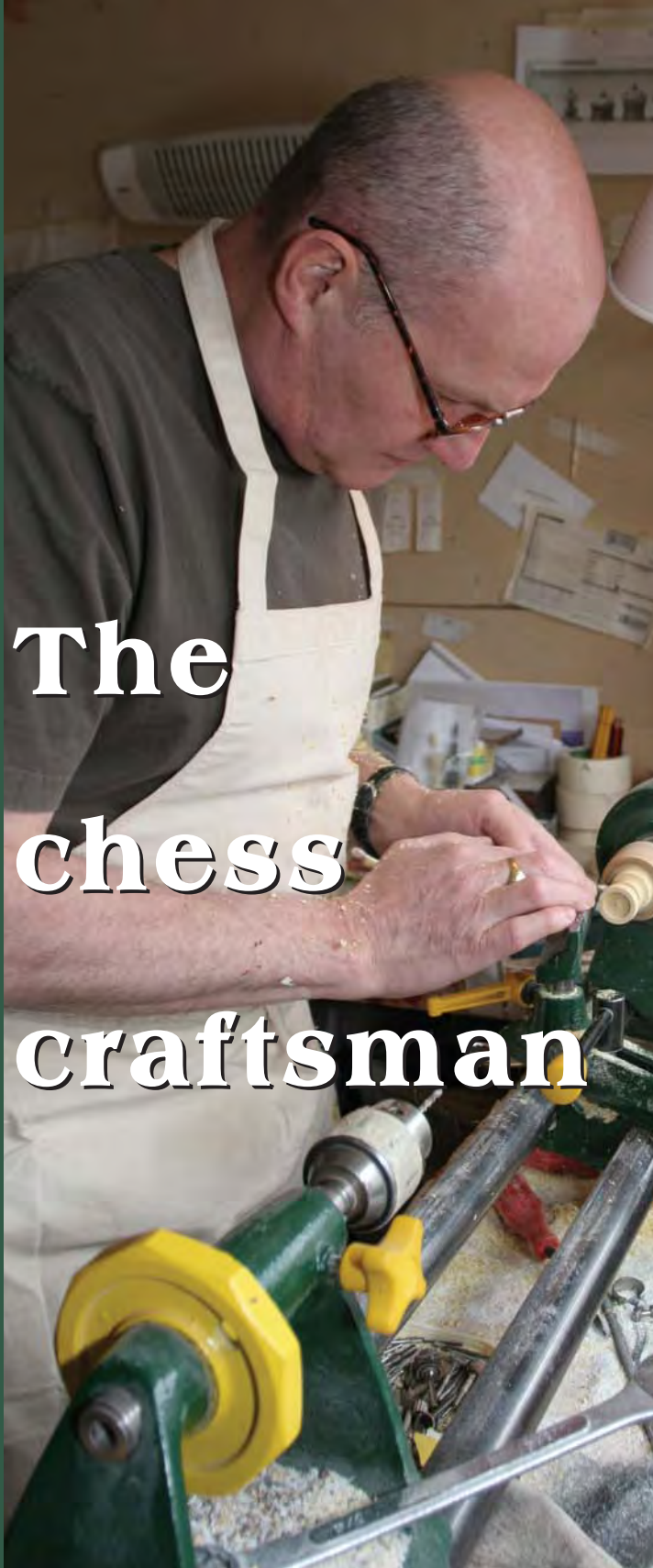


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OUR FRONT COVER

Alan Dewey of Strood, Kent, is the only full time restorer of chess pieces in the UK.

It is a joy to see the craftsman at work on his lathe, manufacturing finished chessmen from chunks of boxwood (top left), ebony and other fine woods.

Alan restores, turns and carves all kinds of pieces ranging from oriental Chinese to traditional English, old and new, and has even created several original chess sets of his own (see designs top right).

About 15 per cent of his work involves work on the classic Jaques pieces (bottom right) which frequently get damaged when thrown into the box after play: crosses on kings, mitres on bishops, coronets on queens, turrets on rooks are all vulnerable! And because there are so many variations of Jaques carvings, odd pieces often appear in otherwise fine sets and have to be specially carved and substituted.

See page 38 for an appreciation of the Staunton pattern.

Photos: **Mark Huba**

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GAUSDAL CLASSICS

by Andrew Greet

When you know where the Gausdal Classics are played, you'd be forgiven for assuming the event referred to a ski-ing or snowboarding competition. Gausdal is a famous ski resort, set in a jaw-droppingly picturesque area of Norwegian mountains approximately 140 miles outside of Oslo. But the contestants do battle over sixty-four black and white squares rather than white slopes.

The first Gausdal event took place in 1970. It was organised by the late Arnold Eikrem (1932-96). Eikrem was a promising young player in the 1950s who later became a FIDE arbiter, chess columnist and President of the Norwegian Chess Federation. It is, however, the Gausdal tournaments that are considered to have been his greatest passion and his legacy to the chess world.

In the late 1990s a new organiser stepped forward; the slightly eccentric but highly likeable Hans Olav Lahlum, who at present is still running the event successfully.

This year there were five sections in the Gausdal Classics tournament, of which the top four were of the 'all play all' format. The premier or 'GM A' tournament consisted of four high quality GMs (Tiviakov, Kulaots, Korneev and wonderkid Magnus Carlsen), four IMs and two FMs; average rating 2495. 'GM B' consisted of three GMs, three IMs and four FMs (including your correspondent); average rating 2415. GM norms were possible in both of these sections. Moving down, there were two IM tournaments designed to give IM norm opportunities and a final FIDE rated section in which rated players could aim to improve their Elo and unratified could gain a partial or full FIDE rating.

One of the things that struck me about this event was the extent to which Hans Olav had organised everything so that players would experience as little hassle as possible. So instead of having to navigate our own way to such a remote spot in the mountains, a bus was provided for all players. It departed from a central location in Oslo and took us straight to the hotel with a couple of hours to spare before the first round (around 7pm). All of the chess players stayed at the same hotel, which doubled as the playing venue. It is hard to imagine a more convenient arrangement.

Budgeting is made easy by the fact

that the organiser charges a single fee to cover the entry fee, bus, accommodation and three meals per day at the hotel. The food was some of the best I have experienced at a chess venue. Quite a few of these meals were of the buffet variety, where you can go and help yourself to a vast selection of different dishes. There was, however, one strange phenomenon which ensured that I will not forget these buffet meals in a hurry: electric shocks! I have never experienced anything like it before—some people were speculating that it was because the dining area of the hotel had a thick carpet—not being much of a scientist I wouldn't really know if this would explain it—but I would guess that around 80% of times when I went to pick up a metal serving implement or item of cutlery, I was zapped by a tiny lightning bolt! Towards the end of the event it occurred to me that removing my shoes before handling any of the said items might help, and this did all but eradicate the problem. Still, I would be very curious to know why this particular place was so conducive to electric shocks. For comparison, optically it looks very similar to the buffet areas at the 4NCL hotels, and I cannot remember once receiving an electric shock at one of these locations. In any event, I knew that if my chess performances were half as electrifying as the buffet, I was due for a great tournament!

Five English players competed this year: myself, Chris Ward and David Howell competed in GM B; Paul Cooksey (rated 2256) opted for one of the IM sections; last but not least, Simon Williams, never one to duck a challenge, had no hesitation in entering GM A. My main goal was to achieve my third and final IM norm; already having a rating of 2403, this would guarantee me the title. Simon and David both had GM norm ambitions. Paul also had the possibility of an IM norm.

Without doubt, the single most outstanding performance came from Grandmaster Sergei Tiviakov, who won GM A with an incredible 8½/9, a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 2922! David Howell demonstrated the increasing maturity and well-roundedness of his play with an accomplished performance in GM B. I also achieved a certain personal milestone—more on that later. Simon, Chris and Paul all put in respectable performances; Chris scoring 50% with Simon and Paul performing roughly as was predicted from their ratings.

Now to the part you are probably waiting for—the games!

Round 1

I began with the worst possible start: a 21-move loss to the second lowest rated player in my section. I am not normally one to make excuses, but I can say with a completely clear conscience that, having started to come down with some kind of stomach bug, as well as suffering from a major lack of sleep (my own fault, having decided on an insane travelling schedule in an effort to save on a night's accommodation in Oslo), I cannot remember a single occasion in my life when I have felt worse while having to play chess. But enough about that. In the circumstances I was quite grateful that the game finished quickly so I could finally go to bed!

Simon arrived for round 1 to a nasty and embarrassing shock: he had the Black pieces, having expected to be White. But this was only the tip of the iceberg; Simon discovered that the cause of the discrepancy was that he had misinterpreted the entire opponent/colour table that had been emailed to all participants a couple of weeks before. That meant that not only his preparation for round 1, but two weeks' worth of preparation for all nine opponents had been a complete waste as he had been anticipating the wrong colour for each and every one of them! Oh dear. In the circumstances it was probably not a bad thing that Simon's slightly lower rated opponent offered a very early draw, which was accepted.

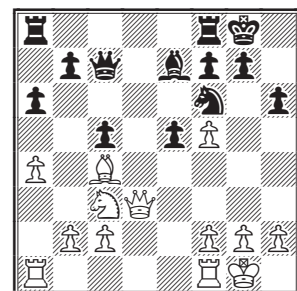
Elsewhere David had a hard fought draw with GM Akesson, Chris drew with Swedish IM Jonas Barkhagen and Paul lost to a GM.

Round 2

After such a disastrous start, it was important to bounce back quickly, which I thankfully managed to do with a nice win against the talented young French IM/WGM Marie Sebag.

The following position was reached after 15 moves:

Andrew Greet (2403) White
Marie Sebag (2417) Black





8½ out of 9 for Sergei Tiviakov!

In this position, which resulted from a 3 ♖b5+ Sicilian, White has just the faintest of edges thanks to the hole on d5. The game continued with the natural...

15 ... ♗ad8 16 ♘d5

16 ♘d5 leaves the White pieces looking rather unstable on the d-file.

16 ... e4

Marie is a strong tactician who thrives on piece activity, so I was expecting this move which aims to liberate the e7-bishop.

17 ♗b3 ♘xd5 18 ♘xd5 ♖e5 19 c4

I felt during the game that I had made just a little bit of progress during the last few moves. However Black plays, White will have a small initiative due to the more active bishop and slightly weak Black pawns.

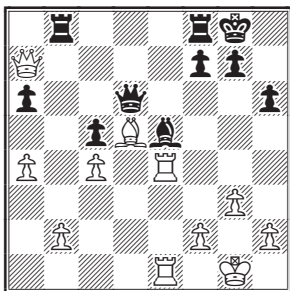
19 ... ♘d6 20 g3 ♗xf5 21 ♖ae1

The pawn sacrifice is only temporary.

21 ... ♘e5

21 ... ♖f8 22 ♗xb7 and the a- or e-pawn will drop next move. 21 ... ♖b8 would avoid material loss, but this would have been a pretty miserable move to have to make. White is firmly in control after 22 ♖xe4.

22 ♗xb7 ♗f6 23 ♖xe4 ♖b8 24 ♗a7 ♗d6 25 ♖fe1



25 ... ♘d4

25 ... ♘xb2 would have given me a choice between the simple 26 ♖e7 ♘h8 (26 ... ♗f6 27 ♖xf7!) 27 ♖xf7± or 26 ♖e6!? fxe6 (26 ... ♗d8 27 ♖xa6) 27 ♖xe6 ♗d8 28 ♖e8+ ♘h8 29 ♖xd8 ♖bx8 30 ♗xc5 with very good winning chances.

26 ♖e7 ♖xb2

Black always seems to be just a move too slow to consolidate or create real counterplay. Perhaps 26 ... ♗f6 but 27 ♖xf7 ♖xf7 28 ♗xb8+ ♘h7 29 ♖f1 is very strong.

27 ♖xf7 ♘h8 28 ♘h1!

I was very pleased with this cool move, sidestepping any potential discovered checks. It is very hard to suggest a defence for Black now.

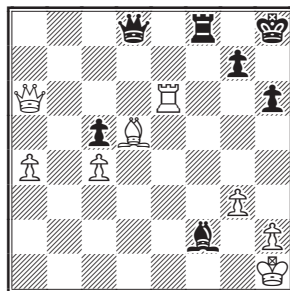
28 ... ♖xf2 29 ♖xf2 ♘xf2

29 ... ♖xf2? 30 ♖e8+ ♖f8 31 ♗f7 wins.

30 ♖e6 ♗d8

If 30 ... ♗b8 31 ♗xb8 ♖xb8 32 ♖xa6.

31 ♗xa6



White has not only won a crucial pawn, he also has great piece activity (32 ♖xh6+ is threatened) which can be used to tie down the Black pieces and force a queen exchange. The a-pawn will then prove decisive.

31 ... ♗g5

Desperately searching for counterplay.

32 ♗d6 ♖d8

There is no time for 32 ... ♗c1+ 33 ♘g2 ♗g1+ 34 ♘h3 as after 34 ... ♗f1+ 35 ♘g2 and Black can resign

33 ♗f4

The queens are forced off and the game is over.

33 ... ♗xf4 34 gxf4 ♖f8 35 f5! g5 36 a5 ♖b8

36 ... ♖xf5 37 ♖c8+ ♘g7 38 ♖g8+ ♘h7 39 ♘e4 ♘xg8 40 ♘xf5 and since it would be illegal for Black's c-pawn to 'commit suicide' and leave the board, the a-pawn cannot be stopped.

37 a6 ♖b1+ 38 ♘g2 ♘d4 39 a7 ♖g1+ 40 ♘f3 1-0

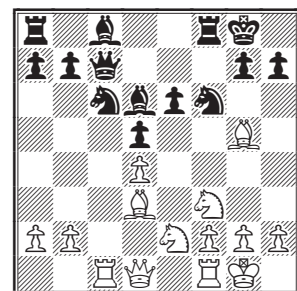
In GM A, Simon lost with White to Norwegian GM-elect Kjetil Lie in a complex Modern Benoni. David continued his solid start with another draw against a Grandmaster, Dimitri Reinderman of Holland. Chris played a slightly shaky but ultimately triumphant game against 14-year old Jon Ludwig (or 'MC' as I preferred to call him) Hammer of Norway (remember MC Hammer? Rapper from early 90's, wore giant baggy trousers, 'You Can't Touch This!'). Rated at 2303, Hammer is obviously highly talented, although perhaps not surprisingly his lack of experience did count against him at times in this toughly contested tournament. Definitely a name to watch out for in the future though. Finally, Paul Cooksey made it 3½/5 for the English contingent with a win over a 2237.

Round 3

The first all-English clash ended peacefully as I grovelled my way into a bomb-proof fortress of a position with Black against Chris Ward. Luckily for me Chris missed a couple of opportunities to really crank up the pressure before settling for a repetition. David Howell skilfully nurtured an opening advantage into a win against German FM Thomas Michalczak, while in GM A, Simon's start went from bad to worse as he faced Mr 2900 himself, Sergei Tiviakov:

Sergei Tiviakov White
Simon Williams Black

The following position was reached after 13 moves of a French Tarrasch.



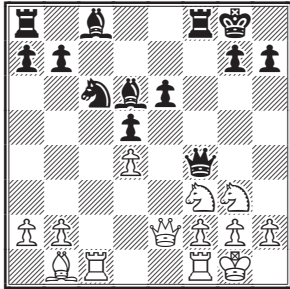
14 ♖h4 ♗h5

Played to preserve the dark squared bishop.

15 ♙g3 ♗xg3 16 ♜xg3 ♚f7 17 ♚e2 ♚f4?!

I do not claim to particularly understand these positions, but in the game the Black queen is forced back to f7 very quickly so it seems like this is as good a time as any to suggest an improvement for Black. 17 ... ♙d7 looks sensible; even if Black were to play the slightly wild-looking 17 ... g5 we would still reach the same position to that which occurs in the game, except that White has not played the moves ♙b1 and ♚d3, which are surely of some use.

18 ♙b1



18 ... g5

Played to defend against ♚d3, but according to Tiviakov this move is a major concession. Later that evening Simon gave me an impersonation, in a slightly dodgy Russian accent, of Tiviakov's post-game opinion of this move: "if you must play g5 then this line must be bad—g5 is against chess principles!" Coming from the guy who scored 8½/9, who's going to argue with him? At any rate, alternatives are hard to suggest at this point; 18 ... ♗xd4 loses to 19 ♗xd4 ♚xd4 20 ♚xc8!. The other possibility, 18 ... e5 can be met by 19 ♚xc6! bxc6 20 dxe5 ♚e8 21 ♚c2 ♙xe5 22 ♚h7+ ♙f8 23 ♗h5 ♚f7 24 ♙g6 wins (Fritz).

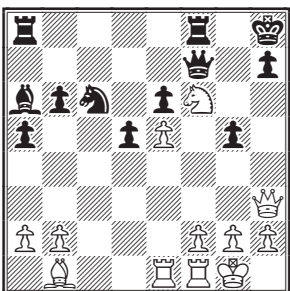
19 ♚d3 ♚f7 20 ♚ce1

Over the next few moves Tiviakov sets about exploiting the weaknesses caused by 18 ... g5.

20 ... b6 21 ♗e5 ♙xe5 22 dxe5

As if by magic, White has succeeded in making the f6 square a huge problem for Black.

22 ... a5 23 ♗h5 ♙a6 24 ♗f6+ ♙h8 25 ♚h3



Simon Williams defeated wonderboy Magnus Carlsen

Round 4

And suddenly Black has a very bad, probably losing position. He is winning an exchange but losing too many pawns. And the knight on f6 is a monster.

25 ... ♚g7 26 ♚xe6 ♗d4 27 ♚xb6 ♗e2+ 28 ♚xe2 ♙xe2 29 ♚e1 ♚ab8 30 ♚d4 ♚b4 31 ♚d2 ♙a6 32 ♗xd5 ♚d8 33 e6

Now the e-pawn decides the game.

33 ... ♚xb2 34 ♚xa5 ♚db8 35 e7 ♙b5

35 ... ♚xb1 36 e8=♚+ ♚xe8 37 ♚xb1 would have lasted longer, but two pawns down with an exposed king, the result is not in doubt.

36 ♚xb5 ♚2xb5 37 e8=♚+ ♚xe8 38 ♚xe8+ ♚g8 39 ♚xg8+ ♙xg8 40 ♙c2

The rest is a matter of elementary technique, so Black resigned. A very smooth game by Tiviakov.

1-0

Despite obtaining what should have been a favourable opening position with White against IM Jonas Barkhagen, I quickly went wrong and found myself in a passive though probably defensible position. At this point I woke up and played some accurate defensive moves to hold the draw. Chris had a 10-move 'grandmaster draw' with GM Ralf Akesson of Sweden. David moved into first place in GM B with another win, this time against 20-year-old Tallaksen of Norway, my conqueror from round 1.

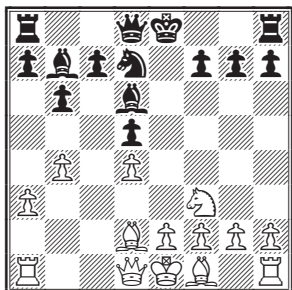
The undoubted highlight of round 4, at least from an English perspective, was Simon's first win of his tournament, against none other than 14 year old prodigy Magnus Carlsen.

Simon Williams White
Magnus Carlsen Black
Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 b6 4 ♘c3
 ♙b7 5 a3 d5 6 cxd5 ♗xd5 7 ♙d2 ♗d7
 8 ♗xd5 exd5 9 b4

White is happy to delay his kingside development in order to hinder ... c5.

9 ... ♙d6



10 ♙g5!?

At first I was not sure about this, but on reflection it is probably worth investing another tempo to improve or exchange this bishop.

10 ... f6 11 ♙h4 a5!?

Magnus is willing to weaken his own queenside in the interests of opening lines to exploit White's retarded development. Despite the complications, it looks to me like White should be somewhat better here, and Simon justifies this assessment in the game.

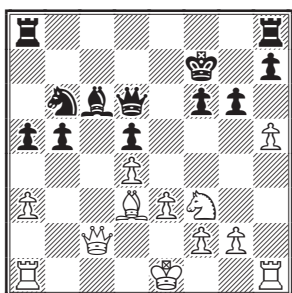
12 ♙g3! ♗e7 13 ♙xd6 ♗xd6 14 b5
 c5 15 bxc6 ♙xc6 16 e3

Finally the bishop is allowed to participate in the game!

16 ... b5 17 ♙d3 g6 18 ♗c2 ♙f7 19 h4!

An excellent move which sets Black some difficult problems on the kingside.

19 ... ♗b6 20 h5



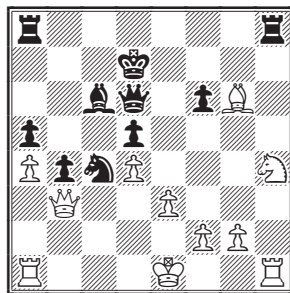
20 ... ♗c4!?

Magnus shows his creativity, sacrificing his g-pawn to accelerate his own queenside play. But Simon is in his element in these messy positions, and he eventually comes out on top.

21 hxg6+ hxg6 22 ♙xg6+ ♙e7

22 ... ♙g7! (Fritz) was also possible, although 23 ♙h7 ♙e8 24 ♗h4 looks awkward.

23 ♗h4! ♙d7 24 ♗b3 b4 25 a4?!
 A small slip, allowing a tactic.



25 ... ♙c7

25 ... ♗xe3!! puts Black right back in the game (I admit it was Fritz and not me that found this!) 26 fxe3 (26 ♗xe3 ♗ae8 27 ♙xe8+ ♗xe8 is messy but quite possibly better for Black) 26 ... ♗g3+ 27 ♙e2 ♗xh4 28 ♙f5+ ♙d6 looks fine for Black.

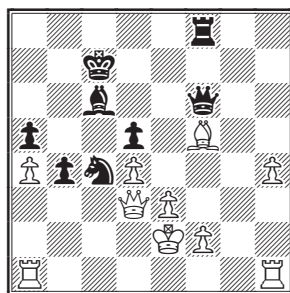
26 ♙e2?

It looks like White is consolidating here, but Magnus finds a clever tactic. 26 ♙f5 would have prevented Black's next.

26 ... f5! 27 ♙xf5 ♗f6

With the point that Black will gain two minor pieces for a rook.

28 g3 ♗af8 29 ♗d3 ♗xh4 30 gxh4



30 ... ♗xf5?

Such is the harsh reality of chess that this natural move may have turned a winning position into a losing one. Black should have inserted 30 ... ♗b2! as after 31 ♗c2 ♗xf5 the knight is immune, and following the forced 32 ♗xf5 ♗xf5 the a4 pawn is dropping. One plausible continuation would be 33 h5 ♙xa4 34 ♗h2 (34 h6 ♙b5+ 35 ♙e1 ♗d3++) 34 ... ♙b5+ 35 ♙e1 a4 36 h6 ♗f8 37 h7 ♗h8 38 f3 a3 and Black seems to be winning.

31 ♗xf5 ♗xf5 32 h5

Now the h-pawn decides the game.

32 ... b3 33 h6 ♗f8 34 h7 b2 35 ♗ag1
 ♗h8 36 ♗g8 b1=♗ 37 ♗g7+!

Simon finishes the game with great efficiency.

37 ... ♙d7 38 ♗xb1 ♙d6 39 ♗h1 ♙f5
 40 ♗h6+ 1-0

Round 5

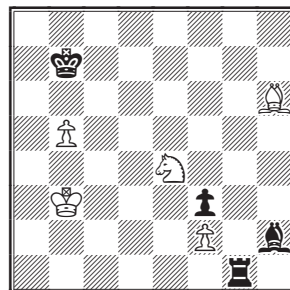
My aspirations for my final IM norm received a big boost with a Black win over back-marker 'MC' Hammer. I noticed when preparing for the game that Jon Ludvig likes to avoid main line openings in favour of things like the

Max Lange attack, which, though playable, is not generally reckoned to be much of a try for an advantage against well-prepared opposition. After a quick flick through John Emms' excellent book *Play the Open Games as Black* I was able to select a line leading to a slightly favourable double-rook ending which, despite a few imperfections, I was able to grind out to win without too much difficulty. This success meant that I needed 50% from my final four games to become an IM.

Elsewhere David continued his fine tournament with a comfortable draw on the Black side of a Berlin Endgame against Marie Sebag. David had the better of it but was unable to make any headway and the game ended with a repetition of moves. Chris suffered a setback as top-seeded GM Reinderman finally showed why he is rated 2509 with a classy performance on the Black side of a Dutch. Simon also tasted defeat, this time on the Black side of a Dragon against GM Oleg Korneev. This was made all the more disappointing by the fact that Simon had a most promising position at one point; after sacrificing an exchange on c3, he missed a powerful knight manoeuvre that would have put Korneev under great pressure. After this inaccuracy, however, the Russian powered home to victory with a crushing attack. Meanwhile in IM A, Paul lost to veteran GM Heikki Westerinen.

Round 6

The shock of the round came in the all-English clash between Howell and Ward. The amazing thing was not that David emerged victorious, but that he did so as a result of Chris calmly allowing his clock to run down, believing that he had made 40 moves but in fact only having completed 39. What's more, David had no winning chances whatsoever in the final position:



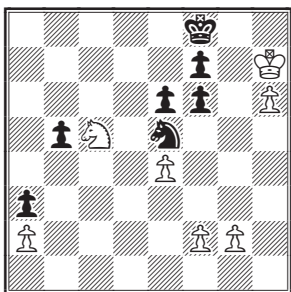
Well, no winning chances except one, apparently. My apologies to Chris for including this story, but I'm sure that almost everyone reading this will have at least one similarly embarrassing clock-related mishap that they can relate to! (or is it just me ...?)

Elsewhere I managed to withstand some pressure with Black against Michalczak before the game petered out to a draw. Paul made a draw with a Danish 2300 player to reach 2/6. Simon had another slightly unlucky loss in a hard fought game, this time with Black against GM Kaido Kulaots. Kaido was another player who had an exceptional tournament; before losing to Tiviakov in round 9 he was on a magnificent 7/8! (though thanks to Tiviakov, this was still insufficient for first place!) Even after his last-round loss, he still came away with a 2700+ performance.

Round 7

My title aspirations suffered a major setback as I went wrong in a complex but drawn knight ending against GM Akesson:

Andrew Greet (2403) White
Ralf Akesson (2461) Black



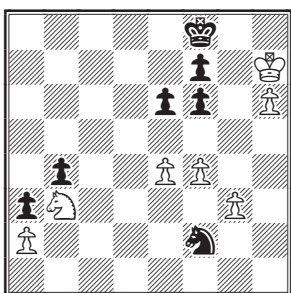
33 f4?!

Not the losing move, but a step in the wrong direction. I think the simplest move is 33 f3! when after 33 ... b4 34 f4 ♖g4 35 g3 we reach the same position as in the game except that the White knight is still on c5 rather than b3. Now it is Black who has to be careful to draw. Play may continue 35 ... ♗f2 36 ♗d7+ ♕e7 37 ♕g7 b3 38 h7 ♕xd7! (38 ... bxa2? 39 h8=♖ a1=♖ 40 ♗c5 ♕d6 41 ♖c8 ♗xe4 (41 ... f5+ 42 ♕xf7) 42 ♗xe4+ ♕d5 43 ♗xf6++) 39 h8=♖ bxa2 40 ♖b8 a1=♖ 41 ♖b7+ with a perpetual.

33 ... ♗g4 34 g3?

34 ♗d3 ♗e3 35 g3 was necessary, when a draw still looks likely.

34 ... b4 35 ♗b3 ♗f2



36 ♕h8

It was only after playing my 35th that I realized that 36 ♗c5 was losing to 36

... ♗xe4! 37 ♗xe4 b3 38 ♗c3 bxa2 39 ♗xa2 e5 and with my king stuck on h7, the knight is powerless against the two passed pawns. Frustratingly, Ralf admitted after the game that he had not even seen this!

36 ... ♗xe4

And the game is now hopeless. The remaining moves were:

37 g4 e5 38 f5 ♗g5 39 h7 e4 40 ♗c5 e3 41 ♗e6+ fxe6 0-1

This setback left me needing 1½ points from my last two games: Black against top-seeded Dimitri Reinderman and White against the tournament leader, in-form David Howell.

David showed his defensive skills on the Black side of a Grünfeld in round 7 to contain Barkhagen's slight initiative. This result put super-solid Barkhagen on seven draws out of seven! Chris played a dodgy-looking pawn sacrifice but just created enough play to force a draw by repetition against Tallaksen, and Simon scored a convincing and much-needed win against German IM Vidonyak. Paul drew with a Canadian FM.

Round 8

Employing my favorite Nimzo-Indian, I obtained a solid position against Reinderman and after an early queen exchange, I began to take over the initiative. At this point I made what I believe to be a good strategic decision in offering a draw, which was accepted. My reasoning was that although on the one hand it may be possible to create some winning chances from my slightly better position, I was playing against a very skilled and battle-hardened Grandmaster with great defensive skills. And although in a one-off game I would definitely have played on, it was quite possible that I could have sat there for another four hours and not achieved anything. On the other hand, if I took a draw now, I would be able to conserve some energy and prepare heavily for tomorrow's game.

David went into round 8 knowing that two wins would be necessary for him to make a GM norm. With the White pieces against back-marker Hammer, he must have been confident of achieving 50% of his goal. Nevertheless the game took a most unusual course. Playing a Vienna, David sacrificed a piece for what looked to be very little compensation. But with some resourceful play, and a little help from Jon Ludvig, the Englishman (or boy) finally prevailed in the battle of the 14-year-olds to set up a 'winner takes all' (or at least 'winner takes norm') clash with myself in the last round.

Simon continued his resurgence with a win over poor little Sebastian Bogner of Germany. Already holding the IM title and a 2409 rating at 14 years of age, Bogner is obviously a tremendous talent. Unfortunately GM A was an exceptionally tough event, so much so that Sebastian's loss to Simon was his eighth of the tournament! Mercifully, he did at least manage to draw in round 9.

This was a great round for English players, Chris Ward beating Marie Sebag with the Black pieces. Paul Cooksey showed great resourcefulness in an objectively lost position, generating a kingside attack which eventually proved to be too much for the charismatic American Eric Moskow, who had been on course for an IM norm before finally losing on time in this game. To his credit, Eric still finished with a TPR nearly 200 points above his 2196 rating.

Round 9—the final round!

Chris and Paul both had fairly uneventful draws. Simon built up a tremendous position against IM Helge Nordahl on the White side of a Kings Indian but faltered near the end, allowing the Norwegian to escape with a draw. Tiviakov had a fine win against Kulaots which is annotated elsewhere in the magazine. And at the top of GM B, Ralf Akesson defeated fellow GM Reinderman to move up to 6½/9. Aside from the following game, Greet-Howell, the other major result of interest in GM B was that draw-specialist Barkhagen, after an unbroken run of 8 draws that even Peter Leko would have been proud of, made a horrendous slip-up and actually won a game—after his opponent, Marie Sebag, had turned down his early draw offer!

Back to business: I will end this report with my own game with David; quite appropriate as it was in fact the last game to finish by some margin. The stakes could hardly have been higher in this game. David, already on the tremendous score of 6/8, knew that a win would secure him a GM norm and first place in the tournament. I had recovered from my first round debacle to reach 4/8 and needed to win to secure my IM title.

Andrew Greet (2403) White
David Howell (2416) Black
Ruy Lopez

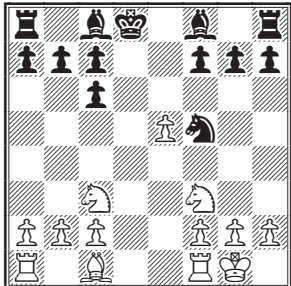
1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♖b5 ♗f6

David thought for some time before selecting the Berlin Defence. David uses this system regularly although I was well aware that he might opt for a main line Spanish.

4 0-0 ♗xe4 5 d4 ♗d6 6 ♖xc6 dxc6 7 dxe5 ♗f5

Several people have commented to me since the game that David's choice of opening seemed quite peculiar for a 'must win' situation. I would have to agree with this assessment in principle, although he may have been influenced by the fact that he had beaten me at Hastings this year as Black in the very same opening.

8 ♖xd8+ ♕xd8 9 ♖c3



So we have reached a well-known *tabiya* of the infamous Berlin Endgame. White hopes to exploit his lead in development, kingside pawn majority and the slightly unfavourable position of the Black king. Black would like to restrain White's kingside pawns and exploit the latent power of the bishop pair.

9 ... ♖e7!?

This move, which looks strange but is actually very logical, has become quite fashionable with many of the world elite. According to my database, it was used on five occasions by Berlin guru Kramnik in 2004. The idea of the move is simple. It was demonstrated by Kramnik in his 2000 match with Kasparov that the knight manoeuvre ♖e7-g6 can be very useful for Black. So he simply sends the knight on its way immediately while retaining maximum flexibility for the deployment of his other pieces.

10 ♖d4!?

A prepared improvement over my last game with David, in which I achieved nothing with 10 ♖g5.

10 ... c5

The main point of White's 10th is that 10 ... ♖g6 can be met by 11 f4 ♖c5 12 ♖e3 and although the game is quite complex, I feel that White has some initiative.

11 ♖f3!

At first it looks very peculiar to waste time like this, but White hopes to exploit the weakened b5 and d5 squares. The immediate threat is 12 ♖d1+ ♕e8 (12 ... ♖d7 13 e6!) 13 ♖b5.

11 ... ♖f5

11 ... a6 may have been safest, when White is only a fraction better.

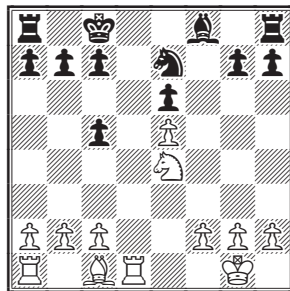
12 ♖g5

I was still following my preparation and had played this and the previous few moves almost instantly. The pressure paid off (from my point of view) as at this point David made what I believe to be his first real error of the game.

12 ... ♖e6?

12 ... ♖e8! would have been the consistent move, but Black would have had to be ready to meet 13 ♖b5, which admittedly must look quite frightening when your opponent is obviously still following prepared analysis. On closer inspection, however, 13 ... ♖d5 14 c4 a6! (14 ... ♖d3 15 cxd5 ♖xb5 16 ♖d1 is very pleasant for White) 15 cxd5 axb5 is not so bad for Black. I am not quite sure what is going on here, but it doesn't look like Black should be worse.

13 ♖d1+ ♕c8 14 ♖xe6 fxe6 15 ♖e4



White has achieved far more than he can usually hope for in the Berlin Endgame. He has swapped off Black's light squared bishop on e6 (this alone is considered quite an achievement) and the Black pieces are in very passive positions. The weakness of the e6 pawn only makes matters worse.

15 ... ♖c6 16 ♖g5 ♖d8!

Looks horribly passive, but David has seen that this is the option that gives him the best chance of survival. This left me facing an extremely tough choice: take on d8, temporarily winning a piece and leading to a promising bishop ending; or finish developing, with a clearly better position but no immediate breakthrough. 16 ... ♖xe5 17 ♖xe6 is much worse.

17 ♖xd8+!

I thought for over half an hour over this difficult decision. Having analyzed the ensuing bishop ending extensively since the game, I have concluded that White may well be winning from a theoretical point of view, although it is possible that there may be a refinement somewhere which enables Black to hold. In any case, I will give my analysis and allow the reader to decide.

17 ... ♖xd8 18 ♖f7+ ♕e8 19 ♖xh8 ♖e7 20 ♖e3 ♖d8 21 ♖f1

I did wonder about 21 f4 to try and save the knight, but didn't completely trust it. 21 ... ♖f8 22 ♖f1 (22 f5 exf5 23 e6 ♖d6 24 ♖xc5 ♖xe6 25 ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 and it is not clear whether White can achieve anything significant.) 22 ... ♖g8 23 f5 exf5 24 ♖xf5 ♖xh8 and although White is probably better here, I do not believe this to be an improvement over the game continuation.

21 ... ♖d5

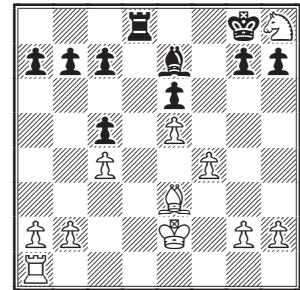
Forcing another pawn onto a dark square, although it probably would have

moved there anyway at some point.

22 f4 ♖f8 23 c4

In the event of the kingside becoming completely blocked, there will be no chance of the White king penetrating on the queenside, therefore it seemed to make sense to fix the Black c-pawn on a dark square with gain of tempo.

23 ... ♖d8 24 ♖e2 ♖g8



25 ♖g6!

It is important to mess up the Black pawns. 25 ♖d1 ♖xd1 26 ♖xd1 ♖xh8 27 ♖e2 h5 and it looks to me like Black can draw as the White king will not be able to penetrate as it does in the game.

25 ... hxg6 26 ♖d1 ♖c8

I am not quite sure why David played this. In any event, he soon realised that he would not be able to keep the rooks on for long—the threat to penetrate to d7 would keep his pieces completely tied down. On the other hand, it seems unlikely that the extra tempi that could have been gained by 26 ... ♖xd1 27 ♖xd1 could have been put to any significant use.

27 ♖f3 ♖f7 28 h3 b6 29 ♖g4 ♖d8 30 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 31 ♖f2 c6

I spent a while considering the positional sacrifice 31 ... g5 but then realised that this would allow me to win with 32 f5! intending ♖e3 (but not 32 fxg5 g6! which seems to draw because Black can block the White king's entry points on the queenside).

32 ♖h4 ♖c7 33 a4

A bit later in the game I wondered if I should have left this pawn at home. But as a queenside breakthrough will never be possible, it doesn't seem to make much difference either way.

33 ... ♖e8 34 b3

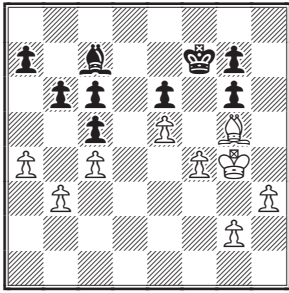
34 ♖f2 would, I assume, have been met by 34 ... a6 intending 35 a5 b5 Otherwise it would be very useful for White to push the pawn to a5 and a6.

34 ... ♖f7 35 ♖f3

There is nothing active that Black can undertake, so I decided there was no harm in 'rubbing it in' by making a few pointless king moves.

35 ... ♖e8 36 ♖g5 ♖f7 37 ♖g3 ♖e8 38 ♖g4 ♖f7

Finally the time has come where White needs to do something. It is obvious that nothing can be achieved on the queenside. There are also no entry points on the kingside. My plan of action was as follows:



1) advance the h-pawn and swap off one of the Black g-pawns. This will create a potential entry point for the king.

2) Drive the Black pieces into a zugzwang situation. The king will have to stay on f7 to defend the g6 square (or pawn, if he decides to place it there), and the bishop has virtually no moves left anyway.

3) The only thing remaining for Black will be to start advancing pawns on the queenside with ... a6 and ... b5. This will leave the c5 pawn without support. White can then play to win the c5 pawn. This will be a significant gain, and once it has been achieved then it will be time to re-evaluate the position. Let's see how this works out in the game:

39 h4 ♖e8 **40 h5** gxh5+

40 ... ♗f7 looks unplayable due to 41 hxg6+ ♗xg6 42 ♙e7 followed by ♙d6.

41 ♗xh5 ♗f7 **42** ♙h4 a6

Black has no choice but to start advancing pawns. 42 ... ♙b8 loses beautifully to 43 ♙d8! ♗e8 44 ♗g6! ♗xd8 45 ♗xg7 ♗e8 46 ♗f6 ♙c7 47 ♗xe6 etc.

43 g4 b5 44 ♙f2 g6+

44 ... ♙b6 45 f5 looks to give excellent winning chances.

45 ♗h4?

Letting Black off the hook; I believe that this was my only mistake in this ending, but it could have cost me the win. 45 ♗h6! was correct, leading to a similar position to the one reached in the game.

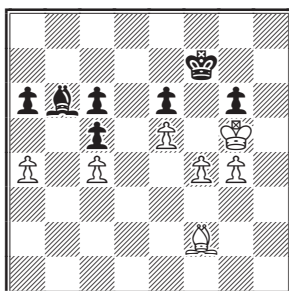
45 ... bxc4

45 ... ♙d8+!

