

Chess around the Globe

The Seattle Chess Foundation organized the **USA - China** Chess Summit Match (four rounds, 10 participants for each country: 6 top-players, 2 leading women and 2 junior players under 18). Time control: 40 moves in 100 minutes, followed by 20 moves in 50 minutes, followed by all moves in 10 minutes (all moves played get 30 seconds bonus - Fischer method).



Live games and archived games and



additional information at:

<http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org>

Our thanks to **Michael Franett** (mfranett@hotmail.com) for his report specially for **Chess Today**:

"The first match game was started by Seattle Chess Foundation President Erik Anderson promptly at 1:30 PM by hitting the gong as to silence the crowd of spectators. The Harbor club at the top floor of the Norton Building in downtown Seattle offers spectacular views besides its beautiful settings. The media found its way to the match as well. News agencies and local newspapers had their photographers and reporters swing by and the local ABC affiliate television station filmed the early stages of the matches.

"During the opening ceremony, the evening before at the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the team captains played a game of Jenga to determine which color the first board would have in round 1. In Jenga the players have to take one building block out of a wooden stack and put it back on top. The first one who makes the tower tumble loses. Nick de Firmian was gracious enough to leave the honor to Lin Feng who decided that China would play with the White pieces on board 1 in round 1."

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PRESSROOM: 206-652-9292"

We have to add that on the chess board the American team was not as gracious as its captain had been during the so called Jenga game, and won the first match **5.5 - 4.5**

1. GM Boris Gulko 1/2 GM Ye Jiangchuan
2. GM Joel Benjamin 1-0 GM Xu Jun
3. GM Gregory Kaidanov 1/2 GM Peng Xiaomin
4. GM Alexander Shabalov 0-1 GM Zhang Zhong
5. GM Alexander Ivanov 1-0 GM Xie Jun
6. GM Larry Christiansen 1/2 GM Zhu Chen
7. IM Irina Krush 1/2 Xu Yuhua
8. WIM Camilla Baginskaite 1-0 WGM Qin Kanying
9. IM Vinay Bhat 0-1 GM Bu Xianghzi
10. FM Dmitry Schnieder 1/2 FM Ni Hua

As we see in Chinese play not 2, but 4 women, Xie Jun and Zhu Chen vs. men. Quite unexpectedly they collected only 1

point: ½ against men and (that is even more unexpected) ½ against women. This time Chinese juniors won their micro-match 1.5 : 0.5 and the top six lost “-1”.

Today in our annotated game section there is a very attractive victory by GM Joel Benjamin over GM Xu Jun. *(Please note that all games from this first round are included in the .cbv and .pgn files, with one annotated game. ---- RPM)*

The hero of CT-127 **Bernando Roselli** made a hat trick in the [1st Pinamar Masters](#) in Buenos Aires! In the 7th round he defeated, playing White, Van Riemsdijk. The secret for his success is simple: he played very attractive and important theoretical chess, which was published in *Chess Today*. His approach was mature, and nobody can stop him now! ☺ Good luck, Mr. Roselli!

White also won another two games in this round: Andersson over Rodi and Giardelli over Hobaica. Other games were drawn.

Standings after the 7th round:

1. Hoffman – 5
- 2-5. Panno, Larsen, Giardelli, Andersson – 4,5
- 6-7. Garcia Palermo, Ricardi – 4 etc.

In the 7th round of the [I Magistral Ciutat de Badalona](#) as the previous day, in 4 games out of 5 one side celebrates a victory!

The leaders before last round are:

1. Kolev – 6 points out of 8
- 2-3. Kogan, Granados – 5,5 etc.

It's interesting that in the final day this trio will play with Black:

Moskalenko – Kolev
Fluvia – Kogan
Narciso – Granados



Annotated Game

J. Benjamin(2581) – Xu Jun (2655)

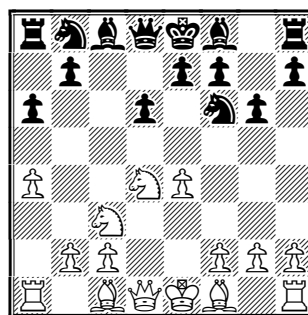
US-China Summit Match, Seattle, USA (1), 14.03.2001 B90

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.a4

White rejects an invitation to play the fashionable lines of the Najdorf (6.♗e3 or 6.♗g5).

6...g6 (D)

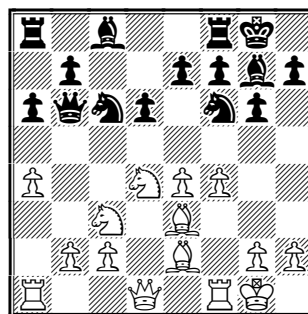


And Black slips to the Dragon now.

7.♗e2

After 6.a4 White has to castle short. In addition, however, the most unpleasant for Black in the Dragon is Rauzer's plan: ♗e3, f3, ♖d2 and 0-0-0 (or ♗c4 and 0-0-0).

7...♗g7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f4 ♘c6 10.♗e3
♖b6?! (D)



This is a provoking move. More modest and in the spirit of the position is: 10...♗d7 or; 10...♖b8!? but 10...Qb6 was played in one of Benjamin's games, and of course Xu Jun prepared something special.

11.a5!? ♖c7

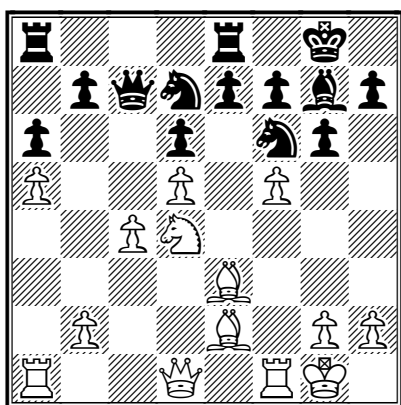
Black can't take the b2 pawn in

view of 11...♔xb2? 12.♖a4 ♔b4
13.c3 ♔xa5 14.♖xc6 bxc6 15.♗b6+-;
I believe the move 11...♖xa5 has a
forced refutation too, but I could find
only a good compensation for the
pawn so far: 12.e5!? **A)** 12...dxe5
13.fxe5 ♖d7 (13...♖e8 14.♖f5+-)
14.♖d5 ♔d8 15.♗g5±; **B)** 12...♖e8
13.♖f5 (13.♔d2 ♔d8) 13...♔d8
14.♖xg7 ♖xg7 (14...♔xg7 15.♔d2!?)
15.exd6 exd6 but of course both
Benjamin and Xu Jun analysed this
position much more deeply (and
longer).

**12.♖b3 ♗e6 13.♖d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5
♖b8 15.c4!?**

Joel deviated from his earlier game
first: 15.♗b6 ♔c8 16.♗d4 ♖bd7 17.c4
♖c5 18.♖xc5 dxc5 19.♗e5 ♖d7
20.♗xg7 ♔xg7 21.♔d2 Benjamin -
Chow, Philadelphia 1999.

15...♖bd7 16.♖d4! ♗fe8 17.f5 (D)



White's position looks much more
attractive. He has two Bishops, a
space advantage, a very strong and
defended d5 pawn, and the main
reason: Black hasn't any real
counterplay.

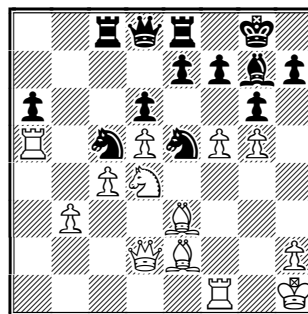
**17...♖e5 18.b3 ♗ac8 19.♔h1 ♔d8
20.g4!**

Yes, if your position in the center is
strong you can start a pawn attack on
the flank.

20...♖fd7 21.g5 b6!?

Xu Jun tries to distract some of
White's pieces away from his King.

22.♔d2 bxa5 23.♗xa5 ♖c5 (D)



24.b4!

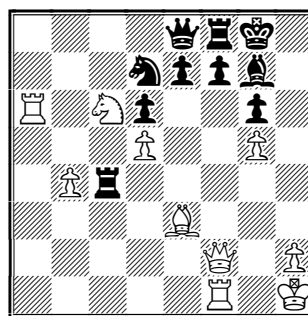
White begins a long, forcing
variation.

24...♖cd7 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.♗xa6

Very nice, but not as strong as
26.♗xf7!? ♔xf7 27.♖e6 ♔xa5
28.bxa5 ♖xc4 29.♔c1 ♖xe3 30.♔xe3
♖c5!?

26...♖xc4 27.♗xc4 ♗xc4 28.♔f2 ♗f8

Only move – losing is: 28...♖e5?
29.♖c6 ♖xc6 30.♔xf7+-
29.♖c6 ♗e8 (D)



30.♗a8!

A wonderful Rook sacrifice!
Benjamin plays according to Fisher's
advise for White in the Dragon: open
the h-file, check, check and
checkmate! Joel wants to check from
e7 first and than the check from the
h-file will be decisive.

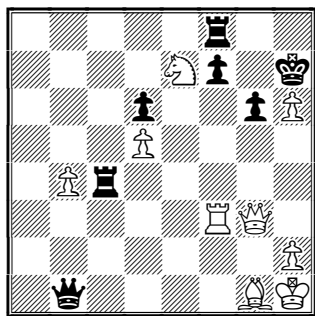
**30...♔xa8 31.♖xe7+ ♔h7 32.♔g3
♖f6 33.♗xf6 ♔a1+ 34.♗g1 ♔d1
35.♗f3 ♗h6**

The Chinese GM defends with the
only moves.

36.gxh6

Of course, not 36.♔h3? ♗h4!; An
alternative was 36.♔f2!? ♔b1
(36...♗xg5 37.♗xf7+ ♔h6 38.♗xf8
♗xe7 39.♔e3+ ♗g5 40.♔e6+-)

37.gxh6 (37.♖xf7+?! ♕g7! 38.♖xf8 ♕e4+)
36...♖b1 (D)



37.♗f5!

Joel Benjamin was a coach of the super machine Deep Blue and he plays like a machine himself. The Little brother of Deep Blue named Fritz likes all his moves very much.

37...♖xb4 38.♗xd6

Maybe better was 38.♖xd6!? A) 38...♖e4 39.♗d4! ♖xd4 40.♖f6 ♖xf3+ (40...♗xh6 41.♗xd4) 41.♖xf3+-; B) 38...♖d1 39.♖g3 ♖bb8 40.♖f6 ♖xd5+ 41.♖g2 ♖g8 42.♗e7+-

Fritz, you always think about us!

