

British Chess Magazine

£3.25 • November 2002 • No. 11 • Volume 122



*Vladimir Epishin of Russia,
who won the 11th Monarch Assurance Isle of Man International*



**MONARCH
ASSURANCE**

**ISLE OF MAN
INTERNATIONAL**

**MANGLED BY
THE MASTERS
— GRANDMASTER
GAFFES**

**PAUL MOTWANI
ANNOTATES**





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ISSN 0007-0440



The Chess Shop
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British Chess Magazine

Founded 1881

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Company Limited by Shares
Registered in England. no. 334968

Registered Office:
44 Baker Street
London W1U 7RT
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web: www.bcmchess.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(1 and 2 years, 12 issues p.a.)

UK	£33.00 / £64.00
Europe (Airfreight)	£35.00 / £68.00
Europe (Airmail)	£40.75 / £79.00
Rest of World (Airfreight)	£40.25 / £78.00
	(US\$58.50 / US\$113)
Rest of World (Airmail)	£49.00 / £94.50
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LATE NEWS

FIDE WORLD CUP - The FIDE World Cup is taking place in Hyderabad, India. There are separate competitions for men and women, both with 24 players playing preliminary all-play-all groups before proceeding to a final knock-out phase. Latest: Morozevich and Ivanchuk were eliminated at the preliminary stage, as were Zhu Chen, Chiburdanidze and Kosteniuk in the women's competition. Anand had a scare, losing to Sasikiran, but he fought back to qualify. A full report will appear in the December issue.

JERUSALEM - Garry Kasparov's six-game match with Deep Junior, which had been timetabled to run at the same time as Kramnik's match with Deep Fritz in Bahrain, has been postponed until December 2002. FIDE president Ilyumzhinov claimed that "there was not enough time to give such a prestigious event the required presentation". Before then Kasparov is due to lead the Russian team at the Bled Olympiad, starting October 25.

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EDITORIAL

We go to press at a nail-biting moment for Vladimir Kramnik and, arguably, chess itself. Football is often described as a 'game of two halves' but that is also a perfect description of the 'Man versus Machine' match being played in Bahrain at present. Kramnik's expected anti-computer strategy (which bore a remarkable resemblance to his 'anti-Kasparov' strategy from 2000) brought him two efficiently ground-out wins in games three and four to lead 3-1 at the halfway mark.

At that stage the talk was of the inadequacy of the software, and the unfairness of the match regulations which (in the event of an adjournment – remember them?) would allow the human player to go home and try out his winning strategy on his opponent, since he had been supplied with a working copy of the match software.

The bookies would scarcely take another bet on Kramnik at that stage, but he fell apart dramatically in games five and six, first blundering away a piece in an admittedly bad position, and then throwing caution to the winds in game six with a sacrificial attack which was comprehensively refuted by Deep Fritz. Two losses in two games for a man who has been known to go a year without defeat, and who went through a world championship match unbeaten against the greatest player in history, rank as absolutely incredible. That is the soap-operatic juncture at which we go to press. We will have a full ringside report from the chief match commentator, Grandmaster Danny King, in our December issue.

This month's main article is on the Monarch Assurance Isle of Man International, which resulted in a deserved win for top seed Vladimir Epishin ahead of a formidable array of grandmasters from around the world. Only three of the those grandmasters were from Britain, however. It is difficult to know quite why so many UK titled players miss out on this superlative tournament, especially when you consider the generous terms offered by the sponsor. Editor's tip to UK pros: put a note in your diary to book your place around March/April, or you might find you have missed out again.

CONTENTS

566 Monarch Assurance - the *BCM* editor was present in the Isle of Man as webmaster to Britain's top international tournament, now in its 11th year. Vladimir Epishin came through to win, and Irish champion *Sam Collins* annotates his best game.

580 Mangled by the Masters - popular contributor *Steve Giddins* shows how we can learn about rook endgames by studying grandmaster mistakes. Some instructive games, spiced up with a little bit of *Schadenfreude*!

614 Calvo and Gufeld - two of the chess world's most colourful characters departed this life in September. *Ken Whyld* and *Bernard Cafferty* reflect on their careers.

576 Congress Diary

579 Spot The Continuation

588 FIDE Ratings, October 2002

590 Reviews and New Books

593 KID Four Pawns Attack, Part 2

598 Games Department - Paul Motwani

604 Alushta

607 News In Brief

610 Quotes and Queries

611 Endgame Studies



Top: World's oldest chess magazine meets world's oldest parliament: BCM editor John Saunders sits in the President of Tynwald's (Isle of Man parliament) chair, flanked by Michael Dougherty (left) and Manx parliamentarian Eddie Lowey. Bottom left: Sarunas Sulskis finished 2nd= in the Monarch Assurance. Bottom right: Ruben Felgaer, champion of Argentina.



Top: Daniel Fridman (left) and Rustem Dautov were unbeaten in the Isle of Man. Bottom: tournament director Dennis Hemsley (right) presents Czech grandmaster Jiri Stoczek with a special prize - a tie to go with his very impressive collection of suits.

MONARCH ASSURANCE ISLE OF MAN

by John Saunders

"I've never had my hand shaken by so many people before," was tournament director Dennis Hemsley's comment on the morning after the conclusion of the 11th Monarch Assurance Isle of Man International. Dennis was referring to all the players who came up to him to thank him for organising such an excellent tournament at the prizegiving dinner – at which the guest of honour was Mr Noel Cringle, the President of Tynwald, the Isle of Man Parliament. Dennis deserved all the thanks he received because, in just over a decade, his tournament is one of the wonders of British chess. This year's line-up, with 18 grandmasters and 11 IMs, cemented its reputation as arguably the strongest chess tournament in Britain. With praise still ringing in his ears, Dennis is already planning the 12th tournament – to be sponsored once again by Monarch Assurance and their generous MD, Mr Patrick Taylor – pencilled in for the same time and place next year.

One reason for the popularity of the competition is the availability of 'conditions' (that's grandmaster shorthand for appearance money and travel/accommodation expenses). This is in contrast to the Smith and Williamson British Championship, which has a larger prize fund but offers the professionals nothing by way of travel and accommodation expenses to cover a fortnight's stay at the venue. That said, there was a relatively small turnout of British grandmasters in the Isle of Man this year. Perhaps they are not sufficiently quick off the mark when the time comes to put their names forward for inclusion. Dennis Hemsley tells me that this side of the organisation starts around March/April. So, to avoid disappointment, UK grandmasters are urged to get their entries in around that time. It would be nice to

see the Brits competing for the top prizes at the Monarch Assurance again, as this is not something that happened in 2002.

With so many titled and professional players in the field, the tournament also offers marvellous opportunities for youngsters and amateurs to meet the strongest possible opposition. George Ellison once again brought a squad of juniors, headed by Craig Hanley, to play in the Open. Craig did not quite perform to his own very high standards this time, but 16-year-old Stephen Gordon achieved a breakthrough, scoring $4\frac{1}{2}/9$ and winning against a Romanian IM. Ezra Lutton also beat an IM to score $4/9$.

A good example of the opportunities to be had in the Isle of Man was provided by a 28-year-old player from Leicester, Martin Burrows, rated 2196. He had a dream start, scoring $3/4$ from his first four games, drawing with an IM in round two and then beating IM Peralta from Argentina (rated 2499) and GM Kunte from India (rated 2477) in successive rounds. Thereafter life got much tougher for him as he lost to three successive grandmasters, but his final score of $3\frac{1}{2}/9$ was still worth a TPR of 2338.

At that stage the tournament's sole leader was Alonso Zapata of Colombia with $3\frac{1}{2}/4$. He had beaten a young Ukrainian grandmaster, Alexander Goloshchapov, to get there, after the Ukrainian had himself beaten last year's 'Manx Monarch', Mikhail Ulabin, in round three. Surprisingly, despite a long professional chess career, the 44-year-old Colombian told me he had never played in the UK before, though he recalled many great chess battles with the late Tony Miles. Alonso smiled when I recalled his 'finest hour': a six-move win against a young (but already very strong) Vishy Anand at Biel 1988. Here is the score:

Zapata-Anand 1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖f6 3 ♖xe5 d6 4 ♖f3 ♖xe4 5 ♖c3 ♗f5?? 6 ♔e2! 1-0.

18-year-old Vishy was unwisely following a game between Miles and Christiansen from 1987 without realizing that 'Big Tony' and 'Big Larry' had actually agreed the game a draw in advance, hence were not necessarily taking too much care over the selection of moves. This round had a rich crop of surprises in addition to Burrows' defeat of Kunte: Stephen Gordon beat IM Cioara, Norman Hutchinson beat IM Simon Ansell, while Peter Cafolla of Ireland beat IM Fernando Peralta of Argentina.

One of the top-rated players, Sarunas Sulskis of Lithuania, took over at the top in round five by beating Zapata and maintained his lead into the next round by beating Stoeck of the Czech Republic. But the tournament had plenty more twists. In round seven Sulskis came up against Valery Neverov. This Ukrainian grandmaster gives the impression of a bag of nerves at the board, with exaggerated hand and finger movements, as well as other mannerisms reminiscent of his distinguished fellow countryman, Vasyl Ivanchuk. He had made a hideous blunder in round three, dropping a whole rook in the process of trying to win a double rook and pawn ending. But against Sulskis, he was a model of control, finally reaching a level bishop and pawn ending but one which his opponent resigned immediately on spotting Neverov's clear winning plan.

This put Neverov on 5½/7 after winning four successive games, but on the same score was tournament top seed Vladimir Epishin, who after a steady start had just defeated Lalic and Zapata in rounds six and seven. Epishin had White against Neverov in round eight. Outwardly this was a very nervous encounter as Epishin countered Neverov's rocking and twitching with his own little routine after nearly every move; a curious, meandering walk round the tournament hall, always the same route, to reach the refreshment area where he would

**11th Monarch Assurance
Isle of Man International
Port Erin, 28 Sept - 6 Oct 2002
Swiss system, 9 rounds**

1 Vladimir Epishin	GM	RUS	2643	7
2 Rustem Dautov	GM	GER	2617	6½
3 Daniel Fridman	GM	LAT	2577	6½
4 Sarunas Sulskis	GM	LTU	2576	6½
5 Alex. Goloshchapov	GM	UKR	2544	6
6 Artur Kogan	GM	ISR	2530	6
7 Valery Neverov	GM	UKR	2587	6
8 Mark Hebden	GM	ENG	2534	6
9 Yuri Shulman	GM	BLR	2573	6
10 Chris Ward	GM	ENG	2498	5½
11 Alonso Zapata	GM	COL	2549	5½
12 Bogdan Lalic	GM	ENG	2540	5½
13 Jiri Stoeck	GM	CZE	2555	5½
14 Ruben Felgaer	IM	ARG	2528	5½
15 Oleg Gladyshev	IM	RUS	2388	5½
16 Mihai Grunberg	IM	ROM	2445	5½
17 Fernando Peralta	IM	ARG	2499	5½
18 Gerard Welling	IM	NED	2393	5½
19 Dimitri Tyomkin	GM	ISR	2482	5
20 Abhijit Kunte	GM	IND	2477	5
21 Mikhail Ulabin	GM	RUS	2589	5
22 Mark Orr	IM	IRL	2332	5
23 Andrew Ledger	IM	ENG	2408	5
24 Andrei Nestor Cioara	IM	ROM	2414	5
25 Colm Daly	FM	IRL	2338	5
26 Richard Pert	FM	ENG	2357	5
27 Sam Collins		IRL	2313	5
28 Normunds Miezis	GM	LAT	2510	4½
29 Richard Palliser	IM	ENG	2441	4½
30 Simon Ansell	IM	ENG	2399	4½
31 Stephen Brady	FM	IRL	2353	4½
32 Stephen Gordon		ENG	2141	4½
33 Francis Rayner		WLS	2219	4½
34 Jonathan Blackburn		WLS	2158	4½
35 Lawrence Cooper	IM	ENG	2349	4½
36 Alan Grant		SCO	2195	4½
37 Tom Hinks-Edwards	FM	ENG	2363	4½
38 Craig Hanley	FM	ENG	2331	4½
39 Arkady Rotstein	GM	GER	2557	4
40 J Ezra Lutton		ENG	2113	4
41 Norman Hutchinson		ENG	2175	4
42 Francois Marchand	FM	FRA	2237	4
43 Rudy Van Kemenade		ENG	2141	4
44 David Bennion		WLS	2060	4
etc. 64 players took part.				



The Monarch Assurance International sported 18 grandmasters from all round the world. Top left: Artur Kogan (Israel). Top right: Alonso Zapata (Colombia). Bottom left: Normunds Miezis (Latvia). Bottom right: Alexander Goloshchapov (Ukraine).

consume a cigarette almost in one breath. But, looking at the moves, Epishin seemed to have everything under control as he exploited Neverov's passive play.

Other winners in round eight were second seed Rustem Dautov (now of Germany, who outplayed Jiri Stoczek), and Latvia's Daniel Fridman (who beat the Argentinian champion Ruben Felgaer). This left three players with a remaining interest in the destination of the top prize: Epishin 6½, Dautov, Fridman 6. In keeping with the spirit of the tournament, which had seen refreshingly few friendly draws between the grandmasters, the top two games in the last round were well-contested. Fridman had Black against Neverov, but only gave the game up as a draw after trying hard to win. Dautov, a picture of calmness and application, managed to eke out a small advantage from the opening and tried long and hard to convert it against the chain-smoking Epishin. But, in the end it was a triumph of tobacco over tenacity as Epishin's defence held out for the draw that gave him the £2,000 first prize.

So 37-year-old Vladimir Epishin became the 2002 'Manx Monarch' at his first attempt. This was a splendid achievement: it is not always easy to justify a seeding as top-rated player but Epishin's strength and determination carried him through. A special word too for Dautov and Fridman who, like Epishin, were also unbeaten, and proved their status as high-calibre grandmasters.

The final table shows few surprises, with the top grandmasters occupying the top positions and no one managing to score any norms. Mark Hebden was the top English performer, scoring 6/9 and playing to his rating, while Ward and Lalic made 5½. The Irish contingent had a particularly good tournament, with Mark Orr, Colm Daly and Sam Collins all scoring a creditable 5/9. This was despite an unfortunate start for the young Irish champion, Sam Collins, who lost his first two games by trying too hard to win. But Sam came back fighting and finished off with

an excellent win against Arkady Rotstein, condemning the German grandmaster to a sub-50% score. Sam annotates one of his best games at the end of this report.

THE GAMES

Round 1

□ Alonso Zapata

■ Gerard Welling

Centre Counter B01

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 ♖xd5 3 ♘c3 ♜a5 4 d4 ♜f6 5 ♜f3 c6 6 ♜e5 ♙e6 7 ♙c4 ♙xc4 8 ♜xc4 ♜d8 9 0-0 e6

9...g6 10 ♙e1 ♙g7 11 ♜e2 b5 12 ♜e5 0-0 13 ♙g5 ♜xd4 14 ♙ad1 ♜b6 15 ♜f3 and White had good play for the pawn in Zapata-Zarnicki, Cuba 1993.

10 ♙g5 ♙e7 11 ♙e1

11 ♙xf6, 11 ♜e2 and 11 f4 have been played here before.

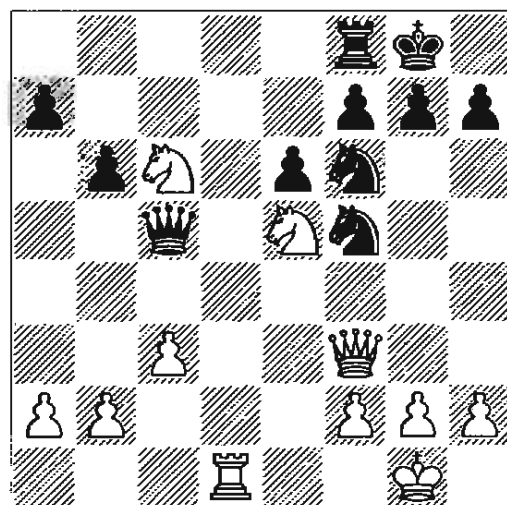
11...♜bd7 12 ♜f3 0-0 13 ♙ad1 ♜d5 14 ♙xe7 ♜xe7 15 ♜e4 ♜f5 16 c3 ♜f6 17 ♜c5 b6 18 ♜a6

A slightly odd direction for the knight, but Zapata soon proves its worth.

18...♜c8 19 ♜b4 c5 20 dxc5 ♜xc5 21 ♜e5 ♙ad8

It would have been a better idea to stop a knight invading at c6 with something like 21...♜e7.

22 ♜bc6 ♙xd1 23 ♙xd1



23...a5?

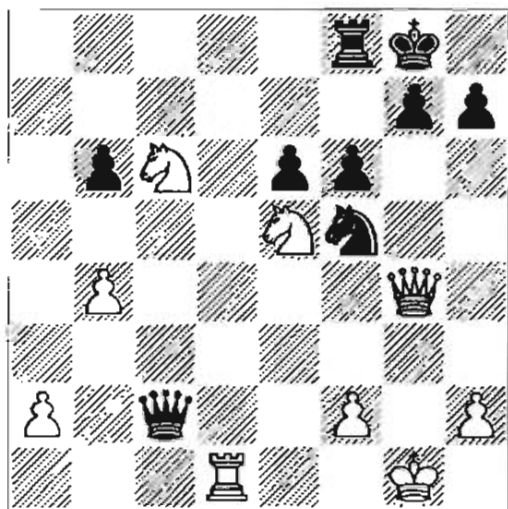
The final error. After 23...♖e8 24 b4 ♖b5 25 c4 ♖a4 26 ♖b3!? ♖xb3 27 axb3 Black is losing the a-pawn but perhaps has some hope. Zapata now finds a forcing continuation.

24 b4! axb4 25 cxb4 ♖c2 26 g4! ♜xg4

26...♜h4 is the only 'safe' square but then 27 ♜e7+ ♜h8 28 ♜xf7+! ♜xf7 29 ♜d8+ and mate follows.

27 ♖xg4 f6

Seemingly the answer to Black's problems, but Zapata finishes off brilliantly:



28 ♜e7+! ♜xe7 29 ♖xe6+ ♜h8 30 ♜d8!!

30 ♜f7+?! is not so good: 30...♜xf7 (30...♜g8 31 ♜h6+ ♜h8 32 ♖g8+?? would be disastrous because of 32...♜xg8 and there is no mate) 31 ♜d8+ ♜g8 32 ♖xf7 ♖c1+ 33 ♜g2 ♖g5+ and it is not clear if White ever escapes the checks

30...♖c1+ 31 ♜g2 ♖g5+ 32 ♜f1 1-0

32...♖c1+ 33 ♜e2 ♖c2+ 34 ♜f3 ♖c3+ 35 ♜g2 and the checks have run out.

Round 3

□ Rustem Dautov

■ Mark Hebden

King's Indian Defence E62

1 d4 ♜f6 2 ♜f3 g6 3 c4 ♜g7 4 g3 0-0 5 ♜g2 d6 6 0-0 ♜c6 7 ♜c3 ♜b8 8 ♖d3

8 e4 ♜g4 9 ♜e3 ♜d7 10 ♜e2, to make sure Black cannot establish a knight on d4, was Krasenkow-Hebden, Hastings 1993/4.

8...♜g4

8...♜d7 9 ♜e3 a6 10 ♜ac1 b5 11 cxb5 axb5 12 ♜d5 ♜b7 13 ♜g5 ♜f6 14 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 15

♜xf6+ exf6 16 ♖c3 Stahlberg,G-Donner, Wageningen 1957, won by White; 8...e5 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 ♖xd8 ♜xd8 11 ♜g5 h6 12 ♜xf6 ♜xf6 13 ♜d5 ♜g7 14 ♜ad1 ♜e6 15 ♜d2 ♜bc8 16 ♜e4 Grabarczyk,M-Markowski,T, Glogow 2001, agreed drawn a few moves later.

9 d5 ♜b4 10 ♖d1 c5 11 e4 e5 12 ♜e3 ♜a6 13 h3 ♜d7 14 ♜d2 ♜c7 15 a4 a6 16 a5 b5 17 axb6 ♜xb6 18 ♜a2

These closed lines of the King's Indian take a long time to unravel and it will be the first time control before anything of significance happens.

18...♖e7 19 ♜h2 ♜fb8 20 b3 h5 21 ♜a4 ♜xa4

If Black doesn't do this, the knight will move round to the influential d3 square.

22 ♜xa4 ♜h8 23 ♖c2 h4 24 ♜a3 hxg3+

Black offered a draw

25 fxg3 ♜g8 26 ♜f3 ♜h6 27 ♜g1 ♜e8 28 ♜e1 ♜gf6 29 ♜d3 ♜d7 30 g4 ♜g7 31 ♜b1 f5

Black needs to do something active on the kingside as White is going to play the b3-b4 advance on the queenside eventually, with a very promising position.

32 ♖e2 ♖g5 33 ♜f3

The f3 bishop isn't very pretty, but White is only interested in his queenside play, and is content to use the light-squared bishop to prop up the kingside defence.

33...♜f6 34 ♜b2 fxg4

34...fxe4 35 ♜xe4 ♜xe4 36 ♖xe4 ♜e8 37 ♜f2 and then if 37...♜f6?! 38 ♖e1! and the f6 knight is obliged to retreat in the face of the ♜h4 threat.

35 hxg4 ♜h7 36 ♜f2 ♖f6 37 ♜g1 ♖g5

Mutual time pressure.

38 ♜h2 ♖f6 39 ♜g1 ♖g5 40 ♜h1 ♜e8 41 b4!

After fiddling around to reach the time control, White now starts his big push.

41...♜ef6

41...cxb4 42 ♜a4 ♜b7 43 ♜xa6 and White will either come back for the b4 pawn or push on with c5. Either way he gets a very positive

position whereas Black's kingside play doesn't seem to amount to anything.

42 ♖a2 cxb4

Black is damned if he takes, and damned if he doesn't: 42...♗d7 43 bxc5 ♖xb2 44 ♖xb2 ♖xb2 45 ♖xb2 ♖f6 46 ♖e2 dxc5 47 ♗xc5 with a very comfortable pawn plus for White.

43 ♗xb6 ♖xb6 44 ♖a4

44 ♖xb4? is bad because it takes the d3 knight away from the defence of White's king, e.g. 44...♖xb4 45 ♗xb4 ♖h4+ 46 ♔g2 (46 ♖h2? ♖e1+ 47 ♔g2 ♗f4, etc) 46...♗g5 and White has to play for a draw.

44...♗d7

44...♖h4+ 45 ♔g2 ♗g5 46 ♗f2 b3 47 ♖a3 ♗f7 48 ♖axb3 ♖xb3 49 ♖xb3 ♗f4 50 ♔f1 and White should win.

45 ♖axb4 ♖xb4 46 ♖xb4 ♖h4+ 47 ♖h2 ♖f6 48 ♗e2 ♗e3

48...♗f4 49 ♗xf4 ♖xf4 50 ♖xf4 exf4 51 ♖b7 ♗c5 52 ♖e7 ♗f6 53 e5 wins.

49 ♖b7 ♗df8 50 c5! ♗xc5 51 ♗xc5 dxc5 52 ♖h6

53 g5 is the main threat.

52...♔g8 53 d6! ♗g5

53...g5 54 ♗c4+ ♔h8 55 ♖xf6+ ♗xf6 56 ♖f7 ♗d7 57 ♗xa6 soon wins.

54 ♗c4+ 1-0

54...♗ge6 55 ♗xe6+ ♗xe6 56 ♖h7+ ♔f8 57 ♖b8+ ♗d8 58 ♖xd8+! wins.

Round 6

□ Vladimir Epishin

■ Bogdan Lalic

Queen's Gambit Declined D37

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♗c3 ♗e7 4 ♗f3 ♗f6 5 ♖c2

An old favourite of Tony Miles, but he used to follow it up with 6 e3.