46 bxc4 ♙b6

I realised here that the game ought to end in a draw. The point is that Black can always keep the White king at bay with careful defence.

47 ♗g5



47 ... ♙d8+?

Returning the favour. My last move was a complete bluff, and I was very relieved when David allowed my king to h6. 47 ... ♗g7! was the way to draw. 48 f5 (48 ♗h4 ♗f7 and all White can do is put the king on e4 and play f5, but this is no improvement over the main line) 48 ... gx f5 49 gx f5 ♗f7! 50 ♙e3 (50 f6 ♙c7 51 ♙g3 ♙b8 etc) 50 ... ♙d8+ 51 ♗g4 ♙b6 52 ♙f2 ♙c7 53 ♗f4 ♙b6 and I see no way through for White. 54 f6 (54 ♙g1 ♗e7) 54 ... ♗g6 55 a5 ♙xa5 56 ♙xc5 ♙c3 57 ♙d6 a5 58 ♗e4 ♙e1 and I still don't see anything. If White gets his king to a4 and bishop on c7 to win the a5 pawn, Black can simply put his bishop on c3 preparing to take on e5.

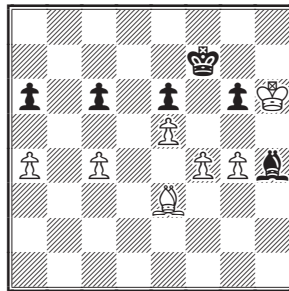
48 ♗h6

I have now almost reached the end of my 3-stage plan. The c-pawn can be won by force from here.

48 ... ♙e7 **49** ♗h7 ♙d8

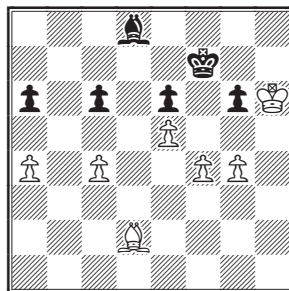
49 ... ♙f8?? 50 ♙h4 ♙g7 51 ♙e7 wins; 49 ... g5?? 50 ♙e3 and the g-pawn will decide the game.

50 ♙xc5 ♙h4 **51** ♙e3 ♙g3 **52** ♗h6 ♙h4



So I have won a pawn, but realized at this point that I had quite a major hurdle to overcome, namely that my king is trapped in the corner! Black is just going to keep his bishop on the d8-h4 diagonal and it is hard to see what White can achieve; clearly there is nothing for the bishop to do as all of Black's pieces, except for his own bishop, are planted on light squares. On further reflection I saw a single possibility for a pawn breakthrough. To be honest I was not wildly optimistic about my winning chances at this point, though in fact it turns out that the plan I had in mind is quite powerful indeed.

53 ♙d2 ♙d8 **54** ♙e1 ♙b6 **55** ♙g3 ♙a5 **56** ♙f2 ♙d8 **57** ♙e1 ♙b6 **58** ♙d2 ♙d8



59 g5!

Having achieved the best possible situation in terms of the positions of the bishops, I initiated the aforementioned pawn breakthrough.

59 ... ♙b6

If 59 ... ♙c7, with the possible idea of taking on f5 with the g-pawn, then simply 60 ♗h7. Black can try keeping his bishop on the b8-h2 diagonal but this doesn't seem to make too much of a difference, e.g. 60 ... ♙b8 61 f5 exf5 62 e6+ ♗xe6 63 ♗xg6 f4 64 ♙e1! with similar variations to those given in the game—Black's counterplay looks to be too slow in all cases.

60 f5! exf5 61 e6+ ♗xe6 **62** ♗xg6

So by returning the extra pawn, White has obtained a powerful passed pawn supported by his king. It is obvious that Black can be forced to give up his own bishop to stop the pawn, but the danger is that the Black king may be able to eliminate White's remaining pawns. At the time I was not too confident about my winning chances (running short of time, I could not calculate everything and was just playing the necessary moves and hoping for the best!), but it turns out that in fact White wins in all variations!

62 ... ♙d4

Black will clearly have to play this at some point in the next few moves.

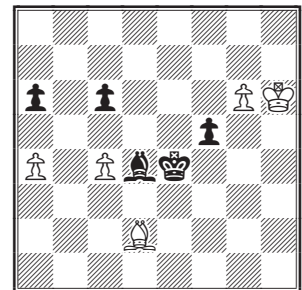
63 ♗h7

63 ♙f4? ♙e5 achieves nothing.

63 ... ♗e5

63 ... ♗d6 is pointless as 64 g6 ♗c5? allows 65 ♙e3! (bishop diversions are something of a theme from this point on!).

64 g6 ♗e4



65 ♙e1!

I was very pleased with this move, taking the bishop out of harm's way and preparing to gain time on the Black bishop if required. Black has three key plans from this position. He can:

1) advance his own f-pawn to win the White bishop

2) go after the White a-pawn with his king

3) fix the White c-pawn with the intention of winning it (the plan chosen in the game).

Let's see how the first two options work out:

1) 65 ... f4 66 c5 f3 67 g7 ♙xg7 68 ♗xg7 ♗e3 69 ♗f6 f2 70 ♙xf2+ ♗xf2

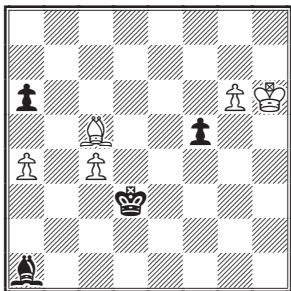
71 ♖e6 and White wins easily;
 2) 65 ... ♗d3 66 c5 ♗c4 67 ♕f2 ♖b2
 68 g7 ♕xg7 69 ♖xg7 ♗b4 70 ♖f6 f4
 71 ♖f5 f3 72 ♖f4 ♗xa4 73 ♖xf3 ♗b4
 74 ♖e4 a5 75 ♖e5 a4 76 ♗d6 wins

This leaves David's choice, certainly the best practical chance...

65 ... c5 66 ♕f2!

Of course, the drawback of Black's plan is that it allows his own c-pawn to be taken.

66 ... ♖a1 67 ♕xc5 ♗d3



And now for my moment of glory...

68 ♕d4!!

Quite possibly the most attractive move I have ever played, and it also

happens to be lethal for Black. I was down to my last 5 minutes at this stage. It only took me a few seconds to see the move, and as I checked the variations it became harder and harder to restrain a smile from creeping onto my face. I now knew that I was about to become an IM!

68 ... f4

One of the attractive points of my last move is that if 68 ... ♕xd4 69 c5 f4 70 c6 f3 (70 ... ♕e5 71 g7 doesn't help) 71 c7 f2 72 c8=♖ f1=♖ 73 ♖xa6+ wins the queen on f1!; Obviously 68 ... ♗xd4 is no good because of 69 g7.

69 g7 f3 70 g8=♖ ♕xd4 71 ♖g6+ ♗d2

71 ... ♖e3 72 ♖g1+ f2 73 ♖f1; 71 ... ♖e2 may have lasted a bit longer, but White wins easily enough after 72 ♖c2+ ♖e3 73 ♖d1 blockading the pawn.

72 ♖e4

... and at this point David resigned.

1-0

I have to pay tribute to David at this point; considering how disappointed he must have been feeling to miss out on a GM norm, he took his defeat remark-

ably well. He began discussing some of the critical moments in the game and congratulated me on achieving the IM title. At the time of writing David has just obtained his first GM norm at the final 4NCL weekend, and it is clear that he is well and truly on the road to the title.

Final Results

GM A 1st GM Tiviakov, 8½/9; 2nd GM Kulaots, 7/9; 3rd GM Korneev, 6/9 ... 6th = IM Williams, 4/9

GM B 1st GM Akesson, 6½/9; 2nd IM Howell, 6/9; 3rd = IM Barkhagen; FM Greet, 5/9; 4th = GM Ward, 4½/9

IMA 1st = GM Kveinys, GM Westerinen, 7½/9; 3rd = Moskow, FM Hole, 5½/9 ... 6th = Cooksey, 4/9

Thanks must go to Hans Olav Lahlum, not only for organizing the event but also for subsequently providing me with a great deal of useful information on the history of the Gausdal Classics. For full details of the event, including all games and detailed reports, visit <http://home.online.no/~eirikgu/kausdal2005/>

Sergei Tiviakov annotates his best game from Gausdal

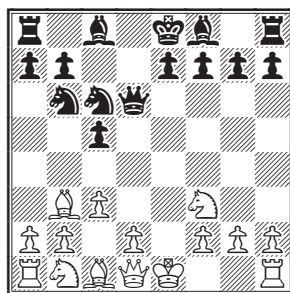
S.Tiviakov (2631) White
 K.Kulaots (2572) Black
 Round Nine,
 Gausdal Classic 2005
Sicilian Defence

This game from the last round of the tournament in Gausdal was not of great sporting significance for me. Even if I had only drawn it I would still have taken a clear 1st place in the tournament. Nevertheless, playing with White, I wanted to see if my opponent could show a clear way to equality in a variation I have been playing quite often lately. Also I wanted to score as many points in the tournament as I could since I was in excellent form, winning practically every game!

1 e4 c5 2 c3 ♗f6 3 e5 ♗d5 4 ♗f3 ♗c6 5 ♕c4 ♗b6 6 ♖b3 d5

6 ... c4 has been tried against me before but Black never seems to be able to get clearly equal chances. Here he decides on another approach, the less sharp 6 ... d5, where theoretical knowledge is not so important.

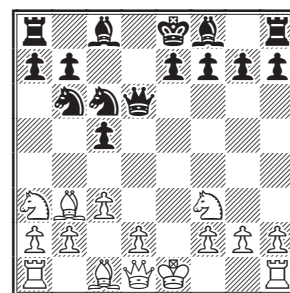
7 exd6 ♖xd6



8 ♗a3

When I faced 6 ... d5 for the first time, I immediately chose a less accurate order of moves, 8 0-0?!, which allowed Black to equalise without any problem after 8 ... ♕e6! 9 ♗a3 ♕xb3 10 axb3 ♖d3!= (The point of Black's play! White can't play d2-d4 and has to spend some time preparing it; meanwhile Black safely finishes his development) 11 ♖c2!?! (11 ♕e1 and 11 ♗e1 have also been played here) 11 ... ♗d8 12 ♖xd3 ♗xd3 13 ♗c2 (A new move. 13 ♗c4 also led to a draw after 13 ... ♗xc4 14 bxc4 e6 15 ♕e1 ♕e7 16 ♗e5 ♗xe5 17 ♕xe5 a6 18 ♖f1 0-0 19 ♖e2 ♗fd8 20 ♕e3 ♗d6 21 d3 ♕g5 22 ♗g3 ♕xc1 23 ♕xc1 e5 24 b4 cxb4 25 cxb4 f6 26 ♕e3 ♖f7 27 ♕c3 ½-½ Sveshnikov-Gallagher, Mallorca 2004) 13 ... e6 14 ♗fe1 ♗d7 15 ♗f3 ♗d3 16 ♗fe1 (Here White has to repeat moves since 16 ♕e1 ♕e7 17 ♖f1 0-0 18 ♗e5 ♗xe5 19 ♕xe5 a6 20 ♖e2 ♗fd8; or 16 ♗d1 ♕e7 17 ♖f1 0-0 18 ♖e2 ♗fd8 would give Black the slightly better chances.) 16 ... ♗d7 17 ♗f3 (intending d4) 17 ... ♗d3 ½-½,

Tiviakov-Zhang Pengxiang, Bad Worishofen 2005 (17 ... ♕e7 18 d4±; 17 ... e5 18 ♕e1 intending d4).

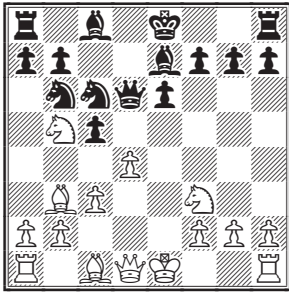


8 ... ♕e6

In the first round of the Gausdal tournament the youngest GM in the world, Magnus Carlsen chose the passive 8 ... e6 against me. Really the bishop on c8 has to be exchanged or developed. If Black plays e7-e6 with the bishop on c8 his position remains worse.

Now perhaps 9 0-0!?! is the most accurate. For example, 9 ... a6 (or 9 ... ♕e7 10 d4) 10 ♖e2 followed by ♗d1 and d4 with a slight advantage for White. But I went ... 9 d4 when 9 ... a6 should have been played automatically by a 2550 player, such as Carlsen. Obviously he has a few things still to work on... After 9 ... a6 the game is more or less equal, e.g. 10 dxc5 (10 0-0 cxd4 11 cxd4 ♕e7=; 10 ♕e3 cxd4 11 ♗xd4 ♗d5∞) 10 ... ♖xd1+ 11 ♕xd1 ♕xc5 12 ♗c2=;

However the game continued 9 ... ♕e7?! (Black now starts to experience problems) 10 ♗b5



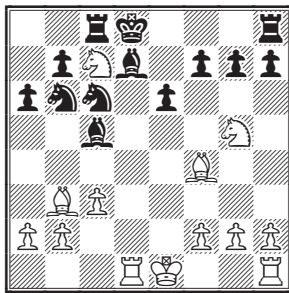
A) 10 ... ♖d8? (after this move Black finds himself in a very bad, if not lost position) 11 dxc5 ♗xc5 12 ♖xd8+ (12 ♗f4 0-0 13 0-0± is also possible, but less tempting) 12 ... ♗xd8 13 ♗f4 a6 (after 13 ... ♗e7 14 ♗g5± there is a threat of ♗e4 winning the ♗c5; 13 ... ♗d5 loses after 14 ♗xd5 exd5 15 ♗c7 ♖b8 16 ♗xd5)

A1) 14 ♗c7 ♖a7 15 0-0-0+ (15 ♗g5 e5 16 ♗d5 ♗xd5 17 ♗xd5 exf4 18 ♗xf7+ ♗e7 19 ♗xh8 ♗e6∞) 15 ... ♗e7 16 ♗g5 ♗a8 17 ♗e4 ♗xc7 18 ♗xc5 with advantage for White due his bishop-pair in an open position.

A2) 14 ♖d1+

A21) Now correct is 14 ... ♗e7 15 ♗c7 (or 15 ♗d6±) 15 ... ♖a7 16 ♗g5 ♗a8 17 ♗e4 ♗xc7 18 ♗xc5± and though Black's position is bad at least he doesn't lose material. But Carlsen played...

A22) 14 ... ♗d7?! (This natural move loses) 15 ♗c7! ♖c8 16 ♗g5! (The triumph of the White's strategy! All of his pieces are in play, harmonically coordinating between each other!)



A221) 16 ... ♖f8 loses after 17 ♗cxe6+ fxe6 18 ♗xe6+ ♗e8 19 ♗xg7+ ♗d8 20 ♗e6+ ♗e8 21 ♗xf8;

A222) 16 ... ♗e7 is not satisfactory for Black either, e.g. 17 ♗e4 e5 18 ♗xc5 ♖xc7 (18 ... exf4 19 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 20 ♗d5++) 19 ♗e3+;

A223) 16 ... e5 17 ♗d5 ♗xd5 (17 ... exf4 18 ♗xf7+ ♗e8 19 ♗xb6 ♗xb6 20 ♗xh8+; 17 ... ♖f8 18 ♗xb6 ♗xb6 19 ♗g3+- intending ♗f7) 18 ♗xf7+ ♗e7 19 ♖xd5 exf4

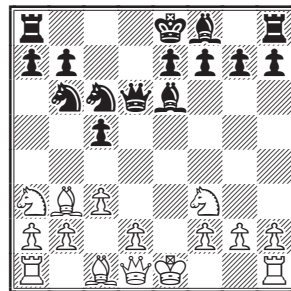
A2231) It was possible to win the exchange without losing the knight on h8 which would have been a nice end to this game! For example, 20 ♗xh8+ ♗a5 (20 ... ♗b6 21 0-0! ♖xh8 22 ♖e1+ ♗d8 23 ♖ed1 ♗b8 24 ♗a4+; 20 ... b6 21 0-0! ♖xh8 22 ♖e1+ ♗d8 23 ♖ed1 ♗b8 24 ♗a4 b5 25 ♗c2+- intending

♗f5) 21 ♗d1+- with the idea of ♖d7, b4. But I played...

A2232) 20 ♖xc5?! ♖hf8 21 ♗g5 ♖f5 22 ♖xf5 ♗xf5 23 0-0 ♗f6 24 ♗f3 and although White has a winning ending he has to do some technical work to convert the extra pawn into a point, which is what eventually happened: 24 ... ♖e8 25 ♖d1 ♖e2 26 ♖d6+ ♗e7 27 ♖d2 ♖xd2 28 ♗xd2 ♗e5 29 g3 g5 30 gxf4 gxf4 31 ♗d5 b6 32 ♗g2 ♗g4 33 b4 ♗d6 34 ♗e4 h6 35 ♗f3 ♗xf3 36 ♗xf3 ♗e6 37 a3 ♗e5 38 ♗b7 a5 39 ♗f3 ♗d7 40 ♗e4 ♗a4 41 ♗d3 ♗d7 42 ♗f1 ♗e6 43 ♗b5 ♗f5 44 ♗e2 ♗e4 45 ♗d2 ♗f5 46 ♗d3 ♗e6 47 ♗c2 ♗f7 48 ♗f1 ♗e6 49 ♗d3 ♗f7 50 c4 axb4 51 axb4 ♗g6+ 52 ♗c3 ♗e4 53 c5 bxc5 54 bxc5 ♗c6 55 ♗b4 ♗d5 56 ♗b5 ♗e4 57 ♗e2 f3 58 ♗c4 ♗a8 59 c6 ♗d4 60 c7 ♗b7 61 ♗e6 1-0 Tiviakov-Carlsen, Gausdal 2005.

B) 10 ... ♖b8 was the only move, after which White gets the better chances by 11 dxc5 (or 11 g3 cxd4 12 cxd4 ♗b4+ 13 ♗f1 ♗d6 14 ♗xd6+ ♖xd6 15 ♗f4± is interesting) 11 ... ♗xc5 12 0-0 (12 ♗e3 ♗xe3 13 ♗d6+ ♗e7 14 ♗xc8+ ♖xc8 15 fxe3± with an attack) 12 ... 0-0 13 ♗g5 h6 14 ♗e4 ♗e7 15 ♗e3±;

C) 10 ... ♖d7? 11 dxc5 ♗xc5 12 ♖xd7+ ♗xd7 13 ♗f4± is bad for Black and is similar to the line 10 ... ♖d8.



9 d4

Now, compared to the line 8 0-0, White can play this move immediately and gain a plus in all the subsequent variations.

9 ... ♗xb3

There is a great deal of theory after 9 ... cxd4 10 ♗b5 ♖d7 11 ♗bxd4 (11 ♗xe6 ♖xe6+ 12 ♗e3 ♖d7 13 ♗bxd4±) 11 ... ♗xb3 12 ♖xb3 ♗xd4 13 ♗xd4± with many practical examples. White is slightly better as he has a pawn majority on the queenside and a lead in development.

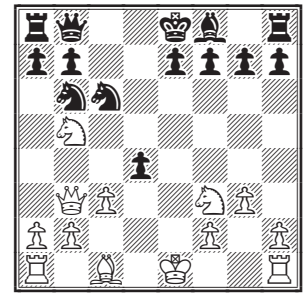
10 ♖xb3 cxd4 11 ♗b5 ♖b8

11 ... ♖d7 is more accurate since it gives White less freedom of choice. After 12 ♗bxd4 (12 ♗f4 ♗a5 13 ♖b4 ♗c6 14 ♖b3 ♗a5=) 12 ... ♗xd4 13 ♗xd4± White is better (see the note to 9 ... cxd4).

Now 12 0-0 dxc3!? leads to a well-known position where White has compensation for the pawn. (12 ... e6 13 ♗bxd4± ♗e7 14 ♖b5 ♖c7 15 ♗xc6

bxc6 16 ♖e5 ♖xe5 17 ♗xe5 ♖c8 18 a4 f6 19 a5 ♗d5 20 ♗c4 a6 21 ♗e3 ♗f7 22 ♖fd1 ♖b8 23 ♗f1 g5 24 ♗e2 ♖hd8 25 ♗b6 h5 26 g3 1/2-1/2 Rabiaga-Fridman, Essen 2002). But simply 12 ♗bxd4 ♗xd4 13 ♗xd4 is enough for a slight plus for White.

12 g3!?



A very interesting novelty although it is probably not the strongest move in the position. But 12 g3 puts a lot of pressure on Black who has to start calculating lots of sharp variations in order not to lose by force which can happen, for example, after 12 ... dxc3 13 ♗f4 e5 14 ♗g5.

12 ... ♖d8?!

Surprised by White's moves, Black doesn't put up the toughest defence: 12 ... dxc3 or 12 ... d3.

12 ... e6? is bad because of 13 ♗f4 e5 14 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 15 cxd4± winning a pawn; 12 ... a6 13 ♗bxd4 ♗xd4 14 ♗xd4± is possible.

12 ... dxc3 13 ♗f4 cxb2 (13 ... e5 loses after 14 ♗g5 ♗d8 15 0-0-0! with a decisive attack) 14 ♖xb2 e5 15 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 16 ♗xe5 ♗c4 17 ♗xb8 ♗xb2 18 ♗xa7 ♗d7 19 0-0±;

12 ... d3!? is the move I looked at most during the game. The pawn on d4 cannot be taken now and the 'd' file remains closed. White has to spend some time winning back this pawn. Eventually he does, retaining the advantage. For example:

A) 13 ♗e3 ♗d7 (13 ... a6 14 ♗xb6 axb5 15 ♖xb5± attacking d3) 14 0-0-0 (14 ♖d1 a6) 14 ... a6 15 ♗a3 e6 16 ♖xd3 b5 is unclear;

B) 13 0-0 13 ... e5 (or 13 ... ♗d7 14 ♗f4 e5 15 ♗g5 ♗d8 16 ♖c4!±; 13 ... e6 14 ♗f4+-) 14 ♗g5 ♗d8 15 ♖d1 h6 (15 ... ♗e7 16 ♖xd3 0-0 17 ♗e3±) 16 ♗f3 ♗e6 (16 ... ♗c5 17 ♗e1±) 17 ♗e3±.

13 ♗f4 ♖c8 14 0-0-0!

The whole of White's play is perfectly natural and he develops all of his pieces. Now Black has to exchange queens otherwise he loses material.

14 ... ♖d5

The only move. 14 ... d3 loses after 15 ♖he1; 14 ... ♗a5 costs Black the exchange after 15 ♖c2 ♖d5 16 ♗fxd4 ♖xa2 17 ♗c7+ ♖xc7 18 ♗xc7±; 14 ... e6 15 ♗fxd4 is lost for Black.

15 ♗fxd4

15 ♖he1 looks tempting but winning

the exchange leaves White facing problems with his knight stuck on h8. White doesn't need to enter such complications. He should play it safe and strong! After 15 ♖he1 ♗xf3 (15 ... ♗xb3 16 axb3 e6 17 ♖fxd4 ♗xd4 18 ♗xd4 transposes to 15 ♖fxd4) 16 ♗d6+ ♗d7 17 ♗xf7 ♗d5 18 ♗xh8 ♗xb3 (18 ... ♗e8 19 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 20 ♗e5±) 19 axb3 ♗e8 and the position is unclear.

15 ... ♗xd4

15 ... ♗xb3 16 axb3± is similar to the game.

16 ♗xd4 ♗xb3

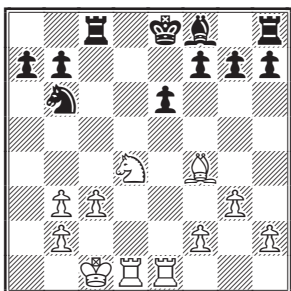
16 ... e6 17 ♖he1 ♗xb3 18 axb3 leads us to the same position as via the move order 16 ... ♗xb3.

17 axb3 e6

After 17 ... a6 18 ♖he1 it is not clear how Black can complete his development since 18 ... e6?? loses to 19 ♗xe6. Nor does 17 ... ♗d5 help Black, since after 18 ♗e5 e6 19 ♖he1± the bishop on f8 remains on its starting square for some time.

18 ♖he1!?

Stronger than 18 ♗b5 a6 when I can't find anything decisive for White, e.g. 19 ♗c7+ ♗e7 20 ♖he1 ♗f6!± holding the position.



18 ... ♗c5

18 ... ♗d7 is a worthy alternative to the text, although it is not easy to make such a move during the game. White would then have at least one line that gives him an extra pawn in the rook ending but he can probably play even stronger somewhere. 19 ♗b5!?! a6 20 ♗c7+!?! (20 ♗d6+ ♗xd6 21 ♗xd6±) 20 ... ♗d8 (the only move as 20 ... ♗e7 21 ♗g5+ ♗f6 22 ♗d5+ wins) 21 ♖d3 ♖xc7 22 ♖ed1 ♗c8 23 ♗xc7 (23 b4 ♗d6 24 ♗xd6 ♖c6±) 23 ... ♗c5 24 ♖f3 ♗xc7 25 ♖xf7+ ♗c8 26 b4 ♗e4 27 f4 g5 28 ♖d4 ♗d6 29 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 30 ♖xd6 gxf4 31 gxf4 ♖xf4 32 ♖xe6± with good winning chances.

19 ♗b5! a6

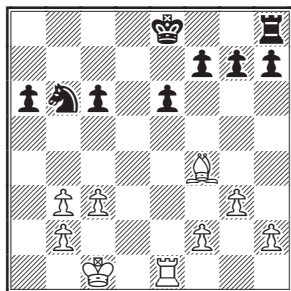
19 ... 0-0 loses a pawn after 20 ♗d6! ♗xd6 (20 ... ♖fe8 21 ♗xc5 ♖xc5 22

♗d6 ♖b8 23 ♗xb7+) 21 ♖xd6 attacking the ♗b6, and pawn a7; 19 ... ♗xf2 20 ♗d6+ wins. But 19 ... ♗e7 is interesting when White can win a piece for several pawns, e.g. 20 b4!?! ♗xb4 21 ♗b1 ♗c5 22 b4 ♗xf2 23 ♖e2 a6 24 ♗d6±.

20 ♗d6+ ♗xd6 21 ♖xd6 ♖c6

Black has to spoil his pawn structure otherwise he cannot cover all the holes in his position against penetration by the White rooks. For example, 21 ... ♗d7 22 ♖ed1 ♗c5 (if 22 ... ♗f6 23 ♖b6 is decisive) 23 ♖b6 winning; Or 21 ... ♗a8 22 ♖ed1±, followed by ♖d7.

22 ♖xc6 bxc6



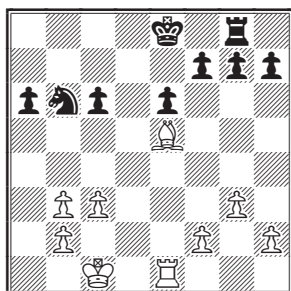
Another critical position is reached. Although White's advantage is obvious it is not easy to achieve anything decisive since the Black pawns on a6 and c6 are on white squares and can easily be defended by the rook. That's why White's rook has to invade the Black position... But how?

23 ♗c5!

First of all the rook on h8 has to be tied to the defence of the g7 pawn or the king driven away from the centre! After 23 ♗c2 ♗e7± with the idea 24 ♖a1 ♖a8 Black can defend successfully.

23 ... ♗g8

23 ... 0-0± is possible, although the weak pawns on a6, c6, and the remote position of the ♗g8 should decide the game in White's favour.



24 ♖e4!!

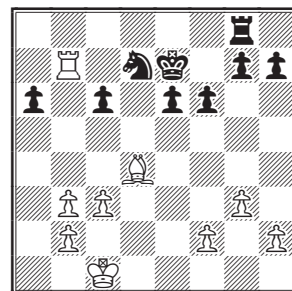
Not an easy move to find and make.

A long line had to be calculated. I am very proud of the manoeuvre ♖e1-e4-b4-b7-a7 played in the style of my best games from the past. After the slow 24 ♗c2 ♗e7!?! Black can defend. (but not 24 ... ♗d7 25 ♖d1+ ♗c8 26 ♖d6 ♗b7 27 c4±).

24 ... ♗e7

The only move. Everything else loses. For example, 24 ... ♗d7 25 ♗d6 ♗f6 26 ♖b4 ♗d7 27 ♗e5 ♗e7 28 ♗xf6+ (28 ♖b7+ ♗d7—24 ... ♗e7) 28 ... ♗xf6 29 ♖b6+; 24 ... f6 25 ♗d4+

25 ♖b4 ♗d7 26 ♖b7 f6 27 ♗d4



27 ... ♖b8?

Based on a miscalculation, my opponent forgets that the rook can be trapped on b3. After the correct 27 ... e5 28 ♗c5+! (28 ♗e3 ♖a8= is equal since Black threatens ♗d6, c5, ♗c6, trapping the ♖b7, or ♗d8-c8) 28 ... ♗c6 29 ♗a3 ♖b8 (29 ... e4 30 ♖a7 ♗e5 31 ♖xa6±) 30 ♖c7 ♖b6 31 ♗c2± followed by ♗b4-a5, Black eventually loses either the a6 or c6 pawn.

28 ♖a7

Now the game is almost over. White wins a pawn or the exchange if Black takes on b3, as indeed happens in the game.

28 ... ♖xb3

The inclusion of the moves 28 ... e5 29 ♗c5 doesn't change anything, e.g. 29 ... ♖xb3 30 ♗c5+ ♗e6 31 ♗b4 attacking the ♖b3.

29 ♗c5+ ♗d8 30 ♗b4 c5 31 ♗c2 c4 32 ♖xa6 ♗e5

Or 32 ... e5 33 ♖c6 winning.

33 ♖d6+

33 ♖xe6 ♗c7 34 ♖e7+ ♗c6 35 ♖xg7 wins.

33 ... ♗c7 34 ♖d4

Black can't save the pawn c4 and the rook b3 and so resigned. This nice win in the last round of the Gausdal tournament allowed me to finish with 8½ points out of 9, my best performance in recent years and one that gained me 22 Elo rating points.

1-0

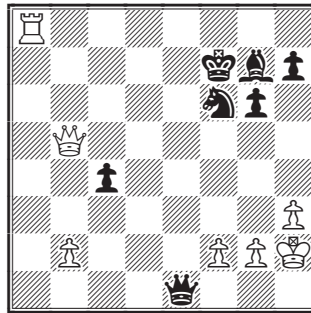
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FIND THE WINNING MOVES

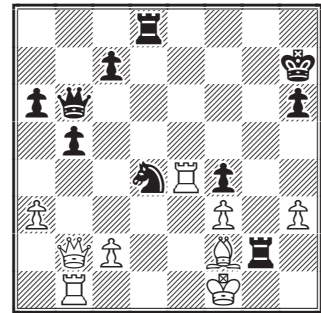
From the 21st Open at **Cappelle la Grande** near Calais, France, where club players compete in the same tournament as the Grandmasters. Solutions are on page 26

4
M.Abeln-M.Oleksienko
Round Four



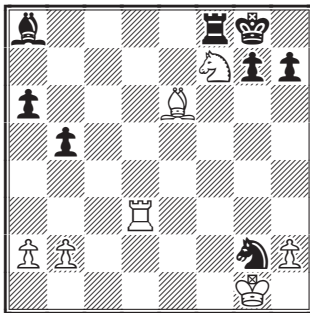
Black to move

8
W.Muhren-V.Yemelin
Round Three



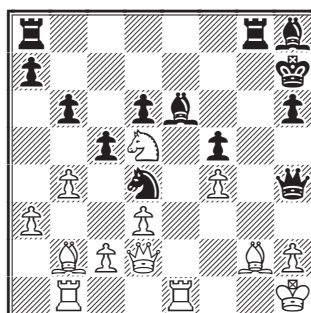
Black to move

1
T.Thorhallsson-S.Leburgue
Round Six



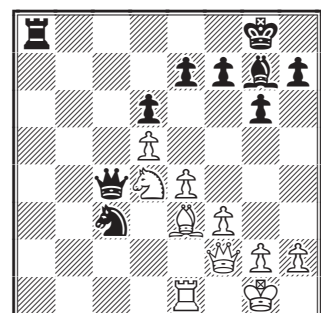
White to move

5
B.Collette-K.Georgiev
Round Six



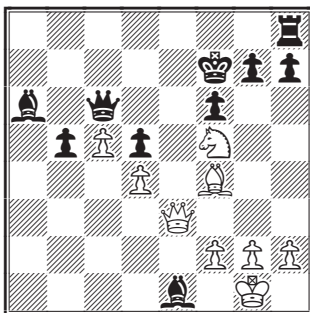
Black to move

9
Y.Zimmerman-Bo.Vuckovic
Round Seven



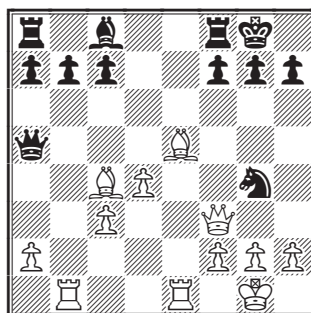
Black to move

2
D.Gormally-I.Gourlay
Round One



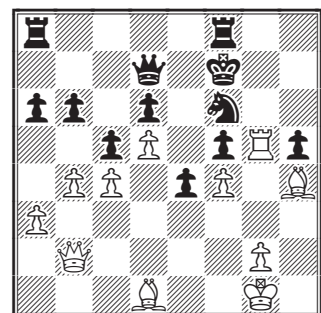
White to move

6
N.Gerard-G.Israel
Round Five



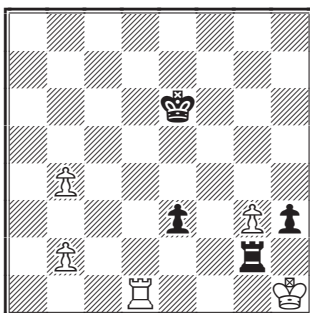
White to move

10
D.Shengelia-T.Calistri
Round Five



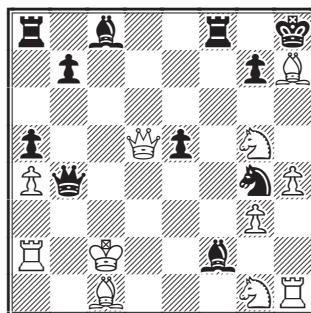
White to move

3
N.Zdebskaja-K.Jakubowski
Round Two



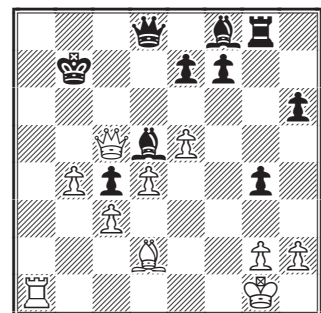
Black to move

7
S.Sulskis-D.Saiboulatov
Round One



Black to move

11
M.Hebden - S.Feller
Round Three



White to move

The Bunratty Chess Festival 2005 was held in the Bunratty Shamrock Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare. Bunratty is a tiny village just 5 miles from

Shannon airport with a large medieval castle and a folk park, both of which are their main attractions for 51 weeks of the year. But for one week in February each year the main attraction is the *chess* and 305 players turned up to challenge for the four titles at stake in this year's Bunratty Chess Festival. The main event is the Masters and this year it was the strongest event ever—it had four grandmasters, seven international masters and three FIDE masters among its thirty-four participants.

John Nunn was the top seed and was playing Bunratty for a seventh time. In fact John's only regular chess event is the Bunratty Masters. A quick look at the past winners of this prestigious title will reveal that up until this year, no player had ever won the event twice. John won the title in 2003 and tied for first place no less than three other times but was unlucky with the tiebreak or the blitz play-offs. Second seed was Joel Benjamin, the American GM who married Irish international chess player, Deborah Quinn. Joel played in the event in 2003 but ended up half a point behind the winners. As Joel was coming over, he also brought along a good friend, and our fourth seed, GM John Fedorowicz. John fitted right in with the social scene and the slightly less serious, non-FIDE rated, chess event. When, after the event, I asked John if he'd like to play Bunratty again next year, he replied, "Gerry, if I'm not dead, I'm playing". Our third seed was the 1995 winner of the event, Ireland's own Alexander Baburin. He may have been born in Russia but in many ways he's more Irish than the Irish themselves, apart from one thing, he can't stand Guinness!

The international masters were Brian Kelly, Rashid Ziadinov, Craig Hanley, Sam Collins, Robert Collins, Stephen Mannion and Mark Heidenfeld. Brian, originally from Limerick, Ireland, is the only one of these who has won the event, back in 2002. One of our three FIDE masters was actually the defending champion, 21-year-old Lorin D'Costa from London.

One of Ireland's most promising juniors, Alex Lopez (2214) from Cork was lucky (or unlucky) enough to be paired with John Nunn in the first round and the game went with odds, as did all the others, bar one. On board 15, Brian Galligan (2010) held Philip Short FM to a draw.

BUNRATTY CHESS FESTIVAL

by Gerry Graham

PHOTO: JOHN HENDERSON

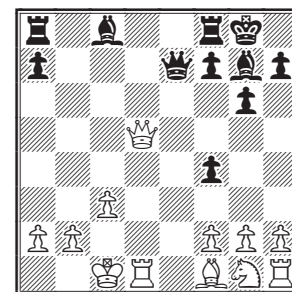


A home win for Brian Kelly but "I'll be back!" warns The Fed

In round 3 it was John Fedorowicz's turn to face another Irish junior, 16 year old Karl McPhillips (2228) and John did the business to reach 2½ out of 3 along with no less than 7 other players. In the same round, Ireland's latest IM, Sam Collins faced 'The Doc' and went down as follows;

Sam Collins White
John Nunn Black
Pirc Defence

1 e4 d6 2 d4 ♘f6 3 ♖c3 g6 4 ♙g5 c6 5 ♗d2 b5 6 e5 b4 7 exf6 bxc3 8 ♗xc3 exf6 9 d5 ♙g7 10 dxc6 0-0 11 ♙e3 f5 12 ♗a3 ♖xc6 13 0-0-0 d5 14 ♗c5 (14 ♖f3) 14 ... ♗f6 15 c3 f4 16 ♙d4 ♖xd4 17 ♗xd4 ♗e7! 18 ♗xd5



18 ... ♙xc3!

White is being punished for leaving all his kingside pieces at home. From there they cannot help put out the fire on the queenside.

19 ♗d6 ♗xd6 20 ♖xd6 ♙e5 21 ♖d5 ♙f6 22 ♖d6 ♙e6 23 ♖e2 ♗ac8+ 24 ♖c3 ♙xc3

Lightning does strike twice in the same place!

25 **bxc3** ♖xc3+ 26 ♖b2 ♖c5

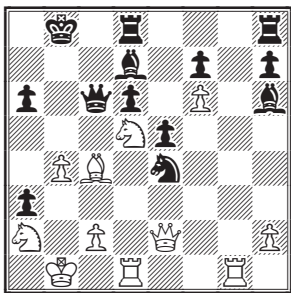
Not 26 ... ♖fc8?! as the rooks cannot combine along the files.

27 ♙d3 ♖b8+ 28 ♖a1 ♙xa2! 29 ♖a6 ♙d5 and Sam had had enough. 0-1

With the top 4 boards all drawing in round 4 (2 hard fought, 2 not quite so) round 5 began with 8 players on 3/4 so it was now time to fight, and fight they did. There were no draws on the top four boards and the best game of the event was transmitted to a thronged bar via Bunratty's impressive display, they were treated to the following battle;

John Nunn White
John Fedorowicz Black
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♙g5 e6 7 f4 ♙e7 8 ♖f3 ♖c7 9 0-0-0 ♘bd7 10 g4 b5 11 ♙xf6 ♘xf6 12 g5 ♘d7 13 f5 ♘c5 14 f6 gxf6 15 gxf6 ♙f8 16 ♖h5 ♙d7 17 a3 ♖a5 18 ♙e2 b4 19 ♘a2 bxa3 20 b4 ♖b6 21 ♖hg1 (21 e5!?) 21 ... e5 22 ♘f5 ♘xe4 23 ♙c4 0-0-0 24 ♘e7+ ♖b8 25 ♘d5 ♖c6 26 ♖e2 (26 ♙b3!?) 26 ... ♙h6+ 27 ♖b1



27 ... ♘d2+ 28 ♖xd2 ♙xd2 29 ♖d1 ♙f4 30 ♘xf4 exf4 31 ♙xf7 ♖hf8 32 ♙d5 ♖b6 33 f7 ♙c6 34 ♙e6 f3 35 ♖c4 f2 36 ♘c3 d5 37 ♖f4+ ♖a7 38 ♘xd5 ♙xd5 39 ♖xd5 f1=♖+ 40 ♖xf1 ♖xb4+ 0-1

One of the many Limerick Chess Club's members playing in the Major event was so caught up in watching this game on the display that he allowed his flag to fall rather than miss the last few moves and the discussions/predictions that were going on in the bar.

