18.♗xd4 ♕e7 (D)



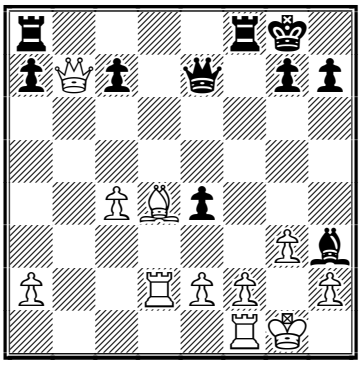
19.♖d2?

It's hard to believe but this natural move leads to immediate disaster – White has obviously underestimated Black's ideas. 19.♔g2 was preferable.

19...♗h3!

The dream has come true!

20.♕xb7 (D)



It turned out that any rook move, for example, 20.♖fd1 was met by the crushing 20...e3! 21.♗xe3 ♕e4–+]

20...e3!?

A nice trick but the prosaic 20...♗xf1! 21.♔xf1 e3 was even stronger as Black could take on f2 with the rook then.

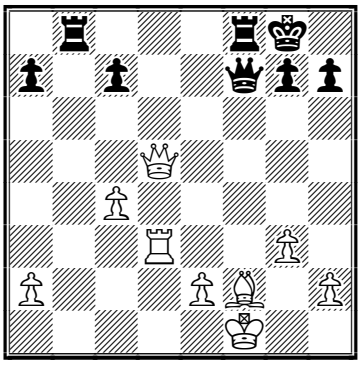
21.♖d3!

The point of Black's idea was that 21.♗xe3 was simply met by 21...♕xe3!

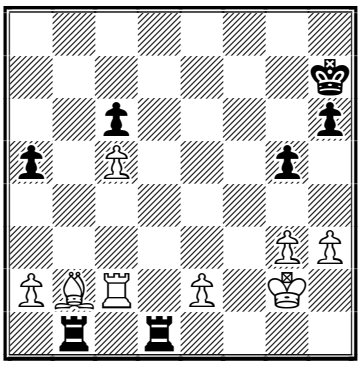
21...♗xf1 22.♕d5+ ♕f7!

22...♔h8?! could have been met by the intermediate 23.♖xe3 followed by Kg1xf1.

23.♔xf1 exf2 24.♗xf2 ♖ab8∓ (D)



The exchange gives Black's reasonable winning chances. **25.♖d2 c6!?** Clarifying the situation. **26.♕xf7+ ♖xf7 27.♔g2 h6 28.♖c2 ♖b1 29.♗d4 a5 30.c5 g5 31.h3 ♔h7 32.♖d2 ♖ff1 33.♗b2 ♖fd1 34.♖c2 (D)**



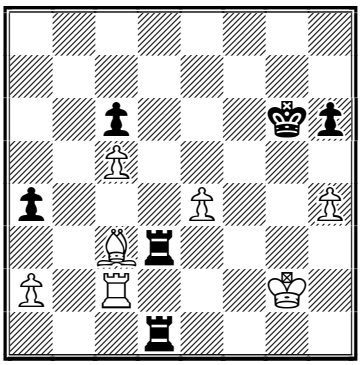
Black's task would be much easier if he was able to swap the rooks. **34...♔g6 35.♔f3 ♔f5**

Provoking the favourable pawn advances.

36.e4+ ♔g6 37.h4 ♖d3+ 38.♔g2 ♖bd1

Trying to swap the rooks from the other side.

39.♗c3 gxh4 40.gxh4 a4 (D)

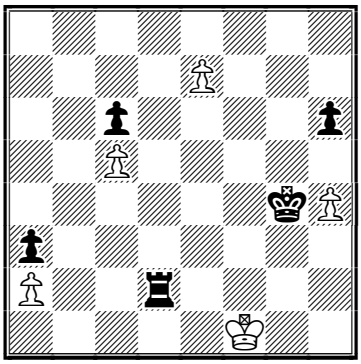


White cannot avoid the inevitable. **41.♗a5 a3 42.♗c3 ♔h5 43.e5 ♔g4**

44.e6 ♖e3 45.♗b4 ♖d4 46.♗d2 ♖e2+ 47.♔f1 ♖exd2

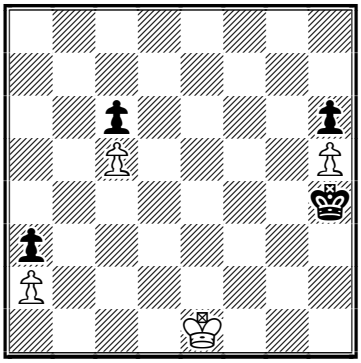
Of course, there was nothing wrong with 47...♖xe6 but Black preferred the more tricky way.

48.♖xd2 ♖xd2 49.e7 (D)



Black is merciful – White is granted a new queen... :)

49...♔f3! 50.e8♕ ♖d1+ 51.♕e1 ♖xe1+ 52.♔xe1 ♔g3 53.h5 ♔h4 (D)



White resigned. Tricky play by Sarunas Sulskis! **0–1.**

Solution to Quiz Today
Kovchan – D. Sadvakasov

28.♘d7+! ♗xd7 29.♖xf7+! ♔e8!?

This attempt does not have the desired effect. **30.♖f8+!! ♖xf8 31.♗h5+ ♖f7 32.♗xf7+ ♔xf7** White gives perpetual check so a draw was agreed. **½–½.**

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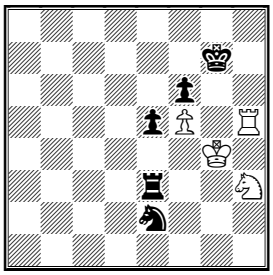
CT-89(873) 30th March 2003

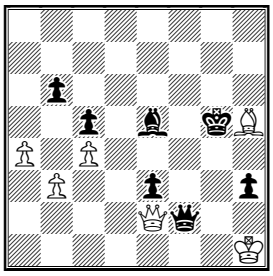
Quiz Today

Illescas – Shirov
Spain 2003
Find the easiest way to win.



Black to play

Kovchan – Alekseev
Kharkov 2003
After Black's next move White resigned instantly.



Black to play

Tournament News

After 2 rounds of the **Dos Hermanas** XVI category tournament 4 players are leading with 1½ points.

Results of the 1st round: Khalifman – Tiviakov **1:0** Rustemov – Illescas **½:½** Shirov – Epishin **½:½** Dreev – Vallejo **½:½** Karjakin – Campora **0:1**

Results of the 2nd round: Khalifman – Rustemov **½:½** Illescas – Shirov **0:1** Epishin – Dreev **½:½** Vallejo – Karjakin **1:0** Tiviakov – Campora **½:½**

Round 2 standings: 1-4. Shirov, Khalifman, Vallejo, Campora – 1½ 5-7. Dreev, Epishin, Rustemov – 1 8-9. Tiviakov, Illescas – ½ 10. Karjakin – 0

IMs Reefat Bin Sattar and Hossain Enamul took the lead at the **Bangladesh Championship** in Dhaka with 2½ points after 3 rounds.

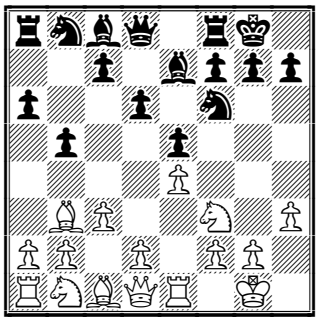
The penultimate 14th round was played today in the **Bundesliga**. The only available result at the moment is the match Koln Porz – Baden Oos, which ended with the score **5:3**. The Amber Melody winner **Vishy Anand** scored the only win for Baden Oos but it did not help his team very much:

Lutz – Anand **0:1**
I. Sokolov – Svidler **½:½**
Andersson – Dautov **½:½**
Vaganian – Huebner **1:0**
M.Gurevich – Doettling **1:0**
C.Hansen – Schlosser **½:½**
Graf – Schmaltz **1:0**
Van den Doel – Keitlinghaus **½:½**

Today we present a very exciting battle from this match – the game between Peter Svidler and Ivan Sokolov.

Annotated Game

□ **P Svidler (2693)**
■ **I Sokolov (2688)**
Event: Bundesliga (14), 29.03.2003 C95
Annotations: **GM Ruslan Scherbakov**
A tough battle between two excellent players - I hope you will enjoy it very much.
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘b8



The Breyer system of the classical Ruy Lopez. A bit passive, but solid.

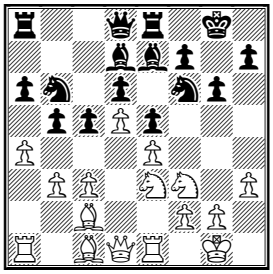
10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♗b7 12.♗c2 c5 13.♘f1 ♖e8 14.d5

A fresh approach. Usually White closed the center after 14.♘g3 ♗f8 15.d5 g6 then one of the main ideas was Nf3–h2–g4. Peter keeps in mind another route for his knight.

14...g6 15.b3 ♘b6 16.♘e3

This quite consistent continuation is a novelty. After 16.a4 bxa4 17.bxa4 a5 18.♘e3 ♗a6 Black has achieved reasonable counter chances in the game Torre – Gligoric, Nice 1974.

16...♗c8 17.a4 ♗d7



18.a5

It is quite tempting to get more space and push the knight back. Black is really getting short of space but on the other hand his task will be easier now – he has to defend only a very narrow area of the board.

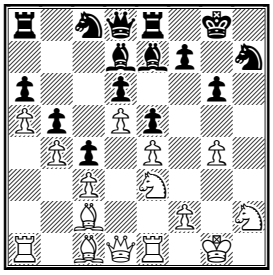
18...♘c8 19.b4 c4 20.g4

Rearranging the pieces first of all deserved serious attention. Black obviously cannot do the same as he has very limited space for manoeuvring. Thus 20.♘f1!? was worthy of consideration.

20...h5!

Taking a good opportunity to clarify the situation.

21.♘h2 hxg4 22.hxg4 ♘h7



Black's play is very clear now. He has almost nothing to think about – he just has very few possibilities to play.

23.♔g2 ♗g5 24.♖h1 ♕f6 25.♗d2 ♘e7 26.♕e2 ♔g7 27.♖ag1 ♖h8

Both sides have brought their reserves into the battle area.

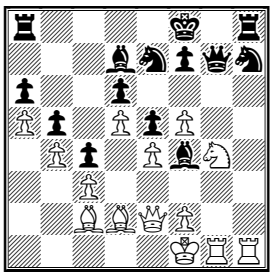
28.♔f1 ♗f4

Perhaps Black underestimated White's ideas. He could have got the last piece into defence by 28...♖ag8!? but White's chances were still preferable without any doubt as all the Black minor pieces except the bishop on g5 are rather poor.

29.♘f5+!

A typical way to break such a position. White opens the lines for his rooks, being not too worried about the sacrificed piece as the Black minor pieces are too clumsy.

29...gxf5 30.gxf5+ ♔f8 31.♘g4 ♕g7



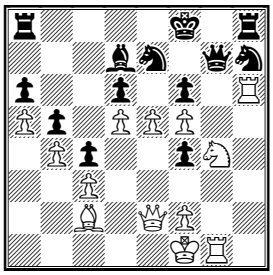
32.♖h6!?

A very creative play! Yet, the routine 32.♗xf4 exf4 33.♕f3↑ was worthy of consideration and it could have also secured White's initiative.

32...f6?!

A natural move, but probably not the best defence. Black had an interesting resource to get rid of some of his ugly pieces by 32...♘g6!? 33.fxg6 ♘g5! 34.♗xf4 exf4 with good counter chances.

33.♗xf4 exf4 34.e5!



The breakthrough at the most fortified point! White is trying to get to the Black's king before he can rearrange his pieces in defence.

34...dxe5

34...♘xd5? did not help due to

35.♖g6 ♕e7 36.♕d2 ♗c6 37.exf6 with decisive initiative: 37...♕d7 *(37...♕d8 38.♕d4+−)* 38.♗e4 ♘e3+ 39.fxe3 ♗xe4 40.♘h6 ♔e8 41.f7+ ♔e7 42.♕d4+−

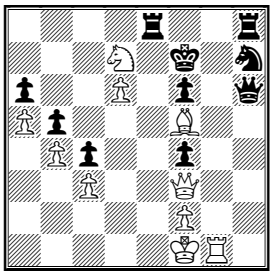
35.d6

The immediate 35.♘xe5 was met by 35...♕xh6 36.♘xd7+ ♔e8 37.d6 ♕h3+ and White cannot avoid the repetition: 38.♖g2 ♕h1+ 39.♖g1 ♕h3+ 40.♔e1 ♕xc3+ 41.♔f1 ♕h3+=

35...♘xf5 36.♘xe5 ♕xh6?!

36...♘g3+!? was probably stronger: 37.♖xg3!? fxg3 38.♘g6+ ♔g8 39.♘e7+ ♔f8 although White still had good attacking chances after 40.♖g6!?

37.♘xd7+ ♔f7 38.♗xf5 ♖ae8 39.♕f3↑

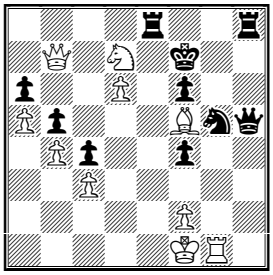


White's initiative is very annoying now.

39...♘g5 40.♕b7

40.♕d5+!? was quite good: 40...♔g7 41.♘c5 ♕h5 42.♘e6+ ♖xe6 43.♗xe6+− with an almost decisive advantage.

40...♕h5



In case of 40...♔g8 White could go back by 41.♕d5+ ♔g7 42.♘c5

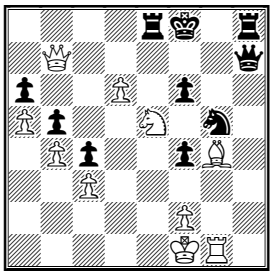
41.♗g4?!

It is very difficult to criticize both players for their mistakes in such a complicated game. 41.♘e5+! was correct: 41...♔g8 *(41...♔f8 42.♘g6+ ♔g8 43.♕d5+ ♔g7 44.♘xf4+−* followed by Nf4−e6.*)* 42.d7 ♖d8 43.♕d5+ ♔g7 44.♕d6! ♖hf8 45.♘g6 ♖f7 46.♘xf4+− and White was winning.

41...♕h7 42.♘e5+

White had an interesting alternative 42.♕d5+ ♔g7 43.♘xf6!? *(43.♘c5 ♕b1+ 44.♔g2? ♖e1)* 43...♔xf6 44.♕d4+ ♔g6 45.d7↑ with certain initiative.; Another idea was 42.♘c5+!? ♔f8 43.♕xh7 ♖xh7 44.♘xa6 and White's chances looked preferable here, too.

42...♔f8



½−½ A draw agreed. Peter probably decided he sacrificed enough today. A very exciting game!

Solution to Quiz Today:

58...♖g3+ White resigned because of **59.♔h4 ♖xh3+ 60.♔xh3 ♘f4+** and so on. **0−1**

61...♕g2+! After the queens swap Black gets the time to capture the bishop on h5. **0−1**

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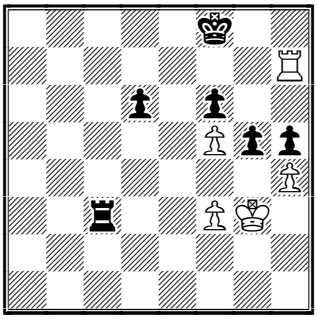
CT-92(876) 2nd April 2003

Quiz Today

GM Dr. Huebner – GM Vaganian
Bundesliga 2003



Black to play and win.

Lübecker SV team win the German Bundesliga

The two final rounds of the Bundesliga 2002/2003 season took place on the 29th and 30th March. The leaders, Lübecker SV, needed to win both their matches, because the second placed team, Köln Porz, were only one match point behind.

The matches with the participation of the two leading teams ended as follows:
Round 14 (March 29)
SV Werder Bremen 2 – 6 Lübecker SV
It was the decisive victory for Lübeck, their opponents were one of the strongest teams in the league.
SC Baden Oos 3 – 5 SG Köln Porz
The events of this interesting match were covered in CT-873.

Round 15 (March 30)
Lübecker SV 5½–2½ Turm Emsdetten
Almost no one believed that the Emsdetten team, one of outsiders, would be able to save this match against the league's giants.
SG Köln Porz 5 – 3 Stuttgarter Sfr
One more of this season's outsiders, the Stuttgart team, where I play, put up serious resistance; SSF missed chances rather than overscored in this match.

As a result, **Lübecker SV** team became deserved winners of the Bundesliga 2002/3. 14 Grandmasters are playing for this dream team: Adams, Grischuk, Shirov, Lautier, Epishin, Hodgson, Fressinet, Speelman, Nunn, Hector, Agdestein, Conquest, de Firmian and Lars Bo Hansen.

One may note that not too many German players are in the list of the Lübeck team. Such facts sometimes provoke discussions in the German chess press. Recently at the main BL website www.schachbundesliga.de, a polemic article by GM Markus Stangl was published (in whose opinion the presence of many grandmasters from other EU countries contradicts the interests of German players), and an answer by Eckhard Stomprowski (Lübecker SV). Both sides were quite argumentative.

We now return to the results of the season. The Round 10 match between the two BL dream teams became absolutely crucial for the fate of the championship:
SG Köln Porz 3 – 5 Lübecker SV
(1) Lutz ½ : ½ Adams (1)
(2) Khalifman 0 : 1 Grischuk (2)
(3) Van Wely 0 : 1 Shirov (3)
(4) Sokolov ½ : ½ Lautier (4)
(5) Andersson ½ : ½ Epishin (5)
(6) Vaganian 0 : 1 Fressinet (6)
(9) Hansen 1 : 0 Speelman (7)
(10) Graf ½ : ½ Nunn (9)

(The Shirov–Van Wely game was commented in CT-827.) One may feel sorry for **SG Köln Porz** team – their wins in all 14 other matches (!) proved to be insufficient to win the Bundesliga.

The final crosstable:
1. Lübecker SV 29 (86)
2. SG Köln Porz 28 (81)
3. SV Werder Bremen 22 (70½)
4. Hamburger SK 21 (68½)
5. Solinger SG 20 (65½)
6. TV Tegernsee 19 (66½)

7. SC Kreuzberg 19 (64)
8. SC Baden Oos 18 (68½)
9. SV Wattenscheid 13 (60½)
10. SFR Neukölln 11 (50½)
11. Stuttgarter Sfr 10 (49½)
12. Turm Emsdetten 9 (51)
13. SK König Plauen 9 (48½)
14. Erfurter SK 7 (48½)
15. Godesberger SK 3 (44)
16. SC Forchheim 2 (37)

The only team which was able to take one point from Lübeck was the **Baden Oos** team (see CT-860 for a report and the Dautov-Shirov game). Baden Oos occupied an undeservedly low 8th place - in the same season this team won the German Cup (CT-870), the second most important German team competition. The example of Baden Oos showed that, even playing with such players as Anand, Svidler, Krasenkow, Dautov and Dr. Hübner, the team who has pretensions to win the Bundesliga should probably have players of 2600 level even on the last boards! Still, it was only the first season for the Baden team in the first Bundesliga, and we only can imagine how much they can improve.

My personal score in the Bundesliga (3/11) became one of the five-six worst performances in my entire playing career, which can hardly make me happy. During the long BL season I played in other events quite successfully. Should I evaluate the possibility to follow Bundesliga events (and report in CT - see issues 742, 774, 827, 860, and also 718) as my best achievement in the just ended BL season? And, OK, there still were some interesting games.

1st April 2003 FIDE Rating List

The new FIDE Rating List, published at the fide.com site can easily confirm the significance of German chess. The following countries (federations) are represented with more than 1000 players in the rating list:
Germany - 5909 players
Russia - 5627
France - 2192
Yugoslavia - 1938
Poland - 1864
Hungary - 1752
Czech Republic - 1314
USA - 1292
India - 1194
Ukraine - 1080

The list of the world's best players who have a rating of 2700 and higher (16 players this time) gives us a more usual picture, with Russians on the top:
1 Kasparov (RUS) - 2830
2 Kramnik (RUS) - 2789
3 Anand (IND) - 2764
4 Leko (HUN) - 2746
5 Shirov (ESP) - 2735
6 Topalov (BUL) - 2735
7 Bareev (RUS) - 2734
8 Adams (ENG) - 2723
9 Ponomariov (UKR) - 2718
10 Polgar (HUN) - 2715
11 Svidler (RUS) - 2713
12 Ivanchuk (UKR) - 2704
13 Akopian (ARM) - 2703
14 Khalifman (RUS) - 2702
15 Grischuk (RUS) - 2701
16 Gelfand (ISR) - 2700
(There are now 101 players with ELO 2600 and higher.)

Chess Today's ratings:
Baburin 2558, Sherbakov 2557, Golubev 2548, Notkin 2471, Vlassov 2466, Barski 2427.

XII Dos Hermanas 2003
Round 5 (April 1, 2003)

Vallejo Pons - Epishin ½ Shirov - Tiviakov 1-0 Dreev Rustemov, ½ Campora - Illescas ½ Karjakin, - Khalifman ½

Round 5 Standings: 1. Vallejo Pons, Francisco g ESP 2629 4.0; 2. Shirov, Alexei g ESP 2723 3.5; 3. Epishin, Vladimir g RUS 2626 3.0; 4. Dreev, Alexey g RUS 2690 3.0; 5. Khalifman, Alexander g RUS 2702 3.0; 6. Rustemov, Alexander g RUS 2604 2.5; 7. Campora, Daniel H g ARG 2505 2.0; 8. Karjakin, Sergey m UKR 2547 1.5; 9. Illescas Cordoba, Miguel g ESP 2595 1.5; 10. Tiviakov, Sergei g NED 2635 1.0;

Chess Informant 86, EE

The Electronic Edition of the new Informator issue is out. Content includes the games from the Bled Olympiad, Kramnik – Deep Fritz, Kasparov – Deep Junior matches, Wijk aan Zee, other events.

Annotated Game

□ **I Sokolov (2688)**
■ **M Golubev (2535)**
Event: Bundesliga Baden-Baden (15), 30.03.2003 E70
Annotations: **GM Mikhail Golubev**

The Sunday matches in the Bundesliga begin at 9:00 a.m. Under such conditions, weaker players get a Giant Killing chance. Or rather, the players who manage to drink most coffee do. In addition, before the 15th, and last, round of the BL 2002/3, there was a time change, so, de-facto we played at 8:00.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗d3 0-0 6.♘ge2

The King's Indian is such opening that in every line Black faces some problems (The 5.♗d3 line is hardly an exception), but at the same time he always has his chances.

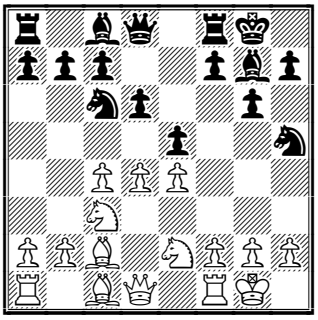
6...♘c6 7.0-0 ♘h5

I have played this somewhat strange move several times, but I am still not sure if it is completely sound or not.

8.♗c2

8.d5 is a rare choice for White. Then 8...♘e5 9.f4 ♘xd3 10.♕xd3 f5 11.♘d4 c5 is possible, and Black has counterplay.

8...e5



9.d5

9.♗e3!? is also rare, but it deserves attention. In case of 9...exd4 *(9...♘f4!?)* 10.♘xd4 ♘e5 11.♕e2 ♘g4 12.♖ad1 White certainly has an initiative.

9...♘e7 10.a4!

First used by Bareev in 1997. The further ♖a3! will improve co-ordination between the White pieces.

10...f5 11.exf5

This move, linked with the next, is White's standard response to ...f5.

11...gxf5 12.♘g3! ♘f4

After 12...♘xg3!? 13.fxg3 White will develop serious pressure in the centre. Still, it could be playable for Black.

13.♖a3

13.♘h5 is quite a logical way to fight for an advantage. After 13...♘xh5 14.♕xh5 ♘g6 a critical position arises.

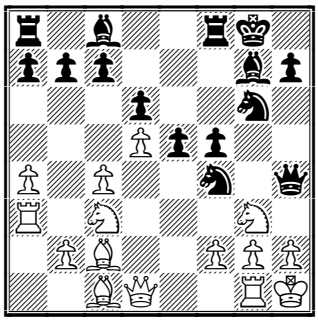
13...♘eg6 14.♔h1N

New move. In earlier games 14.♘ce2 has been played, and 14.♘h5 was still possible.

14...♕h4

I wanted to stop ♘h5.

15.♖g1?!



15.f3!? (I.Sokolov) with mutual chances would be better.

15...e4!

Good decision, which unfortunately took too much time on my clock. From now ...♘d3 will always be an idea, because White's pawn on c4 is weak. It's possible to say that it is now Black who is fighting for an advantage. I considered lines like 15...♗h6?! (trying to prevent ♘f1, but it doesn't work) 16.♘f1! ♕xf2 17.♗e3 ♘h3 *(17...♘d3 18.♗xh6!+-)* 18.gxh3 ♗xe3 19.♖g2± , and Black will hardly have compensation for a piece. If 19...♕f4 then, of course, 20.♘e2 .

16.f3

After 16.♘f1!? Black would have various possibilities, e.g.: A) A controversial piece sacrifice is 16...♘e5

17.g3 ♘h3 *(17...♘g4? 18.♕e1!?+−)* 18.gxh4 ♘xf2+ 19.♔g2 ♘xd1; and B) I planned 16...♘d3!? 17.♗xd3 exd3 , and here 18.f4 *(or 18.♘b5 ♘e5!)* 18...♕g4! should be OK for Black.

16...♗d7!?

A 'Normal' continuation would be 16...♘d3 17.♗xd3 exd3 18.♘b5!?, and White has counterplay.

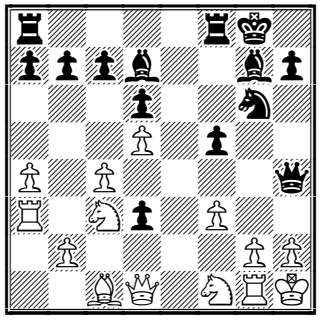
17.♘f1

Acceptance of the pawn sacrifice by 17.♗xf4!? would be very risky for White, even if playable, e.g. 17...♘xf4 *(17...♕xf4 18.♘h5!)* 18.fxe4 fxe4 *(18...♖f6 19.♕f3!? ♖h6 20.♘f1)* 19.♘gxe4 ♗g4 20.♕e1 ♕h5∞ 21.♗d1 ♖ae8; The immediate 17.fxe4? is bad in view of 17...♘e5!∓ 18...♘g4.

17...♘d3

17...exf3!? 18.♕xf3 ♕g4

18.♗xd3 exd3



19.♕xd3?

This gives a clear advantage to Black. 19.f4! (Buhmann) was necessary, trying to reduce Black's piece activity. A) Then 19...♕f2 20.g3! ♖ae8 *(20...♕d4!?)* 21.♕xd3! ♖e1 22.♘d1!± is probably good for White, and B) 19...♘xf4? 20.g3+− leads Black nowhere.; But C) 19...♕g4!∓ is a good option. I prefer Black after 20.g3 *(or 20.♕xg4 fxg4 21.g3 ♗f5!?)* 20...♗xc3 21.♕xg4 fxg4 22.♖xc3 ♗f5 (...It's worth mentioning that the 16.♘f1 ♘d3 line, in the note given above to White's 16th, can lead to the same positions.)

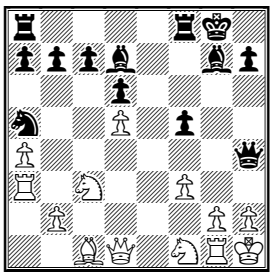
19...♘e5∓

I.Sokolov was afraid that 19...♖ae8!? with the idea of 20.g3 ♘e5 21.gxh4 ♘xd3 22.♗h6 ♘f2+ can be even stronger.

20.♕d1

I expected 20.♕c2

20...♘xc4 21.♖b3 ♘a5 22.♖a3



22...♖ae8

22...♘c4 would lead to a repetition. Unfortunately, my position was too good to do that.

23.♘g3 ♖f6!

Preparing ...f4. An immediate 23...f4 24.♘ge4 ♖e5 would allow 25.g3 fxg3 26.♖xg3, and White has some play.

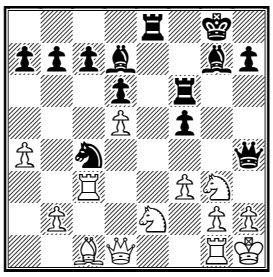
24.♘ce2

I correctly calculated that 24.♖e1? loses by force after 24...♖xe1+ 25.♕xe1 f4 26.♕e4 ♖h6 27.♘f1 , and now 27...♗xc3! (not *27...♕f2? 28.♕e2)* 28.♖xc3 ♕f2 29.♕d3 ♗h3 30.gxh3 ♖g6−+ . (It is possible, unfortunately, that, under the influence of this line, I was later not sufficiently afraid of exchanging the g7 bishop, which is of course Black's key piece.)

24...♘c4!

Again, 24...f4?! 25.♘xf4 ♖xf4 26.♗xf4 ♕xf4 27.♘h5 would be unclear.

25.♖c3!?



'Objectively' better would be 25.♖a1∓, but then almost any sensible move by Black leaves him with a big advantage. e.g. 25...♘xb2!? *(25...f4; 25...♘e3)* 26.♗xb2 ♖h6 27.h3! ♗xb2 28.♖b1 f4 *(28...♗e5 29.f4! ♗xf4 30.♖b4)* 29.♘e4 ♗g7∓. Now, however, Black would have to solve concrete problems, and I had only 12 minutes left.

25...♖g6?

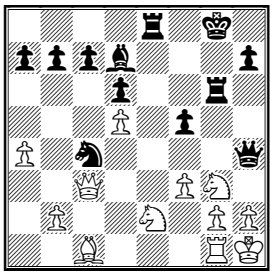
Starting from here I lost control of what was going on. 25...f4! was a practically winning move: A) 26.♖xc4? ♕xh2+ 27.♔xh2 ♖h6+ 28.♘h5 ♖xh5#;

and after B) 26.♘xf4 ♖xf4 27.♗xf4 ♗xc3 28.♕c1 I didn't see the following clear way to win: 28...♘e5!! *(≤28...♗e5 29.♗g5 ♕d4 30.♖d1 ♕c5 31.♘e4 ♗xb2 32.♕f4; ≤28...♗d4 29.♗g5)* 29.bxc3 (or *29.♗g5 ♘d3!–+)* 29...♘d3–+; then C) 26.♘f1 26...♕f2 27.♘xf4 *(27.♖xc4 ♖xe2∓* with idea of *28.♖xc7? ♖g6–+* is the only line where White is not losing immediately*)* and now, again, Black has a clear win: 27...♖xf4! *(≤27...♘xb2!?∓ 28.♗xb2 ♖xf4 29.♖xc7 ♕xb2 30.♖xd7 ♖d4!–+* was an idea which was found during the post mortem, and Sokolov's idea during the game was *27...♖e1? 28.♕xe1! ♕xe1 29.♖xc4* when White has compensation for the queen.*)* 28.♗xf4 ♗xc3 29.bxc3 ♖e1 30.♕d3 ♘b2!, and the fight is over.

26.♕c2!

I totally forgot that White can simply sacrifice the exchange, and considered only 26.♘f4∓ ♖h6 *(26...♘xb2!?)* 27.♘h3 ♗xc3 28.♗xh6 which should be better for Black.

26...♗xc3 27.♕xc3



Now White has good control of the Black squares, and, at least, 'practical compensation'. The messy play begins.

27...♘b6

27...♘e5!?

28.♕xc7 ♖c8?

Bad move: White simply takes a pawn, and the position of the Black pieces is not improved. 28...♗c8!?; 28...♕xa4!?

29.♕xb7 ♖g7

A curious possibility was 29...♖c4!? with the idea 30.♕xa7?? ♕xh2+ 31.♔xh2 ♖h4#; 29...♕xa4 30.♗e3!?±

30.♕xa7±

White has a clear advantage.

30...♘xd5

Better was 30...♕b4!?

31.♕a5

I was afraid of 31.♖d1!? with the idea 31...♗xa4 32.♕a6! , but Sokolov's move is also quite strong.

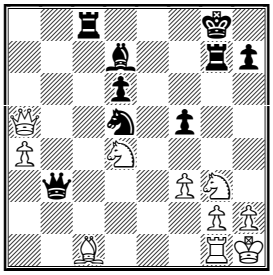
31...♕c4

Or 31...♖c5 32.♕a8+ ♔f7 33.♕b7

32.b3?

But this is the result of a miscalculation. After 32.♗h6!? ♖f7 33.♖c1 ♕h4± Black is not losing by force, which is the only thing to be happy about.

32...♕xb3 33.♘d4



33...♕a2!

The only way to defend ♘xf5.

34.♗h6

34.♘dxf5? ♗xf5 35.♘xf5 ♕xg2+! 36.♖xg2 ♖xc1+

34...♖f7 35.♕e1

Thus, White also, in his turn, gave a pawn for nothing, and the position is unclear again.

35...♖e8

35...♘e7!? ♘g6 36 ♕d5 was proposed by Ulf Andersson. An impressive defensive idea!; 35...♕c4!? was also possible, and Ivan Sokolov saw that White can't delivery checkmate in case of 36.♘gxf5? *(36.♕d2!?)* 36...♗xf5 37.♘xf5 ♖xf5 38.♕g3+ ♔f7 39.♕g7+ ♔e6

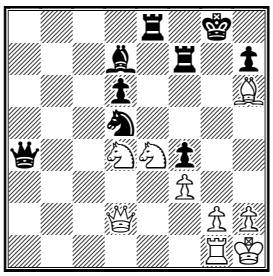
36.♕c1 f4

36...♖f6!?

37.♘e4 ♕xa4?

37...♖c8! , and White's advantage is still under question.

38.♕d2



Not bad, but 38.♕b2! would be more precise.

38...♖xe4!?

Having only a few seconds, I didn't see another move to play! Fritz proposed 38...♕a8!? with the idea 39.♘xd6?! ♖f6 40.♘xe8 ♖xh6= , not such a simple line as; 38...♕b4 39.♕xb4 ♘xb4 40.♘xd6 ♖f6 41.♘xe8 ♖xh6 42.♘c7 , the only one which I managed to calculate.

39.fxe4 ♘e3?

Unfortunately, I had only some 6 seconds left, not enough to understand that 39...♘f6! is what Black must play. After that, it would be difficult for White to win. 40.♗xf4?! ♘xe4 41.♕e3 ♖xf4 42.♕xf4 ♕xd4 43.♖f1 ♔g7 44.♕f8+ ♔g6= is a safe Black line.

40.♗xf4+- ♘g4

40...♘c4 41.♕f2

41.h3

Now White is winning.

41...♘f6 42.♖e1 ♕a8 43.♘f5 ♗xf5 44.exf5 ♘e4 45.♕d4 d5 46.♖b1 ♖f8 47.♗h6 ♖f6 48.♕e5 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today: 58...g4!! , and White resignied.58...g4 59.♖xh5 ♔g7!! 60.♔xg4 ♖e3 and the d pawn queens. **0-1**

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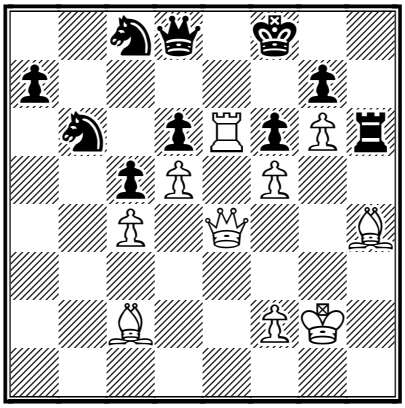
CT-93(877) 3rd April 2003

Quiz Today

GM Khalifman – GM Campora
Spain 2003



White to play

Young Spanish GM **Francisco Vallejo Pons** kept his lead safe after a draw with Black against. his compatriot Illescas Cordoba in the 6th round of the XII Dos Hermanas tournament. Alexander Khalifman won with a nice final blow and shares 2-3 places with Alexei Shirov half a point behind.

Round 6 Results:
Tiviakov – Epishin **½:½**
Illescas – Vallejo Pons **½:½**
Khalifman – Campora **1:0**
Rustemov – Karjakin **1:0**
Shirov – Dreev **½:½**

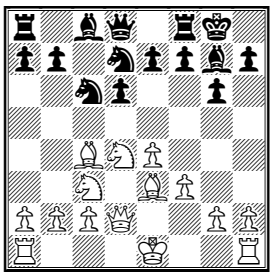
Round 6 Standings:
1. Vallejo Pons – 4½
2-3. Shirov, Khalifman – 4
4-6. Epishin, Dreev, Rustemov – 3½
7-8. Campora, Illescas Cordoba – 2
9-10. Karjakin, Tiviakov – 1½

Also see our annotated game section.

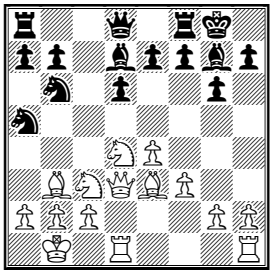
The 29th National Bangladesh Chess Championships,
Round 7 Standings:
1. Murshed – 6 points
2-4. Reefat (6 games), Hossain, (6)
Abdulla – 5 etc.

Annotated Game

□ **A Shirov (2723)**
■ **S Tiviakov (2635)**
Event: XII It I Dos Hermanas ESP (5), 01.04.2003 B77
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**
Today, these two grandmasters of similar age (about 30) are representatives of different countries: Alexei Shirov is a leader of the Spanish team, Sergei Tiviakov is playing for the Netherlands. But 15-20 years ago both of them were strong Soviet juniors and they played a lot of games against each other. I believe they even played a match at the end of the 80s and Tiviakov won). Their competition continues!
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♕d2 0-0 9.♗c4 ♘d7!?



The Sicilian Dragon was Tiviakov's favourite opening when he was young. This move is quite rare - the knight is going to the queenside to attack the opponent's king, but now White hasn't any problems with an h2-h4-h5 break.
10.0-0-0 ♘b6 11.♗b3 ♘a5 12.♕d3
The e3 bishop is more important than his light-squared colleague.
12...♗d7 13.♔b1!?



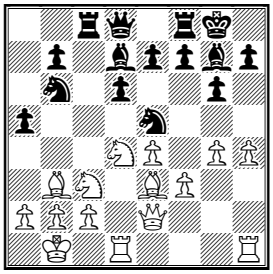
A very calm prophylactic move.

More often White begins to attack right now, for example: 13.h4 ♖c8 14.h5 ♘bc4 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.♗g5 ♘xb3+ 17.cxb3 ♕a5 18.♗xe7 ♘e5 19.♕c2 ♖xc3 20.bxc3 ♖c8 21.♔b2 ♕b6∞ Wedberg – Sosonko, Haninge 1988.

13...♖c8 14.g4

Maybe Shirov didn't like 14.h4 h5!? though White could continue with 15.g4!? hxg4 16.h5 with great complications.

14...♘ac4 15.h4 ♘e5 16.♕e2 a5

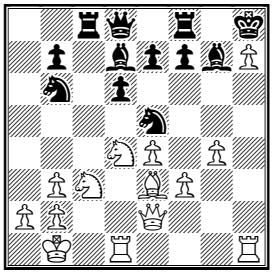


This was Black's idea: the b3 bishop is in danger now.

17.h5!?

A typical Shirov method: very often Alexei sacrifices material for an initiative, without calculation "till mate". It's a so-called "intuitive sacrifice".

17...a4 18.hxg6 axb3 19.gxh7+ ♔h8 20.cxb3



To tell the truth it wasn't a sacrifice, because White has 3 pawns for a bishop.

20...e6

Black has to protect the f5-square vs. the knight's penetration. But now the d6 pawn becomes weak.

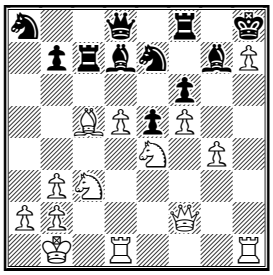
21.f4 ♘c6 22.♘db5!

Shirov doesn't hurry with an attack on the kingside, he simply improves his position.

22...d5 23.♕f2!

The b6 knight has to go into the corner...

23...♘a8 24.♗c5 ♘e7 25.f5 f6 26.exd5 e5 27.♘d6 ♖c7 28.♘de4



A picturesque position: poor a8 knight, poor e7 knight, poor g7 bishop, .. poor Black!

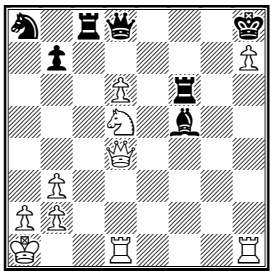
28...♖c8 29.d6 ♘c6 30.♘d5!

Very strong centralisation!

30...♖f7 31.g5

And the decisive break at last.

31...♘d4 32.♗xd4 exd4 33.gxf6 ♗xf6 34.♘exf6 ♖xf6 35.♕xd4 ♗xf5+ 36.♔a1



1-0

Solution to Quiz Today: **42.♗xf6! gxf6 43.♖e8+** White wins 43..♕xe8 44.g7+ ♔xg7 *(44...♔f7 45.♕xe8+ ♔xe8 46.g8♕++-)* 45.♕xe8 with his very poor piece coordination, Black has to lose very soon. **1-0**

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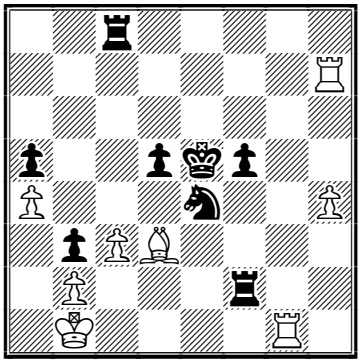
Quiz Today

Campora-Rustemov
www.chess21.com, 03.04.2003



In this position Black played
40...♖d2
And the game continued
41.♗a6?
41.♗xe4 dxe4 42.♖b7 ♖cd8 43.♖xb3 e3 44.♖b5+ ♔e4 45.♖g7∓
41...♖g8! 0-1

But Black had a more convincing 40th move, can you find it?

In the 7th round of Dos Hermanas, the quickest game was Kariakin – Shirov. They didn't even make any of their own moves. Vallejo had very good chances to beat Khalifman and increase his lead. Dreev beat Tiviakov confidently, and Rustemov beat Campora. They joined those players sharing second place.

Round 7 (April 3, 2003)

Karjakin, Sergey - Shirov, Alexei - ½-½ Vallejo Pons, Francisco - Khalifman, Alexander ½-½ Campora, Daniel H - Rustemov, Alexander 0-1 Epishin, Vladimir - Illescas Cordoba, Miguel ½-½ Dreev, Alexey - Tiviakov, Sergei 1-0

Round 7 Standings:

1. Vallejo Pons, Francisco g ESP 2629 5.0;
2-5. Shirov, Alexei g ESP 2723 4½; Khalifman, Alexander g RUS 2702 4½; Dreev, Alexey g RUS 2690 4½; Rustemov, Alexander g RUS 2604 4½;
6. Epishin, Vladimir g RUS 2626 4.0;
7. Illescas Cordoba, Miguel g ESP 2595 2½;
8-9. Campora, Daniel H g ARG 2505 2.0; Karjakin, Sergey m UKR 2547 2.0;
10. Tiviakov, Sergei g NED 2635 1½;

Chess Auction

GM Alex Baburin

The latest *online chess auction* started yesterday at the GM Square Web site - http://www.gmsquare.com/chessauction/index.html

To see the lots, you can go straight to http://www.gmsquare.com/cgi-bin/auction/index.cgi

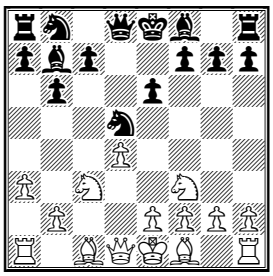
There are 41 lots; bidding will close on Saturday, between 20:40 and 22:40 London time. At the auction there are both rare (and expensive!) and affordable books and periodicals – please have a look!

Annotated Game

□ **A Dreev**
■ **S Tiviakov**
Event: : XII It I Dos Hermanas ESP (7), 03.04.2003 E12
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

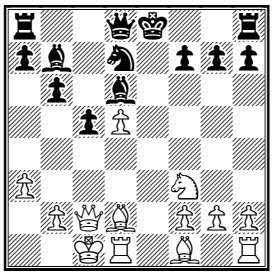
Tiviakov is going on losing, because of his bad (in comparison with his opponent) opening preparation.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3 ♗b7 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5



7.♗d2 ♘d7 8.♘xd5 ♗xd5 9.♕c2

c5 10.e4 ♗b7 11.d5 exd5 12.exd5 ♗d6 13.0-0-0



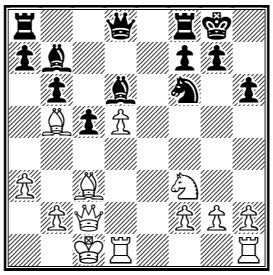
13...0-0 14.♗b5N

This position is well-known to Dreev: 14.♘g5 ♘f6 15.♔b1 ♗e5 16.♘f3 ♗d4 17.♘xd4 cxd4 18.♗b4 ♖e8 19.♗b5 ♖e5 20.♗c6 ♖c8 21.♕a4 ♗xc6 22.dxc6 ♕d5 23.f3 ♖e2 24.♕a6 ♕f5+ 25.♔a1 ♖xg2 26.♖xd4 ♖c2 27.♖hd1 ♖2xc6 28.♖d8+ ♘e8 29.♗c3 h6 Dreev,A-Karpov,A/Cap d'Agde FRA 2002/The Week in Chess 416/0–1 (61)

14...h6

Black is trying to guarantee a position on f6 for his knight, taking g5 under control in advance.

15.♗c3 ♘f6

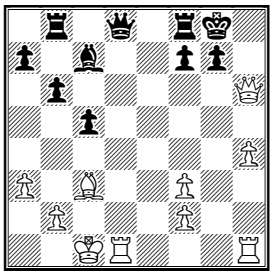


16.♗c6! ♖b8 17.h4!

The idea of White's attack is becoming clear - the knight lunge to g5 is threatened.

17...♘g4

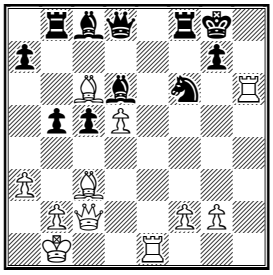
After 17...♘xd5 18.♗xd5 ♗xd5 there is the interesting 19.♕d2!? *(19.♖xd5* is also possible: *19...♗f4+ 20.♖d2 ♗xd2+ 21.♗xd2±* with two minor pieces for the rook.*)* 19...♗xf3 20.gxf3 ♗c7 with the fantastic idea 21.♕xh6!!



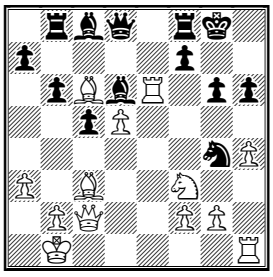
21...gxh6 22.♖hg1+ ♔h7 23.♖g7+ ♔h8 24.♖xf7+ ♕d4 (There is no other way to stop the "mill") 25.♗xd4+ cxd4 26.♖xc7 with a pawn up and a serious advantage in the rook endgame)

18.♔b1 ♗c8 19.♖de1 g6?!

Saving himself from one threat, Black is under a new one. It's not easy to advise in this position - active counterplay is only ragged: 19...b5 20.♘g5! hxg5 21.hxg5 f5 *(21...♘h2 22.g3 ♕xg5 23.f4 ♕f5 24.♖xh2±)* 22.gxf6 ♘xf6 and here, in order to support the line fire of attack, White should flip the rook into it: 23.♖h6!!

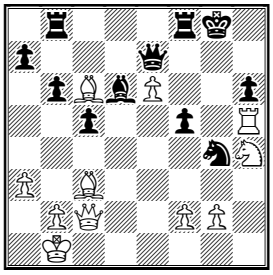


20.♖e6!



It's also possible to sacrifice this rook!

20...♗xe6 21.dxe6 f5 22.h5 gxh5 23.♖xh5 ♕e7 24.♘h4



Black is defenceless against the numerous threats of White. **1-0**

Solution to Quiz Today:

40...♖xc3!! 41.♗xe4 ♖g3!!-+

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-95(879) 5th April 2003

Tournament News

XII Dos Hermanas

The 8th round saw Tiviakov's first win and Vallejo's first loss. As a result the Russian, GM Alexander Rustemov, has taken over the leader from Paco. Alexander won three games in a row after a very peaceful start and now he's close to the overall victory. Khalifman and Dreev made quick draws today – the former against his school-mate Epishin and the latter against the world's youngest grandmaster Karjakin. The most unexpected result of the day is surely Shirov's loss with White against Campo.

Round 8 results:

Rustemov – Vallejo 1:0
Tiviakov – Illescas 1:0
Dreev – Karjakin ½:½
Shirov – Campora 0:1
Khalifman – Epishin ½:½

Round 8 standings:
1. Rustemov – 5½
2-4. Vallejo, Khalifman, Dreev – 5
5-6. Shirov, Epishin – 4½
7. Campora – 3
8-10. Tiviakov, Illescas, Karjakin – 2½

Pairings for the final round:
Epishin – Rustemov
Vallejo – Shirov
Illescas – Khalifman
Campora – Dreev
Karjakin – Tiviakov

IM Reefat Bin Sattar is sole leader of The 29th National Chess Championships of Bangladesh

Round 8 Standings:

1. **Reefat – 6 (7)**
2. Murshed – 6 (8)
3-4. Abdulla, Hossain – 5 (7)
5. Ahmed – 5 (8)

The Gausdal Classics take place in Norway from the 3rd – 11th April. It has three closed groups, with 12 players each. After two games the young and gifted **Magnus Carlsen** of Norway leads with a perfect score.

Round 1 results:
Carlsen – Daly 1:0
Paehtz – Kjetil ½:½
Westerinen – Kristjansson ½:½
Lugovoi – Bluvshtein ½:½
Sarbok – De Firmian ½:½
Berg – Kallio ½:½

Round 2 results:
Carlsen – Paehtz 1:0
Kjetil – Westerinen 1:0
Kristjansson – Lugovoi ½:½
Bluvshtein – Sarbok 1:0
De Firmian – Berg ½:½
Daly – Kallio 1:0

Chess Today received the following Press release from reader **Thomas Vestergaard (** webmaster http://www.sis-mh-masters.dk)

Press Release:
Viswanathan Anand to play in SIS-MH Masters, Denmark, April 4-6 2003
Danish television is present during the SIS-MH Masters in Middelfart on the Danish island of Funen April 5-6. Viswanathan Anand, world champion 2000-01, will be challenged by the GMs Peter Heine Nielsen and Curt Hansen of Denmark together with GM Jonny Hector, Sweden in a double round robin event with rapid games. The winner will receive a beautiful trophy donated by the town of Middelfart whose mayor, Steen Dahlberg, will present it himself on the evening of Sunday April 6. The event will be played during the hours 13.00 – 19.00 on both days. Arbiter will be IA Martin Noer.

In a VIP simultaneous display Friday April 4 Anand will meet with

celebrities from the Danish society, headed by former foreign minister Niels Helveg Petersen who is a chess player of considerable strength; the internationally famous violin virtuosa Kim Sjøgren, the political commentator Peter Lautrup Larsen, at the same time a master of chess, etc.

The Danish television station DR2 will make a program of 30 minutes from the three days to be included in a program with chess as the theme on April 14. The last of several chess related programs will be the movie *Searching for Bobby Fischer.*

The event is organized by the Union in Support of Danish Chess to celebrate that it has now existed for 40 years. At the same time the Danish Chess Union celebrates its 100th anniversary and is one of the main sponsors of the event. Live coverage of the games and further information at: http://www.sis-mh-masters.dk

New standards for *chess furniture* http://www.mh-as.dk/default_uk.aspSIS-MH Furniture is the main sponsor of the event. The firm delivers primarily furniture for Danish schools and other institutions, and it hopes to create new standards for tables and chairs in chess events. Today the players play at tables of the wrong height, sitting on chairs that does not offer the body the best conditions possible creating a handicap for the maximum ability to think. All the players will have an opportunity to find the chair that is best fitted for them for this event.

Another main sponsor is the Hotel in which the SIS-MH Masters is played, Kongebrogaarden. It is a five star luxury hotel with a world wide reputation, and during the event it has a special offer for one, two or three days. Kongebrogaarden can be contacted at phone +45-63416341. The tickets for the event can be purchased at the address *Martin Noer, Vanløse Alle 37, 2720 Vanløse, DK* or at the e-mail address: **martinnoer@orangenet.dk**

The price is DKK 150 per day, 250 for both days. Journalists will need to be accredited beforehand. They should apply to

Svend Novrup, P.O. Box 3, 5300 Kerteminde. Phone: 65 323183. E-mail: **novrup@post4.tele.dk**

Viswanathan Anand, 33, world champion 2000 and winner of the recent top event in Wijk-aan-Zee, hardly needs any presentation. He has been idolised by chess fans all over the world ever since he opened his palmarés with a win of the Asian Junior Championship 1984. In 1987 he won the World Championship for Juniors, at the same time becoming the youngest GM in the world at that time. He won the world title 2000 defeating GM Shirov in the final.

Peter Heine Nielsen, 29, is presently Denmark'Ss highest rated player following two extremely successful years that has raised his rating figure to close to 2650. He won the Danish Championship 1996-99-2001. Among his many tournament wins is the victory in the North Sea Cup 2001, the strongest Danish chess event ever, and the traditional Hastings tournament 2002-2003. In the Danish national team he has played 43 games losing only 5 but winning 16, and he was awarded the silver medal on board 3 at the Moscow chess Olympics in 1994, the year in which he achieved his GM-title. Nielsen has a very strong record in the German Bundesliga where several of the world's strongest players have bitten the dust against him.

Curt Hansen, 38, undisputedly was the strongest Danish player in the 1990s. He won the European Junior Championship in 1982, just 17 years of age, and the junior World Championship two years later. He has won six Danish championships and played four chess Olympiads, all on

the top board, with a score of 66%. His overall record in the national team is 61 points in 94 games.His highest ranking in the world rating list has been 14 in 1992, and he has won 18 major events. In matches he has a fantastic record, winning several play-offs for the Danish championship, winning 5½-½ against Jan Plachetka already as a junior, and defeating Ulf Andersson 3½-2½ in an unofficial match for the Nordic Championship in 2001. Since 1997 he has played for Köln-Porz in the Bundesliga and won *the double*, championship and cup, in three consecutive years 1998-2000.

Jonny Hector, 39, is Swedish but has lived in Denmark for more than 10 years after marrying a Danish woman. He is extremely popular in Denmark with his enterprising style of playing and his firm belief that *playing chess has to be fun!* His aggressive style is consistent with the Greek hero with whom he shares his name. Hector has won tournaments in 8 nations: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, England, Spain, and Hungary, and he has played for Sweden in four chess Olympiads.

2002 was *Hector's year* as the Swedish magazine *Tidskrift för Schack* put it after counting his win of the Hamburg Championship 2with a rating achievement of more than 2800, victory in the German Bundesliga with Lübeck, winning the individual Swedish Championship, etc.

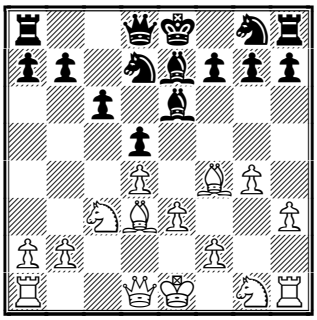
The Union in support of Danish Chess (Dansk Skak Unions Støtteforening) was founded 1963 to support international events in Denmark and also Danish top players wanting to educate themselves in foreign events. It has put money into almost every single important chess event in the country ever since. At its 40 years anniversary the board decided that it would be suitable just for once to stage an important event itself.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **A. Rustemov (2591)**
■ **F. Vallejo Pons (2645)**
Event: *XII Ciudad de Dos Hermanas Dos Hermanas (8), 04.04.2003*
Queen's Gambit Declined - [D31]
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗e7 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗f4 c6 6.e3
I believe this is the most promising system against Queen's Gambit with 3...♗e7.
6...♗f5
This is a common way to solve the problem of the light-squared bishop in other variations, but here the knight is still on g1 and so White plays
7.g4!
That's the point - White gains space on the kingside and the development of knight on g8 is hampered in view of g4-g5.
7...♗e6 8.♗d3
8.h3; and 8.h4 are playable as well.
8...♘d7 9.h3 (D)



9...g5!?
A novelty. 9...h5 10.gxh5 ♘df6 11.h6 ♘xh6 12.♕c2 was tested in Botvinnik - Petrosian (World Ch match 1963) and Lputian - Geller (USSR Ch 1985).
10.♗g3 h5 11.f3
In case of 11.gxh5 Black can simply play 11...♘gf6
11...♕b6 12.♖b1 c5?!
This move weakens Black's d-pawn. 12...♘gf6 looks good but Vallejo reserves another route for this knight; worse is 12...0–0–0 as White would have various attacking plans based upon the bishop's domination along the h2-b8 diagonal, e.g. ♖c1 or ♖h2-c2 followed by ♘b5 supported by the pawn advance on the queenside.; in

the game Vallejo carried out the right plan but it was better to refrain from c6–c5 – 12...hxg4 13.fxg4 ♘h6.

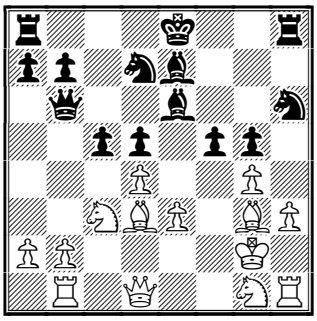
13.♔f1 hxg4

13...cxd4 14.exd4 ♕xd4? 15.♘b5+–.

14.fxg4 ♘h6

Threatening with Nxg4. After 14...cxd4 15.exd4 ♕xd4?! 16.♘b5 ♕f6+ 17.♔g2 Black's extra pawn means nothing.

15.♔g2 f5 (D)



16.♕f3!

Rustemov finds good counterplay.

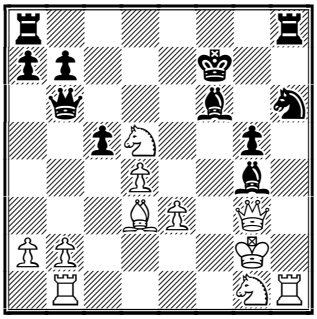
16...fxg4 17.hxg4 ♘f6

After 17...♗xg4 White may choose between 18.♕xd5 (and *18.♕xg4!? ♘xg4 19.♖xh8+ ♗f8 20.♘xd5 ♕c6 21.e4∞*)

18.♗e5! ♔f7?

If 18...♗xg4 then 19.♕g3 and Black has too many hanging pieces – both knights, the bishop and the d5–pawn. Moreover White has some unpleasant threats like ♘b5 and ♗g6+. But now White obtains a clear advantage without exertion.

19.♗xf6 ♗xf6 20.♘xd5 ♗xg4 21.♕g3 (D)



21...♕c6 22.e4 ♗e6

22...♗xd4 loses material after 23.♖f1+ ♔g7 24.♖xh6! ♖xh6 *(24...♕xh6?? 25.♕c7+* mating*)* 25.♕xg4 ♖ah8 26.♘h3! *(26.♕xg5+?? ♖g6)* and White's position is winning as 26...♖xh3 fails to 27.♕xg5+ ♕g6 28.♕xg6+ ♔xg6 29.♘f4+

23.♘xf6 ♘f5

A smart, but insufficient move. 23...♔xf6 24.♖f1+ ♔g6 *(24...♔e7 25.♕xg5++–; 24...♘f5 25.♕e5+)* 25.d5 and Black can't even give up the bishop for two pawns for a check!

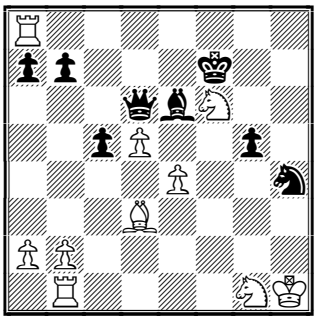
24.♖xh8

24.♕xg5 was possible and 24...♖ag8 is parried by 25.♖h7+! ♖xh7 26.♕xg8+ ♔xf6 27.♕xh7

24...♘xg3 25.♖xa8 ♘f5 26.d5

All of Black's pieces are attacked!

26...♘h4+ 27.♔h1 ♕d6 (D)



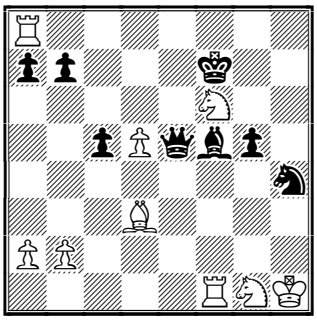
28.♖f1

28.dxe6+ ♔xf6 29.e5+! ♕xe5 *(29...♔xe5 30.♖e1+ ♔d4 31.e7)* 30.♖f1+ ♔e7 31.♖f7+ ♔xe6 32.♖e8+ was the easiest way to win.

28...♗f5!? 29.e5?

For beauty's sake White complicates the position. Better was 29.♘h5 ♕h6 30.♗e2+–

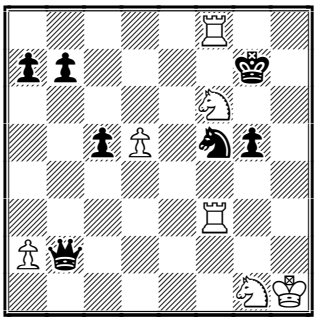
29...♕xe5 (D)



30.♖f8+ ♔g7

White counted on 30...♔xf8?? 31.♘d7+ but Black isn't forced to take the rook.

31.♗xf5 ♘xf5 32.♖f3 ♕xb2 (D)



33.♖xf5

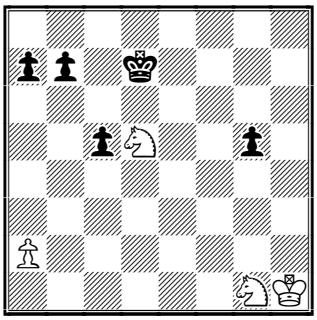
Rustemov gives up the exchange simplifying the position. After 33.♘d7 ♘h4 34.♖8f7+ ♔g8 35.♖f2 ♕d4 Black has annoying counterplay.

33...♔xf8 34.d6 ♕d4!

34...♕xa2 loses to 35.♖xc5+−; in case of 34...c4 the same 35.♖c5! follows and after 35...♕xf6 36.♖c8+ ♔f7 37.d7 there's no perpetual; and after 34...b6 35.d7 ♔e7 36.♖d5 ♔d8 37.♖d6 ♕b5 (the only defence against Rc6−c8) 38.♖e6 ♔c7! 39.♖d6 *(39.♖e8? ♕c6+ 40.♔h2 ♕xf6)* 39...♔d8 40.♘h7 ♕xd7 41.♖xd7+ ♔xd7 42.♘xg5 an ending arises that may occur in the game.

35.♘f3

White is trying to avoid the line 35.d7 ♔e7 36.♖d5 ♕xd5+ 37.♘xd5+ ♔xd7 **(D)**



in which he has to play carefully to keep his last pawn on the board. I tend to think this position is winning for White, but if someone can prove the opposite I wouldn't be surprised.

35...♕d1+ 36.♘g1

36.♔g2?? ♕c2+

36...c4?

The fatal mistake. After 36...♕d4 White should have played that ending 2N+P vs 4P

37.♖d5 ♕xd5+ 38.♘xd5

The problem is Black is unable to gain the d6−pawn!

38...♔f7?!

38...♔e8 39.♘f6+ ♔f7 40.d7 ♔e7 41.♘e2+−

39.♘c7?!

In a time−trouble White misses 39.d7 with promotion.

39...c3 40.♘e2 c2

The knight stops his opponent's pawns on the queenside and the White king's march decides. Black resigned. **1−0.**

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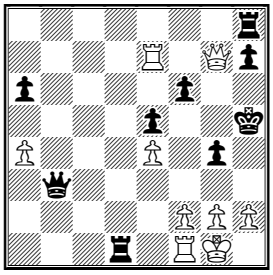
Today I would like to deviate from our usual standards. So, instead of coverage of latest tournaments and annotated games (to which we will come back tomorrow!), you will have some light reading today. Let us start with two tactical positions, which are also available in *Training Mode* in our database.

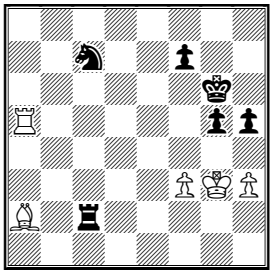
Quiz Today

N. Gaprindashvili – S. Veroci
Belgrade, 1974



White to play

Tavernier – Grodner, 1952



White to play
Black has just played ... ♕g7-g6, which looks like a blunder... Can you see what's wrong with 1.♗b1?

CT-1000 Promotional Drive

We are getting close to our issue No. 1000 and as numerous e-mails from our readers show, most of you are happy with the quality of *Chess Today*. We listen to your opinions and occasional criticism and hope to make the paper even better. At the moment we have over 40 Grandmasters (including Shirov, Gelfand, Radjabov and many other top players) among our readers. Recently I asked them about their opinions of *Chess Today* and here are some of the answers:

"Every evening I am looking forward to read Chess Today. This electronic paper is my main source for the latest chess news." – Gregory Kaidanov (USA).

"Chess Today offers reliable and up-to-date coverage of the main events which is of good use for me as a Chess Journalist." – Harry Schüssler (Sweden).

"I find your magazine not only very interesting, but also innovative, and for me it is a basic source of knowledge on what's going on in the chess world." – Jacek Gdanski (Poland).

"Chess Today is the most stable and quick source of information." – Boris Gelfand (Israel).

As we fast approach CT-1000, I would like to announce a ***special promotional drive***. As you know, we allow and indeed encourage readers to forward CT issues to their chess friends on occasional none-commercial basis. Most people have dozens of chess-related e-mail addresses in their address books. This is where you can help *Chess Today*: forward 1-2 CT issues to chess contacts, so they can see our product. And ask them to mention your name in the subscription form, should you wish to subscribe. You will receive additional one month of subscription for every referral! Moreover, ***three persons*** who will get the most referrals points (one point for every months of the new subscription) before CT-1001 is out, will get the following ***special prizes***:

1st prize – €150 voucher for GM Square online shop;
2nd prize – €100 voucher;
3rd prize – a signed copy of *Winning Pawn Structures* and an additional annual CT subscription.

I reckon that less than 5% of the chess-playing public on the Internet has ever heard about *Chess Today*. Participating in our promotional drive you can help us to reach some of those people, who too might benefit from *Chess Today* and enjoy our paper. Forward CT to your friends, bring it to your club and mention it on ICC and other playing servers – there are many ways in which you can help!

Online Chess Auction

The first part of the online chess auction finished last night at the GM Square auction site. You can see the results here. There was fierce bidding on several lots and some prices went high. This is normal when two or more collectors are after a desirable lot. Online auctions provide them not only with source of materials, but also with certain thrills. However, one does not always have to spend a lot of money to pick quality books, as you can see with some lots.

Book Review
by Sam Collins

How to Build Your Chess Opening Repertoire (Gambit, 143 pages, R.R.P. ♕13.99) by FM Steve Giddins is a book I've been awaiting for a while. There seemed to be a massive hole in the market where, despite innumerable books on specific openings, no-one dealt with the more practical concerns of how to select one's openings, or how to work on them once selected.

And there's certainly much about this book which deserves praise. It's easy to read and contains a lot of pithy wisdom. The author deals in systematic and concise fashion with all the main concerns of selecting one's openings, including how many lines one should play, whether main lines are a better idea than side lines, how important 'style' is in the selection of an opening, the pros and cons of reversed openings, the influence of computers, the importance of move orders and the circumstances under which changing one's repertoire. He opens with a nice overview of opening play and ends with a light survey of various players' repertoires, with an emphasis on the type of opposition they face, the goals they entertain and consequently the suitability of their chosen systems.

Sounds good, no? Indeed, I know many players (assuming that these random babblings I call reviews actually influence anyone's purchases!) who will rush out and buy a copy based on the foregoing. I read it cover to cover in about five hours, and writing a chess book capable of being read in its entirety in one sitting is quite a feat.

But I need to express a tone of doubt with this book. The problem is that I don't think I learned one new concept while reading it. Most of the examples are well known and several have been well covered by other authors, Nunn and Yermolinsky for instance. And while the book seeks to be comprehensive on the selection of openings themselves, I feel that more could have been written on how to master these lines once we've picked them. Should we buy encyclopaedic reference works or user-friendly collections of lightly annotated games? An interesting question, and one which has been lightly discussed by various GMs, but I couldn't find an answer here. There was a lot of scope to explore this area in greater depth. For instance, IM Mark Quinn recently told me about a method he was using to study openings, involving extremely deep analysis of four or five key games; a very interesting approach which could prove beneficial for many

players, particularly given Kramnik's comment that he has devoted an increasing amount of time to analysis in recent years (considering that this has coincided with a world title and a jump over 2800, chess-players should probably pay attention to such offhand remarks!). Okay, Giddins can't be expected to be fully familiar with Mark's training techniques, and the fact that he doesn't eavesdrop on all of my conversations with top Irish players is probably a good thing. But in *Secrets of Practical Chess*, a book to which reference is frequently made (sometimes un-attributed, such as the Chigorin example on page 54 which is reproduced pretty much verbatim from Nunn's book; incidentally, the author doesn't supply a bibliography, which makes it hard to judge what his sources are for individual points) and which clearly exercises an influence over many of the points made, Nunn suggests an interesting training technique involving searching *Chess Base* for the fifty highest rated games played in similar structures to your chosen opening, and playing through them quickly to become familiar with typical patterns. This is a fantastic idea, and I've no idea why it was omitted here.

Giddins states that our study should be based on well-annotated GM games in the given opening. But where should we find these games? The broken English of *Chess Base*? The languageless analysis of *Informator*? Or should we save up stacks of chess magazines and cut and paste the key games in our chosen lines?

I feel this approach is slightly naive considering the target audience. If club players can't be bothered to read through a whole opening book, they definitely can't be bothered to write such a book for themselves! Under this point, I'd also like to mention Sadler's three point plan for mastering openings (faithfully reproduced in this book), which doesn't say anything about memorising variations but mentions 'Understanding Move Orders'. While this can be very useful (and a breath of fresh air to have such a plan pointed out by a 2650+, excellently-prepared GM), I have to point out that it can be grossly misleading. When club players think of move orders, they probably have in mind something within the first ten moves of the game. But if you play a sharp theoretical line (such as the black side of the 6.Bg5 Najdorf, as Sadler himself successfully did), then move orders extend for up to 20 moves. Some moves in sharp openings are too difficult or time consuming to work out over the board - whether you call them variations or move orders doesn't really matter, but it's clear that in some lines memorisation is essential. Either term merely describes the moves you need to know in order to reach your desired position (normally when theory ends or when the position stabilises), but (in the Botvinnik Semi-Slav, for instance) sometimes such desired positions can arise around move 30!

The main criterion on which a chess book should be judged is how much one can learn from it. I know that many people struggle to find the time to read such books, and when they do they want the process to be as painless as possible. But I think we have to look at the end result, at how many potential losses are being averted by our increased knowledge. This is where the real pleasure in chess lies, in the process of playing well and gaining competitive success, and if a book can't help us achieve these aims I don't think we should buy it. As I've mentioned, I don't think this book is conducive to playing chess better. Of course, it isn't meant to immediately boost one's rating, in that it merely proposes a structure for working on one's game rather than dispensing knowledge directly applicable over the board, but even in this aim I don't think it has enough surprising material. Most players know most of the stuff in this book, and it took a well-written book like this to demonstrate why no-one has written

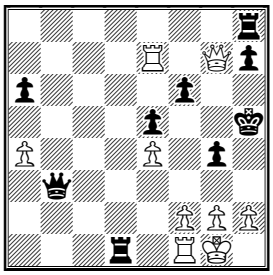
a book in this field before! It's because a lot of the knowledge is common sense, and the advances in the field are being incrementally, through articles and sub-sections in books (Nunn, Yermolinsky, Aagaard, Davies, Mednis, King & Duncan etc., to name but a few, all have interesting stuff to say on the topic), and perhaps this is a preferable approach. Not only does *Secrets of Practical Chess* have a very brief section on openings which is absolutely sensational and, in the space of a few pages, probably contains as much insight as Giddins' whole book, but this is also contained within the context of a book discussing concepts which are applicable OTB, things which players need to know. That's a book I can wholeheartedly recommend to anyone, because I'm confident it will make them a better player; I'm not able to say the same about this.

This has been my longest review ever. Sorry about that. But I really wanted to justify giving a relatively low mark to a book which, while well written, for some reason just doesn't hit the mark, in my opinion. I'm sure some people will like this book; I'm afraid I just can't recommend it.

MY ASSESSMENT: * * *

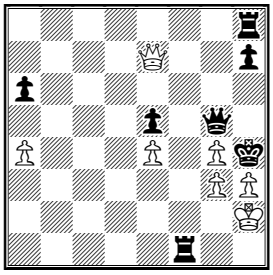
Solutions to our tactical tests:

N. Gaprindashvili – S. Veroci
Belgrade, 1974

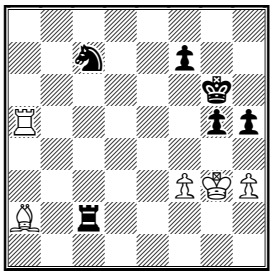


36.h3!
36.♕f7+?=
36...♖xf1+ 37.♔h2 g3+
Also bad for Black is 37...♖h1+ 38.♔xh1 ♕b1+ 39.♔h2 ♕xe4 40.♕xf6 ♕f4+ 41.♕xf4 exf4 42.♖e5+ ♔g6 43.hxg4.

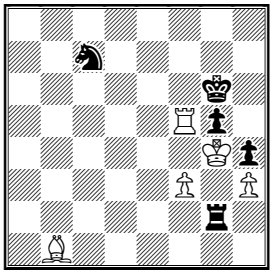
38.fxg3 ♕e3
Here White backed off and forced a draw:
39.♕f7+? ♔h6 40.♕g7+ ½–½
Yet, White had a pretty win:
39.♖xe5+!!
fxe5 40.g4+ ♔h4 41.♕e7+ ♕g5 42.g3#



Tavernier – Grodner, 1952



1.♘b1??
White fell for the trap. Best was 1.♘xf7+ ♔xf7 2.♖xg5, getting the last Black pawn.
1...h4+ 2.♔g4 f5+! 3.♖xf5 ♖g2#



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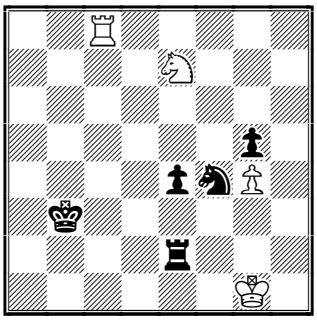
CT-97(881) 6th April 2003

Quiz Today

D. Campora – A. Dreev
XII It I Dos Hermanas ESP (9), 05.04.2003



Black to play

Tournament News

The XII Dos Hermanas has ended. Defending a difficult position against Epishin, **Alexander Rustemov**, wins first place. Dreev wanted to catch up with Alexander so badly he tormented and tormented Campora in a drawn endgame. And he succeed in scoring the full point! As a result Alexey occupied first together with Alexander. Khalifman (with Black against Illeskas) and Vallejo (with White against Shirov) didn't gain serious chances for winning and thus shared the 3-4 place, a half point behind the winners. Shirov lost his chances for first place the day before by losing to Campora with the white pieces. Serious fighting flamed up for last place – nobody wished to take to it of his own free will. In the end Tiviakov was left in role of the unlucky fellow by losing a dramatic game to Karjakin.

Final Standings:
1-2. Alexander Rustemov (RUS) (2604), Alexey Dreev (RUS 2690) – 6.0
3-4. Alexander Khalifman (RUS) 2702 Francisco Vallejo Pons (ESP) 2629 – 5½
5-6. Vladimir Epishin (RUS) 2626, Alexei Shirov (ESP) 2723 – 5.0
7. Sergey Karjakin (UKR) 2547 – 3½
8-9. Miguel Illescas Cordoba (ESP) 2595, H. Daniel Campora (ARG) 2505 – 3.0
10. Sergei Tiviakov (NED) 2635 – 2½

The 29th National Chess Championships of Bangladesh

Round 10 Standings:
1. Bin-Sattar Reefat (2451) – 7½/9
2. Niaz Murshed (2435) – 7.0/9
3. Al-Rakib Abdulla (2405) – 6/½9
4. Enamul Hossain (2451) – 6½/9
5. Sk. Nasir Ahmed (2309) – 5½ /10
6. Pollab Sawkat Hossain, (2217) – 5½/ 10
7. Mehdi Hasan (2211) 4½/10
8. Taibur Rahman (2300) 4.0/9
9. S. Manfuzur Rahman (2182) 4.0/9
10. Kh. Aminul Islam (2271) 2½/9
11. Md. Monjur Alam (2133) 2½/9
12. Javed Mohammad (2100) 2½/9
13. Rezaul Haque (2148) 1½/9

SIS-MH Masters **Denmark**

Final Standings:
1. Viswanathan Anand (IND) 2753 – 5½
2-3 Peter Heine Nielsen (DEN) 2620, Curt Hansen (DEN) 2610 – 3.0
4. Jonny Hector (SWE) 2570 – ½

The Gausdal Classics are being played at Gausdal Høifjellshotell in Norway 3rd – 11th April 2003. The tournament has 3 closed groups, each with 12 players. The GM event players are: 1. Alexei Lugovoi RUS GM 2563 2. Nick de Firmian USA GM 2536 3. Emanuel Berg SWE IM 2514 4. Heikki Kallio FIN GM 2470 5. Mark Bluvshtein CAN IM 2451 6. Kjetil A. Lie NOR IM 2430 7. Stefan Kristjansson ISL IM 2406 8. Elisabeth Pähtz GER WGM 2384 9. Heikki Westerinen FIN GM 2360 10. Colm Daly IRL FM 2353 11. Torsten Sarbok GER FM 2325 12. Magnus Carlsen NOR FM 2315

This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov ; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

The 110th Scottish Chess Championships take place at George Heriot's School in Lauriston Place Edinburgh April 5th–13th 2003. The event is an 18 player Swiss. Paul Motwani, Colin McNab, Ketevan Arakhamia–Grant, Mark Orr and IM Craig Pritchett are participating.

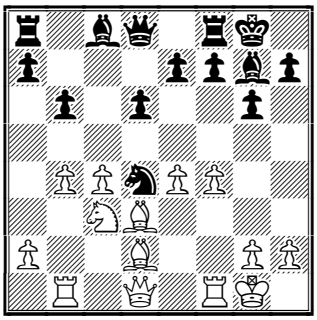
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **S. Karjakin (2547)**
■ **S. Tiviakov (2635)**
Event: *XII It I Dos Hermanas ESP (9), 05.04.2003*
Sicilian Defence/Morczy Bind – **[B37]**

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 d6 7.♘c2 ♗g7 8.♗e2 ♘d7 9.0–0 ♘c5 10.♗d2 0–0 11.b4 ♘e6 12.♖b1 ♘cd4 13.♘xd4 ♘xd4 14.♗d3 b6 15.f4N (D)



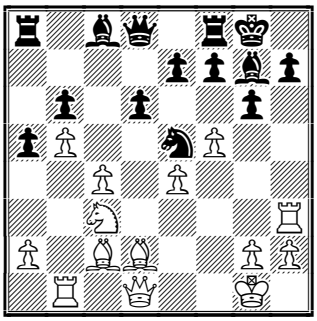
White is in the mood to fight! 15.♘e2 ♘xe2+ 16.♕xe2 ♗e6 17.♗e3 ♕d7 1/2–1/2 Illescas Cordoba,M–Hjartarson,J/Barcelona 1989/CBM 12 (17)

15...a5
The beginning of "black–square" strategy – Tiviakov is providing the supporting points for his knight.

16.b5 ♘e6 17.f5 ♘c5 18.♗c2 ♘d7
The plan chosen by Black has it's own defects – the knight is moving too many times, and moreover one knight isn't enough to occupy squares c5, e5 and d4! It's necessary to choose.

19.♖f3
with the idea of moving the rook to h3 trying to create mate threats.

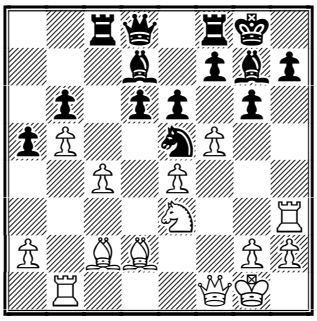
19...♘e5 20.♖h3 (D)



20...e6!
Timely counterplay in the centre is the best reply to a flank attack.

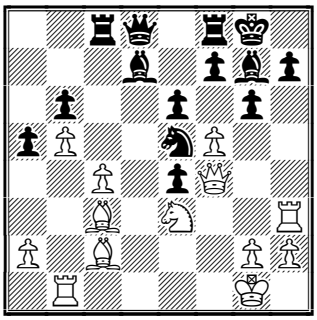
21.♕f1 ♗d7
Another interesting plan for Black is 21...♘g4 22.♔h1 ♗d4! 23.♘d1 ♕f6 with a complicated fight.

22.♘d1 ♖c8 23.♘e3 (D)



23...d5! 24.♗c3?!
Black appeared more ready for opening play then White. I think, the lesser of evils for White was 24.exd5 exd5 25.♗c3 ♘xc4 26.♗xg7 ♘xe3! 27.♖xe3 ♔xg7 28.♕f2 and the activity of White's pieces compensate for the pawn minus.

24...dxe4! 25.♕f4 (D)



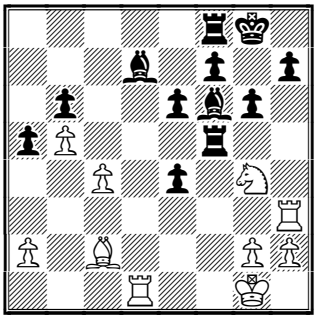
25...♖c5
To punish White for the excessively heated game – possible was 25...exf5! 26.♗xe5! g5 27.♕f1 (Attempts to play beautiful is refuted by: *27.♕g3 f4 28.♕f3!? ♗xh3 29.♕xh3 ♕d2!–+;* or *27.♖g3 f6!–+)* 27...♗xe5 28.♘xf5 ♖xc4!

29.♘h6+ ♔g7 30.♕xc4 ♗xh3 31.♖d1! ♕c7 32.♕xe4 ♕c5+! 33.♔h1 f5 with good chances for winning.

26.♗xe5 ♖xe5 27.f6!?

A decision of principle and the right decision! A boring alternative was 27.♘g4 ♖xf5 28.♘h6+ ♔h8 29.♕xe4 ♗xh6 30.♖xh6 ♕g5 31.♕h4 ♕xh4 32.♖xh4 and, in spite of White being a pawn down, he has good chances for the draw, He has occupied the open d-file and can attack the weakness on b6.

27...♕xf6 28.♕xf6 ♗xf6 29.♘g4 ♖f5 30.♖d1! (D)



(it's important to capture an open file)

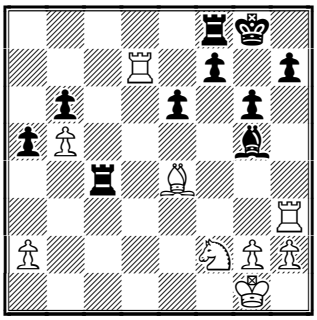
30...♗g5?!

After 30...♗c8 31.♗xe4 ♗e7 32.♗xf5 exf5 two bishops are about equal to knight and rook.

31.♖xd7 ♖c5 32.♗xe4?!

The position is much more clear after 32.♘e3! - and only White can count on winning.

32...♖xc4 33.♘f2 (D)



There is complicated endgame on the board, and chances for both players is almost equal.

33...♖a4

33...♖d8! 34.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 35.♖d3 ♗e7=

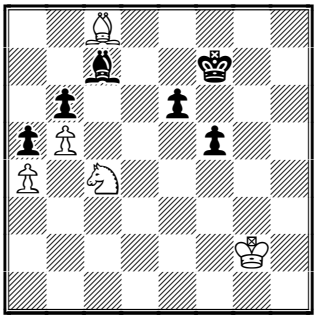
34.a3 ♖d8 35.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 36.♗c2 ♖c4 37.♗b3 ♖c1+ 38.♘d1 ♗e7 39.a4 ♗c5+ 40.♔f1 ♗d6 41.♖d3 ♗e5 42.h3 ♔f8 43.♔e2 ♔e7 44.♖f3 h5 45.♔d2 ♖c7 46.♘c3 ♖d7+ 47.♖d3 ♖xd3+ 48.♔xd3

After the exchange of rooks the game has two possible results - Black can't win now, But he shouldn't lose either.

48...♗d6 49.♘e4 ♗e5 50.♔e2 ♗c7 51.♔f3 ♗e5 52.♘f2 ♗d4 53.♘d3 ♔f6 54.h4 ♔e7 55.g4 hxg4+ 56.♔xg4 ♔f6 57.h5 gxh5+ 58.♔xh5 ♔g7

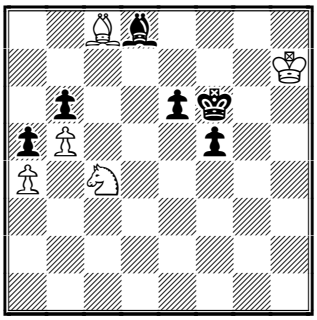
Simpler was to activate the king: 58...♔f5 59.♗c2 ♔e4=

59.♔g5 ♗e3+ 60.♔g4 ♗d4 61.♔f4 ♔f6 62.♗d1 ♗g1 63.♗h5 ♗h2+ 64.♔f3 ♗c7 65.♘b2 ♔e7 66.♘c4 f5 67.♔e3 ♔f6 68.♗e8 ♗h2 69.♔f2 ♗c7 70.♗d7 ♔e7 71.♗c8 ♔f6 72.♔g2 ♔f7 (D)



It seems, that all chances for continuing the game have been exhausted, but Karjakin doesn't think so - his king is gaining ground confidently!

73.♔h3 ♔f6 74.♗d7 ♗d8 75.♗c8 ♗c7 76.♔h4 ♗d8 77.♔h5 ♗c7 78.♔h6 ♗d8 79.♔h7 (D)



White king is advancing by the edge (the h-file), and now is threatening to go around the Black king via 8th rank - just for this manoeuvre, White has exchanged all his pawns on the king side!

79...♔f7 80.♘e5+ ♔f6 81.♘c6 ♗c7 82.♘d4 ♗e5 83.♘xe6 f4 84.♘f8 ♗c7?!

The best chance was in 84...♔g5! 85.♗h3 f3 86.♔g8 ♔h4 87.♗f1 ♔g3 88.♔f7 ♔f2 89.♗c4 ♔e3! 90.♔e6 ♔d4 91.♗f1 ♗h2 92.♘d7 ♗c7± Whether there is winning chances for White or not – it's a question demanding serious analysis. I don't know.]

85.♗g4!+–

Stopping the advance of the f-pawn. White has also gained an opportunity to defend the a-pawn , by putting the bishop on d1 – his position is winning. The rest is technique not difficult to understand.

85...♔e5 86.♘g6+ ♔d4 87.♘h4 ♗d8 88.♘f3+ ♔c3 89.♘g1 ♗e7 90.♘h3 ♔b4 91.♗d1 f3 92.♘f2 ♗h4 93.♘g4 f2 94.♘h2 ♗e7 95.♘f1 ♗c5 96.♔g6 ♔c3 97.♔f5 ♔d3 98.♔g4 ♗d6 99.♔f3 ♗c5 100.♔g2 ♗d4 101.♗h5 ♔c2 102.♘g3 ♔b3 103.♗d1+ ♔c3 104.♔f1 ♔d2 105.♗h5 ♔e3 106.♘h1 ♔d2 107.♘xf2 ♔e3 108.♘h3 ♔d2 109.♗f3 ♔e3 110.♔g2 ♗e5 111.♗h5 ♗d6 112.♘g5 ♗e7 113.♘f7 1-0.

Solution to Quiz Today:
D. Campora – A. Dreev
XII It I Dos Hermanas ESP (9), 05.04.2003

88...e3-+ 89.♘f5 ♖g2+ 90.♔h1 e2 91.♘d4+ ♔b4 92.♘c2+ ♔b3 93.♘d4+ ♔b4 94.♘c2+ ♔b5 95.♘d4+ ♔b6 96.♖c1 ♖f2 97.♔g1 ♘h3+ 0-1.

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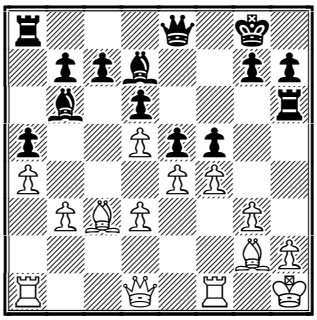
C. Hansen – V. Anand
SIS-MH Masters Middelfart DEN (5), 06.04.2003



Black to play

Tournament News

Anatoly Karpov is a playing an 8-game rapid chess match against Bartlomiej Macieja in Warsaw, Poland 7th-10th April 2003. The first two games of the match were won by Karpov.

After Round 11 of the The 29th National Chess Championships of Bangladesh Bin-Sattar Reefat is in clear first with 8½ out of 10. Niaz Murshed has 8 points and is in second place. Al-Rakib Abdulla is in third place with 7½ out of 10.

The Asian Team Chess Championships is taking place in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) India April 7th-17th 2003. The strongest men and women teams are participating in this event – Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazhakistan, Kyrgis Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Turkmenistan and Vietnam.

After 6 Rounds of the Gusdal Classics GM Nick de Firmian is in first place with 4½ points. IM Kjetil A. Lie has 4 points and GM Heikki Westerinen is in third place with 3½ out of 6.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

☐ **V. Anand (2753)**
■ **P. Nielsen (2620)**
Event: *SIS-MH Masters Middelfart DEN (6), 06.04.2003*
Caro-Kann Defence – [B17]
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

The SIS-MH Masters tournament in which GM Anand participated in and won came to an end recently. His opponents were not weak grandmasters at all, but the difference in play between them and Anand was enormous. Apparently, the difference was due to them being nervous about facing the famous chess player.

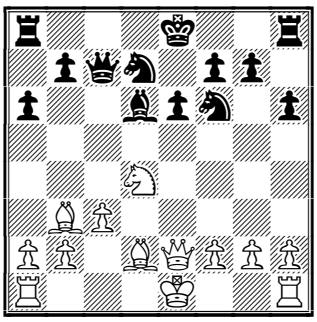
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘g5 ♘gf6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♕e2 ♘b6 8.♗b3 h6 9.♘5f3 c5 10.c3 ♕c7 11.♗d2 a6N

11...♗d6 12.♘e5 ♗d7 13.♘gf3 0–0 14.0–0 cxd4 15.cxd4 ♗a4 16.♖ac1 ♕e7 17.♗xa4 ♘xa4 18.♘c4 ♖ac8 19.♘fe5 ♘b6 20.b3 ♘bd5 21.♕f3 ♗b4 22.♗xb4 ♕xb4 23.♖cd1 a5 24.a3 ♕e7 25.♖d3 b5 26.♘e3 b4 27.a4 ♖c3 28.♘3c4 ♕c7 29.h4 ♖c8 30.♖e1 ♘h7 31.g4 ♘f8 32.g5 hxg5 33.hxg5 ♕e7 ½–½ Polgar,J-Karpov,A/Alma-Ata 1995/EXT 2000 (33)

12.♘e5 ♗d7 13.♘gf3 cxd4 14.♘xd4 ♗d6 15.♘xd7

15.f4 looks more principled (and more binding at the same time!).

15...♘bxd7 (D)



16.♘f5

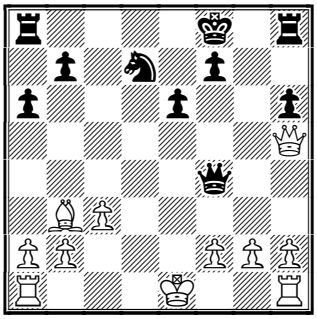
After the sacrifice 16.♗xe6!? fxe6 (Black probably had better resign himself to losing the pawn after

16...0–0 17.♗xd7 ♕xd7) 17.♘xe6 ♕b6 18.♘xg7+ *(18.♘c7+ ♔f7 19.♕e6+ ♔g6 20.♘xa8 ♖xa8)* 18...♔f7 19.♘f5 White has three pawns for a piece and Black's king is insecure.

16...♗f4!?

This is a very interesting attempt at counter play related to the exchange sacrifice. Fairly better is 16...0–0 17.♘xd6 ♕xd6 – it is not easy to prove the advantage of two the bishops over two knights.

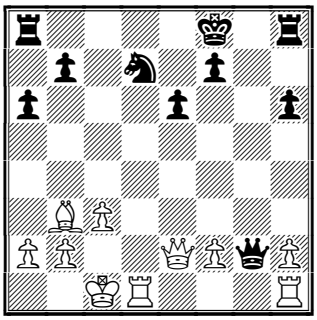
17.♗xf4 ♕xf4 18.♘xg7+ ♔f8 19.♘h5 ♘xh5 20.♕xh5 (D)



20...♕e4+?!

Black hurries to restore material balance. [Much better is 20...♖g8 21.0–0 ♖c8 activating the rook, Black has some compensation for the pawn.

21.♕e2 ♕xg2 22.0–0–0± (D)



And this position is almost hopeless, White has a strong attack and there is no counter play.

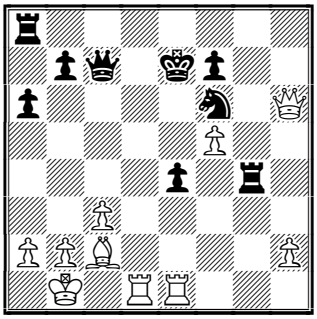
22...♕g5+ 23.♔b1 ♘f6 24.f4! ♕c5 25.♕f3 ♕c7 26.♕e3

Also possible is the immediate 26.f5! e5 27.♕g3±

26...♖g8?

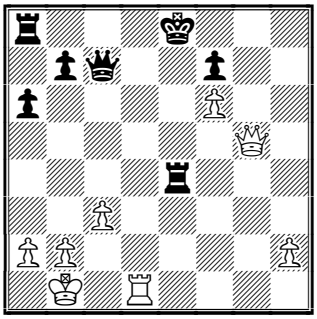
Taking the protection off of the h6–pawn at the very moment White aimed at it. Seemingly, Black was short of time. 26...a5±

27.f5+– e5 28.♕xh6+ ♔e7 29.♖he1 e4 30.♗c2 ♖g4 (D)



And now – a striking final blow:

31.♗xe4! ♘xe4 32.♖xe4+! ♖xe4 33.♕g5+ ♔e8 34.f6 (D)



Despite the extra rook, Black is defenceless against the coming checkmate. **1–0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:
C. Hansen – V. Anand

18...♕g6!–+ 19.fxe5 This looks like a misscalculation, but actually White does not have protection any more: [19.♕e1 fxe4 20.♗xe4 ♖xh2+! 21.♔xh2 ♕h5+ 22.♔g2 ♕h3+ 23.♔f3 ♗g4#]

19...♕xg3 0–1.

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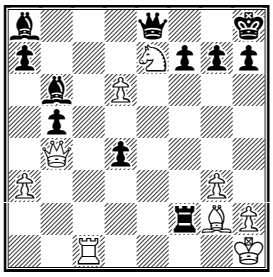
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-99(883) 9th April 2003

Quiz Today

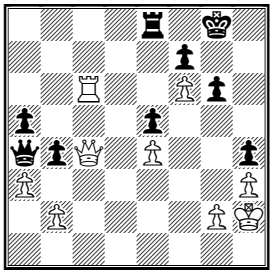
1. Peng Zhaoqin – E. Berg
Bundesliga 2002-3 Bremen GER (14), 29.03.2003

White played 35.♖c8?? and was checkmated with 35...♖f1#; 35.♗xa8? loses as well after 35...♕xa8+ 36.♘c6 ♖f1+! But White can win the game by playing yet a different 35th move. How?



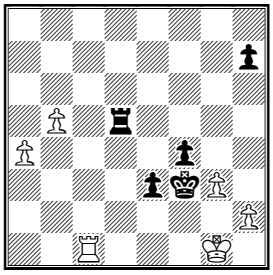
White to move and win

2. N. De Firmian – L. Van Beek
Bundesliga 2002-3 Bremen GER (15), 30.03.2003



White to move

3. E. Berg – L. McShane
Bundesliga 2002-3 Bremen GER (15), 30.03.2003



Black to play

Tournament News

Karpov – Macieja rapid match in Warsaw.

The second day saw the first win for the European Champion. Karpov had achieved a clearly better position in the 3rd game but suddenly blundered and resigned. In the 4th game however Macieja failed once more with White losing an opposite colour bishop ending that at first sight was drawn. Karpov leads the match 3:1. Today's annotated game features the 2nd encounter with a nice tactical idea from Karpov.

The 110th Scottish Championship 2003 has started in Edinburgh. After 3 rounds the lead is shared by Paul Motwani, Mark Fraser, Graeme Kafka and Mrs. Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant; all scoring 2½ points.

The Gausdal Classics

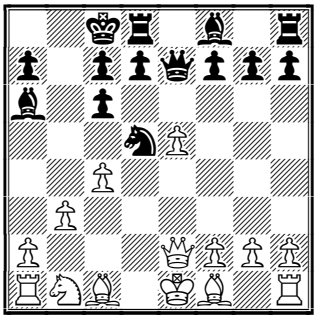
The American GM Nick De Firmian has won 4 games in a row and leads with 5½ points after 7 rounds. The *Scandinavian trio* – Heikki Westerinen of Finland, Emanuel Berg of Sweden and Kjetil Lie of Norway are far behind sharing second place with 4 points each.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

☐ **B. Macieja (2634)**
■ **A. Karpov (2686)**
Event: *PlusGSM Rapid Match Warsaw POL (2), 07.04.2003*
Scotch Game [C45]
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘xc6 bxc6 6.e5 ♕e7 7.♕e2 ♘d5 8.c4 ♗a6 9.b3 0-0-0 (D)



This position was first played in Blackburne – Zuckertort, London 1881! Black's light-squared bishop is running the risk of being locked behind the a2-b3-c4 fence and the centralised knight d5 may soon feel uneasy after the white queen's retreat. That's why creating counterplay is a matter of great urgency for Black.

10.g3 g5

A rare move in this position. Usually Black plays it right after 9.b3. The idea is the same – to prepare the dark-squared bishop's development preventing the f2-f4 advance at the same time. [The common options are 10...f6 Ponomariov – Jenni (Losanne 2000), Macieja – Iuldashev (Hyderabad 2002); and 10...♖e8 11.♗b2 f6 Kasparov – Karpov (New York/ Lyon 1990)

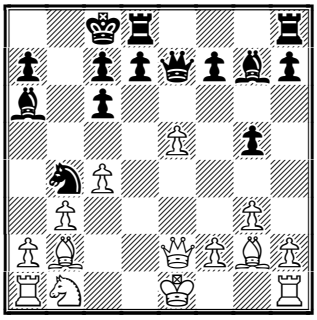
11.♗a3?

Karpov proves that this a mistake. By means of 11.♗g2 ♗g7 12.♗b2 ♖de8 13.0–0 ♗xe5! 14.♕xe5 ♕xe5 15.♗xe5 ♖xe5 16.cxd5 ♗xf1 17.♔xf1 cxd5 18.♘c3 c6 White could transpose the game into a well-known ending which is about equal.

11...♘b4! 12.♗b2

The bishop should retreat as 12.♗g2 is met by 12...♘c2+! 13.♕xc2 ♕xe5+ 14.♔d1 ♗xa3!–+ *(14...♕xa1? 15.♗b2).*

12...♗g7 13.♗g2?! (D)



13.♕e4 doesn't look good in view of 13...♗b7; after 13.a3 the same blow as in the game would have followed; 13.h4 was the better attempt trying to get some chances on the kingside in advance.

13...♘d3+!!

Probably Macieja calculated only 13...♗xe5 **A)** 14.♗xe5?! ♘d3+ *(or 14...♕xe5)* ; **B)** 14.0–0 14...♖he8 15.♘c3 with compensation for the pawn.

14.♕xd3 ♗xe5 15.♗xe5

It seems that after 15.♕e3 the bishop is pinned but Black plays 15...♗xb2! 16.♕xe7 ♖he8 and it is White's queen which is pinned and moreover the rook is trapped! In case of 17.♕e3!? ♖xe3+ 18.fxe3 ♗xa1 19.♖f1 f6 White could offer some resistance but the assessment is not in doubt.

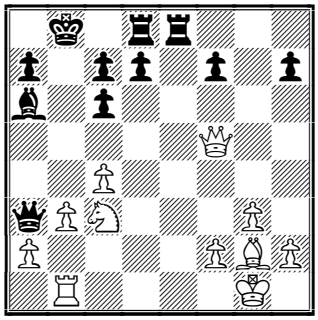
15...♕xe5+ 16.♕e3 ♕xa1

White has no time to capture on a7.

17.0–0

17.♕xa7 ♕xb1+ 18.♔d2 ♕b2+ 19.♔d1 ♗b7

17...♔b8∓ 18.♘c3 ♕b2 19.♖b1 ♕a3 20.♕xg5 ♖he8 21.♕f5 (D)



White is attacking the separated pawns on the kingside but Karpov brings the queen back into the game and preserves the advantage.

21...♕d6! 22.♖d1

22.♕xf7 ♕d2 23.♕f3 *(23.♘e4 ♕c2 24.♖e1 d5–+)* 23...♖e1+ 24.♖xe1 ♕xe1+ 25.♗f1 ♗b7∓

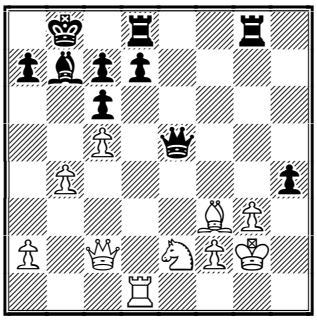
22...♕e5! 23.♕c2

Karpov wasn't worry about the loss of a pawn in the line 23.♕xe5 ♖xe5 24.♗xc6 ♔c8 because all of Black's pieces become active and he should gain the full point with the exchange up.

23...f5 24.♗f3 ♗b7 25.b4 f4

Black grabs the initiative. The rest is

easy.
26.c5 h5 27.♘e2 fxg3 28.hxg3 h4! 29.♔g2 ♖g8 (D)



30.♖d4?! hxg3 31.fxg3 ♖xg3+! 32.♘xg3 ♕xd4 33.♔b3 ♗a6 34.b5 0-1.

Solution to Quiz Today:
1 Peng Zhaoqin - E. Berg
35.♕xb5!!

2. N. De Firmian - L. Van Beek
37.b3! ♕xa3 38.♖c8 1-0.

3. E. Berg - L. McShane
44...e2! 45.♖c3+ ♖d3!! 46.♖xd3+ ♔e4 47.♖b3 [47.♔f2 ♔xd3 48.♔e1 f3 49.b6 ♔e3 50.b7 f2#] **47...e1♕+ 48.♔g2 ♕e2+ 49.♔h3 ♕h5+ 50.♔g2 f3+ 0-1.**

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Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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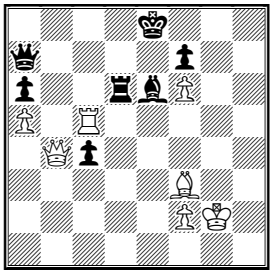
CT-100(884) 10th April 2003

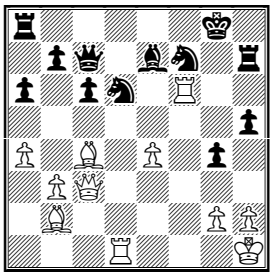
Quiz Today

Daly (2340) – Bluvshtein (2451)
Gausdal Classics 2003



White to play

Westerinen (2380) – Lugovoi (2563)
Gausdal Classics 2003



White to play

After just 6 games of a possible 8, **Anatoly Karpov** has won his rapid match against European champion Bartlomiej Macieja. Karpov drew the 5th game and won the 6th (his young opponent overestimated his chances for victory in a queen ending) and gained 4½ points (vs. 1½). But this is a training match so the opponents will play all 8 games.

Website: http://www.zagraj.pl

The 110th Scottish Championships are in progress in Edinburgh. Graeme Kafka is leading with 3½ points out of 4. Motwani, Arakhamia and Pritchett have half a point less.

American GM **Nick de Firmian** has won his 5th game in a row in the Gausdal Classics (Norway)! Take a look at the standings after the 8th round:
1. de Firmian – 6½ points out of 8
2-4. Lie, Westerinen, Berg – 4 ½
5-8. Lugovoi, Kallio, Bluvshtein, Daly – 4 etc.

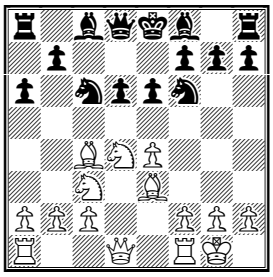
There will be 3 more rounds.

See also the annotated game section below.

Annotated Game

□ **N De Firmian (2530)**
■ **M Bluvshtein (2451)**
Event: Gausdal Classics GM (5), 06.04.2003 – B89
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗e3 a6 8.0-0

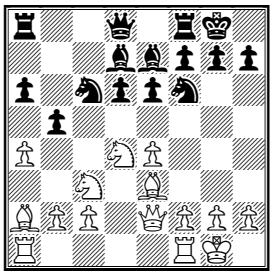


The Sozin-Fischer attack. CT-contributor GM Mikhail Golubev is a specialist in it and has written a book about this sharp line.

8...♗e7 9.a4 ♗d7 10.♗a2!?

A rare move, White invites his opponent to play outside the normal book lines.

10...0-0 11.♕e2 b5!?



The first step for very interesting complications.

12.axb5 ♘xd4

12...axb5? 13.♘dxb5±

13.♗xd4 axb5 14.♘xb5 ♖a4

Black tries to exploit the unusual

position of the a2 bishop and wants to pin it. I suspect he missed White's very nice 17th move. 14...e5 15.♗e3 ♕b8 *(15...♗xb5 16.♕xb5 ♘xe4 17.♗d5 ♖b8 18.♕c4±)* 16.♗c4 ♘xe4 17.♖xa8 ♕xa8 18.♖d1; 14...♘xe4!? 15.♕xe4 *(15.♗c4?! d5 16.♗d3 ♘c5)* 15...♗xb5 16.♖fe1 d5; 14...♗xb5 15.♕xb5 ♘xe4

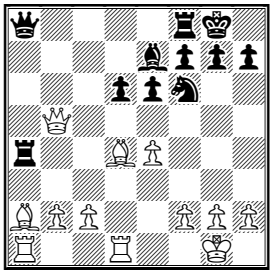
15.♖fd1

Much worse was 15.e5?! dxe5 *(15...♗xb5 16.♕xb5 ♖xd4 17.exf6 ♗xf6 18.c3 ♖d2 19.♖fd1 ♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1)* 16.♗e3 ♖b4∓

15...♗xb5

15...♕b8 16.♘c3 ♖xd4 17.♖xd4 ♕xb2 18.♕e1±

16.♕xb5 ♕a8



17.♕f1!

Here it is! Now the a2 bishop is untouchable: 17.♕b3? ♖b8–+

17...e5

17...♖xa2? 18.♖xa2 ♕xa2 19.♖a1+– and the a2 queen is trapped!

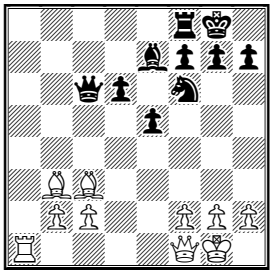
18.♗b3!

Of course White could predict this move also.

18...♖xa1

18...♖xd4?? 19.♖xa8

19.♖xa1 ♕xe4 20.♗c3 ♕c6



Now it's become clear that White has a clear advantage thanks to the bishop pair and passed pawns on the queenside. It's very difficult for Black to move his pawn center.

21.♖a6 ♕c7 22.♕a1!?

The White queen is very mobile in this game! White takes control over the a-file, and the rook begins to disturb his opponent's queen.

22...d5?!

Of course Black dreams about counterplay, but now the d5-e5 pawns become weak.

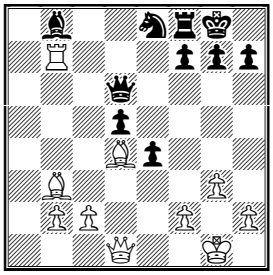
23.♖a7 ♕d6 24.♕e1! e4

24...d4? 25.♗xd4! ♕xd4 26.♖xe7 ♕xb2 27.♕xe5 ♕c1+ 28.♕e1+–

25.♕d1! ♗d8

25...♖d8 26.♗d4

26.♗d4 ♗c7 27.g3 ♗b8 28.♖b7 ♘e8



29.♕h5!?

Nick de Firmian uses the full 100-percent of his queen's capabilities! It was on queenside (b5), after that in the left corner (a1), then did a useful job on the first rank (e1, d1) and now it attacks from the other side.

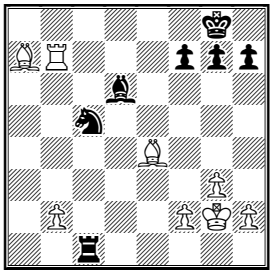
29...♘c7 30.♕e5 ♘e6 31.♕xd6

Bravo, queen, you played your role brilliantly!

31...♗xd6 32.♗a7 ♖c8

Black couldn't save his central pawns, for example: 32...d4 33.♗xe6 fxe6 34.♗xd4+–

33.♗xd5 ♖xc2 34.♗xe4 ♖c1+ 35.♔g2 ♘c5?!



After this White wins a second pawn.

36.♗xc5 ♖xc5 37.♖d7! ♗f8 38.♗d5+– g6 39.b3 ♖c2 40.♖xf7 ♖b2 41.h4 h5 42.♖c7+ ♔h8 43.♖c6 ♔g7 44.♗e4 ♖xb3 45.♖xg6+ ♔f7 46.♖g5 ♖b2 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today:

49.♖c8+! ♔d7 49...♗xc8 50.♕xd6 and Bc6+ **50.♖c6** 50.♖c6 ♖xc6 *(50...♕d4 51.♕b7+ ♔d8 52.♕e7#)* 51.♕e7+ ♔c8 52.♕xa7 **1-0**

34.♖dxd6! ♗xd6 34...♗xf6 35.♖xf6+- **35.♖xf7! ♕xf7** 35...♖xf7 36.♕g7# **36.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 37.♕f6+ ♔e8 38.♕e6+ ♖e7 39.♕g8+ ♔d7 40.♕xa8+- ♖xe4 41.♕xb7+ ♗c7 42.♗c3 1-0**

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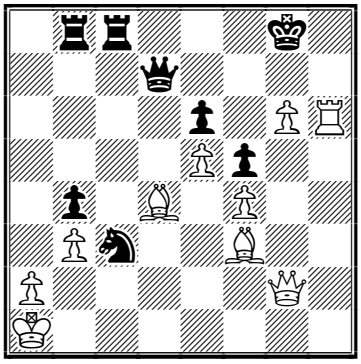
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-101(885) 11th April 2003

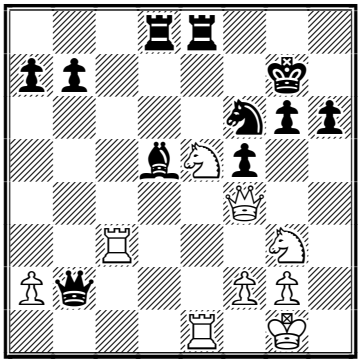
Quiz Today

Smirnov (2400) – Kovalev (2539)
Minsk 2003



Black to play

Kovalev (2539) – Novitzkij (2384)
Minsk 2003



White to play

The Karpov – Macieja rapid match has finished in Warsaw. The final score is 6:2. And Karpov won all his Black games!

The 110th Scottish Championship 2003
In the 5th round Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant beat the former leader Graeme Kafka. Now she is sharing first place with Paul Motwani. They both have scored 4 points. Kafka is half a point behind. 5 players have 3 points.

Bin-Sattar Reefat retains sole lead at The 29th National Chess Championships of Bangladesh He has scored 9½ points in 11 games. The second place is shared by Al-Rakib Abdulla and Niaz Murshed who have 8½.

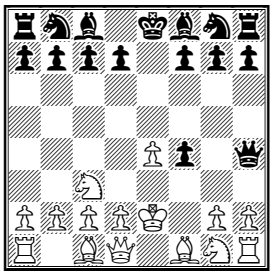
At The Gausdal Classics Nick De Firmian has ceased his fire. After 5 wins in a row he made two draws and before the final round has secured the victory scoring 7½ points out of 10. Alexey Lugovoi, Emanuel Berg and Kjetil Lie have only 5½. There's no obvious outsider in the tournament. The German young star Elizabeth Paehtz is among those who share the last place with 4 points as well as the Norwegian Magnus Carlsen who won two games at the start but then lost 4 times in a row.

The Asian Team Chess Championships in Jodhpur (India)
In the 3rd round of the Women's event India 'A' outplayed China (with Zhu Chen and Xu Yuhua) 2:1. Now India 'A' and Vietnam are half a point ahead of China.

China and Vietnam are in joint leadership in the Men's section.

Annotated Game

□ **B Macieja (2634)**
■ **A Karpov (2686)**
Event: PlusGSM Rapid Match Warsaw POL (8), 10.04.2003 C33
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**
1.e4 e5 2.f4
Again as in the 6th game Macieja plays the King's Gambit trying desperately to change the course of events.
2...exf4 3.♘c3!?
A provocative move. Karpov succumbs.
3...♕h4+ 4.♔e2



This is an ancient Steinitz idea. The

king remains in the centre trying to "protect himself". As compensation, White has a tempo as after Nf3, the queen will have to retreat.

4...c6

One of the main Black problems in the King's Gambit is to develop the queenside. Mainly people play here the immediate 4...d5 giving the pawn back but obtaining the comfortable squares g4 and d6 for the bishops. Karpov's unhurried move is almost a novelty.; the curious 4...♕e7!? was played in the game Bauer – Bacrot (Enghien les Bains 1999)

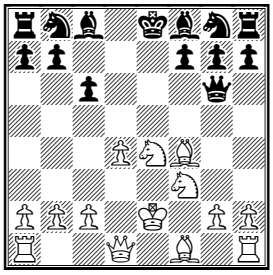
5.♘f3 ♕h5 6.d4 d5

Surely in the 19th century 6...g5 would have been played here. Maybe Karpov didn't like the riposte 7.g4!? ♕g6 *(7...fxg3 8.♗xg5 d5 9.♗g2∞; 7...♕xg4?! 8.♖g1)* 8.♖g1 with unclear play.

7.♗xf4

In case of 7.exd5 Karpov was going to reply 7...♗d6 followed by Nf6, 0–0 and so on.; after 7.e5 the situation is favourable after 7...g5 and White has no compensation for a pawn.

7...dxe4 8.♘xe4 ♕g6



9.♔e3!

Macieja's got nothing to lose in this game. But this move is objectively good. The king protects the knight and prepares the light-squared bishop development. Ne5 may become an unpleasant threat.

9...♘h6

An original decision but maybe the simple 9...♘f6 was more to the point.

10.♗xh6

After 10.♘e5! ♘g4+ 11.♕xg4! ♕xg4 *(11...♗xg4 12.♘xg6 hxg6 13.♗c4)* 12.♘xg4 ♗xg4 13.h3 White obtains an advantage in the ending thanks to the initiative and better location of his pieces.

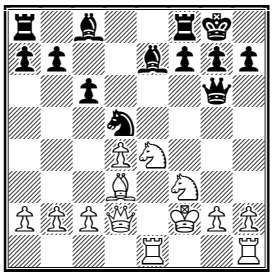
10..♕xh6+ 11.♔f2 ♗e7 12.♗c4 0-0

Black has completed development successfully. Now he's out of danger.

13.♕c1 ♕g6! 14.♕f4 ♘d7 15.♖ae1 ♘b6 16.♗d3

16.♗b3 is an option but Black's position here is firm as well.

16...♘d5 17.♕d2



17...♗f5

17...♘b4!?

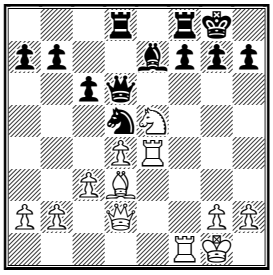
18.♘e5 ♕e6 19.♖hf1 ♗xe4 20.♖xe4 ♕d6

Black could win a pawn by 20...♘f6 but after 21.♖h4!? (or moderate *21.♖e2 ♕xa2 22.c3)* 21...♕xa2 22.♔g1 ♕xb2 23.♕e1 White has good attacking chances.

21.♔g1

What have we got from the romantic King's Gambit? A boring position with a slight advantage for White. The heroes of the 19th century would have played flat out to the end!

21...♖ad8 22.c3



22.♕f2 ♘f6 23.♖f4 maintained some pressure.

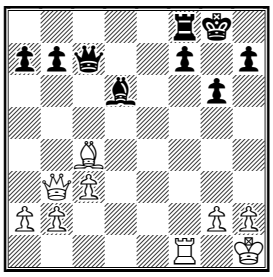
22...c5! 23.♘c4 ♕c7 24.♔h1 cxd4 25.♖xd4 ♘b6 26.♘xb6 ♕xb6 27.♖xd8 ♕xd8

It seems that the game will end in a draw soon. But searching for illusive winning chances, Macieja finds a way to lose as it was in the 6th game too.

28.♕c2 g6 29.♗c4 ♕c7 30.♔b3

30.♕e4; or 30.♗d5 was more accurate

30...♗d6



31.h3

Now the position of White's king is weakened. 31.g3!?

31...♕g7 32.♗d5 b6 33.c4 ♗e5 34.♕c2 a5 35.b3 f6

The Black rook is free.

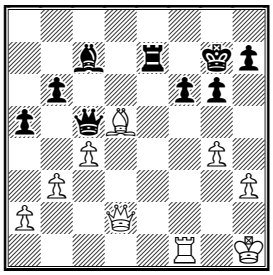
36.♕e2 ♖e8 37.♕g4 ♖e7 38.♕d1

The beginning of a series of awful moves in time-trouble. After 38.♕f3 ♕c5 39.♖e1 ♗c7 40.♖xe7+ ♕xe7 41.g3 White puts the kingside pawns on the dark squares and the draw is near.

38...♕c5 39.♕d2

Better is 39.♖e1 ♗c7 40.♖xe7+ ♕xe7 41.♗f3 ♕e5 42.♔g1∓

39...♗c7 40.g4?



A fatal mistake. 40.♖e1 was still possible.

40...♕d6 41.♖f2?

Apparently 41.♕g2 ♖e3 couldn't change the outcome but undoubtedly was more stubborn.

41...♕g3-+ 42.♕d4?

The final blunder.

42...♖e1+ 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today:

1) 38...♘e2! 38...♕xd4 39.♖h8+ ♔g7 40.♖h7+= ♔f8? 41.g7+ ♔g8 42.♖h8+ ♔f7 43.g8♕+ ♖xg8 44.♗h5++- **39.♕xe2** 39.♗d5!? ♕xd5 40.♖h8+ ♔g7 41.♖h7+ ♔f8!-+ **39...♕xd4+ 40.♔b1 ♖c1+!** 40...♖c1+ 41.♔xc1 ♕a1+ 42.♔c2 *(42.♔d2 ♕c3+ 43.♔d1 ♖d8+)* 42...♕xa2+ 43.♔d1 ♕b1+ 44.♔d2 ♖d8+ 45.♔e3 ♕g1+ 46.♕f2 ♕c1+ **0-1**

2) 31.♘xf5+! gxf5 32.♖g3+ ♘g4 33.♕xf5 h5 34.♕g6+ ♔f8 35.♘d7+! 1-0

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-102(886) 12th April 2003

Tournament News

The "Talent and Courage" tournament is taking place in Budapest, Hungary, from 11th–20th April 2003. 5 Hungarian grandmasters (namely, Leko, Polgar, Almasi, Acs and Berkes) and 5 foreign grandmasters (namely, Gelfand, Short, Movsesian, Lutz and Korchnoi) are participating in it. This is a round robin tournament of XVII category (average rating of the participants is 2663).

Round 1 Results:
Sergei Movsesian – Péter Ács – ½ – ½
Ferenc Berkes – Péter Lékó – ½ – ½
Nigel Short – Christopher Lutz – 1–0
Boris Gelfand – Zoltán Almási– ½ – ½
Victor Korchnoi – Judit Polgár – 0–1

After Round 6 of the Scottish Championship Paul Motwani is in sole lead with 5 points. Ketevan Arakhamia is in second place half a point behind. Jim Stevenson and Alan Grant have 4 points.

In The Asian Team Chess Championships China's men's and women's teams are leading after Round 5. The Chinese men beat Vietnam 2½–1½ in the fourth round and then defeated Kazakhstan 3–1. The Chinese women defeated India B and India C. They managed to beat India C by 3–0 in the fourth round and India B by 2–1 in the fifth round.

Chess Auction

The Second part of the online chess auction is in progress at the GM Square site. You can either start with the auction site or view lots directly. The current auction offers a good selection of autographed books, signed by such chess aces as Bogolyubow, Keres, Smyslov and Women World Champion Bykova.

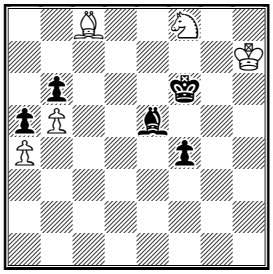
There are also interesting books on chess compositions and a few rare books, such as The History of Chess by Duncan Forbes, published in London in 1860. Last time a similar book fetched 700 euros, but one need not get out of pocket at the auction – there are some good books at affordable prices too. For example, 'Profile of a Prodigy: The Life and Games of Bobby Fischer' by Frank Brady (1972) or 'Chess Fundamentals' by Capablanca (London 1922). The auction will finish between 20:00 and 21:00 London time on Saturday – come and watch!

Letter to the Editor

We received the following message from our regular reader GM Kasten Müller (Hamburg): 'Hello, Alexander! Vlassov's suggestion in CT 881 does not save Black in Karjakin's fascinating endgame (see attached ChessBase file). You can publish my analysis, if you want. Best wishes, Karsten.'

Today we come back to that interesting ending, showing the main findings of Karsten:

□ **S Karjakin (2547)**
■ **S Tiviakov (2635)**
Event: Dos Hermanas, 05.04.2003
Notes by GM Karsten Mueller



Here the game went:
84...♗c7?! 85.♗g4!+– ♔e5 86.♘g6+ ♔d4 87.♘h4 ♗d8 88.♘f3+ ♔c3 89.♘g1 ♗e7 90.♘h3 ♔b4 91.♗d1 f3 92.♘f2 ♗h4 93.♘g4 f2 94.♘h2 ♗e7 95.♘f1 ♗c5 96.♔g6 ♔c3 97.♔f5 ♔d3 98.♔g4 ♗d6 99.♔f3 ♗c5 100.♔g2 ♗d4 101.♗h5 ♔c2

102.♘g3 ♔b3 103.♗d1+ ♔c3 104.♔f1 ♔d2 105.♗h5 ♔e3 106.♘h1 ♔d2 107.♘xf2 ♔e3 108.♘h3 ♔d2 109.♗f3 ♔e3 110.♔g2 ♗e5 111.♗h5 ♗d6 112.♘g5 ♗e7 113.♘f7 1-0

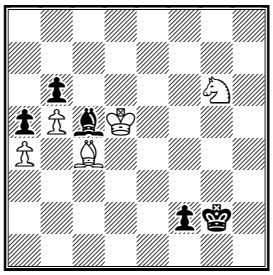
Annotating the game, IM Nikolai Vlassov suggested an improvement: ***84...♔g5!?***

However, as my analysis shows, White can still win in this line:

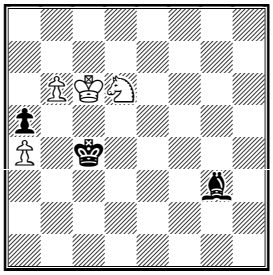
85.♔g8 f3 86.♔f7 ♔f4

Or 86...♗d6 87.♗b7 f2 88.♗g2 ♔g4 89.♘d7 ♗c7 90.♔e6+- and White's king march to c6 decides the day.

87.♘g6+ ♔g3 88.♗e6 f2 89.♗c4 ♗d4 90.♔e6 ♗c5 91.♔d5 ♔g2 ***(D)***



92.♘e5 f1♕ 93.♗xf1+ ♔xf1 94.♘d7 ♗f2 95.♔c6 ♔e2 96.♘xb6 ♔d3 97.♘c8 ♔c4 98.b6 ♗g3 99.♘d6+ ***(D)***



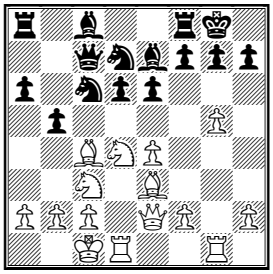
Black's days are numbered.

Annotated Games

□ **S Reefat (2451)**
■ **J Mohammad (2100)**
Event: 29th ch-BAN Dhaka BAN (11), 06.04.2003 - B89
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

Reefat is leading with confidence at the National Chess Championship in Bangladesh. This is how he dealt with his competitors:

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♘f6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗e3 a6 8.♕e2 ♕c7 9.0-0-0 ♗e7 10.♖hg1 0-0 11.g4 b5 12.g5 ♘d7?



And this is not a suitable move at all. More usual might be the following line ,even though White won 12...♘xd4 13.♗xd4 ♘d7 14.g6 hxg6 15.♘d5 ♕d8 16.♗b3 ♘f6 17.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 18.e5 ♗g5+ 19.♗e3 ♗xe3+ 20.♕xe3 d5 21.♖d4 a5 22.♕h3 g5 23.c3 f5 24.♕h5 g4 25.h3 ♕c7 26.hxg4 ♕xe5 27.♖h1 ♗b7 28.f4 ♕e3+ 29.♔b1 fxg4 Dvoirys Azmaiparashvili, Tbilisi 1976/EXT 2001/1-0 (50)

13.♘d5!

All this has been known for a long time.

13...exd5

It is too late to take another knight: 13...♘xd4 14.♘xe7+ ♔h8 15.♗xd4 bxc4 16.♗xg7+! ♔xg7 17.♕h5 with inevitable checkmate.1-0 Zaitsev,I-Gorin,I/Moscow 1998/EXT 99 (17)

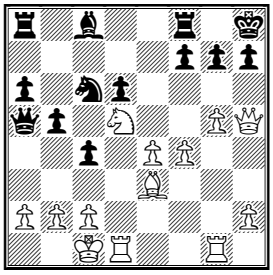
14.♘xc6 dxc4

Black's position is absolutely hopeless after 14...♕xc6 15.♗xd5 ♕c7 16.♗xa8 ♗b7 17.♗xb7 ♕xb7 18.♗d4 ♖c8 19.f4 b4 20.♔b1 1-0 Slivinskas,M-Ulfarsson,M/Szeged 1994/TD (20)

15.♘xe7+ ♔h8 16.♕h5

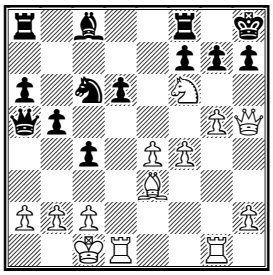
White is attacking decisively, Black does not have any counterplay .

16...♘e5 17.♘d5 ♕a5 18.f4 ♘c6



The following could help to put off the loss for a little bit: 18...♗g4 19.♖xg4 ♘xg4 20.♕xg4 ♕xa2 21.♗d4+-

19.♘f6!



An uncomplicated final blow.

19...gxf6 20.gxf6 ♗f5 21.exf5 1-0

□ **S Reefat (2451)**
■ **S Rahman (2182)**

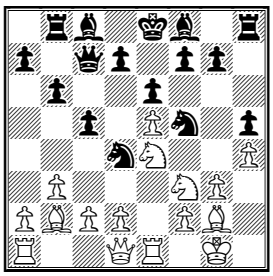
Event: 29th ch-BAN Dhaka BAN (12), 07.04.2003 - B20

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

1.e4 c5 2.b3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.♗b2 e6 6.g3 ♘de7 7.♗g2 ♘f5 8.h4N

RR 8.♘a3 d5 9.0–0 ♗e7 10.c3 0–0 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4 a5 13.♘c2 a4 14.g4 axb3 15.axb3 ♖xa1 16.♕xa1 ♘h6 17.♘e3 f5 18.exf6 ♗xf6 19.♗a3 ♗e7 20.♗xe7 ♕xe7 21.♕c3 ♗d7 22.h3 ♘f7 Todorov,T-Santo Roman,M/Toulouse 2000/EXT 2001/1–0 (55); RR 8.0–0 d5 9.exd6 ♗xd6 10.d4 cxd4 11.♘xd4 ♘cxd4 12.♗xd4 ♗xg3 13.hxg3 ♕xd4 14.♕xd4 ♘xd4 15.♘a3 ♔e7 16.♖fd1 ♖d8 17.♔f1 ♖b8 18.c3 ♘f5 19.♖xd8 ♔xd8 20.♖d1+ ♔e7 21.♘c4 ♗d7 22.♘e5 ♗e8 Saint Amand,P-Spraggett,K/Quebec 1983/EXT 99/0–1 (47)

8...h5 9.♘c3 ♕c7 10.♘e4 ♘cd4 11.0-0 ♖b8 12.♖e1 b6



Black was too languid in the opening and did not manage to complete his development. Now it is time to be more proactive!

13.♘fg5! ♗b7

Of course, it is not possible to take the pawn: 13...♕xe5? 14.♘xf7!+-

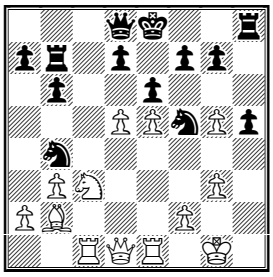
14.c3 ♘c6 15.d4 cxd4?

Black should have done his utmost to hold the position closed - 15...♖d8±

16.cxd4 ♘b4 17.♖c1 ♕d8 18.♘c3

It was also possible to take a pawn on h5 18.♗f3±, in any case, Black's king has no way to escape.

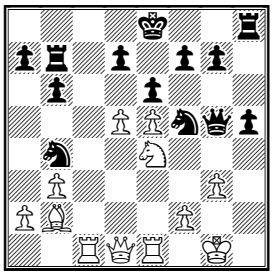
18...♗e7 19.♗xb7 ♗xg5 20.hxg5 ♖xb7 21.d5!?



White also has an advantage after 21.♗a3 a5 22.♘b5±

21...♕xg5?

The only chance for Black is 21...h4 , but even in this case his position has nothing to envy of: 22.♘e4! hxg3 23.fxg3 ♘xa2 *(23...0–0 24.♘f6+!+-)* 24.g4!±



And now White is forcing a win:

22.♘e4! ♕d8 23.♘d6+ ♘xd6 24.exd6

Black's pieces smeared over the walls cannot be of any help to one another.

24...a5 25.a3 ♘a6 26.♗xg7 ♖h7 27.♗f6! 1-0

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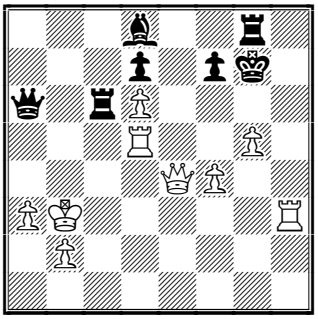
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-103(887) 13th April 2003

Quiz Today

Short (2686) – Lutz (2640)
Budapest HUN (1), 11.04.2003



White to play

A final combination – checkmate in 11 moves. See our first annotated game for the answer.

Hunguest Hotels Super Chess Tournament

Almasi, Zoltan – Korchnoi, Viktor ½ ½
Movsesian, Sergei – Berkes, Ferenc ½ ½
Leko, Peter – Short, Nigel D ½ ½
Acs, Peter – Polgar, Judit 0-1
Lutz, Christopher – Gelfand, Boris ½ ½

Round 2 Standings:
1.Polgar, Judit g HUN 2715 2.0;
2. Short, Nigel D g ENG 2686 1½;
3. Leko, Peter g HUN 2746 1.0;
4. Berkes, Ferenc g HUN 2578 1.0;
5. Almasi, Zoltan g HUN 2676 1.0;
6. Gelfand, Boris g ISR 2700 1.0;
7. Movsesian, Sergei g SVK 2659 1.0;
8. Acs, Peter g HUN 2600 ½;
9. Korchnoi, Viktor g SUI 2632 ½;
10. Lutz, Christopher g GER 2640 ½;

Danish Championships
http://www.skak-dm.dk/

The Danish Chess Championships take place in Skanderborg 12th-20th April 2003.

Round 1 Standings:
1.Fries-Nielsen, Jens Ove m DEN 2448 1.0;
2. Nielsen, Peter Heine g DEN 2625 1.0;
3. Pedersen, Nicolai Vesterbaek m DEN 2508 1.0;
4. Pedersen, Steffen m DEN 2443 1.0;
5. Rasmussen, Karsten m DEN 2423 1.0;
6. Hansen, Sune Berg g DEN 2537 0.0;
7. Hoi, Carsten g DEN 2406 0.0;
8. Mortensen, Erling m DEN 2453 0.0;
9. Palo, Davor m DEN 2483 0.0;
10. Schandorff, Lars g DEN 2563 0.0;

Bangladesh Championships
http://www.bcs-online.org/

The 29th National Chess Championships of Bangladesh take place in Dhaka, 27th March to 10th April 2003. The ELO favourite Ziaur Rahman withdrew after 2 rounds.

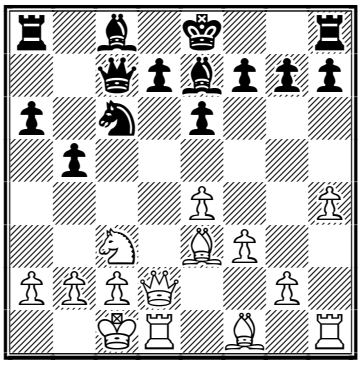
Round 12 Standings:
1.Reefat, Bin-Sattar m BAN 2451 9½/11;
2. Abdulla, Al-Rakib m BAN 2405 8½/11; 3. Murshed, Niaz g BAN 2435 8½/11;
4. Hossain, Enamul m BAN 2451 7½/11;
5. Ahmed, Sk. Nasir f BAN 2309 6½/11;
6. Hossain, Pollab Sawkat H BAN 2217 6½/12;
7. Rahman, Taibur f BAN 2300 5.0/11;
8. Hasan, Mehdi BAN 2211 4½/11;
9. Islam, Kh. Aminul BAN 2271 4.0/11;
10. Rahman, S. Manfuzur BAN 2182 4.0/11; 11. Haque, Rezaul f BAN 2148 2½/11;
12. Mohammad, Javed BAN 2100 2½/11; 13. Alam, Md. Monjur BAN 2133 2½/11;

Annotated Game

□ **N Short (2686)**
■ **C Lutz (2640)**
Event: It Budapest HUN (1), 11.04.2003 – B48
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

Even on the first day of the competition held in Budapest, two very interesting games were played.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♕d2 b5 8.f3 ♘xd4 9.♗xd4 ♘e7 10.0-0-0 ♘c6 11.♗e3 ♗e7 12.h4N



12.♔b1

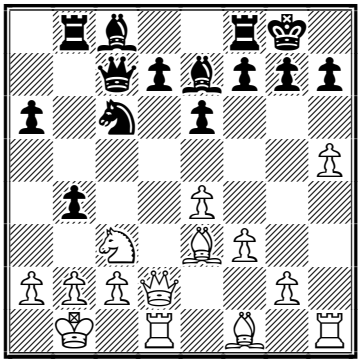
12...0-0

An attempt to attacke the c3-knight comes across the same sacrifice as happened in the following game: 12...b4 13.♘d5! exd5 14.exd5 b3 15.axb3 ♘b4 16.c3!±

13.♔b1 ♖b8

Probably he had better do it now? 13...b4 14.♘d5 exd5 15.exd5 ♖e8! 16.dxc6 dxc6 with good equalizing chances.

14.h5 b4



15.♘d5! exd5 16.exd5 b3!?

And here the following is the lesser evil 16...♖e8 but Lutz advances on a principled line.

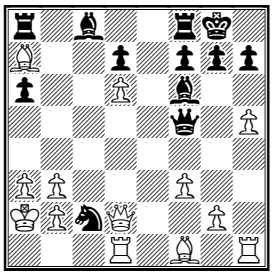
17.cxb3!

Preparing comfortable asylum for his king

17...♘b4 18.d6! ♕a5 19.a3 ♕f5+ 20.♔a1 ♘c2+

After 20...♗xd6 21.♕xd6 ♘c2+ 22.♔a2 ♘xe3 23.♗d3 ♕e6 24.♕xb8 ♘xd1 25.♖xd1 d5 26.♖c1± White has an extra pawn and an undoubted advantage.

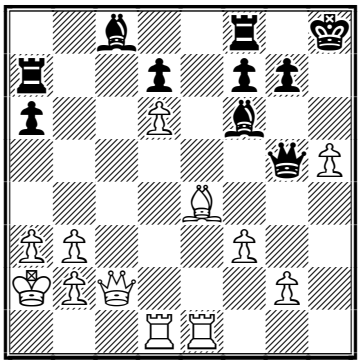
21.♔a2 ♗f6 22.♗a7 ♖a8



23.♗d3!?

And this is a real sacrifice! More convincing is 23.♗b6 ♗g5 24.♕f2 a5 25.♗d3 ♘b4+ 26.axb4 axb4+ 27.♔b1± with an extra pawn and better position.

23...♕e5 24.♕xc2 ♖xa7 25.♖he1 ♕g5 26.♗xh7+ ♔h8 27.♗e4



At first sight, it may look like Black has an extra piece and no direct threats coming from White. The problem is that White's position is so strong that Black's pieces have nothing to do: for instance, the extra f6-bishop attacks the b2-pawn, but no other piece supports this bishop and it won't get another "job" on the whole board. We have the same situation with the rooks: Even if Black doubles his rooks on the b-file attacking the b3-pawn (and what else can they do?), White will defend it easily with a single move of his rook ..

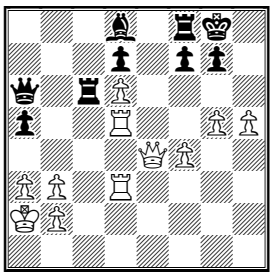
27...♗b7 28.g4 a5 29.♕f2 ♗xe4 30.♖xe4 ♖b7 31.♕e2 ♕b5 32.♖d3

White is quietly preparing for the pawn attack on the kingside.

32...♖bb8 33.f4 ♔g8 34.g5 ♗d8 35.♖e5 ♕a6 36.♕e4 ♖b6 37.♖ed5

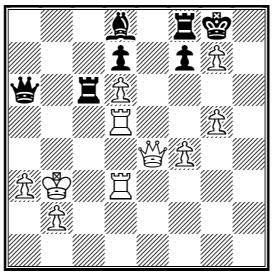
37.h6 also looks like it is winning but does White need to be in a hurry?

37...♖c6



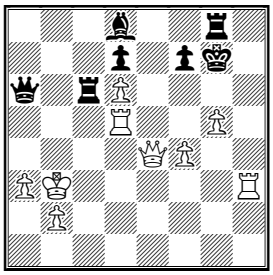
During the previous ten moves, White has gained an advantage, which is now seen with the naked eye. Now it is time to complete the destruction!

38.h6! a4 39.hxg7 axb3+ 40.♔xb3



Even here, White's king is absolutely safe! But we cannot say the same about the Black one.

40...♔xg7 41.♖h3 ♖g8



A final combination – checkmate in 11 moves.

42.♖h7+ ♔f8 43.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 44.♕f5+ ♔g7 45.♕xd7+! ♔g6 46.♕e6+ 1–0

Short's performance in this game makes a strong impression!

□ V Korchnoi (2632)
■ J Polgar (2715)

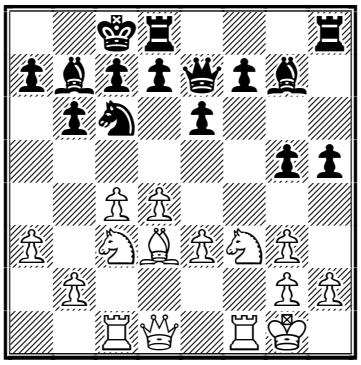
Event: It Budapest HUN (1), 11.04.2003 E12

Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 b6 3.♘c3 ♗b7 4.d4 e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 g5 7.♗g3 ♘h5 8.e3 ♘xg3 9.fxg3 ♗g7 10.♗d3 ♘c6 11.0–0 ♕e7 12.a3N

Here is an example of a more vigorous White attack: 12.♖c1 0–0–0 13.♕a4 ♔b8 14.c5 g4 15.♘h4 ♗f6 16.♗a6 ♗g5 17.♗xb7 ♗xe3+ 18.♔h1 ♔xb7 19.♖cd1 ♗g5 20.d5 exd5 21.b4 d4 22.♘f5 ♕e6 23.♘b5 ♗e3 24.♖de1 ♕d5 25.♘e7 ♘xe7 26.♕xa7+ ♔c6 27.♕xc7+ ♔xb5 28.♕xb6+ ♔c4 29.♕a6+ ♔xb4 30.♖b1+ ♔xc5 31.♕b6+ ♔c4 32.♕b3+ ♔c5 33.♕b4+ ♔c6 34.♕b6# 1–0 Speelman,J–Stean, M/London 1980/MCD (34)

12...0–0–0 13.♖c1 h5

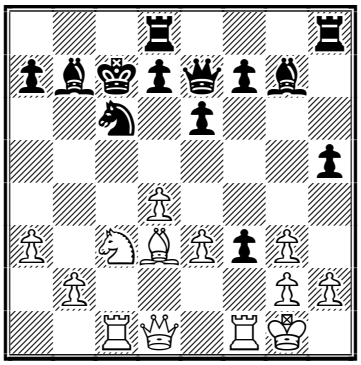


Both armies prepare for an attack on different sides.

14.c5!? g4!? 15.cxb6

White's courage is forced After 15.♘h4 bxc5 16.d5 ♕g5!? 17.dxc6 ♕xe3+ 18.♔h1 dxc6! he loses d3-bishop.

15...gxf3! 16.bxc7 ♔xc7



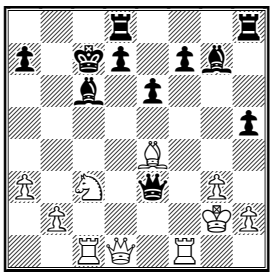
17.d5?!

Short would have played 17.♕xf3 , having seen to his king's safety first

17...♕g5! 18.dxc6?!

After 18.♖xf3 exd5 19.♘b5+ ♔b8 20.♘d6 White has a certain compensation for the piece. For instance, 20...♕e7 21.♘xb7 *(21.♘f5 ♕e5 22.♘xg7 ♕xg7)* 21...♔xb7 22.♕b3+ ♔a8 23.♕xd5

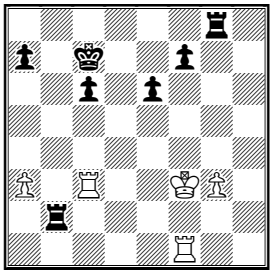
18...♕xe3+ 19.♔h1 fxg2+ 20.♔xg2 ♗xc6+ 21.♗e4



21...♗xc3! 22.♗xc6 ♕d2+ 23.♔h3 h4! 24.♖xc3

The following also doesn't save the game 24.g4 dxc6 25.♖xf7+ ♔c8 26.♕xd2 ♗xd2 27.♖xc6+ ♔b8–+

24...hxg3+ 25.♔g4 ♖hg8+ 26.♔f3 dxc6 27.♕xd2 ♖xd2 28.hxg3 ♖xb2–+



The battle smoke has dispelled and although White's king is still alive, it has no chance of escaping in the endgame with two pawns down.

29.♔e4 f5+ 30.♔e5 ♖g6 31.♖h1 ♖e2+ 32.♔f4 ♖e4+ 33.♔f3 ♖eg4 34.♔f2 e5 35.♖f3 ♔d6 36.♖h7 a6 37.♖a7 ♖a4 38.♖d3+ ♔e6 39.♖c3 ♔d5 40.♖d7+ ♖d6 41.♖f7 f4 42.♖b7 ♖c4 43.♖d3+ ♔c5 44.♖db3 ♖d2+ 45.♔f3 fxg3 46.♔xg3 ♖dc2 0–1

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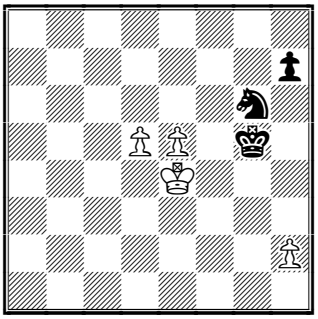
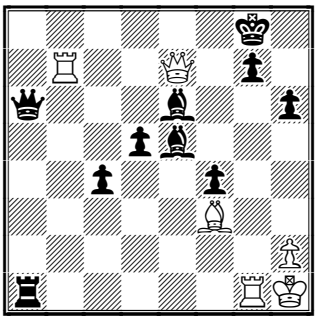
Quiz Today

Nguyen (2530) – Sandipan (2478)
Jodhpur 2003



White to play

Zhang (2557) – Barua (2545)
Jodhpur 2003



White to play

Judit's 111 in CT-888

At The Hunguest Hotels Tournament in Budapest Judit has won her third game in a row! This time she beat Almasi with White in a long tough Ruy Lopez battle. It seems the other grandmasters taking part in the event have forgotten what victory tastes like.
Round 3 results:
Polgar – Almasi 1:0
Short – Movsesian ½:½
Gelfand – Leko ½:½
Korchnoi – Lutz ½:½
Berkes – Acs postponed as both players competed in the Hungarian Team Championships

Round 3 standings:
1. Polgar – 3
2. Short – 2
3-5. Gelfand, Leko, Movsesian – 1½
6. Berkes – 1 (2)
7-9. Almasi, Korchnoi, Lutz – 1
10. Acs – ½ (2)

GM Peter Heine Nielsen and IM Steffen Pedersen are leading with perfect scores after 2 rounds of The Danish Chess Championships

The 110th Scottish Championship 2003
Before the final round, Paul Motwani retains sole lead with 6½ points out of 8. Ketevan Arakhamia-Grant is half a point behind. Graeme Kafka is clear third with 5½.

The Gausdal Classics
In the final round, Nick De Firmian lost his first game to the Russian GM Lugovoi but it couldn't shake the American GM's leadership.
Final standings:
1. De Firmian – 7½
2-4. Kjetil A. Lie, Lugovoi, Berg – 6½
5-6. Kallio, Bluvshtein – 6
7-8. Westerinen, Kristjansson – 5
9-10. Sarbok, Paehtz – 4½
11-12. Daly, Carlsen – 4

The Asian Team Chess Championships in Jodhpur (India)
China is leading in the Men's and Women's sections. The Vietnamese teams are second in both tournaments.

Annotated Game

☐ **P Acs (2600)**
■ **J Polgar (2715)**
Event: It Budapest HUN (2), 12.04.2003 B90
Annotations: **IM Maxim Notkin**
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3
With this move order White avoids the variation 6.♗e3 ♘g4
6...♕b6
In his turn Black deviates from the sharp and long lines after 6...e6 7.♗e3
7.♘b3 e6 8.g4

The main line is considered to be 8.♕e2 but with 8.g4 White scores much better!

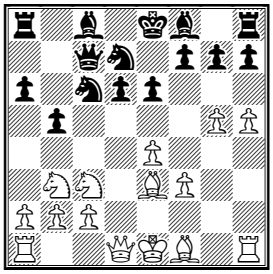
8...♘c6 9.g5

A novelty. Acs decides to manage without Qe2. The position after 9.♕e2 ♕c7 arose in the game Grichuk – Kasparov, Cannes 2001(while Shirov against Grischuk in Linares the same year chose the risky *9...d5*)

9...♘d7 10.h4 ♕c7

The queen steps aside giving way to the b-pawn.

11.♗e3 b5 12.h5



White wants to play g5-g6 as soon as possible.

12...♗b7

Probably Judit didn't like that after 12...b4 13.♘e2 White has the idea Rc1 and c2-c3 disturbing the black queen.

13.♖h3 ♘b6 14.♕d2

Preparing the d1 square for the knight's retreat. In case of 14.g6 b4 15.gxf7+ ♔xf7 16.♘e2 *(16.♘b1 ♖d8)* 16...♘c4 Black takes the initiative.

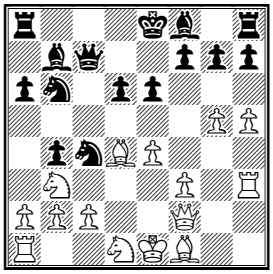
14...♘e5 15.♕f2

15.♘a5 ♘bc4 16.♘xc4 ♘xc4 17.♗xc4 ♕xc4 18.a3 deserved attention.

15...♘ec4 16.♗d4

Now 16.♗xb6 ♘xb6 17.♘a5 would have been met by 17...♘a4! and after 18.♘xb7 ♘xc3 the black knight goes back to a4 while the white one gets stuck in the enemy camp e.g. 19.♕d4 ♘a4 20.h6 ♖g8

16...b4 17.♘d1



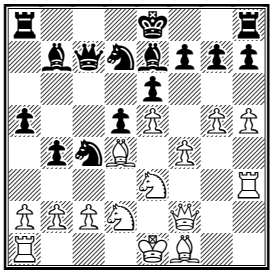
17...d5

17...e5!? made White exchange the bishop 18.♗xb6 ♘xb6 In which case he could impede d6-d5 by means of 19.c4!?

18.e5

Acs closes position in the centre exploiting the fact that the e5 pawn is untouchable. 18.h6!? e5 19.hxg7 ♗xg7 20.♗c5 was possible with unclear play.

18...♘d7 19.f4 ♗e7 20.♘e3 a5 21.♘d2



White offers a pawn sacrifice, which Polgar turns down. Maybe better was 21.g6 fxg6 22.hxg6 h6

21...♘xd2

The e4 point for the knight is more important than an extra pawn! After 21...♘xe3 22.♕xe3 ♕xc2 23.♗d3 ♕c6 24.g6 White gets the compensation.

22.♕xd2 ♘c5 23.g6 hxg6 24.hxg6 ♖xh3 25.♗xh3

25.gxf7+ gives Black the h-file – 25...♔xf7 26.♗xh3 ♖h8

25...♗h4+ 26.♔f1

After 26.♔d1!? ♘e4 27.♕g2 White's king would be safer. Apparently Acs wanted to leave more room for his rook but it couldn't enter the game anyway.

26...♘e4 27.♕d1

It's the best place for the queen. 27.♕e2?? ♗a6; 27.♕h2 ♗g3 winning the f4 pawn; 27.♕g2 ♗g3 doesn't change much as the pawn can't be protected.

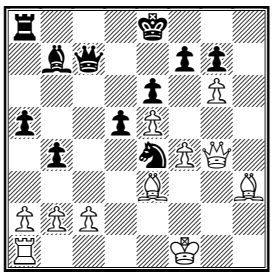
27...♗f2

27...♗g3 is parried by 28.♕g4

28.♕g4?

A mistake that ruins the game. White had to insert the pawn exchange 28.gxf7+ ♕xf7 *(28...♔xf7? 29.♕h5+)* in order to lead the black queen away. After 29.♕g4 ♗c8 with idea of g7-g5 Black is better but the battle is going on.

28...♗xe3
Polgar turns on the built-in Fritz. Her tactical skills seldom fail her.
29.♗xe3



29...d4! 30.gxf7+ ♔f8!-+
That's the difference. Black isn't forced to take the pawn. Unlike his opponent the black king is out of any danger now.
31.♕h4
31.♗xd4 ♕c4+; 31.♗g1 ♕xc2
31...♕c4+
An accurate move. The black queen protects the e6 pawn to minimize the number of the white queen's checks. Both 31...dxe3 32.♕h8+ ♔xf7 33.♕h5+ ♔e7 34.♕h4+ ♔d7 35.♖d1+ ♘d2+; and 31...♕xc2 32.♕h8+ ♔e7 33.♕h4+ g5! were enough for win as well.
32.♔g1 dxe3 33.♗g4
33.♕h8+ ♔xf7 34.♕h5+ ♔g8
33...e2 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today

50.h4+! 50.d6? ♘f8; 50.e6? ♔f6 **50...♔g4** 50...♔xh4 51.d6 ♘f8 52.♔f5; 50...♘xh4 51.d6 **51.e6 ♘f8 52.♔e5** 52.e7 ♘d7 53.d6+- **52...♘g6+ 53.♔e4 1-0**

47.♕e8+ ♔h7 48.♖bxg7+! 48.♖bxg7+ ♗xg7 49.♕g6+ ♔g8 50.♕xg7# **1-0**

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Email:ct@gmsquare.com

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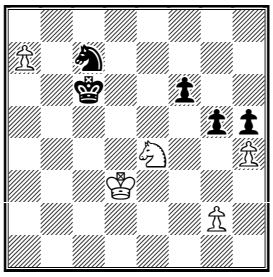
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-105(889) 15th April 2003

Quiz Today

Polgar (2715) - Almasi (2676)
Budapest 2003



71.♘e4 g5?
This meets a smart standard refutation: White to play

The Hunguest Hotels Tournament in Budapest

Round 4 (April 14, 2003)

Leko, Peter - Korchnoi, Viktor ½-½ Movsesian, Sergei - Gelfand, Boris ½-½ Lutz, Christopher - Polgar, Judit ½-½ Berkes, Ferenc - Short, Nigel D 0-1 Acs, Peter - Almasi, Zoltan ½-½

Round 4 Standings:
Polgar, Judit g HUN 2715 3½/4;
Short, Nigel D g ENG 2686 3.0/4;
Leko, Peter g HUN 2746 2.0/4;
Gelfand, Boris g ISR 2700 2.0/4;
Movsesian, Sergei g SVK 2659 2.0/4;
Lutz, Christopher g GER 2640 1½/4;
Korchnoi, Viktor g SUI 2632 1½/4;
Almasi, Zoltan g HUN 2676 1½/4;
Berkes, Ferenc g HUN 2578 1.0/3;
Acs, Peter g HUN 2600 1.0/3;

Official page:
http://topchess.hu/verseny.html

Danish Championships

Round 3 (April 14, 2003)

Pedersen, Nicolai Vesterbaek - Fries-Nielsen, Jens Ove ½-½ Rasmussen, Karsten - Pedersen, Steffen 1-0 Schandorff, Lars - Nielsen, Peter Heine ½-½ Mortensen, Erling - Hansen, Sune Berg 1-0 Hoi, Carsten - Palo, Davor 0-1

Round 3 Standings:
Nielsen, Peter Heine g DEN 2625 2½;
Palo, Davor m DEN 2483 2½;
Pedersen, Steffen m DEN 2443 2.0;
Pedersen, Nicolai Vesterbaek m DEN 2508 2.0;
Rasmussen, Karsten m DEN 2423 1½;
Schandorff, Lars g DEN 2563 1½;
Fries-Nielsen, Jens Ove m DEN 2448 1.0;
Mortensen, Erling m DEN 2453 1.0;
Hansen, Sune Berg g DEN 2537 1.0;
10. Hoi, Carsten g DEN 2406 0.0;

Website: http://www.skak-dm.dk/

Asian Teams

After 7 rounds of Asian Teams Championship India (A) leads with 18½ points. China is on the 2nd place (17½ points), India(C) and Kazhakhstan share the 3-4 places (17 points).

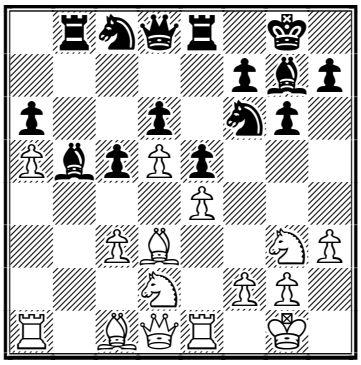
In women part of championship the leader is China (15½ points), Vietnam has the 2nd place (14½ points). There are India(A) on the 3rd position (14 points).

Annotated Game

□ J Polgar (2715)
■ Z Almasi (2676)
Event: It Budapest HUN (3), 13.04.2003 - C95
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**
Polgar's third win in a row!
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘b8 10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♗b7 12.♗c2 ♖e8 13.♘f1 ♗f8 14.♘g3 g6 15.b3 ♗g7 16.d5 ♘b6 17.♖b1 c5
17...c6 occurs more often
18.a4 bxa4 19.bxa4 ♗c8N
RR 19...♕c7 20.♘d2 ♘fd7 21.a5 ♘c8 22.c4 ♘e7 23.♘f3 ♖eb8 24.♗d2 ♗c8 25.♖e3 ♖xb1 26.♕xb1 ♗h6 27.♖a3

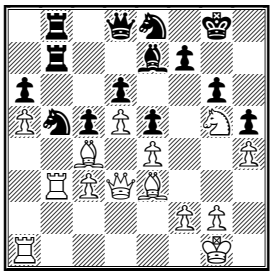
♗xd2 28.♘xd2 ♖b8 29.♕a2 ♖b4 30.♖b3 ♖xb3 31.♘xb3 ♘f6 32.♘d2 ♗d7 33.♕a1 ♘e8 34.f3 ♘g7 35.♘e2 ½–½ Bailloux,S–Mack,P/Norwich 1972 /EXT 99 (35)

20.♘d2 ♗d7 21.a5 ♘c8 22.♖a1 ♖b8 23.♗d3 ♗b5



The Ruy Lopez has turned into a structure similar to the King's Indian Defense. White has a space advantage, that's why she is interested in keeping as many pieces on the board as she can.

24.♘c4 ♘a7 25.♗g5 h6 26.♗e3 ♗xc4 27.♗xc4 ♘b5 28.♕d3 ♖e7 29.♖eb1 ♖eb7 30.♖b3 h5 31.♘f1 ♘e8 32.♘d2 ♕d7 33.♘f3 ♗f6 34.♘g5 ♕d8 35.h4 ♗e7

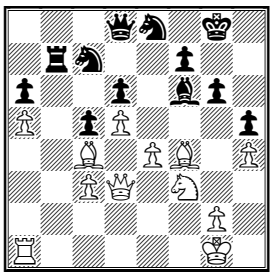


After deliberate manoeuvring White decides to break open the game, the two bishops want to be released!

36.f4 exf4 37.♗xf4 ♗f6 38.♘f3 ♘bc7

It is too dangerous to take the pawn; 38...♗xh4 39.e5 dxe5 40.♘xe5 *(40.♗xe5 ♘ed6 41.♘xh4 ♕xh4 42.♗xb5 c4! 43.♗xc4 ♕xc4 44.♕xc4 ♘xc4 45.♖xb7 ♖xb7 46.♗f4±)* 40...♕f6 41.g3 ♗g5 42.♘d7 ♖xd7 43.♗xb8±; however an attempt to keep the position closed deserves consideration 38...♗g7 39.♗g3 *(39.e5 dxe5 40.♘xe5 ♗xe5 41.♗xe5 ♘ed6)* 39...♖e7

39.♖xb7 ♖xb7



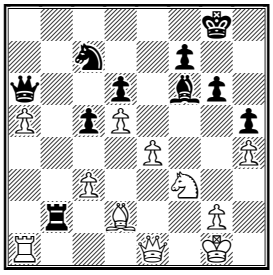
40.♗xa6

Before taking the pawn, an attempt to break the center was worth considering: 40.e5!? dxe5 41.♘xe5 ♗xe5 42.♗xe5 ♘d6 43.♗xa6 ♖b2 44.♗xd6 ♕xd6 45.♗c4± with a big advantage to White.

40...♖b3 41.♗d2 ♘xa6 42.♕xa6 ♘c7 43.♕c4 ♕b8!

It is very difficult for Black to struggle with the passed 'a' pawn. It will be much easier if he exchanges rooks.

44.♕f1 ♕a7 45.♕f2 ♖b2 46.♕e1 ♕a6



Black has managed to block the dangerous passed pawn and now Judit decides to exchange rooks.

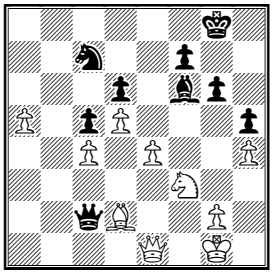
47.♖b1

A queen exchange is an alternative: 47.♕c1 ♖b8 48.♕f1

47...♕b7

Black is not able to return the pawn easily: 47...♖xb1 48.♕xb1 ♕xa5 49.♕b8+ ♔g7 50.♗f4! and he will not resist.

48.♖xb2 ♕xb2 49.c4 ♕c2



50.♗f4

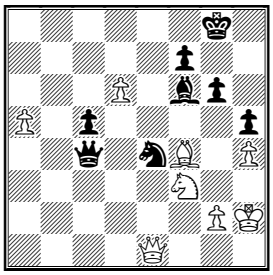
I think very strong is 50.e5! dxe5 51.♗c3!± and Black will hardly hold

both passed pawns. For instance, 51...♘e8 52.♘xe5! ♘d6 53.a6 ♘xc4 54.♗a5!! and the pawn becomes a queen.

50...♕xc4 51.♗xd6 ♘b5 52.♗f4 ♘c3

Black's pieces are very proactive here. He managed to return the pawn.

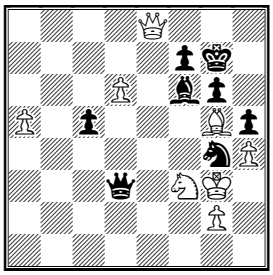
53.♔h2 ♘xe4 54.d6



54...♘f2?!

The following deserves consideration 54...♕a4 55.a6 ♘f2 56.♕xf2 ♕xf4+ 57.♔h1 ♕c1+ 58.♕g1 ♕a3 59.d7 ♕xa6 60.♕xc5 ♕d3 and the pawn holds on.

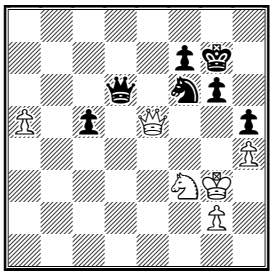
55.♗g5! ♘g4+ 56.♔g3 ♕d3 57.♕e8+ ♔g7



58.♗xf6+?

The simple 58.d7 ♕d6+ 59.♗f4+− wins.

58...♘xf6 59.♕e5 ♕xd6!

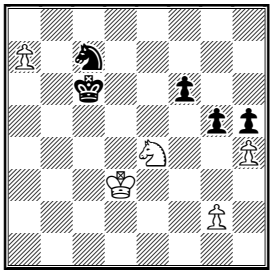


It looks like Judit overlooked this trick. Anyway, the passed pawn allows White to hope for a win.

60.♕xd6 ♘e4+ 61.♔f4 ♘xd6 62.a6 ♘b5 63.♘e5 f6 64.♘d7 c4 65.♘b6 c3 66.♔e3 ♔f7 67.♔d3 ♔e6 68.♘a4 ♔d7?!

It is not easy to draw after: 68...c2 69.♔xc2 ♘c7 70.a7 ♔d5 71.♘c3+! ♔c6 72.♔d3 ♔b7 73.♔e4 ♔xa7 74.♘d5!± ♘e8 *(74...♘xd5 75.♔xd5 g5 76.♔e6 gxh4 77.♔xf6+−)* 75.♘e7 g5 76.hxg5 fxg5 77.♔f5 g4 78.♘d5 ♔b7 79.♔g5 ♔c6 80.♘e3 ♔d6 81.♔xh5 ♔e5 82.♔xg4 Knight endgames are very insidious and nevertheless, it was the best chance for Black.

69.♘xc3 ♘c7 70.a7 ♔c6 71.♘e4 g5?



This meets a smart standard refutation: The following also could not save the game: 71...f5 72.♘c3 ♔b7 73.♔d4 ♔xa7 74.♘d5!+−

72.g4!+−

It is impossible to avoid the appearance of a passed pawn on the h-file.

72...gxh4 73.gxh5 ♔b7 74.h6 ♘d5 75.♘d6+ ♔xa7 76.h7 ♘f4+ 77.♔e4 ♘g6 78.♔f5 ♘h8 79.♔xf6 1-0

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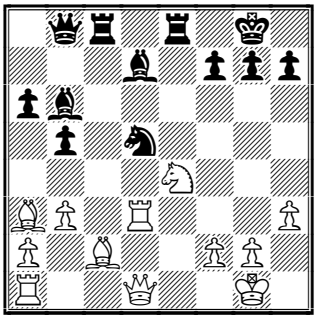
CT-106(890) 16th April 2003

Quiz Today

P. Leko – V. Korchnoi
It Budapest HUN (4), 14.04.2003
Black replies with 24...♘f5?! But he could have won by playing another move. How?



position after ***24.♘e4***
solution in annotated game.

Tournament News

Hunguest Hotels Super Chess Tournament

Round 5 Results (15 April 2003):

J. Polgar – Leko – 0:1
Short – Acs – ½:½
Gelfand – Berkes – ½:½
Korchnoi – Movsesian – ½:½
Almasi – Lutz – ½:½

Round 5 Standings:
1-2. Polgar (2715), Short (2686) – 3½
3. Leko (2746) – 3.0
4-5. Gelfand (2700), Movsesian (2659) – 2½
6-8. Lutz (2640), Korchnoi (2632), Almasi (2676) – 2.0
9-10. Berkes (2578), Acs (2600) – 1½/4

Official page:
http://topchess.hu/verseny.html

Danish Championships

Round 4 Results: (April 15, 2003)

P. Nielsen – Rasmussen: ½:½
S. Pedersen – N. V. Pedersen – 0:1
Hansen – Palo – 1:0
Fries-Nielsen – Hoi – ½:½
Mortensen – Schandorff – 0:1

Round 4 Standings:

1-2. Nielsen (2625), N.V. Pedersen (2508) – 3.0
3-4. Palo (2483), Schandorff (2563)- 2½
5-7. Rasmussen (2423), S. Pedersen (2443), Hansen (2537)- 2.0
8. Fries-Nielsen (2448) – 1½
9. Mortensen (2453) – 1.0
10. Hoi (2406) – ½

Website: http://www.skak-dm.dk/

After 8th round of the Asian Team Chess Championships China is leading (21 points), and India(A) and India(C) have occupied 2-3 places (20 points).

In the women's section China has 18½ points is in 1st place again. India(A) is in second place with 17 points, and Vietnam with 16 points is in the 3rd spot.

Chess Today received the following interesting news from **René Olthof** (Tourney Director TK60-JT Endgame Study Section)

TIM KRABBé 60!

On 12 April, Tim Krabbé, author, chess player and cyclist, celebrated his 60th birthday. For many, many years now chess players all over the world have been enjoying his articles on chess in general and chess curiosities in particular. At the moment Krabbé, a celebrated author some books of which have been turned into motion pictures both in the Netherlands and abroad, maintains one of the most attractive free chess sites in the world (http://www.timkrabbe/chess) On this site you can find the provisional award of two unique tourneys for chess composition, initiated by Krabbé on the occasion of his 60th birthday. One section for chess problems (moremovers) and one for endgame studies. The (provisional) winners are the Polish composer **Andrzej Jasik** and **Emil Melnichenko** from New Zealand, a colourful personality, who was born in Salzburg (Austria) in 1950

and has been active and successful in the world of chess composition for more than 25 years. The Provisional Award of the endgame study section can be downloaded (in English and in Dutch) as a PDF-file under http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60jt_en.pdf or http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60jt_nl.pdf

For both sections Palview pages have been created. Here you can play over the problems and studies online or download them as PGN-files.

The complete set of links is as follows:

http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60pr.html
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60pr_e.html
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60pr.pgn
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/problems.htm
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60st.html
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60st_e.html
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/tk60st.pgn
http://www.timkrabbe.nl/tk60/studies.htm

CT received the following press release from **Hartmut Metz** (Press officer Chess Classic Mainz)

Judit Polgar challenges Anand Chess Classic Mainz: First Chess960 World Championship Match between Leko and Swidler

The cornerstones of Chess Classic Mainz 2003 have been laid: defending champion, **Viswanathan Anand**, will be challenged by **Judit Polgar** from 14 to 17 August. The 'mecca of rapid chess' will host an enticing duel of the sexes, after world champions Vladimir Kramnik and Ruslan Ponomariov both lost by narrow margins in the last two years. The world's best rapid chess player from India on one side, and the outstanding Hungarian lady player on the other side, will - hopefully - offer a great deal of action, not only for organiser Hans-Walter Schmitt who is looking forward to seeing these two in an eight games match: "Hardly any other contest would offer such excitement. The only woman who is able to compete with the world elite of the royal game and plays attractive chess will face the world's undisputed best blitz player," the Bad Soden resident rejoices.

Both players express mutual respect before they are due to play two games per day (from 6.30 P.M.) in the Rheingoldhalle. Recently Anand notched up one tournament victory after another before the triumphal run of this highly successful Bundesliga player from Baden-Oos came to an end in Linares. At the top tournament

in Wijk aan Zee (Netherlands) the 33 year old remained unbeaten, as did Judit Polgar who achieved second place with half a point less. Before she collected her biggest success in the world-class field, this 26 year old had already proven her abilities with an outstanding result in the chess Olympiad. In consequence, she has returned to the top ten in the world rating list. Anand has expressed praise to the skies for the best women player of all times: "She is a very strong grandmaster. Her recent results are brilliant! Judit plays extremely tactical chess and at the board she adopts a very practical style." Judit Polgar, who in 1991, at the age of 15 years and four months, became the youngest grandmaster according to the male qualification system, when she broke Bobby Fischer's legendary record, is equally full of praise for the former world champion: "Without any doubt Anand is one of the world's best rapid chess players. I remember his style in 1991, when he used to finish normal tournament games at rapid chess speed. Nowadays he is of course more mature and reflects for longer, and this is of benefit for his enormous playing strength. Vishy is a true professional and moves in a very firm way at the board."

The burden of being the favourite rests on the shoulders of the player who has won the Chess Classic tournament for the last three years in a row. Nevertheless, the defending champion stresses that he will have to "be ready and firing on all cylinders" in order to beat the youngest of the three legendary Polgar sisters. The number one in the women's world rating list - who always strictly refuses to participate in women-only tournaments - also regards Anand as favourite, but promises to "put up a big fight." She mentions that she "recently had good results against Vishy. I like to recall my wonderful games against him in Wijk aan Zee in 2001 and Dos Hermanas in 1999." The Indian undoubtedly respects this *brightest star of women's chess*. Although Alexandra Kosteniuk and Humpy Koneru, a talented fellow player from the Indian sub-continent, do figure, Anand makes clear: "Judit only takes her measure from her own achievements, not from performances of other women players. She is one of the outstanding talents in the current chess scene."

On 13 August 2003, the Chess Classic will officially be opened by Jens Beutel, Mayor of Mainz. The chief of the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate state will surely once again participate in one of the simuls that start at 4.30 P.M. The next day the favourite brain child of Hans-Walter Schmitt starts: the Chess960 Open (in which the initial position is determined by drawing lots) is slated to attract more than last year's 131 players. The 51 year old has proclaimed this competition to be *the official world championship qualification*. **Peter Svidler** won the first tournament of this kind gaining 9:2 points. Simultaneously with the duel between Anand and Polgar, he will play against **Peter Leko**. The world championship candidate in classical chess, who will meet Kramnik in their world championship final in May or June, in 2001 already proved his talents in Chess960. In a dramatic match, Leko beat the number four in the world rating list, Michael Adams, with 4.5:3.5. Between 14 and 17 August he will meet a challenge from the winner of last year's strong open tournament which was dominated by 30 grandmasters amongst the first 32 places. Schmitt intends to take advantage of the favourable situation

and join forces with the world chess elite in order to set up a world Chess960 association.The traditional Ordix Open will offer the best available playing conditions on Saturday and Sunday (16 and 17 August). 500 players are expected to make the pilgrimage to the tenth staging of this competition. Dozens of grandmasters and international masters are expected to participate in the rapid chess open which has the largest prize fund of all. Last year, winners earned approximately 30,000 euros in the Ordix and the Chess960 Open. This year's supporting programme, with duels between Viswanathan Anand and Judit Polgar, and between Peter Leko and Peter Svidler, certainly offers a platform for rising stars of tomorrow. Outstanding talents such as Sergey Karjakin, who became the youngest who became the youngest grandmaster at the age of twelve, and his Ukrainian fellow countryman Andrey Volokitin will receive invitations for the Open.

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **P. Leko (2746)**
■ **V. Korchnoi (2632)**
Event: It Budapest HUN (4), 14.04.2003
Sicilian Defence/Najdorf variation
Annotations by IM Nikolia Vlassov

Having confidently outplayed his young opponent at the end of the opening, the veteran player, unfortunately, missed an excellent opportunity to complete it with a striking combination. But what a thought!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♗c2 c5 11.d4 ♕c7 12.♘bd2 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗d7 14.♘f1 ♖ac8 15.♖e2 ♖fe8 16.♘g3 ♗d8

An original plan to transfer the bishop to b6 worked brilliantly in this game!

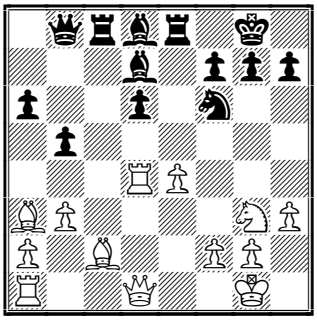
17.b3 ♘c6 18.♗a3N

The play is based on nuances. Leko is trying to lure Black's pawn to b4 and we will not find out in this game why he is doing it because Korchnoi ignores the attack and implements his plan. The following occured before 18.♗b2 ♕a7 19.a3 ♗b6 20.♖d2 ♘xd4 21.♘xd4 ♗xd4 22.♗xd4 exd4 23.♖a2 ♗e6 24.♖xd4 ♖xc2! 25.♖xc2 ♗xb3 26.♖xd6 h6 27.♖d3 ♗xc2 28.♕xc2 ½–½ Tosic,M-Lukacs,P/Budapest 1990/CBM 20 ext (28)

18...♕b8 19.♖d2

Another possibility is 19.♖c1 ; or 19.d5 ♘e7 20.♗d3

19...exd4 20.♘xd4 ♘xd4 21.♖xd4 (D)



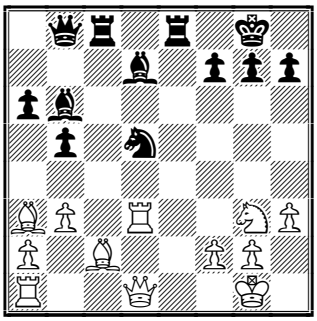
21...d5!

After this sacrifice it becomes clear that Black's pieces are better prepared to break open the game than White's are. As soon as the bishop is on b6, the g3-knight is under the gun from b8-queen. After 21...♕a7 22.♖xd6 ♗b6 23.♖d2 ♗a5 Black also has compensation for the pawn but it can not guarantee more than equalisation.

22.exd5 ♗b6

Another strong continuation is 22...♕e5! (threatening Rxc2) 23.♖c1 ♗b6 24.♖d3 h5 *(24...a5 25.♖b1)* 25.♖f3 g6 It is not an easy task for White to co-ordinate his pieces.

23.♖d3 ♘xd5! (D)



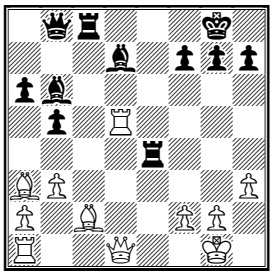
24.♘e4?

The lesser evil for White was 24.♖c1 For instance, 24...b4 25.♗b2 ♘c3 26.♗xc3 ♖xc3 27.♖xc3 bxc3 28.♕xd7! ♗xf2+ 29.♔xf2 ♕f4+ 30.♔g1 ♕xc1+

31.♔h2 ♕e3 32.♘e4 ♕f4+ 33.g3 ♕e5 with a possible draw.; 24.♖xd5? ♕xg3–+

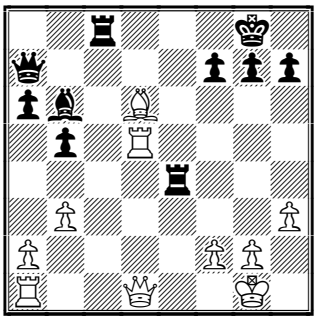
24...♗f5?!

Immediately winning was 24...♖xe4! 25.♖xd5 (d)



Quiz 25...♗xf2+! 26.♔xf2 ♕b6+–+ It is impossible for the king to avoid checkmate without big material losses. 27.♔g3 ♖e3+ 28.♔h2 *(28.♔f4 ♖cc3!–+)* 28...♖xh3+! 29.gxh3 ♕f2+ 30.♔h1 ♖xc2 31.♕xc2 ♕xc2 32.♖xd7 ♕c6+–+

25.♖xd5 ♗xe4 26.♗xe4



Black still has a slight positional advantage, but Leko manages to defend this position with confidence.

28.♗g3 ♖ce8 29.♕f3 h6 30.♖ad1

The last rook is in the game, and thus we have an equal position on the board.

30...♖4e7 31.h4 ♗c7 32.♗xc7 ♕xc7 33.g3 ♕c6 34.♔g2 ♖e6 35.♖d8 ♕xf3+ 36.♔xf3 ♔f8 37.♖1d6 ♖xd8 38.♖xd8+ ♔e7 39.♖a8 h5 40.♖a7+ ♔f6 41.♔f4 g6 42.f3 ♔g7 43.g4 hxg4 44.fxg4 ♔f6 45.♖a8 ♔g7 46.♖a7 ♔f6 47.♖b7 ♔g7 ½–½.

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com
Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/
Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.
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CHESS TODAY
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CT-108(892) 18th April 2003

Tournament News

Nigel Short became sole leader of the Hunguest Hotels Super Chess Tournament in Budapest, Hungary. In the 6th round he beat Boris Gelfand (*see our annotated game section),* while Judit Polgar and Peter Leko drew their games.

Round 6 Results:
Short – Gelfand **1:0**
Leko – Almasi **½:½**
Movsesian – Polgar **½:½**
Acs – Lutz **1:0**
Berkes – Korchnoi **½:½**

Round 6 Standings:
1. Short – 4½
2. Polgar – 4
3. Leko – 3½
4-5. Movsesian, Acs – 3
6-9. Berkes, Gelfand, Almasi, Korchnoi – 2½
10. Lutz – 2

The Danish Chess Championships,
Round 6 Results:
P. H. Nielsen – Hoi **1:0**
Mortensen – N. Pedersen **½:½**
Schandorff – Rasmussen **½:½**
S. Pedersen – Palo **0:1**
S. B. Hansen – J. O. Nielsen **0:1**

Round 6 Standings:
1-2. Nielsen, Palo – 4½ points out of 6
3. N. Pedersen – 4 etc.

Two Russian cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg began their championships. The Moscow Championship is a 32 player KO with 15 GMs and 15 IMs competing. The top players are: Vladimir Malakhov, Mikhail Kobalia, Eugeny Najer, Sergej Shipov, Sergej Smagin, and Farrukh Amonatov.

The St. Petersburg Championships is a round-robin event with 10 participants: Denis Yevseev, Valerij Popov, Evgeny Shaposhnikov, Aleksei Lugovoi, Sergey Ivanov, Sergey Ionov, Valery Loginov, Konstantin Aseev, Evgeny Solozhenkin and Sergey Klimov.

Some information about future events from TWIC:
The 2003 Enghien-les-Bains tournament will have Judit Polgar, Teimour Radjabov, Vladimir Akopian, Evgeny Bareev, Boris Gelfand, Laurent Fressinet and Christian Bauer. The organisers are hopeful that Michael Adams and Viktor Korchnoi may play. Joel Lautier or Hichem Hamdouchi are also likely. The 10 player event is expected to be category 17. The venue is the "Centre des Arts" in Enghien-les-Bains. The event will take place from June 13th to the 22nd 2003. The time control will be 2 hours + 1 hour.

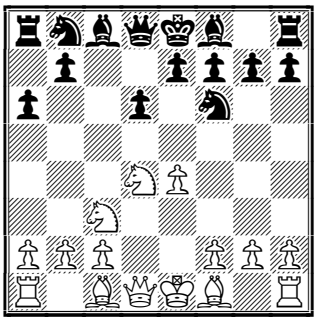
The 4th Karpov Tournament takes place from April 20th to 29th 2003 in Poikovsky, Russia. The players will be: Peter Svidler, Sergey Rublevsky, Joel Lautier, Vadim Zvjaginsev, Viktor Bologan, Alexander Onischuk, Smbat Lputian, Yannik Pelletier, Giovanni Vescovi, Andrey Obodchuk.

Santurtzi, a small Basque town near Bilbao (Spain) will be the venue (May 1st - 3rd) of a very original match. The Basque team (GM F. Izeta, GM J.L. Fernandez and GM M. Gomez) will play a total of nine games (three blindfold, three advanced chess and three rapid [50 min. + 5 sec/move], three games each day) against Viswanathan Anand, Judit Polgar and Anatoli Karpov. According to the Town Council, the main sponsor, "the idea is a combination of the sporting, cultural and spectacular sides of chess". A debate with the players about the film "Searching for Bobby Fischer" will be one of the parallel events.

Annotated Game

□ **N. Short (2686)**
■ **B. Gelfand (2700)**
Event: It Budapest HUN (6), 17.04.2003
Sicilian Defence/Najdorf Variation –[B92]
Annotations by IM Vladmir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 (D)

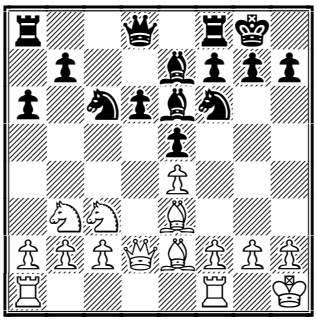


The Naidorf Sicilian has been the main opening weapon of Boris Gelfand for many years. He is one of the best specialist in this very complicated system. As for Nigel Short he always liked to play the Sicilian with White and has done very well.

6.♗e2

The positional way. Sharper alternatives are: 6.♗g5; 6.♗c4; 6.♗e3

6...e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.0–0 0–0 9.♔h1 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♗e6 11.♕d2!? (D)



Usually white prevents the move Nf6–g4 by 11.f3 but Short is ready to exchange his light-square bishop.

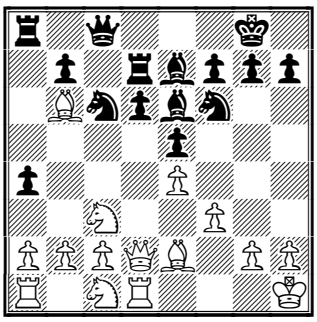
11...a5!?

An interesting attempt at counter-play: after 12.a2–a4 Black receives the b4-square for his knight, in other case the knight b3 has to go on the first rank. But maybe better was the typical [11...b5!? 12.a3 ♖c8⇄; In case of 11...♘g4 12.♗xg4 ♗xg4 13.♘d5 ♖c8 14.f3 ♗e6 15.♖fd1± White is better.

12.♖fd1 a4 13.♘c1 ♕c8

Preparing Rd8 and d6–d5.

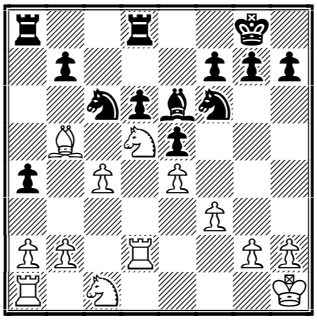
14.f3 ♖d8 15.♗b6 ♖d7 (D)



16.♘d5

White must prevent d6–d5.

16...♗d8 17.♗xd8 ♕xd8 18.♗b5! ♕a5 19.c4 ♕xd2 20.♖xd2 ♖dd8 (D)



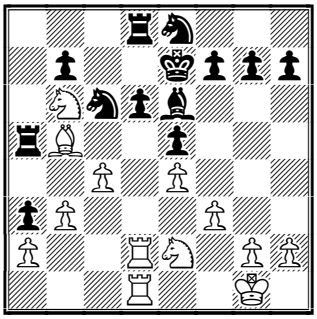
21.♘b6! ♖a5 22.♘e2

White has made five very strong moves in a row and has an obvious advantage now. Black's pieces are poorly co-ordinated (in view of the strong positions of the knight on b6 and the bishop on b5) and d6-pawn is weak.

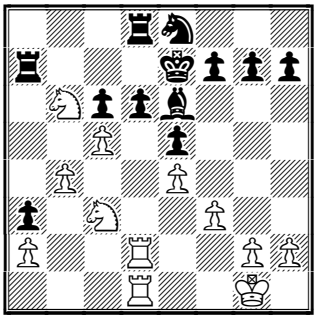
22...a3

22...♘e8 23.♖ad1

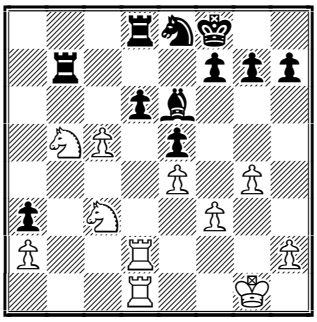
23.b3 ♔f8 24.♖ad1 ♔e7 25.♔g1 ♘e8 (D)



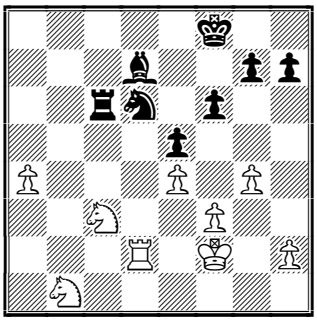
26.♘c3!?
What does this mean – White offers his opponent the possibility of playing ♘d4...
26...♘c7
...But Black declines the offer. Why? Perhaps better was 26...♘d4!? afterall, for example: 27.♘bd5+ ♔f8 28.♗xe8 ♗xd5! *(28...♖xe8 29.♘c7 ♖d8 30.♘3b5+–; 28...♔xe8 29.♘c7+ ♔e7 30.♘7b5 ♘xb5 31.♘xb5 ♖a6 32.c5+–)* 29.♘xd5 ♖xe8 and Black could hold this position.
27.♗xc6 bxc6 28.b4 ♖a7
28...♖a6!? 29.c5 ♘e8
29.c5 ♘e8 (D)



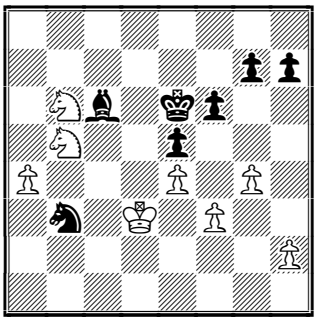
30.b5!
Energetic play. It's now difficult for Black to save the d6-pawn.
30...♖c7 31.g4 ♔f8
31...cxb5 32.♘cd5+
32.♘ba4! cxb5
32...♔e7!? 33.b6 ♖b7 34.♘b1 ±
33.♘xb5 ♖b7 34.♘ac3 (D)



As a result of the nice knight's dance White wins a pawn.
34...♖c8 35.cxd6 ♗d7 36.♖b1 ♖c6
36...♖b6 37.♖b3!?
37.♔f2 f6 38.♘xa3 ♖xb1 39.♘axb1 ♘xd6 40.a4 (D)



40...♔e7
40...♖a6!?
41.♘d5+ ♔f7 42.♖b2 ♖a6 43.♖b6 ♖xb6 44.♘xb6 ♗c6 45.♘c3 ♘b7 46.♔e3 ♔e6 47.♔d3 ♘a5 48.♘b5 ♘b3 (D)



49.♔c4!? ♘d2+
49...♗xb5+ 50.♔xb5 ♘d4+ 51.♔c5 ♘xf3 52.a5+–
50.♔c5 ♗b7 51.♘c4 ♘xf3 52.♘cd6!
White wins a piece so Black resigned.52.♘cd6 ♗a6 53.♘c7+ **1–0.**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com
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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir

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Chess News

The 4th Karpov Tournament

Round 2 Results (April 21, 2003):
Onischuk – Rublevsky ½:½
Zvjaginsev – Bologan ½:½
Vescovi – Lputian 1–0
Obodchuk – Svidler ½:½
Pelletier – Lautier ½:½

Round 2 Standings:
1–3. Svidler, Bologan, Onischuk, – 1½/2

The Foxwoods Open

I. Smirin took 1st place. GMs Kaidanov and Zaitshik went down to a brutal time scramble in which Kaidanov won with a single pawn versus Queen.

Final Standings:
1.Smirin 6/7
2–8. Kaidanov, Igor Novikov, Ibragimov, Nakamura, Shulman, Kudrin, Blatny – 5½

The St. Petersburg Championships
After round 5, Lugovoi (3/4), Popov (3½/5) and Evseev(3½/5) are leading.

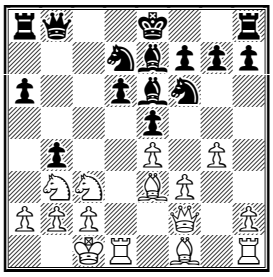
♘♘♘

Annotated Game

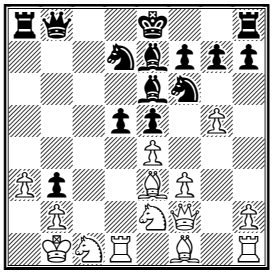
☐ **S. Movsesian (2659)**
■ **C. Lutz (2640)**
Event: *It Budapest HUN (8), 19.04.2003*
Sicilian Defence/Najdorf **– [B90]**

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

The Budapest Tournament has already ended, but this is at least one game I would like to annotate:
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.f3 ♘bd7 9.♕d2 b5 10.0-0-0 ♗e7 11.♕f2 ♕b8 12.g4 b4 (D)



A sharp line in this variation of the Sicilian Defence has arisen on the board. In this game White decided to bet on protection of his king. He had an impressive crushing defeat waiting in store!
13.♘e2?!N
Sergey is trying to keep as many pieces on the board as it is possible. A typical continuation is 13.♘d5 Lutz has already experienced the following: 13...♗xd5 14.exd5 a5 15.g5 ♘h5 16.♗h3 a4 17.♘d2 b3 18.axb3 axb3 19.♘xb3 ♖a4 20.♗g4 ♘f4 21.h4 ♕b7 22.♗xf4 ♖xf4 23.♖he1 ♘b6 24.♕f1 ♘c4 25.♖e4 ♖xe4 26.fxe4 ♘e3 27.♘a5 ♕b4 Votava,J-Lutz,C/Germany 1997/GER-chT/0–1 (38).
13...a5 14.♔b1
Being fully aware of what is going to happen, I would recommend the following to White: 14.g5 ♘h5 15.♔b1 But it is even better to avoid this position at all!
14...a4 15.♘bc1 b3 16.cxb3 axb3 17.a3
The first wave of Black's attack is beaten off and White's position looks strong.
17...d5!
But here comes the second wave and a bit later – and the highest one.
18.g5 (D)



In this situation Lutz set himself up to deliver an incredible combination

sacrificing two pieces. And it was successful!

18...♗xa3!?

After the "calm" 18...♘h5 19.♖xd5 *(19.exd5 ♗f5+ 20.♘d3 ♗xa3!)* 19...♗xd5 20.exd5 0–0 Black also has an advantage.

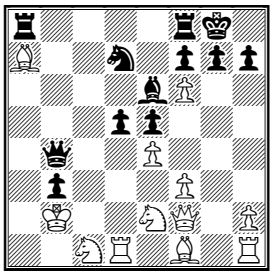
19.gxf6 ♗xb2!

Onwards to a victory! It is too late for Black to retreat: 19...♘xf6 20.bxa3 b2 21.♘a2 d4 22.♗xd4! ♖xa3 23.♘ec3 ♗xa2+ 24.♘xa2 ♕b3 25.♗b5+! ♕xb5 26.♗c5+–

20.♔xb2?!

The following move deserves consideration 20.fxg7! , temporarily cutting off the rook on h8. Although here Black also has a strong attack, White has more chances of defending this position than he does in the game, because he is practically one rook up:). 20...♖g8 21.♔xb2 ♕d6 *(21...♕b4 22.♗a7 ♖c8 23.♗d4! ♖c2+ 24.♔b1)* 22.♗a7 d4 23.♖xd4! ♕c7! *(23...exd4 24.♕xd4 ♕c7)* 24.♖d2 ♖xa7 25.♘c3 ♕a5 26.♕xa7 ♕xa7 27.♗b5 ♖xg7 28.♖hd1 f6∓

20...♕b4 21.♗a7 0–0 (D)



22.♗h3?

Desperation. The following could definitely complicate Black's task 22.exd5 ♗f5 23.♕g1! g6 *(23...♘xf6 24.♕b6!±)* 24.♘xb3 ♖fc8! Making the White rook deprive the knight of the c1–square. 25.♖c1 ♖cb8! 26.♗xb8 *(26.♖c3 ♘b6!–+)* 26...♕a3+ 27.♔c3 ♖xb8 28.♔d2 ♖xb3 29.♖c8+ *29.♔e1 ♖xf3 30.♕g5 ♘xf6! 31.♕xf6 ♕b4+ 32.♖c3 ♖xc3 33.♘xc3 ♕xc3+ 34.♔e2)* 29...♘f8 30.♕c5 ♖d3+ 31.♔e1 ♗xc8 32.♕xc8 ♖xf3 although it is not, of course, an easy position for White, but he is still alive and has a chance to survive

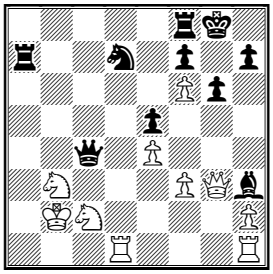
22...♗xh3 23.♘xb3 d4

Another nice way toward victory 23...♖fb8 24.♗xb8 ♕a3+ 25.♔c3 d4+ 26.♘exd4 ♖xb8 and White falls regardless the extra rook. For instance, 27.♕g3 exd4+ 28.♔d2 ♕b2+ 29.♔e1 ♕c3+! 30.♖d2 g6–+

24.♕g3

The following also could not save the game 24.♘exd4 ♖xa7 25.♘c2 because of 25...♕b8! 26.♕g3 g6 27.♕xh3 ♘c5 28.f4 ♘xb3 29.♕xb3 ♖b7–+ (and this is the reason the Queen has stepped such a long way off!)

24...g6 25.♘exd4 ♖xa7 26.♘c2 ♕c4 (D)



Black keeps on attacking having material equality, White has a hopeless position.

27.♕f2 ♖b7 28.♘ca1 ♘c5 29.♕e3 ♗e6 30.♖c1 ♘d3+ 0–1.

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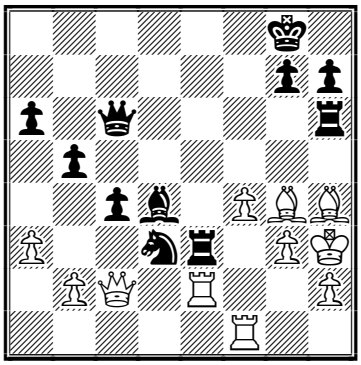
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-114(898) 24th April 2003

Quiz Today

Obodchuk (2417) – Lautier (2666)
RUS 2003



Black to play

After round 4 of the 4th Karpov Tournament in Poikovsky, Siberia, Russia – half the participants, 5 out of 10, are leading with 'plus one'. Strangely there have been almost no short draws in this event. (See our cbv and pgn files and judge for yourself.)

Round 4 results:
Zvjaginsev – Lputian **1:0**
Onischuk – Svidler **½:½**
Rublevsky – Bologan **½:½**
Pelletier – Vescovi **½:½**
Obodchuk – Lautier **0:1**

Round 4 Standings:
1-5. Zvjaginsev, Onischuk, Svidler, Bologan, Lautier – 2½ points
6-7. Rublevsky, Vescovi – 2
8-9. Pelletier, Lputian – 1½
10. Obodchuk – ½

Round 5 pairings:
Svidler – Rublevsky
Bologan – Pelletier
Vescovi – Obodchuk
Lautier – Zvjaginsev
Lputian – Onischuk

In the semi-finals of the Moscow Championships Vladimir Malakhov will play vs. Sergey Shipov and Evgenij Najer vs. Evgenij Vorobiev.

Results of quarter-final:
Malakhov – Nikolenko **1:0 1:0**
Najer – Amonatov **1:0 ½:½**
Shipov – Rychagov **½:½ ½:½ (1:0 ½:½)**
Vorobiev – Sambuev **½:½ 1:0**

GM Bartlomiej Macieja reports for Chess Today, that the 60th Polish Championship held under the honorary patronage of the President of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski, has just started. It is the strongest Polish Championship ever and the average rating of players is 2527.1, which makes it a Category XII.
The prizes (sponsored by Plus GSM and Siemens Sp. z o.o.) are:
1st place 10,000 USD
2nd place 7,500 USD
3rd place 5,000 USD
4th place 4,000 USD
5th place 3,000 USD
6th place 2,000 USD
All the information about the event (both in Polish and English), including results of each round and notation of games can be found at the website www.pzszach.org.pl.
All games are available on-line!
Rounds 1-12 (April 22nd – May 3rd) start at 15:00 local time (9:00 EDT), the last 13th round (May 4th) starts at 12:00 (6:00 EDT).

After 2 Rounds **Tomasz Markowski**, **Krzysztof Jakubowski** and **Piotr Staniszewski** are leading with 1½ points.

Round 3 Pairings:
Miton (1) – Jakubowski (1½)
Cyborowski (½) – Grabarczyk (1)
Macieja (1) – Urban (½)
Kempinski (1) – Staniszewski (1½)
Krasenkow (1) – Jaracz (1)
Murdzia (½) – Socko (1)
Bartel (1) – Markowski (1½)

Also see our Annotated game section.

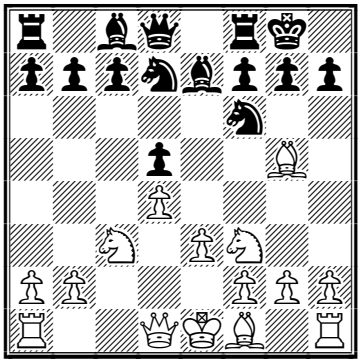
Young Georgian **Baadur Jobava** and young Russian **Artem Timofeev** have

perfect results after round 3 of the 5th Dubai Open Chess Championships.

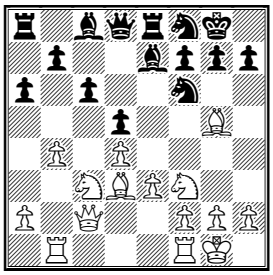
Round 4 Pairings:
Jobava (3) – Timofeev (3)
Gleizerov (2½) – Sakaev (2½)
Sargissian (2½) – Motylev (2½)
Ulibin (2½) – Gagunashvili (2½)
Gashimov (2½) – Dizdar (2½)
Aleksandrov (2) – Magerramov (2)
Volkov (2) – Brodsky (2)
Alekseev (2) – Minasian (2)
El Taher (2) – Mamedyarov (2)
Fedorov (2) – Skripchenko (2)
El Gindy (2) – Shariyazdanov (2)
Pigusov (2) – Zulfugarli (2)
Kharlov (2) – Sveshnikov (2)
A. Kuzmin (2) – Sale (2)
Izoria (2) – Saleh (2)
Taleb (2) – Anastasian (2)
Mamedov (2) – Kayumov (1½)

Annotated Game

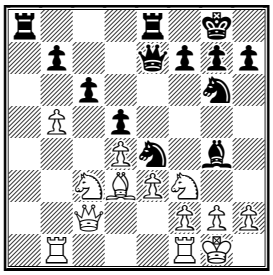
□ **M Grabarczyk**
■ **K Jakubowski**
Event: 60 Ch Poland Warszawa (Poland) (1), 22.04.2003 – D36
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5 0-0 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.cxd5 exd5



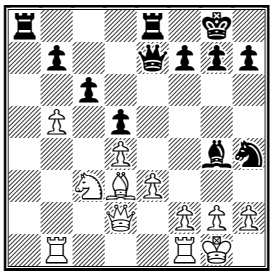
The Classical Carlsbad had arisen. Is it interesting to play it nowadays? It looks like a "school program" for chessplayers: all the plans and tactical blows are well known. But from time to time even strong players forget something from "school".
8.♕c2 ♖e8 9.♗d3 ♘f8 10.0-0
Also possible is a plan with long castling.
10...c6 11.♖ab1
11.h3!?; 11.♖ae1!?
11...a6 12.b4



A minority pawn attack – still nothing new.
12...♘e4!?
A more popular alternative is 12...♗d6!? 13.a4 ♘g6 14.b5 axb5 15.axb5 h6 16.♗xf6 ♕xf6 with counterplay on the kingside also.
13.♗xe7
13.♗f4!?
13...♕xe7 14.a4
Interesting is 14.♗xe4 dxe4 15.♘d2 f5 *(15...♗f5!?)* 16.d5!?
14...♘g6 15.b5 axb5 16.axb5 ♗g4



The black pawn structure on the queenside is weak, so Black has to find his chances on the opposite wing. Now it's only the f3 knight that defends the white king, so Black tries to disturb it.
17.♘d2?
This "natural" move is a big mistake after which White's position becomes at least very unpleasant. Better was 17.♗xe4!? dxe4 18.♘d2
17...♘xd2 18.♕xd2 ♘h4!



A rather strange position: all Black's

threats are absolutely obvious but how to prevent them?!

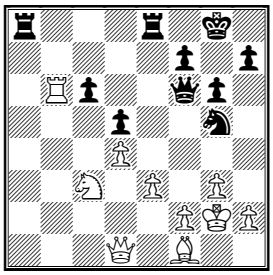
19.♗e2?!

Take a look at the possible alternatives: 19.♖fc1?! ♗h3; 19.♔h1? ♘f3! 20.♕c2 ♕h4 21.h3 ♗xh3–+; 19.♕c2 ♗h3 20.bxc6 bxc6 21.♖fc1 ♘xg2 *(21...♗xg2 22.♘e2)* ; 19.♘e2 ♗h3 20.♘f4? ♗xg2!–+ It looks like 19.Qc2 was the best chance.

19...♗h3! 20.g3 ♕f6! 21.♕d1

White couldn't save his rook: 21.♖fc1 ♘f3+ 22.♗xf3 ♕xf3

21...♗xf1 22.♗xf1 ♘f3+ 23.♔g2 ♘g5 24.bxc6 bxc6 25.♖b6 g6!?



A small trap.

26.♘xd5?

And the trap works!

26...♕d8!

White loses a piece, so he resigned.

0–1

Solution to Quiz Today

39...♖xh4+! 40.♔xh4 ♕h6+ 41.♗h5 g6 0–1

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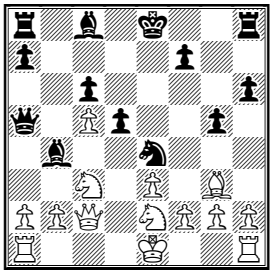
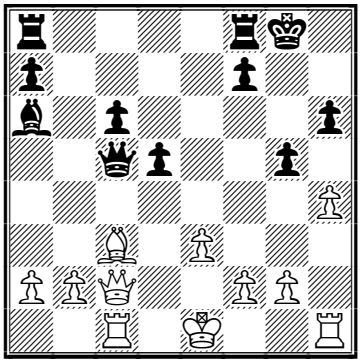
CT-115(899) 25th April 2003

Quiz Today

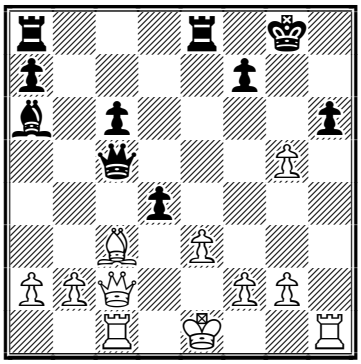
Popov (2570) – Loginov (2540)
St Petersburg 2003
13.♘ge2



13...♗xc3+!?N 14.♘xc3 ♕xc5?! 15.♖c1 15...♘xc3 16.♗e5! 0-0 17.♗xc3 ♗a6 This is the reason Black did not want to tranfer his bishop to f5. Now he is trying to prevent White from castling. But the White king in the center feels better than his castled rival...



18.h4! ♖fe8?
Necessary was 18...g4±
19.hxg5! d4



Loginov decided to rely on counter attack but miscalculated. **White to play!**

60th Polish Championships

Round 2 Standings: 1-3. Jakubowski, 2. Markowski, 3. Staniszewski (1½ points).

4th Karpov Tournament

Round 5 (April 24, 2003)

Svidler – Rublevsky 1-0
Bologan – Pelletier ½-½
Vescovi – Obodchuk ½-½
Lautier – Zvjaginsev 1-0
Lputian – Onischuk 0-1

Round 5 Standings:

1-3. Svidler, Onischuk, Lautier (3½ points);
4-5. Bologan, Vescovi (3 points); 6. Zvjaginsev (2½ points); 7. Rublevsky (2 points); 8-9. Lputian, Pelletier (1½ points); 10. Obodchuk (1 point).

Commonwealth Championships

After 7 rounds there are 2 leaders: Kasimdzhanov and Nguyen with 6 points. Zhang, Barua, Dzhumaev share 3-5 places.

Dubai Open

Almost all the top games ending in draws. As a result, Gashimov's win allowed him to catch the leaders. So now we have 3 leaders: Timofeev, Jobava and Gashimov with 3½ points after 4 rounds.

Tomorrow on the first boards we have:
Timofeev (3½) – Gashimov (3½)
Sakaev (3) – Jobava (3½)

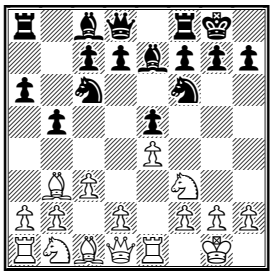
Moscow Championships

In the first games of the semifinals:
Malakhov Shipov 1-0
Najer – Vorobiov ½-½
The second games are played tomorrow.

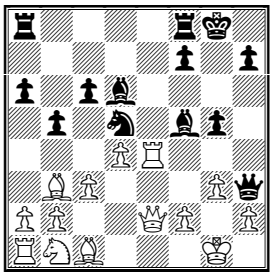
This issue is prepared byIM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Graham Brown
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Annotated Game

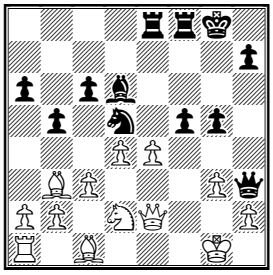
□ **V Bologan (2663)**
■ **A Onischuk (2647)**
Event: 4th Karpov It Poikovsky RUS (3), 22.04.2003 – C89
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0–0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0–0 8.c3



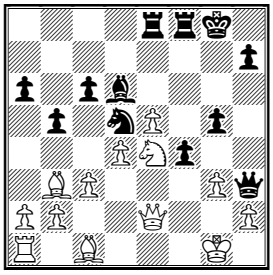
d5 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♖xe5 c6 12.d4 ♗d6 13.♖e1 ♕h4 14.g3 ♕h3 15.♖e4 g5 16.♕e2 ♗f5



17.f3N
This is a novelty in the sharpest variation of Marshall counter attack! The following occured before 17.♘d2 ♘f6 18.f3 ♘xe4 19.♘xe4 ♗xe4 20.fxe4 ♗e7 21.♗e3 ♔h8 22.♖f1 f5 23.♗e6 ♕g4 24.♕xg4 fxg4 25.♗d7 ♖xf1+ 26.♔xf1 b4 27.♗xc6 bxc3 28.bxc3 ♖b8 29.e5 ♖b2 30.d5 ♔g7 31.d6 1–0 Sax,G–Atalik,S/Bled 2000
17...♗xe4
A principled capture A pretty good alternative is 17...h6 18.♕g2 ♕xg2+ 19.♔xg2 ♖fe8 striving to capture the e–file. Black has compensation for his pawn.
18.fxe4 ♖ae8
The novelty implemented by White is not of great value, Black has already secured a draw: 18...♗xg3 19.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 20.♕g2 ♕e1+ 21.♔h2 ♕h4+ with perpetual check.
19.♘d2
After 19.♗xg5 Black has a nice choice: 19...♗xg3 *(or 19...♕f5!? 20.exf5 ♖xe2 21.♘d2 ♖fe8* Confident control over the open file gives Black an edge.*)* 20.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 21.♕g2 ♕xg2+ 22.♔xg2 ♖xe4 23.♔f3 ♖e1 It is not easy for White to develop his pieces on the queenside.
19...f5



Unlike White who has not completed his development yet, all Black pieces are involved in the struggle and aim at the White king. At the same time White is the exchange down for a pawn:) Nevertheless, the assessment of the position is not quite clear: Black is unable to play for a win without granting reciprocal chances to White.
20.e5 f4 21.♘e4



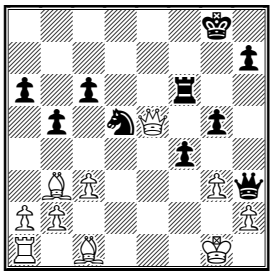
21...♗xe5!?
Onischuk sacrifices his bishop in order to annihilate White's grouping in the center. No other way to victory can be seen: 21...f3 22.♕f1 ♕f5 23.♘xd6 f2+ 24.♔g2 ♕f3+ 25.♔h3=; 21...fxg3 22.♘xg3 ♗e7 *(22...♔h8 23.♗xd5 cxd5 24.♗xg5±)* 23.♕g2 White completes his development and at least his chances in the endgame are not worse because his knight on e4 is no less good than the rook.
22.dxe5 ♖xe5
Black also does not have an advantage after: 22...♕f5 23.♘d6 ♕xe5 24.♕xe5 ♖xe5 25.gxf4 gxf4 26.c4! bxc4 27.♘xc4 with approximately equal chances for both parties.; Probably

22...f3!? 23.♕f1 ♕h5 24.♗xg5 ♖xe5 25.♘f6+ ♖xf6 26.♗xf6 ♖e2 27.♗h4 f2+ 28.♕xf2 ♖xf2 29.♔xf2 In my opinion Black's position is preferable here but whether he can win or not – that's a big question.

23.♘f6+!

After this move there is no way to turn off, so the game is a draw.

23...♖xf6 24.♕xe5



24...fxg3 25.♗xd5+ cxd5 26.♕xg5+ ♔f7 27.♕xd5+ ♔e8 28.♕a8+ ♔f7 29.♕b7+ ♔e8

Both White and Black had to resign themselves to a draw. **½–½**

Solution to Quiz Today 20.♖xh6! dxc3 21.♕h7+ ♔f8 22.♕h8+ ♔e7 23.♕f6+ ♔d7 24.♖xc3+– ♗c4 25.♖h4 1–0

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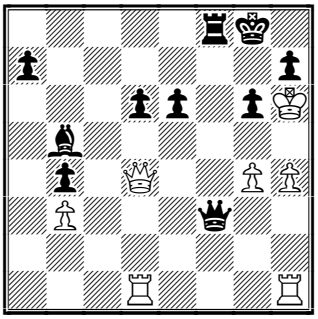
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-116(900) 26th April 2003

Quiz Today

Saravanan (2358) – Ramakrishna (2251)



In this position Black played 28...♕f7?! but there is a more forcing move ..

Black to play

Chess News

There was some great fighting chess in the 6th round of the 4th Karpov Tournament in Poikovsky, Siberia, Russia! Viorel Bologan tried to beat Petr Svidler for more than 50 moves and Vadim Zviagintsev tried to overstep Giovanni Vescovi, but both without success – two draws. Sergei Rublevsky won a bright game against Smbat Lputian and Jannic Pelletier beat Andrei Obodchuk. Only the draw in the game Alexander Onischuk – Joel Lautier was more or less short (see our cbv and pgn files).

Round 6 Results:
Onischuk – Lautier **½:½**
Bologan – Svidler **½:½**
Zvjaginsev – Vescovi **½:½**
Rublevsky – Lputian **1:0**
Pelletier – Obodchuk **1:0**

Round 6 Standings:
1-3. Svidler, Onischuk, Lautier – 4 points
4-5. Bologan, Vescovi – 3½
6-7. Zvjaginsev, Rublevsky – 3
8. Pelletier – 2½
9. Lputian – 1½
10. Obodchuk – 1
Also see our Annotated game section.

Vladimir Malakhov and **Evgenij Najer** will play a 4-game final match in the Moscow Championships. Malakhov won the second game against Sergey Shipov, so he won the semi-final match 2:0. Both classical games Evgenij Najer vs. Evgenij Vorobiev were drawn, but Najer won both additional games. Shipov and Vorobiov will play for 3rd place.

GM **Valery Popov** leads with 6½ points out of 9 in the St. Petersburg Championships. IM Denis Evseev is second with 6/9. GMs Solozhenkin, Ionov and Lugovoi have 5 points, but after 8 games.

In the Women's championships GMs **Olga Stiazhkina** and **Ekaterina Korbut** have a perfect score with 7 points out of 8. IM Elena Bystriakova has 5½ points.

GM **Tomasz Markowski** is the leader, with 3½ points out of 4, of the 60th Polish Championship. Macieja and Krasenkow have half a point less, Kempinski and Socko – 2½ points.

Young Russian GM **Artem Timofeev** (who beat Victor Korchnoi in a 6-game match a month ago in Kazan) leads with 4½ points out of 5 in the 5th Dubai Open Chess Championships.

Round 6 Pairings:
Aleksandrov (3½) – Timofeev (4½)
Jobava (4) – Motylev (3½)
Goloshchapov (3½) – Sakaev (3½)
Mchedlishvili (3½) – Volkov (3½)
Alekseev (3½) – Gleizerov (3½)
Pigusov (3½) – Sargissian (3½)
Minasian (3½) – Gagunashvili (3½)
Gashimov (3½) – Anastasian (3½)
El Taher (3½) – A. Kuzmin (3½)

GM **Nguyen Anh Dung** from Vietnam is leading with a brilliant 7 points out of 8 in the strong open tournament – the Commonwealth Chess Championships (Mumbai, India). CT-contributor Ruslan Scherbakov is

amongst the participants also. Ruslan hasn't played any tournaments for a year (he has worked as a coach and chess journalist), so his 5½ points out of 8 isn't such a bad result. We wish Ruslan good luck in the last two rounds!

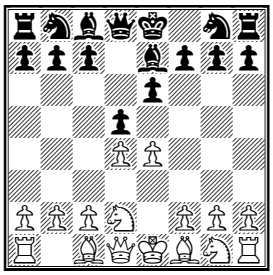
Round 9 pairings:
Nguyen Anh Dung (7) – Sasikiran (6)
Kasimdzhanov (6½) – Vladimirov (6)
Sorokim (6) – Iuldachev (6)
Dzhumaev (6) – Barua (6)
Safin (5½) – Harikrishna (5½)
Sherbakov (5½) – Kunte (5½)
Vijayalakshmi (5½) – Zhang Peng Xiang (5½)
Vakhidov (5½) – Pogorelov (5½)
Sriram Jha (5½) – Ganguly (5½)
Rausis (5½) – Sattar (5½)
Fominyh (5½) – Chandra (5½)
Kotronias (5) – Harika (5½)

IM **Amon Simutowe** from Zambia has a perfect score after the 2nd round of the Generation Chess International Tournament in the Marshall Chess Club, New York City USA.

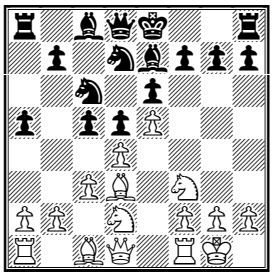
Round 2 Standings:
1. Simutowe – 2 points
2–4. Christiansen, Krush, Perelshteyn – 1½
5–7. Bluvshtein, Yudasin, Ehlvest – 1
etc.

Annotated Game

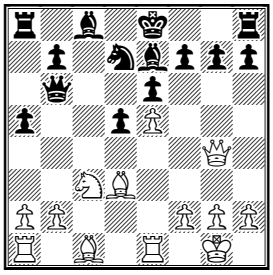
□ **S Rublevsky (2670)**
■ **S Lputian (2638)**
Event: 4th Karpov It Poikovsky RUS (6), 26.04.2003 C05
Annotations: **IM Vladimir Barsky**
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♗e7



The so-called Romanishin variation has become very popular in the last few years thanks to the new ideas of Alexander Morozevich. It's very hard for me to understand many of his ideas, but Alexander has very good results in this line! After Romanishin and before Morozevich the main expert of this line was IM Igor Lempert, who taught Svetlana Matveeva to play it, and – partly – young Morozevich.
4.♘gf3
Other lines are 4.e5; 4.♗d3; 4.♕g4!?
4...♘f6 5.e5 ♘fd7 6.♗d3
With the knight on f3 still, White hasn't yet got f2–f4. This is one of the ideas of 3...Be7: Black waits for his opponent's reply.
6...c5 7.c3 ♘c6 8.0–0 a5



Black doesn't hurry with castling and begins immediate counterplay on the queenside.
9.♖e1 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♕b6
Thanks to 8...a5, Black wins the d4 pawn (11.Nb3 a4), but loses some tempi. So White will have better development and a strong initiative for the pawn. But all this is theory still.
11.♘b1 ♘xd4 12.♘xd4 ♕xd4 13.♘c3 ♕b6 14.♕g4



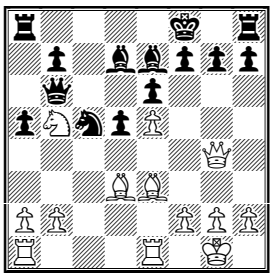
Typical for the French defence: White has a pawn on e5 and attacks the g7 pawn with his queen. Also typical, Black has 3 replies: g6, 0–0 and Kf8.
14...♔f8!?
14...g6 15.♘b5 0–0 16.♗h6 ♘c5 17.♕d4 ♖d8 18.♖ac1 ♖a6∞ Smirin –

Ulibin, Pula 2000; 14...0–0 15.♗h6 g6 16.♘b5 ♘c5 17.♕d4 ♗d7 18.♗xf8 ♖xf8 19.a4 f6 20.exf6 ♗xf6 21.♕e3 ♗xb2 22.♖a2 ♗f6 23.♖c1 d4 24.♕g3 ♘xd3 25.♕xd3 ♗c6⇄ Rublevsky – Lputian, FIDE-W ch k.o., 2000 These games finished as draws, but Smbut Lputian didn't want to continue a theoretical discussion with Sergei Rublevsky and chose another move.

15.♘b5

Why not occupy such a weak point? Also White prepares Be3.

15...♘c5 16.♗e3 ♗d7



17.♘d6!?

Sergei plays interesting and energetic chess. He sacrifices a second pawn with the idea of exploiting the weak black points in his opponent's camp.

17...♗xd6

This exchange is more or less forced: the d6 knight is very unpleasant.

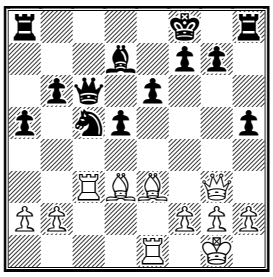
18.exd6 ♕xd6 19.♕g3!

Thanks to this move White wins some tempi for attack.

19...♕c6

19...♕e7 20.♗d4⩲; 19...♕xg3?? 20.♗xc5+

20.♖ac1 b6 21.♖c3 h5!?

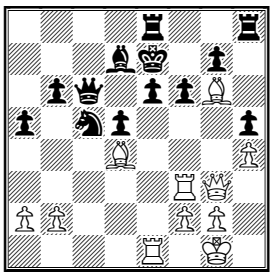


Black has been playing without the h8 rook, so he has to activate it.

22.h4 ♖c8 23.♗d4 f6 24.♗g6 ♖e8?

I don't see a victory for White after 24...e5!? Of course White could sacrifice a bishop – 25.♗xe5 but Black has a lot of defensive resources, for example: 25...fxe5 26.♖f3+ *(26.♖xe5 ♗g4 27.♖f3+ ♔g8)* 26...♔g8 27.♗f7+ ♔h7 28.♕xe5 ♗g4

25.♖f3 ♔e7?



The last two Black moves look very strange. Now White wins by force: 25...♘e4; 25...♖c8

26.♖xf6!

Also good was 26.♗xe8 ♖xe8 27.♕xg7+ ♔d8 28.♗xf6+; Black resigned in view of 26.♖xf6 gxf6 27.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 *(27...♔f8 28.♗f7 ♔xf7 29.♕g7#)* 28.♕g5+ ♔g7 29.♗xh5+ ♔f8 30.♕f6+ ♔g8 31.♕f7#

1–0

Solution to Quiz Today 28...♖f6! 29.h5 gxh5+ 30.♔xh5 ♗e2–+

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (3531)283- 6839.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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Break Time!

GM Alex Baburin

As it happens, I often prepare Sunday issues of Chess Today, so I usually try to deviate from our weekly routine and provide a lighter, more entertaining read. Thus, instead of a heavy dose of tournament news, today you will find our readers' feedback, a book review and a pretty instructive game, which saw a truly weird position arise in it. I hope that you will find some leisure time today to read all of this!

Chess News

The 7th round of the strong closed tournament in Poikovsky (Siberia) gave the following results:

Obodchuk – Zvjaginsev 0-1
Lputian – Bologan 1-0
Lautier – Rublevsky ½-½
Vescovi – Onischuk ½-½
Svidler – Pelletier ½-½

While IM Andrei Obodchuk is clearly out of his depth in such a tournament and is having a very rough time, another outsider – GM Lputian – came back after three defeats in a row. His opponent, GM Viorel (who won the Aeroflot Open earlier this year and thus will play in Dortmund) obtained a good position with Black, but 22...Rb6? ruined his position.

With 2 rounds to go a Grandmaster trio is leading on 4½ out of 7: Peter Svidler, Joel Lautier and Alexander Onischuk. They are chased by GMs Vescovi and Zvjaginsev, who each have 4 points.

Book Review

Today we would like to welcome a new reviewer – ***Don Aldrich***, who joins Sam Collins and Andy Ansel on our panel of reviewers. We plan to have a lot more books reviewed in Chess Today on a regular basis, so Don's help is very welcome! He lives in the USA and has a deep interest in chess literature, particularly in treatises.

The Critical Moment by GM Iossif Dorfman, *published by Game Mind Ltd. (2002) 144pp., $19.90*

Dorfman's *The Critical Moment* is a companion or sequel to the recently published *The Method in Chess. The Method* purports to describe a new method for move selection at the board. Dorfman states that there are several critical moments during every game. He defines a critical moment as when there is a possible change in the pawn structure, a possible exchange of material, or at the end of series of forced moves. At such critical moments, Dorfman says, the crucial question is whether to play statically or dynamically. Static play is defined as dealing with those features of the position which have a lasting quality, such as weak points, pawn structure and so on. Dynamic play involves something which the average player would call 'active' – such as sacrificing material for an attack, exchanging pieces, or making threats that might have a positional cost to them. Dorfman's basic thesis is that when the balance is statically negative, one must play dynamically; in other words, if you are worse, do something!

While none of this sounds revolutionary, the real novelty comes in with his method of static evaluation. He proposes a four point descending scale, to wit: 1. King Position 2. Material (im)balance 3. Who has better position if queens are removed and 4. Pawn structure. He assigns each criteria a +, +/=, etc. in the style of Informant. Thus, once one has made

this evaluation, one knows what kind of move one needs to be looking for. This is all supposedly explained in *The Method. The Critical Moment* is devoted to the dynamic part of the method—how to find good dynamic moves when the static evaluation is negative. I give this background as it is necessary to understand whether Dorfman succeeds or fails in his attempt.

The problem with the *Method* was not in its concept, but execution. The first part of the book is a quick course in evaluating the various elements. Unfortunately, it is simply a series of examples – this a weak square, here the king is not safe, and so on. Dorfman does not explain how to make an evaluation using his elements, and worse, while he emphasizes it is based on a descending scale, he gives no clue as to the relative importance of each factor. We don't know if it's linear, scalar or logarithmic. Is king safety [factor 1] twice as important or ten times as important as material [factor 2]? If the king safety factor is ± for White, how much of an advantage does Black need in the second factor, material imbalance, to over come it? In other words, when the static evaluation is presented as such: 1. ± 2. ∓ 3. ± 4. =, who is better? And this comes up over and over.

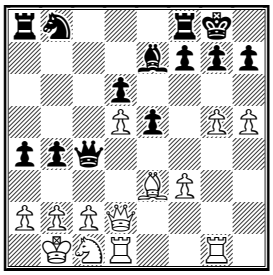
The second problem with *The Method* are the games used as examples. They are all Dorfman games! Now, he is certainly a fine GM, but I am not sure that his games are the repository of all that is good in chess. Remember, this is not billed as the Best Games of Dorfman. Even worse, the notes are fairly skimpy. And worst, oft times the quoted games do not show [at least clearly] what they are supposed to show.

Given all this, can *The Critical Moment* have any redeeming qualities? While it states it should be read in conjunction with *The Method,* Dorfman pretty much tells you all you need to know to use it. Remember, the point is only dynamic play when your position is statically worse, and he is going to show you how to do this.

The book is broken up into three sections: The King Position [how to attack, how to protect], The Exchange of Material, and Modification of Pawn Structure. The notes to each position or game are more robust than in the Method, and the games are not all Dorfman's, but 32 out of about 200 examples. Unfortunately, neither the examples nor the diagrams are numbered. And the examples seem to pretty much show what they are supposed to.

So then, does the book succeed in its goals? Taking a position from the king safety section on page 38 we are presented with this:

□ **De la Riva**
■ **Gallagher**
Event: **Toulouse 1998**
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.♗e3 ♗e7 9.♕d2 0-0 10.0-0-0 b5 11.g4 b4 12.♘d5 ♗xd5 13.exd5 a5 14.♔b1 ♕c7 15.g5 ♘fd7 16.h4 ♘b6 17.h5 a4 18.♘c1 ♘c4 19.♗xc4 ♕xc4 20.♖hg1 ***(D)***

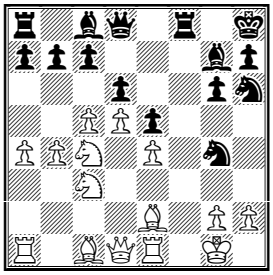


Here we are told that Black has played the opening poorly, and thus now must resort to dynamic play:
20...b3 21.cxb3 axb3 22.♘xb3 ♘d7
Dorfman now tells us the static evaluation has become positive for Black: 1. ∓ 2. ± 3. ± 4. ±. And herein lies the problem – three of the four criteria are positive for White, and there is a slight plus for Black in the first, but this means Black is better?
Worse, he also tells us that if White was better after move 20, then White cannot be worse after a series of

forced moves. And the conclusion that he draws from this? That White must now play dynamically to seize the initiative with 23.♘a5!! ♕a4 24.b4. Instead, White played 23.♘c1 and went on to lose. Interestingly enough, Fritz wants to exchange queens with ♕c2/d3. Probably something to do with those passers on the queenside...

Moving on to exchanges, we find this example:

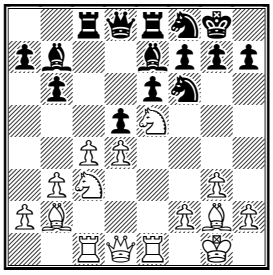
□ **De la Riva**
■ **Ye**
Event: Yerevan 1996
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 ♗g7 5.♗e2 0-0 6.♘f3 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4 ♘h5 10.♖e1 f5 11.♘d2 ♘f6 12.c5 ♔h8 13.f3 ♘eg8 14.♘c4 ♘h6 15.a4 fxe4 16.fxe4 ♘fg4 ***(D)***



Here Dorfman says that White's problems look insoluble, what with the threats to the White King after Qh4. He gives the evaluation as 1. ∓ 2. = 3. ± 4. ±. Oh, what to do?
17.♗xh6
Dorfman notes it is okay to exchange the bishop for the knight as the pawn structure is fixed. Now, Dorfman is a big *Bishop over Knight* guy; that is always worth at least a ± in the material balance category.
17...♘xh6 18.♖c1
And now he gives us 1. = 2. = 3. ± 4. ±. Thus, by giving up a bishop for a knight, White has magically solved his problems, and has a static plus. Never mind that Black has the Bishop pair...
Now, really, how hard was it to find 17.Bxh6 in this example? And why isn't Black given credit for the Bishop pair in the material evaluation? And this is the problem I have with the second volume – the static evaluations, never properly explained in *The Method*, seem inconsistent to me. And perhaps the problem isn't with Dorfman, but with me. Maybe I am just not good enough at positional evaluation for this system to work for me, and he isn't interested in teaching me that. In his defence, the bio notes that he is the trainer of 'high level' students. I am guessing this means in the 2300-2400 class, which leaves me, and most players, out of it.

Let's look at an example from the Modification of Pawn Structure section. In the introduction to the section, Dorfman tells us how important pawn structure is, and then tells us, 'In the pages of this chapter the reader will be able to sense under what **conditions the search for compensation for damaged pawn structure** in one of the upper rungs of the descending scale is the correct strategy.' [page 95]. I presume the bold type is used to emphasize how important this is.

□ **Dorfman**
■ **Verdier**
Event: France 1997
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.♘c3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.♗g2 ♗b7 6.0-0 ♗e7 7.b3 0-0 8.♗b2 d6 9.e3 ♘bd7 10.d4 cxd4 11.exd4 d5 12.♘e5 ♖c8 13.♖c1 ♖e8 14.♖e1 ♘f8 ***(D)***



"White has harmoniously developed his pieces, but the static evaluation is still advantageous to his opponent: 1. = 2. = 3. ∓ 4. ∓. The dynamic continuations – 15.g4 ♘g6 16.g5 ♘d7 17.cxd5 ♘dxe5 or 15.♘a4 ♘8d7 16.♘xd7 ♕xd7 17.c5 ♗c6 – do not bring us any particular advantages." [p. 103]. So, we are statically disadvantaged, but dynamic play is not called for?

In the game Dorfman played **15.a3**, with the following comment: "White begins his plan of modifying the pawn structure by a3, b4, c5".

So, what are we to make of this? That there are alternatives to playing dynamically in inferior positions? Or that modifying the pawn structure is dynamic play? And how does this affect the higher rungs of the scale?

And at bottom, this is the problem I have with the book. After careful study, I am left with more questions than answers. There is a school of thought that says any work that raises questions in the student's mind is a success, but here.. In *The Method,* very little is said about the third rung, who has the advantage when the queens are exchanged. I find it most curious that it is not addressed at all in *The Critical Moment,* especially when he claims it more important than pawn structure.

Therefore, I cannot recommend it to the general reader. However, remember, I am criticizing it for failing to adequately explain the concepts presented as opposed to those books which are simply data base dumps or lack originality. The idea is original, and I am sure it has some value; but either the work is directed to higher class of player than I, or Dorfman simply does not explain it adequately. And, for what it's worth, I do find *The Critical Moment* superior to *The Method.* If you must explore this idea, I would recommend *The Critical Moment* over *The Method.*

Letter to Editor

We received the following e-mail from our US reader Craig Stroup:

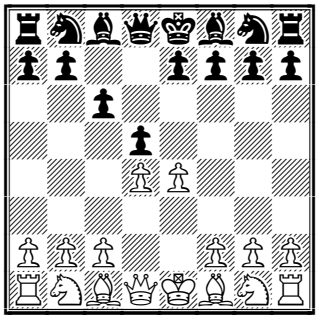
'I am a long time subscriber who is well below 2000 USCF, and I have a suggestion. I would like the game annotations to begin before move 9, as the first three annotated games do in issue 894. The annotations on early moves could focus on White's and Black's plans for the pieces, or how certain lines are avoided by the move order (as was done in the Schandorff-Hoi game in the same issue).

I realize that early moves of the same opening may have been analysed in previous issues, but many new readers don't have access to those issues. Besides, repetition never hurts. I think this would broaden CT's appeal to a larger audience. Thanks for your consideration, *Craig'*

Personally I believe that Craig's suggestion is very sensible and fits in well with the whole concept of Chess Today, which aims at club level players. Of course, we cannot go into great detail in the opening in *every* CT issue, but I hope that our journalists will follow Craig's advice from time to time, as I do today in our Annotated Game section. There I would like to show the game, which my friend and CT reader from Budapest Mikhail Vrona pointed out to me a while ago. Double pawns are pretty common, tripled pawns occur from time to time (see, for example, Epishin-Baburin, Vienna 1998), but quadruped pawns?! And yet, this is precisely what happened in that game!

Annotated Game

☐ **B. Molnar (2352)**
■ **T. Polak (2503)**
Event: Pula Open, 24.05.2001
Annotations: **GM Alex Baburin**
Panov-Botvinnik Attack; [D42]
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 ***(D)***



The Caro-Kann Defence - a very solid and quite reliable opening for Black. It has a pretty sound idea behind it - Black challenges the e4-pawn without losing pawn control in the

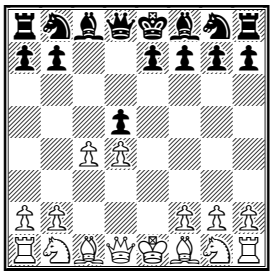
centre (as in 1...d5 – the Scandinavian) or blocking the c8-bishop as in the French Defence. Not surprisingly, the Caro-Kann was played by such greats as Botvinnik, Petrosian and Karpov. Even young Kasparov played it often!

White has a wide choice here ...

The main line is **3.♘c3** (some play 3.♘d2, as after 3...g6 White's knight is better off on d2, while in case of 3...dxe4 the game transposes) 3...dxe4 4.♘xe4, where Black has a good choice between 4... ♗f5, 4...♘d7 and 4...♘f6.

A very popular system is **3.e5** – White gets a lot of space. After 3...♗f5 he can choose between the ultra-sharp 4.♘c3 e6 5.g4!? and more positional 4.♘f3 or 4.c3.

3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 *(D)*



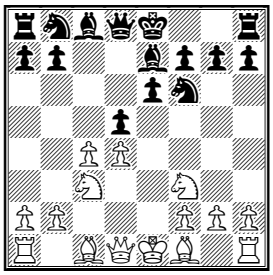
The Panov-Botvinnik Attack. At some point it was considered the most dangerous weapon against the Caro-Kann, but currently on the top level it is less fashionable than 3.♘c3 or 3.e5. Here White often gets to play with the isolated d-pawn, so if you think of picking up this line, you better order your copy of my book *Winning Pawn Structures* quickly! :-)

4...♘f6 5.♘c3

This is a major cross-road for Black. He can try ***5...g6*** – this is the Schlechter system against the Tarrasch Defence with colours reversed – compare with the position after 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.g3. Extra-tempo means a lot here, so White usually gets better chances after 6.cxd5.

If Black does not want to block the c8-bishop, he often plays ***5...♘c6.*** It might look like the most flexible move (Black can play either ...g6 or ...e6 later), but in fact it is not. After 6.♘f3 move 6...g6 is a bit les attractive than on the previous move. Meanwhile 6...e6?! 7.c5! is better for White. Usually in such positions Black wants to challenge the c5-pawn, but the c6-knight isn't well placed for that – after 7...b6 8.♗b5 ♗d7 9.♗xc6 ♗xc6 10.♘e5 ♖c8 11.b4 White is clearly on top. So, Black should play 6...♗g4 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♕b3 ♗xf3 9.gxf3, with sharp play.

5...e6 6.♘f3 ♗e7 *(D)*



Here Black has an important alternative – 6...♗b4, which is favoured by Karpov. If you are interested in the Panov-Botvinnik Attack, I suggest you study Karpov's games in it – this is a pretty efficient way to study openings!

7.cxd5

White opts for the isolated d-pawn. Also popular is 7.c5 0–0 8.b4. Then Black can either target the c5-pawn with ...b6 or play in the centre with ...Ne4. Two examples:

8...b6 9.♗d3 bxc5 10.bxc5 ♘c6 11.0–0 ♗d7 12.h3 ♘e8 13.♗f4 ♗f6 14.♗b5 ♘c7 15.♗e2 ♘xd4 16.♘xd4 e5 17.c6 ♗e8 18.♗g3 exd4 19.♗xc7 ♕xc7 20.♘xd5 ♕d6 21.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 22.c7 ♖c8 23.♖c1 ♗c6 24.♖c4 ♖xc7, as in Fischer-Ivkov, Buenos Aires 1960.

8...♘e4 9.♗b2 f5 10.♗d3 ♗f6 11.b5 ♗d7 12.0–0 ♗e8 13.♖b1 ♘d7 14.♘e2 g5 15.♘e1 ♗g7 16.f3 ♘ef6 17.♗c2 ♖c8 18.♘d3 ♗g6, as in Matulovic-Petrosian, Belgrade 1961.

7...♘xd5

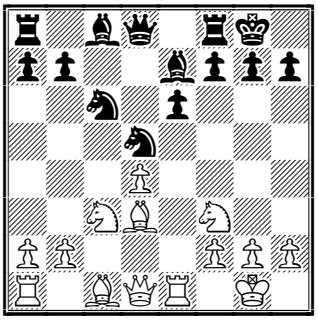
Taking with the pawn – 7...exd5 is a bit dull – White has a steady edge in the arising symmetrical position, thanks to the fact that he can deploy his king's bishop more aggressively than Black: 8.♘e5!? 0–0 9.♗d3 ♘c6 10.0–0±

8.♗d3

Here White has a good alternative –

8.♗c4.

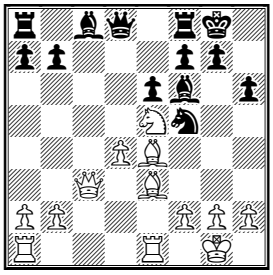
8...♘c6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1 ***(D)***



This is the most popular move - the rook could be useful on e1, while there is not much to do on f1. Another option is 10.a3, covering the b4-square and thus preparing ♕d1-c2.

10...♗f6 11.♗e4 ♘ce7 12.♕d3 h6

Here every move has its own drawbacks. After 12...g6 dark squares in Black's camp might become a bit weak, for example: 13.♘e5 ♗d7 14.♗h6 ♗g7 15.♗xg7 ♔xg7 16.♗xd5!? exd5 *(16...♘xd5 17.♘xd5 exd5 18.h3±)* 17.h3 f6 18.♘f3 ♖f7 19.♖e2 ♖c8 20.♖ae1 ♗c6 21.♘h4 ♕c7 22.♕f3 ♖d8 23.g3 Hracek-Janjgava, Moscow 1994. **13.♘e5 ♘xc3 14.♕xc3 ♘f5 15.♗e3** ***(D)***

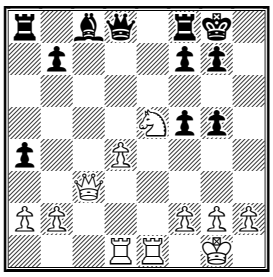


15...a5

This move looks strange at first, but the idea behind it is sound: Black wants to develop the a8-rook via a6 to d6. The drawbacks of 12...h6 could be clearly seen in the following miniature: 15...♘d6?! 16.♗c2 ♖e8 17.♖ad1 b6 18.♕d3 ♗b7 19.♕h7+ ♔f8 20.♗f4 ♗d5 21.♗b3 ♘f5 22.♗a4 ♔e7 23.♕xf5 1-0 Budde-Rosen, Germany 1981.

16.♖ad1 a4

16...♘xe3 17.fxe3 ♖a6 18.♖c1 ♖d6 Malaniuk-Adams, Hastings 1995. **17.♘g4! ♗g5 18.♗xf5 exf5 19.♗xg5 hxg5 20.♘e5** ***(D)***

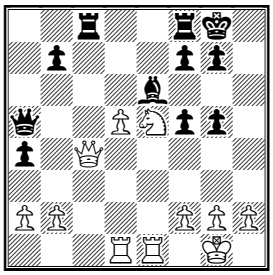


White has an advantage, thanks to his centralised knight and passed d-pawn.

20...♕a5 21.♕c4

This move is obvious, but it loses.

21...♗e6? 22.d5 ♖ac8 ***(D)***

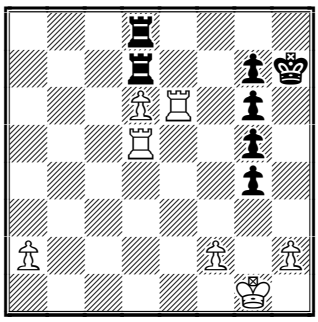


Consistent (who wants to play 22...Bc8 ?!), but White finds a clever refutation:

23.b4!!

A beautiful move - White manages to keep the d5-pawn. Black probably counted on 23.♕d3? ♖cd8.

23...axb3 24.♕xb3 ♖c5 25.♘g6! ♖c3 26.♕xb7 ♖c7 27.♕b1 fxg6 28.♖xe6 ♔h7 29.d6 ♖d7 30.♕b3 ♖fd8 31.g4 ♕c5 32.♕d5 ♕xd5 33.♖xd5 fxg4 ***(D)***



A very picturesque position! The endgame is clear enough - while material is equal, Black's g-pawns (all of them!) are not worth much and will fall in due time.

34.a4 ♖a8 35.♖e7 ♖dd8 36.a5 ♖a6 37.d7 ♖a7 38.♔g2 ♖aa8 39.♖xg5 ♖a7 40.♖d5 ♖aa8 1-0

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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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CHESS TODAY
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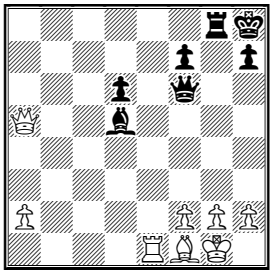
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-118(902) 28th April 2003

Quiz Today

Kotsur (2572) – Skripchenko (2501)
Dubai Open 2003
28.♕a5??
Even grandmasters sometimes make inexplicable mistakes. Especially, when they play against beautiful girls.



Black to play

Chess News

4th Karpov Tournament

Round 7 (April 27, 2003)
Svidler – Pelletier ½–½
Lautier – Rublevsky ½–½
Vescovi – Onischuk ½–½
Lputian – Bologan 1–0
Obodchuk – Zvjaginsev 0–1

Obodchuk failed to defend a difficult endgame against Zvjaginsev. Bologan made a terrible mistake against Lputian and lost in a moment. Veskovi, a pawn to the good, tried to defeat Onishuk in a marathon ending, but determined defence held the draw. Svidler gained nothing against Pelletier leading to a draw also. Lautier managed to win 3 pawns against Rublevsky, but it was not enough in the ending with bishops of opposite colours!

Round 7 Standings:
1–3. Svidler, Onischuk, Lautier (4½);
4–5. Vescovi, Zvjaginsev (4.0);
6–7. Rublevsky, Bologan (3½);
8. Pelletier (3.0);
9. Lputian (2½);
10. Obodchuk (1.0).

60th Polish Championships

After 5 rounds there are 2 leaders in Polish Championship – Markovski and Macieja (4,0 points). Kempinski is on the 3rd place with 3½ points.

St. Petersburg Championships

Before the last round there are 2 leaders in the St. Peterburg Championship also – Popov and Evseev (7½ out of 12). Lugovoi is in 3rd place with 7 points.

Dubai Open

Sargissian tried to defeat Jobava in a better endgame, but an extremely sharp rook ending ended in a draw. Anastasian and Aleksandrov refused to fight each other leading to an 8 move draw. As a result, Jobava has been caught up by Alekseev. Alekseev, with the black pieces, beat Timofeev who played the endgame badly. Tomorrow Alekseev is playing Jobava on the first board. They share 1–2 places with 5½ points after 7 rounds.

Round 7 Standings:
1–2. Alekseev, Jobava (5½)
3–7. Aleksandrov, Volkov, Kuzmin, Sargissian, Ulibin, Anastasian, El Taher (5).

Letter to Editor

Recently we received the following e-mail from Canada from our reader **Roland Basque:**

'I wish you would also add upcoming tournament announcements, say, the biggest tournaments in the next 3 months, although GMs have easy access to this information, it can be difficult for average players to find. And it would help some make vacation plans!'

We have written about up-coming

tournaments in Chess Today before, but perhaps we should do it on a more regular basis. So, today I would like to give some holiday tips from Chess Today on chess tournaments in Ireland – these could be of equal interest to our UK, European or US readers! We will cover more tournaments in coming issues.

Malahide Millennium Tournament 2003. ***Dates***: 3-5 May 2003 (Saturday, Sunday + Monday of May bank-holiday weekend). ***Venue***: A.L.S.A.A. Sports Complex, Swords Road, Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin. ***Three Sections***: Open, Under 1800(Under150 BCF) and Under 1400(Under100 BCF). ***Format*** (all sections): 6-round Swiss event, 2 rounds per day (morning + afternoon). ***Time control***: 105 minutes each for all moves. ***Prize fund***: in excess of 3,000 euros. ***Entry fee*** (all sections): 30e euros. *Entries to*: Vincent Bissett, New Street, Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ph:(353-1) 845-3609 or vincentbissett@hotmail.com. Accommodation: Details available on request. See website for more details: http://members.tripod.co.uk/MalahideCC

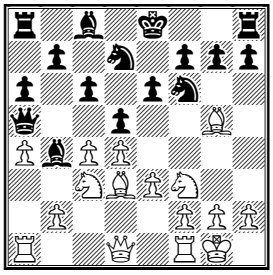
The 2nd Galway Open will take place on 17-18 May at the Galway Bridge Centre, St. Mary's Road, Galway. It is an open tournament with a prize fund of at least 1300 euros (excess depends on entry). The tournament is sponsored by *HP Galway* and the first prize of 500 euros is guaranteed. ***Format***: 5 round Swiss (first 2 rounds will use accelerated pairing) with 90 minutes per player for all moves. Entry: 25 euros. Entries to: Pat Croke, 7 Manor Court, Knocknacarra, Galway. Phone (353-91) 591-412 or pat.croke@ireland.com (preferred). See for details http://homepage.eircom.net/~galwaychess/SenComps/HP_Galway_Open.htm

Some additional information: Malahide is a nice suburb of Dublin, not too far away from famous Temple Bar area, with its renowned Irish pubs! Flying to Ireland is not too expensive – thanks to low-budget airlines. Accommodation (as cost of living in general!) could be pricey, but diligent research might bring some cool bargains – apparently hotels are looking for business now. Galway is a very nice city on the West of Ireland – well worth a visit!

Annotated Game

□ **S Shipov (2604)**
■ **V Malakhov (2672)**
Event: City-ch Moscow RUS (4.1), 24.04.2003 D15
Annotations: **IM Nikolai Vlassov**
At the Moscow Championship one of the semi-finals ended dramatically. Shipov, who had lost his first game, had to take his revenge, but lost the second game running instead.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 a6 5.a4 e6 6.♗g5 ♘bd7 7.e3 ♗b4 8.♗d3 ♕a5 9.0-0



9...♗xc3?!N
A novelty that can hardly be recommended. The following occurred before 9...dxc4 10.♗xc4 and A) 10...h6 11.♗f4 ♘d5 *(After 11...g5?! 12.♗g3 h5 13.h4 g4 14.♘g5* White has an obvious advantage: his king is in safety while Black's king is not.*)* ; or B) 10...♗xc3 11.bxc3 ♕xc3 12.♘d2 0-0 13.♖c1 ♕a5 14.f4 h6 15.♗h4 ♘d5 16.♕e2 f5 17.e4 fxe4 18.♘xe4 ♕b6 19.♘d6 ♕xd4+ 20.♗f2 ♕f6 21.♕e4 ♕e7 22.♘xc8 ♖axc8 23.♗d4 ♘7f6 24.♕e5 Hughes,G-Karttunen,M/Sas Van Gent 1998; Also possible is an intermediate 9...h6

10.bxc3 ♕xc3
Such "pawn consumptions" in the opening should be punished!

11.c5!?

Not bad is 11.cxd5± but Sergey is playing for the complete restriction of Black's position

11...♕a5

Otherwise, White can play a5 and afterwards try to catch Black's queen.

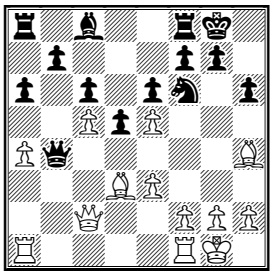
12.♕c2 0-0 13.♘e5 h6

White's knight should not be taken, after 13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♘e4 15.♗e7 ♖e8 16.♗d6 Black's pieces held up on the left side are not able to help his king.

14.♗h4

14.♗f4 deserves consideration.

14...♘xe5 15.dxe5 ♕b4!?

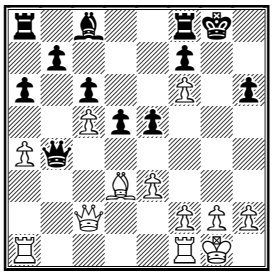


The following also could not save 15...♘e4 16.♗xe4! *(After 16.f3? ♘xc5! 17.♗e7 ♘xd3 18.♗xf8 ♘xe5* Black is not worse, at least, he has more than enough pawns for the exchange.*;* Not so obvious is *16.♗e7 ♖e8 17.♗d6 ♘xd6 18.cxd6 c5)* 16...dxe4 17.♗e7 ♖e8 18.♗d6+- The plan for a win is quite simple: White takes on e4, then transfers his rook and queen to the kingside and checkmates. Black is in a hopeless position.

16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.exf6

Tempting is 17.a5!? but after 17...♕g4! 18.♖a4 ♕g7 there is nothing decisive to be seen.

17...e5

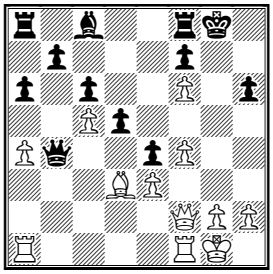


After 17...♕h4 18.♕c3 ♔h8 Black does not lose immediately, but the pathetic fate of the c8-bishop does not allow doubts about the assessment of the position.

18.f4?

This is a decisive moment. It looks like the following could lead to a win 18.e4! d4 19.f4! and White's win is an issue of one or two accurate moves.

18...e4 19.♕f2?



According to Sergey he did not see that the Black's king did not have an opportunity of stepping back on h7 and thought he would checkmate! The following was not too late 19.♗e2 although, the lion's share of advantage had been already missed. 19...b6 20.♖fc1 ♕xc5 21.♕xc5 *(or 21.♕b3 ♕d6 22.♕xb6 ♗d7 23.♕d4)* 21...bxc5 22.♖xc5 ♗d7 23.♖a5! ♖fb8 24.♖xa6 ♖xa6 25.♗xa6 White still has some chances to struggle.

19...♔h7! 20.♗e2 ♕c3

Also good is a simple 20...♕xc5∓ but it looks like Malakhov had a burning desire to extract his opponent's tooth which stuck on f6.

21.♕h4?

After 21.♗h5 ♕xf6 22.f5 the game could drag on and end in a draw, which would be equal to White's loss.

21...♕xe3+-+

Now everything is over, White cannot make any threats.

22.♖f2 ♖g8 23.♔h1 d4 24.♖b1 d3 25.♗h5 d2 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today 28...♗xg2!-+ White immediately gave up - after 29.Bxg2 Qf3 there is no protection from checkmate. The queen has left the 3rd rank, ill luck would have it, and cannot be of any help. But there is an opportunity of resisting a little bit: **29.♗xg2 ♕f3 30.♔f1! ♕xg2+ 31.♔e2 ♕e4+ 32.♔d2 ♕f4+ 33.♔e2** and Black needs to make a determined effort to win. **0-1**

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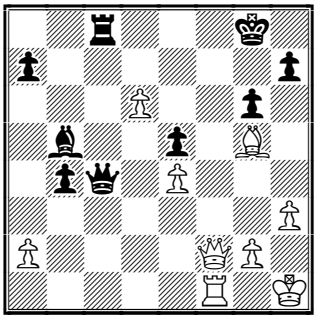
CT-120(904) 30th April 2003

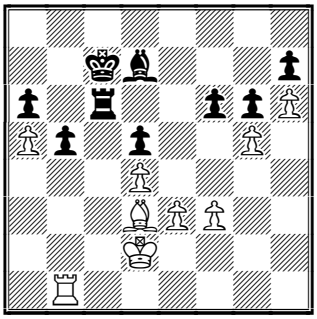
Quiz Today

1. P. Nielsen – L. McShane
11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (1), 29.04.2003



White to move

2. J. Ehlves – M. Bluvshtein
Generation New York USA (8), 01.05.2003



White to move

Chess News

Several events have come to an end today, while a strong closed tournament in Scandinavia starts.

The 4th Karpov Tournament has finished in Poikovsky. Peter Svidler and Joel Lautier final encounter in the final ended in a draw, thus they both shared the first prize. The only decisive game of the last day was Obodchuk – Rublevsky. The win allowed Rublevsky to catch up to Zvjaginsev.

The final round results:
Lautier – Svidler ½:½
Zvjaginsev – Onischuk ½:½
Vescovi – Bologan ½:½
Lputian – Pelletier ½:½
Obodchuk – Rublevsky 0:1

The final standings:
1-2. Svidler, Lautier – 6
3-4. Rublevsky, Zvjaginsev – 5½
5. Onischuk – 5
6. Vescovi – 4½
7. Bologan – 4
8. Pelletier – 3½
9. Lputian – 3
10. Obodchuk – 2

The 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament (Category 14) has started. Below are few lines about the venue from the official site.

Integration between Danish and Swedish culture is an important goal for both authorities and businesses in the Oresund region. The arrangers are therefore pleased to announce that this year's tournament is co-arranged by the Malmo-based Limhamn Chess Club and the Copenhagen Chess Federation. The first five rounds will be played at the classical Hipp Theater in the center of Malmo. The tournament will then be concluded with four rounds at the Richmond Hotel in Copenhagen.

The threat of the SARS virus forced Zhang Zhong to remain in China and he has been replaced by Emil Sutovsky.

Round 1 results:
P.H. Nielsen – McShane 1:0
Sutovsky – Hector 1:0
C. Hansen – Ivanchuk ½:½
Hillarp Persson – Timman ½:½
Lindberg – S.B. Hansen 0:1

Baadur Jobava of Georgia has won the very strong Dubai Open (just look at the names of the players who scored 5 points!)

The final standings:

1. Jobava – 7 out of 9
2-4. Volkov, Sargissian, Anastasian – 6½
5-11. Aleksandrov, Alekseev, A. Kuzmin, Magerramov, Sveshnikov, Guseinov, Mamedov – 6

12–22. Mamedyarov, Pigusov, Gagunashvili, Izoria, Ulibin, Mchedlishvili, Brodsky, Minasian, Dizdar, Skripchenko, El Taher – 5½
23–36. Sakaev, Motylev, Fedorov, Shariyazdanov, Kharlov, Timofeev, Gleizerov, Kotsur, Goloshchapov, Kaiumov, Al Sayed, Sale, Taleb, S. Gashimov – 5
The experienced open tournaments warriors GMs Graf, Sturua and Neverov scored 50% only.

The Generation Chess International Tournament

Round 5 standings (Ehlvest and Bluvshtein have played 6 games):
1. Perelshteyn – 4½
2. Ehlvest – 4
3. Krush – 3½
4–5. Christiansen, Yudasin – 3
6. Bluvshtein – 3
7. Simutowe – 2
8. Akobian – 1½
9. Muhammad – 1
10. Paschall – ½

The 60th Polish Championships
Round 7 standings:
1. Markowski – 6
2. Macieja – 5½
3–5. Socko, Miton, Kempinski – 4
6–7. Cyborowski, Krasenkow – 3½, etc.

The Moscow Championships

The third game of the final match Malakhov – Najer ended in a draw. Malakhov was trying to win a rook ending but in the end Najer's king and pawns withstood successfully his opponent's king and rook. Najer leads 2:1. Tomorrow the final game will be played. The ELO-favourite of the event, Malakhov, will have Black and needs to win to go along for a tie-break.

The St. Petersburg Championships

The IM Denis Yevseev (ELO 2580 the highest rated player of the event) has become the champion by making a draw against Valery Loginov in the final round, while his main rival Valery Popov lost to Sergey Ionov. Ionov thus joins Popov and Alexei Lugovoi in sharing second place.

The final standings:

1. Yevseev – 8 out of 12
2–4. Popov, Lugovoi, Ionov – 7½
5–6. S. Ivanov, Klimov – 7
7. Solozhenkin – 6½
8. Shaposhnikov – 6, etc.

The III Internacional Governador Mário Covas (Category 12, 6 GMs double round robin) is finishing in Santos, Brazil. Before the final two rounds the Brazilians, Milos and Leitao and Morovic Fernandez of Chile, are sharing the lead with 5 points out of 8. Hoffman of Argentina is half a point behind. The outsiders are Zapata (Colombia) – 2½ and Rodriguez (Uruguay) – 2.

Annotated Game

□ **P. Svidler (2713)**
■ **S. Lputian (2638)**
Event: *4th Karpov It Poikovsky RUS (8), 28.04.2003*
French Defence/Winawer Variation – [C17]
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3
The majority of players who use the Winawer Variation of the French Defence take on c3 here. But I suppose Svidler didn't take this move into account during his preparation because his opponent is a well-known adherent of another line.
5...♗a5
Lputian together with Vaganian are the main experts in this system for Black. The bishop's retreat had been considered a bit dubious because of
6.b4!
But the Armenian grandmasters, though sometimes swallowing bitter pills are finding again and again good defensive plans.
6...cxd4
The old opinion that 6...cxb4 is bad

due to 7.♘b5 bxa3+ 8.c3 is still indisputable.

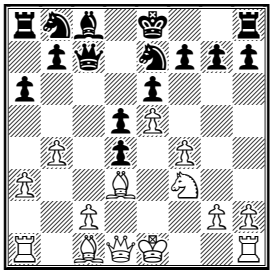
7.♘b5

7.♕g4 is another variation.

7...♗c7 8.f4 ♘e7 9.♘f3 a6 10.♘xc7+

The choice between eliminating the dark-squared bishop or 10.♘bxd4 is a matter of taste.

10...♕xc7 11.♗d3 (D)



11...♘d7

A new plan. Lputian sends his knight towards the weak points c4 and a4. The theoretical position with White's slight advantage arises after 11...♘bc6 12.♗b2 ♗d7 13.0–0 ♕b6

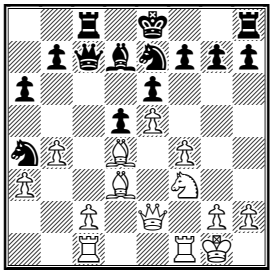
12.♗b2 ♘b6 13.♗xd4 ♗d7

Trying to resolve Black's principal problem in the French Defence, the development of the light-squared bishop. Now and later Black should be very cautious as castling is always met by a typical bishop sacrifice e.g. 13...0–0 14.♗xh7+! ♔xh7 15.♘g5+ ♔g8 16.♕d3! *(16.♕h5?! ♕xc2 17.♗xb6 f6)* 16...♘f5 *(16...♘g6 17.♕h3 ♖e8 18.♕h7+ ♔f8 19.♗c5+ ♖e7 20.h4→)* 17.g4 f6 18.exf6 ♕xf4 *(18...gxf6 19.gxf5 fxg5 20.fxe6 ♕h7□ 21.♗xb6±)* 19.gxf5 ♕xg5 20.fxg7 ♖xf5 21.♗xb6±

14.♕e2!

Svidler prevents the exchange of the light-squared bishops.

14...♘a4 15.0-0 ♖c8 16.♖ac1 (D)



16...♘c3!

Black has managed to prepare his bishop entrance to b5.

17.♕e3 ♗b5 18.♗c5

Svidler thinks that an extra pawn in the ending after 18.♗xc3 ♕xc3 19.♗xb5+ axb5 20.♕xc3 ♖xc3 21.♘d4 ♖xa3 22.♘xb5 ♖a2 23.♘d6+ ♔d7 24.♘xf7 ♖c8 *(24...♖b8!?)* 25.♘d6 ♖cxc2 26.♖xc2 ♖xc2 27.♘xb7 ♘c6 wouldn't be enough for a win due to a lack of enough material and the activity of Black's pieces.

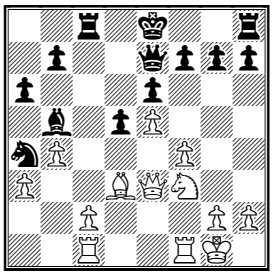
18...♘a4

Interesting was 18...♘f5!? and in case of 19.♗xf5!? the following lines might have arisen – 19...♗xf1 *(19...♘e2+ 20.♔h1 ♘xc1 21.♖xc1 exf5 22.e6! f6 23.♘h4 g6 24.♕d4⩲)* 20.♖xf1 exf5 21.♕xc3 (bad is *21.♘d4? ♘e4 22.♘xf5 ♘xc5 23.♘d6+ ♔e7 24.♘xc8+ ♖xc8 25.bxc5 ♕xc5* and White gets an obviously inferior ending*)* 21...b6! 22.e6 f6 *(22...fxe6? 23.♕e3 bxc5 24.♕xe6++–)* 23.♖d1 bxc5 24.♖xd5⩱]

19.♗xe7

Probably stronger was 19.♗xb5+!? axb5 20.♘d4 **A)** 20...♕d7 21.♗xe7 ♔xe7 *(21...♕xe7 22.♘xb5)* 22.f5 with a crushing attack; **B)** 20...♘f5 21.♘xf5 exf5 22.♕g3! g6 23.♗d4 and the dark squares in Black's camp are incurable.

19...♕xe7 (D)



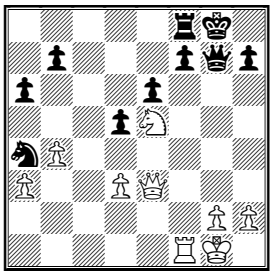
20.f5! ♗xd3 21.cxd3 ♖xc1 22.♖xc1 0-0 23.f6

White is in hurry to break the enemy king's shield. 23.♘d4!? deserved serious attention.

23...gxf6 24.exf6 ♕xf6 25.♘e5 ♕g7

25...♕h4 loses in view of the excellent combination 26.♘d7 ♖d8 27.♕e5! ♖xd7 28.♖c8+ ♖d8 29.♕g3+! ♕xg3 30.♖xd8+ ♔g7 31.hxg3+– and the rook's superiority is clear

26.♖f1 (D)



Naturally 26.♖c7!? was another option.

26...♘c3 27.♖f3 d4!

Lputian's defence is up to the mark.

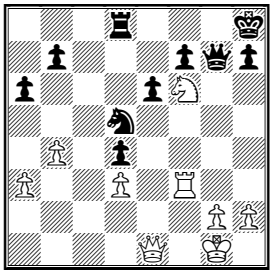
28.♕e1 ♔h8 29.♘d7

If 29.♖g3 ♕h6 30.♘d7 then 30...♖c8 31.♕e5+ f6 32.♘xf6 ♘e2+! 33.♕xe2 *(33.♔f2? ♘xg3 34.♘g4+ ♕g7)* 33...♖c1+ 34.♔f2 ♕xf6+ and Black has nothing to be afraid of.

29...♖d8?!

Better was 29...♖c8 trying to activate the rook.

30.♘f6 ♘d5 (D)



After 30...h6 Svidler would have continued 31.h4! depriving the black queen of the g5 square and threatening with ♘h5 and ♕e5(worse is *31.♘h5 ♕g5)*

31.♘xh7!

31.♕h4 is parried by 31...♖c8 (not *31...♘xf6 32.♖g3!* winning the queen*)* 32.♘xd5 ♖c1+ 33.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 34.♔xf1 exd5 35.♕d8+ ♕g8 36.♕xd5 ♕g4 and the queen ending should be drawn.

31...♘e3 32.♖g3 ♕xh7?

Black had to play 32...♕e5 After 33.♘g5 ♖f8 34.♘f3 (in case of *34.♖h3+ ♔g7 35.♕h4 ♘f5!* the black king escapes*; 34.♕e2* is met by the cool *34...♘g4! ∆35.♕xg4?? ♕e1#)* 34...♕f4 35.♘xd4! ♕xd4 36.♖xe3 ♖c8 37.♔h1 and White is a pawn up, but Black can offer a tough resistance.

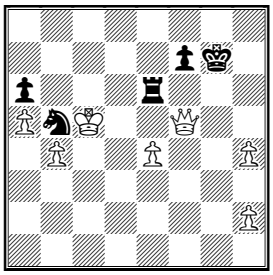
33.♖h3 ♕xh3 34.gxh3 ♖g8+ 35.♔f2 e5 36.♔f3±

The queen is stronger than ♖+♘. The rest is a simple technique.

36...♖g6 37.♕h4+ ♔g7 38.♕e7 ♖f6+ 39.♔e2 ♖e6 40.♕xb7 ♔g6 41.a4

White is going to create a passed pawn.

41...e4?! 42.dxe4 ♘c4 43.♕d5 ♘b6 44.♕f5+ ♔g7 45.a5 ♘a4 46.♔d3 ♘c3 47.♔xd4 ♘b5+ 48.♔c5 ♖g6 49.h4 ♖e6 (D)



50.♕xe6!?

Of course the sacrifice wasn't necessary but the spectators were surely satisfied.

50...fxe6 51.♔b6 e5 52.♔xa6 ♘d6 53.♔b6 ♘xe4 54.♔c6 ♘d6!? 55.a6!

(say "no" to the queen ending)

55...♘c8 56.♔d5 ♔f6 57.h5 ♘a7 58.h6 ♘b5 59.h7 ♔g7 60.♔xe5 ♔xh7 61.♔f6!

61.♔d5?? ♘c7+

61...♘c7 62.a7 ♘d5+ 63.♔e5 1-0.

Solution to Quiz Today

1. P. Nielsen - L. McShane

33.d7! ♗xd7 34.♗h6 ♗f5 35.exf5 ♕f7 36.f6 a5 37.♕b6 ♖a8 1-0

2. J. Ehlves - M. Bluvshtein

41.♗xg6! fxg5 [41...hxg6 42.h7]

42.♖c1! 1-0

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(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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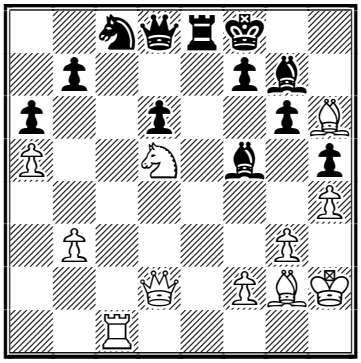
CT-121(905) 1st May 2003

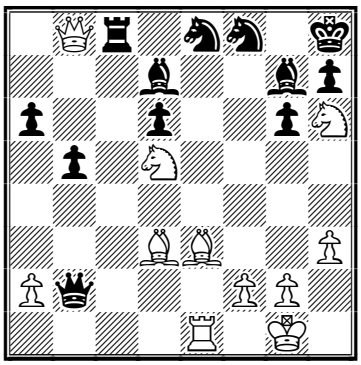
Quiz Today

Miton (2545) – Kempinski (2553)
Warsaw 2003



White to play

Bartel (2443) – Urban (2451)
Warsaw 2003



White to play

Chess News

The 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament

Jan Timman won a nice game against Curt Hansen (see today's Annotated game) and joined the leaders.