5...dxc4 6 e4 ♗c6 7 ♗e3!?

A new move here and it also happens to be the one suggested by Fritz. Most games have continued with 7 e5.

7...♗g4

This knight move works out badly.

8 ♗xc4 ♗b4

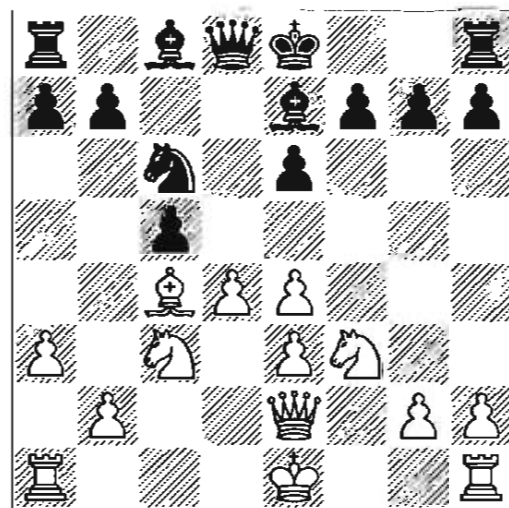
Another loss of time, for which Black soon

has to pay dearly.

9 ♖e2 c5 10 a3 ♗xe3

10...cxd4 11 ♗xd4 ♗c6 12 ♖d1! with the point that if 12...♗xd4? 13 ♗xd4 and the g4 knight and a discovered d-file tactic are threatened.

11 fxe3 ♗c6



12 d5 ♗a5

12...♗b8 is no better: 13 ♗b5+ ♗d7 14 dxe6 fxe6 15 ♗e5 ♗xb5 16 ♖xb5+ ♗c6 17 ♗xc6 wins easily.

13 ♗b5+ ♔f8 14 0-0

Black is seriously behind in development.

14...a6 15 ♗a4 b5 16 ♗c2 g6 17 ♖ad1 ♖c7

17...exd5 18 ♗e5! and Black is under intolerable pressure, e.g. 18...f6 19 ♗xd5 ♔g7 20 ♗xf6 etc.

18 e5 exd5 19 ♗xd5 ♖a7 20 ♗e4 ♖b8 21 ♖e1 ♗c4 22 b3 ♗b6

Getting another piece out of play with 22...♗xa3 cannot be a good idea. Then 23 ♖g3 with ♗g5 and threats against f7.

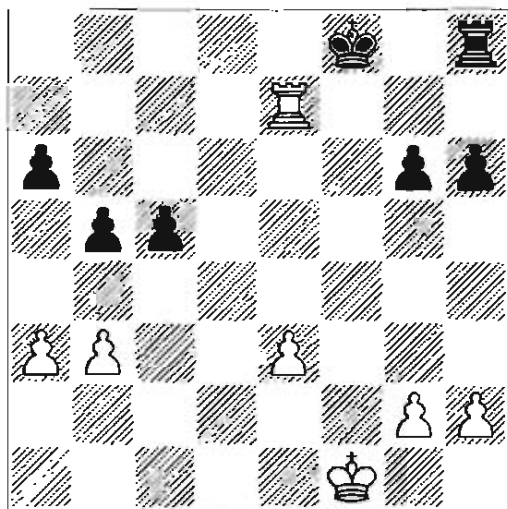
23 ♖g3 ♗e6 24 ♗g5 ♗xg5 25 ♖xg5 ♗xd5 26 ♗xd5 ♖e7 27 ♖f6 h6?

A blunder. If 27...♖d8, one possibility is 28 e4 ♖d7 29 ♖df1 ♔g7 30 ♖xf7+!? ♗xf7 31 ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 32 ♗xf7 ♖xf7 33 e6 ♖f6 34 ♖xc5 ♖hf8 35 ♖e7+ ♔g8 36 h4 and White should win.

28 ♖xg6 ♖d8 29 ♖df1! ♗xd5

29...♖xd5 30 ♖xe6 ♖d1! 31 ♖ef6 ♖xf1+ 32 ♖xf1 ♔e8 33 ♖e4! and wins much as in the game.

30 e6 ♗xe6 31 ♖xe6 ♖d1 32 ♖xe7 ♖xf1+
33 ♔xf1 fxg6



White is happy to simplify to a rook ending on the grounds that the black rook is tied up and the king cannot get off the back rank.

34 ♖c7 h5 35 ♔e2 h4 36 ♖xc5 ♔g7 37 ♖c7+ ♔f6 38 ♖a7 h3 39 gxh3 ♔g5 40 ♖xa6 ♖xh3 41 ♖a5 ♖xh2+ 42 ♔f3 ♔h4 43 ♖xb5 g5 44 ♖b4+ ♔h3 45 ♖g4 1-0

Round 6

□ Daniel Fridman

■ Oleg Gladyshev

King's Indian Defence E69

1 d4 ♗f6 2 ♗f3 g6 3 c4 ♗g7 4 g3 0-0 5 ♗g2 d6 6 ♗c3 ♗bd7 7 0-0 e5 8 e4 c6 9 h3 ♖b6 10 ♖e1 exd4 11 ♗xd4 ♗e8 12 ♗b3

This modern line more or less obliges White to sacrifice a pawn.

12...a5 13 ♗e3 ♖b4 14 ♗d4

An alternative pawn sacrifice is 14 a3 ♖xc4 15 ♗d4 (threatening ♗f1) 15...f6 16 ♖c1, when the white side has a good record in practice.

14...a4

14...♖xb2? is not very clever: 15 ♗a4 ♖a3 16 ♗f1 ♗c5 17 ♗xc5 dxc5 18 ♗c2 ♖c3 (18...♖a4 is a bit better but after 19 ♖b1 ♗c3 20 ♖e2 ♖xc4 21 ♗a3 ♖e6 22 ♗xc5 b5 23 ♗xf8 ♔xf8 White has a powerful advantage) 19 ♗xc5 and White won in Gauglitz-Heinig, Leipzig 1982.

15 a3 ♖a5

15...♖xb2? 16 ♗xa4 ♖xa4 17 ♖xa4 ♗xd4

18 ♖ab1 ♖c3 19 ♖ec1 ♗c5 20 ♖d1 ♖xa3 21 ♗xd4 and White has won the exchange for a pawn.

16 f4 ♗c5 17 ♖c2

Diverging from theory: 17 g4 ♗f6 18 ♖c2 h5 19 g5 ♗fd7 20 ♖ad1 ♗b6 21 ♗f1 ♖e8 22 f5 was Siebrecht-J.Howell, Hamburg 1995, which was drawn in 133 moves. No wonder James Howell gave up chess.

17...h5?!

Restrains the threat of g4, but unfortunately it also weakens g5. 17...♗xd4 18 ♗xd4 ♗b3 19 ♖ad1 ♗xd4 20 ♖xd4 f6 leaves White with a tangible edge.

18 ♖ad1 ♗f6 19 ♗f3 ♖e8 20 ♗g5

Exploiting the disadvantage of Black's 17...h5

20...♗e6 21 ♗xe6 ♗xe6 22 ♖xd6

Black often has to yield this pawn in the King's Indian, but here he has nothing to show for it.

22...♗xc4 23 ♖f2

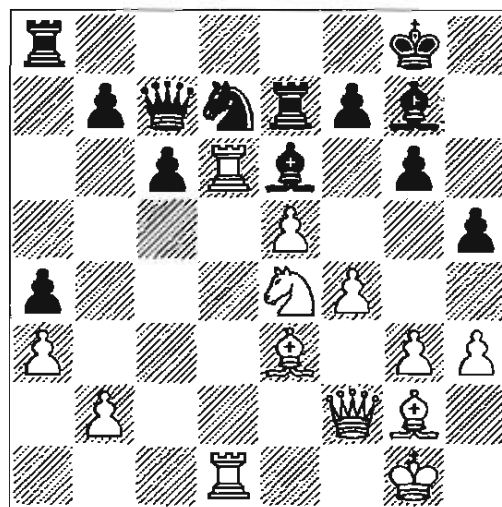
As well as threatening ♗b6, White prepares to play e5 or f5. He now has a comfortable advantage.

23...♖c7 24 e5 ♗d7 25 ♖ed1 ♗e6

25...♖e7 is possible

26 ♗e4 ♖e7

26...f6 may be necessary though Black's pawn structure looks badly compromised.



27 ♗f6+! ♗xf6

27...♗xf6 28 exf6 ♗xf6 29 ♗b6 trapping Black's queen after 29...♖c8 30 ♖d8+, etc.

28 exf6 ♖ee8

28...♖xf6 29 ♖b6 as the previous note.

29 f5!

Beating a path to h6 for White's queen.

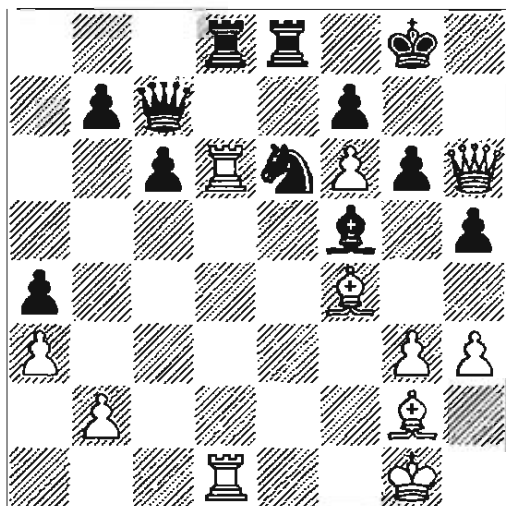
29...♖xf5 30 ♖f4 ♖f8

If 30...♖ad8 then 31 ♖1d2! is a high-class waiting move.

31 ♖h6 ♖e6 32 ♖f4!

Now the threat of ♖xe6! cannot be adequately met.

32...♖ad8



33 ♖xe6!! ♖xd1+ 34 ♖h2 fxe6 35 ♖xc7 ♖d7 36 ♖e5 ♖f7 37 ♖d2

Now Black has no easy way to get a rook on the d-file.

37...♖c8 38 ♖d1 ♖h7 39 ♖g1 g5 40 f7+ ♖xf7 41 ♖xh5 1-0

Round 9

□ Bogdan Lalic

■ Richard Palliser

Benoni A70

1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♖f3 c5 3 d5 g6 4 c4 d6 5 ♖c3 ♖g7 6 e4 0-0 7 h3 e6 8 ♖d3 exd5 9 cxd5 b5 10 0-0 a6 11 a3 ♖a7 12 ♖e1 ♖e7 13 ♖f4 ♖b7

13...♖fe8 14 ♖d2 ♖b6 15 ♖g5 ♖bd7 16 ♖f4 ♖h5 17 ♖d2 and a draw was agreed in Mitenkov-Sherbakov, Moscow 1999.

14 ♖c1 ♖fe8 15 b4!

While arming himself against the e5 advance, Black has left himself little leeway to counter this queenside pawn break.

15...♖b6 16 bxc5 dxc5 17 d6 ♖d7 18 e5 ♖d5 19 ♖xd5 ♖xd5 20 ♖g5!? ♖c6

If 20...h6 21 ♖xg6! hxg5 22 ♖xd5 gxf4 23 e6! with a monster attack.

21 ♖g4 ♖e6

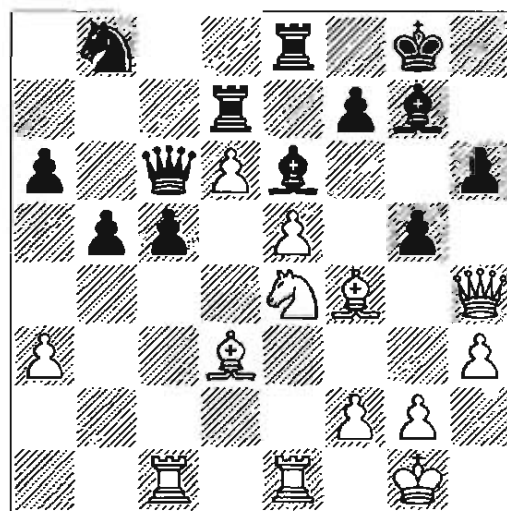
This loses quickly but it is terribly difficult to find a viable defence. If 21...h6 22 e6! is ruinous.

22 ♖h4

22 ♖xe6 fxe6 23 ♖e4 ♖c8 24 h4 is also a winner.

22...h6 23 ♖e4 g5

23...♖d5 24 ♖f6+ ♖xf6 25 ♖xf6 wins.



24 ♖xg5

24 ♖xg5 is arguably more clear-cut: 24...hxg5 25 ♖f6+! ♖xf6 26 ♖h7+ ♖f8 27 exf6 mates.

24...hxg5 25 ♖h7+ ♖f8 26 ♖xg5 1-0

26...f5 27 exf6 ♖xf6 28 ♖h6+ ♖g7 29 ♖g6 wins quickly.

NOTES BY SAM COLLINS

Round 9

□ Arkady Rotstein

■ Sam Collins

Sicilian Sveshnikov B45

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 ♖c6 6 ♖e3

Slightly unusual and probably not best. White simply can't set up the standard English attack formation of ♖e3, ♖d2 and f3 in this line because of Black's next move.

6...♖b4 7 ♖d3

The best move. Spassky-Hübner, Tilburg

1981 continued 7 dxc6 bxc6 8 e5 d5 9 d2 , when Black was very comfortable after 9... c7 10 f4 b6 11 f3 0-0 12 a3 xc3 13 bxc3 a6 . 7 f3 ?! is just stupid after 7... d5 when Black is already better.

7...d5 8 exd5 dxd5 9 dxc6 bxc6 10 d2
10 d4 ? dxc3 11 xc3 (11 bxc3 ? xd4 , winning a pawn due to the pin, is the key point) 11... xc3 + 12 bxc3 0-0 is excellent for Black. 10 0-0 xe3 (10... dxc3 11 bxc3 xc3 12 b1 is unclear, with White having reasonable compensation for the pawn.) 11 fxe3 xc3 12 bxc3 0-0 is dynamically balanced. White's horrendous pawn structure is compensated for by his greater activity.

10...xc3 11 bxc3 0-0 12 0-0

The immediate 12 c4 can be met by 12... b6 (intending to besiege the c4 -pawn after ... a6 or ... d4) 13 0-0 a6 and Black is fine, though he must avoid 13... d4 14 e3 c3 since 15 d4 ! is excellent for White.

12...xf6 13 c4

13 h5 g6 14 h6 e5 is fine for Black. 14... dxc3 is very risky after 15 g5 g7 16 h4 .

13...f4 14 e4 e5 15 f3

I had mainly anticipated 15 g3 h3 + 16 g2 g5 17 xg5 xg5 18 xc6 h3 ! 19 xh3 (19 g1 xf1 20 xa8 xc4 is similar) 19... h6 + 20 g2 xc6 + regaining the pawn with the better game.

15...a6 16 g3

16 xc6 ac8 17 b5 xb5 18 cxb5 xc2 is quite difficult to evaluate. If the position stabilises White will be clearly better with his very mobile queenside majority, but I think Black should have enough play to hold the balance.

16...e6 17 xf6 gxf6 18 xc6 ac8 19 e4

I was much more worried about 19 b5 !?, but then I found the resource 19... b7 ! when, with both ... a7-a6 and ... d4 on the cards, Black is doing well. 19... xb5 20 cxb5 xc2 21 e3 is clearly better for White.

19...xc4!

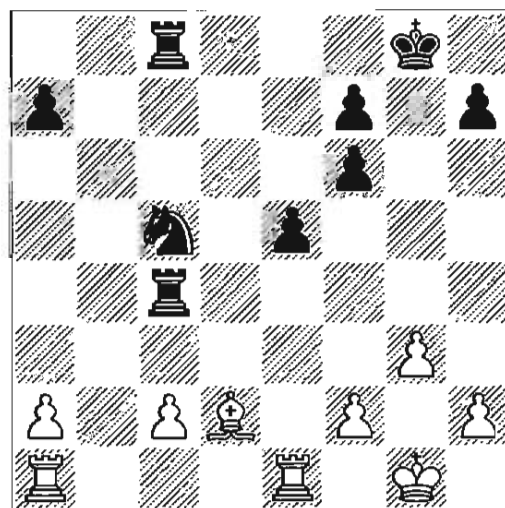
I suspect my opponent underestimated this move. 19... xc4 20 fd1 gives White

reasonable chances of an edge.

20 fe1?!

20 d3 is more prudent, with a likely draw after 20... d4 21 xa6 xd2 22 d3 c5 23 fd1 xd1 + 24 xd1 xd3 25 xd3 c8 .

20...c5 21 f5 c8 22 xc8 xc8



So the position has stabilised. With the weaklings on c2 and a2 , and no counterplay, White is clearly struggling. All Black needs to do is to tidy up his position (... g7 and ... h7-h5 on the kingside, ... a7-a5 on the queenside) and then look for the queenside breakthrough, while White must effectively sit and wait.

23 e3 g7

The over-eager 23... xc2 24 ec1 e4 (24... xc1 ?? 25 xc1 wins) 25 xc2 xc2 26 xa7 is better for White.

24 ed1 a5 25 ab1 xc2 26 b5 a4 27 a5 h5 28 a7

28 xc5 xc5 29 xa4 b2 is excellent for Black.

28...g6!

Planning the forthcoming combination, which is the only way to make progress. It's essential that a rook can't land on f7 with check.

29 a3 e4! 30 d7

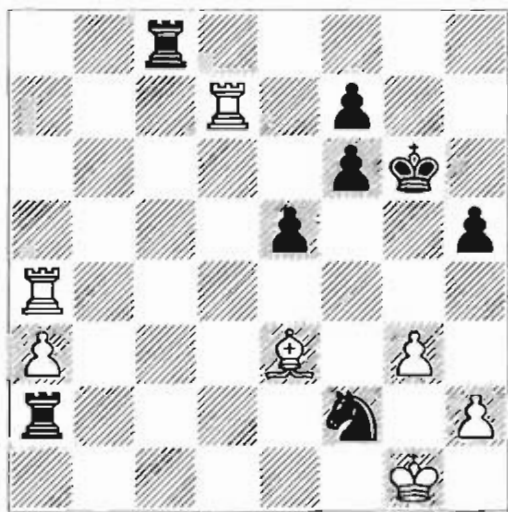
Played instantly, but after my next move he fell into a long think. However, it is difficult to come up with a better idea, since Black is simply planning ... a2 when either ... cc2 , ... xa3 or ... xf2 should cause some headaches.

30...a2 31 xa4

31 xf7 xf2 32 xf2 (32 g7 + f5 33

♖h7 ♗g4 34 ♖xh5+ ♕e4 and White soon gets mated; 32 ♖h7 ♗g4! 33 ♖ag7+ ♕f5 34 ♖xh5+ ♕e4 35 ♖xg4+ ♕f3 is equally bleak) 32...♖c1+ 33 ♖g2 ♖cc2 wins.

31...♗xf2



32 ♖d2!

The best attempt. Again, White has few chances of survival if he takes the knight: 32 ♖xf2 ♖c1+ 33 ♖g2 ♖cc2 wins.

32...♗h3+?!

Stupid, not because it throws away the win, but because there was a much simpler alternative: 32...♖xd2 33 ♖xd2 ♖c2 34 ♖xf2 (34 ♖e3 ♗g4; 34 ♖b4 ♗g4 35 h3 ♗e3) 34...♖xd2+ 35 ♖g1 f5 is superb for Black, since White is in grave danger of losing his whole kingside after ...e5-e4 and ...♖g5, possibly with ...h5-h4 thrown in to soften things up.

33 ♖f1 ♖xd2 34 ♖xd2 ♖c2 35 ♖e2 ♗g5 36 ♖d3 ♖a2 37 h4 ♗f3 38 ♖c3 ♖g2 39 ♖a8

39 ♖e3 ♗h2 40 ♖e1 ♗g4+ 41 ♖f3 ♖a2 is winning for Black, since a timely ...♖f5 and ...e5-e4+ will either mate White or cost him a rook after ♖xe4 ♖xa3+.

39...♖f5

39...♖xg3?? 40 ♖g8+ would be unfortunate.

40 ♖g8

After 40 ♖e3, the desperate 40...♗h2 41 a4 doesn't seem to work: 41...♖xg3+ 42 ♖d2 ♗f1+ 43 ♖c2 ♗e3+ and ...♗d5 should be winning for Black.

40...♗xh4 41 a4 ♗g6 42 ♖c4

42 a5 h4 43 a6 (43 gxf4? allows ♗f4+)

43...♖a2 wins.

42...♖xg3 43 a5 e4 44 ♖b4

Avoiding the threatened ...♗e5+, winning the g8 rook.

44...e3 45 ♖c8

The race with 45 a6 e2 46 a7 ♖xc3 47 a8 ♖e1 ends in disaster for White after 48 ♖a5+ (48 ♖d5+ ♗e5 is terminal) 48...♖c5+!

45...e2 46 ♖e1 ♖g1 47 ♖c1 ♗e5 48 ♖c3 ♗f3 49 a6

49 ♖d3 ♖xe1 50 ♖xe1 ♗xe1+ 51 ♖xe2 ♗c2 52 a6 ♗d4+ transposes.

49...♖xe1 50 ♖xe1 ♗xe1 51 ♖d2 ♗f3+ 52 ♖xe2 ♗d4+ 0-1

The knight gets back in time to stop the pawn.

SPOT THE CONTINUATION (from page 579)

1) 1 ♖e8+! 1-0 (Wins the queen for a rook. If 1...♖f8 2 ♖xf8+ ♖g7 and 3 ♖xa4! wins even more material)

2) 1 ♗g6+! hxf6 (1...♖g8 loses the exchange for nothing to 2 ♗xf8) 2 fxf6 ♖g8 3 ♖f5! ♗c5 4 ♖h5 1-0 (There is no defence to ♖h8+! followed by ♖h3/4+ and ♖h7 mate)

3) 1...♗d3! 2 ♖e2 (2 ♖c3 ♖a6! 3 ♖b2 ♖a1+ 4 ♖g2 exf3+ 5 ♖xf3 ♖f4+ wins; 2 ♖g3 ♖c1+ 3 ♖g2 ♗e1+ 4 ♖h2 ♖c2+ 5 ♖h1 ♗xf3! wins) 2...♖c1+ 3 ♖g2 ♗f4+ 0-1

4) 1...♖d2! 0-1 (White's king is in a mating net. If 2 ♖e3 ♖7d3+ 3 ♖xd3 ♖xd3+ 4 ♖xd3 bxa5 wins easily)

5) 1 ♗xf7! cxd4 (1...♖xf7 2 ♖xh7+ ♗f8 3 ♖xg6 wins very quickly or if 2...♖f6 3 ♖xg6+ ♖e7 4 ♖xe6+ wins) 2 ♗d6 (More forceful was 2 ♖h6+! ♖f6 3 ♖f4+ ♖g7 4 ♗d6, etc) 2...dxe3 3 ♗xc8 ♖axc8 4 ♗d4+ ♗f6 5 f3 e5 6 ♖xe3 and White won eventually.