On board 2, Alex Baburin ended Joel Benjamin's hopes in a long hard struggle. On board 3, Brian Kelly put a stop to the defending champion's run while on board 4, the young English IM Craig Hanley, playing Bunratty for the first time, defeated Mark Heidenfeld. Incidentally, Craig also brought along his brother, James Hanley (2056) and both really enjoyed their first taste of the Irish chess scene.

This set up the final round pairings like this:

Fedorowicz (4)—Baburin (4)
Kelly (4) Hanley (4)
Rochev 93½)—Nunn (3)
Benjamin (3)—Lopez (3)
Ziadinov (3)—D'Costa (3)

Lorin D'Costa, playing in his fourth Bunratty, had, by his previous standard, a bad event, going down in a hard struggle to Rashid Ziadinov while Joel found it necessary to teach Alex Lopez a thing or two about accurate play in a blitz finish, mating Alex's king with 8 seconds to spare on his clock. John Nunn had an impressive win over the very solid Uri Rochev while Brian Kelly outplayed Craig Hanley to reach 5/6. John and Alex on board one both knew the result of Brian's game and this made them both fight all the harder for a win. About move 40, the large assembled crowd thought that Black had the edge but not enough to win. Black certainly gave it a good go though and round about move 65 he eventually had to admit that despite his extra pawn, he'd have to share the point with White.

This left the organising committee delighted with a 'home win' as two of the committee, Paul Carey and myself, were Brian's first chess tutors for about 4 years. As John Nunn remarked rather wittily "Brian survived that pretty well". However, we were a little sad to see our record of 12 year's disappear, we now had a two-time winner of the Bunratty Masters.

Masters prizewinners

1st **IM Brian Kelly Ireland** 5/6
2nd= GM Alex Baburin *Ireland*, GM John Fedorowicz *USA* 4½/6
Best untitled Irish player:
FM Joe Ryan 3½/6
Grading Prize: Under 2200 Elo:
Tom Nixon *England* 3/6

While the Masters is undoubtedly the showcase event of Bunratty, it is certainly not the only competition. The Challengers is aimed at the upper echelons of chess club players (up to BCF 175 Elo-2000). This years Challengers was the strongest field yet, it had 72 players from as far afield as Netherlands, Spain and Scotland. Its strength was emphasised when the defending champion, Frank Noonan pointed out to me that he was this year's 14th seed. It was a very hard fought event with the final places decided in the last few minutes of play, he's how it finished;

Challengers prizewinners (All Irish)

1st Paul Kiely 5½/6
2nd= Gareth Fitzmaurice,
Frank Noonan 5/6

The Major event is for the majority of club players (up to BCF 125—Elo 1600) and this is normally our largest event but in the last few years our Minor has overtaken it. Still, it had 85 players battling it out for the crystal trophy and the 400 euro first prize. There was a tie for first place and as is usual for Bunratty, it was decided by a blitz game, played on the electronic chessboard and watched by over 200 spectators on the display. It must have been agony for Anna Mueller to watch the display, listening to the crowd going "uuuhhhh and aaaaahhh" at every move or two while her 14 year old son, Jan played such an important game against his adult opponent. Anna can't play chess and she kept asking anyone who offer an opinion, "Is Jan winning?" She needn't have worried, such a large and illustrious crowd didn't in the least bit phase Jan, in his own words, "it was just another game of chess". The event ended like this;

Major prizewinners (All Irish)

1st = Jan Mueller (Trophy winner — Blitz play-off) Michael Normoyle. 5/6.

The **Minor** event shows us the future of the game is bright, 114 players came from all over the country to battle for the trophy and despite their modest ratings, battle they did. It was won in the end by a Belfast player, Richard Montgomery on 6/6, you can't ask for much more than that, can you.

If you want to be there next year, keep an eye on the Bunratty web site at <http://members.aol.com/bunrattychess/> Next year's dates will be announced soon and you can also get a pgn file of all the Masters games played for free.

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369 Euston Road,
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(concluded from last month)

G.Szamoskozi White

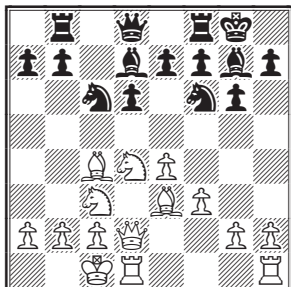
T.Woodward Black

First Saturday International Master

Tournament, September 2004

(Annotations by Tim Woodward)

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 ♗f6 4 ♖c3
cxd4 5 ♗xd4 g6 6 ♙e3 ♙g7 7 f3 0-0 8
♗d2 ♗c6 9 ♙c4 ♙d7 10 0-0-0 ♚b8!?



Dearing: This last move introduces the Chinese Dragon, a relatively fresh and uncompromising interpretation of modern Dragon theory. Hitherto relatively little has been written on the Chinese Dragon. Chris Ward (who, I believe, is actually Tim's coach) provides some coverage in his column for www.chesspublishing.com, and there are some small articles included in *New In Chess Yearbooks 71* and *72*. Alternatively, if you are looking for the bestest book on the Dragon ever, then *Play the Sicilian Dragon*, by Edward Dearing (published by GAMBIT), includes excellent coverage and is in shops now!

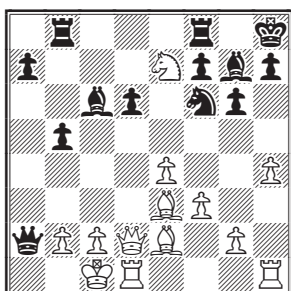
11 h4 b5 12 ♗xc6 ♙xc6 13 ♙e2 ♗a5!?

Woodward: 13 ... b4 14 ♗d5 ♙xd5 15 exd5 ♗c7 16 h5?! (16 ♖b1) 16 ... b3 17 axb3 ♚xb3 18 ♙d4 ♚fb8 19 c4♣ was my previous game in this line: Borisek-Woodward Budva 2003. I decided to deviate first to avoid any preparation.

14 ♖b1?

Dearing: It would appear that White's last move was a serious error, and one which is convincingly refuted by Tim. Instead Tim has offered us an extensive insight into his home preparations by providing the following variations:

14 ♗d5 ♗xa2 15 ♗xe7+ ♖h8 and now:



(analysis diagram)

DISCOVERING BUDAPEST

by Eddie Dearing



Tim Woodward played the Chinese Dragon

a) 16 c3? b4! 17 ♗xc6 (17 b3 ♗xb3 18 ♗b2 ♗xb2+ 19 ♖xb2 bxc3+ 20 ♖xc3? (20 ♖c1++) 20 ... ♗xe4+ 21 ♖c2 ♚b2+ 22 ♖c1 ♚xe2 23 fxe4 ♙b2+ 24 ♖b1 ♙xe4+++) 17 ... bxc3 18 ♗xc3 (18 ♗xb8 ♗xe4++) 18 ... ♗xe4!++ was the encouraging line I saw at the board, e.g. 19 ♗xc6 ♖xc6 20 ♙d4+ f6 21 fxe4 ♚fe8+.

b) After 16 ♗xd6 Black has 16 ... ♗d5 17 ♗xd5 (17 ♚xd5 ♙xd5 (17 ... ♗a1+?? 18 ♖d2 ♗xh1 19 ♗xc6+-) 18 ♗a3 (18 ♗xd5 ♗a1+) 18 ... ♗xa3 19 bxa3 ♙c4 20 ♙xc4 bxc4y) 17 ... ♗xb2+ 18 ♖d2 ♙xd5 19 ♖e1 (19 exd5 ♗c3+) 19 ... ♙c4m with the initiative, however even stronger seems to be 16 ... ♗g8! with the following possibilities:

b1) 17 ♙d3 ♚bd8! 18 ♗xc6 ♚xd3! (18 ... ♗xe7? 19 ♗xb5 is good for White; while 18 ... ♗xb2+ 19 ♖d2 ♗xe7 20 ♗b7 ♚xd3+ 21 ♖xd3 ♚d8+ 22 ♖e2 ♗xc2+ 23 ♚d2 also leaves Black struggling) 19 ♚xd3 ♗xe7 20 ♗d7 ♗a1+ 21 ♖d2 ♗xh1 22 ♗xe7 ♗xc6+ 23 ♖c1 ♗f1+ (23 ... ♗xf3?? 24 ♗xf8+ ♙xf8 25 ♙d4+);

b2) 17 ♗xc6?? ♙xb2+ 18 ♖d2 ♗a5+ 19 ♖d3 ♗c3 mate;

b3) 17 ♗a3 17 ... ♗xa3 18 ♗xc6+ fxe4 19 bxa3♣;

c) 16 ♗b4 ♙a8! and now:

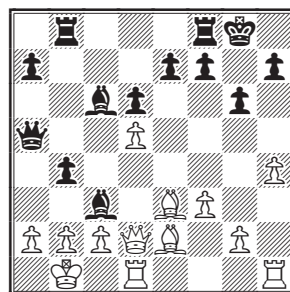
c1) 17 ♙d4?? ♙h6+ mates.

c2) 17 g4? ♚fe8 18 g5 ♗h5 shows why White needs to act quickly: the knight is trapped.

c3) 17 ♗a3 ♗xa3 18 bxa3 ♚fe8 19 ♙xa7 ♚b7 (19 ... ♚bd8? 20 ♙b6 ♚d7 21 ♙xb5±) 20 ♗c6 ♚c8 21 ♚xd6 ♗e8 22 ♚d2 ♚xc6 (22 ... ♚bc7!?) 23 ♚d8 ♙h6+ 24 ♖b2 ♚xa7 25 ♚xe8+ ♖g7 26 ♙xb5 ♚b6 27 c4 ♙c6 28 ♚e5 ♙e3! and ... ♖f6 is unstoppable! The best White can do is 29 ♖b3 ♖f6 30 ♚d5 ♙xd5 31 exd5 but this must be winning for Black.

c4) 17 h5 ♗xh5 (17 ... ♚fe8 18 h6! ♙f8 19 ♗c6! ♙xc6 20 ♗c3) 18 ♙d4 (18 ♗d5? ♙xd5 19 exd5 (19 ♚xd5 ♗a1+) 19 ... ♚fe8++; 18 ♗a3 ♗xa3 19 bxa3) 18 ... ♗g3 Black seems to retain the advantage in all lines, e.g. 19 ♙xc6 ♖xc6 ♗a1+; 22 ♗xd6 ♗a1+ 23 ♖d2 ♗xb2) 22 ... ♙xd5 23 ♚xd5 ♗xd5 24 exd5 ♚xe2♣, or 19 ♚he1 19 ... ♗xe2+ 20 ♚xe2 ♚be8 (20 ... f6 21 ♗xd6? ♚bd8 22 ♗a3 ♗xa3 23 bxa3 ♚fe8++) 21 ♗xd6 ♚d8 22 ♗a3 (22 ♗xd8?? ♚xd8 23 ♙xc6 ♖xc6 24 ♚xd8 ♗a1+ 25 ♖d2 ♗a5+) 22 ... ♗xa3 23 ♙xc6 ♖xc6 24 bxa3 ♚xd1+ 25 ♖xd1♣.

14 ... b4 15 ♗d5 ♗xd5 16 exd5 ♙c3!+-



17 ♗c1

17 ♗d3 ♙b5.

17 ... ♙xd5 18 b3 ♚fc8 19 h5 g5 20 h6

20 ♙xc6 ♚c5++ as ... ♗a2 is unstoppable.

20 ... f6 21 g3

21 ♙xc6 ♚c5 22 ♚xd5 ♚xd5 23 ♙c4 ♚bb5!+ 24 a4 bxa3 25 ♖a2 fxe4 26 ♗xc6+ ♖f8 27 ♗g4 (27 ♗f4+ ♙f6) 27 ... ♚bc5+.

21 ... ♚c6 22 ♚hf1 ♙e6 23 f4 g4 24 ♙d4 ♙f5 25 ♙xc3 ♚xc3 26 ♙d3 ♚bc8 27 ♙xf5 ♗xf5 28 ♚f2 ♙xc3 29 ♗d2 ♚gc3 30 ♖c1 ♖f7 31 ♚g2 a5 32 ♗d4 g3 33 ♙e2 ♚c5 34 ♖b2 ♖g6 35 ♗d2 ♚c7 36 ♚h1 ♚xc2+ 0-1

Ben and Wally also gave respectable performances, finishing mid-table in the FM section. As many readers will already know, Ben was the winner of

the 2004 UK Chess Challenge, and no doubt we will be seeing much more from this young talent in the future. Below Ben has annotated his favourite game from the tournament.

B.Purton (2106) *White*

M.Juhasz (2142) *Black*

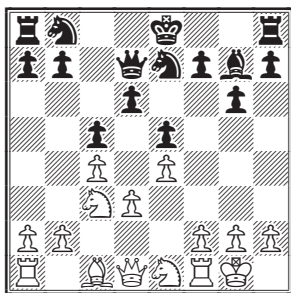
First Saturday FM Tournament 2004
(Annotations by Ben Purton)

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 ♙b5+ ♕d7 4 ♘d7+ ♗xd7 5 c4 g6 6 0-0 e5!?

With this move Black closes the centre, perhaps prematurely as it leaves White with the “better bishop”. By pure coincidence I also had to face this move in a recent game against Jonathan Lappage.

7 ♘c3 ♙g7 8 d3 ♘e7 9 ♘e1!?

With the light-squared bishops exchanged White instigates a plan which aims to place a knight on the weakened d5-square. White plans ♘e1-c2-e3-d5, although the pawn breaks f2-f4 and b2-b4 also come into consideration.

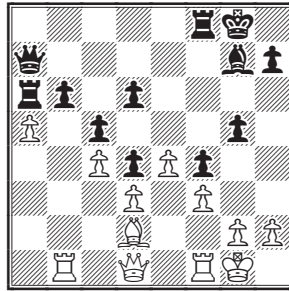


9 ... ♘bc6

My encounter with Lappage continued 9 ... 0-0 10 ♘c2 f5 11 f4!? ♘bc6 12 ♘d5 exf4 13 ♘xf4 ♙e5 14 ♗b1 ♗f7 15 ♘h3!? Intending to exploit the weak g5-square. 15 ... ♙g7 16 ♙e3 h6 17 b4 b6 18 b5 ♘d4 I believe that I had an edge at this point. 19 ♙xd4 cxd4 20 ♗e2 ♗af8 21 exf5 ♘xf5 22 ♗e4 g5 23 ♗f2 ♗e8 24 ♗d5. Somewhere along the way I must have gone wrong as it seems that 24 ... g4 may give Black an edge. Interestingly IM Basman failed to notice this, instead observing that “Lappage allows some exchanges in the belief he stands better in the ending”—Basman. 24 ... ♘e3 25 ♗xf7+ ♗xf7 26 ♗xf7+ ♘xf7 27 ♘b4 g4 28 ♘f2 h5 29 ♘c6 h4 30 ♘e4 ♙g6 31 a4 g3? 32 ♘xe5+ dxe5 33 hxg3 hxg3 34 a5! (the immediate 34 ♘xg3 may be stronger, but I can take this pawn whenever I like so I thought I would get things moving on the queenside.) 34 ... ♗g8 (In the October issue of CHESS it was incorrectly reported that Lappage played 24 ... ♗f8, with annotations to the effect that Black was better. This is, of course, incorrect. If 24 ... ♗f8 I just capture the g3-pawn with a clear advantage.) 35 axb6 axb6 36 c5 bxc5 37 ♘xc5 ♘d5 38

b6 ♘c3 39 ♗e1 ♗b8 40 b7 ♘f5 41 ♗xe5+?! Perhaps I shouldn't have played this. (In fact both 41 ♗a1 and; 41 ♗f1+ were winning for White, but I only needed a draw to secure first place, so I settled for the text instead.) 41 ... ♘xe5 42 ♘d7+ ♘d6 43 ♘xb8 ♘c7 44 ♘c6 ♘xb7 Lappage now offered a draw, which I accepted. He seemed somewhat disappointed with the result, but I can't think why, as I am clearly better even here.

10 ♘c2 f5 11 ♗b1 f4 12 b4 0-0 13 f3 g5 14 ♘d5 b6 15 b5 ♘d4 16 ♘xd4 exd4 17 ♘xe7+ ♗xe7 18 a4 a5 19 bxa6 ♗xa6 20 ♙d2 ♗a7 21 a5!



With this move I temporarily sacrifice the a5-pawn, but in return I obtain unrestricted access to the b-file complete dominance of the queenside.

21 ... ♗b8

21 ... bxa5 22 ♗a4 ♙e5 23 ♗b3 ♗e7 may be better. I prefer my position, however I don't think that I am massively better. In any case my position remains far easier to play, if only because Black's pawns restrict the movement of his dark-squared bishop.

22 ♗a4 bxa5 23 ♗b5 ♗xb5?

This is a serious error. White now gains a passed pawn on b5 and the opportunity to include the d2-bishop in the attack by capturing on a5.

24 cxb5 ♗b6 25 ♗b1

25 ♙xa5 ♗b8 26 b6 ♗b7 27 ♗b3+ ♘f8 28 ♗e6s is also good, but I gave preference to the text because I didn't feel there was any need to rush.

25 ... ♘f8 26 ♙xa5 ♙f6

Black uses the pin on my bishop to try and mobilize his problem piece.

27 ♗a1

Stopping that pin, so now he has to move the rook.

27 ... ♗b8 28 b6 ♗b7 29 ♗b5

Now Black's piece are so cramped, there is only one winner here, however if I play like a fool for a couple of moves, it could quite easily become a draw, so i had to make my advantage count.

29 ... ♙d8 30 e5! dxe5 31 ♗xc5+ ♗e7 32 ♗b5 ♙g7 33 ♙b4 ♗e6 34 b7 ♘c7 35 ♙c5 ♘d8 36 ♗a8 ♙b8 37 ♙a7 ♗d6 38 ♙xb8 ♗xb8 39 ♗xb8 ♗xb8 40 h3 1-0

Finally, I would just like to end this article with a short game by Omowale

Nelson, who played imaginative and aggressive chess throughout the tournament.

O.Nelson (2072) *White*

M.Ignacz (2193) *Black*

First Saturday FM Tournament,
Budapest 2004

(Notes by IM Edward Dearing)

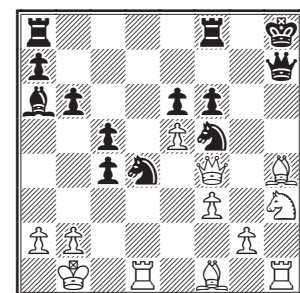
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♙b4 4 f3

A sharp and unorthodox method of dealing with the Nimzo Indian. Objectively I can't help but feel that the f3-line is inferior to White's more traditional methods of meeting the Nimzo, however, as this game illustrates, this line is by no means lacking in venom! Notwithstanding his success in this game, I suspect Omowale came to a similar conclusion, as in a subsequent game he deviated with 4 ♗c2 0-0 5 a3 ♙xc3+ 6 ♗xc3 d6 7 ♙g5 h6 8 ♙h4 ♘bd7 9 f3 ♗e7?! 10 e4 e5 11 d5 a5 12 b4 axb4 13 axb4 ♗xa1+ 14 ♗xa1 g5?! 15 ♙f2 ♗e8 16 ♗c1! ♘h7 17 h4! Taking the battle to Black on all fronts! 17 ... f5 18 hxg5 hxg5 19 ♙d3 f4 20 c5 ♘df6 21 ♘e2 ♙d7 22 ♘c3 ♗a8 23 ♘b5!± was O.Nelson-L.Havaskori, Budapest 2004, round 9. White went on to convert his already sizeable advantage without further difficulties.

4 ... b6?!

This allows White to establish a formidable central pawn flank which is difficult for Black to challenge without conceding further space. Far better, in my opinion, would have been 4 ... d5! preventing 5 e4 for the time being, and pitching Black's claim in the centre.

5 ♗c2 ♙xc3+?! 6 ♗xc3 0-0 7 ♙g5 ♙a6 8 e4 h6 9 ♙h4 d5?! 10 e5 g5 11 ♙f2 ♘h5 12 h4 dxc4 13 ♗e3 ♘g7 14 ♘h3 ♘c6 15 hxg5 ♘f5 16 ♗f4 ♘cxd4 17 0-0-0 c5 18 gxf6 ♗d7 19 h7+ ♘h8 20 ♙h4 f6 21 ♙b1 ♗xh7



22 ♙d3!?! cxd3 23 ♙xf6+ ♗xf6 24 ♘g5 ♗h6 25 ♘xh7 d2 26 ♗xd2 ♗xh7 27 ♗xh7+ ♘xh7 28 ♗h1+ ♙g6 29 g4 ♘g3 30 ♗h6+ ♘f7 31 ♗f6+ ♙e8 32 ♗h8+ ♘d7 33 ♗xa8 1-0

Two crushing wins by the former Jamaican Olympiad team member, in two very similar lines. The lesson: don't play the Nimzo against Omowale Nelson!

WITH THE QUEEN OF CHESS - IN QUEENS!

April in Dallas

Hey, it's Susan! She must be here for a simul. We are at the National High School Championship; I am one of the tournament directors.

She asks where am I living, what am I doing.

I reply that I'm right here in Dallas, teaching chess at academically struggling schools—but that the 4funding grant might not be renewed and I was planning to relocate; considering Nashville, maybe Phoenix.

She said, "Let me think about this."
??

A few hours later she offered a job. We talked for several minutes but I knew before she finished her first sentence that I would accept. Some things you don't need to think about.

I am to be Club Manager, teach the bulk of the classes, run tournaments. Ah! And give her 5-year old son Tommy thrice weekly chess lessons. That won't hurt the old *résumé*.

Queens

Where else would the Queen of the King's game have a Chess Center? Queens is the most culturally diverse of New York City's five boroughs, and so probably the most diverse community in the world. And it seems so. The people flow by in all their hues and facial types, with all their garbs and accents and languages. I frequent shops where English is not the first language, some where it isn't a language. I walk through neighborhoods where there are no store signs in English.

36% of New Yorkers are immigrants. Add their offspring and it's 55%. We



Stephan Gerzadowicz earning his bread and butter...

are the world. Susan speaks seven languages. And uses all of them.

There has been a Polgar Chess Center for 8 years, but at this location only since March 2004. It is the best site yet, in the Forest Hills neighborhood right on busy Queens Boulevard. Five subway lines stop minutes away. If you want to spot us on a map look about half way between JFK and La Guardia airports.

Our main playing area is split level, brightly lit and mirrored, with 16 boards at the ready. Wooden pieces. Naturally. The adjacent Chess Shop has a unique

collection of books and equipment. Two smaller rooms can hold 16 players comfortably so we can have two classes/lessons going on at once.

There are classes almost every day, primarily for children ages 4-12. We run tournaments every weekend and on Tuesday nights. There is a monthly blitz tournament, weekly GM lecture, special 'camps' and clinics—everything we can do to serve the local chess community.

Four afternoons a week I tuck my demo board under my arm and hoof it to one gite or another for an after-school class. Then I scramble the mile or two back to the Chess Center for a class or lesson. I wish my game was in as good shape as my cardio-vascular system.

We have about 100 members who enjoy seven days a week playing privileges and discounts on entry fees, books, and equipment. But non-members can participate in our tournaments, classes, and lectures.

I'm on duty most of the time but volunteers help with staffing, classes, and tournaments. Thank you Tom and Ruth, Louis and Ken.

Dream Team

Our Women's Olympiad Team trained at the Chess Center. It was commonplace to walk in and find one GM or another working with our players.

The training paid off in Olympic Silver, the United States Women's first ever medal.

On her return home, Susan said, "I am very happy. You know, it was the



...and training with Tommy

first time that I competed in the Olympiad without either of my sisters, But I was in very good company. I am very proud of my teammates Irina, Anna, Jennifer. They fought so hard to give everything they could for the team's success."

She also thanked Captain Paul Truong "whose gutsy decisions in critical moments helped our team to prevail. And it is hard to find words to express appreciation to our great tandem of coaches, IM Michael Khodarkovsky and GM Alexander Chernin, We all felt their devotion to the team and their high level of professionalism. Their opening choices and recommendations helped us enormously. We would have been in big trouble without their assistance. Therefore I can openly say that Michael and Alex played a major role in our success."

Other GMs who provided coaching help were Kasparov(!), Gulko, Zaitchik, and Palatnik. Droll fellow, Palatnik. He was here during the Republican Convention and said that it would be a challenging day for NYPD Security. Why? "President Bush will be speaking in Manhattan and I will be speaking in Queens."

He complimented me on my play. Said his dog played a good game but he thought I could beat him two out of three.

Susan was the star of our team, the story of the tournament. She had been away from the Olympiad for 10 years, away from serious competition for 8. Her "number one job" is being a good mother to Tommy and 3-year old Leam.

GM preparation can't hurt but she did most of the work herself, much of it on the morning of each game! Yet despite the layoff—and despite that EVERY opponent was gunning especially for her—she turned in the best result of the entire Olympiad, winning individual gold on board one. She extended her Olympiad undefeated streak to 56 games over a span of 16 years.

And she played the game of the tournament against an old and powerful rival, Maya Chiburdanidze. See January CHESS, page 30.

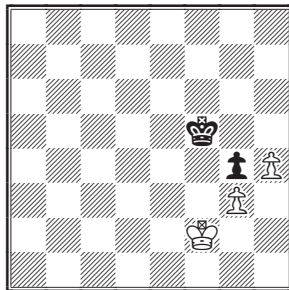
Tommy

Tommy is a mature five year-old, happy and smiling, healthy and active, yet able to quickly focus with an attention span beyond his years. LIKES to learn. Trilingual already, he is studying Spanish.

Our chess sessions are fun, certainly, but also solid with work, though neither of us would call it that. He is one of my best friends.

Lessons began on my arrival, three days a week when schedules allow.

Before I came Tommy hadn't studied the endgame. He has now. It is how we begin every session. One day, after weeks of Kings and Pawns, I set this up. He has Black.



"Your move Tommy. And I think I'm winning."

His eyes danced around and,
1 ... ♖f6! 2 h5 ♖g5 3 ♖e3 ♗h5 4 ♗f4 ♗h6!

Hmmm. He remembers opposition. How about the Rule of the Square?

"I don't think I did that right Let me try again."

2 ♖e3 ♗e5 3 ♖d3 ♗d5 4 ♖c3 ♗e5!

O-KAY. In mind? Can he keep them both in mind?

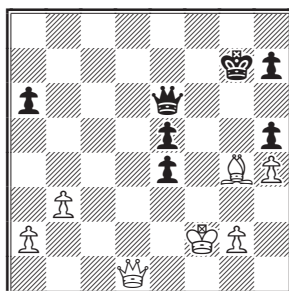
5 ♗b4 ♗d4 6 ♗a4 ♗e4! 7 ♗b5 ♗d5

If he goes after g3, I Queen, his Pawn gets to g2. We had learned that that pawn and Pe2 lose, while pawns on f2 or h2 would draw. Funny game, chess.

8 ♗b6 ♗d6 9 ♗a7 ♗e7! 1/2-1/2

And that, folks, is Spielmann-Makarczyk 1939, exactly. A couple of times I said, "Careful," but TOMMY made all these moves.

I wonder how old Makarczyk was in 1939.



From a training game a few weeks later. Will he remember about outside passers?

Tommy-Mr G

1 ... ♖xg4?? 2 ♖xg4+ hxg4 3 ♖e3 ♗f6 4 ♗xe4 ♗e6 5 b4 ♗d6 6 a4 ♗e6 7 b5 axb5 8 axb5 ♗d6 9 b6 ♗c6 10 ♗xe5 ♗xb6 11 ♗f5 He remembered.

The Walk-In Trade

Any of 8,000,000 people could get here in an hour. I sit at a board and wonder which of them will walk in today.

Ah, who is this old gent? Tall, stately, white-haired, distinguished looking. Neil McKelvie! Of course I remember the name. U. S. Top Twenty player in the 1960s and 70s, doubtless IM strength. Born on your side of The Water, Bachelors and Masters at Cambridge, PhD at Columbia. He has been teaching at nearby City College since 1962, with no thought of retiring.

I had been reading Silman's great new Benko book. Dr Mckelvie buys our last copy, asks if I'd like to see one of his Benko games. Of course. He reels off a nifty win from memory.

McKelvie - Benko

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 e6 6 f4 a6 7 ♖e3 b5 8 e5 dxe5 9 fxe5 ♗d5 10 ♗xd5 ♖xd5 11 ♖e2 ♖xe5 12 ♖d2 ♗b7 13 ♖f4 ♖d5 14 0-0-0 ♖d7 15 ♖c3 ♖d5 16 ♗f5 ♗c6 17 ♖xd5 exd5 18 ♖g4 ♗d8 19 ♗d4 ♗b4 20 ♗b1 ♖b7 21 a3 a5 22 axb4 ♖a6 23 ♗xb5 axb4 24 ♖c7+ ♗e8 25 ♖e1+ ♖e6 26 ♖xe6 fxe6 27 ♖h3 h6 28 ♖xe6+ ♗f7

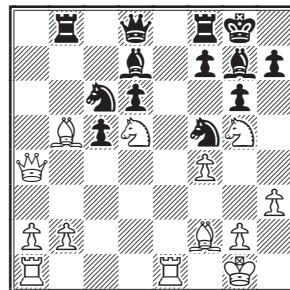
Now 29 ♖f5+ ♗g8 30 ♖e8 would mate.

29 ♖xh6 gxh6 30 ♖f5+ ♗g8 31 ♖e6+ ♗h7 32 ♖f7+ ♖g7 33 ♗d4 ♖a7 34 ♗f5 ♖g1+ 35 ♗a2 b3+ 36 ♗xb3 1-0

We play. No clock. We move briskly, casually, having a conversation with the pieces. He wins more than I do but sometimes my pieces find the right squares.

Dr Mc - Mr G

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 ♖g7 4 e4 0-0 5 f4 d6 6 ♗f3 c5 7 d5 e6 8 dxe6 ♖xe6 9 ♖e2 ♗c6 10 0-0 ♖e7 11 h3 ♖d7 12 ♖d3 a6 13 ♖e3 b5 14 cxb5 axb5 15 ♖xb5 ♗xe4 16 ♗d5 ♖d8 17 ♗g5 ♗g3 18 ♖e1 ♗f5 19 ♖f2 ♖b8 20 ♖a4



20... ♖xb5 21 ♖xb5 ♗cd4 22 ♖d3 ♖c6 23 ♗e3 ♖b5 24 ♖d1 ♗xe3 25 ♖xe3 ♖c6 26 ♖c1 ♖a8 27 ♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 28 ♗h2 ♖xg2 29 ♖d2 ♖c6 30 ♖c2 ♖xa2 31 b4 ♖a8 32 bxc5 ♖d5 33 ♖e2 dxc5 34 ♗e4 ♖f5 35 ♖f1 ♖b5 0-1

I wonder who will walk in tomorrow.

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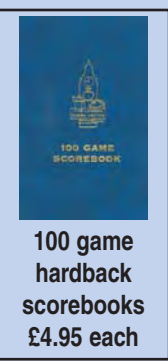
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LEGENDS A-PLENTY AT THE AEROFLOT OPEN

Steve Giddins reports from Moscow

Yochanan Afek annotates

This year was already the 4th Aeroflot Open, and the event has established itself as the biggest and strongest open anywhere in the world. Housed as usual in the 1500-room, Soviet-era behemoth that is the Rossiya Hotel, next to Red Square and the Kremlin, the festival's four sections attracted a total of some 670 players. Despite these numbers, the playing conditions were good, with the huge, carpeted playing hall offering sufficient elbow-room, good lighting and a well-preserved silence. Refreshingly for a Russian event, spectator access was both free and free of undue restrictions. The only exception was the analysis area, which was limited to a small section at the far end of the playing hall, containing just a handful of boards. For some strange reason, this was jealously protected by uniformed security guards, whose only pleasure in life seemed to come from denying players and spectators access to the area, even when there were empty boards. It's just as well Azmaiparashvili wasn't playing.

The strength of the top section is shown by the fact that it was limited to players rated 2550 and over, which left the likes of Psakhis and Sveshnikov relegated to the second group. Visiting the tournament is an almost surreal experience, such is the strength in depth. When I turned up on the day of round 5, for example, I found bottom board in the top section occupied by Romanishin, who had just half a point at the time. Still recovering from that shock, I went in search of Sveshnikov, and only tracked him down after a 15 minute hunt—languishing on -1 in the second section, he had been relegated to a small alcove on the mezzanine floor. Nor was it only the veterans who were suffering. The 2600-rated Russian GM Rustemov, for example, withdrew when on 2½ out of 8, whilst his St Petersburg colleague Shaposhnikov (rating 2577) gave up the ghost on ½/5.

For anyone with a love of Soviet chess history, the Aeroflot is a veritable paradise. Wherever I turned, I spotted one of the heroes of my youth. One minute it was Kholmov, just weeks from his 80th birthday and playing someone quite literally young enough to be his great-grandson, the next it was Balashov, considered one of the brightest young Soviet talents when I first started playing. Queuing to buy a coffee



Emil Sutovsky's brave and uncompromising play was rewarded with a victory on tie-break

at the refreshments bar outside, the distinguished, white-haired gent in front of me turned out to be Vasyukov, many-time Moscow blitz champion in the 1960s and 70s, whilst in earnest conversation adjacent to him was Genna Sosonko, spectacles characteristically tipped back on his head, in the style of Salo Flohr. And so it went on.

"Turning reluctantly to the play", as Harry Golombek would have said, the event was won on tie-break by Emil Sutovsky, with 6½ out of 9. This was a just reward for the Israeli GM's brave and uncompromising play throughout the event. A last-round win with Black against Volkov lifted him into a tie with Kharlov, Ivanchuk, Motylev and Akopian, which was decided in Sutovsky's favour on the somewhat controversial basis that he had played more Black's than the others. The following game is typical of his uncompromising style:

E.Sutovsky (2669) White
V.Filippov (2621) Black
 Round Four
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 g6 4 c3

♗f6 5 e5 ♗d5 6 0-0 ♗g7 7 d4 cxd4 8 cxd4 0-0 9 ♗c3 ♗xc3

A major alternative here is 9 ... ♗c7 10 ♗g5 h6 11 ♗h4 (11 ♗f4 g5 12 ♗g3 ♗xb5 13 ♗xb5 a6 14 ♗c3 d6) 11 ... ♗xb5 12 ♗xb5 a6 13 ♗d6.

10 bxc3 d6 11 exd6 exd6

A modern approach in an attempt to avoid the spacial problems following the well-trodden 11 ... ♗xd6!? 12 a4 ♗f5 (12 ... ♗g4!?) 13 ♗a3 ♗c7 14 ♗e1 ♗f6.

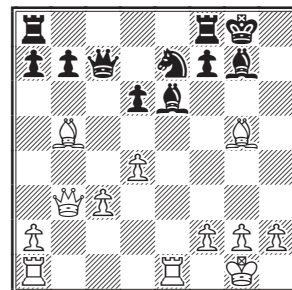
12 ♗g5 ♗c7 13 ♗e1 h6 14 ♗f4 ♗e7 15 ♗b3 g5?!

A dubious choice especially against Sutovsky, who can hardly resist such provocation.

16 ♗xg5! hxg5 17 ♗xg5

A positional piece sacrifice for two pawns and open attacking lines. No less important: a continuous initiative assisted by the advance of the kingside pawns in response to the attacked knight's moves: 17 ... ♗g6 18 ♗d3 followed by 19 h4 or 17 ... ♗f5 18 g4 ♗h6 19 h3. Black prefers a more concrete line that forces another sacrifice.

17 ... ♗e6



18 ♗xe6! fxe6 19 ♗xe6+ ♗f7 20 ♗e1! a6?

Accelerating the bitter end. 20 ... ♗c6 was necessary after which 21 ♗c4 ♗af8 22 ♗g6? ♗e5! Black is still alive.

21 ♗a4 ♗c6 22 ♗b3 d5

Black was about to play here 22 ... ♗f8 when he suddenly noticed Emil's intention: 23 ♗f4! ♗d8 24 ♗xd6+!! and wins.

23 ♗xd5 ♗f8 24 ♗g6 ♗e8 25 ♗xe8+ ♗xe8 26 h4!

Despite his rook advantage, Black is paralysed and helpless against the deadly pawn parade.

26 ... ♗f8 27 h5 ♗d7 28 ♗e6 ♗e5

What else? 29 h6 is coming up.

29 dxe5 ♗d1+ 30 ♗h2 ♗xe5+ 31 f4 ♗xf4+ 32 ♗xf4 ♗xf4 33 ♗h6+ ♗e7 34 ♗xf4 ♗xe6 35 ♗e4+ ♗d6 36 ♗d4+ ♗xd4 37 cxd4 ♗e7 38 d5 1-0

The decisive game was the last-round encounter with Volkov, who had until then had an excellent tournament:

A.Volkov White
E.Sutovsky Black
 Round Nine
Grunfeld Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♗c3 d5 4 ♗f3 ♙g7 5 ♗b3 dxc4 6 ♗xc4 0-0 7 e4 ♗a6

Earlier in the tournament, Volkov had won an impressive game against Loek van Wely, who chose here the popular alternative 7...a6.

8 ♙e2 c5 9 d5 e6 10 0-0 exd5 11 exd5 b6

The marathon matches between Karpov and Kasparov saw 11 ... ♙f5 more often.

12 ♗h4 ♗xd5!?

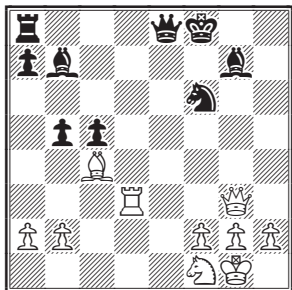
This line had been considered rather risky, however this game suggests otherwise.

13 ♙g5 ♗d6! 14 ♖ad1 ♗ac7 15 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 16 ♙c4 ♙b7 17 ♖d2 f6 18 ♖fd1 fxe5 19 ♗xe5?!

A speculative piece sacrifice for one check and nerve-racking complications. 19 ♗xe5 seems to equalize.

19 ... ♖f5 20 ♗xh7+ ♙f8 21 ♗e4 ♗e6 22 ♗g3 ♖e5 23 ♖d3 ♖e1+ 24 ♖xe1 ♗xe1+ 25 ♗f1 ♗f6 26 ♗xg6 ♗e8 27 ♗g3 b5!?

Ready to give up a pawn in order to exchange the queens due to the relative unsafety of his own king.



28 ♖e3?

The decisive mistake. According to Emil correct was 28 ♙xb5! ♗xb5 29 ♗d6+ ♙f7 30 ♗c7+ ♙g8 31 ♖b3 ♗c6 32 ♗xb7 ♗xc7 33 ♖xc7 ♗e4 after which he estimated his winning chances as roughly equal to White's drawing ones.

28 ... ♗b8 29 ♙xb5 ♗xg3 30 ♗xg3 ♗g4 31 ♖b3 ♙d5 32 ♖d3 ♙d4 33 ♖d2 ♙xa2 34 ♗f5 ♙xf2+

Simplifying matters. The rest is just for the protocol.

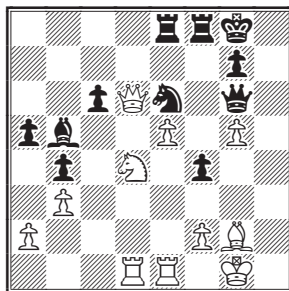
35 ♖xf2 ♗xf2 36 ♙xf2 ♖b8 37 ♙c6 ♖b6 38 ♙f3 ♖xb2+ 39 ♙e3 a5 40 ♙d3 ♙b1+ 41 ♙c3 ♖c2+ 42 ♙b3 c4+ 0-1

Part of Sutovsky's prize is an invitation to the Dortmund super-tournament later this year, and his presence there can only be a refreshing change after the ghostly drawfest that we saw last year.