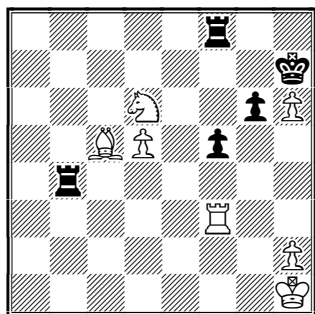
38...♖d1 39.♖d3?!

It looks like White could win by force with: 39.♗xf7!? ♖xd5 40.♗g5+ ♗xh6 (40...♗h8 41.♖e5+!; 40...♗g8 41.♖c7+-) 41.♖h3+ ♗xg5 42.♗e3+ ♖ff4 43.♖g2+ ♗h6 44.♖h3+

39...♖e2 40.♖e3 ♖h5 41.♖f3

After the time control White decided to slip into a winning endgame.

41...♖xf3+ 42.♖xf3 f5 43.♗c5 (D)



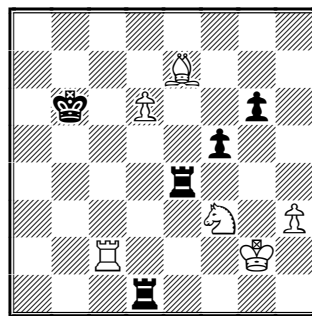
The d5 pawn must play a main role.

43...♖b1+ 44.♗g2 ♖d1 45.♗e4!

Simple but nice

45...♖a8 46.♗f6+ ♗xh6 47.♗e7 ♗g7 48.d6 ♗f7 49.♗h7 ♖a2+ 50.♖f2

♖aa1 51.♗g5+ ♗e8 52.♗f3 ♖a4 53.h3 ♖e4 54.♖a2 ♗d7 55.♖a7+ ♗c6 56.♖c7+ ♗b6 57.♖c2 (D)



The Black King is blocked from the d-pawn now, so the d-pawn will make it to d7 by force.

57...♗b5 58.♗f2 ♖d5 59.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 60.♗xd2 ♖d4 61.♗f3

Black resigned in view of 61.♗f3 ♖d5 62.♗e5! ♖xe5 63.d7 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

<http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/>
www.chesscenter.com/twic/
<http://www.lleflia.org/escacsBDN/magistral/index.htm>
<http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org>

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Chess around the Globe

On the second day of the USA - China Chess Summit Match the American men and the Chinese women won one game each, while the juniors exchanged blows. As a result – draw 5 : 5.

Gulko - Ye Jiangchuan 1/2
Xu Jun - Seirawan, Yasser 1/2
Kaidanov - Peng Xiaomin 1-0
Zhang Zhong - Shabalov 1/2
Benjamin - Xie Jun 1/2
Zhu Chen - Christiansen M 1/2
Krush - Xu Yuhua 1/2
Wang Lei - Groberman, Elina 1-0
Bhat, Vinay S - Bu Xiangzhi 1-0
Ni Hua - Nakamura, Hikaru 1-0

Our thanks to Michael Franett (mfranett@hotmail.com) for his report specially for “Chess Today”:

"The American team captain Nick de Firmian decided to use his three reserve players in the second duel. Yasser Seirawan replaced a rather tired Alexander Ivanov; US Women's co-champion Elina Groberman took the spot of Camilla Baginskaite and the youngest player of this event, 13 year old Hikaru Nakamura got the opportunity to play Chinese junior Ni Hua. A few hours into the match all looked rosy for the American team and another victory seemed in the air. The Chinese players defended well and after nearly six hours of fighting a 5-5 result was penciled in on the score board. Half way (through) this competition the US team is leading by the smallest margin possible, a half point.

"The round started earlier than the previous one as the players and officials were invited for a dinner hosted by Washington State Governor Gary Locke and his wife Mona. Boris Gulko made

sure he would be there in time by having a swift draw with China's strongest player Ye Jiangchuan. Irina Krush followed this example and scored her second half point for team USA. A nice achievement considering that Irina's opponent has 120 rating points more.

"Hikaru's first experience on team USA was a hard one. The youngster from White Plains, NY had an exciting game but went down against Chinese Olympiad team member Ni Hua. The youngest American International Master, Vinay Bhat, equalized the score between the juniors by outplaying the youngest GM in the world, Bu Xiangzhi. Larry Christiansen appeared disappointed when he left the playing hall after five hours of play. In the hospitality suite he quickly went through his game showing journalist Lubosh Kavalek and team mate Vinay that his 17th move had been a mistake. "After 17...Qf5 I'm winning" was his optimistic observation. Alexander Shabalov might have had the same feeling. In his game against Zhang Zhong, journalists and computer Fritz thought Black would have a nice advantage after 42...g5. "

As yesterday we have included all games from the second round of the USA-China Summit Match in the pgn and cbv-files.

Live games and archived games and additional information at:
<http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org>

Two legendary players, Bent Larsen and Ulf Andersson faced each other in the 8th round of the [1st Pinamar Masters](#) in Buenos Aires. The younger Andersson celebrated a victory with White and became one of the leaders. You can see this game in our annotated game section.

In another main game Garcia Palermo beat (also with White) Giardelli.

Standings after 8th round:

- 1-2.** Hoffman, Andersson – 5,5
3-4. Panno, Garcia Palermo – 5
5-8. Larsen, Ricardi, Giardelli, Szmetan – 4,5 etc.

In the 9th, and last round of the [I Magistral Ciutat de Badalona](#) all games were drawn. The Bulgarian GM **Atanas Kolev** won the event with 6,5 points. Our congratulations!

The Final standings:

- 1.** A. Kolev – 6,5 points out of 9
2-3. A. Kogan (ISR), M. Granados (ESP) – 6
4-6. J.P. Lopez Martinez (ESP), J. Fluvia (ESP), M. Narciso Dublan (ESP) – 5
8. V. Moskalenko (UKR) – 4
9. R. Jose (ESP) – 3
10. A. Vidarte (PER) - 2

Also the [Victor Ciocaltea Memorial](#) tournament (Bucharest, Romania) recently finished. The final results were:

- 1.** Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu (ROM) – 7,5 points out of 11
2-3. V. Nevednichy (ROM), L. Vajda (ROM) – 6,5
4-6. A. Motylev (RUS), C. Navrotescu (ROM), L. Fressinet (FRA) –6
7. B. Badea (ROM) – 5,5
8-11. C. Ionescu (ROM), M. Marin (ROM), D. Solak (YUG), M. Brodsky (UKR) – 4,5
12. V. Iordachescu (MDA) – 4
 ♠♠♠

Annotated Game

**U. Andersson (2640) –
 B.Larsen(2500)**

Magistral Internacional de Pinamar
 Viejo Hotel Ostende (8), 15.03.2001
 E19

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

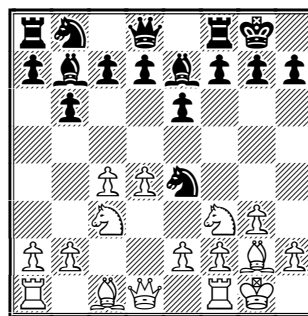
According to my database, Bent Larsen and Ulf Andersson have

played each other 32 times; the first time in 1970. This game is quite unusual for Andersson (see CT-128), since most of these games were "bloody": The Swedish GM won 11, lost 10 and 11 were drawn. They even played an 8-game match in Stockholm in 1975, +5 –2 =1(!) in Andersson's favor. I suspect the main reason of such an implacable fight is Larsen's fighting spirit. The last time these old opponents met at the board was in 1985.

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.g3 b6 4.♙g2
 ♙b7 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.c4**

Andersson didn't play c2–c4 before castling, maybe because checking with Bf8–b4 can lead to more complicated positions.

6...0-0 7.♘c3 ♘e4 (D)

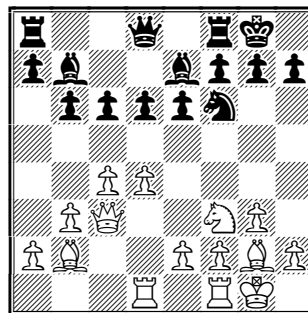


According to Alekhine and Botvinnik, this move gives Black equality.

8.♙c2 ♘xc3 9.♙xc3 d6

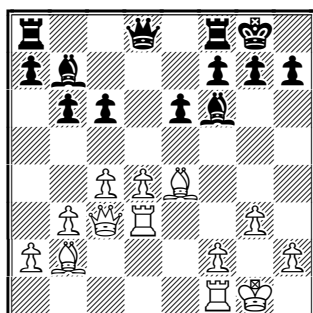
Alternatives are 9...f5 ; 9...c5; 9...♙f6!?

10.b3 ♘d7 11.♙b2 ♘f6 12.♙ad1 c6?! (D)



Bent Larsen, one of the strongest GMs in the World in 60s and 70s (remember in the 1970 match World

vs USSR he played on first board, ahead of Robert Fisher), always goes his own, original way. In this position there were: 12...c5 13.dxc5 (13.d5!? exd5 14.cxd5 b5 15.e4 b4 16.♖d3 ♗b6 17.♘d2 ♕a6 18.♘c4 ♕xc4 19.♗xc4 a5± Eisenmann – Jandke, corr. 1987.) 13...bxc5 14.♘g5 ♕xg2 15.♖xg2 h6 16.♘e4 ♖c7 17.♗f3 ♘xe4 18.♗xe4 ♖fc8 19.f4 ♖c6 20.♗xc6 ♖xc6 21.e4 ♖a6= Pietzsch – Spassky, Habana 1966.; 12...♕e4 13.♘d2 ♕xg2 14.♖xg2 c6 15.e4 d5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.e5 ♘d7 18.♖c1 a5 19.♗d3 a4 20.♖c2 axb3 21.axb3 ♘b8 draw, Andersson – Najdorf, Argentina 1982
13.♘d2! d5 14.e4 dxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♕xe4 ♕f6 17.♖d3 (D)

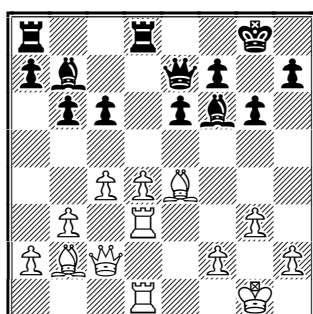


The position is rather simple, with small, but long term advantages for White – because he has more space and his pieces are more active. Ulf Andersson likes such positions very much. It's interesting to see how he increases his advantage step by step.