6) 1 c5! (Best. 1 ♖xe6+!? immediately is quite good but not so convincing, e.g. 1...fxe6 2 ♖g6+ ♗d7 3 ♖xd4 ♖xd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖c6, etc) 1...♖xc5 (If 1...♖d8 2 ♖b4 forks the two bishops; Black has to try 1...♖xb2+!? 2 ♖xb2 ♖xb2 3 ♖xb2 ♖xd1 4 ♖xd1 but he doesn't have much hope against the power of the bishops) 2 ♖xe6+! fxe6 (2...♗d7 3 ♖f5! is totally crushing) 3 ♖g6+ ♗d7 4 ♖xc5+ ♖c6 5 ♖d6+ 1-0

7) 1...♖xf3! 2 ♖c2 (If 2 ♖xf3 ♗d2+ forks queen and king) 2...♖xf2+! 3 ♖xf2 ♗xf2 4 ♖f5 (4 ♖xf2? ♖h2+, but better is 4 ♖h7! when Black has to find 4...♗g4 5 ♖g8+ ♖c8 6 ♖xf7 b5 with good winning chances) 4...♗h1! 5 ♖h7 ♗g3+ 6 ♖d3 ♖a7 7 ♖h3 f5 0-1

8) White played out a forced mate in six: 1 ♖d8+! ♖xd8 2 f8 ♖+ ♗d7 3 ♗f6+ ♖e6 4 ♖g8+ ♖f7 5 ♖c8+ ♖e7 6 ♖e8 mate

9) 1...♖b2! (1...♖b5?! is less convincing, e.g. 2 ♖h2 ♗h5 3 ♖xf4 ♗xf4 4 ♖xf4 ♖xb6 with a hard fight ahead) 2 ♖1c2 (2 ♖4c2 is much more resilient but after 2...♖b5 3 ♖h2 ♗h5 4 ♖e2 g5 Black has stopped the queenside advance and also rather comically blotted the h2 bishop out of the game) 2...♖a8! 3 ♖d1 (3 ♖xb2 allows mate in three beginning 3...♖a1+) 3...♖a1+ 4 ♖c1 ♖d2+ 5 ♖e1 ♖aa2 6 ♖4c2 ♖dxc2 7 ♖xc2 ♖a1+ 8 ♖c1 ♖xc1 mate

CONGRESS DIARY

by Colin Crouch

It is always difficult to tell in advance how strong a weekend open is likely to be. September's **Coulsdon Open (8-9 September)** was disconcertingly competitive for an event with only a £200 first prize, and certainly worth an article. Strangely, it was if anything stronger than the Ron Banwell Masters played at the same venue a couple of weeks previously for a first prize five times as big. The Banwell Masters lasted ten days rather than two, however, and the impression I get is that a tournament of that duration is only really viable if there are guaranteed possibilities of title norms. Maybe there is scope for experiment, either at Coulsdon or somewhere else, with a seven-round FIDE tournament, over four to seven days.

The Coulsdon weekenders, along with the quickplays, are ticking over smoothly, with enough regular entrants to ensure that the playing venue is always respectably full. If any reader suspects that some of my comments on games are a little vague this month, all I can do is apologise and say that with a hundred players in the hall it was difficult to squeeze round and watch progress in other games. Coulsdon Chess Fellowship also are active in junior chess, even if the Bangkok correspondent for another magazine put his foot in it by inadvertently implying that there was not too much happening in junior chess elsewhere in Surrey.

The first round went mainly with the gradings. Quite often the games so early on are too one-sided to be worth publishing, but Andrew Ledger won a bright miniature which seemed worth retrieving.

Coulsdon Open 2002

□ **Andrew Ledger**

■ **Donny Muter**

Queen's Gambit Declined D37

1 c4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 d4 e7 4 f3 f6 5

f4 0-0 6 e3 a6 7 c1 dxc4 8 xc4 c5 9 d3

Looking back to what I wrote a few years ago, in *The Queen's Gambit Declined* 5 f4, I felt that White's best chance of an edge here would have been 9 dxc5 xd1+ 10 xd1 xc5 11 e5 bd7 12 e2 xe5 13 xe5 b5 14 f3 a7 15 e2, a position reached via another move order in Malaniuk-Arlandi, Forli 1992.

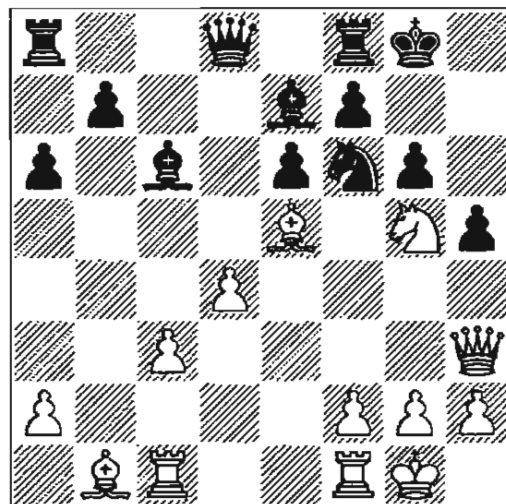
9...bd7 10 0-0 cxd4 11 exd4 b6

11...b5!? is smoother. The problem with the plan that Black chooses is that it offers no challenge to White's grip on e5.

12 b1 bd5 13 e5 d7 14 g5 g6 15 f3

15 xd5! is more accurate, leaving a clear positional edge after 15...exd5 (15...xd5 16 xh7 e8 17 g4 wins) 16 e1 with advantage to White.

15...xc3 16 bxc3 c6 17 h3 h5



18 g4!?

The sort of move that Fritz ignores (or at least the version of Fritz that comes with Chessbase), but which the human player would immediately consider as one of the main lines. After all, Black's kingside defences have to be split somehow, and this can't be done by pieces alone.

In order to avoid overstressing Fritz's

sacrifice-adverse and hack-adverse reputation, it should be pointed out that the analysis engine soon comes up with the sacrifice 18 Nxe6 fxe6 19 Qxg6 as the main line, but it is difficult to believe that White is better after 19... Qe8 20 Wxe6+ Qf7 21 Qxf7+ Kxf7 22 c4 Wc8 23 d5 Wxe6 24 dxe6 Kff8 .

18 $\text{Kfe1!?$ is the simple and steady way to play; Black still has to prove equality.

18... Nxc4??

Looking across to the next board, I was wondering what would have happened after 18... Wd5 when this blunder came. White is still doing well after 19 f3 though, for example 19... Qb5 20 gxf5 Qxf1 21 Kxf1 Qg7 22 hxf6 Kh8 23 Wg3 wins.

The best defence would have been through the classic method of playing to exchange one of the attacker's minor pieces: 18... Qd6! 19 gxf5 Qxe5 20 dxe5 (20 hxf6 Wd5 gives White nothing for the piece) 20... Nxf5 21 f4 and while White still has some attacking chances, there is a certain looseness in his position which he must beware.

19 Wxf5! 1-0

Andrew Bigg was the only player to reach 2/2. Andrew Ledger should have beaten Ilya Tsesarsky, the top seed, but it slipped away. I have seen Tsesarsky's first name spelt three different ways on tournament charts and elsewhere; perhaps it is time to settle to the version on the main databases. Against the Polish player Ryszard Palus, I made the dumb mistake of forgetting my own analysis and ducking out of a critical move; I was very fortunate to escape a poor endgame with half a point.

The tournament was being played to a Fischer time control, with all the moves to be played in 80 minutes, plus half a minute per move. In many ways this time limit is a useful innovation, and it certainly has the advantage of avoiding all the awkward borderline decisions that an arbiter might be called to make in a quickplay finish. The disadvantage is that it is very difficult to fit

into a tight playing schedule, and if a tournament is being held on the edge of London, schedules have to be very tight indeed to accommodate players commuting from the other side of town. Some endgames are inevitably going to drag out a bit, endangering the starting time of the next round. One game at Coulsdon reached queen and pawn versus queen. Another reached queen versus two knights, in which there are some positional draws, but the defender was unable to reach any of them. Any endgame in which the 50-move rule might apply will take an extra 50 minutes, presenting a timetabling problem. Scott Freeman presented a questionnaire, and suggested a slightly faster time limit. The players were in general happy with the idea of a Fischer time limit, and forgiving of some late starting times.

On Saturday evening, Andrew Bigg went down to David Ledger, and the group of players on 2½/3 was roughly that which might have been predicted before the tournament: Tsesarsky, A. Ledger, D. Ledger, Crouch. On the Sunday I got a very promising position against Andrew Ledger, but somehow it went sour, and Andrew won. David Ledger's pawn sacrifice proved not to be temporary against Tsesarsky. Since the two leaders had already played each other, they both down-floated. Tsesarsky was held to a steady draw by Andrew Bigg, but Andrew Ledger won the tournament by beating Palus in the Grand Prix Attack.

This is how I completed a miserable Sunday.

Coulsdon Open 2002

□ Marcus Osborne

■ Colin Crouch

Nimzo-Indian Defence E20

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Qb4 4 f3 c5 5 d5 exd5 6 cxd5 d6 7 e4 0-0 8 Qf4?

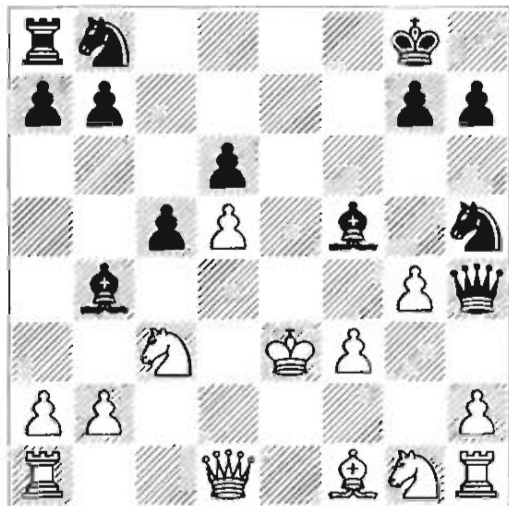
A clear loss of tempo, since after 8 Qd3 I would probably have replied with 8... Nh5 anyway.

8... Nh5 9 Qe3 f5 10 exf5 Ke8 11 Qd2 Qxf5?

Not making the best of things. 11...♔e7 12 ♕e1 ♕e5 favours Black.

12 g4 ♖xe3 13 ♔xe3 ♕g5+ 14 ♔f2 ♕h4+ 15 ♔e3

15 ♔e2 ♖g3+ 16 hxg3 ♕xh1 17 gxf5 ♕xg1 is better for Black.



15...c4?

A big decision, but a wrong one. Clearly I could force perpetual check with 15...♕g5+, but I felt I could play for more. Not so. The white king is rather more centralised than is ideal, but White has material in the bag, and can bring defensive pieces into play as quickly as Black can introduce fresh attackers.

16 gxf5 ♕f4+

16...♕g5+ 17 ♔d4 b5 18 ♖e4 ♕f4 19 ♕c1 is a dead end. I therefore prevent the king from reaching d4, but my queen is occupying a square the knight needs, as soon becomes clear.

17 ♔e2! ♖d7 18 ♕d2 ♖e8+ 19 ♔d1 ♖e3 20 ♕xc4

Now that White's king is back home, I have more or less run out of resources. It's not quite resignable yet, but it soon will be.

20...♖b6 21 ♕b3 ♖f6 22 ♖ce2 ♕xd2 23 ♖xf4 ♖e1+ 24 ♔xd2 ♖xa1 25 ♖fe2 a5 26 ♖c3 ♖fd7 27 a3 ♖e5 28 ♖d1 a4 29 f4 ♖g4 30 ♕c2 ♖c4+ 31 ♔c3 ♖c1? 32 ♖e2 1-0

Couldson Open: 1 Andrew Ledger 4½; 2 Ilya Tsesarsky 4; 3-5 David Ledger, Andrew Bigg, Marcus Osborne 3½. Under 170: Kevin Bailey, Chris Edwards, Sarah Hegarty 4. Under 130: Jinwoo Song 4½. Under 90: Anuk Sirisena 4½. Anuk Sirisena was not the youngest prize-winner. Peter Williams, aged six, of Basingstoke came third in the under 90, and still has four years in hand on Anuk. Two players to watch for the future?

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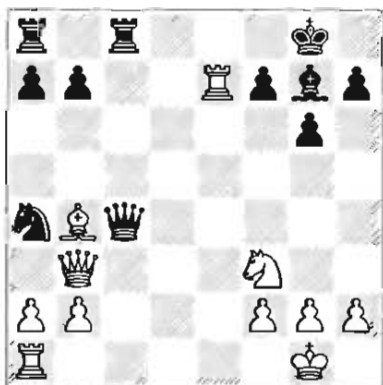
chessclub.com



SPOT THE CONTINUATION

All positions are from the Monarch Assurance International. The player to move wins in all cases, in ascending order of difficulty. Solutions may be found on page 575.

HUTCHINSON - ANSELL
Isle of Man 2002



1) White to play

EZRA LUTTON - DOUGHERTY
Isle of Man 2002



2) White to play

J. HANLEY - ORMSBY
Isle of Man 2002



3) Black to play

WELLING - SULSKIS
Isle of Man 2002



4) Black to play

WARD - SHULMAN
Isle of Man 2002



5) White to play

BENNION - VUILLEUMIER
Isle of Man 2002



6) White to play

ULIBIN - WELLING
Isle of Man 2002



7) Black to play

SHULMAN - ANSELL
Isle of Man 2002



8) White to play

VAN KEMENADE - GLADYSZEV
Isle of Man 2002



9) Black to play

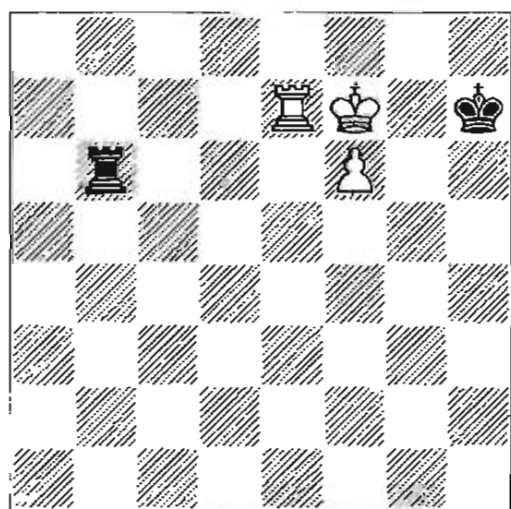
MANGLED BY THE MASTERS

Learning about rook endings by studying grandmaster mistakes, by Steve Giddins

It is well-known that one tends to learn more from one's mistakes and defeats, than from one's successes. This principle can be extended to the study of other people's experiences; frequently, it is their errors and mistakes which prove to be the most instructive aspects of their activity. Any chessplayer who spends a significant amount of time studying rook and pawn endings will be struck by the high proportion of mistakes encountered in practice, even in the games of the very greatest players. The object of this article is to draw out some instructive material on the subject of rook endings, based around practical examples where leading players have gone astray. The aim is not merely to have a good laugh by watching the great and the good getting it wrong (however enjoyable that may be in itself!), but instead to learn some important points about the most common of all endings.

COMEDY OF ERRORS

Hastings 1931
Capablanca - Menchik



The first example is just about the most notorious case of mutual incompetence ever seen in a rook ending played between top

players. This is despite the fact that the white player has the reputation of being one of the game's greatest ever masters of the endgame.

In this standard rook and pawn v rook position, the result depends on who is to move. White to play wins immediately by 1 ♖f8+, ♜g6 2 f7, reaching a position which occurred later in the game. Black to play, however, can draw with accurate play. The basic defensive technique involved is the so-called "flank attack", in which Black uses his rook from the side of the passed pawn, to harass the white king. For this technique to succeed, the rook needs sufficient checking distance, which in practice usually means that the defender's king needs to be on the short side of the pawn, allowing the rook to use the extra space available on the long side. Here, everything is in order for Black, since his king is on the correct side. The only three things Black needs to remember are these:

1. His rook stays at the side and threatens checks.
2. If permitted, his king approaches the passed pawn.
3. He must not allow the white king to reach the 8th rank, unless White first puts his rook there.

Following the above principles, the correct defensive plan runs thus:

1...♜b8! Following rule (3) above, this is the only move. **2 ♖e8** This is the only way White can force his king to the back rank. If he temporises by 2 ♖d7, Black simply does the same: 2... ♜a8 If White then follows his only other plan, by switching the rook to the front with 3 ♖d1 Black checks the white king away with 3...♜a7+ 4 ♜e8 and now 4...♜g6! (following Rule (2)) draws e.g. 5 f7

(5 ♖f1, ♙a8+ is no better) ♙a8+! (but not 5...♙xf7?? 6. ♖g1+ wins) 6 ♖e7 ♙a7+ 7 ♖e6 ♙a6+ etc. 2...♙b7+ 3 ♖f8 ♖g6! Rule (2). 4 ♖e6 ♖f7+ and draws.

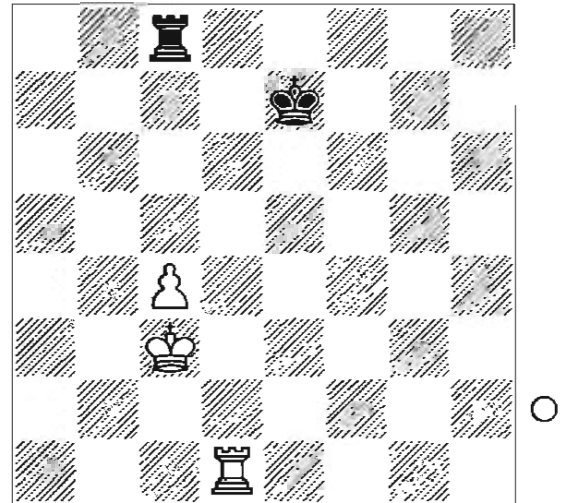
The simple variations and principles listed above are all one needs to know to draw this ending. In the game, however, both players displayed an astonishing lack of understanding of the position:

1...♙a6?? As we know, this move loses, since it allows the white king to the 8th without his rook having to go there first. 2 ♖d7?? Returning the compliment. Instead, 2 ♖f8+ ♖g6 3 ♖f7 ♖f6 4 ♖g8 wins. 2...♙a8! Remembering rule 3. The position is now drawn once again. 3 ♖e7 ♙a6?? Another losing move. Black should temporise with 3...♙b8. 4 ♖f8+! ♖g6 5 ♖f7 This time Capablanca has corrected his error at move 2, and he is now winning. However, as the golfers know, there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip... 5...♙a8+ 6 ♖e8 ♙a7 7 ♖e6+ ♖h7 8 ♖e8?? Another result-changing blunder, wrongly allowing the black king back in contact with the white pawn. Instead, 8 ♖e1 wins immediately. 8...♙a8+ 9 ♖e7 ♙a7+?? The final mistake, handing the point back to White again. Instead, by remembering rule (2), Menchik could have drawn with 9...♖g7. 10 ♖f6 1-0. After 10...♙a8, even Capablanca on that form would presumably have found 11 ♖e8.

FRONTAL LOBOTOMIES

In the next three examples, we encounter a different defensive technique in the ending of R+PvR. The previous example saw the "flank attack". In the next two, the defensive plan employed is the "frontal attack". This is only appropriate where the passed pawn is further back, usually no further advanced than the fourth rank. Before proceeding to the practical examples I wish to examine, it will be useful first to show one theoretical position, which illustrates the key points of

such endings.



This is a typical case of the frontal attack. The black rook stands in front of the passed pawn, preventing its immediate advance. If Black could get his king in front of the passed pawn, he would draw easily, but since his king is cut off, White is able to win with the move. The winning technique, known as the "Combined Method", consists of the following steps. White first advances his king as far as possible, which in practice usually means two squares diagonally in front of the pawn (in this case, to a6), then the rook switches to defence of the pawn, and finally the white king attacks the enemy rook:

1 ♖b4 Threatening 2 c5, so Black must check the king away. 1...♙b8+ 2 ♖a5 ♖c8 3 ♖b5 Again threatening 4 c5. ♙b8+ 4 ♖a6 ♖c8 Step 1 has been accomplished. Now step 2 is to defend the pawn with the rook, whilst still keeping the BK cut off. 5 ♖d4! (5 ♖c1? ♖d6=) 5...♖e6 And now step 3 is for the white king to attack the black rook and enable the pawn to advance: 6 ♖b7 ♖c5 7 ♖b6, ♖c8 8 c5 and wins.

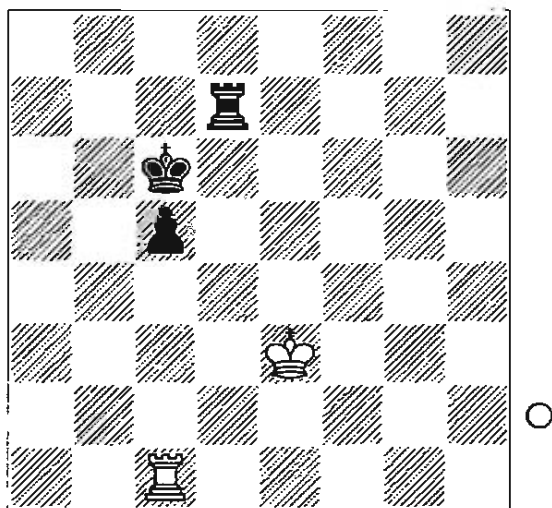
Returning to the previous diagram, there are a couple of important points to note. Firstly, if Black's rook had been on c7, rather than c8, he would have had insufficient checking distance, so White would have been able to win simply by advancing his king (in other words, step 2 above would not have been necessary).

Secondly, if the Black king had been on e6, rather than e7, in the initial position, he would have drawn, since in the main line, when White initiated step 2 with 5 ♖d4, Black would have been able to attack the rook immediately with 5...♙e5, forcing his king over to the queenside.

For this reason, when the black king is only cut off by one file, Black's 3rd and 4th ranks are known as the "Absolutely Safe Ranks," since if the black king stands on one of these ranks, Black draws even without the move. By contrast, his 2nd rank is referred to as the "Relatively Safe Rank", since with the king on the second rank, Black draws only with the move (in the above diagram, Black to move draws by either 1...♖d8 or by 1...♙e6, the latter being a case of stepping onto the Absolutely Safe Rank).

Bearing in mind the above principles, let us now look at some practical examples.

Lvov Zonal 1978
Kochiev - Smyslov

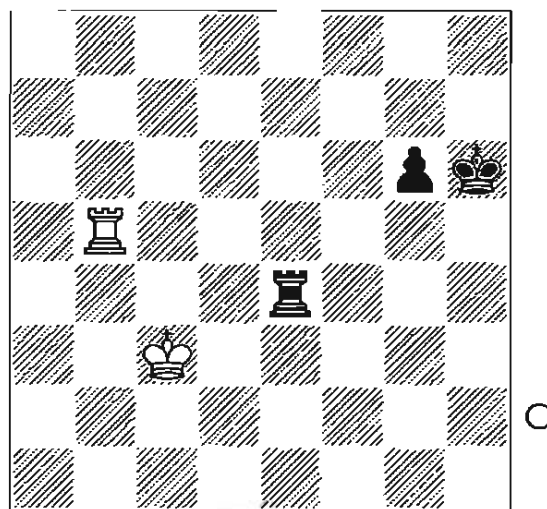


This first example is particularly gruesome. Armed with our knowledge from the previous diagram, it is easy to see that the position is completely drawn. White has his king cut off by only one file, his rook has maximum checking distance, and his king is on an Absolutely Safe Rank. White, to move, need only keep his king on the Absolutely Safe Ranks, by playing 1 ♙e4, with a draw. Instead, he produced the appalling

move 78 ♙e2?? Now his king is only on the Relatively Safe Rank and, since it is not his move, he is lost. He resigned after 78...♙b5 79 ♖b1+ ♙a4 80 ♖c1 ♙b4 81 ♖b1+ ♙a3 82 ♖c1 ♖d5! Thanks to his 78th move, White cannot attack the enemy rook with his king. 83 ♙e3 ♙b2 84 ♖c4 ♙b3 0-1 Kochiev's blunder is even harder to understand, bearing in mind that it occurred just a couple of moves after the adjournment. The game had serious consequences for Kochiev's career, since after it, almost certain Interzonal qualification went out of the window, and psychologically he never really recovered.

The next diagram sees a former World Champion drop an unnecessary half-point in particularly instructive fashion.

