

# EN PASSANT

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## on the cover...

- 2** For the necessary details on our Reader Photo Contest please refer to the information box on page 7.

## inside...

- 2** Editorial, and Letters to the Editor.
- 8** Under the Microscope: An Examination of Chess Psychology by GM Kevin Spraggett. Does anyone not know Efim Geller?
- 14** IM Dave Ross introduces Jonathon and Eric Lawson in this month's edition of GM Factory.
- 17** Canadian GM Alexandre Lesiege and WIM Nava Stara at the recent Moscow FIDE World Championship Knockout!
- 22** Jonathan Berry highlights National Championships North and South of the Border, with photos by J. Berry and Erika Danko.
- 24** Apprentice's Workshop with Yan Teplitsky.
- 30** Masters' Forum.
- 36** An Interview with FM Irwin Lipnowski.
- 39** Across Canada.

## advertisers...

- IFC** SWOCL Grand Prix & Ontario Open  
**4** Coming Events  
**7** EOCA Grand Prix  
**16** ICC  
**21** Guelph Pro-Am International  
**29** Keres Memorial  
**42** Duel Timer  
**43** Rating Lists  
**IBC** Olympic Fund  
**OBC** Canadian Open



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# Editorial

Earlier reports that Bobby Fischer had been spotted playing blitz at various online chess servers have turned out to be false alarms. The perpetrator of the hoax was likely a hacker who had found a way to seamlessly hook up a very strong analysis engine to the playing interface of the server and avoid detection. British GM Nigel Short was one of the first to be duped, but even he has retracted his earlier statements about the identity of the online mystery player.

For a while all this commotion was highly entertaining, and the chess world ought to have learned a lesson: Bobby Fischer, who has not played a single serious game of chess since he won the world title in Reykjavic from Boris Spassky in 1972, still commands the attention of the world media! Sure, there was a second match with Boris in Belgrade and Sveti Stefan in 1992, but this was an unsanctioned affair between two players well past their prime...

Bobby Fischer's appeal, in spite of his highly questionable personal views on matters outside of chess, is far more universal than any other chess player in modern times. He is remembered for fighting an epic battle between

good and evil, for his genius at the game, and for being highly eccentric and unpredictable. In essence, he gave the media exactly what they were looking for, and even thirty years later a mere rumor about him elevates chess to the front pages of main stream newspapers!

In recent years FIDE has been trying to attract attention and inject more 'entertainment value' into their own events, but credibility has been a big problem. Major corporate sponsorship is difficult to find as long as there are two legitimate world champions and world championships competing with each other. Gary Kasparov and Nigel Short are as much to blame for this situation as FIDE, but isn't it time to sit down and work out a solution in the interest of advancing the game and repairing a lot of the damage that has already been done?

Until then, the main stream media will continue to ask questions about Bobby Fischer and no one else, except perhaps Deep Fritz when it finally takes on Vladimir Kramnik in an exhibition match later this year. There is some potential drama here, after all, ever since Gary lost to Deep Blue, and the honor of mankind now

rests on poor Vladimir's shoulders to set the record straight. Serious chess players know all about Fritz and his friends and where they fit into the pecking order, but for the main stream media the entertainment value of such an event has more to do with matching hero against evil machine, and with finding a little bit of Bobby Fischer somewhere in the jumble of incomprehensible chess moves. Let's hope so!

Elsewhere in this issue Jonathan Berry reports on the United States Chess Championship, and how the Seattle Chess Foundation under GM Yasser Seirawan has managed to present their premiere event in a much more appealing way to an otherwise indifferent main stream media. Interestingly enough, it involves having the women play in the same event with the men, but for their own separate prize fund and national championship title...

Could it be that *not* segregating the women from the men does have some serious benefits for everyone involved after all? Sounds good to me, and the media seems to like it, too!

*Knut Neven*

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# Letters

## Hoyt, NB

I just had a chance to look at the February issue of *En Passant* and was very pleased with the GM Factory article by IM Dave Ross. Indeed, there is a lot of talent everywhere which hopefully will go places in time. As I am just returning to competitive chess I must say that the new *En Passant* format is excellent. Much easier to read with the larger print. The article on the King's Indian from the December issue was very easy to follow, and helped greatly to improve my limited understanding of that defense. Keep up the good work!

*Albert Roach*

## Toronto, ON

I think that any group of players has the right to determine their own champion. In the case of Canadian

women, the case for an annual championship is clear. In 2001, 18 of our top players entered the event, more than any in our history. Funding for such an event is a separate question. In the case of Canadian women, funding is not necessary. In fact, the reverse is true: the women who played in the 2001 Canadian Women's Championship raised \$900 for the CFC.

*David Cohen*

## Calgary, AB

Jan Kralovic passed away on January 10, 2002 at the age of 90 years. He was a lifetime CFC member, and an active member of the Calgary Chess Club for over 30 years. He had a rich sense of humor, and played a very lively, spirited game of chess. I include three games of his: one was

published in a Bratislava newspaper in 1959, and the other two are against some well known Calgary players. He appears in top form in Bratislava, and shows his fighting style when he comes back from two losing positions at the Calgary Chess Club when already aged 60. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Notes by  
**Bratislava  
Newspaper**

**Boros  
Kralovic, Jan  
Bratislava, 1959**

**King Pawn: Ponziani C44**

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 d5 4.♗b5  
dxe4 5.♘xe5 ♗d5 6.♖a4 ♘ge7  
7.♘c4

The Ponziani opening today has virtually disappeared from tournament play because White's third move is in actuality a waste of time.

7...a6 8.♟xc6+ ♞xc6 9.♞e3

White defends against the threat ...b5 but now Black's queen permanently cripples the White queenside.

9...♞d3 10.♞f1 ♞d6 11.♞c4 0-0  
12.♞xd3 exd3 13.f4

Even an exchange of queens hasn't improved White's situation. Since Black cannot play 13...♞xh2 anyway, the text constitutes an unnecessary weakening of the kingside.

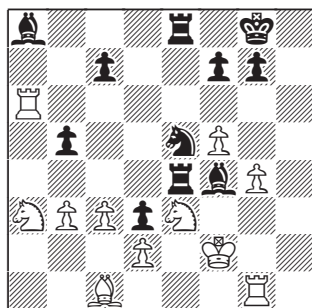
13...♞e8 14.h3 ♞e4 15.f5 ♞f4 16.g4  
h5 17.♟f2 hxg4 18.hxg4 ♞e5

Although Black can win a pawn with 18...♞xe3+ 19.dxe3 ♞xg4 he doesn't want to aid White's queenside development.

19.♞g1 b5 20.b3 ♞b7 21.a4 ♞e8

Black mobilizes his forces for an overwhelming attack against White's king.

22.axb5 axb5 23.♞a7 ♞c6 24.♞a6  
♞a8 25.♞a3



25...♞xg4+!

The decisive combination. Since White faces the loss of another pawn if the king moves, he must capture the knight.

26.♞xg4

The only way, since 26.♞xg4?? ♞e2+ 27.♟f1 ♞e1+ 28.♟f2 ♞8e2# is mate.

26...♞xe3+ 27.♟g3 ♞f2+

Black will walk the White king all the way to square/h5, where a mating net will be constructed.

28.♟f3 ♞e2+ 29.♟f4 ♞8e4+  
30.♟g5 f6+ 31.♟h5 ♞d5

The threat is mate in two moves as per 32...♞f7+ 33.♞g6 ♞h4#.

32.♞e6 ♞xe6

Black declines the exchange sacrifice, and instead keeps his important light squared bishop to deliver the final mating sequence.

33.fxe6 ♞f3 34.♞xb5 ♞e5+ 0-1.

Annual Membership	Adult			Junior			Jr. Part.			Family		
	CFC	Prov	\$\$	CFC	Prov	\$\$	CFC	Prov	\$\$	CFC	Prov	\$\$
Alberta	33	5	38	22	3	25	10	1	11	16.50	2.50	19
British Columbia	33	12	45	22	3	25	10	3	13	16.50	6	22.50
Manitoba	33	20	53	22	10	32	10	3	13	16.50	10	26.50
New Brunswick	33	3	36	22	2	24	10	2	12	16.50	1.50	18
Newfoundland	33	3	36	22	2	24	10	2	12	16.50	1.50	18
Nova Scotia	33	7	40	22	3	25	10	3	13	16.50	2.50	19
Northwest Territories	33	0	33	22	0	22	10	0	10	16.50	0	16.50
Ontario	33	7	40	22	3	25	10	2	12	16.50	3.50	20
Prince Edward Island	33	0	33	22	0	22	10	0	10	16.50	0	16.50
Quebec	33	0	33	22	0	22	10	0	10	16.50	0	16.50
Saskatchewan	33	10	43	22	7	29	10	0	10	16.50	5	21.50
Yukon	33	0	33	22	0	22	10	0	10	16.50	0	16.50
Foreign	33	0	33	22	0	22	10	0	10	16.50	0	16.50

**Note** The CFC column is the amount collected by the Chess Federation of Canada. The Prov column is the amount collected by each provincial association. The \$\$ column is the amount the member must pay.

**Adult Memberships** are open to anyone over the age of 17. Pay the amount in the Adult \$\$ column.

**Junior Memberships** are open to individuals aged 17 or less. Pay the amount in the Junior \$\$ column.

**Junior Participating Memberships** are open to individuals aged 17 or less. These members can play in tournaments, but do not receive *En Passant*. Pay the amount in the Participating \$\$ column.

**Family Memberships:** the first member pays the Adult fee in the \$\$ column. Each other member at the same address pays the Family fee in the \$\$ column.

**Life Membership** rates depend on age: 30 & under \$660; 31-40 \$577.50; 41-50 \$495; 51-60 \$412.50; 61 and over \$330. Provincial dues are not included in Life rates. Supply proof of age if over 30.



# Coming Events

The Coming Events advertising section is brought to you by the Chess Federation of Canada.

**Note:** This is free for all CFC-Rated events.

**Players:** When you enter by mail, include your name, address, CFC number, expiry date, rating and date published (if you are entering your first CFC event, you are probably an unrated player), and birthdate if you are a junior – all with your entry fee.

CFC membership is required in these tournaments except where indicated. If you buy a CFC membership with your entry, obtain a receipt from the organizer. Please bring your chess pieces, boards and clocks. Unless stated otherwise all tournaments are Non-Smoking and No Computers.

## Summary

**Date:** Dates of the event  
**Place:** Location of the event  
**Rds:** Number of rounds  
**Type:** Rating type either Regular or Active and either Swiss or Round Robin (RR)  
**Times:** Round times, “/” = next day  
**TC:** Time Controls, SD means Sudden Death – all remaining moves in fixed time  
**EF:** Entry Fee.  
**Sec:** Sections tournament is broken down into  
**Prizes:** \$BEN = Prizes based upon entries, \$Gxx = Guaranteed prize of xx  
**Reg:** Registration time instructions  
**Org:** Tournament organizer and contact information  
**Misc:** Other important information

**UNR** Unrated; **Jr.** Junior; **Sr.** Senior, **Cd.** Cadet (under 16) **Bye n** A half-point bye is available in round(s) **n** if requested in advance with entry; **CC** Chess Club; **S** Smoking allowed.

Organizers of CFC-rated events should send notices to: The CFC, 2212 Gladwin Crescent, E-1, Ottawa, ON, K1B 5N1 by the 25th of each even numbered month (e.g., February). Notices must state the name of the organizer and whether smoking is allowed. A prize fund is considered to be guaranteed by the organizer unless explicitly stated otherwise.

A tournament in a small town (under 75,000 population) may qualify for an LTIP grant. Write to the CFC for details of this program.

## Ontario

### DCC Toronto Open

**Date:** March 29–31  
**Place:** 1681 Bayview Ave, two blocks south of Eglinton, above Chess'n Math, Toronto  
**Rds:** 6  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$60; less \$10 Jr/Sr; \$20 late fee  
**Sec:** Open/U2300, U2100, U1900, U1700/UR  
**Prizes:** \$BEN 70%  
**Reg:** 09:30–10:30 at site; or cheques to Mark S. Dutton, Suite 3301, Leaside Towers, 95 Thorncliffe Park Dr, Toronto, ON, M4H 1L7  
**Org:** Mark S. Dutton (416)467-9715  
**Misc:** Bring clocks; www.play.at/duttonchess

### DCC Saturday Actives

**Date:** April 6, May 4, June 1  
**Place:** 1681 Bayview Ave, two blocks south of Eglinton, above Chess'n Math, Toronto  
**Rds:** 6  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**Times:** 12:30, 1:45, 3, 5, 6:15, 7:30  
**TC:** G/30  
**EF:** \$40; \$10 late fee; less \$10 Jr/Sr, women, titled, 2400+  
**Sec:** Open, U2000, U1600  
**Prizes:** \$BEN 70%  
**Reg:** 11:00–12:00 at site; or cheques to Mark S. Dutton, Suite 3301, Leaside Towers, 95 Thorncliffe Park Dr, Toronto, ON, M4H 1L7  
**Org:** Mark S. Dutton (416)467-9715  
**Misc:** Bring clocks; www.play.at/duttonchess

### Chess Academy of Canada Instructional Tournaments

**Date:** April 7, 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26; June 2, 9, 16  
**Place:** Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Avenue, Toronto  
**Rds:** 3  
**Type:** Round Robin  
**Times:** 14:30  
**Prizes:** Trophies, medals, ribbons  
**EF:** \$12; family discounts  
**Reg:** 13:45–14:15 at site  
**Org:** Roman Pelts (905)709-8611  
**Misc:** U18 only; chess exercises between rounds

### MacIntosh Open

**Date:** April 13–14  
**Place:** McIntosh Country Inn & Conference Centre, Morrisburg

**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9:30, 2:30  
**TC:** 30/80, SD/60  
**EF:** \$30 Open, \$25 U2000, \$20 U1600; \$5 late fee after April 10  
**Prizes:** \$G1400  
**Reg:** 08:00–08:45 at site; or cheques to Au Diapason Inc, c/o Raymond Lacroix, 41 Kingslea Crescent, Cornwall, ON, K6H 6J2  
**Org:** Raymond Lacroix (613)938-6364  
**Misc:** Bring clocks; McIntosh Country Inn & Conference Centre (613)543-3788

### London Spring Thunder

**Date:** April 20–21  
**Place:** Best Western Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Road  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 11:15, 2 / 9:30, 1  
**TC:** Rd1–2 G/60; Rd3–4 G/90; Rd5 G/120  
**EF:** \$30; less \$5 Jr/Sr.  
**Prizes:** \$BEN  
**Sec:** Open, U2000, U1600  
**Org:** Steve Demmery (519)472-4007; steves\_starwars@hotmail.com  
**Reg:** 08:00–08:45 at site; or cheques to Steve Demmery, 1148 Viscount Road, London, ON, N6K 1J1  
**Misc:** Bye 1–4, max. 2; max. 46 entries

### North Bay Spring Open

**Date:** April 27–28  
**Place:** 167 High Street, Callander, ON  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9:30, 2  
**TC:** Rds1–3 30/75 SD/60; Rds4–5 30/90 SD/60  
**EF:** \$25; \$20 Jr/Sr; \$10 women  
**Prizes:** \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:00–08:45 at site; or cheques to Mathew Cooke, 2 Oakridge Rd, Parry Sound, ON, P2A 2W9  
**Org:** Mathew Cooke (705)746-6480 M\_a\_t\_h\_e\_w@hotmail.com; Pam Tester tester@efni.com (705)752-3039  
**Misc:** Bring sets, clocks

### Guelph Spring Pro-Am

**Date:** May 4–5  
**Place:** 3rd floor, Guelph University Centre  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 12:30, 5 / 9:30, 2  
**TC:** Rd. 1 G/90/10;

**EF:** Rds. 2-5 G/120/10  
\$40 Pro; \$20 U2000, U1700; less  
\$5 Jr/Sr; \$10 late fee after  
January 30  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** Cheques to Hal Bond, 6  
Wildwood Place, Guelph, ON,  
N1H 7X9  
**Org:** Hal Bond (519)822-2162  
halbond@home.com  
**Misc:** Equipment provided

#### DCC Victoria Day Open

**Date:** May 18-20  
**Place:** 1681 Bayview Avenue, two  
blocks south of Eglinton, above  
Chess'n Math, Toronto  
**Rds:** 6  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$60; less \$10 Jr/Sr; \$20 late fee  
**Sec:** Open/U2300, U2100, U1900,  
U1700/UR  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN 70%  
**Reg:** 09:30-10:30 at site; or cheques  
to Mark S. Dutton, Suite 3301,  
Leaside Towers, 95 Thorncliffe  
Park Dr, Toronto, ON, M4H 1L7  
**Org:** Mark S. Dutton (416)467-9715  
**Misc:** Bring clocks; www.play.at/  
duttonchess

#### Sarnia Chemical Valley Open

**Date:** June 1-2  
**Place:** Room A208, Lambton College,  
1457 London Road  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 1, 7 / 9, asap  
**TC:** Rd.1 SD/90; Rds.2-5 30/90, SD/  
60  
**EF:** \$40; less \$10 Jr/Sr  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** At site; or cheques to Samuel  
Carr, 509 Nassau Crescent,  
Sarnia, N7S 4H8  
**Org:** Samuel Carr (519)383-7202  
**Misc:** \$10 dorm rooms available,  
book early

#### Ottawa Eastern Ontario Open

**Date:** June 8-9  
**Place:** RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive  
5  
**Rds:** 5  
**Times:** 9, 2, 7 / 9, 2  
**TC:** 30/80, SD/60  
**EF:** \$35; less \$5 RACC members;  
\$15 amateur (no prizes U1600  
or UNR); \$5 for section up; \$10  
late fee  
**Sec:** Open, U2100, U1850, U1600  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** Until 08:30 at site; or cheques to  
Michael Holmes, 762 Smyth  
Road, Ottawa, ON, K1G 1P1 by  
May 31  
**Org:** Michael Holmes (613)733-4247  
**Misc:** Bye 1-3, max. 1; bring clocks;  
EOCA Grand Prix event

#### DCC Father's Day Open

**Date:** June 14-16  
**Place:** 1681 Bayview Avenue, two  
blocks south of Eglinton, above  
Chess'n Math, Toronto  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 7 / 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$60; less \$10 Jr/Sr; \$20 late fee  
**Sec:** Open/U2200, U2000, U1800,  
U1600/UR  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN 70%  
**Reg:** 17:30-18:30 at site; or cheques  
to Mark S. Dutton, Suite 3301,  
Leaside Towers, 95 Thorncliffe  
Park Dr, Toronto, ON, M4H 1L7  
**Org:** Mark S. Dutton (416)467-9715  
**Misc:** Bring clocks; www.play.at/  
duttonchess

#### Brantford Open

**Date:** June 22-23  
**Place:** The Dunn Building, 440 Elgin  
Street  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 12:30, 5 / 10, asap  
**TC:** Rd1 G/90+10; Rds2-5 G/120+10  
**EF:** \$40; less \$5 Jr/Sr/BCC  
members; GMs IMs free; \$10  
late fee  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** Until 08:45 at site; or cheques to  
Brantford Chess Club, 58  
Woodlawn Avenue, Brantford,  
ON, N3V 1B1 by June 14  
**Org:** Tony Ficzero (519)752-0715  
binkie@execulink.com  
**Misc:** SWOCL Grand Prix event;  
www.swocl.com

#### DCC Canada Day Open

**Date:** June 29 to July 1  
**Place:** 1681 Bayview Avenue, two  
blocks south of Eglinton, above  
Chess'n Math, Toronto  
**Rds:** 6  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$60; less \$10 Jr/Sr, 2400+, titled,  
women, GMs free; \$20 late fee  
after June 28  
**Sec:** Open/U2200, U2000/U1800,  
U1600/UNR  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:30-09:30 at site; or cheques  
to Mark S. Dutton, Suite 3301,  
Leaside Towers, 95 Thorncliffe  
Park Dr, Toronto, ON, M4H 1L7  
by June 24  
**Org:** Mark S. Dutton (416)467-9715  
**Misc:** Bye 1-5, max. 2; bring clocks;  
www.play.at/duttonchess

#### DCC Simcoe Day Open

**Date:** August 3-5  
**Place:** 1681 Bayview Avenue, two  
blocks south of Eglinton, above

## **Dutton Chess Club Toronto Events**

Major events share the following  
details unless noted otherwise.

**Place:** Dutton Chess Club, 1681  
Bayview Avenue, 2nd floor

**EF:** \$60; Jr/Sr/Ladies/Titled \$50  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60 FIDE rated

**Misc:** Open to anyone; no  
membership required; bring  
clocks, sets are provided

**Org/TD:** Mark S. Dutton  
(416)467-9715, (416)219-7933  
DutChess@idirect.ca  
<http://www.play.at/duttonchess>

### **Weekend Slow Tournaments**

*Toronto Open*  
March 29-31 6 rds

*Victoria Day Open*  
May 18-20 6 rds

*Father's Day Open*  
June 14-16 5 rds

*Canada Day Open*  
June 29 to July 1 5 rds

### **Active Tournaments**

*DCC Active Series #24-29*  
G/30; 6 rds.; EF \$40, Jr/Sr \$30  
April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6,  
August 17, September 28

**Place:** Dutton Chess Club, 1681  
Bayview Avenue, 2nd floor

**Misc:** Adults \$150, Jr/Sr \$100;  
join anytime with 1/2 pt. byes!

### **Mondays**

*G/15 Events; Open 18:00-23:00*  
*6rds; start at 19:30; EF \$10*

### **Wednesdays**

*40/120, SD/60; start 18:30*  
*5rds; CFC Rated Regular Swiss*

*Mayflower III Evening Swiss*  
April 17 to May 15

*DCC Champ. Evening Swiss*  
May 22 to June 26

*Lazy Hazy Days of Summer III*  
*Evening Swiss*  
July 3 to July 31

### **Saturdays**

*G/5 Blitz: EF \$10; 13:00&16:00*  
*Regular: 40/120, SD/60;*  
*12:00-18:00*

*March Into April II Afternoon*  
March 23 to May 11

*Spring Into Summer Afternoon*  
May 25 to July 20

## Junior Chess in BC Lower Mainland 2001-2002

Unless otherwise noted, the following events are open to all junior players at all levels. Prizes vary, and include trophies, books, gifts, and cash. Some events qualify the winner(s) for provincial or national championships, and while all events are CFC rated, Juniors only events do not require CFC membership.

### Playing Sites

**VBC:** Vancouver Bridge Centre, 2776 East Broadway

**BCIT:** BCIT Student Association Campus Centre, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby

**Surrey:** Bethany Newton Church, corner of 148 St & 60 Avenue, Surrey

**Org/TD:** Katherine Davies (604)266-5842 mail-for-katherine@telus.net; Stephen Wright (604)221-7148 SphWrg@aol.com; www.chess.bc.ca

### Event Info

*VBC Thanksgiving Open*  
October 6-8

*VBC Junior Open*  
October 14

*Surrey Junior Open*  
October 20

*VBC BC Junior Championship*  
November 10-12

*VBC Junior Open*  
November 25

*BCIT BC-Washington Match*  
December 1

*VBC Junior Open Blitz*  
December 9

*BCIT Junior Grade Open*  
January 27

*York House Provincial Interscholar Team (Grades 1-7)*  
February 2

*St. George's School Provincial Interscholar Team (Grades 8-12)*  
February 23

*BCIT Vancouver Regional Chess Challenge*  
March 10

*BCIT Provincial Chess Challenge*  
March 30

*Victoria CYCC Provincial Finals*  
May 5

**Rds:** Chess'n Math, Toronto  
6  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30 / 11, 5:30  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60  
**EF:** \$60; less \$10 Jr/Sr, 2400+, titled, women, GMs free; \$20 late fee after August 2  
**Sec:** Open/U2300, U2100/U1900, U1700/UNR  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 08:30-09:30 at site; or cheques to Mark S. Dutton, Suite 3301, Leaside Towers, 95 Thorncliffe Park Dr, Toronto, ON, M4H 1L7 by July 29  
**Org:** Mark S. Dutton (416)467-9715  
**Misc:** Bye 1-5, max. 2; bring clocks; www.play.at/duttonchess

## British Columbia

### Esquires Coffee House

**Date:** Every weekend  
**Place:** Esquires Coffee House, 4300 Kingsway, Burnaby  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**Times:** Sat. 4, asap; Sun. 1, asap  
**TC:** Sat. G/15; Sun. G/30  
**EF:** Sat. \$5; Sun. \$7  
**Misc:** Bring sets, clocks

### Keres Memorial

**Date:** May 17-20  
**Place:** Plaza 500 Hotel, 500 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver  
**TC:** 40/120, SD/60  
**Times:** 5:30 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 4  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Sec:** Open, U2000, U1600  
**EF:** \$90 by January 31; \$110 by March 31; \$130 after April 1; less 50% Jr; less 25% FIDE; FIDE titled free  
**Reg:** Cheques to BCCF, Lyle Craver, PO Box 15548, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5B3  
**Org:** BCCF, Peter Stockhausen (604)276-1111 Pstockhausen@pacificcoast.net  
**Misc:** FIDE rated; TDs Lynn Stringer, Mark Barnes, Lyle Craver; Plaza 500 Hotel 1-800-473-1811, (604)673-1832; BCCF AGM Sunday afternoon between rds.

## Alberta

### ECC John Tournaments

**Date:** Monday nights  
**Place:** Edmonton Chess Club  
**Rds:** 4  
**Type:** Active Swiss  
**TC:** G/30  
**EF:** \$2  
**Reg:** 18:30-19:15 at site

**Org:** John Quiring (403)468-9173

## New Brunswick

### Bathurst CRCC Tornados

**Date:** May 11, July 13, September 14, November 9  
**Place:** NBCC, Youghall Drive, Bathurst  
**Rds:** 4  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 9, 11:30, 2:30, 5  
**TC:** G/60  
**EF:** \$20; \$5 Cd; \$2 with first time CFC membership  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN

## Nova Scotia

### Lunenburg County Open

**Date:** April 19-21  
**Place:** Salon C, Auberge Wandlyn Inn, 50 North Street, Bridgewater  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** TBA  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$25; \$10 Jr/Sr, 2200+; new CFC members free  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Misc:** Auberge Wandlyn Inn, (902)543-7131

### Halifax Nova Scotia Open

**Date:** May 17-20  
**Place:** Common room, TUNS University, 1360 Barrington St  
**Rds:** 8  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 12, 6 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 3:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$40; \$35 Jr/Sr; \$25 U16; less \$5 before April 15  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 10:00-11:00 at site  
**Org:** Albert Ede, 59 Brook Street, Lower Sackville, NS, B4E 1C1  
**Misc:** Bye 3 max; bring sets, clocks

### Halifax George Beals Open

**Date:** June 28 to July 1  
**Place:** Common room, TUNS University, 1360 Barrington St  
**Rds:** 8  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 12, 6 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 3:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$40; \$35 Jr/Sr; \$25 U16; less \$5 before June 7  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 10:00-11:00 at site  
**Org:** Albert Ede, 59 Brook Street, Lower Sackville, NS, B4E 1C1  
**Misc:** Bye 3 max; bring sets, clocks

### Halifax Labour Day Open

**Date:** August 30 to September 2  
**Place:** Common room, TUNS

University, 1360 Barrington St  
**Rds:** 8  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 12, 6 / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 3:30  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$40; \$35 Jr/Sr; \$25 U16; less \$5 before August 9  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 10:00–11:00 at site  
**Org:** Albert Ede, 59 Brook Street, Lower Sackville, NS, B4E 1C1  
**Misc:** Bye 3 max; bring sets, clocks

Cole Harbour Fall Open

**Date:** October 25–27  
**Place:** Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forrest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 6:30 / 10, 4 / 10, 4  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$30; \$25 Sr; \$15 Jr  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 17:15–18:15 at site  
**Org:** David Kenney (902)462–7455 dkenney@accesscable.net  
**Misc:** Bring sets, clocks

Dartmouth Open

**Date:** November 29 to December 1  
**Place:** Cole Harbour Place, 51 Forrest Hills Parkway, Dartmouth  
**Rds:** 5  
**Type:** Regular Swiss  
**Times:** 6:30 / 10, 4 / 10, 4  
**TC:** 30/90, SD/60  
**EF:** \$30; \$25 Sr; \$15 Jr  
**Prizes:** \$ \$BEN  
**Reg:** 17:15–18:15 at site  
**Org:** David Kenney (902)462–7455 dkenney@accesscable.net  
**Misc:** Bring sets, clocks

# Reader Photo Contest

The photo on this month's cover was submitted to us by Peter Stockhausen and Dr. Nathan Divinsky, who invite readers to participate and send their best guess as to the following four questions:

Where was the photo taken?	5 Points
When was it taken?	10 Points
Who is the person on the left?	2 Points
Who is the person on the right?	25 points

Your entries should be sent directly to the editor at

*enpassant@shaw.ca*

The two highest total scores win one of the following book titles or ChessBase Training CDs (donated by your editor):

*Secrets of Spectacular Chess* by Levitt and Friedgood  
*Storming the Barricades* by Larry Christiansen  
*French With Nc3* by Knut Neven  
*French Without Nc3* by Knut Neven

In case of identical scores, the entry that was received first by your editor wins on tiebreak. And if multiple entries or revisions to your answers are received from the same player, only your first submission counts. In other words, it is important both to be fast *and* thorough!