Round 2 results:
Nielsen – Sutovsky ½:½
Timman – C. Hansen 1:0
McShane – Ivanchuk ½:½
Hector – Lindberg 1:0
S.B. Hansen – Hillarp Persson ½:½

Round 2 standings:
1-4. Nielsen, Sutovsky, Timman, S.B. Hansen – 1½
5-7. Hillarp Persson, Ivanchuk, Hector – 1
8-9. C. Hansen, McShane – ½
10. Lindberg – 0

The Moscow Championships

Evgeny Najer won the event. Today the fourth game of his match against Vladimir Malakhov ended in a draw. The final score is 2½:1½.

Eugene Perelshteyn maintains his indisputable lead at The Generation Chess International Tournament
Round 6 standings (Ehlvest and Bluvshtein have played 7 games):
1. Perelshteyn – 5½
2-3. Christiansen, Yudasin – 4
4. Ehlvest – 4
5. Krush – 3½
6. Simutowe – 3
7. Bluvshtein – 3
8. Akobian – 2
9-10. Muhammad, Paschall – 1

The 60th Polish Championships

Tomasz Markowski and Bartlomiej Macieja keep on crushing the opponents. The gap between these two and the other players is enormous and the fight for the title will surely be the deal of their own.

Round 8 standings:
1. Markowski – 7
2. Macieja – 6½
3-4. Socko, Miton – 4½
5-7. Cyborowski, Krasenkow, Kempinski – 4, etc.

The III Internacional Governador Mário Covas
Standings before the final round:
1. Morovic Fernandez – 6
2-3. Milos, Leitao – 5½
4. Hoffman – 5
5. Zapata – 2½
6. Rodriguez – 2

Ponomariov – Kasparov Match

by Alex Baburin

In past few days news appeared that the match between Gary Kasparov and Ruslan Ponomariov, scheduled for June in Buenos Aires, might be in doubt. I first read the story on the excellent Chess Base site. Yesterday the daily column from ***John Henderson*** (*The Scotsman*) expanded on that story. I would like to publish it with John's kind permission.

"As Argentina prepares for a runoff election for a new president to lead the country out of its worst ever economic crisis, probably the last thing the candidates would like to campaign on is the idea of spending $1 million on a world chess championship match – even in the chess-crazy capital of Buenos Aires.

In a further setback for chess unification, the Buenos Aires FIDE Championship match in June between Garry Kasparov and Ruslan Ponomariov looks to have fallen victim to the harsh realities of a bad economy. The organiser, Argentinean GM Miguel Quinteros admitted that due to "financial reasons" the match would have to be postponed to November in order bide time as they sought the sponsorship for the match – and even that date could be in jeopardy if none is forthcoming. Events soon turned into a farce when Fide announced at first the match would be going ahead as planned, but soon had to backtrack on their statement in view of the news breaking in Argentinean newspapers.

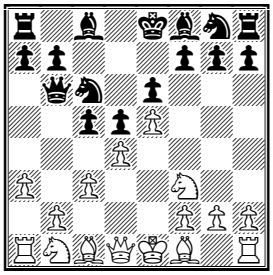
Argentina's caretaker president Eduardo Dualde, a chess addict who is a personal friend of Kasparov's, and Mr Quinteros met Fide President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov two weeks ago in Madrid to discuss the cash shortage. It was held in the hope that President Ilyumzhinov, who also doubles as president of the Russian region of Kalmykhia, and whose considerable largess's during his term of office at Fide has seen him put tens of millions of dollars into chess, would yet again pick up the tab – though this time his generosity may not be so forthcoming."

Chess Today will keep an eye on this story – stay tuned!

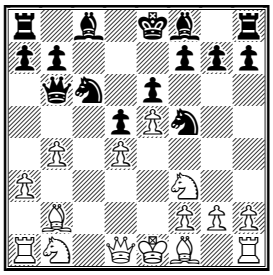
Annotated Game

☐ **J Timman (2579)**
■ **C Hansen (2610)**
Event: *11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (2), 30.04.2003*
French Defence – [C02]
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♕b6 6.a3



6...♘h6
Black is not afraid of the capture on h6. Practice has shown that a pair of bishops and the possibility of active play on the kingside after Bg7, 0–0, f6 compensate him for a spoiled pawn structure.
7.b4
White gains the space on the queenside forcing his opponent to release the tension in the centre.
7...cxd4 8.cxd4 ♘f5 9.♗b2



The key point d4 is attacked and

protected.

9...♗d7 10.g4 ♘h6

Black doesn't want to block the way of his dark-squared bishop. Now White has to spend a tempo on the protection of the g4-pawn. Another popular variation is 10...♘fe7 planning Ng6 and perhaps h7-h5.

11.h3 ♗e7

Black could also play 11...f6 12.♗d3 ♘f7 putting pressure on the e5 point. This plan helps the misplaced knight to find a good post; The game Shirov - Sadvakasov, Astana 2001 saw an intriguing continuation - 11...♖c8 12.♘c3 ♘a5 13.♘a4 ♕c6! 14.♖c1! ♘c4 15.♖xc4!? dxc4 16.♘c3 Maybe there is some compensation here (partly because Shirov is White :-).

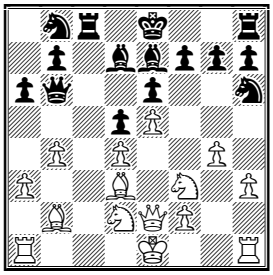
12.♗d3 ♖c8 13.♘bd2 ♘b8

In the previous CT issue we saw the same typical "French" idea in the game Svidler - Lputian. It is known that in this kind of position 13...a5 is met by 14.b5 but White himself should refrain from b4-b5 in view of Na5; 13...a6 deserves attention supporting the idea of Bb5 with all might. Here dubious is 13...♘a5?! because of 14.♖c1 and the c4 square is under control - that was the point of the knight's development on d2.

14.♕e2

Timman prevents the black bishop's appearance on b5 the way Svidler did.

14...a6



Black is persistent.

15.♘b1!?

Slightly odd example of prophylactic but in this game it worked fine.

15...♘c6

Black changes his mind as after 15...♗b5 16.♗xb5+ axb5 17.♘c3 ♖c4 18.♘d2! he loses a pawn or the exchange.

16.0-0 0-0

There is just a small difference between this position and the one after move 12. But one divergence is significant. White's dark-squared bishop is protected now by the queen, which allows Timman to play

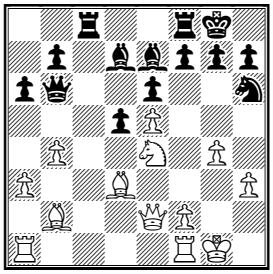
17.♘c3!

And here Hansen made a decisive mistake

17...♘xd4?

Right was 17...♕d8 e.g. 18.♕e3 *(18.♘a4?! ♘xe5 19.dxe5 ♗xa4)* 18...f6! 19.exf6 ♖xf6 20.g5 ♖xf3 21.♕xf3 ♘xd4 22.♕g2 ♘hf5∞

18.♘xd4 ♕xd4 19.♘e4 ♕b6



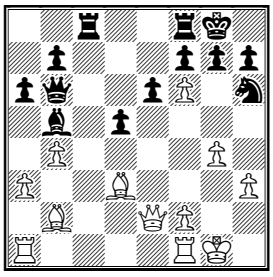
20.♘f6+!

It's hard to overlook this move but certainly Hansen underestimated it

20...♗xf6

20...gxf6 21.exf6 ♗d6 22.♕d2+-

21.exf6 ♗b5



The dream has finally come true but the time has been missed. After the best 21...e5!? 22.♗xe5 *(22.♕xe5 ♕xf6 23.♕xf6 gxf6 24.♖fe1!?)* 22...♖fe8 23.♕b2 White has a solid advantage as well.

22.♗xb5 ♕xb5 23.♕e3! d4 24.♗xd4 ♖fd8 25.♖fd1

Stronger was 25.fxg7 ♖c4!? 26.♖fd1!

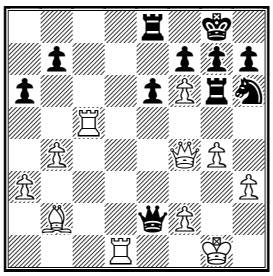
25...♖d5 26.♗b2!

Now 26.fxg7 allowed Black to repair his position completely by 26...♘xg4! 27.hxg4 ♕d7! and White is unable to retain the material advantage - 28.♖d2 e5 29.♗c3 ♖xc3! 30.♖xd5? ♕xg4+

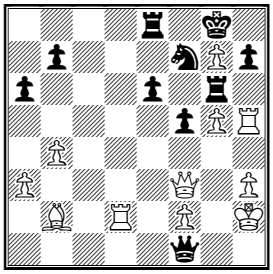
26...♖g5

The only way to help the knight but

now the rook will share its misfortune
27.♖ac1 ♖e8 28.♕f4 ♖g6 29.♖c5 ♕e2?!



Relatively better was 29...♕a4 30.♖d3 gxf6 31.♗xf6 ♘f5 32.♗b2
30.♖d2 ♕e1+ 31.♔h2 ♕f1
31...gxf6? 32.♖c1+− and suddenly the queen is trapped
32.♖h5!
32.fxg7 gave Black some counterplay after 32...f5 33.g5 ♘f7 34.h4 h6
32...♘f5!? 33.♕f3!
White is going to drive the enemy queen away and then to take the knight
33...♘h6
Brideshead revisited. 33...♕b1 34.♕e2 with the same idea of Rd1
34.fxg7 f5 35.g5
The kingside conglomeration looks ridiculous.
35...♘f7



36.♗f6
Missing a neat combination 36.♖xh7! ♔xh7 37.♕h5+ ♔g8 38.♕h8+!
36...♘xg5
Desperation. Black's position was hopeless anyway.
37.♗xg5 h6 38.♖d1! ♕b5 39.♗xh6 ♕e5+ 40.♔h1 ♕f6 41.♗e3 1-0

Solution to Quiz Today
1) 30.♕d4! f6 30...♗xh6 31.♕h8# **31.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 32.♖c7+ ♔f8 33.♕f4! ♖e7** 33...♘e7 34.♕h6+ ♔f7 35.♕h7+ ♔e6 36.♕g7+− **34.♕h6+ ♔f7 35.♘xe7 ♕xc7 36.♘xf5** 36.♘xf5 gxf5 37.♕h7+ **1-0**

2) 27.♘e7! ♗e6 27...♖xb8 28.♘f7#; 27...♗xh6 28.♘xc8 **28.♕xc8!+−** 28.♘xc8 ♕c3! 29.♖c1 *(29.♖d1 ♕xc8)* 29...♕xd3 **28...♗xh6 29.♕xe8** and so on **29...♗d7 30.♕d8 ♗g7 31.♕b6 ♕e5 32.♗d2 ♕b2 33.♕a5 ♕d4 34.♗e4 ♗e6 35.♘c6 ♕b2 36.♕b4 ♕xa2 37.♗c3 1-0**

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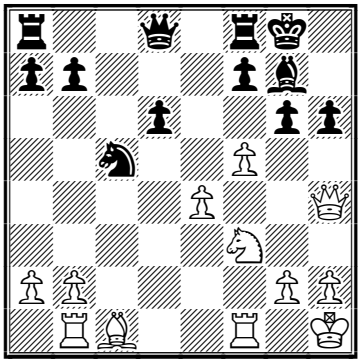
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-122(906) 2nd May 2003

Quiz Today

Macieja (2634) – Urban (2451)
Warsaw 2003



White to play
From today's annotated game

Chess News

11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament

Round 3 (May 1, 2003)

Ivanchuk – Timman 1–0
Sutovsky – McShane 0–1
Hansen, Curt – Hansen, Sune Berg 1–0
Hillarp Persson – Hector 1/2
Lindberg – Nielsen, Peter Heine 0–1

Round 3 Standings:
1. Nielsen, Peter Heine 2½;
2. Ivanchuk 2.0;
3–9. Sutovsky. Hansen, Curt. McShane, Timman. Hillarp Persson, Hansen, Sune Berg ,Hector, Jonny 1½; 10. Lindberg 0;

Generation Chess International

Round 7 Standings:
Perelshteyn, 6.0/7;
2.–3. Krush, Irina. Christiansen 4½/7;
4. Ehlvest, 4½/8;
5. Yudasin 4.0/7;
6. Simutowe 3½/7;
7. Bluvshtein 3½/8;
8. Akobian 2½/7;
9. Muhammad 2.0/7;
10. Paschall 1.0/7;

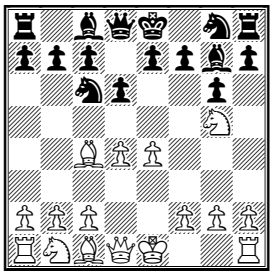
60th Polish Championships

Round 9 Standings:
Markowski 7½;
Macieja 6½;
3–4. Socko, Bartosz. Miton 5½;
5–6. Krasenkow. Cyborowski 5.0;
7–8. Jaracz. Kempinski, 4½;
9. Grabarczyk, Miroslaw 4.0;
10. Murdzia 3½;
11–13. Staniszewski, Jakubowski. Bartel, 3.0;
14. Urban, 2½;

Annotated Game

☐ **B Macieja (2634)**
■ **K Urban (2451)**
Event: *60th ch-POL Warsaw POL (3), 24.04.2003*
Pirc Defence – B06
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

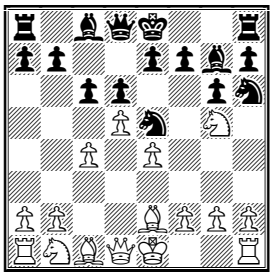
A striking victory from one of the leaders at the Polish Championship.
1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♘f3 d6 4.♗c4 ♘c6 5.♘g5!?



A rare variation in the Pirc-Ufimtsev Defense has arisen.
5...♘h6
If Black does not want to move his knight back and forth, he can try 5...e6 but he has to take into consideration 6.d5!
6.d5
6.c3 looks pretty good.
6...♘e5 7.♗e2 c6N
A natural move, which is much better than this variation which has occurred before: 7...♘g8 8.f4 ♘d7 9.0–0 ♘gf6 10.♘c3 c6 11.♗e3 0–0 12.♗d4 h6 13.♘f3 c5 14.♗e3 ♘g4 15.♗d2 c4 16.♔h1 ♕b6 17.♕c1 ♕c5 18.a4 f5

19.exf5 gxf5 20.♕e1 ♘df6 21.♘h4 e6 22.dxe6 Popovic,P–Gazik,I/Debrecen 1992/EU–chT/1–0

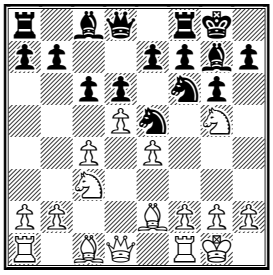
8.c4



8...♘g8?!

Black has lost a couple of tempos for knight moves. It is not a big deal, White has also moved his king's knight twice. But now Black has to weaken his kingside, by moving the knight on h6, in order to drive White's knight away from g5. I would prefer 8...♕a5+ 9.♗d2 *(9.♘c3 ♘xc4)* 9...♕c5 with good play for Black; The reckless looking 8...f5!? is also interesting.

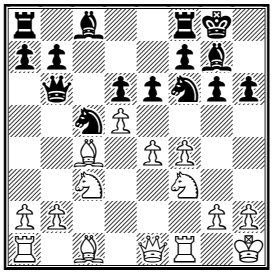
9.0–0 ♘f6 10.♘c3 0–0



11.f4!? ♕b6+ 12.♔h1 ♘ed7

It seems that Black could play the proactive 12...♘eg4 13.♕e1 cxd5 14.cxd5 ♗d7 it is not that easy to take advantage of the g4–knight's position.

13.♕e1 cxd5 14.cxd5 h6 15.♘f3 ♘c5 16.♗c4 e6

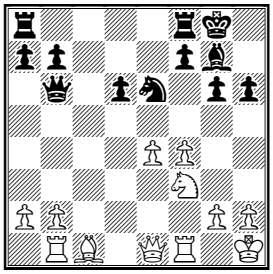


It looks like it should be admitted that Black is all right: now he is breaking the White centre and is completing his development.

17.♖b1

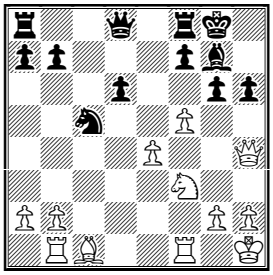
The following deserves consideration 17.e5 ♘xd5 18.♗xd5 exd5 19.♘xd5 ♕d8 20.♗e3± pressing the centre.

17...exd5 18.♘xd5 ♘xd5 19.♗xd5 ♗e6 20.♗xe6 ♘xe6?!



Black should have decided on 20...fxe6 21.♘h4 ♔h7 with an equal play.

21.f5! ♘c5 22.♕h4 ♕d8?

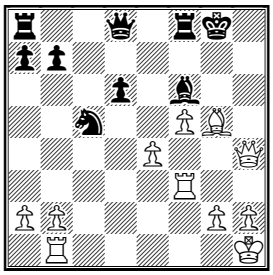


This is a blunder, but the following also could not be of any help 22...♖ae8 23.♗xh6 ♘xe4 *(23...♖xe4 24.♕h3±)* 24.♘g5! ♘xg5 25.♗xg7 ♔xg7 26.f6+ ♔g8 27.♕h6! ♘e6 28.♖f3+–; The rather ugly looking 22...h5!? looks like the last chance.

23.♗g5! f6 24.♗xh6 g5 25.♘xg5

25.♗xg5+– and White's victory is beyond any doubt.

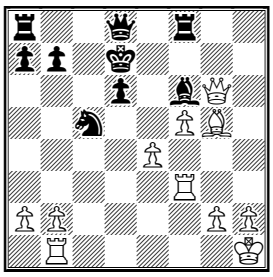
25...fxg5 26.♗xg5 ♗f6 27.♖f3!



27...♔f7

It is also impossible to escape after 27...♗xg5 28.♖g3 ♖f7 29.♖xg5+ ♖g7 30.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 31.♕g3+ ♔f8 32.e5+–

28.♕h7+ ♔e8 29.♕g6+ ♔d7



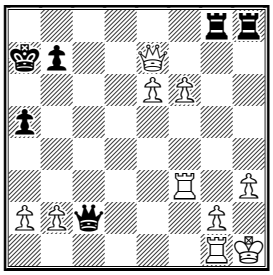
30.e5!

Without any respite from the attack!

30...♘xg5 31.♕xd6+ ♔c8 32.♕xc5+ ♔b8 33.♖e1+-

White does not only have four pawns for a piece. In addition, it is not easy for the Black rook on a8 to enter the game.

33...a5 34.e6 ♘e7 35.♕e5+ ♕c7 36.♕g7 ♔a7 37.f6! ♖h8 38.h3 ♖ag8 39.♕xe7 ♕c2 40.♖g1



40...♖xg2!

Now it is Black's turn to play beautifully. But it won't affect the result anyway.

41.♖xg2 ♕d1+ 42.♔h2 ♕xf3 43.♕c5+ ♔a6 44.♕c4+ ♔a7 45.♕d4+ ♔a6 46.h4! ♕f5 47.f7 ♕xe6 48.♕xh8 ♕d6+ 49.♔h3 ♕e6+ 50.♔g3 ♕e3+ 51.♔g4 ♕e4+ 52.♔h5 1-0

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CT-123(907) 3rd May 2003

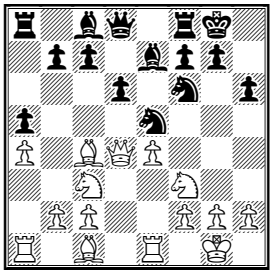
Weekend Bits & Pieces

With GM Alex Baburin

Today I would like to take a little break from day-to-day tournament news and games – in this issue you will find another book review by Don Aldrich and a short story on my involvement with the online chess auction. But first a few miniatures, which I spotted in the latest issue of TWIC:

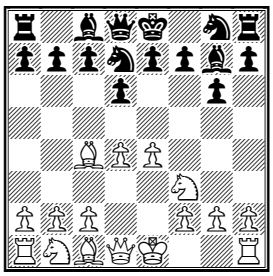
Quiz Today

Al Sayed (2455) – Jobava (2566)
5th Dubai Open, 2003
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗c4 ♗e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.♖e1 h6 8.a4 a5 9.♘h4 exd4 10.♕xd4 ♘e5 11.♘f3?? *(D)*
Bringing the knight back to the centre is a good idea, but the timing is wrong...



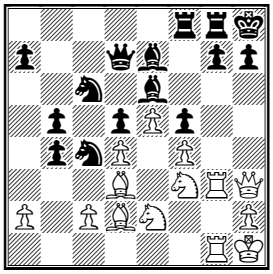
Black to play

Landa (2643) – Nedkov (2133)
7th Neckar Open, Germany 2003
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘d7 3.♘f3 g6 4.♗c4 ♗g7?? *(D)*
We've seen it all before...



White to play

Timmins – Rose (2223)
Oxford 2003



White to play

Online Chess Auction

The dotcom era saw many both bright and crazy ideas, but most enterprises based on them failed to make a profit and eventually bit the dust. One of the few exceptions is online auctions and here I'd like to share a story about my experience in this field.

Some Chess Today readers may know that GM Square site regularly hosts online chess auctions. The idea is not to put eBay out of business, but to provide a specialised forum for people interested in collecting chess books, memorabilia, sets, clocks, etc. As there is no risk of fraud both for buyers and sellers, our online auctions grow in popularity and have over 200 registered users!

I started online chess auctions in January 2000. At that time I simply posted descriptions of lots at the site, received bids via e-mail and then updated the Web page with FTP. That was a very time-consuming and messy process. As the first auction was still very successful, I started to look for appropriate auction software.

The first package, which I found on the Net, was priced at $5,000, which made me choke... But after a few hours of research, I realised (to my horror!) that the first software, which I came across, was also the cheapest – most packages were priced at around

$15,000! That put things on hold for a while. Fortunately, prices came down and in 2001 I bought auction software for $300.

Alas, soon enough I learnt the hard way that buying software is one thing, but making it work for you is another story! I could write a small book about how many bugs there were and how the seller got tired of my cries for technical support after just a couple of weeks... Fortunately, a friend recommended a programmer in Moscow, who could put things right. We exchanged lots of e-mails (I explained how auction software *should* work!) and in about 2-3 weeks he made huge progress, having essentially re-written the code.

Now our auction software works like a clock! By the way, the package from USA, which I bought for $300, was on sale for $50 the last time I saw it, but I guess all bugs are still there – they just got cheaper! :-)

Recently we had our 10th online auction, which went really well – out of 66 lots, 50 were sold. Auction's results are available for download in PDF and Word formats. Our next auction is scheduled for 3-7 June 2003. There will be some chess classics there, so stay tuned!

Book Review

by Don Aldrich

Shirov's One Hundred Wins
Sergei Soloviov
(Chess Stars, 2003) 316 pp., £24.95

Chess Stars is a publishing house backed by the St. Petersburg GM School, headed by Alexander Khalifman. They have been putting out books for almost ten years, starting with the four volume Mikhail Tal set. Initially, the covers were very utilitarian, there was almost no text, and the annotations were done strictly in Informantese [languageless symbols]. Lately, they have gone to nice, slick colour covers, and begun annotating in English. I believe the first such effort was the very well received *Super Tournaments 2000* published last year, followed by the "According to Kramnik" opening series.

"Shirov's One Hundred Wins" continues in that vein, giving us 100 very well annotated games from 1990 through the 2002 Russia vs. the World match, in figurine algebraic with English text. Unfortunately, the text was presumably written in Russian, and translated by non-native speakers of English. This leads to the type of humorous syntax we sometimes see in Asian home electronics manuals: "White beat off, keeping the extra piece" [p.96]. The good news is that one will almost always understand what is meant: "Shirov, who had missed closer to time trouble several opportunities to win absolutely advantageous for him position and made it unclear, did not lose his head and on the second time control won the game all over again" [p. 137]. It is clear what the writer intended, but if this really bothers you, you will find it cropping up on almost every page.

After the introduction and forward, there are 18 pages of "Not Grandmaster Yet" which is a series of notes from mostly Russian publications about Shirov's early career, from age 10 until 1990 when he was awarded the GM title at 18. There are no game scores, but descriptions of his results in various Russian youth events, followed by his entry into international play.

Following this are three interviews conducted with Shirov in 1998, 2000, and 2001. He discusses his personal life, chess, the aborted match with Kasparov, and so forth. This gives a better insight into his personal life than I have seen anywhere else.

There are also two sets of photographs, one set in colour (!). I believe these might be the first colour

photographs I have ever seen in a chess book. These are the usual photographs found in chess biographies – the player with other famous players, analysing, receiving trophies and so on. Nonetheless, an appreciated bonus. At the end of the book are the usual tables of results and indices, both by player and opening. In the middle, of course, are the games.

When looking at a games collection, the first thing I want to know is have these games and analysis been published before? The first place I checked was Shirov's *Fire On Board* which includes games up through 1996. About half the games in *100* are from this period, but, surprisingly, only 18 are duplicated.

Comparing the notes from *FOB* to *100* was also surprising. Some lines given are identical. If there is an objectively best line, one would expect it to be repeated. However, there are quite a few places where *100* differs, expands and even contradicts Shirov's own notes. There are some passages which are lifted, saying something along the lines of "Shirov was surprised by this move.." and then repeating his analysis, but on the whole, the games in *100* are annotated better and more deeply than the same games in *FOB*. There is a sufficient amount of new work to make the notes worthwhile, even if you are familiar with Shirov's own notes.

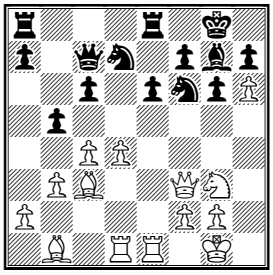
I next turned to the aforementioned *Super Tournaments 2000* as Shirov played in quite a few of the tournaments covered, and the same people published it. Sure enough, games 67–77 are covered in both works, and the notes are virtually identical. Indeed, most of the games are exactly identical.

Finally, I checked the notes against several issues of the Informant over the course of the period covered, 1990–2002. While the ideas in the Informants may be incorporated into the notes in *100*, it is not just a dump of those lines.

In sum, the only place you will have seen these notes are in the 11 games taken from *ST2000.* Since the same people did the work, that is not exactly surprising, but one does wish they had been reworked a little bit, and there should be an acknowledgement of this.

The notes themselves have much to recommend them. They are deep, with plenty of suggested lines and variations, but there is also a surprising amount of explanatory text. One of the areas where Chess Stars falls short is in attribution. Soloviov is listed as the author, and Khalifman the editor. The inside fly leaf states "With annotations by Grandmasters:" and then a list of eight names, such as Speelman, Motwani, Shipov, Yudasin, etc. It goes on to state that "special notes" by GM Khalifman are in Italics. I guess when you are the head of the school, you get special recognition! And there are some games where it states in the header "Notes by GM X." Unfortunately, these are few and far between. It would be nice to know who did what, and what exactly Soloviov did.
Here is a sample of the work. This is reproduced straight from Game 16, including the grammatical errors:

Shirov – Chernin
PCA, Groningen, 1993



Black to play

19... ♗xh6!
This is a right decision! Black is going for the variation where he gives up the

piece for the three pawns.

20.d5 cxd5 21. ♗xf6 bxc4? *A.Kh.: But this is the decisive mistake. Black had to swap the dangerous bishop immediately. After 21... ♘xf6 22. ♕xf6 bxc4 he would have obtained the good compensation for the piece.*

22. ♗b2! cxb3

A.Kh.: Black obviously underestimates the attacking potential of White's pieces. However, it is hard to recommend anything sensible here: 22... ♗g7 23. ♗xg7 ♔xg7 24. ♕c3+ ♔g8 25.bxc4 ♖ac8 26. ♕d4 ♕xc4 27. ♕xc4 ♖xc4 28. ♖xd5! as well as after; 22... ♗g5 23. ♕g4 ♗f6 24. ♗xf6 ♘xf6 25. ♕h4 ♔g7 26. ♖c1 White would not have many problems to realize the material advantage.

23. ♘h5!!

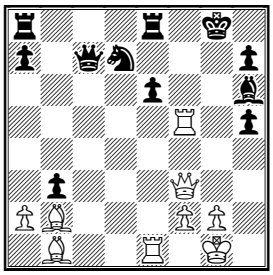
With this move, White starts the whole cascade of sacrifices to exploit the weakened diagonal "a1–h8" as the main motif. Here 24. ♘f6+− is threatening.

23...f5

Bad is 23...gxh5? 24. ♕xh5 ♕f4 25. ♗c1 ♘f6 26. ♕h3± as well as 23...bxa2? 24. ♘f6+ ♘xf6 25. ♕xf6 ♔f8 26. ♗xa2+− *A.Kh.: as well as 23... ♗g5 24. ♕g4 ♕d8 25.axb3! gxh5 26. ♗xh7+! ♔f8 27. ♕xh5 with the idea 28. ♗g8!*

24. ♖xd5 gxh5 *(D)*

Here the acceptance of the sacrifice would also lead to the catastrophe: 24...exd5? 25.♕xd5+ ♔f8 26. ♗a3++−



25. ♖xf5!

25. ♕xh5?! would not be so clear in view of 25... ♘f8! 26. ♖xf5 exf5 27. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 28. ♕xe8 ♕c4

25...Nf8

The rook cannot be captured again: 25...exf5 26. ♕d5+ ♔f8 27. ♕xf5+ ♘f6 28. ♕xf6+ ♕f7 29. ♕xh6+ ♔g8 30. ♕g5+ ♔f8 31. ♗a3++−

26. ♖xh5

The rook has done properly his job on the fifth rank. Although Black is a pawn up, the position of Black's king is not a matter of pride.

This should give you a good idea of how the notes read, complete with Khalifman's italicized insertions, fractured syntax and all. I should add that the diagrams are plentiful, often with two or three per page.

I give this book a strong recommendation. It is an excellent chronicle of one the great attacking players of our time. If you like fighting chess, you will like this one. If you are a Shirov fan, it's a must!

♘♘♘

I would like to add that "Shirov's One Hundred Wins", as well at "The Critical Moment" by Dorfman (reviewed in CT-901), will be added to the GM Square online shop shortly!

Solutions to our puzzles

1. Al Sayed – Jobava: **11...c5! 0-1**
2. Landa-Nedkov: **5.♗xf7+! ♔xf7 6.♘g5+ 1-0**
3. Timmins-Rose: **20.♕xh7+! 1-0**

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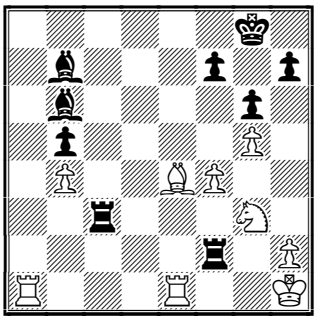
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-124(908) 4th May 2003

Quiz Today

1. B. Lindberg- P. Nielsen
11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (3), 01.05.2003

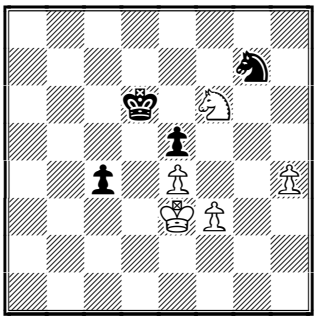
White resigned here. Can you see why?



Black to play

2. V. Ivanchuk - J. Timman
11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (3), 01.05.2003

Find the most convincing way to win.



White to play

Chess News

Luke McShane has won three games in a row at the 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament He's sharing second place with Peter Heine Nielsen half a point behind the event's favourite,Vassily Ivanchuk.

Round 4 results:
Hector – C. Hansen 1:0
McShane – Timman 1:0
Sutovsky – Lindberg 1:0
S.B. Hansen – Ivanchuk 0:1
Nielsen – Hillarp Persson ½:½

Round 5 results:
Ivanchuk – Hector 1:0
Hillarp Persson – Sutovsky ½:½
C. Hansen – Nielsen ½:½
Timman – S.B. Hansen ½:½
Lindberg – McShane 0:1

Round 5 standings:
1. Ivanchuk – 4
2-3. Nielsen, McShane – 3½
4. Sutovsky – 3
5-6. Hillarp Persson, Hector – 2½
7-9. C. Hansen, Timman, S.B. Hansen – 2
10. Lindberg – 0

A very special match the Basque team vs. Anand, Polgar and Karpov is taking place in Santurtzi near Bilbao. Three blindfold, three advanced chess and three rapid games (50 min. + 5 sec/move) are played each day. Two days have passed. Anand and Polgar have won all 4 games while Karpov made two draws against J.L. Fernandez in advanced chess and lost both rapid games to Felix Izeta.

Eugene Perelshteyn won the Generation Chess International Tournament

Final standings:
1. Perelshteyn – 6½
2-4. Krush, Ehlvest, Christiansen – 5½
5. Yudasin – 5
6-7. Simutowe, Akobian – 4½
8. Bluvshtein – 3½
9. Muhammad – 2½
10. Paschall – 2

The 60th Polish Championships

Tomasz Markowski has virtually secured the title. A single draw in two final rounds would make him sole winner of the event.

Round 11 standings:
1. Markowski – 9
2-3. Macieja, Socko – 7

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

4–5. Cyborowski, Krasenkow – 6½
6. Miton – 6, etc.

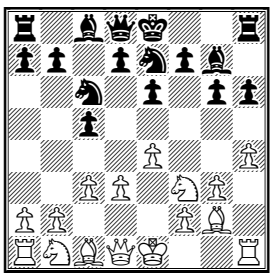
The III Internacional Governador Mário Covas

Final standings:
1–2. Morovic Fernandez, Milos – 6½
3. Leitao – 6
4. Hoffman – 5
5. Zapata – 3
6. Rodriguez – 2½

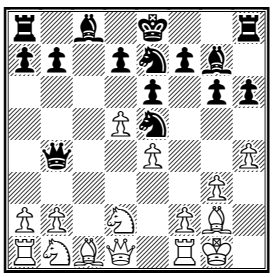
Annotated Game

□ E. Sutovsky (2652)
■ **B. Lindberg (2392)**
Event: *11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (4), 02.05.2003*
Sicilian Defence B30
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d3
Maybe this move isn't the best way to fight for an opening advantage, but it gives White many possibilities to vary plans and move orders.
3...♘c6 4.g3 g6
In the line 4...d5 5.♘bd2 ♘f6 6.♗g2 ♗e7 7.0–0 0–0 White sets the strong pawn outpost on e5 and develops the initiative on the kingside. The dark-squared bishop's fianchetto aims to reduce the effectiveness of this plan.
5.c3
As Black doesn't play d7–d5 White is in no hurry to define the position of his queen's knight. In some variations it enters the game via a3 without blocking the way of the c1–bishop.
5...♗g7 6.♗g2 ♘ge7 7.h4
Usually White simply plays 7.0–0 followed by the d3–d4 advance preparation.
7...h6 (D)



A typical method to stop White's activity, at least for a while. Black can play 7...d5 8.♕e2 b6 as well and after 9.h5 he may even castle since with the king in the centre White should take the opponent's counterchances into account. But I understand Lindberg: if I was Black the h5–pawn would annoy me too.
8.d4!?
8.0–0 was still possible returning to positional play but Sutovsky changes course. From now on the game steps into a field of immense complications.
8...cxd4 9.cxd4 ♕b6!?
A tempting move. White should give up a pawn. 9...d5 was a good alternative.
10.d5 ♕b4+
After 10...♗xb2 11.♗xb2 ♕xb2 12.♘bd2 exd5 13.0–0 White obtains compensation for the sacrificed pawns. The possible continuation is 13...0–0 14.exd5 ♘xd5 15.♘c4 ♕b5 16.♘d6 ♕a5 *(16...♕c5? 17.♘e4 ♕a5 18.♕xd5!+–)* 17.♖e1 – the black king's position is weakened while the queenside is temporarily sealed up; in case of 10...exd5 11.exd5 ♕a5+ 12.♘fd2 ♘xd5 13.0–0⩲ Black saves his fianchettoed bishop but White's loss is estimated at one pawn only.
11.♘fd2!
A very strong move. Now Black should act like a rope-walker.
11...♘e5 [Here 11...♗xb2 already fails to 12.a3 **A)** 12...♕b5 13.♘c4! ♕xc4 *(13...♗xa1 14.♘d6+)* 14.♗xb2+–; **B)** 12...♕d4 13.♖a2! **B1)** 13...♘e5 14.♗xb2 ♘d3+ 15.♔e2 ♘xb2 *(15...♕xf2+ 16.♔xd3+–)* 16.♕c2 ♘a4 17.♘f3 winning the knight; **B2)** 13...♗xc1 14.dxc6 ♗b2 *(14...♗xd2+ 15.♖xd2)* 15.cxb7 ♗xb7 16.♕b3! and one of the black bishops disappears.
12.0–0 (D)



12...♘d3?!

Probably Black considered his position as inferior due to a lack of space and therefore decided to get some compensation for it. But 12...0–0 13.♘c3 exd5 14.exd5 d6 was quite playable – the game is about even.

13.a3 ♕b5?!

Again the capture on b2 causes Black a lot of trouble – 13...♘xb2 14.axb4 ♘xd1 15.♖a3! ♘b2 and it will be hard for the knight to get out alive.; 13...♕c5 14.♘b3 ♕c4 has its drawbacks but I believe it was better than the text move.

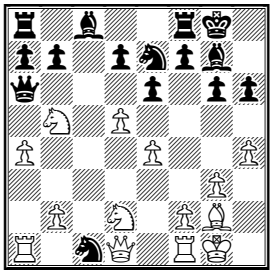
14.♘c3 ♕a6 15.a4!

The assessment becomes clear – White stands better.

15...0–0

The only way to prevent the knight's intrusion on b5 was 15...♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♘xc1 17.♖xc1 but it fortifies White's centre and weakens the black king.

16.♘b5 ♘xc1 (D)



If 16...♖b8 17.♘c4 ♘xc1 18.♖xc1 exd5 19.exd5 then White is threatening with d6 and ♘c7 ensnaring the queen whose flight 19...♕f6 gives White an extra pawn and a winning position after 20.♘xa7

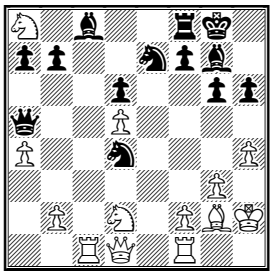
17.♘c7!?

17.♖xc1 was strong and solid. Sutovsky chose the more entertaining way.

17...♘e2+ 18.♔h2 ♕a5 19.♘xa8

In the end the knight will perish in the corner but the price for it will be too high.

19...♘d4 20.♖c1 exd5 21.exd5 d6 (D)



22.♖c7!?

One more enterprising move. Sutovsky isn't satisfied with 22.♘c7 ♗d7 23.♖c4 ♖c8 Instead of bringing the knight back he tries to spread havoc among the enemy.

22...♘ef5

22...♘xd5? 23.♘c4

23.h5!

Calling up an almost forgotten idea.

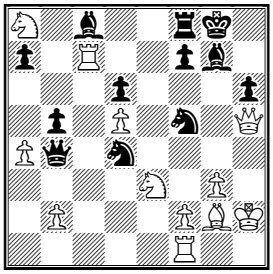
23...gxh5

I'm not sure whether 23...g5 was better but I think it was more consequent.

24.♘c4 ♕b4 25.♕xh5 b5!

25...♕xa4 26.♖c1 followed by ♘cb6 and the white rook takes the back rank.

26.♘e3 (D)



26.axb5? ♘xb5

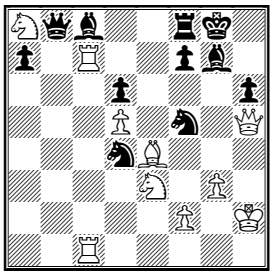
26...♕xb2

Bad is 26...♘xe3? 27.fxe3 and the f7 point collapses; but with 26...bxa4 Black could offer tough resistance, for example – 27.♖xa7 ♘b5 28.♘xf5 ♘xa7 *(28...♗xf5 29.♖b7! ♗g4 30.♕h4 ♖xa8 31.f3)* 29.♘xh6+ ♗xh6 30.♕xh6 ♕xb2 *(30...♗f5 31.♘c7 ♕xb2 32.♕xd6⇄)* 31.♘b6!? a3 *(31...♕xb6? 32.♗e4+–)* 32.♘c4 ♕g7 33.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 34.♘xa3±

27.axb5 ♕xb5 28.♖fc1

28.♖xa7!?

28...♕b8 29.♗e4 (D)



29...♘xe3

29...♕b2 deserves attention 30.♖1c2!? ♘xc2 31.♘xf5 *(31.♖xc2 ♕f6)* **A)** 31...♘d4?! 32.♘e7+ ♔h8 33.♖xc8 ♕xf2+ 34.♗g2±; **B)** 31...♘e3 32.♘xe3 ♕xf2+ 33.♘g2 ♗a6 34.♖c2 ♕d4 35.♕f5 ♖xa8 36.♖f2! ♗f6 *(36...f6 37.♖c2!)* 37.♕xf6 ♕xe4 38.♕xf7+ ♔h8 39.♖f6 and White wins; **C)** 31...♘e1! 32.♔g1 ♗xf5 33.♕xf5 ♘f3+ 34.♗xf3 ♖xa8 35.♕xf7+ (or *35.♗h5!?*) 35...♔h8 White has an edge but the game is not over.

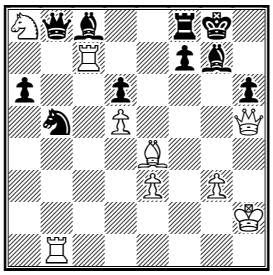
30.fxe3 ♘b5

Here Black has missed his last chance. Activating the queen by 30...♕b2+ 31.♗g2 ♗f5! 32.exd4 ♗e4 33.♕h3 ♖xa8 he preserved defensive resources.

31.♖b1

The white pieces help each other in a peculiar way but it works fine!

31...a6 (D)



31...♕xa8 32.♖xb5

32.♖e7! ♕xa8 33.♖f1+-

...while the black queen is away 33...♗e6 34.dxe6 ♕xe4 35.exf7+ ♔h8 36.♖xe4 **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today

1. B. Lindberg- P. Nielsen

36.♗xe4 ♖cc2! Mating. **0-1.**

2. V. Ivanchuk - J. Timman

62.h5 ♔e6 63.h6! ♔xf6 64.hxg7! [64.hxg7 ♔xg7 65.♔d2 ♔f6 66.♔c3 winning; but not 64.h7? ♘f5+! 65.exf5 ♔g7=] **1-0.**

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CHESS TODAY
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Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-125(909) 5th May 2003

Letters to the Editor

We start today's issue with two corrections. Our reader **Dennis Monokroussos** sent us the following message: "Unless the website changed its mind, Karpov won, not lost, both his rapid games with Felix Izeta". Thank you Dennis – you're right, Karpov won and thus the world Ex-Champion upholds his reputation. The second correction is less significant in my opinion. Let us quote Dennis Monokroussos one more time: "I don't know what the correct score is, but there's a rather obvious error towards the end of the Hillarp Persson – Sutovsky score from their 5th round game in the ongoing Sigeman tournament. Everything up through White's 45th move makes perfect sense, but the last two half moves are altogether preposterous: Black hangs the rook, and White in turn not only fails to take it but then leaves his own rook en prise in turn. Worth fixing or at least deleting the last two half moves and substituting an ellipsis, I think, until and unless the right score shows up". Dennis' observation is true again and I suggest stopping after 44...Rxd1 – it's a dead draw.

Chess News

The match Basque team vs. Anand, Polgar and Karpov has finished. Below are the results of the third day.
Blindfold: Gomez – Karpov ½:½, ½:½
Advanced: Izeta – Anand ½:½, ½:½
Rapid: Fernandez – Polgar ½:½, 0:1
In total Judit scored 5½ out of 6, Vishy – 5 and Anatoly – 4.
Jose Luis Fernandez was the best among the hosts. He managed to draw three games while his partners succeeded only two times.

Today is a day-off at the 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament The players are traveling from Malmo to Copenhagen where the second part of the event will take place.

Tomasz Markowski won The 60th Polish Championships with excellent score of 10.5 points in 13 games, 2.5 points ahead of such strong rivals as Socko, Krasenkow and Macieja.

The final standings:
1. Markowski – 10½
2-4. Socko, Krasenkow, Macieja – 8
5. Cyborowski – 7½
6. Miton – 7
7. Jaracz – 6½
8-11. Grabarczyk, Bartel, Kempinski, Urban – 5½
12-14. Staniszewski, Murdzia, Jakubowski – 4½

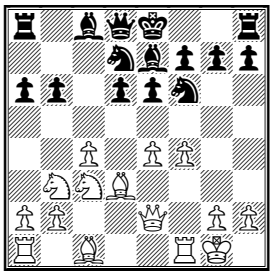
♘♘♘

Today's annotated game features one of Markowski's wins. This encounter is illustrative of his style. Tomasz is a good defender; a crowd of enemy pieces in the vicinity of his king doesn't make him nervous.

Annotated Game

□ **P. Jaracz (2549)**
■ **T. Markowski (2587)**
Event: *60th ch-POL Warsaw POL (6), 27.04.2003*
Sicilian Defence/Paulsen Variation B42
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♗d3 ♗c5 6.♘b3 ♗e7 7.c4 d6
After this move the Paulsen Variation transforms into the Hedgehog structure. Black puts his pawns along the third rank and waits patiently for his opponent to clarify his intentions. Black's position is very flexible and it's not easy for White to seize it with a dashing swoop.
8.♘c3 ♘f6 9.0-0 ♘bd7 10.f4 b6 11.♕e2 (D)



11...♗b7

Move order in the Hedgehog often depends on small details. For example, in a slightly different situation (say with the white rook on d1) Black would have had to protect against the e4–e5 advance. But it turns out that here his opponent's threat doesn't frighten Black as the bishop on d3 is hanging, however strange it may seem.

12.♗d2

After 12.e5? dxe5 13.fxe5 ♘xe5! 14.♕xe5 ♕xd3 White is able to regain the pawn by 15.♕c7 ♕d7 16.♕xb6 ♖c8 but his position would be inferior.

12...♖c8 13.♘d4 g6

Maybe 13...0–0 was possible as well but Markowski prefers to secure the h5 square for the knight and to cover the f5 square in order to have the opportunity to play e6–e5

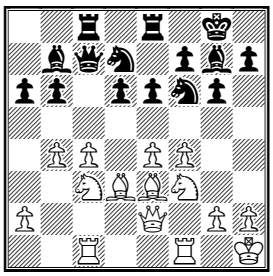
14.♘f3

In case of 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 White should have reckoned with 15...♗c5 (and *15...♘c5*)

14...0–0 15.♖ac1 ♕c7 16.♔h1 ♖fe8

"Thoughtful" manoeuvres commence which is typical in the Hedgehog. Both sides prepare their armies for a decisive clash. Black sets his rook in oppositon to the enemy queen. One may say – what for, there are so many pieces between them but we've already seen how fast they may go off.

17.b4 ♗f8 18.♗e3 ♗g7 (D)



19.♘d2

White admits that his rival has built a citadel on the kingside. It's dangerous for White to carry out the plans with g2–g4 or f4–f5 as it would peril his own king and queen. So he fixes his eyes upon the queenside. One of the possible plans is to play ♘b3 and a2–a4–a5, eliminating the b6–pawn and then White may choose between b4–b5 or c4–c5.

19...♕b8 20.♘b3 ♕a8

Black pieces are able to exert influence upon the centre from afar.

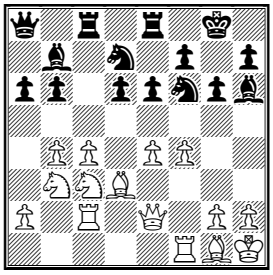
21.♗g1

Now it's time to calculate d6–d5.

21...♗h6

Interesting was 21...d5 22.cxd5 ♘xe4!? (worse is the routine *22...exd5 23.e5 ♘e4 24.♗d4±*) 23.♗xe4 *(23.♘xe4?! ♖xc1 24.♖xc1 exd5)* 23...exd5 (or *23...♗xc3 24.dxe6 ♖xe6 25.♗xb7 ♕xb7 26.♕f3=)* 24.♘xd5 ♗xd5 25.♗xd5 ♖xe2 26.♗xa8 ♖xa8 with an equal ending.

22.♖c2 (D)



22...d5

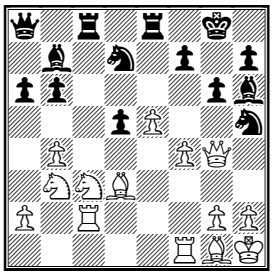
Here it comes.

23.cxd5 exd5

My analysis has shown that here the idea 23...♘xe4 fails due to the unlucky collocation of ♘d7 and Bh6! Nevertheless the position is very complicated so I'm not quite sure that all these lines are correct. Let's see: 24.♕xe4! (another capture *24.♗xe4* doesn't work in view of *24...exd5 25.♕d3 dxe4 26.♕xd7 e3! 27.♕h3 ♗g7* and Black takes a piece back with advantage*)* 24...exd5 25.♕f3 *(25.♕d4? ♗g7* and White is simply a pawn down*)* 25...d4 26.♘e4! (again it's too early for the straightforward exploiting of the main idea – *26.♕h3 ♖xc3 27.♖xc3 dxc3 28.♖f2* since Black replies *28...♘f6! 29.♕xh6 ♘g4 30.♕h3 ♘xf2+ 31.♗xf2 ♕b8* and the

dangerous passed pawn and the unsteadiness of White's minor pieces compensates him for a minimal material loss) **A)** 26...f5 27.♖xc8 ♖xc8 *(27...♕xc8 28.♘d6!)* 28.♕h3! and after 28...fxe4 White suddenly gets a crushing attack – 29.♕e6++–; **B)** 26...♖xc2 27.♗xc2 ♖xe4 (or *27...♗xe4 28.♗xe4 ♖xe4 29.♕h3 ♖e2 30.♖f2* and Black loses a piece) 28.♗xe4 ♗xe4 29.♕h3 Thanks to the weakness of the g2-point Black can save both the knight and the bishop but the loss of the d4-pawn would give White a clear advantage.

24.e5 ♘h5 25.♕g4?! (D)



Probably White overlooked the following combination After 25.♗e3 his position would have been better.

25...♘xf4! 26.♕xd7

26.♖xf4 ♘xe5–+

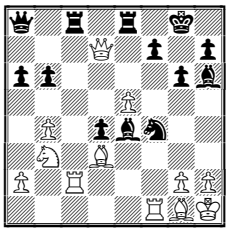
26...d4!

26...♗c6 doesn't lead to a win because of 27.♕g4 ♘xd3 28.♕h3 (one more double attack) 28...♘xb4 and here for example 29.♕xh6!? *(29.♖cf2* deserves serious consideration) 29...♘xc2 30.♖xf7! ♔xf7 31.♕xh7+ ♔e6? (right is *31...♔f8* with perpetual) 32.♕xg6+ ♔xe5 *(32...♔e7 33.♕f6+ ♔d7 34.♕d6#)* 33.h3! mating

27.♘e4

This is not a mistake but apparently White doesn't feel the danger represented by ♘f4. After 27.♖xf4 ♗xf4 28.♗xd4 *(28.♘xd4? ♖xc3)* 28...♗xe5 the position is unclear though somewhat insecure for White.

27...♗xe4 (D)



27...♖xc2 28.♗xc2 ♖xe5 was a reasonable alternative **28.♗xe4?** White couldn't turn from the pernicious track. The right move order was 28.♖xf4 ♗xg2+ *(28...♗xf4?* loses to *29.♗xe4 ♕xe4 30.♖xc8)* 29.♖xg2 ♗xf4∞

28...♕xe4 29.♖xf4

The difference is seen in a simple line 29.♖xc8 ♕xg2#

29...♕xc2 30.e6?

The last mistake. After 30.♕xf7+ ♔h8 31.e6 ♗g7 White would have retained some practical chances.

30...fxe6

A dreadful check on d4 would be parried by e6-e5 **31.♕f7+ ♔h8 32.♖xd4?!**

More stubborn was 32.♖h4

32...♖f8 33.♕e7

33.♕xe6 ♖ce8 and on the next move one of the black rooks goes to the 1st rank

33...♖ce8?!

33...♕b1! won immediately – 34.♕xe6 *(34.h3 ♗e3; 34.♖h4 ♕xg1+ 35.♔xg1 ♗e3+ 36.♔h1 ♖f1#)* 34...♖ce8

34.♕d7 ♗g7

The rest is just the realisation of the point.

35.♖d2 ♕c8 36.♕a7 ♖d8 37.♖xd8 ♖xd8 38.♕xb6 ♖d1 39.♕e3 h5

⌓39...♕c4

40.♕e2 ♕d7 41.h3 ♕d6 42.a4 ♖b1 43.♘d2 ♖b2 44.♗e3 ♕xb4 45.♕d3 ♕c3 46.♕e2 ♖c2 47.g4 hxg4 48.hxg4 ♕e5 49.♕f3 ♕d5 50.♘e4

50.♘e4 ♖c4 51.♘d2 ♕xf3+ 52.♘xf3 ♖c3 **0-1.**

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(353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-126(910) 6th May 2003

Chess News

Little by little all the tournaments we were focused upon have finished and today to my surprise I've established a fact that the The 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament is the only ongoing event. Later I got the information at the Russian site www.chess-express.ru about the 'Match of two Cities'. So here is the news in brief.

In Copenhagen Vassily Ivanchuk retains a lead he has obtained in Malmo. Bengt Lindberg still can't open the scoring.

Round 6 results:
Nielsen – Ivanchuk ½:½
Hector – Timman 1:0
Sutovsky – C. Hansen 1:0
McShane – S.B. Hansen ½:½
Lindberg – Hillarp Persson 0:1

Round 6 standings:
1. Ivanchuk – 4½
2-4. Nielsen, McShane, Sutovsky – 4
5-6. Hillarp Persson, Hector – 3½
7. S.B. Hansen – 2½
8-9. C. Hansen, Timman – 2
10. Lindberg – 0

The match Saint Petersburg – Moscow (30 men, 5 seniors and 5 women in each team) takes place in Saint Petersburg. The first day saw a victory for Moscow – 21:19. On the top 5 boards however the hosts have got a minimal advantage – Khalifman beat Kobalia with Black on the 1st board while the games Svidler – Najer, Shipov – Sakaev, Yevseev – Jakovenko and Korotylev – Popov ended in a draw.

The Annotated game features Jonny Hector's win over Jan Timman. The famous Dutchman had overestimated his position and later on found himself in a total zugzwang in the middle-game.

Hot Off the Press

by Alex Baburin

Wood Green are the new 4NCL Champions!

The last three rounds of the Four Nations Chess League took place on 3-5 of May in Birmingham. Before the weekend it was quite clear that the only super-club left in the league – ***Wood Green*** – would probably win the title, as it had 16 points out of 16 and 2-points lead over its nearest rivals - ***Guildford*** and ***Barbican***. In round 9 the leader crashed 7-1 *Betsson.com*, which had been in the clear 4th place before the weekend. Then came 8-0 victory (no prisoners!) over *Perceptron Youth* – an impressive score, but hardly surprising, considering that board 8 of Wood Green was higher rated than board 1 of the opponents.

Finally, Wood Green played Guildford – the only team which could (and did!) put up some resistance. The tense match ended in 4-4 draw, with the following individual results (names of the Wood Green players are in bold italic):

Hebden - ***Adams*** ½:½
Short - Stefanova 1:0
Kosten – ***Ward*** ½:½
Baburin – Conquest 1:0
Plaskett – ***Lalic*** 1:0
Emms – Gallagher ½:½
Cherniaev – ***Turner*** 1:0
H. Hunt – G. Flear ½:½

White scored heavily in the match, but could have done even better, as Harriet Hunt and Tony Kosten missed great winning chances.

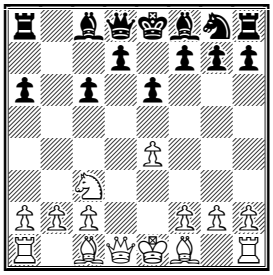
This is the first title for Wood Green, which was a very strong contender in the past 4 years, but was not too lucky vs. its main rivals, such as Slough and Index IT. However, while those teams

got into financial difficulties and lost many of their top players, Wood Green got even stronger, thanks to the support of Peter Sowray, IM Paul Littlewood and particularly its captain ***Brian Smith***. With such players as Adams, Morozevich, Short, Bologan, Seirawan, Speelman and Agdestein on its list, the team could be a serious player in the European Club Championship, should it take part in it. For me it is even more important that Wood Green is a very friendly club, so I look forward to the 2003/2004 season!

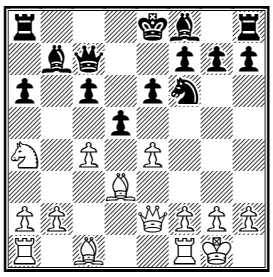
Annotated Game

□ **J Hector (2553)**
■ **J Timman (2579)**
Event: 11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe
SWE (6), 05.05.2003
Sicilian Defence – B46
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

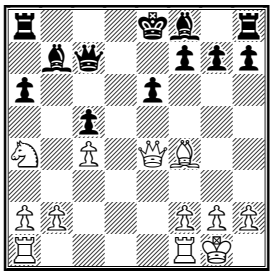
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♘xc6 bxc6



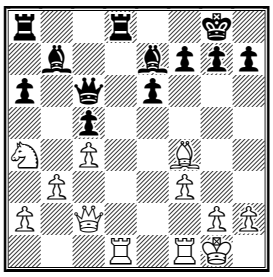
7.♗d3 ♕c7 8.♕e2 ♗b7
This year in Wijk aan Zee against Kramnik Timman tried 8...♗d6 9.♕g4!? ♘e7 10.♕xg7 ♖g8 11.♕xh7 ♗e5 12.♕h5 ♖xg2 13.♘e2 but didn't obtain a sufficient compensation and lost.
9.0–0 d5
An interesting "order of appearance" which leaves a choice to the dark-squared bishop and reserves the e7 square for the knight in case of the premature e4–e5.
10.♘a4
White makes way for his c-pawn to put more pressure on the Black centre. However 10.♗d2 and 10.b3, that have been tested in the past, are much more to the point.
10...♘f6 11.c4?!



11.e5 is the common plan for this system and I believe White should have played it, though Timman has probably gained some advantage from the slightly unusual move order
11...dxe4!
Basically this exchange is considered to be favourable for White as Black's pair of bishops doesn't compensate him completely for the weak queenside pawns. But in this position Black could have got a menacing initiative on the kingside. Unfortunately Timman's next move was mistaken.
12.♗xe4 ♘xe4?
After 12...♗d6! 13.h3 (the other defences make the white king's residence too brittle) 13...♘xe4 14.♕xe4 c5 followed by 0–0, Rae8 and the advance of the f-pawn (maybe supported by the e-pawn) Black's advantage is evident
13.♕xe4 c5
Now after 13...♗d6 White could reply 14.♕h4
14.♗f4



14...♕c8?!
The ending after 14...♗xe4 15.♗xc7 is roughly equal but Timman keeps on playing for win.
15.♕c2 ♕c6 16.f3
In conjunction with h3 this move would have looked ugly. But here it puts an end to Black's activity on the main diagonal. Forever!
16...♗e7 17.♖ad1 0–0 18.b3 ♖fd8



19.♕f2!

I suppose that at this moment Jan has lost the interest in this game. The c5 pawn is a drag and in White's position there's nothing to stick to.

19...h6 20.♗e3

Black has to yield the d-file.

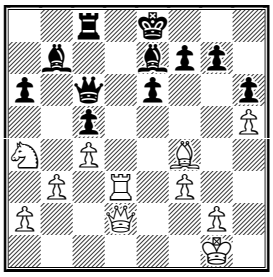
20...♖xd1 21.♖xd1 ♖c8 22.♖d3! ♔f8?

The passive defence ruins the game. Black should have searched for activity by 22...♕c7 and if 23.♕d2 then 23...♕e5 24.♖d7 ♖c7 25.♖xc7 ♕xc7 26.♕f2 ♕e5! with good drawing chances.

23.♕d2 ♔e8 24.♗f4! ♗f8 25.h4

This kingside expansion isn't necessary but it demonstrates Black's helplessness excellently.

25...♗e7 26.h5



26...f6?

In such position it's hard to keep cool. This weakening facilitates White's task.

27.♗d6

It's a bit strange that Hector missed a tactical decision 27.♗xh6! gxh6 28.♕xh6 which suits his style very well. Black will have to give up the bishop for the h-pawn.

27...e5 28.♘xc5! ♗xd6 29.♘xb7 ♗e7 30.♘d6+ ♗xd6 31.♖xd6 ♕b7 32.♕a5! ♕a7+ 33.♕b6

The rook ending is hopeless. Black resigned.

1-0

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CT-127(911) 7th May 2003

Chess News

With IM Maxim Notkin

The 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament

Vassily Ivanchuk has made a giant step towards overall victory, defeating Emil Sutovsky in the 7th round. Nevertheless Peter Heine Nielsen is at his heels. Today he scored a win over Jan Timman in the Berlin Wall with Black. Bengt Lindberg has earned his first half point.

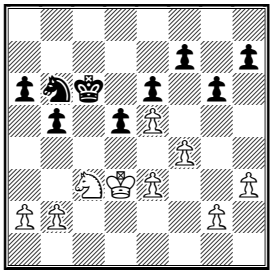
Round 7 results:
Ivanchuk – Sutovsky 1:0
Hillarp Persson – McShane ½:½
S.B. Hansen – Hector 1:0
Timman – Nielsen 0:1
C. Hansen – Lindberg ½:½

Round 7 standings:
1. Ivanchuk – 5½
2. Nielsen – 5
3. McShane – 4½
4-5. Hillarp Persson, Sutovsky – 4
6-7. S.B. Hansen, Hector – 3½
8. C. Hansen – 2½
9. Timman – 2
10. Lindberg – ½

The match Saint Petersburg – Moscow has finished. On the second day the Moscow team won again 22½:17½ and the total score has become 43½:36½. The young GM Eugeny Alekseev of Petersburg replaced the FIDE World Ex-Champion Alexander Khalifman on the 1st board but the result was the same – the Moscow leader Mikhail Kobalia lost. Just as yesterday I give the results of the top five (Moscow players are in bold italic).
Alekseev – ***Kobalia*** 1:0
Najer – Svidler ½:½
Sakaev – ***Shipov*** ½:½
Jakovenko – Yevseev 1:0
Popov – ***Korotylev*** ½:½
Alexandra Kosteniuk won both games on the 23rd (men's) board.

Nikolai Vlassov's issue tomorrow will feature the highlights of this event. This fact nonplussed me a bit because I had to choose the game of the day among The Sigeman encounters. To pick out the critical game Ivanchuk – Sutovsky would have been the most natural option. Unfortunately all four of Ivanchuk's wins are rather boring ... so I invite you to just take a look at the crucial point of the game.

V Ivanchuk (2704) – E Sutovsky (2652) 11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (7), 06.05.2003 D91



37...♔c5
An active move, and there seems nothing bad with it. But knowing the result we may estimate this move as careless. More accurate was 37...b4 38.♘e2 ♘a4 39.♘d4+ ♔d7 40.♔c2 ♘c5
38.♘e2 ♘c4 39.b3 ♘a3?
A decisive mistake. The knight has gone too far. After 39...♘a5 40.♘d4 b4 41.♘f3 h6 42.♘h2 ♘c6 43.♘g4 h5 44.♘h6 ♘d8 it could have come back in time to take care of Black's rear. It seems White has no winning plan here – 45.g4 hxg4 46.hxg4 ♔b5 47.e4 ♔c5=
40.♘d4 b4 41.♘f3!
The mobile white knight finds a way into the enemy camp.
41...h6 42.♘h2! ♘b5
If 42...h5 then 43.♘f3 and ♘g5
43.♘g4 ♘c3
Or 43...h5 44.♘h6 and the base of the Black pawn chain is destroyed.
44.♘xh6 ♘xa2 45.♘xf7
It's all over. Black can't stop his pawns from falling.
45...d4 46.♘g5 dxe3 47.♘xe6+ ♔c6

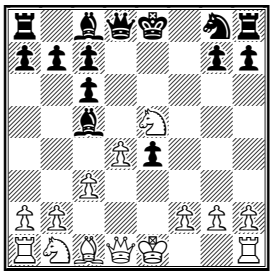
47...♔d5 48.♘c7+ ♔c6 49.♘xa6
48.♘d4+ ♔d5 49.♘e2 a5 50.♔xe3 1-0

Annotated Game

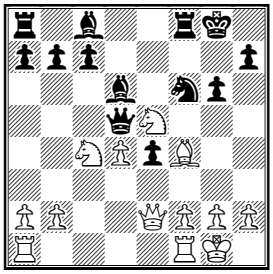
And now let's examine the game S.B. Hansen – Hector which demonstrates the common truth that the attack of the major pieces is stronger when opposite colour bishops are on the board.

□ S Hansen (2537)
■ J Hector (2553)
Event: *11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (7), 06.05.2003*
Ruy Lopez - C64
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

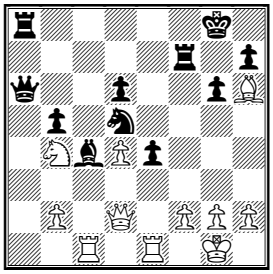
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♗c5 4.c3 f5
A risky opening. But Jonny Hector is an expert in dubious schemes.
5.d4 fxe4 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.♘xe5



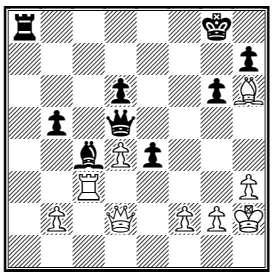
7...♕d5
This move is considered to be better than 7...♗d6 after which White gets an advantage by 8.♕h5+ g6 9.♕e2! and the e4-pawn is weak (Erroneous is *9.♘xg6? ♘f6 10.♕h4 ♖g8 11.♘e5 ♖xg2 12.♗g5? ♗xe5 13.dxe5 ♗g4 14.♘d2 ♕d3* and to avoid mate White should give up the queen)
8.♕h5+ g6 9.♕e2 ♗d6 10.♗f4 ♘f6 11.♘d2 0-0 12.0-0 c5 13.♘dc4 cxd4 14.cxd4



14...♗e6
14...♕xd4 looks dangerous in view of 15.♖fd1 ♕c5 16.♘xd6 cxd6 17.♖ac1 "with initiative" though Fritz finds tactical resources in lines like 17...♕b6 18.♘c4 ♕b5 19.♖xd6 (or *19.♗xd6 ♗g4)* 19...♘e8
15.♖ac1 b5 16.♘xd6 cxd6 17.♘c6 ♖f7 18.♕d2
Preparing ♘b4.
18...a5
After 18...♕xa2 19.♗xd6 White's minor pieces gain the excellent square e5.
19.♘xa5 ♕xa2 20.♘c6 ♗c4 21.♖fe1 ♘d5!
21...d5 again would have provided White with the e5-square
22.♗h6
The capture on d6 leads to an equal position after 22.♗xd6 ♕a6 23.b3 ♕xc6 (no need to complicate by *23...♗xb3 24.♖c5!?)* 24.♗e5 ♘b6 25.bxc4 ♘xc4 26.♕e2 ♖af8
22...♕a6 23.♘b4



23...♕b7?
Black had to exchange the queens 23...♕a5 24.♘xd5 ♕xd2 25.♗xd2 ♗xd5 with a drawn ending
24.♘xd5?!
It seems that the e4-pawn is protected indirectly but in fact White could take it! 24.♖xe4! ♘xb4 25.♖ce1! and White regains the knight thanks to the mating threats. The queen sacrifice 25...♕xe4 26.♖xe4 ♘d3 doesn't help in view of 27.h4 ♖xf2 28.♕e3
24...♕xd5 25.♖c3 ♖fa7 26.h3 ♖a1?
With one rook on the board Black is unable to protect his king. Right was 26...b4 27.♖ce3 ♗d3 28.♗f4
27.♖xa1 ♖xa1+ 28.♔h2 ♖a8



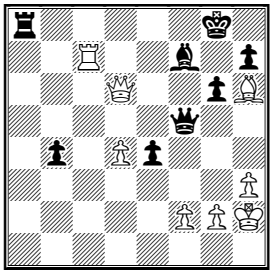
29.b3!

A nice pawn sacrifice clears the path for the white rook.

29...♗xb3 30.♖c7 ♕f5 31.♕b4 ♗f7

If 31...♕d5 then 32.♖g7+ ♔h8 33.♖d7 ♔g8 34.♖xd6 ♕c4 35.♕d2 ♕c7 36.♕f4 and evading the queen exchange White preserves a strong attack.

t**32.♕xd6 b4**



The attempt to exchange the queens by 32...♕e6 would have been rejected again – 33.♕c5 and if A) 33...♖b8 34.d5! ♕e5+ *(34...♕xd5 35.♖c8+)* 35.g3+–; and if B) 33...♕f5 34.♕c3 ♗d5 35.♖g7+ ♔h8 36.♕c7

33.♖b7! ♖e8 34.♖b8!

Black resigned. Mating threats have become irresistible – 34.♖b8 ♔h8 *(34...b3 35.♕f8+)* 35.♕c7 ♕e6 *(35...♖xb8 36.♕xb8+ ♗g8 37.♕c7 ♕f6 38.♗f4)* 36.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 37.♕d6

1–0

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-128(912) 8th May 2003

Chess News

With IM Maxim Notkin

We apologize to our readers for a slight change in our schedule. Nikolai Vlassov will make the announced report about the Saint Petersburg – Moscow match tomorrow, while today it's me again, Maxim Notkin, with my daily observation of The 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament

In the 8th round the leader Vassily Ivanchuk played the outsider Bengt Lindberg and the outcome caused no sensation. Ivanchuk won and before the final round he is one point ahead of Peter Heine Nielsen and Luke McShane.

Round 8 results:
Lindberg – Ivanchuk 0:1
Hillarp Persson – C. Hansen 0:1
McShane – Hector 1:0
Sutovsky – Timman 0:1
Nielsen – S.B. Hansen ½:½

Round 8 standings:
1. Ivanchuk – 6½
2-3. Nielsen, McShane – 5½
4-6. Hillarp Persson, Sutovsky, S.B. Hansen – 4
7-8. Hector, C. Hansen – 3½
9. Timman – 3
10. Lindberg – ½

As we see four games in this round were decisive. But I have selected the only drawn game to comment on. The reason is that for me to scan through all the decisive games was like to drift with a current, I clicked and clicked, move by move and I saw some changes in the positions and I could evaluate them in the course of my clicking – 'It was equal, now Black is better, oh he won a pawn' etc. But nothing could really slow me down. The only exception was maybe Ivanchuk's wonderful plan 9..Kh8, 10..Rg8 and 12..Qf8. But then he obtained a better ending that reminded me a bit of the game Gretarsson – Adams game from this year's Rejkyavik Hrokurinn tournament and everything took its normal course.

Both Sutovsky and Hillarp Person were over-optimistic about their positions. They pushed the pawns and pieces forward carelessly and were punished by their opponents with the aid of tactical motives. Curt Hansen carried out a small operation 19..c4 and 21..Nxe4 after which his position became preferable. According to the clock on ICC Hillarp Persson lost on time and indeed the final position is not one of those where White had to resign. Sutovsky overlooked that after 20..c5 his knight couldn't retreat in view of 21..d4 with the loss of the exchange (there were too many White's major pieces on the main diagonal). Timman's in-between check 19..Ba3+ was important to take the bishop away from the f5-f6 attack. McShane outplayed Hector in the same Ruy Lopez line as Ivanchuk. He exploited the unsteadiness of the black centre and won a pawn, and then Luke showed a good technique.

And well - in the game Nielsen–S.B. Hansen there were moments when I stopped and shook my head saying 'No, it's impossible there must be some mistake in notation'. I invite you to share my amazement.

Annotated Game

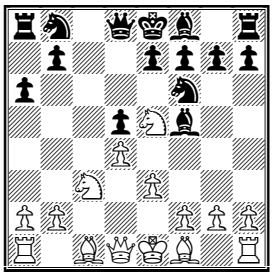
☐ **P Nielsen (2625)**
■ **S Hansen (2537)**
Event: *11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe SWE (8), 07.05.2003*
D15
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6

This system had been elaborated by the players of Moldova. Black doesn't close his light-squared bishop by e7-e6 hoping to find a place for it outside

the pawn fence. Moreover Black prepares the capture on c4 and covers the important b5 square. Not bad for a single move.

5.e3 ♗f5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.♘e5



7...h6

Again Black is taking care of his bishop. In case of 7...e6 8.g4 it would have been swapped for a knight

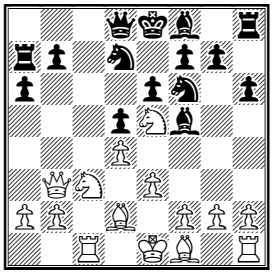
8.♕b3

White's common reaction to the bishop's withdrawal.

8...♖a7

This awkward move allows Black to avoid the weakening of the queenside. Bad is 8...b5? due to 9.a4 while to comeback on c8 is certainly a shame.

9.♗d2 e6 10.♖c1 ♘bd7



The development of the dark-squared bishop should be delayed – 10...♗d6? 11.♕a4+ ♘bd7 12.♘b5!; or 10...♗e7? 11.♕a4+ again followed by Nb5!

11.♗b5!

Oops! It was the first moment when I frowned. But pretty soon I saw White's idea. 11.♘xd7 ♘xd7 12.♘e2 ♘b8 13.♘f4 ♗d6 14.♗b4 was played in Radjabov – Morozevich, Russia – ROW, Moscow 2002; We've already known the threats created by 11.♕a4 The only defensive move is 11...♖a8!

11...♗d6

After 11...axb5? 12.♘xb5 Black is helpless against the double threat of Nxa7 and Nc7+, e.g. 12...♕b8 13.♘c7+ ♔d8 14.♘xf7+

12.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 13.♘xd7 ♔xd7!?

The second time I was taken by surprise. What's wrong with the capture by the queen? In fact as the analysis shows it was possible but the black king had to be ready for an adventure. 13...♕xd7 14.♘a4 ♗c7! *(14...b5?* loses to *15.♘b6* and Rc8+*; 14...0–0* is refuted by a curious manoeuvre *15.♘b6 ♕d8 16.♘c8! ♖a8 17.♘xd6 ♕xd6 18.♗b4* winning the exchange*)* 15.♘b6 *(*of course White has another options for example *15.♘c5* but the intrusion on b6 is very tempting*)* 15...♕d8 *(15...♗xb6? 16.♕xb6 ♖a8 17.♖c7)* 16.♕a4+ ♔e7 *(16...♔f8?* suddenly loses to *17.♕d7! ♗xb6 18.♖c8)* 17.♗b4+ ♔f6 18.♘d7+ ♔g6 and White has no winning blow

14.♘a4!

If 14.0–0 b5 Black solves all the problems.

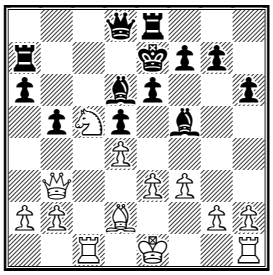
14...b5 15.♘c5+ ♔e7

The exchange on c5 gives White a strong passed pawn.

16.f3

Again White needs some drastic measures. After the quiet 16.0–0 ♕b8 17.h3 ♖c8 Black completes development with comfortable play.

16...♖e8



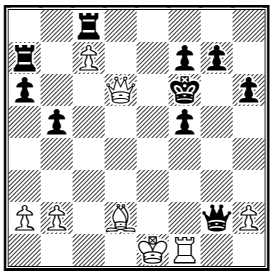
More accurate is 16...♔f8 threatening with Qh4+ and the king gets the opportunity to escape on h7

17.e4! dxe4

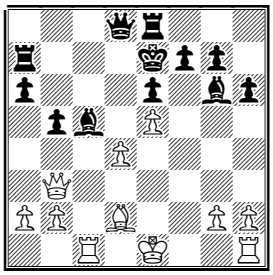
To win a pawn is extremely dangerous – 17...♗xc5 18.dxc5 dxe4 19.fxe4 ♗xe4 20.c6 (both the king and the bishop are in jeopardy) 20...♕d3 *(20...f5 21.♕g3 ♔f8 22.c7±)* 21.♕b4+ ♔f6 *(21...♔d8 22.♕c5+–)* 22.♖c3

A) 22...♕b1+ 23.♗c1 and the threats 0–0+ and Qd4+ decide 23...♖aa8 *(23...♗xg2 24.♕d4+)* 24.0–0+ ♔g6 25.♗d2; **B)** 22...♕d5 23.c7 ♖c8 24.♖f1+ ♗f5 *(24...♔g6 25.♖g3+ ♔h7*

26.♖xf7+-) 25.♖c5 (even stronger than *25.g4)* and if 25...♕xg2 then 26.♖cxf5+! exf5 27.♕d6#



18.fxe4 ♗g6 19.e5 ♗xc5



20.♗b4!

My finger trembled once again. But on the instant I had to admit it's an attractive way to play for win. 20.dxc5 ♕d5 leads to equality

20...♔d7!

It is the only move anyway it stirs imagination! The king finds a hide-out in the forefront. Losing are 20...♗xb4+ 21.♕xb4+ ♔d7 22.♕d6#; and 20...♔f8 21.♗xc5+

21.♗xc5 ♕h4+ 22.g3 ♕e4+ 23.♔f2 ♕f5+

With perpetual check or equal ending after

24.♕f3 ½-½

Draw agreed.

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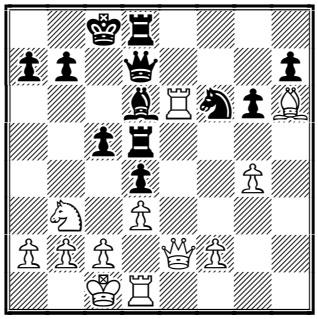
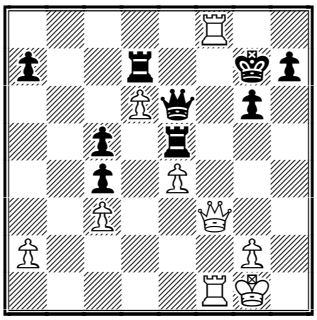
Quiz Today

1. E. Vorobiov – S. Ivanov
St.Petersburg-Moscow match Moscow (1.7), 2003



Black to play

2. E. Alekseev – M. Kobalija
St.Petersburg-Moscow match Moscow (2.1), 2003



White to play

Chess News

Highlights from the St-Petersburg – Moscow Match
by IM Nikolai Vlassov

The traditional friendly match between the St-Petersburg and the Moscow chess teams was among celebratory events devoted to the 300th Anniversary of St-Petersburg. The tournament was played on 40 boards: 30 – for men, 5 – for veterans and 5 – for ladies. This chess event has been held for 92 years with some breaks. The previous break lasted for 34 years but, fortunately, last year the tradition was restored.

The struggle was stout, but like last year, after two days of encounters, the match finished with the convincing victory for the Moscow team – a +7 margin. On the first ten boards representatives of St-Petersburg had higher ratings than their opponents, but in spite of the fact that Kobalija was defeated twice on first board (by Khalifman and Alekseev) and Vorobjev lost to Ivanov, they did not manage to gain a serious advantage. Andrey Devjatkin was a real hero of the match. He succeeded in defeating Aseev playing Black in an uneasy struggle and then won playing White being a piece down and in time trouble.

On the ladies's boards the advantage seemed obvious for the Moscow team, but it played a bad trick on them: one victory by Svetlana Matveeva and three losses by other Moscow ladies.

Vasjukov was lucky to save his hopeless position against Tajmanov. This allowed him to escape from two losses in a row and lead to a mutual draw on the veterans' boards. Only the strong *tail-enders* brought home the victory for Moscow. The players on boards 21 to 30 managed to play effectively, scoring 12:1 in favour of the Moscow team. **Alexandra Kosteniuk** was also among those who distinguished herself with two easy wins while playing on the men's board.

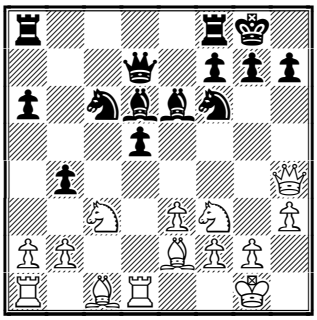
Vasily Ivanchuk wins the 11th Sigeman & Co Chess Tournament

Round 9 results:
(May 8, 2003)
Ivanchuk – Hillarp Persson – ½-½
Curt Hansen – McShane – 1-0
Sune Berg Hansen – Sutovsky – ½-½
Hector – Peter Heine Nielsen – ½-½
Timman – Lindberg – 1-0

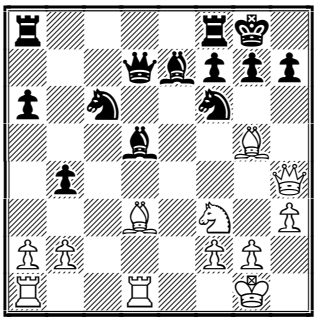
Final Standings:
1.Ivanchuk – 7.0
2.Nielsen, Peter Heine – 6.0
3.McShane – 5½
4–7. Curt Hansen, Hillarp Persson, Sune Berg Hansen, Sutovsky – 4½
8–9. Hector, Timman – 4.0
10. Lindberg – ½

Annotated Game

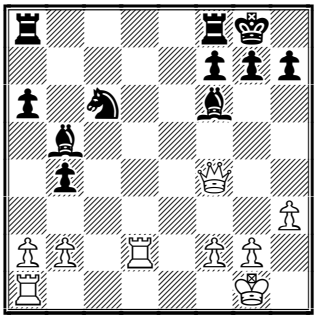
□ **A. Lugovoi**
■ **V. Belov**
Event: *St.Petersburg–Moscow match Moscow (1.6), 2003*
Tarrasch Defence D32
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.♘c3 e6 4.e3 d5 5.d4 ♘c6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♗b5 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♕c7 9.0–0 ♗d6 10.♘f3 ♗e6 11.h3 0–0 12.♗e2 ♕d7 13.♕a4 a6 14.♖d1 b5 15.♕h4 b4 (D)



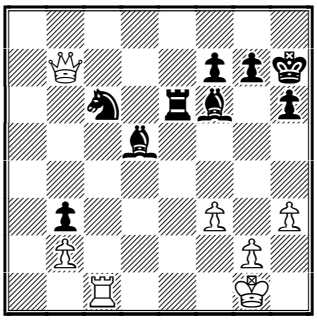
White was very sluggish in the opening and that's why he faced serious difficulties.
16.♘xd5!?
The piece is sacrificed because losing is 16.♘a4? ♘e7! 17.♘b6 ♕d8 18.♘xa8 ♘f5–+ and the queen is trapped.
16...♗xd5 17.e4 ♗xe4 18.♗f4 ♗d5! 19.♗g5 ♗e7!
In the variation 19...♘e4 20.♖xd5 ♗h2+ 21.♔xh2 ♕xd5 22.♖d1 ♕e6 Black manages to retain the exchange, but it is not easy to take advantage of it because all White's pieces are very well placed. 23.b3!∓
20.♗d3 (D)



20...♗xf3!
This is tactically the right decision! More complicated is 20...h6 21.♗xh6 ♘e4 22.♗g5 (if *22.♕h5 g6!–+* forces the exchange of queens.) 22...♗xg5 23.♘xg5 ♘xg5 24.♕xg5 ♖fd8 25.♗c4 ♘e7 26.♖d4∓ and it is pretty difficult for Black to develop here.
21.♗xf6 ♕xd3 22.♖xd3 ♗xf6 23.♕f4 ♗e2 24.♖d2 ♗b5 (D)



In this position Black's three pieces are much stronger than the queen, which is proved at move 45. à
25.♖ad1 h6 26.♕g3 ♖fe8 27.a3 ♖e4 28.♕c7 ♖ae8 29.♕b6 b3 30.♕c5 ♖8e5 31.♕b6 ♖e6 32.f3 ♖4e5 33.a4 ♗xa4 34.♕xa6 ♗b5 35.♕a8+ ♔h7 36.♕b7 ♗g5 37.♖d5 ♖xd5 38.♖xd5 ♗c4 39.♖d1 ♗f6 40.♖c1 ♗d5 (D)



41.♕b5?
41.♖d1! ♗c4 42.♖c1 ♗d4+ 43.♔h1 It is not easy to win at all. For instance, the following does not work

43...♗xb2!? 44.♖xc4 ♘a5 45.♕xf7 ♖e1+ 46.♔h2 ♘xc4 47.♕xc4 ♗e5+ 48.f4 b2 because of the perpetual check after 49.♕d3+ g6 50.fxe5 b1♕ 51.♕d7+=

41...♘d4! 42.♕d3+ g6 43.♖c7 ♖e1+ 44.♔f2 ♖e2+ 45.♔f1 ♖c2 0-1.

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. E. Vorobiov – S. Ivanov

23...♘xg4! 24.♕xg4 ♖e5-+ 25.♘xc5 ♗xc5 26.♖xe5 ♕xg4 27.♖xc5+ ♔b8 28.♖e1 ♕h4 29.♗g7 b6 0-1.

2. E. Alekseev – M. Kobalija

38.♖g8+! ♔h6 [38...♔xg8 39.♕f8#; 38...♕xg8 39.♕f6+ ♔h6 40.♕xe5+-] **39.♕e3+ ♔h5 40.♖f3 1-0.**

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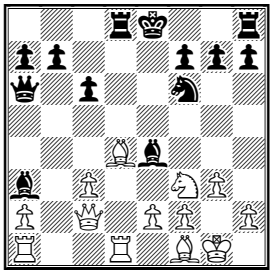
CT-130(914) 10th May 2003

Quiz Today

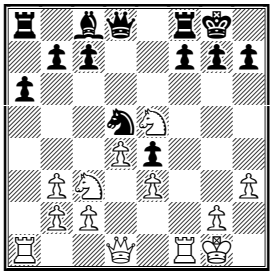
Today I would like to show you two positions from the recent 4NCL weekend:

Turner (2519) – Yastrebov (2207)
4NCL, West Bromwich, 04.05.2003



White to play

Short – Stefanova
4NCL, West Bromwich, 05.05.2003



White to play

Chess News

Garry Kasparov wins Chess Oscar-2002!

The Russian magazine, *64-Chess Review*, conducted the traditional survey among chess journalists. 71 GMs took part in it and again, as in 2001, Garry Kasparov was the clear winner. Here are the results:

Top 15:

1. Garry Kasparov	**RUS**	**3802**
2. Peter Leko	HUN	2668
3. Vishy Anand	IND	2453
4. R. Ponomariov	UKR	2145
5. Vladimir Kramnik	RUS	1471
6. Eugeny Bareev	RUS	1132
7. Veselin Topalov	BUL	964
8. Judit Polgar	HUN	771
9. Anatoly Karpov	RUS	741
10. Alexander Grischuk	RUS	706
11. Alexei Shirov	ESP	568
12. Vassily Ivanchuk	UKR	483
13. Tejmur Radjabov	AZE	276
14. Michael Adams	ENG	250
15. Boris Gelfand	ISR	188

I don't quite remember how I voted, but I think I had Shirov and Gelfand in the top 10 instead of Polgar and Karpov. Of course, all such polls are rather subjective and, for example, I can easily see how Karpov's win over Kasparov in December 2002 put him in the top 10.

The 37th edition of the traditional Capablanca Memorial is in progress in Havana. Round 3 saw the following results:

Arencibia (2520) – Andersson (2594) 1-0
Ikonnikov (2546) – Leitao (2533) ½-½
Granda (2628) – Noguieras (2531) 1-0
Morovic (2551) – Dominguez (2603) ½-½
Bruzon (2610) – Gonzalez (2473) 1-0
Vera (2546) – Zapata (2543) ½-½

Standings after 3 rounds:
1. **Bruzon** – 3 points;
2. ***Granda*** – 2½ points;
3-4. Morovic and Arencibia – 2 points;
5-8. Andersson, Dominguez, Leitao and Ikonnikov – 1½ points;
9. Noguieras – 1 point;
10-12. Gonzalez, Vera and Zapata – ½ point.
You can find most games from rounds 1-3 in our database today.

♘♘♘

Russian Grandmaster Igor Glek, who is now based in Germany, sent us the following Open Letter:

Open Letter to the Presidents of FIDE, the European Chess Union and the Turkish Chess Federation

Dear Sirs,

Having studied recently published information about the forthcoming European Individual Championship (Silivri/Istanbul, 29 May –14 June 2003) I, as a chess professional who makes living playing in tournaments, would like to raise several questions, concerning the financial side of the tournament.

Venue. It is very important to have detailed information about the hotel where players are expected to stay, but I could not find the Marine Princess Hotel in Silivri in any tourist catalogue or on the Internet. More importantly, players are supposed to stay in that hotel only, which takes away their freedom of choice.

Cost. Prices in the Marine Princess Hotel (single room and full board) are fixed at US $80 per day, which is 2-3 times higher than average prices for such hotels in Turkey, where tourism is in decline at the moment. One cannot help but suspect that high prizes in the hotel, offered by the organisers, ***is*** the main reason why we cannot choose hotels.

Schedule. We will play 13 rounds in 16 days (including two free days and one day for tie-breaks) – again participants are forced to foot high hotel bill. I believe it would be quite possible to determine the champion in 11 or even in 9 rounds and without free days. After all, the time control is not 6-7 hours!

In total we are asked to pay about $1,900 (18-19 nights plus about $300 for an air-fare plus $50 for bus transfer and $65 for the entry fee) – a pretty high price for most chess professionals. In addition, according to the regulations, we cannot choose how we pay (cheque, credit card, etc) – the tournament regulations mention only cash payment. I would like to stress that the European Individual Chess Championship is not a private tournament, so the organisers cannot expect to do whatever they want about the venue, schedule and the cost. In fact, in any private tournament they would not be able to get away with that!

On top of these concerns, there is full uncertainty regarding the World Chess Championship. It is rumoured that prizes for losers of the first round will be considerably less than before. In this case , many participants will lose money in the tournament as a result – provided that the World Chess Championship **will** take place!

I trust that my concerns are shared by many of my fellow Grandmasters, who hope to receive as soon as possible some answers from officials in the Turkish Chess Federation, European Chess Union and FIDE.

Yours sincerely,

Grandmaster Igor Glek, Essen, Germany

While I am supportive of the notion in this Open Letter, I am somewhat sceptical about the reaction – FIDE is not well-known for listening to its Grandmasters. I've seen such abuse of power by the local organisers at some junior events (European and World Championships) and heard similar stories about the European Individual Championship in Ohrid, Macedonia and the European Team Championship in Leon, Spain, both taking place in 2001. The story repeats itself...

ICCF News

The International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) announces that the **18th World Correspondence Chess Championship Final**

tournament will officially start 1 June 2003. The tournament is a category XV event (avg. rating 2614). The top three places will be awarded the ICCF GM title. Ties will be broken according to the ICCF rules (first the Sonneborn-Berger, then results of the tied players against each other). For qualification purposes, no ties will be broken. The tournament director is Witold Bielecki (POL).The following is the list of participants in seeding order:

1. SM Tiemann, Hagen (GER) 2513
2. GM Toro Solis de Ovando, Guillermo F. (CHI) 2636
3. GM Elwert, Hans-Marcus (GER) 2693
4. GM Nimtz, Dr. Manfred (GER) 2634
5. GM Umansky, Mikhail Markovich (RUS) 2654
6. SM Hefka, Vladimír (SVK) 2574
7. GM Kempen, Heinz-Erich (GER) 2554
8. GM Rause, Mrs. Olita (LAT) 2720
9. SM Mráz, Dr. Milan (CZE) 2559
10. SMFleetwood, Daniel M (USA) 2546
11. GM Soltau, Achim (GER) 2618
12. SM Spitz, Patrick (FRA) 2548
13. IM Schön, Wolfram (GER) 2664
14. GM Oosterom, Joop J. v (NED) 2725
15. GM Piccardo, Vittorio (ITA) 2574

Play will be conducted by email. You can follow the progress on-line by going to the following WCCC index page: http://tables.iccf.com/world/wcfinalindex.html Just follow the link to the 18th WCCC Final (XVIII), when it is up and running *(---Ralph P. Marconi)*

Book Review

by Graham Brown

Winning Chess: Play Winning Chess – By GM Yasser Seirawan with Jeremy Silman *Everyman Publishers 2003 ♕12.99*

GM Seirawan starts this beginner's guide to chess with a breezy and personable introduction. He sells the idea of chess as a "satisfying creative and combative game". Chess is "for young or old, black or white, male or female, jock or couch potato, cook or computer programmer". Seirawan loves chess and this radiates from the pages.

The teaching method in this book is interesting. At school I was taught by numbers: an introduction to the pieces, their values, the aim of the game, "don't get the queen out too early" etc. Then it was on to tactics: pins, skewers, checkmates etc. After that, more advanced students might be given a detailed look at pawn structures and the like, but I was never afforded such status. Or maybe, like most of my peers, once given just enough info. to start playing, our chess developed in the heat of battle. Books were left dusty on the shelves, teachers were ignored. What little I learnt of strategy had to be gleaned over the years after painful losses!

Seirawan's method is different. He takes the "advanced" concepts of chess and combines them into 4 principles. These principles are *Force, Space, Time* and *Pawn Structure*. He then places them before tactics in the order he teaches, and weaves them in with the relevant basics. A detailed discussion of tactics is left until the second book in the "Winning Chess" series.

This side stepping of tactics teaches the reader, right from the start, a valuable lesson about why and when tactics occur in a game. Seirawan explains this with an anecdote about Tal and Botvinnik.

They had just drawn an exciting complex game and in the post mortem Tal listed a huge series of move variations thinking Botvinnik had arrived at the defence this way. But Botvinnik explained that he had made the defence using mostly general principles ... with almost no calculation involved!

Seirawan explains that tactics will normally only arise when someone has got a very definite advantage based on one or more of the 4 principles. Prior to this, one should be playing to increase these 4 principles using the methods advocated, and not looking for tactics that are probably not there.

These absolute basics are taught with a patience and clarity that you don't always see when experts try to teach beginners. He starts with *Force,* which has to do with material advantage. Naturally at the same time the normal piece values (1 for a pawn 3 for a knight) are explained. There is the usual warning about looking at the position on the board and we are warned not to rely totally on 'the numbers racket' Quick, one question, quizzes test and further explain this.

The second principle is *Time*, with again all the essential advice woven into it. For example "don't move a piece twice". In this way standard teaching mantras are easier to understand, accept and remember. And the fact that one should occasionally break these standard rules is easier to see since the reader is taught the basic principle behind them.

The third principle is *Space,* and here Seirawan's Space count system is very easy to apply. The board is divided in half and each player 'owns' the half nearest them. Seirawan's system kicks in when any of your pieces controls any square outside of your own half. It is then easy to come up with a simple score, say 10-4 in White's favour. Then we are told ways to play if one has, or does not have, a space advantage. For example, the player with more space should generally avoid swapping pieces.

Lastly we come to *Pawn Structure* and by the end of the book the reader has been given a complete picture of chess. Of course there is still plenty to learn and painful defeats to take! But the reader should have more of an overview of why they have lost and how to correct it than I did when learning the game. Tactics and other chess knowledge can now be poured into this framework to add to the calm Botvinnik type overview the beginner has been given. In the next book in this "Winning Chess" series, Seirawan shows that he is not against us playing like Tal, he just wants us to play like Botvinnik as well!

Seirawan's insight is that a student who is totally new to chess, can be trusted to understand advanced concepts right from square one. Seirawan's skill is to entwine these together with basics that are relevant to each concept, and then sprinkle in appropriate quick quizzes, mini-biographies and interesting facts, to create a brilliant textbook for absolute beginners.

Solutions to Quiz Today

Turner-Yastrebov: 19.♗xf6! 1-0

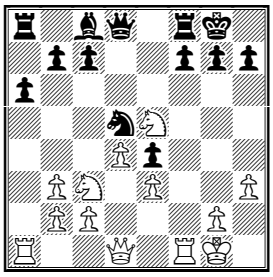
N. Short - A. Stefanova

4NCL West Bromwich, 05.05.2003;

notes by GM Alex Baburin

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.d3 a6 6.♗e3 d6 7.h3 ♗xe3 8.fxe3 ♘a5 9.♗b3 0-0 10.0-0 ♘xb3 11.axb3 d5 12.♘xe5 dxe4 13.d4 ♘d5? (D)

Black obviously wanted to challenge the e5-knight with ...f6 as soon as possible, but this move has a major tactical drawback...



14.♖xf7!

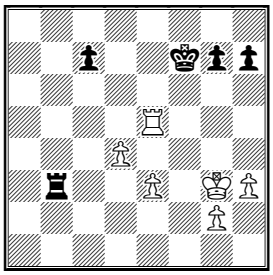
It is weird that after many minutes of consideration, computer prefers 14.♕h5. And even then it believes that Black is better!

14...♖xf7 15.♘xf7 ♘xc3 16.♘xd8

♘xd1 17.♖xd1 a5

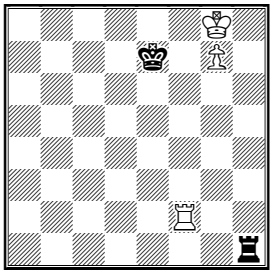
When 'thinking' on move 14, computer disliked 14.♖xf7 because of 17...♗g4, assessing Black's chances as better (!). I must admit though that I am so lazy that I still use Fritz 5 as analysis engine – perhaps the later versions are more reasonable? Anyway, after 18.hxg4 ♖xd8 19.b4 White should win comfortably.

18.♖f1 a4 19.bxa4 ♖xa4 20.♖f7! ♖c4 21.c3 b5 22.♖e7 ♔f8 23.♖xe4 b4 24.cxb4 ♖xb4 25.♘e6+ ♗xe6 26.♖xe6 ♖xb2 27.♖e5 ♔f7 28.♔h2 ♖b3 29.♔g3 (D)



This endgame is winning for White. He can advance pawns on the kingside and tie Black to the defence of the c7-pawn. Yet, I really dislike Black's next move:

29...c5? 30.dxc5 ♖c3 31.♔f4 ♔f6 32.g4 h6 33.h4 ♖c4+ 34.e4 ♖c3 35.g5+ hxg5+ 36.hxg5+ ♔f7 37.♖d5 ♔e6 38.♖d6+ ♔e7 39.♖g6 ♖xc5 40.♖xg7+ ♔e6 41.♔g4 ♖c4 42.♔h5 ♖xe4 43.♖a7 ♖e1 44.g6 ♖h1+ 45.♔g5 ♖h2 46.♖f7 ♖h1 47.♖f2 ♔e7 48.g7 ♖g1+ 49.♔h6 ♖h1+ 50.♔g6 ♖g1+ 51.♔h7 ♖h1+ 52.♔g8 (D)



The famous Lucena position.

52...♖a1 53.♖h2 1-0

More thematic would be 52...♖h3 53.♖e2+ ♔d7 54.♖e4 ♖h1 55.♔f7 ♖f1+ 56.♔g6 ♖g1+ 57.♔f6 ♖g2 58.♖e5.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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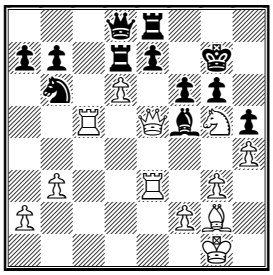
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-131(915) 11th May 2003

Quiz Today

Baburin – R. Pert
Birmingham, 4NCL 2003



White to play
Position after 33...f6?
(from our annotated game)

Chess News

In the 37th Capablanca Memorial (average rating 2556, category XIII) round 4 was a bit more peaceful than the previous round – only 2 games were decisive:

Andersson–Zapata 1–0
Gonzalez–Vera ½–½
Dominguez–Bruzon ½–½
Noguieras–Morovic ½–½
Leitao–**Granda** 0–1
Arencibia–Ikonikov ½–½

Thus, the Elo-favourite Granda Zuniga caught up to Cuban GM Lazaro Bruzon.

Sta**ndings after 4 rounds**:
1–2. **Bruzon and Granda** – 3½ points;
3–5. Andersson, Morovic and Arencibia – 2½ points;
6–7 Dominguez and Ikonnikov – 2 points;
8–9. Noguieras and Leitao – 1½ point;
10–11. Gonzalez and Vera – 1 point;
12. Zapata – ½ point.

All games from round 4 are available in our database today.

As *Chess Today* reported earlier, London club ***Wood Green*** won 4NCL. You can now find all games of the league, X-tables and other useful information at its excellent Web site.

The final standings at 4NCL was as follows:

1. Wood Green 21 points;
2. Guildford-ADC 19 points;
3. Barbican 4NCL 18 points; etc – 12 teams of 8 players each.

By drawing their final match against Guildford, Wood Green failed to become the only team to win all their matches in 4NCL. Well, there is always another season! :-)

Meanwhile, French Club Championship is coming to its conclusion this weekend in Clermont-Ferrand. There is live coverage of one match each round at http://www.echecs.asso.fr – see our full report tomorrow!

Where to Play Chess

As you may remember, sometimes we give information on the forthcoming tournaments, so our readers could plan their chess holidays. Today is just such a day, so I would like to start with 3 tournaments in Ireland. Tomorrow we will cover forthcoming events in Spain, Denmark and the USA.

The 2nd Galway Open will take place on 17-18 May at the Galway Bridge Centre, St. Mary's Road, Galway. It is an open tournament with a prize fund of at least €1300 (excess depends on entry). The tournament is sponsored by *HP Galway* and the first prize of €500 is guaranteed. ***Format:***: 5 round Swiss (first 2 rounds will use accelerated pairing) with 90 minutes per player for all moves. Entry: €25. Entries to: Pat Croke, 7 Manor Court, Knocknacarra, Galway. Phone (353-

91) 591-412 or pat.croke@ireland.com (preferred). See their Web site for details.

Waterford Open is taking place on 23-25 May – to enter contact Paddy Quinlan at (353-51) 879-923 or e-mail him at: paddyquinlan2@eircom.net

Drogheda Chess Congress to be held in the Boyne Valley Hotel from Friday, May 30 to Monday June 2. The event also features the Irish Veterans' Championships (over 60). There will be an informal blitz on the Friday night. For further information, contact Donal O'Boyle (353-41) 982-4864 or email: daoboyle@eircom.net.

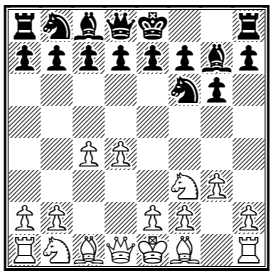
Annotated Game

I had a pretty good last weekend at 4NCL, winning all three of my games, which allowed me to get back some of my rating points, which I was losing there. Yet, my play was quite rusty – lack of practice clearly declares itself. Nonetheless, the following game is quite interesting.

□ **Alexander Baburin (2558)**
■ **Richard Pert (2393)**
Event: *4NCL, West Bromwich, 03.05.2003*
Gruenfeld Defence/ Fianchetto Variation - D76
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin

I was about 3 minutes late for the game, so when I came to the hall, I saw just one empty seat next to Nigel Short and I took it. To my horror, there I had the Black pieces! So, all my preparation went down the drain - I thought - I couldn't even remember what colour I'd be playing with! But then Michael Adams saved me from my misery, claiming that I had taken his seat and ***his*** Black pieces!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘f3 ♗g7 4.g3 (D)



I don't think I ever played anything but the g2-g3 system against the King's Indian and the Gruenfeld. This fact is probably attributed to my extreme (chess) laziness and I hope that one day I'll try something new.

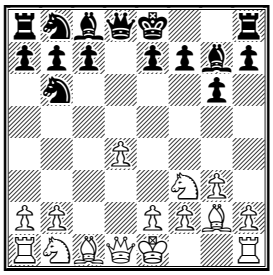
4...d5

Here 4...0–0 5.♗g2 d6 would lead to the King's Indian Defence, while 5...c6, followed by ...d5, would be another (and not very exciting!) line of the Gruenfeld.

5.cxd5

In the past two years I experimented with 5.♗g2 dxc4 6.♘a3, but recently my friend IM John Donaldson mentioned one idea to me, which I wanted to try in this game.

5...♘xd5 6.♗g2 ♘b6 (D)



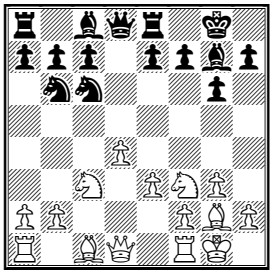
This move needs explaining. In fact, it contradicts several rules: Black moves the same piece twice in the opening without apparent need and decentralises his knight, which ends up on the dreaded (by Dr Tarrasch, not by those who play the Alekhine Defence!) b6-square. The explanation is this: the d5-knight was acting as a screen for the d4-pawn, which Black hopes to attack. Also, why wait for White to kick the knight on his terms? But why not castle first? Let's see: after 6...0–0 7.0–0 ♘b6 8.♘c3 ♘c6 White can choose between 9.e3 and 9.d5. Many players regard the latter as the more promising line. By delaying castling Black wants to eliminate that

option.

7.♘c3 ♘c6 8.e3

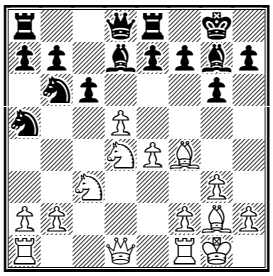
Here 8.d5 just drops a pawn: 8...♗xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♕xd5 – that's why Black should not castle too soon.

8...0–0 9.0–0 ♖e8 (D)



Another strange move, which Nimzowitsch would certainly call a 'mysterious rook move', if he was still around. The main line used to be 9...e5 10.d5 ♘a5 11.e4 c6 or 10...♘e7 11.e4 ♗g4, but now 9...♖e8 is the most popular move. Its biggest advocate is probably Gary Kasparov – not a bad recommendation! Black's rook will be fine on the e-file once he plays ...e5. Meanwhile, it's not easy to find a useful move for White.

10.d5 ♘a5 11.♘d4 ♗d7 12.e4 c6 13.♗f4 (D)



This is that idea, which John Donaldson mentioned to me. White simply wants to develop his queenside. Of course, one would much prefer to play 13.b3, but after 13...cxd5 14.exd5 ♖c8 15.♗b2 ♘bc4 16.bxc4 ♕b6 Black is doing fine according to the theory.

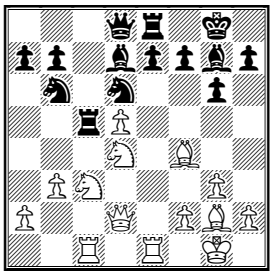
13...cxd5

Here Black also tried: ***13...♖c8*** 14.♖c1 c5 15.♘f3 e5 16.dxe6 ♗xe6 17.e5 ♘d5 18.♘xd5 ♗xd5 19.♗h3 ♖c6 20.♖c3 ♗xf3 21.♖xf3 ♕xd1 22.♖xd1 ♖b6 23.♗d7 ♖e7 24.e6 fxe6 25.♗c7 ♗d4 26.♗xb6 axb6 27.♗b5 ♗xb2 28.♖d7 1–0 Tkachiev–Vareille, France 2000; ***13...♕c8*** 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.e5 ♗h3 16.♕e2 ♗xg2 17.♔xg2 c5 18.♘f3 ♘c6 19.♖ac1 c4 20.a3 ♘a5 21.♘d4 ♕b7+ 22.♔g1 ♖ed8 23.♖cd1 ½–½ Dautov–Khalifman, Germany 1999 and ***13...♗c8!?*** 14.♘de2 cxd5 15.exd5 e5 16.♗c1 ♘ac4 17.b3 ♘d6 18.a4 ♗g4 19.♗a3 ♘bc8 20.h3 ♗xe2 21.♕xe2 a6 22.♖fd1 f5 ½–½ Smejkal–Khalifman, Germany 2000.

14.exd5 ♖c8 15.♖c1 ♘ac4 16.b3 ♘d6 17.♕d2 ♖c5N

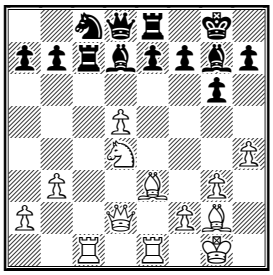
Quite a logical idea – Black wants to relocate the b6-knight (which ***is*** bad here!). Black followed a similar plan after 17...a6 18.♖fe1 ♖c5 19.a4 ♘bc8 20.♗e3 ♕a5 21.♕b2 ♖c7? 22.b4!+– Tkachiev–Ye, Cannes 2001.

18.♖fe1 (D)



White should be better here, but it's not easy to find a plan, as Black has no real weaknesses. I felt that White needed to soften up the kingside (where Black does not have many pieces) with h2–h4–h5.

18...♘bc8 19.♗e3 ♖c7!? 20.♘ce2 ♘f5 21.♘xf5 ♗xf5 22.♘d4 ♗d7 23.h4! (D)



White wants to get the pawn to h5 and then perhaps to take on g6 or push the pawn to h6. Black quite rightly prevents this:

23...h5 24.♘f3

Here I should have exchanged a pair of rooks: 24.♖xc7!? ♕xc7 25.♖c1 ♕d8 26.♘f3.

24...♗g4 25.♘g5

25.♖xc7!?

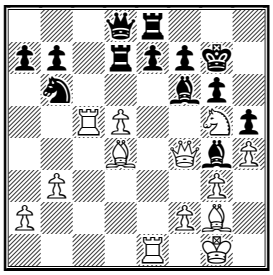
25...♖d7!? 26.♕b4 ♘b6 27.♕f4?!

Here I was getting short of time – I had 13 minutes left. I felt that safer and objectively stronger was 27.♗xb6!? ♕xb6 28.♕xb6 axb6 29.a4±, but still wanted to complicate things.

27...♗f6 28.♗d4 ♔g7?!

White is better after 28...♘xd5 29.♗xd5 ♖xd5 30.♗xf6 ♖f5 *(30...exf6? 31.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 32.♘e4+–)* 31.♕c7 ♖xf6 32.♕xd8 ♖xd8 33.♖xe7±, but I feared 28...♗f5!∓.

29.♖c5 (D)



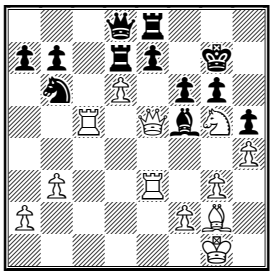
29...♕b8?

My opponent had more time, but erred first.

30.♗e5! ♕d8 31.♖e3⊕

Here I had 3 minutes for the remaining 9 moves. Not a lot in a position where most pieces are still on the board! My opponent had about 7minutes left. Better was 31.♘e4! ♘xd5 32.♖xd5 ♖xd5 33.♘xf6 exf6 34.♗xd5 ♖xe5 35.♖xe5±.

31...♗f5 32.d6 ♗xe5 33.♕xe5+ f6? (D)

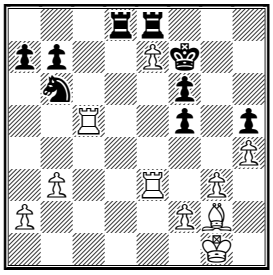


Black had to play 33...♔g8!. Then it would not be easy for White to find the best move. Objectively, the play should continue like this: 34.♕f4! *(34.♘e4 ♗xe4 35.♕xe4 e6 36.♕f4=)* 34...e6 *(34...exd6!? 35.♖xf5 gxf5 36.♕xf5 ♖xe3 37.fxe3↑; 34...♖xd6? 35.♖xf5!+–)* 35.♖c7 ♘d5 36.♗xd5 exd5 37.♖xd7 ♕xd7 38.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 39.♕d4±.

34.♕xf5! gxf5?

On the hanging flag Black panicked. Bad for him is 34...fxg5 35.♕e5+ ♔h7 36.♕xg5 exd6 37.♗e4! ♕xg5 38.♖xg5 ♖e6 39.♖xh5+ ♔g7 40.♖g5+–, but after the best defence – ***34...exd6!*** – a very picturesque position would have arisen: three of White's pieces are now attacked! I bet that I would have played 35.♖xe8 ♕xe8 36.♕e6 ♕xe6 37.♘xe6+ ♔f7 quite quickly, but then it's not easy to make the right choice. As Black has a pretty good position after 38.♖a5 ♔xe6 39.♖xa7 d5, White should prefer 38.♘g5+ 38...fxg5 39.♖xg5, with better chances in the endgame.

35.♘e6+ ♔f7 36.♘xd8+ ♖dxd8 37.dxe7 (D)



The rest is easy – the structural damage to Black's position is too great...

37...♖d1+ 38.♔h2 f4 39.gxf4 ♖xe7 40.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 41.♖xh5 ♖d2 42.♖h7+ ♔e6 43.♖xb7 ♖xf2 [⌓43...♖xa2 44.h5+–] **44.♖xa7 ♖xf4 45.♔g3 ♖d4 46.h5 ♖d3+ 47.♔f4 1–0.**

That was my fourth game vs. twin brothers Nicholas and Richard Pert. Strangely enough, I was White in all of them. Can't complain though, as the score stands at 4–0 now.

Contact information. Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning Chess Today? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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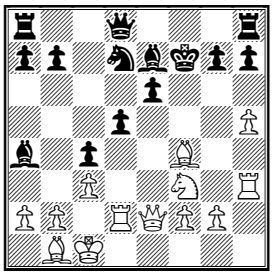
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-132(916) 12th May 2003

Quiz Today

Ravinsky-Fridstein
Moscow 1947



White to play

Chess News

Round 5 of the 37th Capablanca Memorial was very peaceful – only one out of six games was decisive. And three games were between 11 and 17 moves long.

Ikonnikov-Andersson ½-½
Granda-Arencibia ½-½
Morovic-Leitao ½-½
Bruzon-Noguieras ½-½
Vera-Dominguez ½-½
Zapata-Gonzalez 1-0

There were practically no changes in the standings:

1-2. **Bruzon and Granda** – 4 points;
3-5. Andersson, Morovic and Arencibia – 3 points;
6-7 Dominguez and Ikonnikov - 2½ points;
8-9. Noguieras and Leitao – 2 points;
10-11. Zapata and Vera – 1½ points;
12. Gonzalez - 1 point.

The final phase of the French Club Championship took place this weekend in Clermont-Ferrand. The final standings:

1. **Paris NAO** 33 points (+50 – balance between won and lost individual games)
2. Clichy 30 points (+46)
3. Cannes 28 points (+21)
4. Mulhouse 25 points (+19)
5. Nice 25 points (+13)
6. Gonfreville 23 points (+2)
7. Montpellier 23 points (-14)
8. Monaco 22 points (-18)

There are several very strong clubs in France, but ***NAO*** clearly stands out, with players like Kramnik, Adams, Grischuk, Bacrot, Lautier, Vallejo, Nataf and Skripchenko. It will be interesting to see if NAO can win the European Club Championship this year. ***Monaco*** (the club I play for) won the French Club championship in 2001 and 2002, but this time it could not compete against the mighty NAO. Having lost the match vs. NAO (which was not that one-sided as the score might suggest), Monaco basically stopped fighting.

Romanian Team Championships 2003

report by GM Mikhail Golubev

The competitions in the first (highest) division of Romanian Team Championships of 2003 took place in Sovata on 30 April – 6 May. It was a seven round event, with eight teams participating. Matches were played on the ten boards (7 men and 3 women, including junior boards). According to the new system, not game points, but match points counted – a team would get 3 points for a won match, and 1 for a draw.

Three teams were considered to be favourites before the event. **AEM-Luxten Timisoara** (leading players Istratescu, Nevednichy, Atalik, Parligras, Zhukova and Olarasu) and **Clubul Central de Sah** (Motylev, Marin, Iordachescu, Rogozenko and C.Foisor) had the most impressive lists of the players, while the third strongest team was **Apa Nova (Bucharest)**, headed by GMs Nisepeanu and Dumitrache.

Some surprises could have been expected also from the Bucharest's **Progresul** team, which was too strong on the men's boards, but had very good female players (Peptan, Petrenko and Dworakowska).

The pairing certainly played a role in the final outcome of the tournament, because the important match between **AEM** and **Clubul Central** was scheduled in the first round (30 April), while on 29 of April the leader of Clubul Central, GM Motylev, played in the last round of the Dubai Open, very far away from Romania! Alexander somehow managed to arrive in Sovata (approximately 350 km to the North from Bucharest) shortly before the first round started, but his team played with a reserve player anyway, and, as it happened, lost the match.

The next crucial match took place in round 4, when **Apa Nova** played **AEM**. During the match AEM had a clear advantage, but got unlucky, losing two games, where their opponents had offered a draw. That led to AEM's loss with a minimal score (4½–5½).

All three favourites were successful in beating five other teams before the fifth round, when **Clubul Central de Sah** drew against **Progresul**, and **Apa Nova** drew vs. **Contor Zenner Arad** (my club. Before the important 6th round match against **Clubul Central**, **Apa Nova** were the leaders, having two points more than AEM, and three points more than their opponents. Apa Nova confidently won the match (on the first board Nisipeanu outplayed Motylev), and, seemingly, nothing could deprive them from overall victory in the league.

Nevertheless, in the last and 7th round Progresul team managed to beat Apa Nova, and the tournament finished with a victory for **AEM** team, which won six matches, and lost one. (Four of AEM's players, including GM Suat Atalik, scored in tournament 6 points out of 7.)

With five wins and one draw **Apa Nova** finished in second place and **Progresul** team took the third place.

Final Standings:
1. AEM (Timisoara) – 18 points;
2. Venus Apa Nova (Bucuresti) – 16 points;
3. Progresul (Bucuresti) – 13 points;
4. Clubul Central de Sah (Bucuresti) – 13 points;
5. Contor Zenner Arad – 10 points;
6. Juventus Bucuresti – 6 points;
7. Dinamo Brasov – 6 points;
8. O♗elul Galabi – 0 points.

Where to Play Chess: Spain

We hope that you will find the following information useful. If you have a favourite chess tournament, why not share it with other *Chess Today* readers? Send us a message to ct@gmsquare.com

Mondariz Open (Spain) 25 June – 3 July. Contact: Mr Tallarico (34) 617–727–345. On the 4th of July there will be a bus departing from Mondariz to Benasque.

Open de Benasque (north Spain), **5–13 July**. Prizes: €3,000 / €2,500 / €2,000 / €1,500/ €1,000 / €600 / €400, etc.
Contact: Juan Miguel Royo Fernandez, tel/fax: (34) 976–159–181. See also their Web site for more details.
This is a very big (329 participants last year) and strong open tournament, located in a beautiful area (I played there in 1998), with great Spanish food – recommended!

After this two opens you can continue in **Magistral de Cerler Open** (15–22 July; contact Mr Royo (34) 976–159–181) or **Open de Balaguer** (15–22 July; contact Mr Prio at (34) 973–450533).

If you make all there tournaments, you are assured a great chess holiday in Spain – just make sure that you spend some time in Barcelona after them!

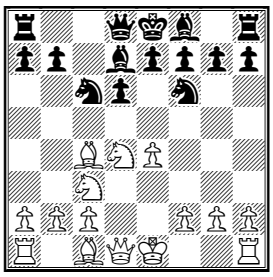
Tomorrow we will cover summer tournaments in USA and Denmark – stay tuned!

Annotated Game

□ **Mikhail Golubev (2548)**
■ **Alexander Motylev (2630)**
Event: *Romanian Team Championship Sovata, 02.05.2003*
Sicilian Defence B57
Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

Despite pretty good results (+2–1=4), my most interesting game in Romanian Team Championship was (of course!) the one which I lost. So, let it be – let's examine it!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 ♗d7!? (D)



This is a clever response to the Sozin Attack. Black plans 7...g6 (transposing to quite acceptable version of the Dragon), but he also might continue with 7...e6, where .. ♗d7 would be useful too.

7.♗b3 g6 8.f3 ♘xd4!

This is better than 8...♗g7, after which 9.♗e3! leads to the 'normal' Dragon. One of the important continuations there is 9...0–0 10.♕d2 ♘xd4!? 11.♗xd4 b5 , etc.

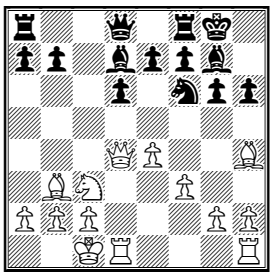
9.♕xd4 ♗g7 10.♗g5

If 10.♗e3, then 10...0–0 11.♕d2 b5!= – the difference with the above-mentioned line (the White bishop is not on d4 here) is in Black's favour, so he has no problems.

10...0-0 11.0-0-0

I followed my own recommendation from 'The Sicilian Sozin' book, which was based on the old Tal-Stein game. Now I see that I clearly should have worked more on this sub-line. Probably, less risky for White is 11.♕e3. Then 11...b5 12.h4!?∞ was Ciocaltea-Stein, Caracas 1970.

11...h6 12.♗h4 (D)



12...a5!N

This is an interesting novelty, giving Black very good counter-play. The game Tal-Stein, Moscow 1969, saw 12...♗c6?! 13.♕e3 ♘d7 14.♖xd6 g5 15.♖g6! e6 *(15...gxh4?? 16.♕xh6)* 16.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 17.♗f2⩲ with better chances for White. 12...b5!? is also playable.

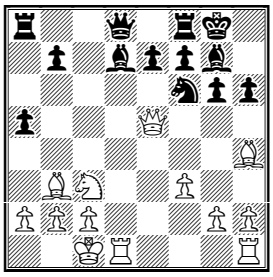
13.e5

After the standard 13.a4 Black would play 13...b5!. Then after 14.axb5 a4 15.♗xa4 Black is two pawns down, but he has very good attacking prospects. For example: 15...♕a5!? 16.♕e3 ♖fb8!? 17.♖d4 ♗xb5 18.♘xb5 ♖xb5 19.♗e1 ♕xa4 20.♖xa4 ♖xa4⩲, with sufficient compensation.

13...dxe5

After 13...♘e8 14.♘d5 g5 15.♗g3 a4 16.♗c4 b5 17.♗d3 White is better.

14.♕xe5 (D)



Now after 14...a4?! White can simply take that pawn, so Black needs to think how to support such an advance.

14...♕e8!?

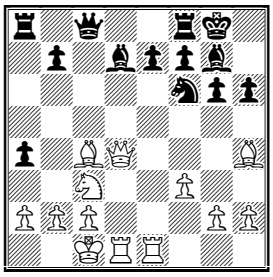
Also interesting is 14...b5!? 15.a4!∞.

15.♖he1?!

This is certainly tempting, but I missed Black's 16th move. 15.a4!? ♗c6 16.♕e2= was the safest option for White; also interesting is 15.♕c7.

15...a4! 16.♗c4 ♕c8!!∓ 17.♕d4!?

(D)



After 17.♕e2 a3 18.b3 b5 19.♘xb5 ♗xb5 20.♗xb5 ♕c3! 21.♕e5 ♘d5!! Black wins the fight for the a1–h8 diagonal. Then after 22.♕xd5 ♖ac8 (avoiding *22...♕b2+ 23.♔d2 ♖fd8 24.♗d7!)* 23.♕e4 ♖fd8 24.♖d7 ♖xd7 25.♗xd7 ♖c7 26.♗a4 f5! 27.♕e6+ ♔h7 28.b4 ♕a1+ 29.♔d2 ♕d4+↑, followed by 30...♕xh4, White is worse.

17...♗f5!?

The main alternative was 17...♗c6!? 18.♕d3 e6 with slight advantage for Black.

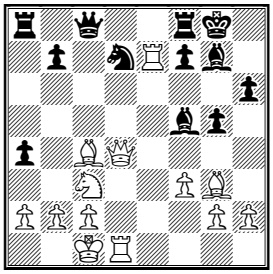
18.♖xe7?!

Better was 18.♗xf6!? ♗xf6 19.♘d5 ♗xd4 20.♘xe7+ ♔g7 21.♘xc8. I saw this line, but stop my calculation after 21...♗f2!. However, 22.♘d6 ♗xe1 23.♖xe1! makes Black's win quite problematic. For example: 23...♖ad8!? 24.♘xf5+ gxf5 25.♗b5!, etc.

18...g5! 19.♗g3

Also hardly sufficient is 19.♗f2 ♘g4 20.fxg4 ♗xd4 21.♖xd4 ♗e6! 22.♘d5 ♗xd5 23.♗xd5 a3∓.

19...♘d7! (D)

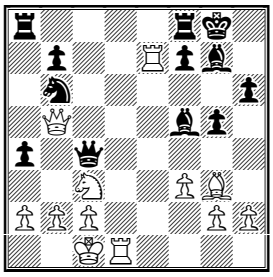


This is the point of Motylev's idea – tactics works for Black now.

20.♕d5

Bad for White was 20.♗xf7+?! ♖xf7 21.♕d5 ♕f8 22.♗d6, in view of 22...♘b6!–+ (Motylev). After 20.♖xd7 the simplest is 20...♗xd7∓ (20...♗xd4 21.♖7xd4 would require a lot of efforts from Black to convert his material advantage).

20...♘b6 21.♕b5 ♕xc4 (D)



22.♕xb6

I couldn't take the bishop, because 22.♕xf5? a3 23.♖c7 axb2+ 24.♔b1 ♗xc3! 25.♖xc4 ♘xc4 26.♗d6 ♖fd8!–+ is absolutely hopeless for White.

22...a3

We entered mutual time trouble, so Black decided to play for attack. Perhaps, objectively stronger was 22...♗xc3!? 23.bxc3 ♕xa2 though. Here White should play 24.♕b2 and the ending after 24...♕xb2+!? 25.♔xb2 a3+ leaves Black with reasonable winning chances.

23.♖c7!∓

23.♗e5? loses by force after 23...♗xe5 24.♖xe5 axb2+ 25.♔xb2 ♖xa2+ 26.♘xa2 ♕xc2+ 27.♔a3 ♕xd1 28.♖xf5 ♕d3+–+.

23...axb2+ 24.♔b1

After 24.♕xb2 ♕a6!↑ Black's initiative would be very dangerous.

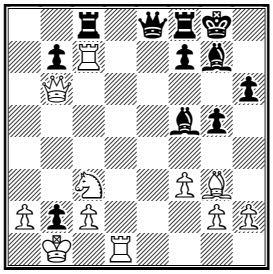
24...♕e6 25.♖d6⊕

Of course, safer was 25.♕xe6! ♗xe6 and here 26.♗d6! (with the idea a2–a3) allows White to defend: 26...♖fc8 27.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 28.♘e4 f5 29.♘f2.

25...♕e8 26.♖d1

26.♕c5!?

26...♖c8 (D)



27.♘d5??

This blunder loses at once. After 27.♖e1 ♗e6∓ Black would keep certain advantage.

27...♕e2–+ 28.♖d4 ♖xc7 0–1.

Solution to quiz today:
Ravinsky–Fridstein, Moscow 1947
20.♗g6+! ♔f8 (or 20...hxg6 21.hxg6+ ♔xg6 *(21...♔f6 22.♗g5+ ♔xg6 23.♕xe6+ ♗f6 24.♗xf6 ♕xf6 25.♖g3+ ♔h7 26.♘g5+ ♔h6 27.♘f7+ ♔h7 28.♖h3+* winning.*)* 22.♕xe6+ ♗f6 23.♖g3+ ♔h7 24.♖xd5+–) **21.♕xe6 hxg6 22.hxg6 1–0.**

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CT-133(917) 13th May 2003

Chess News

Spanish Club Championships
7th round results:
C.A. Marcote – C.A Alzira Hilaturas – Presencia 4-0

Graf – Kolev 1-0
Hektor – **Giorgadze** 0-1
Franco – Bellon 1-0
Toledano – **Reinaldo** 0-1

C.A. Tiendas UPI – R.E Labradores – Pub Magia 3-1

Khalifman – Matamoros 1-0
Teran – **Short** ½ – ½
Sokolov Ivan – Fernandez 1-0
Barrero – **Moreno** ½ – ½

7th round standings:
1. C.A. Marcote – 21(28) 13(14)
2. C.A. Tiendas UPI – 18½ (28) 11(14)

Chess Holidays This Summer

by GM Alexander Baburin

As promised, we continue publishing information about forth-coming chess tournaments – more in the next issues – stay tuned!

Politiken Cup, Copenhagen, 14-25 July. This year the Danish Chess Federation celebrates its 100 years anniversary and the tournament (also known as Copenhagen Open) celebrates its 25 years anniversary, so its organisers expect it to be biggest and strongest tournament than ever before.

The Politiken Cup will be an 11-round open tournament (with one free day) played in one big group – from novices and club players to strong grandmasters. Further information and online enrolment at www.politikencup.dk ***Time control***: 40 moves in 2 hours / 20 moves in 1 hour / 30 min. finish – 7 hours max. Possibilities for making GM and IM-norms. ***Prizes*** in Danish Krona: 15,000 / 10,000 / 8,000 / 6,000 / 4,000 / 3,000 / 2,000, etc. Special prizes: best female player 3,000 / 2,000 / 1,000 DKK. Sponsor prizes: From the Faroese airline Atlantic Airways. Rating prizes: for players with less than 2350 in groups of at least 30 players placed after highest rating, national or ELO. 3,000 / 2,000 / 1,000 DKK.

Entry fees: GM + IM + FM + WGM + WIM Free; Juniors (born 1983 or later) 500 DKK; Seniors (65 years) 500 DKK; Players with ELO 750 DKK; players without ELO 850 DKK.

Annotated Game

□ **Short (TUPI) (2686)**
■ **Hector (ALZI) (2553)**
Event: *Spanish Club Championship Spain, 12.05.2003*
Ruy Lopez – C58
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

An interesting game was played at the Spanish Club Championship.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.♘g5

Short is one of the few strong grandmasters who is fond of chess "retro".

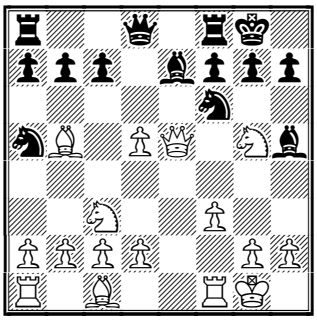
4...d5 5.exd5 ♘a5 6.♗b5+ ♗d7

An infrequent move, usually the following occurs 6...c6 but it looks like Hector wanted to get away from the home analyses of his opponent as soon as possible.

7.♕e2 ♗e7 8.♘c3 0-0 9.0-0 ♗g4 10.f3

Short had lost after 10.♕xe5 that's why here he chose another variation. 10...♗d6 11.♕d4 c5 12.♕d3 a6 13.h3 ♗c8 14.♗a4 b5 15.♘xb5 axb5 16.♗xb5 c4 17.♕d4 ♗b7 18.d3 ♗xd5 19.♗e3 ♕c7 20.♖ad1 ♗h2+ 21.♔h1 ♗e5 22.♕c5 ♕b7 23.f3 ♖fc8 24.♕b6 ♕xb6 Short,N-Xie Jun/Jinan 2002 0–1.

10...♗h5 11.♕xe5N



And this bold capture is the new word in the theory of this rare variation! The following occurred before: 11.♗d3 ♖e8 12.♔h1 c6 13.dxc6 ♘xc6 14.g4 ♗g6 15.♗xg6 hxg6 16.d3 ♘d4 17.♕g2 ♖c8 18.♖f2 ♕b6 19.♘ce4 ♘xe4 20.♘xe4 ♘e6 21.g5 ♖ed8 22.h4 ♗c5 23.♖f1 ♗e3 24.♗xe3 ♕xe3 25.♕f2 ♕f4 Sergeev,V–Berezjuk,S/Tatranska Lomnica 1998 1–0.

11...♗g6

The position is rich in opportunities. In addition to the text, also interesting is 11...♗d6; 11...a6; and even 11...c6!? 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.♗d3 ♘d7 14.♗xh7+ ♔h8 15.♕f5 ♗xg5 16.♘e4 ♗h6 17.♕xh5 ♔xh7 Black is a piece up, but three white pawns are more than enough compensation. 18.d4±.

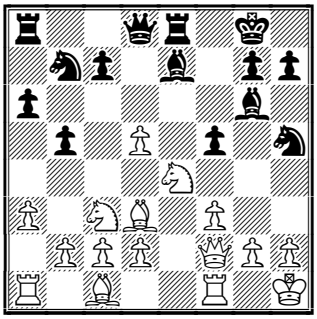
12.♘ge4 a6 13.♗d3 ♖e8 14.♔h1 b5

Black's desire to keep as many pieces on the board as possible is clear but the following also deserves consideration 14...♘xe4 15.fxe4 ♗d6 16.♕d4 ♕h4 17.♕g1 c6

15.a3 ♘b7 16.♕g3

The knight on b7 adds an important nuance to this position, after 16.b3 ♘xe4 17.fxe4 ♗d6 18.♕d4 ♗c5 the white queen is trapped.

16...♘h5 17.♕f2 f5 (D)



The results of the opening are in favour of Black – his pieces are very active and they are worth a couple of pawns. Having no appetite for passive defence, Short goes to extremes:

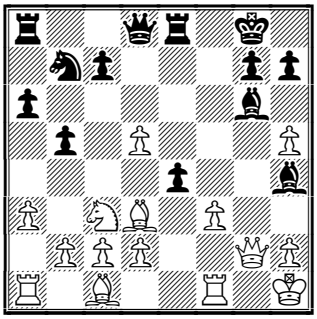
18.g4!? fxe4

leads to simplifications, which are advantageous for White. It would be more enjoyable after 18...♘f4!? 19.gxf5 ♘xd3 *(19...♗xf5 20.♘f6+ ♗xf6 21.♗xf5±)* 20.cxd3 ♗xf5 The position is very complex to evaluate, White's extra pawns are well balanced and isolated but they support a very strong knight in the centre.

19.gxh5 ♗h4

The bishop on c5 would look good: 19...♗c5 20.♕g2 exd3 21.hxg6 dxc2 22.gxh7+ ♔h8 23.d4! ♗xd4 24.♗g5 ♕d6 25.♕xc2 ♗xc3 26.bxc3 *(26.♕xc3 ♖e2∓)* 26...♕xd5 with mutual chances.

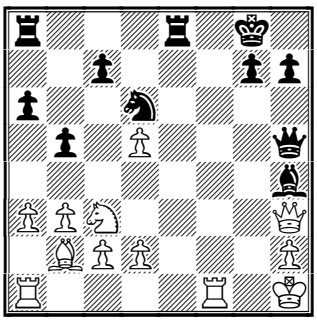
20.♕g2 (D)



20...exf3?!

A disputable decision: Black wins one of his pawns back, but White completes his development without weakening his position. I would prefer 20...exd3 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.cxd3 ♘c5.

21.♕xf3 ♗xd3 22.♕xd3 ♕g5 23.b3 ♘d6 24.♗b2 ♕xh5 25.♕h3! (D)



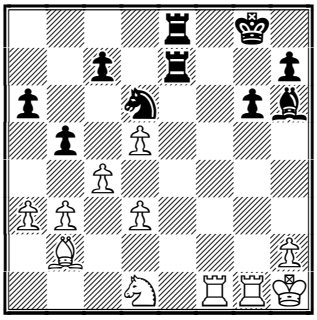
Here there is no doubts in the assessment – Black does not have any

compensation for the pawn.

25...♕h6 26.♖g1 ♗g5 27.♕xh6

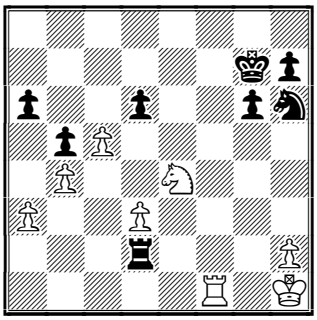
White does not need to hurry with exchanging queens. 27.♕g4 ♗f6 28.♖af1 ♗e5 29.♖g2 ♖f8 but this position also has its difficulties, for instance, after 30.♕e6+ ♕xe6 31.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 32.dxe6 ♖f1+ 33.♖g1 ♖f2 34.♖e1 ♖xh2+ 35.♔g1 ♖h5 it looks like Black manages to escape.

27...♗xh6 28.d3 ♖e7 29.♖af1 ♖ae8 30.♘d1 g6 31.c4 (D)



Whites pawns are very active now and Black has failed to stop them.

31...♗g7 32.♗xg7 ♔xg7 33.c5! ♘f7 34.b4 ♖e2 35.♖g2 ♘h6 36.♖xe2 ♖xe2 37.♘c3 ♖d2 38.d6 cxd6 39.♘e4 (D)



39...♖c2?

Black is losing anyway, but he should have made White demonstrate a couple of beautiful moves: 39...♖xd3 40.c6! ♘g8 *(40...♘f5 41.♖xf5+-)* 41.♖e1! The last problem: after *(41.c7 ♘e7 42.♘g5 ♔h6!* Black escapes*)* 41...♘e7 42.♘c5!+-

40.cxd6 ♘f7 41.d7 ♘d8 42.♘c5 a5 43.♖e1 axb4 44.♘e6+ 1-0.

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-134(918) 14th May 2003

Chess News

In the XXXVIII Capablanca Memorial **Granda Zuniga** leads with 5 points after 6 rounds in the Elite group; Bruzon and Morovic have 4 points. Granda with the black pieces defeated Ikonnikov. Bruzon lost to Leitao. Morovic caught up to Bruzon by defeating Arencibia with the black pieces.

6th round results:
Andersson – Gonzalez ½-½
Dominguez – Zapata 1-0
Noguieras – Vera ½-½
Leitao - Bruzon 1-0
Arencibia – Morovic 0-1
Ikonikov - Granda 0-1

In the 8th round of the Spanish Team Championship the decisive battle between the two leading teams, **C.A. Marcote** and **C.A. Tiendas UPI** took place. Going into this round C.A. Tiendas UPI, the stronger of the two teams by 105 rating points, was trailing C.A. Marcote by 2½ points. So C.A. Tiendas UPI needed to score well to overtake C.A. Marcote, heading into the final round. Unfortunately for C.A. Tiendas UPI, C.A. Marcote intended to hold their own, and despite loses on boards 3 and 4, they managed to even things up on the top two boards. On board 1 Khalifman sacrificed a piece to Graf, but it turned out to be unsound and he lost shortly thereafter. On second board Giorgadze literally tore Short to pieces. C.A. Tiendas UPI managed to recoup their losses on boards 3 and 4. So their match ended in a 2-2 tie, thus C.A. Marcote has secured first place.

8th round results:
C.A. Tiendas UPI - C.A. Marcote - 2-2

1. Khalifman - **Graf** 0-1
2. Short - **Giorgadze** 0-1
3. **Sokolov** - Franco 1-0
4. **Campora** - Reinaldo 1-0

8th round Standings (top two teams):

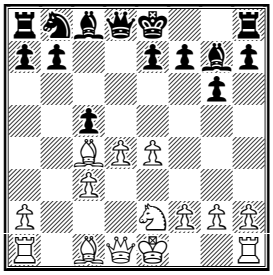
1. **C.A. Marcote - 23**
2. C. A. Tiendas UPI - 20½

Annotated Game

□ **Curt Hansen (2610)**
■ **Luke McShane (2592)**
Event: *11th Sigeman & Co Malmoe, Seden (9), 08.05.2003*
Gruenfeld Defence, Classical Variation with Ng1-e2 - D82
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

It is not that easy to find a good game for examining at the moment. Of course, the Spanish team Championships is still in progress, but there are too many draws there and a lot of the losses are due to big differences in the chess strength of the players. Fortunately, the striking game between Curt Hansen and Luke McShane was played during the recent Sigeman & Co tournament - let's take a look at it!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗c4 c5 8.♘e2 (D)

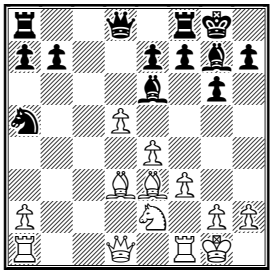


This is the Classical Variation of the Gruenfeld Defence: with the knight on e2 the pin with ... ♗g4 is less dangerous. Of course, on the other hand the knight is not that active on e2, as it would be on f3.

8...0-0 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♗g4

It is advantageous for Black to lure the pawn to f3.

11.f3 cxd4 12.cxd4 ♘a5 13.♗d3 ♗e6 14.d5!? (D)

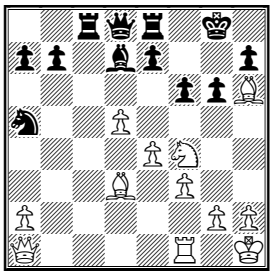


This is David Bronstein's idea of 1950 – White does not mind to exchange his a1-rook for the g7-bishop.

14...♗xa1 15.♕xa1 f6 16.♗h6 ♖e8

The first game where 14.d5 was tried, went: 16...♕b6+ 17.♔h1 ♖fd8 18.♖b1 ♕c5 19.♗d2 b6 20.♗b4 ♕c7 21.♖c1 ♕b7 22.♕b1 ♖ab8 23.dxe6 ♘c6 24.♗c3 ♘e5 25.♗b5 ♖bc8 26.♗xe5 ♖xc1+ 27.♕xc1 fxe5 28.♗d7 ♕a6 29.♘g3 ♕xa2 30.h4 ♖f8 31.♕g5 ♖f6 32.♕xf6 1–0 Bronstein-Boleslavsky, Moscow 1950.

17.♔h1 ♖c8 18.♘f4 ♗d7 (D)

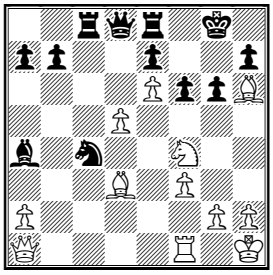


The attempt to keep the bishop closer to the king - 18...♗f7 - leads to difficulties after 19.e5! g5 20.e6 gxf4 21.♕b1! ♕xd5 22.♗xh7+ ♔h8 23.exf7 ♕xf7 24.♗g6 ♕g8 25.♗xe8 ♖xe8 26.♗xf4± - the Black king is exposed and the white bishop is definitely stronger than the black knight.

19.e5! ♘c4

Recently in the game Kharlov-Mamedyarov, Batumi 2002, Black tried 19...e6?!. While after 20.dxe6 ♗xe6 21.exf6 21...♗f7 22.♖d1 ♖c6 23.♗b5 ♕xf6 24.♕xf6 ♖xf6 25.♗xe8 ♗xe8 26.♖d8 ♔f7 27.♘h3 ♔e7 28.♖d1 ♖e6 29.♘g5 ♖e2 30.h4 ♖xa2 31.♘xh7 ♖e2 32.♗g5+ ♔f7 33.♖d8 ♗c6 34.♖f8+ ♔e6 35.♖f6+ ♔d5 36.♖xg6 b5 37.♘f6+ ♔c4 38.♘e4 ♗xe4 39.fxe4 b4 40.h5 b3 41.♗f6 ♖xe4 42.h6 ♖h4+ 43.♔g1 ♘c6 44.♗xh4 b2 45.♖xc6+ ♔d5 46.♖c7 b1♕+ 47.♔h2 ♕g6 48.h7 ♕h6 49.g3 a5 50.♖a7 ♔e4 the game eventually ended in a draw, I doubt that Black would be happy to repeat this line. One possible improvement for White is 21.♗b5± ♗d7 22.exf6 ♔f7 23.♖d1 ♗xb5 *(23...♖c7 24.♘h3!+-)* 24.♖xd8 ♖cxd8 25.♘h3! ♖d5 26.♘g5+ ♖xg5 27.♗xg5+-.

20.e6 ♗a4 (D)



21.♘xg6! hxg6 22.♗xg6 ♘e5

Also bad for Black is 22...♕xd5 23.♕e1! – the white queen joins the attack with decisive effect.

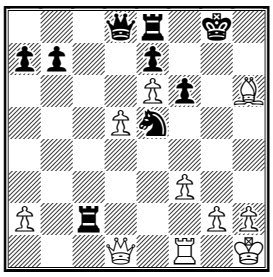
23.♗e4!

The bishop steps back and strengthens the position in the centre. Now White threatens to shift his queen to the kingside.

23...♗c2

23...♕a5 24.♕d4 ♖c4 25.♕f2 ♖xe4 26.fxe4 ♕c3 27.h3 ♕d3 28.♕f5 ♖c8 29.d6 ♕xd6 30.♗f4 ♗e8 31.♖b1 ♕d3 32.♖b3 ♕xb3 0-1 Christiansen-Korchnoi, Reggio Emilia 1987.

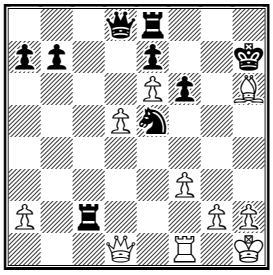
24.♗xc2 ♖xc2 25.♕d1! (D)



White attacks the c2-rook, protects the d5-pawn and prepares to play f3-f4, after which his queen will join the king-hunt. The whole attack looks very impressive, but it was already seen before! Let us see what Black tried here: ***25...♔h7*** 26.♕xc2+ ♔xh6 27.f4 ♘g6 28.♕f5 ♖h8 29.g3 ♕a5 30.♖d1 ♕xa2 31.♕g4 ♕c2 32.d6 ♔g7 33.h4 f5 34.♕f3 ♘xh4 35.gxh4 ♖xh4+ 36.♔g1 ♕h2+ 37.♔f1 ♖xf4 0-1.

Bannik–Novotelnov, USSR Team Ch, Tbilisi, 1951. ***25...♖c5*** 26.f4 ♕xd5 27.♕h5 ♖c2 (or 27...♕xe6 28.♕xe8+ ♔h7 29.fxe5 ♔xh6 30.exf6 ♕xf6 1–0 Kharlov–Sands, Halkidiki 2002) 28.♖g1 ♕xe6 29.♕xe8+ ♔h7 30.♕f8 ♕g4 31.fxe5 ♖c8 32.♕xe7+ ♔xh6 33.exf6 ♕g5 34.♕xb7 ♖c1 35.♕xa7 with winning position as in van Wely–Kovchan, Moscow 2003. ***25...♕c7*** 26.f4 ♖c1 27.♕xc1 ♕xc1 28.♖xc1 ♘g4 29.h3 ♘xh6 30.g4 ♖d8 31.♖c7 ♔f8 32.♖d7 ♘f7 33.♔g2 b5 34.♔f2 ♔e8 35.♖xa7 ♘d6 36.h4 ♔f8 37.h5 f5 38.g5 ♘e4+ 39.♔e3 ♖xd5 40.♖a8+ ♔g7 41.h6+ ♔h7 42.♖e8 ♘xg5 43.fxg5 ♖e5+ 44.♔f4 ♖xe6 45.♖f8 1–0. Kobalia–Zakharstov, St Petersburg 2001. So, it seems that GM Mikhail Kobalia was the first to investigate the line again, despite its previous bad record for White (mind you, White lost in both Bannik–Novotelnov, 1951, and Christiansen–Korchnoi, 1987). We could only speculate if his discovery was inspired by the fact that he was one of the Kasparov's seconds in 2000. Well, GM Kobalia is a *Chess Today* reader too, so perhaps he could shed some light on this!

25...♔h7 (D)



GM Luke McShane is following the game Bannik–Novotelnov. It is hard to tell whether he hoped to reinstate the whole variation with it or he was just not well informed and re-invented the 25...♔h7 move.

26.f4!

Only this move is new – White improves on the previously played 26.♕xc2+ (Bannik–Novotelnov, 1951). We can only speculate whether GM Curt Hansen found this move over the board or had it analysed at home, perhaps with somebody called Fritz!

26...♔xh6

Also not satisfactory for Black is 26...♖xa2 27.fxe5 ♔xh6 28.♖f4! (after 28.♖f3? ♕xd5! 29.♖h3+ ♔g5 White has no more than perpetual check.) 28...♖g8 29.♖h4+ ♔g7 30.♕b1!! f5 31.♕xa2±.

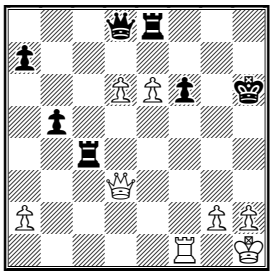
27.fxe5!

Here it is more important to eliminate the knight than the rook!

27...♖c4 28.♕d3!

The queen is attacking the rook again, still having the d5-pawn protected.

28...b5 29.exf6 exf6 30.d6! (D)



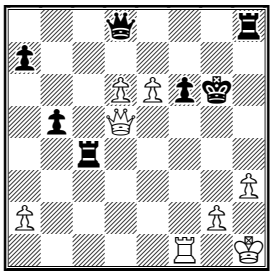
30...♔g7

Probably better was to play 30...♖xe6 31.♕h3+ ♔g7 32.♕xe6 ♖d4, trying to escape in the endgame a pawn down.

31.♕g3+ ♔h7 32.♕h3+ ♔g7 33.♕g3+ ♔h7 34.♕f3 ♔g6

34...♖xe6±

35.♕d5 ♖h8 36.h3!+– (D)



White needs not be in a rush – here two passed pawns on the sixth rank are much stronger than the enemy rook.

36...a6 37.♕d3+ ♔g7 38.♕g3+ ♔h7 39.♖f5

Black's pieces are poorly co-ordinated, while White's forces work together very well – this means the end is near...

39...♕e8 40.♖xf6 ♖g8 41.♕d3+ ♔g7 42.♕f5 ♖c5 43.♖f7+ 1–0.

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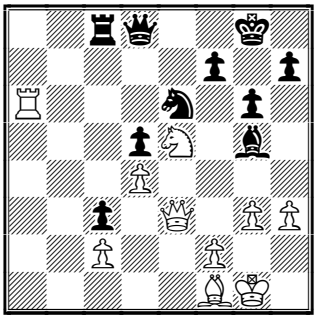
CT-135(919) 15th May 2003

Quiz Today

1. P. Svidler- A. Shchekachev
National I, Clermont-Ferrand FRA (9), 2003



White to play

Chess News

Peruvian GM, **Julio Granda Zuniga** holds on to his leading position after 7 rounds of play in the XXXVIII Capablanca Memorial in Havana, Cuba. Five games in this round were drawn and only one decisive.

Round 7 Results:
Granda – Andersson **½:½**
Morovic – Ikonikov **½:½**
Bruzon – Arencibia **½:½**
Vera – Leitao **½:½**
Zapata – Noguieras **½:½**
Gonzalez – Dominguez **0:1**

Round 7 Standings:
1. Granda Zuniga – 5½ points out of 7
2-4. Morovic Fernandez, Bruzon, Dominguez – 4½
5. Andersson – 4
6-7. Leitao, Arencibia – 3½
8-9. Ikonnikov, Nogueiras – 3
10. Vera – 2½
11. Zapata – 2
12. Gonzalez – 1½

Team **C.A. Marcote** won the Spanish Team Championships, which took place in Lanzarote on the Canary Islands, with 25 points. Our congratulations to **Alexander Graf, Giorgi Giorgadze, Zenon Franco Ocampos** and **Roi Reinaldo Castineira**! Taking second was team C.A. Tiendas (Khalifman, Short, Campora, Moreno) with 22½ points. Coming in third was team C.A. Valencia – Grupo Bali (Karpov, Vallejo Pons, Arizmendi, Vassallo) with 21 points.

Today in our Annotated game section we have a game from another team championships, which had finished a bit earlier – the French team championships.

Message from the editor-in-Chief

by GM Alexander Baburin

Exchange of Open Letters. In CT-914 we published an Open Letter from GM Igor Glek. Recently we received a response from Ali Nihat Yazici, President of Turkish Chess Federation. It is a pretty detailed and lengthy letter, so I would direct those interested in to the relevant TWIC pages – Open Letter from GM Glek and the response to it.

Meanwhile we also received some feedback from our reader from Turkey Oskun Anar:

Dear Mr. Baburin,
I write this letter in response to the open letter by GM Igor Glek. This might be of interest to him: the tournament web site; the hotel web site; the web site for Balkan Individual Championship (held at the same hotel).

I agree that the hotel prices are not cheap, but all participants will agree that the hotel is very luxurious.

With best regards, Oskun Anar.

Playing chess around the world. We will continue covering in *Chess*

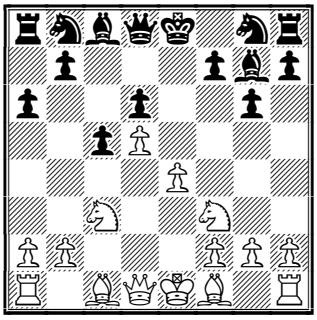
Today forthcoming worldwide tournaments and we welcome your contributions. Please tell us about tournaments which you enjoyed! Personally, I have several favourites, such as the Politiken Cup in Copenhagen, Monarch Assurance Open in the Isle of Man, National Open in Las Vegas and the Bavarian Masters in Bad Wiessee. So, please share your feelings with other chess readers! Meanwhile we received the following letter from **IM Anthony Saidy** (Los Angeles) about his idea of an ideal chess tournament:

As a veteran of many international and other events, who does not have quite the same energy or dedication as I did during my first world student championship in 1956, I make bold to state my preferences. The ideal tournament has only one game per day, with maximum time of 6 hours, followed by a rest day after four or five rounds. The clock has a time-delay feature, which prevents ever losing a sudden-death finish with two queens ahead. The site is a remote village for truly devoted chess fanatics, or for me a capital city with ample theatre, cinema, opera, museums, restaurants, clubs, tourist attractions, dance halls, newspapers, and stores with a large selection of used chess books. The season is spring, the weather temperate. Conditions of play quiet and spacious. The bulletins correct and prompt. Arbitration most fair. Accommodations comfy and gratis, the prizes ample. And if I could go back to that student event in Uppsala, I would take more time to tip my hat to those beautiful Swedish women. Well, I can dream, can't I? - Anthony Saidy, IM

Annotated Game

☐ **I. Sokolov (2675)**
■ **H. Hamdouchi (2605)**
Event: National I, Clermont-Ferrand FRA (8), 2003
Old Benoni Defence/Classical A43
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 e6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 exd5 4.cxd5 d6 5.♘c3 g6 6.e4 ♗g7 7.♘f3 a6!? (D)

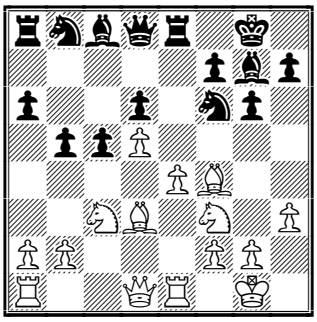


An Indian-type position has arisen. Black doesn't hurry with the ♘g8-f6 move and tries to organise counter-play (at least to play b7-b5) on the queen side first. Knight g8 could go on e7 instead of f6 later. It's interesting to note that Ivan Sokolov doesn't try to prevent b7-b5 (for example he could play a2-a4); he simply completes his development and strengthens his center.

8.h3

A useful move - White limits the scope of the c8 bishop and avoids a possible exchange on f3.

8...b5 9.♗d3 ♘f6 10.0-0 0-0 11.♖e1 ♖e8 12.♗f4 (D)



White more or less completes his development, while black has to think about how to develop his rook, knight and bishop on the queenside. White has more space while d6 pawn is weak. Obviously White is better but how to exploit it?

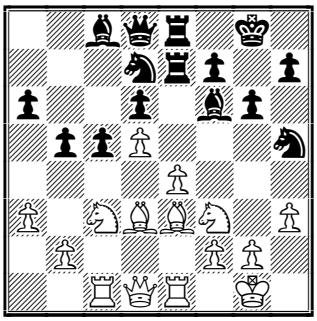
12...♖a7 13.a3 ♖ae7 14.♖c1 ♘h5 15.♗g5

15.♗h2?! ♗h6 16.♖c2 ♗f4!?

15...♗f6 16.♗e3

Black hasn't enough good squares for his pieces so White avoids any unnecessary exchanges.

16...♘d7 (D)



17.b4!

White would like to have the d4-square for his knight. From here he will threaten to penetrate into black's camp (on c6).

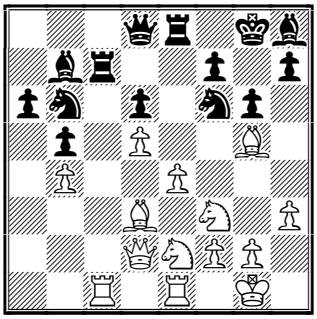
17...♗h8 18.♕d2 ♘hf6 19.♗b1 cxb4!?

Black finds counterplay - the knight on d7 is going to b6 and then c4.

20.axb4 ♘b6 21.♗d3

The Bishop has to retreat.

21...♗b7 22.♗g5 ♖c7 23.♘e2 (D)

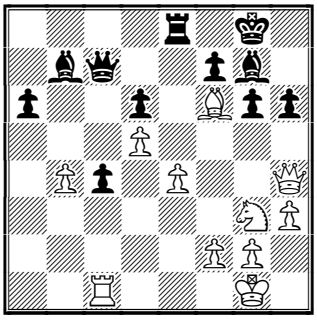


With the idea of ♘e2-d4-c6. Black closes the c-file.

23...♘c4 24.♗xc4 ♖xc4 25.♖xc4 bxc4 26.♘g3

White shows that he has another objective - Black's king is also rather weak. In this position the bishop on b7 is much weaker than White's knights.

26...♕c7 27.♕f4 ♘d7 28.♕h4 ♘e5 29.♘xe5 ♗xe5 30.♖c1 ♗g7 31.♗f6 h6 (D)



32.♘h5! ♗f8

32...gxh5?? 33.♕g3+-; 32...g5? 33.♗xg7! gxh4 34.♘f6+ ♔xg7 35.♘xe8+ ♔g8 36.♘xc7+-

33.♕g4 ♗c8?

This looks like the decisive mistake, but in any event, White is much better, for example: 33...♔h7□ 34.♘g3 *(34.♗d4 gxh5 35.♕f5+ ♔g8 36.♖c3 h4 37.♕g4+ ♔h7 38.♕f5+ ♔g8=)* 34...♖c8 *(34...♗c8? 35.♕e2+-)* 35.h4±

34.♗c3!

The same idea as in the line 32...g5? 33.Bxg7

34...♗e7

34...♗xg4 35.♘f6+ ♔h8 36.♘xe8+ ♔h7 37.♘xc7+-

35.♕f4 gxh5

35...g5 36.♘f6++-

36.♕xh6 f6 37.♕g6+

And black resigned in view of[37.♕g6+ ♔f8 *(37...♔h8 38.♕xe8+)* 38.♗d2 ♗d8 39.♗h6+ ♔e7 40.♕g7# **1-0.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

1. P. Svidler- A. Shchekachev

33.♘xf7! ♗xe3 [33...♔xf7 34.♕xe6+] **34.♘xd8 ♗xf2+** [34...♘xd4 35.fxe3 ♘xc2 36.♘c6±] **35.♔xf2 ♘xd8** [35...♘xd4!?] **36.♗g2 ♔g7 37.♗xd5 ♖c7 38.♔e3 ♖d7 39.♖a5 1-0.**

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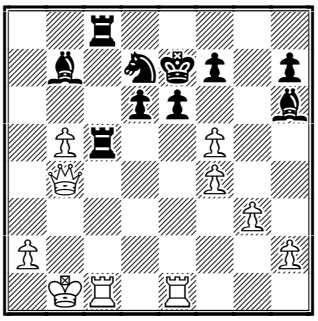
CT-136(920) 16th May 2003

Quiz Today

Cheparinov (2508) – Georgiev (2516)
Sofia 2003



Black to play

Chess News

The 53rd Hungarian Chess Championships are in progress in Heviz City. The event is a Category XIII round-robin with 10 players, among them the legendary GMs, Lajos Portisch and Gyula Sax, strong young GMs Zoltan Almasi, Peter Acs and others.

Round 3 Standings:
1-2. Almasi, Sax – 2½ points
3. Ruck – 2
4-6. Cao, Gyimesi, Portisch – 1½ etc.

See also our annotated game section.

The 67th Bulgarian Championships, which is taking place in Sofia, is also a round-robin event, but it is only 8th Category (11 players).

Round 8 Standings:
1. Spasov – 5 points out of 7
2. Dragiev – 4½ (8)
3-5. Kr. Georgiev, Karakehajov – 4 (7), Simeonov – 4 (8) etc.

And some words about forthcoming events.

The 33rd Bosnia Tournament takes place on May 17-27th in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This will be round-robin with 10 GMs: Alexei Shirov, Evgeny Bareev, Rustam Kasimdzhanov, Ivan Sokolov, Sergei Movsesian, Teimor Radjabov, Zdenko Kozul, Branko Damljanovic, Bojan Kurajica and Emir Dizdarevic.

The Russian Team Championships takes place in Tolghiatti, Volga Region, May 16-28th. Players include: Svidler, Khalifman, Korchnoi, Grischuk, Morozevich, Malakhov, Sveshnikov, Vaganian, Rublevsky, Bologan etc.

Web Watch

by Alex Baburin

Composition Tourney. There are many ways to celebrate your birthday, but certainly one of the most exotic is to stage a chess composition tournament and be its judge – a luxury not available to most people! Well, IM Yochanan Afek, who is also a renowned chess composer, enjoys such a privilege and he organised a tournament to mark his 50th jubilee. You can see a report on its results, published by Attila Schneider.

New Chess Newsletters. There are many chess newsletters around and while one might look at them as our ultimate competitors, we at Chess Today view them as colleagues who also devote time and energy to the benefit of our favourite game. And their existence will help to make sure that Chess Today maintains its high standards! So, we are happy to announce that recently *Chess Weekly*, a Russian weekly chess paper, and Convekta Ltd. (Chess Assistant Software maker) have started a new weekly project – An Internet Chess Newspaper in English named CHESS WEEKLY. Every Thursday you will find news on the following items at http://weekly.convekta.com

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Computer Tournament. *Chess Today* received the following information from Theo van der Storm, Secretary of the Computer Chess Association Netherlands:

CSVN Tournament 2003 in Leiden (Netherlands) The Dutch Computer Chess Club CSVN will organise its third International CSVN Tournament a.k.a. ICT3 on three consecutive days from Friday till Sunday 16-18 May in the Denksportcentrum (Minds Sports Centre) in Leiden. The playing tempo is reasonably swift, 90 minutes per player for the whole game. Each day three rounds will be played. On Saturday there will be a break for the annual CSVN member's meeting and there will also be a tournament for lovers of dedicated computers on Saturday and Sunday. The first round of the ICT3 will start on Friday 16 May at 13.00. News, information, pictures and games can be found on www.computerschaak.nl. This year 14 programs will be present in Leiden (see below), among them the top three of the Swedish SSDF Computer Rating List Shredder, Fritz and Chess Tiger. We are happy to announce that ChessBase (www.chessbase.com) and Lokasoft (www.lokasoft.nl) support the event.

Previous winners: CSVN Tournament 2001: 1. Fritz 2. Gambit Tiger 3. Diep
CSVN Tournament 2002: 1. Fritz 2. Diep 3. Shredder

Book reviews. Sites featuring chess book reviews are plentiful on the Web and here I would like to mention one of them: Seagaard Chess Reviews, which writes independent book reviews. Another site to keep an eye on is GM Square, where quite a number of book reviews have been published - more are to come!

Chess Web sites. Those who speak Russian can find a lot of information at the site managed by Evgeny Atarov.

Another Moscow-based site is WorldChessRating, but the site is actually in English. It was backed by Gary Kasparov, but halfway through the Linares tournament the site ceased operating – allegedly due to financial problems. Apparently, those difficulties have been resolved (at least, for now!) and the site is going to get back to business from May 19.

One of my favourite chess sites is ChessBase.com, which usually has pretty good stories. If you go there soon enough, you should see links to news about boxer Lennox Lewis and chess and a biography of IM Milan Vukcevich (1937 – 2003), who was also a Grandmaster in chess composition.

Chess and drugs. As one of the initiators (together with GM Speelman) of the Open Letter to FIDE concerning drug tests during the Bled-2002 Chess Olympiad, I read with great interest yesterday the following message from John Henderson:

"Last month in Copenhagen, the governing bodies of triathlon, amateur boxing and chess were the first to formally adopt a new global anti-doping code. The World Anti-Doping Agency guidelines are designed to establish a uniform set of banned substances in sports ranging from amphetamines to steroids. Although they accept to adhere to the guidelines, FIDE plans to lobby the WADA for an exception to the drug-testing rules, claiming that chess, as a sport, "has a different perspective than other physical sports."

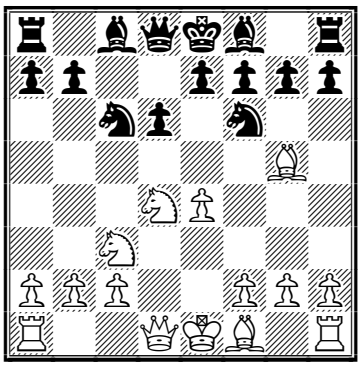
Under the new rules, competitive chess players, playing in major events such as the World Championships and Olympiads, would have to be wary of how much coffee they drink during the duration of a game, as caffeine is one of the stimulants banned by the WADA. The agency says "normal investigation" won't cause a positive test, but warns that results can vary based on a person's size and metabolism.

Dick Pound, an IOC member from Canada and chairman of the WADA, said he isn't considering exceptions for mind sports such as chess and bridge. "If they want to be treated as sports and not just as games, then they should accept the same rules as sports," said Pound. However, the chairman of the WADA did have some good news for chess players – he's now seriously looking at taking caffeine off the banned list.

Annotated Game

□ **Z Almasi (2676)**
■ **P Acs (2600)**
Event: *53rd ch-HUN Heviz HUN (1), 12.05.2003 – B67*
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗g5



According to the evaluation of modern theory, the Rauser System leads to solid, but rather passive positions for Black. But, of course, it's possible to get a "wild" position, if both sides like it!

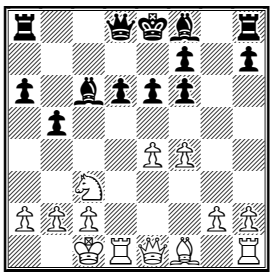
6...e6 7.♕d2 a6 8.0-0-0 ♗d7

A popular alternative is 8...h6 Generally in the Rauser, Black has a "hedgehog-like" pawn center, while White leads in development and finds ways to open the position. Usually White prepares pawn breaks like e4-e5 or f4-f5, sometimes – Nc3-d5 or Nd4-f5. In this game we'll see the latter case.

9.f4 b5 10.♗xf6 gxf6

10...♕xf6? 11.e5 dxe5 12.♘dxb5

11.♘xc6 ♗xc6 12.♕e1



With the idea of e4-e5 somewhere. Also, from e1 the queen is ready to jump to h4 and Rd1–d3-h3 after that) if Black decides to castle short.

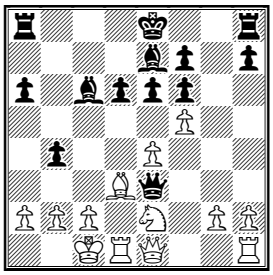
12...♗e7 13.♗d3 ♕b6 14.f5!?

A typical theme White would like to open as many lines as possible.

14...b4

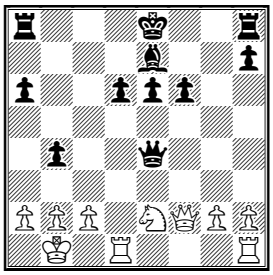
In case of 14...e5 the c3 knight receives the central d5-square, so Black drives him away first.

15.♘e2 ♕e3+!?



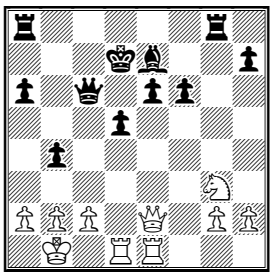
To my mind this is a rather risky line: Black wins a pawn but allows his opponent to open all the central files. I'd prefer the quieter e6-e5.

16.♔b1 ♗xe4 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.♗xe4 ♕xe4 19.♕f2

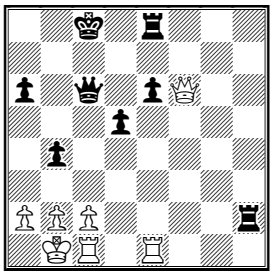


Take a look at this position. OK, Black is a pawn up, but he has to play with his king in the center; also his e-pawn has to stay on e6 at all costs – after e6-e5 White easily occupies all the white central squares (d5, f5, e4)...

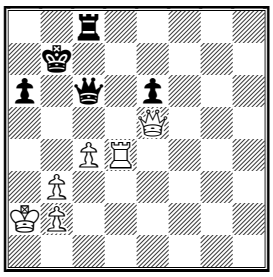
19...♖g8 20.♘g3 ♕c6 21.♕e2 ♔d7 22.♖he1 d5



23.♘f5!
Very unpleasant penetration. Obviously Black couldn't take the knight, while White threatens to play Nd4.
23...♗c5 24.♕h5! ♖af8
24...exf5 25.♕xh7+ ♔c8 26.♕xg8++−
25.♕xh7+ ♔c8 26.♘e7+ ♗xe7 27.♕xe7 ♖e8 28.♕xf6 ♖xg2 29.♖c1 ♖xh2



Black has an extra pawn but his king is much weaker than his opponent. And this is a very important factor in so called "hard-pieces endgame" (positions with queens and rooks on the board without minor pieces).
30.c3!
The attack continues!
30...b3
The only move, Black couldn't open the c-file.
31.axb3 ♔b7 32.c4! ♔a8 33.♖ed1 d4
Black even sacrifices a pawn to keep the c-file closed.
34.♖xd4 ♖b8 35.♖d8 ♖h1 36.♖xh1 ♕xh1+ 37.♔a2 ♕c6 38.♖d4 ♖c8
38...♕b7 39.♖d3 ♕b6 40.♕f3+ ♖b7 41.♖d7+−
39.♕e5 ♔b7



40.♖d6 ♕c7 41.♖xe6 ♕xe5 42.♖xe5 ♖f8 43.b4 1-0

Answer to Quiz Today: 27...♗e4+! 28.♔b2 28.♖xe4 ♖xc1+ 29.♔b2 ♗g7+−+; 28.♕xe4 ♖xb5+ 29.♔a1 ♗g7+−+ **28...♗g7+** 28...♗g7+ 29.♔a3 ♖a8+ 30.♔b3 ♗d5+ **0-1**

King safety is very important in Queen and Rook Endgames

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CT-137(921) 17th May 2003

Chess News

GM **Julio Granda Zuniga** has held onto his lead after the 8th Round of the XXXVIII Capablanca Memorial in Havana, Cuba.

Round 8 Standings:

1. Granda Zuniga – 6 points **2-4.** Morovic Fernandez, Bruzon, Dominguez – 5 **5-6.** Leitao, Andersson – 4½ etc.

Zoltan Almasi has taken sole lead at the 53rd Hungarian Chess Championships in Heviz City.

Round 4 Standings:

1. Almasi – 3½ points **2.** Sax – 3 **3.** Ruck – 2 ½ **4-7.** Cao, Gyimesi, Portisch, Berkes – 2 etc.

The 67th Bulgarian Championships.

Round 10 Standings:

1. Vasil Spasov – 6½ points out of 9 **2.** Dragiev – 6 (10) **3.** Kr. Georgiev – 5½ (9) **4-6.** Genov, Radulski, Simeonov – 5 (9) etc.

Also see our annotated game section.

Third International CSVN tournament 2003

*by Eric van Reem*Bad Start for Fritz
www.computerschaak.nl

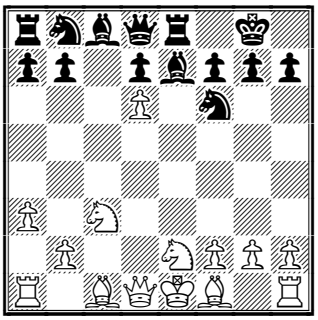
In the first round we saw some fascinating games with surprising results. 'The Baron', a program made by the tall Dutchman Richard Pijl drew his game with one of the top favourites, 'Chess Tiger'. The biggest upset in the first round, however, was the victory of 'Deep Sjeng', the Belgian program of Gian-Carlo Pascutto over the well-know program 'Fritz'. The Dutch-German program 'Fritz' had to deal with serious problems in the middlegame after a Nimzo-Indian opening. White's passed pawn on the b-file proved to be the decisive factor in this game. 'Shredder' and 'The King' played some convincing attacking chess against 'Tao' and 'Ant'. 'Diep' played a long game against 'SpiderChess' and had to be satisfied with a draw in the end.

In the second round we could witness the first tournament game of 'Nullmove', a program made by Richard Langeveld. The young Dutchman, who has been a regular operator for Bob Hyatt's 'Crafty' in world championships, had no chance with his baby against 'Sjeng'. The other programs with a perfect score after two rounds are 'Shredder' and 'The King'. 'The King', the engine of the 'ChessMaster' programs, played a good game against 'IsiChess' 'MMX' and 'Shredder' had no real problems with 'XiniX'. Two other favourites for first place had to fight hard in their games: 'Fritz' battled it out in a sharp opening against 'Tao' but could not win with the white pieces: the game suddenly ended in a draw. The winner of the CSVN tournament of 2001 and 2002 now only has 0,5 points after two rounds! 'Chess Tiger', winner of the Dutch Open in 2000, 2001 and 2002 could win after a long battle against 'SpiderChess'.

Game of the day was Deep Sjeng – Fritz (see this game with my brief notes below – Alex Baburin).

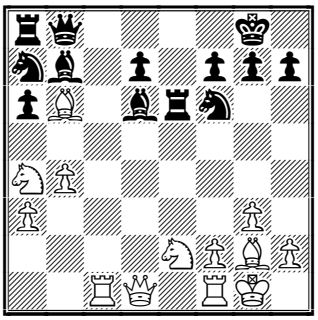
□ **Deep Sjeng**
■ **Fritz**
Event: CSVN, Leiden (1), 16.05.2003
[E42] Nimzo-Indian Defence
Annotations by GM Alex Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 c5 5.♘ge2 cxd4 6.exd4 0-0 7.a3 ♗e7 8.d5 exd5 9.cxd5 ♖e8 10.d6 *(D)*



Impressive – the computer is prepared to sacrifice material!

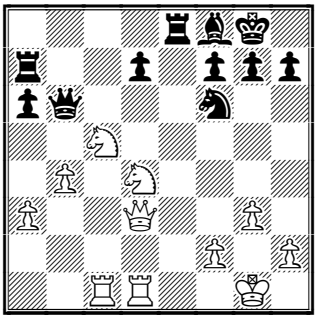
10...♗f8 11.g3 b6 12.♗g2 ♘c6 13.b4 ♗b7 14.0-0 a6 15.♘a4 ♖e6 16.♗e3 ♗xd6 17.♗xb6 ♕b8 18.♖c1 ♘a7 ***(D)***



19.♗xa7

This looks like a pure computer move to me – no human would think of exchanging the 'gorgeous' a7-knight!

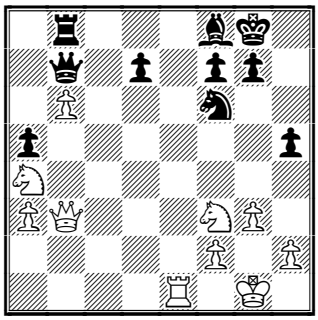
19...♖xa7 20.♘d4 ♖e8 21.♗xb7 ♕xb7 22.♕d3 ♗f8 23.♘c5 ♕b6 24.♖fd1 ***(D)***



24...h6

I bet that here, a human player would have preferred 24...g6 – not only making an escape square for the king, but also giving some air to the bishop and limiting the d4-pawn.

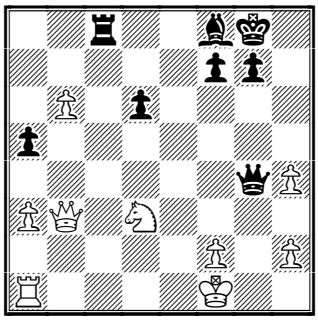
25.♘a4 ♕b8 26.♘b2 a5 27.b5 ♖c7 28.♖xc7 ♕xc7 29.♘a4 ♕b7 30.b6 ♕a8 31.♕b3 h5 32.♖c1 ♕e4 33.♘f3 ♖b8 34.♖e1 ♕b7 ***(D)***



35.♖a1

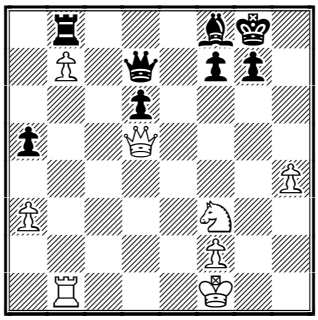
What?? No comment...

35...♖c8 36.♘e5 d6 37.♘c4 ♕d5 38.♘ab2 h4 39.gxh4 ♕f5 40.♘e3 ♕h3 41.♘d3 ♘g4 42.♘xg4 ♕xg4+ 43.♔f1 ***(D)***



I would expect that Black should be able to generate enough play against the exposed enemy king, but in the game White managed to capitalise on his b-pawn:

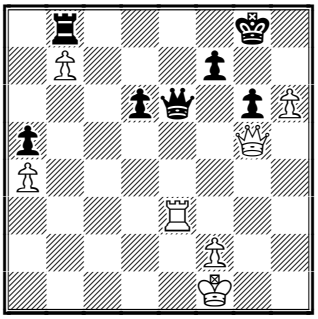
43...♕f5 44.♘e1 ♕e5 45.b7 ♖b8 46.♖b1 ♕xh2 47.♘f3 ♕h3+ 48.♔e2 ♕f5 49.♕d3 ♖e8+ 50.♔d2 ♕f4+ 51.♔d1 ♖b8 52.♕d5 ♕f6 53.♔e1 ♕e7+ 54.♔f1 ♕d7 ***(D)***



It's weird that Black never tried to use the bishop...

55.♘g5 g6 56.a4 ♗h6 57.♖b5 ♗g7 58.♖b3 ♕c7 59.♘e4 ♗e5 60.♔g1 ♔g7 61.♘g5 ♔g8 62.♔g2 ♕d7 63.♖b5 ♕g4+ 64.♔f1 ♕d7 65.♖b6 ♔g7 66.♖b3 ♗f4 67.♕e4 ♗e5 68.h5 ♗f6 69.h6+ ♔g8 70.♕d5

♗xg5 71.♕xg5 ♕e6 72.♖e3 ***(D)***



72...♕f5?

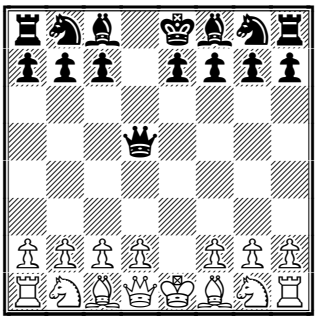
> **No human in his right mind would even consider this move seriously – the endgame is visually lost – just look at the b8-rook!**

73.♕xf5 gxf5 74.♖e7 ♔h7 75.♖xf7+ ♔xh6 76.♔e2 ♔g6 77.♖c7 f4 78.♔d3 ♔f5 79.♔c4 ♔e4 80.♔b5 1-0

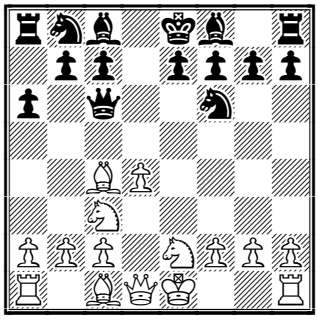
Please don't get me wrong – I am not laughing at computers playing chess (when I analyse, Fritz usually laughs!), I just want to show the difference in the computer and human approach to solving problems. It seems to me that humans still have an edge when it comes to using general principles.

Annotated Game

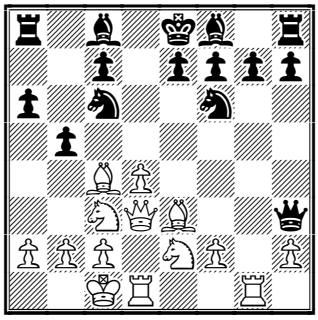
□ **M Petrov (2490)**
■ **V Panbukchian (2325)**
Event: *67th ch-BUL Sofia BUL (8), 14.05.2003 - B01*
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♕xd5



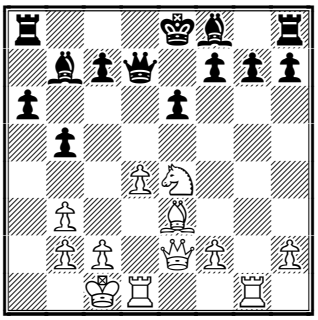
The Classical Scandinavian Defence. Now, Black more often plays 2...♘f6 to take the d5 pawn with the knight.
3.♘c3 ♕d6
A more popular alternative is 3...♕a5
4.d4 ♘f6 5.♗c4 a6 6.♘ge2
White develops his knight on e2 instead of f3 with two ideas at least: to prepare Bc1–f4 attacking the Queen somewhere and the main reason, I think - to avoid the unpleasant pin Bc8-g4 (now White could play f2-f3).
6...♕c6



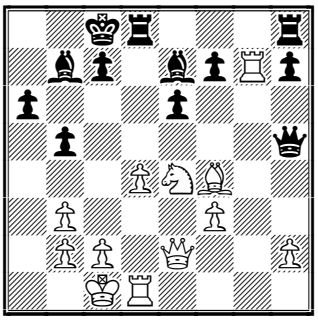
The drawback of White's idea - Black wins a pawn now. But White has a good advantage in development as compensation...
7.♕d3 ♕xg2 8.♖g1 ♕h3
8...♕xh2?! 9.♗f4
9.♗e3 ♘c6 10.0-0-0 b5!?



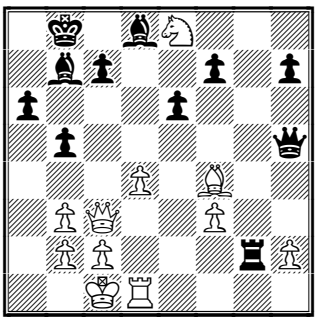
A rather provocative move: Black asks his opponent if he is ready to sacrifice a piece on b5.
11.♗b3
White doesn't hurry.
11...♕f5 12.♕d2 ♘a5 13.♘g3 ♘xb3+ 14.axb3 ♕d7
14...♕f3!? 15.d5!?∞
15.♘ce4 ♘xe4 16.♘xe4 e6 17.♕e2
White has easy play, because the Black king has no hiding place ever.
17...♗b7



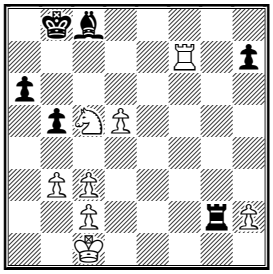
18.♗h6!
Nice blow.
18...♕d5
18...gxh6? 19.♘f6+; 18...♗xe4 19.♕xe4
19.f3 ♕h5 20.♗g5 ♗e7 21.♗f4
21.♗xe7 ♔xe7 22.♖xg7?? ♕h6+ 23.♖g5 ♗xe4–+
21...0-0-0 22.♖xg7



White returns a pawn while Black completes his development. The position could be about equal, but the Black king is rather weak. White has an initiative still.
22...♖hg8 23.♖xg8 ♖xg8 24.♕e3 ♖g2?!
24...♕f5!?
25.♕c3!
White finds a new goal for his forces.
25...♗d8 26.♘d6+ ♔b8 27.♘e8!



27...♕xf3 28.♗xc7+ ♔a8?
A decisive mistake. My computer found an interesting draw by perpetual: 28...♔c8 29.♕c5 *(29.♘d6+ ♔d7 30.♗xd8 ♕f4+ 31.♔b1 ♕xd6 32.♗f6 ♗e4∓)* 29...♗c6 30.♗g3 ♔d7 31.♘g7 ♗e7 32.♕e5 ▯ 32...♖xc2+ 33.♔xc2 ♗e4+ 34.♔c1 ♕e3+ 35.♖d2 ♕g1+ 36.♖d1 ♕e3+; 28...♗xc7 29.♕xc7+ ♔a8
29.♗xd8 ♕xc3 30.bxc3 ♖g8
Yes, Black returns a piece, but White wins a pawn without any compensation.
31.♘c7+ ♔b8 32.♖f1 ♖xd8 33.♖xf7 ♖g8 34.♘xe6 ♖g2 35.♘c5 ♗c8 36.d5



Black couldn't stop the d5 pawn, so he resigned. **1-0**

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (3531)283- 6839. **Email**:ct@gmsquare.com **Website**: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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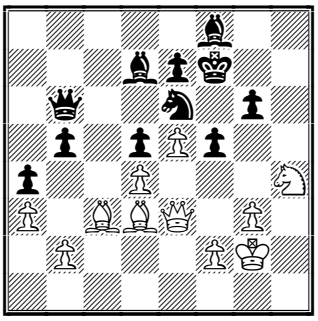
CT-138(922) 18th May 2003

Quiz Today

Almasi (2676) – Varga (2533)
Heviz 2003



White to play

Chess News

Capablanca Memorial

Morovic- Andersson ½ ½
Bruzon – Granda 1-0
Vera – Ikonikov 0-1
Zapata – Arencibia 1-0
Gonzalez – Leitao 1-0
Dominguez – Noguieras 1-0

Round 10 Standings:
1-2. Dominguez, Bruzon 7,0
3-4.. Granda, Morovic 6.0

53rd Hungarian Chess Championships

Varga – Horváth ½-½
Cao – Almás 0-1
Berkes – Gyimesi ½-½
Sax – Ács 0-1
Ruck – Portisch ½-½

Round 5 Standings:
Almasi, 4½;
2-3. Ruck, Sax 3.0;
4-6. Gyimesi, Berkes. Portisch, Lajos 2½;
7-8. Cao. Acs 2.0;
9-10. Horvath. Varga 1½;

67th Bulgarian Championships

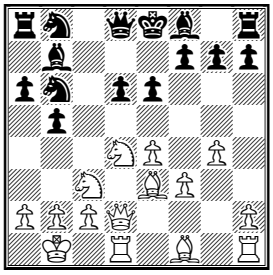
Final Standings:
Spasov 7.0;
Georgiev, Krum 6½;
3-4. Genov, Dragiev 6.0;
5. Radulski 5½;
6-8. Petrov, Simeonov, Cheparinov 5.0;
9. Karakehajov 4½;
10. Panbukchian 3½;
11. Iotov 1.0;

Annotated Games

Some adventures from the Hungarian and Bulgarian Championships.

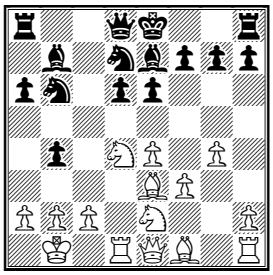
□ **P Acs (2600)**
■ **F Berkes (2578)**
Event: *53rd ch-HUN Heviz HUN (4), 15.05.2003 B80*
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.♕d2 b5 8.f3 ♗b7 9.g4 ♘fd7 10.0-0-0 ♘b6 11.♔b1N



Some example games with 11.♗d3 and 11.♘b3 are included in the cbv file.

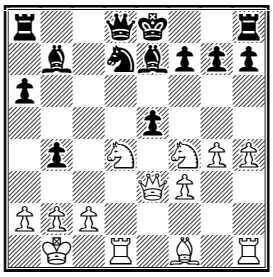
11...♘8d7 12.♕e1 b4 13.♘ce2 ♗e7



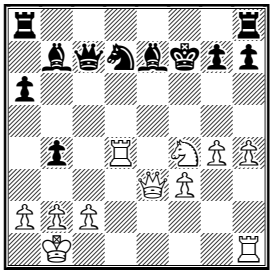
14.h4

The following looks very promising 14.♘f4! For instance, 14...e5 15.♘fe6 fxe6 16.♘xe6 ♕b8 17.♘xg7+ ♔f7 18.♘f5 and Black has nothing to be envious of despite having an extra pawn.

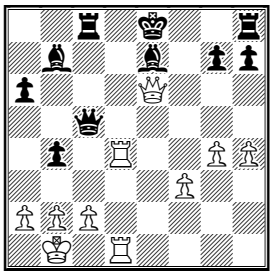
14...d5!
Instead of castling, Black strikes an opportune blow in the center!
15.exd5
Probably better is 15.♘f4!?
15...♘xd5 16.♘f4
At last!
16...♘xe3 17.♕xe3 e5



18.♗c4?!
This is too reckless. The following could lead to an equal endgame 18.♘f5 exf4 19.♘d6+ ♔f8 20.♕xf4 ♗xd6 21.♕xd6+ ♕e7 22.♕xd7 ♗xf3 23.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 24.♖e1+ ♔d6 25.♖g1=
18...exd4 19.♗xf7+!?
Cheerless for White is both 19.♖xd4 0–0 20.♘e6 ♕b6 21.♘xf8 ♖xf8 22.♕f4 ♘c5∓; and 19.♕xd4 0–0 20.♕xd7 ♗xf3 21.♕xd8 ♖axd8 22.♖xd8 ♖xd8 23.♖f1 ♗xg4∓
19...♔xf7 20.♖xd4 ♕c7



21.♕b3+?
The game could logically end in a draw after 21.♖e1 ♘c5! 22.♘e6 ♘xe6 23.♕xe6+ ♔e8! 24.♖c4 ♕d7 25.♕e5 ♖c8 26.♕xg7 ♖f8 *(26...♖xc4 27.♕xh8+=)* 27.♖d4 ♕c7 28.♕xh7=; Or 21.♕e6+! ♔e8 22.♘h5 ♘f6 *(22...♘c5 23.♕f5 ♗xh4! 24.♖xh4 g6 25.♕f6 ♖g8 26.♖h1! ♕e7 27.♕xe7+ ♔xe7 28.♖e1+ ♘e6 29.♘f4±)* 23.♘xg7+ ♔f8 24.g5 ♘d5 *(24...♖c8?! 25.c4!±)* 25.♖xd5 ♗xd5 26.♕xd5 ♔xg7 27.♕d4+ Despite having an extra rook and an extra bishop, Black is unable to avoid perpetual check.
21...♔e8 22.♘e6 ♕e5! 23.♖hd1
White can hardly escape after 23.f4 ♕xd4 24.♘c7+ ♔d8 25.♘e6+ ♔c8 26.♘xd4 ♗xh1 27.♕c4+ ♔b8 28.♕e6 ♗f6 29.♕d6+ ♔c8 30.♘e6 ♖a7 31.g5 ♗d8 32.♕xb4 ♖e8 33.f5 ♘b8 Black's decisive material advantage starts to tell
23...♘c5! 24.♘xc5 ♕xc5 25.♕e6 ♖c8

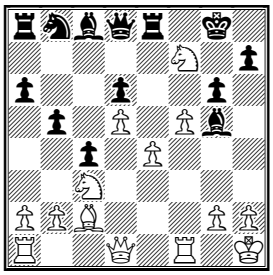


26.♔a1?
The following could drag the battle out 26.♖1d2 ♖f8 *(26...♕c6 27.♖d6! ♕xf3 28.♖d7 ♕f1+ 29.♖d1 ♕f7 30.♖d8+ ♖xd8 31.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 32.♕xf7)* 27.♕d7+ ♔f7 28.♕xb7 ♖fd8 29.♕e4 but, of course, Black must win
26...♕c6
And White resigned here, because Rd6 would be refuted with the simple Qxc2 **0–1**

□ **V Iotov (2255)**
■ **V Dragiev (2450)**
Event: *67th ch-BUL Sofia BUL (8), 14.05.2003 - A67*
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 ♗g7 8.♗b5+ ♘fd7 9.♘f3 a6 10.♗d3 b5 11.0-0 0-0 12.♔h1 ♖e8 13.f5 c4 14.♗c2 ♘e5?N
Much better is 14...b4 15.♘e2 ♘f6 16.♘g3 ♘bd7 17.♗g5 ♕c7 18.♖c1 ♘c5 19.e5 dxe5 20.♘h4 ♕d6 21.fxg6 fxg6 22.♗a4 ♗d7 23.♗xd7 ♘fxd7 24.♖xc4 a5 25.♘hf5 gxf5 26.♘xf5 ♕a6 27.♖g4 h5 28.♘h6+ ♔h7 29.♖h4 ♕d3 30.♕c1 ♖f8 31.♖d1 ♕g6 32.g4 ♘d3 33.♖xh5 0–1 Gupta,M-Joergens,M/Germany 1992/GER-chT2 (33)
15.♗g5 ♗f6?
15...♕c7 16.♘xe5 ♗xe5 17.♕f3±
16.♘xe5
16.fxg6 ♘xg6 17.♕d2±
16...♗xg5?

Losing is 16...♖xe5 17.♗d2±



17.♘xf7!?

An unnecessary manoeuvre. It is easier to win playing 17.fxg6 dxe5 *(17...fxg6 18.♘f7 ♕e7 19.♕d4+−)* 18.gxf7+ ♔h8 19.fxe8♕+ ♕xe8 20.♕f3+−

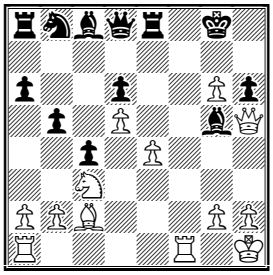
17...♔xf7 18.fxg6+ ♔g8

18...♔xg6 19.e5+ ♔h6 20.e6+−

19.♕h5

No so clear is 19.gxh7+ ♔h8 20.♕d4+ ♖e5 21.♖f7 ♗d7 22.♖af1 ♗e8 Despite White's formidable position, Black does not seem to be losing.

19...h6



20.g7?

The way to victory is not difficult. Of course, it is neccesary to involve minor pieces in the attack: 20.e5! dxe5 21.♖f7 ♘d7 22.g7 e4 23.♖af1 ♘e5 24.♗d1+−

20...♖a7!

The most distant Black piece is the first to help!

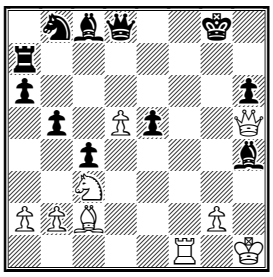
21.h4

And again better is 21.e5 ♖xg7 22.e6 ♖f8 23.♗g6 with a complicated position. Black is a piece up, but his two pieces (the bishop and the knight) are off-side.

21...♗xh4 22.♖f8+ ♖xf8 23.gxf8♕+ ♔xf8 24.♖f1+

24.e5 gave White pretty good chance of a draw! 24...dxe5 25.♖f1+ ♔g8 26.♘e4 ♖g7 27.♕xh6 ♗g4 28.♖f6!

24...♔g8 25.e5 dxe5



From 25...♗g3 26.♘e4 ♕h4+ White escapes with the fantastic 27.♔g1!! forcing Black to make a perpetual check. 27...♗h2+ *(27...♕xh5 28.♘f6+±)*

26.♕xe5?

This is losing. 26.♘e4! leads to the position mentioned in the note to move 24, which is a draw.

26...♖g7! 27.♕xb8?

Having no heart for suffering more 27.♘e4 ♗g4–+ White decided to "eat" Black's knight before the death.

27...♗g3 0-1

Solution to Quiz Today: 34.g4! ♘g7 34...g5 35.♘xf5 ♘f4+ 36.♔g1 ♔g8± **35.♕g5+− ♕e6 36.♗b4 ♗c8 37.♔h2 ♗d7 38.♗c5 ♕c6 39.gxf5 gxf5 40.♘xf5 ♕e6 41.♘e3 ♕h3+ 42.♔g1 ♗e6 43.♕g6+ ♔g8 44.♗xb5 1-0**

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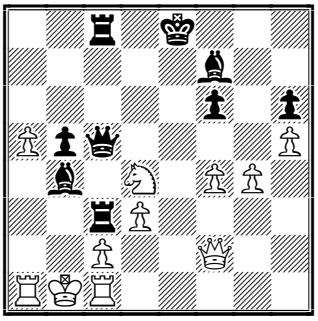
CT-139(923) 19th May 2003

Quiz Today

'And a nice final blow.' From today's annotated game



Black to play

Chess News

The 33rd Bosnia Tournament started yesterday in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It's a round-robin event with 10 GMs, average Elo 2635,9 (16th FIDE category). 4 games out of 5 were decisive in the 1st round! No doubt the most interesting of them was Bareev – Movsesian. It looked like Bareev had better chances after the opening, but overestimated his position and Movsesian sacrificed a pawn to create a blockading position in which his knight was much stronger than White's bishop. We have included all 5 games in our cbv and pgn files.

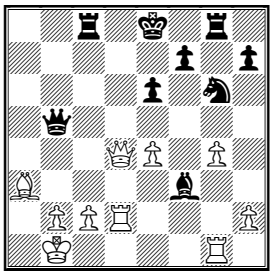
Round 1 Results: Damljanovic – Radjabov **0:1** Kozul – Shirov **0:1** I. Sokolov – Dizdarevic **1:0** Kurajica – Kasimdzhanov **½:½** Bareev – Movsesian **0:1**

Round 2 pairings: Radjabov – Movsesian Kasimdzhanov – Bareev Dizdarevic – Kurajica Shirov – Sokolov Damljanovic – Kozul

Peruvian GM **Julio Granda Zuniga** won the XXXVIII Capablanca Memorial in Havana, Cuba with 8 points out of 11, clear point ahead of the second place. Our congratulations!

Final Standings: **1. Granda Zuniga** – 8 points **2-3.** Bruzon, Dominguez – 7 **4-5.** Morovic Fernandez, Ikonnikov – 6½ **6.** Andersson – 6 **7.** Leitao – 5½ etc.

Zoltan Almasi is as happy as a first prize winner! In the 6th round of the 53rd Hungarian Chess Championships in Heviz City his opponent Ferenc Berkes missed a checkmate in a position with a piece up (yes, White had some compensation, but I think not more).



28...♕c4?? 29.♕d7#! 1–0! Almasi leads with an impressive 5½ points out of 6, and today in our Annotated Game Section you'll find his powerful attack from the previous, 5th, round.

Round 6 Results: Horvath – Portisch **0:1** Acs – Ruck **0:1** Gyimesi – Sax **½:½** Almasi – Berkes **1:0** Varga – Cao **½:½**

Round 6 Standings: **1. Almasi** – 5½ points **2.** Ruck – 4 **3-4.** Sax, Portisch – 3½ **5.** Gyimesi – 3 etc.

Exciting finish in Leiden – 'The King' wins CSVN tournament!

Eric van Reen, reporting from Leiden

The King , the chess engine of the program ChessMaster, is the winner of the 3rd International CSVN (Computer Chess Association Netherlands) Tournament! The Dutch

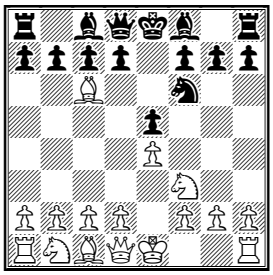
program won the decisive game in the last round against Chess Tiger with the black pieces. Shredder, programmed by Stefan Meyer-Kahlen, a world champion many times over, did not lose a single game in this tournament but had to be satisfied with the second place. The Belgian program Deep Sjeng by Gian-Carlo Pascutto played an excellent tournament, won against Fritz and Chess Tiger and came in third.

Last day The King won another spectacular game against Tao in the seventh round of the tournament. The King, the chess engine of the well-known chess program ChessMaster 9000, lost its first game in the tournament in the penultimate round against Fritz. In the same round Shredder beat Diep, which meant that both programs had 6,5 point out of 8 games. But also Deep Sjeng won in the 8th round, this time against The Baron.

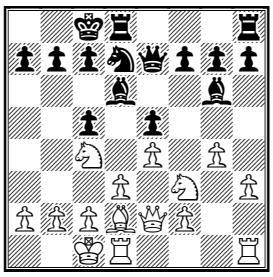
Last round In the last round The King had to play with the black pieces against Chess Tiger and although the French program did not play a good tournament, it is still on of the strongest programs in the world. The King played with a fearless attacking style, so he is a deserved winner of this game and the tournament. 'I played with the same version as last year', De Koning told me after the last game. 'I changed only some minor things, I think that it is very difficult to improve the program further. If I start changing things, the program may get weaker'. De Koning does not want to play in the world championship this year in Graz. 'No, I don't want to play there, I want to play Amazons with my program in the Olympiad, take a look at the chess games and relax a bit. A world championship is a lottery. However, I think that my program would play very well there, it is a strong program, of course.' That's right Johan, and congratulations!
http://www.computerschaak.nl/

Annotated Game

□ **S Cao (2531)**
■ **Z Almasi (2676)**
Event: *53rd ch-HUN Heviz HUN (5), 16.05.2003 C65*
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.♗xc6

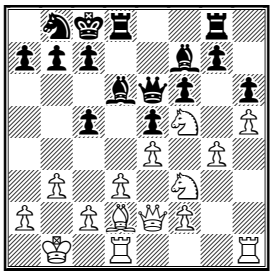


Zoltan Almasi is one of the main experts of the so called Berlin Wall. If 4.0–0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 etc. is rather tricky. It is not surprising that Almasi's opponent decided to avoid this.
4...dxc6 5.d3 ♗d6
White can hardly claim any opening advantage in this line: Black has two bishops and no weaknesses.
6.♘bd2 ♗g4!? 7.h3 ♗h5!?
It looks like Black finds complications.
8.g4
And White doesn't avoid them either
8...♗g6 9.♘c4 ♘d7 10.♗d2 ♕e7 11.♕e2 0-0-0 12.0-0-0 c5

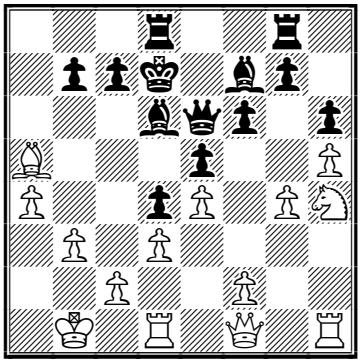


Black takes the d4-square under control and prevents d3-d4.
13.♘e3
The knight is going to d5 or f5.
13...♕e6 14.♔b1 f6
The g6 bishop returns into play. From f7 he will (together with the e6) queen disturb the king on b1.

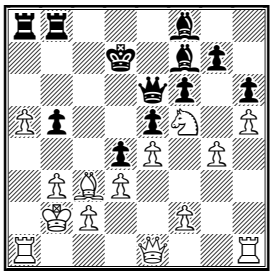
15.h4 ♗f7 16.b3 ♘b8
With idea Nb8–c6–d4 or –b4.
17.h5
Obviously White didn't like 17.g5?! in view of 17...♗h5 but after h4–h5, Black could stop all White's play on the kingside.
17...h6 18.♘f5 ♖hg8



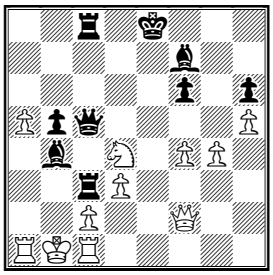
Here it is. Of course the rook likes open files etc., but from g8 this rook alone defends all Black's kingside. So it's still a very useful rook even on g8.
19.♘3h4?!
I'd rather play Bc3 and Nd2 to defend the king. White hasn't any chances on the kingside.
19...♘c6 20.♕f1 a5 21.a4 ♘d4!?
With the unpleasant threat Nxb3. Black is ready to sacrifice a pawn to open some files to his opponent's king.
22.♘xd4 cxd4 23.♗xa5 ♔d7!



Now the rooks go to the queenside to attack the king.
24.♔b2 ♖a8 25.♕e1 ♖gb8 26.♘f5 ♗f8
The f5 knight is very nicely placed, but in reality does nothing while all the Black pieces are ready to attack.
27.♗d2 b5 28.a5
White tries to keep files closed.
28...c5! 29.♖a1 c4
The attack is terrible. Now White can't save the bishop.
30.♗b4 c3+ 31.♗xc3



31...♖c8!
Much stronger than 31...dxc3+ 32.♕xc3 Black simply continues his offence.
32.♗xd4 exd4 33.♕d2
33.♘xd4 ♕e5 34.♕e3 *(34.c3 b4–+)* 34...♗b4–+
33...♕e5 34.b4 ♖c3 35.f4 ♕c7 36.♕f2 ♔e8 37.♖hc1 ♖c8 38.e5
A disastrous attempt at counterplay.
38...♗xb4 39.exf6 gxf6 40.♘xd4 ♕c5 41.♔b1



And a nice final blow. White resigned.
41...♖b3+! 0–1

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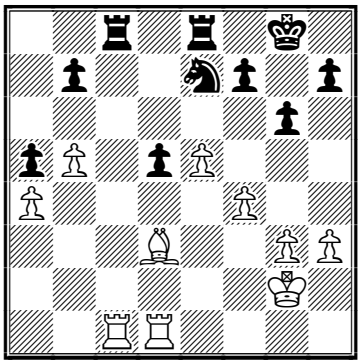
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-140(924) 20th May 2003

Strategic Move Today

From our annotated game



White to play

Chess News

33rd Bosnian Tournament Sarajevo

Shirov – Sokolov ½-½
Radjabov - Movsesian ½-½
Kasimdzhanov - Bareev 1-0
Dizdarevic - Kurajica ½-½
Damljanovic - Kozul 0-1

Round 2 Standings:
1-5. Shirov, Sokolov, Radjabov, Movsesian. Kasimdzhanov 1½;
6-7. Kurajica, Kozul 1.0;
8. Dizdarevic ½;
9-10. Bareev. Damljanovic 0.0;

Thanks to Andy McFarland, who is an administrator on the Internet Chess Club (www.chessclub.com) for pointing out that the Capablanca Memorial hadn't finished. However, the situation with the website is so confused that we can't give an update at time of going to press. (GKB)

53rd Hungarian Chess Championships

Round 6 Standings:
Almasi 5½;
Ruck, 4.0;
3-4. Sax, Portisch, Lajos 3½;
5. Gyimesi 3.0;

Annotated Game

☐ **R Kasimdzhanov (2680)**
■ **E Bareev (2734)**
Event: *33rd Bosnian Tournament Sarajevo 19.05.2003 D18*
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

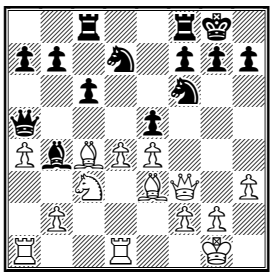
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 6.e3 e6 7.♗xc4 ♗b4 8.0-0 ♘bd7 9.♕e2 ♗g4 10.h3 ♗xf3 11.♕xf3 0-0 12.♖d1 ♖c8

Bareev has been playing this variant of the Slavonic defence for ages: Here is a loss against Kasparov at Novgorod 1994: 12...♕a5 13.e4 e5 14.d5 ♘b6 15.♗b3 ♗xc3 16.bxc3 cxd5 17.exd5 ♖ac8 18.c4 ♖fe8 19.♗d2 ♕a6 20.d6 ♘bd7 21.♗e3 ♖c6 22.a5 ♖xd6 23.♗a4 ♖xd1+ 24.♖xd1 ♖d8 25.c5 h6 26.♕f5 g6 27.♕c2 ♕xa5 28.♖d6 ♔g7 29.♕d1 ♕c7 30.h4 ♔h8 31.h5 g5 32.♕f3 ♔g7 33.♕f5 b6 34.♗xd7 ♘xd7 35.♗xg5 1-0

13.e4

And here is a win against Ljubojevic at Monte Carlo 2003: 13.♕e2 ♕a5 14.♘a2 ♗e7 15.♗d2 ♕c7 16.b4 e5 17.♘c1 ♘b6 18.♗b3 e4 19.♕e1 ♘bd5 20.♘e2 ♗d6 21.♖dc1 ♕d7 22.♖ab1 a6 23.♗a2 h5 24.♘g3 h4 25.♘f1 ♖fe8 26.♕e2 b5 27.♗e1 ♕e7 28.f4 exf3 29.♕xf3 ♘xb4 30.♗xb4 ♗xb4 31.♖xc6 ♖xc6 32.♕xc6 bxa4 33.e4 a5 34.e5 ♕d7 35.♕xd7 ♘xd7 36.♖c1 ♘f8 37.♔f2 ♘e6 38.♔e3 ♖d8 39.d5 ♘c5 40.♖c2 ♘b3 41.♔e4 f5+ 42.exf6 gxf6 43.♘e3 ♖e8+ 44.♔d3 ♖e5 45.♖c7 ♔f8 46.♘g4 ♖xd5+ 47.♔e4 ♖d2 48.♗b1 ♖b2 49.♗c2 ♘c5+ 0-1

13...e5 14.♗e3 ♕a5



15.♘a2 ♗d6 16.♘c3

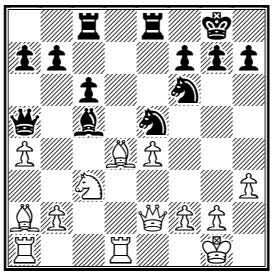
Rustam repeats the moves, showing

peaceful intent, but Evgenij has made a decision to continue to fight after yesterday's defeat.

16...exd4 17.♗xd4 ♘e5 18.♕e2 ♖fe8

Black can't capture the bishop, because it damages the safety of his king. 18...♘xc4 19.♗xf6 gxf6 20.♕xc4

19.♗a2 ♗c5

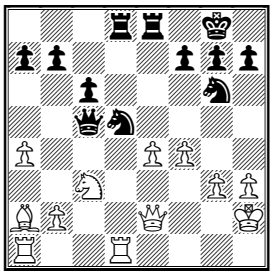


In this quiet position White made a crucial decision.

20.f4 ♖cd8!

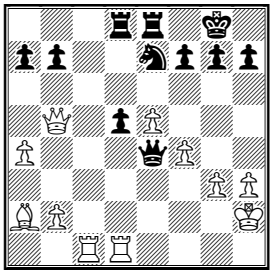
Otherwise Black loses the struggle for the centre.

21.♗xc5 ♕xc5+ 22.♔h2 ♘g6 23.g3 ♘d5!?



It was possible to manage without spectacular moves. 23...♘e7 is playable with an almost equal position.

24.♘xd5 cxd5 25.e5 ♘e7 26.♖ac1 ♕b4 27.♕b5 ♕e4



White's advantage has become very visible: bishop against knight, isolated pawn on d5, and the black Queen is wandering in the centre like a lost soul.

28.♗b1 ♕e3 29.♔g2!

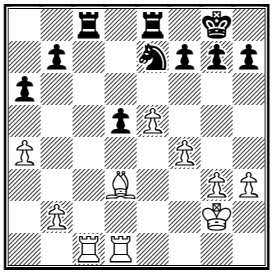
The king takes squares from the black Queen himself – nobody can come to help him.

29...a6

After 29...d4 White should exchange Queens immediately:

After A) 30.♖e1 ♕d2+ 31.♔g1! *(After 31.♔f3 d3! 32.♖cd1 ♕h2 33.♗xd3 ♘c6* the white King risks too much.*)* 31...a6 32.♕b3 ♘c6 Black comes close to equality.; and B) 30.♕d3! 30...♘f5! 31.♖e1 ♕xd3 32.♗xd3 is ±

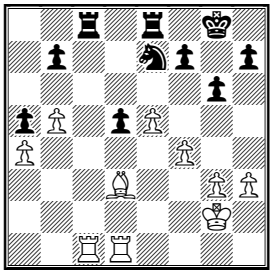
30.♕d3 ♕xd3 31.♗xd3 ♖c8



Black's position is cheerless.

32.b4 g6 33.b5 a5

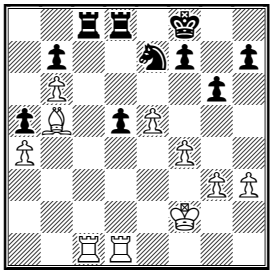
Exchanges make defence easier – there are more chances for escape after 33...axb5 34.axb5 ♔f8



34.b6!

Not allowing Black to lock the white pawns on squares the same colour as the bishop..

34...♔f8 35.♗b5 ♖ed8 36.♔f2



I think this is the decisive moment. And to all appearances, there was mutual time trouble.

36...♘f5?

Here is was necessary to play

36...♖xc1! 37.♖xc1 d4! The black knight gets the d5 square to attack the b6 pawn – serious counterplay.

37.♔f3?

Returning the courtesy. Here the game could have been won with the simple 37.♖xd5!+–

37...♔e7?

After 37...♘d4+ 38.♔e3 ♘xb5 39.axb5 ♖xc1 40.♖xc1 a4 41.♖a1 ♖a8 42.♔d4 ♖a5 Black escapes, I think.

38.g4?

Why not 38.♖xc8 ♖xc8 39.♖xd5± with huge advantage?

38...♘g7?

38...♘d4+ 39.♔e3 ♘xb5 40.axb5 d4+!=

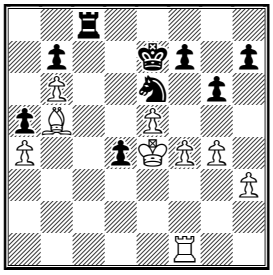
39.♔e3?!

39.♖xc8 ♖xc8 40.♖xd5+–

39...d4+ 40.♔e4 ♘e6

Time trouble is over and White finally exchanges rooks.

41.♖xc8 ♖xc8 42.♖f1



42...f6?

Much more persistent was 42...♖d8 43.♖c1 f5+! 44.exf6+ ♔xf6 with big chances for a draw.

43.exf6+ ♔xf6 44.f5! gxf5+ 45.♖xf5+ ♔e7 46.♖h5

White executes the finish with some refinement:

46...♖d8 47.♖xh7+ ♔f6 48.♖h6+ ♔e7 49.♖h5! ♖d6 50.♗c4 d3 51.♗xe6 ♖xe6+ 52.♔xd3 ♖xb6 53.♖xa5 ♖b3+ 54.♔e4 ♖xh3 55.♖b5 ♔f6 56.♔f4

1–0

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Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (3531)283- 6839.

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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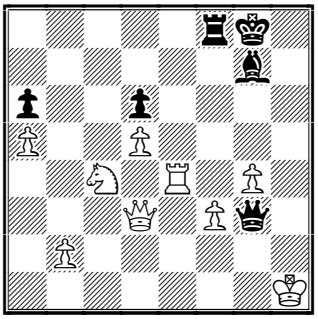
CT-141(925) 21st May 2003

Quiz Today

Kozul-Radjabov
Sarajevo 2003



Black to play

Chess News

Chess Today received the following information about the forth-coming ***St. Petersburg vs. Paris match*** from Ilya Manakov, administrator and webmaster of www.ruschess.com:

Chess match St. Petersburg vs. Paris will take place on 28 May 2003, on the day of celebration of the 300 years anniversary of St. Petersburg. Its team will consist of:

1. Alexander Khalifman
2. Peter Svidler
3. Victor Korchnoi
4. Konstantin Sakaev

Commentators in St. Petersburg will be Anatoly Karpov and Boris Spassky.

The "NAO chess club" team will be represented by:
1. Vladimir Kramnik
2. Teimour Radjabov
3. Laurent Fressinet
4. Sergey Karjakin

GM Joel Lautier will be commentator in Paris. Chief arbiter: Geurt Gijssen. Games and video coverage of the match will be available at www.ruschess.com.

As much as we would like to conclude our coverage of the 37th Capablanca Memorial in Havana, we cannot do it at this moment – the tournament Web site seems to be dead and results of the last round are not known...

The traditional Bosna tournament is in progress in Sarajevo. Round 3 saw the following results:

Kozul-Radjabov 0-1
I. Sokolov - Damljanovic 1-0
Kurajica-Shirov ½-½
Bareev-Dizdarevic 1-0
Movsesian-Kasimdzhanov ½-½

Our short review of the round:

Radjabov played the King's Indian Defence - maybe he will bring this opening back into fashion, after another 'boy from Baku' has abandoned it?

Damljanovic (by the way, that was another KID!) blundered a checkmate in one move, though his position was already bad. After two losses, Elo-favourite of the tournament Bareev nicely outplayed Dizdarevic in the Semi-Slav. His 19.b4 was classy!

Standings after 3 rounds:

1-2. Radjabov (2644) and I. Sokolov (2677) – 2½ points;
3-5. Shirov (2735), Movsesian (2659) and Kasimdzhanov (2680) – 2 points;
6. Kurajica (2551) – 1½ points;
7-8. Bareev (2734) and Kozul (2601) – 1 point;
9. Dizdarevic (2491) - ½ point;
10. Damljanovic (2587) – 0 point.

See games from round 3 in our database.

Round 7 of the Hungarian Championship saw all games drawn (but only 2 were quick draws):
Cao – A. Horváth ½-½
Berkes-Varga ½-½

Sax–Almási½–½
Ruck–Gyimesi ½–½
Portisch–Ács ½–½

But round 8 proved to be much livelier. It turned out to be a 'black' day for White:

A. Horváth – Ács 0–1
Gyimesi–Portisch 0–1
Almási–Ruck ½–½
Varga–Sax ½–½
Cao–Berkes 0–1

Standings after 8 rounds:
1. Zoltan Almasi (2676) – 6½ points;
2–3. Lajos Portisch (2583) and Robert Ruck (2569) – 5 points;
4. Sax (2511) – 4½ points;
5. Berkes (2578) – 4 points;
6–7. Gyimesi (2567) and Acs (2600) – 3½ points;
8–9. Varga (2533) and Cao (2531) – 3 points;
10. Adam Horvath (2503) – 2 points.

See games from rounds 7 and 8 in our database.

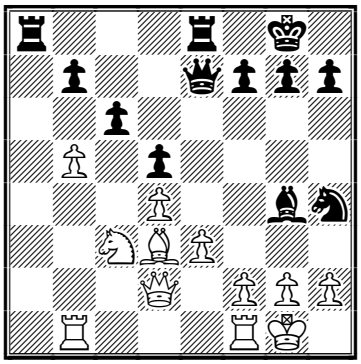
Galway Open.

Yours truly was lucky enough to win the first prize (500 euros) in a small (46 players) open tournament in the west of Ireland, which took place on 17–18 May. It was a very pleasant event, sponsored by HP, and I played a number of good games there. I will show one of them today. Results:
1. Alex Baburin – 5 points out of 5;
2. Paul Walsh – 4½ points;
3–5. Yuri Rochev, Richard O'Donovan and Rory Quinn – 3 points; etc.

Hawk Eye of Chess Today

Those Chess Today readers who are frequent visitors to ICC would know that ***Hawkeye*** is handle of German GM Roland Schmaltz, who excels in bullet chess (one minute per game each).

However, if we had to choose a reader with super vision, I would certainly nominate IM John Donaldson (Berkley, USA). A while ago he spotted something special about the following position:



White to play

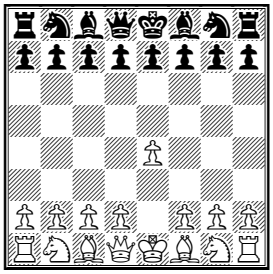
It arose in the game Grabarczyk–Jakubowski (see CT–898) after the following moves: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♗e7 5.♗g5 0–0 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.♕c2 ♖e8 9.♗d3 ♘f8 10.0–0 c6 11.♖ab1 a6 12.b4 ♘e4 13.♗xe7 ♕xe7 14.a4 ♘g6 15.b5 axb5 16.axb5 ♗g4 17.♘d2? ♘xd2 18.♕xd2 ♘h4!. Black won the game after 19.♗e2 ♗h3! 20.g3 ♕f6! 21.♕d1 ♗xf1 22.♗xf1 ♘f3+ 23.♔g2 ♘g5 24.bxc6 bxc6 25.♖b6 g6!? 26.♘xd5? ♕d8! 0–1

As John Donaldson promptly pointed out, that game had a famous predecessor: Taimanov–Nezhmetdinov, Kiev, 1954, which went: **19.f3 ♕xe3+ 20.♕xe3 ♖xe3 21.fxg4 ♖xd3 22.bxc6 bxc6 23.♘e2 ♖d2 24.♖f2 h6 25.♖bf1 ♘g6 26.h3 f6 27.♘g3 ♖xd4** and Black was two pawns up. Despite that, he failed to win the game – Nezhmetdinov was not the best chess technician. However, he was a brilliant attacking player, who had positive score against Tal. If you would like to learn more about him, see excellent book ***'Nezhmetdinov's Best Games of Chess'***, available at the GM Square online shop.

Annotated Game

□ **A. Baburin (2558)**
■ **D. O'Donoghue (1713)**
Event: *Galway Open (1), 17.05.2003*
Sicilian Defence; Kalashnikov Variation [B32]
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

1.e4 *(D)*



No, this is not a mistake in the game input! But if Kramnik can learn to play 1.e4, so can I! :-) But seriously, I just hoped that 800 rating points difference would help me to survive the damage done by my first move!

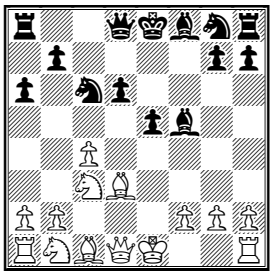
1...c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e5 5.♘b5 d6

This is so-called Kalashnikov Variation, which is similar in structure to the Sveshnikov Variation. The important difference is that here Black allows c2-c4, but can in his turn activate his f8-bishop via e7 and g5 (the knight is not on f6 yet!). By the way, what a load of crap that name (Kalashnikov) is – if UK chess publishers will have their way, soon we will have UZI Variation and Browning System! :-(

6.c4 a6

I guess this is inaccurate and 6...♗e7 7.♘1c3 a6 8.♘a3 should have been preferred. See more on this subject in the book 'Sicilian Kalashnikov' by Jan Pinski and Jacob Aagaard, available from GM Square online shop.

7.♘5c3 f5 8.exf5 ♗xf5 9.♗d3 *(D)*



9...♗xd3?!

Now the white squares in Black's camp become rather weak. I would have played 9...♗e6.

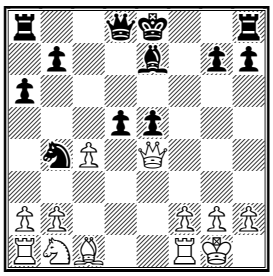
10.♕xd3 ♘f6 11.0-0 ♗e7 12.♘d5

Another example: 12.♗e3 0–0 13.♘d2 ♕e8 14.♘d5 ♘xd5 15.cxd5 ♘b8 16.♖ac1 ♘d7 17.♖c7 b6 18.♘e4 ♘c5 19.♗xc5 bxc5 20.♕h3 and White soon won in the game L. Bronstein-Perucca, Buenos Aires 1992.

12...♘xd5 13.♕xd5 ♘b4?!

I thought that Black should challenge the annoying d5-queen by 13...♕a5. Then after 14.♘c3 ♕xd5 15.♘xd5 White has an edge in the endgame, but game goes on.

14.♕e4 d5? *(D)*



Obviously, this is the point of Black's previous play – now 15.cxd5 ♕xd5 16.♘c3 ♕xe4 17.♘xe4 would be OK for his. But White can refute this idea:

15.♕xe5! ♘c2

After 15...0–0 16.♘c3 dxc4 17.♕e6+ Black is a pawn down with little compensation, but that was already the lesser evil. Now he has trapped the a1–rook, but at a very high cost:

16.♘c3!

This is far better than 16.♕xg7 ♗f6.

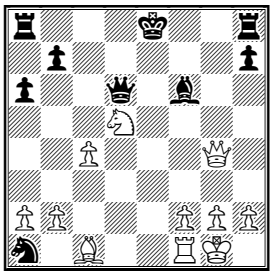
16...♕d6

Or 16...0–0 17.♘xd5 ♘xa1 18.♘xe7+ ♔h8 19.♗g5+-.

17.♕xg7 ♗f6 18.♕g4

Of course, White is also winning after 18.♕xb7 ♖b8 19.♕xd5 ♕xd5 20.♘xd5.

18...♘xa1 19.♘xd5 *(D)*



So, we have three pawns for a rook, the enemy king is stuck in the centre and his pieces are uncoordinated – all of this means that the end is near!
19...♗e5 20.♖e1 ♘c2 21.♕h5+ ♔d8 22.♖xe5 ♘b4 23.♗g5+ ♔c8 24.♖e8+ 1-0

Solution to our quiz:
Kozul-Radjabov: **43...♔f7! 44.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 45.♔g2 ♖h8 46.♕b3 ♕h2+ 47.♔f1 ♕h1+ 0-1**

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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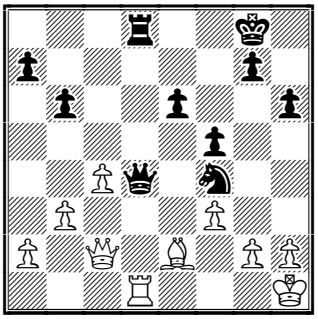
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-142(926) 22nd May 2003

Quiz Today

Kursova-Stepovaya
Elista (4), 21.05.2003



Black to play

Chess News

While the Cuban site dedicated to the 37th Capablanca Memorial in Havana is still not accessible, thanks to our reader Andy McFarland (admin of ICC), we have found the relevant information on the excellent Europe-Echecs site.

Final Standings:
1. Julio Granda – 8 points out of 11;
2. Lázaro Bruzón – 7½ points;
3-5 Morovic, Dominguez and Ikonnikov – 6½ points;
6-8. Arencibia, Leitao and Andersson – 5½ points;
9. Nogueiras – 4½ points;
10-11. Gonzalez and Vera – 3½ points;
12. Zapata – 3 points.

In the last round 4 out of 6 games were decisive – see our database.

Round 4 of the Bosna tournament in Sarajevo gave the following results:

Radjabov-Kasimdzhanov ½-½
Dizdarevic-Movsesian 0-1
Shirov-Bareev ½-½
Damljanovic-Kurajica 0-1
Kozul - I. Sokolov ½-½

GM Damljanovic is clearly in bad shape – he has lost all his games so far... And in closed tournaments opponents sense such weakness like sharks sense blood!

Standings after 4 rounds:
1-3. Radjabov (2644), Movsesian (2659) and I. Sokolov (2677) – 3 points;
4-6. Shirov (2735), Kurajica (2551) and Kasimdzhanov (2680) – 2½ points;
7-8. Bareev (2734) and Kozul (2601) – 1½ points;
9. Dizdarevic (2491) - ½ point;
10. Damljanovic (2587) – 0 point.

See games from round 4 in our database.

The last round of the Hungarian Championship was quite peaceful – only one decisive game out of five:

Berkes-Horvath ½–½
Sax-Cao ½–½
Ruck-Varga ½–½
Portish-Almasi ½–½
Acs-Gyimesi 1–0

Peter Acs won a good game – check it out in our database.

Final Standings:
1. Zoltan Almasi (2676) - 7 points;
2-3. Lajos Portisch (2583) and Robert Ruck (2569) – 5½ points;
4. Sax (2511) – 5 points;
5-6. Berkes (2578) and Acs (2600) – 4½ points;
7-9. Gyimesi (2567), Varga (2533) and Cao (2531) – 3½ points;
10. Adam Horvath (2503) – 2½ points.

The Russian Club Championship is in progress in Togliatti, on Volga. There are 14 teams participating in the tournament and many of them are extremely strong. The fist stage, when 7 teams in 2 groups are fighting for 6 places in the main final, is nearly over.

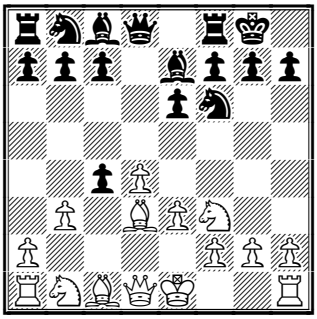
In group 'A' all finalists are more or less clear – these are '***Tomsk-400 Yukos***' (Tomsk; Morozevich, Khalifman, Filippov, Landa, Kobalia, Pigusov, Belozerov and Khasin, average rating – 2606), '***Max Wen***' (Ekaterinburg; Grischuk, Vaganian, Motylev, Sveshnikov, etc, average rating – 2596) and '***Politekhnik***' (Nizhniy Tagil; Yakovenko, Vokarev, Potkin, etc, average rating 2482).

In group 'B' two qualifiers are clear: '***Ladia-Kazan-1000***'(Rublevsky, Smirin, Bologan, Kharlov, etc. average rating – 2577) and '***Norilsky Nikel***' (Norilsk; Dreev, Onischuk, Malakhov, Zviagintsev, Rustemov, Naer, Dolmatov and Galkin, average rating 2633!). For the last place in the final there will be a battle between '***St. Petersburg***' (Svidler, Sakaev, Korchnoi, Volkov, etc, average rating 2617) and the local team 'Lada' (average rating 2471).

It seems that games from the tournament are not available yet.

Annotated Game

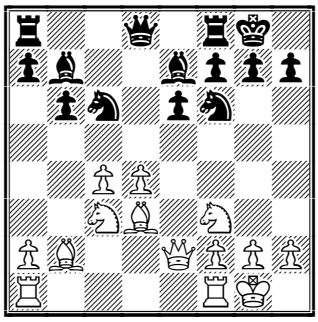
□ **Joe Ryan (2295)**
■ **Alex Baburin (2558)**
Event: *Galway Open (4), 18.05.2003 [D30]*
Annotations: GM Alex Baburin
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3
Not a very ambitious move, but as my opponent usually plays 1.e4, perhaps he just wanted to avoid mainstream theory.
4...♗e7 5.b3 0-0 6.♗d3 dxc4 *(D)*



I wanted to get an asymmetrical pawn structure, which gives better winning (and losing!) chances.

Creating pawn imbalances is one of the best ways to assure a proper chess fight!

6...c5 7.0–0 ♘c6 8.♗b2 cxd4 9.exd4 b6 10.♘bd2 ♘b4 11.♗e2 ♗b7 12.a3 ♘c6 13.♗d3 dxc4 14.bxc4 ♕c7 15.♖e1 ♕f4 16.♕e2 ♖ad8 17.♕e3 ♕xe3 18.fxe3 ♘d7 19.♗c3 ½–½ Seirawan-Xu Jun, Seattle 2001.
7.bxc4
7.♗xc4 would lead to a much more boring position.
7...c5 8.0-0 cxd4
I did not like that after 8...b6 White could play 9.e4. Perhaps most accurate is 8...♘c6 - the knight has no better square than c6 anyway.
9.exd4 b6 10.♗b2 ♗b7 11.♘c3
11.♘bd2 would keep White's pawns better protected, but it would be less aggressive - it will be harder to manage the d4-d5 break then.
11...♘c6 12.♕e2 *(D)*



This is quite a popular position. White commands more space and should try to manage the d4-d5 break, when his bishops will be pointed at the black king. At the same time White's hanging pawns might come under pressure. Let us see what was tried in this position:
First of all, surprisingly many players fell here for ***12...♘xd4??***. After 13.♘xd4 ♕xd4 14.♘d5 ♕c5 15.♗xf6 gxf6 White wins by either 16.♘xe7+ ♕xe7 17.♕g4+ ♔h8 18.♕h4 1–0 Linqvist-Pihlajasalo, Jyvaskyla 1996, or 16.♕g4+ ♔h8 17.♕h4 f5 18.♘xe7+-.
One of the more well-known games in this line went like this: ***12...♖e8*** 13.♖fd1 ♖c8 14.♖ac1 ♕d6 15.♗b1 ♕f4 16.d5 exd5 17.cxd5 ♘b8 18.♖d4 ♕d6 19.♖cd1 ♗f8 20.♘e4 ♘xe4 21.♖xe4 ♖xe4 22.♕xe4 ♕h6 23.♘g5 ♗d6 24.h4

♘d7 25.♕f5 ♘f6 26.♗xf6 gxf6 27.♘xf7 ♕c1 28.♕xh7+ ♔f8 29.♘xd6 ♕xd1+ 30.♔h2 ♕xd5 31.♘xb7 ♕e5+ 32.g3 ♖c7 33.♕h8+ ♔f7 34.h5 ♖xb7 35.♕h7+ ♔e6 36.♕xb7 ♕xh5+ 37.♔g2 1–0 Keres–Taimanov, Moscow 1951.

Also interesting is ***12...♘b4*** 13.♗b1 ♖c8 14.a3 *(14.♖d1 ♗xf3 15.gxf3 ♕c7 16.a3 ♘c6 17.d5 ♘a5 18.♘e4 ♘xc4 19.♘xf6+ ♗xf6?! 20.♕e4±* Franco–Granda, Leon 1990.*)* 14...♗xf3 15.♕xf3 ♘c6 16.d5 ♘e5 17.♕e2 ♘xc4 18.dxe6 ♘xb2 19.exf7+ ♔h8 20.♕xb2 ♗d6∓ Ahman–Ljungqvist, Sundsvall 1969. Anyway, the move which I chose, is not bad either:

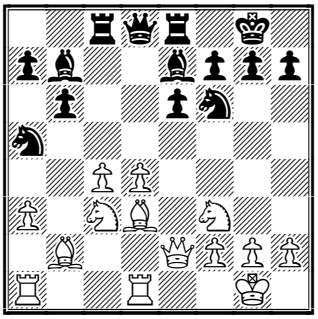
12...♖c8 13.a3

This move has both advantages and drawbacks.

13...♖e8 14.♖fd1

Perhaps better was 14.♖ad1!?.

14...♘a5! *(D)*

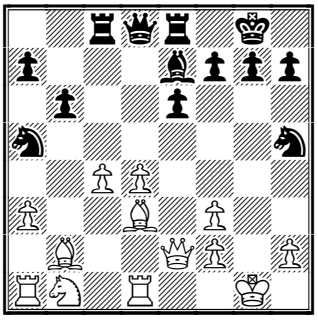


Black already has quite strong pressure – d4–d5 is not on the menu and the hanging pawns require serious attention.

15.♘b1?

This is positional capitulation. Better was 15.♘d2. Then Black could risk grabbing the pawn: 15...♕xd4 16.♘de4 ♘xe4 17.♘xe4 ♕d8 or continue with his plan of fortifying the kingside – 15...♗f8.

15...♗xf3 16.gxf3 ♘h5 *(D)*

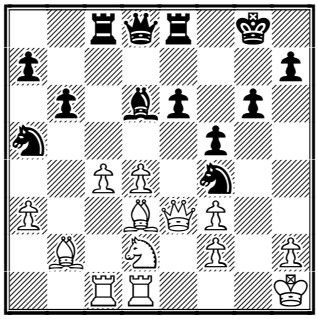


Who said that knights on the rim were dim?! :–)

17.♕e4 g6 18.♘d2 ♗d6

Also good was 18...♗g5, but I wanted to target the king!

19.♖ac1 ♘f4 20.♔h1 f5! 21.♕e3 *(D)*



21...♘b3

I was quite proud of this move during the game, but apparently this sacrifice was not necessary – much easier was 21...♕h4! 22.♘f1 ♕h3!–+. I missed that quiet move completely! Somebody said that moving the queen just one square is one of the hardest moves to find in chess.

22.♘xb3 ♕h4 23.♗f1

Or 23.♔g1 ♕h3 24.♗f1 ♘e2+ 25.♗xe2 ♕xh2+ 26.♔f1 ♕h1#.

23...♘d5 24.f4 ♘xe3 25.fxe3 ♕f2

The rest is easy:

26.c5 ♗b8 27.d5 ♕xb2 28.d6 ♕xb3 29.d7 ♕xe3 30.c6 ♕xf4 31.c7 ♗xc7 0–1

Solution to our quiz:

Kursova–Stepovaya: **31...♕f2! 0–1** White resigned as after 32.♖xd8+ ♔h7 she could not defend the g2–square.

36th Cotswold Chess Congress

www.easytorecall.com/stroudchess/cotswold_congress_2003.html THE popular Cotswold Congress will take place on Sat 24th Sun 25th and Mon 26th May 2003. We are lucky to have the use of St Edwards School in Cheltenham this year. There will be 4 sections as usual, Open, under 155, under 125 and under 100. If you want to play the tournament just email me, graham@easytorecall.com, and I will register you straight away. You can pay on the day and there will be no late fee!

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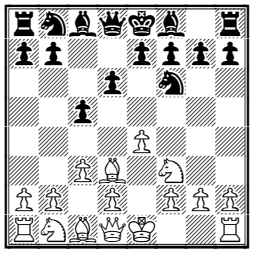

If you like the Ruy Lopez *but Black insists on a* **Sicilian** *try this tricky* bishop manoeuvre!

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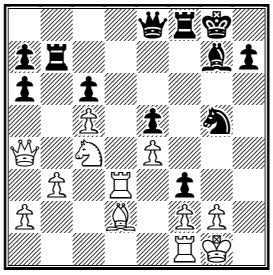
CT-143(927) 23rd May 2003

Quiz Today

Dizdarevic (2491) -Movsesian (2659)
Sarajevo 2003

From today's annotated game ..



Black to play

Chess News

Ivan Sokolov became the sole leader after a technical victory over young Teimour Radjabov in the 5th Round of the 33rd Bosnia Tournament in Sarajevo. Two other victims of this day were, as before, Dizdarevic and Damljanovic, who have only ½ point and zero now ..

As usual we had included all 5 games in our cbv and pgn files.

Round 5 Results:
I. Sokolov – Radjabov **1:0**
Movsesian – Shirov **½:½**
Kasimdzhanov – Dizdarevic **1:0**
Kurajica – Kozul **½:½**
Bareev – Damljanovic **1:0**

Round 5 Standings:
1. Sokolov – 4 points
2-3. Kasimdzhanov, Movsesian – 3½
4-6. Radjabov, Shirov, Kurajica – 3
7. Bareev – 2½
8. Kozul – 2
9. Dizdarevic – ½
10. Damljanovic – 0

Also see our Annotated Game section.

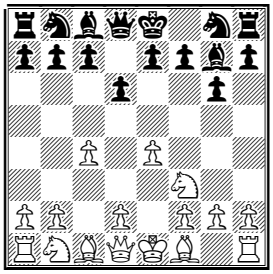
The first stage of the Russian Team Championships has finished in Togliatti. Just recall that there were two semi final groups with 7 teams in each, and only 3 from each group continue a struggle for title now. They now have as many team points as they got against the other finalists in the first stage. So '**Norilsky Nikel**' and '**Tomsk-400 Yukos**' have 3 team points, '**St. Petersburg**' and '**Max Wen**' – 2, '**Politekhnik**' and '**Ladia-Kazan-1000**' – 1.

As for individual results, **A. Morozevich** (Tomsk) has 5 points out of 6, **V. Zvjagintsev** (Norilsky Nikel) – 4½/5, **A. Khalifman, K. Landa** (both – Tomsk) and **V. Malakhov** (Norilsky Nikel) – 4/5 etc.

Annotated Game

☐ **E Dizdarevic (2491)**
■ **S Movsesian (2659)**
Event: *Bosnia GM Sarajevo BIH (4), 21.05.2003 - E91*
Annotations: IM Vladimir Barsky

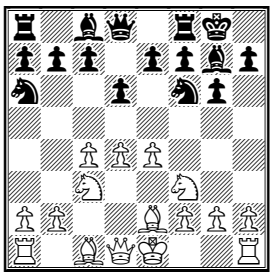
1.♘f3 g6 2.c4 ♗g7 3.e4 d6



2-3 years ago some young grandmasters were writing that the King's Indian Defence was almost an incorrect opening. Obviously they were under the influence of Kramnik's attitude to this opening for White. Yes Vladimir has very good results in the King's Indian, and it's not a coincidence that Garry Kasparov didn't use this opening in London 2000 vs him. But of course it's not possible to talk about a "refutation" of it - simply Kramnik is a very strong player! And lately, thanks to young Radjabov, Ilja Smirin and Sergei Movsesian, Black

has begun to play the King's Indian more often.

4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 0-0 6.♗e2 ♘a6!?



More popular is 6...e5

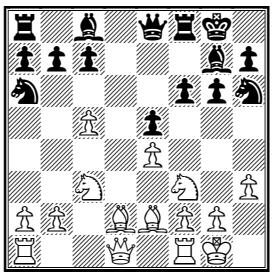
7.0-0 e5

Black would like to get the c5-square for his knight.

8.♗e3

However, White doesn't want to play d4-d5.

8...♘g4 9.♗g5 ♕e8 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.h3 f6 12.♗d2 ♘h6 13.c5

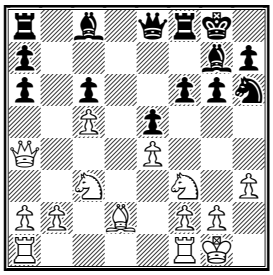


It's not a pawn sacrifice, just a theoretical move with the idea of gaining some space on the queenside and to destroy his opponent's pawn structure there.

13...c6

13...♘xc5?! 14.♕c1 ♘f7 15.♘d5 ♘e6 16.♘xc7 ♘xc7 17.♕xc7±

14.♗xa6 bxa6 15.♕a4

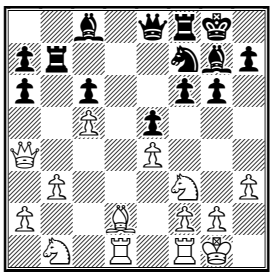


In previous games, White prefered to exchange the second bishop for the second "on board" knight, for example: 15.♗xh6 ♗xh6 16.♕a4 ♖f7 *(16...♖b8 17.b3 ♖f7 18.♖fd1 ♗f8 19.♕a5 ♔g7 20.♘a4 ♖b5 21.♕c3 ♗e6* Mellegers - Piket, Lost Boys open 2001*)* 17.♖fd1 ♗f8 18.♕a5 ♕e7 19.♖d8 ♕c7 20.♕xc7 ♖xc7 21.♖ad1 ♔f7 van Wely - Comes, Escaldes 1998. At first sight this decision looks a bit strange, but wait a little and see how strong the h6 knight will be in this game...

15...♘f7 16.♖ad1 ♖b8 17.b3 ♖b7

The rook is going onto the d-file or onto the king side for attack. It's hard to believe that White could take a6 pawn while the black bishop is on c8 still.

18.♘b1?!



A week ago Vassily Ivanchuk annotated one of his games for the Russian newspaper "Chess Weekly" and made the following annotation for one of his opponent's moves: "This move is too ugly to be good". I believe we could say the same about White's maneuvre in this game. Dizdarevic prepares the maneuvre Nb1–a3-c4 and maybe d6, but it's to slow and too... ugly. Better was 18.♖fe1

18...f5 19.♘a3?!

19.exf5 gxf5 20.♖fe1

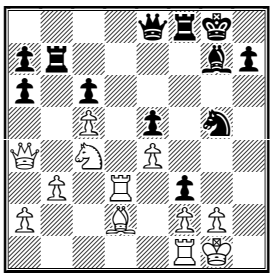
19...f4 20.♘c4 g5 21.♗c3?!

According to Fritz, White is much better (almost winning!) after 21.♘d6?! ♘xd6 22.cxd6; but I suspect it was a time to think about defence - 21.♘h2 Alas, the a4 queen is far away from the kingside, and with the knight on c4 it's very difficult to return the a4 queen into her own camp.

21...g4 22.hxg4 ♗xg4 23.♖d3?

It looks like 23.♘cd2 was White's last chance for draw. The site www.worldchessrating.ru had asked Dizdarevic if he forgot that White could be checkmated in the King's Indian from time to time? I could only repeat this question.

23...♗xf3 24.♖xf3 ♘g5 25.♖d3 f3! 26.♗d2



And now a nice final blow: 26.♘d6 ♕g6 27.g3 *(27.♘xb7 ♘h3+ 28.♔h2 ♕xg2#)* 27...♕h5–+

26...♘h3+! 27.♔h2

27.gxh3 ♕g6+ 28.♔h2 ♕g2#

27...♕g6 28.♖xf3

28.gxf3 ♘f4 29.♗xf4 *(29.♘e3 ♕h5+ 30.♔g1 ♘e2+ 31.♔g2 ♕xf3+–+)* 29...♖xf4 30.♖d8+ ♗f8–+

28...♖xf3 29.gxf3 ♕h5 30.♘e3

30.♔g2 ♗f6–+

30...♘g5+

30...♘g5+ 31.♔g1 *(31.♔g2 ♕h3+ 32.♔g1 ♘xf3#)* 31...♕h3–+

0–1

♘♘♘

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-144(928) 24th May 2003

Chess News

Russian Team Championships

The Final stage of tournament has started today. The three winners from each of the sub-groups take their places in it. Tomsk-400 YUKOS suddenly lost to Ladia-Kazan-1000. Morozevich lost to Rublevsky and Landa lost to Kharlov, Filippov with the black pieces beat Bologan, but it didn't rescue Tomsk's team from defeat. Norilsky Nikel beat Politechnik (Nizhny Tagil) confidently, Dreev and Malakhov brought victories to their teem. Dreev defeated Yakovenko and Malakhov beat Potkin. St.Petersburg Lentransgaz beat Max Ven (Ekaterinburg). Volkov beat Sveshnikov and Smirnov beat Tseshkovsky. 2 rounds before the end Norilsky Nikel leads having 5 command points. St.Petersburg Lentransgaz takes the 2nd place with 4 points. Tomsk and Kazan have 3 points each.

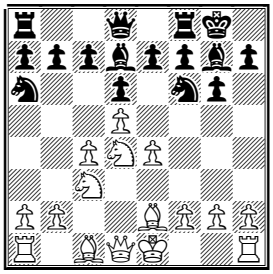
Dreev — Yakovenko 1-0
Vokarev — Onischuk ½-½
Malakhov — Potkin 1-0
Kovalevskaya — Zviagintsev ½-½
Svidler — Grischuk ½-½
Vaganian — Sakaev ½-½
Korchnoi — Motylev ½-½
Sveshnikov — Volkov 0-1
Rublevsky — Morozevich 1-0
Khalifman — Smirin ½-½
Bologan — Filippov 0-1
Landa — Kharlov 0-1

53 Women Russian Chess Championship

After 6 rounds Evgenija Ovod is on the first place with 5 points, Irina Slavina is chasing her with 4½ points.

Annotated Game

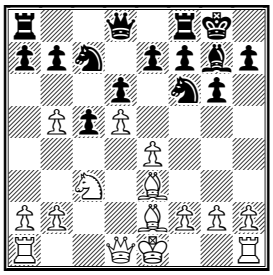
□ R Kasimdzhanov (2680)
■ E Dizdarevic (2491)
Event: Chess21 www.chess21.com, 23.05.2003 E61
Annotations: IM Nikolai Vlassov
1.d4 d6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 g6 4.♘c3 ♗f5 5.d5 ♗g7 6.♘d4 ♗d7 7.e4 0-0 8.♗e2 ♘a6N



Black used to determine his position in the centre here first, and only after that, review his knight's standing: 8...e6 9.♗g5 h6 10.♗h4 exd5 11.cxd5 ♖e8 12.f3 c5 13.♘b3 a6 14.a4 b6 15.♘d2 ♗c8 16.♘c4 ♖a7 17.0-0 ♖b7 18.♔h1 g5 19.♗f2 ♖ee7 20.♗g3 ♖bd7 21.f4 ♘xe4 22.♘xe4 ♖xe4 23.fxg5 hxg5 24.♗d3 ♖d4 25.♕f3 ♗b7 26.♕f5 ♗xd5 27.♕h7+ ♔f8 28.♘e3 ♗b7 29.♘f5 ♕f6 30.♘xd4 ♕xd4 31.♖ad1 ♕xb2 32.♖f2 ♕d4 33.♗c2 ♕c3 34.♗f5 ♕b3 35.♖df1 ♖d8 36.♗c2 ♕d5 37.♗g6 ♖d7 38.♗xd6+ ♔e8 39.♕g8+ 1-0 Polugaevsky,L-Gurgenidze,B/Baku 1961/URS-ch (39); RR 8...c5 9.♘c2 e6 10.♗g5 exd5 11.exd5 ♕b6 12.b3 ♗f5 13.0-0 ♘bd7 14.f3 ♖ae8 15.♗d2 ♘e5 16.♘e1 h5 17.h3 h4 18.♖c1 ♘ed7 19.♗d3 ♗xd3 20.♘xd3 ♘h5 21.♗g5 ♗f6 22.f4 ♗xc3 23.♖xc3 Spassov,L-Nikolov,S/Borovec BUL 2002/The Week in Chess 422/0-1 (40)
9.♗e3 c5 10.♘db5 ♗xb5?!
Black is saying good-bye to his bishop on a voluntary basis. An attempt to take an advantage of the poor positioning of the white knights is well worth considering; 10...♘b4!? For instance, 11.a3 a6 12.axb4 cxb4 13.f3 axb5 14.♘xb5 ♖xa1 15.♕xa1 ♗xb5 16.cxb5 e6 with pretty good

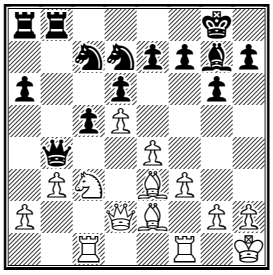
chances of equalizing.

11.cxb5 ♘c7



And what about the knight's position on c7? The point is that the White pawns that the knight is attacking are well protected.

12.0-0 a6 13.bxa6 bxa6 14.f3 ♘d7 15.♕d2 ♕b8 16.♖ac1 ♕b7 17.♔h1 ♖fb8 18.b3 ♕b4

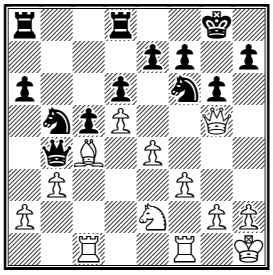


After the opening White has a small advantage (i.e. more space, two bishops, potential for attacking on the kingside), which is not so easy to neutralize. Black should adjust his counter play on the queenside.

19.♗g5 ♗f6

The daring 19...♘b5! is in line with the position. 20.♗xb5 axb5 21.♗xe7 c4 22.bxc4 bxc4 Black's activity is an excellent compensation for a missing pawn. The chances are equal.

20.♗xf6 ♘xf6 21.♕g5 ♖d8 22.♗c4 ♘b5 23.♘e2



Black's position is getting sad. He did not manage to organize his play on the queenside. Now he is going to have an uneasy defense on the kingside.

23...♕a5 24.♘g3 ♔h8 25.f4

The following deserves consideration 25.a4 ♘d4 26.e5± with serious advantage.

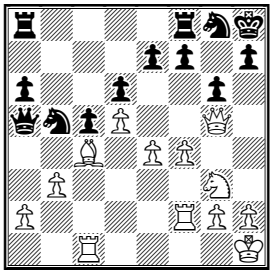
25...♘g8

It was worth taking the pawn in order not to suffer in vain. 25...♕xa2 26.e5 ♘g8

26.♖f2

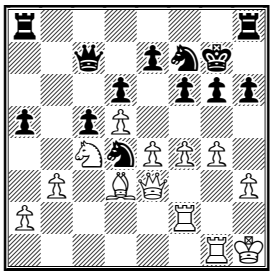
White will not grant such an opportunity a second time!

26...♖f8



Slow maneuvering begins where both opponents are doing their best to improve the position of their pieces before the decisive fight. It is important to mention that White is choosing the proper time for a blow! And he is not in a hurry.

27.♕h4 f6 28.♘f1 ♘d4 29.♕g3 ♘h6 30.♘e3 ♘f7 31.♗d3 ♕d8 32.♘c4 a5 33.♕e3 ♕b8 34.h3 ♔g7 35.♖cf1 ♕c7 36.g4 h6 37.♖g1 ♖h8



Now it is the best time!

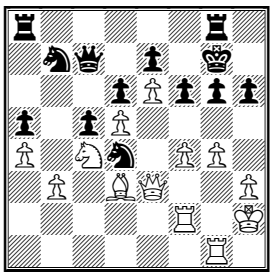
38.e5!? ♖hg8?

Black dooms himself to an agonizing downfall. His timidity in this game deserves censure. The cold-blooded 38...dxe5! 39.♕e4 exf4 40.♖xf4 ♖ad8! maintained chances of successful defense.

39.e6 ♘d8

Having such a knight on d8 there is no hope to escape.

40.♔h2 ♘b7 41.a4!



Giving no chance to Black!

41...♘d8 42.♘d2 ♖b8 43.♗c4 ♖b4 44.h4 ♕b7 45.h5 g5 46.fxg5 hxg5 47.♖g3 ♔h6 48.♘e4

Black resigned. One of the obvious sacrifices of the white knight decides the outcome. There is no defence.

1-0

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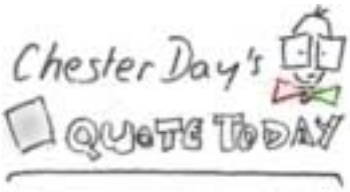

Chess is a mixture of *science, art and sport*, and for some time past mostly sport - *A Karpov*

CHESS TODAY
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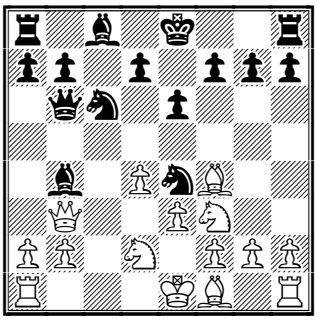
CT-145(929) 25th May 2003

Quiz Today

Two days ago, 12th World Champion Anatoly Karpov celebrated his 52nd birthday, so we see fit to borrow our quiz today from the extensive practice of this great player:

Sangla-Karpov
USSR Team Ch Riga, 1968



Black to play

Chess News

The Bosna tournament in Sarajevo remains the main chess attraction at the moment and round 6 did not disappoint – all games were very interesting. The results were as follows:

Radjabov-Dizdarevic 1-0
Shirov-Kasimdzhanov ½-½
Damljanovic-Movsesian ½-½
Kozul-Bareev 0-1
I. Sokolov – Kurajica 1-0

Young Teimour Radjabov (CT reader!) played a very nice game, developing an initiative from the Anti-Meran Variation 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4!?. If I am not mistaken, that variation is called the Latvian, for it was largely developed by Alexander Shabalov and Alexei Shirov. I hope that this game will be analysed in one of our next issues.

Shirov (another CT reader!) won a pawn in the Ruy Lopez, but Kasimdzhanov had enough compensation for it.

Despite his previous 5(!) losses, Yugoslav GM Branko Damljanovic did not play it safe, having White against Movsesian. Instead he sacrificed a piece and the game ended up in a draw after a lively battle.

Evgeny Bareev has fully recovered from the disastrous start (0 out of 2), having won 3 games since then. Yesterday he outplayed Zdenko Kozul on the Black side of the Meran Variation.

The leader – Ivan Sokolov – fortified his position, converting the 'two bishops' advantage in the endgame vs. Kurajica into a full point. See all games in our database.

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. I. Sokolov (2677) - 5 points;
2-4. Radjabov (2644), Movsesian (2659) and Kasimdzhanov (2680) – 4 points;
5-6. Shirov (2735) and Bareev (2734) – 3½ points;
7. Kurajica (2551) – 3 points;
8. Kozul (2601) – 2 points;
9-10. Damljanovic (2587) and Dizdarevic (2491) - ½ point;

As you may know, the Russian Club Championship is in progress in Togliatti, on Volga. In the final six teams are fighting for 4 places in the European Club Championship. Alas, at the time of writing, relevant pages on the Chess-Express site seem to be inaccessible, so we will inform you about the progress of the tournament in our next issue.

But whether we get results tomorrow or not, that will not help us to see the games – apparently GM Evgeny Sveshnikov persuaded other players in

Togliatti not to allow publishing their games on the Web. I can only agree with Mark Crowther of TWIC that this measure is counterproductive. I do not believe that professional players can raise enough money from selling their games (how do you collect it anyway?), while in this system advocated by Sveshnikov their creative achievements will go unnoticed – who will care much of the tournament in the middle of Russia, if we never see the games? Not me, really.

In the Russian Women's Championship after 7 rounds Irina Slavina and Evgenija Ovod are leading with 5½ points, ahead of WGM Tatiana Stepovaia, who has 5 points.

Book Review

by Graham Brown

Winning Chess: Tactics

By GM Yasser Seirawan with Jeremy Silman *Everyman Publishers 2003* £14.99

In the first book of the "Winning Chess" series. (See review in CT-914) Seirawan introduced the basic rules and strategy of the game. In doing this, tactics were largely put to one side to give the pupil an overview and a feel of how and when tactics arise. Now in book 2 it is time for a detailed look at tactics.

Seirawan begins by saying that most tactics books don't really give deep explainations, with the rare exceptions being those for advanced players. As we have seen in book 1, Seirawan is not one for having low expectations of his readers. But again he takes great care to build from simple clearly written explainations. This means that he can pursue his stated goal to "enlighten beginner and tournament player alike." The beginner is encouraged to look up every word they don't understand, and then the glossary provides detailed explainations. The answers to the quizzes are also extensive.

Tactics and combinations are tricky. Unlike in chess problems where it is "Checkmate in 3" there are no written warnings at the chessboard when a tactic or stunning combination is on. So Seirawan starts with some rules of recognition.

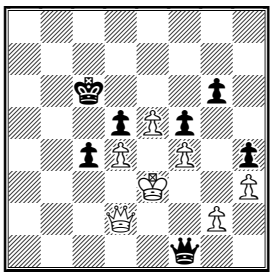
The first one is "The double attack" based on Averbakh's rule of recognition that almost all combinations are based on a double attack of some kind. Seirawan says that he didn't want to agree with such a simplified view at first, but the more he thought about it, the more sensible it seemed.

Then he lists Silman's Rules of Recognition, (This is Jeremy Silman who is the co-author of this book). Silman insists that combinations cannot exist without one or more of the following present:

- A weakened king
- Stalemated king
- Undefended pieces (not pawns).
- Inadequately guarded pieces.

I tested these rules on a couple of Quiz Today questions chosen on a whim. Let's choose CT-700 as it's a round number, which had the following 2 positions.

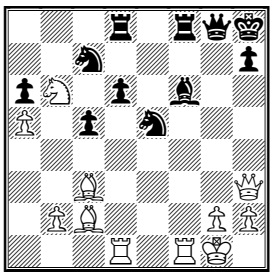
B Roselli – O Korneev
Sao Paulo Sao Paulo (5), 2002



Black to play

Applying Silman's rules, 1. The king looks rather weak there, 2 The King is stalemated. There are no Undefended pieces (not pawns), but assuming that 4. Inadequately guarded pieces doesn't say (not pawns) after it then that g2 pawn is not very well defended and indeed is part of the solution.

V Mikhalevski – A Cajal
Sao Paulo Sao Paulo (2), 2002



White to play

Applying Silman's rules, 1. The king looks rather weak there, 3. There is an undefended piece. 4. There are inadequately guarded pieces. (Answers at end of review)

The point where "Don't kid yourself, you've done nothing to deserve them, no tactics are on, don't waste your time looking" becomes "White to play and win brilliantly" is obviously not always easy to spot. But I should imagine that is something that can quite easily be improved with practice.

After this introduction we arrive at the main part of the book where tactics are divided into themes.

Firstly we look at The Double Attack. Three types are looked at, discovered attacks, forks and attacks by a pawn. Seirawan uses simple test positions to explain each theme and then often the position is changed slightly to see how the change affects the result. This is very useful in understanding each theme and also can help to move from a simplified version of a tactic to a more complex one: the first providing the clues to the second more complex position.

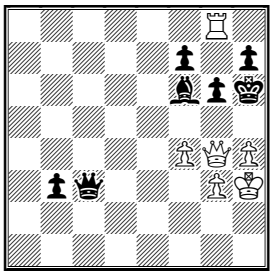
All the various tactical themes are introduced one by one all with very clear explainations and tests. These tests are sometimes from live games including Seirawan's own games. We get a paragraph about when the game was played and some clue as to what we are looking for. In all of them we are asked questions about the position in such a way that we are led into understanding a theme step by step.

Part 2 is "Great Tacticians and their Games". From Anderssen to Kasparov we are introduced to some of the greatest tacticians of all time. For each there is an short interesting biography and then games. I especially like one Kasparov game where Seirawan says "you don't want your King running around in the center against Kasparov". One suspects Silman's rules are spotted eagerly and early by the Number 1 graded player.

Part 3 has more tests and solutions presented with no indication of what type they are. This provides a good test for the reader. The answers are detailed and helpful.

There are some challenging positions, I especially liked this one when I had looked up the solution.

Tactical Test from
Winning Chess Tactics 2003



White to play

As I mentioned in the introduction, the first book in this series rather cleverly taught advanced strategic concepts before tactics. This was not a denegration of tactics but just a particular way of ordering the teaching of the elements of chess.

The stage was set for this book to teach pure tactics.

In the first book, Seiraway showed great creativity in his method of teaching. This book required a different more "chalk and talk" type teaching style. Seirawan has come up with the goods in a systematic, clear, interesting and fun way.

Answers:

51...g5! 52.♕b4 52.fxg5 f4# **52...gxf4+ 53.♔d2 ♕xg2+ 0-1**

30.♖xf6!
30.. ♖xf6 31.♗xe5 dxe5 32.♖xd8 ♕xd8 33.♕xh7# 1-0

1.♕g5+ ♗xg5 2.hxg5+ ♔h5 3.♖h8 3...♕xh8 4.g4#

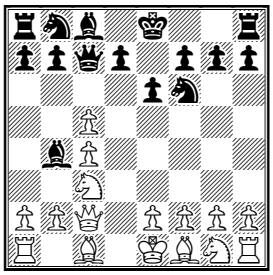
Annotated Game

While there are several interesting events in progress, I am afraid that today Chess Today readers are again on the diet of games by certain Alex O'Baburin de Galway! ☺

□ **Alex Baburin (2558)**
■ **Yuri Rochev (2327)**
Event: *Galway Open (5), 18.05.2003*
Nimzo-Indian Defence, Classical (4.Qc2) Variation E38
Annotations: GM Alex Baburin

This was the decisive game, as both players were on perfect score going into the last round. Dr Yuri Rochev works at the Galway University. He moved to Ireland a few years ago, which, as he said, enhanced his chess life, as he could meet (in Kilkenny and Bunratty) with such players as Adams, Timman, Nunn, Hodgson, etc. Yuri also played in this 4NCL the year and quite successfully – his first FIDE rating should be over 2350 – yet another example of how strong those Russian candidate masters are! This reminds me of an anecdote (true story?!): a foreign player loses several blitz games to a Russian amateur in the Central Chess Club in Moscow. After the final game, the Russian guy says: 'You are not bad - come to Moscow more often and you might become a master one day!'. His distressed opponent replies: 'But I am a Grandmaster already!'.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 c5 5.dxc5 ♕c7 ***(D)***



With his last move Black aims at building up the hedgehog type of position - he will take on c5 with the bishop, then move it to e7, play ...a6, ...b6 and ...d6, followed by ...♘bd7 and ...♗b7. This system was quite popular in the 90s, but then for no apparent reason it almost disappeared from practice. I guess that was a question of fashion - 4...0–0 became more popular than 4...c5 and that's it! Lajos Portish was the first to try 5...Qc7, then another Hungarian GM - Istvan Csom took it up. In Armenia GM Arshak Petrosian started playing it, followed by GMs Anastasian and Akopian.

6.♘f3

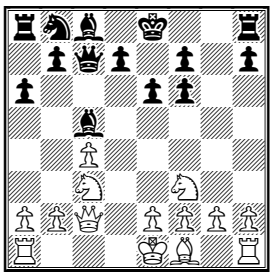
Another line is 6.a3 ♗xc5 7.♘f3, for example: 7...a6 8.♗g5 ♗e7 9.e4 d6 10.h3 ♘bd7 11.♗e2 b6 12.0–0 ♗b7 13.♖fe1 0–0 14.♖ad1 ♖ac8 15.♗f1 ♕b8 16.♕b1 ♖fd8 17.♗f4 ♗f8 18.♗g3 h6 19.♖d2 Forintos-Portisch, Budapest 1981.. By the way, there one should not fall for 7.♗g5?? ♗xf2+ 8.♔xf2 ♕c5+! 9.♔e1 ♕xg5, as in Bagirov-Csom, Frunze 1983.

6...a6

Also interesting is 6...♘a6; Black usually takes on c5 immediately - 6...♗xc5, for example: 7.g3 ♕b6! (or 7...a6 8.♗f4 d6 9.♗g2 ♘bd7 10.0–0 0–0 11.♖ad1 h6 12.a3 ♘h5 13.♗c1 ♘hf6 14.b4 ♗a7 15.♕d3 ♗b8 16.♗f4 e5 17.♗e3± Bareev-Razuvaev, Tilburg 1993) 8.e3 ♗e7 9.b3 a6 10.♗b2 ♕c7 11.♗g2 d6 12.0–0 ♘bd7 13.♘g5 ♖b8

14.♘ge4 0–0 as in the game Alterman–Yudasin, Ramat Aviv 2000.

7.♗g5 ♗xc5 8.♗xf6 gxf6 ***(D)***



This is an interesting position. Black has two bishops, but his pawn structure is a bit compromised.

9.g3!?

Here g2 is clearly the best place for White's bishop. However, this move weakens the c4–pawn. Also possible, but less ambitious is 9.e3.

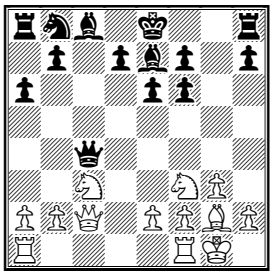
9...♗e7

Black had an interesting alternative: 9...b5!? I was not sure how I would react, but later I found that move had been tried before: 10.♗g2 ♗b7 11.0–0 bxc4 12.♘a4 ♗e7 13.b3 d5 14.bxc4 ♘d7 15.♖ab1 ♖c8 16.♘d2 ♗a8 17.♕d1 dxc4 18.♗xa8 ♖xa8 19.♘xc4 ♕xc4 20.♕xd7+ ♔xd7 21.♘b6+ ♔c6 22.♘xc4 ♖hb8 was the game Chernin–Portisch, Moscow 1990, which was soon drawn.

10.♗g2!?

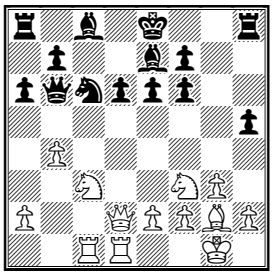
This is quite a speculative pawn sacrifice. Apparently, I had this position once before: 10.b3 b5 11.♗g2 bxc4 12.bxc4 ♘c6 13.0–0 ♘a5 14.♘d2 ♗b7 15.♗xb7 ♘xb7 16.♖ab1 Baburin–Atlas, Switzerland 1992. I often find that poor memory makes playing chess more entertaining! ☺ White could also try another version of this pawn sacrifice: 10.♕d3!? ♘c6 11.♗g2 ♘b4 12.♕d2 ♕xc4 13.0–0.

10...♕xc4 11.0–0 ***(D)***



Let's take stock. White has better development and much safer king. This is clearly enough compensation for one pawn, but White will need to generate concrete play soon.

11...♕c7 12.♖ac1 ♘c6 13.♖fd1 d6 14.♕d2 h5 15.b4 ♕b6 ***(D)***



Here Black offered a draw, but I rejected it. I did not really think that White was objectively better in this position, but it was easier to play White. Besides, you don't sacrifice a pawn just in order to accept a draw 5 moves later!