Riga 1968
Tal - I. Zaitsev



In this example, the passed pawn is on the g-file. Its proximity to the edge of the board means that the standard Combined Method is not available in its pure form, and White is able to draw even though his king is cut off from the pawn by two files, rather than just one. In order to draw, White needs to get his rook in front of the passed pawn, with maximum checking distance (in other words, on g1), and he also needs to keep his king on one of the Absolutely Safe ranks. Since his king is already on such a rank, he should attend to his rook's position by 1 ♖b1! after which he

draws in standard fashion: **1...g5 2 ♔d3 ♖e8 3 ♜h1+ ♔g6 4 ♜g1 ♖e5 5 ♔d4**, etc.

Instead, Tal chose the very plausible, but fatal preparatory move **1 ♔d3??** and after the reply **1...♖e1!** he resigned. The point of Black's last is that it deprives White's rook of the first rank, which it needs for the requisite checking distance.

Thus, **2 ♜b2-g2** would be inadequate, because the black king can just march up the board and attack the rook. The only way to secure adequate checking distance for the white rook is to drive the black rook from the first rank, but in so doing, White's king must abandon its ideal position on the Absolutely Safe 3rd rank, after which he loses.

For example, **2 ♔d2 ♖e8 3 ♜b1** White has now got his rook in the desired spot, but his king has been forced to abandon the 3rd rank. **g5 4 ♜h1+ ♔g6 5 ♜g1** (he has no time for **5 ♔d3**, since **5...g4** is threatened) **♖e5!** Now there is no **6 ♔d4** reply, so White is lost. **6 ♔d3 ♔f5** As noted above, the g-pawn's proximity to the edge of the board requires a slightly different technique from Black than the standard Combined Method, but he wins all the same by pushing his king in front of the passed pawn. **7 ♔d4** Or **7 ♜f1+ ♔g4 8 ♜g1+ ♔f3 9 ♔d4 ♖a5** wins. **♖e4+ 8 ♔d3 g4** and wins.

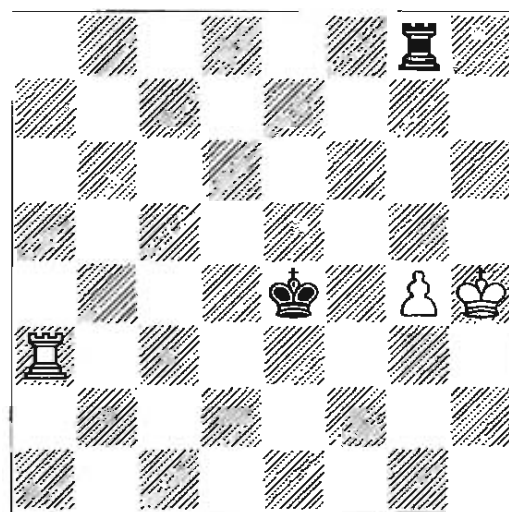
As a final example of a top-flight grandmaster mangling a frontal attack position, we will consider the following example which illustrates another important point of rook endings which we have not yet encountered, namely "horizontal cutting-off". Cutting off the enemy king along a rank is often even more effective than cutting it off along a file.

This was excellently demonstrated here (see diagram, next column), where the black king is much further forward than in the previous examples. This somewhat changes the normal lines of play, and in particular, introduces the danger of the horizontal cutting-off of the black king.

Larsen committed the losing blunder

1...♔e5?? after which the reply **2 ♖a6!** cut his king off along the rank and gave White a winning position. The game concluded **2...♔f4** Or **2...♜h8+ 3 ♔g5 ♜g8+ 4 ♔h5 ♜h8+ 5 ♜h6 ♜g8 6 g5** winning. **3 ♜f6+ ♔e5 4 g5 1-0** since after **4...♜h8+ 5. ♔g4**, followed by **♜f1**, there is no stopping the g-pawn.

Palma Interzonal 1970
Taimanov - Larsen



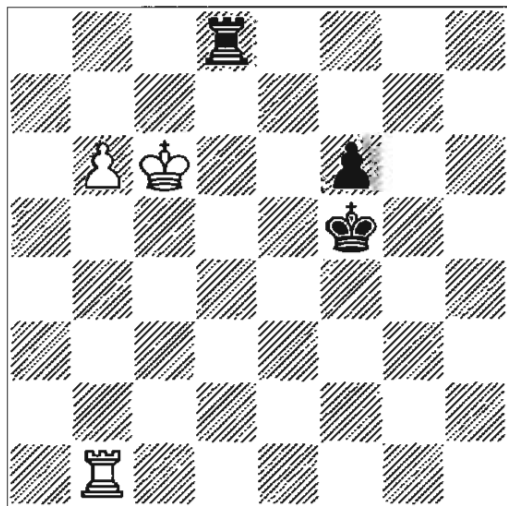
Instead, Larsen could have drawn in two different ways. The thematic choice was to start by driving the white king back as far as possible with **1...♜h8+ 2 ♔g3**, and now **2...♔e5!** (but not **2...♜g8** whereupon the horizontal cut-off **3 ♖a5!** again wins). Now the horizontal cut-off by **3 ♖a6** does not win, because of the reply **3...♜h1!** (**3...♜g8?** **4 ♔h4** wins) when the position of the black king prevents White's own king getting in front of the pawn, whilst **4 g5** is met by **4...♔f5. 5 g6, ♜g1+** etc.

The other defence in the diagram position is less thematic, but involves exploiting the specific tactical features created by the advanced position of the black king. The draw is achieved by **1...♔f4! 2 ♖a4+ ♔f3!** simply keeping the passed pawn under attack. White can make no progress, since **3 g5?? ♜h8** is mate, whilst **3 ♔h5 ♜h8+ 4 ♔g6 ♜g8+ 5 ♔f5 ♜f8+ 6 ♔e6 ♜g8** achieves nothing.

WORLD CHAMPION BUNGLING

Thus far, all of our examples have involved ♖+♙ v ♚. The next position, a particularly famous one, has a slightly different material balance.

19th Match Game 1929
Alekhine - Bogoljubow



This game is a classic illustration of how even world championship contenders can drop vital points and half-points, by failing to show sufficient understanding of basic endgames. Despite the material equality, it is clear that Black is in grave danger, since White's passed pawn is significantly the more advanced. In the game, Bogolyubov lost after 1...♙g4? 2 ♖b7 ♜f5 3 ♖b8 ♚ ♜xb8 4 ♜xb8 ♜f4 5 ♙d5 ♜f3 6 ♙e4 ♜f2 7 ♜f8 ♙g3 8 ♙e3 1-0

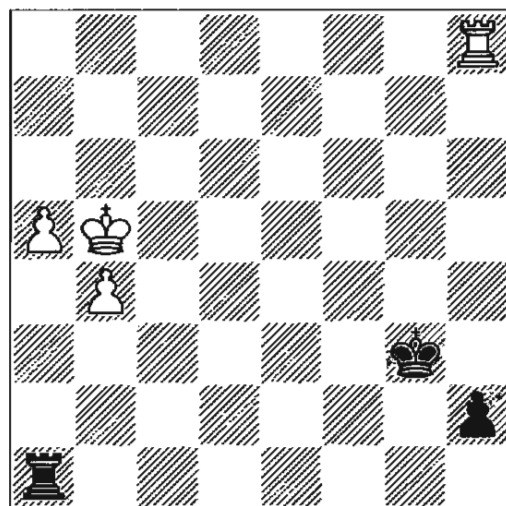
However, he could have drawn by more accurate play, and it is not so hard to find the correct defence by logical thinking. In this type of ending, where each side has a passed pawn, it is inevitable that the weaker side will have to sacrifice its rook for the enemy passed pawn. The result of the game will therefore depend on the resulting ending of K+R v K+P. Black consequently needs to consider the shape of the ending which will result once he has sacrificed his rook for the white b-pawn. It is clear that, in the resulting position, White is going to need to bring his

king back over to the kingside, to assist his rook in stopping the black pawn. A key device in K+P endings is "shoulder-charging", when one side's king gets in the path of the other's, thereby preventing it approaching by a direct route. After Bogoljubow's choice 1...♙g4? his king played no role in obstructing the path of the white king, which simply marched back via d5-e4. However, by centralising his king, so as to employ the "shoulder-charging" technique, Bogoljubow could have drawn:

1...♙e4! 2 ♖b7 ♜f5 3 ♖b8 ♚ ♜xb8 4 ♜xb8 ♜f4 5 ♙c5 ♜f3 By comparison with the game continuation, the powerful influence of the black king is quite clear. Rather than merely supporting its passed pawn (as it did in the game), here it also obstructs the white king's path back to the kingside. This makes all the difference. 6 ♜f8 ♙e3 7 ♙c4 ♜f2 8 ♙c3 ♙e2 9 ♜e8+ ♙d1! and draws.

WHICH PAWN TO KEEP?

San Sebastian 1911
Maroczy - Tarrasch



This is another example where the result of the game will depend on a transposition into an ending with K+R fighting K+Ps. In this case, White will have to sacrifice his rook for the black h-pawn, and the question is whether his two connected pawns will win or draw against the black rook.

First of all, we should look at the game

continuation, in which White made a complete pig's breakfast of the position: 1 ♖c6+? ♙c1+ 2 ♜b6? ♙c4! Suddenly there is the threat of 3...♙h4, queening. White's reply is forced, but the draw is already inevitable. 3. ♙xh2 ♙xb4+ 4 ♜c5, ♙a4 and a draw.

Instead, White can win in instructive fashion, starting with the immediate 1 ♙xh2 ♜xh2

Now, however, he must find the correct move. There is a rule of thumb which can offer useful guidance in such positions: "always keep the most distant pawn". The application of a little common sense reveals the point of this rule. If Black is going to draw, he will have to get his king back to help the rook. At some point, he will have to sacrifice the rook for one pawn, and win the other with his king.

Clearly, the rook will have to be sacrificed for the pawn which is furthest advanced, while the king takes care of the rearmost pawn. Thinking about this from White's perspective, which pawn should he push first? Well, since it is the advanced pawn which the rook will take, the logical thing to do is to retain the pawn furthest from the black king. In other words, in this position, White should push his b-pawn first. When Black's rook takes it, the remaining pawn will be the a-pawn, which is furthest from the black king.

Analysis supports this general rule. Thus, the obvious 2 a6? does not win. Black continues 2...♜g3 3 ♜b6 ♜f4 4 a7 (Now it is too late to revert to the correct plan: 4 b5 ♜e5 5 ♜a7 ♜d6 6 b6 ♙b1! 7 ♜b7 ♜c5= or 7 b7 ♜c7) ♜e5 5 ♜b7 ♜d5 6 b5 ♜c5 drawing. This perfectly illustrates our theme – the Black rook will sacrifice itself for the a-pawn, whilst the king is able to get back in the nick of time to take the b-pawn.

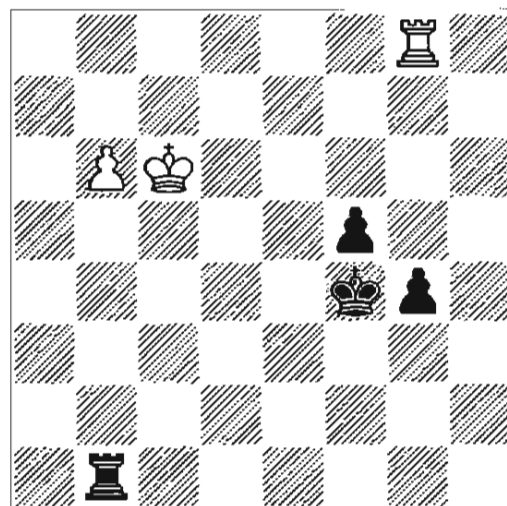
However, by following the above rule of thumb, White can win: 2 ♜a6! ♜g3 3 b5 ♜f4 4 b6 ♜e5 5 b7 ♙b1 6 ♜a7 ♜d6 7 b8♞ winning. The difference from the previous

variation is clear – the rook is forced to sacrifice itself for the b-pawn, leaving White with an a-pawn which is out of reach of the black king.

The value of this rule about retaining the pawn furthest from the enemy king is illustrated again in the following example:

Minsk 1982

Marjanovic - Mochalov



Black showed excellent technique in converting his advantage: 1...♜g3! Following the rule above. Instead, 1...g3? 2 b7 ♜f3 3 b8♞ ♙xb8 4 ♙xb8 g2 5 ♙g8 f4 6 ♜d5 ♜f2 7 ♜e4 draws. After the text, 2 b7 loses in thematic fashion after 2...f4 3 b8♞ ♙xb8 4 ♙xb8 f3 5 ♜d5 f2 6 ♙f8 (6 ♙b1 ♜f3! 7 ♙b3+ ♜g2 wins for Black) 6...♜g2 7 ♜e4 g3 8 ♜e3 f1♞ 9 ♙xf1 ♜xf1 winning. Instead, the Yugoslav found a tougher defence, but his Soviet opponent was equal to the task: 2 ♙g5! f4 3 ♙b5 A similar theme to that seen in Maroczy-Tarrasch, but here the stronger side's rook is still able to get back in time to sacrifice itself. ♙h1 4 b7 ♙h8 5 ♜c7! (5 b8♞ ♙xb8 6 ♙xb8 f3 wins) 5...f3! 6 ♙h5 ♙f8 7 ♙f5 ♙g8 8 ♙g5 ♙f8 9 ♙f5 ♙xf5! 10 b8♞ f2 White's tenacity has resulted in a position where he has queen for rook and two pawns, but he is still unable to hold the game: 11 ♜d7+ ♙f4 12 ♙b3+ ♙f3 13 ♙b8+ ♜g2 14 ♙b2 ♜h1 15 ♙h8+ ♜g1 16 ♙d4 g3 17 ♜e7 g2 18 ♜e6 ♙h3 19 ♜d5 ♜h1 20 ♙g4 ♙d3+ 21 ♜e4 g1♞ 0-1

FIDE Ratings - October 2002

The FIDE (World Chess Federation) Rating List came out on time. No major shifts are apparent though a FIDE clerical error saw Kramnik's name left off the top 100 list. Adams stays in fourth place. *Karyakin-watch*: the 12-year-old-Ukrainian grandmaster is now rated 2527 and is at no.386 in the list. Asked recently when he would become world champion and how he would have scored in the Russia v World match, he is alleged to have replied: "At 16, and 50 per cent". Mind you, a four-point rating increase is less impressive than the 14 point increase of 71-year-old Viktor Korchnoi, back in *BCM's* top player list at no. 52.

WORLD TOP 67 PLAYERS

	Title	Elo	Games
1	Garry Kasparov	GM RUS	2838 0
2	Vladimir Kramnik	GM RUS	2807 0
3	Viswanathan Anand	GM IND	2755 0
4	Michael Adams	GM ENG	2745 6
5	Veselin Topalov	GM BUL	2743 14
6	Peter Leko	GM HUN	2743 13
7	Ruslan Ponomarev	GM UKR	2743 0
8	Evgeny Bareev	GM RUS	2737 10
9	Vassily Ivanchuk	GM UKR	2709 2
10	Alexander Morozevich	GM RUS	2707 6
11	Boris Gelfand	GM ISR	2704 6
12	Alexander Grischuk	GM RUS	2702 0
13	Alexei Shirov	GM ESP	2699 9
14	Alexander Khalifman	GM RUS	2690 0
15	Peter Svidler	GM RUS	2690 0
16	Vladimir Akopian	GM ARM	2689 0
17	Anatoly Karpov	GM RUS	2688 1
18	Judit Polgar	GM HUN	2685 2
19	Ivan Sokolov	GM NED	2684 27
20	Nigel Short	GM ENG	2684 9
21	Ilia Smirin	GM ISR	2683 14
22	Loek Van Wely	GM NED	2681 18
23	Vadim Zvjaginsev	GM RUS	2680 9
24	Alexey Dreev	GM RUS	2673 19
25	Zoltan Almasi	GM HUN	2672 0
26	Krishnan Sasikiran	GM IND	2670 28
27	Vladimir Malakhov	GM RUS	2670 6
28	Rafael Vaganian	GM ARM	2667 9
29	Ye Jiangchuan	GM CHN	2667 4
30	Zurab Azmaiparashvili	GM GEO	2666 15
31	Joel Lautier	GM FRA	2665 0
32	Sergei Rublevsky	GM RUS	2664 9
33	Predrag Nikolic	GM BIH	2661 0
34	Kiril Georgiev	GM MKD	2658 0
35	Emil Sutovsky	GM ISR	2657 20
36	Etienne Bacrot	GM FRA	2653 0
37	Rustam Kasimdzhanov	GM UZB	2653 0
38	Michal Krasenkow	GM POL	2651 20
39	Sergei Movsesian	GM SVK	2651 16
40	Alexander Beliavsky	GM SLO	2650 27
41	Alexander Onischuk	GM USA	2649 33
42	Konstantin Sakaev	GM RUS	2647 0
43	Gregory Kaidanov	GM USA	2646 25

44	Jeroen Piket	GM NED	2646 0
45	Christopher Lutz	GM GER	2645 12
46	Xu Jun	GM CHN	2643 13
47	Sergey Volkov	GM RUS	2642 13
48	Robert Hübner	GM GER	2640 7
49	Alexander Graf	GM GER	2635 29
50	Francisco Vallejo Pons	GM ESP	2635 10
51	Mikhail Gurevich	GM BEL	2634 42
52	Viktor Korchnoi	GM SUI	2634 19
53	Johann Hjartarson	GM ISL	2634 0
54	Alexander Motylev	GM RUS	2634 0
55	Konstantin Landa	GM RUS	2632 11
56	Vladislav Tkachiev	GM FRA	2632 10
57	Sergei Tiviakov	GM NED	2631 37
58	Alexander Goldin	GM USA	2630 28
59	Yasser Seirawan	GM USA	2629 11
60	Vladimir Epishin	GM RUS	2628 38
61	Teimour Radjabov	GM AZE	2628 8
62	Viktor Bologan	GM MDA	2627 9
63	Smbat Lputian	GM ARM	2627 0
64	Mikhail Kobalia	GM RUS	2625 0
65	Alexander Lastin	GM RUS	2625 0
66	Matthew Sadler	GM ENG	2624 0
67	Artur Jussupow	GM GER	2622 9

TOP TEN WOMEN PLAYERS

1	Judit Polgar	GM HUN	2685 2
2	Xie Jun	GM CHN	2569 2
3	Antoaneta Stefanova	GM BUL	2541 43
4	Zhu Chen	GM CHN	2509 4
5	Pia Cramling	GM SWE	2508 0
6	Maia Chiburdanidze	GM GEO	2497 13
7	Almira Skripchenko	WG FRA	2497 0
8	Alisa Galliamova	IM RUS	2496 9
9	Nana Ioseliani	IM GEO	2491 0
10	Wang Lei	WG CHN	2490 0

TOP SIX UNDER 20

1	Ruslan Ponomarev	g UKR	2743 0
2	Alexander Grischuk	g RUS	2702 0
3	Etienne Bacrot	g FRA	2653 0
4	Francisco Vallejo Pons	g ESP	2635 10
5	Teimour Radjabov	g AZE	2628 8
6	Lazaro Bruzon	g CUB	2613 16

TOP ENGLISH

	Title	Elo	Games				
1	Michael Adams	GM	2745	6	55 Philip Rossiter	FM	2374 0
2	Nigel Short	GM	2684	9	56 Susan Lalic	IM	2372 0
3	Matthew Sadler	GM	2624	0	57 Richard Webb	FM	2372 0
4	John Nunn	GM	2611	0	58 Graham Lee	FM	2367 11
5	Julian Hodgson	GM	2608	0	59 Richard Bates	IM	2367 0
6	Jonathan Speelman	GM	2583	11	60 Adam Hunt	IM	2365 0
7	Jonathan Parker	GM	2570	0	61 Tom Hinks-Edwards	FM	2363 0
8	Luke McShane	GM	2546	26	62 Robert Bellin	IM	2360 0
9	Bogdan Lalic	GM	2542	27	63 Nigel Povah	IM	2360 0
10	Stuart Conquest	GM	2537	18	64 Lawrence Cooper	IM	2348 6
11	Glenn Flear	GM	2527	11	65 Chris Baker	IM	2347 0
12	Keith Arkell	GM	2521	0	66 Jonathan Rogers	FM	2346 0
13	John Emms	GM	2520	11	67 Craig Hanley	FM	2345 37
14	Matthew Turner	IM	2519	11	68 Stephen Berry	FM	2335 8
15	Murray Chandler	GM	2517	0	69 Chris Duncan	FM	2324 0
16	Mark Hebden	GM	2515	11	70 Peter Sowray	FM	2323 10
17	Chris Ward	GM	2513	21	71 Andrew Law	FM	2320 0
18	Daniel King	GM	2508	0	72 Chris Beaumont	IM	2318 0
19	David Norwood	GM	2503	0	73 Robert Earnes	FM	2313 13
20	Daniel Gormally	IM	2502	21	74 Charles Cobb		2313 0
21	William Watson	GM	2498	0	75 Anthony Corkett	FM	2313 0
22	Aaron Summerscale	GM	2495	26	76 Richard Tozer	IM	2312 9
23	Jonathan Mestel	GM	2494	0	77 John Richardson	FM	2312 8
24	Peter Wells	GM	2489	11	78 James Vigus	FM	2311 0
25	Nigel Davies	GM	2483	0	79 Erik Teichmann	FM	2310 11
26	Jim Plaskett	GM	2467	0	80 Graham Burgess	FM	2309 0
27	Nicholas Pert	IM	2462	22	81 Desmond Tan		2307 11
28	Richard Palliser	IM	2455	15	82 Maxim Devereaux		2305 11
29	Michael Hennigan	IM	2434	0	83 Gary Quillan		2305 0
30	Andrew Martin	IM	2426	0			
31	Malcolm Pein	IM	2425	0			
32	Jonathan Levitt	GM	2419	0			
33	Karl Mah	IM	2418	9			
34	Graeme Buckley	IM	2417	0			
35	Andrew Webster	IM	2415	0			
36	Harriet Hunt	IM	2406	7			
37	Gavin Crawley	IM	2403	0			
38	Andrew Kinsman	IM	2403	0			
39	Geoffrey Lawton	IM	2402	0			
40	Michael Rahal	IM	2402	0			
41	Simon Knott	IM	2401	17			
42	Paul Littlewood	IM	2399	11			
43	Simon Ansell	IM	2398	6			
44	Andrew Ledger	IM	2397	5			
45	Jovanka Houska	WGM	2397	0			
46	James Poulton		2397	0			
47	Richard Pert	FM	2391	24			
48	Simon Williams	IM	2391	23			
49	Neil McDonald	GM	2391	19			
50	Adam Collinson	FM	2390	0			
51	Colin Crouch	IM	2388	0			
52	Angus Dunnington	IM	2388	0			
53	Stewart Haslinger		2385	20			
54	Mark Ferguson	IM	2378	0			

SCOTTISH TOP TEN

1	Jonathan Rowson	GM	2547	20
2	Paul Motwani	GM	2525	16
3	John Shaw	IM	2484	0
4	Colin McNab	GM	2406	9
5	Douglas Bryson	IM	2388	8
6	Eddie Dearing		2367	9
7	Stephen Mannion	IM	2367	0
8	Timothy Upton	FM	2322	3
9	Craig Pritchett	IM	2318	0
10	Andrew Muir	IM	2316	10

WELSH TOP FIVE

1	James Cobb	FM	2318	0
2	John G Cooper	IM	2318	0
3	Iolo Jones	CM	2289	0
4	Leighton Williams	FM	2288	0
5	Richard Dineley		2284	0

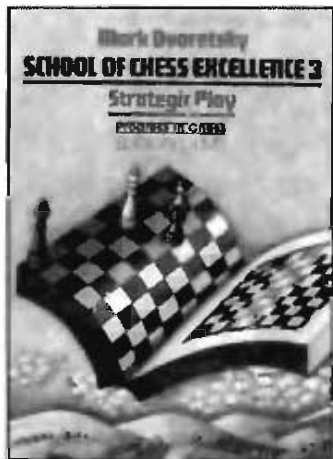
IRISH TOP FIVE

1	Alexander Baburin	GM	2580	0
2	Brian Kelly	IM	2451	0
3	Mark Quinn	IM	2429	0
4	Mark Heidenfeld	IM	2373	0
5	Sam Collins		2372	28

REVIEWS AND NEW BOOKS

Prices exclude postage and packing. To order from the U.K. please add 10% postage (20% abroad). Send all orders to 44 Baker Street, London W1U 7RT. Phone 020 7486 8222; fax 020 7486 3355; e-mail BCMchess@compuserve.com

School of Chess Excellence 3: Strategic Play by Mark Dvoretsky, Olms, 232 pages, £18.00.