# Good Luck!

## 20th Annual



*Grand Prix*

### Grand Prix Prizes

<b>First Prize:</b>	\$420
<b>Second Prize:</b>	\$220
<b>Third Prize:</b>	\$120
<b>1950–2199</b>	\$200
<b>1700–1949</b>	\$200
<b>Under 1700</b>	\$200
<b>Unestablished Rating:</b>	\$120
<b>Total Prizes:</b>	\$1480

First, second and third prizes go to the players who accumulate the most points in the Open sections of seven events. Other prizes are won by those accumulating the most points in all events, in any section. Rating category is determined by established rating at the time of their first tournament in the then current Grand Prix. All others are eligible for the Unestablished Rating prize.

### Grand Prix Schedule

- 1. Renfrew Open** P.Naish **August 25–26**
- 2. Ottawa Open** D.Burgess **September 22–23**
- 3. Outaouais Open** H.Seguin **October 19–21**
- 4. Seaway Valley Open** R.Lacroix **November 17–18**
- 5. R.A. Winter Open** T.Fleming **January 12–13**
- 6. Kingston Open** R.Hutchinson **February 9–10**
- 7. R.A. Spring Open** H.Langer **March 23–24**
- 8. MacIntosh Open** R.Lacroix **April 13–14**
- 9. Arnprior Open** M.Wasmund **May 4–5**
- 10. Eastern Ontario Open** M.Holmes **June 8–9**

# Under the Microscope

## An Examination of Chess Psychology

by GM Kevin Spraggett

To the younger generation of chess players today Efim Geller is not a particularly familiar name. Perhaps some might have seen the late Grandmaster's name in opening manuals dealing with topical systems like the Sicilian, the Spanish or the King's Indian. Others might have heard his name mentioned in connection with Bobby Fischer's meteoric rise to superstar status in 1972, when Geller was chief analyst on Boris Spassky's team in the historic Reykjavik match.

However, I would be surprised if even one in ten young Masters today could show me, by heart, any Geller game, or, for that matter, recall even one event the Grandmaster had ever won. This is not meant as a criticism, of course, but merely a cynical reflection on our fast paced times, in which history and tradition fight an increasingly desperate battle to avoid displacement from popular culture.

While it is true that Geller never played a match for the World Championship title, it is no less true that much of the best modern chess has to offer has its origins in his contributions. Geller belonged to that uniquely gifted generation of Soviet Masters who emerged after the Second World War and whose utter domination of world chess for the next 25 years helped establish the mighty myth of the Soviet Chess School. The list includes legends like Boris Spassky, Mikhail Tal, Leonid Stein, Lev Polugaevsky, Victor Korchnoi, Tigran Petrosian, David Bronstein and many others.

Efim Geller was born in 1925 in the Ukraine. During a professional career that spanned an incredible six decades, Geller encountered many setbacks and disappointments, but his natural gifts, his capacity to work and his total belief in himself set him apart from the crowd and enabled him each

time to go on and achieve truly brilliant successes. Awarded the Soviet Master title in 1949, and next the GM title in 1952, he finally won the Soviet Championship for the first time in 1955 at age 30. He won the Soviet title for only the second time in 1979 at age 54, ahead of players half his age. He qualified from the Interzonals no less than six times. During his career Geller won a large number of what we today would consider supertournaments, including the very strong 1975 Moscow International when he was already 50 years old.

Geller's style of play may best be described as a sort of dynamic classicism: sound plans based on deep positional motifs, executed with unerring precision and seemingly boundless energy and determination. His games have an aura of harmony about them that attracted many fans. While Geller developed a reputation for being an outstanding attacking player, which he no doubt deserved, his style of play in fact very much resembled that of a modernized Capablanca: always searching for chess truth in any position, deadly endgame technique, and an uncanny ability to exploit tiny advantages.

Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

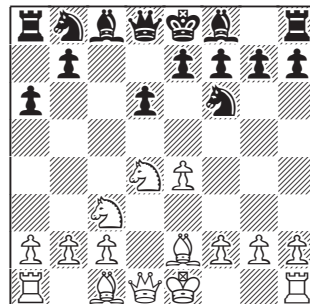
Geller, Efim  
Petrosian, Tigran  
*SU Spartakiad, 1963*

French: Winawer C16

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♗b4 4.e5 b6  
5.♗f3 ♗d7 6.♗d2 ♗f8 7.a4 ♗c6  
8.♗e2 ♗ge7 9.0-0 f6 10.♞e1 fxe5  
11.♗b5! ♗g6 12.♗xe5 ♗xe5  
13.♞xe5 a6 14.♗xc6 ♗xc6  
15.♗xd5 ♗d7 16.♗g5 ♗d6  
17.♗h5+ ♗f8 18.♗f3+ ♗g8  
19.♞xc6! ♞f8 20.♗e7+ ♗xe7  
21.♗xc6 ♗xc6 22.♞xe7 ♞f7  
23.♞ae1 ♗xa4 24.b3 ♗c6 25.♞1e6  
♗d5 26.♞e8+ ♞f8 27.♞6e7 h6

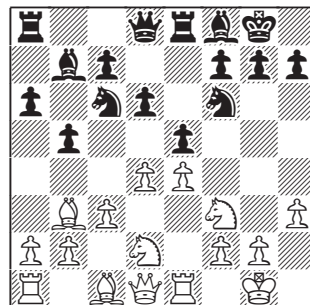
28.♞xf8+ ♗xf8 29.♞xc7 ♗g8  
30.♗f4 g5 31.♗e5 ♞h7 32.♞c8+  
♗f7 33.c4 ♗b7 34.♞d8 ♗e6  
35.♞d6+ ♗f5 36.f3 g4 37.♞f6+  
♗g5 38.f4+ ♗h5 39.♞xb6 ♗e4  
40.♗f2 ♞b7 41.♞xb7 ♗xb7 42.d5  
1-0.

His focus on modest but concrete strategic objectives was clear from his opening repertoire. Against the Sicilian, for example, he had a strong preference for developing his bishop on e2 after 1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♗e2.



Until his arrival on the scene 6.♗e2 was not considered very dangerous, but Geller single handedly turned this bishop development into a much feared weapon. He found plans for White that brought out the hidden energy and potential from such an unassuming piece configuration, and his games would write the theory of this line for a quarter of a century. Fischer suffered more than once in this line against Geller in individual competition. Later Karpov eagerly took up the line, perhaps as a result of Geller's role in training Anatoly.

And in the Spanish, one of his favorite openings with either color, Geller favored a simple approach to the very popular Zaitsev Variation after 1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗a4 ♗f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♞e1 b5 7.♗b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♗b7 10.d4 ♞e8 11.♗bd2 ♗f8.





Instead of the more theoretical 12.a4 which has been debated in countless Kasparov vs. Karpov games without any clear conclusion, Geller preferred the modest bishop retreat 12...♗c2 followed by d5, b3 and c4, blocking out Black's ♗/b7. Hardly something that would scare the defenders of the Black position, but nevertheless a very concrete approach, causing some impediment to Black achieving his strategic goals, not to mention being slightly irritating in a practical sense. Today many Grandmasters are returning to Geller's approach, as the 12.a4 system is failing to make much of a dent in Black's setup.

With hard work Geller became a very well rounded player, capable of playing many different positions with great skill. Like the other leaders of his generation, especially Boris Spassky, Leonid Stein, Mikhail Tal and Victor Korchnoi, he developed a marked aptitude for playing complex opening systems that lead to sharp and uncertain play, and he did much research that helped develop what would later become modern chess theory. His opening knowledge and analytic skills would put him into a class by himself, and even Fischer had remarkable trouble keeping up with Geller in theoretical disputes.

Geller played every game to win, regardless of opponent or color or even tournament situation. And against any opponent he would always remain faithful to his style and chess values: he would play the same way against everyone.

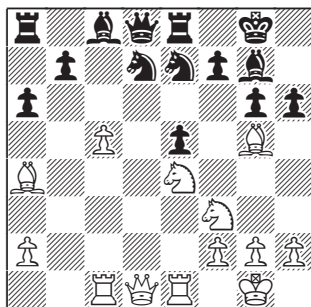
The fact that he had a plus score against the World Champions also speaks to his remarkable skill: not counting draws, his personal score against Mikhail Botvinnik was 4/5; against Vasily Smyslov 10/17; against Tigran Petrosian 4/6; against Robert Fischer 5/8. Even more remarkable, he crushed Fischer twice in the late 1960s with Black, one game going 25 moves and the other only 23 moves! Against both Max Euwe and Anatoly Karpov he had an even 1/2 score.

His only negative scores are 4/10 against Mikhail Tal, and 6/15 against Boris Spassky. He also had a 0/1 score against Gary Kasparov, but was almost 60 years old at the time! A truly remarkable record.

Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

**Geller, Efim  
Keres, Paul  
Moscow SU ch, 1973  
Ruy Lopez C87**

**1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 a6  
4.♗a4 ♗f6 5.0-0 ♗e7 6.♗e1 d6  
7.c3 0-0 8.d4 ♗d7 9.♗e3 ♗f6  
10.♗bd2 ♗e8 11.d5 ♗e7 12.b4 g6  
13.c4 c6 14.♗c1 ♗g7 15.c5! dxc5  
16.bxc5 cxd5 17.exd5 ♗xd5  
18.♗g5 ♗e7 19.♗e4 h6**



**20.♗d6!! hxg5 21.♗xf7! ♗a5  
22.♗7xg5 ♗f8 23.♗xd7 ♗xa2  
24.♗e2 ♗a3 25.♗e3 ♗b4 26.♗xc8  
♗axc8 27.♗d7 ♗f5 28.♗e6+ ♗h8  
29.♗xg6 1-0.**

Certainly, Efim Geller was one of the strongest players never to become World Champion. To players of my generation Efim Geller's name is synonymous with chess greatness. He died in 1998 at age 73, still an active tournament player and trainer.

Why did Geller never become World Champion? He came close many times: in the 1962 Candidates tournament he was just one point short of earning the right to play a title match against Mikhail Botvinnik. Six times he qualified for the Interzonal stage, but each time he failed to advance further. Did Geller lack something as a player that prevented him from achieving the highest and most coveted title? This subject has always been of interest to me, and over the years I have done much thinking about this question.

In the late 1960s former World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik, in an interview for a Yugoslav newspaper, made a rather profound observation about Geller: "Geller is clearly the best player in the world. However, what prevents Geller from being the

strongest player in the world is that he lacks Boris Spassky's realism".

Coming from the father of Soviet chess this recognition of Geller's outstanding abilities was indeed high praise. In a perfect world he had all of the qualities necessary to shine above the rest. But at the same time it contained a sober truth: that in the real world, with so many top class players, being the best player is not a guarantee to come out on top. That the hardest fought chess battles are decided not by one's strengths but instead by one's weaknesses — and that the strongest player is the one who is best able to expose these shortcomings in his opponents.

It was not by accident that Botvinnik mentioned Spassky in this context. At that time Boris Spassky was coming into his own, and had developed a reputation for being the one most likely to become the next World Champion. And at the same time, Spassky was the main obstacle in the way of Geller's own ambitions to contest a match for the World Championship. Twice in the 1960s Geller lost quite badly to Spassky in Candidates Match play, failing to win even a single game!

The main reason for Geller's failure to become World Champion can be identified by comparing him with Spassky, and we can start by focusing on the more apparent differences between their approaches to the game. The first notable difference is their behavior at the board. Spassky was famous for his poker face, and his seeming indifference to the events unfolding before him. Fischer wrote that "Spassky sits at the board with the same dead expression whether he's mating or being mated".

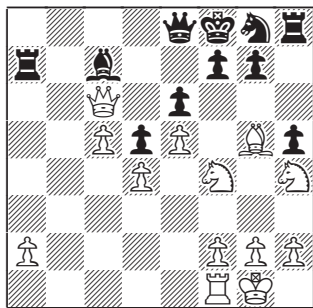
Geller's facial expression, on the other hand, revealed a great deal about how he felt about his position, and offered his opponent valuable insight into his state of mind. Again taking from Fischer's *Sixty Memorable Games*, Fischer recounts an early moment from the game Fischer-Geller, Bled 1961, immediately after Geller played a new move 7...♗f6: "Geller looked quite happy", followed two moves later by "He still looked happy", but then, after Fischer's 14th move, "Geller took a half hour on this recapture and stopped looking happy". Geller resigned eight moves

later, clearly distraught, down a rook and a piece in a shattered position!

A second example can be taken from another game against Fischer from the 1970 Interzonal where after about ten moves Geller, with the White pieces, offered a draw to his opponent. The spectators reported that Fischer said something quietly, clearly meant to refuse the draw, and it was noted that Geller immediately became flushed, his face turning very red. Curiously, several moves later Geller blundered a pawn for no apparent reason.

**Geller, Efim**  
**Karpov, Anatoly**  
*Moscow SU ch, 1976*  
**French: Winawer C16**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5  
 ♙d7 5.♘f3 b6 6.♙d2 ♙a6 7.♙xa6  
 ♘xa6 8.0-0 ♘b8 9.♘e2 ♙e7  
 10.♙c1 b5 11.♘f4 h5 12.b3 ♙a3  
 13.♙b1 a5 14.c4 c6 15.c5 ♘b4  
 16.♙c1 a4 17.♘d3 ♙a5 18.bxa4  
 bxa4 19.♙xa4 ♙a7 20.♙g5 ♙c7  
 21.♙xb8+! ♙xb8 22.♙xc6+ ♙f8  
 23.♘f4 ♙a7 24.♘h4! ♙e8



25.♙xc6!! fxe6 26.♘hg6+ ♙xg6  
 27.♘g6+ ♙e8 28.♘xh8 ♙a4  
 29.♙d1 ♘e7 30.♙xe7 ♙xe7  
 31.♘g6+ ♙f7 32.♘f4 ♙xe5  
 33.dxe5 ♙xf4 34.♙c1 ♙e8 35.c6  
 ♙d8 36.c7+ ♙c8 37.g3 ♙a4 38.♙c6  
 ♙xa2 39.♙xe6 g5 40.♙d6 ♙d2  
 41.e6 ♙xc7 42.e7 1-0.

Geller clearly had a some difficulty controlling his emotions during a game, and perhaps occasionally he played less well when distressed or surprised. Spassky demonstrated much more outward self control, although such strong self discipline undoubtedly required much energy and probably had some negative effects on his moves from time to time. While Spassky's way of handling the normal pressures and demands of

a tournament game may be more desirable, it is hard to argue that Geller's natural responsiveness to these same pressures was in any way artificial or destructive, or that it created any real opportunities for his opponent to take advantage. After all, in the end only strong moves win games, regardless of how happy or distressed your opponent may look.

Another difference between Geller and Spassky had to do with how they handled the clock. Geller had a reputation for frequently landing in time trouble. He was known as a deep thinker, as opposed to a calculator like Korchnoi, and often found himself with twenty moves to make in less than ten or fifteen minutes. Clock problems were a life long trait with Geller, and should be seen as part of his style: constantly searching for the truth and the best move! Geller, like Korchnoi, sought to understand all of his opponent's moves, and this is hardly a practical thing to do with limited time.

Spassky, on the other hand, controlled his time remarkably well. He rarely got into time trouble, and this was a conscious decision and part of a more disciplined approach. I remember studying the time charts of the 1969 World Championship match between Spassky and Petrosian, and noted the strikingly regular amounts of time that Spassky would allow himself to find a move: on average a maximum of 15 minutes on difficult decisions, twice a game, and more often than not limiting these decisions to eight minutes each if possible.

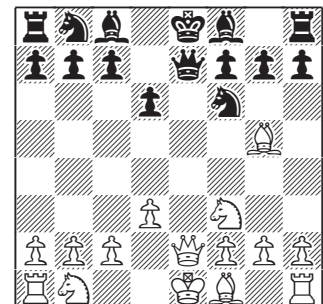
This difference is of course purely a pragmatic one, a factor influenced more by your trainer than reflecting a fundamental flaw. While numerous examples exist where Geller lost on time in clearly winning positions, it is unlikely that he scored fewer points than Spassky in the process. Spassky, in turn, likely missed many more promising moves because of his conscious policy to make practical decisions as opposed to always making the best move. It may be possible to exploit time trouble in some particular game, but over the course of the career of a Grandmaster this factor would not make much of a statistical difference.

More likely than the factors we have already examined, I think that Boris Spassky's realism, as Mikhail Botvinnik

referred to it, was in essence based on a more highly evolved self awareness as a player, including his strengths and weaknesses, and even his limitations as a competitor. Spassky never let his ego get in his way, and he had a very level headed idea about his place in the chess world. His expectations did not produce complicated emotional beliefs that might otherwise shake a competitor's self confidence. This self awareness allowed him to be at ease during critical moments in his career, knowing that he was capable of winning many games, but also that some defeats were inevitable.

His interviews before he became World Champion showed a somewhat introspected adult with a very calm and measured attitude towards life. In a 1966 interview with Leonard Barden just before his first title match with Tigran Petrosian, Spassky was able to look deep within himself and draw valuable lessons from his experiences: "When I was younger I made the mistake of expecting more than I could reasonably achieve. Today, if I am beaten I feel a great energy to fight again, and I believe that the defeat is even helping me." His attitude towards success was also rather uncomplicated: "When you are obtaining good results you begin to understand that you do not necessarily play chess so well." Many years later, in a 1988 interview for *New in Chess*, Spassky, looking back, wrote of those earlier years: "At that time I was so strong that I couldn't imagine how strong I actually was."

A concrete example that will lead to a comparison with Geller, and to some valuable insight into Geller's psyche, is provided by the way Spassky, more often than not, handled the Petroff Defense after 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘e5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘e4 5.♙e2 ♙e7 6.d3 ♘f6 7.♙g5.



Remarkably, Spassky played this way no less than fourteen times in my database, including twice in the 1969 World Championship match against Petrosian, drawing both games very quickly before a bored audience. Spassky never once in all of these games achieved even the shade of an edge and won only twice, against much weaker players who failed to stay awake. And yet Spassky used this line almost exclusively, even in events of the highest calibre. Why?

I believe that only Spassky can really answer this question, but our earlier discussion of Spassky's expectations of himself provides a reasonable explanation: There is no refutation to the Petroff, as even the more popular lines lead to nothing in the opening, so why try to win the theoretical battle? With 5.♖e2 Spassky gets a position where he can play chess, that he knows he will never lose, and one that will occasionally offer chances if his opponent makes an error.

Some may counter, quite reasonably I think, that Spassky's opponents could take advantage of the 5.♖e2 line by always playing the Petroff, and so prevent Boris from ever getting any opening advantage. This may be true, but the Petroff is unlikely to become too popular among top chess players because it is such a boring opening! People don't play chess to draw. Petrosian, in fact, avoided the Petroff like the plague in the next three games, and twice played the Sicilian Defense followed by a Spanish. Spassky won the games and the match, and we have to wonder if his realism got the better of Petrosian?

In much of Spassky's opening repertoire one finds the same theme repeated again and again. Generally he was satisfied with very little from the openings: a sound but pleasant position, better prospects than the opponent, and perhaps some initiative if the opportunity presents itself. He relied very much on his talent and intuition to do the rest.

Geller, on the other hand, tried to force a theoretical battle when faced with the Petroff, as he did with every opening. Geller was a maximalist: how can I get an advantage here, and if not, is there a way that I can pose new problems for my opponent? He was always working on opening theory, but his results in the Petroff were no better than Spassky's! Geller

lost more often here than he did against the Spanish, and his score in his favorite 3.d4 line from sixteen games only equals Spassky's score from fourteen games with 5.♖e2.

This points to another relevant difference between Spassky and Geller: how they look at the draw. Every Grandmaster acknowledges that while the draw in chess may not be the most attractive feature of the game, it is still an inseparable part of the game and hence a valid result. However, some players are more reluctant to agree to draws than others. Spassky would not go out of his way to avoid a draw if he felt that it was a reasonable result of the position. But Geller, almost invariably, had to force a real struggle before conceding the half point.

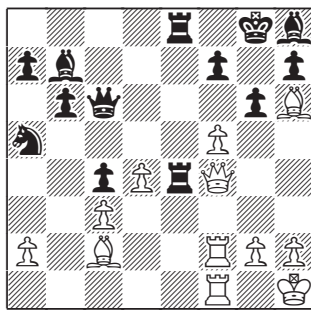
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Geller, Efim  
Smyslov, Vasily

Moscow c9 (5), 1965

Grünfeld: Exchange D87

1.d4 ♠f6 2.c4 g6 3.♠c3 d5 4.cxd5  
♠xd5 5.e4 ♠xc3 6.bxc3 ♠g7  
7.♠c4 c5 8.♠e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♠c6  
10.♠e3 ♖c7 11.♠c1 ♠d8 12.f4 e6  
13.♖h1 b6 14.f5 ♠a5 15.♠d3 exf5  
16.exf5 ♠b7 17.♖d2 ♠e8 18.♠g3  
♖c6 19.♠f2 ♠ad8 20.♠h6 ♠h8  
21.♖f4 ♠d7 22.♠e4 c4 23.♠c2  
♠de7 24.♠cf1 ♠xe4



25.fxg6!! f6 26.♖g5! ♖d7 27.♖g1!  
♠g7 28.♠xf6! ♠g4 29.gxh7+ ♖h8  
30.♠xg7+ ♖xg7 31.♖xg4! 1-0.

Korchnoi, in the introduction to his game with Geller from the 1960 Soviet Championship – half a point behind his opponent on the crosstable and playing Black – realized Geller's dilemma: should he just play for two draws in the final two rounds of the tournament to assure himself of at

least a tie for the title? Korchnoi wrote: "...the psychological situation was not to Geller's advantage. Geller had divided thoughts: on the one hand he did not want to lose all hope of winning the game... and on the other hand, if that was not possible, then a draw would suit him!" Subtly taking advantage of the situation, Korchnoi played an Alekhine Defense to provoke Geller! Never one to refuse a theoretical challenge, Efim Geller responded with the super sharp Four Pawns Attack and later refused a number of clear draws before ultimately losing the game and handing Korchnoi his first Soviet title!

Gradually, one can begin to perceive something concrete about Geller's inner psyche: he sometimes tended to expect more of himself than either the circumstances or his skill level warranted. In the heat of the battle he would sometimes lose track of the relative importance of a single game. Whereas Spassky's expectations were more closely associated with the position in front of him, Geller had expectations of a purely romantic nature, even when these were risky or unnecessary. Studying his games, this is indeed characteristic, especially in his younger years. That being said, however, I do not believe that this by itself is such a negative quality in a player: ambition can often be a very positive influence.

Then, one day, while studying the statistical differences in similar openings played by Spassky and Geller, I stumbled quite accidentally upon what I now consider to be the actual reason why Geller never became World Champion.

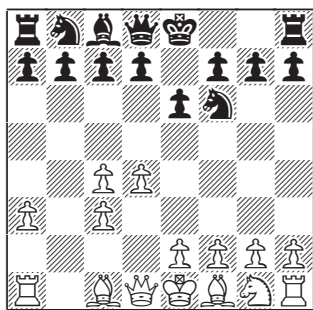
Geller had a fairly wide opening repertoire. He could play 1.e4 or 1.d4 or 1.c4 or 1.♠f3 interchangeably with White, and virtually any opening with Black. However, there are some curious things absent in his opening repertoire, with both colors. With White he never played the Exchange Variation against the Spanish, and with Black he never tried the Bogoljubow Variation against 1.d4. Geller had a weakness for the bishop pair!

Please understand that all modern Masters appreciate the value of the bishop pair; all of us have seen many impressive examples of the way the bishop pair can turn into a decisive weapon for attack, or used effectively in the technical phases of the game.

All other things being equal, the bishop pair can be a significant plus. Everything is relative, however, and the advantage of the bishop pair can be offset by other features in the position. Depending on the pawn structure, for example, two knights may be superior to the two bishops, while in other positions the bishop pair is simply a symbolic theoretical plus incapable of being exploited. The entire history of modern chess has sought an answer to the question of whether the bishop is superior to the knight, and much of this debate has focused on the value of the bishop pair.

However, falling in love with the bishop pair and losing sight of its relative value is all too easy. Many historical examples exist where an excessive fondness for the bishop pair actually led to defeat. Janowski, for example, was publicly ridiculed in the chess magazines of the early 20th century for claiming that the bishop pair constitutes a winning advantage in all positions. Some years later Alexander Alekhine invented the comical expression "les trois fous" to characterize a player who consistently overvalued the importance of the bishop pair.

Digging deeper into his opening repertoire, we find a young Geller with a strong fondness for the Sämisch Variation against the Nimzo Indian Defense after 1.d4 ♡f6 2.c4 e6 3.♠c3 ♠b4 4.a3!? ♠xc3+ 5.bxc3.



Quite successful with this line at first, Geller had to give up the setup when Boris Spassky and Vasily Smyslov showed his variation to be somewhat risky in the 1950s. Curiously, with White against the Bogoljubow after 1.d4 ♡f6 2.c4 e6 3.♠f3 ♠b4+ he never responded with 4.♠d2 and steadfastly preferred 4.♠c3 or 4.♠bd2.

From the Black side of the Spanish Exchange Variation Geller had a big

plus score. Clearly, his opening repertoire revolved around acquiring the bishop pair, and while that fact alone isn't unusual, Geller's almost religious refusal to concede the bishop pair to his opponent in the opening is notable! To be perfectly fair, he did play the Nimzo Indian Defense, though rarely and with surprisingly mediocre results for a player of his class. I believe that this characteristic is a very significant factor in Geller's makeup as a player.