17...♗e7

with idea c6–c5

18.♗c2 ♖fd8 19.♖fd1 g6 (D)



The 8th rank is weak so Black

hasn't 19...c5? 20.♕xb7 ♖xb7 21.dxc5 ♖xd3 22.♗xd3! bxc5 23.♕xf6 gxf6 24.♗e3±

20.c5!

Now the b7 Bishop becomes passive. Black can't exploit the d5 square simply because he hasn't any Knights!

20...bxc5 21.♕a3! ♖d7 22.♕xc5 ♗d8 23.h4 ♕g7 24.♗c3!

White doesn't hurry to take control over the a5 and e5 squares.

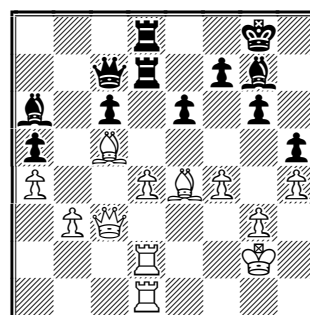
24...♗c7 25.f4!

The same line

25...a5?!

Larsen finds some counterplay but in a few moves White will use this move to create a passed a–pawn. Maybe better was for Black to stay and wait, but this isn't in Larsen's style.

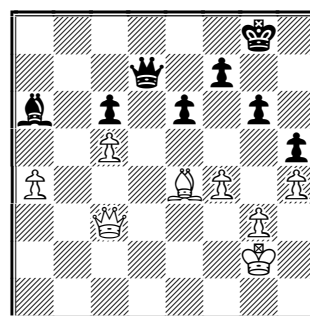
26.a4 ♕a6 27.♖3d2 ♖ad8 28.♖g2 h5 (D)



29.b4! axb4 30.♗xb4 ♖b8 31.♗c3 ♗c8 32.♖b1 ♖xb1 33.♕xb1 ♕f8 34.♕e4 ♕xc5?!

A dubious exchange. All of Black's pawns are on the white squares, so all Bishop endings will be lost for him now.

35.dxc5 ♗d8 36.♖xd7 ♗xd7 (D)



37.♙f3!

Very good! Black has an open-file but can't use it: White controls most of the squares on it, from d1 to d6.

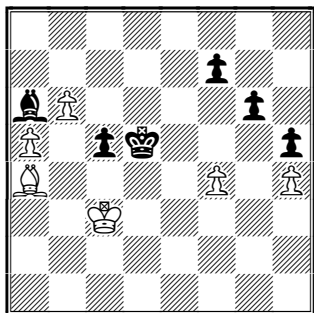
37...♘f8 38.♙f2

Right way – to the Bishop ending!

38...♙e7 39.♙e3 ♖b7 40.♙e4!

The same picture on the b-file: the Queen has no squares except b7 and b8.

40...♖d7 41.♖d4 ♖c7 42.♖b4 e5
43.♖b6! exf4+ 44.gxf4 ♖xb6
45.cxb6 ♔d6 46.♔d4 ♙f1 47.a5 ♙a6
48.♙c2 c5+ 49.♙c3 ♙d5 50.♙a4 (D)



Black resigned because he can't defend his pawns on f7–g6–h5 and at the same time stop white's pawns. All of Andersson's moves looked very simple and natural – it's really high class chess technique! **1-0**

Recommended Web sites:

<http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistr/>

www.chesscenter.com/twic/

<http://www.llefiat.org/escacsBDN/magistr/index.htm>

<http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org>

<http://www.notzai.com/notzai/index.shtml>

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Chess around the Globe

The Tenth [Amber](#) Blindfold and Rapid Chess Tournament started today in Monaco. Every day GMs Vladimir Kramnik, Vishy Anand, Alexey Shirov, Anatoly Karpov, Veselin Topalov, Vasily Ivanchuk, Peter Leko, Boris Gelfand, Ljubomir Ljubojevic, Loek Van Wely, Jeroen Piket and Zoltan Almasi will play one rapid game of about one hour in length, and one blindfold game. Both games will be played with the Fischer Clock.

Blindfold games are played with computers. An empty chessboard appears on the player's screen. The moves are made with a mouse or with the keyboard. Each move will appear on both screens. After confirmation of receipt of the move, the opponent's clock will start and the move will disappear.

Sponsor of this very attractive event is well-known business man and strong CC player J.J. van Oosterom. The total prize fund is US \$ 137, 250.

Winners of previous Amber Blindfold Tournaments:

1992 – Ivanchuk
1993 – Ljubojevic
1994 – Anand
1995 – Karpov
1996 – Kramnik
1997 – Anand
1998 – Shirov and Kramnik
1999 – Kramnik
2000 – Shirov

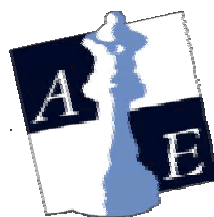
Results of the first day (rapid/blindfold)

Gelfand – Ljubojevic **1:0 0:1**
Karpov – Anand **½:½ 0:1**
Ivanchuk – Leko **0:1 0:1**
Kramnik – Piket **1:0 ½:½**
Shirov – Van Wely **1:0 1:0**
Almasi – Topalov **0:1 0:1**

Today in our annotated game section we feature the rapid game Shirov – Van Wely. All the games of the first day of the Amber Rapid Tournament as well as from USA – China match) – are included in the cbv and pgn files.

Standings after 1st day:

1-3. Leko, Topalov, Shirov – 2
4-5. Anand, Kramnik – 1,5
6-7. Gelfand, Ljubojevic – 1
8-9. Karpov, Piket – 0,5
10-12. Almasi, Van Wely, Ivanchuk - 0



Our thanks to Michael Franett (mfranett@hotmail.com) for his report from the 3rd round of the US- China Summit Match, specially for **Chess Today**:

"In the third encounter in the US-Chinese Summit Match the Chinese finally showed that they are no paper tigers. They deservedly won the third round and with just one round left, the US will have to hit several home runs to keep the beautiful glass match trophy in the Emerald City."

"Last night during a wonderful dinner hosted by Washington State governor Gary Locke, Captain Nick de Firmian decided that the American team would play their strongest lineup the next day. A few hours into the third round the prospects for the American team looked very good. Yasser Seirawan was the first to finish with a quick draw against Xu Jun, but quick victories by Gregory Kaidanov and Larry Christiansen gave the US a two points lead. Then the tables

turned as. Xie Jun took revenge for her first round loss by defeating Alexander Ivanov who got into time trouble in a difficult position. Dmitry Schneider went down for the second time against Ni Hua and on board one, Boris Gulko blundered in a sharp position against Ye Jiangchuan. Things got even worse as Irina Krush lost with Black to the well-rested Wang Lei. This was especially sad as National Geographic Television News was filming her entire game for a special program they are doing on women in sports. Camilla Baginskaite and Vinay Bhat couldn't make up for their teammates and drew their games. Alexander Shabalov was the last US player to finish. In view of the bleak situation, Alex tried desperately to win his game against Zhang Zhong. The Grandmaster from Pittsburgh could have made a draw but for the sake of the team he tried to get just a little bit more out of it. Unfortunately this backfired and Zhang Zhong was quick to add another point to the Chinese total.

"After three rounds the Chinese now find themselves leading the match by two points. It will be difficult for the American team to come up with a strategy to overcome this deficit. But at least they have a free day before Sunday's game to prepare for the Chinese."

For more information: Press room 206-652-9292 or Mike Franett at mfranett@hotmail.com -- on the Internet: <http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org/> and <http://seattlechessevents.org/>

After 3 Rounds/ China – USA 6.5 : 3.5
Ye Jiangchuan - Gulko F **1:0**
Seirawan - Xu Jun **½:½**
Peng Xiaomin - Kaidanov **0:1**
Shabalov - Zhang Zhong **0:1**

Xie Jun - Ivanov **1:0**
Christiansen - Zhu Chen **1:0**
Wang Lei - Krush **1:0**
Baginskaite - Qin Kanying **½:½**

Wang Yue - Bhat, Vinay **½:½**
Schneider - Ni Hua **0:1**

Today is the 66th birthday of well-known



Argentinean GM Oscar Panno.
Picture from www.kasparovchess.ru

In 1953 Panno won the World Junior Chess Championship. He won some international events; played many times in Zonal and Interzonal tournaments, and in 1956 played in the Challengers tournament in Amsterdam. But for years Oscar Panno wasn't a professional chess player and worked as an engineer. He is, nevertheless playing quite successfully in the **1st Pinamar Masters** in Buenos Aires. In the 9th round he drew with Black vs. Van Riemsdijk and shares 3rd place.

Today, with Black, Ulf Andersson won one another game, against Giardelli and became the sole leader.

Standings after the 9th round:

1. Andersson – 6,5 points
2. Hoffman – 6
- 3-5. Panno, Ricardi, Garcia Palermo – 5,5
- 6-7. Larsen, Szmetan – 5 etc.



Editorial

by GM Alexander Baburin

Time passes very quickly and we have already published more than 120 issues of **Chess Today (CT)**, which means that it is time for some of our readers to renew their subscription. If your subscription is due for renewal soon, you will receive an e-mail from us inviting you to do so. Renewing is very

simple; if details of your credit card have not changed since you last paid for *CT*, just drop us a message saying that you wish to continue receiving *CT*. We will then charge your credit card £14 (Irish punts), which will be good for another 4 months. If your credit card has changed, send us the new details using the secure form at: www.chesstoday.net (look under 'Subscribe'). Obviously, there is no need to join the list at yahoo.com again. Those who paid by cheque should send an additional payment once their 4 months period is about to expire. So far the rate of renewals is about 90%, which is very encouraging - it means that most of our readers are happy to receive our publication!

Many of our readers ask whether it is possible to obtain earlier issues of *CT*. It would be very time consuming to send them individually, but we plan to produce a CD with the first 150 issues of *CT* - edited and put into certain order.