This is the third in the reissued, retranslated series of works by Mark Dvoretsky, and we need hardly question its quality, which is of the highest order. This particular volume features more original material than the previous two (though none of the featured games are dated later than 1992), and covers positional play, plus an extensive chapter on play in simple positions.

The style of the book is akin to a series of stimulating university lectures, punctuated by chatty anecdotes, questions to the class and exercises. For chess players who want to get on: don't think about it, buy it and read it (and then let the thinking start).

Starting Out: The Caro-Kann by Joe Gallagher, Everyman, 192 pages, £12.99.

A fatter and more substantial book than previous volumes in the series, possibly down to different grade paper being used. The content is also pretty substantial: Gallagher is not a Caro-Kann player himself but has produced a book on the opening that will be of great interest to experienced players as well as the target audience for this series of books (intermediate strength players). It is not intended to provide comprehensive coverage but there are very good summaries of the ideas behind all the main variations, with Joe also showing his soft spot for the offbeat but potent 'Fantasy Variation'. Excellent value.

Starting Out: The Queen's Gambit by John Shaw, Everyman, 144 pages, £12.99.

Another good-value overview of a popular opening, this time by strong Scottish IM John Shaw, making his Everyman debut. Don't be fooled by the back cover blurb which starts talking about the 'Queen's Gambit Declined'; this really is about the entire system, including Queen's Gambit Accepted, Slav, Chigorin, etc. Of course that means there is a phenomenal amount to cover in just 144 pages, but Shaw has produced a very readable and useful primer.

Sicilian Kan by John Emms, Everyman, 192 pages, £14.99.

The Kan (1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 a6) was the first Sicilian variation that the author took up, having struggled against it when playing White. This variation is slightly less complex and memory-intensive than such Sicilian variations as the Dragon and the Najdorf, though these things are relative compared with other less theoretical responses to 1 e4. Effectively what you get here are 75 related games, annotated by one of the UK's top chess authors.

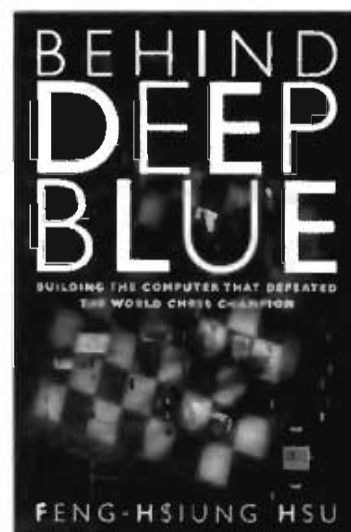
Understanding The Sacrifice by Angus Dunnington, Everyman, 143 pages, £14.99.

IM Angus Dunnington aims to avoid the obvious puzzle-book approach to presenting sacrifices and instead concentrates on positional sacrifices rather than the tactical variety. Dunnington categorizes and selects his material carefully and has organized it into a logical

sequence. The final product is a very instructive and enjoyable work.

Behind Deep Blue by Feng-hsiung Hsu, Princeton UP, 298 pages hardcover, £19.95.

The author is the programmer at the heart of the IBM 'Deep Blue' project which finally ended Garry Kasparov's aura of invincibility and, arguably, dealt a severe blow to the mystique of chess itself. The publishers, obviously worried that chessplayers wouldn't read it because they would think it was a 'nerdy book' for computer programmers – and vice versa – have pitched it as a book which encompasses both specialisms, but also tells a human story of discovery and adventure. The claim is justified as this is a very readable book and is basically a story about the coming together between two very different worlds, and the clash of personalities involved. Most of us have heard Garry Kasparov's version of events via the chess media but this is a valuable opportunity to hear the other side of the story.



The Steinitz Papers: Letters and Documents of the First World Chess Champion, Ed. Kurt Landsberger, McFarland, 325 pages hardcover, £44.95.

Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900) is the key personality in the development of chess from the time of Anderssen to Lasker and his contemporaries. His great-great-nephew Kurt Landsberger brought out a huge 500-page book on the great man in 1993. Now the same author tackles the more intimate details of Steinitz's life and times, as revealed through letters and other papers.

Of course, the life of a professional was hard, and there are many insights in the book of the difficulties of this calling. There are sections on the negotiations and resulting contracts for the matches with Zukertort, Chigorin, Gunsberg and Lasker. We have here a very rich collection of material, spoiled only by the occasional lapse in English.

The Complete Sveshnikov Sicilian by Yuri Yakovich, Gambit, 272 pages, £15.99.

This book marks Russian grandmaster Yuri Yakovich's debut as an author. It is a well-indexed, up-to-date and skilfully cross-referenced opening manual which will be essential reference material for existing aficionados of the Sveshnikov, if somewhat intimidating for anyone trying to set up a repertoire from scratch. It is packed full of variations and relatively short on text, though the author does volunteer his own opinions and assessments.

The Nimzo-Indian: 4 e3 by Carsten Hansen, Gambit, 320 pages, £16.99.

The main line of the Nimzo-Indian Defence gets the full treatment from Gambit's prolific author FM Carsten Hansen. As the sub-title says, "comprehensive coverage of the long-established main line of the Nimzo". It does exactly what it says on the cover.

The Chess Machine: José Raúl Capablanca CD-ROM by Tim Sawyer, Pickard, £19.99.

This database of 1,214 games provides the most complete exhibition yet of Capablanca's art. Most of the games are unannotated – regrettably in some cases where opponents' notes are available – but 80 contain Capablanca's own commentary. The CD also includes three of his books converted into electronic format: *Capablanca-Lasker Match 1921*, *My Chess Career*, and the archaic but still sound beginner's guide *Chess Fundamentals*. With biographical accounts and appreciations of Capablanca by several contemporaries, crosstables and a gallery of photographs, Sawyer's compilation is attractive and good value. *Review by James Vigus.*

Classical Dutch by Jan Pinski, Everyman, 160 pages, £14.99.

Just over half of this book is concerned with theory starting from the position after 1 d4 f5 2 c4 e6 3 g3 ♘f6 4 ♙g2 ♙e7 5 ♘f3 0-0 6 0-0 d6, with the rest devoted to other systems other than those involving a Black kingside fianchetto (Leningrad) or an early d5 (Stonewall). Polish IM Pinski presents the opening via the analysis of games. Nicely presented and a useful manual for Dutch devotees.

Learn From Your Chess Mistakes by Chris Baker, Batsford, 144 pages, £14.99.

Aimed at the club player and featuring games and positions from UK club and county players, much of the material here seems to come from previously published columns and articles of the author. He is refreshingly free of vanity and shares a good number of his own mistakes with the readership; and he also likes to give you plenty of background chatter which makes for a pleasant and effortless read.

Chess Lists (2nd Edition) by Andrew Soltis, McFarland, 248 pages, £20.99.

This book, first published in 1984, features the best, worst, shortest, longest games/champions, etc, of chess. This wonderful browsing material has been updated, but to some degree the balance of the book has been destroyed; e.g. is it meaningful to compare blunders played under modern quick-play time limits with disasters of the past? The book is printed to McFarland's high standards, but with a paperback cover this time. *Review by Ray Edwards.*

New In Chess Yearbook 64, Ed. Sosonko, van der Sterren, 236 pages, £14.95.

The latest opening theory collection from *New In Chess* has all the usual features: forum, readers' discussions, Sosonko's column, book reviews by Glenn Flear, plus 35 opening surveys, including one rather one poignant one by the recently deceased Eduard Gufeld.

The Chess Player's Chronicle (New Series) Vol. 1 1877, Ed. CE Ranken, Moravian Chess, 288 pages hardcover, £24.99.

Another Victorian periodical gets the reprint treatment. This one was edited by the Rev. CE Ranken, and two other Reverends (Skipworth and Wayte) were included amongst the editorial board. Lots of game scores and problems, plus plenty of news from Britain and around the world. A very chatty and readable publication.

King's Indian Attack CD-ROM by Don Maddox, ChessBase CD-ROM, £18.50.

This CD-ROM on the all-purpose King's Indian Attack has plenty of explanatory text in English (divided into 23 files). The database consists of 20,000 games, with 740 annotated, plus a training database and a tree of variations. For anyone intending to take up the KIA, this is a good place to start.

CT-ART 3.0, Convekta CD-ROM, £21.99.

This product comes highly recommended by Michael de la Maza in his book *Rapid Chess Improvement*, reviewed in the June BCM. Installation is very simple, and on loading you go immediately into a customisable desktop to start testing your tactical powers. It is addictive and quite testing for players of all strengths. The training presentation is similar to that of ChessBase's training mode, except that CT-ART has a facility for named users to keep track of their scores. The program rates your selection of moves via an elo-based system. Great fun and good value for money.

KING'S INDIAN, FOUR PAWNS ATTACK - 2

by IM Andrew Martin

LAST TIME (*BCM*, August 2002, page 436), we looked at lines with 6...♘a6. As promised, this time we are considering lines with 6...c5. In this first game, just one small slip by White and the game was up. In fact this game reminded me of a very old-fashioned Four Pawns Attack, where White knew no better than to charge forward in the centre and hope for the best. You just can't get away with that these days.

Cappelle la Grande 2002

□ Tea Bosboom Lanchava

■ Joe Gallagher

King's Indian A68

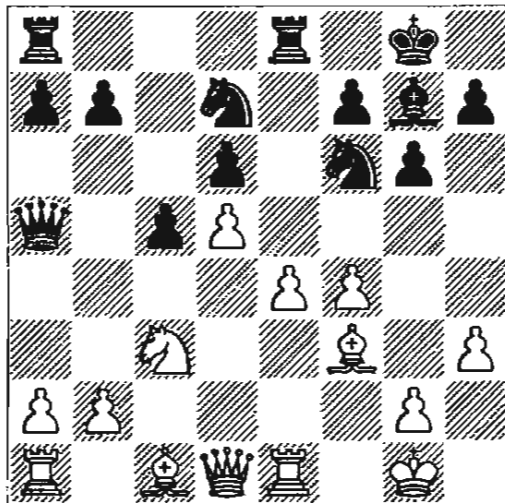
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6 5 f4

Possibly White was expecting a repeat of the solid ...♘a6 variation which has brought Gallagher success in the past. Black switches to another, perfectly reasonable line.

5...0-0 6 ♘f3 c5 7 d5 e6 8 ♙e2 exd5 9 cxd5 ♙g4 10 0-0 ♘bd7

As Vaisser remarks, the most precise way of preventing, or at least dissuading, e4-e5.

11 ♙e1 ♙e8 12 h3 ♙xf3 13 ♙xf3 ♙a5



14 a4?!

The very move that 13...♙a5 is supposed to prevent. 14 ♙e3 is the most challenging: 14...b5 15 a3 and now:

a) 15...♘b6 16 e5 ♘c4 17 exf6 ♘xe3 18 ♙xe3 ♙xe3 19 fxg7 ♙ae8 20 f5! gxf5 21 ♙d2 a6 22 ♙f1 ♙d8 23 ♘d1 is unclear, according to Vaisser. This position is critical for the whole variation. I prefer White, who has f5 to

chew on;

b) 15...b4 16 axb4 ♙xb4 17 ♙c2 ♘b6 18 ♙f2 ♘fd7 19 ♙e2 ♙d4 20 ♙h1 ♙xf2 21 ♙xf2 c4 22 ♙e2 a5 23 ♙g4 ♘f6 24 ♙d2 ♘xg4 25 hxg4 ♘d7 26 ♙d4 (26 ♙a4 ♙c5 27 g5 is better for White) 26...♙c5 27 ♙d1 ♙ab8 28 ♙xc5 ♘xc5, Lautier-Smirin, Cap d'Agde 1996, drawn in 51 moves.

14...c4!

The threat of ...♘c5-b3 gives Black a very comfortable game now.

15 ♙e2

A novelty which doesn't really improve White's chances here, just committing her to outright attack which will not be particularly sound. Alternatives are:

a) 15 ♙e2 ♙ac8 16 ♙e3 ♘c5 17 ♙xc5 ♙xc5+ 18 ♙f2 ♘d7 19 ♘b5 ♙b4 20 ♙g4 ♙cd8 21 ♙xd7 ♙xd7 22 ♙ac1 led to a draw in Twyble-G.Buckley, 4NCL 2001;

b) 15 ♙e3 ♘c5 and now:

b1) 16 e5 dxe5 17 fxe5 ♙xe5 18 ♙d4 ♘d3 19 b4 ♙xb4 20 ♙eb1 ♙e7 21 d6 ♙e8 (It all looks very fishy after 21...♙e6 22 ♙xb7 ♙xe3 23 ♙xa8 ♘d7 and Black has the advantage) 22 ♙d2 ♙e6 23 ♙xb7 ♘h5 24 ♙f1 ♙e2 25 ♙d5 and White won: Coenen-Peeters, Heerlen 1999;

b2) 16 ♙xc5 16...♙xc5+ 17 ♙h2 ♘d7 18 ♙d2 ♙b4 19 ♙ad1 a6 20 e5 dxe5 21 d6 exf4 22 ♙e7 ♘e5 23 ♙xb7 ♙xe7 24 dxe7 ♙e8, Kilpi-Mertanen, Jyvaskyla 1998, which was drawn.

15...♘c5 16 e5 dxe5 17 fxe5 ♘fd7 18 e6 ♘e5

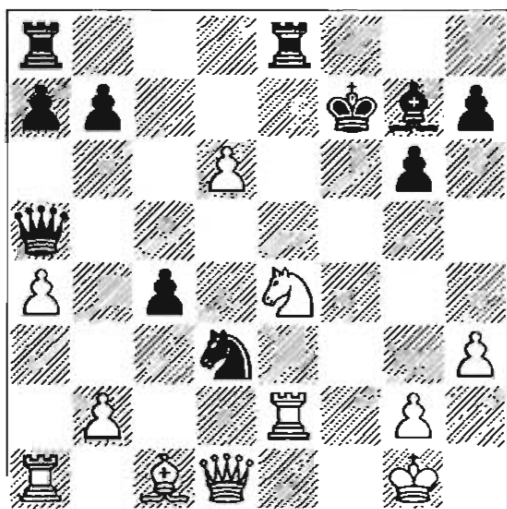
It's an open tournament, Black is the

stronger player and so he avoids risk. It's all very understandable. However I think Black could also have considered taking on e6, e.g. 18...fxe6 19 dxe6 ♖e5 20 ♙d5 ♙h8 21 ♙e3 (21 ♙h1 ♖xe6 22 ♙xb7 ♜ad8 23 ♙d2 ♜c5 with advantage to Black) 21...♖xe6 22 ♙xb7 ♜ad8, again with advantage to Black. Envious centralisation in both lines!

19 exf7+ ♙xf7 20 ♙e4 ♖ed3

Good enough. The position is no advertisement for the Four Pawns Attack.

21 d6 ♖xe4 22 ♖xe4



22...♙f5! 23 g4

Lurching to destruction but the knight on d3 ensures that White's position is already fatally compromised, e.g. 23 ♖g3 ♜c5+ 24 ♙h2 ♜xd6 25 ♙xe8 ♜xe8 26 ♜f3+ ♙g8 27 ♜xb7 ♙e5 and wins; 23 ♖d2 ♜xe2 24 ♜xe2 ♜e8 25 ♜f3 ♜e1+ 26 ♙h2 ♙e5+ 27 g3 ♙xd6 28 ♜xb7+ ♙g8 29 ♜a8+ ♙f8 30 ♖f3 ♜e2+ mates.

23...♙d4+ 24 ♙h2 ♜e5+ 25 ♖g3 ♜xd6 26 ♙h6 ♙g8 27 ♜c2 ♜xe2+ 28 ♜xe2 ♙xb2

From 15 ♜e2 onwards, it has all been rather easy.

29 ♜f1 ♙g7 30 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 31 ♜e4 ♜c8 32 ♜xb7+ ♜c7 33 ♜b8 ♜d7 34 ♜c8 ♖c5 35 ♜f2 ♖e4 36 ♜f4 ♜d2+ 37 ♙g1 ♜e3+ 0-1

This variation depends on the line indicated on move 14, where White plays 14 ♙e3 instead of 14 ♜e2, etc. Gallagher makes this seem like an only move.

There's a tendency among King's Indian players not to take the Four Pawns Attack too seriously. The following game shows that Black must choose his defensive system very carefully indeed. I would say that 9...♙g4 is most reliable and 9...b5 10 e5 ♖fd7!? sharpest. On the evidence of this game 9...a6 has to be consigned to the scrap heap.

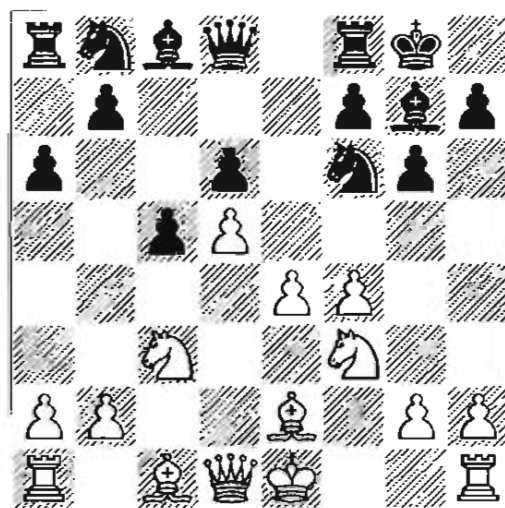
St-Chely d'Aubrac 2001

□ Glenn Flear

■ Thomas Chevrier

King's Indian A68

1 d4 ♖f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♖c3 ♙g7 4 e4 d6 5 f4 0-0 6 ♖f3 c5 7 d5 e6 8 ♙e2 exd5 9 cxd5 a6!?



A move which has never really gripped the imagination. Sure, it's a 'normal' move in this type of Benoni set-up but proves slow under the spotlight of analysis. There are two good ways for White. He can restrain Black with 10 a4 or, as in the game, ignore the Black threat.

10 0-0!

10 a4! is also good: 10...b6 (10...♙g4 is unclear and 10...♜e8 is met by 11 ♖d2!) 11 0-0 ♜e8 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 ♖g4 14 e6! fxe6 15 ♙c4 with an initiative.

10...b5 11 e5!

The move that leaves Black regretting that he hasn't mounted a direct attack on the white centre. Frankly, ...a6 and ...b5 look irrelevant.

11...♖fd7 12 e6!

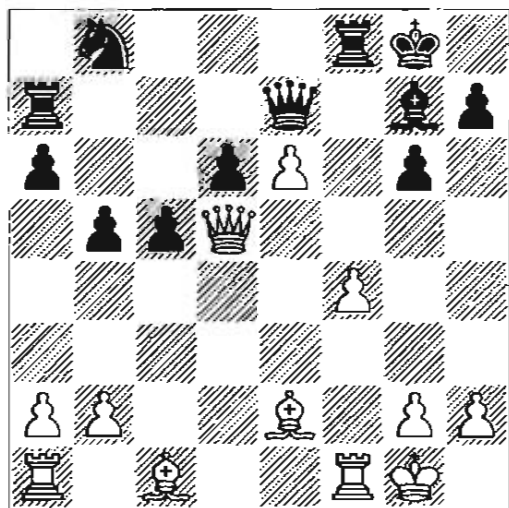
Chevrier is playing a very risky game. He is

either going to get completely blown away or entice White into over-extending. There is no middle ground.

12...♖f6 13 ♖g5 fxe6 14 ♖xe6 ♙xe6 15 dxe6 ♚e7

Not much of an improvement on the following example: 15...♖c6 16 ♙f3 ♜c8 17 ♖d5 and White has a clear advantage. This is the same idea Flear uses. White's e-pawn turns out to be strong and finishes Black off. The game continued 17...♖e7 18 ♖xe7+ ♚xe7 19 ♜e1 ♜fd8 20 a4 d5 21 axb5 axb5 22 f5! with a big attack: C.Santos-J.Rodrigues, Lisbon 1992.

16 ♖d5 ♖xd5 17 ♚xd5 ♜a7



18 f5!

Setting the bishop free on c1. The game is virtually over already.

18...♜e8 19 ♙g4 ♚h4 20 h3 h5 21 fxg6! hxg4 22 e7+ ♚h8 23 ♙g5 ♚h5 24 ♜f8+ 1-0

Yugoslav Championship 2002

□ Dragan Kosic

■ Aleksandar Kovacevic

King's Indian A69

1 d4 ♖f6 2 ♖f3 g6 3 c4 ♙g7 4 ♖c3 0-0 5 e4 c5 6 d5 e6 7 ♙e2 d6 8 0-0 ♜e8 9 ♖d2 ♖a6 10 f4

Here comes another game which demonstrates the dangers facing Black after 10 ♖d2 (or 9 ♖d2 as here, which transposes). Rather than attack immediately, White concentrates on optimal development and hopes to open fire with ♖d2-c4 followed by e4-e5.

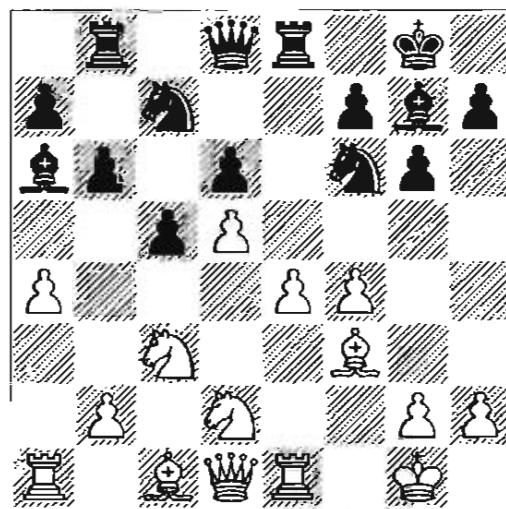
10...exd5 11 cxd5 ♖c7

Vaisser mentions 11...♜b8 as a useful waiting move, reasoning that the ♖a6 might hop into b4 at some point (after say ...♙d7, threatening ...b5, when White should presumably go a2-a4). He then thinks that 12 ♜e1! is best, appending the following analysis after 12 ♖h1?!: 12...♖c7 13 a4 a6 14 a5 ♙d7 15 e5 dxe5 16 ♖c4 ♙b5! 17 d6 ♖e6 18 fxe5 ♖d7 19 ♙f4 ♖xf4 20 ♜xf4 ♖xe5 21 ♖xb5 axb5 22 ♖b6 ♜e6! 23 d7 ♚c7! 24 ♙xb5 ♖xd7! 25 ♖d5 ♚e5 26 ♙xd7 ♜d6 and Black has an advantage. Everything hinges on the timing of White's central advance, which cannot be delayed indefinitely and will more or less decide the game one way or another when it comes.

12 a4 b6 13 ♙f3

13 h3 ♜b8 14 ♙f3 ♙a6 15 ♜e1 ♖d7 16 ♙e2 ♙xe2 17 ♜xe2 ♙d4+ 18 ♖h2 ♖f6 19 g3 ♚d7 20 ♚c2? ♖cxd5! and Black won in Nevednichy-Antic, Herceg Novi 2001.

13...♙a6 14 ♜e1 ♜b8



15 ♖f1

This move featured in Begovac-Wojtkiewicz, Bern 1995, and had not been thought to be dangerous until now. You can see what White is doing of course. If allowed, he is going to play ♖g3, and then e4-e5 and after a central capture f4-f5! followed by putting a knight on e4. Black must not give him any time.