Bobby Fischer experimented often with the Exchange Variation of the Spanish, and was quite willing to part with the bishop pair in return for play against Black's doubled pawns and a certain initiative in the center. However, Fischer was equally willing to play positions with the bishop pair where he had the doubled pawns, such as the French Winawer, for example, because Fischer considered the bishop pair to have relative value only!

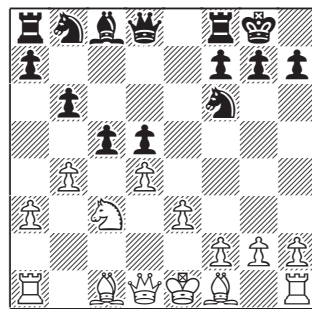
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Geller, Efim  
Spassky, Boris

Riga cs (1), 1965

Nimzo Indian: Rubinstein E44

1.d4 ♡f6 2.c4 e6 3.♠c3 ♠b4 4.e3 b6 5.♠ge2 0-0 6.a3 ♠xc3+ 7.♠xc3 d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.b4 c5



10.bxc5 bxc5 11.dxc5 ♣a5 12.♠d2 ♣xc5 13.♠c1 ♠c6 14.♠e2 d4 15.♠b5 ♣b6 16.0-0 ♠b8 17.♣c2 ♠b7 18.♠b1 dxe3 19.♠xc3 ♣a5 20.♠d6 ♠xd6 21.♠xb7 ♠d4 22.♠xd4 ♠xd4 23.♣b3 ♠d7 24.♠xd7 ♠xd7 25.♠d1 ♠b8 26.♣g3 ♠b7 27.h3 g6 28.♠f3 ♠c7 29.♣d6 ♣c5 30.♣xc5 1/2-1/2.

The evidence suggests that Geller was too fond of the bishop pair,

reluctant to play openings where he had to part with the bishop pair, and generally overestimating its value. As a result, he often handicapped himself with positions where any theoretical advantage derived from the bishop pair was illusory.

Spassky had no such hang-ups, and I believe that he recognized Geller's penchant for gaining the bishop pair and decided to use it against him in their two matches. In fact, both matches revolved around Geller's inability to exploit the two bishops, and Spassky clearly went out of his way to cede Geller the bishop pair.

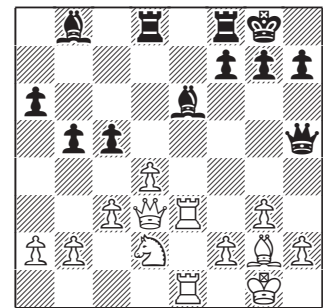
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Spassky, Boris  
Geller, Efim

Riga cs (2), 1965

Ruy Lopez: Marshall C89

1.e4 e5 2.♠f3 ♠c6 3.♠b5 a6 4.♠a4 ♠f6 5.0-0 ♠e7 6.♠e1 b5 7.♠b3 0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 ♠xd5 10.♠xe5 ♠xe5 11.♠xe5 c6 12.d4 ♠d6 13.♠e1 ♣h4 14.g3 ♣h3 15.♠e3 ♠g4 16.♣d3 ♠xe3 17.♠xe3 c5 18.♠d5 ♠ad8 19.♠d2 ♠b8 20.♠g2 ♣h5 21.♠ae1 ♠e6



Notice that Geller has sacrificed a pawn and hopes that his two bishops will provide enough compensation.

22.b3 ♠f5 23.♠e4 cxd4 24.cxd4 ♠c8 25.♠f3 ♣h6 26.♠g2 ♠a7 27.♠f3 ♣f6 28.♠e5 g6 29.d5 ♠b7 30.♠e7 ♠b8 31.♠7e2 ♠bd8 32.♠e5 h5 33.a4 ♣b6 34.axb5 axb5 35.♣d2 ♠d6 36.♣g5 ♣g7 37.♣e7 ♠xd5 38.♠xd5 ♠xd5 39.♠d7 ♠xd7 40.♣xd7 ♠d8 41.♣e7 ♠d5 42.♠a1 ♠b8 43.♠e3 ♠d6 44.♣e8 ♣b7 45.♣e4 ♣c6 46.♠d3 ♠c5 47.♣xc6 ♠xc6 48.♣g2 b4 49.♠a7 ♣f8 50.♠d7 ♠e7 51.♠e3 ♠c5 52.♠e4 ♠a6 53.♠c4 ♠d6 54.♣f3 ♣g7 55.♠d4 1-0.

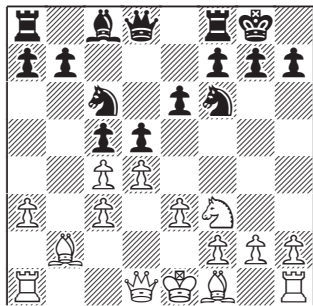
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Geller, Efim  
Spassky, Boris

Riga cs (5), 1965

Nimzo Indian: Rubinstein E51

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4  
4.♗f3 c5 5.e3 d5 6.a3 ♗xc3+  
7.bxc3 0-0 8.♖b2 ♗c6



9.♗c1 ♖e8 10.♖d3 dxc4 11.♗xc4  
e5 12.dxe5 ♗xd1+ 13.♗xd1 ♗xe5  
14.♗xe5 ♖xe5 15.♖e2 ♖d7 16.c4  
♖e7 17.♗xf6 gxf6 18.♖d6 ♖g7  
19.♖d2 ♖c6 20.♖c3 ♖e6 21.♖d2  
f5 22.♖g1 ♖h6 23.h3 ♖e8 24.♖d3  
♖f6 25.♖c2 ♖h4 26.♖d6+ ♖e6  
27.♖d2 f4 28.exf4 ♖xf4 29.♖xh7  
♖e4 30.♖xe4 ♖xe4 31.♖d7 ♖xf2  
32.♖gd1 ½-½.

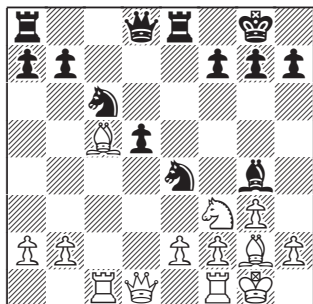
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Geller, Efim  
Spassky, Boris

Riga cs (7), 1965

Tarrasch D34

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c5 4.cxd5  
exd5 5.♗f3 ♗c6 6.g3 ♗f6 7.♖g2  
♖e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♖g5 ♖e6 10.dxc5  
♗xc5 11.♗a4 ♖e7 12.♖e3 ♖g4  
13.♗c1 ♖e8 14.♗c5 ♖xc5  
15.♖xc5 ♗e4



16.♖e3 ♗d7 17.♗a4 h5 18.♖fd1  
♖ad8 19.♖d3 h4 20.♖cd1 hxc3  
21.hxc3 ♗c8 22.♗a3 ♗e6 23.♗b3  
♖d7 24.♗a4 ♖h3 25.♖h1 ♖f5  
26.♗d4 ♗xd4 27.♖xd4 b6 28.♖e3  
♗g6 29.♗c1 ♖ed8 30.♗c6 ♗h7  
31.♖g2 ♖h3 32.♗c2 ♖xc2  
33.♖xc2 ♗h5 34.♖f3 f6 35.♖c8  
♗e8 36.♖xd8 ♖xd8 37.♖e3 ♗d7  
38.♖d3 ♖c8 39.♗d1 ♖f7 40.♗h1  
♗g4 41.♗h3 ½-½.

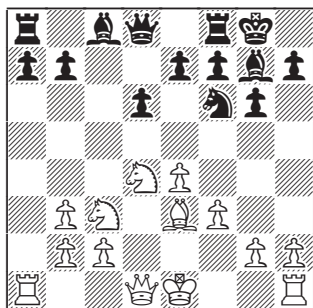
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Spassky, Boris  
Geller, Efim

Riga cs (8), 1965

Sicilian: Dragon B75

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.♗xd4 g6 5.♗c3 ♖g7 6.♖e3 ♗f6  
7.♖c4 d6 8.f3 ♗a5 9.♖b3 ♗xb3  
10.axb3 0-0



11.♗d2 a6 12.h4 ♖d7 13.h5 ♖c8  
14.♖h6 e5 15.♗de2 ♖e6 16.g4  
♗c7 17.♗g3 b5 18.b4 ♗b7  
19.♖xg7 ♗xg7 20.hxc6 fxc6  
21.♗xd6 ♖c6 22.♗xe5 ♖g8  
23.♗ge2 ♖c8 24.♗d4 ♖c7 25.0-0-0  
♖e7 26.♗g5 ♖g7 27.♖he1 ♗e8  
28.♗d5+ ♗f7 29.♗xf7+ ♖xf7  
30.♗d5 ♗c7 31.♗xc7 ♖xc7  
32.♗d2 h5 33.gxh5 gxh5 34.♖h1  
♖h7 35.♖dg1+ ♗f7 36.♖h4 ♖fh8  
37.♗e3 ♖g7 38.♖gh1 ♖g5 39.♗e2  
1-0.

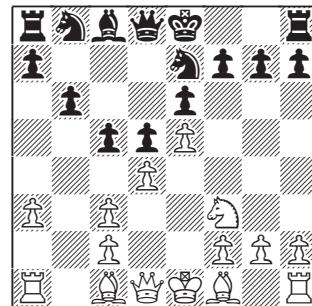
Notes by  
**Kevin Spraggett**

Geller, Efim  
Spassky, Boris

Sukhumi m (5), 1968

French: Winawer C19

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.e5 c5  
5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♗e7 7.♗f3 b6



8.a4 ♖a6 9.♖xa6 ♗xa6 10.0-0  
♗b8 11.dxc5

Geller-Spassky, Sukhumi cq (3) 1968,  
went 11.♖a3 ♗d7 12.♗d3 ♖c8  
13.♖fd1 0-0 14.a5 h6 15.axb6 axb6  
16.♖c1 f6 17.exf6 ½-½.

11...bxc5 12.c4 0-0 13.cxd5 ♗xd5  
14.♗e2 ♗d7 15.♖d1 ♗b7 16.♗d3  
♖fd8 17.♖g5 ♗f8 18.♗c4 ♖xd1+  
19.♖xd1 ♗d5 20.♖d2 ♖d8 21.♖e1  
♗g6 22.h4 h6 23.♗g4 ♖h8 24.h5  
♗f8 25.c4 ♗e7 26.♖e3 ♗c7  
27.♖b1 ♗f5 28.♗e4 ♗xe3  
29.♗xe3 ♗c6 30.a5 ♖g8 31.♖b5  
♗d7 32.♗d3 ♗a8 33.♗b1 a6  
34.♖b7 ♖b8 35.♖xb8+ ♗xb8  
36.♗e4 ♗d8 37.♗e1 ♗b8 38.♗b1  
♗c6 39.♗b7 ♗xe5 40.♗xe5 ♗d1+  
41.♖h2 ♗xh5+ 42.♖g1 ♗d1+  
½-½.

Further investigation confirmed my thesis: Geller's practical results with the bishop pair were actually among the lowest of all the top players! His failure to reach a match for the World Championship is to a significant extent due to his overestimation of the bishop pair in practical play.

We can conclude that Geller was often unrealistic in his assessment of positions where the bishop pair was not a significant factor, and that Spassky's success was at least in part due to his ability to identify and take advantage of Geller's weakness.

In retrospect it seems very cruel that a relatively small flaw in one's chess framework could have such drastic consequences. Geller was, after all, really an extraordinarily gifted player. However, chess at the top is very cruel, and frequently the seemingly insignificant details decide outcomes. To state it bluntly once more: in really close struggles it is your weaknesses more than your strengths that decide the outcome. Overestimating one's position is an exploitable weakness!

# GM



by IM Dave Ross

In this issue of GM Factory I would like to introduce two talented brothers from Montreal, Eric and Jonathon Lawson. There have been many siblings in Canadian chess over the last 25 years, with the most successful pair surely being Kevin and Grant Spraggett. And while I have never read any studies on the subject, the experience of most chess teachers indicates that it is usually the younger brother who has the greater talent. This holds true for me as well, and I recall many times when my brother, FM Paul Ross would pick up in a few blitz games what took me many hours to learn from books. In one particular instance I bet Paul – then aged only eleven – that he would be unable to mate me with bishop and knight versus my lone king in less than five minutes. He had never opened a book on the subject, but it took all of two minutes for him to lighten my pocket by the five dollars I wagered so hastily. His only comment was “That’s easy!” My close friends will confirm that I am a slow learner, but I always remembered never to bet against my brother again?!

This short story, however, does bring us to an interesting topic. What exactly is the relationship between talent and success? I have seen many remarkable talents come and go in my fourteen years as a professional coach, and while I used to get quite upset at the incredible waste of talent perpetrated by some of my pupils, age has tempered my reactions and I have become more philosophical. It

may seem strange, but I now believe that many extraordinarily talented kids actually have less chance of advancing very far. Things come so easily to these children that they often never learn how to work properly. Sooner or later everyone who wants to achieve great things has to study seriously in order to succeed, but at that point a talented kid who lacks a serious work ethic almost always fails against a perhaps less talented peer who has learned to put in the required hours.

I am now at the point where I tell parents that they are wasting their money on lessons, or I simply refuse to coach their children. By the time a child is eleven or twelve years old he or she should gain some sort of satisfaction from playing the game regardless of the result, and show a desire to improve by way of study and hard work. Without this precondition, lessons are a waste of time and money. That being said, I have done some work with a young man aged about eighteen who told me that he never liked studying and, quite frankly, doesn’t ever intend to start?! This player likes competitions and gives 100% when he plays, but while I have a great deal of respect for his approach it is equally true that he has failed time and again to defeat the kids at the very top in his age bracket. He is, in my opinion, far more talented than the others, but talent alone does not compensate for the sheer amount of theoretical knowledge accumulated by his peers.

He is ok with that, perhaps because he lacks a true affection for the game, and that limits his ultimate potential. My request to parents is to carefully consider how beneficial it is for your children if every goal they set is made too easy by your own, however well intentioned, assistance at every turn?

Today’s first game was played last month at the annual Quebec City Carnival Open, and it represents a breakthrough for Jonathon Lawson, who is Quebec’s highest rated Grade 6 student. Here he defeats an experienced ‘A’ class player with the help of some great tactics and strong endgame play.

Notes by  
**Dave Ross**

**Pageau, Roger  
Lawson, Jonathon  
Quebec City Carnival op,  
2002  
Queen Pawn A48**

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 g6 3.♙f4**

White employs a very solid setup that is often used when the first player is content to wait for the opponent to weaken his position. Admittedly, it is also a very common plan older players adopt against juniors.

**3...♙g7 4.e3 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.♙d3?!**

Correct is 6.♙e2.

**6...♗bd7 7.0-0 ♗h5?**

One of my students likes to play 7...♖e8 in this position, since the very quick central advance ...e5 reveals why the opponent’s light squared bishop is on the wrong square.

**8.♙g5 h6 9.♙h4 ♗b6?**

Black continues to misplace his knights.

**10.c3?!**

Roger clings to his solid policy, but here 10.c4! ♖e8 11.♗c3 c6 is more active and a little better for White.

**10...f5 11.♗bd2**

More useful looks 11.a4!? followed by 12.a5 to dislodge Black’s offside ♗/b6. It is also a cheap way to activate your rook in this kind of situation without actually moving them!

**11...♖e8 12.♙e2 ♗f6 13.♙g3**

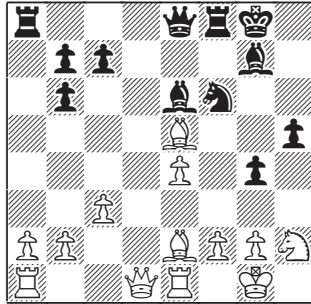
White’s overly passive treatment of the opening has allowed his opponent to reach a position

resembling a Leningrad Dutch, albeit with a strangely placed ♖/b6.

**13...g5! 14.♞e1 g4?**

Jonathon wants to attack immediately, but this activity comes much too soon. Better is a slow build-up with 14...c6 15.c4 ♖bd7 16.♞c2 ♞g6 17.c5 d5 and an unclear position.

**15.hxg4 fxg4 16.♞h2 h5 17.e4 e5 18.dxe5 dxe5**



**19.f3?**

A very instructive mistake. White follows the rule about attacking a pawn chain at the head if you can't get to the base, but this particular pawn chain specimen is totally irrelevant because it is already immobilized. By voluntarily creating additional levers White only helps his opponent open additional lines against White's king. Far more effective is to play in the center with 19.♞c4! ♞e6 (Black's position won't take long to fall apart after 19...♞xc4 20.♞xc4+ ♞h8 once White's knight arrives on square/f5) 20.♞xb6 axb6 21.♞xe5 and White has the better position and an extra pawn.

**19...gxf3 20.♞xf3 ♞bd7**

Black equalizes with 20...♞d7!

**21.♞c4 ♞h6 22.♞f1 ♞g5!**

Jonathon plans to use his h/♞ to pave a road to White's king.

**23.♞e2 h4 24.♞h2?**

This bishop belongs on f2 for defensive reasons. After 24.♞f2! b6 25.♞fe3 ♞a6 26.♞f5 ♞c5! White is a little better.

**24...♞f7**

Better is 24...♞e6!

**25.♞fe3 b5 26.♞d2 a6 27.♞d5**

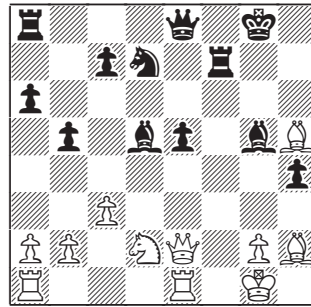
The alternatives 27.a4 and 27.c4 look more promising.

**27...♞xd5?**

This exchange opens too many lines for White's pieces, but perhaps Black

missed that 27...♞e6! 28.♞xc7? ♞b6+ picks up the eager knight.

**28.exd5 ♞b7 29.♞h5! ♞xd5**



**30.♞g4?**

Incredible, but this powerful looking move throws away much of White's advantage. Much better is the long awaited 30.c4!

**30...♞g7! 31.♞xe8 ♞e3+ 32.♞xe3?**

Again White's obvious choice is wrong! Quite difficult to see is the sequence 32.♞f1! ♞xg4 33.♞xd7 ♞xg2 34.♞e6+! ♞xe6 35.♞xg2 ♞xd2 36.♞xe5 ♞f7 with a White advantage. Be honest, how many readers made the 32.♞xe3 capture automatically?

**32...♞xg4 33.♞f3?**

White's sudden reversal of fortune has taken a toll psychologically. The calm 33.♞xd7! ♞xg2+ 34.♞f1 ♞xh2 35.♞xe5! ♞f8+ 36.♞e1 ♞h1+ 37.♞e2 ♞xa1 38.♞xd5 maintains the balance.

**33...♞xe8 34.♞d1 c6**

The fireworks are over, and now Black has to show good endgame technique to bring home the point.

**35.b3 ♞f8 36.♞e1 ♞f5! 37.♞d2**

**♞fg5 38.♞de2 e4 39.♞f2 ♞e5**

**40.♞xe5 ♞xe5 41.♞h2 ♞g7**

**42.♞c2 ♞eg5 43.♞d4 ♞g3 44.♞fe2**

**♞f6**  
Jonathon has been very patient, and his opponent will run out of constructive moves very soon.

**45.♞f2+ ♞e5 46.♞ee2 e3! 47.♞f3+**

**♞xf3 48.♞xe3+ ♞e4 49.♞fe2**

**♞xe3 50.♞xe3 ♞xg2+ 51.♞h3**

**♞g3+ 52.♞xg3 hxg3 53.♞xg3 ♞b1**

I especially like that Jonathon scored the full point in the endgame.

0-1.

Eric Lawson has had nothing short of a meteoric rise to the level of National Master. In December of 1999 he was rated 1633, advancing so quickly that three recent games against IMs

brought one win and two draws. Here is Eric's first win over Canadian IM Thanh Nha Duong, played at the same Quebec City Carnival Open.

Notes by  
**Dave Ross**

Lawson, Eric  
Duong, Thanh Nha  
*Quebec City Carnival op,*  
2002  
Dutch A80

**1.d4 f5 2.♞g5!? c5**

I recently showed Eric an amazing game I lost to IM Bryon Nickoloff in this line. After 2...h6 3.♞h4 g5 4.♞g3 ♞g7 5.e4!N (normally 5.e3 is played) White is supposed to lose a piece to 5...f4 but now 6.♞h5+ ♞f8 7.♞xf4 gxf4 8.♞f5+ ♞e8 (or 8...♞f6 9.e5) 9.♞e2!! found me helpless against the threat of 10.♞h5+.

**3.d5 h6**

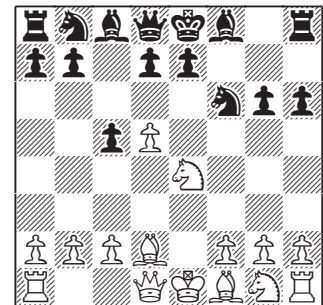
More theoretical is 3...♞b6!?

**4.♞d2!**

A remarkably obscure position!

**4...♞f6 5.♞c3 g6 6.e4! fxe4**

**7.♞xe4!**



Black never really recovers after this shocker.

**7...♞b6?**

Here 7...♞xe4 8.♞d3 ♞g7 9.♞xe4 ♞b6 is a nice try, but White is doing well here also.

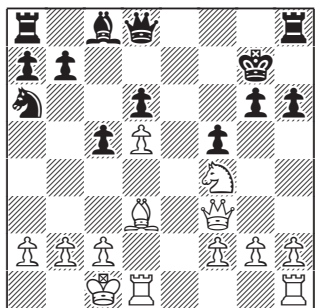
**8.♞xf6+ exf6 9.♞c3 ♞f7 10.♞d3 d6 11.♞f3 ♞g7 12.♞e2 ♞d8 13.0-0**

White has built up a fantastic attacking position, and without sacrificing anything!

**13...f5 14.♞xg7**

Also dangerous for Black is 14.h4!

**14...♞xg7 15.♞f4 ♞a6**



This development turns out badly, but it isn't so easy to suggest something better.

16. ♖xa6! bxa6 17. ♖he1 ♜f6  
18. ♜g3 ♜g5 19. ♜c3+ ♜h7 20. g3

Black cannot do anything while his opponent patiently improves his position for the decisive blow.

20... ♜f8 21. h4 ♜d8 22. ♜e3 ♜b8  
23. ♜de1 ♜b7 24. ♜1e2

More constructive is 24. h5 although psychologically the text also has a certain value by declaring to his opponent that even a free defensive move is insufficient to stop the inevitable. Black, ironically, complies immediately with a mistake and

speeds up his own demise considerably.

24... ♜f6? 25. ♜xf6 ♜xf6 26. ♜e8  
♜c7 27. ♜2e7+ ♜xe7 28. ♜xe7+  
♜g8 29. ♜xa7?

Instead 29. ♜c7 wins the house, but in this position many moves are good enough. Regardless, at this moment Black overstepped the time limit.

1-0.

A very smooth first win over an IM, and Thanh Nah Duong's only loss of the tournament. More than anything this game is a really nice example of tactics flowing out of a positional advantage. Readers should know that I don't plan to make this column a forum for the best games played by my students, but so far I have received exactly one reader submission, and that consisted of material from a kid who no longer plays chess?! So don't be shy – my plan is to showcase as many different young players as possible in future editions of GM Factory!



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# Moscow FIDE World Championship Knockout

by Knut Neven

The still relatively new format of FIDE's World Championship cycle does have certain drawbacks, among them the accelerated time control and the lottery format of short elimination matches instead of an all-play-all traditional event, but I suppose that FIDE considers these changes an improvement of sorts rather than a watering down of the way things used to be done. In a few more years only a handful of grizzled veterans will remember the days of month long Interzonal events and epic World Championship matches that could last a hundred days!

But be that as it may, FIDE did live up to their promises this time – no reports of bounced prize money cheques have hit the front pages of the chess press so far – and at the end of a three week long war of nerves and attrition produced a brand new World Champion in the young Ukrainian GM Ruslan Ponomarev. On the women's side China's Zhu Chen prevailed over Alexandra Kosteniuk in the final.

One has to feel sorry for Vasily Ivanchuk, whose nerves failed him once again after a great run that took him all the way into the final with his fellow countryman. For Vasily, and for many others as well, the knockout format and tiebreak games that follow without rest immediately after the conclusion of a tied match are a psychological nightmare. For those who advance to the later rounds a worthwhile share of the \$3,000,000 prize fund awaits, but the 64 players who are eliminated in round one after only two games might wonder why they made the long trip in the first place? Their \$6,000 guaranteed prize probably just covers expenses after any applicable taxes have been paid...

Extensive reports and games from the FIDE World Championships are widely available online and are now also appearing in many international chess publications such as 2002/1 of

*New In Chess* magazine, and so we will focus here on the exploits of our two Canadian representatives in Moscow. That almost anything can happen in a short match of only two games should be clear to anyone, as even a world class Grandmaster like Viswanathan Anand found out when he lost his first game against the virtually unknown French IM Olivier Touzane, who had qualified to the event through FIDE's controversial internet qualifier some months earlier...

Canadian GM Alexandre Lesiege and WIM Nava Starr were both eliminated in the first round by their respective opponents, Sergey Shipov and Corina Peptan. The games, however, were anything but simple affairs for their opponents, and Nava in particular missed several opportunities to turn the tables in her match.

## Notes by Joshua Henson

Starr, Nava  
Peptan, Corina

Moscow Wch FIDE KO f (1.1),  
2001

Sicilian: Rossolimo B31

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 g6 4.0-0

More aggressive is 4.♙xc6 dxc6 5.d3 ♗g7 6.h3 e5 7.♙e3 b6 8.♘c3 f6 9.♙d2 ♙e6 10.0-0-0 ♘e7 11.♙h6 0-0 12.g4 ♘c8 13.♙xg7 ♙xg7 14.♘h4 as played in the game Ivanchuk–Anand, Intel GP 1994. White intends to attack on the kingside with ♘g2 and f4 while Black has peanuts on the queenside.

4...♙g7 5.♙e1 e5!?

White often tries to build a center with c3-d4-e5 in this type of position, so Corina holds up White's central d4 expansion for now and puts the question as to the utility of White's last move.

6.h3 ♘g7 7.♘c3!N

Here 7.c3 0-0 8.♙a3 a6 9.♙f1 d5 10.d3 led to an interesting struggle in the game Schwab–Fusi, Vienna 1996.

7...0-0 8.d3?!

White traps his light squared bishop in no man's land outside of the pawn chain. Normally this isn't so bad, but here White cannot continue with d4 if so required and may find it difficult to come up with a constructive plan. Instead 8.♙c4 a6 9.a4 d6 10.d3 ♙e6 (10...♙h8) 11.♘d5 (11.♙g5!?) 11...f5 12.♙g5 with some piece activity looks playable, even though Black's pawns look ready to gain some space.

8...h6

Although Black gains the bishop pair, there are too many weaknesses in his position to justify the pawn sacrifice 8...d5? 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♙xc6 bxc6 11.♘xe5.