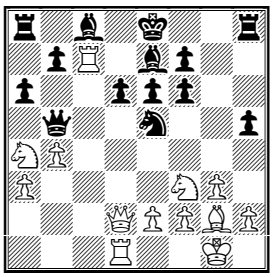
16.a3 ♘e5

This move is possible, but 16...♗d7 looked as a safer option to me, for example: 17.♘e4 d5 18.♘c5 0–0–0 19.e4?! dxe4 20.♘xd7 ♕c7 and Black is better.

17.♘a4

I also considered 17.♘d4. It would be nice to get rid of the e5–knight, but Black is fine after 17.♘xe5 fxe5 *(17...dxe5? 18.♘a4! ♕b5 19.♖c7+–)* 18.♘a4 ♕b5 19.♘b2 (here 19.♖c7? does not work in view of 19...♕xa4 20.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 21.♕xd6+ ♔f6–+) 19...d5.

17...♕b5 18.♖c7 ***(D)***

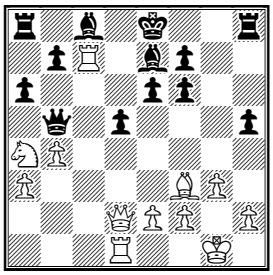


18...♘xf3+??

I was much more concerned about 18...♗d8! 19.♕xd6 ♗xc7 20.♕xc7. During brief post–mortem we both somehow over–estimated White's chances here. Black has to choose between two lines, one of which is fine for him: 20...♘d7! (worse is 20...0–0 21.♘b6 ♕xe2 22.♖d8 ♘xf3+ 23.♗xf3

♕xf3 24.♘xa8±) 21.♘c5 ♕c6 22.♕xc6 bxc6 23.♘d4 ♖a7 24.♗xc6 ♔e7 and Black is fine.

19.♗xf3 d5 ***(D)***



Or 19...♕xa4 20.♖xe7+ ♔f8 21.♕xd6 ♕xd1+ 22.♕xd1 ♔xe7 23.♕c1±.

20.♗xd5! ♕xa4

Other moves lose as well: 20...♕xd5 21.♕c2+− or 20...exd5 21.♘c3 ♕b6 22.♖xe7+ ♔f8 23.♘xd5+−.

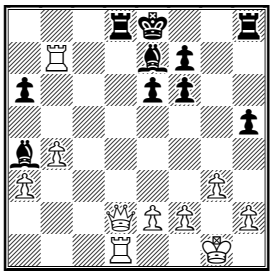
21.♗b3!

Of course, not 21.♗c6+?? ♕xc6 22.♖xc6 bxc6∓.

21...♗d7

After 21...♕xb3 22.♖xe7+ ♔f8 White has 23.♖e8+! (this is what Black missed!) 23...♔g7 24.♖xh8 ♔xh8 25.♕h6+ ♔g8 26.♖d8#.

22.♗xa4 ♗xa4 23.♖xb7! ♖d8 ***(D)***



24.♕xd8+ ♗xd8 25.♖xd8+ 1−0

Time: 1.11 – 1.16

Solution to our quiz: Sangla–Karpov: 9...g5! 10.♗xg5 (or 10.♗g3 g4 11.♗d3 ♘xg3 12.hxg3 gxf3, winning) **10...♗xd2+ 11.♘xd2 ♕a5!** (but not 11...♘xg5? 12.♕xb6 axb6 13.h4) **0−1**

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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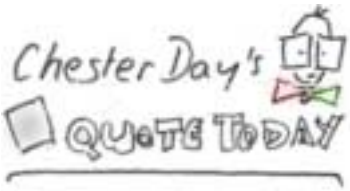

Chess, *the game which* reflects most honor *on* the human wit

–Voltaire

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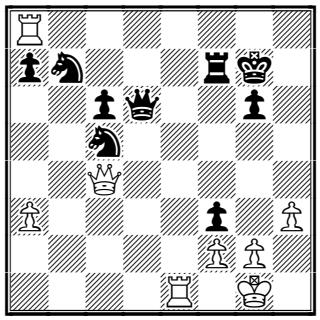
Quiz Today

Damljanovic – Movsesian
Sarajevo 2003

39.♖a8 f3??
And now White played **40.♖ee8?** but he had a winning blow ...



White to play

Chess News

33rd Bosnian Tournament Sarajevo

Round 7 (May 25, 2003)
Kurajica and Radjabove made a quick draw. Then all the others fought for a long time but still got the same result.

Kasimdzhanov – Damljanovic ½–½ Movsesian – Kozul ½–½ Bareev – Sokolov ½–½ Kurajica – Radjabov ½–½ Dizdarevic – Shirov ½–½

Round 7 Standings:
1. Sokolov 5½;
2–4. Kasimdzhanov, Movsesian, Radjabov 4½;
5–6. Shirov, Bareev 4.0;
7. Kurajica 3½;
8. Kozul 2½;
9–10. Damljanovic, Dizdarevic 1.0;

Russian Team Championships
Fighting has become much more sharp before the last round. Max Ven (Ekaterinburg) defeated Norilsky Nikel with a score of 4:2. Now three teams have 5 points each: Norilsky Nikel, Tomsk-400 and Ladia-Kazan-1000. Last rounds parings:

Norilsky Nikel – Tomsk-400
Ladia-Kazan-1000 – Max Ven Ekaterinburg

Grischuk-Dreev 1-0 Onischuk-Vaganian ½-½ Motylev-Malakhov 1-0 Zviagincev-Sveshnikov ½-½ Morozevich-Svidler ½-½ Sakaev-Khalifman ½-½ Filippov-Korchnoi ½-½ Smirnov P.-Landa 1-0 Yakovenko-Rublevskij 0-1 Vokarev-Smirin ½-½ Bologan-Potkin ½-½ Kovalevskja-Kharlov ½-½

53rd Women's Russian Chess Championship, May 17 -28, Elista, RUS

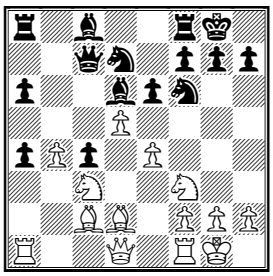
After 8 rounds, Slavina leads with 6 points. 2-4. Stepovaia, Stjazhkina, Ovod 5½

Annotated Games

□ **Z Kozul (2601)**
■ **E Bareev (2734)**
Event: *Bosnia GM Sarajevo BIH (6), 24.05.2003 – D48*
Annotations: IM Nikolai Vlassov
Yesterday there were several exciting games played in Sarajevo and I would like to give short comments to all of them:
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 a6 9.e4 c5 10.d5 ♕c7 11.0-0 c4 12.♗c2 ♗c5 13.♗d2N
Previously has been seen 13.♕e2 e5 14.♘d1 0–0 15.b3 ♘b6 16.bxc4 ♘xc4 17.♗d3 ♗g4 18.♗xc4 ♗d4 19.♖b1 ♕xc4 20.♕xc4 bxc4 21.♘xd4 exd4 22.f3 ♗d7 23.♗f4 ♖fc8 24.♘f2 ½–½ Gelfand,B-Morovic Fernandez,I/Dos Hermanas 1994/CBM 41/Ftacnik (24); RR 13.♗g5 e5 14.♘e2 h6 15.♗d2 ♘h5 16.b3 cxb3 17.axb3 0–0 18.b4 ♗d6 19.♗d3 ♘b6 20.h3 ♕e7 21.g4 ♘f6 22.♘g3 ♖e8 23.♕b3 h5 24.♗g5 hxg4 25.♘h4 g6 26.♖fc1 ♗d7 27.♗e2 ♕d8 Kozul,Z-Van der Wiel,J/Bugojno 1999/CBM 74/1–0 (44)
13...0-0 14.b4 ♗d6
It is bad, but not compulsory to take

the pawn: 14...♗xb4 15.♘xb5 axb5 16.♗xb4

15.a4 bxa4



The black pawns on the queenside are split off but while there are lots of them on the board, they are a potential danger.

16.dxe6

It was worth taking the pawn with 16.♗xa4 moreover, the c6-square could be useful for the bishop.

16...fxe6 17.♕e2

17.♘g5 ♘b6!∓

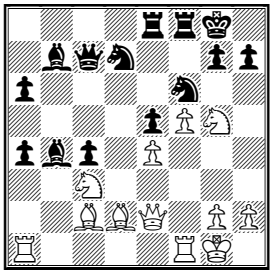
17...♗b7 18.♘g5!?

18.♗xa4

18...♖ae8!

Black is running an unnecessary risk in the following variation: 18...♗xh2+ 19.♔h1 ♖ae8 20.f4 *(20.g3 ♗xg3 21.fxg3 ♕xg3)* 20...♗g3 21.♕f3

19.f4 e5 20.f5 ♗xb4!



21.♘e6?!

This is too greedy. By means of 21.♖fb1 a5 22.♘xa4 c3 23.♗e3 White would manage to maintain equilibrium.

21...♖xe6 22.fxe6 ♕b6+!

Black captures White's pawn on e6 and keeps his own one on c4.

23.♗e3?!

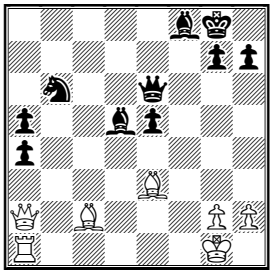
More stubborn is 23.♔h1 ♕xe6 24.♖ab1∓

23...♕xe6 24.♘d5 ♘xd5 25.♕xc4

25...♘7b6

The following is not that clear 25...♖c8!? 26.exd5 ♖xc4 27.dxe6 ♖xc2 28.♖f7 ♘c5 29.♖d1 ♖xg2+ 30.♔f1 ♘xe6 31.♖xb7 ♖b2 32.♖b6 ♔f7 however, Black also has good chances of winning here.

26.♕a2 a5 27.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 28.exd5 ♗xd5∓

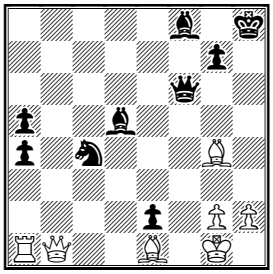


Black is the exchange down, but his passed pawns, which were not taken by White at the proper time, are very dangerous.

29.♕b1 ♘c4 30.♗xh7+ ♔h8 31.♗f5 ♕f6 32.♗f2

Here the white bishop is under the power of the black pawn (a tempo) that leads to White's downfall. The following could prolong the game: 32.♗a7 e4 33.♗d7 a3 34.♕d1∓ ♘b6

32...e4 33.♗g4 e3 34.♗e1 e2



35.♗f2?

White is missing his last opportunity to resist: 35.♗xe2! ♗c5+ 36.♔h1 ♕d4 *(36...♗xg2+ 37.♔xg2 ♘e3+ 38.♔g1 ♕g5+ 39.♗g3 ♕d5 40.♕b8+ ♔h7 41.♗d3+ ♕xd3 42.♗f2; 36...♗d6 37.♗xc4 ♕h6! 38.♗g3 ♗xg3 39.♕g1 ♗xc4 40.♖xa4* and everything is not clear at all.*)* 37.♗g3 ♘e3 38.♕b8+ ♔h7 39.♕e5! ♕xa1+! 40.♕xa1 ♗xg2+ 41.♔g1 ♘c2+ 42.♔xg2 ♘xa1∓

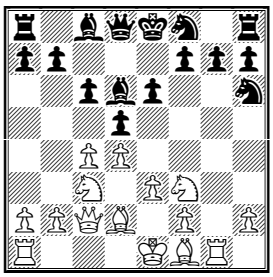
35...♘d2 36.♕e1 ♗b4 37.♗h4 ♗c5+ 0-1

□ **T Radjabov (2644)**
■ **E Dizdarevic (2491)**

Event: *Bosnia GM Sarajevo BIH (6), 24.05.2003 – D45*

Annotations: IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♕c2 ♗d6 7.g4 ♘xg4 8.♖g1 ♘h6 9.♗d2 ♘f8N



RR 9...♘f5 10.cxd5 (RR *10.e4 dxe4 11.♘xe4 ♗e7 12.0–0–0 ♘f6 13.♗d3 g6 14.♗c3 0–0 15.h4 ♕c7 16.♘e5 ♘xh4 17.♘g5 ♘f5 18.f4 b5 19.♕h2 b4 20.♗xf5 exf5 21.♘xh7 ♘g4 22.♘xg4 fxg4 23.♖h1 g3 24.♕h6 bxc3 25.♘f6+* 1–0 Shirov,A–Dreev,A/Moscow 1993/EXT 97 (25)*;* RR *10.0–0–0 ♘f6 11.♗d3 0–0 12.e4 dxe4 13.♘xe4 ♗e7 14.♘g3 ♘xd4 15.♘xd4 ♕xd4 16.♗h6 ♕e5 17.♖de1 ♕c7 18.♘f5 g6 19.♘h4 ♗d6 20.♔b1 ♗f4 21.♗xf8 ♔xf8 22.♘f3 e5 23.♕c3 ♘g4 24.♖e2 ♗e6 25.h3 ♘h2 26.♘xe5 ♖d8 27.♗xg6 hxg6 28.♘xg6+ ♔e8 29.♘xf4 ♕xf4 30.♖g8+ ♔e7 31.♖xe6+ ♔xe6 32.♖xd8 ♕xf2 33.♕d3 ♕e1+ 34.♔c2 ♕f2+ 35.♔c3 ♘f3 36.♖e8+ ♔f6 37.♕e3 ♕xe3+ 38.♖xe3 ♘g5 39.b4 ♘e6 40.c5 ♔f5 41.♖f3+ ♘f4 42.♔c4 ♔e4 43.♖g3 f5 44.♖g7 ♘d5 45.♖xb7 f4 46.♖xa7 f3 47.♖f7 ♘f4 48.♖e7+ ♔f5 49.♖e1 ♘g2 50.♖c1 f2 51.b5 ♘e1 52.bxc6 f1♕+* 0–1 Lputian,S–Sveshnikov,E/Tilburg 1992/CBM 32 (52)*)* 10...cxd5 11.♘b5 ♘f6 12.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 13.♖c1 ♗d7 14.♕c7 0–0 15.♕xd6 ♘xd6 16.♗b4 ♖fc8 17.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 18.♘e5 ♗e8 19.♗d3 ♘b6 20.♗e7 ♖c8 21.♔d2 ♘e4+ 22.♗xe4 dxe4 23.♗f6 g6 24.♗g5 Hodgson,J–Blatny,P/Pardubice 1993/CBM 37/Blatny/1–0 (39); RR 9...♕e7 10.e4 dxe4 11.♘xe4 ♘f5 12.0–0–0 ♘f6 13.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 14.♗g5 ♕g6 15.c5 ♗c7 16.♘e5 ♕h5 17.h4 ♗d8 18.♕e4 0–0 19.♗e2 ♗xg5+ 20.hxg5 ♕h4 21.f4 ♖d8 22.♖h1 ♘g3 23.♖xh4 ♘xe4 24.♗d3 ♘g3 25.♖xh7 ♘e2+ 26.♔b1 ♘xd4 27.g6 fxg6 28.♗xg6 ♖d5 29.♖dh1 ♔f8 30.♖h8+ ♔e7 31.♖e8+ 1–0 Shirov,A–Bangiev,A/Germany 1993/EXT 97–B (31)

10.e4 dxe4 11.♘xe4 ♘f5 12.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 13.0–0–0 ♘g6 14.h4 ♘ge7

Probably better is the ugly 14...h5!? and now there is a possibility of short castling! The knights cope with the protection of their king.

15.♗d3 f6 16.h5 ♔f7

Despite the apparent strength of Black's position, he is not doing well because White has an enormous initiative for the pawn.

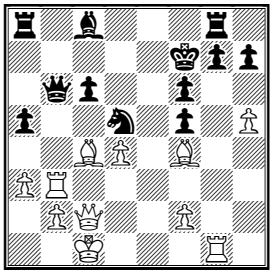
17.♖g4 b5 18.♗f4 ♕b4

18...♕d8

19.♖dg1 bxc4 20.♗xc4 ♖g8 21.a3 ♕b6 22.♘h4 ♘d5 23.♘xf5 exf5 24.♖4g3 a5

24...♕xd4 25.♗d6!

25.♖b3

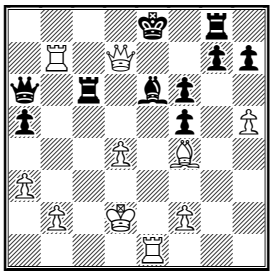


It is not that easy to identify where Black has made a decisive mistake, but this is a lost position.

25...♕a7?

After the daring 25...♕xd4!? 26.♗xd5+! ♕xd5 27.♖d1 ♕e4 28.♖b7+! ♔e8! *(28...♗xb7 29.♕b3+* with a checkmate.*)* 29.♕d2! ♕c4+ 30.♔b1 ♕d5 31.♖e1+ ♔d8 32.♖be7! ♗a6 33.♗c7+ ♔c8 34.♕f4! White also must have won but on his way to this position he would have to make several "only moves".

26.♗xd5+ cxd5 27.♕c6+– ♕a6 28.♕xd5+ ♗e6 29.♖b7+ ♔e8 30.♖e1 ♖c8+ 31.♔d2 ♖c6 32.♕d7+



1–0

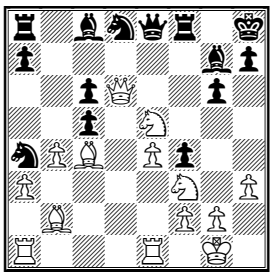
□ **B Damljanovic (2587)**
■ **S Movsesian (2659)**
Event: *Bosnia GM Sarajevo BIH (6), 24.05.2003 E91*
Annotations: IM Nikolai Vlassov

This could be a sensation: Damljanovic missed not only an easy victory at move 40 (which is forgivable because of time trouble) but he also had a chance of winning at move 41!

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 ♗g7 5.♗e2 0-0 6.♘f3 ♘a6 7.0-0 e5 8.♖e1 ♕e8 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.h3 c6 11.♗e3 ♘d7 12.a3N

RR 12.♘d2 ♘dc5 13.b4 ♘e6 14.a3 f5 15.f3 f4 16.♗f2 ♘ac7 17.c5 ♘d4 18.♗f1 g5 19.♘c4 ♕g6 20.♘d6 h5 21.♘e2 ♘xf3+ 22.gxf3 g4 23.♘xc8 gxf3+ 24.♔h2 fxe2 25.♘e7+ ♔f7 26.♗xe2 ♔xe7 Ptaschinski,D-Meszaros,A/Eger 1992/EXT 99/1-0 (48)

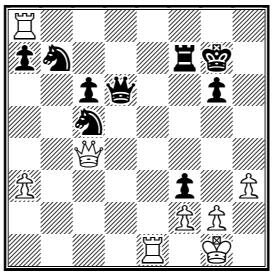
12...f5 13.b4 ♔h8 14.♗f1 ♘c7 15.♗c1 ♘e6 16.♗b2 f4 17.♘e2 ♕e7 18.♘c1 ♘d8 19.c5 b6 20.♕d6 ♕e8 21.♗c4 bxc5 22.♘d3 ♘b6 23.♘dxe5 ♘a4



24.♘xg6+! hxg6 25.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 26.bxc5 ♔h6 27.e5 ♘b7 28.♕d4 ♘axc5 29.e6 ♗xe6 30.♘e5 ♕d8 31.♕c3 ♗xc4 32.♘g4+?! ♔h7 33.♕xc4 ♕c7 34.♖e5 ♖f7 35.♖ae1 ♖af8 36.♘f6+ ♔g7

36...♖xf6 37.♖e7+ ♖8f7 38.♖xc7 ♖xc7=

37.♘e8+ ♖xe8 38.♖xe8 ♕d6 39.♖a8 f3??



39...♘d7

40.♖ee8?

40.♕h4+-

40...fxg2?

40...♕d1+ 41.♔h2 ♕d6+ 42.g3 ♕d2=

41.♕h4?

41.♖g8+ ♔f6 42.♕g4 ♕d3 43.♕f4+ ♕f5 44.♕d4+ ♔e6 45.♖ae8+ ♖e7 46.♕e3+ ♕e4 47.♖xg6+ ♔f7 48.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 49.♖g7++-

41...♕d1+ ½-½

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Editors: GM Alexander Baburin, GM Ruslan Scherbakov, IM Vladimir Barsky, GM Mikhail Golubev, IM Maxim Notkin and IM Nikolai Vlassov.

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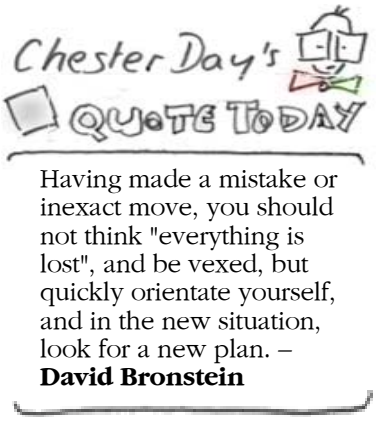

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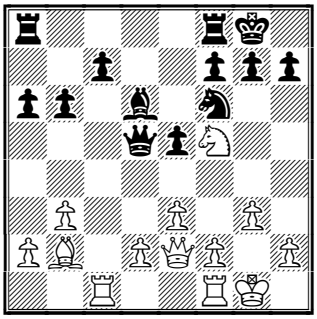
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-147(931) 27th May 2003

Quiz Today

T. Chistyakova – E. Bystryakova
RUS Women's Ch Elista (9), 26.05.2003



White to play

Chess News

The Einstein TV Group that is organising the Kramnik – Leko match for the Classical Chess World Championships, has published the following Press release:

Statement on World Classical Chess Championship 26th May 2003

We have been unable to secure full sponsorship to cover all the prize fund for the World Classical Chess Championship. A significant number of potential title sponsors have expressed considerable interest, but despite positive negotiations, the amounts to be raised in the time scale have proved impossible. Our team had discussed this match with various locations, most recently with the Government of Hungary, which generously offered to pay for the organisation of the match. Clearly, the original venues with which we had been linked in the Middle East were not viable because of the impending conflict in Iraq. Combined with underlying international economic anxieties, the Iraqi war effectively undermined global commercial confidence to the point that no potential sponsor was willing to commit sufficient funds towards this match for us to feel secure in proceeding. Such sponsorship as was committed was not sufficient to cover the agreed prize fund. We think it is important to note that all organisations are having major problems securing external sponsorship for a world championship match and sports sponsorship in general is going through a difficult phase. While this is obviously very disappointing, we remain determined to deliver high quality world championship chess events and are now in discussion with a group of parties who are all interested in participating in a significant new chess development that would lead to the playing of the World Classical Chess Championship match later this year as well as other new events and matches in our cycle.
Given the current global economic climate and its associated uncertainties, we believe that everyone involved in the world of chess should work together towards a common goal of establishing firm and lasting foundations for a commercially viable series of world championship chess events. This must involve commercial partners, chess organisations and most importantly, the players and their representatives. We remain committed to the future of World Classical Championship Chess and look forward to helping establish a more secure base for everyone involved.

Robin Hague, Intellectual Leisure Ltd

A bit earlier the site www.worldchessrating.ru had published an announcement about the delays in the Kasparov – Ponomariov match. According to Berik Balgabaev, the assistant of FIDE president Kirsan Iljumzhinov, the match has to take place in autumn 2003 in Argentina. What does all this information mean? It means that the unification process

is delayed at least till year 2004. And the new World Championships cycle can not start in December 2003 as it was previously announced. So all top-grandmasters accept for Kasparov, Kramnik, Ponomariov and Leko have to wait how long? Nobody knows. By the way the European men and women championships will start this week in Turkey. Grandmasters will fight for qualifications to the World Championships, but for what Championships: When? Where? What is the prize fund? There are a lot of questions and no answers.

Ivan Sokolov stills leads before the last round of the 33rd Bosnia Tournament in Sarajevo. But now he is only half a point ahead of Rustam Kasymzhanov and has to play with him in the last day with Black. We are looking forward to a very interesting final day of play!

Round 8 Results:
Sokolov – Movsesian **½:½**
Radjabov – Shirov **0:1**
Kurajica – Bareev **1:0**
Kozul – Kasimdzhanov **0:1**
Damljanovic – Dizdarevic **1:0**

Round 8 Standings:
1. Sokolov – 6 points
2. Kasimdzhanov – 5½
3-4. Shirov, Movsesian – 5
5-6. Radjabov, Kurajica – 4½
7. Bareev – 4
8. Kozul – 2½
9. Damljanovic – 2
10. Dizdarevic – 1

Last Round Pairings:
Kasimdzhanov – Sokolov
Movsesian – Kurajica
Shirov – Damljanovic
Bareev – Radjabov
Dizdarevic – Kozul

Also see our Annotated Game section. As usual we have included all 5 games in our cbv and pgn files.

The Russian Team Championships finished on Sunday in Togliatti, Volga region. ***Ladia-Kazan-1000*** defended their title and once again became the champion. Our congratulations to **Sergei Rublevsky, Ilja Smirin, Viorel Blogan, Andrei Kharlov, Artem Timofeev, Alisa Galliamova, Ramil Khasangatin** and **Artem Iljin**! Second was Elo-favourite ***Norilsky Nikel;*** third ***Tomsk-400 Yukos*** and fourth - ***St. Petersburg 1.*** These four teams will represent Russia in the European Club Cup in September-2003.

Russian Women Championships finished on Monday in Elista, the capital of Kalmykia Republic, the home town of FIDE and Kalmykia president Kirsan Iljumzhinov. In the last round the two leaders, Slavina and Ovod lost their games.

Last Round Results:
Polovnikova (5) – Slavina (6) **1:0**
Stepovaia (5½) – Stjazhkina (5½) **½:½**
Ovod (5½) – Dorofeeva (5) **0:1**
Fatalibekova (5) – Komiagina (5) **0:1**
Demina (5) – Semenova (5) **1:0**
Kochetkova (5) – Zajas (5) **½:½**
Kursova (4½) – Shadrina (4½) **½:½**
Chistiakova (4) – Bystryakova (4) **1:0**
Pogonina (4) – Korbut (4) **½:½**
Grabuzova (3½) – Ubiennykh (4) **½:½**

As a result, **Irina Slavina, Tatiana Stepovaia, Olga Stjazhkina, Julia Demina, Maria Komiagina, Ekaterina Polovnikova** and **Anna Dorofeeva** shared 1-7 places with 6 points out of 9. Alas, the official web-site did not give any information at press time regarding who became the new Russian Women Champion. So we congratulate all these seven beautiful women with great success!

8-10. Ovod, Zajas, Kochetkova – 5½
11-15. Fatalibekova, Semenova, Shadrina, Kursova, Chistiakova – 5 etc.

An interesting information item from TWIC:
St-Petersburg vs. the NAO Chess Club

There is a distance chess match between St-Petersburg vs. the NAO Chess Club in Paris May 28th 2003, on the day of the 300th anniversary of Saint-Petersburg.

Sergey Karyakin vs Konstantin Sakaev
Viktor Kortchnoi vs Laurent Fressinet
Teimour Radjabov vs Peter Svidler
Alexander Khalifman vs Vladimir Kramnik

The first game will start around 14.15 hrs Paris time, the next ones will start approximately ten minutes after the previous game has ended. The playing rate will be of 15 minutes plus an increment of ten seconds per move for the whole game. The arbiters Geurt Gijssen in Saint Petersburg and Yakov Damsky in Paris will supervise the event.

Internet coverage: http://www.ruschess.com (in Russian and English) and http://www.nao-cc.com (in French).

Letter to Editor

Yesterday we received the following letter from our regular reader GM Dorian Rogozenko:

Dear Chess Today,

In this letter I want to indicate a bad mistake from recently released Informator 86. When looking through it, I noticed the game Rogozenko-Rausis from Hamburg 2002, with comments by GM Igors Rausis. That was a big and disappointing surprise, since I never played Rausis in my life. I also never played that variation (D44, the game is 86/(429)). I was curious though and checked the opening line. I found out that the move given by Rausis as a novelty for Black was never played in practice indeed and although it is hard to believe, I tend to think that the whole game was made-up. Inaccuracies can happen, even if such a big mistake from a respectable publication like Informator is rather strange. Several weeks ago I wrote an e-mail to the Director of Chess Informant Zdenko Krnic, but to my surprise there was no reply.

Many things go wrong in today's life; we can't pretend to have a perfect world. But in my opinion fighting for our rights, indicating mistakes and eventually apologising when a mistake is made should be the least what we must do.

In spite of advice from some fellow GMs, I don't want to make a big deal out of the whole thing (although a game invented by a Grandmaster and sent to the Informator is a very bad thing to do). But I do want to point out a non-professional attitude by Chess Informant. I doubt very much that Rausis could do such a thing as inventing a game and I suspect that it's Informator's fault, they must have mixed up something. Anyway, because there was no answer from Chess Informant (an explanation or apology was called for), I don't know how could happen that such a game was published.

Since Chess Today *is a popular and respectful on-line newsletter, I decided to send this letter to you rather than anywhere else. And I am using the occasion to congratulate you for the good work – for me* Chess Today *is one of the main sources of information and chess news.*

Regards, GM Dorian Rogozenko

Then we received another message from Dorian, informing us that the same day he received a reply from the Yugoslav Informant:

Dear Mr. Rogozenko,

Sorry for not answering earlier to your message, but after having tough period producing two books I took some rest out of Belgrade. We are

doing our outmost to avoid all possible mistakes in our publications. The published game we received on paper, sent by letter, annotated by Mr. Rausis. Why we shouldn't believe Mr. Rausis, even if we couldn't find this game in all databases. I am not happy with this mistake too.

Kind regards, Zdenko Krnic

So, it seems that the mystery games was indeed made-up by GM Rausis. I checked my database and in Hamburg 2002 Open Rausis did not play a single game in the Botvinnik Variation, so it could not be a mistake to do with wrong name of the opponent, etc. While he would do such a thing, I have no idea...

--- Alex Baburin

Where to Play Chess: USA

by Alex Baburin

Today we continue with this irregular column – this time we look at tournaments in the USA this summer.

June 4-8, Annual Continental Chess Association International Tournament in Vermont

10 rounds. Stratton Mountain, Vermont. 3rd annual CCA International. Open to players rated 2200/over USCF or 2100/over FIDE, juniors under 16 over 2000, under 14 over 1900, or under 12 over 1800, and invitees. At Stratton Mountain Inn, Middle Ridge Rd (4 miles from center of Bondville, take Stratton Mt Rd), Stratton Mountain VT 05155. Resort with pool, tennis, golf, racquetball, health club, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, Alpine Village with shops, galleries & restaurants. $10,000 guaranteed prizes: $4000 $2000 $1000 $800 $700 $600 $500 $400. IM & GM norms are expected to be possible; FIDE rated. Our new 10-round schedule allows a norm even with a bye or forfeit win. Entry fees: GMs, foreign IMs, foreign WGMs: free; $130 deducted from any prize. USA IMs, USA WGMs, foreign FMs: $129 mailed or ONLINE by 5/26, $150 at tournament. USA FMs, foreign FIDE 2200+: $229 mailed or ONLINE by 5/26, $250 at tournament. Eligible juniors under 16: $279 mailed or ONLINE by 5/26, $300 at tournament. Other eligible players (see above): $329 mailed or ONLINE by 5/26, $350 at tmt.All: No phone entries. No checks at site, credit cards accepted. Schedule: Late reg. ends Wed 11:30 am, rounds Wed 12:30-7:30, Thu 11-6, Fri 11-6, Sat 11-6, Sun 9-3:30. One half-point bye available (rd 4-10 bye must commit before rd 3). Hotel rates: $69-69, 1-800-STRATTON, 802-297-2500, reserve by 5/21 or rate may increase. Travel: Nearest airports are Albany and Bradley (Hartford). Albany & NY City are among locations with buses to Manchester, VT. Car rentals: Avis, 800-331-1600, use AWD #D657633, or reserve car online through chesstour.com. Bring boards, sets, clocks if possible- none supplied. Entries: Continental Chess, PO Box 249, Salisbury Mills NY 12577. 845-496-9658 or www.chesstour.com

June 13-15, 2003 National Open, Las Vegas, Nevada.

6 rounds. Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. $53,000 in prize money fully guaranteed. ***Main prizes***: $5000 $2500 $1200 $600 $300 $150, etc. ***Under 2200***: $2500 $1200 $600 $300, etc. Plus high prizes in other categories: under 2000, 1900, 1800, 1700, 1600, 1500, etc – see tournament Web site for details. Half point byes available in any round, but 5th or 6th round ½ point byes must be requested before the start of round 2. Chess sets and boards provided for tournament play only. Please bring chess clocks! Free parking. Free airport shuttle for players only. Blitz tournament Thursday evening, June 12th, 80% of EF returned as prizes. Chess Camp Thursday June 12th. Free raffle with

great prizes. Free lectures by GM Ron Henley. Free analysis of your games. GM simuls on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. New low room rates – $69 single or double includes free tickets to one of three Mardi Gras Riviera Las Vegas Shows Wednesday or Thursday. 1-800-634-6753. Info: Alan Losoff (847) 858-7778, evenings central time, e-mail: Alan@Losoff.com; Web: http://www.64.com/natlopen/

I played in Las Vegas several times, tying for first place twice. It is a pretty good tournament, very smoothly run. Also, Las Vegas (or Lost Wages – whatever you prefer!) is certainly one of the most unusual places on Earth – well worth a visit! But I was there always in March, never in June – guess it might be pretty hot there.

July 2-6, World Open, Philadelphia.

9 rounds. Worlds biggest open tournament. Main prizes: $14000 $7000 $3500 $2000 $1000, etc. For more information click here.

August 3-15, 2003 US Open, Los Angeles.

Radison Hotel, 6225 W. Century Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045. (310) 670-9000. $89 Chess Rate! Prizes in the main section: $8000 $4000 $3000 $2000 $1500 $1200 $1000 $800 $600 $400. High prizes in other categories (Expert, Class A, etc). I never played in US Opens, but I understand that this is one of the biggest chess tournaments in USA.

For more tournaments, see the US Chess Federation website and the Continental Chess Association website.

Tip of the Day: *How to create PGN file from Chess Base or Chess Base Light.*

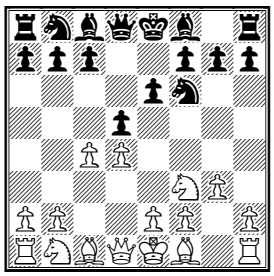
Not everyone is using Chess Base, so often you need to have a database in PGN format. Fortunately, this is very easy to do: when in Chess Base (6, 7 or 8) or CB-Light, press CTRL+X to create a new database. When the menu appears, in the window Save as Type select PGN, choose a name and then press OK. Then highlight your existing database, which you want to have in PGN format, and use drag & drop to copy games from that database to the PGN database. Your work is done! Remember that PGN cannot contain some features which are available in CB.

Annotated Game

□ **Z. Kozul (2601)**
■ **R. Kasimdzhanov (2680)**
Event: *Bosnia GM Sarajevo BIH (8), 26.05.2003*
Catalan Defence E05

Annotations by IM Vladmir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.g3 (D)



White chooses the solid and quiet Catalan Defence.

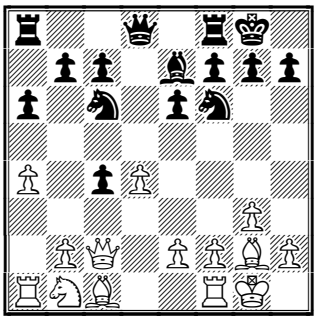
4...♗e7 5.♗g2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.♕c2 a6 8.a4 ♗d7

One of Black's main problems in this opening is the position of the light-squared bishop. Black has to develop (or exchange) it and at the same time to neutralise the pressure of the g2-bishop along the long g1–a8 diagonal.

9.♘e5 ♗c6

Here it is: Kasimdzhanov is ready to exchange his bishop (and even ready to destroy his pawn structure) in order to gain some tempi for development and begin complications while White hasn't yet developed his queen side.

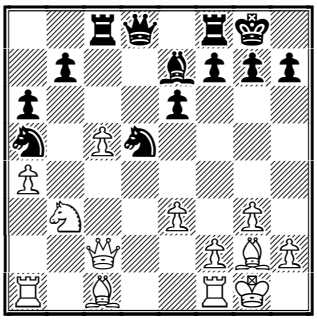
10.♘xc6 ♘xc6 (D)



11.e3

11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♖d1 ♕d5 13.♘a3 c5 14.dxc5 ♕h5 15.f3 ♕xc5+ 16.♔g2 draw, Huzman – Kruppa, Ukraine 1988.

11...♘a5 12.♘d2 c5 13.dxc5 ♖c8 14.b4 cxb3 15.♘xb3 ♘d5 (D)



Alternatives are 15...♘xb3; 15...♘d7.

16.♗d2

More often White chooses 16.♗a3

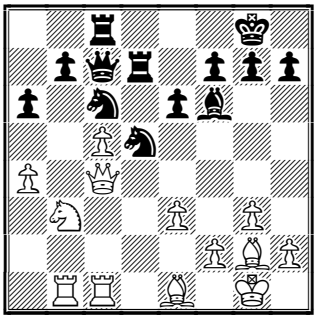
16...♘c6!?

Black is looking for complications. If Black wants a draw he could exchange on b3 and then take c-pawn. In this case White saves an initiative, but a draw looks the most logical outcome.

17.♖ab1 ♕c7 18.♖fc1 ♖fd8 19.♕c4 ♖d7 20.♗e1

20.e4!? ♘f6 *(20...♘e5 21.♕e2 ♘f6 22.♗f4±)* 21.♗e3 ♖cd8⇄ *(21...♘g4!?)*

20...♗f6 (D)

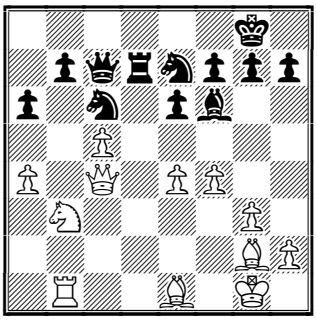


I think this position is almost equal but Black has the easier play. White has to defend his weak c-pawn, also the knight does not stand very well.

21.e4!?

It's always very difficult to stay and wait so Kozul tries to find an active plan, but at the same time he weakens some points in his camp.

21...♘de7 22.♖d1 ♖cd8 23.♖xd7 ♖xd7 24.f4!? (D)



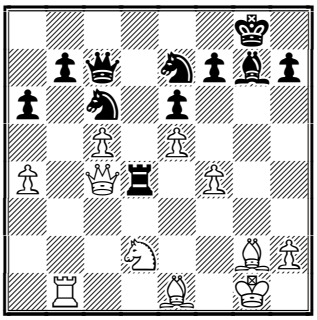
24...g5!? 25.e5?!

Pawns can't move backwards! White will now have big problems with defending his c5 and e5 pawns very soon. 25.♗d2!?

25...♗g7 26.♘d2

The knight is going to f6 or d6 but at the same time White weakens d4. 26.♗f2!?

26...gxf4 27.gxf4 ♖d4!? (D)



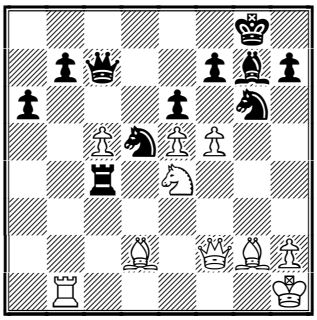
28.♕f1?

Too passive. White had a very interesting tactical opportunity here: 28.♖xb7!? ♕a5 *(28...♕xb7?! 29.♕xd4±)* 29.♕c1 ♕xa4 30.♗g3⇄

28...♘d5 29.♘e4

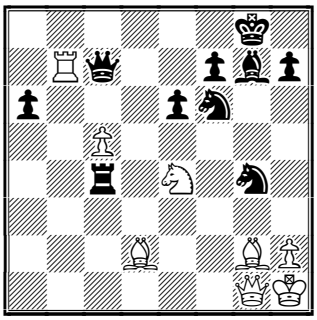
29.♗xd5 exd5∓

29...♘ce7 [29...♖xa4!?] **30.♔h1 ♖xa4 31.♗d2 ♘g6 32.♕f2 ♖c4 33.f5?! (D)**



White begins very interesting complications, but it must finish in Black's favour. And it's logical because Black pieces are much more active now.

33...♘xe5 34.f6 ♘g4 35.♕g1 ♘dxf6 36.♖xb7 (D)



Obviously this was White's point. But Black doesn't have to take the rook...

36...♕e5

36...♕xb7?? 37.♘xf6++−

37.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 38.h3 ♕e2!

The computer says this is the best move. Black has to win.

39.♗h6

Tougher was 39.♗f1 ♕f3+ 40.♕g2 ♕xg2+ 41.♔xg2 ♖xc5 42.hxg4 ♖c2 43.♖d7 ♗c3−+ Now Black wins by force thanks to the simple but nice blow:

39...♘f2+ 40.♕xf2 ♖c1+!

Here it is. Of course Black couldn't play 40...♕xf2 41.♖b8+; 40...♖c1+ 41.♗xc1 *(41.♔h2 ♗e5+)* 41...♕xf2−+

0−1.

Solution to Quiz Today:

T. Chistyakova – E. Bystryakova

RUS Women's Ch Elista (9), 26.05.2003

17.♖xc7!± **♘e4** [17...♗xc7? 18.♘e7+] **18.♖d7 ♕e6 19.♕g4! g5** [19...g6 20.♘h6+ ♔h8 *(20...♔g7 21.♕xe6+−)* 21.♘xf7+ ♕xf7 22.♖xf7 ♖xf7 23.♕xe4+−; 19...♕g6 20.♕xe4+−]

20.♖xd6! [20.♖xd6 ♘xd6 21.♕xg5+ ♕g6 *(21...♔h8 22.♕g7#)* 22.♘e7++−]

1−0.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-148(932) 28th May 2003

Chess News

In the final round of The 33rd Bosnia Tournament in Sarajevo the leader **Ivan Sokolov** drew with Black against his closest pursuer Kasimdzhanov which gave him the overall victory. Both Shirov and Movsesian won their games and caught up to Kasimdzhanov.

The final round results:
Movsesian – Kurajica 1:0
Shirov – Damljanovic 1:0
Kasimdzhanov – Sokolov ½:½
Bareev – Radjabov ½:½
Dizdarevic – Kozul ½:½

Final Standings:
1. Sokolov – 6½
2-4. Movsesian, Shirov, Kasimdzhanov – 6
5. Radjabov – 5
6-7. Kurajica, Bareev – 4½
8. Kozul – 3
9. Damljanovic – 2
10. Dizdarevic – 1½

In addition to the yesterday's issue I'd like to inform you that WGM **Irina Slavina** has become the new Russian Women Champion. The silver medal went to **Tatiana Stepovaia** and the bronze to **Julia Demina**. The team of **Germany (Rainer Buhmann, Alexander Naumann, Fabian Döttling** and **Andreas Schenk**) won the Mitropa Cup that was held May 17-25 in Pula, Croatia. The team of Czech Republic took second place leaving behind on tie-breaks last year's champions of Slovenia. To succeed the Czechs had to beat them in the final round 3½:½. Our congratulations to all the winners!

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The Gilbert Collection Trust
Somerset House
Strand, London
WC2R 1LA
telephone: 020 7420 9400
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The Art of Chess

EAST MEETS WEST AT SOMERSET HOUSE
World's Youngest Grandmaster to play British Chess Prodigy

Sergei Karjakin, the youngest Grandmaster in chess history, will fly to London from the Ukraine to play an Exhibition Chess Match with 12 year old David Howell from Eastbourne, on **Saturday 28 June 2003** to celebrate the opening of ***The Art of Chess*** at the Gilbert Collection. This exhibition match, using giant chess pieces, will take place at 11am in the Edmond J Safra Courtyard of Somerset House, Strand, London WC2. Afterwards, members of the public will be able to pit their wits against the two young stars of the chess world in a simultaneous open-air chess display, between noon and 5 pm. Forty tables will be in play at once and there will be a prize for anyone who manages to draw or win a game against one of the young champions.

Now aged 13, Sergei Karjakin became the youngest ever Grandmaster when he was 12 years 7 months old at the international chess tournament held in Sudak in the Crimea last August. Sergei, an only child, was born on 12

January 1990 and grew up in Kramatorsk, an industrial town in the Ukraine. His mother works in computers and his father ran a small business before becoming a full-time coach at the local chess club. Sergei began learning chess from his father at the age of five and was beating him consistently by the time he was seven. He does not go to school regularly but plays chess every day and his outside interests are table tennis and films. He hopes to become world champion at the age of 16. David Howell hit the headlines in August 1999 when, aged only 8, he became the youngest player in the world to defeat a Grandmaster in an official game, beating Dr John Nunn in a blitz game at the Mind Sports Olympiad. He went on to become the youngest ever British player to defeat a Grandmaster in classical chess when he beat Colin McNab in the 2001-2 Hastings Challengers tournament. When he is not playing chess, David also enjoys football, rugby, squash, table tennis and Playstation. He is a loyal Manchester United supporter and is keen on reading J. K. Rowling, J. R. R. Tolkien and Philip Pullman. His favourite band is the Red Hot Chili Peppers. His ambition is to become a Grandmaster and to continue playing chess internationally.

This exciting event marks the opening at the Gilbert Collection of the exhibition ***The Art of Chess***, which features nineteen chess sets dating from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day. Each set illustrates a move in the apocryphal last game played by Napoleon with General Bertrand on St Helena in 1820. Visitors can follow the game from world's only known set designed by Carl Fabergé, to examples by Marcel Duchamp, a keen chess player himself, Alexander Calder, Yoko Ono and Damien Hirst. During the exhibition a number of other chess-related events will take place, including Man v Machine on computers in the Workshop Gallery and Problem Chess, whereby a new challenge is set up each month with prizes for the winners.
Public information line, tel. 020 7420 9412.

For further information and photographic material, please contact:
Sue Bond Public Relations

Hollow Lane Farmhouse, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 RQ
Tel. +44 (0)1359 271085, Fax. +44 (0)1359 271491 E-mail.
info@suebond.co.uk
PSB/20/5/2003

More information regarding this interesting exhibition will appear in tomorrow's issue.

Annotated Game

□ **E. Bareev (2734)**
■ **T. Radjabov (2644)**
Event: *Bosnia GM Sarajevo BIH (9), 27.05.2003*
King's Indian Defence/Classical Var.
E97

Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♗e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4

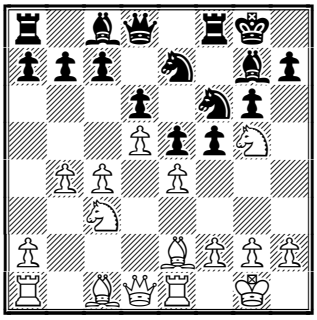
As the attack on the queenside is White's general idea in the Classical King's Indian this move seems to be the most logical. But before the "Kramnik era" it hadn't been White's main weapon. It had been considered that the immediate pawn advance allows Black to obtain counterplay on the king's flank. Mostly White tried to get the opening advantage by 9.♘e1 ; and 9.♘d2 It was Bareev who first showed Kramnik some new ideas in the line 9.b4. The irony is that Evgeny himself didn't take this move seriously. Only the boon produced by the numerous wins of Kramnik and Ivan Sokolov made him pay heed again to his original idea.

9...♘h5 10.♖e1 f5

Another option is 10...♘f4 11.♗f1 where White tries to make a fool of

the foremost knight.

11.♘g5 ♘f6 (D)



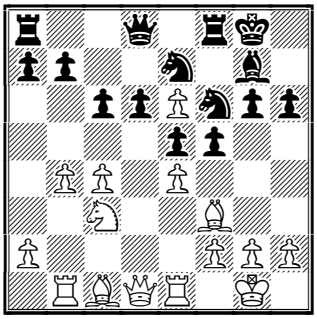
12.♗f3

Earlier this year in Wijk aan Zee Bareev beat Radjabov after 12.f3 ♘h5 13.c5 ♘f4 14.♗c4 ♔h8 15.♖b1!? This "mysterious" move was a novelty. White protects the b4-pawn and takes the rook away from the opposition of the dark-squared bishop. (Before *15.♘e6* had been played but apparently Bareev was trying to demonstrate that Black lacks useful moves and sooner or later would have to invite the white knight on e6) Indeed the game continued 15...a6 16.♔h1 h6 17.♘e6 ♘xe6 18.dxe6 ♘c6 19.b5 ♘d4 20.bxa6 bxa6 21.♗a3 and the white bishops have made the grade. Now Bareev decided to test the same idea in another line.

12...c6 13.♖b1

Once again trying to delay the showdown. White's bishop may choose between 13.♗e3 ; and 13.♗b2 ; 13.♕b3 has been tested many times as well.

13...h6 14.♘e6 ♗xe6 15.dxe6 (D)



The typical position for the whole system. White's pawn has penetrated into the enemy camp and it certainly creates some problems for Black. On the other hand White's resources of direct protection of his strong pawn are limited and he should show some ingenuity to preserve the initiative.

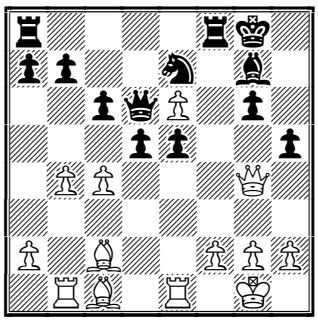
15...fxe4

15...♕c7 is also possible. After 16.b5 ♖ad8 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.♗a3 ♕c8 19.♗xd6 ♕xe6 20.c5 ♘e8 the position is unclear, Tsesarsky - Dembo, Petah Tiqwa 1997

16.♘xe4 ♘xe4 17.♗xe4 d5 18.♗c2

Avoiding a loss of tempo after e5-e4

18...♕d6 19.♕g4 h5 (D)



By 19...♖f6 Black can win the e6-pawn but after 20.♗b2 Black's major pieces will be caught in the crossfire.

20.♕h3

Perhaps here Bareev missed his real chance to take the initiative by the in-between 20.c5! ♕c7 *(20...♕b8 21.♕g5)* 21.♕g3 and White's pawn is temporarily safe while he is going to increase the pressure on his opponent's centre.

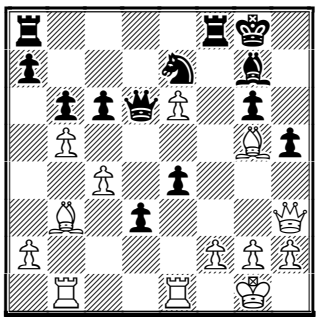
20...e4 21.♗e3

Now in case of 21.c5 Black can reply 21...♕e5

21...b6 22.b5 d4

Looks formidable but Kramnik proved many times that being out of contact with the rest of Black's army these pawns may become prey to White's pieces.

23.♗g5 d3 24.♗b3 (D)



White has a number of threats and it seems that the e4-pawn is doomed.

And here out of the blue comes...

24...♖xf2!!

A great blow which reminds us that this young guy won the tactical battle against Kasparov!

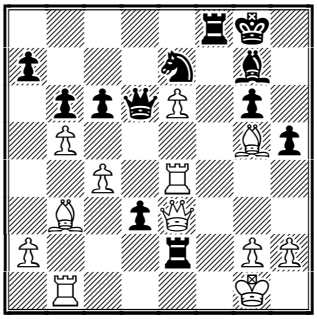
25.♖xe4!

The idea of the rook sacrifice reveals in the line 25.♔xf2 ♗d4+ 26.♗e3 ♘f5!! After this quiet move White should give back a part of his gain, e.g. 27.♔g1 *(27.♗xd4? ♕xd4+ 28.♔f1 ♖f8!* mating*)* 27...d2 28.♖e2 ♘xe3 29.♔h1 *(29.♖xe3 ♕f4)* 29...♘g4 and Black has full compensation; in the event of 25.♗xe7 ♕xe7 26.♔xf2 ♗d4+ 27.♖e3 ♖f8+ 28.♔g1 *(28.♔e1?? ♗c3+)* 28...♕g5 Black regains the rook with roughly equal position 29.♔h1 ♗xe3 30.e7 ♖e8 31.♕e6+ ♔g7 32.♕xe4; and after 25.♕h4 ♗d4 26.♔h1 d2 the black pawns may cause serious damage to White's position.

25...♖af8 26.♕e3

Avoiding one more excellent trap – 26.♗xe7? ♗d4!!–+

26...♖e2 (D)

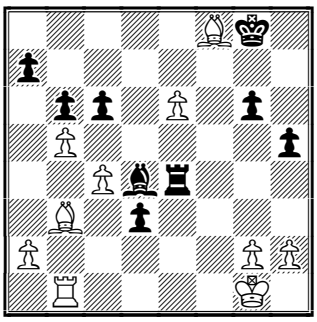


It's time for White to find a way to safe haven

27.♗xe7 ♖xe3

Bad is 27...♕xe7? 28.♕xd3 – Black is simply a pawn down.

28.♗xd6 ♖xe4 29.♗xf8 ♗d4+ (D)



30.♔h1

Of course in the endgame the king should stay in the centre but there are exceptions to every rule 30.♔f1?? ♖f4+ 31.♔e1 ♗c3+ 32.♔d1 ♖f1#

30...♔xf8 31.bxc6 ♖xe6

Slightly better is 31...d2 32.g3 ♖xe6 Now Black loses the d-pawn.

32.c7

Draw agreed in view of 32.c7 ♖c6 33.♖d1 ♖xc7 34.♖xd3 **½–½.**

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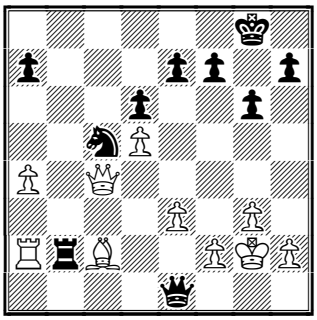
CT-149(933) 29th May 2003

Quiz Today

Bocharov–Morozevich
Togliatti 2003



Black to play
(see our annotated game – move 29 for solution.)

Chess News

Match St. Petersburg vs. NAO
by IM Vladimir Barsky

The Internet match St. Petersburg vs. NAO was certainly the main event yesterday. It was played to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Saint Petersburg – *North Capital* of Russia and *Venice of the North.*

The time control was 15 minutes per game plus 10 seconds increment per each move. NAO (sponsored by Madam Ojeh, France) is one of the strongest chess clubs which ever existed. It said that in the European Club Cup in September 2003 NAO will have the following players: Vladimir Kramnik, Alexander Grischuk, Peter Svidler, Michael Adams, Teimour Radjabov, Vallejo Pons and the best French players...

Of course, in yesterday's friendly match the line up of the French club wasn't as strong as it could have been, while St. Petersburg had 4 super-GMs. And I suspect Petersburg had a bit higher motivation! The result was a narrow victory – 2½:1½, thanks to Korchnoi's good technique in the endgame vs. Fressinet. All other games were more or less logical draws; it seemed that only young Karyakin had an advantage, but Sakaev defended rather precisely. As usual you could find all those games in our database.

Khalifman–Kramnik ½–½
Radjabov–**Svidler** ½–½
Kortchnoi–Fressinet 1–0
Karyakin–**Sakaev** ½–½

(names of players from the St. Petersburg team are in bold)

Internet coverage was available in Russian & English and in French.

Shabalov victorious in Chicago
by IM John Donaldson

US 2003 Champion, GM Alex Shabalov, took home top honours in the Chicago Open, held May 23–26 at the Hyatt Regency in Oak Brook, Illinois. The Pittsburgh resident scored 6–1, beating GMs Gregory Kaidanov and Pavel Blatny and IMs Mark Ginsburg and Mark Bluvshtein. His two draws, yielded in the middle rounds of the event, were against GM Walter Browne and IM Jan Van der Mortel.

There was a large group tying for second on 5½, including GMs Jan Ehlvest, Alexander Goldin, Alexander Stripunsky and Nikola Mitkov and IM Ben Finegold.

Close behind, a half point back, were GMs Alex Yermolinsky, Gregory Kaidanov, Igor Novikov, Ildar Ibragimov, Yury Shulman and IM Eugene Perelshteyn. The latter two qualified for the 2004 US Championship.

Curiously, unlike at the Foxwoods tournament, where all the top Americans under 2650 USCF paid the

$75 US Championship Qualifier fee, here only 4 players over 2500 did. Since the list of seeded players from the rating list will only be determined at the end of the this year it may be that several individuals intend to raise their rating soon!

Over 20 GMs played in this event organised and directed by Bill Goichberg, driving force of the Continental Chess Association. See their website for more detailed results.

Mezentsev wins in Los Angeles

by IM John Donaldson

Senior Master Vladimir Mezentsev won the Lena Grumette Memorial in Los Angeles over Memorial Day Weekend. Mezentsev, who has two IM norms, scored 5½ out of 6. After yielding a draw in round one he came back strong, beating 2300s Abrahamian and Salimbagat and top-seed IM Enrico Sevillano in the final three rounds.

Andranik Matikozian was second at 5 followed by fellow IMs Jack Peters, Melik Khachiyan and Sevillano on 4½. There were 139 players in the multi-section event, excluding scholastic and one-day sections. See more results at the tournament website.

Russian Club Championship

by IM Vladimir Barsky

We wrote in our previous issues that participants of the Russian Team Championships agreed not to publish their games from the event on the Internet. Our Editor-in-chief Alexander Baburin said that he didn't like that idea (Sveshikov's), too much – that it was like a football match without spectators. He may be right and he may be wrong – I don't want to start a discussion here and now. I can only say that I had a lot of conversations with Evgeny Sveshnikov on this topic and I respect his point of view. He claims that for chess amateurs it would be enough to have 5-10 most interesting games every day (for press, Internet, etc.) and only professionals need the complete database. But such database should come with a price tag on it.

Whether he is right or wrong, but an agreement was made and during the event we did not see any game from Togliatti on the Internet. However, yesterday Mark Crowther suddenly placed the whole database on TWIC with "*thanks to one of the players for sending them (games) to me*".

I think it's not a coincidence that Mark Crowther did not name that player (during the tournament ***all*** players received daily database with games from the previous round) – that player clearly understands that he broke the agreement. And obviously he does not feel like Prometheus, preferring to stay anonymous...

See also our Annotated Game from the "Togliatti secret database". I would like to add that the winner gave me the text and permission to annotate it.

Annotated Game

□ **Dmitry Bocharov (2492)**
■ **A. Morozevich (2678)**
Event: *10th Russian Club Ch Togliatti (1), 05.2003*
King's Indian Defence A41
Annotations by Vladimir Barsky

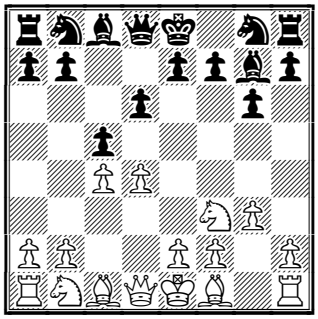
1.d4 g6

Morozevich doesn't always play the Slav Defence!

2.♘f3 ♗g7 3.c4 d6 4.g3

Perhaps more accurate was 4.♘c3!?, when 4...c5 won't be such a good idea (no check on a5!).

4...c5!? (D)



Black immediately begins concrete play.

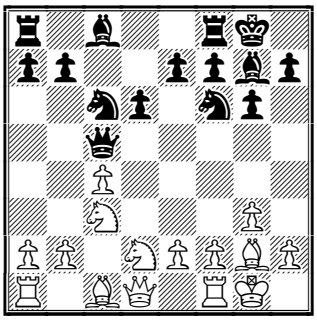
5.♗g2 ♘c6 6.dxc5

Or 6.d5 ♘a5 7.♕c2 a6!?⇄

6...♕a5+ 7.♘fd2?!

If this is the best White can do here, then Black is fine! 7.♗d2!? ♕xc5 8.♕b3

7...♕xc5 8.0-0 ♘f6 9.♘c3 0-0 (D)



White has a problem with developing the c1–bishop, but after the text move this task only gets harder. Fritz's recommendation – 10.♕a4!?, with the idea of ♘d2–b3, would be better.

10.♘d5 ♘xd5 11.cxd5 ♘d4 12.e3

12.♘b3!? ♕b4 *(12...♕b6? 13.♗e3+–)* 13.♘xd4 ♗xd4 14.a3 ♕b6 15.♗h6 ♖e8 16.♖b1=

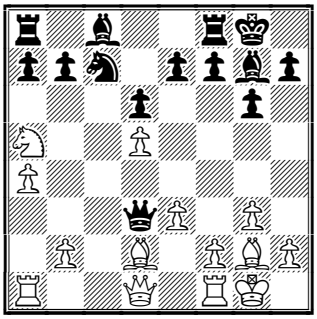
12...♘b5 13.♘b3 ♕c4 14.a4

White tries to solve his problems by tactical means.

14...♘c7 15.♗d2 ♕d3

Too greedy would be 15...♗xb2 16.♖b1 ♗a3 *(16...♗g7? 17.♖c1+–)* 17.♘a5!± *(17.♖a1 ♗b2=)*

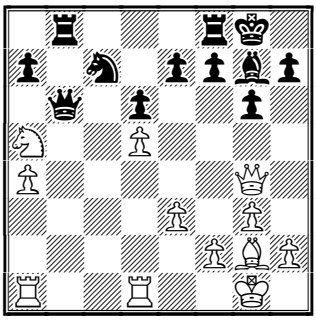
16.♘a5 (D)



16...♗g4! 17.♕xg4

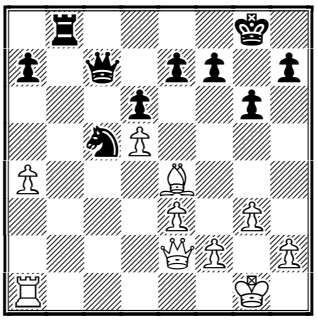
Better than 17.♕c1 ♖fc8∓ or 17.♕e1? ♗e2–+.

17...♕xd2 18.♘xb7 ♖ab8 19.♖fd1 ♕xb2 20.♘a5 ♕b6! (D)



Good positional move: Black wants to get good knight vs. bad bishop. Inferior would be 20...♕xa1?! 21.♖xa1 ♗xa1 22.♕c4 ♘e8 23.♘c6⇄.

21.♘c6 ♗xa1 22.♘xb8 ♖xb8 23.♖xa1 ♘a6 24.♗e4 ♕c7 25.♕e2 ♘c5 (D)



This is it – the black knight is glorious!

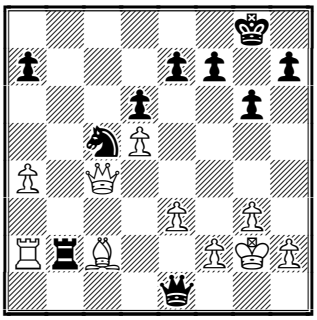
26.♕c4 ♕a5 27.♗c2 ♖b2

This is a very natural move – Black gets his rook to the 7th rank etc. But it's also a small trap!

28.♖a2?

And White fell for it! He had to play 28.♖d1∓.

28...♕e1+ 29.♔g2 (D)



29...♘d3!! 30.♖xb2

White loses in all variations: 30.♕xd3 ♖xa2–+ or 30.♗xd3 ♕xf2+ 31.♔h3 ♕xh2+ 32.♔g4 f5+ 33.♔f4 ♕f2+

34.♔g5 ♕xg3+ 35.♔h6 ♕xe3+;
30.♕c8+ ♔g7 31.♖xb2 ♕xf2+ 32.♔h3

♕f1+ 33.♔h4 ♘e5–+.

30...♕xf2+ 31.♔h3 ♕f1+ 32.♔h4

Or 32.♔g4 ♕f5+ 33.♔h4 ♕h5#.

32...g5+! 33.♔xg5 ♕f6+ 0–1.

White resigned in view of 34.♔g4 *(34.♔h5 ♕g6+ 35.♔h4 ♕h6+ 36.♔g4 ♘e5+ 37.♔f5 ♕g6+ 38.♔f4 ♕g4#)* 34...♘e5+.

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--- CB user guide.

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
Editors: GM Baburin, GM Scherbakov, IM Barsky, GM Golubev, IM Notkin
CT-150(934) 30th May 2003

Chess News

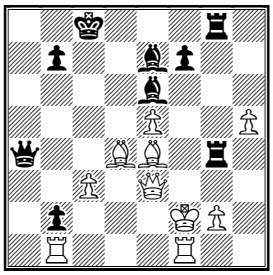
After the tournament in Sarajevo, Russian Club Championship and the St. Petersburg vs. NAO match, the chess world has gone quiet. But don't worry – this will not last long – more tournaments are coming and Chess Today will keep you informed!

One of the forth-coming events is the 5th Master d'Enghien les Bains Val d'Oise, which will take place on 12-22 of June. The list (in alphabetical order) of participants is pretty impressive: Michael Adams, Vladimir Akopian, Evgeny Bareev, Christian Bauer, Laurent Fressinet, Boris Gelfand, Viktor Korchnoi, Joel Lautier, Judit Polgar and Teymour Radjabov. The rate of play will be 2h 40 moves + 1h ko. See the official website for more details.

Meanwhile let us use this opportunity to look at the career of Milan Vukcevich, who passed away recently. Today our chess Quiz and Annotated Game sections are devoted to him. Also, see an article on Vukcevich at the excellent Chess Base website.

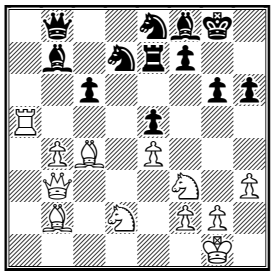
Quiz Today

De Firmian – Vukcevich
Phone League, USA 1979



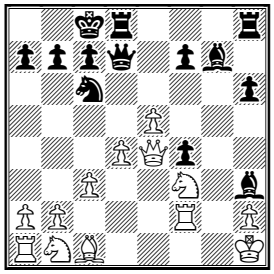
Black to play

Vukcevich-Johannsson
Reykjavik 1976



White to play

Tringov-Vukcevich
Leningrad 1960



Black to play
(see move 16 in our annotated game for solution)

Milan Vukcevich (1937- 2003)
by IM John Donaldson

The chess world has lost one of its most talented and dedicated devotees with the passing of **Milan Vukcevich** on May 10 in Cleveland after a long bout with cancer. Chess players tend to be divided into over the board and correspondence players, problemists and endgame composers. Milan was the rare individual who excelled in all forms of the game.

Born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, on March 11, 1937 Milan did not have it easy in his youth. He grew up without his father Radoje, who was a liaison officer between the royal army of Yugoslavia and U.S. Forces, and was forced to flee to the United States after

incurring the enmity of President Tito. In his book, *Chess by Milan (1981)*, Vukcevich credits his uncle Milan Trivanovic, his brother Ivan Sprung and family friend (and future IM) Trandaphilos Siaperas for installing in him a life-long love of playing chess and composing problems.

Also close to Milan were the members of the Belgrade chess club Slavia, which had among its members Matulovic, Janosevic, Maric, Sokolov, and Lazarevic. This was a golden time for chess in Yugoslavia and Milan blossomed in the supportive environment. He earned his Candidate Master title in 1953 and by 1955 was strong enough to win the Yugoslav Junior Championship and draw a match with a young Bent Larsen 3-3.

In 1955 he also began his studies at the University of Belgrade where he was affiliated until 1963. During this decade his chess and academic career blossomed. He received the very difficult to obtain Yugoslav Master title by scoring 50 percent in the 1958 Yugoslav Championship (he had missed by a half point in 1957).

It was in 1960 that he attracted the attention of the chess world. Everyone remembers Leningrad 1960 as the scene of the great triumph for the US Student Olympiad team (Lombardy, Kalme, Weinstein, Saidy, Mednis and Hearst) over the Soviets, but not too many might recall that Yugoslavia was third and Milan was the key factor. He tied for the best result on second board with the late Charles Kalme with 11½ from 13, only US first board William Lombardy had a better overall result in the competition with an amazing 12 out of 13.

Milan's victories over Tringov and Drimer in Leningrad 1960 won the best game and best endgame prizes. Later in the year he received a second team bronze medal when he was a member of the Yugoslav team that finished third in the Olympiad in Leipzig.

Milan moved to the United States in 1963 to enter the doctorate program in metallurgy at MIT. He graduated in 1967 and shortly thereafter moved to Cleveland where he taught at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for six years. When the university pressured him to engage in research not congenial to his nature, Milan refused and left to work in industry, primarily at the General Electric Company in Cleveland.

He played league chess in Boston and Cleveland in the 1960s but it was his first place tie with GMs Benko and R. Byrne at the 1969 US Open that brought him to the attention of the American chess public. In 1975 US Closed championship he had his best ever result, narrowly missing qualification for the Interzonal, when he finished third.

The following year he found the perfect vehicle to renew his love for team chess in the newly formed National Telephone League. Competing for the Cleveland Kinghunters he performed exceptionally well year after year. In 1976 he led Cleveland to a third place finish, tying with GM Kavalek for best result on board one with 6½ from 8. His sole loss was to Richard Verber when he lost on time on move 40 after failing to punch his clock in a winning position. His score in 22 games in the NTL from 1976-1979 was a fantastic 16½ points against almost entirely GM and IM opposition.

The demise of the National Telephone League marked the end of Milan's departure from the national chess scene, though he continued to play locally in Cleveland in major events in Ohio, helping to raise the standard of chess in the Buckeye State.

GM Lubosh Kavalek in a 1973 interview opined that Vukcevich, had he chosen to pursue chess professionally, possessed all the qualities to eventually become one of

the world's top thirty. His chess style was characterised by extensive and original opening knowledge, the ability to calculate deeply and accurately, and a penchant for problem-like solutions. This level of competitive success never came to be, partly because he loved his career as a scientist. As Vukcevich prepared for the 1975 Us Championship he told The Plain Dealer that he did not consider going the route of most chess champions: eking out a living by playing in tournaments, teaching and writing about the subject. "I cannot be just a chess player or just a scientist. I have to be both. I have to get to my lab next week, even though I will be playing in the tournament . . . I have a very happy life, happier than many others.'

Another reason that Milan never realized his full potential was that he preferred beauty in chess above all else. In his book "Milan on Chess" he mentions having come to prefer the non-competitive world of composition to that of tournament chess, and the last twenty years of his life he composed many chess problems. He became the first American to hold the FIDE International Grandmaster of Chess Composition title in 1988. Just before his death he published a second book of his best problems that is available for $35 from Mike Prcic, 2613 Northshore Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361-3318, USA. For his career achievements as a chess player and problem composer Milan was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 1998.

Milan's accomplishments as a scientist were considerable. A Nobel Prize nominee for Chemistry he authored two books and for many years held the title of Chief Scientist at General Electric. He was a professor at the University of Arizona when he passed away.

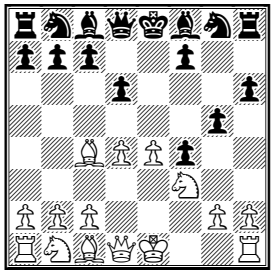
As much as Milan accomplished as a player, composer and scientist he will best be remembered for his love of life and friendly manner. James Schroeder, writing in the *Cleveland Chess Bulletin*, relates how Milan never asked for any special treatment despite being the best player in Cleveland in the 1960s and 70.

While playing in the 1975 Ohio Chess Congress I had a chance to see first hand what a stand-up guy Milan was. The overwhelming favourite to win, he was upset early by an A player from Cincinnati by the name of Perry Sill, who beat him with a book trap in the Schliemann variation of the Ruy Lopez in 19 moves. Many players in this situation would have been very angry and stomped out, but Milan congratulated his young opponent and stayed in the tournament for the remaining rounds despite no longer having any chance to win the event.

Annotated Game

□ **G. Tringov**
■ **M. Vukcevich**
Event: *World Students' Team Championship Leningrad (7), 1960*
King's Gambit - [C34]
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin

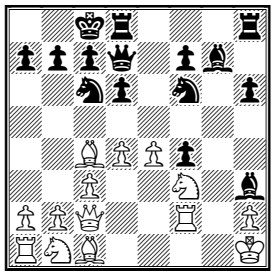
1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.♘f3 h6 4.d4 g5 5.♗c4 d6 (D)



6.c3
This is solid, but slow. Probably better is the immediate 6.g3 or 6.0–0 ♗g7 7.g3, for example: 7...g4 8.♘h4 f3 9.♘c3 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♘f6 11.♕d2 ♘xe4 12.♘xe4 d5 13.♘c3 dxc4 14.♖ae1 0–0 15.d5 ♘e7 16.♗xh6 ♘g6 17.♘xg6 fxg6 18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.♕d4+ ♕f6 20.♖e7+ ♔g8 21.♕xf6 ♖xf6 22.♖xc7 ♗f5

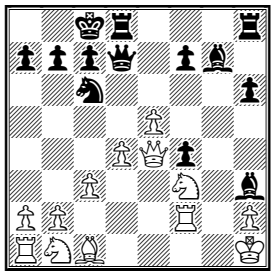
23.♖xc4± as in Spassky–Karpov, Hamburg 1982.

6...♘c6 7.0–0 ♗g7 8.g3 ♗h3 9.♖f2 ♘f6 10.♕c2 ♕d7 11.gxf4 gxf4 12.♔h1 0–0–0 ***(D)***



Now it is White who comes under attack in the King's Gambit!

13.♗d3 d5! 14.e5 ♘e4 15.♗xe4 dxe4 16.♕xe4 (D)



16...♗xe5!

The centre must be broken down!

17.♗xf4

White could not take the bishop: 17.dxe5 ♕d1+ 18.♕e1 ♘xe5! 19.♗d2 ♘d3–+ or 17.♘xe5 ♘xe5 18.♗xf4 *(18.♕xe5 ♕c6+ 19.d5 ♖xd5–+)* 18...f5! 19.♕xe5 ♕c6+ 20.♔g1 ♖hg8+ 21.♗g3 ♖de8–+.

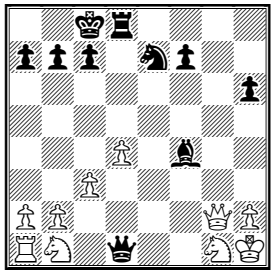
17...♕g4! 18.♘g1

Or 18.dxe5 ♖d1+ 19.♘e1 ♖g8.

18...♗xf4 19.♘xh3

After 19.♕xf4 Black has 19...♗g2+! 20.♖xg2 ♕xf4.

19...♕d1+ 20.♘g1 ♖hg8 21.♖g2 ♖xg2 22.♕xg2 ♘e7! (D)



Black has an easy win, as the enemy pieces are rather useless.

23.♕e2 ♕c1 24.♘d2 ♕xd2 25.♕xd2 ♗xd2 26.♖f1 f5 27.♘f3 ♗e3 28.♖e1 f4 0–1.

Solutions to our quiz today:

De Firmian – Vukcevich:
44...♖xg2+! 45.♗xg2 ♕c2+ 46.♕e2 ♖xg2+ 0–1

Vukcevich–Johannsson: **26.♘xe5! ♘xe5 27.♖xe5 ♘d6** Or 27...♖xe5 28.♗xf7+ ♔h7 *(28...♔g7 29.♘c4)* 29.♕g3!, winning. **28.♖xe7 1–0** Black resigned as after 28...♗xe7 29.♕c3 his king would not survive.

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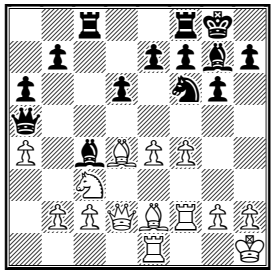
CT-151(935) 31st May 2003

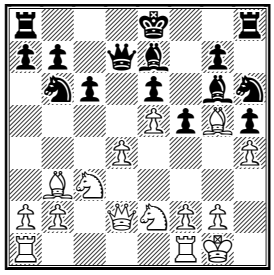
Quiz Today

Revuckij-Savchenko
Alushta, Ukraine, 26.05.2003



Black to play

Moroz-Dmitrenko
Alushta, Ukraine, 23.05.2003



White to play

Chess News

European Championship

The European Championship, sponsored by Olympica Travel Services and Turk Telekom, started in Istanbul. I am sure that it will, along with some interesting news be appearing on the Web, to keep true chess devotees as busy as always!

Our reader from Turkey, Oskun Anar, informed *Chess Today* that a 13 year old Turkish player made a draw against GM Nijboer. There were quite a few upsets in the first round, which is hardly surprising. The tournament is dominated by seasoned chess professionals – even such a well-known and dangerous player as GM Oleg Romanishin, is only No. 102 in Istanbul!

Let's have a look at the top 20 tables

Conquest-Ivanchuk ½-½
Grischuk-Iljushin 1-0
Art. Minasian - Azmaiparashvili ½-½
I. Sokolov-Spasov ½-½
Kempinski - van Wely ½-½
Malakhov-Dvoirys 1-0
Glek-Rublevsky 1-0
Sakaev-Kurajica 1-0
Iordachescu-Zvjaginsev ½-½
Bologan-Stevic 1-0
Jaracz-Smirin 0-1
Movsesian -V. Belov 1-0
David-Bacrot ½-½
Vaganian-Areshchenko ½-½
Sturua-Sutovsky ½-½
Aleksandrov-Gershon 1-0
Svetushkin-Beliavsky 0-1
Kir. Georgiev - Banikas 1-0
Halkias - P. Nikolic 1-0
Tkachiev-Zelcic 1-0

As you can see White scored pretty heavily – 14 points out of 20! You can find several games from Istanbul in our database, though there are mistakes in some of them.

Team Tournament in Ukraine

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The Chess tournament of the 2nd Ukrainian Summer Sport Games took place in Alushta, Urraine, May 20-26. The Ukrainian Games is a competition between regions, organized once in four years. This year the team from the Lugansk Region (headed by GMs Shneider, Areshchenko and Kuzmin) won the men's tournament, while the Kherson Region team (leading players: WGMs Zhukova and Gaponenko) emerged victorious in the women's tournament. A more detailed report in Russian and games from the

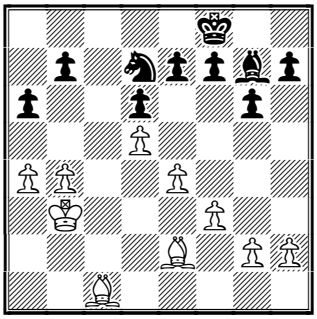
tournament are available on my site.

Endgame Laboratory

In the previous issue IM John Donaldson mentioned that in 1960 in Leningrad Milan Vukcevich got a prize for best endgame vs. D. Drimer. As I have soft spot for endings, I looked at that endgame and today I would like to share my findings with our readers. I think that on average endgame technique improved quite a lot since the 1960s, but judge for yourself...

□ **M. Vukcevich**
■ **D. Drimer**
Event: *World Students' Team Championship Leningrad, 1960*
Dragon, Maroczy Bind, [B36]
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘xd4 7.♕xd4 d6 8.♗e3 ♗g7 9.♗e2 0-0 10.♕d2 ♗e6 11.♖c1 ♕a5 12.f3 ♖fc8 13.b3 a6 14.a4 ♘d7 15.♘d5 ♕xd2+ 16.♔xd2 ♗xd5 17.cxd5 ♔f8 18.b4 ♗b2 19.♖c2 ♖xc2+ 20.♔xc2 ♗g7 21.♔b3 ♖c8 22.♖c1 ♖xc1 23.♗xc1 (D)



A pretty typical endgame arose. White has two bishops and commands more space, which gives him a clear edge. But converting it into something tangible is not easy, since position remains semi-closed.

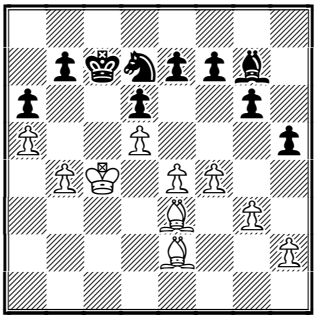
23...♔e8 24.♗e3 ♔d8 25.a5 ♔c7 26.f4

Here I would have seriously considered 26.g4!?, trying to grab more space (with future g4-g5) on the kingside.

26...h5!?

Usually it makes sense to play ...h7-h5 in such positions, so if White advances pawns there, some exchanges will occur.

27.♔c4 ♗b2 28.g3 ♗g7 (D)



29.♗d4!

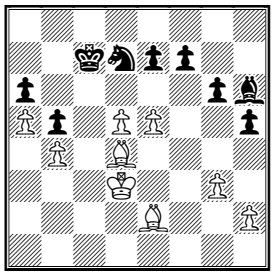
One of the advantages of having a bishop pair is that you can always offer to trade one of them!

29...♗h6!

After 29...♗xd4 30.♔xd4 White's bishop is much better than Black's knight.

30.♔c3

White prevents ...b5, which would have improved Black's position on the queenside. However, perhaps he should have played more energetically in the centre: 30.e5!? b5+!? 31.♔d3 *(31.axb6+? ♘xb6+ 32.♗xb6+ ♔xb6 33.e6 fxe6 34.dxe6 h4* should be a draw.*)* 31...dxe5 32.fxe5 *(D)*



Here White maintains advantage:

32...♗g7 33.e6 ♗xd4 34.♔xd4 fxe6 35.dxe6 ♘f6 36.♔e5 and White is much better, for example: 36...♘g4+ 37.♗xg4 hxg4 38.♔f4 ♔d6 39.♔xg4 ♔xe6 40.h4 ♔d5 41.♔f3 ♔d4 42.g4 e5 43.♔e2 ♔e4 44.h5 gxh5 45.gxh5 ♔f5 46.♔e3 ♔g5 47.♔e4 ♔xh5 48.♔xe5, winning.

Probably better is ***32...e6!,*** but even then White keeps pressure after 33.d6+ ♔c8 34.h4 ♗g7 35.♔e4 f5+ 36.exf6 ♘xf6+ 37.♔f3 ♔d7 *(37...♘e8?? 38.♗xg7 ♘xg7 39.♗xb5 axb5 40.a6+-)*

38.♗e5!.

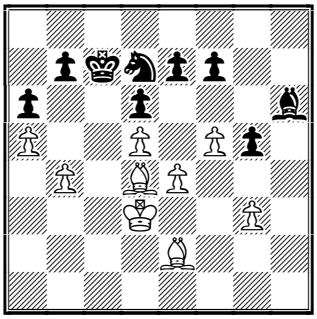
30...h4!?

Reducing pawn material practically always helps the defending side.

31.♔d3 hxg3 32.hxg3 g5!

White was ready for e4–e5, so Black correctly tries to upset this plan.

33.f5 (D)



33...♘e5+

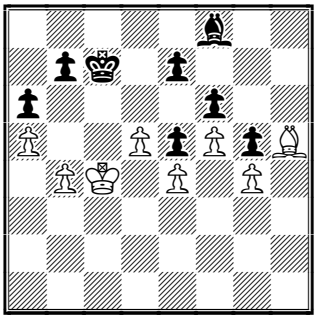
It would be easier for Black to defend after 33...g4?! 34.♗xg4 ♘e5+ 35.♗xe5 dxe5, when his bishop is alive. Here extra pawn does not give White a winning advantage – the opposite-squared bishops save him: 36.f6 exf6 37.♗h5 ♗f8 with a draw.

But the text move does not spoil anything yet.

34.♗xe5 dxe5 35.♗h5 f6

Here 35...g4? 36.♗xf7 would soon leave Black two pawns down.

36.g4 ♗f8 37.♔c4 (D)

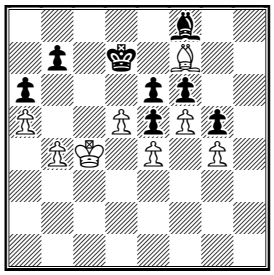


37...♔d7??

This is really lousy play – Black seems to think that nothing bad can happen to him here! Instead, Black could easily draw with both ***37...b5+!*** 38.axb6+ (38.♔c5?? e6+ 39.d6+ ♗xd6# isn't what White wants to see!) 38...♔xb6 and ***37...e6!.*** Bishops need diagonals – who wants a dead fly on f8?! After 38.fxe6 b5+! 39.axb6+ ♔xb6 White cannot make progress.

38.♗f7 ♔d6?

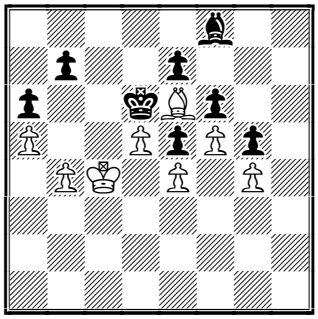
Another mistake. Black was already lost, but at least he could put a good fight by playing 38...e6! *(D)*



Now White has to make the right choice. In case of ***39.fxe6+?*** ♔c7 40.b5 ♗d6! 41.♗e8 ♔c8 Black holds the position. He only must avoid taking on b5: 40...axb5+? 41.♔xb5 ♗d6 42.♗e8 ♗e7 43.♗c6! bxc6+ *(43...♗d6 44.♗xb7 ♔xb7 45.a6+ ♔c7 46.a7 ♔b7 47.a8♕+ ♔xa8 48.♔c6+–)* 44.dxc6 ♔b8 45.♔b6 ♗d8+ 46.c7+! ♗xc7+ 47.♔c6.

Correct is ***39.dxe6+!*** – White must make the d5-square accessible for his king! He wins after 39...♔c7 40.b5 ♗e7 (after 40...axb5+ 41.♔xb5 ♗e7 White needs to get his bishop to d5 and then sacrifice it on b7: 42.♗e8 ♗d6 43.♔c4 ♗e7 44.♗a4 ♗d6 45.♔b5 ♗e7 46.♗b3 ♗d6 47.♗d5 ♗e7 48.♗xb7 ♔xb7 49.a6+ ♔c7 50.a7 ♔b7 51.a8♕+ ♔xa8 52.♔c6+–) 41.bxa6 bxa6 42.♗e8 ♗f8 43.♗b5! ♔b7 44.♗xa6+ ♔xa6 45.♔d5 ♔xa5 46.♔c6 ♔b4 47.♔d7 ♔c5 48.e7 ♗xe7 49.♔xe7 ♔d4 50.♔xf6 ♔xe4 51.♔xg5+–.

39.♗e6! (D)



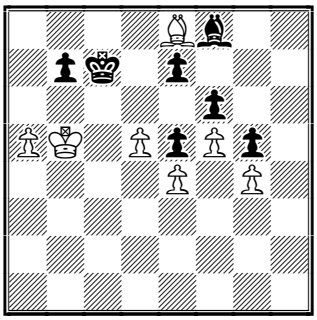
Now Black is essentially a bishop down! He can use that piece to make moves (so, no zugzwang here!), but

that's about it...

39...♗g7 40.b5! axb5+

In case of 40...♗f8 41.b6 the b7-pawn falls.

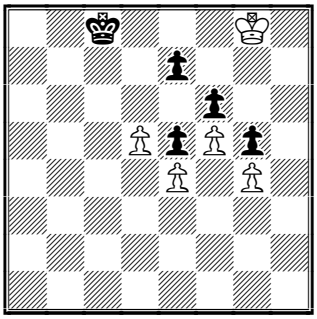
41.♔xb5 ♔c7 42.♗f7 ♗h6 43.♗e8 ♗f8 (D)



44.♗c6!

The beginning of the end!

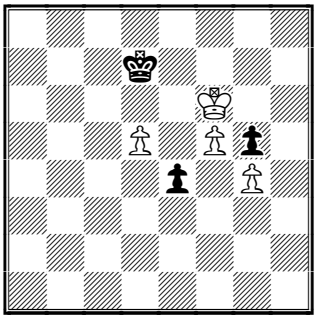
44...♗h6 45.♗xb7 ♔xb7 46.a6+ ♔c7 47.a7 ♔b7 48.a8♕+ ♔xa8 49.♔c6 ♗f8 50.♔d7 ♔b7 51.♔e8 ♔c7 52.♔xf8 ♔d7 53.♔g8 ♔c8 (D)



54.d6! exd6 55.♔f7 d5 56.exd5 ♔d7

Or 56...e4 57.♔e7 e3 58.d6 e2 59.d7+ ♔b7 60.d8♕ e1♕+ 61.♔xf6+-.

57.♔xf6 e4 (D)



58.♔g6 e3 59.f6 e2 60.f7 e1♕

61.f8♕ ♕g1

61...♕e4+ loses to 62.♕f5+

62.♕f7+ 1-0.

Solutions to quiz today:

1) Revuckij-Savchenko: **15...♘xe4! 16.♘xe4 ♕xd2 17.♘xd2 ♗xd4 18.♖f3 ♗xe2 19.♖xe2 0-1**

2) Moroz-Dmitrenko: **15.♗xe6!** and Black resigned in view of 15...♕xe6 16.♘f4 ♕f7 17.e6.

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us - we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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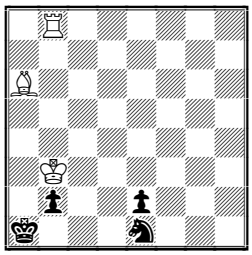
CT-152 (936) 1st June 2003

Quiz Today

Vukcevich, study 1951



White to play and draw

Chess News

Yesterday the second round was played at the European Championship in Istanbul. Below are results from the 10 top tables:

Delchev–Grischuk ½–½
Timofeev–Malakhov ½–½
Volokitin–Sakaev ½–½
Luther–Bologan ½–½
Smirin–**Ivanisevic** 0–1
Nevednichy–Movsesian ½–½
Atalik–Aleksandrov ½–½
Beliavsky–Stefansson 1–0
Inarkiev – **Kir. Georgiev** 0–1
Hulak–Tkachiev ½–½

As you can see, it was indeed tough on the top – only 3 decisive games out of 10. And Black won two of them!

Standings after 2 rounds:

1–11. Alexander Beliavsky (2649), Kiril Georgiev (2647), Alexander Graf (2630), Rustem Dautov (2611), Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (2606), Vasilios Kotronias (2597), Evgenij Agrest (2591), Valeriy Neverov (2583), Merab Gagunashvili (2580), Vugar Gashimov (2579) and Ivan Ivanisevic (2569) – 2 points, etc.

There are only GMs in the leading group, but while they all have high enough ratings, none of them could be described as an Elo-favourite – Alexander Beliavsky is only No. 17 in the starting list. See pairing for round 3 here. You can also find several games from round 2 in our database.

Web Watch

Weekends are perfect for surfing the Web, which has much to offer to a chess fan. Today I would like to share with our readers a few useful leads.

The Art of Chess Exhibition

In *CT-934* we published a press release about the forthcoming exhibition match between GM Sergei Karjakin and David Howell (London, 28 June). The match will mark the opening of the exhibition called the *Art of Chess* at the Gilbert Collection. Alone with the press-release, *Chess Today* received a lot of additional information about the exhibition. As it is not possible to publish all of that here, I recommend you visit its website, where you can find interesting and well illustrated story about history of chess sets. I would like to quote from the site:
"From my close contact with artists and chess players I have come to the personal conclusion that while all artists are not chess players, all chess players are artists." – Marcel Duchamp

One website which is getting better and better is ChessBase.com, which has a lot of frequently updated content. Here are some of the latest stories: 'Ratmir Kholmov, the 'Central Defender', 'Move over Judit, here comes Kateryna! ' and 'Chess for psychopaths'. The site also has a story on the future documentary on Kasparov vs. Deep Blue.

A new interesting interview with Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan appeared on the website of IM Jeremy Silman.

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco has an interesting website. There you can find a

newsletter by IM Donaldson and several games annotated by GM Yermolinsky, including recent exhibition game Yermolinsky–Shulman. I like the MI Chess Club a lot and played there several times. It is probably the oldest existing chess club in the USA, with rich chess history. IM Donaldson recently wrote the following in one of MI newsletters: "The staff of the Mechanics' Institute recently completed the first of a two volume series on the history of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room. The fruits of their research are available on a CD which includes almost 90 pages of text, approximately 10 photos from the MI archives and over 150 games in ChessBase format. Visits of Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine and Euwe, are among the highlights. The price of the CD is $10 + $1 for shipping. To order, send a check payable to the Mechanics' Institute for $11 to: Mechanics' Institute, Room 408, 57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA, 94104." I guess this offer is valid for US residents only.

Finally, I was glad to find that our paper got a pretty positive review at the Seagaard Chess Reviews website.

Milan Vukcevich – problemist

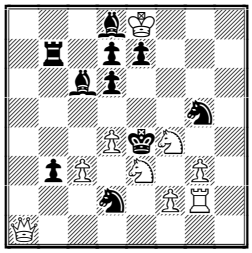
by IM Yochanan Afek

Dr. Milan Vukcevich excelled in all forms of chess, however as a problemist he was one of the best of all time. In 1988 he was the first American to be awarded with the title of International Grandmaster for chess composition after entering 120 problems of all kind to the periodical FIDE Albums (the draconic norm for the title is 70 problems in the albums which cover the best of a period of 3 years each).

Vukcevich saw in over the board play and in chess problems two equal aspects of the same game and the difference between them is more in the intensity than in the substance. In the introduction to his memorable book *'Chess by Milan'* (1981) he wrote: *"Many times I heard that chess problems cannot help anyone play better at chess. Along the same lines, I often hear that understanding quantum mechanics does not help an engineer, that chemists and biologists do not have any use for physics and mathematics and that the theory of relativity is irrelevant to the philosopher... These voices try to get something for nothing, to rationalize laziness and justify ignorance!"* A good chess problem, according to Vukcevich activates more force per move, uses pieces more efficiently and stresses more their cooperation and interference with each extraordinary event, in the same way in which a good novel may condense real lives in a single lifetime of its fictitious hero"

This subtle perception was the guideline of his extraordinary composing career. He composed in all genres but was mainly dedicated to developing new ideas in the old 19th century classical themes and their combinations. The following four-mover demonstrates in grand style a combination of two such themes, which were his life-long favourites: **The Bristol Theme** (a long range piece clears its line to another piece of the same colour) and the **Grimshaw Theme** (mutual interferences of defending pieces).

Milan Vukcevich
1982, 1st prize



Mate in 4

1.♕h1!

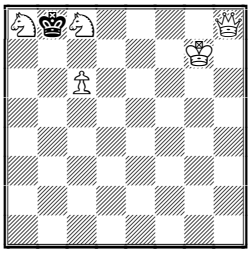
The key move – White threatens 2.f3+ ♘dxf3 3.♕b1+ Kxe3 4.♕d3# or 2...♘gxf3 3.♕h7+ Kxe3 4.♕d3#.

Against this threat Black has the following subtle defence:

1...♖b5 2.♖g1+ ♘df3 3.♖a1!!

With the Bristol threat 4.♕b1#, which cannot be met by ...♗b5 (a Grimshaw interference!).
The second thematic defence is **1...♗b5 2.♖h2+ ♘gf3 3.♖h8!!**
And again the Bristol threat 4.♕h7# cannot be met by ...♖b5 due to another Grimshaw interference. Amazing harmony!
This is a superb example of Vukcevich's depth and virtuosity, however he also composed several light-weight problems aimed at the occasional solver. I am sure it won't take you too long to crack the following miniature:

Milan Vukcevich, 1970



Mate in 2

Solution is at the end of the issue.

Book Review

by Don Aldrich

School of Chess Excellence I: Endgame Analysis, by Mark Dvoretsky (Editions Olms 2002) paperback, FAN, 260 pp., $25

From the late 80's through the 90's, Dvoretsky, perhaps the premier chess trainer in the world, wrote a series of books covering all aspects of chess published by Batsford. Prior to Batsford's bankruptcy, several authors were shorted royalties, including Dvoretsky. Batsford was then bought by Chrysalis, and has started republishing again. It is not clear to me what the status of the copyrights of some of the pre-bankruptcy material is. However, Dvoretsky retained his copyright, and thus is free to publish again with a new publisher. This book was originally published as *Technique for the Tournament Player.* Now in its new incarnation, it has been updated, added to, and published by the prestigious Olms house of Switzerland. It has a new, vastly improved translation by Ken Neat, about 40 pages of new material, some corrections and updates to retained material, and is given the first class treatment that all Olms' products have – the paper and binding are far superior to even many hardcovers. The diagrams and type are superb.
The book is divided into three parts: Adjourned Positions, The Endgame, and Studies. Each part consists of 10-15 separate chapters or 'lectures', running from 3 to 10 pages. Each chapter covers one or two positions or ideas in great detail. There are questions posed for the reader at critical junctures, which the reader is asked to solve before moving on. At the end of each section there are a number of problems relating to the material just presented to be solved with the answers in the back.
It is important to understand that the book is titled: 'Endgame Analysis'. This is not a primer of endgame technique. There are no chapters on the opposition, or how to win the Lucena position. One could argue that the major focus of the Soviet School was on what Dvoretsky calls the 'calculation of concrete variations'. This simply means improving calculation and visualization skills. Throughout all of his works, Dvoretsky is constantly hammering on how important this is, and many of his exercises are designed to foster and grow these skills.
What many do not understand is how useful the endgame can be for this exercise. Many endgame studies, which Dvoretsky uses a lot of, have only a few pieces or pawns on the board, and are amenable to calculation of quite lengthy lines. Several years ago I attended a week long chess camp that featured a number of expatriate Russian instructors, such as Dmitri Gurevich, Gregory Kaidanov and so on, and one of the things they

had us doing day and night was solving King & pawn endgames in our heads. Often the solutions would go 20+ moves. The point was not so much learning about pawn endings as improving calculation skills.

And so it is here. The first section of the book, adjourned games, might not seem to useful to the modern player in the era of sudden death time controls. As Dvoretsky says, the point of these chapters is not to teach how to analyse adjourned positions but to foster the analytical skills of the student. This section contains some very deeply analysed positions.

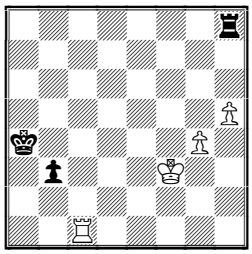
The second section, 'The Endgame', is simply a collection of lectures on various endings which are unified only by the fact that there is an interesting point or two be to gleaned, and of course to improve the calculation of those concrete variations. The chapters feature titles such as 'The King Establishes a Record', 'Mined Squares', 'The Reward for Tenacious Defence', and so on.

The third section, entitled 'Studies', focuses on using the composed endgame study to improve one's analytical abilities. He sets out a number of them, but this is not simply a study selection. Each one is discussed in detail, and he explains how to use them in one's training. Significantly, he notes that a surprisingly high number of classics have been 'cooked'. He brings this up not for aesthetic reasons, but as an example how to use them in training. Most of the cooks given were done by students in his classes, and he is encouraging the reader to do the same at home.

One of the unique features of this presentation is that one is not told what the task is; that is, the diagrams only indicate that it's White's move, and are silent on the result, as opposed to the standard 'White to move and win or draw' captions. As Dvoretsky notes, in a game, there is no one to tell you who is going to win. And this very technique is what has led to a number of the cooks. Some poor student thinks he is supposed to win a position that was designed to be drawn, or win it with black, and he does so! As with all Dvoretsky books, the problems are quite difficult. Actually reading a chapter the way he wants you to, solving the problems as you go along, is a serious study task that can take several hours.

Here is an extract from the chapter entitled 'Rook against Pawns':

Simagin – Bronstein
Moscow Championship, 1982



After some historical background, you are given a question: **Q 2-26. *How should Black Defend?*** After working it out on your own, you find the following:

1...♖h8! The primitive 1...b2? 2.♖b1 ♔b3 3.g5 does not leave Black any chance at all. He must stop the pawns, if only for the moment.

2.♔g3?

The king heads for h4, in order to set the pawns in motion. As we shall see later, this natural move throws away the win.

2...b2 3.♖b1?!

Here too the opponent could have been set far more serious problems. The subsequent events develop by force.

3...♔b3 4.♔h4 ♖a8!

4...♖c8! was equally good. **To halt the advance of two connected passed pawns, a rook is best placed to the rear of them, behind the more advanced pawn**. The rook has fulfilled its objective at h8, and it now heads for the first rank, to h1.

5.g5

There is more analysis at this point, but I just give the remaining moves for completeness. **5...♖a1 6.♖xb2+ ♔xb2 7.♔g4 ♖h1! 8.g6 ♔c3 9.♔g5**

♔d4 10.g7 ♔e5! 11.♔g6 ♖g1+ 12.♔f7 ♖f1+! 13.♔e7 ♖g1 14.h6 ♖g6! 15.♔f7 ♖f6+ 16.♔e8 ♖e6+ 17.♔d8 ♖d6+ 18.♔c8 ♖c6+ ½–½

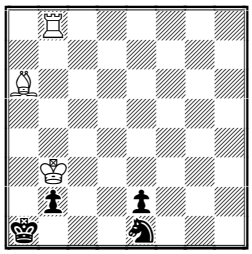
At this point, a new diagram appears, the position from the above game after 3.♖h1! instead of 3.♖b1, and the reader is challenged with 'What is Black to do now?', which is followed by another two pages of analysis. The chapter ends with two exercises involving Rook against pawns to solve. I should also mention this chapter contains a second game fragment containing another reader challenge, and several pages of hard core analysis and explication of the particular problems in this type of ending. And this is typical of the book. This chapter is six pages, focuses on one issue or technique, offers three reader challenges, and two exercises. In addition to forcing one to work on his calculating skills, it teaches an extremely useful technique for a particular ending. I would guess that to properly cover the material in this chapter will require 2–4 hours of time depending on the reader's skill and tenacity.

The effort will be worth it. Dvoretsky's genius lies in selecting the right problems for the student, and asking the right questions. Working through one of his books will improve one's play, virtually no matter what his strength. Dvoretsky's programs are designed for players of the 'first category', i.e. youngsters of Class A–expert strength or better, so the material is suitable for virtually anyone under 2400. While some of his books can definitely be over the head of a weaker class player, the ideas here are so fundamental that I think almost anyone can benefit.

Conclusion: In short, I cannot give a strong enough recommendation to this book. If you like endgames, you will love it. If you hate endgames, you may find that they can be entertaining after all. And if you do the work, you will definitely improve.

Solution to quiz Today:

Vukcevich, study 1951



White to play and draw

1.♗d3! ♘xd3 2.♔c2 ♘c1 3.♖xb2 e1♕ 4.♖b1+ ♔a2 5.♖a1+ ♔xa1 Stalemate! Vukcevich composed this study when he was just 14!

Milan Vukcevich, 1970, mate in 2: 1.♕h1! Zugzwang! **1...♔xa8 2.c7# or 1...♔xc8 2.♕h8#**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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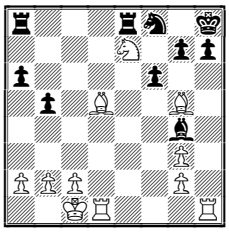
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-153 (937) 2nd June 2003

Quiz Today

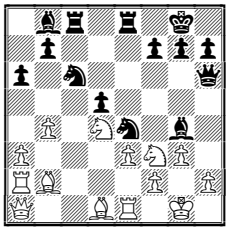
1. 'Who is the first ever Irish GM?'
Try solving this mystery – the answer is in at the end of this issue. ☺

2. Shamkovich-Kremenietsky
Moscow 1963



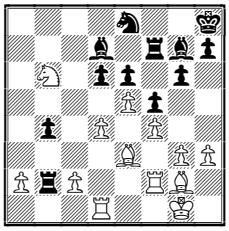
White to play

3. Miles-Suba
Thessaloniki 1984



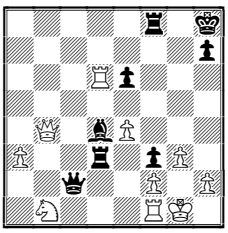
Black to play

4. Short – Wang Zili
Beijing 2000



White to play

5. Ernst-Timoshenko
Tallinn 1989



Black to play

Chess News

Yesterday round 3 was played at the European Championship in Istanbul. Here are results from the 10 top tables:

Kotronias-Beliavsky 1-0
Georgiev-Neverov ½-½
Agrest-Graf ½-½
Gashimov-Dautov ½-½
Ivanisevic-**Nisipeanu** 0-1
Ivanchuk-Gagunashvili ½-½
Grischuk-Socko 1-0
Pavasovic-**Azmaiparashvili** 0-1
Malakhov-Delchev ½-½
Sakaev-Timofeev 1-0

Standings after 3 rounds:
1-2. Kotronias (2597) and Nisipeanu (2606) – 3 points;
3-23. Dautov (2611), Neverov (2583), Graf (2630), Sakaev (2664), Aleksandrov (2650), Tkachiev (2643), Chuchelov (2592), Atalik (2568), Glek (2551), Arlandi (2456), Grischuk (2701), Bologan (2663), Tregubov (2632), Gagunashvili (2580), Kharlov (2581), Azmaiparashvili (2678), Damljanovic (2587), Kacheishvili (2592), Kiril Georgiev (2647), Gashimov (2579) and Agrest (2591) – 2½ points, etc.

As you can see, only two players still have a perfect score, but there are not fewer than 20 GMs and one IM chasing them! You can find some games from round 3 in our database.

ICCF Champions League
Qualification round
by Ralph P. Marconi

June 15th will mark the end of the first year of play for the ICCF's team email chess event, Champions League qualifying round. *Chess Today* has 3 teams entered into this event. Below are the current standings of our teams. Each team plays a total of 40 games; each board 10 games. There are 11 teams per group.

Chess Today *Kings*
Group 9
Bd 1 Al Fichaud (CAN) – 2½/5 (5), Bd 2 Kerry Redinger (USA) – 2½/9 (1), Bd 3 Andy Ansel (USA) – 5/10 (0), Bd 4 Chris Bradley (USA) – 2½/7 (3)

Total: 12½/31 (9)

Chess Today *Bishops*
Group 17
Bd 1 Brian Smith (USA) – 3/5 (5), Bd 2 Carl Hibbard (ENG) – 1/8 (2), Bd 3 Carl Heinemann (USA) – ½/8 (2), Bd 4 John J. Mackie (AUS) – 4/7 (3)

Total: 8½/28 (12)

Chess Today *Knights*
Group 7
Bd 1 Jonathan O'Connor (IRL) – 5/7 (3),Bd 2 Jack Killane (USA) – 0/6 (4),Bd 3 Doug Schwetke (USA) – 1½/10 (0),Bd 4 Stephane Fombone (FRA) – 1½/10 (0)

Total: 8/33 (7)

For those interested in viewing the ultimate structure of the ICCF's Champions League go the following webpage:

http://www.tables.iccf.com/email/ChLeague/structur1.htm

Chess Today received a pretty curious letter, which might be interesting for our UK readers:

"Dear Chess Today,

I am writing from RDF Media, London, England. We are an independent television production company responsible for programmes such as Faking it, Perfect Match, Wife Swap, Shipwrecked, Eden and many more exciting programmes. I am currently working on Faking It, which is a hugely successful format, having won various awards, including a BAFTA, and is one of Channel 4's flagship shows regularly attracting audiences in the millions. The concept behind the series, as you might know, is based around the idea that we take somebody from one particular background and way of life and place them in a completely alien world. They then have one month to immerse themselves into this new lifestyle and learn the necessary skills involved to then see if they can fake it in front of a panel of judges at the end of this month. You may have witnessed the success encountered in turning an Oxford Undergrad into a hard-knock bouncer, a burger-flipper from Newcastle into a top London Head Chef and more recently, an insurance salesman into a movie stuntman.

I am contacting people involved in the chess world in order to put the word around. We are currently looking for our Faker, we would like to find a UK based male chess player, 25-35 years of age who might be interested in taking part in this hugely popular life changing experience.

Many thanks, Jessica Versluys"

We are happy to assist RDF Media, but would not accept any responsibility – we do not know what you might need to fake! ☺

FAKING IT

CHANNEL 4's BAFTA AWARD WINNING SERIES IS LOOKING FOR MALE CHESS PLAYER (ALL LEVELS)

Are you a UK-based 25-35 year old male chess player? Would you like to be taken into a new and exciting world for just one month? If interested or would like more information, please call Jessica on: 020 7751 7383 OR e-mail Jessica.versluys@rdfmedia.com (sorry, only UK applicants to apply)

Cotswold Congress

by Graham Brown

The 36th Cotswold Congress was played on 24th to 26th May 2003 and I helped with the organising, mostly to avoid damaging my grading in an open tournament that was a little too strong for me! Last year I played John Pigott in the first round and did as well as his opponents this year!☺

1 J. Pigott (220) 5½/6
2= C. Crouch (218) 4½/6
2= S. Berry (208) 4½/6
2= N. Moyse (194) 4½/6

Although we had no expert to do it, we decided to try to create a commentary room anyway! We were not as strong as many of the players we were commentating on but everything was taken in a good-natured way and players came in and helped out when they had finished their games. Even when we used Fritz to find mistakes, the victims took it in good spirits!

There was an interesting finish to the tournament involving IM Sherwin who once played a certain Bobby Fischer and I quote from the tournament report:

"The final burst of excitement in the Open section was provided by Sherwin and Beaumont. Beaumont's time trouble prevented him from fully exploiting a better position and eventually resulted in him swapping off into an endgame with Pawn against Bishop. When Beaumont finally ran out of time, Sherwin looked for a win in jest on the grounds that he could set up a mating net, if the pawn was promoted to a Bishop - which the players did not find but the commentary team did over the board without Fritz!! In the end a draw was rightfully agreed with good humour all round."

Also check out Moyes-Curnow at the tournament website for a bishop and knight mate that we saw done live in our commentary room! We had Fritz to help us!

Web Watch

Today we continue observing various chess websites.

One of my favourite site is Chess Café, which always has interesting chess stuff. Today I found there that 1st of June was a birthday for not few than four Grandmasters – Leonid Shamkovich (1923), Mihai Suba (1947), Nigel Short (1965) and Georgy Timoshenko (1966). This gave me an idea to show tactical positions from their games in our today quiz.

GM Timoshenko (Ukraine) should not be confused with former second of Kasparov GM Timoschenko, who now resides in Slovakia. By the way, I think it was Nigel Short who gave me that *'Who is the first Irish GM?'* puzzle.

Anyway, a new feature on the Chess Café website is a column by Mig (Michael Greengard), who talks on how best use Chess Base and Fritz.

One of most entertaining chess writers on the Internet is undoubtedly Tim Krabbe. He keeps Open Chess Diary on his Chess Curiosities website. The latest entry (of May 30) is called 'Chess and Go' – well-worth a visit! On the Chess Base website you can read more about Tim himself, who recently turned 60.

Chess FM website is certainly the most interesting of the chess sites which appeared recently. One of its regular features is Chess & Books talk show with Fred Wilson, who also has his own website. Fred's next guest on Tuesday June 3rd. will be Dr. Frank Brady, who was the first editor of Chess Life magazine, and the creator, editor and publisher of the highly-regarded and much sought-after brief-lived ChessWorld magazine. He is also, famously, the author of "Profile of a Prodigy", a biography of Bobby Fischer. Tune-in to the live broadcast Tuesday at 9:00pm ET and replays on Tue. at 11:00pm ET and Wed. at 12:00pm ET.

Another site, which started recently (January 2003), is Correspondence Chess Server (CFC). It is a commercial project – the server offers prize

tournaments and other services to its members, as well as discount in certain online chess shops.
CFC championship with start on the 1st of July – with 30,000 euro for first prize! Several FIDE-GMs, for example Lutz, Volkov, Fridman, Zarnicki, Tyomkin, etc, play at CFC. The server also started a shop with annotated CC games, opening surveys, ebooks where the material is offered online, paid online, downloaded at the server and the author gets instant payment on his CFC account (money could be transferred then to normal bank accounts) – check it out!

What's New at ChessPublishing.com in 2003?
by GM Tony Kosten

ChessPublishing.com never stops improving:
- two great new GM writers, both amongst the most popular chess writers in the World: King's Indian specialist Joe Gallagher, and Daring d-pawn king Glenn Flear.
- a new look to make it easier to find the information you want
- new improved JavaScript 'pop-up' games with lots of new features, including AutoPlay
- great new Forum where you can discuss openings both with other chess fans and also with the ChessPublishing GMs!

And of course, on top of all this, thousands of the most recent annotated games, and over 60 eBooks!

As you can see, today we did not feature any annotated game. The reason is simple – we do not want to be too predictable! But next week IMs Vladimir Barsky and Nikolai Vlassov will keep you busy with the latest chess analysis.

To my great surprise, my four-day duty as *CT* maker, has not quite depleted my editorial pipeline – so I will be back with editorial comments and some additions – stay tuned!

Solutions to Quiz Today:

1. The first Irish GM is **Timoshenko** – Tim O'Shenko!

2. Shamkovich-Kremenietsky:
22.♖xh7+! 1-0

3. Miles-Suba:
20...♘xf2!! 21.♔xf2 ♘e5 22.♕b1?
[Better was 22.♔g1 although Black has a very strong attack after 22...♘d3]
22...♘xf3 23.♘xf3 ♗xf3 24.♔xf3 ♕xh2 25.♗d4 ♕xg3+ 26.♔e2 ♕g2+ 27.♔d3 ♕e4+ 0-1

4. Short – Wang Zili: **22.♖a1! 1-0**

5. Ernst-Timoshenko:
29...♕xf2+! 30.♖xf2 ♖d1+ 0-1

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for *Chess Today?* E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about *Chess Today* or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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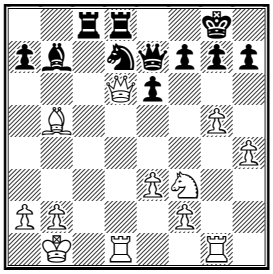
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-154 (938) 3rd June 2003

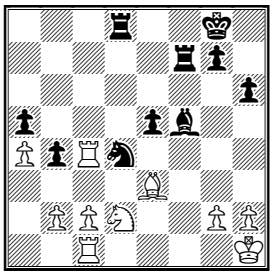
Quiz Today

1. Moiseenko (2627) – Potkin (2522) Istanbul, 31.05.2003



Black to play

2. Dervishi (2535) – Kobalia (2639)
Istanbul, 30.05.2003



Black to play

Chess News

FM Markus Klauser (2353) and GM Nikola Mitkov won an international chess tournament in Olten, Switzerland (29 May – 1 June). Both scored 6 points in 7 games, half of point ahead of GMs Florin Gheorghiu andPhilip Schlosser and IMs Hansjürg Känel, Mihajlo Stojanovic and Tamas Horvath, and untitled players – Nicolai Melkumjanc and David Burnier.

Swedish GM Tiger Hillarp Persson share victory with IMs Robert Astrom (Sweden) and Yuri Tikhonov (Byelorussia) at the international tournament in Sandviken, Sweden, which took also place on 29 May – 1 June. The winners scored 6 out of 7.

Yesterday round 4 was played in Istanbul at the European Championship. Key results:

Ruck–Kilicaslan ½–½
Zvjaginsev–Atakisi 1–0
Gagunashvili–Tkachiev ½–½
Kharlov–Georgiev ½–½
Neverov–Aleksandrov ½–½
Damljanovic–Bologan ½–½
Kacheishvili–**Sakaev** 0–1
Azmaiparashvili–Agrest ½–½
Chuchelov–Grischuk ½–½
Nisipeanu–Kotronias ½–½
Gasimov–Tregubov ½–½
Graf–Atalik 1–0
Dautov–Glek 1–0
van Vely – Arnoldi 1–0
Luther–Ivanchuk ½–½
Ivanishevich–Sokolov ½–½
Nevednichi–**Malakhov** 0–1
Beljavski–Anastasian ½–½
Volkov–Nataf ½–½
Jobava–**Movsesian** 0:1
Smirin–**Vajser** 0:1

Many games from 4th round were drawn. As a result, only three players – GMs Dautov, Sakaev and Graf – caught up with the former sole leaders – GMs Nisipeanu and Kotronias.

Leading Round 4 Standings:
1–5. Dautov,Sakaev, Nisipeanu, Kotronias, Graf – 3½ points.
There 29 players on 3 points.

You can find some games from round 4 in our database.

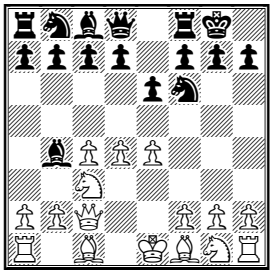
Annotated Game

□ **I. Ivanisevic (2569)**
■ **L-D. Nisipeanu (2606)**
Event: *European Ch, Istanbul (3), 01.06.2003*
Nimzo-Indian Defence, Classical (4.♕c2) Variation, [E32]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

In the third round of the European Championship GM Nisipeanu won a stunning game against GM Ivanisevic: **1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 0-0 5.e4** ***(D)***



Mainstream theory here is 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.♕xc3 b6.

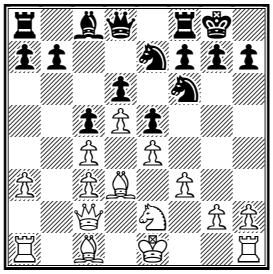
5...d6

Immediate attack in the centre – 5...d5 – is supposed to be the best reaction to 5.e4. But this does not mean that other moves are not possible.

6.a3 ♗xc3+ 7.bxc3 e5 8.♗d3 c5 9.♘e2 ♘c6

Black wants White to close the centre – knights do better than bishops in closed positions.

10.d5 ♘e7 11.f3 ***(D)***



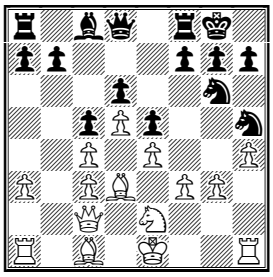
With the centre secured, White prepares a pawn storm on the kingside.

11...♘g6N

Here is a recent example: 11...h6 12.h4 ♘h7 13.g4 ♘g6 14.h5 ♘h8 15.♘g3 f6 16.♔f2 ♘f7 17.♔g2 ♘hg5 18.♗e3 ♗d7 19.♖hb1 ♖b8 20.♖b2 ♕a5 21.a4 ♖fe8 22.♕b1 ♕c7 23.a5 ♖e7 24.♗c2± Hillarp Persson –Astrom, Sweden, 2000.

And now to a classical game, which shows so well how to use space advantage, that I want to show it in full: 11...♘d7 12.h4 ♘b6 13.g4 f6 14.♘g3 ♔f7 15.g5 ♘g8 16.f4 ♔e8 17.f5 ♕e7 18.♕g2 ♔d8 19.♘h5 ♔c7 20.gxf6 gxf6 21.♘g7 ♗d7 22.h5 ♖ac8 23.h6 ♔b8 24.♖g1 ♖f7 25.♖b1 ♕f8 26.♗e2 ♔a8 27.♗h5 ♖e7 28.♕a2 ♕d8 29.♗d2 ♘a4 30.♕b3 ♘b6 31.a4 ♖b8 32.a5 ♘c8 33.♕a2 ♕f8 34.♗e3 b6 35.a6 ♕d8 36.♔d2 ♕f8 37.♖b2 ♕d8 38.♕b1 b5 39.cxb5 ♘b6 40.♕a2 c4 41.♕a3 ♕c7 42.♔c1 ♖f8 43.♖bg2 ♕b8 44.♕b4 ♖d8 45.♖g3 ♖f8 46.♘e6 ♗xe6 47.dxe6 ♖c7 48.♕xd6 ♘e7 49.♖d1 1–0, Capablanca–Ragozin, Moscow 1935.

12.h4 ♘h5!? 13.g3 ***(D)***



In this position, where there is almost no opportunity to break through, Nisipeanu still finds active play, even if that costs him two pawns!

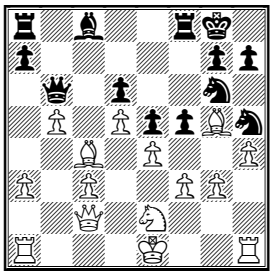
13...b5!? 14.cxb5 c4! 15.♗xc4 f5!

How will White keep his crumbly pawns on the kingside now?

16.♗g5

Apparently, better for White is 16.♗d3 f4 17.gxf4 (or *17.g4 ♘g3 18.♘xg3 fxg3 19.♗g5 ♕b6∓*) 17...♘hxf4 18.♘xf4 ♘xf4 19.♗f1. Although here Black has great compensation for two pawns, outcome of the game is still unclear.

16...♕b6 ***(D)***

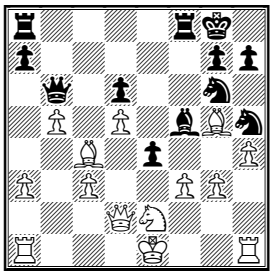


17.exf5?!

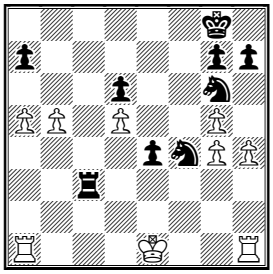
Generally, it is not a good idea to open up the centre when your king is still there. However, I don't know what else to recommend White here. Interestingly enough, computer 'thinks' that it is White who is better here! ☺ Let us look at his options:

17.♗d3 f4 18.gxf4 ♘gxf4 19.♘xf4 ♘xf4 20.♗xf4 ♖xf4. White is still two pawns up, but his position is not enviable.

17.♖h2 fxe4 18.♕xe4 ♘gf4! 19.♗xf4 *(19.gxf4? ♗f5–+)* 19...♘xf4 20.♔d2! ♗f5 21.♕e3 ♕c7 22.♗b3 ♘d3 and again White isn't very comfortable.
It is worth noting that the white king could not escape to the queenside: ***17.0–0–0*** fxe4 18.♕xe4 *(18.fxe4 ♗g4)* 18...a6 – White's defence is falling apart.
17...♗xf5 18.♕d2?
Also bad is 18.♗d3 ♗xd3 19.♕xd3 because of 19...e4! 20.fxe4 ♘e5! 21.♕e3 ♘f3+ 22.♔d1 ♕xb5, with decisive attack. However, 18.♕a4 might be a better try.
18...e4! *(D)*



From now on White is lost – all his pieces are badly placed.
19.f4 ♖ac8 20.♕d4 ♕xd4
20...♗g4!–+
21.♘xd4 ♖xc4 22.♘xf5 ♖xf5 23.g4 ♖xg5 24.fxg5 ♘hf4 25.a4 ♖xc3 26.a5 *(D)*



It may look like White has some counter-play now, but his king still comes under attack:
26...♖c2! 27.b6
Or 27.0–0 ♘e2+ 28.♔f2 ♘c3+ 29.♔g3 ♘xb5–+.
27...♘g2+ 0–1
White resigned in view of 28.♔f1 ♘e3+ 29.♔e1 ♘e5, with checkmate on d3 or f3.

Solutions to quiz today:

1. Moiseenko–Potkin:
20...♗e4+! 21.♔a1 ♖c1+! 22.♖xc1 ♕xd6 23.♖gd1 ♕b6 24.♖xd7 ♗xf3 25.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 26.♗a6 ♗c6! 27.b4 ♕d6 28.f4 g6 29.b5 ♗d5 30.h5 gxh5 31.f5 ♕e5+ 0–1.

2. Dervishi–Kobalia:
26...♘xc2! 27.♖1xc2 ♗xc2 28.♖xc2 ♖d3 29.♗g1 b3! 30.♖c8+ ♔h7 31.♘c4 ♖f1 Here two rooks and a pawn are far stronger that rook, bishop and knight. **32.♘xe5 ♖d2 33.h4 ♖xb2 34.♖b8** [34.h5 ♖f5] **34...♖f4 35.g3 ♖f1 0–1.**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
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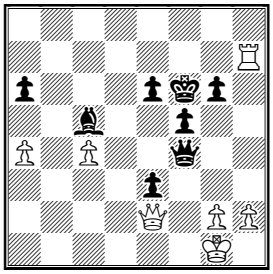
CT-155 (939) 4th June 2003

Quiz Today

Kacheishvili – Sakaev
Istanbul, 2003



Black to play. What is the best way to finish the game? See comments to move 45 in the annotated game

Chess News

There were many draws in round 5 of the European Championship. But those were not only 'grandmaster' draws, but also some great fights, such as Kotronias–Graf, where both players played very sharply. In the game Malakhov–Avrukh, conversely, the game seemed destined to be drawn, but Black made a mess in the rook endgame and lost.

Sakaev–Dautov ½–½
Kotronias-Graf ½–½
Grischuk-Nisipeanu ½–½
Azmaiparashvili-Damljanovic 1-0
Agrest - van Wely ½–½
Malakhov- Avrukh 1-0
Rozentalis-Rublevsky ½–½
Bologan-Neverov ½–½
Movsesian-Kharlov ½–½
Aleksandrov-Gagunashvili 1-0
Georgiev-Gashimov ½–½
Tkachiev-Delchev ½–½
Vaisser-Gurevich ½–½
Tregubov-Nijboer ½–½
Spasov-**Najer** 0-1
Iordachescu-Chuchelov 1-0
Mc Shane-Gdanski 1-0
Sargissian- Ivanchuk ½–½
I. Sokolov - Volokitin ½–½

Leading Round 5 Standings:
1–11. Dautov, Sakaev, Nisipeanu, Kotronias, Graf, Azmaiparashvili, Malakhov, Aleksandrvov, Najer, Iordachescu and McShane – 4 points.

See some games from round 5 in our database.

Chess Today received a very interesting article (in Russian) from Mark Dvoretsky via Russian newspaper *Chess Week*. Alexander Baburin translated the article and here we publish it for the first time in English. We trust that this article will provoke a profound discussion in the chess world. Please send us your opinions and we will publish most (if not all) of them! Also, Grandmaster Square will have a poll concerning this subject tomorrow.

Draw Offers Outlawed!

by Mark Dvoretsky

Many sports at some point in their history reached a stage when people had to find ways to make those sports more popular and attractive for spectators. For example, tie-breaks and a modern rating system were introduced in tennis. Recently point-scoring system was altered in volleyball and table-tennis.

This problem is also real in chess, as our game is not as popular as it deserves to be. How can we improve the situation? The chess world saw several attempts in recent years. One is implementing the knockout system, which I believe is a very good idea. It could be improved upon by allowing more games at the later stages of the tournament, but the idea itself is progressive. An opposite example is speeding up of the game. Yes, games now take less time, but chess has not gotten more attention from the press and TV. Meanwhile the quality of games have suffered – not only

because blunders became more frequent, but also because now it is almost impossible (no time!) to find deep ideas over the board. Chess fans suffer as a result, as most follow chess in books and magazines and not live.

Other problems include the divide in the chess world, need for proper anti-doping and anti-computer control, and over-development of the opening theory. There are many problems in modern chess, however I would like to concentrate on just one of them – the problem of quick draws.

If often happens that, after a day at work, chess fans come to the tournament only to find an empty stage. This is particularly painful during matches. For example, in the match between Kasparov and Kramnik in Moscow in December 2001, 3 out of 4 games with the classical time control ended in quick draws. Of course, those were not pre-arranged draws – they were rather results of over-developed opening preparation, but nevertheless spectators often felt cheated. Similar, if not more unpleasant situations, happen at tournaments too. For example, the last round of the USA Championship in 2003 drew many spectators, including children and TV crews. And what did they see? A few minutes after the round started, their pair of leaders drew their games! Needless to say what kind of impression did this made on spectators, including the sponsors.

There have been attempts to fight quick draws in chess. For example, some suggested that stalemate or draw, when one side does not have winning material left, should yield more (or less) than half a point. It is not clear whether such changes would have made chess more dynamic, but they would surely change the theory (particularly endgame theory) very much. Is it worth the effort?

Another, less radical measure is to prohibit draws before move 30. Usually such attempts did not bring the desired effect. For example, Linares organiser, Luis Rentero had a special clause in the contracts when players could not agree a draw before move 30, in exchange for extra honorarium. Yet, some still did make quick draws and even got offended when the outraged Luis Rentero demanded the extra honorarium back. I think, Arthur Yusupov did the best thing – he just came to the organiser and handed over the money. Of course, Mr. Rentero did not accept the money – that was not the point he wanted to make.

Certainly, in chess a draw is a legitimate result. That is why I do not like the idea of giving three points for a win and just one point for a draw – we should not punish the draw as such – it could be a logical outcome of a well played (and well fought!) game. Besides, such a system does not change anything in knockouts and matches. And this is leaving aside the fact that such a system could be open to manipulation.

However, I believe that there is a way to solve the problem of quick draws in chess radically and without altering the nature of chess. I came to it after a recent conversation with GM Genna Sosonko. He asked "Why are chess players allowed to agree a draw at any moment? This does not exist in any other sport." Indeed, can you imagine a football match where the teams agree to a draw after the first-half? Or imagine wrestlers, who see that chances are about equal, shake hands and go home?!

So, is the rule, which allows chess players to offer a draw, is that untouchable? Why not to bind players to play out every game to its logical conclusion, whatever that will be? Players should not be allowed to talk to each other during the game. The game could still end in a draw – by stalemate, three-times repetition, lack of winning material or according to the 50-move rule. But not by mutual agreement!

When do quick draws occur? I am not talking here about prearranged draws, by the way. Sometimes quick draws happen in dead-equal positions, when there is no chance to outplay

the opponent. But these are rare. Usually, there are different scenarios. For example, a player failed to get any opening advantage, he is disappointed and offers a draw. Sometimes both players do not like their position, overestimate the dangers and thus happily settle for a draw. Weaker players sometimes offer draws to stronger (or just higher rated) opponents when they have a good position. Sometimes a player (or both) is tired and wants a break. Or he has lost all his chances in the tournament... It is pointless to blame chess players for such draws – they act according to their interests, accepted rules and ethics. We should not blame them, but simply change the rules!

I suppose that a necessary condition for implementing such a change of rules is time control with added increment. Otherwise we will encourage pointless 'wood-pushing' in drawn positions, when one side tries to win purely on the clock. That would do even more damage to chess than quick draws themselves! Thus, a new system should be first tested in tournaments with appropriate electronic clocks and qualified arbiters. Such an experiment will surely find some weaknesses of the proposed change, but then they could be fixed. And only after that the new rules could be widely used.

I understand that my proposal is pretty radical and goes against centuries-old tradition. In such cases new ideas are often rejected. But it would be good to have a rational discussion on its merits. And if the proposed change will get some acceptance, then we should work out details of its implementation.

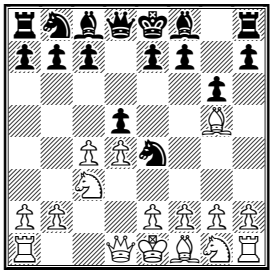
Will this change, erase prearranged draws? Surely, not! But I am sure that it will make them less frequent. Often players get into negotiations not before the game, but during it. This will not be allowed. And technically making a draw will be more difficult. 'Prearranged' draws, while formally not allowed, nowadays are not shamed among professional players. They are accepted as a norm, as they differ little from quick draws, which are now accepted by the rules. What attracts shame is 'game throwing'. Of course, there are people who do it, and some of them are quite known to their colleagues. Disqualifications are very rare in such cases (it is hard to prove this kind of fraud), but pretty certain reputation sticks to such 'dealers'. If all games are played to the bitter end, then prearranged draws will be also seen unethical, almost as 'game throwing'. Most chess players are honest people; they will start avoiding prearranged draws too.

Annotated Game

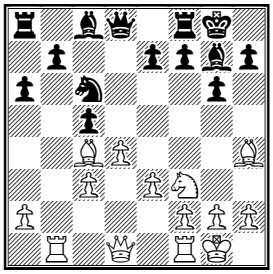
□ **G. Kacheishvili (2592)**
■ **K. Sakaev (2664)**
Event: *Istanbul, 02.06.2003*
The Gruenfeld Defence with Bg5 [D80]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♗g5 ♘e4 ***(D)***



5.♗h4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 dxc4 7.e3 ♗g7 8.♗xc4 0-0 9.♘f3 c5 10.0-0 ♘c6 11.♖b1 a6N ***(D)***



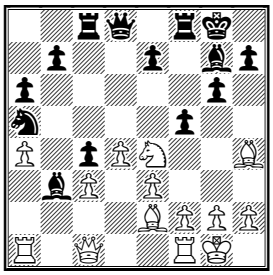
Technically speaking, this is a novelty but, on the other hand, this move is in the spirit of the Gruenfeld Defence. Also possible is the tested 11...♘a5 12.♗d3 ♗e6.

12.a4 ♘a5 13.♗e2 ♗f5 14.♖c1

More solid for White is 14.♗d3 ♗xd3 15.♕xd3, but here and later on White avoids simplifications.

14...♖c8 15.♘d2 ♗e6 16.♖b1 ♗a2 17.♖a1 ♗e6

Black shows his peaceful intentions by repeating moves. But White is not keen on that: **18.♘e4 ♗b3 19.♕e1 c4 20.♕c1 f5!?** ***(D)***



Black is forced to fight!

21.♘d2

21.♘c5 could be met with 21...♖xc5! 22.dxc5 ♕c7 and the b3-bishop prevents White's rooks from entering the game.

21...♕c7 22.f4!

White not only hinders the advance of the e7-pawn on e5, but also prepares to break on the e-file.

22...♗f6 23.♗f2

After 23.♗xf6 exf6 24.♗f3 ♖ce8 25.e4 fxe4 26.♘xe4 White has a slight advantage owing to the fact that Black's minor pieces are out of play. But Kacheishvili avoids simplifications once again.

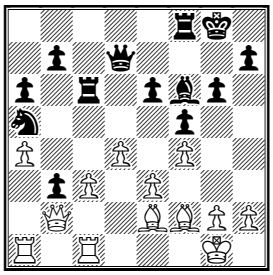
23...e6 24.♕b2

24.e4 looks pretty good here.

24...♕d7 25.♘xb3

White has got two bishops now. The chance of keeping the knight 25.♗d1 ♗xd1 *(25...♖c6 26.♗xb3 cxb3 27.♘xb3 ♖b6 28.♘c5±)* 26.♖fxd1 - also was not bad.

25...cxb3 26.♖fc1 ♖c6 ***(D)***



27.♗f3

Black could meet 27.♗b5!? with 27...♖b8!. Much worse is 27...axb5 28.axb5 ♖b6 29.♖xa5 ♖xb5 30.♖a3± and Black is a pawn down. Anyway, this is going to happen a bit later.

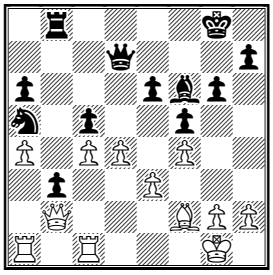
27...♖c4 28.♗e2 ♖c6

Black cannot take the pawn: 28...♖xa4 29.♖xa4 ♕xa4 30.♖a1 ♘c4 31.♖xa4 ♘xb2 32.♖b4 b5 33.♖xb3 ♘c4 34.♗xc4 bxc4 35.♖b6±.

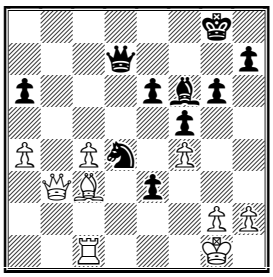
29.♗b5

Having refused to accept a draw for the last time, White made up his mind to win the exchange.

29...♖b8! 30.♗xc6 bxc6 31.c4 c5 ***(D)***



It is clearly visible that Black has an excellent compensation for the exchange. **32.♗e1 ♘c6 33.♖a3 cxd4 34.♖xb3 ♖xb3 35.♕xb3 dxe3 36.♗c3 ♘d4** ***(D)***

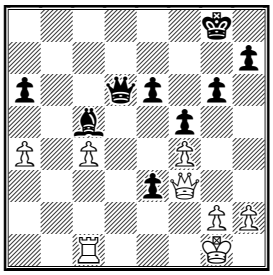


Black is worse after 36...♕d3 37.♕c2 ♕xc2 38.♖xc2± or 36...♗d4 37.♔h1 ♗xc3 38.♕xc3 e2 39.♖e1 ♘d4 40.♔g1±.

37.♕d1?

Correct was 37.♕b8+ ♔g7 38.♖b1 ♔h6 39.♔h1± with an advantage to White. But during the time trouble White played passively and yielded the initiative to Black.

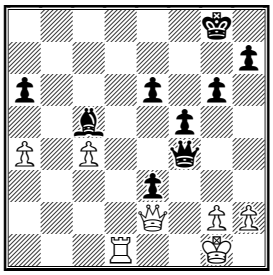
37...♕d6! 38.♗xd4 ♗xd4 39.♕f3 ♗c5 ***(D)***



The roles have changed – now Black is in the driver's seat! His bishop and the e3-pawn are much stronger than White's rook.

40.♔f1 ♕d3+ 41.♕e2 ♕e4 42.♔g1 ♕xf4 This is the first material conquest, but not the last!

43.♖d1 *(D)*



43...♔g7

Immediately winning is 43...♕xc4!, but it's a pity to part with such a position. **44.♖d7+ ♔f6 45.♖xh7? *(D)***

More stubborn 45.g3 is also gloomy 45...♕g4 46.♔f1 ♕e4 47.♔g1 h5.

45...♕xc4

Black misses a striking victory: 45...♕f2+!! 46.♕xf2 e2!! 47.♕xc5 e1♕#.

46.♔f1 ♕xa4 47.g3?

47.h3 could prolong the resistance.

47...♕e4 48.♔g1 a5

Immediately winning is 48...♕d5! 49.♖h8 ♕d1+! 50.♕xd1 e2+–+.

49.♖h4 ♕f3

And again 49...♕d5!–+.

50.♕xf3 e2+ 51.♔h1

51.♔g2 e1♘+!–+]

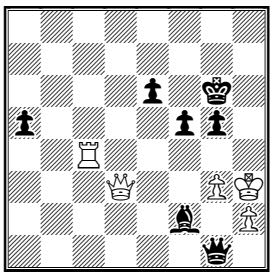
51...e1♕+

It is not clear why Black was not happy with his previous queen, it looks like he punished it for taking too many of the enemy pawns! :-)

52.♔g2 g5 53.♖c4 ♕g1+ 54.♔h3 ♗f2! 55.♕c3+

55.♕d3 g4+ 56.♖xg4 fxg4+ 57.♔xg4–+

55...♔g6 56.♕d3 *(D)*



The bishop, that provided Black's domination for such a long time, now comes in to participate in the final king-hunt.

56...♗xg3! 57.♕e2

57.hxg3 ♕h1#; 57.♕xg3 ♕f1+ 58.♕g2 ♕xc4–+.

57...♔f6 58.♕b2+ ♗e5 59.♕xe5+ ♔xe5 60.♖e4+ ♔d5 61.♖e5+ 0-1

Now 61...♔xe5 leads to stalemate, but after 61...♔c4 62.♖e4+ ♔d3 White is hopeless. That's why he resigned.

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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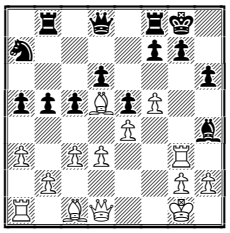
CT-156 (940) 5th June 2003

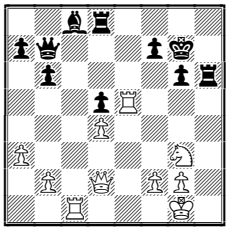
Quiz Today

1. Gaponenko – Agababean
Istanbul, 2003



White to play

2. Kouvatsou – Matnadze
Istanbul, 2003



White to play

Chess News

June 4th was a day off for the men's group at the 4th European Championships in Silivri, Turkey.

While the men had a rest the women played the 3rd round.

Round 3 results:
Bojkovic – Skripchenko **0:1**
Galliamova – Arakhamia-Grant **1:0**

Sebag – Peptan **1:0**
Polovnikova – Cramling **½:½**
T. Kosintseva – Lomineishvili **½:½**
Peng Zhaoqin – Paehtz **1:0**
Khurtsidze – Gvetadze **1:0**
Socko – Gaponenko **½:½**
Stefanova – Kouvatsou **1:0**
Stepovaia-Diachenko –Matveeva **½:½**

Round 3 standings:
1-5. Nino Khurtsidze (GEO), **Almira Skripchenko** (FRA), **Alisa Galliamova** (RUS), **Peng Zhaoqin** (NED), **Marie Sebag** (FRA) – 3 points

6-12. Inna Gaponenko (UKR), **Pia Cramling** (SWE), **Antoaneta Stefanova** (BUL), **Tatiana Kosintseva** (RUS), **Ekaterina Polovnikova** (RUS), **Maia Lomineishvili** (GEO), **Monika Socko** (POL) – 2½.

Round 4 pairings:
Skripchenko – Peng Zhaoqin
Khurtsidze – Galliamova
Cramling – Sebag
Lomineishvili – Stefanova
Socko – T. Kosintseva
Gaponenko – Polovnikova
Matveeva – Motoc
Peptan – Kononenko
Zhukova – Petrenko
Klinova – Kovalevskaya

The 17th Pula open is in progress in the capital of Croatia. There are 183 players from 23 countries in this 9 round Swiss event.

Round 6 pairings:
Murey (4½) – Rukavina (4½)
Sedlak (4) – Jovanic, Ognjen (4½)
Jovanovic (4) – Horvath, Csaba (4)
Danilov (4) – Stanojoski (4)
Fercec (4) – Ljubicic (4)
Guidarelli (4) – Berzinsh (4)
Pap (4) – Mrkonjic (4)
Glavas (4) – Petrov (4)
Loncar (4) – Sarakauskas (4)
Cvitan (3½) – Jakovljevic (4)

Here's some tournament information from TWIC: The 16th *Ciudad de León* chess tournament takes place June 5th-9th 2003 in León, Spain. This year it will be a 4-player knockout rapid tournament (not advanced chess, ie no computers as in recent years). The participants are: **Ruslan Ponomariov** (2734), **Vesselin Topalov** (2743), **Sergey Karjakin,** (2547) and **Francisco Vallejo Pons** (2629).
2 semi-finals of 4 games – 20 minutes + 10 seconds per move.
Schedule: Friday June 6th: First Semi final: **Topalov – Karjakin**

This issue is prepared by GM A. Baburin & IM V. Barsky; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Saturday June 7th Second Semi final:
Ponomariov – Vallejo
Sunday June 8th: Final.
Play starts 4.30 pm.

Letters to Editor
by Alex Baburin

The article on draw offers by Mark Dvoretsky in the last issue of *Chess Today* is sure to start a discussion in the chess community. We already received responses from our readers and today I would like to share with you two of them.

The first letter came from Lars Stark from Germany:

"Hello, Mr Baburin!

I want to comment on Dvoretsky's nice article in *Chess Today*. His point to prohibit talking during the game and not allowing a draw offer sounds like a good idea to me, but it has some drawbacks. OK, you hinder draw offers and trash talking during the game, but what about the wordless draw offer or the issue of enforcing these rules? I doubt you can hinder draw offers in chess because it's so common. Although Dvoretsky does not like the idea of the draw restriction until a certain move number is reached, I like it. As a new reader of your paper I want to thank you for this great daily paper! It's very informative and nice to read! Ciao, Lars Stark"

The second message came from our long-standing reader Nick Faulks (Bermuda):

"Alex, and all.
Dvoretsky's comments on draws were interesting and well put, although nothing really new. Can anyone explain the last round of the recent Chicago Open to me? Four players are on 5/6, lots on 4.5/6. On the top two boards, a win will get $10,300 or $7,500, a draw far less, as it turned out $1,800. You would think the emphasis would be on achieving a result by all (hopefully ethical) means. Yet GMs Mitkov and Stripunsky produced the game 1.e4 e5, draw. If even the bribe of a big first prize cannot persuade two GMs to play a game of chess, what can you do?
Keep up the good work, Nick Faulks"

The third message came from Arlen Walker (USA), Web master of GM Square:

"I gave some thought to testing that idea here, but under USCF rules it'd be hard to implement, as there is no requirement for players to turn in their score-sheets, and there is generally not an arbiter standing nearby when a game ends. The director accepts what the players tell him was the result of a game, so players could agree to a draw, then claim it was a draw by repetition of position.
The repetition of position bit is the flaw in his proposal. There's nothing to stop players from repeating the position and thus drawing at any moment. Perhaps if repetition is changed from a draw to a decision – either you lose if you continue to repeat the position, or you win because your opponent has nothing better than to repeat the position, that might rectify it."

I would like to answer these messages by sharing my own thoughts on this subject. I do not think I am particularly guilty of making many 'Grandmaster' draws. In fact, in several tournaments I made more moves than any other player. Yet, I too made some quick draws, so I am not a stranger to this topic.

As Mark Dvoretsky correctly pointed, GMs (and other players) make quick draws for various reasons. These are: Fear of the opponent – i.e. when one offers a draw in a clearly better position to the higher rated opponent; Fear of the position – when the player does not like the character of position (too sharp, etc) or he is getting short of time; Bad form (psychological or physical) – Lasker and Petrosian are reported to test their chess abilities on the day by solving endgame studies and then offering a draw quickly, if they felt they were not up to the task; Nothing to play for in the tournament – this is a kind of laziness; Last-round pressure – when the player cannot

bear the tension and decides to settle for a quick draw, securing ***some*** prize instead of fighting for much bigger prize. In my practice I experienced all these situations.

When I do not feel well or I am happy enough with peaceful outcome, I tend to offer a draw quickly – just to find out where I stand with my opponent. If he/she refuses, that helps me to get my mind in better shape!

I often felt the temptation to offer a draw to stronger players in good positions or received such offers from them. Sometimes I do make such an offer or accept one, but usually I resist the temptation. My reasoning is simple: if I get to play, say, Kasparov 10 times, maybe I get in bad position 6 times, 3 games are more or less equal and in one I get better chances. If I do not fight when I have the edge, then I will get worse overall result – one must take his chances! So, I often fear the opponent, but seldom show that! ☺

I know only too well the tension during the last round. Usually I play on, for I agree with the argument made by GM Alex Yermolinsky in NiC a few years ago. It goes like this: say you are in the same last-round situation in 5 tournaments. A win in the last round yields you $5000, draw - $1,200 and loss leaves you with nothing. This situation is quite typical, at least for US tournaments. If you take 5 draws, then you get $6000. If you fight on, perhaps you win 2 games, lose 2 and still draw one – the total of $11,200 – almost twice as much. Even +1-3=1 result would give you more than drawing of all the games! Thus, I usually play last round games to the bitter end, and with very good results. Often my opponent get demoralised when their early draw offer is declined – they get too soft...

I often feel the urge to offer a draw when I do not like the character of my position or I am getting short of time. In fact, in the last weekend of 4NCL (May 2003) at some point during the game I wanted to offer a draw in all 3 games! In one of them I did not like the way things were heading, while I was also getting short of time. In the second (vs. GM Stuart Conquest) I made a mistake in the opening and my opponent got very easy play. Yet, I felt that draw offer would not be out of order and might be accepted. Only the unclear situation in the match prevented me from seeking a rather quick draw. In the third game I made a mess out of the opening against a young promising player. So, I started to think whether losing 3 rating points (in case of a draw) was better than losing 8... Anyway, I fought the temptation and played on in all those games. In fact, with a (good) bit of luck I won them all! Of course, I could have lost all too. But I do like Dvoretsky's proposal – ***chess needs more fighting***!

No, about other aspects of the problem. I do not like the idea to ban draw offers before move 30. For simple reason – it does not work! When I was 15, I was playing my first tournament with masters, which I found tough going – I was on –5 at some point, without any wins. Then my coach (GM Chernikov) threw me a rope – we made a quick draw. The 'game' went like this:

Baburin-Chernikov, 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♖e8 10.♘g5 ♖f8 11.♘f3 ♖e8 12.♘g5 ♖f8 13.♘f3, draw. Of course, I did not play 1.e4 at the time, it was all fixed. Ironically, the chief arbiter of the tournament was Yuri Karakhan, who had written the chapter on banning draws before move 30 in the Soviet Chess Rulebook! He was furious... But I said that after 9...♖e8 I could not find a better move than 10.♘g5 (the weak f7-square!). But then I really felt that my knight was misplaced on g5... ☺ Anyway, two days later he was 5 minutes late for the round. When he arrived, he found that one game (between two friends, chess masters from the same city) had ended in a draw. He said that both players would be disqualified that they broke the 30-move rule. But to his amusement he was presented with the score-sheet, which proved that they made about 70 moves in that game! And they did - in less then 5 minutes – other participants had a good laugh!

Well, I think that banning draw offers/negotiations will not eliminate prearranged draws, but it will make them more awkward. Also, maybe with time they will be considered unethical. Neither will banning of draw offers eliminate quick draws in the last round, but again perhaps it will make it harder to stage. This suggestion is far better than the idea to award a win with 3 points, while giving just 1 point for a draw. That was mentioned by Kirsan Ilyumzhinov recently, but if implemented, it would lead to a considerable rise in fraud...

I do not think that draw by 3-time repetition should be banned (as Arlen suggested) – it should stay (for example, what about perpetual checks?). If somebody comes up with a game like this: 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘g1 ♘b8 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.♘g1 ♘b8, they should be able to claim a draw, but at least they will make us laugh!

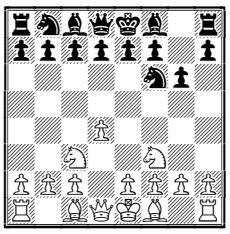
The idea, expressed in the Dvoretsky article, is not entirely new – I think Topalov suggested something like this a few years ago. But I believe that now it is time to get the discussion going!

Finally, I would like to mention that you could find the article at GM Square. Where you can also vote in a poll concerning this topic – please vote yourself and ask your chess friends to do the same!

Annotated Game

□ **P. Cramling (2470)**
■ **A. Motoc (2358)**
Event: EIWCC 2003 (2.6), 03.06.2003
Veresov opening [D00]
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘c3!? (D)



White is ready to play the Veresov opening with bishop g7.

3...d5

3...d6 4.e4 leads to the Pirc Ufimtsev defence.

4.♗f4 ♗g7 5.e3 0-0

I'd prefer not to castle so early, for example: 5...♗g4 6.♗e2 c6 7.♘e5 ♗xe2 8.♕xe2 ♘h5 9.h4 ♘xf4 10.exf4 h5 11.0–0–0 ♘d7 12.♔b1 e6 13.g3 ♗xe5 14.fxe5 b5 15.♕f3 ♕b6 draw, Cramling – Nataf, Hasselbacken 2001.; 5...c5 6.dxc5 0–0 7.♗e2 ♕a5 8.♘d2 ♕xc5 9.♘b3 ♕b6 10.♘b5 ♘a6 11.♗e5 ♕d8± Cramling – Barkhagen, Sweden 2001.

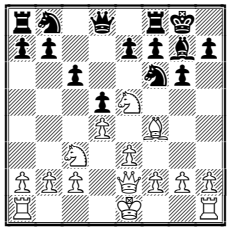
6.♗e2 ♗g4

Quite a lot of games in this system have been played. Lets take a look at some of them: 6...c5 7.♘e5 ♘c6 8.0–0 ♗f5 9.♘a4 cxd4 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.exd4 ♘d7 12.c3 ♖e8 13.♖e1 e5 14.♗e3 h6 15.♖c1 g5!?∞ Hebden – Lalic, England 2001.

7.♘e5!

Too slow 7.h3?! ♗xf3 8.♗xf3 c6 9.♕d2 ♘bd7 10.0–0–0 b5 11.g4 ♘b6 12.g5 ♘c4 13.♕e1 ♘d7 14.e4 e5!?⇄ Lasker/Haalebos – Reti/Oskam, Rotterdam 1923.

7...♗xe2 8.♕xe2 c6?! (D)



To my mind Black has to play more energetically here, so he has to prepare c7-c5 instead of c7-c6 vs white's long castling. For example: [8...♘bd7 9.0–0–0 ♖c8 10.e4 ♘b6 11.♔b1 c5 12.♘xd5 ♘fxd5 13.exd5 ♘xd5 14.♗g3 cxd4 15.♖xd4 e6 16.c4 ♕b6 17.♕d2 ♘b4⇄ Bosch – I. Sokolov, Netherlands 1995.

9.h4 ♘bd7

Interesting was 9...a5!? Black very often used such idea in Carlsbad with 0–0–0 for White. Interesting that this move was adopted only in one game: 10.g4 a4 11.a3 b5 12.♘a2 ♘fd7 13.h5 ♘xe5 14.♗xe5 f6 15.♗xb8 ♖xb8 16.f4 e5 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.f5∞ Stefanova – Xie Jun, Yerevan 1996.

10.0-0-0 ♘xe5

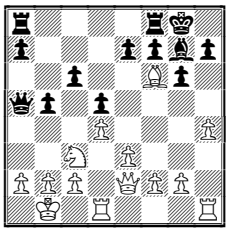
10...♘h5!? An alternative from the very strong defender Florin Gheorghiu: 11.g4 ♘xf4 12.exf4 e6 13.h5 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 f6 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.♕d3 fxe5 17.♕xg6 ♕f6 18.♕h7+

♔f7 19.fxe5 ♕f4+ 20.♔b1 ♖h8∞ Wirthensohn – Gheorghiu, Suitherland 1999. Black is temporarily a pawn down, but has at least equal chances.

11.♗xe5 b5

11...♘d7!? 12.♗xg7 ♔xg7 13.h5 ♘f6 14.g4 ♕d6 15.f4 b5 16.hxg6 hxg6 17.g5 ♘h5± Wirthensohn – Ekstroem, Zuerich 1994.

12.♔b1 ♕a5 13.♗xf6!? (D)



This looks like a novelty, but in the previous game 13.♕e1 b4 14.♘e2 c5 15.f3 ♖ac8 16.g4 cxd4 17.♘xd4 ♕c5 18.h5 White also received better chances (Izeta – Kazhgaleyev, Cannes 1999).

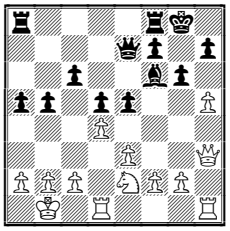
13...♗xf6 14.♕f3 ♕d8

The main problem for Black – how to get some counterplay? At the same time White's plan is clear: h4–h5 and attack along the h-file. After the text-move Black tries to prepare e7–e5, opening his bishop. 14...b4!? 15.♘e2 ♖ad8 16.h5 g5 17.♘c1 ♕b5 18.♘d3±

15.h5 e5 16.♕h3 ♕e7

The queen has to defend the h7-pawn after hxg6 fxg6.

17.♘e2 a5 (D)



18.e4!? ♖fd8

18...dxe4? 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.dxe5 ♗xe5 21.♖d7+–; 18...exd4!? 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.exd5 cxd5 21.♘f4 ♕f7 22.♘xd5 ♗h8±

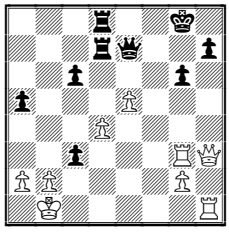
19.f4! dxe4?!

19...exf4!? 20.e5 ♗g5 21.♖df1±; 19...exd4?! 20.hxg6 fxg6 21.e5 ♗h8 22.♘xd4+–

20.fxe5 ♗g5 21.♘c3

Sooner or later White has to win the e-pawn. 21.hxg6?! fxg6 22.♘g3 e3 23.♘e4 e2 24.♖de1 ♖xd4 25.♖xe2 ♖ad8⇄

21...e3 22.♖d3 ♖a7 23.hxg6 fxg6 24.♘e4 ♖ad7 25.♘xg5 ♕xg5 26.♖xe3 ♕e7 27.c3+– b4 28.♖g3 bxc3?! (D)



29.♖xg6+! ♔h8

29...hxg6 30.♕h8+ ♔f7 31.♖h7+ ♔e6 32.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 33.♕f6+ ♔e8 34.e6+–

30.♖h6 ♖b7 31.♕f5

31.♕xc3+–

31...♖db8 32.♖xh7+

And Black resigned because White's queen and pawns are too dangerous for example:32.♖xh7+ ♕xh7 33.♖xh7+ ♖xh7 34.♕f6+ ♖g7 35.b3 ♖b4 36.e6 ♖bb7 37.♔c2+– **1–0.**

Solutions to quiz today:

1. Gaponenko – Agababean

20.♗xh6! ♗xg3 [20...♗f6 21.♕g4+–] **21.♕g4 ♕f6 22.♗g5+– ♕xg5 23.♕xg5 ♗f4 24.♕g6 1–0**

2. Kouvatsou – Matnadze

29.♘h5+! gxh5 [29...♔h7 30.♘f6+ ♔g7 31.♘e8+ ♔h7 32.♖c7+–] **30.♕g5+ ♖g6 31.♕xd8+– ♗g4 32.♖e8 ♕a6 33.♖g8+ ♔h6 34.♖h8+ ♔g7 35.♕f8+ ♔f6 36.♖h7 ♕b7 37.♕h8+ ♔g5 38.♕e5+ ♗f5 39.f4+ ♔g4 40.♕e2+ ♔xf4 41.♖f1+ 1–0**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
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CT-157 (941) 6th June 2003

Chess News

Belorusian GM, **Alexei Aleksandrov,** became the sole leader of the 4th European Championships in Silivri, Turkey.

Some key results of the 6th round:
Dautov – Azmaiparashvili ½:½
Najer – Malakhov ½:½
Nisipeanu – Sakaev ½:½
Aleksandrov – Kotronias 1:0
Graf – Mc Shane ½:½
Rublevsky – Iordachescu ½:½
Kozul – Grischuk ½:½
Van Wely – Rozentalis ½:½
Agrest – Bologan **1:0**
Pavasovic – Movsesian ½:½

Round 6 standings:
1. Aleksandrov – 5
2-13. Dautov, Sakaev, Nisipeanu, Azmaiparashvili, Iordachescu, Agrest, Graf, K. Georgiev, Nielsen, Malakhov, Najer, Mc Shane – 4½

Round 7th pairings:
Azmaiparashvili – Aleksandrov
Malakhov – Dautov
Sakaev – Najer
Georgiev – Nisipeanu
Iordachescu – Graf
Nielsen – Agrest
Mc Shane – Van Wely
Grischuk – Pavasovic
Chuchelov – Rublevsky
Movsesian – Neverov

The 4th round in women's event was also, and two players have a perfect result so far – **Almira Skripchenko** (FRA) and **Alisa Galliamova** (RUS).

Some results of the 4th round:
Skripchenko – Peng Zhaoqin 1:0
Khurtsidze – **Galliamova 0:1**
Cramling – Sebag **1:0**
Lomineishvili – Stefanova **0:1**
Socko – T. Kosintseva ½:½
Gaponenko – Polovnikova ½:½
Matveeva – Motoc ½:½
Peptan – Kononenko **1:0**
Zhukova – Petrenko ½:½
Klinova – Kovalevskaya **1:0**

Round 4 standings:
1-2. Galliamova, Skripchenko – 4 points
3-4. Cramling, Stefanova – 3½
5-20. T. Kosintseva, Gaponenko, Khurtsidze, Peng Zhaoqin, Polovnikova, Radziewicz, Paehtz, Cmilyte, Sebag, Peptan, Mkrtchian, Socko, Arakhamia-Grant, Zimina, Stepovaia-Dianchenko, Klinova – 3 etc.

Round 5 pairings:
Galliamova – Skripchenko
Stefanova – Cramling
Arakhamia-Grant – Peptan
T. Kosintseva – Paehtz
Peng Zhaoqin – Socko
Stepovaia-Dianchenko – Cmilyte
Sebag – Radziewicz
Polovnikova – Khurtsidze
Klinova – Gaponenko
Mkrtchian – Zimina

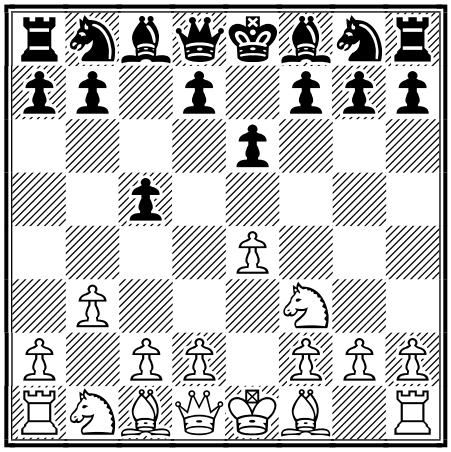
The 17th Pula open
Round 7 standings:
1-3. Murey, Rukavina, Jovanic – 6 points
4-6. Guidarelli, Cvitan, Franic – 5½

♘♘♘

Annotated Game

□ **A. Skripchenko (2501)**
■ **Z. Peng (2433)**
Event: *EIWCC 2003 (4.1), 05.06.2003*
Sicilian Defence [B40]
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.b3!? (D)

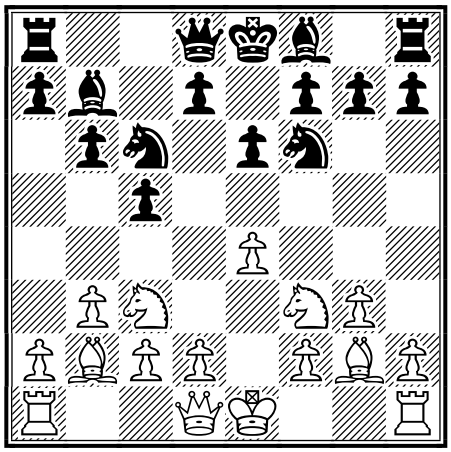


What is this? – chess of the future or is it simply that White doesn't like to study the main lines of the Sicilian? I suspect the latter; on the other hand, Stefanova has achieved very good results with a strange opening repertoire for White (like d4 and Bf4 lines); Maybe the opening – isn't the main thing in chess? At least in women's chess...

3...b6 4.♗b2 ♗b7 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.g3

The second fiancetto – not ambitious, but very solid.

6...♘f6 7.♗g2 (D)



7...d5?!

7...d6!?

8.exd5 exd5

After 8...♘xd5?! 9.♘xd5 exd5 10.d4!? Black has some problems with development.

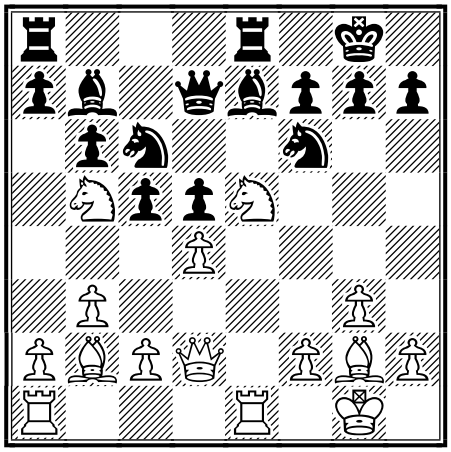
9.d4! ♗e7 10.0–0 0–0 11.♖e1 ♖e8 12.♕d2

Maybe White has a small advantage here but not more.

12...♕c7?!

12...a6!?

13.♘b5 ♕d7 14.♘e5!? (D)



White begins forcing play as earlier as possible.

14...♘xe5 15.dxe5 ♘g4 16.♕f4!?

16.♕e2 c4!? *(16...♗f6 17.f4 ♗a6?! 18.a4±)* 17.bxc4 ♗c5∞

16...♕xb5

16...♘xf2?! 17.♕xf2 ♕xb5 18.c4 ♕d7 19.cxd5±

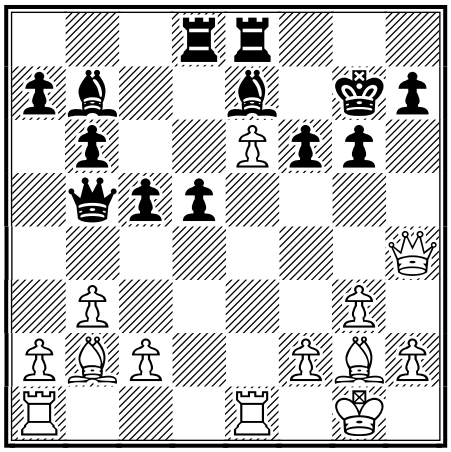
17.♕xg4 ♖ad8

17...c4!? 18.e6 f6 19.♕h5↑

18.e6 f6 19.♕h5 g6?

Unnecessary weakening of the long a1–h8 diagonal – better was 19...c4 20.♕f7+ ♔h8 21.♗d4 ♗c6 22.♖ed1±

20.♕h4 ♔g7 (D)



21.g4!

Signaling a direct attack.

21...h6?!

21...♕b4!? 22.a3 ♕f4 23.♗c1 *(23.♖ad1)* 23...♕d4 24.♗h6+ ♔g8 25.♕h3 c4⇄

22.♖e3± ♖h8

22...♕b4 23.♖f3 ♖f8 24.♗c3 with an unpleasant initiative.

23.♖h3?!

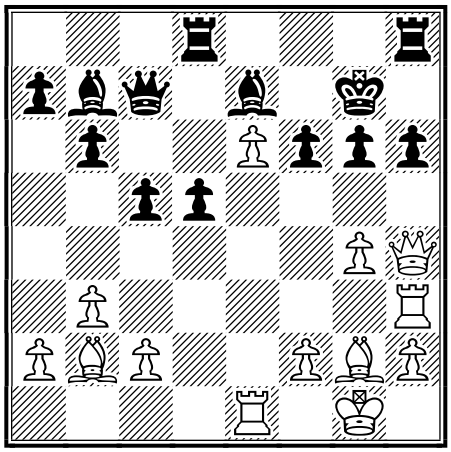
My computer says that better was

23.c4 ♕a6 24.♕g3!? *(24.cxd5 ♗xd5 25.♗xd5 ♖xd5 26.♖f3 ♖f8 27.♖h3 h5⇄)* 24...♖he8 25.♕c7±

23...♕c6?!

Black missed a strong opportunity for counterplay: 23...♕e2! 24.♖c1 g5 25.♕h5 ♕xe6 26.♖e3 ♕f7∓

24.♖e1 ♕c7 (D)



25.f4!

White creates the threat of g4–g5, and Black has to take the pawn.

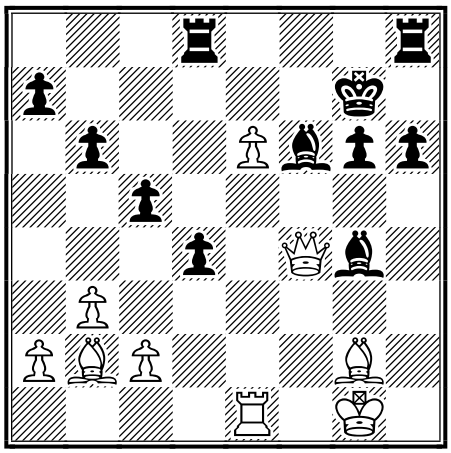
25...♕xf4 26.♖f3 ♕g5 27.♕f2 d4

It's hard to offer an alternative move, but now White wins the queen.

28.h4! ♗xf3

28...♕d5 29.♖g3+–; 28...♕xg4 29.♖g3 ♕h5 30.♗xb7+–

29.hxg5+– ♗xg4 30.gxf6+ ♗xf6 31.♕f4 (D)



31...h5 32.♕c7+ ♔h6 33.♗c1+ g5

33...♗g5 34.♗xg5+ ♔xg5 35.e7 ♖c8 36.♕e5+ ♗f5 37.♗c6+–

34.♖f1 1–0.

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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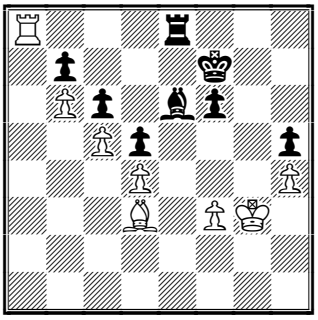
As a general rule, in the endgame, if you are one or two pawns behind, exchange pawns but not pieces.

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-158(942) 7th June 2003

Today and tomorrow I will be the CT host, so I would like again to deviate slightly from our usual format, involving annotated games. Today you find loads of chess news and our Web Watch. Tomorrow our issues will be based on contributions from our readers – I keep on drawing from my editorial stock!

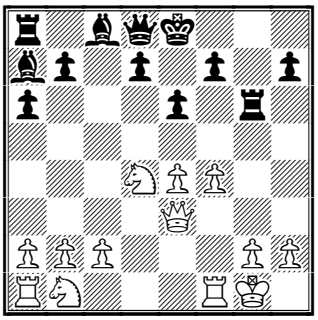
Chess Quiz

Malakhov–Dautov
Istanbul (7), 05.06.2003



White to play

Kulaots–Chuchelov
Istanbul (1), 30.05.2003



Black to play

Chess News

As GM Mikhail Golubev informed us, news agency Interfax-Ukraina has just announced that on 6th June in Kiev, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov asked Ukrainian Prezident Kuchma to co-operate in organising the ***Ponomariov–Kasparov*** World Ch Match. This has been published (in Ukrainian) online and has been confirmed by other sources, adding that probably the match will take place in Yalta in September.

Round 7 of the European Men's Championship in Istanbul was pretty tense – obviously the players meant business after a day-off. The top boards produced the following results:

Azmaiparashvili–Aleksandrov ½–½
Malakhov–Dautov 1–0
Sakaev–Najer 1–0
Georgiev–Nisipeanu ½–½
Iordachescu–Graf ½–½
Nielsen–Agrest ½–½
McShane–van Wely 0–1

Standings after 7 rounds:

1–3. Sakaev (2664), Aleksandrov (2650) and Malakhov (2672) – 5½
4–19. van Wely (2675), Agrest (2591), Iordachescu (2550), Azmaiparashvili (2678), Kharlov (2581), Nisipeanu (2606), Graf (2630), Kir. Georgiev (2647), Movsesian (2659), Ftacnik (2611), P-H Nielsen (2625), Rozentalis (2586), Goloshchapov (2558), Kobalia (2639), Sulskis (2578) and Filippov (2627) – 5 points, etc.

It is curious that top-seeded Vassily Ivanchuk (2704) has just 4 points, while Alexander Grischuk (2701) is doing only slightly better with 4½ points. Probably this justifies the organisers' claim that the European Championship of 2003, with 151 GMs amongst 207 participants, is the strongest ever Swiss-format tournament in the history of chess!

By the way Grischuk gave a quick interview in Istanbul. On the tournament website you can find several express-interviews, but I would like to mention just one more – with our long-standing reader GM Eduardas Rozentalis.

Key games in round 8:

Aleksandrov–Malakhov
Movsesian–Sakaev
Ftacnik–Azmaiparashvili
van Wely–Kharlov
Agrest–Georgiev
Kobalia–Iordachescu
Graf–Goloshchapov
Nisipeanu–Filippov
Sulskis–Nielsen
Grischuk–Rozentalis

In the European Women's Ch before round 5 Galliamova and Skripchenko were leading on 4 points, followed by Stefanova and Cramling on 3½ points. The leaders drew their games:
Galliamova–Skripchenko ½–½
Stefanova–Cramling ½–½

So, Galliamova and Skripchenko are still leading on 4½ points, but several players are close to them.

In Leon, in the first semi-final match Veselin Topalov defeated young Sergei Karjakin 2½–1½.

Karjakin–Topalov 0–1
Topalov–Karjakin 1–0
Karjakin–Topalov 1–0
Topalov–Karjakin ½–½

Karjakin blundered badly in game one, where he was winning at one point. Topalov was pressing in game 3, but was unfortunate enough to lose it. Today Ruslan Ponomariov plays against Francisco Vallejo. The time control in Leon is 20 minutes each plus 10 seconds increment per move.

Web Watch

by Alex Baburin

I would like to start this overview with **GM Square**, where you can find a poll concerning Dvoretsky's proposal to ban draw offers in chess. Please come and vote soon! The index page also has a link to Dvoretsky's article itself.

As I mentioned already, CT received that article via Russian chess weekly called Shakhmatnaya Nedelia (Chess Week). It is a rather young publication, but it is already well established, with many top GMs and journalists contributing to it. For example, each issue has an article by Dvoretsky! The editorial team would be no strangers to you – IM Vladimir Barsky is the chief editor, while IM Maxim Notkin is one of the main contributors. If you speak/read Russian, I strongly recommend you to subscribe to that paper. It can be reached via editors@chessweek.ru

If you speak Russian, you can find more information on this subject of banning draw offers on the Ukrainian Chess website, run by CT journalist GM Mikhail Golubev. Quite recently American Grandmaster Maurice Ashley suggested that draw offers should be banned before move 50 – you can find his well-written article on TWIC.

Mikhail Golubev reminded me that a while ago Chess Café published an old interview with Alexander Alekhine, with an additional audio file. In case you missed it then, do not forget to check it now!

Recently Zoya Vlassova, sister of IM Nikolai Vlassov, sent me a link to an interesting article on the history of chess, which has a link to online material with names of chess pieces in 60 different languages!

Book reviews have become rather frequent in Chess Today, but if you are a new subscriber or simply missed certain reviews, you can find them all at the GM Square website.

Of course, GM Square is not the only site with book reviews. For example, Chess Mail features book reviews by John Elburg. I would also like to mention Seagaard Reviews website and a new book review by IM John Watson, which appeared on TWIC.

Talking about books, I should again mention Chess & Books Live Internet Radio Show with Fred Wilson at Chess FM. Starting June 11th, "Chess & Books with Fred Wilson" will be moving to Wednesday nights. It will start on June 11th with a repeat visit from the well-known chess author,

teacher and coach Bruce Pandolfini. Tune-in to the live broadcast at http://www.chess.fm/ Wednesday at 9:00pm ET.

As I discovered in the most recent TWIC database, GM Patrick Wolff, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Chess* and former US Champion, recently completed his game vs. ROW. He has a website, which offers access to hundreds of chess exercises and a regular instructional newsletter (about once every 6 weeks) for $20/year.

Finally, I would like to mention a column which is similar to our Web Watch – it is called Chess Watch and is run by Gene Venable on the Internet Chess Club site. Check it out for lots of interesting leads!

Letters to the Editor

by Alex Baburin

Yesterday we received the following letter from IM Anthony Saidy:

"Alexander Stripunsky told me that his record-brief draw in last round of Chicago Open was due to his chagrin at director Goichberg's change of his pairing after he had played several moves with white vs. another opponent. Goichberg, having a near-monopoly of large Swiss-system tournaments in U.S., has become sloppy - as shown by this typical debacle. Also before Round 4, I called his attention to my illogical pairing in the rapid two-day event, and he promptly changed it. The pairing computer is blamed.

The common practice of quick GM draws in final rounds of Swiss events is worse than unsporting - it is economically foolish. In all cases there is more to be gained by winning than lost by losing. This is simple arithmetic. The performance of six of eight leaders in the last round of this year's U.S. Championship in taking early draws was an egregious example. Shabalov distinguished himself by fighting for a win and deserved the sole trophy. His prize dwarfed that of the pusillanimous drawing masters, and he and his opponent Akobian were further rewarded by Eric Anderson of America's Foundation for Chess with special cash prizes for sportsmanship.

Just as in the last round in Chicago Shabalov seized the moment by a speculative piece sac in an erstwhile unpromising position, defeating Bluvstein and taking clear first. Long live the Latvian School of Chess! - Anthony Saidy, IM"

Solutions to our Quiz: Malakhov-Dautov: 40.♗g6+! 1–0 **Kulaots-Chuchelov:** 17...e5! 18.fxe5 ♕g5! 19.♔f2 d6 0–1

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us - we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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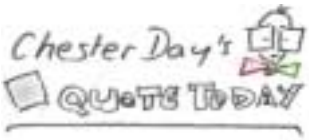

I'll take my *five* **positions** per *second* any day, thank you. --- ***Viswanathan Anand*** *Comparing humans with chess*

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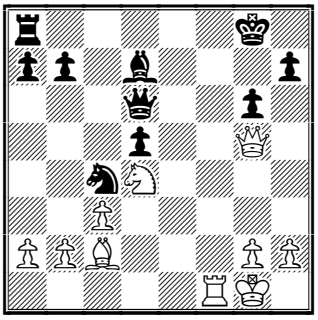
The majority of this issue is made up of material sent in by our readers. We welcome your contributions – please send us annotated games, interesting Web links, combinations and comments – with over 600 people seriously interested in chess, we can turn Chess Today into a great forum!

Chess Quiz

Ansel – Le Blancq
Bermuda, 1991



White to play

Chess News

In the European Men Championship round 8 was played yesterday. Results of the key games:

Aleksandrov–Malakhov ½–½
Movsesian–Sakaev ½–½
Ftacnik–**Azmaiparashvili** 0–1
van Wely–Kharlov ½–½
Agrest–**Georgiev** 0–1
Kobalia–Iordachescu ½–½
Graf–Goloshchapov ½–½
Nisipeanu–Filippov ½–½
Sulskis–Nielsen ½–½
Grischuk–Rozentalis 1–0

Standings after 8 rounds:

1–5. Azmaiparashvili (2678), Sakaev (2664), Aleksandrov (2650), Malakhov (2672) and Kir. Georgiev (2647) – 6 points;
17 GMs, including Alexander Grischuk, are on 5½ points, etc.

Key games in round 9:

Malakhov– Azmaiparashvili
Sakaev–Aleksandrov
Georgiev–Kobalia

In the European Women's Ch after 6 rounds, Alisa Galliamova (2489) is leading with 5½ points, ahead of Pia Cramling (2470), Almira Skripchenko (2501) and Victoria Cmilyte (2430), who have 5 points.

In Leon in the second semi-final match, Ruslan Ponomariov beat Francisco Vallejo 3½–1½. The Spaniard had some initiative in game 1, but the Ukrainian dominated the remaining games.

Today the Ponomariov–Topalov final is on. It should be very interesting – the very solid Ponomariov vs. the enterprising Topalov! I do not think they met since their match in the FIDE Championship Las Vegas in 1999, when Veselin beat then 15-year old Ruslan. Of course, they know each other well, as Topalov helped Ponomariov in his match vs. Ivanchuk last year.

Letters to the Editor
by Alex Baburin

Our readers continue discussing the problem of quick draws in chess and yesterday we received the following letter: *"Dear Sirs,*
By analogy to my experience in handicapping horse races, I must concur with GM Shabalov's and IM Saidy's conclusion that last-round quick draws are actually against the player's economics interests. Indeed, many a novice horse player bets his horse to show, rather than win, thinking he has increased his chances of collecting on his wager. And he would be correct. But study after study has shown that, when compared to

show betting, the increased returns for win betting more than offsets the decreased likelihood of collecting. In short, it is better in the long run to bet your horse to win, even if winning is less likely. I believe the same holds true in chess tournaments, as GM Shabalov has already demonstrated. In short, were more chess players acting in their own economic interests, Dvoretsky's no-draws proposal would be moot. Sincerely, Matthew Nelson (weak chess player and pathetic handicapper)"

Good point, but I think that quick draws in the last round is only part of the problem, so the proposal to ban draw offers completely still makes sense even if everyone starts playing a la Shabalov in the last round! By the way, do not forget to come and vote on the Dvoretsky proposal at the GM Square.

Trainer's Corner

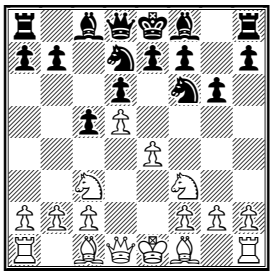
About a year ago I asked Chess Today readers to send their annotated games for this column. While I used a couple of such games in CT, some games were left in the 'editorial folder'. I would like to come back to them now. And as a little apology, I will give 1 month extension to CT subscription to all those who sent their games!

Games played by professionals are often interesting, but one can also learn a lot from games by club players, as the following game will show:

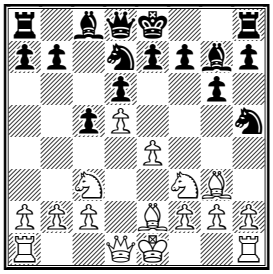
Annotated Game

□ V. Berg (1600)
■ D. Gustafson (1910)
[A43] 2001
*Notes by Vince Berg and GM Alexander Baburin (after ** sign)*

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.d5 d6
** 3...b5 4.♗g5 is supposed to be better for White, but is still quite playable for the second player. **4.♘c3 g6 5.e4 ♘bd7?! *(D)***



An inflexible move - usually Black immediately plays the natural 5...♗g7 when the b8-knight may go to a6 if White plays ♗e2 or after White's very common 6.♗b5+, then 6...♘bd7.
** I agree, this is not a very good move - the knight has little prospect on d7.
6.♗e2 ♗g7 7.♗f4
7.♗g5 is better.
** Not necessarily. But the simple 7.0-0 was best - White does not know yet where the c1-bishop belongs, so why not make all the 'necessary' moves first?
7...♘h5 8.♗g3?! *(D)*



8.♗d2 was better.
** This move deserves much more comment than that! I would easily give 8.♗g3 '?'. The problem with White's play is that it allows Black to exchange some pieces, when he has little space - certainly a faulty strategy. ***When you command more space, do not trade pieces lightly!*** Also, Black becomes the owner of the dark squares.
8...a6 9.a4 ♕a5
9...♕b6
10.♖a3!?
Objectively better is 10.♕d2, but I was already thinking about the possibility of swinging the queen rook over to the kingside after the likely exchange on g3 and a pawn advance coupled with an attack down the h-file against Black's kingside.
** It seems to me that White is

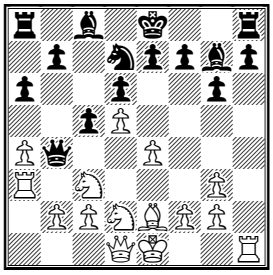
planning too far ahead! This could easily become 'fantasy' planning... Actually, I prefer this move to 10.♕d2. After 10.♕d2 ♘xg3 *(10...b5)* 11.hxg3 ♕b4!? White has problems with the e4-pawn.

10...♕b4 11.♘d2

Again, 11.♕a1 is objectively a better defence, but I was counting on Black's reluctance to part with his nice g7-bishop.

** I would not seriously consider 11.♕a1 - what is the queen going to do there? And what about the e4-pawn? 11...♘xg3 12.hxg3 ♗xc3+ 13.♖xc3 ♕xe4.

11...♘xg3 12.hxg3 *(D)*

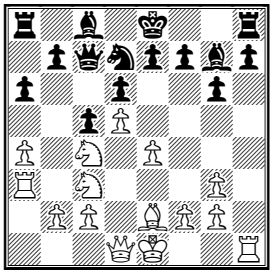


12...♕b6?!

Black chickens out. He should probably take the pawn, e.g. 12...♗xc3 13.♖xc3 ♕xb2 14.♖b3 ♕d4 15.♗c4 b6 16.c3 ♕f6 17.f4 ♗b7 18.♕g4 - Black is a pawn up in a very messy position.

** I am not at all sure about this line - it seems too long to me. Remember Bent Larsen's saying - "All long variations are wrong!" Is 14...♕d4 really better than 14...♕f6 or even 14...♕g7? Why is 15...b6 necessary? It would be better to cut the line after 14.♖b3, saying that White has something, but probably not enough for a pawn. But I agreed that Black should not have chickened out - thus I would give 12...♕b6 '?' mark!

13.♘c4 ♕c7 *(D)*



14.f4

14.a5 locks up the queenside and gives White a potential knight outpost on b6 if the ♘d7 ever moves out of the way to allow the bishop to develop. White would maintain a nice space advantage with some initiative, e.g. 14...♖b8 *(** I think that better is the immediate 14...b5 15.axb6 ♘xb6)* 15.g4 b5 16.axb6 ♘xb6 17.♘e3 ♗xc3+ 18.bxc3 a5 19.g5. Now White could castle and play on the queenside. Despite having the two sets of doubled pawns he has a space advantage, more open lines and better pieces.

** Again, White looks too far ahead... Is 17...♗xc3+ really likely? Looks like a computer move to me! While 14.a5 isn't bad, it is often not necessary when (if) Black cannot manage ....b7-b5 anyway. In some cases a4-a5 only helps Black to open up the queenside.

14...0-0

This might be asking for trouble, given the potential of White's h-file.

15.♔f2!?

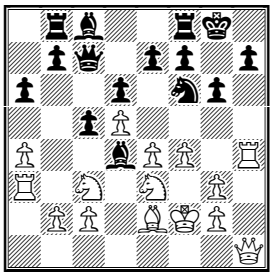
Risky. 15.a5 with ideas like those mentioned above left White somewhat better.

** This move looks artificial to me - I'd give it '?!' at best! The idea (as in the game) of ♖h1-h4 and ♕d1-h1 looks too good to be true! I would seriously consider here 15.g4, trying to establish a pawn on g5.

15...♖b8

** This is quite an indifferent move, which certainly deserved some criticism from the annotator. It is important to point out the mistakes of our opponents too! Black should have played something like 15...♗d4+!? 16.♘e3 ♘f6 17.♗f3 e6!?, trying to open up the centre – something he never did in the game!

16.♘e3 ♗d4 17.♖h4 ♘f6 18.♕h1 *(D)*



At this point I decided to forget about

my queenside and go in for the attack.

18...♗xc3

18...♕b6

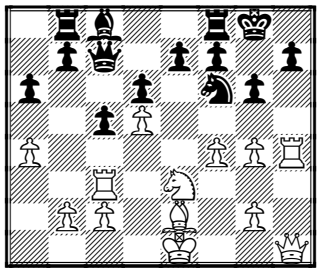
** Black gets greedy... Again, this moment deserved serious discussion. White's position looks dubious and here I would have considered 18...c4!? or 18...e6 – ***play in the centre is almost always the best response to the flank aggression!***

19.♖xc3 ♘xe4+ 20.♔e1 ♘f6

20...h5 21.♗xh5 ♘xg3 22.♕h2 ♘xh5 23.♖xh5 gxh5 24.♕xh5 ♖d8 *(24...e5 25.♕g5+ ♔h7 26.f5 ♖e8 27.♘g4; 24...♕a5 25.♕g5+ ♔h8 26.♘c4 ♕b4 27.♔f2 ♕xc3 28.bxc3+–)* 25.♘g4 ♗xg4 26.♖g3! ♕a5+ 27.c3 f5 28.♕xf5 ♔h8 29.♕xg4; 20...♘xc3?? 21.♖xh7 ♘xe2 22.♕h6.

** It would be OK to stop this line after 24.♕xh5 – White is clearly winning – with such a bad king an extra rook on b8 won't help!

21.g4 ***(D)***



21...♔g7?

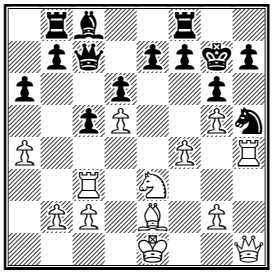
A better defence is: 21...h5 22.gxh5 ♗d7 23.hxg6 fxg6 and now:

A) 24.♘g4! ♗xg4 25.♗xg4 **A1)** 25...♘xg4 26.♖xg4 ♖f6 27.♕h6 ♔f7 28.♕h7+ *(28.♖e3 ♕a5+ 29.c3 ♖g8 30.♕h7+ ♖g7 31.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 32.♕xg7+ ♖f7 33.♕xg6)* 28...♔e8 29.♖xg6 ♖xg6 *(29...♖xf4 30.♖e3)* 30.♕xg6+ ♔d7 31.♕e6+ ♔d8 32.♖h3 ♕d7 33.♖h8+ ♔c7 34.♖xb8 ♕xe6+ 35.dxe6 ♔xb8 36.g4 ♔c7 37.c4 ♔c6 38.g5; **A2)** 25...♔f7 26.♗e6+ ♔e8 27.♖h8 ♘d7 *(27...♘h5 28.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 29.g4)* 28.♖xf8+ ♘xf8 29.♕h8 ♕a5 30.♕g8;

B) 24.♗d3 24...♔g7 25.♖h6 ♖h8 26.♖xg6+ ♔f7∞ Black should hold.

** These variations may well be all correct, but for me it would suffice to say that 21...♔g7? amounts to capitulation, while after 21...h5 22.gxh5 White is clearly better, but the game goes on. I would not go as far as claiming that Black should hold in this line. But perhaps 21...♕b6 would confuse White a bit?

22.g5! ♘h5? ***(D)***



23.♗xh5?

Over-eager, missing the simple: 23.g4! ♗d7 *(23...♘xf4 24.♖xh7+ ♔g8 25.♖h8+ ♔g7 26.♕h7#)* 24.gxh5 ♖h8 25.♕e4 ♖be8 26.hxg6 hxg6 27.♖xh8 ♔xh8 28.f5 gxf5 29.♘xf5 ♗xf5 30.♕xf5 ♔g7 31.♖f3 *(31.♖h3 ♖h8 32.♖xh8 ♔xh8 33.♗d3)* 31...e5 32.♕f6+ ♔g8 33.♖h3 ♕a5+ 34.c3

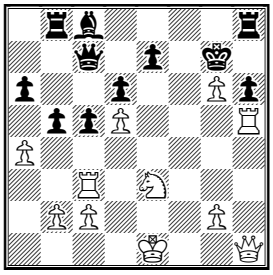
** Too many variations! Clearly 23.g4! wins – White gets material advantage, while still attacking – now everything goes for him!

23...gxh5 24.f5 ♖h8 25.♖xh5

25.♖e4 ♔f8 26.♕xh5 ♕d8 27.♕h6+ ♔e8 28.♕g7 ♖f8 29.♕xh7±

** Good point – 25.♖e4 deserves '!'. But why to be so modest in the assessment of the final position?! White is clearly winning, not just 'better'!

25...b5 26.g6 fxg6 27.fxg6 h6 ***(D)***



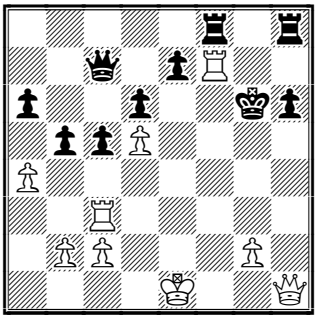
28.♘f5+

This move went without comments, but it looks pretty illogical to connect Black's rooks. Better was 28.g4. ***It is very important spot key moments in the game – when chances assessment of the position changed and opportunities were lost.*

28...♗xf5 29.♖xf5 ♖bf8 30.♖f7+

** Good move, deserving '!' – otherwise Black would have blocked the f-file with ...♖f6.

30...♔xg6?? *(D)*



Blundering into a mate! 30...♖xf7 31.gxf7 ♕a5 32.♕h5 and Black should be able to hold.

** I am not so sure, but clearly the game would still go on then.

31.♖g3+ ♔xf7 32.♕h5+ 1-0

Black resigned in view of 32...♔f6 33.♖g6+ ♔f7 34.♖g4+ ♔f6 35.♕g6+ ♔e5 36.♕e6#

Solution to our Quiz: Ansel – Le Blancq: 23.♗xg6! hxg6 (23...♕xg6 24.♕xd5+) 24.♖f6 ♕e5 25.♕xg6+ ♔h8 26.♕h6+ ♔g8 27.♖g6+ ♔f7 28.♕h7+ 1–0

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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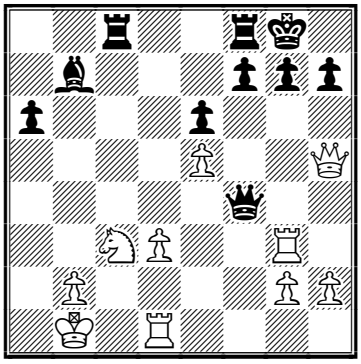
When you command more space, do not trade pieces lightly!

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-160(944) 9th June 2003

Atakisi (2296) – Dvoirys (2552)
Istanbul 2003



Black to play

Georgian GM **Zurab Azmaiparashvili** became the sole leader of the 4th European Championships in Silivri, Turkey.

Some results of the 9th round:
Malakhov – Azmaiparashvili 0:1
Sakaev – Aleksandrov ½:½
K. Georgiev – Kobalia ½:½
Mc Shane – Grischuk 0:1
Nisipeanu – Van Wely ½:½
Galkin – Movsesian ½:½
Kharlov – Graf ½:½
Filippov – Sulskis ½:½
Nielsen – Sargissian ½:½
Goloshchapov – Dautov ½:½
Iordachescu – Aronian ½:½

Round 9 standings:
1. Azmaiparashvili – 7 points out of 9
2-5. Sakaev, Aleksandrov, Grischuk, K. Georgiev – 6½
6-27. Nisipeanu, Kharlov, Dautov, Iordachescu, Van Wely, Goloshchapov, Malakhov, Graf, Kotronias, Movsesian, Chuchelov, Kobalia, Nielsen, Aronian, Sulskis, Sargissian, Galkin, Sutovsky, Milov, Asrian, Filippov, Lputian – 6 etc.

Round 10th pairing:
Azmaiparashvili – Sakaev
Grischuk – K. Georgiev
Van Wely – Aleksandrov
Malakhov – Nisipeanu
Movsesian – Kotronias
Sutovsky – Asrian
Kobalia – Chuchelov
Lputian – Galkin
Graf – Sargissian
Aronian – Filippov
Milov – Nielsen
Dautov – Iordachescu
Sulskis – Kharlov

In the women's section, Russian GM **Alisa Galliamova** has increased her lead and now she is a clear point ahead of the 4 chasing players.

Some results of the 7th round:
Galliamova – Cramling 1:0
Cmilyte – Skripchenko ½:½
Sebag – Stefanova 0:1
Dzagnidze – Matveeva ½:½
Bojkovic – Zimina 0:1
Vasilevich – Peptan 0:1
T. Kosintseva – Dworakowska 1:0
Kovalevskaya – Lomineishvili 1:0
Kachiani-Gersinska – Ionescu-Brandis 1:0
Matnadze – Zielinska 1:0

Round 7 standings:
1. Galliamova – 6½ points out of 7
2-5. Skripchenko, Stefanova, Zimina, Cmilyte – 5½
6-17. Dzagnidze,T. Kosintseva, Cramling, Khurtsidze, Kovalevskaya, Matveeva, Kachiani-Gersinska, Radziewicz, Peptan, Mkrtchian, Matnadze, N. Kosintseva – 5 etc.

Round 8 pairings:
Stefanova – Galliamova
Zimina – Cmilyte
Skripchenko – T. Kosintseva
Matveeva – Khurtsidze
Peptan – N. Kosintseva
Cramling – Mkrtchian
Radziewicz – Kovalevskaya
Matnadze – Kachiani-Gersinska
Prudnikova – Dzagnidze

GM Zenón Franco Ocampos, Press Chief of the 16th Magistral Ciudad de León has published the following Press Release:

Ponomariov Champion

Topalov dominates but Ponomariov takes his chance.:– *World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov defeated Vesselin Topalov by 2½:1½ and won the 16th 'Ciudad de Leon' chess tournament.*

The decisive game was the third one; Topalov introduced a new idea 13.Ne5!? in a well known position of the French Defence, he won a pawn, but soon returned it and sacrificed one more, to obtain a dangerous attack. In a mutual time trouble both masters committed mistakes, Topalov could have won with 43 or 45.Rxg6+!, a new mistake (48..Qe1?) was punished with 49.Rxg6! obtaining a winning position, but at the heavy cost of remaining with much less time.

The result was shocking when Topalov 'fall asleep' and lost by time in a position where he had at minimum draw.

In the last game he obtained a better position once more, but the World Champion defended his dangerous position accurately with 36.g4! and 38.g5 and obtained the desired result. In the Press Conference admitted his slight good luck, but also pointed out that the rhythm of the tournament produced 'fighting chess' and that time takes an important role in these games.

Finally the World Champion expressed his satisfaction of being the winner of the 16th Ciudad de Leon chess tournament.

Just recall that this year it was a quadrangular knockout rapid tournament (not advanced chess i.e. no computers as in recent years) with Ruslan Ponomariov (Elo 2734), Vesselin Topalov (Elo 2743), Sergey Karjakin (Elo 2547), and Francisco "Paco" Vallejo Pons (Elo 2629). Time control was 20 minutes + 10 seconds per move. In the 1st semi final Topalov beat Karjakin 2½:1½, in the 2nd semi final Ponomariov beat Vallejo 3½:½.

*We have included the 4 final games in our database. All of them have light comments (I suspect by **GM** Zenón Franco Ocampos). Also see our Annotated Game section.*

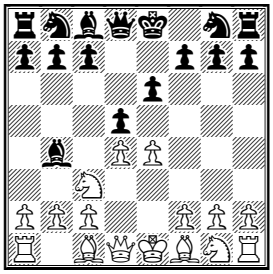
Five International masters – Ognjen Jovanic (CRO), Nikola Sedlak (YUG), Josip Rukavina (CRO), Zvonko Stanojoski (MKD) and Davor Rogic (CRO) shared 1st place with 7 points out of 9 at the 17th Pula open, Croatia.

Ten players finished half a point back: 6–15. Bogdanovski, Murey, Cvitan, Guidarelli, Berzinsh, Markus, Jankovic, Orel, Filipovic, Eriksson – 6½ etc.

Annotated Game

□ **V Topalov (2735)**
■ **R Ponomariov (2718)**
Event: XVI Magistral "Ciudad de León" León (3.3), 07.06.2003 C18
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4!?



As far as I can recall, the FIDE world champion hasn't been a fan of the French Winawer in the past. Maybe he decided to try a new opening before his match vs. Garry Kasparov. Or maybe he doesn't want to show his really new opening preparation before his match vs. Garry Kasparov... Who knows? We won't get an answer before the match. So lets wait and hope that the Ponomariov – Kasparov match will take place in reality!

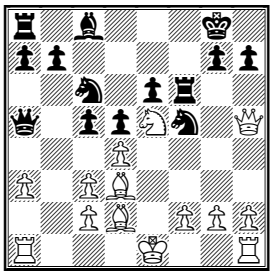
4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♗xc3+

5...♗a5!? is a favourite line of Armenian GMs Vaganian and Lputian.

6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.♕g4 ♕a5!?

I think the main specialist of this line is Russian GM Alexander Rustemov.

8.♗d2 0–0 9.♗d3 ♘bc6 10.♘f3 f5 11.exf6 ♖xf6 12.♕h5 ♘f5



13.♘e5!?N

13.g4 c4 14.gxf5 cxd3 15.♖g1 ♗d7 16.c4 *(16.♕g5 ♖f7 17.f6?! ♕d8!* Barsky – Svistunov, Moscow 1992)*)* 16...♕c7 17.♗h6 ♗e8 18.♕h4 ♖xh6 19.♕xh6 dxc4 20.cxd3 cxd3 21.f6 ♗g6 22.♕xg7+ ♕xg7 23.fxg7 ♖d8 24.♖g4 ♗f5 25.♖f4 ♘e7 26.♔d2 ♘g6 27.♖xf5 exf5 28.♖b1 b6 29.♖b5 ♘e7 30.♖e5 ♖d7 31.♔xd3 ♔xg7 32.h4 ♔f6 33.♘g5 ♘g6 34.♖e6+ ♔g7 35.♔c4 ♖c7+ 36.♔b5 ♘xh4 37.♖xb6 axb6 38.♘e6+ ♔f6 39.♘xc7 ♘f3 40.♘d5+ ♔g5 41.♔xb6 ♘xd4 42.♔c5 ♘e6+ 43.♔d6 ♘d4 44.♔c5 ½–½ Shirov,A–Khalifman,A Dos Hermanas 2003

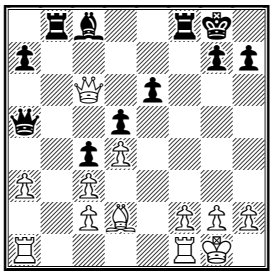
13...c4

13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♖f7 15.c4 *(15.g4 g6 16.♕g5 ♘e7 17.h4!? c4 18.♗e2 ♕a4; 15.0–0!?)* 15...♕c7 16.f4 d4∞; 13...♕a4!?

14.♗xf5 ♖xf5

14...exf5?! 15.♘xc6 bxc6 *(15...♖xc6?? 16.♕e8#)* 16.♕e8+ ♖f8 17.♕xc6±

15.♕e8+ ♖f8 16.♘xc6 bxc6 17.♕xc6 ♖b8 18.0–0



Thanks to his new opening idea, White has won a pawn. Of course Black has some compensation: the open "b" file, weak pawns on c2 and c3, the c6 Queen is far from his camp etc. But in any case a pawn is a pawn.

18...♖b2 19.♗f4!?

Of course the comp recommends 19.♖fc1 But to make such a move the human has to be very–very greedy!

19...♕xc3

19...♖xc2?? 20.♗d6+– ; 19...♖xf4? 20.♕xc8+ ♖f8 21.♕xe6+

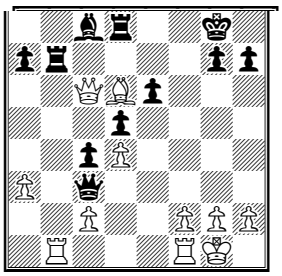
20.♗d6 ♖b6

20...♖d8 21.♕c7 ♖e8 22.♗e5 ♖b7 23.♕c6 ♖f8 24.♖ae1!?↑

21.♕c7 ♖b7

21...♖xd6!? 22.♕xd6 ♕xc2∞

22.♕c5 ♖e8 23.♕c6 ♖d8 24.♖ab1!?



White would like to exploit the more active positions of his pieces and for this goal exchanges the active black rook on b7 and sacrifices a pawn.

24...♖xb1 25.♖xb1 ♕xc2 26.♖f1 ♕g6

Black is a pawn up but his bishop c8 has to stay at his initial position so Black has to play very carefully.

27.♕c7 ♕e8

27...♖e8 28.♕xa7±

28.♗e5 ♕d7 29.♕c5 ♕b7 30.h3!?

A move a–la Karpov or Morozevich – White says to his opponent: make your move, please!

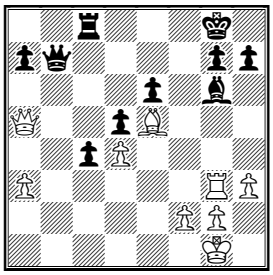
30...♖e8

30...♗d7?? 31.♕e7+–

31.♖e1 ♗d7 32.♕a5

32.♖e3? ♕b6∓

32...♖c8 33.♖e3 ♗e8 34.♖g3 ♗g6



Black has improved the position of his bishop, but in any case its opposite number on e5 is much stronger. White has at least enough compensation for the pawn.

35.h4! ♕b6 36.♕a4!

Obviously White has to keep the queens on: 36.♕xb6? axb6 37.h5 ♗d3 38.♖xg7+ ♔f8∓

36...♕b7

36...♕b1+ 37.♔h2 ♕b7 38.h5 ♗e8

37.h5 ♗e8

37...♘xh5?? 38.♖xg7+ ♕xg7 39.♘xg7 ♔xg7 40.♕d7+

38.♕d1!

After 38.♕c2 ♘xh5 39.♖xg7+ ♕xg7 40.♘xg7 ♔xg7 it is only Black who has some chances for a win.

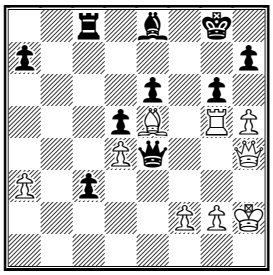
38...g6 39.♕g4 ♕b1+

39...♕e7 40.♕f4!?

40.♔h2 ♕f5 41.♕h4 c3!

A passed pawn has to go forward!

42.♖g5 ♕e4??



42...♕f8 43.hxg6 ♘xg6 44.♖xg6+ hxg6 45.♕h8+ ♔f7 46.♕f6+ ♔e8 47.♕xe6+ ♔d8 48.♕xd5+ ♔e8 49.♕e6+ ♔d8=; 42...♕f7?? 43.hxg6 hxg6 44.♕h8#

43.♖g4??

43.♖xg6+ ♘xg6 *(43...hxg6 44.♕f6+−)* 44.♕f6 ♕xe5+ 45.dxe5+−

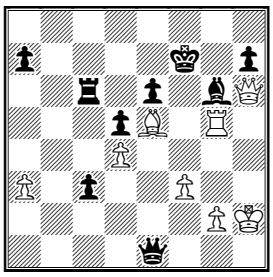
43...♕f5 44.♖g5 ♕e4?? 45.♕h3?

45.♖xg6+

45...♖c6 46.hxg6 ♘xg6 47.♕h6 ♔f7 48.f3?

48.♕g7+ ♔e8 49.♕b7 ♕h4+ *(49...♖c4? 50.♕b8+ ♔d7 51.♕d6+ ♔c8 52.♕xe6+ ♔b7 53.♖g4 ♕e2 54.♕xd5+)* 50.♔g1 ♕xg5 51.♕xc6+ ♔f7 52.♕xc3 a6±

48...♕e1??



48...♕b1 49.♕g7+ ♔e8 50.♘f6 ♕b8+ 51.♖e5 ♕c7∓

49.♖xg6!

Now White has found a crushing blow.

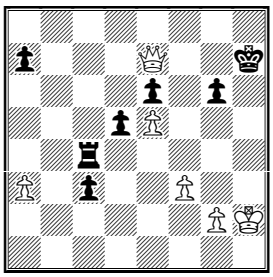
49...♕xe5+

49...hxg6 50.♕g7+ ♔e8 51.♘f6 and mate in 6.

50.dxe5 hxg6 51.♕h7+ ♔f8 52.♕d7 ♖c4 53.♕d8+?

White could win by force: 53.♕xe6! c2 54.♕f6+ ♔e8 *(54...♔g8 55.♕xg6+ ♔h8 56.♕h6+ ♔g8 57.♕c1 d4 58.♕g5+ ♔h7 59.♕f5+ ♔g7 60.♕f6+* and White wins the c4 rook.*)* 55.e6 ♖c7 56.e7 ♖xe7 57.♕xg6+ ♔d7 58.♕xc2+−

53...♔g7 54.♕f6+ ♔h7 55.♕f7+ ♔h6 56.♕f8+ ♔h7 57.♕e7+



57...♔h8 58.♕f6+

And as you know from the Press Release, White lost on time. In the final position White has at least a draw and in different ways:58.♕g5 ♔h7 59.♔g1 c2 60.♕c1 d4 61.♔f1 d3 62.♔e1 ♖c3 63.♔d2 ♖b3 64.♕h1+ ♔g7 65.♕h4= **0−1**

Solution to our Quiz: **26...♖xc3! 27.bxc3 ♖b8! 28.♔c2** 28.♕g5 ♘c6+ 29.♔c2 ♘a4# **28...♘c6 29.♖a1** 29.d4 ♘a4+ 30.♔d3 ♖b2 31.♖g4 ♘c2+ 32.♔c4 ♘xd1−+ **29...♕f2+ 0−1**

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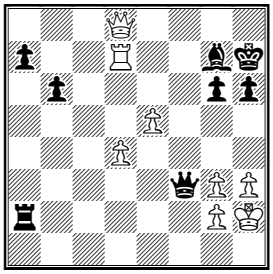
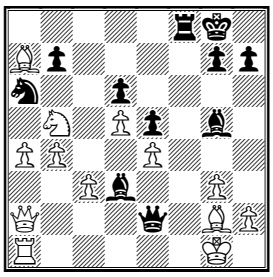
CT-161(945) 10th June 2003

Sakaev (2664) – Aleksandrov (2650)
EIMCC 2003



White to play

Huzman (2589) – Sutovsky (2652)
EIMCC 2003



Black to play

Chess News

Monday was a rest day at the 4th European Championships in Silivri, Turkey in both the men's and women' sections. Just recall that the leaders are Georgian GM **Zurab Azmaiparashvili** and GM **Alisa Galliamova** (Russia).

Also see our annotated game section.

The final of the Coupe de France took place between NAO and Clichy in Sénat on June 7th 2003. The NAO Chess Club won 3:1.

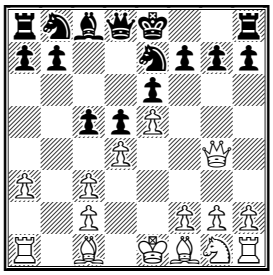
NAO CC – CLICHY

Kramnik – Degraeve **1:0**
Adams – Bauer Christian **½:½**
Lautier – Apicella **½:½**
Fressinet – Relange **1:0**

Annotated Game

□ **B Macieja (2634)**
■ **A Vaisser (2563)**
Event: EIMCC 2003 (9.33), 08.06.2003
C18
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 ♘e7 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.♕g4



The sharpest line of the Winawer system of the French defence. Quieter lines are 7.♘f3; 7.a4; 7.h4!?

7...0-0

An extremely impudent move, because White's attack looks very dangerous. But in practice it's not so easy to checkmate the king on g8. Less ambitious moves here are 7...♕c7; 7...♔f8; 7...♕a5

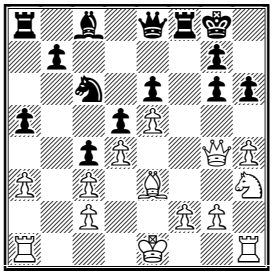
8.♗d3 ♘bc6 9.♕h5 ♘g6 10.♘f3 ♕c7

The queen defends the f7 pawn in case of 11.Ng5 h6 12.Nxf7? Qxf7 13.Qxg6 Qxf2+. Also somewhere Black creates a threat of 11...cxd4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qc3+.

11.♗e3 c4 12.♗xg6 fxg6 13.♕g4 ♕f7 14.♘g5 ♕e8

14...♕f5!?

15.h4 h6 16.♘h3 a5



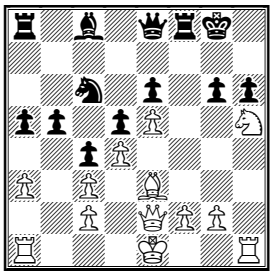
Maybe this is a novelty formally speaking, but Black has used this idea

– a7–a5 and b7–b5 – earlier, though it began it with b7–b5. Black prepares the b5–b4 break, and the a8 rook can defend the king after Ra8–a7. 16...♘e7!?; 16...♕f7!?; 16...♗d7!?; 16...b5 17.♘f4 ♘e7 18.♔d2 a5 19.♕h3 ♗d7 20.♖ab1 ♕f7 21.f3 ♖ab8 22.♘e2 ♘c6 23.♖b2 b4 Anand – Jussupow, Corsica (rapid) 2002

17.h5!?

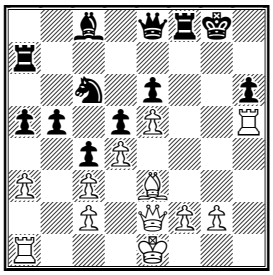
I think it's impossible to create any attack without sacrifices in this position.

17...gxh5 18.♕e2 b5 19.♘f4 g6 20.♘xh5!?



I believe only this knight sacrifice is a novelty in reality. In the previous game (with another move order – 16...b5 and 18...a5) White played 20.g4 ♘e7! 21.♘g2 ♔h7 22.♕d2 ♘g8 23.♘f4!? hxg4 24.♔e2 g5 25.♘h5 ♕f7 26.f4 gxf4 27.♗xf4⩲ with huge complications (Svidler – Bareev, Elista 1997).

20...gxh5 21.♖xh5 ♖a7?!



This move looks very logical: the rook is included in the defence. But Black had an interesting, and I suspect stronger, alternative: 21...♘e7!?

A) 22.♗xh6?! ♖f5 23.♖h3 *(23.♕g4+?! ♕g6 24.♗g5 ♖f8 25.f4 ♘f5∓)* 23...♗d7∓;

B) 22.♖xh6 22...♔g7 23.♕g4+ ♘g6 24.♗g5 *(24.0–0–0!?)* 24...♕f7 25.♗f6+ ♕xf6 *(25...♔xh6? 26.♕g5+ ♔h7 27.0–0–0+–)* 26.exf6+ ♔xh6 27.♕f3 ♔g5!?; 21...♕g6?! 22.♖xh6 ♕xg2? 23.♕h5+–

22.♗xh6 ♖ff7?!

Also bad was 22...♖f5? 23.♕g4+ ♔h7 24.♖h1+–; Even here interesting was 22...♘e7!?

23.♕g4+ ♖g7

23...♔h8?? 24.♗g7+ ♔g8 25.♖h8#

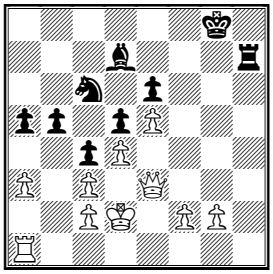
24.♗xg7 ♖xg7 25.♕h4!

Decisive move: White receives a huge material advantage.

25...♕xh5

25...♕g6 26.♖h8+ ♔f7 27.♖xc8; 25...♕d7 26.♖h8+ ♔f7 27.♕f6#; 25...♕e7 26.♖h8+ ♔f7 27.♕f4+ ♔g6 28.♖h6#; 25...♔f7 26.♖h8 ♖g8 27.♕f6#

26.♕xh5 ♗d7 27.♔d2 ♖h7 28.♕g4+ ♖g7 29.♕f3 ♖f7 30.♕e3 ♖h7



31.g4 ♗e8 32.♕g5+ ♖g7 33.♕f6

And Black resigned. A strong novelty on move 20, and 5 moves later it was all over. **1–0**

Solution to our Quiz: (1) 43.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 44.♕d7+! ♔g8 44...♕f7? 45.e6! ♕xd7 46.exd7+– 45.♕d8+ ♔g7 46.♕d7+ ½–½

(2) 28...♗e3+ 29.♔h1 29.♗xe3 ♕xe3+ 30.♔h1 ♖f2 31.♕b3 ♗xe4–+ 29...♖f1+! 30.♖xf1 30.♗xf1 ♗xe4+ 31.♗g2 ♗xg2# 30...♕xa2–+ 31.♗xe3 ♗xf1 32.♗xf1 ♕b1 33.♔g1 ♕xe4 34.♗b6 ♕xd5 35.a5 ♕d2 36.♗c4+ d5 37.♗f1 d4 38.cxd4 e4 0–1

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-162(946) 11th June 2003

Chess News

The 4th European Individual Chess Championship

Round 10

On the first board there was a quick draw as Azmaiparashvili and Sakaev decided not to play. Grischuk and Georgiev fought a bit more but with the same result. A tragedy occurred to former leader Aleksej Aleksandrov, he was doing well against Van Wely and gained a winning position. But Van Wely put up stubborn resistance and had so much success that Alexej had to force a draw. However, he went too far trying to win the position and lost. Malakhov, Sutovsky, Galkin, Kobalia, Aronian, Nilsen and Kharlov won important games.

Results:
Azmaiparashvili – Sakaev ½
Grischuk – Georgiev ½
Van Wely – Aleksandrov 1-0
Malakhov - Nisipeanu 1-0
Movsesian – Kotronias ½
Sutovsky – Asrian 1-0
Kobalia – Chuchelov 1-0
Lputian – Galkin 0-1
Graf – Sargissian ½
Aronian – Filippov 1-0
Milov – Nielsen 0-1
Dautov – Iordachescu ½
Sulskis – Kharlov 0-1

Standings:

Azmaiparashvili (7½ points);
2-12. Grischuk, Nielsen, Van Wely, Galkin, Malakhov, Sakaev, Kobalia, Kharlov, Sutovsky, Georgiev, Aronian (7 points).

Parings round 10:

1. Azmaiparashvili – Grischuk
2. Nielsen - Van Wely
3. Galkin – Malakhov
4. Sakaev – Kobalia
5. Kharlov – Sutovsky
6. Georgiev – Aronian

4th European Individual Women's Chess Championship
Round 8
Results:
Stefanova – Galliamova ½
Zimina – Cmilyte ½
Skripchenko – Kosintseva 0-1
Standings:
Galliamova (7 points);
Cmilyte, Kosintseva T, Stefanova, Kachiani-Gersinska, Zimina (6 points).
Parings round 9:
Galliamova Alisa – Cmilyte;
Kosintseva – Stefanova;
Kachiani-Gersinska – Zimina..

The final of the Coupe de France took place between NAO and Clichy in Sénat on June 7th 2003. The NAO Chess Club won 3:1.

NAO CC - CLICHY

Kramnik – Degraeve 1:0
Adams – Bauer Christian ½:½
Lautier – Apicella ½:½
Fressinet – Relange 1:0

On Monday, June 9th (the day off at the European Individual Championships) a meeting of participants of the men's and women's tournaments took place. Over 50 players were present.

After a prolonged discussion a decision to organize a Professional Chess Union was taken.

In the nearest future the initiative group will work out the draft statute of the Union. An Internet site of the Union will be created, where all the world's grandmasters will be able to make their proposals to the project and elect (by an open vote) their representatives to the ruling board of the Union.

Contacts: Mrs. Almira Skripchenko
almira@wanadoo.fr
Mr. Igor Glek prinzflorizel@aol.com
Mr. Pavel Tregubov
gmtregubov@hotmail.com

The open letter to the President of ECU was signed by 187 participants of both tournaments:

We, the participants of the 4th EUROPEAN WOMEN'S and MEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPION-SHIPS, consider unacceptable the conditions of this competition, for the following reasons:

1) We consider unreasonable the demand that all players have to stay in hotel provided by the organizers.
2) The room prices quoted for the Marin Princess Hotel for this event are 2 times higher than average prices for such hotels in Turkey, and this hotel in particular: Russian tourists groups are paying 30-35$ per night full board at the same time as chess players are paying 80$ for the same service.
3) We note the sharp increase in hotel costs from previous European Championships:
   a) 55$ - single room full board in Varna 2002
   b) 60$ - single room full board in Ohrid 2001
   c) 50$ - single room full board in Warsaw 2001
4) In the women's tournament the prize fund was initially announced as 44.000 Euros; it has since been changed to 44.000$. This is unacceptable.

We would like to point out that the European Individual Championships are not private tournaments, so the organizers can't do whatever they want about the venue, schedule and the costs.

We demand that in the future all the players must have complete freedom to choose their accommodation.

We demand that the prize fund in the women's tournament be restored to the level advertised.

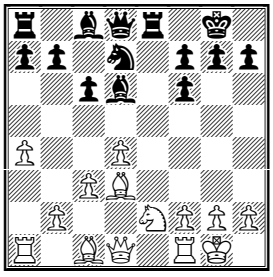
There are more then 210 GMs among the participants but only 12-20 men and 6-10 women will be able to reimburse their costs from their prize money.

In the event that our demands are not fulfilled all the undersigned players will strongly consider boycotting the next European Individual Championship.

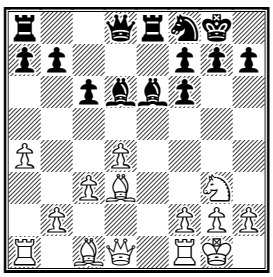
9.06.2003, Marin Princess Hotel, Kumburgaz / Istanbul

Annotated Game

□ **E Sutovsky (2652)**
■ **K Asrian (2596)**
Event: The 4th European Individual Chess Championship Round 10 - B15
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov
Sutovsky won an interesting game against Asrian.
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘f6 5.♘xf6+ exf6 6.c3 ♗d6 7.♗d3 0-0 8.♘e2 ♖e8 9.0-0 ♘d7 10.a4N



10.♗f4; and 10.♘g3 occurred before.
10...♘f8 11.♘g3 ♗e6



White has an extra pawn on the queenside, but Black's king is effectively protected. However, White is attacking the Black king!

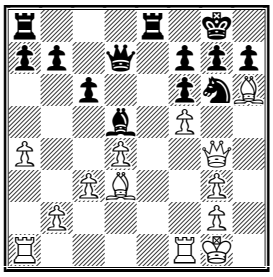
12.f4!? ♕c7

It is worth considering the possibility of striking a blow in the centre 12...c5

13.f5 ♗xg3?!

Black takes an arguable decision. Probably, better is 13...♗d7 14.♕g4 ♘g6

14.hxg3 ♗d5 15.♕g4 ♕d7 16.♗h6 ♘g6



Black's defence is based on this skilful trick. If the queen leaves the file, taking the threat away from the g7-square, the knight will be able to follow it.

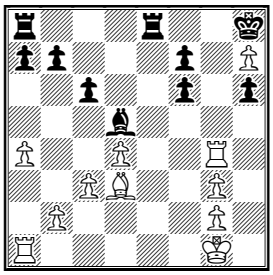
17.♖f4!?

This is a bluff, which brought a victory to White!

17...gxh6?

Black believed in his impending doom. In the meantime after the correct 17...♕e7! 18.fxg6 hxg6 it becomes clear that the h6-bishop has fallen into the trap and Black seizes the initiative.

18.fxg6 ♕xg4 19.gxh7+ ♔h8 20.♖xg4



White is a pawn up and has an advantage.

20...f5!

This is the best choice.

21.♖f4

After 21.♗xf5 ♖e2 22.♖f4 ♖xg2+ 23.♔f1 ♖h2 24.♖h4 ♖xb2 25.♖e1 b5 26.axb5 ♖xb5 no prospect of strengthening White's position is to be seen.

21...♖e3?!

There are far more opportunities to make a draw after the simple 21...♔xh7 22.♖xf5 ♔g7

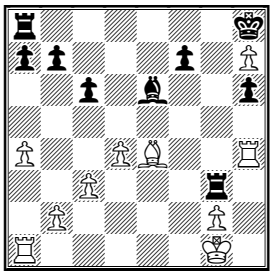
22.♗xf5 ♖xg3 23.♗e4

23.♖f2 ♖e8

23...♗e6?!

Black has more chances to escape in the rook endgame being a pawn down. 23...♗xe4 24.♖xe4 ♔xh7 25.♖e7 ♖ag8 26.♖xf7+ ♔h8 27.♖f2±

24.♖h4



This is an inaccuracy but Black did not take advantage of it. Winning was 24.♖e1 ♖e8 25.♗b1+-

24...♔g7?

24...♖g4 25.♖xg4 ♗xg4±

25.♔f2

25.♖e1

25...♖g4 26.♖xg4+ ♗xg4 27.♖e1 a5?

Better is 27...♖e8 28.d5 cxd5 29.♗xd5 ♖xe1 30.♔xe1 b6 31.♗xf7! ♔xh7± I don't know whether an extra pawn is enough to win this endgame or not but even if it is, Black suffered much more in the game.

28.d5

28.♗d3 ♔f6 29.♖e5!

28...♖d8?

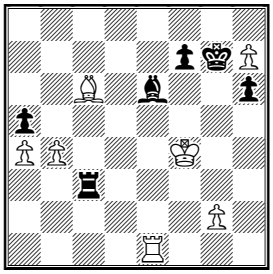
White's task is not that easy after 28...cxd5 29.♗xd5 ♖d8 30.♗xb7 ♖d2+ 31.♔g3 ♗f5 32.b4 axb4 33.cxb4 ♖d4 For instance, 34.♖e7 ♗xh7 35.a5 ♖xb4 36.a6 ♖a4 37.♗c8 ♔f6 38.♖c7 ♗e4 39.a7 ♖a3+ 40.♔h2 ♖a2 and Black is hanging by a thread.

29.dxc6 bxc6 30.♗xc6

Also possible is 30.b4! axb4 31.cxb4 ♖d4 32.a5 ♖xb4 33.a6 ♖a4 34.♗d3+- and White's rook inevitably cuts its way to the 8th rank.

30...♖d2+ 31.♔g3 ♗e6 32.b4 ♖d3+

33.♔f4 ♖xc3



34.b5!

The pawn is crowned and White wins.

34...♘b3 35.♖e8 ♔xh7 36.♘e4+ f5 37.b6 ♘xa4 38.♘xf5+ ♔g7 39.b7 ♘xe8 40.b8♕ ♖c4+ 41.♔g3 ♘f7 42.♕e5+ ♔g8 43.♕b8+ ♔g7 44.♕e5+ ♔g8 45.♕f6 1-0

Typing the pgn notation of some opening moves straight into google.com can bring up relevant websites especially if you include them all within quotation marks ie "**1. e4 h6 2. d4 a6**" brings up a "Basmania" website. It also works for some quite long obscure opening variations.

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
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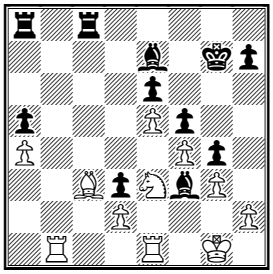
Galliamova (2489) – Cmilyte (2430)
Turkey 2003



Quiz: *Black, to play, now started a decisive storm of the fortress:*

Chess News

The 4th European Individual Chess Championship

Round 11 Results:
Azmaiparashvili – Grischuk ½
Nielsen – Van Wely ½
Galkin – Malakhov ½
Sakaev – Kobalia ½
Kharlov – Sutovsky ½
Georgiev – Aronian ½

Standings:
1. Azmaiparashvili (8 points);
2-13 Van Wely, Graf, Grischuk, Malakhov, Nielsen, Aronian, Sakaev, Kobalia, Sutovsky, Georgiev, Galkin, Kharlov (7½ points).
Round 11 Parings:
1. Van Wely – Azmaiparashvili
2. Graf – Grischuk
3. Malakhov – Nielsen
4. Aronian – Sakaev
5. Kobalia – Sutovsky
6. Georgiev – Galkin
7. Kharlov – Ivanchuk
4th European Individual Women Chess Championship
Round 9 results:
Galliamova – Cmilyte 0-1
Kosintseva T – Stefanova 1-0
Kachiani-Gersinska – Zimina 1-0

Standings:
1-4. Kosintseva T, Galliamova, Cmilyte, Kachiani-Gersinska (7 points)
5-9 Skripchenko, Sebag, Cramling, Peptan, Radziewicz (6½ points)
Round 10 Parings:
1. Kosintseva T – Galliamova
2. Cmilyte – Kachiani-Gersinska
3. Skripchenko – Sebag
4. Cramling – Peptan
5. Radziewicz – Matveeva

IMs ahead of GMs in Pula!

Five International Masters shared victory at the traditional Pula Open, which this year attracted 183 players:

1-5. IMs Ognjen Jovanic (CRO, 2423), Nikola Sedlak (YUG, 2524), Josip Rukavina (CRO, 2385), Zvonko Stanojoski (MKD, 2497) and Davor Rogic (CRO, 2470) – 7 points out of 9;
6-10. GMs Bogdanovski (MKD, 2449), Murey (ISR, 2490) and Cvitan (CRO, 2551), IMs Guidarelli (FRA, 2388) and Berzinsh (LAT, 2439) – 6½ points; etc.

Guillermo Garcia Memorial

Two tournaments took part in Santa Clara, Cuba on 21 May – 2 June. In one of them (average rating –2430) IM Yuri Gonzalez (CUB, 2473) finished first on 8½ points out of 13, ahead of GM Rafael Leitao (BRA, 2533) and IM Jose Sequera (VEN, 2404), who scored 8 points.

In the second tournament (average rating – 2434) GMs Walter Arencibia (CUB, 2520) and Heikki Kallio (FIN, 2470) were victorious with 8 points out of 12.

Ehlvest wins in Vermont; Donaldson gets his second GM norm!

Chess Today received the following report from our reader **IM John Donaldson** (California), whom we would like to congratulate with his second GM norm! John is one of the most knowledgeable players and

authors in USA and we hope that he will change 'I' to 'G' in his title soon!

"Former Candidate Jaan Ehlvest of Estonia won the Continental Chess Association International held at the Stratton Mountain Inn near Manchester, Vermont from June 4–8. Ehlvest, who is currently enrolled at the University of Baltimore at Maryland County, scored an undefeated 7½ from 10 to take home the $4,000 first prize. Tying for second in the 30-player event, which included 7 GMs and 9 IMs, were GMs Peter Kiriakov and Alex Wojtkiewicz and IMs Varuzhan Akobian and John Donaldson. Kiriakov and Wojtkiewicz were both undefeated and among the leaders throughout the event. Akobian started slowly, which prevented him form playing the necessary foreigners required for GM norm possibilities, but had the satisfaction of avenging his last round US Championship defeat to Alex Shabalov. Donaldson turned in a 2630 FIDE performance, defeating GM Blatny and IMs Firman and Andrianov, drawing with GMs Kiriakov and Ivanov, as well as IMs Akobian and Perelshetyn. His only loss was in round two to Ehlvest. This result was good for his second GM norm. He needs one more result to qualify for the title.

Making IM norms were Emory Tate and Robby Adamson. Tate had a particularly eventful tournament scoring 3 out of 4 against two GMs and two IMs the first four rounds of the event, then managing only one point from his next five games before rallying to win his final game and make a norm.

Continental Chess Association founder Bill Goichberg is best known for his high profile events like the World, Chicago, and North American Opens, but he has also run many smaller events the past 35+ years to help promote chess all over America and provide opportunities for US players to earn International titles. It's hard to imagine where American chess would be without him.

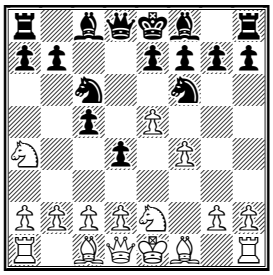
Final standings:
1. GM Jaan Ehlvest 7½ points out of 10;
2–5. GMs Peter Kiriakov and Alex Wojtkiewicz, IMs Varuzhan Akobian and John Donaldson – 7 points;
6. GM Ildar Ibragimov – 6½ points;
7–10. GM Alexander Shabalov, GM Alexander Ivanov and IM Ron Burnett – 6 points;
11–16. IM Nikolay Andrianov, IM Eugene Perelshteyn, GM Pavel Blatny, FM Rodion Rubenchik and FM John Bick – 5½ points, etc."

Annotated Game

□ **Galliamova (2489)**
■ **Cmilyte (2430)**
Event: The 4th European Individual Chess Championship Round 11
11.06.2003 – B20
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

At the European Championships the men arranged a kind of 'day off' for themselves – there was no result other than a draw on the first 8 boards which were being shown through the Internet. And there was almost no fight also. It was quite another story with the women!

1.e4 c5 2.♘e2 ♘c6 3.♘bc3 ♘f6 4.f4 d5 5.e5 d4 6.♘a4N



New move in a rare variation. The knight at the edge of the board stands badly, but the position is quite original. Before has been 6.exf6 dxc3 7.♘xc3 gxf6 8.d3 (Better *8.♕h5*) 8...♖g8 9.♗e3 ♘d4 10.♘e4 ♗g4 11.♕d2 ♕d5 12.c4 ♕c6 13.♗xd4 cxd4 14.h3 ♗f5 15.♘f2 h5 16.0–0–0 ♗h6 17.g4 ♕f3 18.♔b1 ♗xf4 19.♕c2 ♗h7 20.gxh5 ♗g3 Sieiro Gonzalez,L–Vallejo Pons,F/Cuba 1993 0–1

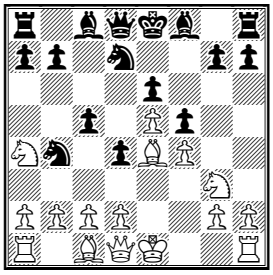
6...♘d7 7.♘g3 e6 8.♗d3

Alisa chooses a place right in the center of the board for the bishop. Another possibility was to get rid of him immediately. 8.♗b5 ♕a5 9.♗xc6 bxc6 10.c4 with a complicated fight..

8...♘b4

After 8...c4 9.♗e4 *(But not 9.♗xc4? ♕a5 10.♗b3 b5–+* and the miserable animal perishes.*)*

9.♗e4 f5



Black chooses a concrete principled fight, trying to punish White for a pretentious opening. The once proud bishop is being banished from the centre.

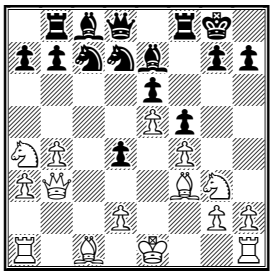
10.a3!

After 10.exf6 ♘xf6 there are no doubts about White's advantage.

10...♘a6 11.♗f3 ♗e7 12.c3 ♖b8 13.cxd4

Other interesting move is 13.b4 b5 14.♘b2

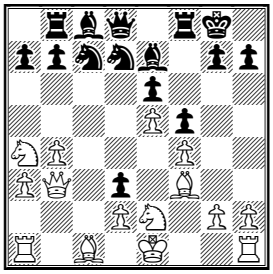
13...cxd4 14.b4 0–0 15.♕b3 ♘c7



16.♘e2?!

Safer for White was to lock the black pawn on d4: 16.♘b2 g5 17.♘d3 g4 18.♗e2 b5 with mutual chances.

16...d3!



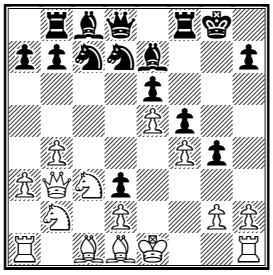
17.♘ec3

It's impossible to capture the pawn: 17.♕xd3 ♘xe5! the only way is to encircle.

17...g5! 18.♘b2

Attempting to save the bishop on the long diagonal is not safe for White: 18.g3 b5 19.♘b2 ♘b6 20.a4 bxa4 21.♘cxa4 *(21.♘bxa4 gxf4 22.gxf4 ♕d4–+)* 21...♘xa4 22.♖xa4 g4 23.♗g2 a5!∓

18...g4 19.♗d1



A position from a horror movie. It's hard to believe that the strongest European women are playing. And their play is not bad!

19...♘b6 20.0–0

To annihilate the pawn without disastrous positional consequences is impossible: 20.♘a2 ♗d7 21.♕xd3 ♘bd5 22.0–0 ♗b5 23.♘c4 ♘xb4 24.♕xd8 ♖fxd8 25.axb4 ♗xc4∓

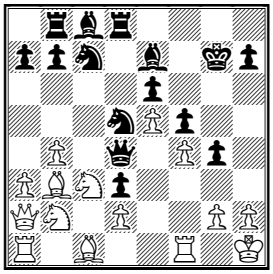
20...♕d4+ 21.♔h1 ♖d8

Also very strong is 21...♗d7

22.♕a2

The queen steps back, clearing the place for the bishop–traveller.

22...♔g7 23.♗b3 ♘bd5

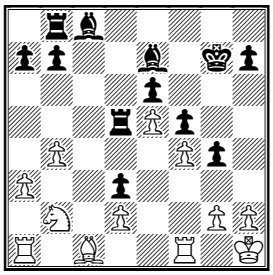


Black can't pass this square by – it doesn't matter how many warriors control it! There are many of them, including the long–suffering bishop, who will perish in the struggle for the centre.

24.♗xd5 ♘xd5 25.♘xd5?!

25.♘b5! deserved attention: 25...♕e4 26.♕c4 ♗d7 27.♘d6 with counterplay

25...♕xd5 26.♕xd5 ♖xd5



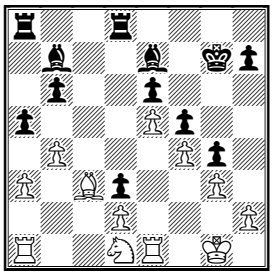
27.♖e1?

More natural is 27.♘c4

27...b6 28.♘d1 ♖d4 29.g3?

One mistake after another – the weakening of the f3 square will cost White dearly. It was better to return 29.♖f1

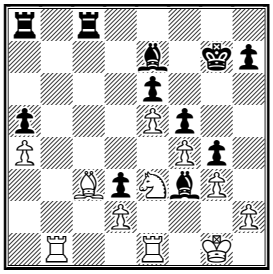
29...a5 30.♗b2 ♖d8 31.♗c3 ♗b7+ 32.♔g1 ♖a8



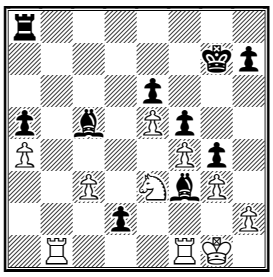
33.♖b1

More stubborn was 33.♘b2 ♖ac8 34.bxa5 ♖xc3 35.dxc3 bxa5 , although things are not sweet here also.

33...♗f3 34.♘e3 ♖dc8 35.bxa5 bxa5 36.a4

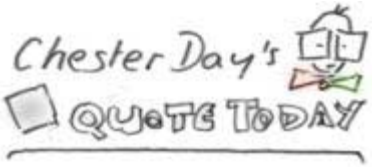


36...♖xc3! 37.dxc3 d2 38.♖f1 ♗c5–+



Real Victory. It's difficult to lose the first game in the tournament, so Alisa made many more unnecessary moves.

39.♖xf3 gxf3 40.♔f2 ♖d8 41.♔xf3 ♗xe3 42.♖d1 ♗c5 43.♔e2 h5 44.h3 ♔g6 45.♔f1 ♖d3 46.♔e2 ♖xg3 47.♔xd2 ♖xh3 48.♖b1 ♖g3 49.♖b5 ♗e3+ 50.♔e2 ♗xf4 51.♖xa5 ♖xc3 0–1



"There are two types of *sacrifices*: correct ones and mine"

Mikhail Tal

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
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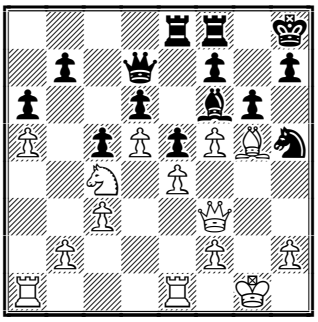
CT-164(948) 13th June 2003

Kosintseva (2457) – Galliamova (2489)
European Championship 2003



White to play

Chess News

The 4th European Individual Chess Championship

The European Individual Championship is coming to an end, and the penultimate round brought some unexpected results. Van Wely had a burning desire to defeat Azmaiparashvili and that was the reason he missed a draw. Now nothing prevents Azmaiparashvili from offering a draw on the fifth move tomorrow and become the new Champion of Europe. Grischuk lost an equal position to Graf. Malakhov managed to win a wonderful game against Nielsen. We feature this game in our annotated section.

Results
Van Wely – Azmaiparashvili 0-1 Graf – Grischuk 1-0 Malakhov – Nielsen 1-0 Aronian – Sakaev ½ Kobalia – Sutovsky ½ Georgiev – Galkin ½ Kharlov – Ivanchuk ½

Leading Round 12 (of 13) Standings:
1 Azmaiparashvili 9 2-3 Malakhov, Graf 8½ 4-12 Georgiev, Kharlov, Sakaev, Kobalia, Sulskis, Aronian, Sutovsky, Galkin, Moiseenko 8

Parings:
Azmaiparashvili – Graf, Sakaev – Malakhov, Sutovsky – Aronian, Sulskis – Georgiev, Galkin – Kobalia Moiseenko – Kharlov.

Women

Two days ago it seemed that nobody and nothing would prevent Alisa Galliamova from becoming European Champion. However, having made an unbelievable blunder that allowed Kosintseva to implement a smart but not difficult combination, Galliamova resigned. She has lost twice in a row and now has no chances of obtaining the important title.

The last round will determine who is going to be Women's European Champion.

Kosintseva T – Galliamova 1-0 Cmilyte – Kachiani-Gersinska 1-0 Skripchenko – Sebag 0-1 Cramling – Peptan 1-0 Radziewicz – Matveeva ½ Stefanova – Polovnikova 1-0 Zimina – Socko 0-1

Women's Round 10 (of 11) Standings:
1-2 Kosintseva T, Cmilyte 8 3-4 Cramling, Sebag 7½ 5-9 Galliamova, Stefanova, Kachiani-Gersinska, Radziewicz, Socko 7

Parings
Cramling – Kosintseva, T Sebag – Cmilyte, Kachiani-Gersinska – Stefanova Galliamova – Radziewicz Socko – Skripchenko

Letters to the Editor

by Alex Baburin

Dvoretsky's proposal to ban draw offers in chess prompted quite a few people to express their opinions. Many are in favour of what Dvoretsly (and GM Ashley) is suggesting, but some are not. We are happy to provide a platform for both camps. Recently Chess Today received the

following message from our US reader Brian D. Smith:

"Dear Sirs, I would like to voice a view contrary to that of the majority concerning last round 'quick draws'. A number of these players are (or are at least, trying to be) 'professionals' and as such depend on their winnings in part (sometimes large part) for their daily survival and that of their families. I do not think it fair of us to criticize them when the difference in a last round win of, say $10,000 vs. a draw for maybe $5,000 vs. a loss for $500 is often the type of situation we are discussing in a big weekend Swiss opens.

Let us remember that, while winning $10,000 I am sure would be nice to each, the $5,000 they are each ASSURED with that draw, at least pays the rent and electricity for a few more months; while $500 might mean hard times indeed for the unlucky soul who hangs a piece in a time scramble. In short, for the vast majority of us, chess is just a game that we delight in; for others, it may be that, but it is also their livelihood. As such, I believe that we have absolutely no right to project our desires upon these players. That is incredibly selfish.

I recall overhearing a discussion between a couple of amateurs at a tournament a few years ago in Alabama. The final round pairing saw two GM's: Palatnik and Blatny (if I am not mistaken) on the top board. The two amateurs were going on and on about how this would be "the greatest game of chess the state of Alabama has ever seen!". Hearing this, I could not help but interject my opinion that "it will be a short draw". Indeed it was. I know it was a disappointment to these two amateurs...but the players on board one who had battled so hard to get to the situation they were fortunate to find themselves in of playing for a nice pay day, did not in any way, shape or form owe a show to these two amateurs. I do not know if these amateurs won any class money, but if they did, they would more than likely consider it a 'prize'. I'll wager however that most players who endeavour to make their living at chess think of their winnings at a big weekend tournament more as a 'pay day' akin to what I get every two weeks from my work. There is a difference you know.

Thank You, Brian D. Smith, Murfreesboro, TN USA"

I would like to add a few comments to this interesting message. I must admit that I am a bit biased, since I like Dvoretsky's proposal and I am also against quick last-round draws in most cases. But being a chess professional, whose income (at least in the past) depended on prize winnings, I am only too familiar with the dilemma, which our reader analysed.
But I think that Brian's message has more to do with the status of the professional player in modern society in general than with banning draw offers in chess. Let me explain.

Spectators and amateurs expect a fight between chess pros and want to see interesting games. This is their right and if we treat chess as a sport, there is no escaping from this fact. So, when we come to watch Kramnik playing Kasparov, we expect a good fight. If one loses, his kids won't go to bed hungry – the players get paid handsomely just to appear! When we go down the rating ladder, we come to the situation that Brian describes: there are two professionals and neither wants to risk his prize winnings. But here two things are important. First, the split in big Swiss

Opens is never like $10,000 for win, $5,000 for a draw and $500 in case of losing. It is more like $10,000-$3,000-$500 – this is why playing to win in the last game makes sense, even if you lose more games than you win!

Secondly, professional players should not depend so heavily on making money in just one event - if one plays to win, but loses the game, he should be able to play another weekend

elsewhere and make money there. And if he cannot make money from another tournament, etc, then maybe he is not a good chess professional (player) and should seek different work? Then he can play in tournaments for fun – in his spare time.

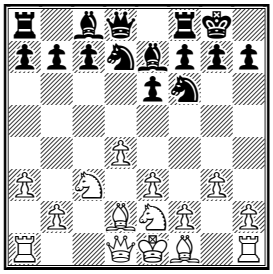
I don't consider myself as a professional player anymore. I was one in the early 90s, but since then I got into teaching, writing, etc. And I know that it's hard to be a truly professional player, who depends mainly on prize money and appearance fees. There are simply too many very good players around and not enough tournaments with attractive prize funds to sustain all! Think of it, in the past 10–15 years, prize money in most tournaments did not increase, while inflation was at work for most of the time. I have no idea how to improve the situation. I guess we either need more prize money or more players should accept that they are not professional ***players***, but rather chess pros in a broad sense. Not that that is a bad thing ...

If you would like to share your views on this or any other subject, please send your letters to ct@gmsquare.com

Annotated Game

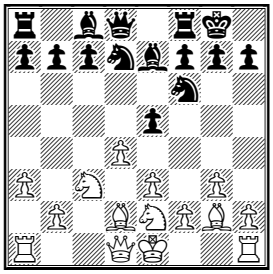
□ **Malakhov (2672)**
■ **Nielsen (2625)**
Event: The 4th European Individual Chess Championship 12.06.2003 – E46 11.06.2003 – B20
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e3 0–0 5.♘ge2 d5 6.a3 ♗e7 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♗d2 ♘d7 9.g3 ♘5f6



The opponents have started with the line that became popular due to Kramnik's notorious defeat: 9...b6 10.♘xd5 exd5 11.♗g2 ♘f6 12.0–0 ♘e4 13.♖c1 ♗b7 14.♕c2 ♖c8 15.♖fd1 ♗d6 16.♗b4 ♕f6 17.♘c3 ♘xc3 18.♕xc3 c6 19.♗xd6 ♕xd6 20.b4 ♖c7 21.a4 ♗c8 22.a5 ♗a6 23.♖a1 ♗b5 24.♖dc1 ♖e8 25.axb6 axb6 26.♗f1 ♗xf1 27.♔xf1 ♖b8 28.♖a6 ♕d7 29.♔g1 h6 30.♕a3 ♖cc8 31.h4 ♕f5 32.♖a7 g5 33.h5 ♕f3 34.♕d3 ♔h8 35.♕a6 ♔g7 36.b5 c5 37.dxc5 bxc5 38.♕g6+ 1–0 Ponomariov,R–Kramnik,V/Wijk aan Zee NED 2003

10.♗g2 e5N

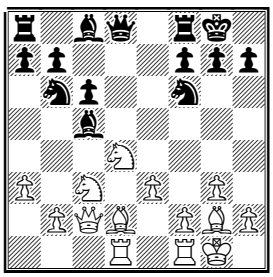


The following moves occured before 10...c5 11.0–0 cxd4 12.exd4 ♘b6 13.♗f4 ♘fd5 14.♕d3 ♗d7 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♗xd5 exd5 ½–½ Kovacevic,B–Palac,M/Nova Gorica 2002; è 10...c6 11.♕c2 e5 12.♖d1 exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘b6 14.h3 ♘fd5 15.0–0 ♗f6 16.♘ce2 a5 17.e4 ♘e7 18.♗e3 ♘d7 19.f4 ♗xd4 20.♘xd4 a4 21.e5 ♕a5 22.♘f3 ♖e8 23.♘g5 ♘f8 24.♕f2 ♘d5 25.♗c5 ♘e6 26.♘xe6 ♗xe6 27.f5 ♗d7 28.♖de1 ♕c7 29.e6 ♗c8 30.exf7+ ♕xf7 31.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 32.♖e1 ♕d8 33.♗xd5+ cxd5 34.♖e7 ♕f8 35.♕d4 1–0 Graf,A–Xu Jun/Bled SLO 2002

11.0–0 c6 12.♕c2 exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘b6

13...♘e5

14.♖ad1 ♗c5?



White takes a masterly advantage of this miscalculation. An appropriate continuation – 14...♗g4 15.f3 ♗d7 and

the whole struggle is going to take place later.

15.♘e4! ♗xd4

There is no other way: 15...♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♗xd4 17.♗xh7+ ♔h8 18.♗c3+−

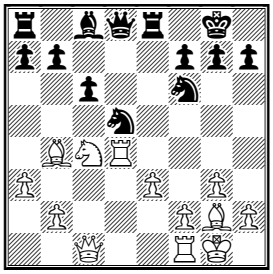
16.♗b4!

Seemingly, this move escaped Nielsen's attention. White has the upper hand.

16...♖e8 17.♖xd4 ♘bd5 18.♘d6 ♖e5 19.♘c4!

White's knight does not want to stop here and keeps on trampling on Black's pieces.

19...♖e8 20.♕c1!



Having decently stepped back with his queen, White threatens the capture of the Black knight.

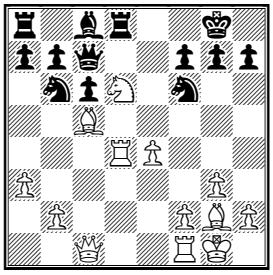
20...♕c7 21.♗d6 ♕d7

More stubborn is 21...♕d8 and here White could get back 22.♗b4 ♕c7 and give one more opportunity to his knight: 23.♘d6 ♖e5 24.f4 ♖h5 25.f5 with a big advantage.

22.e4 ♘b6

The following can hardly be recommended 22...b5 23.exd5 cxd5 24.♗e5 bxc4 25.♗xf6 gxf6 26.♖xd5 ♕g4 27.♕c3± now White's victory is only a matter of time.

23.♗c5 ♕c7 24.♘d6 ♖d8



White's advantage can be seen with the naked eye but it is difficult to believe that Black has only one and a half moves "to exist":

25.♘b5! cxb5 26.♕f4!!

This is a combination, which draws the queen away from the protection of the 8th rank. As soon as it had been implemented, everything would seem easy to understand. Black resigned.

1−0

Answer to Quiz today: **21.♕xh5! 1−0**

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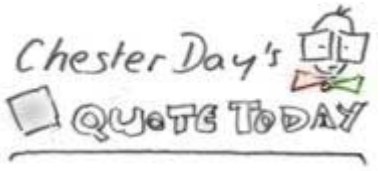

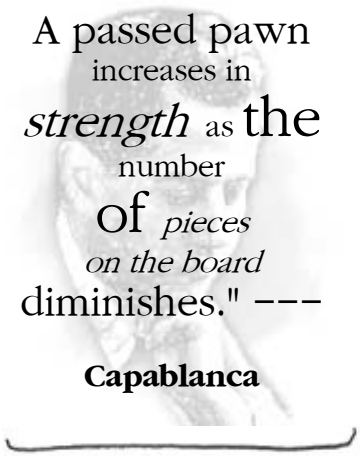

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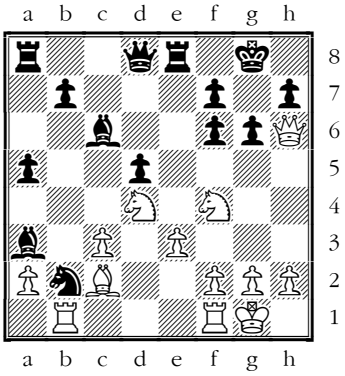
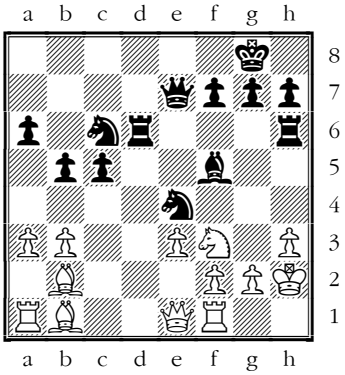


White to play

Cavusoglu-Muhren
Istanbul 2003



Black to play

Chess News

The European individual Championships are almost over in Istanbul – only play-offs will take place today. As expected, there were many draws on the top boards. Key results of round 13 in the men's tournament:

Azmaiparashvili-Graf ½-½
Sakaev-Malakhov ½-½
Sutovsky-Aronian ½-½
Sulskis-Georgiev ½-½
Galkin-Kobalia ½-½
Moiseenko-Kharlov ½-½
Ivanchuk-Alekseev 1-0
Grischuk-Fedorov ½-½
Sokolov-Dolmatov ½-½
Kotronias-van Wely ½-½
Asrian-Rublevsky ½-½
Nisipeanu-Aleksandrov ½-½
Kacheishvili-Nikolic ½-½
Iordachescu – M. Gurevich 1-0
Kritz-Motylev ½-½
Filippov-Mc Shane ½-½
Nielsen PH – Neverov ½-½
Guseinov-Smirnov ½-½
Agrest-Dautov ½-½
Bologan-Milov ½-½

Final Standings:

1. Zurab Azmaiparashvili (2678 GEO) - 9½ points;
2-3. Malakhov Vladimir (2672 RUS) and Alexander Graf (2630 GER) – 9 points;
4-14. Kiril Georgiev (2647 MKD), Kharlov (2581 RUS), Sakaev (2664 RUS), Iordachescu (2550 MDA), Kobalia (2639 RUS), Sulskis (2578 LTU), Sutovsky (2652 ISR), Aronian (2606 ARM), Ivanchuk (2704 UKR), Galkin (2591 RUS) and Moiseenko (2627 UKR)

The tournament website has an interview with the new European Champion.

In the women's tournament two players shared first place:

Final Standings:

1-2. Pia Cramling (2470 SWE) and **Victoria Cmilyte** (2430 LTU) - 8½ points;
3-5. Tatiana Kosintseva (2457 RUS), Marie Sebag (2394 FRA) and Monika Socko (2381 POL) – 8 points, etc.

As some readers might know, Victoria Cmilyte is the wife of GM Alexei Shirov, so this is probably the strongest chess-playing couple in the world at the moment!

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

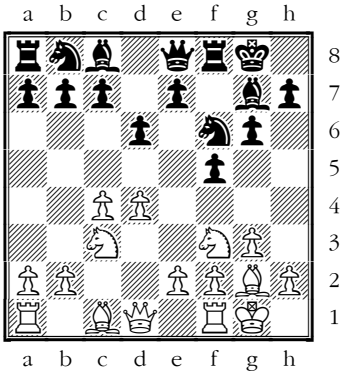
Annotated Game

As *CT* reported recently, IM John Donaldson made a second GM norm in the tournament in Vermont last week. He kindly allowed us to use one of his games from that tournament:

□ **J. Donaldson**
■ **DeFirmian**
Event: *Vermont (8), 06.2003*
Leningrad Dutch [A87]

Annotations by IM John Donaldson

1.♘f3 f5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.d4 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.♘c3 ♕e8 *(D)*

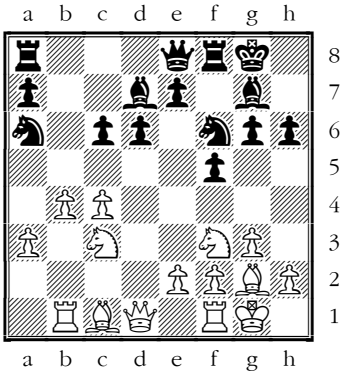


The Leningrad Dutch has replaced 7...c6 and 7...Nc6 as the main line in this opening. It offers Black good chances to play for a win, albeit with some strategic risk.

8.d5 ♘a6 9.♖b1 c6

More solid is 9...♗d7, for example: 10.b4 c6 11.dxc6 ♗xc6 12.c5 ♘e4 13.♕b3+ ♕f7 14.♘xe4 ♗xe4 15.cxd6 ♗xb1 16.dxe7 ♕xb3 17.exf8♕+ ♖xf8 18.axb3 ♗e4 19.♗e3 b6 20.♖d1 ♘xb4 21.♖d7 ♘c2 22.♗f4 and draw was agreed in the game Donaldson-Onischuk, Lindsborg 2002.

10.dxc6 bxc6 11.b4 ♗d7 12.a3 h6!? *(D)*



This move, preparing ...g5, is a popular plan in the Leningrad Dutch. Still, perhaps 12...♘c7 13.♗b2 ♖b8 14.♗a1 ♘e6 was more reliable.

13.♗b2 g5 14.c5!

White opens the a2-g8 diagonal and prepares to blockade on the central dark-squares. 14.e3 ♘c7 15.♕e2 e5 16.♖fd1 e4 17.♘d4 ♖d8 18.b5 c5 19.♘b3 f4 led to a Black win in Hebden-Firman, Lausanne 2000.

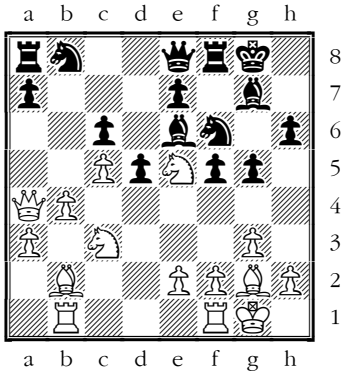
14...d5?

More critical was 14...dxc5 15.♘e5 ♖d8 16.♘xd7 ♕xd7 17.♕a4 cxb4 18.♕xa6 bxc3 19.♗xc3 ♕e6 20.♖b7 which gave White compensation for the pawn in Cvitan-Borge, Manila 1992; or 14...g4 15.♘d4 dxc5 16.♕b3+ ♔h8 17.♘e6 ♗xe6 18.♕xe6 cxb4 19.axb4 ♘xb4 with Black having a pawn for his troubles.

15.♘e5

Now White has a big advantage.

15...♗e6 16.♕a4 ♘b8 *(D)*



17.b5!

White weakens Black's control of d5.

17...cxb5

After 17...♘e4 White would have played 18.♘xe4 cxb5 19.♕b3 fxe4 20.♗xe4 with much a better position.

18.♕xb5 ♘bd7??

Black had to play 18...♘e4, although after 19.♕xe8 ♖xe8 20.♘xe4 fxe4 21.f3 exf3 22.♘xf3 ♘c6 23.♗xg7 ♔xg7 24.e3 White has a nice advantage.

19.♕c6 1-0.

The resignation was not premature as the d5-pawn was falling, leaving Black with a terrible position as well.

♘♘♘

Solutions to Quiz Today

Agababean–Gencer: **19.♖xb2! ♕e7** [19...♗xb2 20.♘h5] **20.♘h5 ♕f8 21.♘xf6+ 1–0**
Cavusoglu–Muhren: **20...♗xh3! 21.gxh3 ♖xh3+ 22.♔xh3 ♕e6+ 23.♔h2 ♕h6+ 0–1**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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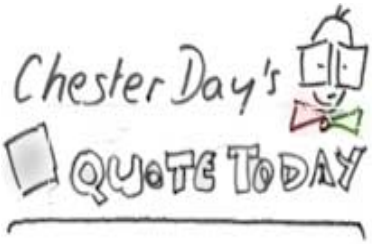

"It is always better to sacrifice your opponents men"

--- *Savielly Tartakower*

CHESS TODAY
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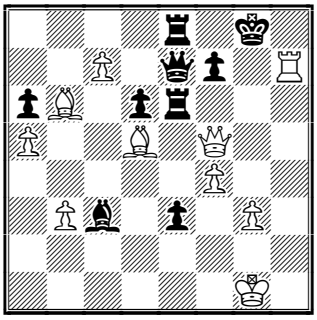
CT-166 (950) 15th June 2003

Quiz Today

Adams (2723) – Lautier (2666)
Enghien les Bains (2), 14.06.2003



White to play

Chess News

The Finish of the European Championships somewhat overshadowed the start of a very strong (category 17) closed tournament in Enghien-les-Bains, France.

Results of round 1:
Akopian-Bareev **0-1**
Polgar-Adams ½-½
Bauer-Radjabov ½-½
Korchnoi-Gelfand **0-1**
Lautier-Fressinet ½-½

Results of round 2:
Bareev-Gelfand ½-½
Fressinet-Bauer **1-0**
Radjabov-Korchnoi ½-½
Adams-Lautier **1-0**
Akopian-Polgar **0-1**

You can find games from both rounds in our database. A few comments: Vladimir Akopian got off to a horrible start – not only has he lost two games, but he was White in both of them – something what players in category 17 tournaments particularly treasure!
Victor Korchnoi probably dropped his flag after making move 40 against Gelfand – he was going to be a pawn dawn in a rook ending, but with great drawing chances. If my guess is correct, Korchnoi's 40th move should not have been in the database – the move considered made only if the player's flag does not fall!

There are several *Chess Today* readers playing in the tournament – Boris Gelfand, Joel Lautier and Teimour Radjabov. The latter has agreed to play a ***special game against CT readers*** – details will be announced shortly!

Standings after 2 rounds:

1-5. J. Polgar (HUN, 2715), B. Gelfand (ISR, 2700), M. Adams (ENG, 2723), E. Bareev (RUS, 2734) and L. Fressinet (FRA, 2595) – 1½ points;
6. Radjabov (AZE, 2644) – 1 point;
7-9. J. Lautier (FRA, 2666), Ch. Bauer (FRA, 2582) and V. Korchnoi (SUI, 2632) – ½ point;
10. V. Akopian (ARM, 2703) – 0 points.

The National Open is in progress in Las Vegas (also known as Lost Wages!) – our frequent contributor Sam Collins is amongst the participants. Top players in the tournament include GMs Joel Benjamin, Hikaru Nakamura, Ildar Ibragimov, Alexander Shabalov, Benjamin Finegold, Joseph Gallagher, alex Yermolinsky, Alexander Ivanov, Sergey Kudrin and Walter Browne. No results are available yet, but we will keep you posted.

TWIC informs that after playoffs in Istanbul **Vladimir Malakhov** (Russia) got the Silver medal by defeating Alexander Graf (GermanY) ½-½ in rapid chess (15 minutes + 10 seconds increment). In another playoff **Pia Cramling** (Sweden) defeated Victoria Cmilyte (Lithuania) with the same score and became the new European Woman Champion.

WC Qualification playoffs were not played. They were supposed to be Alexei Fedorov vs. Ernesto Inarkiev and Sergei Tiviakov vs. Andrei

Istratescu. Tomorrow we will analyse results of the Championships, while today you can find ***all games*** from Turkey in our database (CBV only!), courtesy of our reader from Germany Manfred Rosenboom.

Letters to the Editor

The discussion on the merits of Dvoretsky' proposal to ban draw offers in chess continues in our paper. I would like to remind our readers that you can find the original article (in English) on the Grandmaster Square website, where (on the home page) you can also take part in a poll concerning this subject.

Two days ago I exchanges several e-mails with former Candidate GM Andras Adorjan of Hungary. He kindly agreed to share his views with *Chess Today* readers, so I publish his three e-mails in the order in which I received them (text is with minor alterations):

"Dear Alex,
A few word[s] on the Dvoretsky's proposal. I think that **any** draw other than technical (perpetual check, three-fold repetition, stalemate, etc) should be forbidden in all the tournaments sometime in the future. There will still be a fair amount of fixed games, of course, but much less.

On the subject of the last-round draws in open tournaments, I don't think draws of any kind would endanger fair play. A typical situation often involves two (or more) players on the same number of points. With a draw they make (practically) no money. Instead there is a handy solution for their problem. I wonder, whether some of readers will be smart enough to guess it? GM Andras Adorján - BLACK IS OK!"

"Dear Alex,
Maybe I am hard on the spectators - especially in Open tournaments - but very few of them know what professional chess is all about and even those experts don't know how to behave. There are 9 rounds in a tournament to enjoy, not just one. Besides: when I won the New York Open in 1987 in a tie with Yasser Seirawan, we played 11 rounds, but with 2 free days! If you give such conditions, you have a right to demands. But the NY Open soon turned into 4x2 plus 1 = 9 rounds in 5 days! What kind of duty do players have if the modus is like this?

Finally: such tough fighters as Portisch and Smejkal independently said: you are supposed to fight in every games but the last one. Before that game you look around. It would be silly to spoil a fine performance by just one unfortunate game. Is this something what Dvoretsky (whom I know personally and like a lot) and others could understand?!
With best regards, Andras Adorjan"

"Dear Alex,
On the subject of draws again: I was silly enough to offer a lot of draws feeling uncomfortable and seeing ghosts, while standing better! Unfortunately, many of those offers were accepted. Of the rest I won quite a lot. Reasons:
1. The situation became clear - no way out but through fight. No more hesitation, but full concentration.
2. I did misjudged positions for psychological reasons, but I usually made good moves.

All in all, I and many other players would probably do (much) better in their career if there would be no legal way of agreeing a draw. I note that to my knowledge chess is the only sport played in which a 'peace-treaty' is allowed. It would be interesting to know, since when, on what ground does this very peculiar, unique possibility exists.

I would like to add just a few sentences to Mark Dvoretsky's proposal: in the past century there were many attempts to fight against draws (of any kind). Some were quite desperate: following a draw, the players got ¼ points each and were obliged to play another game. If one won, he got another ½ (altogether ¾)

point. If the second encounter ended still in a draw, the opponents were both awarded another ¼ point. So after all they got their well-deserved ½-½ for two games.

As for last-round draws, it's not a big deal to copy or make up a game that ends with a perpetual check. Who's to prove that it was not spontaneous? And, if will you pardon me, almost any open tournament has quite a few characters, whom - if I notice in time – I carefully avoid in the living daylight. It's probably my instinct of life that forces me to do so. The rest is silence.
GM András Adorján - BLACK IS OK!"

Book Review

by Don Aldrich

Winning Chess Strategies, Yasser Seirawan & Jeremy Silman (2003 Everyman) 257 pp., $19.95

This marks the third title in Everyman's reprint of the Seirawan *Winning Chess* series. Originally published by Microsoft Press, no changes have been made to the text - it's a straight reprint.

While a 'beginner's' book, *Strategies* assumes that one has already either read the first two volumes, *Play Winning Chess* and *Winning Chess Tactics*, or is at least familiar with the concepts covered therein. There are no explanations of how the pieces move or how algebraic notation works here.

There are twelve chapters, each dealing with a basic element of strategy, and each chapter concludes with several problems for the student to solve. The solutions are given in the back of the book, along with a quite extensive glossary.

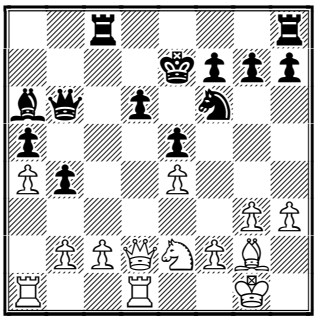
The chapters introduce the basic elements any experienced player is familiar with - good vs. bad pieces, pawn structure, space, mobility, king safety. The final chapter, 'Great Masters of Strategy', contains short biographical descriptions and annotated games from a group of great players selected for their strategic acumen. Steinitz, Rubinstein, Capablanca, Nimzowitsch, Petrosian, and Karpov are covered; Botvinnik, Tal and Fischer are not.

Pretty simple and straightforward, but what actually is in this book? Now, I am not exactly in the target audience, being one of those 'experienced tournament players' mentioned above. However, I certainly don't know everything, and sat down to run through it and see exactly how deep this thing went.

The first couple of chapters are pretty trivial – a short discussion of exactly what is strategy, and how to realise a material advantage. The 'problems' even struck me as kind of silly.

Chapter three is entitled, 'Stopping Enemy Counterplay'. It didn't take too long for me to realise Seirawan is addressing prophylaxis, a fairly advanced concept, and one where all too many class players have a pronounced weakness. After a fairly mundane start, he is suddenly showing examples from Fischer and Petrosian, and sophisticated ones at that.

Matulovic-Fischer
Vinkovci, 1968



Black to play

Take a second and look at this diagram. What would you play? Here is Seirawan's treatment of it:

"Diagram 16 is another example of the superior side treading carefully to avoid giving the opponent any counterplay. White suffers from a

terrible bishop on g2, a knight that doesn't appear t be going anywhere, and pawns that are in need of constant defense on c2 and e4. Black's natural plan is to double rooks on the c-file and add to the pressure against c2. Unfortunately, 1...♖c4, which attacks e4 and prepares for this doubling would give White some counterplay chances with 2.g4, because 2...♘xe4 3.♗xe4 ♖xe4 4.♘g3 followed by ♘f5+ is not what Black wants. The advantages of the position are not going away, so Black decides to kill his enemy's counterplay chances first. Then he will be free to pursue his queenside dreams. Here's how Fischer neutralised Matulovic ..."

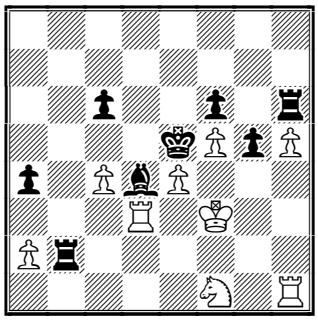
Now be honest, how many would have played 1...♖c4 here? I certainly would have. I never in a million years would have played Fischer's move, but after Seirawan's explanation, it is pretty evident isn't it?

"**1...h5** Black stops g3-g4 in its tracks. **2.b3** This move keeps the rook out of c4, but weakens the c3-square. **2...♗xe2!** Why give up the nice bishop for the lame knight? Because only the knight was keeping Black out of c3. **3.♕xe2 ♖c3** With White's counterplay crippled, Black can proceed with the occupation of the c-file. **4.♖d3 ♖hc8 5.♖xc3 ♖xc3 6.♔h2 ♕c5** White, who is bound hand and foot to the weakling on c2, eventually lost the game. Black, on the other hand, triumphantly demonstrated the wisdom of this principle: *If you have a permanent advantage, take the time to stop any potential counterplay.*"

Chess is so easy when it's properly explained! This chapter has several examples on this same theme, all well explicated and demonstrated. Perhaps more important than the actual concept are the examples themselves. Chess is a game of pattern recognition. In this simple chapter, there are several very nice examples of pawn moves used to restrain and/or stop counterplay. I know the Fischer example is one I haven't seen before, and will stick with me.