15...♙xf1! 16 ♖xf1!?

16 ♜xf1 a6 17 ♖h1 ♖d7 was the aforementioned game, when Black had no problems. He has e5 under restraint and ...b6-b5 is imminent,

offering the promise of active counterplay. The capture made by Kotic doesn't look anything special but it takes away some tactics based on dark-squared checks and keeps the rook on e1 to add a bit of punch to e4-e5. I think Black should be fine as long as he keeps cool.

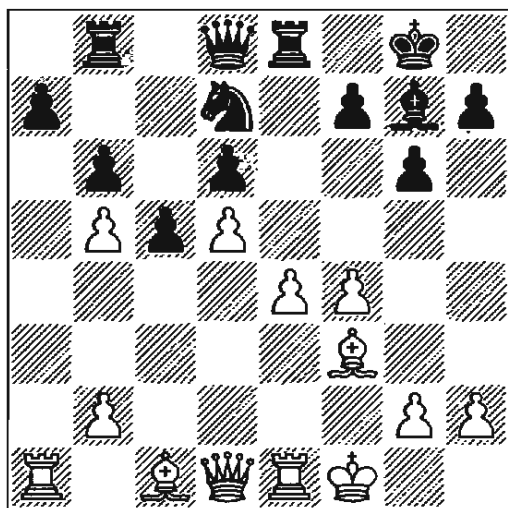
16...♞d7

The first point is that White was not threatening e4-e5 immediately. I believe that the positions arising are OK for Black, e.g. 16...a6 17 e5?! (Maybe 17 g4! is best, gaining space: 17...♞d7 18 g5 b5 19 axb5 axb5 20 ♖g2 b4 21 ♞e2 is unclear) 17...dxe5 18 fxe5 ♞d7 19 e6 fxe6 20 d6 (20 dxe6 ♞xe6 21 ♙d5 ♖h8! 22 ♞xe6 ♞xe6 23 ♙xe6 ♖f6+ with advantage to Black) 20...♞a8 21 ♖e2 ♞e5! But Black's text move is also fine.

17 ♞b5!?

Perhaps Kovacevic didn't expect this unconventional reply.

17...♞xb5 18 axb5



18...♖h4?

And this move adds to the theory that Black was very unsettled by 17 ♞b5. I don't quite see what's wrong with 18...♞b7! 19 ♖c2 ♞f8! 20 ♙d2 ♖h4 21 h3 ♞be7 and Black has no problems. I suppose White can try to hit the a pawn, e.g. 22 ♞a4, but there are plenty of resources, such as 22...♙d4 23 ♙c1 ♖g3 and Black has an initiative.

19 ♞xa7!

Why not? It's free!

19...♞bd8

19...♙d4 20 ♖c2 ♖xh2 21 ♞xd7 ♖g1+ 22 ♞e2 leads nowhere.

20 h3 ♙d4 21 ♖d2

At this point I can imagine Kovacevic shaking his head, rueing his poor 18th move. But that's the way chess is.

21...f5 22 exf5 gxf5 23 ♞xe8+ ♞xe8 24 ♞xd7 ♖g3 25 ♞xd6 1-0

No bluffing. 16 ♖xf1 is not an ordinary move and certainly in the middle of a game featuring the Four Pawns Attack, one wouldn't normally expect a follow-up like 17 ♞b5! But Black was in good shape – he just had to be less generous with his pawns.

Cannes 2000

□ Anatoly Vaisser

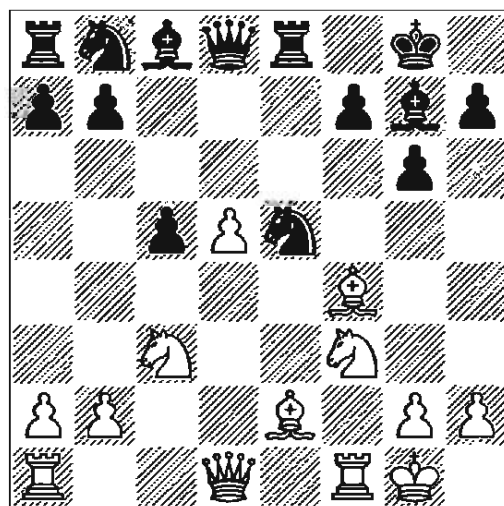
■ Friederike Wohlers-Armas

King's Indian A69

1 d4 ♞f6 2 c4 g6 3 ♞c3 ♙g7 4 e4 c5 5 d5 d6 6 f4 0-0 7 ♞f3 e6 8 ♙e2 exd5 9 cxd5 ♞e8

A most unwise choice of variation against one of the world's leading specialists in the Four Pawns Attack. It quickly becomes clear that, although Black has something new to show, she's improvising.

10 e5 dxe5 11 fxe5 ♞g4 12 0-0 ♞xe5 13 ♙f4



13...♞bd7

Clearly Black's most solid choice. Other moves have been found wanting:

a) 13...♙f5 14 ♞xe5 ♙xe5 15 ♖d2 ♞d7 16 ♞ad1 a6 17 ♙xe5 ♞xe5 18 ♖f4 c4 19 g4

♖b6+ 20 ♔h1 ♕d3 21 ♕xd3 ♜xd3 22 ♖xf7+ ♔h8 23 ♜d2 ♜e5 24 ♖f4 ♜ad8 25 ♜e2 ♜d3 26 ♜xe8+ ♜xe8 27 ♖f7 ♖d8 28 d6 and White was very much better in Vaisser-Renet, Brussels 1993;

b) 13...a6 14 ♖d2 ♜bd7 15 d6 b5 16 ♜d5 with compensation. The key idea of course is d5-d6! creating room;

c) 13...♜xf3+ 14 ♕xf3 ♖f6 15 ♕g3 ♜d7 16 d6! ♜b8 17 ♔h1 with the idea of ♜d5 and the white attack runs on oiled wheels;

d) 13...♖b6 14 d6 ♖xb2 is extremely risky. For example, 15 ♜d5! ♜xf3+ 16 ♕xf3 ♖d4+ 17 ♔h1 ♖xa1 18 ♖xa1 ♕xa1 19 ♜xa1 with two threats, ♜f6+ and ♜c7, which Black cannot adequately parry.

14 d6 ♜xf3+

14...♜b8 15 ♜d5 ♜xf3+ 16 ♕xf3 ♜e5 17 ♜c7 ♜f8 18 ♜e1 ♜xf3+ 19 ♖xf3 ♕f5 20 ♜e7 ♕f6 21 ♜ae1 ♕d7 22 ♖g3 and White won in De Lagontrie-Stephan, St Quentin 1999.

15 ♕xf3 ♜f8

A new idea, but was it over-the-board inspiration or prepared beforehand? Certainly one can see why 15...♜e5 or 15...♕d4+ have been preferred – 15...♜f8 appears to be going backwards. It might not be too bad, though; it just has to be followed up correctly.

15...♜e5 16 ♕d5 ♜f8 17 ♜e1 ♜c6 18 ♜b5 ♕d7 19 ♜c7 ♜b8 20 ♖d2 ♖f6 21 ♔h1 ♖xb2 and Black won in Timmermans- Terrac, Hyeres 1992. And 16 ♜b5 ♜f8 17 ♜c7 ♜b8 18 ♖d5 ♜xf3+ 19 ♜xf3 b6 20 ♕g5 ♕b7 was also

won by Black: Sugden-Povah, British Championship 1976.

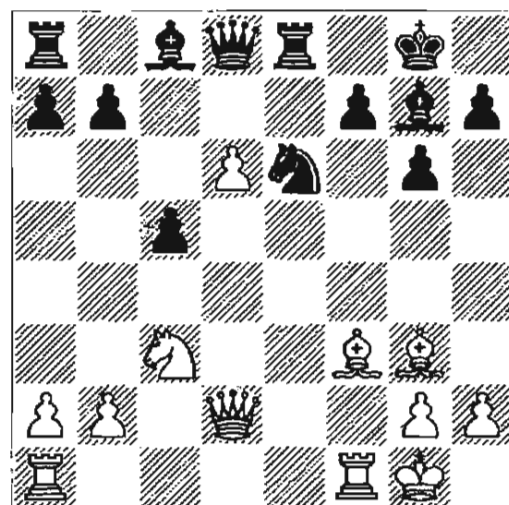
16 ♖d2

This position is a question of taste. Most players would prefer White's excellent development, the f-file and the d5 square in return for a measly pawn. But there are some greedy citizens...

16...♜e6

She must have given serious thought to 16...♕d4+ 17 ♔h1 ♜e6 18 ♕g3 and White keeps the attack on the boil after, say, 18...♜g7 19 ♜d5 but it's not 100% clear after 19...♜b8.

17 ♕g3



17...♖g5??

Much more dynamic was 17...♜d4 18 ♕d5 ♕e6 19 ♕xb7 ♜b8 20 ♕e4 where Black has returned her extra pawn to activate all the pieces. I assess this position as approximately equal.

18 d7! ♕xd7 19 ♖xd7 ♜ed8 20 ♖xb7 h5

Black is scratching around for chances which simply don't exist.

21 ♕d5 ♕xc3 22 ♖xf7+ ♔h8 23 bxc3 1-0

I wonder how many novelties like 15...♜f8!? lie buried because, as here, the originator isn't that well-known, or fails to follow up the new idea correctly? Probably there are many.

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GAMES DEPARTMENT

This month's Games Department features four games all chosen and annotated by Grandmaster Paul Motwani. This is a superb selection of games by the Scottish Champion who has an uncanny knack of homing in on the best games being played worldwide. Enjoy!

My attention is always captured by those decisive clashes in which strong players – and even grandmasters – are rapidly overcome by inspired creative attacking moves from their opponents. We are about to witness such dramatic happenings in an irresistible quartet of games that I thoroughly enjoyed analysing and annotating. The encounters all occurred in international events this year, and in each case White triumphed quickly with the help of an opening system involving all of the moves d4, c4, Nf3 , g3, Bg2 and 0–0, in some order. Such a set-up may seem innocuous at first sight, but its effective merits shall soon become very apparent, and the fast recurring 1–0 results also confirm that our quiet-looking system carries a venomous hidden sting.

FIDE Grand Prix, Dubai 2002

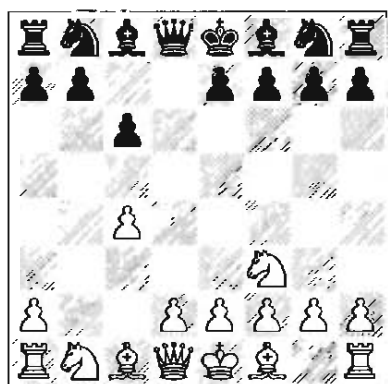
□ Valery Filippov

■ Alexander Galkin

Slav Defence (by transposition) D30

1 c4 e6

The position after 1...c6 2 Nf3 d5 3 b3 dxc4 4 bxc4



may look like a picture of tranquillity, but I am making special mention of it here, because Black's extremely energetic 4...e5! worked very well in the game Van Beek-Stefanova,

Vlissingen 2002, although of course White did not fall for the trap 5 Nxe5?? Wd4 .

2 Nf3 d5 3 d4 c6

If 3...dxc4, then White can, if desired, easily win back the pawn at c4 after 4 Wa4+ or 4 e3, intending 4...b5 5 a4 c6 6 b3 or 6 axb5 cxb5 7 b3.

4 g3!?

Now White boldly declares his willingness to really make a sacrifice of the c4 pawn, without any fears about when or if he can recover the 'lost unit'.

4...dxc4

Black takes up the challenge.

5 Bg2 b5

The new owner of the c4 pawn shows that he wants to immediately safeguard the extra property. A plausible-looking alternative, concentrating more on piece development, is 5... Nd7 6 0–0 Ngf6 , but after 7 a4! it is then already too late for Black to play ...b5, because 7...b5 8 axb5 cxb5 9 Ng5 Nd5 10 e4 gives White a huge attack.

6 Ne5

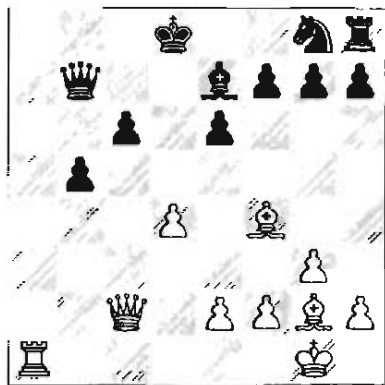
One of the simple, yet strong, key ideas behind White's opening system is revealed: the fianchettoed bishop at g2 will exert powerful pressure along the h1-a8 diagonal.

6... Bb7 7 a4 a6

Black responds to the threat of 8 axb5. He could also have played 7...f6, but after 8 Nf3 the weakened e6 pawn would be a source of worry.

Another possibility is 7... Wc8 8 0–0 Nd7 , as in the game Sosonko-Gelpke, Holland 1991, but there the Dutch grandmaster playing White gave the following instructive demonstration of how to quickly prise open the position in order to exploit the opponent's lack of development: 9 b3! cxb3 10 Wxb3 a6 11 Nd2

♖c7 12 ♘e4! (clearing the way for ♙f4 to be played) 12...♙e7 (12...♘e5 13 dxe5 ♖xe5 14 ♙f4 is so horrific for Black that one would understand if he decided to end it all with 14...♖d5 15 ♘d6+ ♙xd6 16 ♙xd5) 13 ♙f4 ♖b6 14 ♘d7 ♙xd7 15 ♘c5+! ♙d8 (after 15...♙xc5 16 dxc5 ♖xc5, White's rooks would not hesitate to create double trouble for Black's royal couple on the c- and d-file) 16 axb5 axb5 17 ♖xa8+ ♙xa8 18 ♖a1 ♙b7 19 ♘xb7+ ♖xb7 20 ♖c2



and Black could resign, as 20...♙d7 gets smashed by 21 ♙xc6+! ♖xc6 22 ♖a7+.

8 0-0 ♘d7?!

Black believes that he can let the c6 pawn be captured now, but White's subsequent powerful play proves otherwise.

9 ♘xc6 ♖c8 10 d5! ♘gf6

10...exd5 11 ♘a5! leaves Black in deep trouble on the h1-a8 diagonal.

11 e4!

This energetic central thrust also accentuates White's strength on the long light-squared diagonal. Black must now respond to the principal threat of 12 ♘a5.

11...♙xc6 12 dxc6 ♘e5

If 12...♖xc6 13 e5 ♘d5 14 ♘c3, then 14...♘7b6 fails to secure the position of Black's d5 knight, because his other steed gets hit by 15 a5.

13 ♙f4 ♘d3

13...♘xc6 14 e5 reiterates the themes of White reigning supreme on the h1-a8 diagonal, while little pawns cause big trouble for black knights.

14 e5 ♘d5 15 ♘c3! ♘xc3?!

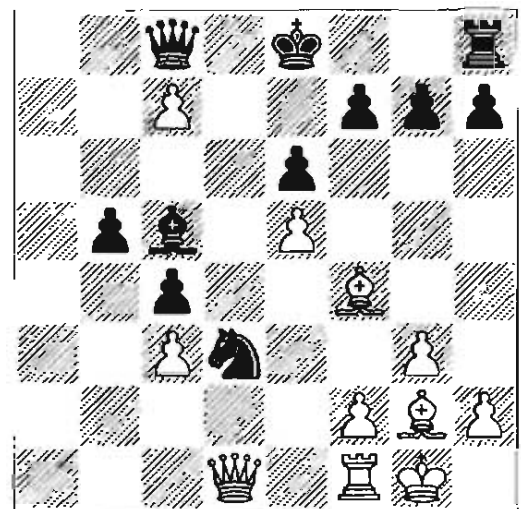
15...♘5xf4 16 gxf4 ♘xf4?? loses instantly

to 17 ♖d7+! ♖xd7 18 cxd7+ followed by 19 ♙xa8. That line shows just how dangerous the c6 pawn can be for Black, and so perhaps he should have eliminated it directly with 15...♖xc6, aiming to answer 16 axb5 axb5 17 ♖xa8+ ♖xa8 18 ♘xb5 by 18...♖a6, with some hopes of hanging on.

16 bxc3 ♙c5 17 axb5

17 ♖g4 was good too, but White prefers to concentrate his action on the queenside, where his 'trump card' c6 pawn is located.

17...axb5 18 ♖xa8 ♖xa8 19 c7 ♖c8



20 ♖f3!

20 ♙c6+ was also possible, but instead the mighty white queen has her sights set on the c6 square, and its juicy neighbour at b7.

20...♖a6

20...♖xc7 loses by force to 21 ♖a8+ ♖d8 22 ♙c6+ ♙e7 23 ♙g5+ f6 24 ♖b7+ ♙f8 25 exf6 gxf6 26 ♙h6+ ♙g8 27 ♖g7 mate.

21 ♙e3!

Very precise play by Filippov. Black must have hoped for 21 ♖b7 ♖xb7 22 ♙xb7 ♙d7 23 c8♖+ ♖xc8 24 ♙xc8+ ♙xc8, after which he could certainly fight on.

21...♙xe3

21...♘xe5 or 21...0-0 both get crushed by a single simple reply: 22 ♖b7.

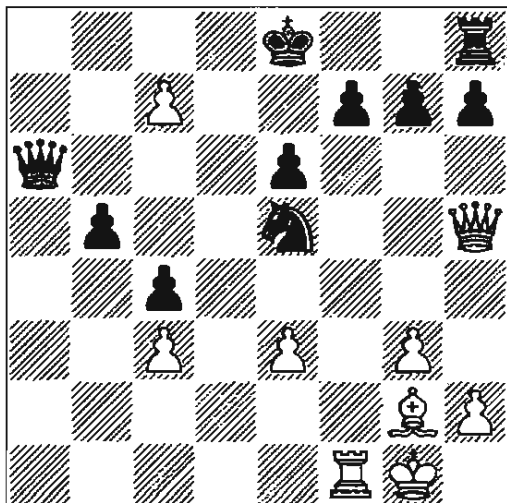
22 fxe3

The threat of 23 ♖xf7 mate completes Black's nightmare.

22...♘xe5

22...0-0 23 ♖b7 also spells "The End" for Black.

23 ♖h5! 1–0



Grandmaster Alexander Galkin resigned, in view of 23...♗g6 24 ♖xb5+! ♖xb5 25 c8♖+ ♗e7 26 ♖c7+ ♖d7 27 ♖xf7+.

Leukerbad 2002

□ Alexander Raetsky

■ Alexei Sofrigin

Slav Defence D30

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 g3 dxc4 5 ♙g2 b5

Almost the same situation arose in Filippov–Galkin, the only difference being that Black had played ...e6 instead of ...♗f6.

6 0–0 e6 7 a4

White also used this move in the aforementioned game, with the simple yet effective idea of threatening axb5, after which Black will be exposed along the a-file, and on the h1–a8 diagonal when he recaptures with ...cxb5.

7...♙b7

Ideally, Black would like to play 7...♗bd7 (seeing that he is about to be hit by ♗e5), but then 8 axb5 cxb5 9 ♗g5 leaves him in double trouble at a7 and a8, and 9...♗d5 10 e4 further reinforces the points mentioned in the previous note.

8 ♗e5

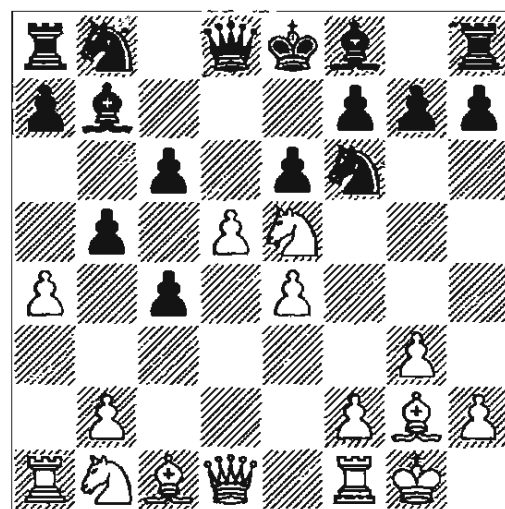
Good simple chess. In a single move, White brings two pieces to bear on the weak c6 pawn, and threatens 9 axb5 into the bargain.

8...♗d5

Because Black must respond to threats on the queenside, he is denied the time that he really needs to activate his f8 bishop so that the

monarch at e8 can castle to safety on the kingside. He could consider 8...a6, but after 9 axb5 axb5 10 ♖xa8 ♙xa8 11 ♗c3, White's fresh threat of 12 ♗xb5 again causes disruption for Black. 8...♖b6 is another idea, but it was countered by the strong novelty 9 b3! to prise open new lines in the game Khalifman–Sveshnikov, Russian Championship 1996. After 9...cxb3 10 ♖xb3, White was threatening 11 ♗a3, and not worried at all by 10...♖xd4 because 11 ♙b2 would increase his lead in development.

9 e4 ♗f6 10 d5!?



A remarkable move. Black has the d5 square 'covered' in a total of five ways compared to White's four, but White still pushes forward in a most energetic manner, determined to blast open the position near the centre of the board – where the black king is now surely trembling.

10...cxd5 11 exd5 ♗xd5

Black still has no chance to activate his f8 bishop, because 11...♙d6, for example, loses to 12 ♗xf7! ♗xf7 13 dxe6+ ♗xe6 14 ♙xb7. Another possibility is 11...♙xd5, but again White's position looks very good after simple moves like 12 axb5 or 12 ♗c3, as his lead in development always results in serious tactical problems for the opponent. Yet another line is 11...exd5 12 axb5, threatening 13 ♗xc4.

12 ♗c3!

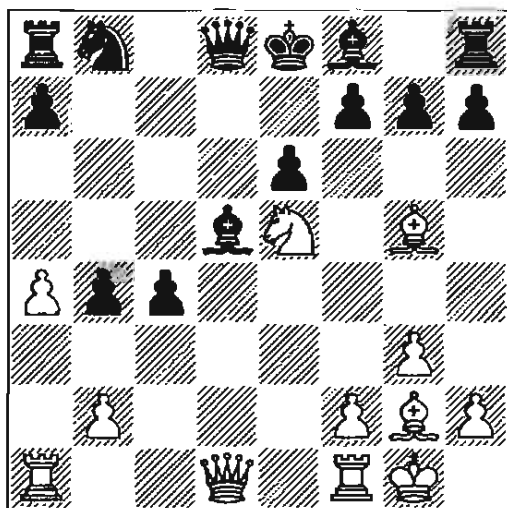
Of course 12 axb5 was also possible, but I have awarded White's actual move a '!' because it demonstrates courage in deliberately passing up a chance to recover some material.

12...b4?

In contrast to the previous note, Black now makes the fatal mistake of trying to keep all of his surplus material, when the priority was getting his king to safety with, say, 12...♙b4 followed by ...0-0.

13 ♖xd5 ♙xd5

If 13...exd5, then 14 ♙h5! wins because of 14...g6 15 ♖xg6! fxg6 16 ♙e5+ or 14...♙c7 15 ♙e1 ♙e7 16 ♙xf7+ or 14...♙f6 15 ♙e1, when 15...♙e7 can be answered in several crushing ways, including 16 h4 or even the direct 16 ♙g5, intending 16...♙xg5 17 ♙xf7+ ♙d8 18 ♙xd5 ♙f8 19 ♙xb7! and Black will suffer huge material losses.

14 ♙g5!!**14...♙e7**

Black should also lose in the following variations:

a) 14...♙xg5 15 ♙xd5 ♙xe5 (15...exd5 16 ♙xd5) 16 ♙xa8 ♙xb2 (16...♙c5 may offer a little more hope) 17 ♙c1 c3 18 ♙d4;

b) 14...f6 15 ♙h5+ g6 16 ♖xg6 hxg6 17 ♙xg6+! ♙d7 18 ♙xd5 exd5 19 ♙xf6 ♙e7 20 ♙f5+ ♙c6 21 ♙e6+;

c) 14...♙a5 15 ♙xd5 ♙xd5 16 ♙xd5! exd5 17 ♙fe1, threatening 18 ♖g6+.