Of the other co-winners, Ivanchuk will have been the most disappointed. Initially seeded second behind Bacrot, the ever-unpredictable 'Chucky' started with three straight wins, made just a point from his next three games, but then won in rounds 7 and 8, the latter with Black against Sutovsky. He had a golden opportunity to make it three in a row and secure outright tournament victory, when his last-round opponent, Bacrot, donated a pawn to one of the hoariest of tactical tricks:- 1 e4 e5 2 ♗f3 ♗c6 3 ♙c4 ♗f6 4 d3 ♙e7 5 0-0 0-0 6 ♖e1 d6 7 a4 ♙h8 8 ♗c3 ♙g4 9 h3 ♙h5 10 ♙e3 ♗d7 11 ♗d5 ♗a5?? and now 12 ♗xe5! left White a pawn up for nothing. However, unfortunately for the Ukrainian fans, Ivanchuk's technique let him down and he failed to convert the ending.

One of last year's successes was the Armenian veteran Vaganian, but this year he was unable to repeat his triumph. His hopes were conclusively buried by the following sharp game against his young countryman:-

R.Vaganian (2670) White
G.Sargissian (2602) Black
 Round Seven



Here the silicon monster recommends 30 f3, but instead play continued:

30 ♗xb5?! f3! 31 ♗d4

After 31 ♙xf3? ♖xf3 32 ♗xc6 ♗xg5+ 33 ♙f1 ♗h5! Black wins in view of the deadly threat 34 ... ♗h1+.

31 ... fxe2!

31 ... ♗xg5? 32 ♗xf3 ♖xf3 33 ♗xc6 is good for White!

32 ♗xe6

Skipping a small trap: 32 ♗xc6!? ♗xd4! 33 ♗xg6 ♗f3+ 34 ♙xg2 ♗h4+ and wins.

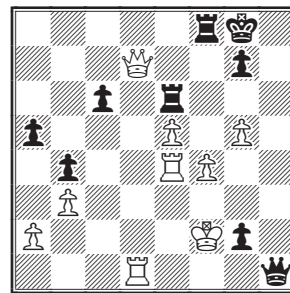
32 ... ♖xe6 33 ♗d7 ♗f5

Black here missed a spectacular win: 33 ... ♗h5!! 34 ♗xe6+ ♙h7 35 ♙xg2 ♗f3+ 36 ♙h2 ♗xf2+ 37 ♙h1 ♗h4+ 38 ♙g1 ♗xg5+! 39 ♙h1 ♗h4+ 40 ♙g1 ♗g3+ 41 ♙h1 ♖f2 and wins.

34 f4 ♗h3 35 ♖e4?

The only defence was 35 ♗d4 ♗h1+ 36 ♙f2 ♗h4+ 37 ♙f3 ♗xg5 38 ♖e4 although Black still stands clearly better.

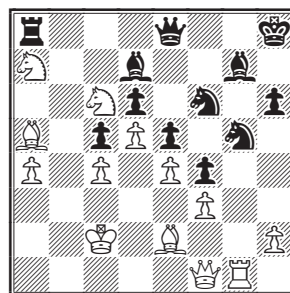
35 ... ♗h1+ 36 ♙f2



36 ... ♖xe5! 37 ♖xe5 g1=♗+! 38 ♖xg1 ♖xf4+ 39 ♙e3 ♗f3+ 40 ♙d2 ♗c3+ 0-1

One player who is always value for money, whatever his result, is the Byelorussian GM, Fedorov. A brief foray into the super-tournament level a few years ago saw his King's Gambits and Dragon Sicilians subjected to a fearful battering, and the former at least was consigned to oblivion. However, Fedorov's natural combative attacking play remains intact, and he was involved in several interesting battles at the Aeroflot.

K.Sakaev (2677) White
A.Fedorov (2603) Black
 Round Seven



The main part of the game was a typical King's Indian battle with opposite wings attacking plans. However the original part of the game is about to start here:

47 h4! ♗gxe4?!

A very nice, albeit wrong, combination to liquidate material. Had this irresistible option not existed, Black would probably notice the much stronger 47 ... ♗e6!! 48 ♗g2 ♗d4+ 49 ♗xd4 ♗g4! 50 fxe4 ♙xa4+ 51 ♙d2 cxd4 52 ♙b6 ♗b8! 53 ♖b1 ♖xa7 54 g5 ♙e8 where Black is doing absolutely fine.

48 fxe4 ♙xc6 49 ♗xc6 ♖xa5!

This was the position that Black managed to foresee expecting 50 ♗xa5 (also after 50 ♗g2!? ♖a7! 51 a5 ♖b7 52 a6 ♖a8 the situation is still under control) 52 ♗xa4+ 51 ♗b3 ♖a2+ 52 ♙c1 ♗xb3 with at least perpetual check at his disposal. However White has prepared a small surprise.

50 ♖xg7! ♙xg7 51 ♗g2+!

An important intermediate check gains a tempo for guarding the bishop.

51 ... ♙f7 52 ♗xa5 ♖xa4+ 53 ♗b3 ♖a2+ 54 ♙c3! ♖b1 55 ♙f3 ♖e1+ 56 ♗d2 ♗xh4

White has won a piece but the game is not over yet as he still faces some serious technical (and apparently also tactical) problems.

57 ♖h1 ♖g3 58 ♔d3 h5 59 ♔e2 ♔g6 60 ♗f1 ♖g5 61 ♖h3 ♗g4 62 ♗h2?! ♗f6?

Black's last practical chance was: 62 ... ♗xh2!? 63 ♖xh2 h4 64 ♖h3 ♖g1! 65 ♖f5+ ♔h6 66 ♖f8+ ♔h7 67 ♖e7+ ♔g8 68 ♖e8+ ♔h7 69 ♖d7+ ♔h8 and it is still not over yet.

63 ♖e6! ♖g1 64 ♗f1 h4 65 ♖xd6 ♖d4 66 ♗d2 h3 67 ♖e6 h2 68 ♖h3

Winning, no doubt, but 68 ♗h5+! ♔xh5 69 ♖f5+ ♔h6 70 ♖xf6+ ♔h5 71 ♖h8+ ♔g4 72 ♖xh2 was a lot easier.

68 ... ♖e3+ 69 ♔d1 ♖g1+ 70 ♔c2 ♗g4 71 ♖h8 ♗e3+ 72 ♔d3 ♗g4 73 ♔c2 ♗e3+ 74 ♔b3 ♗g4 75 ♗xg4! h1=♖ 76 ♗h5+! ♔g5 77 ♖xe5+ ♔h4 78 ♗f3+ 1-0

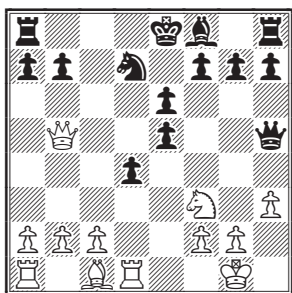
Over the past few years, I have been impressed on several occasions by the play of Vladimir Malakhov, a young GM from Moscow. Refreshingly for the modern era, opening theory plays a relatively small role in his successes, which are instead founded principally on superb endgame technique. In this tournament, he again won several highly impressive endings, but in round 6, he showed that he can also bite somebody's head off, given the chance:

V.Malakhov (2664) White
A.Areshchenko (2570) Black
Round Six
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 ♗b5+ ♗d7 4 ♗xd7+ ♖xd7 5 0-0 ♗f6 6 ♖e2 ♗c6 7 ♖d1 ♖g4

Probably not the best choice against White's intentions along the d-file. This dubious novelty was tried just once to some effect as White chickened out and was happy with the repetition 8 ♖b5 ♖d7 9 ♖e2 ♖g4 10 ♖b5 - draw - Lakos-Istvandi, Kali Cup 2002.

8 d3 ♗e5 9 ♗bd2 e6 10 h3 ♖h5 11 d4 ♗xf3+ 12 ♗xf3 cxd4 13 e5! dxe5 14 ♖b5+ ♗d7

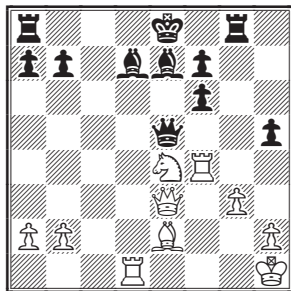


15 ♖xd4! ♖d8
Or 15 ... 0-0-0 16 ♗f4 f6 17 ♖ad1 ♖e8 18 ♗xe5 fxe5 19 ♗xe5 wins.

16 ♖xd7! ♖xd7 17 g4
The queen is overloaded: 17... ♖xh3 18 ♗xe5 wins.
1-0

This win brought him to plus-3, and within touching distance of the leaders, but his challenge faded the next day, as he learnt the hard way that "the pin is mightier than the sword":

A.Kharlov (2614) White
V.Malakhov (2664) Black
Round Seven



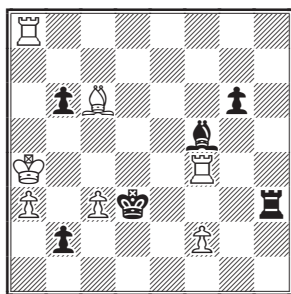
24 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 25 ♖e4!
Pinning.
25 ... ♗c6!
Pinning the pinning piece.
26 ♗b5!

The piece which is pinning the pinning piece is pinned again by a piece that cannot be pinned any more.

26 ... ♔f8 27 ♗xc6 ♖c7 28 ♗d5 ♖g6 29 ♖f3 ♖d8 30 ♖f4 ♖e5 31 ♖f5 ♖xb2 32 ♖f1 ♔g7 33 ♖xh5 ♖d2 34 ♗b3 b6 35 ♗d5 ♖h6 36 g4 ♔f8 37 ♖d1 1-0

This nice sequence of pins and cross-pins has been used in several endgame studies, notably the following:

A. Troitzky & V. Korolkov
1938



White to play and win

1 ♖b4 ♖h4! 2 c4! ♖xc4 3 ♗b5! ♗d7!
4 ♖d8! b1=♖ 5 ♖xd7+ ♔e4 6 ♗xc4 wins

Another player who had a good tournament was the Ukrainian GM, Pavel Eljanov, who followed up his fine Olimpiad result with a steady performance here. His best effort was the following:

P.Eljanov (2643) White
Wang Yue (2549) Black
Round Seven
Slav Defence

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♗f3 ♗f6 4 e3 a6 5 ♖c2 ♗g4 6 ♗e5 ♗h5 7 ♖b3 ♖a7

A somewhat strange way to defend the pawn. 7 ... ♖c7 is the natural and solid response. The following charming miniature of the retiring legend is of interest: 7 ... ♖c7 8 cxd5 cxd5 9 ♗c3 e6 10 ♗d2 ♗d6 11 ♖c1 ♗c6 12 ♗a4 0-0 13 ♗xc6 bxc6 14 ♖b6 ♖e7 15 ♗d3 ♗g6 16 ♗xg6 fxxg6 17 f3 ♗e4! 18 fxe4 ♖h4+ 19 g3? (19 ♗d1!) 19 ... ♖xe4 20 ♔e2 ♖g2+ 21 ♔d3 ♖f2 22 ♖a5 ♖b8 23 a3 ♗c7! 24 ♖xc7 ♖xd2+ 25 ♔c3 ♖dx2! Azmaiparashvili-Kasparov, Crete (rapid) 2003.

8 cxd5 cxd5 9 ♗c3 e6 10 ♗d3 ♗bd7 11 f4 ♗e7 12 0-0 0-0 13 ♗d2 ♗xe5 14 fxe5 ♗d7 15 ♗e2 ♗g6 16 ♗xg6 hxxg6 17 ♖ac1 ♗b8 18 ♗f4 ♗c6 19 ♖d1 ♗g5 20 ♖g4 ♗h6 21 h4 a5 22 h5 ♗xf4?

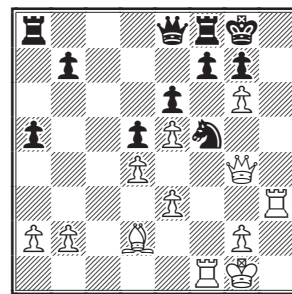
This might well be the source of Black's troubles. White's pretty obvious plan is to open up the h file for his heavy guns, therefore it would be just natural to try to simplify matters by 22 ... gxxh5 23 ♖xh5 (23 ♗xh5 ♖g5 24 ♖e2? ♗xd4!) 23 ... ♖g5 24 ♖h3 ♖aa8.

23 ♖xf4 ♗e7 24 ♖f3 ♖d7 25 ♖cf1 ♖aa8

Too little too late. The rook is back in time for ... the funeral of his majesty.

26 ♖h3 ♗f5?
This final error in a difficult position enables a nice little combination.

27 hxxg6 ♖e8



28 ♖xf5! exf5 29 ♖h8+! 1-0

As mentioned earlier, the top seed on rating was Etienne Bacrot, the French No. 1. After a win in the first round, he had a relatively quiet spell, but the following quick demolition of his round 8 opponent set him up for the last-round encounter with Ivanchuk:

E.Bacrot (2715) White
V.Filippov (2621) Black
Round Eight
Semi-Slav Defence

1 c4 e6 2 ♗c3 d5 3 d4 c6 4 e4 dxe4
Or 4 ... ♗b4 with either 5 exd5 or 5 e5. However it is round 8 and with

4½/8 both players decide to give it one last sharp try to catch up with the top.

5 ♖xe4 ♗b4+ 6 ♗d2

This sharp gambit was first successfully tried by the American fox Frank Marshall against Karl Schlechter in Monte Carlo 1902. The alternative is 6 ♖c3 c5 (6 ... e5!?) 7 a3 ♗xc3+ 8 bxc3 ♖f6 9 ♖f3 ♗a5 with yet another sharp position.

6 ... ♗xd4 7 ♗xb4 ♗xe4+ 8 ♗e2 ♖a6

Excessive appetite might lead to a stomach-ache after: 8 ... ♗xg2?! 9 ♗f3 ♗g6 10 ♖e2 ♖a6 11 ♗a3 ♖e7 12 ♗g1 ♗f6 13 ♖c3 ♖f5 14 ♖e4 with tremendous compensation, however 8 ... c5!? 9 ♗xc5 (9 ♗f3 ♗g5) 10 ♗d2 is a worthy alternative.

9 ♗d6 f6?

Mixing up theoretical lines. The text is a common response against both 9 ♗c3 or 9 ♗a5. Correct was 9 ... b6 10 ♖f3 ♗b7 11 0-0 ♗d8 12 ♖e5 ♖e7 with equal chances.

10 ♖f3 ♗d7 11 0-0

Far less clear was the tempting: 11 ♗f8!? ♖xf8 12 ♗xd7 c5 13 ♖d2 ♗c6 14 ♗xc6 bxc6 15 0-0-0 ♖h6.

11 ... 0-0-0 12 ♗d3 ♗g4 13 c5! e5 14 h3!

14 ♗xa6 bxa6 15 ♗b3 ♗e6 16 ♗b8+ ♖d7 17 ♗c7+ ♖e8 18 ♗xc6+ ♗d7 19 ♗xa6 was good enough but the text seems even stronger.

14 ... ♗e6

Or 14 ... ♗b4 15 a3 ♗xb2 16 ♗xa6 bxa6 17 ♗b1 and it is all over.

15 ♗a4 ♖c7 16 ♗c4! ♗f5 17 ♗a5 ♖e8 18 ♗f7! 1-0

* * * *

The closing ceremony of a great tournament is always a slightly melancholy affair, and this year's was made worse by uncertainty over the future of the event. Some months ago, the all-powerful mayor of Moscow, Yury Luzhkov, announced that the Rossiya Hotel would be demolished during 2005, to make way for a new retail complex and car park (the fact that Luzhkov's wife happens to run the largest real estate development company in Moscow is mere coincidence, of course!). This left a question mark over the future of the tournament, because it is not obvious where else in Moscow one could find a suitable alternative venue. However, spirits were raised all round during the closing ceremony, when chief tournament director Alexander Bakh announced that the rumours of the Rossiya's death are greatly exaggerated, and the 5th Aeroflot Open will go ahead in February next year, at the same venue. I, for one, am already looking forward to it!

Solutions to Winning Moves (p.14)

1) 1 ♖e5+ ♗h8 2 ♖g6+! After 2...hxxg6, 3 ♗h3+ mates. 1-0

2) 1 ♗e7+ ♖g6 2 g4! If 2...♗g8 then 3 ♖h4 is mate. 1-0

3) 1...e2! 2 ♗e1 ♗f2 3 ♖g1 ♗f1+! On 4 ♗xf1 h2+! wins. 0-1

4) 1...♖g4+! 2 hxxg4 2 ♖g3 ♗xf2+ 3 ♖xxg4 h5+ is not an option. 2...♗e5+ 3 g3 ♗xf2+ 4 ♖h1 ♗f3+ 5 ♖g1 5 ♖h2 ♗xxg3+ 6 ♖h1 ♗h2 mate. 5...♗d4+ 6 ♖h2 ♗f2+ 7 ♖h3 ♗f1+ Mate follows after 8 ♖h4 ♗h1+9 ♖g5 ♗e3 or 8 ♖h2 ♗g1+9 ♖h3 ♗h1. 0-1

5) 1...♗xg2! Winning the white squares. 2 ♗xg2 If 2 ♖xxg2 ♗xd5+ or 2 ♖f6+ ♗xf6 3 ♗xxg2 ♗g8 4 ♗b7+ ♗g7 5 ♗a8 ♗c8! 6 ♗xc8 ♗f2 7 ♗a8 ♖f3 mating. 2...♗g8 3 ♗xe6 or 3 ♗d2 ♗xd5+. 3...♗xg2 0-1

6) 1 ♗d6! cxd6? Losing the exchange with 1...♖f6 was better, while the trickier 1...♗h5 2 ♗xf8 ♗xxh2+ 3 ♖f1 ♗h5 is met with 4 ♗d6! ♗h1+ 5 ♖e2 ♗h5 6 ♖d2 or the simplifying 4 ♗xf7+ ♗xf7+ 5 ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 6 ♗a3 with a winning advantage in both cases. 2 ♗xf7+ ♗xf7 3 ♗e8 mate

7) 1...♗e6! White's pieces are disjointed and there is no pawn protection for the king. 2 ♖xe6 2 ♗xe6 ♗ac8+ 3 ♖d3 ♗c3+ 4 ♖e2 ♗e1+ 5 ♖d3 ♗c3 mate. 2...♗ac8+ 3 ♖d3 ♗c3+ and if 4 ♖e4 ♗c4+ mates. 0-1

8) 1...♗xf2+! 2 ♖xf2 ♖f5+! This forces checkmate. (a) 3 ♖f1 ♖g3+ 4 ♖g2 ♗d2+ 5 ♗e2 ♗xe2 mate. (b) 3 ♖e1 ♗g1+ 4 ♖e2 ♖g3 mate. (c) 3 ♖g2 ♗d2+ 4 ♖h1 ♖g3 mate. (d) 3 ♖e2 ♖g3+ 4 ♖e1 ♗g1 mate. 0-1

9) 1...♗xd4! The immediate 1...♗a2 is adequately met by 2 ♗f1. 2 ♗xd4 ♗a2! 3 ♗e3 ♖e2+ 4 ♗xe2 ♗xe2 5 ♗c3 ♗xc3 6 ♗xc3 f5! with a technically won endgame.0-1

10) 1 ♗xf6+!! ♖xf6 1...♖e8 2 ♗xh5+ ♗f7 3 ♗g8 mate. 2 ♗xh5 2 ♗g3+! ♖f7 3 ♗xh5 mate was quicker. 2...♖e7 Black could have tried 2...♗g7 when 3 ♗g6+? ♖f7 loses for White. However, after 3 ♗g3+ ♗g5 4 ♗xxg5 there is a discovered mate on the following move no matter what Black plays. 3 ♗g7 mate

11) 1 e6! Now the h2-b8 diagonal is available for the white bishop. 1...♗d6 If 1...♗b6 2 ♗xd5+ ♗c6 3 ♗a7+ wins. 2 ♗b5+ ♖c8 After 2...♖c7 3 ♗a7+ ♖c8/♖d8 4 ♗f4! wins. 3 ♗f4! ♗xf4 3...♗c6 4 ♗b6. 4 ♗d7+ ♖b8 5 ♗d8+ Mate will follow, e.g. 5...♖b7 6 ♗xd5+ ♖b6 7 ♗c5+ ♖b7 8 ♗b5+ ♖c7 9 ♗a7+ ♖d6 10 ♗d7 mate. 1-0

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269 BCF	Shredder 9
269 BCF	Shredder 8
267 BCF	Junior 9
267 BCF	Fritz 8 Champ version
267 BCF	Shredder 7
265 BCF	Hiarc8 9
265 BCF	Fritz 8
264 BCF	Junior 8
262 BCF	Chess Tiger 15

For 'Deep' versions of Fritz and Junior, you can add 3 to 5 BCF if you have a dual or multi processor PC!

The ChessPublishing.com opening theory article

Dragon expert Grandmaster Chris Ward writes

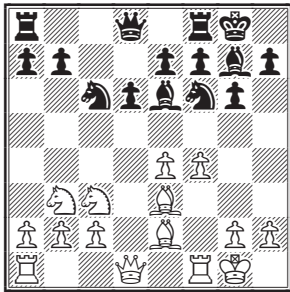
Staying with a Classical theme, I can't believe that we are still seeing games the likes of Sherwin-Tompson, below. Yes, well prepared Dragon players can almost be gifted points against higher rated opposition!

J.Sherwin (2302) White

J.Tompson (2081) Black
Sicilian Dragon [B74]

4NCL Nottingham, January 2005

1 $\text{d}3$ $\text{c}5$ 2 $\text{d}3$ $\text{d}6$ 3 $\text{e}4$ $\text{g}6$ 4 $\text{d}4$
 $\text{cxd}4$ 5 $\text{dxd}4$ $\text{g}7$ 6 $\text{e}3$ $\text{d}f6$ 7 $\text{d}b3$
0-0 8 $\text{e}2$ $\text{d}6$ 9 0-0 $\text{e}6$ 10 $\text{f}4$



10... $\text{c}8$

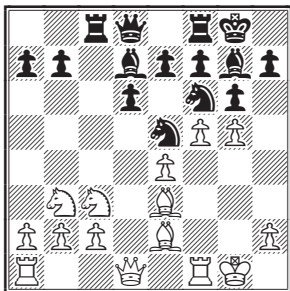
I prefer this more flexible continuation over the old 10... $\text{a}5$ although theoretically speaking that isn't bad either. While I'm on the topic, 10... $\text{c}8$ holds its own too although that has never really been my cup of tea as although that holds up $\text{f}4$ - $\text{f}5$ and $\text{g}2$ - $\text{g}4$, it's not such an attractive prospect to sacrifice the queen on $\text{c}3$!

11 $\text{f}5$!?

I guess this is the natural continuation for those oblivious to the sequence that follows but the truth is that the pawn roller is one tempo too slow and conceding the $\text{e}5$ -square is highly undesirable.

Subscribers may recall or revisit from the archives to see how enjoyable (for me at least!) was the more restrained 11 $\text{e}h1$ $\text{a}6$ of Thipsay-Ward.

11... $\text{d}7$ 12 $\text{g}4$ $\text{d}e5$ 13 $\text{g}5$



This just asks for trouble but to demonstrate just how strong the posi-

tional exchange sacrifice is, observe the also common occurrence of 13 $\text{d}d2$ $\text{xc}3$! 14 $\text{bxc}3$ $\text{e}6$ with 15 $\text{e}f3$ (Or 15 $\text{d}d4$ $\text{xe}4$ 16 $\text{d}xe4$ $\text{xe}4$ 17 $\text{e}d3$ $\text{e}d5$ 18 $\text{g}5$ $\text{gxf}5$ 19 $\text{e}xf5$ $\text{e}6$ 20 $\text{e}e3$ $\text{d}c4$ 21 $\text{e}f4$ $\text{b}b6+$ 22 $\text{f}f2$ $\text{d}e3$ 0-1 P.Kotsur-A.Sokolov, Nizhnij Novgorod 1998) 15... $\text{d}xf3+$ (Or similarly 15... $\text{d}5$ 16 $\text{exd}5$ $\text{d}xd5$ 17 $\text{e}d4$ $\text{d}xc3$ 18 $\text{e}xc3$ $\text{b}b6+$ 19 $\text{e}g2$ $\text{d}xf3$ 20 $\text{d}xf3$ $\text{e}xc3$ 21 $\text{b}b1$ $\text{a}a5$ 22 $\text{e}e2$ $\text{gxf}5$ 23 $\text{gxf}5$ $\text{wxf}5$ with an awesome bishop pair in J.Durao-D.Martinez Martin, Madrid 2002.) 16 $\text{wxf}3$ $\text{d}5$! 17 $\text{e}d4$ $\text{dxe}4$ 18 $\text{w}h3$ $\text{d}xg4$ 19 $\text{e}xg7$ $\text{e}xg7$ 20 $\text{d}xe4$ $\text{b}b6+$ 21 $\text{d}f2$ $\text{gxf}5$ 0-1 White resigned as he was hopelessly tied up in S.Daniluk-V.Malakhov, Elista 1995.

Finally, it is no surprise that the greedy 13 $\text{e}xa7$ gets the same treatment and after 13... $\text{xc}3$ 14 $\text{bxc}3$ $\text{b}6$ 15 $\text{w}d4$ $\text{d}c6$ 16 $\text{w}xb6$ $\text{a}a8$ the bishop was trapped in T.Luukkonen-R.Molander, Jyvaskyla 1998.

13... $\text{xc}3$!

Necessary but strong.

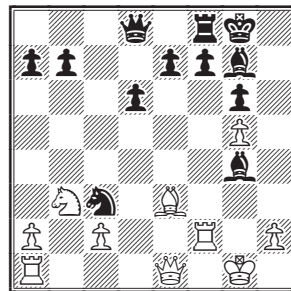
14 $\text{bxc}3$

Black winds up a pawn to the good at least after 14 $\text{gxf}6$ $\text{xc}3$.

14... $\text{d}xe4$ 15 $\text{fxg}6$ $\text{h}xg6$

Black already has a pawn for the exchange but he also has excellent minor pieces whilst White's pawn structure is all over the shop.

16 $\text{e}f3$ $\text{d}xc3$ 17 $\text{e}e1$ $\text{d}xf3+$ 18 $\text{xc}3$ $\text{e}g4$ 19 $\text{f}f2$



19... $\text{d}e2$!?

Good enough, though 19... $\text{d}5$ 20 $\text{e}d4$ $\text{exd}4$ 21 $\text{d}xd4$ $\text{e}5$ 22 $\text{d}f3$ $\text{d}f4$

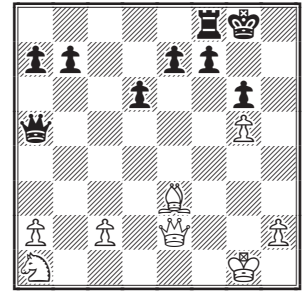
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won easily in J.Sikora Lerch-I.Gazik, Trinec 1998, and 19... $\text{d}e4$ might be best of all: 20 $\text{f}f1$ $\text{e}xa1$ 21 $\text{d}xa1$ $\text{e}f5$ leaves Black two pawns ahead.

20 $\text{xc}2$ $\text{xe}2$ 21 $\text{w}xe2$ $\text{e}xa1$ 22 $\text{d}xa1$ $\text{a}a5$



Considering the respective king positions, Black's two pawns and rook should beat the two White pieces.

23 $\text{c}4$ $\text{c}c8$ 24 $\text{d}b3$ $\text{w}b4$!?

24... $\text{w}a6$ 25 $\text{d}d2$ $\text{w}xa2$ wins another unit.

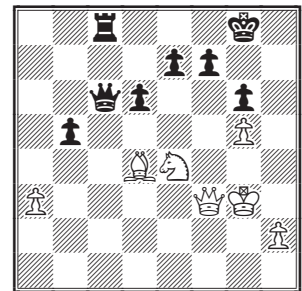
25 $\text{d}d2$ $\text{a}6$ 26 $\text{e}d4$ $\text{c}c7$ 27 $\text{e}e3$ $\text{a}a4$ 28 $\text{a}3$ $\text{w}d1+$

This is where Black shows he is the weaker player with a series of fairly aimless moves.

29 $\text{e}f2$ $\text{w}c2$ 30 $\text{e}g3$ $\text{b}5$ 31 $\text{cxb}5$ $\text{axb}5$ 32 $\text{w}f3$ $\text{w}c6$

32... $\text{w}xd2$?? 33 $\text{w}a8+$ and mate!!

33 $\text{d}e4$ $\text{c}c8$



34 $\text{d}f6$!?

White has his pieces posted as well as can be but should really be patient now and see how Black tries to win.

34 $\text{h}4$ keeps the game alive.

34... $\text{e}f8$?

34... $\text{exf}6$ 35 $\text{wxf}6$ $\text{e}f8$ and there is no mate, and no perpetual: 36 $\text{w}h8+$ $\text{e}e7$ 37 $\text{w}f6+$ $\text{e}h7$ 38 $\text{w}xf7+$ draws) 37 $\text{d}f6+$ $\text{e}d8$ 38 $\text{d}e4$ which is unclear.

35 $\text{d}e4$!?

35 $\text{d}d5$! is possible, hoping for 35... $\text{e}6$ 36 $\text{e}g7+$! $\text{e}e8$ (36... $\text{e}xg7$ 37 $\text{w}f6+$ $\text{e}h7$ 38 $\text{w}xf7+$ draws) 37 $\text{d}f6+$ $\text{e}d8$ 38 $\text{d}e4$ which is unclear.

35... $\text{w}d5$!

Back on track!

36 $\text{e}b2$!?! $\text{c}c4$ 37 $\text{d}f2$ $\text{w}xg5+$ 38 $\text{d}g4$ $\text{e}5$ 39 $\text{w}a8+$ $\text{e}g7$ 40 $\text{h}3$ $\text{w}f4+$

Mate follows.

0-1

HOW GOOD IS YOUR CHESS?

asks GM Daniel King

If you compare the opening variations played in the super tournaments of Linares and Wijk-aan-Zee with those in the average congress or club match, they are worlds apart. I'm not talking about the quality and depth of preparation, but simply the type of openings played.

In Linares, critical lines in the Open Sicilian—the Najdorf and the Sveshnikov—are tested. Or there might be a subtle novelty in the Gruenfeld at move 18 that gives White a slight but persistent advantage. Back in the real world we are not capable of that kind of study. And, let's face it, a novelty wheeled out in a Scunthorpe & District League match will probably not be appreciated by your opponent ('Damn! His 25th move was an improvement on Kasparov-Leko!'). In the opening, it is best to get your pieces out as quickly as possible, get castled, perhaps set a little trap, and—whoosh—it's on with the motley of the middlegame.

There are certain openings that are perfectly suited to this purpose. As White, one of the most popular at club level is the Torre: 1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♕g5 ♕g7 4 c3 ♗bd2, e3, ♖e2 and castles kingside. Sometimes it is even possible to play the e-pawn forward two squares, if Black allows it. (Some might say it would have been simpler to play the e-pawn forward by two squares on the first turn of the game, but let's move on). For the average King's Indian player, hell-bent on a kingside attack, it is irritating to have to face such a solid system. The Torre is extremely hard to break down. Indeed, it offers White the chance to expand from a sound positional basis.

Why don't we see this opening very often in Linares? Because at that level it is too insipid. Black is not put under enough pressure. At the end of this test, I'll show you how Kasparov deals with the opening. But for the rest of us—and I must admit to having played the White side on more than one occasion—the Torre is eminently respectable. As this game, from a

recent tournament in the Ukraine, shows. The winner is an International Master.

Cover the page with a card or sheet of paper, lowering it gradually to reveal a line at a time. Begin after the first diagram. Whenever Black has moved, stop and try to guess White's reply which will be on the next line. Try to analyse as much as you would in a game—it could earn you valuable bonus points depending on how deep your strategy is. The article will test your standard of play, or, if you prefer, just enjoy a fine game.

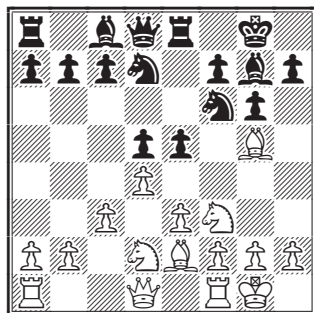
V. Sergeev White

V. Shishkin Black

3rd Igor Platonov Memorial Kyiv, Ukraine, 2005

Torre Attack v King's Indian

1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♕g5 ♕g7 4 c3 ♗bd2 0-0 6 e3 ♗bd7 7 ♖e2 ♖e8 8 0-0 e5



9 b4

Three points. White can basically play this position in two ways: release the tension in the centre by exchanging pawns on e5; or gain space on the queenside, as he has done here, waiting for Black to commit the e-pawn. This is the most interesting way to play. Let's look at Black's options.

9 ... dxe5 10 cxd4 is not a promising continuation as Black has little play on the kingside, while White's minority attack on the queenside is already under way. On the other hand, playing 9 ... e4 is highly committal. After 10 ♗e1 ♗f8 11 c4 c6 12 ♖c1 White's queenside attack looks faster than

Black's on the kingside. The dark-squared bishop on g5 slows Black's initiative. In both cases White's d-pawn is rock solid, so the g7 bishop, often the secret weapon in the King's Indian, is cut out of the game.

There are other ways for White to wait constructively while Black decides what to do about his e5 pawn. For example:

9 a4 (two points) also gains space on the queenside.

9 ♗b3 (two points) is a clever idea. As above, White is happy to allow Black to push the e-pawn, but would rather not have to waste time retreating to e1, then regrouping. If 9 ... e4 10 ♗fd2! followed by c4, means that White's pieces are more harmoniously placed than above, so queenside play should be even quicker. But Black should be canny and wait. For instance 9 ... c6 10 ♖c1 ♗b6 11 ♖h4 ♗e4, Garcia Palermo-Lemos, Mendoza 2004, is a reasonable idea.

Only one point for 9 dxe5. This makes life easier for Black as it draws the knight from d7, clearing the way for the d7 bishop to develop. The game Bogdanovski-Ivanchuk, Leon 2001, continued 9 ... ♗xe5 10 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 11 ♗f3 ♖e8 12 a4 h6 13 ♖h4 c6 14 a5 ♗e7 15 h3 ♖e6 16 ♗d4 ♖d7 17 ♖f3 ♖ad8. Black has completed his development without hindrance and, due to the pawn on d5, has a slight advantage in space.

By the way, 9 ♖xf6, giving up the bishop pair for no reason, is not to be recommended. Black recaptures with 9 ... ♖xf6 and smiles.

9 ... c6

10 ♖b1

Two points. Continuing the 'wait and see' strategy. At this point, many moves have been played but, according to my records, this is new. There is obviously some logic to it: the rook supports the b-pawn should it advance. However, one drawback is that in certain circumstances Black might gain a tempo by developing his c8 bishop to f5.

Let's examine some of the alternatives. 10 a4 (two points) is similar. The continuation of Torre-Kasparov, Thessaloniki 1988 is worth a look: 10 ... h6 11 ♖h4 a5 12 b5 c5 13 dxe5 ♗xe5 14 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 15 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 16 ♖c1 b6 17 ♖g4 ♖b7 18 ♖f3 ♗e7 19 c4 ♖d8 20 ♗c2 d4 and the world champion already had a clear advan-

tage. It seems to me that 15 ♖xf6 was too compliant. See the end of the test for the rest of the game.

10 ♗h4 (two points) is the choice of some specialists in this system, Malaniuk, for example. If White were to exchange everything on e5, then the bishop would no longer be en prise to the rook on e5. However, it is really just another waiting move.

10 h3 (two points) is also possible so that if 10 ... e4 11 ♘h2. Again, the knight avoids e1, so coordination is improved. The game Blanchard-Widmer, Amsterdam 2004 continued: 10 ... h6 12 ♗h4 ♘f8 13 c4 g5 14 ♗g3 ♘g6 15 ♖c1 ♗e6 16 ♖c1 ♖c8 17 a4 ♘h7 18 cxd5 cxd5 19 ♖xc8 ♗xc8 20 ♖c2 f5 21 ♗h5 ♘hf8 22 ♗c7 ♖e7 23 ♖c5 ♖xc5 24 bxc5. White had a clear advantage in the endgame. This is rather a typical game for the line. Black's kingside pawn advance has little effect and, in the long-term, White's queenside play is more significant.

10 ♖c1 (three points) would be my choice in a game. The rook removes itself from the beam of the g7 bishop, protects the pawn on c3 should the position open, and, should the position close, prepares c4.

Only one point for 10 c4. I would rather not play this while the centre is still fluid: it brings the g7 bishop back into the game. In the game Psakhis-Sokolov, Portoroz 1987, Black equalised quite easily with 10 ... ♖b6 11 ♖b3 exd4 12 ♘xd4 c5 13 bxc5 ♘xc5 14 ♖xb6 axb6 15 cxd5 ♘xd5.

10 ... a5

11 b5

Two points. As White has already put a rook behind the pawn, pushing on must be correct.

Capturing wouldn't be very good: 11 bxa5 ♖xa5. White is left with weak pawns on c3 and a2.

There is still no need to release the tension in the middle with 11 dxe5. Remember, we would like Black to play ... e4.

The modest 11 a3 (two points) is not bad, keeping Black guessing.

11 ... c5

Black plays the standard move, but I wonder if he considered 11 ... a4!?, taking away the b3 square from the

knight and queen, and giving his own queen a square on a5.

12 dxe5

Three points. In this position, White should exchange. Black was threatening to play ... e4, followed by ... c4, closing the queenside and centre. He could then take his time in building up a kingside attack.

12 dxc5? ♘xc5 would be incorrect. The knight is strong on c5, and the pawn duo gives Black excellent control.

12 ... ♘xe5

13 ♘xe5

One point. White would like to play 13 c4, but then 13 ... ♗f5 is annoying. 14 ♖c1 ♘d3 seizes the initiative.

13 ... ♖xe5

14 ♗f4

Two points. 14 ♘f3 (two points) is also possible, though I don't see that Black has any difficulties after 14 ... ♖e8 15 c4 ♗e6—it seems that White's rook should have moved to c1 to support the pawn.

14 ... ♖e6?

This is Black's first mistake. He must have convinced himself that it was necessary to prevent White from playing b6; but the rook is ugly on e6, blocking in the c8 bishop, and disconnected from the other heavy pieces on the back rank.

14 ... ♖e8 is the best move, when 15 b6 can be met by 15 ... ♗f5. I don't think it matters that the bishop can move to c7.

15 ♗f3

Three points. Increasing the pressure on the d5 pawn. After an unconvincing start, White finds himself with a promising position.

I also like 15 c4 (three points). It feels right to strike when the rook is off the back rank and the c8 bishop cannot develop freely.

15 ♘c4 looks flash, but isn't terribly good: 15 ... ♘e4 hits c3.

15 ... b6

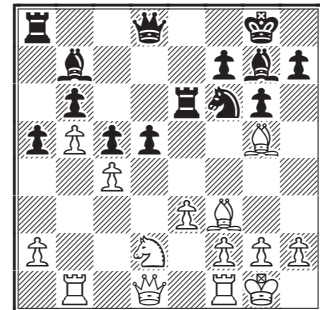
16 c4

Three points. White must open the position now, before Black develops.

16 ♘c4 still isn't good: 16 ... ♘e4 secures the better position.

16 ... ♗b7

17 ♗g5



Four points. Sneaking back to set up the pin again. Black already has difficulties. His best is probably 17 ... h6. How would you then respond? A variation please!

First I should say that White cannot win any material, but he can exploit the pin to win time and gain a significant positional advantage. The best continuation is 18 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 19 ♖c2! No need to exchange yet—Black must get out of the pin: 19 ... ♖b8 20 cxd5 ♗xd5 21 ♗xd5 ♖xd5 22 ♖fd1 ♗d8 23 ♘c4 with the advantage. Black is tied to defending the b6 pawn, White has control of the d-file, and in the long-term can look to advance his kingside pawn majority. If you saw up to 19 ♖c2, take two points. And if you envisaged a position where White was able to establish the knight on c4, take a further two.

Instead of 17 ♗g5, White could also play 17 ♖c2 (one point) but clearly Black's centre is not under the same kind of pressure.

Nothing for 17 ♖e2 allowing 17 ... ♘e4! 18 cxd5 ♘c3! 19 ♖c4 ♗xd5 20 ♗xd5 ♖xd5 and Black is doing well.

17 ... ♖e7

Breaking one pin, but ignoring the other! Dangerous.