The problem given at the end of the chapter is also quite interesting.

Gligoric-Fischer
Siegen, 1970



Black to play

"Problem 4: It's Black's move. He is a pawn down, but his bishop is superior to the white knight; the pawns on a2, c4, e4 and h5 are all weak; the black king is well placed; and the rook on b2 is also very strong. Is 1...♖xa2 a good move?"

This kind of problem strikes me as more instructive then the ubiquitous, 'Black to Play and Win'. As we noted in the review of Dvoretsky's advanced treatise on Positional Play, there is no one in a game whispering, "You can win". As a practical player in this position, your first question would most likely be, 'Should I take the pawn? '. Now, given that this is the chapter on stopping counterplay, you know that you probably shouldn't! But why, and what should be played instead? Seirawan's answer is a bit surprising:

"No. Playing 1...♖xa2 allows White to play 2.♘h2 followed by 3.♘g4+, when the white knight suddenly enters the game with great effect. In the game, Fischer stops this possibility with a nice exchange sacrifice that led to a winning endgame: 1...♖xh5! 2.♖xh5 ♖f2+ 3.♔g3 ♖xf1 4.♖h8 ♔xe4 5.♖a3 ♖g1+ 6.♔h2 ♖c1 7.♖xa4 ♖c2+ 8.♔h1 c5 9.♖a3 ♔xf5 0–1"

Yasser assures us he didn't expect us to find this idea (Gee, thanks Yaz!) but hopes the student realised that 1...♖xa2 didn't cut the mustard. Quite

a sophisticated example for a basic text, but it does make sense, and prepares the student for more advanced concepts.

The remaining chapters are at least as strong. The chapter on pawn play seems particularly well done. Amateurs are so prone to making damaging pawn moves that coaches often drill into them that pawns don't move backwards, every pawn move creates a weakness, and so on, to the extent that many coached amateurs open 1.♘f3 out of fear of spoiling their pawn structure. And after 2.♘c3, they are stuck for a move... Seirawan acknowledges this, but also introduces the concepts of using pawns as battering rams, restraining piece play, and even sacrifices for the initiative. He explains how the weakening part is true, but chess is a game of constant trade offs. As Fischer puts it, to get squares, ya gotta give squares. The trick is knowing which pawns to move, and when. Seirawan lays a solid foundation for the student to build upon.

This is a very well done introduction to the basic elements of strategy. It is suitable for a reader of any age as long as he or she is capable of understanding the vocabulary, and has the required basic knowledge of the game. ***Highly recommended.***

Solution Quiz Today

Adams–Lautier:

47.♖xf7! e2 (or 47...♕xf7 48.♗xe6) **48.♕h7# 1–0**

Correction

The game featured in *CT–949* was between IM John Donaldson and IM ***Nazar Firman***, and **not** GM Nick DeFirmian.

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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"As a rule, the worst way of taking advantage of a weak pawn is to capture it, because then the opponent no longer has to worry about it."

--- *Cecil J.S. Purdy*
(FirstWorld Correspondence Chess Champion)

♘♘♘

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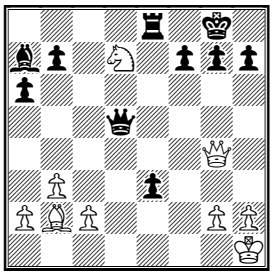
Quiz Today

Kröncke (2195) – Levin (2519)
Hamburg, 08.06.2003



Black to play

Chess News

The Category XVII tournament is in progress in Enghien-les-Bains. Yesterday round 3 saw the following results:

Polgar–Bareev ½–½
Lautier–Akopian **1–0**
Bauer–Adams ½–½
Korchnoi–Fressinet **0–1**
Gelfand–Radjabov **0–1**

Standings after 3 rounds:

1. L. Fressinet (FRA, 2595) – 2½ points;

2–5. J. Polgar (HUN, 2715), M. Adams (ENG, 2723), E. Bareev (RUS, 2734) and T. Radjabov (AZE, 2644) – 2 points;

6–7. B. Gelfand (ISR, 2700) and J. Lautier (FRA, 2666) – 1½ points;

8. Ch. Bauer (FRA, 2582) – 1 point;
9. V. Korchnoi (SUI, 2632) – ½ point;
10. V. Akopian (ARM, 2703) – 0 points.

You can find games from round 3 in our database. As you can see, Vladimir Akopian keeps on losing. No doubt, he will find it very hard now – top GMs feel any weakness like sharks smell blood!

7th International Hamburg Open

A small (32 players), but pretty strong Open tournament just finished in Hamburg. Results:
1–3. IM Javier Moreno Carnero (2504, Spain), GM Johnny Hector (2553, Sweden) and Ferenc Berkes (2578, Hungary) – 6½ points out of 9;
4–5. GMs Petr Haba (2514, CZE) and Dorian Rogozenko (2519, ROM) – 6 points, etc.

In our database today you will find all games from the Hamburg Open.

National Open in Las Vegas

In the National Open after 4 rounds three players are leading with a perfect score. Usually one needs at least 5½ points out of 6 in order to get a decent prize in Las Vegas. In 1997 I shared victory there with Smirin, Hodgson and D. Gurevich after scoring 5½ points, though in 2000 I tied for first place on 5 points, but with no less than 12 other players! The first prize in Las Vegas is $5,000.

Standings after 4 rounds:

1–3. GMs Morovic, Kiriakov and Kudrin – 4 points;

4–10. GMs Wojtkiewicz, Yermolinsky, Serper, Sadvakasov, IMs Sevillano and Barcenilla, FM Mikhailuk – 3½ points

There many players on 3 points, including GMs Ehlvest, Shabalov, Ibragimov and Benjamin. Chess Today contributor Sam Collins is on 2½ points.

Book Preview – Leko's 100 Wins

While yesterday we featured a new book review by Don Aldrich, today we give you a chance to look into the book which has not been printed yet! You received file 100Leko.pdf, which

is an extract from the book, which will be available very soon. In that file you can find two annotated games: Leko–Kramnik, Budapest (8), 2001 and Polgar–Leko, Budapest, 2003 – this should tell you what to expect from the book. We would like to thank the publisher Sergey Soloviev for sending the sample. According to him, the book is similar in structure to Shirov' One Hundred Wins, reviewed at the Grandmaster Square: an introduction, about 20 pages of biography, 100 annotated games, colour photos, etc. The book is about 340 pages long.

Opinion

In the interview to the newspaper Soviet Sport *and then at the Assembly of the Russian Chess Federation in Dagomys the FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov made a proposal to change the system of point–scoring in chess: a win should be awarded with three points, draw – with one. Below is the reaction of Grandmaster Evgeny Sveshnikov, translated by Alexander Baburin from Russian weekly newspaper* Chess Week.

3:1 in Favour of Swindlers

During a break at the Assembly I came to Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and asked: "Are you serious about this proposal or was it a joke? Have [you] consulted with any of the World Champions or Grandmasters?". He thought for a while and then said: "We shall discuss this at the General Assembly of FIDE." I decided that most likely the FIDE President was joking and also jokingly replied: "If FIDE votes for this proposal, I will have to create an alternative Chess Federation!".

One of the journalists in Dagomys called Ilyumzhinov's idea an attempt to shift the attention away from the real problems in chess. Indeed, today 'drawing death' is not a threat in chess: everyone fights – in closed tournaments to stay there, in opens – for higher prize. Also, the knockout system works well in chess.

Upon hearing the news, GM Yuri Balashov replied wittingly: "Why give just 3 points for a win?! Give at least 4!". If the proposal will be accepted, the likelihood of 'game throwing' will increase dramatically. I can say that with the 3–1 system there will be people still playing fairly, but with the 4–1 system even they would have to play without draws!

For and Against K. Ilyumzhinov

What I like about the FIDE President.

1. He loves chess and understands it well. During the Russian Championship in 1994 I witnessed how he watched for 2 hours the game Tiiviakov–Scherbakov. Ilyumzhinov chose the most interesting game in the round and the little–known (then!) names of young players did not put him off.
2. He is a true citizen of his country. During the military attack on the Parliament building in October 1993 he was there with a white flag, trying to stop the conflict. I think that was the best reaction for a civilised man.
3. Unlike Garry Kasparov and former President of Russian Chess Federation Andrei Makarov, who believed that chess should not receive state funding, Ilyumzhinov in one of his interviews said that the state benefits from investing in chess. I agree with that.

What I do not like about the FIDE President.

The main problem are the people surrounding Ilyumzhinov. The question begs itself: how many games one needs to buy and sell in order to become his assistant in FIDE or even FIDE Vice–President? Perhaps this sounds too harsh, but we see in his team such people as Crisan and Azmaiparashvili, who bought whole tournaments! This is an open secret and they don't not deny it themselves.

How is it possible that these people are in the leadership of FIDE?

It bothers me that FIDE leaders such as Kutin and Makropulos during chess events simply don't get out of casinos. One can claim that this is their private business, but on the other hand I cannot trust them with FIDE money!

Difficult to find trust-worthy people in chess? Maybe, but we have such GMs as Salov and Seirawan, who command high respect amongst their colleagues. Why are they not working in FIDE? There are many real problems in chess, which they could help solving. Here I would like to outline just a few, which requires urgent attention of FIDE:

- World Championship and qualifying tournaments;
- Bringing sponsors and investors to chess;
- Separation of the classical and rapid chess;
- Organising of individual and team World Championships in rapid chess;
- Integration of rapid in chess in Olympiads
- Improving the rating system, introducing ratings for rapid chess.

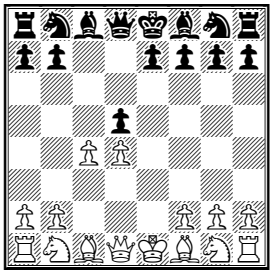
Chess games have commercial value; therefore tournament regulations should have a clause about property rights on games played in the tournament. If such a clause is omitted, then players should be proprietors of their games by default.

We need to increase the role of chess professionals in the workings of FIDE. In the past few years we saw so many changes in the rules of chess! Surely, life is changing, but all alteration should take place only upon approval by the Player's Council. We cannot trust only bureaucrats and arbiters to change the chess rules. The Players' Council should also control awarding of chess titles. And we need to know the FIDE budget and how it is spent. We should not forget about junior chess and social problems of chess professionals and trainers. Surely this list could be continued. FIDE should assign people to deal with each issue, have a clear and transparent budge and set deadlines and performance control checks. Is this difficult? Yes, but this is what FIDE is for!

Annotated Game

Our readers often ask me to annotate the opening phase of some games quite deeply, so they could learn a particular line. Well, if you play the Caro-Kann Defence or the Panov-Botvinnik Attack against it, this is your lucky day! ☺ This game will also be of interest to those who play the Semi-Tarrasch Defence.

□ WIM Petra Blazkova (2218)
■ Zehra Topel (2092)
Event: *European Women Ch, Istanbul (3), 04.06.2003*
Caro-Kann, Panov-Botvinnik Attack [D42]
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 *(D)*



The Panov-Botvinnik Attack, one of the most aggressive and challenging responses to the Caro-Kann. White often ends up playing with the isolated d-pawn, so buying ***Winning Pawn Structures*** by a certain GM Alex Baburin is a must if you want to employ this system! ☺

4...♘f6 5.♘c3 e6

Black over-protects the d5-pawn and opens a diagonal for the f8-bishop. Alternative lines are 5...g6 6.cxd5 ♗g7, where Black often has troubles getting the d-pawn back, and

5...♘c6 6.♘f3 ♗g4, when after 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♕b3 Black's queenside is vulnerable.

6.♘f3 ♗e7

This is a solid move, which leads to positions normally arising from the Semi-Tarrasch (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e3 cxd4 7.exd4 ♗e7). Another very popular move is 6...♗b4. In that case play resembles certain lines from the Nimzo-Indian Defence. 6...♗b4 is a favourite line of Anatoly Karpov. If instead Black plays 6...dxc4, then after 7.♗xc4 he find himself in a not-so-good version of the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

7.cxd5

Probably the best move, but surely not the only one available. Let's consider the alternatives. Very ambitious is ***7.c5*** getting pawn majority on the queenside. Then Black should either challenge the c5-pawn with ...b6 or instead play 0–0 and Ne4, playing in the centre.

Possible is ***7.♗d3*** but after 7...dxc4 8.♗xc4 0–0 Black has an extra tempo compared to the QGA (♗f1–d3xc4).; Sometimes White plays here ***7.♗g5***, but after 7...0–0 he usually has to play 8.♗d3 anyway. Then 8...dxc4 9.♗xc4 a6 again gives Black decent play.

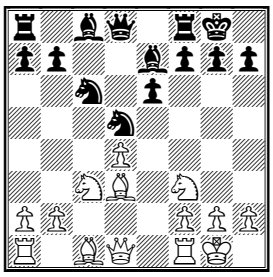
7...♘xd5

More dull is 7...exd5. White maintains a small but durable edge after 8.♘e5! 0–0 9.♗d3.

8.♗d3

Another option is 8.♗c4, but with the knight on d5 it makes sense to target the kingside. Developing the bishop to c4 is more logical when the knight is still on f6 - then d4-d5 is often a positional threat.

8...0-0 9.0-0 ♘c6 *(D)*



This is a very popular position, with thousands of games started like this.

10.♖e1

This is the most popular move - the rook is clearly better off on e1 than f1! OK, it's not clear right now what this rook can do, but shift to the kingside is often possible.

Also very popular is 10.a3, planning ♗c2 and ♕d3.

10...♗f6

Black often plays 10...♘xc3 11.bxc3 b6, but then we can see the benefits of developing the bishop to d3 instead of c4 - it will not be under attack after ...♗b7 and ...♖c8 and it is already pointed at the enemy king. After 12.h4 White gets a dangerous initiative.

11.a3

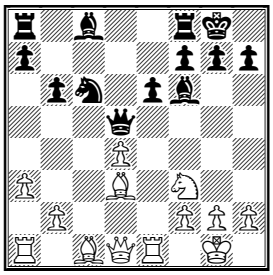
More common is 11.♗e4, over-protecting the d4-pawn and putting some pressure on the d5-knight. Then the game usually goes 11...♘ce7 12.♕d3 h6 *(12...g6).*

11...b6?

This is a typical mistake for such positions - if Black wanted to fianchetto the c8-bishop, she should have played ***11...♘xc3*** 12.bxc3 b6, closing the c-file.

I guess there isn't much wrong with ***11...♘xd4***, except that it gives White some initiative free of risk. But worked OK for Black in the only game where it was tested: 12.♘xd4 ♗xd4 13.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 14.♕xd4 ♘xc3 15.♕xc3 f6 16.♗e3 b6 17.♕c2+ ♔g8 18.♖ed1 ♕e7 19.♕a4 ♗b7 20.♖ac1 ♗d5 21.♕g4 ♖ac8, as in the game Fritz6-Golod, 2000. The funny thing is that game was played in the Israel Club Championship! Very handy - you buy a CD and you can start a chess club with a pretty decent team! ☺ Also possible is ***11...♗d7*** or ***11...♘ce7!?***.

12.♘xd5! ♕xd5 *(D)*



Forced. Instead 12...exd5 drops a pawn: 13.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 14.♕c2+ ♔g8 15.♕xc6.

13.♗e4

White had a pleasant, but difficult from a practical point of view choice:

she could play as in the game or opt for 13. ♕c2. The latter looks very energetic; the only problem is that after 13...♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♕xd4 15.♗xh7+ ♔h8 there is no pawn tension left (central pawns came off). But White's piece activity is considerable after 16.♗e4 ♖b8 17.♗f4 e5 18.♖ad1 ♕c5 19.♕e2 with big advantage for White. Fritz believes that White is almost winning after 19...g6 20.♗g3.

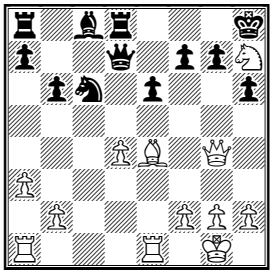
13...♕d7 14.♗g5!

Great move – development is above everything! At least sometimes! ☺ After the hasty 14.♕c2 ♗b7 15.♗xh7+ *(15.♘e5 ♘xe5 16.♗xh7+ ♔h8 17.dxe5 ♕d5 18.♕e4 =♗xe5)* 15...♔h8 White has problems both with the h7-bishop and the d4-pawn.

14...♗xg5 15.♘xg5 h6 16.♘h7!

Naturally, White had to see this move and her next move when she chose 14.Bg5!. Also possible is 16.♕c2 hxg5 *(16...♘xd4 17.♕b1)* 17.♗xc6 ♕c7, but again there is a danger that White's play might just fizzle out. On the other hand, 16.♘f3 ♗b7 would leave White with practically no advantage. Perhaps then it would be wise to get rid of the isolated pawn by playing 17.d5 exd5 18.♕xd5±.

16...♖d8 17.♕g4 ♔h8 *(D)*



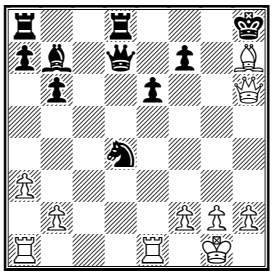
18.♘f6!!

The point – White sacrifices the knight, but obtains a very strong attack against the exposed enemy king.

18...gxf6?!

More cautious is 18...♕c7, but Black's position after 19.♗xc6! ♕xc6 20.♖ac1 ♕b7 21.♕f4 ♕b8 22.♖c7 isn't enviable.

19.♕f3 ♗b7 20.♕xf6+ ♔g8 21.♕xh6 ♘xd4 22.♗h7+ ♔h8 *(D)*



23.♖e3! White is shifting this rook to the g-file, which will spell the doom for the black king. **23...♘f3+ 24.gxf3 f6 25.♗f5+ ♔g8 1-0**

Solution to Quiz Today

Kröncke-Levin: **27...♗d4!** (this better than 27...♕d1+ 28.♕xd1 e2 29.♕e1 ♗f2 30.♕xf2 e1♕+ 31.♕g1 ♕d2 32.♘e5 ♕xc2 33.♗d4 ♕xa2∓) **28.♗xd4 ♕xd4 29.♕xd4 e2 30.♘f6+ gxf6 31.♕g4+ ♔h8 0-1**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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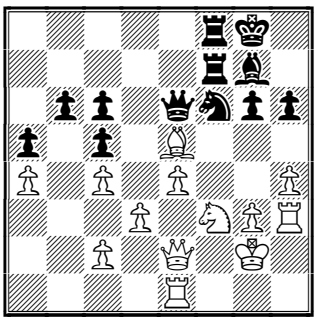
CT-168 (952) 17th June 2003

Quiz Today

Gelfand (2700) – Radjabov (2644)
(analysis position)
Enghien-les-Bains France (4), 16.06.2003

The following position did not occur in this game. It's from IM Vlassov's anaylsis after 26.gxf4?. If White had instead played 26.♗xe5 fxg3 27.fxg3



Black to play
(solution in today's annotated game)

Chess News

The 4th round of the Enghien-les-Bains event was more frightful than all previous rounds. The beginning was quite peaceful: Akopian after three defeats made a draw with Bauer. Gelfand confidently recouped his loss yesterday, which we are annotating today. He defeated the hero of the previous round – Fressinet. Adams chalked up another win against Korchnoi. Judit Polgar won against Lautier in a principle Sveshnikov's variation; she used the same variation against Leko in Budapesht, but lost. One the most interesting games was Bareev-Radjabov. Teimur improved upon his previous game against Bareev of this year and gained quite a promising position. Unfortunately he made a mistake and failed to hold the endgame with a pawn less. As a result there are now three leaders.

Round 4 results:
Bareev – Radjabov – 1-0
Polgar Judit – Lautier – Joel 1-0
Adams – Korchnoi – 1-0
Fressinet – Gelfand – 0-1
Akopian – Bauer, Christian – ½-½

Standings after round 4 :
1-3. Bareev, Polgar, Adams – 3.0
4-5. Gelfand, Fressinet – 2½
6. Radjabov – 2.0
7-8. Bauer. Lautier1 – ½
9-10. Korchnoi, Akopian – ½

More Chess News

by GM Alex Baburin

National Open in Las Vegas

8 Grandmasters shared victory in the National Open in Las Vegas. The

winners got 5 points out of 6, which is not a high result for the National Open. They got $1,256 each for their efforts.

Final Standings:

1-8. GMs Wojtkiewicz, Kudrin, Kiriakov, Serper, Nakamura, Shabalov, Ibragimov and Ehlvest – 5 points out of 6;

9-17. GMs Morovic-Fernandez, Benjamin, Yermolinsky and A. Ivanov, IMs Barcenilla, Finegold, Sevillano and Akobian and FM Casella – 4½ points, etc. There were 141 players in the Open section.

Kasparov's Secret Training?!

Most people think that the world's highest-rated player is preparing for his match against FIDE Champion Ruslan Ponomariov by analysing opening lines with his second GM Yuri Dokhoian somewhere in Croatia, but we at *Chess Today* know better! Instead of taking part in any training camps, G. Kasparov decided that practice indeed makes in perfect and

took part in one of the tournaments in Las Vegas last weekend. And he won it in style – with 6 out of 6! But the mystery is not only why G. Kasparov played in Vegas, but also why he played in the under-2000 section! And who let him in?! Isn't this called ***sandbagging*** in the USA?

Don't look at the calendar – it is not April Fool's Day! And the information is correct – G. Kasparov indeed won the under-2000 tournament in Las Vegas last weekend – only his name is Gregory Kasparov! ☺

Actually, there is another chess-playing Kasparov – IM Sergei Kasparov from Byelorussia. Namesakes are common in chess. For example, I played against Karpov, Smyslov, Petrosian, Gaprindashvili, Spassky, Larsen and Botvinnik, none of whom were famous players!

Closed tournament in Opatija

IM Nenad Fercec (2442, CRO) won category VII tournament in Opatija, Croatia (8-15 June), narrowly missing GM-norm. He scored 6½ points in 9 games. GM Boris Chatalbashev (2525, BUL) was second on 6 points and GM Georg Mohr (2479, SLO) finished third with 5½ points.

3rd Zurich Open

An international tournament with 76 players took place in Zurich on 6-9 of June. Final standings:

1-2. IM M. Stojanovic (2490, YUG) and GM D. Pikula (2478, YUG) – 6 points out of 7

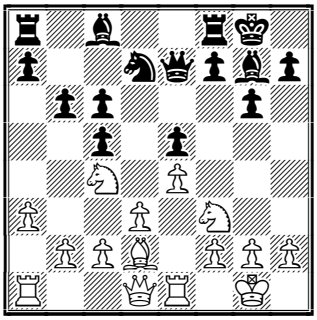
3-6. GMs N. Mitkov (2546, MKD), A. Groszpeter (2486, HUN), Vl. Georgiev (2552, MKD) and U. Hobuss (2409, GER) – 5½ points, etc.
You can find all games from the tournament in today's database.

♘♘♘

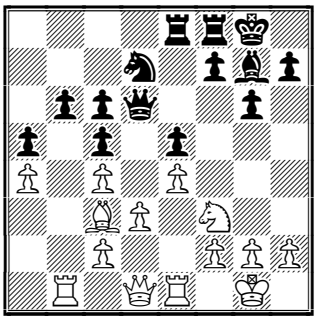
Annotated Game

□ **B. Gelfand (2700)**
■ **T. Radjabov (2644)**
Event: *Enghien-les-Bains France (4), 16.06.2003*
Sicilian Defence [B31]
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.♖e1 e5 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.d3 ♕e7 8.♘bd2 ♘f6 9.♘c4 ♘d7 10.♗d2 0-0 11.a3 b6 (D)



12.♗c3N
The following has occurred before: 12.b4 ♗a6 13.♗c3 ♖fd8 14.♘fd2 ♕e6 15.♕e2 ♗f8 16.♖f1 b5 17.♘e3 ♗d6 18.♘f3 ♕e7 19.♖ab1 ♗c8 20.♕d2 f6 21.♘g4 ♘f8 22.♘h6+ ♔h8? *(22...♔g7)* 23.bxc5± ♗c7 *(23...♗xc5 24.♘xe5+-)* 24.a4 Torre,E-Timman,J/Moscow 1981 1-0
12...a5 13.a4 ♗a6 14.b3 ♗xc4 15.bxc4 ♕d6 16.♖b1 ♖ae8 (D)

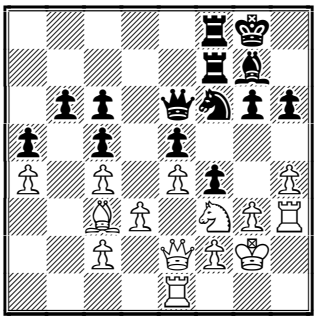


17.g3?!
Having gained nothing in the opening, White managed to find an active plan including some operations on the kingside. The plan results in the weakening of the White king, at the same time Black's pieces have prepared better for the fight in this sector.
17...♕e6 18.♔g2 ♖e7 19.h4?!
This is a continuation of the same wrong strategy.

19...f5 20.♕e2

20.♘g5 deserves consideration 20...♕d6 21.exf5 gxf5 22.♕h5 h6 23.♘h3 The break opening of the centre restricts Black's attacking possibilities. But White is going to attack himself!

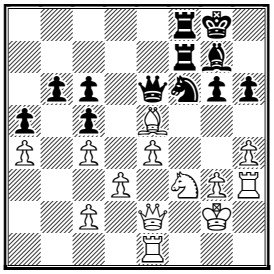
20...f4 21.♘g5 ♕d6 22.♖h1 h6 23.♘f3 ♕e6 24.♖h3 ♖ef7 25.♖e1 ♘f6! (D)



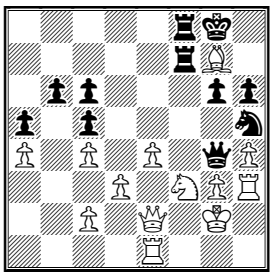
An excellent tactical trick, allowing Tejmur to involve his knight in the attack.

26.gxf4?

This is out of despair; White should value good advice: The central pawn cannot be captured with the bishop because of 26.♗xe5 fxg3! (Unconvincing is *26...♘h5 27.♗xg7 ♔xg7 28.g4! ♕xg4+ 29.♔h2* and although White is unable to involve his rook on h3 in the struggle, Black also does not see any opportunity of strengthening his position.) 27.fxg3 (d)



Quiz 27...♘h5! 28.♗xg7 ♕g4!!–+ (d)



and White is unprotected.; Probably it was worth taking with the knight: 26.♘xe5!? ♘d7 27.♘xf7 ♗xc3 *(27...f3+ 28.♕xf3 ♖xf7 29.♕e3 ♗xc3 30.♖e2∓)* 28.♘xh6+ ♔h7 29.gxf4 ♗xe1 30.h5! g5 31.f5 ♕xh6 32.♕xe1 it is not easy for Black to take advantage of his extra knight due to abundance of the White pawns.

26...♘h5! 27.♗d2 ♖xf4!

There are no doubts any more about the attack on the kingside. White's position is almost hopeless.

28.♘g1

28.♔h2 ♕f7–+

28...♗f6

More convincing is the immediate 28...♖xf2+ 29.♕xf2 ♕g4+ 30.♔f1 ♖xf2+ 31.♔xf2 ♗f6–+

29.♔h1?

It was worth looking for an escape in the following line: 29.♖b1 ♗xh4 30.f3 ♗d8 31.♖xh5 gxh5 32.♗xf4 ♖xf4 33.♔f1∓

29...♗xh4 30.♗xf4 ♘xf4 31.♖xh4 ♘xe2 32.♖xe2 ♔g7–+

It is impossible to build a fortress. Moreover, Black will gain a passed pawn on the queenside.

33.♖h2 ♕d7 34.♖e3 b5 35.cxb5 cxb5 36.axb5 ♕xb5 37.c4 ♕b1 0–1.

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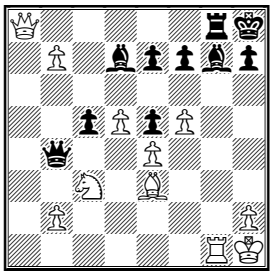
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-169 (953) 18th June 2003

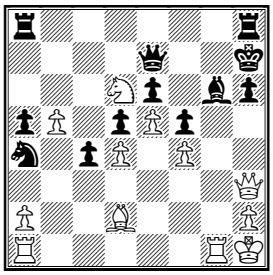
Quiz Today

Schuetze-Sawadkuhi
Hamburg, 08.06.2003



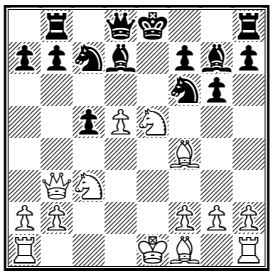
White to play

Bach-Maahs
Hamburg, 08.06.2003



White to play

Levin-Pajeken
Hamburg, 08.06.2003



White to play

Chess News

Yesterday was a day-off at the category XVII tournament in Enghien-les-Bains. We would like to remind you that after 4 rounds three Elo-favourites – **Judith Polgar** (HUN, 2715), Michael **Adams** (ENG, 2723) and Evgeny **Bareev** (RUS, 2734), are sharing the lead with 3 points out of 4.

There are not many other important chess events in progress at the moment, but we should mention the 7th **Voronezh** International Chess Festival, which includes a series of chess events taking place between 10th and 21st of June. One of them is a **match** between GMs Peter **Svidler** (2713) and Konstantin **Chernyshov** (2524). Their 4-game match with a slow time control ended in Svidler's victory: 2½:1½. The first game was drawn, Peter won games 2 and 3, while Konstantin won the last game. Rapid chess match between the same opponents ended in 3:1 victory for Svidler. You can find all 8 games from the match in our today's database.

IM Bator Sambuev from Moscow won the rapid tournament and GM Valery Popov from St. Petersburg won the blitz tournament in Voronezh. In the Voronezh Open Eldar Gasanov is leading after 4 rounds.

Teimour Radjabov vs. *CT* readers!

We are glad to announce that one of our GM readers (and we have about 40!) – Teimour Radjabov – has agreed to play a game against *CT* readers.

At the moment we plan to play one move in 3 or 4 days each. This should give our readers enough time to consider and discuss their moves, while would be not too hard on our opponent, who has busy tournament schedule. I hope that the *CT* team, which includes several GMs and IMs, will help our readers with good advice – Teimour, beware! ☺

We plan receiving candidate moves from our readers either via e-mail or on a special Web page, then giving

our experts' suggestions and having an online poll for the suggested moves.

While the game should be a good advert for *Chess Today*, we will try to ensure that mainly our readers will be voting in the polls. We would like to get your opinion on how to arrange the game best – please e-mail your suggestions to us!

Online Chat with Anand

The chat took place yesterday, 17 of June. We received its announcement on the same day, so unfortunately we could not inform you before the chat. However, its transcript should be published online pretty soon.

Chess & Books with Fred Wilson

Live Internet Radio Show "Chess & Books with Fred Wilson" has moved to Wednesday nights. Fred's guest on 18 June will be the terrific chess coach and author, **Pete Tamburro, Jr**.

Pete is not only the author of the highly-regarded instructional book, "Learn Chess From the Greats", but has also created one of the most enjoyable and successful instructional internet chess programs, "Openings for Amateurs", which can be seen and heard every week on Chess FM. Both Pete and Fred have been studying, playing, and enjoying chess for over 40 years, so you are welcome to email questions, for either or both of them, on any aspect of chess, before the show. Send your questions to: fred@fredwilsonchess.com

Tune-in to the live broadcast at http://www.chess.fm/ Wednesday at 9:00 pm EST.

I should add that both Fred and Pete are Chess Today readers. Pete contributed to the paper in the past and we hope to see more of his (and Fred's!) contributions in the future!

The Dutch Club Ch Play-offs

Play-offs of the Dutch Club Championship will take place on 21-22 June and could be watched online.

There are four teams participating and among them ZZICT club from Breda seems to be the favourite. It has on its list such players as Ivan Sokolov (2677), Loek van Wely (2675), Mihail Gurevich (2635) and Vladimir Chuchelov (2592). Their only real opposition would come from the HSG club (Hilversum), which has Predrag Nikolic (2643), Yasser Seirawan (2626), Ljubomir Ljubojevic (2570) and Friso Nijboer (2562) on its list.

Letters to the Editor

After we mentioned the forthcoming book Leko's *100 Wins* in *CT-951*, we received the following message from GM Andras Adorjan:

"Dear Chess Today Editors and Readers,

It's not that I am 'threatening' to appear every second day on the pages of this quality electronic magazine. My first contribution was published years after enjoying the magazine's fine services. But the news of a book on Peter Leko's 100 wins (and a thick volume!) is a subject which is very personal to me.

I was Peter's trainer altogether for 3 years and seconded him many times until I quit at the beginning of 1999. He then went to Linares via another success, taking the whole Sveshnikov updating, and adding some very important novelties of mine, as a good-bye work. IM Gyula Fehér made an excellent co-operation on the subject. And whatever divided us, I was very glad to see Peter making his first ever draw against Kasparov ten days later with my novelty (Sveshnikov, 5...e6 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8.♘e4 ♗b7!?) which is still alive and well.

I do not know, whether the book is already finished, but anyway it is something that a great player like Peter Leko deserves. There is another book in progress about him and his games first in Hungarian. It's a somewhat bitter feeling that even after many years of being Hungary's No. 1 player, the man in the street would still tell you that the Polgar sisters are the best. And this is despite the fact that two of them have stopped playing chess for quite some time and the third is doing fine, but far behind Pete. I suspect that if the match vs. Kramnik would not take place, the perception in Hungary will remain the same!

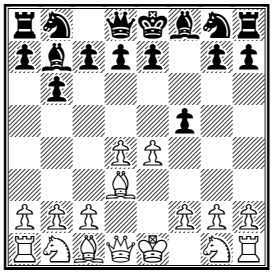
Now about my contribution to Leko's wins and results. When we re-started just before Vienna 1996, he got a full 'BLACK IS OK!' service, both spiritually and professionally. He was very capable of this new approach (played the Grünfeld already at the age of 11-12) and we rebuilt his whole Black repertoire. For White almost every 'responsibility' is his. And I am not saying that he won with some of my novelties and discoveries. No! He won a number of games ***with the help*** of my novelties, analysed by the two of us together, because he himself was a pretty strong GM already, with fantastic sporting abilities too. However, forgive me this weakness of mine to mention, but I would like to mention that among the victims were Kramnik (1997 Tilburg) with the 'Adorjan Gambit' (that's 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 e5!?). He 'killed like a chicken' Topalov in Vienna with the Caro-Kann Panov, that was still very fresh. There was a game between him and van Wely (Groningen 1995) in which the boy employed my shocking weapon 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗f4 0-0 6.♖c1 dxc4 7.e4 b5!!?, not without a success, as you've guessed. There were many more examples, sometimes against lesser known players, but important ideas and victories.

I do not want to take away anything from Peter, what he achieved (so far!) is due to his great talent, his love of chess and very hard work. No trainer - even me - won a game (or saved it) for of him. But at the period of my greatest successes (I have been a GM for 30 years) I have learned - and hopefully practiced - to give credit to those who helped me in any way. There are no lonely heroes in life, just in the action movies.

I thank you very much for your time reading these lines. **Andras Adorjan,** Grandmaster, Olympic Champion (1978), Candidate (1979-80), 3 times Champion of Hungary, Player of the Year 1991, Garry Kasparov's assistant (1979-86), Peter Leko's trainer (1996-99), Ambassador of Rainbow Chess and co-author of rock-opera "1956".

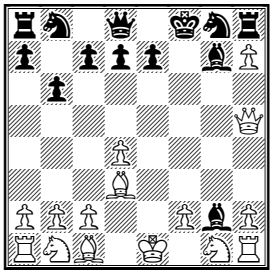
Annotated Game

□ **Peter Svidler (2713)**
■ **Konstantin Chernyshov (2524)**
Event: *Irregular Opening, B00*
Voronezh (m/3), 14.06.2003
Annotations by GM Alexander Baburin
1.e4 b6 2.d4 ♗b7 3.♗d3 f5 *(D)*



This is a unusual opening and a very sharp position! It is worth pointing out that Black risks a lot more when playing 1.e4 b6, compared to 1.c4 b6 2.d4 e6 3.e4 (line of the English Defence).

Here the critical line is surely 4.exf5 ♗xg2 5.♕h5+ g6 6.fxg6 ♗g7 (It is worth knowing the following nice trap: *6...♘f6?? 7.gxh7+ ♘xh5 8.♗g6#* Greco-NN, Europe 1620.) 7.gxh7+ ♔f8 ***(D)***



And now White has a good choice: ***8.hxg8♕+*** ♔xg8 9.♕g4 ♗xh1 10.♗g5 ♕e8 11.h4 ♗d5 12.♘c3 ♗f7 13.♘ge2 d5 14.0–0–0 ♕d7 15.♗f5 ♕e8 16.♖g1 ♔f8 17.♘f4 ♗h5 18.♘xh5 ♕xh5 19.♗xe7+ ♔xe7 20.♕xg7+ 1–0 Gavrilov–Yevdokimov, St. Petersburg 2001.

8.♘f3 ♘f6 9.♕g6 ♗xh1 (or 9...♗xf3 10.♖g1 ♖xh7 11.♕g3 ♗e4 12.♗xe4 ♘xe4 13.♕f3+ ♘f6 14.♕xa8 ♖xh2 15.♕f3 ♘c6 16.♗f4 ♖h7 17.♗e5 ♕e8 18.c3 ♘xe5 19.dxe5 ♕h5 20.♕f4 ♗h6 21.♕d4 c5 22.♕d3 ♕xe5+ 23.♔d1 ♕f4 24.♘d2 d5 25.♔c2 e5 26.♖ad1 ♖f7 27.♕h3 ♗g7 28.♘f3 ♕e4+ 29.♔c1 ♘e8 30.♘g5 ♕f4+ 31.♖d2 ♕f5 32.♘e6+ ♔e7 33.♕xf5 ♖xf5 34.♘xg7 1–0 Montavon–Ewald, Leipzig 1997.) 10.♘e5 ♕e8 11.♕h6 ♗e4 12.♗xe4 ♘xe4 13.♘g6+ ♔f7 14.♕h5 ♔e6 15.♕g4+ ♔f6 16.♘xh8 ♗xh8 17.♕f4+ ♔g7 18.♕h6+ 1–0 Moebus–Wilm, Augsburg 1995.

These lines look good for White, however Peter Svidler probably did not know the theory of 4.exf5 (top GMs don't look at 1...b6 too often!), so he preferred a less committal and little-known, but positionally sound move:

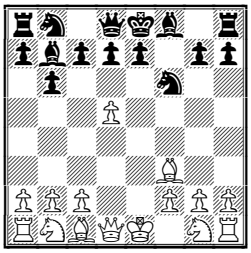
4.d5 fxe4?!

There are only two (!!) examples of this position in Mega 2003 database and in both games Black played 4...♘f6, which looks like a better move compared to 4...fxe4. Those games went:

5.♘c3 e6 6.♕e2 ♗b4 7.exf5 0–0 8.fxe6 ♘xd5 9.♗d2 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♕f6 11.♘f3 ♗xc3 12.0–0 ♗xf3 13.gxf3 ♗xa1–+ Bergmann–Ewald, Leipzig 1996.

5.♗g5 fxe4 6.♗xf6 exd3 7.♕h5+ g6 8.♕e5 ♖g8 9.cxd3 d6 10.♕e6 ♘d7 11.♗c3 ♖g7 12.♗xg7 ♗xg7 13.♕g8+ ♗f8 14.♕xh7 ♘e5 15.d4 ♘d3+ 16.♔f1 ♘f4 17.♘e2 ♗a6 18.♘bc3 ♕d7 19.g3 ♘xe2 20.♕xg6+ ♔d8 21.♘xe2+– Bergmann–Ewald, Leipzig 1995.

5.♗xe4 ♘f6 6.♗f3 *(D)*



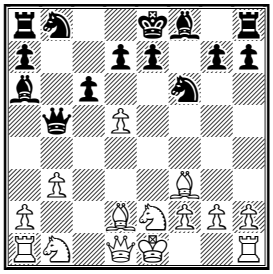
6...c6

Here 6...g6 looks logical, but perhaps Black feared 7.h4!?, for example: 7...♗g7 8.h5 0–0 9.hxg6 hxg6 10.♘c3 and White stands better.

7.c4 ♗a6 8.b3 b5!?

Black's play reminds me of the game Baburin–Speelman, Copenhagen 1996, where Black also tried to undermine the d5-pawn with ...b5.

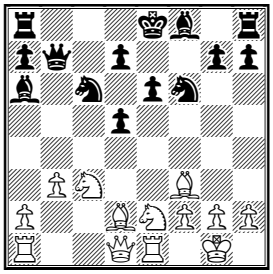
9.cxb5 ♕a5+ 10.♗d2 ♕xb5 11.♘e2 *(D)*



11...cxd5

Also possible is 11...♘xd5, although after 12.0–0 White certainly has good compensation for a pawn.

12.♘bc3 ♕b7 13.0–0 e6 14.♖e1 ♘c6? *(D)*



I think that it would be much harder for White to prove his point after 14...♗e7!. In such positions the sooner you evacuate your king, the better! The b8-knight can wait a bit.

15.♘xd5! Now or never!

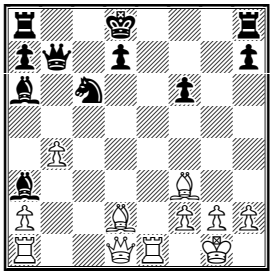
15...exd5

Worse is 15...♘xd5 16.♗xd5 exd5 17.♘d4+ ♔d8 18.♘xc6+ ♕xc6 19.♖c1 ♗c5 20.♗e3 ♗xe3 21.♖xc6 ♗xf2+ 22.♔xf2 dxc6 23.♕d4+–.

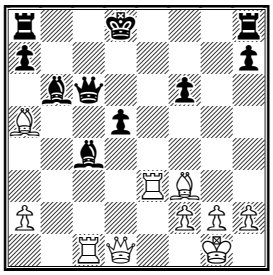
16.♘f4+ ♔d8

Alas, the black king is stuck in the centre, as 16...♗e7 would be even worse: 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.♗xd5.

17.♘xd5 ♗a3 18.♘xf6 gxf6 19.b4! *(D)*



19...♗c4
19...♗xb4?? 20.♗xb4 ♕xb4 21.♗xc6+−
20.♖e3 ♗b2 21.♖b1 ♗d4 22.b5!+− d5 23.bxc6 ♕xc6 24.♗a5+ ♗b6 25.♖c1! *(D)*



25...♖c8
Or 25...♗xa5 26.♖xc4 ♕xc4 27.♗xd5+−.
26.♗xb6+ axb6 27.♖ec3 1−0.

Solutions to Quiz Today

Schuetze−Sawadkuhi: **28.♗h6! 1−0.**

Bach−Maahs: **27.♖xg6! ♔xg6 28.♖g1+ ♔h7 29.♘xf5!+− ♕f8 30.♖g7+ ♕xg7 31.♘xg7 ♔xg7 32.♕xe6 c3 33.♕f6+ ♔g8 34.♕g6+ ♔f8 35.♗c1 ♘b2 36.f5 1−0.**

Levin−Pajeken: **13.♘xf7! ♕e7+** (or 13...♔xf7 14.♗xc7 ♖e8+ 15.♗e2+−) **14.♘e5** (also good was 14.♗e2 ♕xf7 15.♗xc7 ♖c8 16.♕xb7 0−0 17.♗g3!+−) **14...♘fxd5 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♕xd5 ♗c6 17.♗b5! ♗xb5 18.0−0−0+− ♕f6 19.♖he1 ♕xf4+ 20.♔b1 ♗xe5 21.♖xe5+ ♔f8 22.♕d6+ ♔g7 23.♖e7+ ♕f7 24.♕e5+ ♔f8 25.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 26.♕c7+ 1−0.**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E−mail us − we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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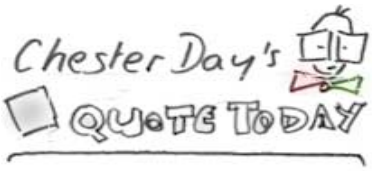


" When you don't know
what to do, wait
for your opponent to get
an idea, it is sure
to be bad"
--- *Siegbert Tarrasch*

♘♘♘

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-170(954) 19th June 2003

Chess News

Enghien-les-Bains 2003

After a rest day off, all of the participants were in the mood for a fight. Gelfand sacrificed a pawn against Adams and kept the initiative for a long time. But Adams dug in with a good defence and made a draw.

Radjabov went to the limits but managed to make a draw by proposal. Fressinet was two pawns up but only had just more than a minute on his clock and didn't refuse.

Polgar had a difficult position and was a pawn light, but managed to save the game.

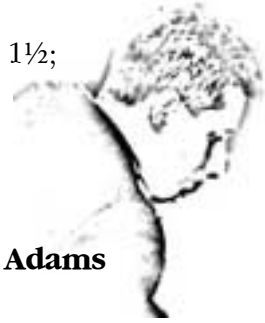
Bareev and Korchnoi just exhausted their opponents. As a result of all this, Bareev became the sole leader.

Round 5 (June 18, 2003)

Gelfand - Adams ½-½
Radjabov - Fressinet ½-½
Bauer, Christian - Polgar, Judit ½-½
Lautier - Bareev 0-1
Korchnoi - Akopian 1-0

Round 5 Standings:

1. Bareev, 4.0;
2-3. Adams. Polgar, 3½;
4-5. Gelfand Fressinet, 3.0;
6. Radjabov 2½;
7. Bauer 2.0;
8-9. Lautier. Korchnoi 1½;
10. Akopian ½;



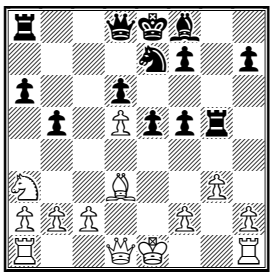
GM Michael Adams

Website: http://enghien.free.fre

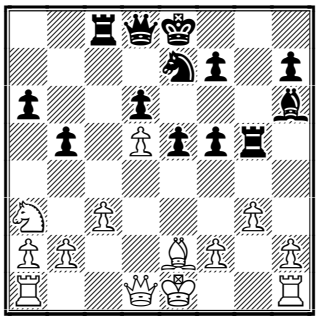
Annotated Game

□ **Polgar (2715)**
■ **Lautier (2666)**
Event: *Enghien-les-Bains 2003*
16.6.2003 - B33
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♗g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♗xf6 gxf6 10.♘d5 f5 11.♗d3 ♗e6 12.♕h5 ♖g8 13.g3 ♖g5 14.♕d1 ♗xd5 15.exd5 ♘e7



16.c3
After suffering a defeat to Leko in Budapest, Judit does not want to follow the line 16.♘xb5 ♕b6 17.♘a3 ♕xb2 18.♘c4 ♕c3+ 19.♔f1 ♖d8 20.♖b1 e4 21.♗e2 f4 22.♖b3 ♕f6 23.gxf4 ♕xf4 24.♘e3 ♗g7 25.♗xa6 ♘f5 26.♘g2 ♕e5 27.h4 ♖g6 28.♖hh3 ♔f8 29.♕b1 ♗f6 30.h5 ♖g8 31.♗e2 ♘d4 32.♖be3 ♗g5 33.♕b6 ♖e8 34.♖eg3 f5 35.♘h4 ♘xe2 36.♔xe2 f4 37.♖b3 f3+ 38.♔f1 ♕xd5 39.♘xf3 ♕c4+ 40.♖d3 exd3 41.♕xd6+ ♗e7 42.♕h6+ ♖g7 43.♖g3 dxc2+ 44.♔g2 ♕c3 0-1 Polgar,J-Leko,P/Budapest HUN 2003 (44)
16...♗h6 17.♗e2 ♖c8N



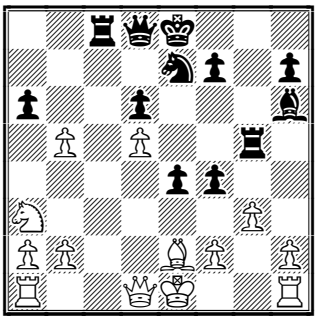
Lautier is trying to improve on the

position that Leko also had against Acs in Budapest. The game went 17...♕b6 18.♘c2 ♔f8 19.a4 bxa4 20.♘b4 f4 21.♕xa4 f3 22.♗d3 ♖g4 23.0–0 f5 24.♕d7 ♖xb4 25.cxb4 e4 26.♗b5 ♖b8 27.♗c6 ♕xb4 28.♖a4 ♕xb2 29.♕xd6 ♗e3 30.h4 ♗a7 31.♖xa6 ♕e2 32.♖aa1 e3 33.♕f6+ ♔g8 34.♗d7 exf2+ 35.♔h2 ♖b6 36.♗e6+ ♖xe6 37.dxe6 1–0 Acs,P–Leko,P/Budapest HUN 2003 (37)

18.c4 f4

Black is not bound to give up his pawns on the queenside: 18...♕a5+ 19.♔f1 b4 20.♘c2 ♕b6 with mutual chances.

19.cxb5 e4?!



19...♕a5+ 20.♔f1 axb5 21.♘xb5 ♖g6; 19...axb5 20.♘xb5

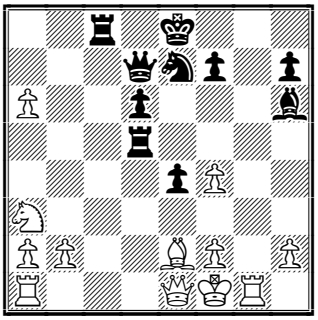
20.gxf4

Judit knows better, but it seems to me that after 20.♕a4 White has an advantage in all variations: 20...♖xd5 *(*or *20...♘xd5 21.bxa6+ ♔f8 22.♕xe4 ♖e5 23.♕f3±)* 21.bxa6+ ♔f8 22.♕xe4±

20...♕a5+ 21.♔f1 ♖xd5 22.♕e1 ♕c7

Black shouldn't be afraid of a Queen exchange: after 22...♕d2! Black has a decent endgame. 23.♕xd2 *(23.bxa6 ♕xf4)* 23...♖xd2

23.bxa6 ♕d7 24.♖g1!

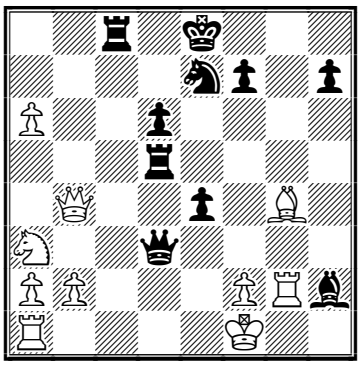


White has an advantage also after 24.h3± but the move played is more convincing.

24...♕h3+

24...♗xf4

25.♖g2 ♗xf4 26.♕b4 ♗xh2 27.♗g4 ♕d3+ 28.♗e2 ♕h3 29.♗g4 ♕d3+



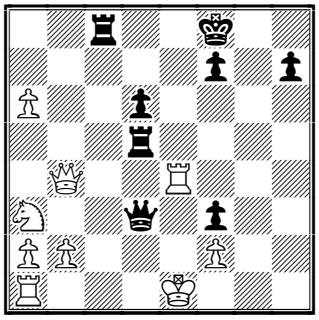
30.♔e1!

The White king is in no danger in the centre! But Black faces serious problems: his rook and bishop are under the cosh. Moreover, White's pawn on the a–file is going to turn into a queen.

30...♘c6?

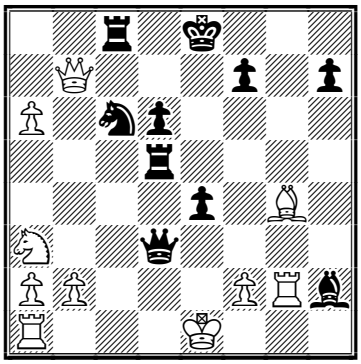
Here is the last opportunity to stir things up: 30...♘g6!?

A) One careless move – and it could all change: 31.♖xh2? ♘e5! 32.♖d1 *(32.♕a4+ ♔e7 33.♖d1 ♖c1!!–+ 34.♖xc1 ♕d2+ 35.♔f1 ♕xc1+ 36.♔g2 ♕f4* , and White doesn't have a satisfactory defence.*; 32.♖h4 ♘f3+ 33.♗xf3 exf3 34.♖e4+ ♔f8–+*



In spite of being a piece up having the move, White has no defence to the mating threats.*)* 32...♕xd1+ 33.♗xd1 ♘d3+ 34.♔e2 ♘xb4; B) 31.♕b7?? ♖c1+ 32.♖xc1 ♕d2+ 33.♔f1 ♕xc1+ 34.♔e2 ♘f4#; C) 31.♖d1! 31...♘f4 32.♖xd3 ♘xd3+ 33.♔e2 ♘xb4 34.♗xc8 ♗e5 35.♘c4±

31.♕b7+–



The knight has blocked the line, White wins easily.

31...♕d2+ 32.♔f1 ♕d3+ 33.♗e2 ♕h3 34.♖c1 ♖g5 35.♗g4 ♕d3+ 36.♔e1+- e3 37.♗d7+ ♔e7 38.♗f5+ 1-0

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-171(955) 20th June 2003

Chess News

In the sixth round of Enghien-les-Bains 2003, the leader ***Evgeny Bareev*** improved his position thanks to his victory over Laurent Fressinet. Michael Adams became clear second by defeating Teimour Radjabov, while Vladimir Akopian won his first game in the tournament – against Boris Gelfand. The other two games were rather short draws. You can find all the games from round 6 in our database. One of them is in our Annotated Game section.

Round 6 results:
Bareev–Fressinet **1:0**
Adams–Radjabov **1:0**
Polgar–Korchnoi **½:½**
Lautier–Bauer **½:½**
Akopian–Gelfand **1:0**

Round 6 Standings:
1. Bareev – 5 points out of 6
2. Adams – 4½;
3. Polgar – 4;
4-5. Gelfand and Fressinet – 3;
6-7. Bauer and Radjabov – 2½;
8-9. Korchnoi and Lautier – 2;
10. Akopian – 1½ points.

The 7th Golden Cleopatra Open (Swiss System, 10 Rounds, 153 players) has just finished in Egypt with the following results:

1-3. Kengis (LAT), **Vysochin** (UKR), and **El Gindy, Essam** (EGY) – 8 points out of 10,
4-6. Kosten, Rausis, (BAN) and El Arousy (EGY) – 7½ points;
7-12. Abdelnabbi (EGY), Malakhatko (UKR), Ismail (EGY), Belezky (UKR), Szuhanek, (ROM) and Hassan (EGY) – 7 points, etc.

FIDE World Championship News

by GM Alex Baburin

On the 19th of June, I received the following e-mail from Yasser Seirawan, addressed to various GMs:

"Dear Colleagues, Greetings!

Today I was shocked to receive from GM Yannick Pelletier a word document, which apparently was sent out by FIDE's World Chess Championship Committee to the "world's top 200 GM's" a month ago but no one has passed it along before Yannick.

It seems that the WCCC would like the world's top GM's to express their views upon the proposal approved in Bled by the FIDE Congress and a new World Championship cycle being proposed in the document below. The main differences between the two plans are that instead of a double elimination event, there would be a second chance super tournament for those top players who failed in the 128-player knockout.

Also, the GM's are being polled to decide the time controls that they prefer.

Even if the attached document never reached me, I cannot understand why it hasn't been published on FIDE and other chess websites? Such a second plan is of great interest to masters and players alike and deserves public debate. Therefore I have passed it along to yourselves and urge you to pass it to others. I have also passed it along to websites for publication.

In closing, a special word of thanks to Yannick for sharing. Cheers, Yasser."

Indeed, the question begs itself: why cannot FIDE and its officials communicate with Grandmasters and

the chess public properly?! If even GM Seirawan, who was directly involved in the Prague Agreement, learns about important new proposals by FIDE more or less by chance, things are really bad!

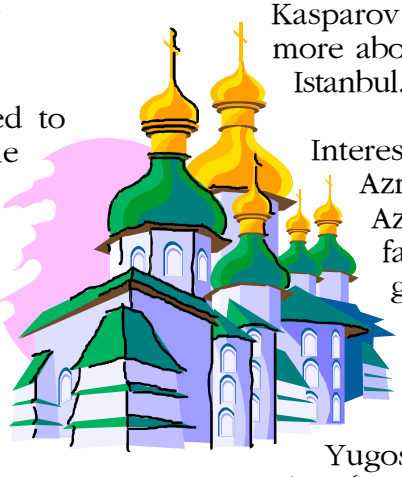
Of course, this sort of failure is typical of FIDE. Last autumn Jon Speelman and I initiated an Open Letter to FIDE and its President, protesting against the drug testing at the forthcoming Olympiad in Bled. A great number of chess professionals joined the protest and FIDE basically backed off – in Bled any player could refuse taking part in drug testing without any penalty. But did we ever have a response from FIDE, expressing their position? Not a chance! ☹

We published the file which Yasser mentioned at the Grandmaster Square website – come and have a look!

Istanbul 2003 – Overview

by GM Alex Baburin

A few days ago I promised to analyse the results of the European Championship in Istanbul, so today I would like to draw your attention to that tournament, which has been claimed to be the strongest Swiss-format tournament in the world ever.



First, let us have a look at the final standings at the top:

1. Zurab **Azmaiparashvili** (2678) – 9½ points out of 13 and $32,000
2. Vladimir Malakhov (2672) – 9 points and $24,000
3. Alexander Graf (2630) – 9 points out of 13 and $16,000

4-14.Kiril Georgiev (2647), Kharlov (2581), Sakaev (2664), Iordachescu (2550), Kobalia (2639), Sulskis (2578), Sutovsky (2652), Aronian (2606), Ivanchuk (2704), Galkin (2591) and Moiseenko (2627) – 8½ points and $6,582 each.

How The Rating Favourites Fared

First, one can note that Elo-favourites did well in the tournament. In recent years there was a lot of talk that those playing in the elite invitational tournaments, are not really much better than GMs normally inhabiting Swiss opens. However, FIDE knockouts and tournaments like Istanbul-2003, do not support this view. Of course, somebody could be out of form, but overall, the rating favourites do well – they did not get their high rating for nothing! For example, in Istanbul all top 8 seeds were among the top 33 finishers.

Azmaiparashvili and his Career

Azmaiparashvili's victory is hardly sensational – he is a very talented, experienced and dangerous GM, who was 3rd in the starting list in Istanbul. Azmaiparashvili beat Karpov with Black back in 1983 and worked with Kasparov in 1987. You can learn more about him in an interview from Istanbul.

Interestingly, in that interview Azmaiparashvili (known as Azmai among chess pros) failed to mention one of his greatest 'achievements' – his winning score of 16 out of 18 during a quadrangular round robin held at Stumica, in Yugoslavia. There Azmai (then with 2610 rating) was first, another player – Rolando Kutirov (2420, Republic of Macedonia) was second and made a GM norm. Meanwhile strong GMs Bojan Kurajica (2585) and Nukhim Rashkovsky (2550) lost to Azmai 1-5 and 0-6 respectively... That 'success' brought his rating up to 2660, but yielded surprisingly few invitations to elite tournaments, while seriously damaging his reputation. Games from the Stumica tournament eventually appeared in databases, but most chess pros believe that the tournament never took place and was a total fix. By the way, 41-year old 'Grandmaster' Kutirov has a current rating of 2374,

while Azmaiparashvili is now Vice-President of FIDE...

Istanbul Discoveries

Among those finishing on 8½ points only 3 players were below 2600, but Kharlov's highest rating was 2656, while Iordachescu and Sulskis have been close to 2600 too.

Among the discoveries of the tournament are 17-year old GM Kadir Guseinov (2505, AZE) and 19-year old IM from Germany Leonid Kritz (2468). Both scored 8 points and qualified for the FIDE World Championship – we are sure to hear of them again!

Professional Chess Union

One of the important results of the European Championships in Istanbul has been the formation of the Professional Chess Union. Finally Grandmasters felt the urge to unite, but I fear that such feelings might be short-lived...

In Istanbul 187 players signed a letter of protest to President of the European Chess Union Boris Kutin, but I wonder if FIDE Vice-President and the new European Champion GM Azmaiparashvili was one of them! ☺

By the way, Boris Kutin was pretty dismissive of the players' criticism in his interview. And the FIDE web site (surprise, surprise!) has no mention of the Players' Union...

Anyway, Igor Glek's observations of the post-Prague realities in the chess world are quite interesting. Ukrainian Chess website published a letter (in Russian) from GM Evgeny Gleizerov on the subject of the Professional Players' Union, with comments from CT journalist GM Mikhail Golubev.

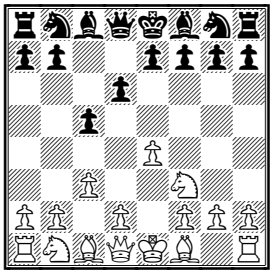
GM Nigel Short shared his view on this subject in his Telegraph column.

Chess Today will be following the developments in this field – stay tuned!

Annotated Game

□ **V Akopian (2703)**
■ **B Gelfand (2700)**
Event: *It Enghien les Bains FRA (6), 19.06.2003 – B50*
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.c3!?



As we know, Vladimir Akopian had a very poor start in this tournament. So it's obvious that he is trying to choose the most solid line from his opening repertoire. On the other hand, a year ago he beat the FIDE world champion Ruslan Ponomariov thanks to this "un ambitious" approach.

3...♘f6 4.♗d3 ♘c6 5.♗c2

White creates a very flexible pawn center but loses some tempi to attain this goal.

5...♗g4 6.d3 e6 7.♘bd2 d5

7...♗e7 8.h3 ♗h5 9.♘f1 ♘d7 10.g4 ♗g6 11.♘g3 h5 12.♗e3 hxg4 13.hxg4 ♖xh1+ 14.♘xh1 ♕b6 15.♗b3 0–0–0 16.♘g3 ♘de5 17.♘xe5 dxe5 18.♕c2 ♕a6 19.0–0–0 ♘a5 20.f3 c4 21.dxc4 ♘xc4 22.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 23.♗xc4 ♕xc4 24.b3 ♕c6 25.♔b2 a6 26.a4 ♗h4 27.♘f1 f5 28.♕h2 ♗d8 29.♘d2 f4 30.♗f2 b5 31.axb5 axb5 32.♕h8 ♕d7 33.♔c2 ♗e8 34.b4 ♗c7 35.♘b3 ♗d6 36.♗c5 ♗c7 37.♗f8 g6 38.♗g7 ♗b6 39.♗xe5 ♗e3 40.♗d4 1–0 Akopian,V-Ponomariov,R/Moscow 2002/CBM 90 (40)

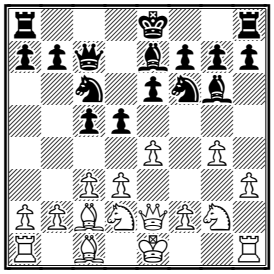
8.h3 ♗h5

8...♗xf3!?

9.♕e2 ♗e7 10.g4

10.♘f1 0–0 11.g4 ♗g6 12.♘g3 b5 13.♘h4 dxe4 14.dxe4 c4 15.0–0 ♕b6 16.♔h2 ♘d7 17.♘g2 e5 18.♘e3 ♗c5 19.♘d5 ♕b7 20.h4 f6 21.♘f5 ♗f7 22.g5 fxg5 23.♗xg5 ♗e6 24.b4 ½–½ Manik,M-Zagorskis,D/Bled 2002/EXT 2003 (24)

10...♗g6 11.♘h4 ♕c7 12.♘g2!?



The knight takes control over the important f4-square.

12...0-0-0 13.0-0 ♖he8

13...h5!? 14.g5 ♘d7 15.♘f3 dxe4 16.dxe4 ♘de5 17.♘xe5 ♘xe5 18.♘h4!?

14.♖e1 ♗d6 15.♕f1

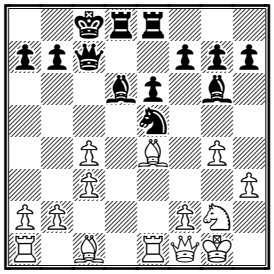
White prepares f2-f4-f5.

15...c4!?

Black had completed his development so Gelfand decides to begin complications. But White is ready for them.

16.dxc4 ♘xe4 (16...dxe4)

17.♘xe4 dxe4 18.♗xe4 ♘e5



At first sight, Black has gained an initiative. Akopian returns a pawn.

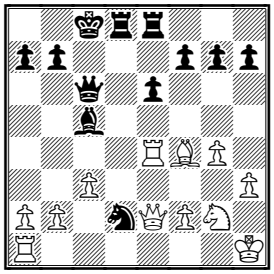
19.c5!? ♗xc5

19...♕xc5!? 20.♗e3 ♕c7 21.♗d4!?

20.♗f4 ♗xe4 21.♖xe4 ♘f3+ 22.♔h1 ♕c6 23.♕e2

All previous move were more or less forced...

23...♘d2?



I suspect that Boris Gelfand missed or underestimated the following move.

24.♖d4!

Here it is. After 24.♗xd2 ♖xd2 25.♕xd2 ♕xe4 26.♖d1 ♕c6 27.♔g1 h5!?∓ Black has equal chances at least.

24...♗xd4 25.cxd4 ♖xd4

The d2 knight could come back, for example: 25...♘c4 26.♖c1 ♖xd4 27.♗e3±

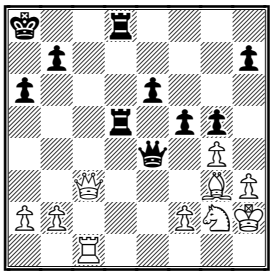
26.♗xd2 ♕e4 27.♕b5

27.♖c1+!? ♔b8 28.♗e3±

27...♖ed8 28.♖c1+ ♔b8 29.♗f4+ ♔a8 30.♔h2± ♖4d5 31.♕b3 g5 32.♕c3 a6

32...gxf4?? 33.♕c8+

33.♗g3 f5!?



Black finds counterplay against the g3 bishop. 33...♖d2!? 34.♘e3 ♕d4 35.♕xd4 ♖2xd4 36.♗e5±

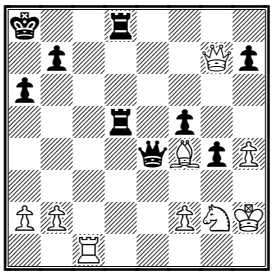
34.gxf5 exf5 35.♗c7 ♖c8 36.♕g7 g4 37.♗f4

37.♗b6!?

37...♖cd8

37...♖xc1 38.♕g8+ ♔a7 39.♗xc1 ♖d7!? 40.♕c8±

38.h4



Usually the bishop and knight aren't much stronger than a rook and a pawn. But in this case, the black king is weaker than his opponent, and also the g7 queen is very active. As a result: White has a clear advantage here.

38...♖5d7

38...♕f3!? 39.♗g3 ♖5d7 40.♕e5 ♖d2

39.♕f6

39.♖c8+ ♖xc8 40.♕xd7 ♕c2 41.♕xh7 ♕xb2 42.♕xf5+-

39...♖d3

39...♕f3 40.♗g3 ♖d2±

40.♗g3 ♕d4?
Black simply gives up the important f5 pawn. Much more stubborn was 40...♖d2
41.♕xf5+- 1-0

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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CHESS TODAY
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Chess News

In the 7th round of Enghien-les-Bains the leaders drew their games. Bareev played a very tense game against Bauer. At one moment Evgeny sacrificed two minor pieces, a few moves later he took one of them back gaining four pawns into the bargain. The open positions of both kings finally forced perpetual check.

Laurent Fressinet and Michael Adams performed a lively sketch in the Exchange Ruy Lopez. But to avoid any misunderstanding I'd like to inform our readers that the young Frenchman had it all well-rehearsed. He had already played the position after move 18 twice, against Jenni and Vajda. Both games were drawn, though Fressinet was making efforts to win the endings. Against Adams he agreed to a repetition of moves at once.

The same outcome and almost the same number of moves saw the game Korchnoi – Lautier. Radjabov and Akopian produced a quick draw as well.

Therefore to choose the game of the day was easy for me. The only decisive one was Gelfand – Polgar, which allowed Boris to catch up with Judit.

Round 7 results:
Bauer – Bareev ½:½
Fressinet – Adams ½:½
Gelfand – Polgar 1:0
Korchnoi – Lautier ½:½
Radjabov – Akopian ½:½

Round 7 Standings:
1. Bareev – 5½
2. Adams – 5
3-4. Gelfand, Polgar – 4
5. Fressinet – 3½
6-7. Bauer, Radjabov – 3
8-9. Korchnoi, Lautier – 2½
10. Akopian – 2

The 7th Voronezh International Chess Festival is coming to an end. In the Master Open the young GM Alexander Riazantsev (my former pupil by the way) is sole leader with 6½ points out of 8. However I wouldn't dare predict his overall victory as in the final round he plays with Black and his rival is the very strong and experienced GM Valery Popov who has a score 3:0 against me (should I call him 'my former offender'?) ☺
The top boards of the final round are (all the players have 6 points except for Amonatov who has 5½):
Popov – Riazantsev
Kokarev – Khasangatin
Zakhartsov – Skorchenko
Arbakov – Nikitin
Alavkin – Ulko
Yandemirov – Amonatov

Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

Give Credit Where Credit is Due

Followed by publication in CT-955 of the FIDE's plan concerning World Championships, I received the following e-mail from GM Yasser Seirawan, who wanted to clarify a few points concerning the authorship of various ideas embedded in the plan:

"Dear Alex,

Thank you for your message. Needless to say, I wince by the accreditation, "Yasser Seirawan's Proposals," as offered by the WCCC members. I was a Secretary, keeping track of all the ideas being floated. The reality is that this was **not my plan**. I take credit for "Fresh Start" – the Prague Agreement is far from my proposal. The Prague Agreement became the only one acceptable to a majority of the players. Including the principles. It was approved by the FIDE Bled Congress.

Separating out the elements of the Prague Agreement and the responsibility for it is simple:

- First cycle of three matches, proposed by GM Kramnik, approved and accepted.
- 128 Player Double Elimination, proposed by GM Khalifman, approved and accepted.
- Principle of the WC having to defend his title in two matches in the second cycle and for three matches in the third cycle and beyond, proposed by GM Seirawan, approved and accepted.
- Merging the four players of the first cycle with qualifiers from the second cycle double elimination proposed by the WCCC, approved and accepted.

There was a lot of input from many others and I simply kept track of what was approved. I also tried to keep track of the other plans that were floated and for one reason or another rejected.

As we know, giving proper accreditation to players that introduce opening novelties is important in the chess world. By the same token, properly crediting others for their contributions in crafting the Prague Agreement is similarly vital. The title, "Yasser Seirawan's Proposals," is grossly unfair to others.

I hope this is helpful. Cheers, Yasser"

Critical Moment Omitted

Once in a while we receive letters from our readers either criticising certain aspects of Chess Today or suggesting possible improvements. Here is a recent example (the message was received on 17 June) from our reader Ross Aman:

"Dear GM Baburin,

I am writing because I have found many Chess Today analyses less than incisive. Too often they completely omit critical decisions which require – indeed, sometimes, scream for – exegesis. Yesterday's issue contained an example in the Adams–Korchnoi game – to wit. Adams' decision at 19.f5 to offer the e5 pawn and Korchnoi's decision not to take it (remember, this is ***Korchnoi***). I admit that watching live on the ICC, no one could explain this... and when I check your news I see Korchnoi's abstention passed over with no comment.

Yet, after fritzing myself, I found an interesting line where the loose bishop on a4 is the key:

19...♕xe5 20.♕g4! ♕c7 21.♗h6 g6 22.fxg6 fxg6 23.♗xf8 ♗xf8 24.♗xg6 hxg6 25.♕xa4 – not that hard actually...

Not that I blame the analyst for missing this... I blame him for passing this critical juncture over. At least "19...♕xe5 unclear" or "19...♕xe5 interesting" belongs in any analysis of this game. Part of me suspects that he knew it was a critical moment and chose to ignore it due, perhaps, to a deadline.

Again, I stress that this is not an isolated instance but rather typical of the CT product. Ross Amann."

GM Baburin replies: While I can see the point which Ross is making, I find his criticism in this instance too harsh. Let me explain why:

First, the game did not even appear in CT–952 PDF – IM Nikolai Vlassov (who prepared that issue) chose a different game to annotate. Normally in such cases we give other games without comments – very seldom we have issues when several games have comments. And then the comments are not too deep. So, Nikolai added a few lines to the game, but passed on 19.f5 ♗c6 without comment. This is perfectly logical – he was commenting just a few hours after the game was finished, it was already very late in

Moscow and (remember!) he was commenting on an additional game, not his main subject. Should we blame him? I certainly will not!

This message gives me a good chance to talk about game annotations in general. *Chess Today* delivers express analysis and I hope we are good at that! Occasionally we also have some instructional materials, when games are analysed deeper, but the main aim is to deliver latest games with some (decent) notes. We do not pretend to have the same level of insight in the games as in books.

For example, take CT-953 where I annotated the game Svidler-Chernyshov. I probably spent a bit more than an hour on that game. Was my analysis comprehensive? I doubt it – I still don't really know what would happen if Black played 11...♘xd5 or 14...♗e7. But I found probably the most interesting game among many available, gave some insight into a very rare line (1.e4 b6 2.d4 ♗b7 3.♗d3 f5) and provided variations and explanation to what was going on in the game – to certain extend.

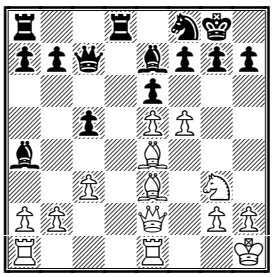
The best annotations are certainly those made by players themselves, particularly when they take time and do proper job. For example, my post today had the latest issue of New in Chess (No. 4 of 2003). I think that NiC is the best magazine in the world and I always look forward to it. In that issue there was an article on the Budapest 2003 tournament (won by Nigel Short) and game Short-Lutz, annotated by the winner. I remember seeing that game in Chess Today and our notes were good. There were also decent notes to that game by IM Stefan Loeffler in the June issue of Chess Monthly. But they fade in comparison with the excellent annotations to that game in NiC by Short himself!

I think it would be very nice to have a discussion forum, where CT readers (many of whom are strong players!) could discuss interesting games and positions. We hope to turn our forum at the Chess Today site into such a place eventually – but we will need your help!

Now to the above-mentioned position, which is indeed interesting:

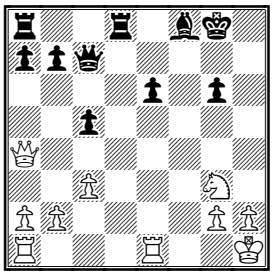
Adams (2723) - Korchnoi (2632)
Enghien-les-Bains, (4), 16.06.2003

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♗d7 4.♘gf3 dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♗c6 6.♗d3 ♗e7 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♘g3 ♘bd7 9.♕e2 0-0 10.♘e5 ♘xe5 11.dxe5 ♕d5 12.f4 ♘d7 13.♖d1 ♕a5 14.c3 ♗a4 15.♖e1 ♖fd8 16.♔h1 ♘f8 17.♗e3 c5 18.♗e4 ♕c7 19.f5!? *(D)*



White offers a pawn, but Korchnoi, who in his younger years was the world's most famous pawn-grabber, declined the offer. He played **19...♗c6** and lost after 20.♗xc6 bxc6 21.♕g4± ♘d7 22.♗f4 ♔h8 23.fxe6 fxe6 24.♕xe6 ♘b6 25.♕g4 ♘d5 26.♘f5 ♗f8 27.♗g3 ♕c8 28.e6 g6 29.♗e5+ ♔g8 30.c4 1–0

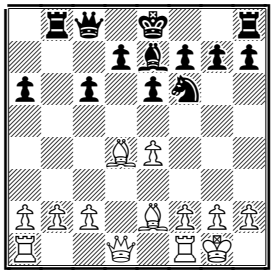
So, why did he not take on e5? After ***19...♕xe5*** White has 20.♕g4!, when he threatens to trap the queen with 21.♗f4 and 22.♘h5. Black must play 20...♕c7 21.♗h6 *(*also possible is *21.♗f4 ♕b6 22.♗e5 g6 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.♖f1)* 21...g6 22.fxg6 fxg6 (the other capture - *22...hxg6* - amounts to the same thing: *23.♗xf8 ♗xf8 24.♗xg6)* 23.♗xf8 ♗xf8 24.♗xg6 hxg6 25.♕xa4 ***(D)*** we come to the position, reached by Ross Amann (and Fritz).



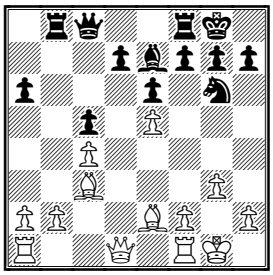
In this position White has an unquestionable advantage, due to a safer king and a better pawn structure. Also his knight will be superb on e4.

Annotated Game

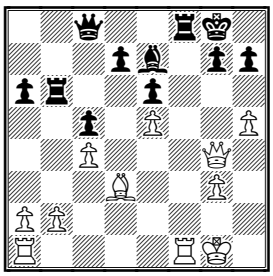
□ B Gelfand (2700)
■ J Polgar (2715)
Event: It Enghien les Bains FRA (7), 20.06.2003 – B49
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e2 ♘f6 7.0-0 a6 8.♗e3 ♗b4
In the Paulsen Variation of the Sicilian, Black has a rich choice for his dark-squared bishop's development. With the text move he puts pressure on e4.
9.♘a4
This way, White avoids spoiling his pawn structure. The e4 pawn is protected indirectly.
9...♗e7
Lately the strong grandmasters prefer this move to the "old-fashioned" 9...0–0. Bad is 9...♘xe4? 10.♘xc6 ♕xc6 *(10...bxc6 11.♕d4)* 11.♘b6 ♖b8 12.♗f3 with a strong initiative for a pawn.
10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♘b6 ♖b8 12.♘xc8 ♕xc8 13.♗d4



13...0-0
13...c5 14.♗e5 ♖b6 1.♕d3 d6 16.♗c3 0–0 has been tested many times also.
14.e5 ♘d5 15.c4 ♘f4 16.g3
Another option is 16.♗f3 ♕c7 17.♖e1 (after the immediate *17.c5 f6 18.exf6 ♗xf6 19.♗xf6 ♖xf6 20.♕d2 a5 21.♖ac1 ♖b4 22.g3 ♘d5 23.♗g2 ♕e5* Black obtained an active position in the recent game Dolmatov – Kurajica, European Ch, Istanbul 2003*)* 17...♘g6 *(17...c5 18.♗c3 d5!?)* 18.c5 f6 19.exf6 ♗xf6 20.♗e4± with a slight advantage to White, Kasparov – Anand, Linares 2002
16...c5!?
In the event of 16...♘xe2+ 17.♕xe2 c5 18.♗c3 f6 19.♖ad1 fxe5 20.♗xe5 ♖b6 21.♖d2 ♗f6 22.♗xf6 ♖xf6 23.♖fd1 ♖f7 24.♖d3 White has a small edge thanks to the pressure along the d-file, Tseshkovsky –Tregubov, Krasnodar 2000.
17.♗c3 ♘g6



The game Ponomariov – Anand, Mainz 2002 went 17...♘h3+ 18.♔g2 ♘g5 19.♕d3 (preventing Ne4) 19...f5 20.♖ad1 ♖b7 21.♗f3!? ♘xf3 22.♕xf3±
18.h4 f6 19.f4 fxe5 20.h5! ♘h8 21.♗xe5 ♖b6?!
More vigorous was 21...d6 22.♗c3 (from the practical standpoint the queen sacrifice *22.♗xd6 ♖d8 23.♗xe7 ♖xd1 24.♖axd1 ♘f7 25.b3* deserves consideration*)* 22...♗f6 23.♕d3 *(23.♗xf6 ♖xf6 24.♕xd6 ♖xb2)* 23...♗xc3 24.♕xc3 ♘f7
22.♗d3 ♘f7
Bad is 22...♗f6? 23.♕c2 h6 24.♗h7+ ♔f7 and the king is out in a field.
23.♕g4
23.♕c2 h6 24.♕e2 was also possible but the threat created by Qg4 is much more frank.
23...♘xe5 24.fxe5



24...♕e8
No time for 24...♖xb2? 25.h6 g6 *(25...g5 26.♕e4+-)* 26.♗xg6+-
25.b3
White has an annoying initiative on the kingside and as usual the opposite colour bishops only strengthen the attack.

25...♖b8 26.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 27.♖f1 ♔h8!

After some insignificant move like 27...a5 White wins by 28.♗g6! ♕d8 *(28...hxg6 29.hxg6; 28...♕e7 29.♖f7)* 29.h6! hxg6 *(29...gxh6 30.♗f7+ ♔h8 31.♕g8#)* 30.♕xg6 ♕e8 31.♖f7! (anyway) 31...♕xf7 32.h7+ ♔h8 33.♕xf7 ♔xh7 34.♕xd7+− The next note shows how significant a6−a5 really is!

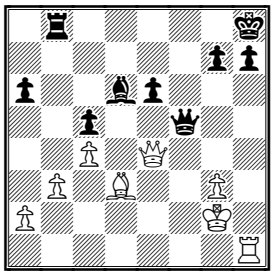
28.♔g2

If 28.♗g6 ♕d8 29.♗xh7 *(29.h6 gxh6 30.♖f7 ♗g7! 31.♗e4 ♕g5)* 29...♔xh7 30.♕g6+ ♔g8 31.h6 ♕a5! and the queen's activity allows Black to save the game as 32.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 33.♕xg7+ ♔e8 34.♕h8+ ♔e7 35.♕f6+ ♔e8 doesn't work.

28...d6

Passive defence is doomed − 28...♗e7 29.♕e4 ♕g8 30.♖f7!

29.♕e4! ♕xh5 30.exd6 ♗xd6 31.♖h1 ♕f5



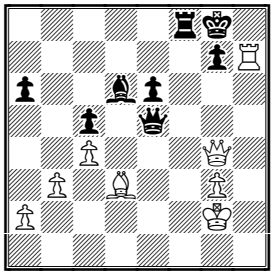
32.♖xh7+! ♔g8!

32...♔xh7? 33.♕f3+−

33.♕e2

Of course Black is ready to play the ending. But Gelfand refuses to cooperate. 33.♖h8+ was parried by 33...♔f7! *(33...♔xh8? 34.♕h4+)*

33...♕e5 34.♕g4 ♖f8?



A decisive mistake. After 34...♖d8 35.♗e4 *(35.♕g6? ♕xg3+! 36.♕xg3 ♗xg3)* 35...♕b2+ 36.♔h3 ♕f6 37.♕h5 ♔f8 Black's position is still defendable.

35.♕g6!

With the crushing idea of Rh8+

35...♖f5

The last chance.

36.♖h2!

36.♗xf5? will not do − 36...♕e2+ 37.♔h3 ♕f1+= 38.♔h4? *(38.♔g4? ♕xf5+ 39.♕xf5 exf5+ 40.♔xf5 ♔xh7−+)* 38...♗e7+ 39.♔h5 ♕h1+ 40.♔g4 exf5+ 41.♕xf5 ♕xh7 and it is White who has to search for a perpetual.

36...♔f8 37.♖h8+ ♔e7 38.♗xf5

Gelfand chooses a solid way. Brighter was 38.♖e8+ ♔d7 39.♖xe6! ♕xe6 40.♗xf5

38...♕e2+ 39.♔h3 ♕f1+ 40.♔h4

40.♔h4 ♕h1+ 41.♗h3 **1−0**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E−mail us − we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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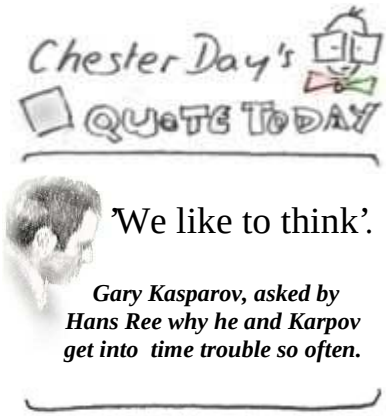
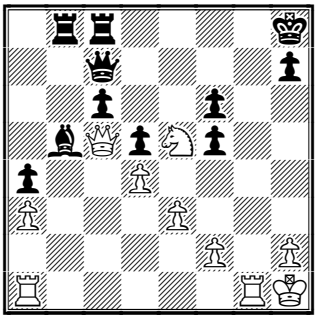


CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-173(957) 22nd June 2003

Chess Quiz

Bauer (2582) – Korchnoi (2632)
Enghien les Bains (8), 21.06.2003



White to play

Chess News

Enghien-les-Bains, France

Yesterday round 8 of the category XVII tournament in Enghien-les-Bains gave the following results:

Bareev-Adams ½-½
Polgar-Radjabov **1-0**
Bauer-Korchnoi **1-0**
Lautier-Gelfand ½-½
Akopian-Fressinet ½-½

The two leaders played solidly and drew rather quickly. Polgar convincingly outplayed Radjabov in the Sveshnikov Sicilian, while Bauer played a nice game in the Catalan against Korchnoi. His pawn sacrifice (28.f5!) was very good.

The game Akopian-Fressinet was very lively. The Armenian sacrificed a piece in the opening. Queens came off and Akopian played a piece down for a long time. He managed to get it back, but was still two pawns down – his escape is a little miracle! See all games in our database.

Standings before the last round:

1. Bareev (RUS 2734) – 6 points;
2. Adams (ENG 2723) – 5½ points;
3. Polgar (HUN 2715) – 5 points;
4. Gelfand (ISR 2700) – 4½ points;
5-6. Bauer (FRA 2582) and Fressinet (FRA 2595) – 4 points;
7-8. Radjabov (AZE 2644) and Lautier (FRA 2666) – 3 points;
9-10. Akopian (ARM 2703) and Korchnoi (SUI 2632) – 2½ points.

Pairings of round 9:

Korchnoi-Bareev
Gelfand – Bauer
Radjabov – Lautier
Fressinet – Polgar
Adams – Akopian

Adams will surely press with White against Akopian, but Vladimir has a good score against Michael, whom he knocked out in Las Vegas in 1999.

Korchnoi always plays to win, setting a great example to follow for younger players. Oddly, he and Bareev met last time in 1998!

It is going to be an interesting round today, though I dare to predict that the winning trio and their positions will remain unchanged.

Chess Festival in Voronezh

The 7th Voronezh International Chess Festival concluded yesterday in Russia. Final Standings in the Open:

1-2. GMs Valentin Arbakov (2380) and Alexander Riazantsev (2534) – 7 points out of 9;

3-11 GMs Popov (2570) and Amonatov (2558), IMs Ulko (2446), Skorchenko (2430), Alavkin (2482), Hasangatin (2517), Zakhartsov (2515), Kokarev (2483) and Sambuev (2484) – 6½ points, etc.

Despite his low (***very*** low for GM!) rating, Valentin Arbakov is a well-

known player, particularly in Russia, where his blitz-playing abilities are legendary. Together with a deceptive appearance (a kind of slow guy), it makes him a very dangerous hustler. I remember when in 1989 GM Cvitan (himself a very strong blitz player!) complained to one of the Russian players at the Budapest Spring Chess Festival that he had been cleaned out by some unknown Russian Candidate Master called Rybakov. A little check revealed that mysterious Mr Rybakov and Moscow blitz king Master Arbakov were one and the same person! ☺

Arbakov's tournament results have been poor lately mainly due to the fact that (as we say in Russia) he is not an enemy of the bottle!

The Dutch Club Ch Play-offs

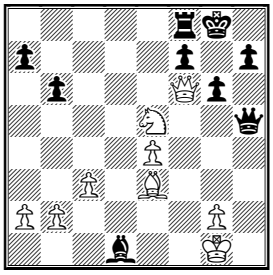
The Play-offs of the Dutch Club Championship are in progress this weekend. In the first round Elo-favourite club ***ZZICT*** (Breda) beat ***Zukertort Amstelveen*** 6-4, despite GM Loek van Wely and IM Jan Gustafsson losing their games on boards 1 and 4 respectively.

In the other match ***HSG*** (Hilversum), is winning 5-3 against ING/ESGOO (Enschede).

Strange Behaviour of Fritz 8

A while ago I received the following e-mail from our reader in Germany Afsin Toparlak:

"Hi Alex! I may be very interesting for other Chess Today readers to know about the following position from my game played in the Hamburger Stadtliga:



Just analyse this position with Fritz 8 of Chess Base! You will see, that Fritz 8 shows checkmate in 6, then 7, then 8, then 9, etc... (number of the moves increasing constantly, if you let it analyse and wait some time and observe the results...). This is a very ***strange*** behaviour!

I reported the problem to Chess Base some weeks ago, but still there is no technical feedback...

Best regards to Dublin from Hamburg, Afsin."

I analysed this position in Chess Base 8, with two engines running – Fritz 5.32 and Fritz 8. Fritz 5.32 quickly came up with the correct answer – this is checkmate in 5 moves: **1.♘g4 ♕xg4 2.♗h6 ♕xg2+ 3.♔xg2 ♗f3+ 4.♔xf3 and 5. ♕g7#.**

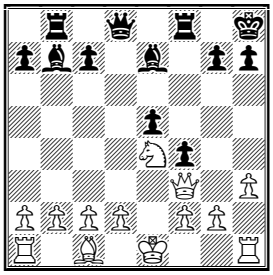
Oddly, Fritz 8 claimed that with **1.♘g4** it was checkmate in 7, then in 8 and then in 9 moves. Indeed, this is weird – does anyone know the answer?

That Weird Silicon Mind

A few days ago our editor Graham Brown e-mailed the following game to other people in Chess Today:

G. Brown – S J Pullinger
[A00] Norfolk vs. Gloucestershire

1.h3 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘ge2 e5 5.♘g3 ♘c6 6.♗b5 ♗e7 7.♗xc6+ bxc6 8.♕e2 0-0 9.♘cxe4 ♘xe4 10.♘xe4 f5 11.♘c3 f4 12.♕c4+ ♔h8 13.♕xc6 ♖b8 14.♕f3 ♗b7 15.♘e4 *(D)*



Black to play – can you see the move that the computer considers best?

This is what Graham had to say: "Here's a bit of fun for you guys... See if you can find the move my opponent should have played according to Fritz! Clue, a great reply to the cheeky 1.h3!"

In the game Black played **15...♘xe4** and eventually drew the game. Having used Fritz for a long time, I rather quickly guessed that it would favour **15...♘a3!?** This is a pure computer shot! Black targets the b2-pawn, while 16.bxa3 will be met with 16...Qd4!. Still, White should be OK after 16.b3! (not so good is 16.bxa3 ♕d4 17.c3 ♕xe4+ 18.♕xe4 ♘xe4 19.f3 ♘d3∓ or 16.♕xa3 ♘xe4) 16...♕d4 17.c3 ♕xe4+ 18.♕xe4 ♘xe4 19.♘xa3=.

Ralph Marconi and I suggested ***15...♕d4*** as a better move. Indeed, after 16.d3 c5 17.0–0 c4 Black stands better despite being a pawn down.

However, Graham liked the computer idea, as you can see from his message:

"Dear Alex and Ralph,
I feel you may be right that ♕d4 is a better move, but I would like ...♘a3 to be the best move! But probably taking the knight was wrong! Why lose the pin? I think an article on computer chess would be very interesting."

You can read about that game and some other interesting stuff at the Stroud Chess Club website. As Graham wrote about the site: "There is an interesting game from an old friend of mine, Ken McEwan, in which he managed to draw with Michael Adams by holding on for 115 moves! I was watching the whole game and it was exhausting for the spectators!"

I too think that an article on beautiful, interesting or just weird computer moves would be interesting. I remember that when I worked with Alexander Morozevich, he was often fascinated by the discoveries made by his silicon friend – some of them truly astonishing! I wish I had recorded them...

Perhaps we should even start a new column – ***Play Like a Computer!***

I invite you to send in your contributions! As for me, I have seen many interesting computer moves and will have my first example for that column tomorrow – stay tuned!

Solution to our Quiz

Bauer-Korchnoi: **32.♕d6! 1-0**
Black is checkmated after both 32...♕xd6 33.♘f7# and 32...fxe5 33.♕f6+ ♕g7 34.♕xg7#.

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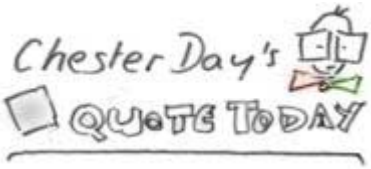

"A good sacrifice is not one that is necessarily sound, but leaves your opponent dazed and confused."

R Spielmann

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The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-174(958) 23 June 2003

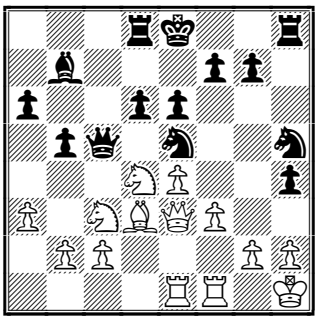
GM Alex Baburin's

Weekend Chesswatch

It is another weekend and again I am preparing Chess Today. As I often do, today I would like to break away from our pattern of having one annotated game – instead I'll show many tactical positions and continue the theme of beautiful/weird computer moves in chess – hope you will enjoy this issue!

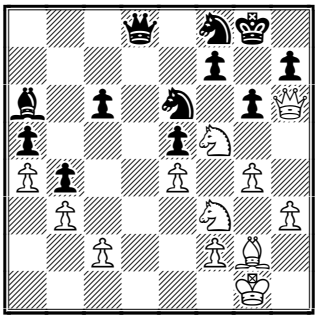
Chess Quiz

Mariani – Zichichi
Italian Ch, Sottomarina, 1970



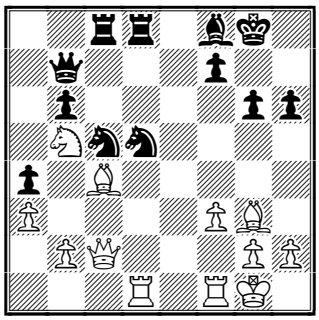
Black to play

Zichichi (2350) – Hort (2605)
Venice 1971



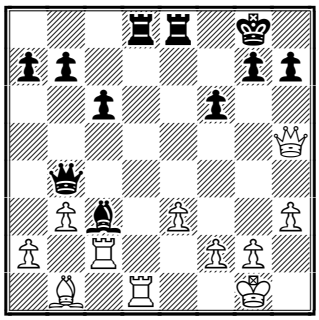
White to play

Zichichi (2385) – Spassky (2605)
Reggio Emilia 1983



White to play

Zichichi (2277) – Shabanov (2458)
Senior World Ch, Arco 2001



White to play

Chess News

Enghien-les-Bains, France

The Category XVII tournament concluded in Enghien-les-Bains yesterday. There was only one decisive game in the last round – Boris Gelfand beat Christian Bauer, to catch up with Judith Polgar and finish joint third. Though there were 4 draws, only one of them (Radjabov–Lautier) was a peaceful affair, others were real fights – see the games in our database.

Results of the last round:
Korchnoi-Bareev ½-½
Gelfand – Bauer 1-0
Radjabov – Lautier ½-½
Fressinet – Polgar ½-½
Adams – Akopian ½-½

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Final Standings:

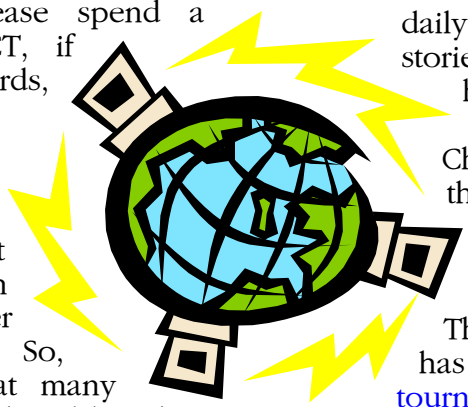
1. Bareev (RUS 2734) – 6½ points;
2. Adams (ENG 2723) – 6 points;
3–4. Polgar (HUN 2715) and Gelfand (ISR 2700) – 5½ points;

5. Fressinet (FRA 2595) – 4½ points;
6. Bauer (FRA 2582) – 4 points;
7–8. Radjabov (AZE 2644) and Lautier (FRA 2666) – 3½ points;
9–10. Akopian (ARM 2703) and Korchnoi (SUI 2632) – 3 points.

IM Alvise Zichichi (1938–2003)

On Sunday we received the following message from our reader in Italy, Davide Cortese, Editor of IdeaScacchi:

"Dear GM Baburin, Yesterday the Italian Chess Federation announced the loss of IM Alvise Zichichi, former president of the Italian Federation and chess enthusiast. Please spend a word for him in CT, if possible. Best regards, Davide Cortese."



I did not know Mr Zichichi, but we, chess players have that advantage that we can learn about each other from our games. So, yesterday I looked at many games in Mega 2003 played by Alvise Zichichi and put some of them into our database. Also, you can see samples of his play in our quiz today.

IM Zichichi was obviously not too keen on opening theory (he preferred obscure lines), but he possessed a sharp eye when it came to attacking the enemy king. A pawn storm on the kingside seemed to be his favourite plan. And he managed to beat such great players as Gligoric, Spassky and Hort – a very good player's business card! I recommend you to study his games; my personal favourite is the game Zichichi–Gousseinov, 2002.

The ZZICT club wins the Dutch Team Championship

The Play-offs of the Dutch Club Championships took place last weekend. Two teams clearly stood out, but their clash on Sunday was surprisingly one-sided:

HSG (Hilversum) – ZZICT (Breda) **2–8**
1 Seirawan – van Wely 0–1
2 Nikolic – I. Sokolov 0–1
3 Ljubojevic–Timman 1/2
4 Nijboer – van den Doel 1/2
5 van der Sterren – Gurevich 0–1
6 Stellwagen–Gustafsson 0–1
7 De Vreugt – Chuchelov 1/2
8 Vedder–Blees 1/2
9 Pliester – van der Wiel 0–1
10 Zagema–Delemarre 0–1

Web Watch

The Chess Base website is fast becoming one of the most interesting Web chess resources. It is updated daily and has lots of good stories. The latest include the heavy boxers' fight in Los Angeles. Both the Champion Lennox Lewis and the Challenger Vitaly Klitschko claimed to be keen chess players!

The Chess Base website also has a pretty detailed tournament calendar and numerous links to Anand's opinions of the world of chess, given to various Indian newspapers. Don't forget, Anand has been voted sportsmen of 2002 in India. He is hugely popular in that country – I could see that during my two visits to India: it was hard to open a newspaper without seeing his photo! Not that I mind...

Apparently, Vishy is unhappy with the current situation in the professional chess, which he calls 'a mess'. But he believes that things will get better in a year or so.

Book Review

Recently we received a book review from one of our readers in Greece – Sotiris Logothetis. He shared his impressions of the book 'Anti-Sicilians: A Guide For Black' by GM Dorian Rogozenko. Since it was a lengthy piece, we publish it on the Grandmaster Square site – you can read the review there.

Black is OK!

On Saturday we posted an interesting article by GM Andras Adorjan on the Grandmaster Square site. I welcome CT readers to visit the site and read the article. Moreover, GM Adorjan wants to hear from you – about your personal views and experiences. This is what he had to say in an e-mail a while ago:

"Dear Alex, I hope the readers will be 'brave' and express their opinion about my thesis Black is OK! I always forget to add to the little questionnaire that apart from the concrete answers, I am interested - maybe it's the most exciting part - of the players' personal experience, records, and whatever they are willing to tell about themselves.

The problem is that weaker players often do not feel the right to form an opinion. It is a misunderstanding on their part. First of all, just like in the chessboard anybody may find an excellent move. Even incidentally! Second, everybody is different, and so are the impressions, emotions, that work together with the professional knowledge. I'm not trying to be polite. But who's to tell who is weak or strong by an absolute measure? And compared to whom?

I remember very well 1971, when I played the IBM GM Tournament as a young qualifier IM. In parallel Fischer met Larsen in the match. Smyslov, Portisch, Uhlmann and quite a few top GMs of the IBM field got regular updates on that match. And I could see in their faces not envy, but confusion – they were shaken. The question that nobody verbalized was: why do we play chess, when this genius puts us into shame? So much for the relativity of being weak or strong!

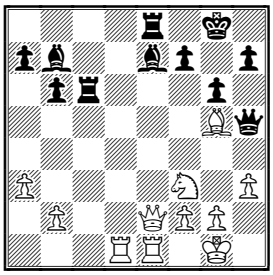
I'm not willing to convince everybody at any price about 'my truth'. I do believe in what I say, but I still prefer to learn ***the truth*** of chess. Therefore nobody who is expressing a different or opposite opinion is considered to be a 'bad guy'. I don't think there are good or bad answers, for we all wondering and searching in the darkness. Any opinion is welcome, but unless somebody goes expressively following his/her feelings, reasoning makes our dispute a hell lot more objective and maybe fruitful.

I thank you again, thanks for sending Chess Today for so long, I'm glad I can do something in return for you and for the readership. Very best wishes, András"

Play Like Computer!

In the previous CT issue I promised a position with a beautiful computer move. I found that position when I was working on *Winning Pawn Structures*.

de la Villa – Sion
Leon, 1995 (***variation***)



White to play

Here White has a big advantage, but it is not easy to convert it into a full point – 24.♘xe7 will be adequately met with 24...♖e6.

However, White has two winning lines. I will tell you one, but the other (computer!) move you have to find on your own!

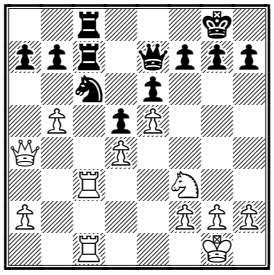
One of the winning lines is **24.♕xe7! ♖xe7 25.♖xe7 h6 26.♗e3+−**. Can you see another winning continuation?

Our reader from UK – a well-known chess translator Ken Neat, yesterday sent us the following message:

"Dear Alex, I enjoy starting my mornings with Chess Today!

Regarding your invitation to send in examples of unusual computer moves, I thought you might be interested in the following position from a club game I played a few years ago.

NN – Neat

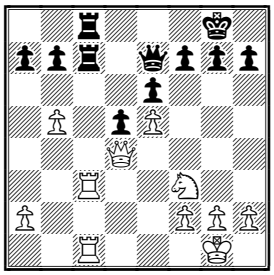


Black to play

Here I played **21...♘xe5** and after 22.♖xc7 ♖xc7 23.♖xc7 ♕xc7 managed to win, but only because White went wrong with 24.♘e1 (instead of 24.♘d2).

Analysing the position later with Fritz, I was surprised to find it suggesting **21...♘xd4!**.

OK, this is clearly better for Black after 22.♖xc7 ♖xc7 23.♖xc7 ♕xc7, but can't White simply play **22.♕xd4***(D)*?



Black to play

No, then comes **22...♕a3!!**, winning a rook, since 23.♖xc7 allows the devastating 'X-ray' 23...♕xc1+! with a back rank mate!

Kind regards, Ken"

I hope that other Chess Today readers will send us interesting positions too!

Solutions to our Quiz

Mariani – Zichichi: **19...♘g3+! 20.hxg3 hxg3+ 21.♔g1 ♘c4 0-1**
White resigned in view of 22.♗xc4 ♖h1+ 23.♔xh1 ♕h5+ 24.♔g1 ♕h2#.

Zichichi-Hort: **27.♕g7+!! ♘xg7 28.♘h6+ ♔h8 29.♘xf7+ ♔g8 30.♘xd8 c5 31.♘xe5+−** and White eventually won.

Zichichi–Spassky: **31.♘d6!+− ♗xd6 32.♗xd5 ♘e6 33.♗xb7 ♖xc2 34.♗xd6 ♖xb2 35.♖f2 ♖xf2 36.♔xf2 ♘g7 37.♖d2 1-0**

Zichichi-Shabanov: **27.♖d7! 1-0**

'Play Like Computer': **24.♕f1!!** – I could not believe my eyes when I saw this move on the monitor. Obviously, humans are programmed to place their queens on open files, etc. With this move White creates two deadly threats: 25.♖xe7 and 25.g4!, winning the enemy queen.

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com **Website**: http://www.chesstoday.net/

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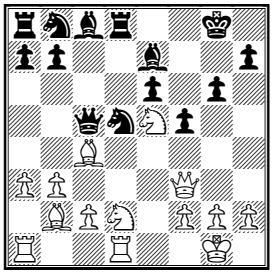
CT-175(959) 24th June 2003

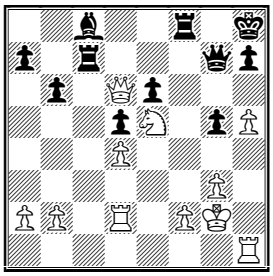
Chess Quiz

Lakos (2342) – Tóth (2149)
Hungary Women Ch, Budapest 2003



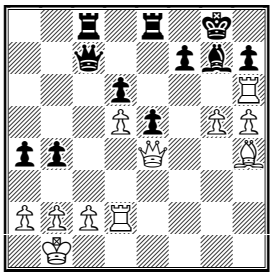
White to play

Medvegy (2385) – Rudolf (2136)
Hungary Women Ch, Budapest 2003



White to play

Schneider (2424) – Allemann (2254)
23.06.2003



Black to play; how should he defend?

Chess News

by GM Alex Baburin

World u/20 Championships

The World Junior Championships are taking place in Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan. There are 50 participants including 7 GM and 13 IM in the boys' section and 28 (including 2 WGMs and 2 WIMs) in the girls' section. Players come from 29 countries. As usual there are no prizes except for Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals and a place in the FIDE World Championships. Perhaps the winners will also get 1-2 invitations to closed tournaments. Therefore, nowadays the best juniors often avoid playing in the Championship. For example, Ruslan Ponomariov and Alexander Grischuk are 19 years old still, but it makes little sense for them (and for other young top GMs) to play there. Anyway, while the boys' section is pretty strong still, the girls' championship is far from the strongest possible field.

Boys play 13 rounds and girls play 11. As the number of days for the event is the same, this means that boys have to play double rounds twice during the tournament.

Boys' section, round 3 standings:
1. Ganguly (IND) – 3 points; **2-8.** Chandran (IND), Kritz (GER), Zubov (UKR), Sadykov (KAZ), Dziuba (POL), K. Guseinov (AZE), Hanley (ENG) – 2½ points, etc.

Girls' section, round 3 standings:
1-5. Sergeeva (KAZ), Dzagnidze (GEO), Calotescu (ROM), Dronavalli (IND) and Zeinab Mamedjarova (AZE) – 2 points, etc.

European Junior Championships

Meanwhile Chess Today received information about the European Junior (under 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18) Championships of 2003, which will take place on 12-23 September in Budva, Montenegro. The organisers announced 30,000 euro in special prizes.

GM Tournament in Paris

Chess Club NAO is hosting category VIII closed tournament in Paris. The average rating there is 2443 and GM-

norm is 6½ points out of 9.

Standings after 4 rounds:
1. IM Belaiche (FRA 2425) – 3½ pts;
2–3. GM J. Horvath (HUN 2507) and Maze (FRA 2418) – 3 points;
4–5. GMs Schekachev (RUS 2592) and Kr. Georgiev (BUL 2516) – 2½ pts;
6. Onkoud (MAR 2326) – 1½ points;
7–10. IM Brochet (FRA 2392), GM Chabanon (FRA 2492), Vachier (FRA 2382) and Nguyen (FRA 2383) – 1 pt.

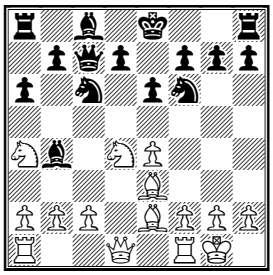
Hungarian Womens' Championships

My friend in Hungary Mikhail Vrona sent me a link to the on-going Hungarian Womens' Championships. Most know that Hungary's team, led by Leko and Polgar, does very well at Chess Olympiads. Many would also know about GMs Zoltan Almasi and Peter Acs, or, if we move back in time, about such great as GMs Lajos Portisch, Andras Adorjan and Zoltan Ribli. And then there are the Polgars! However, even not counting them, Hungarian women are very good at chess – for example, Ildiko Madl played very well alongside the Polgars and now a new generation of young players is rising to the top of Hungarian womens' chess.

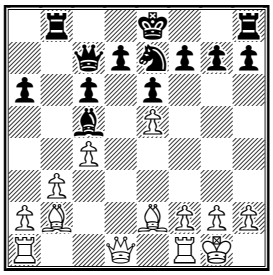
Standings after 3 rounds:
1. Yelena Dembo – 3 points;
2–3. Nikoletta Lakos and Dr. Nora Medvegy – 2½ points;
4. Tícia Gara – 2 points, etc (10 players).
My money would be on WGM Yelena Dembo (2402) – not only she is one of the Elo-favourites, but also a Chess Today reader! ☺ Women often play more enterprising chess than men, so we included all available games from Budapest in our database.

Annotated Games

□ **S Ganguly (IND) (2542)**
■ **D Mastrovasilis (GRE) (2456)**
Event: Boys' World u/20 Championships (3), 23.06.2003 B49
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e2 a6 7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♗e3 ♗b4 9.♘a4!?



A well-studied line of the Paulsen Sicilian. Usually Black gets a slightly worse but solid position. Further on, you can find other recent examples of using this line at the top level.
9...♗e7 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♘b6 ♖b8 12.♘xc8 ♕xc8 13.e5
This pawn has to block Black's central pawn majority, 13.♗d4 0–0 14.e5 ♘d5 15.c4 ♘f4 16.g3 c5 17.♗c3 ♘g6 18.h4 f6 19.f4 fxe5 20.h5 ♘h8 21.♗xe5 ♖b6 22.♗d3 1–0 Gelfand,B-Polgar,J/It, Enghien les Bains FRA 2003 (40)
13...♘d5 14.♗c1
14.♗d4 0–0 15.c4 ♘f4 16.g3 c5 17.♗c3 ♘h3+ 18.♔g2 ♘g5 19.♕d3 f5 20.♖ad1 ♖b7∞ ½–½ Ponomariov,R-Anand,V/Mainz 2002/CBM 91 (81)
14...♗c5 15.c4 ♘e7 16.b3 ♕c7 17.♗b2

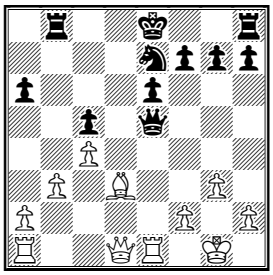


17...d6
The e5 pawn is too unpleasant – Black has to exchange it.
18.exd6 ♗xd6 19.g3 ♗e5 20.♗xe5 ♕xe5 21.♖e1
21.♗f3 c5 *(21...♖d8 22.♕e1 ♕f5 23.♗e4 ♕c5 24.♕c3 ♖d4 25.♖ad1 e5 26.♖xd4 exd4 27.♕d3 f5 28.♗g2 0–0 29.f4±* 1–0 Gufeld,E-Vasiukov,E/Vilnius 1975/MCL (41)*)* 22.♕d2 ♕c7 23.♗e4 ½–½ Areshchenko,A-Fominyh,A/St Petersburg 2002/EXT 2003 (23); 21.♗d3 ♖d8 22.♕c2 c5 23.♗e4 h6 24.♖fe1 ♕c7 25.b4 0–0 26.b5 a5 27.♖ad1 ♘c8 28.♕c3 a4 ½–½ Klovans,J-Galkin,A/Biel 2000/CBM 77 ext (28)

21...c5

21...♕c5 22.♕d3 0–0 23.♖ed1 ♖fe8 24.♖d2 ♕a5 25.♖ad1 c5 26.♗f3 g6 27.♗e4 ♘f5 28.♗xf5 exf5 29.♔g2± 1–0 Hossain,E–Haba,P/Bled 2002/EXT 2003 (58)

22.♗d3!?N



Only this move is a novelty. 22.♗h5!? ♕c7 23.♖xe6 g6 24.♖xa6 gxh5 25.♕xh5 0–0 26.♖h6 ♘g6 27.♖xh7 ♕e5 28.♕xe5 ♘xe5 29.♖h5 f6 30.f4 ♘f3+ 31.♔g2 ♘d4 32.♖xc5 ♖a8 33.♖f1 ♖xa2+ 34.♖f2 ♖xf2+ 35.♔xf2 ♖e8 36.♖d5 ♘xb3 37.♔f3 ♔f7 38.♔g4 ♖h8 39.h4 ½–½ Pierrot,F–Vescovi,G/Buenos Aires 2000/CBM 79 (39)

22...♕d6

The queen attacks the d3 bishop. In case of 22...♕c7 23.♕h5± White prevents Black from castling and gains an advantage.

23.♗e4

23.♗c2?! ♕xd1 24.♖axd1 ♘c6 25.♖d6 ♘b4 26.♗b1 ♔e7=

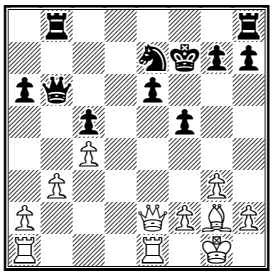
23...♕c7

An endgame is rather unpleasant for Black: 23...♕xd1 24.♖axd1 ♖d8 25.♗f3! 0–0 *(25...♘g6 26.♖d5! ♖xd5 27.cxd5 ♔e7 28.dxe6 fxe6 29.♗g4±)* 26.♖xd8 ♖xd8 27.♖e5 ♖d2 *(27...♖c8 28.♗b7 ♖c7 29.♗xa6+–)* 28.♖xc5 ♖xa2 29.♖c7 ♔f8 30.♖a7!?±; Interesting was 23...♖d8 24.♕h5!? *(24.♕xd6 ♖xd6 25.♖ad1 ♔d7!)*

24.♕c2 f5?!

I don't like this move – Black, who is behind in development, weakens his king. To my mind better was 24...g6!?; but not 24...♘g6 25.h4!?

25.♗g2 ♔f7 26.♕e2 ♕b6



26...♖b6 27.♖ad1 ♘g6 *(27...♖d8 28.♕h5+ ♔g8 29.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 30.♖e5!?±)*

27.b4!

It looks like a decisive blow.

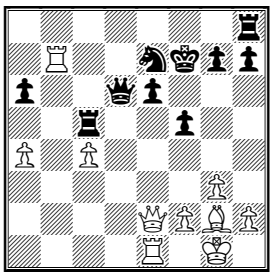
27...♖bc8

27...cxb4 28.c5 ♕xc5 29.♕xe6+ ♔f8 30.♖ac1+–; 27...♖hc8 28.bxc5 ♖xc5 29.♖ab1+–

28.a4 ♘g6

28...cxb4 29.a5 ♕c7 *(29...♕d6 30.♖ad1)* 30.♕xe6+ ♔f8 31.♖ad1+–

29.bxc5 ♖xc5 30.♖ab1 ♕d6 31.♖b7+ ♘e7



And a simple but nice final blow: 31...♔f6 32.♕b2+ e5 *(32...♘e5 33.f4+–; 32...♔g5 33.f4++–)* 33.♖b6+–

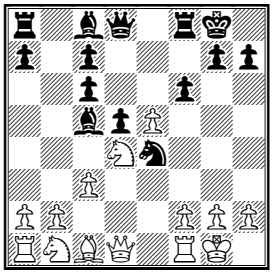
32.♗d5! 1–0

□ **M Verot (FRA) (2077)**
■ **Z Mamedjarova (AZE) (2312)**

Event: Girls' World u/20 Championships 22.06.2003 C54

Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky –

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5 7.♗b5 ♘e4 8.♘xd4 0–0 9.♗xc6 bxc6 10.0–0 f6



This old-fashion variation has been known for more than 150 years, for example: 10...♕e7 11.♗e3 ♗b7 12.f3 ♘d6 13.♗f4 ♘c4 14.♕e2 ♖fe8 15.♖e1 ♗a6 16.♘d2 ♘xd2 17.♕xd2 ♖ab8 1–0 Cochrane,J–Staunton,H/London 1842/EXT 99 (38) etc.

11.b4?

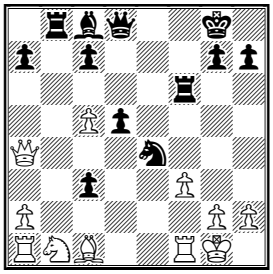
This move is bad, and this isn't a secret. So this game hasn't any theoretical importance, but take a look

and enjoy the energy of Black's play! 11.e6?! ♗xd4 12.cxd4 ♗xe6 13.♘d2 ♖e8 14.♘b3 a5 15.a4 ♕b8 16.f3 ♘d6 17.♘c5 ♗f7∓ 0–1 Boutteville,C–Larsen,B/Le Havre 1966/EXT 98 (38); 11.♗e3 ♗d7 12.f3 fxe5 13.fxe4 exd4 14.cxd4 ♖xf1+ 15.♕xf1 ♗e7 16.♘c3 ♗e6∞ 0–1 Hautot,S–Winants,L/Brussels 1998/EXT 2000 (37)

11...fxe5 12.bxc5 exd4 13.♕a4

Queen takes control over the a6-square. 13.♕xd4 ♗a6 14.c4 ♗xc4 15.♗b2 ♕d7 16.♖c1 ♖xf2 17.♖xc4 ♖xb2 18.♖c1 ♖xg2+ 19.♔xg2 ♕g4+ 0:1 Verdu – Medina, Alicante 1978

13...dxc3 14.♕xc6 ♖b8 15.f3 ♖f6 16.♕a4



16...♖b2!!

I like this move very much though my comp prefers the pragmatic 16...♗a6 17.♖d1 ♘xc5 which was very good also.

17.♕d4

17.fxe4 ♖xf1+ 18.♔xf1 ♕f8+ 19.♔e1 ♕f2+ 20.♔d1 ♕e2#; 17.♗xb2 cxb2–+

17...♖g6

All the Black pieces take part in a direct attack.

18.♗xb2

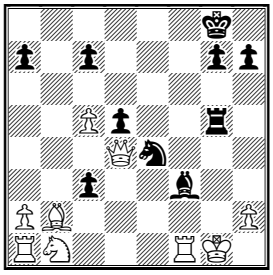
18.♔h1 ♖bxg2 19.fxe4 ♖xh2+! 20.♔xh2 ♕h4#

18...♕g5 19.g4

19.g3 ♘xg3–+

19...♗xg4! 20.f4 ♗f3+! 0–1

And White resigned in view of20...♗f3+ 21.fxg5 ♖xg5#



Solutions to our Quiz

Lakos–Tóth: **17.♘e4! ♕c7** (17...fxe4? 18.♕f7+ ♔h8 19.♘xg6#) **18.♘c3! ♕xe5?!** (also bad is 18...♘xc3 19.♕xc3, but more stubborn was 18...♘f6 19.♘b5 ♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1 ♕b6 21.♕g3 ♘e4 *(21...♔g7 22.♘xg6 hxg6 23.♘c7)* 22.♘xg6! ♘xg3 23.♘xe7+ ♔f7 24.♘xc8 ♕c5 25.hxg3+–) **19.♘xd5 ♕xb2 20.♘xe7+ ♔f7 21.♘xc8 ♘c6 22.♖xd8 ♕xa1+ 23.♖d1 1–0**

Medvegy–Rudolf: **38.♘g6+! hxg6 39.hxg6+ ♔g8 40.♖h7 ♕xh7 41.gxh7+ ♖xh7 42.♖c2 ♖hf7 43.f3 ♔g7 44.♖c7 ♖xc7 45.♕xc7+ ♔g6 46.♕xa7 ♖f7 47.♕b8 ♗b7 48.♕e8 ♔f6 49.♕d8+ ♔f5 50.g4+ ♔g6 51.♕xb6 ♔f6 52.♕d6 1–0**

Schneider–Allemann:

32...♗xh6? The g7-bishop was too important in defence to exchange it even for a rook. After the correct ***32...♕c4!*** 33.♕xh7+ ♔f8 34.♗e1 ♕f1 35.♖d1 b3 Black would have very strong counter-play, while now he is lost: **33.gxh6 f5 34.♕xf5 ♕f7 35.♗f6 ♔f8 36.♖g2 ♕xd5 37.♗e7+ ♔xe7 38.♖g7+ 1–0**

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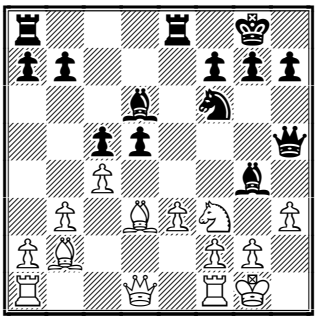
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-176(960) 25th June 2003

Chess Quiz

Tóth (2149) – Vajda (2403)
Hungarian Women Ch, Budapest 2003



Black to play

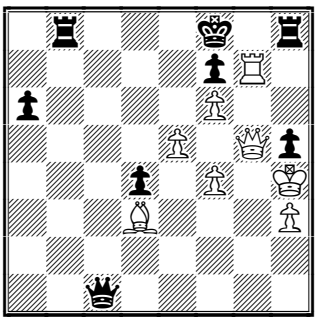
Chess News

Juniors vs. Computers Match

by GM Mikhail Golubev

A rapid chess match between six Ukrainian juniors and six computer programs took place in Kiev on 20-21 June. The juniors lost the match with a score 10½-25½. Among them the youngest GM in the world Sergey Karjakin played with the most confidence, scoring 3 points out of 6. He won against Deep Fritz and Shredder 7, lost against Fritz 5.32 and Fritz 6, and drew his games vs. Fritz 7 and Fritz 8.

Karjakin – Deep Fritz
Kiev, 21.06.2003



White to play

You can find all games from the match in our database.

GM Tournament in Paris

www.nao-cc.com/naocc/index.htmlebsite

M. Vachier A. Shchekachev ½-½
A. Bellaïche K. Georgiev ½-½
C.M. Nguyen S. Maze ½-½
J.L. Chabanon J. Horvath 0-1
P. Brochet A. Onkoud 0-1

Standings after 4 rounds:

IM Belaiche (FRA 2425) – 4
GM J. Horvath (HUN 2507) 4
Maze (FRA 2418) – 3½ points;
GM Schekachev (RUS 2592) 3
Kr. Georgiev (BUL 2516) – 3 pts;
Onkoud (MAR 2326) – 2½ points;
Nguyen (FRA 2383) – 1½
Vachier (FRA 2382) 1½
IM Brochet (FRA 2392) 1
GM Chabanon (FRA 2492) 1

Hungarian Womens' Championship

www.chess.hu/hu/hwch03.php3

Standings after 4 rounds:

1. Yelena Dembo – 4 points;
2-3. Nikoletta Lakos and Dr. Nora Medvegy – 3 points;

Web Watch

by GM Alex Baburin

Chess & Books with Fred Wilson

This show goes on air every Wednesday at Chess FM. The new schedule is as follows:
5:00pm EST Chess & Books – Replay;
7:00pm EST Chess & Books – Replay;
9:00pm EST Chess & Books – Live;
11:00pm ET Replay of Live Show;

Fred's next guest, on Wednesday, June 25th, is the well-known chess coach Senior Life Master Tag. M. Taghian, who tied for 2nd in the 1997 New York State Championship with GM Rohde, and has won many tournaments at the Manhattan Chess Club. He is also the producer of the

hugely successful video "Chess for Children" (sold by USCF). He is the personal trainer of Adam Maltese, who has won 5 national scholastic championships!

Tag was also the manager of the Manhattan Chess Club in 1994-2001 and will discuss its lamented demise. For more info about Tag and his chess classes for both children and adults go to his excellent website.

Bullet Tournaments on ICC

One of the most popular groups on ICC now (second largest after the USA group) is the bullet group, where people play in tournaments with one or two minutes per game each. According to the group coordinator Krikor Mekhitarian, every month over 200 players take part in their tournaments. If you like adrenalin rush, check it out – channel 21 on ICC!

New E-mail Chess Server

Those interested in playing chess via e-mail might like to check out a new free email chess server. It has chat rooms and forum and, according to Mr. Donato Lombardi, the president of World Chess Email, several GM and IM members.

Chess Visualisation Training

There are already hundreds of chess websites, covering all imaginable angles: from shops to composition. A new site called Chess Visualisation Training started recently. The site is free and according to its owner, Jan Matthies from Hamburg, it is about the fact that people tend to loose "sight" when calculating the moves in their heads. So, he created the site where you can master the art of visualisation.

Special Chess Sets

You might have heard about the talking George Bush doll, but now there's the George Bush Chess Piece as well! A small Florida-based Company has launched the world's first customisable chess set! Players can their own chess sets online, selecting who they want on their side and who they don't! Custom-carved character chess pieces include George Bush as a King, Osama Bin Laden as a Rook, and Arafat on horseback as a knight...among others. The range is being rapidly expanded to allow collectors and players alike to define the scene for the chess battle ahead!

ChessWatch comes to ICC website

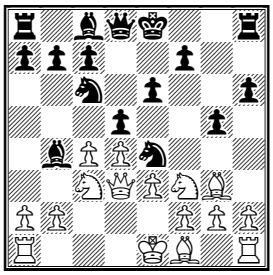
As already mentioned before, my column is not unique and there are similar Web reviews online. For example, The ChessWatch – chess news column by Gene Venable – has joined the ICC website. Gene is also Chess Today reader and he would like to receive your feedback at geneven@chessclub.com

Annotated Games

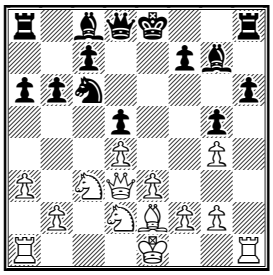
□ **E Bareev**
■ **N Vlassov**
[A50] TWO Knights Tango
15min 13final CCC (5), 26.11.1989
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 ♘c6 3.♘f3 e6 4.♘c3 ♗b4 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 g5 7.♗g3 ♘e4 8.♕d3

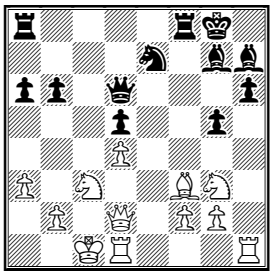
The usual continuation is 8.♕c2. Here are some examples that give an idea of this interesting variation: 8...d5 9.e3 h5 10.♗d3 (10.cxd5 exd5 11.♗d3 ♗f5 12.♘d2 h4 13.♗e5 f6 14.♘dxe4 dxe4 15.♗xe4 ♗xe4 16.♕xe4 fxe5 17.d5 ♗xc3+ 18.bxc3 ♘e7 19.♕xe5 ♖g8 20.e4 ♕d6 21.♕d4 c6 22.c4 ♕b4+ 23.♔e2 c5 24.a3 ♕b3 25.♕xc5 ♕c2+ 26.♔e3 ♖c8 27.♕b5+ ♔f7 28.♖hc1 ♘f5+ 29.♔f3 g4+ 0–1 Bortkun-Vlassov, Polanica Zdroj 1993) 10...h4 11.♗e5 f6 12.♗xe4 dxe4 13.♕xe4 ♗xc3+ 14.bxc3 fxe5 15.♕g6+ ♔f8 16.♘xg5 ♕e7 17.0–0 ♕g7 18.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 19.f4 exf4 20.♖xf4 e5 21.♖f2 ♔g6 22.♘f3 ♗g4 Karpik-Vlassov, Czestochowa 1993.
8...d5 9.e3 *(D)*



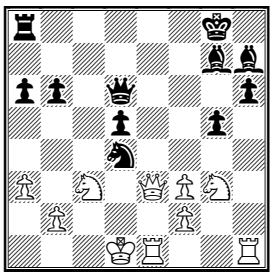
9...b6?!
A pretentious experiment. Before and after this game I played 9...h5!∓, with excellent chances for Black.
10.cxd5 exd5 11.♘d2 ♘xg3 12.hxg3 a6
Otherwise White would move his queen to b5.
13.a3 ♗f8
Now we can review Black's opening play. Four tempi were spent on ♗f8–b4–f8, b6, a6. The advanced pawns on the kingside do not enrich his position either. Bareev chooses an academic way of turning his advantage into a win – pressure on the weak squares.
14.♗e2 ♗g7 15.g4 *(D)*



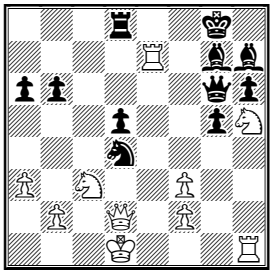
After I noticed the serious threat of the knight's transfer to g3, it dawned on me what I had to do:
15...0–0! 16.♘f1 f5!
White's three last moves were just a waste of time and the position has become equal.
17.gxf5 ♗xf5 18.♕d1 ♕d6 19.♘g3 ♘e7 20.♕d2 c5 21.0–0–0 cxd4 22.exd4 ♗h7!
After long castling, White needs to keep this bishop for the attack.
23.♗f3 *(D)*



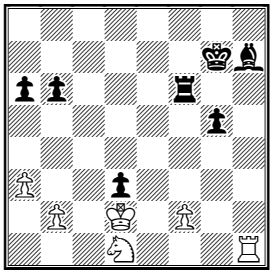
The black knight has a burning desire to capture the b3-square. And, to tell the truth, it is not too far away from doing so!
23...♖xf3!?
Not worse is also 23...g4!? with the same idea. 24.♗xg4 ♘c6∓
24.gxf3 ♘c6 25.♕e3 ♘a5 26.♖de1 ♘b3+ 27.♔d1 ♘xd4 *(D)*



Black's position is almost winning. But Bareev is known for his tenacity in defence.
28.♘h5 ♕g6! 29.♕d2 ♖d8?!
Suffering from lack of time and quick wits, I did not figure out the decisive 29...♕f7!–+.
30.♖e7 *(D)*



30...♘xf3?!
The more composed 30...♗h8! is also stronger here because it preserves the threats.
31.♖xg7+ ♕xg7 32.♘xg7 ♘xd2 33.♘e6 ♖d6 34.♘xg5 hxg5
White had better retain his knight. 34...d4!? 35.♘e2 d3 36.♘c3 ♘c4∓.
35.♔xd2 d4 36.♘e2 d3 37.♘c3 ♖f6 38.♘d1 ♔g7 *(D)*

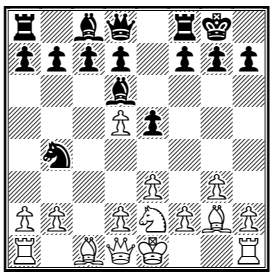


Further struggle went on with the flags hanging. I took the right decision to

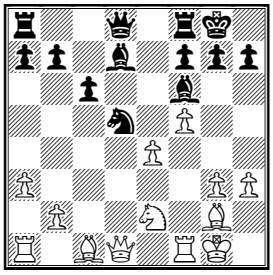
play for the time but while putting my plan into action I lost all my pieces. As a result the game was drawn and its eventful ending was not preserved. **39.♖e1 ♔f7 40.♖e5 ♖e6 41.♖xe6 ♔xe6 42.♘c3 ♔e5 43.♔e3 ♗g6 44.♘a4 b5 45.♘c5 a5 46.♘b3 a4 47.♘d4 ♔d5 48.♘f3 ♔c4 49.♘d2+ ♔d5 50.♘f3 ♔c4 51.♘d2+ ♔c5 52.♘f3 g4 53.♘e5 ♗f5 54.♔f4 ♗h7 ½–½**

□ **E Bareev**
■ **N Vlassov**
[A29] English Opening
Blitz KC CCC, 09.01.2001
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

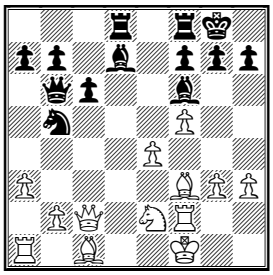
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 e5 4.♗g2 ♗b4 5.♘d5 ♗d6 6.e3 0–0 7.♘e2 ♘xd5N
7...♖e8 8.0–0 ♗f8 9.d4 d6 10.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 11.d5 ♘b8 12.e4 a5 13.♗e3 ♘d7 14.a3 h5 15.b4 h4 as in Chuprov–Pugachov, Kurgan 1994.
8.cxd5 ♘b4 *(D)*



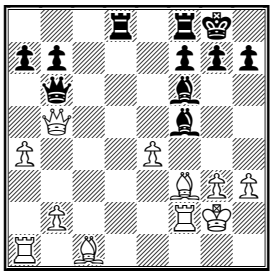
9.d4 c6! 10.dxc6 dxc6 11.0–0 ♗g4 12.a3 ♘d5 13.dxe5 ♗xe5 14.h3 ♗e6
Black can be happy with the results of the opening, his pieces are developed pretty well and occupy the centre. White is striving to drive Black's minor pieces away with his pawns.
15.f4!? ♗f6 16.f5 ♗d7 17.e4 *(D)*



17...♕b6+!? 18.♖f2?!
As the game showed, this was not a good decision. More appropriate is 18.♔h2 ♘e3! (18...♘c7? 19.e5! ♗xe5 20.♕xd7 ♖ad8 21.♕e7 ♖fe8 22.♕h4+) 19.♗xe3 ♕xe3 20.♖f3 ♕xe4 21.♖d3 ♕xf5 22.♖xd7 ♖ad8 23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 24.♕b3 ♕f2 25.♘f4 ♕xb2= White has a knight for three pawns. A draw is a very likely outcome.
18...♘c7 19.♔f1?!
19.♕xd7?! ♖ad8 20.♗e3 ♖xd7 21.♗xb6 axb6∓; 19.e5?! ♗e7! 20.♕xd7 ♗c5∓; 19.a4!? ♖ad8 20.♗f4 ♘a6 21.♕c2 with complicated struggle.
19...♖ad8 20.♕c2 ♘b5 21.♗f3 *(D)*



21...c5 22.a4 ♘d4 23.♘xd4 cxd4
White has not managed to finish his development yet.
24.♔g2?!
It was necessary to block the pawn: 24.♕d3 ♖c8∓.
24...d3!? 25.♕xd3 ♗xf5 26.♕b5? *(D)*



This is a blunder that game me a chance of putting an end to this uneasy struggle at once. More stubborn is 26.♗e3!? ♖xd3 27.♗xb6 ♗xh3+ 28.♔xh3 axb6, where White has every prospect for a draw due to the opposite coloured bishops.
26...♗xh3+! 0–1

Solutions to our Quiz

Tóth– Vajda: **17...♗xh3!–+ 18.gxh3 ♕xh3 19.cxd5 ♘g4 20.♖b1 ♗h2+**
20...♖xe3! 21.fxe3 ♗h2+ 22.♔h1 ♗f4+ 23.♔g1 ♗xe3+ 24.♖f2 ♗xf2#
21.♔h1 ♗e5+ 22.♔g1 ♗xb2 23.♗f5 (23.♖xb2 ♖e5–+) **23...♗e5**

24.♗xg4 ♕xg4+ 25.♔h1 ♕h3+ 26.♔g1 ♗d6 27.♖c1 ♖e4 28.♖c4 ♖ae8 0-1

Karjakin - Deep Fritz: **49.♖xf7+! ♔e8** (49...♔xf7 50.♕g7+ ♔e6 51.♕e7+ ♔d5 52.♕d6#) **50.♖e7+ ♔d8 51.e6+- ♕e1+ 52.♕g3 ♕xg3+ 53.♔xg3 ♖h6 54.♖d7+ ♔e8 55.f7+ ♔f8 56.f5 ♔g7 57.♔f4 ♔f6 58.♗c4 ♖hh8 59.e7 ♖he8 60.fxe8♕ 1-0**

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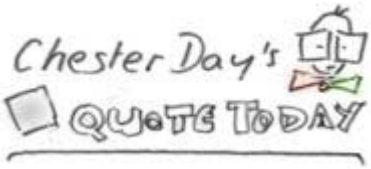

*It is **not enough** to be a good player; you must also **play well** -*
Siegbert Tarrasch

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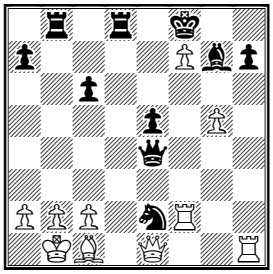
CT-177 (961) 26th June 2003

Quiz Today

Magesh (2419) – Gashimov (2579)
World Junior Ch, Azerbaijan 2003



Black to play

Chess News

World u/20 Championships

In the World Junior Championships in Azerbaijan after 6 rounds one of the local players is leading the field:

Boys' section, after 6 rounds:
1. GM Kadir Guseinov (AZE 2505) – 5 points
2–6. GM Ganguly (2542), IM Zubov (2494), GM Mamedyarov (2607), GM Izoria (2569), GM Gashimov (2579) – 4½ points, etc.

Boys from Azerbaijan are very strong – just think Radjabov! But even in his absence the hosts have a good chance to win gold in the boys' section. It is curious that the average rating of the Azerbaijani men's team was below 18 in Bled last year!

Girls' section, after 4 rounds:

1. WIM Nana Dzagnidze (GEO 2376) – 4 points
2. WFM Harika Dronavalli (IND 2294) – 3½ points
3. Cristina Calotescu (ROM 2334) – 3 points, etc.

You can download games here, but unfortunately the database is of poor quality (country is given in the name field, etc).

Cat VIII Tournament in Paris

Chess Club NAO is hosting a category VIII closed tournament in Paris. The average rating there is 2443 and GM-norm is 6½ points out of 9.

Standings after 6 rounds:

1. GM J. Horvath (HUN 2507) – 5 pts
2. Maze (FRA 2418) – 4½ points
3–4. IM Belaiche (FRA 2425) and GM Schekachev (RUS 2592) – 4 pts, etc.

Hungarian Women's Championship

After 5 rounds in the Hungarian Women's Championship our reader WGM Yelena Dembo is still on a prefect score and we wish her to keep it up!

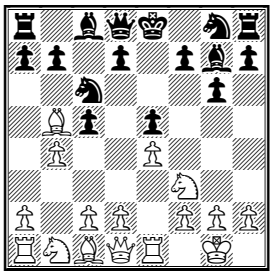
Standings after 5 rounds:
1. WGM Yelena Dembo (2402) – 5 points
2. WGM Nora Medvegy (2385) – 4 points, etc.

Annotated Game

Van Wely's loss to a player whose rating was 360 points lower than his own was one of the biggest sensations of the Dutch Club Championship.

□ **M. Okkes (2305)**
■ **L. van Wely (2675)**
Event: *Dutch Club Ch, Enschede, 21.06.2003*
Sicilian Defence variation [B31]
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.♖e1 e5 6.b4!? *(D)*



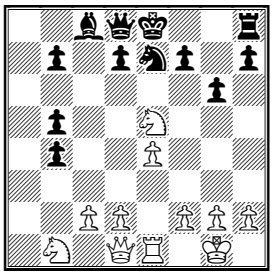
This is an attempt to take advantage of the Black's set-up, as with ...e5 Black blocked his own g7-bishop.

6...♘xb4 7.♗b2 a6

Any try to protect the e5-pawn can be sufficiently met: 7...f6 8.c3 ♘c6 9.d4 or 7...♕c7 8.c3 ♘c6 9.d4, with compensation for the pawn in both cases.

8.a3 axb5 9.axb4 ♖xa1 10.♗xa1

Two black pawns are under attack and one of them is falling. **10...cxb4 11.♗xe5 ♗xe5 12.♘xe5 ♘e7 *(D)***



13.d3N

This is a novelty. Also deserving serious consideration is ***13.♘g4!?***. Previously White tried here ***13.d4*** 0–0 14.d5 d6 15.♘d3 f5 16.f3 fxe4 17.fxe4 g5 18.♘xb4 ♕b6+ 19.♔h1 ♘g6 20.♘d2 ♘e5 21.♘f3 ♘xf3 22.gxf3 ♕f2 23.♖f1 ♕h4 24.♘d3 ♗h3 25.♖g1 ♖f6 26.♕e2 ♖g6 27.♕f2 ♕xf2 Alexandria-Borisenko, Gori 1969.

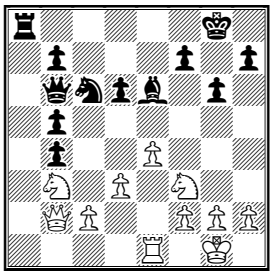
13...0-0

Formally Black is a pawn up, but if you count all b-pawns as one, then White is a pawn up! ☺ The truth is somewhere in the middle – there is an equality on the board.

14.♘d2 d6 15.♘ef3 ♗e6

It was easier to equalise by playing 15...♗g4 16.♕a1 ♗xf3 17.♘xf3 ♘c6=, but Van Wely, of course, was playing for a win.

16.♕a1 ♘c6 17.♕b2 ♕b6 18.♘b3 ♖a8 *(D)*



19.h4!

White is beginning to attack the enemy king.

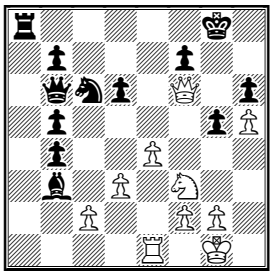
19...h6

Better was 19...♗xb3 20.cxb3 ♕c5 21.♖c1 ♖a2 22.♖xc5 ♖xb2 23.♖xb5=.

20.h5 g5

Here it was safer to play 20...gxh5 21.♕f6 ♔h7.

21.♕f6 ♗xb3? *(D)*



Correct was 21...♔h7 22.♘fd4 ♕d8 23.♕xd8 ♖xd8 24.♘xb5 ♗g4, with roughly equal chances in a complicated endgame.

22.cxb3

White could have tried to punish Black for his carelessness with 22.♕xh6!? ♗e6 *(22...g4 23.♕g5+ ♔f8 24.h6! ♕d8 25.♕xg4 ♗e6 26.♕f4±)* 23.♘xg5 ♕d4 24.♘xe6 fxe6 25.♕xe6+±. Despite of the fact that the direct win is not in sight yet, White's pawns look much more dangerous than the black knight.

22...g4

The position is not clearly equal after 22...♖a2, for instance, 23.♖f1 g4 24.♘h2 g3 25.♘g4 ♘e5 26.♘xh6+ ♔h7 27.d4 ♕xd4 28.♘g4 ♖xf2 29.♘xf2 gxf2+ 30.♕xf2 ♕xe4±.

23.♘h2?!

With this move White almost missed a win, which was close after 23.♘g5! ♘e5 *(23...hxg5 24.h6+-)* 24.♖e3! and Black faces serious difficulties in the defence: 24...♖a1+ 25.♔h2 ♖a2 26.♔g3 ♖xf2 27.♕xf2 hxg5 28.♖e2 ♕xf2+ 29.♖xf2 ♘xd3 30.♖d2 ♘c5 31.♖d4!+-.

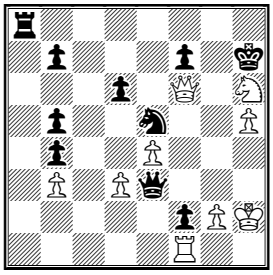
23...g3 24.♘g4 gxf2+ 25.♔h2!

Obviously, White counted on this beautiful move when he played 23.♘h2. However, if Black played correctly here, he would have escaped.

25...♘e5

Not 25...fxe1♕? in view of 26.♘xh6+ ♔h7 27.♕xf7+ ♔h8 28.♕f6+ ♔h7 29.♕g6+ ♔h8 30.♘f7#.

26.♘xh6+ ♔h7 27.♖f1 ♕e3 *(D)*



28.d4!

White finds a possibility to maintain the attack that was about to stop.

28...♕xd4 29.♖xf2 ♖a1?

Black slips up! 29...♕xe4 does not help either because of 30.♖f4! (but not 30.♕g5? ♖f8 31.♖f6 ♕e2=) 30...♕e2 31.♕g5+−. However, after 29...♖g8 30.♖f4 ♖f8 31.♕g7+ ♔xg7 32.♘f5+ ♔f6 33.♘xd4+ ♔e7 34.♘xb5± Black's position is a bit worse, but he still has chances to draw it.

30.♕f4! ♕d1??

Also bad is ***30...♖h1+*** 31.♔xh1 ♕d1+ 32.♔h2 ♕xh5+ 33.♔g3 ♕xh6 34.♕xh6+ ♔xh6 35.♖f6+ ♔g7 36.♖xd6+−. But much better was ***30...♕c5***! 31.♘f5 ♕c1 32.♘xd6 ♕h1+ (32...♕xf4+ 33.♖xf4±) 33.♔g3 ♕xh5 34.♘xf7 ♘xf7 (there are also some problems after 34...♘g6 35.♕g4 ♕xg4+ 36.♔xg4 ♖a3 37.♔h5!±) 35.♕xf7+ ♕xf7 36.♖xf7+ ♔g6 37.♖xb7 ♖a3 38.♖xb5 ♖xb3+ 39.♔f4. The arisen rook endgame is either winning or leads to a draw. Unfortunately, I am not an expert in it and don't have a handbook at hand (this endgame looks drawn to me – ***Alex Baburin***). 39...♖b1 40.♖b6+ ♔f7 41.♔f5 ♖f1+ 42.♔e5 ♖g1 43.♖b7+ ♔g6 44.♖xb4 ♖xg2. ***Alex Baburin***: I believe this position is an easy draw; Black could also have played a bit better.

31.♕g5!+−

It now appears that there is no satisfactory protection from checkmating threats here. Black should have kept his rook on the 8th rank. **31...f6 32.♕g8+ ♔xh6 33.♕h8+ ♔g5 34.♕xf6+ 1−0**

Solution to Quiz Today

Magesh−Gashimov: **30...♖d1! 31.♕a5 ♖xb2+ 32.♔xb2 ♕d4+ 33.c3 ♘xc3 34.♔b3 ♕xf2 35.♗a3+ ♔xf7 36.♕c7+ ♔g8 37.♖xd1 ♘xd1 38.♕d8+ ♗f8 0−1**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353−1) 278−2276. Fax/phone: (353−1) 283−6839.E−mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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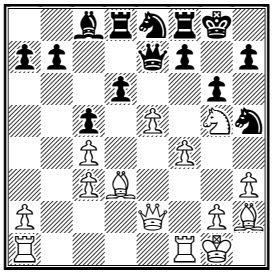
Quiz Today

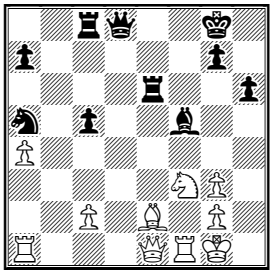
1. M. Tosic (2461) – D. Popadic (2240)
TCh-Serbia & Montenegro Budva YUG, 18.05.2003



white to play

2. N. Sedlak (2524) – M. Drasko (2491)
TCh-Serbia & Montenegro Budva YUG, 18.05.2003

Is it possible to take on c2?



Black to play

Chess News

The Dutch Championships has started. I couldn't find any link to the official site yet but I saw the results on ICC and I'd like to share it with you.

Round 1 results:
Ernst – Van Wely ½:½
Van der Wiel – Stellwagen 0:1
Van den Doel – Nijboer ½:½
Tiviakov – Janssen 1:0
Delemarre – l'Ami ½:½

The World Junior Championships

In the 7th round 6 top games ended in a draw so the standings remained unchanged.

Round 7 standings:
1. Guseinov – 5½
2-6. Izoria, Mamedyarov, Zubov, Ganguly, Gashimov – 5, etc.

In the Girls' section Nana Dzagnidze of Georgia retains perfect score.

Round 5 standings:
1. Dzagnidze – 5
2-7. Harika, Mamedyarova, Sachdev, Karavade, Ismailova, Khudaverdieva – 3½, etc.

The Hungarian Women's Championship

In round 6 Dr. Nora Medvegy beat Yelena Dembo. Now they share the lead with 5 points out of 6.

The 2nd NAO Chess Club GM Tournament

Round 7 standings:
1-3. Bellanche, Maze, Horvath – 5
4. Shchekachev – 4½
5. Kr. Georgiev – 3½
6. Onkoud – 3

7-8. Nguyen, Chabanon – 2½
9-10. Brochet, Vachier Lagrave – 2

The Annotated game is taken from the 1st round of this event. I found it astonishing and GMs Sutovsky and Rustemov to a greater or lesser extent shared my opinion.

Annotated Game

□ **M. Vachier Lagrave (2382)**
■ **K. Georgiev (2516)**
Event: *2nd NAO GM Paris FRA (1), 20.06.2003*
Sicilian Defence ***[B80]***

Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 ♘f6 4.♘c3

cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♗d7

A severe theoretician would say this move is not precise. The place for the queen's knight is certainly c6 while the bishop can wait.

6.g3

The aforementioned theoretician considers the Sicilian fianchetto to be rather harmless for Black but practice sometimes differs from the "scientific" conclusions.

6...♘c6

With the knight already at c6 and the bishop still at c8 Black could have thought about ♗g4. Now it's senseless.

7.♗g2 e6 8.♘de2

A usual way to make a fool out of Black's light-squared bishop. Black planned the exchange on d4 followed by ♗c6. On the other hand the drawback of this move is obvious - the knight has left the active central position. 8.♘db5 doesn't give much in view of 8...♕b8 9.♗f4 ♘e5 and after a7-a6 the knight would have to retreat.

8...♖c8

An interesting strategy: Black isn't in hurry to develop the kingside.

9.0-0 ♘e5 10.h3

10.♘d4 deserves attention as the position has changed a bit. The primitive ♘c6 doesn't lead to moves repetition - it will be met by ♘db5.

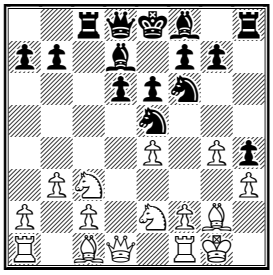
10...h5!

The beginning of a great adventure.

11.b3

White gradually prepares the e3 square for his bishop but Black has his own plans as well.

11...h4 12.g4 (D)



12...♘fxg4!

Surely White foresaw this blow.

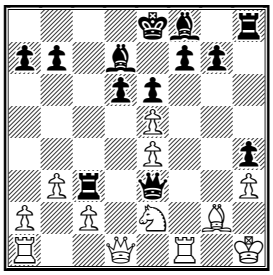
13.f4!

Both knights are attacked by the pawns! Bad is 13.hxg4? h3 14.♗h1 ♕h4! (far less accurate is *14...h2+ 15.♔g2 ♕h4 16.f3)* and if 15.f3 ♖xc3! 16.♔h2□ ♖c8 winning a pawn with the superior position.

13...♕b6+ 14.♔h1 ♘e3!

An unclear position would arise after 14...♘f2+ 15.♖xf2 ♕xf2 16.fxe5 dxe5 17.♕d3 In the middle-game White's numerous minor pieces could have turned into a real force.

15.♗xe3 ♕xe3 16.fxe5 ♖xc3 (D)



17.♖f3!?

It's hard to say whether this move is better than 17.♘xc3 ♕xc3 18.♕f3 *(18.exd6 ♕e5* with the threats along the b8-h2 diagonal*)* 18...♕xf3 19.♖xf3 dxe5 Black has comfortable play in the ending. Nevertheless it's not easy for him to advance the pawns as it would open the lines for the White pieces.

17...♕xf3

This sacrifice is forced but it's the queen sacrifice anyway!

18.♗xf3 ♖xf3 19.♕d4!

Trying to ensnare the black rook. [In the event of 19.exd6 ♖xh3+ 20.♔g2 ♖e3 White loses the e4-pawn ; as well as after 19.♔g2 ♖e3

19...♗c6!

19...♖xh3+? loses to 20.♔g2; if 19...dxe5 then the white queen makes a pirouette 20.♕xa7 ♗c6 21.♕b8+ ♔e7 22.♕xe5 capturing the e5-pawn with profit.

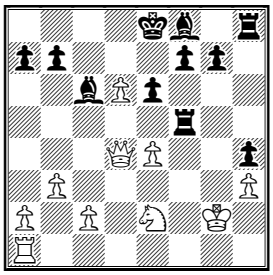
20.♔g2

Perhaps better is 20.exd6 e.g. 20...f5 (of course this move isn't necessary; Black can play *20...♔d7∞)* 21.d7+! ♔d8 22.♖d1 ♗xe4 23.♔h2 ♗d5! 24.♕e5 ♖f2+ 25.♔g1 ♗c5 26.♘d4! *(26.♕b8+ ♔xd7 27.♕xh8 ♖xe2+ 28.♔f1 ♖xc2 29.♕xg7+ ♔c6∓)* 26...♖g2+ 27.♔f1 ♔xd7 28.♘xe6! ♖g1+ 29.♔e2 ♖g2+ 30.♔d3 ♖g3+ 31.♔d2 ♗xe6 32.♕xc5 Though still sharp the position is favourable for White.]

20...♖f5

Look at this wanderer! 20...dxe5 was possible but most likely Georgiev didn't want his king to be disturbed after 21.♕xe5 ♖f5 22.♕b8+

21.exd6 (D)



21...♖h6

Here comes another one! Black takes the initiative.

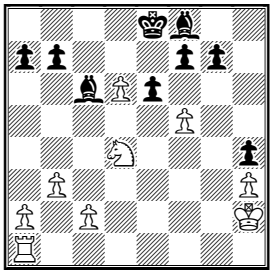
22.♔h2 ♖g6 23.exf5

From the practical standpoint better was 23.♘c3 leaving the opponent the choice among several tempting continuations. For example 23...♗xd6+ gives only a draw *(23...♔d7;* or *23...♖fg5 24.♖d1 ♖g2+ 25.♔h1 ♔d7* with a complicated position*)* 24.♕xd6 ♖f2+ 25.♔h1 ♖f3 26.♕b8+ ♔e7 27.♕c7+ ♔f6 28.♕d8+ ♔e5 29.♔h2 and the queen is going to take on h4 while 29...♖xc3?? loses to 30.♕a5+ ♔d4 31.♕b4+

23...♖g2+ 24.♔h1 ♖g6+

(yes, the draw is guaranteed)

25.♔h2 ♖g2+ 26.♔h1 ♖g4+ 27.♔h2 ♖xd4 28.♘xd4 (D)



Another hero is gone but the battle is going on.

28...♗xd6+ 29.♔g1 ♗c5 30.c3 e5 31.♖e1

Everything is tied up.

31...f6 32.♔f1 ♗d7

The forcing play is over and White relaxes

33.b4?!

Stronger is 33.♔g2 planning ♘f3xh4.

33...♗b6 34.♘e6? g6

A pleasant alternative was 34...♗xe6 35.fxe6 ♔e7 36.a4 ♔xe6 37.a5 ♗c7 and the black pawns are hard to stop.

35.c4 gxf5 36.c5?

Missing the last chance. The rook and the knight together could offer some resistance though after 36.♘f4 ♔f7 the assessment of the ending is clear.

36...♗xe6 37.cxb6 axb6 38.a4 f4 39.♔f2 ♔e7

The rest needs no comments but is pleasant to observe.

40.a5 bxa5 41.bxa5 ♔d6 42.♖b1 ♗d5 43.♖b6+ ♗c6 44.a6 bxa6 45.♖xa6 e4 46.♖a5 ♗d5 47.♖a7 ♔e5 48.♖a4

Or 48.♖h7 e3+ 49.♔e2 ♔e4 50.♖xh4 *(50.♖e7+ ♔d4)* 50...♗c4+ 51.♔e1 f5 52.♔d1 ♗d3 53.♔e1 ♔e5

48...f5 49.♖a7 f3 50.♖h7 f4 51.♖e7+ ♔d4 52.♖d7 e3+ 53.♔f1 ♔e5

53...♔e5 54.♖c7 ♗e4 55.♖d7 ♗f5

0-1.

Solutions to Quiz Today

1. M. Tosic (2461) - D. Popadic (2240)

19.♘xh7! ♘xf4 20.♗xf4 ♔xh7 21.♕h5+ ♔g8 22.♗g5! ♕xe5 [22...gxh5 23.♗xe7] **23.♗xg6! fxg6 24.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 25.♖f1+ ♗f5** [25...♔g8 26.♕xg6+ ♕g7 27.♕xg7+ ♘xg7 28.♗xd8] **26.♕xg6 1-0.**

2. N. Sedlak (2524) - M. Drasko (2491)

28...♗xc2?? 29.♗c4! 1-0.

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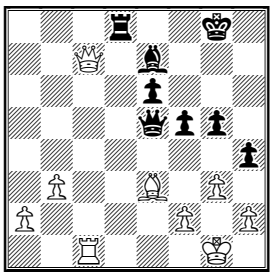
CT-179 (963) 28th June 2003

It is another weekend and again I would like to offer you numerous tests, as well as a new book review and many interesting positions – enjoy your weekend with *Chess Today*!

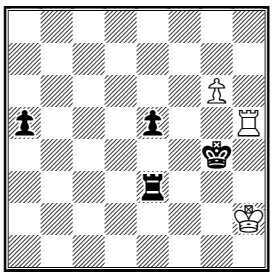
Chess Quiz – Tactics

Agaeva (2107) – Sachdev (2245)
W Jun Girls Nakhchivan, 26.06.2003



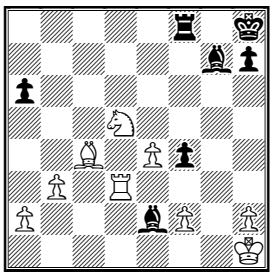
Black to play

Geirnaert (2289) – Rohit (2357)
W Junior Ch, Nakhchivan, 26.06.2003



Black to play. *White has just played 53.g6!? – what is going on?*

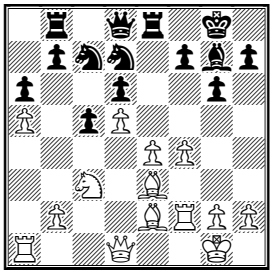
Medvegy (2385) – Dembo (2402)
Hungarian Women Ch, Budapest, 2003



White to play – what is the best way to stop Black's counter-play?

Chess Quiz – Positional Play

Mamedjarova – Calotescu
W Jun Girls Nakhchivan, 26.06.2003



White to play

This is not about finding a checkmate in 8 or winning a piece with a clever trick – it is about general knowledge and pattern recognition. Spend 10-15 minutes here and decide what would you play (and why!) for White. The answer is in this issue, along with two additional examples of this theme.

Chess News

The Category VIII closed tournament in Paris, organised by Chess Club NAO, is coming to its conclusion this weekend.

Results of round 8:
Schekachev-Maze ½:½
J. Horvath – Kr. Georgiev ½:½
Onkoud-Bellanche 1-0
Vachier-Nguyen 1-0
Brochet-Chabanon ½:½

Standings before the last round:

1-2. Maze (FRA 2418) and GM J. Horvath (HUN 2507) – 5½ pts;
3-4. IM Belaiche (FRA 2425) and GM Schekachev (RUS 2592) – 5 points; etc.

The GM-norm in this tournament is 6½ points, so by losing in round 8, IM Bellanche spoilt good chances to achieve it. But Sebastien Maze still has a chance to get the norm – if he beats, in the last round, his co-leader GM Joseph Horvath!

This issue is prepared by GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Hungarian Women Championship

In round 6 WGM Dr. Nóra Medvegy beat the leader Yelena Dembo and caught up with her. Both leaders drew their games in round 7. See games from rounds 6 and 7 in our database.

Standings after 7 rounds:

1–2. WGMs Nóra Medvegy (2385) and Yelena Dembo (2402) – 5½ points; 3–4. WGMs Tícia Gara and Szidónia Vajda – 4½ points; etc.

The Dutch Championships

The Dutch men and women Championships are in progress in Leeuwarden. In the men's tournament after 2 rounds 16-year old Daniel Stellwagen is leading with 2 points. Personally, I think FIDE should not allow people under 21 to play in ***any*** tournaments other than junior – life would be so much better then! ☺

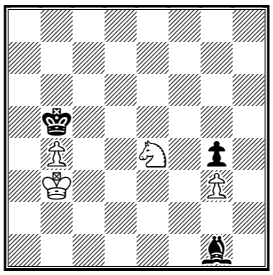
Maybe we should have a vote and turn it into a law from the next FIDE Congress?! Gens is certainly Una Sumus, but it almost makes me cry to see that half of the players at the World Junior Championships are higher rated then me! If you feel the way I do, let's write to Kirsan! ☺

Standings after 2 rounds:

1. IM Daniel Stellwagen (2467) – 2 pts; 2–3. GMs Loek van Wely (2675) and Sergei Tiviakov (2623) – 1½ points;

Here is a curious game from round 1:

Tiviakov – Janssen
Dutch Ch, Leeuwarden, 26.06.2003



Black to play

I don't really see how White can win this position, if Black does nothing. If White attacks the g-pawn, then his own g-pawn will fall. But moving White's king to the kingside will endanger the b-pawn. This is one of those positions where the defender should follow a simple strategy: ***'Do nothing, but do it well!'***. Alas, in the game Black did 'something': **55...♗h2?? 56.♘c3+ ♔c6 57.♘e2 ♔b5 58.♔c3 ♔b6 59.♔c4 ♔c6 60.b5+ ♔b6 61.♔b4 ♔b7 62.♔a5 ♔a7 63.b6+ ♔b7 64.♔b5 ♔b8 65.♔a6 1–0**

World under 20 Championships

Friday was a rest day at the World Junior Championships in Azerbaijan, so we can only remind you that GM Kadir Guseinov (AZE 2505) is leading the boys' section with 5½ points out of 7, while WIM Nana Dzagnidze (GEO 2376) was clear first with 5 points out of 5. Games can be downloaded from the tournament site, but we recommend downloading them from TWIC, where the database seems to be properly edited. We included round 7 (boys) and 5 (girls) in our database.

Letters to the Editor

In the column *Play Like Computer* in CT-958 I published an interesting game from my book *Winning Pawn Structures*. It seems that unexpected computer decisions are of interest to many readers, as I keep receiving replies to that material. Among them there was the following message from our US reader WGM Anjelina Belakovskaia:

"Hi, Alex!
Thanks for the Chess Quiz in *CT-958*. I did not see games of Mr. Zichichi before, so it was nice to be introduced to his chess. It is just sad that the reason was his death.

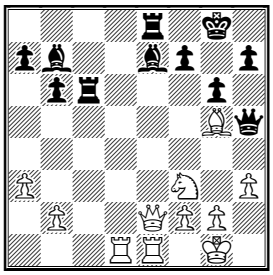
Meanwhile, in my opinion the position from 'Play Like Computer' should include a third solution as well –

1.♖d8!. If you like, you can call it *Play Like Women* – this is the solution that came into my mind. Regards, Anjelina"

At *Chess Today* we are always happy to receive your feedback, as well as your own examples of brilliant (or silly!) computer play. Today I would like to show that position again – with three solutions (in fact, Fritz 8 found some other winning moves too, but this is not the point).

de la Villa – Sion

Leon, 1995; Variation from the game



In this position White has at least three winning moves:

24.♕f1! This is an amazing computer move – it took me a while to understand the logic behind it! White protects the h3 pawn (!), which enables him to play g2–g4, winning the queen. Meanwhile the e7–bishop is attacked too.

24.♕xe7! – this is the move I found during my analysis. It's brutal and it works: 24...♖xe7 25.♖xe7 h6 (or 25...♗a6 26.♖d8+ ♔g7 27.♖ee8) 26.♗e3+–.

24.♖d8! – clever move suggested by WGM Belakovskaia. It also wins nicely: 24...♖xd8 25.♕xe7 ♖b8 26.♘e5+–.

Book Review

by FM Sam Collins

The ...a6 Slav by GM Glenn Flear, Everyman Chess, 176 pages, R.R.P. £14.99

One of the primary motivators behind the sprawling and ever-increasing catalogue of opening literature is the fickleness of chess fashion. Ten years ago, it was thought that there were two ways in which Black could handle the mainline Slav – chop a pawn on c4 or dump a pawn on e6.

Then the Moldavian trainer Viacheslav Chebanenko had an idea – why cede the centre (with ...dxc4) or lock in the light-squared bishop (with ...e6) when Black could conceal his intentions with ...a6? "Because it's stupid" seemed the natural response. Yet, after a decade or so of innovation and high-level interest (by many, including the rather selective Kasparov), this is one of the hottest lines in modern theory, justifying an entire volume dealing with just this line of the Slav.

GM Glenn Flear is regarded in Britain as a Slav expert (though these days he normally opts for the Semi-Slav, he does have some experience with the ...a6 Slav), and is pretty crafty practitioner of his favourite lines. This is reflected in his current work, where almost 50 pages are devoted to what could be called 'move-order issues'; basically White's attempts to cross Black up by delaying or omitting Nc3, Nf3 or d4. As a Slav player myself, I can testify that these lines are incredibly annoying and must be prepared for, since otherwise Black can easily wind up in a prospect-less position. Flear does an excellent job on these lines and goes beyond the call of duty in the range of such with which he deals – for instance, 1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 (hardly an ...a6 Slav) is covered, and covered well. This being the case, the book represents something quite close to a complete repertoire against closed openings, though there are a few omissions (for which Flear cannot be blamed, since a repertoire book was not the thrust of his mandate).

The book is based around complete games and covers the opening for both colours, though of course 1.d4 players would be understandably reluctant to buy an entire book on a sub-variation of the Slav. But for Black players, this means that there exists a wide range of choice in each position

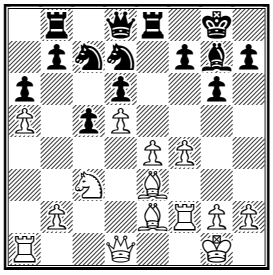
– most tastes are catered for by the lines covered. Even having played the line myself for several years, and knowing its popularity at GM level, I was still amazed by the general quality of the games included here – of the 82 illustrative games, it seemed like most were recent battles between 2650+ giants, a standard tough to match in most specialised opening works. Even if you never plan to play this opening, the book is almost worth buying for the games alone.

Many existing books have pretty good coverage of the ...a6 Slav. Sadler's classic 'The Slav' is now a little dated and rather thin on material, but is a truly excellent introduction to the opening. Burgess' more recent (and entirely different!) 'The Slav' is basically a combination of Sadler's work some more detailed theoretical coverage. Perhaps the most useful source is the Chess Base CD 'The Slav Defence' by GM Rogozenko. All these deal with the whole Slav, including the ...a6 Slav, but Flear's work has the benefit of both specialisation in one line and good coverage of the anti-Slav lines detailed above.

There are certain opening books I prefer to this one – the really exceptional ones packed full of novelties and pithy explanations of typical positions, in which I found this one slightly lacking. Nonetheless, *The ...a6 Slav* represents another excellent effort by Flear. **My Assessment:** * * * *

Positional Test

Mamedjarova – Calotescu, 2003



White to play

This position appears (and is!) rather unclear, but White seized the initiative with a clever pawn sacrifice:

17.e5! dxe5

Ftriz8, which eventually finds 17.e5! and rates it as the best move, does not like taking the pawn (computer does not grab pawns – what is going on in this world?!) and recommends 17...f5!? instead – not a bad idea!

18.f5

This is a very typical for the Benoni Defence idea – White has sacrificed a pawn, but has great positional compensation for it: dangerous d-pawn and play on the f-file. Try playing f4-f5 a move earlier – that would give the e5-square to three different black pieces!

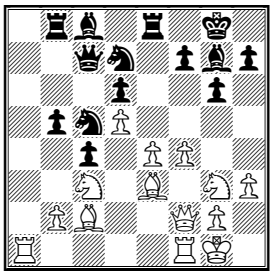
18...b6 19.d6 ♘b5 20.fxg6 fxg6 21.♘e4 h6 22.♕d5+ ♔h8 23.♗xb5 axb5 24.a6 ♖a8 25.a7 ♘f6 26.♘xf6 ♗xf6 27.♕f7 ♗h4 28.g3 ♕xd6 29.gxh4 ♕e6 30.♕xe6 ♖xe6 31.♗xh6 ♖ee8 32.♖f7 e4 33.♖b7 b4 34.♗f4 c4 35.♖b8 1-0.

I applaud the young Azerbaijani player, who probably new the following rather famous game:

Penrose – Tal

Leipzig Olympiad, 1960
Benoni Defence, **A65**
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 g6 6.e4 d6 7.♗d3 ♗g7 8.♘ge2 0-0 9.0-0 a6 10.a4 ♕c7 11.h3 ♘bd7 12.f4 ♖e8 13.♘g3 c4 14.♗c2 ♘c5 15.♕f3 ♘fd7 16.♗e3 b5 17.axb5 ♖b8 18.♕f2 axb5 *(D)*



19.e5! This pawn sacrifice deprives Black of the e5-square – his pawn there will be just a dead body!

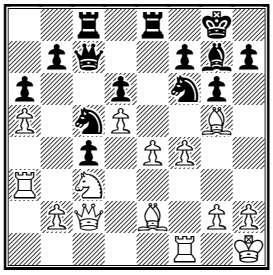
19...dxe5 20.f5! ♗b7 21.♖ad1 ♗a8 22.♘ce4 ♘a4 23.♗xa4 bxa4 24.fxg6 fxg6 25.♕f7+ ♔h8 26.♘c5 ♕a7 27.♕xd7 ♕xd7 28.♘xd7 ♖xb2 29.♘b6 ♖b3 30.♘xc4 ♖d8

31.d6 ♖c3 32.♖c1 ♖xc1 33.♖xc1 ♗d5 34.♘b6 ♗b3 35.♘e4 h6 36.d7 ♗f8 37.♖c8 ♗e7 38.♗c5 ♗h4 39.g3 1-0

But maybe, just maybe, she also knew another not-so-famous game featured below? Well, I must be dreaming! ☺

Baburin (2520) - Moiseev (2460)
Berlin Chess Festival, 1992
Benoni Defence, **A75**
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.♘c3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.♘f3 g6 7.e4 a6 8.a4 ♗g4 9.♗e2 ♗xf3 10.♗xf3 ♗g7 11.0-0 0-0 12.♗g5 ♘bd7 13.♗e2 ♖e8 14.♕c2 ♖c8 15.f4 c4 16.♔h1 ♕a5 17.♖a3 ♕c7 18.a5 ♘c5 *(D)*



19.e5! dxe5 20.f5! ♘cd7 21.♖a4 e4 22.fxg6 hxg6 23.♗f4 ♕d8 24.d6 b5 25.axb6 ♕xb6 26.♗xc4 a5 27.♕e2 ♘c5 28.♖aa1 ♖f8 29.♖ad1 ♘cd7 30.♗b5 ♖ce8 31.♗xd7 ♘xd7 32.♘d5 ♕xb2 33.♘e7+ ♔h8 34.♕g4 ♘f6 35.♕h4+ ♘h7 36.d7 ♖a8 37.♗c7 ♗f6 38.♕xe4 1-0

Solutions to our Chess Quiz - Tactics

Agaeva-Sachdev: **35...♖d1+! 36.♔g2 h3+ 37.♔xh3 g4+ 0-1**

Geirnaert-Rohit: **53...♖e2+!**
Not 53...♔xh5?? 54.g7 ♖e2+ 55.♔g3+- **54.♔g1** (or 54.♔h1 ♔xh5 55.g7 ♖e4 56.g8♕ ♖h4+ 57.♔g2 ♖g4+ 58.♕xg4+ ♔xg4--+) **54...♔xh5 55.g7 ♖e4 0-1**
Conclusion: **53.g6!?** was a nice try, but it did not save White...

Medvegy-Dembo: **31.♘xf4!**
Better than 31.♖d2 ♗f3+ 32.♔g1 ♗xe4 33.♗xa6, where White's task would have been much harder.
31...♖xf4 After 31...♗xd3 32.♘xd3 Black has absolutely no counter-play - another example where opposite-squared bishops make defence harder.
32.♖d8+ ♗f8 33.♗xe2 ♖xf2 34.♗xa6 ♔g7 35.a4+- ♗c5 36.♗c4 ♗e3 37.h3 h5 38.a5 ♖a2 39.a6 ♔f6 40.♖d5 h4 41.♖f5+ ♔g6 42.♖f3 ♗d4 43.♖f4 ♖a1+ 44.♖f1 ♖a2 45.♖d1 ♗e5 46.b4 ♖h2+ 47.♔g1 ♖xh3 48.b5 ♗c7 49.e5 ♖g3+ 50.♔h1 ♖h3+ 51.♔g2 ♖g3+ 52.♔f1 ♖a3 53.e6 ♔f6 54.♖d7 ♖a1+ 55.♔g2 ♗b6 56.e7 1-0.

"Sometimes the best strategy
is to do nothing,
but do it really well"

- GM Alex ander Baburin

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us - we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

Website: http://www.chesstoday.net/

Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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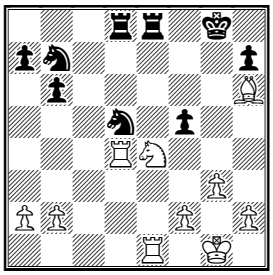
CT-180 (964) 29th June 2003

Quiz Today

Onkoud (2326) – Bellanche (2425)
Paris, NAO (8), 27.06.2003



White to play

Chess News

The Category VIII closed tournament in Paris, organised by the NAO Club, finished yesterday with the following results:
1-3. Maze (FRA 2418), IM Bellanche (FRA 2425) and GM J. Horvath (HUN 2516) – 6 points out of 9; 4. GM Schekachev (RUS 2592) – 5½ points; etc.

One of the winners (IM Bellanche) must be disappointed that his result fell short of the GM-norm (6½ points). However, Sebastien Maze cannot complain – his game with White in the last round against GM Horvath lasted just 11 moves! Winning that game would have given him a GM-norm and clear first place – so much for the discussion on banning draw offers in chess! ☹ You can find all games from the tournament in our database today.

Hungarian Women Championship

Before the last round WGMs Nóra Medvegy and Yelena Dembo are still sharing the lead in the tournament.

Standings after 8 rounds:

1-2. WGMs Nóra Medvegy (2385) and Yelena Dembo (2402) – 6½ points;
3. WGM S. Vajda (2403) – 5 pts; etc.

The Dutch Championships

In round 3 of the Dutch Championship in Leeuwarden 16-year old Daniel Stellwagen won again, while his nearest rivals – GMs Loek van Wely and Sergei Tiviakov drew their game after a long battle. Playing Black van Wely got the better of the opposite-squared bishops, but the position was too close for him to turn it into anything tangible.

Standings after 3 rounds:

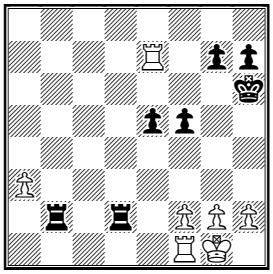
1. IM Daniel Stellwagen (2467) – 3 pts;
2-3. GMs Loek van Wely (2675) and Sergei Tiviakov (2623) – 3 points; etc.

World under 20 Championships

Yesterday rounds 8 (boys) and 6 (girls) were played at the World Junior Championships.
Key results:
Guseinov-Mamedyarov – 0-1
Gashimov-Zubov – ½-½
Izoria-Ganguly – ½-½

The following three endgames are pretty instructive:

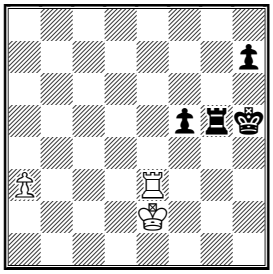
Guseinov – Mamedyarov
(8), 28.06.2003



37...♖e2! 37...e4 38.g4 g6 39.h4
38.g3 ♖a2 39.♖a7 e4 40.♔g2 e3 41.♖e7 ♖xf2+
Here Fritz8 suggests 41...g5! and I tend to agree that it is a better move than White Black played.
42.♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 43.♔g1 ♖e2 44.h4 g5

Black gets nowhere after 44...g6 45.♔f1 ♖a2 46.♖xe3 ♔h5 47.♖b3 ♔g4 48.♖c3 – White should just wait.

45.hxg5+ ♔h5 46.♔f1 ♖f2+ 47.♔e1 ♖f3 48.♔e2 ♖xg3 49.♖xe3 ♖xg5 ***(D)***



Theoretically such positions are drawn even without the a-pawn. However, in practice players often lose exactly because they hang on to that pawn! It's interesting that Botvinnik wrote a very deep essay about rook endings with 'f' and 'h' pawns, but never had it in his practice. At the same time Smyslov did not write about it, but had several endgames of this kind!

50.♔f3

50.a4! ♖g2+ 51.♔f3 ♖a2 52.♔f4=

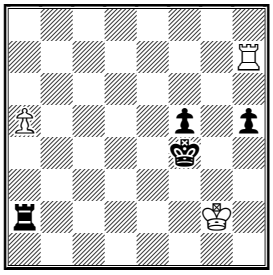
50...♖g4! 51.♖e2 ♔g5 52.♖e7

After 52.♖a2 ♖a4 53.♖a1 f4 54.♔f2 h5 55.♔f3 h4 56.♔g2 ♔g4 the white rook will be rather passive.

52...h5 53.♖a7 ♖c4 54.a4 ♖c3+ 55.♔g2 ♖c2+ 56.♔h3 ♖c3+ 57.♔g2 ♖a3 58.a5 ♔g4 59.♖g7+

Better was 59.a6! ♖a2+ 60.♔g1.

59...♔f4 60.♖h7 ♖a2+ ***(D)***



61.♔g1 61.♔h3! ♖xa5 62.♖xh5=.

61...h4! 62.♔f1 62.♖xh4+?? ♔g3

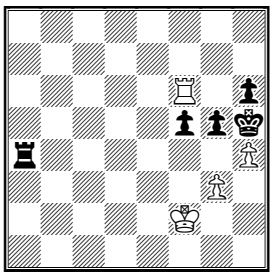
62...♔g3 63.♖g7+ ♔f3 64.♔g1 ♖xa5 65.♔h2 f4 66.♖f7 ♔e3 67.♔g2

As far as I know, the king should stay on the h-file in such endings.

67...♖g5+ 68.♔f1 ♔f3 69.♖a7 ♔g3-+ 70.♖a3+ f3 71.♖a8 h3 72.♔g1 f2+ 73.♔f1 h2 0-1.

Verot – Van Der Merwe

(6), 27.06.2003



45.♖xf5 45.hxg5 ♔xg5 46.♖f8=.

45...♔g4 46.♖f6?? 46.♖b5=

46...♖a2+ 47.♔f1 Better was 47.♔e3 ♔xg3 48.♖xh6 g4, though White could be already lost.

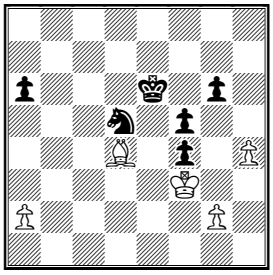
47...♔xg3 48.hxg5

48.♖xh6 g4 49.h5 ♔h2, winning.

48...hxg5-+ Soon we will be talking about the Lucena position! **49.♖b6 ♖a1+ 50.♔e2 g4 51.♖b8 ♔g2 52.♖g8 g3 53.♖g7 ♔h2 54.♖h7+ ♔g1 55.♖g7 g2 56.♖g8 ♖a5 57.♖g7 ♖f5 58.♖g8 ♖f4 59.♖g7 ♖f2+ 60.♔e1 ♖a2** Black is not sure how to do it, but soon she find the correct path: **61.♖g8 ♖a6 62.♔e2 ♖e6+ 63.♔d2 ♖e5 64.♖g7 ♔f2 65.♖f7+ ♔g3 66.♖g7+ ♔f3 67.♖g8 ♖e4 68.♖f8+ ♖f4 69.♖g8 ♖g4 70.♖f8+ ♔g3 0-1.**

Umudova – Charbonneau (2052)

(6), 27.06.2003



It takes some effort to lose this position for Black, but see what happened:

45...♘e3 (why?!) **46.♗xe3 fxe3 47.♔xe3 ♔e5 48.g3 a5 49.a4 ♔f6**

Why not 49...♔e6 50.♔f4 ♔f6= ?

50.♔f4 ♔e6??

This loses. Black could still draw with 50...♔f7 51.♔g5 (51.h5 ♔f6) 51...♔g7 52.h5 gxh5 53.♔xf5 ♔h6 54.♔f6 h4 55.gxh4 ♔h5=

51.♔g5 ♔f7 52.h5! gxh5

53.♔xf5+- ♔g7 54.♔g5 ♔h8 55.♔xh5 ♔h7 56.♔g5 ♔g7 57.g4 ♔f7 58.♔h6 ♔g8 59.♔g6 ♔h8 60.♔f7 ♔h7 61.♔e6 ♔g6 62.♔d5 ♔g5 63.♔c5 ♔xg4 64.♔b5 ♔f5 65.♔xa5 ♔e6 66.♔b6 ♔d7 67.♔b7 1-0.

Standings after 8 rounds:

1. GM Mamedyarov (2607) - 6 points; Many players have 5½ points, including GMs Guseinov, Ganguly, Izoria, Gashimov and Harikrishna.

Girls' section, after 6 rounds:

1. WIM Nana Dzagnidze (GEO 2376) - 6 points;
2-3. WFM Harika Dronavalli (IND 2294) and Zeinab Mamedjarova (AZE 2298) - 4½ points; etc

Letters to the Editor

We continue our 'computer chess' topic with the following message, which I received 5 days ago from our reader Don Aldrich (you might remember his book reviews in CT):

"Alex, The flip side of your 'beautiful' computer moves is when you play a game where Fritz is unable to find the winning move ☺ It doesn't happen too often, but when it does...

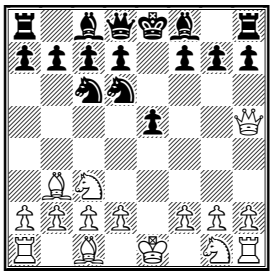
Attached are two such games. The first is not particularly well played, but Fritz totally breaks down around move 32. He is constantly insisting White is winning when he might have a draw at best. The second game is one of my better efforts. Fritz is totally unable to see the winning killer move for Black at move 32. They have both been heavily analyzed on Fritz 7 running on a 1.2 gig machine. Perhaps better computer or F8 would do better.... So there is hope for us humans ☺ Both these games were already published in our local chess magazine, hence the extensive notes. Feel free to use all or none as you wish. Best, Don."

I looked at both games and found them interesting. Today I would like to show the first of them. Perhaps Black was over-generous in it - Don, don't challenge Fritz8 for a $1m match! ☺ Interestingly, Don's opponent in the game is also a CT reader - maybe we will get his side of the story too! By the way, I analysed this game with Fritz8 on a 550 MH machine with 128 MB of RAM for Fritz tables.

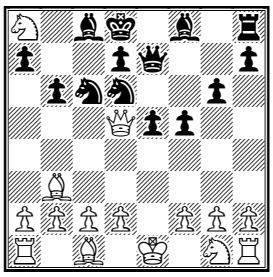
Annotated Game

The following game is guaranteed to hurt your Fritz and your head. Dan lost a very tough round three to young Sam Lipnowski. It had taken the whole six hours, so our game was to start late to allow him time to recuperate. Dan and I have played hundreds of games featuring the Frankenstein-Dracula variation, and both passionately believe in our side, so...

□ **Daniel Voje**
■ **Don Aldrich**
Event: *Albert Boxer Winnipeg, 01.09.2002*
Vienna Game [C27]
Notes by Don Aldrich & Alex Baburin
1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♗c4 ♘xe4 4.♕h5 ♘d6 5.♗b3 ♘c6 *(D)*

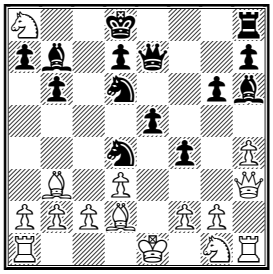


Alex Baburin: if Black does not want to get involved in wild complications, he can play 5...♗e7, with roughly equal chances.
6.♘b5 g6 7.♕f3 f5 8.♕d5 ♕e7 9.♘xc7+ ♔d8 10.♘xa8 b6 *(D)*



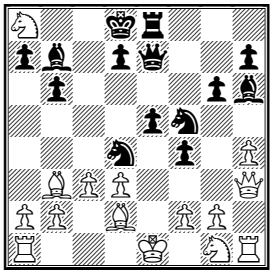
Alex Baburin: This is a well-known position. Currently White is a whole rook up, so your Fritz or any other engine will take White here any day. However, the a8-knight is practically lost and Black will further increase his lead in development by kicking the enemy queen around. In the Mega 2003 database I found 91 games played from this position and White scored well - 62%. However, it's wrong to say that White is winning or even much better here... This is a type of position where Steinitz would take White and Chigorin would happily play Black!

11.d3 ♗b7 12.h4 f4 13.♕f3 ♘d4 14.♕h3 ♗h6 15.♗d2 ***(D)***



We were playing on board 4. George Vlaovic was on board three, and watched in amazement as we banged out the moves up to here at blitz speed. He must have thought we were crazy. I now went into a think as this is not the variation we have been playing lately, and I frankly didn't know what to do. Book is 15...e4. However, White just castles queenside, and in our blitz games I had not done well against it, so I try something else, apparently a novelty.

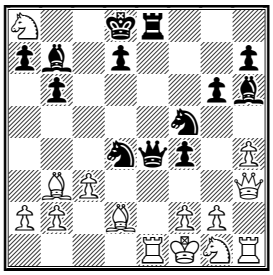
15...♘6f5 16.c3 ♖e8?! ***(D)***



17.♔f1

I am not sure what Dan feared on 17.cxd4 - 17...exd4+ 18.♔d1 f3 *(18...♘e3+ 19.fxe3 dxe3 20.♗c3+-)* 19.g4 ♗xd2 20.♔xd2 ♘e3 21.♘xf3+-.

17...e4 18.dxe4 ♕xe4 19.♖e1 ***(D)***



19...♘e3+?!

I thought long and hard here. I rejected 19...♘g3+ because I thought it led to an equal or slightly better endgame for White, while the complications arising after 19...♘e3+ seemed impenetrable.

19...♘g3+

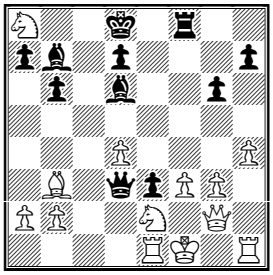
20.♕xg3 (only move; *20.fxg3 ♕d3+ 21.♘e2 ♘xe2 22.♖d1 ♘xc3+ 23.♔g1 ♘xd1-+)* 20...fxg3 21.♖xe4 ♗xe4 22.♗xh6 ♗d3+ 23.♘e2 ♗xe2+ 24.♔g1 ♗d3 25.fxg3 ♘xb3 26.axb3 ♖e1+ 27.♔h2 ♖xh1+ 28.♔xh1 ♗e4 29.♗g5+ ♔c8 30.♘xb6+ axb6 and white is certainly not losing.

Alex Baburin (and Fritz8!): in this line Black can do better with 23...♖xe2! 24.fxg3 ♘xb3 25.axb3 ♖xb2+ 26.♔e1 (26.♔g1 ♗e4∓) 26...♖b1+ 27.♔d2 ♖xh1 28.♔xd3 ♔c8 29.♗f4 d6! 30.♔d2 ♔b7 31.♘xb6 ♔xb6 32.♗xd6 a5∓. So, objectively 19...♘g3+ was a much better move!

20.♗xe3

20.fxe3 ♕d3+ 21.♘e2 fxe3 22.cxd4 ♖f8+ 23.♔g1 exd2 24.♔h2 ♕xh3+ 25.♔xh3 dxe1♕ 26.♖xe1 ♗xa8 and Black is better.

20...♕d3+ 21.♘e2 fxe3 22.cxd4 ♖f8 23.f3 ♗a6 24.♕h2 ♗f4 25.g3 ♗d6 26.♕g2 ♗b7 ***(D)***



27.♖d1 ♕b5 28.d5 a5 29.♔g1 a4 30.♘c3 ♕b4 31.♘xa4 ♗a6 32.♔h2?

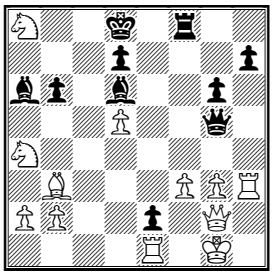
At this point, Dan had something like

a minute left to figure out the complications, and there was no time delay. 32.♘c3, and other moves, probably do the job. He just missed the shot on h4.
32.♘c3 ♗c5 33.♖c1 ♗b7 34.h5 ♕a5 35.♘xb6 ♗xb6 36.hxg6 hxg6 37.♖h7 And White is just winning.

32...e2 33.♖de1?!

This demonstrates how incredibly hard these positions are. Fritz insists that 33.♖c1 is winning easily – the idea is to stop Bc5+. Look what happens: 33.♖c1 ♕xh4+ 34.♔g1 (my Fritz8 likes 34.♕h3 – it seems that White is winning – Alex Baburin) 34...♕g5 35.♖e1 ♗xg3 36.♖xh7 ♕e3+ 37.♔h1 ♖xf3 38.♖h8+ ♔e7 39.♘c7 ♖f1+ 40.♖xf1 exf1♕+ 41.♕xf1 ♕e4+ 42.♕g2 ♕e1+ 43.♕g1 and it looks like a perpetual.

33...♕xh4+ 34.♔g1 ♕g5 35.♖h3 *(D)*



35.f4 Fritz will tell you white is like +4 here. That isn't so: 35...♗xf4 36.gxf4 ♕xf4 37.♖xh7 ♕d4+ 38.♔h2 ♖f2 39.♘8xb6 ♕f4+ 40.♔h1 ♖xg2 41.♖h8+ ♔c7 42.♔xg2 ♕f1+–+. Better is 35.♘c3 ♗c5+ 36.♔h2 ♕h5+ 37.♕h3 ♕xf3 38.♗c2 ♗f2 39.♕h4+ ♔c8 40.♗e4 ♕e3 41.♘xb6+ ♕xb6 42.♖c1 ♔b8 43.♗g2 ♖f5 44.♕e4 ♕e3 45.♕xe3 ♗xe3 46.♖ce1 ♗f2 47.g4 ♗xe1 48.gxf5 ♗h4 49.f6 ♗xf6 50.♗f3+–.

35...♕d2

And here Fritz will tell you that 36.Rxe2 maintains White's edge! ***Alex Baburin***: Mine says that 36.Rxe2 is equal. Which usually means that White is lost! ☺

36.♕f2

36.♖xe2 ♗xe2 37.♔h2 ♕e1 38.♕g1 ♗f1 39.♖xh7 ♕e2+ 40.♔h1 ♕xf3+–+

36...♖xf3 37.♕xf3

37.♕xb6+ ♔e8 38.♘c7+ ♗xc7 39.♕f2 ♖xf2 40.♔xf2 ♗e5–+.

37...♕xe1+ 38.♔g2 ♕f1+ 39.♕xf1 exf1♕+ 40.♔h2 ♕f2+ 41.♔h1 ♗e2 0–1.

Obviously, not a perfect game by either player. However, it certainly is the most incredible game I have ever been involved with. As Dan noted the next morning, he thought his head was going to explode. I feel lucky to have won it, and very lucky to be able to be involved in such a game.

Solution to our Quiz Today

Onkoud–Bellanche: **29.♖xd5! ♖xe4 30.♖xe4 fxe4** (30...♖xd5 31.♖e7+–) **31.♖g5+ 1–0.**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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CHESS TODAY
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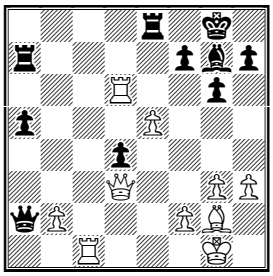
CT-181 (965) 30th June 2003

Quiz Today

1. P. Harikrishna – K. Guseinov
WJun Nakhchivan AZE, 2003

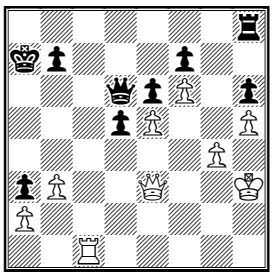
Black's last move was 24...♖d8-e8??
What's wrong with it?



White to play

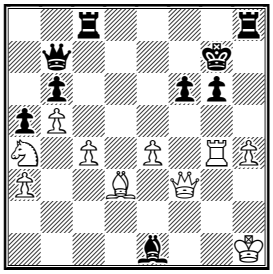
2. L. Van Wely – R. Janssen
ch-NED Leeuwarden NED, 2003

Black has two possible moves here – 35...Qb6 and 35...d4. One is good, the other loses by force. What is the correct decision?



Black to play

3. O. Zubov – Z. Izoria
WJun Nakhchivan AZE , 2003



White to play

Chess News

WGM Yelena Dembo won the Hungarian Women Championship thanks to her 75-move victory over Ticia Gara in the last round, while WGM Nóra Medvegy could only manage a draw in her last round game.

Final Standings:
1. Dembo – 7½ points out of 9
2. Medvegy – 7
3. Vajda – 5½ etc.

In round 4 of the Dutch Championship in Leeuwarden 16-year old **Daniel Stellwagen** has won once again and has a perfect result! GM Loek van Wely also won and has 3 points and clear second place, because Sergei Tiviakov drew his game.

Standings after 4 rounds:
1. Stellwagen – 4 points
2. van Wely – 3
3. Tiviakov – 2½
4-5. Delemarre, van den Doel – 2 etc.

Women's Round 5 Standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 4½ points
2. Bosboom-Lanchava – 3½
3. Schuurman – 2½ etc.

The Swedish Championships are taking place from June 29th – July 12th 2003 in Umea, Sweden. It is a 13 round, Category IX event.

In the 1st Round **GMs Stellan Brynell, Jonny Hector, Tiger Hillarp Persson** and **FM Anders Olsson won** their games.

World under 20 Championships

Yesterday rounds 9 (boys) and 7 (girls) were played at the World Junior Championships.
Key results:
Mamedyarov – Gashimov **1:0**
Zubov – Izoria **1:0**

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Harikrishna – Guseinov **1:0**
Ganguly – Kritz **1:0**
Dziuba – Azarov **0:1**

Standings after 9 rounds:
1. GM Mamedyarov (2607) – 7 points;
2–4. GM Ganguly, Zubov, GM Azarov – 6½
5–7. GM Harikrishna, IM Bachin, IM Erenburg – 6
8–15. GM Izoria, GM Guseinov, GM Gashimov, IM Kritz, Sadykov, Mamedov, IM Mastrovasilis, IM Dziuba – 5½ etc.

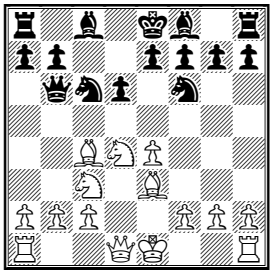
Girls' section, after 7 rounds:
1. WIM Nana Dzagnidze – 7 points;
2. Harika Dronavalli – 5½
3–8. Z. Mamedjarova, Sachdev, Calotescu, Saheli, Ubiennykh, Khudaverdieva – 4½ points etc

The Greenland Open 2003 is taking place in the southern town of Qaqortoq from the 28 June to 1 July (9 rounds Swiss, rapid chess).

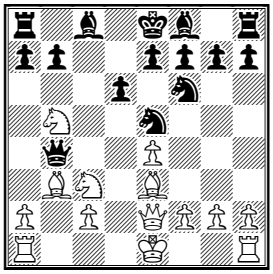
Round 5 standings:
1. Luke McShane – 5 points
2. Jóhann Hjartarson – 4½
3–6. Predrag Nikolic, Tomas Oral, Flóvin ßór Næs, Nick de Firmian – 4
7–12. Friðrik Olafsson, Ivan Sokolov, Stefán Kristjansson, Henrik Danielsen, Róbert Harðarson, Sævar Bjarnason – 3½ etc.

Annotated Game

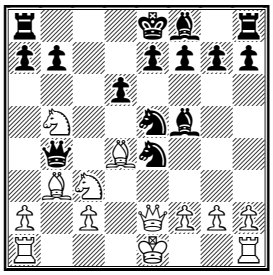
□ **J. Hector (2553)**
■ **O. Von Bahr (2370)**
Event: *ch-SWE Umea SWE (1), 29.06.2003*
Sicilian Defence/Sozin Attack [B57]
Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 ♕b6!? 7.♗e3!? (D)



Very sharp move, more common and quite playable are 7.♘db5; 7.♘xc6
7...♕xb2 8.♘db5 ♕b4 9.♕e2
An alternative is 9.♗d3 ♕a5 10.♖b1 *(10.0–0 a6 11.♘d5 ♘xd5 12.exd5 axb5 13.dxc6 bxc6 14.♖e1 e6 15.♕g4 ♗d7 16.♗g5 ♕c3 17.♕h4 ♖a4∓* 0–1 Soler Roses,F-Hamdouchi,H/Coria del Rio 2002/CBM 86 ext (31)) 10...e6 11.♖b3 ♕d8 12.0–0 ♗e7 13.f4 0–0 14.♕f3 e5 15.f5 a6 16.♘a3 b5 17.♘d5 ♘xd5 18.exd5 ♘d4 19.♕h5 ♗f6∓ 0–1 Sigfusson,S-Milov,V/7th Neckar Open, Deizisau GER 2003 (26); 9.♗d2? ♕xc4 10.♘c7+ ♔d8 11.♘xa8 b6–+
9...♘e5!?
A more or less new move. Other lines run after 9...♕a5!? 10.♗d2 ♕d8 11.♘d5 ♘xd5 12.exd5 ♘e5 13.f4!? ♗g4 14.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 15.♕xe5 ♕c5 16.♗b3 ♗d7 17.♗e3 ♕a5+ 18.♔f2 ♖g8 19.♖he1 g6 20.♖ad1 f6 21.♕e4 ♔f7 1–0 Zaitsev,I-Kiselev,S/Moscow 1996; 9...♘xe4 10.♗d4! ♘xd4 11.♕xe4 e5 12.0–0–0 ♕xc4 13.♖xd4 ♕c6 14.♘d5!⩱ Dubinskij-Grachev,Moskva 1996; 9...♗g4!?∞
10.♗b3!?N (D)



This is a novelty. I found only two games with this position in Megabase-2003: 10.♗d3 ♕a5 11.♗d2 ♕d8 12.0–0 a6 13.♘d4 g6 14.f4 ♘xd3 15.♕xd3 ♗g7 16.♔h1 0–0 17.f5 ♗d7 18.♖ae1 ♖c8 19.♘d5 ♗c6 20.♘xc6 ♖xc6 21.♗g5⩱ 0–1. Bespalov,A-Shushpanov,R/Novosibirsk 2001; 10.♖b1 ♕xc4 11.♕xc4 ♘xc4 12.♘c7+ ♔d8 13.♘xa8 ♘xe3 14.fxe3 b6⩱ ½–½ Zaitsev,I-Makarov,M/St Petersburg 1997
10...♘xe4
A principle decision. More quiet was 10...♕a5!?∞
11.♗d4 ♗f5? (D)



According to Fritz White has good compensation after 11...♘xc3 12.♗xc3 ♕c5 13.♗d4 ♕c6 *(13...♕b4+ 14.c3 ♕a5 15.♗xe5 dxe5 16.♕xe5+−)* 14.♗d5!? ♕d7 15.♗xe5 dxe5 16.♖d1!? *(16.♕c4!?* but text move loses by force.*)*

12.0−0?!

12.♗xe5! ♖c8!? *(12...dxe5 13.0–0–0! ♘xc3? 14.♘c7#!)* 13.♖b1! *(13.♗a4?! ♔d8!⇄)* 13...♕a5 14.♕f3 e6 15.♗d4 a6 16.0–0+− but text move is strong also.

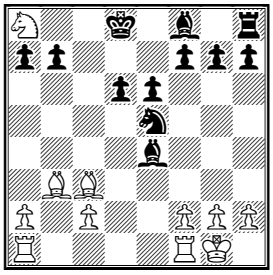
12...♘xc3

12...♔d8? 13.♗xe5 dxe5 14.♘xe4 ♕xe4 15.♖ad1+ ♔c8 16.♕d2+−.

13.♗xc3 ♕e4

13...♕c5 14.♗d4 ♕c8 15.♗xe5 dxe5 16.♕xe5

14.♕xe4 ♗xe4 15.♘c7+ ♔d8 16.♘xa8 e6 (D)

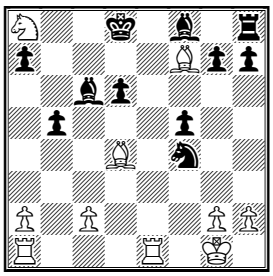


Black has 2 pawns for a rook and good chances to take the knight on a8. But Black has to spend some time to win it.

17.♖fe1 ♗c6 18.♗d4 b5 19.f4 ♘g6 20.f5!

Obviously White must play energetically and open as many lines as possible.

20...exf5 21.♗xf7 ♘f4 (D)

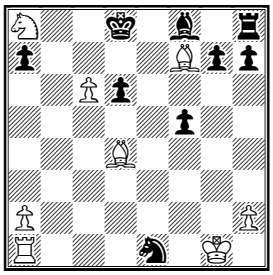


21...♗xa8 22.♖e8+ ♔c7 23.♖xa8+−

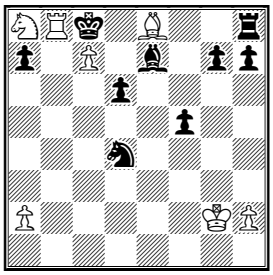
22.c4!?

A first step of an interesting combination, but maybe White could win by the more simple method: 22.♗xa7!? ♗xa8 23.♖e8+ ♔c7 24.♖xa8 ♔b7 25.♗e3 ♔xa8 26.♗xf4+−

22...♘xg2 23.cxb5 ♘xe1 24.bxc6



Now the c−pawn and knight on a8 are extremely dangerous. **24...♘f3+ 25.♔g2 ♘xd4 26.c7+ ♔d7 27.♗e8+! ♔c8 28.♖b1 ♗e7 29.♖b8#! (D)**



1−0.

Solutions to our Quiz Today

1. P. Harikrishna − K. Guseinov

[Instead 24...♖xd6 25.exd6 ♕e6=] **25.♕b5!** And black resigned − queen a2 will be trapped after 26.Bd5! **1−0.**

2. L. Van Wely − R. Janssen

35...♕b6? [35...d4!] **36.♖c5!+− ♕b4** [36...♔a6 37.♕d4+−] **1−0**

3. O. Zubov − Z. Izoria

36.♖xg6+! [36.♖xg6+ ♔xg6 *(36...♔f8 37.♕xf6+ ♕f7 38.♕xh8+; 36...♔h7 37.♕h5#)* 37.e5+ ♔h6 38.♕xb7+−] **1−0.**

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with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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"It is always unwise to yield any positional advantage for the sake of simplifying"

--- *Cecil J. S. Purdy*

CHESS TODAY
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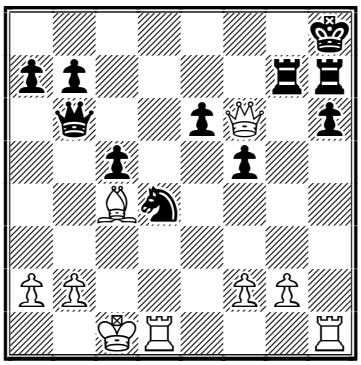
CT-182(966) 1st July 2003

Find the Move

Delemarre (2418) - Ernst (2475)
Leeuwarden 2003



White to play

"31.♖xd4
An easier win is 31. ____ Black does not have any protection at all."

Can you find the move that IM Nikolai Vlassov is referring to in today's annotated game?

World Junior Championships

Standings after 10 rounds

1. Mamedyarov 8points
2. Azarov 7½
3-4. Bachin , Erenburg 7

Girls after 8rounds
1. Dzagnidze 7½ points
2. Dronavalli 6
3. Mamedjarova 5½

Swedish Championships

After 2 rounds
1. Hillarp-Persson 2

Greenland Open

Standings after 7 rounds

1. McShane 7 points
2-3. Hjartarson , de Firmian 5½
4-8. Nikolic, Sokolov, Danielsen, Oral, Bjarnason 5

Web Watch

by GM Alex Baburin

There is so much chess information on the Web that sometimes I feel that I could write this column every day! Anyway, I would like to share with you my most recent findings.

In this column I have already praised the Chess Base website several times and it continues to entertain its visitors. Most recent postings include a story on the World Junior Ch in Azerbaijan, lots of photos of chess players from the European Championships in Turkey (girls seem to dominate the selection!), an article on Fritz and, most interestingly, an interview with Ruslan Ponomariov, called "I can beat Kasparov", conducted by Yuri Vasiliev for the Russian newspaper Sport-Express. While the English version is only the interview itself, the Russian version contains comments from Yuri Vasiliev. I don't see why he is being so sarcastic about the very reasonable answers, which he got from Ponomariov... It is only normal that the FIDE Champion (or any player!) would want FIDE to honour its obligations and contracts. Well, I remember that my only brief moment of fame come when Yuri Vasiliev wrote in Chess-Express about the first round sensation at the Yerevan-1996 Chess Olympiad, when GM Ivanchuk (then No. 3 in the world) only drew with some patzer from Ireland... ☺ Obviously, for Mr Vasiliev an IM with a rating of 2570 was a pushover!

It would be silly to promote other sites and not to mention Grandmaster Square and Chess Today. While

unfortunately I don't have time to do major work on them, some new material continues to appear on both. At the GM Square you can take part in the poll on whether draw offers should be banned in chess (see which opinion is prevailing!), read an excerpt from the Leko book (in PDF) and the latest book review by Sam Collins (first appeared in CT-963). On the CT site people can find another issue (CT-963) added to the samples page - please forward this link to your friends. Remember, 1000 referrals will get you a week on the CT yacht in Bahamas! ☺ And if you are seasick or more down-to-earth, keep in mind that each referral adds one month to your subscription - no kidding.

Chess and Books with Fred Wilson the Live Internet Radio Show will be on this Wednesday (2nd July) at 21:00 Eastern Time. This week Fred's guest is American Grandmaster Arthur Bisguier, who will discuss his new autobiographical games collection "The Art of Bisguier", Vol 1, along with describing his current endeavours towards finishing Vol 2, which will cover his career from 1961 to the present. He will also talk about his close friendships with such chess greats as Paul Keres and David Bronstein. If you have a good question for Arthur Bisguier, you may email it to Fred beforehand.

Recently I got a messae from Nelson Newman who runs the Chess Knights website. The site has reviews, links, chess graphics, games in a PGN Viewer and much more - well worth a visit! Alas, no matter how hard I looked in its 'Selected Player Collections' section, I could not see games by my favourite Irish player! ☺

Disappointed, but clearly not defeated I went to the About Chess website, to see if a certain GM O'Baburin was featured in its *Famous Players* list. Not a chance! Well, I will wait till they create the *Great Web Reviewers* list - I don't want to be famous only thanks to the IM-slayer Yuri Vasiliev! ☺

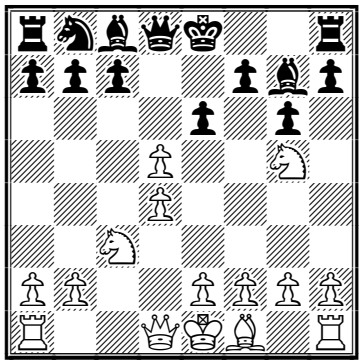
I will continue with the column tomorrow - stay tuned! And if you come across an interesting chess site, please drop me a message.

Annotated Game

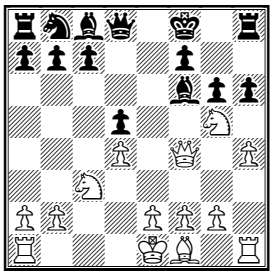
□ J Delemarre (2418)
■ S Ernst (2475)
ch-NED Leeuwarden NED (4), 29.06.2003 - D91

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov.

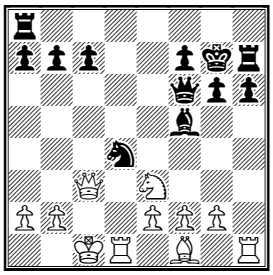
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗g5 ♘e4 6.cxd5 ♘xg5 7.♘xg5 e6



One of the original variations in the Gruenfeld Defence is on the board.
8.♕d2 exd5 9.♕e3+ ♔f8 10.♕f4 ♗f6 11.h4 h6



This is a well-known tactical blow:
12.♘xd5 ♗xg5 13.♕e5 ♖h7 14.hxg5
And now the other Black wing is developed:
14...♘c6 15.♕e4 ♗f5 16.♕f3 ♘xd4 17.♕a3+ ♔g7 18.♘e3
The only protection.
18...♕xg5
Safer for Black is 18...hxg5 19.♖xh7+ ♔xh7 20.0–0–0 with equal chances
19.♕c3 ♕f6 20.0-0-0

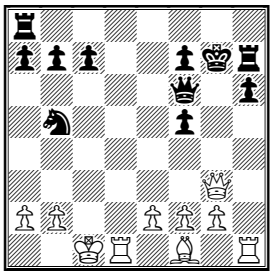


20...♘b5N

This is a novelty. Although being a pawn up and having an advantage in development, Black has lost almost all the games where such a position happened. This position is pretty insidious: as soon as the White bishop enters the game, it appears to be stronger than the knight. Black loses the battle for the d-file due to the poor position of the h7-rook. It is not that easy to protect the pawns on the kingside either and the king, in no danger at first sight, always gets into awkward situations. But the bottom line is that all these problems are quite inconspicuous and Black starts thinking them over when it is too late... 20...c5 21.♘xf5+ ♘xf5 22.♖d7 *(22.e3 ♖b8 23.♖d7 ♕xc3+ 24.bxc3 ♔f8 25.♗e2 a6 26.♖hd1 b5 27.♖a7 ♖b6 28.♖d8+ ♔g7 29.♖dd7 ♘d6 30.f4 ♔f6 31.♗d3 c4 32.♗c2 ♘f5? 33.e4+-* 1–0 Schaefer,M-Karr,J/Porto San Giorgio 2002*; 22.g4 ♘d4 23.e3 ♘e6 24.♖d7 b6 25.♗c4 ♕xc3+ 26.bxc3 ♔f6 27.f4 ♖hh8 28.♖hd1 ♖ab8? 29.♗xe6+- fxe6 30.e4 g5 31.e5+ ♔g6 32.f5+* 1–0 Horvath,J-Sebenik,M/Eger 1999*)*

A) 22...♖hh8 23.♕xf6+ ♔xf6 24.g4 ♘d4 25.e3 ♘e6 26.♖xb7 h5 27.gxh5 gxh5 28.♗c4 a5? *(28...h4)* 29.♖h3 ♖af8 30.♖a7 h4 31.♗xe6 fxe6 32.♖xa5 ♔g5? *(32...♖c8)* 33.♖xc5+ ♔g4 34.♖h2 h3 35.♖c4+ ♔f3 36.e4 1–0 Crisan,A-Jacimovic,D/Tekija 2001; **B)** 22...b5 23.e3 b4 24.♕xf6+ ♔xf6 25.♗c4 h5 26.♖hd1 h4 27.♖1d5 h3 28.gxh3 ♖xh3 29.♖xc5 ♖f8 30.♔d2 ♖h2 31.♔e2 ♘g3+ 32.♔f3 ♘h1 33.♖d2 ♖fh8 34.♗f1 g5 35.♖c4 ♔g6 36.♗g2 a5 37.♖d1 f6 38.b3 ♖8h7 39.♖g1 ♖7h5 40.♔e2 ♖h6 41.♖cc1 1–0 Cifuentes Parada,R-Ramiro Ovejero,J/Aragon 1999; Perhaps the following is worth recommending: 20...♘e6 21.♘xf5+ gxf5 22.e3 ♕xc3+ 23.bxc3 ♖hh8 24.♖d5 ♔f6 25.♗d3 ♘g7 26.♔c2 h5 27.♖d7 ♘e6 28.♖d5 ♘g7 29.♖h4 ♖hd8 30.♖xd8 ♖xd8 31.♖a4 a6 32.g3 ♖d6 33.♖a5 ♖e6 34.♗e2 ♖d6 35.♖a4 Black had better chances here, but he even managed to lose this game. Teran Alvarez,I-Tsuboi,E/Havana 1998/EXT 99/1–0

21.♘xf5+ gxf5 22.♕g3+!

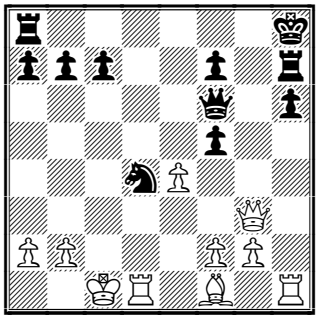


The game demonstrates that even when the queens are on the board Black faces difficulties

22...♔h8

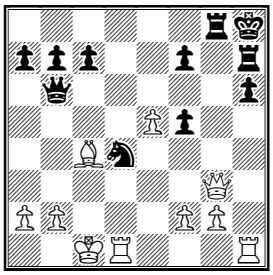
Possibly it was worth preferring 22...♕g5+ 23.♕xg5+ hxg5 24.♖xh7+ ♔xh7 25.e4 ♘d6 26.e5 ♘e4 27.♖d7 ♖e8! 28.f3 ♘g3 with pretty good chances for a draw.

23.e4 ♘d4



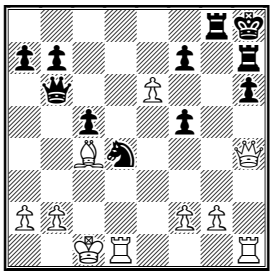
Also not bad is 23...♖g8 providing the knight with "parking" on d6: 24.♕h3 ♘d6 25.exf5 a5

24.e5!? ♕b6 25.♗c4 ♖g8?



It looks like Black was too happy with his position and overlooked White's combination. 25...♕c5 26.♕c3 ♘e6 preserves the defensive potential.

26.♕h4! c5 27.e6!



Black's position becomes hopeless at once: reaching the f6-square, White's queen manages to restrict the movements of both of Black's rooks.

27...fxe6 28.♕f6+ ♖gg7 29.♕f8+ ♖g8 30.♕f6+ ♖gg7 31.♖xd4

An easier win is 31.♖he1! Black does not have any protection at all.

31...cxd4 32.♗xe6 ♕c6+ 33.♔b1 ♕e4+ 34.♔a1 ♕xg2 35.♖c1 1-0

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Chester Day's Quote Today

I am still a *victim* of Chess. It has all the beauty of art -- *and much more.* It cannot be commercialised. Chess is much purer than art in its social position.

Marcel Duchamp
1887-1968,

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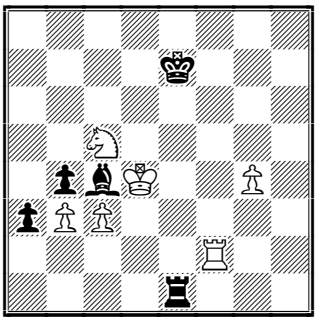
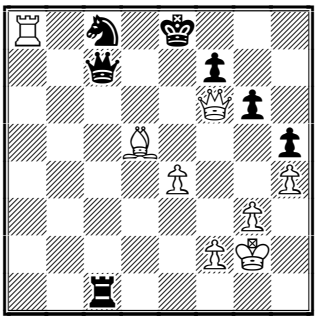
Chess Quiz

Ganguly (2542) – Bachin (2443)
02.07.2003



Black to play

Pantsulaia (2465) – Jatautis (2149)
02.07.2003



White to play

World under 20 Championships.

The **WIM Nana Dzagnidze** from Georgia has become the new Chess Princess – our congratulations! In 10 games she dropped only 1 point (two draws) and before the last round she is 2 points ahead of 2nd placed Ekaterina Ubiennykh from Russia.

In the boy's section Shakhriar Mamedyarov save his lead but he's only half a point ahead of 2nd.

Top results of the penultimate round:
Erenburg – Mamedyarov **0:1**
Guseinov – Azarov **0:1**
Ganguly – Bachin **0:1**
Gashimov – Mastrovasilis **1:0**
Zubov – Harikrishna **½:½**
Pantsulaia – Jatautis **1:0**
Rohit – Jirka **1:0**
Izoria – Esplana **½:½**
Kritz – Kuparadze **1:0**
Sadykov – Kanep **0:1**

Standings after 12 rounds:
1. Mamedyarov – 9½ points
2. Azarov – 9
3–5. Gashimov, Bachin, Erenburg – 8
6–11. Zubov, Ganguly, Guseinov, Harikrishna, Rohit, Pantsulaia – 7½
etc.

Last round pairings:
Mamedyarov – Bachin
Azarov – Gashimov
Erenburg – Ganguly
Harikrishna – Pantsulaia
Rohit – Guseinov
Kanep – Zubov
Mastrovasilis – Kritz
Jatautis – Izoria
Esplana – Schneider
Mahesh Chandran – Deepan Chakkravarthy

Girls' section, top results of 10 round:
Sergeeva – Dzagnidze **½:½**
Ubiennykh – Z. Mamedjarova **1:0**
Dronavalli – Calotescu **½:½**
Sachdev – Saheli **1:0**
Morales Mendoza – Shukurova **0:1**
Khudaverdieva – Karavade **0:1**

Standings after 10 rounds:
1. Dzagnidze – 9 points
2. Ubiennykh – 7
3–6. Calotescu, Dronavalli, Sachdev, Z. Mamedjarova – 6½
7–8. Karavade, Shukurova – 6
9–11. Sergeeva, Makka, Topel – 5½
etc.

Last round pairings:
Dzagnidze – Karavade
Calotescu – Ubiennykh

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky & GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Z. Mamedjarova – Sachdev
Shukurova – Dronavalli
Makka – Topel
Van Der Merwe – Sergeeva

Dutch Championship
Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Stellwagen – 5 points
2. van Wely – 4
3-4. Delemarre, Tiviakov – 3½
5-6. Ernst, L'Ami – 3 etc.

Women's Round 7 Standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 6 points
2. Bosboom-Lanchava – 5
3. Schuurman – 4½ etc.

The Swedish Championships
Standings after 4 rounds:
1. Hillarp Persson – 3½
2. Brynell – 2½
3-6. Ernst, Wedberg, Lindberg, Agrest – 2 etc.

On Wednesday TWIC published games from the Greenland Open 2003 and a picture of winner Luke McShane with charming WGM Regina Pokorna. A picture with Regina – maybe it was the main prize of this event? ☺

Today in our Annotated Game section we feature one of McShane's victories.

Chess Exhibit and the match of Chess Prodigies

by John Henderson

The Gilbert Collection's 'Art of Chess' exhibition that charts artists' fascination with the game opened on Saturday in London's Somerset House, and will run to 28 September. Artists taking part in the major exhibition includes Brit-art bad boy Damien Hirst, Turner Prize nominees Jake and Dinos Chapman, Man Ray, Carl Fabergé, Yoko Ono and Marcel Duchamp, the most famous chess-playing artist of all-time, who for a period played at international level for France. Their work demonstrates the interaction of chess and modern art, and each of the 19 sets on display will show a move from the apocryphal last game between Napoleon against General Bertrand on St. Helena in 1820.

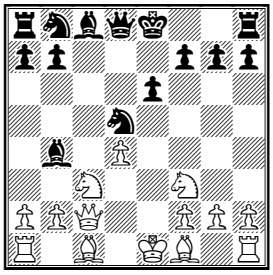
In order to create a chess atmosphere for the grand opening, a special outdoor challenge match with giant chess pieces took place between Sergei Karjakin, the youngest Grandmaster in history who is now 13, and England's top junior David Howell, 12; that match ending in a draw. To prepare himself for Karjakin, a few days earlier Howell took part in a similar outdoor challenge with top GM Jon Speelman that was sponsored by British Land, and won.

□ **David Howell (2323)**
■ **Jon Speelman (2589)**

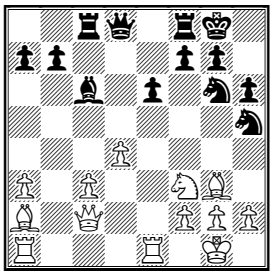
Caro-Kann Defence, Panov-Botvinnik Attack; B14

Exhibition game (on a giant chess set)
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

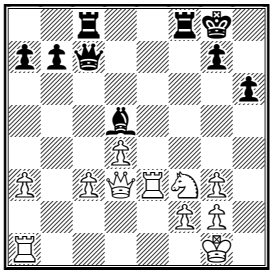
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♗b4 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♕c2 ***(D)***



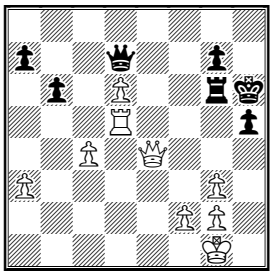
8...♘d7
Perhaps the most critical line is 8...♘c6 9.♗d3 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♘xd4 11.♘xd4 ♕xd4.
9.♗e2
Not a very conventional way to develop this bishop - usually it's deployed to d3 or c4.
9...♘7f6 10.0-0 0-0 11.♗g5 h6 12.♗h4 ♘f4!? 13.♗c4 ♘g6 14.♗g3 ♘h5 15.a3
15.♗e5!? was worth considering.
15...♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♗d7 17.♖fe1 ♖c8 18.♗a2 ♗c6? ***(D)***



This is a blunder. Jon Speelman has poor eye-sight, so perhaps he was disadvantaged playing with a gigantic chess set. He probably did not see the a2-bishop! Black would be doing well after 18...♘xg3 19.hxg3 ♕a5.
19.♗xe6! fxe6 20.♕xg6 ♘xg3 21.♕xe6+ ♔h7 22.hxg3 ♗d5
Perhaps better was 22...♗xf3 23.gxf3 ♖xc3.
23.♕e3 ♕c7 24.♕d3+ ♔g8 25.♖e3+- *(D)*



25...♕f7 26.♖ae1 ♖c7 27.♕d2 ♗xf3 28.♖xf3 ♕d5 29.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 30.♕f4+ ♕f7 31.♕e5 ♔g8 32.d5 ♖c5 33.♖d1 b6 34.♕d4 ♕d7 35.d6 ♖f5 36.♕c4+ ♖f7 37.♖e1 ♔h7 38.♕e4+ ♔g8 39.♕d5 ♔h7 40.c4 ♖f6 41.♕e4+ ♖g6 42.♖d1 h5 43.♖d5 ♔h6 *(D)*

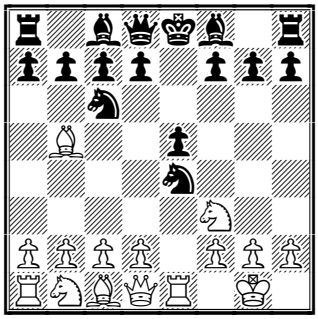


44.♖xh5+! ♔xh5 45.♕h4# 1-0
I would like to add that CT reader Miguel Amen played in the simuls against both young players. He drew against Howell and was the only player to defeat Karjakin! Miguel sent us his annotated games and we will share them with you this week - bravo, Miguel! (***by Alexander Baburin***)

Annotated Game

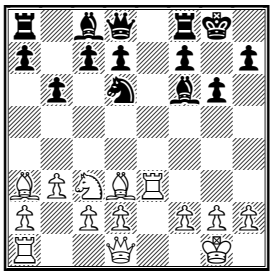
□ **L McShane (2592)**
■ **F Naes (2324)**
Greenland Open Qaqortoq GRL (5), 29.06.2003 C67
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.♖e1



If you don't like to play Berlin endgames - 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♗xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 - the text move is your lucky chance.
5...♘d6 6.♘xe5 ♗e7 7.♗d3
White would like to develop his second bishop on b2 and create unpleasant pressure on the kingside. The main drawback of this set up is obvious: White hasn't any pawn in the center, the "d" pawn stays on d2 instead of d4.
7...♘xe5 8.♖xe5 0-0 9.♘c3 ♗f6
9...c6 10.♕f3 *(10.♕h5 g6 11.♕f3 ♘e8 12.b3 d5 13.♗b2 ♗e6 14.♖ae1 ♘g7 15.♖5e2 ♗f6 16.♗a3 ♖e8 17.♘d1=* 1-0 Tarrasch,S-Pillsbury,H/Vienna 1898*)* 10...g6 11.b3 ♘e8 12.♗b2 d5 13.♖ae1 ♗d6 14.♖5e2 ♗d7 15.♘d1 ♕g5 16.h3 f6 17.♘e3 ♕f4 18.♕xf4 ♗xf4 19.♘g4 ♗xg4 20.hxg4± 1-0 Reinderman,D-Timman,J/Wijk aan Zee 1999; 9...♖e8 10.b3 ♗f6 11.♖e1 b6 12.♗a3 c5 13.♕h5 g6 14.♕d5 ♘b7 15.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 16.♔f1 ♕e5 17.♖e1 ♕xd5 18.♘xd5 1-0 Smirin,I-Diamond,J/Kissimmee 1997
10.♖e3 g6 11.b3 b6
11...c6 12.♗a3 ♕c7 13.♕f3 ♗xc3 14.dxc3 b6 15.♕f4 c5 16.♕h6 f5 17.♗c4++- 1-0 Janowski,D-Winawer,S/Budapest 1896

12.♗a3

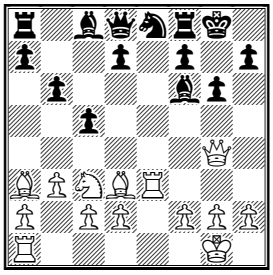


12.♕g4 ♗b7 13.♗b2 ♘e8 14.♖h3 d5 15.♕f4 ♗g5 16.♕e5 ♗f6 17.♕f4 ♗g5 18.♕e5 ♗f6 19.♕f4 ♗g5 ½–½ Kasparov,G–Vasilienko/Tbilisi 1976

12...c5

12...♗b7 13.♕g4 c5 14.♖ae1 ♖e8 15.b4 ♖xe3 16.♖xe3 ♗d4 17.♖e1 ♕f6 18.♘d1 c4 19.♗f1 ♗c6∓ 0–1 Yu Shaoteng–Zhang Zhong/Moscow 2001

13.♕g4 ♘e8!?



Interesting novelty: Black opens a way for his "d" pawn, the white knight is going on c7 and maybe e6 or d5 after this. 13...♗d4 14.♖e2 *(14.♖ae1?! ♗xe3 15.fxe3 ♗b7 16.♗b2 ♕e7 17.♖f1 ♖ad8 18.e4 f6 19.h4 ♕e6 20.♕f4 ♖de8∓* 0–1 Bargel,M–Fuksik,J/ Litomysl 1996*)* 14...♗b7 15.♖ae1 f5 16.♕f4 ♕f6 17.h4 ♘e4 18.♗c4+ ♔h8 19.♘d5 ♕g7 20.d3 b5 21.dxe4 bxc4 22.bxc4 fxe4 23.♕xe4± 1–0 Shamkovich,L–Martz,W/Lone Pine 1975; 13...♗b7!?

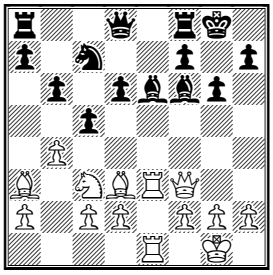
14.♕f3

14.♖ae1 d5 15.♕f3 ♗d4 16.♖3e2 ♗e6

14...♘c7 15.b4

15.♖ae1!?

15...d6 16.♖ae1 ♗e6



It looks like Black has more or less solved his opening problems.

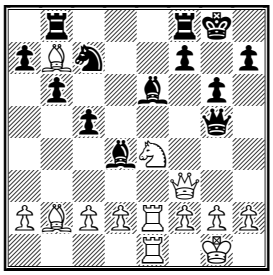
17.bxc5 dxc5 18.♗e4 ♖c8 19.♗b2 ♗d4 20.♖3e2 ♕g5

This move shows that Black begins to think about the initiative.

21.♗b7!?

And White finds some complications.

21...♖b8 22.♘e4



22...♕g4??

Terrible mistake. After 22...♕f5 or; 22...♕d8 the position is equal.

23.♘f6+

After this simple move all is over.

23...♗xf6 24.♕xf6

Lucky Luke! **1–0**

Answers to Quiz:

51...♖e2! 52.♖f1 (or pawn a3 will go forward) **52...♖e4+!** After 53...Bxf1 pawn a3 will be unstoppable, and White resigned. **0–1**

45.♖xc8+! [45.♖xc8+ ♕xc8 46.♗xf7+ ♔d7 47.♗e6++–] **1–0**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments!

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Website: http://www.chesstoday.net **Editors:** GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, MaximNotkin and Nikolai Vlassov.**Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi. **Chess Today is copyright 2003 by Alexander Baburin** and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention.

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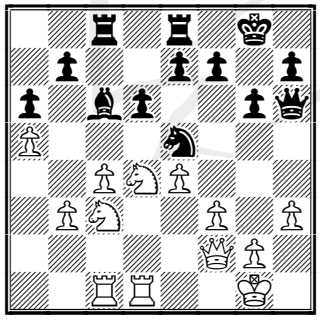
CT-185(969) 4th July 2003

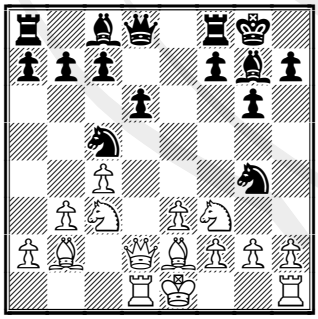
Jumbo Quiz

Olsson (2383) – Tikkanen (2337)
Umea 2003



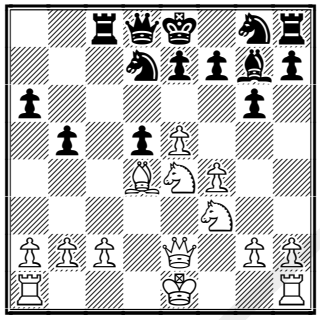
23.Qb2-f2?, – Black to play

Ljubojevic (2550) – Stein (2620) Las Palmas 1973



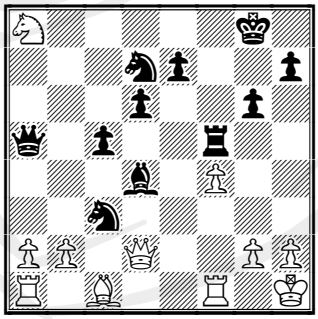
Black to play

Lindberg (2392) – Persson (2474)
Umea 2003



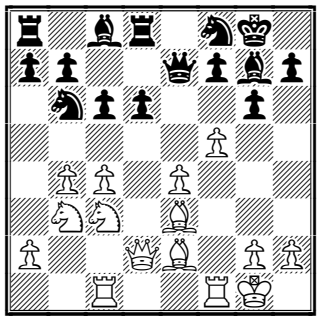
White to play

Elbilia (2310) – Shirov (2670)
France 1993



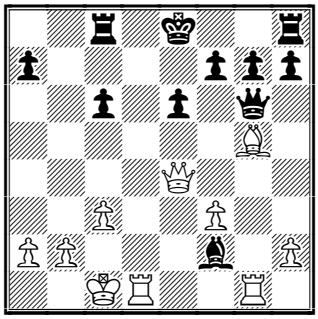
Black to play

Najdorf – Bolbochan
Buenos Aires 1965



White to play

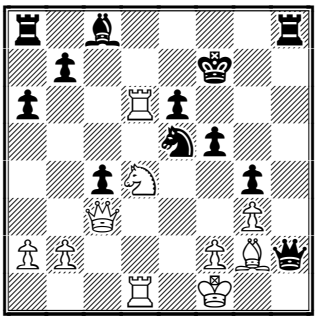
Marciano (2470) – Prie (2465)
Ch France, Narbonne 1997



White to play

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky & GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 19 Euros for 4 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Belilowski – Otte
Bad Zwischenahn 2002



White to play

News

The World under 20 Championships, Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan.

The new Chess Prince is GM **Shakhriar Mamedyarov** from Azerbaijan. Our congratulations! But it is rather a pity that his last game was a 5(!) move draw .. And the new Princess, **Nana Dzagnidze** from Georgia, played only 2 moves longer – a 7 move draw. Respected GM Andras Adorjan would say: but they played very strong in all previous rounds they have a right to play such short 'last round draws'! OK, I agree with him they have a right. But it's a pity to see these somewhat cynical draws made by such young players ..

Final Standings:
Boys:
1. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (g AZE 2607) – 10 points out of 13
2. Sergei Azarov (g BLR 2530) – 9½
3–7. Alexander Zubov (m UKR 2494), Vugar Gashimov (g AZE 2579), Kadir Guseinov (g AZE 2505), Vitaly Bachin (m RUS 2443), Sergey Erenburg (m ISR 2499) – 8½
8–10. Surya Shekhar Ganguly (g IND 2542), Pentala Harikrishna (g IND 2563), Levan Pantsulaia (m GEO 2465) – 8
11–17. Dimitrios Mastrovasilis (m GRE 2456), Zviad Izoria (g GEO 2569), Rauf Mamedov (AZE 2330), Leonid Kritz (m GER 2468), Dmitry Schneider (m USA 2424), G. Rohit (IND 2357), Jiri Jirka (CZE 2394) – 7½ etc.

Girls:
1. Nana Dzagnidze (wm GEO 2376) – 9½ points out of 11
2–3. Cristina Calotescu (wm ROM 2334), Zeinab Mamedjarova (wg AZE 2298) – 7½
4–5. Ekaterina Ubiennykh (wf RUS 2293), Dronavalli Harika (wf IND 2294) – 7
6–10. Maria Sergeeva (wg KAZ 2340), Eesha Karavade (IND 2199), Tania Sachdev (wm IND 2245), Meihriban Shukurova (wm AZE 2250), Ioulia Makka (wm GRE 2234) – 6½ etc.

The Dutch Championship

16-year old leader IM Daniel Stellwagen lost to Erik van den Doel in the 7th round, while Loek van Wely beat Ervin L'Ami to catch the leader.

Men's Round 7 Standings:
1–2. Stellwagen, Van Wely – 5 points
3. Tiviakov – 4
4–6. Ernst, Delemarre, Van der Wiel – 3½ etc.

Women's Round 8 Standings:
1. Peng Zhaoqin – 7 points
2. Bosboom-Lanchava – 5½
3. Schuurman – 4½ etc.

The Swedish Championships
Standings after 5 rounds:
1. Hillarp Persson – 3½
2. Lindberg – 3
3–5. Brynell, Agrest, Tikkanen – 2½ etc.

Many Happy Returns

By GM Alex Baburin

American Independence Day is also is the birthday of GMs ***David Marciano*** (1969) and ***Alexei Shirov*** 1972). Coincidentally, both are my team-mates in the chess club *Monaco* – Champions of France of 2001 and 2002.

Sadly, 4th July is also a day when two great players passed away – ***Leonid Stein*** (1973) and ***Miguel Najdorf*** (1997).

Yesterday was the 60th birthday of ***Alexander Belilowski*** (Bremen) – one of the main people behind the success of *Bremer Schachgesellschaft von 1877* chess club. I joined the club last season and I enjoyed its team spirit. The team is very strong – with such players as GMs Konstantin Sakaev, Johann Hjartarson, Konstantin Landa, Evgeniy Agrest and many others. The team easily qualified for the top league in Germany. Since then GM Etienne Bacrot has joined the team, but only time can tell if we can challenge the mighty *Luebeck*!

Kasparov to appear in Armenian Church in New York

We received the following press-release from the Press Office of Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) in New York. We trust that this could be of great interest to those readers who may be able to attend the planned meeting. For more information check the Church's website.

Kasparov will talk about his latest book and answer questions at Cathedral

World chess champion Garry Kasparov will speak at St. Vartan Cathedral from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 13, 2003. The afternoon will feature a lecture by Kasparov and a question and answer session. He will also be signing copies of his newest book, "Kasparov Against the World," his own day-to-day account of the most high-profile chess game in history: the 1999 match when Kasparov challenged the Microsoft Zone members.

Kasparov will speak in the cathedral's Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium, 630 Second Ave. at 34th St. in New York City. Tickets are $10, which also includes a $10 discount in the cost of his book (normally $25).

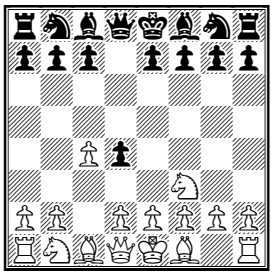
Born in Baku, Azerbaijan, to a Jewish father and Armenian mother, Kasparov – who in 1985 became the youngest chess champion in history at the age of 22 – took the Russian-version of his mother's maiden name, Kasparian, after his father died, when Kasparov was only 7 years old. By the time of the pogroms in 1990, Kasparov was already a world-renowned chess champion. But he helped save many Armenian families from the violence rocking his hometown, Baku. "In my mind the city has disappeared because I grew up in a city where people lived together and had the same interests and knew each other," he said during his first visit to St. Vartan Cathedral in March 2003. "But now that city has changed."

Organizers of the event say the Armenian community will turn out to see Kasparov.

"Armenians will take great pleasure from seeing him and meeting him and finding out about him," said Setrak Agonian, who helped organize Kasparov's recent match against a computer in New York City and who brought Kasparov to the cathedral for an impromptu visit. "People should know that he is very much Armenian."

Annotated Game

□ **R Janssen (2483)**
■ **J Delemarre (2418)**
ch-NED Leeuwarden NED (7), 03.07.2003 – A09
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 d4



Of course it's possible and a well known move, but to my mind a bit more solid are 2...c6; 2...e6; or even 2...dxc4!?

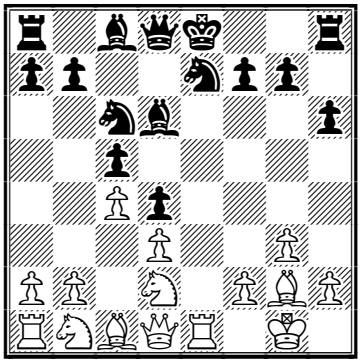
3.g3 c5 4.♗g2 ♘c6 5.d3 e5 6.0-0 ♗d6 7.e3 h6?!

Black is trying like to gain the center with all conveniences. But White leads in development and has good chances to exploit this. More common is 7...♘ge7 8.exd4 *(8.♘g5?! 0–0 9.exd4 cxd4 10.♘a3 a6 11.♘e4 ♗c7 12.c5 ♗e6 13.♕h5 ♗d5 14.g4? ♘b4 15.♕h3 ♗c6 16.♘c4 ♘g6∓* Vassallo,M-Delchev,A/X Anibal Open, Linares ESP 2003*)* 8...cxd4 9.a3 *(9.b3 0–0 10.♗a3 ♗g4 11.♗xd6 ♕xd6 12.a3 a5 13.♘bd2 f5 14.♖e1 ♘g6∓* Sunye Neto,J-Short,N/Solingen 1986*)* 9...a5 10.♘bd2 ♘g6 11.♖e1 0–0 12.♕c2 ♖e8 13.b3 h6 14.♖b1 ♗e6 Steinitz,W-Zukertort J/London 1872; or 7...♘f6 8.exd4 cxd4 9.a3 a5 10.♖e1 0–0 11.♘bd2 h6 12.c5 ♗c7 13.♘c4 ♖e8 Szekely,P-Csernyin,A/HUN 1995

8.exd4 exd4 9.♖e1+

Much less ambitious is 9.♘bd2?! ♘f6 10.a3 a5 11.♖e1+ ♔f8 12.♘e4 ♘xe4 13.♖xe4 g5!? Vadasz, L- Mikhalevski, A/Budapest 1997

9...♘ge7 10.♘fd2!



A tricky move! White threatens to play Ne4, but has another idea also.

10...f5?!

10...0–0!? 11.♘e4 ♗f5

11.♗xc6+!

Here it is! White creates a blockading position where his two knights will be much stronger than the black bishop pair.

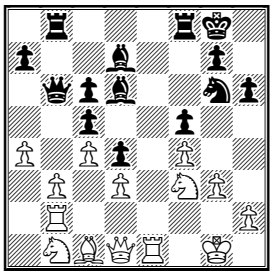
11...bxc6 12.f4!

Now the f4 and f5 pawns create a barrier for both bishops.

12...0-0 13.♘f3 ♘g6 14.a4

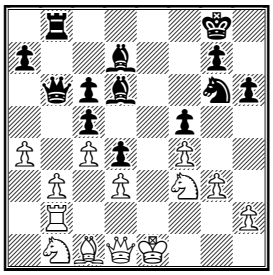
White prevents possible counterplay involving a7-a5-a4.

14...♗d7 15.♖a2!? ♖b8 16.b3 ♕b6 17.♖b2



An interesting position. Both b1 knight and c1 bishop stand on their initial positions .. but Black hasn't any idea how to exploit it.

17...♖fe8 18.♔f1 ♖xe1+ 19.♔xe1!?



I haven't seen such a strange position for a long time. I suspect Nimtzovich would be happy to see such a blockading position!

19...♘f8 20.♔d2 ♘h7

Rather slow, though Black has several suitable plans here. One of them is sharp - to find some complications for example: 20...g5!? 21.fxg5 f4∞

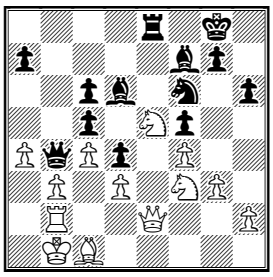
21.♔c2 ♘f6 22.♘bd2 ♕b4

22...♘g4 23.♘f1; 22...♘e4?! 23.dxe4 d3+ 24.♔xd3 fxe4+ 25.♘xe4 ♗f5 26.♔e3 ♖e8 27.♕xd6 ♖xe4+ 28.♔f2+-

23.♔b1 ♗e8 24.♕e2 ♗f7

24...♗h5? 25.♕e6++-

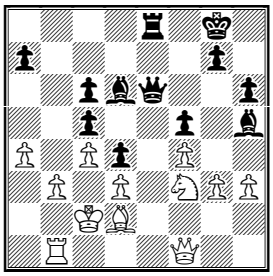
25.♘e5 ♖e8 26.♘df3



26...♗h5 27.♗d2 ♕b7 28.♕f1 ♕c8 29.h3 ♘d7

29...♗xf3!? 30.♘xf3 ♕e6 31.♗c1 *(31.♕g2 ♕e2 32.♕xe2 ♖xe2 33.♘h4 ♖h2 34.♘xf5 ♗f8 35.♗e1 ♖xh3 36.♖e2±)* 31...♘h5 32.♖g2±

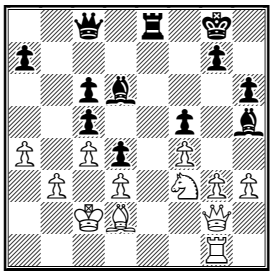
30.♘xd7 ♕xd7 31.♔c2 ♕e6 32.♖b1



32...♕d7?!

Strange move, much stronger was 32...♕e2!? for example: 33.♘h4 g6 34.♖e1 *(34.♕h1? ♖e3–+)* 34...♕xf1 35.♖xf1 ♖e2 36.♖g1 ♗e7∓

33.♕g2 ♕c8 34.♖g1!



The rook from the queenside is included into play and White gains an initiative on the kingside.

34...♖f8

34...♗xf3 35.♕xf3 ♕b7 36.g4

35.g4 ♗e8 36.g5 h5 37.g6!

White's initiative has become very unpleasant. White has a simple but extremely dangerous threat: to attack the h5 pawn with his queen, take it and checkmate on h7!

37...♕d8

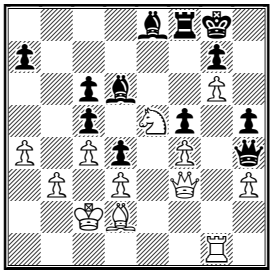
37...♖f6 38.♘h4 ♗d7 39.♕g5 ♗e6 40.♖e1 ♔f8 41.♕xh5 ♗g8 42.♘f3+–

38.♘e5 ♕f6?

It looks like black had a draw still: 38...♗xe5 39.fxe5 f4 40.♕f3 ♖f5 41.♕e4 *(41.♗xf4 ♕a5=)* 41...♖g5 42.♖f1 ♗xg6 43.♕xc6 ♖g3

39.♕f3 39.♘xc6!?

39...♕h4?!



More stubborn was 39...♕e6 40.♕xh5 ♖f6 41.♕h7+ ♔f8 42.♖g5

40.♗e1 ♕f6 41.♕xh5 1–0

Answers to Quiz: Olsson – Tikkanen **23...♘d3! 24.♖xd3 ♕xc1+–+ 25.♔h2 ♕a3 26.f4 ♕xa5 27.♖g3 e6 28.♖g5 ♕xc3 29.h4 ♗xe4 30.h5 ♖c5 31.h6 ♖xg5 32.fxg5 ♗f5 33.g4 ♕c1 34.gxf5 exf5 35.♘f3 ♕e3 36.♕b2 ♕e2+ 0–1**

Lindberg–Persson **13.e6! ♗xd4 14.exf7+ ♔xf7** More stubborn was 14...♔f8 15.♘xd4 ♕a5+ 16.c3 dxe4 17.fxg8♕+ ♔xg8 18.♕xe4+– **15.♘fg5+! ♔f8 16.♘e6+ ♔e8 17.♘xd8+– ♗xb2 18.♖b1 dxe4 19.♖xb2 ♖xd8 20.♕xe4 ♘gf6 21.♕c6 ♔f7 22.♕xa6 ♖b8 23.0–0 ♖hc8 24.♖e1 ♘c5 25.♕a3 ♘ce4 26.♖b4 ♘d6 27.♖d4 ♘f5 28.♕b3+ ♔f8 29.♖b4 ♖c5 30.a4 ♘d6 31.♖e5 ♘d7 32.♖xc5 ♘xc5 33.♕c3 1–0**

Najdorf–Bolbochan: **22.f6! ♗xf6 23.♖xf6 ♕xf6 24.♗g5 1–0**

Ljubojevic–Stein: **11...♘xf2! 12.0–0** (or 12.♔xf2 ♗xc3) **12...♘xd1–+ 13.♗xd1 ♗g4 14.h3 ♗xf3 15.♗xf3 a5 16.♘d5 c6 17.♗xg7 ♔xg7 18.♕d4+ f6 19.♘f4 ♕e7 20.♔h1 ♖fe8 21.♕d2 ♕xe3 22.♕xd6 ♕e5 23.♕d2 ♖ad8 24.♕xa5 ♘e4 25.♘e6+ ♕xe6 0–1**

Elbilia–Shirov: **22...♘e4!! 0–1**
White resigned as both 23.♕xa5 ♘g3+ 24.hxg3 ♖h5# and 23.♕d1 ♕xa8–+ is too bad for him.

Marciano–Prie: **20.♕xc6+! 1–0**

Belilowski–Otte: **25.♘xe6! ♗xe6 26.♕xe5 ♖he8 27.♖d7+** (27.♖xe6! ♖xe6 28.♖d7+) **27...♖e7 28.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 29.♕g7+ ♔e8 30.♖e1 1–0**

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CHESS TODAY
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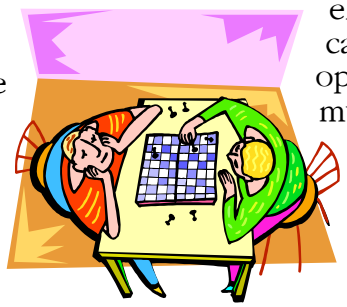
CT-186(970) 5th July 2003

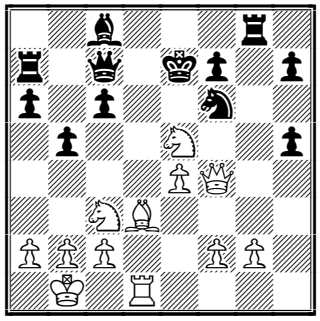
Weekend Chesswatch

with GM Alex Baburin

Looking at the excellent Chess Calendar 2003 (produced by the *Chess Café*) yesterday, I found that GM Victor Kupreichik turned 54 two days ago. While his rating may not be high now, in the 70s and 80s Kupreichik was one of the most dangerous players in the USSR, so hence my selection for the tactical quiz today.



Kupreichik (2575) – Short (2440)
Telechess Ol, telex 1981



White to play

In the Dutch Championship after 8 rounds, 16-year old IM Daniel Stellwagen and GM Loek van Wely are still sharing the lead. They have 5½ points, while GM Sergei Tiviakov is in third position with 4½ points. In the last round he will play White against Stellwagen, so I guess that van Wely has better chances to become the champion. You can see games from round 8 in our database.

Book Review *by Andy Ansel*

Shall We Play Fischerandom Chess? by GM Svetozar Gligoric, published by Batsford 2002, 144 pages list price $18.95

What is Fischerandom Chess and why write a book about it? One of the questions is answered in the book and I am still left wondering about the second question.

Fischerandom chess is chess where the pieces are randomly placed in the back row (preferably using Fischer's electronic device) with several caveats—the Bishop's must be on opposite colours and the rooks must be on either side of the King to allow castling. The logic and method of why there should be random pieces deployment is to help discourage opening preparation and analysis, which many feel have made the game too regimented in this era of strong computers and massive databases.

I wish I could say something positive about this book but I can't. I feel it is a total PR job on both Fischer and Random chess. There are a fair amount of quotes (I am guessing mostly out of context) saying how Fischerandom chess is the wave of the future. The book also gives games from various Random tournaments and exhibitions (the first one was from 1842.) The hype never stops. There is really no instruction on how to improve one's play in Fischerandom chess, but there are notes (usually quite light) given to the various games played using Fischerandom chess. There is also a chapter on rules which mostly details castling from the various possible starting positions. I read through this chapter several times and I am still not sure of all the castling implications. In my opinion the rest is fluff hyping the game and its supposedly growing popularity.

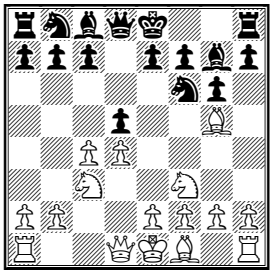
I feel sad that Gligoric basically sold out his conscious to write this book which in my opinion adds nothing to the game of chess –of course I may be wrong and eventually Fischrandom chess will be the rage but with one experimental tournament a year I think it is hardly catching on.

This issue is prepared by GM Alexander Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

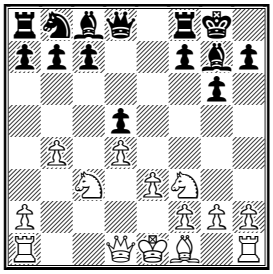
Annotated Games

In CT-967 we mentioned that our reader Miguel Amen did well in the simuls against David Howell and Sergey Karjakin. We also promised to publish the games, which Miguel sent to us. Time to fulfil the promise! Both games are quite instructive. One point to remember is that masters often lack precision when playing in simuls. So, when you are in trouble in a simul - complicate the game and don't allow it to become too technical!

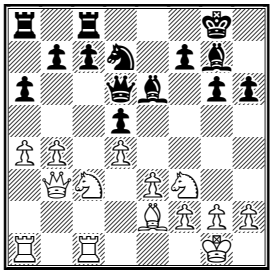
□ **David Howell**
■ **Miguel Amen**
Gruenfeld Defence with 5.♗g5, D91, Art Of Chess Exhibition Simul, 28.06.2003. *Notes by Miguel Amen and GM Alex Baburin (starting with **)*
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 ♗g7 4.♘c3 d5 5.♗g5 ***(D)***



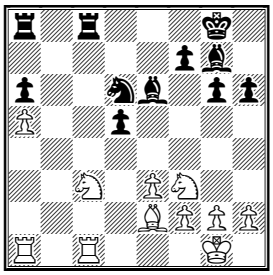
5...♘e4
** Another popular line is 5...dxc4.
6.cxd5 ♘xg5 7.♘xg5 e6
**Here Black has a sharper alternative in 7...c6, but the text move is most common.
8.♘f3 exd5 9.e3 0-0 10.b4 ***(D)***



This pawn structure is typical for the Exchange (Carlsbad) Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined.
10...a6 11.♗e2 11.♗d3 c6 12.0-0 ♗e6 13.♖c1 ♕e7 14.♕b3 ♘d7 15.♘a4 b5 16.♘c5 ♘b6 17.a4 ♘c4 18.♖fe1 ♗g4 19.♗e2 ♖fe8 20.h3 ♗f5 21.a5 ♗h6 22.♗d3 ♕f6 23.♔h1 ♗xh3! Maggiolo-Ramon, Caetano 1997.
11...h6N
Controls g5. ** This looks like a waste of time to me. I think 11...♗g4 should be considered, followed by ...c6 and ...Nd7.
12.0-0 ♗e6 13.♕b3 ♕d6 14.a4
White plans to play b4-b5.
14...♘d7 15.♖fc1 ♖fc8 ***(D)***



** I am not sure about this move - looks like one of those Nimzowitsch's mysterious rook moves! ☺ This rook could be handy on the f-file - if Black played ...f7-f7-f4. In general, in such positions Black should seek play on the kingside.
16.b5
White wins space. 16.a5 ♖ab8±. ** I think that a4-a5 would be a mistake - after 16...c6 White's play on the queenside would be dead! OK, he can get a knight to c5, but Black can easily defend the b7-pawn.
16...c5
** I think Black could have also tried 16...a5.
17.bxc6 bxc6 18.a5 c5
** Good move - Black should get rid of the backward pawn and bring the g7-bishop to life.
19.dxc5 19.♕a3 ♖c6=.
19...♘xc5 20.♕a3 ♘e4 21.♕xd6 ♘xd6 ***(D)***



** Here the endgame is good for Black despite the isolated pawn for two related reasons: his g7-bishop is strong and the c3-knight is shaky (no b-pawn!).

22.♘d4 ♘c4

Better was 22...♘f5!?. ** I certainly like this move and would give it '!'. In such positions it's almost always good to challenge the d4-knight - White's best piece. 23.♖a4 (** 23.♘xf5 gxf5! *(23...♗xf5 24.♘xd5 ♗xa1 25.♘e7+ ♔f8 26.♘xc8 ♗b2 27.♘b6)* 24.♘a4 ♗xa1 25.♖xa1 White has some compensation - Black's pawns and bishop are not exactly beautiful - but this should not be enough to hold the game.) 23...♘xd4 24.exd4 ♖c7∓. ** This line should be extended: 25.♘a2 ♖xc1+ 26.♘xc1 ♖b8 27.♗d3 ♗f5! 28.g3? ♖c8!.

23.♗f3= ♖c5

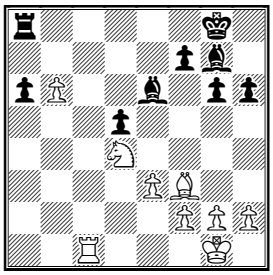
Attacking the isolated pawn on a5.

24.♘a4??

This gives the opponent counter-play. 24.♘xd5!? ♗xd5 25.♗xd5 ♖xd5 26.♖xc4±. ** I think that the endgame is more unpleasant than the assessment given by Miguel!

24...♖cc8 ⌓24...♖xa5 25.♘c3 ♗xd4 26.exd4 ♖c8∓.

25.♘b6± ♘xb6 26.axb6 ♖xc1+ 27.♖xc1 *(D)*



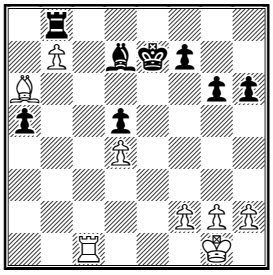
27...♖b8?

27...♗xd4 28.exd4 ♖b8 29.♖b1=.

28.♖b1

Better was 28.♘xe6 - White clearly has the better chances: 28...fxe6 29.♖c6+-. ** Yes, and this why 28.♖b1 should be given '?' or even '??'.

28...♗xd4= 29.exd4 ♔f8 30.♗e2 a5 31.♗a6 ♗d7 32.b7 ♔e7 33.♖c1 *(D)*



33...♔d8

Better is 33...♔d6!?, which is worth looking at. 34.♖c5 *(** I guess Black was worried about 34.♖c8, but after 34...♗xc8 35.bxc8♕ ♖xc8 36.♗xc8 a4* Black wins.*)* 34...a4∓.

** I think Miguel should have given 33...♔d8 a clear '?' mark - 33...♔d6 is certainly a much better move! Let us have a closer look at the position after 34...a4. White is playing without his king and his advanced b-pawn is more of a target than strength. 35.h4 ♗c6 36.♗b5 *(36.♖a5? ♔c7)* 36...♗xb5 37.♖xb5 ♔c6 38.♖a5 ♖xb7 39.♖xa4 ♔b5 ** White should be able to hold, but this is no fun for him.

34.h4 a4 35.♖c5 ♗e6

35...♔e7 36.♖xd5 ♗c6 37.♖a5=

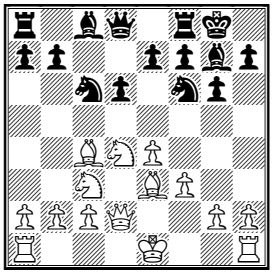
36.♖a5 36.♔f1 a3±.

36...♔c7 37.♖xa4 ♔b6 38.♖a3 ♗d7 ½-½

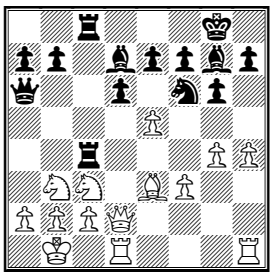
□ **Sergey Karjakin (2556)**
■ **Miguel Amen**

Sicilian Defence; Yugoslav Attack of the Dragon Variation, B79
Art Of Chess Exhibition Simul, 29.06.2003; *Notes by Miguel Amen*

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.♗c4 *(D)*



9...♗d7 10.0-0-0 ♘e5 11.♗b3 ♕a5 12.♔b1 ♖fc8 13.h4 ♘c4 14.♗xc4 ♖xc4 15.♘b3 ♕a6 16.g4 ♖ac8 17.e5 *(D)*



17.♗d4 e5 18.♗e3 *(18.♗xe5 dxe5 19.g5 ♗e6 20.gxf6 ♗xf6 21.h5 b5 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.♖dg1* Galarza–Mieles Palau, ECU 1999.*)* 18...♗xg4 19.fxg4 ♖xc3 20.bxc3 ♘xe4 21.♕g2 ♘xc3+ 22.♔c1 ♕a3+ 23.♔d2 d5 24.♔e1 ♘xd1 25.♔xd1 ♕xa2 26.♕xd5 ♕xc2+ 27.♔e1 ♖c3 28.♕d8+ ♗f8 29.♗h6 ♕e4+ 30.♔d1 ♖d3+ 0–1 Mortensen–Ernst, Gausdal 1987.

17...♘e8N ***17...dxe5?*** is worthless because of 18.g5 ♘g4 19.fxg4 ♗xg4 20.♖c1+–. ***17...♘xg4*** 18.fxg4 ♗xg4 19.♖df1 dxe5 20.h5 gxh5 21.♖fg1 b5 22.♕d3 e4 23.♘xe4 ♕g6 24.♘bc5 f5 25.♕d5+ ♔h8 26.♘g5 h6 27.♘ge6 f4 28.♖xg4 ♕xc2+ 0–1 Pfeifer–Kadar, Hungary 1998.

18.h5

This push gains space.

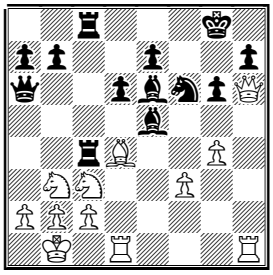
18...♗xe5 19.hxg6 fxg6

Not 19...hxg6 20.♗d4 ♖xd4 21.♘xd4±. 19...♗xc3? is tempting but does not stand up to the reality of the position 20.gxf7+ ♔xf7 21.bxc3+–.

20.♗d4 ♗e6??

This forfeits the advantage. Better was 20...♗xd4 21.♘xd4 ♖xc3 22.bxc3 ♕c4=.

21.♕h6+– ♘f6 ***(D)***



22.♘e4??

This unfortunate move relinquishes the win. 22.g5 ♖4c7 23.gxf6 exf6 24.f4 ♗xb3 25.axb3 ♗xd4 26.♖xd4+–.

22...♖xd4∓ 23.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 24.♕xh7+?

24.♘xd4!? should be considered: 24...♕xa2+ 25.♔c1∓.

24...♔f8 25.♘xd4??

White crumbles in face of a dire situation. Better was 25.♖xd4 ♗xb3 26.axb3 ♗xd4 27.♕xg6–+.

25...♕xa2+ 26.♔c1 ♗g5+ 0–1

Solution to our Quiz:

Kupreichik–Short: **19.♘d5+!** By sacrificing his knight White moves his pawn to d5, opening the e-file and getting control over the c6-square. **19...cxd5 20.exd5 ♗b7** Fritz gives as the best defence 20...♘e8 After 21.♗xb5! *(21.♕xf7+ ♔d8 22.♘c6+ ♕xc6)* 21...axb5 22.♕xf7+ ♔d6 (now *22...♔d8* leads to checkmate: *23.♘c6+ ♕xc6 24.dxc6+)* 23.♕xg8 Black is unlikely to survive with his king being his most 'active' piece!

21.♘g6+ ♔d7 22.♕f5+ 1–0

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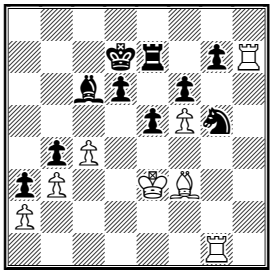
CT-187(971) 6th July 2003

Quiz

Tiviakov – Stellwagen
Dutch Ch, Leeuwarden (9), 05.07.2003



White to play

Chess News

Loek van Wely wins the Dutch Ch!

Yesterday I said that GM Loek van Wely had better chances of winning the Dutch Championship than his 16-year old co-leader IM Daniel Stellwagen, who was to play Black vs. GM Sergei Tiviakov in the last round.

I was right – while King Loek (as van Wely is known) won his game quite comfortably, Tiviakov defeated Stellwagen in a long battle, thus catching up with his opponent.

Final standings:
1. **GM Loek van Wely** (2661) – 6½ points out of 9;
2-3. GM Sergei Tiviakov (2613) and IM Daniel Stellwagen (2462) – 5½ pts;
4. GM John van der Wiel (2519) – 4½ points; 5-7. IM Sipke Ernst (2468), GM Erik van den Doel (2615) and Erwin l'Ami (2439) – 4 points, etc.

WGM Zhaoqin Peng (2438) won the Dutch women's championship with an excellent result – 9 points out of 10 games! WGM Tea Lanchava (2309) was clear second on 6½ points.

Curiously, both Van Wely and Peng have won the Dutch Championship for the fourth time in a row!

In the Swedish Championship after 6 rounds three players share the lead with 3½ points – Hans Tikkanen and GMs Evgenij Agrest and Tiger Hillarp-Persson.

The World Open is in progress in Philadelphia. It's the biggest chess tournament in the world, which in 1986 set a world record by attracting 1506 players. This year the total guaranteed prize fund is $180,000. The tournament website is seriously behind, so we have standings only after round 5:

1-4. GMs Jaan Ehlvest, Harmen Jonkman, Alexander Shabalov and IM Ronald Burnett – 4½ points, etc.

Book Review

by Don Aldrich

School of Chess Excellence 3: Strategic Play by Mark Dvoretsky, (Edition Olms, 2002), paperback, FAN, 232 pp., 268 diagrams, $25

This is the third of four planned volumes in the Olms' republication of trainer Mark Dvoretsky's work. However, unlike the first two volumes, almost all of what is contained in volume 3 seems to be new material. I have thoroughly reviewed all the previously published Batsford books, and do not see much if anything being repeated from the earlier incarnation. It goes without saying that the production values are on a par with the other recent efforts from Olms – grade A outstanding.

As with the previous efforts in the series, the book is divided into several sections, each section consisting of a series of lectures on specific topics, each lecture containing several questions for the student to answer along the way, and capped off with exercises involving what was just learned. Finally, or perhaps initially,

each lecture begins with a well-chosen aphorism which may or may not have something specifically to do with chess, but will serve well to frame the following discussion.

The two sections of this book are "Positional Play" and "The Play of Simple Positions". The first section is exactly what it sounds like - the lectures focus on the elements of positional play, with titles such as, "The Two Bishops", "An Advantage in Space", "How a Plan is Formulated" and so on. Again, this work is not a primer. It does assume one knows a bit about positional chess, and tends to focus on more advanced topics.

As with most Dvoretsky works, there is a pronounced emphasis on concrete calculation and the idea of prophylaxis. While prophylaxis receives its own chapter, it is mentioned and emphasized through out. Though one might think that the whole idea of positional play is to get away from the calculation of variations, Dvoretsky demonstrates over and over again that sometimes one needs a tactical operation or combination to fully realize a positional advantage.

Along with the elements, there are several discussions of the problem of planning in chess. In particular, one very nice chapter explores the issue of "clashing plans", i.e., when one is working on his own plan, the opponent no doubt is doing the same. How does one determine when to continue carrying out his own plan, and when should he work on frustrating his opponent's? And again, that leads right back to prophylactic ideas.

As per usual with Dvoretsky, the examples chosen are extraordinarily appropriate, and the textual explanations are superb. The questions posed strike to the heart of the matter, and the concluding examples are quite difficult, but attempting to solve them definitely improves and reinforces the lessons taught.

So far, this is just a really, really good text on positional play. Then we come to the second part, "The Play of Simple Positions". Now, what exactly is meant by that? In the introduction to the section, Dvoretsky defines "simple" positions as those having "fewer pieces" on the board, but not quite yet an endgame. For his purposes, he defines an endgame as each side having only one piece, and a simple position where each side has at least two pieces, but one class of piece is missing, e.g., Rooks and Minor Pieces, but no Queens, or Queens and minor pieces but no Rooks, etc.

The reason he deems this important, and a full third of the book is devoted to it, is that while mating attacks are quite rare, it is not yet an endgame where specific theoretical knowledge is required, BUT they do require a significant amount of technique. That is to say, with certain piece combinations on the board, there are known techniques for playing the positions. I must say that in all of my reading on chess, I have never come across this concept before, and I am therefore clueless as to the technique aspect. These chapters deliver in spades!

First, while the positions are "simple", the exercises are not. These chapters have more of the 'along the way' questions than any of the other chapters in this series. Every page has the "What should you play now?" queries. The technique pointers are in boldface, and also are liberally strewn throughout this section.

While prophylaxis and calculation of variations are, as always, present herein, the main thrust of the section is two fold - how to convert an advantage into a won ending, and how to best defend when one is at a disadvantage. The examples deal with many of the same issues as the previous section - the initiative,

planning, best use of pieces – but in the context where, instead of starting from near equality and trying to obtain the advantage, one has the advantage or disadvantage from the previous middlegame play and now needs to win, or defend.

The specific issues dealt with are seizing the initiative, active defence, how to choose the best move from a plethora of good moves, and of course, tactics. The point of this section is not that chess is played differently when there are fewer pieces on the board, but in such cases there are specific themes that are recurrent. For instance, in the tactical chapter, he shows that in simple positions, the interference theme is more prevalent than in a more complex middlegame. As he notes, remember the Lucena manoeuvre in the ending. It really is just a tactical trick, and an interference.

This section is quite an eye-opener. I don't think I will ever look at the 'pre-ending' phase the same way again. Indeed, having worked through these exercises will create a type of psychological trigger – when one reaches this type of position, there will be a mental 'whoa', this is a simple position. What techniques are appropriate here? I truly think that if one took nothing else away from this book, that alone would increase one's strength, perhaps significantly.