Due to my travelling there was a delay in announcing the results of **our February Lottery**. Alfred Azzopardi won the prize - a signed copy of *Winning Pawn Structures* by A. Baburin. Congratulations! The same book will be featured in our March lottery. By the way, I resolved my problems with Batsford and, although, it is very unlikely that I would write another book for them, I no longer ask the chess public to boycott the book. In fact, it is available for purchase in our shop at: <http://www.gmsquare.com>

Our **Linares Quiz** proved to be very popular, as we received many entries. Almost everyone put Garry Kasparov in the number one spot, but nobody could guess that there would be a 5-way tie for 2nd! So, we still keep the prize - a nice 'Gambit' clock (also available in the shop at: <http://www.gmsquare.com>) and we offer it now as the prize in our **Cannes Quiz**. Simply name **3 winners** (in exact order) of the forthcoming tournament in

Cannes and the clock is yours! All subscribers are invited (not only paid subscribers) - let's see whether GMs (and there are many GMs among *CT* readers!) are better at predicting the outcome of chess tournaments! :-) Please mark your e-mail 'Cannes Quiz' and post it before the 21st of March. Here are the line-ups for the event:

Group A

- 1 Kasparov Garry RUS 2849
- 2 Bareev Evgney RUS 2704
- 3 Svidler Peter RUS 2696
- 4 Grischuk Alexander RUS 2676
- 5 Polgar Judith HUN 2675
- 6 Lautier Joel FRA 2653
- 7 Gulko Boris USA 2623
- 8 Bauer Christian FRA 2618

Group B

- 1 Adams Michael ENG 2745
- 2 Morozevich Alexander RUS 2742
- 3 Gurevich Mikhail BEL 2693
- 4 Kasimdzhanov Rustam UZB 2692
- 5 Ye Jiangchuan CHN 2672
- 6 Tkachiev Vladislav FRA 2671
- 7 Bacrot Etienne FRA 2618
- 8 Hamdouchi Hichem MAR 2541

Four players from each group will qualify to the quarter-finals, after that it will be a knock-out. The tournament will start on the 21st of March and finish on the 25th.

Our reader Robert Sellers sent us the following note: "The daily report includes a lot of Swiss tournaments. I don't know most of the players mentioned in these reports. Can you give some information?". As many *CT* readers may be in the same position, we are going to introduce a new column - **Player's Profile**, where we will tell you about the modern players, who are featured in our tournament reports. In this column we will offer some biographical information on the player, a few of his/her games and possibly a photo. We will start this column next week, beginning with players who

currently belong to the top 100 on the rating list. Then we will gradually extend our list, so *CT* readers will learn more about the modern chess scene.

We invite you to visit our forum (discussion board) at: www.chesstoday.net, which is not only for our readers, but for everyone interested in chess. As you may know, there are many useful newsgroups devoted to chess, but sometimes there is too much personal fighting going on there. We would like to keep that stuff out and concentrate purely on chess - how to improve in the game, its history, etc. No forum can flourish without visitors, so we welcome you to call in and participate! *CT* journalists IM Vladimir Barsky and GM Ruslan Scherbakov, as well as myself, will also take part there. See you on the Forum!

Finally, could you please **mention *Chess Today* to your friends** and encourage them to join the newspaper? Most people, who see *CT*, like it, but the main problem which we face is how to become known to more players. To make *CT* a sound commercial project, it is essential that as many people as possible hear of *Chess Today*. Here we count on your help - feel free to send sample issue to your friends and post them in your club. We have an **Affiliate Program**, so have a look at it at: For example, your club's website or your personal page can post one issue a month www.chesstoday.net in exchange for displaying our banners.

Enjoy *Chess Today* and please send us your feedback. We always listen to you!



Annotated Game

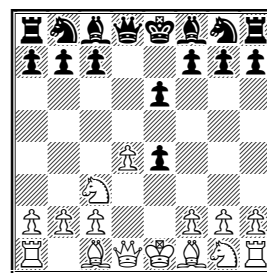
A. Shirov (2718) – L. Van Wely (2700)
Amber Rapid Play Monaco MNC (1),
17.03.2001 C10

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

As we had written earlier in *CT* (during the Wijk aan Zee event), Loek Van Wely likes to play very

sharp lines. He works hard at home (maybe, especially hard since he plays on the ICC) and very much in keeping to his opening repertoire. The minus of such an attitude is that some of his opponents (of course only few) play sharp positions better than he does, and Alexey Shirov is one of them. Maybe if Loek were a little more flexible his good results would be even better.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 (D)

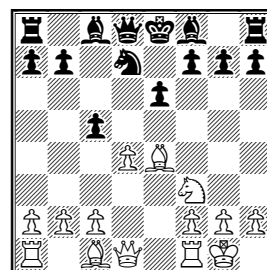


The Exchange, or Rubinstein variation – one of the oldest in the French Defence.

4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘f3

From time to time White catches his opponent (even rather strong ones!) into quite a simple but unexpected trap with: 5.♘d3 ♘gf6 6.♙e2!? ♘xe4 7.♘xe4 ♘f6? 8.♘xb7! ♘xb7 9.♙b5+±

5...♘gf6 6.♘d3 c5 7.0-0 ♘xe4 8.♘xe4 (D)



Of course, there is much theory here.

8...♘f6

Alternatives are: 8...cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♘f6 10.♘g5 ♘c5 11.c3 h6 12.♘xf6 ♙xf6 13.♙a4+ ♘d7 14.♙c4 ♘xd4 15.cxd4 ♙c8 16.♙b4 b6 17.d5 ♙e7 18.d6 ♙g5 19.♙a3↑ Rublevsky – Christiansen, Lucerne 1997; More than 90 years ago Fritz

recommended here 8...♖b6!? Oh, we have to add that Fritz hadn't a number but a name: Alexander Fritz – he played in German championships: 9.c3 ♘f6 10.♙d3 ♙d7 11.♖e2 cxd4 12.♗xd4 ♙e7 13.♗f3 0-0 14.♗e5± Wolf – Fritz, Germany 1908; 8...♙e7 9.♖e2 ♗f6 10.dxc5 ♗xe4 11.♖xe4 ♙xc5 12.♖e5 ♙f8 13.♖e1 ♖d6 14.♖b5+ ♖d7 15.♖h5 ♖c7 16.♗d4 ♙d6 17.♗f5 ♙e5 18.♖g5 ♗f8 19.♙f4 f6 20.♙xe5 fxe5 21.♙xc7 exf5 22.♙d6+ ♗f7 23.♖e7+ ♗f6 24.♖ae1± Tseshkovsky – Doroshkevich, Russia 1997

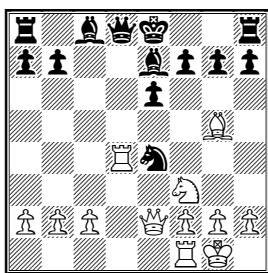
9.♙g5 cxd4 10.♖e2

Once Alexander Morozevich aggressively, but incorrectly sacrificed a piece here: 10.♗xd4 ♙c5 11.♗b3 ♙d6 12.♙xf6 gxf6 13.♖h5 f5 14.♙xf5? exf5 15.♖fe1+ ♙e7 16.♖e3 f4 17.♖e4 0-0 18.♖d1 ♖c7 19.♗d4 ♙f6-+ Morozevich – Zakharevich, Russia 1997

10...♙e7 11.♖ad1 ♗xe4

11...♙d7 12.♖xd4 ♗xe4 13.♖xe4 ♖c7 14.♗e5 ♙c6 15.♖h4 ♙xg5 16.♖xg5 f6 17.♖h5+ g6 18.♗xg6 ♖f7 19.♖g4 0-0-0 20.♗f4 ♖d7 21.♗d3± Maiorov – Doroshkevich, Russia 1997

12.♖xd4 (D)



12...♖xd4

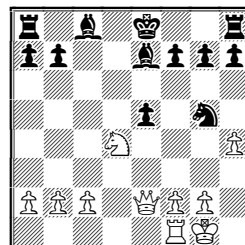
Yes, Van Wely went for the sharpest line.

13.♗xd4 ♗xg5 14.h4!?

Shirov didn't want to wait for Black's novelty so made one first. In previous games White (against Novgorod's GM Igor Zakharevich) pushed another pawn: 14.f4 ♗h3+ (14...0-0 15.fxe5 ♙xg5 16.♗f3 ♙d8 17.♖e4 f6 18.c4 ♖b8 19.b4 a5 20.a3 axb4

21.axb4 ♙c7 22.c5 ♙d7 23.♖c4± Rublevsky – Zakharevich, Russia 1998) 15.gxh3 0-0 16.♖e4 ♙f6 17.♖d1 ♖d8 18.♖d3 ♖b8 19.♗f3 ♙d7 20.♗e5 ♙e8 21.♖xd8 ♙xd8 22.♗f1± Morozevich – Zakharevich, Russia 1997

14...e5!? (D)



This move is in Loek's style – even in an unknown situation he made the most logical move. However, more cautious was 14...0-0!?; or 14...♗h3+!?, as in the above mentioned game. But almost certainly both GMs analysed 14.h4!? too.

15.♖xe5 ♗e6 16.♗f5 f6

Worth consideration was 16...♙f6?! 17.♖b5+ ♗f8 (17...♙d7 18.♖xb7) 18.♗d6±]

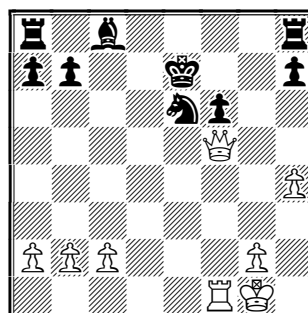
17.♖b5+ ♗f7 18.♗xe7 ♗xe7 19.f4

Black has a material advantage but he must develop his pieces first. This task, however, isn't very easy, even though White has only Queen and Rook, because of Black's weak King.

19...g6?!

Fritz says that f4–f5 isn't so dangerous for Black, for example: 19...♖d8 20.f5 (20.♖e1!?!; 20.♖h5!?) 20...♗d4 21.♖e1+ ♗f8 22.♖c5+ ♗g8 23.♖c4+ ♗f8 It's hard to believe, but it's also hard to refuse.

20.f5! gxf5 21.♖xf5 (D)

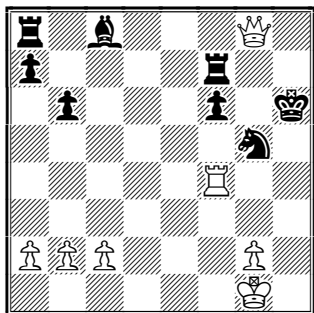


Now Black's monarch can never hide.