18 cxd5

Three points.

18 ... ♗xd5

19 e4

Five points. This should win material—if followed up correctly.

19 ... ♖b7

Instead of this I think it would have been best for Black to try 19 ... ♗xa2. How would you respond?

20 ♖a1 wins the exchange: 20 ... ♗e6 21 e5 ♘d5 (two points if you got this far), but it seems to me that White does not have an easy task ahead of him. For example 22 ♗xe7 ♖xe7 23 ♖e1 ♖d8 and Black's minor pieces are strong. It is better to play 22 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 23 f4, locking one of the bishops out of the game, and only then capture the rook. The tricky knight has been eliminated, but Black has a pawn for the exchange, and two bishops. The win is a long way off.

20 e5

Three points. Winning material.

20 ... ♖xe5

Instead, 20 ... ♗xf3? 21 ♘xf3 wins a piece.

21 ♗xb7

Two points. This was a difficult decision. You can take the exchange in one of two ways, but which is best? You have to assess each resulting position.

At first glance I might have gone for 21 ♗xf6 (one point), but after 21 ... ♗xf3 22 ♘xf3 ♗xf6 23 ♘xe5 ♗xe5, Black has reasonable chances to survive. The bishop will plant itself on d4, the c-pawn is a latent threat if White gets too active, and there are no easy targets in Black's position.

21 ... ♖xg5

22 ♗xa8

One point. Leaves White with a good position, but it would have been better to play 22 ♘f3! (four points). In this way White keeps the initiative. For example:

22 ... ♖g4 23 h3 ♖b4 24 ♗xa8 ♖xa8 25 ♖d6 ♘d5 26 ♖c6, forcing a winning ending.

22 ... ♖xd1 23 ♖fxd1 ♖b8 24 ♘g5 ♖xb7 25 ♖d8+ ♗f8 26 ♘f3. White controls the position. The knight enters via e5

22 ... ♖d5!? is probably Black's best

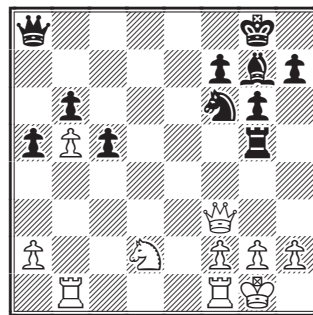
defence but, if White is clever, he can still win the initiative: 23 ♖c2 ♖b8 24 ♗xd5 ♖xd5 25 ♖fe1. The rooks take the central files.

The seemingly smooth nature of White's victory in this game masked the fact that the quality of play—on both sides—was uneven. It was only when I sat down to analyse seriously that I began to appreciate the number of inaccuracies.

22 ... ♖xa8

23 ♖f3

Two points. White offers an ending—normally the right idea when you are the exchange up. However, I still think that 23 ♘f3! (four points) is the right idea, allowing the rooks to come to the middle, and therefore cutting Black's knight out of the game.



23 ... ♘d5?

Another mistake. 'Self-pinning'—in other words, tying himself in knots (a beautiful mix of metaphors) is as bad as it sounds.

Black should ignore general principles and head for the ending. The point is that it gives more chance for the minor pieces to enter the game, and on occasion Black's c-pawn can advance. For example: 23 ... ♖xf3 24 ♘xf3 ♖d5 25 ♖fd1 ♗f8! Again, this goes against the grain. Normally, if you are the exchange down, trading rooks can be disastrous for the defending side. Here it would allow the knight into the game via d5 to c3 or b4 with sufficient counterplay.

24 ♘c4

Three points. Dreamsville. Establishing the knight on this square has been White's aim since he embarked on the plan with 16 c4. The c-pawn is blockaded, and the b6 pawn is permanently under fire.

24 ... ♖f5

25 ♖e4

Two points. Maintaining the centralised queen feels right, but 25 ♖g3 (two points) is also good for White: 25 ... ♘c3 would be met by 26 ♖be1.

25 ... ♗d4

The superb position of the bishop gives Black potential for counterplay.

26 ♖be1

One point. Rooks need open files. This rook feels fulfilled, but the one on f1 isn't quite as happy with its lot in life.

26 ... ♖f8

27 ♘d6

Four points. On principle, I think White should take the plunge. Given another move, Black will unpin with ... ♖d8, then his knight will be free to hop into c3.

It is interesting to try to exchange pieces with 27 ♘e3, but Black should resist and play instead 27 ... ♖e5! 28 ♖h4 ♖e8! 29 ♘c2 (29 ♖xh7? ♖h5!) 29 ... ♗g7, maintaining a healthy central position. White needs more open files for his rooks.

27 ... ♖f6

28 ♖e8+

One point. That was the idea—to exchange into a promising ending.

28 ... ♖xe8

29 ♖xc8+

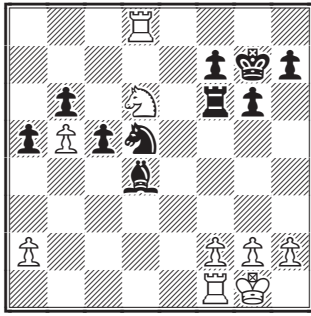
One point.

29 ... ♗g7

30 ♖d8

Two points. Threatening a big juicy check. White has infiltrated and the initiative is back in his hands.

30 ♘c4 (two points) was also possible, with the following continuation in mind: 30 ... ♘c7 31 ♖b8 ♘xb5 32 ♖xb6 ♖xb6 33 ♘xb6 ♘c3 34 a3. It is difficult for White's rook to get into the game, but the good news is that Black's c-pawn isn't going anywhere. Care is still needed, but ultimately a win is on the cards.



30 ... ♖c7

Black goes down meekly. He had to play as actively as possible: 30 ... ♖e6! is the move, allowing some funny discovered attacks, but taking the fight to his opponent. White can grab a pawn on the kingside, but Black gets his own counterplay: 31 ♗xf7 ♗c3 32 ♗g5 ♖c2 33 ♖d7+ ♗g8 34 ♖d6 ♖xa2 35 ♖xb6. White is better here but, over the board, anything could happen.

31 ... ♖d7

Three points. White tightens his grip on the position.

31 a4 (two points) is also reasonable, considering that Black has chosen to play so passively. It is a little slower, but nice and solid.

31 ... ♗f8

Instead, how would you respond to 31 ... a4 ... ? A short variation please!

White is finally able to simplify: 32 ♖xc7 ♖xd6 33 ♖c6! (two points). That is the key move. Black cannot exchange as the c-pawn will fly through, so 33 ... ♖f6. White does not need to trade yet. It is best to free the king with 34 g3 followed by ♗g2. According to how Black plays, White may well exchange, followed by activating his king and the remaining rook; or simply move the f-pawn up the board and then free the f1 rook.

32 ... a4

Two points. I am sure that White was glad to make this solid move. If Black ever contemplates counterplay on the queenside, White's structure is more secure.

32 ♖xc7 would not be as good as in the variation above. White must take care because Black's king is a step closer. For example: 32 ... ♖xd6 33 ♖c6 ♖xc6 34 bxc6 ♗e7. The king will round up the c-pawn, and White could be in trouble.

32 ... ♗e6

33 ... g3

Three points. A cool move, one that I like very much.

33 ♖b7 (two points) keeping up the pressure, is also strong, but, in a sense, the rook and knight deep in the heart of Black's position are already looking after themselves. There is no need to touch them. The first priority should be to clear up back home, and so eliminate any potential counterplay.

33 ... g5

34 ... ♗g2

Four points.

34 ♗c4 and 34 ♖b7 both deserve two points, but my comment would be as above—it is better to clear up the cramped position of the king before attempting anything else.

34 ... g4

35 ... f3

Three points. At this point **Black resigned**. By giving his king more room, White has finally succeeded in freeing his rook from its defensive duties. After 35 ... gxf3+ 36 ♖xf3 ♖xf3 37 ♗xf3, it won't just be the b-pawn that drops, but Black's entire position.

Now add up your points

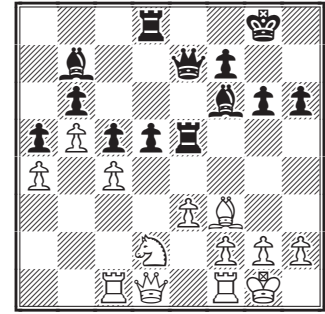
- 58-66 Grandmaster
- 48-57 International Master
- 38-47 FIDE or National Master
- 30-37 County player
- 20-29 Strong club player
- 11-19 Average club player
- 0-10 Unlucky

* * * *

It is worth taking a look at Kasparov's handling of the opening with Black. First, the continuation of the game from above.

E. Torre - G. Kasparov
Thessaloniki olympiad 1988

1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♖g5 ♖g7 4 c3 d5 5 ♗bd2 ♗bd7 6 e3 0-0 7 b4 c6 8 ♖e2 ♖e8 9 0-0 e5 10 a4 h6 11 ♖h4 a5 12 b5 c5 13 dxe5 ♗xe5 14 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 15 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 16 ♖c1 b6 17 ♖g4 ♖b7 18 ♖f3 ♖e7 19 c4 ♖d8



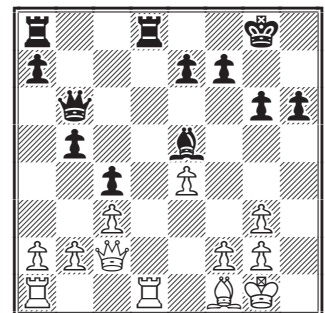
There are certain similarities with our test game, but Kasparov is so much better developed. His domination of the centre allows him to turn to the kingside.

20 ♖c2 d4 21 ♖xb7 ♖xb7 22 exd4 ♖xd4 23 ♖ce1 ♖xe1 24 ♖xe1 ♗d7 25 ♗f1 h5 26 g3 h4 27 ♗e3 ♖e6 28 ♖e2 ♖e4 29 gxh4 ♖c3 30 ♖d1 ♖xh4 31 ♖f3 ♖d4 32 ♗g2 ♖h3 33 ♖d5 ♖f6 34 ♗e3 ♖f3 35 ♗h1 ♖xf2 36 ♗g4 ♖f3+ 37 ♖xf3 ♖xf3 38 ♖e1 ♖a3 39 ♖e8+ ♗g7 40 ♖b8 ♖xa4 41 ♖xb6 ♖xc4 42 ♖a6 ♖b4 0-1

In this game Garry plays a different system, but also has little difficulty in the opening.

A. Yusupov - G. Kasparov
Tal memorial, Riga, 1995

1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 ♖g5 ♖g7 4 c3 0-0 5 ♗bd2 d6 6 e4 c5 7 dxc5 dxc5 8 ♖e2 ♗c6 9 0-0 ♖c7 10 ♖c2 ♖d8 11 ♖fe1 h6 12 ♖h4 ♗h5 13 ♗c4 ♖e6 14 ♗e3 ♗f4 15 ♖f1 ♗e5 16 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 17 ♗c4 ♖xc4 18 ♖xc4 b5 19 ♖f1 c4 20 ♖ed1 ♗h5 21 ♖g3 ♗xg3 22 hxg3 ♖b6



Kasparov's accurate and energetic play has given him the better position: he has a nice space advantage on the queenside, White's kingside structure could be healthier, and the scope of Black's bishop is better than White's. In the end, tired of waiting, and I imagine short of time, Yusupov embarks on a misguided adventure with his queen.

23 a4 a6 24 axb5 axb5 25 ♖xa8 ♖xa8 26 g4 e6 27 ♖e2 ♖a2 28 ♗f1 ♖b8 29 ♖d2 ♗g7 30 g5 h5 31 g3 ♖e5 32 ♖d7 ♖a8 33 ♖e7 ♖a7 34 ♖e8 ♖d6 35 ♗g2 ♖e7 36 ♖h1 ♖b7 37 ♖f3 ♖a8 0-1

WOODY WOODPUSHER

TRIES HIS HAND AT CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

There are certain areas of chess about which Woody has always been sceptical. I had my doubts about the merits of most chess puzzles/problems, but have since found that at least some problems can improve your chess and others are entertaining challenges in their own right. I never really enjoyed many of the more exotic chess variants which are so prevalent these days, but I've recently discovered that such variants as Fisherandom and Alice Chess as featured in this column, while no substitute for 'the real thing', make a refreshing change from the norm. Yet a third branch of chess which had yet to convince me as a worthwhile pastime was correspondence chess. So when I was asked last year to play for my county correspondence team, I took up the challenge with a certain lack of enthusiasm.

The first thing I needed to do was to check on the rules, so I headed for the British Correspondence Chess Association website. Of course all the basic rules of chess pertaining to how the pieces move, castling, capturing, methods of drawing etc. still apply. But there is no chess clock—instead players have a certain number of days thinking time for a certain number of moves. The exact speed of the game varies from competition to competition, but in practice this means a complex set of regulations involving noting postmarks, expected dates of arrival of moves and such like. I won't go into the details here as I'm sure I'd have you dozing off in seconds. One rule which allows for a slight speeding up of the whole process is the possibility of sending a 'conditional move'. This means, for example, stating that if your opponent plays ♖xd1, you will repond with ♜xd1. Perhaps the most important rule, correspondence chess's equivalent of the touch-move rule, states that 'In no circumstances shall any legal move once posted be retracted or amended.' Other special rules cover illegible or ambiguous moves, the right to take up to 14 days leave during the stipulated period of play and the method of adjudication should a game not be completed by a specified date. Undoubtedly the most disturbing rule begins with the words: 'In the event of the death of a team member during the first three months of play...'. I guess in a game which can last for almost a year, such an eventuality must be considered, but it nonetheless makes rather startling reading.

My overall impression of the rules is that whilst they are most comprehensive, they are somewhat liable to override the spirit of the game. After all, the rule which states that 'Extraneous assistance or advice concerning the play must not be sought or accepted, but books or works of reference may be consulted.' is entirely dependent on the honesty of the players involved and otherwise totally unenforceable. On a related matter, the rules offer no definitive guide as to whether consultation with computer chess programs is allowed. My understanding from more experienced correspondence players is that unless the rules of a particular correspondence event specifically forbid computer use, it is allowed. Anyway, all this leads me to believe that correspondence chess if played in the correct spirit does not require such strict legislation except perhaps at the very highest level, i.e. the World Correspondence Championship. Certainly the County Correspondence Championship in which I was to participate should be an event to enjoy and learn from rather than one to be taken too seriously.

Enough of the idle ramblings, let's get down to business and take a look at my correspondence game. Note that rather fortunately my opponent and I were able to agree to play the game by email, thus speeding events up considerably and avoiding postal costs—when you consider the cost of stamps, envelopes etc. a game could easily cost £10-£20 if played by post, a not insignificant sum. I shall move through parts of the game briskly as, in common with a lot of correspondence games, it's not exactly a wild and crazy tactical fest...

White: Sharp Corresponder
Black: Woody

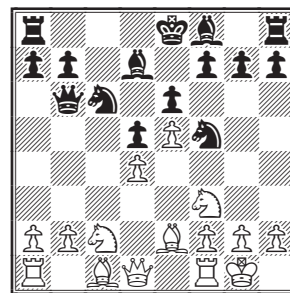
1 e4 e6

There's probably a case for using correspondence chess as an opportunity to try out a new opening in a situation where you have the chance to check the key lines in a book before playing them. I decided to stick with a trusty old warhorse.

2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 ♘c6

Already the signs are that a slow positional struggle is in prospect. The fact is that you have to be pretty confident that a tactical try is sound when your opponent has what essentially amounts to unlimited time to find the refutation.

5 ♘f3 ♙d7 6 ♙e2 ♘ge7 7 ♘a3 cxd4 8 cxd4 ♘f5 9 ♘c2 ♖b6 10 0-0



So far, we have followed a well-worn if slightly dull, theoretical path. This is about the only point in the game at which I made significant use of any aid which wouldn't normally be available in an over the board game. I studied various possible lines suggested in Danny King's 'Foxy Openings' video on the French before settling on...

10 ... ♘a5 11 ♘e3

I'd been rather hoping for 11 g4 which, while it can be a dangerous practical choice, I'd have been happy to meet in a correspondence game. Black should be able to exploit White's alarmingly weak f-file. 11 ♘e3 is a move which I'd not previously met, but while it might at first look a little unnatural, I have been unable to find anything wrong with it.

11 ... ♘xe3 12 fxex3 ♙e7

Otherwise White can exploit the semi-open f-file with 13 ♘g5.

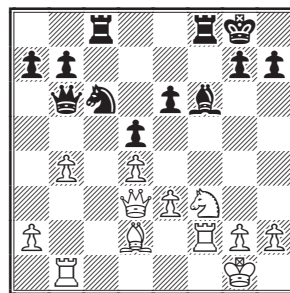
13 ♙d3 ♙b5

The idea behind ♘a5—exchanging off the notoriously bad white-squared bishop.

14 ♖f2 ♙xd3 15 ♖xd3 0-0 16 b3 ♘c6 17 ♙d2 f6

Always a key pawn break in the French, and here destined to lead to a rather symmetrical structure. Black can probably claim to have equalised from the opening and an over the board game could easily result in a quick draw after multiple exchanges on the c-file. Here, however, my opponent and I are intent on a more prolonged battle.

18 exf6 ♙xf6 19 ♖b1 ♖ac8 20 b4



The beginning of an interesting long term plan for White. He aims to plant

pawns on b5 and g5 and gain a massive space advantage.

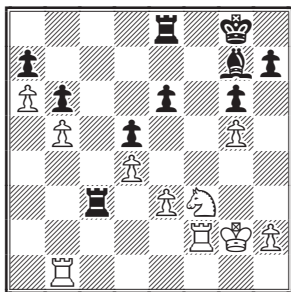
20 ... ♖e7 21 b5 ♜f5 22 ♙b4 ♜d6 23 a4 ♜fe8 24 ♙xd6 ♜xd6

The question of whose minor piece will be most effective will be potentially decisive. I felt at this stage that I had the possibility to open some diagonals and utilise the bishop's longer range to good effect. Things never quite turned out that way... Also, note that here my opponent made use of the 'conditional move' rule I mentioned earlier—when I received the move 24 ♙xd6 he followed it with 'if 24 ... ♜xd6 then 25 a5'. Obviously a sensible option here, since 24 ... ♜xd6 was an 'only move'.

25 a5 b6 26 a6

I under-estimated the danger of allowing these pawns such an unhindered path to b5 and a6.

26 ... ♜c7 27 g4 g6 28 g5 ♙g7 29 ♙g2 ♜c3 30 ♜xc3 ♜xc3



I felt that my control of the c-file compensated for White's superior pawns and thought that the queenside pawns may prove to be a little loose.

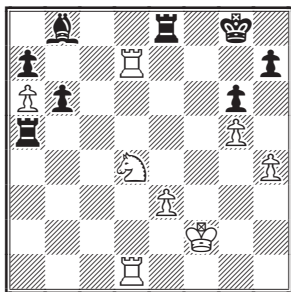
31 ♜e2 e5

Trying to get the bishop into the game.

32 dxe5 ♙xe5 33 ♜d1 ♜c5 34 ♜ed2 ♜xb5 35 ♜xd5 ♜b2+ 36 ♙g1 ♙c7

For the first time, I began to feel like I was somewhat on the back foot, if not clearly worse.

37 ♜d7 ♜c2 38 ♜d4 ♜c5 39 ♙f2 ♙b8 40 h4 ♜a5 (=)



With the knight now looking clearly better than the bishop, I rather optimistically offered a draw which White was absolutely correct to turn down.

41 ♜c6 ♜f8+ 42 ♙g1 ♜xa6

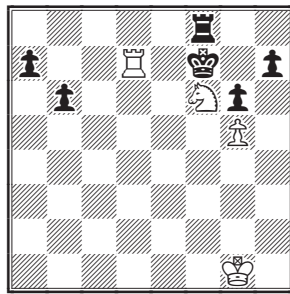
There is no way to hang on to the bishop, so my only option seemed to be to mop up as many as possible of White's pawns.

43 ♜b7 ♜a4 44 ♜xb8 ♜g4+ 45 ♙h2

♜xh4+ 46 ♙g3 ♜e4 47 ♜d7 ♜xe3+ 48 ♙g2 ♜e2+ 49 ♙g1

It must be beneficial to push back White's king while I can.

49 ... ♜e7 50 ♜f6+ ♙f7 51 ♜dd7 ♜xd7 52 ♜xd7+



My plan is now clear—if I can pick up White's remaining pawn, even at the cost of all my pawns, I should have no trouble drawing the rook v rook and knight ending.

52 ... ♙e6 53 ♜xa7 ♜b8

Keeping the b pawn provides a vital distraction.

54 ♜xh7 b5 55 ♜a3

I feel this move makes my job a lot easier. Some kind of plan involving 55 ♜a6+, followed perhaps by ♜f6 must be stronger. The game move allows...

55 ... ♜b7

This dislodges the h7 knight after which the g5 pawn must drop off.

56 ♜f6 ♙f5 57 ♜b3 ♙xg5 1/2-1/2

The draw was agreed in a position where it seems pretty clear that neither player has realistic winning chances.

So... what conclusions have I drawn from my first experience of correspondence chess? Well, I certainly enjoyed the game, particularly the latter stages as I struggled to hold the draw against my opponent's extra knight. I suspect that in an over the board game I would probably have lost from the position I reached after about 40 moves. But I hope now that if I reached a similar position I would be better prepared to cope with it. The game took about 6 months to complete, which considering it was 57 moves long meant that my opponent and I both played at a decent rate without ever needing recourse to any rules regarding time restrictions. Naturally the game lacked the kind of adrenaline rush which an over the board game can produce, but like chess puzzles and chess variants it presents an enjoyable challenge in its own right. For me, it will never be any kind of substitute for 'normal' chess, though for some people who through such problems as disability or time/travel constraints cannot play much over the board chess, correspondence chess can provide an invaluable opportunity to continue playing the game they love.

* * * *

Having discussed my arbiting experiences at a local junior tournament at some length in the February edition of CHESS, I won't dwell on a similar topic for too long here. However, I can't let the opportunity pass to mention the British Land Chess Challenge Mega-Final which I attended yesterday. Considering that Gloucestershire is a relatively 'small' county in chess terms, it was a true inspiration to see over 200 players aged from under 7 right up to 17 battling it out for the opportunity to play in the regional Giga-Final. Mike Basman can be rightly proud of the competition he has created, combining the opportunity to enjoy playing chess with the competitive edge of having the chance to qualify for the next stage of what is ultimately a nationwide competition. There are trophies for the winner of every age-group section, rosettes for all those who qualify for the next stage and certificates for every participant. The result is that everyone leaves feeling that they have achieved something noteworthy, and hopefully most will have enjoyed their day. Just one minor criticism regarding the organisation of the event — qualifiers from Gloucestershire have to travel all the way to Manchester for the northern Giga-Final rather than playing at the southern Giga-Final in nearby Wiltshire. There must, of course, be some cut-off between north and south, but this does seem rather a geographical anomaly. It seems inevitable that at least some qualifiers will be unable to make the long trek north. Perhaps the solution is to hold more than two Giga-Finals so that no-one has quite so far to travel.

One other point which was brought home to me was the discrepancy between the number of primary school participants and those from secondary schools. The section I controlled, the under 9's, had a massive 31 entrants—amazing for a single school year. The under 10 and under 11 sections were even larger and the under 8's and under 7's were also very well populated. The contrast with older age groups could not have been more stark, each having only a thin scattering of players. Indeed the under 15 section had only one entrant! I guess some drop off of interest in chess is inevitable as youngsters reach an age where demands on their time become much greater: school work, other sports, music, drama, etc. It would be a tremendous shame, however, to think that only 1 of my 31 enthusiastic under 9's will still be playing and enjoying chess at the age of 15.

On a tenuously related topic, I wonder what impact the change in the Laws of Chess detailed by Stewart Reuben in May's CHESS will have on junior

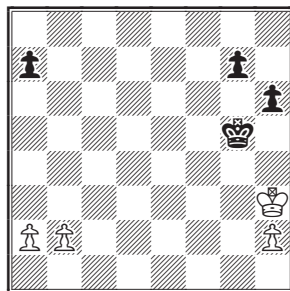
chess. It has long been common practice for juniors to be taught the benefits of writing down their move before playing it and then double-checking that the move is sound prior to actually making the move. This practice will, from 1st July 2005, be prohibited by the rule Stewart draws our attention to: 'It is forbidden to write the moves in advance.' Though I suspect few if any players, junior or otherwise, have ever made use of the previous rule to 'cheat' by making notes about possible moves, I can see some potential for such 'cheating' to occur. It is to be hoped that arbiters adopt a sensible, practical approach to enforcing the rule as they already have to with other rules such as that regarding the use of algebraic notation as opposed to descriptive notation. It also must be hoped that a rule which has doubtless been introduced with the best intentions does not significantly reduce the standard of play in junior chess in particular. It is reassuring at least to read the astute sentiments Stewart expresses regarding both this specific change to the Laws and alterations to the Laws in general.

* * * *

Our journey through the history of chess, viewing greats of the game from an amateur perspective, stops off this month in the era of the Cuban World Champion, Jose Raul Capablanca. Capablanca first made his presence felt on the world chess scene at the tender age of 23 in 1911 when he stormed to victory ahead of a world class field in the San Sebastian tournament of that year. Three years later, a fine performance in St. Petersburg, the strongest tournament for many years, saw Capablanca confirmed as a genuine contender for the world title. He finished only half a point behind the then World Champion, Emanuel Lasker. Following this tournament, Capablanca began an astonishing run of ten years during which he lost only one match or tournament game. Admittedly the strength in depth of world class chess players wasn't quite what it is today, but even 'greats' like Fischer and Kasparov could not match this record. Given his dominance of the game during this period, it seems to have been largely down to a certain reluctance (not unfamiliar in more recent times) on the part of reigning champion Lasker to take up the challenge of his rival that Capablanca did not become champion until 1921. In this year, Lasker was comprehensively defeated by 4 wins to zero with 10 draws. And Capablanca was also unlucky that one of the twentieth century's true chess geniuses, Alexander Alekhine, was following hot on his heels. In 1927, his reign was ended after a match in which he won 3 games to the Russian's 6 with a hefty 25 draws. Not

quite on a par with Karpov-Kasparov, but not far off.

So having learnt about positional chess from Steinitz and how to take a practical approach to victory from Lasker, what pearls of wisdom can we learn from Capablanca? His style was harder to attempt to replicate, being based as it was on a natural talent for spotting complications at an early stage and pre-empting them. Capablanca made chess seem a simpler game than any of us mere mortals will ever find it. His play was also characterised by highly accurate endgame technique which we can all aspire to, but few of us will ever achieve, or at least not to Capablanca's level. Perhaps Capablanca's greatest legacy to players of today is his well-known masterpiece, *Chess Fundamentals*. In my experience, most books by top GMs are either games collections—often entertaining, but not always instructional for lower level players—or tremendously detailed manuals on openings or endgames which generally tend to whistle over my head. *Chess Fundamentals* is different. It combines an obvious mastery of the game with a readable style and an approach which we can all hope to understand. Typical of the simple explanation of important ideas to be found is the following brief excerpt in which a key endgame theme is explained:



'In the position shown above, White can draw by playing b4 according to the general rule that governs such cases, i.e. to advance the pawn that is free from opposition. But suppose that White, either because he does not know this principle or because he does not in this case sufficiently appreciate the value of its application, plays 1 a4. Then Black can win by playing 1 ... a5, applying one of the cardinal principles of the high strategy of chess—a unit that holds two. In this case one pawn would hold two of the opponent's pawns. The student cannot lay too much stress on this principle. It can be applied in many ways, and it constitutes one of the principal weapons in the hands of a master. The example given should be sufficient proof. We give a few moves of the main variation:

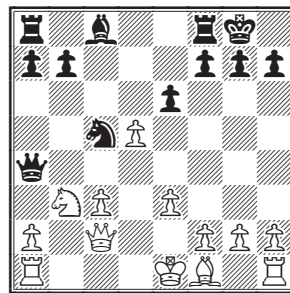
1 a4 a5 2 ♔g2 ♔f4 3 b4 axb4 4 a5 b3 5 a6 b2 6 a7 b1=♖ 7 a8=♖ ♖e4+ 8 ♖xe4 ♔xe4

This brings the game to a position which is won by Black, and which constitutes one of the classical king and pawn endings. I shall try to explain the guiding idea of it to those not familiar with it...

And so Capablanca proceeds. I would heartily recommend Capablanca's seminal work, available from Chess and Bridge for £10.99, to players of all levels.

To conclude, let's enjoy the denouement of one of Capablanca's wins from his 1927 World Championship match against Alekhine. The way Capablanca calmly diffuses Alekhine's attempted counterplay and plays with impressive accuracy typifies his style of play.

White: Jose Capablanca
Black: Alexander Alekhine
Game 7, World Championship,
Buenos Aires, 1927



15 ♖d1 exd5 16 ♖xd5 ♘xb3 17 axb3 ♖c6 18 ♖d4 ♖e8

Not allowing White time to play f3 and ♔f2.

19 ♔d3 ♖xg2 20 ♔xh7+ ♔f8

The Black king is safer here than on h8.

21 ♔e4 ♖h3

Black has to avoid the lost ending which would result after 21 ... ♔f5 22 ♔xg2 ♔xc2.

22 ♖d2 ♔e6 23 c4 a5 24 ♖g1 ♖h2

Alekhine opts for an audacious attempt at counterplay rather than struggling on a pawn down. But Capablanca is equal to the challenge.

25 ♖h1 ♖c7 26 ♖b2

The threat is 27 ♖a3+ ♔g8 ♔h7+.

26 ... ♖c5 27 ♔d5

Threatening 28 ♔xc6.

27 ... ♖a6 28 ♖e4 ♖d6 29 ♖h7

The end now seems inevitable.

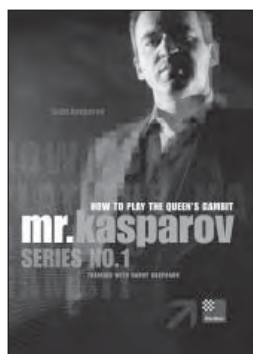
29 ... ♔e7 30 ♖xg7 ♔d8 31 ♔xe6 fxe6 32 ♖xb7 ♖b4+ 33 ♖xb4 axb4 34 c5 ♖c6 35 ♖xb4 ♖xc5 36 ♖a7 1-0

That's all for now—more news, views and games from you readers next month, so keep the post flooding in to the usual address: CHESS, 369 Euston Road, London NW1 3AR



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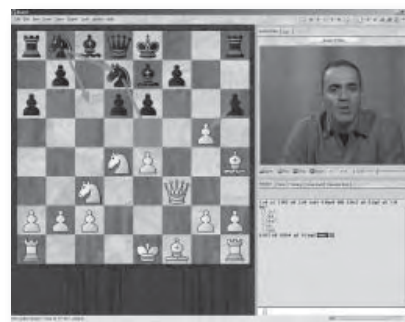
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System requirements: PC (minimum 233 MHz and 32 MB RAM, recommended 1 GHz, 256 MB), DVD drive, Windows 98 SE, ME, 2000 or XP, Sound card, Windows Media Player 9 or higher (for the multimedia lessons). Alternately: standard DVD player and TV set.

A In the last week of June 1855 representatives of the Northern and Midland Counties Chess Association (subsequently the British Chess Association and a distant ancestor of the BCF) assembled in the Warwickshire town of Leamington for the third in a series of annual meetings. On the agenda were two important projects: the consolidation of a national organisation for chess, and the formation of a committee to draw up a revised code of chess laws – an ambition long espoused by one of the principal attendees, Howard Staunton.

Progress was made toward both goals, but future generations would remember the meeting less for its tangible results than for an engraving of seven “Chess Celebrities”, published in the *Illustrated London News* in mid-July and based on pen drawings made during the Leamington discussions. 150 years on, it remains an iconic image, affording an unusually candid insight into the world of early-modern chess.

The expressions captured by the *ILN*'s artist range from the jaunty (Löwenthal) to the intense (Rivière, Wyvill and Kennedy). Most immediately recognisable is, of course, Howard Staunton, whose slouched posture, furrowed brow and faint air of lassitude suggest an underlying unease, even hinting that a more accurate title for the engraving might be “I’m a chess celebrity – get me out of here!”.

Staunton's immediate neighbours also claim our attention. To the right, slightly awed by the company in which he has found himself, is the third Baron Lyttelton,

150 Years Ago: CHESS CELEBRITIES

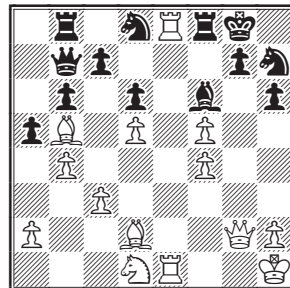
politician, promoter of night-schools and workmen's institutes, and later the British Chess Association's first president. To his left, viewing proceedings with a faintly quizzical eye, sits the Austrian chess writer and visitor to the Leamington meeting, Ernest Falkbeer, who was later to contribute this pleasing pen-picture to *Brentano's Chess Monthly*:

Staunton was a man of winning, imposing appearance; an athletic form, with a truly lion-like countenance, and always most carefully dressed. He knew how, wherever and in whatever society he moved, to concentrate the attention of those present upon himself. It made a truly comic impression when, in the year 1855, the so-called “Midland Counties' Chess Association” met for three days at Leamington, to which I was invited as a guest, to see the President of the Society, Lord Littleton [*sic*], a man of small stature, but of measured and worthy behavior, enter beside the mighty Staunton...

Aside from discussion, the Leamington meeting featured an informal match of

three consultation games, Falkbeer, Löwenthal and Rivière versus Staunton, Kennedy and Wyvill. Here is the end of the one decisive game:

De Riviere/Falkbeer/Lowenthal – Kennedy/Staunton/Wyvill



29 ♖xf8+ ♜xf8

If 29...♜xf8 30 ♖e8+ ♜f7 31 ♖g6 mate.

30 ♜e3 ♜f7 31 ♜g4

The attack on Black's poorly defended king's position gathers force.

31...♜h4 32 ♜g1

32 ♜c6 might have been still more decisive.

32...c5

A last attempt to strengthen the king's defences.

33 dxc6 ♖e7 34 ♜e3 1-0

The threats have become too numerous to parry.

by Chris Ravilious

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TIGERISH PRINCIPLES

I was shocked and deeply saddened when I read of the tragic death of Simon Webb. He was such a nice guy—gentle, charming and free from the conceit which is sometimes evident in talented players. I only ever played him once (in a match for Kent juniors against Surrey on 3.12.66). The result? A draw, which I counted myself very lucky to get (after all, he was U-18 champion)! Interestingly, I followed his tigerish principles. I was so mad at losing a pawn for nothing I started a vigorous attack. It was enough to persuade him to offer me a draw, which I accepted as I was in terrible time trouble. Here's the game (my surname was Clarke at the time, I recently changed it to Dannenberg):

G.J. Dannenberg *White*
S. Webb *Black*

Sicilian Defence, Maroczy Bind

1 e4 c5 2 ♜f3 ♜c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♜xd4 g6 5 c4 ♟g7 6 ♟e3 ♜f6 7 ♜c3 ♜g4 8 ♖xg4 ♜xd4 9 ♖d1 ♜e6 10 ♟e2 ♖a5 11 ♖d2 ♟xc3 12 bxc3 b6 13 0-0 ♟b7 14 ♜ab1? ♟xe4 15 ♜b5 Might as well pretend this was a deliberate pawn sacrifice! 15 ... ♖a4 16 ♜d1 d6 17 f3 ♟c6 18 ♜b4 ♖a5 19 ♟d3 ♜c8 20 ♖c2 ♜c5 21 ♜e1 ♟d7 22 ♟d4 e5 23 f4 ♜e6 24 ♟e3 f5 25 ♖d2 ♜c6 26 ♜b5 ♖a3 27 ♜b3 ♖a5 draw agreed.

I would have sent this to Addicts Corner, but I see poor Mike Fox has also died. My condolences to all who knew him and Simon.

James Dannenberg

Amatzia Avni invites you to Meet Baron Munchausen

Solving Mysteries

Recently I came across a mystery novel by A. Perez-Reverte, *The Flanders Panel*. It presents Julia, a young Madrid art restorer, who works on a 15-century Flemish painting of a chess duel, when she detects a hidden inscription: 'Who killed the knight?'

The novel describes what happens when Julia follows the leads in an attempt to solve the murder case.

Talking to Munchausen, I raised the question whether solving a mystery through chess clues was possible in real life. My friend had no doubt: "Sure it is".

I wanted to know if his observation rested on concrete evidence. He thought for some time, and said: "I think there are many examples. Take for instance one of the Beatles' famous songs, 'When I'm sixty four'. It is not difficult to see that actually this song describes the current situation in chess-politics".

I was quite surprised, since chess was not even mentioned in the aforementioned song.

The Baron explained patiently: "The lyrics state it explicitly:"

"Send me a postcard, drop me a line, stating point of view,

Indicate precisely what you mean to say, yours sincerely wasting away, Give me your answer, fill in a form..."

"Can't you hear the voices of Shirov, Ponomarev, Kasparov and all the other poor souls, who during the last decade have pleaded to the Fide conqueror, Ilyumzhinov, to set a date and terms for their planned matches?"

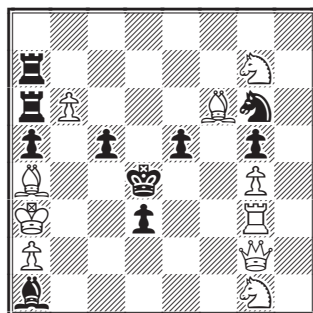
Since I was not quick to acknowledge, he presented the subsequent lyrics as further evidence:

"Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm sixty four".

"I can easily identify the pleading tone"—M. asserted. "It is the chorus line of professional grandmasters."

This was illuminating, I must say. An apparently innocent text reveals, upon closer scrutiny, hidden meanings.

I wondered whether he could supply me with a pure chess illustration. Naturally, he could.



Mate in three

"Try your hand at this problem"—said the Baron. "Who do you think composed it?"

I was baffled. Finding the mate is possible, I assumed, but what information can you give me as to the composer's identity?

"You have eyes, but you don't look"—he reproached me. "The configuration is of the letter M. The composer is me!"

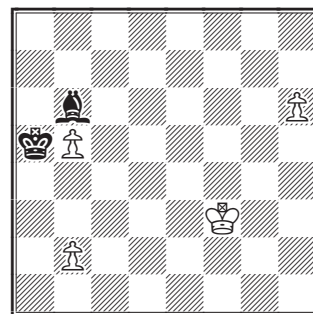
In the 19th century there was a trend called "Scachographics", according to which the chess problems, in addition to their chess content, had to show a certain figure. This, naturally, affected their level to the worse.

The intended solution of this problem (by I. Shumov) is 1 ♖b3 c4 (1... ♖b2+ 2. ♖xb2 ♘e7 3 ♘e6 mate; 1... ♗xg7 2 ♘e2+ dx2 3 ♗d5 mate) 2 ♘e6+ ♖c3 3 ♗c2 mate. However, 1 ♖b5 is a second solution. All in all, a rotten problem—but don't tell the Baron!

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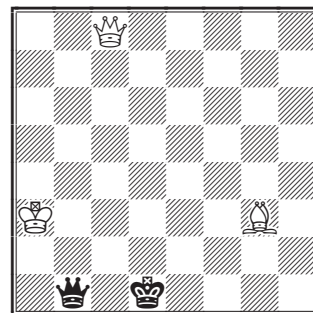
Magical Miniatures Studies Competition by Colin Russ

M.Lewitt
Schweizerische Schachzeitung 1933



White to move and win

M.Lewitt
Deutsche Schachzeitung 1935



White to move and win

To enter, send your name and address, with the main variations, to **Chess & Bridge Ltd, 369 Euston Road, London, NW1 3AR**, postmarked not later than July 5, 2005. There is a £25 voucher for the first correct entry drawn.

Solutions (April)

Fritz: 1 d5 exd5 2 ♖b6 d4 (2... ♖g7 3 ♖c5 ♘c3, e3 4 ♖d4) 3 ♖c5 d3 4 ♖d4 d2 (4... ♘b2/♘f2 5 ♖c3/♖e3) 5 ♖d3.