All in all, this is a smashing good read, and probably the most accessible for players of all classes of all the books Dvoretsky has put out. It will absorb virtually as much work as one wants to put into it, and one will actually begin to see the fruits of these efforts in his games. Every serious player should study this book. ***Highly recommended.***

Annotated Game

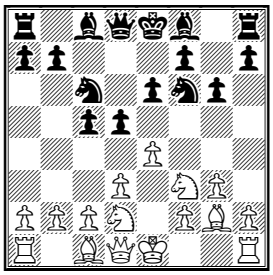
In CT-964 we published a letter from our US reader Don Aldrich concerning Computer Chess. This is how it started:

"Alex, The flip side of your 'beautiful' computer moves is when you play a game where Fritz is unable to find the winning move ☺ It doesn't happen too often, but when it does..."

Don sent us two such games and in CT-964 we published one. Now we publish the second game:

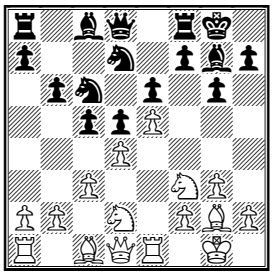
"Well, we had all lost to Adler in the previous rounds, so the real battle was for second place. If you don't know Arkady, he is a professor at St. Thomas, and one of the all round nicest guys in the local scene. He is also quite a good player, and the Castle is fortunate to have him on our team in the Twin City Chess League.

□ **Arkady Shemyakin (2080)**
■ **Don Aldrich (1998)**
King's Indian Attack, **A08,** 27.10.2002
Notes by Don Aldrich
1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3 ♘c6 5.g3 ♘f6 6.♗g2 g6 ***(D)***



I have been having some difficulties against the KIA in the French. Not that it's all that good, but it gets the game into different kinds of positions than one sees from the French, which is probably a good thing when playing a Frenchie. Watson recommends the kingside Fianchetto in his classic 'Play the French,' so I finally have decided to take his advice.
7.0-0 ♗g7 8.♖e1 0-0 9.c3 b6
A surprisingly high number of games reached this position. Interestingly enough, as many have arisen from the c3 Sicilian as the French. White only wins 52%, so I must be on the right track. Arkady's move is one of several that can be played here: ♕c2, ♕a4, ♘f1 and even a3.

10.e5 ♘d7 11.d4 ***(D)***



11...f6

11...cxd4 is usually played, but the text seems logical. By advancing his pawns, we are back into Frenchie waters, and this is what we Frenchies do.

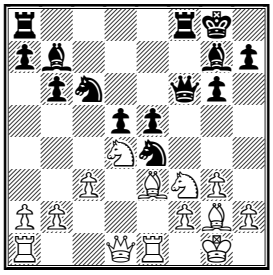
12.exf6 ♕xf6

After the game, Arkady mentioned he had totally overlooked this move, and otherwise would have played something like maybe ♘f1 or ♕a4.

13.dxc5 ♘xc5 14.♘b3 ♘e4

At this point I must say I like Black's position. The Knight on e4 totally screws up anything he wants to do, and the 'hanging pawns' are going to get very mobile very fast.

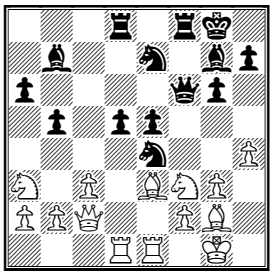
15.♗e3 ♗b7 16.♘bd4 e5 ***(D)***



17.♘b5

I suspect exchanging on c6 is probably better. This poor knight is going to have nowhere to go after a6.

17...♖ad8 18.♕c2 a6 19.♘a3 b5 20.♖ad1 ♘e7 21.h4?! ***(D)***



Logical in that it looks to pry open Black's Kingside. However, after h6, nothing is going to happen on that front, and h4 is a serious weakening of White's own King position. Something like ♕b3 is probably better as it pins the d-pawn and looks to get his offside knight back into the game via c2.

21...h6∓ 22.♘h2?!

Excuse me, but have you ever seen a sorrier pair of knights?

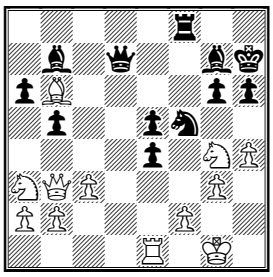
22...♘f5 23.♘g4 ♕e7 24.♗b6 ♖d7 25.♗xe4?

I think this pretty much loses. Sure the pawns are doubled, but they control a lot of kingside and central squares, and things like e3 are suddenly in the wind. Better was 25.♕b3 ♔h8 26.♘e3 ♘xe3 27.♗xe3∓.

25...dxe4 26.♕b3+ ♔h7 27.♖xd7

27.h5 gxh5 28.♘e3 h4 29.♖xd7 ♕xd7 30.♗c5 ♖f6 31.♖d1 ♕c6 32.g4 ♘xe3 33.♗xe3 ♕c8–+.

27...♕xd7–+ ***(D)***

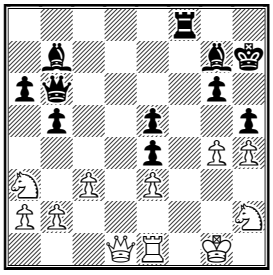


And White is probably lost due to his misplaced pieces and drafty king position.

28.♕d1 ♕c6 29.♗e3 h5 30.♘h2 ♘xe3 31.fxe3?!–+

Surely 31.♖xe3 was better: 31...♕e6 32.♕b3 ♕f5 33.♕c2 ♗h6 34.♘f1 ♗xe3 35.♘xe3 ♕f7. Nope, still looks like a win for Black.

31...♕b6 32.g4 ***(D)***



Okay. White's King is just asking for it, and his knights are hopeless. The only question for Black is how to activate those two Bs? Since they are both blocked by the doubled e-

pawns, which are blocked by White's e-pawn, the answer must lie in attacking the e-pawn. I looked at ♗h6, but then either ♕e2 or even g5 stop that. How to do it? Suddenly, in a flash, I see it...

32...♖f3!!

Ha! Take that Fritzie!

33.♘xf3

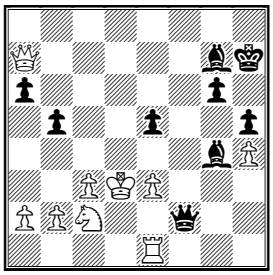
But what if he doesn't take, e.g.: 33.♘c2 ♕e6 34.gxh5 gxh5 35.♔h1 ♕h3 36.♖g1 ♗c8 37.♕d5 ♗g4 38.♕xe4+ ♔h8 39.♘e1 ♖xe3. And that looks like all she wrote. 33.♕d2 ♖g3+ 34.♔f2 ♖h3 35.♔g2 ♖xh4–+.

33...exf3 34.♕d7

White really doesn't have a lot of moves here. 34.gxh5 ♕e6 35.♔f2 ♕h3 36.hxg6+ ♔g8 37.♕d8+ ♗f8 38.e4 ♕g2+ 39.♔e3 f2–+; 34.♔f2 ♕e6 35.♖g1 *(35.♖h1 ♕xg4 36.♕g1 ♕e6 37.b3 ♕d6 38.♘b1 ♗f6 39.♕e1 ♕d8 40.♔f1 ♕d3+ 41.♔f2 ♕e4 42.♔f1 f2–+)* 35...hxg4 36.♘c2 ♗f6 37.♖h1 ♕e7 38.♕g1 ♕d8 39.♖h2 ♗xh4+ 40.♖xh4+ ♕xh4+ 41.♕g3–+.

34...f2+

And yes Virginia, I did have this worked out when playing ♖f3... **35.♔xf2 ♕f6+ 36.♔e2 ♗f3+ 37.♔d3 ♗xg4 38.♕a7** [38.♕d5 ♕f2 39.♘c2 e4+ 40.♕xe4 ♗f5–+] **38...♕f2 39.♘c2** ***(D)***



39...e4+ 0-1

The best part of the game was watching Adler and Arkady in the post-mortem, trying to find an answer to 32...♖f3. They didn't.

Solution to our Quiz:

Tiviakov-Stellwagen: **54.♖xg5! fxg5 55.f6! gxf6 56.♗xc6+ ♔d8 57.♖h6 ♔c7 58.♗e4 ♖f7 59.♗d5 ♖g7 60.♖xf6 ♖h7 61.♗g2 ♖h2 62.♖f7+ ♔b6 63.♖f2 g4 64.♖d2 ♔c7 65.♔f2 ♖h6 66.♔g3 ♖g6 67.♖d5 1-0**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your friends about CT** or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down and quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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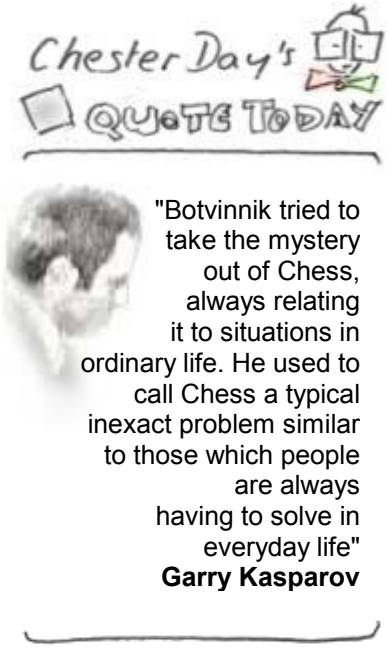
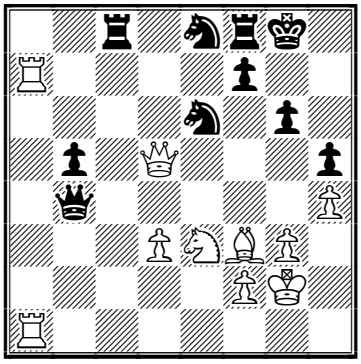


CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-188(972) 7th July 2003

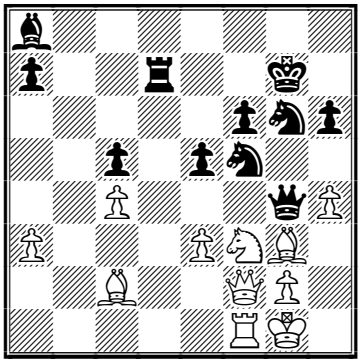
Chess Quiz

Bruzon – Nielsen
18th North Sea Cup, Esbjerg, 2003



White to play

Ehlvest – Burnett
World Open (6), 07.2003



White to play

Chess News

GM Alex Baburin

July is a very busy month in chess – with plenty of tournaments taking part around the world – and Chess Today will keep you updated on the most important of them!

The 18th North Sea Cup is in progress in Esbjerg (Denmark). This is a cat. X tournament with 10 players. Here is a starting rating list:

1. GM Alexey Dreev Russia 2698
2. GM Krishnan Sasikiran India 2654
3. GM PH Nielsen Denmark 2636
4. GM Luke McShane England 2619
5. GM Curt Hansen Denmark 2618
6. GM Lazaro Bruzon Cuba 2614
7. GM Lenier Dominguez Cuba 2610
8. GM Michal Krasenkow Poland 2585
9. GM Lars Schandorff Denmark 2525
10. GM Humpy Koneru India 2468

Standings after 3 rounds:
1-4. Dreev (2698), Sasikiran (2654), McShane (2619) and Bruzon (2614) 2 points; etc. You can find games from the first 3 rounds in our database.

In the Swedish Championship after 7 rounds, GM Tiger Hillarp-Persson has 4 points out of 7, while GM Jonny Hector has 3½ points out of 5 and GM Evgeny Agrest has 3½ points out of 6 – the fact that 2 players withdrew from the tournament, made it a little bit difficult to follow! See games from the first 7 rounds in our database.

The Norwegian Championship is in progress. GM Leif GM Johannessen (2525) is the Elo-favourite; another favourite is GM Rune Djurhuus (2475), who will be hoping for his first title. But watch out for 12-year old Magnus Carlsen (2385) – I worked with him a couple of years ago at a training session arranged by GM Simen Agdestein – the boy is ***very*** talented! He already has 2 IM norms and might get the third at this tournament. Oh, boy, and I was still reading *My System* when I was 12! ☺

Standings after 2 rounds:
1-2. Dannevig (2331) and Østenstad (2469) – 2 points;
3-7 Trygstad, GM Johannessen, R. Hansen, Fyllingen and IM Bjarke Kristensen – 1½ pints, etc.

The World Open finished yesterday in Philadelphia, but so far we don't have full results. With two rounds to go the leading group was as follows:

1–3. GMs Jaan Ehlvest, Alexander Goldin and Alexander Shabalov – 6 points out of 7;
4–12. GMs Ilya Smirin, Alexander Onischuk, Alex Wojtkiewicz, Alexander Lesiege, Gennadi Zaitshik, Sergey Kudrin, Pavel Blatny, WGM Alexandra Kosteniuk and IM Yury Lapshun – 5½ points, etc. 238 players in the Open section.

A strong open started a couple of days ago in Andorra. Top players there are GMs Nisipeanu (ROM, 2666), Epishin (RUS, 2642), Khenkin (GER, 2638) and Alexey Kuzmin (RUS, 2583). Top prizes: 2500 euro, 2000 euro, 1250 euro, 1000 euro, etc.

At the same time another strong open started in Oberwart, Austria. There the first prize is 5000 euro. Top players are GMs Navara (CZE, 2608), Burmakin (RUS, 2575), Luther (GER, 2574) and Berkes (HUN, 2570)

Web Watch

Not many Grandmasters maintain their own websites, but some (including yours truly!) do. Recently I came across a website run by Dutch GM Harmen Jonkman. It contains a lot of photos and a link to an international tournament calendar (also run by Jonkman) – a truly fantastic resource!

(Tech editors note ~ Perhaps readers will remember CT-780!? In which GM Mihail Golubev annotated the loss of a certain 1896 player to GM Jonkman!? – GKB)

While some GMs produce their own websites, our more-famous colleagues have fans who do it for them! ☺ For example, our reader Peter Svidler has an unofficial website, run by another CT reader – Pablo Sierra Fuentes (Spain). It's well worth a visit!

For those keen on chess computer programs, Arena Chess GUI might be of interest.

Debates between chess players often get heated, but for quite a while I have not seen anything even close to the polemics between IM Boris Schipkov and GM Evgeny Sveshnikov. If you read Russian, have a look at Schipov's post at the Chess Siberia website.

In the past there were some thematic tournaments held, when players had to start from a particular opening position. Now, with the Internet it's much easier to arrange such tournaments and this is exactly what a new site called THORG does. Have a look – perhaps one of your favourite openings is being tested there and you can join in!

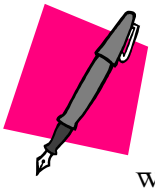
Yesterday our editor Graham Brown sent me a link to some old book reviews by Tony Miles – great fun to read!

(Tech Editors 2nd note – A certain book by Eric Schiller gets a hilariously brief roasting from Miles but I should add in Mr Schiller's defence that I own 3 of his books, 2 of which (on gambits for White and Black) are great. I used a rare gambit in one of them to draw with an IM in the London League once. See the game at www.khcc.org.uk/qotd.htm. If you want to really make a Sicilian player run up time on the clock try this dodgy and fun gambit! – GKB.)

The reviews are part of the Kingpin website, where I also found two interviews – with Michael Adams and Yasser Seirawan. While the interviews are not recent, they are still interesting. BTW, Kingpin (UK) is a hilarious magazine – buy it when you get a chance!

Computer Chess

In CT-964 and CT-971 we published two games by Don Aldrich, where he came up with moves which Fritz did not see or appreciate. Then we received the following message from our reader Dennis Monokroussos, concerning this subject:



"Hello Alexander,
In CT-971, you include a game of Don Aldrich, the theme of which is that while computers find many

things we don't find in OTB play, the reverse is true as well. I certainly don't want to deny that thesis, but there are some interesting facts about the particular case that are very much worth addressing.

Aldrich says that his Fritz doesn't find 32...♖f3 in the game Shemyakin–Aldrich, and perhaps that's literally correct: I let my Fritz 8 run for several minutes, and it never came to be particularly fond of that move, either. However, both Gambit Tiger 2.0 and Chess Tiger 15.0 considered it very quickly, and after a couple of minutes made it its top choice (and never gave it up after that)!

Moral of the story: just as two strong humans will sometimes come up with significantly different ideas in a given position, so too with computers. Obviously if there is some decisive tactic whose punchline isn't too many plies ahead, any reasonably powerful chess program will find it. But in other positions, quite different moves and evaluations are very possible. From my own experience, for example, I've found that Chess Tiger 15 is much more optimistic about the initiative than Fritz 8 and less material-conscious as well. And many people noticed what seemed like significant stylistic differences between Deep Fritz and Deep Junior in their matches with Kasparov and Kramnik, respectively. So while we humans can and sometimes do find moves our chess programs don't, it might be that other programs would also find those moves, too! So it's often useful to analyze positions with more than one engine – I know I was amazed by the differences they would come up with.

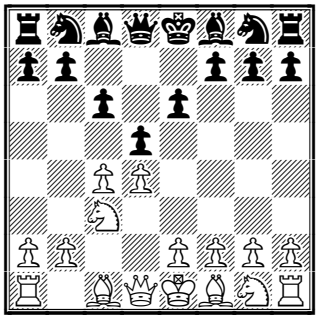
Dennis Monokroussos

Annotated Games

Today I would like to look again at games of the winners of the World Junior Championships, which finished in Azerbaijan last week. I am sure that will be hear about 18-year old GM Shakriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan) and 16-year old WGM Nana Dzagnidze (Georgia) very often!

□ **S. Mamedyarov (2607)**
■ **D. Schneider (2424)**
Slav Defence, D31, World Junior Ch, Azerbaijan, 25.06.2003
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 ***(D)***



A tricky move order. Black delays ...♘f6, which might have some advantages. For example, now going into the Carlsbad Variation is pretty harmless: 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♕c2 ♗d6, followed by ...♘e7 and ...♗f5. After 4.♘f3 Black can choose between 4...dxc4 (Noteboom Variation) and 4...f5 (Stonewall).

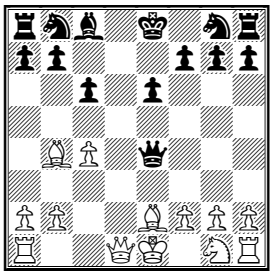
4.e4!?

This move is the only way to really challenge Black's opening idea. But, of course, there is nothing wrong with 4.♘f3 or 4.e3 either.

4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♗b4+ 6.♗d2

6.♘c3 c5 gives Black an easy game.

6...♕xd4 7.♗xb4 ♕xe4+ 8.♗e2 ***(D)***

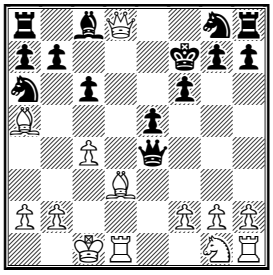


A very interesting and popular position. Black is a pawn up and can grab another pawn, but he is weak on the dark squares, which gives White positional compensation. Black needs to play ...f6 and ...e5, reclaiming some dark squares. But this takes time!

8...♘a6 9.♗a5

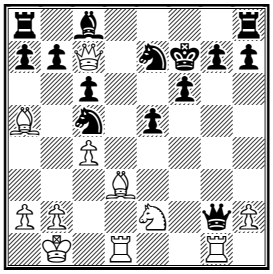
This is one of the many possible moves: 9.♗d6, 9.♗a3, 9.♗c3 and even 9.♗f8. Move 9.♗a5 became popular in recent years, though 9.♗c3 is probably still the main line.

9...f6 10.♕d8+ ♔f7 11.0-0-0 e5 12.♗d3!N *(D)*



This is a new move – White sacrifices two more pawns to fuel his attack.

12...♕f4+ 13.♔b1 ♘c5 14.♘e2 ♕xf2 15.♖hf1 ♕xg2 16.♕c7+ ♘e7 17.♖g1! *(D)*

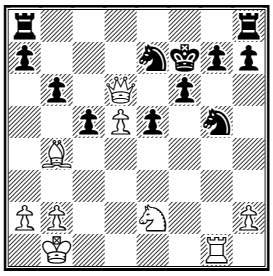


White is playing the middle-game, while Black is still in the opening! This is too bad for Black, who now cannot play 17...♕f2 in view of 18.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 19.♕xe7+ ♔g8 20.♗xh7+ ♖xh7 21.♖d8#.

17...♕xg1 18.♖xg1 ♘e6

Or 18...♘xd3 19.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 20.♕xe7+ ♔g6 21.♗d8 ♖xd8 22.♕xd8 and Black's queenside is paralysed.

19.♕d6 b6 20.♗b4 c5 21.♗e4 ♗b7 22.♗d5! ♗xd5 23.cxd5 ♘g5 *(D)*

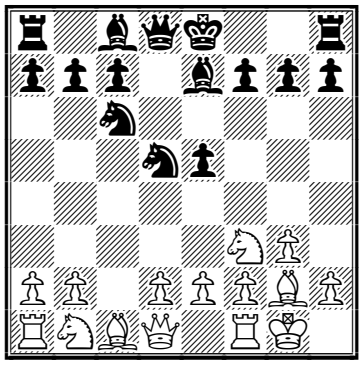


24.♖xg5! fxg5 25.♕e6+ ♔f8 26.d6 ♘g6 27.♗d2 ♖e8 28.♕f5+ 1-0

□ **C. Calotescu (2334)**
■ **N. Dzagnidze (2376)**

English Opening, A20, World Junior Ch (girls), Azerbaijan, 25.06.2003
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♘f3 ♘c6 6.0-0 ♗e7 *(D)*



7.d3

White plays the opening imprecisely. Since Black has not played 6...♘b6, White should strike in the centre with 7.d4!? After 7...e4 8.♘e5 f5 pretty interesting play follows. If White does not want to allow ...e4 in this line, then perhaps she should try 7.♘c3 first.

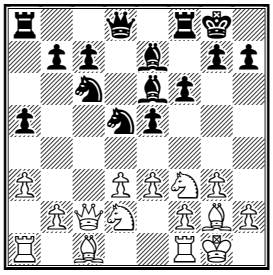
7...0-0 8.a3 ♗e6 9.♕c2? ♘d4! 10.♕d1

In case of 10.♘xd4 exd4 Black would have better chances due to more space and the prospects of attacking the backward e2-pawn.

10...f6 11.♘bd2 a5!?

Also good is 11...c5.

12.e3 ♘c6 13.♕c2 *(D)*



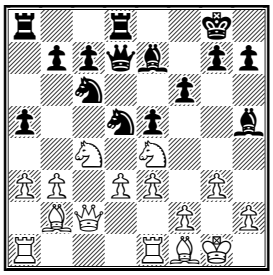
13...♘b6!?

Black is going to target the weak d3-pawn by playing ...♕d7 and ...♖d8.

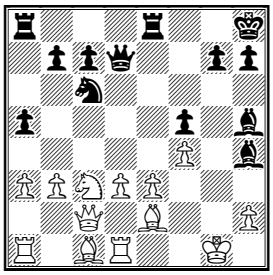
14.b3 ♕d7 15.♗b2 ♗f5 16.♘e4 ♗g6 17.♖fd1 ♕e6 18.♘fd2 ♗h5 19.♖e1 ♖fd8 20.♘c4

20.f4!?

20...♕d7 21.♗f1 ♘d5 *(D)*



22.♘c3 ♔h8 23.♘xd5 ♕xd5 24.♘d2 ♗g6 25.♘e4 f5 26.♘c3 ♕d7 27.f4 exf4 28.gxf4 ♗h4 29.♖ed1 ♖e8 30.♗c1 ♗h5 31.♗e2 ***(D)***



Black has outplayed her opponent strategically and now she delivers a deadly tactical blow:

31...♘d4! 32.♕b2

White could accept the sacrifice in view of 32.exd4 ♕xd4+ 33.♔h1 ♖xe2 34.♘xe2 ♗f3#, but now, without the e2-bishop White's kingside becomes too vulnerable.

32...♘xe2+ 33.♘xe2 ♖e6! 34.h3 ♕c6 35.e4 ♕b6+ 36.d4 ♖xe4 37.♖d2 ♕g6+ 38.♔f1 ♗f3 0-1

Solutions to our Quiz:

Bruzon-Nielsen: **28.♖xf7! ♖xf7** (28...♔xf7 29.♕d7+ ♕e7 30.♕xc8+-) **29.♕xe6 ♘d6 30.♕xg6+ 1-0**

Ehlvest-Burnett: **37.♘xe5! ♕xg3** (or 37...♘xe5 38.♗xe5 *(38.♗xf5 ♘f3+ 39.gxf3 ♕xf5 40.e4±)* 38...♗e4 39.♗xe4 ♕xe4 40.♕xf5 ♕xf5 41.♖xf5 fxe5 42.♖xe5+-) **38.♘xd7 ♘gxh4 1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net **Editors:** GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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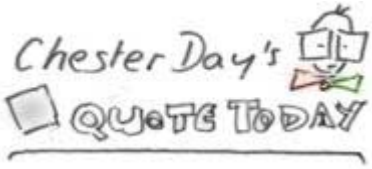

He was an individual and so was I. Today, these players have coaches, physicians, cooks, psychologists, and parapsychologists. The championship has become a fight between two big collective farms. – **Boris Spassky** (on Fischer)

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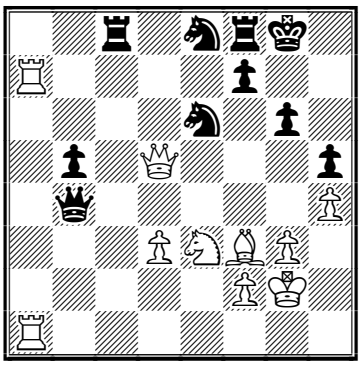
Quiz Today

Bruzon- Nielsen
18th North Sea Cup, 2003



White to move
Position after 27..♕xb4
Solution in annotated game.

Chess News

The 18th North Sea Cup standings after 4 rounds:

1-2. Sasikiran, McShane - 3.0
3-4. Hansen. Dreev - 2½
5-7. Bruzon, Schandorff. Nielsen - 2.0
8-9. Krasenkow, Dominguez 1½
10. Koneru - 0.0

In the Swedish Championship standings after 8 rounds

1. Hillarp Persson, Tiger 4½/8
2. Hector 4.0/6;
3-4. Brynell,. Tikkanen 4.0/8;

5-7. Lindberg. Agrest, Wedberg, 3½/6; etc

The Norwegian Championship

After 4 rounds **IM Bjarke Kristensen** leads with 3 points.

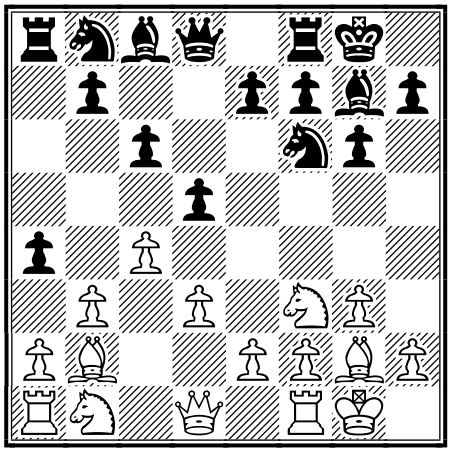
The World Open has finished in Philadelphia.

1-10. Smirin, Oniszuk, Yudasin, Ehlvest, Goldin, Shabalov, Wojtkiewicz, Zaitshik, Firman, Annakov - 7.0

Annotated Game

□ **L. Bruzon (2610)**
■ **P. Nielsen (2625)**
Event: *18th North Sea Cup (2), 05.06.2003*
English Opening ***[A11]***
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 d5 3.♗g2 c6 4.0-0 g6 5.b3 ♗g7 6.♗b2 0-0 7.c4 a5 8.d3 a4 (D)



This is a pretty good plan for Black against the double fianchetto.

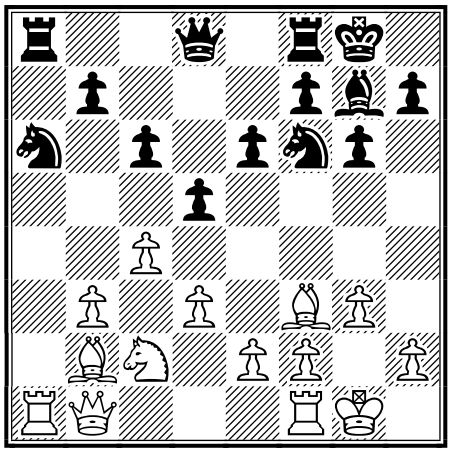
9.♘a3

Psakhis won an interesting game against Svidler after 9.♘bd2 : 9...axb3 10.axb3 ♖xa1 11.♕xa1 ♘a6 12.♕a3 ♗e6 13.♗e5 h6 14.♘d4 ♗d7 15.c5 ♘g4 16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.b4 e5 18.♘4f3 ♖e8 19.e4 ♗e6 20.d4 dxe4 21.♘xe4 ♗d5 22.♘d6 e4 23.♘xe8+ ♕xe8 24.♖e1 ♕e6 25.♕b2 ♘xb4 26.♕xb4 ♕f6 27.h3 exf3 28.♗f1 1-0 Psakhis,L-Svidler,P/Haifa 2000

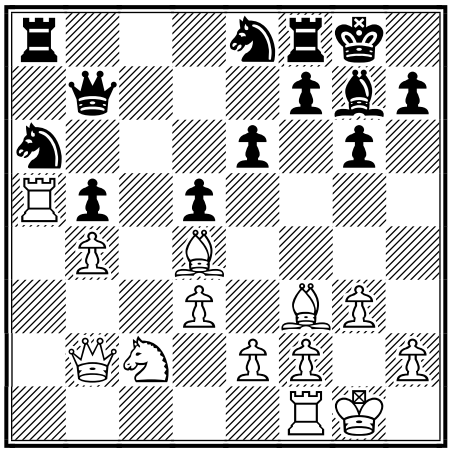
9...♘a6 10.♘c2 ♗g4N

Black does not know what to do with his bishop on c8 and makes up his mind to exchange it for the knight. Passivity is the main disadvantage of this plan, White has complete freedom

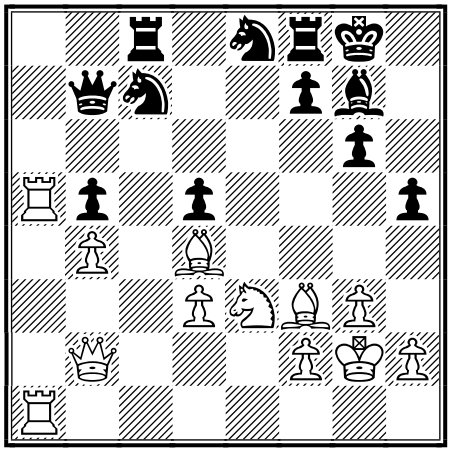
to strengthen his position. [Black should not experience any problem with equalising after 10...♕b6 11.♖b1 axb3 12.axb3 ♘b4 , which is a more logical continuation of the a5-a4 plan.
11.♕b1 ♗xf3 12.♗xf3 axb3 13.axb3 e6 (D)



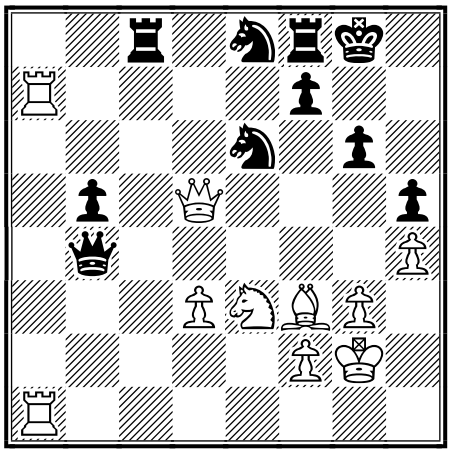
Black's position is very strong and White should act vigorously.
14.b4! b5?!
White has obtained the c5-square, which is very important for intrusion across the open file. More stubborn is 14...♕c7 15.b5 cxb5 16.cxb5 ♘c5
15.♖a5! ♕b6
Probably the lesser evil is 15...bxc4 16.♕a1! *(16.dxc4 c5! 17.cxd5 exd5)* 16...cxd3 17.exd3 ♘c7 18.♖xa8 ♘xa8 19.♘d4± White wins his pawn back and retains the advantage, but Black's position has defensive potential.
16.♗d4 ♕b7 17.cxb5 cxb5 18.♕b2 ♘e8 (D)



19.e4!
White's pieces control the most important squares;, Black failed to preserve the closed struggle.
19...♘ac7 20.♖fa1 ♖c8
Exchanges after 20...♗xd4 21.♕xd4 ♖xa5 22.bxa5 dxe4 23.♗xe4 ♕a6 24.♘b4 ♕d6 25.♕xd6 ♘xd6 results in an endgame where Black must lose because White's passed pawn on the a-file is very strong.
21.exd5
After the paradoxical 21.e5!? Black almost has no way to move
21...exd5
21...♘xd5 22.♘e3±
22.♘e3 h5
A weakening that ruined Black's position, although it was unlikely that Black would have been able to defend even without this move.
23.♔g2 (D)



This is a reminder that Black faces difficulties with moves.
23...♕c6 24.♖a7 ♕d6 25.h4 ♗xd4 26.♕xd4 ♘e6
The following also could not have saved the game 26...♘f6 27.♖c1 ♘e6 28.♕xf6 ♖xc1 29.♘xd5+-
27.♕xd5 ♕xb4 (D)



28.♖xf7!

This blow crowns an excellent play by White.

28...♖xf7

The following drags on in hopeless resistance 28...♔xf7 29.♕d7+ ♕e7 30.♕xc8 ♔g8

29.♕xe6 ♘d6 30.♕xg6+

Significant material losses are inevitable. Black resigned. **1-0.**

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us - we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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"You can only get good at chess if you love the game"

--- *Robert J. Fisher*

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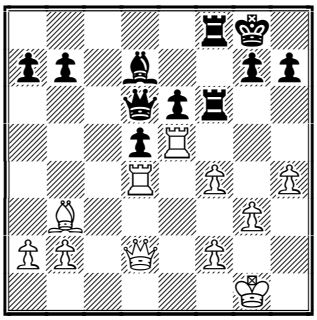
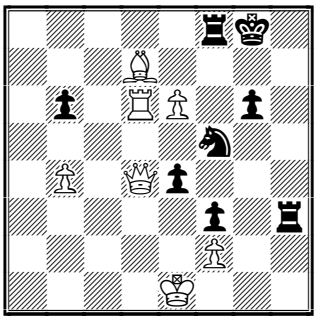
Quiz Today

Hansen – Koneru
18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN, 2003



White to play

Ahlander – Olsson
ch-SWE Umea SWE (8), 2003



Black to move
*position after **34.♖xd6***
solution in annotated game section

Chess News

The 18th North Sea Cup

The wealthy became wealthier, the poor became poorer. Sasikiran won against Dominguez; McShane defeated Bruzon, Krasenkow defeated Koneru. The remaining two games ended as drawn.

Standings after 5 rounds:
1-2. McShane , Sasikiran – 4points
3-4. Dreev, Hansen – 3
5-7. Schandorff, Nielsen, Krasenkow – – 2½

The Swedish Championship
Round 9 Standings:
1-2. Agrest, Hector – 4½/7
3. Hillarp Persson – 4½/8

The Norwegian Championship
after 5 rounds
1.Berge Østenstad – 4 points

Computer Corner

by GM Alexander Baburin

Chess Today readers are obviously serious about their chess (not many people pay for chess on the Net!) and I hope that we can build a community around the paper, sharing ideas and practical chess tips, as well as passion for the game. If you have interesting chess material or just have a question, why not share it with other readers? Feel free to drop us a message – we try to answer all mail! In the spirit of this, today I would like to start a new column, which will deal with the technical aspects of chess & computers.

As you would probably agree, chess software is getting more and more complicated. It could be very puzzling even for an experienced user, particularly when a new version of a program is out. It takes time to learn new software and this is where tips from other users can be invaluable. Here I'd like to share one such tip.

For years I used Chess Base – first version 4, then 6 and finally CB7. I loved that program – it did almost everything (except ironing!) and over time I acquired pretty good command of it. So, when Chess Base 8 came out, I was not keen to upgrade – why to fix something, which isn't broken?! OK, Chess Base Ltd wants additional revenue, I understand that bit, but why should I learn a new interface,

particularly when so many commands, familiar from CB7, won't work in the same way in CB8? Apparently, many GMs shared my contempt for CB8 (GMs are lazy, you know!), but since I got Windows XP on my laptop and Windows 2000 on my desktop, I could no longer use CB7.

So, out of necessity I looked closely at Chess Base 8 and found it absolutely fantastic! Well, it still won't iron, but most things which I used to do in CB7, I can do faster and easier in CB8.

How to create an HTML file with games using CB8.

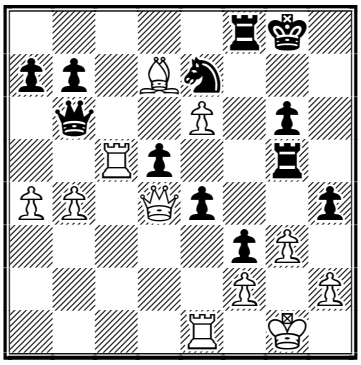
Go to the game list and choose (highlight) game(s), which you would like to appear in your HTML file. You can choose games in different parts of the list if you hold CTRL key and click on games. Then right-click and chose Output. If you want a static HTML page, then choose Textfile and check the HTML box. If you want more interactive pages, after Output choose HTML + Javascript Replay. There you have several options: to make pages with or without frames, pages with auto-play (animated) or without it, etc. The whole exercise takes less than a minute - post your page online and let others play through the game!

Annotated Games

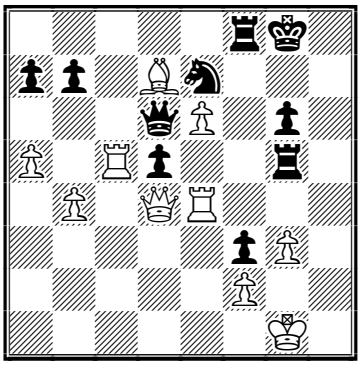
□ **B. Ahlander (2389**
■ **A. Olsson (2383)**
Event: ch-SWE Umea SWE (8), 07.07.2003
Kings Indian Defence/Classical variation - [E97]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

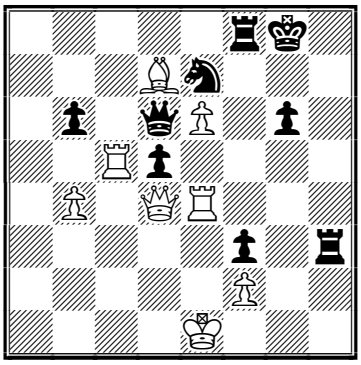
This game was played at the Swedish Championship. **1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♗e2 0-0 6.♘f3 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 9.b4 ♘h5 10.c5 f5 11.♘g5 ♘f4 12.cxd6 cxd6 13.♗xf4 exf4 14.♖c1 h6 15.♘e6 ♗xe6 16.dxe6 ♗xc3 17.♖xc3 fxe4 18.♗b5 ♕b6 19.♗d7 d5 20.♖c5 ♖f5 21.a3 ♖af8 22.♖e1 h5 23.♕d4 ♖g5 24.a4 f3 25.g3 h4 (D)**



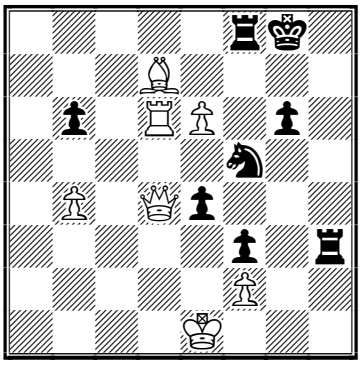
26.a5?
White underestimates the danger. Correct is 26.♕d2! driving the rook away from the attacking position. **26...♕d6 27.♖xe4?! hxg3 28.hxg3 (D)**



28...♖xg3+! 29.♔f1 ♖h3! 30.♔e1
Black wins beautifully after 30.♖h4 ♖xh4 31.♕xh4 ♕e5! 32.♖c1 ♕e2+ 33.♔g1 ♕d2! 34.♖b1 ♖f4 35.♕h3 ♕c2! 36.♖e1 ♕c4!–+
30...b6! 31.axb6 axb6 (D)



32.♖c3
A showy counter blow does not result in anything 32.♖xd5!? ♘xd 33.e7 ♕xd7 34.exf8♕+ ♔xf8–+
32...♘f5 33.♖c6 dxe4 34.♖xd6 (D)

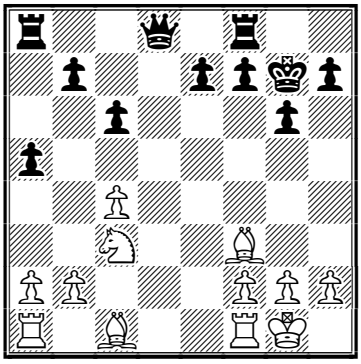


34...e3!!–+ 35.♕xe3 ♘xe3 36.♖c6 ♘d5 37.♔d2 ♖h2 38.♔d3 ♖xf2 39.♖d6 ♘e7 40.♔d4 ♖d2+ 0–1.

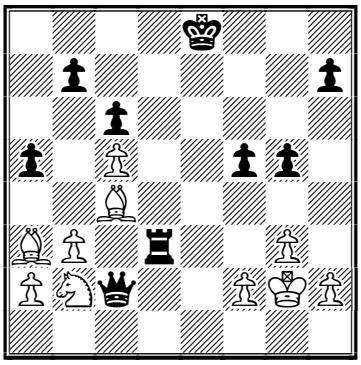
□ **M. Krasenkow (2609)**
■ **L. McShane (2592)**
Event: *18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN (4), 07.06.2003*
English Opening – [A16]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

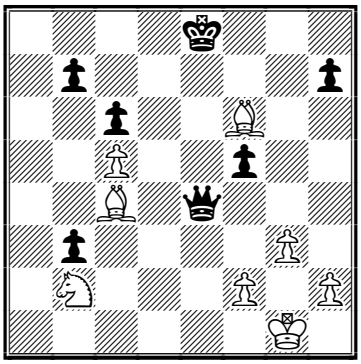
1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♕a4+ ♗d7 5.♕b3 dxc4 6.♕xc4 ♗g7 7.e4 ♗c6 8.d3 0–0 9.♗e2 ♘bd7 10.0–0 a5 11.e5 ♘b6 12.exf6 ♘xc4 13.fxg7 ♔xg7 14.dxc4 ♗xf3 15.♗xf3 c6 (D)



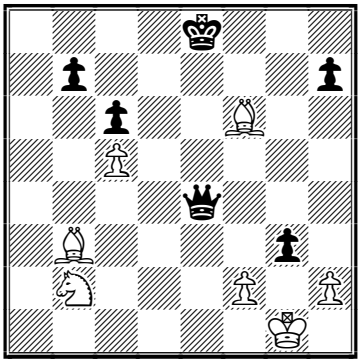
Three minor pieces are stronger than a queen but Mikhail failed to work them together to victory.
16.b3 ♕c7 17.♗b2 ♔g8 18.♖ae1 ♖ad8 19.♖e2 ♖d7 20.♖fe1 ♖fd8 21.♗a3 ♕f4 22.♗xe7 ♖e8 23.♗a3 ♖xe2 24.♖xe2 f5 25.♖e3 ♕d4 26.g3 ♕d2 27.♗e2 ♔f7 28.c5 ♖e7 29.♗c4+ ♔e8 30.♖d3 ♕c2 31.♔g2 g5 32.♘d1 ♖d7 33.♘b2 ♖xd3 (D)



34.♘xd3
Better is 34.♗xd3 but even here White experiences some difficulties: 34...♕c1 35.♘c4 ♕a1 36.♘d6+ ♔f8 37.♗c4 g4
34...♕xa2 35.♗c1 a4 36.♗xg5 ♕e2 37.♗f6 axb3 38.♘b2 ♕e4+ 39.♔g1 (D)



39...f4! 40.♗xb3 ♕e1+ 41.♔g2 ♕e4+ 42.♔g1 fxg3 (D)

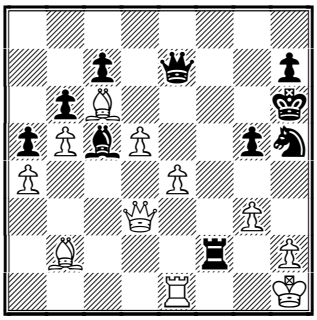


White loses because after the pawn's capture, ♕f3 and one of the bishops is lost. **0–1.**

□ **L. Bruzon (2610)**
■ **K. Sasikiran (2658)**
Event: *18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN (4), 07.06.2003*
English Opening – [A15]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.b4 ♗g7 4.♗b2 d6 5.g3 0-0 6.♗g2 e5 7.0-0 ♖e8 8.d3 ♘h5 9.♘c3 f5 10.♘d2 ♔h8 11.e3 ♘d7 12.♕c2 ♘df6 13.b5 a6 14.a4 ♖b8 15.♗a3 a5 16.♘d5 b6 17.♖ae1 g5 18.♗b2 ♗e6 19.♘xf6 ♗xf6 20.d4 ♘g7 21.dxe5 dxe5 22.♖d1 ♕e7 23.♗c6 ♖ed8 24.♕c3 ♘h5 25.e4 f4 26.♘f3 ♗h3 27.♖fe1 ♔g7 28.♖d5 ♖xd5 29.cxd5 ♖d8 30.♘d2 ♔h6 31.♘c4 ♕g7 32.♕f3 fxg3 33.fxg3 ♖f8 34.♕e2 ♗e7 35.♘xe5 ♗c5+ 36.♔h1 ♕e7 37.♘d3 ♗f1 38.♕d2 ♗xd3 39.♕xd3 ♖f2 (D)



40.♗c1??
After the easy and correct 40.♗d4! ♗xd4 41.♕xd4 White has an advantage: 41...♖c2 **A)** 42.♔g1 ♕a3 43.♖f1 ♖c1! *(43...♕a2 44.♖f6+! ♔g7 45.♖f2+ ♔h6 46.♔g2±)* ; **B)** 42.♖f1 42...♖e2 43.♗b7 ♕d6 44.♕d3 ♖a2 45.♗c8±
40...♕f7!
Here White has serious problems and it looks like he can't cope with them, at least in this game.
41.e5
41.♗d2 ♘f6–+; 41.♖g1 ♘f6 42.h3 ♘h5 43.h4 ♖f3–+
41...♖a2 0-1.

Solution to Quiz Today:
Hansen – Koneru
18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN, 2003
23.♗xd5!+- exd5 24.♖dxd5 ♕a6 25.♖xd7 ♕xa2 26.♖xb7 ♕b1+ 27.♔g2 ♖b6 28.♕d5+ ♔h8 29.♕f7! 1-0.

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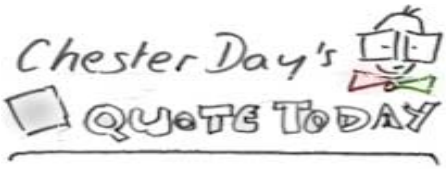


"The chief factor in chess skill is the storing of patterns in the mind, and the recognition of such patterns in actual play".

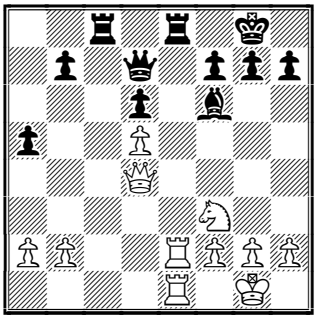
--- Cecil J. S. Purdy

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-191 (975) 10th July 2003

Quiz Today

Adams – Torre
New Orleans New Orleans, 1920

This is one of the most famous combinations ever. Do you remember?



White to play and win

Chess News

18th North Sea Cup

On the 9th July, the 6th round was played in this 15 category tournament in Esbjerg, Denmark. A short summary is: three wins for Black, one win for White, and one draw. The talented female player **Humpy Koneru**, who started with 0/5, has finally scored her first point, with a win over Lazaro Bruzon. Krishnan Sasikiran is the sole leader.

Round 6 results:
Dominguez – McShane draw
Schandorff – Sasikiran 0-1
P.H.Nielsen – Dreev 0-1
Bruzon – Koneru 0-1
Cu.Hansen-Krasenkow 1-0

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Sasikiran – 5 points
2. McShane – 4½
3-4. Cu.Hansen, Dreev – 4
5-7. Schandorff, Krasenkow, P.H.Nielsen – 2½
8-9. Dominguez, Bruzon – 2
10. Koneru – 1

IM Atilla Schneider (1955-2003)

The Website chessclinic.kalandor.hu (*IM Attila Schneider's Chess Page*) has published the following sad news:

"We inform you with deep shock that Atilla Schneider, international master, died unexpectedly on the night of 8 July 2003. Atilla died while sleeping. We shall keep his memory with love".

The name Attila Schneider is well known in the chess world, the author of many chess books on the openings. Schneider was, probably, the most active researcher ever of the Sicilian Dragon. Together with Laszlo Sapi and also alone he published dozens of interesting books on the Dragon in English, German and other languages.

□ Sergey Dolmatov
■ Attila Schneider
Budapest ECC, 1982
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 ♘xd5 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.♗d4 e5 13.♗c5 ♗e6 14.♘e4 ♖b8 15.g4 f5 16.gxf5 gxf5 17.♖g1 fxe4 18.♕h6 ♕f6 19.♖xg7+ ♕xg7 20.♕xe6+ ♔h8 21.♗xf8 ♕g5+ 22.♔b1 ♖xf8 23.♕xc6 ♘e3 24.♖e1 ♘xf1 25.♖xf1 exf3 26.♕e4 f2 27.c4 ♖f4 28.♕d3 e4 29.♕c3+ ♖f6 30.♔c2 e3 31.♔d3 ♕f4 32.b3 ♔g7 0-1.

Web Watch: Internet News

by GM Mikhail Golubev

At the Russian site www.chess-express.ru , the editor, Eugeny Atarov states it is clear that the **Ponomariov-Kasparov** match will begin in Yalta on 19 September 2003. The official

announcement should be expected soon.

At the same time, the official website of the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma informs that the Ukrainian President issued a statement where he supports Ilyumzhinov's initiative and takes the decision on creation of the world championship's organising commitee. The date of the 19 September is not mentioned there, but it seems that everything has really been decided.

Chess-Express.ru has recently published an interview with Vladimir Kramnik. Unfortunately there is no good news about the Kramnik-Leko match. Strictly speaking, there is no news at all, but the interview confirms that the classical chess world champion is active and remains optimistic.

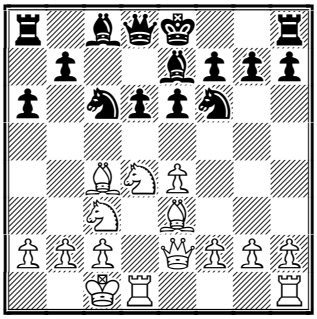
The discussion between the participants of European Championship (which took place in June) and organisers of this event is going on. A few days ago at several websites there appeared a new player's letter, signed by Bologan, Fridman, Glek, Kharlov, Krasenkow, Lautier, Pelletier, Skripchenko, Tregubov and then, shortly after that, there appeared a rapid answer by Ali Nihat Yazici, the President of Turkish Chess Federation.

What can one say. Taking into consideration all necessary expenses (hotel and travel), it would be difficult to define financial conditions that were offered to grandmasters. No matter who was more responsible: ECU, Turkish Federation or someone else, the question remains, why have so many GMs decided to play under such conditions. And the answer is simple - Continental championships have replaced Zonals as the tournaments where Grandmasters of level 2500-2600 can fight for qualification to the world championship. It's difficult for players to give up their fight for the World championship qualification and forget about a dream (goal) which, even if not realistic, helps to continue ones playing career.

Annotated Games

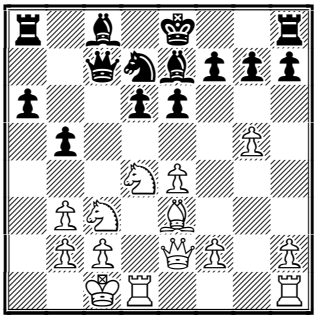
□ L. Dominguez (2603)
■ C. Hansen (2610)
Event: 18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN (1), 04.06.2003
Sicilian Defence/ Velimirovic Var.
[B89]
Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗e3 ♗e7 8.♕e2 a6 9.0-0-0 (D)



White's attacking plan with ♗c4, ♗e3, ♕e2, 0–0–0 in the Classical Sicilian is known as the "Velimirovic Attack". Yugoslav Grandmaster, Dragoljub Velimirovic, introduced it as a junior in 1959. In the 1960s his plan had great success and remains popular today.

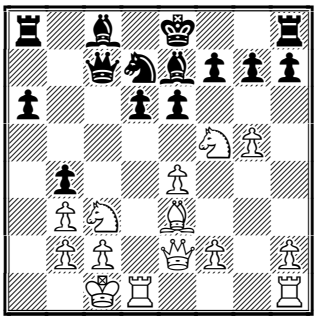
9...♕c7 10.♗b3 ♘a5 11.g4 b5 12.g5 ♘xb3+ 13.axb3 ♘d7 (D)



14.♘f5

This interesting piece sacrifice was also invented by Velimirovic. 14.h4 is an relatively calmer alternative.

14...b4!?

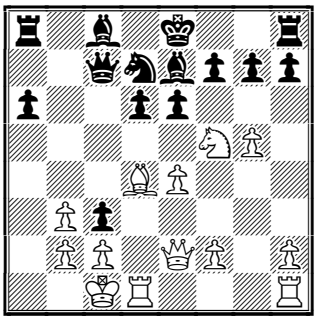


A rare continuation which leads to almost unexplored complications. The famous stem game Velimirovic–Sofrevski, Titograd 1966 followed 14...exf5 15.♘d5 ♕d8 16.exf5 0–0? 17.f6! gxf6 18.♗d4 ♘e5 19.gxf6 ♗xf6 20.♖hg1+ ♗g7 21.♗xe5 dxe5 22.♕xe5 f6 23.♘e7+ ♔f7 24.♕h5+ , and Black resigned. Now, after years of research, 16...♗b7! is considered as Black's best defence which leads to approximately equal play. In my view, 15...♕a5!? (instead of 15...♕d8) still awaits serious study.

15.♗d4

In several games Black had success after 15.♘xg7+ ♔f8 16.♕h5 ♔xg7 17.♗d4+ ♔g8! with the idea of 18.♗xh8 ♔xh8 19.♕xf7 ♘f8–+; One more possibility is 15.♘xe7 bxc3 16.♘xc8 , but in this line Black, probably, has good chances to develop an attack on the queenside. E.g. 16...cxb2+ 17.♔b1 ♖xc8 18.♗d4 0–0 19.♗xb2 a5 20.♖d4 ♘c5 21.♖hd1 a4 22.b4 a3! , Borge–Sanden, Rilton Cup 1996.

15...bxc3!N (D)



A logical improvement over 15...♗xg5+?! 16.♔b1 ♗f6? 17.♗xf6 ♘xf6 18.♘xd6+ , Prie–Muir, Novi Sad OL 1990.

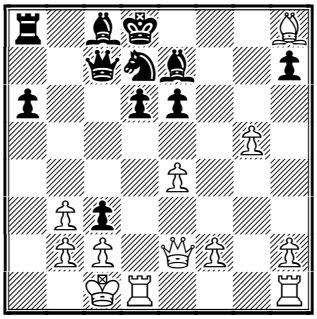
16.♘xg7+ ♔d8

After 16...♔f8 White could continue as in the game 17.♘xe6+ , and Black's king would be in greater danger.]

17.♘xe6+

17.♗xc3 would leave White with two pawns for the piece (or even one if Black takes on g5), and very uncertain compensation.

17...fxe6 18.♗xh8 (D)

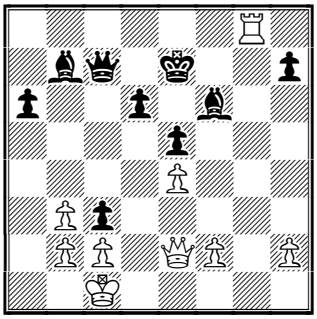


We will avoid any hasty conclusions, but the following course of the game was rather favourable for Black – White should be satisfied to save half the point.

18...e5!? 19.♖hg1 ♗b7 20.♗f6!?

White sacrifices a pawn in the hope that the opening of the g–file is enough compensation.

20...♘xf6 21.gxf6 ♗xf6 22.♖g8+ ♔e7 23.♖dg1 ♖xg8 24.♖xg8 (D)



24...♕a5

This forces a draw. 24...cxb2+ 25.♔xb2 ♕d7!? was one of possible ways to continue the fight. In my view, Black is slightly better.

25.bxc3 ♕xc3 26.♕h5! ♕a1+ Mate in one (by ♕e8) is a serious threat, and so Black gives perpetual check. **27.♔d2 ♕d4+ 28.♔c1 ♕a1+ ½–½.**

Solution to Quiz Today:

Adams – Torre

New Orleans New Orleans, 1920

18.♕g4!! ♕b5 [Now and on the forthcoming moves White's queen is untouchable: 18...♕xg4 19.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 20.♖xe8#; And, of course, there

is no time to take the rook: 18...♖xe2 19.♕xd7+−] **19.♕c4!! ♕d7 20.♕c7!! ♕b5** [Or 20...♕a4 21.b3+−] **21.a4!! ♕xa4 22.♖e4!! ♕b5** [Or 22...♖f8 23.♕xc8! ♕xe4 24.♕xf8+ ♔xf8 25.♖xe4+−] **23.♕xb7! 1−0.**

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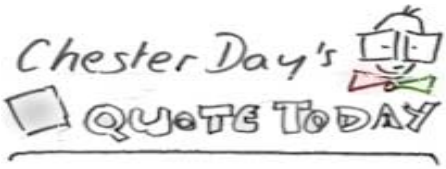

"Life is too short for chess."

--- Lord Byron

CHESS TODAY
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CT-192 (976) 11th July 2003

Chess News

The ongoing chess events are many these days. The information I give will be brief in order to keep the balance ☺

18th North Sea Cup

Round 7 results:
McShane – Schandorff 1:0
Dreev – Hansen 1:0
Krasenkow – Bruzon ½:½
Sasikiran – Nielsen ½:½
Koneru – Dominguez 0:1

Round 7 standings:
1-2. McShane, Sasikiran – 5½
3. Dreev – 5
4. Hansen – 4
5-7. Nielsen, Dominguez, Krasenkow – 3
8-9. Schandorff, Bruzon – 2½
10. Koneru – 1

Judit Polgar and Boris Gelfand are playing a rapid match of 25 minutes per game in Pacs, Hungary. In the first two games both players won with Black. The score is 1:1.

The 13th Smith & Williamson Young Masters has started at Millfield School, Somerset. GM Evgeny Prokopchuk of Russia along with last year's winners Eddie Dearing of Scotland and IM Karl Mah of England are among the favourites as well as the Englishmen Craig Hanley and Stewart Haslinger

The Swedish Championships

Round 11 standings:
(all the players mentioned have played 9 games except for Brynell who has played 10)
1. Agrest – 6
2-3. Lindberg, Hillarp Persson – 5½
4. Brynell – 5
5-8. Wedberg, Carlsson, Olsson, Hector – 4½

The Norwegian Championships
Round 6 standings:
1-2. T. Hansen, Djurhuus – 5
3-6. Dannevig, Ostenstad, Johannessen, Lie – 4½
7-9. Trigstad, Kristensen, Carlsen – 4, etc.

The IM **Nurlan Ibraev** of Kazakhstan won the White Nights tournament in Saint Petersburg
Final standings:
1. Ibraev – 6½ out of 9
2-7. Andreikin, Shinkevich, Doroshkevich, Kokarev, Sivokho, A. Smirnov – 6, etc.

The 4th Marseille International Open has finished. **Mark Hebden** scored 7½ out of 9 and became the winner on tie-break. Vladimir Epishin took second place with the same number of points. Pavel Eljanov, Bela Badea and Alexander Karpatchev share the third prize scoring 7 points.

Additional information about the World Open in Philadelphia: The top two on tie-break **Jaan Ehlvest** and **Ilya Smirin** played a one game playoff (black draw odds in a 6 minutes for white 5 for black game) for the title and an extra $500 which was won by Ehlvest.

Paris Championships

Round 6 pairings (top boards):
Todorov (4) – Landa (4)
Savchenko (4) – Abergel (4)
Apicella (4) – David (4)
Brochet (4) – Shchekachev (4)

25th Oberwart International Open
GM Semen Dvoirys of Russia has perfect score after 6 rounds.

Round 7 pairings (top boards):
Pavlovic (5½) – Dvoirys (6)
Ryazantsev (5½) – Shariyazdanov (5½)
Fercec (5) – Berkes (5)
Stanec (5) – Fogarasi (5)
Manik (5) – Rashkovsky (5)
Wiedner (5) – Burmakin (4½)

23th Benasque Open
The Israeli GM Alik Gershon is doing the same as Dvoirys in Oberwart ☺

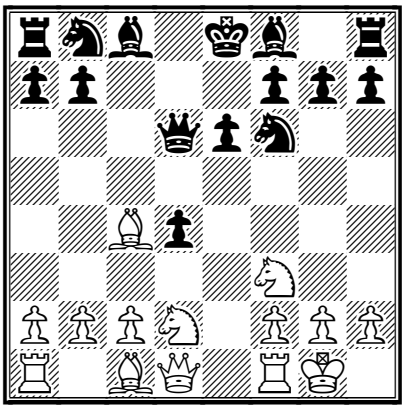
Round 6 standings:
1. Gershon – 6
2–4. Korneev, Ubilava, Sandipan – 5½
Among those who share places 5–28 with 5 points are Oratovsky, Felgaer, Cifuentes Parada, Jaracz, Varga and Stefanova.

The Annotated game features an evergreen combination carried out by the winner of the *White Nights* event, **Nurlan Ibraev**. His game against Kokarev from this tournament has chosen *The Game of the Week* by a jury consisting of Garry Kasparov, Peter Svidler, Emil Sutovsky and Alexander Rustemov. I'm presenting this column on www.worldchesrating.com (in a sense it was my choice as well) and I invite you to visit the site to enjoy the comments of the members of the jury. The game Ibraev – Kokarev will soon be annotated by Emil Sutovsky while the previous weeks' winners Adams – Lautier and Bareev – Lalic were excellently commented on by Alexander Rustemov.

Annotated Game

□ **N. Ibraev (2401)**
■ **V. Sergeev (2426)**
Event: *White Nights St Petersburg RUS (3), 01.07.2003*
French Defence/Tarrasch Variation [C07]
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

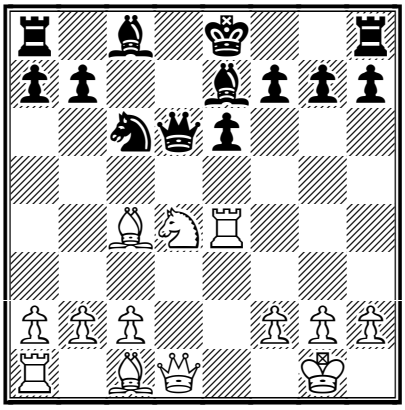
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.exd5 ♕xd5
This line of the Tarrasch System of the French Defence (3♘d2) is played by those who don't like to defend the isolated d5-pawn after 4...exd5.
5.♘gf3 cxd4 6.♗c4
Thanks to the advanced position of the Black queen White wins a few tempi for development, but later he will have to spend some time regaining the central pawn. This allows Black to hope for equalisation.
6...♕d6 7.0-0
It is well-known that 7.♘b3? is premature in view of 7...♕b4+ and one of the knights must move to d2 breaking down the co-ordination of White's pieces.
7...♘f6 (D)



8.♖e1!?
And here 8.♘b3 is certainly the main theoretical line approved in thousands of games. Ibraev goes the other way. It is just my supposition but maybe the young Kazakh player was witnessing the game Kasparov – Gelfand played in 2001 in Astana the capital of Kazakhstan.
8...♘c6 9.♘e4 ♘xe4
9...♕d8 was once played by Rustemov against Kharlov (Krasnodar 2002) and Black managed to hold the position. At the recent European Championships in Turkey the Swiss GM Hug lost twice in this line – to Nevednichy and Spasov true the results of the opening weren't disastrous for Black. After 10.♗b5 *(10.♘xf6+ gxf6 11.♗b5 ♗c5* and White has to make some efforts to take the pawn back, Spasov – Hug*)* 10...♗e7 11.♘xd4 ♗d7 12.♘f3 0–0 13.c3 White has a slight edge, Nevednichy – Hug]
10.♖xe4 ♗e7

10...♕c5 doesn't help to retain the pawn – 11.♗d3 ♗e7 12.♘xd4 ♘xd4 13.♖xd4 ♗f6 *(13...♕xd4? 14.♗b5+)* 14.♖c4 ♕d5 15.♕e2 0–0 16.♗e4 ♕e5 17.c3 and White is better due to the poor position of Black's light-squared bishop, Hracek – Lamprecht, Germany 2002.

11.♘xd4 (D)



11...0-0

Tempting is 11...e5 trying to exploit the pin along the d-file. White replies 12.♗f4! exf4 *(12...♕g6!? 13.♗d3!; 12...♘xd4? 13.♗xe5)* 13.♘xc6 ♕xd1+ *(13...♕xc6 14.♕e2 ♕c5 15.♖e1* and Black should give up his extra piece*)* 14.♖xd1 bxc6 15.♖de1 ♔f8! 16.♖xe7 ♗e6 17.♖1xe6 fxe6 18.♖c7 and in the ending the active rook compensate him for the exchange, Hracek – Borovikov, Pardubice 2002

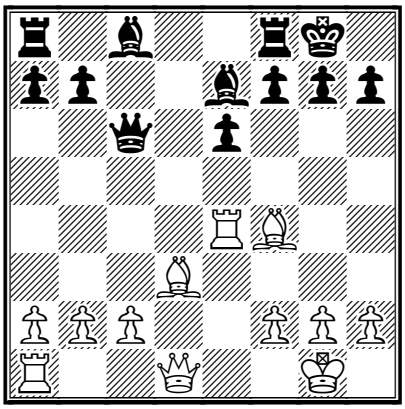
12.♗f4

The fourth piece on the fourth rank!

12...♕c5 13.♘xc6

Kasparov recommended 13.♗d3 as the best continuation.

13...♕xc6 14.♗d3 (D)



14...♗d7?

Gelfand against Kasparov continued 14...b5 (covering the c4-square) 15.a4 a6 16.♖e3 ♗b7 17.♗e4 ♕xe4!? *(17...♕c8;* and *17...♕b6* are possible as well but here Black is running a risk to undergo an awesome attack after *18.♗xh7+)* 18.♖xe4 ♗xe4 19.♕e2 and according to Gelfand in the event of 19...♗c6 20.axb5 axb5 the game is level; slightly worse is 14...♗f6 since it doesn't solve the problem of the light-squared bishop. The game Stellwagen – L'Ami from the recent Netherlands Championships went 15.♖e3 *(15.♗e5* deserves attention trying to exchange Black's good bishop leaving him with the bad one*)* 15...♖d8 16.♕h5 *(16.c3!?)* 16...g6 17.♕h6 ♗g7 (the risky *17...♗xb2 18.♖ae1 ♗g7 19.♕h4 ♖d4* should be taken into consideration*)* 18.♕h4 ♕e8 19.♖ae1 with advantage to White. With the text move Black tries to develop the bishop but his position at d7 has serious tactical drawbacks.

15.♖c4

The board turns out to be too small for the black queen.

15...♕b6

15...♕d5 loses to 16.♖d4! ♕xd4 *(16...♕c6 17.♖xd7!)* 17.♗xh7+

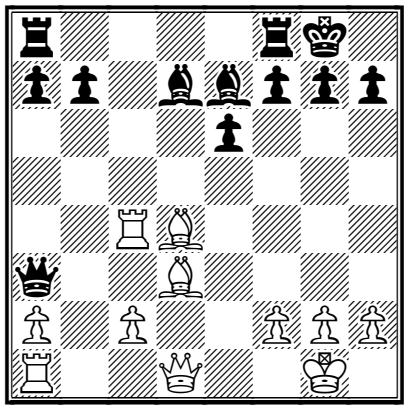
16.♗e3!

16.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 17.♕xd7 ♕xb2 is harmless.

16...♕xb2?

After the "trustworthy" 16...♕d8 White wins by 17.♖d4 and there's no defence against Rxd7 or a simple retreat of Bd3; in case of 16...♕a5 White already could win a pawn by 17.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 18.♕xd7 though it was a relatively better option for Black.

17.♗d4 ♕a3 (D)



Or 17...♕b5 18.♗xg7! and if

18...♔xg7 19.♖g4+

18.♗xh7+!

If someone has done it before you it doesn't mean you have to refrain from doing it! This combination is more than one hundred years old but when you fulfil it in your own game it is as fresh as many years ago.

18...♔xh7 19.♕h5+ ♔g8 20.♗xg7! f5

20...♔xg7 21.♖g4+ ♔f6 22.♕g5#

21.♗e5!

Threatening with 22.Qg6#

21...♖f6 22.♖h4!

Mate is inevitable, Black resigned.

1-0.

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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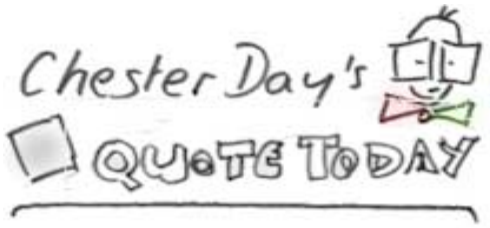

"...man is a frivolous, a specious creature, and like a chess-player cares more for the *process* of attaining his goal than for the *goal* itself."

– *Dostoyevsky*

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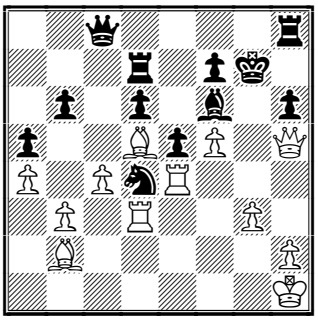
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-193(977) 12th July 2003

Chess Quiz

Agrest (2591) – Tikkanen (2337)
ch-SWE Umea SWE (9), 08.07.2003



White to play

Chess News

IM Maxim Notkin

In the penultimate round of the 18th North Sea Cup, Alexey Dreev beat Krishnan Sasikiran to replace him at the top. The final round sees the game between the leaders. McShane will play White.
Round 8 results:
Dreev – Sasikiran 1:0
Nielsen – McShane ½:½
Hansen – Bruzon ½:½
Dominguez – Krasenkow ½:½
Schandorff –Koneru ½:½

Round 8 standings:
1-2. McShane, Dreev – 6
3. Sasikiran – 5½
4. Hansen – 4½
5-7. Nielsen, Dominguez, Krasenkow – 3½
8-9. Schandorff, Bruzon – 3
10. Koneru – 1½

Judit Polgar and Boris Gelfand rapid match

After her win in an extremely sharp first encounter (see annotated game) Judit lost three times in a row. Does it mean Boris has got angry? The score is 3:1 in his favour.

The 13th Smith & Williamson Young Masters

After 3 rounds Prokopchuk, Hanley, Mah and Dearing share the lead with 2½ points.

One round is left to play at The Swedish Championships
Round 12 standings:
(Thomas Ernst has finished the tournament)
1. Agrest – 7 (out of 10)
2. Hillarp Persson – 6
3-5. Lindberg, Olsson, Hector – 5½
6-8. Wedberg, Brynell, Ernst – 5, etc.
Just one more (most likely, the last ☺) reminder that two players have withdrawn from the tournament due to illness so the others play 11 games in 13 rounds.

The Norwegian Championships
Round 8 standings:
1-4. T. Hansen, Djurhuus, Dannevig, Ostenstad – 5½
5. Carlsen– 5, etc.
12-year-old Magnus Carlsen has good chances to become IM.

Paris Championships
In the 6th round GM Alberto David of Luxembourg defeated one of the favourites Konstantin Landa.
Round 7 pairings:
David (5) – Todorov (5)
Vachier-Lagrave (4½) – Savchenko (4½)
Shchekachev (4½) – Simon (4½)
Bagheri (4½) – Brochet (4½)
Abergel (4½) – Paragua (4½)
Landa (4) – Chabanon (4)

25th Oberwart International Open
Semen Dvoirys has made his first draw in the tournament against Milos Pavlovic.
Round 7 standings:
1. Dvoirys – 6½
2-5. Ryazantsev, Shariyazdanov, Pavlovic, Ruck – 6
18 players have 5½ points including Navara, Luther, Burmakin, Fogarasi,

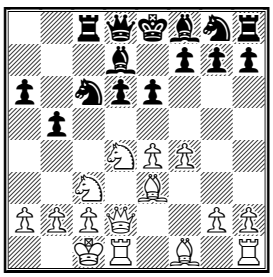
Berkes, Rashkovsky and WGM Nikoletta Lakos.

21st Chess Open in Andorra
Round 7 standings:
1. Eljanov – 5½
2–6. Nisipeanu, Khenkin, Delchev, Avrukh, Krush – 5, etc.
(The information is taken from chesspage.kiev.ua I couldn't find any link to the results on the official site. Thanks to the Ukrainian colleagues)

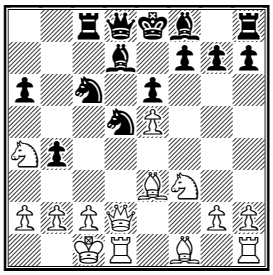
The Czech Open 2003 has started in Pardubice. The program of this famous festival is enormously wide and includes various kinds of chess (individual and team tournaments, blitz marathon etc.), bridge, go, shogi, draughts, PC games and marriage! The main event has not begun yet.

Annotated Game

□ **B Gelfand (2695)**
■ **J Polgar (2718)**
George Marx Rapid Match Pacs HUN (1), 10.07.2003 – B54
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗e3 a6 7.♕d2 ♗d7 8.0–0–0 ♖c8
A very rare set-up. Black develops the queenside first retaining options for the development of the king's knight.
9.f4
One of Black's ideas is seen in the following example – 9.f3 ♕c7 10.♔b1 ♘xd4 11.♗xd4 b5 12.♗d3 ♘e7 13.♖he1 ♕b7 14.f4 b4 15.♘e2 ♘c6 Tirard – Bischoff, Clermont-Ferrand 2003. Black has transferred the knight to c6 neutralizing White's common attacks e4–e5 or g2–g4–g5 disturbing the f6-knight.
9...b5



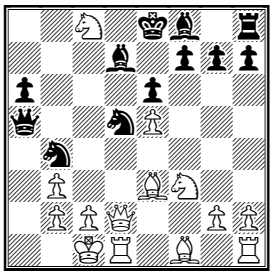
10.♘f3
This retreat is often employed by White in similar positions in order to prevent the manoeuvre Nxd4 and Bc6. Here the withdrawal of the knight also has the aim of providing the a4 square for the other knight.
10...♘f6 11.e5!
With the feeble 11.♗d3 ♘b4 White couldn't pretend to have an opening advantage.
11...dxe5 12.fxe5 b4!
Apparently Judit disliked the central pawn that would have appeared on the board after 12...♘d5 13.♘xd5 exd5 14.♗d3± (dubious is *14.♕xd5 ♘b4)*
13.♘a4
The entertaining 13.exf6 bxc3 14.♕xc3 ♘b4! 15.fxg7!? ♘xa2+ 16.♔d2 will not do because of 16...♗b5+! and A) 17.♔e1 loses to 17...♕xd1+! 18.♔xd1 ♘xc3+ 19.bxc3 ♗xg7; whereas B) 17.♗d3 is met by 17...♖xc3! and if 18.gxh8♕ ♖xd3+! 19.cxd3 ♕xd3+ 20.♔e1 ♕e2# (or *20...♕xe3#* if you're overcautious) ; and C) 17.♗d4 is met by 17...♗xg7 The dangerous pawn is eliminated and the white king turns out to be more centralized than his opponent. On the other hand the black knight is stuck in the enemy camp, which makes the position double-edged, but all in all I think Black has nothing to be afraid of.
13...♘d5



14.♘b6!
The double capture on b6 leads to mate on d7. Gelfand could have exploited the same motif by means of 14.♗b6!? but after 14...♖c7 15.♗xc7 ♕xc7 the black knight is well placed at d5 which one cannot say about the poor fellow at a4. Black has a compensation for the exchange.
14...b3!
Bad is 14...♘xb6 15.♗xb6 ♕e7

16.♗xa6 ♖b8 *(16...♖a8* makes things even worse – *17.♗b7 ♖xa2 18.♕xd7+! ♕xd7 19.♖xd7 ♔xd7 20.♖d1+* winning*)* 17.♗c5! ♕d8 18.♗xf8 ♖xf8 and White is a pawn up in a clearly better position.

15.axb3 ♘cb4! 16.♘xc8 ♕a5!



The series of brilliant moves allows Black to obtain counterplay.

17.♕d4

The other way of clearing a path for the king 17.♕f2 failed to 17...♘a2+ 18.♔b1 ♘ac3+! 19.bxc3 ♘xc3+ 20.♔c1 *(20.♔b2?? ♗a3+ 21.♔a1 ♗c1#)* 20...♗a3+ 21.♔d2 ♘e4+ and White loses the queen.

17...♗xc8

Here 17...♘a2+ 18.♔b1 ♘ac3+ 19.bxc3 ♘xc3+ is refuted by 20.♕xc3! *(20.♔c1* is possible as well for after *20...♗a3+ 21.♔d2 ♘b5+ 22.♔e2 ♘xd4+ 23.♖xd4 ♗xc8 24.♖a4!* Black loses the bishop*)* 20...♕xc3 and White saves his minor pieces by 21.♘d6+ ♗xd6 22.♖d3!

18.♗c4 ♘xe3

Let's check the idea of Na2+ one more time – 18...♘a2+ 19.♔b1 ♘ac3+ 20.bxc3 ♘xc3+ 21.♕xc3! ♕xc3 22.♗d2! and the black queen is trapped!

19.♕xe3 ♗c5

After 19...♕a1+? 20.♔d2 ♕xb2 21.♕c3 White gets a winning endgame.

20.♕e4?!

Perhaps Boris didn't notice Judit's next move.

20...♗b7!

Again 20...♕a1+ 21.♔d2 ♕xb2 22.♖b1 ♕a2 23.♖a1 would have led to a position where Black, in order to save the queen, should have found a trick 23...♗b7 Anyway the position after the exchange of the queens would have been obviously lost. Polgar makes this move without delay.

21.♖d8+!

Both opponents are playing ingeniously 21.♕xb7?? ♗e3+ mating

21...♔xd8?!

I believe better was 21...♕xd8 22.♕xb7 0–0 23.♕e4 ♕a5 and the black king finds a safe haven while the white one will have to undertake a perilous journey to the centre of the board.

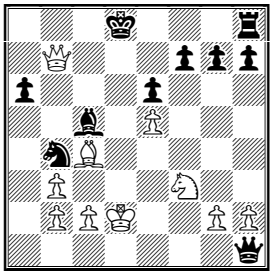
22.♕xb7 ♕a1+

A silly 22...♗e3+? loses to 23.♔d1 ♕a1+ 24.♔e2 ♕xh1 25.♕xb4

23.♔d2 ♕xh1

23...♕xb2 is parried by the cool 24.♖d1! ♘xc2 *(24...♕xc2+ 25.♔e1+ ♘d5 26.♖xd5+! exd5 27.♕xd5++–)* 25.♗xa6! and with all his checks Black can't do the opponent's king any harm – 25...♘d4+ 26.♔e1 ♕c3+ 27.♔f1

24.♕b8+ ♔d7 25.♕b7+ ♔d8



The draw is guaranteed. Gelfand decides to play for win.

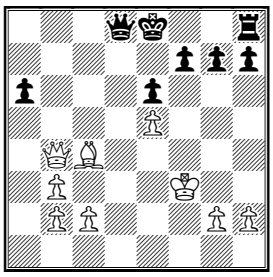
26.♘g5 ♗e3+! 27.♔xe3 ♕c1+ 28.♔f3 ♕xg5 29.♕b8+ ♔d7

Worse is 29...♔e7?! 30.♕xb4+ (but not *30.♕xh8? ♕f5+ 31.♔e2 ♕xe5+* and the c2–pawn falls.*)*

30.♕b7+ ♔e8 31.♕b8+

White could force perpetual by 31.♗b5+!? axb5 32.♕xb5+ ♔d8 33.♕b8+ ♔d7 34.♕b7+ ♔e8 35.♕b5+

31...♕d8 32.♕xb4

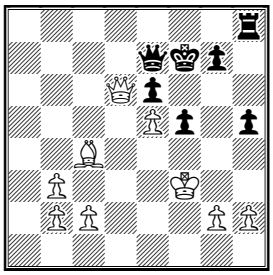


The situation remains unclear. Black has material advantage but the rook is still out of play. The queenside pawns may become dangerous soon.

32...h5 33.♗xa6

(with the threat of Bb5+)

33...f5! 34.♗b5+ ♔f7 35.♕d6 ♕g5
The queen exchange 35...♕xd6 36.exd6 favours White as he retains all his pawns – 36...♖d8 37.d7
36.♗c4 ♕e7



36...♕g4+ 37.♔f2 ♕f4+ 38.♔e2 ♖e8 looked safe but it seems Polgar plays for a win too.
37.b4?
A blunder in time-trouble. 37.♕d3 maintained the tension.
37...♕xd6 38.exd6 ♖d8
White loses a very important pawn. The game is actually over.
39.b5 ♖xd6 40.♔e3 ♔e7 41.♗d3 g5 42.c4 f4+ 43.♔e2
43.♔e4 e5
43...e5 44.♗e4
White leaves the pawn on c4 to preserve a support for the bishop 44.c5 ♖d4–+
44...♖d4 45.♗d5 e4 46.b6 e3 47.b4
47.b7? ♖d2+ 48.♔e1 ♖xb2
47...♖d2+ 48.♔e1 ♔d8 49.b5 g4 50.♗e4 ♖b2 51.♗d5
White's pawns are stopped.
51...h4 52.h3
Or 52.♗e4 f3! 53.gxf3 g3 54.hxg3 hxg3
52...f3 53.gxf3 g3
53...gxh3 wins too – 54.f4 h2 55.f5 h3 56.b7 ♔c7 57.f6 ♖g2! 58.b6+ ♔b8
54.f4 g2 55.♗xg2 ♖xg2 56.c5 ♖b2 0-1

Solution to Quiz:

52.♗xd4 exd4 53.♗e6! ♕b7
53...fxe6 54.♕g6+ ♔f8 55.♕xf6++–
54.♕g4+ ♔f8 55.♗xd7 ♕xd7+–
56.♖exd4!? ♗xd4 57.♕xd4 ♔g8
58.♕f4 ♕c6+ 59.♔g1 ♕c5+
60.♔g2 ♕c6+ 61.♔h3 1-0

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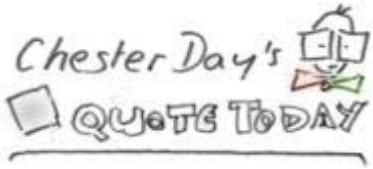

When a chess player looks at the board, he does not see a static mosaic, a still life, but a magnetic field of forces charged with energy – as Faraday saw the stresses surrounding magnets and currents as curves in space; or as Van Gogh saw vortices in the skies of Provence
Arthur Koestler

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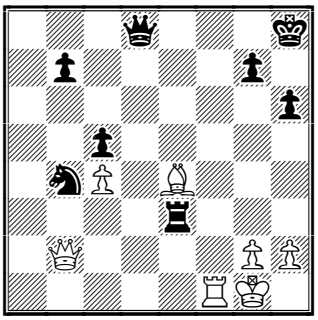
Chess Quiz

Sasikiran (2654) – Hansen (2618)
Esbjerg 2003



White to play

The 18th North Sea Cup has finished in Esbjerg (Denmark). The only decisive game in the final round was Sasikiran's win over Hansen. It didn't change the standing of the Danish GM but for the young Indian this result was of great importance. As the leaders McShane and Dreev made a quick draw it allowed Sasikiran to catch up to them. In a sense it's fair that the three share the first place – they all were playing perfectly well.

Luke McShane played the tournament right after his triumph at the Greenland Open and the European Championships where he qualified for the World Championships. The annotated game features one of his wins at the North Sea Cup.
Round 9 results:
Sasikiran – Hansen 1:0
McShane – Dreev ½:½
Bruzon – Dominguez ½:½
Krasenkow – Schandorff ½:½
Koneru – Nielsen ½:½

Final standings:
1-3. McShane, Dreev, Sasikiran – 6½ 4. Hansen – 4½ 5-7. Nielsen, Dominguez, Krasenkow – 4
8-9. Schandorff, Bruzon – 3½
0. Koneru – 2

Judit Polgar and Boris Gelfand rapid match,

After losing the first game Gelfand won four times in a row and thus has secured the overall victory. After 6 games he leads 4½:1½

The national championships have come to an end in two Scandinavian countries.
The former Russian GM **Evgeny Agrest** won The Swedish Championships
Final standings:
1. Agrest – 7½ (out of 11)
2. Hillarp Persson – 7
3-4. Olsson, Wedberg – 6
5-6. Lindberg, Hector – 5½
7-10. Berg, Ernst, Carlsson, Brynell – 5
11. Ahlander – 4½
12. Tikkanen – 4

At The Norwegian Championships in the final round GM Rune Djurhuus drew with 12-year-old-prodigy Magnus Carlsen while IM Berge Ostenstad won his game and became the new Champion of Norway.

Final standings:
1. Ostenstad – 6½
2. Djurhuus – 6
3-7. T. Hansen, Dannevig, Fyllingen, Christenson, Carlsen– 5½, etc.

Paris Championships
Alberto David beat Todorov to take sole lead in the tournament. Landa lost the second game in a row this time to Chabanon.
Round 8 pairings:
Paragua (5½) – David (6)
Todorov (5) – Shchekachev (5½)
Savchenko (5) – Chabanon (5)
Bellaiche (5) – Bagheri (5)
Brochet (5) – Vachier-Lagrave (5)

25th Oberwart International Open
Some results of the 8th round
Dvoirys – Ruck ½:½
Shariyazdanov – Pavlovic ½:½
Berkes – Ryazantsev 1:0

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
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Fucak – Navara 0:1
Burmakin – P. Horvath 1:0
Lakos – Luther 0:1

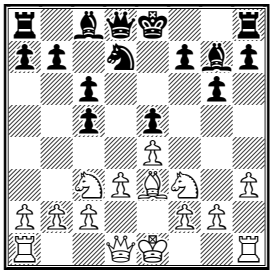
Standings before the final round:
1. Dvoirys – 7
2–12. Shariyazdanov, Pavlovic, Ruck, Berkes, Navara, Luther, Burmakin, Rashkovsky, Salakhutdinov, Chatalbashev, Manik – 6½, etc.

Our congratulations to all the winners!

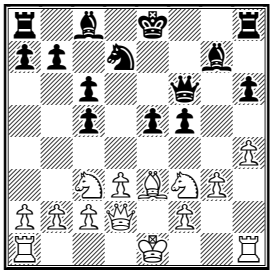
Annotated Game

□ **L McShane (2619)**
■ **L Schandorff (2525)**
18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN (7), 10.07.2003 B31
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

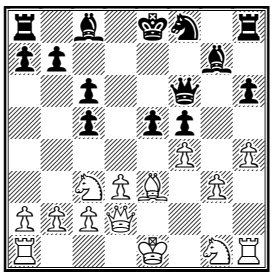
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 5.d3 ♗g7 6.h3 ♘f6 7.♘c3 ♘d7
Leko prefers 7...0–0 White's possible kingside offensive doesn't scare him.
8.♗e3 e5



Black has seized control over the d4–square. The main part of his plan is the knight's transposition to d4 via f8 and e6.
9.♕d2 h6
Preventing Be3–h6.
10.h4
White wants to play h5, provoking g6–g5, which would weaken the light squares on the kingside. The common plan for White involves 10.0–0 followed by Nh2 and f2–f4 (another promising idea is a3 and b4, though in Linares Kramnik conducting Black scored a nice win over Ponomariov here). But lately McShane himself won two games in this line with Black – against Rublevsky at the European Championships and against Oral at the Greenland Open. His wish to deviate is understandable.
10...f5
In conjunction with the king in the centre this move looks too sharp but this way Black gets a spatial advantage and to reveal the drawbacks of his opponent's plan McShane needs to display a remarkable strategic skill 10...h5 has been tested in Bologan – Malakhov, Togliatti, Russian Team Championships 2003 where Black equalized easily.
11.exf5 gxf5 12.g3 ♕f6



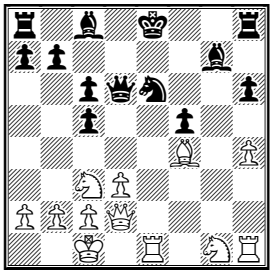
The h6–pawn is protected and Black is ready to castle. It seems that his mobile central pawns may trouble the opponent.
13.♘g1!
A move of a mature master. White is going to set up a barrier in the centre.
13...♘f8
I believe better was 13...0–0 14.f4 b5 The position isn't closed and the safety of the king is of critical importance.
14.f4!



White doesn't pay heed to the hanging pawn. In the event of 14.♗xc5?! ♘e6 the bishop should have found itself a place on the a3–f8 diagonal as 15.♗e3 is bad due to 15...f4
14...♘e6
More precise was 14...exf4 15.gxf4 *(15.♗xf4 ♗e6)* 15...♕d6 16.0–0–0 ♗e6 preparing the queenside castling.
15.fxe5 ♕xe5 16.0–0–0 ♕xg3?!
Following the same risky strategy.
17.♖e1 ♕d6

A well-known situation: Black is a pawn up but he lags behind in development. What is more valuable?

18.♗f4!?

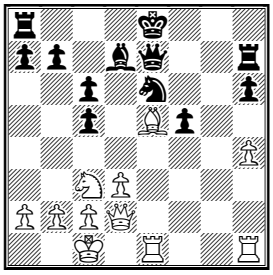


Both 18.♘f3 and 18.♘ge2 were possible but the text move is the most vigorous. True it required from White the correct calculation and assessment of an unexpected reply, which didn't occur in the game.

18...♕e7

Apparently both players came to a conclusion that 18...♗xc3!? doesn't solve the problems. White answers 19.bxc3 *(19.♗xd6 ♗xd2+ 20.♔xd2* isn't worth attention*)* 19...♕d5 20.♕h2! *(*after *20.♘h3 ♕xa2 21.♕g2 ♔d8 22.♕g6 ♖e8* the black king is somehow shielded*)* 20...♕xa2 21.♕g3! ♔f7 *(*the difference in the queen's position is seen in the line *21...♔d8 22.♗c7++-)* 22.♘f3 and White's attack is unstoppable

19.♘f3 ♗d7 20.♘e5 ♗xe5 21.♗xe5 ♖h7



Otherwise White obtains a powerful passed pawn on the h-file.

22.♗c7!

Again the black king's evacuation is delayed

22...♔f7?

Black lost his patience. This area is not a proper place for the king. Correct was 22...♗c8 23.♗f4 ♕f6 *(23...♗d7 24.♗xh6)* 24.h5 ♗d7 (one more time!) 25.♖hg1 0–0–0 26.♖g6 ♕f7 Here 27.♗xh6 *(*or *27.♗h2* gives White a better play but the defensive resources are not exhausted yet.)

23.♕f2

Black's position is already hopeless.

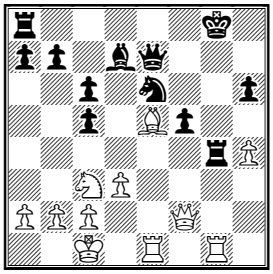
23...♔g8

23...♕f6 24.♗e5 ♕g6 25.♖hg1 ♕h5 26.♘e4+-

24.♖hg1+ ♖g7

24...♔h8? 25.♗e5+ winning the queen

25.♗e5 ♖g4



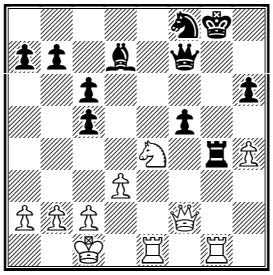
26.♘e4!

Not that strong is 26.♕xf5 ♘g7 and if 27.♕xg4?! ♗xg4 28.♖xg4 ♖e8 and the game transposes into equal ending; White could play 26.♖xg4+ fxg4 27.♘e4 but the way chosen by McShane is the most convincing.

26...♖f8 27.♗d6

It's not the last exchange White won in this game.

27...♕f7 28.♗xf8 ♘xf8



Or 28...♔xf8 29.♘xc5

29.♘f6+!

Winning the second exchange. Game over.

29...♕xf6 30.♖xg4+ ♔h7 31.♖eg1! ♘e6 32.♖g6 ♕xg6 33.♖xg6 ♔xg6 34.♕g3+ ♔f7 35.♕d6 ♗e8 36.♕e5 f4 37.♕h5+ 1-0

Solution to Quiz: 32.♕d2!+- ♖d3 32...♕xd2 33.♖f8# **33.♗xd3 ♕d4+ 34.♕f2 ♘xd3 35.♕xd4 cxd4 36.♖f8+ ♔h7 37.♖d8 ♘f4 38.g3 ♘e6 39.♖d6 ♘g5 40.♔g2 1-0**

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
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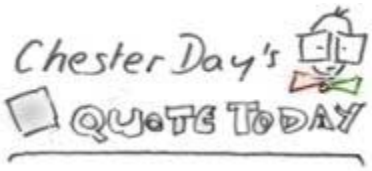


Perceiving when a game reaches a crisis is one of the greatest skills in chess.

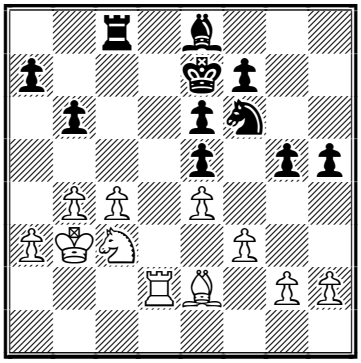
Ludek Pachman.

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-195(979) 14th July 2003

Chess Quiz

Dreev (2695) - Hansen (2610)
Esbjerg 2003

From today's annotated game



White to play

Can you find "the move that Fritz never suggests"

Chess News

As a rule an artist, writer or craftsman takes care of his heritage and successors. I'm not one of those. The tournaments I was observing are coming to an end one by one and I don't know what I am going to leave to my collegues for next week ... The scorched earth!?

The Judit Polgar – Boris Gelfand rapid match is over.

The 7th game ended in a draw then **Boris Gelfand** won the final encounter, which brought him overall victory 6:2

Paris Championships (9 rounds Swiss, 69 players) has finished. GM **Alberto David** of Luxembourg has become sole winner of the event

Final standings:
1. David – 7
2-8. Todorov, Savchenko, Shchekachev, Paragua, Abergel, Apicella, Bagheri – 6½
9-11. Greenfeld, Serafimov, Schabanel – 6, etc.

25th Oberwart International Open (9 round Swiss,300 players)
The Russian GM **Andrey Shariyazdanov** is first on tie-break.

Final standings:
1-5. Shariyazdanov, Pavlovic, Berkes, Dvoirys, Burmakin – 7½
6-11. Ryazantsev, Luther, Navara, Rashkovsky, Goloubovic, Tischbierek – 7, etc.

Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu of Romania won the 21st Chess Open in Andorra (9 rounds Swiss, 144 players)

Final standings:
1. Nisipeanu – 7½
2-3. Eljanov, Khenkin – 7
4-14. Delchev, Epishin, Oms Palice, Pogorelov, Paunovic, Al-Modiakhi, De La Riva Aguado, Psakhis, Avrukh, Ivanisevic, Canal Oliveras – 6½, etc.
Irina Krush scored 5½ points

Our congratulations to all the winners!

The only event in progress is The 13th Smith & Williamson Young Masters

Round 5 standings:
1. Prokopchuk – 4
2-4. Hanley, Mah, Jones – 3½, etc.

I hope my colleagues for the common good will find information about some new tournaments.

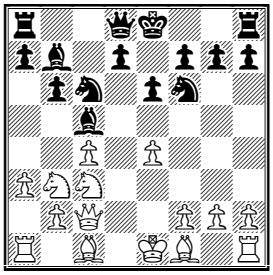
Recently we talked about computer moves. I'd like to contribute my share annotating the game in which White made a move that is above modern computers' understanding. Alexey Dreev is renowned for his brilliant technique. Here's one of his games from the North Sea Cup.

Annotated Game

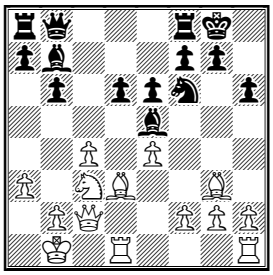
□ **A Dreev (2695)**
■ **C Hansen (2610)**
18th North Sea Cup Esbjerg DEN (7), 10.06.2003 E12

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

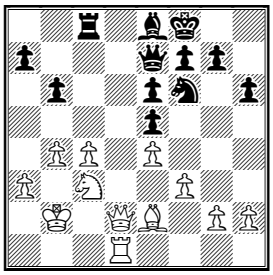
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3
The Petrosian System is Dreev's main weapon against the Queen's Indian
4...♗a6 5.♕c2 ♗b7
The idea behind this strange manoeuvre is to distract the white queen from d1 where it supports d4-d5. In case of 4...Bb7 5.Nc3 this advance is a serious positional threat and Black should play 5...d5 to parry it. In the line with Ba6-b7 he attacks White's centre by the c-pawn.
6.♘c3 c5 7.e4
7.d5 is employed from time to time by aggressive players. Twenty years of occasional practice have put forward the following continuation as one of the critical lines: 7...exd5 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.♗g5 *(9.♕e4+* doesn't win a piece in view of *9...♕e7)* 9...♗e7 10.♘b5!? 0–0 11.♘d6 ♘e3!? 12.fxe3 ♗xf3 13.exf3 ♗xg5 14.♕e4 ♕e7! 15.♕xe7 ♗xe7 16.0–0–0 with some compensation for a pawn (but not in a middlegame!)
7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♗c5
Another options are 8...♘c6 and 8...d6
9.♘b3 ♘c6



I have played this position for White and in my opinion his main problem is that his opponent has a clear target – the d4-square while the weak points in Black's camp are not that evident.
10.♗g5 h6 11.♗h4 ♘d4 12.♘xd4 ♗xd4 13.♗d3 ♗e5
(preventing f2-f4)
14.♗g3 ♕b8
Black maintains the blockade on the black squares.
15.0-0-0 0-0 16.♔b1 d6



17.f3
To understand the next few moves let's take a look at a couple of recent games in this variation. 17.♘e2 ♗xg3 18.hxg3 b5! 19.cxb5 ♖c8 20.♘c3 d5 *(20...a6!?* deserves attention as well*)* 21.♕e2 dxe4 22.♘xe4 ♘xe4 23.♗xe4 ♗xe4+ 24.♕xe4 ♕xb5 Black has regained the pawn and stands better since his major pieces put annoying pressure on the White king position, Cmilyte – Naiditsch, Wijk aan Zee 2003; 17.♗xe5 dxe5 18.♕e2 ♖d8 19.♕e3 ♖d4! 20.f3 *(20.♘b5* is bad due to *20...♖xd3! 21.♖xd3 ♗xe4)* 20...♗a6! 21.b3 ♕c7 22.♔b2 ♖ad8 (Black has taken control over d-file) 23.♘e2 ♖4d7 24.♗c2 b5 25.c5 b4! 26.axb4 ♖b8 and again Black takes the sacrificed pawn back seizing the initiative as 27.♔a3? doesn't help to protect the extra pawn *(27.♗d3 ♗xd3 28.♖xd3 ♖xb4* with advantage to Black was played in Khenkin – Adams, Germany 2002*)* in view of 27...♗xe2 28.♕xe2 a5
17...♖d8 18.♗xe5 dxe5 19.♗e2
Now the aim of the prophylactic move 17.f3 is clear. Dreev is going to impede Black's takeover of the d4-square.
19...♗c6
19...♖d4 would have been met by 20.♘b5
20.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 21.♖d1 ♕e7 22.♕d2 ♖c8 23.b4
At first sight, to advance the pawns that shelter the king is dangerous. But this move is quite natural. White's advantage consists of the extra pawn on the queenside. The fact that the queens are on the board has been taken into consideration by Dreev – they will be exchanged soon!
23...♔f8 24.♔b2 ♗e8

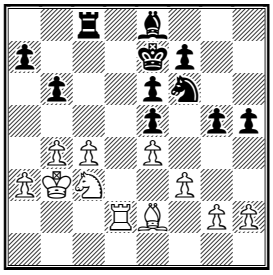


If 24...♘e8, covering the d6-point then White may exploit another square for the intrusion - 25.b5 ♗b7 26.♕d7 And he can be in no hurry to do it.

25.♕d6 ♕xd6 26.♖xd6 ♔e7 27.♖d2 g5 28.♔b3

An important part of White's plan - the exchange of the queens - is accomplished and he may activate his king. Nevertheless it's not clear how it would help to advance the pawns on the queenside...

28...h5



29.c5!!

The move that Fritz never suggests. 29.a4 could be met by 29...a5 30.♘b5 *(30.bxa5 bxa5* with idea of Nd7-c5*)* 30...axb4 31.♔xb4 ♖a8 and the b6-pawn successfully holds two enemy pawns.

29...bxc5 30.b5!

The situation has changed radically. White has no pawn majority on the queenside. Moreover he doesn't even have a passed pawn. What he has is the prospect of creating a passed pawn. But this is so remote and far off that computer is unable to take it seriously. This is the field where man is still stronger than a machine. I don't think Black's position is lost but the problems he has to solve are unpleasant.

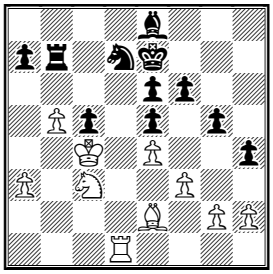
30...♖b8 31.♔c4 ♘d7 32.♖d1

Dreev isn't in hurry to advance his a-pawn. It's a useful endgame strategy (look at Shereshevsky's classic book) furthermore in this position (here and on the next moves) Dreev may dislike the reply 32.a4 a5 and if 33.bxa6 ♖b6 34.a7 ♖a6 35.♘b5? ♖xa4+ (with the pawn on a3 it all lacks sense for Black) 36.♔c3 ♘b6–+

32...h4?

It may seem that Black acts naturally trying to obtain "counterplay" on the king's flank. In fact to create a passed pawn there is not realistic, while Black's last move gives his opponent a chance for a favourable opening of the files. An interesting position may arise after 32...♖b6 33.a4 (by *33.♘a4 ♖b8* White achieves nothing*)* 33...♖d6 34.♖xd6 ♔xd6 35.a5 f6 36.♘a4 h4 37.g4 ♗f7 38.a6 ♗e8 39.♗f1 and Black is in zugzwang as 39...♗g6? loses to 40.b6! promoting the pawn. He should give up the c5-pawn but no need to say that this will increase White's advantage. The best defence for Black would have been to put the f-pawn on f6 and to make waiting moves with the rook (b7-b8) In this case it's not easy for White to breakthrough on the queenside while opening the h-file by h2-h4 g5xh4 Rh1 White has to reckon with real counterplay along the d-file.

33.♗f1 f6 34.♗e2 ♖b7



After 34...♗g6 35.g3 hxg3 36.hxg3 ♖h8 37.g4 ♖h2 38.♖e1! Black is unable to derive benefit from the possession of the h-file and White may keep on carrying out his plans. (Bad is *38.a4?! ♘b6+ 39.♔xc5 ♘xa4+ 40.♘xa4 ♖xe2)*

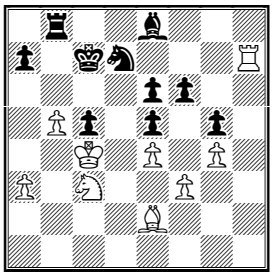
35.g3!

Black can only choose which file – the "g" or "h" to cede to his opponent.

35...hxg3

Or 35...♖c7 36.gxh4 gxh4 37.♖g1 ♘b6+ 38.♔b3 ♗h5 *(38...♔f8 39.♖g4 ♖h7 40.a4)* 39.♖g8 ♔f7 40.♖h8 ♔g6 41.a4 and the queenside movement begins.

36.hxg3 ♖b8 37.g4 ♖b7 38.♖h1 ♔d6 39.♖h8 ♖b8 40.♖h7 ♔c7



If 40...♖b7 41.♔b3 c4+ *(41...♖b8 42.♗c4)* 42.♔b4 and the c4-pawn is lost

41.a4 ♔b6

The following line shows that to allow a4-a5 is disastrous: 41...♔d6 42.a5 ♔c7 43.b6+! axb6 44.♘b5+ ♔d8 *(44...♔b7 45.♖e7!)* 45.a6 ♖a8 46.♖h8!? (of course *46.a7* is also good) 46...♖xa6 47.♖xe8+! ♔xe8 48.♘c7+ ♔e7 49.♘xa6 ♔d6 50.♔b5 with a winning position for White

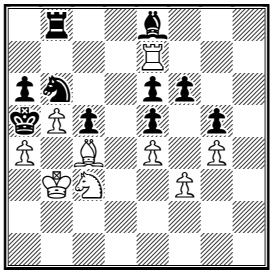
42.♖e7 ♔a5

42...♘f8 43.a5+ ♔xa5 44.♖xa7+ ♔b6 45.♖a6+ ♔c7 46.♔xc5

43.♔b3!

Freeing the square for the bishop 43.♖xe6?? ♗f7

43...a6 44.♗c4 ♘b6



Black's king is packed in.

45.♖a7

45.♗xe6 c4+ 46.♔a3 wins as well.

45...♖a8 46.♖xa8 ♘xa8 47.bxa6

Black could be equal to the task of stopping the a-pawn but White's idea is to give it up getting the c5-pawn instead and a straight road to Black's kingside pawns along with it.

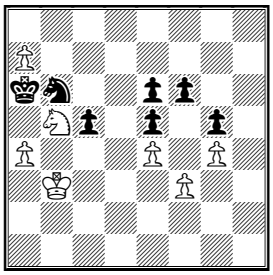
47...♗d7

47...♘c7 48.♗b5 ♗g6 49.a7 ♔b6 50.♔c4+-

48.a7 ♘b6

48...♔b6 49.♗b5 ♗c8 50.♔c4 ♘c7 51.a5+ ♔xa7 *(51...♔xa5 52.♔xc5)* 52.♔xc5 ♘xb5 53.♘xb5+ ♔a6 54.♘c7+ ♔xa5 55.♔d6+-

49.♗b5 ♗xb5 50.♘xb5 ♔a6



50...♘a8 51.♘d6 and Ne8, taking the root pawn f6

51.a5

Black resigned. The possible continuation is 51.a5 ♘a8 *(51...♔xa5 52.♘c7)* 52.♔c4 ♔xa5 53.♔xc5 ♔a6 54.♔c6! ♘b6 55.a8♕+! ♘xa8 56.♘c7+ ♘xc7 57.♔xc7 with a winning pawn ending. **1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

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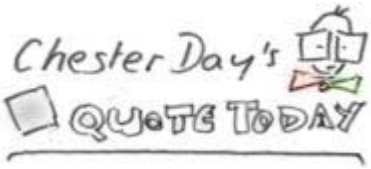


Place the board so that the sun is in your opponent's eyes

Ruy López

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-195(980) 15th July 2003

Chess News

GM Moiseenko (2618) was announced as the top rated FIDE player of the 2nd Open International de Condom (France), but instead of this tournament he is playing in the Canadian Open Chess Championship.

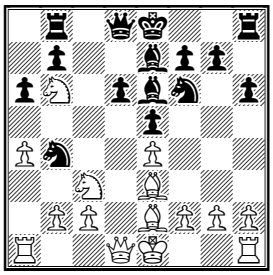
In the 4th round of the 40 Canadian Open Chess Championship (Ontario) the leaders will play on the top boards:
Christiansen – Wojtkiewicz
Hauchard – Moiseenko
Bellon Lopez – Nataf

The Politiken Cup will be an 11-round open tournament played in one big group - from novices and club players to strong grandmasters such as: Alexander Beliavsky, Konstantin Sakaev, Krishan Sasikiran, Peter Heine Nielsen, Luke Mcshane, Jonathan Speelman, Michal Krasenkow, Artur Jussopow.

Annotated Game

□ **J Hector (2553)**
■ **L Karlsson (2478)**
ch-SWE Umea SWE (12), 11.07.2003
- B33
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov
Here is an interesting and instructive game that was played at the Swedish Championship.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 h6 7.♗e3 d6 8.a4 a6 9.♘a3 ♗e6 10.♘c4 ♗e7 11.♘b6 ♖b8 12.♗e2 ♘b4!?N

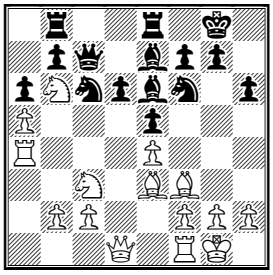


12...0–0 has occurred before, but the move played enables control to be taken over the d5-square and is not worse at all.

13.♗f3 0–0

This is an interesting attempt to expand by means of 13...♘g4!? 14.♗xg4 ♗xg4 15.♕d2 f5 where Black has two bishops and good chances of equalizing.

14.a5 ♕c7 15.0–0 ♖fe8 16.♖a4 ♘c6

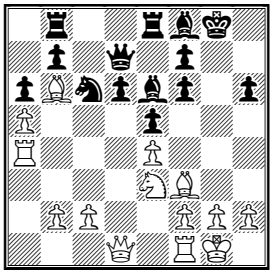


Having made a couple of standard moves, Black has got into a passive position. White is resolutely increasing his domination in the centre.

17.♘cd5 ♕d8 18.♘c4 ♗f8

Black's position is so difficult that it is worth contemplating a pawn sacrifice. 18...♘d4 19.♗xd4 exd4 20.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 21.♘b6! ♘d7 22.♕xd4 ♘xb6 23.axb6 ♖c8±

19.♗b6 ♕d7 20.♘xf6+ gxf6 21.♘e3



21...♘e7

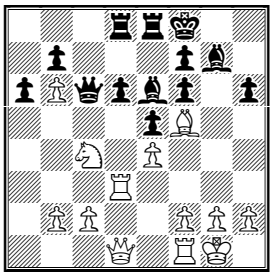
The tactical dodge 21...♘xa5!? 22.♖xa5 ♕c6 can be responded to with the move 23.♗d4! exd4 24.♕xd4 resulting in a difficult position for Black. However, it was a chance.

22.♖a3 ♘c8 23.♗g4!

The control over the White squares buries the f8-bishop alive .

23...♘xb6 24.axb6 ♗g7 25.♗f5

♔f8 26.♖d3 ♖bd8 27.♘c4 ♕c6



28.♖xd6!

The transition to an endgame a piece down is an original way of taking advantage of the positional advantage! Incidentally, the g7-bishop makes it possible.

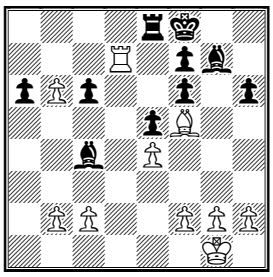
28...♗xc4 29.♖xc6!

Not so convincing is 29.♖xd8 ♗xf1 30.♔xf1 ♕xb6± and the bishop will enter the game via f8 sometime.

29...♖xd1 30.♖xd1!

30.♖xc4 ♖d6

30...bxc6 31.♖d7

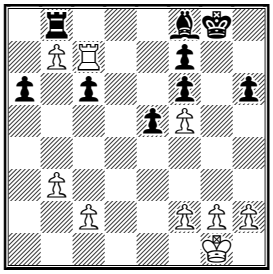


An extra pawn is not a great consolation to Black. One bishop is in peril, another one evokes nothing but sympathy. The passed pawn on b6 is very dangerous.

31...♖b8 32.b7 ♔g8 33.b3 ♗e6

White faces more problems after 33...♗e2! 34.♖c7! *(But not 34.f3?! a5!)* 34...♗f8 35.♗d7! c5 36.♗c6 Preserving more pieces on the board Black retains more opportunities for White to slip up.

34.♖c7 ♗xf5 35.exf5 ♗f8

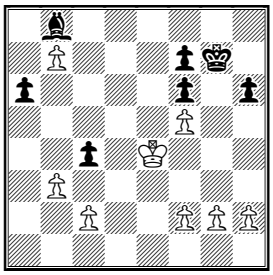


The board has become deserted, the White king takes up the struggle.

36.♔f1 c5??

A crucial moment. Instead of taking care of the unnecessary pawn, Black should have fought for involvement of his bishop without a rook exchange: 36...♔g7! 37.c3! *(37.♔e2 ♗b4!* followed by Ba5*)* 37...e4! Possibly, the whole beautiful idea of White should be considered inappropriate.

37.♔e2+- e4 38.♔e3 ♗d6 39.♖c8+ ♔g7 40.♖xb8 ♗xb8 41.♔xe4 c4

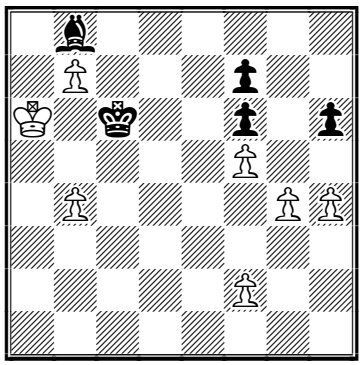


42.♔d5!

An accurate calculation till the very end does not give Black even the slightest chance.

42...cxb3 43.cxb3 ♔f8 44.♔c6 ♔e7 45.b4 ♔d8 46.♔b6 ♔d7 47.♔xa6 ♔c6 48.h3 ♔c7 49.h4 ♔c6 50.g4 1-0

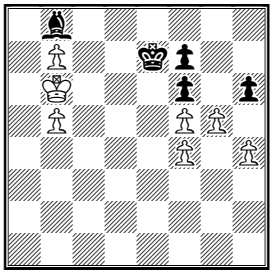
And Black resigned not waiting for the inevitable formation of a passed pawn on the kingside. That was the last and fatal mistake. See page 4 for the drawing line or try to work it out yourself ...



Black to play and draw

This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

50...♔c7 51.b5 ♔d7 52.♔b6 ♔d6 53.f4 ♔e7 54.g5



54.h5 ♔e8 and the king moving from e7-e8 controls the h-pawn. And now Black had to strain every nerve, believe in miracles and find ...

54...h5! 55.g6 fxg6 56.fxg6 f5!

And White has only a draw here! As Tartakower once said "Nobody ever won a chess game by resigning"

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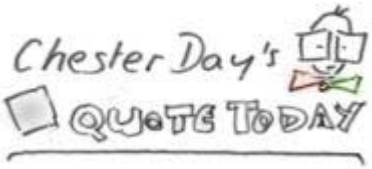

It is one of the insights of modern players, and especially of the best ones, that one has to play the position itself, not some abstract idea of the position

John Watson

CHESS TODAY
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CT-197 (981) 16th July 2003

Chess News

13th Smith & Williamson Young Masters

Round 6 Standings:
1-2. Prokopchuk, Hanley 4½
3-5. Mah, Jones, Dvorak, 4.0
6-8. Bigg, Antal, Dearing, 3½
etc.

Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003

55persons lead after 2 rounds with 2 points!

40th Canadian Open

Christiansen – Wojtkiewicz 0-1
Hauchard – Moiseenko 0-1
Bellon Lopez – Nataf 0-1

After 4 rounds the standings are:

1.Wojtkiewicz – 4.0
2-3. Moiseenko, Nataf 3½
etc

2nd International Condom Open

After 5 rounds the standings are:

1. Horvath - 5.0
2-3. Agamaliev, Guiev - 4½
4-10. Meijers, Lemeaux, Gaponenko, Maryasin, Patrascu, Roser, Ducret – 4.0
etc.

Co-author, **Ken Whyld**, of the well known book, *The Oxford Companion to Chess* dies at 77. Below is an obituary from the British Chess Magazine Webster:

Ken Whiled (1926-2003) [14/07/03]
by John Saunders, *BCM Editor and Webmaster*

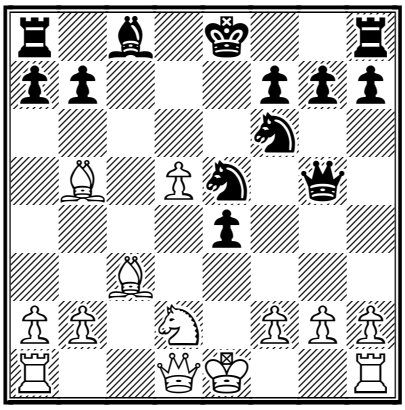
"Some very sad news: world-famous chess historian and BCM columnist Ken Whyld died on 11 July) aged 77. Ken's landmark work was *The Oxford Companion to Chess*, which he co-authored with David Hooper in 1984. Ken was a strong amateur player who won the Nottinghamshire county championship and took part in the British Championship in 1956. Thereafter playing the game took a back seat to family life and his career as an IT expert, but he continued to collect chess books and edit chess publications such as *Chess Student's Quarterly* and *Chess Reader* in the 1950s. He took over BCM's Quotes and Queries column in October 1978 and had been talking about how to celebrate his 25 years as columnist. Sadly that will not now come about, although there will be one last column in the forthcoming issue. Although Ken and I had been in regular contact as columnist and editor for over four years, we met in the flesh only once - two weeks ago at the party to launch the 'Art of Chess' exhibition, when he came down to London for the day from his home in Lincolnshire. The photo (left), showing Ken enjoying a flute of champagne, was taken on that occasion. As well as being hugely knowledgeable about chess, Ken was a very warm, down-to-earth and generous man, with a gently teasing sense of humour. It was a privilege and honour to have known him and worked with him. **Any readers who would like to pay tribute to Ken, or share reminiscences with readers of this site, please email me(johnsaunders@bcmchess.co.uk To see readers' tributes (updated 14/07/03), click on the link above."**

Annotated Game

□ **H. Jonkman (2424)**
■ **L. Christiansen (2545)**
Event: *2003 Canadian Open Board 2*
Kapuskasing, ON (3), 13.07.2003
Siclian Defence – [B22]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♕xd5 4.d4 ♘c6 5.♘f3 cxd4 6.cxd4 e5 7.♘c3 ♗b4 8.♗d2 ♗xc3 9.♗xc3 e4 10.♘d2 ♘f6 11.♗c4 ♕g5 12.d5 ♘e5 13.♗b5+ (D)



A well-known theoretical position has arisen on the board and it is a bit strange that nobody has tried **13...♔f8N** before.

Only the instinctive 13...♗d7 has been played so far 14.♗xd7+ ♘exd7 15.0–0 0–0 16.d6 ♖fe8 with a pretty quiet position. 17.♘c4 ♖ad8 *(17...♘d5 18.h4 ♘xc3 19.hxg5 ♘xd1 20.♖fxd1 ♖ac8 21.♘e3 ♖c6 22.♖ac1 ♖ec8 23.♖xc6 ♖xc6 24.♖d2±* Efimov,I–Zaichik,G/Prague 1985*)* 18.♕d4 ♘c5 19.♘e3 ♘d3 20.♕xa7 ♖xd6 21.♕xb7 ♘h5 22.♕c7 ♖ed8 23.♕a5 ♕g6 24.♘f5 ♖e8 25.♘e7+ 1–0 Pavasovic,D–Forster,R/Montecatini Terme 1997

14.♕b3!?

Too boring is 14.♗xe5 ♕xe5 15.♘c4 ♕xd5 16.♕xd5 ♘xd5 17.♘d6 with a probable draw.

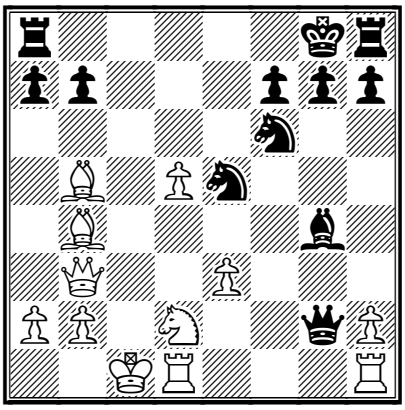
14...e3! 15.♗b4+ ♔g8 16.fxe3

16.♕xe3 should be responed to with the fundamental 16...♕xg2!? (The endgame after *16...♕xe3+ 17.fxe3 ♘xd5* looks more favourable for White.) 17.0–0–0 ♘eg4! 18.♕e7 ♗f5 Nobody know whose king is in more danger here.

16...♕xg2!

It appears that Christiansen has prepared well for the upcoming difficulties. It is a bit frightening to make such a move straight at the board, but after home analysis – it's OK, why not?

17.0–0–0 ♗g4 (D)

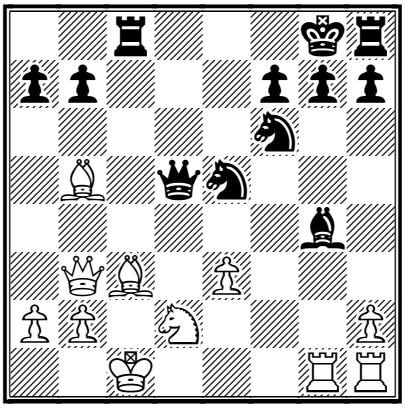


A crucial moment for the assessment of this new variation.

18.♖dg1?!

In my opinion better is 18.♗c3! It is important for White to exchange Black's well placed pieces in the centre even at the cost of material. After 18...♗xd1 19.♖xd1 ♕g5 20.♘c4! ♘xc4 21.♗xc4 ♕xe3+ 22.♔b1 The two bishops, the passed d-pawn and Black's undeveloped rook on h8 make it possible to estimate the position in favour of White.

18...♕xd5 19.♗c3 ♖c8 (D)



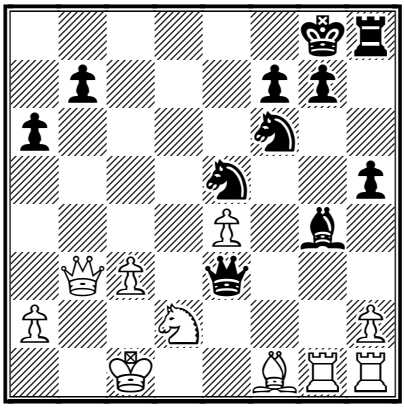
20.♔b1?!

Also possible is 20.e4 ♕d6 21.♔b1 with a complicated struggle although White would miss his d-pawn.

20...♖xc3!? 21.bxc3 h5

Black could avoid the queen exchange if he wished – 21...♕c5 The

weaknes of White's pawns are pretty good compensation for the exchange.
22.♔c1
After 22.♕xd5 ♘xd5 23.c4 ♘xe3 24.♖g3 ♘f5 25.♖a3 a6 26.♗a4 ♘d4! Black maintains the upper hand.
22...a6 23.♗f1 ♕c5 24.e4?
A blunder in a difficult position. It is possible to continue resistance after 24.♕b4 ♕xe3 25.♕d4 ♕xd4 26.cxd4 ♘c6 27.♗g2 ♘xd4 28.♖e1 but here Black has already gained material advantage.
24...♕e3!–+ (D)



White's position is absolutely hopeless.
25.♗c4 ♘xe4 26.♖g2 ♗f3 27.♖hg1 ♗xg2 28.♖xg2 b5 29.♖e2 ♕g1+ 30.♔c2 ♘xc4 31.♘xc4 ♕g4! 32.♖e3 ♕g2+ 0–1.

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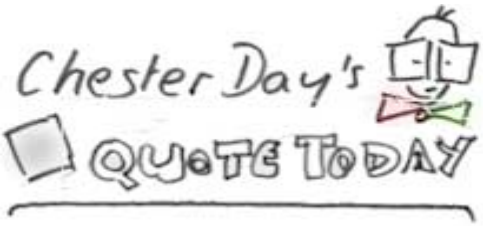

By some ardent enthusiasts chess has been elevated into a science or an art. It is neither; but its principal characteristic seems to be--what human nature most delights in--a fight." –

– *Emanuel Lasker*

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Chess News

13th Smith & Williamson Young Masters

Standings after 8 rounds (top places):
1-2. Prokopchuk, Hanley – 6.0
3-4. Mah, Jones – 5.0
etc.

Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003

Standings after 3 rounds:
1-18. Beliavsky, Sakaev, Sasikiran, Nielsen. McShane, Krasenkow, Jussupow, De Firmian, Johannessen, Kallio, Rasmussen, Mortensen, Michelakis, Solleveld, Nyysti, Jakobsen, Nilssen, Gullaksen – 3points

40th Canadian Open

Round 5 results:
Wojtkiewicz- Moiseenko – ½-½
Hauchard – Moiseenko – 0-1

Standings after 5 rounds (top places):
1. Wojtkiewicz – 4½
2-4. Moiseenko, Christiansen, Arencibia – 4 etc.

2nd International Condom Open

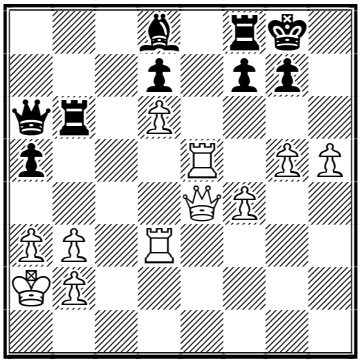
Standings after 8 rounds (top places) :
1-4. Agamaliev, Guliev, Maryasin, Roser – 6

Letters to the Editor

A while ago we received the following message from one of our main contributors – **GM Mikhail Golubev**. He has been busy writing a chess book, but we hope to see Mikhail back in *Chess Today* soon!

"Dear Alexander, please, allow me to continue the discussion on the quality of chess annotations which began in CT-956. I hope that CT annotations are quite competitive, even in comparison with *New in Chess* which deservedly has the reputation of the best chess magazine in the world. Basically, no one can make ideal annotations and consider everything that can be important. Let's take for example the position from the Short-Lutz game.

Short – Lutz
Budapest 2003



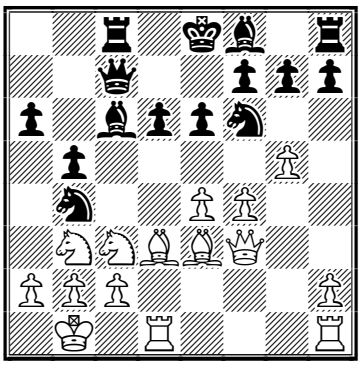
White to play

In the position in the diagram, Short played **37.♖ed5**, what should be sufficient. But probably 37.h6! would allow White to win more easily. For example: 37...♖xd6 (or *37...gxh6 38.gxh6 ♖xd6 39.h7+ ♔g7 40.♖e8 ♕xd3 41.♖xf8 ♕xe4 42.h8♕+ ♔g6 43.♖g8+ ♔f5 44.♕h3+*, etc.) 38.h7+ ♔h8 39.♖e8 ♖xe8 40.♕xe8+ ♔xh7 41.♖h3+ ♔g6 42.♕e4+! f5 43.♕e8#.

In his annotations in the *New in Chess*, which you mentioned, Nigel Short didn't consider the interesting possibility of 37.h6 at all.

Another example, which in my opinion is quite amazing, is from the Kramnik's annotations in the *New in Chess* No. 3 of 2003.

Kramnik – Topalov
Amber Blindfold, 2003



Black to play

Here Black played **14...♘d7.**
Kramnik also considers the alternative line – 14...♘xe4!? 15.♗xe4 d5. He then suggests 16.g6 ('!! This incredibly strong (computer) move I found after the game' – Kramnik) 16...dxe4 (Kramnik also examines 16...hxg6 with some further lines.) 17.♕h3!.

I agree that this looks nice for White, but my question is why can't he play 16.♕h3 first?! And after 16...dxe4 – 17.g6, getting the same position in a much easier way!

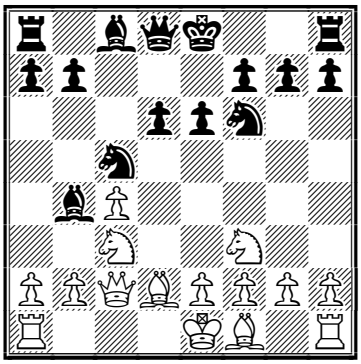
It is possible that I don't understand something (or anything). But I tend to think that it is Kramnik who forgot about the simple transposition in this case. To conclude: it's probably best not to be too critical about an annotator's comments – after all, we shouldn't expect that annotations could be more than just annotations!

Annotated Game

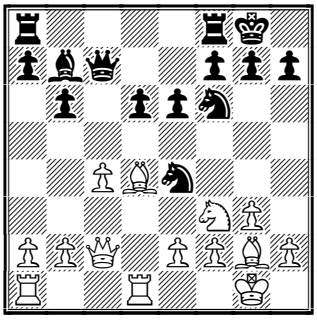
□ **G. Baladjaev (2177)**
■ **F.Vermaak**
Event: *WJun Nakhchivan AZE (13), 03.07.2003*
Nimzo-Indian Defence – [E38]

Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

There were a lot of interesting games at this year's World Junior Championship and not only the leaders created them.
1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 c5 5.dxc5 ♘a6 6.♘f3 ♘xc5 7.♗d2 d6N (D)



It is hard to say whether this is a deliberate novelty or Black had run out of his theoretical knowledge by that time. It is more important to highlight that the move Black made is not a bit worse, but probably even better than the ones that have occurred before. [7...b6 8.a3 ♗xc3 9.♗xc3 ♗b7 10.e3 ♖c8 11.♗e2 ♘ce4 12.♗d4 d6 13.b4 0–0 14.0–0 ♕e7 15.♖ac1 ♖c7 16.♘d2 ♘xd2 17.♗xf6 ♕xf6 18.♕xd2 ♕e7= ½–½ Ehlvest,J–Goldin,A/New York 1993; or 7...♗xc3 8.♗xc3 ♘ce4 9.♘d2 ♘xc3 10.♕xc3 0–0 11.g3 d5 12.♗g2 b6 13.0–0 ♕e7 14.e4 dxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♗b7 17.♗xb7 ♕xb7 18.♖fd1 ♖fd8 19.♖d4 ♖d7 20.♖ad1 ♖ad8 21.b4 h5 22.c5 bxc5 23.bxc5 ♖xd4 24.♖xd4 ♖c8 25.♕c2 ♕c6 26.a4 g6 27.♕c3 ♔h7 28.♖c4 ♖d8 29.f3 ♕d5 30.♔g2 ♕d1 31.♖f4 ♔h6 ½–½ Goldberg,G–Mikenas,V/Kiev 1957
8.g3 b6
Being ashamed of his innovation. Logical is 8...♗d7; and even 8...e5!?
9.♗g2 ♗b7 10.0–0 0–0 11.♖fd1 ♗xc3
Since nothing was pressuring the bishop to exchange, it was possible to make a useful move. For instance, this one 11...♖c8
12.♗xc3 ♘ce4 13.♗d4 ♕c7!= (D)



The queen leaves the file, where the white king rook is placed now, and now attacks the white pawn on c4. We can consider the position equal.

14.b3?!

It was worth protecting the queen by means of 14.♘e1

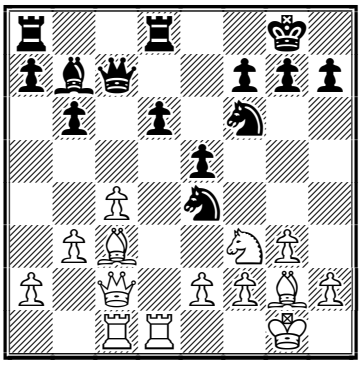
14...♖fd8?!

Black had an opportunity of seizing the initiatve with 14...e5! 15.♗e3 *(15.♗b2 ♘g4 16.♖f1 f5)* 15...♘g4 16.♘h4 ♘xe3 17.fxe3 d5 and White is required to play accurately.]

15.♖ac1?!

And here White misses his opportunity: after 15.♘d2! ♘xd2 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♗xb7 ♘xb3 18.axb3 ♕xb7 19.♖d4± White has a serious attack as a compensation for the pawn.

15...e5! 16.♗c3 (D)



16...♘xf2!

Not bad is also the quiet 16...♘xc3 17.♕xc3 a5 but the knight sacrifice is, of course, more exciting!

17.♔xf2 ♘g4+ 18.♔g1?

White retains the balance after 18.♔e1! ♕c5 *(18...♘e3 19.♕d3 ♘xg2+ 20.♔f2 e4 21.♕d4 f6 22.♔xg2 exf3+ 23.exf3)* 19.e4 ♗xe4 20.♕e2 ♘e3 21.♗d2! ♘xd1 22.b4 ♕f2+ 23.♕xf2 ♘xf2 24.♔xf2 f5 But it is not that easy to calculate such variations at the board.

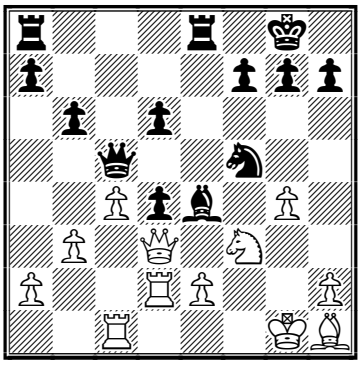
18...♕c5+ 19.♗d4 exd4 20.♕d3 ♖e8 21.♖d2 ♘e3 22.♗h1 ♘f5

Better is 22...♕a3∓ with the obvious upper hand.

23.g4?!

After 23.♘xd4 ♘xd4 24.♕xd4 ♕xd4+ 25.♖xd4 ♗xh1 26.♔xh1 ♖xe2 White has good chances for a draw.

23...♗e4 (D)



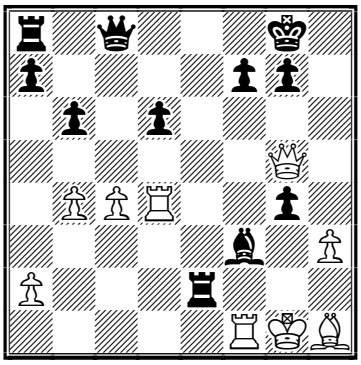
24.b4 ♕c8 25.♕b3 ♘e3 26.h3 h5

Black has a dangerous attack after 26...♕d8 27.♖xd4 ♗xf3 28.exf3 ♕h4 29.♕b2 d5∓; Possibly, more accurate is 26...♗xf3 27.exf3 *(27.♗xf3 ♕d8!)* 27...♕e6

27.♖xd4 hxg4 28.♕xe3 ♗xf3 29.♕g5

This pseudo-active and losing move brought White a quick victory. That's why I can not put a question mark after it although it is likely to be here. The following continues resistance 29.♕c3 ♖xe2 30.♗xf3 gxf3 31.♕xf3 ♕e8∓ It is not so easy for Black to take advantage of being a pawn up. Due to this variation it was worth choosing another attacking way at move 26.

29...♖xe2 30.♖f1 (D)



30...♕c6??

Having played pretty well for the whole game, Black deserved a victory, but instead manages to lose almost all his pieces with one move. The easiest way to finish off is 30...f6–+

31.♖xg4+– g6 32.♗xf3 ♕e8 33.♗xe2 1–0.

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

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"When a pawn is offered you, never take it for the sake of taking it. Only take it if the pawn will annoy you if not taken, or if the oppnent gains no ground by sacrificing it. In other words, sometimes take threatening pawns, but rarely take non-threatening pawns if the opponent will get serious compensation."

--- *Cecil J.S. Purdy*

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-199 (983) 18th July 2003

Tournament news

The 25th Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup

Standings after 4 rounds:

1-5. Sakaev, P-H.Nielsen, McShane, Krasenkow, Kallio - 4
There are 17 players with 3½ points.

(Several interesting games from Round 4 are available in today issue's CBV file, and Nielsen-Michelakis is our featured annotated game for this issue.)

40th Canadian Open

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Wojtkiewicz - 5½
2-5. Moiseenko, Christiansen, Cramling, Jonkman - 4½

Web Watch: *His Great Predecessors* *by GM Mikhail Golubev*

The 13th World Champion and highest rated player in the world, **Garry Kasparov** has been very popular on the Internet in recent days.

Firstly, Kasparov actively promoted his new book, *My Great Predecessors.* Websites ChessBase.com, Chess Cafe, and M.Greengard's The Daily Dirt each provide various materials on this topic. Much earlier, an interesting promotional article on Kasparov's book was published on Worldchessrating.com.

Secondly, it has been announced that Kasparov will play against the computer program *Fritz* in November 2003. As it was the case with the his January 2003 match vs *Junior*, the event will take place in New York, and the official site again will be www.x3dworld.com.

Thirdly, - no, unfortunately there is still no decisive news regarding the Ponomariov-Kasparov match, which, as chess community is hoping, will take place in Yalta, Ukraine in September-October 2003. The FIDE website is silent, which means that contracts with the players are still not signed.

Instead, the FIDE site (which, by the way, has started to operate much better of late.) has published information about the 74th FIDE Congress. It will take place in Halkidiki, Greece, 27 October - 3 November 2003.

The internet match *Chess Tigers - World* in Chess960 has started at www.chesstigers.de. One short comment from the match site (for those unfamiliar with what Chess 960 is): *Let's go for 3.b3, giving the bishop on a1 a nice diagonal and supporting a later d4. Michael Tischendorf moves 3. b3 for the Chess Tigers.*

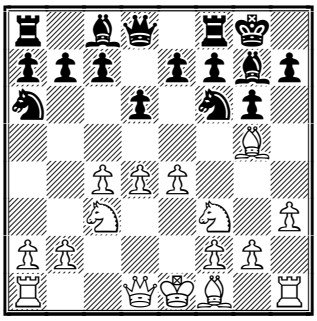
'The Chess World's Singing Champion' is an article about Vasily Smyslov at Themoscowtimes.com.

Annotated Game

□ **P. Nielsen**
■ **G. Michelakis**
Event: *Politiken Cup København (4), 2003*
King's Indian Defence [E90]

Annotations by IM Mikhail Golubev

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.h3 ♘a6 7.♗g5 (D)



7...♕e8

This queen move may seem strange, but it's not an unusual idea in this variation of the King's Indian. Black now plans to follow with ...e5, but if White plays 8.g4 (which is a dangerous move for Black in pawn structures with ...e5 and d5), then Black can try something else – as in the game...

8.g4 c5 9.♗g2!?

9.d5 e6

9...h5

But this is probably over-creative. ⌓9...cxd4 10.♘xd4 ♘c5 , as, according to ChessBase's Mega Database 2003, once played by Garry Kasparov in the internet blitz game.

10.♗xf6!

Why not. In Krasenkow-Bobras, Glogow 2001, the only preceding game with 9...h5, White followed with the less ambitious 10.gxh5 ♘xh5 11.♕d2 .

10...exf6

10...♗xf6 11.gxh5 clearly favours White.

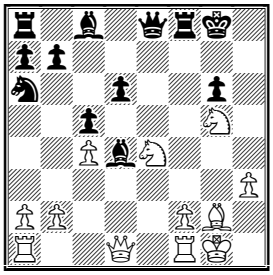
11.gxh5 f5

This is Black's idea – to attack White's centre. And it almost works...

12.hxg6 fxe4 13.♘g5!

An important move. 13.gxf7+? ♕xf7 14.♘xe4 ♕xc4 would give good counterchances to Black.

13...fxg6 14.♘cxe4 ♗xd4 15.0-0 (D)



Previous moves were more or less forced, and now we can try to evaluate the chances. Black has one badly placed piece – his knight, and also he needs to spend a tempo defending his d-pawn. So, White can hope to develop a very strong initiative.

15...♕e5

Having little support from other pieces, the queen will be vulnerable here. The ugly-looking 15...♕d8 could give more hope, but after the simple 16.♕d2 White is much better.

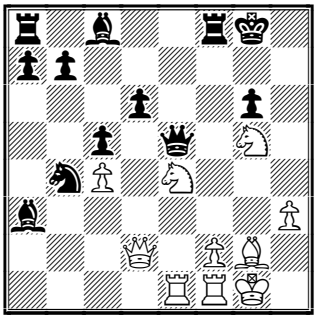
16.♕d2 ♗xb2 17.♖ae1 ♘b4

White is clearly better also after 17...♕d4 18.♕xd4 , followed by 19.♘xd6.

18.a3!?

There were various promising possibilities for White, and this one is not bad at all.

18...♗xa3 (D)



After 18...♘c6 , possible is 19.♘xc5!? ♕xc5 20.♗d5+ ♔g7 21.♕xb2+ with a big advantage.

19.♘h7!

Not 19.♘xd6?! ♕d4

19...♕f4

19...♔xh7? 20.♘g5+; Relatively better was 19...♕d4!? 20.♕xd4 cxd4 21.♘xf8 ♔xf8 22.♘xd6 ♗d7 , with some practical chances in this objectively bad position.

20.♘ef6+! ♖xf6 21.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 22.♖e8+ ♔f7 23.♖fe1 ♗b2

This loses immediately, but 23...g5 24.♕e2 with a decisive attack for White wasn't much better.

24.♕h6 1-0.

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Chester Day's QUOTE TODAY

"A chess game is divided into three stages: the first, when you *hope* you have the advantage, the second when you *believe* you have an advantage, and the third... when you *know* you're going to lose!"

-- *Savielly Tartakover*

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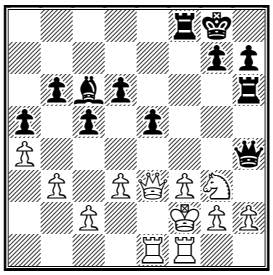
Chess Quiz

Z. Padjen – V. Srebrnic
Bled, 2003



Black to move

Chess news

Russian GM, **Evgeny Prokopchuk** and FM, **Craig Hanley,** from Englad shared 1-2 places at the 13th Smith & Williamson Young Masters at Millfield School, Somerset, England. Hanley made his 5th IM norm.

Final Standings:
1-2. Prokopchuk, Hanley – 6½ points out of 9
3-4. Jones, Mah – 5½
5-10. Trent, Antal, Dearing, Broomfield, Sinkevich, Dvorak – 5 etc.

14th Pardubice (Czech Republic) Chess festival is in progress. This time there are 350 players just in the main event alone, with top ten being, Mikhail Gurevich, Peter Acs, Vladislav Borovikov, Zbynek Hracek, Ernesto Inarkiev, Vladimir Burmakin, Valery Neverov, Evgeny Shaposhnikov, Spartak Vysochin, Sergei Fedorchuk.

Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003

Round 5 results:
McShane – Sakaev **0:1**
Krasenkow – P.H. Nielsen **0:1**
Sasikiran – Kallio **1:0**
Jussupow – J. Nilssen **1:0**
De Firmian – Holst **0:1**

Round 5 standings:

1-2. Sakaev, P.H. Nielsen – 5 points
3-8. Sasikiran, Jussupow, Johannessen, Mortensen, Carlsen, Holst – 4½ etc.

Round 6 pairings:
Sakaev – P.H. Nielsen
Carlsen – Sasikiran
Mortensen – Jussupow
Holst – Johannessen

40th Canadian Open

Round 7th standings:
1. Wojtkiewicz – 6 points
2. Moiseenko – 5½
3-8. Iljushin, Kudrin, Arencibia, Hauchard, Cramling, Jonkman – 5 etc.

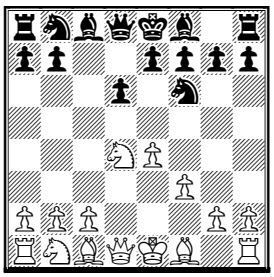
24th Chess Festival in Bled (Slovenia) are in progress
Round 5th standings:
1-4. Nepomniachtchi, Tratar, Mazi, Vukovic – 4½ points etc.

Annotated Game

☐ **L. McShane (2619)**
■ **K. Sakaev (2655)**
Event: *Politiken Cup København (5), 18.07.2003*
Sicilian Defence – [B54]

Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.f3!? (D)



Of course less popular than 5.♘c3. White prepares c2-c4.
5...♘c6
More principial is 5...e5!? but Sakaev

has made text move in his previous games.

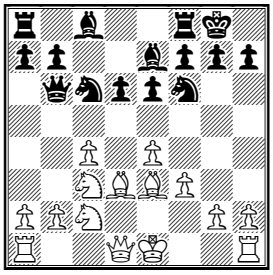
6.c4 ♕b6 7.♘c2 e6 8.♘c3 ♗e7

8...a6 9.♗e2 ♗e7 10.♖b1 0–0 11.♗e3 ♕c7 12.0–0 b6 ½–½ Prie,E–Sakaev,K/Paris 1996/CBM 51 ext (12)]

9.♗d3

9.♘e3 0–0 10.♗e2 ♖d8 11.♘a4 ♕d4 12.♘c3 ♕b6 13.♘a4 ♕d4 14.♘c3 ♕xd1+ 15.♗xd1 ♘d7⇄ Vokarev,S–Sakaev,K/Tomsk 2001; 9.♖b1 0–0 10.♗e3 ♕a5 *(10...♕c7 11.♗e2 ♖d8 12.0–0 d5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.exd5 ♗e6 15.dxe6 ♖xd1 16.exf7+ ♔xf7 17.♖fxd1 ♔g8 18.♗f2∞* Bar,R–Lerner,K/Tel Aviv 2002*)* 11.♕d2 d5 12.cxd5 ½–½ Brodsky,M–Alekseev,E/5th Open, Dubai UAE 2003 (12)

9...0–0 10.♗e3 (D)



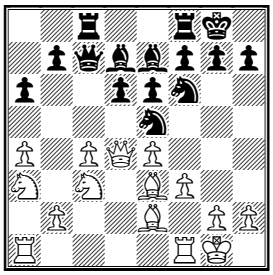
10...♕c7

10...♕xb2? 11.♔d2!+– *(11.♕d2 ♘b4 12.♖b1 ♘xc2+ 13.♗xc2 ♕a3∞)*

11.0–0 ♘e5 12.♘b5 ♕b8 13.♗e2 a6 14.♘c3 ♕c7 15.♕d4

The Typical hedge–hog structure has arisen. White has more space, but Black has a very flexible position. McShane prepares a pawn offensive on the queen side. 15.b3!?

15...♗d7 16.a4 ♖ac8 17.♘a3!? (D)

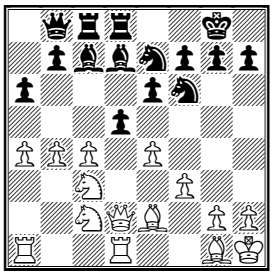


A common method: after a2–a4 the knight goes on a3 to defend pawn c4.

17...♕b8 18.♖fd1 ♘c6 19.♕d2 ♗d8 20.♔h1

20.♕xd6?! ♗c7 21.♕d3 ♗xh2+.

20...♗c7 21.♗g1 ♖fd8 22.♘c2 ♘e7 23.b4!? d5!? (D)

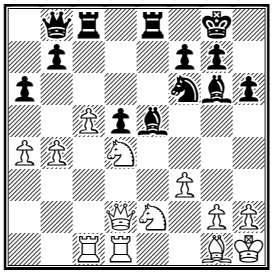


A very typical situation: White attacks on the flank, Black begins a counter–play in the center.

24.exd5 exd5 25.c5!

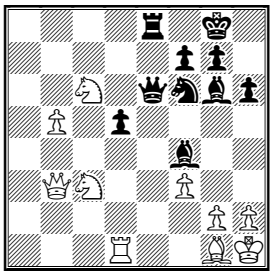
Obviously after 25.cxd5?! ♗f4↑ Black has at least equal chances in open an position.

25...♗f4 26.♕e1 ♖e8 27.♗d3 ♘f5 28.♘e2 ♗e5 29.♗xf5!? ♗xf5 30.♘cd4 ♗g6 31.♖ac1 h6 32.♕d2 (D)



We could say White has an advantage (not big, of course) thanks to his pawn majority on the queen side and Black's weak d–pawn. As compensation Black has the bishop pair, but bishop on g6 is rather limited in scope.

32...♘d7?! 33.♕a2 ♘f6 34.b5 axb5 35.axb5 ♕c7 36.c6! ♖a8 37.♕b3 bxc6 38.♘xc6 ♗d6 39.♘c3 ♗f4 40.♖a1 ♖xa1 41.♖xa1 ♕d6 42.♖d1 ♕e6 (D)



Thanks to energetic play White increases his advantage. Black has to hurry with counter–attack on the king side.

43.♘d4

43.♘xd5!? ♘xd5 44.♖xd5± *(44.♕xd5? ♕xd5 45.♖xd5 ♖e1–+)*

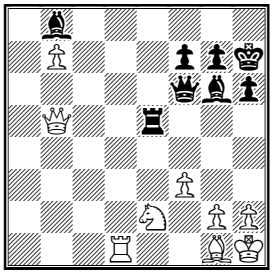
43...♕e5 44.b6 ♕g5 45.b7 ♔h7 46.♕b5

46.♘c6!? ♘h5!? *(46...♗b8? 47.♘xb8 ♖xb8 48.♗a7+−)* 47.♗f2+− *(47.b8♕? ♖xb8 48.♘xb8 ♘g3+ 49.hxg3 ♕xg3−+)*

46...♕h4 47.♘de2

47.♘c6 ♘h5! 48.g3 ♘xg3+ 49.♔g2 ♗f5−+

47...♗b8 48.♘xd5 ♖e5 49.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 (D)



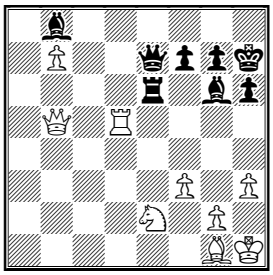
50.♖d5

50.♕c4!?

50...♖e6 51.h3?!

White has won a pawn, but I suspect his last few moves weren't the best. 51.♗d4 ♕e7 52.♘g1 ♕c7 53.g3 ♖e7 54.♗c5+−

51...♕e7 (D)



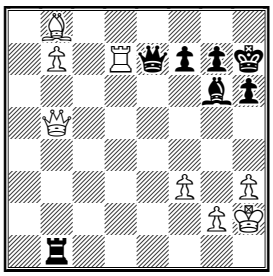
52.♗h2?

It looks like this move misses the victory. 52.♖d2 ♖e5 53.♕b2±

52...♖xe2 53.♗xb8 ♖e1+ 54.♔h2 ♖b1

Thanks to Black's active rook White has to return the pawn.

55.♖d7?? (D)



A terrible mistake.

55...♕e8!−+ 56.♕c6 ♕xb8+ 57.♖c7 ♖b2 58.f4 ♖c2 59.♖c8 ♕xf4+ 0−1.

A very nervously played game, though an interesting game from the 1st board.

Solution to Chess Quiz

Z. Padjen – V. Srebrnic

27...♖xf3+! [27...♖xf3+ 28.gxf3 ♕xh2#] **0−1.**

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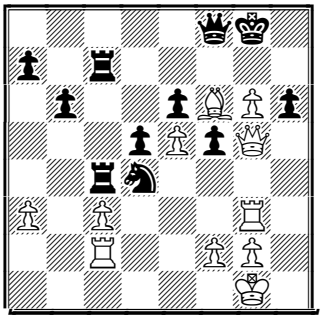
♔♔♔

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-201 (985) 20th July 2003

Chess Quiz

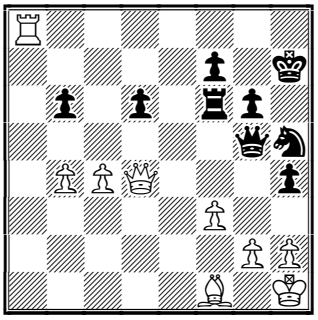
1. S. Nyysti – H. Lahlum
Politiken Cup, 2003



White to move

2. A. Beliavsky – C. Høi
Politiken Cup,2003

Is the combination starting with 36... ♘g3+ correct?



Chess news

In *CT-983* GM Mikhail Golubev wrote: "The FIDE website is silent". with these words Mikhail seems to have broken a spell. He asked me to give the following link http://www.fide.com/default.asp?curpage=1&x=0.3492853 Here the FIDE site informs: "President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin has accepted the official invitation to take part in the opening ceremony of the World Championship Match. FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov met the President of the Russian Federation in Moscow, 16 July 2003 and informed His Excellency that the World Championship Match Kasparov-Ponomariov will take place in Yalta, Ukraine this September, concurrent with the Summit of Commonwealth of Independent States".

The Biel International Chess Festival includes 9 different tournaments. The GM event is a Category 16 double round robin with the participation of Morozevich, Smirin, Bacrot, Lutz, Korchnoi and Pelletier. The first round will be played on the 21st of July.

Politiken Cup
Round 6 results:
Sakaev – Nielsen ½:½
Carlsen – Sasikiran ½:½
Mortensen – Jussupow ½:½
Holst – Johannessen 0:1
Beliavsky – Hoi 0:1
McShane – Jakobsen 1:0
Speelman – Greger 1:0
Gullaksen – Krasenkow ½:½
Houska – Schandorff ½:½

Round 6 standings:
1-3. Sakaev, Nielsen, Johannessen – 5½
4-13. Sasikiran, McShane, Speelman, Jussupow, Kallio, Mortensen, Rasmussen, Skytte, Hoi, Carlsen – 5, etc.

14th Pardubice Chess festival
The ELO-favourite, Mikhail Gurevich, in the 2nd round drew his game with Black against Konstantin Shanava. On the second board Jon-Victor Gunnarsson (No. 92 of the starting list) beat the defending champion Vladislav Borovikov of Ukraine. Among those who won two games are Inarkiev, Sax, Burmakin, Neverov, Vysochin, Kovalev, Fedorchuk, Oral and others

40th Canadian Open
Round 8 standings:
1-2. Moiseenko, Wojtkiewicz – 6½
3. Arencibia – 6

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

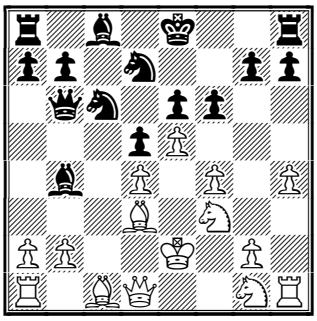
4–8. Iljushin, Vera, Hauchard, Tyomkin, Jonkman – 5½
9–18. Christiansen, Kudrin, Cramling, Perelshteyn, Porper, Bellon Lopez, Krnan, Patterson, Lipnowski, Davies – 5, etc.

Today's annotated game took second place in the www.worldchessrating.ru poll *The game of the week.* You may learn there (if you read Russian) the curious details of the voting. The winner is the 1st game of the rapid match Gelfand – Polgar which I annotated in CT–977. Anyway I advise you to get acquainted with Russian ex–Champion Alexander Motylev's commentary on that game. It will appear in a day or two on www.worldchessrating.com His analysis is much more profound, in particular he found an amazing draw in the ending B vs R. The jury's opinion about the game Bykhovsky – Vainstein is expressed very well by Peter Svidler: "Probably it all could be refuted but it was so funny!" Indeed to count Black's sacrifices in this game on the fingers one should have his hand intact.

Annotated Game

□ **A. Bykhovsky (2452)**
■ **V. Vainshtein (2338)**
Event: *Semifinal Israel, 2003*
French Defence/Tarrasch Variation
Annotations by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 ♕b6 7.♘df3 ♘c6
A well-known variation of the French Defence where White obtains spatial advantage by building up the strong pawn centre at the cost of development while Black gets an opportunity to undermine this centre from everywhere and the only drawback of his position is a traditionally poor location of the light-squared bishop.
8.h4
This move may look odd. Its idea reveals itself if we look at one of the main lines of the variation – 8.g3 cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗b4+ 10.♔f2 (the king is going to get to a safe place g2, but...) 10...g5! 11.fxg5 ♘dxe5 12.♘xe5 ♘xe5 and the White centre is ruined. The position that has arisen is unclear, but if White wants to achieve more he may prevent g7–g5 by 8.h4. His king is heading for g3.
8...f6
More popular is 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗b4+ 10.♔f2 f6
9.♗d3 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♗b4+ 11.♔e2 (D)



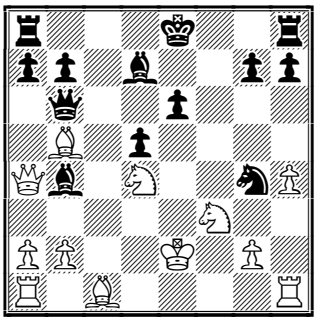
The best place for the king. [In the event of 11.♔f2? White loses the d4–pawn; while after 11.♔f1 0–0 White's king is exposed to the rays of the black rook and the pawn trio is difficult to defend.] The pawn on d4 is protected indirectly, nevertheless...
11...♘xd4+!
I will put exclamation marks to all of Black's sacrifices in this game though not all of them are quite correct. How can the game go if Black doesn't take extraordinary measures? Let's take a look – 11...0–0 12.♗e3 a5 13.♕c2 f5 14.g4! ♘db8 15.a3 ♗e7 16.♔f2 ♗d7 17.gxf5 exf5 18.♘e2 and White's offensive on the kingside became decisive soon Psakhis – Franke, Berlin West 1988; next example is so to speak more to the point 11...♗e7 12.a3 0–0 **A)** 13.♕c2 deserves attention as 13...♘xd4+?! 14.♘xd4 ♕xd4?? *(14...fxe5 15.♗xh7+ ♔h8 16.♘df3)* loses the queen after 15.♗e3 ; **B)** 13.b4 13...fxe5 14.fxe5 ♘xd4+! 15.♘xd4 ♘xe5 16.♗g5 ♗f6 17.♗xf6 ♖xf6 18.♘h3 ♘g4 19.♕g1 e5 20.♘f3 e4 Black regained a piece but White managed to hold the position in the endgame, Tisdall – Adams, Preston 1989
12.♘xd4 fxe5 13.fxe5 ♘xe5 14.♘gf3 ♘g4
Only this move is a novelty. In the game Blazkova – Pastor, Czech Republic 1999 Black chose 14...♘xf3

15.♘xf3 0–0 16.♕b3 ♕d6 17.♗e3 e5 and here instead of 18.♗e4 (White could get an advantage by *18.a3 ♗a5 19.♖ac1)*

15.♕a4+

I believe better is 15.♗b5+ and Black's king remains in the centre which surely makes his attack less dangerous, e.g. 15...♔d8 *(15...♗d7 16.♗xd7+ ♔xd7 17.♕a4+ ♔e7 18.♗g5+)* 16.♗g5+ ♗e7 17.♖c1 and if 17...e5? 18.♕b3 winning.

15...♗d7 16.♗b5 (D)



Obviously White thought that by this move order he forces the exchange of the queens.

16...0–0!

After 16...♗xb5+ 17.♕xb5+ ♕xb5+ 18.♘xb5 White has all chances for the win.

17.♗xd7

Fritz 6 evaluation at this moment is +2.28 (after a few minutes of thinking) [In fact by 16...0–0 Black offered the sacrifice of two bishops. Let's study the other capture: 17.♕xb4 ♗xb5+ 18.♕xb5 ♖xf3! 19.gxf3 (rather harmless is *19.♕xb6 ♖f2+ 20.♔d3 axb6* – Black has a compensation for the piece while *21.♘xe6* is refuted by *21...♖f6 22.♘c7 ♖c8* and White loses his material advantage) 19...♕xd4 **A)** if 20.fxg4 ♕xg4+! *(20...♕e4+? 21.♗e3)* 21.♔d2 ♕f4+ and any retreat allows Black to win the rook h1; **B)** 20.♖f1 Maybe White has winning chances but he should play accurately

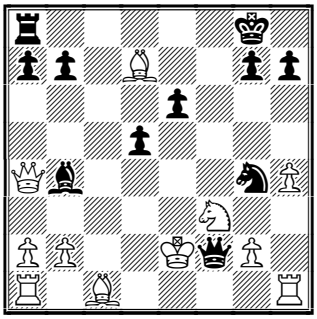
17...♖xf3!

Sacrifice number three!

18.♘xf3!

Better than 18.gxf3 ♕xd4 19.♕b3 *(19.♗xe6+ ♔h8 20.fxg4 ♕c4+! 21.♔f3 ♕e4+ 22.♔g3 ♗d6+* winning the queen) 19...♕e5+ 20.♔f1 *(20.♔d1 ♘f2+ 21.♔c2 ♕f5+!* mating) 20...♕e1+ 21.♔g2 ♕e2+ 22.♔g3 ♘f2 with attack]

18...♕f2+ (D)



19.♔d3

Kasparov suggested that after 19.♔d1 White could get a winning position. The following lines prove his point of view. 19...♕xg2 20.♗xe6+ ♔h8 21.♕xb4! ♘f2+ 22.♔c2 ♕xf3 *(22...♘xh1+ 23.♗d2 ♕xf3 24.♖e1* – the king is no longer in danger while the extra piece remains) 23.♕d4 (computer suggests *23.♗h6 ;* and *23.♗e3* but the queen's move is more "human") 23...♕xh1 24.♗xd5 ♖c8+ 25.♔b3 ♕h3+ 26.♗e3 ♖e8 27.♖e1 ♘g4 and here the play for a pin is stopped by 28.♗e6!

19...♘e5+!

Another knight goes to the altar. 19...♕xg2 20.♗xe6+ ♔h8 21.♕xb4 leads to positions analysed just now(bad is *21.♗xd5? ♘e5+!)*

20.♘xe5 ♕f5+

Fritz changes it's opinion at last estimating the position as almost equal. As we'll see soon this assessment is mistaken too.

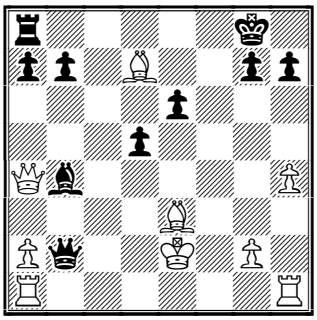
21.♔e2

The only way to avoid the black rook's entry 21.♔d4 ♕e4#; 21.♔e3 ♕xe5+ 22.♔f3 *(22.♔d3 ♕e4#)* 22...♖f8+ mating.

21...♕xe5+ 22.♗e3!

22.♔d1 loses to 22...♕d4+ 23.♔c2 *(23.♔e2 ♕g4+* and so on) 23...♕e4+ 24.♔d1 *(24.♔b3 ♕c4#)* 24...♕d3+]

22...♕xb2+ (D)



23.♔d3

Here Svidler gives another winning line for White – 23.♔f3! ♖f8+ 24.♔g3 ♕e5+ 25.♔h3 ♕xe3+ *(25...♗d6 26.♕g4 ♕xe3+ 27.g3)* 26.g3 ♖f3 27.♖hg1+– The threats are parried, Black has no compensation for the rook.

23...♕c3+ 24.♔e2 ♕b2+ 25.♔d3

25.♔f3

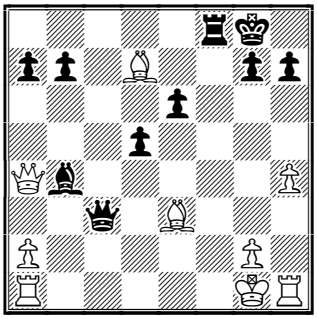
25...♕c3+ 26.♔e2 ♕c4+! 27.♔f2

After 27.♔d1? ♕d3+ 28.♔c1 ♗a3+ 29.♕xa3 ♕xa3+ 30.♔d2 ♕e7 White loses the light-squared bishop as his retreat on a4 or b5 is met by the check on b4; 27.♔f3 ♕e4+ doesn't work either.

27...♖f8+ 28.♔g1

The analysis shows that 28.♔g3 was possible and probably this was the best option – 28...♕e4 *(28...♗d6+ 29.♔h3 ♕e2 30.♕g4! ♕xe3+ 31.g3+–)* **A)** not 29.♔h3 ♖f3+! 30.gxf3 *(30.g3 ♖xg3+)* 30...♕xf3+ 31.♔h2 ♗d6+ 32.♔g1 ♕xe3+ 33.♔f1 ♕f3+ 34.♔g1 with perpetual; **B)** 29.♖hf1! 29...♕xe3+ 30.♔h2 ♗d6+ 31.♔h1 ♖d8!? an interesting resource – Black takes the rook away from the f-file and now he's threatening with ♕e5 or ♕g3 *(31...♕e5?! 32.g3)* 32.♕b3 ♕e5 33.♗xe6+! ♕xe6 34.♖ae1±] After 28.Kg1 the checks are over but Black has a double attack at his disposal.

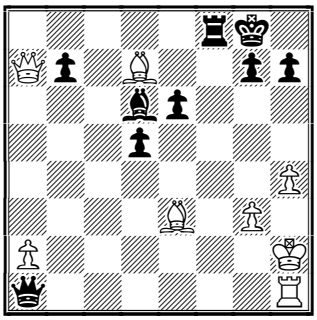
28...♕c3 (D)



29.♕xa7?!

I think White overlooked his opponent's 31st move 29.♔h2 was playable though after all White would have given up the queen – 29...♗d6+ 30.g3 ♗xg3+ (or *30...♕xe3 31.♕g4 ♗xg3+ 32.♕xg3 ♖f2+ 33.♔h3 ♖f3)* 31.♔h3 ♕xe3 32.♕b3 ♕e4 33.♕xg3 (worse is *33.♔xg3? ♕g6+ 34.♔h3 ♕f5+ 35.♔g2 ♕f2+ 36.♔h3 ♖f3+)* 33...♖f3 Two rooks and the bishops will not fail White but due to the open position of the king he scarcely has the winning chances; it's better to give up the queen voluntarily – 29.♗xe6+ ♔h8 30.♕xb4! ♕xb4 (other captures aren't worth considering *30...♕xe3+ 31.♔h2 ♕e5+ 32.♔h3 ♕xe6+ 33.♕g4;* or *30...♕xa1+ 31.♔h2 ♕e5+ 32.g3 ♖f3 33.♖e1! ♕xg3+?! 34.♔h1* and Black has no checks!) 31.♖h3! If White manages to co-ordinate his pieces his prospects are at least no worse, e.g. 31...♕e4?! *(31...d4!? 32.♗g5 h6 33.♖d1!)* 32.♗c5 and the double attack (note that the pieces under attack are the same as after 28...Qc3!) 32...♕xe6? 33.♗xf8 ♕b6+ 34.♔h1 ♕f6 is ruined by 35.♖e1! ♕xf8 36.♖he3 winning the queen

29...♕xa1+ 30.♔h2 ♗d6+ 31.g3 (D)



31...♗xg3+!

The bishop shares the fate of all Black's minor pieces!

32.♔g2?

Only this move is a decisive mistake After 32.♔xg3 ♕e5+ *(32...♕xh1 33.♗xe6+ ♔h8 34.♗g4! ♕e1+ 35.♗f2* and the white bishops cover the king somehow *)* 33.♔g2 *(33.♔g4? h5+ 34.♔h3 ♖f3+ 35.♔g2 ♕g3#)* 33...♕e4+ 34.♔h2! – a very important move, White gets rid of his own h4-pawn *(34.♔g1* loses to *34...♕g4+ 35.♔h2 ♕e2+ 36.♔g3 ♖f3+ 37.♔g4 ♕g2+ 38.♔h5 ♕g6#)* 34...♕xh4+ 35.♔g2 ♕g4+ 36.♔h2 ♕e2+ 37.♔g3 ♖f3+ 38.♔h4! and Black may choose between 38...♕xe3 (and *38...g5+ 39.♗xg5 ♕e4+ 40.♔h5 ♕g6+ 41.♔h4 h6!?)* 39.♕xe3 *(39.♕b8+?? ♖f8)* 39...♖xe3 White is in trouble but the game's not over.

32...♕f6!

A nice final touch.

33.♔xg3

Or 33.♗xe6+ ♕xe6 34.♔xg3 ♕e5+ 35.♔g2 ♕e4+ 36.♔h2 (without a large

material advantage it all lacks sense) 36...♕xh4+ 37.♔g2 ♕g4+ 38.♔h2 ♕e2+ 39.♔g3 ♖f3+ 40.♔h4 ♖xe3–+; 33.♖c1 ♕f3+ 34.♔g1 ♕e2 with inevitable mate

33...♕f3+ 34.♔h2 ♕e2+

White resigned in view of 34...♕e2+ 35.♔g3 ♖f3+ 36.♔g4 ♕g2+ 37.♔h5 ♕g6# The mistakes notwithstanding the impression is not spoiled! Right? **0–1.**

Solution to Chess Quiz

1. S. Nyysti – H. Lahlum

35.♖h3! ♘xc2 [35...hxg5 36.♖h8#]
36.♖xh6 ♖g7 37.♕h5 1–0.

2. A. Beliavsky – C. Høi

36...♘g3+?! 37.hxg3 hxg3 38.♔g1 ♕h6 39.♖h8+?? 39.♗e2! parries the threats leaving White with an extra piece 39...♕h2+ *(39...♕c1+ 40.♗d1)* 40.♔f1 ♕h1+ 41.♕g1 ♕h6 42.♖a1] **39...♔xh8 40.♕xf6+ ♔g8** Now mate is inevitable[40...♔g8 41.♗d3 *(41.♗e2 ♕h2+ 42.♔f1 ♕h1#)* 41...♕e3+ 42.♔h1 *(42.♔f1 ♕f2#)* 42...♕e1+] **0–1.**

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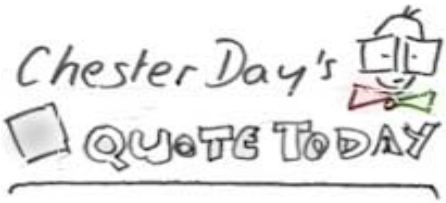

"A good sacrifice is one that is not necessarily sound but leaves your opponent dazed and confused"

--- Rudolf Spielmann

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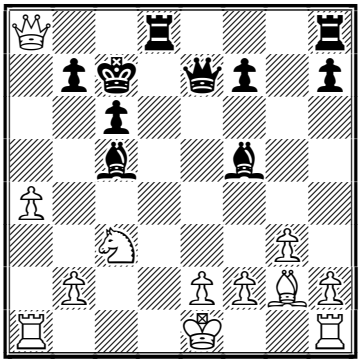
CT-202 (986) 21st July 2003

Chess Quiz

C. Ward – M. Matthiesen
Politiken Cup, København, 2003



White to move

Chess news

14th Pardubice (Czech Republic) Chess festival

Top results of the 3rd round:
Inarkiev – Klovans **1:0**
Polak – Burmakin **0:1**
Neverov – Cvek **½:½**
Vysochin – Voloshin **1:0**
Sandipan – Fedorchuk **0:1**
Kovalev – Rasik **1:0**
Mista – B. Socko **½:½**
Oral – Bobras **½:½**
Stocek – Kononenko **0:1**
Kalod – Sax **½:½**

Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003

Round 7 results:
Johannessen – Sakaev **½:½**
P.H. Nielsen – McShane **1:0**
Sasikiran – Skytte **1:0**
Rasmussen – Speelman **½:½**
Jussupow – Carlsen **1:0**
Kallio – Mortensen **1:0**
Høi – Hector **0:1**

Round 7 standings:
1. P.H. Nielsen – 6½ points
2–6. Sakaev, Sasikiran, Jussupow, Johannessen, Kallio – 6
7–14. Speelman, Krasenkow, De Firmian, Hector, Koneru, Rasmussen, Michelakis, Hjelm – 5½ etc.

Round 8 pairings:
P.H. Nielsen – Sasikiran
Sakaev – Kallio
Johannessen – Jussupow
Speelman – Michelakis
Koneru – Krasenkow
Hjelm – De Firmian
Hector – Rasmussen

GM **Alexander Moiseenko** (Ukraine) won the 40th Canadian Open
Final standings:
1. Moiseenko – 8 points out of 10
2. Wojtkiewicz – 7½
3–5. Iljushin, Christiansen, Arencibia – 7
6–11. Nataf, Kudrin, Hauchard, Tyomkin, Porper, Krnan – 6½ etc.

Slovenian FM **Matej Sebenik** won 24th Chess Festival in Bled (Slovenia)
Final standings:
1. Sebenik – 7½ points out of 9
2–3. Tratar, Vukovic – 7
4–12. Nepomniachtchi, Mazi, Janovsky, Nikolov, Zorko, Loncar, Jeric, Basagic, Crepan – 6½ etc.

Interesting information from TWIC:
"On July 14 Garry Kasparov gave a discussion and book signing for his new book "My Great Predecessors, Part I" at a Barnes & Noble bookstore in New York City. After the signing he took questions from the audience. A transcript is below, followed by further comments on his upcoming FIDE match with Ponomariov and his match with Fritz that was just announced."

http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/migkasp03.html

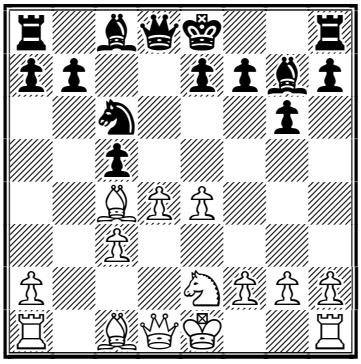
This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Annotated Game

□ **P. Nielsen (2636)**
■ **L. McShane (2619)**
Event: *Politiken Cup København (7), 20.07.2003*
Grundfeld Defence/Exchange Variation – [D86]

Annotations by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 c5 7.♗c4 ♗g7 8.♘e2 ♘c6 (D)



A bit earlier also in July in Demnark the same opponents had played another game in the same system: 8...0–0 9.0–0 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♗d7 11.♖b1 a6 12.dxc5 ♕c7 13.f4 ♖fd8 14.♘d4 ♘a5 15.♗b3 ♗b5 16.♘xb5 axb5 17.♕c2 e6⩲ and drawn on the 31st move, Nielsen,P–McShane,L/18th North Sea Cup, Esbjerg DEN 2003]

9.♗e3 cxd4

A very popular alternative is 9...0–0 for example: 10.0–0 ♗d7 11.♖b1 *(11.♖c1 ♖c8 12.d5 ♘e5 13.♗b3 ♕a5 14.h3 ♕a6 15.a4 ♘c4 16.♗g5 e6 17.♕d3 exd5 18.exd5 ♘a5 19.♕xa6 bxa6 20.♗c2∞* Onischuk,A–Svidler,P/Halkidiki 2002*)* 11...a6 12.dxc5 ♘a5 13.♗d3 *(13.♗d5 ♕c7 14.♗f4 ♕c8 15.♕d2 ♗b5 16.c4 ♘xc4 17.♕b4 ♘e5 18.♗xe5 ♗xe5 19.♖fe1 ♖b8∓* Alexandrova,O–Svidler,P/Aeroflot Open, Moscow RUS 2003*)* 13...♕c7 14.f4 ♖fd8 *(14...♗e6 15.♕a4 ♖fd8 16.♗d4 ♗d7 17.♕b4 ♖ac8 18.e5 ♗c6⩲* Ftacnik,L–Svidler,P/German Cup Final, Berlin GER 2003*)* 15.c6 ♕xc6 16.♗b6 ♗g4 17.♗xd8 ♖xd8 18.h3 ♕c5+ 19.♔h2 ♘c4 20.hxg4 ♘e3 21.♕d2 ♘c4 22.♕d1 ♘e3 23.♕d2 ♘c4 24.♕d1 ½–½ Nielsen,P–Ivanchuk,V/11th Sigeman & Co, Malmoe SWE 2003

10.cxd4 ♕a5+ 11.♗d2 ♕d8 12.d5

Less ambitious, but also a poisoned line runs after 12.♗c3 for example: 12...0–0 13.0–0 ♗d7 14.♕d2 ♖c8 15.♖ac1 a6 16.♖fd1 b5 17.♗b3 ♕b6 18.♕g5 ♗f6 19.♕f4 b4 20.♗b2 ♘a5 21.♖xc8 ♗xc8 22.e5 ♗g7 23.d5± Korobov,A–Avrukh,B/4th IECC, Istanbul TUR 2003; 12.♗e3 ♕a5+ 13.♗d2 ♕d8 14.♗c3 0–0 15.0–0 ♗g4 16.f3 ♗d7 17.♕d2 a6 18.♖ac1 ♖c8 19.♖fd1 b5 20.♗b3 ♕b6 21.♔h1 b4 22.♗b2 ♘a5 23.♘f4 ♘xb3 24.axb3 ♖xc1 25.♖xc1 a5⇄ Neverov,V–Vokarev,S/Dubai 2002

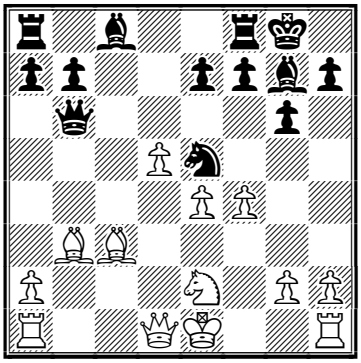
12...♘e5 13.♗c3

13.♗b5+ ♗d7 14.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 15.0–0 0–0 16.♗c3 ♖fc8 17.f4 ♘g4 18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.♕d4+ ♔g8 20.h3 ♕b5 21.♘g3 ♖c4 22.♕d2 ♘f6 Larsen,B–Lombardy,W/Zuerich/1961; 13.♖c1 0–0 14.0–0 ♘xc4 15.♖xc4 e6 16.♗c3!± exd5 17.exd5 ♗d7? *(17...b6)* 18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.♘c3! ♖c8 20.♖xc8 ♗xc8 21.♘e4! f5 22.♕d4+ ♔g8 23.♘c3! ♕f6 24.♕b4 b6 25.♖d1± Rashkovsky,N–Dvoirys,S/USSR–ch/1986

13...0–0 14.♗b3 ♕b6

14...♗d7 15.f4 ♘g4 16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.♕d4+ ♔g8 18.h3 ♕a5+ 19.♔f1 ♘f6 20.e5 ♘e8 21.♔g1 ½–½ Donner,J–Ree,H/NLD–ch/1977/ (42)

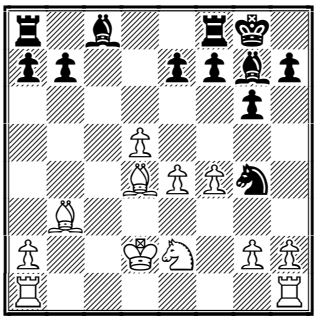
15.f4 (D)



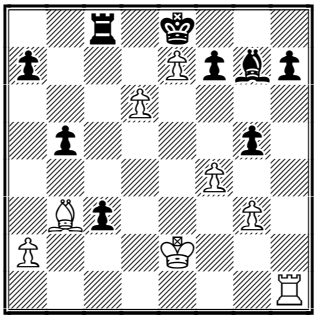
15.0–0 ♗g4 16.h3 ♗xe2 17.♕xe2 ♖fc8 18.♖ac1 a5 19.♗d2 h5 20.♔h1 ♖xc1 21.♖xc1 a4 22.♗d1 ♘d7 23.♖c4 ♕b1 Shneider,A–Huzman,A/URS–sf Ukraine–ch/1989

15...♘d7

15...♘g4 16.♗d4 ♕a5+ 17.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 18.♔xd2 *(D)*



18...e5? 19.h3! exd4 20.hxg4 g5 21.g3 ♗xg4 22.e5 ♗xe2 23.♔xe2 ♖fc8 24.♖ad1 ♖c3 25.♖d3 ♖ac8 26.d6 b5 27.♖xc3 dxc3 28.e6! ♔f8 29.e7+ ♔e8 *(D)*

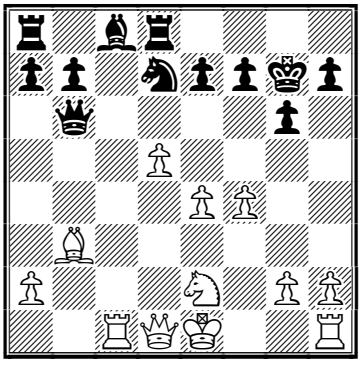


30.♗xf7+! 1–0 Kramnik,V–Svidler,P/Dortmund 1998

16.♗xg7 ♔xg7 17.♖c1

17.♕d4+ ♕xd4 18.♘xd4 ♘c5 19.♗c2 ♖d8=

17...♖d8!? (D)



Only this move is a novelty. In the following game White received the better endgame after 17...♘f6 18.e5 ♕b4+ 19.♔f2 ♘e4+ 20.♔e3 ♘c5 21.♕d4 ♕xd4+ 22.♘xd4 b6 23.♗d1 ♗b7 24.♗f3 ♖ad8 25.♖hd1 ♖d7 26.♖d2 h5 27.g3± Atalik,S–Berndt,S/Halkidiki 2002

18.♖c4!?

An interesting reaction at Black's novelty. From c4 the rook not only defends the e– pawn (in case of Nd7–f6) but also prepares ♕d1–d4 with following capture on d4 by the rook.

18...e5?!

In any case interesting was 18...♘f6!? for example: 19.♕d4 ♕xd4 20.♖xd4 ♗g4 21.♘g3 *(21.h3 ♗xe2 22.♔xe2 ♖ac8=)* 21...♖ac8 22.h3 ♗d7⇄

19.♕a1! f6 20.♕c3

After this strong manoeuvre (♖c4, a1–♕c3) White has a clear advantage – Black has big problems with development of his queen side and with counter–play.

20...exf4!? 21.♘xf4 ♘e5

At least Black has gained the e5–square for his knight. But White knight's f4 is going to the e6.

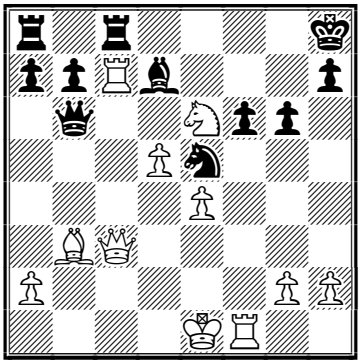
22.♖c7+ ♔h8

22...♖d7? 23.♘e6+ *(23.♖xc8? ♖xc8 24.♕xc8 ♕e3+ 25.♘e2 ♘d3+ 26.♔d1 ♘f2+ 27.♔e1 ♘d3+=)* 23...♔f7 24.♖xc8 ♖xc8 25.♕xc8 ♕e3+ 26.♔d1 ♕d3+ 27.♔c1+–

23.♖f1!

The White king stands very well on e1.

23...♗d7 24.♘e6! ♖dc8 (D)



24...♗xe6 25.♖xf6! *(25.dxe6? ♖d3–+)* 25...♕g1+ 26.♖f1 ♕xh2 27.g3 ♕h5 28.dxe6±

25.♖xf6!

A simple and nice final blow.

25...♖xc7 26.♖f8+ ♖xf8 27.♕xe5+ 1–0.

Solution to Chess Quiz

C. Ward – M. Matthiesen

Politiken Cup, København, 2003

19.♘b5+! cxb5 [19...♔b6 20.♕a7#; 19...♔d7 20.♕xb7+] **20.♕xb7+ ♔d6 21.♕c6+ ♔e5 22.f4+** [22.f4+ ♔d4 23.♖d1+ ♗d3 24.♖xd3+ ♔c4 25.♕xb5#] **1–0.**

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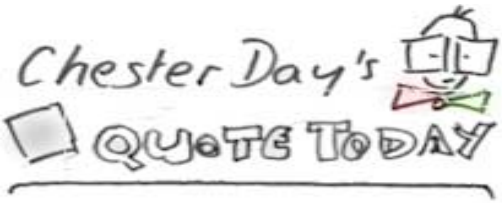


"The ability to steer clear of apparently advantageous continuations
in order to find the single move which really maintains the pressure,
is one of the hallmarks of a great master."

-- *Reinfeld*

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-203 (987) 22nd July 2003

Chess news

Biel International Chess Festival

The Biel International Chess Festival is in progress from the 19th July to the 1st of August 2003 for the 36th consecutive summer, with 9 different tournaments.

The **category 16 GM** event takes place 21st-31st July

Round 1 results (July 21, 2003)

Morozevich – Pelletier 1-0
Smirin – Lutz 1-0
Korchnoi – Bacrot ½ -½

Round 1 Standings:
1-2. Morozevich. Smirin – 1.0
3-4. Bacrot. Korchnoi – ½
5-6. Lutz. Pelletier – 0.0

The **Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships** take place Sunday 20th July – Saturday 2nd August at the George Heriot's School in Edinburgh.

Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003

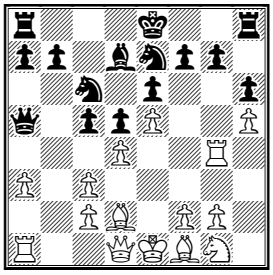
After 7 rounds:
1.Nielsen – 6½ points
2-6. Sasikiran, Sakaev, Kallio, Johannessen, Jussupow – 6
etc.

8th round pairings :
Nielsen – Sasikiran
Sakaev – Kallio
Johannessen – Jussupow

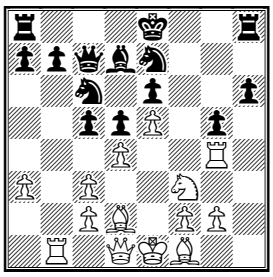
♔♔♔

Annotated Game

□ **Morozevich (2678)**
■ **Pelletier (2623)**
Event: *36th Biel International Biel (1), 21.07.2003*
French Defence/Winawer Variation – [C18]
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 ♘e7 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.h4 ♕a5 8.♗d2 ♘bc6 9.h5 h6 10.♖h4 ♗d7 11.♖g4 (D)



11...♕c7N
This is better than 11...♖g8 12.♗d3 ♘f5 13.♖f4 c4 14.♗f1 g5 15.hxg6 fxg6 16.g4 ♘fe7 17.♖f6 0–0–0 18.♕f3 ♕b5 19.♘h3 ♖de8 20.♘f4 ♘d8 21.♗h3 ♕b2 22.♕d1 ♕b6 23.♕b1 ♕a5 24.♕b4 ♕a6 25.♕c5+ ♘dc6 26.♕d6 h5 27.♘xe6 ♗xe6 28.♕xe6+ ♔b8 29.♗g2 ♘f5 30.♕xd5 hxg4 31.♖b1 ♘fe7 32.♖xc6 1–0 Kroll,O-Anselmo,A/Groningen 1973
12.♘f3 g5!?
A plan involving short castling is risky but it looks quite possible 12...♘f5 13.♖b1 0–0!?
13.hxg6 fxg6 14.♖b1 g5 (D)



The position of the white rook on g4 is starting to cause misgivings and Morozevich clears the 4th rank for it just in case.

This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Ralph Marconi
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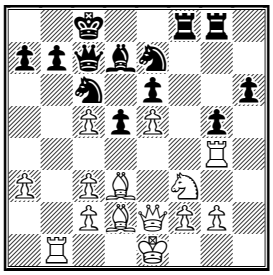
15.dxc5 0-0-0

Junior's recommendation here looks absolutely reckless: 15...b6!? 16.cxb6 axb6 The pawn sacrifice in order to break open the a-file for the rook. Humans prefer to retain the cool brain and the warm king that is comfortably castled.

16.♗d3 ♖hg8 17.♕e2 ♖df8 (D)



18.c4! ♘g6 19.cxd5 exd5 20.♗a6!?

Apparently, this is the correct decision, although also interesting is 20.e6 ♖e8 21.♗f5 ♖xe6 22.♕xe6 ♗xe6 23.♗xe6+ ♔b8 24.♗xg8 ♕c8 25.♘d4 ♘xd4 26.♖xd4 ♕xg8 White stands slightly better but he has a hard struggle ahead.

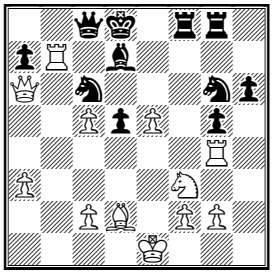
20...bxa6

20...♗xg4 21.♖xb7 ♕xb7 22.♗xb7+ ♔xb7 23.♕b5+ ♔c7 24.♗a5+ ♘xa5 25.♕xa5+ ♔c8! 26.♘d4!± White is close to a win: his queen and his knight are very strongly posted for the attack.

21.♕xa6+

21.e6 ♖e8! 22.exd7+ ♕xd7 23.♗e3 ♔d8 24.♕xa6±

21...♔d8 22.♖b7 ♕c8 (D)



23.e6!

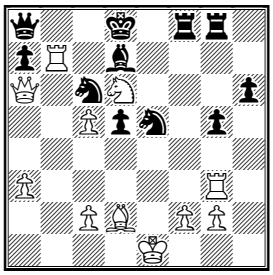
After 23.♖a4 ♖g7 Black's position has defendable potential. Black is a piece up.

23...♗xe6

23...♖e8 24.♗a5++-

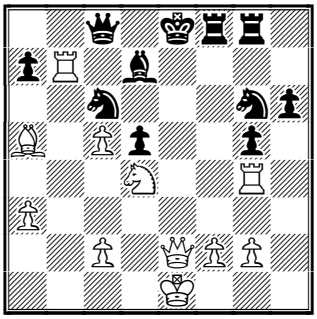
24.♘d4! ♗d7 25.♗a5+?!

Incorrect continuation for the attack. White should have transferred his knight to d6: 25.♘b5 ♘ge5 26.♘d6 ♕a8 27.♖g3 *(D)*



Quite an exotic position. Black's queen in the corner and the king in the center promise an advantage for White despite the fact he is a piece down.

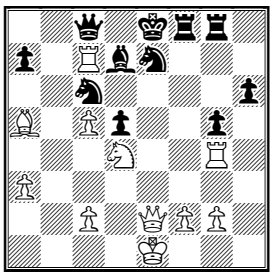
25...♔e8 26.♕e2+ (D)



26...♘ge7?

This is "firm" but not good. The bold and not difficult to see 26...♘ce5! 27.♘b5 ♖f6 beats the direct threats off, and an extra piece gives Black a pretty good chance for a win.

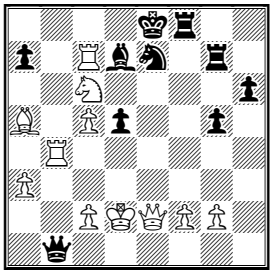
27.♖c7 (D)



27...♕b8??

An incredible blunder that ruins an interesting game. [Black should have given up his queen: 27...♘xa5! 28.♖xc8+ ♗xc8 29.♖g3 ♘c4 with mutual chances.

28.♘xc6 ♕b1+ 29.♔d2 ♖g7 30.♖b4 (D)



It is not clear what Pelletier was fancying at move 27, but here his dreams gone, resigns . **1-0.**

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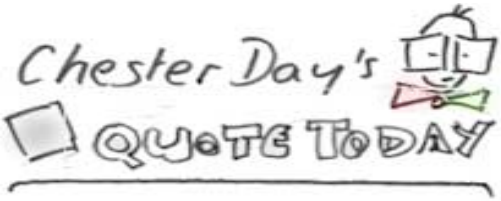

One bad move nullifies forty good ones."

-- *Horowitz*

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CT-204(988) 23rd July 2003

Chess News

Biel International Chess Festival

The 2nd round of the Biel Festival has produced a wave of wins.

Round 2 (July 22, 2003)

Smirin – Korchnoi 1-0
Lutz – Pelletier 1-0
Bacrot – Morozevich 0-1

Round 2 Standings:
1-2 Smirin, Morozevich 2.0;
3. Lutz 1.0;
4-5. Bacrot, Korchnoi ½;
6. Pelletier 0.0.

Politiken Cup

The leaders have changed in the 8th round: Nielsen who has been top for a long time lost to Sasikiran.

After 8 rounds:
Sakaev, Sasikiran (7 points);
Nielsen, Krasenkow, Jussupow , de Firmian, Johannessen (6½ points).

Czech Open 2003 in Pardubice.
After 4 rounds:

1-2 Potapov, Espig – 4.0;
3-21 Burmakin, Votava, Vysochin, Fedorchuk, Kovalev, Kononenko, Sprenger, Gurevich, Mista, Socko, Vorobiov, Oral, Potkin, Neuman, Totsky, Gunnarson, Klinova, Vokac, Volke – 3.0.

4th boy's and girl's
U18 team championships for European countries
Balatonlelle (HUN), 18-27. July 2003.

After 4 rounds:

Boys group:
Hungary I (7 points);
Hungary II, Czech Republic, Poland (6 points).

Girls group:

Ukraine, Poland (6 points);
3-4. Romania, Serbia & Montenegro (5 points).

The Dutch Open Championship takes place in Dieren 21st-31st July.

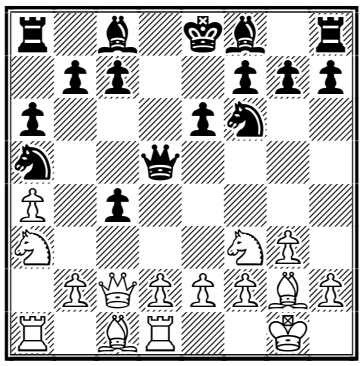
The players include: Sergei Tiviakov NED 2613, Friso Nijboer NED 2588, Dmitry Svetushkin MDA 2571, Nicolai Vesterbaek Pedersen DEN 2528, Ziaur Rahman BAN 2521, Felix Levin GER 2520 and others.

Annotated Game

□ **Adamski (2335)**
■ **Beliavsky (2668)**
Politiken cup www.chess21.com, 22.07.2003 – A13

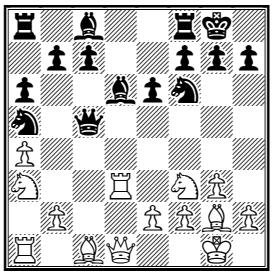
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 dxc4 4.♗g2 a6 5.0-0 ♘f6 6.a4 ♘c6 7.♕c2 ♘a5 8.♘a3 ♕d5 9.♖d1



9...♗d6
A rare variety of the Reti Opening. Onischuk and Barsov developed the other bishop with 9...♗d7 and 10.d3?! (Better is *10.d4*) is met by 10...♘b3! with an advantage for Black.
10.d3 cxd3 11.♖xd3 ♕c5N
The following has occurred before 11...♕h5
12.♕d1
Of course, the queen exchange is not a part of White's plan.

12...0-0



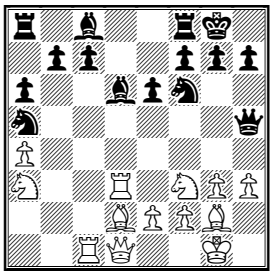
13.b4!?

Sacrificing the second pawn, White gains a developmental advantage.

13...♕xb4 14.♗d2 ♕c5 15.♖c1

This is enough to equalize 15.♗xa5 ♕xa5 16.♘c4 ♕b4 17.♘xd6 cxd6 18.♖b1 but White yearns for something more.

15...♕h5 16.h3

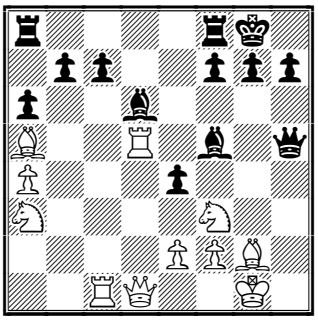


16...e5!?

Paying no attention to the a5-knight that is under threat, Black solves his problems in development on the queenside by means of the c8-bishop sacrifice! After 16...♘c6 Black has to sacrifice a piece anyway: 17.g4 ♘xg4 18.hxg4 ♕xg4

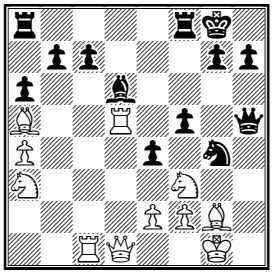
17.g4 ♗xg4

An alternative is 17...♘xg4 18.hxg4 ♗xg4 19.♗xa5 e4 20.♖d5 ♗f5



White is two knights up, both of which are, unfortunately, under attack. One knight is lost and Black already has four pawns for the other one. Here possible is 21.♘h4! ♕xh4 22.♖xf5 b6 *(22...♖ad8 23.♕b3)* 23.♗c3 ♗xa3 with a complicated struggle.

18.hxg4 ♘xg4 19.♗xa5 e4 20.♖d5 f5

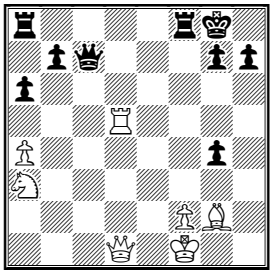


The crucial moment of the game. Worse is 20...♕h6 in view of 21.♗d2 ♕e6 22.♖xd6 ♕xd6 23.♘c4 ♕f6 24.♗c3 ♕f5 25.♕c2! Three pieces ought to be stronger than a rook and four pawns.

21.♗xc7?

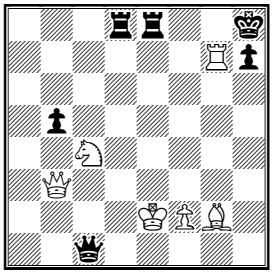
Playing pretty good, interesting chess up to here, White did not bear up to the pressure of the struggle. Correct is 21.♖xd6! cxd6 22.♕xd6 exf3 23.exf3 ♘f6 24.♖c7 f4! with a hard double-edged position.

21...♗xc7 22.♖xc7 exf3 23.exf3 ♕h2+ 24.♔f1 ♕xc7 25.fxg4 fxg4



There is a world of difference between two pieces for the queen in the above-mentioned variation and the two pieces for the queen we have here: the f-file is open and the White king is in danger.

26.♖d3 g3 27.♕b3+ ♔h8 28.♖xg3 ♕c1+ 29.♔e2 ♖ad8 30.♘c4 b5!-+ 31.axb5 axb5 32.♖xg7 ♖fe8+



Accuracy to the very end! After 32...♔xg7? 33.♕g3+ White gets perpetual check.
33.♔f3 bxc4 34.♖xh7+ ♔xh7 35.♕b7+ ♔h8 0-1

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

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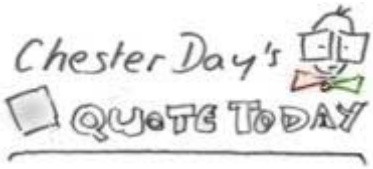
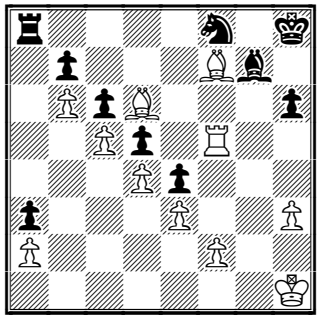


"You'll know there is a problem with computers and correspondence chess when *everyone* is rated 2450."
John C. Knudsen

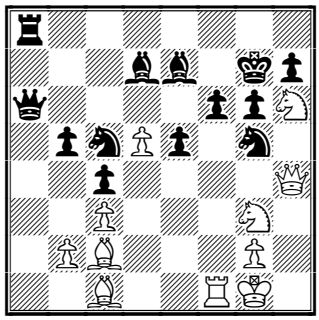
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-205(989) 24th July 2003

Chess Quiz

Nyback (2483) - Semcesen (2234)
København 2003



Carlsen (2385) - Harestad (2249)
København 2003
www.chesstoday.net



Chess News

All the three 3rd round games from the main event at The Biel International Chess Festival were drawn after interesting play (see our cbv and pgn files).

Round 3 (July 23, 2003)
Morozevich – Smirin **½:½**
Korchnoi – Lutz **½:½**
Pelletier – Bacrot **½:½**

Round 3 Standings:
1-2. Smirin, Morozevich – 2½ points
3. Lutz – 1½
4-5. Korchnoi, Bacrot – 1
6. Pelletier – ½

Round 4 pairings:
Bacrot – Smirin

Pelletier – Kortchnoi
Morozevich – Lutz

14th Pardubice (Czech Republic) Chess festival
Top results of the 5th round:
Espig – Potapov **1:0**
M. Gurevich – Totsky **1:0**
Volke – Burmakin **½:½**
Vysochin – Vokac **1:0**
Gunnarsson – Fedorchuk **½:½**
Kononenko – B. Socko **½:½**
Vorobiov – Sprenger **½:½**

Round 5 standings:
1. Espig – 5 points
2-4. Vysochin, M. Gurevich, Potkin – 4 ½ etc.

Round 6 pairings:
M. Gurevich – Espig
Potkin – Vysochin
Acs – Haba
Hracek – Grigoriants
Sprenger – Inarkiev

Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003
Round 9 results:
Sasikiran – Sakaev **1:0**
Jussupow – P.H. Nielsen **½:½**
Krasenkow – Johannessen **½:½**
De Firmian – Speelman **½:½**
Beliavsky – Mortensen **1:0**
McShane – Skytte **1:0**
Michelakis – Hector **1:0**
Schandorff – Solleveld **½:½**
Rasmussen – Ward **0:1**
Kallio – J. Nilssen **1:0**
Nyback – Semcesen **1:0**

Round 9 standings:
1. Sasikiran – 8 points
2-12. Beliavsky, Sakaev, P.H. Nielsen, McShane, Krasenkow, Jussupow, De Firmian, Ward, Johannessen, Kallio, Michelakis – 7 etc.

Round 10 pairings:
Beliavsky – Sasikiran
Sakaev – De Firmian

This issue is prepared by IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

P.H. Nielsen – Johannessen
Ward – McShane
Kallio – Krasenkow
Michelakis – Jussupow

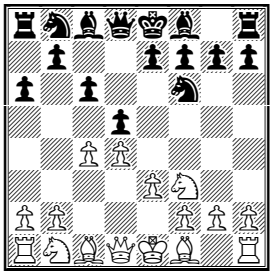
The Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships

Round 3 top results:
Ghate – Harikrishna **½:½**
Ahmed – Summerscale **0:1**
Vujatovic – A. Hunt **0:1**

Annotated Game

□ **Sasikiran (2654)**
■ **Sakaev (2655)**
Politiken Cup Copenhagen, Denmark (9), 23.07.2003 – D15
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6!?



This system of the Moldavian master Chebanenko is extremely popular nowadays.

5.♘c3 b5 6.b3

An alternative is 6.cxd5 for example, two recent games: 6...cxd5 7.♘e5 e6 8.♗d3 ♗b7 9.0–0 ♘bd7 10.f4 ♗d6 *(10...♗e7 11.♕f3 0–0 12.a3 ♘b6 13.♗d2 ♘c8 14.f5 exf5 15.♕xf5 ♘d6 16.♕h3 ♘fe4* Vaganian,R–Sakaev,K/TCh-RUS, Togliatti RUS 2003*)* 11.♗d2 0–0 12.♕b1 ♘b6 13.♗e1 g6 14.a4 b4 15.♘e2 ♘e4 16.a5 ♘d7∞ Kozul,Z–Tkachiev,V/4th IECC, Istanbul TUR 2003

6...♗g4

6...♗f5 7.♘e5 h6 8.g4 ♗h7 9.♗g2 e6 10.0–0 ♗e7 11.f4 ♘fd7 12.cxd5 ♘xe5 13.d6 ♕xd6 14.dxe5 ♕c7 15.♘e4 0–0 16.♗b2 Kramnik,V–Bareev,E/Amber Blindfold, Monte Carlo MNC 2003

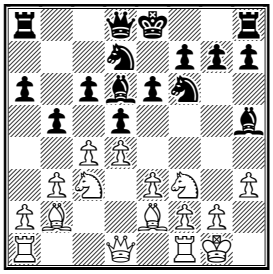
7.♗e2

Three more recent games: 7.h3 ♗xf3 8.gxf3 ♘bd7 9.f4 *(9.♗b2 dxc4 10.bxc4 e5 11.cxb5 axb5 12.dxe5 ♘xe5 13.f4 ♘ed7∞* Bareev,E–Sokolov,I/Bosnia GM, Sarajevo BIH 2003*)* 9...e6 10.c5 ♘e4 *(10...♗e7 11.♗d3 0–0 12.♕c2 g6 13.♗b2 ♘h5 14.♘e2 a5 15.0–0–0 f5 16.♘g1 ♗h4 17.♘f3 ♕e7 18.♖hg1 ♘g7 19.♖g2 ♖fc8 20.♔b1 ♖c7 21.a3 ♘f8* ½–½ Sakaev,K–Malakhov,V/TCh-RUS, Togliatti RUS 2003 (21)*)* 11.♗b2 ♘xc3 12.♗xc3 a5 13.♗d3 f5 14.♕e2 ♗e7 15.0–0–0 ♘f6 16.♖hg1 g6 17.a3 a4 18.b4 ♕d7= Svetushkin,D–Bacrot,E/4th IECC, Istanbul TUR 2003

7...e6 8.0–0 ♘bd7 9.♗b2

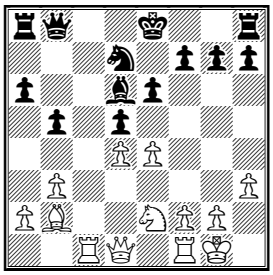
9.h3 ♗h5 10.♗b2 ♗e7 11.♘e5 ♗xe2 12.♘xe2 ♕b6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♖c1 ♕b7 15.♕c2 0–0 16.♕c7 ♖fb8 17.♕xb7 ♖xb7 18.♖c6± Gelfand,B–Bareev,E/Amber Blindfold, Monte Carlo MNC 2003

9...♗d6 10.h3 ♗h5



Both White and Black have more or less completed their development (Black hasn't castled yet). White has played very modestly in the opening while Black has gained some space on the queenside and played more aggressively. Because White leads in development he has to do something active, otherwise in 5–6 moves time, Black will simply stand better.

11.♘e5!? ♗xe2 12.♘xe2 ♕c7 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♖c1 ♕b8 15.♘xd7 ♘xd7 16.e4!?



Very logical: White opens the center while the King stands on e8 still.

16...dxe4!?

This capture is a novelty. 16...b4 17.e5 *(17.♖c6* draw, Avrukh –

Morozevich, Bled (Olympiad) 2002.) 17...♗e7 18.♘f4 0–0 19.♕g4 ♕b7 20.h4 ♔h8 21.♖c2 ♖fc8 22.♖e2 a5 23.♘h5 g6 24.♘f4 ♕b5 25.♖d1 a4⇄ Van Wely,L–Morozevich,A/Amber Blindfold, Monte Carlo 2003; 16...0–0 17.e5 ♗e7 18.♘g3 *(18.♖c3 ♖c8 19.♖g3 ♕c7 20.♘f4 ♕c2 21.♕g4 g6 22.♘d3 ♕d2 23.♗c1 ♕xa2 24.♖f3∞* Tregubov,P–Bacrot,E/National I, Bordeaux FRA 2003*)* 18...♕b6 19.♕g4 ♖ac8 20.♘h5 g6 21.♘f4 ♖xc1 22.♖xc1 ♖d8 23.h4 ♘f8 24.h5 ♕a5 25.♗c3 ♕xa2 26.h6∞ Sokolov,I–Kristjansson,S/Hrokurinn, Reykjavic ISL 2003

17.d5!? 0–0

17...e5 18.♘g3 ♘f6 19.♘f5!? *(19.♖e1!?)* and if A) 19...0–0? 20.♖c6 ♗c7 *(20...♘e8 21.♘xd6 ♘xd6 22.♗xe5 ♖d8 23.♕g4 g6 24.♕f4+–; 20...♖d8 21.♘xd6 ♖xd6 22.♗xe5+–)* 21.♖xf6 gxf6 22.♕g4+; while if B) 19...♔f8 ; 17...exd5!? 18.♗xg7 *(18.♕xd5 0–0 19.♖fd1 ♗e5 20.♗xe5 ♘xe5 21.♕xe4 ♖e8=)* 18...♖g8 19.♗a1∞; 17...♗e5 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.♘d4!?∞

18.dxe6 ♘c5!?

18...fxe6 19.♖c6 *(19.♘d4!?)* 19...♗h2+ 20.♔h1 ♕b7 21.♖xe6 ♘c5!?∞

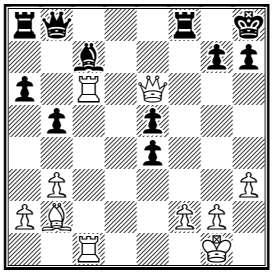
19.♘f4!? fxe6?!

Of course Black has some alternatives, but it looks like Black has to fight for equality in any case, for example: 19...♖a7!? 20.♗d4 *(20.♕g4?! f5!)* 20...♗xf4 21.♖xc5∞; 19...♗xf4?! 20.♖xc5 fxe6 21.♕d7 ♕a7 22.♕xe6+±; 19...♘xe6!? 20.♘xe6 fxe6 21.♕g4 e5 22.♕xe4 ♔h8±

20.♕g4 e5 21.♘e6 ♘xe6 22.♕xe6+ ♔h8

22...♖f7? 23.♖c6 ♗c7 24.♖fc1+–

23.♖c6 ♗c7 24.♖fc1!



The initiative is more important than a pawn: 24.♖xa6 ♖xa6 25.♕xa6 ♖f6 26.♕a3

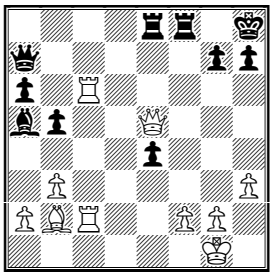
24...♕a7 25.♖1c2±

After this precise move, White's advantage becomes clear. 25.♖xc7 ♕xf2+ 26.♔h2 ♕xb2

25...♗a5

25...♖f6 26.♕d7 ♖xc6 27.♕xc6 ♗b6 28.♕c8+ ♗d8 29.♕f5±; 25...♗d8 26.♗a3 ♖g8 27.♕xe5±

26.♕xe5 ♖ae8?



After this move, Black loses immediately. More stubborn was 26...♕d7

27.♖xa6!

And Black resigned in view of 27.♖xa6 ♕b7 *(27...♖xe5 28.♖xa7+–; 27...♕xa6 28.♕xg7#)* 28.♕xg7+ ♕xg7 29.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 30.♖xa5+– **1–0**

Solution to Quiz

37.♗xd5! 37.♗xd5 cxd5 38.c6 bxc6 39.b7+– **1–0**

35.♘h5+! gxh5 35...♔h8 36.♘xf6 ♗xf6 37.♖xf6 ♕xf6 38.♗xg5 ♖a1+ 39.♔h2+–; 35...♔xh6 36.♘xf6+ ♔g7 37.♗xg5+– **36.♕xg5+!! fxg5** 36...♔h8 37.♘f7#; 36...♔f8 37.♕g8# **37.♖f7+ ♔xh6** 37...♔h8 38.♖xh7# **38.♖xh7# 1–0**

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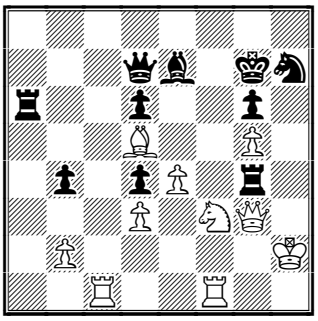
CT-206(990) 25th July 2003

Chess Quiz

Morozevich – Lutz
Biel 2003



White to play

Chess News

The Biel International Chess Festival

In the 4th round, all three games – Morozevich-Lutz, Pelletier-Korchnoi and Bacrot-Smirin – ended in success for the player with White. After Morozevich's nice victory (see our Quiz Today) he is now sole leader with 3½/4.

All three 4th round games are available in this issue's CBV file. We also include the score of the fighting game, which young Yannick Pelletier won against Viktor Korchnoi in ... Korchnoi's simul – ten years ago.

14th Pardubice (Czech Republic) Chess Festival

In the 6th round on the top boards, M.Gurevich won against Espig, and Potkin won against Vysochin. Gurevich and Potkin now share the lead with 5½/6.

Zonal Tournament 3.3

12 strong Chinese players competed in this 12th category event (average rating 2546), which took place in Yongchuan, China, July 11-23. Young stars Bu Xiangzhi and Ni Hua were the winners with 8/11. Ni Hua also scored a GM Norm.

The latest news from the Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003 and The Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships were not available at our press time. We will continue our coverage of these events in forthcoming issues.

Web Watch: Ilyumzhinov Express

Earlier on this week, the full version of the latest interview with Kirsan Ilyumzhinov appeared at the website of the Russian paper Sport-Express.

A Short summary of the chess part of interview (there was also one devoted to soccer):-
The match Ponomariov-Kasparov will be the FIDE World Championship match. It will begin in Yalta (Ukraine) on 19th September. First moves will be made by the Russian President Putin and Ukrainian President Kuchma. Prize fund will be one million US dollars, 20% of it will be deducted in favour of FIDE, despite Ponomariov disagreeing with this. FIDE will not pay compensation to Ponomariov for the 'rescheduled' (using Ilyumzhinov's word) match in Argentina. If Ponomariov will not play under such conditions, then Ivanchuk will replace him. 'FIDE has no intention to solve Ponomariov's problems', Ilymzhinov said. There is a possibility that Argentina will hold the Kramnik-Leko match. And the unification match, according to Ilyumzhinov, possibly will take place in Spring of 2004.

And further news from Sport-Express (24.7.2003): Kirsan Ilyumzhinov to visit Kiev on July 25. He will take part in the first meeting of the World Championship's organising committee. *[We hope that this meeting could bring some positive results, but Ukrainian chess observers are quite cautious lately. There is no visible signal of the end of the 'cold war' between Ruslan Ponomariov and FIDE.]*

Annotated Game

Crushing the Dragon

□ **M Bennedik**
■ **V Demian**
Email (ICCF Champions League), 2002 – B76

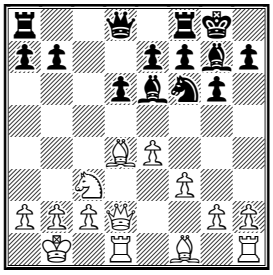
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

This impressive email game is included in the brand new *Informator* 87 (Electronic Edition), and earlier it was published in the *New in Chess Yearbook*, issue 67.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0–0 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.0–0–0!

White follows the classical Rauzer recipe to fight the Dragon. Another popular move is 9.♗c4 .

9...♘xd4 10.♗xd4 ♗e6 11.♔b1!



11...♕c7

White's previous move prevented the immediate 11...♕a5? which is now bad in view of 12.♘d5! .; 11...♘d7 12.♗xg7 ♔xg7 was Black's choice in Konstantinopolsky–Lisitsin, Leningrad 1935 (possibly, the first practical test of Rauzer's attack, which he analyzed with his friend Alexander Konstantinopolsky). Now 13.♘d5!?, preventing ...♕a5, could give better chances to White.

12.h4

12.♘d5!? ♗xd5 13.exd5 ♖fc8 *(or 13...♖ac8)* 14.♖c1! is less critical, but is also a promising line.

12...♖fc8 13.h5!

An alternative is 13.g4 (White can play g4 also one move earlier) 13...♕a5, and now 14.♕g5!? – invented by Ivanchuk in 1993.

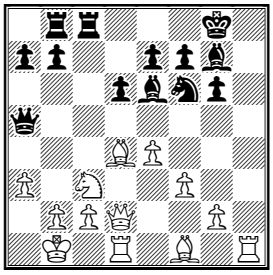
13...♕a5

Here 13...♘xh5? loses by force: 14.♗xg7 ♔xg7 15.g4 ♘f6 16.♕h6+ ♔g8 17.e5 dxe5 18.g5 ♘h5 19.♖xh5 gxh5 20.♗d3+– .

14.hxg6

But after 14.a3?!, 14...♘xh5! is already possible: 15.♗xg7 ♔xg7 16.g4 ♖xc3! 17.gxh5 ♖c5.

14...hxg6 15.a3 ♖ab8



16.♗d3!

After 16.g4 b5 Black experienced few problems.. e.g. 17.♕g5 ♕c7 18.e5 , and now sufficient is 18...♘d5 *(*there are also risky ideas 18...dxe5 and *18...♘e4!?)* 19.exd6 ♘xc3+ 20.♗xc3 *(20.bxc3 ♕xd6!)* 20...exd6, as in Shevelev–Venediktov, Sverdlovsk Ch 1957. Here White should have played 21.♗d3 *(*instead of *21.♖d3? b4–+)* 21...♗xc3 22.bxc3 ♕xc3 23.♗xg6 , and now 23...b4!? 24.♗xf7+ ♔f8 25.♕g8+ ♔e7 26.♕g5+ ♔f8= leads to a draw.

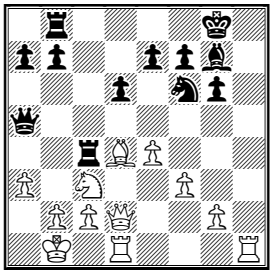
16...♗c4

Another trend is 16...b5 17.♕g5! , as in Van der Wiel–Sax, Plovdiv 1983, the game, where White used 16.♗d3! for the first time. It continued 17...♕c7 18.e5 dxe5 19.♗xe5 ♕c5 20.f4 ♖b7 21.♗xg6! fxg6 22.♕xg6 ♗f7 23.♖h8+! ♔xh8 24.♕xf7 ♖g8 25.♖h1+ ♘h7 26.♕h5 1–0, and Black's supporters are looking for a radical improvement to this day.

17.♗xc4

Before this game it was not considered as a serious attempt for White, who tried 17.g4 and several other moves. About 15 years ago I analysed 17.♗e3!? , but failed to find a clear advantage after 17...♘d7! 18.♗xc4 ♖xc4 19.♘d5 ♕xd2 20.♖xd2 ♖e8 with the idea 21.♗xa7 b6 .

17...♖xc4



18.♕c1!

This is Bennedik's novelty – the move which possibly deserves even two exclamation marks. The explanation: White defends against Black's threat (18...♘xe4), and at the same time preserves his queen on the c1–h8 diagonal, thereby creating the strong threat of 19.♘d5. 18.♕e3?! would be not good in view of 18...e5! 19.♗xa7 ♖a8 20.♗b6 ♖xc3!, and White must go for 21.♕xc3 ♕xb6. Earlier White tried 18.♗xf6 ♗xf6 19.♘d5, with no chances for a real advantage.

18...e6

18...♖bc8 looks natural, but there comes 19.♘d5! ♘xd5 *(or 19...♖xc2 20.♘xe7+ ♔f8 21.♕f4! ♔xe7 22.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 23.♕xd6++–)* 20.♗xg7 ♖xc2 *(20...♔xg7 21.♖xd5)* 21.♕h6 f6 22.♗xf6!, and White wins.; And after 18...e5 19.♗e3 White has a classical dominating position.

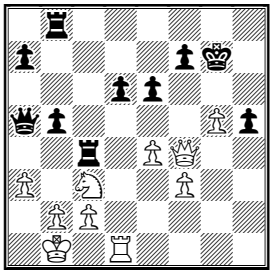
19.g4 b5?!

Not the best, but Black has problems. For example, 19...♖bc8!? 20.g5 ♘h5 21.♗xg7 ♔xg7 22.♖xd6 ♕e5 offers him some chances, but hardly full compensation.

20.g5 ♘h5 21.♗xg7 ♔xg7

Bennedik gives the line 21...♘xg7 22.♕f4 b4 23.♕xd6! ♖cc8 24.♖d5!? ♕c7 25.♕xc7 ♖xc7 26.♖b5 , with an extra pawn for White.

22.♖xh5! gxh5 23.♕f4!



Analysis shows that Black has no adequate defense.

23...♔g8

An important nuance is 23...♕d8 24.♖xd6 ♕e7 25.♕e5+! f6 *(25...♔g6 26.f4)* 26.gxf6+ ♕xf6 27.♖d7+ ♔g6 , and White takes the rook: 28.♕xb8+– .

24.g6! f5

If 24...fxg6 , then 25.♕f6 ♕c7 26.♕xg6+ ♕g7 27.♕xe6+ , etc.

25.♖xd6 ♖xc3

25...♕c7 26.♕e5!

26.♕e5! ♖c7 27.♕xe6+ ♔g7

27...♔f8 28.♖d7!

28.exf5 b4 29.f4!?

More prosaic 29.♖d7+ ♖xd7 30.♕xd7+ could win as well.

29...bxa3 30.♖d7+ 1–0

Solution to Quiz

36.♘e5! dxe5 or 36...♖xg3 37.♖f7+ ♔h8 38.♘xg6+ ♔g8 39.♖xe7+ **37.♖f7+ ♔h8 38.♖xh7+! ♔xh7 39.♕h3+** 39.♕h3+ ♔g7 40.♕h6# **1–0**

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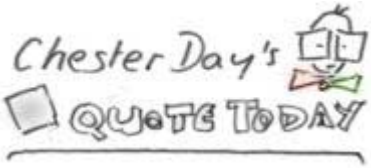


Studying Fischer's games is important, I think, for any player of any playing strength. Above all, it will give you a good idea how to approach the game, or, to put it another way, it will change your attitude to the game in a way that is bound to improve your own play. –

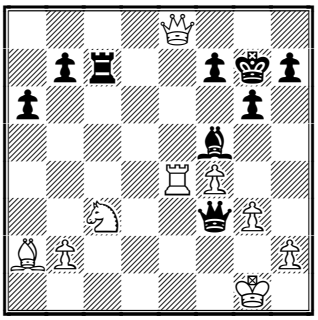
Garry Kasparov

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-206(991) 26th July 2003

Chess Quiz

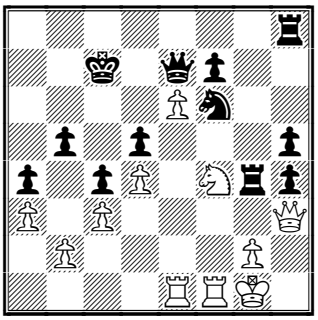
Korchnoi – Morozevich
Biel 25.07.2003

Q. *Morozevich played a move here that gave Korchnoi a perpetual. There was an alternative move that wins. What did Morozevich play and can you find the winning move he missed?*



Black to play

Smirin– Pelletier
Biel 25.07.2003



White to play

Chess News

As in all the rounds so far, the 5th of the main event of The Biel International Chess Festival was very tough, with interesting play in all 3 games (see our cbv and pgn files, tactical Quiz and Annotated game section). The first cycle is now complete and today will be a rest day.

Round 5 (July 25, 2003)
Smirin – Pelletier **1:0**
Korchnoi – Morozevich **½:½**
Lutz – Bacrot **0:1**

Round 5 Standings:
1. Morozevich – 4 points
2. Smirin – 3½
3. Bacrot – 3
4-6. Korchnoi, Pelletier, Lutz – 1½

The 6th round will be on Sunday 27th:
Lutz – Smirin
Bacrot – Kortchnoi
Pelletier – Morozevich

The young Indian GM **Krishn Sasikiran** has won the Copenhagen Open Politiken Cup 2003
Round 11th results:
Sasikiran – Jussupow **½:½**
Krasenkow – Sakaev **1:0**
Johannessen – Beliavsky **0:1**
Nyback – P.H. Nielsen **1:0**
McShane – Kallio **1:0**
De Firmian – Ward **1:0**
Høi – Speelman **0:1**
Schandorff – Kongsted **1:0**
Carlsen – Koneru **1:0**
Christensen – Mortensen **1:0**

Final standings:
1. Sasikiran – 9 points out of 11
2-6. Beliavsky, McShane, Krasenkow, Jussupow, Nyback – 8½
7-16. Sakaev, Speelman, De Firmian, Schandorff, Rasmussen, Skytte, Michelakis, J. Nilssen, Carlsen, Christensen – 8 etc.

14th Pardubice (Czech Republic) Chess festival
Top results of the 7th round:
Potkin – M. Gurevich **½:½**
Vorobiov – Hracek **½:½**
Espig – Fedorchuk **½:½**
Babula – Neuman **1:0**
Gutman – Acs **1:0**
Inarkiev – Postny **1:0**
Haba – Burmakin **0:1**
Malakhatko – Shaposhnikov **1:0**
Vysochin – Klovans **½:½**
Gyimesi – Sprenger **½:½**

Round 7 standings:
1-4. M. Gurevich, Potkin, Gutman, Babula – 6 points 5-12. Burmakin,

Inarkiev, Vorobiov, Totsky, Fedorchuk, Hracek, Espig, Malakhatko – 5 ½ etc.

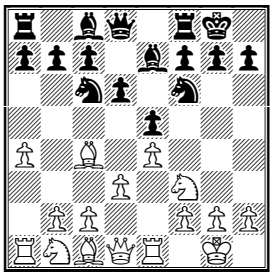
Round 8 pairings:
M. Gurevich – Gutman
Babula – Potkin
Hracek – Malakhatko
Totsky – Inarkiev
Burmakin – Espig
Fedorchuk – Vorobiov

The Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships
Round 5 top Pairings:
A. Hunt (3½) – Rahman (3½)
Gormally (3½) – Summerscale (3½)
Kotronias (3) – Kidambi (3)
Pert (3) – Harikrishna (3)
Rowson (3) – Arakhamia-Grant (3)
Ansell (3) – Ganguly (3)
Motwani (3) – Mcnab (3)
Gallagher (3) – Collins (3)
Kunte (3) – Singh (3)
Ghate (3) – Wells (3)

The Womens' Super-tournament 'North Ural Cup' 16th FIDE category will take place from 7-15th August 2003 in Krasnoturjinsk, in the Sverdlovsk region, North Ural, Russia. There will be 8 participants: Antoanetta Stefanova, Almira Skripchenko-Lautier, Natalia Zhukova, Svetlana Matveeva, Ekaterina Kovalevskaya, Tatiana Kosintseva, Nadezhda Kosintseva and Maria Kursova. The Chiefs of the Organising Committee will be Eduard Rossel, a governor of the Sverdlovsk region, and Andrei Selivanov, FIDE vice-president and a Honoured president of The Russian chess federation.

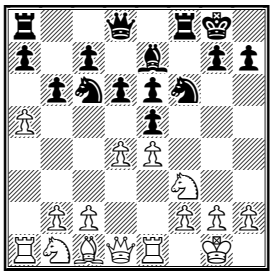
Annotated Game

□ **C Lutz (2631)**
■ **E Bacrot (2645)**
It Biel SUI (5), 25.07.2003 – C55
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6
The Philidor defence. Black avoids theoretical discussions in the Ruy Lopez or Petrov defence.
3.♗c4
The main line runs after 3.d4
3...♗e7 4.0-0 ♘f6 5.d3 0-0 6.♖e1 ♘c6 7.a4



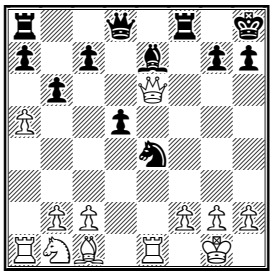
In this solid and quiet position, Black has a lot of plans, for example:
7...♗e6
7...a5 8.c3 ♘d7 9.♗e3 ♗f6 10.♘bd2 ♘e7 11.♗b3 ♘c5 12.♗c2 ♘e6 13.d4 ♘g6⇄ Fedorov,A-Romanishin,O/4th IECC, Istanbul TUR 2003; 7...♔h8 8.c3 *(8.a5 a6 9.c3 ♘g8 10.♕b3 f5 11.exf5 ♖xf5 12.♘bd2∞* Tkachiev,V-Fressinet,L/Cap d'Agde 2002*)* 8...♗g4 9.h3 ♗h5 10.♘bd2 d5 11.♗b3 a5 12.♕e2 ♗g6 13.♘h4 ♕d7 14.♘xg6+ hxg6 15.♘f1∞ Erenburg,S-Ganguly,S/41st WJun, Goa IND 2002; 7...♗g4 8.h3 ♗h5 9.♘bd2 d5 10.♗a2 dxe4 11.dxe4 ♘d7 12.♘c4 ♘b4 13.♗b1 ♘c6 14.c3∞ Erenburg,S-Harikrishna,P /41st WJun, Goa IND 2002 ; 7...h6 8.a5 a6 9.c3 ♘h7 10.♗e3 ♘g5 11.♘bd2 ♘xf3+ 12.♘xf3 ♗e6 13.♗xe6 fxe6 14.b4 ♗f6 Tkachiev,V-Fressinet,L/Cap d'Agde 2002; 7...♘d4 8.♘xd4 exd4 9.♘d2 ♘g4 10.♘f3 ♗h4 11.♖f1 c5 12.♘xh4 ♕xh4 13.♗f4 ♘e5 14.♗g3 ♕e7 15.b3 ♘xc4 16.bxc4± Macieja,B-Ivanchuk,V/Hyderabad 2002
8.a5
White gains some space on the queenside. 8.♘bd2 ♕d7 9.c3 h6 10.a5 a6 11.♘f1 ♖fe8∞ Macieja,B-Beliavsky,A/New Delhi/Theran 2000
8...b6!?
Black finds complications while White hasn't completed his development. Less ambitious is 8...a6 9.♘bd2 ♕d7 10.c3 ♖ae8 11.♗b3 ♗xb3 12.♕xb3 ♘d8! 13.♘f1 ♘e6⇄ Mainka,R-Graf,A/Recklinghausen 1998
9.♗xe6
It's a novelty. In the previous game White got some advantage: 9.a6 ♘d4 10.c3 ♘xf3+ 11.♕xf3 ♗xc4 12.dxc4 ♕d7 13.♘d2 ♖ab8 14.♘f1 ♖fc8 15.♘e3± Kley,T-Konson,K/GER 1999

9...fxe6 10.d4?!



I think this move is a bit illogical: Black leads in development, but White opens files in the center! There has to be something wrong in this plan.

10...exd4 11.♘xd4 ♘xd4 12.♕xd4 d5! 13.♕e5 ♘xe4 14.♕xe6+ ♔h8



Obviously Black has won the struggle for the initiative. Black has some unpleasant threats while the f2 point is very weak.

15.♘c3?

More stubborn was 15.axb6 for example: 15...♗c5!? *(15...cxb6?!)* 16.♗e3 *(16.bxc7? ♕h4–+)* 16...♗xe3 17.♖xe3 ♕h4!? *(17...axb6=)* 18.g3 ♕h5↑

15...♗b4!

A very unpleasant pin.

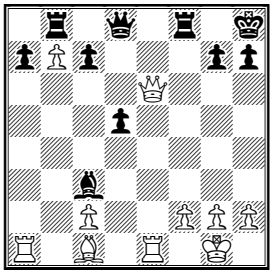
16.axb6

16.♖e3 ♘xc3 17.bxc3 ♗xc3 18.♖xc3 ♖e8 19.♗g5 ♕xg5 20.♕c6 d4∓

16...♘xc3 17.b7

17.bxc3 ♗xc3 18.♗a3 ♗xe1 19.♖xe1 ♖e8 20.bxc7 ♕d7–+

17...♖b8 18.bxc3 ♗xc3



Now Black has to give up an exchange but without serious compensation.

19.♗a3 ♖f6!

Maybe White missed this move?

20.♕e3 ♗xa1–+ 21.♗e7 ♕e8 22.♖xa1 ♖b6 0–1

Solution to Quiz

35...♗xe4? 35...♗h3! 36.♕e5+ f6 37.♕xc7+ ♔h6 and mate in 5 according to Fritz. **36.♕e5+ ♔f8 37.♕h8+ ♔e7 38.♕e5+ ♔f8 39.♕h8+ ½–½**

38.♘xd5+! ♘xd5 39.♖xf7+– ♖h7 40.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 41.♕f3 ♘f4 42.♖e4 1–0

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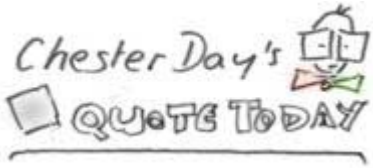
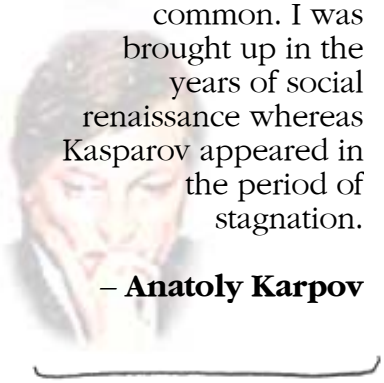




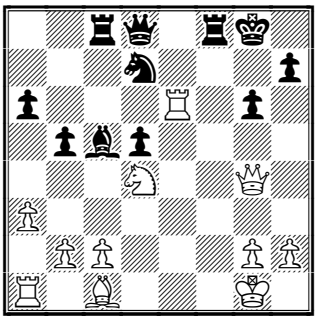
We have nothing in common. I was brought up in the years of social renaissance whereas Kasparov appeared in the period of stagnation.

– **Anatoly Karpov**

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-208(992) 26th July 2003

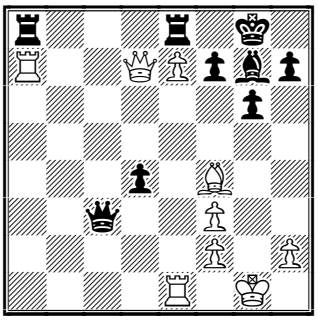
Chess Quiz

Vujatovic (2265) – Hunt (2395)
Edinburgh 16.07.2003



Black to play

Rozentalis (2616) – Nataf (2549)
Montreal 23.07.2003



White to play

Chess News

The Biel International Chess Festival
The day-off allows us to study at leisure, on page 2, the most entertaining and original game of the first lap, Korchnoi – Morozevich.

Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships
Round 6 results:
Rahman – Gallagher ½:½
Kunte – Kotronias ½:½
Ganguly – Gormally ½:½
Summerscale – Motwani 0:1
Harikrishna – Haslinger 1:0
Abdulla – Rowson 0:1
Arakhamia-Grant – Pert 1:0
Wells – Hunt 1:0
McDonald – Vijayalaskshmi 0:1
Bakre – Ghate ½:½

Round 6 standings:
1-2. Motwani, Rahman – 5
3-12. Arakhamia-Grant, Gallagher, Ganguly, Gormally, Harikrishna, Kotronias, Kunte, Rowson, Vijayalaskshmi, Wells – 4½, etc.

14th Pardubice Chess festival
Before the final round the Czech GM Vlastimil Babula has become the sole leader of the event. One of the ELO-favourites Peter Acs scores moderately with 4½ out of 8
Round 8 results:
Gurevich – Gutman ½:½
Babula – Potkin 1:0
Hracek – Malakhatko 0:1
Totsky – Inarkiev 0:1
Burmakin – Espig 1:0
Fedorchuk – Vorobiov ½:½

1. Babula – 7
2-6. Inarkiev, Gutman, Gurevich, Burmakin, Malakhatko – 6½
7-19. Vorobiov, Vysochin, Potkin, Fedorchuk, Potapov, Oral, Kovalev, Klovans, Grigoriants, Erenburg, Maiorov, Dziuba, Hausrath – 6, etc.

The homepage of the official site is decorated by the photo of the president of European Chess Union Dr. Boris Kutin playing against the famous ice hockey goalkeeper Dominik Hasek (Nagano Olympic champion and multiply best player of NHL) at the V.I.P. tournament Komercni Banka Cup.

The 4th Montreal International (Cat. 11, 12 players) Eduardas Rozentalis has taken a lead after three rounds. He has 2½ points. Charbonneau, Legky and Onischuk are half a point behind.
The other GMs taking part in the event are Barsov, Romanishin, Nataf, Vera, Lugovoi and Lesiege

The Open Dutch Championships in Dieren Round 6 pairings (top boards):
Smeets (4½) – Nijboer (4½)
Tiviakov (4) – De Vreught (4)
L'Ami (4) – Dambacher (4)

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

At the Open Tournament of the chess festival in Samara GM Igor Zakharevich and Alexey Gubaidullin (ELO 2357, No.41 of the starting list) shared the first place with 7 points out of 9

1-2. Zakharevich, Gubaidullin – 7

3-6. Djachkov, Shomoev, Yevseev, Feoktistov – 6½, etc.

Annotated Game

□ **V Korchnoi (2628)**
■ **A Morozevich (2679)**

It Biel SUI (5), 25.07.2003 A40
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 g6

The first surprise from Morozevich - no Slav Defence...

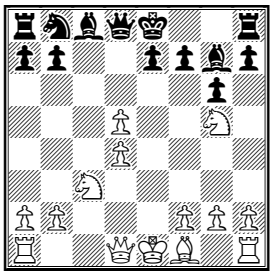
2.c4 ♗g7 3.♘c3 c5

...but no King's Indian either!

4.e3

4.d5 or 4.♘f3 is another story

4...cxd4 5.exd4 ♘f6 6.♘f3 d5 7.♗g5 ♘e4 8.cxd5 ♘xg5 9.♘xg5



9...0-0

This position may result from various openings - the Scandinavian, the Caro-Kann, the Gruenfeld Defence. It differs from the variation 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bg5 Ne4 6.cxd5 Nxg5 7.Nxg5 of the Gruenfeld Defence in the absence of the pawns c7 and e2. This difference makes dubious the typical 9...e6 on account of 10.♗b5+ ♔f8 11.♘f3 exd5 12.0–0; Another reasonable move apart from castling is 9...♕b6

10.♕d2 ♘d7 11.♗c4

It's not easy for Black to regain the material but White should care for his doubled pawns all the time and his pieces are somehow bound by this duty.

11...♗h6!?

11...♕b6 12.♖d1 ♕b4 13.♗b3 a5 14.♗a4 ♘b6 15.a3 ♕c4 16.♕e2 ♗f5 with counterplay was played in Ljubojevic - Kamsky, Monte Carlo 1996

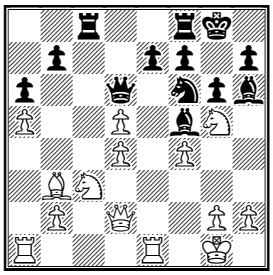
12.f4

12.0–0 was possible as well since Black is unable to exploit the vulnerable position of the knight - 12...e5 *(12...f6 13.d6+ ♔h8 14.♕e2)* 13.f4 exf4 14.♘e6!? fxe6 15.dxe6

12...♘f6

It's difficult to decide which way the knight should go. Frequently it's situated poorly on b6 in similar positions. However 12...♘b6 13.♗b3 ♗f5 is worth considering.

13.0-0 a6 14.a4 ♗f5 15.a5 ♖c8 16.♗b3 ♕d6 17.♖fe1



After 17.♘a4 Black gets some tactical opportunities on the kingside e.g. 17...♖c7 18.♘b6 *(18.♘c5 ♘xd5)* 18...♘h5 19.g3 ♗xg5 20.fxg5 ♘xg3! and if 21.hxg3? ♕xg3+ and the knight's withdrawal makes itself felt

17...♕b4?!

A blank shot. Better is 17...♖c7

18.♖a3 ♖c7 19.♗a2 ♕d6

The doubling of the rooks 19...♖fc8 will be met by 20.d6! exd6 21.♖a4 trapping the queen.

20.g3

After 20.♖b3 Black can simply take the pawn 20...♘xd5

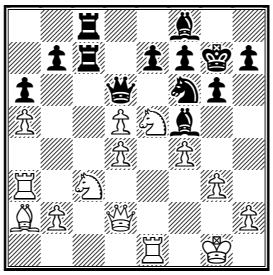
20...♖fc8 21.♘f3

The knight is going to take the dominating position.

21...♗f8

The queen sacrifice 21...♕xa3!? 22.bxa3 ♖xc3 deserves attention. True after 23.♘e5 Black can't play 23...♖c2 24.♕b4 ♖xa2 in view of 25.♕xe7 ♗g7 26.♕xf7+ ♔h8 27.♕xb7 ♖cc2 28.♕a8+ ♗c8 29.d6 but 23...Bf8 leads to an unclear position which Black could obtain on the next move too.

22.♘e5 ♔g7



Here it is – 22...♕xa3 23.bxa3 ♖xc3 and the possible continuation is 24.d6 *(24.♗b1 ♗xb1 25.♖xb1 ♘xd5)* 24...exd6 25.♗xf7+ *(25.♘xf7 d5)* 25...♔g7 26.g4 and it becomes hard to understand anything.

23.♖b3!

It's time!

23...e6!

Morozevich's play in a difficult position is extremely ingenious. The first impression is that this move may only destroy Black's defences. In fact it clears a path to the d4-pawn for the black pieces! If 23...♘xd5? 24.♘xf7! ♔xf7? 25.♖b6 winning

24.dxe6

In case of 24.♖b6 ♕d8 25.dxe6 Black would have replied 25...♗c5! with enormous complications – 26.♘d5! ♗xb6 (worse is *26...♘xd5? 27.dxc5 ♘xb6 28.♕xd8 ♖xd8 29.cxb6* and White has too many pawns for the exchange) 27.♘xb6 *(27.e7 ♗xd4+! 28.♕xd4 ♖xe7* and Black is the exchange up) 27...♖c2 **A)** in the event of 28.♕b4 ♖8c4! 29.♘bxc4 ♕xd4+ Black gets a crushing attack – 30.♖e3 ♖c1+ 31.♔g2 *(31.♔f2 ♘e4+ 32.♔g2 ♖c2+ 33.♔g1 ♗h3)* 31...♘d5 32.♕b3 ♗xe6!–+; **B)** 28.♕e3! Maybe it's possible to prove White's advantage here but in a practical game Black can hope for the best thanks to the weakened position of the white king. He may choose between 28...♖xb2 (and *28...fxe6 29.♘xc8 ♕xa5)*

24...♖d8!

After 24...fxe6 25.♖b6 ♕d8 26.♕f2 White consolidates his position retaining the extra pawn.*(26.♗xe6 ♗xe6 27.♖xe6 ♗b4 28.♘f3* also comes into consideration)

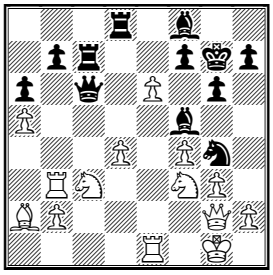
25.♘f3

After the capture on f7 by the knight or by the pawn Black takes on d4 exchanging the queens. In the resulting position White is two pawns up but all the black pieces are active. Even if Black doesn't have full compensation White's play is much more difficult. Korchnoi tries to hold the central pawn.

25...♕c6 26.♕f2

To provoke the knight's thrust on g4 isn't a good idea. Stronger was 26.♕g2 ♗g4 *(26...fxe6 27.♖b6)* 27.♘g5

26...♘g4 27.♕g2



27...♗c5!

An amazing way to attack a weak pawn. Black will take d4 with the rook.

28.♖b6!?

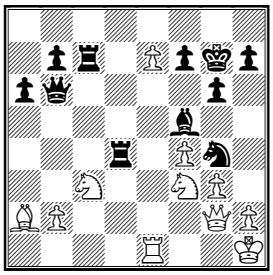
Sacrificing the exchange Korchnoi frees the light-squared bishop. If 28.dxc5 ♕xc5+ Black may play for win with draw secured 29.♔h1 *(29.♔f1? ♗d3+)* 29...♘f2+ 30.♔g1 ♘d3+ 31.♔h1 *(31.♔f1? ♗h3!)* 31...♘xe1 (interesting is *31...♗h3 32.♕xh3 ♘f2+ 33.♔g2 ♘xh3 34.♔xh3)* 32.♘xe1 ♗xe6 33.♖a3 ♗xa2 34.♖xa2 ♕e3 and the White pieces lack coordination to put it mildly. But after 28.♔h1! ♖xd4 (weaker is *28...♗xe6 29.♖xe6 fxe6 30.dxc5 ♕xc5 31.h3)* 29.♘xd4 *(29.♖b6 ♗xb6 30.axb6 ♕xb6* – see 31.Kh1) 29...♘f2+ 30.♔g1 ♕xg2+ 31.♔xg2 ♗xd4 (threatening with perpetual after Bh3+) 32.♖b4! White still stands better

28...♗xb6 29.axb6 ♕xb6 30.e7

Black's dark-squared bishop has gone and the pawn may go forward.

30...♖xd4! 30...♖e8? 31.♘d5

31.♔h1



31.♘xd4 ♕xd4+ 32.♔h1 loses to 32...♘f2+ 33.♕xf2 *(33.♔g1 ♘d3+ 34.♔h1 ♘xe1)* 33...♕xf2 34.e8♕ ♗e6! 35.♖b1 ♖c8! 36.♕e7 ♗xa2 37.♘xa2? ♖c2; 31.e8♘+ ♔f8 32.♔h1 is met by a series of sacrifices – 32...♖xc3! 33.bxc3 *(33.♘xd4 ♖e3! 34.♖xe3 ♕xd4 35.♖f3 ♗e4!∓)* 33...♖d1! 34.♕e2 ♖xe1+ 35.♘xe1 *(35.♕xe1? ♘f2+ 36.♔g2 ♗h3+ 37.♔g1 ♘d3+)* 35...♗e4+! 36.♘f3 ♕c6 37.♔g2 ♕xc3! and if 38.♕xe4? ♕b2+ winning the queen; of course bad is 31.e8♕ ♖d2+ 32.♔h1 ♖xg2

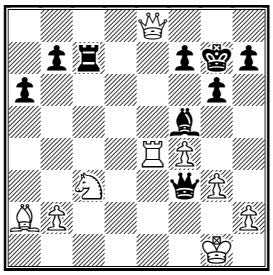
31...♖e4! 32.♖xe4?

32.♘xe4 leads to a Black advantage after 32...♖xe7 33.♘eg5 ♖xe1+ (in the event of *33...♘f2+ 34.♕xf2! ♕xf2 35.♖xe7 ♔f8! 36.♖xf7+ ♔e8* with the idea of h7–h6 Black is better as well*)* 34.♘xe1 ♘f2+ 35.♔g1 ♘d3+ 36.♔f1 ♕e3! 37.♕e2 ♕xe2+ 38.♔xe2 ♘c1+ and in the ending Black is a pawn up; the right continuation was 32.e8♕ ♖xe8 33.♖xe8 ♘f2+ 34.♔g1 ♘e4+ 35.♔h1 and though Black can still play for a win, a draw is the most probable outcome.

32...♘f2+ 33.♕xf2 ♕xf2 34.e8♕

34.♘g1 doesn't save in view of 34...♖xc3! (not *34...♗xe4+? 35.♘xe4* and Black is forced to play *35...♕xg1+ 36.♔xg1 ♖xe7)* 35.e8♕ ♖c1 36.♕xf7+ ♔h6 37.♕f8+ ♔h5 38.g4+ ♔xg4!–+ (after *38...♗xg4??* it is White who is mating – *39.♖e5+ ♗f5 40.♖xf5+! gxf5 41.♕xf5+ ♔h6 42.♕g5#)*

34...♕xf3+ 35.♔g1



35...♗xe4?

We've already seen it yesterday 35...♗h3! 36.♕e5+ f6 37.♕xc7+ ♔h6 and mate in 5 according Fritz.

36.♕e5+ ♔f8

36...♔h6 37.♕g5+

37.♕h8+

White can't play for win as in the ending after 37.♕xe4 ♕xe4 38.♘xe4 ♖c2 the rook and two connected passed pawns are obviously stronger than two minor pieces.

37...♔e7 38.♕e5+ ♔f8

The black king is unable to escape – 38...♔d7 39.♕d4+ ♔c8 40.♕h8+

39.♕h8+ Draw agreed. **½–½**

Solution to Quiz

20...♘e5! 21.♕d1 21.♖xe5 ♕f6 22.♕e6+ ♕xe6 23.♖xe6 ♗xd4+ 24.♗e3 ♗xe3+ 25.♖xe3 ♖xc2–+ **21...♕h4 22.♗e3 ♘g4 0–1**

25.♖xa8! ♕xe1+ 26.♔g2 ♖xa8 27.♕d8+ ♖xd8 28.exd8♕+ ♗f8 29.♗d6 1–0

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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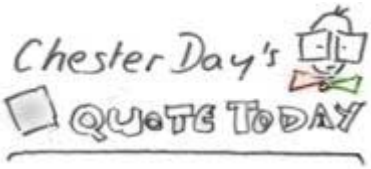


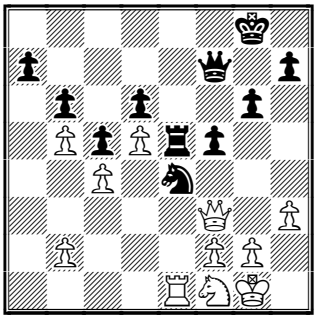
Chess is a cure for headaches

John Maynard Keynes

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-210 (994) 29th July 2003

Chess Quiz

Pelletier – Morozevich
Biel, 2003



Black to play

Chess news

The Biel International Chess Festival

Today's round was as hard fought as all previous rounds. GM Victor Korchnoi is playing quite badly. He realized a loosing combination just after the opening. There was nothing he could do to save himself after this.

The game Morozevich – Bacrot was quite an intense battle. In time trouble Morozevich delivered a beautiful and unusual blow. But the young Frenchman kept his head and the game was drawn.

Pelletier defeated Lutz in a complicated struggle.

I will comment more on these games in detail in tomorrow's issue. Today I would like to offer you a game from the 4th round.

Round 7 Results:

Morozevich – Bacrot ½ :½
Pelletier – Lutz 1–0
Korchnoi – Smirin 0–1

Round 7 Standings:

1.Morozevich – 5½
2. Smirin – 5
3. Bacrot – 4½
4. Pelletier – 2½
5. Lutz – 2
6. Korchnoi – 1½

The 4th Montreal International

Rozentalis with the Black pieces won his game against Charbonneau and thus has taken the lead.

Round 5 standings:

1. Rozentalis –4½
1. Onischuk – 3½
3– 4. Legky, Romanishin – 3.

1st Malmo Masters

The Category IX 1st Malmö Masters has started in Malmö, Sweden.

Round 1 Results:

Hellsten – Tairi – 1–0
Berg – Johannessen – ½:½
McShane – Speelman – ½:½
Sebag – Jakobsen – ½:½
Ahlander – Brynell – postponed

Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships

Top Standings after 7 rounds:

1. Rahman – 6
2–5. Kunte, Harikrishna Vijayalaskshmi, Wells – 5½
6–11. Arakhamia–Grant, Gallagher, Motwani, Turner, Summerscale, Bakre – 5

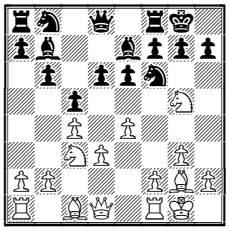
This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

Annotated Game

□ **Morozevich**
■ **Lutz**
Event: *Biel (4), 25.07.2003*
English Opening – [A17]
Annotations by IM Nikolai Vlassov

There were no interesting games to comment on in the 6th round of the Biel tournament that's why I decided to dwell on this game played in the 4th round.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 c5 3.g3 e6 4.♘f3 b6 5.e4 ♗b7 6.d3 d6 7.♗g2 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♘g5!? (D)



An unusual move, but nothing is new under the moon. The white knight clears the way for the f-pawn and provokes Black's h-pawn out, weakening the protection of Black's king.

9...♘fd7N

This move can be formally called a novelty [In the original game Black immediately attacked the white knight on g5. 9...h6 and white's h-pawn did not manage to reach h4. 10.♘h3 ♘c6 11.f4 ♖b8 12.f5 exf5 13.♖xf5 ♘d4 14.♖f1 a6 15.♘d5 ♗xd5 16.cxd5 ♘d7 17.♘f4 ♘e5 18.♗e3 b5 19.b4 ♗f6 20.bxc5 dxc5 21.♗xd4 cxd4 22.♗h3 ♗e7 23.♖c1 ♗b4 24.♖c2 ♗c3 25.♖cf2 a5 26.♘e6 ♕d6 27.♘xf8 ♖xf8 28.♕h5 ♗b4 29.♕e2 ♕c7 30.♖f5 ♗e7 31.♗g4 ½–½ Staricek,P-Flasik,R/SVK 1999.

10.h4 h6

Black could make an attempt to refrain from this weakening move with 10...♘c6 however, in this case he would not be able to ignore the g5-knight, which would be threatening the position of his king.

11.♘h3

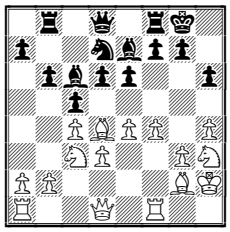
Pieces behind the pawns - Philidor would be happy.

11...♘c6 12.f4 ♘d4

The Black knight occupies a wonderful square but fails to keep it. Probably, then it is not worth doing it?

13.♗e3 ♖b8 14.♔h2 ♗c6 (D)

⌓14...a6.



15.♗xd4! cxd4 16.♘b5!

Black allowed two blows on his pawns and has to give his bishop for the knight.

16...♗xb5 17.cxb5

As a result of exchanges Black has not even managed to gain the advantage of the two bishops and he has doubtful counterplay potential on the queenside. While, White can prepare to attack the Black king calmly.

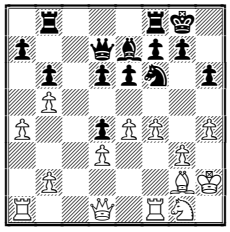
17...♘f6

A plan of a play across the open file looks more natural 17...♖c8

18.♘g1

Prancing around the circle, the white knight has made way for his pawns and now returns to f3 allowing his bishop to occupy the h3-square.

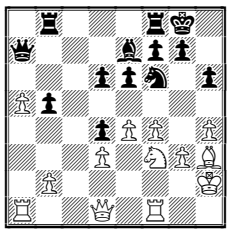
18...♕d7 19.a4 (D)



19...a6?!

Having no desire for passive defence, Black tries to break open the files on the queenside (but, probably, it's just a wish to "find an excuse" for the position of his rook on b8.) In the end, what it all boils down to is the formation of a passed pawn for White.

20.bxa6 ♕a7 21.♗h3 ♕xa6 22.♘f3 b5 23.a5 ♕a7 (D)

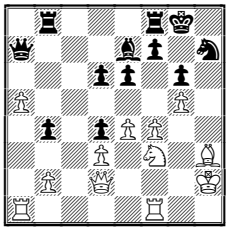


Black's counterplay has been neutralised, White starts his attack.

24.g4 ♘h7

Black steps back to the square prepared in advance.

25.g5 hxg5 26.hxg5 g6 27.♕d2 b4 (D)



A signal to attack!

28.f5! ♖b5

Passive defence is doomed to failure, White easily checkmates across the h-file. 28...e5 29.f6 ♗d8 30.♔g3 ♖b5 31.♖h1+-

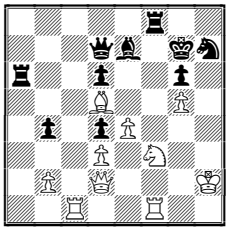
29.a6 ♖b6?!

Black sacrifices his pawn on e6, of course, not because of his agreeable life. More stubborn is 29...exf5 30.exf5 ♗d8 but Black's position is very hard, anyway.

30.fxg6 fxg6 31.♗xe6+ ♔g7 32.♗d5

Not so clear is 32.♗c4 in view of 32...d5! 33.exd5 ♗d6+ and Black has a counterplay here at the expense of the white bishop, which is out of play.

32...♖xa6 33.♖ac1 ♕d7 (D)



After 33...♖xf3 34.♖xf3 ♗xg5 35.♕xb4 ♗xc1 36.♖f7+ ♕xf7 37.♗xf7 White wins easily because it is impossible to take the bishop: 37...♔xf7 38.♕b7++-

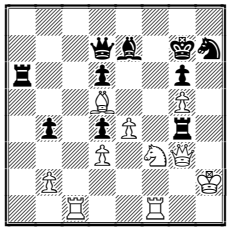
34.♕g2

It was worth taking the black pawn 34.♕xb4 ♖a4 35.♕d2± with a great advantage.

34...♖f4

Instead of falling into the trap, Black could set one of his own: 34...♖h8 35.♘h4?! (the simple *35.♔g1*± retains the advantage) 35...♗xg5 36.♖f7+ ♕xf7 37.♗xf7 ♗f4+! 38.♔g1 ♘g5! with an unclear position. Black has only a rook for the queen, but three of White's pieces are under attack and his king is also in danger.

35.♕g3 ♖g4? (D)



We have already had this position in a Quiz. A beautiful combination is winning here:

36.♘e5!! dxe5 37.♖f7+ ♔h8 38.♖xh7+! ♔xh7 39.♕h3+ and White checkmates. **1-0.**

Solution to chess Quiz

Pelletier - Morozevich

Biel, 2003

26...♘d2! 27.♕d1 ♖xe1 28.♕xe1 ♘xc4 29.b3 ♘e5-+ 30.♘e3 ♕e7 31.♕a1 ♘d3 32.♕d1 ♘f4 33.♕d2 ♘h5 34.♘c4 ♘f6 35.♕d1 ♔f8 36.♕d2 ♔e8 37.b4 cxb4 38.♕xb4 ♘xd5 39.♕d2 ♕e6 40.♕d4 ♔d7 41.♕g7+ ♘e7 42.♕c3 ♕d5 43.♕b3 ♕c5 44.♕a4 ♘c8 45.♘e3 d5 46.♕d1 ♔d6 47.♕d3 d4 0-1.

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CHESS TODAY
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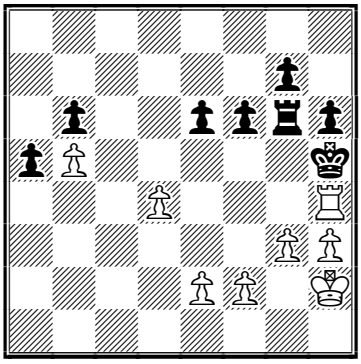
CT-212 (996) 31st July 2003

Chess Quiz

V. Smyslov
Study, 2003

Today's chess quiz position is the new and beautiful study by the 7th World Champion, **Vassily Smyslov**, first published in issue 27/2003 of the Russian chess paper *Shakmatnaya Nedelya* (or *Chess Week* - editor Vladimir Barsky). The way to win is clear and forced; what is most critical is to find White's first nine moves. :-)



White to move and win

Chess news

Dortmund 2003

The *Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2003* begins on the 31st July. The first round game pairings will be Kramnik – Radjabov, Naiditsch – Bologan and Anand – Leko.

Dortmund is known as a lucky place for **Vladimir Kramnik,** who has won the Dortmund Sparkassen Chess-Meeting 6 times - from 1995-1998, 2000 and 2001. In 2002, Kramnik didn't play in Dortmund because of the unusual event that took place there – the Classical World Championship qualification tournament. The winner of this tournament, Peter Leko, obtained the rights to play against Kramnik for the e Classical Champion title. Unfortunately the Einstein Group was unable to organise their match until now.

So, Kramnik and Leko, as well as four other participants, can now at least compete for the title of the Dortmund Chess Meeting-2003. GM Viorel Bologan is the only one of the six players, who *qualified* to the tournament. He was invited to Dortmund for winning the Moscow Aeroflot Open-2003. (Of course, the Russian organisers can in similar fashion invite the winner of Dortmund-2003 to play in Moscow next year; it could be at nice joke.)

Another strong event with six players which is now close to finishing is the main tournament of the **Biel International Chess Festival**.

In the 9th Round, the games Bacrot-Lutz and Pelletier-Smirin ended in a draw s and Morozevich won against Korchnoi in only 20 moves. Alexander Morozevich now has all the chances to win the tournament. The veteran Victor Korchnoi has played extremely unsuccessfully for the entire event. He won a similar tournament only two years ago.

Standings before the last and 10th Round:

1. Morozevich - 7
2-3. Bacrot, Smirin – 6
4-5. Pelletier, Lutz – 3
6. Korchnoi – 2

Smith & Williamson British Chess Championships

Top 9th Round results:
Kunte - Harikrishna ½-½
Wells - Rahman ½-½
Rowson - Bakre 1-0
Kotronias - Turner 1-0
Sattar - Ganguly ½-½

Kunte and **Harikrishna** are leading with 7/9.

This issue is prepared by GM Mikhail Golubev; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net/

1st Malmö Masters

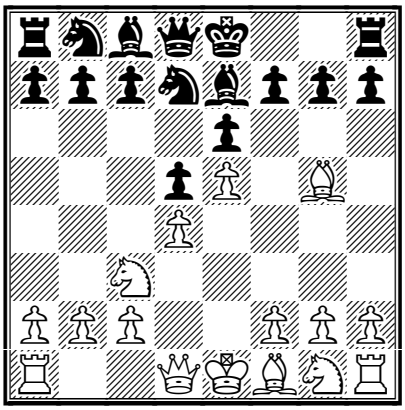
Round 3 results:
Ahlander – Tairi 1–0
McShane – Hellsten ½–½
Sebag – Brynell 0–1
Berg – Speelman 1–0
Johannessen – Jakobsen 1–0

IM Johan Hellsten and GM Leif E Johannessen are leading after 3 rounds, having 2½ points each.

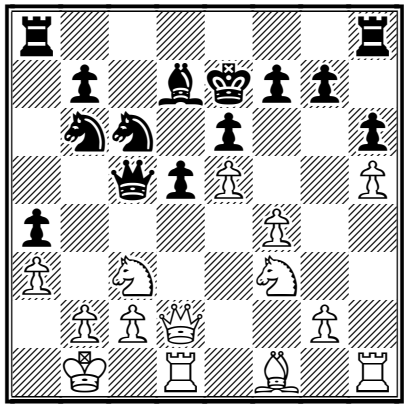
Annotated Game

□ **A. Morozevich**
■ **V. Korchnoi**
Event: Int. Schachfestival Biel (9), 2003
French Defence/ Alekhine–Shatar attack – [C13]

Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.e5 ♘fd7 (D)

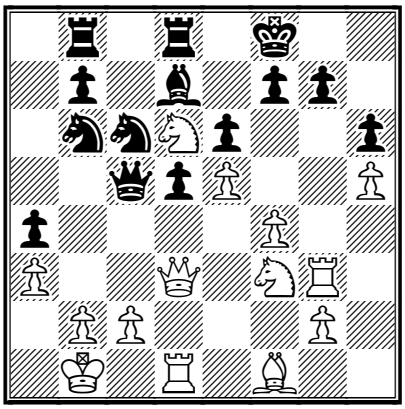


6.h4!?
The Alekhine–Shatar attack
6...c5
If Black wishes to decline the pawn sacrifice, this is the most promising way.
7.♗xe7 ♔xe7
7...♕xe7!? 8.♘b5 0–0 9.♘c7 is an important alternative. White wins the rook on a8, but his centre will be crushed completely.
8.dxc5!?
This idea was tested several times in recent years. 8.♕g4 and 8.f4 are the most popular moves.
8...♕c7?
The critical, double-edged continuation is 8...♘xe5 9.♕e2! ♘bc6 10.0–0–0 ♔f8 11.f4 ♘d7 , and now 12.♘f3 , as in Sakaev–Ulybin, Dubai 2000(In the game Golubev–Volkov, Romanian Cht 2001 occurred *12.f5 ♘xc5 13.♘f3 h5!? 14.♘g5* {probably not the best move} *14...d4! 15.♕c4 ♕e7 16.♘e2 d3 17.♘f4 dxc2* , and here I should have played *18.♖d2!* , with compensation)
9.f4! ♕xc5 10.♕d2
Now it's not clear, what can compensate Black for the bad position of the his king on e7. White is seriously better.
10...♘c6 11.♘f3 ♘b6 12.a3 a5 13.h5 h6
Black can hardly allow White to play h5–h6. **14.0–0–0**
14.♘b5!? was certainly a possibility.
14...♗d7 15.♔b1 a4 (D)



16.♖h3
The similar manoeuvre (♖h1–h4–g4) was used by Morozevich in another of his 'French' games in Biel–2003, against Pelletier. After 16.♘b5?! , possible is 16...♘xe5! .
16...♖ac8
Inaccuracy? After the logical continuation 16...♘a5 Korchnoi, possibly, disliked 17.♘d4 ♘bc4 18.♕f2 with idea of 18...♕b6 19.♘f5+!
17.♘b5 ♖hd8?
This is a losing move – Black can't survive with the white knight on d6. 17...♘xe5 was necessary – even though White can then win the exchange for a pawn by 18.♘a7!? (Another possibility is *18.♘xe5!? ♗xb5 19.♖c3 ♘c4 20.♗xc4 dxc4 21.♖xc4!* , but here Black has *21...♖hd8!* , and after *22.♕xd8+ ♖xd8 23.♖xc5 ♖xd1+ 24.♔a2* White's advantage is not so easy to prove.)

18.♘d6 ♖b8 19.♖g3 ♔f8 20.♕d3! (D)



Black resigned, because there is no defence against the threats of Qh7 and ♘xf7. **1-0**

Solution to Chess Study

V. Smyslov
Study, 2003

1.♖h4+ ♔g5 2.f4+ ♔f5 3.e4+! ♔xe4 4.f5+! ♔xf5 5.♖f4+ ♔g5 6.h4+ ♔h5 7.d5! f5! [7...exd5 8.♔h3!+-] **8.g4+!** [8.d6? ♖f6] **8...fxg4 9.♔g3!! a4** [9...exd5 10.♖f5++-] **10.d6 a3 11.d7 a2 12.♖a4! +-**

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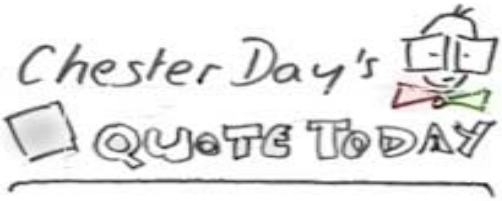

"Combinations have always been the most intriguing aspect of Chess. The masters look for them, the public applauds them, the critics praise them. It is because combinations are possible that Chess is more than a lifeless mathematical exercise. They are the poetry of the game; they are to Chess what melody is to music. They represent the triumph of mind over matter"

--- *Reuben Fine*

CHESS TODAY
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Chess news

Dortmund 2003

GM Viorel Bologan is the sole leader! In Round 3 he won against Anand. This tense game is annotated in today's issue. Radjabov and Leko agreed to a draw on move 28 in an equal position, and Kramnik was unable to convert a very small advantage in his long game vs Naiditsch.

Standings after 3 rounds:
1. Bologan – 2½
2. Kramnik – 2
3–4. Leko and Radjabov – 1½
5. Naiditsch – 1
6. Anand – ½

Montreal 2003

Standings of leaders after round 9:
1. Onischuk – 7½
2. Rozentalis – 7
3. Charbonneau – 6
4. Legky and Nataf – 5½
(12 players)

1st Malmö Masters

Standings of leaders after round 6:
1. Hellsten and McShane – 5
2. Johannessen – 4½
3. Berg – 3½
(10 players)

In **Kramatorsk, Ukraine,** a category 9 event is taking place from the 29th July to 7th August. The standings after the first half of the tournament (7 rounds) is:
1–3. Areshchenko, Efimenko, G.Kuzmin – 4
5–7. Andreev, Lahno, Arzumanian – 3½
8. Maiorov – 3
9. Kulicov – 2½

GM Igor Glek: Change the World For the Better!

Interview conducted by GM Mikhail Golubev (MG), concerning the creation of an Association of Chess Players

MG: Igor, sceptics are saying that the whole idea is a reaction of some players to poor conditions at the European Championship in Turkey in June...
IG: Yes, to some extend that tournament forced us to do something. But the understanding that chess players need their own organization had existed for quite some time.
MG: Who can join the Association?
IG: At the meeting of the participants of the European Championships on 9 June it was agreed that members of the Association could be Grandmasters and perhaps men with a rating of 2500+ and women with a rating of 2350+. In other words, chess professionals. But later the initiative group decided that it was not good to limit our membership by rating. Many people work professionally in chess: trainers, journalists, computer programmers, organizers, etc. We should enable them to take part in our organization.
MG: Who are the members of the initiative group?
IG: At present, they are GMs Bologan, Glek, Krasenkow, Lautier, Pelletier, Skripchenko, Tregubov and Kharlov. New people can join – we are open to people with ideas, who want to work for chess!
MG: How do you see the prospects of the Association and its main activities?
IG: Our main goal is to improve conditions in chess tournaments, to create a good tournament calendar and tournament formats. We will also work in providing informational and legal aid to chess players, improving

the rating system, attracting sponsors to chess and promoting chess in general. There are plenty of ideas, but the main thing is to create an effective, democratic and independent organization. We hope to work together with FIDE, other international and national chess bodies. We also trust that chess fans will support us.