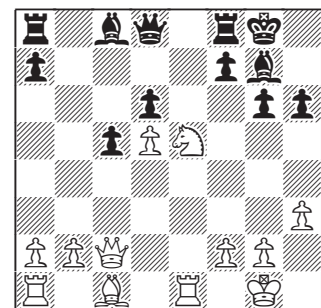
9.♘d5

I personally do not like this move, but White is already in a quandry to find an active plan. After, for example, the simple development 9.♙e3 d6 10.♙d2 ♙h7 Black gets in the huge advance ...f5 and suffocates her opponent on the kingside.

9...♘xd5 10.exd5 ♘d4 11.♙c4

In exchange for the bishop pair Black has to accept a weakened pawn structure after 11.♙a4!? b5 12.♘xd4 bxa4 13.♘f3.

11...b5 12.♘xd4 bxc4 13.♘f3 cxd3 14.♘xe5 dxc2 15.♙xc2 d6



16.♘c6

This outpost certainly looks like a tempting destination for the knight,

but while it prevents Black's rook from occupying the b-file and controls several important squares in the opponent's camp, the knight really doesn't work very hard from this location. Another, perhaps more promising alternative is 16.♖c4 ♖b7 17.♗f4 when White gets pressure from both rooks placed on the central files, and his knight is ready to capture ♗/d6. Black's bishop pair provides a measure of compensation, but my feeling is that White stands better after 17...♗xd5 18.♗xd6.

**16... ♖f6 17. ♖b3**

This move does not help White coordinate her forces. After 17.♗e7+ ♖h7 18.♗xc8 ♗axc8 19.♗b1 followed by ♗d2-c3 the position looks equal.

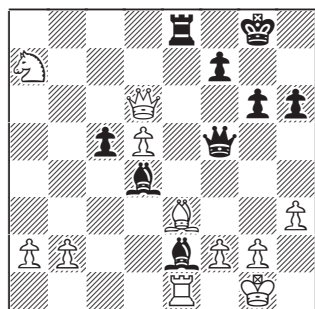
**17... ♗a6 18. ♖b1 ♖fe8 19. ♗d2 ♖h4!?**

Possibly played with the intention ...♖h5 followed by ...c4 and a certain amount of pressure.

**20. ♖f3 ♗b5 21. ♖xe8+**

White can try to deflect Black's queen from square/e7 with 21.g3!? when the ending after 21...♖f6! (21...♖xh3? 22.♗e7+ is bad news tactically) 22.♖xf6 ♗xf6 23.♗c3!? (although a bit unclear, I suspect that White is in trouble after 23.♗xh6 ♗c4 24.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25.♗xa7) 23...♗xc3 24.bxc3 ♖xe1+ 25.♖xe1 ♗c4 26.a3!? ♖g7 looks equal, although in practice Black must surely be preferred after 27.♖e7!? ♗xd5 28.♗xa7 ♖f6 29.♖c7 ♖e8 30.g4 ♖g5.

**21... ♖xe8 22. ♗xa7 ♗e2 23. ♖f4 ♖h5 24. ♖xd6 ♖f5 25. ♖e1 ♗d4 26. ♗e3?**



The losing move! Instead 26.♗f4 ♖c2 27.♖c1 ♖xb2 28.♗c6 leaves White with very well coordinated forces, and although Corina can recover her pawn I would be concerned with Black's king safety.

**26... ♖xe3! 27.fxe3 ♗xe3+ 28. ♖h1**

**♖f2 29. ♖a1 ♗f3 30. ♖h2 ♗f4 31. ♖xf4 0-1.**

I do not know if time played a significant factor in this game, but such a painful loss in the first of two elimination games makes a reversal in the second game a very tall order indeed. In the next game Nava never really gets the ball rolling, and the game rather quickly peters out into a nearly level endgame. In retrospect, Black's best try at this moment might have been an exchange of the remaining pair of rooks, but the resulting bishop versus knight minor piece ending objectively offered very few concrete chances to Nava as well. Probably frustrated, Nava's collapse at the end of the second game no longer made a difference in the outcome of the match.

Notes by

## Joshua Henson

Peptan, Corina  
Starr, Nava

Moscow Wch FIDE KO f (1.2),  
2001

Modern B15

**1.e4 g6**

In an absolute must-win situation, it is critical that Black try to sharpen the game as quickly as possible.

**2.d4 ♗g7 3. ♗c3 c6?!**

This somewhat passive move leads to positions where White enjoys a small but long lasting advantage. Perhaps a more daring idea is the Pterodactyl after 3...c5!? 4.dxc5 ♖a5 although this sort of thing isn't to everyone's taste!?

**4. ♗f3 d5 5. ♗f4 dxe4 6. ♗xe4 ♗g4 7. ♗c4 ♖a5+ 8. ♖d2 ♖xd2+**

With a draw worth as much as a win, Corina justifiably trades queens. Why complicate matters unnecessarily when a simple continuation is sufficient for a slight edge?!

**9. ♗exd2 ♗xf3?!**

The reason behind this exchange remains a mystery to me. Black voluntarily concedes the two bishops and promotes White's only passive minor piece to more active duty.

**10. ♗xf3 ♗d7 11.0-0-0 ♗gf6 12. ♖he1 e6 13. ♗b3 0-0 14.h3 ♖fd8 15.c3 ♖ac8 16. ♗g5 h6 17. ♗h4 c5?!**

Black's pieces aren't ready yet for active operations, so perhaps the more patient regrouping of her knights with 17...g5 18.♗g3 ♗b6 19.♗e5 ♗bd5 followed by ...♗h5-f4 makes more sense.

**18. ♗xf6 ♗xf6**

After 18...♗xf6 19.dxc5 ♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1 ♖xc5 White controls the only open file.

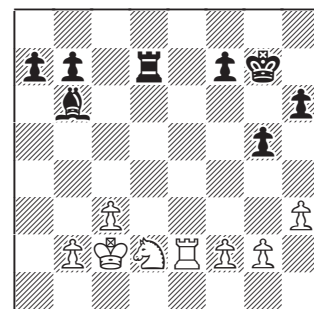
**19.d5 c4!?**

Nava tries to create some chances by mixing things up tactically.

**20.dxe6 cxb3 21.exd7 bxa2 22. ♖c2 ♖c7 23. ♖b3 ♖cxd7 24. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 25. ♖xa2 ♖g7**

Black has the more mobile minor piece in the ending after 25...♖e7 26.♖xe7 ♗xe7 but it is doubtful that this fact alone is enough to create any serious winning chances.

**26. ♖b3 ♗d8 27. ♖e2 ♗b6 28. ♗d2 g5 29. ♖c2**



**29...f5?!**

The insertion of 29...a6!? 30.♗c4 ♗a7 allows Black to keep the bishop on the g1-a7 diagonal and places her queenside pawns on the at least theoretically correct color opposite that of her bishop. After the dubious text, White takes control of the game.

**30. ♗c4 ♗c7 31. ♖e6 f4 32.f3**

Corina has a palpable advantage now that Nava's kingside pawns have been fixed on dark squares and thus limit the mobility of her bishop.

**32... ♖h7 33. ♗d2 ♖g7 34. ♗e4**

With access to a secure central outpost like this, White's knight is clearly the dominant minor piece.

**34...b6 35. ♗f6 ♖f7 36. ♗d5 ♖d7**

Black's defense also breaks down after 36...♗d8 37.♖d3 ♖d7 38.♖e4.

**37. ♖e7+ ♖xe7 38. ♗xe7 ♖f7 39. ♗c6 a5 40. ♖d3 ♖e6 41. ♖e4 ♗d6 42. ♗d4+ ♖f6 43. ♖d5 ♗c5**

#### 44. ♖b5

The invasion of White's king cannot be stopped, and Black's bishop is curiously impotent in view of the 'wrong color' placement of every single pawn on the kingside.

1-0.

On the men's side, Alexandre's match opponent was the very experienced GM Sergey Shipov, who had little trouble equalizing the game on the Black side of a Semi-Tarrasch in round one. At a lower level Black players frequently run into trouble against White's setup, but here Alexandre's pieces never get around to creating the necessary threats on the kingside.

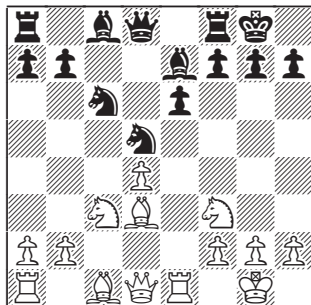
Notes by  
**Knut Neven**

Lesiege, Alexandre  
Shipov, Sergey

Moscow Wch FIDE KO (1.1),  
2001

Tarrasch D42

1.c4 ♖f6 2.♗c3 c5 3.♗f3 e6 4.e3  
♗e7 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 d5 7.cxd5  
♗xd5 8.♗d3 ♗c6 9.0-0 0-0  
10.♞e1



The main strategic feature of the Semi-Tarrasch is a struggle between initiative and structure. White contends with an isolated queen pawn, but in turn has excellent chances in the middlegame to work up threats against Black's king and in the center with the breakthrough d5. Statistics in my own large database show a White score of nearly 65% in this variation, so Black's defensive task is certainly not a trivial one.

#### 10... ♗f6

The alternative 10... ♗f6 contains a diabolical trap. After 11.a3 (11.♗g5 is equally popular and also leads to interesting positions. Beliavsky's idea 11...h6 may be viable, although

generally speaking also a bit risky for Black because he then no longer has the convenient ...g6 if White goes for the thematic battery on the b1-h7 diagonal with a3 followed by ♗c2 and ♗d3) 11...b6 12.♗c2 ♗b7 13.♗d3 ♗c8? Black went on to win the game Smyslov-Karpov, Leningrad SU ch 1971, with 14.♗g5 g6 15.♞ad1 ♗d5 16.♗h6. However, later Karpov wrote that 14.d5! is already decisive!

In fact, White's initiative quickly becomes very threatening in these positions when the breakthrough d5 is executed at the right time, and therefore Black players are obligated to keep the isolated pawn under tight surveillance at all times...

#### 11. ♗e4 ♗c7 12. ♗d3 h6

Black's most popular method of shoring up his kingside goes 12...g6 13.♗h6 ♗g7 when one of the many games in my database went 14.♗xg7 ♗xg7 15.♗d2 ♗d6 16.♗e5 ♗d7 17.h4 ♗c6 18.♞ad1 ♞ad8 19.♗xd5 ♗xd5 20.♗g4 and White successfully probed the weakened dark squares on Black's kingside in the game Damljanovic-Torre, Elista ol 1998.

#### 13. ♗e5 ♗xc3 14. ♗xc3 ♗f5 15. ♗e3 a5 16. ♞ac1

We are still following main stream theory, although here the alternative 16.♞ad1 is somewhat more popular than the text. Black players usually exchange White's dark squared bishop with 16...♗xe3 and that seems to more or less level the position for the second player after 17.fxe3 (even less ambitious looks 17.♗xe3 ♗b6 18.♗c2 ♗xe5 19.dxe5 ♗xe3 20.♞xe3 b5 21.♗e4 ♞b8 22.♞c3 ♗b7 from Schekachev-Galkin, Krasnodar op 1996) 17...♞a6 18.♞c1 ♞d6 19.♗c5 b6 20.♗b5 ♗d7 21.♗xd7 ♞xd7 22.♞c6 ♞d6 23.♞ec1 ♞xc6 24.♗xc6 (here 24.♞xc6? does not win the b/♗ because Black has 24...♗xd4!) 24...e5 25.d5 ♗e7 26.♗c3 ♗c5 viz. the game Malaniuk-Adams, Hastings 1995.

#### 16...a4

Once more the exchange of knight for bishop with 16...♗xe3 is one of Black's thematic alternatives.

#### 17. ♞ed1 ♗a5?!

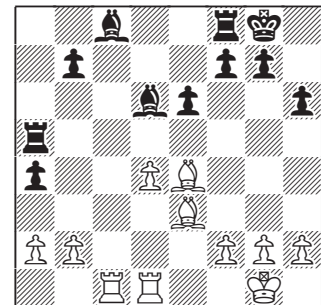
Somewhat safer than the text looks 17...♗xe3 18.♗xe3 ♗b6 from the game Topalov-Karpov, Linares 1995, which continued 19.♗g4 ♗g5 20.f4 ♗e7 21.♗b1 ♗d7 22.♗g3 and equality except for Black's mistake

22...f5? allowing 23.♗xh6+ ♗h7 (23...♗h8 24.♗h3!) 24.♗g4 with a winning position for White. Topalov, however, actually went on to lose?!

#### 18. ♗xa5 ♞xa5 19. ♗xf5 ♗xe5

White's d/♗ becomes a force after 19...exf5 20.♗c4.

#### 20. ♗e4 ♗d6



White's pieces are more active, but since Shipov has covered all of the possible entry squares along the c/file there appears to be little Alexandre can do to press his opponent further. After what must have been a frustrating and futile search for a way to make progress, Alexandre decides to liquidate his isolated pawn and coast into a peaceful conclusion.

21.d5 exd5 22.♗xd5 ♗e5 23.b4 axb3 24.axb3 ♗e6 25.♗xe6 fxe6 26.g3 ♗f6 27.♞c5 ♞xc5 28.♗xc5 ♞d8 29.♞xd8+ ♗xd8 30.♗g2 h5 31.♗f3 ♗f7 32.♗e4 g6 33.h3 ♗c7 34.♗d4 ♗d6 35.♗e5 ♗b4 36.f3 ♗e7 37.g4 ♗e1 38.♗d4 ♗f2+ 39.♗c4 ♗d7 40.♗b5 ♗e3 41.♗g3 ♗d2 42.♗e5 ½-½.

I wonder if players at this level consider having the White pieces in the last game of a very short match an advantage or a disadvantage? Winning your first game is of course another story entirely, but in the event of a draw in round one it must be a great comfort sitting behind the White pieces in the second game.

GM Shipov, taking full advantage of his color assignment, in game two goes for an aggressive system that puts Black under a great deal of pressure right from the opening. Somewhat neglected by modern opening theory, Geller's pawn sacrifice 7.e4!? in the Queen's Gambit is quite sound strategically and forces the opponent to defend carefully for a long time.

Considering the match situation and relatively short time control, Shipov's

opening choice is an excellent one. Alexandre initially defends quite well, but still ends up in an uncomfortable position with few active prospects. At the critical moment, perhaps already somewhat short of time, a very courageous decision proves fatal...

Notes by  
**Knut Neven**

**Shipov, Sergey  
Lesiege, Alexandre**

**Moscow Wch FIDE KO (1.2),  
2001**

**Queen's Gambit: Geller D27**

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3  
e6 5.♗xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.e4!**

Geller's pawn sacrifice had been virtually forgotten at the top level until it was revived in 1997 by Yury Shulman in a survey in *NIC YB/45*.

**7...b5**

Here 7...cxd4 8.e5 gave White a clear advantage after 8...♗fd7 9.♗xd4 ♗c6 10.♗f4! in Rustemov–Mirzoev, Koszalin MK Cafe 1997. ECO claims equality for the second player after 7...♗xe4 8.d5 (quite promising looks 8.♗e2!? ♗f6 when White worked up a brilliant attack after 9.d5 b5 10.dxe6 bxc4 11.♗d1 ♗b6 12.exf7+ ♗xf7 13.♗g5+! in Trofimov–Metliahin, Kolontaev 1994) 8...♗e7. This assessment was confirmed by 9.dxe6 ♗xe6 10.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 11.♗xe6 fxe6 12.♗e1 ♗f6 13.♗g5 (but here the intensification 13.♗xe6+!? eventually led to endgame difficulties for Black in Aleksandrov–Sadler, Koge op 1997, viz. 13...♗e7 14.♗c3 ♗c6 15.♗f4 0-0 16.♗ae1 ♗fe8 17.♗e5 ♗d8?! 18.♗b6 ♗f8 19.♗f1 ♗e6 20.♗c4 ♗xe1+ 21.♗xe1 ♗c8 22.a4!) 13...0-0 14.♗xe6 ♗e8 15.♗c3 ♗bd7 16.♗f4 ♗a5 with a draw declared in Neikirkh–Clarke, Leipzig ol 1960.

**8.♗d3 cxd4**

The dubious reputation of Geller's pawn sacrifice is primarily due to the game Kasparov–Gulko, Kislovodsk 1982, where Black had an advantage right from the opening and forced the future World Champion's resignation in only 23 moves after 8...♗b7 9.♗g5 cxd4 10.♗xd4 ♗bd7 11.♗c3 ♗e5! 12.♗cxb5?! ♗xd3 13.♗xd3 axb5 14.♗fd1 ♗e7! 15.♗xb5+ ♗d7 16.♗b3 ♗xe4 17.♗f5 ♗d5 18.♗xg7+ ♗f8 19.♗h3 h5! 20.♗g3 ♗xg7 21.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 22.♗d4 ♗d6 23.♗c3 ♗g6 0-1.

However, the approach 10.a4! proved far more testing for Black after 10...bxa4 11.♗xa4 ♗e7 12.♗xd4 ♗fd7 13.♗b3 when Black had to work for the draw in Shulman–Sherbakov, Kakhovka 1997. Black's third option 8...♗bd7 arises mostly from Meran move orders.

**9.a4 b4**

Alexandre is not interested in the kind of quick draw the players settled for after 9...bxa4 10.e5 ♗d5 11.♗g5 ♗e7 12.♗xe7 ♗xe7 13.♗xa4+ ♗d7 14.♗xd4 0-0 15.♗bd2 ♗b8 16.♗xa6 in the game Zakharevich–Sherbakov, Novgorod SU Cup 1997. Shipov, of course, likely had an improvement in mind over Zakharevich's play.

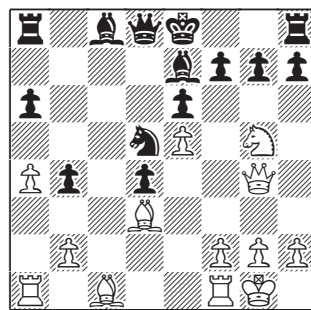
**10.e5 ♗d5 11.♗bd2 ♗d7 12.♗b3  
♗c5**

Black delays the development of his queen's bishop with 12...♗b7 when something like 13.♗bxd4 ♗e7 or 13...♗c5 also roughly holds a dynamic balance.

**13.♗xc5**

The prospect of emerging from the opening with the bishop pair after 13.♗bxd4 ♗xd3 14.♗xd3 probably rather appealed to Alexandre.

**13...♗xc5 14.♗g5 ♗e7 15.♗g4!?**



I have played this variation myself very successfully in several postal games, and can attest to the strength of White's queen excursion. Shipov is far less concerned with retrieving his pawn than keeping pressure on Alexandre's position. Black has increasingly difficult problems to solve as long as his monarch cannot be safely tucked away on the kingside...

**15...g6 16.h4 ♗c7 17.♗e1 ♗f8**

An interesting regrouping. Alexandre wants to shore up the defense of his kingside dark squares with the belated fianchetto of his bishop, which also bears pressure on White's ♗/e5. Mind you, continuing his queenside

development with the less original 17...♗b7 certainly also makes sense.

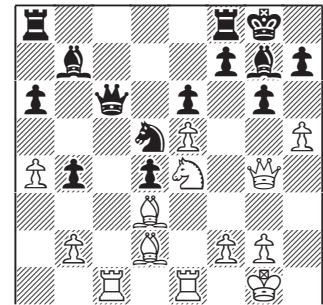
**18.♗d2 ♗g7 19.♗ac1 ♗d7 20.h5**

Once again Shipov stays the course by making an active move to increase the pressure, instead of restoring the material balance with 20.♗xd4 when the position remains complex and dynamic in any case, and with a fair share of the chances on Black's side.

**20...♗b7 21.♗e4**

The drawback to Black's bishop maneuver is revealed. White's knight is en route to the attractive square/c5.

**21...0-0 22.♗c5 ♗c6 23.♗e4!?**



Quite strong to me looks the insertion of 23.a5! when White's pressure easily compensates for his opponent's temporary material advantage.

**23...♗xa4!?**

The punctuation is for Black's great courage! In retrospect there was no reason to espouse the possible repetition 23...♗d7 24.♗c5 etc, but then White can always follow my suggestion from the previous paragraph and keep his a/♗ in hand.

**24.♗g5 ♗d7**

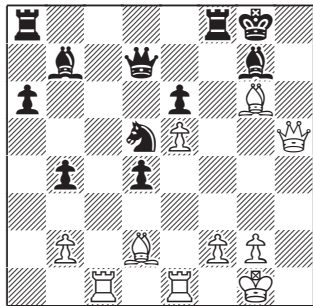
Alexandre's queen returns apparently just in time to prevent any tactical shenanigans on his kingside. But...

**25.♗xh7!**

In Alexandre's defense it must be said that the consequences of this sacrifice weren't easy to fathom completely when he took Shipov's second foot soldier with 23...♗xa4 and it is possible that time was also a factor. Encouraging for Black in his calculations must have been the fact that White's attack amounts to nothing after 25.hxg6 hxg6 26.♗h4 ♗fc8 while 25.♗xd4 now also looks insufficient given that Black remains with an extra pawn.

**25...♗xh7 26.hxg6+ ♗g8**

Of course not the awful 26...fxg6?  
 27.♖xg6+ ♜g8 28.♖h7+ ♜f7  
 29.♙g6+ and Black's king is caught in  
 an easy forced mate.  
 27.♖h5 fxg6 28.♙xg6



**28...♜fc8?**

A fatal mistake at the critical moment. Virtually impossible to see five moves earlier, the surprising 28...♜f4! appears to be Black's only serious defensive resource. However, after 29.g3 (29.♖h2 ♜f7 30.♙e4 ♜e7 31.♖h7+ ♜f8 32.♙xf7 ♙xe4 33.♖xe4 ♜b8 34.♙h5 is another difficult sequence, but also finds White with a large advantage at the end) 29...♜f7 30.♖h7+ (30.♙e4!?) 30...♜f8 31.♙h6

♙xh6 32.♖xh6+ ♜g7 (32...♜e7 33.♖h4+ is at least a perpetual check for White) 33.♙e4 ♜e7 34.♙d1 or 34.♙g4 Black's prospects also don't look good.

**29.♖h7+ ♜f8 30.♙h6 ♙xh6**

Alexandre's queen is about to expire, so enough is enough.

**1-0.**

A tough loss for Alexandre, who made an extremely courageous decision in a difficult situation to play for the full point with 23...♖xa4. White's attack proved to be too strong, and I suspect that the clock also became a factor after about move twenty. On the other hand, Shipov deserves full credit for a nice attacking game and making the superior psychological decisions in this match.

I do not know enough about WIM Nava Starr to comment on her future potential at events like the FIDE World Championships, but she has certainly been a dominant force in Canadian women's chess for many years. GM Alexandre Lesiege, on the other hand, is still very young and continues to develop and improve

every year. My prediction for him is to make several more trips to the FIDE World Championships in the next few years, and I wouldn't at all be surprised to find his name among those who move on to the second or third qualification round. I wish both of them good luck and good skill!

An interesting question about the new format of FIDE's World Championship cycle remains to be answered here at home: what are we doing to properly prepare our representatives for events like this? Faster time controls are one thing, but the knockout format is such a specialized case that only practice in very similar qualification events seems appropriate. How many of our top players have very much experience at match play? The recent playoff match between Alexandre and fellow GM Kevin Spraggett was terrific, but it's clearly not enough.

I also doubt that running the Canadian Championship in a knockout format is a viable solution, especially since we cannot trust FIDE to stick to its own rules for more than a few months at a time?! Difficult questions indeed!

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**Contact:** Hal Bond, 6 Wildwood Place, Guelph, ON, N1H 7X9 (519)822-2162 halbond@rogers.com

**Misc:** All equipment provided; TD Serge Archambault;

**Accommodation:** University of Guelph Summer Hostel Rates \$31 single, \$45 double,  
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# North and South of the Border

by Jonathan Berry

Canada and the United States share not only a border, but also a world view. Not about everything, but at least about chess. In both countries it is not difficult to find organizers for open and youth tournaments, but getting our respective national men's and women's championships into the history books has become a major challenge. The organizer is often someone whose arm has been twisted repeatedly.

My first Canadian Championship was in 1972, and involved hitchhiking to Toronto from Vancouver. I was lucky to stay with Dr. Fred Demanuele, who saved Lawrence Day's life by noticing something peculiar with his throat. The apartment was within walking distance of the playing site at Hart House, but I don't remember if there was food money. Perhaps the choice was food money or a billet, but not both. Some years later at another national championship the daily food allowance, including pocket money, worked out to \$3.11. With a prize fund of \$750 for the 17 day event this was clearly an amateur affair. Then, as now, the Canadian Championship was held only in FIDE zonal years.

In the United States, the national championship has long been a professional tournament with paid expenses, appearance fees and prizes. Nobody became rich, but here is where the USCF invested some profits from sales and the US Open. In Canada, such money was more likely spent on the Canadian Open or Olympiad travelling expenses. But after many years of financial turmoil, the USCF in 2000 finally did the unthinkable by cancelling the US Championship. North of the border this couldn't happen. The CFC has never invested much money in our

national championship, so the only reason for a cancellation would be that no one bid to hold the event. The USCF, on the other hand, having put tens of thousands of dollars into each of their championships, felt they could not now reverse and put on a "loving hands at home" version.

So the Seattle Chess Foundation stepped in, secured an agreement for the next ten years, and organized the 2000 event. This was followed with the US versus China 2001 Summit, a number of scholastic events, and then the 2002 US Championship which, as it turns out, is not even a Zonal. Like Canada's 1999 and 2001 Zonals, the 2002 US Championship was a nine round Swiss. With 56 players, the field looked like a 'right sized' version of its northern cousin. As in Canada, the players were responsible for their own transportation, lodging and food. But there are some differences:

a) The tournament also served as the US Women's Championship. Swiss pairings were made without regard to gender, and the women had their own, separate prize fund;

b) Qualification requires a very high rating, or performing well at one of the Open qualification tournaments;

c) The event was planned for exactly 56 players. In Canada there are some provincial representatives, but anybody over 2250 can enter;

d) Entry is free, except for those who qualified through one of the Open events. In Canada, a \$200 entry fee is now typical;

e) The US Championship has a prize fund of USD \$200,000. In Canada, whatever prize fund may be offered is easily dwarfed by the USD \$6,000 our Zonal winner is guaranteed for his first round appearance at the FIDE World Championships. The minimum prize for completing the event was USD \$1,900. Not surprisingly, every qualifier showed up, and no one missed a single game;

f) Each participant signed a contract specifying a minimum dress code and governing a wide range of expected behaviour and cooperation with the media;

g) Any tie involving first place would be played off, just like a professional golf tournament.

The US Championship represents a substantial investment in carefully

chosen staff, both professional and volunteer, in equipment, and in the site. Money. Even after the dotcom meltdown there are people in Seattle willing to invest in a good cause. Another key ingredient has been Yasser Seirawan's decades long work as the unofficial ambassador for chess to the world at large. Let's face it, chess players may get high marks for technical merit, but rarely do we see a perfect score for presentation!

Yasser uses the word 'build' a lot in his chess annotations, and he thinks the same way about tournaments. For chess tournament 'n+1', he would like to build from the accomplishments of tournament 'n'. About a dozen or so companies sponsored the event in exchange for exposure in signage and on the website commensurate with their level of participation. And the list of sponsors didn't look like the usual suspects; it was obvious that some serious pavement had been hit. So, although the US Championship is a foreign event, Canadian organizers may be able to steal some secrets.