21...♖f8 22.♙xh7+ ♜f7 23.♙e4 ♔f8
24.h5 ♘g5 25.♙d4 ♔g7 26.h6+ ♔g6

In case of 26...♔xh6?! 27.♖xf6+
♜xf6 28.♙xf6+ ♔h5 29.♙h8+ ♔g4
30.♔f2 and Black can't complete his development.

27.♙d8 b6 28.♙g8+ ♔xh6 29.♖f4
(D)



29...♘h3+!

A very nice trick. Black defends quite ingeniously.

30.♔h2

30.gxh3?? ♜g7+

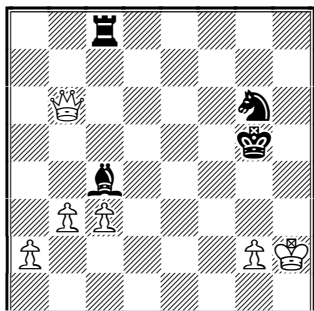
30...♘xf4 31.♙xf7 ♔a6

31...♔g5!?

32.♙xf6+ ♘g6 33.♙f7 ♜c8?!

Black hurries to activate his Rook, but now the Queen grabs all the pawns. But in any case, in rapid play White's task was much easier: Black had to watch for 3 pieces White only for one, so White has 3 times less chances to overlook one piece! By the way White hadn't a win by force after 33...♔e2!?

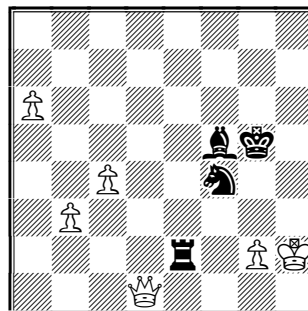
34.♙xa7 ♔e2 35.c3 ♔c4 36.♙xb6
♔g5 37.b3 (D)



Now the pawn chain will be

unstoppable.

37...♔f7 38.♙d4 ♔e6 39.c4 ♔f5
40.a4 ♜e8 41.♙d2+ ♔g4 42.♙d1+
♔g5 43.a5 ♘f4 44.a6 ♜e2 (D)



Last chance.

45.♙d8+ ♔g4 46.♙g8+ ♔g6 47.a7
♜xg2+ 48.♔h1 ♔h3 49.a8♙ ♜h2+
50.♔g1 ♜g2+ 51.♙xg2+ 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

<http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/>

www.chesscenter.com/twic/

<http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org/>

<http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/>

<http://www.kasparovchess.ru>

Contact information.

Do you want to report a tournament or have a suggestion concerning *Chess Today*? E-mail us at ct@gmsquare.com. We always appreciate your comments and feedback!

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Chess around the Globe

Today is the second day of Tenth [Amber](#) Blindfold and Rapid Chess Tournament in Monaco. One of it's participants, Ukrainian born **GM Vassily Ivanchuk>>**, celebrates his 32nd birthday today. Our congratulations to one of the deepest and strongest chessplayers in the World for the last few years! The best present he gave himself was a second round victory over Boris Gelfand, 1.5 - 0.5. Ivanchuk could have won both games, but tournament luck turned against him. I wish Vassily luck in all other rounds here and there!



Picture from www.kasparovchess.ru

*Results of the second day
(rapid/blindfold)*

Topalov - Shirov **1:0 ½:½**

Leko - Karpov **1:0 ½:½**

Gelfand - Ivanchuk **½:½ 0:1**

Van Wely - Kramnik **½:½ 0:1**

Ljubojevic - Anand **0:1 1:0**

Piket - Almasi **0:1 1:0**

Standings after 2nd round:

1-2. Leko, Topalov – 3.5 points out of 4

3. Kramnik – 3

4-5. Anand, Shirov – 2.5

6. Ljubojevic – 2

7-9. Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Piket – 1.5

10-11. Karpov, Almasi – 1

12. Van Wely – 0.5

Peter Leko “woke up”! In Linares he couldn't win a single game, now he is one of the leaders with three victories and only one draw; and in what style of play! Today Peter Leko is a hero of our annotated game section. As usual we include all games from Monaco in our cbv and pgn files. We didn't include any

games from the US – China Summit Match, because today is a rest day in Seattle.

Not far from Monaco there is another famous resort – [Cannes](#). Before the World Rapid Cup it's chess federation organised a rapid play match (6 games, 25 min. each) Michael Adams – Vladislav Tkachev. Today three games were played: In the first, Adams with White drew, than Tkachiev won the second, and in the third Adams equalised the score – 1.5 -1.5. Tomorrow will be another 3 games played.

Also in Cannes there will be the ***Girls Stars Trophy*** – a match between 16 year old **Alexandra Kosteniuk** (Russia, below right) and 15 year old **Marie Sebag** (France, below left).



Pictures from <http://www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm>

What a useful thing to loose a game (sometimes)! For example, **Ulf Andersson** after such an unpleasant accident won almost all his games in the [1st Pinamar Masters](#) in Buenos Aires. Before the final round he is sole leader with a perfect result – 7,5 points out of 10. Good luck, Mr. Andersson!

Standings after the 10th round:

1. Andersson – 7,5 points

2. Hoffman – 7

3. Panno – 6,5

4-6. Ricardi, Larsen, Garcia Palermo – 6

7. Szmetan – 5 etc.

Pairings for the last round:

Giardelli - Rodi

Szmetan - Larsen

Ricardi - Andersson

Roselli - Garcia Palermo

Van Riemsdijk - Hobaica

Panno - Hoffman

The [58th Polish Chess Championship](#) taking place in Warsaw, a 14 player round-robin. All the best Polish GMs: Michal Krasenkow (2658), Tomasz Markowski (2595), Bartlomiej Macieja (2583), Bartosz Socko (2557), Robert Kempinski (2554), Jacek Gdanski (2548) etc. are among the participants.

A big open (over 420 players) is in progress in Bad Worishofen, Germany. After 3 rounds 17 participants have 3 points. Below are the websites where you can follow the progress of the tournament:

http://www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woerishofen.html and <http://www.schach.com/>

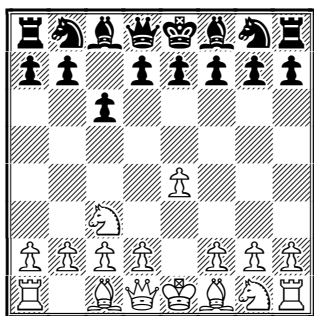


Annotated Game

P. Leko (2745) – A. Karpov (2679)
Amber Rapid Play Monaco MNC (2),
18.03.2001 B10

Notes by IM Vladimir Barsky

1.e4 c6 2.♘c3 (D)



About forty years ago this was Fischer's favorite move. From a journalist point of view it's very attractive to find Fischer's "footprint" here. As we know the great Robert James now lives in Budapest. Perhaps Peter and he sometimes

meet each other, and maybe they talk about the Caro-Kann. But to be honest, Leko has played 2.Nc3 at least from 1990 and exploits it rather often.

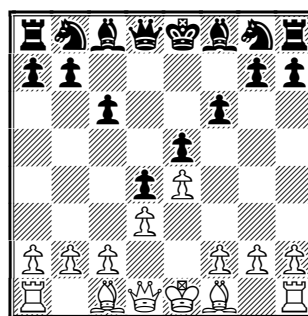
2...d5 3.d3!?

Quite an unusual move. Alternatives are: 3.♘f3, and 3.d4!. But it's not new, of course. For example, two years ago in Sarajevo it was played by N.Short (White) vs. Leko.

3...e5

Leko played 3...g6 against Short.; Another good way is 3...dxe4!?

4.♘f3 d4 5.♘e2 f6



But maybe this position is new yet! At first glance Black has to have good play – he has more space and can easily complete his development.

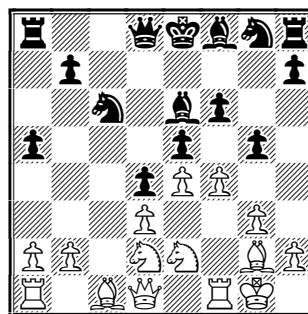
6.g3 c5 7.♙g2 ♘c6 8.0-0 g5!?

Very optimistic, a Korchnoi style move! Black wants to prevent 9.♘h4 and f2–f4.

9.c3 a5

See previous note. Why does Black play only pawns moves?

10.cxd4 cxd4 11.♘d2 ♙e6 12.f4 (D)



Now you can easily recognise a King's Indian Defence with reverse colours and an extra tempo for White.

12...a4 13.♘f3 h6 14.♙d2 ♙d6

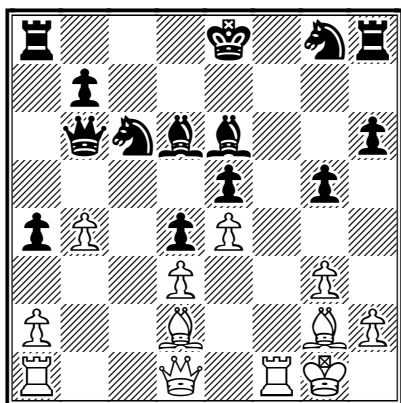
15.b4!?

This move stops Black's play on the queen side.

15...♖b6

After 15...axb3 16.axb3 ♖xa1 17.♖xa1 ♙xb3?! 18.♖b1 (18.♖b2!? Black is too far behind in development.)

16.fxg5 fxg5 (D)



17.♙xg5!?

Pardon me, who is playing with White? Mr. Shirov or Mr. Morozevich? What did you say – Peter Leko?! Oh, such sacrifices aren't very typical for him. More quiet and also good was 17.a3!?

17...hxg5 18.♙xg5 ♘d8 19.♙xe6 ♙xe6 20.h4

White wants to include his white-squared Bishop in the attack, because Black hasn't an opponent for it.

20...♖h6 21.a3

Better late than never – isn't it?

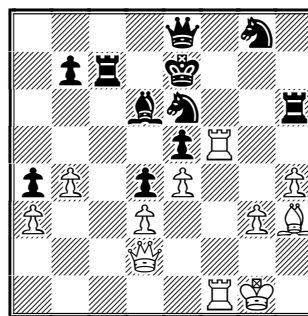
21...♙e7 22.♖f5 ♖c6

First of all Karpov defends the a4 pawn. After 22...♖f8?! 23.♖xa4 White has full material compensation for the piece.

23.♖d2 ♖e8

I thought Black wanted to exchange Rooks – 23...♖f8 but Karpov has other ideas. Maybe they are sound in classical play, but in rapid play it's very risky to play with such a weak King with so many pieces on the board.