Segenreich: 1 ♘c6+ ♖xa8 2 ♖d3 ♖g8 (2... ♖b7 3 ♘e7 ♖b6, c7 4 ♘d5+ and 5 ♘f6, while if the black king here stays in the north west with, e.g., 3... ♖a8 the white king walks down to h6) 3 ♖e4 ♖h7 (otherwise the black bishop falls, wherever it is, after a discovered check) 4 ♘e7+ ♖a7, b8 5 ♖d3 and, as before, White will claim the black bishop with ♘d5+ and ♘f6 or by an eventual ♖h6.

Winner of £25 voucher was **Kevin Doherty Hammersmith**

'Just Looking Right': THE STAUNTON PATTERN

by Harvey T. Dearden

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF GARETH WILLIAMS



Below: The Staunton design is now regarded as the definitive chess set and is used around the world.

Why was a design that is named for Howard Staunton and manufactured by John Jaques, actually registered by Nathaniel Cooke? I suspect that the answer lies in what would today be called 'networking'; the development of personal and business contacts for mutual advantage.

Staunton was known as the foremost player of his day, John Jaques I was an established manufacturer. Nathaniel Cooke was later to become father-in-law to John Jaques II who married his daughter Anne, and was partner with Hebert Ingram who launched *The London Illustrated News* to which Staunton contributed a chess column.

When the sets were first made available in September 1849, an advertisement appeared in TLIN declaring:

'A set of chessmen, of a pattern combining elegance and solidity to a degree hitherto unknown, has recently appeared under the auspices of the celebrated player Mr Staunton. A guiding principle has been to give by their form a signification to the various pieces – thus the king is represented by a crown, the queen by a coronet, &c. The pieces are generally fashioned with convenience to the hand; and it is to be remarked, that while there is so great an accession to elegance of form, it is not attained at the expense of practical utility. Mr Staunton's pattern adopts but elevates the conventional form; and the base of the pieces being of a large diameter, they are more steady than ordinary sets.'

Endorsement by Staunton was clearly a strong (marketing) move.

There does not seem to be any definitive understanding over who actually originated the design. My own speculation is that it is in the nature of these things that there is no simple 'connect-the-dots' process. Such developments have a collaborative nature with varying contributions during successive iterations. However, it appears likely that Cooke was the prime mover at least in terms of the look of the men.

It is clear that Staunton himself did not originate the design: he never made any such claim, and given his acknowledged propensity for self promotion it is difficult to imagine he would pass up the opportunity.

In introducing a new design it must have been tempting for Jaques (as manufacturer) to consider a Knight that could be turned on the lathe, but instead the horse head design was taken from the Elgin marbles, that were placed on display in the British Museum in 1817. All the men other than the knight are essentially axi-symmetric (see previous article; Space, Time & Symmetry, CHESS November 2002) and are readily manufactured on a lathe. The use of a horse's head in the design for the knight was a long established, (but not universal) tradition and its adoption in the Staunton pattern perhaps points to the influence of someone removed from manufacturing concerns.

Given Staunton's nominal involvement and Jaques' direct interest as manufacturer, it is only as originator that we have an apparent reason for Cooke's involvement as registrant.

Cooke registered the design under the Ornamental designs Act of 1842 on 1st March 1849. Jaques acquired the rights to manufacture sets to this design and began supply in September of that year.

Whatever its origins, the Staunton pattern has endured and is a masterpiece of design in which form and function are most happily married:

Function; in that the men are readily distinguished, one from another, and having relatively broad bases (sometimes weighted) they have good stability. They are relatively robust, unlike many ornate predecessors, and feel well balanced in the hand.

Form; in that they have a particular aesthetic appeal.

I struggle to say from what precisely this arises, but certainly for me a board and set of Staunton men have an intrinsic visual appeal quite independently of the attractions of the game itself. As my own brother-in-law (these in-laws have their uses) succinctly pointed out to me; 'they just look right'.

I dare say there is an element of cultural conditioning here – a chess set carries associations of intelligence, of refinement and elegance. Chess sets are often portrayed in film as a shorthand reference to these attributes.

Beyond these cultural associations however, there is an intriguing allure here even for those that have no notion of the game. The proportions, the symmetries, the geometries, possess a grace and harmony that entrances the eye. Intriguingly, it seems that it is only in aggregate when arrayed on the board

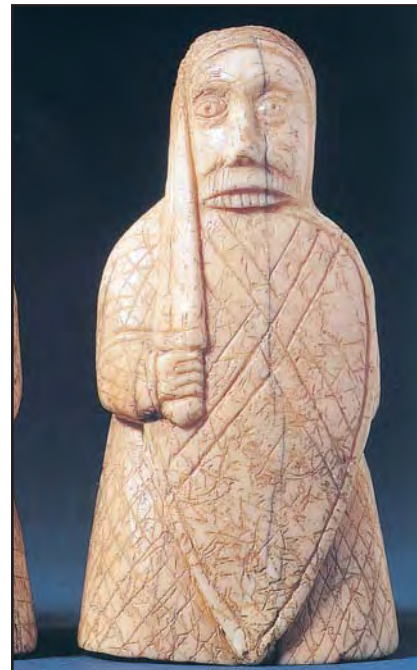


episodes. They intrigue by virtue of the romantic associations rather than any intrinsic aesthetic quality.

Often the characters do not quite fit, usually because natural pairings are not available for the pieces, and we are left with designations that seem a little unsatisfactory. There is perhaps less difficulty characterising the pawns where any suitably anonymous motif may be adopted.

Were these 'berserkers' from the Isle of Lewis chessmen intended to convey ferocity or comedy?

To my mind, the only other pattern that approaches the Staunton men in terms of 'just looking right' is that of the Isle of Lewis men, thought to originate in Norway in the 12th century. They have a melancholy yet faintly comic air to them – at least to the modern eye. I wonder whether they had the same connotations when they were first conceived? Their very antiquity also lends them a certain charm. I like to imagine that their maker had a wry sense of humour and that it amused him



that the Staunton men weave their magic – take any man out of context and he(he?) does not look anything out of the ordinary.

Of course many ornamental designs are appealing, but often this is because of associations with particular characters (real or fictional) or historical

to have his rook figures bite their shields.

The ancient Scandinavian sagas speak of fearless warriors known as 'berserker' that reputedly did not wear armour and bit their shields in their battle frenzy. Was the rook figure intended to convey ferocity or comedy?

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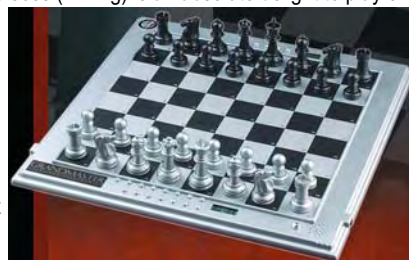
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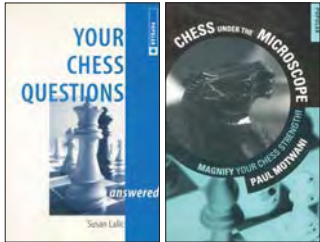
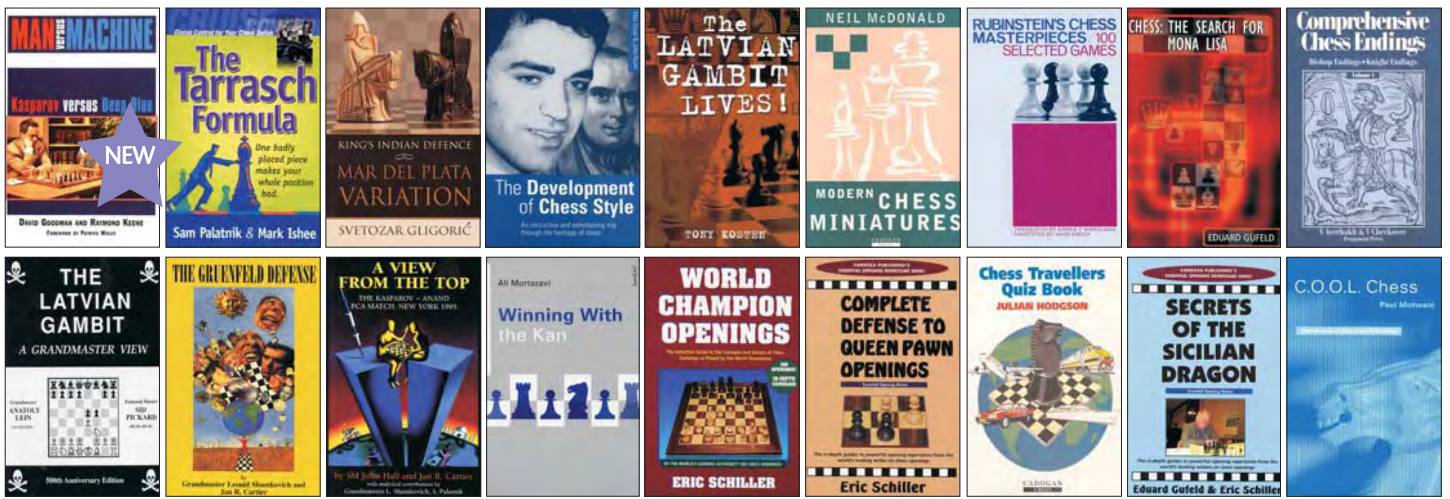
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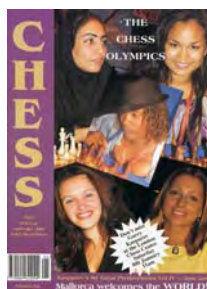
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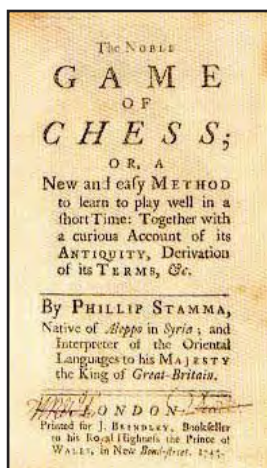
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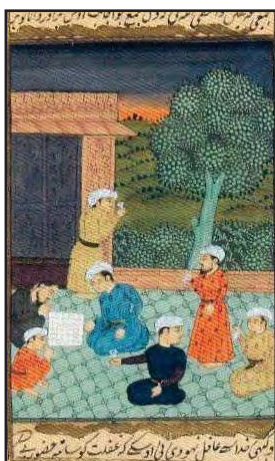
COLLECTOR'S CORNER *by Gareth Williams*

Bloomsbury April Auctions

Fine Chess Sets and Traditional Games



Lot 20. Stamma's book fetched £1095



Lot 87. The Chess Players, a snip at £101



Lot 122. Wedgwood Basalt set, 1968. £1488.



Lot 145. Po.W, set? Appreciated for. £5326



Lot 162. 17th century, Flemish chessmen, only £4522



Lot 169. French or German? A highly prized set. £8925.

The success last October of Bloomsbury Auctions' first sale of *Fine Chess Sets and Traditional Games*, expertly organised by their experienced chess specialist, Luke Honey, has resulted in this second chess/games themed auction, held at their central London premises, Bloomsbury House, 24 Maddox Street.

As with the first sale, the auction room was full of eager enthusiasts, many having journeyed from the E.U. and the U.S.A. In addition to catering for those in the auction room Bloomsbury staff manned numerous phones for bidders. The auctioneer, too, on arriving at his podium, announced to the anticipatory audience that for the first time the auction was being conducted on the internet and bids were being accepted directly from this alien source. This new innovation interrupted the normal flow of the auctioneer's rhythm and, having obtained bids from the floor, he would turn to the phone bidders and then to an internet controller—and silence would descend over the whole auction while bidding continued on the internet. Fortunately this only occurred intermittently, but it did have the effect of slowing the proceedings and causing inconvenience to a few attendees who had transport connections to consider.

The auction was divided into sections, the first being *Books and Catalogues*, with 27 entries, in which the highest price obtained was £1,095, for Lot 20, *The Noble Game of Chess, 1745*, by Phillip Stamma. Lot 23, another important early book, *Chess, 1787*, by Richard Twiss, sold for £476. Both these Lots sold well over their estimates, as did most of the items in this section, initiating a trend that would continue throughout the auction.

There were a number of scarce illustrations in the section on *Pictures and Chess Memorabilia*. Lot 77, contained a number of chess related cartoon prints from *Punch*, which sold for £155. Another attractive item in this section was Lot 85, *The Chess Players*, a small Indian watercolour which sold for £101—double the estimated price.

Lots 87 to 118 dealt entirely with Jaques and Staunton sets, the highest price obtained in this section was £2,023 for Lot 100, an ivory Jaques set, 19th century, King 7.3cm, in a Jaques Cartonpierre box. An unusual 'Staunton Chessmen and Draughts' braille peg set produced by *The British Chess Company, circa 1900*, sold for a surprising £952, treble its lower estimate of £300.

BOOKMAN'S HALT



“She took up the little old book with some curiosity; it had the corners turned down in many places, and some hand, now for ever quiet, had made at certain passages strong pen-and-ink marks, long since browned by time...”
– George Eliot

Who has not, at one time or another, shared the curiosity of George Eliot’s Maggie Tulliver over marks of ownership left in some “little old book”; marks whose provenance may by now be irretrievably lost? Books, more particularly chess books, are not just the repositories of their authors’ thoughts, but of the reactions to those thoughts of past owners. Comments can range from the laconic – “Bad”, “Rubbish!” – to the more expansive: “Why sacrifice B? If K-K1, can W win?” Sometimes it is possible to deduce whose opinions we are being treated to – the handwriting may match that of a signature on the flyleaf – but more often we are left to speculate as to the identity of these nameless book-markers.

Someone who shares my addiction to those “pen and ink marks, long since browned by time” is *CHESS* reader Peter Ibbett, whose early and very welcome response to our appeal for “thoughts on books” forms the main subject of this month’s “Bookman”. Peter lives at Buckden in Huntingdonshire, and after thirty years teaching science now runs a Kip McGrath centre for 6-16 year olds. (A chess set, clock and a few books, he notes, are ideal materials for a “reward session” for pupil attainment.)

Like the author of this column, Peter is a regular haunter of bookshops – including Oxfam! – combing the Sports and Hobbies shelves for books on chess. Here are his thoughts on the building of his personal chess library:

Each book has its own character. My chess books are companions, each reflecting the time I took them in to the warmth of my shelves and each gave me

pleasure. Yet giving a second-hand chess book a new life has a sadness, for most give no clue as to their history and the chess players they have known.

Thus I made a resolution a year or two ago to work through my collection and add some information to each, so that when they leave my care and take their next turn on the second-hand shelves they may more easily find a new home, as my comments catch the interest of a kindred spirit.

My project is thus to learn more about my chess books and to equip them for the future. As an example, here are the notes I have enclosed in a copy of E.E. Cunnington’s *Chess Openings for Beginners* which I found among a small collection of chess books in the Bedford Oxfam shop.

“A new book emerges into the world to the delight of its owner, who takes pleasure from its contents. Then life moves on and the book finds itself out of fashion and left on the shelf. Decades later the eye of a browser in an Oxfam shop in Bedford is caught by the pocket-sized book hiding on a shelf with a little collection of elderly chess books to keep it company.

“The cover catches the eye with its simple yet ornate style. Publishers and booksellers have always known the value of a distinctive cover! It is strange, however, to see a position from an endgame on the cover of a book on openings. The Reverend Cunningham provides a sermon based on following simple commandments and avoiding traps set by the devil. ‘Reason and experience have settled on certain best ways of commencing a game – it is better to accept these results than to try and strike out fresh paths for yourself.’”

Peter will forgive me, I hope, for interrupting the flow of his discourse, but it’s worth remarking that his puzzlement at seeing an endgame position on the cover of a book on openings will have been shared by many purchasers of Cunnington’s books. Earlier editions of these have plain cloth covers, but the later reprints, with a cover design which signals “Cunnington” to all chess book habitués, all carry the same endgame position. Maybe someone out there will be able to identify it.

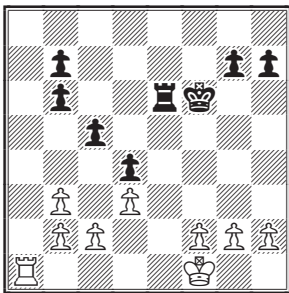
The next section—*The British Isles*—dealt mainly with 18th and 19th century British playing sets, made from bone, ivory and wood, selling for prices of between £350 and £700. In contrast to these a modern 1968 Wedgwood set by Arnold Machin, sold for £1,488, while the previous Lot, a ‘Rose’ lead set, circa 1940 obtained only £36, representing an example of the diversity of chess sets available at the sale. However, the star of this section was Lot 145, a carved ivory set, early 19th century, possibly the work of a gifted carver prisoner of the Napoleonic war. It sold for the handsome price of £5,326.

Most of the additional rare sets were in the *European* section. In particular Lot 162, a part set of twenty-two chessmen, splendidly carved out of ivory and ebony, representing early 17th century Flemish militia. The pawns carved as soldiers bearing muskets; two ivory knights on horseback; two ivory rooks, towers with protruding cannon; the bishops, burger masters holding scrolls; the ebony King and Queen wearing crowns and handling sceptres. This exceptional Lot sold for £4,522. If it had been complete it would probably have trebled its price and would be destined to find a home in one of Europe’s prestigious museums.

The highest price was obtained by Lot 169, which sold for £8,925. It is described as *A French Bone Bust Chess Set, Dieppe, mid/late 18th century*. In the past few years investigation by German members of Chess Collectors International indicate that this genre of set were made in Germany, there are two similar sets on exhibit at a Nuremberg Museum.

High prices were also obtained by the following Lots:- Lot 190, £4,760, *An Italian Ivory and Ebony Bust Chess Set, mid/late 19th century*. Lot 204, £3,570, *A Burmese Ivory Figural Set, circa 1920*. Lot 207, £3,808, *A Fine Indian Ivory ‘John’ Part Set, Berhempore, circa 1840*. Lot 218, £5,950, *A Rajasthan Polychrome Ivory Figural Set, circa 1850*. and Lot 229, £3,049, *An Indian Ivory Travelling Set with Board, Vizagapatam, circa 1790*.

Bloomsbury Auctions have every right to be pleased with this their second sale of chess sets and related games. Luke Honey is confident that they will be able to hold another sale this year and has provisionally pencilled in the 3rd of November for the next auction.



In a further note Peter waxes more technical:

“The date of the book is not given. This 15th edition (7th impression) has a reference to a game played by Lasker in 1900 and to the 1903 Monte Carlo Tournament, but the general collection of gambit openings and references in notes to play at odds suggests that it is a child of the amateur play of the 1880s, with its heart in the Mid-Victorian days of chess as a set of ‘romantic’ gambits. This was being overtaken by the ‘modern’ chess of Steinitz, with its spotlight on careful strategy and defence as the basis for a final combinative ending, as well as scientific investigation of openings to test new theories rather than the application of common sense and experience.

“In January 2004, 21 copies of Cunnington’s book were on sale on an internet booksite, at prices varying from £3 to £45. A 1951 edition was rewritten by J. du Mont. A 4th edition is listed as 1912 by one seller and as ‘1880s?’ by another! An 18th edition is given as c1920. CHESS of June 1947 advertises the 17th edition for 2s 6d and in April 1955 has the 21st edition for 3s 4d. I suspect this copy may be of 1930s origin, but its contents suggest it cannot have changed much from the early 1900s. Its character was formed in the sitting-rooms of Mid-Victorian England as the railway system was driving the Turnpike Era into history. Its approach to the game of chess was still selling copies as the first Sputnik orbited the earth in 1957!”

A few days after Peter’s email reached me, I experienced my own Maggie Tulliver moment, on spotting a small pile of chess books in one corner of the back room of a bookshop in a nearby town. Top of the heap was Golombek’s *Fischer v Spassky*, and a closer inspection soon confirmed that I had stumbled upon the personal effects of a Fischer devotee. All the standard accounts of the Reykjavik tussle were

there – Alexander, Reshevsky, Gligoric *et al.*, as well as the 1959 *Bobby Fischer’s Games of Chess* – but it was only when I reached floor-level that I hit real treasure: a cloth-bound scrapbook containing some 150 cuttings from newspapers of the time. Here were the ringside comments of some of the leading pundits of the seventies chess world – not only Golombek and his *Sunday Times* colleague C.H.O’D. Alexander, but B.H. Wood for the *Telegraph*, Leonard Barden (then as now the *Guardian’s* chess correspondent) and some less familiar names, among them David Watt, his thoughts captured on the distinctive pink paper of the *FT*, David Spanier and Harold Schonberg.

To read through such a collection is to gain a wholly new perspective on the events it records. Lacking the benefit of hindsight, none of the commentators can be sure how the match will end. Will Fischer resume his quest for the championship following his default in Game 2? Or, having lost the first game, has his confident prediction “I’ll take him in 13 games” received such a blow as to undermine his morale and bring the encounter to a swift and inglorious conclusion? Three weeks later, and with Fischer leading by three clear points and seemingly in command, Spassky comes up with a stunning refutation of Fischer’s favourite poisoned pawn variation and scores a decisive win in Game 11. Is this a false dawn – as the further course of the match will in fact prove – or has the champion uncovered weaknesses in Fischer’s play which he can hope to exploit again? Today we know the answer to these questions. To commentators in Reykjavik’s Exhibition Hall – and to their readers – the bearing of each day’s events on the course of the whole match remained a subject for speculation. And it is this uncertainty, this sense that “anything is possible”, that a hoard of press cuttings such as this conveys.

At another level it’s the headlines of the newspaper reports which set off vibes. From “Now Spassky protests about Fischer’s chair” to “Chess-Hall Scientific Tests Yield 2 Dead Flies”, the highlights of the Reykjavik saga are revisited. Toward the end of the sequence even the tabloids get a look-in, with “King Bob!”, “Bobby Dazzler”, “Fischer is the Champ – and says: Shove off, jerk”, and finally “Chess Champ Bobby Wants Virgin Mate. It’s his next big move, say friends”. No-one, but no-one, in those heady days of September 1972, could have predicted the long years of estrangement from the chess establishment, exile from the US, and latterly confinement (happily, it would appear, now ended) which were to come.

My own memory of August 1972 is of sharing my daily train journey to work with a family friend – not a chess player – who soon became as obsessed as I was with the minutiae of the event: the protests over light levels and noisy sweet wrappers, the roping off of the first rows of seats (they were at first removed following Fischer’s protest, but were afterwards reinstated on condition that no-one should be allowed to sit on them), and, of course, the dead flies. Could chess players really be this crazy? she asked. Oh yes, I assured her, it’s all par for the course. A harsh assessment, perhaps, but successive decades have not really changed my view

I’ve described my encounter with the Reykjavik cuttings book as a Maggie Tulliver moment, but I might just as well have called it a Peter Ibbett moment, since a the sense of frustration Peter describes in his review of his chess library is mirrored in my reaction to this, my latest, bookshop find. For the identity of the cuttings book’s compiler and first owner remains a mystery. He (or she?) approached the task of memorialising the Fischer-Spassky contest with a becoming seriousness: so much is clear from various manuscript notes – not yet “browned by time” – scattered through the volume, as well as from the care with which the cuttings have been mounted, each precisely centred on its page. But nowhere is there a signature, or any hint, other than that the exercise book was bought from a stationer in Brighton, as to the identity or background of the writer. And the bookshop owner couldn’t, or wouldn’t, tell me anything of the collection’s provenance. As Peter says, the pleasure of acquiring such a collection is too often matched by sadness, since its members are effectively orphaned, with no family history, no papers, nothing to link them to their former lives.

What “Maggie Tulliver moments” have you known? And to what extent have they enriched your appreciation of a favourite chess book? Your thoughts on this or any other book-related topic will be warmly welcomed. Contact the Bookman either by email (ravilious@screaming.net) or by writing c/o the *CHESS* office.

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CRUSHING!

IM Richard Palliser witnesses a two horse race in the 4NCL

4 NCL seasons are supposed to be exciting, close and partly decided by an upset. This year's Division One has fulfilled the first two of those categories; just not the last. The April weekend in West Bromwich witnessed the continuing domination of Wood Green I and Guildford-ADC I, with both teams remaining on 100%, some five points clear of the field. It wasn't just that the big two kept winning; they also won by crushing margins! Wood Green ensured that they averaged over 2500 to take on the lowly ADs and unsurprisingly emerged 7½-½ winners, with John Emms and Matthew Turner winning dynamically with the Black pieces.

D.Wheeler (2239) *White*
J.Emms (2505) *Black*
 ADs I—Wood Green I
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 f4 d5 3 exd5?! ♟f6!

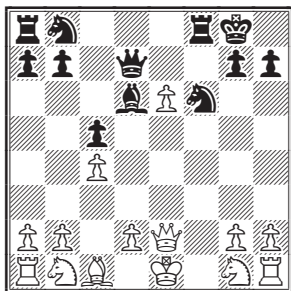
The pure Grand-Prix is pretty rare these days, chiefly due to this pawn sacrifice which grants Black excellent compensation.

4 ♟b5+ ♟d7 5 ♟xd7+ ♟xd7 6 c4 e6 7 ♟e2 ♟d6 8 f5!?

Certainly critical, while Black has also scored very well in practice after 8 dxe6 fxe6 9 d3 0-0 10 ♟f3 ♟c6 11 0-0 ♟ae8!, intending to exploit his superior development after 12 ... e5.

8 ... 0-0! 9 fxe6 fxe6 10 dxe6

Emms rightly didn't fear an exchange of queens for after 10 ♟xe6+ ♟xe6+ 11 dxe6 ♟c6, Black will always regain the e6-pawn. Here White's extra pawn is backwards and on d2, but much more important is his lack of development and after 12 ♟f3 ♟b4! Black already enjoys a strong initiative.



10 ... ♟c7!?

No doubt the always well-prepared John Emms had many of the following complications worked out in advance,

while this critical try hasn't been played as much as the less forcing 10 ... ♟e8 11 ♟f3 ♟c6, intending ... ♟h5 and ... ♟ae8 with dangerous attacking chances.

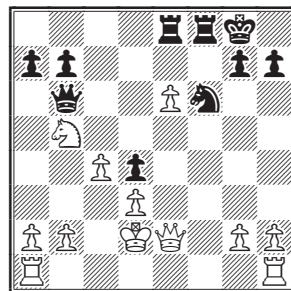
11 ♟f3 ♟c6 12 ♟c3 ♟ae8 13 d3

Now the White king will be forced to stay in the centre, but 13 0-0 certainly wasn't an improvement. One idea now is the very forcing 13 ... ♟d4!? 14 ♟xd4 ♟xh2+ 15 ♟h1 cxd4 when 16 ♟d5 appears strong, but then Black has 16 ... ♟xd5 17 ♟xf8+ ♟xf8 18 cxd5 ♟d6! 19 d3 ♟e7 and now White must lose his remaining pawn cover as 20 g3 is necessary to prevent mate.

13 ... ♟d4!

Black shouldn't give up his control of this square at all lightly, but now he gets to force the White monarch to move and thus continues in the aggressive vein begun with 10 ... ♟c7!?

14 ♟xd4 cxd4 15 ♟b5 ♟b4+ 16 ♟d2 ♟xd2+ 17 ♟xd2 ♟b6



18 ♟e5

Winning the d-pawn appears sensible, but this doesn't work out well. However, Black is already much better due to his strong initiative. Thus perhaps 8 f5 should be labelled '?' as White hasn't had a clear improvement since then. Here 18 e7!? was also possible, but doesn't really slow down the Black initiative and then 18 ... ♟f7 19 ♟e5 ♟a5+! (far better than 19 ... ♟xe7!?) 20 ♟xd4 ♟e4+ 21 ♟c1! ♟xd4 22 ♟xd4 ♟f2 23 ♟f1 ♟xd3+ 24 ♟c2; and 19 ... ♟fxe7? 20 ♟xd4 ♟e2+ 21 ♟c3 ♟a5+ 22 ♟b3 ♟xg2 23 ♟ag1! when White gets to defend) 20 ♟c1 ♟fxe7 and the White king, which separates his rooks, remains a serious cause for concern. Indeed after 21 ♟xd4 ♟e2 Black is much better, such as with 22 ♟c3 ♟e1+! 23 ♟c2 ♟a4+! 24 ♟b3 ♟8e2+ 25 ♟c3 ♟a5+ winning.

18 ... ♟xe6 19 ♟xd4!?

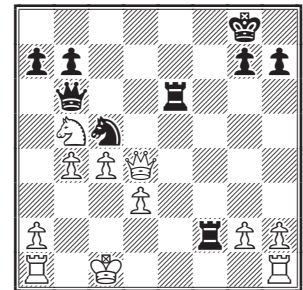
Nothing quite works for poor Wheeler who is being resolutely punished for his very risky choice of opening. Here 19 ♟c7!?

then 19 ... ♟d5! 20 ♟xb6 ♟f2+ 21 ♟c1 ♟xb6 maintains excellent compensation, although White should probably have tried this. He would here though have had to avoid 22 g3? due to 22 ... ♟b4 23 ♟d1 ♟c2! 24 ♟b1 ♟e3 and more than an exchange goes west.

19 ... ♟e4+! 20 ♟c2

Resisting well with instead 20 ♟c1 going down after 20 ... ♟f2! 21 ♟xb6 axb6! 22 ♟f1 ♟e2 23 d4 ♟d3+ 24 ♟d1 ♟xg2 25 ♟xf8+ ♟xf8 and Black will emerge at least the exchange ahead.

20 ... ♟f2+ 21 ♟c1 ♟c5! 22 b4



22 ... ♟xd3+!?

Superb, although this had actually been played before. Emms may well not have known that, but this deep sacrifice is certainly a lovely way with which to end this fine use of the initiative.

23 ♟xd3 ♟ee2 24 ♟d1

Avoiding 24 ... ♟h6+ and even applying some pressure to the e2-rook, but Black has it all worked out.

24 ... ♟f6 25 ♟d5+

The only try whereas, when this position was reached before, 25 ♟b1? didn't prevent the threat and after 25 ... ♟f1+ White resigned in Suta-Schoen, Budapest 1994 as it's mate next move.

25 ... ♟h8 26 ♟c1

Now that his king has the d3-square, Wheeler may well have harboured hopes of at least saving the game, while this is definitely the best square for the attacked rook. Instead 26 ♟b1 ♟g6! would have been most awkward due to the threat of 27 ... ♟g4.

26 ... ♟xg2!?

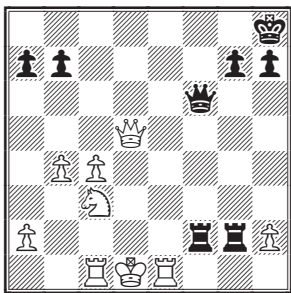
One point behind the piece sacrifice; Black calmly switches both rooks a file across. Now the threat is 27 ... ♟ef2 and then 28 ... ♟f1+ which cannot be met by 28 ♟e1 due to 28 ... ♟f3+! 29 ♟xf3 ♟d2mate. However, John Emms later realised that he could have been much more clinical herewith 26 ... ♟xa2! 27 ♟e1 ♟f1 when White has no satisfactory defence to the threat of 28 ... ♟xe1+ and 29 ... ♟f2+. Even after this miss

Black retains good compensation, although now White has gained some chances to hold.

27 ♖c3?

This doesn't fully defend, while the alternative was 27 ♖d3 ♗xh2! (netting an important pawn) 28 ♗g1 ♗ef2 (threatening 29 ... ♗g5!) 29 ♖d4 ♗d2+! 30 ♗xd2 ♗xd2+ 31 ♖xd2 ♗xd4+ 32 ♖e2 ♗b2+ 33 ♖e3 ♗xb4 when the queen and pawns should win this ending fairly comfortably, although there still would have been some work to do. However, even in his serious time trouble Wheeler should have given serious consideration to the active 27 ♖d6! when 27 ... ♗ef2 28 ♖f7+ ♗xf7 29 ♗xf7 ♗xf7 30 ♗c2! is possible, punishing Black for his missed win and reaching a rook ending which is most likely to be drawn.

27 ... ♗ef2 28 ♗e1



28 ... ♗f3+! 29 ♖e2?

This simply loses the knight as the Black queen remains immune due to the mate. Instead White had to try 29 ♗e2! ♗g1+ (29 ... ♗f1+? 30 ♖d2 ♗f4+ 31 ♖d3! defends and wins) 30 ♖d2 ♗f4+ 31 ♖c2 ♗xc1+!? (Black does have the less risky 31 ... ♗xc1+, but then 32 ♖b3 ♗f8 33 ♗xb7 isn't so easy; at any rate the White knight and king provide a pretty useful defensive partnership) 32 ♖b3 which isn't so clear at all due to Black's problems with his own king position. Of course he isn't worse, but Emms would now have had to walk a tightrope with 32 ... h6! 33 ♗e8+ ♖h7 34 ♗g8+ ♖g6 35 ♗e6+ ♖h5 36 ♗h3+ (or 36 ♗d5+ g5 threatening to take on c3) 36 ... ♗h4 when the checks have dried up, but after 37 ♗d3 ♗f6 the Black king remains rather exposed and the White king relatively safe. White appears though to be unable to exploit the position of the h5-monarch, but this would certainly have been pretty tough for Emms to have won.

29 ... ♗xe2! 0-1

D.Anderton (2248) *White*
M.Turner (2499) *Black*
ADs I—Wood Green I
Nimzo-Indian Defence

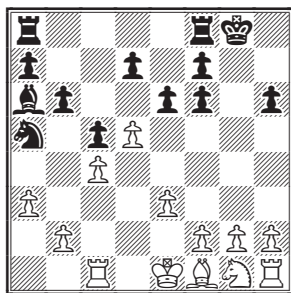
1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♖b4 4 ♗c2 0-0 5 a3 ♖xc3+ 6 ♗xc3 b6 7 ♖g5 h6

An immediate 7 ... ♖a6 has been more popular in practice when 8 ♗f3!? has caused Black some problems. Then following Turner's example with 8 ... ♖c6 9 e3 ♖a5 appears best when 10 ♗c1 c5! 11 d5 exd5 12 ♖xf6 ♗xf6 13 ♗xf6 gxf6 14 cxd5 ♖xf1 15 ♖xf1 ♗fe8 was roughly level in Beliavsky-Korchnoi, Lvov 2000. It's not at all easy for White to exploit his kingside structural advantage, while Black has good play along Benoni lines. He can pressurise d5, while also advancing his queenside pawns as occurred in the game with 16 ♖e2 ♗e5 17 ♖f4 ♖b3 18 ♗c3 c4! 19 g4 b5.

8 ♖h4 ♖a6 9 ♗f3 ♖c6 10 e3 ♖a5! 11 ♗c1 c5 12 ♖xf6

With Anderton behind in development, it makes sense to force exchanges while wrecking the Black structure. However, matters are by no means so clear as Black retains strong pressure on the queenside.

12 ... ♗xf6 13 ♗xf6 gxf6 14 d5



14 ... ♗ab8!

Technically 10 ... ♖a5 was the novelty in this game, but clearly it is this tricky idea which is the real novelty, rather than following Korchnoi's lead by exchanging on d5.

15 ♖f3?!

Allowing Black to carry out his intended ... b5 is rather risky and so perhaps 15 a4!? would have been a more sensible choice. Then, however, 15 ... exd5 16 cxd5 ♖xf1 17 ♖xf1 c4, followed by ... b5, would still have left Black with good, active counterplay on the queenside, but this does look like White's best continuation. However, Anderton did well to avoid the tempting 15 b4?, which rather backfires after 15 ... cxb4 16 axb4 ♖xc4! 17 ♖xc4 ♗bc8 18 ♖xa6 ♗xc1+ 19 ♖d2 ♗b1 when White would have been in trouble due to the severe pin along his back rank.

15 ... b5! 16 cxb5 ♖xb5 17 ♗xc5!

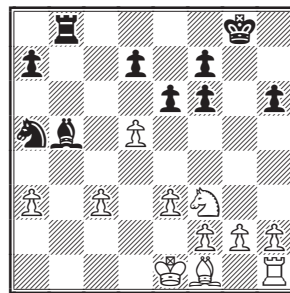
Certainly critical and a better try than 17 ♗c2?! when 17 ... c4! 18 ♖e2 ♖a4 19 ♗d2 ♖b3 20 ♗d1 ♖c5 21 ♗b1 ♖c2 would have been most awkward for White.

17 ... ♗fc8 18 ♗c3?

Collapsing in the face of some powerful play from Turner. Instead 18 ♗xc8+ ♗xc8 19 ♖xb5 ♗c1+ 20 ♖d2 ♖b3+ 21 ♖e2 ♗xh1 was one idea with

some compensation for the exchange in the shape of his extra pawn and better structure. Here though White cannot make any use of the d-pawns as 22 d6? ♖c5! rounds his one up. Similar would have been 18 ♗xb5! ♗xb5 19 ♖xb5 ♗c1+ when 20 ♖e2 ♗xh1 21 b4!? is an aggressive idea and then 21 ... ♖b7! (21 ... ♖b3? 22 ♖xd7!? exd5 23 ♖a4! further weakens the Black structure and drives the knight into the corner) is the wise choice. Then 22 ♖xd7 exd5 would still have made it tough for Black to exploit his extra exchange, although the White queenside is rather vulnerable.

18 ... ♗xc3 19 bxc3



19 ... ♖c4!

A neat move which suddenly spells doom for White due to his king position and problems along the first.

20 dxe6?

Now the pin is decisive and nets Black serious material, although 20 ♖e2 ♗b1+ 21 ♖d1 ♖xd5 would also have left Turner in full control and with an excellent position.

20 ... ♗b1+ 21 ♖d2 fxe6 0-1

Not to be outdone on the Saturday, Guildford I averaged a mere 2493 which was sufficient to see them home 6-2 against Betsson, although Jonathan Rowson was to come a cropper in a sharp Sicilian on top board.

S.Williams (2466) *White*
J.Rowson (2572) *Black*
Betsson—Guildford-ADC I
Sicilian Defence

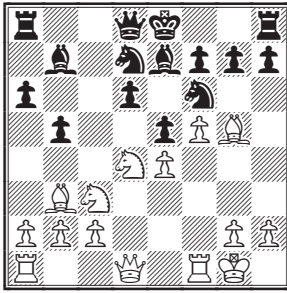
1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 ♖f6 4 ♖c3 cxd4 5 ♖xd4 a6 6 ♖c4 e6 7 ♖b3 b5 8 ♖g5

A dangerous idea, popularised by the German grandmaster Karsten Muller, which has become fairly fashionable of late. Now 8 ... ♖e7 is the main response, when Black can also meet 9 f4?! with 9 ... b4!, but Rowson prefers a more original defence.

8 ... ♖bd7!? 9 f4! ♖b7 10 0-0 ♖e7!

Sensibly developing rather than get involved in the very risky 10 ... b4 11 ♖ce2 ♖xe4 12 ♖g3 ♖b7 when one dangerous idea is 13 ♗e1, taking aim at e6.

11 f5 e5



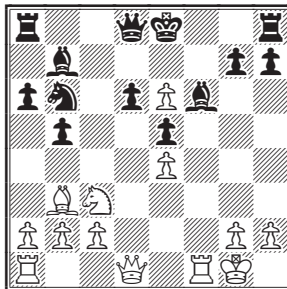
12 ♖e6!?

It's not clear if this was preparation or an inspired over the board sacrifice, but White certainly gains dangerous compensation after this. Certainly it's the best move, even if it turns out not to be objectively sound, as instead 12 ♖de2 ♗c8 13 ♖g3 would have transposed to a position which Fischer famously showed favoured Black after 13 ... h5!.

12 ... fxe6 13 fxe6 ♖b6?!

Covering d5, but the bishop already does that and instead 13 ... ♖c5! appears critical when White cannot play as in the game for 14 ♖xf6 ♖xf6 15 ♗xf6 (15 ♖d5! ♖xd5 16 ♖xd5 ♗c8 17 ♗h5+ g6 18 ♗g4 gives White some compensation due to his light-squared wedge, but surely not enough) 15 ... ♗xf6 16 ♗xd6 ♗e7 17 ♗xe5 0-0 gives Black a superior version of the game, having managed to castle.

14 ♖xf6 ♖xf6



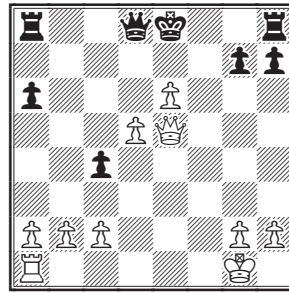
15 ♗xf6!

Williams is deadly when going forwards and here seizes his opportunity to add more wood to the fire. Now White nets the d-pawn when his e6-pawn, active queen and control of d5 supply dangerous compensation for the rook.