The most obvious difference between this event and a traditional national championship was the presence of women rated, on average, about 250 points lower than the men. Spectators, however, were just as likely to watch a women's game, and Jennifer Shahade's 2541 FIDE rating, aggressive style and attractive



Tsagaan Battsetseg



Jennifer Shahade

appearance earned her more media exposure than any man!

Jennifer set the tone for her tournament in the first round by putting relentless pressure on GM Gennady Sagalchik, who eventually succumbed on time in a position he didn't need to lose. The culprit, at least in part, was the incremental time control. One might be tempted to think that a 30 second increment prevents losses on time, but the effect is insidious and poor Sagalchik at least twice found himself down to two seconds before making his move.

Jennifer's victory brought new respect for the women players, and one male competitor who had complained that she was curling up on her chair in a way that would be clearly verboten for a man of his size, after the game suggested that he should try to imitate the young woman! On a more realistic note, the final tally was a gain of 45 rating points for Jennifer, and a loss of about 5 rating points between all the other women players.

How would we do here in Canada to include the Women's Championship in the Canadian Championship? In order to preserve the competitive nature of the event you would want to insist on a minimum rating of about 2000 for the women – compared to the 2250 for the men – but that would limit women's participation to a rather anemic eight players. On the plus side media coverage should be terrific; we get two tournaments for the price of one, and the women gain valuable experience.

One player who really was ready for a breakthrough – most of the media denizens in the press room seemed to notice only women at the threshold of chess greatness – was Boris Kreiman, who easily achieved another GM norm. But as we shall see here, good players are also lucky...

Notes by  
**Jonathan Berry**

**Battsetseg, Tsagaan  
Kreiman, Boris**

**Seattle US ch (1), 2002**

**Sicilian: Najdorf B90**

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

The chess world has been turned on its head! Thirty years ago I thought that this move is nothing more than a blunder perpetrated by 1600 players in weekend swisses.

**6... ♖b6 7.♗b3 e6 8.♖e2 ♗bd7  
9.g4 h6 10.h4 g6 11.♗e3 ♖c7  
12.♗d4 b5 13.♗g2 ♗b7 14.0-0-0  
b4 15.♗d5**

In the battle of the sexes, I have noticed that every strong woman player knows that the object of the game is to give checkmate. The same is not always true for the men!

**15... exd5 16.exd5+ ♗e7 17.♗de1**

Much stronger is 17.f4 ♗h7 18.♗de1 ♗g8 with compensation for White.

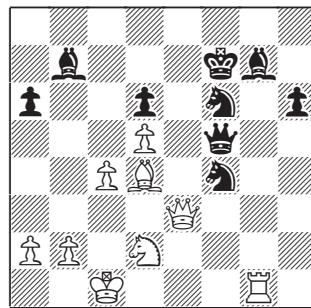
**17... 0-0! 18.f4 ♗fe8 19.♖d2 ♗f8**

Black is winning and does not play each move with equal foresight.

**20.h5 ♗xg4 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.♖d3  
♗g7 23.♖xg6 ♗gf6 24.♗hg1 ♗f8  
25.♖g3 ♗xe1+ 26.♖xe1 ♗e8  
27.♖xb4 ♗e2 28.c4! ♖e7**

Who should win is not clear anymore.

**29.♖c3 ♗g6 30.♗f3 ♖f7 31.♗xe2  
♖xe2 32.♖g3 ♖e4 33.♗d2 ♖f5  
34.♖e3 ♗xf4?**



Although Battsetseg is desperately short of time, Kreiman cracks first. White now has three good moves.

**35.♗e4!**

Also good, but not as good as the text is 35.♗xg7+ ♖xg7 36.♗e4 ♗h5 37.♗xd6; while again much better for White is 35.♗f1! ♗h5 36.♗xg7 ♖xg7

37.♖e7+ ♖f7 38.♗g1+ ♗g6 39.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 40.♗e4 ♗gf4 41.♗xd6+ ♖e7 42.♗f5+ ♖f6 43.♗d4 ♖e5 44.♗f3+ ♖e4 45.♗d2+ ♖d3 46.♗g8.

**35... ♖xe4 36.♗xg7+ ♖f8 37.♖xe4?**

White has a clear win with 37.♗xb7 ♗e2+ 38.♖d1 ♖xd4+ 39.♖xe2 ♖xc4+ 40.♖d3.

**37... ♗xe4 38.♗xb7**

Also possible is 38.♖c2 or 38.♖d1!

**38... ♗e2+ 39.♖c2?**

On 39.♖d1 ♗xd4 Black is maybe a little better because of his passed ♗/h6 but it is still a tough struggle.

**39... ♗xd4+ 40.♖d3? ♗c5+**

Even after taking a deep breath for having made the time control at move 40, Battsetseg now played the intermediate check 41.♗b8+! The rules of chess, however, do not make allowances for such grave cases of chess blindness...

**41.♖xd4 ♗xb7 42.b4 ♖e7 43.a4  
a5 44.bxa5 ♗xa5 45.♖c3 h5 0-1.**

Battsetseg was in serious time trouble in several games, but in general the players avoided this indulgence. The exception to test the rule was GM Sagalchik, who had avoided trouble on the clock for seven rounds after losing to Jennifer Shahade. Then against Camilla Baginskaite, in the last round and in a simple position, he got down to less than one second on the last move before time control. The game was drawn, but a tie for the US Women's Championship was averted by a mere fraction of one second!

The men's event did require a playoff. For hours it looked like Alexander Yermolinsky would hold out against Nick De Firmian and draw his way into the playoff match, but late in the session he blundered into a mate. The final would be a home grown affair between De Firmian and Christiansen. I had prepared a very detailed set of rules for the playoff, but all preparation went out the window when the contestants agreed to a new format and the organizers were willing to delay the closing ceremonies by an hour: they would play four games at five minutes each, with a one second increment.

After some very careful and deliberate blitz chess the score reached +1=1=2, but then Christiansen won the sudden death shootout 5-4. *Storming the Barricades* had nothing to do with it!



# Apprentice's Workshop

with IM Andrei Sokolov

## The Advancement of Chess Players

### I. Introduction

One of the characters in a famous Russian novel once said "If a blonde person plays chess badly and a brunette plays well, no lectures or amount of training will change this." It is common knowledge, in fact, that most of the great players of the past have developed their individual styles without access to the services of a professional chess coach, or a strict, well planned system of milestones to guide their advancement. On the other hand, precisely for this reason, some of these players never fully developed their talent and therefore never attained the level that would otherwise have been within their reach. Several great names had very distinctive defects in their playing style that are easily detected by a professional coach and are, in principle, easy to get rid of.

David Janowski, a participant in two World Championship matches and a universally accepted master of attack, also had some very basic positional defects in his play.

Notes by  
**Yan Teplitzky**

Janowski, David  
Capablanca, Jose Raoul  
New York Rice (3), 1916

Slav: Exchange D15

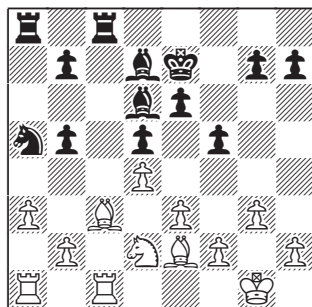
1.d4 ♟f6 2.♟f3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.♟c3  
♟f5 5.♟b3

Nowadays White plays 5.cxd5 ♟xd5  
6.♟d2! with an advantage.

5... ♟b6 6.♟xb6 axb6 7.cxd5 ♟xd5  
8.♟xd5 cxd5 9.e3 ♟c6 10.♟d2  
♟d7!

This move was met with considerable skepticism by Capablanca's peers. Indeed, the retreat of the bishop seems illogical after its development to f5 only a few moves earlier. However, the great Cuban understood that the bishop no longer has any work on f5 and is better used to support the deployment of his queenside counterplay.

11.♟e2 e6 12.0-0 ♟d6 13.♟fc1  
♟e7 14.♟c3 ♟hc8 15.a3 ♟a5  
16.♟d2 f5 17.g3 b5



### 18.f3?

Janowski makes a serious mistake by allowing Black to proceed with his plan of 18...♟c4. In fact, the rather simple 18.♟xa5! ♟xc1+ (Black loses a pawn after 18...♟xa5 19.♟xc8 ♟xc8 20.♟b3) 19.♟xc1 ♟xa5 20.♟b3 ♟a8 21.♟c5 leads to an equal position.

18... ♟c4 19.♟xc4 bxc4 20.e4 ♟f7  
21.e5??

Another very serious mistake, and probably the decisive one. White can still reach a level position with 21.exd5 exd5 22.f4 followed by a transfer of the knight to square/e5.

21... ♟e7 22.f4 b5

White no longer has any chances and goes on to lose miserably.

23.♟f2 ♟a4 24.♟e3 ♟ca8 25.♟ab1  
h6 26.♟f3 g5 27.♟e1 ♟g8 28.♟f3  
gxf4 29.gxf4 ♟a8 30.♟g2 ♟g4

31.♟g1 ♟ag8 32.♟e1 b4 33.axb4  
♟a4 34.♟a1 ♟c2 35.♟g3 ♟e4+  
36.♟f2 h5 37.♟a7 ♟xg2 38.♟xg2  
h4 39.♟xh4 ♟xg2+ 40.♟f3 ♟xh2  
41.♟xe7 ♟h3+ 42.♟f2 ♟b3  
43.♟g5+ ♟g6 44.♟e7 ♟xb2+  
45.♟f3 ♟a8 46.♟xe6+ ♟h7 0-1.

An experienced coach would be hard pressed not to notice a unifying theme connecting all of Janowski's mistakes in this game, and he would then be able to design a well thought out system to help his student overcome these defects. In many cases identifying the problem is much more difficult than correcting it.

The late Mikhail Botvinnik was the first great player to look at the advancement of chess players in a scientific context, and he published a series of important articles at the end of the 1930s that shed some light on his own experiences while preparing for a multitude of different events. Later on Botvinnik created his own chess school, where young kids would learn the basics of his system. Among the graduates of his school are GMs Mark Taimanov, Yury Balashov, Anatoly Karpov, and later Gary Kasparov. One of his assistants was a young coach named Mark Dvoretsky, who many years later developed his own structured system for the advancement of chess players that is based very much on Botvinnik's rules. Most of the exercises in Dvoretsky's best selling book series are based on material he offers at his chess school, and I was myself a student of his for a time in the 1980s and into the 1990s.

There is no doubt that Dvoretsky's system is extremely beneficial for an advancing player, and he deserves great credit for developing it. His methods, however, also have some drawbacks, and many students, myself included, find his approach a little too dry and academic. Most importantly though, he targets primarily players who have already reached an advanced level somewhere around 2400–2450 FIDE.

Over the years I have attended many chess tournaments as a player and as a coach, and observed a great number of players of various ages and strengths who all suffer from very easily correctable defects in their play. Often they have spent many years unable to advance beyond a rating of around 1900–2200, which seems to be the most common level for non-



professional players to get stuck at. In time I was able to draw a number of important conclusions, and can now identify the reason why most players are unable to advance to the next level, which is commonly and mistakenly thought to be reserved for professionals: the problem is almost always a lack of universality. This means nothing more than the idea that these players are typically somewhat one-sided and suffer from one or more easily distinguishable defects in certain areas of the game. So called professionals are often not much stronger than these players, but find themselves comfortable with all aspects of the game.

In many cases an experienced 2400–2500 player can sense the deficiencies in his opponent's chess understanding, and then steer the game towards the type of position that the opponent finds most uncomfortable. Parallels can easily be drawn to other sports, to several scientific fields, and in fact to most fields of human endeavor. What if a tennis player has a great forehand, but cannot pick up a simple backhand? What if a painter does not have proficiency in human anatomy? What if a physicist is unable to solve simple differential equations? In modern times only those few who excel in all aspects of their endeavor can expect to advance very far.

Returning to chess, the bad news is that many vastly different factors affect your potential: pure chess skills, but also psychological, physical and emotional aspects contribute to a chess player's universality. The good news, however, is that most of these factors are easily definable, distinguishable and correctable. Only a handful of individuals possess the unique combination of required talents and aptitudes to become World Champion, but given the proper training and motivation there is nothing that would prevent anyone from advancing to the 2400–2500 level. Strong players are not somehow magical – they are defined by their structured approach to the game and their diligence and hard work.

In recent years I have worked with several teenagers, and helped them overcome certain problems and advance to become strong players. A good example is Andrew Ho, who at the tender age of thirteen won the

Canadian U20 Championship and became a 2400 level player. With a few exceptions all rules that apply to the training of a teenager can be applied to adults as well. My own system of advancement is similar to Dvoretzky's, but targeted mainly towards 1900–2200 level players.

In my forthcoming series of articles for *En Passant* I will present all parts of a system designed to help these players identify the defects in their play. We will deal with purely chess related skills such as improving your tactical vision, developing intuition, and methods for building an opening repertoire that suits your style. But I will also cover psychological factors like dealing with time trouble addiction, improving your confidence, and finally present material on the emotional aspects of a chess player's psyche, such as keeping a cool head, or dealing with unpleasant or difficult opponents. Physical aspects of preparation will also be covered. How to arrive in top shape for an important tournament, and how to remain fresh and energized after four hours of an intense game, and much more!

My main objective is to help all readers identify and resolve problems in their play, and give them the tools and knowledge to advance to the next level. Today we begin our journey by drawing a portrait of a chess player...

## II. Portrait of a Chess Player

This topic is extremely important for an advancing chess player because it is at this stage that we define the problems and strengths of a particular individual. In turn, the information collected here will serve to guide the player in his work, and define specific areas that need improvement. The two basic premises we will follow are:

- 1) A chess player should be universal;
- 2) A chess player should develop and emphasize any strengths in his style, while neutralizing any weaknesses he may have.

While these points may sound overly simplistic at first glance, they will serve as the main guiding principles for all the work to come.

First, let's briefly examine traditional ways of training, and how they are typically employed by players and

their coaches. Coaches mostly help their students by analyzing the player's games, emphasizing the most important moments, studying openings, endgames, and solving exercises. This is all correct and necessary, but this type of work fails to take into account the particulars of a given chess player, his likes and dislikes, and his specific weaknesses and strengths. The traditional approach is too generic, and it does not properly address the specific problems of the individual.

Millions of amateurs regularly play through games between strong players they find in their local weekend newspaper or chess magazine, and while this practice does have some benefits and can be quite enjoyable, it is not optimized towards addressing the needs of a specific player. In most cases, advancement beyond a certain level is not possible with this approach. The main purpose of a coach is to develop a structured system that targets more specific defects in his student's play. The very best coaches go through hundreds of games, positions and ideas to extract a small selection that illustrates a specific topic in the best possible way. This way, the exercises have the biggest coefficient of efficiency and allow for the fastest development of a complete chess player. Therefore, the first step in any training program is to identify the weaknesses and strengths of the student. In other words, to create a portrait of the chess player consisting of five main components:

- 1) Concrete Knowledge — Specific opening and endgame knowledge may be acquired through a multitude of opening books and endgame references. Unfortunately it is here that most players concentrate their efforts and invest most of their time;
- 2) Typical Ideas — Typical moves, approaches, evaluations and strategies are characteristic for certain classes of positions. Some are widely known, such as methods to occupy and control open files or the blockade of isolated pawns, but others are more generic and often not properly understood. This type of knowledge may be acquired by comparing the student's games with those of a strong player who has a good understanding of the idea that is to be examined. Important ideas should be properly

emphasized and explained, preferably by the player who executed them;

3) Typical Situations — Include more general aspects of the game such as decision making, intuition, fighting for the initiative, ways to escape from lost positions, converting advantages, and many others. These are quite important, because they happen to all players all the time;

4) Psychological, Physical and Emotional — Encompasses everything that affects a chess player which cannot be defined within the boundaries of chess knowledge alone;

5) Individualism — Includes everything that is unique about a given player, such as his fighting characteristics and ability to perform under pressure. The framework we use must be flexible enough to allow for the unique expression of the student, and not so rigid as to impose artificial restraints. Basically, this category covers everything not already defined in sections 1–4.

It is not possible to overemphasize the importance of creating this portrait, because it provides us with the necessary information about the skills and defects in the play of our student. What kinds of information does he have, and in what specific areas does his education fall short? What strengths can be emphasized further, and what weaknesses need to be addressed? Designing a player portrait consists of two parts:

### 1) Analysis of Student Games

Recent games played by the student should be carefully analyzed first by the player and then by his coach. In case of fairly inactive players, games more than a year old can also be examined, but recent material is more important. The coach will be able to analyze the way in which his student approaches the games, his analytical skills, and what he did or didn't see during the game. There will also be cases where the student fails to see certain things in his analysis, and these are sure indicators of problem areas.

A common practice by strong players during their advancement is to write a set of brief annotation right after the game. We are not talking about detailed analysis here, but simple notes about missed opportunities or psychological factors like feelings of indecision or hesitation, time management issues etc. I know that it

can be difficult to motivate yourself for this chore after a difficult game, but it is at this moment that your memories of the game are at their most vivid, and your recollections about the events the most accurate. In time these intense memories will fade, and the information lost forever. Besides, it really does not take much time to produce these notes. An important habit also is to track the amount of time you spend on each of your moves, in spite of the common belief that only players who routinely get in trouble on the clock should do this. Surprisingly, the opposite is true in many cases! Many players spend far too little time at the most critical moments in the game, and thus often fail to make the right decisions at the most important junctures of the fight.

Often players complain about what they call unbelievable or inexplicable moves and ideas in their games, but this is usually symptomatic of a larger underlying problem. There is always a logical explanation for such errors or omissions, and frequently a common thread or correlation can be identified on closer examination. The cause of the problem may not always be related to a specific chess skill, but could be something as diverse as a habitual lack of concentration in the latter stages of the game, or a psychological weakness that surfaces against a specific opponent. Our goal here is to identify the cause of our problems, and then address them in order to develop a more complete and universal chess player. Based on the player's analysis of his own games we can then draw preliminary conclusions about his knowledge in the aforementioned five categories.

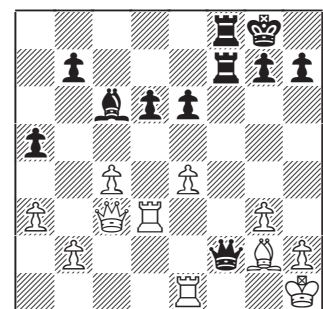
### 2) Timed Practice Exercises

A carefully chosen set of exercises is designed to test some specific ability of the player. The scope of these exercises goes far beyond merely finding the objectively best move, but rather tries to evaluate the personal characteristics of the student. This is best done by an experienced coach who can observe the trainees during the exercises and draw some conclusions from the way his charges approach their tasks. However, it is also possible to design exercises that allow students to evaluate the results on their own, and I have included such a series of exercises for my readers at the end of this article.

Based on the results of the student's game analysis and performance on the test exercises, a portrait of the player is drawn and a training program developed to target his weaknesses and emphasize his strengths. Uncertainty about a specific topic can be addressed by a partial re-testing of the student, targeting only the areas where clarification is required. The entire methodology is intended to be iterative, i.e. the success of the training program can and should be evaluated by periodic re-testing. The development of a chess player is fluid, and therefore constant attention is required to ensure that proper direction is taken.

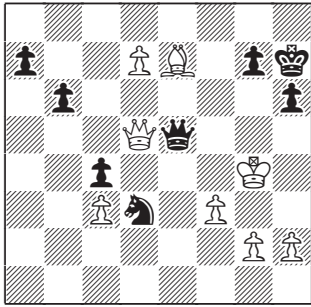
In the following sample exercises we will only consider chess related skills, as psychological and physical tests are outside of the scope of this article. However, we will return to these topics later in my series of articles. Each position is given with a time limit, and the more difficult problems require readers to spend the full amount of available time and delve very deeply inside the position!

Test conditions should approximate a tournament environment as closely as possible, so you will want to set up each position on a real board and start a real chess clock, although solving the problems directly from the magazine diagrams is also possible if that is your preference. None of the exercises are of an analytical nature, so no pieces should be moved to help in your search. And finally, readers should write down their solutions along with some general comments about their thought processes. Although not strictly necessary, this last suggestion will help students later on to more easily identify certain problems.



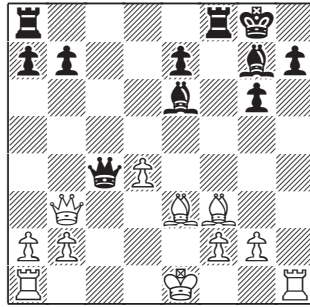
Position #1 (12–15 minutes)

Should Black play the sequence  
1...♖c5 2.b4?



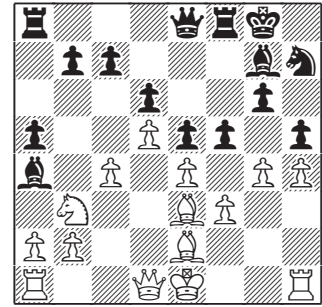
Position #2 (10–12 minutes)

White to Move.



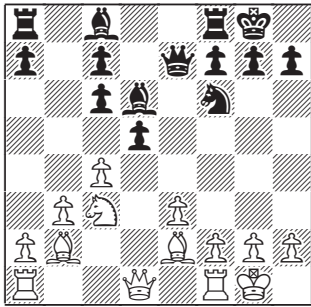
Position #6 (10–15 minutes)

White has just offered a draw. Should Black keep playing?



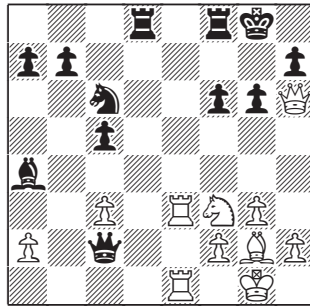
Position #10 (15–25 minutes)

Can Black take a pawn with **1...hxc4** **2.fxg4 fxc4**?



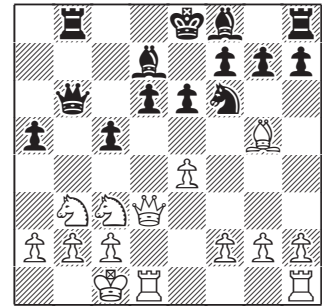
Position #3 (15–20 minutes)

Black to Move.



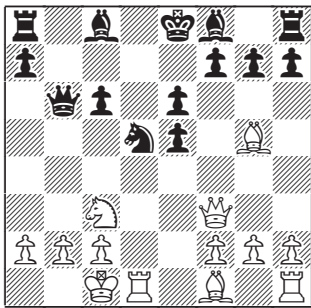
Position #7 (8–12 minutes)

White to Move.



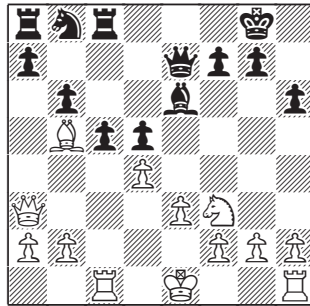
Position #11 (10–15 minutes)

Evaluate the disruptive advance **1.e5**.



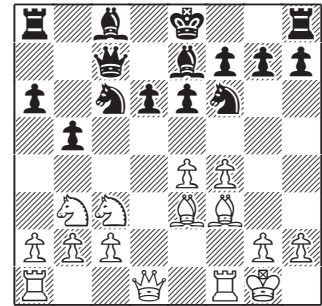
Position #4 (20–30 minutes)

Without moving any pieces, evaluate the position after **1.♘xd5 exd5** **2.♖xd5 cxd5** **3.♗xd5**.



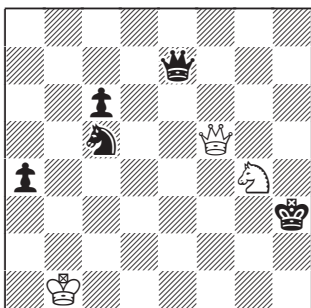
Position #8 (15–25 minutes)

Black to Move.



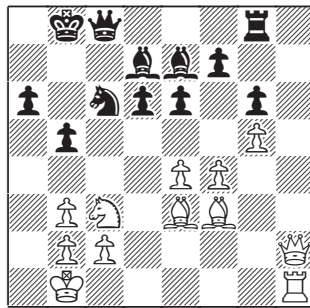
Position #12 (15–20 minutes)

White to Move.



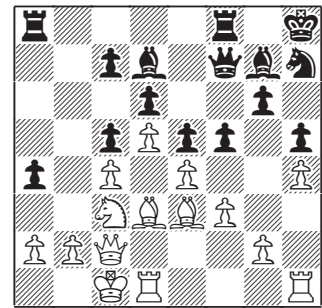
Position #5 (10–12 minutes)

White to Move.



Position #9 (10–20 minutes)

White to Move.



Position #13 (25–35 minutes)

Black has just played **...♖h8**. The correct way for White requires delving deep into the plans for both sides!

## Solutions

**Position #1** Yes, White has problems with his king safety and is mated after **2...♙xc4 3.♚xc4 ♖f1+ 4.♙xf1 ♖xf1+ 5.♗g2 ♗f2+ 6.♗h3 ♖h1 7.♖f3 ♗xh2+ 8.♗g4 ♗h5+ 9.♗f4 ♗h6+ 10.♗g4 g5!!** This exercise is useful for players who tend to miss strong moves for the opponent, and tests the player's ability to find quiet moves.

**Position #2** With the original **1.♗d6!!** White covers his ♗/h2 'through' Black's queen, and his passed ♗/d7 does the rest. This exercise tests the ability to discover original moves and ideas.

**Position #3** Before playing the introductory **1...♙xc4! 2.♙xc4** (Black wins after **2...♙xc4?? ♙xh2+**) **2...♖b8! 3.♗c1** (again White's weakness on the h2-b8 diagonal comes decisively into focus after **3.♙a4 ♖xb2 4.♙xb2 ♗e5**) **3...♙g4 4.g3** (the position after **4.♙xg4 ♙xg4** is no picnic for White either) **4...♖e8 5.♙d1 ♙xh2 6.c5 ♙xf1 7.cxd6** Black already had to see **7...♙xg3! 8.fxg3 ♗xd6 9.♗f2 ♗h6** as the only way to make his combination work. This position tests the player's capacity to see the board as one whole instead of separate parts, and also his ability to consider a positionally suspect move based on concrete calculations, as well as his ability to accurately calculate long lines without losing track of strong moves both for the opponent (6.c5) and himself (7...♙xg3).

**Position #4** Ultimately Black holds the balance after **3...♙e7** (much worse is **3...♙b7? 4.♙b5+**; or **3...♖b8 4.♙b5+ ♗xb5 5.♗d8#**; or **3...♙a3 4.♙b5+ ♗f8 5.♗xa8 ♙xb2+ 6.♗b1!** when White should win) **4.♙xe7** (but not **4.♙b5+? ♗f8 5.♗xa8 ♙xg5+** or **5.♙xe7+ ♗xe7 6.♗xa8 ♗xb5** and Black wins) **4...♗xe7** (although playable for Black, White keeps the better chances after **4...♙b7!? 5.♗xe5 ♗e6 6.♙b5+ ♗xe7 7.♗c7+ ♗f6 8.♗xb7 g6**) **5.♗xa8 ♗xf2 6.♗e4 ♗d4 7.♗xd4 exd4 8.♙d3** with an approximately equal position. This exercise tests the ability to calculate a long tree of variations with many branches, as well as the ability to find non-standard moves for both the attacker and defender.