MG: Recently Ukrainian female player, Rogonian, was deprived a chance to play in the Junior World Championship in Azerbaijan. At least, this is how it seems to be from Ukraine. Do you think your Association will be able to deal with such problems?

IG: I read about it. Not knowing all details, I cannot say who is responsible for it, but for sure such things should not happen. One of the direct tasks of the Association is to protect our members from the tyranny of bureaucrats of all kinds.

MG: Do you take on board the experience of GMA and PCA, which existed when Kasparov was the champion? Having organized a series of good tournaments, those organizations collapsed

IG: We see, not least in the fate of the Prague Agreement, that all attempts to unite the chess world 'from the top', after initial euphoria, inevitably fail. Why? I think that the main reason is that the role of concrete persons, even if they were great players, in them was too big – those organizations were built around certain persons and mainly for them. Wider groups of players had little role in those organizations. Let's regard the creation of our Association as an attempt to unite the chess world not from the top, but from the middle of the chess pyramid.

MG: Do you work with the Grandmaster Committee, which emerged last year, and with GM Yasser Seirawan, its member?

IG: Yes, we are in touch, Yasser sent us Charter of the Grandmaster Committee and some of its ideas will be used in our project. We see our Association as a broader organisation than that Committee, where only 200 leading players (according to rating) could vote. Most of the Committee members are over 40 and those, whom I spoke with, are rather pessimistic about the current situation in chess. On the contrary, in our group most people are under 30. They are energetic and want to change the world. This is very important! But we also have people who worked in the Grandmaster Committee – Krasenkow and Lautier.

MG: What about the website of the Association?

IG: Soon the chess public will be able to visit **www.chess-players.org**, where GMs and IMs can make suggestions concerning Charter of our Association and nominate representatives to its Council.

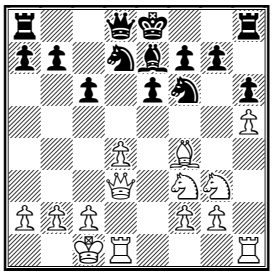
Annotated Game

□ **V. Bologan (2650)**
■ **V. Anand (2774)**

Event: *Sparkassen Chess Meeting Dortmund (3), 02.08.2003*
Caro-Kann Defence/Classical var. [B19]

Annotations by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♗f5 5.♘g3 ♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘f3 ♘d7 8.h5 ♗h7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♕xd3 ♘gf6 11.♗f4 e6 12.0-0-0 ♗e7 (D)



Black's plan to castle short in the Caro-Kann is being used nowadays by such giants as Anand, Bareev and Dreev.

13.♔b1 ♕a5

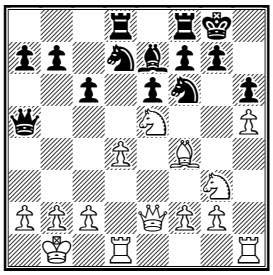
13...0-0 14.♘e4 ♕a5 15.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 16.g4 ♘xg4 17.♖dg1 ♕f5 *(17...♘xf2!?* deserves very serious study*)* 18.♕d2 g5!? was the interesting game Polgar-Anand, Wijk aan Zee 2003. Alon Greenfeld in his recent NIC Yearbook article believed in White's attacking chances, but Dreev repeated the line

for Black in the Esbjerg tournament. His opponent Nielsen deviated with 15.g4, and had no success.

14.♘e5 ♖d8 15.♕e2

15.♘c4 ♕b5 *(15...♕d5!?)* 16.♗c7 ♖c8 17.♘d6+± was Timman–Larsen, Amsterdam 1980.

15...0–0 (D)



This position occurred in the previous games via another move order (13.♘e5).

16.♘g6!?

16.c4 ♘xe5 17.dxe5 ♘d7 18.♖d2 ♗g5!= Beliavsky–Tal, USSR Cht 1981); Deserves attention 16.♗d2!? . After 16...♕c7 17.♘g6 ♖fe8 18.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 19.♘f5 ♖ee8 20.♘xh6+ gxh6 21.♗xh6∞ White had good compensation in Kauranen–Neistadt, Corr. 1984.

16...♖fe8

The variation 16...fxg6 17.♕xe6+ ♔h8 18.hxg6 *(18.♕xe7 ♘d5 19.♗d2 ♕xa2+ 20.♔xa2 ♘xe7 21.♗b4 c5∞* is unclear according to Tal*)* 18...♘g8 19.♗xh6 gxh6 *(19...♘xh6? 20.♖xh6+ gxh6 21.♕xe7+–)* 20.♖xh6+ ♘xh6 21.♕xe7 , as in Andonov–Curtacci, corr. 1990, could be promising for White.

17.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 18.♖d3

18.♗d2!?

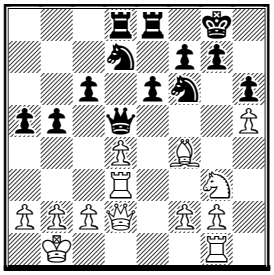
18...♖ee8 19.♖hd1

Preparation for the possible ...c5.

19...♕d5 20.♖g1 b5

20...♕a5!?

21.♕d2 a5 (D)



22.♘e2!

Bologan offers the pawn sacrifice. After 22.♗xh6 gxh6 23.♕xh6 ♘g4! Black is OK.

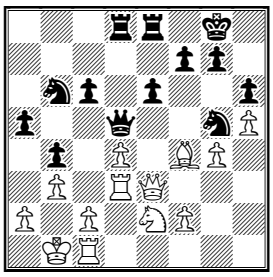
22...b4

If 22...♘xh5 , then 23.♗xh6!→; , and also dangerous for Black is 22...♕xh5 23.g4 with the of idea 23...♘xg4? 24.♖dg3 .

23.g4 ♘e4 24.♕e3 ♘g5 25.♖c1

25.♗xg5!? followed by 26.f4 deserved attention.

25...♘b6 26.b3 (D)



26...a4?!

In his turn, Anand offers the exchange sacrifice. After the normal 26...♕b5 27.c4 bxc3 28.♘xc3 ♕a6 , Black is hardly much worse.

27.♗c7 ♕a5 28.f4!?

It was possible to take the exchange: 28.♗xd8 ♖xd8 29.♘f4 , and after 29...♖a8 White can defend by 30.♖d2 ♘d5 31.♘xd5 cxd5 32.f3

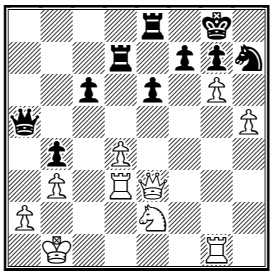
28...♘h7 29.g5

Bologan is trying to keep things in control. White could be better in complications after 29.d5!? axb3 30.cxb3 ♖a8 31.a4 exd5 (or *31...♘xd5 32.♗xa5 ♘xe3 33.♖xe3 ♖xa5 34.♘d4)* 32.♕xb6 ♕xb6 33.♗xb6 ♖xe2 34.♖xc6 ♘f6 35.♖d4

29...hxg5

29...♖a8!? 30.♗xb6 ♕xb6 31.♖g1 ♔h8 looks not so nice for Black, but nevertheless it was an alternative.

30.fxg5 ♖d7 31.♗xb6 ♕xb6 32.♖g1 axb3 33.cxb3 ♕a5 34.g6 (D)



34...fxg6

Black could calmly defend by 34...♘f6!? , but 35.gxf7+ is still better for White.

35.hxg6 ♘f6 36.♖g5 ♖d5 37.♖e5 ♘g4?

After this Black is lost, but White already had a clear advantage: 37...♖a8 38.♘c1± , and pawn e6 is lost.

38.♖xe6 ♖f8 39.♕h3 ♘h6 40.♖xc6 ♖df5 41.d5 1-0.

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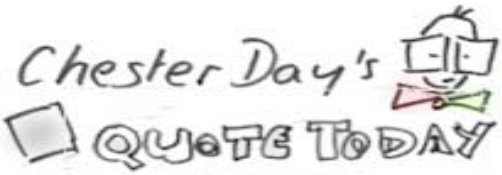


"Strategy requires thought, tactics require observation"

--- Max Euwe

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-216(1000) 4th August 2003

Welcome to CT-1000!

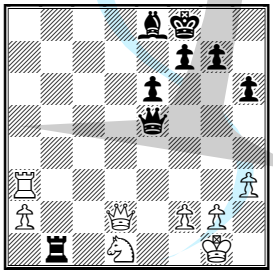
GM Alex Baburin ...

Today is a very special day for the whole Chess Today team: it was hard to foresee that one day we would publish our 1000th issue! I would also like to congratulate and thank our readers – your financial support and moral encouragement made this day possible!

Today we will talk about the history of Chess Today, our future plans and people working in the paper. But even today we won't betray our format – chess comes first! ☺

Chess Quiz

Leko (2739) – Bologan (2650)
Dortmund (4), 03.08.2003



Black to play (see page 2)

Chess News

Victor Bologan is having the tournament of his life in Dortmund – in round 4 he beat Peter Leko with Black, fortifying his lead. Leko pressed most of the game, but erred towards the end. In the wild game between two juniors the older one prevailed:

Naiditsch – Radjabov 1–0
Anand – Kramnik ½–½
Leko – Bologan 0–1

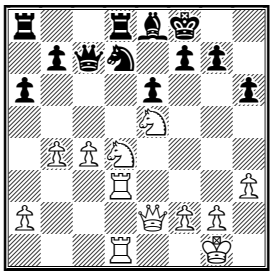
You can see all the games in our database.

□ **Leko (2739)**
■ **Bologan (2650)**
Dortmund (4), 03.08.2003
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗c4 ♘gf6 6.♘g5 e6 7.♕e2 ♘b6 8.♗d3 h6 9.♘5f3 c5 10.♗e3 ♕c7 11.♘e5 a6 12.♘gf3 cxd4 13.♗xd4 ♘bd5 14.0-0 ♗c5 15.♗b5+ ♔f8 16.♗xc5+ ♕xc5 17.♗c4 ♔e7 18.♗xd5 ♘xd5 19.c4

This issue is prepared by GM Alexander Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

♘f6 20.♖fd1 ♗d7 21.b4 ♕c7 22.♘d4 ♖hd8 23.♖d3 ♔f8 24.♖ad1 ♗e8 25.h3 ♘d7 *(D)*



White stays better and can keep the initiative with the simple 26.♘xd7+!? ♗xd7 27.c5. Instead Leko sacrificed a pawn, trying to exploit the pin on the d-file. He got a long-term initiative, but somehow let it fizzle out later:

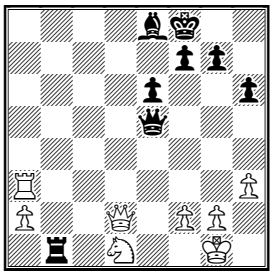
26.♘g4 ♕xc4 27.♕d2 ♖ac8 28.♘b3 ♕c7 29.♖c1

Reducing material seems to be the wrong idea; here worth considering was 29.♖d6!?, planning ♘g4-e5 and ♘b3-c5.

29...♕b8 30.♖xc8 ♕xc8 31.b5 ♕c4 32.bxa6 bxa6 33.♖d6 ♕b5 34.♘d4 ♕b1+ 35.♔h2 ♖c8 36.♘b3 ♘c5 37.♘xc5 ♖xc5 38.♖xa6 ♕b8+ 39.♔g1?

Better was 39.f4.

39...♖b5 40.♘e3 ♖b1+ 41.♘d1 ♕e5 42.♖a3 *(D)*



42...♕g5! 43.♖e3 ♗a4 44.♔h2 ♕f4+ 45.g3 ♖xd1 46.♕d8+ ♖xd8 0-1

Standings after 4 round:

1. Bologan (2650) – 3½ points;
2. Kramnik (2785) – 2½ points;
3. Naiditsch (2674) – 2 points;

4-5. Leko (2739) and Radjabov (2648) – 1½ points;

6. Anand (2774) – 1 point.

In the match Vladimir Belikov (2499) vs. 14-year old David Baramidze (2470) the Russian Grandmaster is leading 2½-1½.

Sunday was a day off in both Montreal and Malmo.

Letters from Our Colleagues

In the past few days Chess Today has received numerous letters from other chess publications, congratulating us on our coming anniversary. On behalf of the CT team I would like to thank all our chess friends around the world for their support!

"Congratulations on your 1000th issue. The only way to reach such a milestone is one at a time and I appreciate just how hard it is to keep going week after week, month after month, year after year and try and keep the standards the same. Chess coverage has reached its maturity on the Internet and there is a huge appetite for news about the great game and Chess Today offers a unique service to enthusiasts throughout the World. Good luck for the next 1000!
Mark Crowther, founder and editor of TWIC."

"One thousand issues is a great accomplishment! *Chess Today* has been a great addition to the chess community, filling its niche admirably. Congratulations to the people at *Chess Today*, particularly Alex Baburin, for keeping this excellent publication running!
Peter Kurzdorfer, Editor, Chess Life magazine"

"Congratulations to Alex Baburin and the entire staff of Chess Today on your 1,000th issue. I wish Chess Today continued success bringing chess news and articles to the chess world every day.
Hanon W. Russell, publisher ChessCafe.com"

"Dear Alexander and the CT team, When I started projecting my first magazine IdeaScacchi, you've been a source of inspiration to me. I liked the way CT looked, and I liked the idea of providing a magazine that could be read, in most of the cases, even without a chessboard. Apart from my point of view as editor, I can tell you that I consider CT a precious training tool. Every morning I have the chance to test my tactical skills with your quiz section, and to learn GM ideas and plans reading through your annotated games. I really think that every player can improve his play by reading CT, and it takes a very small effort!! (ChessToday... all my troubles seem so far away... ;-))

Keep up with the great work, and congratulations for this first milestone!
Best regards,
Davide Cortese, Italy"

Dear Alexander,
Happy birthday to your brainchild Chess Today, which is enrichment for the chess world. I wish you and your staff all the best and am looking forward to see another thousands of issues!
With kind regards,
IM Otto Borik, Editor-in-chief of Schach Magazin 64"

"In the first days of August, the daily news-letter of GM Baburin reaches the first 1000 issues. More or less 3 years. Our best wishes, with the hope that the news and the games from Italy - for the moment very few - will increase! Best regards and best wishes!
Adolivio Capece, editor of L'Italia Scacchistica"

Chess Today: Past & Future

There are not many readers who saw all 1000 issues of Chess Today - people come and go - this is only natural. So, I hope that a short essay on the history of Chess Today will be of interest.

The idea to start a daily Net-based chess newspaper came to me in the summer of 2000. I was on a plane to Copenhagen. When I am on a plane, ideas just come to my mind, I can't help it. It could be the altitude, it could be the idleness, but the most likely cause is free alcohol! ☺

Anyway, that day I thought that there was so much material in chess, that I could easily write a chess column every day. But I did not see a newspaper, which would possibly publish my chess stuff on a daily basis, so I decided to start my own paper! Pretty quickly I figured out the main ideas: the paper won't be free, it would be daily and not too long. Ideally it would inform, educate and entertain. As for the format, I settled on PDF, which allows people to see diagrams and figurines even if they don't have chess fonts on their computers. Most people use some chess software, so PGN and CBV were quickly added.

There was a lot of free and good chess stuff on the Net, so *Chess Today* had to offer something unique. It could not be just chess news – TWIC was perfect at doing that! But not many sites gave current annotated games, so that had to be our selling point. It seems that this format suits most people still, but I am open to new ideas.

The editorial team grew with the paper: Jimmy Adams (editor of *Chess Monthly*) recommended Graham Brown as an editor. Graham did the first issue and has done most of the editing since, but I was also fortunate to link with Ralph Marconi, our second editor. Tim Harding also helped with editing in the early days. Both editors, as well as all our journalists and I, learnt a lot as we went along.

As for journalists, I started writing CT during the Istanbul Chess Olympiad, where I was playing. That was a *really* crazy idea - I did not have much spare time, Net connection in Istanbul was slow, etc. But once I managed that, I knew I could produce *Chess Today!*

However, I needed help, as writing for it every day would be the shortest way to a mental asylum. So, I asked my friend IM Vladimir Barsky to join me. Then GM Ruslan Scherbakov, whom I knew from junior tournaments, joined us. Later GM Mikhail Golubev and IM Maxim Notkin joined the team. Max later brought in IM Nikolai Vlassov. Prior to that GM Kasrten Müller (Germany) and IM John Donaldson started sending their contributions. Also my former student Sam Collins (Ireland) began reviewing books in CT. Later Andy Ansel and Don Aldrich (both from USA) joined our list of reviewers. Recently I got a few reviews from other people too.

Now *Chess Today* has a very strong panel of journalists. It is likely that we will have more guest writers soon – the paper is growing and I want to diversify the content. What we really need is more readers! ☺ When CT first started, its readership quickly rose to 400, then members began to climb more steadily. I also began offering CT subs as prizes at ICC and Fritz server. GMs can receive our paper for free and currently we have about 40 such readers. Among them are such top players as Shirov, Gelfand, Svidler, Lautier, van Wely and Radjabov.

At the moment we have about 650 readers and the figure seems to have been frozen for quite some time. I even begin to suspect that there are only about 500 people on the whole Internet willing to pay for chess and that I found them all! ☺ But the experience of ICC tells otherwise, so I remain hopeful. The next year will be critical for the future of our paper – if the readership does not grow, I will have to think carefully about the vitality of the whole idea. But with more people coming to the Net, things should get better. And services charging for their stuff on the Net are becoming more accepted by the public too. The general chess public is notorious for not willing to pay for their hobby, but when CT succeeds, it will be a piece of cake to start a daily paper on golf or tennis! ☺

As for our plans, we hope to finish a few things in the near future. First, we will have more standards in our issues – I guess that some readers already saw changes in the past 2 months. We will also do more planning in advance when it comes to content. Mikhail Golubev will soon become our Content Editor, so he will overlook our editorial portfolio, etc. Another idea is to finally produce CT CDs. There are two of them in the works – years 2000–2001 and 2002. Each CD will have all PDF files from that period, one large database with annotated games and tactical quizzes (Chess Base format and PGN), Index, Acrobat Reader and Chess Base Light programs. Each CD will retail for about $20, but will be offered to the existing paying subscribers with a significant (perhaps 50%) discount.

Moving away from Yahoo is our other priority. This is not that easy as many web hosts do not allow the use of mailing software. But we have done some research and testing, so soon we might be able to depart from Yahoo, which has been quite unreliable.

Finally, I am still thinking about the best format for Chess Today. I reckon that there is a problem (mostly psychological, but no less important because of that!) with daily issues. I'd like to explain this in more detail. Imagine me, an ordinary customer, who buys a CT subscription. It is not too expensive and generally is a very good value for money. It comes to me every day, but I don't read it every day. Not a big deal – CT is still rather inexpensive. But after a while I get the impression that I am not getting full value – CT is not for me! And I terminate my subscription...

I bet that such thinking is quite common, particularly among those who do not sign up for CT in the first place because they cannot read it

every day! Of course, when I asked CT readers if they would prefer to receive CT twice a week, almost all voted for daily delivery! But I asked the audience, which already voted for that option. So, my idea is to offer a choice: we will produce daily CT (as before) ***and*** also special issues twice a week, for those who will prefer this option. Those issues will have ***all*** annotated games and quizzes in our database, some annotated games and tactical positions in PDF, all book reviews in PDF and a digest of chess news. I hope that offering this option will make CT more attractive to a wider chess audience! If you have a comment or suggestion regarding this idea, please send me a note.

Summing up, I hope that in the next few months Chess Today will become an even better and more professional publication. We hope that our readers will stay with us and that new people will join us soon – your help in promoting Chess Today is always appreciated!

People behind Chess Today

When you receive our issues, you see some text and 3 attached files – PDF, PGN and CBV. But we hope that you also see people behind this work – those who prepare chess news and annotated games for you every day! We have a small 'Who is Who' section on our website, but today I would like to use this opportunity and tell you more about our team. In some cases I will talk about them, while in others I'll use their own words. Let's start with our editors.

Graham Brown (43)

I'm British and I live in Stroud, which is a town in the west of England. I moved from London 3 years ago. Chess in London is very exciting but it is here also, with a competitive league. I still run the Kings Head website (a great London chess club!) and also the Stroud Chess Club website. I run a UK specific webzine and directory called www.easytorecall.com and am a self-employed web-designer.

When I edited CT-1 my BCF grade was 139. Now I am 169 (about 1950 Elo, I guess). I really enjoy editing CT and I'm sure my jump in grade is down to having to regularly prepare an annotated game from our experts for sending out to the CT group. When I click that send button I often think about all the homes CT is being read in. I can just imagine people reading it over their breakfast (or coffee break, depending on time zone!) in say, Japan or America or Russia and all the many other places where we have subscribers. The thing I've most enjoyed about the evolution of CT-1 to CT-1000 is seeing more and more letters – with games, encouragement, comments, errors exposed, etc, from more and more of those breakfast tables! Here's to the next 1000!

Ralph Marconi (49)

I am originally from the USA (Bronx, NYC; born in 1954), but I have been living and working in Joliette, Québec, Canada since 1981. Joliette, is a medium size town of about 50,000 and about 50 miles northeast of Montréal. My wife, Thérèse, is from Québec and is a radiologist. We have two daughters, Elaine (20) and Jennifer (19), sadly neither of whom have an interest in chess.

I am primarily a CC player and have been playing for 28 years in both USA and Canadian events and in ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation) international events. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially meeting many interesting people over the years, some of whom I have become good friends with. I haven't had much

success in OTB chess, but my Junior High School teammates and I did win the 1968 NYC Junior HS team Championship. And I came in 3rd in my class at the 1988 US Open.

I am now the NAPZ (the North American/Pacific Zone) Director. I have also directed a number of CC tournaments. I am also currently team captain for the Canada-A team in 8th Pan-American CC Team Tournament, which started in March of this year. I am also a Vice-President of the Canadian Correspondence Chess Association (CCCA).

In December of 2000, GM Alexander Baburin approached me with an offer to be one of CT's technical editors, since he was looking for a backup TE for Graham Brown. At first I was hesitant to accept his offer because I wasn't sure I was up to such a challenge. I finally decided to give it a try and I have never regretted the decision. I am especially grateful to Graham and Alex who gave me a lot of help getting me started. I have always tried to do the job best I could, and will continue to do so. I also feel by editing CT I have gained a greater understanding and appreciation of chess. It's my hope that our readers have also had a similar experience, and have enjoyed the chess content we deliver to you each day.

Our editors do a great job, not least putting up with not-so-disciplined journalists like myself. I often think that sometimes Graham (who lives in the same time zone as me) must hate me when I keep on working on CT issue deep into the night! As far as I know, our 'Moscow office' is guilty of that sin too - chess players are night creatures! ☺

Now to our journalists:

Vladimir Barsky (34), IM

I have known Vladimir since I was 17. He was doing well in junior chess, but soon took an interest in chess journalism. For years he was a deputy editor of the excellent 64-Chess Review magazine. About a year ago Vladimir became chief-editor of Russia's new publication Chess Week.

Apart from work in chess magazines, Vladimir has edited about 20 chess books and helped to compile one (*How to become GM in 14 years* by Alexandra Kosteniuk). Several of his students have become champions of Moscow in different age groups, but according to Vladimir his biggest achievement as a coach is that he taught GMs Morozevich and Bologan to ski! ☺

Vladimir lives in Moscow, is divorced, and has a daughter (6).

Ruslan Scherbakov (33), GM

During the first 2 years of our paper, Ruslan was one of the main Chess Today contributors. In the past year he has appeared in CT only occasionally, but we expect that he will be back soon. A strong GM (best rating 2580), Ruslan does not play much nowadays, working mostly as a chess journalist (he also writes for the Chess Publishing) and coach. He worked with India's women team in Bled in 2002 and spent many months in that country. Married with two children, lives in Cheliabinsk, Russia.

Mikhail Golubev (33), GM

Mikhail lives in Odessa, Ukraine, but plays a lot in Romania and Germany. His highest rating was 2570. He has written one book (on the Dragon) and is working on another book. This is what he had to say about his work in CT:

"I am not the most active writer in our team, but I enjoy working in CT

very much. This is a unique project, which should have a great future – we already have great past! ☺

It's quite amazing to prepare a thousand chess newsletters, day by day, and the most amazing people behind that are our technical editors Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi, who work on CT much more than any of the writers: every other day on average!"

Maxim Notkin (39), IM

Max is a very strong IM (best Elo 2535) and has achieved one or two GM norms. He has done many things in chess: worked as a coach in Venezuela, wrote for KasparovChess, now he works in *Chess Week*.

When it comes to domestic pets, I bet that not many CT readers can compete with Maxim: at present he has 2 cats and 2 dogs (bullmastiff and a small dog, mops in German), as well as 7 puppies from his bullmastiff! CT readers can get a good discount on those puppies! ☺

Nikolai Vlassov (37), IM

Nikolai is a very original person. In chess he is best known as a very strong blitz player. If you speak/read Russian, I suggest that you visit his website. For example, there I found his favourite slogans, like this one: "Alcohol in small dozes is harmless in any quantities!"

This is what he said about his work in CT: "I started writing for CT on the recommendation of Maxim Notkin in December 2002 and found this job very interesting. I particularly enjoy annotating games. I am not so fond of compiling the news section, especially if players can't decide the outcome of their games till late at night – when I am falling asleep! ☺ Recently I have taken up bookmaking. It is not just for pleasure because I manage to win some money."

Alexander Baburin (36), GM

What to say about me? This is a great subject, but I will try to manage it in just one sentence!

Lazy, like to read, have two kids (Ivan, 13, and Anastasia, 8), they play chess, but not too seriously, used to study physics, play the Alekhine Defence, quit university after 3.5 year (see beginning of this sentence!), play basketball (quite well!), undisciplined, good swimmer, lazy, listen to music when working, like chess, do drink, but not excessively, have a lousy opening repertoire, like Bulgakov, always take on c4, hate spammers, work as a chess coach, expensive but good, love Montagne, fianchetto the f1–bishop, married to Elena, like the Exchange Variation of the QGD, was born in Nizhniy Novgorod, used to be good at endings, have a young cat called Vas'ka, often go to Russia, play mostly in leagues, live in Dublin, publish Chess Today, wrote for more chess magazines than can possibly remember, tall (192 cm), love Internet, want to get rich, used to grab pawns, have many friends, believe that in the long run we are all dead, don't have a bike, wrote one major chess book, never played the King's Gambit, never will!, holiday in Turkey, teach chess in schools, love big wild cats, learnt chess at 7, have 2 cars, prefer game collections, don't play Lotto, believed in the Prague Agreement, don't play much chess now, rent my house, sell chess books, hate the cost of living in Dublin, use WIN2000 on my desktop, like travelling the world, want to try

the French Defence, lazy, but happy – I do what I like in life!

The Baburins in 2001

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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Chester Day's Quote Today

Literature is *the art* of writing something that will be read twice; journalism what will *be* read once.

– Cyril Connolly

A thousand cups of *wine* do not suffice when true friends meet, but half a sentence is too much when there is no *meeting* of minds.

– Old Chinese proverb

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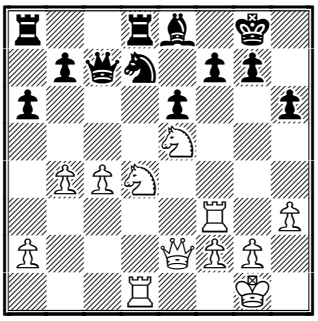
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-217(1001) 5th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Leko (2739) – Bologan (2650)
Dortmund 8.2003



White to play
(see Tale #2)

IM Nikolai Vlassov
reports ...

In honour of the 1001th tale of our collective Scheherazade we feature two games in our annotated game section today.

Dortmund – 2003

Rajabov and Bologan refused to fight and agreed a draw. Naiditsch made a gross error and lost to Anand quickly. In a lengthy duel between Kramnik and Leko the initiative was being passed from one opponent to another. At the end Kramnik saved a rook endgame a pawn down. Tomorrow I will comment on this game in detail.

Kramnik – Leko ½–½
Radjabov – Bologan ½–½
Naiditsch – Anand 0–1

Round 5 Standings: **Bologan** 4.0; Kramnik 3.0; 3–6. Radjabov, Naiditsch, Anand, Leko 2.0;

Tournoi International de Montréal

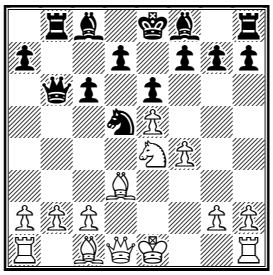
Final standings: **Rozentalis** 8½
Onischuk 8 3–4. Legky, Nataf 7

Two Dortmund Tales

□ **A Naiditsch (2574)**
■ **T Radjabov (2648)**
It Dortmund GER (4), 03.08.2003 – B45
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

Unfortunately, Radjbov did not manage to follow up his early success in this game.

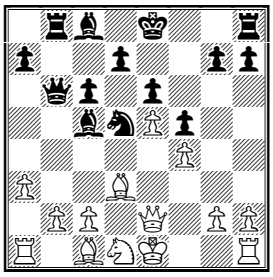
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8.♘e4 ♕c7 9.f4 ♖b8 10.♗d3 ♕b6



11.a3N
Fearing Tejmour's novelty, Naiditsch is the first to turn off. Radjabov impressively defeated Anand after 11.♕e2 ♗e7 12.c4 ♗b4+ 13.♔f1 f5 14.exf6 ♘xf6 15.♘xf6+ gxf6 16.♗e3 ♕a5 17.♔f2 ♗e7 18.c5 d5 19.cxd6 ♗xd6 20.♖hd1 ♔e7 21.♔g1 ♗c5 22.♗xc5+ ♕xc5+ 23.♔h1 ♕b4 24.♕e3 ♕a5 25.b3 ♗d7 26.♗c4 ♖bd8 27.♖e1 ♕b6 28.♕g3 ♖dg8 29.♕h3 1–0 Adams,M–Radjabov,T/Enghien les Bains FRA 2003

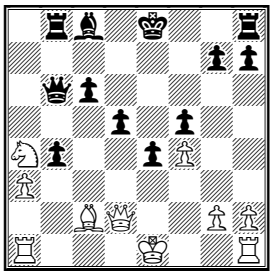
11...♗e7 12.♕e2 f5! 13.♘f2?!
More natural is 13.exf6 ♘xf6 14.♗e3 ♕xb2 15.0–0. White has an advantage in development as compensation for the pawn. Besides, his king is safe, and Black's king is not.

13...♗c5! 14.♘d1

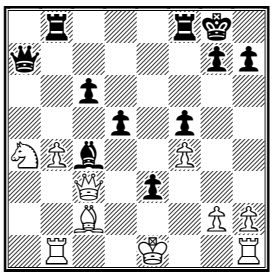


This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

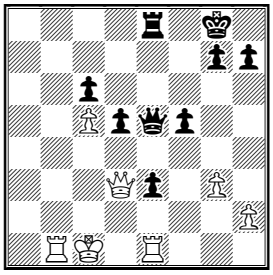
14...d6!?
Black has a good position after 14...a5
15.c4 dxe5!
This is a bold sacrifice, which proved to be correct.
16.cxd5 e4 17.♗c2 exd5
Like in his game against Anand, Tejmour has formidable passed pawns in the centre but this time as compensation for the piece.
18.b4 ♗d4 19.♗b2 a5 20.♕d2 ♗xb2 21.♘xb2 axb4 22.♘a4



22...e3! 23.♕d3 ♕a7 24.♖b1 0-0 25.axb4 ♗a6 26.♕c3 ♗c4



White's king is unable to castle, this fact allows us to assess the position in favour of Black. At this point in time it looked liked Radjabov would share the place of hero at the start of the tournament with Bologan.
27.♘c5 ♖b5?!
I think that it is better to pass over this knight instead of capturing, it is not that dangerous: 27...♕e7 ; 27...♖a8
28.♗d3 ♖xc5?! 29.bxc5 ♗xd3 30.♕xd3 ♕a5+ 31.♔d1 ♕a4+ 32.♔c1 ♖e8 33.♖e1 ♕xf4 34.g3 ♕e5

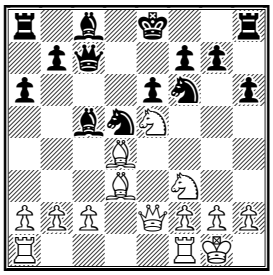


White has successfully consolidated, but even more important is that he has managed to send his extra rook from the h1-square, into the fray.
35.♖b2 g5?!
A risky game to try to win has turned into a loss. Black does not have adequate protection for his king. Nevertheless, after 35...d4 Black has very good chances for a draw.
36.♔b1 d4 37.♖b7 ♔h8 38.g4!
It is getting clear that it is White who is playing for a win now.
38...♖b8 39.♖xb8+ ♕xb8+ 40.♔c2 ♕b4 41.♖b1 ♕xc5+ 42.♔d1 ♕d5 43.♕xf5 ♕h1+ 44.♔e2 ♕xh2+ 45.♔d3 ♕d2+ 46.♔e4
46.♔c4 ♕c3# :-)
46...♕c2+ 47.♔xd4 ♕d2+ 48.♔e4
Will Radjabov's win against Anand really be his only success in this tournament, like at Linares where he defeated Kasparov playing with Black?
1-0

Tale #2

□ **P Leko (2739)**
■ **V - Bologan (2650)**
It Dortmund GER (4), 03.08.2003 B17
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

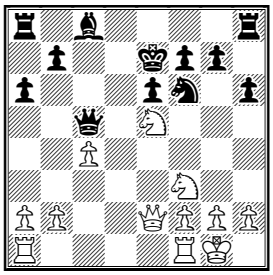
I think this game deserves some more detailed analysis because it is interesting to find out how Bologan managed to score +3.
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗c4 ♘gf6 6.♘g5 e6 7.♕e2 ♘b6 8.♗d3 h6 9.♘5f3 c5 10.♗e3 ♕c7 11.♘e5 a6 12.♘gf3 cxd4 13.♗xd4 ♘bd5 14.0-0 ♗c5



15.♗b5+ ♔f8 16.♗xc5+ ♕xc5 17.♗c4 ♔e7N
Since Rublevsky-Karpov played this line in 1998 nobody has had a desire to follow it: 17...g6 18.♗xd5 ♘xd5

19.c4 ♘f6 20.a3 ♗d7 21.♖fd1 ♗e8 22.b4 ♕e7 23.♕b2 ♔g8 24.♖d4 ♔h7 25.♖ad1 ♖f8 26.♖1d3 ♖c8 27.h3 ♖c7 28.♕d2 ♔g7 29.♖d8 ♘g8 30.♖3d6 ♗a4 31.♖xf8 ♕xf8 32.♕d4 Rublevsky,S–Karpov,A/Polanica Zdroj 1998 1–0

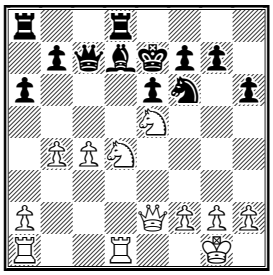
18.♗xd5! ♘xd5 19.c4 ♘f6



20.♖fd1

Possibly, it is better to move the other rook: 20.♖ad1 ♗d7 21.♘d4 ♖hd8 22.♕e3!± and Black faces serious problems. For instance, 22...♔e8 23.♘xe6 ♕xe3 24.♘c7+ ♔e7 25.fxe3 ♖ac8 26.♘d5+ ♘xd5 27.♖xf7+ ♔e6 28.♖xd5 ♗e8 *(28...♖xc4 29.♖dxd7 ♖xd7 30.♘xd7!+–)* 29.♖c7! being two pawns up.

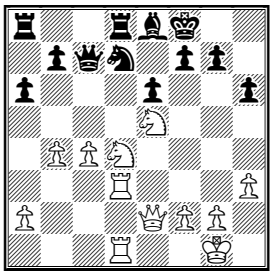
20...♗d7 21.b4 ♕c7 22.♘d4 ♖hd8



23.♖d3

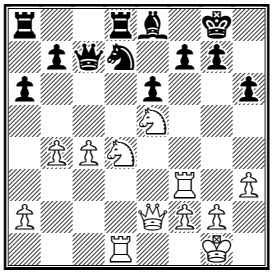
White has good prospects after 23.♘f5+ ♔f8 24.♘d6 ♗e8 25.c5± Black would not put up with the white knight on d6 for a long time and it means that White would gain the exchange.

23...♔f8 24.♖ad1 ♗e8 25.h3 ♘d7



26.♘g4?

Facing such stubborn defense, Leko loses his rate of attack. In addition to 26.♘xd7+!? suggested by Alexander Baburin 26...♗xd7 27.c5; White has the following opportunity 26.♖f3! ♔g8



27.♘xf7! ♗xf7 28.♘xe6 ♗xe6 29.♕xe6+ ♔h8 30.♕e7! ♕xc4 31.♖g3 ♖g8 32.♖xd7 and White is close to a win.

26...♕xc4! 27.♕d2?

One error treads upon another's heels. Black experiences much more difficulty after the strong move 27.♕e4! h5 28.♘e3 ♕c7 29.♕h7 ♘f6 30.♕h8+ ♘g8 31.♘ec2!±

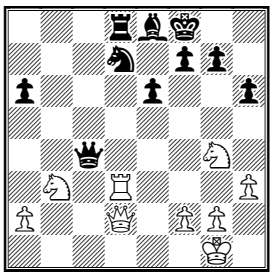
27...♖ac8 28.♘b3

White had better take the pawn with 28.♘xh6 It is not possible to take the white knight: 28...gxh6 29.♕xh6+ ♔e7 30.♘f5+ exf5 31.♕d6#

28...♕c7 29.♖c1

29.♖d6!? indicated by Alexander Baburin

29...♕b8 30.♖xc8 ♕xc8 31.b5 ♕c4 32.bxa6 bxa6



33.♖d6?

White's position is still quite formidable despite the fact he is a pawn down. For example, after 33.♘e5 he can gain the exchange: 33...♕c7 *(33...♕b5 34.♕a5! ♕xa5 35.♘xa5± g5 36.♘b7 ♘xe5 37.♖xd8 ♔e7)* 34.♕b4+ ♔g8 35.♕e7 ♕xe5 36.♕xd8 ♕e1+ 37.♔h2 ♘f6± I am not sure that it's sufficient for the victory but, at least, it is clear who is playing for a win.

This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Graham Brown.
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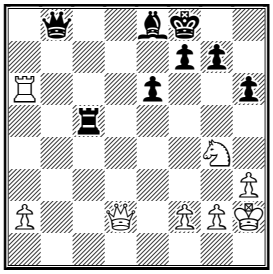
33...♕b5 34.♘d4 ♕b1+ 35.♔h2 ♖c8 36.♘b3 ♘c5 37.♘xc5 ♖xc5 38.♖xa6

After 38.♖xe6 ♕b8+ 39.♕d6+ ♕xd6+ 40.♖xd6 ♖a5! White has a problem with protection of his pawn on a2.

38...♕b8+



And here Black has obtained a slight advantage. During time trouble Leko slips up once more:

39.♔g1?

More stubborn is 39.f4 shown by Alexander Baburin

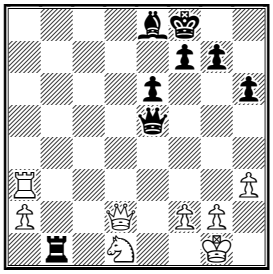
39...♖b5 40.♘e3

And once more! After 40.♕d6+ suggested by Alexander Baburin 40...♕xd6 41.♖xd6 ♖b1+ 42.♔h2 ♖b2 43.♔g3 ♖xa2∓ White is a pawn down but should not have lost.

40...♖b1+ 41.♘d1

41.♘f1 ♗b5–+

41...♕e5! 42.♖a3



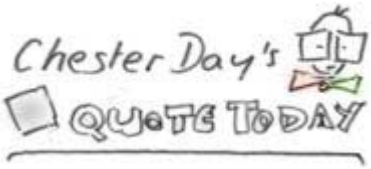
42...♕g5!–+

Black is a piece up.

43.♖e3 ♗a4 44.♔h2 ♕f4+ 45.g3 ♖xd1 46.♕d8+ ♖xd8

Instead of outplaying Bologan and occupying leading positions, Leko went to the bottom of the tournament table. However, Victor is lucky like a first-prize winner. I doubt he chose such a hard position in the opening on purpose. It is more likely he muddled something up. But his persistent defence was fully rewarded!

0-1



Examine moves that smite! A good eye for smites is far more important than a knowledge of strategical principles.

– Purdy

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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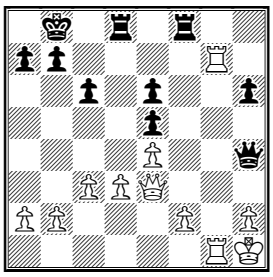
CT-218(1002) 6th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Teofilo – Vasconcellos
Rio de Janeir 1944



White to play

Chess News

The 10th International Nice Open is in progress in the French Riviera. It is a 7-round event with 164 players, including 8 GMs and 7 IMs. Among them are GMs Igor Miladinovic (2609 GRE), Vladimir Georgiev (2566 MKD), Nikola Mitkov (2552 MKD) and IM Mark Paragua (2500 PHI)

The 1st Malmo Masters tournament

After 8 rounds
1. McShane 6½ **2.** Johannessen 5½ **3.** Hellsten 5 **4.** Speelman 4½ etc.

Hogeschool Zeeland Schaaktoernooi 2003: After 4 rounds 1-6. Iordachescu, Nisipeanu, Kasimdzhanov, Geirnaert, Solleveld, Tiviakov 4points

Chess Today keeps receiving good wishes from our colleagues around the world and here is one of them:

"With up-to-date professional coverage of modern chess, CT is a must-have for any chess editor. Keep up the good work.
Carl Eric Horda, editor of Norwegian chess magazine Norsk Sjakk Blad"

Some of our readers know that it is possible to win a subscription to CT by playing in tournaments both on ICC and Fritz server. The latter site published a nice piece about Chess Today recently.

Another item of Web news is that GM Mikhail Golubev has stopped updating the Ukrainian Chess Online website. You can read his goodbye message. It is sad that a good and informative site will be no more, but on the other hand we are glad that Mikhail will have more time for Chess Today, where he will soon become the content editor.

Chess & Books with Fred Wilson
Live Internet Radio Show

Today, on Wednesday, August 6th, Fred's guest will be David MacEnulty, one of the premier children's chess teachers in the United States. He will discuss the methods he devised to create his amazingly successful children's chess teams which won 5 consecutive NYS Scholastic Championships and won 3 National Team titles! David also produced, wrote and starred in the superb beginner's video *Chess for Children*, and has just published two new terrific books for novices, *The Chess Kid's Book of Tactics* and *The Chess Kids Book of the King and Pawn Endgame*.
Email your questions for Fred or David and tune in! Schedule for today: 17:00 EST – Replay of Patrick Wolff interview; 19:00 EST – Replay of Bruce Alberston interview; 21:00 EST – Live Show; 23:00 EST Replay show.

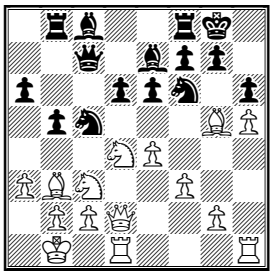
Annotated Games

☐ **A Naiditsch (2574)**
■ **V Anand (2774)**
It Dortmund GER (5), 04.08.2003 B86
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 ♘bd7 8.♗g5 ♕a5 9.♕d2 ♗e7 10.f3

♘c5 11.0-0-0 ♕c7 12.♔b1 0-0 13.h4 b5

.... 13...Bb7!? has been played here before. The fact is that in this position the queen reaches c7 in one move and then it is Black's turn to manoeuvre. We can consider that the opening has taken a favourable turn for White. However, he had better spend his extra tempo to weaken the enemy king, not his own.

14.a3 ♖b8 15.h5 h6



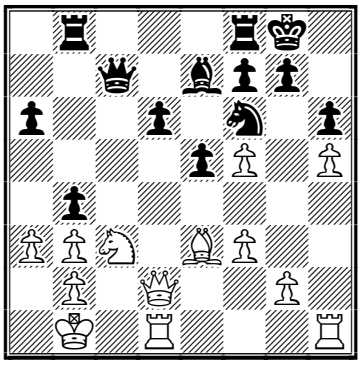
16.♗e3?

The following does not offer anything for White 16.♗xh6 gxh6 17.♕xh6 ♘h7; but it is necessary to retreat to h4 with the white bishop, and not to lose sight of the f6-knight.

16...e5!

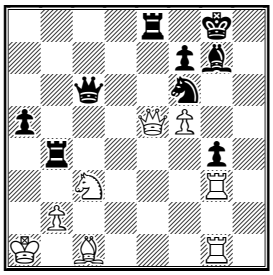
I think that Naiditsch simply failed to notice this strong and specific retort. Nobody wishes to face such positions with White.

17.♘f5 ♗xf5 18.exf5 ♘xb3 19.cxb3 b4!



White's position is in ruins. It was no trouble for Anand to turn his advantage into a win.

20.axb4 ♖xb4 21.♕c2 ♕b7 22.g4 ♖xb3 23.g5 ♖b8 24.♗c1 hxg5 25.h6 ♕xf3 26.♔a1 ♗f8 27.hxg7 ♗xg7 28.♖hg1 g4 29.♖xd6 ♖3b6 30.♖d3 ♕c6 31.♖dg3 ♖b4 32.♕e2 a5 33.♕xe5 ♖e8



White's queen is trapped in the centre of the board.

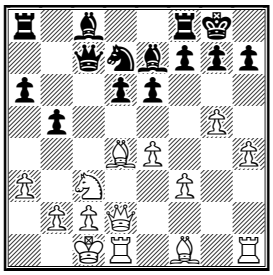
0-1

□ **V Kramnik (2785)**
■ **P Leko (2739)**

It Dortmund GER (5), 04.08.2003 B80

Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e6 7.f3 ♗e7 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.g4 ♘xd4 11.♗xd4 b5 12.g5 ♘d7 13.h4 ♕c7 14.a3N



The same preventive move as in the Naiditsch-Anand encounter (the games were played simultaneously!) is more justifiable here. 14.♔b1 b4 15.♘a4 ♗b7 16.b3 ♗c6 17.♘b2 a5 18.h5 ♘e5 19.♗e2 a4 20.♘c4 ♗b5 21.♘b6 ♖ab8 22.h6 ♗xe2 23.♕xe2 g6 24.f4 ♘c6 25.♘xa4 ♘xd4 26.♖xd4 e5 27.♖c4 ♕a5 28.f5 ♗xg5 Leko,P-Kasparov,G/Linares ESP 2003/½-½

14...♘e5 15.♗e2

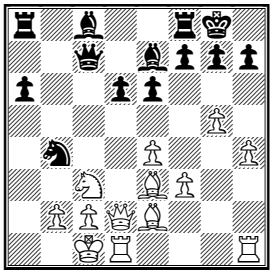
The following deserves consideration 15.f4 ♘f3 *(or 15...♘c4 16.♗xc4 ♕xc4 17.h5 b4 18.axb4 ♕xb4* with a double-edged position.*)* 16.♕f2 ♘xd4 17.♕xd4 and after 17...♕c5 18.♕xc5 dxc5 19.♗g2 the endgame is not safe for Black. It is not that easy for him to neutralize pressure across the d-file. as well as 15.♕f2 ♘c4 16.f4. Kramnik had been thinking for a long time, it was a hard task to make a decision.

15...♘c6!?

The knight moves to c6, not to c4, which is a bit unexpected. But Leko

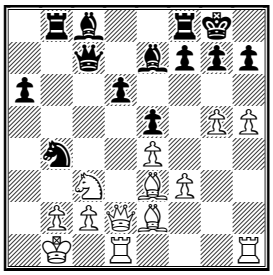
takes the correct decision: the d4-bishop is more dangerous than the one on e2.

16.♗e3 b4 17.axb4 ♘xb4



Black has already managed to open files to attack the white king. White is a bit late, the reason for which is the job found by Leko for his knight that reveals the disadvantages of the a3-move.

18.h5 ♖b8 19.♔b1 e5!?

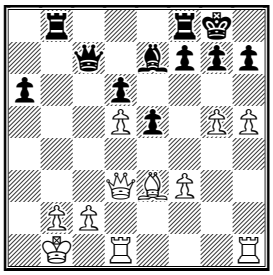


One more important decision - Black advances his bishop to an active position. At the same time White's defence is simplified in view of exchanges.

20.♘d5!

Despite the outward activity this move is purely defensive. White exchanges the attacking pieces of his opponent. White cannot afford any real activity after 20.f4 exf4 21.♗xf4 ♗e6 22.♗xd6 ♗xd6 23.♕xd6 ♕a5 where Black has a very strong attack as compensation for the pawn.

20...♘xd5 21.exd5 ♗f5 22.♗d3 ♗xd3 23.♕xd3



After exchanges have taken place, it becomes even clearer that Black is attacking. He pushes across the b-file and he is able to treble his pieces. White needs to defend carefully.

23...♖b4 24.♖hg1

This is made in order not to overload the c1-bishop with protection of the d5-pawn.

24...♖fb8 25.♗c1 ♕b7 26.♕a3 ♖b5!

The pawn on d5 is a new subject of attack.

27.♕a2 f5!?

Leko involves his bishop in the attack without taking into account the weakening of his own king. 27...♗d8 deserves consideration, involving the bishop in the game with the plan a5-c3 or b6-d4.

28.gxf6 ♗xf6 29.b3!?

A very good decision taken during mutual time trouble. If Black takes on d5, the white king will be safe, but the black one won't.

29...♖xd5!

This move requires courage and accurate calculation.

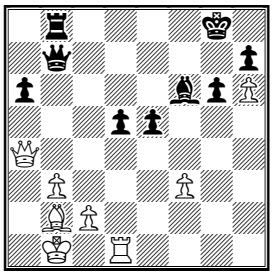
30.h6!?

Also possible is 30.b4 ♕xb4+ 31.♗b2 *(31.♔a1?? e4+-+)* 31...♕xb2+ 32.♕xb2 ♖xb2+ 33.♔xb2 e4+ 34.c3 ♖b5+ 35.♔c2 exf3 36.♖gf1 Black has two pawns as compensation for exchange, but White must make a draw.

30...g6 31.♕a4

31.b4 ♕xb4+ 32.♗b2 ♕xb2+ 33.♕xb2 ♖xb2+ 34.♔xb2 e4+ 35.c3 ♖xd1 36.♖xd1 exf3 37.♖f1 g5 38.♖xf3 ♔f7 However, here White can lose: the h6-pawn is weak and the black passed g pawn is very dangerous.

31...♖xd1 32.♖xd1 d5 33.♗b2



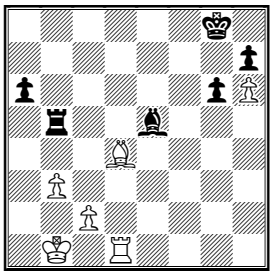
White has obtained safety for his pawn and this is important in time trouble.

33...d4 34.f4?

This allows Black to exchange

queens. After that only two outcomes are possible without any risk for Leko. Better is 34.♕c4+ ♕f7 35.♕xa6=

34...♕b5! 35.♕xb5 ♖xb5 36.fxe5 ♘xe5 37.♘xd4



White has a pretty difficult endgame.

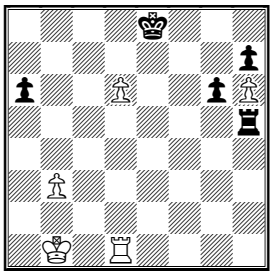
37...♖d5 38.c3 ♘xd4 39.cxd4

A pawn endgame looks losing for White: 39.♖xd4 ♖xd4 40.cxd4 g5 41.♔c2 ♔f7 42.♔d3 ♔e6 43.♔e4 a5! 44.d5+ ♔d6 45.♔f5 ♔xd5 46.♔xg5 ♔e5! 47.♔g4 ♔f6–+; 39.♔c2!?

39...♖h5

After 39...g5 40.♔c2 ♔f7 41.♔d3 ♖d6 42.♔e4! ♖xh6 43.♔f5 White must draw it.

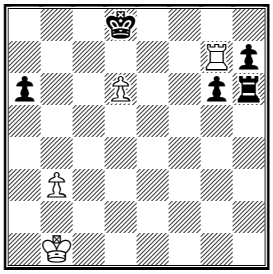
40.d5 ♔f7 41.d6 ♔e8



42.♖e1+!

The only plan giving White an opportunity to escape.

42...♔d8 43.♖e7 ♖xh6 44.♖g7



The last crucial moment of the game.

44...g5?!

White's task is more difficult after 44...♖h5! 45.♔c2 ♖d5 46.♖xh7 ♖xd6 47.♔c3 ♔e8 48.♔c4 ♔f8 I am not sure in the assessment of this endgame.

45.♖xg5 ♖g6 46.♖a5 ♖xd6 47.♔c2 ♔e8 48.b4 ♖b6

48...♔f7 49.b5 axb5 50.♖xb5 ♔g6 51.♖b3 h5 52.♖d3 thanks to the black outside pawn, White makes a draw.

49.♔d3 ♔f7 50.♔e3 ♔g6 51.♔f3 h5 52.♔g3 ½–½

Solution to Quiz: 24.♖xb7+! 24.♖xb7+ ♔xb7 25.♖g7+ ♔c8 26.♕xa7+– **1–0**

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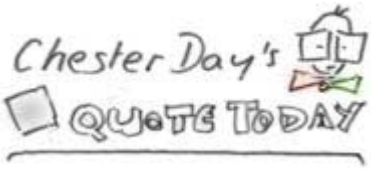


One bad move nullifies 40 *good ones.*

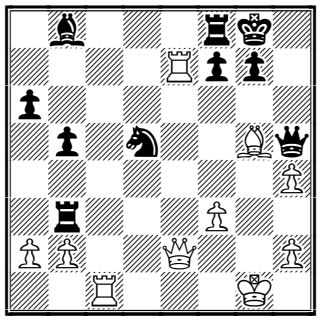
Horowitz

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-219(1003) 7th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Bologan (2650) – Naiditsch (2574)
Dortmund 06.08.2003

32... ♖xb3
A very tempting decision, after which Black looks completely OK. However, White kept everything under control.



White to play (See page 3)

Chess News

With GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Viorel Bologan strengthened his lead after the 6th round of the super-tournament Dortmund-2003 – now he is already 1½ points ahead!

Today Viorel won a wonderful game against Arkady Naiditsch – enjoy his masterful play in our games section.

Teimour Radjabov played very solid chess against Vladimir Kramnik and their game ended in a draw without much fighting.

There was a tough battle between heavy-weight fighters Peter Leko and Vishy Anand. Once again Leko showed his very poor form while Anand has already recovered after the very poor start – his second win in a row with black pieces pushed him into the clear 3rd place.

Bologan – Naiditsch **1:0** Radjabov – Kramnik ½:½ Leko – Anand **0:1**

Round 6 standings:
1. Bologan – 5 points,
2. Kramnik – 3½
3. Anand – 3
4. Radjabov – 2½
5-6. Leko, Naiditsch – 2.

The 1st Malmo Masters tournament has just finished in Sweden. **Luke McShane** of England proved his strength – the runner-up came 1½ points behind!

Final Standings:
1. McShane (ENG, 2619) 7½ points;
2. Johannessen (NOR, 2525) – 6;
3-5. Speelman (ENG, 2589), Hellsten (SWE, 2511), Berg (SWE, 2495) – 5½;
6-7. Jakobsen (DEN, 2381), Brynell (SWE, 2511) – 4;
8. Ahlander (SWE, 2393) – 3
9-10. Sebag (FRA, 2432), Tairi (SWE, 2245) – 2.

Rustam Kasimdzhanov (UZB) keeps perfect score after 5 rounds of the Hogeschool Zeeland Schaaktoernooi 2003

1. Kasimdzhanov – 5 points,
2-8. Nisipeanu, Tiviakov, Iordachescu, Solleveld, S.Pedersen, Werle, Afek – 4½ etc. (240 participants)

The US Open has begun in Los Angeles. There are currently 33 players tied for 1st with 2 points, including GMs Kaidanov, Handoko and Sharavdorj.

The news from TWIC:
Press release from Owen Williams Worldwide Agent for Garry Kasparov:

"FIDE has announced the World Chess Championship for September/October 2003. Kasparov vs Ponomariov will take place in Yalta, Ukraine on September 18th (opening ceremony) to October 7th, 2003"

In addition there has been an announcement from FIDE

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

IM **John Donaldson** reports:

Nineteen year old IM **Varuzhan Akobian** of Glendale, CA won the U.S. Junior Chess Championship, held July 26-31, 2003 at the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Chess Museum in Miami, Florida. Akobian had seven wins and two draws to score eight out of a possible nine points. As a result of this victory, he will be seeded into the 2004 United State Chess Championship.

IM Dmitry Schneider of New City, NY took second place with 6 points. FM Lev Milman of Woodbury, NY finished third with 5½ points.

Akobian said that his best game was his first round victory over Hoekstra."

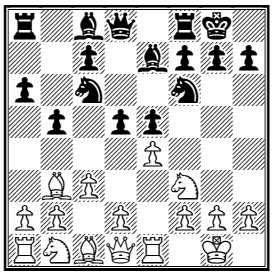
Many thanks to John Donaldson for the news and the game, which we included into the CT-database.

Annotated Game

□ **V Bologan (2650)**
■ **A Naiditsch (2574)**
Dortmund (6), 06.08.2003 C89
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

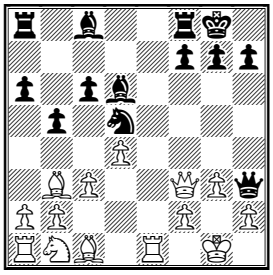
In this game, Viorel Bologan showed a wise choice of opening, made very strong and well-thought out decisions at critical moments of the game and precise calculations and study-like ideas - is he not one of the top players after that?!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 0-0 8.c3 d5



Arkady bravely sacrifices a pawn for the initiative. To play the Marshall Attack successfully one should not only have very deep theoretical knowledge but also feel the spirit of the position very well.

9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♖xe5 c6 12.d4 ♗d6 13.♖e1 ♕h4 14.g3 ♕h3 15.♕f3



A very rare move, which possibly took Black by surprise. Now he has to show his skill in developing the initiative without just using theoretical knowledge. 15.♗e3 ♗g4 16.♕d3 ♖ae8 *(16...f5!?)* 17.♘d2 ♖e6 *(*or *17...f5* are the well trodden lines of the Marshall Attack.*)*

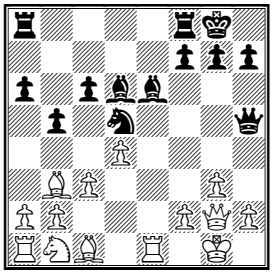
15...♗e6?!

A rather unusual and probably not the best decision. In this type of position Black should fight for the initiative more actively - this bishop should disturb the White queen while he should also think about the advance of his f-pawn. 15...♗g4 16.♕g2 ♕h5 looked more in the spirit of the position.

16.♕g2!?

A new and promising continuation. The game Basualto - Aguirre Izaguirre, Santiago 1998 continued 16.♗e3 ♖ae8 17.♘d2 f5 18.♗f4! ♗xf4 19.gxf4 ♕h6 20.♘f1 and White has also got better chances.

16...♕h5



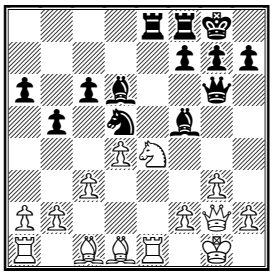
17.♗d1!

A clever idea - Black cannot disturb the White queen from h3 anymore.

17...♕g6 18.♘d2 ♖ae8 19.♘e4

White's chances look preferable – Black has not managed to seize the strong initiative.

19...♗f5



Yet, White still has one serious problem – his rook on a1 is out of play.

20.f3?!

This pawn advance creates some weaknesses. 20.♗f3!?, followed by Bc1–d2, looked safer.

20...c5!?

The advance of the f-pawn is off the agenda so Black is trying to disturb White from the other side.

21.♗d2 cxd4 22.cxd4 ♗b8?!

This is harmless for White. An active 22...♘b4!? came into consideration.

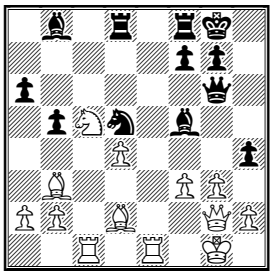
23.♗b3 ♖d8 24.♘c5

Obviously Black has not achieved any compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

24...h5

It is not easy to suggest another more fruitful idea.

25.♖ac1 h4



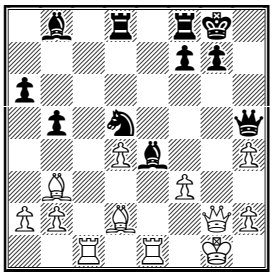
26.gxh4!?

The Black pawn was rather annoying so Viorel chooses the most principled way to solve the problem. Yet, it slightly opens his king so now White should be very careful.

26...♕h5

26...♕f6!? seemed to be more tenacious, attacking the more important d4-pawn.

27.♘e4 ♗xe4



Black was more or less forced to exchange this strong knight.

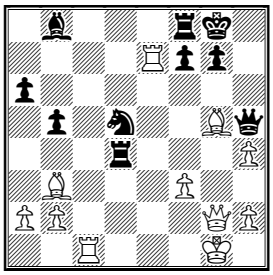
28.♖xe4!

28.fxe4 ♘f4 29.♗xf4 ♗xf4 30.♖cd1 ♖d6 gave Black real counter chances thanks to the White king not being quite safe.

28...♘f6 29.♖e7 ♖xd4 30.♗g5

White's bishops, especially the light-squared one, are fairly strong so his chances look preferable. Yet, the position is rather concrete and Black has one option...

30...♘d5



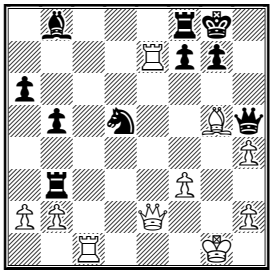
31.♕f2!

A very strong decision. White is using the unstable position of Black's pieces in the center but to make it work he has to foresee a wonderful idea.

31...♖d3

31...♘xe7 32.♕xd4± was clearly better for White.

32.♕e2! ♖xb3



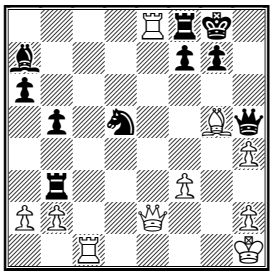
A very tempting decision, after which Black looks completely OK. However, White kept everything

under control. Again, 32...♘xe7 33.♕xd3± was not much fun for Black.

33.♖e8!!

The point of White's idea.

33...♗a7+ 34.♔h1

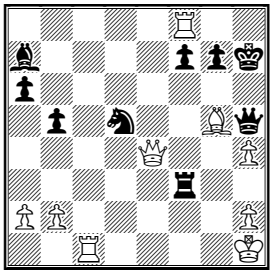


It becomes clear that Black is just losing his rook on f8 since the White bishop on g5 helps to create a mating net for the Black king even after the possible queen exchange!!!

34...♖xf3??

Probably being shocked, Black is losing on the spot. 34...♕xf3+ was the only way to stay in the game although after 35.♕xf3 ♖xf3 36.♖xf8+ ♔h7 *(36...♔xf8?? 37.♖c8#)* 37.h5! ♗d4 38.♖d8!? ♖f5 39.♖cc8! g6 40.hxg6+ ♔xg6 41.♗c1 White kept good winning chances.

35.♖xf8+ ♔h7 36.♕e4+



Black resigned. A wonderful game by Viorel Bologan! **1-0**

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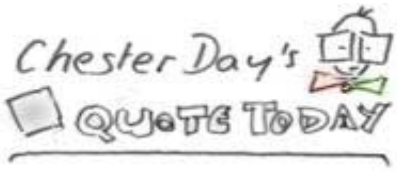

I had a toothache during the first game. In the second game I had a headache. In the third game it was an attack of rheumatism. In the fourth game, I wasn't feeling well. And in the fifth game? Well, must one have to win *every* game? –

Saviely Tartakower

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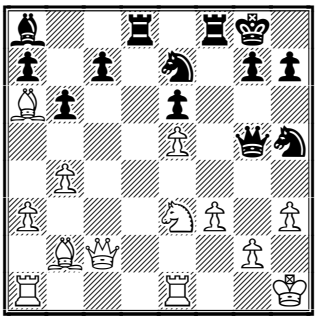
Chess Quiz

Sebag (2432) – Brynell (2511)
Malmo 2003



Black to play

Chess News

With IM Vladimir Barsky

The hero of today's issue, **Vishy Anand,** beat the leader, Viorel Bologan, in the 7th round of the "Dortmund Sparkassen Chess Meeting 2003" and now shares second place with Vladimir Kramnik. As for Bologan, he's never the less leading by a clear point!

Round 7 results:
Anand – Bologan **1:0**
Naiditsch – Kramnik **½:½**
Leko – Radjabov **½:½**

Round 7 Standings:
1. Bologan – 5 points
2-3. Anand, Kramnik – 4
4. Radjabov – 3
5-6. Naiditsch, Leko – 2½

Round 8 Pairings:
Radjabov – Naiditsch
Kramnik – Anand
Bologan – Leko

Hogeschool Zeeland Schaaktoernooi
Round 6 Standings:
1-4. Kasimdzhanov, Tiviakov, Iordachescu, Afek – 5½ points
5-12. Nisipeanu, Ikonnikov, Arkell, Ernst, Stellwagen, Roeder, Vijayalakshmi, Van Gool – 5 etc.

After the 3rd round of the US Open in Los Angeles 14 players have a perfect score:
1-14. Kaidanov, Handoko, Ganbold, Sharavdorj, Andrianov, Taylor, Ortiz, Pruess, Weinberger, del Pilar, Neff, Rowley, Ilfeld, Au – 3 points etc.

Stop the Circus!

Former FIDE World Champion **Viswanathan Anand:** "The chess world can't go on like this"

Former FIDE chess World Champion Viswanathan Anand celebrated several victories last year. Except for Linares (Spain), the 33-year old Indian won all the events in which he took part. Because of that, the 'Tiger from Madras' received the Sportsperson of the Year from the Indian edition of the world-renowned Laureus Sports Awards. Only one thing seems to be annoying Anand: the World Championship cycle. ***Hartmut Metz*** *(his questions are in bold) talked to Vishy Anand about the crisis at the top of professional chess.*

HM: Mr. Anand you have regretted that "politics has taken over chess". Please tell us more about your point of view at the top.
VA: Politics has been part of chess since 1993 since I can remember. I hope that there is a final silver lining. The situation is a complete mess. The chess world can't go on like this. The last three years was a circus. We all hope that there will be a unification.
HM: Who is responsible for this mess?
VA: I think the names are evident. I don't need to take a roll call. Till there is a World Championship cycle this issue is not in my interest to discuss.

Because of the prevailing world economic condition it is tough to get sponsors and people are still trying to hold three World Championship matches. And the end result is that you don't have a single marketable person.

HM: Two days ago I talked to Alexei Shirov. He claimed that he doesn't care too much about the situation. But it would be a pity for you that you haven't hade a chance to grab the world championship title.

VA: It is every sportsperson's dream to play for the world title.

HM: During the last months you won every tournament except Linares. Do you feel being the strongest player in the moment?

VA: I am playing well. I do hope to win some more. I do not want to think in macro terms. I hope to better my play in many areas.

A N A N D
– *by* ***Frank Stiefel***

HM: Was it an advantage that you decided not to care too much about the world championship, as you mentioned last year? The other top players in this "cycle" except Leko – Ponomariov, Kasparov and Kramnik – didn't show their best form. Maybe because of all this stuff, which costs energy and nerves?

VA: They have their reasons. They are the best judges.

HM: What are your proposals to unify the chess world?

VA: A fair shot at the World Title for everyone would be a good beginning. Right now everybody except 4 players is excluded. At this point we have too many proposals and no action!

HM: Would you be quite optimistic for the future of the game after a unification? Or does it depend who will be the one and only champion?

VA: Chess has received a great stimulus from the Internet and from growth in India and China for example. For big commercial events, an unified system is most important.

HM: In India chess has been very popular. You have once again been voted sportsman of the year.

VA: Chess has grown considerably in India. It is now a major sport in India. The International Age categories receive a lot of Indian participation. This is evidence that Chess is growing at the school level. The Mind Champions Academy a virtual mental gymnasium, where children from 2500 schools will be able to dabble with chess and have fun, is also being tested. I received the Sports-person of the year from the Indian edition of the World renowned Laureus Sports Awards. The awards were judged by sports luminaries and a huge cross section of sports journalists. It was a secret ballot so I don't know the rankings. I got to know later that there were 5 of the top sportspersons in contention. It was the first time the awards have been held in India. I have been given Sportsperson of the Year Awards many times in the past by leading Sports magazines and by the Government of India.

HM: At home you did some charity work too. Please tell us about this.

VA: Along with NIIT, World leaders in Information technology learning and my global sponsors we do relevant programs where people, especially children from less privileged conditions, also get to learn about computers. The World Computer literacy day on December 2nd is one such initiative. This is a continuing endeavor to bridge the digital divide. Recently we visited Vidyasagar, an institute for Children with specific mental disabilities. I have been appointed their global brand

ambassador and through this joint initiative we will heighten awareness for the cause of thee children. It will be interesting to note that many of these children are actually very talented chess players. I make various appearances for charities. Child related issues are related closest to our hearts.

HM: Let's talk about the forthcoming events in Germany: Dortmund and Chess Classic Mainz. What are your expectations?

VA: I hope to make the most of the German summer!

HM: Last time in Dortmund you played very badly and Kramnik is winning there all the time. You think you can change this in August?

VA: That was then. This is now. I hope to play well and the past isn't important.

HM: In Mainz Judit Polgar challenges you in an 8 game rapid match. Except for once you have been the king of Chess Classic. Is she able to stop your success?

VA: We are old rivals. I've played some very nice games against her, like my game against her in Roquebrune 1992. I have to play 100%.

HM: Except for her defeat against Gelfand in their rapid match, the No. 1 ranked woman in the world has been outstanding over recent months. For example, Polgar was second in Wijk aan Zee (Netherlands) and unbeaten; like the winner Anand. Do you see any reasons why she has made such a progress?

VA: She seems to be working hard and her vast experience shows. I guess she is just happy playing chess right now. Gelfand played really well and fully deserved his triumph. He took all his chances when they came and that was decisive. Still, I am sure Judit will come back.

HM: Is it enough to win the title in Mainz? You are the strongest rapid player in world.

VA: I have to play well. The better player in Mainz will win.

HM: In the German Bundesliga you played very well with 6/7. So did the other top boards Peter Svidler and Michal Krasenkov. But your team Baden-Oos finished only in eight place. Now Alexei Shirov and Francesco Vallejo Pons join the team. Is the team from Baden-Baden strong enough now to beat three-times champion Lübeck and vice champion Cologne-Porz?

VA: The philosophy of the team, the sponsors, Grenke Leasing and personally Mr. Grenke is to build a team with long-term prospects. One of the aims is to nourish local talent. The eclectic mix of local players and International stars can only enhance the flavour of the team. There is a great sense of bonding in the team. Most of us are good friends now. Regarding performance we are quite happy with our debut. Of course we will strive higher next season. Of course there are other strong teams, but we can control our destiny.

HM: You worked together with Vallejo Pons. Did you arrange that the Spaniard transfers from Emsdetten to Baden-Oos?

VA: I am a chess player not his manager. This is not football!

HM: Last question: In the new rankings you made some progress in comparison to the other top players. Who is the strongest chess player in the world today?

VA: In terms of ranking, Kasparov is No.1. I have done well in the present list. Personally I want to play better, improve my chess and enjoy my life. Sobriquets are for journalists. I just want to do my job well and keep making progress.

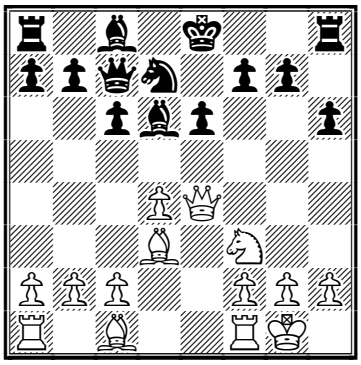
Annotated Game

□ V Anand (2774)
■ V Bologan (2650)

It Dortmund GER (7), 07.08.2003 B17

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘g5 ♘gf6 6.♗d3 e6 7.♘1f3 ♗d6 8.♕e2 h6 9.♘e4 ♘xe4 10.♕xe4 ♕c7 11.0-0



A popular and sharp line of the Caro-Cann.

11...b6

11...c5 12.♖e1 ♘f6 13.♕h4 ♗d7 *(13...b6 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.♗g5 ♘d5 16.♗e4 ♗b7∞* Vorobiov,E-Kharitonov,A/St Petersburg 2001*)* 14.♘e5 cxd4 15.♕xd4 ♗c6 16.♘xc6 bxc6± Kveinys,A-Speelman,J/Bled 2002

12.♕g4 g5

12...♔f8 13.♖e1 ♘f6∞

13.♕h3

13.♖e1 ♘f6 14.♕h3 g4 15.♕h4 gxf3 16.♕xf6 ♗xh2+ 17.♔h1 fxg2+ 18.♔xg2 ♖g8+

13...♖g8 14.♖e1!N

A very strong novelty. Anand shows that the threat of g5-g4 isn't that dangerous in reality. 14.♘d2 ♗b7 15.a4 0-0-0 16.a5 c5 Ponomariov, R-Anand,V/ Mainz 2002; 14.♕xh6? ♗f8-+; 14.♗h7!?

14...♗f8

After 14...g4 there are some possible lines (I'm sure Anand had analyzed them till checkmate!) 15.♕xh6 gxf3 16.♖xe6+ fxe6 *(16...♗e7 17.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 18.♗f4 ♕b7 19.♖e1++-; 16...♔d8 17.♖xd6+-)* 17.♕xe6+ ♗e7 *(17...♔f8 18.♗h6+ ♖g7 19.♗g6+-)* 18.♕xg8+ ♘f8 19.♗g6+!?

15.♕f5!?

15.♖xe6+ ♔d8 16.♖e3 ♘e5 17.♕g3 ♘xd3 18.♖xd3 ♕xg3 19.hxg3 ♔c7± and Black had some chances to escape in the endgame.

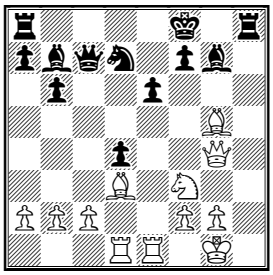
15...♗g7

15...♖g6 16.♗d2!?±

16.h4 ♔f8 17.♕h3 ♖h8 18.hxg5 hxg5 19.♕g4 c5!?

Obviously black has to find some counterplay.

20.♗xg5 cxd4 21.♖ad1 ♗b7



At first sight Black is more or less OK now, but...

22.♖xe6!!

A crushing blow! Is it home preparation also?!

22...fxe6 23.♗e7+! ♔xe7

23...♔f7 24.♕g6+

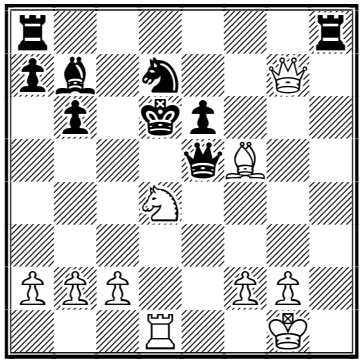
24.♕xg7+ ♔d6 25.♘xd4! ♕c5

25...♕d8 26.♘b5+ ♔c6 27.♗e2+-

26.♗f5

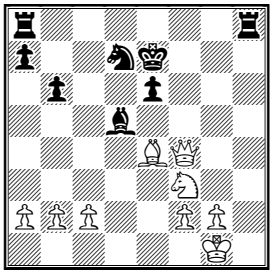
Also strong was 26.♘b5+ ♔c6 27.♗e2+-

26...♕e5



26...♗d5 27.♘xe6+-

27.♘f3+ ♔d5 28.♕g3+ ♔e7 29.♖xd5 ♗xd5 30.♕g5+ ♔d6 31.♕f4+ ♔e7 32.♗e4



The black pieces have very poor coordination, the king is very weak, so White has a winning position.

32...♖h5

32...♗xe4 33.♕xe4 ♖ad8

33.♘h4 ♖g8 34.♘g6+ ♔d8 35.♕f7 ♖e8 36.♗d3 1-0

Solution to quiz:

29...♖xf3! 30.♕xc7 30.gxf3 ♗xf3+ 31.♘g2 *(31.♔h2 ♕g3#)* 31...♖d2–+ **30...♖xh3+ 31.♔g1 ♖f8 32.♗b7 ♗xb7** 32...♕h4! 33.gxh3 ♕f2+ 34.♔h1 ♘g3# **33.♕xb7 ♖xe3 34.♖f1 ♘f4 35.♗c1 ♘e2+ 0–1**

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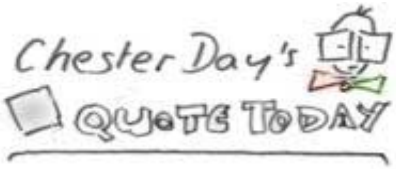

"Nowadays, if you are not a GM by age 14, you can forget about it."

– V. Anand

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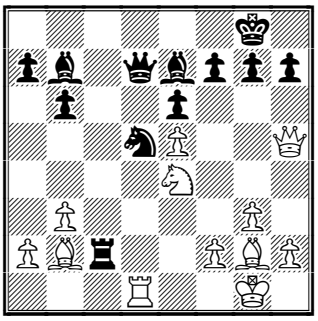
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-222(1006) 10th August 2003

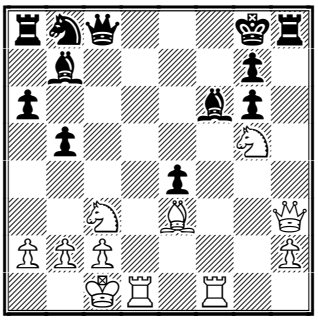
Chess Quiz

Kavalek-Neukirch
WchT U26 Krakow, 1964



White to play

Kavalek-Khodos
WchT U26 Sinaia, 1965



White to play

Chess News

with GM Alex Baburin

GM Kavalek turns 60

Yesterday was the 60th birthday of the Czech/American Grandmaster Lubomir Kavalek. He became a GM in 1965. In 1968 (after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia) he moved to Germany and then to the USA. He was active in tournaments in the 1970s, tying for first at the USA Ch in 1972 and 1973 and winning it in 1978. He won a number of strong events, for example, Caracas-1970 and Solingen-1974 (with Polugaevsky). He played in the super-tournament in Montreal in 1979. In 1993 he assisted Nigel Short in his match vs. Kasparov. Currently Kavalek writes for the Washington Post.

US Open

In the US Open in Los Angeles (the first prize is $8000) after 6 rounds in the *traditional schedule* GM Gregory Kaidanov is leading with 6 points. Elliott Liu and IM Nikolai Andrianov are on 5½ points.

Gregory is a CT reader, which no doubt contributes to his success. But if he reads our paper during the event, I have some bad news for him: there is also an 8-day schedule, where no less than 27 players are on 2 out of 2, including GMs Alexander Shabalov, Julio Granda-Zuniga, Ildar Ibragimov and Larry Christiansen. And then there is a 6-day schedule, where such players as GMs Artashe Minasian, Jaan Ehlvest and Aleks Wojtkiewicz are about to start playing!

I am sure that Gregory can handle the opposition, but here comes a real ***warning***: according to the tournament information, in the 6-day schedule there is yet another GM playing called Ildar Ibragimov (the first one is already playing in the 8-day schedule). Has Ildar got a clone and entered him to wear out the opposition, thus increasing his own chances? Surely this is illegal! Anyhow, Gregory, beware!

According to our secret information, FIDE is considering the situation with clones in chess but has not approved of clones yet. Of course, just like faster time controls, they will turn chess into a great TV game (imagine the game Kasparov-Kasparov!) and bring massive sponsorship. It will also be good for opening theory - teams of like-minded players will study the Najdorf variation up move 60 and

beyond! Clones will make some tricky situations easier to handle – if Ponomariov-1 wants compensation from FIDE, Ponomariov-2 might be more agreeable! But let us wait to hear what the FIDE Council says on this matter first – chess is a democracy after all! ☺

Kasimdzhanov wins in the Netherlands

GM Rustam **Kasimdzhanov** (2664) from Uzbekistan has won the Hogeschool Zeeland tournament (9 rounds, 248 players), scoring 8 points in 9 games, with a performance of 2743.
GMs L.-D. Nisipeanu (2666 ROM) and V. Iordachescu (2606 ROM) tied for second place on 7½ points.
Seven players, including GM Sergei Tiviakov scored 7 points. And I still remember times when 7 out of 9 was enough to win in many opens! ☺

In the Davos open after 8 rounds IM Rafal Antoniewski (2499 POL) is leading with 6½ points. IM Bjorn Tiller (2369 NOR) – 6 points and Gavin Wall (2404 IRL) have 6 points.

The 10th Nice Open (164 players, 7 rounds) has finished with the following results:
1. GM Davor Komljenovic (2434 CRO) – 6 points;
2-8. GMs Miladinovic (2609 GRE), V. Georgiev (2566 MKD), Sulava (2479 CRO), Badea (2499 ROM), Popchev (2451, BUL), IMs Leski (2414 FRA) and Mrdja (2384 CRO) – 5½ points.

Polish GM Bartlomiej Macieja (2627) won an open tournament in Curasao, which took place on 27 July – 4 August. The winner scored 8 points in and received $3000 for his effort. GM Darmen Sadvakasov was second on 7½ points ($1700). WGM Antoaneta Stefanova (2503 BUL) and GMs Alexander Shabalov (2575 USA) and Aleksander Wojtkiewicz (2543 USA) shared third place on 6 points.

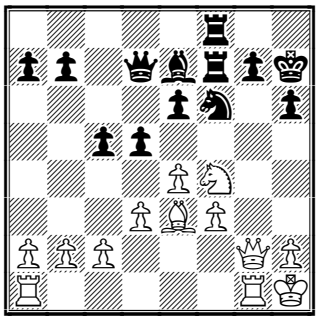
Dortmund Super-tournament

Round 9 of the Dortmund super-tournament was rather quiet – all games ended peacefully and only one of them (Bologan-Radjabov) saw a real fight. Leko-Kramnik was a 21-move draw and Anand-Naiditsch was two moves shorter! While Leko and Kramnik probably don't want to show their opening preparation prior to their match (what match?!, I hear you saying), Anand failed to get anything from the opening in the Anti-Marshall. It is curious that 2 games featured the line 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♗c4 – obviously White is currently afraid to enter the Sveshnikov Variation!

Annotated Game

☐ **Bologan**
■ **Radjabow**
Dortmund (9), 09.08.2003
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♗c4 ♗e7 5.d3 d6 6.0-0 ♘f6 7.♘g5 0-0 8.f4 ♗g4 9.♕e1 exf4 10.♗xf4 ♘d4 11.♕d2 ♕d7 12.♗e3 h6 13.♘f3 ♘xf3+ 14.gxf3 ♗e6 15.♔h1 ♔h7 16.♗xe6 fxe6 17.♕g2 ♖f7 18.♖g1 ♖af8 19.♘e2 d5 20.♘f4 *(D)*



White has been trying to take advantage of the weakened g6-square and it looks that his knight will land there soon...
20...g5!
Not now! Contrary to the general advice not to advance pawns where your opponent is attacking you, the young GM boldly pushes his g-pawn. The move makes perfect sense though – Black needs some space on the kingside. Here White could try

21.♘e2, with the idea to soften up the g5-pawn with h2-h4. However, Victor had a different idea in mind!

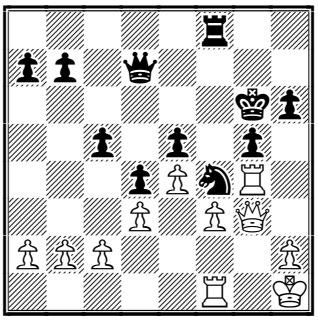
21.♘g6!!

The knight landed on g6 anyway!

21...♘h5!

Of course, Black cannot accept the Trojan horse: 21...♔xg6 22.♗xg5! hxg5 23.♕xg5+ ♔h7 24.♕h4+ ♘h5 25.♕xh5#.

22.♘xf8+ ♖xf8 23.♕h3 ♔g6 24.♖af1 d4 25.♗d2 ♗d6 26.♖g4 [26.♕g4!?] **26...♗f4 27.♗xf4 ♘xf4 28.♕g3 e5** ***(D)***



In this position Black's knight is no worse than either of White's rooks.

29.h4 ♕e6 30.b3

30.hxg5? h5 31.♖h4 ♕xa2 is not good for White.

30...b5 31.a3 ♖h8 32.♕h2 ♖f8 33.♕g3 ♖h8 34.♖xf4 exf4 35.♕h2 c4 36.♖g1 ♖c8 37.bxc4 ½-½

You can see all games from the tournament in our database.

Standings after 9 rounds:

1. Bologan (2650) - 6 points;
2-3. Kramnik (2785) and Anand (2774) - 5 points;
4. Radjabov (2648) - 4½ points;
5. Leko (2739) - 3½ points;
6. Naiditsch (2674) - 3 points;

Last round pairings:

Radjabov-Anand
Naiditsch-Leko
Kramnik-Bologan

It will be interesting to see if Victor Bologan can prove that a GM from outside of the top 20 can win a super-tournament, challenging the image of the *elite* players. I will be rooting for him - we play in the same club in 4NCL (Wood Green) and he has made a very good impression on the whole team as a friendly guy.

In the match between Russian GM Vladimir Belikov (2499) and 14-year old David Baramidze (2470), the Grandmaster is leading 5½-3½, with one game to go.

Hartmut Metz interviews Grandmaster Peter Svidler

Peter Svidler is one of the most original Grandmasters in chess – on the board and off it. At the end of the century it looked like the three-times Russian champion from St. Petersburg was able to challenge the 'Big Three' (Anand, Kasparov and Kramnik). However, Svidler suffered some setbacks and had to wait three years for his comeback in the top ten of the world rankings. Hartmut Metz talked to the 27-year old world's no. 8, who will play a Chess960 match at the Chess Classic Mainz (13-17 August) vs. Peter Leko of Hungary.

Thanks to Twins I am back in the top Ten

HM: *In 1999 you were world's no. 8 with 2713 Elo. After that you lost several ELO-points but in the last months you recovered with a personal record of 2723. Can you tell me what happened?*

PS: It took me a while, but it seems that I am finally playing decent chess again. I guess being content with your life outside the chess world helps a lot.

HM: *Were there any dramatic changes in your life? Last year your second wife had twins just a few days before the tournament in Mainz and that could have inspired you to win the first Chess960 Open.*

PS: I normally prefer not to talk too much about my private life, but I must

say, that fatherhood is absolutely fantastic and I love every minute of it (when I am at home, of course – which the first six months of this year was not very often).

HM: *Did Chess960 influence your play? After winning the Chess960 tournament in Mainz last year you started your comeback and eventually came back into the top ten.*

PS: I think it would be more appropriate to say, that my comeback started with becoming a Dad.

HM: *Can you benefit from Chess960 in a normal chess game?*

PS: So far I haven not played enough Chess960 to draw any definite conclusions, but it can certainly help develop intuition and tactical alertness, since you cannot rely on knowledge any more and have to improvise in every game.

HM: *Do you see any efforts from players to get back to 'normal positions' as soon as possible playing Chess960?*

PS: You see a few 'normal' positions in almost every game – but it can be a 'normal' endgame position by that time. My intention in CCM2 was to try to avoid playing symmetrically with Black, because I wanted to have as much fun as possible – but this may explain why on the first day White won all five of my games!

HM: *In your opinion, what is the main difference between Chess960 and 'normal' chess?*

PS: Some of the opening positions are much better for White, and some are almost equal – so there is a certain amount of luck involved in the position you will get. And the absence of opening theory is an important factor, of course.

HM: *You are considered being one of the most original players in the world. Is this one of your big advantages in Chess960?*

PS: Let's not overrate my result in last year's CCM. So far I have only done well in one Chess960 event, and it is too early to tell, whether I have any advantages over other players in this chess variant. But I always like to be creative on the board, and Chess960 gives me a lot of opportunities to do so.

HM: *Peter Leko beat Michael Adams in the first unofficial Chess960 World Championship Match in Mainz 2001. What do you predict for your match vs. Leko?*

S V I D L E R
– *by* ***Frank Stiefel***

PS: I hope it will be a very tight and interesting match. Peter has to be considered the favourite. He is in the form of his life and is also a very creative player, who enjoys new challenges, e.g. he is an experienced Janus Chess player (Janus Chess is played on a 8x10 board, with two additional pieces to widen the possibilities) and has even been world champion in that variant.

HM: *Do you have any goals for the next months and years, except getting the new Chess960 world champion? Are you able to break into the top five*

or three of the rating list?

PS: I never set myself specific goals – especially now, when nobody knows what is going on in the chess world. I want to continue to improve my play – and wait and see where it can get me.

HM: *Your new team-mate in Baden-Oos is Alexei Shirov, number 5 in the world. What differences do you see between him, Peter Leko and yourself? Maybe you would like to compare your own playing style and strength to the top three Anand, Kramnik and Kasparov as well.*

PS: The main difference is consistency, I guess. I have a decent score against all of them, but I've had more bad periods than they have. I think it is impossible to compare our playing styles, because you cannot be a top-10 player without having a universal style. Alexei is considered to be the best attacker of his generation – but in recent years he may have gained more points by being an excellent endgame player. One should not overrate those clichés.

HM: *Baden-Oos seemed to have a lack of 'killers' in the team last season, behind the top boards Anand, Krasenkow and yourself, but with Shirov and Vallejo the team seems to be strong enough to challenge Luebeck and Porz. Are there real chances to win the Bundesliga title next year?*

PS: We just had one killer last year – our top board Vishy, but we had problems on the lower boards. This year however, with Alexei and Francsico we will have a stronger team overall, and the young guys – Fabian Doettling, Andreas Schenk and others – will be more experienced after the last season. I hope we will do better than last year. Winning the title won't be easy – but if key matches go our way, anything can happen.

Solutions to our Quiz

Kavalek-Neukirch: 21.♘f6+! gxf6 22.exf6 (or 22.♗e4 f5 23.♗xc2+-) **22...♖xb2 23.♕g5+ ♔f8 24.♕g7+ ♔e8 25.fxe7 1-0**
Kavalek-Khodos: 22.♖d8+! and Black resigned as he is getting checkmated: 22...♕xd8 23.♕e6+ ♔f8 24.♕f7# or 22...♗xd8 23.♕xh8+ ♔xh8 24.♖f8#.

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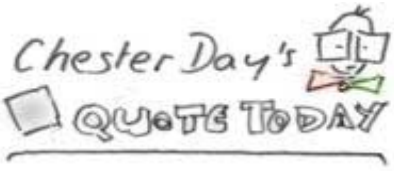

Chess is a form of intellectual productiveness, therein lies its peculiar charm. Intellectual productiveness is one of the greatest joys - if not the greatest one - of human existence. It is not everyone who can write a play, or build a bridge, or even make a good joke. But in chess everyone can, everyone must be intellectually productive, and so can share in this select delight. I have always a slight feeling of pity for the man who has no knowledge of chess, just as I would pity the man who has remained ignorant of love. Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy. –

Siegbert Tarrasch

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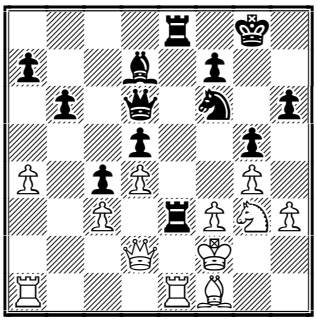
Chess Quiz

Botvinnik-Kotov
Groningen, 1946



Black to play

Chess News

Alexander Kotov (1913-1981)

This day, 90 years ago Russian Grandmaster Alexander Kotov was born in Tula. His first big break was the 11th Soviet Championship, where the young debutant nearly became the champion - he lost to Botvinnik in the last round and finished second.

Later Kotov shared victory in the Soviet Championship of 1948 with Bronstein. His best result was in the interzonal tournament in Stockholm in 1952. He won it with an incredible score - 16½ out of 20 - 3 points ahead of Petrosian and Taimanov!

In the Candidates Tournament in Zurich in 1953 Kotov won a famous game with a queen sacrifice against Averbakh (see our database). He also won the Venice tournament of 1950, ahead of Smyslov. He was on the Soviet team which won chess Olympiads in 1952 and 1954. Kotov was the chief arbiter of chess Olympiads in 1972 and 1974 and also organised a regular chess show on Soviet TV.

Kotov wrote two classic books: *Think Like a Grandmaster* and *Play Like a Grandmaster.*

Garry Kasparov vs. X3D Fritz

X3D Technologies on 11th August announced the Man vs. Machine match. Garry Kasparov will play X3D Fritz "in total virtual reality, with the chessboard floating in the air between man and computer". The match will be held at the New York Athletic Club in New York City from November 11 to November 18, 2003. There will be 4 games with the classical time control in effect. The games will be live on the Internet at www.X3D.com. The X3D press release is published online.

The Hilton Premier International

This closed GM tournament finished in Blackpool, England, last week. GMs Nigel Davies (ENG, 2482), the new British Champion Abhijit Kunte (IND, 2515) and IM John Shaw (SCO, 2480) shared victory there with 6 points out of 9. CT-contributor Sam Collins (Ireland) made his first IM norm, finishing 5th on 5 points - well done, Sam!

North Ural Cup

At the women's super tournament in Krasnoturinsk (Russia), grandmasters T. Kosintseva and S. Matveeva are leading with 2/3.

Round 3 results:
Kovalevskaya - Skripchenko ½-½
Kursova - Stefanova 0-1
T.Kosintseva - Zhukova ½-½
Matveeva - N.Kosintseva 1-0

11th Lippstadt GM tournament

After 4 rounds, computer Brutus is leading with 10 points (at this tournament 3 points is giving for a victory and one for a draw). IM Smeets has 7 points, and six players, including

This issue is prepared by GM A. Baburin and GM M. Golubev ; technical editor R. Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

GMs Maiwald, Chiburdanidze and Ruck have 6 points.

National Championships

National championships ended recently in several countries. In Colombia, GM Gildardo Garcia won the men's event and Martha Mateus the women's.

In Slovenia, the winners were 17-year old FM Jure Borisek (who had the better Buchgolz than GM Dusko Pavasovic and IM Leon Mazi), and WIM Jana Krivec.

Championships of Austria were won by IM Nikolaus Stanec and WFM Anna-Christina Kopinits.

Tournaments in Ukraine

The festival of the chess club Zvezda took place in Odessa, Ukraine on August 1-10. 76 players from 5 countries participated in the main A-tournament.

1. GM Miroshnichenko (2537) - 7/9
2-3. IM Nosenko (2478) - 7
3. Kovalev (2286) - 7
4. GM Vysochin (2560) - 6½
5. GM Golubev (2537) - 6½
6. IM Zavgorodniy (2409) - 6½

Another recently completed event in Ukraine was the Tournament for the Prize of Ukrainian Chess Federation (Kramatorsk, 29 July – 7th August). WGM Kateryna Lahno won the tournament with 9½ out of 14. GM Zahar Efimenko was second with 8½ points and GM Alexander Areshchenko finished third with 8 points.

Book Review

by Andy Ansel

Learn From Your Chess Mistakes
by Chris Baker
Pubisher: Batsford, 2002. 144 pages, List Price $21.95

I must admit that I am biased toward improvement books. I like books that provoke original thought and also shown some initiative. So I was quite interested to look at this work.

At first glance the book is divided into 3 (predictable) sections - openings, middlegame and endgames. What caught my attention was how each chapter was broken down and the practicality of each topic. Here is the books layout:

1) Openings
a) Poor opening preparation
b) Being over-prepared and getting 'stale'
c) Being caught by opponent's preparation
d) Choice of openings/learning new lines and styles
e) Understanding standard and re-occurring themes
f) Being caught by move orders and transpositions

2) Middlegame
a) Losing the 'thread' of the position
b) Miscalculation
c) Confidence and playing against weaker/stronger opposition
d) Middlegame judgement
e) Losing the initiative
f) Missing your shot

3) Endgames
a) Endgame technique
b) Forming a plan
c) Having too many choices and missing tricks
d) Understanding 'good and bad pieces'
e) Control

4) Quiz
a) Spot the mistake

In reading each section I caught myself saying "that sounds familiar" and noticing examples and thought processes that could have come straight from my games. One other major strength of this book is the author's choice of examples. Most are by players I have never heard of and from events that had not cropped into every database such as the Bristol League, Hanham open, Crawly

Championship and such. I regard this is a strong positive since my play will more likely resemble club players than Garry Kasparov! (as a side note I also must admit that my favourite part of *Chess Today* is seeing readers games and comments (like editor Graham Brown's off-beat openings))

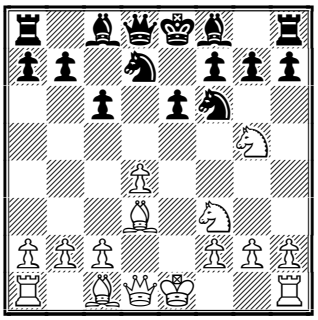
One example of something I learned has to do with the move order section in the openings chapter. The author plays 2 Nc3 against the Sicilian not to enter a Grand Prix attack but to transpose back into a main line Sicilian hopefully having limited Black's options as the usual reply to 2 Nc3 is either 2...Nc6 or g6, limiting a Najdorf player's options.

Overall I found this book had a very good instructive approach with lots of original examples and a very readable prose by the author. I would strongly recommend it, with players of 1600-2000 probably getting the most use from it. I would give it ****½

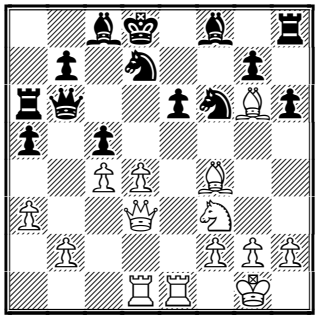
Annotated Game

□ **M. Golubev (2537)**
■ **A. Tobak (2366)**
Odessa Open (8), 09.08.2003
Caro-Kann with 4...♘d7 – [B17]
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘g5 ♘gf6 6.♗d3 e6 7.♘1f3 *(D)*



7...h6?!
The main theoretical line is 7...♗d6! 8.♕e2 h6 , avoiding dangerous sacrifices.
8.♘xe6! ♕e7
This was also Kasparov's choice in his historical game against Deep Blue. 8...fxe6 9.♗g6+ ♔e7 possibly offers Black slightly more hope to survive White's attack.
9.0-0 fxe6 10.♗g6+ ♔d8 11.♗f4
11.c4!? is an serious alternative: 11...♕d6 12.♕e2 ♕c7 13.♖d1 ♗d6 14.♘e5 ♖f8 15.♗f4± was Leko-Bakhtadaze, Las Palmas 1995.
11...♕b4
Another idea is 11...♘d5!? 12.♗g3 ♕b4, I thought that he can try to take a pawn after 13.♖e1 (or 13.♕e2 ♕xb2) 13...♕xb2 14.c4 (14.♖xe6 ♘7f6 15.♖e1 ♗b4!) 14...♘c3.
Deep Blue-Kasparov, New York 1997 saw 11...b5 12.a4 ♗b7 13.♖e1 ♘d5 14.♗g3 ♔c8 15.axb5 cxb5 16.♕d3 ♗c6 17.♗f5 exf5 18.♖xe7 ♗xe7 19.c4 1–0.
12.a3!?
White played this also in the stem game Geller-Meduna, Sochi 1986. Of course, there are serious alternatives: 12.♖e1; 12.♕e2 and 12.♕d3.
12...♕b6
Meduna took the pawn: 12...♕xb2 and Geller replied with 13.♕e2. Another move which deserves attention is 13.c4!?.
13.c4 a5
After 13...c5 I could play 14.dxc5!?, with the idea 14...♗xc5 15.b4!. **14.♖e1** 14.c5!? was possibly stronger. **14...c5! 15.♕d3 ♖a6 16.♖ad1∞ *(D)***



White obviously has a strong compensation, but things are not totally clear.
16...a4!?
An important line is 16...cxd4!? 17.♘xd4 ♗c5 18.♘xe6+ ♕xe6 19.♖xe6 ♖xe6. Here White can try 20.♗f5 ♖c6 (20...♖e7 21.♗d6!±) 21.♕c3!?, attacking the a5 pawn. If 16...♗d6 17.♖xe6 ♕c7, then White could get an advantage by simple 18.♖xd6 ♖xd6 19.♗xd6 ♕xd6 20.♘e5 ♖f8 21.♘f7+

♖xf7 22.♗xf7±.

17.h3!?

This is possible, but 17.♗f7!?, with the idea of 17...♕b3 18.♕g6!, was objectively stronger.

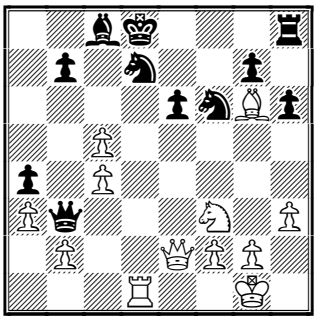
17...♕b3?

Black could play 17...cxd4!? 18.♘xd4 ♗c5 19.♘xe6+ ♕xe6 20.♖xe6 ♖xe6, and here arises position as in the line with 16...cxd4 – but with inclusion of moves a4 and h3. This slightly improves Black's chances, and White's advantage is not easy to prove, e.g. 21.♗f5 ♖c6 22.♗e5 ♖f8!. If 17...♗e7!?, then White should try 18.♗f7!?, rather than 18.♘e5 ♘xe5 19.♗xe5 ♘d7 20.♗xg7 ♖g8 21.♗xh6 e5!⇄ with strong counter-play for Black.

18.♕e2! ♗d6

18...♕b6 loses to 19.♘e5 ♘xe5 20.dxc5+!.

19.♗xd6 ♖xd6 20.dxc5 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1 ***(D)***



Thanks to the unfortunate position of Black's queen, White has a decisive advantage.

21...e5

The only way to defend against ♘d4, which is the killing move, e.g.: 21...♔c7 22.♘d4 ♕a2 23.♘b5+ ♔b8 24.♗b1 ♕a1 25.♗e4! ♕a2 26.♕d2 ♕xc4 27.♕d6+ ♔a8 28.♕a6+ ♔b8 29.♕a7#.

22.♘xe5 ♔c7 23.♘f3

The knight goes to d4 anyway.

23...♔b8

23...♘xc5 24.♕e5++– or 23...b5 24.♘d4! ♕xc4 25.♘xb5++–

24.♘d4 ♕a2 25.c6! bxc6 26.♘xc6+ ♔c7

Or 26...♔a8 27.♕e3 ♔b7 28.♘a5+!, winning.

27.♘b4 ♕b3 28.♖d3

The queen is lost (28...♕xc4 29.♖xd7+), and Black resigned. **1–0.**

Solution to our Quiz

Botvinnik–Kotov:

23...♕xg3+! 24.♔xg3 ♘e4+ 0–1.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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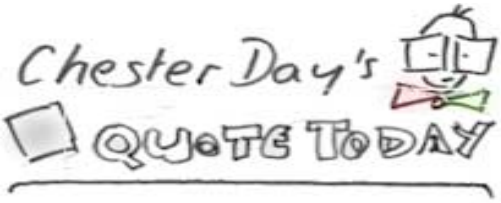


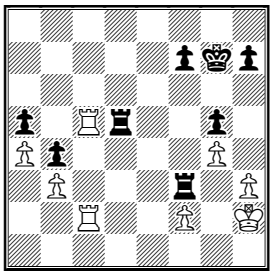
"Of chess it has been said that
life is not long enough for it
-- but
that is the fault of life,
not chess."

-- *Napier*

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-225 (1009) 13th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Skripchenko – T. Kosintseva
Ural Cup Krasnoturinsk (4), 12.08.2003



Black to play

Chess News

After 8 rounds of the US Open in Los Angeles (1st prize is $8000) our reader GM Gregory Kaidanov is leading with 7½ points. He obviously took advantage of our warning in CT-1006 about GM Ibragimov and his dangerous clone! ☺

Standings before the last round:
1. GM Gregory Kaidanov – 7½ points;
2-3. GMs Artashes Minasian and Jaan Ehlvest – 7 points;
3-16. GMs Yudasin, Shabalov, Stripunsky, Wojtkiewicz, Sulskis, Christiansen, Ibragimov and Lein, IMs De Guzman and Andrianov, FM Altounian, WFM Tatev Abrahamyan and Reynaldo del Pilar – 6½ points;

Key games of the last round:
Kaidanov-Minasian
Shabalov-Ehlvest

Tatiana Kosintseva became the sole leader in the North Ural Cup (Krasnoturinsk, the Urals region). Her opponent Almira Skripchenko tried to take revenge for her loss at the European Championship and continued playing for a win in an absolutely equal position – as a result she lost a pawn and the game.

I cannot recognize Svetlana Matveeva – this seasoned player has not made a single draw yet! She lost in the 1st round, then won two games and lost again. Her opponent from round 4 – **Natalia Zhukova** – is now clear second. See that game in our Annotated Game section.

Two other games were draw.

Round 4 Results:
Skripchenko – T. Kosintseva 0:1
Kursova – Kovalevskaya ½:½
Stefanova – N. Kosintseva ½:½
Zhukova – Matveeva 1:0

Round 4 Standings:
1. T. Kosintseva – 3 points
2. Zhukova – 2½ points;
3-5. Kovalevskaya, Matveeva and Stefanova – 2 points;
6-8. Skripchenko, N. Kosintseva and Kursova – 1½ points.

Round 5 Pairings:
Matveeva – Skripchenko
T. Kosintseva – Kursova
Kovalevskaya – Stefanova
N. Kosintseva – Zhukova

In the 11th Lippstadt GM tournament after 5 rounds the standings are as follows:
1. Computer Brutus – 11 points;
2. Maiwald – 9
3. Smeets – 8
4-7. Ruck, Chiburdanidze, Cyborowski and Wehmeier – 7, etc.
As you may remember, there 3 points are given for victory and just 1 for a draw!

Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

After publishing an interview with Vishy Anand, CT received the following e-mail from one of our German readers.

"Hi,
This is my first letter to Chess Today, I write it because I was so disappointed by Anand's Interview. Anand says: "The situation is a complete mess. The chess world can't go on like this. There are too many proposals (to unify) but no actions." But he sits back himself by saying: "Personally I want to play better improve my chess and enjoy my life." Where is the action for getting rid of the mess? If all top players think like this, it is a pity ☹ and we will never see a tournament where they play it out.

Kasparov moved away from FIDE in 1993 because FIDE was taking too much money from the players competing in the World Championship match. Top 100 players can build a union and organize the World Championship by themselves. If you do it correct the sponsors will come.

We all see great Wimbledons and great Tours de France. That's because all the top players are taking part, the format is great and it is organised well! Is it that difficult to get 100 adults together and achieve the goal that they all want? The ability to make compromises is not a bad thing! Sharing is also not a bad thing. Remember it is for the good of all of you. Don't you love the game?

These are just my 2 cents and for the big guys probably not important enough to be read, but think about it just a little.
Yours, Jan Matthies"

Web Watch

by GM Alex Baburin

The above-mentioned interview with Anand, as well as recent interview with Svidler, was conducted by German chess journalist and player Hartmut Metz. Hartmut has his own website, you can find more chess materials. It's both in German and English, but it looks like there is more stuff in German. Hartmut is also a keen CT reader.

Another CT reader, active on the Net, is NM Dennis Monokroussos – he recently started a regular column at Chess FM. It is called "Great Games in Chess History" and it's an audio presentation, combined with demonstration on the board. I had a look and was very impressed – it's a great way to present chess games!

The first game, Tal-Koblentz, Riga 1957, will be up until Wednesday 13th. When you receive this issue, you will probably still have a few hours to catch the show, so hurry up!

The next game will be Keres-Smyslov, from Zurich 1953. BTW, this is a top secret, so don't tell anyone that you learnt it from Chess Today!

Another prominent CT reader is Gene Venable, who runs a well-known Chess Watch column on ICC – lots of interesting stories and links!

In this column I already mentioned a few times that Chess Base website became an excellent source of interesting stories. A few days ago the site gave a link to a story in which an Internet company, offering pills for growing body parts and 'advertising' the offer via e-mail (spamming). The company received about 6000 orders (average order was $100) in just 4 weeks! The spam mail did not provide contact address or phone number of the company – it did not even give a valid e-mail address. More over, customers were leaving their credit card details on a non-secure server! The connection with chess? The two guys behind the company are master-level players in US! Read the full story here.

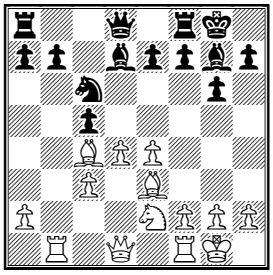
Oh, boy, what am I doing publishing Chess Today?! But it is time to reveal a secret: during my most recent trip to Russia I came across this amazing spring – just 0.5 liter of its water will allow you to grow your rating at least 3 inches! The minimum order is 2 liters and it's only$45! Please complete your order at my non-secure server as soon as possible!

Annotated Game

□ **Natalia Zhukova (2439)**
■ **Svetlana Matveeva (2478)**

Ural Cup (4), 12.08.2003
Grunfeld Defence – [D87]
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗c4 c5 8.♘e2 0–0 9.0–0 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♗d7 11.♖b1 *(D)*



Recently this setup has beome very popular.

11...a6

11...♖c8 12.♗d3 *(12.♕d2 e6 13.♖fd1 ♘a5 14.♗d3 ♗a4 15.♖dc1 ♕d7* Naumkin–Korchnoi, Saint Vincent 2003*)* 12...♘a5 13.dxc5 e5 14.♕c2 ♕c7 15.c4 ♘c6 16.♘c3 ♘d4 17.♗xd4 exd4 18.♘d5 ♕xc5 19.♖xb7 ♖fd8 20.f4± Gretarsson–Krasenkow, Edda Rapid, Reykjavic 2003.

12.dxc5

12.♘f4 b5 13.♗e2 cxd4 14.cxd4 e5 15.dxe5 ♘xe5 16.♘d5 ♗e6 ½–½ Rychagov–Shipov, Moscow Ch 2003; 12.♕d2 b5 13.♗d3 cxd4 14.cxd4 ♕a5 15.♕xa5 ♘xa5 16.♖fc1 ♖fc8⇄ Del Rio Angelis–McShane, Istanbul 2003.

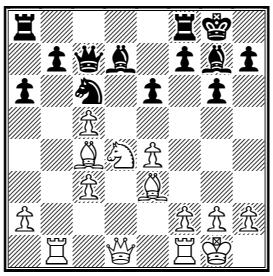
12...♕c7

12...♘a5 13.♗d3 ♕c7 14.f4 ♖fd8 15.c6 ♕xc6 16.♗b6 ♗g4∞ Nielsen–Ivanchuk, Malmo 2003.

13.♘d4

13.f4 ♖fd8 14.♘d4 ♘a5 15.♗b3 ♗b5 16.♘xb5 axb5 17.♕c2 e6 18.♖bd1 ♗f8 19.♕f2≅ Nielsen–McShane, Esbjerg 2003.

13...e6?! *(D)*



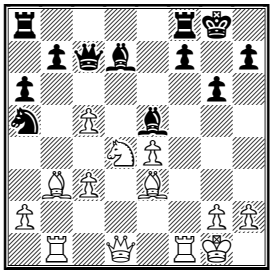
According to my database, this is a novelty. But this move looks a bit strange: Black defends the d5–square, which White was not going to occupy yet!

13...♘a5 14.♗e2 ♖fc8 15.f4 e5 16.fxe5 ♕xe5 17.♗d3 ♕e7 18.♘b3 ½–½ Kramnik–I.Sokolov, Wijk aan Zee 1999.

14.f4 ♘a5 15.♗b3 e5

With a loss of a tempo.

16.fxe5 ♗xe5 *(D)*



16...♕xe5 17.♗d5! ♕c7 18.♕f3±

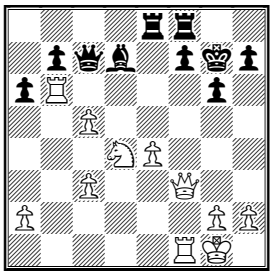
17.♗h6!? ♗g7

Black had an interesting alternative – 17...♗xh2+!? 18.♔h1 ♗e5 19.♗xf8 ♖xf8 20.♗d5≅.

18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.♕f3

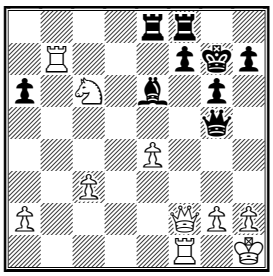
Because I like bishops, I can offer an alternative: 19.♗d5!?.

19...♘xb3 20.♖xb3 ♖ae8 21.♖b6 *(D)*



In this position White has an obvious advantage: her knight is better than Black's bishop. And White is a pawn up too!

21...♕xc5 22.♖xb7 ♗e6 23.♔h1 ♕e5 24.♘c6!? ♕g5 25.♕f2 *(D)*



White tries to exploit the weak dark squares in Black's camp.

25...♔h8 26.h4!? ♕h6 27.♔g1 ♕g7 28.♘d4 ♗c4 29.♖e1 ♕e5

During the last few moves Black has improved her position, but White can still to win without running a big risk.

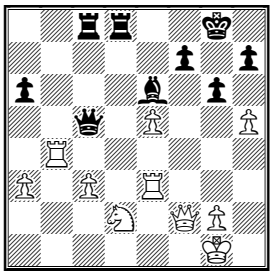
30.a3!?

White doesn't see how to improve her position and simply offers her opponent to make a move.

30...♔g8

Black has to sit and wait. Computer suggests 30...f5, but after that move the 7th rank will be too weak, for example: 31.♘f3 ♕xc3 32.♕c5 fxe4 33.♖xe4! ♖c8 34.♕a7±.

31.♖b4 ♖c8 32.♖e3 ♖fe8 33.♘f3 ♕c5 34.♘d2 ♗e6 35.e5 ♖ed8 36.h5!? *(D)*



An extra pawn and attack – what else to wish?!

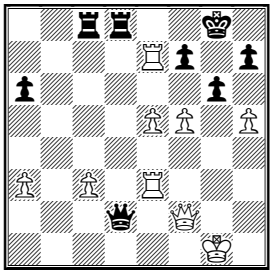
36...♗f5 37.g4

With the new FIDE time control it's very difficult for Black to defend such positions, though the computer evaluates it as approximately equal. On the other hand, pawns cannot go back and White's king can become very weak too.

37...♗d3 38.♖b7 ♕d5 39.♖e7 ♗f5??

A blunder in time-trouble, I suspect. After 39...♖xc3⇄ Black would return a pawn and begin a counter-attack – she has at least equal chances.

40.gxf5 ♕xd2 *(D)*



41.♖e8+!

The same tactical motive as in the game Skripchenko – T. Kosintseva from the same round! (See our Quiz today.)

41...♔g7 42.h6+

Mate in two is even better than an extra rook! Black resigned. **1-0.**

Solution to our Quiz

Skripchenko – T. Kosintseva:

35...♖xf2+! 36.♔g3 [36.♖xf2 ♖xc5∓] **36...♖fd2 37.♖xd5 ♖xd5 38.♖c6 f6 39.♖c7+ ♔g6 40.♖b7 h5 41.♖b5 h4+ 42.♔g2 ♖d2+ 43.♔g1 ♖d3 44.♔g2 ♖g3+ 45.♔h2 ♖xb3 46.♖xa5 ♖b2+ 47.♔g1 ♖a2 48.♖b5 ♖xa4 49.♖b7 ♖a3 50.♔g2 ♖g3+ 51.♔h2 b3 52.♖b6 ♖c3 53.♔g2 ♖c2+ 54.♔f3 ♖h2 0-1.**

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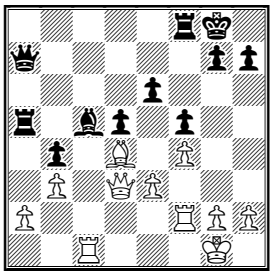
CT-227 (1011) 15th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Kotov-Kholmov, Moscow 1971



White to play

Chess News

The ***Chess Classic Mainz*** festival started in Germany yesterday. Apart from the matches Anand-Polgar (rapid chess) and Leko-Svidler (Chess960), there is a very strong Chess960 open tournament in Mainz.

This is what the official website had to say: "With 179 participants in the 2nd Chess960 Open, the tournament started on time. In the previous year 131 chess players tried the new chess variant and this is an indication that Chess960 becomes more and more popular. With more than 50 GMs it is also a very strong tournament.

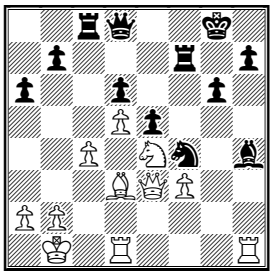
In the first round, ELO-favorite Alexander Grishuk from Russia had to play his first ever Chess960 game against the mayor of Mainz and new president of the WNCA (World New Chess Association) Jens Beutel. The young Russian, playing with the white pieces, escaped with a draw."

In the ***Leko-Svidler match*** the first two games were drawn. These Chess960 games certainly drove my Fritz crazy, when I tried to look at them in CT-1011, so I just deleted them! But you can find them on the tournament website.

In the ***Anand-Polgar*** match, Judith won the first game with White, but Vishy immediately levelled the score in game 2. There will be 8 games in total.

Polgar-Anand (game 1)

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗e3 e5 7.♘b3 ♗e6 8.f3 ♘bd7 9.g4 ♘b6 10.g5 ♘h5 11.♕d2 ♖c8 12.0-0-0 ♗e7 13.♗d3 g6 14.h4 0-0 15.♔b1 f6 16.gxf6 ♖xf6 17.♕f2 ♘d7 18.♘d5 ♗xd5 19.exd5 ♖f7 20.♘d2 ♘df6 21.c4 ♘g4 22.♕g1 ♘xe3 23.♕xe3 ♗xh4 24.♘e4 ♘f4 *(D)*



In this position White started a clever tactical operation:

25.♖xh4! ♘g2

25...♕xh4 26.♘xd6+-

26.♕h6 ♘xh4

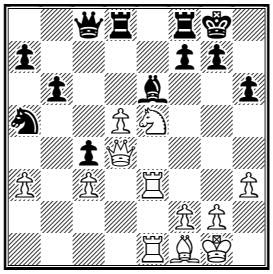
My computer prefers 26...♕xh4, thinking that Black is OK after 27.♕xh4 ♘xh4 28.♘xd6 ♖cc7 29.♘xf7 ♔xf7 30.d6 ♖d7 31.c5, however, it seems that the ending should be just lost for Black. This is one of those cases when you cannot quite trust chess software!

27.♘g5 ♘xf3 28.♘xf7 ♕f6 29.♕h3!+- ♖f8 30.♘h6+ ♔h8 31.♕d7 e4 32.♗e2 ♕g7 33.♕xd6 ♕xh6 34.♕e7 ♕g7 35.♕xe4 ♘e5 36.c5 a5 37.♗b5 g5 38.d6 ♕g6 39.♕xg6 hxg6 40.♖e1 ♘f7 41.♗e8 ♔g7 42.♗xf7 ♖xf7 43.♖d1 ♖f8 44.♔c2 ♖c8 45.♔d3 ♔f6 46.♔c4 ♔e6 47.♔b5 ♔d7 48.♖e1 ♖e8 49.♖xe8 1-0.

Anand-Polgar (game 2)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♗d3 ♘c6

7.0-0 ♗e7 8.♖e1 ♗f5 9.c4 ♘b4 10.♗f1 0-0 11.a3 ♘c6 12.cxd5 ♕xd5 13.♘c3 ♘xc3 14.bxc3 ♗f6 15.♗f4 ♕d7 16.♖a2 ♖ad8 17.♖b2 ♕c8 18.h3 b6 19.♖be2 h6 20.♖e3 ♘a5 21.♗e5 ♗xe5 22.♘xe5 c5 23.d5 c4 24.♕d4 ♗e6 *(D)*



Now it's Vishy's turn to show his tactical ability:

25.♘g6! ♘c6

Also bad for Black is 25...fxg6 26.♖xe6 or 25...♖fe8 26.♘f4+-.

26.♕h4 ♗xd5 27.♘xf8 ♖xf8 28.♗xc4 ♕f5 29.♖e8 ♗xc4 30.♕xc4 ♕f6 31.♕d3 g6 32.c4 ♖xe8 33.♖xe8+ ♔g7 34.♕d5 h5 35.c5 bxc5 36.♕xc5 ♔h6 37.h4 ♘d4 38.♕e7 ♕g7 39.♕f8 ♘e6 40.♕xg7+ ♔xg7 41.♖a8 1-0.

The US Open is still in progress!

Quite a few readers pointed out to my mistake, which I made in the previous issue - I simply assumed that the tournament had 9 rounds. In fact, it has 12! This explains why there is 8-day schedule, mentioned on the website - previously I was wondering why would they have 8-days schedule for 9-round tournament?! ☺

As one of our US readers, Dan Voje, wrote to us: "This year marks the return of the 12 round U.S. Open, after years of it being reduced to 9 rounds. These extra last few games will feature the lead pack of GMs battling it out for first, and adds a great deal of sporting interest for us guys on the lower boards here in Los Angeles."

I agree, longer tournaments mean more GM games. And in LA the organisers try to make sure that they are GM battles, and not 'Grandmaster' draws - this is what another reader - Frank Berry - sent CT from Los Angeles:

"***Notice to Players***

We probably all have experienced the disappointment of players, particularly titled players, agreeing a draw, either in advance of the game or almost immediately after beginning, playing a few moves and leaving. This is especially noticeable on the stage, of course, but may occur anywhere. It is poor sportsmanship. It is discourteous and unfair to the sponsors and organizers. It is rude to the spectators.

It is understandable that players cannot always go all-out in every game they play but in the 2003 US OPEN it will be expected that they at least give it a good try. Those on the top ten boards, at least, as well as any players who receive free entry or special conditions, are hereby informed that they must play at the board for a minimum of one hour and complete a minimum of 15 moves.

The chief director or chief floor director also has the option of requiring this of any player in the tournament. Penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the Chief Tournament Director. (USCF Official Rules of Chess, 14B6)

Players in the tournament who agree to a draw without playing will each receive a forfeit loss.

Chief Local Organizer Jerry Hanken
Chief TD Randy Hough
Chief Arbiter Carol Jarecki"

Standings after 10 Rounds

1. GM Gregory Kaidanov - 8½ points; ***2-10.*** GMs Minasian, Ehlvest, Yudasin, Shabalov, Wojtkiewicz, Sulskis and Ibragimov, IMs Donaldson and Saidy - 8 points; etc.

It is curious that the sole leader and the only IMs in the chasing pack are CT readers! ☺

Kaidanov has good chances to win the event, but unfortunately for him he had to take a last round half point bye

as he is going to play in the Intercontinental in Argentina.

Many of our readers live in the USA, so the following information, from IM John Donaldson's informative Mechanics' Institute Newsletter, could be of interest:
"The US Open in Los Angeles has provided several political bombshells. Executive Director Frank Niro was not present at the meetings, having resigned shortly before for health reasons. The USCF is projecting a $365,000 loss this year instead of a $75,000 profit as had been projected a few months ago... This marks over half a decade of annual losses.

The national headquarters will be moving from New Windsor to Crossville, Tennessee as soon as possible through the efforts of Harry Sabine and others in that state. The USCF was offered free land. The plan is that the organization will be able to use this opportunity to cut costs and finally make a much-needed modernization of their computer system. This efficiency should result in savings due to the reduced number of employees required to operate the office. The USCF had originally entertained a couple of offers in Southern Florida, but neither panned out.

New Policy members Beatriz Marinello, Timothy Hanke, and Don Schultz took office and immediately made their weight felt in the voting for the new president. Some insiders had expected that many time PB member Frank Camaratta, who had played a key role in keeping the USCF solvent the past few years would finally be named president but that was not to be. Newcomer Marinello will be leading the USCF in very challenging times. Steve Shutt will serve as Vice President, Hanke as VP of Finance and Frank Brady as Secretary. Mike Nolan will be chief operating officer and Paul Troung Director of Marketing and Public Relations."

Another interesting information from the same source: "Mikhail Botvinnik once pointed out that it was just as important to have great organizers as great players. The United States is lucky to have gained a great organizer in Mikhail Korenman who has put chess in Kansas on the map like never before. Following on Korenman's hugely successful 2001 and 2002 Lindsborg Chess Festivals, Anatoly Karpov recently announced the opening of the first Karpov International School of Chess in the United States.

Karpov will work with other GMs to develop the curriculum for the school in Lindsborg. Anatoly Karpov is in the process of networking his school throughout the world, so students can communicate and receive additional instruction over the Internet, said Mikhail Korenman.

Grandmaster Yury Shulman, formerly of Belarus, will join the staff of the school. Shulman, one of the top ranked players in the U.S., will assist Karpov in tailoring a curriculum for the school as well providing instruction to students. WGM Anna Zatonskih has also been asked to join the school's cadre of instructors."

This is certainly good news for chess in USA and I wish the new school every success. Last summer I met Mikhail Korenman, when playing in the USA - it turned out that we were from the same city in Russia!

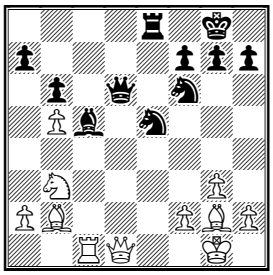
In the 6th round of the North Ural Cup in Krasnoturins, Russia, sisters Tatiana and Nadezhda Kosintseva both lost their games, so

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Kovalevskaya - 4 points;
2-4 T. Kosintseva, Zhukova and Matveeva – 3½ points;
5-7. N. Kosintseva, Skripchenko and Kursova – 2½ points;
8. Stefanova – 2

11th Lippstadt GM tournament
Standings after 6 rounds
(3 points for victory, 1 for draw):
1. Computer Brutus – 18 points;
2-3. Maiwald and Cyborowski – 14;
4. Ruck - 12 points, etc.

One of the favourites, GM Oleg Romanishin is in terrible form: he drew three games and lost five! Perhaps the following game from round 1 affected his confidence badly:

Romanishin (2561) – Brutus [E07]
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.g3 ♘bd7 6.♕d3 ♗e7 7.♗g2 0-0 8.0-0 b6 9.♖d1 ♗a6 10.b3 ♖c8 11.e4 c5 12.exd5 exd5 13.♗b2 ♖e8 14.♖ac1 dxc4 15.bxc4 cxd4 16.♘b5 ♗xb5 17.cxb5 ♖xc1 18.♖xc1 ♗c5 19.♘xd4 ♘e5 20.♕d1 ♕d6 21.♘b3 ***(D)***



Black certainly stands well, but I bet it was hard to foresee what was to follow!

21...♗xf2+!! 22.♔xf2 ♘fg4+ 23.♔g1 ♕h6

And who said that computers don't make intuitive sacrifices?! But perhaps it just saw everything right up the end...

24.♖c3 ♕xh2+ 25.♔f1 h5!

Black is a piece down, but develops the attack without rush. After ...h4 the white king will be much more exposed.

26.♕d4 h4 27.gxh4 ♕xh4 28.♖h3 ♘h2+ 29.♔g1?

White had to settle on 29.♖xh2 ♕xh2∓.

29...♘hf3+ 30.♗xf3 ♕xh3 31.♘d2

Or 31.♗g2 ♘f3+ 32.♗xf3 ♕g3+, winning. **0-1.**

Web Watch

by Alex Baburin

My recent chat at the Play Chess server has appeared on the Chess Base website. There you can also read a story about Terachess – bet you never heard this word before! ☺

A couple of days ago we informed our readers about a new interesting column at Chess FM, run by NM Dennis Monokroussos and called "Great Games in Chess History". Since then, Dennis got a new game on the site – Keres-Smyslov, Zurich 1953. It is a great game and very good presentation – if you have spare 30 minutes, you should spend it on that show!

Solution to our Quiz

Kotov-Kholmov: **1.♖xc5! ♖xc5 2.♖c2 ♖fc8 3.♕b5! 1-0.**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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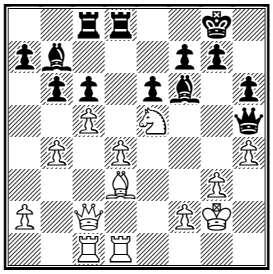
CT-230(1014) 18th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Rakhmangulov – Fedorov
Odessa 06.08.2003

The position is better for White since he has managed to shut in the b7 bishop, but it looks hardly possible to get a decisive advantage by force. However, one could try to exploit the rather awkwardly placed Black queen...



White to play

Chess News

The **Chess Classic Festival** has finished in Mainz, Germany. It had lots of interesting events.

The Duel: the King meets the Queen between **Viswanathan Anand** and **Judit Polgar** has eventually ended in Anand's favour after a very tough fight. Nevertheless, we should praise Judit for her excellent play – she was keeping Vishy under severe pressure until the very end of the match! In fact it was Anand who had to equalise the score 3 times until he won two games on the last day.

Anand	0 1 0 1 0 1 1 1	**5**
Polgar	1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0	**3**

There were some different kinds of chess played in Mainz so maybe we missed something and one of the rules in this match said: 'NO DRAWS' ?!

In the ***Chess960 match*** between **Peter Leko** and **Peter Svidler** everything was decided in the last game. Svidler won the game and so the match.

Leko	½ ½ ½ 1 ½ 0 ½ 0	**3½**
Svidler	½ ½ ½ 0 ½ 1 ½ 1	**4½**

Alexander Grischuk of Russia has won the **ORDIX Open** with an excellent result; 9½ points in 11 rounds. Yet, **Levon Aronian** of Armenia was proclaimed the overall winner of the combination of Fischer random chess and normal rapid chess tournaments.

Final Standings: 1. Grischuk – 9½ points out of 11, 2-6. I.Sokolov, Lobron, Pinter, Epishin, Volokitin – 9, 7-16. Agrest, Miladinovic, Dreev, Chuchelov, Rustemov, Vaganjan, Sadvakasov, Yusupov, Aronian, Meins – 8½

Combination Chess960/Ordix Open 1. Aronian. 2. Volokitin 3. Yusupov 4. Dreev 5. Pinter 6. Rustemov 7. Epishin 8. Grischuk 9. Zvjagintsev 10. I.Sokolov.

The 11th Lippstadt GM tournament has just finished. Computer ***Brutus*** has confidently won the event. Thanks to his last round win (and more thanks to the system of the tournament!) IM **Lucas Cyborowski** has finished clear second so he has become the best human player!

Final Standings (3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw): **1. Computer Brutus** – 25 points (+7-0=3); 2. IM Cyborowski – 18 (+4-1=6), 3-5. GMs Ruck and Maiwald (both +3-0=8), IM Smeets (+4-2=5) – 17 etc.

A big chess festival has just begun in Vienna, Austria. The main **Vienna Open** is headed by Viktor Korchnoi, other notable players are Vereslav Eingorn, Milos Pavlovic, Bojan Kurajica, Stefan Kindermann, Gennady Timoshchenko, Sergei Karjakin and Konstantin Landa – the latter was the only top-seeded player, who hasn't won his game in the first round.

A strong open tournament just started

in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The top-seeded players are Smbat Lputian, Evgeny Vladimirov, Gabriel Sargissian, Edvins Kengis, the Dubai 2003 Open winner Baadur Jobava and the World under 20 Champion Shakhrijaz Mamedjarov. The event is very solid - there are 30 GMs and 28 IMs among the 76 participants!

As most of our readers probably know, there has been a lot of struggle between FIDE and its World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov. While FIDE wants him to play against Kasparov on its terms and threatens to replace him with Ivanchuk if Ponomariov does not oblige, Ruslan is not happy that the $1m prize fund turned from *net* into *gross* - with 20% going to FIDE. He also wanted to receive financial compensation from FIDE (a figure of $150,000 was mentioned for its failure to stage the match this summer (in Argentina).

Apparently, Ponomariov has signed a contact with FIDE for his September match vs. Kasparov in Yalta, Ukraine. However, he added that he made his critical comments when signing the contract. According to Ponomariov, the contract between FIDE and the Ukraine, which should precede signing of the players' contracts, has not been signed yet. The match, which will be opened by Russia's President Putin and Ukraine's President Kuchma, should be a big sign of approval for FIDE (and Kalmykia) President Ilyumzhinov. For those who can read Russian, we can recommend a recent interview with Ponomariov and the thoughts of GM Komarov.

Chess-players Smile

by Goran Tomic

Mate or Matulovic?!

At the Chess Olympiad in Havana, GM Ciric adjourned his game against Sanguinetti (Argentina). Ciric's position was bad and everybody expected his defeat. Most critical about Ciric's chances was his team-mate GM Matulovic. When the game resumed, Sanguinetti at some point blundered. When Ciric checkmated him, he exclaimed: "Mat...ulovic!".

Alex Baburin comments: according to the Mega 2003 database, Sanguinetti resigned on move 61, long before any checkmate, but perhaps the game went longer.

Pirc's remark

GM Vasja Pirc was a very smart man. In one international tournament he checkmated his opponent, who didn't expect it. The opponent was confused and said: "I resign". Pirc snorted a bit and said: "You are late. The game is over by checkmate, so I don't accept your capitulation!"

Half-time

During one Yugoslav championship half way through the round Pirc called an arbiter. The Grandmaster said in a serious voice: "It's exactly a half time, so let's change the sides - the White player should take black pieces and the Black player - White!."

Book Reviews

by FM Sam Collins

Everyman's 'Starting Out' series has been exceptionally prolific of late, providing introductions to virtually every opening meriting one. While many of these titles have been pretty good, all seem to have failed in their attempt to match the gem of the series, Gallagher's guide to the King's Indian. At last, with the release of John Shaw's **Starting Out: The Ruy Lopez** (Everyman Chess 2003, 144 pages, R.R.P. 12.99 pounds), Everyman can boast of another truly excellent book.

IM Shaw is a GM in all but name – he has made consistently excellent results for years now, managed a GM norm in Gibraltar, was leading the British with a few rounds to go two years ago, and has had ratings comfortably over 2500. He is renowned for excellent

preparation in his favourite lines, and demonstrates some deep theoretical knowledge in this book. He's no stranger to the series either, having previously published a book therein on the Queen's Gambit.

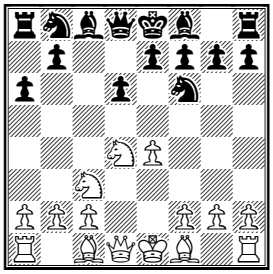
The first beauty of his latest book is the simplicity of its structure. Starting with third move deviations (such as the Berlin) and ending with big main lines like the Chigorin, the work gradually builds the reader's knowledge until he feels completely comfortable with 15 moves of Lopez theory. Additionally, Shaw clearly refused to use the hallmark structures of the series (which features sections on statistics, whether or not variations are theoretical, exercises and so forth, all of which can be useful but generally seem to consist of little more than hot air), an abstention which enables a much more efficient use of his pages. In a pretty slim volume he has given 80 illustrative games, whereas longer efforts by Emms, Gallagher and Ward have managed to squeeze in few more than 60. This economy enables Shaw to cover a broader range of ideas and variations than would traditionally have been possible in the series, and the book is much stronger for it.

The second point of note is Shaw's wonderful facility with modern games. Writing about the Ruy Lopez, it is all too tempting to include the same Kasparov–Karpov games (and don't forget one or two Capablanca efforts) upon which the theory was based for years. Of the 80 games presented, only three were played before 2000, a ratio utterly unmatched by any other opening text. The players are also relatively unknown, even though strong – if there's some Eastern European 2550 who plays a particular variation regularly and well, Shaw knows about him.

The book is perfect for players thinking about trying the Ruy Lopez as White, and also serves excellently as an introduction for Black players thinking about playing 1...e5 and 2...Nc6, or those who already do but would like to expand their repertoires within this massive opening complex. Players under 2000 just have to have this book – stronger players could find it an excellent and enjoyable refresher course in this classic opening (I know I did). It's a great book.: ★★★★★

Annotated Game

□ V Anand (2774)
■ J Polgar (2718)
Chess Classic Mainz (7), 17.08.2003
B92 *Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov*
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6

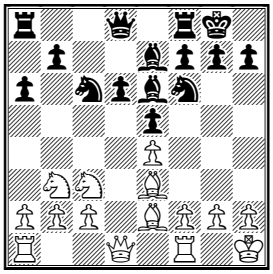


As usual, Polgar plays the Najdorf Sicilian.

6.♗e2

No 6.f3 this time. The tricky move 6...♕b6!? brought Judith a wonderful win in the 3rd game (see CT–1012). Vishy found some drawbacks in Black's set-up in the 6th game, but probably Anand did not want to face Polgar's improvement...

6...e5 7.♘b3 ♗e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♔h1 ♘c6 10.♗e3 ♗e6



11.♕d2

Obviously not 11.f4 as it gives Black a whole extra tempo compared to the Scheveningen variation, in which he advances his pawn to e5 in two steps.

11...a5

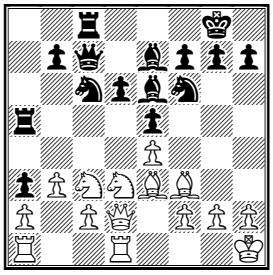
Judith does not repeat 11...d5 12.exd5 ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 ♗xd5 14.♖fd1 ♗xb3 15.axb3 ♕xd2 16.♖xd2 ♖ad8

17.♖ad1 ♖xd2 18.♖xd2 ♖d8 19.♗d3 g6 20.c3 when she didn't manage to hold the slightly worse endgame, Short – Polgar, Budapest 2003.; 11...b5 is a popular option, which may really promise Black good play.

12.♖fd1 a4 13.♘c1 ♖a5!?

This rather sophisticated way to get additional control over the important d5-sqaure is actually a novelty. In the game Short – Gelfand, Budapest 2003. Black did not equalise with 13...♕c8 14.f3 ♖d8 15.♗b6 ♖d7 16.♘d5 ♗d8 17.♗xd8 ♕xd8 18.♗b5 ♕a5 19.c4 ♕xd2 20.♖xd2 ♖dd8 21.♘b6 ♖a5 22.♘e2 a3 23.b3 ♔f8 24.♖ad1 ♔e7 25.♔g1 ♘e8 26.♘c3± and White slowly outplayed his opponent.

14.♗f3 a3 15.b3 ♕c7 16.♘d3 ♖c8



Black has quickly got all her pieces into play but her pawn structure is far from perfect. The a3-pawn can become an easy target in the long run, while the typical weakness of the d5-square is always there...

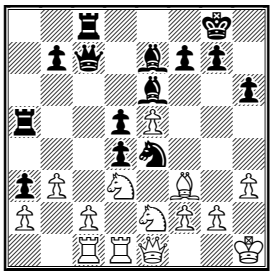
17.♖ac1 h6

An attempt to get rid of the d6-pawn with 17...d5 could be well met by 18.exd5 ♘xd5 19.♘xd5 ♗xd5 20.♘xe5!, winning the pawn.

18.h3 ♘d4!

White would be happy to put his pawn on c4 so Black is going forward, hoping that the activity of her pieces will compensate for the chronic defects of her pawn structure.

19.♗xd4 exd4 20.♘e2 d5 21.e5 ♘e4 22.♕e1



22...♘c3?!

Perhaps the crucial moment of the whole match! A tempting 22...♗g5! could have made White's play very uncomfortable.

23.♘xc3 ♕xc3 24.♗g4!

Perhaps Judith underestimated this resource. Now the rook on c1 (and so the c2-pawn!) is safe since White can counter ...Be7-g5 by f2-f4.

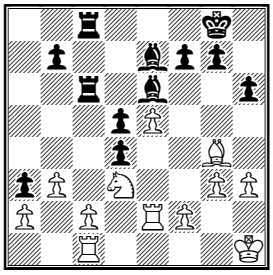
24...♕xe1+ 25.♖xe1 ♖a6

Trying to create pressure over the c-file.

26.g3!

An important defensive move.

26...♖ac6 27.♖e2



27...g6

27...♖c3 was simply met by 28.♖d2 and Be7-g5 followed by Rc3xd3 does not work as the f4-pawn is well protected.

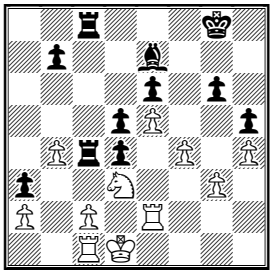
28.♔g2 h5 29.♗xe6 fxe6 30.h4

Now it seems that Black has no ideas – she can only stay and wait for White's regrouping.

30...♗d8!

Judith is still trying to find something.

31.f4 ♗a5 32.b4 ♗d8 33.♔f2 ♗e7 34.♔e1 ♖c4 35.♔d1



35...♔f7

35...♗xb4 was met by 36.♖b1 ♗c3 37.♖xb7

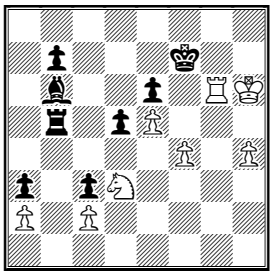
36.♖b1 ♖c3 37.♖b3 ♔e8

37...♖xb3 38.cxb3 ♖c3 would not create the desired effect due to the simple 39.♔d2

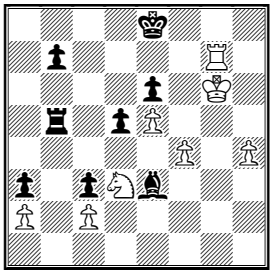
38.♖d2 ♖8c4 39.b5 ♗d8 40.♖g2

White can break only on the K-side.

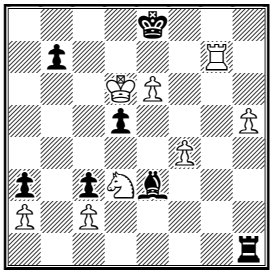
40...♗a5!?
40...♔f7!? also came to mind.
41.♖xc3 dxc3 42.♔e2
Taking a good opportunity to improve the king.
42...♗b6 43.♔f3 ♖a4
White was just in time to parry 43...♖e4 by 44.♖e2 ♖a4 45.♖e1
44.g4
It's time for action...
44...hxg4+
But now 44...♖e4! was very much possible: 45.gxh5 gxh5 with excellent counterplay!
45.♔xg4 ♖a5 46.♔g5 ♔f7 47.♔h6 ♖xb5 48.♖xg6



48...♗e3?
This is too slow! After 48...♖b2!! we can already talk about the importance of the far advanced pawns in the endgame. White had a lot of possibilities to go wrong, for example, 49.♖g7+ ♔e8 A) in case of 50.♖xb7 ♗e3!! 51.♘xb2 axb2 52.♔g7 d4 53.f5 *(53.h5 d3 54.h6 ♗xf4–+)* 53...d3 54.f6 ♗c5 55.f7+ ♔d8 White could be already happy with a draw by 56.♖b5 ♗a3 57.♖b3 ♗e7 58.♖b7 ♗c5 59.♖b5=; B) 50.♔g6!? 50...♖xa2 51.♔f6 ♖xc2 52.♔xe6 ♔f8 53.♖xb7 a2 54.♖b8+ ♔g7 55.♖a8 and White is ready to advance his pawns but Black's pawns are also not bad: 55...♖d2 *(after 55...♖b2 56.f5 c2 57.f6+ ♔g6 58.f7 ♗c5!* Black was still fighting*)* 56.♘c1 d4 57.f5 d3 with wild complications with any result possible.
49.♖g7+ ♔e8 50.♔g6



50...♖b1
50...♖b2 was already late: 51.♔f6 ♖xc2 52.f5 exf5 53.♖g8+ ♔d7 54.e6+ ♔c7 55.e7 and White wins.
51.h5
51.♔f6 was also good enough.
51...♖g1+ 52.♔f6 ♖h1 53.♔xe6 ♔d8 54.♔d6 ♔e8 55.e6



Black resigned. A very interesting and exciting game! **1–0**

Solution to our Quiz:

Rakhmangulov – M. Fedorov:
22.♗h7+!! ♔f8 23.♗g6! fxg6 24.g4 ♗xe5 (24...♕xh4 25.♘xg6+) **25.gxh5**, with decisive material advantage – White won 26 moves later.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback! **Chess Today** is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com http://www.chesstoday.net **Editors:** GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi. **Chess Today is copyright 2003 by Alexander Baburin** and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention. Subscribers are allowed to non-commercially distribute copies of Chess Today at their chess club, chess tournaments and via e-mail (on an occasional basis). Any other use and distribution (reproduction, via print, electronic format, or in any form whatsoever), as well as posting on the Web, is strictly prohibited without express written permission.

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-231(1015) 19th August 2003

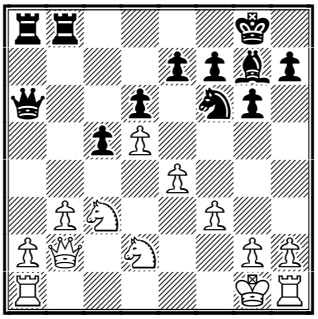
Chess Personalities

The 18th of August 2003 is a special day for GM ***Dorian Rogozenko***, who celebrates his 30th birthday. Apart from being active on the tournament circuit (current rating 2522), he is also know for his writing (*'Anti-Sicilians. A guide for Black'*, Gambit, 2003) and work at the Chess Base website. There you can also learn about the horrible Rogozenko-Bologan conspiracy!

Rogozenko is also a long-standing CT reader, so we know that our message will reach him - Happy Birthday, Dorian! And try solving our Quiz! ☺

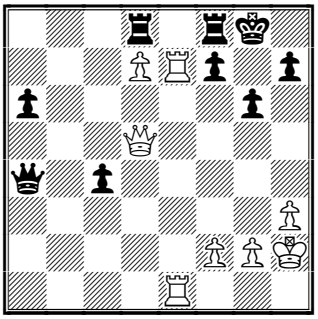
Chess Quiz

Zaichik (2510) - Rogozenko (2480)
Chisinau Open, 1993



Black to play

Rogozenko (2440) - Marin (2540)
Ciocaltea Memorial, Bucharest, 1995



White to play

Chess News

GM Ruslan Scherbakov

The Panamerican Continental Championships are under way in **Buenos Aires**. There are 35GMs and 33 IMs among 156 participants.

The 1st round was an easy job for the ELO-favourites such as Alexander Onischuk (USA), Julio Granda (PER), Gregory Kaidanov (USA), Giovanni Vescovi (BRA), Lazaro Bruzon CUB), Lenier Dominguez (CUB), Alexander Goldin USA), Gilberto Milos (BRA), Boris Gulko (USA) and Alexander Shabalov (USA).

36 players, including the top-seeded GMs Viktor Korchnoi, Vereslav Eingorn, Milos Pavlovic, Bojan Kurajica, Stefan Kindermann, Sergei Karjakin are keeping perfect score after the 2nd round of the Vienna Open in Austria.

After the 2nd round of the strong open tournament in Abu Dhabi, six players are leading with a perfect score: GMs Smbat Lputian (ARM), Evgeny Vladimirov (KAZ), Baadur Jobava (GEO), Valery Neverov (UKR), Goran Dizdar (CRO) and IMs Sergei Kajumov (UZB) and Tejas Bakre (IND).

Four players are leading after 2nd rounds of the Asian Women's Championship in Calicut, India.

1-4. Li Ruofan, Harika Dronavalli, Gu Xiaobing, Tian Tian – 2 points, 5-15. Koneru Humpy, Wang Pin, Vijayalakshmi, Wang Yu, Sergeeva, Xu Yuanyuan, Aarthie, Meenakshi, Huang Qian, Ruan Lufei, Shahnaz – 1½ etc. (38 players). Rising Indian star, 12 year old Harika Dronavalli beat the top-seeded Zhao Xue in brilliant style – enjoy this battle in our game section.

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov & GM Alex Baburin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

The French Championships start today.

Here is the list of participants: Joel Lautier (2677), Etienne Bacrot (2645), Josif Dorfman (2607), Christian Bauer (2589), Anatoly Vaisser (2571), Andrei Sokolov (2554), Robert Fontaine (2541), Jean-Marc Degraeve (2541), Manuel Apicella (2522), Jean-Luc Chabanon (2498), Almira Skripchenko (2489) and Laurent Giudarelli (2392).

Web Watch

GM Alex Baburin

Chess FM is fast becoming a very valuable online chess resource. I recommend you to check out *Openings for Amateurs* by Pete Tamburro and *Great Games in Chess History* by NM Dennis Monokrousssos, which currently shows the critical game Keres-Smyslov from Zurich 1953.

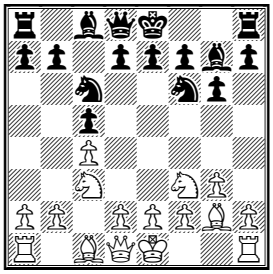
I already mentioned in Chess Today a hilarious British magazine, ***Kingpin***, which has several articles online. One of them is a *Letter from Hungary*, from a mysterious ex-US player – a good laugh! Another funny page is called *Readers' Letters to New in Chess*.

A friend recently asked me about books in which chess played an important part. I knew of quite a few such books. Nabokov's *The Luzhin Defence* and Zweig's *The Royal Game* were easy candidates, but there are many more stories and novels with chess motifs. For example, I like that theme in Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading*. After some research I found a useful page listing many (but certainly not all!) books with a chess theme.

Annotated Game

□ **Zhao Xue**
■ **D Harika**
Asian Women's Championship Calicut (2), 18.08.2003 – A35
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.c4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.♘f3 g6 4.g3 ♗g7 5.♗g2 ♘f6

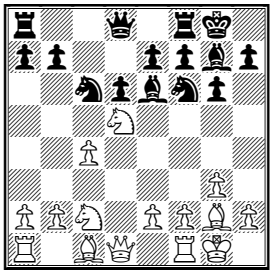


Apart from this variation, there are some other symmetrical lines in the English Opening.

6.d4 cxd4 7.♘xd4 0-0 8.♘c2

8.0–0 ♘xd4 9.♕xd4 d6 10.♕d3 is a more popular line, which promises a small advantage for White.

8...d6 9.0-0 ♗e6 10.♘d5



A rare continuation. 10.b3 is more popular and it may promise a slight edge for White: 10...♕d7 11.♗b2 *(11.e4 ♗h3 12.f3 ♗xg2 13.♔xg2±)* 11...♗h3 12.♘e3 ♗xg2 13.♔xg2± ♖fd8 *(13...♘e4?! 14.♕c2 ♘xc3 15.♗xc3 ♗xc3 16.♕xc3* Kasparov – Leko, Horgen 1994*)* 14.♕d2 e6 15.♖ad1 *(15.♖fd1* let Black to get comfortable play by *15...d5 16.cxd5 exd5 17.♘cxd5 ♘xd5 18.♘xd5 ♕xd5+ 19.♕xd5 ♖xd5 20.♖xd5 ♗xb2 21.♖ad1 ♔f8 22.e3 ♗f6 23.♖d7 ♖b8 24.f4* and soon the game ended in a draw, Kasparov – Kramnik, Frankfurt (rapid) 1998*)* 15...a6 with a playable position, in which White keeps a very slight edge, Anastasian – Krasenkow, EU-ch Ohrid 2001.

10...♘e5!?

A fresh idea. Both 10...♕d7; and 10...♖c8 are the popular options.

11.♘d4

11.b3 ♘xd5 12.cxd5 ♗d7 13.♘d4 ♕b6 was good for Black in the game Porrasmaa – Franssila, TCh-FIN 2001.

11...♗d7 12.b3

White could not win the pawn on b7 with 12.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 13.♗xb7 as after 13...♖b8 Black wins the c4-pawn back.

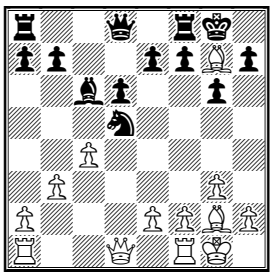
12...♘c6

A preliminary 12...♘xd5!? was interesting.

13.♗b2 ♘xd5 14.♘xc6

14.cxd5 ♘xd4 15.♗xd4 ♗xd4 16.♕xd4 ♕b6!? seemed acceptable for Black but it was better for White to follow this line.

14...♗xc6 15.♗xg7



15...♘e3!

An excellent intermediate move, which was probably missed. White was hoping to win one tempo after 15...♔xg7 16.cxd5 ♗d7 17.♕d4+ and so on.

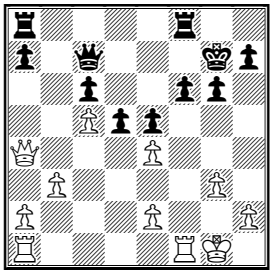
16.fxe3 ♔xg7

Now White should play accurately as her pawn structure is far from perfect.

17.♗xc6 bxc6 18.c5!? d5 19.♕d4+ f6 20.e4

White is logically trying to get rid of her doubled pawns.

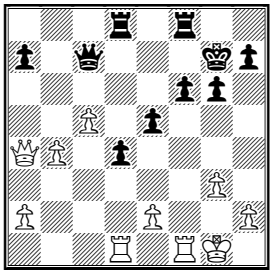
20...e5 21.♕a4 ♕c7



22.♖ad1?!

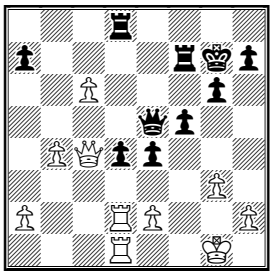
22.exd5 cxd5 23.♖ac1 followed by c5-c6 looked better, supporting a strong passed pawn.

22...♖ad8 23.exd5 cxd5 24.b4 d4



The play is getting sharp. White has a big pawn superiority on the Q-side but the advance of the Black central pawns has one important advantage – it would be connected with a direct attack against the White king while the safety of the king is the most important thing in this kind of position!

25.♕a6 e4 26.♕c4 ♕e5 27.c6 ♖f7 28.♖d2 f5 29.♖fd1?!



A rather risky move. 29.b5 seemed more precise. The White king was rather vulnerable so it was natural to keep the rook on the f-file.

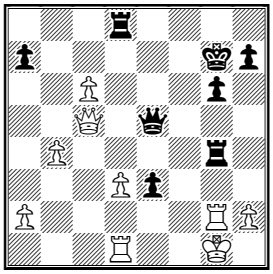
29...d3! 30.exd3 e3! 31.♖e2 f4!

Black's play is simple and strong – she is breaking the White king's shield. However, White still keeps a lot of defensive resources.

32.gxf4?

The immediate 32.♕c5! let White keep defending.

32...♖xf4 33.♕c5 ♖g4+ 34.♖g2



It might seem that White is doing well as the direct threats are parried and simplifications would help White very much. However...

34...♕e4!!

A wonderful idea, which proves that the attack is more important than anything else in this position.

35.♖g3

Of course, the queen was untouchable: 35.dxe4?? ♖xd1#

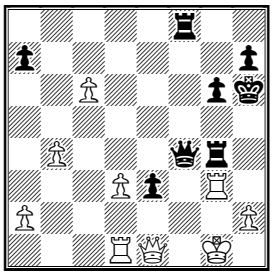
35...♕f4?

Black should have not moved her queen from the central e4-square! 35...e2! was winning: 36.♖e1 ♖xd3 37.♖xg4 ♕xg4+ 38.♔h1 ♕e4+ 39.♔g1 ♖f3 and White had no defence against Qe4-g4 and Rf3-f1.

36.♕c3+?

White could have forced a draw by 36.♕e7+! ♔h6 37.♕xd8 For example, 37...e2 *(37...♖xg3+ 38.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 39.♔h1 ♕f3+ 40.♔h2)* 38.♖b1 (perhaps White automatically calculated *38.♖e1??* which was just losing to *38...♖xg3+ 39.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 40.♔h1 ♕xe1+)* 38...♖xg3+ 39.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 40.♔h1 and Black should give perpetual check.

36...♔h6 37.♕e1 ♖f8!



Black skillfully maintains the initiative.

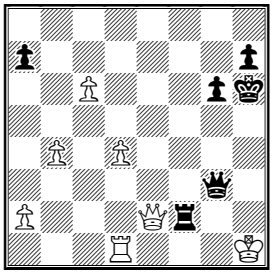
38.d4??

A clear mistake in a difficult position - White just missed Black's idea. 38.♖c1 didn't help much: 38...e2 39.♖xg4 ♕xg4+ 40.♕g3 ♕f5 41.♕e3+ ♔g7 42.♔g2 h5!! and Black's attack looks irresistible; White should have tried to use her trump card by playing 38.c7!? and after 38...e2 39.♕xe2 ♖xg3+ 40.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 41.♕g2 ♕xc7 Black keeps a clear advantage as the White king is too exposed.

38...e2! 39.♕xe2 ♖xg3+ 40.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 41.♔h1

Or 41.♕g2 ♕e3+ 42.♔h1 ♖f5–+

41...♖f2



Black resigned. A very energetic game by Harika! **0-1**

Solutions to our Quiz:

Zaichik-Rogozenko: **18...♘xd5** and White resigned in view of 19.exd5 ♗d4#.

Rogozenko-Marin: **30.♖xf7! 1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

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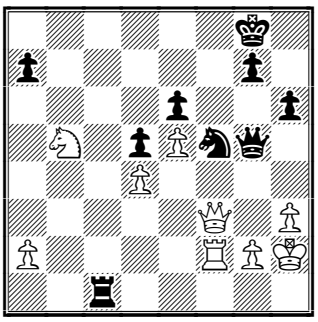
CT-232(1016) 20th August 2003

Chess Quiz

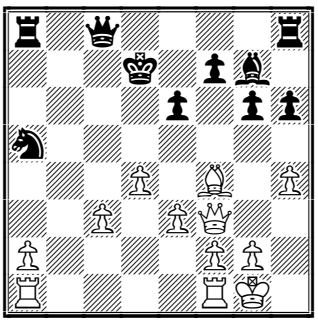
with GM Ruslan Scherbakov

Sachdev – Trang,
Calicut, 2003



Black to play: Try to find the way to convert Black's initiative into something more substantial.

Ahmed – Svetushkin
ADCF masters, 2003



White to play: White has got 3 pawns for the piece and the Black king is not safe. However, the winning idea does not come to mind easily.

Chess News

Four players are leading after the 2nd round of the *French Championships*.

Round 2 results:
Chabanon – Fontaine ½:½
Apicella – Bacrot ½:½
Skripchenko – Vaisser ½:½
Degraeve – Guidarelli 0:1
Lautier – Dorfman – ½:½
Sokolov – Bauer 1:0

Round 2 standings:
1-4. A.Sokolov, Bacrot, Guidarelli, Vaisser – 1½ points,
5-9. Bauer, Apicella, Lautier, Dorfman, Chabanon – 1
10-11. Skripchenko, Fontaine – ½
12. Degraeve – 0

Harika Dronavalli (India) and **Gu Xiaobing** (China) are keeping perfect scores after the 3rd round of the *Asian Women's Championship* in Calicut, India.

Round 3 standings:
1-2. Harika, Dronavalli, Gu Xiaobing – 3 points, 3-7. Koneru Humpy, Wang Yu, Xu Yuanyuan, Aarthie, Ruan Lufei – 2½ 8-14. Zhao Xue, Hoang Thang Trang, Vijayalakshmi, Li Ruofan, Meenakshi, Le Kieu Thien Kim, Tian Tian – 2 etc.

The 3rd round of the *Pan-American Continental Championships* in **Buenos Aires**, saw the rather unexpected defeat of GM Gregory Kaidanov against IM Jorge Rosito of Argentina. There are still 20 players with perfect scores.

The top-seeded **Viktor Korchnoi** keeps a perfect score together with nine other players after the 3rd round of the *Vienna Open* in Austria.

1-10. GMs Korchnoi, Dizdarevic, Balinov, IMs Lendwai, Danner, Franic, Petran, Sprenger, Tratar and Khmelevsky – 3 points etc.

The Dubai Open winner, Baadur Jobava of Georgia, is the only player with a perfect score after the 3rd round of the *Abu Dhabi Open*.

Round 3 standings:
1. Jobava – 3 points,
2-9. Lputian, Vladimirov, Neverov, Harikrishna, Yemelin, Ghaem Maghami, Kotsur, Dizdar, Bakre – 2½ etc.

This issue is prepared by GM Ruslan Scherbakov; technical editor Graham Brown.
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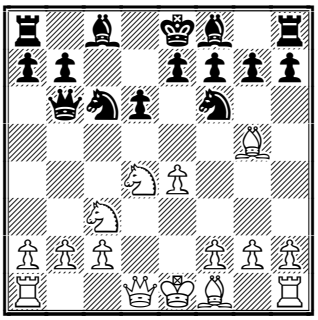
The *Vidmar Memorial* is under way in Terme Zrece, Slovenia. GMs Alexander Beliavsky (SLO, 2668) and Emil Sutovsky (ISR, 2639) and local player Luca Lenic (SLO, 2386) are sharing the lead with 1½ points after 2 rounds.

Annotated Game

□ S Kayumov (2479)
■ B Jobava (2596)
ADCF masters 2003 (3.9), 18.08.2003
B63
Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 ♘f6 4.♘c3 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♘c6 6.♗g5 ♕b6

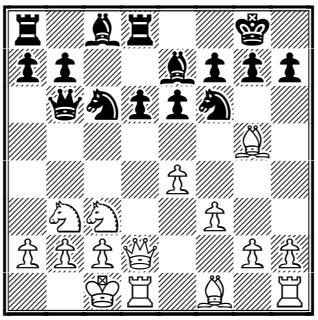


An early queen sortie is rather interesting in the Rauzer Sicilian – I have tried it many times myself.

7.♘b3 e6 8.♕d2 ♗e7 9.0-0-0 0-0

One of the key positions of the system, which is usually reached in a different way – with Nd4-b3 and ...Qd8-b6 played on the very last move.

10.f3 ♖d8



11.♘b5!?

The idea of this move is not to increase pressure over the d6-pawn – in fact White is going to win the queen by Bg5-e3! A well-known alternative is 11.♗e3 ♕c7 12.♕f2 (preventing a7-a6 and b7-b5) 12...d5 13.exd5 ♘xd5 14.♘xd5 ♖xd5 15.♖xd5 exd5 with a slightly worse, but quite playable, position for Black.

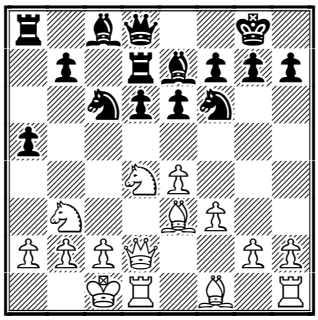
11...♖d7

This rather strange-looking move is probably the best.

12.♗e3

A preliminary 12.♕e1 is another option: 12...a6 13.♗e3 ♕d8 14.♘5d4 One example: 14...♗f8!? 15.g4 e5 16.♘f5 d5 17.g5 dxe4 18.♖xd7 ♗xd7 19.♘xg7! ♗xg7 20.gxf6 ♕xf6 21.fxe4 ♘d4 and Black has achieved good play, Yemelin – R.Scherbakov, RUS-ch St.Petersburg 1998.

12...♕d8 13.♘5d4 a5



Black should try to be active on the Q-side despite the weakening of the b5-square.

14.a4!?

White has also tried other options but without much success: 14.g4 e5! 15.♘xc6 bxc6 16.g5 ♘e8! 17.♔b1 a4 18.♘c1 d5∓ Fedorowicz – Gulko, Philadelphia 1999; 14.♘xc6 bxc6 15.♘d4 ♖c7 16.g4 a4 17.g5 ♘h5 18.♘e2 e5 19.♘g3 ♘f4 20.h4 ♖b7 21.♕c3 ♖ab8 22.♗xf4 exf4 23.♘h5 ♕f8 24.b3 axb3 25.axb3 d5 Liss – Kotronias, Rishon Le Ziyyon 1996, in both cases with clearly better chances for Black.

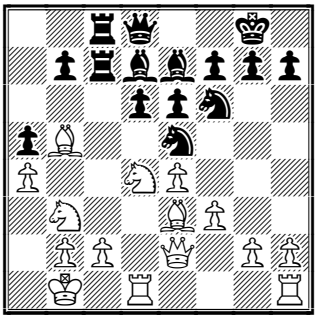
14...♘e5

A new continuation. In the game Solak-Damljanovic, Belgrade 2002 Black played 14...e5!? and also achieved good play after 15.♘xc6 *(15.♘f5!?)* 15...bxc6 16.♕c3 ♕c7 17.g4 d5 18.♗c5 d4 19.♕e1 ♗xc5 20.♘xc5 ♖e7 21.♗c4 ♘d7 22.♘xd7 ♗xd7 23.g5 ♗e6 24.♕e2 ♕d6 25.b3 ♖b7 with an annoying initiative on the Q-side.

15.♗b5 ♖c7

The rook is slowly looking for the ideal place on the board.

16.♕e2 ♗d7 17.♔b1 ♖ac8



18.c3?!

White is too complacent. It would have been interesting to see what exactly Black had prepared for 18.♘xa5!?

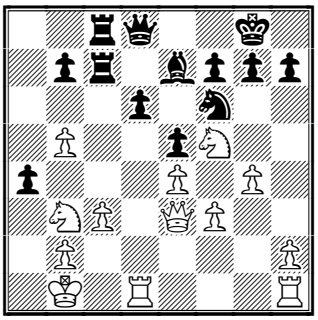
18...♘c4 19.g4

This K-side action is harmless for Black. 19.♗g5!? deserved serious attention.

19...♘xe3 20.♕xe3 e5!

Beginning concrete actions on the Q-side.

21.♘f5 ♗xb5 22.axb5 a4

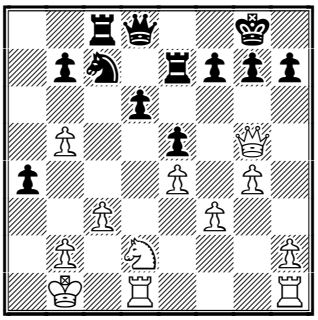


A rather irritating pawn!

23.♕g5?!

A dubious idea, which makes Black's play much easier. 23.b6!? was much more testing: 23...♖d7 24.♘c1 and the direct attempt to win the b6-pawn by 24...♖c6 *(24...d5!?)* 25.♘d3 ♖xb6 would fail to 26.g5 ♘h5 27.♘xe5!

23...♘e8 24.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 25.♘d2 ♘c7!

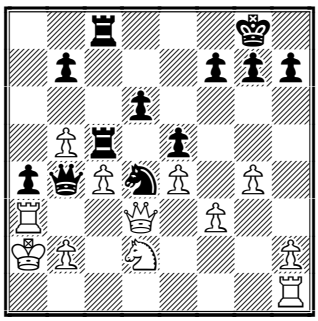


Starting from this point, Black's pieces are moving forward till the very end of the game.

26.c4 ♘e6 27.♕e3 ♖ec7 28.♖c1 ♖c5 29.♖c3 ♘d4 30.♕d3 ♕a5

The other pieces have already occupied the best squares - now it's time for the queen.

31.♖a3 ♕b4 32.♔a2



32...♘xb5!

Sorry, one step back... Well, can we really call it a retreat?!

33.cxb5 ♖c2 34.♘b3 ♖8c3! 35.♕d5 g6!

An important prophylactic move. White is just helpless now.

36.♔b1 axb3 37.♖a8+ ♔g7 38.♕d1 ♖e3 39.♔a1 ♖ce2

White resigned. An excellent game by Baadur Jobava! **0-1**

Solutions to our Quiz: 35...♘g3! 36.♕g4 36.♕xg3 ♖h1+-+ **36...♘f1+ 37.♖xf1 ♕xg4 38.hxg4 ♖xf1 39.♘xa7 ♖a1** White resigned. **0-1 / 21.♗b8!!** A wonderful double strike. Black loses the f7-pawn. **21...♖xb8 22.♕xf7+ ♔d6 23.♕xg7 ♘c4 24.♖ab1 ♕d7 25.♕xg6+-** and White has eventually converted his advantage into the full point

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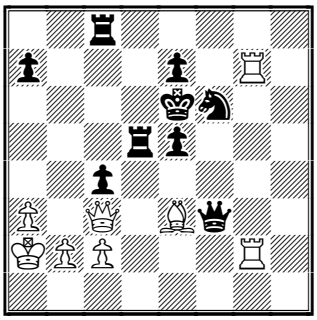
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-237(1021) 25th August 2003

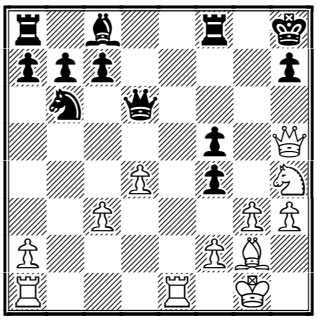
Chess Quiz

Milos – Kudrin
Buenos Aires, 2003



White to play

Nogueiras – Hobaica
Buenos Aires, 2003



White to play

Chess News

by IM Maxim Notkin

One of the events we were focused upon during last week has finished. GM **Emir Dizdarevic** of Bosnia and Herzegovina won the Vienna Open on tie-break. He scored 7 points in 9 rounds as well as seven other players – Kindermann, Manik, Stanec, Pavlovic, Landa, Loeffler and Lendwai. One of the ELO-favourites Eingorn shared 9-16 places with 6½, while the legendary elder Viktor Korchnoi and the fabulous youngster Karjakin scored 6 points becoming a part of the group *19-37* along with GMs Kurajica and Timoschenko.

Another strong open tournament is close to an end in Abu Dhabi **Gabriel Gargissian** of Armenia is the sole leader before the final round in which his strength will be tested by his famous fellow countryman Smbat Lputian.

Round 7 top results:
Lputian – Yemelin 1:0
Poluljahov – Vladimirov ½:½
Sargissian – Dizdar 1:0
Javad – Kotsur 0:1
Jobava – Vakhidov 1:0

Round 8 top results:
Kotsur – Lputian ½:½
Sargissian – Jobava 1:0
Yemelin – Poluljahov 1:0
Vladimirov – Magerramov ½:½
Harikrishna – Javad 1:0
Mamedyarov – Rahman 1:0
Abdelnabbi – Gagunashvili 0:1

Round 8 standings:
1. Sargissian – 6½
2-4. Lputian, Yemelin, Kotsur – 6
5-8. Vladimirov, Harikrishna, Mamedyarov, Gagunashvili – 5½, etc.

Final round pairings:
Lputian – Sargissian
Kotsur – Yemelin
Gagunashvili – Vladimirov
Harikrishna – Mamedyarov

One of the world's most promising female player, the Indian **Koneru Humpy**, was assured of the title in the 10th Asian Women's Chess Championship 2003 with one round to spare. In the penultimate round Koneru drew against one of her most dangerous rivals, Hoang Thang Trang , of Vietnam.

Standings before the final round:
1. Koneru – 6½
2-6. Hoang Thang Trang, Vijayalakshmi, Harika, Xu Yuanyuan, Le Kieu Thien Kim – 5½, etc.

Alexander Goldin and **Lenier Dominguez** are heading the Panamerican Championship Hikaru Nakamura takes clear third while the group of pursuers is extremely large.

Round 6 top results:
Dominguez – Ramirez 1:0
Goldin – Milos 1:0
Granda Zuniga – Nakamura 0:1
Vescovi – Campora ½:½
Novikov – Zambrana ½:½
D. Gurevich – Gulko ½:½
Lafuente – Morovic ½:½

Round 6 standings:
1–2. Goldin, Dominguez – 5½
3. Nakamura – 5
4–22. Milos, Ramirez, Vescovi, Morovic, Gulko, Campora, Kudrin, Lafuente, D. Gurevich, Pierrot, Shabalov, Vasquez, Franco, Tempone, Charbonneau, Novikov, Zambrana, Felgaer, Onischuk – 4½, etc.

Etienne Bacrot and **Sophie Millet** confidently hold their lead at the French Championships Joel Lautier is close on the heels of Bacrot where as the superiority of Millet in the women's event is indisputable. She scored 6½, while Roza Lallemand and Silvia Collas have 5 points.

Round 7 results:
Fontaine – Apicella 0:1
Sokolov – Skripchenko ½:½
Bauer – Bacrot 0:1
Dorfman – Vaisser ½:½
Lautier – Degraeve 1:0
Guidarelli – Chabanon ½:½

Round 7 standings:
1. Bacrot – 5½
2. Lautier – 5
3–4. Apicella, Sokolov – 4½
5–6. Dorfman, Vaisser – 4
7–8. Bauer, Guidarelli – 3
9–10. Fontaine, Chabanon – 2½
11. Skripchenko – 2
12. Degraeve – 1½

The title in the Vidmar Memorial will be decided in the competition between **Emil Sutovsky** and **Alexander Beliavsky.** The next round sees their encounter. Sutovsky plays White.

Round 7 results:

Sutovsky – Sermek 1:0
Beliavsky – Pavasovic 1:0
Borisek – Lenic ½:½
Mitkov – Mikhalchishin 1:0
Halkias – Sedlak ½:½

Round 7 standings:

1–2. Sutovsky, Beliavsky – 5
3–6. Lenic, Sedlak, Mikhalchishin, Sermek – 3½
7–8. Halkias, Mitkov – 3
9–10. Pavasovic, Borisek – 2½

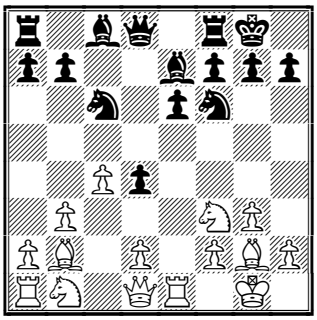
Davide Cortese informs us about the open tournament in Bratto After three rounds 5 players – Milov, Sax, Epishin, Maksimenko and Dervishi have a perfect score.

Yesterday evening there was a big (110 players) 5' blitz tournament. GM Andrei Maksimenko of Ukraine won with 7½/9. GM Drazic and IM Tatai scored the same number of points.

Annotated Game

☐ **H. Spangenberg**
■ **A. Onischuk**
Continental Americano II Buenos Aires ARG (6), 23.08.2003
Modern Benoni/Colors Reversed – [A14]
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.b3
White deviates from the main lines of the Catalan Opening offering the opponent to take the initiative in the centre. Ruslan Scherbakov played this system against me in Minsk 1997!
4...c5 5.♗g2 ♘c6 6.0–0 ♗e7 7.e3 0–0 8.♗b2 d4
Black finally accepts the challenge and the game transposes into the Modern Benoni with reversed colours.
9.exd4 cxd4 10.♖e1 (D)



10...♘e8!

The best move. Unlike Ruslan I wasn't aware of the subtleties of this variation and tried to support the advance of the e-pawn by 10...♖e8 11.d3 (he played a slightly different move order - 10.d3 and 11.♖e1) 11...♗f8 but after 12.♘e5 ♘xe5 13.♖xe5 ♘d7 14.♖e2 I found out that the white pieces are better prepared for the fight in the centre.

11.♘e5 ♘xe5 12.♖xe5 f6!

The key move. Now the pawn centre built-up by Black is hard to undermine.

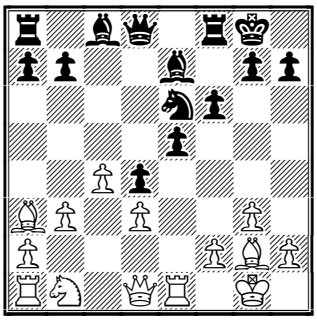
13.♖e1 e5 14.d3

The game Bruzon - David, Bled 2002 saw 14.♗a3 ♗xa3 15.♘xa3 ♘c7 16.♘c2 ♔h8 17.d3 ♕d6 18.♕d2 ♘e6 19.♖f1 g5! and in the following complicated play Black succeeded in winning. Onischuk carries out approximately the same ideas.

14...♘c7

Another advantage of 10...♘e8 - Black has a clear way to improve the knight. Its eventual transposition to c5 followed by ♗f5 would make White to take care of the d3-pawn.

15.♗a3 ♘e6?! (D)



16.♕c1?

White could exploit opponent's incautious move by 16.f4! with idea of 16...♗xa3 17.♘xa3 exf4 18.♗d5

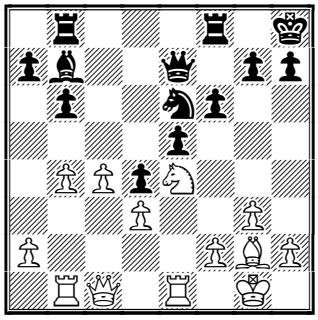
16...♔h8

Removing the unpleasant tactical motif.

17.♘d2 ♖b8 18.♘e4 b6!

It is tempting to kick the knight right away but f6-f5 would have weakened the e5-pawn.

19.♖b1 ♗b7 20.♗xe7 ♕xe7 21.b4 (D)



White's initiative on the queenside isn't dangerous yet but Black should decide how to launch an offensive in the centre or on the kingside.

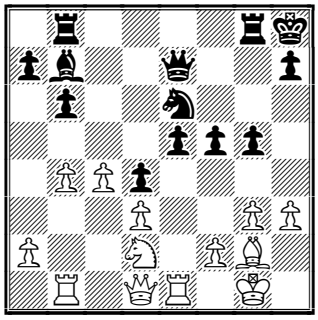
21...g5!?

Planning g4 and f5 and then after the swap of the bishops the black knight goes to g5 provided by the powerful outposts on f3 and h3. The simple 21...f5 22.♘d2 ♗xg2 23.♔xg2 ♘g5 deserves attention as well. Black could have combined the threats along the main diagonal with the advance of the f-pawn.

22.♕d1 ♖g8

Renewing the threat of g4 and setting the rook in the opposition to the enemy king.

23.h3 f5 24.♘d2 (D)



24...♘f4! 25.♗f1?

Hiding the head in the sand but it doesn't help. The only defence was the audacious 25.gxf4 gxf4 26.f3 and after

A) 26...♖xg2+ 27.♔xg2 ♖g8+ doesn't lead to a win - 28.♔h1 ♕h4?! *(28...♖g3! 29.♖e2 ♖xh3+ 30.♖h2*

♖xh2+ 31.♔xh2 ♕h4+ with perpetual*)* 29.♖e2 ♖g3 30.♖h2 ♖xf3 31.♕xf3! (better than *31.♘xf3 ♕g3 32.♕f1 ♗xf3+ 33.♖g2 ♕xh3+ 34.♔g1 ♗xg2 35.♕xg2 ♕xd3∞*) 31...♗xf3+ 32.♘xf3 with material advantage to White;

B) 26...♕h4 27.♖e2 *(27.♕e2? ♖xg2+ 28.♕xg2 ♖g8)* 27...♕xh3 28.♖f2 Black has compensation but placing the queen at e2 White put his defence in order somehow.

25...g4!

Now Black's attack is unstoppable.

26.h4 ♗a8! 27.♔h2

27.gxf4 ♕xh4 28.♗g2 ♗xg2 29.♔xg2 ♕h3+ 30.♔g1 g3 mating

27...♕b7 28.f3 gxf3 29.♕xf3

29.gxf4 ♕g7; 29.♖xe5 ♘h5

29...♕g7 30.♕f2 ♘h5

The g3-pawn falls.

31.♘f3 ♘xg3 32.♗h3 ♗xf3 33.♕xf3 e4 34.♕f4

White resigned in view of 34.♕f4 ♘h5 35.♕f2 ♕e5+ 36.♔h1 e3 **0-1.**

Solutions to our Quiz:

Milos - Kudrin

Buenos Aires, 2003

39.♖xe7+! ♔xe7 40.♗c5+ ♖cxc5 41.♕xf3+- 1-0.

Nogueiras - Hobaica

Buenos Aires, 2003

20.♖e7! [20.♖e7 ♕xe7 21.♘g6+]

1-0.

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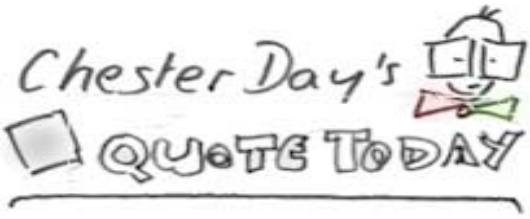

A win by an unsound combination, however showy, fills me with artistic horror"

--- *Wilhelm Steinitz*

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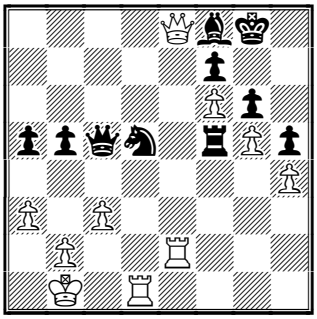
CT-238(1022) 26th August 2003

Chess Quiz

Apicella – Guidarelli
Ch FRA Aix-les-Bains



White to play

Chess news

Hot news! The match **Ponomariov – Kasparov** is under threat of breakdown (again). Ruslan Ponomariov refuses to sign the contract elaborated by FIDE ; insisting on his modification of some paragraphs. In particular he demands to strike out of the contract any phrase about the possible substitution of the players. Many times FIDE has mentioned Vassily Ivanchuk as the reserve in case of Ponomariov's denial; to cancel a day-off before the possible tie-break; to assign one Russian-speaking arbiter on the board. Ruslan also claims that he remains the World Champion until the match between the winners of Ponomariov – Kasparov and Kramnik – Leko semi-finals is finished. FIDE has made the decision about its Champion possible disqualification at the recent President Council in Nigeria. The time limit set by FIDE (August 25, 16:00 Moscow time) has expired and now everything depends on the good will of both sides. The press conference of Ponomariov and his team is expected on August 26. According to Iljumzhinov's assistant Berik Balgabaev on the same day FIDE will make its statement as well. Tomorrow surely brings another news. Let's keep up with politics.

ARPAD ELO (1903-1993)

(photograph courtesy of ChessCafe photogallery circa- 1962.)

August 25th is the **100th anniversary** of the birth of Arpad Elo, a man whose name, modern chess players hear and pronounce more often than anyone else's name.

A very good article about the distinguished professor is published on http://www.chesslinks.org/hof/elo.html

I'd like to offer you some excerpts.

"Born in Hungary on August 25, 1903, Elo moved to the United States at age 10. While living in Cleveland in 1913, Elo saw a set of chessmen in a department store window. This inspired him to teach himself how to play chess, using the Encyclopedia Britannica from the local high school library.

"His profession was scientist and teacher. After earning BS and MS degrees from the University of Chicago, he began teaching physics in 1926 at Marquette University where he was to remain on the faculty until retiring in 1969, when he began teaching at the University of Wisconsin on a part time basis. Throughout his life, Professor Elo was a man of many interests, including astronomy, horticulture, wine-making and music. Elo won the Wisconsin state championship for the first time at age 32 and went on to win it a total of eight times.

"He was the president of the old American Chess Federation from 1935 to 1937 and was one of the founders

of the United States Chess Federation in 1939. He helped develop and popularize the Swiss System tournament format.

"Elo's biggest contribution to chess organization was the development of the rating system that now bears his name. His rating system was adopted by the USCF in 1960 and by FIDE in 1970. Until 1980 he did all the calculations for FIDE on his Hewlett-Packard calculator.

"Professor Elo's 1978 book, *The Rating of Chessplayers Past & Present* provides an explanation of the foundations of chess rating theory, as well as intriguing historical analysis and speculation about demographic aspects of chess His system has been adopted to rank competitors in sports as disparate as Scrabble, bowling, golf and table tennis.

"In recognition of his significant contributions to American chess, Arpad Elo was inducted into the Chess Hall of Fame in 1988."

Gabriel Gargissian is the sole winner of Abu Dhabi open tournament. The top three games of the final round ended in a draw that allowed Penteala Harikrishna to share the second prize after defeating Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.

Final round results:
Lputian – Sargissian ½:½
Kotsur – Yemelin ½:½
Gagunashvili – Vladimirov ½:½
Harikrishna – Mamedyarov 1:0
Neverov – Bagheri 0:1
Hasangatin – Vakhidov 0:1
Barsov – Svetushkin 1:0
Magerramov – Kunte 0:1

Final standings:
1. Sargissian – 7
2–5. Lputian, Yemelin, Kotsur, Harikrishna – 6½
6–11. Vladimirov, Gagunashvili, Vakhidov, Bagheri, Barsov, Kunte – 6, etc.

Humpy Koneru won the 10th Asian Women's Chess Championship 2003 Another young Indian girl Dronavalli Harika shared the second place with the WGM Hoang Thang Trang of Vietnam.

Final standings:
1. Koneru – 7
2–3. Hoang Thang Trang, Harika – 6½
4–6. Xu Yuanyuan, Le Kieu Thien Kim, Shen Yang – 6, etc.

Vidmar Memorial
Round 8 results:

Sutovsky – Beliavsky ½:½
Sermek – Sedlak ½:½
Lenic – Mitkov 0:1
Pavasovic – Borisek 1:0
Mikhalchishin – Halkias ½:½

Round 8 standings:

1–2. Sutovsky, Beliavsky – 5½
3–6. Sermek, Sedlak, Mikhalchishin, Mitkov – 4
7–8. Halkias, Lenic, Pavasovic – 3½
10. Borisek – 2½

In the final round Beliavsky plays White against Sermek. Sutovsky conducts Black but his rival Borisek is at the bottom of the table therefore it's hard to say whose chances for the first prize are better.

The 23rd International Tournament in Bratto

Round 5 standings:
1–3. Sax, Milov, Maksimenko – 4½
4–10. Epishin, Dervishi, Cebalo, Ch. Horvath, Qendro, Drazic, Lalic – 4, etc.

Annotated Game

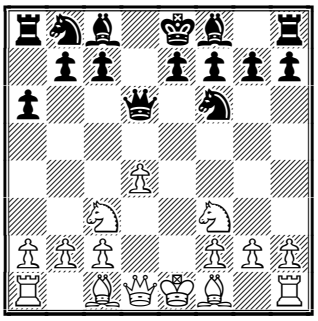
□ **E. Sutovsky**
■ **D.** Sermek
15 Milan Vidmar Memorial (7), 2003
Center Counter Defense – [B01]

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

In one of the previous issues I've already commented on one of Emil Sutovsky's game from the Vidmar Memorial (against Mitkov in CT–1017). Later Ruslan Scherbakov selected

another victory of Emil's (Sutovsky – Lenic CT–1019). It's not that we're trying to turn *Chess Today* into Sutovsky's fan club; it's not because he's my friend and even the fact that he is a CT reader. These are not the reasons for such a frequent resort to his works. He just plays interesting and creative chess, nothing more.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♕xd5 3.♘c3 ♕d6 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 a6 (D)



This rather strange (in my opinion) set-up is one of the favourite variations of Drazen Sermek and Bojan Kurajica. Lately it has come into fashion.

6.g3!?

6.♗e2 – Damljanovic – Kurajica 0–1, ; 6.♘e5 – J. Polgar – Kurajica 0–1; 6.♗e3 – Morozevich – Kurajica 1–0; 6.♗c4 – Hamdouchi – Kurajica – drawWhite has a wide range of possible plans and results isn't it? :–)At present 6.g3 is considered as one of the best replies.

6...b5

The alternative is 6...♗g4.

7.♗g2 ♗b7 8.0–0 e6 9.♗f4 ♕b6

More active and at the same time more risky than 9...♕d8 In his practice Sermek has tested both moves.

10.a4

Sutovsky chooses the more aggressive continuation too. Few games saw 10.♘e5 ♗xg2 11.♔xg2 ♕b7+ 12.♕f3 ♕xf3+ 13.♔xf3 with White's slight advantage in the ending.

10...♗d6 11.♗e3 b4

In the game Beshukov – Hasangatin, Koszalin 1999 Black tried to neutralise the bishop's influence by the modest 11...♘g4 12.♗d2 ♘f6 13.♕e2 c6 14.♘g5 0–0 15.♘ce4 ♗e7±; Kurajica against Almasi (Bled 2002) opted for 11...c5 12.axb5 axb5 13.♕e2!? ♖xa1 14.♖xa1 ♗xf3!? and after the surprising 15.dxc5! didn't dare to accept the sacrifice 15...♗xc5 *(15...♗xe2 16.cxb6 ♗c4 17.b3∞)* 16.♗xc5 ♕xc5 17.♗xf3 b4 18.♘e4 ♘xe4 19.♕xe4 0–0 20.♖a4! b3 21.c3! The weakness on b3 determines White's advantage.

12.a5 ♕a7

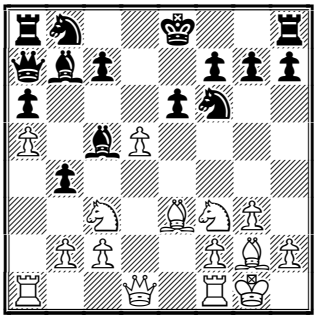
Bad is 12...♕c6? 13.♘h4 ♘d5 14.♘xd5 exd5 15.♘f5

13.d5!

Otherwise Black creates a blockade on the light squares.

13...♗c5

The only move by the way **(D)**



14.dxe6! ♗xe3!?

To Sermek's credit be it said he plays frankly. After 14...fxe6 15.♗xc5 ♕xc5 16.♘a4!? *(16.♘e2)* 16...♕xa5 17.♕e1 0–0 18.♕xe6+ ♔h8 White is better though objectively it could be the lesser of evils for Black

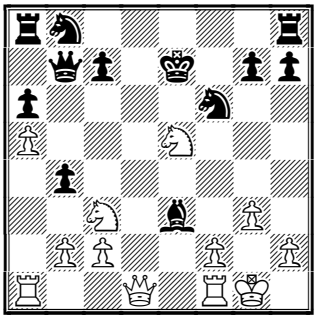
15.exf7+ ♔xf7

Not 15...♔f8?? 16.♕d8+ ♔xf7 17.♘e5+ ♔e6 18.♗h3+! ♔xe5 19.♕xc7+ ♔d4 20.♖ad1+ mating; 15...♔e7 16.♖e1±.

16.♘e5+ ♔e7

The "mean" move. In the event of 16...♔e8? 17.♗xb7 ♕xb7 18.fxe3 bxc3? 19.♖xf6! gxf6 20.♕h5+ White gets a mating attack; after 16...♔e6 17.♗xb7 ♕xb7 18.♖e1 the king hardly feels safe in the very centre.

17.♗xb7 ♕xb7 (D)



18.♕d3!

To take on e3 meant to lose a piece without compensation as the most important file would have been closed.

18...bxc3

In case of 18...♗a7 19.♖ae1 ♖e8 20.♘d7+ ♔f7 21.♘xf6 ♖xe1 22.♖xe1 White wins

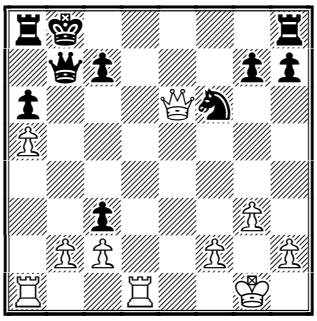
19.♕xe3 ♘bd7

19...♕e4 loses to 20.♕c5+ and ♖ae1; 19...♖e8 doesn't help the king to escape due to 20.♕c5+ ♔e6 *(20...♔d8 21.♘f7+ ♔c8 22.♘d6+)* 21.♖ae1 though here after 21...♘e4 Black still can offer some resistance. The text move looks very strong but Emil has foreseen an amazing resource on the 23rd move.

20.♘xd7+ ♔xd7 21.♖fd1+ ♔c8

If 21...♘d5? 22.♕e5 c6? 23.♕xg7+ winning

22.♕e6+ ♔b8 (D)



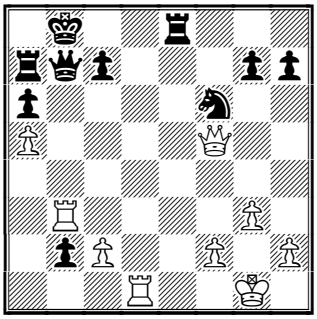
23.♖a3!!

As on the 18th move White manages to keep the important files open. After 23.bxc3 ♖e8 24.♕f5 ♕c6 25.♖ab1+ ♔a7 Black's king and queen would have taken the impregnable positions

23...♖e8 24.♕f5 cxb2

Sermek decides to give up the queen setting hopes upon his passed pawn. [Now in the event of 24...♕c6 25.♖b3+ ♔a7 26.♖xc3 ♕b5 *(26...♕b7? 27.♕c5+ ♔b8 28.♖b3)* 27.♖xc7+ ♔b8 28.♖c5 attack is going on.

25.♖b3 ♖a7 (D)



26.♕d3!?

An innocent prank. Qd8+ is threatened. The "serious" 26.♖b1 was good as well.

26...♔a8 27.♖xb7 ♖xb7 28.♖b1

Better than 28.♕xa6+ ♔b8 29.♖b1 ♖e5

28...♖b5

28...♖e5?! 29.♕d8+ ♖b8 *(29...♔a7? 30.♕d4+)* 30.♕xc7

29.♕c3 ♖eb8 30.♕xc7

The a6 pawn isn't a reliable shield for the king.

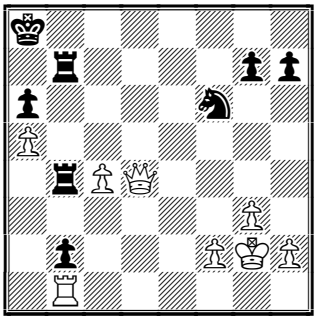
30...♖8b7 31.♕d6 ♔a7

31...♖xa5 32.♕d8+

32.c4

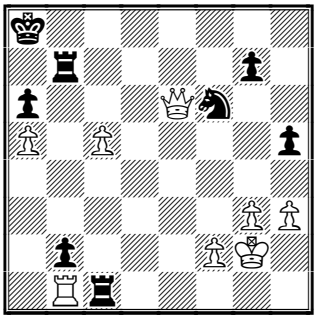
The beginning of the end. White's passed pawn starts moving.

32...♖b4 33.♕d4+ ♔a8 34.♔g2 (D)



The centralised queen prevents any activity from Black pieces.

34...h5 35.h3 ♖b8 36.♕d6 ♔a7 37.♕c5+ ♔a8 38.♕d6 ♔a7 39.♕e7+ ♖8b7 40.♕e3+ ♔a8 41.c5 ♖c4 42.♕e6! ♖c1(D)



42...♖xc5 43.♕xa6+ ♖a7 *(43...♔b8 44.♕d6+ ♖cc7 45.a6)* 44.♕b6+−

43.c6! ♖b4 44.♕c8+

Black resigned 44.♕c8+ ♔a7 *(44...♖b8 45.♕xa6#)* 45.♕c7+ ♔a8 46.♕d8+ ♖b8 *(46...♔a7 47.♕e7+)* 47.c7! **1−0.**

Solution to Chess Quiz:

Apicella – Guidarelli
Ch FRA Aix-les-Bains

45.♖e7!! [45.♖e7 ♘xe7 46.♕xf8+!! ♔xf8 *(46...♔h7 47.♕g7#)* 47.♖d8#] **1−0.**

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
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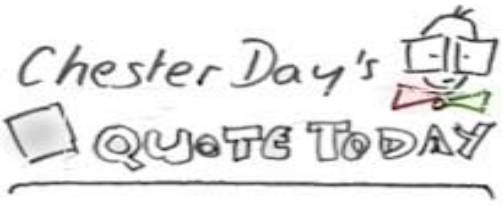

"The chessboard is the world,
the pieces are the phenomena of the
Universe, the rules of the game
are what we call the laws of Nature
and the player on the other side
is hidden from us"

--- *Thomas Huxley*

CHESS TODAY
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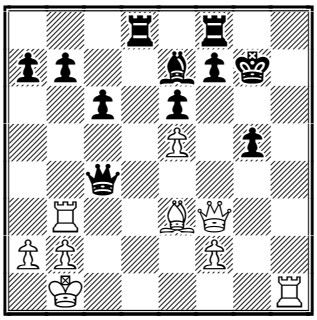
CT-239(1023) 27th August 2003

Chess Quiz

M. Apicella – C. Bauer
Ch FRA Aix-les-Bains, 2003

Position after ***28.. ♔xg7***



White to play
(Solution in today's annotated game.)

Chess news

GM Sutovsky and **GM Beliavsky** share first place in the Vidmar Memorial by winning both their last rounds games and finishing with 6½.

Round 9 results:
Beliavsky – Sermek 1:0
Borisek – **Sutovsky** 0:1
Mitkov – Pavasovic ½:½
Halkias – Lenic 1:0
Sedlak – Mikhalchishin ½:½

Final standings:
1-2. Sutovsky, Beliavsky 6½
3-6. Sedlak, Halkias, Mikhalchishin, Mitkov 4½
7-8. Sermek, Pavasovic 4
9. Lenic 3½
10. Borisek 2½

French Championships

Round 8 results:
Skripchenko – Lautier 0:1
Bacrot – Fontaine ½:½
Vaisser – Bauer 1:0
Apicella – Sokolov A. 1:0

Standings after 8 rounds:
1-2. Bacrot, Lautier – 6.0
3. Vaisser – 5.0

Porto San Giorgio
(21 Ausgust – 29 August; 13 GMs participating. 220 players in total participating)

Results after 5 rounds:
1. Delchev – 5.0
2. Efimov – 4½

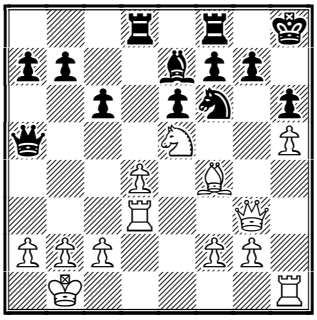
Panamerican Continental Championships

Top Standings after 7 rounds:
1-2. Goldin, Dominguez – 6.0.

Annotated Game

□ **M. Apicella (2522)**
■ **C. Bauer (2589)**
Ch FRA Aix-les-Bains (6.6), 2003
Caro-Kann [B19]
Notes by IM Nikolia Vlassov

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♗f5 5.♘g3 ♗g6 6.♘f3 ♘d7 7.h4 h6 8.h5 ♗h7 9.♗d3 ♗xd3 10.♕xd3 e6 11.♗f4 ♘gf6 12.0-0-0 ♗e7 13.♔b1 0-0 14.♘e4 ♕a5 15.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 16.♘e5 ♖ad8 17.♕g3 ♔h8 18.♖d3 (D)



The players made almost twenty moves, exchanged half of their minor pieces and completed their development. There is nothing new here, one of the popular variations of the Caro-Kann Defense has arisen on the board.

18...♘d5N

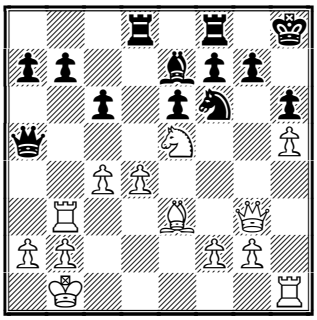
This is a novelty, which appears to be not quite good. Black exposes his

knight to the attack by White's c-pawn and loses tempi. Bareev equalized against Adams without any problem after 18...c5 19.♕f3 ♖xd4 20.♖xd4 cxd4 21.♕xb7 ♘d5 22.♗g3 ♕a4 23.♕b3 ♕a6 24.♕d3 ♕a4 25.♖d1 ♗c5 26.♕b3 ♕a6 27.a4 ♘f6 28.♕b5 ♕c8 29.♘d3 ♗e7 30.♘e5 ♗c5 31.♘d3 ½–½ Adams,M–Bareev,E/Dortmund 2002.

19.♗d2 ♕b6 20.c4 ♘f6 21.♗e3

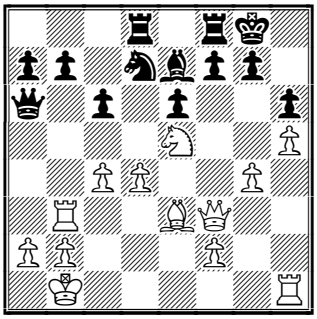
Another possible alternative is 21.c5 ♕a6 *(21...♕c7?? 22.♘xf7++–)* 22.♖a3 ♘e4 *(22...♕e2 23.♕e3!* followed by an endgame, which is unpleasant for Black. *23...♕xe3 24.♗xe3* Black has difficulties in protecting his pawns on the queenside.*)* 23.♕e3 *(23.♖xa6!? ♘xg3 24.fxg3 bxa6 25.♘xc6±)* 23...♘xd2+ 24.♕xd2 ♕b5 25.♖b3 ♕xc5 26.♖d1 ♕d6 27.♖xb7 c5 28.f4! but if Black had remembered about his king at the right moment, he would have had every chance of holding this position: 28...♔g8! *(28...cxd4 29.♖c1!±)*

21...♕a5 22.♖b3! (D)



While Black was running back and forth with his queen and knight, White managed to make a lot of useful moves that formed his advantage. Moreover, the resolute attack by Apicella demonstrated that such an advantage was decisive in skillful hands.

22...♕a6 23.♕f3 ♔g8 24.g4! ♘d7 (D)



Black failed to calculate White's combination till the very end, otherwise he would prefer 24...♘h7.

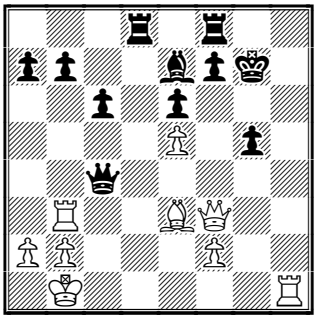
25.g5!

However, while making the most important move, White should have already decided what he was going to do with the black king in the end. Otherwise it is not reasonable to give pawns and exchange the formidable knight.

25...♘xe5 26.dxe5 hxg5

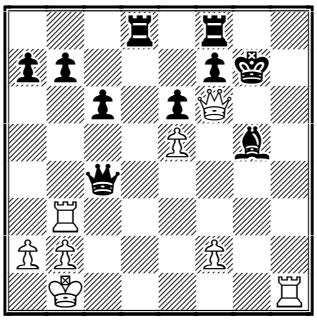
26...♗xg5 27.♗xg5 hxg5 28.h6+–

27.h6 ♕xc4 28.hxg7 ♔xg7 (D)



Apicella found his combination so unexpectedly that it would not be a surprise to me if Bauer was quite happy with his position at that moment: he beat off the attack, two extra pawns would not be hard to convert...

29.♗xg5! ♗xg5 30.♕f6+!! (D)



Black resigned in view of the inevitable checkmate. **1–0.**

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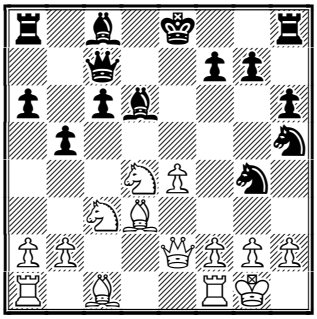
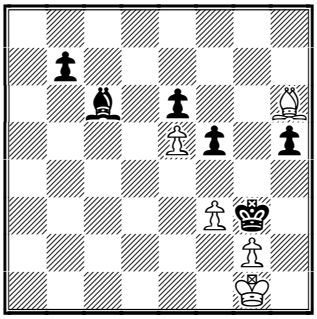
Chess Quiz

Mchedlishvili – Sandipan
Abu Dhabi UAE, 2003



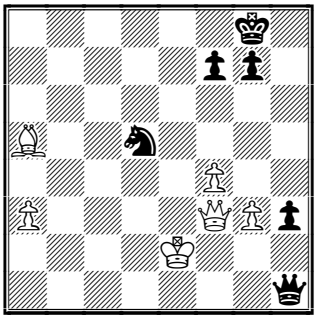
Black to play

Keres – Tal
Moscow, 1957



Black to play

Medina – Tal
Mallorca, 1979



Black to play

Chess news

French Championships

Round 9 results:

Sokolov A – Bacrot – 1:0
Lautier –Apicella – ½ :½

Top Standings after 9 rounds:
1. Lautier – 6½
2–3. Bacrot, Apicella – 6

Porto San Giorgio (Italy)

Top Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Delchev – 5½
2–5. Efimov, Trent, Burmakin, Chatalbashev – 5

Panamerican Continental Championships

Standings after 8 rounds:

1. Goldin 7
2–11. Dominguez, Gulko, Vescovi, Milos, Morovic, Vasquez, Novikov, Sharbon, Bruzon, Felgaer – 6

Riga–2003

Top standings after 5 rounds:
1–2. Sveshnikov, Luckans – 4

Bratto (Italy)

Top standings after 6 rounds:
1–4. Maksimenko, Sax, Milov, Horvath – 5

Chess-players Smile

by Goran Tomic

Merit of the teacher

In the first international tournament in Germany, Baden Baden 1870, Andersen won with 13 points ahead of Steinitz with 12½. This tournament was a double round robin with ten participants. Andersen lost two games only to Neumann. A spectator asked Neumann him how he succeeded in winning against the "Great Andersen". "That's the merit of my chess teacher!" "And who is your chess teacher?", asked the spectator with interest. "Great Andersen, as you named him correctly", Neumann answered.

This issue is prepared by IM Nikolia Vlassov; technical editor Ralph Marconi
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Tal's jokes

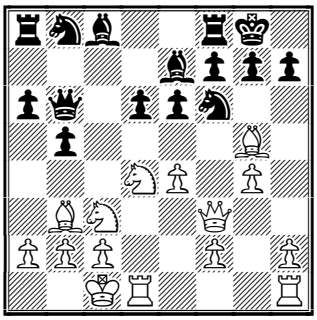
Once Tal praised the reporting of the famous journalist Viktor Henkin. Henkin was proud, and thanked Tal for the compliments. "By the way, I rarely get such approvals!", Henkin said. "It's natural, because only I read your articles!"

Another time one famous GM asked Tal: "Mikhail, today I'll be on TV. What can I tell to the spectators?" "Give them precious council", Tal answered – "let them listen to the radio on which I'll speak tomorrow!"

Annotated Game

□ **Kudrin (2538)**
■ **Morovic (2573)**
Panamerican Championships Buenos Aires (8), 27.08.2003
Sicilian Defence – [B87]
Notes by IM Nikolia Vlassov

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗b3 b5 8.♗g5 ♗e7 9.♕f3 ♕b6 10.0–0–0 0–0 11.g4 (D)



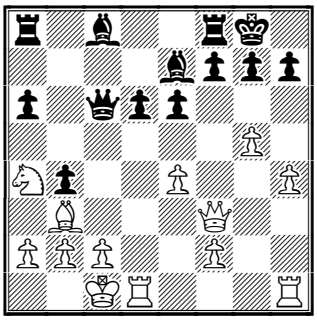
11...b4N

The following striking victories by White illustrates the danger held in store for Black in this variation of the Sicilian after:
11...♗b7 12.♗e3 ♕c7 13.g5 ♘fd7 14.g6 ♘c5 15.gxf7+ ♖xf7 16.♕h5 ♘xb3+ 17.axb3 b4 18.♘xe6 ♕c8 19.♘xg7 bxc3 20.♘f5 cxb2+ 21.♔b1 ♖xf5 22.♖hg1+ ♔h8 23.♗d4+ ♗f6 24.exf5 ♗xd4 25.♖xd4 ♕f8 26.♖h4 1–0 Vasiesiu,D–Soltanici,R/Bucharest ROM 2003; and 11...♘bd7 12.♗e3 ♕b7 13.g5 ♘e5 14.♕g2 ♘fd7 15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.♗xe6+ ♔h8 17.♗d5 ♕b8 18.f4 ♘c4 19.♗d4 ♖xf4 20.♖hf1 ♖xf1 21.♖xf1 ♘ce5 22.♗xa8 ♕xa8 23.♘d5 ♗d8 24.♗xe5 dxe5 25.♕g4 ♘f6 26.♕h4 ♘g8 27.♖f8 ♗e6 28.♘e7 h6 29.gxh6 ♗xe7 30.♕xe7 1–0 Gaponenko,L–Gunajew,R/Krynica 1999

12.♘a4 ♕b7 13.♗xf6

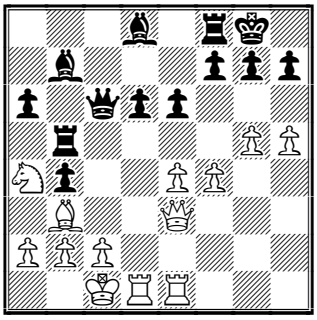
This exchange is beneficial to White. His bishop is no longer in the way of the pawn attack any longer and the black king has lost one of his defenders.

13...♗xf6 14.h4 ♘c6 15.♘xc6 ♕xc6 16.g5 ♗e7 (D)



Black has managed to solve his problems in the opening quite successfully. Now he has two bishops; White's minor pieces are not dangerous at all and he should find protection against the pawn attack because the pawn protection of his king is not weakened. However, a complicated middle game is awaiting the players!

17.♕e3 ♖b8 18.f4 ♖b5 19.h5 ♗b7 20.♖he1 ♗d8?! (D)

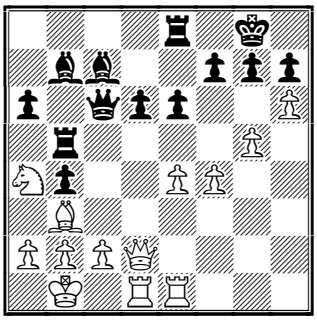


This move is a bit unexpected. The black king is under the threat of White's pawns. However, Black decides to hunt for the a4–knight that peacefully stands on the edge and does not bother anyone.

21.♔b1 ♖e8

The straightforward 21...♖a5 22.♕d4 ♖xa4 23.♗xa4 ♕xa4 24.h6! leads to the winning position for White: 24...f6 25.hxg7 ♖f7 26.♕xd6 ♗c7 27.♕xe6+–

22.♕d2 ♗c7 23.h6± (D)



While Black was transferring his bishop from e7 to c7, the white pawns did not waste time and managed to gain an obvious advantage and a dangerous attack.

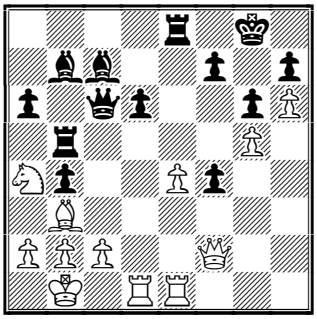
23...g6 24.♕d4! e5

The b3-bishop has found itself in a formidable attacking position.

25.♕f2

After the simple 25.fxe5 ♖bxe5 26.♕f2! ♖8e6 27.♗xe6 ♖xe6 28.♖f1± White has an attack with material advantage.

25...exf4 (D)



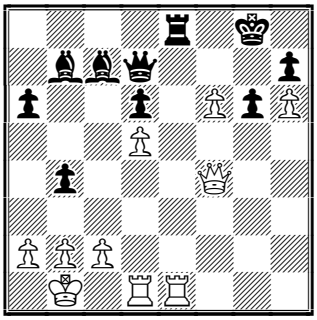
26.♗d5

26.♕xf4 d5 27.♕f2 ♗e5 28.exd5 ♕d6 29.c4!± With this move White destroys Black's defence involving his knight on a4.

26...♖xd5 27.exd5 ♕xa4 28.♕xf4

Here is a third possible way to the victory.

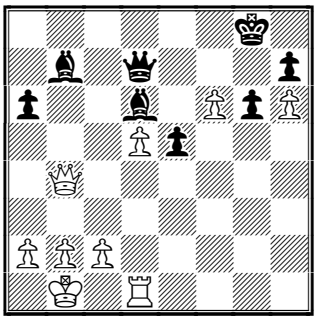
28...f5 29.gxf6 ♕d7 (D)



30.♕d4?!

The easiest winning way is 30.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 31.♕xb4+-

30...♖e5 31.♖xe5 dxe5 32.♕xb4 ♗d6 (D)



A small nuance: the rooks were exchanged on e5; the black pawn cleared the d6-square for his bishop and the struggle has become intense again!

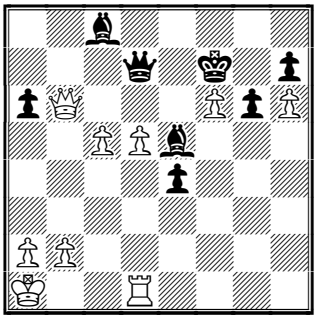
33.♕b6 ♔f7 34.c4 ♗c8

Black should not exchange queens: 34...♕c7 35.♕xc7+ ♗xc7 36.c5 ♔xf6 37.♖f1+! ♔e7 38.d6+ ♗xd6 39.cxd6+ ♔xd6 40.♖f7 ♗e4+ 41.♔c1 g5 42.♖g7+-

35.♔a1 e4!

And once more this pawn, which is now a dangerous passed pawn, clears the square for the bishop!

36.c5 ♗e5 (D)



37.d6

White is unable to offer anything after 37.c6 ♕d6 38.♕a7+ ♔xf6.

37...♗b7

The endgame after 37...♕a4 38.♕b3+ ♕xb3 39.axb3 can be unsafe for Black: 39...♗d7 *(39...e3 40.d7 ♗xd7 41.♖xd7+ ♔xf6 42.♖d1 ♗g3 43.c6 e2 44.♖c1 g5 45.♔b1)* 40.c6 ♗xc6 41.d7 ♗xf6 42.♖d6! ♗xd7 43.♖xd7+ ♔g8 *(43...♗e7 44.♔b1)* 44.♔b1 with winning opportunities in every alternative. Anyway, in my opinion it was worth looking for counterplay here.

38.♕b3+ ♔f8

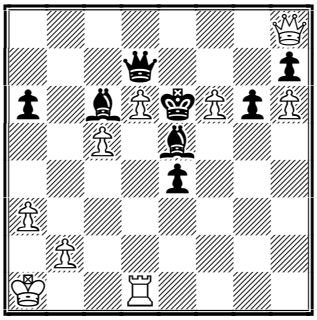
38...♔xf6 39.♖f1++-

39.a3 ♗c6 40.♕b8+ ♔f7

40...♕e8 41.♕xe8+ ♔xe8 42.d7+

♗xd7 43.f7+ ♔xf7 44.♖xd7+ ♔e6 45.c6 e3 46.♖d3! ♗f4 47.c7+−

41.♕h8 ♔e6 (D)



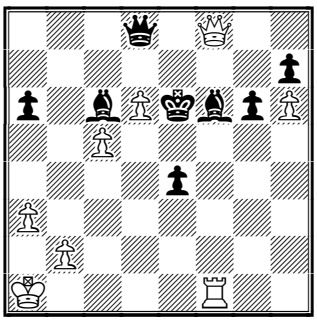
42.♕f8?

Winning is 42.♖f1! ♗d4 43.♕g8+ ♕f7 44.♕c8+ ♗d7 45.♕b7!+−

42...♗xf6 43.♖f1?

But now it is too late! Here better is 43.♕g8+ ♔e5 *(43...♕f7 44.♕c8+ ♕d7 45.♕xa6)* 44.♕c4 ♗g5 45.♔b1 with mutual chances.

43...♕d8! (D)



The picture has changed dramatically. Black is playing for a win.

44.♕xd8 ♗xd8 45.♔b1 ♗g5 46.♔c2 e3 47.♔c3 ♔d5 48.b4 ♔e4 49.♖d1 e2 50.♖b1 ♔e3 51.♔c4 ♗xh6 52.b5 axb5+ 53.♔b4

White could have won this game at least four times, but he missed every opportunity and Black succeeded in turning his only chance into a victory. **0−1.**

Solutions to Chess Quiz:

Mchedlishvili – Sandipan

Abu Dhabi UAE, 2003

19...♗xh2+ 20.♔h1 ♗g1! 21.e5 ♗xf2! 0−1

Keres – Tal

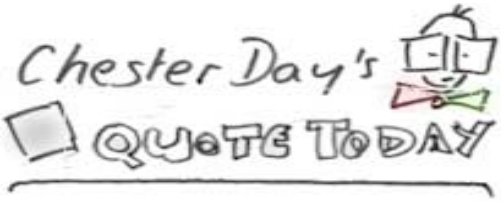
Moscow, 1957

1...♗xf3 2.gxf3 ♔xf3 3.♔f1 b5 4.♗d2 h4 5.♗b4 h3 6.♔g1 ♔e2 0−1.

Medina – Tal

Mallorca, 1979

1...♕xf3+ 2.♔xf3 ♘e3! 0−1.



"Modern Chess is too much concerned with things like Pawn structure. Forget it, Checkmate ends the game"

--- Nigel Short)

Contact information. Want to report a tournament or have a suggestion for Chess Today? E-mail us – we always appreciate your comments! **Tell your chess friends** about Chess Today or send them our newspaper to sample – with more readers the price will go down, while the quality will go up!

Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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Editors: GMs Alexander Baburin, Mikhail Golubev and Ruslan Scherbakov, IMs Vladimir Barsky, Maxim Notkin and Nikolai Vlassov.

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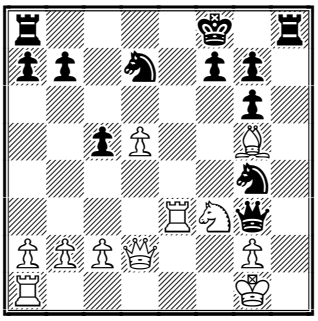
CT-246(1030) 3rd September 2003

Chess Quiz

Kaplan – Oluc
Izmir 01.09.2003



White to play

Chess News

Kotronias won in the last round at the Acropolis GM Tournament 2003 and took first place with a +3 result.

Final standings
1.Kotronias 6 points
2-3. Parligras, Tzermiadianos 5½

Open Section
Avrukh and Gershon decided not to risk a draw. Dobrov, inspired by yesterdays result against Rozentalis, beat Petrov.

Final standings
1. Dobrov 7½
2-4. Rozentalis, Avrukh, Gershon 7
5. Dzhumaev 6½

At the European Izmir Economy University Grand Prix Tournament, all the games between the leaders were drawn. So, Gelashvili and Shanava caught them up.

Round 8
Shengelia – Gurevich 1/2
Pantsulaia – Izoria ½
Gelashvili – Ermenkov 1-0
Gaprindashvili Valerian – Shanava 0-1

Standings
1-6. Gurevich, Pantsulaia, Izoria, Shengelia, Gelashvili, Shanava 6,5

Pairings round 9
Shanava – Gurevich
Izoria – Shengelia
Pantsulaia – Gelashvili

Open Internacional de Sants

The leaders after round 4 are: 1-13. Stocek, Peralta, Hillarp Persson, Antal, Fluvia Poyatos Joan, Akesson, Lacasa Diaz, Blokhius, Panelo, Gonzalez Rodriguez, Mela, Fluvia Poyatos Jordi, Escuder Vilaltella - 4.0

Tournament Director René Olthof has kindly sent us the games of the HMC Calder Cup 2003 which was won by Dan Fridman. You will find them in today's database..

Dan Fridman 2592 6½/8
Gee Van der Stricht 2450 1½/8
1 ½ 1 ½ 1 1 1 ½
0 ½ 0 ½ 0 0 0 ½

Mobile chess simul

On **Saturday 6th September**, starting **13:00 hrs**, **Mobile Excellence BV** in co-operation with **KPN Mobile** and the other European i-mode operators (BASE - Belgium, E-Plus - Germany, Bouygues Telecom - France and Telefonica Móviles - Spain) will organise a world premiere: **a mobile chess simultaneous game**.

19 year old Russian woman grandmaster **Alexandra Kosteniuk**, the ladies world chess vice-champion, will play simultaneously against six players who will not be sitting opposite of her, but who will play **via mobile phones**.

This issue is prepared by IM Nikolai Vlassov; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Alexandra Kosteniuk will play her games from theatre **De Balie in Amsterdam**, with live comment from Holland's well-known chess player, international master **Hans Böhm**.

Her opponents will start their games from **different well-known locations** in the Netherlands: the Euromast in Rotterdam, Madurodam in The Hague, the Dom Tower in Utrecht, the World Trade Center in Amsterdam, the Max Euwe square in Amsterdam and the aeronautical museum Aviodome at Schiphol airport.

During the games the opponents **will travel** in various ways to De Balie to finish their games there.

The games will be played with i-mode telephones via the **new service w-chess**, which means that the moves are not passed through by voice, but will be made directly via the mobile phones.

The games can be followed live by all i-mode users via www.w-chess.net.

Other chess enthusiasts can follow the games via the most popular web site for chess information in the Benelux, www.schakers.info.

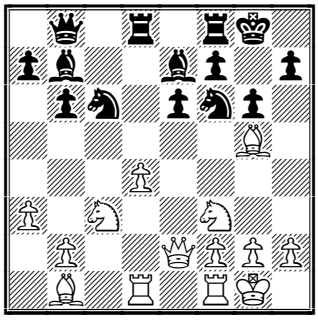
A limited number of entrance tickets are available for 5,00 euros per person at the box-office of De Balie or can be reserved by telephone with Mobile Excellence at +31.342.418.402 or fax +31.342.414.568.
Interested journalists can contact me for a free entrance ticket.

More information about wireless chess can be found at www.m-excel.com.

Annotated Game

□ **E Rozentalis (2616)**
■ **V Dobrov (2469)**
Athens Acropolis Open (8), 2003 B22
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov
The leaders changed in this sharp "murderous" fight at the Acropolis Open.

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♕xd5 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 e6 6.♗e3 cxd4 7.cxd4 ♘c6 8.♘c3 ♕d6 9.a3 ♗e7 10.♗d3 b6 11.0-0 0-0 12.♕e2 ♗b7 13.♖ad1 ♖ad8 14.♗b1 ♕b8 15.♗g5 g6



An isolated pawn is on the board. It has arisen from the Sicilian Defense. Such positions can also arise from the Queen's Gambit, Caro-Kann Defense and other openings. One just needs desire and skill to play them!

16.♗h4N

Rozentalis uses a novelty. The following has occurred before 16.♗a2 This is the most logical refutation of g7-g6. If the white bishop does not have a job on this diagonal, it goes over to another one. Here are a couple of examples representing further struggle: 16...♖fe8 17.♖fe1 ♘h5 18.♕e3 *(18.♗e3 ♗f6 19.d5 exd5 20.♘xd5 ♗g7 21.♕c4 ♘a5 22.♕h4 ♗xd5 23.♗xd5 ♘f6 24.♗a2 ♖xd1 25.♖xd1 ♖e4 26.♕h3 ♘c4 27.♗d4 b5 28.♘g5 ♖e7 29.♗xf6 ♗xf6 30.♕xh7+ ♔f8 31.♕h6+ ♗g7 32.♕h4 ♘xb2 33.♖b1 ♕d6 34.♕g4 ♕c5 35.h4 ♔g8 36.♕f3 ♘c4 37.a4 a6 38.♖c1 ♗d4 39.♕f4 ♗e5 40.♗xc4 ♗xf4* 0-1 Charbonneau,P-Galkin,A/Yerevan 1999) 18...♗xg5 19.♘xg5 ♕f4 20.d5 ♕xe3 21.♖xe3 exd5 22.♗xd5 ♖xe3 23.fxe3 ♔g7 24.♘xf7 ♖xd5 25.♖xd5 ♘f6 26.♘d6 ♘xd5 27.♘xd5 ♗a6 28.♘b4 ♘xb4 29.axb4± 1-0 Berelovich,A-Ivanov,J/Sautron FRA 2002

16...♘h5!

A standard refutation: if the white bishop is admitted to g3, Black's position can get bad.

17.♗xe7 ♘xe7

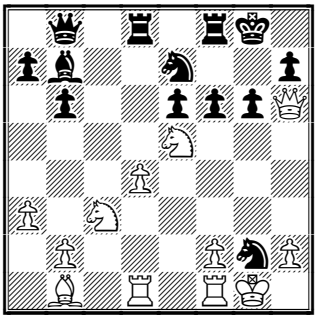
It appears that Black has managed to solve his problems in the opening successfully but Rozentalis finds a way

to complicate the struggle.

18.♕e3 ♘f4 19.♘e5!? ♘xg2!

But Rozentalis failed to confuse his young opponent! Otherwise, White would hold the initiative.

20.♕h6 f6!



And of course,

21.♘xg6!?

21.♗xg6 ♘xg6 22.♘xg6 ♖f7–+

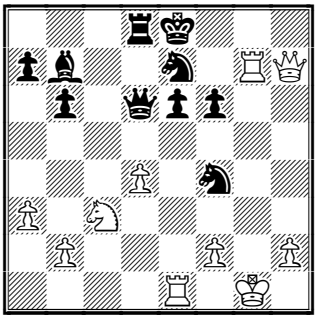
21...hxg6

White's idea is doubtful after 21...♘xg6 22.♗xg6 ♖d7 23.♗e4 ♗xe4 24.♘xe4 ♕f4 25.♕xf4 ♘xf4∓ with the better endgame for Black.

22.♗xg6 ♖f7!?

After 22...♘xg6 23.♕xg6+ White has a perpetual check and I have no doubts that Rozentalis would further play: 23...♔h8 24.♖d3 ♘f4 25.♕h6+ ♔g8 26.♖g3+ ♔f7 27.♖e1 ♔e8! with a complex position where it is not easy for White to prove that his initiative is sufficient compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

23.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 24.♕h7+ ♔f8 25.♖d3 ♘f4 26.♖g3 ♔e8 27.♖g7 ♕d6 28.♖e1



Having made a number of strongest moves, the players have arrived at this complex position. White looks formidable but does not have anything decisive, if Black manages to defend well.

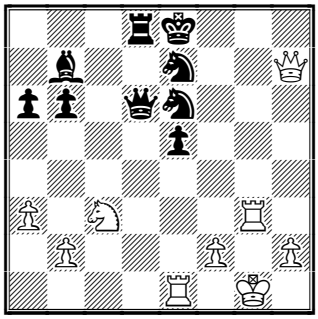
28...a6

No continuation of the attack is to be seen after 28...♖c8

29.♖e4!?

The following simple move looks very strong at first sight 29.♘e4 ♗xe4 30.♖xe4 e5 31.♖e1 but Black responds with 31...♕e6! 32.dxe5 ♖d2! and despite an abundance of tempting continuations, it is difficult for White to find even a clear draw!? 33.♕h8+ (Losing is a striking *33.♖xe7+ ♕xe7 34.♕g8+ ♕f8 35.exf6+ ♘e2+ 36.♖xe2+ ♖xe2 37.f7+ ♔e7 38.♕g5+ ♔d6 39.♕f4+ ♖e5 40.♕b4+ ♖c5 41.♕xb6+ ♔d7 42.♕b7+ ♔e6 43.♕xa6+ ♔xf7 44.♕b7+ ♕e7–+* and the perpetual check did not turn out.) 33...♔d7 34.♕a8 fxe5 35.♕b7+ ♔e8 36.♕a8+ ♘c8 37.♔h1 ♕d5+ 38.♕xd5 ♖xd5∓ and Black has preferable chances.

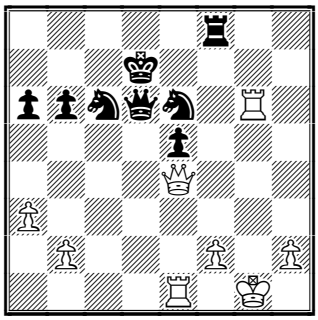
29...e5 30.♖e1 ♘e6 31.dxe5 fxe5 32.♖g3



32...♔d7

More proactive is 32...♘d4! and Black seizes the initiative!

33.♘e4 ♗xe4 34.♕xe4 ♘c6 35.♖g6 ♖f8

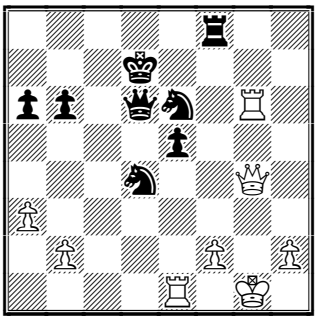


An uneasy position of unstable equilibrium is on the board. White is the first to slip up. 35...♔c7=

36.♕g4?

In case of an ordinal continuation 36.♖c1 ♘e7 37.♖g3 chances are approximately equal.(however, after the careless check *37.♕b7+ ♔e8!* Black gets hold of the initiative!)

36...♘cd4!



Now it's White's turn to move but he values advice: Black's knights are very strong since the white king is in serious danger.

37.♖g7+

After 37.♖e3 Black simply strengthens his position. 37...♕d5–+

37...♔d8 38.♖g8 ♘f3+ 39.♕xf3 ♖xg8+ 40.♔h1 ♖f8 0-1

Solution to Quiz:

19.♗f4! ♕xf4 20.♖e8+ ♖xe8 21.♕xf4+- ♘gf6 22.♕c7 b5 23.g4 ♘b6 24.♕xc5+ ♔g8 25.d6 ♘e4 26.♕c6 ♔h7 27.♔g2 ♖hf8 28.♖e1 f5 29.gxf5 gxf5 30.♘g5+! ♔g8 31.d7 ♖e7 32.♕g6 1-0

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Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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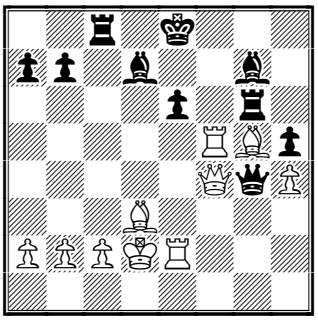
CT-247(1031) 4th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Khait – Dragomarezkij
Warsaw 1992



White to play

Chess News

The Russian Chess Championships have started in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. This year it's a very strong event, with 80 players (Swiss system, 9 rounds) and a prize fund of $100.000. On the official site there is online translation of 10 games from each round.

Top results of the 1st round:

Dvoirys – Grischuk **½:½**
Svidler – Sherbakov **1:0**
A. Rychagov – Dreev **0:1**
Malakhov – Belov **1:0**
Iljushin – Morozevich **½:½**
Khalifman – Kiriakov **1:0**
Yemelin – Rublevsky **½:½**
Sakaev – Vorobiov **0:1**
Korotylev – Zvjaginsev –/+
Epishin – Bezgodov **0:1**
Also see our Annotated game section.

Two Georgian players, **Levan Pantsulaia** and **Zviad Izoria** have won the European Izmir Economy University Grandprix tournament.

Final Standings (9 rounds):

1-2. Izoria, Pantsulaia – 7½ points
3-6. M. Gurevich, Brodsky, Shenava, Aroshidze – 7
7-12. Spasov, Shengelia, V. Gaprindashvili, De Vreugt, Gelashvili, Demirel – 6½ etc.

Nikoletta Lakos and **Eva Repkova** have won the women's cat. 9 round-robin event in Punat (Croatia).

Final Standings:
1-2. Lakos, Repkova – 7½ points out of 10
3. Grabics – 7
4-5. Pokorna, Sudakova – 6½ etc.

Open Internacional de Sants, ***round 5 standings:***
1-5. Hillarp Persson, Akesson, Fluvia Royatos, Antal, Lacasa Diaz – 5 points etc.

The Chessbase site has published the following information:
A top chess event has just been announced for December in Mumbai. 13 GMs will participate in the category 20 round robin tournament, including (are you holding on?) Kasparov, Karpov, Anand, Kramnik, Leko, Grischuk, Shirov, Svidler, Polgar, Bareev, Adams, Short. Maybe even Ponomariov and Ivanchuk. What a lovely Christmas present...

The Times of India reports that this chess spectacle will feature superstars Garry Kasparov, V. Kramnik, V. Anand, Anatoly Karpov and Judit Polgar. The tourney will be the largest ever to be held in Asia. The Category 20 Super Grandmaster World invitation tournament will be held under the auspices of the All India Chess Federation (AICF) will be played under the all-play-all format. The event will be organised by the Venus Chess Academy and is being managed by SportzPR, India's first and only sports communication company. Chess king Garry Kasparov and the other stars have agreed in principle to take part. The dates, however, when these players are free have yet to be finalised.

An editor-in-chief of Russian site Worldchessrating Denis Bilunov asked Garry Kasparov about this event, and Kasparov said that he hadn't heard about it yet. All this looks a bit strange because the information above was published in all the main Indian newspapers .. Let's wait a little.

Webwatch

by the CT Team

Echo of cancelled match

During the last few days there have been many replies and comments to the FIDE decision, taken on August 29. to cancel the Ponomariov-Kasparov match,

The FIDE website has published a declaration from the Ukrainian Chess Federation. Its President, V.Petrov says: "We also feel sorry that the reason for the Match cancellation was disagreement of the Ukrainian chess player to go for a compromise in the situation where it was rather possible."

An interview with Kasparov on the Match Cancellation is published at Worldchessrating site. "I am shocked. I expected my opponent to try my nerves, expecting various pro-vocations. However, I could not imagine that my opponent would simply escape!" were the first words of the 13th World Champion.

Both Mig Greengard on the Chessninja – DailyDirt site, and Yuri Vasilyev in the Russian newspaper *Sport-Express*, supported the opinion that Ponomariov should sign the contract under the conditions proposed by FIDE – rather than FIDE should accept Ponomariov's conditions.

The position of Ponomariov was presented mainly in Russian language sources. His detailed Letter to Ilyumzhinov (August 28) was published at the Chesspage.kiev.ua site. After the FIDE decision was made, a short reply from Ruslan was published in the Ukrainian newspaper *Facty*.

"I made maximum concessions to save the match.. FIDE is completely responsible for the failure of reunification of the chess world", the FIDE World Champion says.

On 29th August the big ITAR-TASS interview with Ponomariov's manager Silvio Danailov was cited in the Russian and Ukrainian media. Ponomariov's team proposed to organise in Yalta, instead of the cancelled match against Kasparov, the friendly match against Anatoly Karpov (who, by the way, called the FIDE decision "A full nonsense"). Regarding the new FIDE World Championship, Danailov said: "Our position is simple - to organise a championship amongst all strongest, and we don't need privileges". It probably means that Kasparov should start to play from the same stage as the other top players.

The strangest commentary on the match cancellation was published on 2nd September in the Russian paper *Parlametskaia Gazeta*. The chess observer Evgeny Bebchuk said that Danailov and Ponomariov ...already received USD 400 000 as a fee for the match against Kasparov. The full article is here:

Chess FM News:

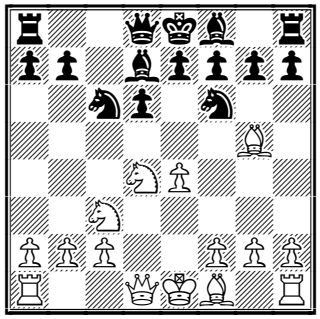
This excellent website has several very interesting columns. Currently IM Mark Diesen shows the game Kramnik-Anand, Las Palmas 1996, where the main theme is a passed pawn. Meanwhile NM Dennis Monokroussos examines the game Capablanca-Molina, featuring the King's Gambit Declined (2...Bc5). If you have 30-40 spare minutes, you can get a great chess lesson there!

Another popular show on the site is *Chess & Books* with Fred Wilson. When you receive this issue, you might still have a chance to catch the reply of the latest show where Fred's guest is International Correspondence Chess Federation IM Jon Edwards, a

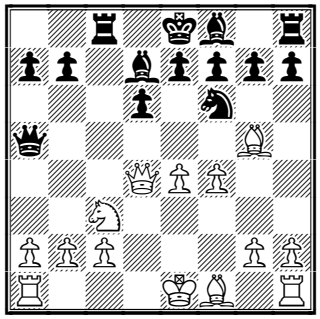
former US Correspondence Champion and the current North American Postal Chess Champion. He has also has written the autobiographical games collection, "The Chess Analyst" (Thinker's Press, 1998. $19.95), and has created the entertaining & instructive website queensac.com.

Annotated Game

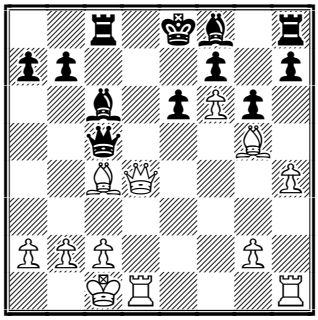
□ **P Svidler (2723)**
■ **R Scherbakov (2555)**
Russia Ch (Krasnoyarsk) (1), 03.09.2003 B61
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗g5 ♗d7!?



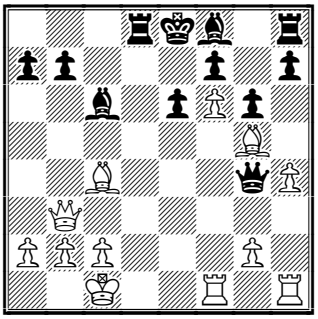
The main line of the Rauzer system runs after 6...e6 The text move has the following idea: because White is preparing to castle queenside, Black would like to create counter-play on the queenside (with Bd7, Qa5, Rc8 etc.) as soon as possible. The drawback of this plan is obvious: Black has to delay the development of his king side and play with his king in the center.
7.♕d2 ♖c8 8.f4 ♘xd4 9.♕xd4 ♕a5



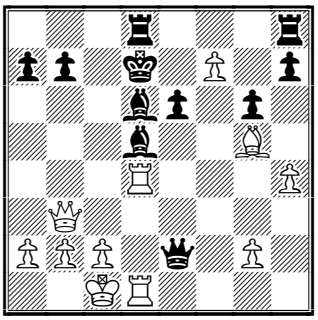
10.e5
White has to play energetically if he wants to exploit his advantage in development.
10...dxe5 11.fxe5 e6
Black can get away with this move due to the undefended bishop on g5.
12.0-0-0 ♗c6 13.♘b5
Another popular move is 13.♗b5
13...♗xb5 14.exf6 ♗c6
The main line nowadays. But also Black has some interesting alternatives which you can find in the cbv file.
15.h4 g6
Recently, the young Ukrainian Katerina Lahno won the following brilliant game: 15...♖g8 16.♗c4 gxf6 17.♖he1 fxg5? 18.♗xe6! fxe6 19.♕f6! *(19.♖xe6+? ♗e7 20.♖xe7+ ♔xe7-+* Kupreichik,V-Yudasin,L/ Frunze 1981 /URS-ch*)* 19...♕xe1 20.♖xe1 ♖c7 21.♕xe6+ ♖e7 22.♕c8+ ♔f7 23.♖f1+ ♔g7 24.♕d8 ♖e6 25.♕d4+ ♔g6 26.♕c4 ♗d7 27.♕d3+ ♔h5 28.♕xh7+ 1-0 Lahno,K-Andreev,E/It, Kramatorsk UKR 2003. The only drawback of this nice game is the fact that Viktor Kupreichik had found this silent move 19.Qf6 in 1981 and had published it then (full variations in the cbv file).
16.♗c4 ♕c5!?



According to my database it's a novelty. 16...♗c5 17.♕e5 *(17.♕g4 h5 18.♕e2 0-0 19.♖hf1 ♗b4 20.♗h6 ♖fe8 21.♔b1 ♗xg2?? 22.♕xg2 ♖xc4?! 23.♕xg6+* 1-0 Almasi,Z-Mirosh-nichenko,E/Ohrid 2001*)* 17...♗b4 18.♕xa5 ♗xa5 19.h5 gxh5 20.♖xh5 ♗xg2 21.♗b5+ ♗c6 22.♗xc6+ ♖xc6 23.♗h6± Sutovsky,E-Thorhallsson,T /Gausdal 1995
17.♕d3 ♕f5 18.♕b3!
With the obvious but very unpleasant threat to sacrifice the bishop on e6 somewhere.
18...♖d8!?
Black prepares to run the King to the Queenside, but...
19.♖df1 ♕g4



20.♗xe6!
Here it is!
20...fxe6
20...♕xe6 21.♖e1 ♗e4 22.♕a4+ b5 23.♕xb5+ ♖d7 24.♕a4+−
21.♖f4 ♕e2 22.f7+ ♔d7 23.♖d4+ ♗d6
23...♗d5 24.♕xb7+ ♔d6 25.♗f4+ ♔c5 26.♕c7+ ♔xd4 27.♕c3+ ♔e4 28.♕e5#; 23...♔c7 24.♗xd8++−
24.♖hd1 ♗d5



24...♔c7 25.♗xd8+ ♖xd8 26.♖xd6 ♖xd6 27.♖xd6 ♕f1+ *(27...♔xd6 28.f8♕+)* 28.♖d1 ♕xf7 29.♕g3++−
25.♖xd5! exd5 26.♕xb7+
And Black resigned in view of 26.♕xb7+ ♗c7 *(26...♔e6 27.♕xd5+ ♔d7 28.♕xd6+)* 27.♖xd5+ ♔e6 28.♕c6+ ♗d6 *(28...♖d6 29.♖xd6+ ♗xd6 30.♕e8+ ♔d5 31.♕xe2)* 29.♖xd6+ ♖xd6 30.♕e8+ A crushing attack by 3 times Russian champion Peter Svidler! But this was only the first round and I would like to wish good luck in other 8 rounds to our colleague Ruslan Scherbakov. **1−0**

Solution to Quiz:

28.♖f8+! ♗xf8 29.♗xg6#! 1−0

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us − we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353−1) 278−2276. Fax: (353−1) 283−6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com http://www.chesstoday.net

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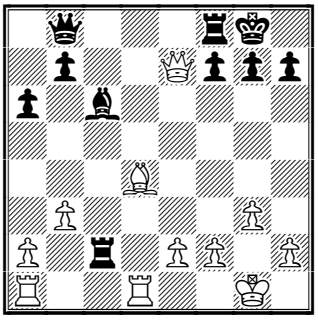
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-248(1032) 5th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Stean (2510) – Langeweg (2450)
Amsterdam zt (15), 1978



White to play

GM Michael Stean turns 50!

On the 4th of September, English Grandmaster Michael Stean celebrated his 50th birthday. He is an expert on taxation and has not played serious chess for about 20 years. While Stean may not be too familiar to most modern chess fans, he was an important figure on the chess stage in the 1970s and in the early 1980s.

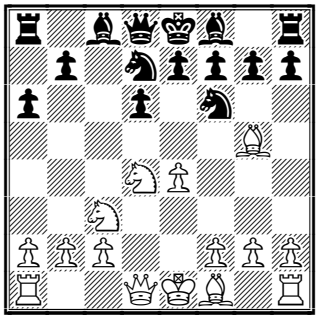
According to GM Speelman and the *Oxford Companion to Chess*, in his prime years Stean was famous for his deep knowledge of opening theory. He became the third ever British Grandmaster (after Miles and Keene) after receiving the title in 1977. Stean was equal first at the British Championship in 1974 and won several tournaments in the 70s and early 80s, including Vrsac-1979 and Smederevska Palanca 1980. He seconded Victor Korchnoi in 1977-1978 and 1980-1981.

Stean played for England at five chess Olympiads. The following game won him a brilliancy price at his first chess Olympiad in Nice:

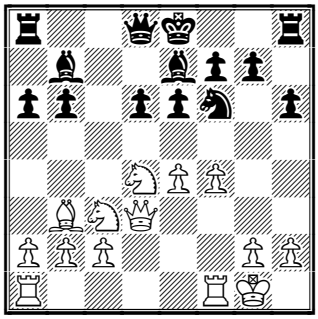
Annotated Game

☐ **Michael Stean**
■ **Walter Browne**
The Sicilian Defence, Najdorf, B94
Nice Olympiad, 1974
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 ♘bd7 ***(D)***



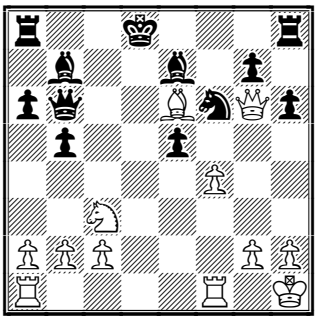
7.♗c4 e6 8.0-0 h6 9.♗xf6 ♘xf6 10.♗b3 b6?!
Better was 10...♗e7.
11.f4 ♗b7 12.♕d3 ♗e7? ***(D)***



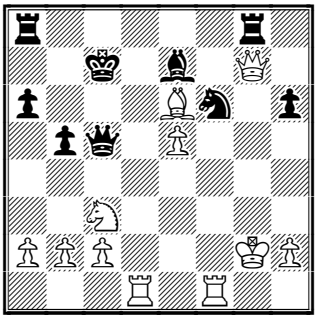
Black neglects the critical e6-square. He had to try 12...♘d7 instead.
13.♘xe6!
Usually in such positions White sacrifices the bishop on e6: 13.♗xe6 fxe6 14.♘xe6 ♕c8 15.♘d5 *(15.♘xg7+? ♔f8 16.♘f5 ♗xe4 17.♘xe4 ♕xf5)* – however, Stean spotted the weakness of the g6-square here.
13...fxe6 14.♗xe6 b5?!
Or 14...♘d7 15.♕g3 ♔f8 16.e5, with attack.

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

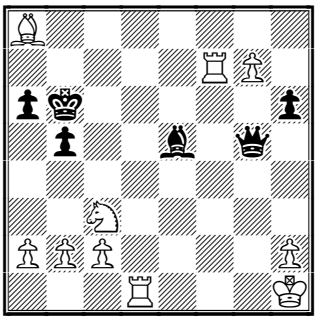
15.e5! ♕b6+ 16.♔h1 dxe5 17.♕g6+ ♔d8 *(D)*



18.♕f7! ♕c5 19.fxe5 ♗xg2+
19...♖f8 20.♕xg7 ♘d7 21.♖fd1+−
20.♔xg2 ♖f8 21.♖ad1+ ♔c7 22.♕xg7 ♖g8 *(D)*



23.exf6! ♖xg7+ 24.fxg7 ♗d6
Or 24...♕g5+ 25.♔h1 ♕xg7 26.♖f7 ♕g5 27.♖xe7+ ♕xe7 28.♘d5+, winning.
25.♖f7+ ♔c6 26.♗d5+ ♔b6 27.♗xa8 ♕g5+ 28.♔h1 ♗e5 *(D)*

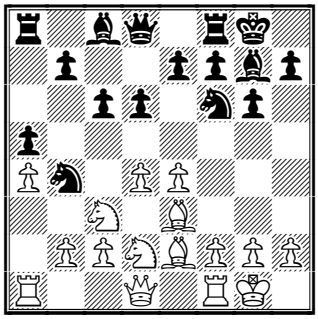


29.b4! a5 30.♖b7+ ♔c6 31.g8♕ ♕xg8 32.♖b8+ 1−0

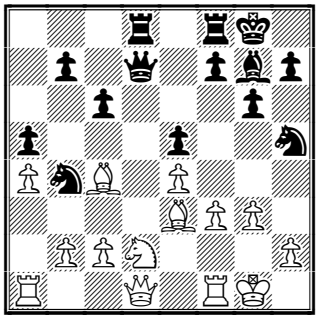
That was pretty sharp stuff, but here is an example of fine positional play by Stean:

□ **Michael Stean (2500)**
■ **Albin Planinc (2415)**
The Pirc Defence, B08
Moscow (9), 1975
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

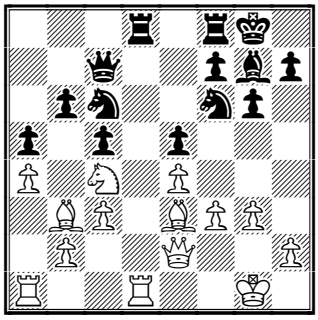
1.♘f3 g6 2.e4 ♗g7 3.d4 d6 4.♗e2 ♘f6 5.♘c3 0−0 6.0−0 c6 7.a4 a5 8.♗e3 ♘a6 9.♘d2 ♘b4 *(D)*



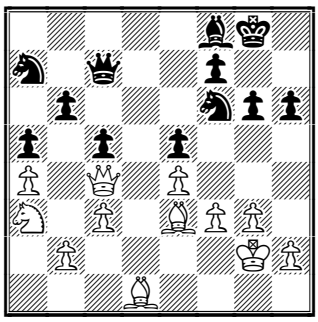
10.♘cb1!? e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♘a3 ♗e6 13.♘ac4 ♗xc4 14.♗xc4 ♕d7 15.f3 ♘h5 16.g3 ♖ad8 *(D)*



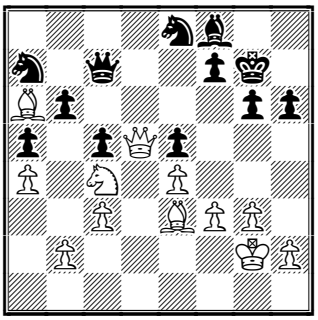
17.♗b3! c5 18.♕e2 b6 19.♖fd1 ♕c7 20.c3 ♘c6 21.♘c4 ♘f6 *(D)*



Black is very weak on the light squares which Stean exploits masterfully: **22.♘a3! ♘a7 23.♕c4 ♖fe8 24.♔g2 h6 25.♖xd8 ♖xd8 26.♖d1 ♖xd1 27.♗xd1 ♗f8** *(D)*



28.♗e2 ♔g7 29.♕b3 ♘e8 30.♗a6! ♘d6 31.♕d5! ♘e8 32.♘c4 ***(D)***



Complete domination!

32...♘f6

After 32...f6 White has 33.♘xb6! ♕xb6 34.♗c4 ♕xb2+ 35.♔h3+−. In case 32...♗d6 White wins by playing 33.b4!. **33.♕xe5 ♕d8 34.♗f2 g5 35.♗b7 ♔h8 36.♗d5 ♔g8 37.♕f5 1−0**

Chess News

The Russian Chess Championships in Krasnoyarsk

Day 2:−

Peter Svidler is a hero of the day again. Yesterday he needed 26 moves to defeat our friend Ruslan Scherbakov with White. Today it took him only 22 to beat Valery Popov with Black (see Annotated game). Alexei Dreev won a complex game in Modern Benoni against Igor Glek. The young ex-champion of Russia Alexander Motylev has outplayed the great opening innovator Evgeny Sveshnikov. Another promising youngster Artem Timofeev has joined the trio by beating Sergei Grigoriantz. Many of the favorites who drew their first games have celebrated convincing wins today.

Round 2 results:

Popov – Svidler 0:1
Dreev – Glek 1:0
Kornev – Malakhov ½:½
Gleizerov – Khalifman ½:½
Zvjaginsev – Jakovenko ½:½
Sveshnikov – Motylev 0:1
Ulibin – Volkov ½:½
Ivanov – Alekseev ½:½
Vorobiov – Najer ½:½
Bezgodov – Shipov ½:½
Belozerov – Inarkiev ½:½
Timofeev – Grigoriantz 1:0
Grischuk – Iljushin 1:0
Morozevich – Dvoirys 1:0
Rublevsky – Tseshkovsky 1:0
Lastin – Yemelin 1:0

Svidler, Dreev, Motylev and Timofeev have perfect score. 24 players are on 1½ including Grischuk, Morozevich, Malakhov, Khalifman and Rublevsky.

Our pgn-file contains the the best games of two rounds.

Round 3 pairings:
Svidler – Timofeev
Motylev – Dreev
Shipov – Grischuk
Malakhov – Yakovich
Inarkiev – Morozevich
Khalifman – Kornev
Gleizerov – Rublevsky
Ulibin – Zvjaginsev

Open Internacional de Sants in Barcelona

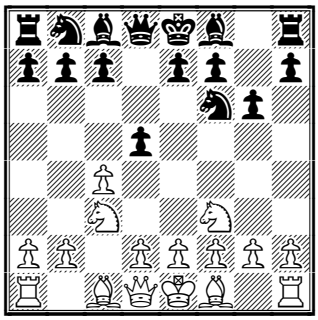
In the 6th round Tiger Hillarp Persson defeated Ralf Akesson and Jordi Fluvia Poyatos beat Gergely Antal. Both winners retain perfect score. Josep Lacasa Diaz, Victor Moskalenko and Fernando Peralta scored 5½.

Annotated Game

☐ **Popov**
■ **Svidler**

Russian Chess Champ 2003 Krasnoyarsk (2), 04.09.2003 – A16
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5



Svidler is one of the greatest experts in the Grunfeld Defence. Against the

slightly different set-up he also builds a Grunfeld-like position

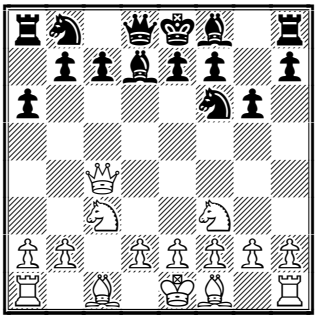
4.♕a4+

In his latest rapid games in this variation, Svidler lost to Gelfand (Haifa 2000) and Timman (Tallinn 2001). Most likely this is an explanation of his rival's choice.

4...♗d7 5.♕b3 dxc4 6.♕xc4

Bad is 6.♕xb7? ♘c6 7.♘b5 ♘d5 and the attack breaks down.

6...a6



Perhaps after 6...♗g7 7.e4 the difference between this position and those of the classical Grunfeld with 5.Qb3 is in White's favor. At least some popular lines e.g. 7...Na6 are senseless without the pawn at d4.

7.d4

7.e4 b5 8.♕e2!? played by Gelfand deserves consideration.

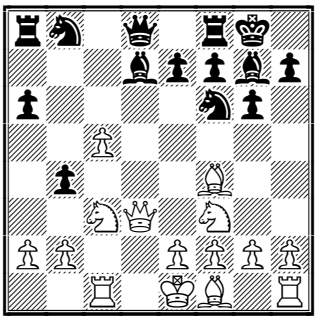
7...b5 8.♕d3

A novelty. 8.♕b3 allows 8...♗e6 (the game Lautier – Bacrot, Engine les Basins 1999 saw *8...♘c6 9.♗f4! ♗g7 10.e3 0–0 11.♗e2 ♗e6?! 12.♕d1* with advantage to White thanks to his firm central position) 9.♕c2 c5! 10.dxc5 ♗g7 with good play for Black.

8...♗g7 9.♗f4 0–0 10.♖c1

The next Black's move shows that 10.e3 would have been more precise as in fact the rook on c1 doesn't prevent the c5 advance.

10...c5! 11.dxc5 b4



The key position of the game.

12.♘d1

Why not 12.♘d5 which looks so natural and strong? The answer is long but the main line is more or less forced: 12...♘xd5 13.♕xd5 ♗xb2! 14.♕xa8 *(14.♖c2? ♗c3+ 15.♖xc3 bxc3 16.♕xa8 ♗a4 17.♗d2 c2!)* 14...♗a4! 15.♖b1 *(15.♕xb8 ♗c3+! 16.♘d2 ♗xd2+ 17.♗xd2 ♕xb8)* 15...♗c2 16.♘d2 ♗xb1 17.♘xb1 ♕a5 18.♗d2 ♕xa2 19.♕e4 ♘d7 20.c6 ♘c5 21.♕c2 the second rank is full! 21...b3 22.♕d1 ♘e4 with a serious compensation for a piece.

12...♘c6

White is a pawn up but he has fallen behind in development. This trouble he didn't manage to surmount.

13.♘d4

13.e4 ♕a5 14.♘d2 ♖fd8 with initiative

13...♕a5!

With 13...♘xd4 14.♕xd4 ♘h5 15.♗e5; or 13...♘d5 14.♘xc6 ♗xc6 15.♗d2 Black achieves nothing special.

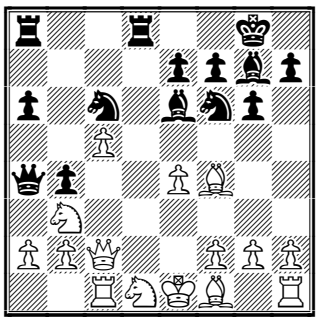
14.♘b3 ♕a4

Of course the a2-pawn is untouchable.

15.e4 ♗e6 16.♕c2

White doesn't surrender. For a rainy day he had 16.♕b1 ♖fd8 *(16...♗xb3 17.axb3 ♕xb3 18.♗c4 ♕a4 19.0–0)* 17.♗e2 ♗xb3 18.axb3 ♕xb3 19.0–0 giving up the pawn but completing development.

16...♖fd8



White's idea is seen in the line 16...♕xa2 17.♗c4 ♗xc4 18.♕xc4 and the black queen's power is restricted. If 18...♖fc8 then simply 19.0–0 (as *19.♖a1?!* is parried by *19...♘a5!)*

17.♗g3?

Here 17.♗c4 ♗xc4 18.♕xc4 doesn't work in view of 18...♘h5 19.♗c7 ♖d7 and the h2-b8 diagonal appears to be

too short for the bishop while in the event of his retreat to b6 the black knight goes to d3 via e5.; the best continuation was 17.♗e2!? and after 17...♕xa2 White plays 18.♗c4 despite a loss of tempo 18...♗xc4 19.♕xc4 ♖ac8 and White may choose between A) *(19...♘h5 20.♗c7 ♖d7 21.♖a1* and the a5-square is under the double control*)* 20.0–0 *(*and B) *20.♖a1 ♘a5 21.♖xa2 ♘xc4 22.f3 ♘h5)* 20...♘xe4! 21.♖a1 ♘a5 22.♕xe4 ♕xb3 23.♕xe7 ♘c4 In both cases Black is better but White retains some defensive potential.

17...♘g4! 18.♕b1

18.♗c4? loses to 18...♗xc4 19.♕xc4 ♘ce5; or 18.♗e2 ♕xa2 19.♖a1 *(19.♘d2 b3 20.♕b1 ♘b4–+)* 19...♗xb3 20.♖xa2 ♗xc2 21.♗xg4 ♗xe4 and the ending is completely lost

18...♗h6 19.♖c2

If 19.f4 ♗xb3 20.axb3 ♕xb3 21.♗e2 *(21.♗c4 ♖xd1+!)* 21...♘e3 winning

19...♘a5!

The straight central way 19...♘d4 complicates the issue – 20.♘xd4 ♗xa2 21.b3! *(21.♕a1 ♖xd4)* 21...♗xb1 22.bxa4 ♗xc2 *(22...♖xd4 23.♖b2 ♖xe4+ 24.♗e2 ♗d3 25.f3 ♖xe2+ 26.♖xe2 ♗xe2 27.♔xe2 ♘f6* and Black is "just" a pawn up*)* 23.♘xc2 b3 24.♘a3 ♗d2+ 25.♔e2 ♗c1 26.♘c4 and the battle is going on

20.f4

20.♘xa5 ♗xa2 21.b3 ♗xb1 22.bxa4 ♗xc2 – from a5 knight doesn't control the c2-square!; 20.c6 ♘xb3 21.c7 ♘d2 22.cxd8♕+ ♖xd8 23.♕c1 ♘xf1–+ – the knight f1 feels at home.

20...♘xb3 21.axb3 ♗xb3 22.♖c1

22.♖d2 ♖xd2 23.♔xd2 ♖d8+ 24.♗d3 ♗c4

22...♕d7

White resigned. The word "development" should be uttered one more time. **0–1**

Solution to our quiz:

Stean–Langeweg: **21.♗xg7! ♔xg7 22.♕g5+!** (22.♖d4 was also good) **22...♔h8 23.♕f6+ ♔g8 24.♕f5 1–0**
Nice geometry – the c2-rook is lost!
24...♖b2 *(24...♖xe2 25.♕g4+)* 25.♕g5+ ♔h8 26.♕f6+ ♔g8 27.♕xb2.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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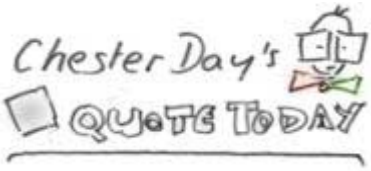


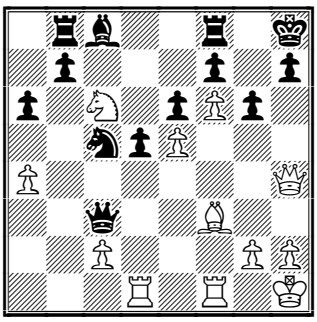
"The most important feature of the chess position is the activity of the pieces. This is absolutely fundamental in all phases of the game (opening, middlegame and especially endgame). The primary constraint on a piece's activity is the Pawn structure."

– Michael Stean
Simple Chess.

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-249(1033) 6th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Ovetchkin – Sakaev
56th Russian Championship
04.09.2003



White to play
(See *Beware: Blunder!* for solution)

Chess News

The Russian Chess Championships in Krasnoyarsk

Both the leaders' games in the 3rd round were decisive. Peter Svidler won against Artem Timofeev and Alexander Motylev defeated Alexey Dreev. So Svidler and Motylev retain perfect scores. In the 4th round they play each other. Sergey Shipov has caused a small sensation by beating the Elo-favourite Alexander Grischuk.

Round 3 results:
Svidler – Timofeev 1:0 Motylev – Dreev 1:0 Shipov – Grischuk 1:0 Malakhov – Yakovich ½:½ Inarkiev – Morozevich 0:1 Khalifman – Kornev ½:½ Gleizerov – Rublevsky ½:½ Ulibin – Zvjaginsev ½:½ Jakovenko – Lastin 1:0 Kharlov – Belozerov ½:½ Najer – Bezgodov 1:0 Rashkovsky – Smirnov ½:½ Iljin – Scherbakov 0:1

Round 3 standings:
1-2. Svidler, Motylev – 3
3-6. Morozevich, Shipov, Jakovenko, Najer – 2½

22 players are on 2 points.

Round 4 pairings:
Motylev – Svidler, Morozevich – Shipov, Jakovenko – Najer, Dreev – Kornev, Malakhov – Gleizerov, Ivanov – Khalifman, Rublevsky – Ulibin, Zvjaginsev – Belozerov, Smirnov – Bachin, Vorobiov – Volkov

See the best games of the third round in our pgn-file

The Association of Chess Professionals has opened a chess site at http://www.chess-players.org. A Glek interview and a Kramnik note are the first materials published.

At the Open Internacional de Sants in Barcelona the Round 7 standings are:
1.Hillarp Persson – 7 Moskalenko – 6½ 3-11. Akesson, Peralta, Gonzalez, Fluvia Poyatos, Blokhuis, Mela, Almeida, Stocek, Ikonnikov – 6, etc.

Chess Base comments on the Mumbai and cites Anand interview on their website www.chessbase.com.

5 Questions and 200 Words by Lev Khariton

1. Why was Ilyumzhinov so prompt in cancelling the match? Why didn't he try to meet both Kasparov and Ponomariov in person, as the latter proposed him to do, to seek the way out of the stand-off?

2. Why didn't Kasparov who presumably wanted to play (and win!) this match accept the cancellation of the match? Isn't Kirsan's decision to cancel the match reminiscent of Campomanes' decision to abort the first match between Karpov and Kasparov in February 1985?

3. Why, now being reintegrated into the FIDE system, does Kasparov have the privilege to play another title match with the winner of FIDE KO World Championship-2003? He who

destroyed the World Championship system and broke away from FIDE...

4. I wish I could side with Ponomariov. But why is he silent? Does he agree with Ilyumzhinov's decision? Or maybe, he is happy to play, as it is being rumoured a 'rapid chess' match with Karpov for the money presumably meant for his encounter with Kasparov? Maybe, Kirsan's decision was not so much of a surprise for Ruslan?

5. Where is the chess world – chess fans, leading chess players and chess journalists? Are they also part of the FIDE hoax? Don't they all feel that they are being taken in for a good ride – like babies on a sunny day?

The full Lev Khariton article is available at www.pakchess.com

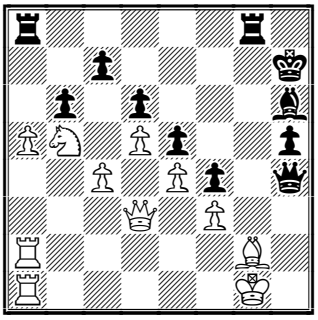
Beware: Blunder!

By IM Maxim Notkin

Today I'd like to contribute to our column "Beware: Blunder!"

In CT–1027 we saw the mistakes of the competitors of the Acropolis Open in Athens. The Norwegian GM Leif Johannessen who took part in the closed tournament there has produced a couple of wonderful examples as well.

Johannessen – Vouldis
Acropolis GM Athens GRE
25.08.2003

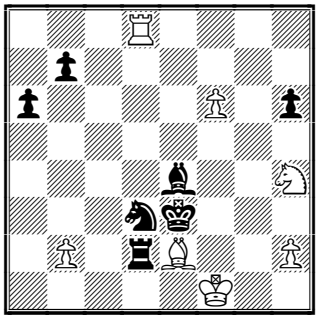


You can easily tell the outlines of the King Indian. White is a piece up and his king is properly protected. There are many ways to convert the material advantage into a point and White has opted for the most approved method – the EXCHANGE.

32.axb6?? ♖xg2+!

And White had to resign in view of the simple lines 32...♖xg2+ 33.♔xg2 *(33.♖xg2 ♖xa1+)* 33...♖g8+ 34.♔f1 ♕h1+ 35.♔e2 ♖g2# **0–1**

Johannessen – Mastrovasilis
Acropolis GM Athens GRE 28.08.2003



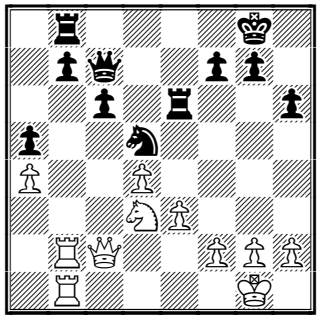
The game Johannessen – Vouldis was played on the 1st day of the event. In the 4th round came another lapse.

A compact army of the black pieces creates some threats, but the passed pawn gives White a wide range of defensive resources. He could have played 42.♖e8 in order to meet 42...♖xe2 with 43.♖xe4+ ♔xe4 44.♔xe2 though after 44...♘e5 the f6–pawn is lost and the knight ending is in Black's favor; another option is 42.♖xd3+ ♗xd3 43.♗xd3 and since the capture on d3 is impossible due to f6–f7 Rd8 Ng6 Black should play 43...♖f2+ 44.♔e1 ♖xf6 45.♗c2 with equal position; White even had a smart defence that reminds of studies – 42.f7! ♖xe2 43.♖xd3+! ♗xd3 44.♘g2+ ♔d4 45.♔g1! ♖c2! 46.f8♕ ♖c1+ 47.♘e1! ♖xe1+ 48.♔g2 and again the most probable outcome is a draw. All this hasn't come to pass since White preferred to eliminate the dangerous knight without any sacrifice – by EXCHANGE!

42.♗xd3?? 42...♖d1# 0–1

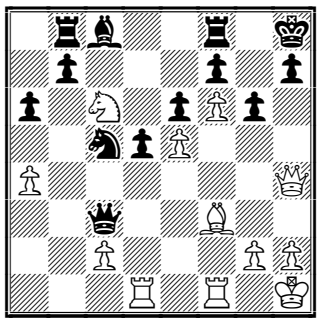
Belozerov – Tregubov
56th ch-RUS 03.09.2003

The Russian Championships add fresh material to our collection.