24.♖af1 ♖c8 25.♙h3 ♖c7 (D)



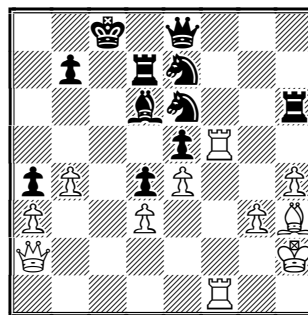
26.♖a2

An interesting alternative was 26.♙xd4!? exd4 (26...♙xd4? 27.♖g5+-) 27.e5 but Peter doesn't hurry.

26...♖d7 27.♙h2! ♙d8

The Black King now never has a safe place.

28.♙g1 ♙c8 29.♙f3 ♙e7 (D)



30.♖xe5!

This is a decisive blow. Look at the Bishop on h3, and the number of targets it has now!

30...♙xe5 31.♙xe5 ♙c6

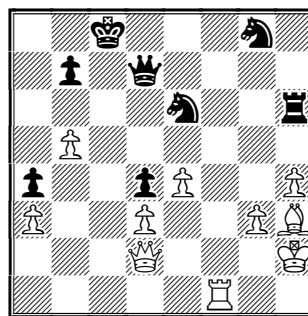
31...♖d6 32.♙f7+-; 31...♙b8

32.♖d2!+-

32.♙xd7 ♖xd7 33.b5 ♙e7

Or 33...♙cd8 34.♖d5! with idea of Rc1+

34.♖d2 ♙g8 (D)



White has too many threats, for example: 34...♖g6 35.♗f8+ ♔c7 36.♕a5+ ♔d6 37.♙xe6 ♔xe6 38.♖d8 35.♕a5! ♔d6 36.♙xe6+ ♖xe6 37.♗f8+!

Black resigned in view of 37.♗f8+ ♗xf8 38.♕a8+ A great game for Peter. He played very energetically on both sides of the board and in the center. **1-0.**

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<http://www.seattlechessfoundation.org/>
<http://chess.lostcity.nl/amber/>
<http://www.kasparovchess.ru>
<http://www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm>
<http://www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html>
http://www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woeris_hofen.html and <http://www.schach.com/>

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Chess around the Globe

ELO-favourite of the recently completed, **Buenos Aires "1st Pinamar Masters"**, GM **Ulf Andersson** of Sweden, proved his class – he won the event with 8 points out of 11. The home players **Alejandro Hoffman** and evergreen **Oscar Panno**, who celebrated his 66th birthday just a day before yesterday, came in second and third, respectively.



Photo by Marina Vignau at

<http://www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral/>*Results of the last and final Round:*

Giardelli – Rodi **0-1**
Szmetan – Larsen $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$
Ricardi – Andersson $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$
Roselli – Garcia Palermo **1-0**
Van Riemsdijk – Hobaica **1-0**
Panno – Hoffman $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$

Final standings:

1. Andersson – 8 points
2. Hoffman – 7½
3. Panno – 7
4-5. Ricardi, Larsen – 6½
6. Garcia Palermo – 6 etc.

Our congratulations for all the winners!

Veselin Topalov is dominating the field in the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco**. Today he outplayed none other than the World Champion **Vladimir Kramnik** with a score of $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ and strengthened his lead.

Vishy Anand beat **Peter Leko** with the same score and caught him at second place, a full point behind the leader.

*Results of the 3rd day
(rapid/blindfold)*

Ivanchuk – Ljubojevic $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ **0:1**
Anand – Leko **1:0** $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$
Karpov – Gelfand $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$
Van Wely – Piket $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$
Kramnik – Topalov $\frac{1}{2}:\frac{1}{2}$ **0:1**
Shirov – Almasi **1:0** **0:1**

Rapid standings:

1-2. Topalov, Anand – 2½ out of 3
2-6. Gelfand, Kramnik, Leko, Shirov – 2
7-10. Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov,
Van Wely – 1
11-12. Ljubojevic, Piket – ½

Blindfold standings:

1. Ljubojevic – 3 out of 3
2. Topalov – 2½
3-4. Leko, Piket – 2
5-7. Anand, Kramnik, Shirov – 1½
8-10. Almasi, Ivanchuk Karpov – 1
11-12. Gelfand, Van Wely – ½

Overall standings:

1. Topalov – 5 points out of 6
2-3. Anand, Leko – 4
4-6. Kramnik, Shirov, Ljubojevic – 3½
7-8. Gelfand, Piket – 2½
9-11. Ivanchuk, Karpov, Almasi – 2
12. Van Wely – 1½

Today we would like to feature an excellent win by **Veselin Topalov** over **Vladimir Kramnik** – an interesting novelty on move 20 and extraordinary technique in the ending, and this is in blindfold chess!

The rapid **match** between **Michael Adams** and **Vladislav Tkachiev** in **Cannes** ended peacefully – **3:3**. All three games of the second day were drawn

after a fairly intensive struggle. Both players were equal to the task.

Robert Kempinsky took the lead in the [Polish Championship](#). He is the only player with a perfect score after 2 rounds.

Four players have perfect scores after the 4th Round in the strong open tournament in [Bad Woerishofen](#), Germany – GMs **Alexander Graf** (we knew him as Nenashev) of Germany, **Alexey Aleksandrov** (Belorussia), **Valery Filippov** (Russia) and **Slobodan Martinovic** (Yugoslavia). 21 participants are in chase.

Top boards of the 5th Round:

S. Martinovic – A. Graf (Nenashev)

V. Filippov – A. Aleksandrov

♠♠♠

Annotated Game

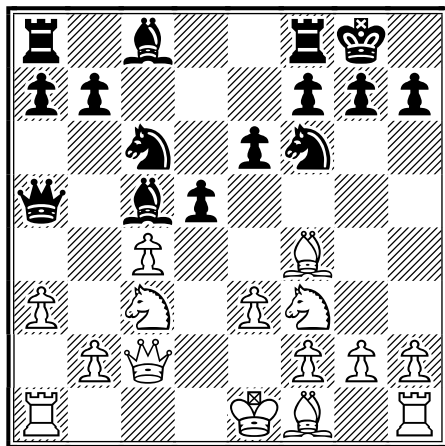
V. Topalov (2680) – V. Kramnik (2730)

Amber 2001, Blind Monaco (3),

19.03.2001 D37

Notes GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 e6 3.♠f3 d5 4.♠c3 ♘e7 5.♘f4 0-0 6.e3 c5 7.dxc5 ♘xc5 8.a3 ♠c6 9.♖c2 ♖a5 (D)



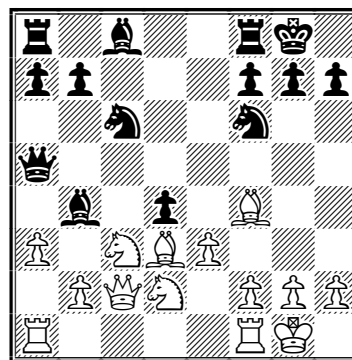
10.♠d2

10.0-0-0 leads to very complicated play.

10...♘b4!?

10...♘e7 is the alternative way.

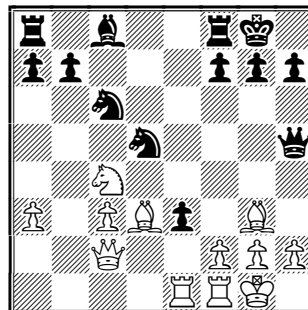
11.cxd5 exd5 12.♘d3 d4 13.0-0 (D)



13...♘xc3

13...dxc3?! is dubious because of 14.axb4 ♖xb4 15.bxc3±

14.♠c4 ♖h5 15.bxc3 ♠d5 16.♘g3 dxe3 17.♖ae1!? (D)



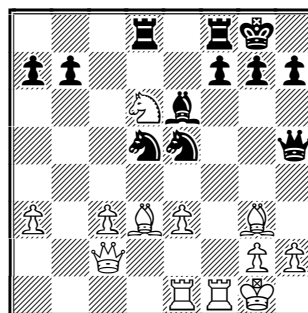
17...♘e6

17...exf2+?! is suspicious, since after 18.♖xf2 White seizes a strong initiative by ♖e4–h4.

18.fxe3 ♖ad8 19.♠d6

19.e4 ♠de7∞ was acceptable for Black.

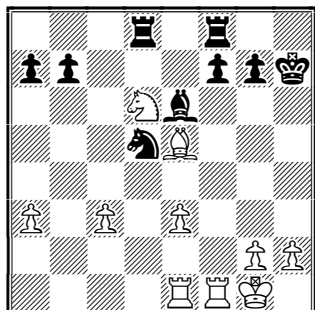
19...♠e5 (D)



20.♘xh7+!?

Strangely enough, this move has never been played before! In the game Tukmakov – Lputian, Tilburg 1994 White got nothing after 20.♘f5 ♖xd6 21.♘xe5 ♖dd8 22.e4 ♠e7∞; 20.♠xb7!? Looks more interesting. In

the game Kortschnoi – Lutz, Zurich 1999 White achieved better chances after 20...♖xd3 21.♔xd3 ♖d7 22.♗d6±
20...♔xh7 21.♔xh7+ ♕xh7 22.♗xe5 (D)



White has gained an extra pawn but his pawn structure is far from perfect and so his task is not so easy.

22...f6

22...♖d7!? deserved attention, with play on the light squares.

23.e4!

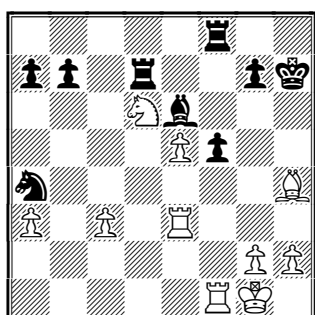
Very good!

23...♗b6

23...fxe5 24.♖xf8 ♖xf8 25.exd5 ♗xd5 26.♖xe5± seemed to be in White's favour. **24.♗g3 ♗a4 25.e5 f5**

In case of 25...fxe5 26.♖xf8 ♖xf8 27.♗xb7 White exchanges all his weak pawns. However, after the text Black's problems do not look easier.