**Position #5** White actually has a forced mate with **1.♙e3+ ♗g3 2.♗g4+ ♗f2 3.♗f4+ ♗e2 4.♗f1+ ♗d2 5.♗d1+ ♗c3 6.♗c2+ ♗b4 7.♗b2+ ♙b3 8.♗a3+ ♗xa3 9.♙c2#**. This exercise tests the ability to calculate very long lines and clearly visualize the board at the end. Without this capability the player would never find **8.♗a3+**!

**Position #6** Black gets a pawn and excellent counterplay for the exchange after **1...♖xf3! 2.gxf3 ♗c6 3.♗d1 ♙d5 4.♖h3 ♗e6**. This position tests the student's bravery and faith in himself and the position on the board, and his ability to make intuitive decisions.

**Position #7** White wins with the tactical shot **1.♙d4! cxd4 2.♙d5+ ♗h8** (or **2...♖xd5 3.♖e8**) **3.♖e7**. This position tests your tactical ability.

**Position #8** Black gets a very strong initiative for the pawn after **1...♗b7! 2.dxc5 bxc5 3.♖xc5 ♖xc5 4.♗xc5 ♙a6 5.♙xa6 ♗xa6 6.♗a3 ♗c4**. This position tests your willingness to take a risk in search of an initiative, as well as your intuition.

**Position #9** It is very difficult for Black to find a constructive move after **1.♙g1!** White threatens **2.♗f2** followed by **♖h7** to put his opponent in a very uncomfortable position. This exercise tests positional understanding and non-standard thinking.

**Position #10** Black should refrain, since after **3.g5!!** his ♙/g7 and ♙/h7 will be shut out of the game permanently. Offering material with **3...♖f4!** doesn't help in view of **4.♗d2! b6 5.0-0-0 ♙xb3 6.axb3 a4 7.b4 a3 8.b3 a2 9.♗b2** with a large advantage for White. This position tests non-standard thinking as well as the ability to resist greedy impulses.

**Position #11** Black can now try **1...♙g4! 2.exd6 ♙xf2 3.♗e2 ♙xd1** but then White's ♗/a1 decides the game after **4.♙d5 ♗xd6 5.♖xd1 ♖c8 6.♙xa5 ♗b8 7.♗a6 f6 8.♙f4 e5 9.♙b6 ♖c7 10.♙xd7 ♖xd7 11.♗e6+ ♖e7 12.♗c6+ ♗f7 13.♗d5+ ♖e6 14.♙c6 ♗d6 15.♙d8+ ♗e7 16.♗b7+ ♗xd8 17.♖xd6+ ♖xd6 18.♙e3**. This position tests your intuition and tactical vision.

**Position #12** White exploits a tactical weakness in Black's position by **1.e5! dxe5 2.fxe5 ♙d7 3.♙xc6! ♗xc6 4.♙d4 ♗b7** (after **4...♗c7 5.♗f3** White takes ♖/a8 or ♗/f7) **5.♗g4 g6 6.♖xf7 ♗xf7 7.♗xe6+ ♗e8 8.♙d5 ♙c5 9.♙f6+ ♗d8** (also mate is **9...♗f8 10.♙h6#**) **10.♙c6+ ♗c7 11.♗xe7+ ♗xc6 12.♗d6#**. This position tests tactical ability.

**Position #13** White's game will probably be on the queenside where Black has a weak ♗/a4 to defend, and the open b/file can always be blocked with ♙b5 if necessary. Since the center is very stable, Black's only way to defend on the queenside is with the transfer of his knight via **...♙f6-d7-b6** which also improves his position by activating at least one of Black's poorly placed minor pieces on the kingside. Another plan for Black is to take the knight to square/g8 with **...♙f6-g8** followed by an exchange of dark squared bishops with **...♙h6**. Both plans involve the knight travelling through square/f6, and this is why Black's king stepped into the corner on his last move!

In the present position the execution of Black's plan is possible because **1...♙f6 2.exf5 gxf5 3.♙xf5** and now **3...♙xd5!** gives Black an excellent game, but with Black's king still on square/g8 White would now have the intermediate check **4.♙h7+** to spoil Black's idea. Once we discover all of the above it is now up to White to find a move that prevents his opponent from transferring his knight, while at the same time working towards his own queenside play!

The solution is the very deep prophylactic move **1.♙d2!!** when Black has little else to do but try **1...♖g8** (this time there is no White ♗/e3 under attack at the end of the tactical line we examined earlier) **2.♖df1!** and Black has to close the center with **2...f4** in view of White's threat **3.g4**. The drawback for Black to a closed center is that White gets a free hand on the queenside. There followed **3.♗d1 ♖gb8 4.♖fg1 ♖b7 5.g4! hxg4 6.fxg4 g5** (otherwise White plays **7.g5**) **7.hxg5 ♗g8 8.g6! ♗xg6 9.♙xf4** and White soon won. This position tests your ability to find complex positional solutions, as well as your knowledge of prophylactic measures and the proper appraisal of mysterious moves from the opponent (**...♗h8**).

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- Date:** Friday May 17th 2002 to Monday May 20st 2002
- Place:** Plaza 500 Hotel, 500 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC; 1-800-473-1811, 604-673-1832
- Rds:** 7
- Times:** 5:30 (Open Section only) / 10, 4 / 10, 4 / 10, 4
- Type:** Regular Swiss, CFC and FIDE rated
- TC:** 40/120, SD/60
- Prizes:** \$ \$BEN; 1st Open \$ \$G1,000; 1st U2000 \$ \$G1,000; 1st U1600 \$ \$G1,000
- EF:** \$110 by March 31, \$130 after April 1; Discounts: less 50% Jr, FIDE without title 25%, FIDE titled free
- Sec:** Open, U2000, U1600
- Org:** BCCF; Peter Stockhausen, Pstockhausen@pacificcoast.net, 604-276-1111
- Reg:** Cheques to BCCF, Lyle Craver, Treasurer, PO Box 15548, Vancouver, BC, V6B 5B3; or at site May 17 from 16:00-17:15 (Open Section); May 18 from 08:30-09:45
- Misc:** Top section FIDE rated; bring clocks; TDs Mark Barnes mbarnes@direct.ca, Lyle Craver lcraver@home.com, and Lynn Stringer lynns2@home.com; BCCF AGM will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 19, between rounds



## Registration Form

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 Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Rating \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date (Junior/Senior) \_\_\_\_\_ Advance Byes \_\_\_\_\_

# Masters' Forum

edited by Knut Neven

The game below has been selected for a Master panel to analyze. Play through it yourself and compare your thoughts with theirs. Much of the fun is seeing where the panelists disagree with each other.



Jonathan Berry



Yan Teplitsky

1.d4 g6 2.e4 ♖g7 3.♟c3 d6 4.♙e3 a6 5.♜d2 b5 6.f3 ♗b7 7.h4 h5 8.♞h3 ♞d7 9.♞g5 ♞gf6 10.♜f2 e6 11.♙d3 ♜e7 12.a4 b4 13.♞b1 c5 14.c3 0-0 15.♞d2 ♜fc8 16.cxb4 cxd4 17.♙xd4 e5 18.♙c3 d5 19.♞b3 dxe4 20.fxe4 ♞g4 21.♜e2 f6 22.♞f3 f5 23.exf5 gxf5 24.♙xf5 ♜xc3 25.bxc3 e4 26.♞fd4 ♞de5 27.0-0-0 e3 28.♞c5 ♙d5 29.♙e6+ ♙xe6 30.♞cxe6 ♜c8 31.♞c5 ♜xc5 32.bxc5 ♜xc5 33.♜b2 ♞f2 34.♜b1 ♞xh1 35.♜xh1 ♞d3 36.♜b3+ ♜h8 37.♜d1 ♞f2 38.♜c1 ♜e7 39.♞e2 ♞e4 40.♜a1 ♞d2 41.♜a2 ♜e4 42.♜e1 ♜xg2 43.♜f7 ♜g4 44.♞f4 ♙xc3+ 45.♜a2 ♙g7 46.♜xh5+ ♜xh5 47.♞xh5 ♙d4 48.♞f4 ♜h7 49.♞e2 ♙e5 50.♜c1 ♜g6 51.♜c6+ ♜f5 52.♜xa6 ♜g4 53.♜e6 ♜f5 54.♜e8 ♞f3 55.a5 ♜e4 56.a6 ♜d3 57.a7 ♜xe2 58.a8 ♜ ♙c3 59.h5 ♞e5 60.♜e4 ♜d2 61.♜xe5 ♙xe5 62.♜xe5 e2 63.♜xe2+ 1-0.

## The Guest Panelists

### Deen Hergott

I am 39-years-old and have a BMath from the University of Waterloo. Chess I learnt from a neighbor at age twelve, which was followed by losing innumerable games before getting a book from the library. I entered my first CFC tournament in 1977, at age fifteen.

I became Canadian Junior Champion in 1980, followed by my first international appearance at the World Student Olympiad in Graz 1981, and then the World Junior Championship, Copenhagen 1982. Two years after that I joined the Canadian Olympic Team for the first time in what would be seven appearances: Thessaloniki 1984, Dubai 1986, Thessaloniki 1988, Novi Sad 1990, Manila 1992, Moscow 1994, and finally Elista 1998.

I became an International Master in 1990, and have but one Grandmaster norm to my credit from an event at the Marshall Chess Club in New York City 1994. Over the years I have played in many international events around the world, and developed fluency in both French and Spanish as a result. In the late 1980s I even lived in Europe for nearly two years. Some of my best results were achieved in a series of strong Mexican invitationals in the early 1990s, including a tie for third with 10.5/15 despite an original

ranking of 14th in a field that included eleven Grandmasters.

In recent years I have concentrated on writing and teaching, and the occasional trip abroad to play in events like the Koltanowski International, San Francisco 1999, and the Tournament of the Future, s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands 1999.

Among my journalistic contributions are newspaper columns in the *K-W Record*, 1983–1990; and the *Ottawa Citizen*, 1993–present. And, of course, there are numerous articles in Canada's national chess magazine *En Passant*, and the French magazine *Echec+* of the FQE, as well as some specialty articles in foreign chess magazines. In the teaching area I specialize in private tutoring (one on one, group, and online), some scholastic instruction, and a few chess camps, most recently in St. John's, Newfoundland from 1996–1998.

### Jonathan Berry

1967 British Columbia Junior (U14) Champion, i-guy, imaginative, incorrect, inconsistent.

### Yan Teplitsky

I was born in the Soviet Union in 1975 and first learnt the rules of chess at age four from my grandfather. By age seven I went to a small chess club at my school, and two years after that was accepted into a city chess club where I was very fortunate to

meet Mark Ruderfer – an extremely talented Master who devoted himself to developing young players.

When I was eleven, a chess school for gifted juniors run by Lev Polugaevsky, Mark Dvoretzky and Artur Yusupov invited me to join their program, and there I received formal training by many very strong and talented grandmasters. Several of the training techniques used in this school were later explained by Dvoretzky and Yusupov in their best selling books!

I became a Candidate Master at twelve, a Master at fourteen and an IM at twenty, and along the way won the U14 Championship of the Soviet Union. Around age sixteen I seriously considered becoming a professional player, but later became interested in many other endeavors and decided that chess was too narrow. Looking back, I believe that I made the right decision.

By the 1990s I played in many strong tournaments, mostly in Europe, where my performances included a first place finish at a junior invitational in Antwerp 1993, second place in Budapest 1992, and first in Tel Aviv 1995. After emigrating to Canada, I finished in second place at the 1996 Canadian Zonal, and subsequently qualified three times for the Canadian Olympic Team. In the end I only played once, at the Erevan Olympiad 1996.

My most memorable game is probably my first win over a strong Grandmaster, which came against Russian GM Loginov in Hungary in 1992. I also played an interesting game against Kasparov in a simultaneous exhibition in 1994, finally losing after mishandling an endgame with an extra pawn.

In the last few years I have become more interested in the analytical aspects of the game, and am currently trying to perfect the training strategies used by strong players. I have trained several talented juniors, including Andrew Ho and Stefanie Chu. Although I have been fairly inactive in the last few years, I am planning to get back to the game.

## The Game

### 1.d4 g6 2.e4 ♖g7

YT: All right, this game was not played by a Canadian, since Suttles'

followers definitely opt for 2...c6. The idea is that after an eventual ...d5 for Black, likely followed by e5 for White, the bishop does not have much to do on square/g7.

### 3.♗c3

YT: Arguably more in tune with 1.d4 is a transposition to the King's Indian Defense with 3.c4.

### 3...d6

YT: The Russian Grandmaster Lev Gutman developed the alternative 3...c6 over thirty years ago. White then has a choice between the aggressive 4.♗c4 d6 5.♗f3 e6 6.♗ge2 with a somewhat strange setup that seems quite playable for Black, or the calm 4.♗f3 d5 5.h3! which typically results in a small but nagging edge for White.

### 4.♗e3

YT: This looks like a modern way to play this position, but was in fact first tried in 1909 by Russian Master Dus.

### 4...a6

DH: (!?) Although nothing new in Canadian praxis, this preparation for a flank advance is evidence of the continuing evolution of hypermodern chess thinking. More classical is the transposition to the Pirc with 4...♗f6 or else 4...c6.

YT: The difference between the text and 4...c6 is the possibility for Black to take his queen to b6. The text, however, is more flexible.

JB: In this variation of the Rat, Black traditionally either strongpoints square/e5 with ...♗c6 followed by ...e5 or tries a more flexible light square strategy on the queenside with 4...c6. The idea behind 4...a6 aligns itself more closely to the latter plan of expanding on the queenside with ...b5 and the follow-up ...c5 but without losing a tempo on ...c6-c5.

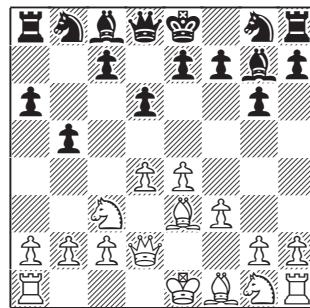
So the future could resemble a Sicilian Defense, although playing a wing move so early in the game is not a step to be taken lightly. But ever since the success of Tony Miles with 1...a6 against Karpov at Bath, the world has been more willing to accept such eccentricities. Duncan Suttles himself frequently adopted 4...a6.

### 5.♗d2

YT: White should abstain from 5.a4 because after 5...♗c6 6.♗d2 ♗f6 7.♗f3 ♗g4 8.♗e2 O-O 9.h3 ♗xf3 10.♗xf3 e5 11.d5 ♗d4 Black is very

comfortable, as shown in the game Szabo–Istratescu, Bucharest 2001. Had Black chosen 4...c6 then 5.a4 would be a viable option.

### 5...b5 6.f3



DH: White shuts down the ♗/b7 and fortifies his own ♗/e4 in view of a potential ...b5-b4 advance.

### 6...♗b7

YT: (!?) Although the text is theoretical and played almost universally in this position, I believe 6...♗d7 is more flexible. It is not entirely clear if Black is going to need the bishop on b7 or not, since after White replies to the setup ...♗d7 and ...c5 with d5 the bishop might prove to be positioned quite poorly on the long diagonal. This idea is illustrated in the game Yusupov–Ehlvest, Pula EU ch tt (5) 1997, where the players reached an unclear position after 6...♗d7 7.♗h3 ♗b7 (Black can already improve on his play with 7...c5! when 8.d5 leaves no doubt that Black will never play ...♗b7) 8.♗e2 c5 9.d5 h6 10.O-O ♗gf6 11.♗d1 ♗e5 12.♗df2 g5 13.c3 ♗c8!

Playing d5 in response to the advance ...c5 is White's main idea in this line, since he needs to stabilize the center in order to attack his opponent on the kingside. The sequence 6...♗d7 7.♗h3 c5 8.♗e2 cxd4 9.♗xd4 ♗gf6 10.O-O O-O 11.♗ad1 ♗b7 12.a3 ♗c8 gives Black an improved version of a Sicilian, and makes it abundantly clear that allowing an exchange in the center with ...cxd4 is a big concession for the White player. All in all this variation provides another example of how official theory isn't always the best, and that even strong players sometimes fall victim to fashion.

### 7.h4

YT: White is consistent and sticks to his plan. On several occasions 7.♗ge2 has also been tried, but without much success. The reason why the knight

should remain on g1 for now is that Black will likely respond to 7.h4 with 7...h5 when the option of developing the knight with ♖f3-g5 is much more active.

### 7...h5

DH: Black opts for the cleanest solution to dealing with White's h/♗. On the upside Black clarifies the kingside tension, but on the downside hands square/g5 to White.

YT: Black can also try to limit his opponent's kingside initiative without committing to an inflexible pawn structure by 7...h6!? 8.♗e2 ♖d7 9.g4 c5 10.♗g3 cxd4 11.♗xd4 ♗xd4 12.♗xd4 ♗gf6 13.a4 ♖e5 14.♗e2 ♖c6 15.♗d2 ♗a5 16.h5 b4 17.♖d1 O-O-O 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.♗xh6 ♗xh6 20.♗xh6 ♖d4 with compensation in Xie Jun–Gaprindashvili, Kuala Lumpur (1) 1994.

### 8.♖h3 ♖d7 9.♗g5

YT: Makes sense. White advances his pieces.

### 9...♗gf6

YT: Looks logical, but the immediate advance 9...c5 causes his opponent some headaches and prevents White from building up an initiative too easily and quickly. Black also incurs some risk, but I do not see an outright refutation.

### 10.♗f2

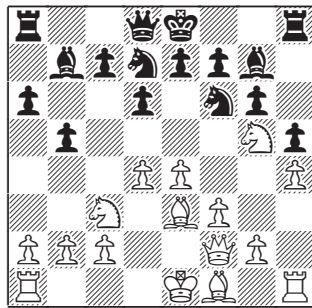
DH: (!) This attempt to prevent ...c5 for the time being strikes me as too artificial when other issues need to be resolved. What should White do with his light squared bishop, and how about relocating White's king? My preference is to await developments with 10.O-O-O since the king surely doesn't belong on the kingside after 7.h4. White needs the potential g4 lever as a trump to harass Black's king.

YT: (!) I don't understand this move, because White can hardly hope for 10...c5! 11.dxc5 dxc5 (not so good is 11...♗xc5 because of 12.e5) 12.♗xc5 ♗xc5 13.♗xc5 ♗c8 when Black's active pieces combined with White's weakened dark diagonals are worth much more than a mere pawn.

Far more natural and strong is 10.a4! with a difficult choice for Black between blocking the bishop and preempting any central counterplay with 10...c6 or allowing the opponent to build up an attacking position after

10...b4 11.♗e2 a5 12.♗f4 followed by ♗c4. Instead, Black likely has to settle for the slow response 10...e6.

JB: (!) Played with the laudable goal of inhibiting 10...c5. Unfortunately the queen doesn't achieve much here, and White foregoes the possibility of going for a total crush with a quick f4-f5 advance. That idea can backfire, of course, but it's always good to have something in reserve that your opponent has to think about. Better is 10.O-O-O instead.



### 10...e6

DH: (!) I like this move's flexibility. Black prepares ...c5 via ...♗e7 and can meet any advance by White's center pawns as circumstances dictate.

YT: (?) This move is the source of Black's subsequent problems, and therefore the already examined 10...c5! is more in the spirit of the position.

### 11.♗d3 ♗e7 12.a4

DH: I still think this is the wrong approach to this position, but White's tenth move suggests that he was not comfortable with the idea of castling long. Black can now be quite satisfied with the outcome of his opening strategy.

YT: (!) White needs this move in order to stop Black's queenside counterplay with the ...c5 advance.

### 12...b4 13.♗b1

YT: (!) This move is far superior to the often seen retreat ♖d1 in this type of position. The important difference is that White can now re-route his knight via ♖d2-c4 to probe the potential square/d6 weakness Black created when he played 10...e6.

### 13...c5 14.c3

DH: A common reaction to ...c5. White wants to maintain his central pawn duo if Black decides to exchange on square/d4.

### 14...O-O

DH: Perhaps a tough choice, but the insertion of 14...bxc3 15.bxc3 is a serious alternative in my view. Black can castle quickly to connect his rooks, and the open b/file should then favor the second player. Alternatively, White can re-develop his backward knight with 15.♗xc3 but then White's queenside pawn weaknesses together with the half open b/file might become an issue.

### 15.♗d2 ♗fc8

DH: Black must be doing fine after 15...bxc3 16.bxc3 cxd4 followed by the occupation of the queenside files. The text is more complex, but mildly inferior in my opinion. As long as the position of White's king remains unresolved, opening the queenside is generally in Black's favor.

YT: (!) Black should exchange with 15...bxc3 first. White would have a game on the b/file, but Black's position is stable.

### 16.cxb4

JB: (!) Provocative. White should castle short.

### 16...cxd4

DH: (?) Once again Black plays for tactical complications – perhaps he desperately needed to win this game – but this time his choice is highly questionable. Far simpler and completely adequate for Black is 16...cxb4 with the idea of wresting control of square/c5 from White with a further ...e5. Unfortunately, the text throws away all the good work done earlier in the game.

YT: (??) Probably a tactical oversight, but 16...cxb4 is hardly appealing for Black in view of his weakened queenside after White plays O-O followed by ♖b3 and ♗c1 or maybe a5. Still, Black has far better chances to defend here than after the text.

JB: (!)

### 17.♗xd4 e5

JB: (?) This kind of move is good more often than we all thought when I was a kid, but not *that* often! Better is 17...♗e5! 18.♗xe5 (or 18.♗e2 ♖c6 19.♗c3 d5) 18...dxe5 when White will miss his dark squared bishop and ♗/b4 is already at risk. Black looks quite comfortable in both lines, and I think he easily has sufficient compensation for the pawn. Your mileage may vary!

### 18.♗c3 d5



DH: (!) The only consistent decision.

### 19. ♖b3

DH: (!) Better than 19. exd5 ♖xd5 20. ♗c4 if only because the text move maintains a firmer grip on the position.

YT: (!) This response ruins Black's idea. The position is likely already technically won for White.

JB: (!) An obvious sort of move, but there's a good chance that Black has underestimated it.

### 19... dxe4 20. fxe4

DH: White maintains control of square/d5.

### 20... ♗g4 21. ♖e2 f6

DH: Tempting is 21... ♗f6 or 21... ♗h6 (eyeing square/e3), but the response 22. ♖a5! gives White a strong initiative on the other wing.

YT: (?) Essentially suicide, but it is difficult to suggest something else. Perhaps 21... ♗h6 hoping for 22. ♖f3 ♗e3 is an option, although then 22. ♖a5 makes Black's life very uncomfortable.

JB: In a good position the good moves are often natural, but in a bad position... The text is ugly, but in view of 21... ♗h6 22. ♖a5 I do not see a viable alternative.

### 22. ♖f3

DH: Even here 22. ♖a5!? is possible. Black has precious little to show for his pawn sacrifice.

### 22... f5

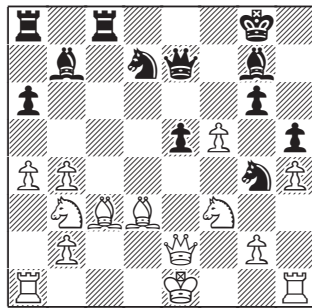
DH: (!?) This reaction smacks of desperation, though I admittedly don't care much for Black's game here in any case. It's not over 'til the fat lady sings', however, and there are still several acts remaining in this opera...

YT: What else?

### 23. exf5

YT: A matter of taste. Some players might prefer 23. ♗g5 or 23. ♖a5 and keep all trumps without opening the position.

JB: (!?) White is a pawn up with a good position, but he really needs to keep control of things, say with a move like 23. ♗g5. Going after more material when you're already ahead is the mark of a computer program.



### 23... gxf5

DH: The fork 23...e4 is an illusion, as Black's ♗/e4 is pinned to the queen.

YT: White has many good options after 23...e4 but none are all that simple. A practical game is not an analytical dispute, and therefore forcing White to find several precise moves in a highly tactical position like this is worth a try. After the text Black's position is resignable.

JB: (?) Black may well have been in time trouble. The text leads to a foggy position where it is not clear that White can convert his material advantage, but a far better practical chance – and it might even be an objectively good move – is offered by 23...e4! White's most natural response 24. ♗c4+ ♖h8 leaves his ♗/c4 exposed to a knight attack from e5, and there appears to be no clear way for White to effectively answer all the questions in the position at once.

### 24. ♗xf5 ♖xc3

DH: (!?) The punctuation is not for the objective merits of the move, but for the state of mind which provoked Black into contemplating such a va banque approach. The position after 22. ♖f3 is almost certainly objectively lost, so Black has little to lose by such wild, cavalier play. White may well refute Black's idea with solid play, but this outcome is already a given in the objective sense! If things go Black's way, there is always a small chance that White becomes overconfident or confused by his opponent's actions.

YT: Unsound, but Black hardly has anything better.

### 25. bxc3 e4 26. ♖fd4 ♗de5

DH: Objectively speaking White has an overwhelming advantage, but people are not computers and there is still, remarkably, some excitement yet to come!

### 27. O-O-O

DH: I prefer guarding square/d3 with 27. ♖c5 and threatening 28. ♗e6+ followed by 29. ♖f5. However, I can understand White's desire to finally remove his king from the center.

JB: (!?) Elod Macskasy observed that beginners castle too late, but that Masters tend to castle too early! Grandmasters castle at the right time, of course. Here White really has no need to localize the position of his king, and 27. ♖c5 should be preferred.

### 27... e3 28. ♖c5 ♗d5 29. ♗e6+

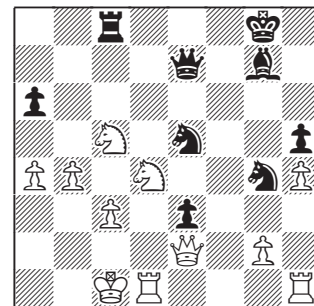
DH: The position is a bit messy, but careful calculation should triumph without much difficulty. One fairly clean line to simplify White's task is 29. ♗xg4 ♖xg4 30. ♖f5 ♖e5 31. ♖e7+! ♖xe7 32. ♖xd5.

YT: That's it...

### 29... ♗xc6 30. ♖xc6 ♖c8

DH: (!) Having come this far, there is little point settling for the recovery of an exchange with 30... ♖f2? 31. ♖xe3 ♖xh1 32. ♖xh1 when Black has lost a potential attacking unit. Black must continue to apply pressure, in the faint hope that doing so will induce a more lucrative reward.

### 31. ♖c5



### 31... ♖xc5 32. bxc5 ♖xc5

DH: More sacrificial frenzy. White has been winning for some time now, but my earlier comments continue to apply. The only thing standing between this position and conversion to a full point is the state of White's nerves!

### 33. ♖b2

DH: (!?) White shows the first sign of cracking, and should clearly prefer the attractive tempo gain 33. ♖a2+! followed by the regrouping 34. ♖e2 to guard the sensitive squares a3 and c3. The dangerous ♗/e3 is blockaded, and White's rooks are finally ready for action on the d/file. Note also that White's king can run to the open b/

file now that no Black rooks remain to harrass him.

JB: (?) White is still on top after 33.♖a2+ ♜h8 34.♗e2 ♗f2 35.♞d8+.

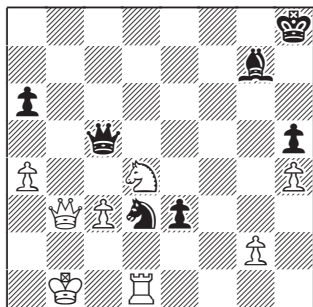
### 33... ♗f2 34.♖b1 ♗xh1

JB: (?) A much better try is the obvious 33...♗c4 when White still has some interesting problems to solve before bagging the full point. Did Black think that both rooks could escape?