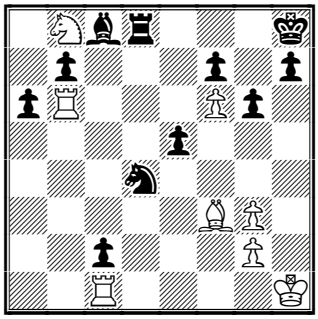


The white knight may occupy the c5 square. Black decided to cover it with the aid of
25...b6? After **26.♘c5!** it appeared that this protection was invalid **26...♖g6 27.♘a6 ♕c8 28.♘xb8 ♕xb8** White won the EXCHANGE :-) and the game **29.♕f5 ♕d8 30.♖c1 ♖f6 31.♕g4 ♖g6 32.♕f3 ♖f6 33.♕h5 ♕e7 34.♖bc2 ♕a3 35.♕e5 ♖e6 36.♕b8+ ♔h7 37.♕b7 ♘xe3 38.♖xc6 ♘d5 39.♖c8 ♕b4 40.♖f1 ♘f4 41.♕xf7 ♕xd4 42.♕f5+ ♖g6 43.♖c6 ♕xa4 44.♖xb6 ♕c4 45.♖xg6 1-0**

Ovetchkin – Sakaev
56th Russian Championship
04.09.2003



This is from our Quiz Today. White captured **25.♘xb8?** obtaining a decisive advantage, which, however, requires precise play as the knight has got stuck into enemy camp. In the end White even contrived to lose the game by another blunder Meanwhile 25.♕h6! ♖g8 26.♘d8! deserved attention checkmating on the next move **25...♕xe5 26.♕g3 ♕xg3 27.hxg3 ♘xa4 28.♖d4 ♘c3 29.♖d3 ♘b5 30.c4 dxc4 31.♖d2 e5 32.♖fd1 ♘d4 33.♖b2 c3 34.♖b6 c2 35.♖c1 ♖d8**



36.♔h2?? Defending against Nxf3+ and Rd1+ 36.♗xb7 was the right move. **36...♘xf3+** 37.gxf3 ♖d2+ and the king has to go back to the 1st rank as the bishop controls the h3 square from afar **0-1**

Book Review

by Don Aldrich

Chess Strategy in Action
by John Watson, (Gambit 2003), 288 pp., approx. 500 diags., $24.95

Chess Strategy in Action (*CSA*) is John Watson's eagerly awaited follow-up to *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* (*SMCS*). If *SMCS* was an update to *My System, CSA* is the new version of *Chess Praxis.*
For those poor souls foolish enough to have skipped it, *SMCS* traced the evolution of chess strategy from Nimzowitsch to the current day. The basic premise was that modern players were much more 'rule independent' than their predecessors — the modern master is perfectly happy to put his knights on the edge of the board if the situation calls for it. This premise was thoroughly investigated throughout the reach of chess strategy as Watson looked at the differences in the handling of pieces, pawn chains, the increase in exchange and pawn sacrifices and so forth. While the book had its critics, it met with general acclaim and won just about every award a chess book is eligible for, including the all important BCF Book of the Year.

CSA is a straight up sequel, filling in the gaps if you will. Over a third of *SMCS* was devoted to establishing the base line of strategy as it existed in 1935, leaving less room for actual exploration of the ideas. At many junctures, Watson would end a discussion with the observation that he was curtailing it due to space reasons, or that a "whole book could be written on the subject". This then is that book. Watson uses the introductory chapter to remind the reader of what was covered in the first volume. This has the commercially desirable effect of making *CSA* a 'stand alone' product. Familiarity with *SMCS* is not required. Watson also assures us *CSA* is new material. He is still exploring the same thesis, showing us how the modern game treats things differently, but the subjects covered are either covered in more depth than in *SMCS* or are subjects that were not dealt with at all.

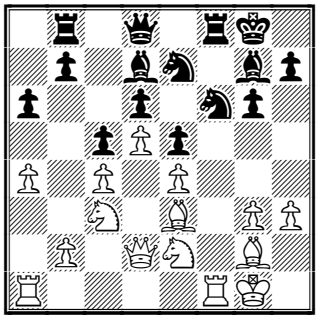
For instance, the chapter on modern pawn play in *SMCS* was one of the longest sections of the book. One of the topics was the modern players' use of g4/g5 very early in the opening, a striking example of change in strategic approach. In *CSA*, the chapter on pawn play is by far the biggest section, almost a third of the book. The section on pawns and flank play is 26 pages all by itself. Watson notes what he wrote about in *SMCS*, then proceeds to discuss flank operations in general, showing how current players are far more likely to conduct operations on the flank, and make pawn moves their forbears would not. Same topic, new materials and ideas.

The subject of doubled pawns is barely mentioned in SCMS; it gets a full section in *CSA*. Watson theorizes that not only is the modern player more likely to accept doubled pawns for other compensation, but that masters now recognize doubled pawns can be a plus in and of themselves. The section includes treatment of positions where a player accepts two sets of doubled pawns, and a fascinating discussion of openings where a player accepts doubling his f-pawns by capturing with the e-pawn, away from the centre. These are new concepts not addressed at all in *SMCS*. Alas, no mention of the Irish pawn centre! ☺

One of the major themes running all through *SMCS* is the handling of minor pieces, with a special emphasis on the Bishop\Knight pairs. Given that coverage, it would seem not much was left for Watson to explore. However, he comes up with the theme of 'Sleepless Knights', featuring long knight tours, which dramatically affect the position. While theoretically interesting, the chapter is also somewhat amusing as hinted at by the title:

□ **R. Goerge**
■ **E. Reicher (2315)**
World Students' Ch, Wildbad, 1993

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.c4 d6 4.♘c3 ♘c6 5.♗e3 e5 6.d5 ♘ce7 7.f3 f5 8.♘ge2 ♘f6 9.g3 0-0 10.♗g2 c5 11.♕d2 a6 12.a4 ♖b8 13.0-0 ♗d7 14.h3 fxe4 15.fxe4 *(D)*



15...♘c8!? What's this? **16.g4 ♘b6! 17.b3 ♘a8 18.♘g3 ♘c7**
Okay, Black may have not had much to do, but development by ...♘c6-e7-c8-b6-a8-c7 is something else again. [Discussion of knight maneuvers in the Benoni is snipped here.]
19.g5 ♘fe8 20.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 21.♖f1 b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.♕f2 ♕e7 24.♕f3 bxc4 25.bxc4 ♖b3 26.♗d2 ♘a6 Off on another trip. See where he ends up this time.
27.h4 ♘b4 28.♕d1!
Avoiding 28.h5 ♘c2 and ...♘d4.
28...♖a3 29.h5 ♘d3
Black is better because he can sacrifice

a pawn with ...♘f4 (threatening ...g5), and even if the piece is captured Black gets the long diagonal for his bishop to terrific effect.

It should be noted that most of the annotations, and especially those in the games section, are far more serious and in depth than that given above. It is included to not only show Watson's wry sense of humour peeping through this serious work, but how thorough his research is. Who has ever looked at this game before?!

The last third of the book consists of 35 games deeply annotated by Watson. While the notes are typically thorough, he is not seeking to achieve the levels attained by say Stohl in *Instructive Modern Chess Masterpieces.* Rather, he is attempting to demonstrate the ideas put forth in the book in actual play. Most of the games are from the last three or four years, with more from the '90's, and a few from the '60s-80's. One game from 1936, Kan-Eliskases, is included, as it shows the pioneering of a number of the modern ideas at a very early date. The last game is Nimzowitsch-Olson, 1924(!). It is included simply as a tribute to Nimzowitsch, the guy who started it all.

It should also be mentioned that the index reveals almost three hundred players are represented, and many have more than one citation. The wealth of material examined cannot be overstated. It is as up to date as possible, with mentions of at least two books that have not yet reached the printer — one being Watson's contribution to the forthcoming Pal Benko autobiography. The bibliography is revealing as to the direction the modern game is taking — the usual books are of course mentioned, but such 'data intensive' sources as *The Week in Chess* and *Chessbase Magazine* as well. It is current through *Informant 86*. Considering 87 was just released, that is indeed up to date.

I cannot imagine any chess player not being fascinated by the discussion as presented by Watson. In *SMCS* he issued a strong caveat that it was not an instructional work, but rather a more academic survey of how strategy has changed, and he issues the same warning in *CSA*. That being said, I think it would be impossible for a player to study this work and not have his understanding of the modern game greatly enhanced. This book will probably not receive the same wide spread acclaim as *SMCS*, much as *Praxis* is not as valued as *My System.* The first was ground breaking where the second is seen as simply more of the same. To ignore this book because you have read the first would be a mistake. The game selection alone makes it a very worthwhile investment of time.

Strongly Recommended.

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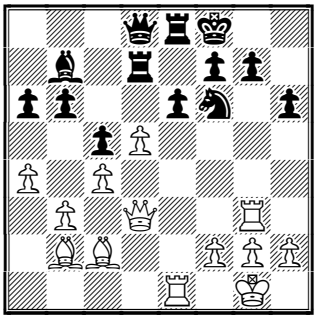
Chess Quiz

Himdan – Salem
Sharjah open, 2003



White to move

Chess news

56th Championship of Russia. (Krasnoyarsk.)

In the equal ending on the 60th move Motylev made a decisive mistake in and lost to Morozevich (see *Beware: Blunder* at the end of the issue for full game). Even though Svidler obtained an excellent position in his game against Jakovenko he wasn't able bring home the victory. As a result Morozevich became the sole leader of the tournament. Malakhov is really awesome in endgames with bishops of opposite colours. Some time ago he won such drawish ending against Ivanchuk. In the previous round he nearly tortured Yakovich. Ulibin wasn't able to rescue in his games against Malakhov in spite of the fact that there were an equal number of pawns. Popov seems to be shy against chessplayers from his native town – St. Peterburg. He has lost to both Svidler and today to Khalifman.

Round 5 results:
Morozevich – Motylev 1–0
Svidler – Jakovenko ½–½
Ulibin – Malakhov 0–1
Volkov – Timofeev 0–1
Popov – Khalifman 0–1
Kornev – Zvjaginsev 0–1
Kharlov – Yakovich ½–½
Bachin – Dreev ½–½

Top Standings after 5 rounds:
1.Morozevich – 4½
2–5. Svidler, Malakhov, Timofeev, Jakovenko

Top boards for round 6
Svidler – Morozevich
Timofeev – Malakhov
Khalifman – Jakovenko
Zvjaginsev – Kharlov
Yakovich – Motylev
Dvoirys – Alekseev
Bachin – Najer
Belozerov – Sakaev
Grischuk – Inarkiev
Dreev – Gleizerov

Nordic Championship. (Aarhus)

Standings after round 2:
1. Hector – 2
2–3. Stefansson, Olafsson 1½

VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea. (Madrid)

Leaders standings after round 7:
1–7. Gustafsson , Roa Alonso, Belezky, Lalic,Moreno Carnero, Alonso, Sanchez – 6

45th International Chess Festival (Imperia, Italy)
Milodinovich won the tournament gained one more point than the nearest persecutors.

1. Miladinovic – 7½

Open Internacional de Sants

Hillarp Person won with Black pieces and became the winner of the tournament.

Final standings of the Leaders:
1 Hillarp Persson 9 points out of 10
2–3 Moskalenko, Akesson 8½

Chess Today received a statement by **GM Vladimir Kramnik** from GM Kramnik's manager, Carsten Hensel. The statement is reproduced in full below.

World Chess Champion GM Vladimir Kramnik's official announcement

(Moscow, September 8, 2003)

Keeping in mind the current situation in the chess world I consider it important to state my position.

At the present time I am engaged with the preparation for the Classical World Chess Championship match with the official challenger Peter Leko. We came to an agreement concerning all conditions and regulations for our match. Now we are at the final stage of negotiations with the potential sponsor. An official announcement will follow after signing the agreements.

Based on my rights from the contract with Einstein Group PLC I sent a termination document to the company in the beginning of August 2003. The reason for this was the company's failure to fulfill the main contract obligation – organization of the Classical World Chess Championship match by June 30, 2003. At the moment I do not have any contractual relations either with the Einstein Group or with FIDE. I also did not authorize these organizations to hold negotiations on my behalf. All the announcements concerning my match with Peter Leko in Buenos Aires are far from reality.

I regret that the match between Ruslan Ponomariov (FIDE World Champion) and Gary Kasparov (FIDE challenger), will not take place. All this leads to a halt of the chess world reunion that was initiated by the Prague unity agreement.

I ask all the people who are in charge of the situation to find a reasonable solution and to put maximum effort in order to resolve the crisis.

Let the players play!

GM Vladimir Kramnik

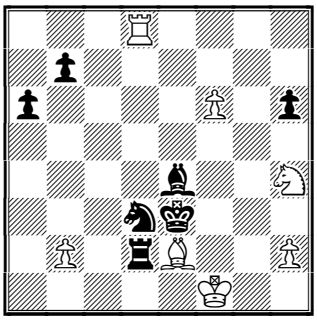
Letters to the Editor

Dear Sirs,

Regarding your article about the blunders of Norwegian GM Johannessen in the Acropolis GM tournament in Athens, I would like to share the following funny incident, which I observed very closely as I was the Deputy Chief Arbiter of the whole festival:

Johannessen – Mastrovasilis

Acropolis GM, 28.08.2003



In round 4, against A. Mastrovasilis, when reaching the position after Black's 41st move, Leif reached out to play the drawing 42.f7 (as you correctly point out), hovered his hand above the pawn without actually touching it, then retreated his hand and moved 42.♗xd3 instead. His opponent, oblivious of the fortune that befell him, immediately protested, claiming that Leif did touch the pawn, and requesting the move 42.f7 to be made! Leif in turn insisted that the pawn had not been touched, and insisted on his move 42.♗xd3! A 1-minute argument ensued, with several people having spotted the mate in one and laughing out loud, when the arbiter confirmed that the f-pawn had not been touched and ordering the game to go on. Mastrovasilis did not hide his frustration at this decision, turned to the board and... suddenly he saw! Needless to say, Leif was pretty shocked when he got mated, and everyone got a great laugh!

So, it seems Leif's main mistake was not the EXCHANGE, but his stubborness!
Best regards,
Sotiris Logothetis

42.♗xd3?? ♖d1# 0-1.

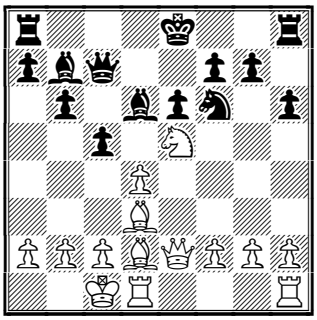
Many thanks to Mr. Logothetis. We have nothing to add to this incredible story, and only can repeat the saving for White line, given by Maxim Notkin in CT-1033: 42.f7! ♖xe2 43. ♖xd3+ ♗xd3 44.♘g2+ ♔d4 45.♔g1! ♖c2! 46.f8=♕ ♖c1+ 47.♘e1! ♖xe1+ 48.g2 =.

Annotated Game

□ **P. Smirnov**
■ **V. Bachin**
56th Russian Championship
Krasnoyarsk (4.9), 06.09.2003
Caro-Kann [B17]

Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘g5 e6 6.♗d3 ♘gf6 7.♘1f3 ♗d6 8.♕e2 h6 9.♘e4 ♘xe4 10.♕xe4 ♘f6 11.♕e2 ♕c7 12.♗d2 b6 13.0-0-0 ♗b7 14.♘e5 c5 (D)



This variation of the Caro-Kann Defence owes its popularity to Anatoly Karpov. The variation was first used in 1995–1996.

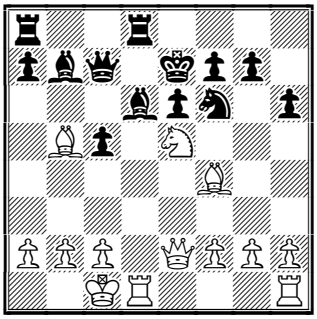
15.♗b5+ ♔e7 16.dxc5 bxc5

16...♕xc5 17.a3 a5 18.♗c3 ♗d5 19.♖he1 ♖hc8 20.f3 ♔f8 21.♔b1 ♕c7 22.♗d4 ♖d8 23.♕f2 ♗c5 24.♗xc5+ ♕xc5 25.♕xc5+ bxc5 26.c4 ♗b7 27.♔c2 g5 28.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 29.♘d3 ♖c8 30.♔b3 g4 31.♖e3 Ivanchuk,V-Karpov,A/Monte Carlo 1996 1–0.

17.♗f4N

The following has occurred before 17.♖he1 ♘e4 18.♗f4 ♗xe5 19.♗xe5 ♕xe5 20.♖d7+ ♔f6 21.♖xb7 ♕f4+ 22.♔b1 ♖hd8 23.g3 ♘d2+ 24.♔a1 ♕e4 25.♕xe4 ♘xe4 26.♗d3 ♘d6= 0–1 Navara,D-Sitnik,I/Olomouc 1999; 17.f4 ♖hd8 18.♖hf1 ♗d5 19.c4 ♗b7 20.♗a4 ♔f8 21.♗c2 ♗c6 22.♘xc6 ♕xc6 23.g4 ♖db8 24.g5 ♘g8 25.f5 exf5 26.♖xf5 hxg5 27.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 28.♕h5+ ♔f8 29.♖f1+ ♘f6 30.♖xf6+ gxf6 31.♕h8+ ♔f7 1/2–1/2. Speckner,R-Grundherr,M/Bayern 1997

17...♖hd8 (D)



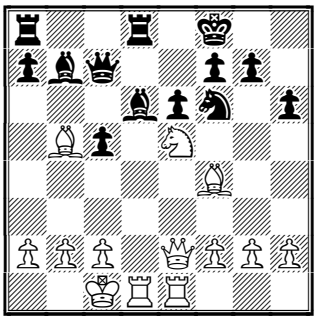
18.♖he1

18.♖xd6 ♖xd6 19.♕e3 would not lead to success (After *19.♘c4 ♖d1+ 20.♖xd1 ♕xf4+ 21.♕e3 ♕xe3+ 22.♘xe3=* an equal endgame is on the board) 19...♘d5 20.♕g3

A) The position is more complicated after 20...♘xf4 21.♕xg7! Black risks being defeated. For instance, 21...♖d4 *(21...♖f8 22.♕xh6 ♖d4 23.♕g5+ ♔d6 24.♖d1! ♘d5 25.♘c4+ ♖xc4 26.♗xc4* with good compensation for the knight) 22.♕xf7+ ♔d6 23.♕f6 In spite of being a rook up, Black faces serious difficulties;

B) 20...g5 21.♗xg5+ hxg5 22.♕xg5+ ♔f8 23.♕h6+ ♔g8 *(23...♔e7? 24.♕g7!+-)* 24.♕g5+= with perpetual check.

8...♔f8 (D)



19.♔b1

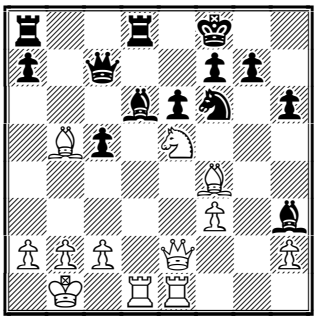
The following gives nothing again 19.♖xd6 ♖xd6 20.♘c4 ♖d1+ 21.♖xd1 ♕xf4+ 22.♕e3 ♕xe3+ 23.♘xe3=; After 19.♗g3 ♗d5 (depriving the knight of

the c4-square) (Also possible is *19...♘e4 20.f4 ♘xg3 21.hxg3 ♖ab8* with the initiative for Black.) 20.c4 ♗xg2 21.♘d7+ ♖xd7 22.♗xd7 is not good in view of 22...♗f4+! 23.♔b1 ♗xg3 24.fxg3 ♗e4+ 25.♔a1 ♕b7 But White's extra exchange makes up for Black's initiative.

19...♗xg2!

An important and correct decision! In addition to the extra pawn, Black's bishop obtains an excellent "camp" on f5.

20.f3 ♗h3 (D)



A crucial moment.

21.♗g3?!

Correct is 21.♗d7!

A) 21...♔g8 22.♘xf7! ♗xf4 *(22...♖xd7 23.♗xd6 ♕b6 24.♘xh6+! gxh6 25.♗e5±* with a raging attack for the piece.) 23.♘xd8 ♖xd8 24.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 25.♕xe6+ ♔h8 26.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 Black stands slightly better but White should make a draw;

B) 21...♘xd7 22.♘g6+ ♔g8 23.♗xd6 ♕b7 24.♘e7+ ♔h8 with a double-edged position;

C) 21...♗xe5 22.♗xe5 ♕b7 23.♗xf6 **C1)** Dangerous for Black is 23...♖xd7?! 24.♗xg7+! ♔xg7 25.♕e5+ f6 *(25...♔h7 26.♖xd7 ♕xd7 27.♕e4+ ♗f5 28.♕xa8±)* 26.♖g1+ ♗g2 27.♖xg2+ ♔h7 28.♕e4+ f5 29.♖gd2! fxe4 30.♖xd7+ ♕xd7 31.♖xd7+ ♔g6 32.fxe4±; **C2)** 23...gxf6 24.♕d2 with sufficient compensation for the pawn. For example, 24...♖ab8 25.♕d6+ ♔g7 26.♖g1+ ♔h7 27.b3 ♕xf3 28.♕e7 ♖f8 29.♗b5! ♗f5 30.♗d3 ♗xd3 31.♖xd3 ♕f2 32.♖dg3 c4 33.♖3g2 ♕d4 34.♖g4 ♕f2=

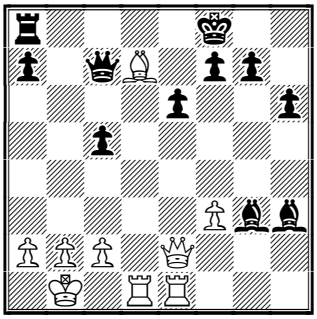
21...♘h5

Even better is 21...♘d5 22.♔a1 ♗f5 White does not have any compensation for the pawn.

22.♘d7+?!

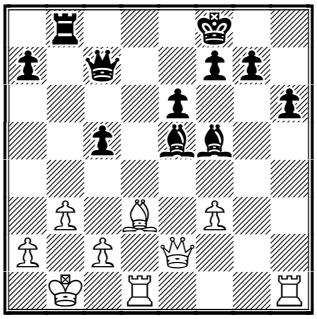
This completely ruins the game. After the correct 22.♖xd6! ♖xd6 23.♘d7+ ♔g8 24.♗xd6 ♕xd6 25.♖d1 *(25.♕e5 ♕d2!∓)* 25...♕f4 26.♘xc5= White should not lose.

22...♖xd7 23.♗xd7 ♘xg3 24.hxg3 ♗xg3 (D)



Having won the exchange, White managed to lose all the rest; his pieces are unable to resist Black's two strong bishops.

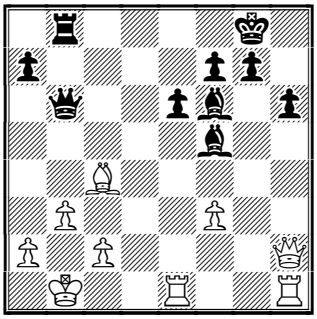
25.♖h1 ♗f5 26.♗b5 ♖b8 27.♗d3 ♗e5 28.b3 (D)



28...c4!

Pawns are no longer of any importance. Now it is necessary for Black to clear the road for his queen and win a tempo.

29.♗xc4 ♔g8 30.♖de1 ♗f6 31.♕h2 ♕b6 (D)



White's position seems unlikely to be saved.

32.♖e5

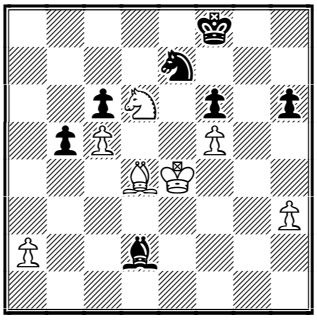
32.♖eg1 ♖d8 33.♖d1 *(33.♕xh6 ♖d1+-+)* 33...♖c8 34.♕e2 ♕a5 35.♕e3

♕a3 36.♕c1 ♕b4 37.♕d2 ♖xc4–+; 32.♕f4 ♕b4 33.♖e4 ♖d8 34.♕xf5 ♕c3 35.♕xf6 ♕xf6–+
32...♕d4 33.♖he1 ♖d8 34.f4 ♕c3 0-1.

Beware: Blunder!

A.**Morozevich – A. Motylev**
Russian Chess Champ 2003
Krasnoyarsk (5), 08.09.2003

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.♘c3 ♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♗e7 7.♕d4 0-0 8.♗e3 ♘c6 9.♕f4 ♕d7 10.h3 ♕f5 11.♕a4 ♕a5 12.♕xa5 ♘xa5 13.♘d4 a6 14.g4 ♖e8 15.0-0-0 ♗d7 16.♗g2 ♖ab8 17.♖he1 ♗h4 18.♘f3 ♗e7 19.♘e5 ♗b5 20.♘d3 ♗c6 21.♗xc6 ♘xc6 22.c4 ♔f8 23.c3 ♖bd8 24.♔c2 b6 25.b4 h6 26.♗f4 ♗g5 27.♗g3 ♖xe1 28.♖xe1 ♖e8 29.c5 ♖xe1 30.♘xe1 dxc5 31.bxc5 ♗d8 32.♔d3 ♔e7 33.♔e4 ♔e6 34.f4 b5 35.♘c2 ♗f6 36.♗e1 g6 37.♘e3 ♘e7 38.c4 ♗b2 39.f5+ gxf5+ 40.gxf5+ ♔d7 41.cxb5 axb5 42.♗h4 ♘g8 43.♘c2 ♗c3 44.♔d3 ♗b2 45.♗f2 ♘e7 46.♔e4 c6 47.♗d4 ♗c1 48.♘b4 ♗g5 49.♗e5 ♘g8 50.♘d3 ♗d2 51.♗d4 f6 52.♘f2 ♔e7 53.♔f3 ♔f7 54.♘e4 ♗c1 55.♘d6+ ♔g7 56.♔e4 ♗d2 57.♘c8 ♔f7 58.♗f2 ♘e7 59.♘d6+ ♔f8 60.♗d4 (D)



60...♔g7?? [60...♗g5] **61.♘e8++- ♔f7 62.♘xf6 ♗e3 63.♗xe3 ♔xf6 64.♗d4+ ♔f7 65.♔e5 b4 66.♗b2 ♘d5 67.♔d6 ♘c3 68.♔xc6 ♔e8 69.♔b7 1-0.**

Solution to Chess Quiz:

Himdan – Salem
Sharjah open, 2003

23.♖xg7! e5 [23...♔xg7 24.♕h7+ ♔f8 25.♕h8+ ♘g8 26.♕g7+ ♔e7 27.♖xe6#] **24.♖g3 ♘h5 25.♖g8+!** Black resigned in view of **25...♔xg8 26.♕h7+ ♔f8 27.♕h8+ ♔e7 28.♕xe5+ ♔f8 29.♕h8# 1-0.**

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Chess Today is published by: Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax/phone: (353-1) 283-6839.E-mail:ct@gmsquare.com

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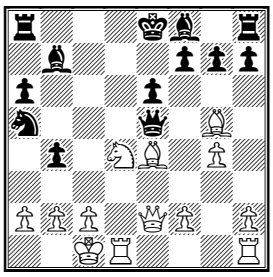
CT- 253 (1037) 10th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Cerquitella – Tomescu
Porto San Giorgo, Itay, 2003



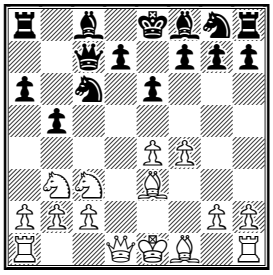
White to play

On This Day...

Twenty years ago, on the 10th September 1983 Grandmaster **Victor Ciocaltea** passed away (16.1.1932 – 10.9.1983. *Photo curtesy of ChessBase archive*). One of the most important figures in the history of Romanian chess, Ciocaltea won the national championship seven times and represented Romania at Chess Olympiads eleven times. At one of those Olympiads — in Varna in 1962 — he beat Robert Fischer. Victor Ciocaltea's achievements have not been forgotten in his country, which hosts an annual closed Grandmaster tournament in Bucharest — the international Ciocaltea Memorial.

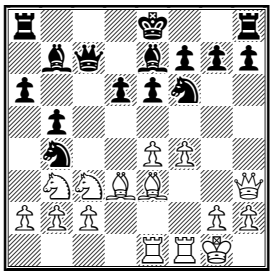
Ciocaltea – Darga
Germany, 1971
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.f4 b5 8.♘b3!? *(D)*



This way to fight the Taimanov Sicilian is not as innocent as it may look. Black is now deprived of the important ...♘xd4 possibility.

8...d6 9.♗d3 ♘f6 10.0-0 ♗e7 11.♕f3 ♗b7 12.♖ae1 ♘b4 13.♕h3 *(D)*

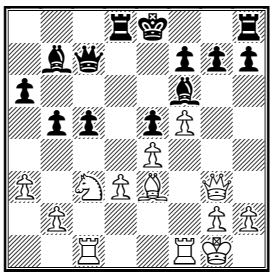


13...♘d7
Black should have preferred 13...e5!?, with complex play.

14.a3 ♘xd3 15.cxd3 ♘c5?!
Consistent, but wrong. Better was 15...0–0.

16.♘xc5 dxc5 17.f5! e5
Black would be also in trouble after 17...exf5 18.♖xf5! ♗c8 19.♘d5.

18.♕g3 ♗f6 19.♖c1 ♖d8 *(D)*



20.d4! cxd4 21.♘d5 ♕d6 22.♘xf6+ gxf6 23.♗d2!± ♕f8
There was no other way to defend against the threats of ♕g7 and ♗b4.

24.♖c7! ♖g8
24...♗xe4 25.♗b4 ♖g8 26.♖e7+ ♕xe7 27.♕xg8+ ♔d7 28.♕g4! ♗xf5 would have left Black with insufficient

This issue is prepared by GM M. Golubev & IM N. Vlassov; technical editor Ralph Marconi
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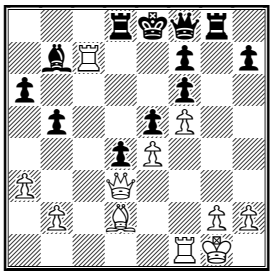
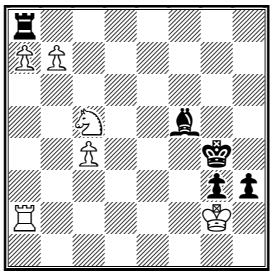
compensation for a piece.
25.♕d3 ***(D)***



25...♖d7 26.♖fc1
Black's position is divided into two parts and the g8-rook cannot help to defend the queenside.
26...♕g7 27.g3 ♕g4
The only reasonable try to get counter-play, but it fails:
28.♖xb7! ♖xb7 29.♕c2!+- ♖d7 30.♕c8+ ♖d8 31.♕c6+ ♖d7
Or 31...♔e7 32.♗b4+.
32.♕xf6 ♖d8 33.♕xe5+ 1-0.

Ciocaltea - Fischer, Varna Ol 1962
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d3 ♘c6 4.g3 g6 5.♗g2 ♗g7 6.0–0 e5 7.c3 ♘ge7 8.♘h4 0–0 9.f4 exf4 10.gxf4 f5 11.♘d2 ♔h8 12.♘df3 fxe4 13.dxe4 d5 14.exd5 ♕xd5 15.♕xd5 ♘xd5 16.♘g5 ♘b6 17.♗e3 ♘a4 18.♖ae1 ♗d7 19.♗c1 ♗f6 20.♘hf3 ♗f5 21.♘e5 ♘e7 22.♘e4 ♗h4 23.♖d1 ♖ac8 24.♘d6 ♖c7 25.♘b5 ♖cc8 26.♘xa7 ♖a8 27.♘b5 ♖a5 28.c4 ♘b6 29.♘c3 ♘a4 30.♘b5 ♘b6 31.♘a3 ♗f6 32.♖fe1 ♘a4 33.♘b5 ♘b6 34.♘c3 ♘c6 35.♗xc6 bxc6 36.b3 ♘d7 37.♘a4 ♘xe5 38.fxe5 ♗h4 39.♖f1 ♔g7 40.♖d6 ♖aa8 41.♗e3 ♗h3 42.♖xf8 ♖xf8 43.♖d1 ♖f5 44.♘xc5 ♖f3 45.♗d4 ♖f4 46.e6+ ♔f8 47.♗e5 ♗f2+ 48.♔h1 ♖g4 49.♘d7+ ♔e7 50.♗g3 ♔xe6 51.♖d6+ ♔e7 52.♖d2 ♗xg3 53.hxg3 ♖xg3 54.♘e5 c5 55.♔h2 ♖e3 56.♘d3 ♗f5 57.♘xc5 h5 58.a4 h4 59.a5 g5 60.a6 ♔f6 61.a7 ♖e8 62.♖a2 ♖a8 63.b4 g4 64.b5 g3+ 65.♔g2 ♔g5 66.b6 ♔g4 67.b7 h3+ ***(D)***



68.♔f1!
After 68.♔g1?? White would even lose: 68...♖e8 69.♖a1 h2+ 70.♔g2 ♖e2+ 71.♔h1 ♔h3. **68...g2+ 69.♖xg2+ 1-0.**

Chess News

The 56th Championship of Russia. (Krasnoyarsk)
After 6 rounds there is a new leader: Svidler defeated Morozevich in a fierce struggle. So Svidler has taken over first place for the moment. Malakhov made a gross blunder and lost a pawn to Timofeev. It was only due to his great defensive skills and with the help of his opponent that the game ended in a draw. Bachin played the opening against Najer badly. Najer quite the contrary played strongly and confidently and won.

Round 6 results:
Svidler - Morozevich 1-0
Khalifman - Jakovenko ½ - ½
Timofeev - Malakhov ½ - ½
Zvjaginsev - Kharlov ½ - ½
Yakovich – Motylev ½ - ½
Bachin – Najer 0-1
Dvoirys – Alekseev ½ - ½

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Svidler 5
2-6. Morozevich, Malakhov, Najer, Timofeev, Jakovenko 4½

Top boards for 7 round:
Malakhov - Svidler
Najer – Timofeev
Jakovenko– Morozevich
Alekseev - Grischuk
Yevseev - Zvjaginsev
Kharlov - Khalifman
Motylev – Dvoirys
Rublevsky - Yakovich
Volkov - Belozerov

The Nordic Championship. (Aarhus)

Standings after round 4:
1-4. Hector, Olafsson, Hansen, Stefansson 3.0

The VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea. (Madrid)

Top standings after round 8:
1-7. Gustafsson , Roa Alonso, Paragua, Lalic,Moreno Carnero, Alonso, Sanchez 6½ points.

The Argentinian Championship.

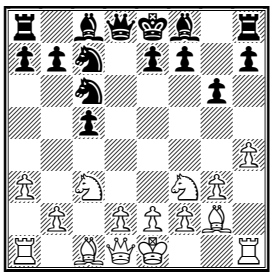
Top standings after round 5:
1-6. Szmetan , Flores, Mahia, Giardelli Soppe, Dolezal - 4.0 points.

Annotated Game

□ **V. Popov**
■ **A. Khalifman**
56th Russian Championship
Krasnoyarsk (5), 06.09.2003
English Openinig – [A34]

Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.g3 ♘c6 6.♗g2 ♘c7 7.a3 g6 8.h4 ***(D)***



This is a pretty crucial move. Before making it White could say they were playing the Dragon Variation with colours reversed, but now it's quite different. Anyway, White can afford it....

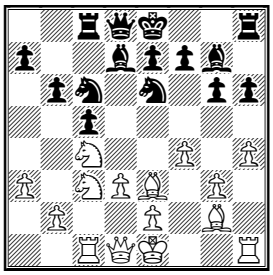
8...h6 9.d3 ♗g7 10.♗e3 ♘e6 11.♖c1 ♗d7 12.♘d2N

White failed to equalise after 12.0–0 b6 13.♖b1 ♘ed4 14.♗d2 ♖c8 15.♘h2 a5 16.e3 ♘f5 17.♕e2 0–0 18.♖fd1 a4 19.♘e4 ♗e6 20.♗c3 ♗b3 21.♖d2 e5 22.h5 g5 23.♗h3 ♗e6 24.♕f3 ♕d7 25.♗xf5 ♗xf5 26.g4 ♗e6∓ in Beim,V-Van Wely,L/Germany 2000 0–1.

12...♖c8 13.♘c4 b6

Black makes useful moves avoiding castling in order to prevent White from attack on the side. However, Black's control in the centre is more significant. Making a pseudo-active move, White weakens the kingside.

14.f4?! ***(D)***



After the reserved 14.0–0 everything is still OK although the opening advantage is out of the question.

14...h5!

Concentrating on the weakness of the squares g4 and f5. White is unable to take control over the f5-square with his pawn on e4 without weakening the d3-pawn.

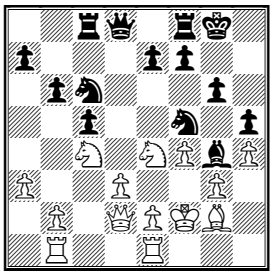
15.0-0 ♘ed4 16.♗f2 0-0 17.♘e4

It is better for White to wait: 17.♔h2 having an opportunity of meeting 17...♗g4 by 18.♘e3

17...♗g4 18.♖e1 ♘f5 19.♖b1 ♗d4

Understanding which pieces to exchange and which to keep characterises a good player. White's attack is no longer of any danger to Black, therefore he exchanges his black-squared bishop. One of White's defenders leaves the scene and the squares g3 and e3 are materially weaker.

20.♕d2 ♗xf2+ 21.♔xf2 ***(D)***



21...b5! 22.♘e3

There is no other square for the white knight and here it falls under a deadly pin. White is almost lost.

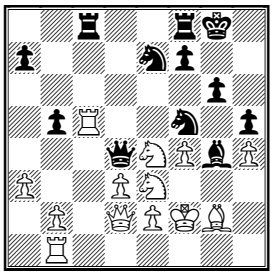
22...♕d4! 23.♖ec1 e5

The pawn on c5 is no longer of any importance. It is necessary to clear the way to White's pinned pieces.

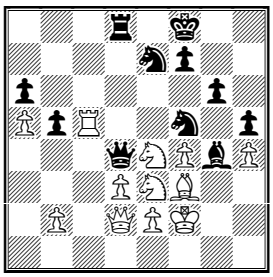
24.♖xc5 exf4

The combination of winning the pawn is less convincing: 24...♘xg3?! 25.♔xg3 exf4+ 26.♔h2 fxe3 27.♕c3 ♕xc3 28.bxc3 White has managed to

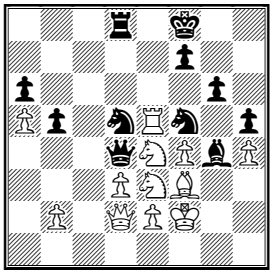
unpin and has good chances.
25.gxf4 ♘ce7 *(D)*



Black's queen is in the centre surrounded by White's pieces none of which can disturb it!
26.♖bc1 ♖xc5 27.♖xc5 a6 28.a4 ♖b8 29.a5 ♔f8 30.♗f3 ♖d8 *(D)*



31.♖e5?
The last chance for White is 31.♕c1 in order to respond to 31...♘d5 with 32.♖xd5 ♖xd5 33.♕c8+ ♔g7 34.♕c3! forcing the exchange of queens. Despite having the exchange in the endgame after 34...♗xf3 35.♕xd4+ ♖xd4 36.♔xf3 ♘xh4+ 37.♔g3 ♘f5+ 38.♘xf5+ gxf5 39.♘c5 ♖d6 Black has technical difficulties.
31...♘d5 *(D)*



Now it's all over. The turmoil of the pieces in the centre makes a strong impression :).
32.♖xd5 ♖xd5 33.♘c3 ♖c5 34.♗e4 ♘d6
White resigned being unable to release himself from the deadly pin. **0-1.**

Web Watch
by GM Mikhail Golubev

In his Telegraph chess column, Nigel Short speaks about the cancellation of the Ponomariov-Kasparov match. The funniest observation in Short's interesting article is, probably, the following: "*It is curious that of the last six FIDE World Champions, three of them – Fischer, Kasparov and now Ponomariov – have been defaulted. Whether that says more about the size of the individual egos or the incompetence of FIDE, I do not know.*"

On 6th September, Russian newspaper *Sport-Express*, published an article in Russian by Yuri Vasilyev, who claims that Anatoly Karpov is one person who benefits from the cancelled Ponomariov-Kasparov match. The article is based on rumours that Ponomariov might play a friendly match against Karpov in Yalta...

The Ponomariov-Kasparov saga had one positive consequence in Ukraine, where the national chess federation finally launched its website. The page in English is available.

In the Washington Post chess column, GM Lubomir Kavalek examines the Fischer-Sozin Attack games from the American Continental championships. Nikolai Vlassov's notes to Kudrin-Morovic game were published in CT-1024; Kavalek's article contains more details. In short, 6.Bc4 wins! ☺

Lubomir Kavalek will be the next guest of the *Chess & Books with Fred Wilson* Live Radio Show on 10th of September, at 21:00 EST. Replay of the show will be at 23:05 EST on the same day. Further details are available at the Chess.fm site.

An nice photo report from the Moscow Blitz Championship by Anna Dergatscheva is published at the *Chess Base* website. There is *Andor Lilienthal with David Bronstein*, and many other excellent pictures.

Lately, the Worldchessrating.com site has been actively developing its new column, *The Game of the Week*. And our CT colleague IM Maxim Notkin is the main man behind this idea! The surreal Onischuk–Romanishin game, annotated by Igor Glek, is especially recommended. Alexander Onischuk praised Glek's annotations, and also told your CT correspondent that instead of the key move 15.♕d3!, he initially planned to make a much weaker move (15.♕b3?). He changed his mind only after Romanishin made his 14th move. Maybe this is the way to play a great game – to calculate just one move ahead!

Luiz Roberto Da Costa sent us a few links concerning ***Chess on Stamps***:
www.tri.org.au/chess
http://www.trussel.com/f_stamps.htm
Themes include: Chess in Yugoslavia, The Turk on stamps, Chess Positions on stamps,

GM Dorian Rogozenko, CT reader and contributor (see Chess Today 521!), opened his own web page. Among biographical materials, there are games of his shuffle chess variation match vs. Chess Tiger 15 in Jena, 2003.

Chess & Tennis

by John Henderson

At Wimbledon, they once had an impromptu concert by Cliff Richards. During the recent rain-drenched US Open at Flushing Meadows in New York, a similar honour fell to a chess player. Always on the lookout for new ways to help players while away the many rain delays, tournament organisers invited 18-year-old U.S. junior chess champion Dmitry Schneider into the players' lounge, where he took on as many as eight opponents simultaneously.

Speaking on TV and to the press, Max Mirnyi, the Belarussian world tennis No. 18, was pleased with the novel idea: "I think that it was a good thing for the US Tennis Association to organise it. I have not seen this at any other events, so it was nice to have somebody of his calibre come in and play with us."

The chess and tennis connection is nothing new. On CNN a few years ago, Garry Kasparov played a live chess game on TV with former tennis champion Boris Becker, who after being crushed immediately demanded a rematch with Kasparov ... on the tennis courts!

And, coincidentally, Kasparov's Florida-based South African manager, Owen Williams, was a former tennis pro who is largely credited with formulating the Grand Prix tennis circuit. A former Davis Cup star of yesteryear, Owen often reminds me that he was the Scottish Open Champion of 1953. With the current malaise in the chess world, I often remind him that it's a pity that his area of expertise in sports management hasn't been better used to arrange a similar-styled Grand Prix system for chess.

Solutions to our quiz:
Cerquitella – Tomescu
17.♘xe6! ♕xe6 18.♗f5!! ♗e7 [18...♕xe2 19.♗d7#] **19.♗xe6 ♗xg5+ 20.♔b1 0-0 21.♗d5+- ♘c6 22.f4 ♗h4 23.g5 ♖ad8 24.♕g2 ♖xd5 25.♕xd5 ♘d8 26.♕xd8 ♗xh1 27.♕e7 1-0.**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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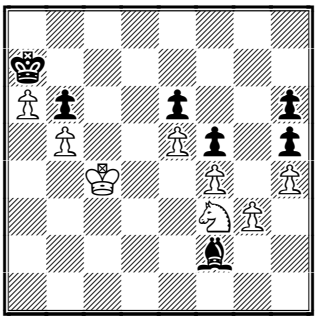
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-254(1038) 11th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Sambuev – Smirnov
56th Russian Championhip 2003



White to play

Chess News

The Russian Chess Championships

Morozevich and Najer have joined the leader Svidler after winning their games in the 7th round. Morozevich defeated Jakovenko with Black in the French Defence moving the black queen all over the board. Najer had sacrificed a pawn to Timofeev at the very beginning and by brilliant tactical play got it back with interest transposing the game into a rook ending two pawns up. Dvoirys rather unexpectedly beat Motylev with Black and now is sharing 4-6 places with Malakhov, who drew with Svidler, and Volkov, who outplayed Belozerov in a long positional struggle.

Round 7 results:
Malakhov – Svidler ½:½ Jakovenko – Morozevich 0:1 Najer – Timofeev 1:0 Alekseev – Grischuk ½:½ Kharlov – Khalifman ½:½ Yevseev – Zvjaginsev ½:½ Motylev – Dvoirys 0:1 Volkov – Belozerov 1:0 Rublevsky – Yakovich ½:½ Tseshkovsky – Dreev 1:0 Sakaev – Bachin 1:0 Kornev – Dolmatov 1:0 Shipov – Scherbakov 1:0

Round 7 standings:
1-3. Morozevich, Svidler, Najer – 5½

4-6. Malakhov, Dvoirys, Volkov – 5
7-19. Grischuk, Khalifman, Sakaev, Zvjaginsev, Alekseev, Kharlov, Shipov, Yevseev, Timofeev, Yakovich, Kornev, Jakovenko, Tseshkovsky – 4½, etc.

Round 8 pairings:
Morozevich – Najer Svidler – Volkov
Dvoirys – Malakhov Grischuk – Yevseev Khalifman – Shipov
Timofeev – Sakaev Yakovich – Alekseev Jakovenko – Kharlov
Tregubov – Kornev

Official site

Nordic Championship (Aarhus)

All games in the 5th round were drawn. Hector, Olafsson, Hansen and Stefansson keep on leading with 3½ points.

Official Site

The VII Memorial Pablo Gorbea (Madrid)

Salvador Alonso of Argentina has won with 7½ out of 9. Javier Moreno Carnero, Santiago Roa Alonso, Jan Gustafsson, mark Paragua, Bogdan Lalic, Sasha Belezky, Andres Gallardo Garcia, Renier Vazquez and Slobodan Kovacevic scored 7 points.

Official Site

Championship of Argentina

Round 7 standings:
1-3. Mahia, Giardelli, Soppe – 5½
4-7. Flores, Felgaer, Real de Azua, Lafuente – 5, etc.

Official Site

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Mobile chess show in Amsterdam

by Eric van Reem

On September 6, Russian women Grandmaster Alexandra Kosteniuk was in Amsterdam to play the first ever simul in cell phone "i-mode", created by the company Mobile Excellence. She played against 6 players, who started the game in 6 different locations in Holland and travelled to the Theater de Balie while playing moves on their cell phones! With their cell phones they could send a picture of their position to Amsterdam.

One player, Ron Nep, played his moves from the famous Max-Euwe plein, named after the only Dutch world champion. The Max-Euwe plein is just a step away from the 'De Balie', which lies in the heart of the city. Ron Nep, a strong player from Amsterdam (FIDE rating 2305) had some support from his chess friends.

Jan Mark Hof started in one of Holland's most famous tourist attractions: Madurodam, for more than 50 years Holland's smallest city. The canal houses of Amsterdam, the Alkmaar cheese market and parts of the Delta Works, all replicated in minute detail on a 1:25 scale.

Rob van der Neut started his game on one of the highest places in The Netherlands: The Euromast in Rotterdam, whereas Jan Nagel played his first moves from 'The Dom Tower' in Utrecht. Nagel, a well-known politician in the Netherlands, is the father-in-law of GM Yasser Seirawan, who stepped by in 'De Balie' to watch the games. Another player, Hans van Wijgerden, played his simul on a canal touring boat in Amsterdam! They all had to travel to the theatre while playing their games on a cell phone against Alexandra.

The last player was already present in De Balie: Bert Houweling, one of the masterminds behind the new technology and an enthusiastic amateur chess player, played his moves in the theatre. It was a bit odd to send the moves by phone to another phone which was just a few steps away, but it was a good opportunity to explain the technology to the 100 spectators.

The audience and IM Hans Böhm, a brilliant entertainer actually helped Houweling during the game. However, in the end, Houweling had to sit at the board for the final stage of the game and he missed a few opportunities to win.

Meanwhile, the other players arrived in Amsterdam after about one hour, some of them drove by car, others took the train and tram. They had to play the final moves over the board, and that caused a headache to some of the players. Alexandra had no trouble in her games against Van der Neut, van Wijgerden, Hof and Nagel (Comment by Yasser Seirawan about his father-in-law's game: "everything is wrong in his position") but she had to fight hard in her game against the combined power of Houweling, Böhm and the audience. With ELO power like Seirawan and Israeli IM Yochanan Afek in the theatre it was obvious that Alexandra would have a hard time. The game peacefully ended in a draw. The last player, Ron Nep played a very nice game. Alexandra suggested ending it in blitz-mode and with two minutes each, the 19-year old showed that she is fast and good!

Kosteniuk won the simul 5½-½. However the result was not that important. We have witnessed a fantastic chess show in Amsterdam: playing on mobile phones, the games live on the internet and on mobile

phones, live audio comment on the internet, nice games and an attractive chess player. This is how chess should be presented! Mobile Excellence is thinking about organising similar events in other countries. You can play i-mode chess in 5 countries at the moment: Holland, Germany, Belgium, France and England. Italy and Spain will follow soon. But beware - as Hans Böhm told me - "Playing chess on your mobile is so addictive, that when you start it is not at all easy to stop"!

Annotated Game

□ **K Sakaev**
■ **V Belov**
56th Russian Championship Krasnoyarsk (5.16), 08.09.2003 D87

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

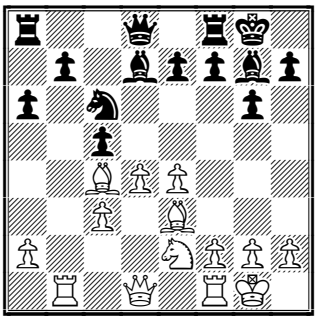
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7 7.♗c4 c5 8.♘e2 ♘c6 9.♗e3 0-0 10.0-0

The classical position of the Gruenfeld Defence in which Black allows his opponent to build up a strong pawn centre in order to attack it with his pieces.

10...♗d7

The line 10...♗g4 has been explored thoroughly by the strongest GMs. In the positions after 10...Bd7 the play doesn't depend on memory so much.

11.♖b1 a6



12.dxc5

As a rule this capture gives Black sufficient counterplay since in the middlegame White's doubled extra pawn doesn't mean much while the black pieces get good possibilities - the opened d-file for the rooks and the main black diagonal for the bishop and the e5 square for the knight in some variations. Nevertheless for White it is the best way to fight for the opening advantage. As Peter Svidler's games have shown, as soon as Black accomplishes b7-b5 he equalizes. By the way Black's last move was an "invitation" to 12.♖xb7? ♘a5

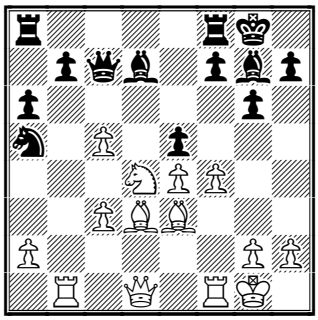
12...♕c7 13.♘d4 e6

This move should be defined as "waiting". In particular Black doesn't want to touch his king's rook, foreseeing the opening of the f-file after f2-f4 e6-e5 I like 13...♖ac8

14.f4 ♘a5 15.♗d3

The recent game Zhukova - Matveeva (Krasnoturjinsk 2003) saw 15.♗b3 e5 16.fxe5 ♗xe5 17.♗h6 ♗g7 18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.♕f3 ♘xb3 20.♖xb3 ♖ae8 and again - White is a pawn up but Black has counterplay due to the isolation of the white pawns. This plan was also played by Ivan Sokolov against Kramnik in Wijk aan Zee 1999. Sakaev demonstrates a completely new approach for White.

15...e5



15...♕xc5?! 16.♘f5

16.f5!! exd4 17.cxd4

White regains the pawn centre at the cost of a piece. In addition he gets a strong initiative on the kingside. Black is facing serious trouble.

17...♖fe8

Otherwise the bishop would be locked at h8.

18.f6 ♗f8 19.♕c1!

The main idea of the following play is simple. White is planning Bh6, the exchange of the bishops and then the queen comes to visit the enemy king. There are some typical methods of

protection of the weakness on g7 but it seems none of them is reliable in this position.

19...♘c6

Black eyes the d4 pawn. From this square the knight can go to e6 from where it control the key point g7. The problem is that it could be easily disturbed there. The primitive 19...♔h8? doesn't work in view of 20.♗h6 ♗g4 *(20...♗xh6? 21.♕xh6 ♖g8 22.♖f4 g5 23.e5!+−* mating*)* 21.♗xf8 ♖xf8 22.♕h6 ♖g8 23.♖f4 ♕d7 24.e5 ♖ae8 *(24...♘c6 25.♖xb7! ♕xb7 26.♖xg4+−)* 25.h3 ♗h5 26.♖e1! and having the e5 pawn protected in case of the rook sacrifice Rxe5 White continues in cold blood Rh4xh5; if 19...♗b5 20.♗xb5 axb5 21.♗h6 ♖xe4 the black king will not feel safe in the centre − 22.♗xf8 ♔xf8 23.♕h6+ ♔e8 24.♖be1! ♕c6 *(24...♖xe1 25.♖xe1+ ♔d7 26.♖e7+)* 25.♕xh7 ♖d8 26.♕h4! ♖dxd4 *(26...♖xe1 27.♕xe1+* suddenly taking the knight*)* 27.♖xe4+ ♖xe4 *(27...♕xe4 28.♖e1!)* 28.♕h8+ ♔d7 29.♖d1+ ♔e6 *(29...♔c7 30.♕d8#)* 30.♖d6+ winning the queen

20.♔h1

White shouldn't be in hurry with 20.♗h6? ♘xd4 21.♗xf8 ♖xf8 22.♕h6 ♘e6 and if 23.♖f3 ♕xc5+ 24.♔h1 ♕g5 arriving in time to save the king. But with his king placed on h1 in this variation White would have won. That's the idea behind the king's quiet retreat.

20...h5 21.♗f4!

21.♗h6 is parried by 21...♔h7 But h6 is not the only square from where the white bishop may attack its black opponent.

21...♕d8

If 21...♕a5 22.♗d6 ♗xd6 23.cxd6 ♘xd4 24.♕h6 ♘e6 25.e5! and the sacrifice on g6 ruins Black's position.

22.♗d6 ♔h7

22...♘xd4 23.♗xf8 ♖xf8 24.♕h6 ♘e6 25.♗c4+−

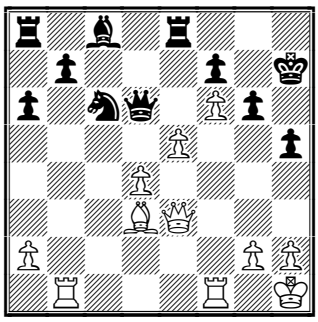
23.♕e3!

Black has defended against direct mating threats but White has obtained an excellent positional compensation. The next move will be e4−e5 and Black's pieces will never break away through the pawn barrier.

23...♗xd6 24.cxd6 ♗c8

24...b5 25.e5 ♕b6 26.♕g5! ♗g4 27.♖f4+−

25.e5 ♕xd6



This attempt meets the tactical refutation.

26.♗xg6+! fxg6

26...♔xg6 27.♕g3+

27.f7 ♕e7 28.fxe8♕ ♕xe8 29.♖f6

It's all over. The black pieces are unable to help their king.

29...♕e7

29...♗e6 30.♖xb7+

30.♖bf1 ♗e6 31.♕e4 ♗f5

31...♖g8 32.d5

32.♖1xf5! gxf5 33.♕xf5+ ♔g8 34.♖g6+ 1−0

Solution to our quiz: 59.♘g5!! 59.♘d4? ♗xd4 60.♔xd4 ♔a8= **59...hxg5** 59...♗xg3 60.♘xe6 ♗xh4 61.♘d4+− **60.hxg5 ♗c5 61.♔d3 ♗e7 62.♔e2** with idea of Kf3−g2−h3−h4xh5 **1−0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us − we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353−1) 278−2276. Fax: (353−1) 283−6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: chesstoday.net

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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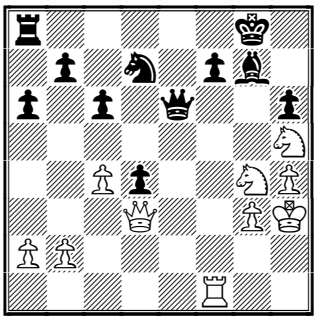
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-255 (1039) 12th September 2003

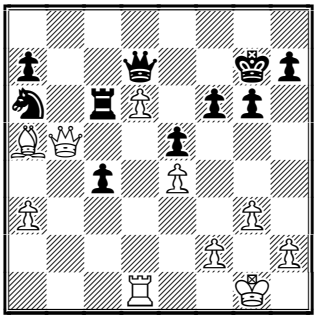
Chess Quiz

1. Iljin – Inarkiev
56th Russian Ch, Krasnoyarsk 2003



Black to play

2. Bezgodov – Bachin
56th Russian Ch, Krasnoyarsk 2003



White to move

Chess News

The Russian Chess Championships

Either Alexander Morozevich of Moscow or Peter Svidler of Saint Petersburg will become the new Russian Champion. Before the final round they are leading one point clear of the field.

Round 8 results:
Morozevich – Najer 1:0
Svidler – Volkov 1:0
Dvoirys – Malakhov ½:½
Grischuk – Yevseev 1:0
Khalifman – Shipov 1:0
Timofeev – Sakaev ½:½
Yakovich – Alekseev ½:½
Jakovenko – Kharlov ½:½
Tregubov – Kornev ½:½
Sorokin – Rublevsky 1:0
Epishin – Gleizerov ½:½
Ivanov – Motylev 0:1
Dreev – Bocharov 0:1

Round 8 standings:
1-2. Morozevich, Svidler – 6½
3-8. Grischuk, Malakhov, Khalifman, Zvjaginsev, Dvoirys, Najer – 5½
9-19. Sakaev, Motylev, Volkov, Alekseev, Kharlov, Timofeev, Yakovich, Kornev, Sorokin, Jakovenko, Bocharov – 5, etc.

Round 9 pairings:
Grischuk – Svidler
Malakhov – Morozevich
Khalifman – Dvoirys
Najer – Zvjaginsev
Sakaev – Yakovich
Motylev – Timofeev
Kornev – Volkov
Alekseev – Jakovenko
Kharlov – Sorokin
Bocharov – Epishin

Official Site

IM **Guillermo Soppe** has won the Championship of Argentina.

Final standings:
1. **Soppe** – 7
2-4. Giardelli, Felgaer, Lafuente – 6½
5-8. Mahia, Szmetan, Rubinetti, labollita – 6, etc.

Official Site

Letters to the Editor

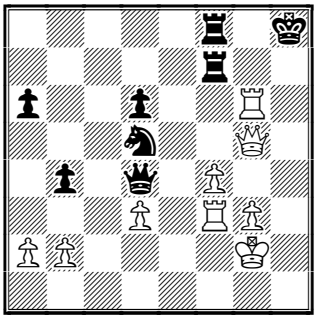
The column on blunders seems to be popular with many readers, as the following message confirms:

"GM Baburin,
We in Jamaica just love to read your wonderful Daily Chess Newspaper. I have shared it with many players here trying to get them to subscribe, and

not sure if they have. Keep the chess coming.

While you are on the subject of "Chess Blunders" I want to draw your attention to the final game of the 35th Jamaica Championship played in Kingston on Sunday, September 7. In the final game, tournament leader NM Duane Rowe led by a half point over the defending champion NM Shane Matthews and a win would have made him champion. Rowe arrived 37 minutes late, but nevertheless achieved a winning position:

Rowe (2180) – Matthews (2238)
35th Jamaican Championship (11)



White to play

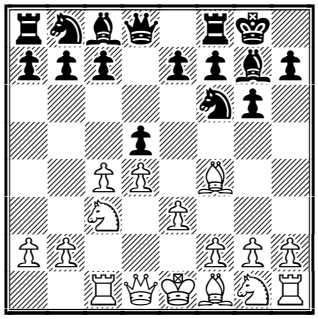
With less than two minutes on the clock Rowe missed the mate and proceeded to lose the game and the Championship: **35.♖h6+?? ♖h7** (0–1 on 72nd move). Yet, victory was just round the corner: 35.♕h6+ ♖h7 36.♕xf8#. This is a devastating loss on any continent. You can see it all at the Jamaican Ambassadors website. And, please, publish a couple of our games especially in your *Chess Blunders* section. You'll see that in that department we have a lot of material to offer! ☺
Bertram Scott"

Annotated Game

□ **A. Khalifman**
■ **S. Shipov**
56th Russian Championship
Krasnoyarsk (8), 11.09.2003
Gruenfeld Defence – [D92]

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♗f4 ♗g7 5.e3 0–0 6.♖c1 *(D)*



Black's general idea in the Gruenfeld Defence is to play c7–c5 to undermine the opponent's centre. In this variation White develops his queenside first in order to be ready for it.

6...c5

Nevertheless it doesn't stop Black from playing c5.

7.dxc5 ♗e6

Black isn't in hurry to regain the pawn. His bishops are aiming at White's queenside and he plans to attack the pawns a2 and b2.

8.♘f3

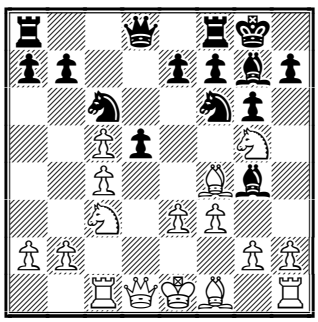
Of course not 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.♘xd5 ♗xd5 and Black's dreams are fulfilled.

8...♘c6 9.♘g5

Commonly White makes this move a bit later. More solid is 9.♗e2 ♘e4 *(9...♕a5 10.♘g5)* 10.0–0 *(10.♘d4* leads to equality after *10...♘xd4 11.exd4 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 dxc4 13.♕a4 ♗d5 14.0–0 ♕e8)* 10...♘xc3 11.bxc3 dxc4 12.♘g5 But the standings made Khalifman choose a sharp line

9...♗g4

The alternative is 9...♕a5 10.♘xe6 fxe6 11.♗e2 ♖ad8 12.♕a4 ♕xc5 13.0–0 d4 14.exd4 ♘xd4 15.♗e3 where active pieces compensate Black for the drawbacks of his pawn structure. **10.f3 *(D)***



10...e5!

The game steps into a field of pure tactics.

11.cxd5

Worse is 11.♗g3 d4! 12.fxg4 dxc3 13.♕xd8 ♖fxd8 14.♖xc3 h6

A) The famous game Botvinnik – Gligoric, Tel Aviv 1964, won by the Yugoslav GM, saw 15.♘f3 ♘e4 16.♖c1 ♘xc5 with advantage to Black*(16...♘xg3 17.hxg3* looks curious as well but in this situation it's better to have more pieces on the board*)*;

B) 15.♘h3 15...♘e4 16.♖b3 This effort to improve Botvinnik's play in the game Sokolov,I – Avrukh, Bugojno 1999 cost White the exchange after 16...♘xc5 17.♖b5 ♗f8 18.♗e2 a6 19.♖b6 ♘a4! the rook is trapped! 20.♖b3 *(20.♖xb7 ♘a5! 21.♖c7 ♗d6–+)* 20...♗b4+! 21.♔f1 ♘c5

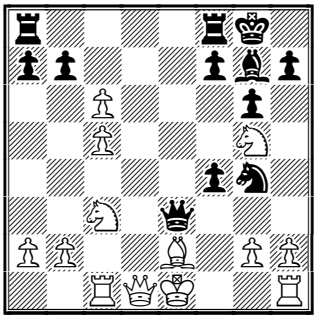
11...exf4 12.dxc6

White is two pawns up and the black bishop is attacked. So Black has to act violently.

12...♕e7! 13.fxg4

Much more wary was White's play in Dorfman – Tukmakov, Frunze 1981 13.e4 ♖ad8 14.♗d3 bxc6! 15.fxg4 ♘d7 16.♘xf7! ♕xf7 17.♕b3 ♕xb3 18.axb3 ♘xc5 19.♗c4+ ♔h8 and the ending is level.

13...♕xe3+ 14.♗e2 ♘xg4 *(D)*



15.♘h3

A novelty. In the game Sygulski – Tomaszewski, Gdynia 1985 White protected the f2 square by 15.♖f1 ♘xh2 16.♕d2 *(16.♖f2!?)* 16...♕xd2+ (in the event of *16...♘xf1* White can't take the knight but Black probably disliked *17.♕xe3 ♘xe3 18.cxb7 ♖ab8 19.c6* and the passed pawns are close to promotion*)* 17.♔xd2 ♘xf1+ 18.♖xf1 bxc6 and again the endgame is approximately equal.

15...♖ad8 16.♕c2 ♘e5!

The threats f4–f3 and Nd3+ are highly unpleasant.

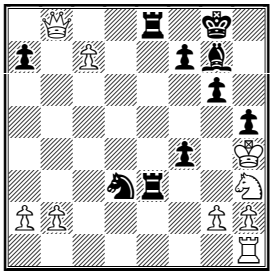
17.♔f1

Bad is 17.♘f2? f3 18.gxf3 ♖d2! winning the queen – 19.♕e4 *(19.♕xd2 ♘xf3+)* 19...♖xe2+! 20.♘xe2 ♘xf3+ 21.♕xf3 *(21.♔d1 ♕d2#; 21.♔f1 ♘d2+)* 21...♕xf3; in case of 17.♘d1 ♘d3+ 18.♕xd3 ♕xc1 White still suffers from the ill development; 17.c7 deserved attention but after 17...♘d3+! *(17...♖d7 18.♘d1! ♕d4* there's no check on d3 as the rook d7 is hanging which makes Qxd3 possible *19.♘df2* and White is better*)* 18.♔f1 ♘xc1 19.cxd8♕ ♖xd8 20.♘d1 ♕d2 21.♕xd2 ♖xd2 Black has obvious compensation for the piece.

17...♘xc6

17...♖d2 suggested itself. Let's see where it could lead us – 18.♕e4! ♖xe2! 19.♕xe3 ♖xe3 20.cxb7 ♘d3 21.c6 *(21.♖b1 ♖fe8!)* 21...♖fe8!? *(21...♘xc1 22.c7 ♘d3 23.♘e2 f3 24.gxf3 ♖ee8* followed by Nc5 is quite good for Black*)* 22.♘e2 ♖xe2 23.b8♕ ♘xc1!

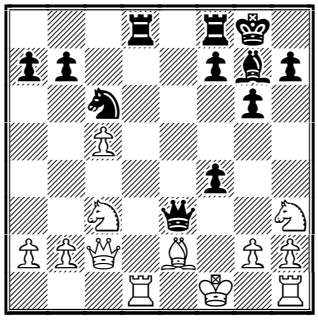
A) 24.c7 loses to 24...♖e1+ 25.♔f2 ♘d3+ 26.♔f3 ♖1e3+ 27.♔g4 h5+ 28.♔h4 *(d)*



28...♖xh3+! 29.♔xh3 *(29.♔g5 ♔h7)* 29...♘f2+ 30.♔h4 ♗f6# a nice mate!;

B) 24.♕d6 24...♖e1+ 25.♔f2 ♖xh1 26.c7 I believe Black is better here but it seems the white king escapes after 26...♖e2+ 27.♔f3 ♖f1+ 28.♔g4 ♖xg2+ 29.♔h4 So Black will have to give up the rook for the pawn and to play with ♖+♗ vs ♕

18.♖d1 *(D)*



18...♘d4?

This mistake allows White to swap the queens. After 18...♕xc5 19.♘xf4 ♘d4 Black had good compensation

since White's pieces lack co-ordination and his king is still in jeopardy.

19.♕e4 ♘f5 20.♖xd8 ♖xd8 21.♕xe3 fxe3

21...♘xe3+ 22.♔f2 ♗d4 23.♔f3 helps White to improve the kings giving Black nothing instead.

22.g4!? ♘d4

22...♘h4 was more stubborn holding the king on the 1st rank.

23.♔g2 ♘xe2 24.♘xe2 ♖d2 25.♔f3 ♖xb2

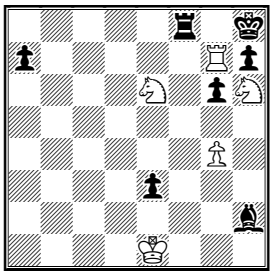
The loss of the queenside pawns means nothing for White after his pieces having been activated.

26.♘g5!? ♖xa2 27.♖b1 ♖c2 28.♖xb7 ♗e5

28...♖xc5 is answered by 29.♘xf7 (or *29.♖b8+ ♗f8 30.♘xh7 ♔xh7 31.♖xf8)*

29.h3

29.♘xf7 was already possible with some pretty lines – 29...♗xh2 30.♘h6+ ♔h8 31.♘d4! ♖xc5 32.♘e6 ♖c8 *(32...♖e5 33.♖b8#; 32...♖a5 33.♖g7)* 33.♖g7 ♖f8+!? 34.♔e2 (but not *34.♔xe3?? ♗f4+! 35.♘xf4 ♖e8+ 36.♔d4 ♔xg7)* 34...♖f2+ 35.♔e1 ♖f8 *(d)*



36.♖g8+! ♖xg8 37.♘f7#

29...h5 30.♘xf7 hxg4+ 31.hxg4 ♗g7 32.♘g5 ♗e5

32...♖xc5 33.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 34.♘e6+]

33.♖xa7 ♖xc5

In the end Black overlooked the loss of the rook, but it couldn't change anything.

34.♖a8+

34.♖a8+ ♔g7 35.♘e6+ **1-0.**

The United States Chess Federation is not the largest in terms of its membership (Germany is the biggest, I believe), but it is certainly an important body in the chess world. This is why we decided to publish the following article from the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room Newsletter #154.

Tough Times at the USCF

by IM John Donaldson

The United States Chess Federation, which was founded in 1939, faces the greatest challenge in its history. The USCF is struggling to stem the bleeding caused by a series of bad years in which it burned through over two million dollars. The bleeding seemed to have been stanched earlier in 2003 when Executive Director Frank Niro assured everyone the organization was turning a $74,117 profit for the year, but closer examination showed the Federation was in the hole for over $350,000. Mr. Niro was not present at the US Open in early August when this information was made public, and sent in his resignation prior to the annual Delegates Meeting.

Newly elected Beatriz Marinello, Timothy Hanke and Don Schultz join fellow Executive Board Members Frank Camaratta, Frank Brady and Steve Shutt in trying circumstances. Regular payments to staff and the Chess Life printer head the top of the USCF's obligations. Close behind is money to pay for the USCF summer catalogue which was printed a few months ago, but not mailed out due to cash flow difficulties. The lack of a summer catalogue understandably had a negative impact on book and equipment sales. Fourth on the list of those to pay, and one sure to attract a lot of attention in the near future, are the prize winners from the recently concluded US Open in Los Angeles. All pre-entries were sent to the USCF office and the $20,000 to $25,000 that Chief Organiser Jerry Hanken collected from entries at the door was immediately sent to New Windsor per Niro's orders over Hanken's protestations. The result is that it may take awhile for prize winners at the Open to collect their checks.

Does the USCF have a chance to survive this situation? I think so. The six Executive Board members -- the seventh, past President John McCrary who had trusted Niro implicitly, resigned in Los Angeles – have already shown they are capable of making

tough decisions. President Marinello announced on the USCF website on August 20th that the organisation let 17 employees go. This was close to half the work force and included such well-known names as Chess Life Editor Peter Kurzdorfer, Scholastics Coordinator Tom Brownscombe and CL Art Director Jami Anson. While it is never nice to see someone lose their job there is a lot of evidence to support the position that the office in New Windsor was overstaffed. Grant Perks, a well-respected CPA and long-time USCF member, has been brought in on a short-term mission to clarify the USCF's financial position. Don't forget the USCF owns its building in New Windsor outright and still has several hundred thousands dollars in Life Member Assets at its disposal.

One of the great challenges facing the USCF, and one which has plagued the organization for many years, is an antiquated computer system. Even Mike Cavalho, who in retrospect turns out to have been the best Executive Director the Federation has had the past decade, was not able to do much to change this chronic problem which has led to widespread inefficiency. Clearly this situation needs to change. Unfortunately Niro got the ED job in part because of his perceived expertise in systems operation. This time the Federation will have to choose the right person and there is no room for a mistake.

Members of the United States Chess Federation may wonder what they can do to help. Can you imagine chess in the United States without the USCF? I can't, but I can think of a couple of things we can do to support the USCF. One is simply to renew your dues earlier. If your membership is expiring next March why not renew now? A quick infusion of cash will help the USCF weather the short-term cash flow crunch. Secondly consider buying some books or equipment from the USCF. Yes, I know, in the past the Federation has not always measured up in service to some of the private chess vendors around the country like Chessco or Chess Cafe. Clearly the USCF is not going to beat Amazon or Walmart on price when the latter are offering 40% off and free shipping for new books, but nor are they going to support chess in the United States. For all of its failings the USCF is the national federation, and chess in the United States will be weaker without it. If every USCF member bought just one book or clock from the USCF it would help a lot.

Solutions to our quiz:

1. Iljin - Inarkiev
31...♕xg4+
[31...♕xg4+ 32.♔xg4 ♘e5+]
0-1.

2. Bezgodov - Bachin
33.♕xc6! 1-0.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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CHESS TODAY
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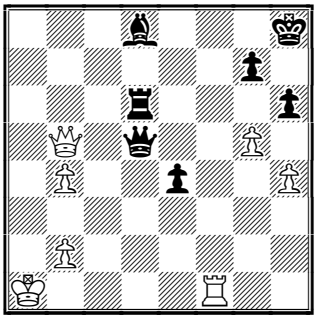
CT-256(1040) 13th September 2003

Chess Quiz

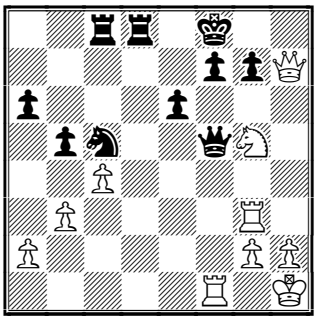
1. Motylev – Timofeev
56th Russian Ch, Krasnoyarsk 2003

Black has just taken the bishop on d5.



White to move

2. Rublevsky – Klimov
56th Russian Ch, Krasnoyarsk 2003



White to move

Chess News

The Russian Chess Championships have ended in the Siberian city of Krasnojarsk. GM **Peter Svidler** has become Russian Chess Champion for the fourth time in his career! The final round's top games were quick draws and thus Svidler and Alexander Morozevich have retained their lead one point clear of the field. Peter gained the victory on the better Bucholz tie break. At the closing ceremony he was awarded a platinum medal and a unique crown of stained glass specially made for the Champion of Russia by Siberian craftsmen. Today's Annotated game features the encounter from the penultimate round, which in fact made Svidler the winner of the event.

Final round results:
Grischuk – Svidler ½:½
Malakhov – Morozevich ½:½
Khalifman – Dvoirys ½:½
Najer – Zvjaginsev ½:½
Sakaev – Yakovich ½:½
Motylev – Timofeev 1:0
Kornev – Volkov 0:1
Alekseev – Jakovenko ½:½
Kharlov – Sorokin ½:½
Bocharov – Epishin ½:½
Tseshkovsky – Lugovoi 1:0
Rublevsky – Clime 1:0
Glek – Chernyshov 1:0
Ulibin – Ivanov 1:0

Final standings:
1-2. Svidler, Morozevich – 7
3-10. Malakhov, Dvoirys, Zvjaginsev, Motylev, Grischuk, Khalifman, Volkov, Najer – 6

11-19. Jakovenko, Yakovich, Kharlov, Tseshkovsky, Alekseev, Sakaev, Bocharov, Glek, Sorokin – 5½

20-37. Shipov, Belozerov, Timofeev, Kornev, Inarkiev, Ulibin, Bezgodov, Popov, Scherbakov, Rublevsky, Tregubov, Gleizerov, Epishin, Yevseev, Tiviakov, Kiriakov, Lastin, Dolmatov – 5, etc.

Official Site

CT received the following surprising announcement from Crete.

The world's all-time top chess player, currently ranked No. 1 in the world rankings, **Garry Kasparov**, may not be taking on Ruslan Ponomariov for the title of World champion, as their head-to-head confrontation has been cancelled. But he will be competing, all the same, clashing with the European Champion, Georgia's GM **Zurab Azmaiparashvili**. Host to this exciting encounter is the Municipality of Geropotamos, in central Crete, just a few days before Europe's best

players clash in the European Clubs Cups in the nearby city of Rethymnon.

The Kasparov vs. Azmaiparashvili games will be played at the Panormos, located on the coastal road, 20 kilometers east of Rethymnon and 55 kilometers west of Herakleion. The modern-day village of Panormos, which boasts a 10th-century Byzantine basilica, is built on the site where, according to Homer, laid the ancient city of Panormos.

The match will be live broadcast at: www.venizelia.gr, and it is organised by KYDON Sports Club. The Kasparov vs. Azmaiparashivli match is a prelude to the 2003 European Clubs Cups, which will be held in the nearby city of Rethymnon, 27 September to 5 October. Check out the official competition website for more information: http://www.venizelia.gr/ecc2003. Garry Kasparov will play in the team "Ladia-Kazan-1000", and Zurab Azmaiparashvili in the team "Kiseljak"

For the organizing committee
Mary Vigliraki

Curt Hansen and **Helgi Olafsson** are leading the Nordic Championships at Aarhus, Denmark. They scored 4½ in 6 rounds. Evgenij Agrest is half a point behind; Hannes Stefansson, Jonny Hector and Heikki Lehtinen are on 3½.

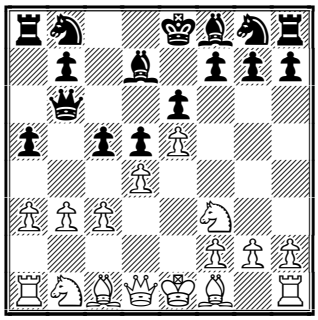
Official Site

Annotated Game

□ **P. Svidler**
■ **S Volkov**
56th Russian Championship
Krasnoyarsk (8), 11.09.2003
French Defence/Advance Var. – [C02]

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

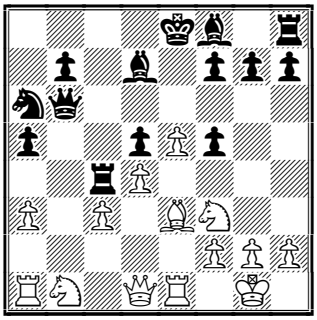
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♕b6 5.♘f3 ♗d7 6.a3 a5
One of the ideas behind 6.a3 is to play b2-b4 gaining space on the queenside. By his last move Black nips it in the bud planning his own expansion on this part of the board.
7.b3 ***(D)***



A fight of plans. White prevents the a5-a4 advance which would have stopped his activity. Practice has shown that after 7.♗e2 a4 Black has a good counterplay. The variation with 7.b3 is rather new and its theory is based mainly upon the games of Sergei Volkov!
7...♘a6
In two early games Volkov played 7...♘e7 At the European Championship in Batumi 2002 Delchev continued 8.dxc5 (against Zvjaginsev at the Russian Championship in Saint Petersburg 1999 Volkov easily equalized after *8.♗e2 cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗b5 10.♗xb5+ ♕xb5 11.♘c3 ♕a6 12.a4 ♘ec6 13.♘b5 ♕b6)* 8...♕xc5 9.c4 ♕c7 10.♘c3 ♗c6 11.♗b2 ♘d7 12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13.♘b5 ♕b6 and here according to Lev Psakhis 14.♗d4!? ♗c5 15.♗xc5 ♕xc5 16.♖c1 makes Black's defence difficult. I don't know if it's the real reason why Sergei has turned to 7...♘a6 this year.
8.♗e3 ♖c8 9.♗d3 ♘e7
Sveshnikov - Volkov, Russian Team Championships Togliatti 2003 saw 9...♘h6 10.♗xh6 gxh6 11.0–0 ♗g7 12.♖a2 cxd4 13.cxd4 ♗b5 14.♖d2 0–0 15.♗xb5 ♕xb5 and in the end Black won. Despite having scored 2,5 points out of 3 in this line Volkov always tries something new.
10.0-0 ♘f5
10...♗b5 would have been met by 11.c4; while in the event of 10...cxd4 White takes with a piece
11.♗xf5 exf5 12.♖e1 c4?
After 12...♗e6 13.♘bd2 ♗e7 *(13...♕c7!?)* 14.dxc5 ♗xc5 *(14...♘xc5?? 15.b4)* 15.b4 ♗xe3 16.♖xe3 Black

would have had a passive but reliable position. The inaccurate text move allows White to open files in the centre where the black king is still staying.

13.bxc4 ♖xc4 *(D)*



14.e6!

White frees the e5 square for the knight. This sacrifice is no revelation. Everyone of us have seen it many times before. But the problem is that when you sit at the board playing your own game no one would tell you whether it works or not.

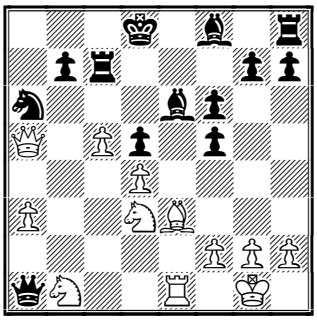
14...♗xe6

14...fxe6? 15.♘e5

15.♘e5 ♖c7 16.♕a4+ ♔d8 17.c4!

White's pawns are only an obstacle in the way of his pieces. Svidler tries to get rid of them.

17...f6! 18.c5! ♕b2 19.♘d3 ♕xa1 20.♕xa5 *(D)*



Black has won the rook but his rook and the light-squared bishop along with the king are exposed to a strong attack. Moreover the queen is almost trapped.

20...♕a2

A smart 20...g5 preventing Bf4 and planning to meet 21.♘c3 with 21...b6!? doesn't help in view of 22.♕xa6 ♕xc3 23.cxb6 ♖c6 24.♕a8+ *(24.♖c1 ♕xa3 25.♕xa3 ♗xa3 26.♖xc6±)* 24...♖c8 25.b7 ♖xa8 26.bxa8♕+ and the attack is going on with no material compensation for Black.

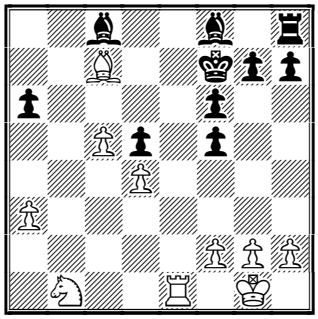
21.♗f4 ♕c4 22.♘b4! ♔e8

Volkov opts for the lesser of evils. [In case of 22...♕xd4 23.♘xa6 ♕xf4 24.g3! bxa6 25.gxf4+− White has overwhelming material and positional advantage.

23.♗xc7

Of course not 23.♖xe6+?! ♖e7

23...♔f7 24.♕b6 ♗c8 25.♘xa6 ♕xa6 26.♕xa6 bxa6 *(D)*



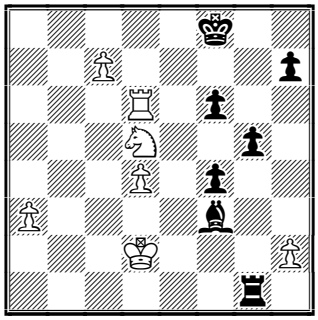
The resulting ending is winning for White. Thanks to better development he gets an extra pawn soon. The rest is long but simple.

27.♘c3 ♗e6 28.♖b1 ♗e7 29.♖b7 ♖e8 30.f3 g5 31.♖a7 f4 32.♗d6 ♔f8 33.♖xa6 ♗xd6 34.♖xd6 ♗f7 35.♘xd5 ♖e1+

35...♗xd5 36.♖xd5 ♖e1+ 37.♔f2 ♖a1 38.c6! ♖c1 39.♖c5+−

36.♔f2 ♖c1 37.♔e2

37.♘xf6+− **37...♖c2+ 38.♔d1 ♖xg2 39.c6 ♗h5 40.c7 ♗xf3+ 41.♔c1 ♖g1+ 42.♔d2 (D)**



Better was 42.♔b2 ♖g2+ 43.♔c3 ♗g4 44.♘xf6 ♗f5 45.♖d5!? ♗e6 46.♖d7!

42...♖g2+ 43.♔e1 ♖e2+ 44.♔f1 ♖c2 45.♖d8+ ♔f7 46.c8♕ ♖xc8 47.♖xc8 ♗xd5 48.a4 ♔e6 49.a5 ♔d7 50.♖c3 ♗b7

50...♗c6 51.♖b3 ♔c7 52.a6 g4 53.a7 ♗b7 54.d5! ♗xd5 55.♖b8 winning

51.♖b3 ♗a6+ 52.♔f2 f5 53.♖b6 ♗c8 54.d5

Black resigned in view of[54.d5 g4 55.a6 ♔c7 56.a7! ♗b7 57.♖xb7+! ♔xb7 58.d6 and one of the pawns becomes the queen. **1-0.**

Letters to the Editor:

"Alex and the rest of the CT team,

I was very touched about your report on the USCF. You were practically giving away your own sales profits by suggesting we buy supplies from another source other than your own. This is truly an amazing selfless act to support Chess world-wide and particularly in the US. As a US citizen I really appreciate you.

We (USCF Members) should forward this particular issue to everyone we KNOW! This will help us and probably help *Chess Today* as well. If you are a USCF member or ever have been it is well worth the 'gamble' to throw $40 at our organisation and give them the best chance possible to succeed. Heck it might make the USCF thrive like never before in history. We are the richest nation on earth (for now anyway); we should have the most prosperous Chess Organisation as well.

I know Alex personally and I know he has the future of chess as his top priority - especially in the schools, the youngsters, the future and the present. Oh by the way, I think *Chess Today* is the best idea for chess publication ever. I really hope you print this note in one of your issues.

Best wishes
Ed Boldt, uscf"

Solution to Chess Quiz:

Motylev - Timofeev

36.♖f8+ ♕g8 [36...♔h7 37.g6+! ♔xg6 *(37...♖xg6 38.♕xd5)* 38.♕e8+ ♔h7 39.♖h8#] **37.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 38.♕e8+ ♔h7 39.♕xe4+ g6 40.♕e5 ♖a6+ 41.♔b1 hxg5 42.hxg5 ♖a7 43.♕d4 ♖a8 44.♕d7+ ♔h8 45.♕b7 1-0.**

Rublevsky - Klimov

28.♘xe6+! [28.♖xf5?? ♖d1+] **28...♕xe6 29.♖xg7 ♖d7 30.♕g8+ 1-0.**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

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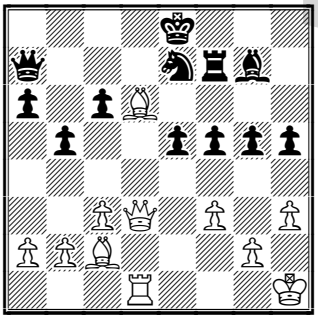
CT-(257)1041 14 September 2003

Chess Quiz

Makogonov-Flohr
Baku (m/8), 1942



White to play

Chess News

The chess world is very quiet at the moment – the Nordic Championship is probably the only tournament worth mentioning. Oh, there is also the Chinese Team Championship on, but my Chinese is a bit rusty!

In the **Nordic Championship** in round 7, GM Evgeny Agrest (originally from Byelorussia, but now resident in Sweden) defeated Icelandic GM Helgi Olafsson in a lively game and overtook him, catching up with Danish GM Curt Hansen. The latter drew vs. IM 17-year old Davor Palo, but Hansen certainly did not show any lack of effort — the game lasted 100 moves! Hansen was two pawns up in a curious rook endgame, but there was no win as his king was cut off from his pawns.

Standings after 7 rounds:
1-2. Cu. Hansen and Agrest - 5 pts;
3-4. Lehtinen and H. Olafsson - 4½;
etc. There are 4 rounds left. You can find games from round 7 in our database. Tournament's official website is very good — with photos of the players, live games, downloads, etc. The only complaint is that they don't give ratings in the game file!

Web Watch

by Alex Baburin

There are so many chess-related websites now that it's simply impossible to keep track of what's going on there. But fortunately there are people who send us interesting links and I would like to thank in particular our reader Luiz Roberto Da Costa for sending me lots of them!

We recently published a *Chess & Tennis* article in Chess Today. In it, the game Becker-Kasparov was mentioned. Not exactly a masterpiece by Boris, as you can see online. On the same subject, the story of the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) is a good read.– I hope that the newly formed ACP will be that successful!

Well-known chess author IM Jeremy Silman has his site at the new address - www.jeremysilman.com. There you can read book reviews and interviews, get chess instruction, learn about films or take a *spiritual journey* - Jeremy is clearly a man of many talents!

Chess Café always has plenty of interesting material. Today I would like to draw your attention to two articles: Dvoretsky on the Em. Lasker – Ed. Lasker game (New York 1924) – some very interesting, though necessarily heavy analysis there - and this is still just part 1! Then you have an interview with Denis Yevseev, who must be one of the highest rated IMs in the world, with 2589 FIDE rating. And I suspect that reading Chess Today contributed to his success! ☺

Some people might have heard that Pope John Paul II composed a few chess problems. However, according to the article by Tomasz Lissowski it's all a hoax!

Lars Balzer offers more than 2000 MB of compressed chess data (game databases) on 3 CDs from his site!

The Chess Base website has the story on the French *Grand Prix de Sénat TV Mag* rapid tournament, where 16-year old Marie Sebag made it to the final!

If you want to see chess featured on paintings, stamps and cards, search no more! We know a site, which even has chess on the phone cards! We hear you saying that you (unlike Karpov!) aren't interested in stamps or phone cards – it's money you are after! Well, we still have something for you then! ☺ This site shows coins, celebrating the Bled 2002 Olympiad. Some might also know that Paul Keres is (or at least used to be!) on Estonian banknotes (5 krona). Can't get Estonian money or want a bigger piece of paper? Then try the *Chess Poster* website!

If you read Russian, you might check out another view on why the Ponomariov-Kasparov match was called off. The author (Oleg Tikhonov) believes that this is all down to Karpov's influence! ☺ OK, crafty Anatoly persuaded Ruslan to come up with a few (innocent) amendments, but how did he ensure that Kirsan did not accept them?!

Chess Today got some good words from IM John Watson in his recent TWIC Book Review.

Chess Video Reviewed

by FM Sam Collins

I've got the flu. The glorious Irish weather has thoroughly soaked me and eliminated my capacity for hard graft, thus dumping my in front of the television. What better time to review ***The Knockout Nimzo*** video (Bad Bishop, 100 minutes, R.R.P. 19.99 pounds) by GM Tony Kosten?

I've expressed my views on chess videos before. They're enjoyable and often instructive, but are a very limited medium for conveying chess information. The contents of a video in text form would amount to little more than a large article or a pamphlet. So beware: no matter how good the video, you're probably not going to learn very much from it.

Having mentioned these reservations, it's time to talk about this particular video, which is pretty good. Its presenter is one of my favourite authors – the hallmarks of Tony Kosten's writing have always been clarity, objectivity and pragmatism, resulting in excellent opening books on the Nimzo, Najdorf and Philidor (he went through a nasty spell of writing TWO books on the Latvian (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5?), which I assume contained some flawed analysis since they contained hundreds of pages on an opening which only deserves ten for a comprehensive refutation) and a very readable effort called '101 Tips to Improve Your Chess'. Despite being uncomfortable in front of camera, once into the actual analysis Kosten is a confident presenter and works well with a video format.

The video deals systematically with the Nimzo, covering relative sidelines (4.f3, 4.a3 and 4.Bg5) before devoting several games apiece to 4.Nf3, 4.Qc2 and 4.e3. His main recommendations are 4.Nf3 b6, 4.e3 b6 and 4.Qc2 d5, and the video provides an excellent introduction to the ideas of all these lines, though of course stronger players would need a little more theory before feeling fully confident in essaying the variations. One of the nice recurring features of Kosten's work is that he isn't shy in telling readers/viewers that they must remember a particular move, or that a given variation requires detailed analysis, a refreshingly candid approach which should save a lot of tears in the long run. His selected games are highly thematic, and all of the main Nimzo ideas (ganging up on c4, kingside attacks with ...f5 and ...Rf6, quick breaks with ...d5 and ...e5, etc.) are touched on in his coverage. Some of his late middlegame analysis is sloppy, but all of the opening stuff seems fine.

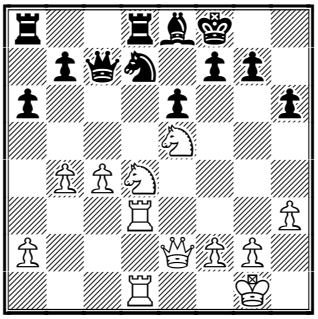
Bad Bishop (www.badbishop.com)

have produced yet another high-quality video. If you like chess videos, I can recommend this one. I really can't stress enough, however, how little even the best chess videos can teach – for players over 2000, certainly, there is little alternative to whipping out those nasty books and rolling up one's sleeves.
My Assessment: ★★★

Letters to the Editor

Some letters sit on my desk for quite a while – but usually it is better to answer later than never! One message came from Japan and concerned the following game from CT-1001:

Leko (2739) – Bologan (2650)
Dortmund (4), 03.08.2003

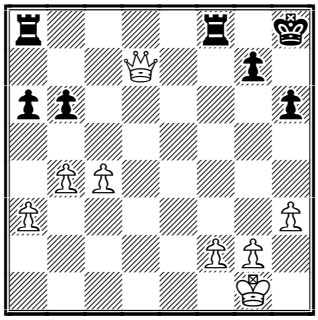


This position happened in the game after 25...♘d7. Leko played ***26.♗g4?*** and eventually lost. Annotating the game Nikolai Vlassov wrote: "White had: ***26.♖f3!*** ♔g8 27.♘xf7! ♗xf7 28.♘xe6 ♗xe6 29.♕xe6+ ♔h8 30.♕e7! ♕xc4 31.♖g3 ♖g8 32.♖xd7 and White is close to a win."

Akira Watanabe responded:

"Dear Alex,
Instead of 30...♕xc4, which seems too obedient, I suggest **30...♖e8**, with the idea 31.♕xd7?? ♖e1+ 32.♖xe1 ♕xd7. White's best move seems to be **31.♖f8+!**, and Black has to give back material by **31...♖xf8 32.♖xd7 ♕xd7 33.♕xd7**. This position is surely better for White who has queen and two pawns for two rooks, and perhaps clearly winning in the eyes of a well-trained master, but I am not sure how winning it is. Anyway it is more tenacious defence, I suppose. I wish you good luck and have a nice day! Akira Watanabe"

Let's examine this position closer:
33.♕xd7 b6 34.a3!? ***(D)***



White protects the b4-pawn - in case that the c4-pawn falls. Please note that 34.c5 bxc5 35.bxc5 should be winning too, but ***it's better not to exchange potentially weak enemy pawns!***
In the diagrammed position White can combine attack on the queenside pawns with play on the kingside (g2-g4, h3-h4 and g4-g5), which will open the black king. I feel that White's win is just a matter of time.

Solution to our quiz:
Makogonov-Flohr: **41.♗b8! 1-0**
Black resigned in view of 41...♕xb8 42.♕d7+ ♔f8 43.♕d8+ ♕xd8 44.♖xd8#- cute checkmate!

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!
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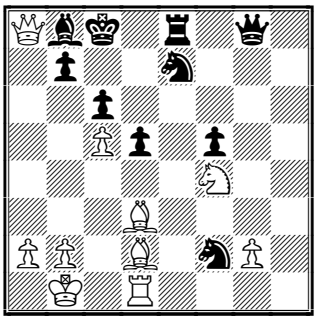
Chess Quiz

Cu. Hansen – Lehtinen
Nordic Ch, Arhus (8), 14.09.2003



White to play

Chess News

Nordic Championship

In round 8 one of the leaders – GM Curt Hansen (Denmark) defeated one of his nearest rivals – FM Lehtinen of Finland. Meanwhile the other leader – GM Agrest (Sweden) only drew his game, so Hansen is a clear leader now.

Standings after 8 rounds:
1. Cu. Hansen (DEN, 2618) – 6 points;
2. Agrest (SWE, 2605) – 5½ points;
3. H. Olafsson (ISL, 2498) – 5 pts, etc.
There are 3 rounds left. You can find games from round 8 in our database.

Official website

The Kings & Queens Match

An unusual tournament is taking place in China (13th – 15th September). Four 'Kings' – GMs Bareev (2721), Short (2701), Ye Jiangchuan (2683) and Seirawan (2626) teamed up with four 'Queens': GM Xie Jun (2569), GM Zhu Chen (2495), WGM Xu Yuhua (2485) and WGM Zhao Xue (2467). They drew numbers to choose their partners and play alternating moves. The time control is 25 minutes each, with a 10 seconds increment.

Standings after 3 rounds:
1. Nigel Short & Zhao Xue – 2½ pts;
2. Ye Jiangchuan & Xu Yuhua – 2 pts;
3. Jasser Seirwan & Zhu Chen – 1½;
4. Evgeny Bareev & Xie Jun – 0 points.

Curiously, the highest rated players from each group were drawn together, but are doing badly.

Letters to the Editor

I asked a few GMs recently to comment on the situation around the cancelled Ponomariov–Kasparov match. All refused, saying they did not understand what was going on behind the closed doors of FIDE... So, I was particularly interested to have received a message from GM Andras Adorjan, who also does not claim to understand what happened either, but at least shares his view on the situation.

Kasparov = 4 Ponomariovs

Dear Chess friends,

Timing is very important! And it seems I'm doing fine: getting old parallel of the growing dirt in the chess world. I'm 53 now, and consider myself extremely lucky for being able to play chess under human conditions for over 30 years. I think the only luck of the younger and very young generation is that they have never played or seen a decent chess tournament, worth to the players' dignity, and honour the Royal Game as it deserves. So they don't know what they are missing. As to the chess politics ever since (big) money appeared, the chess world is led by – no, I don't say criminals, for that I cannot prove – but at least very suspicious characters.

I was unlucky to know Campomanes personally, and that is why I use a word that is still very mild: Bastard. During the '92 Manila Olympiad I gave a live radio interview after the 2nd

round. I played there a year before and this suspect allowed himself things I didn't like (nobody did) and I said a couple of things already there face to face. Still I felt I owed him. The broadcasting was planned to 15 minutes, and I didn't know the people. Therefore I started mild only when about the fifth minute they asked me about hospitality to which I answered: "The Philippino hospitality is quite rightly world famous. What a pity, that you have just a few people who simply aren't honest and don't know how to behave with guests." To concretise I was glad to go ahead I said: 'Last year Campomanes, the shame of Philippines, did such nasty things to me and others, so provoking that I had a hard time to be disciplined and not to give him a punch. Or two. Otherwise Philippines and Hungary are surprisingly very similar in at least one thing: we both talk about democracy a lot that doesn't exist. Take Campomanes or Hechanova (the Minister of Sport). These compromised people were serving under Marcos as well. If this were a different regime they should be begging in the street corner." – I can speak pretty fast, and I did it too, but I was sure, that was my last sentence. It wasn't! We had a good 20 minutes talk about more pleasant subjects, my hosts were seemingly glad that a 'bloody foreigner' said things which they could not.

Campomanes was raging, made all kinds of protest. All I said: "You made a mistake, buddy. You looked for a trouble and I was only fulfilled your wish. You don't have to thank."

Now we have another President (whom I don't know) and the same (or the same kind) of leadership behind. This idiots are making rules about the thinking time without consulting the leading players (men and women altogether, a minimum of 50) I wonder if ANY of them has ever played chess anywhere else than in pubs. There must be some serious people among them, the tiny minority which is frightened.

As to the World Championship business, I must confess I don't follow very closely the developments. I do harm on myself some other ways! I still put up a fight to defend my mental health by not buying newspaper in Hungary at all, my wife watches TV news and reports me, but only about weather forecast. So I'm not extremely well-informed how chess diplomacy and other dirty things around the world are today. But I have to tell you a few things that are not depending on anything but objective chess observation and experience.

I regret very much that FIDE has cancelled Kasparov's match. Yes, Kasparov's. Because, my friends, I happened to be Kasparov's friend and consultant for 7 years. All free, for I have admired him, and took as an honour to help him. It ended in 1986, before the Vladimirov accusation, this ridiculous nonsense, happened. I had to realise that he has totally changed into a 'Holy Monster'. Later on I wrote a thick book titled 'The Change of a Child'. Most unfortunately I couldn't find an English publisher, so the book was published in German under the title 'Quo vadis Garry?' It also appeared in Norwegian and Hungarian. Garry was not very happy with the book which had not a single made-up story. The truth was disgusting enough.

On the other hand I praised him as (maybe) the greatest chess-player of all times. And friends, I must tell you, that while you are doing fine to make SOMEBODY of Ponomariov, what he has done after gaining his title is poor. I titled this letter 'Kasparov = 4 Ponomarievs' because Garry K. used to beat certain countries' national teams in a clock-simul. It is one thing that Kasparov the man is somebody whom I don't respect for great human values. On the other hand, don't you make please a fool of yourself saying 'He needed protection from FIDE to escape Ponomariov'! This is all garbage! I do believe FIDE bureaucrats behaved badly towards Ponomariov. This is what they used to do in the past, and will do in the future. This is something I hate. If I could do something in this case, I would not hesitate. Ask Campomanes for details.

Still World Champion Ruslan Ponomariev and many people around him behave childishly. Formally he is the Champ, but making all sorts of demands when he has the honour that he can play – and not in a clock simul – to the King of the Chess world? What do you think, people? When Garry was playing Tolya in 1984, how did it look? The regulation was a constant scandal. And you can imagine the rest. I was there undercover for a month. And before the match in a training camp. And I was the one, who said to him: "The only place you have a chance is the board." He understood and ate a lot of shit. All the Russian Chess Federation was for Karpov. And who organised the match? Of course, them!

Now what are you talking about? Don't you think, Ruslan overdid a little? Don't you think, he is lucky from the point of view that the match did not take place? So Kasparov did not make a monkey of him! Calm down, Friends, and think a little bit for a change!

Kindest thoughts, András Adorján"
(GM Adorjan's letter was published as is. No editing was done, except for spelling – RPM)

I respect Andras' point of view, though I don't feel that *Chess Today* has been particularly pro-Ponomariov or anti-Kasparov. In fact, we've been trying to cover the story as well as we could, giving links to all sorts of theories on why the match did not happen, including some weird conspiracy theories! Kasparov is so huge in chess that naturally people see him behind every action – this is the curse of a public figure.

Personally, I feel that there is a lot that we are not being told by FIDE. My position is simple: either accept Ponomariov's (rather minor) demands or disqualify him, if you feel that he has done something very wrong. FIDE did neither... Now the unification of the professional chess world (something what Kirsan Ilyumzhinov always claimed to be after!) seems to be very unlikely. In my opinion, FIDE will be always unstable for as long as it depends on one man and his money – and it does not matter (for the stability, not morale) whether he is a devil or a saint!

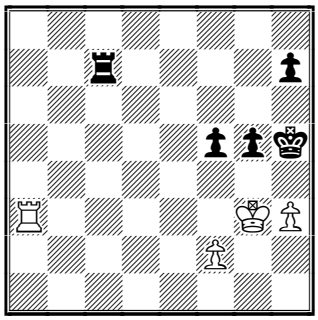
I would call myself a semi-retired chess professional – I don't play much in tournaments and don't depend on prize money at all. I give lessons, write articles, publish *Chess Today*, sell chess books and equipment and teach chess in many schools around Dublin – all of which I can do regardless of what is going on in the professional chess! But as I have a lot of friends among active chess pros, it bothers me that the chess world is in such a mess!

Currently there are over 60 GMs, receiving *Chess Today*, including some of the top players. *Anyone to share his/her views on the situation around the cancelled match?* We will gladly publish it here!

Trainer's Corner

Rook endgames are undoubtedly the most important endings from a practical point of view – for they are said to occur in about 50% of all endgames. Rook endings a pawn (or two!) down are often drawn, but one still has to play them well. Let us learn a few things from mistakes White committed in the following endgame:

Næs (2330) – Gausel (2533)
Nordic Ch, Arhus (8), 14.09.2003



White to play

This is a typical endgame, which one should be able to draw rather easily.
52.♖b3

One way to go was to play 52.f4!? h6 53.fxg5 hxg5 54.♖a8 – this position is a theoretical draw. The passed f-pawn isn't dangerous here.

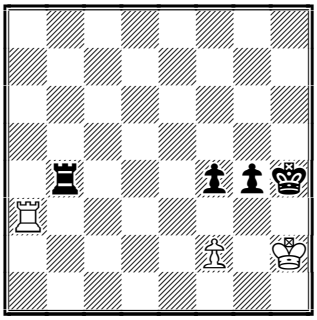
52...f4+ 53.♔g2 ♔h4 54.♖a3 ♖c2 55.♖b3

It would be easier to defend after 55.♖a7! h5 56.♖f7.

55...h5 56.♖f3

Better was 56.♖b4!

56...♖b2 57.♔h2 ♖b4 58.♖a3 g4 59.hxg4 hxg4 *(D)*



Black has improved his position, but White is still OK.

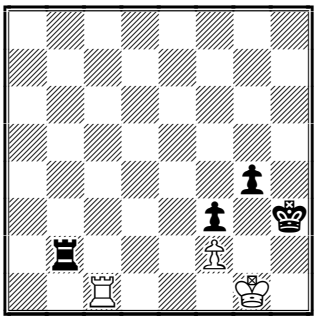
60.♖a1??

Not any more! If one defends that passively, many drawn rook endings would be lost! White could hold by playing 60.♖a8 ♖b2 (60...g3+? 61.fxg3+ fxg3+ 62.♔g2 ♖b2+ 63.♔g1=) 61.♖h8+ ♔g5 62.♖g8+ ♔f5 63.♔g1 f3 and then targeting the g4-pawn: 64.♖f8+ ♔e4 65.♖g8=.

60...♖b2 61.♔g1 ♔h3 62.♖c1

62.f3 ♔g3! (62...gxf3? 63.♖a8 f2+ 64.♔f1 ♔g3 65.♖a3+ f3 66.♖xf3+ ♔xf3=) 63.fxg4 f3–+.

62...f3 *(D)*

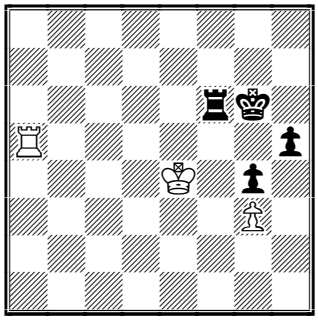


Here the white rook is tied up to the first rank, so it cannot get active. White is lost...

63.♖a1 g3 64.♖f1 ♖a2 0-1.

Now a little **test position** for you:

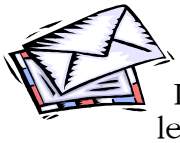
Levenfish & Smyslov



White to play

Black threatens to play 1...♖f3, what would you do?

(see the answer in the Solutions)



Letters to the Editor

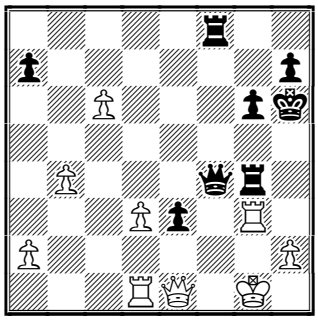
I received the following letter a while ago from Dennis Monokroussos, who runs very interesting *Great Games in Chess History* column at Chess.FM

"Hi, Alex!

In CT-1015, GM Scherbakov analyses the game Zhao Xue – Harika, and suggests that Black could maintain a clear advantage even if White didn't blunder on move 38.

Zhao Xue – Harika

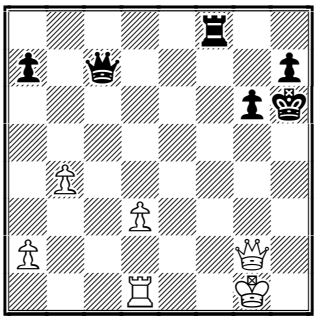
Asian Women Championship, Calicut (2), 18.08.2003



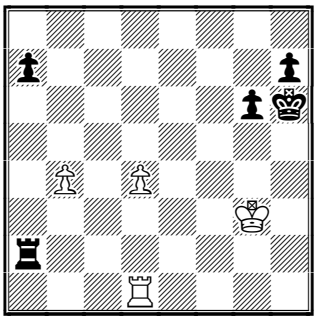
White to play

In the game White played **38.d4??** and resigned after 38...e2! 39.♕xe2 ♖xg3+ 40.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 41.♔h1 ♖f2 **0-1**

The line in question goes **38.c7!? e2 39.♕xe2 ♖xg3+ 40.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 41.♕g2 ♕xc7 (D)**



Here Scherbakov wrote: "Black keeps a clear advantage as the white king is too exposed." Well, that's easily fixed!
42.♕h2+ ♕xh2+ 43.♔xh2 ♖f2+
It's generally better to have connected passers than split ones, but I have a hard time believing that Black would have serious winning chances here without going for the pawn
44.♔g3 ♖xa2 45.d4 ***(D)***



Now Black has three lines; three approaches to choose from.
1. Greed: 45...♖a4, followed by taking the b-pawn before running home to defend White's passed d-pawn.
2. The King Blockade: 45...♔g7, etc.
3. The Quick Rook Blockade: 45...♖a6.

1. The first line loses, I think: ***45...♖a4*** 46.d5 ♖xb4 47.d6 ♖b8 48.d7 ♖d8 49.♔f4 g5+ 50.♔f5 ♔g7 51.♔e6 h5 52.♔e7 ♖b8 53.d8♕ ♖xd8 54.♖xd8 and here my little silicon friend tells me that Black will be mated in 25 moves.

2. The second line is a draw with some interesting similarities to the Kramnik-Leko from Dortmund 2003: ***45...♔g7*** 46.d5 ♔f7 47.d6 ♔e8 48.♖e1+ ♔d7 49.♖e7+ ♔xd6 50.♖xh7, with a very easy draw.

3. The third line seems to capture the worst of both worlds for Black: ***45...♖a6*** 46.d5 ♖d6 47.♔f4 ♔g7 48.♔e5 ♖d8 49.♔e6 and Black is lost.

If my analysis is right, then 38.c7 does save the game. Perhaps there is some brilliant idea for Black in the second variation, or something fundamental I'm missing instead of 43...♖f2+, and if there is, I'm definitely looking forward to learning about it!"

I looked at the endgame and don't see how Black can win. Of course, 43...♖f2+ and 44...♖xa2 loses two tempi, but a pawn is a pawn and I can't see what else Black could do with that time. So, White could have saved the game. And Tartakower (or was it Tarrasch?) was right: "Rook endgames are never won!" ☺

Solutions to our quiz:

Hansen – Lehtinen: 29.♗a6!+- bxa6 30.♗a5! ♖d8 31.♕xa6+ ♔d7 32.♕b7+ ♔e8 33.♗xd8 ♕g5 34.♖e1 1–0

Endgame Test: If White tries to stop 1...♖f3 by playing **1.♖a3?,** he loses after **1...h4! 2.gxh4 ♔h5.**
The best line of defence is to ignore Black's threat and keep his king at bay: **1.♖b5** ♖f3 2.♖b6+ ♔g5 3.♖b5+ ♔g6 4.♖b6+ ♔f7 5.♖b7+ ♔e6 6.♖b6+ ♔d7 7.♖b7+ ♔c6 8.♖h7 ♖xg3 9.♖xh5=.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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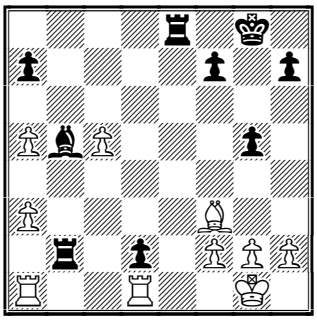
CT-259 (1043) 16th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Karasev–Lutikov
Cheliabinsk, 1972



Black to play

Chess News

by Alex Baburin

Nordic Championship

In round 9 GM Evgeny Agrest from Sweden won his game and caught up to the leader – GM Curt Hansen (Denmark), who only drew. According to our reader Manfred Rosenboom, who watched the games live, the last of round 9 games (Hector–Naes) ended in severe mutual time trouble. Hector mated Naes with at most some seconds on his clock! You can see a brief analysis of that endgame in this issue.

Standings after 9 rounds:
1. GMs Cu. Hansen (DEN, 2618) and Agrest (SWE, 2605) – 6½ points;
3–4. GMs Stefansson (ISL, 2560) and Hector (SWE, 2538) – 5½ points, etc.
There are 2 rounds left. You can find games from round 9 in our database. I'd like to thank Manfred Rosenboom for editing them.

Official website

The Kings & Queens Match

In the second half (rounds 4–6) of the tournament the highest rates pair –

Evgeny Bareev and Xie Jun – recovered very well from the horrible result shown in the first half when they lost all 3 games.

Final Standings:
1. Nigel Short & Zhao Xue – 4 pts;
2. Yasser Seirwan & Zhu Chen – 3;
3–4. Ye Jiangchuan & Xu Yuhua and Evgeny Bareev & Xie Jun – 2½ points;

I would like to remind you that players alternated moves. The time control was 25 minutes each, with a 10 seconds increment.

The 4th Lausanne Young Masters tournament will take place on 17–22 September in Switzerland (there was no tournament in 2002). The invited players are: GMs Bacrot (FRA, 2645) McShane (ENG, 2619), Sargissian (ARM, 2600), Mamedyarov (AZE, 2585), Kajakin (UKR, 2560), WGM Kosteniuk (RUS, 2457), WGM Paehtz (GER, 2417) and FM Papa (2372). Curiously, 20-year old Etienne Bacrot is the oldest participant! ☺ The will be also an open tournament (19–22 September), with 3000 Swiss francs first prize and 11 GMs participating.

Official website

Anatoly Karpov gave an interview while in Krasnoyarsk. When asked about his attitude towards the cancellation of the Ponomariov–Kasparov match, he said the following:

"This could be called a chess strategy. Everyone contributed to it. I don't mean myself. By the way, Kasparov also contributed, though he suffered most as a result. If he said to Ilymzhinov – "Stop acting foolishly and don't even think of cancelling the match!" – Ilyumzhinov would not have dared to do it.

As for Ponomariov, it was not possible to treat the world champion that

badly. I was in the tournament in Holland where Ponomariov simply could not play – because Ilyumzhinov had sent his representatives who got on Ponomariov's nerves.

There were no serious reasons to cancel the match, this I can say for sure. And I agree with Alexander Zhukov (President of the Russian Chess Federation – AB), that cancelling the match dealt a blow to chess in Russia. When will we have that the President of Russia makes the first move? Chess would have been in the major news."

When asked whether there was a solution to the problem with the match, Karpov said:

"I don't see any. If the same methods will be used in the future, FIDE will collapse. Maybe that won't be a bad thing. It's better to create a new healthy organisation than to support the old and sick one. On the surface FIDE looks very democratic. In fact it is the opposite. Russia, with its hundreds of thousands of qualified players, has the same vote as, say, Virgin Islands, with a few dozen players. In chess we need the same Security Council as in UN."

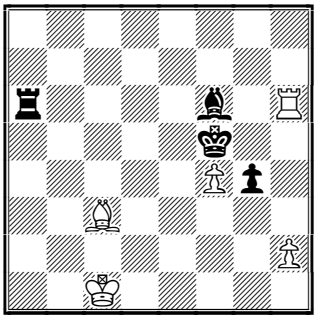
Karpov said that he had not received any official invitation to play a rapid-chess match against Ponomariov.
Interview in Russian.

One Curious Endgame

by Alex Baburin

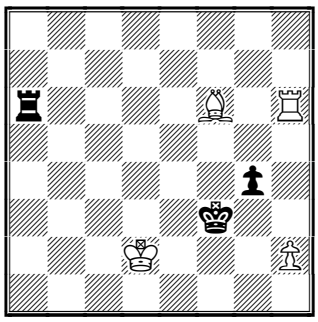
Have a look at the following position:

Hector (2538) – Naes (2330)
Nordic Ch Aarhus (9), 15.09.2003

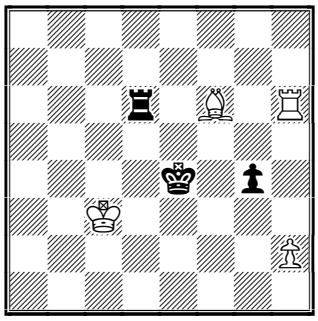


Black to play

White has just played
65.♔b1-c1
and now he threatens to exchange on f6, as his king will be able to protect the f4-pawn. How should Black defend?
65...♔xf4
This is an interesting move, but not the best practical decision. Black would be fine after 65...♗xc3! 66.♖xa6 ♔xf4. Then he plays ...♗e5 and ties White to the h2-pawn. This is an easy draw. In the game White maintained practical chances for a win.
66.♗xf6
66.♖xf6+? ♖xf6 67.♗xf6 g3= 68.h4 ♔g4.
66...♔f3 67.♔c2 ♔e4 68.♔d2 ♔f3 *(D)*



Strange position: White cannot unpin his bishop – 69.♗g7? ♖xh6 70.♗xh6 g3=.
69.♔d3 ♖d6+ 70.♔c4 ♔e4 71.♔c5 ♖e6 72.♔b4 ♖c6 73.♔b5 ♖d6 74.♔c4 ♖c6+ 75.♔b3 ♖e6 76.♔c3 ♖d6 77.♔c2 ♔f3 78.♖g6 ♔e4 79.♖h6
79.♖xg4+ ♔f5 80.♗e7? ♖c6+
79...♔f3 80.♔b3 ♖c6 81.♖g6 ♔e4 82.♖h6 ♔f3 83.♔b4 ♔e4 84.♔b5 ♖d6 85.♔c4 ♖c6+ 86.♔b4 ♖d6 87.♔b5 ♖e6 88.♔c5 ♖a6 89.♔c4 ♖c6+ 90.♔b3 ♖e6 91.♔c2 ♖d6 92.♔c3 *(D)*



92...♔f3
Black could change the line of defence and settle on a theoretically

drawn (but practically difficult) endgame: 92...g3 93.hxg3 ♖d3+ 94.♔c4 ♖xg3.

93.♖g6! ♔e4?

Black had a very similar position after move 78, but with a very important difference – there the white king was on c2! Black had to defend with 93...♖c6+! 94.♔d4 ♖e6 95.♔d5 ♖a6 96.♔e5 ♖a2 97.♖h6 g3.

94.♖xg4+ ♔f5 95.♗e7 ♖d7

Now White can meet 95...♖c6+ with 96.♖c4.

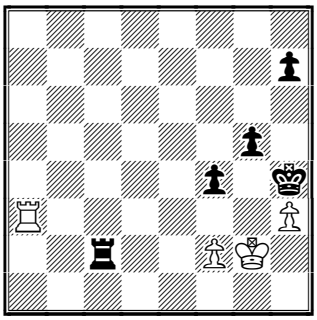
96.♖g7 ♔e6 97.♗f8 ♖d8 98.♗c5 and White eventually won.

Correction

by Alex Baburin

Yesterday I made an error in my analysis of the rook endgame from the game Næs–Gausel.

Næs (2330) – Gausel (2533)
Nordic Ch, Arhus (8), 14.09.2003



Here White played **55.♖b3** and although he later lost, he could have still saved the game.

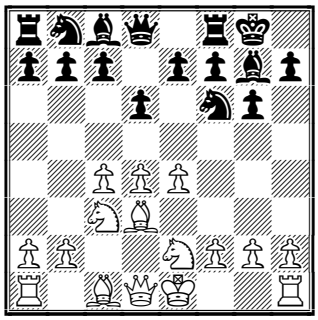
In CT–1042 I wrote: "It would be easier to defend after **55.♖a7! h5 56.♖f7.** This is wrong – I just forgot about the black rook! ☺ Instead of the last move White had to return the rook to the 3rd rank. After **56.♖f7?** White is lost **56...♖c3! 57.♖f5 ♖b3!** Zugzwang! White loses after **58.♖c5 f3+ 59.♔h2 ♖b2–+**.

Note that the pawn ending arising after ***57...♖xh3?*** 58.♖xg5 ♔xg5 59.♔xh3 ♔f5 is drawn: 60.♔h4 ♔g6 61.♔h3 ♔g5 62.♔g2 ♔g4 63.f3+ ♔f5 64.♔h3=. Black should not push too hard: 64...♔e5 65.♔h4 ♔d4 66.♔xh5 ♔d3?? 67.♔g5 ♔e3 68.♔g4+–.

Annotated Game

□ **Roos (2412)**
■ **Moser (2328)**
King's Indian Defence – [E70]

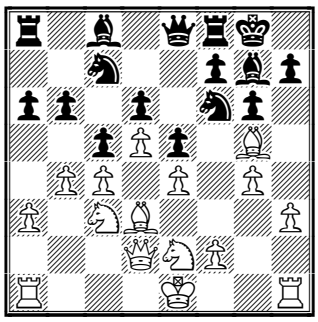
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 0–0 5.♗d3 d6 6.♘ge2 *(D)*



6...e5 7.d5 c5 8.h3 ♘a6 9.♗g5 ♘c7 10.a3N

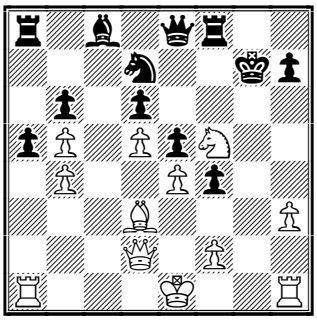
10.♕d2 was also tested: 10...♕e8 (or 10...♗d7 11.a3 b5 12.cxb5 ♕b8 13.a4 a6 14.bxa6 ♘xa6 15.♗c4 ♘h5 16.0–0 f5 17.♗b5 ♖a7 18.♘g3 ♘xg3 19.fxg3 ♗c8 20.exf5 gxf5 21.g4 ♘b4 22.♗h6 ♗xh6 23.♕xh6 ♘c2 24.♖ac1 ♘d4 25.♘e4 1–0, Timman–Dzindzichashvili, Tilburg 1985) 11.g4 a6 12.♘g3 b5 13.b3 ♖b8 14.f3 ♘d7 15.♔f2 ♘b6 16.♖ab1 ♗d7 17.h4 f6 18.♗e3 ♖f7 19.a3 ♗f8 20.♘a2 ♗e7 21.h5 g5 22.♘f5 ♗xf5 23.exf5 e4 24.fxe4 ♘d7 Reshevsky–Horowitz, New York 1956.

10...b6 11.♕d2 ♕e8 12.g4 a6 13.b4 *(D)*

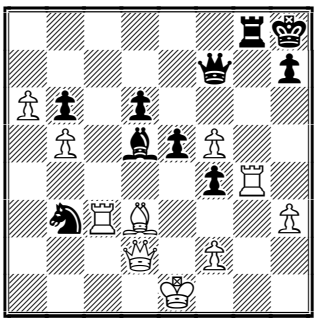


Using his spatial advantage, White is expanding on both flanks. This could turn out risky if the centre even opens.

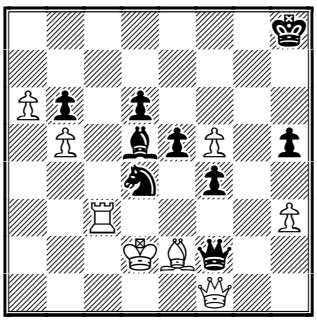
13...♘d7 14.♘g3 cxb4 15.axb4 a5 16.♘b5 ♘xb5 17.cxb5 f6 18.♗e3 f5 19.gxf5 gxf5 20.♗h6 f4 21.♗xg7 ♔xg7 22.♘f5+ *(D)*



22...♖xf5?!
This is a dubious exchange sacrifice. Black should have better given the pawn: 22...♔h8 23.♘xd6 ♕g6 24.♘c4 a4 – White does not have an advantage.
23.exf5 ♗b7 24.♖g1+ ♔h8 25.bxa5 ♗xd5 26.a6!
A strong passed pawn defines White's advantage.
26...♕f7 27.♕c3 ♘c5 28.♖d1 ♘a4 29.♕d2 ♖c8? 30.♖c1?!
Winning was 30.♗b1!+–.
30...♘c5 31.♖c3 ♖g8 32.♖g4 ♘b3 *(D)*

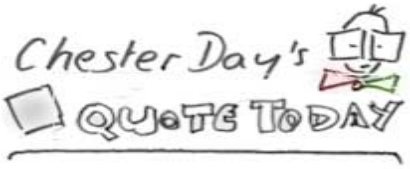


33.♕b2?!
33.♕d1! ♘d4 (33...♘c5 34.♖xg8+ ♕xg8 35.♕g4+–) 34.♖xg8+ ♕xg8 35.♕g4+–. **33...♘d4 34.♗e2?!**
34.♕a3!±
34...h5?! 35.♖xg8+ ♕xg8 36.♕c1?!
36.♗f1± ♘f3+ 37.♔d1 ♘d4 38.♕b4.
36...♕g1+ 37.♔d2?!
37.♗f1±.
37...♕xf2 38.♕f1 *(D)*



Having made several inaccuracies, White lost every inch of his great advantage. But Black immediately slipped up in response:
38...♕h4??
After 38...♕h2! Black's chances would be at least as good as White's!
39.♕g1!
And now it is all over.
39...♕e7 40.♕g6 ♘b3+ 1–0.

Solutions to our quiz:
Karasev–Lutikov:
28...♖a2! 29.♖ab1 ♗d3 0–1



"The Pin is mightier than the sword"

-- Fred Reinfeld

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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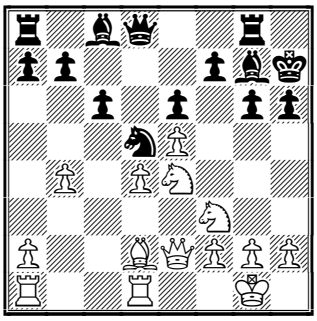
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-260 (1044) 17th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Koltanowski-Alexander
Hastings (2), 1935



White to play

Chess News

by Alex Baburin

Nordic Championship

In round 10 GM Curt Hansen again overtook his main rival - GM Evgeny Agrest.

Standings before the last round:
1. Cu. Hansen (DEN, 2618) – 7½ points;
2. Agrest (SWE, 2605) - 7 points;
3. Stefansson (ISL, 2560) - 6½ points;
4-5. Hector (SWE, 2538) and Olafsson (ISL, 2498) – 6 points, etc.

See games from round 10 in our database. Again, our thanks go to Manfred Rosenboom for editing them.

Official website

Chess & Books with Fred Wilson Live Internet Radio Show

"Fred's next guest on Wednesday, September 17th will again be the popular grandmaster, author and teacher ***GM Alexander Baburin***. Fred will interview Alex live from his home in Dublin, Ireland where Alex has resided for the last ten years. Alex is the author of the highly acclaimed book *Winning Pawn Structures* and creator of the very successful daily internet chess newsletter *Chess Today*. Alex will also discuss the very interesting rare chess book auctions he occasionally conducts on his other website www.gmsquare.com. Please send questions for Alex about chess & children, how to study chess, what books & software are essential, chess politics, endgame theory, etc. to fred@fredwilsonchess.com The interview will start at 21:00 EST"

Well, all CT readers are very welcome to talk to the ' popular grandmaster'! ☺ I will just try to stay awake and actually make sense (with loads of coffee!) - the interview starts at 2:00 Dublin time! But promoting *Chess Today* comes before sleep!

On This Day...

by GM Alexander Baburin

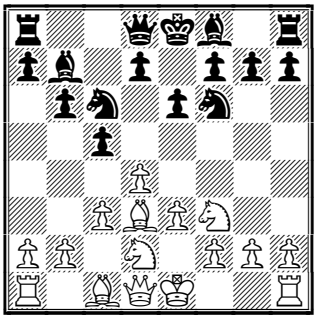
100 years ago George Koltanowski was born. He was originally from Belgium, where he won national championships in 1923, 1927, 1930 and 1936. Leaving Europe at the end of 1938, he toured Central and North America and settled in USA after the Second World War. He once played for the USA at chess Olympiad (1952), but was famous mostly for his blindfold simuls and chess books. He became a honorary Grandmaster in 1988. (reference: The Oxford Companion to Chess).

In his late years Koltanowski lived in San Francisco where he had a popular newspaper column. I briefly met him in 1997, when he came to the Mechanics Institute Chess Club. Koltanowski did a lot popularising chess in the USA and this was reflected when he was one of the first players to enter the country's Chess Hall of Fame in 1986. He died in February 2000. TWIC published an obituary then.

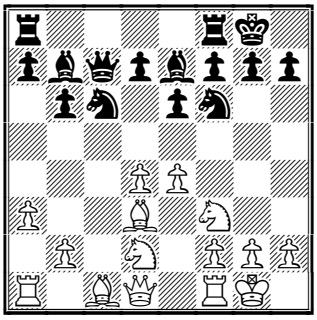
Koltanowski had a good eye for tactics, as many of his games prove. Here is a typical example:

Koltanowski–Reilly
Barcelona, 1935
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

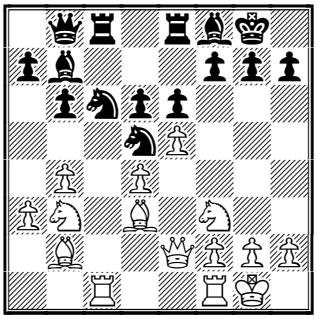
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 b6 3.e3
Koltanowski was a big fan of the Colle System. He chose practical lines, where you need to learn little.
3...♗b7 4.♗d3 c5 5.♘bd2 ♘c6 6.c3 e6 ***(D)***



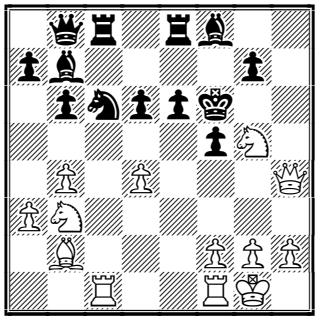
7.a3 ♕c7 8.e4 cxd4 9.cxd4 ♗e7 10.0–0 0–0 ***(D)***



11.b4 ♖ac8 12.♗b2 d6 13.♖c1 ♕b8 14.♕e2 ♖fe8 15.♘b3 ♗f8 16.e5 ♘d5 ***(D)***



17.♗xh7+!
Famous Greek Gift sacrifice in action!
17...♔xh7 18.♘g5+ ♔g6 19.♕g4 f5 20.♕h4 ♘f6?
More stubborn was 20...dxe5. Still, after 21.♖xc6! (21.dxe5 ♘xe5 22.♖xc8 ♖xc8 23.♖e1 ♗d6 should be also good for White, but sacrificing on c6 is more energetic.) 21...♖xc6 22.dxe5 ♖c4 23.♘d4 and White's attack should succeed.
21.exf6 ♔xf6 ***(D)***



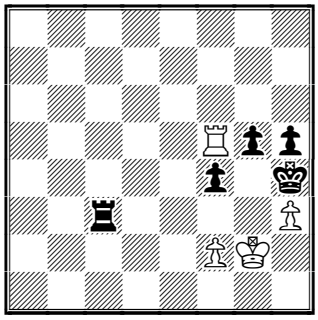
22.♖xc6 ♗xc6 23.d5+ e5 24.dxc6 ♖xc6 25.f4 g6 26.♘d4 exd4 27.♕h7 ♗g7 28.♗xd4+ ♖e5 29.♘f3 1–0

Another Correction

by Alex Baburin

In CT–1043, while correcting my previous mistake, I managed to make yet another one! I need a holiday... ☺

Næs (2330) – Gausel (2533)
Nordic Ch, Arhus (8), 14.09.2003
Variation from the game



Black to play

I wrote the following:
"**57...♖b3!** Zugzwang! White loses after **58.♖c5 f3+ 59.♔h2 ♖b2–+**.
Note that the pawn ending arising after ***57...♖xh3?*** 58.♖xg5 ♔xg5 59.♔xh3 ♔f5 is drawn: 60.♔h4 ♔g6 61.♔h3 ♔g5 62.♔g2 ♔g4 63.f3+ ♔f5 64.♔h3=. Black should not push too hard: 64...♔e5 65.♔h4 ♔d4 66.♔xh5 ♔d3?? 67.♔g5 ♔e3 68.♔g4+–."

Then I received the following message from IM Igor Khmelnitsky:

" Hi Alex,

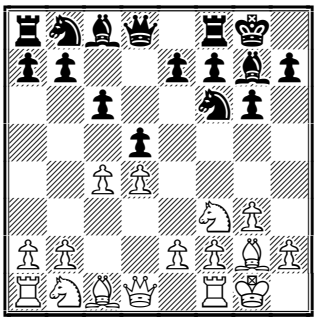
Just spotted something in your correction (CT-1043) that I believe requires ... correction. In Naes-Gausel there is no pawn endgame after 57...♖xh3 58.♖xg5 as Black has 58...f3+! (instead of 58...♔xg5). Rook endgames are my favourites. If interested, I can send you a couple from my games. Thanks for making my day at the office go faster! Igor, http://www.IamCoach.com"

Annotated Game

□ **Baumgartner (2347)**
■ **Kilgus (2348)**
Ansfelden, Austria 2003
The Gruenfeld Defence - [D79]

Notes by IM Vlassov & GM Baburin

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.0-0 0-0 5.c4 c6 6.d4 d5 *(D)*

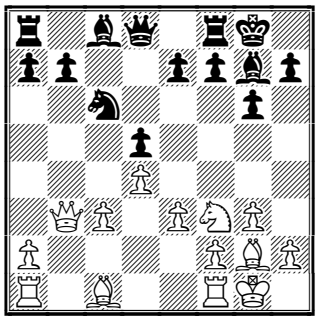


This is a very solid system for Black. Now White can choose between symmetrical position or different ways of protecting the c4-pawn (7.♕b3 or 7.♘bd2).

7.cxd5 cxd5 8.♘c3 ♘e4!
Less accurate is 8...♘c6 9.♘e5!.

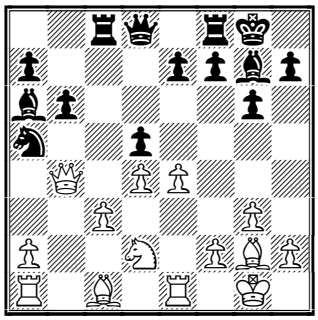
9.♕b3
This move gives White little. Perhaps more promising is 9.♘xe4 dxe4 10.♘e5. I also tried a couple of time the line 9.e3 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♘c6 11.♘d2 - Alex Baburin.

9...♘c6 10.e3 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 *(D)*



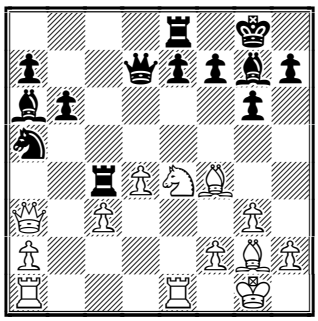
11...♘a5 12.♕b4 b6 13.♘d2 ♗a6 14.♖e1 ♖c8N
Previously Black tried here 14...f5 preventing e3-e4 or the calm 14...e6.

15.e4 *(D)*



15...dxe4
Black could afford 15...e6, not fearing 16.♗a3 ♖e8 17.exd5 exd5 18.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 19.♗xd5 ♗b7 20.♗xb7 ♘xb7=, as here White is unlikely to retain an extra pawn. Also possible is 15...e5!? 16.dxe5 ♗xe5 17.♗b2 ♗c4! (Dangerous for Black is 17...♗b7?! in view of 18.♖ad1! ♗d6 19.♕a4 d4 20.cxd4 ♕e8 21.♕xe8 ♖fxe8 22.e5 ♗b4 23.♗xb7 ♘xb7 24.♘e4!±) 18.exd5 (18.♖ad1 ♗d6 19.♕a4 d4! 20.♘xc4 (20.cxd4 b5 21.♕c2 ♗b3 22.♕b1 ♗xd1 23.♖xd1 ♘c4) 20...♖xc4 21.♕b5 dxc3 22.♗xc3 ♖xc3 23.e5 ♕e8! 24.♕xe8 ♖xe8 25.♖xd6 ♘c4=) 18...♗xd5=.

16.♘xe4 ♖e8 17.♗f4 ♖c4 18.♕a3 ♕d7 *(D)*



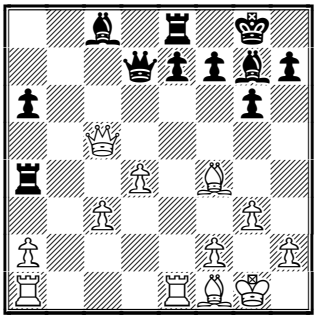
19.♘c5!? A tempting move. It was also possible not to speed up the

course of events: 19.h4±.

19...bxc5 20.♕xa5 ♗c8?

The composed 20...♗b7! would lead to equality: 21.♕xa7 ♗c6 22.♕xd7 ♗xd7=.

21.♗f1 ♖a4 22.♕xc5± a6 *(D)*



White managed to win a pawn but he will face a lot of technical problems.

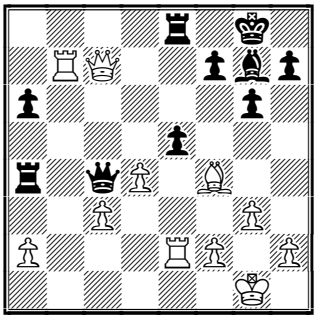
23.♗g2 ♗b7 24.♗xb7

24.d5 ♗f6 25.♗e5± deserved consideration as the g2-bishop is stronger than Black's bishop on b7.

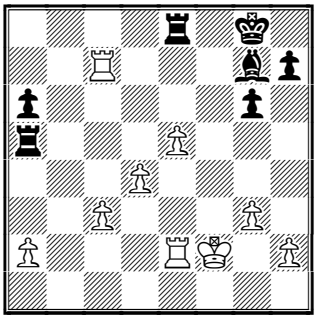
24...♕xb7 25.♖ab1 ♕d7 26.♖e2 e6 27.♕d6?! ♕c8?!

It is doubtful that White is able to convert his extra pawn after the simple 27...♕xd6 28.♗xd6 ♖c4 29.♖e3 (29.♗b4 ♖ec8 30.♖b3 ♗f8) 29...♖ec8.

28.♖b3 ♗f8 29.♕e5 ♕c4?! 29...♗g7 **30.♖b7!±** White seizes the initiative again! **30...♗g7 31.♕c7 e5 *(D)***



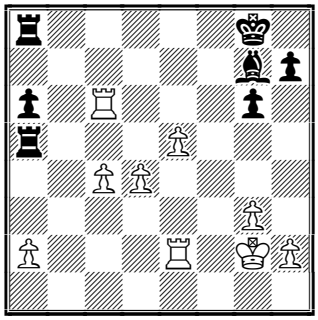
32.♗xe5!? White sacrifices his bishop in order to create three passed pawns in the centre. **32...♕xc7 33.♖xc7 f6 34.f4 fxe5 35.fxe5 ♖a5 36.♔f2 *(D)***



36...♖f8+

Perhaps, returning the piece immediately with 36...♗xe5 37.dxe5 ♖exe5 38.♖xe5 ♖xe5 was Black's best defence. In the resulting rook endgame Black has reasonable drawing chances, though his king is cut off along the 7th rank.

37.♔g2 ♖f7 38.♖c8+ ♖f8 39.♖c6 ♖a8 40.c4+- *(D)*



The avalanche of White's connected passed pawns is unstoppable.

40...♖a7 41.♔f3 ♔f7 42.♔e4 ♔e7 43.♖f2 ♖a3 44.d5 ♖c3 45.g4 ♗h6 46.e6 ♖e3+ 47.♔d4 ♔d8 48.g5 1-0

Solutions to our quiz:

Koltanowski-Alexander:

18.♘eg5+! 1-0

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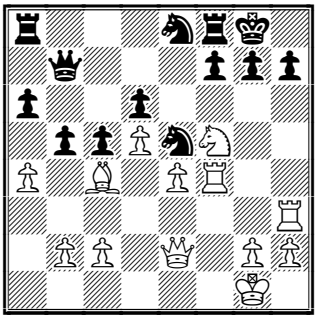
CT-261(1045) 18th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Hertneck-Rahls
BL 1989/90, Germany, 1989



White to play

Chess News

by Alex Baburin

Nordic Championship

In the final round of the tournament the leader - GM Curt Hansen (Denmark) – made a quick draw, playing White against GM Stefansson, who was a full point behind. Thus Hansen gave a licence to catch him to GM Evgeny Agrest, who was playing White against Flovin Naes. The player from the Faroes Islands is not bad, but he had a horrible tournament, scoring only one draw in 11 games. That must be very depressing, but I hope that he will recover, while leaning a lot from playing against GM opposition.

Final Standings:
1-2. GMs **Cu. Hansen** (DEN, 2618) and **Agrest** (SWE, 2605) – 8 points;
3. GM Stefansson (ISL, 2560) – 7 points;
4-5. GMs H. Olafsson (ISL, 2498) and Hector (SWE, 2538) – 6 points, etc.

See games from round 11 in our database. Again I'd like to thank our reader Manfred Rosenboom for editing and sending them to CT.
Official website

The 4th Lausanne Young Masters

The tournament started yesterday with 75% of all games being decisive! Well, this is only normal if you bear in mind that the eldest (and the highest rated) player in the tournament – Etienne Bacrot – is only 20! Arkady Najditsch (Germany) was a late replacement for Gabriel Sargissian (Armenia).
Round 1 results:
Bacrot-Papa 1-0
Mamedyarov-Kosteniuk 1-0
McShane – E. Paehtz ½-½
Najditsch-Karjakin 1-0

As you can see, White dominated the round, though McShane was under pressure in his game vs. Paehtz.
Official website

On This Day...

40 years ago German Grandmaster **Gerald Hertneck** was born. Currently rated 2524 he has been one of Germany's top players (highest rating – 2615 in 1994). He does not play much in tournaments now, playing mostly in German and Austrian club leagues.

There are many very interesting interviews published in Russia, but most of them are not accessible for people who don't speak the language. To improve the situation, we plan to translate some of such materials. We would like to start with an interesting, if slightly controversial interview with the 7th World Champion Vassily Smyslov. Smyslov, aged 82, is almost blind now, but he still creates in chess – he is active in chess composition.

The following interview was conducted by Russian journalist and poet Vladimir Anzikeev for *Shakhmatnaya Nedelia* (Chess Week). It's been translated by Zoya Vlassova and proofread by Laurence Webb.

Vassily Smyslov:
I am Still Needed in This World!

— Let's talk about the divine and satanic nature of chess.

— Like any human activity chess has two origins: the divine and the devilish. Chess as an art has a divine origin, while chess as a sport (when victory counts at all costs sacrificing the beauty of the game), springs from the Devil. There is a striking evidence of this now. After all, a computer is nothing if not the Devil because it does not create anything. It is an inspector, or more precisely an accuser. In his book 'My Great Predecessors', Garry Kasparov highlights that computers can examine the games of the great chess players and reveal their mistakes. It now appears that the brilliant combinations of Alekhine, Tal and other outstanding players were flawed.

Nevertheless, the most attractive thing about chess is the clash of personalities and their emotions at the chessboard, with all its mistakes. Computers don't make mistakes, but this does not rule out the struggle. The genius of the great chess players' combinations proves it.

What we experience at the board is more important. We think artistically. Any attempt to compose the entire game by computer negates the creative (divine) side of chess. But every person should first of all reveal his divine origin. So what if a computer has refuted Lasker's play – does that mean that Lasker is no longer a great player? We are delighted by great combinations and flaws are less important details.

As in reality, in chess two armies face each other. If the outcome can be calculated by computer what is the reason for fighting? In the battle of Austerlitz Napoleon had 40,000 soldiers. His enemies outnumbered him almost two to one. Besides, they were in a better position. The computer would indicate Napoleon should surrender at once. Machines do not take into account psychological factors. In the battle of Austerlitz Napoleon's enemies either lost their nerve or were just stupid (a human failing), by leaving their better position for a much weaker one. But Napoleon was a genius and routed the enemy army against all logic.

If every action was faultless, it would be of no interest to others. First of all, chess players are human beings dependant on their emotions. They are not insured against mistakes, they even must make them. Chess reflects the essence of human nature, including human ideas, creativity and illusions. The emotional side plays a considerable role. When we read: "If it had not been for... I would have...", this is impossible because there are no 'ifs'! It is not so easy to become a World Champion. Once I was asked to name the best ten chess players of the century. This is an incorrect question. Each champion reflected his age and the spirit of his times. We can say that history itself promoted such chess players. Nowadays computers do this job by finding mistakes and dictating fashion. So the question arises: is chess really dying? (as in the draw-death predicted by Capablanca). Games are not being adjourned; computers calculate everything and start to replace human beings. As I once told you computers should be aids only. What will chess players do when they have been completely superseded by computers? I discussed this issue with Botvinnik and he told me: "They will operate the machines. The best chess players will be the ones with the best machines."

What kind of divine idea forms the basis of human life? To live and experience everything mankind is meant for. It is impossible to win a game of chess without feelings (as my

friend Levenfish told me). Sometimes we experience an incredible range of emotions. People are exposed to huge nervous ordeals, each defeat is a prototype of death. Chess entails great stress, second to football. As we know from the memoirs of Jerome Horsey, Ivan the Terrible died at the chessboard. In my day Vladimir Bagirov and Aivar Gipslis suffered the same fate. I did not give everything I had in pursuit of ratings or strive for the highest results, possibly with the exception of the World Championships. This strategy allowed me to spread my energy resources rationally and play for many years. As a rule an overactive youth leads to burn-out in old age, and computer chess leads to early aging.

In my opinion a model chess player is an Indian sage bending over the board in majestic silence, but definitely not a person who restlessly shifts the pieces about. 5-minute games are not creative, they are pure sport. Chess has already lost its wise image and moved rapidly towards a sport. Winning at all cost now matters most. The Rest of the World Team won against Russia in the Match of the Century and this event proved to be clear evidence of the sporting priority above creativity. When we used to play we were not pressured by time constraints.

— You were the only one to forecast the victory of the Rest of the World against Russia...

— It was most likely a prompting from above. Sometimes it happens to me. I had not thought of it and your question took me by surprise. Then the answer dawned on me. Apart from intuition there are some other laws that influence people. Religion calls it a pride of the spirit. In a struggle it is not always the most eminent player who wins. Other aspects form a victory: team unity, cohesion and luck. It is not sufficient to know theory; creative inspiration is also necessary. In my opinion this is the most important factor. It shows the human soul most clearly. Creativity includes Harmony and Beauty, the things that bring the individual closest to his divine origin.

Of course, if it had not been for my eyesight, I would have continued to fight over the board and would not have had time for composing chess problems. This is like a blessing in disguise. If the spectacles could have spread optic perception over the nerve, I would have been able to see. But in my present state I can only set creative problems and process what I have learnt over many years. So I am composing chess problems and writing books in order not to waste my creative origin (divine nature). I have finished my book 'Secrets of Rook Endgames', which includes 60 games and 4 chess problems. It is going to be published soon. I have already published a book 'Theory of Rook Endings'. But the theory is one thing, and practice quite another. Nimzowitsch also wrote two books: 'My System' and 'Chess Praxis'. Of course I annotate my best games in these books. Those who defeated me can include such games in their own works.

— But what predominates in chess: the divine or the satanic?

— Chess has something of the devil. I can't specify exactly what it is but I feel it intuitively. I think that the Ecclesiastics had every reason to consider chess a demonic game. Not only Christians held this opinion, chess was also banned in Iraq. Even today priests renounce chess. John Paul II used to be a confirmed chess player in his youth and even composed a three-move problem. But when he became the Pope, he gave up chess.

My own experience shows that the Devil fights God in chess as in real life, and the field of the battle is not the chessboard but in people's hearts. I realized this after my match against Huebner that ended in a draw. Lots were cast for the winner, in a casino. It was the first time I had the feeling that I could not influence my own fate.

Roulette was to decide the outcome and a golden ball was used to avoid magnetism. If the ball landed on a red number I would be the winner. A black number would give victory to Huebner. The ball was thrown and it fell on the 'zero', as in Dostoevsky. There was no winner. The ball was thrown again and this time it landed on the red number 'three' (the first number of Pushkin's famous three cards: three, seven, ace). I won the match in this way. Later it dawned on me that God had been fighting Satan in the casino and they had made a draw the first time. But, eventually, God won and sentenced Huebner to defeat. As far as I know there were good reasons: Huebner's behaviour was incorrect during the match.

— You have had a long and colourful life. Who else can we ask: what is the meaning of human life?

— Everyone should experience his own trials, including success and misfortune. From my point of view, Earth is Purgatory, we are preparing here for something higher. I went through both success and knocks of fate. The most terrible ordeal was the loss of sight. However, apparently it was necessary for some reason, maybe to make me look inwards more, towards my own soul. Because the preparation for existence in another world through our earthly being is the meaning of human life. We should gain spiritual baggage here, to make life there possible. I don't betray secrets that link up the real world with the spiritual. It is better not to know mystical phenomena or enter the divine world the wrong way. Of course every person has his own passions, which make him act against the biblical rules. At present human passions are being intensified by the satanic power as never before. Individuals are tested all the time and they mostly fail, they don't endure stress. It is very difficult to fight against satanic forces. When I break the divine laws, I lose more than others because I am initiated. Unlike the others I know what I do. But I never try to persuade others or make them change their mind. They will do it themselves in due course.

Every individual is very complex and often closes his mind not just from others but also from himself. It is not that easy to comprehend. The assistance of divine methods is necessary, such as love. If a person is in love, he gets to know himself better by revealing some traits that he has never suspected. Meanwhile he also perceives the person he loves and sees in them such things that are concealed from ordinary view. Here the soul, which is the second sight, comes to the scene. The meaning of life is to let your soul soak in as much of the Holy Ghost as possible. God does not need the unprepared. He takes either those who are ready, or those who are without hope. God grants the others an opportunity to improve their karma. I am probably not quite ready for it yet because once I was dying but did not die. Some days later I dreamt about my mother, she told me: "I was waiting for you. Why did not you come?" Apparently, it was too early. It means that I am still needed for something. Probably I have something to finish in this world.

Solutions to our quiz:

Hertneck–Rahls: **21.♖xh7! ♔xh7 22.♕h5+ ♔g8 23.♖h4 f6** (Or 23...♘f3+ 24.gxf3 f6 25.♕g6 bxc4 26.♘h6+ ♔h8 27.♘f7+ ♔g8 28.♖h8#) **24.♗e2 1–0** Black resigned as he cannot stop 25.Qh8+, followed by 26.Bh5+.

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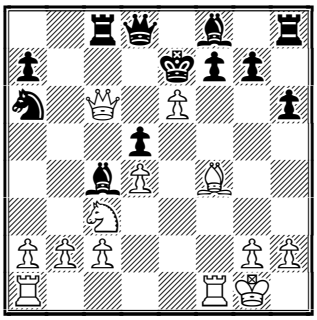
CT-262 (1046) 19th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Charousek-Chigorin
Budapest, 1896



White to play

Chess News

The 4th Lausanne Young Masters

Higher rated players dominated the first round. Yesterday they played White and won 3½-½. Today they won with Black with the same score!

Results of the first stage:
Bacrot-Papa 1½-½
McShane – E. Paehtz 1½-½
Mamedyarov-Kosteniuk 2-0
Najditsch-Karjakin 2-0

Pairings for the semi-final:
Bacrot (2645) – Najditsch (2574)
McShane (2619) – Mamedyarov (2585)

Official website

The Three Arrows Cup

John Henderson reports:
"After the 'Kings and Queens' tournament the players now revert to more normal chess by moving on to Ji Nan in China, for an individual Battle of the Sexes encounter in the Three Arrows Cup. The present mini tour of China also sadly marks the retirement from tournament play of one of the game's greatest ambassadors, former U.S. Champion **Yasser Seirawan**.

In 1979, "Yaz" won the World Junior title and for many years thereafter was the top-rated American on the world chess scene, and the first since Bobby Fischer to reach the Candidates cycle. He won three U.S. Championship titles, was a powerhouse for the U.S. team in 10 Olympiads and was one of the few players to defeat both Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov while they were in their prime as world champions.

Yet, despite his distinguished career as a player, he'll perhaps be best remembered as being the architect of the Prague Agreement – a deal which so nearly brought unity and sanity to the oft-fragmented chess world. The sadness of his retirement at the early age of 43 is only tempered by the fact that he is likely to devote more time and resources to his unique skills off the board as a diplomat and chess promoter."

Results of round 1:
Ye – Xu Yuhua ½-½
Bareev – Zhao Xue 1-0
Xie Jun – Short 1-0
Zhu Chen – Seirawan ½-½

Line-up of Wijk aan Zee 2004

According to TWIC, the Corus Chess Tournament in Wijk aan Zee will take place on 9-25 January 2004.

Players: Kramnik 2785, Anand 2774, Leko 2739, Shirov 2732, Svidler 2723, Bareev 2721, Adams 2719, Akopian 2703, I. Sokolov 2693, Morozevich 2679, van Wely 2661, Zhang Zhong 2658, Bologan 2650 and Timman 2575.

Garry Kasparov was invited but his manager said the event doesn't fit into his schedule.

Official website

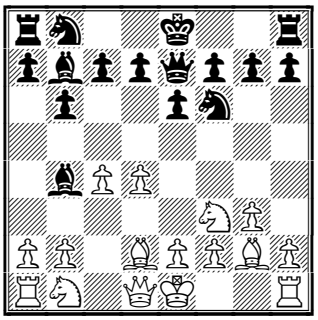
On This Day...

Rudolf Charousek was born in Bohemia in 1873. He had a short, but brilliant chess career. He was equal first at Budapest 1896 with Chigorin, ahead of Pillsbury, Janowski, Schlechter and Tarrasch. He also won at Berlin 1897, ahead of Janowski, Schlechter and Chigorin. In Cologne 1898 he finished equal second with Chigorin and Cohn, ahead of Steinitz, Schlechter and Janowski. Charousek suffered from tuberculosis, which was the course of his early death (1900).

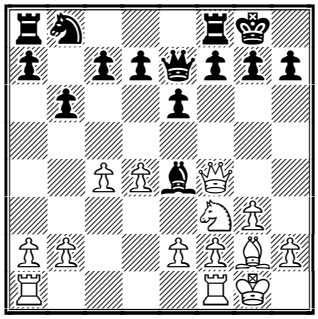
Isaak Lipnitsky was born in 1923 in Kiev, Ukraine. He was a strong master, who participated in three USSR Championships. His best result there was in 1950, when he shared 2nd place with Aronin and Tolush, ahead of Smyslov, Boleslavsky, Geller and many other top players. He also won Ukrainian Championships in 1949 and 1956. Lipnitsky made valuable contributions to the opening theory, particularly to the Ragozin Defence (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 ♗b4). His book 'Voprosi Sovremennoi Shakhmatnoi Teorii' (*Problems of the Modern Chess Theory*) is said to be among Fischer's favourites. Lipnitsky died young, aged just 35. Here is one of his games:

□ **I. Lipnitsky**
■ **A. Sokolsky**
The Queen's-Indian Defence – [E16]
17th Ukrainian Ch, Odessa, 1949
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

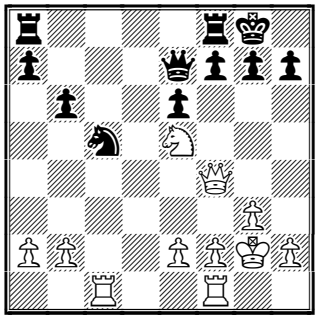
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♗b7 5.♗g2 ♗b4+ 6.♗d2 ♕e7 ***(D)***



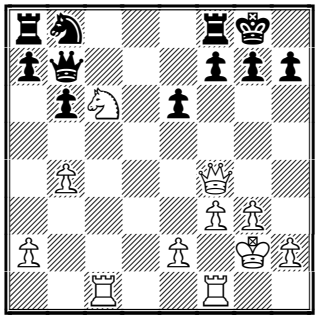
7.0-0 ♗xd2 8.♕xd2
In such positions recapturing with the queen is usually better than taking with the knight – the knight will be more active on c3.
8...0-0 9.♘c3 ♘e4
If Black did not play this move, White would have played 10.Qc2 or 10.d5, keeping more pieces on the board. **10.♘xe4 ♗xe4 11.♕f4!** ***(D)***



This clever move forces Black to play ...d5 – something he won't do otherwise.
11...d5 12.♖ac1 ♘a6 13.cxd5 ♗xd5 14.♘e5 ♗xg2 15.♔xg2 c5 16.dxc5 ♘xc5 ***(D)***



17.b4! ♕b7+ 18.f3 ♘d7 19.♘c6
White has significant advantage in this position, thanks to his active knight. Behind him White is able to develop rooks quicker and better than Black. **19...♘b8?!** ***(D)***



20.♘d8! Nice blow which destroys Black's position.
20...♕e7 Black is lost in all lines:
20...♖xd8? 21.♖c7+-;
20...♕d5 21.♖fd1 ♕f5 22.♕xf5 exf5 23.♖c8+-

20...♕a6 21.♕e4! ♖xd8 22.♕xa8+-.
21.♕e4!+- ♘d7 22.♕xa8 ♖xd8 23.♕xa7 The rest was not necessary...
23...♕g5 24.♖fd1 ♘f8 25.h4 ♕f6 26.♕xb6 ♖a8 27.a4 ♕b2 28.♔f2 g6 29.♕d4 ♕b3 30.♖c7 e5 31.♕c4 ♕xc4 32.♖xc4 ♖xa4 33.♖c8 ♔g7 34.♖b1 ♘d7 35.♖c7 ♘b6 36.b5 ♖a8 37.♖b7 ♘d5 38.b6 ♘c3 39.♖b3 ♘a4 40.♖a7 ♘xb6 41.♖xa8 ♘xa8 42.♖b7! ♔f6 43.♖a7 1-0.

Letters to the Editor

"Hi Alex!

You are doing a great job with Chess Today as usual. Here is what I would suggest to make chess fun, spectacular event and bring more sponsors and affluent players.

I have been reading a lot lately about the problem of quick "draws", comparison to tennis and its popularity, length of chess tournaments, fairness of selection of participants and lack of interest and other major complains about chess. I also considered situation involving chess players who have a 'real' job, especially in US and Western Europe. From my experience, as well as from that of many of my students - cramping 5-6 round Swiss into the weekend, especially after you work pretty hard whole week, and are expected to do the same next day after the tournament, makes you lose your interest very quickly. Taking 2 weeks vacation to participate in a fairly intense US Championship is also not a fun event, I can tell you from personal experience.

Well, here is my proposal - the only way to make chess spectacular, bring more people and eliminate 'draws' is to make knockout events to be a 'golden' standard for chess competitions.

This would solve the 'draw' problem, enabling players to save money on the hotels, etc. Also, people with regular jobs who have the money to spend on chess would have easier time to participate in the events, enjoy them more and easier justify expenses. Bringing more 'non-professionals' will increase visibility of chess and bring more money. It would be much easier to organize, run and participate in various qualification events. This would add to the excitement - just remember Bologan qualifying to the Dortmund and then shocking many by winning it outright. After all, isn't that knockout system which made tennis so successful?

Just some scattered thoughts. Anyone wants to discuss or get in touch, please do so.

IM Igor Khmelnitsky,
http://www.IamCoach.com"

Solution to our quiz:

Charousek-Chigorin: **18.♗c7!+- fxe6** (Or 18...♖xc7 19.♖xf7#; 18...♕xc7 19.♖xf7+ ♔d8 20.♖d7+ ♕xd7 21.♕xd7#) **19.♗xd8+ ♖xd8 20.♕b7+ ♖d7 21.♖f7+ ♔xf7 22.♕xd7+ ♗e7 23.♖e1 ♖e8 24.b3 ♔f8 25.bxc4 1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

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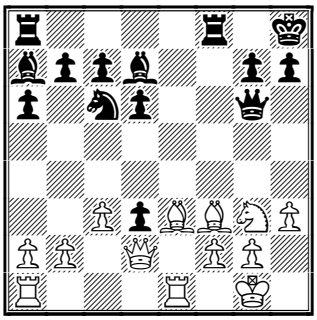
Chess Quiz

Kosteniuk – Mamedyarov
4th YM Lausanne, SUI 2003



Black to play

Chess News

Three Arrows Cup in Ji Nan China

The games in the 2nd and the 3rd rounds were nearly all decisive. There was only one game out of 8 that ended in a draw. Bareev, Short and Seirawan won their games in both rounds. The Chinese are in a difficult position for the time being.

Results of round 2:

Seirawan– Xie Jun 1–0
Short – Zhu Chen 1–0
Xu Yuhua – Bareev 0–1
Zhao Xue – Ye Jiangchuan ½–½

Results of round 3:

Zhao Xue – Seirawan 0–1
Xu Yuhua – Short D 0–1
Bareev – Zhu Chen 1–0
Ye Jiangchuan – Xie Jun 1–0

Standings after 3 rounds:
1.Bareev – 3.0
2. Seirawan – 2½
3–4. Ye Jiangchuan, Short – 2.0
5. Xie Jun – 1.0
6–8. Zhu Chen. Xu Yuhua , Zhao Xue – ½

Official Site (In Chinese)

The 4th Lausanne Young Masters

The winners of the first round are playing in the 2nd round (semi-finals) to determine the top 4 places.

Semi-finals (round 1 ?):
McShane – Mamedyarov ½–½
Bacrot – Naiditsch 1–0

Results of the players fighting for the 5th – 8th places:

Kosteniuk – Paehtz 1–0
Karjakin – Papa 1–0

Official website

Chess Documentary

by John Henderson

Chess gets set for the red carpet treatment, as the 10th Sheffield International Documentary Festival opens on 13th October with the UK premiere of "Game Over: Kasparov And The Machine".

The film is the first release from the newly-formed World Documentary Fund, dedicated to the production of feature-length documentaries to follow on from the success of Michael Moore's "Bowling For Columbine". The fund is a co-production between the BBC, the UK Film Council and the National Film Board of Canada.

Acclaimed director Vikram Jayanti, the man also behind the award-winning "When We Were Kings" and "The Man Who Bought Mustique", will accompany his new film to this year's festival, and will be the subject of a master-class where he will talk candidly about his experience of making the documentary.

Last week the film premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in Canada to enthusiastic reviews. Far from making chess "boring", Jayanti's film – seen as an everyday story of psychological

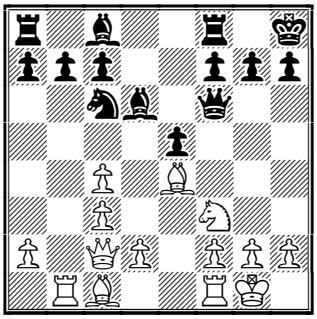
warfare, personal pride, paranoia, deflated egos and corporate ambition – is being talked-up by the critics as a slick and surprisingly suspenseful investigation into Garry Kasparov's infamous 1997 loss to IBM's Deep Blue.

To this day, Kasparov is still smarting over his defeat to the silicon monster, and he raises the spectre of "cheating" with a claim of human intervention during critical moves. Kasparov passionately believes in the conspiracy theory that he was "used" by IBM in order to gain computer supremacy over the competition.

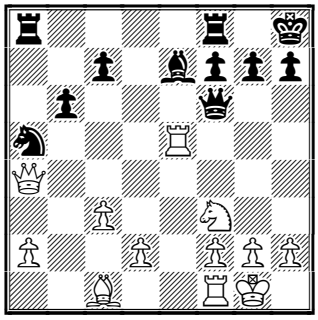
Annotated Game

□ **E. Bareev (2721)**
■ **Zhao Xue (2467)**
Three Arrows Cup Ji Nan CHN (1),
English Opening – [A18]

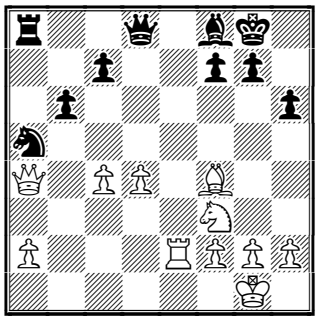
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 d4 5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3 ♕xf6 7.♘f3 e5 8.♗d3 ♗d6 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♖b1 0-0 11.♕c2 ♔h8 12.♗e4 *(D)*



12...♘a5N
Black's position is not easy after 12...♕e7 13.♖e1 ♗e6 14.♖xb7 ♘d8 15.♖b1 c6 16.d4 f5 17.dxe5 fxe4 18.exd6 ♕xd6 19.♘g5 ♗xc4 20.♕xe4 ♗d3 21.♗a3 ♗xe4 22.♗xd6 ♗xb1 23.♗xf8 ♗g6 24.♖e7 ♖b8 25.h4 ♖b7 26.♗xg7+ ♔g8 27.♖xb7 Morovic Fernandez,I-Van Riemsdijk,H/Buenos Aires 1990 1–0; Possibly, it is worth trying 12...h6 ?
13.♕a4
The pawn sacrifice looks promising for White after: 13.d4!? ♘xc4 14.♕d3 ♘b6 15.♗g5 ♕e6 16.dxe5 ♗xe5 17.♗xh7 with the initiative(or even *17.♘xe5 ♕xe5 18.♖b5 c5 19.f4 ♕c7 20.f5* with compensation for the pawn.*)*
13...♗f5 14.♗xf5 ♕xf5 15.♖b5
15.♗a3 is better met by 15...♗xa3 *(15...♘xc4 16.♕xc4 ♗xa3 17.♕xc7 e4 18.♘d4±; 15...b6 16.c5!±)* 16.♕xa5! ♗d6 17.♖xb7 c5 18.d4 e4 19.♘e5 e3! 20.fxe3 ♕e4 21.♖bxf7 ♕xe3+ 22.♔h1 ♕e2 23.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 24.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 25.♘f3 ♕f1+ 26.♘g1 ♕xc4 and it is not easy for White to convert his extra pawn.
15...b6 16.c5 ♗e7 17.cxb6 axb6 18.♖xe5 ♕f6 *(D)*



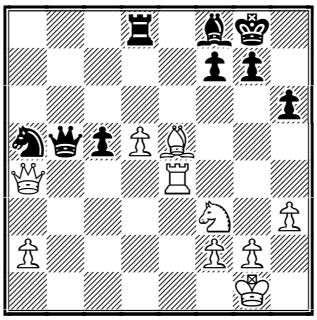
White has managed to win a pawn, but it is not that easy to convert it: Black does not have any weak sides and the white pawn on a2 needs protection.
19.♕c2 ♗d6 20.♖e2 ♖fe8 21.♖fe1 ♖xe2 22.♖xe2 h6 23.d4 ♕d8 24.c4 ♔g8 25.♕a4 ♗f8 26.♗f4 *(D)*



26...c5?!
It is clear that Black wants to fix the c4-pawn but from the f8-bishop's "point of view" this move looks anti-positional. Moreover, White gains a strong passed pawn. The alternative is 26...♕c8 27.h3 ♗d6
27.d5 ♕f6 28.♗e5 ♕f5 29.♕c2 ♕d7 30.h3 b5
Having no opportunity of attacking the c4-pawn, Black is forced to exchange it.
31.cxb5 ♕xb5 32.♖e4?!
An incorrect idea. Better is 32.♗g3 c4 33.d6 ♘b7 34.♖d2 ♖d8 35.d7 ♖xd7 36.♖xd7 ♕xd7 37.♕xc4 ♕d1+

38.♔h2±

32...♖d8 33.♕a4?! (D)



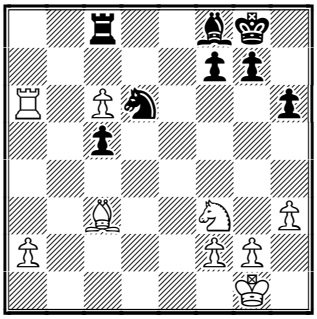
33...♕b6?

It was not worth trusting the elite grandmaster, all of them contrive to deceive their weaker opponents! [It is unclear how White was going to win after 33...♕xa4! 34.♖xa4 ♘b7 35.♖a7 ♘d6 It is impossible to protect the d5-pawn and losing it White loses his advantage.

34.♗c3 ♘b7 35.♕c6 ♕xc6!?

It seemed that there was no reason for exchange here! [The following looks more stubborn 35...♕b1+ 36.♖e1 ♕d3 37.♕xb7 ♕xc3

36.dxc6 ♘d6 37.♖a4 ♖c8 38.♖a6 *(D)*



38...f6?!

Black has more chances if he plays proactively: 38...♘e4! 39.♗e5 c4! 40.c7 f6 41.♗h2 ♗c5±

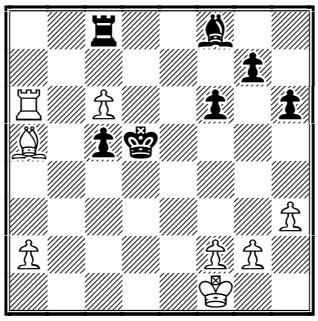
39.♘d2 ♔f7 40.♘b3?!

Defending by 40.f3± ♔e6 White avoids dangerous counterplay.; The tricky 40.♗a5 ♔e6 41.♔f1 ♔d5 42.♘b1! ♘c4 43.♘c3+ ♔e5 44.♘b5 ♘xa5 45.♘a7! ♖c7 46.♖xa5± led to the advantage.

40...♘c4!?

40...♘b5! 41.♗a5 c4 42.♘a1 equalised chances. (After *42.♘d2* White also runs the risk of being defeated: *42...c3 43.♘b3 c2 44.c7 ♘d4!∓)* 42...♘d4! 43.c7 ♗c5=

41.♘a5 ♘xa5 42.♗xa5 ♔e6 43.♔f1 ♔d5 *(D)*



Black's strongly placed king is a sufficient compensation for the pawn; chances are equal.

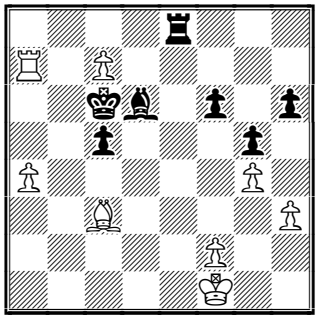
44.c7 ♗d6 45.♖a7 ♖e8

45...c4 46.♔e2 ♔c6 47.a4 *(47.g4 ♗c5–+)* 47...h5=

46.a4 g5?!

gives White a new target to attack. 46...c4 47.♖b7 ♖c8 48.♔e2 ♔c6=

47.g4 ♔c6 48.♗c3 *(D)*



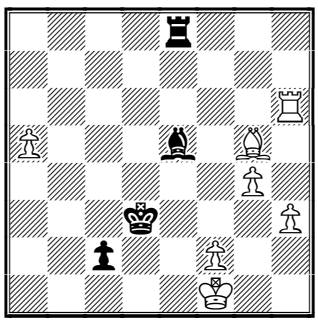
48...♗xc7?!

More stubborn is 48...♖c8 49.♖a6+ *(49.♗xf6 ♔b6–+)* 49...♔d5 without the rook release.

49.♖a6+ ♔d5 50.♖xf6 ♔c4 51.♗d2 ♔d3

The bishop endgame after 51...♖d8 52.♔e2 ♖d6 53.♖xd6 ♗xd6 54.♔f3 ♗b8 55.a5 ♔b5 56.♔e4+− is lost for Black.

52.♗e3 ♗e5 53.♖xh6 c4 54.♗xg5 c3 55.a5 c2 *(D)*



Having given up all the rest of his pawns, Black led his passed pawn to c2 but it failed to make the final step.

56.a6

This position is complex and I did not manage to find a win: 56.♔g2 ♘d4 **A)** 57.♖d6 ♖e2 58.a6 ♖xf2+ 59.♔g3 ♖f7 60.♘c1 ♔e4 61.♖c6 ♔d3 62.♘h6 *(62.g5 ♖f1=)* 62...♖e7; **B)** 57.♖c6 57...♖e5 58.♖xc2 ♔xc2 59.♘f6 ♖d5 60.♘xd4 ♖xd4 61.♔g3 ♔d3 62.h4 ♔e4]

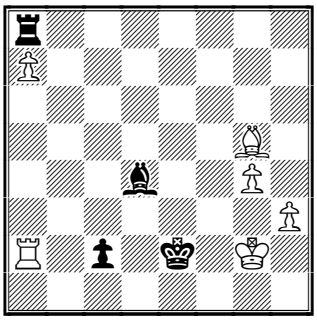
56...♖f8 57.a7?!

simplifies Black's defensive problems. [but even after the better 57.♖c6 ♘f4 58.♘e7 *(58.♘xf4 ♖xf4 59.♔g2 ♖a4=)* 58...♖b8 it looks like a draw.

57...♘d4 58.♖d6 ♖xf2+ 59.♔g1 ♖f8+ 60.♔g2 ♔c4

60...♖a8=

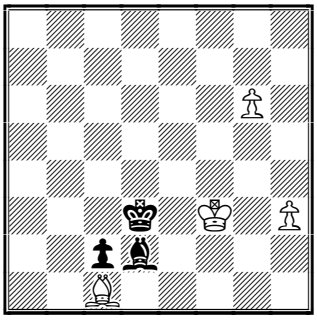
61.♖a6 ♖a8 62.♖a4+ ♔d3 63.♖a3+ ♔e2 64.♖a2 *(D)*



64...♔d3?

White does not have a way to victory after 64...♔d1! 65.h4 ♖xa7 66.♖xa7 ♘xa7 67.h5 ♘d4 68.h6 ♘f6 with countless attacks on the white bishop.

65.♘c1!+− ♖xa7 66.♖xa7 ♘xa7 67.♔f3 ♘c5 68.g5 ♘b4 69.g6 ♘d2 *(D)*



70.g7!

Now White wins easily.

70...♘xc1 71.g8♕ ♘d2 72.♕b3+ ♘c3 73.♕b5+ ♔d2 74.♕d5+ ♔e1 75.♕d3 1−0.

Book Reviews

by Andy Ansel

Bobby Fischer Rediscovered

(by Andrew Soltis. Publisher: Batsford. 287 pages, list price $24.95)

One popular web site recently wrote that there were enough books on Bobby Fischer, why do we need more? Personally, I was quite excited to receive this new book on Fischer by Soltis. Obviously the 'best' book on Fischer is his own book, *My 60 Memorable Games,* which has long been out of print and is very hard (or expensive) to find. Also the book ends with Sousse 1967, and Fischer did play a few more years after that. Recently there have been two very good books on Fischer, one by Agur, *Bobby Fischer: His Approach to Chess* and a Eastern European production, *Russians vs. Fischer.* The question I had to ask is what does this new book add to the Fischer literature?

First I did a quick examination and found that a few of the games were indeed in *60 Memorable Games* which is not surprising since they were among Fischer's best games. A quick (and hopefully accurate) check showed that 26 of the games were in Fischer's tome (here are the games for those interested. Reference numbers refer to the game number in Fischer's book. The duplicate games are: **2**, 4, 5, 11, 13, 16, 21, 22, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 45, 46, 48, 54, 56, 57, 59 and 60. Thirty two of the games selected by Soltis were played after Sousse 1967. Thus there are still quite a few games of the *60 Memorable Games* era. Now on to the book itself

I must admit I have always liked Soltis' writing style. I think he does an excellent job of giving good notes to the games; some are original while others are taken from various sources. I also feel in his game selection, he chose to give a feel of the event and the situation which makes one better appreciate Fischer's style, skill and overall play. In my opinion the highlights of the book are Soltis'

personal comments on Fischer, and the US chess scene which are interspersed throughout the book in game introductions, conclusions and the games themselves. These comments come from various sources but add considerably to the feeling of 'knowing' Bobby.

I think that Soltis has provided a worthwhile addition to the Fischer books. The book reads well, has lots of interesting tidbits, and of course has plenty of great games with enjoyable notes. One comment regarding the title that left a previous reviewer confused. I found Soltis made a perfectly interesting statement in the author's note which is how I think he derived the title. "Thirty years later, I looked at Fischer's games for the first time since they were played. What struck me is that they fell into two categories. Some were, in fact, overrated. But many more were underrated — if known at all. And his originality, so striking at the time, had been lost with time. It seemed to me Fischer deserved an entirely new look."

I feel that Soltis has fulfilled his goal and added a very worthwhile addition to chess literature. ***I strongly recommend this book.***

Solution to Chess Quiz:
Kosteniuk – Mamedyarov
4th YM Lausanne, SUI 2003

22...♖xf3! 23.gxf3
23.♗xa7 ♖xg3–+
23...♘e5 24.♕d1 d2! 25.♖e2
25.♗xd2 ♕xg3+
25...♘xf3+–+ 26.♔g2 ♖f8
Immediately winning is 26...♕e6 27.♔xf3 *(27.♕h1 ♗c6–+)* 27...♗c6+ 28.♔f4 g5+ 29.♔xg5 ♖g8+
27.♗xd2 ♗c6 28.♗e3 ♕e6 29.♕c1 ♘d4+ 0–1.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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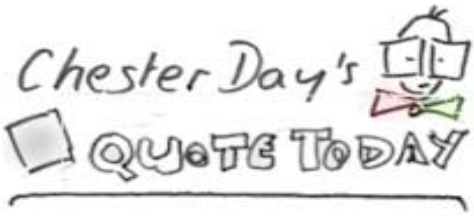


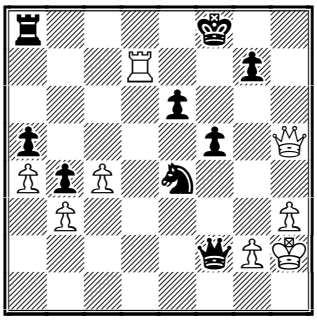
If the student forces
himself to examine
all moves that smite,
however absurd they
may look at first glance,
he is on the way to
becoming a master
of tactics.

--- Cecil J. S. Purdy

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-264 (1048) 21st September 2003

Chess Quiz

Jedynak-Sapis
Lubniewice (4), 02.09.2003



Black to play
White threatens checkmate. Black can draw with 32...♕g3+ 33.♔h1 ♕e1+, etc. But can he do better?

Chess News

Yasser Seirawan and Evgeny Bareev have shared first place at the Three Arrows Cup.

Round 4 results:
Seirawan – Xu Yuhua 1:0
Short – Zhao Xue 1:0
Xie Jun – Bareev ½:½
Zhu Chen – Ye Jiangchuan ½:½

Final standings:
1-2. Seirawan, Bareev – 3½
3. Short – 3
4. Ye Jiangchuan – 2½
5. Xie Jun – 1½
6. Zhu Chen – 1
7-8. Xu Yuhua, Zhao Xue – ½
The total score Kings – Queens is 12½:3½

Official Site (In Chinese)

Etienne Bacrot and Luke McShane will fight for the trophy at the Lausanne Young Masters.

The second day results:
Round 1 winners
McShane – Mamedyarov ½:½ ½:½ tiebreak 1:0 1:0
Bacrot – Naiditsch 1:0 ½:½

Results of the players fighting for 5-8 places:

Kosteniuk – Paehtz 1:0 ½:½
Karjakin – Papa 1:0 1:0

Final pairings:
For 1st place
Bacrot – McShane
For 3rd place
Mamedyarov – Naiditsch
For 5th place
Karjakin – Kosteniuk
For 7th place
Paehtz – Papa

Official website

Svidler Interview

The following interview appeared on the website on 17th September 2003 – Russian version. We were happy to receive its translation from Jim Marfia, whom we are happy to welcome to the CT team! A few words him: James Marfia ('Fluffybunnyfeet' online) lives in West Michigan, USA, where long ago he was the translator of *Zurich 1953*, by David Bronstein. A former master and Michigan State Champion, he has retired from tournament chess, but still plays online and by e-mail. He joins *Chess Today* to deal with one of his long-standing complaints, which is: Why is so much great chess journalism (annotations, interviews, tournament reports) only available to the 15% of the world's chess playing population that reads Russian? He will be translating such worthwhile pieces on an occasional basis.

Peter Svidler: "To Prove Myself More Often"

Interview with Mark Glukhovsky

Q: *Peter, allow us to congratulate you on your latest success. This makes the fourth time that you have become Russia's Champion. Why do you think*

it is that you play so successfully in the Russian Championships?
— I have no ideas whatsoever on the subject. In fact, I don't even want to think about it, because I'm afraid that, if I did understand the cause, then I might never have it so good again...

Q: *Which one of the four Championships you have won means the most to you?*
— Well, I can only choose among three of them, because the first one, in 1994, is beyond comparison. The 1997 Championship, where we used the knockout-system, was most memorable, since, if you will recall, I had to fight back in three of those matches, having lost the first game in each of them. I showed myself something then. But this Championship was the best - not just because I won, but first and foremost, because I played well. That is, if I'm allowed to talk that way about myself.

Photo by Evgeny Atarov

Q: *Just because you really did play well, it seems fair to me that your tie-breaks ended up higher than Alexander Morozevich's.*
— I doubt Sasha would agree with you. By the way, right until the end of the tournament I did not know that I had the better tie-breaks, and didn't know that I would win. I was told that my Buchholz was higher; but I didn't know by how much. During a tournament, I never think about such things. As far as quality goes, Sasha also played brilliantly, if you don't count his first game and the game against me. In any case, winning six games in a tournament like this is a wonderful achievement.

Q: *Which of your games did you like best?*
— Of course, the most important game — the one from round 6, against Morozevich. Maybe there wasn't anything spectacular in it, but there was a clash of ideas. Sasha played a line of the Russian Defense where Black either stands very well, or very badly.
My second good game was with Volkov — everybody liked that one. I'll tell you something about it, since I was "on the inside". I only took a minute and a half deciding to sacrifice the pawn. But then, I went into a half-hour think, and saw that Black was still pretty solid — two bishops, an extra pawn... I saw that I would have to create something in the next three moves or so — some threat, or an initiative. That was why I sacrificed the rook — not because of a love of brilliancy, as you might think, but because it was really necessary there.

Q: *What can you say about the tournament organization, and about chess life in Russia on the whole?*
— The organisation was very good. Everything was great — except that the last round started too early. As far as chess life in Russia - well, we're all full of hope and optimism. This is due, in the first place, to the appearance of a new RCF President, Alexander Dmitriyevich Zhukov. He's a very positive, serious man. This was the man we were hoping for, and it looks like we've finally got him.

Q: *Your impressions of Krasnoyarsk — have you ever been this far East before?*
— I've already been to Siberia — to Tobolsk; but it wasn't for chess. I remember, they took us to the river, there was a monastery on the river, with woods all around... very moving. Here I got a chance to look at the Yenisei [River], but only out of my hotel window. There was almost no free time for us.

Q: *What was your tournament schedule like?*
— Play the game, prepare for the next game, read.

Q: *Any special sort of book?*
— Nah - I read the same stuff I do at home. When I packed my suitcase, I just threw in a book.

Q: *You've been playing exceptionally well lately. After your youthful breakthrough, there was a falling-off, and now comes maturity. What do you*

think is responsible for this?
— Personal reasons, of course — fatherhood.

Q: *There's a common perception that fatherhood must interfere – especially when your kids arrive in pairs!?*
— Yeah, if you believe chess folklore. But as you can see, there are examples to prove the opposite, too.

Q: *Your current rating is somewhere around 2730. Are you noticing some change in the attitudes of the organizers of big tournaments now?*
— I've been invited to Wijk aan Zee next year, but that came even before the Russian Championship. As you know, there are now practically no regular tournaments left — Wijk aan Zee, Linares, Dortmund, and that's about all. Something happens in France from time to time, but not every year.

Q: *And the World Championship is still completely unclear. How would you like to see it?*
— From my point of view, the chief quality of the World Championship is that it must be regular. If we knew that the Championship would be held on some regular schedule, then it would make sense to debate which is better — a knockout, or let's say a knockout event followed by Candidates' Matches.

Q: *Peter, a lot of us remember your less than successful football experience during the "Russia vs. Rest of the World" match, when you ended up playing for our team on crutches. Have your favourite sports undergone any changes since then?*
— I was never any kind of a real football player. Listen, my wife is laughing. This really is a funny story. I really like billiards, and used to play it a lot. When we got the players together before "Russia vs. the Rest of the World", and Anatoly Karpov came in, we made ourselves an appointment to play some Russian billiards. There was a good table there. I had dreamed of this for a long time. In 1999, I couldn't have wiped Karpov's shoes in billiards; but in 2002 — who knows? But before we could play, everybody went out to play football. Anatoly went out to the field, stood by and said: "You can't play on that field, you'll break something." He's a man of experience, he's been to many training camps. So, you understand that we never did get to play our game of billiards. After that, we saw each other again in Poikovsky; but there the Siberians, for all their hospitality, didn't have a billiard table.

Q: *What other sports do you like?*
— Cricket. What do you mean, I know the rules?! I'm a real fanatic. I believe that in Russia, I am one of cricket's leading fans. I keep up with all the news, and keep the results in Excel-files; I record cassettes and burn DVDs of matches.

Q: *That's crazy, man. Where do you play?*
— I played once — with Nigel Short, in Greece. Not on a real pitch, of course — not '11 against 11', but just whacking it around — that I can do.

Q: *Let's get back to chess — which chess-player was or remains your hero?*
— Mikhail Tal, more than anybody. What I like about him is that he managed to remain his own man, even after reaching the top.

Q: *It's said that very few succeed at this.*
— I can't judge, since I've never been there, myself. But I doubt it's an easy thing to do.

Q: *How far does your professional ambition stretch?*
— I would like to play against top-class GMs more often, to have the opportunity to test myself. The days when I used to complain about my life – those days are gone. I did drop out of the group who gets invited to the super-tournaments; but that was my own fault. I am playing better now, and I hope that, if I do my job well, then sooner or later, somebody will appreciate it.

Q: *How many games a year do you play?*
— In classical chess — about 80; I

play a lot for various clubs. I love team events: in the near future, I will be playing for Club NAO in the European Championship.

Q: *And of course, for Russia?*
— The team has not yet been announced, but I very much hope that Russia will send its strongest line-up. We should take the title that is ours by right.

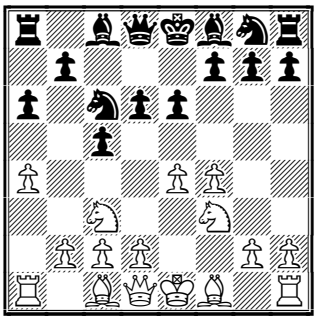
Annotated Game

I included this game into Top 10 for the weekly poll on ChessWorldRating. Kasparov and Ivanchuk liked it, even if they will never copy White's play in the opening.

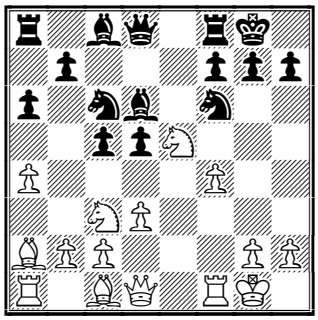
□ **R. Antoniewski (2499)**
■ **R. Kempinski (2565)**
Lubniewice, Polish Super-League (7), 05.09.2003
Sicilian Defence, Grand Prix Attack – *[B23]*

Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

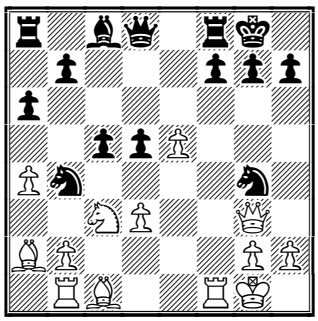
1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 d6 3.f4 a6 4.a4 ♘c6 5.♘f3 e6 *(D)*



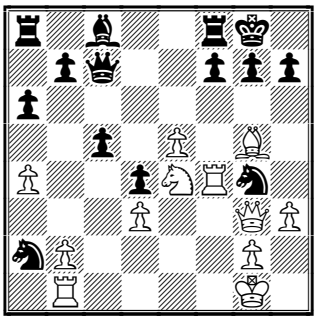
6.♗c4?!
Persuading the opponent to advance the d-pawn further. White hopes to put pressure upon d5 later on, but Black's defensive resources are quite sufficient and all this makes the white light-squared bishop rather passive. If White didn't want to play the main lines of the Sicilian he could choose 6.g3, but the strongest continuation here is 6.d4 cxd4 7.♘xd4 ♘f6 8.♗e3, obtaining a common position from the Scheveningen Variation.
6...♘f6 7.0-0 d5 8.exd5 exd5 9.♗a2 ♗e7 10.d3
Here 10.d4 is dubious due to the weakness of the e4-square.
10...0-0 11.♘e5 ♗d6 *(D)*



12.♕f3!?
At least White can't be reproached for inconsequence.
12...♘d4!
After 12...♗xe5 13.fxe5 ♘xe5 14.♕g3 ♘g6 15.♗g5 White has compensation for a pawn.
13.♕f2 ♗xe5
Black gets involved in sharp play. A gradual improvement of the position with 13...b5 was good too.
14.fxe5 ♘g4 15.♕g3 ♘xc2 16.♖b1 ♘b4 *(D)*



17.h3
The knight has no retreat from g4 therefore Black has to create counter-threats.
17...d4! 18.♘e4 ♘xa2
This natural capture is forced. In case of 18...♘e3 19.♗xe3 dxe3 20.♘f6+ ♔h8 21.♘xh7! ♔xh7 22.♗xf7 g5 23.♕f3 g4 24.♕e4+ ♔h8 25.♖f6 White wins.
19.♗g5!?
19.hxg4 would have closed the file which White had appointed for the offensive.
19...♕d7
Better was 19...♕d5!, attacking the e5-pawn and if 20.♗f6!, then 20...♘b4 21.hxg4 ♕e6! - eliminating the g4-pawn Black manages to parry the threats to his king.
20.♖f4! ♕c7? *(D)*



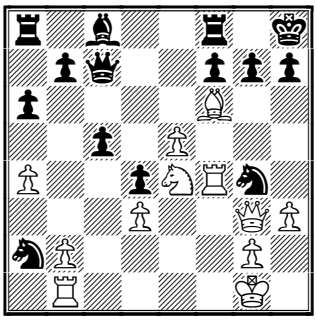
The loss of tempi is fatal in such positions. Black should have played 20...♘xe5 21.♘f6+ gxf6 22.♗xf6+ ♘g6 23.♕g5 ♕e6 24.♕h6 ♕xf6 25.♖xf6 ♘b4, with more than sufficient material and positional compensation for the queen.

21.♗f6?!

This spectacular move isn't the simplest way to win. Maybe it even misses the victory. ***21.♖xg4*** ♗xg4 22.♕xg4 ♔h8 won't do, but after ***21.♘f6+!*** ♔h8 (21...gxf6 22.♗xf6 h5 23.hxg4+−) 22.hxg4 ♕xe5 23.♕h4 ♕e3+ 24.♔h2 ♕xd3 25.♖e4 White wins the queen with decisive advantage.

Now after 21...gxf6 22.♘xf6+ ♔h8 White continues his attack by 23.hxg4 (23.♕h4 ♘xf6 24.♕xf6+ ♔g8=) 23...♕xe5 (or 23...♖g8 24.♕h4 ♖g7 25.♖bf1, followed by the rook lifting towards the h-file) 24.♕h4 ♕e3+ 25.♔h1 ♕xd3 26.♖e1! ♕g6 27.♖e5 h6 28.♖h5 ♔g7 29.g5! and Black's defence should fall, for example: 29...♗e6 (29...♖h8 30.gxh6+ ♔f8 31.h7) 30.♖xh6 ♖h8 31.♘h5+ ♔g8 32.♖xh8+ ♔xh8 33.♖f6 ♕b1+ 34.♔h2.

21...♔h8 ***(D)***



22.♗xg7+! ♔xg7 23.♘f6 ♖h8?

The only way to go on fighting was to play 23...♕xe5! 24.♖xg4+ ♔xf6 25.♕h4+ (25.♖f1+? ♗f5) 25...♔e6 26.♖e1 ♕xe1+ 27.♕xe1+ ♔d6 and position remains unclear. It is White's turn to show some ingenuity. The possible continuation is 28.♖g5 f5 29.♕g3+ f4 30.♕f3 ♘b4 31.♕e4↑.

24.e6! ♔f8

24...♕e5 loses to 25.♘xg4 ♕xe6 26.♖bf1 ♔f8 27.♖xf7+ ♕xf7 28.♕d6+ ♔e8 29.♘f6+. Both ***24...♗xe6*** 25.♖xg4+ ♗xg4 26.♕xc7 ♔xf6 27.♖f1+! mating, and ***24...♕xf4*** 25.♕xf4 ♘xf6 26.♕g5+ are hopeless for Black as well.

25.♘d5

Black resigned. **1−0.** Note that while attacking, White had many occasions to take the g4-knight, but in the final position it's still on the board!

Solution to our quiz:

Jedynak−Sapis:

32...♕h1+! 0−1.

White resigned in view of 33.♔xh1 ♘g3+ 34.♔h2 ♘xh5−+.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us − we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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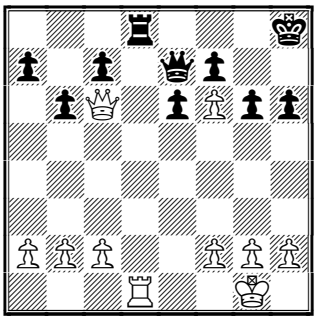
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-265 (1049) 22nd September 2003

Chess Quiz

Paglilla – Carbone
Argentina, 1985



White to play

Chess News

by GM Mikhail Golubev

The first games of decisive matches at the 4th Lausanne Young Masters tournament were played on the 21st September were played. Bacrot and McShane, who now play for first place, agreed to a draw in position where Black had certain counterplay but hardly full compensation for White's extra pawn. Mamedyarov easily won against Naiditsch, as did Karjakin against Kosteniuk (these '2Ks' already played a match in Brissago, Switzerland earlier this year, and Karjakin won with a score 4-2). The game Paehtz-Papa ended in a draw. Everything will be decided on 22nd September.

Official website:

The FIDE Zonal 2.4 takes place in Sao Paulo, September 19-26. Ten players are competing in this Cat. IX robin event. After two rounds played, GMs Granda, Lima and Milos are leading with 1½ points. GMs Mecking and Leitao are in group of players who have 1 point.

Official website

On 18th September the Hungarian GM **Peter Acs** played two rapid chess games against the chess program **Shredder**. Shredder won, 2-0. A Report is available at ChessBase.com.

According to the message on GM Jon Levitt's website, the English teams for the European Team Championships in Plovdiv (October 2003) will be:
Men's Team: J.Speelman 2589, B.Lalic 2503, G.Flear 2527 (captain), P.Wells 2481, J.Levitt 2423.
Women's team: H.Hunt 2402, J.Houska 2350.

GMs on the Ponomariov-Kasparov

Ukrainian sports magazine *Komanda+* made a mini-survey among chess experts. The question asked was: "Who awaits the chess world as the result of cancellation of the Ponomariov-Kasparov match?"
Today we would like to publish two opinions from that survey.

GM Sergey Shipov (Russia), expert of the WorldChessRating website.
"In short – it is the end of the Prague Agreement. In order to unite the chess world we needed good and delicacy will from all the parties. But nobody – I repeat – nobody from the people involved, could restrain his ambitions and try to reach the common goal."

GM Boris Gelfand (Israel).
"I think that cancellation of the match leads to a stalemate and has worsened the already pitiful scene of ruin in the chess world. I don't understand why those points, over which FIDE and Ruslan Ponomariov could not find a compromise, were so important for Ruslan. But I guess that the problems started in January-February, when disrespectful attitude of FIDE's representatives toward the FIDE World Champion laid the foundation of his distrust of that organisation."

This issue is prepared by GM M. Golubev & GM A. Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Where to Play Chess

by GM Alex Baburin

If you are looking for your next tournament, perhaps combining it with a holiday, we hope that you'll find this column useful.

Isle of Man Open

The 12th Monarch Assurance Open starts in the Isle of Man next weekend (27 September – 5 October). It is going to be the strongest Isle of Man Open so far – with 30 GMs, 17 IMs and 5 WGMs! The top players are: Nigel Short (2701), Vladimir Epishin (2642) and Sergey Volkov (2620). If you are a chess pro, it's clearly too late to register (if you look for conditions, etc), but I am sure that late entries from amateurs are welcome!

I played in the Isle of Man many times and had the best result of my career there in 1997 (8 out of 9 and 2827 rating performance). The weather varies a lot, but when it's good, you can enjoy some nice walks in Port Erin. I recommend this tournament very much, so if you can't make it this year, start planning for 2004!
Official website

Sao Paulo Open

The tournament is on 27 September – 5 October: 180 players; 9 rounds (IM and GM norms possible); total prize fund is about US$8,000. Venue: Clube de Xadrez Sao Paulo (founded in 1902). The club's president is IM Herman Claudius van Riemsdijk.
Official website

Western States Open (Reno)

The tournament is on 17–19 October in Sands Regency Hotel/Casino, 345 N. Arlington Ave., Reno, NV 89501. Prizes in the Open section: $3,000, $1,500, $1,100, $1,000, etc.
Organiser: Jerry Weikel: phone 775-747-1405; e-mail: wackyykl@aol.com

The 3rd Bangkok Chess Club Open

The 3rd BCC Open will be held between 22–26 of October at Amari Orchid Resort at Pattaya. It will be a 9-round Swiss open.
Official website

CURAÇAO 2003 Open

Followed the success of their 2002 tournament, *the Curaçao 1962–2002 Chess Foundation* is organising another tournament this year – on 24 October – 3 November. The first prize is $3,000. Registration closes on 14th October or when the limit of 80 players is reached. GMs Jan Timman, Robert Hübner, Boris Gulko and Julio Granda Zuniga have been invited and have confirmed their participation
Official website

7th Corsica Open

100,000 euro in prizes. About 100 GMs and IMs among 400 players, including Anand, Topalov, Shirov and Gelfand.

Tournament of Bastia: 29–31 October. 9 rounds; time control is 50 minutes per game with 10 seconds per move increment. Prize fund: 30,000 euro, with 4,000 euro for first.

Corsica Masters: 31 October – 3 November. 9 rounds; time control is 10 minutes per game with 5 seconds per move increment. After 9 rounds there will be knockout matches with 20 minutes and 5 second increment.
Prize fund: 70,000 euro, with 20,000 euro for first. Please note that it is possible to play in both tournaments.

Official website

Opens in the Czech Republic

The Czech Tour (director – Dr. Jan Mazuch, j.mazuch@avekont.cz) organises a series of tournaments in the Czech Republic. FIDE-rated Swiss open in Znojmo is on at the moment (20–27 September). The next tournament in the series will be

4th International Open Liberec 2003, taking place on 25 October – 1 November in the Jizerske Mountains. The Czech Republic is still a relatively inexpensive place to visit, with good food and fantastic beer!
Official website

7th Bavarian Masters Open

This popular tournament will take place on 8-16 November in Bad Wiessee, Germany. The first prize is 3,000 euro. Last year the Open saw 510 players competing! I played there once and it was a pleasant experience – they tournament is very friendly, while the town of Bad Wiessee is located at a beautiful lake.
Official website

Kilkenny Open

This popular tournament is always on the last weekend of November – this year it's on 28-30 November. This 6-round Open is not FIDE rated, which, along with nice atmosphere, attracts many GMs from UK and other countries. Prizes are not high, it is more of a social event. Such players as Adams, Timman, Hodgson, Tiviakov and Rozentalis competed there.
Contact: tournament's chief organiser Jack Lowry: phone/fax: (353-56)-222-21.

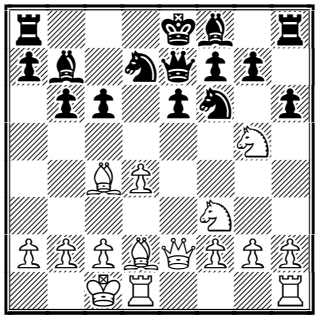
To conclude this material, I would like to mention a great tournament calendar website - http://www.chess-calendar.nl/

Annotated Game

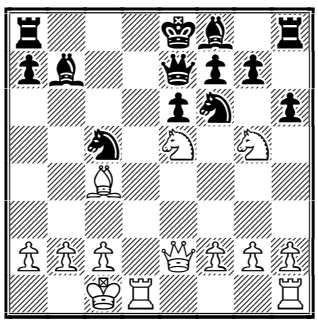
□ **L. Stein**
■ **S. Flohr**
26th Ukrainian Championship Kiev (13), 27.05.1957
Caro-Kann – [B17]
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

Strangely, it's not so easy to find the following fascinating battle in computer databases, where the young 22 year old, Lenoid stein (then the debutante of the Ukrainian Championship) faced 48 year old Salo Flohr. The game was seriously annotated by Eduard Gufeld and Efim Lazarev in their book 'Leonid Stein' (Moscow 1980). It certainly still deserves to be revisited!

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗c4 ♘gf6 6.♘g5 e6 7.♕e2 ♕e7?!
Modern theory considers 7...♘b6 as Black's best defence against 8.♘xf7.
8.♗d2 b6 9.0-0-0 ♗b7 10.♘1f3 h6 *(D)*



10...0-0-0 11.♘e5! (Gufeld/Lazarev) gives initiative to White.
11.♗b4!?
11.♘e4 with better chances according to the majority of professionals. But Stein decides to win by a direct attack - and everything begins!
11...c5!
Not 11...♕xb4 12.♘xf7! ♕xc4 (if *12...♔xf7? 13.♕xe6+ ♔g6 14.♗d3+ ♔h5 15.♕h3#)* 13.♕xc4 ♔xf7 14.♘e5+!? ♘xe5 15.dxe5 ♘d5 16.♕g4 with an extremely dangerous initiative.
12.dxc5 bxc5 13.♗xc5! ♘xc5
The lines 13...♗xf3? 14.♕xf3 ♕xc5 15.♕xa8+; and 13...♕xc5? 14.♘xf7 ♗xf3 15.gxf3 ♕xc4 16.♕xc4 ♔xf7 17.♕c7 are very bad for Black.
14.♘e5! *(D)*



14...♘fd7
As we'll see, this gives White a clear advantage. Black could try the underestimated 14...hxg5!? 15.♗b5+

♘fd7 , and here, it's not easy for White to exchange everything on d7. 16.♖xd7! is probably correct. (After *16.♗xd7+ ♘xd7 17.♖xd7 ♕b4!* Black should be OK.; Certainly bad is *16.♘xd7? 0–0–0!!)* 16...♘xd7 17.♗xd7+ , and here Black faces an important choice. 17...♔d8!? *(17...♕xd7 18.♘xd7 ♔xd7 19.♖d1+ ♗d6! 20.♕b5+! ♗c6 21.♕xg5* is possibly (!) better for White*)* , and now only 18.♗c6!! gives White sufficient compensation. After 18...♔c8 19.♕b5! ♖b8 20.♗d7+ ♔c7 21.♕a5+ ♔d6 22.b4! ♗d5 23.♖e1 ♖xb4 24.♕xb4+ ♔c7 25.♕a5+ ♔b7 26.♖e3! Black is in trouble.; Note that 14...a6?! 15.♘exf7!? hxg5 16.♘xh8 ♗xg2 17.♖he1 favours White.

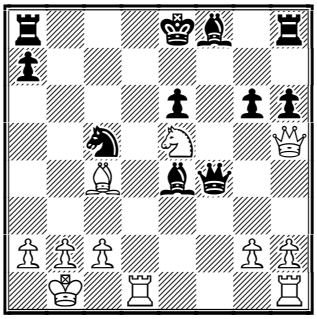
15.♘gxf7 ♘xe5 16.♘xe5 ♕g5+! 17.f4! ♕xf4+ 18.♔b1 ♗e4!

The last four moves by Black were forced, and White had nothing stronger as well.

19.♕h5+

But this was inaccurate. After 19.♗b5+! ♔e7 20.♘d7! (The astonishing *20.♖d5!?* should be mentioned*)* 20...♗d3!? (what else?) 21.♖xd3 ♘xd3 22.cxd3!± (with the idea of 23.♘e5) Black hardly would survive White's activity.

19...g6! *(D)*



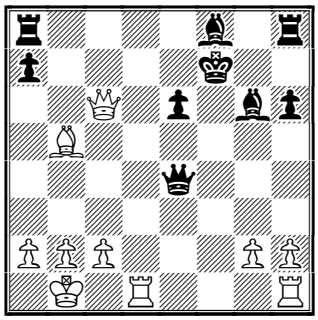
20.♗b5+

Interesting decision. The 'main' line goes 20.♘xg6 ♕g5!! (Losing is *20...♗xc2+ 21.♔xc2 ♕xc4+ 22.♔b1 ♕e4+ 23.♔a1;* as well as *20...♗xg6 21.♕xg6+ ♕f7* – or 21...♔e7 22.♖hf1! – *22.♗b5+ ♔e7 23.♕g3!* – Gufeld/Lazarev*)* 21.♗b5+ ♔f7 22.♘e5+!? (After *22.♘xh8+ ♔g8* , trapping the knight, and it's not easy to prove White's advantage – even if any...*)* 22...♔f6 23.♖hf1+ , and here: **A)** 23...♗f5?! 24.♕f3! (better than *24.♕f7+ ♔xe5 25.♖de1+ ♔d6 26.♖d1+ ♔e5=* , Gufeld/Lazarev*)* , and Black has a difficult life. 24...♗d6 Doesn't help because of 25.♖xd6! ♔xe5 26.♖d7! ♘xd7 27.♕c3+ ♔d6 28.♖d1++–; **B)** 23...♔xe5! 24.♕h3! ♗d5! 25.♕c3+ ♔d6 26.♕xh8 , and now 26...♕g7 (?) 27.♕xg7 ♗xg7 28.c4 a6 29.♖f7 ♗e5 30.cxd5 axb5 31.dxe6+ ♔xe6 32.♖h7+– was given by Gufeld/Lazarev, but after 26...♕e5 or maybe 26...♔e7 things are not so clear.

20...♔e7 21.♘xg6+ ♗xg6 22.♕xc5+!

Not 22.♕xg6? ♕g5! (Gufeld/Lazarev), and White is unable to avoid the exchange of queens.

22...♔f7 23.♕c6! ♕e4! *(D)*



Another strictly 'only' move by Flohr – anything else loses.

24.♕d7+

Here Stein missed the rather paradoxical possibility of 24.♖d7+!? ♔g8 25.♕xe4 ♗xe4 26.♖e1! , and White is better! For example, 26...♗d5 (or *26...♗f5 27.g4!)* 27.c4! ♗b4 28.♖e2 a6 29.cxd5 axb5 30.dxe6 .

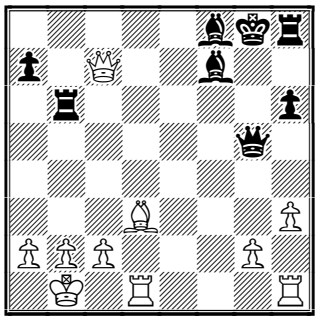
24...♔g8 25.♗d3 ♕g4

In this (still complex) position White's advantage is already under question. Possibly, Stein could try ♖he1 – now, or on the next move.

26.h3 ♕g5 27.♕xe6+ ♗f7 28.♕c6 ♖b8 29.♕c7

29.♖hf1?! ♕e5! is good for Black.

29...♖b6 *(D)*



30.♗c4?!

This allowed the black rook on h8 to enter into play. But what else could White do? 30.♕xa7!? ♕c5! is unclear and quite interesting for Black, who has attacking possibilities.(If *30...♕f6* , then not *31.c3? ♕f2! 32.♗b5 ♕c5!–+* , but 31.b3!*)* ; After 30.♖hf1 , Gufeld and Lazarev considered several options. 30...♗xa2+! is clearly strongest: 31.♔a1! *(31.♔xa2? ♕a5+ 32.♔b1 ♖xb2+!)* , and now 31...♗e6! (both authors mentioned only *31...♕a5* , but it fails to *32.♗h7+! ♖xh7 33.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 34.♖d8#)* 32.♕xa7 ♗c5! – and it's White who has problems in the position.

30...♖h7!

From this moment, Black can play without any real risk of losing.

31.♖hf1 ♖f6! 32.♖xf6 ♕xf6 33.♖f1?

A blunder. White could try to defend his position by 33.♕c8!? (Gufeld/Lazarev)

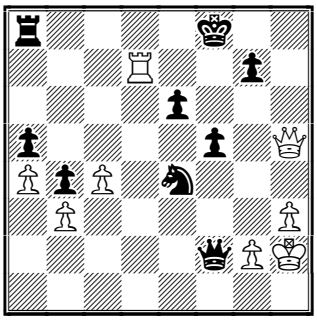
33...♕xf1+!

White resigned in view of 33...♕xf1+ 34.♗xf1 ♗xa2+! 35.♔xa2 ♖xc7 . A nice game – with a lot of very 'clean' tactics, and with some still unsolved mysteries. **0–1.**

Correction

Yesterday in our quiz we gave the following position:

Jedynak–Sapis
Lubniewice (4), 02.09.2003



Black to play

The given solution was: **32...♕h1+! 0–1** White resigned in view of 33.♔xh1 ♘g3+ 34.♔h2 ♘xh5–+. A few people spotted the error – as our reader Jan Matthies (Germany) wrote, "that is a very tricky move 32...♕h1+! and I doubt the queen is allowed to go there from f2 in one move. Unless it is a very special queen! ☺ "

The explanation is simple: the diagrammed position happened in the game after White's 30th move. Black played 30...♕g3+ 31.♔h1 ♕e1+ 32.♔h2 ♕h1+!. Looking at the game, I thought that the queen was already on e1 and that Black simply repeated the position once. So, I decided to make the solution shorter, thus inventing a ***super-queen*** – the one which can move as a knight as well!

Ralph Marconi points out, that Black also wins with 30... ♕f4+!, using the same idea: 31.♔g1 ♕f1+! 32.♔xf1 ♘g3+ or 32.♔h2 ♕h1+! 33.♔xh1 ♘g3+. *(Of course if 31.g3 ♕f2+! 32.♔h1 ♘xg3#.)*

Solution to our quiz:
Paglilla – Carbone
1.♕a8!! 1–0

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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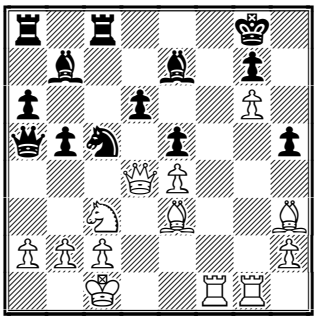
CT-266 (1050) 23rd September 2003

Chess Quiz

M. Tseitlin – Sturua
Daugavpils, 1978



White to play

Chess News

4th Lausanne Young Masters

Luke McShane won the 4th LausanneYoung Masters Tournament. An interview with him is available on the official web site (in French).

Final Rounds results:
1st-2nd
Bacrot – **McShane** ½, 0-1

3rd-4th
Mamedyarov – Naiditsch 1-0, 1-0

5th-6th
Karjakin – Kosteniuk 1-0, ½

7th-8th
Paehtz – **Papa ½,** 0-1

Official website

After four rounds at the FIDE Zonal 2.4 Darcy Lima is leading with 3½ out of 4. Rafael Leitao and Gilberto Milos are in second place with 3 points.

Official website

The 3rd European Championship for Seniors is under way in Saint Vincent, Italy. This is a 9 round tournament. After 5 rounds Jacob Murey (Israel) is in sole lead with a perfect score. Oleg Chernikov (Russia) and Hans Joachim Hecht (Germany) are half a point behind.

Official website

October FIDE Rating List

by GM Alex Baburin

FIDE has published its October list. As always, the top 100 list makes most interesting reading. Below are the top 20 players. The figure next to their rating is the rating change, while the figure in brackets shows the number of games played since the June 2003 list:

1 Kasparov 2830 = (0)
2 Kramnik 2777 – 8 (11)
3 Anand 2766 – 8 (10)
4 Bareev 2739 +18 (11)
5 Shirov 2737 +5 (2)
6 Topalov 2735 = (0)
7 Grischuk 2732 = (0)
8 Adams 2725 +6 (10)
9 Svidler 2723 = (0)
10 Leko 2722 –17 (10)
11 J. Polgar 2722 +4 (9)
12 Ponomariov 2718 = (0)
13 Ivanchuk 2710 = (0)
14 Dreev 2705 +7 (9)
15 Gelfand 2703 +8 (11)
16 Morozevich 2702 +23 (10)
17 Short 2701 = (0)
18 Malakhov 2696 = (0)
19 I. Sokolov 2695 +2 (4)
20 Azmaiparashvili 2693 –9 (7)
21 Karpov 2693 = (0)

As you can see, most gains and losses in this group are small. This is partly due to the fact that top players are not exactly busy nowadays. Still, **Morozevich** (+23) and **Bareev** (+18) made impressive gains.

I don't quite understand why FIDE needed to publish the rating list sooner than usual, particularly if the Russian Championship has not been included. Otherwise Svidler and

Morozevich would move up even further!

Alexei Dreev broke the 2700 barrier for the first time.

One interesting feature of the rating list is that now you can find your standing in the world, even if you are not in the top hundred!

If you are ICC member, you can search the October FIDE rating list online on ICC. For example, if you type "tell roboadmin fide Shirov", you will see information for Shirov. To see a rating history from the last six FIDE rating lists, you can type "tell roboadmin fide2 Shirov". "help FIDEstats" has some interesting statistics gathered from the recent FIDE rating lists. It shows the number of GMs, IMs, FMs, WGMs, WIMs, and WFMs on each list.

I tried it and got some curious results: on the April 2003 list there were 772 GMs. In July 2003 there were already 763 and finally on the October list there only 715 GMs! Are GMs becoming an endangered spices? ☺
I doubt it – the most likely explanation is that FIDE de-lists certain national federations and their players, if their fees to FIDE are outstanding.

Kasparov-Azmaiparashvili

The Kasparov vs. Azmaiparashvili match will start in Crete today. The time control is 25 minutes + 10 second increment the rapid games and 5 minutes + 3 second for blitz. Live broadcast. The games start at 17:00 time in Greece (+3:00 GMT), with Kasparov playing White in the first game.

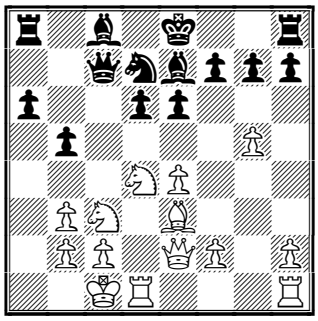
On This Day...

by GM Alex Baburin

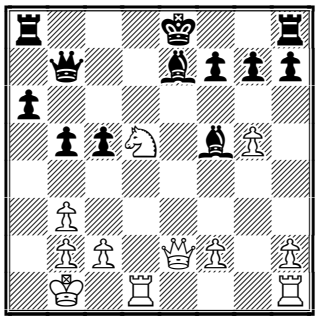
GM Mark Tseitlin was born in 1943. He was one of the strongest masters in the USSR, playing in the final of the Soviet championships in 1967, 1970 and 1971. He won Leningrad championship in 1970, 1975, 1976 and 1978. Mark was renown for his attacking style, but his results were not steady. However, after immigrating to Israel he had more chances to play internationally and finally got the Grandmaster title. Here is one of his games, annotated by GM Mikhail Golubev:

M. Tseitlin – Zilberstein
[B89] USSR, 1967

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♗e3 a6 8.♗b3 ♗e7 9.♕e2 ♘a5 10.0-0-0 ♕c7 11.g4 ♘xb3+ 12.axb3 b5 13.g5 ♘d7 ***(D)***



14.♔b1!?
Slightly unusual move for this version of the Velimirovic attack. 14.♘f5!? and 14.h4 are the main continuations. Still, in 1960s there was not too much theory!
14...♘c5?
Black should have played 14...♗b7 or 14...b4.
15.♘f5!
It's stronger now than one move earlier.
15...exf5 16.♘d5 ♕b7 17.♗xc5
It was also possible to begin with 17.exf5!?.
17...dxc5
Relatively better was 17...fxe4 18.♗d4 0–0 19.♕xe4 ♗d8 (not 19...♗xg5? 20.♖hg1 f6 21.h4) , when White has an advantage after 20.♖hg1!?.
18.exf5 ♗xf5 ***(D) 19.♕e5!***



The key move – White's queen supports the ♘c7+ threat, while simultaneously attacking Black's bishop and the g7–pawn.

19...♗e6 20.♘c7+ ♔f8 21.♘xa8 ♕xa8 22.f4! ♗g4 23.♖he1! ♕e8

Both 23...♕b7? 24.♖d8+ and 23...♗xd1? 24.♕xe7+ ♔g8 25.♕e8+ lead to checkmate.

24.♖d6! Black is helpless. **24...♗d7 25.♖b6! f6 26.gxf6 gxf6 27.♖xf6+ ♗xf6 28.♕xf6+ ♔g8 29.♖g1+ 1–0.**

Annotated Game

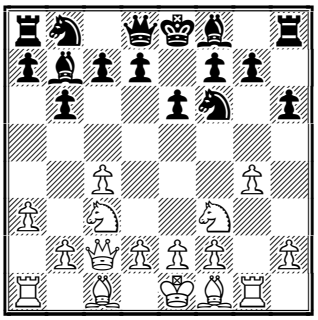
□ **S. Mamedyarov (2585)**
■ **A. Naiditsch (2574)**
4th YM Lausanne SUI (3.1), 21.09.2003
English Opening – [A17]

Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.g4!?

Here a typical question arises: Who was the first to discover this interesting move? It was found by two grandmasters Zvjaginsev and Krasenkov independently and almost at the same time. Oliver Niklasch, a chess player with the rating of 2345, remained in the background. Nevertheless, his game is the first on the ChessBase list. But it is more likely that Krasenkov was the first to win with White in this variation.

4...h6 5.♖g1 b6 6.♕c2 ♗b7 7.a3 ♗f8N *(D)*

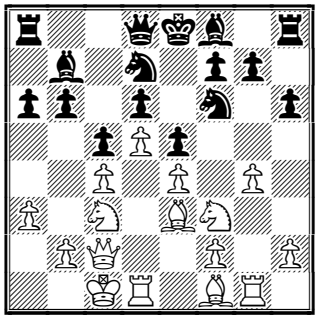


A logical continuation. 7...♗e7 was previously tried 8.g5 hxg5 9.♘xg5 ♘h5 (Here Adams decided to step back with his bishop protecting the g7–pawn. This is the very tempo Naiditsch tries to save. *9...♗f8 10.d4 ♘c6 11.d5 ♘d4 12.♕d1 c5 13.e3 ♘f5 14.e4 ♘d4 15.e5 exd5 16.exf6 ♕xf6 17.♘xd5 ♗xd5 18.cxd5 0–0–0 19.♗e3 ♖e8 20.♕d3 ♘f5 21.0–0–0 ♘xe3 22.fxe3 ♖xh2 23.♖d2 ♗d6 24.♘h3* Zvjaginsev,V–Adams,M/Moscow 20010–1*)* 10.d4 c5 11.d5 ♘a6 12.♗d2 ♕b8 13.h4 ♕e5 14.0–0–0 ♘c7 15.f4 ♘xf4 16.♘f3 ♕f6 17.♘e4 ♕h6 18.♖g4 exd5 19.♗xf4 ♕e6 20.♘f2 0–0–0 21.♖xg7 ♗xh4 22.♘xh4 ♖xh4 23.e3 ♕f6 24.♖g1 ♘e6 25.♗g3 ♖h5 26.cxd5 ♖xd5 27.♖xd5 ♗xd5 28.♗a6+ ♗b7 29.♘e4 ♕f3 30.♘d6+ ♔b8 31.♘xb7+ 1–0. Najer,E–Pedersen,N/Istanbul TUR 2003

8.d4 d6 9.e4 ♘bd7 10.♗e3 a6

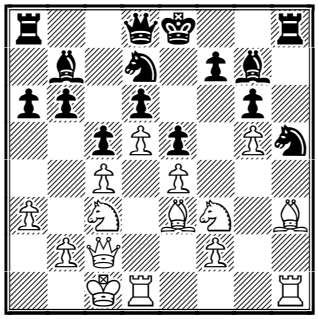
It is not that easy for Black to complete his development. He has lagged behind White and should be careful of breaks.

11.0–0–0 c5 12.d5 e5 *(D)*



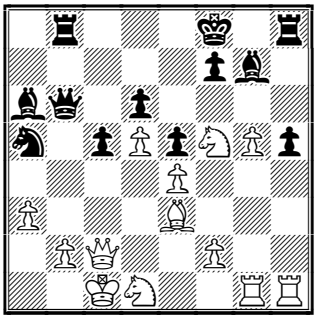
Black has managed to avoid immediate defeat but White begins to attack on the king side.

13.h4 g6 14.g5 hxg5 15.hxg5 ♘h5 16.♗h3 ♗g7 17.♖h1 *(D)*



Black's position looks cheerless and he sacrifices a pawn to try to improve the situation.

17...b5!? 18.cxb5 ♘b6 19.bxa6 ♗xa6 20.♗g4 ♘c4 21.♗xh5 gxh5 22.♘h4 ♕b6 23.♘f5 ♔f8 24.♖dg1 ♖b8 25.♘d1 ♘a5 *(D)*

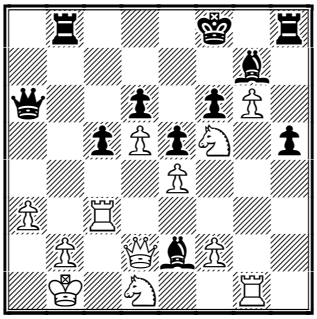


White has played vigorously and has obtained an almost winning position – the black bishop on g7 and the rook on h8 are out of the battle and White is a pawn up.

26.g6 f6 27.♖h3 ♗c4 28.♗d2

28.b4! leads to a big advantage 28...♘b3+ 29.♔b2+– but White does not need complications.

28...♘b3+ 29.♔b1 ♕a6 30.♖c3 ♘xd2+ 31.♕xd2 ♗e2 32.♖h3 ♗f1 33.♖c3 ♗e2 *(D)*

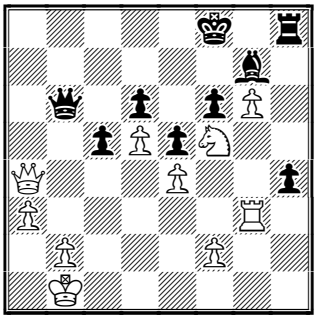


By repeating move White saves time on the clock. On the other hand, maybe he just does not want to part with this beautiful position.

34.♘de3 ♗g4 35.♕c2 ♖b5 36.♖b3

Any piece exchange makes the lack of play by black's rook and bishop even more painfully felt.

36...♗xf5 37.♘xf5 ♖b6 38.♖gg3 h4 39.♖xb6 ♕xb6 40.♕a4 (D)



Mamedyarov played convincingly. Probably, it was not a good idea to put the black bishop on b4 on move 3?

1–0.

Solution to our quiz:

M. Tseitlin – Sturua:

21.♕xc5! 1–0

Black resigned in view of 21...♖xc5 22.♗e6+ ♔h8 23.♖f5.

Also winning was 21.♕d1.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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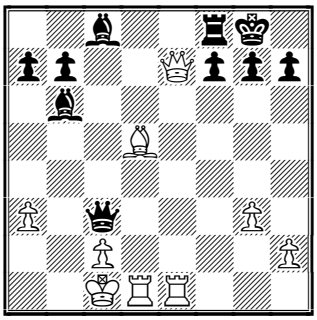
CT-267 (1051) 24th September 2003

Chess Quiz

McShane-Bacrot
Variation from the game, 2003



White to play

Chess News

Kasparov-Azmaiparshvili Match

The match consisting of two rapid and four blitz games took place in Crete on 23rd September. Kasparov won the rapid match 2-0 and the blitz match 3½-½. Total score: **5½-½!** See games of the match in our database.
Official website

In the 3rd European Championship for Seniors HM Jacob Murey (Israel) kept the lead. After 6 rounds he has 5½ points. Stefano Tatai, Oleg Chernikov, Janis Klovans, Mark Tseitlin, Sinisa Joksic and Ingvar Asmundsson are all half a point behind.
Official website

After the 5th round we have the same leader at the FIDE Zonal 2.4. GM Darsy Lima is on the first place with 4 points. Three players — GMs Lejtao, Mecking and Milos are in the 2nd place with 3.5 points.
Official website

In the FIDE Zonal 2.5 in Asuncion, Paraguay (24 players, 9 rounds) after 8 rounds GM Felgaer is leading with 7 points. GM Campora has 6 points.
Official website

Shabalov wins in Denver

by IM John Donaldson

US Champion **Alex Shabalov** continued his stellar year on American soil (1st at the US Championship, 1st at the Chicago Open, 1st at the US Open, =1st at the World Open), winning the 2nd Edward Levy Memorial held on 18-21 September in Denver. Shabalov's score of 4½ out of 5, which included wins over GMs Dmitry Gurevich and Alexander Stripunsky plus IM Varuzhan Akobian, earned him $5,000. His only draw was with IM Nazar Firman of Ukraine in round 5.

Firman tied for second with Stripunsky and GM Viktor Mikhalevski in the 42-player top section, which included 16 GMs and 6 IMs. A total of 260 players competed in the event organized by Bill Goichberg's Continental Chess Association.

Chess & Books with Fred Wilson

Live Internet Radio Show this week (Wednesday, September 24th) again has Bruce Pandolfini as its guest. Bruce, who has written 27 chess books - 17 of which are still in print- with over 1,000,000 copies sold, will be discussing chess teaching, coaching, writing, and also the October "hard copy" (& audio-book!) release of his latest title "Every Move Must Have a Purpose: Strategies from Chess for Business and Life". Please send questions for Bruce Pandolfini to fred@fredwilsonchess.com

On This Day...

by GM Alex Baburin

IM John Donaldson was born in 1958. I've known John since 1994, when we met in Moscow at the chess Olympiad. About a year later we made a quick draw in Dublin (yes, I am

guilty of GM draws too!) and then spent 5 hours chatting about chess in the bar — John is one of the most knowledgeable chess players I've ever met! He is author of many well-received books and is a well-respected journalist. John was captain of the US team several times, including the World Team Championship in Luzern in 1993, when the Americans won gold medals.

For a number of years John has been working as director of the Mechanics Institute Chess Club in San Francisco. Not only the club hosted several strong tournaments in that time, but it also (and more importantly!) offers lots of chess activities for its members – not least thanks to John's efforts.

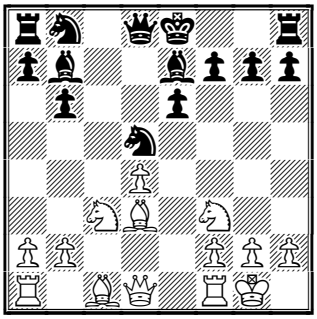
John has two GM norms and current FIDE rating of 2440. I hope that he will upgrade his title soon.

Happy birthday, John!

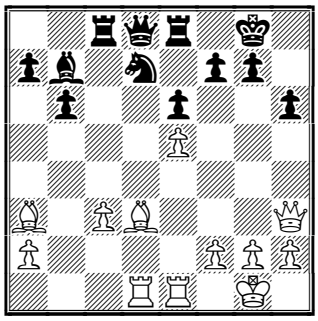
Today I would like to show one of John's games:

Donaldson (2399) – Kudrin (2542)
USA Ch, Seattle (7), 16.01.2003
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

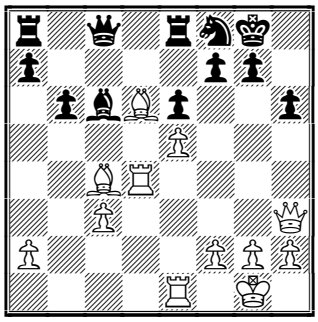
1.♘f3 c5 2.c4 b6 3.♘c3 ♗b7 4.e3 ♘f6 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 e6 7.♗d3 ♗e7 8.0-0 d5 9.cxd5 ♘xd5 ***(D)***



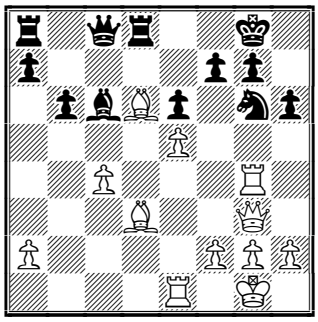
10.♘e5!? 0-0 11.♕g4 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 ♗f6 13.♗a3 ♗xe5 14.♕h3!
The key move, while after 14.♗xf8? ♔xf8 15.dxe5 ♕xd3 16.♖ad1 ♕e4∓ White would be in trouble.
14...h6 15.dxe5!
This is better than 15.♗xf8 ♗xd4 16.cxd4 ♔xf8⩲.
15...♖e8 16.♖fe1! ♘d7 17.♖ad1! ♖c8 ***(D)***



18.♗b5! ♗c6 19.♗a6 ♖b8 20.♗d6 ♖a8 21.♗c4 ♕c8 22.♖d4! ♘f8 ***(D)***



23.♖g4
White totally dominates in this position, thanks to the e5-pawn and d6-bishop. This allows him to build up an attack on the kingside, which has been compromised by ...h6.
23...♘g6 24.♕g3 ♗d5 25.♗d3 ♖d8?
After this move Black loses without a fight. Better was 25...♕xc3!? 26.♗b4 ♕b2 27.♖b1 (27.a3 a5 28.♗xg6 fxg6 29.♖xg6 ♖a7!) 27...♕xe5 (27...♕xa2 28.♖xg6 fxg6 29.♕xg6+-) 28.♖xg6 ♕xg3 29.♖xg3 ♗xa2. Most likely White can do better in this line, but at least he would have to work harder.
26.c4 ♗c6 ***(D)***



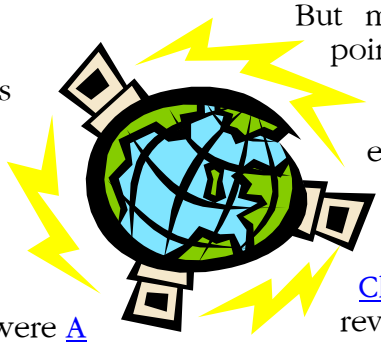
27.♖xg6! fxg6 28.♕xg6 ♖xd6 29.exd6 ♕e8 30.♕h7+ ♔f8 31.♗g6 1-0.

This issue is prepared by GMs A. Baburin, M. Golubev, IM N.Vlassov; technical editor R. Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Web Watch: Chess in Films

by GM Mikhail Golubev

Luiz Roberto Da Costa Junior, whose recent article *'Bogart, Chess, and Casablanca'* was first published in Spanish at Inforchess.com and then (edited by Gene Venable) appeared in English on ChessWatch site, have sent us couple of links and thereby inspired to devote special edition of our column to the topic of chess in the movies...



ChessBase.com is one of sites which follows the rare (and sometimes quite disappointing for chess-players!) intersections between the two kinds of art. ChessBase's most recent September 2003 publications were A crackling documentary: Kasparov and the Machine, and Moviestar, moviestar – Kosteniuk film premieres. WGM Alexandra Kosteniuk took part in the movie *'Blagoslovite zhenshinu'* (Bless the Woman) by the famous in Russia film director and chess fan Stanislav Govorukhin.

In August, Chess Base.com presented Arnold Schwarzenegger as a chess-player in an illustrated article (see also a message on Klikka.net). Much earlier, Chess Base published under the title 'Look who's playing chess' a collection of chess-related pictures from movies: Part One; Part Two; Part Three.

At Tim Krabbe's very interesting site, one can find article, called *Nabokov as a feminist* (see item 103), where author discusses **The Luzhin Defence** (2000), arguably the most important recent chess-related movie, which is based on the classic story by Vladimir Nabokov.

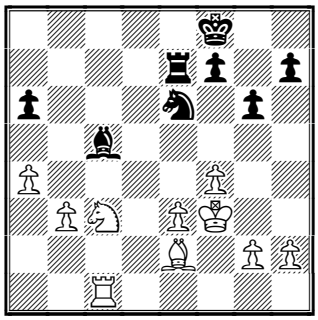
Krabbe is very skeptical in his review. Of course, the final scene of the movie, where Natalia Katkova was allowed to finish the adjourned World Championship game instead of her bridegroom, Grandmaster Alexander Luzhin (who committed suicide after nervous breakdown) is fictitious, to say the least.

And Krabbe isn't alone in his view. "They failed with Lolita (twice) and now they've failed with The Luzhin Defense. Why do the novels of the great prose sorcerer Vladimir Nabokov always defeat the film-makers?", in such words began the review by Steven Poole (Guardian.co.uk).

But movie certainly had strong points (first of all, it's simply nice), and there were many positive opinions, especially in the chess world! We can mention review by Hanon W. Russel at Chess Cafe, review at the British Chess Federation site, and review by John B. Henderson in The Scotsman (2000-08-22): "The Luzhin Defense is an intelligent, atmospheric piece of work with a superb cast."

All in all, chess-players must appreciate work of GM Jon Speelman as chess consultant. In *The Luzhin Defence* we didn't see those nonsense chess positions that appear in movies from time to time, and for the decisive Turati-Luzhin game Speelman especially devised following position:

Turati vs. Luzhin
[John Speelman]



1...♘xf4!! 2.exf4? Here (in movie!) the game was adjourned, and then **2...♖e3+ 3.♔g4 f5+ 4.♔g5 ♔g7 5.♘d5 ♖h3!! 6.gxh3 h6+ 7.♔h4 ♗f2#** is Black's brilliant combination, which was found and recorded on paper by Luzhin, and later executed on the board by Natalia.

To conclude, a few more links:

Willi Schlage is another article at the Tim Krabbe's site (the chess game in Stanley Kubrick's *Space Odyssey*)

Searching for Bobby Fischer – 1993 review of the famous movie with Josh Waitzkin

Movies With Chess Scenes by Bill Wall

Chess Video Tape Material – Note by Stewart Reuben at BCF site

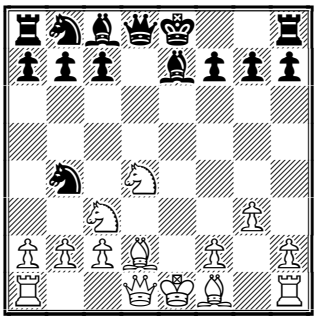
Chess in Movies and TV at Jeremy Silman's site

Chess In The Cinema at www.skgiessen.de

Annotated Game

□ **Luke McShane (2619)**
■ **Etienne Bacrot (2645)**
Lausanne (3.2), 22.09.2003
The Philidor Defence, [C41]
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♗e7 6.g3 d5 7.exd5 ♘xd5 8.♗d2 ♘b4N *(D)*



A rare variation of the Philidor Defence has arisen. Black previously castled here: 8...0–0 9.♗g2 ♗f6 10.♘xd5 ♗xd4 11.0–0 ♗xb2 12.♖b1 ♗a3 13.♗f4 ♘a6 14.♘xc7 ♘xc7 15.♕xd8 ♖xd8 16.♗xc7 ♖d2 17.♖fd1 ♖xd1+ 18.♖xd1 ♗e6 19.♗xb7 ♖e8 20.♗f4 h6 21.♗e3 a5 22.♗d5 ♔f8 23.♗xe6 Teske–Ekstroem, Montecatini Terme 1997.

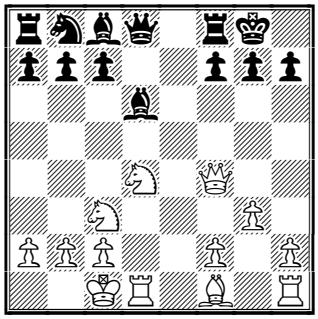
9.♗e3 ♘d5?!

It is not worth squandering tempi in the open position. It seems that Black had an easy way to equalization: 9...c5 10.♗b5+ ♔f8! 11.♘b3 ♕xd1+ 12.♔xd1 a6=.

10.♕d3

Giving his bishop for the black knight White continues to develop. 10.♕h5 also looked pretty good.

10...0–0 11.0–0–0 ♘xe3 12.♕xe3 ♗c5 13.♕f4 ♗d6 *(D)*



Black has two bishops, however, White's pieces are better developed and that's why his position is preferable.

14.♕d2 ♗b4?!

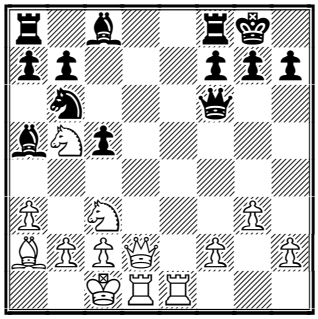
More natural is 14...♘c6±, combining development with exchanges.

15.♗c4 15.a3± deserved attention.

15...♘d7?!

Bacrot is trying to complicate the struggle although it is more reasonable to simplify it. The queen exchange was safer for Black after: 15...c5 or 15...♘c6.

16.a3 ♗a5 17.♖he1 ♘b6 18.♗a2 c5 19.♘db5 ♕f6 *(D)*

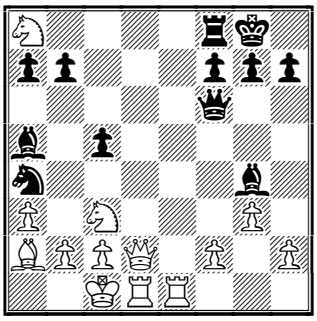


Black keeps the queens on, as the endgame would clearly favour White, thanks to his active pieces.

20.♘c7!?

A more placid player would have insisted on the queen exchange: 20.♕d6±, but Luke believes his calculation is accurate!

20...♗g4! 21.♘xa8 ♘a4! *(D)*

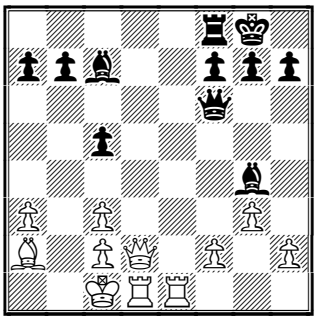


Suddenly everything changed! While White concentrated on the black rook on a8, the other black pieces managed to obtain excellent positions for attack.

22.♘c7!

After 22.♕d6 Black has a choice between two endgames: 22...♗xd1 23.♕xf6 gxf6 24.♘xa4 ♗xe1 25.♔xd1 ♗xf2 26.♘c7 or 22...♗xc3 23.bxc3 ♗xd1 24.♕xf6 gxf6 25.♘c7 ♗g4. Regardless of the choice, White would have a slight advantage but Black could make a draw if he played accurately.

22...♘xc3 23.bxc3 ♗xc7 ***(D)***



24.f3!

It becomes clear that White has been more far-sighted.

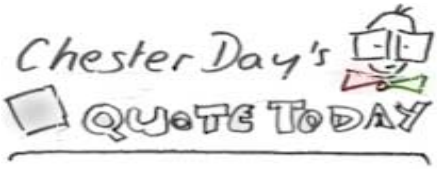
24...♗c8

After 24...♗xf3 25.♖f1 ♕c6, apart from the prosaic 26.♗d5 ♗xd5 27.♕xd5 ♕a4 28.♖de1±, White would have 26.♕d7!? at his disposal. Then after 26...♗xd1 27.♗xf7+ ♔h8 28.♗d5! it would seem that White's idea was refuted by the check 28...♕h6+! 29.♔b2 ♕b6+ 30.♗b3 ♖b8, but here the continuation of the attack followed: 31.♕f7! without taking the black bishop on d1! 31...♕d6 32.♖e1! and Black had serious problems, for instance, after 32...♕d8 33.♖e7 ♕f8 34.♖xc7 ♕xf7 35.♗xf7 it was not easy for the black king to enter the game, which defines White's advantage.

25.♕e3 ♗a5 26.♕xc5 ♗b6 27.♕e7 ♕xf3 28.♗d5 ♕h5

Black did not miss the mate: 28...♕xc3?? 29.♕xf7+! ♖xf7 30.♖e8# but his position was hopeless anyway.

29.♖e5 ♕h6+ 30.♔b1 g6 31.♖f1 ♗f5 32.g4 ♗d8 33.♕d6 ♕h3 34.♖f3 ♕xg4 35.♖exf5! 1-0.



"A passed Pawn increases in strength as the number of pieces on the board diminishes."

-- Capablanca

Solution to our quiz:
McShane-Bacrot (Variation):
29.♕xf7+! ♖xf7 30.♖e8#.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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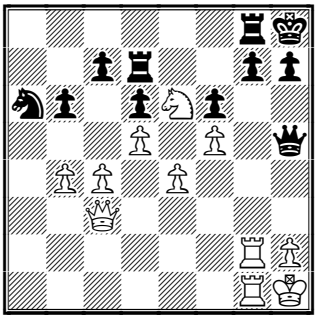
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-268(1052) 25th September 2003

Chess Quiz

Orev (2242) – Schramm (2117)
European Senior Ch 23.09.2003



White to play

Chess News

3rd European Championships for seniors

There are 3 leaders after the 7th round of the 3rd European Championships for seniors. **Jacob Murey, Mark Tseitlin** and **Sinisa Joksic** have 6 points out of 7.
4-8. Tatai, Klovans, Taimanov, Ljubarskij, Klundt – 5½ etc.
Official Site

FIDE Zonal 2.4

GM **Darcy Lima** is leading with 4½ points after the 6th round of the FIDE zonal 2.4.
2-5. Granda, Leitao, Mecking, Milos – 4 etc.
Official Site

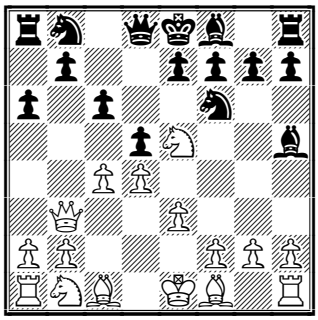
FIDE Zonal 2.5

The FIDE zonal 2.5 has finished.
1. Ruben Felgaer – 8 points out of 9
2. Campora – 7
3-4. Pierrot, Flores – 6
5-6. Labollita, Mahia – 5½ etc.
Official Site

Annotated Game

□ **Z Azmaiparashvili (2702)**
■ **G Kasparov (2830)**
Rapid Match Crete GRE (2), 23.09.2003
D11
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.c4 c6
Kasparov's main weapon against 1.d4 (or 1.c4 and d2-d4 after that) is the Slav defence. After the text move, Black has to be ready to play against the Panov attack in the Caro-Cann (after 2.e4).
2.d4 d5 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6
The Chebanenko system.
5.♕c2
Of course White has a lot of other opportunities here. Black's set-up is very popular nowadays.
5...♗g4 6.♘e5 ♗h5 7.♕b3



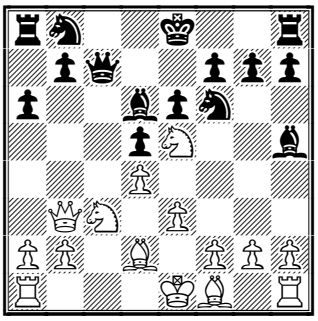
Because the black bishop stays on h5, White would like to exploit the weaknesses of the queenside. 7.♗d3

e6 8.♘d2 ♘bd7 9.♘df3 ♘xe5 10.♘xe5 ♘d7 11.♘xd7 ♕xd7 12.0–0 ♗g6 13.b3± Khalifman,A–Kasparov,G/Moscow 2002

7...♕c7 8.cxd5

White opens the c-file to exploit the position of the queen on c7. 8.♘d2 e6 9.♗d3 ♗g6 10.♘xg6 hxg6 11.h3 ♘bd7 12.♘f3 ♗e7= Link,U–Ratushni,M/Bayern 2002

8...cxd5 9.♘c3 e6 10.♗d2 ♗d6

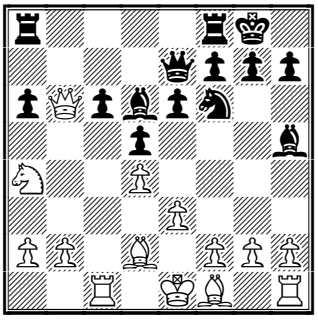


An interesting novelty. 10...♘bd7 11.♖c1 ♕b8 12.♘xd7 *(12.f4 ♗e7 13.a4 0–0 14.♗d3 ♕a7 15.0–0 ♖ac8 16.a5 ♘xe5 17.fxe5 ♘d7 18.♘a4 ♗g6±* Kraeussling,A–Wachinger,G/Bad Neustadt 1992*)* 12...♘xd7 13.e4 ♗d6 14.exd5 exd5 15.♘xd5 0–0 16.♕h3+– Blagojevic,D–Scekic,M/Neum 2002

11.♖c1 ♘c6!?

Black is ready to receive a weak pawn on c6 and even to sacrifice it.

12.♘a4 0–0 13.♘xc6 bxc6 14.♕b6 ♕e7!



15.♗d3

It was too risky to take a pawn because Black gets a big advantage in development, for example: 15.♖xc6 ♘e4 16.♗d3 ♖fb8; or 15.♕xc6 ♘e4

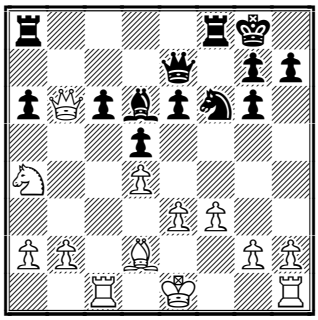
15...♗g6 16.♗xg6

Maybe White underestimated the following move. 16.♕b3!?

16...fxg6!

It's only a slight exaggeration to say that White is already lost here!

17.f3



Maybe it looks a bit strange but White has great problems with defence, for example: 17.0–0 ♗xh2+ 18.♔xh2 ♘g4+ 19.♔h3 *(19.♔g1 ♕h4–+; 19.♔g3 ♘xf2 20.♖xf2 ♕g5+ 21.♔h3 ♖xf2–+)*

A) 19...♕g5 20.f4 ♕h5+ 21.♔g3 ♕h2+ 22.♔f3 e5 23.♖g1! *(23.dxe5 ♘xe5+)* ;

B) 19...♘xf2+!? 20.♖xf2 ♖xf2 21.♕xc6 ♖af8 with a strong attack. If 17.h3 then ♘e4∓

17...♘e4!

A very nice blow, a sign for a direct attack.

18.fxe4

18.♕xc6!? ♕h4+ *(18...♕g5!?)* 19.♔d1 ♘f2+ 20.♔e2 ♘xh1 21.♖xh1 ♕g5↑

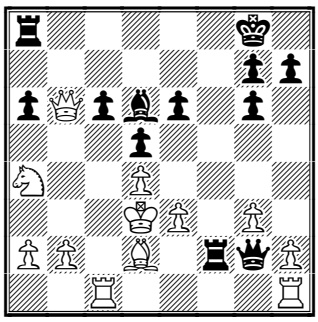
18...♕h4+ 19.g3

19.♔d1!? ♕g4+ 20.♔c2 ♕xe4+ 21.♔d1 ♖ab8!? and Black has very strong initiative for a piece.*(21...♕g4+* with perpetual*)*

19...♕xe4 20.♔e2

20.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 21.♔xf1 ♕d3+ 22.♔e1 *(22.♔g1 ♕xd2–+)* 22...♖f8–+

20...♕g2+ 21.♔d3 ♖f2!



It looks like Black's attack is decisive now.

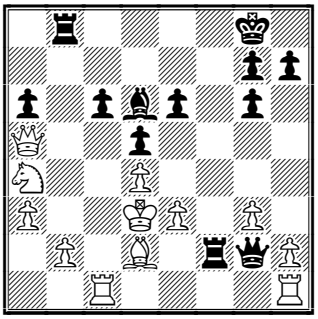
22.♕a5

22.♖hd1 ♕e4+ 23.♔c3 ♖b8–+

22...♖b8

With the simple, but unpleasant, threat Qe4+ and Bb4+.

23.a3



23.♘b6 ♕e4+ *(23...♗c7–+)* 24.♔c3 c5!
23...♗c7! 24.♕xc7
24.♕c3 ♕e4#
24...♖xd2+ 25.♔c3 ♖dxb2
And White resigned in view of 25...♖dxb2 26.♘xb2 ♕xb2+ 27.♔d3 ♖b3+
0–1

Solution to our quiz:
43.♕xf6! ♕f3 43...gxf6 44.♖xg8#
44.♕h4 with a threat Ng5. **44...♕c3**
44...h6 45.f6+– **45.♖g3** 45.♖g3 ♕d2
46.♘xg7 ♖dxg7 47.♖xg7 ♖xg7
48.♕d8+ **1–0**

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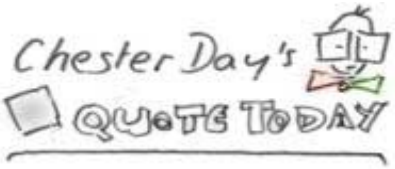


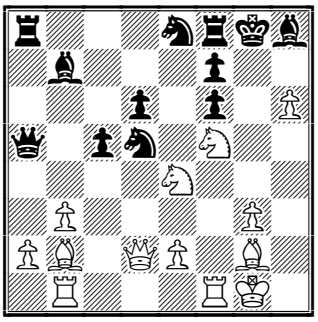
Life *is what passes by* while you analyse the Poisoned *Pawn Variation* with Fritz" –

GM Alex Baburin

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-1055 (271) 28 September 2003

Chess Quiz

Barsov (2526) – Mannion (2339)
Monarch Assurance Open, 27.09.2003



White to play

Chess News

Chess fans will be very busy in the next few days – with the European Club Championship in Crete, a strong open in the Isle of Man and a few other events. And then the European Team Championship starts in Plovdiv, Bulgaria in mid October. *Chess Today* will bring you news and the most interesting games from these events!

GM Lima wins in Sao Paulo

Brazilian GM Darcy Lima (41) has won the Zonal tournament in San Paulo.
Final Standings:
1. Darcy Lima — 7 points out of 9;
2. Rafael Leitao — 6½ points;
3. Henrique Mecking — 6 points; etc.
Lima and Leitao qualified for the World Championship.
Official website

Sao Paulo Rapid Tournament

This 7-round tournament took place after the zonal, attracting 32 players.
Final Standings:
1. IM Everaldo **Matsuura** – 6½ (+6=1)
2. GM Ulf Andersson 6 (+5=2)
3. Alonso Moyano 5 (+4=2-1)

I would like to thank Luiz Roberto Da Costa for sending this information.

The Monarch Assurance Open

This strong tournament started in the Isle of Man yesterday.

The top seed **Nigel Short** withdrew from the tournament, not agreeing to be re-paired, when his opponent did not show up. Short left the Isle of Man only hours after the tournament started. This seems to me a very harsh decision by the player... John Saunders has a full story online.

Because accelerated pairing is used in the tournament, there have been some early upsets:

Handke (2476) — Epishin (2642) 1-0
Lputian (2623) — Sandipan (2469) 0-1

You can find a few selected games from the tournament in our database today. I hope to be at the tournament during the final 2 rounds, so *Chess Today* will have particularly good coverage then!
Official site

The European Club Championship

It starts in Crete today, at 14:00 local time. There will be 7 rounds; the last round is on 4th October.
Official website

ICC will be showing games online, starting at 7am ICC time every day. ICC members are welcome to 'observe' the games and 'whisper' comments with the other spectators. 'finger Live' on ICC will give you specific information about the game numbers to observe. "finger EuroClubCup2003" for results, standings, and other information.

Chess.FM will cover all rounds too. On ICC, type "follow ChessFM" for the ChessFM board.

A few days ago American Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan finished his active tournament career. GM Mikhail Golubev got in touch with Yasser and asked about his opinion on the current situation in professional chess. Yasser's response is published below.

Yasser Seirawan on Chess Politics

I don't know why the Yalta match was cancelled when the major issues, draw-odds and time controls had been settled. I read an interview with Karpov where he said the impediment was an extra free day on the schedule and the lack of Russian speaking arbiters?? These hardly seem like issues that would force the cancellation of the match. I therefore must believe that there were other factors involved and I have no idea what they may have been. In short, I'm as confused as everyone else. FIDE has said that it would give a report with further details about the cancellation.

Regarding the November/December 2003 Knockout World Championship: I'm not sure whether anyone in FIDE knows with assurance what is happening on that score. I am - sad to say - sceptical that this event will be organized within the envisaged time frames. Chess players will be unhappy with its postponement - if that is the case. Should the KO event be held, I think that a 3 million dollar prize fund will not be offered.

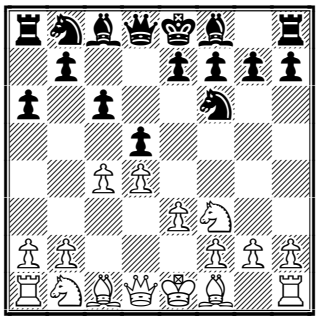
Letters to the Editor

"Hi! In CT-1052 analysing the game Azmaiparashvili-Kasparov (2), IM Barsky considers 10...♗d6 as an interesting novelty and gives 11.♖c1 without any comment. But Fritz 8 immediately suggests 11.♕a4+!. What do you think about it?
Best regards, Gérard Gris, Switzerland"

Well, this is indeed a very interesting comment and after looking at that game again, I would like to show its opening phase (explaining the opening in a bit more detail) and look at that 10...♗d6 11.♕a4+ option.

Azmaiparashvili - Kasparov
The Slav Defence, D11
Rapid Match Crete (2), 23.09.2003
Notes by GM Alexander Baburin

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6



This is one version of the Chebanenko system (the main position of that system arises after 4.♘c3 a6). Black delays playing ...e6, so his light-squared bishop will not be locked in. 4...♗f5 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘h4 is another, very popular line.

5.♕c2

White is waiting too, while also preventing ...♗f5 and making ...♗g4 less effective. He delays playing ♘b1-c3, as then ...b5 would gain in power (the c3-knight could often be driven away by ...b4 then).

5...♗g4

Black develops the bishop.

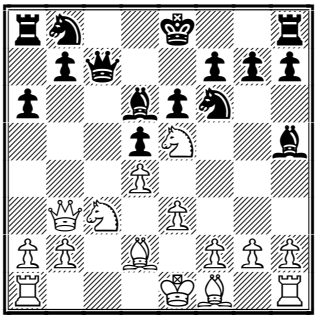
6.♘e5 ♗h5 7.♕b3

White tries to exploit some weakness of Black's queenside. This is a very common reaction to ... ♗f5 or ...♗g4. Less ambitious is 7.♗d3 e6 8.♘d2 ♘bd7 9.♘df3 ♘xe5 10.♘xe5 ♘d7 11.♘xd7 ♕xd7 12.0-0 ♗g6 13.b3± Khalifman-Kasparov, Moscow 2002.

7...♕c7 8.cxd5

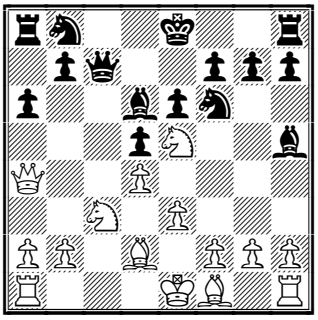
White opens the c-file, so he can exploit the position of the black queen on c7. If he delays this exchange, then Black plays ...e6 and will later recapture on d5 with the e-pawn, keeping the c-file closed. Because his c1-bishop is locked in, White will have no advantage then, for example: 8.♘d2 e6 9.♗d3 ♗g6 10.♘xg6 hxg6 11.h3 ♘bd7 12.♘f3 ♗e7= Link-Ratushni, Bayern 2002.

8...cxd5 9.♘c3 e6 10.♗d2 ♗d6 *(D)*



"Interesting novelty" – Vladimir Barsky (CT–1052). Black previously tried 10...♘bd7 11.♖c1 ♕b8 12.♘xd7 ♘xd7 13.e4 ♗d6 14.exd5 exd5 15.♘xd5 0–0 16.♕h3+– Blagojevic–Scekic, Neum 2002. The game Azmaiparashvili–Kasparov went: **11.♖c1 ♘c6!? 12.♘a4 0–0 13.♘xc6 bxc6 14.♕b6 ♕e7! 15.♗d3 ♗g6 16.♗xg6 fxg6!** Opening the f–file, Black adds fuel to his attack. **17.f3** (17.0–0 ♗xh2+ 18.♔xh2 ♘g4+→; 17.h3 ♘e4∓) **17...♘e4! 18.fxe4 ♕h4+ 19.g3 ♕xe4 20.♔e2 ♕g2+ 21.♔d3 ♖f2! 22.♕a5 ♖b8 23.a3 ♗c7! 24.♕xc7 ♖xd2+ 25.♔c3 ♖dxb2 0–1**

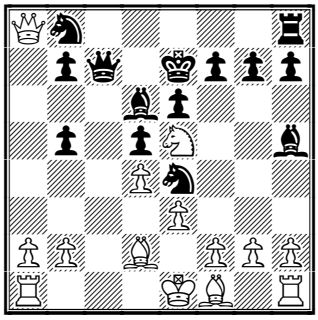
Now let us examine move **11.♕a4+!?** ***(D)***, suggested by Fritz8 and Gerard Gris.



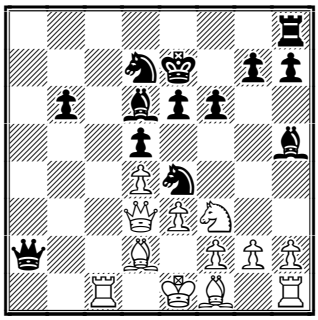
The idea of **11.♕a4+!?** is simple – to pin the a6–pawn, so White can play 12.♘b5 and exchange the important d6–bishop. How can Black react?
The standard reply ***11...♘c6?*** is bad in view of 12.♘b5 ♕d8 13.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 14.♖c1 – Black seems to be already lost.
Somewhat better is ***11...♘bd7***, but the position after 12.♘b5 ♕b8 13.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 14.♖c1± isn't fun for Black.

So, did Kasparov miss something? Was his Fritz8 turned off? ☺ I doubt it — this line is in Kasparov's repertoire, so he must have looked into it deeply. I guess he was going to play **11...♔e7!**.

The critical line is 12.♘b5 axb5 13.♕xa8 ♘e4! ***(D)***



Here it's easy to fall into a trap: 14.♖c1?? ♕xc1+ 15.♗xc1 ♗b4+ 16.♗d2 ♗xd2#.
Thus, White should play 14.♕a5, but after 14...b6! 15.♕xb5 ♕c2 Black seems to have good compensation for material loss, for example: 16.♕d3 ♕xb2 17.♖b1 ♕xa2 18.♖c1 f6 19.♘f3 ♘d7 ***(D)***



In the diagrammed position Black is probably better. End of story? Probably not — If White does not want to enter tactical complications, he can play 12.♖c1 – then the ♕a4 move isn't too useful, but ...♔e7 may not be great either. Only time will tell how the position stands after 12.♖c1 ♘c6...

Perfect Solution to the Early Draw Problem

A couple of weeks ago I received the following message from GM Andras Adorjan:

"Dear Alex,
Do you remember the dispute about Dvoretsky's proposal about forbidding draw offers? Well, I think, I have good

news about getting rid of (most) draws with a revolutionary change of just one rule. I don't deserve to be praised, the solution came to my way incidentally.

Writing my book 'BLACK IS still OK!', I went through a large number of my own games. And I have found a pearl. You see, there were times when agreeing a draw before move 30 was not allowed, at least without the blessing of the arbiter. They skipped this rule later — it probably did not work. But I got an idea from the game enclosed: what if castling is forbidden before move 30? And to complete let's combine this novelty with the old try: no draw before 30 too!?
Alas, nothing is perfect: there could be a lot of games having 1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.♘g1 ♘e4 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘b1 ♘g8 up till 20–25, the rest you can survive...

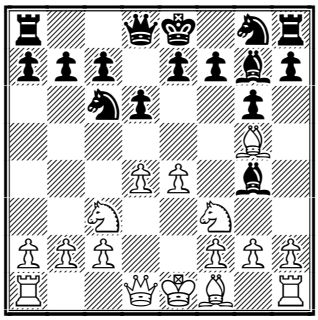
If everything goes right, the work (planned to be 224 pages, but somehow I cannot stop writing!) comes out by the end of this year. Maybe somewhat later, around 2100... ☺ My very best wishes to you, staff-members and last but not least the Readers! Make them write! Many readers write much better than some celebrated authors! That's why I collected opinions to publish in my book. András "

Interesting idea – it will not only solve the problem with quick draws, but also make most chess theory irrelevant! I know who will love this suggestion for sure – chess publishers! Just imagine all those new volumes (where castling is deterred till move 31), which they will throw at us! ☺

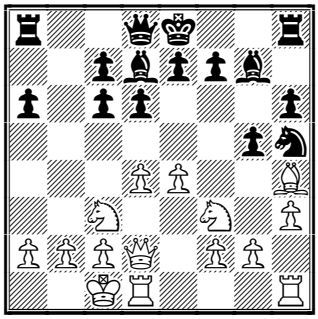
Andras also supported his idea with the following interesting game:

Soltis – Adorján
Birmingham, 1973, [B06]
Notes by GM Andras Adorjan

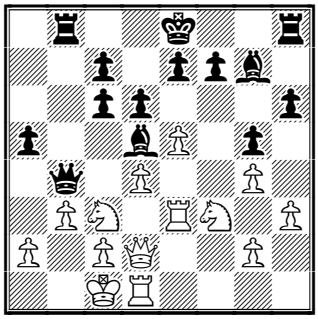
500 years. Yes, we have played chess with the present rules for such a long time. Before that, there was no castling, for one. At least not in the way we do it now: it took 3 moves. A long, worrisome time to the Master of the King... Those who play through the game below (just 30 years old) may suspect that it went according to the old rules, or I forgot about my right of castling. Be patient at least till move 30!
1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.♘c3 d6 4.♗g5 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♗g4 ***(D)***



6.♗b5 a6 7.♗xc6+ bxc6 8.♕d3 h6 9.♗h4 ♘f6 (9...♗xf3=)
10.h3 ♗d7 (10...♗xf3! 11.♕xf3 ♘d7 12.0–0–0 c5)
11.0–0–0 ♘h5!? 12.♕d2 g5 ***(D)***

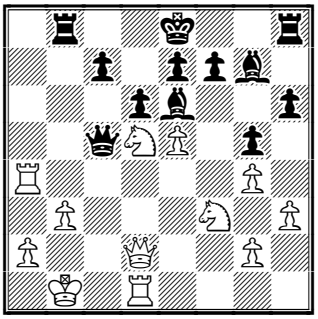


13.♗g3?! (13.g4 gxh4 14.gxh5±)
13...♘xg3 14.fxg3 ♕b8!∓ 15.e5 ♕b4 16.♖he1 ♖b8 17.b3 ♗e6 18.g4 a5 19.♖e4 ♗d5 20.♖e3 ***(D)***

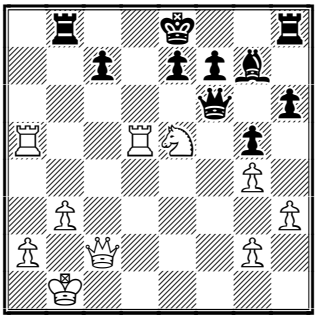


This was pretty original so far, and Black got the initiative and the advantage. It's likely that an improvement could be found for White somewhere — if you do find it, just be proud of yourself...
20.♘xd5 cxd5 21.♕xb4 ♖xb4 22.♖ee1 e6∓.

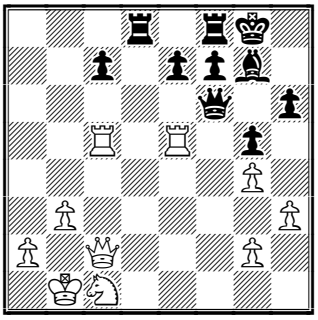
20...♗e6 21.♖e4 ♕a3+ 22.♔b1 a4 23.d5 23.♕c1? ♕b4 24.♕d2 axb3 25.cxb3 ♗xb3–+. **23...axb3 24.cxb3 cxd5 25.♖a4** 25.♘xd5 ♗xd5 26.♕xd5 0–0∓. **25...♕c5 26.♘xd5** ***(D)***



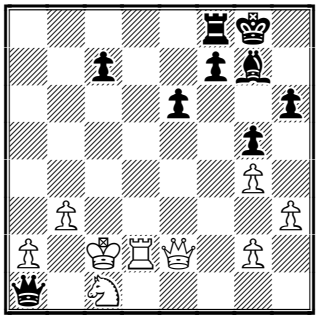
26...dxe5?! (26...♔d7!∓) **27.♖a5** (27.♕c2!) **27...♕d6 28.♕c2 ♗xd5 29.♖dxd5** 29.♖axd5 ♕f6 30.♘xe5 0–0∓. **29...♕f6 30.♘xe5** ***(D)***



30...0–0!!
Very well done! Poor Andy Soltis got really upset. He had enough fears already about the long diagonal, but when I actually demonstrated that I knew how to castle, he mentally collapsed! And no matter how long the rest seems, the game was virtually decided here.
31.♕f5 ♕b6 32.♕f1 ♕e3 33.♕f3 ♕e1+ 34.♕d1 ♕g3?! (34...♕e4+!)
35.♕f3 ♕e1+ 36.♕d1 ♕e4+ 37.♕c2 ♕f4 38.♖ac5? ♖bd8?
38...e6! 39.g3 ♕xg3–+.
39.♘d3? (39.♘d7!)
39...♕f1+ 40.♘c1 ♕f6 41.♖e5 ***(D)***



41...♕b6 42.♖f5
42.♖xe7 ♕f6 43.♖ee5 (43.♖ce5 ♖d5! 44.♘d3 ♕f1+–+) 43...♖de8–+.
42...♖d6 43.♖fd5 ♖xd5 44.♖xd5 ♕f6 45.♕e2 (⌓45.♕d2)
45...e6 46.♖d2 ♕a1+ 47.♔c2 ***(D)***



47...♗e5! 48.♖d7 ♕c3+ 49.♔b1 ♖b8 50.♖d3 ♕a1+ 51.♔c2 c5! 52.♔d1 c4 53.bxc4 ♗f4 54.♖d2 ♖b1 55.♖d8+ ♔g7–+ White lost on time. **0–1**

This game recalls a memory of the late GM Gedeon Barcza, who once won a game with e2–e4. What's the big deal? The thing is, he played it on move 40!