15 ... ♗xf6 16 ♗xd6 ♗d8 17 ♗xe5 ♖c4

This appears risky as now White gets to dangerously force a pawn to d6. Perhaps Rowson didn't fully believe in Williams' idea, but here he should have tried 17 ... ♗e7!?. Then White's only, albeit dangerous try, is 18 ♖xb5 (18 ♗d1? ♗d8 19 ♗xd8+ ♖xd8 20 ♗d4+ ♖c7 21 ♖d5+ ♖xd5 22 exd5 ♗d8 blockades the d-pawn) 18 ... axb5 19 ♗xb5+ when 19 ... ♖d8 20 ♗xb6+ ♖c8 leaves him with five pawns for the rook, although the Black pieces are fairly well placed to defend in this obscure position.

18 ♖xc4 bxc4 19 ♖d5! ♖xd5 20 exd5



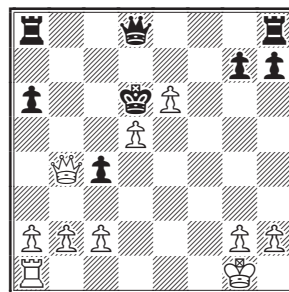
20 ... ♗f6?

Losing valuable time, although Rowson's position was already very hard to handle with the logical 20 ... ♗f8 21 d6 ♗b6+ 22 ♖h1 ♗f2 23 h3 ♗f6 failing to 24 ♗d5! ♗b8 25 ♗c6+ ♖f8 26 e7+ ♖f7 27 ♗xc4+ and the monster pawns decide. Probably Black should have tried to castle even if 20 ... 0-0!? 21 e7 ♗b6+ 22 ♖h1 ♗fe8 23 d6 ♗c6 24 ♗e6+ ♖h8 25 ♗f1 ♗ab8 26 ♗f7 ♗g8 would have left him rather passive, but more importantly it's not at all clear that White can further increase his pressure.

21 ♗d6 ♗d8

Unfortunately for Black this was forced as 21 ... ♗d8 22 ♗c6+ ♖e7 23 ♗f1 ♗d4+ 24 ♖h1 would have led to a mate after 24 ... ♗hf8 25 ♗c7+.

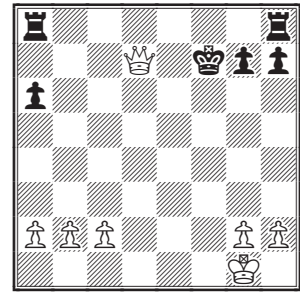
22 ♗c6+ ♖e7 23 ♗b7+ ♖d6 24 ♗c6+ ♖e7 25 ♗b7+ ♖d6 26 ♗b4+!



26 ... ♖xd5?

The final mistake when Black had to try 26 ... ♖c7! and now White surprisingly doesn't have an obvious killer move, such as 27 ♗f1 (or 27 ♗xc4+ ♖b7 28 ♗c6+ ♖a7 29 ♗f1 ♗b6+ and the check saves Black, while; 27 ♗d1!? ♗d6 28 ♗xc4+ ♖d8 also does no more than see White's strong compensation persist) 27 ... ♗xd5 28 ♗f7+ ♖c8 29 ♗b6 allows the Black queen to leap forwards and force a draw. However, 26 ... ♖e5 wasn't a defence due to 27 ♗c3+! ♖d6 (or 27 ... ♖f5 28 ♗xg7 ♗b6+ 29 ♖h1 ♗ag8 30 ♗f1+) 28 ♗a3+ ♖e5 29 ♗g3+.

27 ♗d1+ ♖xe6 28 ♗xc4+ ♖f6 29 ♗c6+ ♖f7 30 ♗c4+ ♖f6 31 ♗h4+ ♖g6 32 ♗g4+ ♖f7 33 ♗d7+ ♗xd7 34 ♗xd7+



Thus White has emerged with queen and two pawns against the Black rooks. However, this is already close to winning with care due to the exposed Black monarch and to the poorly placed and coordinated rooks.

34 ... ♖f6 35 ♗d6+ ♖f7 36 ♗f4+ ♖e7 37 ♗e5+ ♖f7 38 ♗f5+ ♖e7 39 h4! g6 40 ♗e5+ ♖f7 41 ♗c7+ ♖f6 42 ♗d6+ ♖f7 43 ♗d7+ ♖f6 44 b4

Perhaps 44 c4 was more accurate, but Williams' technique is easily good enough and indeed Rowson is forced to jettison his h-pawn to get his rooks into the game.

44 ... ♗he8 45 ♗xh7 ♗e1+ 46 ♖h2 ♗e4 47 ♗h6 ♗ae8 48 ♗g5+ ♖g7 49 c3 ♗8e6 50 ♗d8 ♗f6 51 ♖h3 ♗c4 52 ♗e7+ ♗f7 53 ♗e5+ ♖h7 54 g3 ♗fc7

Demonstrating the power of the rooks and he had to try this, but now White is able to force his a pawn through to the seventh.

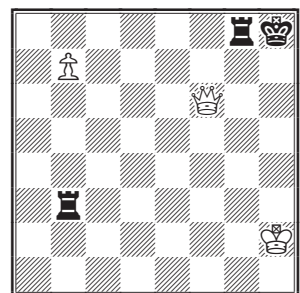
55 ♗d6 ♗7c6 56 ♗e7+ ♖h6 57 ♗f8+ ♖h7 58 ♗f7+ ♖h6 59 a4! ♗xc3 60 b5 axb5 61 axb5 ♗c7 62 ♗f4+ ♖h7 63 b6 ♗g7 64 h5!

Continuing to play rather accurately. This ensures that the Black king will remain exposed and vulnerable to checks.

64 ... ♗c6 65 hxg6+ ♗cxg6 66 ♗e4 ♖h8 67 b7!

Now White is only left with one pawn, but Williams has realised that Black cannot cover b8 with both rooks due to his many queen checks.

67 ... ♗xg3+ 68 ♖h2 ♗b3 69 ♗e8+ ♗g8 70 ♗h5+ ♖g7 71 ♗g5+ ♖h7 72 ♗f5+ ♖g7 73 ♗e5+ ♖h7 74 ♗e7+ ♖h8 75 ♗f6+!



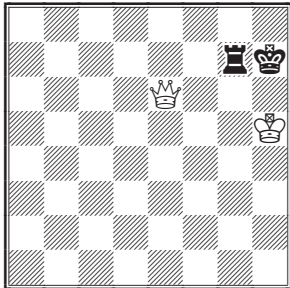
Reaching the desired position and now 75 ... ♖h7 76 ♗f7+ would have been picked up the b3-rook, but Black cannot avoid reaching the lost, if tricky, ending of ♗ v ♗.

75 ... ♗g7 76 ♗f8+ ♖h7 77 b8=♗

♖xb8 78 ♗xb8 ♔g5 79 ♗d6 ♔g6 80 ♗f8 ♔g8 81 ♗f5+ ♔h6 82 ♔h3 ♔g5 83 ♗f7 ♔g6 84 ♔h4 ♔g4+!

A typical trick, but Williams is able to quickly find the correct way to advance his king.

85 ♔h3 ♔g6 86 ♗e7 ♔g7 87 ♗f8 ♔h7 88 ♔h4 ♔g6 89 ♗f7+ ♔h8 90 ♗e7 ♔g7 91 ♗e5 ♔g8 92 ♗e8+ ♔h7 93 ♔h5 ♔g8 94 ♗e6 ♔g7



95 ♗f5+?!

Letting the Black monarch escape down the eighth when 95 ♗e4+! ♔g8 96 ♔h6 would have been all over due to the mate threat and that 96 ... ♔f8 97 ♗a8+ ♔f7 98 ♗a7+ wins the rook.

95 ... ♔g8 96 ♔h6 ♔f7?

At the end of an epic and exhausting game, Rowson returns the favour and now Williams makes no mistake. Instead Black should always aim to keep the rook and king a knight's move apart, and so 96 ... ♔e7! was correct when White would still have had to demonstrate some technique to win.

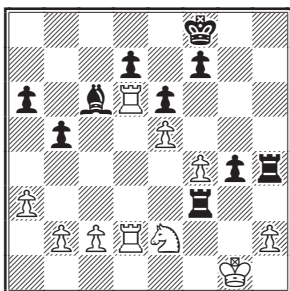
97 ♗c8+ ♔f8 98 ♗e6+ ♔f7 99 ♗e8+ ♔f8 100 ♗g6+ 1-0

Round eight witnessed more of the same carnage, although Guildford were able to slightly close the gap on board points by pummeling Wessex 7½-½. Wood Green could only though record a 6½-1½ winning margin against the 3Cs, with Chris Ward making great use of a light-squared bishop, instead of his usual dark-squared Dragon prelate, while, for Guildford, Mark Hebden finished with a strong attack.

D.James (2199) *White*

C.Ward (2485) *Black*

3Cs I—Wood Green I



Ward has handled this Sicilian in model Taimanov style, and has been looking for kingside play ever since advancing with ... h5! back in the open-

ing. He now made good use of his monster prelate to break through.

29 ... g3! 30 hxg3

With this James was presumably relying on an exchange sacrifice to bale him out, but it doesn't quite work. However, even the superior 30 ♖xg3 ♗xf4 was still quite gloomy for White. He remains under pressure right across the board, with two possible Black plans being to target e5 and to carry out a minority attack with ... b4.

30 ... ♗h1+ 31 ♔g2 ♗ff1+

Forcing White to exchange on c6, but now the Black rooks quickly dominate the hapless White knight.

32 ♗xc6 dxc6 33 ♗d6 ♗b1 34 ♗xc6 ♗hd1!

Materially White has some chances to hold, but it is the weakness of his queenside allied to the fact that his king and knight can both be attacked which does for him.

35 b4 ♗d2 36 ♔f3 ♗e1!

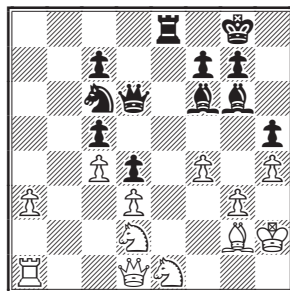
White's next is forced, but the resulting pin down the c-file is decisive.

37 ♖c3 ♗xc2 38 ♗c5 ♗ec1 39 ♖e4 ♗xc5 40 ♖xc5 ♗c3+ 0-1

S.Evans Quek (2295) *White*

M.Hebden (2514) *Black*

Wessex I—Guildford-ADC I



With White preparing to block the e-file, Hebden decided that it was time to exploit the beckoning e3-square:

30 ... ♗e3! 31 ♖e4!

Evans Quek has been rather passive for some time, but correctly seizes his chance to ease the congestion in his camp.

31 ... ♗xe4 32 ♗xe4 ♗xh4!

The logical follow-up to 30 ... e3 and this very dangerous practical sacrifice forces White to defend very precisely.

33 gxh4 ♗xf4+ 34 ♔g1 ♖e5 35 ♗b1?

Quite possibly in serious time trouble, White errs. He had the right idea that he must gain some activity, but the way to gain it was with 35 ♖g2! ♗g3 (35 ... ♔g3? 36 ♗f1 easily defends, such as after 36 ... ♗xh4 37 ♗f5) 36 ♗a4. Amazingly Black may well not have a win here, due to the strong defensive powers of the g2-knight and to the active White queen. After 36 ... g6 (as this fails the radical 36 ... g5!?) deserves serious consideration, but then there is 37 ♗e8+ ♔g7 38 ♗d8!, intend-

ing 39 ♗f1 and meeting 38 ... ♗xe4 39 dxe4 gxh4 with simply 40 ♗f1 h3 41 ♗f6+ ♔h7 42 ♗f5+ ♔g8 43 ♗f2) 37 ♗e8+ ♔g7 38 ♗f1! ♗e2 (or 38 ... ♗xe4? 39 dxe4 d3 40 ♗e7 ♖f3+ 41 ♗xf3 ♗xf3 42 ♗e5+ and the queen makes it back in time) 39 ♗d8! Black appears to have nothing better than the obvious 39 ... ♖g4, but then 40 ♗xf7+! ♔xf7 41 ♗d5+ forces a draw; 41 ... ♔g7 gets mated, while 41 ... ♗e6 42 ♗xe6+ ♔xe6 43 ♗e8+ begins a perpetual check.

35 ... g6 36 ♖g2

It was too late for 36 ♖g2 as now 36 ... ♗g3 37 ♗b8+ ♔g7 leaves White without a threat and unable to prevent defeat after 38 ... ♖g4.

36 ... ♗g3 37 ♗d2 ♗xe1+!

Picking up the White queen after which Hebden's several extra pawns decide.

38 ♗xe1 ♖f3+ 39 ♔f1 ♖xe1 40 ♗xe1 ♗xd3+ 0-1

Thus it does appear that the title will be settled in the final round once again. By then Wood Green will have hoped to have extended their game points lead so that they will only need a draw in that crunch encounter. Indeed they have slightly the easier fixtures come the May Bank Holiday weekend, with Guildford still to face third-placed Barbican I. No doubt the final match will be hard fought, just as it was last year, although it's impossible not to also turn an eye to next season. By then Hilsmark Kingfisher and Slough Sharks will be in the top flight and both those sides should be fully capable of giving both Wood Green and Guildford a run for their money.

It's tight at the bottom

The only excitement at the top of the table will be caused when Wood Green I and Guildford I actually go head to head, but at the wrong end of Division One matters remain very close. No less than six sides could still go down, while the final weekend will see a number of 'four pointers' between them, such as Bristol I have to face the ADs as well as Wessex.

April was certainly not a good weekend for the 3Cs who were not only demolished by Wood Green I, but also suffered at Wood Green II's hands. They went down 6-2; a result set up by some typical Modern trickery and then a strong attack from Andrew Martin.

S.Gordon (2364) *White*

A.Martin (2433) *Black*

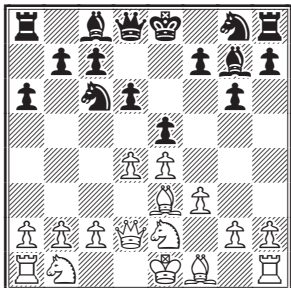
3Cs I—Wood Green II

1 d4 g6 2 e4 ♗g7 3 ♗e3!? d6 4 f3 a6 5 ♗d2 ♖c6!?

Both sides have been rather clever so far in this Modern. Gordon has cleverly

delayed playing the usual $wc3$ so as to retain the option of playing a King's Indian Samisch set-up with $c4$. Martin's last meanwhile might have shown his willingness to play a Panno after $6 c4$ $\text{d}f6$, but more likely he would have gone $6 \dots e5!$, getting in $\dots f5$ before developing his king's knight, with similar play to the game.

6 $\text{d}e2 e5$



7 $d5$

With $7 \text{d}bc3!$? White would have transposed to a 150 Attack and with Black committed to the relatively unusual $\dots \text{d}c6$. After $7 \dots \text{d}ge7$ (or $7 \dots \text{d}f6$ $8 0-0-0$) $8 0-0-0!$ White will be pretty fast on the kingside, but how else can Black exploit his knight's being on $c6$? One idea is $7 \dots \text{exd4}$, but then $8 \text{d}xd4 \text{d}ge7$ $9 0-0-0$ still looks quite good for White. Of course if the knight was on $f6$ then this would be a sharp, but dubious line of the Philidor, although it's not clear now useful the knight is instead on $e7$. It does support $\dots f5$, but without a White pawn on $c4$ that doesn't exactly look too troublesome for White to deal with, while $h4-h5$ is coming, and coming quickly.

7 $\dots \text{d}ce7$ **8** $c4$ **9** $\text{d}bc3$ $\text{d}f6$

Now we have a Modern with $c4$ and in which White might well prefer not to have gone $f3$ and $\text{e}e3$. However, he must use those pieces somehow and, rather than re-route the $e2$ -knight, Gordon wisely opts to challenge on the kingside.

10 $h3!$ **0-0** **11** $g4$ $\text{h}h8!$

Escaping from any trouble down the g -file and asking White what his plan is. Certainly White shouldn't rush here; Black doesn't want to play $\dots f4$ as with the kingside blocked he would then stand clearly worse as White changes his attention to carrying out a $c5$ -break-through. However, White has more space and so can manoeuvre more freely than Black who might well be forced into a risky $\dots c6$ bid for freedom at some point. Here $12 \text{g}g1$ looks quite sensible, while another idea is to unravel with $12 \text{e}g5$, intending to later attack after exf5 and $\text{d}g3$. Gordon instead elects to castle (a far from necessary move), but that turns $\dots b5$ into a strong break and gives Martin a target and a plan.

12 $0-0-0!$ **b5!** **13** cxb5

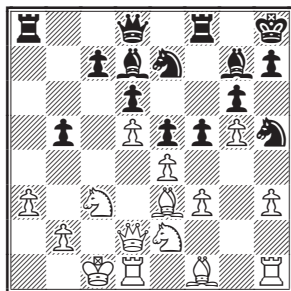
Not ideal, but $13 \text{c}b1$ $b4$ $14 \text{d}a4$

$\text{d}d7$ was rather awkward as $e4$ would then have fallen after $15 \text{w}xb4$. However, $13 \text{exf5}!$? deserved attention, intending $13 \dots \text{gxf5}$ $14 \text{c}b1$, aiming to keep the queenside closed, although here $d5$ is probably too weak for White to turn his attention to trying to prove that the Black b -pawn is a serious weakness.

13 $\dots \text{axb5}$ **14** $a3$ $\text{d}d7$ **15** $g5!$

Too committal, although Gordon certainly had to find a way to reduce the pressure against $e4$. However, now the plan of keeping the Black $h5$ -knight and $g7$ -bishop out of play doesn't really work and, of course, Black is always happy to sacrifice with $\dots \text{d}f4$ in this sort of Samisch position.

15 $\dots \text{d}h5$



16 $\text{g}g1?$

Continuing in misguided vein, while White would like to take over the queenside after $16 \text{c}b1!$?. Then $16 \dots b4$ 17axb4 $\text{w}b8$ doesn't fully convince due to the materialistic $18 \text{d}a2$ and wec3 and so Martin may instead have gone for $16 \dots \text{w}b8!$? $17 \text{d}a2$ fxe4 18fxe4 $\text{c5}!$ (just in time before $19 \text{d}b4$ begins to clamp the Black position) 19dxc6 $\text{e}xc6$ $20 \text{e}g2$ $\text{w}b7$ when $d6$ is most certainly no weaker than $e4$. Here Black is relatively happy due to the possibilities of $\dots d5$ and $\dots \text{d}f4$. However, White is still in the game here and would hope to take control after $21 \text{w}d3$ and $\text{d}b4$, although here $21 \dots b4!$? puts a spanner in the works. Black certainly has good dynamic play in this sort of position, but he does retain some long term problems, such as his $g7$ -bishop, while White is defending fairly well for the time being.

16 $\dots b4!$ **17** axb4 $\text{w}b8$

Ripping open the queenside and already spelling the end for the talented Gordon.

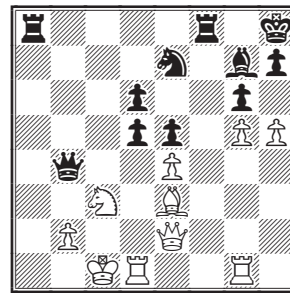
18 $b5$ fxe4 **19** fxe4 $\text{e}xb5$ **20** $\text{d}xb5$ $\text{w}xb5$ **21** $\text{d}c3$ $\text{w}b4$ **22** $\text{e}e2$ $\text{d}f4!$

The White position is badly creaking and there is quite simply little he can do about Martin's plan to decisively open more lines with $\dots c6$.

23 $\text{w}c2$ **c6!** **24** $h4!$?

Desperation, but 24dxc6 $\text{d}xc6$ $25 \text{c}b1$ $\text{d}d4$ $26 \text{e}xd4$ exd4 would have destabilised the $c3$ -knight after which $27 \text{d}d5$ $\text{w}a5$ wins in straightforward fashion.

24 $\dots \text{cxd5}$ **25** $h5$ $\text{d}xe2+$ **26** $\text{w}xe2$



26 $\dots \text{w}fc8!$

Simple chess; White cannot withstand such a strong onslaught.

27 $\text{d}d2$ **d4** **28** $h6$ dxc3 **29** $\text{h}xg7+$ $\text{c}xg7$ **30** $\text{e}xc3$ $\text{w}xc3+$! **31** bxc3 $\text{w}xc3+$ **32** $\text{w}c2$ $\text{w}a1$ mate.

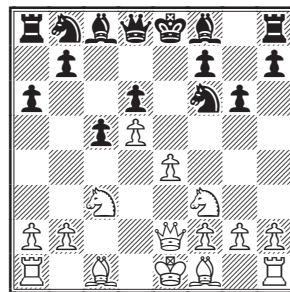
It was also a productive round seven for Wessex, who picked up a key $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ win against higher-rated Guildford II to give themselves a reasonable chance of staying up. Indeed Guildford II did well to recover the following day, managing to take a 4-3 lead against Barbican, despite an attacking win from Max Devereaux for the London club, before Sam Collins struck back to tie the match.

M. Devereaux (2331) *White*

N. Povah (2377) *Black*

Barbican I—Guildford-ADC II

1 $d4$ $\text{d}f6$ **2** $\text{d}f3$ **e6** **3** $c4$ **c5** **4** $d5$ exd5 **5** cxd5 **d6** **6** $\text{d}c3$ **g6** **7** $e4$ **a6** **8** $\text{w}e2!$?



A dangerous new idea which may even threaten the viability of the popular $7 \dots a6$. Devereaux was only actually the second player to use this, although the move already had a good score in practice; Epishin having 3/3 with it!

8 $\dots \text{e}g4!$?

One of the ideas behind $7 \dots a6$, but this doesn't actually discourage White from his direct $e5$ -break. This has been Black's main response to date, but he may wish to examine the alternatives:

(i) $8 \dots \text{e}g7!$? $9 e5!$ dxe5 $10 \text{w}xe5+$ $\text{c}f8$ $11 \text{e}e2$ $h6$ $12 0-0$ $\text{c}g8$ $13 a4$ $\text{c}h7$ $14 \text{e}c4$ $\text{w}e8$ $15 \text{w}f4$ and White was much better in Epishin-Cheparinov, Albacete 2004;

(ii) $8 \dots \text{d}bd7!$? looks quite sensible and must be the right direction for $7 \dots a6$ exponents to analyse in. White is then looking for something like $9 e5$

dxe5 10 ♖xe5 ♗xe5 11 ♜xe5+ ♜e7 12 ♜xe7+ ♗e7 13 ♗f4 when the d-pawn is strong, but Black may well be able to find a way to halt it. At any rate though this isn't what many active Benoni specialists are after and so we may well be about to see 7 ... a6 and 7 ... ♗g7 swapping places again in the popularity stakes;

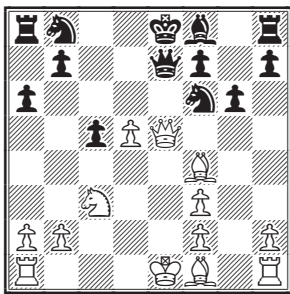
(iii) With ... b5 and ♗f4 thrown in, 8 ... ♗e7 would be normal, but here Emms has pointed out on www.chesspublishing.com that simply 9 a4 0-0 10 ♜c2 grants White an easy edge.

9 e5! ♗xf3

Consistent, whereas 9 ... dxe5 10 ♜xe5+ ♗e7? 11 ♗h6! ♗xf3 12 gxf3 ♗bd7 13 ♜e3 left Black in all sorts of trouble in Epishin-Gofshtein, ACP online blitz 2004.

10 gxf3 dxe5 11 ♜xe5+ ♜e7 12 ♗f4!?

Emms has instead suggested the sensible 12 ♜xe7+ ♗e7 13 ♗f4 when the d-pawn and bishop-pair should promise White the advantage. The passed pawn isn't so easy to blockade, while the game may well also hinge on how quickly the light-squared bishop can find a good role.



12 ... ♗h5!

Povah is a very dynamic player and so finds this over the board improvement which certainly asks White some important questions about how he intends to continue. Instead 12 ... ♜xe5+?! 13 ♗xe5 ♗bd7 14 f4! was excellent for White in Epishin-Kovacevic, Seville 2005 when Black dared not capture on e5, but after 14 ... ♗g7 15 ♗g2 0-0 16 0-0 ♗h5 17 ♗d6!? ♜fe8 18 ♗c7 ♜a7 19 ♜ael ♜c8 20 d6! White was all set to exploit his control over d5 and e7.

13 ♗e4!?

Devereaux shows that he is not averse himself to some hand to hand fighting, but critical is 13 0-0-0! when 13 ... f6 no longer seems so good due to 14 ♜xe7+ ♗e7 15 ♗e3! ♗d7 16 d6! ♗d8 17 ♗c4.

13 ... f6!

Essential as after 13 ... ♗xf4?! 14 ♜xh8 f5 White had planned the cute and devastating 15 d6! ♜e6? 16 ♗c4!! ♜xc4 17 ♗f6+ ♗f7 18 ♜g8+! ♗xf6 19 ♜xc4, picking up the Black queen.

14 ♜c7!?

Continuing to play as sharply as possible, although now White may well no longer have a route to an advantage. Devereaux doesn't want to concede even a tempo to help Black develop, although 14 ♜xe7+!? ♗e7 15 ♗e3! (15 ♗c7 ♗d7 16 0-0-0 f5 17 ♗d6+ ♗xd6 18 ♗xd6 0-0-0 is also critical, but for the time being the knights are here holding their own against the bishops with 19 ... ♗df6 a threat) 15 ... ♗d7 16 ♜c1! b6 17 d6 ♗f8 18 ♜d1 must also have been rather tempting.

14 ... ♗xf4

Probably best, while Black must certainly avoid 14 ... f5? 15 ♜c8+ ♗f7 16 ♗c4! (Devereaux), but; 14 ... ♜xc7 15 ♗xc7 ♗d7 was also playable due to Black's control over f4 and e5 after 16 0-0-0 ♗h6+! 17 ♗b1 0-0.

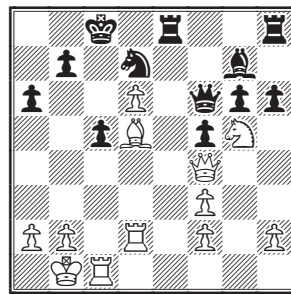
15 ♜xf4 ♗d7!

Again sensibly concentrating on development whereas 15 ... f5? 16 d6 ♜g7 17 0-0-0!? (although the simple 17 ♗xc5 is also fairly strong) would have been rather dangerous for Black. Then 17 ... fxe4?? 18 ♜xe4+ ♗d8 19 ♗h3! sets up some powerful threats, with the bishop being immune due to 19 ... ♜h6+?! 20 f4 ♜xh3 21 ♜xb7 ♜d7 22 ♜xa8 ♗c8 23 ♜d5 with a crushing position.

16 0-0-0 0-0-0 17 d6 ♜e6 18 ♗b1 f5!

Probably 14 jc7 was actually mistaken for by now it does appear that Black has taken over the initiative. However, he cannot afford to dally with instead 18 ... h6!? allowing White to strongly fight back with Hiarcs' excellent and active suggestion of 19 b4! g5 20 ♜c1 ♜f5 21 bxc5 ♜xf3 22 ♗d3.

19 ♗g5 ♜f6 20 ♗c4 ♗g7 21 ♜d2 ♜de8 22 ♜c1 h6 23 ♗d5?!



One feels that Black should be doing well due to his dark-square pressure, but just in the nick of time Devereaux breaks the trend with this fine sacrifice. Unfortunately it's not fully sound, although it must have come as a large shock, while it also contains some deep judgement. Indeed overall it's tempting to annotate it as '?!'.

23 ... ♜xg5?!

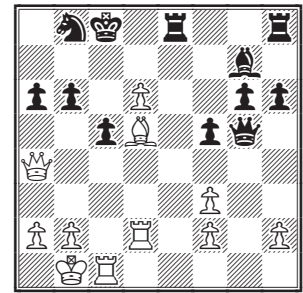
Probably aghast at realising that the other (and obvious) capture fails, and running short of time after a very complex struggle, Povah badly errs. Instead the calm 23 ... ♜e5! would have left White facing a crisis as now 24 ♜b4 (or

24 ♗f7 ♜xd5 25 ♗xh8 g5 and again the two pieces should outclass the rook) can be met by 24 ... ♜xd5! 25 ♜xd5 hxg5 when the White attack isn't getting anywhere. The lovely points behind 23 ... ♗d5 are though revealed after 23 ... hxg5 when 24 ♜b4! ♜xd6! (best as 24 ... b6 25 ♜a4 ♗b8 26 d7+! ♗xd7 27 ♜xa6+ ♗d8 28 ♜a8+ ♗e7 29 ♜e1+ wins for White) 25 ♗xb7+ ♗d8 26 ♜a5+! (but not 26 ♜xd6? cxb4 27 ♜cd1 ♜e7 28 ♗c6 ♗c7! 29 ♜xd7+ ♜xd7 30 ♗xd7 ♜xh2 with a depressing ending for White) 26 ... ♜c7 27 ♜xa6 reaches a critical position. There is no immediate threat, but Black appears to be in trouble here with White intending 28 ♜xg6 as well as 28 ♗c6 ♜e7 29 ♜xc5.

24 ♜b4 b6 25 ♜a4!

Keeping matters simple, rather than try the flashy 25 ♜xc5+!? when 25 ... ♗b8! (and not 25 ... ♗xc5? 26 ♜xb6 ♜e1+ 27 ♗c2 ♗d7 28 ♜c7+ ♗e8 29 ♜xg7 with decisive threats) 26 ♜c7 ♜g1+ 27 ♗c2 ♜c8 28 ♜c4! ♗c5! isn't so clear, although White may still be doing well after 29 b4!.

25 ... ♗b8



26 d7+! ♗xd7

Now a rout ensues, although 26 ... ♗c7 27 dxe8=♜ ♜xe8 28 f4 ♜e7 would have left Black the exchange down and still under pressure after 29 ♜g1 or even 29 b4!?

27 f4! ♜f6

Keeping an escape square open whereas 27 ... ♜e7 28 ♜xa6+ ♗d8 29 ♜a8+ ♗c7 30 ♜b7+ ♗d8 31 ♗c6! would have been crushing as 31 ... ♗d4 simply allows 32 ♜xd4! cxd4 33 ♜a8+ ♗c7 34 ♗xd7+.

28 ♜xa6+ ♗d8 29 ♜a8+ ♗e7 30 ♜e1+!

Bringing the final piece into play and heralding the end to a fine attack, and one reminiscent of Tal.

30 ... ♗e5 31 ♜xe5+ ♜xe5 32 ♜b7+ 1-0

Sam Collins White

John Shaw Black

Sicilian Defence

Guildford-ADC II—Barbican I

(notes by IM Sam Collins)

As I am writing this notes with the assistance of neither Chessbase nor Fritz (my laptop has sat down after

years of chequered service), forgive me, gentle reader, if the following notes are trite, full of mistakes and even more reliant on anecdotes than my normal annotations.

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6

A surprise—John normally prefers 2 ... ♘c6, aiming for a Kalashnikov or, more recently, the offbeat 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♖f6 5 ♘c3 e5 6 ♘db5 h6?!, with which he has had some success. However, since he has recently co-edited and contributed to the excellent *Experts vs. the Sicilian* for his publishing house, Quality Chess, I knew that he'd be reasonably well up on something, the only question was which line.

3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♖f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6

So it's Peter Wells's excellent analysis of the Classical Sicilian which grabbed John's attention.

6 ♙g5 ♙d7 7 ♗d2

I knew that Pete recommended 7 ♙e2, but there's no real reason to avoid the main line. Black can get an endgame with a quick ... ♗d8-b6xd4, but this was one line with which I was a little familiar, having watched 'live' when Kasparov demolished it in Bled (the rest of the lines are a blur, since I don't normally play this stuff).

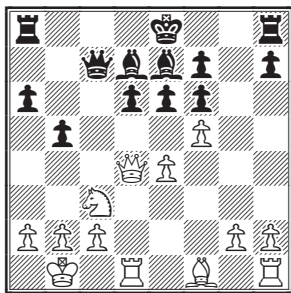
7 ... a6 8 0-0-0 e6

Back to the standard lines.

9 f4 b5 10 ♙xf6 gxf6 11 ♖b1 ♘xd4

Wells deals only with 11 ... ♗b6, which might give White a harder time establishing an edge.

12 ♗xd4 ♙e7 13 f5 ♗c7



Now White would love to get his bishop to h5, but 14 ♙e2 is met by the standard 14 ... h5! after which White's pieces are a little clumsy.

14 g3 ♗c5!? 15 ♗d2

Endgames are very comfortable for Black in these structures.

15 ... b4 16 ♘e2

I think John considered 16 fxe6 as more natural. I didn't want to give his light-squared bishop any prospects—however, this was probably a better shot at an advantage, since the game continuation should just be equal.

16 ... e5 17 ♘c1 a5 18 ♘b3

18 b3!? and 19 ♙c4 might be better—the queenside seems rather resilient.

18 ... ♗c6

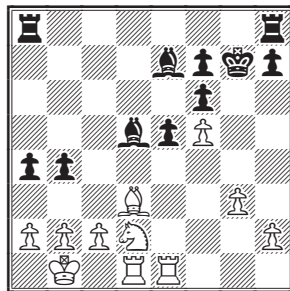
I was expecting 18 ... ♗c7!, when 19 ♗d5? 0-0 20 ♙b5 a4 wins for Black, and so I would have to try 19 ♗h6 Black's pawn storm is a little frightening, though if I can get in ♘d2 and ♙c4 I should be doing fine.

19 ♗d5

Now the endgame is White's bet shot since Black has weakened d5.

19 ... a4 20 ♗xc6 ♙xc6 21 ♘d2 d5!

22 exd5 ♙xd5 23 ♙b5+ ♖f8 24 ♗he1 ♖g7 25 ♙d3



25 ... a3?

A very natural move, but a mistake. I was expecting 25 ... ♙c5 26 ♙e4 ♙xe4 27 ♘xe4 ♙d4, when White can only kick the bishop at the cost of exposing his king (more relevant with four rooks on the board).

26 ♙e4 ♗hd8 27 ♙xd5 ♗xd5 28 ♘e4 ♗ad8 29 ♗xd5 ♗xd5 30 ♖c1!

The point—I don't have to take or push, which means I get control.

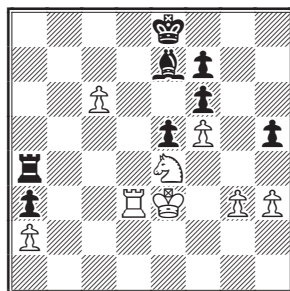
30 ... ♗d4 31 bxa3 bxa3 32 c3 ♗a4 33 ♖c2 ♖f8 34 ♘d3 ♗a7 35 ♗b1 ♗d7+ 36 ♖e3 ♖g7 37 ♖e2 ♗c7 38 ♘d3 ♗d7+ 39 ♖e3 ♗c7 40 ♖e2 ♗d7 41 ♖e3 ♗c7 42 h3 h5 43 ♘d3 ♗d7+ 44 ♖e2 ♗c7 45 ♖e3 ♗d7

It's possible that 45 ... ♖f8 is more tenacious.

46 c4 ♗d4

46 ... ♗c7 47 ♗c1 ♙c5+ was interesting—I can move my king, but I thought that the rook ending after 48 ♘xc5 ♗xc5 49 ♘d3 should be winning.

47 ♗c1 ♖f8 48 c5 ♖e8 49 ♗c3 ♗a4 50 c6 ♖d8 51 ♗d3+ ♖e8 52 ♗b3 ♖d8 53 ♗d3+ ♖e8



54 c7! ♗a8

54 ... ♗c4 55 ♗d8+ ♙xd8 56 ♘d6+ ♘d7 57 cxd8=♗+ took me ages to see.

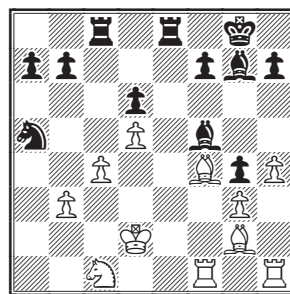
55 ♘c3

Now the bind is locked in.

55 ... ♗c8 56 ♘d5 ♙c5+ 57 ♖e4 ♙d4 58 ♘xf6+ ♖e7 59 ♘d5+ ♖d6 60 ♗xa3 ♖d7 61 ♗d3 1-0

Numerica 3Cs may be able to beef up their squad for the final weekend, but an inability to do likewise could well cost Bristol dear. April certainly wasn't a productive weekend for the west country side, as they fell to 6½-1½ and 5½-2½ defeats at the hands of Betsson and the North-West Eagles, for whom Lawrence Trent once again demonstrated his fine tactical eye.

D. Buckley (2223) White
L. Trent (2387) Black
Bristol I—NW Eagles I



White is still down the pawn he sacrificed with the King's Gambit, but even more important is his vulnerable king. Trent now pounced with **22 ... ♘c4+!** **23 bxc4 ♗xc4**, threatening to drive the king out to the gaping queenside.

24 ♙xd6?!

Allowing Black to carry out his plan, although neither would 24 ♖d1, intending to meet 24 ... d4+ with 25 ♙d2, have saved White. Black would then have had at least 24 ... ♙c2+! 25 ♖d2 ♙a4 when he must recoup his piece with a large advantage and still a strong attack, such as after 26 ♗e1 ♗c2+ 27 ♖d3 ♗xg2 28 ♗xe8+ ♙xe8.

24 ... ♗d4+ 25 ♖c3 ♗c8+

Good enough, although 25 ... ♗e3+ was fractionally more clinical and then White could only delay mate for a few moves, while 26 ♖b2 ♗d2 mate would have been an immediate checkmate.

26 ♖b2

Now the king is trapped on the b-file and mate must follow, but 26 ♖b3 ♙c2+ 27 ♖a2 ♗a4+ 28 ♙a3 ♗c3 would also have won in just a couple more moves.

26 ... ♗a4+ 0-1

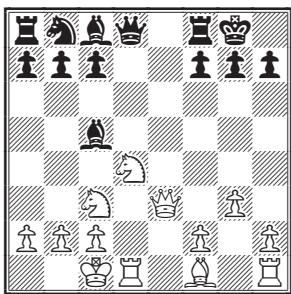
Other teams in the bottom half had better weekends than Bristol, such as Richmond who edged out the ADs 4½-3½ in a close encounter in round eight for two priceless points. That was an especially fine result considering that Richmond had lost 6½-1½ to London rivals Barbican the day before, with Jonathan Parker switching from his usual 1 d4 to 1 e4 to win comprehensively.

J.Parker (2537) *White*
G.Wall (2368) *Black*
 Barbican I—Richmond
Antoshin Variation

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 ♗e7 6 g3!?

6 ♗f4 remains the most popular way to combat the Antoshin variation, but this quieter move is a very valid alternative. Indeed it has received a fair amount of attention in recent years, ever since its use in a critical game by Luke McShane.

6 ... d5 7 exd5 ♗xd5 8 ♗d2 ♗b4 9 ♗e3 ♗d5 10 ♗d3 ♗xe3 11 ♗xe3 0-0 12 0-0-0 ♗c5



13 ♗g2!?

Simply developing and applying pressure to b7, although 13 ♗f4 ♗d6 14 ♗d2 ♗b4 15 ♗c4 ♗d7 16 a3 ♗a5 17 ♗he1 left White with a useful edge in McShane-Bacrot, Lausanne 2003.

13 ... ♗d7

Rather slow, but a much better choice than 13 ... ♗g4? when 14 ♗xb7! (simple and strong, unlike 14 f3? ♗c6! 15

fxg4 ♗xd4 16 ♗d3 ♗g5+ 17 ♖b1 ♗ad8) 14 ... ♗e8 15 ♗f4 ♗xd1 16 ♗xd1! would have been crushing as Black cannot avoid coming out a whole piece in arrears. However, sensibly blocking the diagonal with 13 ... c6!? was possibly best when Black could have developed after 14 ♗he1 with 14 ... ♗a6, although White would then have retained a small edge, while the c8-bishop would still have lacked a good square.

14 ♗he1 c6?

It's too late for this and instead Wall had to be consistent and continue with 14 ... ♗f6. Then 15 ♗f4 ♗d6 16 ♗d2 ♗b4! (but not 16 ... ♗g4 17 ♗xb7 ♗xd1 18 ♗xd1 and White emerges a pawn ahead) 17 a3 ♗c5 would have restricted White to an edge, albeit a pretty pleasant one.