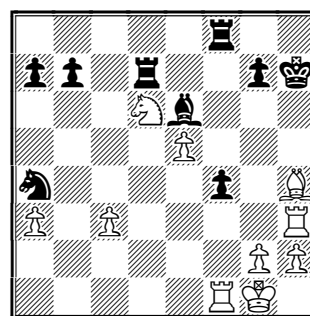
26.♗h4 ♖d7 27.♖e3± (D)



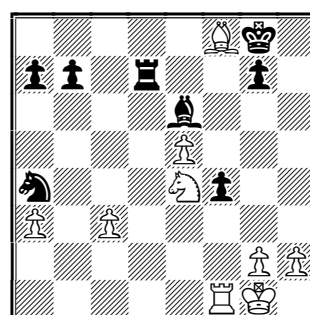
27...f4

Black doesn't want to allow the Rook to go to h3 but this pawn advance forces play in White's favour. Something like 27...♖c7!? deserved attention.

28.♖ef3 ♗d5 29.♖h3 ♗e6 (D)



30.♗e7+! ♗xh3 31.♗xf8 ♗e6 32.♗e4!? ♕g8 (D)



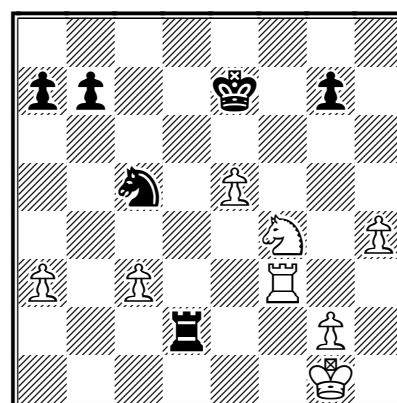
33.♗g5!

Veselin is playing excellently – don't forget this is blindfold play!

33...♕xf8 34.♗xe6+ ♕e7 35.♗xf4 ♖d2

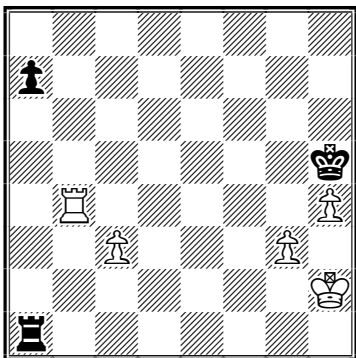
The pawn was untouchable: 35...♗xc3? 36.♗g6+ ♕d8 37.♖f8+ ♕c7 38.e6+-

36.♖f3 ♗c5 37.h4+- (D)



White already has two extra pawns which should be enough for the win.

37...♗e6 38.♕h2 ♖a2 39.♗xe6 ♕xe6 40.♖g3 ♕f7 41.e6+! ♕xe6 42.♖xg7 ♖xa3 43.♖xb7 ♕f5 44.♖b5+ ♕g4 45.♖b4+ ♕h5 46.g3 ♖a1 (D)

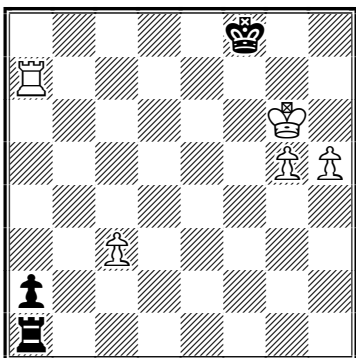


Black tries to use his last trump card – the passed a-pawn – but it is easily refuted. In case of 46...♖xc3 47.♖a4 the a-pawn had no importance.

47.♔h3 a5 48.g4+ ♔h6 49.♖b6+ ♔g7 50.h5 a4 51.♖a6 a3 52.♔h4 a2 53.♔g5

The king hides from checks, the game is over.

53...♔h7 54.♖a7+ ♔g8 55.♔g6 ♔f8 56.g5 (D)



Black resigned. Bravo, Veselin! 1-0.

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.utopiasdepinamar.com.ar/magistral
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woeris_hofen.html
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Chess around the Globe

Editorial*by Alexander Baburin*

I would like to remind our readers that the **Cannes Festival** will start tomorrow and that you still have some time to enter our **Cannes Quiz**, with a chance to win a quality Gambit clock. Simply send us 3 names - two winners and one other player, who will make it (in your opinion) to the semi-final. As some of our readers correctly pointed out, there will be no # 3 in the tournament. Thus, you have better chances of winning now! The deadline for your entries is 13:00 London time on the 21st of March. Please mark your message 'Cannes Quiz' and send it to ababurin@iol.ie.

At the moment we are renewing subscriptions for many of our readers and we are very pleased with the renewal rate. However, it would help us a lot if those readers, who changed their e-mail addresses with which they initially subscribed to CT, inform me about their **old and new addresses**. Otherwise communicating with our readers (even to inform them about their subscription is up for renewal) could be a problem - when we have only the old address, which may be no longer valid in some cases. Please address such e-mails to ababurin@iol.ie. We will appreciate your help! Thank you.

Yesterday's defeat to Veselin Topalov on the 10th **Amber** blindfold and rapid tournament in **Monaco** gave a great boost to **Vladimir Kramnik** - today he smashed Alexey Shirov twice and caught the leader. On the other hand, after his glorious win over Kramnik, **Veselin Topalov** was not himself today and was beaten by Jeroen Piket.

Vishy Anand and **Peter Leko** beat their opponents, Boris Gelfand and Ljubomir Ljubojevic respectively, and also joined the leaders so 4 players are heading the field with 5½ points.

*Results of the 4rd day
(rapid/blindfold)*Topalov - Piket **0:1** ½:½Gelfand - Anand ½:½ **0:1**Ljubojevic - Leko ½:½ **0:1**Shirov - Kramnik **0:1 0:1**

Ivanchuk - Karpov ½:½ ½:½

Almasi - Van Wely ½:½ ½:½

*Rapid standings:***1-2. Anand, Kramnik - 3 points****3-5.** Topalov, Gelfand, Leko - 2½**6.** Shirov - 2**7-11.** Piket, Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov,
Van Wely - 1½**12.** Ljubojevic - 1*Blindfold standings:***1-3. Leko, Topalov, Ljubojevic - 3****4-6.** Anand, Kramnik, Piket - 2½**7-10.** Shirov Almasi, Ivanchuk, Karpov
- 1½**11.** Van Wely - 1**12.** Gelfand - ½*Overall standings:***1-4. Topalov, Kramnik, Anand, Leko**
- 5½ out of 8**5-6.** Piket, Ljubojevic - 4**7.** Shirov - 3½**8-11.** Gelfand, Ivanchuk, Karpov, Almasi
- 2½**12.** Van Wely - 2½

GM **Robert Kempinski** strengthened his lead in the **Polish Championship** - after 3 rounds he still has a perfect score! IM **Lukasz Cyborowski** is clear second, half a point behind.

Kempinski - Kuczynski **1:0**

Gdanski – Maciejka ½:½
Soko – Cyborowski 0:1
Krasenkow – Bartel 1:0
Grabarczyk – Urban 1:0
Markowski – Jaracz (unf.)
Blehm – Gajewski 1:0

There were no decisive games on the top boards in the 5th Round in the **Bad Woerishofen** open tournament. There are already 8 leaders with 4½ points.

Some results of the 5th Round:

Martinovic – Graf-Nenashev ½:½
Filippov – Aleksandrov ½:½
Epishin – Farago ½:½
Krizsany – Sokolov ½:½
Glek – Naumkin 1:0
Levin – Senff 1:0
Sprenger – Naiditsch 1:0
Rahls – Simutowe 0:1

Top boards of the 6th Round:

Graf-Nenashev (4½) – Levin (4½)
Simutowe (4½) – Filippov (4½)
Aleksandrov (4½) – Martinovic (4½)
Sprenger (4½) – Glek (4½)

A 8 category round robin tournament is underway in **Evry**, France. After 5 rounds ELO-favourite GM **Andrey Shchekachev** (Russia) and IM **Alexey Chernushevich** (Belorussia) are leading with 4 points.

Tomorrow the **World Cup of Rapid Chess** begins in **Cannes**, France. Let us remind you the list of participants, which are divided into two groups:

Group A:

1. Garry Kasparov RUS
2. Evgney Bareev RUS
3. Peter Svidler RUS
4. Alexander Grischuk RUS
5. Judit Polgar HUN
6. Joel Lautier FRA
7. Boris Gulko USA
8. Christian Bauer FRA

Group B:

1. Michael Adams ENG
2. Alexander Morozevich RUS
3. Mikhail Gurevich BEL
4. Rustam Kasimdzhanov UZB
5. Ye Jiangchuan CHN
6. Vladislav Tkachiev FRA
7. Etienne Bacrot FRA
8. Hichem Hamdouchi MAR

The top four finishers in each group will go on to a second group, an all-play-all phase. Then there will be a semi-final phase and the top two will play in the final. The time control is 50 moves in 25 minutes followed by 10 seconds a move after that.

The pairings for the 1st Round:

Group A:

Kasparov – Bareev
Grishuk – Gulko
Bauer – Svidler
Lautier – Polgar

Group B:

Gurevich – Ye
Bacrot – Adams
Tkachiev – Hamdouchi
Kasymdzhanov – Morozevich

The **Chess Today** staff will keep a close eye on this event and provide reports by GM **Alex Baburin** who is in Cannes as Alexander Morozevich's second.



Annotated Game

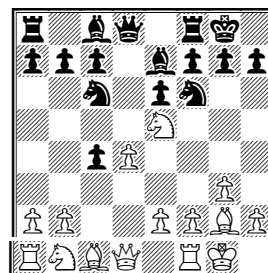
B. Gelfand (2720) – V. Anand (2830)

Amber 2001 Monaco (4), 20.03.2001

E05

Notes by GM Ruslan Scherbakov

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♗g2 ♕e7
5.♘f3 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.♘e5 ♘c6!
(D)

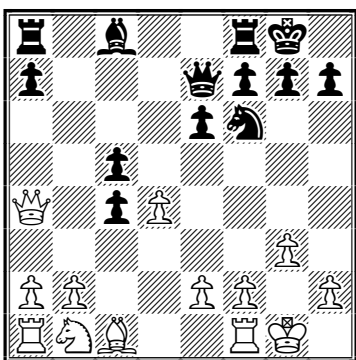


The best reply according to theory. Black is trying to develop all his pieces as quickly as possible, despite the break-up of his pawn structure on the queenside.

8. ♟xc6

The alternative 8. ♟xc6 bxc6 9. ♟xc6 (or 9. ♟a3 ♟xa3 10. bxa3 ♟d5) 9... ♟b8 10. ♟c3 ♟b7 11. ♟xb7 ♟xb7 is known to be acceptable for Black.