Solutions to our quiz:
Barsov–Mannion: **25.h7+! ♔xh7 26.♕h6+ ♔g8 27.♘g5 1–0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353–1) 278–2276. Fax: (353–1) 283–6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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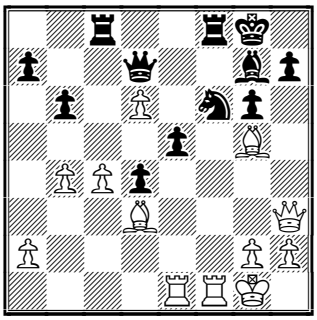
CT-273 (1057) 30th September 2003

Chess Quiz

J. Flesch – M. Kovacs
Ch Budapest, 1963



White to play

Chess News

The European Club Championship

Women, key results:
Kristallen SK — NTN Tbilisi ½-3½
Internet GC Podgorica — Hellir Chess Club Reykjavik 4-0

After 2 rounds
1.Internet GC Podgorica — 8 points;
2. NTN Tbilisi – 7 points, etc.

Men, key results:
Werder Bremen — NAO 1½-4½
St. Petersburg — Bosna 3½-2½
R.V.H. Club (Belfast) — Ladya 0-6
Norilsk Nikel - Corpora Martin 3½–2½
SF Neukölln — Tomsk-400 1-5
Kiseljak – Tbilisi 2½-3½

NAO players made quick draws on those boards where they had Black and won three games with White.

Having defeated Kir. Georgiev, GM Lugovoi brought victory to his team from St. Petersburg. Other games in that match were drawn. Korchnoi saved a difficult ending vs. Ivan Sokolov.

Also one decisive game (Naer beat Timoschenko) gave an overall win to Norilsky Nikel.

Ladya won easily even without Kasparov, as their opponents were rather weak.

Standings after 2 rounds:
1. Ladya-Kazan-1000 — 12 points;
2. Tomsk-400-Yukos — 11 points;
3-4. NAO and Beer Sheva Chess Club – 10 points;
5-7. St. Petersburg Lentrasgaz, Polonia Plus and Clichy Echecs 92 - 9½ points;
Strangely, there are no standings on the tournament website...

Key matches of round 3:
NAO — Vesnianka Minsk
Ladya-Kazan-1000 — Tbilisi
Tomsk-400-Yukos — Norilsk Nikel
Polonia Plus GSM — Clichy Echecs 92

Official website

The Monarch Assurance Open

Oleg Korneev became sole leader on 3 points out of 3. Local player Keith Allen was the star of the third round, drawing with last year's winner GM Vladimir Epishin. According to the official website, there was a heart-stopping, clock-thumping finale to Halkias-Zatonskih, won by the 25-year-old US (formerly Ukrainian) WGM.

Round 3 results:
Emms–Iordachescu ½-½
Wells–Sulskis ½-½
Del Rio – Korneev 0-1
Kotronias-Kogan 1-0

Round 3 standings:
1. GM Korneev — 3 points;
2-10. GMs Emms, Iordachescu, Wells, Sulskis, Kotronias, Al. Kuzmin and Barsov, WGM Zatonskih and IM Williams — 2½ points, etc.

You can see selected games from round 3 in our database.
Official site

This issue is prepared by GMs A. Baburin, M. Golubev, IM N. Vlassov; technical editor: R. Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

On This Day...

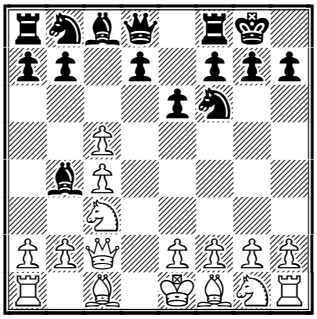
70 years ago Hungarian Grandmaster **Janos Flesch** (1933–1983) was born. In 1960 he gave a blindfold simul on 52 boards against qualified players, thus beating Najdorf's (45) previous world record. The simul lasted 13½ hours and gave the following results for Flesch: +21 —3 =18

Annotated Games

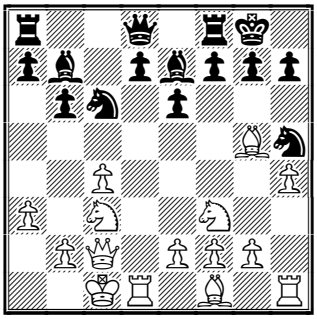
On the first day of the European Clubs Cup GM Vladimir Chuchelov had a birthday. But Garry Kasparov did not give him a present...

□ **Garry Kasparov (2830)**
■ **Cladimir Chuchelov (2608)**
European Clubs Cup, Crete (1), 2003
Nimzo-Indian Defence, Classical Variation (4.♕c2) – [E39]
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

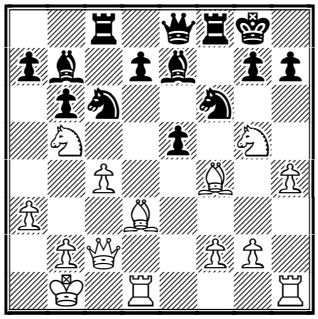
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 c5 5.dxc5 0-0 *(D)*



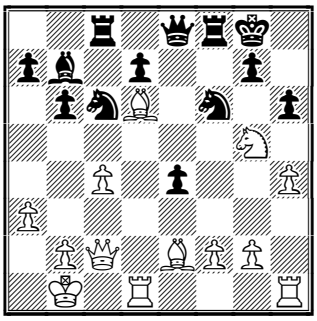
6.a3 ♗xc5 7.♘f3 b6 8.♗f4 ♘h5 9.♗g5 ♗e7 10.h4 ♗b7 11.0-0-0 ♘c6 *(D)*



12.e4!N
Typical Kasparov – this novelty is a simple and strong move, which causes Black serious problems. The following was tried before: 12.g4 ♘f6 13.♗xf6 ♗xf6 14.♘g5 ♗xg5+ 15.hxg5 ♕xg5+ 16.e3 h6 and Black is OK. 17.f4 ♕xg4 18.♗e2 ♕g3 19.♔d2 ♘a5 20.♔c2 ♗xh1 21.♖xh1 ♖ac8 22.b3 d5 23.cxd5 exd5 24.♔b2 ♖xc3 25.♔xc3 ♖e8 0–1 Svetushkin-Ionescu, Bucharest 2002.
12...♘f6 13.e5 ♘g4 14.♗f4 ♖c8 15.♔b1 f5 16.exf6 ♘xf6 17.♘g5 ♕e8 18.♘b5!?
Stronger is 18.♗d3 ♕h5 19.♘b5±, with a big advantage for White. For instance, 19...e5 20.♗c1 a6 21.g4!, with a winning attack.
18...e5 19.♗d3!? *(D)*



19...e4?!
This is a critical moment. From now on Black is reduced to difficult defence, which is thankless, despite his future material advantage. It is much more interesting to find out how Kasparov was going to win after the fundamental ***19...exf4!?*** 20.♗xh7+ ♔h8 21.♖he1 (after 21.♗g6 ♕d8 White can win the queen 22.♘e6 (stronger is 22.♖he1) 22...dxe6 23.♖xd8 ♖fxd8, but Black has captured so many white pieces that he can play for a win.) 21...♕h5 22.♗g6 ♕g4 (the position is unclear after 22...♕h6 23.♘f7+ ♖xf7 24.♗xf7) 23.♗f5 ♕h5 and there is no win for White to be seen.
19...♔h8 20.♗xh7 leads to the same position via transposition.
19...g6 does not look good, but even here it is not easy to find a winning plan. 20.h5! (20.♘xh7 ♔xh7 21.h5 e4 22.hxg6+ ♔g8 23.g7 ♔xg7 24.♗h6+ ♔g8) 20...exf4 21.♘xh7! (21.hxg6 a6) 21...♘xh7 22.♗xg6 ♖f7 23.♖he1 ♘f6 24.♘d6 ♗xd6 25.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 26.♗xf7+ ♔xf7 27.♕f5++- and the pawn on h6 becomes a queen.
20.♗e2
In the endgame after 20.♗xe4 ♘xe4 21.♕xe4 ♗xg5 22.♕xe8 ♖cxe8 23.♗xg5 ♘e5 Black has good drawing chances, as all his pieces are active.
20...h6 21.♘d6! ♗xd6 22.♗xd6 *(D)*



22...hxg5?

Black does not have any right to be so greedy! More stubborn is 22...♘e7, protecting the e4-pawn with the bishop. After 23.♕b3 ♔h8 24.♘h3 ♖f7 25.g4 White has a ragging attack with material advantage. There is no doubt about the result, but Black would stay in the game for a bit longer.

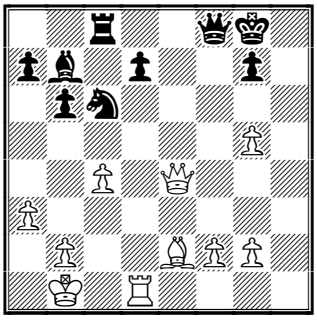
23.hxg5!

Not so convincing is 23.♗xf8 ♔xf8 24.hxg5 ♘g8 25.♕d2 ♘b8 and Black is holding out to the utmost.

23...♘h7 24.♖xh7!+-

An easy decisive blow.

24...♔xh7 25.♗xf8 ♕xf8 26.♕xe4+ ♔g8 *(D)*

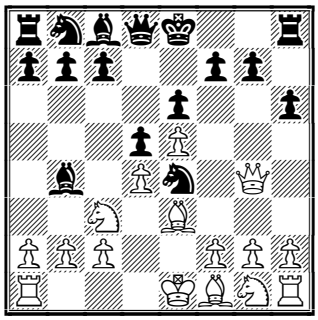


27.♕d5+! 1-0.

Black probably missed that check in his preliminary calculations. For those who think that Chuchelov is too weak to play against Kasparov, Mikhail Golubev includes Chuchelov's win over Anand (rapid chess) in today's database.

□ **Alexey Shirov**
■ **Sergey Volkov**
European Club Cup, Crete (2), 2003
The French Defence, McCutcheon Variation - [C12]
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 ♗b4 5.e5 h6 6.♗e3 ♘e4 7.♕g4 *(D)*



As it happened, Alexei Shirov played this position with White in the first two rounds of the ECC 2003.

7...g5

In round 1, the game Shirov-Brynell continued 7...g6 8.a3 ♗xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♘xc3 10.♗d3 ♘c6 11.h4 ♕e7 12.♘h3 ♗d7 13.h5 gxh5 14.♕f3 ♕h4 15.♕f4 ♕xf4 16.♘xf4 0-0-0 17.♖xh5 ♘e7 18.f3 a6 19.♔d2 ♘a4 20.♖ah1 with better chances for White (still, the game ended in a draw on move 52).

8.h4

This is new move. Earlier White tried 8.a3 and also 8.♕h5 (Reggio-Albin, Monte Carlo 1902).

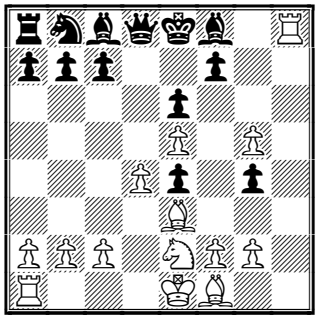
8...h5!?

Recently I read that Russian GM Volkov likes to use his rook pawns. True: when I played him in 2001, he also moved his h-pawn at one unexpected moment. If 8...♘xc3, then 9.♗d2 ♘xa2 10.c3! with compensation.

9.hxg5!

Shirov offers an extremely interesting positional queen sacrifice.

9...hxg4 10.♖xh8+ ♗f8 11.♘xe4 dxe4 12.♘e2 *(D)*



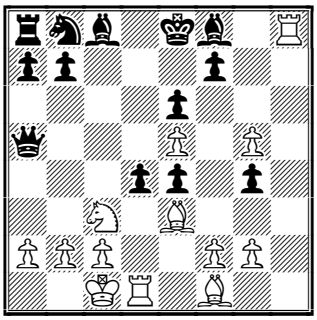
White has dangerous ideas such as 0-0-0, ♘f4, g6; he also can transfer his knight to f6. Volkov decided to defend actively...

12...c5 13.0-0-0 ♕a5

After 13...cxd4? 14.♘xd4!+- there is no defence for Black against the threats of ♘xe6 and ♘b5, as 14...♘d7

fails to 15.g6!.

14.♘c3 cxd4 *(D)*



14...♘d7 15.dxc5!? would be very dangerous for Black. Chess fans on the Internet had two versions of the further moves. I will give the 'official' version.

15.♗xd4

15.♘xe4 ♔e7? (15...♕xe5 16.♗xd4 ♕xe4 17.♗c5 ♘d7 18.♗b5! favours White; 15...dxe3 loses to 16.♘d6+! ♔e7 17.♘xc8+ ♔e8 18.♘d6+ ♔e7 19.♖h7!. But 15...♘c6!?= saves Black.) 16.♘f6?. And according to ICC (Internet Chess Club) coverage, the draw was agreed here! Really, after 16.♘f6? Black hardly has anything better than 16...dxe3 17.♘g8+ ♔e8 18.♘f6+=. But 16.♗xd4! ♘d7 17.♗c3!+− gives White a decisive advantage. An interesting winning attempt for White, suggested by IM Nikolai Vlassov is 15.♘b5!?, and if 15...♘c6, then 16.g6! fxg6 17.♗h6 with an attack.

15...♘c6! 16.♘xe4 ♘xd4 ½−½

And here, according to the official ECC (European Club Cup) site, the draw was agreed. After 16...♘xd4 17.♘f6+ ♔e7 (17...♔d8? 18.♖xf8+ ♔c7 19.♖xf7+) 18.♖xd4 the fight should end with perpetual check: 18...♕xe5 19.♘g8+ ♔e8 20.♘f6+=.

Solution to our quiz:

J. Flesch – M. Kovacs:

23.♖xf6! 1−0.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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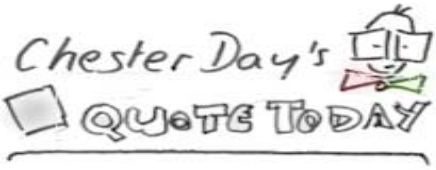


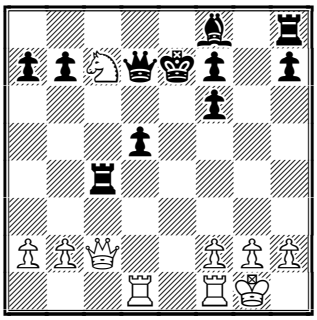
You need not fear to create a weakness in your own position if it creates or preserves worse ones in the opponent's position.

--- C. J. S. Purdy

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-274 (1058) 1st October 2003

Chess Quiz

Degraeve (2541) – Loebler (2216)
ECC, Crete (1), 28.09.2003



White to play

Chess News

The European Club Championship

Women, key results:

Teams Ladya-Kazan-1000 and Internet GC Podgorica exchanged blows on first boards. Galliamova won against Matveeva and Kosteniuk defeated Zaiatz.

Ladya-Kazan-1000 – Internet GC Podgorica – 2-2

NTN Tbilisi – ULIM Sport Club – 2½ -1½

Hellir Chess Club Reykjavik – BAS Beograd – ½-3½

Team NTN Tbilisi is the sole team that won all their matches and thus became the leader.

In the 4th round Internet GC Podgorica plays against NTN Tbilisi.

Men, key results:

Zhigalko A. made a draw with Svidler, and the game between Zhigalko S. and Adams was also drawn. If there were 4 more like Zhigalko on the Vesnianka Minsk team, the match would have been drawn.

NAO Chess Club – Vesnianka Minsk – 5-1

Pantsulaia from Tbilisi excelled once more – he defeated Timofeev. But it didn't secure the team from the rout.

Ladya-Kazan-1000 – Tbilisi – 4½-1½

Strong teams Tomsk and Norilsk drew:

Tomsk-400-Yukos – Norilsk Nikel – 3-3

The chances for the Polonia and Clichy teams were almost equal, I think. So the result is quite a surprise for me:

Polonia Plus Warsaw – Clichy Echecs 92 – 5½-½

After 3 rounds the following teams won three times:

Ladya-Kazan-1000, NAO Chess Club, Polonia Plus Warsaw, and St. Petersburg Lentransgaz.

Key matches of round 4:

Polonia Plus Warsaw – NAO Chess Club
St. Petersburg Lentransgaz – Ladya-Kazan-1000

Official website

The Monarch Assurance Open

All the top boards look to be drawn but most of the next group of games are likely to end in decisive results. Korneev leads with 3½ points out of 4, with a massive pile-up on 3. Surprises of the day: Arkell blundering a piece and losing to Kiseleva, while Richard Pert dispatched Mohamad Al-Modiahki.
Official site

Correction

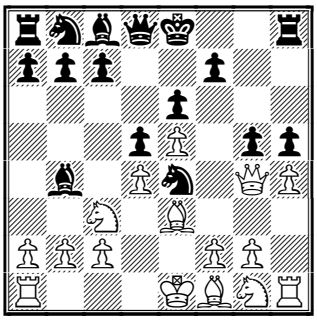
by GM Alex Baburin

Yesterday we published the game Shirov-Volkov from Crete. Nikolai Vlassov suggested a possible

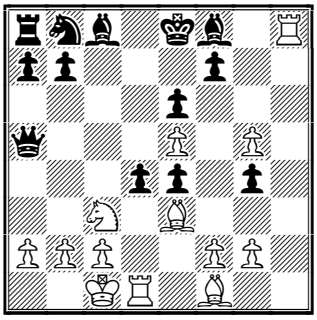
improvement for White on move 15. Today he sent me further analysis, claiming that his move would have won for Shirov! I hope you will find it interesting:

Shirov–Volkov
European Club Cup,
Crete, 29.09.2003

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗g5 ♗b4 5.e5 h6 6.♗e3 ♘e4 7.♕g4 g5 8.h4 h5!? *(D)*

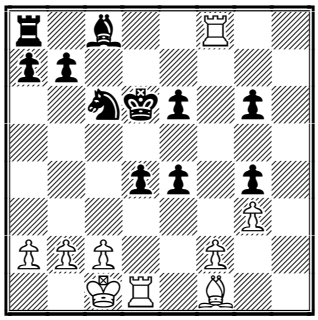


9.hxg5!
This is an extremely interesting positional queen sacrifice.
9...hxg4 10.♖xh8+ ♗f8 11.♘xe4 dxe4 12.♘e2 c5 13.0-0-0 ♕a5 14.♘c3 cxd4 *(D)*



Here Shirov played **15.♗xd4** and after **15...♘c6! 16.♘xe4 ♘xd4** a draw was agreed. **½–½**

Instead of **15.♗xd4** Nikolai Vlassov suggested **15.♘b5!,** with the following variations:
15...dxe3 16.♘d6+ ♔e7 17.♘xc8+ ♔e8 18.♘d6+ ♔e7 19.♖h7±;
15...♕xa2 16.♗xd4 ♘a6;
15...♘c6 16.g6! fxg6 17.♘d6+! (this is better than 17.♗h6 d3! 18.♖xf8+ ♔e7 19.♘c3 ♘xe5 20.cxd3 ♘xd3+ 21.♗xd3 exd3 22.♖xd3 ♕c7 23.♖h8 ♕e5 24.♖h7+ ♔e8 25.f4! gxf3 26.♖xf3 ♕c5 27.♖ff7±) 17...♔d7 (17...♔e7 18.♗g5+ ♔d7 19.♖h7+ ♗e7 20.♗xe7 ♘xe7 21.♗b5+ ♔d8 22.♖xd4 ♘d5 23.c4 ♕b6 24.♖xe4 a6 25.cxd5 ♕xf2 26.♗c4+–) 18.♖xf8 ♕xe5 (18...♔c7 19.♘b5+ ♔b8 20.♗xd4 ♘xd4 21.♖xd4+–) 19.♗f4 ♕xd6 20.♗xd6 ♔xd6 21.g3!± ***(D)***

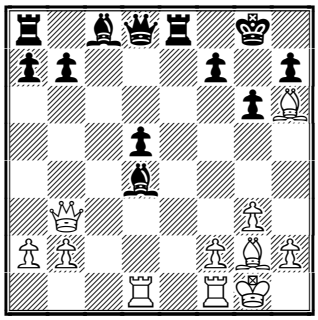


and White should win this position.

Beware: Blunder!

We continue publishing curious example of gross tactical mistakes.

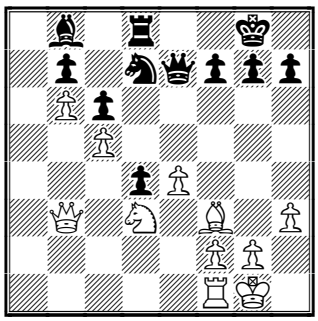
Timofeev (2575) – Petzold (2275)
Euro Clubs Cup Crete (1), 28.09.2003



Black to play

White has just played **15.♖ad1**. His chances are better after both 15...♗f6 and 15...♗h8, so Black decided to keep his bishop on d4: **15...♕f6??** Yet, after **16.♕a4!** he surely regretted his decision! **1–0.**

Cobb (2393) – Naiditsch (2574)
ECC, Crete (1), 28.09.2003



Black to play

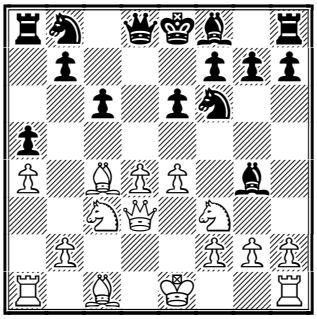
Black stands well, as White's well-advanced pawns on the queenside could become targets, for example after 25...♘e5!. Yet, Black rushed to take on c5:

25...♘xc5?? 26.♕a3 ♗d6 27.e5!+- ♘xd3 28.exd6 ♕xd6 29.♕xd3 ♕c5 30.♖b1 g6 31.♗e4 ♖e8 32.♕c2 ♕a5 33.g3 ♖e6 34.♔g2 c5 35.♗xb7 ♖xb6 36.♖xb6 ♕xb6 37.♗d5 ♔g7 38.♕c4 ♕c7 39.♕b5 ♕e7 40.♕b3 ♕f6 41.♕b5 ♕d6 42.♕b7 ♕f8 43.♕c7 ♔g8 44.♔g1 ♔g7 45.h4 ♔g8 46.♗e4 ♔g7 47.♕e5+ f6 48.♕c7+ ♔h6 49.♔h2 f5 50.♗d3 ♕f6 51.♕xc5 f4 52.♕c1 ♔h5 53.♗e2+ 1-0.

Annotated Game

□ **A. Lugovoi (2566)**
■ **Kir. Georgiev (2637)**
ECC Crete (2), 29.09.2003
Slav Defence - [D16]
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 a5 6.e4 ♗g4 7.♗xc4 e6 8.♕d3!?N *(D)*



This is a kind of a novelty: the queen lures the black knight to b4 where the latte will attack the queen for 1 move, but may play little part in the game after that. White previously played 8.0–0 and 8.h3.

8...♘a6

As know how badly this move turned out for Black in this game, I dare suggesting 8...♗xf3 9.gxf3 ♘bd7. But, of course, that would have been another game!

9.♗e3 ♘b4 10.♕e2 ♗e7 11.♖c1

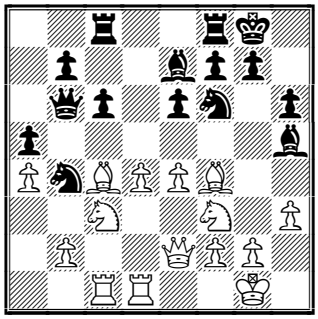
Protecting the c2-square with the rook, White releases his queen from that task.

11...0-0 12.h3 ♗h5 13.0-0 h6

Otherwise, the h5-bishop would be in danger. For instance, 13...♘d7 14.♖fd1 ♖c8 15.g4 ♗g6 16.♘e5 ♘xe5 17.dxe5 ♕c7 18.f4±. White dominates the whole board, while the b4-knight and g6-bishop do not have any active role. **14.♖fd1 ♖c8**

14...♕c7 looks more natural.

15.♗f4 ♕b6 *(D)*

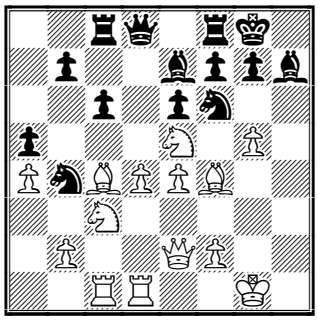


White is ideally developed, now it is time for action!

16.g4! ♗g6 17.♘e5 ♗h7 18.h4

Black does not have counter-play, which is his main problem.

18...♕d8 19.g5 hxg5 20.hxg5 *(D)*



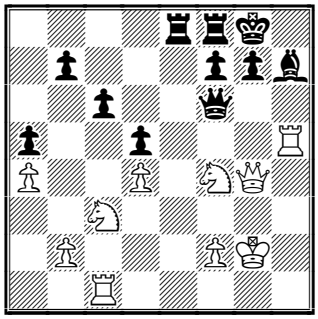
20...♘fd5!

This piece sacrifice is the only way to complicate the situation. Otherwise, Black is doomed.

21.exd5 exd5 22.♗d3 ♘xd3 23.♘xd3 ♗xg5

Black has obtained a couple of pawns for his knight. But the problem is the White keeps on attacking.

24.♕g4! ♗xf4 25.♘xf4 ♕d6 26.♔g2 ♖ce8 27.♖h1 ♕f6 28.♖h5+- *(D)*



Black cannot stop White's plan of doubling his major pieces on the h-file.

28...♗g6 29.♖g5 ♕xd4 30.♖h1 ♗e4+ 31.♘xe4 f5 32.♕h5 ♕xe4+ 33.♔g3

There is no defence from checkmate. Black resigned. **1-0.**

Solution to our quiz:
Degraeve-Loebler: **20.♘xd5+! ♕xd5 21.♖xd5 1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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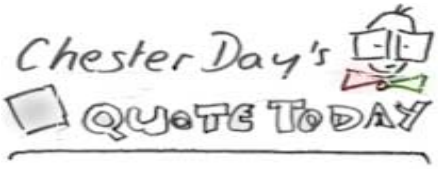
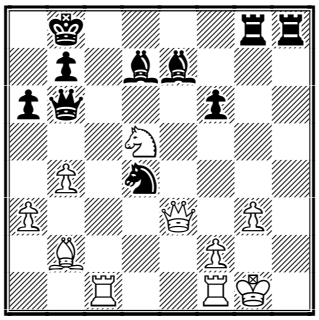


"For me, chess
is life and every game is
like a new life. Every chess
player gets to live
many lives in one lifetime."

- GM Eduard Gufeld

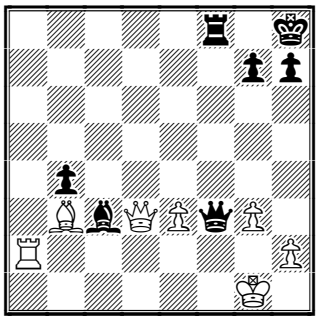
Chess Quiz

Ribshtein (2324) – Apicella (2522)
ECC Rethymnon 29.09.2003



Black to play

Sharavdorj (2411) – Ibragimov (2587)
Levy mem Denver USA (2), 18.09.2003



Black to play

Chess News

The European Club Championship
Round 4

Women, key results:
NTN Tbilisi are leading after the victory 2½:1½ over Internet Podgorica (Kosteniuk lost to Lomineishvili). The matches Ladya–Kazan–1000 – Tomsk–400–Yukos (Galliamova defeated Demina) and ULIM – BAS (Skripchenko beat Bojkovic) ended in a draw.

Round 5 pairings:
NTN Tbilisi – Ladya–Kazan–1000
Tomsk–400–Yukos – Internet
BAS – Cannes

Men, key results
The champions of Russia, Ladya–Kazan–1000, have taken the lead after defeating St. Petersburg Lentransgaz 4:2. On the first boards Kasparov (with Black) and Bologan won their games against Sakaev and Volkov respectively. In the 5th round Ladya will play NAO, which won all the matches as well but scored two individual points less.

The French club defeated Polonia Warsaw thanks to good play from the Frenchmen. Lautier and Bacrot won their games while the encounters on the top three boards all ended in a draw – Ivanchuk – Grischuk, Svidler – Gelfand and Macieja – Adams. Norilsk Nikel beat the Makedonian Alkaloid Skopje 4:2 (Malakhov and Zvjaginsev scored the wins). Tomsk–400–Yukos couldn't defeat the Ukrainian Momot. Gennady Kuzmin drew with Khalifman. On the second board Morozevich beat Efimenko.

Kiseljak of Bosnia and Herzegovina gained minimal advantage over the Byelorussian team Vesnianka. Curiously enough, the decisive points for Kiseljak were scored by the members of the national team of Byelorussia – Aleksandrov and Fedorov – who beat their fellow countrymen. The leader of Vesnianka Sergei Azarov won against the European Champion Zurab Azmaiparashvili.

Kydon (Greece) – Bosna 1:5
Clichy – Corpora Martin (Slovakia) 2:4
Beer–Sheva – GKSz Polfa 4:2

Round 4 standings:

1. Ladya–Kazan +4=0–0 (20½)
2. NAO +4=0–0 (18½)
3. Beer–Sheva +3=1–0 (17)
4. Norilsk Nikel +3=1–0 (15½)
5. Kiseljak +3=0–1 (18)
6. Polonia +3=0–1 (17½)
7–8. Tomsk–400–Yukos +2=2–0 (17), Corpora Martin +3=0–1 (17)

This issue is prepared IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

9–10. Bosna, Werder Bremen +3=0–1 (15½)
11–12. St. Petersburg Lentransgaz +3=0–1 (15), Momot +2=2–0 (15)

Round 5 pairings:
Ladya–Kazan–1000 – NAO
Norilsk Nikel – Beer–Sheva
Tomsk–400–Yukos – St. Petersburg Lentransgaz
Kiseljak – Momot
Official site

The Monarch Assurance Open

Round 5 standings:
1–7. Agdestein, Korneev, Sulskis, A. Kuzmin, Iordachescu, Fridman, Kogan – 4, etc.
Official site

Well-advanced Pawns

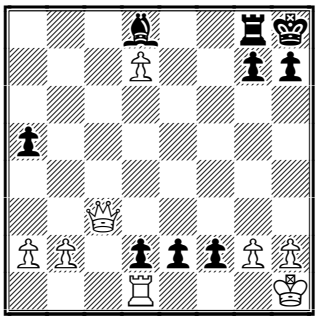
by GM Alex Baburin

A few days ago our reader Luiz Roberto Da Costa sent us a link to an interesting article by Lubomir Kavalek, dealing with the subject of 3 connected pawns on the seventh rank.

GM Kavalek

In it, GM Kavalek writes about the game which fascinated young Garry Kasparov and attracted him to chess:

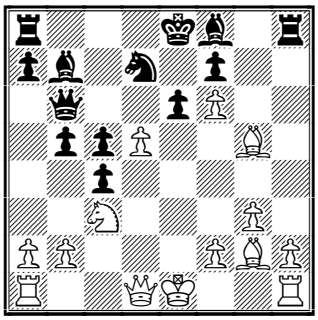
McDonnell – De Labourdonnais
London (16), 1834
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e5 5.♘xc6 bxc6 6.♗c4 ♘f6 7.♗g5 ♗e7 8.♕e2 d5 9.♗xf6 ♗xf6 10.♗b3 0–0 11.0–0 a5 12.exd5 cxd5 13.♖d1 d4 14.c4 ♕b6 15.♗c2 ♗b7 16.♘d2 ♖ae8 17.♘e4 ♗d8 18.c5 ♕c6 19.f3 ♗e7 20.♖ac1 f5 21.♕c4+ ♔h8 22.♗a4 ♕h6 23.♗xe8 fxe4 24.c6 exf3 25.♖c2 ♕e3+ 26.♔h1 ♗c8 27.♗d7 f2 28.♖f1 d3 29.♖c3 ♗xd7 30.cxd7 e4 31.♕c8 ♗d8 32.♕c4 ♕e1 33.♖c1 d2 34.♕c5 ♖g8 35.♖d1 e3 36.♕c3 ♕xd1 37.♖xd1 e2 *(D)*



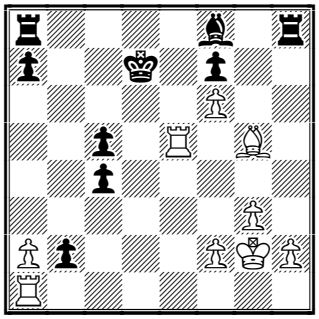
0–1

Then Kavalek shows the following modern game:

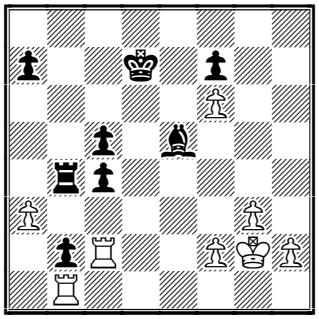
Studnicka–Cernousek
ProMoPro Open Prague, 2003
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♗g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♗xg5 ♘bd7 11.g3 ♗b7 12.♗g2 ♕b6 13.exf6 c5 14.d5 *(D)*



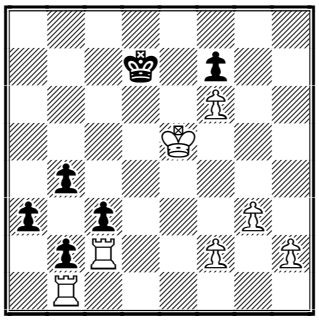
14...b4
14...0–0–0 15.0–0 b4 16.♘a4 ♕b5 17.a3 exd5 18.axb4 cxb4 19.♗e3 ♘c5 20.♕g4+ ♖d7 21.♗xc5 ♗xc5 22.♕g7 ♖h5 23.♗f3 ♖e5 24.♗g4 ♗c6 25.♕xf7 d4 26.♖fe1 d3 27.♗xd7+ ♗xd7 28.♖xe5 1–0 Studnicka–Cernousek, ch–CZE, Lahucovice 2003.
15.0–0 bxc3 16.dxe6 ♘e5 17.♖e1 ♗xg2 18.♖xe5 ♕c6 19.♕d7+ ♕xd7 20.exd7+ ♔xd7 21.♔xg2 cxb2 *(D)*



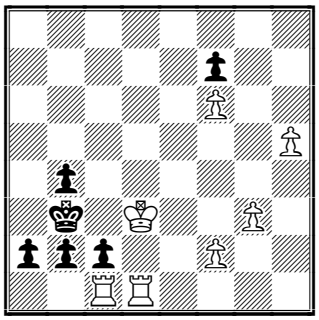
22.♖b1 ♗d6 23.♖e3 ♖ab8 24.♖c3 ♖b4 25.♗d2 ♗e5 26.♖c2 ♖hb8 27.♗xb4 ♖xb4 28.a3 ***(D)***



28...c3 29.axb4 cxb4 30.♔f3! a5 31.♔e4 a4 32.♔xe5 a3 ***(D)***



33.♖d1+ ♔c6 34.♔d4 a2 35.♖cc1 ♔b5 36.♔d3 ♔a4 37.h4? ♔b3 38.h5 c2 ***(D)***

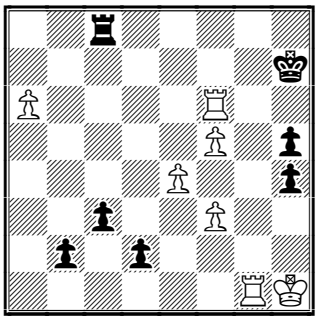


A very picturesque position! White cannot resist the avalanche of black pawns:

39.♖h1 b1♕ 40.h6 a1♕ 41.h7 ♕xc1 42.♖xc1 ♕xc1 43.h8♕ ♕d1+ 0-1

This reminded me of seeing a game between Smyslov and Botvinnik, where the latter could have got three pawns on the second rank:

Smyslov-Botvinnik
Absolute USSR Ch, Moscow (3), 1941



Black to play

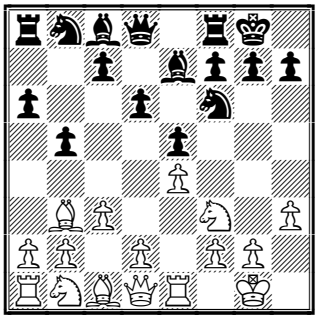
59...♖c7!?
Here pushing the third pawn to the second rank would be a mistake: 59...c2? 60.♖f7+ ♔h8 61.♖f6=. Yet, even easier was 59...d1♕! 60.♖xd1 c2, winning.
60.♖fg6 d1♕ 0-1

Indeed, chess is an amazing game!
See Kavalek's article online

Annotated Game

☐ **A Grischuk (2732)**
■ **S Azarov (2530)**
ECC Rethymnon GRE (3), 30.09.2003
C95
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘b8



The Breyer System of the Ruy Lopez. The knight is heading for a more flexible position clearing a path to the c-pawn and the light-squared bishop.

10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♗b7

To continue the knight's transfer to g3 White should withdraw his light-squared bishop from its active position.

12.♗c2 ♖e8 13.♘f1 ♗f8 14.♘g3

Right in time to protect the key point e4.

14...c5

Black endeavors to do without the kingside pawns movements. The common continuation is 14...g6

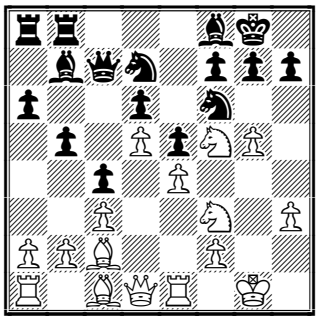
15.d5 c4 16.♘f5

This thrust may be delayed or abandoned as the following examples from elite players practice show: 16.♗g5 ♕c7 17.♕d2 *(17.♘f5 ♔h8 18.g4 ♘g8 19.♕d2* Anand - Bologan, FIDE World Ch 2000*)* 17...♖eb8 18.♘h2 ♘e8 19.♘g4 ♗c8 20.♖f1 Svidler - Delchev, France Team Ch 2003

16...♕c7

Black has to be careful. 16...g6 17.♘h6+ is in White's favour.

17.g4 ♖eb8 18.g5

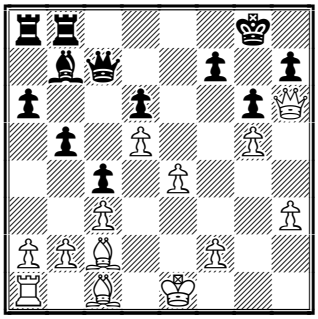


A new move which leaves Black the possibility to place the knight on h5. If White wanted to evade this he could have played 18.♘g3 first **18...♘h5?!** Black yields to the opponent's persuasion involving himself in a forced play. 18...♘e8 was more cautious.

19.♘xe5!

Of course Grishcuk had foreseen it before playing g4-g5.

19...♘xe5 20.♕xh5 g6 21.♘h6+ ♗xh6 22.♕xh6 ♘f3+ 23.♔f1 ♘xe1 24.♔xe1



It transpires that White's assessment of the resulting position was more precise. He is seizing the initiative thanks to the weakened black squares of the opponent's kingside.

24...♖e8

Perhaps 24...♖f8!? is better though after 25.♗e3 f6 26.♔d2 the g-file opens up and the white rook gets a good job. The text move didn't help to avoid it anyway. **25.♗e3 ♖e5 26.♔d2!**

Preparing f2-f4. Hasty moves could spoil a good thing. If 26.♗d4 ♕e7! 27.f4 *(*or *27.♗xe5 ♕xe5 28.♕h4 ♗xd5* with level position*)* 27...♖xe4+ 28.♗xe4 ♕xe4+ 29.♔d1 ♕f3+ and Black secures perpetual - 30.♔d2 *(30.♔c2 ♕e2+)* 30...♕xf4+ 31.♔c2 ♕e4+; In the event of 26.f4 ♖xe4! 27.♗xe4 ♕e7 the situation occurs again - 28.f5!? *(28.♗d4 ♕xe4+* and so on*)* 28...♕xe4 29.f6 ♕xe3+=

26...♖ae8 27.♗d4 f5 28.gxf6

The rook isn't worth bishop! Much worse is 28.♗xe5 ♖xe5 29.exf5? *(*right is *29.f4 ♖e8 30.♖e1 ♕f7* with roughly equal position*)* 29...♖xd5+ 30.♔c1 ♕e7 and with his pieces scattered all over the board White even loses - 31.b4 ♖d3! 32.♔b2 *(32.♗xd3? cxd3)* 32...♖xc3 33.♔xc3 ♕e5+ 34.♔d2 c3+ 35.♔d3 *(35.♔d1 ♗f3+)* 35...♗c8!–+

28...♖h5 29.♕f4 ♖xh3 30.♖g1 ♔f7 31.♕g4 ♗c8 32.♕g2

The impression that the bishop on c2 doesn't take part in the attack is deceptive. Now 33.e5 is threatening followed by the decisive blow on g6

32...♖e5!

The only defence.

33.♔c1!

Premature is 33.f4? ♖eh5

33...♔f8 34.♗d1

Everything is ready for f2-f4

34...♖h4 35.♗xe5 dxe5 36.♕g5

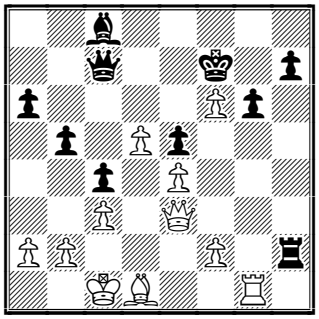
♖h2

To 36...♖f4 White has a crushing reply 37.♗h5! ♕d6 *(37...gxh5 38.♕g8#; 37...♕f7 38.♕h6+ ♔e8 39.♖xg6!; 37...♖xf2 38.♕h6+ ♔g8 39.♗xg6)* 38.♕h6+ ♔e8 39.♕xh7 ♖xf6 40.♗xg6+ with two pawns up and attack

37.♕e3

In a time scramble (and in a team tournament!) it's better not to perplex your team-mates with lines like 37.f4 exf4 38.e5 ♕c5 39.♕xf4! ♕xg1 40.e6 Although White is winning here.

37...♔f7



38.f4! ♖h3

After 38...exf4 39.♕d4 White's trio in the centre is irresistible; or 38...♔xf6 39.♕g3 ♖h3 40.fxe5+ and 40...♕xe5? loses to 41.♖f1+

39.♕e1?

Up to now Grischuk was conducting the game excellently. Here he begins to run astray The queen would have been better placed on f2 – 39.♕f2 exf4 40.♖e1 ♕e5 41.♕c5±; another good option was 39.♖g3 ♖xg3 *(39...exf4? 40.♖xh3 fxe3? 41.♖xh7+)* 40.♕xg3 exf4 41.♕g5 ♕d6 42.e5! ♕xd5 43.♕h6

39...b4?!

A natural wish to get some counterplay. But Black could make the rival's task even more difficult by 39...exf4! 40.e5 ♕c5 and it's not clear how to improve White's formidable position.*(*bad is *40...♖e3? 41.♕h4+–)*

40.cxb4 c3 41.♗b3 ♔xf6 42.fxe5+ ♕xe5 43.♕f2+ ♔g7 44.♖f1

44.♗c2!?

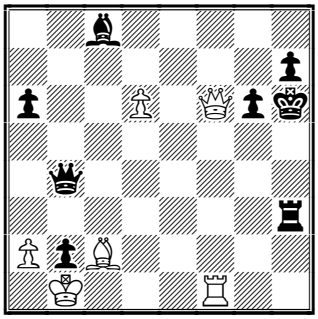
44...cxb2+ 45.♔b1?

White ought to be satisfied with extra pawn after 45.♕xb2 ♖c3+ 46.♗c2

45...♕xe4+ 46.♗c2 ♕xb4

Black is two pawns up and the f8 square is under control.

47.♕f6+ ♔h6 48.d6



48...♕c4?

The fatal error. True to play such position for Black is like walking a tight rope. After 48...♗g4 White is unable to win, e.g. 49.♖g1 ♕d2! 50.♕f8+ *(50.♔xb2?? ♗f5–+)* 50...♔g5 51.♕e7+ ♔h6=

49.♖g1!

Threatening Rxg6

49...♗g4 50.d7 ♖h2 51.♗xg6!

This bishop was biding its time so patiently! And the hour has come. Black resigned. After 51.♗xg6 hxg6 52.♕h8+ ♔g5 53.d8♕+ the new queen enters the game with check.

1–0

Solution to our quiz:

25...♘e2+!–+ 26.♔g2 26.♕xe2 ♖xg3# **26...♕xe3 27.fxe3 ♖xg3+ 0–1**

33...♗d4! 0–1

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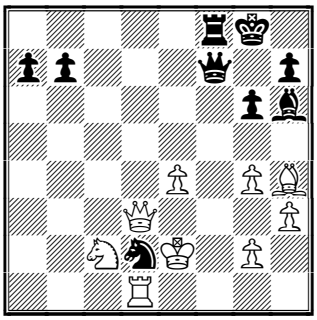
CT-276(1060) 3rd October 2003

Chess Quiz

Van Wely – Sutovsky
ECC Rethymnon GRE, 2003



Black to play

Chess News

The European Club Championship
Round 5

Women, key results:
The young Georgian girls retain the lead after drawing their match against Ladya-Kazan **NTN Tbilisi – Ladya-Kazan-1000 2:2** (Alisa Galliamova scored her fifth win in the tournament this time over Nana Dzagnidze, but Lela Javakhishvili has levelled the score by beating Julia Mashinskaya). **Tomsk-400-Yukos – Internet Podgorica – 1½:2½** (Matveeva defeated Demina on the 1st board). BAS – Cannes – 2½:1½.
South Ural – ULIM – 2½:1½

Round 5 standings:
1. NTN Tbilisi +4=1–0 (14)
2. Internet Podgorica +3=1–1 (14)
3. BAS Beograd +3=1–1 (13)
4. Ladya-Kazan-1000 +2=3–0 (11½)

Men, key results
The 5th round saw a fierce struggle in the leading group though the majority of games ended in a draw. Some important decisive games have demonstrated the power of the pair of bishops. Kasparov and Svidler handled this famous couple skilfully and with help from a rook created inevitable mating threats in the ending. Greenfeld transposed a position with "2B vs B+N" into a winning ending with bishops of opposite colour. All the other games in the matches Ladya-Kazan-1000 – NAO and Beer-Sheva – Norilsk Nikel were drawn therefore the total score is:
Ladya-Kazan-1000 – NAO – 3:3
(Kasparov – Grischuk 1:0, Svidler – Bologan 1:0)

Beer-Sheva – Norilsk Nikel 3½:2½
(Greenfeld beat Onischuk) The victory of Beer-Sheva is a rather surprising outcome as all the members of Norilsk Nikel have a 50-100 points ELO advantage over their rivals.

The other key matches brought the following results:

Tomsk-400-Yukos – St. Petersburg Lentransgaz 3½:2½
Morozevich and Filippov (both with Black) beat Volkov and Smirnov. Vasily Yemelin of Saint Petersburg won against Pigusov and thus retains a perfect score 4 out of 4 as well as Kasparov.

Kiseljak – Momot 3½:2½
Almasi defeated Efimenko. Other games were drawn.
Polonia – Tbilisi 3½:2½
Macieja – Gagunashvili 1:0. The rest as in Beer-Sheva – Norilsk Nikel and Kiseljak – Momot

Two matches saw clear superiority of one of the teams.

Werder – Corpora Martin 4½:1½
(McShane beat Sutovsky, Hracek beat Movsesian and Babula beat Navara)
Bosna – Einatten 5:1

Round 5 standings:
1. Ladya-Kazan +4=1–0 (23½)
2. NAO +4=1–0 (21½)
3. Beer-Sheva +4=1–0 (20½)
4. Kiseljak +4=0–1 (21½)
5. Polonia +4=0–1 (21)
6. Tomsk-400-Yukos +3=2–0 (20½)
7. Bosna +4=0–1 (20½)
8. Werder Bremen +4=0–1 (20)

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin & GM M. Golubev; technical editor Ralph P. Marconi.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Round 6 pairings were unavailable when I was preparing this issue. According to the article of Evgeny Atarov on www.chess-express.ru the organisation of the European Club Championships is awful to put it mildly. The tournament is nearly over but the hosts are still unable to provide the chess world with a normal broadcast. Today's annotated game features Vladimir Malakhov's win of the 4th round. Those who have downloaded the file from TWIC can split their sides looking at the final moves. I give both the "official" and the right versions you're welcome to compare. The other pattern of this kind is the game Volkov – Morozevich. My advice here is to cut off the moves after 52…Qxf7 – it's time for White to resign.
Official website

We thank **Luiz Roberto Da Costa Jr.** for the following information.

VII Itau Cup Sao Paulo Open (Brazil)
Clube de Xadrez Sao Paulo (in English: Sao Paulo Chess Club) is the oldest in Latin American. The club was founded on 12 June 1902. The founders were immigrants and didn't understand quite well the Portuguese language so the minutes were written in German. The club became famous when helped in the organisation of Richard Reti's blindfold simultaneous (29 boards in 1925), some Alekhine's simultaneous in 1926, some Capablanca's simultaneous in 1927 and Miguel Najdorf's blindfold simultaneous (45 boards in 1947). Clube de Xadrez Sao Paulo has organized many International tournaments since 1948.

The VII Itau Cup (a bank is the main sponsor) is a 198 players, 9-round Swiss Open
Prize fund is about US$8,000.00:
1st prize US$1,400.00
2nd prize US$1,000.00
3rd prize US$ 700.00

There are players representing 12 countries: Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Israel, Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay. The titled players include 2 GMs, 15 IMs and 1 WGM.

Round 5 standings:

1-2. Milos, Braga – 5
3-7. Matsuura, Rocha, Mittelman, Soppe, Pereira – 4½

Round 6 pairings:
Braga – Milos
Soppe – Mittelman
Matsuura – Pereira
Galego – Rocha

The Monarch Assurance Open
Sarunas Sulskis of Lithuania has become sole leader after his win over Oleg Korneev in the 6th round.

Round 6 standings:
1. Sulskis – 5
2-12. A. Kuzmin, Sandipan, Agdestein, Iordachescu, Psakhis, Lputian, Hebden, Kogan, Fridman, Van Der Weide, Mikhalevsky – 4½, etc.
Official site

WebWatch
by GM Mikhail Golubev

The new and very long book review by **IM John Watson** at the TWIC site is called The Real Champions, or Garry's Guys?. In Watson's view, *Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors* might be not as great a book as other reviewers tend to think. There is some problem even with the title: ' I must say that the title itself is a bad omen. A more correct rendition would surely be *Garry Kasparov on His Great Predecessors*, or perhaps *Garry Kasparov: My Great Predecessors.* ' (Watson).

Quite similar thoughts were expressed in the article My Great Predecessors: Another Perspective by GM Patrick

Wolff at Chess Cafe.com. Still, both authors showed respect for Kasparov's work, even if they found certain weaknesses.
Another new Chess Cafe article attracted my attention also: Two World Champions with One Common Mission by GM Susan Polgar.

Polgar discusses the situation in modern chess ("Chess in the 21st century is at a critical crossroad!"), with its pluses (' Now, you no longer have to live in a big city to be able to play chess or take chess lessons.' ... ' Hollywood has begun to love chess' ... ' Chess is now cool!') and minuses (' After the Prague agreement for the World Chess Championship Reunification, money for the matches has been hard to come by.') And shows the way forward (' Chess needs heroes. Chess needs role models. This is how the US Women's Olympiad Program was created.'). The article is continued by FM Paul Truong, who provides details about the US Women's Olympiad Program which, by the way, included a three-day training session with Garry Kasparov.

The latest article in GM Nigel Short's Telegraph Chess Column is devoted to the retirement of GM Yasser Seirawan. Short analyses Seirawan-Karpov, London, 1982, won by the American Grandmaster.

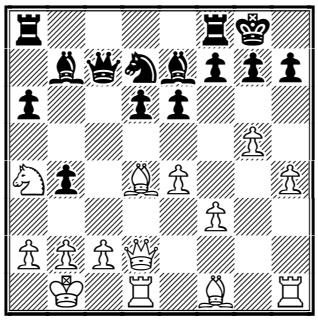
Another Telegraph publication is called Those miserable and mad, but magnificent Russians. The English humour is popular in Russia, so everyone certainly appreciates GM David Norwood's jokes. The author liked at least one Russian: in 1990 Peter Svidler chatted with him 'excitedly about the cricket scores'. Norwood provided some comments to the Svidler-Volkov game, played in the 56th Russian Championship.

This nice game was commented on by Maxim Notkin in CT-1040, and notes by GM Michal Krasenkow are available in the Game of the Week section of the Worldchessrating site.

The newest WCR ' s Game of the Week is Bacrot-Papa, Lausanne YM 2003. The brilliant analyses by GM Alexander Rustemov, are for the moment, available only in Russian. As it happened, this interesting game was not commented on in CT, so it probably makes sense to consider it now. I included several of the more critical findings by Rustemov and some additional opening references.

□ E. Bacrot (2645)
■ S. Papa (2372)
IV Young Masters Lausanne SUI (1.1), 17.09.2003
Sicilian Defence – [B80]
Notes by GM Mikhail Golubev

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.♗e3 ♗e7 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.0-0-0 0-0 10.g4 ♘xd4 11.♗xd4 b5 12.♔b1 ♘d7 13.h4 ♕c7 14.g5 b4 15.♘a4 ♗b7 *(D)*



16.b3
If 16.♕xb4 (Prokopchuk-Dvorak, Smith and Williamson YM 2003) , then Black could try 16...♗c6!? with compensation.
16...d5
The game Leko-Kasparov, Linares 2003 continued 16...♗c6 17.♘b2 a5 *(17...d5!? Kindermann)* 18.h5 ♘e5 19.♗e2 a4 20.♘c4 ♗b5 21.♘b6 ♖ab8 (Playable is *21...♗xe2!?* , as suggested by Alterman & Doss*)* 22.h6 ♗xe2 23.♕xe2 g6 24.f4 ♘c6 (Better *24...♖xb6 25.♗xb6 ♕xb6 26.fxe5 dxe5∞* Shipov & Vlassov*)* 25.♘xa4 ♘xd4 26.♖xd4 e5 27.♖c4! , with better chances for White.
17.g6
Not dangerous for Black would be 17.exd5 ♗xd5 , as in Adams-Kramnik,

Dortmund 2001.

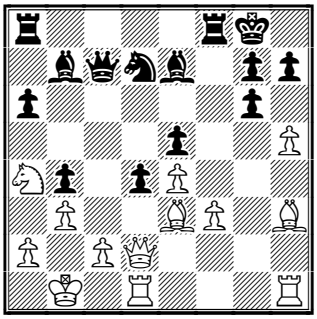
17...fxg6 18.♗h3 e5

If 18...♕d6 , Rustemov proposes 19.e5 ♕c6 20.f4 a5 21.♖c1! with compensation.

19.♗e3

An important alternative is 19.♗xd7 ♕xd7 (Or *19...exd4 20.♗e6+ ♔h8 21.h5)* 20.♗c5! , Bologan–Volokitin, Istanbul Ech 2003.

19...d4 20.h5 *(D)*



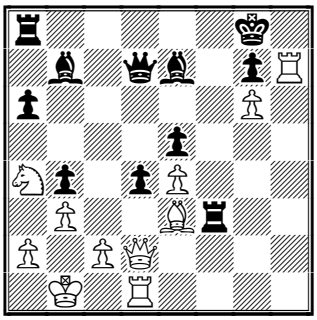
20...♕c6?

After 20...gxh5! , it would be difficult for White to prove his compensation. The line 21.♗e6+ ♔h8 22.♖xh5? ♘f6! 23.♖xh7+ ♘xh7 24.♖h1 ♖xf3! (where Black wins) was given by Rustemov and can also be found in Europe-Echecs.com annotations by Georges Bertola.

21.hxg6 ♖xf3 22.♗xd7 ♕xd7

Rustemov points out an interesting possibility: 22...♕xg6!? 23.♗f5 (Also unclear is *23.♗xd4!?* – MG*)* 23...♖xf5 24.exf5 ♕f6!

23.♖xh7 *(D)*

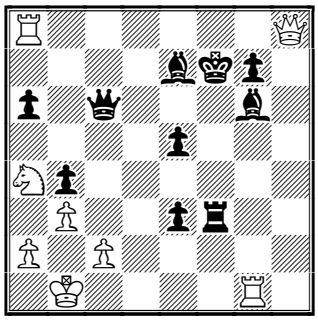


In my view, deserved attention 23.♕h2 hxg6 24.♘b6!

23...♕e6?

It was necessary to play 23...♕g4! (Also mentioned at Europe Echecs site), and after 24.♗h6! ♗f6! 25.♕xb4 ♕xg6 26.♕xb7 ♖d8 27.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 28.♕c7! (Rustemov) the game is complicated.

24.♖g1! ♗xe4 25.♕h2 ♗xg6 26.♖h8+ ♔f7 27.♖xa8 dxe3 28.♕h8! ♕c6 *(D)*



29.♕g8+

Rustemov proves White's win in the long variations after 29.♖c8!? ♕b5 30.♘b6!! , etc.

29...♔f6 30.♖f8+ ♗xf8 31.♕xf8+ ♗f7 32.♕xg7+ ♔e6 33.♕h6+?

The correct way to maintain advantage was 33.♕g4+!±

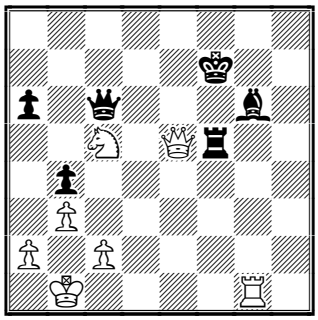
33...♖f6?

It was possible to save the game by 33...♔d7! 34.♖d1+ ♔c7 35.♕h4 ♕f6 36.♕xb4 e2= (Rustemov)

34.♕xe3

Black's position is extremely difficult. He loses in a few moves.

34...♗g6 35.♘c5+ ♔f7 36.♕xe5 ♖f5 *(D)*



37.♘d3!+– ♕b6 38.♕g3 a5 39.♘f4 1–0.

Annotated Game

□ V. Malakhov (2696)
■ T. Nedev (2480)
ECC Rethymnon GRE (4), 01.10.2003
Sicilian Defence – [B30]
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 e6 4.♗xc6 bxc6 5.d3

White has traded the bishop for the

knight at the same time giving his opponent a pawn superiority in the centre. The idea behind it is that Black's pawn chain lacks flexibility. After the natural advance d7–d5 the pawn on c5 may become weak. The same problem may emerge if White meets ...d7–d6 with e4–e5

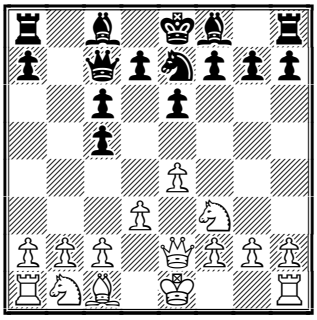
5...♘e7

Black is going to place the knight on g6.

6.♕e2

White delays the kingside castling intending to disturb the knight by h2–h4.

6...♕c7 ***(D)***



7.♘h4

White prepares an advance of the f–pawn. The move ♘g5 has served that purpose more frequently.

7...h6

I believe Black has different plans to obtain a good position. The problem is that he should choose only one. [In the event of 7...♘g6 8.♘xg6 hxg6 9.e5!? Black will need to touch his pawns in order to activate his bishops. And almost every single movement spoils the whole formation.; 7...d5 will be met by c2–c4 fixing the weakness on c5 but here Black can count on counterplay.

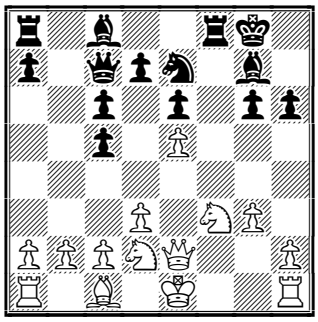
8.g3 g6 9.f4 ♗g7 10.♘f3

It may seem that White is breaking the general laws of opening development. Nevertheless since Black is unable to open the position White can be in no hurry to determine his disposition. Moreover Black himself has made many pawn moves.

10...0–0 11.♘bd2 f6

Again 11...d5 was possible and if 12.0–0 ♗a6 13.c4 ♖ab8 14.♘b3 dxc4 15.dxc4 ♖b4 16.♘fd2 ♖fb8 and Black's activity compensates him for the pawn structure drawbacks.

12.e5!? fxe5 13.fxe5 ***(D)***



13...g5

The game Palac – Cherniaev, Catalan Bay 2003 saw 13...♘f5 14.c3 ♗a6 15.♘e4 c4 16.d4 with clear advantage to White.

14.♕e4 ♘f5 15.0–0

Setting a very smart trap.

15...♗a6!

In case of the tempting 15...g4 16.♕xg4 ♘e3 Black wins even more than the exchange but exposes his king to a dangerous attack – 17.♕g6! ♘xf1 18.♘e4! and after 18...♖xf3 19.♘f6+ ♖xf6 20.exf6 d6 21.♗xh6 ♕f7 22.♕xf7+ ♔xf7 23.fxg7 ♘e3 24.♗xe3 ♔xg7 White is virtually two pawns up in the ending.

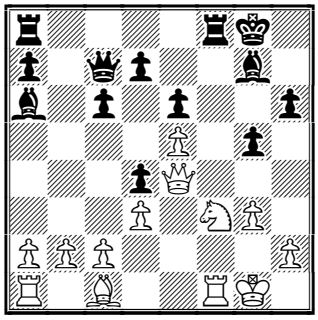
16.♘b3 ♘d4?

Here 16...d5 17.exd6 ♕xd6 was essential leaving the pawns to the mercy of fate but activating all the pieces and creating an unpleasant threat of ♘xg3.

17.♘bxd4

Not 17.♘xc5 ♖xf3 18.♖xf3 ♕xe5! 19.♕xe5 ♘xf3+ 20.♔g2 ♘xe5 21.♘xa6 ♖f8 and Black has nothing to be afraid of.

17...cxd4 ***(D)***



18.♗xg5!

Not bad for a developing move!

18...♖xf3

18...hxg5 loses to 19.♘xg5 ♖f5

20.♖xf5 exf5 21.♕xf5 ♕xe5 22.♕f7+ ♔h8 23.♕g6 ♕e3+ 24.♔h1 ♔g8 25.♖f1 and Black should give up the queen.

19.♕xf3 hxg5 20.♕f7+ ♔h8 21.♖ae1!

The attack is decisive. The black pieces are separated from their king and can't come to the rescue.

21...♖f8 22.♕h5+ ♔g8 23.♖xf8+ ♔xf8

Or 23...♗xf8 24.♕xg5+ ♗g7 25.♖e4 d5 26.exd6 ♕xd6 27.♕g6+−.

24.♕xg5

24.♕h7 was even stronger.

24...d6 25.♖f1+ ♔g8 26.♕g6 dxe5

After 26...♕e7 ; or 26...♕d7 White continues 27.h4 and the simple threat h5−h6 is impossible to parry.

27.♕xe6+ ♔h8 28.♖f5

The next move is Rh5 and Black resigned. And now let's look at the original version − 28.♖a1! ♕d8 29.♕c8!! ♗xc8 30.♖d1 e4 31.dxe4 a6 32.h4 c5 33.b3 a5 34.b4!! a4 1–0. Probably Black is helpless against these passed pawns :−) And of course your Fritz lies to you telling it's –12.50.

1−0.

Solution to Quiz:
Van Wely − Sutovsky
ECC Rethymnon GRE, 2003

26...♘xe4!−+27.♕xe4 ♖e8 28.♖d8 ♕c4+! 0−1.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E−mail us − we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353−1) 278−2276. Fax: (353−1) 283−6839. E−mail: ct@gmsquare.com http://www.chesstoday.net

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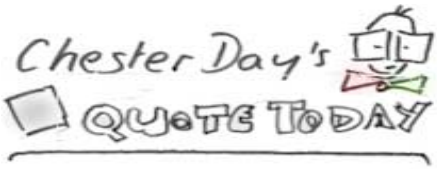


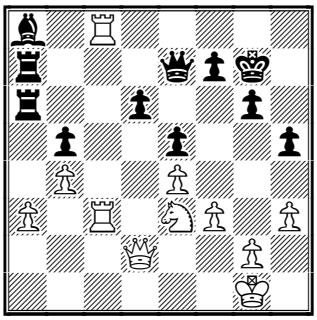
The Passed Pawn
is a criminal, who
should be kept under
lock and key.
Mild measures,
such as police
surveillance, are
not sufficient.

− Aron Nimzovich

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-277 (1061) 4th October 2003

Chess Quiz

Korneev (2561) – Prasad (2407)
Monarch Assurance (7.9), 03.10.2003



White to play

Chess News

The European Club Cup

This is the main tournament at the moment and it does not disappoint chess fans. Chess Base website published an interesting report on rating performances after round 5.

Women, key results of round 6:
BAS Beograd — NTN Tbilisi 2½–1½
Internet CG — South Urals 3–1
Cannes — Ladya–Kazan 2–2

Standings after 6 rounds:
1 Internet CG Podgorica – 9 pts (17)
2 NTN Tbilisi – 9 (15½)
3 BAS Beograd – 9 (15½)
4 Ladya Kazan – 8 (13½)
5 St. Petersburg – 8 (13½), etc.

Key matches of the final round:
Internet CG — BAS Beograd
Tbilisi — St. Petersburg
Ladya–Kazan — Hellir Chess Club

Men, key results of round 6:
Beer–Sheva — Ladya–Kazan 3–3
NAO — Tomsk–400 4½–1½
Bosna — Polonia Plus GSM 2–4
Werder Bremen — Kiseljak 2–4
Clichy'92 — Norilsk Nikel 2½–3½

Standings after 6 rounds, the first figure is match points, the figure in brackets is game points:

1 NAO FRA – 11 points (26)
2 Ladya Kazan RUS – 10 (26½)
3 Kiseljak BIH – 10 (25½)
4 Polonia Plus GSM POL – 10 (25)
5 Beer–Sheva CC ISR – 10 (23½)
6 Chess Club Alkaloid MKD – 9 (28)
7 Norilsk Nikel RUS – 9 (21½)
8 Vesnianka Minsk BLR – 8 (22½)
9 Bosna Sarajevo BIH – 8 (22½)
10 St. Petersburg RUS – 8 (22)
11 Tomsk–400 RUS – 8 (22)
12 Werder Bremen GER – 8 (22)

Key matches of the final round:
NAO — Beer–Sheva
Polonia Plus GSM — Ladya–Kazan
Kiseljak — MKD Club Alkaloid
Vesnianka — Norilsk Nikel
Tbilisi — Bosna Sarajevo
Tomsk–400 — Werder Bremen
Official website

The Monarch Assurance Open

The tournament is coming to its conclusion. I should be there for the final two rounds as tournament's guest. Isle of Man is a special place to me, as there I had the best result of my career so far – 8 out of 9 and a 2800+ rating performance.

Alas, today I heard the sad news that hotel manager – Tony Bridson died... Tony was not a chess player himself, but he made players feel very welcome in Port Erin – he was a very friendly and extremely energetic man!

Key results of round 7:
(4½) Agdestein – Sulskis (5) ½–½
(4½) Lputian – Kogan (4½) 1–0
(4½) Hebden – Iordachescu (4½) ½–½
(4½) Fridman – Sandipan (4½) ½–½
(4½) van der Weide – Al. Kuzmin (4½) ½–½
(4½) V. Mikhalevski – Psakhis (4½) ½–½

This issue is prepared by GM Alexander Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Standings after 7 rounds:
1-2. GMs Sulskis (LTU 2578) and Lputian (ARM 2623) - 5½ points;

There are 14 players on 5 points, including 11 GMs and 3 IMs – the finish should be interesting! My guess is that this year nobody will get 7½ points. In fact, I think that one year I tied for first in the Isle of Man on 6½ point out of 9!
Official site

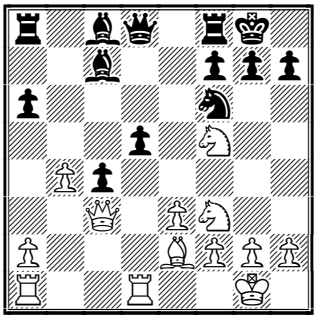
Sao Paulo Open

After 6 rounds GM Gilberto Milos and IM Cícero Braga are leading with 5½ points. You can download games from the event.

Crete: Round 6 Review

The sensation of the day was Kasparov's loss in just 22 moves to Grandmaster Alexander Huzman (2574, Beer-Sheva, Israel).

Huzman (2574) - Kasparov (2830)
Euro Clubs Cup, Crete (6), 03.10.2003



White to play
Black has just played 20...♗b7-c8??
How to exploit this mistake?

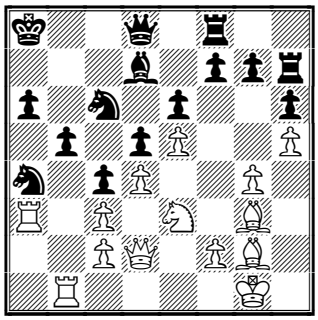
Huzman (41) may not be too familiar to most chess fans, as he does not play that often. But chess pros know him as a very strong (top rating 2610) and knowledgeable GM, who has been Boris Gelfand's second for many years.

I remember when Khalifman, after knocking out Gelfand in Las Vegas in 1999 and then becoming FIDE World Champion, lost one of his first games after Las Vegas to Huzman – Gelfand's second! *New in Chess* then published a funny photo, with Huzman looking at Gelfand and 'saying' something like this: "How could *you* lose to that guy?!". You can find that game in our database today.

Another game in the database is Shneider-Kasparov, 1-0, from yet another European Club Cup – in 1994. So, Kasparov, who a few years ago came up with a rather dubious classifications like 'real chess players' (about 5-6 people in the world, according to him) and 'tourists', sometimes loses to the latter...

Ladya-Kazan fought back on board 2:

Bologan (2650) - Roiz (2554)

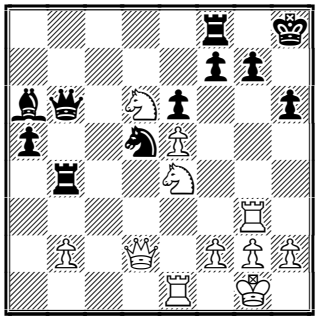


White to play

25.♘xd5! exd5 26.♗xd5 ♖hh8 27.♗g2 ♕c8 28.f4 ♔a7 29.♗f2 ♘a5 30.♖xa4! bxa4 31.d5+ 1-0

But the Israeli team won on board 3:

Avrukh (2557) - Rublevsky (2672)



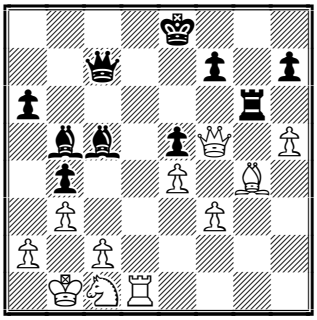
White to play

There are many white pieces around the black king and not too many defenders, so White starts an offensive:
24.♘f6! ♘f4
White's idea would be evident in the

following cute line: 24...♖xb2 25.♕xh6+! gxh6 26.♘xf7+! ♖xf7 27.♖g8#. Now it's all very prosaic... **25.♘d7 ♖d4 26.♕xf4 ♖xf4 27.♘xb6 ♖b8 28.♘d7 ♖xb2 29.♘c5 ♗b5 30.♖f3 ♖fb4 31.h3 ♗c6 32.♖xf7 a4 33.♘d3 1-0**

The team from Kazan levelled the match by winning on board 6:

Timofeev (2575) – Tseitlin (2456)

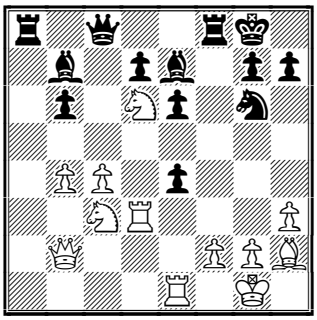


Black to play

White stands much better, but Black did not have to collapse immediately: **34...♖c6?? 35.♖d7! 1-0.**

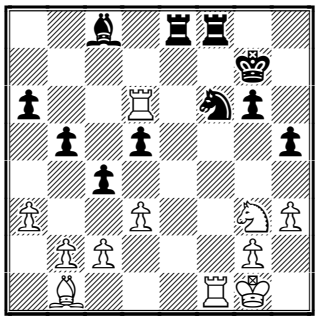
In the match Bosna — Polonia Plus GSM games on top 2 boards were particularly interesting:

Bareev (2721) – Ivanchuk (2710)
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.a3 ♗xc5 7.♘f3 b6 8.♗f4 ♗b7 9.♖d1 ♘c6 10.e4 ♘e7 11.h3 ♘g6 12.♗h2 ♘h5 13.♕d2 ♘f6 14.♕c2 ♘h5 15.♕d2 ♘f6 16.b4 ♗e7 17.♗d3 a5 18.♕b2 ♘h5 19.0-0 ♘hf4 20.♖fe1 axb4 21.axb4 f5 22.♘d4 ♘xd3 23.♖xd3 ♕c8 24.♘db5 fxe4 25.♘d6 *(D)*



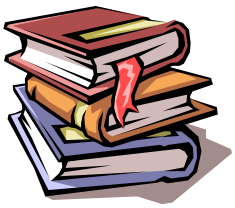
25...exd3! 26.♘xc8 ♖axc8 27.♕d2 ♗xb4 28.♕xd3 ♘h4 29.♖b1 ♗xc3 30.♕xc3 ♗xg2 31.♗g3 ♗e4 32.♖xb6 ♖xc4! 33.♕a3 ♘f3+ 34.♔f1 ♘d2+ 35.♔g1 ♖cc8 36.♖b4 h5 37.h4 ♖f3 38.♕b2 ♖c2 39.♖b8+ ♔h7 40.♕b5 ♖c1+ 41.♔h2 ♖f5 0-1

Gelfand (2695) – Shirov (2732)



Black to play

Pity the b1–bishop...
29...h4 30.♘h1 ♖e2 31.dxc4 dxc4 32.c3 ♖xb2 33.♘f2 ♗b7 34.♖b6 ♖f7 35.a4 ♘d5 36.♖xg6+ ♔f8 37.♗e4 ♘f4 38.♗xb7 ♘xg6 39.♗xa6 ♘f4 0-1



Book Review

by Andy Ansel

Chess Endings Made Simple
by Ian Snape.
Publisher: Gambit, 144 pages, list price$19.95

It is a known fact that most amateur players are lacking in endgame skill, this writer included. Yet most teachers stress the fact that endgame skill is one of the most important things to learn. There have been several excellent endgame books written for us patzers over the last few years. They include Lev Alburt's *Just the Facts*, Andy Soltis's *GM Secrets: Endings*, James Howell's, *Essential Chess Endings*, as well as classics by Euwe, Averbakh and Pachman. Clearly something doesn't make sense—if club players are not studying their endings, who is buying these books and is there really much difference in them? Snape's new book is the latest addition to this genre of books.

The first thing any endgame book must tackle is making studying fun.

One of the things that impedes studying endgames is they tend to be dry and boring. How many of us have ever gotten an endgame of B & N vs. K? Yet most players have spent hours going over this basic endgame. When I study the Pirc, odds are I will be playing the opening almost 30% of the time I am black. Enough digression lets look at this book.

Here is the layout:

Pawnless Endgames	9 pages
King and Pawn Endgames	12 pages
Rook vs. Pawn(s) Endgames	6 pages
Rook and Pawn Endgames	18 pages
Knight Ending	11 pages
Bishop Endings	15 pages
Bishop vs. Knight Endings	7 pages
Queen Endings	6 pages
Exercises	26 pages

The topics start on a fairly basic note with items such as wrong-coloured bishop vs. rook pawn, the Lucena position, and the opposition; yet there are also explanations of much more complex endgames. The author tends to use fairly recent games for his examples, which is nice in that most are not well-known or recycled from previous texts. The explanations are good but not super in depth. The hundred examples at the end provide a good testing ground for the student.

I enjoyed this book. It was well laid out and easy to follow, but my main question is how much more does it offer than similar texts which have gone down the same path? I think for weaker players (under 1800) this is an excellent teaching book, but for others there really isn't much new material to justify its purchase.

Solutions to our quiz:

Korneev-Prasad: **44.♖h8!! ♕g5** [44...♔xh8 45.♘f5 gxf5 (*45...♕f8 46.♖c8! ♕xc8 47.♕h6+ ♔g8 48.♕g7#*) 46.♕h6+ ♔g8 47.♖c8+] **45.♖cc8 1-0**

Huzman-Kasparov: **21.♖xd5! ♕e8 22.♗xc4 1-0** Black is doomed, for example: 22...♗e6 23.♖c5 ♗b6 24.♘xg7!.

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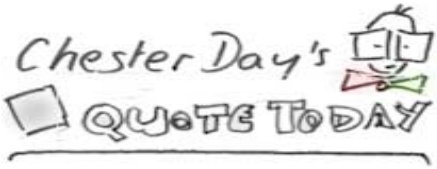

"A thorough understanding of the typical mating continuations makes the most complicated sacrificial combinations leading up to them not only not difficult, but almost a matter of course."

- S. Tarrasch

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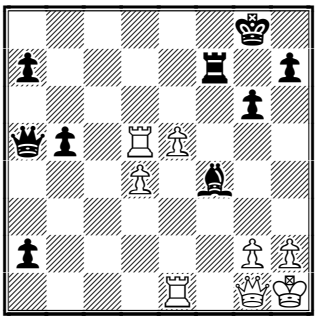
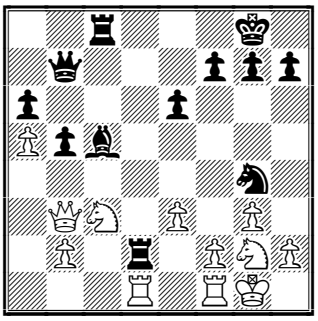
Chess Quiz

Zimina- Lomineishvili
ECC Crete 2003



Black to play

Prudnikova- Kosteniuk
ECC Crete2003



Black to play

Chess News

The **NAO Chess Club** from Paris, France, club of famous chess sponsor m-m Ojeh, has won the European Club Cup in Crete. In the last (7th) round, NAO beat Beer-Sheva (Israel) and took 13 team points (6 team victories and only one draw – 'Ladja-Kazan'). Our congratulations to Alexander Grischuk, Peter Svidler, Michael Adams, Joel Lautier, Francisco Vallejo, Loran Fressinet and of course m-m Ojeh!

Results of the last 7th round:
NAO Chess Club (FRA) – Beer-Sheva Chess Club (ISR) **4:2** (Svidler beat Roiz and Fressinet beat Vydeslaver, other games were drawn)

Polonia Plus GSM (POL) – Ladya-Kazan-1000 (RUS) **4:2** (Ivanchuk – Kasparov draw, Gelfand beat Bologan and Macieja beat Rublevsky) Kiseljak (BIH) – Chess Club Alkaloid (MKD) **3½:2½** Vesnianka (BLR) – Norilsk Nikel (RUS) **1:5** Tbilisi (GEO) – Bosna Sarajevo **3½:2½** Tomsk-400-Yukos (RUS) – Werder Bremen (GER) **3:3**

Final Standings
1. NAO Chess Club (FRA) 13 team points, 30 individual points
2. Polonia Plus GSM (POL) – 12 (30½)
3. Norilsk Nikel (RUS) 12 (30)
4. Kiseljak (BIH) – 12 (29)

(Alas the official site was very poor on the last day; maybe there will be some more information tomorrow.)

Women competition, final standings:
1. Internet CG (Podgorica, SCG) – 11 (19½)
2. NTN (Tbilisi, GEO) – 11 (18)
3. Ladya (Kazan, RUS) – 10 (17)
4. BAS (Beograd, SCG) – 9 (17)
5. Cannes Chess Club (FRA) – 8 (17)
6. ULIM Sport Club (MLD) – 8 (15½)
7. St. Petersburg Lentransgaz (RUS) – 8 (15)

In the last round one Serbian club '**Internet**' beat another Serbian Club 'BAS' 2½:1½ and took the title. 'Internet' was led by two Russian GMs Svetlana Matveeva and Alexandra Kosteniuk. I. Chelushkina and A. Benderac played on the 3rd and 4th boards. Our congratulations to the winners!

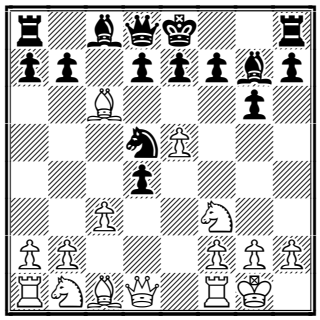
Sao Paulo Open, pairings for the 8th round:
Matsuura (6) – Milos (6½)
Cubas (6) – Mittelman (6)
Crosa (6) – Rocha (6)
Marques (5½) – Braga (5½)
Fernando (5½) – Trois (5½)
Ramos (5½) – Zambrana (5)

This issue is prepared IM Vladimir Barsky; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

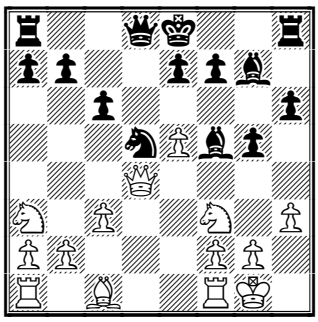
The Monarch Assurance Open
Round 8 standings:
1. Lputian – 6½ points
2–7. Hebden, Iordachescu, Fridman, Mikhalevski, Agdestein, Psakhis – 6 etc.

Annotated Game

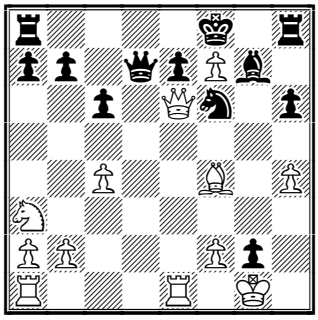
□ **Vydeslaver (2449)** (Beer)
■ **Fressinet (2654)** (NAO)
European Club Cup Rethymnon Crete, Greece (7), 04.10.2003 B31
Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky
The following game is one of two (the second one is Svidler's victory) "gold" games for NAO – thanks to these victories over Beer-Sheva's players, the French Club became the European Club champions for the first time.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 g6 4.0-0 ♗g7 5.c3 ♘f6 6.e5 ♘d5 7.d4 cxd4 8.♗xc6!?



Quite a rare idea. Far more often, White prefers to save his bishop, for example: 8.cxd4 0–0 9.♘c3 ♘c7 *(9...♘xc3 10.bxc3 d6 11.exd6 exd6 12.♖e1 ♕a5 13.♕a4 ♕xa4 14.♗xa4 ♗g4=* Zaitsev,I-Iskusnyh,S/Moscow 2002*)* 10.♗xc6 *(10.♖e1 ♘xb5 11.♘xb5 a6 12.♘c3 d6 13.exd6 ♕xd6 14.d5 ♘e5 15.♗f4 ♘xf3+ 16.♕xf3 ♕b6 17.♗e5 ♕xb2 18.♗xg7 ♔xg7 19.♖ab1 ♕a3 20.♕e3∞* Golubev,M-Nanu,C/Bucharest 2002*)* 10...dxc6 11.h3 ♗e6 12.♕e2 ♗d5 13.♘h2 ♘e6 14.♗e3 f5 15.f4 g5!?∞ Nevednichy,V-Smirnov,P/Halkidiki 2002
8...dxc6 9.♕xd4
The queen has a good position in the center, because it's not so easy for the black pieces to attack it. In addition, White still has the c pawn to attack the knight on d5.
9...♗f5
9...♘c7 10.♕h4 h6 11.♘bd2 ♘e6 12.♖e1 c5 13.♘c4 ♗d7 14.♖d1± Strikovic,A-Collas,D/Lisbon 2001
10.♘a3
Maybe this is a novelty. White develops his knight (it's going to go on c4) and doesn't shut his c1 bishop in at the same time. 10.♘bd2 0–0 11.♖e1 ♕d7 12.♘b3 ♗g4 13.♘c5 ♕c8 14.♕e4 b6 15.♘b3 f6 16.e6 f5 17.♕e2 Wians,C-Yakovich,Y/Cappelle la Grande 1993
10...h6!? 11.h3 g5!?

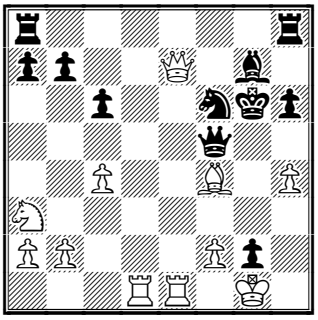


An interesting idea: Black leaves his king in the center and immediately begin active play on the kingside.
12.♖e1 ♘b6
An endgame will be in Black's favour thanks to the bishop pair; also the e5-pawn will be weak.
13.h4 g4
13...♕xd4? 14.♘xd4 x Bf5
14.♕f4!?
White has to find complications.
14...gxf3 15.♕xf5 fxg2 16.♕g4 ♔f8
The king stands even better here.
17.e6
Of course it's too dangerous to grab the g2-pawn and open the g-file.
17...♕d5 18.c4?!
I think White had to return his knight into play – 18.♘c2!? Also after the text-move the g7 bishop receives a target to attack.
18...♕d3 19.exf7 ♘d7 20.♗f4 ♘f6 21.♕e6 ♕d7!



Once more Black offers a queen exchange. To my mind an endgame will be better for Black thanks to the strong bishop on g7.

22.♕e3 ♔xf7 23.♖ad1 ♕f5! 24.♕xe7+ ♔g6

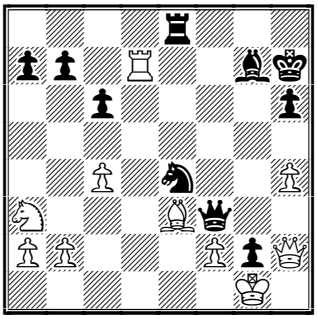


All the white pieces stand well, apart from the knight on a3. It's a suitable time to recall Tarrasch's phrase: "One piece stands bad – all game stands bad."

25.♕e3 ♖ae8 26.♕g3+ ♔h7 27.♖xe8 ♖xe8 28.♗e3 ♘e4 29.♕f4 ♕h3 30.♕h2 ♕f3

Black has an extra piece in attack. White's defensive task is very difficult now.

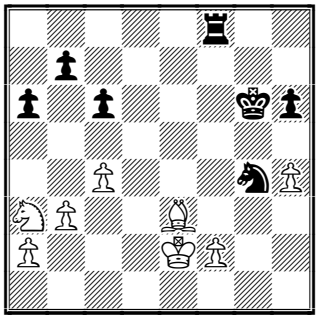
31.♖d7



31...♘f6

It looks like White missed a nice blow: 31...♘xf2! 32.♗xf2 *(32.♕xg2 ♘h3+ 33.♔h2 ♕xg2+ 34.♔xg2 ♖xe3–+; 32.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 33.♕xg2+ ♕xg2+ 34.♔xg2 ♖xe3–+)* 32...♖e1+! 33.♗xe1 ♕f1# But the text move is also strong.

32.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 33.♕xg2+ ♕xg2+ 34.♔xg2 a6 35.♔f3 ♔g6 36.b3 ♖f8 37.♔e2 ♘g4



It has to be an easy win for Black. By the way, the white knight is standing on a3 still...

38.♗b6 ♔h5 39.♘c2 ♔xh4 40.♘e1 ♖e8+ 0–1

Solution to our quiz:

39...♗e3! 40.♕xe3 a1♕ 41.♖g1 ♖f1–+ 42.h3 ♖xg1+ 43.♕xg1 ♕xg1+ 44.♔xg1 ♕e1+ 45.♔h2 b4 46.♖b5 ♔f7 47.♖b7+ ♔e6 48.♖xa7 b3 49.♖b7 ♕c3 50.♖b6+ ♔d5 51.♖b5+ ♔xd4 52.e6 ♕c7+ 53.♔g1 ♕c3 0–1

21...♗xe3! Also bishop's blow and on the same square! **22.♖xd2** 22.♘xe3 ♘xe3 23.fxe3 *(23.♖xd2 ♕g2#)* 23...♕g2#; 22.fxe3 ♕xg2# **22...♗xd2 23.♖d1 ♘e5** and black received an extra pawn and much better position.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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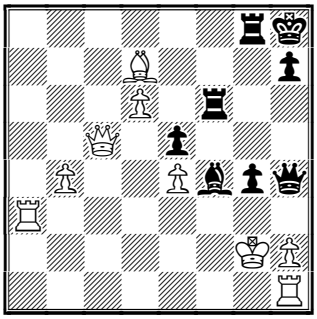
CT-281(1065) 8th October 2003

Chess Quiz

I .Sofronie – M.Golubev
Bucharest, 2003



Black to play

Chess news

3rd Winterthur Chess Week

In the 5th round Malakhatko and Miezis won again. The game between Tukmakov and Gheorghiu was drawn. Their first encounter took place 33 years ago!

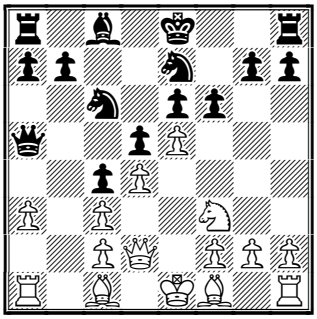
Standings after 5 rounds:
1-2. Malakhatko, Miezis– 5 points
3-12. Tukmakov, Gheorghiu, Zambo, Haas, Starostits, Sarakauskas, Antognini, Kelecevic, Peier – 4 points, etc.
Official website

Annotated Game

□ **S. Sulskis (2593)**
■ **S. Lputian (2623)**
Monarch Assurance XII Port Erin IOM (8.1), 04.10.2003
French Defence – [C16]
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

Playing with Black Lputian won convincingly. This victory opened the way for him to share the 1st prize.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 ♘e7 5.♗d3 c5 6.a3 ♗xc3+ 7.bxc3 ♘bc6 8.♘f3 c4 9.♗f1 ♕a5 10.♕d2 f6!N *(D)*



This idea is correct! It is not worth losing a tempo by means of 10...♗d7 ; or 10...♕a4

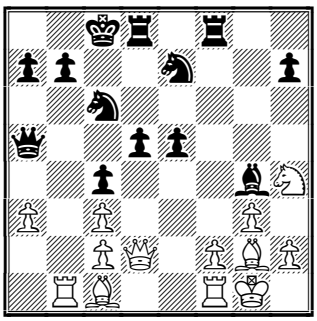
11.exf6 gxf6 12.g3

I think it was reasonable for White to start his development with 12.♖b1 in order to make Black spend a tempo in defence of the b7-pawn.

12...e5! 13.dxe5 fxe5 14.♗g2 ♗g4 15.0-0 0-0-0

Here there is nothing else better than

16.♖b1 ♖hf8 17.♘h4 *(D)*



Black is perfectly developed. Moreover, he does not have any difficulty with protection of his excellent central pawns. It is White who faces problems: how is he going to make his bishops play?

17...♘f5

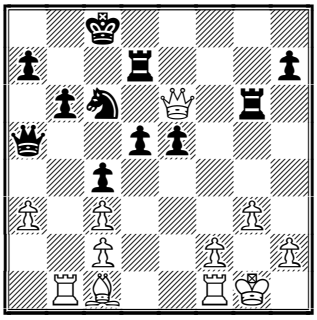
Tarrash would not be happy with the exchange of the knight standing on the edge. 17...♖d6 looks quite good with the following involvement of the queen (for instance, across d8-d7).

18.♕g5

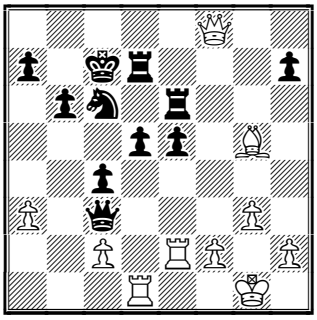
Probably it was worth considering 18.♘xf5 ♗xf5 19.♕h6!? ♗xc2 20.♕e6+ ♔c7 21.♗g5! ♖de8 22.♕xd5 ♕xd5 23.♗xd5 ♗xb1 24.♖xb1 and both bishops would play at full strength.

18...♖g8 19.♕f6 ♘xh4 20.♕xh4 ♖d7 21.♗h3?

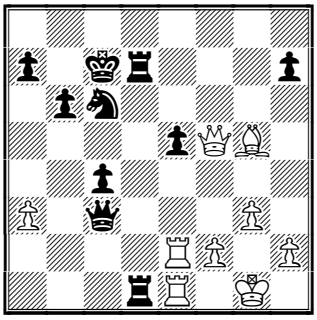
I dare say this is the major cause of White's defeat. White allows safe advancement of Black's central pawns because of this exchange. A wait-and-see move 21.♕f6 would be better here. White does not have any active plan and Black can not start his attack without running any risk either.
21...♗xh3 22.♕xh3 b6
Defending against Rxb7. Also pretty good is 22...♖gg7 with the same idea.
23.♕e6 ♖g6 *(D)*



Now there is no doubt of Black's advantage - all his pieces stand better, while White does not have any compensation for his pawn weaknesses.
24.♕e8+ ♔c7 25.♖e1 No better is 25.♖d1 ♖f6 **25...♖e7 26.♕f8 ♕xc3 27.♖e2 ♖ge6** 27...♕d4 looks even stronger with the queen transfer to g4. After that Black is able to attack the king and to trap the queen. **28.♗g5 ♖d7 29.♖d1 *(D)***



29...d4
There is also one more plan. I mean, the advancement of central pawns.
30.♕f5 It was worth moving the pawn in case of the endgame 30.h4 but it would not change the evaluation dramatically. **30...♖ed6 31.♕e4**
It was possible to hunt for practical chances at the cost of the exchange: 31.♗d2 ♕xa3 32.♖xe5 ♘xe5 33.♕xe5 d3 34.♗f4 dxc2 35.♖xd6 ♖xd6 36.♕e7+ ♔c6 37.♕e8+ ♔b7 38.♕f7+ ♔a6 39.♕xc4+ ♔a5 40.♕xc2 ♖d5∓ It is not easy for Black to win here, but if he plays accurately his rook is certainly stronger than the white's bishop.
31...d3 32.cxd3 ♖d4 33.♕f5 ♖xd3 34.♖de1 ♖d1 *(D)*



Now White loses without a murmur.
35.♖xd1 The following could not help 35.♕e4 ♕d4 36.♖xd1 ♕xd1+ 37.♖e1 ♕d5 38.f4 ♕xe4 39.♖xe4 ♖d4-+ **35...♖xd1+ 36.♔g2 ♕d3 37.♕f7+ ♔c8 38.♕f8+ ♔b7 39.♖e3 ♕f1+ 40.♔f3 ♖d4!** And White does not have any protection from mate Qh1 - d1# **0-1.**

Solution to Chess Quiz:

I .Sofronie - M.Golubev
[41.d7 ♗e3!-+; 41.♖g3 ♕h6!; 41.♗b5] Black to play **41...♗e3!** [It's mate in four: 41...♗e3! 42.♕xe3 ♕h3+ 43.♕xh3 gxh3+ 44.♔xh3 ♖h6#; 41...g3 42.h3 ♗c1! would also sufficient, for example: 43.♕xe5 *(43.♖xc1 ♕xe4+ 44.♔g1 ♖f2-+)* 43...♗xa3 44.♖f1 ♗b2 45.♕xb2 ♕xe4+ 46.♔g1 ♕e3+ 47.♔g2 ♕f2+! 48.♕xf2 gxf2+ 49.♔h2 ♖xd6 , and Black should win] **0-1.**

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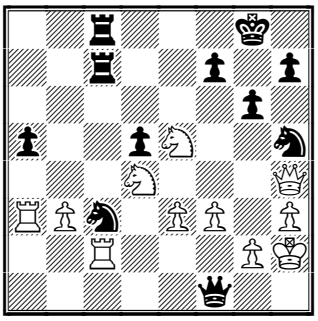
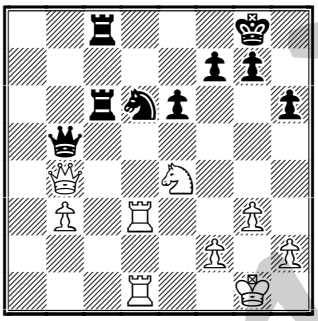
Chess Quiz

Arduman (2336) – Mueller (2521)
ECC 2003



Black to play

Pantsulaia (2461) – Palac (2561)
ECC 2003



White to play

Chess News

Some forthcoming events ...

European team championship

37 men's, and 30 women's teams have confirmed their participation. Dates are October 10th–21st 2003 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Official site

1st Samba Cup

(Category 16) takes place October 10–19 in Skanderborg, Denmark. Players are Ivanchuk, Short, Sasikiran, Bologan, Kasimdzhanov, Nielsen, Curt Hansen, Alekseev, Sadvakasov and Palo.
Official site

The 7th Essent Chess Tournament

Takes place October 11–18 in Hoogeveen, the Netherlands. The Crown Group (Double Round Robin) has Judit Polgar, Ivan Sokolov, Anatoly Karpov and Levon Aronian.
Official site

3rd Winterthur Chess Week

In the 6th round the leaders Malakhatko and Miezis drew their game but with 5½ remained at the top. In the next round the most experienced participants of the event, Tukmakov and Gheorghiu, have a chance to topple them.
Round 7 pairings:
Tukmakov (5) – Malakhatko (5½)
Miezis (5½) – Gheorghiu (5)
Starostits (5) – Sarakauskas (5)
Zuelle (4½) – Kelecevic (5)
Official site

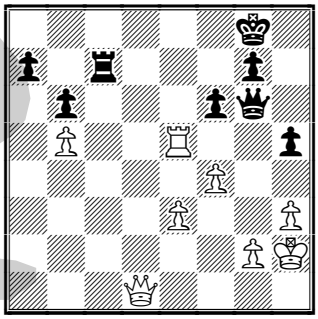
Beware Blunder!

With IM Maxim Notkin

Today I'd like to exhibit my collection of blunders taken from recent tournaments. First I introduce three sketches from the Polish Extraleague.

Przewoznik (2408) – Acs (2606)
Polish Extraleague Lubniewice POL (3), 01.09.2003

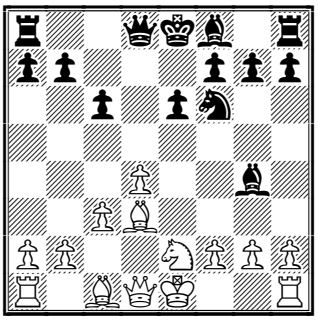
Peter Acs, a member of the Hungarian national team, was playing for a win till the very end. Alas, this was a case when persistence was punished.



This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

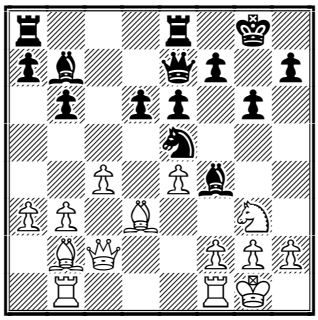
If Black takes the rook, White regains it at once with Qd8+. The move **41...♖c2??**
looks attractive as Black has taken his rook away and now White is threatened by checkmate on g2 while his rook is still hanging. The queen check on d8 is useless. However White brings the queen towards this square ... but stops halfway!
42.♕d5+!
Black resigns 42.♕d5+ ♔f8 *(42...♔h7 43.♖xh5+)* 43.♕d8+ ♔f7 44.♕e8# **1-0**

Izbinski (2303) - Miton (2546)
Polish Extraleague Lubniewice POL (5), 03.09.2003
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♗d3 ♘gf6 6.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 7.♘e2 ♗g4 8.c3 e6



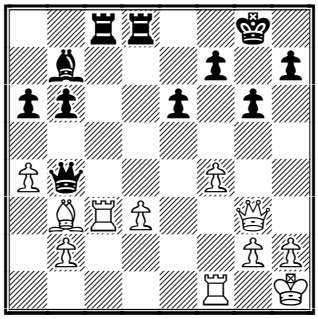
In this opening position, White made a natural move
9.♗g5?
In another circumstances, say with the knight on f3 instead of e2, there would have been nothing wrong with it. Here White should have chosen among 9.f3 ; 9.0–0; or 9.♕b3
9...♕d5!
A double attack on g5 and g2
10.♗xf6 ♕xg2 11.♖f1
After 11.♖g1 ♕xg1+! 12.♘xg1 ♗xd1 Black wins the exchange
11...gxf6 12.♕b3 ♗xe2 13.♗xe2 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 ♕xh2-+
and with two extra pawns Black won easily **0-1**

Swicarz (2308) - Jaracz (2539)
Polish Extraleague Lubniewice POL (9), 07.09.2003
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♗b7 6.♗d3 ♗c5 7.♘f3 ♘c6 8.a3 ♗e7 9.0-0 d6 10.♕e2 ♗f6 11.♖d1 ♘ge7 12.♘bd2 0-0 13.♖b1 ♕c7 14.♘f1 ♘g6 15.♘g3 ♘ge5 16.♘xe5 ♘xe5 17.♘h5 ♗e7 18.b3 g6 19.♘g3 ♖fe8 20.♗b2 ♗g5 21.♖f1 ♗f4 22.♕c2 ♕e7



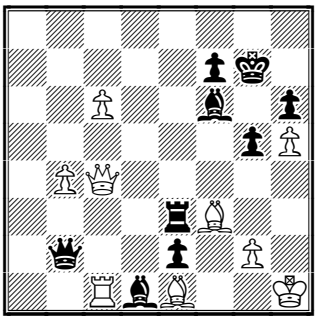
The position after
23.♘e2??
could be used as a Quiz but its content fits better into Beware: Blunder! Let's see why. Black's reply is obvious -
23...♗xh2+! 24.♔xh2 ♕h4+ 25.♔g1 ♘g4
Here White resigned and it was a mistake as well! Objectively his position is really lost since he loses the queen. But he had to look which way Black was going to take it. After 25...♘g4 26.♖fc1 ♕xf2+ 27.♔h1 **A)** but the tempting series of checks 27...♕h4+ 28.♔g1 ♕h2+? 29.♔f1 ♕h1+ *(or 29...♘e3+ 30.♔f2 ♘xc2 31.♖h1!)* 30.♘g1 ♘e3+ 31.♔f2 ♘xc2 32.♘h3! ♕h2 33.♖h1 leads to curious positions where the black queen in its turn is ensnared!; **B)** 27...♘e3! Black wins. **0-1**

Izquierdo (2302) - Crosa (2412)
zt 2.5 Asuncion PAR (4), 17.09.2003
I also have two examples from the zonal tournament in Paraguay in my very special base.



23.♖fc1? ♕xb3 No comments. **0-1**

Pierrot (2417) – Giardelli (2437)
zt 2.5 Asuncion PAR (4), 17.09.2003



51...♗c3??
A miscalculation. I mean Black found himself unable to calculate correctly the number of the white and black pieces that controlled the c3-square. After 51...♗b3 52.♕c5 ♗d4 Black would have won. Now after
52.♖xc3
he resigned. I have more samples in my collection, but allow me to save something for future issues! **1-0**

Solution to our quiz:
32...♘e2! 33.♖xe2 ♖c1 34.♕xh5 gxh5-+ 0-1

28.♕xd6! 28.♕xd6 f5 *(28...♖xd6 29.♘xd6 ♕c6 30.♘xc8 ♕xc8 31.♖d8+)* 29.♘c3 ♖xc3 30.♕xe6+ ♔h7 31.♖d5+- **1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback! **Chess Today** is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net **Editors:** GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi. **Chess Today is copyright 2003 by Alexander Baburin** and protected intellectual property under the International Copyright convention.

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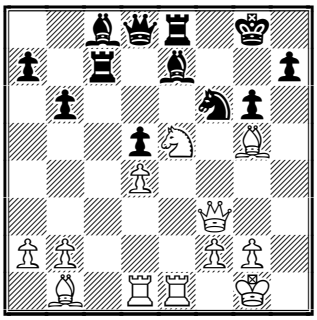
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-285 (1069) 12th October 2003

Chess Quiz

E. Danielian (2400) – Calzetta (2274)
Plovdiv (1), 11.10.2003



White to play

Chess News

The European Team Championships (men and women) started in Plovdiv, Bulgaria yesterday. There are many of the world's leading players in the event, which promises to be very interesting. The Russian team has an impressive line-up — with GMs Bareev, Svidler, Grischuk, Morozevich and Khalifman playing. Peter Svidler said in his recent interview: "We should get back the title which is ours by right!". But only time will tell who has the right to the title — *Chess Today* will keep your informed about this important tournament!

Men's Results, top 10 matches:

Russia — Bulgaria-1 2½-1½
Svidler-Delchev 1-0
Grischuk-Spasov 0-1
Morozevich-Chatalbashev 1-0
Khalifman-Cheparinov ½-½

Greece — Israel 1-3
Spain — Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1
Sweden — Ukraine 2-2
France — England 2½-1½
Finland — Georgia 2-2
Germany — Estonia 2½-1½
Italy — Netherlands 1½-2½
Poland — Bulgaria-2 2½-1½
Lithuania — Belarus 3-1

There were several mini-sensations in round one. By the way, I don't mean the 2½-1½ result in the Russia-Bulgaria match — traditionally Bulgaria is a difficult opponent for Russia and actually won on several occasions before, despite having much lower-rated players. But the fact that GM Agrest (Sweden, 2605) beat Ponomariov, is certainly a noticeable result. Evgeny is my club-mate in BL and a very solid player, but the FIDE World Champion is not an easy trophy to get! Unfortunately for Ruslan, he lost on his 20th birthday... Agrest's victory allowed Sweden to draw against one of the main favourites.

England has a weakened team – with both Adams and Short missing from it. The latter is playing in Denmark at the moment. England had a decent line-up against France — Speelman, Lalic, Flear and Wells, but they were still clear underdogs.

Finland managed to draw against Georgia – a very dangerous team, which showed good result in Bled. And Lithuanians beat their neighbours, who had much higher ratings.

Key matches of round 2:
Russia — Spain
Israel — France
Germany — FYROM
Hungary — Netherlands
Croatia — Poland

Women's Results, top 5 matches:

Russia — Moldova 1½-½
Azerbaijan — Ukraine 1-1
Georgia — Czech Republic 2-0
Slovenia - Bulgaria-1 ½-1½
Poland — Bulgaria-2 1-1

Curiously, the Azerbaijani team has two sisters — Zeinab (WGM, 2345) and Turkan (2227) Mamedjarova.

You can find selected games from Plovdiv in our database today.
Official website

This issue is prepared by GM Alexander Baburin; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

1st Samba Cup Week

This category XVI tournament is in progress in Skanderborg, Denmark.
Standings after 2 rounds:
1–2. PH Nielsen (DEN 2626) and Short (ENG 2701) – 1½ points;
3–9. Ivanchuk (UKR 2710), Sasikiran, (IND 2679), Alekseev (RUS 2613), Bologan (MDA 2673), Curt Hansen (DEN 2616), Sadvakasov (KAZ 2595) and Palo (DEN 2510) – 1 point;
10. Kasimdzhanov (UZB 2668) – 0.

Out of 10 games played so far, only 3 have been decisive — and Black won in all of them! See all games in our database today. Official website

3rd Winterthur Chess Week

Key results of the last round:
(6) Kelecevic – Malakhatko (7) ½–½
(7) Miezis – Haas (6) 1–0
(6) Tukmakov – Starostits (6) ½–½
(5½) Blasko – Gheorghiu (6) ½–½

Final Standings:
1. GM Miezis (Latvia, 2525) – 8 points;
2. GM Malakhatko (UKR, 2529) – 7½;
3–9. GMs Tukmakov and Gheorghiu, IM Starostits and Kelecevic, Antognini Salzgeber Gattenlöhner and Haas – 6½ points, etc. 116 players, 9 rounds.
Official website

Brilliant Mates in Moscow

by IM Yochanan Afek

Chess Today is happy to present an article on composition by one of our readers – **IM Yochanan Afek** (center, *photo by Cathy Rogers*).

"Problems and games are two equal aspects of chess", wrote once Dr. Milan Vukcevich, the great American composer who passed away earlier this year and who was also a very strong over-the-board master. Obviously he did not refer by that to the number of people involved, but rather to the injustice frequently done to this fine art, by too many players who tend to consider it as a waste of time for the purpose of improving one's playing skills. "Relative to the game", he explains, "a good chess problem activates more force per move, uses pieces more efficiently and stresses more their cooperation and interference with each other. A good problem may combine a dozen separate elements into one extraordinary event, in the same way in which a good novel may condense a dozen real lives into a single lifetime of its fictitious hero..." — food for the thought...

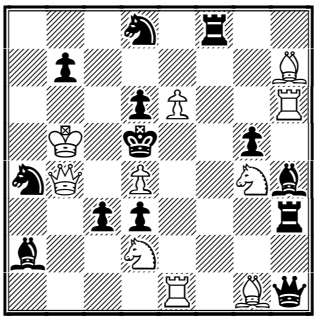
Not everyone knows that within the immense world of chess, a smaller, yet a highly motivated and constantly growing community of problems and studies fans has developed over the years, organizing a variety of composing and solving events, publishing dozens of books and magazines, awarding official FIDE titles and even holding an annual congress. All this worldwide intensive activity is done voluntarily and winning dozens of prestigious awards definitely will not make one any richer as the prize money, if any, is usually rather modest; as such at last month's annual congress held in hotel Ukraine in the heart of Moscow, which attracted more than 200 participants from exactly 30 countries.

The highlights of the week were naturally the world team and individual championships in which quite a few strong over the board players usually take part. GMs Jonathan Mestel (England) and Ram Soffer (Israel) and IMs Arno Zude (Germany) and Piotr Murdzia (Poland) are of the excelling regulars in these contests holding FIDE grandmaster titles for solving too. For two intensive mornings the participants try to crack 18 tough nuts of 6 different types: two-movers, three-movers, more-movers, endgame-studies, helpmates and self-mates. Each country may participate with 2 or 3 solvers, but for each of the six rounds just the best 2 personal performances count. So it is in fact an individual and team championship at the same time.

Twenty-three countries competed this year in the famous central chess club on Gogolevky Boulevard. During last decade or so Israel, Finland and Germany were usually the heavy guns in this contest. However this year the host country dominated the field impressively, mainly thanks to the surprising winner of the individual contest — Andrey Selivanov. At the age of 36 he is best known as the former chairman of the Russian Chess Federation and as a member of the Duma (the Russian parliament), but as a matter of fact he is also one of the world's leading self-mate composers and an editor and author of several magazines and books dealing with the art of chess composition. 'En passant' he was also acting as the chief organizer of this congress and as a judge in several of its composing tourneys!

Selivanov scored 82.5 points of the possible 90, ahead of his countryman Georgy Evseev (76 points) and (another pleasant surprise!), the Dutchman Dolf Wissman (75.5 points), Jorma Paavilainen (Finland, 73.5 points), Marjan Kovacevic (Serbia; 73 points) and the Japanese (!) Tadashi Wakashima (71.5 points). Quite crowded at the top! Marjan Kovacevic, who later won here the spectacular knockout solving show, is a chess journalist, running, for years, a whole-page daily chess column in 'Politika'. The German team took the silver medals ahead of Finland, Serbia, Poland, Japan, Netherlands, Ukraine, Israel and Great Britain. The readers are invited to try the following two-mover from the competition:

Herbert Ahues, 1981



White to move and Mate in 2

Naturally this section is considered the easiest one, yet even some experienced solvers tend to drop here precious points; perhaps they take it a bit too easy. The full solution is explained at the end of this issue.

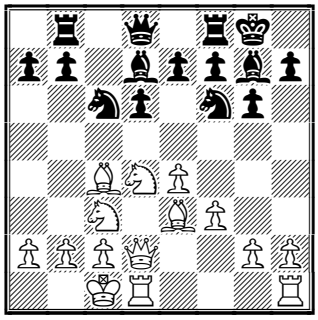
To be continued in CT-1070

The Chinese Dragon Lives!

by L. Da Costa & GM M. Golubev

Luiz Roberto Da Costa Junior sent as his new opening analysis, concerning an improvement for Black in the theoretically significant Sicilian Dragon line ***B78***. Here we publish his analysis with additions by Mikhail Golubev.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♕d2 ♘c6 9.♗c4 ♗d7 10.0-0-0 ♖b8!? *(D)*



Black is preparing ...b7-b5. The name 'Chinese Dragon' was given for this variation by its researcher Luc Henris in his *New in Chess Yearbook-62* article.

11.♗b3

After 11.h4, Henris analysed the immediate 11...b5!? in great detail.

11...♘a5

11...♘e5 12.f4 ♘eg4 occurred in the game Gallagher-Ward, British Ch 2002 (annotated in CT-636). In the New in Chess Magazine 7/2002, Gallagher confidently claimed White's advantage after 13.h3! ♘xe3 14.♕xe3, etc.

12.♗h6 b5

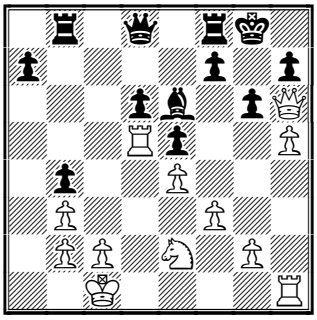
In Djukic-Golubev, Bucharest 2002 Black tried 12...♘xb3+!? (the game was annotated in CT-733).

13.h4 ♗xh6

Also possible is 13...e5 14.♗xg7 ♔xg7 15.♘de2 b4 16.♘d5 ♘xb3+ 17.cxb3 ♘xd5 18.♕xd5 (Sax-Bilek, Hungarian Ch 1975), and here

18...♖b6 19.♔b1 h5 with unclear play was suggested by Ivan Markovic.

14.♕xh6 e5 15.♘de2 b4 16.♘d5 ♘xb3+ 17.axb3 ♘xd5 18.♖xd5 ♗e6 19.h5 ***(D)***



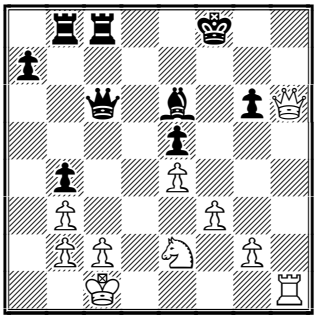
19...♕c7!

This is the new move, suggested by Luz Roberto Da Costa Jr. The game Felgaer–Ward, Port Erin 2002, saw 19...♖b7 20.♖d3 ♕e7 21.f4 , and White was probably better — see analysis online.

20.hxg6 fxg6 21.♖xd6 ♖fc8! 22.♖c6!

After 22.♔b1 Luiz recommends 22...♖b6! 23.♖xb6 (23.♖d2 ♖c6! with Black's initiative) 23...♕xc2+ 24.♔a1 axb6 25.♕xh7+ ♔f8 26.♕b7 ♖d8! (not 26...♗xb3? 27.♘c3!!) 27.♘c1 ♗f7!? and evaluates the arising position as slightly better for Black.

22...♕xc6 23.♕xh7+ ♔f8 24.♕h6+ ***(D)***



24...♔f7!

24...♔e7? 25.♕g5+! ♔e8! 26.♕xg6+! ♔d8! 27.♕f6+ ♔c7 28.♕xe5+ is much better for White, because Black can't save his bishop. For example, 28...♕d6 29.♖h7+ ♗d7 30.♕xd6+ ♔xd6 31.e5+!, etc.

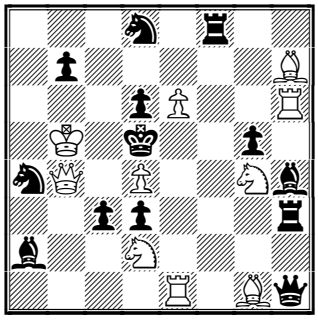
25.♕h7+ ♔f6 26.♕h4+ ♔f7= and the main line of analysis ends with perpetual check.

Solution to our quiz:

1. Danielian–Calzetta: **23.♘xg6! hxg6** (or 23...♗g4 24.♕g3 hxg6 25.♗xf6 ♗xf6 26.♕xg4+–) **24.♗xf6 ♗xf6 25.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 26.♕xf6 ♗g4 27.♗xg6 ♕c8 28.♖e1 1–0**

2. Solution to the 2–mover:

Herbert Ahues, 1981



Mate in 2

1.♘c4!

Another thematic try — 1.♘e4 — fails after 1...♕h2! *(1...♘f7 2.♘ef6#; 1...♘c5 2.♘xc3#; 1...♗g3 2.♘e3#)*

1...♕h2 Other defences lead to checkmate on the next move too: 1...♘f7 2.♘f6# or 1...♗g3 2.♘ce3# or 1...♘c5 2.♘b6#. **2.♗e4#**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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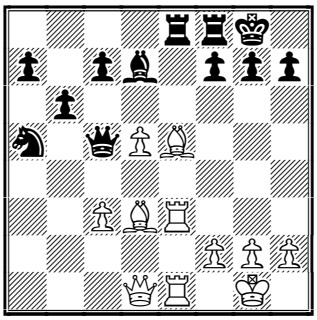
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-286 (1070) 13th October 2003

Chess Quiz

J. Polgar (2722) – Karpov (2693)
Hoogeveen (1), 12.10.2003



White to play

Chess News

European Team Championships

Round 2 of the tournament was played in Plovdiv on Sunday.

Key results of round 2 (men):

Russia – 3 Spain – 2½–1½
Svidler – Shirov 1–0
Bareev – Vallejo 0–1
Grischuk – Illescas ½–½
Morozevich – Romero Holmes 1–0

Israel – France 2½–1½
Germany – FYROM 2½–1½
Hungary – Netherlands 2–2
Croatia – Poland 2–2
Lithuania – Slovenia 1½–2½
Serbia & Montenegro 3–1 Czech Rep.
Azerbaijan – Switzerland 2–2

Standings after 2 rounds:
1–3. Serbia & Montenegro, Slovenia and Israel — 4 match points (5½ game points);
4–5. Russia and Germany — 4 (5)
6. Croatia — 3 (6)
7–8. Hungary and Ukraine — 3 (5½)
9–11. Finland, Azerbaijan and Switzerland — 3 (5)
12–14 Poland Netherlands and Georgia 3 (4½)

Key matches of round 3 (men):
Slovenia – Russia
Israel – Germany
Switzerland – Serbia & Montenegro
Poland – Ukraine
Georgia – Hungary
Netherlands – Croatia
Finland – Azerbaijan

Key results of round 2 (women):
Romania – Russia ½–1½
Greece – Georgia ½–1½
France – Bulgaria–1 ½–1½
Serbia & Montenegro – Armenia 1–1
Turkey – Israel 1–1

Standings after 2 rounds:
1. Georgia — 4 (3½),
2–3. Russia and Bulgaria–1 — 4 (3)

Key matches of round 3 (women):
Bulgaria — Georgia
Russia — Turkey
Bulgaria–2 — Ukraine
Germany — Serbia & Montenegro
Armenia — Israel
Hungary — England

The following message appeared on the official website of the European Team Championship:

"Copyright Fraud by ICC, 11.10.2003
The popular American website Internet Chess Club has violated the law of copyright by transmitting without permission the games from the European Team Championship on live and with their own interface.

We encourage all chess lovers to react against this insolate pirate action. The Bulgarian Chess Federation from its side will pay for legal punishment of the violators of the law."

This seems an old argument — chess organisers claim copyright over chess games. It's a grey area and it is not clear if games themselves are subject to copyright – do players 'own' games which they play? It is a lot clearer with annotations – they belong to the

annotator. What is not clear to me is what all this fuss is over in this case — people don't pay for watching chess games online. And I doubt that the official website gets much money from online advertising, etc.

You can find selected games from Plovdiv in our database today.
Official website

1st Samba Cup

This category XVI tournament is in progress in Skanderborg, Denmark.

Round 3 results:
Sasikiran–Kasimdzhanov 1–0
Sadvakasov–Short 1–0
Cu. Hansen – PH Nielsen ½–½
Ivanchuk–Bologan ½–½
Alekseev–Palo ½–½

Standings after 3 rounds:
1–3. PH Nielsen (DEN 2626), Sasikiran, (IND 2679) and Sadvakasov (KAZ 2595) – 2 points;
4–9. Ivanchuk (UKR 2710), Short (ENG 2701), Alekseev (RUS 2613), Bologan (MDA 2673), Curt Hansen (DEN 2616) and Palo (DEN 2510) – 1 point;
10. Kasimdzhanov (UZB 2668) – 0.

See all games from round 3 in our database today. Official website

7th Essent Tournament

This tournament, consisting of a Double Round Robin with 4 players and strong Open, is taking place in Hoogeveen, Netherlands.

Round 1 results:
J. Polgar – Karpov 1–0
I. Sokolov – Aronian ½–½

Judit Polgar won against Karpov's Petroff Defence in just 26 moves (see our quiz).

Standings after the first round:
1. Judit Polgar (HUN 2722) — 1;
2–3. Levon Aronian (ARM 2649) and Ivan Sokolov (NED 2695) — ½;
4. Anatoly Karpov (RUS 2693) — 0.

Standings after 3 rounds in the Open:

1–3. Izoria, Beshukov and N. Pert – 3;
4–12. Motylev, Rogers, Dvoirys, Hebden, Glek, Grigoriants, Janssen, Stellwagen and Hoeksema – 2½ points, etc. (56 players)

Official website

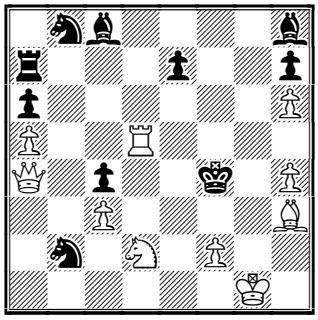
Brilliant Mates in Moscow

by IM Yochanan Afek

Today we publish the second half of this article on chess problems and studies, written by one of our readers, who is also one of world's leading chess composers.

The hard core of the congresses is the numerous thematic quick composing tourneys in which the participants were required to create a problem of a certain genre with a given theme in 5 days. You could see them everywhere staring at their pocket sets, ignoring the outside world, just like until not long ago players were concentrating on adjourned positions. The official theme–tourneys asked for black pawn play. Look how elegant was the theme demonstrated in this Russian 3–mover:

Alexander Bacharev
1st Prize



White to move and mate in 3

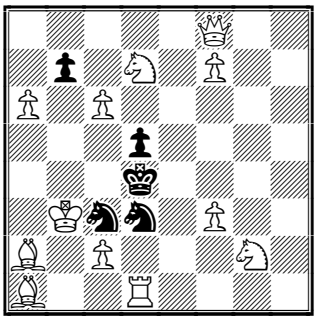
The key first move is **1.♕e8!**, which threatens 2.♕h5. The 1...♗g4 defence does not help — 2.♕h5 ♗xh5 3.♖f5#. Here the thematic defences are the

e7-pawn moves paving the way for the black rook to check on g7. But at the same time such moves interfere with the black bishop pair:
1...e6 2.♖f5+ exf5 3.♕e3#
1...e5 2.♖d4+ exd4 3.♕e4#.

Note the perfect harmony between the two variations and the fact that the black pawn decides also where the queen will mate (it is called **dual-avoidance**). The economical construction (no pieces next to the black monarch) and the long -range queen moves (usually it is not that easy to control the lady's moves) leave a great aesthetic impression.

Lively pawn play can be achieved in self-mates too:

Alexander Azhusin & Andrei Selivanov; *1st -2nd Prize*

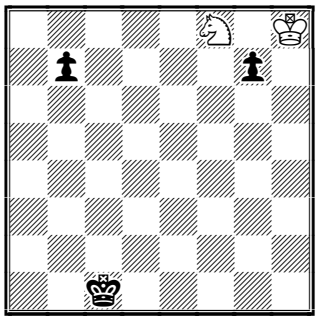


White to move and self-mate in 3

In this type of unorthodox problems White starts and forces Black to mate him in the given number of moves. The key move **1.♕h6!** puts Black in zugzwang and he is forced to play his only legal moves. **The Pickaniny theme** demonstrates all 4 possible moves of a black pawn:
1...bxc6 2.♕c1! c5 3.♕a3 c4#
1...b6 2.♔a3! b5 3.♗b3 b4#
1...bxa6 2.f8♗! a5 3.♗a3 a4#
1...b5 2.♘e3! b4 3.♘c4 dxc4#

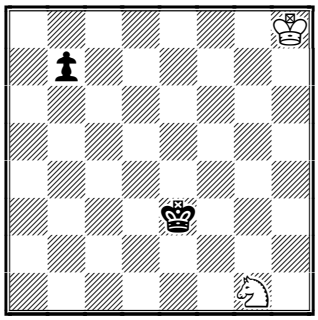
I tried hard to enter the endgame studies section of the official tourney, however one hour before the deadline my head was still empty of any black pawns. At that stage I found no better than just moving some black pawns over the board and pray to Caissa. At exactly 6 PM closing time, I handed the following diagram to the tournament director:

Yochanan Afek, 2nd Prize



Black to play; White draws

1...g5
How can a sole knight cope with two pawns on the run? You simply take one at the time:
2.♘h7! g4 3.♘f6 g3 4.♘h5 g2 5.♘f4 g1♕!
This is better than both 5...g1♘ 6.♘d5= or 5...♔d2 6.♘xg2 b5 7.♘f4 b4 8.♘d5 b3 9.♘b6! =
6.♘e2+ ♔d2 7.♘xg1 ♔e3! ***(D)***



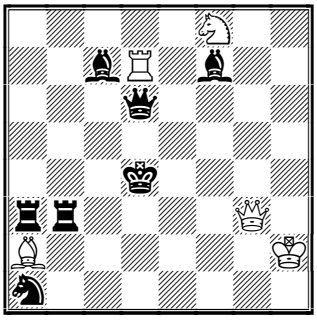
8.♘h3 b5 9.♘g5 b4 10.♘f7! b3 11.♘d6!
(11.♘e5? ♔d4!)
11...♔d3 12.♘b5 b2 13.♘a3
and the breathless horse finally made it on time!

A problem/study with up to seven pieces is called **miniature**. An ultra-miniature with only 5 pieces is called in Russian **malutka**. The judges apparently liked it, mentioning the almost double full parade of the pawns (a pawn parade from its base up to the promotion is called **Excelsior**). Frankly, I even had no time to check the position properly, but there was no need, since Caissa had already done it! ☺

All prizes in the congress were in kind: trophies, medals, books and ... plenty of national drinks of all kind! The

British delegation announced again the traditional Whisky tournament in memory of the late GM (for composing) Norman McLeod. A helpmate in two was required with twins showing a white piece pinned on two different lines.

Boris Ostrukh & Marko Klasinc
1st prize



Helpmate in 2

In helpmates Black starts and helps White to mate him in the given number of moves.

Usually, and exceptionally more than one solution is required to emphasize the thematic content. There is one solution in the diagrammed position and another one (a similar yet rather different) in the twin position (after moving the white king to h3).

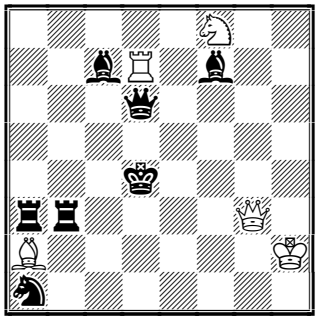
The Slovenian couple managed to realize the theme in an aristocratic pawn-less construction. Please give it a try. It should not be too difficult as both sides simply cooperate to mate Black. If you fail to do so or you are too lazy this morning, you may find the brilliant harmonious solutions at the end of this issue.

Solution to our quiz:

1. Polgar–Karpov:
25.♗xh7+!
(also good was 25.♕h5+−, but Polgar chose the most forceful move)
25...♔xh7 26.♕h5+ 1−0.
Black resigned as after 26...♔g8 White would play 27.♗xg7!+−.

2. Solution to our helpmate problem:

Boris Ostrukh & Marko Klasinc



Helpmate in 2

In helpmates Black starts and helps White to mate him in the given number of moves.
1...♔d4 2.♘g6 ♖d3 3.♕e5#

Solution with the white king on h3: 1...♔c4 2.♘e6 ♕b4 3.♕d3#

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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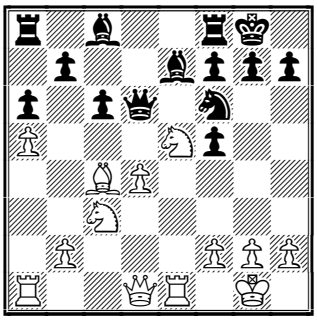
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-287 (1071) 14th October 2003

Chess Quiz

Gelfand (2703) – Graf (2646)
European Team Ch, Plovdiv (3), 2003



White to play

Chess News

European Team Ch in Plovdiv

Key results of round 3 (men):

Slovenia 1½–2½ Russia
Beliavsky ½–½ Svidler
Mikhalchishin 0–1 Bareev
Pavasovic ½–½ Morozevich
Sermek ½–½ Khalifman

Israel 2½–1½ Germany
Switzerland ½–3½ Serbia/Montenegro
Poland 2½–1½ Ukraine
Georgia 3½–½ Hungary
Netherlands 2–2 Croatia

Standings after 3 rounds (men):
1.Serbia & Montenegro – 6 (9)
2. Israel – 6 (8)
3. Russia – 6 (7½)
4–5. Georgia and Azerbaijan – 5 (8)
6. Poland – 5 (7), etc

Key matches of round 4 (men):
Serbia/Montenegro – Russia
Poland – Israel
Azerbaijan – Georgia
Spain – France
Croatia – Germany
Netherlands – FYROM
Bulgaria – Slovenia
Czech Republic – Estonia
Belarus – Switzerland

Key results of round 3 (women):
Romania – Russia ½–1½
Greece – Georgia ½–1½
France – Bulgaria–1 ½–1½
Serbia & Montenegro – Armenia 1–1
Turkey – Israel 1–1

Standings after 3 rounds (women):
1. Russia – 6 (5);
2. Bulgaria–1 — 6 (4½)
3. Ukraine – 5 (5)
4. Armenia – 5 (4½)
5. England – 5 (4); etc.

Key matches of round 4 (women):
Bulgaria–1 — Russia
England — Ukraine
Moldova — Armenia

You can find selected games from Plovdiv in our database today.
Official website

1st Samba Cup (Denmark)

Round 4 results:
PH Nielsen – Alekseev ½–½
Sadvakasov – Sasikiran ½–½
Short – Bologan ½–½
Palo – Ivanchuk 0–1
Kasimdzhanov – Cu. Hansen
Alekseev–Palo ½–½

Standings after 4 rounds:
1–4. Ivanchuk (UKR 2710), PH Nielsen (DEN 2626), Sasikiran, (IND 2679) and Sadvakasov (KAZ 2595) – 2½ points;
5–8. Short (ENG 2701), Alekseev (RUS 2613), Bologan (MDA 2673) and Curt Hansen (DEN 2616) – 2 points;
9. Palo (DEN 2510) – 1½;
10. Kasimdzhanov (UZB 2668) – ½.

Official website

7th Essent Tournament

Round 2 results:
Aronian – J. Polgar ½–½
I. Sokolov – Karpov ½–½

This issue is prepared by GM A. Baburin & IM N. Vlassov; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Both games saw the line 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.♕c2 0–0. Sokolov chose 5.e4 and was pressing against Karpov. Aronian played the more common 5.a3, but Polgar was close to winning the game at some point.

Standings after 2 rounds:
1. **Judit Polgar** (HUN 2722) — 1½;
2–3. Levon Aronian (ARM 2649) and Ivan Sokolov (NED 2695) — 1;
4. Anatoly Karpov (RUS 2693) — ½.

Standings after 4 rounds in the Open:
1–6. Rogers, Dvoirys, Glek,Izoria, Beshukov and N. Pert – 3½ points, etc. (56 players)

Official website

Letters to the Editor

After publishing yesterday information concerning the claim of European Team Championship about 'the copyright fraud' by ICC, we received two opinions from our readers. I would like to stress that we are not taking sides in this situation — we are just covering the story.

The first letter came from Italy:

"Dear Mr Baburin,

In CT–1070 you wrote about the "copyright" of the games. I will publish an article on this matter in next issue of my magazine, L'Italia Scacchistica.
I took an interview with one of the most important Italian companies in this field – Bugnion SpA (Milan).

According to the Italian laws and to some sentences of the Italian Courts, players have no right to the games, which are exclusive property of the tournament organiser.

The reason why players have no rights is that the chess games cannot be considered as 'intellectual creation' owing to the games are made inside well–known and definite rules. On the contrary the tournament organiser automatically gets the rights about every aspect of the event, something like in football or in music concerts.
I cannot be sure that the Italian laws are the same of the laws in the other countries, but I know that there is a good cooperation between the different countries.

With best regards,
Adolivio Capece, editor of L'Italia Scacchistica (printed since 1911)"

The second message was from France:

"Dear Mr Marconi and Baburin,

I would just like to react to your comment in *Chess Today* 1070 regarding the retransmission on internet by other sites.

Having worked myself on behalf of the French Chess Federation on the retransmission of games I can say that it's a lot of work and trouble. You need a website, the necessary equipment and personnel. It is also the organisers who pay this added expense. This really isn't about the copyright of games — anyone can publish the games afterwards — but having a live view is another thing. The very least that ICC could do is to ask permission and to give credit to the organisers. It is really a lack of respect in their direction.

Stephen Boyd, International Arbiter
French Chess Federation"

Well, I agree with Stephen that somebody must pay for live transmission and the organisers at least deserve credit for doing it.

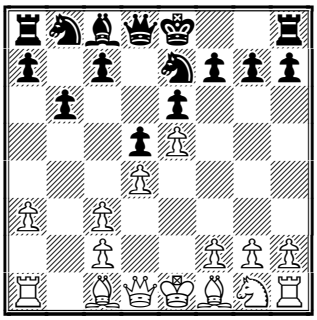
Personally, I feel that it would be good for all people and companies working in chess to have clear understanding of this issue of copyright over chess games and rights over live transmission of games. This is something FIDE might need to work on, with experts in the international copyright law. But knowing FIDE, I won't hold my breath...

Annotated Game

One of the highlights of the first round of the European Team Championship in Plovdiv was Shirov's striking victory over Atalik.

□ **Alexey Shirov (2737)**
■ **Suat Atalik (2570)**
ETC, Plovdiv (1), 11.10.2003
French Winawer – [C16]
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov & GM Alexander Baburin

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4 4.e5 ♘e7 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 b6 ***(D)***

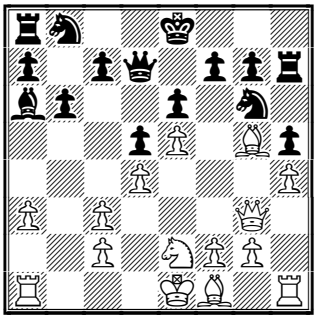


Black wants to exchange the light-squared bishops – positionally that swap will be to his benefit, as Black would have good control over the light squares. Of course, White has his trumps too.

7.♕g4 ♘g6 8.h4 h5 9.♕g3 ♗a6 10.♘e2 ♖h7

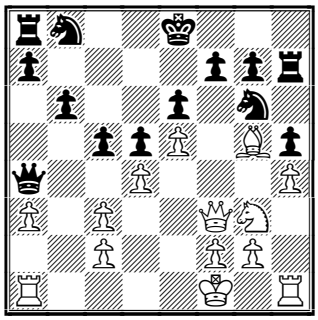
In this position Ehlvest once played 10...♕d7 and managed to survive. However, his opponent was not Shirov! 11.a4 ♗c4 12.♘f4 ♘xf4 13.♗xf4 ♖h7 14.♗xc4 dxc4 15.0–0 ♕d5 16.♗g5 ½–½ Smirin–Ehlvest, Biel 1993.

11.♗g5 ♕d7 ***(D)***



12.♕f3N An interesting novelty. The logic is simple: being more active than the black knight on g6 that is involved in looking after the f4-square, the white knight can attack the h5-pawn from g3. White previously tried 12.a4 ♘c6 13.♘f4 ♗xf1 14.♖xf1 ♘xf4 15.♕xf4 ♘a5 16.♕g3 ♖h8 17.f4 g6 18.♗f6 ♖g8 19.♔f2 ♖c8 20.♔g1 c5 21.♖f2 ♕c6 22.f5 exf5 23.♖xf5 cxd4 24.♖f3 ♕e6 25.♗g5 ♖xc3 26.♖xc3 dxc3 Sabas–Plesset, Internet ICC 2000.

12...♕a4 13.♘g3 ♗xf1 14.♔xf1 c5 ***(D)***



We should have awarded this simple and logical move with a question mark, but I could not bring myself to do so. Who, except Shirov, would know that the black king is now doomed?! Knowing the game, it's easy to recommend 14...♔f8.

15.♘f5!!

Welcome to Planet Shirov! ☺ What a brilliant idea! The white knight pretended to be after the h5-pawn, but now it suddenly attacks where it's least expected! After 15.♘xh5 ♘c6!∓ White won't hold out in the centre.

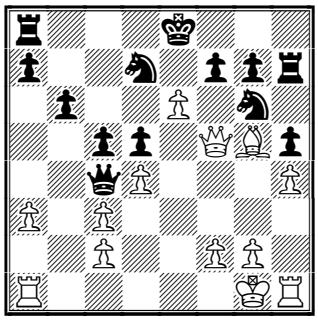
15...♕c4+

After 15...exf5 16.♕xd5 ♘c6 17.e6 ♔f8 18.exf7 White has enough compensation for a piece, thanks to pathetic position of the h7-rook.

16.♔g1 exf5 17.♕xf5

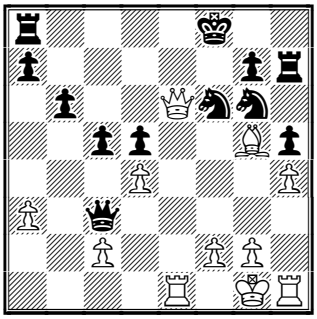
White threatens checkmate in one, as well as breaking through with e5-e6. The g6-knight cannot be of any help because it is busy with protecting the sluggish rook. All these threats and White has only a couple of pieces in attack!

17...♘d7 18.e6! ***(D)***



Shirov isn't one of those who make their opponents suffer long! ☺ Those fond of making a positional mockery of their opponents would have preferred 18.♖h3 ♘df8 19.♖f3 ♘h8 20.a4 — Black is unable to undo the ridiculous knot on the kingside and therefore must lose. All king's knights are in bad shape and neither the black queen nor anything else can help the Humpty-Dumpty on e8.

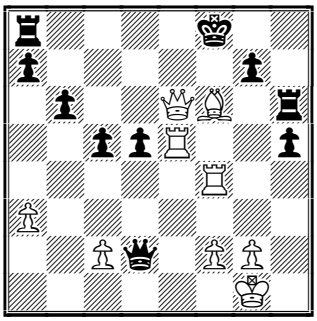
18...♘f6 19.♖e1 Now it is time for major pieces to enter the game. **19...♕xc3 20.exf7+** Alice has had a brilliant career (the white knight helped her a lot by removing the e6-obstacle at the cost of his life) and reached the black king. In this version of the tale she is to die immediately from the king's hands. But the black king is also doomed to fail here - the raging white pieces are after him! **20...♔xf7 21.♕e6+ ♔f8** ***(D)***



22.♖h3! Every piece wants to take part in the striking final stage, except for the white king who is watching execution from the safe place and some pawns who have not been invited.

22...♕xd4 23.♖f3 ♘xh4 Black could have already resigned but he captures one more pawn. It did not bother anyone, it just came into Black's way. 23...♕g4 24.♕d6+ ♔g8 25.♗xf6 ♖f8 26.♕xd5+ ♔h8 27.♖e4+-.

24.♖f4 ♕c3 25.♗xh4 ♖h6 26.♖e5 ♕d2 27.♗xf6 ***(D)***



Only when all black knights perished ingloriously, Atalik resigned. **1-0.**

Solution to our quiz:

Gelfand-Graf: **15.♘xf7! ♖xf7 16.♕b3 ♘d5 17.♘xd5 cxd5 18.♗xd5 ♕f6 19.♖ac1!**

The key move, which White had to see when sacrificing on f7.

19...♗d7 20.♖c7 ♖d8 21.♖xb7 ♔f8 22.♖b6 ♕xd4 23.♗xf7 ♗c5 24.♖d1 I am sure that Gelfand saw this position when he made his 14th move. Not that it's difficult - Black did not have many options, so calculation was rather easy.

24...♕xf2+ 25.♔h1 ♗e8 (25...♗xb6 26.axb6+-) **26.♗d5 ♗h5 27.♖a1 ♕f4 28.♖xa6 ♗d6 29.♖xd6 ♖xd6 30.♕a3 ♕e5 31.a6 ♕xd5 32.a7 ♔f7 33.♕xd6 ♕xd6 34.a8♕ ♗e2 35.♕a7+ ♔f6 36.♕a3 ♕d5 37.♕e3 ♗b5 38.♖e1 ♗c6 39.♕e7+ ♔g6 40.♕e6+ 1-0.**

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CHESS TODAY
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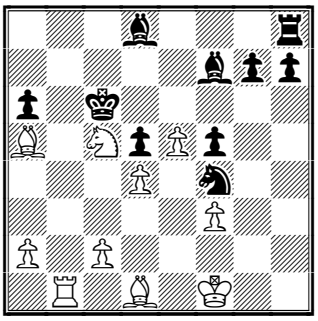
CT-290(1074) 17th October 2003

Chess Quiz

Bologan (2673) – Palo (2510)
Skanderborg 14.10.2003



Today's Quiz has an unusual task – White to play and mate in 4

Chess News

Thursday was a rest day at the **European Team Ch in Plovdiv.**

Let's concentrate on the ongoing GM tournaments but first I'd like to inform you about an unexpected and extraordinary event that took place in Moscow. The Team Championship of the Moscow region in the famous Central House of Chessplayer on Gogolevsky blvd. supposed to be a competition of amateurs perhaps with participation of a few IMs. But two teams had decided to strengthen their line-up. And they have succeeded. The leader of the team of Sergiev Posad was Anand (I'm not kidding!!!) supported by GMs Kobalia and Smagin. Their main rivals from Istra were represented by Dreev and Zvjaginsev. I don't know the final results of this tournament where some of Russian club players had luck to meet Anand face to face but after 7 or 8 rounds he had perfect score and it seemed only Dreev was able to stop him. I try to give more details tomorrow.

1st Samba Cup (Denmark)

The standings have changed radically after the 6th round in which Ivanchuk lost to Kasimdzhanov.

Round 6 results:
Nielsen – Bologan 1:0
Short – Palo ½:½
Sadvakasov – Alekseev 1:0
Kasimdzhanov – Ivanchuk 1:0
Sasikiran – Hansen 0:1

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Hansen – 4
2-5. Nielsen, Ivanchuk, Short, Sadvakasov – 3½
6. Bologan – 3
7-8. Kasimdzhanov, Sasikiran – 2½
9-10. Alekseev, Palo – 2
Official website

7th Essent Tournament

Crown Group:
Nothing has changed after two draws in the 4th round.

Round 4 results:
Aronian – Sokolov ½:½
Karpov – Polgar ½:½

Standings after 4 rounds:
1. Polgar – 3
2. Aronian – 2
3-4. Karpov, Sokolov – 1½

The Open Tournament

Round 7 key results:
Inarkiev – Glek 1:0
Rogers – L'Ami ½:½
N. Pert – Dvoirys 1:0
Stellwagen – Izoria 0:1
Grigoriants – Baramidze 1:0

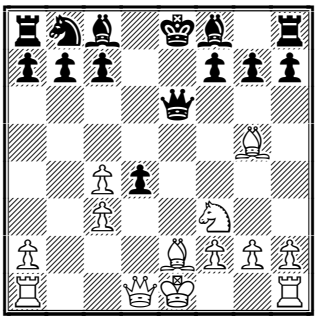
Standings after 7 rounds:
1. Inarkiev - 6
2-4. Izoria, Grigoriants, N. Pert – 5½
5-7. Rodgers, L'Ami, Jens – 5, etc.
Official website

This issue is prepared by IM Maxim Notkin; technical editor Graham Brown.
Subscription is 15 Euros for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

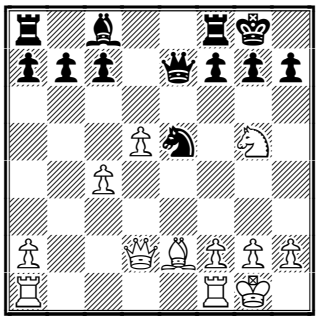
Annotated Game

□ **V Ivanchuk (2710)**
■ **P Nielsen (2626)**
1st Samba Cup Skanderborg DEN (5), 14.10.2003 A18
Notes by IM Maxim Notkin

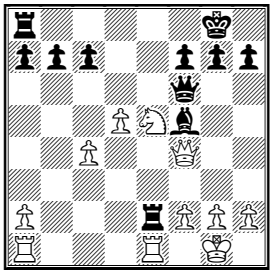
1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 d4 5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3
This variation was put into practice in the 30's. Reference to it can be seen in the classical Nimzowitsch works. Look at this example – 6.fxg7 cxd2+ 7.♗xd2 ♗xg7 8.♕c2 ♘c6 9.♘f3 ♘d4 10.♘xd4 ♗xd4 Nimzowitsch – ...Nielsen (!) Copenhagen 1933. Well in fact Peter Heine is not that old.
6...♕xf6 7.♘f3 e5
The best move for Black.
8.d4 exd4 9.♗g5 ♕e6+ 10.♗e2



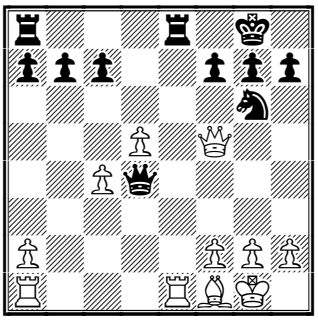
10...♗e7
If Black doesn't want to improve his opponent's pawn chain he may opt for 10...f6 11.♘xd4 ♕f7; but 10...d3 11.0–0! is bad for him.
11.cxd4 ♗xg5 12.♘xg5 ♕e7 13.♕d2 ♘c6
Another defensive plan is 13...0–0 14.0–0 h6 15.♘f3 c5 16.d5 ♕d6 17.♖ab1 b6 18.♖b3 ♘d7 19.♖e3 ♗b7 20.♖e1 b5! with counterplay, Zvjaginsev – Sargissian, Istanbul 2003
14.d5 ♘e5
Black has provoked the advance of the d–pawn. Now he will try to build a blockade along the black squares. Worse is 14...♘d4 15.♕xd4 ♕xg5 16.0–0 0–0 17.♗f3 Gulko– Pliester, Aruba 1992
15.0–0 0–0



16.♖fe1
I bet Nielsen wouldn't mind repeating the following move sequence – 16.f4 ♘d7 17.♗d3 ♘f6 18.♖ae1 ♕c5+ 19.♕f2 ♕xf2+ 20.♔xf2 draw agreed, Hansen – Nielsen, Esbjerg 2000
16...♗f5 17.♕f4
Ivanchuk carries on the same idea as in Rasmussen – Rozentalis, Linares 2002: 17.♖ac1 b6 18.♕f4 f6 19.♘f3 ♗d7 20.♘xe5 fxe5 21.♕e3 c5 22.dxc6 ♗xc6 23.c5 b5 24.♗d3 with a stable advantage to White.
17...♕f6! 18.♘f3 ♖fe8 19.♘h4!?
After 19.♘d4 ♘g6! 20.♕d2 ♖ad8 21.♗f1 Balck can get comfortable play by 21...♗d7 (less precise is *21...h6 22.♘xf5 ♕xf5 23.♕a5!* Banas – Rigo, Prievidza 1998)
19...♘g6!
The only way to avoid the destruction of the kingside pawn formation.
20.♕xf5
The only move, as another "exchange" 20.♘xg6 suddenly loses to 20...♖xe2! 21.♘e5 and here out of the blue ..



21...♗b1!! snatching a large sum
20...♕xh4 21.♗f1 ♕d4



More accurate was 21...♖ad8. Black places his queen in an active position, but in reply White activates his own queen to a greater extent.

22.♕d7! ♖xe1 23.♖xe1 ♕c5

To progress, White needs to penetrate with the rook into the enemy camp. Ivanchuk begins the fight for the key square e7.

24.h4! ♔f8

Both 24...♘xh4 25.♖e7; and 24...f6 25.h5 ♘e5 26.♕e6+ ♔h8 27.h6 are insufficient.

25.♕f5 ♔g8

25...h6 26.h5 ♘e7 27.♕h7 doesn't lose for Black but causes much anxiety

26.h5 ♘f8 27.♕g5 ♕d6

After 27...f6 28.♕g4 Black is unable to evade further weakening of the king's shield – 28...h6 *(or 28...♖d8 29.h6 g6 30.♕f4)*

28.g3!

It's time to activate the bishop.

28...h6 29.♕e7 ♘d7

The exchange on e7 loses the c7 pawn and the game.

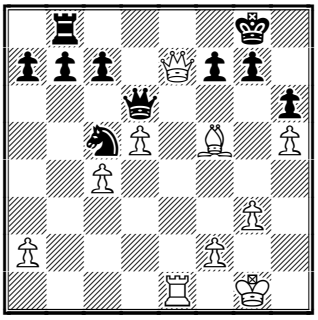
30.♗h3

Premature is 30.♕xd6 cxd6 31.♖e7 ♘c5 and the knight protects everything.

30...♘c5 31.♗f5!

A kind of zugzwang. No useful moves are seen for Black.

31...♖b8



32.♕e8+ ♕f8

32...♖xe8? 33.♖xe8+ ♕f8 34.♗h7+

33.♕e7

Another little achievement for White – the black queen has retired from its active position. However despite all White's acievements, Black's position is still solid.

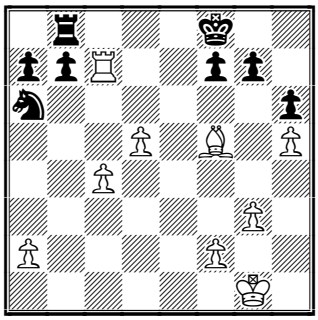
33...♕xe7?!

Better was 33...♘a6 and White has no obvious way to improve.

34.♖xe7 ♔f8?

Only this move is a decisive mistake. After 34...♘a6 35.c5!? ♔f8 36.♖d7 *(36.d6 c6!)* 36...c6 37.dxc6 bxc6 38.♖xa7 ♘xc5 the ending is better for White nevertheless it's a long story. The attempt to solve the problems by means of tactics fails immediately

35.♖xc7 ♘a6



36.d6!

Nielsen was counting on 36.♖d7 ♘c5 37.♖c7 ♘a6 38.♖c8+ ♖xc8 39.♗xc8 ♘c5

36...♖d8 37.c5 b6 38.c6! ♘b8

38...♖xd6 39.♖xa7 and Black has to give up the knight for the passed pawn.

39.♗e4 ♖xd6 40.♖c8+ 1–0

Solution to our quiz:

32.c3! ♗xa5 33.♖b7! and 34.Ba4# is unavoidable. **1–0**

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CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-311 (1095) 7th November 2003

Chess Today Celebrates 3rd Anniversary!

by GM Alex Baburin

Today our paper turns 3 years old. We are not going to host a champagne reception, though as only recently we celebrated our 1000th issue. However, this might be a good occasion to look at the CT development – please come to our website and see sample issues, including issues No. 1, 300, 500 and 1000! You can also read about people working in *Chess Today*.

Our paper was born during the Internet boom and it survived the tough years which followed, when many good websites hit the wall. I think most readers would agree that in recent months *Chess Today* improved both in terms of its design and content.

We currently have about 700 regular readers, while there are about 900 people in our 'Free Trial' list. Our readership includes 67 Grandmasters, including such leading players as Alexey Shirov, Peter Svidler, Judit Polgar, Boris Gelfand and Teimour Radjabov. I don't claim that they read every issue, but I got very positive feedback from many GMs.

Of course, *Chess Today* has primarily club players in mind and it seems that most readers love our publication. We often receive messages like this:
" I am enjoying your publication immensely. This is a wonderful value and a joy to see in your e-mail in my mailbox." — Glen Hart

We would certainly like to have more readers and I guess here we are overcome (or at least deal with) the following negative trends:

- *Chess Today* is still not known to the majority of chess players
- Daily chess fix could be too much for some chess fans
- Language could be a problem for many, narrowing our readership
- People might be unwilling to pay for chess information

We hope that you, dear reader, can help us to popularise *Chess Today* — why not forward either this issue or at least the www.chesstoday.net link to all chess-playing people in your mailbox? Word of mouth is often the best advertisement!

We plan to have a 2-issues-a-week option soon — this will not replace our daily delivery, but rather offer an additional choice for those who find it hard to cope with 7 issues a week.

If our readership goes up, we might consider editions in other languages (German, Russian and Spanish are obvious candidates), at least for the twice-a-week version.

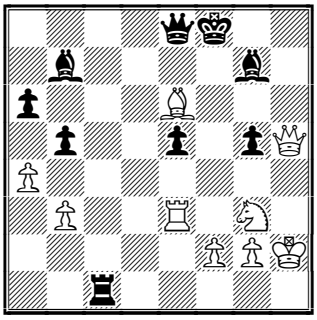
As for paying for (chess) information, the trend might change at some point — people do pay for books, online lessons or for playing on chess servers. And here *Chess Today* offers really good value for chess fans!

Chess Today still has a lot of room for improvement, particularly when it comes to promoting itself. I received many good ideas and suggestions from our readers and hope to act upon them very soon. Sometimes I can be slow – simply due to the fact that apart from publishing *Chess Today*, I give chess lessons, write articles, play chess in various leagues and teach chess in many schools around Dublin. I like to think of myself as a lazy man, but sometimes I look at my schedule and have severe doubts! ☺

Anyway, we look forward to the 4th year of paper with optimism and would like to thank all our readers for your continuous support!

Chess Quiz

Kulaots (2530) – Tallaksen (2327)
Classics II GM Gausdal NOR, 2003



White to play

Chess News

Sautron Open

It seems that France is experiencing a chess boom — it has a strong national team, French club NAO won the European Club Championship and there are many tournaments taking place in France every month. One such tournament took place in Sautron (FRA) on 25 October – 2 November.
Final Standings:
1–2. GMs Andrei Istratescu (ROM 2595) and Jiri Stocek (CZE 2545) – 7 points out of 9;
3–7. GMs Fedorchuk (UKR 2561) and Makarov (RUS 2517); IMs Maze (FRA 2464), Prasad (IND 2409) and Dobrev (BUL 2389) – 6½ points, etc (143 participants).

Touquet Open

Another open tournament finished in France recently — Touquet Open (26 October – 1 November).
Final Standings:
1. GM Krum Georgiev (BUL 2452) – 6½ points out of 9;
2. GMs Goloshchapov (UKR 2574) Kveinys (LTU 2495) I. Farago (HUN 2485), Belkhodja (TUN 2439); IM Marholev (BUL 2407), FM Michiels (BEL 2390) and Harich (GER 2216) – 6 points, etc (8 GMs and 10 IMs amongst 103 players)

GM tournament in Tel Aviv

18-years old Israeli player Ilya Khmelniker won a closed GM tournament in Tel Aviv (19–28 October), making a GM-norm.
Final standings:
1. Ilya Khmelniker (ISR 2451) – 7 points out of 9
2. GM Savchenko (UKR 2563) – 6 pts;
3. GM Lerner (UKR 2524) – 5 points, etc.

Leuven Open

This traditional chess open is about to start in this Belgian city. *Chess Today* has two representatives playing there – our editor Graham Brown and GM Mikhail Golubev. On behalf of *Chess Today*, I would like to wish both of them interesting games and good results! On his website Graham wrote about last year's edition of the tournament.

The 2nd Selfoss Milk Tournament

The leaders Nikolic and Sokolov have consolidated their positions before the final round in which they play each other. I suppose this game will see a quick draw. In any case Malakhov does not have a chance for the first place not to mention all the others. As you will see from the annotated game in the penultimate round Sokolov was one step away from the loss but Vallejo stepped in a wrong direction.

Round 8 results:
Vallejo – Sokolov 0:1
Nikolic – Stefansson 1:0
Fressinet – Bologan 0:1
Thorhalsson – Rowson ½:½
De Firmian – Malakhov ½:½

Round 8 standings:
1–2. Nikolic, Sokolov – 6½
3. Malakhov – 5½
4. Vallejo – 4½
5–6. Fressinet, Rowson – 4
7. Bologan – 3½

8–9. Stefansson, Thorhalsson – 2
10. De Firmian – 1½
Official site

You can find games from rounds 7 and 8 in our database. We would like to thank Rod McShane and Manfred Rosenboom for sending them.

FIDE Congress

by GM Alex Baburin

FIDE has published a report on the 74th FIDE Congress, which concluded its work on 2nd November in Greece. I would like to quote a few of the decisions, with my brief comments (in italics).

"The Executive Board endorsed the decision of the President to cancel the Ponomariov–Kasparov 2003 World Chess Championship Match and to organize in its place the World Championship (Knock Out) tournament."

What else to expect? Kirsan Ilyumzhinov controls FIDE and practically all his decisions get a stamp of approval.

"The Board therefore granted anticipatory powers to the FIDE President to decide on the details of the format, which will be submitted by the World Chess Championship Committee to enable the event to be split on the basis of two, three or four groups of 64 or 32 players each. The idea behind this proposal is to enable two, three or four possible bids for the entire knock out championship thereby spreading the costs of hosting the entire event."

This is something new – the tournament is going to be in different countries now? And isn't it supposed to start soon? Yet, instead of dates and venue, players hear about 'details of the format', which has to be yet decided!

"As part of its measures to address its financial problems, the Board approved the recommendation of the Presidential Board to move the FIDE Secretariat from Lausanne to Athens in order to reduce the costs of running the Secretariat."

So, FIDE is in financial difficulties... But did not Ilyumzhinov give $50,000,000 to FIDE a few years ago to keep World Championships running for 10 years? Or was it a bad joke?

"The Board was briefed by both the Spanish Chess Federation President Mr. Javier Ochoa and the representative of the city of Calvia, Mr. Antonio Rami on the preparations by the Organizing Committee to hold the 36th Chess Olympiad and the 75th FIDE Congress in the Spanish Island of Majorca from 21 to 31 October 2004. At the same time, the Executive Board confirmed the dates for the 37th Chess Olympiad and the 77th FIDE Congress to be held in the Italian city of Turin from 20 May to 4 June 2006. In view of the growing number of countries interested in hosting the Chess Olympiads and Congresses the Board established a deadline for the submission of bids to host the 2008 Chess Olympiad. The Board noted that Armenia, Germany, Sweden and Argentina had expressed interest to host the 2008 Olympiad and set a deadline of 15 April 2004 for the submission of bids by these countries as well as any other country that might be interested in hosting the event."

This is good news, but it would be interesting to learn if players (Federations) will have to pay for their accommodation. Traditionally the host provides accommodation and food, while teams pay for their travel. In Bled in 2000 Ilyumzhinov backed a proposal from US oil company to host the chess Olympiad in 2004 in Texas, where the hosts would pay travel expenses as well. That bid was rejected, but I heard that the Spanish organisers are going to charge teams for everything, despite having government sponsorship for the event. If this will be the case, many teams won't make it to Majorca...

"Finally, the Executive Board resolved

to declare the years 2004 and 2005 as the year of Tigran Petrossian and the year of Chess in Schools respectively."

Good decisions — Petrosian certainly deserves credit and scholastic chess needs support, even if it's already booming in many countries.

TWIC published further information on the FIDE plans:

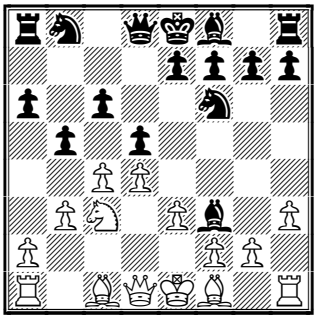
"The FIDE Congress has decided that they will hold 2 KO qualifiers for a unified Men's World Championship, in April–May tentatively in Baku (Azerbaijan) and Tripoli (Libya). The winners of the two sections will play and the winner of that will play Garry Kasparov for the unified title. It seems from my reading of the proposals they will ignore the claims of Vladimir Kramnik (who defeated Kasparov, yet Kasparov is in the unification process in spite of neither having nor claiming any world title) and Peter Leko (who is due to play him)." — Mark Crowther

Annotated Game

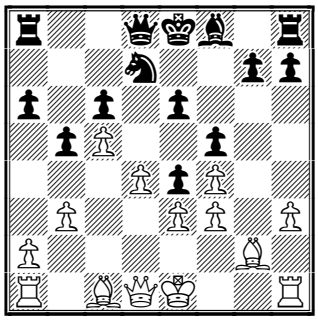
by IM Maxim Notkin

□ **F. Vallejo Pons (2662)**
■ **I. Sokolov (2695)**
2nd Milk Tournament Selfoss, Iceland (8), 06.11.2003
Slav Defence – [D10]

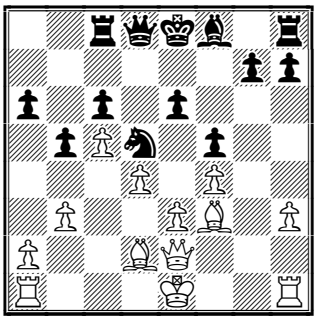
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 5.♘f3 b5 6.b3 ♗g4 7.h3
Less committing is 7.♗e2 but it doesn't mean that the text move is worse.
7...♗xf3 *(D)*



8.gxf3
White is more or less obliged to agree to the damage of his pawn formation. On the other hand it helps him to get spatial advantage. [After 8.♕xf3 strong is 8...e5! and if 9.dxe5?! ♗b4 10.♗d2 ♗xc3! 11.♗xc3 ♘e4 12.♗b4 *(12.♗b2?? ♕a5+)* 12...bxc4 13.bxc4 ♕b6 14.a3 a5 with a menacing initiative
8...♘bd7 9.f4 e6 10.c5 ♘e4
Another plan is 10...g6 and in various games Black transposed his knight to f5 using all the thinkable routes – h5–g7–f5 or g8–e7–f5 or even (after h3–h4) g4–h6–f5.
11.♘xe4
11.♗b2 leads to a tedious positional play – 11...♘xc3 12.♗xc3 a5 13.♗d3 f5 14.♕e2 ♗e7 15.0–0–0 ♘f6= Svetushkin – Bacrot, Istanbul 2003.
11...dxe4 12.♗g2 f5 13.f3 *(D)*



13...exf3
A few months ago the same opponents had the same position in Mainz. At that time Sokolov chose 13...♘f6 14.fxe4 fxe4 15.♕c2 ♕d5 16.a4 b4 and after 17.♗d2 *(17.♗f1!)* 17...g5! 18.♖f1 ♖g8 19.fxg5 ♖xg5 20.♗xb4 ♗e7 obtained a good counterplay thanks to the active rooks and finally won the game. But by means of 17.♗f1 with idea of the regrouping ♗c4, ♖g1, ♕g2, ♗d2, 0–0–0 White could have retained his advantage. Ivan didn't want to check Paco's preparation and deviated first but the Spaniard had explored another branches as well.
14.♗xf3 ♖c8 15.♕e2!
In the event of 15.a4 ♘f6 16.axb5 axb5 17.♖a6 ♕d7 18.♕d2 ♗e7 19.0–0 0–0 20.♕g2 ♘d5 21.♗d2 ♖a8 22.♖fa1 ♕b7 the game is even, Pelletier – Bacrot, Biel 2003
15...♘f6 16.♗d2 ♘d5 *(D)*



Vallejo could castle any side he wanted but he preferred the straight action.

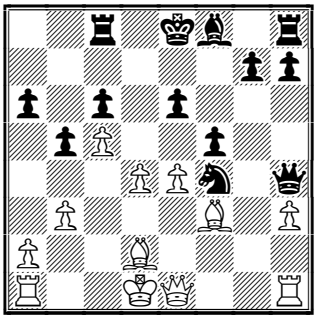
17.e4! ♕h4+

17...fxe4 18.♕xe4 ♕f6 19.0–0–0 with advantage to White due to the weakness of the e6 pawn.

18.♔d1!

In the ending after 18.♕f2 ♕xf2+ 19.♔xf2 fxe4 20.♗xe4 g6 the mighty knight allows Black to hold the position.

18...♘xf4 19.♕e1! *(D)*

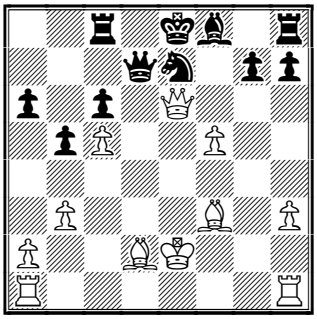


If 19.♕e3 g5! (bad is *19...♘xh3? 20.exf5 ♘f2+ 21.♔c2 ♘xh1 22.♕xe6+ ♔d8 23.♗a5+ ♖c7 24.♖e1+–;* after *19...♘g6 20.exf5 ♘e7* the precise move *21.♖e1!* gives White a significant advantage) 20.exf5 ♗g7 21.fxe6 ♔e7! followed by Rhd8 and Black has sufficient counterplay

19...♘g6!?

19...♕xe1+ 20.♖xe1 ♘xh3 21.exf5±

20.exf5 ♕xd4 21.♕xe6+ ♘e7 22.♔e2 ♕d7 *(D)*



22...♕xc5 loses to 23.♖ac1 ♕xf5 24.♗xc6+ ♖xc6 25.♖xc6

23.♕e3

23.a4?! is met by 23...♕xe6+ 24.fxe6 ♘f5; the prophylactic move 23.♖hf1!? promises White a very pleasant ending after 23...♕xe6+ 24.fxe6 g6 *(24...♘f5 25.♗h5+ g6 26.♖xf5 gxh5 27.♖g1!)* 25.♗e4; The queen's retreat creates the threat of Bh5+. The immediate 23.♗h5+ is harmless on account of 23...g6.

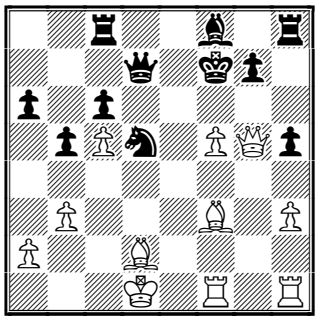
23...h5

23...♕xf5?? 24.♗g4

24.♖af1 ♔f7 25.♔d1

This move wasn't essential. 25.♕g5 looked better.

25...♘d5 26.♕g5 (D)



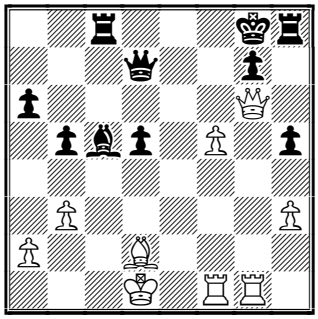
♗e7?

Leads to a lost position. Right was the simple capture 26...♗xc5 27.♕g6+ ♔g8 28.♗xd5+ ♕xd5 29.f6 ♖c7! parrying the direct threats

27.♕g6+ ♔g8 28.♖hg1

Another move order works fine as well – 28.♗xd5+ ♕xd5 *(28...cxd5 29.f6)* 29.♖hg1 (but not *29.f6? ♗xf6)* 29...♕f7 *(29...♖h7 30.f6 ♖d8 31.♖g2 ♗xc5 32.fxg7+–)* 30.f6! ♕xg6 31.♖xg6 ♗xc5 32.fxg7 ♖h7 33.♗h6 and in view of Rf8+ Black should give up the exchange.

28...♗xc5 29.♗xd5+ cxd5 *(D)*



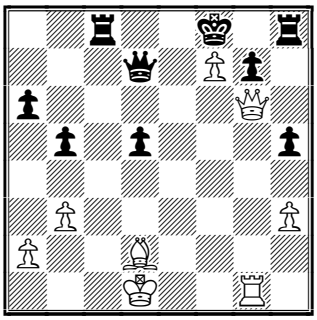
30.f6!

The winning blow.

30...♗xg1 31.f7+

Missing a very nice win after 31.fxg7!?

♖h7 (31...♕xg7 32.♕e6+ ♔h7 33.♖f7 ♗d4 34.♕h6+ ♔g8 35.♖xg7+ ♗xg7 36.♕e6+ ♔h7 *(36...♔f8 37.♗b4+)* 37.♕f5+) 32.♖f8+! ♖xf8 33.♕xh7+! ♔xh7 34.gxf8♘+! But apart from this beauty White doesn't miss anything.
31...♔f8 32.♖xg1?? *(D)*



A terrible blunder. Maybe Vallejo counted on 32.♗b4+ and in the last second noticed 32...♗c5; The decision to eliminate the black bishop is right but it should have been taken by the queen – 32.♕xg1 ♕e7 33.♕d4 a5 34.♗xa5 ♖h6 35.♗b4 ♖d6 36.♖g1+–
32...♕xf7
Black is simply the exchange and two pawns up. White's position is lost anyway but he loses in one move.
33.♕xa6?! ♕f3+
33...♕f3+ 34.♔e1 ♖e8+ **0–1.**

Solution to our quiz:
Kulaots (2530) – Tallaksen (2327)
Classics II GM Gausdal NOR, 2003

36.♖f3+! ♗xf3 37.♕xf3+ ♔e7 38.♘f5+ ♔d8 [38...♔xe6 39.♘xg7+; 38...♔f6 39.♘d6+] **39.♕a8+ 1–0.**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

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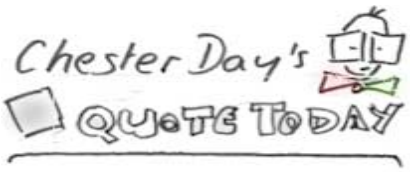

Could we look
into the
head of a chess
player,
we would see
there a
whole world
of feelings,
images,
ideas,
emotion
and passion.

- Alfred Binet

When chess masters err,
ordinary
wood
pushers tend
to derive
a measure of
satisfaction,
if not actual glee.

– I. Horowitz

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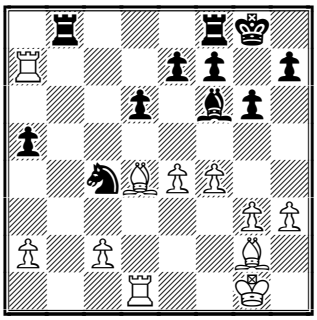
CT-322 (1106) Tues. 18th November 2003

Chess Quiz

Marinkovic - Makarichev
GMA-Open, Belgrade 1988



Black to play

Chess News

Larsen - Olafsson Match

GM Fridrik Olafsson defeated GM Bent Larsen ***5-3*** in an 8-game rapid chess match, which took place on 11-14 November in Reykjavik. Official website

Indian Women's Championship

This massive 17-round tournament is in progress in Calicut.
Standings after 14 rounds:
1. H. Koneru (2485) - 13½ points;
2. Vijayalakshmi (2426) – 12 points;
3 N. Mohota (2299) - 9½ points; (18 players). Official website

Kasparov vs. X3D Fritz

The fourth and final game of the match will be played today at 13:00 EST and will be broadcast once again on ESPN 2. You can also follow live commentary on the Internet Chess Club and ChessFM. The score is 1½-1½ and Kasparov will be Black in the last game. Today we look at game 3 in detail and also publish impressions of the match by one of our US readers.

Linares 2004

The line-up for Linares 2004 has been announced at TWIC: Kasparov (2830), Kramnik (2770), Shirov (2737), Topalov (2735), Leko (2722), Vallejo (2662) and Radjabov (2650).

Chess & Books with Fred Wilson

This week Fred's guest at his live Internet Radio Show will be the highly acclaimed teacher & author GM Lev Alburt. Lev, who was US Champion three times, US Open Champion twice, and also three times champion of Ukraine, will give his 'take' on what really happened during the amazing Kasparov-X3D Fritz match and its implications towards future human vs. computer chess encounters. Lev will also discuss his two excellent and fascinating new books 'Three Days With Bobby Fischer & Other Chess Essays' (with Al Lawrence) and 'Chess Rules of Thumb'. Please send questions for GM Alburt to fred@fredwilsonchess.com or Tony Rook.

This Wednesday, 19th November:
17:00 ETS - Replay of Bruce Pandolfini (3rd interview)
19:00 ETS - Replay of GM Lev Alburt (2nd interview)
21:00 ETS - Live Show;
23:05 ETS - Replay of Live Show

GM Makarichev Turns 50

Russian GM Sergey Makarichev celebrated his 50th birthday yesterday. He was European Junior Champion in 1973/1974 and became GM in 1976. Later Makarichev worked with Karpov. Nowadays he hosts a popular chess program on Russian TV. In today's quiz you can see one of his combinations.

This issue is prepared by GM A. Baburin and IM N. Vlassov; technical editor Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

Chess Madness

by Frank Kolasinski

Probably the hottest story in the chess world right now is the current Man vs. Machine match between Garry Kasparov and the chess program *Fritz* (which for this match has sent it's cousin X3D Fritz into the fray).

You may recall that this match is being played in a 3D mode, with Kasparov, seated in front of the computer monitor, donning a pair of 3D glasses which are able to project the image of the chess board as hanging in the air in front of him, while his moves are now voice activated. I believe that this has caused some unexpected difficulties for him, as Garry has been seen suffering from the effects of eye strain late in the games of this match, which is being billed as the 2003 World Computer Chess Championship.

The early results have been disturbing, to say the least. In game one, Kasparov could not convert a material advantage into a win, as X3D Fritz forced a draw (seemingly with ease) against Garry, whom many believe to be the strongest player of all time. In game two, X3D emerged victorious when Kasparov, in time trouble, blundered horribly on move 32, losing a pawn.

With considerable pressure riding on his shoulders, Kasparov entered game 3 of the four game match, seemingly well rested and confident. The viewing audience for the match, being held at Manhattan's prestigious New York Athletic club, was a who's who of the elite in the US chess community. In addition to analysts and Grandmasters Maurice Ashley and Yasser Seirawan and computer expert Paul Hoffman, former women's world champion Susan Polgar, WIM Irina Krush, GM and teacher-extraordinaire Lev Albert, GMs Gregory Kaidanov and William Lombardy were present. They observed to be mingling throughout the venue, as Garry attempted to even up the match against his thus far dominating opponent.

I was seated in a very lively section surrounded by IM candidates who were thrashing out the position move by move. A very nice feeling of camaraderie existed between us by the game end, as we exchanged e-mail addresses and phone numbers. There was a definite amount of electricity in the air, as onlookers alternately answered various Kasparov moves with applause and cheering, as well as gasps and murmuring following some of the more questionable of X3D Fritz's moves.

The early match tension could be felt in the air: were we witnessing the end of an era? Has Kasparov's game slipped in recent years? Has a chess computer program finally been developed that can beat the best human chess player?

The game did not disappoint, as Kasparov was able to combine a significant positional advantage with some tactical shots to throw the computer off its game and secure an outright win, as X3D Fritz resigned following Garry's 45th move. Kasparov, who had been playing the match in an isolated location on the 12th floor, then joined the analyst team, located on the 9th floor to answer questions, after receiving a standing ovation upon entering the room.

Garry seemed to be both humble and engaging at the post match wrap-up, and answered several questions asked by the ESPN match analysts, GM Maurice Ashley, Paul Hoffman, and GM Yasser Seriwan. He was unfortunately unavailable to sign autographs or to chat with the waiting admirers, as security hustled him away immediately following the post match wrap-up.

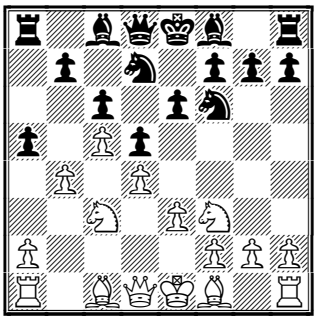
All in all, a very special event!

Annotated Game

After game 2 of the match I suggested providing the Man with low-power software during such matches to insure him against blunders. Now it is time to bring up the mirror proposal, and allow the Machine to consult a weak player who will direct it from time to time. A second-grade player would suit fine to turn the clown show into an intellectual encounter, in my opinion. However, tastes differ...

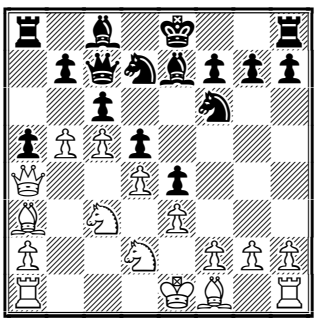
□ **Kasparov (2830)**
■ **X3D FRITZ**
X3D Match, New York (3), 16.11.2003
Slav Defence – [D45]
Notes by IM Nikolai Vlassov

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.d4 c6 5.e3 a6 6.c5 ♘bd7 7.b4 a5? *(D)*



This is a very strange and weak move. White yearns for b4-b5 but the a6 pawn prevents it, so Black is helping White! My Fritz 8 puts this move into 5th place – not every software improvement leads to success in the game! After 7...b6 or 7...♕c7 Black's position would be playable.

8.b5 e5 9.♕a4 ♕c7 10.♗a3 e4 11.♘d2 ♗e7 *(D)*



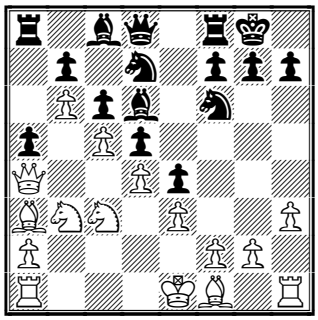
12.b6!N

The following game saw 12.♗e2 h5 13.b6 ♕d8 14.h3 ♘f8 15.0–0–0 ♘e6 16.♘dxe4 ♘xe4 17.♘xe4 h4 18.♘d2 0–0 19.♖hg1 ♖e8 20.♗d3 ♗f8 21.♗b2 ♘g5 22.♕c2 a4 23.a3 ♕e7 24.♖de1 ♘e4 25.♘f1 ♕g5 26.f3 ♘f6 Reshevsky-Keres, 1948, and White had a winning position, though he later lost.

12...♕d8 13.h3 0-0

Better is 13...♘f8 14.♘b3 ♘g6 — if White captures the a5 pawn, it will be difficult for him to get rid of pins: 15.♘xa5 0–0 16.♕b4 (16.♗b4 ♘d7) 16...♘d7.

14.♘b3 ♗d6!? *(D)*



This is the only interesting move made by Fritz in this game!

15.♖b1

After 15.cxd6?? ♘xb6 the white queen is trapped.

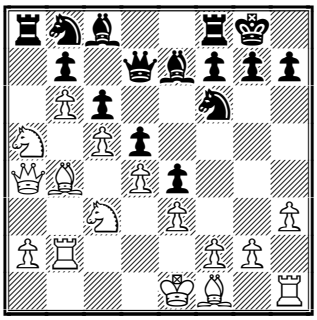
15...♗e7??

Admirers of the scientific and technical progress were disappointed — Fritz demonstrated all its idiocy! It simply does not understand what his pieces are meant for and what to do with them. Also bad is ***15...♘h5?*** in view of 16.♘xd5! cxd5 (16...♘g3 17.cxd6 ♘xh1 18.♘e7+ ♔h8 19.♘c5+–) 17.cxd6 ♘xb6 18.♕b5 ♗d7 19.♕c5 ♘a4 20.♕c7± and White has an upper hand. That's why it is necessary to deprive White of the c7-square: ***15...♘e8*** and now the following does not work 16.♘xd5? cxd5 17.cxd6 ♘xb6 18.♕b5 ♗d7 19.♕c5 ♘a4∓ – Black seizes the initiative. My Fritz prefers quite a human move ***15...♗b8*** — the bishop is transferred to the diagonal where it supports the ...f7-f5-f4 advance, which gives Black counter-play.

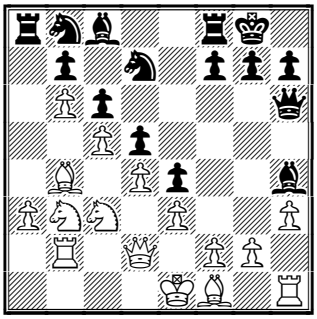
16.♘xa5 ♘b8

Steinitz was right — the initial position is the best for the pieces and the Machine starts to realize it! ☺ Computer only needs to return the

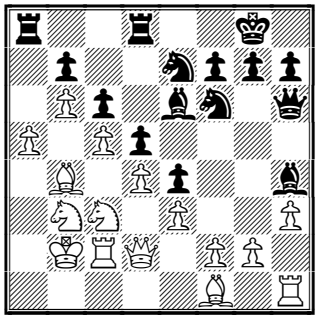
bishop to f8 as it did against Kramnik!
17.♗b4 ♕d7 18.♖b2! *(D)*



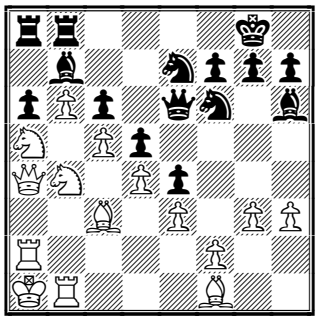
An excellent prophylactic move! Kasparov defends the f2 pawn and prepares to transfer his king to the safe queenside.
18...♕e6 18...♕f5 is impossible due to 19.♘xc6!+−.
19.♕d1 ♘fd7 20.a3 ♕h6 21.♘b3
Having captured the a5 pawn, White's pieces stepped back and cleared the way for his a-pawn. This plan is obvious for a man, but is beyond the machine's comprehension because it is too long-term.
21...♗h4
Threatening to take on e3. In the previous game a similar trick worked!
22.♕d2 *(D)*



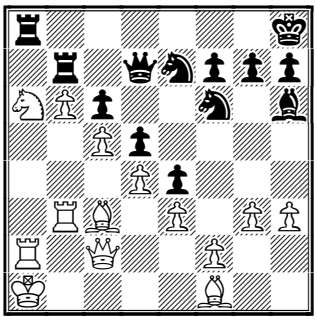
22...♘f6?
Fritz does not understand (by the way, *Junior* understands) that it is necessary to create counter-play with 22...f5. No machine is able to think like a human and to realize where pieces should be. For instance, if we put the black rook on f7, then transfer the knight along f8-e6-d8 (if necessary) and make it harder for White to breakthrough on the queenside, White will be unable to attack on the kingside because his pieces are weaker there. It would be a draw!
23.♔d1 ♗e6
The following does not work - 23...♗xf2?! 24.♕xf2 ♘g4 25.♕d2 ♘xe3+ 26.♔e2 ♘xf1 27.♖xf1+−.
24.♔c1 ♖d8 Here is the overprotection of the d5 point — Nimzowitsch would have been happy! Now the knight should be moved from b8 to e7. You will laugh, but this is exactly what Black is going to do!
25.♖c2 ♘bd7 26.♔b2 ♘f8 27.a4 ♘g6 28.a5 ♘e7 *(D)*



If Fritz had not made his last six 'developing' moves, his position would have been much better! ☺
29.a6 bxa6 30.♘a5 ♖db8 31.g3!?
This delay shows Garry's desire to involve his h1 rook in the game. However, he has already had enough forces. Winning is ***31.♘a2*** and Black is unable to protect his pawns on a6 and c6, for example 31...♗c8 32.g3 ♗g5 33.h4 ♘e8 34.♗c3 ♘c7 35.♘b4 ♘b5 36.♗g2 ♗f6 37.♘axc6 ♘xc6 38.♘xc6 ♖b7 39.f3. However, Kasparov's plan is better because it does not involve any complications.
31...♗g5 32.♗g2
Not so convincing is 32.♘a2 ♗g4 33.♖g1 ♗f3 34.h4 ♘g4.
32...♕g6 33.♔a1 ♔h8??
33...♗c8 was necessary, followed by moving the knight from f6 to d8. But Fritz does not realize this.
34.♘a2 ♗d7 35.♗c3 ♘e8 36.♘b4 ♔g8 37.♖b1 ♗c8 38.♖a2 ♗h6 39.♗f1 ♕e6 40.♕d1 ♘f6 41.♕a4 ♗b7 *(D)*



The time control has been reached and now it's time for action:
42.♘xb7 ♖xb7 43.♘xa6 ♕d7 44.♕c2 ♔h8 45.♖b3 ***(D)***



For some reason Black resigned here. Of course, I understand that White is winning, but the board is full of pieces, only one pawn is missing, a man can blunder when the forces clash. It is at least strange to break the show here. **1-0.**

My personal views on the match

I am not a supporter of conspiracy theories, which explain existing situations with collusion and plots, but I don't think we should ignore all these topics either. They are discussed on every website and forum. The reasons for collusion become devilishly convincing — I will mention them here in brief:

1. IBM made a fortune when Kasparov lost to Deep Blue. Kasparov felt disappointed and frankly admitted it in his interviews. Conclusions were drawn from that match – see below.

2. It is not favourable for Machine to lose to a Man. The sales will drop. The competitors will seize a change to point out to the loss and will leave this program behind. It looks like a victory is better but it is not quite true because in that case the company runs the risk of losing the opponent and spectators if such matches resemble beating the Man.

3. It is not favourable for a Man either. Taking into account the lack of the appropriate world championship cycle, money is paid for the image, which suffers a lot from the defeat. At the same time it is not that easy to win and it is not clear whether you would be invited for the next match in case of a victory.

4. There is only one way out for the organizers and chess players, i.e. to agree to a draw and the order of the show.

Unfortunately, draws in the matches played by Kasparov, Kramnik and Bareev vs. Machines make this conspiracy theory explanation very convincing. It predicted the outcome of the current match in advance and before the last game it looks plausible. Yet, it is not much fun living in such a cynical world, and that's why Kasparov's loss in the last game will be much less disappointing for me than a draw!

Solution to our quiz:

Marinkovic-Makarichev:
23...♖b1! 0-1.

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

Editors: GMs Baburin, Golubev and Scherbakov, IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov. **Technical editors:** Graham Brown and Ralph P. Marconi.

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CT-1(1150) Thur 1st January 2004

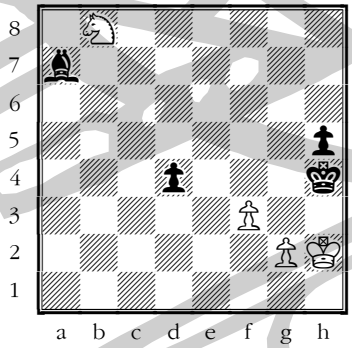
Happy New Year!

The Chess Today team wishes A Happy New Year to all our readers! Let year 2004 be peaceful, enjoyable and successful for you and your families!

Today we offer some light reading – a very unusual game and endgame positions. I suggest that you first look at them in our CBV file. This will allow you to test yourself against the clock and see how well you score. We will be back with chess news tomorrow!

Chess Quiz

Alexey Troitzky – Endgame study, 1910



White to play and draw

Letters to the Editor

I was very pleased to receive the following message two days ago:

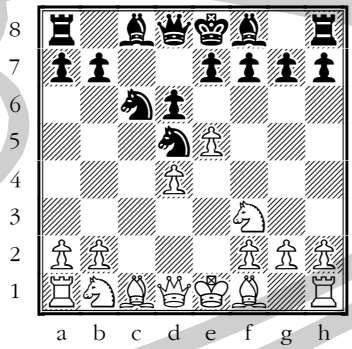
"Dear Alexander, For more than a year my day starts with the same ritual – reading of *Chess Today*. Gradually, it became a habit, which I don't want to abandon. It is great to be able to receive fresh chess news every morning, often with qualified comments. I wish the whole *Chess Today* team every success in 2004. And to all of us chess fans – better and more memorable year than the passing one!
With warm regards, Genna Sosonko"

Annotated Game

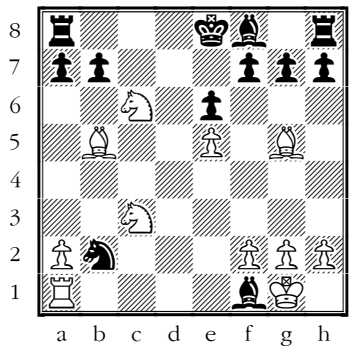
This game was played when both players were aged just 13. Though making some mistakes, they produced a truly unusual game – a kind of chess fairytale! In chess we are taught to bring pieces out. So, for White moves like ♘b1-c3, ♗f1-b5 and ♗c1-g5 are very common. Not so common and often not recommended is to move pieces back to their original squares. But in the following game White did just that – with three of his already developed pieces! Moreover, all those moves were objectively best!

□ **Dzindzichashvili**
■ **Zakharov**
Sicilian Defence; B22
USSR Junior Ch, 1957
Notes by GM Alex Baburin

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.♘f3 ♘c6 ***(D)***



7.♗e2 ♗f5 8.0-0 dxe5 9.dxe5 e6 10.♗d2 ♘db4 11.♘c3 ♘d3 12.♗g5 ♘xb2 13.♕xd8+ ♘xd8 14.♗b5+ ♘c6 15.♘d4 ♗d3 16.♘xc6 ♗xf1 ***(D)***



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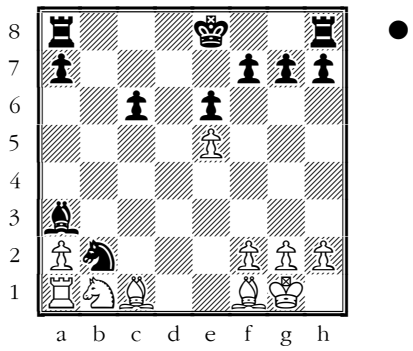
17.♗xf1! The backward moving begins! 17.♖xf1? a6
17...bxc6 18.♗c1! ♗a3
Better was 18...♖b8! 19.♖b1 ♗a3 20.♘d1 0–0. Then after 21.♗xb2? ♖fd8! 22.♗c4 ♖xd1+ 23.♖xd1 ♗xb2 Black is better. I guess that then White would have played 21.♖xb2! 21...♗xb2 22.♘xb2, when another crazy position arises!
19.♘b1! ***(D)***



Black eventually lost, but I don't know how the game continued. **1–0**
After 19...♗c5 20.♗xb2 ♖b8 21.♗c3 ♔e7 it would not be easy for White to win still.

Roman Dzindzichashvili later became a Grandmaster. He now lives in the USA and is one of the best known blitz players in the world.

Endgame Laboratory

A couple of weeks ago I received the following e-mail:

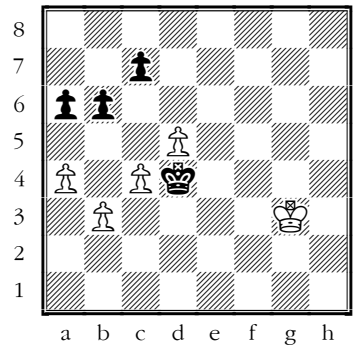
"Dear Alex,

Here are a couple of practical endgames from the games of my students that your readers may find of interest. One of them I suspect, might even be challenging for your impressive GM audience.
As always, great job!
IM Igor Khmelnitsky, Philadelphia.
http://www.IamCoach.com"

Igor sent two positions and some analysis in a Word file, which I have edited and expanded. Enjoy! Try solving them in our Chess Base database first.

Extra pawn vs. better king

Johnson (1870) – Lynch (1680)
Notes by IM Igor Khmelnitsky



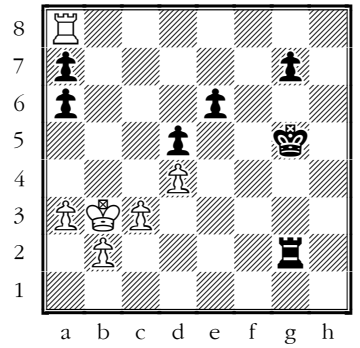
Well, it is Black who has a much better placed King and is ready to go for an "all-you-can-eat buffet". Yet, this is what happened in the game: **1...♔c3?? 2.a5!+–** and, even though the game continued for another 6-8 moves, Black could effectively resign right there. Indeed, there is no way Black can stop White's pawns, and the Black pawns are too far away to get to the finish line in time to compete. **1–0**

Black missed an easy win: 1...a5 2.♔f4 ♔c3 3.♔e5 ♔xb3 4.d6 cxd6+ 5.♔xd6 ♔xc4 6.♔c6 ♔b4 7.♔xb6 ♔xa4 8.♔c5 ♔b3–+.

The moral is simple – it is usually better to have a superior king than an extra pawn, but make sure your opponent doesn't have a protected passed pawn that your king has to watch constantly or, even worse, he can't create a passed pawn that your king can't catch.

Curious Rook Endgame

Gibson (2047) – Fischer (2109)
Notes by IM Igor Khmelnitsky



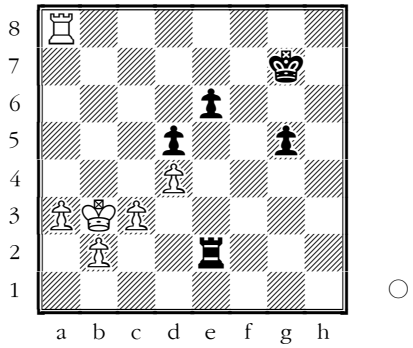
Evaluate this position. What would you play for Black? Take a few minutes before proceeding.

If you did this one correctly, you are in the minority! Despite having an extra pawn, and passed pawn on g7 ready to roll, and active king and rook, Black is actually worse here and has to worry about defending. The reason is that White will be able to get two passed pawns on the a- and b- files versus Black's single passed g-pawn.

White has a standard plan multi-step plan:
1) win the pawns on a7 and a6,
2) position his rook behind the passed g-pawn
3) start advancing the a- and b-pawns, supported by White's king.
4) when necessary, give up his rook for the g-pawn.

Once we have identified White's plan, selecting the best move may not be as difficult.
Can Black defend pawns on the a-file? No!
Can Black prevent the advance of the white pawns? Not really!
But Black can prevent the white rook from getting into the best defensive position - behind Black's g-pawn!

After the surprising, yet appropriate **1...♔f6! 2.♖xa7 g5 3.♖xa6 ♖e2 4.♖a8 ♔g7! 5.♖a7+ ♔g6 6.♖a8 ♔g7=** ***(D)***

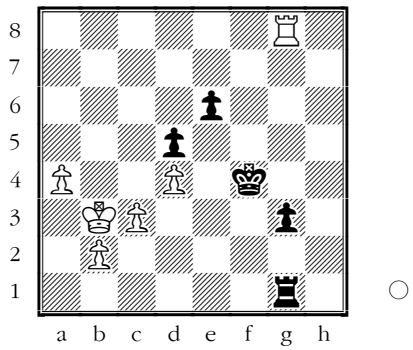


White has to settle for a draw.

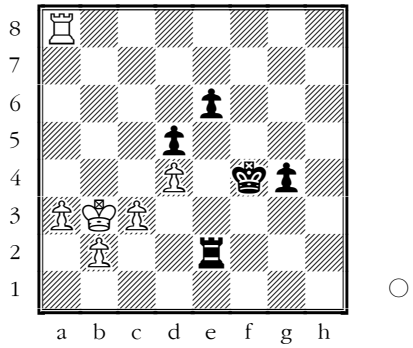
My assessment is pretty much based on general concepts and some short variations. I am not of the type who spends the night analyzing with Fritz, but I'd love to hear comments from the endgame experts. No matter if you do or don't utilize the silicon friend, I am much more interested in uncovering the truth. Also, depending on the outcome I may need to revise my evaluation test, although this is just one of 100 positions that comprise the test. Feel free to take a look, but you will have to take it seriously to get meaningful results.

Alex Baburin: While I managed to join the selected few (I saw the idea of ...♔g5-f6-g7!), also I did some analysis of 1...♔f5 and 1...♔f4. I don't claim that my analysis is comprehensive, since I spent only about 40 minutes on it - just to give you some ideas. Here goes:

1) ***1...♔f5?*** Protecting the e6-pawn in advance, but here the king isn't supporting the g-pawn well enough. **2.♖xa7 g5 3.♖xa6 g4 4.♖a8 g3 5.♖g8 ♔f4 6.a4 ♖g1** ***(D)***



Or 6...♖h2 7.a5 ♖h5 8.a6 ♖g5 9.♖xg5 ♔xg5 10.a7 g2 11.a8♕ g1♕ 12.♕g8++.
7.♔a2! White also wins after 7.a5 ♖a1! 8.♔b4 ♔f3 9.♔b5, but not that easily – see the CBV file. **7...g2 8.a5 ♔f3 9.a6** and White wins.
2) ***1...♔f4*** **2.♖xa7 g5 3.♖xa6 ♖e2! 4.♖a8 g4** ***(D)***



Black also loses after 4...e5 5.♖f8+! ♔g4 (5...♔g3 6.♖f5!) 6.dxe5 ♖xe5 7.a4 ♔h3 8.♖h8+ ♔g3 9.♔b4.

5.♖f8+!

Inferior is 5.♖g8 g3 6.a4 e5! 7.dxe5 ♖xe5.

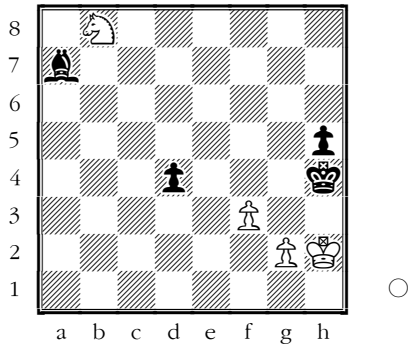
5...♔e3 6.♖g8 ♔f3 7.a4 e5

7...g3 8.a5

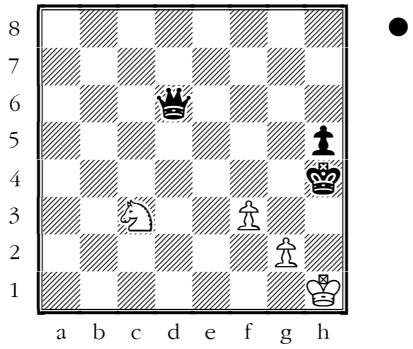
8.a5 exd4 9.cxd4 and White should win.

Solutions to our quiz:

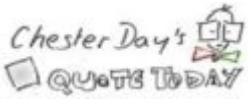
Alexey Troitzky
Endgame study, 1910



1.♘c6! d3 2.♘xa7! d2 3.♘b5 d1♕ 4.♘c3 ♕d6+ 5.♔h1 ***(D)***



Here Black cannot prevent ♘c3-e4, after which the black king is locked up - positional draw!



"Well, well. IM (and GMC) Douglas Bryson once told me that he almost never plays a game that flows smmothly from start to finish; there is always a "moment" of sorts where someone misses a big defensove opportunity or the nature of the position changes more than one might reasonably expect. This was such a 'moment'."

Jonathan Rowson

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ct@gmsquare.com Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

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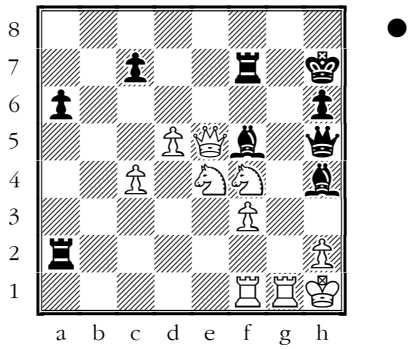
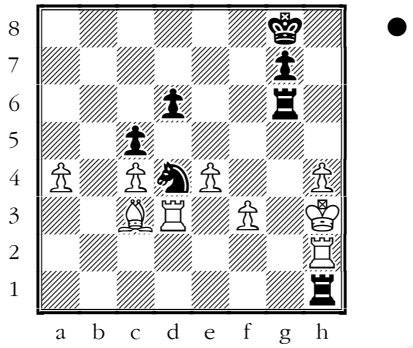
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-34(1183) Tues. 3rd February 2004

Chess Quiz

Volodin (2251) – Kubecka (2191)
Open Praha CZE , 2004



Loeffler (2413) – Zelcic (2524)
TCh-AUT 2003-4 Velden, AUT



Chess News

Anand to lead the Indian Team

As *Press Trust of India* informed yesterday, Vishy Anand and GM Koneru Humpy will lead India's men's and women's team respectively in the World Chess Olympiad in Spain in October.

Announcing the news, Mr Ummer Koya, Secretary of the *All India Chess Federation*, expressed hope the teams would win medals. The men's team also include GMs Sasikaran, Ganguly, Sandipan Chanda, Harikrishna and Kunte. Anand will participate in the chess Olympiad after a 10-year gap.

ACP News

The Association of Chess Professionals (ACP) has reached 150 members and continues to grow rapidly. Recently joined members include GMs Boris Gelfand, Viorel Iordachescu, Valery Popov, Eric Lobron and Lev Psakhis, IM Yochanan Afek, chess organisers Nick Faulks (Bermuda) and V. Bazhenov (Russia), chess journalist J. Berry (Canada) and many other distinguished chess professionals.

Any WIM, WGM, IM and GM can become ACP members upon a request and subject to payment of the annual fee (€30). Other people working in chess could join the organisation too. If you are interested to improve the situation in chess, consider joining the ACP – together we can achieve more!

Alexander Baburin, ACP Secretary

Kasparov vs. Putin

Chess personalities don't make it too often to the pages of major newspaper, so it was interesting to see the article "Kasparov aims to checkmate 'dictator' Putin" in the last issue of *Sunday Times*. It was a pretty big article too, with a nice photo of Kasparov at the chess board.

The paper quotes Kasparov: "Putin is worse than Pinochet and something must be done to stop him." According to *Sunday Times*, Kasparov and his allies formed the group called '2008: Free Choice', aiming to oppose Putin during the 2008 elections.
Read this story online.

This issue is prepared by GM A. Baburin and IM M. Notkin; technical editor: Ralph Marconi
Subscription is 15 euro for 3 months. For further details please refer to http://www.chesstoday.net

The German Championship

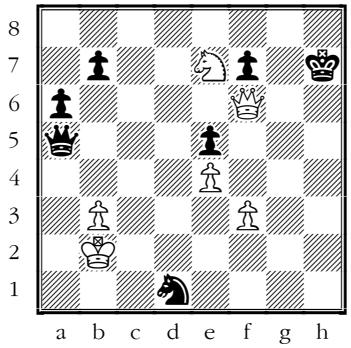
Round 4 results:
Graf – Müller 1–0
Gustafsson – Meister ½–½
Rabiega – Espig 0–1
Heinemann – Kalinitschew ½–½
Enders – Luther ½–½

Standings after 4 rounds:
1–2. Graf, Espig – 3½
3–10. Meister, Heinemann, Kritz, Bischoff, Gustafsson, Kalinitschew, Braun, Schebler – 3, etc.
(46 players, 9 rounds)
Official site

Analysis Correction

by GM Mikhail Golubev

We all make mistakes – not only in over the board, but also in analysis. In CT–1151 I annotated the game van der Weide – Golubev, where the following position occurred:



In mutual time trouble White played **35.♕c2?**
35.♔b1! ♘c3+ 36.♔c2 should have won quite easily. Here, instead of **35...♕c3+?**,
Black had a simple possibility to make a draw, which somehow escaped my attention both during the game and in the analysis:
35...♕c5+! 36.♔xd1 ♕g1+ and Black gives perpetual check.

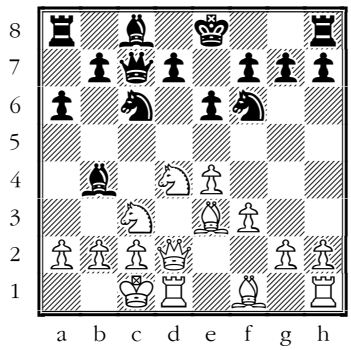
The right move was showed by GM Sergei Ivanov in his contribution to *The Game of The Week* section of World Chess Rating website.

Annotated Game

by IM Max Notkin

White: V. Topalov (2735)
Black: V.Anand (2766)
TV Blitz Sofia BUL (1), 01.01.2004
Sicilian Defence – [B48]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♕c7 6.♗e3 a6 7.♕d2 ♘f6 8.0–0–0 ♗b4 9.f3 ***(D)***

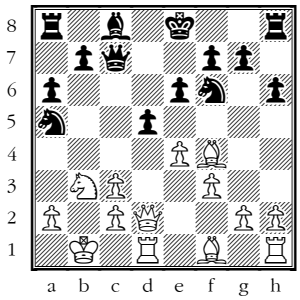


9...♘a5
The latest invention in this fashionable line. And it was none other than Anand who has introduced it into practice. The main continuation is 9...♘e5 White's usual play includes the bishop's transfer to d4 e.g. 10.♘b3 b5 *(if 10...d5 11.♗d4 dxe4?? 12.♗xe5* winning*)* 11.♗d4 with the idea of ♕g5. Anand played this position with White against Portisch in the Biel Interzonal 1993 and with Black against Morozevich in Dortmund 2001. Generally Black scores well but people often need to try something new. The Knight's deviation from the e5 square makes the bishop's position on d4 senseless as it would be attacked by e6–e5. ; 9...♘e7 has been tested as well. **10.♘b3**
In Grischuk – Anand (Bastia 2003) Black obtained a very good play after 10.♗f4 d6 *(10...e5 11.♗g3)* 11.♘b3 e5 12.♗g5 ♗e6 13.♔b1 ♖c8 14.♕e3 b5 15.♗h4 ♗xc3 16.♕xc3 ♕xc3 17.bxc3 ♘b7! Grischuk had to switch to defence – 18.♔b2 ♘d7 19.♗f2! ♔e7 20.♖a1! ♘dc5 21.♘xc5 ♘xc5 22.♗xc5 ♖xc5 23.a4 bxa4 24.♖xa4 a5 25.♗d3 and the game finally ended in a draw ; in the final match of the same tournament Topalov tried 10.a3 ♗xc3 11.♕xc3 ♕xc3 12.bxc3 d5 13.e5 ♘d7 14.f4 and after 14...b5 15.♘b3 ♘c4 16.♗xc4 bxc4 17.♘c5 ♖b8 18.♔d2

♖b5 19.♘xd7 ♗xd7 the ending for White is better than in the previous example but Black has absolutely noshing to be afraid of.

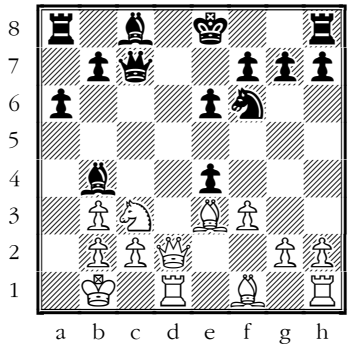
10...d5! 11.♔b1 ♘xb3

Against Leko in the first round of Wijk aan Zee Anand chose 11...♗xc3 12.bxc3 h6 (preventing Bg5) 13.♗f4 *(D)*



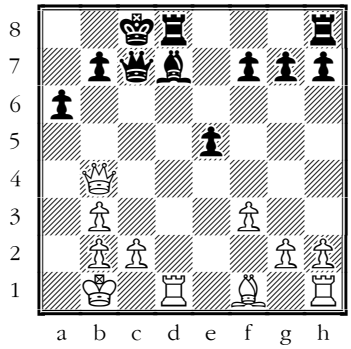
Here he took the initiative by a pawn sacrifice – 13...e5! 14.♗xe5 ♕xe5 15.♘xa5 ♗e6 16.♕d4 *(16.exd5? ♘xd5* and after Nc3 or Ne3 White suffers material losses*)* 16...♕c7! one more precise move (worse is 16...♕xd4 17.cxd4 dxe4 18.♘xb7 exf3 19.gxf3 ♗d5 (if 19...♖b8 20.♗xa6 ♗d5 21.♔a1! ♖xb7 *(21...♗xb7 22.♖b1)* 22.♗xb7 ♗xb7 23.♖b1 ♗c8 24.c4 it's difficult to fight against the passed pawns) Now the bishop is aiming at many targets but White manages to take them all away in time 20.♘c5 ♗xf3 21.♖e1+ ♔f8 Black should take care of his weak pawns *(21...♔d8 22.♖g1)* 22.♖g1 a5 23.♖g3 with advantage to White) The game went 17.e5! *(17.♘b3 dxe4 18.fxe4 0–0∓)* 17...♘d7 18.♘b3 ♕xe5 19.c4 ♕xd4 20.♘xd4 ♘b6! *(20...dxc4?! 21.♘xe6 fxe6 22.♗xc4)* 21.♘xe6 fxe6 22.cxd5 ♘xd5 23.♖d2 ♖c8 Black has covered the weakness on e6. Draw was agreed.

12.axb3 dxe4 *(D)*



Surely Anand explored this capture at home. He should have calculated White's tactical operation prepared by ♔b1 **13.♘b5 ♕e7!** In the event of 13...axb5 14.♕xb4 the black king remains in the centre for a long time giving White good attacking chances – 14...♗d7 *(14...exf3 15.♗xb5+ ♗d7* loses to *16.♗b6! ♕xb6 17.♖xd7!;* if *14...♘d5 15.♗xb5+ ♗d7 16.♗xd7+ ♕xd7 17.♕d4!* and White wins a pawn in favourable circumstances *)* 15.♗xb5 ♗c6 16.fxe4 ♘xe4 17.♖d4↑ **14.♘c7+ ♕xc7 15.♕xb4 ♘d5 16.♕xe4 ♘xe3 17.♕xe3 ♗d7** Anand rejected 17...0–0 in view of 18.♗d3 ♖d8 *(18...♗d7? 19.♗xh7+ ♔xh7 20.♕d3+)* 19.♕e4 g6 20.h4 and White launches the attack first. **18.♕d4 e5 19.♕b4** 19.♖e1 is not dangerous as after 19...f6 20.f4 0–0–0 21.fxe5 ♖he8 Black regains the pawn.

19...0–0–0 *(D)*



The position is roughly equal but Black's extra pawn in the centre is a small plus.

20.♗d3 ♗e6 21.♖he1 f6 22.♗c4 ♗f5!

Some problems with the protection of the c2–pawn appear.

23.g4

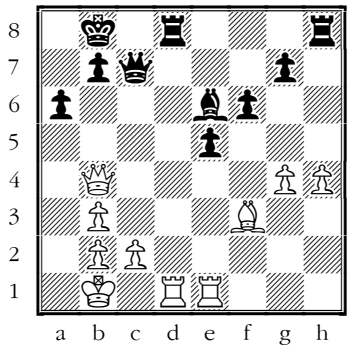
The extremely vigorous player that Topalov is, disliked the passive continuation 23.♕c3 b5 24.♗d3 ♗xd3 25.♖xd3 ♕xc3 26.bxc3. **23...♗g6 24.h4 h5!** White's kingside pawns become weak. **25.♗e6+ ♔b8 26.♗f5 ♗f7**

26...♗xf5 27.gxf5 would probably lead to a queen ending in which Black's winning chances are minimal.

27.♗e4

Stronger is 27.g5! getting counterplay against the black centre.

27...hxg4 28.fxg4 ♗e6 29.♗f3 *(D)*



29...a5

Anand turns down 29...♖xd1+ 30.♖xd1 ♖xh4 as after 31.♕f8+ ♗c8 *(31...♔a7? 32.♖d8)* 32.♖d3 White creates the unpleasant threats which nobody would want to parry in time-trouble

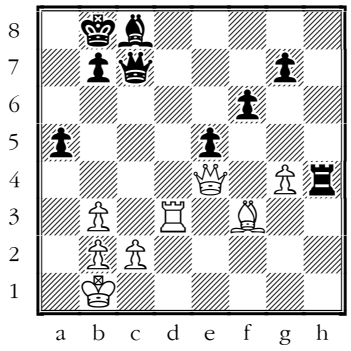
30.♕e4?!

After this error White loses a pawn. Better was 30.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 31.♕e4.

30...♖xd1+ 31.♖xd1 ♖xh4 32.♖d8+ ♗c8

The situation is different as compared to the position from the note to 29...a5. The white pieces are not so well co-ordinated.

33.♖d3 *(D)*



33...♖h8

33...♖h2!? came into consideration with the idea of 34.♖c3 ♕d7 35.♖d3 ♕c6! transposing into a winning ending.

34.b4 a4 35.♕e3

Topalov loses the thread. Don't forget it was a blitz game! White should have tried to take the pawn back by 35.b5 ♕a5 36.♕c4 followed by ♖a3.

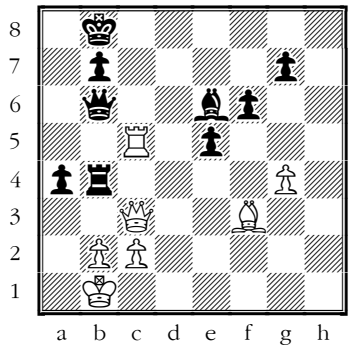
35...♖d8 36.♖c3 ♕d6 37.♕e4?

Threatening with mate in two after Rxc8+! Correct was the humble 37.♖d3

37...♕b6!

Black wins a second pawn due to the threat of ... ♖d4

38.♖c4 ♗e6 39.♖c5 ♖d4 40.♕e3 ♖xb4 41.♕c3 *(D)*



41...♖b5! 42.♖xb5 ♕g1+!

and White is checkmated **0-1.**

Solution to our quiz:

Volodin (2251) - Kubecka (2191)

Open Praha CZE , 2004

34...♗g3! 35.♖g2 [35.♘xh5 ♖xh2#] **35...♖xg2 36.♘xh5** [36.♘f6+!? ♖xf6 37.♘xh5 ♖xh2+ 38.♔g1 ♗xe5 39.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 40.♔xh2 ♗d3–+] **36...♖xh2+ 37.♔g1 ♗xe5 38.f4 ♖xh5 39.fxe5 ♖g7+ 0-1.**

Loeffler (2413) - Zelcic (2524)

TCh-AUT 2003-4 Velden, AUT

49...♘e2! [49...♘e2 50.♖xh1 *(50.♗d2 ♖g3#)* 50...♘f4+ 51.♔h2 ♖g2#; 49...♘e6? 50.♗d2] **0-1.**

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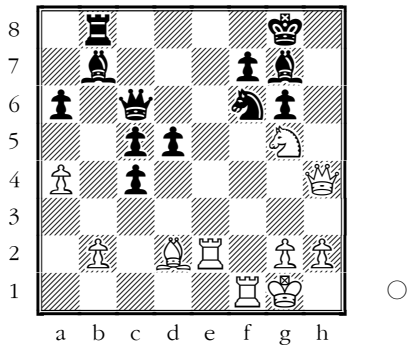
CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-101(1250) Sat., 10th April 2004

Chess Quiz

Cherepkov – Mochalov
Vilnius, 1983



Chess News

Women World Championship 2004 Moves to Batumi

The Russian news agency *Interfax* has informed us that the Women's World Championship will take place in Batumi (Georgia) in May-June this year. It was originally planned to be organised in Tbilisi.

Icelandic Championship

In the first game of the finals GM Hannes Stefánsson beat GM Helgi Grétarsson.
Official website

San Sebastian Open

Before the last round 9 players are sharing the lead:

1-9. Korneev (RUS 2573), Veingold (EST 2464), Cheparinov (BUL 2555), Andres Gonzalez (ESP 2397), Spraggett (CAN 2564), Cifuentes Parada (ESP 2506), Conquest (ENG 2524), Komljenovic (CRO 2454) and Palac (CRO 2565) – 6 points out of 8. 96 participants
Official website

Press-conference about the Kramnik-Leko Match

We received information from the organisers of Kramnik-Leko match that a press-conference will take place on Wednesday, May 12 at Raffles Hotel, Vier Jahreszeiten, in Hamburg, Germany. It will be conducted between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The Classical World Chess Championship will be held at the Centro Dannemann in Brissago, on the shores of the Lago Maggiore, Switzerland, from September 25 until October 18, 2004. A total of 14 games is to be played under classical time controls.

At the press-conference journalists will be able to meet the following guests:

- Vladimir Kramnik (World Champion)
- Peter Leko (Challenger)
- Joel Lautier (President of the ACP)
- Hans Leusen (President of Dannemann Brasil)
- Representative of the Swiss region Ticino

For more information go to:
www.centrodannemann.com and
www.chess-players.org

Yesterday we were informed about death of Mr. Jean-Claude Loubatière. I met him on several occasions in France and it was always a pleasant experience. Today I received the following message from one of our readers:

"Dear Alexander,
Thank you [for] writing about Jean-Claude. He was a very avid reader of *Chess Today* and right up to end he used your paper to keep up with the latest chess news. It is a very big loss for our Federation.

Yours Truly, Stephen Boyd"

Then Stephen kindly sent us the following piece:

Jean-Claude Loubatière

Jean-Claude Loubatière died on April 7, 2004 after a very long battle with cancer. He was President of the French Chess Federation since 1989 after first being its technical director. He was also President of Zone 1.1 in Europe until 1993.

Jean-Claude was a tireless worker for chess, putting his incredible organisational talents at its service. He made the French Chess Federation the modern and dynamic Federation it is now. Under his leadership:

- The French Federation has become one the top 10 in the world both in membership and in strength
- Chess was officially recognized as a sport in France in 2000
- The French Federation exceeded 50,000 members in 2002
- Our National magazine *Echec et Mat* was created and developed

He was truly devoted to Chess and his qualities of determination, courage and innovation will be greatly missed by our Federation.

On a personal level, this is a great loss for all of us at the French Chess Federation. Jean-Claude was our leader and our guide. We are thankful to him to have given us a chance that our passion could also be our profession.

Stephen Boyd,
French Chess Federation Office

On This Day...

Alfred Diel, editor of *Deutschen Schachblatter* magazine, was born in 1924.

Eric Andersen was born in Gentofte, Denmark 100 years ago. He was Danish champion 12 times.

Letters to the Editor

In CT-1248 we published an Open Letter from FIDE World Champion Ruslan Ponomariov. Here are two replies to that letter:

"Dear Alex,

Concerning Ponomariov's letter I would like to state a few things:

1. Nobody says that he 'cancelled' the match against Kasparov. He however ***did not sign*** the bloody ***contract*** in time.

2. It was most probably just Danailov (everybody's manager) and other irresponsible characters who influenced Ponomariov to play with fire until he got burned. Now they all pretend to be surprised by the logical consequences.

3. I respect Ponomariov for becoming the K.O. Champion. I don't bother checking his place in the Elo list - it's not all that important. But if somebody is ***number one*** for 20 (twenty!) years like Kasparov, it is like Bobby Fischer's 6-0 victories against Taimanov and Larsen! Ruslan does not seem to realize that. Too bad.

4. I'm 54 now. I used to be younger and at those times I wanted to be a Champion myself. But I was not strong enough for that. I only reached the *Candidates* (it meant the best 8 then)

5. Respecting others (elders) does not make anybody smaller. Acting differently is a safe way to lose sympathy of the people who did so much for chess as you, Ruslan, must go a long way to catch up!

Greetings to everybody!
GM András Adorján, the Father of ***BLACK is OK*** thesis"

And here is another, quite lengthy letter. While I don't agree with the author on several points, his views are shared by many chess fans and are worth showing here:

"Hi, Alex!

Ruslan Ponomariov is realizing that no one misses him. FIDE's decision to cancel the match was completely justified. He simply refused to play the match against Gary Kasparov. If FIDE can default Bobby Fischer, they certainly can default Ruslan Ponomariov. He is now realizing that FIDE Knockout champions are easily replaced and forgotten. You can easily get a new FIDE champion by holding another grab bag, blitz crazed FIDE Knockout Tournament. True World Champions are neither easily forgotten nor easily replaced. Bobby Fischer and Anatoly Karpov are cases in point.

As I recall events:
1) Kasparov signed the contract, Ponomariov did not.

2) Ponomariov held up the reunification process over unreasonable demands.
a) Ponomariov wanted draw odds.
b) Ponomariov did not want to use standard time controls, 40moves in 2 hours. He wanted 90 minutes and 30 second increments per move.

3) If Ponomariov wants to defend his title under similar conditions, then he should play in the next FIDE Knockout Tournament.

4) Ponomariov passed up a great opportunity to play the strongest player in the world for a nice sum of money. Ponomariov would have been seeded in the next few future world championships. Ponomariov passed up a 'no lose' situation.

Ponomariov took unreasonable stances on basic issues. The first being time control. He did not want to play using standard time controls. True World Championship matches have been played using standard time controls, 40 moves in 2 hours. The sixth World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik stated, "World Championship matches are of competitive and creative importance". So why not use the slower standard time controls and allow these matches to be decided by the strongest player playing the strongest chess. This issue should not have been a showstopper.

Ponomariov other unreasonable demand was that he wanted draw odds, just like Kramnik has with is match against Peter Leko. In order to answer this draw odds question, we must compare the two titles. Kramnik got his title by beating the man who beat the man who beat the man. In 2000, Kramnik defeated then World Champion Gary Kasparov, greatest World Champion ever, in a match by a score of 2 wins, 13 draws, and zero losses. This was truly a great accomplishment – Kramnik had climbed the Chess Olympus. Ponomariov's title was won in the knockout tournament, which was missing two best players in the world – Kasparov and Kramnik.
Kramnik's title follows rich tradition. It would be unconscionable to give Ponomariov draw adds against the player who dominated chess for 20 years and who defended his title for 15 years in numerous matches. This issue should not have been a showstopper either.

Ponomariov failed to realize that a victory over Gary Kasparov would have given some legitimacy to the FIDE Knockout Championship. It would have catapulted Ponomariov to chess stardom. It would have increased his marketability for big dollar matches. If Ponomariov wants to defend his title under the same conditions he won it, then he should play in the upcoming FIDE Knockout Tournament in Libya in September.

Ponomariov wonders why the FIDE knockout tournaments prize funds are shrinking. This can easily be explained. How can FIDE hold

championships when the top players don't play in them? Ex Champion and number one player in the world, Gary Kasparov and current World Champion Vladimir Kramnik will not play in the FIDE Knockout Championship. The FIDE process is not worthy of world championship selection. The other reason for poor sponsorship is player like Ponomariov, who make unreasonable demands and cause postponements of chess events. Sponsors need to know who will play and when these events will take place.

All is not lost for Ponomariov – he is still a young and talented player. He could become a true World Champion some day.

Matt Traynor, New Jersey, USA"

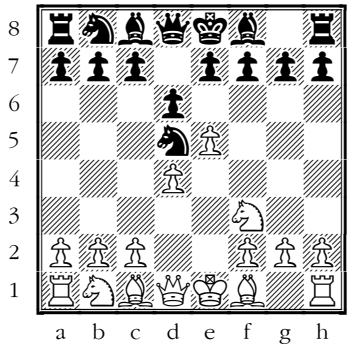
Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

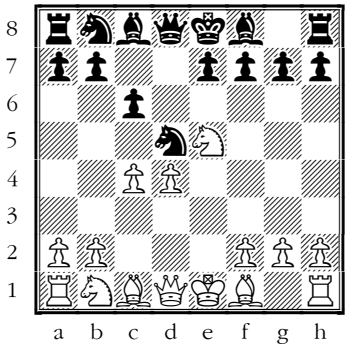
Once in a while I like to annotate games in the style of Irving Chernev's 'Logical Chess' – when almost every move is explained. Today is just that kind of a day!

White: Pavel Blatny (2494)
Black: Alex Baburin (2541)
North American Open, Las Vegas USA (3), 28.12.2003
The Alekhine Defence –[B04]

1.e4 ♘f6
The Alekhine Defence. I know many players who prefer this move after 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 (and those tend to be higher rated guys!), but brave people are not afraid to let the knight into the wild! ☺ **2.e5** The critical move. White gains space and time. Black won't have real problems after 2.♘c3 e5 or 2...d5. **2...♘d5 3.d4 d6 4.♘f3** ***(D)***



The most solid system – White is happy with some extra space and wants to develop harmoniously.
Far more ambitious is 4.c4 ♘b6 5.f4 – the Four Pawns Attack. But few White players venture into this riskier line. Nowadays 5.exd6 is very popular – White hopes to get a small plus without much trouble.
4...dxe5
Black gets rid of the e5-pawn. He has many other options here. The main one is 4...♗g4, followed by ...e6 or ...c6. Also popular is 4...g6, taking care of the g7-bishop first. Tony Miles and I experimented a lot with 4...c6. This move vacates the c7-square for the knight. But as Tony once told me, "the knight could be just as ugly on c7 as it is on b6!". ☺
5.♘xe5
If White takes back with the pawn – 5.dxe5, after 5...♗g4 the e5-pawn could later turn into a weakness. Meanwhile the line 6.c4 ♘b4 7.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 is safe enough for Black.
5...c6
Black supports the d5-knight. Long time ago Larsen invented 5...♘d7. Then White can choose between crazy complications after 6.♘xf7 ♔xf7 7.♕h5+ ♔e6 or the solid and simple 6.♘f3, with some edge. More common is 5...g6 – another invention of Larsen.
6.c4?! ***(D)***



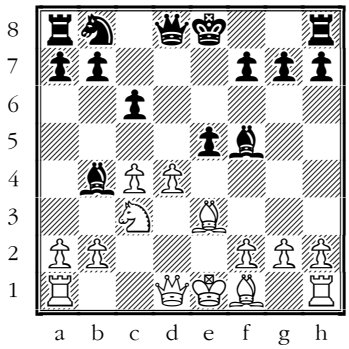
White wants to gain more control in the centre. The c2-c4 is very common in the Alekhine Defence, but here it has a tactical flaw. Better is 6.♗e2.
6...♘b4! 7.♗e3
7.a3? ♕xd4!
7...♗f5 8.♘d3?!
As Pavel told me after the game, he did not mind a draw. But this move actually gets White into trouble – he is breaking one of the basic rules –

develop pieces in the opening! Better was 8.♘a3 although White won't have any advantage then.

8...e5!

Black protects the b4-knight and puts White's centre under pressure. White expected only 8...♗xd3 9.♗xd3 ♘xd3+ 10.♕xd3 or 9...e5 10.♗e4, with some advantage for him.

9.♘xb4 ♗xb4+ 10.♘c3 *(D)*



Black has a slight lead in development, but this can evaporate quickly after Be2 and 0–0. Black must create some threats urgently.

10...♕a5! 11.♕b3

11.♖c1? drops a pawn after 11...♕xa2, while 11.♕d2 does not look attractive as later the queen on d2 might come under attack on the d-file.

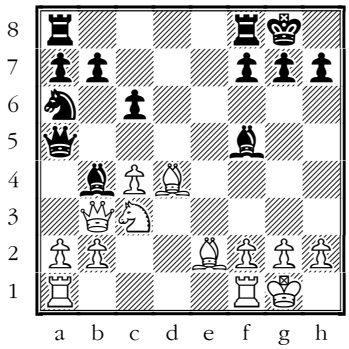
11...0-0

Also possible is 11...exd4 12.♗xd4 0–0

12.♗e2

Black would also keep some initiative after 12.dxe5 ♘d7 13.a3 ♗c5 14.♗xc5 ♕xc5. The following line shows that White should be careful here: 12.a3 exd4 (12...♘a6 13.0–0–0 ♗e7! (13...exd4? 14.axb4 ♕a1+ 15.♔d2 dxe3+ 16.♔xe3!+-)) 13.♗xd4 ♘a6 14.0–0–0 ♘c5 15.♕xb4 ♕xb4 16.axb4 ♘b3#.

12...exd4 13.♗xd4 ♘a6 14.0-0 *(D)*



14...♗c5!

The best move - Black exploits the somewhat shaky position of the enemy queen.

15.♗e5

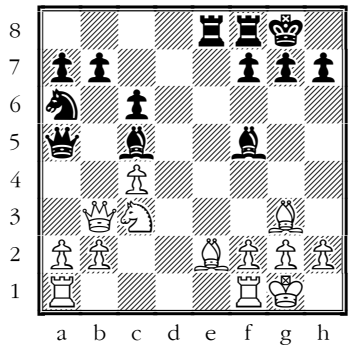
Two months later I won another game in this line: 15.♗xc5 ♘xc5 16.♕a3 (16.♕d1 ♖ad8 17.♕c1 ♘d3 18.♗xd3 ♗xd3 leaves White a pawn down.) 16...♕xa3 17.bxa3 ♖fd8 and Black eventually won this endgame in Collins-Baburin, Bunratty 2004. The funny thing was that it took me nearly 40 minutes to recall how I had played in the game vs. Blatny!

Probably better was 15.♖ad1, although Black keeps the initiative after 15...♗xd4 16.♖xd4 ♘c5 17.♕d1 ♖ad8. I also looked at 15.♗e3 ♗xe3 16.fxe3 ♘c5 17.♖xf5? ♘xb3 18.♖xa5 ♘xa1 and Black is better - it's not easy to get his knight! (18...♘xa5? 19.b4!)

15...♖ae8!

Of course, I would have preferred to develop the other rook - 15...♖fe8, but that would allow 16.♕xb7

16.♗g3 *(D)*



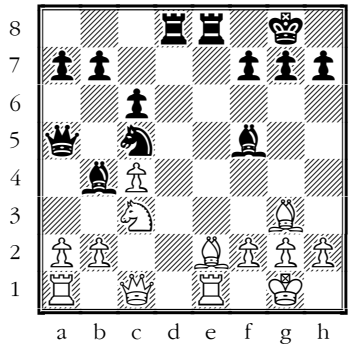
16...♗b4!

This clever move seals Black's advantage. By playing ...♗b4-c5-b4 Black has forced the enemy dark-squared bishop to a passive position on g3.

17.♕d1 ♖d8 18.♕c1 ♖fe8!

Renewing the threat of ...♗xc3 and ...♖xe2. Rooks belong to open files!

19.♖e1 ♘c5 *(D)*

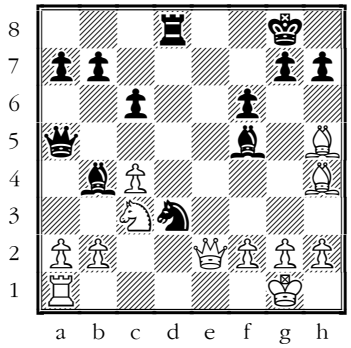


Black has a considerable advantage here as all his pieces are in the game, while White has no use for his a1–rook yet. **20.♗h4**

Maybe White had to try 20.a3, although after 20...♗xc3 21.♕xc3 ♕xc3 22.bxc3 ♘e4 he cannot save the c3–pawn – 23.♖ac1 ♘xc3 (23...♘xg3!? 24.hxg3 ♔f8∓) 24.♖xc3 ♖xe2 25.♔f1 ♖xe1+ 26.♔xe1 c5, with good winning chances.

20...f6 21.♗h5?

White wants to induce the crisis, but that won't be good for him! **21...♖xe1+ 22.♕xe1 ♘d3 23.♕e2** ***(D)***



Pavel offered a draw here, but it was not hard to resist that offer – Black is totally winning!

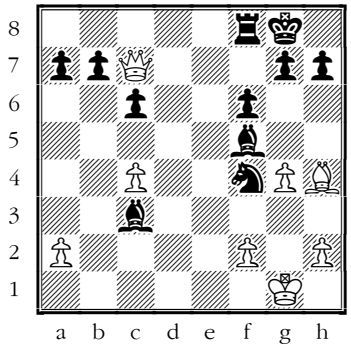
23...♘xb2

Most practical move. Also winning was 23...♘f4 24.♕f3 g5 or 23...♗xc3 24.bxc3 ♘f4 25.♕f3 g5.

24.♖e1 ♘d3

24...♗xc3?? 25.♕e8+ ♖xe8 26.♖xe8# is not hard to spot.

25.♖d1 ♗xc3 Time to harvest! **26.♕e7 ♖f8 27.g4 ♘f4! 28.♗f7+** White wins a queen but the price he pays for it is too high. **28...♖xf7 29.♖d8+ ♕xd8 30.♕xd8+ ♖f8 31.♕c7** ***(D)***



31...♗e5! 32.♕xb7 ♖b8! 0–1.

Solution to our quiz:

Cherepkov–Mochalov: **29.♖e6!! 1–0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us – we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: http://www.chesstoday.net

Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev; IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov.

Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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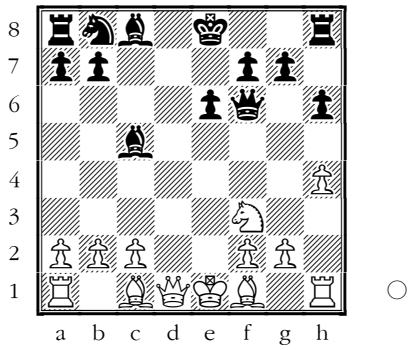
CT-135(1284) Friday, 14th May 2004

Chess Quiz

Werle – Westlund
Stockholm, 1947



Chess News

The Abashidze Gambit

Most chess fans probably don't know this opening, but it's pretty simple – move chess championship from Batumi to Elista, together with $700,000 prize fund and then flee the country. The Financial Times website published a short story on that.

It would be interesting to know whether Mr Abashidze gave away his *own* money or *state funds*. Georgia is a rather poor country at the moment, so it will not be nice if chess players were made to enjoy money taken from ordinary citizens of that state...

Anyhow, the Abashidze Gambit is already paying off – as the FIDE Website just informed: "FIDE Honorary Member, Holder of the Order of Grand Commander of the Legion of Grandmasters H.E. Aslan Abashidze has made his personal present for chess and Georgian chess federation by having transferred the World Women Chess Championship 2004 to Elista, Republic of Kalmykia, Russia, further to the request of the FIDE President, President of Kalmykia H.E. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov."

Holder of the Order of Grand Commander of the Legion of Grandmasters?! Give me a break...Why not to be a bit more creative? How about this: "Ruler of Black Knights and Opposite-squared Bishops, Spiritual Master of Isolated Pawns, High Priest of Queenside Castling, Professor of Anti-Meran, General of Minority Attacks, Reincarnation of Poisoned Pawns, etc, etc."

And in case you didn't know, H.E. stands for His Excellency. What a modesty – from both Mr. Abashidze and Mr. Ilyumzhinov – why not H.H. – His Highness?!

The same FIDE webpage had another interesting bit of information:
"The Sponsor of the Women's World Chess Championship is *Rosinternetfund* and the President of the company Mr. Gorbachev Mikhail Sergeevich."

This is 'Ros-Internet-Fund' (Russian Internet Fund) – and who spoke of the .com bust?!

By the way, the Holder of the Order of Grand Commander of the Legion of Grandmasters is not mentioned as the Championship's sponsor – was $700,000 *just* a present?

It is curious to see that there has not been any response from FIDE to the statement of the USCF President.

Karadjorje-Serbia 1840-2004

This category XIII (average Elo 2554) tournament is taking place on 4-14 May.

Standings after 10 rounds:
1-3. GMs Dusko Pavasovic (SLO, 2591), Dimitrios Mastrovasilis (GRE, 2533) and Kiril Georgiev (MKD, 2637) — 7 points, etc. Official site

San Paulo Open

Standings after 7 rounds:
1–3. Leitão (2564), Milos (2599) and Limp (2407) — 6 points, etc.
(91 players; 9 rounds)

Round 8 top parings:
Leitão (6) – Milos (6)
Limp (6) – Matsuura (5½)
Pelikian (5) – Rodríguez, Andrés (5½)
Official website

Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

Following the publication of the game Shirov – van Wely in CT–1282, we received the following message:

"Dear Alex,
I'd like to say just a few words to top players who keep on playing the ridiculous nonsense in the Sicilian 4.♘xc6 which was considered (quite rightly) as ***totally harmless*** already a good 30 years ago. I have not seen ***any*** big improvement (not even a small one) that would change the evaluation from Stone Age. This is one.

Even worse alibi is the Petroff (Russian) Defence – at least in the quantity they employ it. Surrounded by seconds, databaseses, analysing programs etc. are these the finest weapons they can afford??

Worst of all: ordinary chess players watching them, may follow the fashion they make, that shall infect our Royal Game with ***boredom***!! The Greatest Players should feel more responsibility for the quality by all means. Should they not?
BLACK is OK – but GREY is not!

GM András Adorjan"

I don't quite agree with Andras here — when somebody does not want to face the Sveshnikov, they might opt for 3.♘b5 (and ♘xc6), 3.c3 or indeed any other legal move — there is room for play everywhere, not just in the main lines. And I doubt that chess amateurs follow the opening tastes of chess elite that closely...

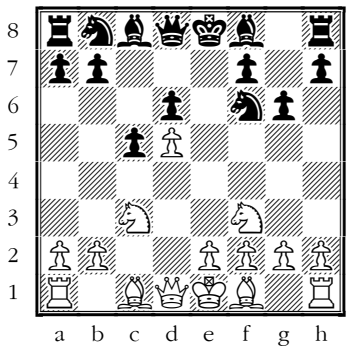
Annotated Game

by GM Alex Baburin

This season in 4NCL I played rather badly and draw ***all*** my games in rounds 1–7. As I joked to my captain Brian Smith after this game, there was a signed letter of resignation in my pocket in case I would draw it as well! Over years I come to realise that in chess, apart from knowledge, one needs energy – perhaps this is something I had been missing... Fortunately before this game I was in good shape and really looked forward to play!

White: Alexander Baburin (2548)
Black: Richard Palliser (2399)
4NCL, West Bromwich (8), 02.05.2004
Modern–Benoni – [A61]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3
At 4NCL the team composition becomes known an hour before the game, so I had some time to prepare. I found out that my opponent played either the Two Knights Tango (1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 ♘c6) or the King's Indian Defence. I spent some time looking at the former, but during the game decided to play 2.♘f3 – simply to limit my opponent's choice. His reaction came as a pleasant surprise:
2...c5 3.d5 e6
3...b5 4.♘g5 is another story...
4.c4 d6 5.♘c3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 *(D)*



The Modern–Benoni Defence is a risky opening. Black now has pawn majority on the queenside and semi–

open e-file, but White has numerous trumps too. His main plan is to put pressure on the d6-pawn and to go for e4-e5 at appropriate moment.

7.♘d2

This move is known since the game Nimzowitsch-Marshall, 1927 - not a bad recommendation! White wants to place the knight on c4, from where it attacks the d6-pawn and influences the queenside.

7.e4 a6 8.a4 ♗g4 9.♗e2 ♗xf3 10.♗xf3 ♗g7 is the line favoured with Black by my good friend Lev Psakhis. I believe that White is still better here, but it makes sense to avoid ...♗c8-g4xf3 by playing ♘d2 and only then e2-e4.

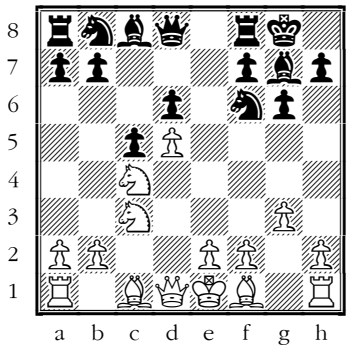
7...♗g7

7...♘bd7 8.♘c4 ♘b6 9.e4 ♗g7 10.♘e3 0–0 11.♗d3 ♘h5 12.0–0 ♗e5 13.a4 ♘f4 14.a5 ♘d7 15.♘c4 ♘xd3 16.♕xd3 f5 17.exf5 ♖xf5 18.f4 ♗d4+ 19.♗e3 ♗xc3 20.♕xc3 ♘f6 21.♕b3 ♖xd5 22.f5 gxf5 23.♗g5 ♖d4 24.♘b6+ c4 25.♕c3 axb6 26.♕xd4 ♔g7 27.♖ae1 bxa5 28.♖e8 ♕xe8 29.♕xf6+ ♔g8 30.♗h6 1–0 Nimzowitsch-Marshall, New York 1927.

8.♘c4

I thought that Richard Palliser either did not play the Benoni or played it very seldom, so I decided to play a rare enough line - usually I play here 8.e4.

8...0-0 9.g3!? *(D)*



9.♗f4 is more popular here, when Black can choose between 9...♘e8, 9...♘a6 or 9...b6.

I tried 9.g3 a few years ago and liked it. For a while I even thought that had I invented that move, but in fact I had been played before. The idea is to develop the bishop to g2 and castle, while Black has some problems with the d6-pawn (he can't play ...♘bd7).]

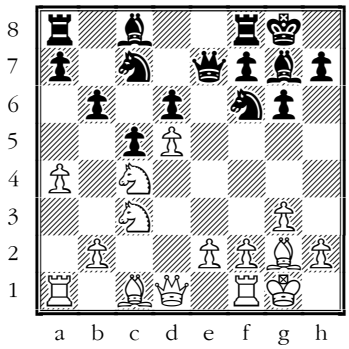
9...♕e7?

I don't like this move at all - this is one of those moves which are easy to make, but which put you into trouble, as it's hard to see a good follow-up. Better is 9...b6 10.a4 ♗a6! (10...♘a6?! 11.♗g2 ♘e8 *(11...♘c7? 12.♘xd6! ♕xd6 13.♗f4)* 12.0–0 ♘ac7 13.♗d2 ♖b8 14.♖b1 f5 15.b4 cxb4 16.♖xb4 ♘a6 17.♖b1 ♘c5 18.♘a5! ♗b7 19.♘c6 ♗xc6 20.dxc6± Baburin-Joyce, Bunratty Open, 1995.) 11.♘b5 ♘e8 12.♗g2 ♗xb5 13.axb5 ♘d7∞, as in Ivanchuk-Topalov, Novgorod, 1995.

10.♗g2 ♘a6 11.0-0 ♘c7 12.a4

Here ...b7-b5 isn't a big threat, but this move is useful anyway.

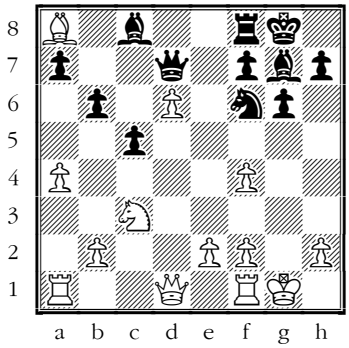
12...b6 *(D)*



13.♘xd6!

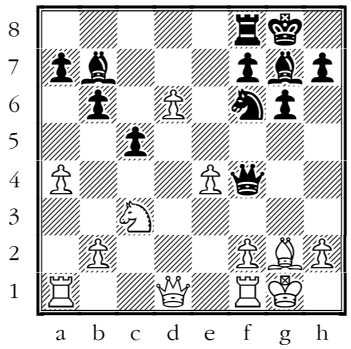
Typical blow. As IM Palliser said after the game, he saw it coming, but could not see a way to deviate from it. My main problem was that I had a good alternative - 13.♗f4!?. After, for example, 13...♖d8 14.♕d2 *(or 14.e4!? ♗a6 15.b3)* 14...♗a6 15.b3 - White stands clearly better – he's is ready to play in the centre with e2-e4, while Black got nowhere on the queenside.

13...♕xd6 14.♗f4 ♕d7 15.d6 ♘e6 16.♗xa8 ♘xf4 17.gxf4 *(D)*

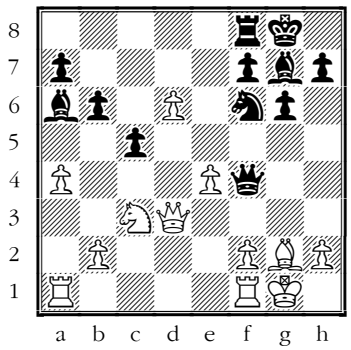


In the Mega 2004 database I found 3 games where this position occurred without 0–0 (in this game Black 'wasted' a tempo on ...♕e7). This difference helps Black to get more

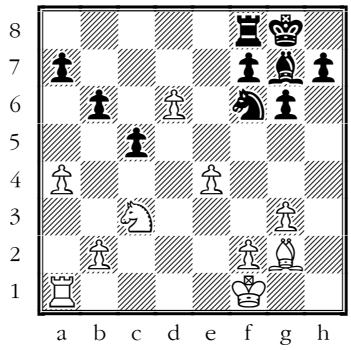
play for the exchange:
17...♕g4+ 18.♗g2! ♗b7 19.e4 ♕xf4 ***(D)***



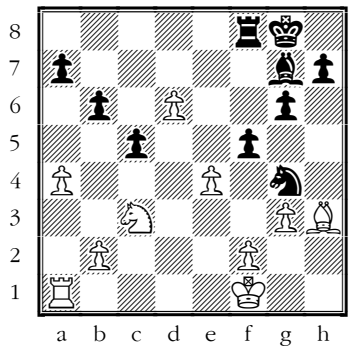
It's often not too difficult to calculate a forced line, but it usually harder to assess correctly the resulting position. Here Black has some positional compensation for the exchange (White's kingside is weak), but when playing 13.♗xd6!, I believed that Black's play would not be sufficient.
20.♕d3!
Originally I was going to play here 20.♕f3!? ♕xd6 21.e5 ♗xf3 22.exd6 ♗xg2 23.♔xg2. I trust that White is better here, but during the game I decided not to part with a pawn so easily.
20...♗a6! ***(D)***



I saw this move the moment I played 21.♕d3. Fortunately, White has two good replies.
21.♕g3!
21.♘b5 was also possible, but I preferred to give back the exchange in order to get the superior ending.
Of course, White isn't tempted by 21.♕xa6?? ♘g4 22.♖fd1 ♕xf2+ 23.♔h1 ♕f4 24.♔g1 ♕e3+ 25.♔h1 ♘f2+ 26.♔g1 ♘h3+ 27.♔h1 ♕g1+ 28.♖xg1 ♘f2#.
21...♕xg3 22.hxg3 ♗xf1 23.♔xf1! ***(D)***

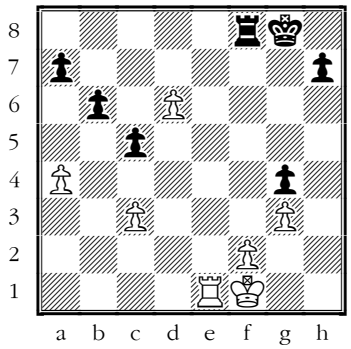


Time to take stock. Material is equal, but White has a serious advantage, thanks to his passed pawn. His plan is to play e4–e5 and f2–f4, thus shutting off the enemy bishop, even if this will cost White a pawn somewhere. Black tries to prevent this.
23...♘g4! 24.♗h3!? f5! ***(D)***

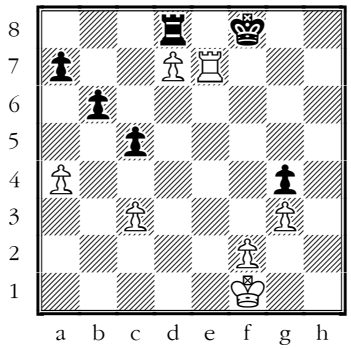


The best try. After 24...h5?! 25.f4 ♘e3+ 26.♔e2 ♘c4 27.e5 ♘xb2 28.♘d5+– Black is a pawn up, but plays without his bishop.
25.♖e1!
Good move – White gets the last piece into play. I originally planned 25.f4, but then saw the line 25...♘e3+ 26.♔e2 ♘c2! 27.♖c1 ♘d4+ 28.♔d3 fxe4+ 29.♘xe4 ♘f5 30.b4 ♘xd6!.
25...♗e5?
Blunder. After 25...♗d4 White would have several interesting possibilities.
I might be tempted to play 26.f4!? with the idea 26...♘f2? 27.e5 ♘xh3 28.e6+–. Also 26...♗f2 27.♖e2 is good for White, but 26...♘e3+ 27.♖xe3!? ♗xe3 28.e5 is less clear.

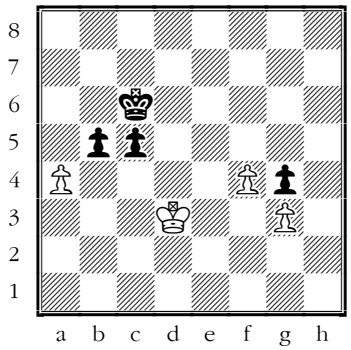
Bearing in mind that it was a team match, I would have probably played the calm 26.♖e2!, which leaves White with clear advantage, for example: 26...♘e5 27.exf5 gxf5 28.♘b5+–.
26.exf5 gxf5 27.♗xg4 ♗xc3 28.bxc3 fxg4 ***(D)***



29.♖e7! ♖d8 30.d7 ♔f8 31.♖xh7 ♔g8 32.♖e7 ♔f8 *(D)*



33.♖e8+!
White should also win the rook ending after 33.♖h7 ♔g8 34.♖h4 ♖xd7 35.♖xg4+, but it would be stupid to miss a chance to go to a winning pawn ending!
33...♖xe8 34.dxe8♕+ ♔xe8 35.f4!
Also possible is 35.f3 but I did not want to calculate what happens if Black does not take on f3.
35...a6
Black is also lost after 35...gxf3 36.♔f2 ♔f7 37.♔xf3 ♔f6 38.♔e4 ♔e6 39.g4
36.c4 ♔d7 37.♔e2 ♔c6 38.♔d3 b5 39.cxb5+ axb5 *(D)*



40.a5! 1-0 1.57 - 1.58
Black resigned as he could not fight against White's passed pawns, while his pawns were easy to block. Time:

Solutions to our quiz:

Werle-Westlund: **1.♗g5! hxg5 2.hxg5 ♗b4+ 3.♔e2!**
3.c3? ♗xc3+ *(3...♕xc3+? 4.bxc3 ♗xc3+ 5.♔e2 ♖xh1 6.♕c2+-)* 4.♔e2 ♖xh1 5.gxf6 ♗xf6 is very good for Black
3...♕xf3+?
Better was 3...♖xh1 4.gxf6 gxf6 5.c3±
4.♔xf3! ♖xh1 5.♗b5+ 1-0

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Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: http://www.chesstoday.net
Editors: GMs Baburin, Scherbakov and Golubev; IMs Barsky, Notkin and Vlassov.
Technical editors: Graham Brown and Ralph Marconi.

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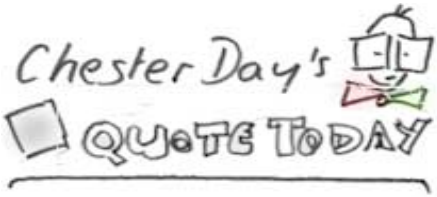


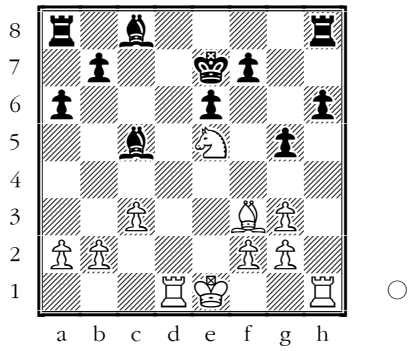
"When you are lonely,
when you feel yourself
an alien in the
world, play chess.
This will raise your
spirits
and be your
counselor in war."

-- Aristotle

CHESS TODAY
The First Daily Chess Newspaper on the Net
CT-164(1313) Saturday, 12th June 2004

Chess Quiz

Adams (2731) – Akopian (2689)
Armenia-ROW, Moscow (2), 2004



Chess News

Tigran Petrosian Memorial

The second round games were not particularly interesting. The duel between Vallejo and Kasparov ended in a theoretical draw – a logical outcome in the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn variation, one of the most studied lines in chess theory. Anand and Leko equalised against Vaganian and Bacrot, respectively, – and quickly agreed a draw. Another rather quick draw was Gelfand – van Wely. Lputian lost again – this time to Svidler. They played a long theoretical line in the Gruenfeld, which hardly gives any edge to White. Svidler's creative play, and some mistakes by White, led to Black's victory. Akopian played rather badly in the opening against Adams, and with a help of a little combination White won quickly. Additional brief comments to the games can be found in our database.

Max Notkin is working in the Petrosian Memorial press-centre. The photo report for Round 1 is available at Russiachess.ru. There you can find a picture of Max demonstrating the Svidler game. According to Max, the tournament venue (the Hyatt Ararat hotel) is truly luxurious. There are many famous players present at the tournament: Karpov, Spassky, Smyslov and Kosteniuk all provided commentary in the press-centre.

Round 2 results:
Petrosian team 2 – World team 4
Vallejo (W) – Kasparov (P) ½-½
Vaganian (P) – Anand (W) ½-½
Adams (W) – Akopian (P) 1-0
Gelfand (P) – Van Wely (W) ½-½
Bacrot (W) – Leko (P) ½-½
Lputian (P) – Svidler (W) 0-1

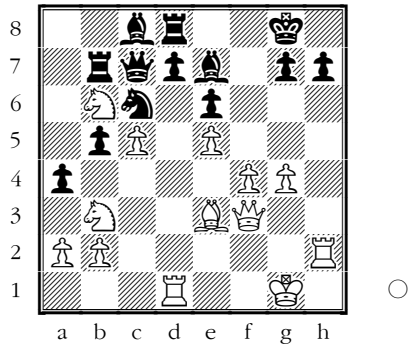
Round 3 pairings:
Kasparov (P) – Bacrot (W)
Van Wely (W) – Leko (P)
Gelfand (P) – Vallejo (W)
Akopian (P) – Anand (W)
Svidler (W) – Vaganian (P)
Adams (W) – Lputian (P)
Live games

The Pakchess site posted an interesting article about Tigran Petrosian by Lev Khartiton – *'Passions in Disguise'*.

II György Marx Chess Memorial

Viktor Korchnoi, the most amazing player of the 20th and 21st centuries, continues to lead with a 1½ point margin. In round 6 another famous veteran, Lajos Portisch, missed a possibility to defend his king:

Acs (2548) – Portisch (2573)



29.♘d5 White starts a combination, which should have been sufficient only for a draw.

29...exd5 29...♕b8? 30.♘a5! +−.
30.♕xd5+ ♔h8 30...♔f8? 31.♖xh7 +−
31.♖xh7+ ♔xh7 32.♖d2 ♖f8?
Correct was 32...♗g5! 33.♖h2+ ♗h6 34.♕f7 ♔h8 35.♖xh6+ gxh6 36.♕f6+ =.
33.♖h2+ ♔g6 34.f5+ 1−0

Round 6 results:
Acs − Portisch **1−0**
Korchnoi – Berkes **½−½**
Beliavsky – Nevednichy **1−0**

Standings after 6 rounds:
1. Korchnoi − 5;
2. Berkes − 3½;
3−5. Nevednichy, Beliavsky and Acs − 2½;
6. Portisch – 2. Official site

Open Championship of Utrecht

77 players competed in this tournament which took place in Utrecht (the Netherlands) on 4−6 June. Russian GM Vladimir Epishin became the clear winner with 5½/6.
Crosstable at the official site

Interview with Makropoulos

The FIDE website site has published an interview with FIDE Deputy President Georgios Makropoulos. This the English version of his interview for the Russian newspaper Sport−Express.

One quote: "Where is now Mr. Kok and his sponsors? Where is Mr. Seirawan with his business−plan? But now everyone is united in criticizing K. Ilyumzhinov that he is seeking for money in such problematic regions as Libya. But Libya was the only country which had offered to finance the organization of the World Championship."

This is quite an amazing comment − people used to think that it was FIDE which terminated the co−operation with Bessel Kok and Yasser Seirawan − and not vice versa. (M. Golubev)

Stefanova to visit Libya

The Bulgarian Novinite news site reported that Antoaneta Stefanova is set to leave for Libya and play a charity simultaneous exhibition in Tripoli on 18 June. Her visit to Libya may prove useful for an attempt at lobbying for the reversal of death sentence for six Bulgarian nurses.

New Russian Chess Website

A new chess website was opened in Russia yesterday: www.kalitka.ru/dachess. Later its main URL will be www.dachess.ru. At present materials are available only in Russian. The team of journalists is headed by Denis Bilunov, former editor of Worldchessrating site − the project which was supported by Kasparov and FIDE related structures for some time, but was finally closed in May.

Letters to the Editor

by GM Alex Baburin

"Hi, Alex!

I'd like to mention two unrelated subjects:

1) There is an interesting English language article about our dear FIDE President. Some of it is probably Russian propaganda but nevertheless...

2) I won 10 out of 11 games in the past 2 months (and it should have been 11 out of 11). Spending my lunch hour replaying the annotated games from Chess Today is time well spent!

Daniel Rouleau, Virginia, USA"

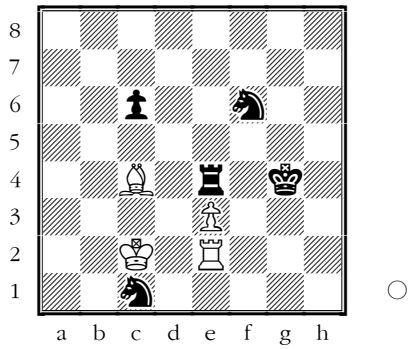
Remembering a Fine Artist

by IM Yochanan Afek

Boris Gusev, a gifted composer of endgame studies died last week (June 4th) in his sleep at the age of 59. In 20 years of composing he had a modest production of about 40 studies, but they were of high quality and elegance. He also composed several masterpieces in collaboration with fellow composers. The jubilee tourney organized for his 50th birthday was one of the strongest ever.

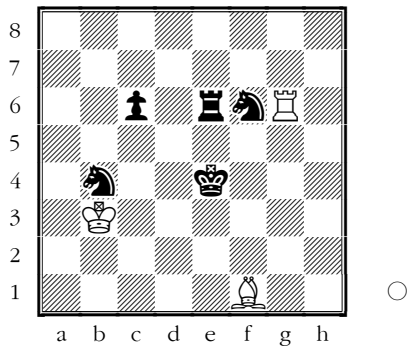
I would like to offer Chess Today readers a selection of his works (see today's database). One example of Gusev's creativity:

Boris Gusev,
2nd comm. Evreinov JT, 1983



White to play and draw

1.♖g2+ ♔f3! 1...♔f5 2.♗f7= or 1...♔h4 2.♗f7 ♖e7 3.♗c4 ♖xe3 4.♔xc1 ♖c3+ 5.♖c2=. **2.♗f1 ♘a2** 2...♖xe3 3.♖g6= **3.♖g6! ♖e6 4.e4! ♔xe4 5.♔b3! ♘c1+ 6.♔c2 ♘a2 7.♔b3 ♘b4** ***(D)*** Or 7...♘c3 8.♔xc3! ♘d5+ 9.♔d2 ♖xg6 10.♗d3+



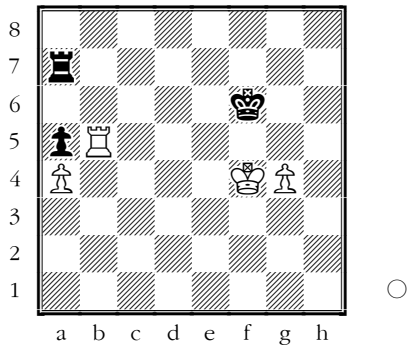
8.♔xb4! ♘d5+ 9.♔c5 ♖xg6 10.♗d3+! ♔xd3 Stalemate! **½–½**

The Anand–Lputian Ending

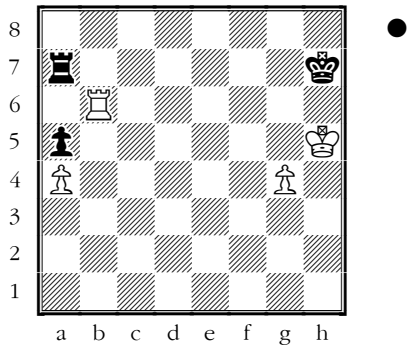
by GM Alex Baburin

In yesterday's Chess Today we showed an interesting rook endgame between Anand and Lputian. Then I got a message from our reader GM Bartlomiej Macieja, who pointed out that the same ending occurred in the Polish championship this May.

Jakubowski (2492) – Socko (2579)
Ch Poland, Warsaw (11), 05.05.2004



57.♖b6+
After 57.g5+ ♔g6 58.♔e4 White would get the same position as in Anand–Lputian (see CT–1312). In this game the Polish player tried a different plan.
57...♔g7 58.♔g5 ♖c7 59.♖b5 ♖a7 60.♔h5 ♔h7 61.♖b6 ***(D)***

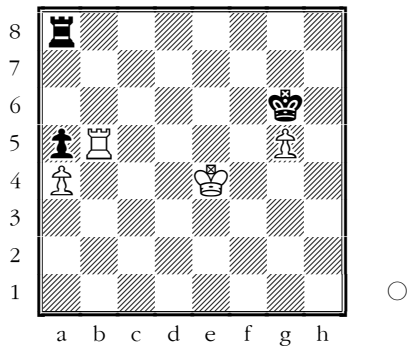


61...♖c7??
The desire to activate the rook is understandable, but the rook on the 7th rank had an important defensive role. I cannot see how White could make progress after 61...♔g7, for example: 62.g5 ♔h7 63.♖b5 ♔g7 64.♖c5 ♔h7 65.g6+ ♔g7 66.♔g5 ♔g8 67.♔h6 ♖a8. Usually in rook endings one should defend actively, but it is important to know that with the g-pawn the passive defence with the king on g8 and rook on the 8th is actually best! 68.♖c6 ♔h8 69.g7+ ♔g8 70.♖f6

♖d8 71.♖a6 ♖c8 72.♖xa5 *(72.♔g6 ♖c6+=)* 72...♖c6+ 73.♔g5 ♔xg7=.
62.♖a6 ♖c5+ 63.g5 ♔g7 64.♖a7+ ♔f8 65.♔h6 now the black rook cannot protect the a-pawn and the 8th rank at the same time, so he had to resign. **1-0**

As we can see, pushing the g-pawn to g6 should not give White a win. Mikhail too pointed this out yesterday, when annotating move 52 in the game Anand-Lputian. Let's come back to that endgame. There the critical position arose after Black's 56th move:

Anand (2774) - Lputian (2634)
Armenia-ROW Match
Moscow (1), 10.06.2004



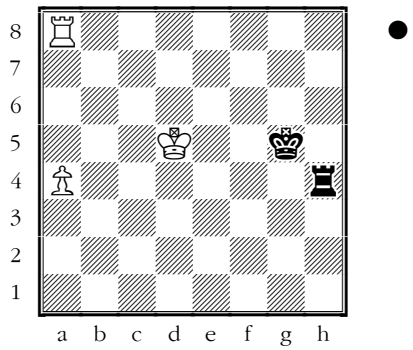
Here, instead of trying to advance the g-pawn further, Anand chose a clever plan. He left the pawn on g5, so his rook could both protect that pawn and attack the enemy pawn. However, his execution of this plan was flawed. In the diagrammed position he played **57.♔d4?** and won after **57...♖d8+? 58.♔c4! ♖d1 59.♖xa5 ♖a1 60.♔b3 ♖b1+ 61.♔a3 1-0**

We pointed out that Black could have drawn with ***57...♖f8!***, immediately giving up the pawn, but activating the rook. The play might continue: 58.♖xa5 ♖f4+ 59.♔c3 *(after 59.♔e3 ♖b4* despite two extra pawns, White cannot win - his rook is tired up to the pawns and is immobile*; 59.♔c5 ♔xg5=)* 59...♖f3+ 60.♔b4 ♖f4+ 61.♔b5 ♔xg5 62.♖a8 ♖f5+ 63.♔c6 ♖f6+ 64.♔d5 ♖f5+ 65.♔e6 ♖f6+ 66.♔e7 ♔g6 67.a5 ♖f7+ 68.♔e6 ♖f6+ 69.♔e5 ♖f5+ 70.♔e4 ♖b5=.

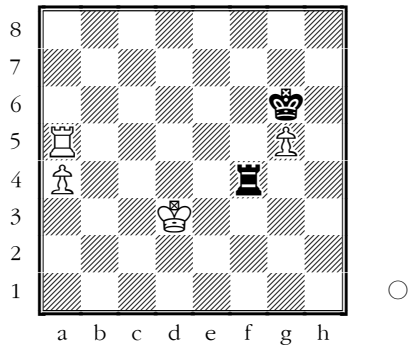
Instead of **57.♔d4?** the Chess Base website suggested ***57.♖e5!***, claiming that White wins. Indeed, this seems to be the case: after 57...♖b8 *(57...♖a7 58.♔d5 loses slowly but surely)* 58.♖xa5 ♖b4+ 59.♔d5 ♔xg5 60.♖a8 according to tablebase with best play White wins in 43 moves.

Now, once we know two important ideas (57.♖e5! for White and 57.♔d4? ♖f8! for Black) let's analyse this endgame in retrospect.

First, let's see if after **57.♔d4? ♖f8!** White can rectify his mistake by playing **58.♔e4!**, so after **58...♖a8** he can play 59.♖e5! and win.
At first it looks like this might work – in the **58...♖h8 59.♖xa5 ♖h4+ 60.♔d5 ♔xg5 61.♖a8** ***(D)***

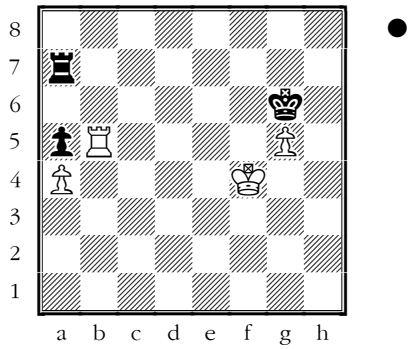


White wins as the enemy rook is misplaced (it would be much better off on f4). But **58...♖e8+!** gives Black a draw! **59.♔d3** *(59.♖e5 ♖xe5+ 60.♔xe5 ♔xg5=)* **59...♖f8!!** (not *59...♖h8 60.♖xa5 ♖h4 61.♖a8 ♔xg5 62.a5 ♔g6 63.♔c3 ♖f4 64.a6 ♔g7 65.♖a7+ ♔g6 66.♖b7+- or 59...♖d8+ 60.♔c4 ♖f8 61.♖c5+-)* **60.♖xa5 ♖f4=** ***(D)***



This is the key position – White cannot cross the 4th rank or start moving his a-pawn without losing the g-pawn: 61.♖a8 ♔xg5= or 61.♔c3 ♖f3+ 62.♔b4 ♖f4+ 63.♔b5 ♔xg5=.

Now let us come back to the position after **55.♔f4** ***(D)***



Now we can see that **55...♖a6?** was a serious mistake: after **56.♔e4! ♖a8** (56...♖e6+ 57.♔d5 ♖a6 58.♔c4 is hopeless for Black) White can play **57.♖e5!** and win.

But Black can draw if he chooses **55...♖f7+! 56.♔e4 ♖e7+ 57.♔d3 ♖f7! 58.♖xa5 ♖f4=**.

Conclusion: the rook endgame with 'a' and 'g' pawns vs. 'a' pawn is drawn, but Black must defend very accurately. Two points:
1) If White advances the g-pawn beyond g5, as in the game Jakubowski-Socko, then Black should defend passively and keep his rook on a7 (a8).
2) White has more practical chances if he leaves the g-pawn on g5. Then Black must activate his rook as soon as possible, giving up the a-pawn.

Perhaps Vishy Anand could tell us his opinion on this endgame and this analysis.

Solution to our quiz:
Adams-Akopian: **17.♗xb7! ♗xb7 18.♖d7+ ♔f6 19.f4+- gxf4 20.gxf4 ♔f5 21.♖xf7+ ♔e4 22.♖xb7 ♖ag8 23.♖c7 ♗e3 24.♖c4+ ♔d5 25.♖h5! 1-0**

Contact information. Have some comments about Chess Today? E-mail us - we appreciate your feedback!

Chess Today is published by Alexander Baburin, 3 Eagle Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Tel: (353-1) 278-2276. Fax: (353-1) 283-6839. E-mail: ababurin@iol.ie Website: http://www.chesstoday.net
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