### 35.♞xh1 ♗d3

DH: Although Black is still objectively lost, White has lost some control over the position and now needs to mentally consolidate before finishing off his opponent. The psychological balance of a game often has a powerful effect on the actual board position. A definitive alternative to the text is 35...♗c4!?. As long as White's rook remains out of play, Black's forces combine with enough force to require both caution and precision from his opponent.

### 36.♖b3+ ♜h8 37.♞d1



DH: (?) Another subtle slip. White needs to activate his rook, but for the moment 37.♞f1!? ♗xd4! 38.cxd4 e2 39.♖b8+ ♜g7 40.♞e1! ♖e7 fails tactically and gives White nothing better than an involved queen ending with 41.♖g3+ and 42.♖xd3 when Black regains the rook after 42...♖b4+. Simplification once again looks like the easiest route for White, and 37.♗e6!? ♖xc3 38.♖xc3 ♗xc3 39.♜c2! ♗f2 (Black has little hope in the knight endgame after 39...e2 40.♜xc3 e1♖ 41.♞xe1 ♗xe1 42.♗f4) 40.♞b1! certainly looks pretty convincing. But Black instead has 37...♖e5 38.♗xg7 e2 when the intended 39.♖e6 ♖xc3! now looks to be no better than a perpetual check.

After prolonged thought, I have failed to find a clearcut idea for White to overcome the technical problems

created by his exposed king and inactive rook. While the text looks dubious, I can sympathize with White's problems in selecting the optimal move here, particularly with a ticking clock nearby. Perhaps 37.♗e2!?. does the most to consolidate White's position by shoring up ♗/c3. The rook joins the battle in due time, and only then can White move on to convert his material advantage. I am very curious to see what my co-panelists come up with here!

### 37... ♗f2

DH: (!) Black gains a tempo en route to square/e4.

### 38.♞c1 ♖e7

DH: (!) More to the point looks 38...♗e4 as Black's queen remains more active than she does in the game. The position after 39.♖c2! ♗d2+ 40.♜a2 defies concrete analysis, but based on material considerations alone White is still winning – even though his exposed king complicates his task considerably. Whatever the objective evaluation of the position is, Black is to be commended for creating such a complete mess from a fairly hopeless position some fifteen moves earlier.

### 39.♗e2

DH: (!) With Black's queen somewhat removed from the action, this useful consolidation gains much force.

### 39... ♗e4

DH: The direct text is far more thematic than winning a kingside pawn with 39...♖xh4 or 39...♖e4+ and 40...♖xg2.

### 40.♜a1

DH: (?) I wonder why White rejected 40.♜c2. While almost any square is dangerous for White's exposed king, here the corner looks particularly vulnerable to me. I am still doubtful that Black has enough compensation for a draw even after the text, and suspect that computers are having a field day with this position.

### 40... ♗d2 41.♖a2

DH: (?) Far too passive. The position has definitely slipped from White's grasp, but now Black misses a great equalizing shot.

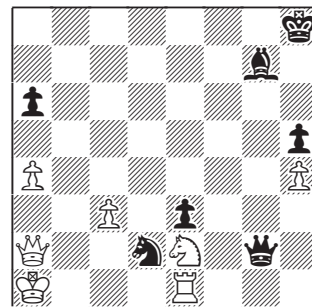
### 41... ♖e4

DH: (?) Black can paralyze his opponent completely with 41...♖b4! and hilight the trouble with sticking

the king in the corner with the earlier 40.♜a1. The unusual nature of the position is causing both players to make mistakes.

JB: What a change over the past few moves. White has stuck his pieces on the rim and Black, despite a heavy material disadvantage, again has some chances for salvation. Black can consider taking the pawn with 41...♖xh4 but then White might counterattack down the h/file. The text and 41...♖b4 also have their salient points.

### 42.♞e1 ♖xg2



DH: (?) Black takes a huge step in the wrong direction, and allows White to activate his queen once more. The capture 42...♖xh4 at least wins a tempo against White's ♞/e1, though opening the h/file weakens ♗/h5 in some later positions.

JB: Maybe 42...♖b4!?

### 43.♖f7

DH: (?) Activity is key, but centralization with 43.♖e6! keeps control of all the important light squares and is far better than this incidental attack on Black's ♗/h5.

JB: (?) Looks good, but 43.♖e6 is better.

### 43... ♖g4

DH: (?) Fortunately for White his opponent also suffers from fatigue, and he reflexively defends the pawn instead of playing the much stronger 43...♖e4!

JB: (?) Black can draw with 43...♖e4.

### 44.♗f4

DH: (!) At the cost of the weakling ♗/c3 White forces a queen trade so that he can finally enjoy his material advantage in a simple position.

### 44... ♗xc3+ 45.♜a2 ♗g7 46.♖xh5+ ♖xh5 47.♗xh5

DH: The remainder is a technical mop-up. Black's forces are not

powerful enough to force through the passed e/♗, and the extra White exchange finally wins the day.

47... ♖d4 48. ♗f4 ♗h7 49. ♗e2 ♖e5 50. ♖c1 ♗g6 51. ♖c6+ ♗f5 52. ♖xa6 ♗g4 53. ♖e6 ♗f5 54. ♖e8

DH: White's pawns are ready to roll, and Black cannot defend everything at once.

54... ♗f3 55. a5 ♗e4 56. a6 ♗d3 57. a7 ♗xe2 58. a8 ♗ ♖c3 59. h5 ♗e5 60. ♗e4 ♗d2 61. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 62. ♗xe5 e2 63. ♗xe2+

DH: An anticlimactic ending to a strange game!

YT: Black could have resigned much earlier...

1-0.

## The Guest Panelists become the Guess Panelists

### Yan Teplitsky

Who played this game? Both players appear to have some degree of knowledge of the opening, although perhaps at a fairly shallow level. It is possible that they were relatively inexperienced with the system, or else they have a habit of simply following trendy lines. Black's tactical oversight on move 16 was not very difficult, and my impression is that White was much more confident in realizing his plans whereas Black spent too much time looking for a tactical fluke instead of a positional solution.

White is likely a 2200–2300 player who has some experience in the Modern Defense, although his unfamiliarity with modern theory could indicate that he was inactive for some time prior to this contest. Black, on the other hand, is probably a 2100–2200 level player looking for a scrap, and quite possibly the younger of the two players. Another possibility is that the game was played by two stronger players, around 2400 in blitz or speed chess, or perhaps as a training game with a shortened time control as part of learning a new opening.

### Jonathan Berry

The game was played recently, perhaps under the 2001 FIDE time control, which is not to be confused with the Moscow 2001 FIDE time control that supplants it. The players

were Experts, or perhaps even Masters. The tournament situation may have persuaded Black that he must win at all cost. I would not be surprised if the players are juniors, and that Black is rated higher than White. A brave game, with lots of entertaining moves just where you'd expect the combatants to be in time trouble.

### Deen Hergott

Based on the opening moves, the game has a definite Made in Canada feel to it. Both sides played sensibly in the opening, though Black reached a comfortable position quite quickly. Why Black chose to sacrifice a pawn in the early middlegame is open to speculation, but he might have needed a win at that moment in the tournament, such as a last-round game with qualification or a money prize at stake.

Both players give me the impression of being between 2200–2400 CFC, and I'll guess the game was played in Western Canada. Black's creative sacrificial chaos reminds me of someone like Nigel Fullbrook, a scary opponent whom I have skillfully avoided on my treks west of Ontario! White was the lower rated opponent for several reasons:

1. Black's insistence on winning at all costs, and playing on at the end once the position became completely clarified, and
2. White's inability to solve the problems Black set earlier in the game. To me, this suggests a nervousness often associated with a difference in rating.

### The Moment of Truth

I was quite pleased when CGM Robert Kiviahio, during a conversation about things completely unrelated to Masters' Forum, let it slip that he had played a very wild game against FM Irwin Lipnowski at the 2001 Canadian Championship in Montreal, which of course turned out to be the same scrap that Samuel Lipnowski already mentioned briefly in his account of the event in the October 2001 issue of *En Passant* #170.

Naturally I was curious, and the game did turn out to be highly entertaining. Not only that, but the two players involved had actually refrained from publishing it elsewhere, and so there was no danger of any of the panelists to have seen the game earlier.

The details, then, are as follows: Robert Kiviahio, rated 2310, was White against Irwin Lipnowski, rated 2360 at the time. Interested readers are referred to the October 2001 issue of *En Passant* for additional details about the event and circumstances surrounding these players in the fifth round!

## En Passant Magazine Online Games & eMail Address Change

For the most part the recent transition from the now-defunct Excite network back to Shaw has been relatively painless for us, but earlier promises that old eMail addresses and webspace would remain functional for some time afterwards have proved to be false.

Accordingly, the *En Passant* magazine information page for contributors has moved to

[http://members.shaw.ca/kneven/chess/en\\_passant.html](http://members.shaw.ca/kneven/chess/en_passant.html)

and your editor's new eMail address is now

[enpassant@shaw.ca](mailto:enpassant@shaw.ca)

Sorry for any inconvenience this change might have caused in the last few weeks!

On a positive note, I have now made available for download all of the games that have appeared in *En Passant* magazine since I began my editorship nearly four years ago. Almost 800 games are available for download at

[http://members.shaw.ca/kneven/chess/ep\\_games.html](http://members.shaw.ca/kneven/chess/ep_games.html)

and I will update the site with new material shortly after each subsequent issue goes to print. Two different file formats are available for downloading – PGN as well as the ChessBase CBV archive format – so hopefully everyone can find something compatible with their software. Enjoy!

Knut Neven, Editor  
[enpassant@shaw.ca](mailto:enpassant@shaw.ca)

# Interview with Irwin Lipnowski

by Tony Boron

I spoke to Irwin Lipnowski after his return from the 2001 Canadian Closed in Montreal, where his participation marked an amazing 38 years since his first appearance in our national championship in 1963.

TB: I reckon you weren't too pleased with your latest Closed result, but it afforded you an opportunity to play some serious games against players who will represent Canada in the upcoming World Championships. But more on that later. How did you get started in chess? I suspect that youth chess wasn't as organized as it is now.

IL: My father taught me the moves when I was eight, but concepts such as en passant I did not learn until later. By age eleven a teacher at my school had convinced Abe Yanofsky to run a weekly chess club. I didn't even think about the game until then. I don't recall that we learned anything specific, but I do remember playing consultation games. Yanofsky would say something like "Our opponent is weak on the dark squares, so let's play ♖d2 to give us access to those squares." I would say his influence was more inspirational than anything else. Eventually I started reading chess books, and I recall taking a book out of library called *The Golden Age of Chess*. The year after that I bought my first chess book *Modern Chess Openings*.

TB: When did you play in your first tournament?

IL: In 1958 the Canadian Open was held in Winnipeg. There were an odd number of players, so Yanofsky said that if I would play, he would pick me up and bring me home. It was my first tournament and my first experience with a clock, and in those days I tended to play much too fast!

Anyway, I scored 4.5/10 at age twelve. Macskasy won the event, while GM Larry Evans and Paul

Vaitonis also played. The tournament director, believe it or not, was Philip Haley! After the event I was keen to read more chess books and learn about the game.

TB: What led to your participation in the 1963 Winnipeg Canadian Closed, where you finished in fifth place with a very respectable 9/15 score in the 16 player field? By my calculations you were only seventeen at the time.

IL: The tournament was sort of a who's who of Canadian chess at the time. Yanofsky was at the top of his powers, and in the following year he would score well at the 1964 Tel Aviv Olympiad. Frank Anderson wasn't there, but present was the defending champion Lionel Joyner. Laszlo Witt had won the Canadian Open. Jack Woodbury, a great unsung hero if ever there was one, directed.

**Joyner, Lionel  
Lipnowski, Irwin**

**Winnipeg CA ch (12), 1963**

**English A36**

1.c4 ♟f6 2.♟c3 g6 3.g3 ♟g7  
4.♟g2 0-0 5.e4 c5 6.♟ge2 ♟c6  
7.0-0 d6 8.d3 ♟e8 9.f4 f5 10.♟e3  
♟d4 11.♟b1 ♟c7 12.♟xd4 cxd4  
13.♟d5 e6 14.♟b4 a5 15.♟c2 ♟a6  
16.♟h1 ♟b6 17.b3 ♟b4 18.a3  
♟xc2 19.♟xc2 ♟h8 20.♟fc1 fxe4  
21.dxe4 e5 22.♟f1 ♟c7 23.♟d3 b6  
24.♟b2 ♟a6 25.♟c2 ♟ac8 26.♟h3  
♟ce8 27.b4 ♟b7 28.f5 ♟c6  
29.♟g2 gxf5 30.♟xf5 ♟xf5 31.b5  
♟f1+ 32.♟g1 ♟xg1+ 33.♟xg1 ♟c8  
34.♟f2 ♟f8 35.♟e2 ♟h6 36.♟xf8+  
♟xf8 37.a4 ♟e3+ 38.♟h1 ♟f2  
39.♟xf2 ♟xf2 40.♟f3 d3 41.♟g2  
♟e3 42.♟f1 ♟g7 43.♟g2 d2 0-1.

TB: You scored 9/15. Was there an IM norm available then, and were you surprised by your excellent result?

IL: I understood that the top six finishers would be on the 1964 Olympic team. I didn't receive any notice, and I finally realized that I didn't make the team when I read reports of the team's first results in local papers. Laszlo Witt and Duncan Suttles, who I had finished ahead of, were both on the team. I suspect that I was the victim of politics, and this turn of events took away my chess ambition for some years. I didn't play in the Canadian Championship again for the next ten years. The decade from your teens and well into your

twenties is pretty important for a chess player's development, at least it was in those days. As far as the IM norm is concerned, I didn't consider it.

TB: Between 1967 and 1973 you were quite busy with academics. I know that at some point you were at the London School of Economics, and you also found time to beat GM Walter Browne one summer?

IL: I spent the summer of 1968 working in Ottawa, and traveled to the Atlantic Open with Lawrence Day where I won Top Expert while Lawrence beat Michael Valvo in the last round. In 1969 we went again, and again I won Top Expert. In 1968 I won \$100, and in 1969 \$125.

Anyway, I applied at several schools to get my Masters degree, but won the JW Dafoe fellowship, with the condition that I stay in Winnipeg. The following year I was accepted to the London School of Economics to take my PhD. Several scholarships covered my travel, tuition, and room and board. London, fortunately, was quite inexpensive in those days.

I stayed until 1972, but didn't get my PhD then as I changed topics. Meanwhile, I applied and got a job at the University of Manitoba as an assistant professor. Ultimately, I had an opportunity to go back to London and completed my PhD in 1976.

TB: Did you play any serious chess?

IL: In England I played in Islington, in an event organized by Stuart Reuben, who is still organizing chess events today. I think he had lived in the US and developed an appetite for the large Swisses that were becoming common. I believe that he carried the idea to British soil. Also, England didn't have a Grandmaster in those days, and it was Tony Miles who finally won a prize for becoming the first! In 1971 I stopped in Toronto to play in the CNE Championship. There I won the following game against GM Walter Browne in the third round.

**Notes by  
Irwin Lipnowski**

**Lipnowski, Irwin  
Browne, Walter**

**Toronto CNE (3), 1971**

**Sicilian: Closed B26**

1.g3 c5 2.♟g2 g6 3.d3 ♟g7 4.♟c3

**♭c6 5.e4 d6 6.♭h3 e6 7.0-0 ♭ge7 8.♭e3 0-0 9.♖d2 ♭b8**

After 9...♭d4 10.♭h6 the attempt to win a pawn with 10...♭xh6 11.♖xh6 ♭xc2 backfires because of 12.♭g5.

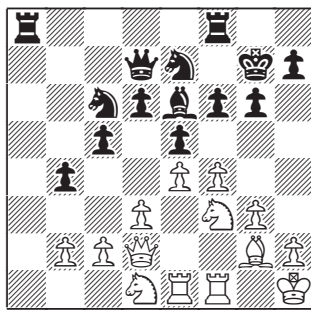
**10.♭h6 e5**

This second move with Black's e/♖ does not constitute a wasted tempo, since White would never try to swap dark squared bishops had Black played 6...e5 in a single turn, thus devaluing the bishop by closing the long diagonal. Instead, White then proceeds with the pawn advance f4-f5 and a strong kingside attack.

**11.♖h1 f6 12.♭xg7 ♖xg7 13.f4 ♭e6 14.♭g1 ♖d7**

Perhaps the immediate 14...d5 15.exd5 ♭xd5 is better for Black. Once White gets in 15.♭f3 this advance is no longer possible without incurring an isolated e/♖ for Black, which is a structural weakness that Browne is not prepared to accept. Spassky and Benko both smiled benignly at this position!?

**15.♭f3 b5 16.a3 a5 17.♖ae1 b4 18.axb4 axb4 19.♭d1 ♖a8**



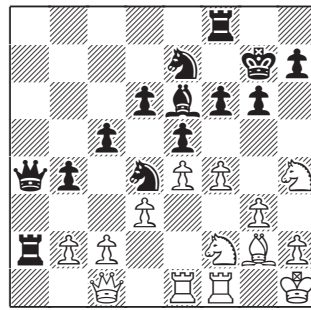
**20.♭f2**

Objectively speaking this move is probably weaker than 20.♭e3 or perhaps 20.♭h4. On the other hand, GM Browne would not likely have embarked on his subsequent queenside excursion without this invitation, and consequently my prospects of a kingside breakthrough would have been considerably diminished. If Black merely sits on the position, I had planned to gain space on the kingside with h3 and ♖h2 followed in due course by further expansion with g4.

**20...♖a2 21.♖c1 ♭d4 22.♭h4**

Black would be very pleased with his play along the newly opened c/file after 22.♭xd4 cxd4.

**22...♖a4**



How is White to defend ♖/c2 now?

**23.f5!?**

Forced, but very interesting and quite unclear. Browne has a marked preference for strategically clear paths, and so I didn't expect him to enter into the complications arising from 23...gxf5. He did, however, spend fifteen minutes on his reply.

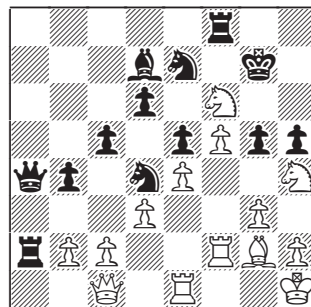
**23...♭d7 24.♭g4 g5**

White's ♭h4 is immune because of the deadly ♖h6+ and so I have just enough time to protect ♖/c2 on my next turn and set a trap for Black.

**25.♖f2 h5?**

The losing move! Browne appeared convinced that one of the knights now falls, but an unpleasant surprise awaits him. A less ambitious move such as 25...♖a8 leads to approximate equality, as White continues with 26.♭f3 followed by the possible simplification 26...♖a1 (or 26...♭xf3 27.♭xf3 ♖a1 28.♖xa1 ♖xa1 29.♖xa1 ♖xa1+ 30.♖g2) 27.♖d2 ♖xe1+ 28.♭xe1. "The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction."

**26.♭xf6!**



I played this rather quickly, and Browne visibly went to pieces as he studied the position. Writhing in his chair and alternately pulling his hair and snapping at nearby spectators to be quiet he anticipated his defeat with an unusual amount of anguish.

**26...♖xf6 27.♭g6 ♖g8 28.h4!**

The key move which is both necessary and sufficient for White's victory. I played my last three moves without any hesitation and was left with fifty minutes for the remaining twelve moves. Browne, on the other hand, had less than five minutes.

**28...♭xg6**

Black wisely decides against 28...gxh4 29.♖h6 with the devastating threat of 30.♭h8+.

**29.♖xg5+ ♖f7**

White's next move is obvious, but I decided to wait a full fifteen minutes before making my reply on the board for several reasons. Firstly, I wanted to explore all of the possibilities in the position. Secondly, I thought that with a double check hanging over my opponent's head, this would be a most propitious moment for reflection. And finally, it is all too easy to get caught up in the infectious and blunder prone atmosphere of a speed game if I didn't restrain myself.

**30.fxg6+ ♖e8 31.♖f7 ♭c6 32.♖f6 ♖a8 33.♖f1 ♭g4 34.g7 ♖a7 35.♖f8+ ♖d7 36.♖xa8**

There is no need to risk anything with 36.♖g5 (threatening 37.♖1f7+) 36...♖a1 since the text wins easily.

**36...♖axa8 37.♭f3 ♭xf3+**

Forced, as otherwise White's h/♖ decides the game.

**38.♖xf3 ♭e7 39.♖f7 ♖a1+ 40.♖g2 ♖c1**

Black has made time control with only seconds remaining on the clock, and after returning to the playing area after a short bathroom break I found my opponent's chair empty...

**41.♖f6**

Naturally White now wins easily with threats of 42.♖e6 or 42.♖e6+. Browne never returned to resign the game, as he had, apparently, simply left the building with his girlfriend.

**1-0.**

The next round brought a crushing disappointment against Zvonko Vranesic. I had methodically built up a large advantage and was ahead by two pawns, only to be instructed by the TD, Walter Dobrich, that we would have ten minutes each to finish the game. I informally protested, but played anyway in the imposed speed session until blundering into a mating net during our mutual zeitnot. A win

instead would likely have given me a pairing in the next round with the reigning World Champion, Boris Spassky who, incidentally, later showed me an easy win in the Vranesic game. The circumstances surrounding these events make for one of my greatest disappointments.

I also played in the Hoogovens event at Wijk aan Zee, again together with Lawrence Day who played in a higher section. During the tournament I got to know Ulf Andersson, who was about eighteen at that time.

TB: Your rating was in and around the Top 10 Canadians from 1973 to 1986, except for your inactive periods. Two of the few tournaments you played in then were the Pan-Am International in Winnipeg in 1974, and the 1976 Olympiad in Haifa, Israel.

IL: Browne got even with me in Winnipeg, but I had a decent result and ended up with a 2400 FIDE rating. Peter Biyiasas was the top Canadian that year, and I remember him playing in the Manitoba Closed some years earlier when he was still quite young. Apparently he lost every game, which motivated him to study and get better!

TB: You were basically inactive from 1981 to 1992, except for 1986 when you played in the Canadian Open in Winnipeg. There you drew with GM Hjartsson, but lost to GMs Yusupov and Kupreichik. Somehow, you were able to stay sharp despite marriage and the birth of your three sons...

IL: Well, I was still looking at games, and I also used to host sessions at my home in Winnipeg with local players like Fletcher Baragar and GM Abe Yanofsky. This certainly helped!

TB: Any influential books or players?

IL: *How to Open a Chess Game* strikes a chord, and I am also reminded of Petrosian's advice that you shouldn't trust published opening analysis. Petrosian is one of my chess heroes. He once said that his favorite piece was the rook, because having two of them would allow him to sacrifice two exchanges! His understanding of the middlegame was extremely deep.

TB: For the most part you were inactive again until the 1997 Canadian Open in Winnipeg, but since then you have been very active playing, writing, and also coaching. You played in Cuba in 1998 (*En Passant*

#153), and in the last five Canadian Opens. What do you attribute to your increased participation?

IL: Well, my children are a bit older, and two of my sons, Samuel and Michael, are active players and enjoy our summer chess vacations. We enjoy meeting with old friends such as Kevin Spraggett and Hugh Brodie.

The Cuba tournament was tough, and included several underrated players who are now Grandmasters. 14-year-old Lenier Dominguez was untitled, but he recently played in the 2001 World Championship! I also lost to Lazaro Bruzon, who went on to become the 2000 World Junior Champion! My observations seem to mesh with Lawrence Day's contention that one of the problems with the FIDE rating system is that while your own strength may remain relatively constant, your rating tends to drop over time as you continually encounter underrated juniors.

TB: Back to the present, I notice that your fine results have been marred somewhat by time trouble. What is your opinion on this trend towards faster time controls? They apply to everyone of course, but perhaps the faster controls favor the young?

IL: I didn't like the time control at the Canadian Closed at all. Well, I have a tendency to use most of my time under normal time controls, which tends to create more of a casino environment under the quicker time control schemes. The quality of the games is much lower, and a random factor is introduced into the game's outcome. Some players are able to take advantage of this, but they tend to be younger, faster, and blessed with better nerves. I am not in that category. It's a different brand of chess altogether. I saw the winning move against Gardner, on move 40, but then hallucinated a defensive resource for him that didn't exist!?

TB: Tell us about a typical day in your role as Canada's youth captain at the World Youth Championships in Spain in 2000. GM Spraggett somewhat facetiously described your duties as including coaching, mentoring, analysis, preparation, father, mother, babysitter, and diaper changer!

IL: I was scheduled to go this year as well, but was unable in the end to find replacements for my teaching course load. Last year I was team

captain, not coach, and therefore basically charged with the well being of the players who didn't have guardians. I understand that Canada has now adopted the US model, whereby the captain has no legal responsibility unless he chooses to. Last year I provided analysis help for some of our players if they wanted it, but several had their own coaches.

TB: How about preparing for specific opponents?

IL: I believe that far too many young players rely too much on computer databases. This practice is fine for very advanced players like Pascal Charbonneau or Mark Bluvshstein, but I question the merit for many others.

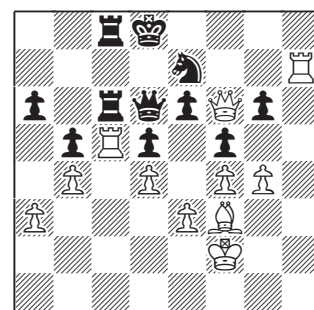
TB: Any future chess goals for yourself? I don't want to remind you, but you'll be eligible for the World Senior Championship in a few years!

IL: My ambition is simply to create some more nice games. For my kids, to do well, obtain a profession, and play chess. Chess is a nice hobby. Some can play chess professionally.

Notes by  
**Irwin Lipnowski**

**Lipnowski, Irwin  
Mazock, Michael**

*Sackville CA op (8), 2001*



**1. Qxd5! Bxc5**

The point of White's sacrificial idea is revealed after 1...exd5 2. Bxd5 Bc2+ 3. Qg3 Bg2+ 4. Qh4 Bh2+ 5. Qg5.

**2. Bxc5 1-0.**

TB: Denis Allan joked that Duncan Suttles and himself could join you in 2013 for a 50th anniversary of your first appearances in the Canadian Closed. How about it?

IL: That would be fun. Chess is a wonderful game that gives many opportunities for camaraderie.

# Across Canada



## BC

British Columbia

### Smithers Northern BC Winter Games

This year's edition of this long running event might be subtitled the Forsyth Saga, as several members of that clan amassed three gold medals and one silver. In the Open Section, **Bob Chapman** scored 4/5 to snatch the gold medal from the hands of **Jason Danner** by virtue of a superior tiebreak. **Alan Forsyth** also scored 4/5 for top spot in the U1500 Class. His cousin Bruce Forsyth claimed the silver with 3/5 ahead of bronze medallist Trieu Nguyen. Top Junior was Vinh Nguyen, followed by Rene Miller and Colin Combes. The Cadet Section was run as a separate round robin event, resulting in a tie for first between brothers **Brendan Forsyth** and **Gavin Forsyth**, with Dexter Fawcett in third with his promising 6/10 final total.