15 ♙xe7 ♙xe7

If 15...♙xe7, then 16 ♙xd5 exd5 17 ♙xd5 0-0 (what else, really?) 18 ♙xa8 should win for White, although Black would certainly fight on after 18...♙xe5.

16 ♙h5 g6

Another variation is 16...♙f8 17 ♙xd5 ♙xd5 (or 17...exd5 18 ♙fe1) 18 ♙ad1 ♙b7 19

♙g5+ and Black can resign.

17 ♙h4+ f6

Black immediately haemorrhages material in the case of 17...♙e8 18 ♙xd8+ ♙xd8 19 ♖xf7+.

18 ♙xd5 exd5

18...♙xd5 19 ♖xg6+ is also “curtains” for Black.

19 ♙fe1 g5 20 ♙h6 fxe5 21 ♙xe5+ ♙f7 22 ♙f5+ 1-0

Black resigned in view of 22...♙g8 23 ♙e6+ ♙g7 24 ♙f7+ ♙g8 25 ♙f6+ ♙g7 26 ♙f7 mate.

Dutch Championship Playoff 2002

□ Loek Van Wely

■ Sergey Tiviakov

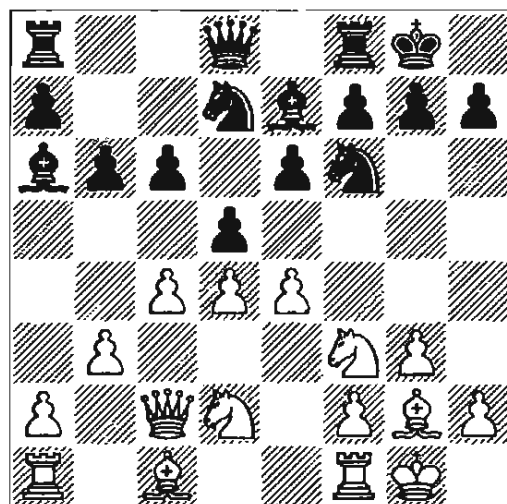
Catalan System (by transposition) E09

1 g3 ♖f6 2 ♙g2 d5 3 ♖f3

Before developing the knight to f3, White could consider 3 f4!? when he is basically playing the Leningrad Dutch Defence with an extra tempo and colours reversed.

3...e6 4 0-0 ♙e7 5 d4 b6

5...0-0 6 c4 dxc4 7 ♙c2 is probably the most commonly seen line within the Catalan Opening. Black should not then try to hang on to the c4 pawn with 7...b5? 8 a4 c6 9 axb5 cxb5?, because after 10 ♖g5! the attacked a8 rook cannot be shielded by 10...♖d5 on account of 11 ♙xh7 mate.

6 c4 c6 7 ♙c2 0-0 8 b3 ♙a6 9 ♖bd2 ♖bd7 10 e4

A standard position that is well-known to

"theory". Black certainly looks solid enough, but White does enjoy a spatial advantage.

10...♖c8 11 ♖d1

By moving the rook from f1 to d1, White not only avoids potential problems from the a6 bishop, but also discourages Black from playing ...c5, as that would weaken his central defences at d5, and possibly expose the lady at d8 to trouble along the d-file.

11...♗c7?!

Recently, when I was doing some chess work with Rafe Martyn (one of England's very talented teenagers, who happens to live not far from me in the neighbourhood of Brussels), he mentioned that 11...c5 12 exd5 exd5 13 ♗f5!? can lead to interesting tactical possibilities for White, although of course Black has a fair share of the play too in that unclear position.

12 e5!

This push is timed perfectly here, because the black knight that is about to retreat to e8 cannot re-emerge via the c7 square which has just become occupied by Black's queen.

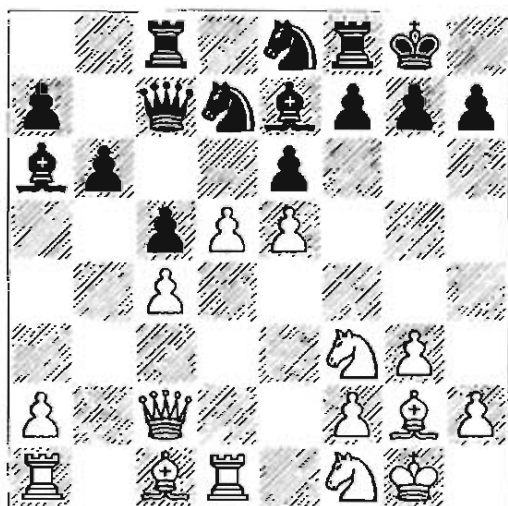
12...♞e8

12...♞h5 reminds us of the simple yet wise adage "a knight on the rim is dim", and indeed after 13 ♞f1 Black would have to answer the threat of 14 g4.

13 ♞f1 dxc4 14 bxc4 c5?

Consistent with his previous move, but Black has underestimated White's forthcoming thrust based on a neat tactical point.

15 d5!



15...♞xe5

If 15...exd5, then White plays 16 ♙f4! (threatening 17 e6) before he makes the recapture cxd5.

16 ♞xe5 ♗xe5 17 ♙f4 ♗f6

17...♗h5 loses material to 18 d6 ♙f6 19 d7.

18 ♗a4!

Black could only hope for 18 d6? ♞xd6 19 ♙xd6 ♙xd6 20 ♖xd6 ♗xa1.

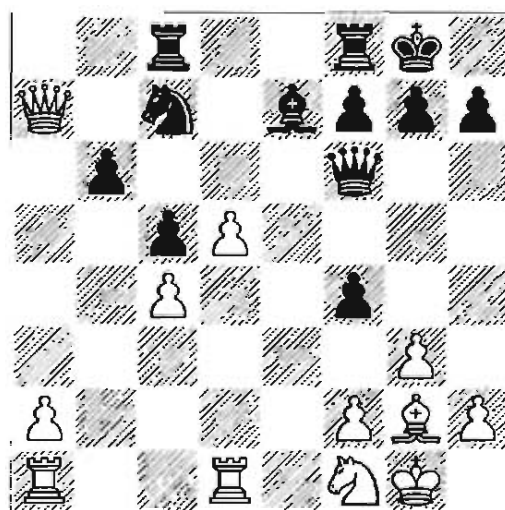
18...e5

Black is also lost after 18...♙b7 19 d6 ♙xg2 20 dxe7 or 19...♞xd6 20 ♙xd6 ♙xg2 21 ♙xe7 ♗xe7 22 ♙xg2.

19 ♗xa6

Clearly, when commencing the tactical sequence beginning with 15 d5, it was important for White to foresee that his queen would now be attacking an unprotected enemy rook, so that Black cannot simply play 19...exf4 here.

19...♞c7 20 ♗xa7 exf4



21 ♙h3!

The sting in the tail. Black must shed material again, as he cannot move his attacked c8 rook without losing the knight at c7.

21...fxg3 22 ♞xg3 ♙d6 23 ♙xc8 ♖xc8 24 ♗xb6 h5 25 ♗b1

Naturally, White does not fall for 25 ♞xh5?? ♙xh2+ followed by 26...♗xb6.

25...♙e5 26 ♗f5

Now if 26...♗xf5 27 ♞xf5 ♙xa1, then White has 28 ♞e7+.

26...♖a8 27 ♗xf6 ♙xf6 28 ♖ab1 ♖xa2

Black is allowed that final small meal before resigning.

29 ♖b7 1-0

Swiss Team Championship 2002□ **Heinz Wirthensohn**■ **Filip Goldstern***Queen's Pawn Game A46***1 d4 ♟f6 2 ♟f3 e6 3 g3 c5**

Another ambitious possibility is 3...b5, known as the Polish Defence.

4 ♟g2 a6

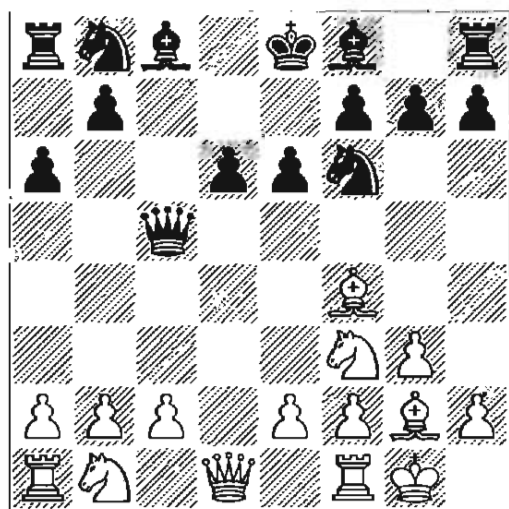
Black often plays this move when he is planning ...♞c7, so that his queen will not be bothered later by ♟b5 from the opponent. Personally, though, I prefer to concentrate on rapid piece development, and so 4...♟c6 would be a natural choice for me. In any case, the whole idea of ...♞c7 is cast in doubt by White's sixth move, coming soon.

5 0-0 ♞c7 6 ♟f4!

Simple, and effective.

6...d6

Black would love to now play ...cxd4 followed by ...e5, but, as Grandmaster David Bronstein once said, "The most powerful weapon in chess is the next move" – and here White has it.

7 dxc5 ♞xc5**8 c4!**

Definitely a move packed with some punch, and indeed White conducts this entire game in a very vigorous manner.

8...♟bd7

If 8...♞xc4 9 ♟xd6, when 9...♞d5 fails to force an exchange of queens because White has 10 ♞c1! as in the grandmaster clash Romanishin-Sax, Polanica Zdroj 1993.

Alternatively, 8...e5 9 ♟g5 ♞xc4 is possible for Black, but extremely risky on account of 10 ♟xf6 gxf6 11 ♟c3. Another way is 8...♟e7, but then 9 ♟c3 0-0 10 ♟a4! favoured White in the high-level encounter Romanishin-Yudasin, Reggio Emilia 1998, where 10...♞c7 would have been answered by 11 c5! putting Black in double trouble at the squares b6 and d6.

9 ♟c3 e5?

This leaves a gaping hole at the d5 square in Black's camp, but White would stand very well even after the more solid-looking 9...♟e7 10 ♞c1 0-0, as 11 ♟a4 ♞c7 12 c5 echoes the last part of the previous note.

10 ♟e3 ♞xc4 11 ♟g5!

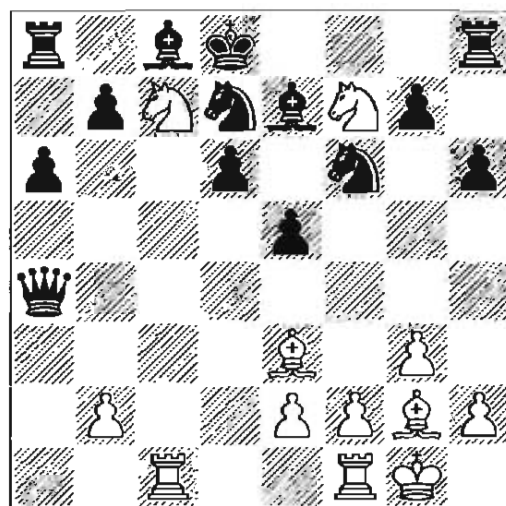
Unleashing the full power of the fianchettoed white bishop, and now 12 ♟d5 followed by ♞c1 and ♟c7+ is threatened, even in response to 11...h6.

11...♟e7 12 ♟d5 h6?

12...♟d8 had to be tried, although Black is clearly still in serious trouble after 13 ♟xf6+ ♟xf6 (13...gxf6 allows 14 ♟d5) 14 ♞xd6 ♟c7 15 ♞a3 or 14...♞c7 15 ♞xc7 ♟xc7 16 ♞ac1.

13 ♞c1 ♟xd5

Desperation in the face of horrible alternatives such as 13...♞xa2 14 ♟c7+ ♟d8 15 ♟d5 or 15 ♞a4! ♞xa4 16 ♟xf7 mate! That picturesque finish for White is worth seeing.

**14 ♞xc4 ♟xe3 15 fxe3 hgx5 16 ♞c7 1-0**

Black resigned, already fatally behind on material, and about to lose more via 16...♟d8 17 ♟xb7! or 16...♞b8 17 ♞b3.

ALUSHTA

What with the dearth of major events in the UK, some British players are willing to travel far and wide in search of serious competition. In this article Michael Yeo, who plays for Wessex in the 4NCL, recounts his experiences of chess in the Crimea in September...

I LIKE TO spend some of my precious annual holiday entitlement playing in one tournament abroad each year. This year was a bit more adventurous than normal as I took part in a 15-player all-play-all category 3 tournament in Alushta on the south coast of the Crimea.

I chose to fly to Kiev and stay there overnight before taking an internal flight to Simferopol. Before leaving home, I also arranged via the internet for car transport to and from the airports. It would be possible to do this by public transport, including riding on part of the longest trolley-bus line in the world from Simferopol to Alushta, but some knowledge of Russian would be helpful.

Alushta itself is a pleasant enough seaside resort where Ukrainians spend their summer holidays. The chess all took place in one complex of four buildings which also provided accommodation and three meals a day for everyone. "Everyone" included 31 players in two tournaments, a permanent staff of six cooks, cleaners and odd-job men, two arbiters and a few other hangers-on. The food was pretty basic, mostly rice or pasta and some meat that I chose to supplement with fruit purchased from one of the many street stalls nearby.

Playing conditions were adequate. Most of the time the only noise was the loud chirping of birds and the occasional distant calling to prayer by a muezzin. The scenery outside looking towards mountains was stunning. The time limit for my IM norm tournament was all moves in two hours, which I still detest. Quite why the grandmaster norm tournament alongside had the much more sensible 40 moves in two hours followed by a one-hour quickplay finish was never satisfactorily explained to me.

				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
1	Kayumov		UZB	2267	◆	½	1	½	0	½	½	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
2	Farakhov		RUS	2317	½	◆	½	½	0	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	9
3	Kuznetsov		RUS	2320	0	½	◆	0	0	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	9
4	Olenin	m	RUS	2453	½	½	1	◆	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	0	0	½	8
5	Bets	m	MDA	2333	1	1	1	½	◆	0	0	0	½	½	½	1	1	½	8
6	Kolesnikov		RUS	2314	½	½	0	0	1	◆	1	½	½	1	½	0	½	½	7½
7	Yeo		ENG	2224	½	½	½	½	1	0	◆	1	0	0	½	0	1	½	7
8	Pisakov		RUS	2260	1	0	½	½	1	½	0	◆	0	0	½	1	½	½	7
9	Averchenko		RUS	2345	0	0	0	0	½	½	1	1	◆	½	1	1	½	½	7
10	Kozlov		RUS	2340	0	½	0	½	½	0	1	1	½	◆	0	1	½	½	6½
11	Arutyunova		UKR	2232	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	1	◆	½	½	½	5½
12	Khudyakov		UKR	2314	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	½	◆	½	1	5½
13	Potapov		RUS	2093	0	0	0	1	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	◆	1	½	5½
14	Murashko	m	UKR	2385	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	◆	5
15	Konstantinov		RUS	2410	0	½	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	◆	4½

Alushta IM Tournament (UKR), 16-25 September 2002

Average Rating 2307, Category 3, IM Norm = 10

There were not quite enough chairs for everyone at the start of each round, which left some players perched on stools. Usually this problem was solved by a couple of quick draws in the grandmaster tournament, which would then lead to a shuffling of seats. The organisers went out of their way to help me, particularly bearing in mind my complete ignorance of Russian. The pairings in Cyrillic script had my name highlighted in red despite the fact that player numbers made it clear who everyone was.

I am the second Englishman to play in an Alushta tournament. During the opening ceremony, the organiser Leonid Galperin called for everyone to stand for a moment in memory of Tony Miles who played there in 1999. He did better than me in many respects, including responding to a toast in Russian apparently.

The south coast of the Crimea has gained something of a reputation as a norm factory, following Karyakin's final grandmaster norm at nearby Sudak, following an earlier norm at Alushta. Radjabov also gained his final grandmaster norm at Alushta. Both the grandmaster and IM tournament winners just gained their respective norm targets, but I don't believe their achievements were any easier than in Western European tournaments. The IM tournament certainly had three weakish IMs and a very overrated Russian, Konstantinov, but these were counterbalanced by some underrated Russian juniors. Potapov, aged 11, started with $2\frac{1}{2}/3$ which caused his Round four opponent (i.e. me!) some concern, but he blundered and faded away in later rounds. Farakhov and Kuznetsov were also on target for norms until they both failed to beat me in their penultimate rounds.

There were however a couple of situations that didn't seem quite right. Firstly, Konstantinov had to leave four days early. This did not prevent him from completing 14 games in six days(!), but I don't think some of his draws lasted very long. Secondly, Kayumov needed to win his last five

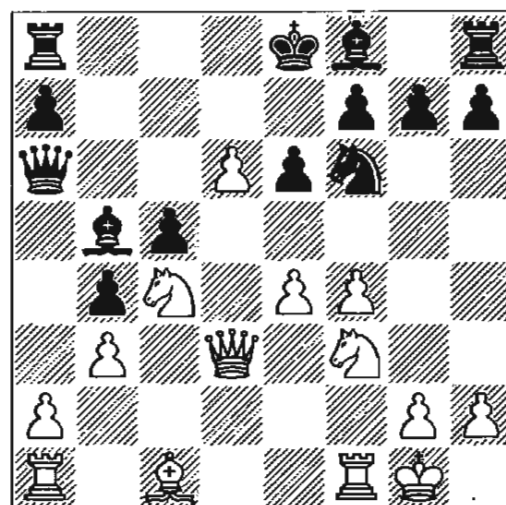
games for his norm, which he managed. His two junior opponents took him all the way in rook and pawn endings, but his three older opponents averaged less than 20 minutes for the whole game in their defeats. I don't believe games were being thrown deliberately. To some extent his opponents were bamboozled into moving quickly as Kayumov was also moving quickly. I do however think they were trying a lot harder in their games against me!

Kayumov played at Hastings twice in the late 1990s along with his father who was playing in the grandmaster tournament in Alushta. He speaks reasonable English and acted valuably as my interpreter throughout. He doesn't appear in the July 2002 FIDE rating list due to non-payment of fees by his Uzbekistan federation. He said he had been told that the fees had been paid, but into the wrong FIDE account. 2267 is his rating from the April 2002 list, since when he is "owed" about 100 points from two Arab tournaments and another 50+ points here. I will be interested to see whether he has reappeared in the October list (*He has – at 2330 - ed*).

As can be seen from the crosstable, my performance was characteristically patchy in that I was able to hold all the leaders, but suffered accidents against others.

Alushta 2002

E. Kolesnikov - Yeo



18 e5 would have left White with a strong

bind. Instead, he tried to wipe me out with...

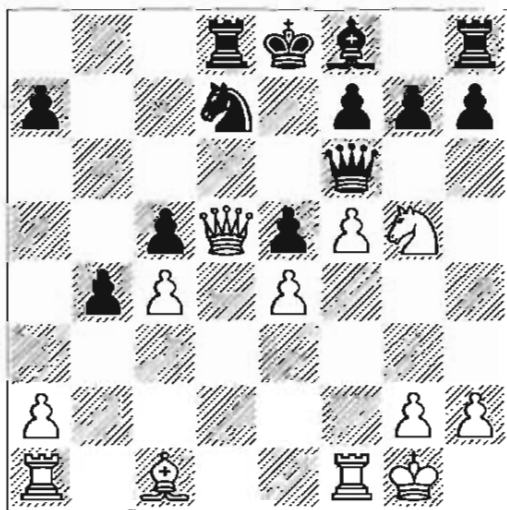
18 f5?

This allowed me to wriggle out with...

18...♙xc4 19 bxc4 e5! 20 d7+ ♘xd7 21 ♖d5 ♜d8?

This natural move loses. Better was 21...♜c8, but best was 21...0-0-0, the main point being that after 22 ♖xf7 ♘f6! the white queen will have to retreat to e6 when attacked by ♜d7 allowing Black to equalise.

22 ♘g5 ♖f6



23 ♘e6!

Welcome to Crimea!

23...fxe6

23...♜c8 24 ♖b7 ♜b8 25 ♖c6 ♖e7 26 ♜d1 doesn't work either.

24 fxe6 ♘b8

24...♖e7 25 ♖c6 ♖d6 (25...h6 26 ♜d1 g5 27 ♜d5 ♙g7 28 exd7+ wins) 26 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 27 ♖xd6 ♘b8 28 ♖d5 wins.

25 ♜xf6 ♜xd5

25...gxf6 26 ♖b7 ♙e7 27 ♖b5+ wins.

26 ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 27 exd5 ♙e7

The ending is hopeless.

28 ♙b2 ♘c6 29 dxc6 ♙xe6 30 ♜e1 ♜f4 31 ♙xe5 ♜xc4 32 ♙g3+ 1-0

Alushta 2002

□ Michael Yeo

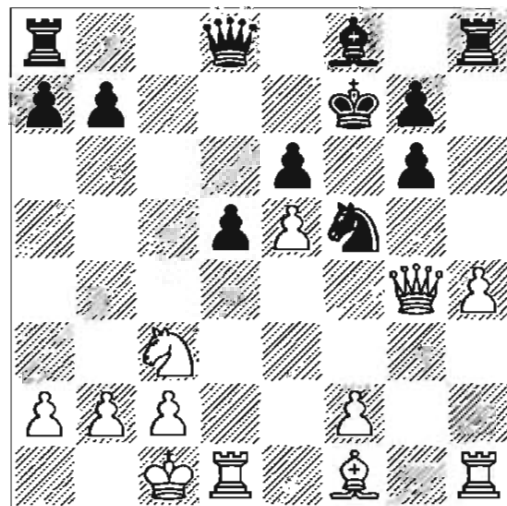
■ Anatoly Bets

Caro Kann B12

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 ♙f5 4 ♘c3 e6 5 g4 ♙g6 6 ♘ge2 c5 7 h4 h5 8 ♘f4 ♘c6 9 ♙e3? cxd4 10 ♙xd4 hxg4?

I knew I was in with a chance when he thought for 40 minutes over this. 10...♙xc2 11 ♖xc2 ♘xd4 12 ♖a4+ ♘c6 13 ♙b5 ♖c7! is safe enough. 10...♘ge7 is also quite good.

11 ♘xg6 fxg6 12 ♖xg4 ♘xd4 13 ♖xd4 ♘e7 14 ♖g4 ♙f7 15 0-0-0 ♘f5



This was the fortress he was thinking about on move 10. Now was the time for my Light Brigade Cavalry to charge.

16 ♘xd5! ♜h6

If 16...exd5 I had intended 17 h5 but my opponent was worried about 17 ♜xd5 which also seems to work. This would still have been better than the move played, which allowed my cavalry to regroup for another charge.

17 ♘f4 ♖c7 18 ♘xe6! ♙xe6 19 ♙c4+ ♙e7 20 ♖g5+ ♙e8 21 ♙b5+ ♙f7 22 ♜d7+ ♖xd7 23 ♙xd7 ♙e7 24 ♖g4 ♙xh4 25 ♜f1 ♜d8 26 ♙xf5 gxf5 27 ♖xf5+ ♙g8 28 f4 ♙f2 29 ♖e4 ♜h2 30 e6 b6 31 e7 ♜e8 32 ♖d5+ ♙h7 33 ♖d8 1-0

Alushta 2002

□ Michael Yeo

■ Ilia Pisakov

Vienna C49

I too had a last round game in which my opponent only took 20 minutes.