8...bxc6 9. ♟xc6 ♟e8 10. ♟xe7+ ♟xe7 11. ♟a4 c5 (D)



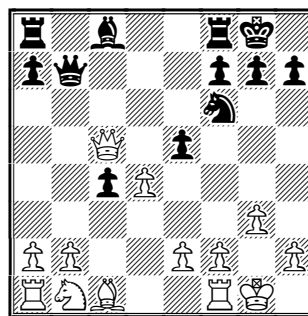
11...e5 is another way.

12. ♟a3

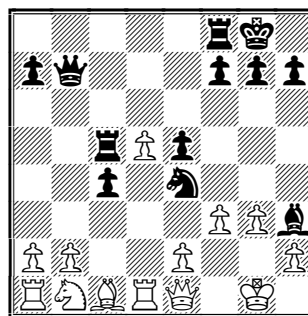
A rare continuation. After the more common 12. ♟xc4 cxd4 13. ♟xd4 e5 14. ♟h4 White has slight chances to realise his extra pawn because of his lag in development and weakened kingside. Boris Gelfand has already played this position: 14... ♟e6!? (14... ♟b8 15. b3 ♟d8 16. ♟g5± Gelfand – Timoshchenko, Norilsk 1987) 15. ♟c3 ♟b7 16. e4 ♟fc8 17. f3 ♟b6+ 18. ♟f2 h6!? 19. ♟g2 ♟d8± and Black obtained excellent compensation for the pawn, Gelfand – Aseev, Klaipeda 1988.

12... ♟b7!?

An interesting novelty. In the game J. Horvath – Bauer, Szekszard 1993 Black continued with: 12...e5 13. ♟xc5 ♟xc5 14. dxc5 ♟h3 15. ♟d1 ♟fc8 and here 16. b4!? deserved attention, for example: (16. ♟a3 ♟e6=) 16...a5 (16...cxb3 17. axb3 ♟xc5 18. ♟xa7!±) 17. b5 ♟xc5 18. ♟c3± with better chances for White. **13. ♟xc5 e5! (D)**



14. ♟d1 ♟h3 15. d5 ♟ac8 16. ♟a5 ♟e4 17. f3 ♟c5 18. ♟e1 (D)



Very logical play so far.

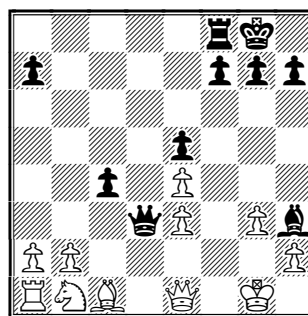
18... ♟xd5!?

A creative approach! It is too difficult to conclude if this sacrifice is objectively the best continuation. At least it is very interesting, especially in rapid play. White's play is not so easy now. After the normal 18... ♟d6 19. ♟c3 (19. e4?! f5↑) 19...f5 20. ♟e3 ♟c7 21. ♟ab1± Black definitely had compensation for the pawn.

19. ♟xd5 ♟xd5 20. fxe4 ♟d4+!

Of course, not 20... ♟xe4? 21. ♟f2 and White has no problems with developing his queenside.

21. e3 ♟d3 (D)

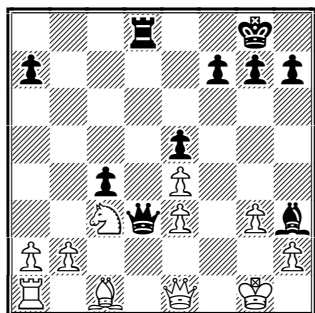


White has a clear extra piece but look at his army! The king is also unsafe.

22. ♖c3?

A natural move which actually does not help to develop other queenside pieces. 22. ♖d2! looked more to the point, intending to get the Rook into play by a4 and ♖a3. A possible continuation was: 22... ♖b8 23. a4 c3 24. bxc3 ♕xc3 25. ♕a3 f6!? (or 25... ♖d8 26. ♖f3 ♕c2 27. ♖f2 ♖d1+ 28. ♖xd1 ♕xd1+ 29. ♖e1 ♕xa4 and it is fairly difficult for White to win this position, especially in rapid chess.)

22... ♖d8 (D)

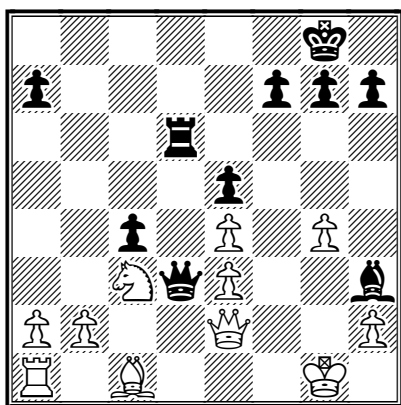


Intending to transfer the Rook to f6. Black already looks overwhelming, but White finds a defence.

23. g4!

The only move to prepare ♕e2! The immediate 23. ♕e2?? was impossible as the king is checkmated after the simple 23... ♕xe2 24. ♖xe2 ♖d1+ 25. ♖f2 ♖f1#

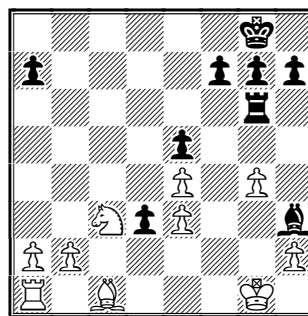
23... ♖d6 24. ♕e2 (D)



24... ♖g6!

Now in the case of 24... ♕xe2 25. ♖xe2 ♖d1+ 26. ♖f2 the king has an escape to g3.

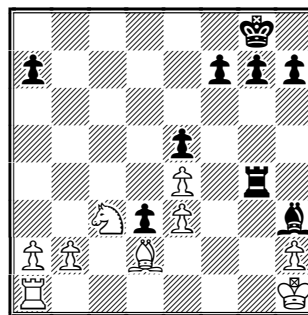
25. ♕xd3 cxd3 (D)



26. ♕d2

White could have secured an extra piece by 26. ♖f2? ♖xg4 27. ♖e1 but it is hard to say how he intended to stop Black's kingside pawns after the simple 27... ♖g2 28. ♖b1 ♖xh2 followed by ..g5 etc.

26... ♖xg4+ 27. ♖h1 (D)



A draw agreed as Black had nothing more than perpetual check. An interesting game! Of course, not 27. ♖f2?? ♖g2+ and White loses a piece. 1/2-1/2.



American Impressions

by Alexander Baburin

Recently I spent three weeks playing in San Francisco and Las Vegas. Here I would like to share the experience of my short tour, hoping that it will be of interest to *Chess Today* (CT) readers, even though both tournaments (Linklater Memorial and US National Open) were already reported in CT.

Nowadays when I go to a chess tournament, I do not hold high expectations. Playing in a strong event is a bit of a lottery and in my opinion there is little point in planning how well you

would do. If things work out fine - great, if not - life will go on anyway. Perhaps this attitude is harder to adapt when playing chess is your main source of income, but fortunately for me, I also do other things - like teaching chess, writing articles, selling chess books and equipment, etc. Thus, I am a mixture of a professional (as far as my training and attitude are concerned) and an amateur, when it comes to the impact which my tournaments results may have on my life.

From the sporting point of view, my results in USA were OK: I tied for 3rd in both the Linklater Memorial and in the US National Open. However, I was deeply dissatisfied with the quality of my play, which lacked freshness and precision. To my horror, I blundered frequently, which has almost never happened to me before. For example, in round 4 of the US National Open I hung a rook, after making the second move (instead of the first!) in the winning line, which I had calculated. Fortunately, my position was so good that I drew anyway. Perhaps my play was affected by the the new FIDE time control, which was used in the Linklater Memorial in San Francisco.

Some CT readers have asked me about my feelings regarding this time control (75 minutes for 40 moves with 30 seconds increments) and I can tell that it is rather tough. If you sink into deep thought a couple of times during the game, you get short of time, which could in turn make you very nervous. I rarely get into time trouble, but I do like to think from time to time and this is something, which one cannot really afford with this time limit. I think that the quality of games will definitely suffer with this new time control and that FIDE should reconsider their decision to impose it. Besides, I don't see how it would attract sponsors - if the game, which lasts 4 hours, is so attractive for media, then sponsors should go just wild over rapid chess! Actually, they don't.

The impact of the new time control on my play was not direct (I did not lose on time), but it made me nervous and after making some mistakes my confidence went down. GMs Yuri Shulman and Alex Wojtkiewicz are very strong players, but in the tournament they played rather dryly, and normally I would have given them a tougher ride. Anyway, the event was enjoyable and produced some interesting games. After IM John Donaldson and GM Alex Yermolinsky moved to San Francisco, the Mechanic's Institute Chess Club became a busy place. Yermo gives weekly lectures (I saw one last year and it was great!), while Donaldson hosts weekly tournaments in the club. During the Linklater Memorial John gave short lectures every day, showing games from the tournament during lunch breaks. That proved to be rather popular. The club has quite an informative Website at: www.chessclub.org.

The tournament in Las Vegas was very strong this year, as the entire Chinese team played there, warming up before the USA-China match in Seattle. To do well there, one needs to score 5½ out of 6, which usually means beating at least 2 very strong players. Both winners - Akopian and Zhang Zhong - deserved their success. In particular Akopian, who played a number of good games. There were over 800 participants in Las Vegas. To learn more about the tournament, check out the site at www.64.com/natlopen.

Las Vegas is a surreal place - where else you can see pyramids, pirates, Venice, Paris and New York all in the same place? It's also a weird place - where else can you see brides in an 'all you can eat' buffet?! Actually, a lot of people come to Vegas to marry and one of the participants of the National Open - IM Finegold - did just that! He married before round 1 and spent the weekend battling on the chess-board, away from his wife. What does she think of chess

now?! Another curious thing was that in the hall next to our tournament, there was an international table-football championship! I was amused to learn that there were people who played that game professionally. And some of my friends thought that to be a chess pro was strange! :-) Actually, the table-football tournament had many visitors and a close-circuit TV, which was in contrast with the chess event. So, maybe will see yet another sport overtaking chess? I hope not!

Recommended Web sites:

chess.lostcity.nl/amber
www.cannes-echecs.org/editodamir/edito.htm
www.plusgsm.pl/szachy/index.html
www.chessorg.de/html/bad_woeris_hofen.html
www.schach.com
www.chessclub.com
www.chesscenter.com/twic
www.kasparovchess.com

Contact information.

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