Everyone dearly missed Nicholas Taylor of Prince Rupert, who sadly died of a long term illness last November. Nicholas easily held the NBCWG event record for the most medals won, and his organizational efforts and tireless promotion of chess will be extremely difficult to replace, and he will be sorely missed in the tightly-knit local chess community. May the secrets of the King's Gambit finally be revealed to you. Rest in peace old friend.

Org: Gail Currie; TD/Rep: John Niksic

### Vancouver UBC Tuesday Night

**Robert North** seriously outclassed the field, and his first place finish was never in doubt. My own play was also encouraging, although possible wins in two drawn games would no doubt have led to a fatal confrontation with Robert in a later round!?

TD/Rep: Lyle Craver



## MB

Manitoba

### Winnipeg Kent Oliver Memorial

The event was held in January with 31 players. **Aron Kaptan** and **Alex Nikouline** tied for first with 4.5/5, while Eric Haapamaki and John Klokow split the top prize for the U1900 Section at 4/5. In the U1700 Section Daniel Barkman, Mark Wasney and Blair Rutter tied with 3/5. And finally, in the U1500 Section, Francis Trueman captured top spot with 3/5 just ahead of Paul Klassen and Claude Tetrault at 2.5/5.

TD/Org/Rep: Lorne Gibbons



## ON

Ontario

### Toronto DCC Valentine's Day Open

The tournament saw a comeback of IMs Lawrence Day and Yan Teplitsky. Unfortunately, Lawrence has not been feeling very well and thus did not have a good result. However, his wit and broad knowledge of chess history contributed much to the success of the event! The top section was won by **Yan Teplitsky** with 4/5, followed by Ian Findlay, Christian Stevens and Eddie Urquhart in a tie for second at 3.5/5. **Gajana Srinivasan** was first in the U2100 Section with 4.5/5, followed by Nikolay Noritsyn, Ross Richardson and Warren Dutton with 4/5, while **Toshio Imai** scored 4/5 to win the U1700 Section ahead of Lev Dubinsky and Chris Tam at 3.5.

Christian Stevens, whose analytical skills and highly original ideas are sure to take him much higher yet, scored an impressive 1.5/2 against the IMs!

Notes by

**Yan Teplitsky**

Teplitsky, Yan  
Stevens, Christian

*Toronto Valentines Day op  
(3), 2002*

Reti A14

1. ♖f3 d5 2. c4 e6 3. g3 ♗e7 4. ♗g2 ♗f6 5. 0-0 0-0 6. b3!?

Most people prefer 6. d4 here, but I occasionally like to use the text, thought by theory to lead to an equal game, to confuse my opponents.

6... a5!?

Christian follows recommended theory, but 6... b6 7. ♗b2 ♗b7 8. e3 c5 9. ♖e2 ♗c6 10. d3 ♖c7 as played in Teplitsky-Doettling, BM, is simpler.

7. ♗c3!

This is much stronger than the usual 7. ♗b2 a4 8. ♗a3 b6 where the ♗/a3 is really badly placed and Black has no problems whatsoever.

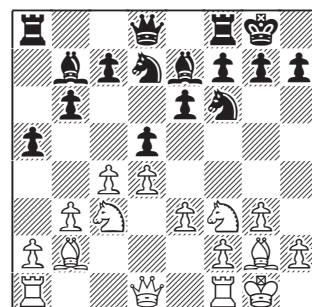
7... b6

Black's ♗/d4 is really weak after 7... d4 8. ♗b5 c5 9. e3 ♗c6 10. exd4 cxd4 when White can prevent the planned ...e5 with 11. ♖e1! and land Black in a very unpleasant position.

8. ♗b2 ♗b7 9. e3!?

Normal is 9. d4 ♗bd7 10. ♗e5 although the bishop is better placed on f4 or g5 in these lines, and White's ♗/b3 doesn't let the queen go to a4...

9... ♗bd7 10. d4!?



White is inconsistent. I had intended 10.♖e2 (followed by d3 and e4) when 10...a4!? 11.♜xa4 (Black is fine after 11.bxa4 ♟c5) 11...dxc4 12.♞fc1 (good for Black is 12.♜d4 ♜xg2 13.♞xg2 ♟e5; while 12.♞xc4!? ♟a6 13.♞c6 ♜xf1 14.♞xf1 is interesting, but only offers fair compensation for the small material investment) 12...cxb3 13.axb3 ♟c5 14.♜xc5 ♜xc5 15.♞xa8 ♟xa8 16.♜xf6 (no better is 16.d4 ♟d6) 16...♞xf6 17.d4 ♜xf3 (17...♟d6 18.♜d2 is very pleasant for White, but probably not enough for a tangible advantage) 18.♜xf3! ♟d6 really does not look very promising after all.

And while 10.d3 dxc4 11.bxc4 ♟c5 12.♟e5 is better for White, the simple 10...♟c5 looks perfectly fine for Black.

### 10...dxc4!?

A very interesting and original idea that I underestimated during the game. Nowhere in my analysis have I been able to prove anything tangible for White after this move.

### 11.bxc4 ♟b4!

The point! Black doesn't really need his dark squared bishop.

### 12.♜a4

White is reluctant to trade the knight because it holds the key to the position – square/e4. Instead 12.♜b5? c6 13.a3 cxb5 14.axb4 bxc4 leads to Black's advantage.

### 12...♟d6!

Black carefully avoids the potential danger of trapping the bishop if White gets to play c5 followed by a3 at the right moment.

### 13.♞c1

On 13.♞c2 (13.♟e5 ♞c8 is also ok for Black) 13...♟e4! Black just takes advantage of the key square/e4, and avoids the thematic 13...♞e7? 14.c5 bxc5 15.dxc5 ♟xc5 16.♜xc5 ♜xc5 17.♜g5!

### 13...♞e7 14.♞b3

Now after 14.c5 bxc5 15.dxc5 ♟xc5 16.♜xc5 ♜xc5 17.♞c2 (but not 17...♟d6? 18.♜g5) 17...♟a3! White has nothing.

### 14...♞ab8 15.♞fd1 ♟a8 16.♟e5

What else? White, in spite of his space advantage, has no clear plan.

### 16...♜xg2 17.♞xg2 ♜xe5 18.dxe5 ♟e4 19.♟a3 ♟dc5 20.♜xc5

Bad for White is 20.♞b5? ♞g5! 21.f3 ♞xe3; while 20.♞c2? ♞e8! unpins the queen and prepares ...♞c6+.

### 20...♜xc5 21.♞b5

Again 21.♞c2 ♞e8! is equal.

### 21...♞fc8! 22.♞b1 c6 23.♜xc5

Black takes over after 23.♞b2 b5.

### 23...♞xc5 24.♞xc5 bxc5 25.♞xb8 ♞xb8 26.♟d7 ♞f8 27.♞c7 ♞b2 28.♞xc6 ♞xa2 29.♞xc5?

White's last chance to create some problems for his opponent is 29.g4! in order to immobilize Black's kingside pawns. Objectively though, the position remains a clear draw.

### 29...h5! 30.♞c8+ ♞e7 31.♞c7+ ♞e8 32.h4 a4 ½-½.

TD/Org: Mark S. Dutton; Rep: Yan Teplitsky

## Guelph Winter Pro-Am

The first weekend of February saw a record 51 players compete in the Winter Pro-Am, and featured digital clocks and incremental time controls for all players. Veteran **Frank Pushkedra** of Grimsby upset both Brian Hartman and Robert Hamilton to capture first prize in the Pro Section. Hartman finished second, followed by Ron Brice in third.

**Viktar Churpys** was in perfect form in the U2000 Section with 5/5, well ahead of Undriadi Benggawan and Ron LeBlanc. In the U1700 Section Robert Bzikot, Kandiah Kathiramal, Justin McDonald and Louis Dionne all scored 4/5.

TD/Org/Rep: Hal Bond

## Toronto DCC Cabin Fever III

**Pino Verde** finished alone in first with an undefeated 4.5/5, ahead of **Richard Nadeau** in second at 4/5. Igor Guzar, Robert Armstrong and new club members Andrew Walker and Isaiah Vergara tied for third place.

TD/Org/Rep: Mark S. Dutton

## Parry Sound Winter Open

GMC **Bob Kiviaho** went undefeated to win the first tournament of the new year in front of Alex Szatmary, Mathew Cooke and Jordan Palmer in a share for second spot with 3/4. Newcomer Jonathan Pettit and Ted Craven captured the U1600 prize at 2/4, while the Most Improved trophy went to Keri Anne Hanson.

TD/Org/Rep: Mathew Cooke

## Parry Sound CGBCA December Youth

**Mathew Cooke** of Parry Sound took the December Youth Championship once again with a perfect 9/9. Keri Anne Hanson followed in second at 7/9, and Adam Dawson showed that he has not lost his touch after a long absence and took third with 6.5/9. Most Improved was definitely Simon Bergeron, who impressed everyone with a very credible 5.5/9.

TD/Org/Rep: Mathew Cooke

## Parry Sound CGBCA Fall

**Mathew Cooke** posted yet another perfect 6/6 result, although it was Keri Anne Hanson who just missed her chance in the decisive game and ended up in second at 4.5/6. Joel Murphy also played exceptionally well to post 4/6 for third place, while newcomer Noah Hogan scored 3.5/6 to take the U1400 prize.

TD/Org/Rep: Mathew Cooke

## Rouge Valley Fall Round Robin

Adjournments may be out of fashion, replaced by ever faster sudden death time controls, but here they provided additional excitement for the members of our club. Even players with the most room for improvement get a chance to think and work all week in their battle to stay out of last place. Manalo Pepin played two adjourned endings against weaker players on the final day plus his last round game, and scored two points from this mini-simultaneous exhibition. **Sam Sharpe** turned down **Trifelino Miaco**'s draw offer in their final opposite colored bishop ending, but conceded the half point later anyway to end in first place at 7/9, followed by Miaco in second at 6.5/9.

TD: Sam Sharpe; Org: E. Mucignat

## Concordia Chess Club Championship

This year's event really consisted of two tournaments in one. In the Open Section **Bohdan Rzycki** and **Istvan Kiss** scored impressive 8.5/9 and 7/9 performances, respectively, and so perhaps we should invite them to become full members of our club! The best result among our club members was posted by Steve Joseph, who beat out Albert Runstedler on tiebreak for third place.

TD/Rep: Steve Joseph



### Central Georgian Bay Championship

**Mathew Cooke** cleared his way through the field to take the tournament with a perfect 9/9, although young rising star Keri Anne Hanson served notice by finishing a strong second at 7/9. Newcomer Adam Dawson came in third at 6.5/9.  
 TD/Org/Rep: *Mathew Cooke*

### Toronto Closed

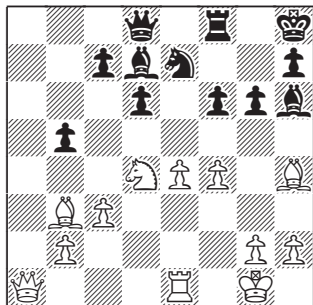
**Isai Berengolts** won the Toronto Closed with 9.5/11, half a point ahead of **Ang Meng** in second place at 9/11. Last year's winner FM Brett Campbell had to settle for a share of third place together with David Southam at 7/11. In the Reserve Section **Andrew Picana** dominated the field with 9/11, followed at 8/11 by Chris Takov and Enrique De Jesus.

**Findlay, Ian  
Meng, Ang**

*Toronto ch (10), 2002*

**Ruy Lopez C60**

1.e4 e5 2.♟f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♗ge7  
 4.0-0 g6 5.c3 ♗g7 6.d4 0-0 7.dxe5  
 ♗xe5 8.♗xe5 ♙xe5 9.♗g5 d6  
 10.♗d2 ♗g7 11.♞e1 ♗d7 12.a4 a6  
 13.♙c4 ♖h8 14.f4 f6 15.♙h4 b5  
 16.axb5 axb5 17.♙b3 ♙c6 18.♗f3  
 ♞xa1 19.♖xa1 ♙h6 20.♗d4 ♗d7



21.e5 dxe5 22.fxe5 fxe5 23.♞xe5  
 g5 24.♗g3 ♗g7 25.♖e1 ♗g6  
 26.♞d5 ♖c8 27.♞xg5 ♗f6 28.♞c5  
 c6 29.♖e4 1-0.

TD/Org/Rep: *Mark S. Dutton*

### Toronto DCC Saturday Active #23

**Matt Blakely** and FM **Ian Findlay** shared first place with 5/6 in the March edition of our Saturday Active series, while Christian Stevens defeated IM Lawrence Day for the second time in two weeks to take the U2200 prize ahead of Eddie Urquhart. Olympian Marina Bryskine shared the

U2000 Section with Toronto Closed Reserves winner Andrew Picana. Fred Henderson donated his prize money from the U1800 Section to the junior prize fund! In the U1600 Section Kelvin Ko, Kurt Loeb and newcomer Oswald Barmasch came out on top.  
 TD/Org/Rep: *Mark S. Dutton*

### Toronto DCC Winter Storm II

**Peter Boross-Harmer** and **Nimi Zahavi** shared first with identical 4.5/5 final scores. The event was held concurrently with the Toronto Closed.  
 TD/Org/Rep: *Mark S. Dutton*

### Toronto Blitz Championship

FM **Ian Findlay** took first place ahead of IM **Igor Zugic** in second, and IM David Cummings and FM Goran Milicevic in a share for third.  
 TD/Org/Rep: *Mark S. Dutton*

### Toronto Class Championships

IM **Yan Teplitsky** and FM **Ian Findlay** shared first in the Top Section with 4/5, in spite of Findlay's win over Teplitsky in their individual game. Juniors Artem Gurevich and Igor Diviljan were half a point back at 3.5/5. **Justin Gulati** won the Expert Section at 4/5, followed by Warren Dutton, Ross Richardson and Bill Evans close behind in this hard fought group. The U1800 Class was dominated by **Chris Takov**, whose 4.5/5 bested Slava Sviridovitch and Morgon Mills at 4/5.

The U1800 Class was won by **Hassan Hassan**, also at 4/5, in front of Vineet Joag and Kingston's Dilip Panjwani. **Nimalan Thavandiran** and **Chris Tam** both finished with 4/5 to top the U1600 Class, while **Brendan Fan** and **Geordie Derraugh** shared the U1400 prize with 3.5/5. And finally, **Mohit Sharma** and **Jugal Parikh** won in the U1200 Class.

TD/Org/Rep: *Mark S. Dutton*

### Kapuskasing McDonald's Tournament

The first event of the newly formed Association des Echecs des Grandes Rivieres attracted twelve adults and nearly one hundred children. Grade 6 student **Gabrielle Nadeau** took first place with a perfect score. Our next event is scheduled for Iroquois Falls on March 2, and will hopefully continue the trend towards more rated play in Northeastern Ontario!  
 TD/Rep: *Denis Nadeau*

### Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Simultaneous

After four and a half hours Zargon the ChessMaster allowed only one draw and loss from 34 games at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.  
 Rep: *Michael Kennedy*

### Toronto Seniors Championship

The second Toronto Seniors Championship was held in early March with a field of sixteen players. The site was provided free of charge courtesy of the Bradgate Arms located near Avenue Road and St.Clair. The tournament trophy and top prize were taken by **Milan Zagar** with a score of 4.5/5, with second prize going to **Phil Haley**, former longtime FIDE Representative for Canada, with 4/5. The top U1800 prize was shared by Alice Laimer and Jesus Vera with 3/5, while the amateur trophy for the top U1700 player also went to Alice Laimer on tie break. The top U1600 prize was shared by Ted Termeer and Allan Howard with 2/5.

Org: *Wolfgang Ferner*; TD/Rep: *David Gebhardt*

### Ontario Bursary for Vancouver

A four game match was held between **Jura Ochkoos** and Ted Kret to determine the allocation of funding for participation in the upcoming Canadian Championship in Vancouver. On Saturday the first game went to Mr. Ochkoos with White, but Mr. Kret evened the score in the second game. On Sunday morning, however, Mr. Ochkoos won again in an exciting game to take a 2-1 lead, and then finished off with yet another win to take the match 3-1.

Org: *Martin Jaeger*; TD/Rep: *David Gebhardt*

### Toronto DCC Saturday Active #22

**Michael Buscar** won this edition of our regular Saturday Active events ahead of **Haoyuan Wang** in second place. Christian Stevens and Evgeni Miller shared the U2200 Section money, while the U2000 Section spoils went to Andrew Picana and Steve Laughlin. The U1800 Section was won by Tony Verma and Peter Hollo, the U1600 Section by Greg Beal and Michael Kop, and the U1400 Section by Adam Dykes.

TD/Org/Rep: *Mark S. Dutton*



**NB**

**New Brunswick**

Fredericton Snowflea 4

The event set a new attendance record in Fredericton, and it was **Martin Robichaud** who won clear first with 4.5/5. Andrew Sullivan, Bob Larmer and Georges Comeau tied for third at 3.5/5, while Chris Maund was Top U1600 at 3/5, and the U1400 prize was divided between Patrick Bradley and Gene Butland at 2.5/5. Karen Stote also scored 2.5/5 to win the Top Female prize.

*TD/Org/Rep: Chris Maund*



**PE**

**Prince Edward Island**

Charlottetown YCA February Active

First place went to **Fred McKim**, who had a two point cushion over David Paulowich's 3/5 score. Aman Hambleton took the Top Junior prize.

*TD/Org/Rep: Fred McKim*



**NS**

**Nova Scotia**

Nova Scotia Championship

The Nova Scotia Championship is held annually as a six player round robin, and this year took place at Cole Harbour Place over the January 25–27 weekend. Invitations go out to the previous year's champion and the highest rated players on the provincial list. After some exciting chess **Alvah Mayo**, formerly of Westville but currently living in Halifax, and **Glenn Charlton** tied for first with 3.5/5. In order to determine the provincial champion and representative to the Canadian Zonal several tiebreak methods were applied, but did not determine a winner. In the end a final blitz game saw Alvah prevail on time in a position where Glenn was up decisive material.

*TD/Rep: David Kenney*

Cole Harbour Winter Open

An unexpected snow storm on the opening day reduced the expected turnout to a brave group of 18 players who made the trip through the bad weather. Cole Harbour Place is a major sports and recreation facility in Dartmouth, and provides us with a superb playing site. No clear leader emerged as the event progressed,

and in the end **David Kenney, Troy MacDonald, David Poirier, Albert Ede**, and **Harold Uettoa** all finished in a first place tie at 3.5/5. Similarly, Harry McCleave, Steve McLoed and Peter Richard tied for top spot in the U1500 section with 2.5/5.

*TD/Rep: David Kenney*

Bluenose Chess Club Open Championship

The annual Bluenose Chess Club Open Championship was held in two sections from February 22–24 at the Dalhousie University Student Union Building in Halifax. The winner of the Open Section was **Gary Ng** from Port Hawkesbury, who is one of Nova Scotia's top junior players. Second place, half a point behind Gary's 4.5/5, went to **Alvah Mayo**, and third to **David Poirier** with 3.5/5.



Alvah Mayo, Gary Ng, David Poirier

**Gary Joudrey**, who has been quietly improving his game in recent years, placed first in the U1700 Section with a final score of 4.5/5, ahead of **Jean-Pierre Senecal** at 4/5. Harry McCleave and Daniel MacNeil tied for the U1400 prize with 2.5/5.

*TD/Org/Rep: David Kenney*

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# Top Rating Lists

These lists include current members that have been rated in a CFC event within the last twelve months

## Top Canadians

1. Lesiege, Alexandre	PQ	2660
2. Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2629
3. Teplitsky, Yan	ON	2522
4. Linskiy, Oleg	PQ	2503
5. Cummings, David	ON	2490
6. Hergott, Deen	ON	2475
7. Zugic, Igor	ON	2471
8. Hebert, Jean	PQ	2470
9. Nickoloff, Bryon	ON	2468
10. Barbeau, Sylvain	PQ	2460
11. Day, Lawrence	ON	2456
12. O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2453
13. Khassanov, Marat	PQ	2436
14. Livshits, Ron	ON	2434
15. Schleifer, Michael	PQ	2429
16. Charbonneau, Pascal	PQ	2428
17. Yoos, Jack	BC	2425
18. Hartman, Brian	ON	2422
19. Milicevic, Goran	ON	2414
20. Basanta, Gary	BC	2410
21. Ross, David	PQ	2397
22. Dougherty, Michael	ON	2393
23. Allan, Denis	ON	2393
24. Glinert, Stephen	ON	2391
25. Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2382
26. Berry, Jonathan	BC	2379
27. Hamilton, Robert	ON	2370
28. Ochkoos, Jura	ON	2365
29. Mikanovic, Goran	PQ	2365
30. Olszewski, Piotr	ON	2359
31. Taylor, Gordon	ON	2357
32. Hua, Lefong	PQ	2355
33. Gentes, Kevin	MB	2354
34. Reeve, Jeff	AB	2353
35. Findlay, Ian	ON	2351
36. Fuentesbella, Mayo	BC	2348
37. Pacey, Kevin	ON	2346
38. Harper, Bruce	BC	2335
39. Mitrovic, Milan	ON	2334
40. Voloaca, Mihnea	ON	2326
41. Milicevic, Dragoljub	BC	2323
42. Huber, Gregory	AB	2323
43. Phillips, Ray	PQ	2321
44. Goldenberg, Danny	PQ	2318
45. Lipnowski, Irwin	MB	2312
46. Pushkedra, Frank	ON	2311
47. Filipovich, David	ON	2310
48. Neven, Knut	SK	2309
49. Kiviaho, Robert	ON	2308
50. Howarth, Anthony	PE	2304
51. Vujic, Branimir	ON	2304
52. Valdizon, Armando	ON	2303
53. Gurevich, Artem	ON	2302
54. Scoones, Dan	BC	2300

## Top FIDE

1. Lesiege, Alexandre	PQ	2572
2. Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2541
3. Teplitsky, Yan	ON	2453
4. Zugic, Igor	ON	2450
5. Suttles, Duncan	BC	2420
6. Marantz, Michael	ON	2420
7. Pelts, Roman	ON	2417
8. Linskiy, Oleg	PQ	2417

9. Nickoloff, Bryon	ON	2417
10. Hartman, Brian	ON	2405
11. Hebert, Jean	PQ	2398
12. Schulte, Oliver	BC	2397
13. Barbeau, Sylvain	PQ	2397
14. Schleifer, Michael	PQ	2389
15. Hergott, Deen	ON	2388
16. Teodoro IV, Eduardo D.	ON	2387
17. Charbonneau, Pascal	PQ	2386
18. Alipayo, Rodolfo	ON	2380
19. Khassanov, Marat	PQ	2375
20. Milicevic, Goran	ON	2375
21. Cummings, David	ON	2373
22. MacPhail, John	ON	2365
23. O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2357
24. Amos, Bruce	ON	2355
25. Kleinplatz, Sam	PQ	2355
26. Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2354
27. Piasetski, Leon	BC	2350

## Top Women

1. Starr, Nava	ON	2275
2. Mitrovic, Bojana	ON	2176
3. Belc, Daniela	ON	2138
4. Benggawan, Amanda	ON	2100
5. Chu, Stefanie	ON	2095
6. Bryskine, Marina	ON	2068
7. Khaziyeva, Dinara	PQ	2019
8. Kagramanov, Dina	ON	1986
9. Charbonneau, Anne-Marie	PQ	1948
10. Baltgailis, Vesma	ON	1933

## Top U20

1. Charbonneau, Pascal	19	PQ	2428
2. Glinert, Stephen	18	ON	2391
3. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2382
4. Hua, Lefong	20	PQ	2355
5. Gurevich, Artem	19	ON	2302
6. Golts, Roman	20	ON	2274
7. Hacat, Kevork	19	ON	2245
8. Raheb, David	19	ON	2240
9. Divljan, Igor	16	ON	2229
10. Moskvitch, Andrei	20	PQ	2228

## Top U18

1. Glinert, Stephen	18	ON	2391
2. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2382
3. Divljan, Igor	16	ON	2229
4. Miller, Evgeni	17	ON	2216
5. Wang, HaoYuan	16	ON	2211
6. Roussel-Roozmon, T.	14	PQ	2207
7. Reddy, Tyler	18	NS	2205
8. Lawson, Eric	18	PQ	2200
9. Stevens, Christian	15	ON	2191
10. Kapadia, Ronak	17	NB	2185

## Top U16

1. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2382
2. Divljan, Igor	16	ON	2229
3. Wang, HaoYuan	16	ON	2211
4. Roussel-Roozmon, T.	14	PQ	2207
5. Stevens, Christian	15	ON	2191
6. Krnan, Tomas	14	ON	2178

7. Predescu, Sebastian	14	ON	2116
8. Benggawan, Amanda	16	ON	2100
9. Buscar, Michael	15	ON	2076
10. Gushuliak, Justin	15	MB	2046

## Top U14

1. Bluvshstein, Mark	14	ON	2382
2. Roussel-Roozmon, T.	14	PQ	2207
3. Krnan, Tomas	14	ON	2178
4. Predescu, Sebastian	14	ON	2116
5. Meng, Fanhao	14	BC	2003
6. Ramaswamy, Kishor	14	PQ	1968
7. Leung, Victor	14	ON	1942
8. Vadachkoriya, Irakli	12	ON	1918
9. Davies, Lucas	14	BC	1911
10. Sviridovitch, Alina	10	ON	1894

## Top U12

1. Vadachkoriya, Irakli	12	ON	1918
2. Sviridovitch, Alina	10	ON	1894
3. Panjwani, Raja	12	ON	1886
4. Vincent, Trevor	12	MB	1822
5. Hier, David	11	ON	1812
6. Eshleman, Brandon	11	AB	1796
7. Thavandiran, Shiyam	10	ON	1738
8. Cuevas, Vincent	12	ON	1722
9. Davies, Noam	11	BC	1718
10. Smith, Hazel	11	ON	1716

## Top U10

1. Sviridovitch, Alina	10	ON	1894
2. Thavandiran, Shiyam	10	ON	1738
3. Gorgevik, Kristijan	10	BC	1382
4. Aylward, Zachary	10	BC	1369
5. Fan, Brendan	9	ON	1348
6. Yam, Richard	9	ON	1335
7. Wiratunga, Sheran	10	ON	1305
8. Mai, Lloyd	9	ON	1291
9. Young, Bryan	10	BC	1288
10. Kaufman, Harris	10	ON	1277

## Top Active Ratings

1. Spraggett, Kevin	ON	2543
2. Hartman, Brian	ON	2520
3. Day, Lawrence	ON	2494
4. Schleifer, Michael	PQ	2488
5. O'Donnell, Tom	ON	2448
6. Cummings, David	ON	2423
7. Teodoro IV, Eduardo D.	ON	2398
8. Milicevic, Goran	ON	2385
9. Findlay, Ian	ON	2382
10. Livshits, Ron	ON	2371
11. McTavish, David	ON	2360
12. Dougherty, Michael	ON	2342
13. Mitrovic, Milan	ON	2338
14. Vujic, Branimir	ON	2335
15. Ochkoos, Jura	ON	2316
16. Tipu, Vincentiu	ON	2314
17. Spraggett, Grant	ON	2310
18. Reeve, Jeff	AB	2304
19. Bluvshstein, Mark	ON	2288
20. Gardner, Robert J.	AB	2287
21. Haessel, Dale	AB	2285
22. Pacey, Kevin	ON	2263