1 e4 e5 2 ♘c3 ♘f6 3 ♘f3 ♘c6 4 ♙b5 ♙b4 5 0-0 0-0 6 d3 d6 7 ♙g5 ♙xc3 8 bxc3 ♖e7 9 ♜e1 h6 10 ♙h4 g5? 11 ♘xg5 hxg5 12 ♙xg5 ♖e6?! 13 ♙c4 d5 14 exd5 ♘xd5 15 ♖h5 f5 16 ♜e3! ♜f7 17 ♜h3 ♜g7 18 ♙xd5 1-0

NEWS IN BRIEF

FIDE - Ignatius Leong, whose picture appeared on page 508 of the last issue, has withdrawn as a candidate for the FIDE (World Chess Federation) presidency at the 2002 FIDE Congress, having signed an accord with the present incumbent, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov. A later unconfirmed report indicated that this accord had broken down and that Leong had decided to challenge after all. However it seems unlikely that he will unseat the Kalmykian president.

FIDE RAPIDPLAY RATINGS - FIDE's latest Rapidplay Rating List (published on 20 September) shows three players tied for the top place. Michael Adams, Garry Kasparov and Alexei Shirov are all rated 279, one point ahead of Vishy Anand and two points ahead of Topalov and Gelfand.

Shirov might have been clear of Kasparov and Adams had some Spanish results been included. The naturalized Spaniard is pressing for the normal play and rapidplay lists to be unified, but his open letter on the subject published on the internet was quickly answered by one from Michal Krasenkow which pointed up the patent absurdity of such a suggestion.

FRANCE - Etienne Bacrot beat Boris Gelfand 3½-2½ in a six-game match played in Bacrot's home town of Albert from 7-13 October. Bacrot has played a match there every year since 1995. He won the final game after the first five ended in draws.

GREECE - The European Club Cup took place in Halkidiki, Greece, from 22-28 September. 43 clubs took part in a seven-round swiss event played by six-board club teams. Many of the continental teams featured top-class grandmasters, while the four British teams in the field (Barbican, Bristol, Cardiff and Crumlin) were composed of

amateurs (although one of the 'amateur' players was Grandmaster Jonathan Parker). Winners were Bosna Sarajevo (BIH) ahead of Norilsk (RUS), Polonia (POL) and NAO (France).

Top board for Bosna was world number four Michael Adams, whose 4/7 score included wins against Bareev, Sakaev and Borovikov, but losses to veteran Romanishin and Grischuk. Cardiff held Barbican to a 3-3 draw in the last round to make sure of finishing as 'top Brits', though that only meant 39th place out of 43 teams.

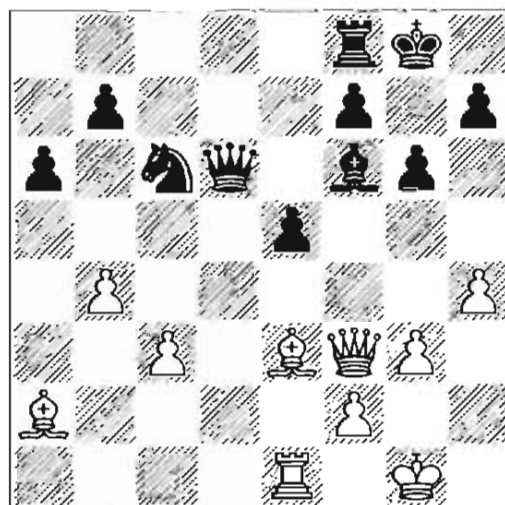
European Club 2002

□ Michael Adams

■ Vladislav Borovikov

French C07

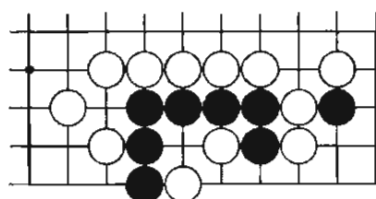
1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘d2 c5 4 exd5 ♙xd5 5 dxc5 ♙xc5 6 ♘gf3 ♘f6 7 ♙c4 ♙c6 8 0-0 0-0 9 ♙e2 a6 10 a4 ♘bd7 11 ♘b3 ♙d6 12 ♙d1 ♘b6 13 ♙d3 ♘bd5 14 ♘a5 ♙c7 15 ♘c4 ♙e7 16 a5 ♙d7 17 ♘ce5 ♘b4 18 ♘xd7 ♘xd7 19 ♙c4 ♙f6 20 g3 ♘e5 21 ♘xe5 ♙xe5 22 c3 ♘c6 23 ♙e1 ♙f6 24 ♙h5 e5 25 ♙f5 ♙e7 26 ♙h6 ♙ad8 27 ♙a2 ♙d6 28 ♙e3 ♙xa5 29 h4 ♙c7 30 ♙ad1 g6 31 ♙f3 ♙f6 32 ♙xd6 ♙xd6 33 b4



33...e4 34 ♙xe4 ♙xc3 35 ♙c5 ♙f6 36 ♙e3 ♙d2 37 ♙e2 ♙d8 38 ♙e8+ 1-0

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November 3 - Basingstoke Rapidplay. Joe French, 31 Brocas Drive, South View, Basingstoke RG21 5LS (01256) 472537.

November 3 - Knowsley Junior Congress. Steve Guy, Events Office, Municipal Buildings, Archway Road, Knowsley L36 9YX (0151) 443 3405.

November 3 - Surrey Girls' Chess Congress. Neil Clifton, 114 Windermere Road, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2JB (020) 8405 930.

November 3 - Richmond Junior Congress. Richard James, 95 Lyndhurst Avenue, Twickenham TW2 6BH (020) 8898 1190.

November 8-10 - Braille CA Autumn Tournament. Stan Lovell, 28 Gosforth Avenue, Redcar TS10 3LL (01642) 775668.

November 8-10 - Hampshire Individual Championship. Malcolm Clarke, Cherry Tree Court, Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9SN (02380) 615903.

November 9-10 - 4NCL Divs 1-2, Rds 1-2, West Bromwich. Paul Littlewood, Nimrod Close, St Albans, Herts, AL4 9XY (01727) 866813.

November 16 - Golders Green Rapidplay. Adam Raoof, 21 Golderton, Prince of Wales Close, London NW4 4QZ (020) 8202 0982.

November 17 - Bolton Rapidplay. Rod Middleton, 21 Argo Street, Bolton, Lancs BL3 6TT (01204) 651523.

November 17 - Central London Rapidplay. Chris Todd, 3 Hurst Lodge, Finchley Road, London NW11 0AN (020) 8381 4406.

November 18-22 - Royal Beacon Seniors, Exmouth. Steve Boniface, 11 Henrietta Street, Lower Easton, Bristol BS5 6HU (01179) 393262.

November 22-24 - Preston Congress. Malcolm Peacock, 3 New Links Avenue, Ingol, Preston PR2 7EX (01772) 723766.

November 23-24 - 4NCL Divs 3-4, Rds 1-2, West Bromwich. Paul Littlewood, Nimrod Close, St Albans, Herts, AL4 9XY (01727) 866813.

Nov 29 - Dec 1 - Torbay Congress. Ray Chubb, 29 West Cliff Park Drive, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9EW (01626) 888255.

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QUOTES AND QUERIES

by **Ken Whyld**, 1 North Cliff Road, Kirton Lindsey, Gainsborough, DN21 4NJ
e-mail: ken@kwhyld.freemove.co.uk

No. 5620 - Cecil Purdy, writing in his magazine, *Chess World*, April 1 1946, struck out at the 'Pseudo-British Championship'.

He wrote "Under a rule introduced in 1938, only British born players are eligible. Therefore Koshnitsky, although of British nationality and a resident of a British country for over twenty years – and, by the way, an officer in an Imperial army – was barred... Great Britain is the only country in the world that makes this offensive discrimination, as far as we know..."

"The rule was brought in with the avowed intention of protecting alleged local mediocrity against Continental talent.... But actually the rule is only an infringement of the rights of a British born master, who is deprived of the chance to prove that he is the best British player in Great Britain – as, in fact, would usually happen... The rule is not only petty and un-English; it is also ultra vires."

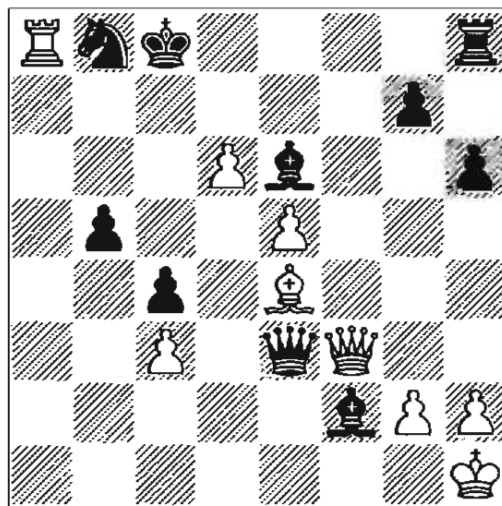
"The national controlling body of any sport has the right to grant the title of champion of a nation, but if it does, it must accept the nation's definition of nationality... If the B.C.F. liked to call the tourney the championship of British-born Britishers it would be within its rights. But as it is, any barred British subject could legally restrain the B.C.F. from describing the tournament as the British championship." How times change!

No. 5621 - Taylor Kingston, writing on the ChessCafe website, made an interesting classification of spurious games, with a few examples of each category. These several distinct things, involving various kinds and degrees of error and deception include:

(1) inadvertent alteration of the score of an authentic game; (2) intentional alteration of an otherwise authentic score; (3) composition of a full game, making clear that the

game is fictitious, but publishing it for instructive or aesthetic reasons; (4) publication of a composed, fictitious game as if it were authentic; (5) attributing a game, authentic or not, to a person who did not play it; (6) playing an exhibition game, but not revealing that the game was composed beforehand; (7) playing a pre-composed game in a serious tournament or match, under the pretence that the game is genuinely competitive; (8) playing an obviously pre-composed game with no attempt at deception.

No. 5622 - Tim Krabbé's website (www.xs4all.nl/~timkr/chess/chess.html) is also a constant delight. On 1 August he gave 'The latest in ultimate blunders'.

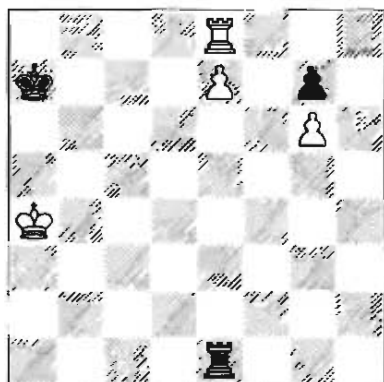


In a game **Yetman-Brollini, Tucson 2001**, White to play, White resigned because he thought he had to exchange queens and would remain two pieces down.

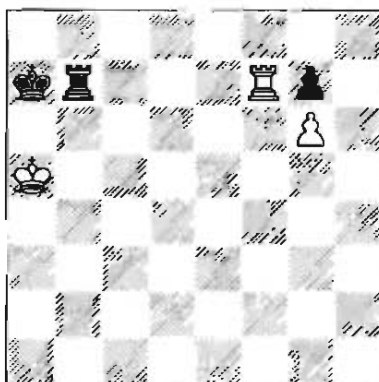
Perhaps he saw **35 ♖b7+**, but not that after **35...♔d7** (35...♔d8 36. ♖xb8+ and mate), he had the further check **36 ♖c8+**! which would have won; 36...♔xc8 37 ♖c6+ ♔d8 38 ♖c7+ and mate, or 36...♖xc8 37 ♖b7+ and mate, or 36...♔e8 37 ♖d7+! and mate in a few moves, or 36...♔d8 37 ♖xe3 ♖xe3 38 ♖xe6, etc.

ENDGAME STUDIES

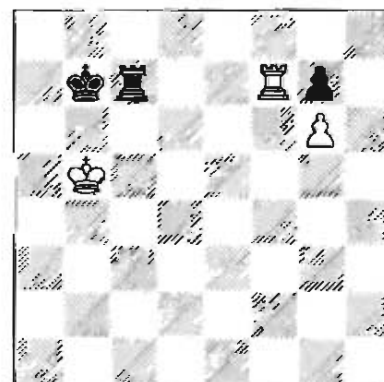
by John Beasley, 7 St James Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4NX



1 - win



1a - 1 Rf8, after 2 Ra5



1b - 1 b5, after 2...c7

Artur Mandler's 1 (*Československý šach* 1950) was left for solution last time. 1 Rf8 Rxe7 2 Rf7 leaves bR pinned and after 2...b7 3 Ra5 it will fall (see 1a), but Black has 3...b8! and 4 a6 a8 5 Rxb7 will be stalemate. How can we do better?

A preliminary 1 b5 seems promising. Black must reply 1...b7, and after 2 Rf8 Rxe7 3 Rf7 the rook will go to c7 instead of b7 and there will be no stalemate. But after 3...c7 White will have to retreat (see 1b), and Black will play ...c6 and get out of trouble.

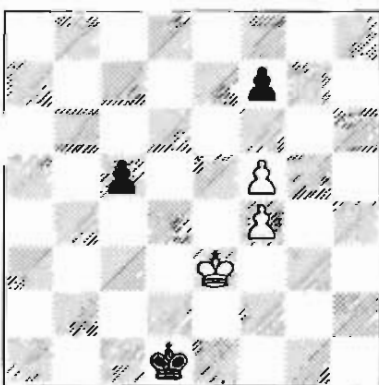
All right, let's lose a move: 1 Ra5. Now 1...b7 2 Rf8 Rxe7 3 Rf7 Rc7 4 b5 gives 1b with Black to move, and even 4...c8 will lose: 5 b6 Rc1 6 Rxc7 Rg1 7 c6 d8 8 d6, and bK can get no closer since on e8 it will be mated.

Yes, but Black needn't play 1...b7; he has 1...Re4 instead (see 1c)! White can only continue 2 b5, and 2...b7 3 Rf8 Rxe7 4 Rf7 Rc7 leaves him on play as before.

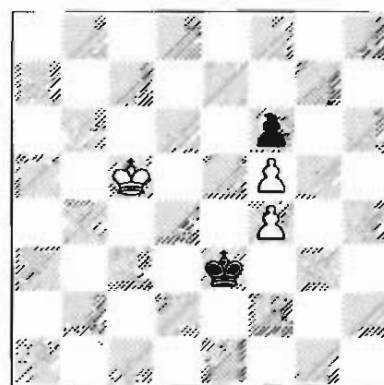
Fourth time lucky: 1 b4! Now Black does have no move better than 1...b7, and after 2 Rf8 Rxe7 3 Rf7 Rc7 4 b5 we have Black to move as required.



1c - 1 Ra5 Re4!



2 - draw



2a - 1 d3, after 2...e3

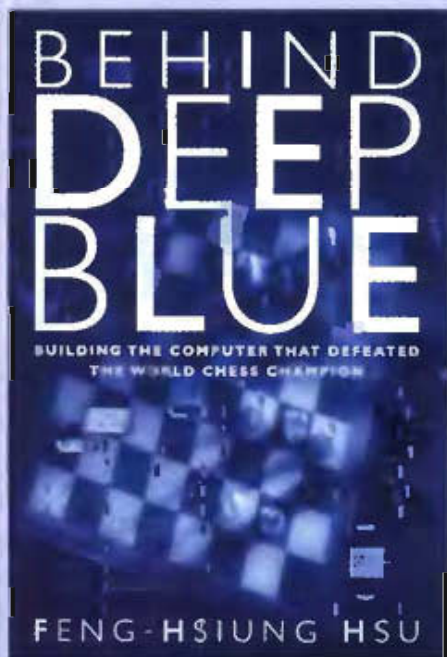
Mandler was one of the finest of study composers, with a remarkable ability to sniff out surprising possibilities in the simplest of settings. The natural move in 2 (*Československý šach* 1951) is 1 d3, but Black replies 1...f6, and meets 2 c4 d2 3 xc5 with 3...e3 (see 2a). Now both 4 d5 xf4 5 e6 g5 and 4 c4 xf4 5 d3 xf5 leave him with a win. How can White do better? Answer next time.



Blackburn Rovers: left to right, Jon and Sandra Blackburn, and children Jonathan and Suzie at the Monarch Assurance. Suzie is in the 2002 Welsh women's Olympiad squad.

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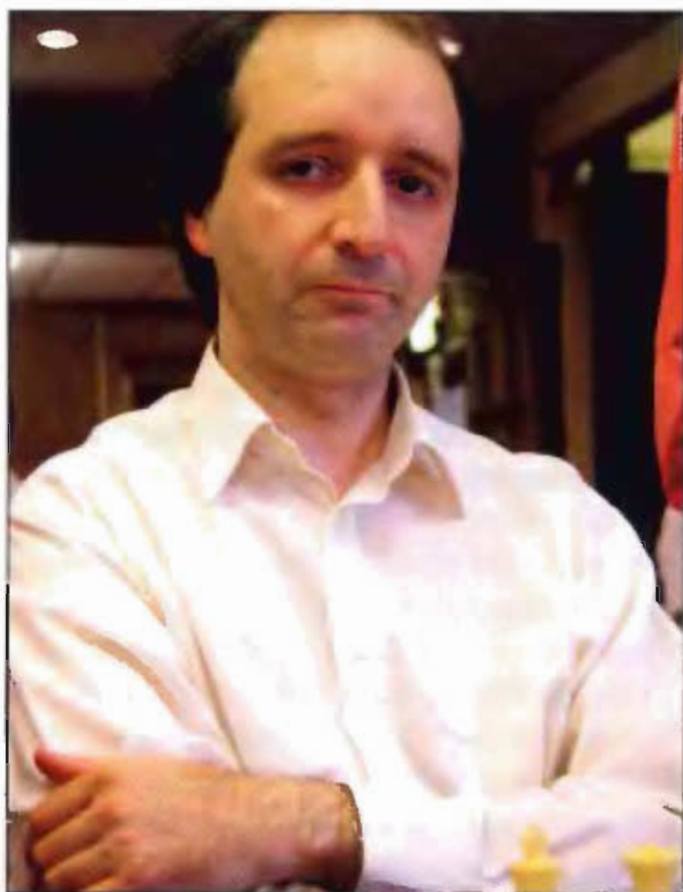
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Top left: Francis Rayner put in a 2397 performance in the Isle of Man - and then gave a masterly piano concert at the prize-giving. Top right: Charles Cobb top-scored for Cardiff in the European Club Cup in Greece with 3/6. Bottom: Brothers James (left) and Craig Hanley playing in the Isle of Man. James beat Irish champion Sam Collins in round two.

† Ricardo Calvo Mínguez

22 x 1943 (Alcoy) - 26 ix 2002 (Madrid)

The Spanish IM, who died six months after being diagnosed with cancer, will be remembered for his achievements in three areas of chess – as player, campaigner, and historian.

Calvo first became known internationally in 1961 when, after winning the Spanish Junior Championship, he competed in the World Junior Championship, finishing 7th out of 30 competitors. He played for Spain in four Clare Benedict tournaments, and five Olympiads (1966, 1968, 1972, 1974, 1978). In a playing career restricted first by medical studies, and then by his work as a doctor, his best tournament result was equal 2nd at Montilla Moriles 1976, behind Karpov. His most famous game is his demolition of Korchnoi's experiment in the opening:

Havana Olympiad 1966

Calvo - Korchnoi

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 a6 5 ♙d3 ♙c5 6 ♘b3 ♙a7 7 c4 ♘c6 8 0-0 ♚h4 9 ♘1d2 ♘ge7 10 c5 ♘e5 11 ♙e2 b6 12 f4 ♘5c6 13 ♘c4 bxc5 14 g3 ♚h6 15 f5 ♚f6 16 fxe6 ♚xe6 17 ♘d6+ ♙f8 18 ♙c4 1-0

Dr Calvo's personal qualities were best demonstrated in his role as campaigner, and nowhere more so than in his fight in 1986 against the re-election of Campomanes as President of FIDE. Calvo, convinced that the current regime was corrupt, undertook a gruelling tour of Latin-America to recruit support for the election of Lincoln Lucena, and believed that he had secured sufficient support, when added to the votes promised elsewhere, to ensure victory. Calvo may have defeated Campomanes over the board, but as a politician he was outclassed. The voting at Dubai, heavily weighted by countries with little chess, but a taste for free air

tickets and hospitality, went against the Lucena ticket. Support for Lucena faded away. Ricardo's account, in *New in Chess*, No. 8, 1986 says it all. 'A snowball of heroic voters who wanted to help the winner grew and grew, so that the day before the election no one dared, during a big dinner, to sit at the table where Lucena and I were seated.' Not satisfied with winning, FIDE also decided to punish. Meeting in Spain, the Federation proposed that Calvo be *persona non grata*. Professor Divinsky asked for a clarification before the vote. Did this mean that Calvo would be barred from tournaments, or simply 'not invited to dinner'? On being assured, falsely, that only the second was intended, the delegates scraped the motion through.

It is in the field of chess history that Dr Calvo will perhaps be best remembered. More than anyone, he established that the 'new' chess (with queen and bishop) originated in Spain around 1470, rather than Italy around 1495. Among his numerous articles and books are some in German or English, in which languages he was fluent.

A big man, in every sense, his deep, quiet voice will be missed at the meetings of the chess historians' circle. *Ken Whyld*

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† Eduard Yefimovich Gufeld

19 iii 1936 (Kiev) - 24 ix 2002 (Los Angeles)

Eduard Gufeld died in a Los Angeles hospital on 24 September, never regaining consciousness after a massive stroke a fortnight before. So passes the most extrovert and expansive master of the last half century who was a byword for the artistic in chess, as well as the centre of many anecdotes.

A great bear of a man, Eddie, as he was often known in the West in recent years, made his way up the Soviet ladder in Ukrainian Championships of the 1950s. He won the IM title in 1964 and the GM in 1967, having made his debut in that most taxing of contests, the near-annual Soviet Championship in 1959. He had two victories to his credit over Smyslov and also beat Tal, Bronstein and Spassky in individual encounters, but his combinative approach, often caring more about the quality of a game than putting points into the tournament table, meant that he never broke through to the top echelon of the Soviet elite.

In later years he was active as a writer and as the trainer of both Maya Chiburdanidze and the whole Georgian team of ladies who made such a big impression from the 1960s onwards. Two of Gufeld's best literary works from this period were his book on Maya and a joint work on the Sicilian Dragon, an opening in which he had great faith. To help with his coaching he actually moved from Kiev to the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

I first met Gufeld at the 1970 Palma de Majorca Interzonal, where he was acting as second to Geller, a rôle he often played. Our meeting was rather peculiar: a spectator, presumably a Russian emigré, was reading a Russian-language newspaper and later left it behind in the auditorium. Gufeld picked it up and scrutinised it, but seeing me observing this scene made a derogatory remark

about the paper only being fit for one purpose – in the toilet. I also heard derogatory comments from him about Fischer's eccentric behaviour, but he was to make amends later, recognising the American as a real chess genius, whose demands did so much to raise the status of chess in the West.

As Gufeld admitted, his handwriting was atrocious, and I often had occasion to see this confirmed when I translated Gufeld's letters and annotations for Tony Gillam's *Chess Player* series. Gufeld once played a game in which his Yugoslav opponent Ivanovic had his king under steady fire. In some variations 'in the notes' the king had been forced to move, but was still on e8 at the 30th move when a seemingly crushing move 30 c7 could actually be met by 30...0–0! Gufeld studied his score sheet to see whether the enemy king had moved or not, but had to admit that he could not work this out from his own writing!

A loyal Soviet citizen, Gufeld did his army service and actually became the first person to gain the grandmaster title while still serving in the ranks (he made sergeant). Yet, when conditions in Kiev and Tbilisi became intolerable (I recall at Hastings in the mid-1990s how he told me the electric power was often only switched on for a few hours a day) he moved to the USA and carried on playing, but without any great success. He had contacts in London too, and actually turned up unexpectedly at the funeral of Harry Golombek. Perhaps he remembered that Harry had once beaten him at a Yugoslav tournament and, as Harry told the story, Eddie turned to the veteran and said in some anger: "You don't play chess – you were playing poker." Quite a compliment from an arch-tactician!

Bernard Cafferty