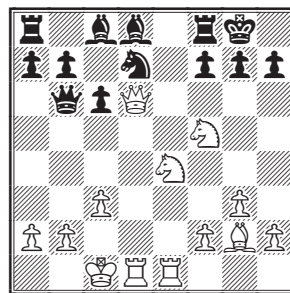
15 ♗e4 ♗b6

Now Black struggles to develop, although he also would have done so after 15 ... ♗b6 16 ♗c3! when the d6-square is also rather tender.

16 ♗d2 ♗b4?

Now Parker's initiative rapidly grows, although 16 ... ♗e5? wasn't the answer to Black's problems, losing a piece after 17 ♗xc5 ♗xc5 18 ♗b3 ♗e7 19 f4. Perhaps Wall just should have accepted that things were already very grim and tried 16 ... ♗xd4!? when 17 ♗xd4 ♗xd4 (or 17 ... c5 18 ♗d6) 18 ♗xd4 ♗e8 19 ♗d2! maintains the strong pressure for White, such as after 19 ... ♗f8, 20 ♗d6 ♗xe1 21 ♗xe1 ♗f6 22 ♗b4! begins to force some serious structural weaknesses.

17 c3 ♗e7 18 ♗f5! ♗d8 19 ♗d6



19 ... ♗f6?

The Black pieces present a very sorry spectacle and he already had no time for 19 ... ♗a5 due to 20 ♗e7+ ♗xe7 21 ♗xc7 when 21 ... ♗xa2? loses to 22 ♗c5! ♗xc5 23 ♗xf8+ ♗xf8 24 ♗d8 mate. The only way to continue was the arch grovel with 19 ... ♗b8! when White has several tempting continuations, such as 20 ♗e5 ♗xf5 21 ♗xf5 with good attacking chances, and the ability to increase the pressure against f7, but nothing immediately decisive.

20 ♗h6+!

Simple, but deadly as Parker completes a powerful performance.

20 ... gxf6 21 ♗xf6+ ♗xf6 22 ♗xf6 ♗a5 23 ♗xh6

23 ♗e5 ♗xa2 24 ♗e4 was also decisive, but h7 is caving in in any case.

23 ... ♗xa2 24 ♗g5+ ♖h8 25 ♗f6+ ♗g8 26 ♗g5+

Repeating to emphasise his control before finishing Black off by crashing in on h7.

26 ... ♖h8 27 ♗f6+ ♗g8 28 ♗e4 1-0

The 2nd Coventry International took place between 24th-28th March. 136 players representing 21 different nationalities flocked to central Coventry to compete in what has become the second strongest open tournament in the British calendar, after the heavily sponsored Isle of Man international. Ten Grandmasters, three of them rated over 2600, eight International Masters and dozens of other tough and ambitious players battled it out for over £7,000 of prizes.

The inaugural event was a great success a year ago, attracting over 100 players, but tournament founder and director Mark Hogarth was determined to make this event bigger and better than before. Prize money was increased drastically from a year ago, and the playing venue moved from a local school hall to a much grander arena in the luxurious Britannia Hotel, located next to Coventry Cathedral.

As one would expect in such a high-quality field, competition for the £2,000 first prize was fierce. In the end it was Ukrainian GM Olesandr Areshchenko

Andrew Greet reports on the 2nd COVENTRY INTERNATIONAL

who took a thoroughly deserved clear first place with a superb score of 7½/9. Areshchenko was dominant throughout, racing to 3/3, then 4/4 with a win with Black against GM Peter Wells. The remaining 5 games saw him concede 3 draws with Black against GMs Giorgiev, Efimenko and Conquest, and 2 further wins with White versus GM Alon Greenfeld and IM Simon Williams, who has had a tremendous year and looks like completing his GM title in the not too distant future. Here is their tussle from round 8

GM Olesandr Areshchenko *White*
IM Simon Williams *Black*
 Round 8
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 ♗b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♗xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♗e7 7 ♗g4 ♗c7

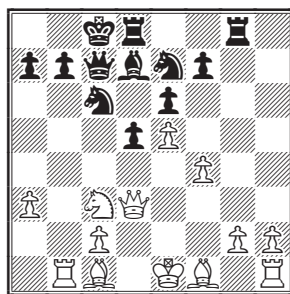
Never one to shy away from a tactical battle, Simon heads straight for the

minefield that is the main line of the Winawer.

8 ♗xg7 ♗g8 9 ♗xh7 cxd4 10 ♗e2 ♗bc6 11 f4

This is all well-established theory. 11 cxd4? should be avoided due to the elementary trick 11 ... ♗xd4!

11 ... ♗d7 12 ♗d3 dxc3 13 ♗b1 0-0-0 14 ♗xc3



This has all been seen before many times, but perhaps a short explanation is

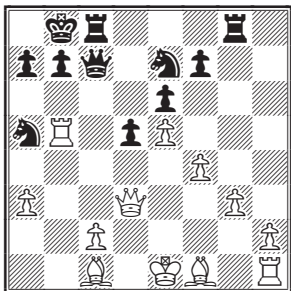
double-edged variation. Black's king-side has been decimated and he has sacrificed a pawn as well as the bishop pair. In return, he has a considerable lead in development, a safer king, more compact pawn structure and a variety of potential outposts for his knights, such as f5, c4 and perhaps later e3 if he can successfully push the d-pawn.

I have never played the variation with either colour, and certainly would not claim to be an expert on it. Nevertheless, to add my own two cents, my instinct tells me that White ought to be doing very well.

14 ... ♖a5

The most frequently played, and probably the best answer to the threat of ♖b5-d6. Black allows his other bishop to be exchanged, but wins time to send his knight to c4. 14 ... a6?? has been played, but 15 ♗xa6! is embarrassing. 14 ... ♖f5 is better, but White has also scored very highly from here – 15 ♗g1! may be best.

15 ♖b5 ♗xb5 16 ♗xb5 ♖b8 17 g3 ♗c8



18 ♗e3!?

Technically not a novelty, but as good as. I have managed to track down three earlier games where this move was played, all of them coming from obscure correspondence events. 18 ♗d2 is usually played, but Areshchenko's more active choice looks like an improvement to me.

18 ... ♖c4 19 ♗f2 ♗c6

Perhaps 19 ... ♗d7!?, as played in Finnie-Milnes, English Correspondence Ch 1992, one of the aforementioned games. The continuation was 20 ♗b3 ♗c7 21 ♗d3 ♗gc8 with an eventual draw. It may be a matter of taste, but I have to say that even here I don't completely trust the Black position with those bishops pointing towards the queenside.

20 ♗c5 ♗a6

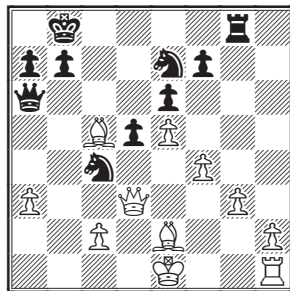
If 20 ... ♗a4 then 21 ♗b3! looks strong, e.g. 21 ... ♗xa3 22 ♗xa3 ♖xa3 23 ♗d3 and even though Black has won his pawn back, the passed h-pawn combined with the power of the bishop pair gives White excellent winning chances.

21 ♗e2!

Calmly completing development. Now 21 ... ♗xa3 leads to the same depressing endgame as the previous note. However 21 ... ♖c6! is a reason-

able alternative, with the intention of harassing the c5 rook in some way, although White is still doing well after 22 0-0 b6 23 ♗b3! intending 23 ... ♗xa3? 24 ♗xc6!

21 ... ♗xc5 22 ♗xc5



22 ... ♗a5+!?

Black decides that the queen will be more useful on the kingside, but this manoeuvre costs time and allows White to consolidate. 22 ... ♖f5 should have been tried, with the possible continuation 23 0-0 ♗a5 24 ♗f2 (or 24 ♗b4 ♗b6+ and a knight will be able to invade on e3) 24 ... ♖d2! 25 ♗d1 ♖e4 and although White may be better, at least the Black knights are beginning make their presence felt.

23 ♗b4 ♗d8 24 ♗h7!

Coolly played. The queen has tremendous nuisance value here, and Black decides to jettison another pawn.

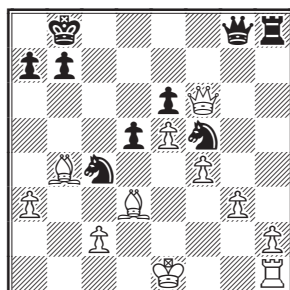
24 ... ♖f5 25 ♗xf7 ♗h8 26 ♗f6!?

Fritz seems to think that an easier way to win would be 26 ♗xe6 ♖xg3 27 ♗xc4, and this may indeed be the case. Still, after 26 ... dxc4 27 ♗d6+ ♖a8 28 hxg3 ♗xh1+ 29 ♖f2, even though the White king is relatively safe under cover of the wall of pawns (g4 will be a very safe spot) Black can perhaps go after the c-pawn, and if White advances his pawns too far then the king may end up exposed. So Areshchenko's decision was probably the correct one, in practical terms.

26 ... ♗g8

No prizes for guessing what Black is intending!

27 ♗d3!



White has shown a lot of skill in keeping the game under control. Now if 27 ... ♖xg3 White wins by 28 ♗g1! ♗xh2 29 ♗d6+! ♖a8 (29 ... ♖xd6 30 exd6 and Black is unable to stop the d-pawn without losing the g3 knight) 30 ♗f8! b6 31 ♗xc4 dxc4 32 ♗d8+ ♖b7

33 ♗d7+ ♖a6 34 ♗c8+ ♖b5 (34 ... ♖a5 35 ♗b4+ wins the queen) 35 a4+ ♖xa4 36 ♗a6 mate

27 ... ♖ce3 28 ♖d2 ♖xg3?

The final error, though an understandable one. Objectively Black should probably try 28 ... ♗c8 or 28 ... d4 with some chances to save the game, although a Grandmaster of Areshchenko's quality would be favourite to win. Instead Williams tries a desperate final sacrifice, but the eventual tournament winner keeps his cool.

29 hxg3 ♗xh1 30 ♖xe3 ♗xg3+ 31 ♖d4 ♗f2+ 32 ♖c3 and Black resigned. Apart from the material disadvantage, Black faces a mating attack.

Aside from Areshchenko, the tournament saw a number of outstanding performances. Unrated Alex Therrien was a sensation, making a rating performance close to 2400, beating two IMs along the way and finishing just half a point away from an IM norm. Here is Alex's excellent win over IM Paul Littlewood from round 7

Alex Therrien White
IM Paul Littlewood Black
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♖c3 ♗b4 4 e3 b6 5 f3!?

Not the most common move, but quite logical now that Black has signified his intention to develop his bishop on the long diagonal.

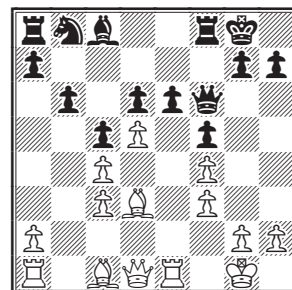
5 ... ♖h5!?

5 ... 0-0 and 5 ... c5 are played more often, but according to my database the text has a higher statistical score so perhaps it deserves to be more popular.

6 ♖h3 f5 7 ♗d3 0-0 8 0-0 c5 9 d5 ♗xc3 10 bxc3 d6 11 ♖f4!

Showing excellent judgement. White concedes a weakening of his pawn structure in return for pressure along the e-file. Other non-forcing moves allow ... e5 with a comfortable game for Black.

11 ... ♖xf4 12 exf4 ♗f6 13 ♗e1!?



13 ... ♖a6!?

A good practical decision. 13 ... exd5 looks like the critical test of White's play, winning a pawn but allowing White's bishops to become active. Perhaps the best response is 14 ♗b2! as Black cannot keep the position

closed. There are too many possibilities for a thorough analysis here, but here are two sample variations. 14 ... ♖b7 15 ♜e2 dxc4 16 ♙xc4+ d5 17 ♙xd5+! ♙xd5 18 c4 ♜f7 19 cxd5 ♜xd5 20 ♜ad1 ♜f7 (20 ... ♜xa2? 21 ♜d8! is winning – Fritz) 21 ♜b5 and Black is completely tied up. Alternatively 14 ... d4 15 cxd4 ♙c6 16 d5! ♜xb2 17 dxc6 and again Black has problems getting developed.

The simple 13 ... ♜xc3 may be a better way to snatch a pawn, though after 14 ♜b1 I would guess that the prospect of a bishop appearing on b2 would strongly test the nerves of most players.

14 ♙d2 ♙c7 15 ♜a4!

Connecting the rooks with gain of tempo, due to the threat to invade on c6.

15 ... ♜d8 16 ♜e2!

Steadily increasing the pressure. I feel that Black should still be ok here after something like 16 ... ♙d7 17 ♜b3 ♜f6 18 ♜ae1 ♜fe8, but instead Littlewood takes the courageous but probably not quite correct decision to break up White's centre. The trouble is that every pawn exchange goes some way towards opening the game for White's bishops.

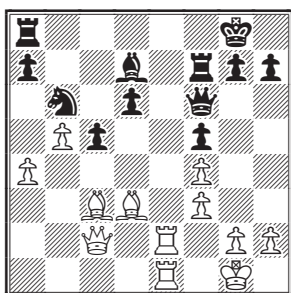
16 ... b5?! 17 cxb5 exd5!?

Rejecting the safer 17 ... ♙xd5 18 ♜b3± with pressure on the Black centre. The text is riskier but I am sure Paul would have been playing for the win, so one can understand his wish to play somewhat more dynamically.

18 c4 ♜f6 19 ♜ae1 ♜d4+ 20 ♜e3 ♜f7 21 ♜c2 ♙d7 22 a4 ♜f6 23 cxd5 ♙xd5 24 ♜3e2 ♙b6

Fritz suggests 24 ... ♜d4+!? followed by ... ♙b6, the point being that ♙c3 will leave the f4 pawn unguarded. Still, most human players would feel quite uncomfortable placing their queen in such a position.

25 ♙c3



White has achieved everything he could have wanted from the position; domination of the e-file and, crucially, open lines for both bishops. Perhaps Black did not defend perfectly from here – understandable given the pressure he is under at this point – and Therrien finishes mercilessly.

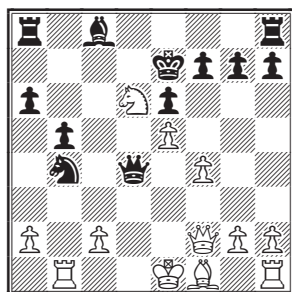
25 ... ♜d8 26 ♙a5 ♜f8 27 ♜e7 ♜e8 28 ♜a2+ ♙h8 29 ♜f7 ♜g8 30 ♙c3 and the game is over. Black struggled on

with **30 ... ♜f8** but after **31 ♜xd7 ♙xd7 32 ♜xd7 ♜d8 33 ♜xa7 d5 34 ♜e5 c4 35 ♙xf5 d4 36 ♙xd4 ♜b4 37 ♜c5 ♜xa4 38 ♜e1 ♜ge8 39 ♙e5 ♜d1 40 ♜xd1 ♜xd1+ 41 ♙f2 ♜b3 42 ♜c7 ♜g8 43 ♙g3 ♜xb5 44 ♙e6 ♜b1 45 ♜f7** **Black resigned.**

A great performance by Therrien— expect to see a lot more of this name in the future.

Alex was not the only player to narrowly miss a title norm. Polish IM/WGM Joanna Dworakowska had a magnificent tournament and finished just half a point from a full GM norm. Needing to win in the last round against GM Petr Kiriakov, Dworakowska achieved the following promising position after 16 moves:

**WGM Joanna Dworakowska White
GM Petr Kiriakov Black**



17 ♜d2

I believe that the energetic 17 c4! was a more promising continuation. White may have been concerned about 17 ... ♜c3+, but after 18 ♜d2 ♙c2+ 19 ♙d1! ♙e3+ (19 ... ♜xd2+ 20 ♙xd2 ♙a3 21 ♜b3 ♙xc4 22 ♙xc4 bxc4 23 ♙xc4 is very good for White) 20 ♙e2 ♙f5! (20 ... ♙xf1 21 ♜xf1 followed by ♜fc1 maintains the pressure) 21 c5! ♙d7 22 ♙d3 ♙d4 (intending to blockade on c6) 23 ♙e3 ♙c6 24 ♙e4 f6 25 exf6+ gxf6 26 ♜hd1 and Black is in for a tough time.

17 ... ♜xd2+

Now Kiriakov diffuses White's initiative with some careful defensive play.

18 ♙xd2 ♙c6 19 g3 f6 20 ♙g2 ♙d7 21 ♜hf1 ♜ab8 and although White is still marginally better, Dworakowska settled for **22 ♙xc6** and offered a **draw**, which was accepted. A pity for her to miss out on a GM norm, but still a tremendous performance from the Pole.

Another fine performance came from British player Don Mason, rated 2255, who narrowly missed out on his first IM norm after a last round loss to yours truly. Rafe Martyn, Neil Berry and Alan Walton were also amongst the players to perform significantly above their published ratings. The greatest rating improvement of all was achieved by the talented junior Paul Lam, who

performed a massive 240 points above his expected score.

On a personal note, despite finishing equal 4th on an unbeaten 6½/9 with a cluster of other players, most of them IMs and GMs, I had not been completely satisfied due to having played opposition of a relatively low average rating; in fact I even lost a few rating points. On further reflection, however, the fact that my supposedly 'weak' opposition included the in-form quartet of Lam, Therrien, Walton and Mason makes me realise that actually I should be grateful not to have become another highly rated victim!

Summary

Although I am sure that Mark and the rest of the organisers would be the first to admit that the event was not perfect and there are always aspects that can be improved on, the vast majority of feedback from players of all ages and nationalities has been overwhelmingly positive.

Thanks must go to the control team of John Robinson, Lara Barnes and Alex McFarlane, who did a fine job of controlling such a large and hotly contested tournament. And in terms of organising the event as a whole, tournament secretary Roy Woodcock was very much Mark's right hand man. His commitment has been honoured with the Roy Woodcock trophy, won this year by Ed Goodwin, for the best performance by a Coventry and District League player. Finally, without the vision and drive of Mark Hogarth himself, the tournament would never have happened. Mark has invested tremendous amounts of time, money and effort to make this event a reality, and the success of the event, in terms of the size of the entry and positive feedback, is a great credit to him. Roll on next year!

Final standings:

- 1st **GM Olesandr Areshchenko** 7½/9;
- 2nd= GMs Zahar Efimenko, Kiril Giorgiev 7;
- 4th= GMs Stuart Conquest, Petr Kiriakov, Jiri Stocck, Vladislav Tkachiev, Peter Wells, IMs Joanna Dworakowska, Adam Hunt, Simon Williams, FMs Iain Gourlay, Andrew Greet 6½.

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Garry Kasparov's Greatest Chess Games Volume 1

by Igor Stohl

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Hardback. 320 pages. Gambit.

Garry Kasparov has dominated the chess world for more than twenty years. His dynamism and preparation have set an example that is followed by most ambitious players. Igor Stohl has selected 74 of Kasparov's best and most instructive games from 1973 to 1993, and annotated them in detail. The emphasis is on explaining the thought behind Kasparov's decisions, and the principles and concepts embodied by his moves. Stohl provides a wealth of fresh insights into these landmark games, together with many new analytical points. This makes the book outstanding study material for all chess enthusiasts.

In 1985 Garry Kasparov became the youngest world chess champion in history by defeating Anatoly Karpov in an epic struggle. Twenty years later he was still world number 1, and is an internationally renowned figure, famous even among the non-chess-playing public following high-profile events such as his matches against IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer, and the Kasparov vs. World game in 1999.

Volume 2, completing Kasparov's career, will be published within a year.

Najdorf: Life and Games

by Tomasz Lissowski, Adrian Mikhalechishin & Miguel Najdorf

Introduction by Liliana Najdorf

£14.99/Subscribers £13.99

Softback. 192 pages. Batsford.

Miguel Najdorf had an incredible life, he was one of many European players who were at the Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires when WWII broke out. His entire family in Poland was wiped out by the Nazis and after many fruitless attempts to trace them he reinvented himself, remarried and pursued a hugely successful business career as well becoming one of the top players of his era. His name is one of the most commonly spoken in today's chess parlance because of the variation of the Sicilian he played and developed.

In the 40s and early 50s Miguel Najdorf and Sammy Reshevsky were regarded as the strongest players in the 'Free World' and in fact played two well-contested matches in the Americas. Both had very long careers lasting six-seven decades and in this book you will find Najdorf games against players ranging from Akiba Rubinstein to Garry Kasparov! A highly entertaining chess writer and winner of many international tournaments, Najdorf was twice a World Championship 'Candidate' but, although he beat most of his colleagues at some time or another—including Botvinnik, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer, Euwe, Fine, Reshevsky,

Keres, Korchnoi, Larsen, Portisch, Szabo, Boleslavsky, Kotov etc etc.—he never managed to qualify for a world title match. A detailed biography is followed by a magnificent collection of over one hundred and thirty of his great games—which amply demonstrate his enormous natural talent, originality and brilliance. 50 of the games are fully annotated by Najdorf himself, the remaining by his contemporaries and the authors. Excellent value for money and a book which will offer the reader enormous pleasure as well as instructive material. We might add that there is a fair degree of *humour* in the game commentaries!

Modern Benoni Revealed

by Richard Palliser 208 pages,

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Used by world champions such as Tal and Fischer and more recently employed by Kramnik in his must-win game against Leko, the Benoni is a dynamic, counter-attacking opening that often leads to highly tactical positions.

This book is the latest edition in the new 'Revealed' series of chess opening books. Using fresh, clear presentation, they explain the openings' key ideas in an entertaining and accessible way. The aim is to provide the essential knowledge to play the opening, while at the same time revealing the current thinking of the world's elite players. 'First Moves' leads you through the basic opening moves. 'Heroes and Zeroes' gives the best and worst performances with the opening and features some of the leading exponents of the Benoni. 'Tricks and Traps' reveals how you might catch out your opponent. 'What's Hot' pinpoints the very latest ideas from the world's top players.

Other titles in this acclaimed series include *Benko Gambit Revealed* by Neil McDonald and *Grunfeld Defence Revealed* by Mikhail Khodarkovsky, both in stock at £14.99.

Starting Out: Benoni Systems,

by Alex Raetsky & Maxim Chetverik

£14.99/Subscribers £13.99

Softback. 160 pages. Everyman.

This book is a study of all the crucial Benoni systems apart from the Modern Benoni (which is available as a separate volume, *Starting Out: Modern Benoni* priced £12.99). It presents diverse and practical options against the Queen's Pawn Opening for dynamic, tactical players and solid, positional players alike.

Covering both the daring Blumenfeld Counter-Gambit and the Benko Gambit as well as the more solid, respectable defences such as the Czech Benoni and the Schmid Benoni. Whether Black likes to sacrifice and take the initiative, or whether he prefers to play in a more restrained manner, there is something here for all types of player.

In common with the other 'Starting Out' titles the Benoni Systems contains an abundance of notes, tips and warnings to help the improving player, while key strategies, ideas and tactics for both sides are clearly illustrated.

Understanding the Chess Openings

by Sam Collins

£16.99/Subscribers £15.99

Softback. 224 pages. Gambit.

Complete your chess education by studying this working knowledge of *all* the chess openings. As Sam Collins says "What I call 'working knowledge' is an understanding of where the pieces go and why they go there, a basic idea of what both sides want from a particular position and how they might try to get it". This is not a theory book in the sense of analysing myriads of variations but "a simple verbal introduction to each opening, coupled with some of the most important main lines and indicative variations". Or we could say: a modern-day equivalent to Reuben Fine's classic *Ideas Behind the Chess Openings*.

Challenging the Grunfeld

IM Eddie Dearing

£15.99/Subscribers £14.99

Softback. 204 pages.

Many players are attracted to the strategic complexity of 1 d4 openings but do not know how to deal with the dynamic Grunfeld Defence. In this book IM Edward Dearing suggests the answer is the Modern Exchange Variation with 7 ♘f3, 8 ♗b1 and 9 ♙e2 as favoured by Kramnik, Gelfand, Anand and other top grandmasters on numerous occasions.

Challenging the Grunfeld offers the experienced player in-depth coverage of this complex opening, but also gives the less ambitious reader the chance to understand the most important points by playing through the 50 main games and reading the explanations. Dearing skilfully leads the reader through the book by including clear conclusions to every game and chapter. But this book offers more than just a repertoire for White: it is a thorough guide

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to a very complex opening system, more in the style of old 'complete' opening books. Essential reading for all players who encounter this opening—with White or Black.

Informator 92

£20.95/Subscribers £18.95

Softback. 400 pages. Informant.

This latest Informator brings together a thoroughly refined selection of 522 annotated games and 513 game fragments from events held between October 1st 2004 and January 31st, 2005, including the Olympiad in Calvia, Hoozeveen, Russian and US Championships, the Petrosian Memorial (internet), Wijk aan Zee, and dozens more. Also included are all the familiar features such as voting results for the ten best games and the ten most important theoretical novelties from games in the previous Chess Informant, theoretical survey in the ECO format, selected combinations and endings from recent tournament practice, tournament standings and crosstables, and the best creative chess achievements of Robert Huebner (best games, best tactics, theoretical contributions, etc).

Boris Gelfand: My Most Memorable Games

by Boris Gelfand

Edited by Ken Neat, with a preface by Vladimir Kramnik and an introduction by Dirk Poldauf.

£18/Subscribers £17

For more than ten years Boris Gelfand has been one of the world's top-ranking players (with a rating over 2700). This is the first collection of his best games, which the 35-year-old grandmaster has annotated in great detail, and on a level that is suitable for every club player. The book also provides an insight into the thoughts of a professional player, who has also been a Candidate for the World Championship and an effective second to a number of other top players. There is a special chapter on the 8 ♖b1 variation in the Grünfeld Defence, on which, like the Sicilian Najdorf, Boris Gelfand is one of the world's leading experts.

Leningrad System

A complete Weapon against 1d4

£18/Subscribers £17

by Stefan Kindermann

Softback. 208 pages

The Leningrad System is one of the sharpest and most interesting replies to 1 d4, and since this typical set-up is also playable against the flank openings 1 c4 and 1 ♘f3, it provides the Black player with a genuine universal weapon. The repertoire is based on 7... ♖e8 in the main line of the Leningrad System, but since the typical motifs and ideas for both sides are fully explained, White players will also benefit from a study of the book.

This brand new English edition is a fully updated version of the German original which received some highly favourable reviews, for example: "...must be among the best opening books of the past five years...rich with history of the variation,

meticulously researched, enhanced by explanation and exercises, and full of original analysis. Anyone interested in the theory of the Dutch Defence and the Leningrad Variation will find it an absolute must for their library ... Obviously I highly recommend this book..." John Watson in "The Week in Chess".

The Pocket Guide to Chess

by Jonathan Berry

£4.99

80 pages.

A handy pocket summary of the rules and principles for the novice chess player. In a concise but readable manner, it covers the basic rules, as well as the fundamental ideas of the opening, middle game and ending in chess. The emphasis is on graphics and illustration, rather than complex analysis, so it works as a handy pocket reference as well as a learning experience for the absolute beginner. An ideal purchase as a gift along with that first chess set!

Squares Strategy, Vol. 2: The Opening

(CD)

IM Alexander Bangiev

£17.95/Subscribers £16.95

ChessBase

For those of you unfamiliar with the 'Bangiev' method it is a strategy based on squares. This means that before every move, the piece set-up is checked out against quite specific pre-defined criteria. The Bangiev-method does not develop your memory, but rather your thought processes: learn to understand the logic of the game by means of a few rules! In each phase of the game, you have to ask yourself the same restricted number of questions and then answer them. Once you have grasped the principle, you will be happy to realise how—after some practice—you can always find the best move yourself. You can test your progress by using grandmaster games; this is because grandmasters make use of the correct thought process, without perhaps realising that they are doing so!

This new volume is dedicated to the opening, split into 11 chapters and 162 annotated game fragments. There is also a training database with a further 27 game fragments to work through.

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ChessBase Opening Encyclopedia 2005

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COSFORD: 27-31 May. UK Military Championships, DCAE Cosford (Open to current and ex-serving members of HM Forces including MOD Civilians). Munro Morrison, CSCA Secretary, No 1 Radio School, DCAE Cosford (Tel: 01952 200578)

WITNEY: 28-30 May. 4NCL, Divisions 3 & 4, Telford Moat House. Mike Truran, The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney OX29 7UA (Tel: 01993 708645)

ILFORD: 28-30 May. 55th Ilford Congress, Redbridge Institute, Gaysham Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex IG2 6TD. Ivor Smith, 163 Lodge Road, Writtle, Essex CM1 3JB (Tel: Joe Rosenberg 020 8554 2232 before 10pm)

COULSDON: 30 May. Coulsdon Blitz, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon. Scott Freeman, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BA. (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day); Fax: 020 8645 0412)

GRANGE-OVER-SANDS: 3-5 June. 9th South Lakes Open Congress, Cumbria Grand Hotel, Grange-Over-Sands. Trevor Blower 18 Blackbutts Lane, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 3AP (Tel: 01229 472100)

LEEK: 5 June. Leek Rapidplay, St Edward's Middle School, Westwood Road, Leek, Staffordshire. Robert Milner, 411 Cheadle Rd, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7BH (Tel: 01782 550112)

GOLDERS GREEN: 11 June. Golders Green Rapidplay, St Alban's Church Hall, West Heath Drive NW11. Adam Raooof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, London NW4 4QZ (020 8202 0982)

WALES: 12 June. 1st Frank Hatto Memorial, incorporating the Welsh Rapidplay Championship. Ian Jones, 3 Fagwr Place, Morriston (Tel: 01792 427159)

LONDON: 12 June. Central London Rapidplay International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1N. John Weightman (Tel: 020 8381 4406, mobile 07798 517870)

RICHMOND: Richmond Rapidplay, White House Community Association, The Avenue, Hampton, Middlesex. Scott Kenyon, 26 Rydal Gardens, Whitton, Middlesex TW3 2JH (Tel: 020 8893 9870, 07796 411452)

FRODSHAM: 3 July. Frodsham Rapidplay, Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire. Martin Regan, 1 Bollin Tower, Woodbrook Rd, Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7BY (Tel: 01625 586675)

NEWPORT: 9-14 July. 2nd South Wales International (9-rd FIDE Rated), Caerleon College and Conference Centre, Newport, Gwent. Kevin Staveley, 57 Treharne St, Cwmparc, Rhondda CF42 6LH (Tel: 01443 772750)

LONDON: 10 July. Central London Rapidplay International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1N. John Weightman (Tel: 020 8381 4406, mobile 07798 517870)

MONMOUTH: 15-17 July. South Wales Summer Congress, Monmouth. Kevin Staveley, 57 Treharne St, Cwmparc, Rhondda CF42 6LH (Tel: 01443 772750)

GOLDERS GREEN: 16 July. Golders Green Rapidplay, St Alban's Church Hall, West Heath Drive NW11. Adam Raooof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, London W4 4QZ (020 8202 0982)

STAFFORD: 17 July. British Blitz Championship, St Leonards Sports and Social Club, St Leonards Works, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford ST17 4LX. Lawrence Cooper, 11, Sandringham Close, Baswich, Stafford ST17 0AB (Tel: 01785 242269)

COULSDON: 23 July. Coulsdon Rapidplay, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon. Scott Freeman, 84-90 Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon CR5 3BA. (Tel: 020 8645 0302 (day); Fax: 020 8645 0412)

DOUGLAS: 31 July-13 August Smith & Williamson 92nd British Championships, Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man. BCF Office The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD (Tel: 01424 775222, Fax: 01424 775904)

LONDON: 16 August - Golders Green Rapidplay, St Alban's Church Hall, West Heath Drive NW11. Adam Raooof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, London NW4 4QZ (020 8202 0982)

LONDON: 21 August - Central London Rapidplay International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1N. John Weightman (Tel: 020 8381 4406, mobile 07798 517870)

MARLOW: 27-29 August - 41st Berks & Bucks Congress, Sir William Borlase Grammar School, West Street, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2BR. Nigel Dennis Boundary House, 230 Greys Rd, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1QY (Tel/Fax: 01491 576052)

LONDON: 10 September - Golders Green Rapidplay, St Alban's Church Hall, West Heath Drive NW11. Adam Raooof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, London NW4 4QZ (020 8202 0982)

THETFORD: 17 September - Thetford Junior Congress, Rosemary Musker High School. Kevin Moore, 76 Fairfields, Thetford IP24 1LB (Tel: 01842 755182)

LONDON: 18 September - Central London Rapidplay International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1N. John Weightman (Tel: 020 8381 4406, mobile 07798 517870)

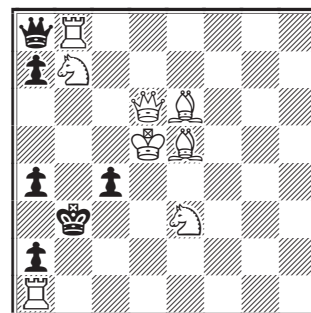
PROBLEM ALBUM

by Colin Russ

Retired Child Psychotherapist Christopher Reeves was recently elected President of the British Chess Problem Society. His status as FM composer reflects his high reputation among his fellow problemists but he knows, too, how to appeal to the broader public. This is illustrated by these problems which he has kindly selected for quotation here. Solutions on page 58.

A.C.Reeves (A)

Die Schwalbe 1977

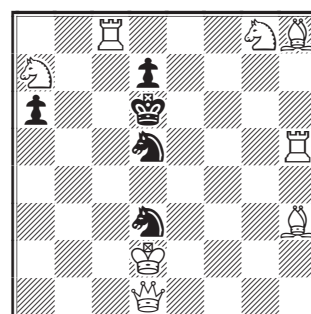


White mates in two

A.C.Reeves (B)

The Tablet 1962

Version

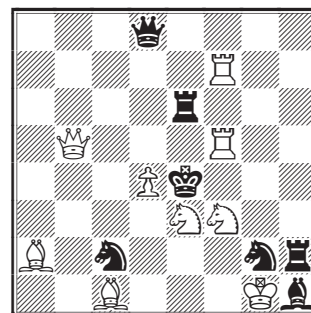


White mates in two

PRIZE PROBLEM No.181

A.C.Reeves (C)

The Problemist 2002



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SOLUTIONS

PROBLEM ALBUM (page 65)

Reeves (A): The challenge here lies in finding the right square for the white king. If 1 ♖c6,e4? (threat 2 ♙xc4++) 1...a3! Now 1 ♖d4? (threat 2 ♘a5++) copes with the latter move – 1...a3 2 ♘c5++ – and with the black king's excursion – 1...♙b2 2 ♙xc4++ – but not with 1...♙xb8! And so we arrive at 1 ♖c5! (threat 2 ♙d3++) 1...a3 2 ♙d1++, or 1...♙a3 2 ♙xc4++.

Reeves (B): 1 ♙b3 (threat 2 ♙/♙xd5++) 1...♘3b4,f4,e5 2 ♙(x)e5++. Or 1...♘5b4 2 ♙h6++. Or 1...♘c7 2 ♙b6++. Or 1...♘e7 2 ♙b8++. Other moves by the ♘d5 give a choice of mates. Eight near misses by the queen, however, show that knight as sterling defender: 1 ♙a1? ♘c7!/1 ♙a4? ♘b6!/1 ♙b1? ♘5b4!/1 ♙c2? ♘c3!/1 ♙e2? ♘e3!/1 ♙f1? ♘5f4!/1 ♙g4? ♘f6! and, completing the so-called Knight-Wheel, 1 ♙g1? ♘e7!

PRIZE PROBLEM No. 179 (April)

Rice: 1 d4 (threat 2 ♙h6++) 1...cxd3 e.p. 2 0-0++ – in this variation the en passant capture and castling are strikingly juxtaposed. Or 1...b1=♘ 2 ♙xc2++. Or 1...♙b3,5,6 2 ♙d2++. If 1 d3? c3!

Winner was **Vic Tatler Newport**

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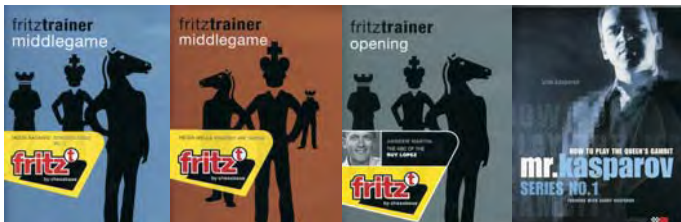
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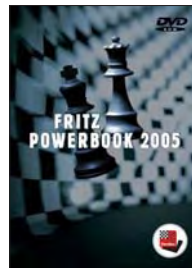
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Above: Fritz points out your mistakes!

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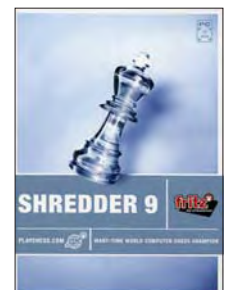
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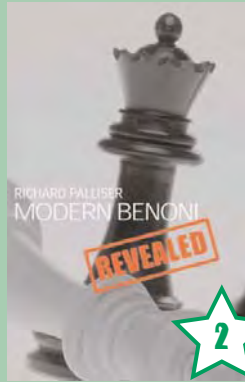
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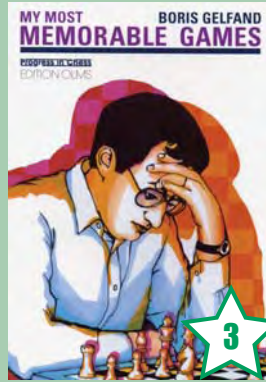
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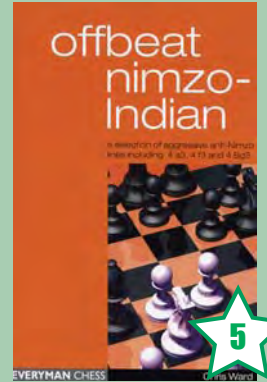
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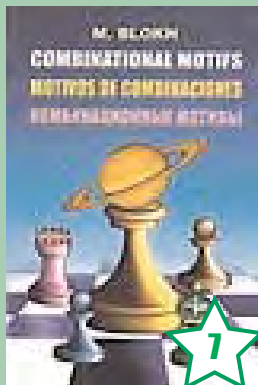
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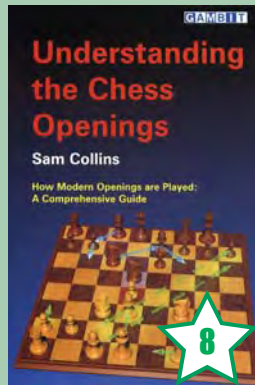
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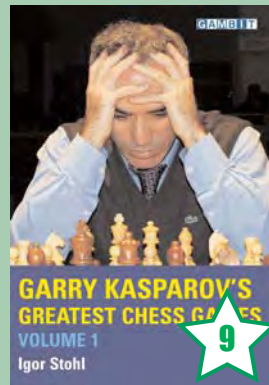
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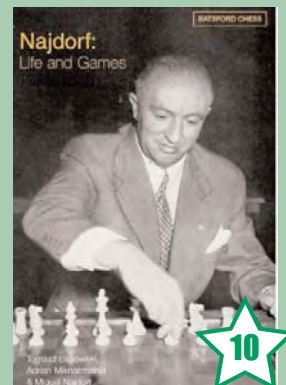
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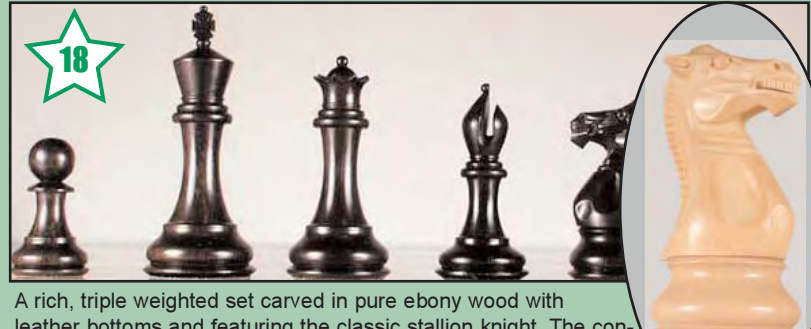


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